

# Prediction of Hydraulic Flow in the New Zohr Carbonate Reservoir, Eastern Mediterranean Using Artificial Neural Networks

Amir Lala (✉ [amir77\\_Jala@yahoo.com](mailto:amir77_Jala@yahoo.com))

Ain Shams University

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## Research Article

**Keywords:** Zohr oil field, hydraulic zones, flow zone indicator, artificial neural network

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1 **Prediction of hydraulic flow in the new Zohr carbonate reservoir, Eastern Mediterranean**  
2 **using artificial neural networks**

3 Amir Maher Sayed Lala<sup>1</sup>

4 1-Department of Geophysics, Fac. Of Science, Ain Shams University

5 1- amir77\_lala@yahoo.com

6 **Key Points**

7 1-Petrographic Study of thin section

8 2- Identify hydraulic flow unit from core data.

9 3- Predict the correlation between the hydraulic flow units and logging data using ANN.

10

11 **Abstract**

12

13 A new gas reservoir includes the carbonates of upper-Cretaceous Formation in the Zohr oilfield of  
14 eastern Mediterranean Sea in Egypt. The main aim of this study is to assess the new carbonate  
15 reservoir by thin section study and estimate hydraulic flow units HFUs by smart system. This  
16 carbonate formation is now considered the most important gas reservoir in northern Egypt. In  
17 this paper five microfacies were identified based on microscope petrographic analysis. The  
18 examined rocks were formed in lagoon, shoal and open marine depositional environments. The  
19 relationships between microfacies and flow units are further evaluated in this study. The  
20 determination of such relationships have proven to be challenging due to petrographic  
21 complications arising from diagenetic processes. The correlation behind pore space percentage  
22 and permeability is important to recognize hydraulic flow in the reservoir under consideration in  
23 this study.

24 **Keywords:** Zohr oil field, hydraulic zones, flow zone indicator, artificial neural network

25

## 1. Introduction

26 Evaluation of hydraulic flow units can be valuable for depiction of correlations among  
27 geological and petrophysical properties. Due to the effect of diagenesis, and facies  
28 variations in the carbonate reservoirs, heterogeneity properties are high there in such  
29 reservoirs. So, considering the hydraulic flow units clustering in the sedimentary sequence  
30 aids in the recognition of promising rock intervals (A. Kadkhodaie 2009). The hydraulic  
31 flow unit concept was originally introduced for the purposes of interested zones  
32 characterization (Ebanks 1987). Gunter et al., (1997) presented the hydraulic unit "is a  
33 stratigraphically continuous interval of similar reservoir process speed that honors the  
34 geologic framework and maintains characteristics of rock types". Martin et al., (1997)  
35 introduced trial to slice the non-clastic reservoir into various hydraulic units, each with the  
36 same range of pore throat radius and same fluid flow ability. Based on pore throat radius  
37 at 35% of non-wetting fluid saturation ( $r_{35}$ ), Martin et al., (1997) recognized four hydraulic  
38 performances:

- 39 1. mega-pore flow unit, where  $r_{35}$  is higher than 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- 40 2. macro-pore flow unit where  $r_{35}$  varies between 2 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- 41 3. mesopore-flow unit with  $r_{35}$  various between 0.5 and 2  $\mu\text{m}$
- 42 4. micro-pore flow unit that has  $r_{35}$  less than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$

43 Petrophysical properties derived from Laboratory rock samples investigations are  
44 important to know hydraulic flow units (Rahimpour et al 2012). Formations are sectioned  
45 into hydraulic zones according to their pore space and permeability model (A. Kadkhodaie  
46 2009). In some much heterogeneous zones, the relationship between core-derived and  
47 logging data-derived FZI is weak. This is mostly due to dissimilarity in minerals and fluid

48 parameters, which cause reasonable relationship between logging data and suitable  
49 hydraulic zones to be masked (Igbokwe, O. A. 2011 & A. Kadkhodaie, 2009).  
50 Unfortunately core information is not always obtainable for all the desired targets.  
51 Different techniques have been declared to describe reservoir quality based on reservoir  
52 flow homogenous intervals (Abbaszadeh et al. 1996; Aguilera 2002). Desouky (2005)  
53 predict permeability from cored interval and using the well data. The accuracy of predicting  
54 the permeability is not defined well due to the limited core data available and pore  
55 heterogeneity. He couldn't obtain trusted permeability results at all depths of well logging  
56 data. Nimisha et al., (2015) use integration of 3D seismic and well data to detect the  
57 hydraulic flow units in Balol formation. Characterization of permeability was detected  
58 based on expensive core data and is very hard to be trusted due to the weak empirical  
59 relationship obtained between the well logging data and Flow zones. So, it is clear from  
60 previous study that, permeability can't be obtained accurately or all the depths of the  
61 wellbore. In this current research, Flow Zone Indicator (FZI) approach is used to slice the  
62 formation quality according to reservoir flow homogenous intervals (Indra et al, 2018). The  
63 artificial neural networks were widely used to estimate permeability and porosity by many  
64 authors (Hans B. Helle et al. 2001; Bagheripour 2014), but was scarcely executed to  
65 recognize the homogeneous flow zones. Thanh and Jarot (2016) use the ANN for predicting  
66 the permeability and HFU for the sandstone formation. They conclude the ability to predict  
67 the permeability profile by the ANN model using well logging data. However, they use  
68 only a limited number of well logging core data. Ghanim et al. (2018), introduce a similar  
69 study using 191 sandstone core samples to divide the formation to different rock type. Then  
70 predicting the permeability in uncored interval using the ANN but, no well log data is used in their  
71 analysis. Dahlia (2016), predict the permeability of different rock type using Ann. In this research,

72 the core samples used for conventional HFU is not distributed well and only one well data is used  
73 for the training present only three HFU. The reliable Levenberg – Marquardt (Levenberg, 1944;  
74 Marquardt, 1963) train method is not used for approximation in this previous work. In my work,  
75 the Artificial Neural Network (ANN) technique based on Levenberg – Marquardt is used to  
76 determine flow units in uncored wells for the new carbonate reservoir in Zohr Egypt offshore  
77 oilfield, Mediterranean Sea. The artificial neural network model was designed in  
78 MATLAB software environment, in order to predict HFUs. Correlation between the results  
79 obtained by neural network approach and actual observed results from core and well log  
80 data proved that ANN method is appropriate to derive hydraulic units from logging  
81 information where core data is not available.

## 82 **2. Geological setting**

83 The Structure framework of the Eastern Mediterranean is super-imposed southward  
84 on the stable African margin and northward on the active Alpine margin. This situation is  
85 as old as Late Cretaceous when the ophiolitic melanges belt of Cyprus-Taurus was  
86 emplaced. The deep abyssal plains of the eastern Mediterranean are formed on top of a  
87 thick sedimentary section lying on a thin oceanic crust. The latter thickens gradually in the  
88 south direction with regard to the Africa plate. The different studies of 3D seismic  
89 geophysical data illustrate a highly rich sedimentary section incorporate the Mesozoic  
90 series. Our knowledge of the Cretaceous sediments of East Africa, Cyrenaica to Egypt, the  
91 Cretaceous sediments increase in thickness to the north direction which may disclose a  
92 marginal environment. The Late Cretaceous folding is happen in all North African margin  
93 (Said, 1962; Syagayev et al., 1971). In Egypt oblique overthrusts are present in the south  
94 direction to the present margin studied by Salem (1976). These attributes importance is

95 not understandable but happen due to Late Cretaceous continental collision. Vulnerability  
96 are mainly of Cenozoic layers, and subsurface information for older Mesozoic rocks  
97 coming from drilled wells, moreover, the visibility of the rock formation on the ground  
98 surface of different geologic ages are noted at distinct areas.

99 The Upper Cretaceous new carbonate Formation, the focus of this study, are main  
100 gas reservoir rocks in Zohr oil field. The dominant constituents of the formation is  
101 limestone. The studied Zohr field and the four wells are in Egypt's offshore Mediterranean,  
102 at 4,757 feet depth, about 195 Km (N Egypt) (Fig. 1). The new discovered carbonate  
103 Formation is considered the chief reservoir of oilfields located in the east Mediterranean  
104 Sea, North Egypt. The Carbonate Formation is Upper Cretaceous in age.

### 105 **3. Data available and procedures**

106 The present study is built on core sample and well-log information from four  
107 offshore wells in the Zohr hydrocarbon field (wells Aa, Bb, Cc and Dd). The applied  
108 techniques used in this work comprise (1) petrographic study of thin sections; (2) well log  
109 and core data preparation; (3) identification of hydraulic flow units; (4) estimation of  
110 hydraulic flow using ANN

#### 111 **3.1. The petrographic study of thin sections**

112

113 A total of 65 thin sections were obtainable from two wells studied (A & B).  
114 Petrographic analysis of thin sections was used to estimate the microfacies and deposition  
115 setting of the Zohr carbonate reservoir. Petrographical analysis and sedimentological  
116 characteristics were used to the description of microfacies and as a foundation for the

117 interpretation of depositional environments. A modified Dunham (1962) and Embry and  
118 Klovan (1971) classifications techniques were used to assort microfacies. Depositional  
119 environments evaluation carried out by using components of facies. The quantitative  
120 analysis including grain types and size, grain frequency and fossil content were used as  
121 main attributes to define microfacies (Ismanto A., et al., 2019). The microfacies identified  
122 in wells (Aa & Bb) are described below.

### 123 **3.1.1. Microfacies 1 (MF22): Oncoid floatstone and wackestone**

124 This facies is mostly constituted of abundant amount of micritic matrix (with >50%  
125 in frequency). This microfacies also contains planktonic foraminifera (with 7% in  
126 frequency), ostracods are locally observed (2-4%). It also includes pore filling detrital clay  
127 matrix. Rare amounts of non-ferroan calcite crystals (C), pore filling secondary silica and  
128 black pyrite crystals (Yellow Arrow) are detected. Furthermore, this facies formed in  
129 energy restricted / marine shelf lagoon environments, as reflected by small various skeletal  
130 fauna, lack of subaerial exposure and the stratigraphic position, where great variations in  
131 salt percentage and temperature could happen.

132 The mean of porosity (orange arrow) and permeability in this microfacies are 4.93%  
133 and 0.97 mD, respectively (Fig. 2a).

134

### 135 **3.1.2. Microfacies 2 (MF23): Non-laminated homogenous micrite or microsparite**

136 (Crystalline Calcite)

137

138 Crystalline calcite is the main component in this microfacies (with >50% in  
139 frequency). Also rare amounts of pore filling secondary silica (S) and pyrite (Yellow  
140 Arrow) (<6%), are observed. It include detrital clays matrix concentrated along laminae  
141 (<5%). Common amounts of intercrystalline, fracture, vuggy and moldic pore types, with  
142 moderate to good interconnectivity. In this facies mean of pore space percentage and  
143 permeability are 25.72% and 1.18 mD, respectively (Fig. 2b).

#### 144 **3.1.3. Microfacies 3 (MF2): Microbioclastic peloidal calcisiltite**

145 The skeletal planktic foraminifera are very common (<30%), as well as traces of  
146 ostracods are locally observed (<5%). This microfacies contain rare amount of non-skeletal  
147 quartz grains (<5%). As well as, Dominant amounts of micrite (microcrystalline calcite)  
148 matrix (Mi) (<50%) as well as, Minor amounts of pore filling detrital clays matrix (<10%).

149 Other components which are present rarely include non-ferroan calcite and black  
150 pyrite crystals (Yellow Arrows) cement as well as micrite were found in matrix. The pore  
151 system include common amounts of primary and secondary intragranular (within foram  
152 chambers) porosity, as well as, fracture porosity, with moderate pore interconnectivity. The  
153 mean of porosity and permeability are respectively 20.8% and 1.27 mD in this microfacies  
154 (Fig. 2c).

155

#### 156 **3.1.4. Microfacies 4 (MF4): Planktic Foraminifera Dolo-Wackestone/Packstone**

157

158 In this facies, the skeletal grains is planktonic foraminifera with the highest  
159 frequency (<30%) as well as ostracods are locally observed (<5%) throughout a micritic

160 matrix. It also contains rare amount of quartz grains (<5%). The mean pore space  
161 percentage and permeability of this microfacies are 14.64% and 4.83 mD, respectively (Fig.  
162 2d).

163         The Common amounts of non-ferroan dolomite rhombs (D) due to dolomitization  
164 process of limestone, in addition to Rare amounts of non-ferroan calcite, ferroan calcite,  
165 secondary silica and black pyrite crystals (Yellow Arrows) are observed. The pore system  
166 include primary and secondary intragranular (within foram chambers) porosity, as well as,  
167 fracture pore type, with moderate pore interconnectivity. The mean pore space percentage  
168 and permeability of this microfacies are 25.64% and 4.83 mD, respectively (Fig. 2d).

169

170 **3.1.5. Microfacies 5 (MF3):** : Pelagic lime mudstone and wackestones

171

172         The common components of this rock is planktonic foraminifera such as textularia  
173 and globigerina are abundant in this facies( 25%). Other constituents of this facies include  
174 benthic foraminifera, ostracods (Blue Arrow) (9%), bryozoan (7%), echinoderm (6%).  
175 Also, Rare amounts of detrital quartz grains are locally noticed (<10%). The micritization  
176 process was found in the facies. The mean pore space percentage and permeability of this  
177 facies are 5.85% and 1.59 mD, respectively.

178         Rare amounts of non-ferroan calcite, non-ferroan dolomite and pyrite crystals  
179 (Yellow Arrows), in addition to Traces of secondary silica are locally noticed.

180         Common amounts of primary and secondary intragranular (within foram chambers)  
181 porosity, with moderate to good pore interconnectivity are observed (Orange Arrows). The

182 mean pore space percentage and permeability of this facies are 20.57% and 1.59 mD,  
183 respectively (Fig. 2e).

184

### 185 **3.2. Petrophysical Data available**

186

187 The measured petrophysical parameters from cores such as porosity and  
188 permeability using laboratory applying steps that are shown by authors in different previous  
189 studies (Abuseda et al 2015; Amir and Nahla 2015), associated with logging measurements  
190 (sonic, formation density, compensated neutron, total porosity and the spectral gamma ray  
191 information) from four wellbore (Aa through Dd) in the Zohr hydrocarbon field were  
192 collected for this research. The available well-logs data introduce a good relationship with  
193 FZI (Fig. 3). Measurements from the wellbores Aa, Bb and Cc included both cylindrical  
194 core samples and logging data. While the fourth wellbore (Dd), Provided logging data only.  
195 Logging and core samples information from wellbores Aa and Bb applied to construct the  
196 artificial neural network model (579 data points); data from wellbore Cc was used to test  
197 the model (150 samples) and readings from wellbore Dd were applied for propagation the  
198 created model. For calibration of logging measurements versus core sample information,  
199 the depth matching was carried out. For better acting of the neural network, all data were  
200 normalized between -1 and 1.

201

### 202 **3.3. hydraulic flow units approach (HFUs)**

203

204 Effective porosity is considered as the main factor affecting on the ease of fluid  
 205 flow in the subsurface reservoir and we can divide it into different units (HFU) of specific  
 206 fluid moving properties Amaefule et al. (1993). The HFU method is applied for definition  
 207 of rock kind and estimation of permeability, according to realistic geological factors and  
 208 the nature of fluid movement at the micro porosity size (Svirsky et al., 2004). The flow  
 209 zone indicator (FZI) method was used for estimation of current hydraulic zones in this  
 210 research. Most important properties that impact permeability are pore-throat volume (Amir  
 211 & Nahla, 2015). The pore space and throat are connected to geological circumstances such  
 212 as mineralogy, cement and texture in each sedimentary facies. So, each HFU can represent  
 213 many sedimentary facies but with similar pore geometry conditions. Classifying the flow  
 214 unit, we assume that in the flow unit, communication of pores can be showed as a series of  
 215 capillary tubes (Abbaszadeh et al. 1996). For the model contain straight cylindrical tube,  
 216 Darcy's equation and Poiseuille's equation lead to the resulting model Mavko et al., 2009:

217 
$$\varphi_e k = r^2/8 \quad (1)$$

218

219 
$$k = r^2 \frac{\varphi}{8\tau^2} = D^2 \frac{\varphi}{32\tau^2} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

220 Where ( $k$ ) is permeability, ( $\varphi$ ) porosity, ( $\varphi_e$ ) effective porosity,  $\tau$  tortuosity and ( $r$ ) is the  
 221 radius of the cylindrical tubes, that present in the rock and ( $D$ ) is its diameter (Amir Lala,  
 222 2017).

223 Kozeny-Carmen (1937) for a real porous medium, introduce two parameters the  
 224 tortuosity and the surface area to express permeability:

225 
$$k = \frac{\varphi_e^3}{(1 - \varphi_e)^2} \times \frac{1}{F_s \tau^2 S_{gv}^2} \quad (3)$$

226 
$$k = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\varphi^3}{S^2 \tau^2} \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

227 Where  $k$  unit  $\mu\text{m}^2$ ,  $\varphi_e$  defined as effective fraction porosity,  $S_{gv}^2$  is grain surface area, and  
 228  $F_s \tau^2$  is known as Kozeny constant.

229 Amaefule et al. (1993) illustrate the permeability using the effective porosity:

230 
$$0.0314 \times \sqrt{k/\varphi_e} = \varphi_e / (1 - \varphi_e) \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{F_s \tau^2 S_{gv}^2}} \quad (5)$$

231 Reveal flow zone indicator parameter as follows:

232 
$$FZI = \frac{1}{\sqrt{F_s \tau^2 S_{gv}^2}} \quad (6)$$

233 The equation of the parameter represents the reservoir performance (RQI) as (Hasan  
 234 Nooruddin, 2011):

235 
$$RQI = 0.0314 \sqrt{k/\varphi_e} \quad (7)$$

236 The normalized porosity ( $\varphi_z$ ) is expressed as follow:

237 
$$\varphi_z = \frac{\varphi_e}{1 - \varphi_e} \quad (8)$$

238 The FZI can be computed based on the following equation:

239 
$$FZI = \frac{0.0314}{\varphi_z \sqrt{k/\varphi}} = \frac{RQI}{\varphi_z} \quad (9)$$

240 Or

241 
$$\log RQI = \log \varphi_z + \log FZI \quad (10)$$

242 On a logarithmic chart of RQI against  $\varphi_z$ , all zones with same FZI values located  
243 on a linear of element slope (Amaefule et al. 1993 & Shamsuddin Shenawi 2009). Various  
244 methods are introduced for determining flow units based on FZI. A Normal probability plot  
245 of flow zone indicator logarithm was used for defining flow units in this study (Fig. 4). The  
246 normal probability plot of log FZI data in wells Aa, Bb and Cc illustrate six flow units for  
247 the new Carbonate reservoir in Zohr oilfield.

#### 248 **3.4. recognizing the flow units using artificial neural networks (ANN)**

249 The principle object of my research is hydraulic zones prediction using ANN. To  
250 achieve this goal, a back propagation artificial neural network (BP-ANN) is used in the  
251 current research. ANN is an applied approach which imitates the human brain (Anastasia  
252 G. 2016). BP-ANN is well known in function estimate has many advantages. A BP-ANN  
253 is a popular training method that enters input parameters directly to the network and then  
254 calculates the discrepancy between the calculated output and the needed output from the  
255 training information (Zehui et al., 1996 & Rezaee, M.R. et al., 2008). BP-ANN is fast,  
256 easy and not complicated nonlinear function approximation. We can control the accuracy  
257 of the weight estimation through going back from the output to hidden decreasing errors to  
258 enhance the model reliability. The general architecture of artificial neural networks is  
259 composed of entry, concealed and resulted layers of neurons. The concealed or hidden  
260 layers can find the spatial correlations between the input and output units. Among the data  
261 set from wellbores Aa and Bb, 70% of data was chosen for building the model, 15% of  
262 measurement information for testing the acquired model and 15% measurement

263 information for validation. The five well-logs data including NPHI, DT, SGR, PHIT and  
264 RHOB were selected as inputs for ANN model.

265 The conversion relation from entry layer toward concealed layer is hyperbolic  
266 tangent sigmoid (tansig) and from concealed layer to exist (resulted) layer is linear  
267 (purelin).

268

#### 269 **4. Results**

270 In this approach, each hydraulic flow unit is distinguished from the other hydraulic  
271 flow unit by a change in slope line (Fig. 4). Figure 5 presents the relationship among  
272 porosity and permeability for varies homogenous fluid flow zones. In order to recognize  
273 hydraulic flow units which, have better reservoir quality, the mean value of permeability,  
274 porosity and hydraulic FZI were estimated for each HFU (Table 1). Then the frequency of  
275 hydraulic flow units occurrence were computed in each microfacies (Fig. 6). The  
276 relationship between microfacies and flow units for well Aa is illustrated in Figure. 7.

277 Density plot showing the distribution of well log data within each HFU are shown  
278 in Figure 8. The Schematic geometric shape of the neural model for the current work are  
279 represented in Figure 9. For better performance, where generalization stops progressing, as  
280 indicated by increase in the MSE, was acquired after 9 epoch of training. This network is  
281 constructed and based on Levenberg-Marquardet training algorithm (LM). Figures (10  
282 through 12) present the default mean squared error (MSE) function was used to calculate  
283 the error during the training and testing. The Mean Squared Error (MSE) is define  
284 discrepancy among outputs and goals (Rezaee, M.R. et al., 2008).

285           There MSE function performance was 0.02 (Fig. 10). After establishing the optimal  
286 model, it was evaluated by using well log data from well Cc as input data and then FZIs  
287 data was calculated. Figures 11 and 12 show the acceptable agreement between predicted  
288 and measured FZI with the correlation coefficient of 0.92.

289           Figure (13) illustrates the correlation of FZI conducted by ANN with rock samples-  
290 calculated FZI for test well (well Cc), as core-derived FZI and FZI predicted using ANN  
291 shown in tracks (a) and (b), respectively.

292           Figure (14) illustrates the application of the new ANN model in well Dd which has  
293 only well-logs data. The resulted HFUs by ANN are shown in track (f).

294

## 295           **5. Discussion**

296           Several factors must be considered in understanding the relationship among facies  
297 and lithologic type in non-clastic rock (Susan M. A. & Sebastian G., 2016). Considering  
298 that the diameter of the pores in the rock is dependent on texture and grain size. The FZI  
299 method could be useful in recognizing the rock type, as it is directly related to the pore size.  
300 Based on this technique, six flow units were distinguished. Average porosity and  
301 permeability in each HFU can be used to classify the HFUs into high and low reservoir  
302 quality fluid flow units. The average permeability for HFUs illustrated (Table 1), HFU3  
303 has the highest reservoir quality, while HFU6 shows low reservoir quality in the recently  
304 discovered carbonate reservoir.

305           Most of all the microfacies associated with high-energy environments had an  
306 acceptable relationship with high reservoir quality flow units. But occasionally the

307 occurrence of fractures during the diagenetic process high reservoir quality microfacies in  
308 weak-energy medium (for example lagoon). Therefore, the reservoir quality of carbonate  
309 facies is strongly affected by diagenetic processes. The core-derived HFUs and microfacies  
310 at the well (Aa) are demonstrated in tracks (g) and (h) of Fig. 7.

311 To obtain the optimum value of concealed neurons through this study, a neural was  
312 examined with the different value of neurons in the concealed interval in the training and  
313 testing phase. Finally, a network with five neurons present in hidden layer was found to  
314 have the best generalization performance (fig. 9). So, an optimal ANN model with five  
315 neurons in the hidden layer and one neuron in the output layer was established based on  
316 the value of mean squares errors via iterations and regression coefficient (figs 10 through  
317 12).

318 The precise correlation of FZI conducted by ANN with rock samples-calculated  
319 FZI for test well (well Cc), as core-derived FZI and FZI predicted using ANN shown in  
320 tracks (a) and (b), respectively (Fig. 13). This emphasize the good regression constant  
321 among rock samples-calculated and conducted FZI detected in figure (12). This clearly  
322 indicates that the ANN approach proves successful for FZI prediction in recently  
323 discovered carbonate reservoir. For integral work, the ANN model was propagated in well  
324 Dd which has only well-logs data (fig.14). The present research represents a legitimate  
325 relationship between predicted HFU from our applied ANN technique and HFU  
326 conventionally calculated from the core and well logging data. So, we could apply the  
327 current ANN approach successfully to determine flow units across the field where most  
328 wells have only well log data available and core data are absent. Our method is better than  
329 other conventional methods done in the previous research that completely depend only on

330 the presence of core data to predict the HFUs in the reservoir. Future study will be done to  
331 apply our model to other new geological basins of different lithology and environment of  
332 deposition.

333

## 334 **6. Conclusion**

335 In the present study, we have focused on prediction of flow units of the new  
336 carbonate formation in Zohr oilfield by intelligent network system. Microfacies analysis  
337 has led to the identification of five sedimentary facies. These microfacies have been  
338 deposited in lagoon, shoal and open marine environments. So, it was obvious that flow  
339 units controlled by rock property such as textural characteristics and diagenetic feature  
340 occurred in this reservoir. Therefore, the petrophysical well-logs which had legitimate and  
341 strong relationships with FZI data were chosen for prediction of FZI data using our ANN  
342 technique. Also, this research illustrated that each microfacies within the reservoir could  
343 have several flow units. Because the flow units are dependent on the porosity and  
344 permeability, hence the diagenetic processes result in different types of the flow units in  
345 sedimentary facies. The output of this work claims that the ANN procedure is useful for  
346 prediction of hydraulic flow zones in the recently discovered carbonate reservoir. The ANN  
347 approximation was used as a beneficial technique for prediction of HFUs from  
348 petrophysical data in un-cored but logged wells throughout the oil field.

349

### 350 **List of Abbreviation:**

351

352 HFUs = hydraulic flow units

353

FZI = Flow zone indicator

354 ANN = artificial neural network  
355 NPFI = compensated neutron porosity  
356 DT = sonic transient time  
357 SGR = spectral gamma ray  
358 PHIT = total porosity  
359 RHOB = formation density  
360 BP-ANN = back propagation artificial neural network  
361  $r_{35}$  = Pore throat radius at 35% mercury saturation  
362  $k$  = permeability,  
363  $\varphi$  = porosity  
364  $\varphi_e$  = effective porosity,  
365  $\tau$  = tortuosity  
366  $r$  = the radius of the cylindrical tubes  
367  $D$  = diameter  
368  $\varphi_e$  = effective fraction porosity  
369  $S_{gv}$  = grain surface area  
370  $F_s \tau^2$  = Kozeny constant.  
371 RQI = reservoir performance  
372  $\varphi_z$  = normalized porosity

373

374

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376

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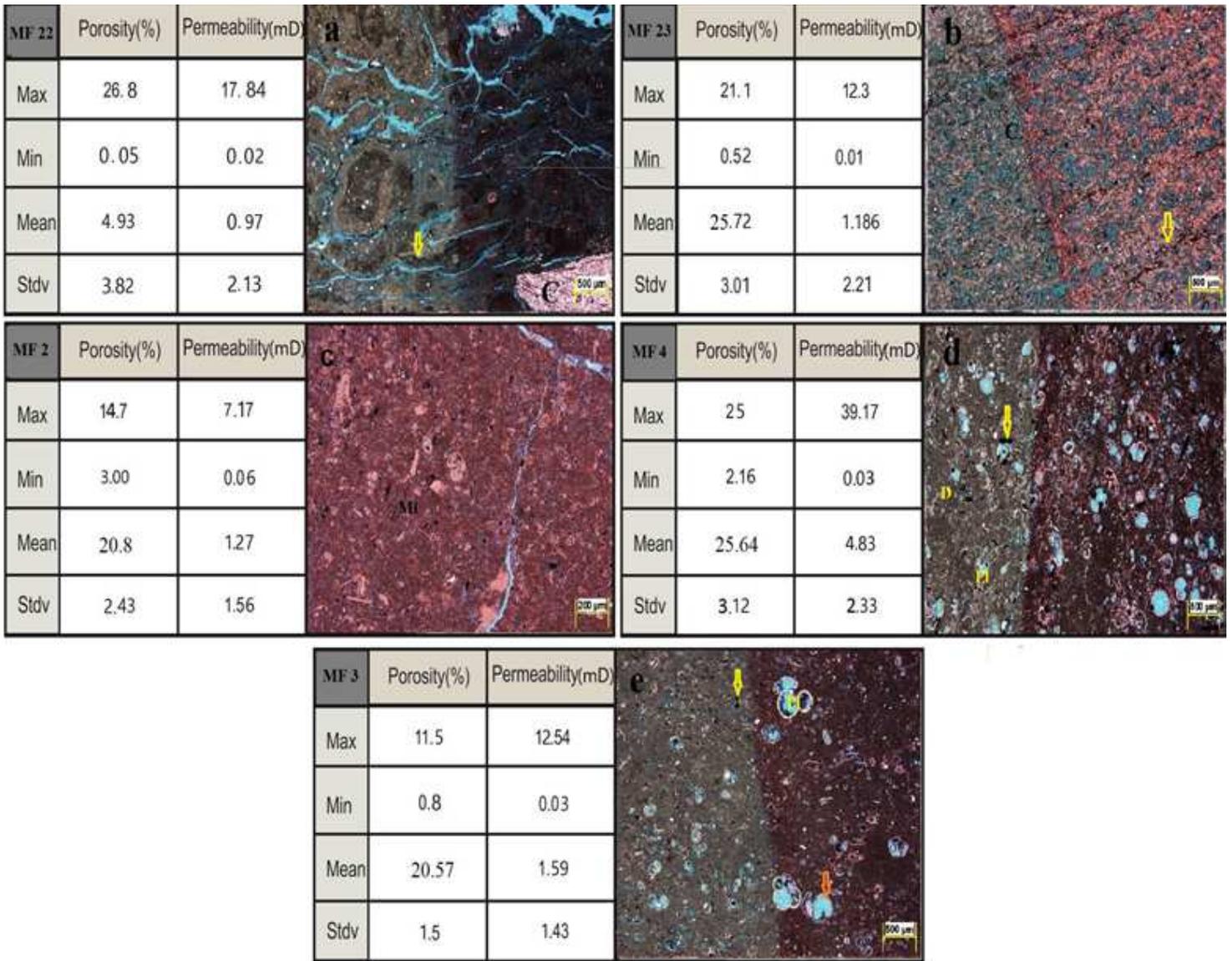
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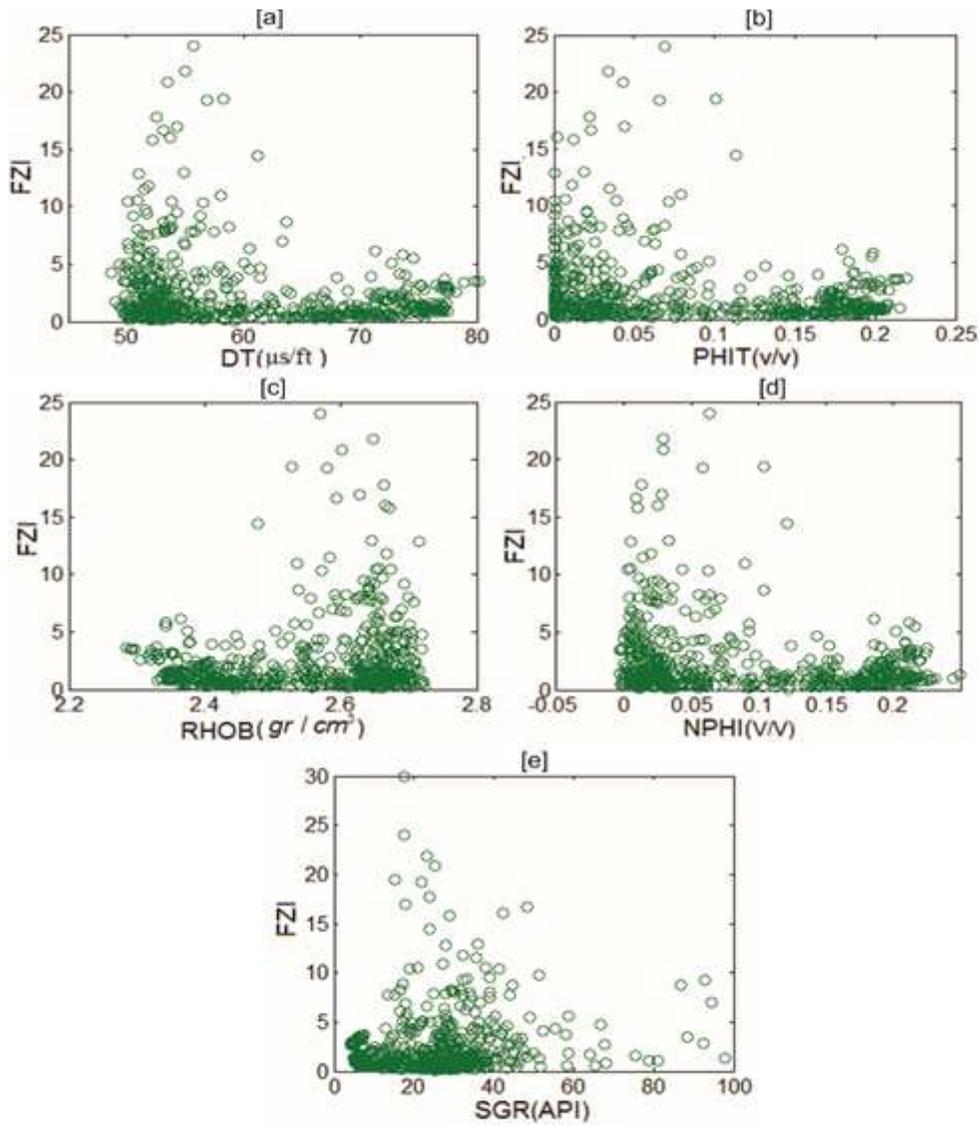
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**Figure 2**

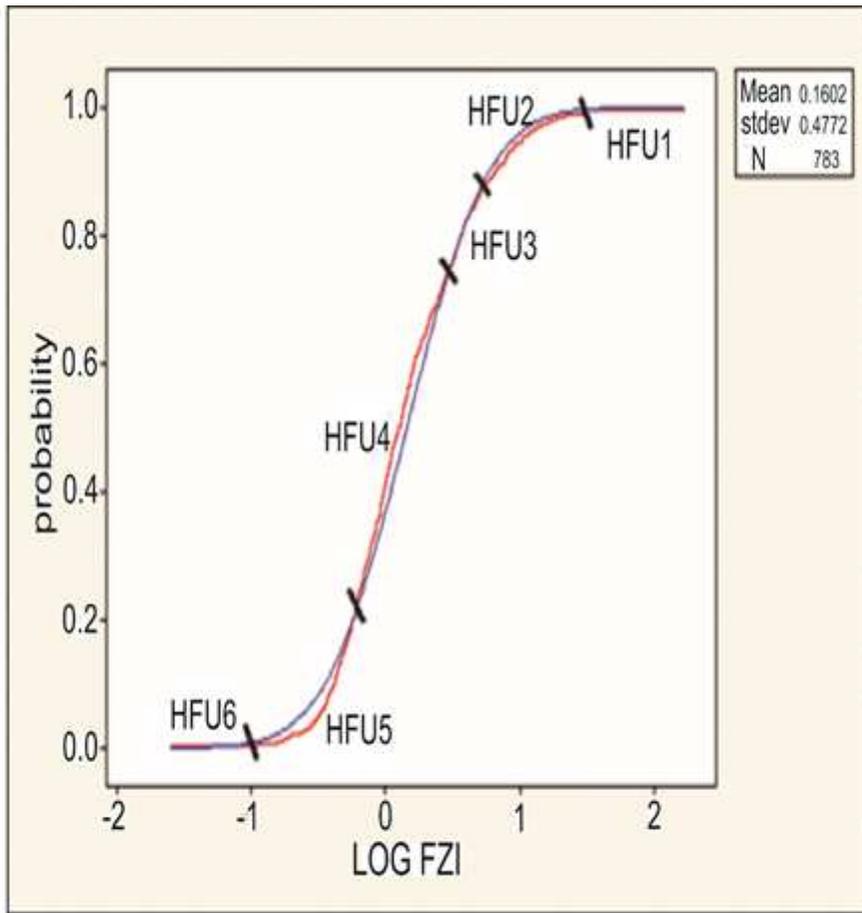
The main statistical parameters of studied microfacies. (a) MF22: Oncoid floatstone and wackestone. (b) MF23: Coastal lagoon Microsparite. (c) MF2: Microbioclastic peloidal calcisiltite. (d) MF4: Planktic foraminifera wackestone/packstone. (e) MF3: Pelagic lime mudstone and wackestones. Blue parts indicate porosity



**Fig. 3.** Cross-plots showing the relationship between FZI and well-log data. DT [a], PHIT [b], RHOB [c], NPHI [d] and SGR [e].

### Figure 3

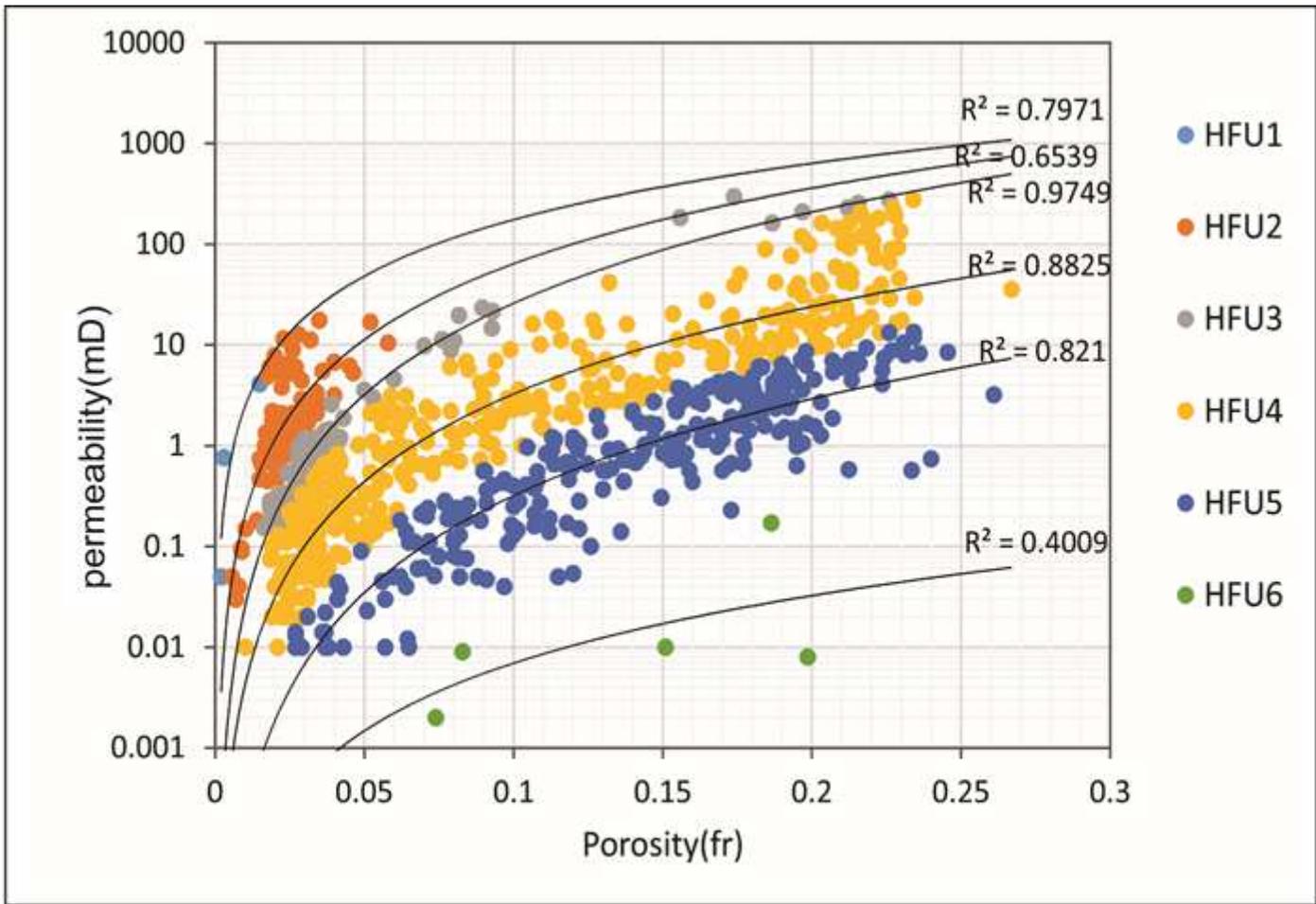
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**Fig. 4.** The normal probability plot of log FZI from data wells A, B and C of Limestone reservoir. Every HFU changes with a break in slope.

**Figure 4**

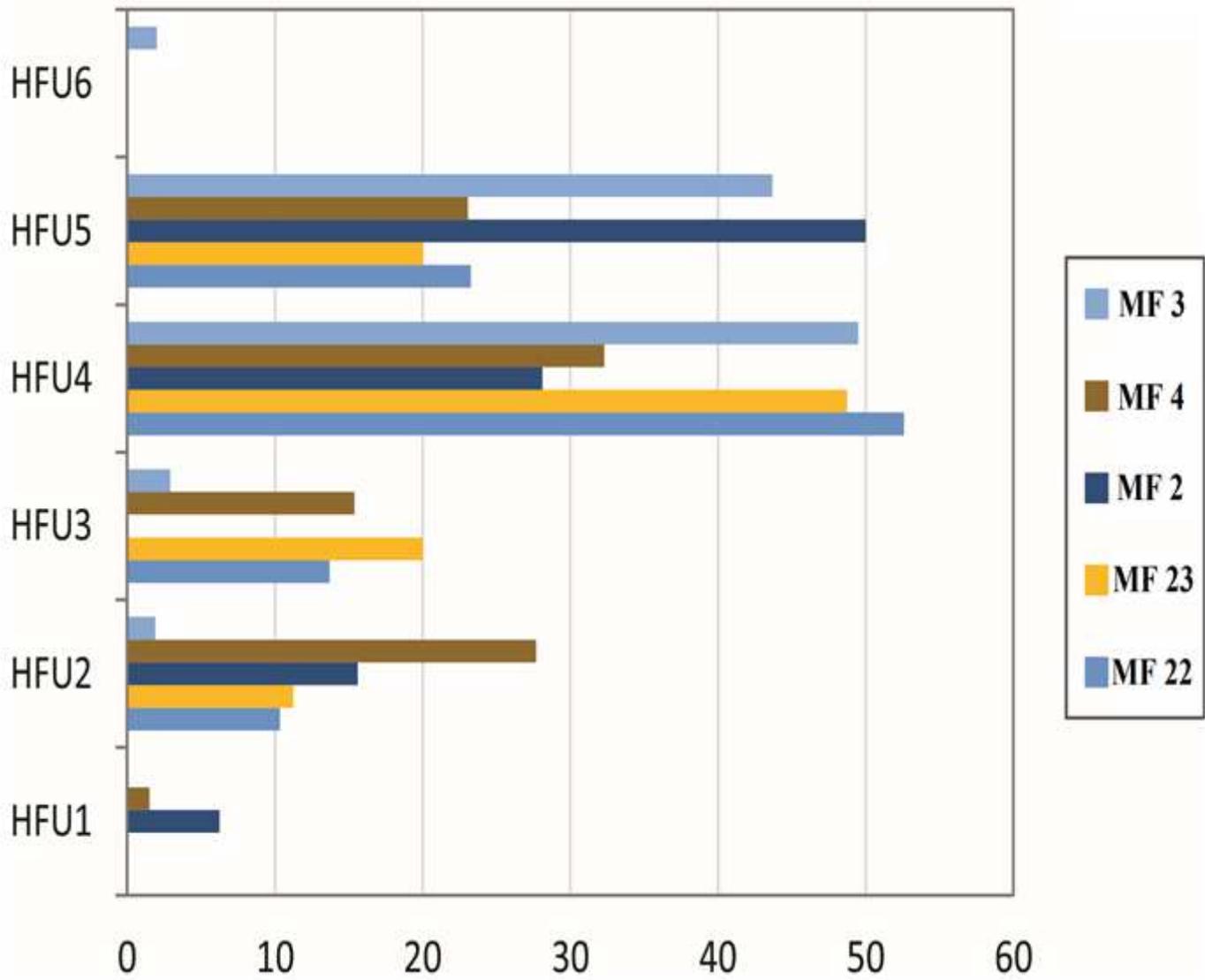
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**Fig. 5.** Plot of permeability versus porosity for HFUs in Limestone reservoir, Zohr oilfield .

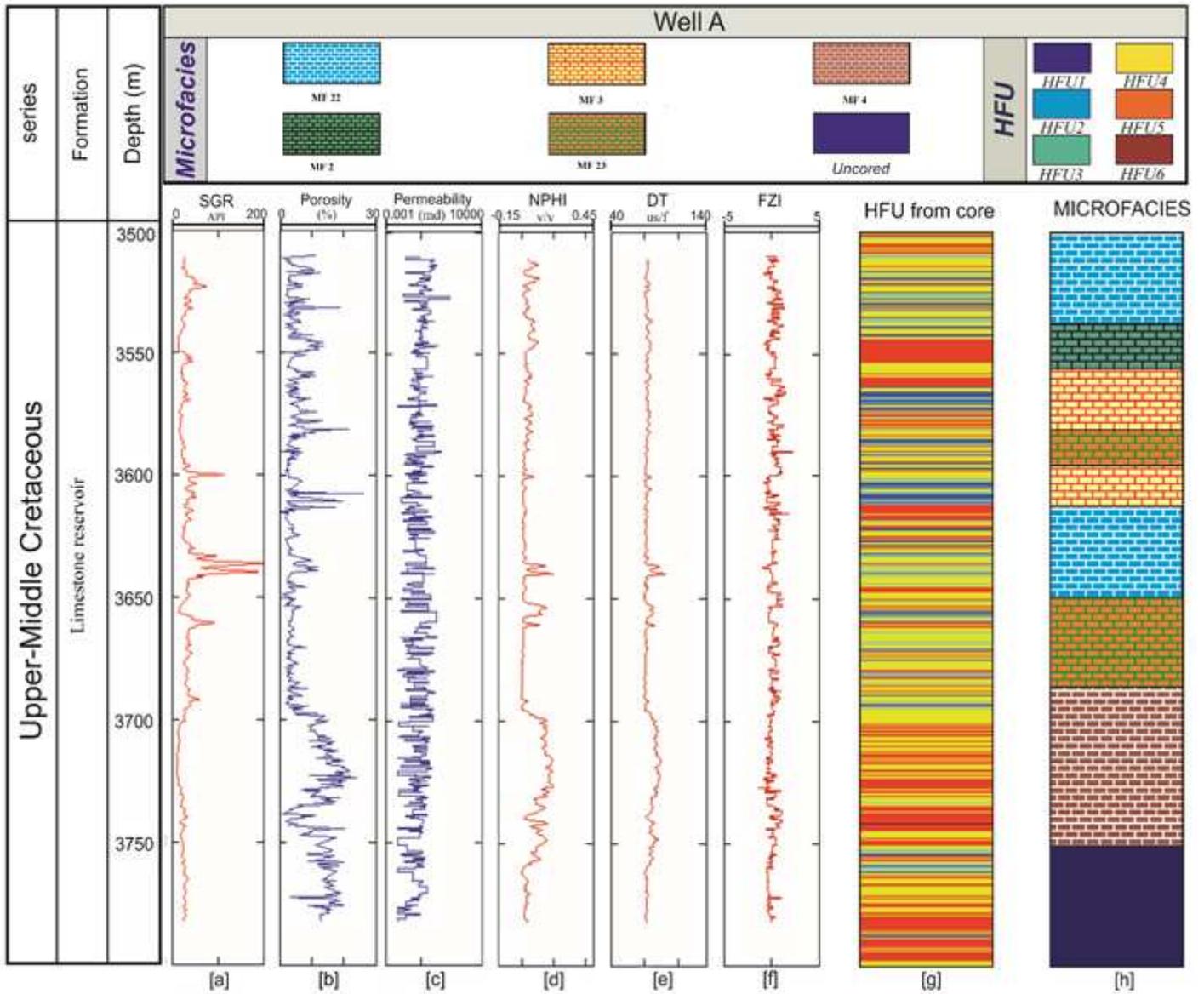
**Figure 5**

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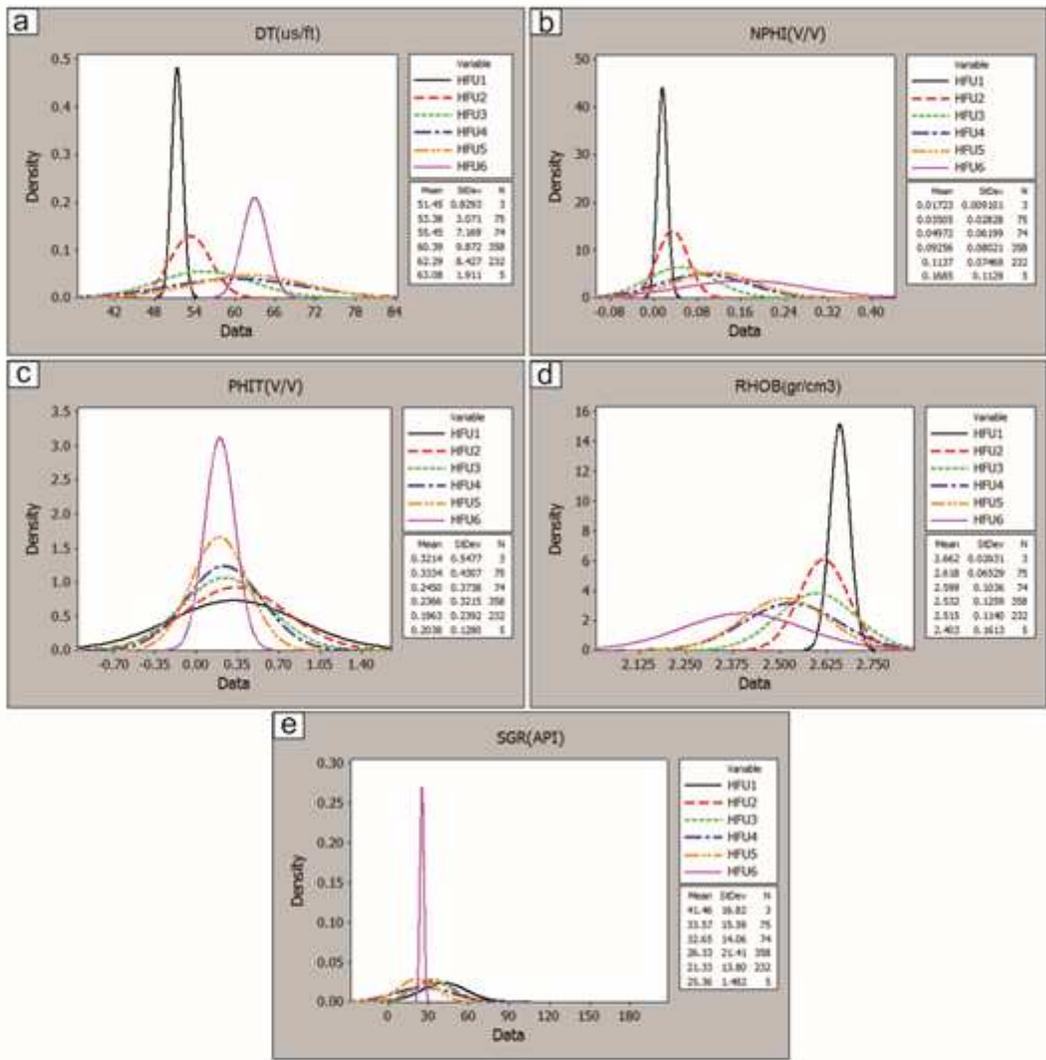
**Figure 6**

Frequency of each HFU in microfacies of limestone reservoir, Zohr oil field well 4.



**Figure 7**

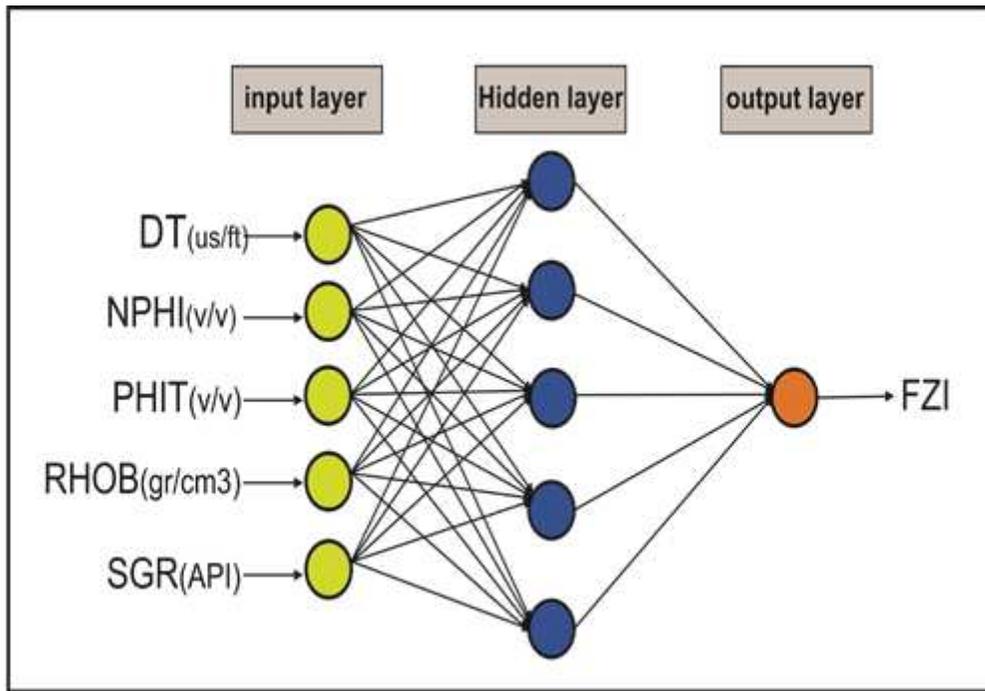
stratigraphic section for part of the new limestone reservoir together with well logs, microfacies and HFUs from core, well A.



**Fig. 8.** Density function for well-logs data in HFUs. DT (a), NPHI (b), PHIT (c), RHOB (d) and SGR (e).

**Figure 8**

See image above for figure legend



**Fig. 9.** The Schematic architecture of the neural network in present study.

Figure 9

See image above for figure legend

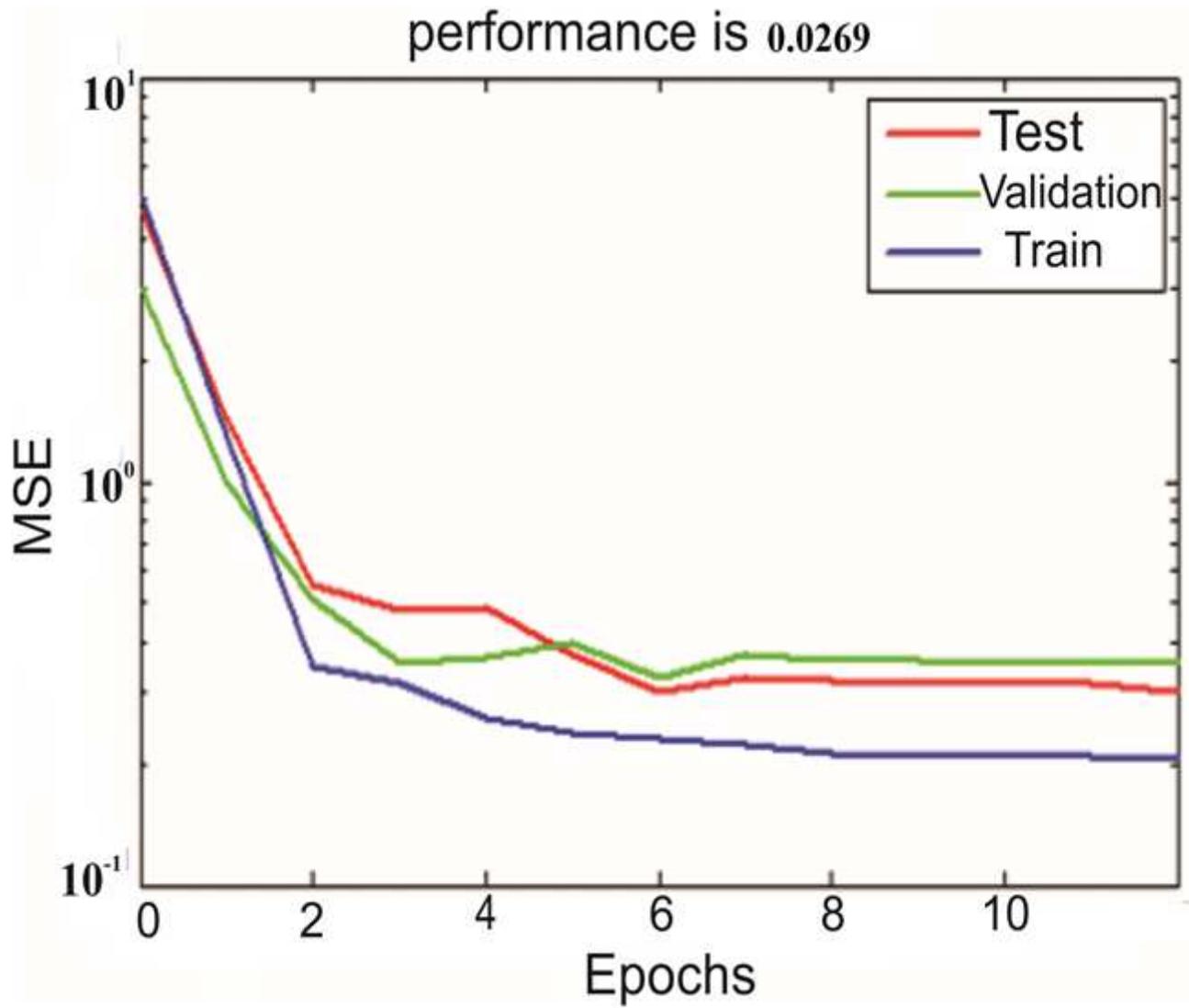
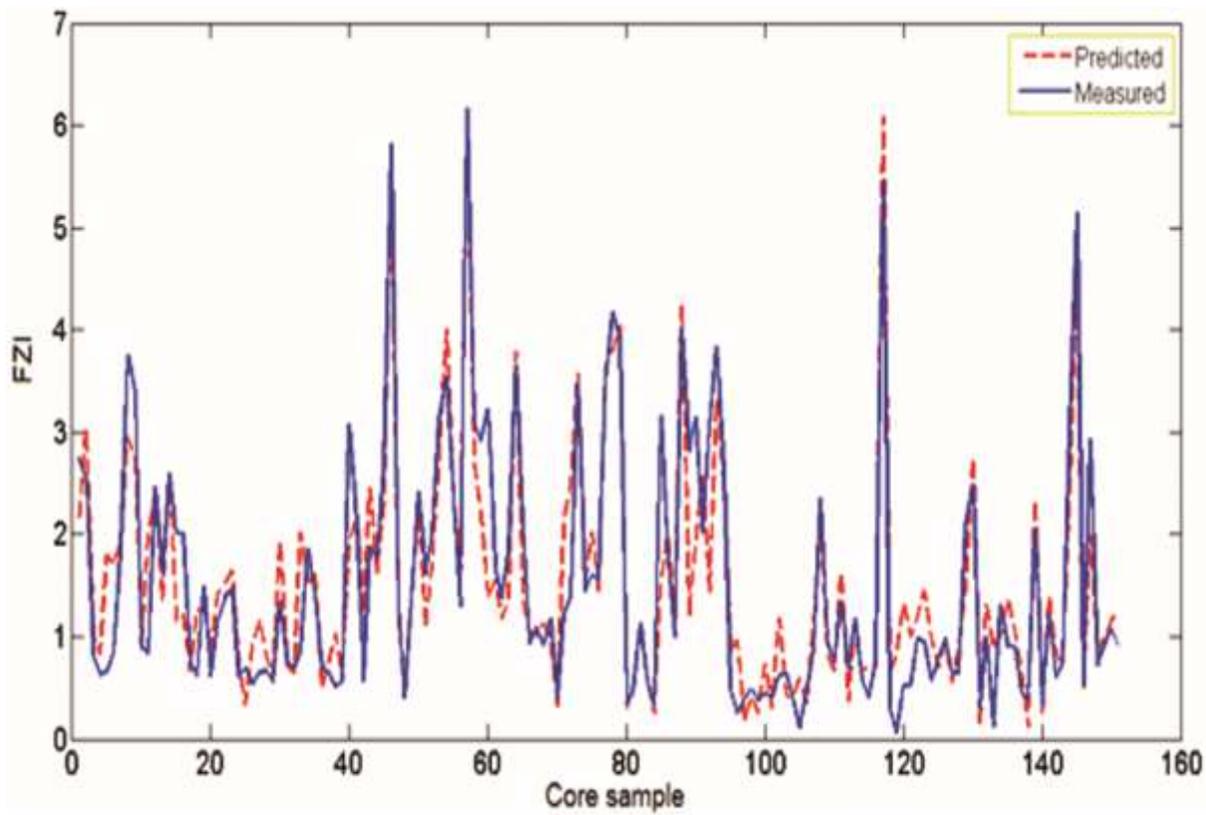


Figure 10

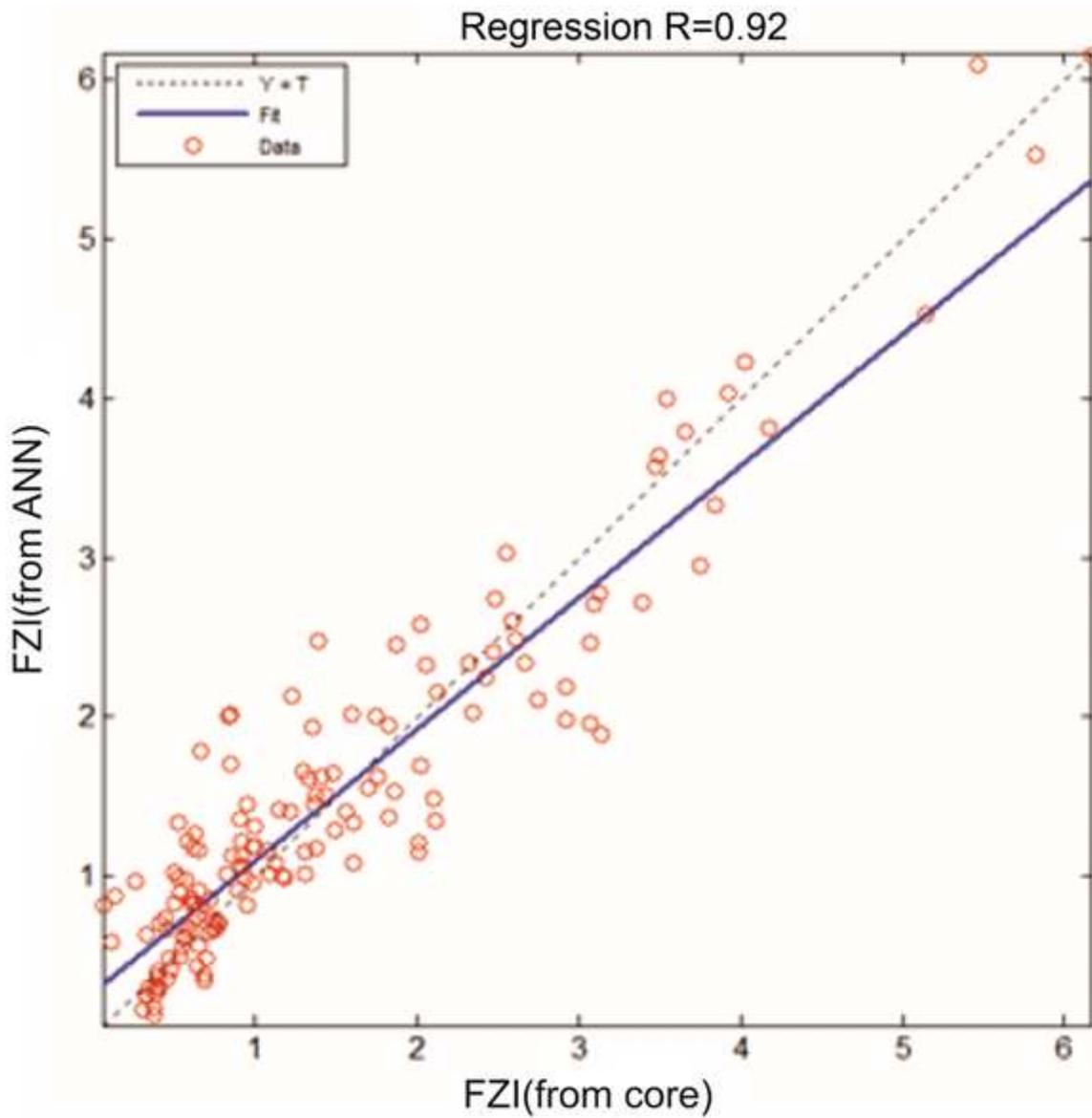
Mean square error versus number of iterations performed in the stage of train, test and validation.



**Fig. 11.** Comparison between core-derived FZI and ANN predicted FZI at the test well (well C).

Figure 11

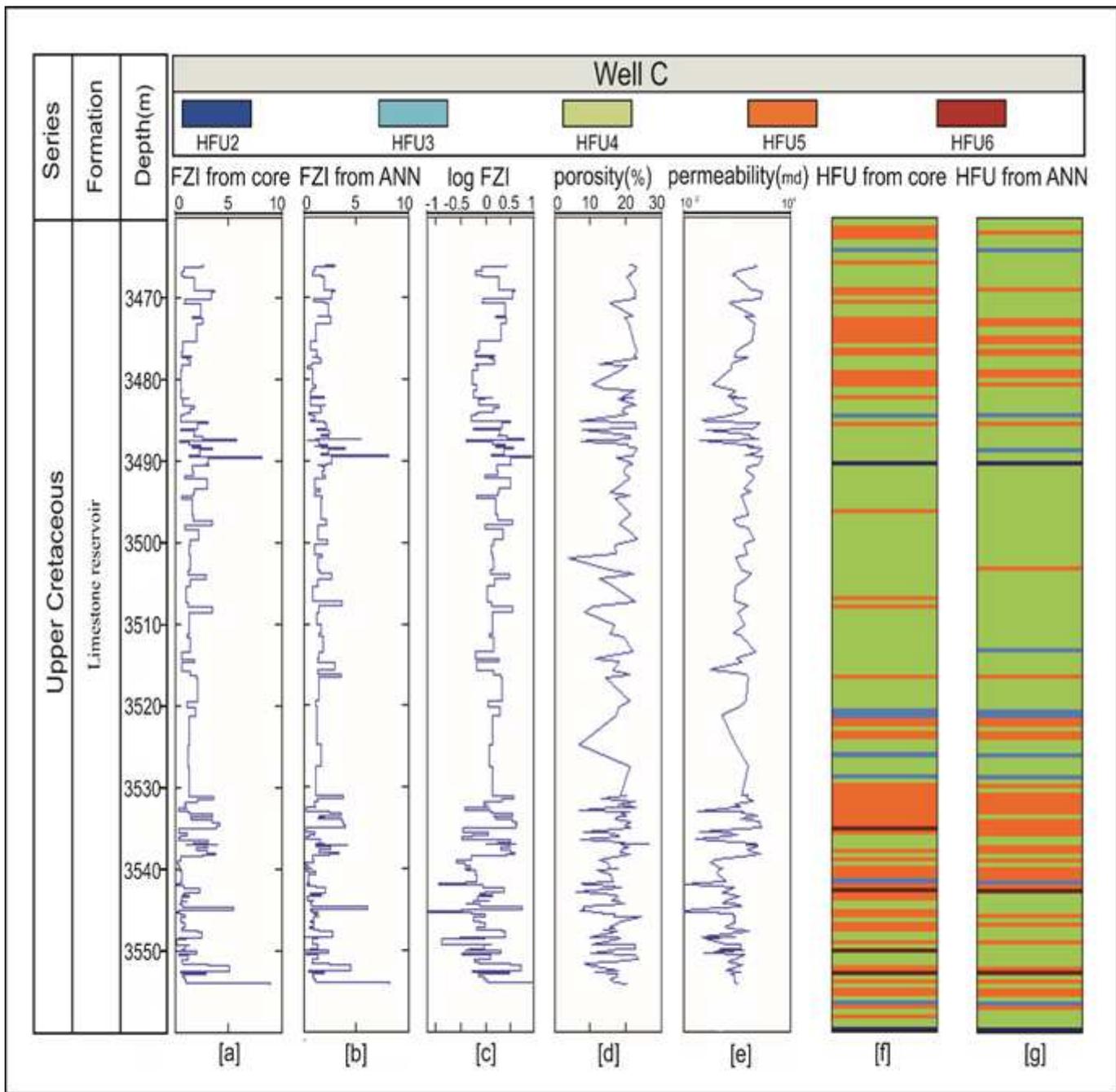
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**Fig. 12.** Cross-plot showing correlation coefficient between core-derived FZI and ANN predicted FZI for the well C.

Figure 12

See image above for figure legend



**Fig. 13.** Comparison of HFUs resulting from core and ANN along to core-derived and predicted FZI. Tracks [a] to [b] shows FZI obtained from core and ANN, track [c] shows the log FZI from core, porosity and permeability (tracks d and e), HFUs obtained from [f] the core and [g] the ANN.

**Figure 13**

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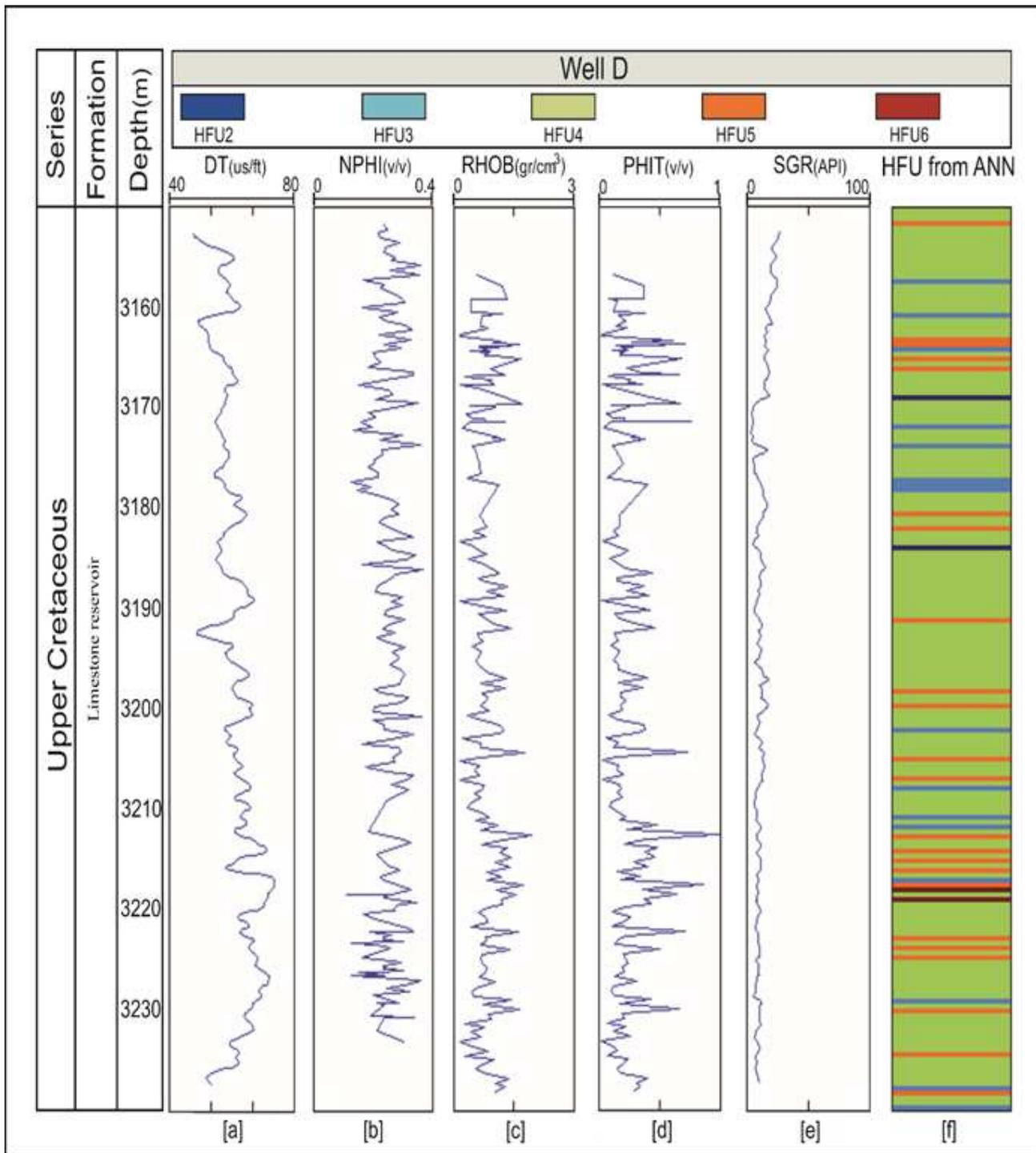


Fig. 14. The well selected for propagation of ANN model. Tracks [a] to [e] shows the well-log data for well D (DT, NPHI, RHOB, PHIT and SGR). Track [f] shows the ANN predicted HFUs.

Figure 14

See image above for figure legend