

Pore-Scale Physics and Large-Scale Flow Simulation

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Computational Issues in Oil Field Applications Tutorials













Adapted from Karsten Thompson, LSU



10 ⁻⁹ m	10 ⁻⁵ m	10 ⁻¹ m	10 ² m
streamline scale	pore scale	continuum scale	macroscopic scale
Fundamental, but imprace "engineering-scale" me	ctical for odeling	Practical for "e problems. P based on mod	engineering-scale" arameters mostly leling or empiricism
$v\nabla^2 u - \nabla p = 0 \qquad \nabla \cdot u$ $u = 0 _{\partial B}$	= 0 Upscalin	g $\nabla \cdot (K/\mu \nabla P) =$	= 0
$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-D\nabla c + uc) = 0$ $-n \cdot D\nabla c = k(c^n - c_0^n)$	0	$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (-\overline{D})$	$\nabla C + \overline{u}C) + R(C) = 0$



Petrophysical Experimental Measurements





Computer-Generated Materials



- Digitally create porous medium
- Place particles
 - Provide location (spatially correlated)
 - Size distribution
 - Ensure no overlap, gravitationally stable
- Attempt to create synthetic, real rocks
 - Change grain shape
 - Diagenesis, cementation, etc.



3D Imaging and Image Processing



- X-ray micro-CT (XMT) used to image the rock sample (~ mm³) and collect slices
- Voxels used to discretize the medium
- Grey-scale (e.g. 0 to 255) used to distinguish rock from void space/fluids
- Segmentation and filtering often required



Digital Rocks Portal: Preserving, visualization and upscaling based on porous media images

A	Search	Search	Browse Projects	How to Use	About
			Scratch Space	My Projects	Welcome, Masa ! -



Direct simulation of residual phase (disconnected blobs in blue) in Berea Sandstone (imaged based pore grain surface shown in transparent gray).

Digital Rocks Portal

Digital Rocks is a data portal for fast storage and retrieval, sharing, organization and analysis of images of varied porous micro-structures. It has the purpose of enhancing research resources for modeling/prediction of porous material properties in the fields of Petroleum, Civil and Environmental Engineering as well as Geology.

This platform allows managing, preserving, visualization and basic analysis of available images of porous materials and experiments performed on them, and any accompanying measurements (porosity, capillary pressure, permeability, electrical, NMR and elastic properties, etc.) required for both validation on modeling approaches and the upscaling and building of larger (hydro)geological models.

Browse Published Projects

Research public datasets that are hosted on Digital Rocks. You can view, search, and download metadata, raw and derived data, and find publications related to datasets that Digital Rocks users have uploaded and published.

Upload and Publish Data

Create a Project and Upload your Data. You can upload originating data, analysis data, and specimen data, as well as publications or other documents relating to your data.

Browse Published Projects

View and Manage Your Projects

- Upload and document large datasets
- Publish and reference data in papers (DOI)
- Visualize data remotely on parallel cluster (Texas Advanced Computing Center)

Questions:

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NSI

https://www.digitalrocksportal.org/



Direct Numerical Simulation

- Computational Fluid Dynamics (e.g. FEM)
- Lattice Boltzmann Method. Fluid described by moving particles. Particles have finite number of discrete velocity values.
 - Collective behavior of particles represented by "particle distribution function" (PDF): f(X, V, t)
 - Equation of motion for the PDF is known as the Boltzmann equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}f(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}, t) + \mathbf{V} \cdot \nabla f(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}, t) = \Omega(f(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}, t))$$



Flow velocity in pore space (Aaltosalmi, 2005)

 Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH) divides fluid into a set of discrete element (particles) and trace the movement of each particle. Lagrangian formulation of the Navier-Stokes equation



Pore-Scale Network Modeling







Network Generation Techniques

- Statistical methods create a network of pores and throats that mimic the statistics of properties of the original medium
- **Grain-based methods** are usually tied to approaches that represent grain positions in porous media



• **Medial Axis** can be used to thin the void space, from which one can map out the pores and throats in the network (skeleton is formed)



Example Image Analysis Workflow







Network Parameters and Statistics

Variable Association	Variable Name	Variable Type	Dimension
Network	Domain dimensions	vector	length
Pore	Location	vector	length
	Void volume	scalar	length ³
	Maximum inscribed radius	scalar	length
Throat	Interconnectivity:periodicity	scalar:vector	
	Cross-sectional area	scalar	length ²
	Maximum inscribed radius	scalar	length
	Surface area	scalar	length ²
	Hydraulic conductivity	scalar	length ³





Mass and Momentum Balance Equations





Matrix Equations and Solution Methods



- *N*×*N* Matrix is square, sparse and diagonally-dominate
- Not banded in general
- System can be solved using indirect solvers (e.g. Conjugate Gradients)



Permeability Calculation



- Calculate both faces to confirm mass balance
- Periodic or no-flow BCs on other four faces
- Measure anisotropy by changing flow direction
- Matches experimental data well in many cases



Non-Darcy Flow in Porous Media

Navier-Stokes Equations

Forchheimer Equation

$$\rho \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} = -\nabla \mathbf{P} + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v}, \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = -\frac{\mu}{K}v + \rho\beta v^n; n = 2$$

FEM simulations in throats to develop pore level equations





Comparison with Experimental Data





Shear-Thinning Flows in Porous Media

- Non-Newtonian fluids have a shear-dependent viscosity
- Relationship between flowrate and pressure is nonlinear, so system of non-linear equations arises

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} q_{ij} = 0 \qquad q_{ij} = \frac{n\pi R^{3+\frac{1}{n}}}{(3n+1)(2\mu_0 l)^{\frac{1}{n}}} \left(P_i - P_j\right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \qquad q_{ij} = \frac{\pi R^4}{8\eta_0 l} \Delta P \left[1 + \frac{4}{\alpha+3} \left(\frac{\Delta P_{ij}R}{2\tau_{1/2} l}\right)^{\alpha-1}\right]$$
Power-law
Ellis

- Performed FEM simulations in throats to correct for irregular geometry
- Modified "Darcy's Law" plotted as apparent viscosity

$$u = -\frac{k}{\mu_{app}} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x}$$
$$\mu_{app} = \mu_{\infty} + \left(\mu_{p}^{0} - \mu_{\infty}\right) \left[1 + \left(\lambda \dot{\gamma}_{eff}\right)^{\alpha}\right]^{(n-1)/\alpha} + \mu_{\max} \left[1 - \exp\left(\lambda_{2}\tau_{r} \dot{\gamma}_{eff}\right)^{n_{2}-1}\right]^{(n-1)/\alpha}$$





Yield Stress Flow in Porous Media

- Fluids with a yield stress require minimum stress to flow
- Equation for flowrate is nonlinear and complicated because of yield stress

$$q_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{\pi R_{ij}^4}{8\mu_0 l} \Delta P \left[1 - \frac{4}{3} \left\{ \frac{2\tau_0 l}{\Delta P R_{ij}} \right\} + \frac{1}{3} \left\{ \frac{2\tau_0 l}{\Delta P R_{ij}} \right\}^4 \right] if \quad \Delta P > \Delta P_0 \\ 0 \quad \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$





Threshold gradient

20% above threshold





Solute Transport in Porous Media





The Mixed Cell Method (old):



"perfect mixing" implicitly assumed!







What we propose:





The Streamline Splitting Method (new):



X: Accounts for splitting streamlinesΨ: Accounts for Intra-pore diffusion



Reactive Flow and Transport

Microscopic inputs





Macroscopic Outputs:









Model validation with published data



Experiment Parameter	
Particle Concentration	50 mg/L
Particle Zeta Potential	-110 mV
Particle Diameter	0.1~15 um
Particle Specific Gravity	1.1
Glass Beads Zeta Potential	-50 mV
Glass Beads Diameter	4 mm
Porosity	0.37

(Yoon et al. 2006)



Model validation---tracer test



- No particle retention (No body force and surface force)
- U = 0.0462 cm/s



Model validation---effluent concentration



□ Well predict filtration coefficients at different flow velocities.

(Yoon et al. 2006)



Multiphase Flow

Key References:

- V. Joekar-Niasar & S. M. Hassanizadeh (2012)
- Al-Gharbi and Blunt (2005)
- Oren et al. (1998)



Terms and Definitions

Wettability is the affinity of a fluid to a surface in the presence of another immiscible fluid



Drainage is the displacement of a wetting fluid by non-wetting fluid; **Imbibition** is the reverse process







Capillary Number and Mobility





Pore Geometry and Cross Sections



- Important to capture irregular cross sections of pores and throats
- Wetting fluid "wets" the surface and remains connected through crevices
- Use idealized shapes (e.g. traingles) with shape factors G=A/P²
- Finite Element simulations used to compute phase conductivities



Quasi-Static Immiscible Discplacement

- Capillary dominated (Ca ~ 0) common in real applications
- No flow/dynamics
- Displacement is "rule-based" (invasion percolation). Fluid fills a pore if pressure drop exceeds threshold (capillary entry) pressure





Capillary Pressure Calculation

- Impose a pressure boundary condition (reservoir of fluid)
- Use "rule-based" algorithm to compute equilibrium saturation
- 3. Increase pressure and repeat steps 1 and 2 to develop curve



Fig. 13 – Comparison between predicted and measured primary drainage capillary pressure for the water-wet Bentheimer sandstone. Oren et al. (1998)

Quasi-Static Relative Permeability Calculation

- 1. At a given equilibrium saturation impose a pressure gradient
- 2. Solve fluid flow (system of equations)
- Compute pressure field and steady-state flowrates for each phase
- 4. Back-calculate relative permeability at S_w
- 5. Repeat steps 1-4 at different saturation



Figure 8: Predicted waterflooding relative permeability for waterwet Berea sandstone (lines) compared to experimental data by Oak (crosses)³¹. Valvatne and Blunt, 2003



Multiphase Viscous Flows (Dynamic Network Models)

Single pressure

<u>Two-pressure</u>

$$V_i \frac{\partial S_i^w}{\partial t} + \sum_{j=1}^N q_{ij} S_{ij}^w = 0$$

$$q_{ij} = \frac{g_{ij}}{\mu} \Delta_{ij}$$

 $S_i^w + S_i^{nw} = 1$ $P_c^{ij} = f(geometry)$





Pore-Network Modeling vs. Reservoir Simulation

	Network Model	Reservoir Simulation
Nodes	"pores"	"cells/grids/elements"
Flow coefficient	conductivity	transmissibility
Scale	10 ⁻⁵ to 10 ⁻² m	10 ⁰ to 10 ⁵ m
Gridding	Unstructured	(un)Structured
Discretization	Fixed	User determined
Flow Regime	Capillary Dominated	Viscous Dominated
Compressibility	Negligible	Important



Hybrid Modeling and Upscaling Techniques



Petrophysical Experimental Measurements





Pore-Scale Models as Stand-Alone Tools

- Predictive network models can be used to obtain macroscopic properties for substitution into continuum simulators
 - Permeability (Bryant et al., 1993)
 - Relative permeability curves (Baake and Oren, 1997)
 - Capillary pressure curves (Dillard and Blunt, 2000)
 - Effective viscosity for non-Newtonian fluids (Lopez et al., 2003; Balhoff and Thompson, 2004)
 - Dispersion coefficients (Bijeljic et al., 2004; Acharya et al., 2007)
- Models can be used as a complement for experimental tests
- But...
 - Is direct upscaling sufficient?
 - Shouldn't the boundary conditions depend on flow behavior upstream?
 - How can we include pore-scale models in a multiscale setting?



Representative Elementary Volume



(in)-...)

Sun et al. (2012)



Related problems:



Svec and Grigg (2001)



Validity of continuum description:



Battiato and Tartakovsky (2011), Battiato et al. (2009)



1) Intrusive methods, Handshake methods, SPH-based methods:

Tartakovsky et al. (2006), Scheibe et al. (2007), Tartakovsky et al. (2008), Battiato et al. (2011), etc.



2) Heterogeneous multiscale based method (HMM), etc.:

Weinan et al. (2003), Weiqing & Weinan (2004), Chu et al. (2011a, 2011b), Sheng and Thompson (2013)



Chu et al. (2011) - two phase



Sheng and Thompson (2011) – two phase





3) Multiblock/Multidomain Mortar Approach:





0.01 y



Mortars are finite element based function spaces forming the interface conditions between subdomains.





- Subdomains are independent and can be solved in parallel
- Subdomains can be different in: physics, numerical method, discretization, and scale



How Do Mortars Work?



Objective:

Find subdomain solutions such that flux is continuous between them

Algorithm 1 (FD):

1) Guess interface unknowns

$$P|_{\Gamma_{ij}} = \sum_{k} \alpha_{k} \psi_{k}(x, y)$$

- 2) Solve subdomains
- 3) Compute "jump in flux" at interfaces

$$F_k(\vec{\alpha}) = \int_{\Gamma_{ij}} \left[\!\left[\vec{n} \cdot \vec{q}\right]\!\right] \cdot \psi_k = 0 \quad \forall \psi_k \in M_{h_j}$$

4) Iterate

Pros:

- 1) Easy to implement
- 2) Subdomains are "black boxes"

Con:

Potentially inefficient (esp. when nonlinear)



Model Validation Problem



- Periodic network model coupled to its replica
- Still want to solve as stand-alone tools
- What pressure field P(x,y) at the interface will result in weakly matched fluxes? P = 2.0?



Model Validation Problem





Actual Versus Mortar Approximation



Actual

8x8 Quadratic Mortars



Upscaling - Single Phase Flow

- Create large (million pore) network models
 - Very heterogeneous
 - Abrupt changes in pore structure
- Solve pressures, flows in the network
- Back-calculate permeability using Darcy's law (K_{TRUE})



476

108

740



Straightforward Upscaling Approach

- Split the network into several smaller networks and solve
- Back-calculate each sub-network
 permeability
- Upscale to get K_{FD} for entire domain using a traditional finite difference upscaling

 $K_{FD} \neq K_{TRUE}$

	١				No-Fl	ow BC	K	=0.,	2 m	IJ		
	750.5	1515.7	394.1	867 5	722.9	488.9	1331.8	1110.1	535.7	387.5		
	24.7	17.0	13.0	103.6	9.8	35.0	17.0	127.3	21.9	453.2		:
	14.4	2761.9	6.3	618.4	1190.9	54.1	2920.9	12.0	1984.0	16.4		:
	4.5	16.3	13.3	33.8	34.5	1980.1	27.3	94.2	6.3	374.3		
16 Pa	7.5	10.8	2218.1	2160.3	6.8	10.6	14.9	16.9	5.8	13.4	: 0 Pa	
Pin =	12.0	10.5	18.7	14.6	30.7	3225.1	24.2	1330.0	17.7	3315.3	Pout =	
	14.0	921.7	155.6	2743.2	7.1	27.2	8.5	1825.9	9.9	82.9		
	22.5	15.1	18.6	9.6	305.4	7.1	11.2	7.4	11.8	11.8		
	10.2	32.0	14.4	1456.9	16.2	6.4	1784.4	15.4	106.3	2279.3		
	18.2	19.8	103.5	18.9	6.3	61.5	12.5	108.2	14.0	7.4		
					No-F	ow BC						

 $\nabla \cdot \left(\mathbf{K} \nabla P \right) = 0$



Upscaling...a Mortar Approach

- Split networks at natural boundaries
- Couple all networks using FEM mortars
- Calculate upscaled K_{MORTAR}

 $K_{\text{MORTAR}} \cong K_{\text{TRUE}}$





Upscaling Results

K_{MORTAR} better match to K_{TRUE} (0.255,0.234) than K_{FD}
 (0.191,0.175) for higher-order mortars and smaller grids

	Linear					Quadratics			
Order	K _{xx}	κ,,,	% Error K _{xx}	% Error_K _{yy}	-κ _{xx}	κ _{γγ}	% Error_K _{xx}	% Error_K _{yy}	
1	1.02	0.49	298.88	107.70	0.86	0.42	238.56	78.72	
2	0.86	0.42	237.23	80.96	0.61	0.35	137.12	51.00	
4	0.60	0.36	133.12	52.88	0.31	0.27	22.26	16.51	
6	0.44	0.31	72.22	32.61	0.27	0.24	7.05	4.24	
8	0.31	0.28	22.32	18.39	0.264	0.237	3.19	0.95	



Global Jacobian Schur (GJS) Method

Formulate the problem into one global system





Global Jacobian Schur (GJS) with Transport

Formulate both flow and transport into one global system

$0 = F_i^f(\overrightarrow{p_i}, \overrightarrow{\alpha}) _{\Omega_i}, \forall i = 1,, n_{\Omega}$ $0 = G^f(\overrightarrow{p_i}, \overrightarrow{\alpha}) _{\Gamma}, \qquad \Gamma = \bigcup \Gamma_{ij}$	$F_i^f := \nabla . (K\nabla) \mid_h$ $G_k^f(\vec{p}, \vec{\alpha}) = \int_{\Gamma_\theta} \left[\left[\vec{n} \cdot \vec{q} \right] \right] . \varphi_k$ $\vec{q} := -K\nabla p \qquad K = \frac{k}{\mu}$	Flow
$\frac{\partial \vec{c}_i}{\partial t} = F_i^{tr}(\vec{c}_i, \vec{\beta}, t) _{\Omega_i}, \forall i = 1,, n_{\Omega}$ $0 = G^{tr}(\vec{c}_i, \vec{\beta}, t) _{\Gamma}, \qquad \Gamma = \bigcup \Gamma_{ij}$	$F_i^{tr} := -v_i \cdot \nabla + \nabla \cdot (D \nabla)$ $G_k^{tr}(\vec{c}, \vec{\beta}, t) = \int_{\Gamma_{ij}} \left[\vec{n} \cdot \vec{q}_c \right]$ $\vec{q}_c := vc - D \nabla c$	$ \cdot \varphi_k$ ransport

 $F_i^f = space \ discretized \ flow \ operator$ $G_k^f = flow \ interface \ condition$ $\alpha = Lagrange - multiplier \ for \ pressure$ k = permeability / conductivity $\mu = viscosity$ p = pressure F_i^{tr} = space discretized transport operator G_k^{tr} = transport interface condition β = Lagrange – multiplier for concentration v = fluid velocity D = diffusion / dispersion coefficient φ_k = mortar basis functions



Option b: Explicit Coupling of Transport:









Computational Performance:







Hybrid Modeling



Pressure

Concentration



Multiscale, Hybrid Near-Well Reservoir Simulator

- 7500, 3D pore-network models near wellbore in "pore-scale region"
- ~30-75 million total pores
- 10000 grid blocks in outer "Darcy region"
- Models coupled using mortars
- Solve on multiple processors in parallel



Sun et al., Energy and Fuels (2012)



Direct Upscaling Insufficient!

Pressure Field



Flux Field

Hybrid, Multiscale Mortar

A Priori Direct Upscaling



Discussion:

- Pore-scale modeling can be predictive only if:
 - 1. Topology is honored
 - 2. Streamline-scale equations reflect fundamental physics
- Even then, direct upscaling may be insufficient
- Mortar methods provide several advantages
 - Modeling larger pore-scale domains
 - Ease of hybrid modeling
 - Good computational scale up
 - Parallel computing