







### Modelling of the permeability evolution of coal due to sorption

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Coalbed methane (CBM) = unconventional resource







2 distinct phenomena affecting permeability:

- Pressure depletion → Reservoir compaction → Cleat permeability >>
- Gas desorption  $\rightarrow$  Coal matrix shrinkage  $\rightarrow$  Cleat permeability  $\nearrow$

[Gray et al., 1987]



**Unconventional models** 







Tomography imaging



[Jing et al., 2016]

Tomography imaging



[Jing et al., 2016]





Tomography imaging



[Jing et al., 2016]

Cleat permeability alteration due to sorption

#### Permeability

Navier-Stokes between two parallel plates



(Laminar flow, Steady state conditions & No body force)

Non-slip boundary conditions at the walls:

$$v\left(x_2=\pm\frac{h_b}{2}\right)=0$$

 $\Rightarrow$   $v_1(x_2)$  = Parabolic profile

$$q = \langle v_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{h_b} \int_{-\frac{h_b}{2}}^{\frac{h_b}{2}} v_1 dx_2 = -\frac{h_b^2}{12} \cdot \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{dp}{dx_1} \Rightarrow \text{Darcy permeability } k = \frac{h_b^2}{12}$$

+ Relative permeability curves to take into account multi-phases flow (retention curve required)

Fracture aperture

Darcy permeability 
$$k = \frac{h_b^2}{12}$$

The hydraulic aperture  $(h_b)$  is related to the mechanical aperture (h) as:



Modified from [Marinelli et al., 2016]

Fracture aperture

Variation of the stress state ( $\dot{\sigma}'$ ) impacts the mechanical fracture aperture (*h*):



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Fracture aperture

Variation of the stress state ( $\dot{\sigma}'$ ) impacts the mechanical fracture aperture (*h*):



where  $K_n$  is the **normal stiffness** of the fracture:

$$K_n = \frac{K_n^0}{\left(1 - \frac{h_0 - h}{h_0}\right)^2}$$

[Goodman, 1976] & [Bandis et al., 1983]



Modified from [Cerfontaine et al., 2015]

Sorption strain

### A swelling/shrinkage of the matrix is induced by the sorption/desorption



Volumetric **sorption-strain** in the matrix assumed proportional to the **adsorbed gas content** [Cui and Bustin, 2005]:

$$\varepsilon_{vs} = \beta_{\varepsilon} \cdot V_{g,Ad}$$



**Constitutive mechanical model** for the matrix: **Isotropic elastic law** (2 parameters: e.g.  $E_m$ ,  $v_m$ ) Adsorbed gas content

The **adsorbed gas content** in the matrix  $V_{g,Ad}$  depends on the pressure in the cleats p



Adsorbed gas content

The **adsorbed gas content** in the matrix  $V_{g,Ad}$  depends on the pressure in the cleats *p* 





Langmuir's isotherm (equilibrium equation):

$$V_{g,Ad} = rac{V_L \cdot p}{P_L + p} [m^3/t]$$

[Langmuir, 1918]

Adsorbed gas content

**Transversal flow** (Matrix  $\leftrightarrow$  Cleat)  $\propto p_{Ad}^b - p_{Ad}$ **Gas diffusion** in the matrix (Fick's law)  $\propto \nabla p_{Ad}$ 





Langmuir's isotherm (equilibrium equation):

$$V_{g,Ad} = rac{V_L \cdot p}{P_L + p} [m^3/t] \quad o \quad p^b_{Ad}$$

[Langmuir, 1918]

Summary

### Matrix

#### Mechanical model

Isotropic elastic law:  $E_m$ ,  $v_m$ 

Hydraulic model

Fick's diffusion law:  $D_m^g$ 

• Hydro-mechanical coupling

Sorption strain:  $\beta_{\epsilon}$ 

#### Summary

### Matrix

#### Mechanical model

#### Isotropic elastic law: $E_m$ , $v_m$

Hydraulic model

Fick's diffusion law: D<sub>m</sub><sup>g</sup>

• Hydro-mechanical coupling Sorption strain:  $\beta_{\epsilon}$ 

### Cleats

- Mechanical model
  - (Stick state)  $K_n(h), K_s$
  - (Slip state)  $+c, \mu$

### Hydraulic model

**Darcy's law** with  $k = \frac{h_b^2}{12}$ 

Hydro-mechanical couplings

$$h_b = h^{min} + h$$
  
 $\dot{M}_g(\dot{h}_b)$   
 $\sigma' = \sigma + p$ 

#### Summary

- Matrix
  - Mechanical model

Isotropic elastic law:  $E_m$ ,  $v_m$ 

• Hydraulic model

Fick's diffusion law:  $D_m^g$ 

Hydro-mechanical coupling
 Sorption strain: β<sub>ε</sub>

#### Model implemented in the FE Lagamine code

- Cleats
  - Mechanical model
    - (Stick state)  $K_n(h), K_s$
    - (Slip state)  $+c, \mu$
  - Hydraulic model
    - **Darcy's law** with  $k = \frac{h_b^2}{12}$
  - Hydro-mechanical couplings

 $h_b = h^{min} + h$  $\dot{M}_g(\dot{h}_b)$  $\sigma' = \sigma + p$ 

 $\bullet \ \ \text{Matrix} \to \text{Cleats}$ 

- Hydraulic model
  - Langmuir's isotherm V<sub>L</sub>, P<sub>L</sub>

### Laboratory

- Tomography imaging
- Triaxial tests
- Adsorption test
- Swelling test
- Permeability test

Geometry
 → Mechanical parameters
 → Langmuir 's parameters
 → Swelling strain coefficient
 → Permeability evolution

### Objective = validation of the microscale model

by comparison between the prediction of the evolution of the permeability and its measurement.

Numerical modelling

Swelling test

### Swelling test



Boundary conditions and loading:

- Free displacements
- Gas pressure increased by steps (imposed dof)
- Corresponding total stress applied (imposed force)



Swelling test

### Model calibration



Swelling test

### Model calibration



Permeability test

#### Permeability test



Boundary conditions and loading:

- Constant volume (fixed boundaries)
- Constant gas pressure at the top (fixed dof)
- Gas pressure increased by steps at the bottom



Permeability test

Adsorbed pressure [Pa]

Boundary pressure

Permeability test



Permeability test



Fracture aperture evolution



Development of a numerical model at the scale of the fractures and matrix blocks

Being validated by an experimental laboratory campaign

As is, the model only usable for laboratory tests modelling (due to computational expense)



What about the **reservoir scale**?

Homogenization



Sorption time

Mass exchange matrix  $\rightarrow$  cleats :

$$E = \frac{1}{\tau} \frac{M_g}{RT} \left( p_{g,m} - p_{g,m}^{lim} \right)$$



Sorption time:

$$au = rac{1}{\Psi D_m^g}$$

- Diffusion coefficient in the matrix  $D_m^g$
- Shape factor  $\Psi(w)$

$$\Psi = \pi^2 \left( \frac{1}{w_1^2} + \frac{1}{w_2^2} + \frac{1}{w_3^2} \right)$$

[Lim and Aziz, 1995]

Sorption time

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[Lim and Aziz, 1995]

Hydraulic equivalent medium



 $k = \frac{h_b^2}{12}$ 

Permeability Homogenization







Mechanical equivalent medium



$$K_n = \frac{K_n^0}{\left(1 - \frac{h_0 - h}{h_0}\right)^2} \qquad h \searrow K_n \nearrow$$
[Bandis et al., 1983]

- Isotropic elastic matrix:  $E_m$ ,  $v_m$
- Nonlinear elastic fractures: K<sub>n</sub>, K<sub>s</sub>

Orthotropic nonlinear elastic equivalent medium

# **Reservoir Modelling**

History matching exercise

Horseshoe Canyon case (Dry reservoir) [Gerami et al., 2007]



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Conclusions

### **Consistent macroscale model** enriched with microscale aspects

[Bertrand et al., 2017]

### Remarkable features:

- **Dual-continuum** approach for both mechanical and hydraulic behaviours.
- Not instantaneous gas desorption from the matrix.
- Kinetics of the gas transfer based on **shape factor** and **Langmuir**'s isotherm.
- Desorption strain not necessarily fully converted into a fracture opening.
- Permeability evolution directly linked to the fracture aperture.
- Multiphase flows in the fractures.

But could we go further avoiding macroscale laws?
## Multiscale Model

Overview

## FE<sup>2</sup> approach



#### Microscale Highly accurate but computationally expensive



Laboratory modelling only

#### Macroscale

Suitable for reservoir modelling but less accurate

#### Multiscale



# Thank you for your attention!

Modelling of the permeability evolution of coal due to sorption



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# Microscale

Parameters		Values
<u>Matrix</u> Density	$\rho_c (ka/m^3)$	1500
Young's modulus	$E_m$ (Pa)	3E9
Poisson's ratio	Vm	0.3
Width	w (m)	0.01
Cleat		
Initial normal stiffness	$K_n^0$ (Pa/m)	0.01E12
Shear stiffness	$K_{s}$ (Pa/m)	0.2E12
Friction coefficient	$\mu$	0.57
Cohesion	с ( <i>Ра</i> )	1
Initial mechanical aperture	h <sub>0</sub> ( <i>m</i> )	50E-6

#### Triaxial/UCS test

Parameters		Values
<u>Matrix</u>		
Langmuir volume	$V_L (m^3/kg)$	0.02
Langmuir pressure	P <sub>L</sub> (Pa)	1.5E6
Swelling coefficient	$eta_{\epsilon}~(\textit{kg}/\textit{m}^{3})$	0.5
Density	$ ho_c (kg/m^3)$	1500
Young's modulus	$E_m$ (Pa)	3E9
Poisson's ratio	$v_m$	0.3
Width	w (m)	0.01
Diffusion coefficient	$D_m^g$ ( $m^2/s$ )	1E-11
Cleat		
Initial normal stiffness	$K_n^0$ (Pa/m)	1E12
Shear stiffness	$K_s$ (Pa/m)	0.2E12
Friction coefficient	μ	0.57
Cohesion	c (Pa)	1
Initial hydraulic aperture	$h_0(m)$	10E-6
Minimal hydraulic aperture	h <sub>b</sub> <sup>min</sup> (m)	5E-6

#### Swelling & Permeability tests

## Mechanical problem



#### Matrix:

$$rac{\partial}{\partial t}\left( 
ho_{g, Ad} 
ight) + rac{\partial}{\partial x_{i}}\left( J_{m_{i}}^{g} 
ight) = 0$$

Cleats:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho_{g,f}(1-S_r)h_b) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}\left(\rho_{g,f}h_b q_{g_L} + (1-S_r)h_b J_{g_1}^g\right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}\left(\rho_{g,f}h_b (q_{g_T}^1 - q_{g_T}^2)\right) = 0$$



#### Hydraulic behaviour - Longitudinal permeability

Gas slippage?



(Laminar flow, Steady state conditions & No body force)

Slip boundary conditions [Kundt and Warburg, 1875]:

$$v_1\left(\frac{h}{2}\right) = -c\bar{l}\left(\frac{dv_1}{dx_2}\right)_{x_2 = \frac{h_b}{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_1(x_2) = -\frac{1}{2\mu} \left( c \,\overline{l} \, h_b + \left(\frac{h_b}{2}\right)^2 - x_2^2 \right) \frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}x_1}$$

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$$\Rightarrow v_1(x_2) = -\frac{1}{2\mu} \left( c \,\overline{l} \, h_b + \left(\frac{h_b}{2}\right)^2 - x_2^2 \right) \frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}x_1}$$

(Laminar flow, Steady state conditions & No body force)

$$q = \langle v_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{h_b} \int_{-\frac{h_b}{2}}^{\frac{h_b}{2}} v_1 dx_2 = -\frac{h_b^2}{12} \left(1 + \frac{6c\overline{l}}{h_b}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{\mathrm{d}p}{\mathrm{d}x_1} \Rightarrow k = \frac{h_b^2}{12} \cdot f_c$$

Hydraulic behaviour - Longitudinal permeability

$$f_c = \left(1 + \frac{6c\overline{l}}{h_b}\right)$$

• Constant  $c \approx 1$ 

• Gas mean free path 7

$$\overline{l} = \frac{k_B T}{\sqrt{2} \pi d_g^2 p}$$

where p[Pa] is the gas pressure,  $d_g$  the collision diameter of the gas molecule,  $k_B$  the Boltzmann constant and T[K] the temperature.

• 
$$d_g = 380 \cdot 10^{-12} m$$
 (Methane)  
•  $p = 1 MPa$   
•  $T = 303 K$ 

$$\rightarrow \quad \overline{l} = 6.52 \cdot 10^{-9} m$$

#### • Hydraulic aperture *h*<sub>b</sub>

•  $h_b = 1 \cdot 10^{-5} m$ 

Hydraulic behaviour - Longitudinal permeability

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Hydraulic behaviour - Longitudinal permeability

$$f_c = \left(1 + \frac{6c\bar{l}}{h_b}\right) = 1.004$$

• Constant  $c \approx 1$ 

• Gas mean free path 7

$$\overline{I} = \frac{k_B T}{\sqrt{2} \pi d_g^2 p}$$

where p[Pa] is the gas **pressure**,  $d_g$  the **collision diameter** of the gas molecule,  $k_B$  the **Boltzmann** constant and T[K] the **temperature**.

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•  $h_b = 1 \cdot 10^{-5} m$ 

#### Two-phase flow model?

Integration of Navier-Stokes in each stratum (considering the same velocity at the interface) [Yuster et al., 1951].



Relative permeabilities:

$$k_{rw}=\frac{S_r^2}{2}(3-S_r)$$

$$k_{rg} = (1 - S_r)^3$$

Fractures Hydraulic behaviour - Retention curve

#### Saturation degree $S_r$ ?

$$s=p_e\cdot(S_r^*)^{rac{-1}{\lambda}}$$
 ?

[Brooks and Corey, 1964]



Hydraulic behaviour - Retention curve

Saturation degree  $S_r$ ?

$$s=p_e\cdot(S_r^*)^{rac{-1}{\lambda}}$$
 ?

[Brooks and Corey, 1964]



Hydraulic behaviour - Retention curve

Saturation degree  $S_r$ ?

#### Fractal geometry of the wall

 $\rightarrow$  Fractal distribution of the number of units N whose radius is larger than r:

$$N(r) = a \cdot r^{-D_f}$$

where  $D_f$  is the **fractal dimension** and *a* is a constant of proportionality.

Fractures Hydraulic behaviour - Retention curve

Saturation degree  $S_r$ ?



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 $\rightarrow$  Fractal distribution of the number of units N whose radius is larger than r:

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where  $\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{f}}$  is the **fractal dimension** and *a* is a constant of proportionality.

# Macroscale

Mass balance equation



$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \rho_{g,f} \left( 1 - S_r \right) \phi_f \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( \rho_{g,f} \ q_{g_i} + \left( 1 - S_r \right) J_{g_i}^g \right)}_{\text{Gas phase}}_{\text{Gas phase}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \rho_{g,f}^d \ S_r \phi_f \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( \rho_{g,f}^d \ q_{l_i} + S_r \ J_{l_i}^g \right)}_{\text{Dissolved gas in water phase}} = E$$

and

$$rac{\partial}{\partial t}(
ho_{g,Ad}) = -E$$



Figure: Data published by [Coppens, 1967].

# $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Hydraulic model} \\ \mbox{Matrix} \rightarrow \mbox{Cleats} \mbox{-} \mbox{Analytical solution} \end{array}$



$$\dot{p}_{g,m}(t) = -rac{1}{ au} \cdot \left( p_{g,m}(t) - p_{g,m}^{lim}(t) 
ight)$$

Solution for constant  $p_{g,m}^{lim}$ :

$$oldsymbol{
ho}_{g,m}(t) = ig( oldsymbol{
ho}_{g,m}^0 - oldsymbol{
ho}_{g,m}^{lim}ig) \cdot oldsymbol{exp}\left(rac{-t}{ au}
ight) + oldsymbol{
ho}_{g,m}^{lim}$$

Solution for the linear evolution of  $p_{q,m}^{lim}$  (slope *a*) :

$$\rho_{g,m}(t) = -a \, au \exp\left(rac{-t}{ au}
ight) + a \, ( au - t) + 
ho_{g,m}^0$$

# $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Hydraulic model} \\ \mbox{Matrix} \rightarrow \mbox{Cleats} \ \mbox{-Analytical solution} \end{array}$



# $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Hydraulic model} \\ \mbox{Matrix} \rightarrow \mbox{Cleats} \ \mbox{-Analytical solution} \end{array}$



$$\left(\frac{k}{k_0}\right) = \left(\frac{\phi_f}{\phi_{f_0}}\right)^3$$

2 distinct phenomena affecting permeability:

- Pressure depletion  $\rightarrow$  Reservoir compaction  $\rightarrow$  Cleat permeability  $\searrow$
- Gas desorption  $\rightarrow$  Coal matrix shrinkage  $\rightarrow$  Cleat permeability  $\nearrow$

$$\phi_f = \phi_{f_0} \exp\{-c_f(\sigma - \sigma_0)\}$$

where  $c_f$  is the cleat compressibility.

$$\Rightarrow k_f = k_{f_0} \exp\{-3c_f(\sigma - \sigma_0)\}$$

[Seidle et al., 1992]

## Hydraulic model Cleats - Unsaturated conditions



# Hydraulic model

#### Cleats - Unsaturated conditions



## **Reservoir modelling**

Synthetic reservoir



[Peaceman et al., 1978]
Synthetic reservoir - Reference case



Synthetic reservoir - Production scenario influence

Influence of the depletion rate on the permeability evolution



#### Synthetic reservoir - Production scenario influence





Synthetic reservoir - Production scenario influence





#### Synthetic reservoir - Production scenario influence





Synthetic reservoir - Reference case parameters

Parameters	Values
Seam thickness ( <i>m</i> )	5
Reservoir radius ( <i>m</i> )	400
Temperature (K)	303
Overburden pressure (Pa)	5E6
Well transmissibility $T(m^3)$	1E-12
Penalty coefficient $\kappa$ ( $m^2.s/(kg.Pa)$ )	1.5E-19
Coal density $\rho_c (kg/m^3)$	1500
Matrix Young's modulus $E_m$ (Pa)	5E9
Matrix Poisson's ratio $v_m$	0.3
Matrix width w (m)	0.02
Cleat aperture h (m)	2E-5
Cleat normal stiffness $K_n$ ( $Pa/m$ )	100E9
Cleat shear stiffness $K_s$ ( $Pa/m$ )	25E9
Maximum cleat closure ratio	0.5
Joint Roughness coefficient JRC	0

Synthetic reservoir - Reference case parameters

Parameters	Values
Sorption time $ au$ (days)	3
Langmuir volume $V_L$ ( $m^3/kg$ )	0.02
Langmuir pressure <i>P<sub>L</sub> (Pa</i> )	1.5E6
Matrix shrinkage coefficient $eta_{arepsilon}$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.4
Entry capillary pressure $p_e$ ( <i>Pa</i> )	10000
Cleat size distribution index $\lambda$	0.25
Tortuosity coefficient η	1
Initial residual water saturation $S_{r,res_0}$	0.1
Residual water saturation exponent, nwr	0.5
Residual gas saturation	0.0

Synthetic reservoir - Parametric and couplings analysis



Synthetic reservoir - Parametric and couplings analysis



0

10

20

Years

30

Synthetic reservoir - Parametric and couplings analysis



Synthetic reservoir - Parametric and couplings analysis



# Multiscale

## Multiscale model



#### Microscopic scale

REV

- 1. Macroscopic structure discretised by finite elements
- 2. Macroscopic deformation gradient tensor computed for each IP from the estimation of the macroscopic nodal displacements relative to the external load 3. REV assigned at each macroscopic IP 4. Localization: apply appropriate displacements to the REV from the macroscopic deformation gradient tensor 5. Microscale FE computation: stress and deformation distributions in the REV 6. Homogenization: REV averaged stress returned to the macroscopic IP 7. Macroscopic internal nodal forces 8. Macroscopic stiffness matrix 9. Balance between external load and internal load? Next time Updated estimation of the nodal displacements required increment evaluated (via macroscopic stiffness matrix)