Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS): Permeability Stimulation Through Hydraulic Fracturing in a Thermo-Poroelastic Framework

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Deep geothermal energy:

Earth's stored energy

Gradient of temperature

Mankind's energy needs (electricity)

Exploitation of geothermal energy



http://www.mhi-global.com on 30/01/2014

Exploitation – Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS)



Overview of the research:

- Thermo-poroelasticity
 - > Mathematics
 - Simulations by ABAQUS and FE domestic code
- Fracture evolution and permeability enhancement
 - > Fracturing criterion:
 - Evolution of fracture radius
 - ✤ Fracture aperture change
 - Anisotropic permeability tensor
- FE simulations of Hydraulic Fracturing (HF)
 - Circulation tests without and with considering HF
 - > Designing HDR reservoirs: Impedance, efficiency and life-time
- Convection of heat Stabilization
- Conclusion

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Thermo-poroelasticity - Mathematics - Constitutive equations

Homogeneous single-porosity media

• Stress mixture equation:

$$\sigma_{ij} + \kappa p \,\delta_{ij} = 2G \,\varepsilon_{ij} + \frac{2G\nu}{1 - 2\nu} \,\varepsilon_{kk} \,\delta_{ij} - K \,\alpha_s \,\theta \,\delta_{ij}$$

• Change in mixture fluid content equation:

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{K} - \frac{1}{K_s} \right) \left(\sigma_{kk} + \frac{3}{B} p \right) - \phi_0(\alpha_f - \alpha_s) \theta$$

• Darcy's equation:

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$$\boldsymbol{q}_f = \phi_0(\boldsymbol{v}_f - \boldsymbol{v}_s) = -\frac{\boldsymbol{k}}{\mu} \cdot (\boldsymbol{\nabla} p - \rho_f \, \boldsymbol{g})$$

• Fourier's law of thermal conduction:

$$h = -\chi \nabla \theta, \quad \chi = (1 - \phi_0)\chi_s + \phi_0 \chi_f$$

Thermo-poroelasticity - Mathematics – Balance equations

• Balance of momentum:

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{ij}}{\partial x_j} + F_i = 0, \quad i = 1, \ 2$$

• Balance of fluid mass:

$$\frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial t} + \nabla . \boldsymbol{q}_f = \boldsymbol{0}$$

• Balance of energy:



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$Thermo-poroelasticity-Simulations\ by\ ABAQUS$



Thermo-poroelasticity – Thermal to mechanical loading

Parametric study:



Pore pressure profiles at $(x_2 = 10 \text{ m})$

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Thermo-poroelasticity – Thermal to mechanical loading

Case definition		$\Delta p_{\theta} / \Delta p_{\sigma}$	$\Delta \sigma^{'}_{22\theta}/\Delta \sigma^{'}_{22\sigma}$	$\Delta \varepsilon_{22\theta} / \Delta \varepsilon_{22\sigma}$
$\alpha_f = 0,$	$K_f = \infty$	0.176	0.176	13.4
$\alpha_f = 0,$	$K_f = 2.2 \times 10^9 \ 1/Pa$	1.15	0.115	13.4
$\alpha_f = 4.2 \times 10^{-4} \ 1/^{\circ} \text{C},$	$K_f = 2.2 \times 10^9 \ 1/Pa$	36.2	3.62	13.4
$\alpha_f = 4.2 \times 10^{-4} \ 1/^{\circ} \text{C},$	$K_f = \infty$	5.76	5.76	13.4

Conclusions:

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- 1. Pore pressure is significantly affected by fluid compressibility and thermal expansion
- 2. Previous conclusion holds correct for the field of axial effective stress
- 3. No changes in the axial strain field

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Thermo-poroelasticity – Simulations by the Fortran 90 FE code

Validation of the first version of the FE code:

The first version of the FE code was modified by Rachel Gelet, (Gelet PhD thesis, [2012]).

The numerical responses of the FE code were correlated against two transient BVPs:

• The previously discussed 1-D column.

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• A 2-D wellbore stability axisymmetric problem.



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Fracture evolution – Fracturing criterion

DDFM: Directionally Distributed Fracture Model

Modes I and II with all possible fracture orientations (Shao et al., [2005])

Characteristics of the model:

- A phenomenological including relevant micromechanical features
- Working in the frame of LEFM

Assumptions for opting this model:

- No fracture Interaction before the onset of fracture evolution
- Initial isotropy
- Mechanical behavior before macroscopic failure
- Penny-shaped fractures embedded in an infinite body



Fracturing criterion - Fracture evolution (r)

For a group of fractures in a specific direction n, the following forces are sovereign:

- The stress normal to the fracture surface σ_n •
- The stress applied to the fracture plane $\langle \sigma_n^{\prime d} \rangle$ •



$$C_{rc} \leq 0$$

 $\eta \frac{r_{f}}{r_{0}}$

 $\eta \frac{r_{f}}{r_{0}}$

 $\eta \frac{r_{f}}{r_{0}}$

 $\eta \frac{Damage localization}{r_{f}}$

$$F(\boldsymbol{\sigma}', r, \boldsymbol{n}) = \sqrt{r} \left[\sigma_{\boldsymbol{n}}' \left(\frac{f_{c,t}}{f_{c,t} + \langle -\sigma_{\boldsymbol{n}}' \rangle} \right)^{\boldsymbol{m}} + 3 f(r) \langle \sigma_{\boldsymbol{n}}'^{\boldsymbol{d}} \rangle \right] - C_{rc} \leq 0$$

$$\sigma'_{n} = n \cdot \sigma' \cdot n, \quad \sigma'^{d} = \sigma' - \left(\frac{\operatorname{tr} \sigma'}{3}\right) \delta, \quad \sigma'^{d}_{n} = n \cdot \sigma'^{d} \cdot n$$

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Fracturing criterion - Fracture aperture (*w***) change**

Fracture aperture (*w*) is related to fracture face mismatch

and local grain matrix interaction:

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Crack aperture reduction: Barton's hyperbolic closure model

$$w = w_0 \left(1 - \frac{\langle -\sigma'_n \rangle}{w_0 k_{n0} + \langle -\sigma'_n \rangle} \right)$$

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Fracture evolution – Permeability tensor

Inside a given fracture of orientation *n*:

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- Flow: Navier-Stokes equation for laminar flow
- Macroscopic velocity field: Directional averaging
- Fracture permeability tensor is obtained from the macroscopic velocity field:

Fracture density

$$\boldsymbol{k}_{c} = \boxed{\frac{N}{\Omega}} \frac{\lambda}{48} \int_{S} \underbrace{\mathbb{R}(\boldsymbol{n})} w(\boldsymbol{n})^{3} r(\boldsymbol{n})^{2} \left(\boldsymbol{\delta} - \boldsymbol{n} \otimes \boldsymbol{n}\right) dS$$





$$R(r(\boldsymbol{n})) = t_1 \left(\frac{r(\boldsymbol{n}) - r_0}{r_f - r_0}\right)^{t_2}$$

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Fracture evolution – Permeability tensor

Assumptions for calculating the permeability tensor:

- Fractures are interconnected and/or dead channels
- No local pressure fluctuations

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- Permeability tensor is anisotropic in nature
- Permeability tensor is contributed by two porosities:
 - > Initial porosity \mathbf{k}_0 $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_0 + \mathbf{k}_c$ (for parallel flow)
 - \succ Fracture induced permeability k_c



Fracture evolution – Numerical and experimental results

Application to Lac du Bonnet granite:

 $P_c = -10 \text{ MPa}$

Onset of fracture evolution ($\Delta \sigma$ = -190 MPa)

 $r_0 = 3 \text{ mm} \text{ and } r_f = 9 \text{ mm}$

 $w_0 = 15 \,\mu m$

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Numerical and experimental results – Fracture radius (r) evolution



Fracture evolution – Fracture aperture (w) reduction

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Fracture evolution – Correlation & validation

Validation of the DDFM against experimental records: (Souley et al., [2001])



Thermo-poroelasticity and Fracturing–Summary

Reflections and Conclusions:

- 1. Thermo-poroelasticity
 - Constitutive and balance equations
 - Simulations by ABAQUS and Domestic FE code
- 2. Permeability enhancement

- ➤ Fracturing model (*r* and *w*)
- Anisotropic permeability tensor
- ➢ Validation of the model

Hydraulic Fracturing (HF)

Definitions:

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• Tensile failure of boreholes



Effect of thermal loading on HF:

Thermal strain tensor

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \kappa \, p \, \boldsymbol{\delta} = \boldsymbol{E} : (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{\boldsymbol{\theta}})$$

Hydraulic Fracturing – Borehole stability (tensile failure)



Continuum approaches for HF:

With a mud cake:
$$p_w^f = -\left[(3\sigma_h - \sigma_H) + p_f - \frac{E\alpha_s\theta}{3(1-\nu)} - T_c\right]$$

Without a mud cake:
$$p_w^f = -\left[(1-\nu)(3\sigma_h - \sigma_H) + (1-2\nu)p_f - \frac{E\alpha_s\theta}{3} - (1-\nu)T_c\right]$$

Hydraulic Fracturing – Borehole stability (shear failure)

Borehole shear failure criteria

- Stress concentration at the borehole wall
- Analytical stress expressions at the borehole wall
- Two most observed stress states corresponding to shear borehole failure

- Mohr-Coulomb failure criterion:
 - > Two expressions for minimum borehole pressure
 - at shear failure

Failure φ ζ_0 $-\sigma_r'$ $-\sigma_{\theta}'$ $-\sigma'$

Т



Shear borehole failure is not likely to happen during HF.

Hydraulic Fracturing – Fracture mechanics







Hydraulic Fracturing – Fracturing model

Hydraulic Fracturing Model (HFM)

Only mode I of fracture evolution

Starting from the DDFM:

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 $F(\sigma'_n, r) = f(r)\sigma'_n\sqrt{\pi r} - K_{Ic}$



Parameterization of the model so that fractures propagate at p_w^f



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Hydraulic Fracturing – Circulation tests

Stimulation tests of Soultz–Sous–Forêts HDR reservoir: Mp Phase 1 injection test at GPK1 500 m 38.2 MPa Insulating boundaries (2) y / 2.8 km 200 m Sumery (1) p₀ = 28.5 MPa Insuiating boundaries T₀ = 155 °C $p_0 = 28.5 MPa$ Thermal front 75.4 MPa T₀ = 155 °C No thermal and hydraulic fluxes Hydraulic front х ð ø Fractured Zone No thermal and hydraulic fluxes **MARKS** hydraulic fluxes Line of symmetry (4) No thermal and N 170 75.4 MPa 200 m No thermal and hydraulic fluxes 4 GPK1 GPK2 = 27.5 MPa n T = ? T = 50 °C 500 m

z

GPK2

GPK1

Circulation tests – Flow logging 1993 – Injected flow

Applied flow at GPK1:

➤ Scheme 1

Scheme 2



Circulation tests – Flow logging 1993 - Correlations



Conclusions:

- 1. Asymptotic plateau for turbulent flow
- 2. More effective HF for impermeable boundaries

Circulation tests – Permeability enhancement

Phase 1 injection test at GPK1 1993: Modeling



Permeability enhancement – Simulations





Simulations – Temperature and pressure



Simulations – Longitudinal stress



Wiggles due to heat convection: DCM and SGS

(AbuAisha thesis, [2014], ch. 6)



Non-linear relation in injection logging with HF Termination of HF at injection pressure of 35.9 MPa Injection rate of 20 l/s at injection pressure of 39 MPa

Simulations – Impedance and efficiency

Designer point of view





Efficiency enhanced by about 50%

Simulations – Impedance and efficiency



Profiles of produced fluid temperature

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Profiles of produced flow rate (Q)

Efficient fluid with HF is 4.922 Million m³ Efficient fluid without HF is 5.364 Million m^3

Permeability enhancement – Summary

Reflections and Conclusions:

- 1. HFM for mode I of fracture evolution
 - Validated against field data
 - Used in doing the stimulation of Soultz–Sous–Forêts HDR reservoir
- 2. HF increased the efficiency of the reservoir by 50%
- 3. 7% to 8% of the produced efficient fluid is lost over the effective age of the reservoir

Permeability enhancement – Viscosity temperature change

Phase 1 injection test at GPK1 1993: Simulations with viscosity-temperature change

Brine used:

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Models of (Francke and Thorade, [2010])
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Brine of NaCl (22.5% concentration) at pressure range of 0.01 to 50 MPa





Viscosity temperature change – Injection schedule

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Termination of HF after 5 years with viscosity change

HF counteracts the hindrance due to viscosity increase

Viscosity temperature change – Impedance and efficiency

SARVE



Longer but inefficient longevity of the reservoir

Hydraulic Fracturing – Permeability enhancement HFM2

Hydraulic Fracturing Model (HFM2)

Modes I and II of fracture propagation

Shear slippage of inclined fractures

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 $\sigma_X > \sigma_y$

$$F(\boldsymbol{\sigma}', r, \boldsymbol{n}) = \sqrt{r} \left[\sigma_n' + 3 f(r) \left\langle \sigma_n'^{d} \right\rangle \right] - C_{rc} \le 0$$

Permeability enhancement HFM2 – Permeability history at GPK1

Phase 1 injection test at GPK1 1993: Stimulations using HFM2

 k_x at the injection well GPK1

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10⁻¹¹ Periods of intense (10⁻¹² ع × enhancement x,HFM K_{x,HFM2} 10⁻¹³ At the injection well 10⁰ 10⁻⁵ 10⁵ time (days)

Stabler growth of fractures

Permeability enhancement HFM2 – Permeability contours

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Convection of heat – Definition

Fluid velocity multiplied by the gradient of its temperature: $v \cdot \nabla \theta$

Solving the equation of balance of energy with dominant convection of heat – Difficulties

Heat waves striking suddenly stiff boundaries:

$$\left[(\partial \theta / \partial t) + \boldsymbol{v} . \boldsymbol{\nabla} \theta
ight]$$

Bubnov-Galerkin methods are not efficient – Alternatives:

- 1. Subgrid Scale (SGS) method
- 2. Streamline-Upwind Petrov-Galerkin (SUPG) method
- 3. The Discontinuity Capturing Method (DCM)

Convection of heat – SGS Method

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Application of the SUPG method is inefficient at small time steps and when activating HF.

SGS: The transient term of a transient diffusion problem can be transformed into a reaction term by first discretizing in time instead of the conventional method of first discretizing in space.

$$\int_{V} w^{h} \left(\mathcal{N} \varphi_{n+1}^{h} - F_{n+1} \right) dV + \sum_{e=1}^{N^{el}} \int_{V^{e}} \left(-\mathcal{N}_{*} w_{n+1}^{h} \right) \tau_{00}^{e} \left(\mathcal{N} \varphi_{n+1}^{h} - F_{n+1} \right) dV^{e}$$
$$+ \sum_{e=1}^{N^{el}} \int_{V^{e}} \nabla \left(-\mathcal{N}_{*} w_{n+1}^{h} \right) \tau_{11}^{e} \nabla \left(\mathcal{N} \varphi_{n+1}^{h} - F_{n+1} \right) dV^{e} = 0,$$

where τ_{00}^{e} (s) and τ_{11}^{e} (m² s) are the stabilization parameters.

SGS Method - Simulations

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Stabilization at early and intermediate time intervals:



(a) Temperature profiles

(b) Pore pressure profiles

DCM- Simulations

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Stabilization at late time intervals:



(b) Temperature profiles at year 20

(a) Temperature profiles at year 15

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Conclusion

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Building a frame work capable of describing permeability enhancement in a THM framework with:

- ➢ fully integrated mechanical ingredients to describe HF (HFM and HFM2),
- > a computational aspect to implement HF models and thermo-poroelasticity

Reflections and perspectives

CNRS

- 1. Investigating large and small scale heterogeneities of geothermal systems
- 2. Fracture slippage and permeability reduction under compressive stresses
- 3. Experimental laboratory tests
- 4. Impact of temperature change on the viscosity of Non-Newtonian fluids
- 5. Non-Darcian flow to describe inertial effects due to high fluid velocities
- 6. Chemical enhancement of EGS
- 7. HF in a dual-porosity thermo-poroelastic framework
- 8. CO2-based EGS

