

## A COMPUTATIONAL MODEL FOR CO<sub>2</sub> LEAKAGE IN HETEROGENEOUS FORMATION

M. Musivand Arzanfudi<sup>1</sup>, R. Al-Khoury<sup>1</sup> and L. J. Sluys<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Delft University of Technology, P.O. Box 5048, 2600 GA Delft, m.musivandarzanfudi@tudelft.nl

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In this contribution, a computational model for CO<sub>2</sub> leakage in a heterogeneous layered medium domain exhibiting different permeability-saturation and capillary pressure-saturation relationships is introduced. In such a domain, the saturation field exhibits a discontinuity at the boundary between layers [1]. The governing equations are derived based on the averaging theory and solved numerically using a mixed-discretization finite element approach [2,3]. The saturation field is discretized using the partition of unity finite element method, and the pore pressure field is discretized using the standard Galerkin finite element method. The finite element mesh not necessarily coincides with the boundary between layers. This discretization scheme provides an accurate and effectively mesh-independent solution. It allows the use of structured and geometry-independent finite element meshes. These features are illustrated in a CO<sub>2</sub> injection numerical example, defined in Figure 1. Computational results obtained from the standard finite element method and the proposed mixed-discretization method are presented in Figure 2 for five different discretizations. The figure shows that the standard Galerkin model, even with relatively fine meshes, is not capable of simulating the saturation discontinuity at the interface between layers, giving a false impression about the amount of leakage. On the contrary, the proposed mixed-discretization model is capable of capturing the discontinuity in the saturation field, even with coarse meshes.

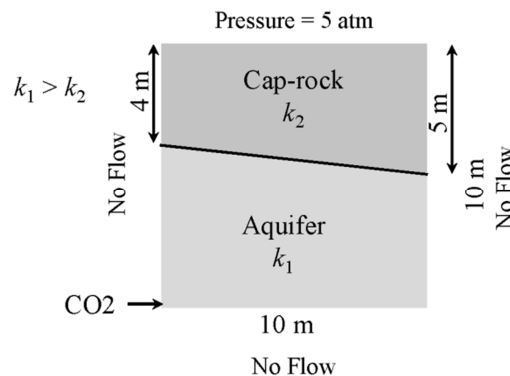


Figure 1. Geometry and boundary conditions of the CO<sub>2</sub> injection numerical example

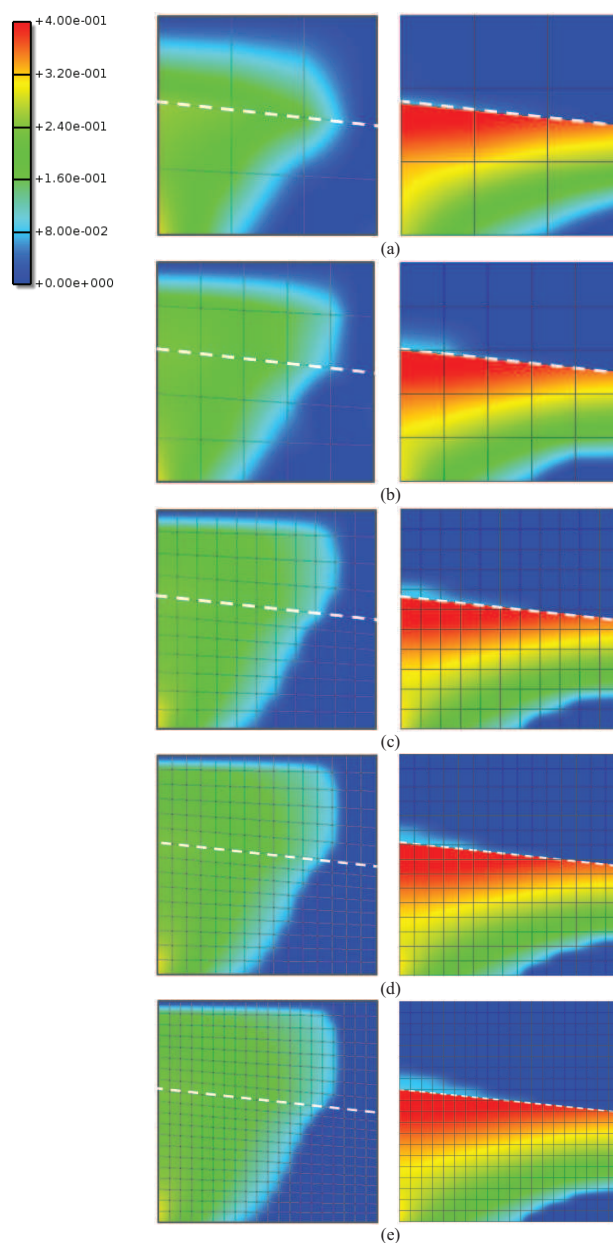


Figure 2. CO<sub>2</sub> phase saturation distribution at  $t = 82$  days. Left: standard Galerkin model; Right: mixed-discretization model: a) 9 elements. b) 25 elements. c) 121 elements. d) 225 elements. e) 400 elements

## REFERENCES

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