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A Study of Sweep Efficiency in Enhanced Oil Recovery and its Application for Maximizing Oil Production

A. A. Vadie

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A Study of Sweep Efficiency in Enhanced Oil Recovery and its Application for Maximizing Oil Production

Dr. A. A. Vadie and Mr. Q. V. Nquyen

1985

The Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute University, Mississippi 38677

A STUDY OF SWEEP EFFICIENCY IN ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY AND ITS APPLICATION FOR MAXIMIZING OIL PRODUCTION

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BY

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Petroleum Engineering Dept. Mississippi State University

FUNDED BY

MISSISSIPPI MINERAL RESOURCE INSTITUTE

June 1985

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abstract

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Waterflooding of oil reservoirs for the purpose of sweeping out the oil is a very well-established method in the industry today. Success of many of these operations is, however, far from assured. This is mainly due to an almost infinite variety of reservoirs and reservoir fluids in addition to the complex nature of the science and technology of water flooding. A thorough and up-to-date study of the elements involved in maximizing oil recovery in waterflooding operations is' notably missing in the literature.

A study of reservoir and reservoir fluid properties, as well as computational and operational criteria, for the purpose of maximizing oil recovery in linear and two-dimensional immiscible water flooding has been undertaken. Numerical models were set up and the most efficient methods of simulation employed using microcomputers as well as a main frame computer. The outcomes of the computation were weighed against experimental results. Satisfactory agreements were achieved. A unique, dimensionless, saturation-distribution equation involving a "Scaling Factor" was developed. Behavior of major variables against Sweep Efficiency was plotted. A complete and thorough quantitative, as well as qualitative analysis, is presented.

Introduction

Early in 1941 a piece of purely mathematical work (1) in the area of immiscible fluid displacement in petroleum reservoirs was published, which did not receive the attention it deserved. However, today, Buckley-Leverett is a household name in petroleum reservoir engineering. Many theoretical, as well as experimental works, followed this original work (2 through 11) and with availability of computers and development of reservoir simulations, the science and technology of immiscible and incompressible fluid displacement (mainly water flooding of oil reservoirs), for the sole purpose of increasing oil recovery, has indeed reached an advanced level.

Complexity of the matter and vast variety of the reservoirs and reservoir fluid types have made it so far impossible to achieve the science and the technology needed to assure success in every flooding operation. In this sense, the investigative work on the subject is far from over. Published works on the nature of the operations are many. (References are at the end of the text.) But a complete and comprehensive study of the elements involved in maximizing oil recovery is noticeably missing. The intention of this work, therefore is to offer an up-to-date study of single and two-dimensional immiscible, incompressible, fluid displacement (mainly oil and water) for the sole purpose of maximizing recovery in petroleum reservoirs, using the latest methods in calculations and reservoir simulation computations.

Background

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Using the reservoir's self energy to produce its fluid (primary production), even at very favorable conditions, in many cases will leave more than one-half o.f the original fluid in place, where it requires other artificial (external) forces to be brought to the surface.

Pushing and eventually sweeping oil out of the reservoir by a cheaper and available medium, like other methods of artificial oil recovery, initially happened by accident, and it is not new by any account. What is new is its use to such a wide scale that today it is indeed responsible for many millions of barrels of recovered oil in the United States and Canada.

Water emerged as the most efficient and suitable medium for two basic and specific purposes—reservoir pressure maintenance and flooding of the reservoir for sweeping out its oil. Numerous theoretical and experimental projects on the subject have been carried out and published results are available. Discussing the method of calculation, computation and/or operations, therefore, is not the purpose of this work. However, the main objective of this work is the study and understanding the effects of various elements—from reservoir and reservoir fluid properties to the method of computation on the sweep efficiency of waterflooding operations, with the intention of maximizing oil recovery.

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Methodology

The work performed was basically in two sections—one-dimensional and two-dimensional systems. In the one-dimensional system a Buckley-Levertt type model was set up and numerous operations under different conditions were carried out and the results were plotted for further investigation. In this fashion it is assumed the gravity forces and capillary pressures are not determining factors and have no significant effects in a qualitative study of sweep
efficiencv. Setting up a reliable single dimensional Setting up a reliable single dimensional mathematical-numerical model, therefore, was thought to be satisfactory for our purposes. In the two-dimensional system, the basic assumptions are the same, although due to the introduction of another dimension, the computation takes a much more complicated course. In both cases water and oil was assumed to be incompressible and immiscible in each other under the operating reservoir conditions, and furthermore, no gas was assumed to be present throughout the sand and no chemical reaction took place between injected fluids and reservoir fluids.

The Case of Linear Waterflooding

Theory-

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When water, as an incompressible fluid and immiscible with reservoir fluids under operating reservoir conditions, is introduced (injected) into a relatively long layer of sand Fig. 1, under continuous and practically steady flow, water contacts the oil, forms a front, and begins to push it towards the producing well located at the other end of the sand where, theoretically, oil is produced at the same water injection rate.

Major·factors involved in this operation are as follows:

-Method of investigation such as; -the mathematics of calculations $-$ Simulation -Numerical solution

Due to inherent limitations of the numerical simulation method, it is practically impossible to observe the quantitative effects of all the above factors on the sweep efficiency or reservoir waterflooding. Therefore, in some cases the investigative process is unfortunately limited to qualitative observation and analysis. this in mind, it has been possible to quantitatively With demonstrate the effects of the following factors against sweep efficiency:

> -Injection rate and/or pressure -Absolute permeability -Porosi ty -Oil viscosity (oil-water viscosity ratio, or mobility ratio) -Physical size of the sand -Numerical modeling (grid block size)

Mathematical Development-

The general equation of conservation of mass in a two-phase, immiscible, incompressible flow of fluids in a linear system (x direction only) under constant flow rate, where gravity and
capillary forces are not appreciable, may be described as follows:

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or in general.

$$
Vt Vf + \Phi 3S/3 t = 0
$$
 (2)

where, $f = (KKrw / \mu w) / (KKrw / \mu w + KKro / \mu o)$

also ,

 (1)

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 $Vt = V_O + V_W$ Vt = (-KKro/μο - KKrwAw) V p or, $Vt = - (\lambda \circ + Aw) V P$ or Vt=-At*VP

since Kro and Krw are only functions of water saturation, f is only a function of water saturation, too.

Equation (1) along with initial and boundary conditions determine the saturation of water (or oil) at any time at any point in the sand. However, assuming unsteady state flow, flow of fluids is governed by the following:

for oil: $V P - Q o \overline{V} \rightarrow \Phi \theta$ (So/Bo) / θ t

for water: V Aw V P + Qw = Φ Θ (Sw/Bw) /t .

or: v At v P + $Qw - Qo = 0$ (3)

since: $q(So + Sw) / t = 0$

Equation (3) along with its appropriate boundary and initial conditions determines pressure distribution along the sand at any point and time.

Assumption of unsteady state flow, although theoretically valid, is not justified considering the nature of the operation where rapidly approaches almost steady state condition, after the stabilization of the operation, that is continuous injection of water at some fixed rate. This is mainly due to the assumption of incompressibility of oil and water. Therefore, analysis of saturation distribution in the one-dimensional model Equation (1) will adequately serve our purpose in this part of the work.

Analytical solution of Equation (1) is possible only in some trivial cases. Even then the solution is subject to questions of discontinuity, shock wave, or triple saturation points. These problems have been discussed in detail in a number of published materials with no apparent practical (industrial) applications. Discussions of these results are not within the scope of this work.

With increasing availability of fast computing capability along with the development of numerical solutions, it is refreshing to know that the time has come to solve these or even much more complicated types of partial differential equations (such as the one in a two-dimensional model), through numerical methods with

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increasingly satisfactory outcomes for industrial applications.

Numerical Solution —

It is required to secure a set of primary, workable numerical data to set up a numerical model; it is quite essential. To determine water fraction at any saturation, relative permeabilities as functions of saturation are needed. The following effective permeability functions are chosen to represent this relationship:

$$
Kw = (Sw - Swc) \t 2
$$

$$
Ko = (1 - Sw - Swc) \t 2
$$

A numerical model was set up and partial differential Equation (1) was turned into partial difference equation, using a backward difference approximation scheme.

In computation of saturation distribution, numerical dispersion becomes a serious problem. Consequently, a sharp front, which is one of the criteria of two-phase immiscible flow, seemed unattainable by employing conventional methods and a much more sophisticated method of computation was needed.

A search among many available methods of computation for reducing numerical dispersion (12 through 20) revealed that the "Second Order Godunov Method" (12) is quite capable of generating a sharp front see Fig. 2 by minimizing numerical dispersion. Although, it is not by any means the easiest or the simplest one. See Appendix C for detail.

Running the Model—

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Numerous trial runs were carried out. In order to test the reliability of the model, experimental input data (10) were fed in and the results were weighed against the experimental results. Close and satisfactory agreement was obtained. See Fig. 3.

Sweep Efficiency—

As it is defined in this work, Sweep Efficiency (SE) is the recovered portion of oil (due to waterflooding) divided by the recoverable oil initially (at the start of the flood) in place. To observe the effects of various reservoir and reservoir fluid properties, as well as flooding and simulation criteria on SE, different values of the variables were fed into the model, respective SE computed, and the results were plotted for visual inspection and further qualitative investigation. The variables which were considered essential and for which runs were made are as follows :

- Injection rate, which is directly related to injection pressure (reservoir pressure) and reservoir injectivity.

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- Viscosity ratio, VR (oil/water), which is directly related to mobility ratio in a defined system.
- Absolute permeability
- Grid block size, which is directly related to physical size of the sand or number of grid blocks

There are obviously other influential elements which directly or indirectly affect the recovery. The effects of these elements will be analyzed and discussed only qualitatively. This is mainly due to the inherent limited ability of the quantitative investigation of the present method.

Discussion of Results

Viscosity Ratio—

Theoretically speaking, in a linear two-phase immiscible flui'd flow system (piston type motion), the fluids form a front at contact where a drastic change in fluid saturation occurs. Generation and stability of this front is directly responsible for most of the oil recovery, resulting in water sweeping the sand effectively. Experimental works $(3,4,11)$ have shown that favorable mobility ratios $L < 1$ (or viscosity ratio in a defined system), are the key in generation and stability of the front. Lack of this front will cause viscous fingering, channeling and tonguing, resulting in water bypassing oil and leaving it behind. This causes appreciable reduction in oil recovery. Fig. 2 represents the effects of viscosity ratio on generation of a sharp front. Subsequently, Fig. 4 shows the effects of various viscosity ration (VR) from unfavorable (VR = 15) to favorable (VR =.10), on Sweep Efficiency of the waterflooded sand. ■

Water Injection Rate—

As injection starts and water spreads in the reservoir, higher water rates certainly result in more oil recovery. This short and temporary increase in recovery continues until the rate reaches some limit, which is a function of the reservoir injectivity (including porosity and permeability), bottom hole pressure, and surface facilities. Beyond this rate, however, there will be no increase in oil recovery by increasing water injection rate. Therefore, in any water flooding operation, it is significant to determine this operating level and keep the operation continuously at or above this level as long as desired or practically possible. See Figs. 5 and 6.

Reservoir Homogeneity and Isotropicity—

Investigation of SE in heterogeneous reservoirs is beyond the scope of this work, mainly due to inherent limitations of the method of investigation. A homogenous reservoir has been, therefore, assumed throughout this work. But change in reservoir characteristics could become crucial in the success of any

waterflooding project. The following remarks are noteworthy:

absolute permeability;

Except in reservoir injectivity, the mere size of the absolute permeability has no effect on the generation and stability of the front and, therefore, sweep efficiency. However, it is clear that change in the permeability of the sand (unisotropicity) within one reservoir, such as occurrence of fractures, vugs, lenses, channels, sand grain size or configuration, and interbedding shale appearances will undoubtedly interfere with the water sweeping pattern; it may facilitate front instability and fingering.

Likewise, porosity in itself has no apparent effect on relative oil recovery but its variation, due to change in the structure of the sand, will certainly have the same unpleasant effect of unisotropicity.

-Variation in other sand properties, such as connate water, residual oil saturation, traces or pockets of gas, loose or tight sand, artificial or natural formation damage, etc., will have the same effect as preceding ones. If connate water becomes significant, its viscosity might cause concern. If connate water viscosity differs significantly with that of injecting water, it may interfere with the balance of oil-water viscosity ratio and in some cases become detrimental to the stability of the front.

Pysical Size—

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-Porosity;

Linearity is a major assumption in this part of the experiment. In comparison with the sand cross section, sand length should be enough to assure flow of fluid in only one direction. Furthermore, generation and stability of the front requires a certain time and space. Sand, therefore, should be long enough to minimize inlet and end effects and to allow the flow to form its assumed front. Except for these rather significant considerations, physical size of the sand has no bearing on the recovery outcome.

Modeling Criteria—

The problems arising in mathematical modeling and numerical solution are mainly numerical dispersion and selection of appropriate space and time steps. In particular, numerical dispersion should not be confused with the true fluid front that is directly related to mobility ratio and flow regime. Methods are available to automatically determine time steps based on input data, including grid block size. Selection of appropriate grid block size is of particular interest. Grid block size (or number of grid blocks) is related to physical size of the sand as well as the computation cost. It is clear that the relative accuracy of computed numerical values increases with a decrease in grid block size (or increases with the number of grid blocks), resulting in an increase in apparent oil recovery (or SE). This is due to the nature of linear mathematical modeling, which treats each grid block

volume as a single point. There is a limit, however, to this increase, beyond which the effects of the grid block size becomes quite minimal. See Fig. 7. Economical reasons and other considerations should be used as guidelines in setting up the most appropriate model for each particular case.

The Case of Two-Dimensional Waterflooding

A five-spot water flooding pattern was considered in this part of the study, assuming all other conditions to be the same as the single dimensional model. In this fashion if water is injected into the lower-left corner of the sand then production of oil and/or water takes place from its upper-right corner.

Mathematical Development—

Conservation of mass may be used to derive flow equations for a two-phase, immiscible and incompressible fluid in porous media, as follows :

assuming gravity and capillary forces are minimal. Since the total saturation is fixed,

$$
So + Sw = 1
$$

therefore ;

 (4) V $\dot{A}t V P + v = 0$

 $V = V_0 + V_W$

where,

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The convention of a positive sign for injection rate and a negative sign for production rate were commonly assigned. For saturation,

Vt V f + φ 3S/3t = 0 (5)

where $S = Sw$,

and $f = Vw/Vt$, as water flow fraction

Similar equations may also be written for the oil phase.

Numerical Solution—

Analytical solution of Equations 4 an 5 to determine pressure and saturation distribution is practically impossible on the same grounds as mentioned above for the one-dimensional model. The only practical and reliable method known today is a numerical solution of the reservoir mathematical model.

An oil-depleted, Μ by Μ grid block, reservoir model was set up. Water was injected in the lower-left corner and simultaneously oil was produced from the upper-right corner of the model (a five-spot pattern). The reservoir was assumed to be homogeneous and isotropic; furthermore, the sand was assumed to have no preference for oil or water, although the selected relative permeability data is from a preferentially oil wet sand (10).

Pressure Distribution—

Equation (4) was discretized by a "Forward Difference Approximation Scheme," and the SOR (Successive Over Relaxed) method was used to solve for pressure implicity. No-flow boundary conditions were used by setting transmissibilities equal to zero at boundaries :

 $P(0, j) = P(1, j),$ $j = 1, 2, ...M$ $P (i, 0) = P (i, 1)$, $i = 1, 2$. . M $P(M+1, j) = P(M, j), j = 1, 2...M$ $P(i, M+1) = P(i, M), i = 1, 2...M$

where, i and j represent horizontal and vertical grid block numbers, respectively.

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 $P(i,1)$ = reservoir injection pressure, as a given datum directly related to injection rate. See Appendix (D), for further details.

Saturation Distribution—

Using the method of "Splitting Alternative Direction," Equation (5) may be written as follows:

Vx $Sf/3x + \phi 3S/3C = 0$ (5a)

 $V_y 9f/3y + \phi 3B/3\Gamma = 0$ (5b)

where, $Vx + Vy = Vt$ also, $Vx = -At dP/dx$ and, $Vy = - At dP/dy$

If pressure of each cell and total mobility is known, Vx and Vy could be determined and substituted in Equations (5a) and (5b). These equations, then discretized by "Backward Difference Approximation Scheme," and using the "Splitting Alternative Direction," and Godunov method, along with the following initial and boundary conditions,

saturation distribution will be closely approximated. See Appendix (D) for further details.

Relative Permeability Data—

Water and oil mobilities, as well as water fraction values, f(S), require relative permeability data for the above computation. Relative permeability data, as a function of water saturation, has been selected from laboratory data (10) in a curve fitting fashion, for this part of the work. Also, special subroutines were set up for interpolation of relative permeabilities for given water saturations.

Reliability of the Model

Numerous trial runs were carried out, and in order to test the reliability of the model, experimental input data (10) were fed in. Computed results were weighed against experimental data. A close and satisfactory agreement was obtained. See Fig. 9.

Discussion of Results-

To investigate the effects of reservoir and reservoir fluid properties as well as operation and modeling criteria, a process similar to the single dimensional model was carried out as follows:

Viscosity Ratio (VR)—

Under similar conditions the model was run for different values of viscosity ratio (mobility ratio in a defined system). Saturation distribution for each case was computed and plotted. See Figs. 10,11,12. Oil recovery for each case was computed and plotted. See Fig. 13. Sweep efficiency was also computed in each case and finally plotted against viscosity ratios. See Fig. 14.

Results of this experiment show the unique effect of viscosity ratio in generation and stability of a sharp front at the fluid's contact. At VR values of one or less (favorable conditions), saturation gradients are quite significant at the front, and on the contrary, as VR increases (unfavorable conditions) , the front almost dissipates. The effects of VR on SE, based on this experiment, is predictably evident in Fig. 14. As stated before, viscosity ratio is the most important factor in generation and stability of the fluid front which in turn is the key in sweeping of the reservoir by waterflooding. Any change or interference in the reservoir and reservoir fluid characteristics and/or operation, such as reservoir heterogeneity, isotropicity, operation break down, etc. will undoubtedly result in instability and dissipation of the front and emergence of fingering or tonguing, which will cause water to break into the oil front and for the most part bypass it. It should be stated that left t-behind-oil, may never be recovered under the same reservoir and operational conditions. This is probably the single most misunderstood, ignored, or hopelessly tried source of failure in waterflooding operations for.oil recovery today.

Water Injection Rate—

Models were run for different water injection rates (directly related to reservoir operating pressure) keeping other input data (such as VR = 1 or 5.42 cp) unchanged. Results in this case are in complete support of the findings in the one-dimensional model. That is, at the start of the operation, and before the flow of fluid becomes stabilized in the reservoir, recovery increases with an increase of the rate. This trend continues until it reaches a certain limit which is set by a particular operation. Beyond this limit however, an increase in recovery becomes minimal and sweep becomes independent of injection rate (reservoir operating pressure). See Fig. 15. This behavior is also reflected in the rate-sweep efficiency plot of Fig. 16. It should be stated that at low injection rate capillary and gravity forces become more significant and certainly detrimental to the formation of a steep front. On the other hand, at high rates of injection (above the limiting rate), flow is more under the influence of the viscous forces, particularly in a homogeneous reservoir, where the condition is quite favorable for generation and stability of the fluids front.

It is clear that lower production rates (in this work assumed to be the same as injection rate) will prolong the stability of the front and it is encouraged, although this is again subject to the economical guidelines and prevailing reservoir pressure.

Reservoir Homogeneity and Isotropicity—

Although reservoir permeability has a direct effect on the injectivity and other operating criteria, generally speaking, oil recovery seems to be quite independent of permeability as long as the assumption of reservoir homogeneity and isotropicity have been met. See Fig. 17. Similar are the effects of porosity on sweep efficiency. See Fig. 18. For further details on this subject refer to the discussion under the same title in linear flooding above.

Physical Size—

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The assumption of only two dimensions in the model is a major one and sand dimensions should be such that only areal fluid flow is assumed. Basically, no vertical flow will take place under reservoir operating conditions. Furthermore, it requires some space and time to minimize the inlet and end effects and also to allow the flow of the water phase to form its assumed contact with the oil phase. Except for these rather significant operating considerations, the sheer size of the sand has no bearing on oil recovery, keeping all other elements unchanged.

Modeling Criteria—

Although the process of mathematical modeling and numerical solution in this case required a much more complicated method than the one-dimensional method, experience from the one-dimensional model, did facilitate the matter by avoiding any numerical

dispersion or saturation creep. The time step was determined automatically, based on other input data such as selection of the space steps (in x and y directions). Selection of these scales will be directly reflected in the size of the numerical error. The smaller these steps (more grid blocks), the less the size of the error and the closer the approximated results, which means higher apparent sweep efficiency values. This behavior has been depicted in Fig. 19. In real operations, however, economical as well as other particulars of the operations should be used as guidelines in selection of proper values for time and space steps.

Operational Considerations—

Sweep Efficiency of all the above experiments was considered at the time of water breakthrough (BT). That is when the head of the injecting water phase reaches the producing well. Theoretically, all of the recoverable oil will be eventually recovered provided water injection continues indefinitely. In real operations however, this could not possibly take place for the following reasons:

-A foremost fact is that left-behind-oii will not again receive enough sweeping push to get it out of the rock pores and to the producing well—no matter how long water injection continues—so long as the front either does not materialize or for some reason breaks down and dissipates. This is more so in oil-wet rocks, where additional favorable conditions facilitates further the flow of water through the sand.

-Economy of the waterflood ing operation will not allow indefinite water injection at injecting well(s) and sufficient water-oil separation and water disposal or recycling facilities at the producing wellhead (s). Maximization of sweep efficiency without economical and practical considerations has no virtue.

It is therefore, the sweep efficiency at breakthrough which mostly reflects the success or failure of the operation. In many cases, however, the final recovery, which is subject to the operator's economy as well as operational limitations will be determined long after water breakthrough. In successful operation (except in tilted reservoirs where gravity forces are in effect), most of the recoverable oil has been produced by BT time. In such operations, occurrence of BT is considered a beginning of the end.

Scaling Factor

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Experiments on viscosity ratios, injection rates, and sand physical sizes indicate the existence of a limit below which recovery is sensitive to these factors and their increase will result in higher recovery. Beyond this limit, however, flow patterns and oil recovery will practically remain independent of these factors.

To show the relative importance of these essential factors, Equation (1) is turned into a dimensionless one as follows:

we had, Φ 3s/3t + Vt 9f / Θ x = 0

or , Ф 3s/ 3t + q/A 3f / Эх = 0

or,
$$
3s/3t + q/(A * \Phi)
$$
 3 f/ $3\chi = o$

3 s/ 3t + q/($A*LM$) $L3f/3x = 0$

or ,

 $($

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X.

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Assuming Q as injection rate in terms of pore volume,

 $3s/3t + QL \frac{3f}{3x} = 0$ (6) then, \mathcal{L}^{max} and \mathcal{L}^{max}

multiply both sides by μθ/țjw (a none zero value) results,

This is a unique dimensionless equation for all two-phase incompressible immiscible fluid flow in porous media.

SF is defined as "Scaling Factor" and has the following distinguished properties:

-From a theoretical standpoint (Eq. 7),

All floods of similar SF values, behave similarly.

-From the above experiments,

There exists a critical value for SF, in any water flooding operation, where at lower values the assumed flow pattern (the front) has not been established yet (not stabilized) and oil recovery is highly sensitive to SF and continuously increases with an increase in SF. At values higher than critical SF, however, the flow pattern (the front) has been established (stabilized) and the recovery becomes almost independent of SF.

In any real operation it is therefore essential to estimate the critical SF and keep the level of operation above this value. Critical SF could be determined by trial and error and/or· pilot plant studies.

Rapoport and Leas (3), in their excellent and fundamental work, have reached a similar conclusion and from theoretical work they defined "Scaling Coefficient" as c = UWVL, and experimentally showed a critical value for any flood where, beyond that, recovery remained constant with an increase of c. In their work, although they specifically expressed their findings in terms of viscosity ratio,

formulation of c. The interchangeability of involved factors for SF to reach a critical value is also reported in this work. However, this matter although theoretically sound seems doubtful and requires further experimental study. Douglas and Wagner (11) also selected a similar group of paramenters as Q L.p/(K dPc/dx), called "Rate Paremeter," which is closely defined as the Scaling Coefficient.

Conclusion

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Injected water as an incompressible fluid should flow through sand pores and contact oil (also an incompressible fluid) and theoretically should form a sharp front (immiscible fluids) where saturation gradients are greatest. If sand homogeneity, favorable mobility ratio, and optimum injection and production rates are provided water will sweep out 100 pc of the recoverable oil, and sweep efficiency, by definition, is maximized. The key to this highly-theoretical, maximum efficiency is threefold:

- 1 .Favorable mobility ratio (viscosity ratio in a defined system),
- 2 .Homogenous sand, and
- 3 .Minimum required flow rate with respect to the physical size of the sand.

Any deviation from these basic principles is bound to have substantial impact on recovery and directly result in reduced sweep efficiency. In actual reservoirs and in field operations, control over these key factors is very difficult, if not in many cases impossible.

Experiments carried out in this work, along with many other studies, clearly show that favorable mobility ratio (V \leq 1) is directly responsible in generation -and stability of the front, which in turn is the foremost factor in having a highly efficient sweep. Lack of favorable viscosities will make the operation highly susceptible to the stability of the front and results in fingering, branching, channel ing,tonguing and eventual dissipation of the high-saturation gradient front. Branched out water, will bypass the oil, and recovery will be relatively dismal.

Reservoir homogeneity is indeed an uncontrollable yet crucial factor in the efficiency of the sweep. Understanding of the reservoir characteristics—from depositional condition, to grain size and configuration and existence of lenses, pockets, cracks, channels, vugs and shale discontinuity and finally reservoir boundaries—are essential in design, operation and maintenance of a continuous and successful water flooding.

Effects of injection rate, viscosity ratio and relative physical size of the sand on oil recovery have a certain limit. A "Scaling Factor," as a combined element representing these essential factors, could be used to determine their combined influential limit. This limiting value is called "Critical Scaling Factor".

Keeping the level of the flooding operation above this critical value in the design, operation and maintenance of a continuous waterflood ing operation will assure maximized oil recovery possible under prevailing operating conditions.

Recommendation

Waterflood ing of petroleum reservoirs is one of the established and foremost methods of enhancing oil recovery today. Although the science and technology of waterflooding have advanced notably, due to the inherent complicated nature of the subject and almost infinite variety of reservoir and reservoir fluid types, success of a vast majority of operations can not be guaranteed.

On the other hand, waterflooding as a primary means of enhancing oil recovery can not be employed in many petroleum reservoirs containing gas or very light hydrocarbons. In some cases water can not be used due to high cost of available water, environmental considerations, or availability of other types of displacing media such as carbon dioxide or nitrogen. There are also other reasons to suggest waterflooding has a. limit and the industry is rapidly approaching it.

Consider the following:

- 1. Discovery of carbon dioxide reservoirs (a major one in Mississippi) .
- 2. Availability of nitrogen everywhere.
- 3. Gradual decrease in manufacturing, installation, and operation cost of surface facilities.
- 4. Almost day by day shortage, and in some cases scarcity of water, (such as the Middle East and populated areas, especially in the western hemisphere).
- 5. Environmental considerations and environmental protection organization's imposition of strict rules and regulations on industrial water consumptions.
- 6. Emergence of reliable miscible flooding technical know how, etc.

Therefore, the use of other media besides water, mainly carbon dioxide and nitrogen, as a logical and practical alternative in flooding hydrocarbon reservoirs for the sole purpose of increasing recovery will be progressively more in demand.

Any investigative work in the area of sweep efficiency in the reservoir flooding, such as this work, for the purpose of enhancing oil recovery, can not be complete and may not receive the attention and credit it really deserves, without the further challenging study of miscible flooding.

Therefore, the second part of this project, namely, "The Study of Sweep Efficiency in Miscible Flooding of the Hydrocarbon Reservoirs for Maximizing the Recoverable Oil and Gas," as has been proposed to MMRI, as a vital part of this project, needs to be undertäken .

Research on all aspects of water flooding, and much more so on miscible flooding, should therefore continue, and I believe it will, so long as the complexity and unknowns in the technology remain, so long as progress continues in sweeping more and more oil from exhausted oil fields, so long as it . stays viable to the oil industry, and more so, to the economy of the country.

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NOMENCLATURE

A Cross Section Bo, Bw. . . . Reservoir Volume Factor (Oil, Water) Cte......... Constant f............ Water Flow Rate Fraction ф Porosity i,j..........Index (x,y direction) K Absolute Permeability Ko,Kw Effective Permeability (Oil, Water) Kro,Krw . . . Relative Permeability (Oil, Water) L Length λ Mobility Ratio (Oil, Water) At........... Total Mobility Μ............ Number of Grid Blocks on Each Direction Po Uw Viscosity (Oil, Water) P Pressure (Oil Phase, Water Phase) q.............. Total FlowRate qo , qw ... Flow Rate (Oil, Water) Q............. Total Flow Rate in Pore Volume (Dimensionless) S............ Sw So,Sw Saturation (Oil, Water) $Sd.$ цо /\$ Sd. $\mu_{\mathbf{w}}$
SE............Sweep Efficiency = Total Oil Recovered/Total Recoverable Oil * 100 Swc Connate Water Saturation t............ Time V............ Total Flow Rate Per Unit Cross Section Vo,Vw Flow Rate (Oil, Water) VR........... Viscosity Ratio x,y Space Dimensions

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APPENDIX A

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 $A \cdot VR$ = 4D.

VR: OIL TO WATER VISCOSITY RATIO

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APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

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I. MAIN PROGRAM

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A. Array Declaration:

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Input Data Variables: **B.**

C. Output Control Variables:

D. Initialization:

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D. Interiediate Variables:

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II. SUBROUTINE SODUNV

III. SUBROUTINE FNDF

X : Value at which slope is calculated XL,XR : Left and right values of X FL,FR.................: FH values of XL and XR DF : Slope of FW at X

IV. SUBROUTINE INTERP

XX(20),YY(20)..: Tetporary arrays X : Interpolating value FN : Result of interpolation

V. SUBROUTINE PRINT

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Subroutine Godunv

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Subroutine Interp

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Subroutine Interp

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 $\label{eq:3.1} \left\|\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{\ell}\right\| \leq \left\|\mathbf{Y}_{\ell}\right\|^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

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55 $1:$ Real CHIÙ(200), C0PD(200) \mathbf{Z}_\bullet Real 5wf20i .FW42O) ,KRÜ(2ö) ,Nº20) $\overline{3}$: **Ccsson MKR** $4:$ foææor: /Sat/ S (50) 5: Logical Bthrou $6:$ \star $7:~\rightarrow$ $8:1$ === ONE DIMENSIONAL RESERVOIR SIMULATION $9: *$ A STUDY OF SWEEP EFFICIENCY $=$ $=$ $=$ $z = z$ 10: v $\pm\pm\pm$ Prepared Quyet Nguyen by: V. $=$ $=$ $=$ === Date: April 10, 1985 -== 11: t $12:4$ 13: \mathbf{i} $14:$ This program is designed to sinulate a linear $15:$ ł waterflooding laboratory model . The Bodunov's 16: \bullet sethod is used to solve for the saturation. $17; *$ $18: *$ **VARIABLES:** $19:$ * $20: 1$ xigth Length, c® $21:$ * area Cross sectional area, sq.cs $22:$ * psi: Initial pressure, atm fîŤ * phi: Porosity, fraction $24. *$ swi: Initial water saturation, fraction $25:$ * sor: Residuai oil saturation, fraction 26: \bullet qwi j * Water injection rate. cc/sec 27: \bullet Cris: Oil viscosity, cp $28:$ t wvis: Water viscosity, cp $29:$ * S Water saturation, fraction per® Hbsolute permeability, Darcy $30:$ » $31:$ * roip: Recoverable oil in-place, cc $32:$ * M $\dots \dots \dots \dots$: Number of grid blocks, M <= 36 $33: *$ MKRW Yumber of SW.KRW, and KRO points $34: \mathcal{B}$ dt : 'ime step, sec. $35: 4$ wormax : Maximum wor tolerance $36: 4$ $37:4$ $38:4$ $39 - 4$ Input Data $222 - 1$ $40:$ » Read(5,100) M $41:$ Read (5, 1lO) xlgth, area, phi, perm $42:$ $43:$ Read(5,110) swi, sor, ovi s., wvis $44:$ Read(5,115) qwij,dt,wor®ax $45:$ Read(5,100) MKR $46:$ Read(5,120) (SW(i),KR0(ii.KRWii)= i,MKR: $47:4$ $43:1$ === Output Control variables " $49:4$ $50:$ $maxt = 2000$ $51.$ $\text{istep} = 20$ $52:$ $\text{ntol} = .001$ $53:4$ $54:4$ === Initialization $\Lambda_{\rm{max}}$ $55:$ » 56. $tqij = 0.$ $57:$ $tqwp = 0.$ $58₁$ $\text{oree} = 0.$

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 $\label{eq:1.1} \frac{d\lambda}{d\lambda} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \left(\frac{d\lambda}{d\lambda} - \frac{d\lambda}{d\lambda} \right)$

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APPENDIX D

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TWO DIMENSIONAL FIODEL

MAIN PROGRAM

- A. Array Declaration:
	- 1. One Disensional Array:

CHIJ(200) Cum. water injection, pv C0PD(200> : Cue. oil production, pv SN(20) : Hater saturation, fraction KR0(20) : Oil relative perseability **KRW(20) Hater relative perneabi lity** \pm FWÍ20) : Hater fractional flow values \sim

2. Two Dimensional Array:

B. Input Data Variables:

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C. Output Control Variables:

MAKT : Haxinua nueber of calculations ISTEP........... : Interval current result printed ti«e STOL : Hater saturation at breakthrough

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D. Iteration Control Variables:

E., Initialization:

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 $F_{\rm{c}}$ Interaediate Variables:

SUBROUTINE NOB \parallel .

> RKO : Oil relative peraeability RKH : Hater relative peraeability

SUBROUTINE COEFS $III.$

SUBROUTINE PSOR IV.

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TEMP: Temporary storage ~ 100

V. SUBROUTINE VELO

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SUBROUTINE GODUNV VI.

SS(15): Water saturation at half tiie step SLESS: Value of $S(0,i)$ or $S(i,0)$, $i = 1,2,...$ DD,D1,D2 Duany wariables DS Equal 0 or naxinun value of (DD,D1,D2) DE: Slope of FW at sote S PR,FL Water fractional flow values SIGN: Sign of DS: $+$ if DD > 0 $-$ if DD < 0

VII. SUBROUTINE FNDF

VIII. SUBROUTINE INTERP

IX. SUBROUTINE PRINT

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RESERVOIR SIMULATION

$$
i \frac{dS}{dt} + V_t \text{WS} - 0 \qquad (1)
$$

$$
V_t = \dot{C} \qquad (2)
$$

 $V_1 = -\frac{1}{S} V P$ (3)

Eq. 1 is the aas5 conservation equation Eq.2 is the continuity equation for iacospressible fluid
Eq.3 is the Darcy's law

SPLITTING DIRECTION:

Eq.I can be rewritten in two disensional for as follows:

ALGORITHM TO OBTAIN Sⁿ⁺¹ FROH Sⁿ:

 $1¹$ Select grid disensión, Fig.I

 $2.$ Initialize saturation and pressure at each grid point.

- 3. Coapute À/S) at each grid block
- 4. Solve for P implicitly at tike level nH fron Eq.2 and Eq.3
- Cospute V_x and Vy at each grid block 5.1
- 6. Advance S fro tine level n to n+1, using Splitting Alternate Direction and Godunov Methods

7. Check if water breakthrough occurs

 $8₁$ Print out the results at selected tive step

9. Go to step 3 until aaxinus NOR is «et

Fig.I - 6rid dimension

INITIAL AND BOUNDARY CONDITIONS:

Síi,-j) =Sni $t \geq 0$ $S(I,I) = 1. - Sor$ $t > \alpha$ O P (i, j) ^sPwi $t = 0$ For $i = 1, 2, ..., M$ and $j = 1, 2, ..., M$ $d\varsigma = 0$ $\overline{d}n$ $dP = 0$ $\overline{d}n$

where n is nonai vactor to ths boundaries.

Boundary Condition lepi esentati on:

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 \Rightarrow PÍO,j) = Pd,j), $PWJf : Phil = o$ $i = 1, 2, ..., m$ $d\bar{x}$ \rightarrow Pii, OI = Pii, 1), i = 1, 2, ..., N $PIIAC-PIII' = 0$ ďy \implies PiWfP^{e *}", ", J =1,2,...,N P^{\wedge} Ыкс.Р Φ хИ = $^{\circ}$ dx

$$
\frac{\mathsf{S}[0,j] - \mathsf{S}[1,j]}{\mathsf{d}x} = 0 \longrightarrow \mathsf{S}(O,j) = \mathsf{S}(i,j), \quad j = 1, 2, ..., \infty
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\mathsf{S}[i,0] - \mathsf{S}[i,1]}{\mathsf{d}y} = 0 \longrightarrow \mathsf{S}[i,0) \times 2 \mathsf{S}[i,1), \quad i \times 1, 2, ..., N
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\mathsf{S}(\mathsf{M} \cdot \mathsf{H},j) - \mathsf{S}(\mathsf{M} \cdot j)}{\mathsf{d}x} = 0 \longrightarrow \mathsf{S} \times \mathsf{H} + 1, j \times \mathsf{S}[N,j), \quad j \times 1, 2, ..., N
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\mathsf{S}[i,1] \cup \mathsf{I} - \mathsf{S}[i,1]}{\mathsf{d}y} = \mathsf{S}[i,N), \quad i \times 1, 2, ..., N
$$
\n
$$
\frac{\mathsf{d} \cdot \mathsf{S}[i,1] - \mathsf{S}[i,1]}{\mathsf{d}y} = \mathsf{S}[i,N), \quad i \times 1, 2, ..., N
$$

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PRESSURE EQUATION:

 $\sqrt{\frac{S}{S}} = 0$ (5)

Fig.2 - Five-point difference schese

Five Point Difference:

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let $IL = \Lambda(S)$, then:

$$
^{\wedge}RVP = 0 \tag{6}
$$

The five-point difference schese of Eq.ó (see Fig,2 above) has the following fore:

$$
-I-(TL(i-l/2,j)P(i-l,j)^{n+i} - (TKi-l/2, j) + TKi+ (2, j))P(i,j)^{n+l} + TL(i4/2,j)Hi+1,jj6f + TL(i4/2,j)Hi+1,jj6f + TL(i,j+1/2)P(i,j+1/2) + TL(i,j+1/2)P(i,j+1) + PL(i,j+1/2)P(i,j+1) + LL(i+1/2)P(i+1/2) + LL(i+1/2) + LL(i+1/2) + LL(i+1/2) + LL(i+1/2) + LL(i+1/2) + LL(i+1/2) + LL(i
$$

Let: $AE(i,j) = TL(iH/2, j)/DX^2$ $AH(i,j) = TL(i-1/2,j)/DX^2$ $AN(i,j) = TL(i,j*1/2)/1Y^2$ $AS(i,j) = TL(i,j-1/2)/DY^2$
Then Eq. 7 becoses:

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Khere:

AK(i,j)P(i-l,j)^{n*1} ♦ Ae(i,j)P(iH,j)ⁿ⁺¹ - d(i,j)P(i,j)ⁿ⁺¹

 $d(i,j) = AI(i,j) + AE(i,j) * AS(i,j) * M(i,j)$

AS(i,j)P(i,j-l)n+1 ♦ AX(i,j)P(i,j+1)"*¹ = û (8)

THE SOR ITERATION METHOD:

The SOR aethod is used to solve for P ieplicitly, with the previous specified initial and boundary conditions. If the injection rate and the production rate are equal, then the SOR iteration schese is:

Mherez delta s

if i = I and j = 1
if i = Я and j = M
Elsewhere ∫Save \vert - Save

Dave = $\frac{Six + Oiy}{2}$ $Six =$ **GAI1 DYxDZ** $8iy =$ **BNIT**
DXXDS

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ÖWIJ: Nater injection rate, cc/sec

Grid block length, ci $DX:$

Brid block length, ce $DY:$

 DZ : Nodel thickness, ce

t No flow boundary condition is isplenented by setting transnissibi 1 i ty at boundary equal to 0.

SATURATION EQUATION:

Fro Eq.4a and Eq.4b:

$$
\int_{\text{gas}}^{\text{J}} \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w
$$

$$
\lim_{\text{max } \lambda y} \int \mathbf{v} \, \mathbf{v} \, \mathbf{v} \, \mathbf{v} \, \mathbf{v} \tag{4.b}
$$

GODUMOV'S METHOD

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I direction: $1.$

$$
S(i,j)^{n+1} S(M)^{n} \bullet \text{d}t VX(i,j)(F(S(i-1/2,j)^{n+\Lambda/2}) - \text{d}t VF(S(i4/2,j)^{n+\Lambda/2})
$$
\n(10)

Where:

$$
S(i^{*}1/2,j)^{n+\Lambda/2} = S(i,j)^{n} \bullet .5(1 - \underline{dt_{x}} VX(i,j)F'(S(i,j)^{n})\}ds(i,j)
$$
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(\text{Hin} < |dd < i, j > J, |dt(i,j > 1, fd2(i,j > || < Si9n \text{ of } dd(i,j > Ids(i,j) \text{ and } g(i,j) \
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Where:

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$$
S(i,j)^{n+A} \propto S(i,j)^n + \underbrace{dt \, \underline{V} Y(i,j H F(S(i,j-1/2)^{x_1/2})}_{\varphi \, \underline{d} \, \underline{V}} + \underbrace{F(S(i,jH/2)^{n+1/2})}_{\varphi \, \underline{d} \, \underline{V}} \tag{11}
$$

S(i, j+l/2)^{n*^2} = S(i,j)ⁿ * .5(1 - Jţ VY(i,j)F^{*}(S(i,j)ⁿ)>ds(i,j)

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; Kin(|dd(i,j)i Jdl(i,j)|,|d2(i,j)HxSign of dd(i,j)
if dl(i,j)xd2 (i,j) > 0

Y Direction:

 $ds(i,j) = i\int_{1}^{i}$ 0 Otherwise

dd(i,j) « $2(S(i,jH)^n - S(i,j-l)^n)$

 $dl(i,j) = 2(S(i,j+i)^n - S(i,j)^n)$

 $d2(i,j) = 2(S(i,j)^n - S(i,j-i)^n)$

 $\mathsf{VY}(\mathsf{i},\mathsf{j}) = \text{- TL } (\mathsf{i},\mathsf{j}\text{-}1/2) \underset{\mathsf{d} \mathsf{y}}{\mathsf{P}\ddot{\mathsf{u}}}\mathsf{til}\text{-}\mathsf{Z}\text{-}\mathsf{HLi} \mathsf{H}$

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Fig.3 - Velocity at half grid block

 $vx(i,j) = -TL(i-i/2,j)$ $\frac{P(i,j) - P(i-1,j)}{dx}$ $\begin{array}{rcl} \mathsf{VY}(\mathsf{i},\mathsf{j}) & = & - \mathsf{TL}(\mathsf{i},\mathsf{j}\text{-}\mathsf{i}/2)_- \text{-}\mathsf{PlulL} z\text{-}\ddot{\mathsf{u}} \mathsf{k} \mathsf{i} z \mathsf{l} \mathsf{l}_- \\ & \mathrm{d} \mathsf{y} \end{array}$ $\mathsf{TL}(\mathsf{i}\text{-}\mathsf{i}/2,\mathsf{j}) = \mathsf{IL}(\mathsf{i}\text{-}\mathsf{J}\mathsf{L}\mathsf{t}.\mathsf{I}\mathsf{U}\mathsf{j}\mathsf{z}\mathsf{l}\mathsf{j}\mathsf{L} \\ 2$ τι (i, j-1/2) = .<u>TLi</u>LiLt.IIIIďdl
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Write(6.24) (CWIJ(i; ,CDPD(i), i=I, index)

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STOP $182:$ $183:$ 11 Formati 17/5x. ===== INPUT DATA - $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ 184: $.12.$ $.12.$ $185:$ $.F8.*$ 186: 58.4. $187:$,F8J, 188: b/5x, Permeability, DarcyF8.4 $189:$.F8.4. 190: .F8.4. $191:$,F8.4, 192: .F8.4. 193: .F8.4. $194:$ W5x, Initial water saturation ..: ,F8.4. 75x, 'Residual oil saturation , F8.4, ... 195: ?i/5x., Water injec. -ate. cc/sec: »FS.4. 196: $197:$ F8.41 198: 12 Format7/5x. - Sw ™',5x,'™ j.rw - ,5x. 199: $Kro - 5x - Fw - 1$ $2(1:13)$ Foreat(/3x,F6.4,9x,Fb.4,10x,F6«4,10x.Fc.4' $201:$ Formati/5x, 'ITERATION CRITERIA:', /. 14 $202:$ $203:$ $204:$ là Formati 1'//5::, '===== COMPUTATION ===== ,7) $20.5 206:$ 21 Foreat(//5x,'===== BREAKTHROUGH ===== ,/) 207:22 Format7/5x."***** SIMULATION RESULT ***** ./> $208:$ 23 Format íZ/5x, 'Cue. Hater Inj., pv Cue. Oil Proc., pv 1 209: 24 Format(!0x,F10.6,15x,F10.6) $210:$ 100 Forsat(121 $211:$ 110 Format (57.3) $212:$ 115 Format(3F7,3) 120 $213:$ Format(3F6.4) 214: **END** $21 \mathfrak{t}$ i:* $216:$ $217:$ **SUBROUTINE** Coefs(M,siess,dx2,dy2i $213:$ \bullet $219:$ $220:$ 'his subroutine couputes the matri: - coefficients. $221:$ \mathbf{t} $222:$ Сожяоп /Taol/ TL115.15) $223:$ Cosaon /Co=F/ AE75.15; .Aiii15,15) ,AN7J.15; .HS75.15; \mathbb{P}^{\times} . $3.44.$ $225:$ $==$ Jpstream weichting mobility 226: $227:$ Do 210 j = 1M 228: Do 210 i = 1, siess 229: $AE(i,j) =$ $TL(i,j)/dx2$ 230: Atf(i+!,jj $=$ AE.i.i. $231:$ $AN(i,i) =$ TL!j.j)/dy2 $232:$ $ASIj,i+1)$ $= AN(j,i)$. $233:$ 210 Continue 234: 235: $==$ No flow boundary condition 236: $237:$ Do 220 $i = 1$.M

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