

Proposed subject: MOMents MEthod for the study of Taylor-Aris DISpersion in a simple rough FRACTured (MOMEDISFRAC)

Research team: CURIOSITY of FTC department of the Institute PPRIME

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Context of subject: Studying the transport behavior of inert solutes through heterogeneous geological formations is important for many environmental and hydrogeological problems such as enhanced oil recovery, geothermal energy development, remediation of contaminated groundwater, and carbonate storage [Nowamooz *et al.*, 2013; Wang *et al.*, 2014]. During the transport of inert solutes in these same geological formations, two main mechanisms are involved: advection and molecular diffusion. These two basic mechanisms combine into dispersion. They are responsible for the mixing of inert solutes, combination of spreading and dilution that changes the size of inert solute clouds and the water volume occupied by the inert solutes [Dentz *et al.*, 2011; Herrera *et al.*, 2017]. This physical process can be quantified by the dilution index E , introduced by Kitanidis in 1994. In the past, it has been shown that the maximum dilution index E_{max} increases monotonically in steady Darcy flows through isotropic heterogeneous porous media [Kitanidis, 1994; Thierrin and Kitanidis, 1994]. Recent numerical simulations, based on the Monte Carlo approach, have allowed us to establish the relationship between the slope α of maximum dilution index E_{max} and the averaged positive second invariant Q_{av} of deformation tensor ∇u [Beaudoin *et al.*, 2019]. The work proposed in this internship, constitutes a development of these works.

Work proposal: The first work of the student is to complete the work by Beaudoin *et al.* on the estimation of the maximum dilution index E_{max} in steady Darcy flows through heterogeneous porous media [Beaudoin *et al.*, 2019]. The parameter study, performed by Beaudoin *et al.*, is incomplete. The student will analyze the effect of pore scale dispersion on the maximum dilution index E_{max} from new 2D and 3D Monte Carlo numerical simulations. In the actual version of the numerical model, an exponential correlation function is used to characterize the log-normal distribution of the hydraulic conductivity. Other existing

correlation functions will be implemented in the numerical model [Hsu, 2000; Gomez-Hernandez and Wen, 2018]. This will allow to study the effect of the nature of the hydraulic conductivity on the maximum dilution index E_{max} , always in steady Darcy flows through heterogeneous porous media.

The second work of the student is to modify the actual version of the numerical model in order to simulate the flow of water and the transport of inert solutes through one single fracture. Two modifications will be made in the actual version of the numerical model. The first modification consists in setting up the flow simulation in the plane of the fracture as in the works by Plouraboue *et al.* (1998) or Zhang and Huan (2018). The Reynolds approximation will be applied to solve the flow. The aperture gradient will be assumed to be small enough in order to consider the flow in the fracture as a Poiseuille flow. Thus, the flow problem can be considered as 2D with the estimation of an aperture-averaged velocity field from the incompressibility condition and the Darcy law, with an hydraulic conductivity proportional to the aperture of the fracture. The generation of the fracture will be based on the work by Mourzenko *et al.* (1996 and 2016). The fracture will be bounded by two uncorrelated rough surfaces. The aperture of the fracture will be given by estimating the mean distance between the two surfaces. The roughness of each surface will be characterized by a random fluctuation with Gaussian or self-affine spatial auto-correlation function. The second modification consists in setting up the transport of inert particles in the plane of the fracture with a new tracking method allowing to take into account the Taylor-Aris dispersion without performing 3D numerical simulations. The difficulty is then to consider the deformation of particles induced by the velocity variations in the direction perpendicular to the plan of the fracture (Wang *et al.*, 2012; Wu *et al.*, 2017). The solution is to use the notion of moments. The moments make it possible to follow the form of particles during their transport in the fracture. The new numerical model will allow us to study the effect of the fracture aperture distribution on the transport of inert solutes (Stoff *et al.*, 2019).

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