Effect of Foam on Liquid Phase Mobility in Porous Media

We investigate the validity of the assumption that foam in porous media reduces the mobility of gas phase only and does not impact the liquid-phase mobility. The foam is generated by simultaneous injection of nitrogen gas and a surfactant solution into sandstone cores and its strength is varied by changing surfactant type and concentration. We find, indeed, that the effect of foam on liquid-phase mobility is not pronounced and can be ignored. Our new experimental results and analyses resolve apparent discrepancies in the literature. Previously, some researchers erroneously applied relative permeability relationships measured at small to moderate capillary numbers to foam floods at large capillary number. Our results indicate that the water relative permeability in the absence of surfactant should be measured with the capillary pressure ranging up to values reached during the foam floods. This requires conducting a steady-state gas/water core flood with capillary numbers similar to that of foam floods or measuring the water relative-permeability curve using a centrifuge.

General information
State: Published
Organisations: Centre for oil and gas – DTU, Delft University of Technology
Contributors: Eftekhar, A. A., Farajzadeh, R.
Number of pages: 8
Publication date: 2017
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Scientific Reports
Volume: 7
Article number: 43870
ISSN (Print): 2045-2322
Ratings:
BFI (2018): BFI-level 1
Web of Science (2018): Indexed yes
BFI (2017): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2017): CiteScore 4.36 SJR 1.533 SNIP 1.245
Web of Science (2017): Impact factor 4.122
Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes
BFI (2016): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 4.63 SJR 1.692 SNIP 1.354
Web of Science (2016): Impact factor 4.259
Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes
BFI (2015): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2015): CiteScore 5.3 SJR 2.034 SNIP 1.597
Web of Science (2015): Impact factor 5.228
Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes
BFI (2014): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2014): CiteScore 4.75 SJR 2.163 SNIP 1.554
Web of Science (2014): Impact factor 5.578
Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes
BFI (2013): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2013): CiteScore 4.06 SJR 1.998 SNIP 1.57
Web of Science (2013): Impact factor 5.078
ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes
BFI (2012): BFI-level 1
Scopus rating (2012): CiteScore 2.44 SJR 1.531 SNIP 0.962
Web of Science (2012): Impact factor 2.927
ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes
Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes
Web of Science (2011): Impact factor
ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed no
Original language: English
Electronic versions: