Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0920-4105(17)30530-2

DOI: 10.1016/j.petrol.2017.06.035

Reference: PETROL 4047

- To appear in: Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering
- Received Date: 25 February 2017

Revised Date: 2 June 2017

Accepted Date: 14 June 2017

Please cite this article as: Lidong, M., Bicheng, Y., Hanqiao, J., Cheng, A., Yuhe, W., Killough John, E., An Enhanced Discrete Fracture Network model to simulate complex fracture distribution, *Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.petrol.2017.06.035.

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1 An Enhanced Discrete Fracture Network Model to Simulate Complex Fracture 2 Distribution

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12 Abstract

This paper presents an approach called, Enhanced Discrete Fracture Network (EDFN) for 13 fractured reservoirs modeling. The purpose of this approach is to efficiently represent complex 14 15 fracture network and accurately simulate the fluid exchange between matrix and fracture. In this approach, fracture network is discretized with a minimum number of grids depending on the 16 fracture intersecting points and fracture extremities. Besides, fracture network naturally 17 decomposes matrix into coarse-scale block with variable geometries, and the partition is 18 19 optimized by a rapid image processing algorithm. Each coarse matrix block is locally 20 associated with a fracture grid, and it is equivalently discretized to rectangular fine-scale grid 21 blocks. Fine-scale grid blocks are communicated with local fracture grids through onedimensional flow transport. Therefore, the EDFN model maximally optimizes the discretization 22 23 process for fractured reservoirs, and it is very appropriate for the simulation of reservoirs with 24 arbitrarily oriented interconnected fractures. Through benchmark with different grid 25 discretization approaches, the EDFN model provides very consistent results and its accuracy is validated. Besides, we also demonstrate that the EDFN model is able to simulate fractured 26 reservoirs with a much smaller number of grid blocks than other approaches. Finally different 27 non-Darcy flow mechanisms in shale gas reservoirs are incorporated into the EDFN model and 28 the impact of those flow mechanisms are investigated. 29

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31 **1. Introduction**

The great challenges to study the fluid flow in fractured reservoirs lie in two aspects, detailed representation the complex fracture network and accurate simulation of the matrix-fracture fluid exchange (Sarda et al., 2001). In the past several decades many researchers have focused on fractured reservoirs simulation. The Dual-Porosity Model is a typical Multi-Continuum Approach (MCA). It was originally proposed by Barenblatt et al. (Barenblatt et al., 1960) and introduced to petroleum industry for fractured reservoirs by Warren and Root (Warren and Root, 1963). Later Download English Version:

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