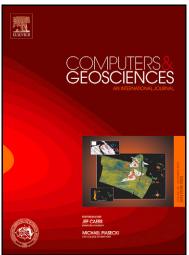
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

A Methodology for Pseudo-Genetic Stochastic Modeling of Discrete Fracture Networks

François Bonneau^{a,c,*}, Vincent Henrion^{a,c,1}, Guillaume Caumon^{a,c}, Philippe Renard^d, Judith Sausse^{b,c},

^a Université de Lorraine-ENSG, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, 54518, France
 ^b Université de Lorraine-ENSMN, Nancy, 54000, France
 ^c Géoressources, UMR 7359, Vandoeuvre-lès-Nancy, 54518, France
 ^d Centre d'hydrologie, Université de Neuchatel

9 Abstract

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Stochastic simulation of fracture systems is an interesting approach to build a set of dense and complex networks. However, discrete fracture models made of planar fractures generally fail to reproduce the complexity of natural networks, both in terms of geometry and connectivity. In this study a pseudo-genetic method is developed to generate stochastic fracture models that are consistent with patterns observed on outcrops and fracture growth principles. The main idea is 14 to simulate evolving fracture networks through geometric proxies by iteratively growing 3D frac-15 tures. The algorithm defines heuristic rules in order to mimic the mechanics of fracture initiation, 16 propagation, interaction and termination. The growth process enhances the production of linking structure and impacts the connectivity of fracture networks. A sensitivity study is performed on synthetic examples. The method produces unbiased fracture dip and strike statistics and qualita-19 tively reproduces the fracture density map. The fracture length distribution law is underestimated because of the early stop in fracture growth after intersection.

22 Keywords:

²³ Fracture, Growth, Connectivity, Stochastic Simulation, Genetic Approach, Pseudo-Genetic

^{*}Corresponding author: Université de Lorraine- CNRS -CREGU ENSG, Campus BRABOIS - TSA 706 cedex, France. Tel.: +333 83 59 64 56. Fax: +333 83 58 64 60. E-mail address: bonneau@gocad.org (F. Bonneau)

*Email addresses: bonneau@gocad.org (François Bonneau), vincent.henrion@total.com(Vincent Henrion), Guillaume.Caumon@univ-lorraine.fr(Guillaume Caumon), Philippe.Renard@unine.ch

(Philippe Renard), judith.sausse@mines.inpl-nancy.fr(Judith Sausse)

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