Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0920-4105(18)30412-1

DOI: 10.1016/j.petrol.2018.05.020

Reference: PETROL 4943

To appear in: Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering

Received Date: 11 January 2018

Revised Date: 21 April 2018 Accepted Date: 5 May 2018

Please cite this article as: Liu, M., Xie, R., Wu, S., Zhu, R., Mao, Z., Wang, C., Permeability prediction from mercury injection capillary pressure curves by partial least squares regression method in

tight sandstone reservoirs, Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering (2018), doi: 10.1016/

j.petrol.2018.05.020.

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Permeability prediction from mercury injection capillary pressure curves by partial least squares regression method in tight sandstone reservoirs

Mi Liu^{1,2}, Ranhong Xie^{1,2*}, Songtao Wu³, Rukai Zhu³, Zhiguo Mao³, Changsheng Wang⁴
1 State Key Laboratory of Petroleum Resources and Prospecting, China University of Petroleum (Beijing), Beijing 102249, China

- 2 Key Laboratory of Earth Prospecting and Information Technology, China University of Petroleum (Beijing), Beijing 1002249, China
- 3 PetroChina Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development, Beijing 100083, China
- 4 Exploration and Development Research Institute of PetroChina Changqing Oilfield Company, Xi'an 710018, China

Abstract

Permeability is an essential petrophysical parameter for reservoir modeling, reservoir classification, and productivity prediction in tight sandstone reservoirs. In this study, multiple parameters are extracted from the mercury injection capillary pressure (MICP) curves and the degree of multicollinearity between these parameters is analyzed. The partial least squares regression (PLSR) method is used for establishing the permeability prediction model and the optimal number of latent variables of the model is determined by the leave-one-out cross-validation (LOOCV) method. A comparison of the existing empirical models, the permeability prediction model by ordinary least square (OLS) method, and the permeability prediction model by PLSR method based on the MICP curves indicates that the permeability prediction model by PLSR method is superior to the other models for tight sandstone reservoirs.

Keywords: Permeability; Mercury injection capillary pressure curve; Partial least squares regression; Tight sandstone reservoirs.

Nomenclature

d_i	Y	incremental mercury injection at the <i>i</i> th capillary pressure
d_T		the total incremental mercury injection
F		formation factor
G		pore geometrical factor in Thomeer model
k		permeability
np		number of pore throat radii
P_c		capillary pressure

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