Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1875-5100(18)30090-8

DOI: 10.1016/j.jngse.2018.02.020

Reference: JNGSE 2476

- To appear in: Journal of Natural Gas Science and Engineering
- Received Date: 17 September 2017
- Revised Date: 8 January 2018
- Accepted Date: 22 February 2018

Please cite this article as: Feng, Y., Gray, K.E., Modeling of curving hydraulic fracture propagation from a wellbore in a poroelastic medium, *Journal of Natural Gas Science & Engineering* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.jngse.2018.02.020.

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Modeling of curving hydraulic fracture propagation from a wellbore in a poroelastic medium

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5 Abstract: Understanding near-wellbore hydraulic fracture behaviors is vital for 6 hydraulic fracturing treatments and other injection-related operations in the petroleum 7 industry. This paper presents a fully coupled fluid flow and geomechanics model for growth of hydraulic fractures in the near-wellbore region. The model is developed 8 9 within the framework of the extended finite element method (XFEM). Fracture initiation and propagation, fracturing fluid flow, rock deformation, and pore fluid flow are 10 coupled into the XFEM framework. The model is validated against experimental results 11 12 in the literature. Capabilities of the proposed model for capturing fracture geometry, 13 fluid flow, and local stress and pore pressure distributions are illustrated with numerical 14 examples. A parametric study is carried out using the model to investigate a few operational parameters' effects on near-wellbore fractures. Some recommendations are 15 16 provided for reducing fracture tortuosity and breakdown pressure based on the results 17 of the parametric study. The XFEM model proposed in this paper provides an efficient 18 tool to predict arbitrary hydraulic fracture growth in the wellbore vicinity. It can be used 19 to aid designs of various hydraulic fracturing related operations in the petroleum 20 industry, such as fracturing stimulations, injectivity tests, waterfloods, and waste 21 injections.

Keywords: Curving hydraulic fractures, near-wellbore region, coupled modeling,
 fracture tortuosity, breakdown pressure, XFEM

24 1. Introduction

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Understanding behavior of hydraulic fractures in the near-wellbore region is vital for
hydraulic fracturing designs, injectivity test interpretations, and other injection-related

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