

MIGRATION OF FINES IN POROUS MEDIA

Theory and Applications of Transport in Porous Media

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Migrations of Fines in Porous Media

by

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to:
Students, Staff and Faculty of the
Department of Chemical Engineering,
IIT, Bombay, Mumbai

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	xi
1 PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF RELEASE AND MIGRATION OF FINES IN POROUS MEDIA	1
1.1 Migration of Fine Particles in Porous Media: An Introduction . . .	1
1.2 Practical Consequences in Petroleum Engineering	2
1.3 Importance in Geotechnical Engineering	3
1.4 Effects in Environmental Engineering	5
1.5 Importance in Chemical Engineering	7
2 CHARACTERIZATION OF PORE SPACE AND FINES	9
2.1 Pore Structure	9
2.1.1 Pore Constriction and Chamber Size Distributions . . .	11
2.1.2 Pore Connectivity	13
2.1.3 Porosity and Permeability	13
2.2 Pore Surface	14
2.2.1 Surface Characterization of Pore Surface	15
2.2.2 Colloidal Characterization of Pore Surface	15
2.2.3 Chemical Characterization of Pore Surface	17
2.3 Fines	19
2.3.1 Geometrical Characterization Fines	19
2.3.2 Colloidal Characterization of Fines	23
2.3.3 Chemical Characterization of Fines	26
3 COLLOIDALLY INDUCED RELEASE OF FINES IN POROUS MEDIA	29
3.1 The Statics of the Release Process	29
3.1.1 Electric double layer repulsion	31
3.1.2 London–van der Waals attraction	33
3.1.3 Born repulsion	36

3.1.4	AB (Acid–Base) Interaction	36
3.1.5	Hydrodynamic Forces	37
3.1.6	Total energy of interactions	38
3.1.7	Condition for the release of fines: The concept of critical salt concentration, CSC.	43
3.1.8	Critical total ionic strength (CTIS) for mixed salt system	50
3.1.9	Some important effects on the energy of interaction . .	51
3.2	The Dynamics (Rate) of the Release Process	54
3.2.1	Theoretical models for the release of Brownian fines .	55
3.2.2	Some considerations on the release of non-Brownian fines	58
3.2.3	An empirical equation for the rate of release of fines .	59
4	HYDRODYNAMICALLY INDUCED RELEASE OF FINES IN POROUS MEDIA	63
4.1	The Statics of the Release Process	63
4.1.1	Mechanism of hydrodynamic detachment	64
4.1.2	Critical hydrodynamic stress and critical flow velocity	67
4.2	The Rate (Dynamics) of the Release Process	69
5	ENTRAPMENT OR PIPING OF FINES DURING MIGRATION	73
5.1	Analysis of Factors Affecting Entrapment or Piping of Fines .	73
5.1.1	Pore structure	73
5.1.2	Size of fines	74
5.1.3	Concentration of fines	75
5.1.4	Hydrodynamic conditions	78
5.1.5	Colloidal conditions	78
5.2	Mathematical Models for Entrapment or Piping of Fines . . .	79
5.3	Application to the Phenomenon of Soil Erosion	84
5.4	Application to Sand Filtration	87
5.5	Application to Water sensitivity of Berea Sandstone	88
6	MATHEMATICAL MODELS FOR PERMEABILITY REDUCTIONS DUE TO MIGRATION OF FINES	91
6.1	The Release and Capture Mechanism	91
6.2	Rate of Equations for the Release of Fine Particles	94
6.3	Rate Equations for the Entrapment/Capture of Fine Particles .	95
6.4	Mass and Population Balance Equations for Fine Particles at Different Sites	99

6.5	Correlation between Entrapment and Permeability Reduction	101
6.6	Solution Procedures, Results and Comparisons with Experimental Measurements	102
6.6.1	The model of Gruesbeck and Collins for hydro- dynamically induced migration of fines	103
6.6.2	The model of Khilar and Fogler for colloiddally induced migration of fines	104
6.6.3	The model of Sharma and Yortsos for colloiddally induced migration of fines	109
7	USE OF NETWORK MODELS FOR PREDICTION OF PERME- ABILITY REDUCTION DUE TO FINES ENTRAPMENT	113
7.1	Need for network models	113
7.2	Network Models	114
7.2.1	Network Construction and Lattice Arrangements	114
7.2.2	Fluid transport through the network	117
7.3	Use of network models for studying particle capture	117
7.4	Application of network models for prediction of permeability reduction due to straining dominated fines entrapment	119
7.4.1	Network construction	119
7.4.2	Calculation of flow distribution in the network	120
7.4.3	Particle movement within a network	122
7.4.4	Effect of network size	124
7.4.5	Ability of network models to account for polydisperse particles and pores	125
7.4.6	Comparison of model predictions with experiments	125
7.5	Accounting for particle deposition in network models	128
7.6	Improved network models for prediction of permeability reduction	130
8	METHODS TO PREVENT THE RELEASE OF FINES	133
8.1	Enhancement of Force of Adherence/Attachment	133
8.2	Reduction of Force of Detachment	136
8.3	Minimization of Fines Release: Enhancing the Attachment Forces and Reducing the Detachment Forces	138
9	SOIL POLLUTION DUE TO MIGRATION OF FINES	141
9.1	Facilitated Contaminants Transport due to Migration of Fines	141

9.1.1	Sorption of Hydrophobic Contaminants on Fines in Soil Masses	142
9.1.2	Modeling of Transport of Contaminants Facilitated by Migration of Fine Particles	144
9.2	Migration of Biocolloidal Contaminants	148
9.2.1	Characteristics of Biocollidal Contaminants	148
9.2.2	Modeling the Migration of Biocolloidal Fines	149
REFERENCES		155
INDEX		169

PREFACE

This is the first book entirely on the topic of Migration of Fine Particles in Porous Media. There are two purposes for the use of this book. First, the book is intended to serve as a comprehensive monograph for scientists and engineers concerned with problems of erosion, pollution and plugging due to migration of fines in porous media. Second, the book is recommended to be used as a reference book for courses offered at senior or graduate level on the topics of flow through porous media, soil erosion and pollution, or formation damage.

The migration of fine particles in porous media is an engineering concern in oil production, soil erosion, ground water pollution and in the operation of filter beds. As a result, the topic has been studied by researchers working in a number of disciplines. These studies in different disciplines are conducted, by and large, independently and hence there is some repetition and perhaps more importantly there is a lack of uniformity and coherence. These studies, nevertheless, complement each other. To illustrate the point, consider for example the migration of fine particles induced by hydrodynamic forces. Studies are reported in geotechnical literature related to soil erosion as well as studies reported in petroleum engineering literature related to the decline in oil production. These studies even though reported with different terminologies and with different perspectives do complement each other in terms of the fact that once the particles are released, they are either entrapped to cause decline in permeability or transported with the flow causing phenomenon such as soil erosion. With these ideas in mind our primary objective is to bring together these studies and develop an unified theory and understanding on this topic.

The book is organized in a systematic manner. Chapter 1 presents the practical consequences of migration of fine particles in porous media related to different engineering disciplines. Chapter 2 begins our unified treatment of the phenomenon by characterizing both the porous media and the fine particles. Although, this chapter focuses on natural porous media such as rocks and soil and the indigenous fine particles present in these media, the techniques and the approaches discussed are general in nature.

The mechanism of release is probably the most important basic process in the phenomenon and therefore two chapters, Chapter 3 and 4 are devoted to it. Chapter 3 presents both the statics and dynamics aspects of the release of fine particles due to colloidal forces (colloidally induced release). Chapter 4 discusses the same phenomenon for the case of release of particles induced by hydrodynamic forces (hydrodynamically induced release).

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 focus on the mathematical modeling of the migration of fine particles. Chapter 5, discusses in a quantitative manner whether, fine particles will get entrapped (plugging) in or move through (piping) the porous media. Criteria are presented to predict whether piping or plugging would occur along with practical applications such as soil erosion and sand filtration. In Chapter 6, macroscopic balance equations are presented to model the permeability reductions due to migration of fine particles. Both the mass and population balance equations are presented along with their solutions and applications. Chapter 7 uses network modeling approaches and presents the permeability reduction models primarily due to size exclusions.

The prevention of the migration of fine particles is an important practical consideration and this subject is discussed in Chapter 8. This chapter presents the various prevention techniques (known as clay stabilization techniques) developed in recent years in an unified manner.

Chapter 9, the last chapter, discusses soil pollution due to migration of fine particles. Both, the facilitated transport of organic contaminants and the migration of biocolloidal contaminants are discussed in terms of mathematical models.

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