

Numerical Modelling of Microwave Heating Treatment for Tight Gas Sand Reservoirs

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Abstract

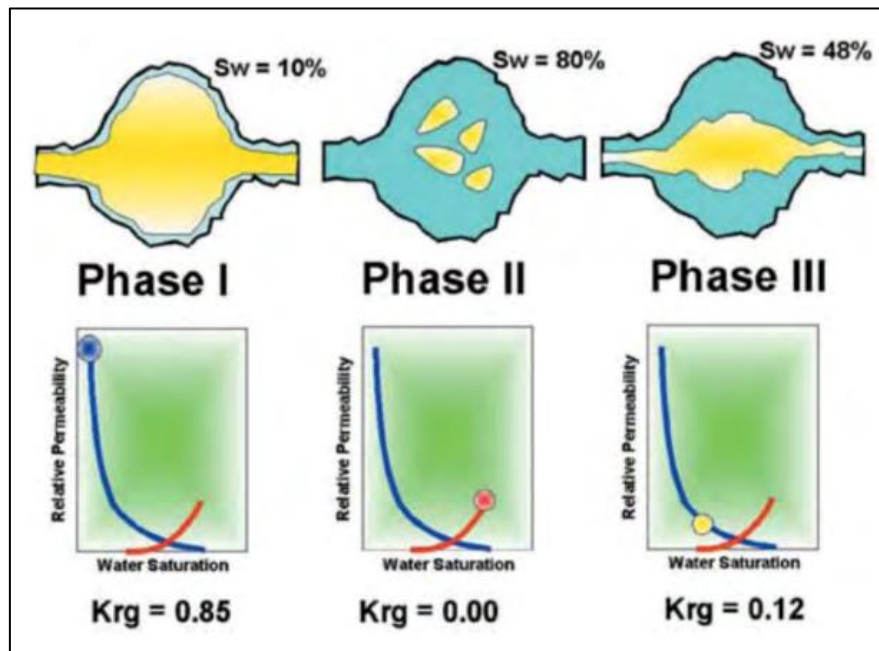
Formation Heat Treatment (FHT) has been proved effective in removing water phase and creating micro-fractures in the near wellbore area previously. In order to improve the cost and time efficiency of FHT, microwave heater is considered as an alternative in this paper, and its feasibility in FHT is discussed in this paper. Numerical simulation is carried out to investigate the effects of microwave heating on reservoir quality and gas production. It is found that the water phase can be effectively removed by microwave heating, as a result, the relative permeability to gas increased significantly after heating. In terms of gas production rate, the cumulative gas in 90 days in heated well is $4 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$ more than the non-heated well. As the most important parameter, the temperature distributions in the reservoir are computed with two methods and their value against the heating depth agree with each other reasonably. On the other hand, the surface temperature variations of three tight sandstone plugs are heated with microwave in the lab and their surface temperatures are carefully recorded against time. Then the laboratory data are compared with simulation results, and they correlate well with each other. The simulation work conducted in this paper shows the promising improvement of gas relative permeability and production by microwave heating.

Keywords: Tight gas reservoir; Formation Skin Damage; Microwave Heating; Numerical Modelling

1 Introduction

Water blocking is one of the major mechanisms of formation skin damage in tight gas reservoirs (Bahrami et al., 2011). It is a process related to the combined effects of adverse capillary pressure and relative permeability effects (Bennion, 2002). Figure 1 illustrates the evolution of the water trapping in a tight gas reservoir. The sub-irreducible water saturation, in which condition the initial water saturation is less than the irreducible water saturation, is the key reason to the establishment of phase trapping (Bennion, 1996). Once water invades in the formation, the water saturation increases dramatically and leads to a dramatic reduction of gas relative permeability. The formation will remain at higher water saturation than the initial water saturation. The reason for the difficulty of removing water phase in the near wellbore

33 area is the high capillary pressure of tight sandstone, which results from the extra small pore
 34 and pore throat size.



35

36 **Figure 1 Illustration of Water Based Phase Trapping Effects in a Low Permeability Gas Reservoir (After**
 37 **Bennion, 2002).**

38 Water blocking is one of the formation skin damages, which occurs in the near wellbore
 39 region with depth of invasion from several centimeters to about 2 meters. The depth of
 40 invasion (DI), which is defined as the distance from borehole wall, is a function of porosity
 41 and permeability. Miesch and Albright (1967) and Rider (2002) mentioned the relationship of
 42 porosity and the ratio of Depth of Invasion (DI) and Diameter of borehole (Table 1).

43 **Table 1 Depth of Invasion Versus Porosity (After (Miesch & Albright, 1967) and (Rider, 2002)).**

Hole size (in)	17.5	12.25	8.5	Ratio of Invasion Diameter to Hole Diameter
Porosity (%)	Depth of Invasion (cm)			
1-8	200.0	140.0	97.0	10
8-20	90.0	62.0	43.0	5
20-30	22.5	15.5	11.0	2
30+	3.0	2.0	1.7	<2

44

45 By regression study of experimental data, Yan, Jiang, and Wu (1997) revealed the empirical
 46 equation to calculate the invasion depth:

47
$$d = 1.612\Delta p^{0.521} \left(\frac{V_f}{\phi}\right)^{0.271} e^{0.043K}$$

48 Where d is the invasion depth (cm), Δp is the pressure differential in MPa, V_f is the
49 cumulative filtrate loss in cm^3 , ϕ is porosity (%), and K is permeability (μm^2).

50 The traditional Formation Heat Treatment (FHT) employs an electrical heater to raise the
51 reservoir temperature and brings about the evaporation of blocked water, shrinkage of
52 swollen clays and generation of micro-fractures, which enhances the reservoir quality of gas
53 reservoirs. In this paper, microwave heating is considered as an alternative to traditional
54 electrical heater because of its advantages in environmental friendliness, cost and time
55 efficiency. The laboratory studies have indicated that the microwave heating can generate
56 fractures in coal samples (Kumar, et al., 2011) and sandstone samples (Chen et al., 2015;
57 Wang, et al., 2016). Note, this paper focuses on the effects of microwave heating on water
58 saturation, relative permeability and finally the gas production rate. The influences of
59 microwave heating on thermally induced fractures are not included in this paper.

60 Generally, microwave heating is a process of converting electromagnetic energy to heat. The
61 dielectric properties of target material played the most vital role in this process. The
62 propagation of electromagnetic wave was described by the following Maxwell's equations:

63 Gauss's law

$$64 \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

65 Gauss's law for Magnetism

$$66 \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

67 Maxwell-Faraday Equation

$$68 \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

69 Ampere's Circuital Law

$$70 \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \left(\mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$$

71 Where, ∇ is the nabla symbol, $\nabla \cdot$ is divergence operator, $\nabla \times$ is a curl operator; \mathbf{E} is the
72 electric field; \mathbf{B} is the magnetic field; ρ is the electric charge density; ϵ_0 is the permittivity of
73 free space ($8.854187817 \times 10^{-12}$ F/m); μ_0 is the permeability of free space
74 ($1.2566370614 \times 10^{-6}$ H/m); \mathbf{J} is the current density.

75 Heat is generated in the reservoir by the interactions between microwave and molecular
76 dipoles of reservoir rock and interstitial fluids. The dielectric properties of these materials,
77 which relies on the mobility of the dipoles, determine the heating effects of microwave and
78 tend to vary with temperature and frequency (Thostenson and Chou, 1999).

79 There are both bound charge and free charge in the dielectric materials. Polarization results
80 from the motion of bound charge. Microwave heating is the consequence of dielectric
81 relaxation due to polarization of electric charge or polarization of molecules (Thostenson and
82 Chou, 1999).

83 The complex propagating factor of electromagnetic wave γ is given by (Metaxas and
84 Meredith, 1983):

$$85 \quad \gamma = \alpha + j\beta$$

86 Where, α is the attenuation factor and β is the phase factor. The wave is attenuated as it
87 propagates in the media and the dissipated power reduces to some extent.

88 The rate of temperature rise is given by the following equation:

$$89 \quad \frac{T - T_0}{t} = 0.556 \times \frac{10^{-10} \epsilon_{eff}'' f E_{rms}^2}{\rho c_p} \text{ } ^\circ\text{C s}^{-1}$$

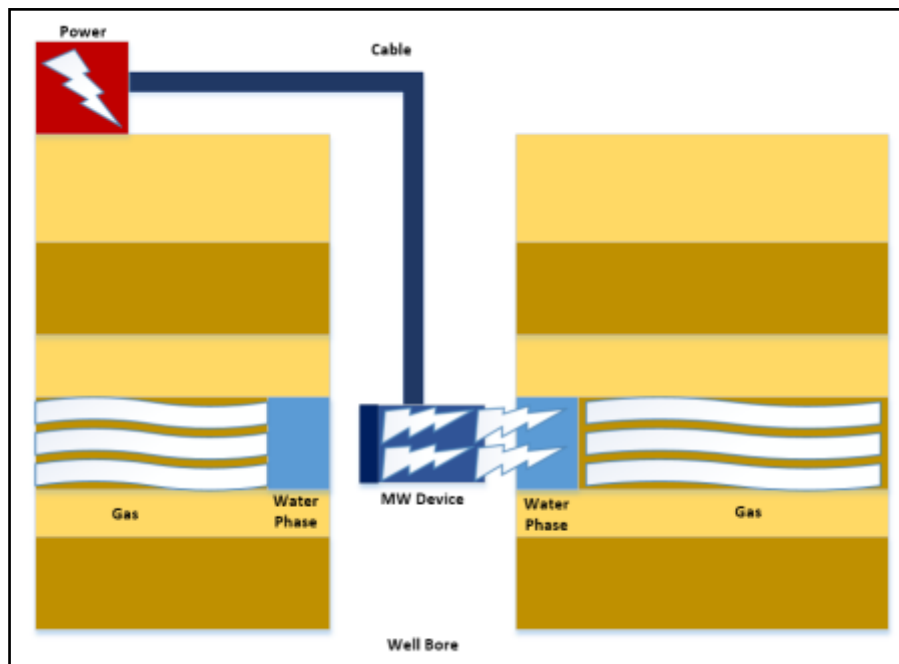
90 Where ϵ_{eff} is the effective dielectric loss, f is the electromagnetic wave frequency, E_{rms} is the
91 electric field intensity, ρ is the material density (kg/m^3) and c_p is the specific heat ($\text{J/kg } ^\circ\text{C}$)
92 (Metaxas and Meredith, 1983). For a fixed microwave source, for example, the frequency is
93 915 MHz or 2450 MHz, so the important parameters determining the temperature increase
94 are the permittivity, density, specific heat and electric field, which is determined by the
95 permittivity. In an actual reservoir, these vary with mineralogy, porosity, type of interstitial
96 fluid and fluid saturation.

97 Microwave has a wide application in coal upgrading, cleaning and comminution. In terms of
98 its application in sandstone, Li, et al. (2006) and Wang, et al. (2016) conducted laboratory
99 studies on cleaning up water blocking in gas reservoirs using microwave heating. It is found
100 that microwave heating can remove water saturation from the sample efficiently and may
101 create fractures at the same time. Due to dehydration, the crystal structures of some minerals
102 is changed after heating. Electromagnetic heating is also used in the gas well deliquification
103 (Osman, et al., 2010). Liquid loading problem arises once the velocity of produced gas drops
104 lower than the critical velocity. The experimental results indicate that it is effective to
105 evaporate the moderately saline water with microwave heating while it takes longer time for
106 producing high salinity water.

107 **2 Reservoir Model**

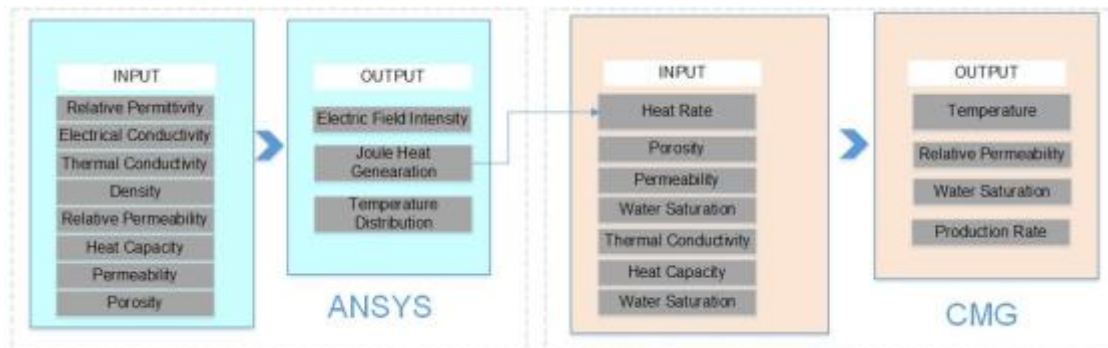
108 In the reservoir heating simulation, the microwave device is lowered to the target formation
109 and heats up the reservoir rock and interstitial fluids. The microwave device is operating at
110 2.45GHz and the power of 1000 Watt, which could be adjusted according to the heating

111 requirements, and the microwave is directed to the formation through a TE₁₀ mode
 112 rectangular waveguide. Simulation has been conducted in ANSYS and CMG. The numerical
 113 simulation has been run following the flowchart indicated in Figure 3.



114

115 **Figure 2 Concept Figure of Heating Formation with Microwave**



116

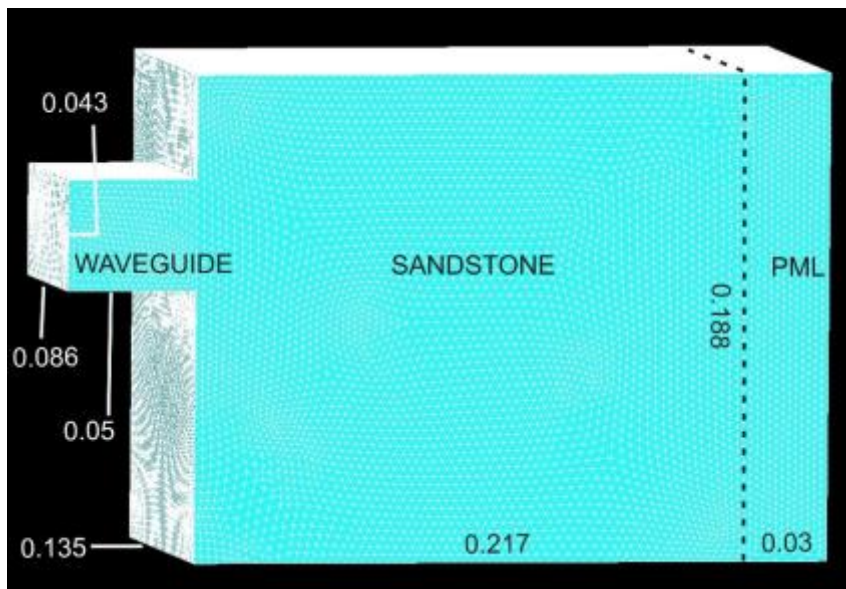
117 **Figure 3 Flowchart Describing the Inputs and Outputs in ANSYS and CMG**

118 The values of reservoir properties are listed in Table 2. After applying microwave to the
 119 reservoir, the electric field distribution and then the temperature in the reservoir can be
 120 computed in this model. The power dissipation rate is also one of the important outputs from
 121 the simulation and will be a critical input in the subsequent reservoir simulation.

122 **Table 2 Reservoir Properties Used in the Simulation**

Parameter	Value
Reservoir Temperature (°C)	139
Reservoir Porosity (1)	0.1
Reservoir Permeability (mD)	0.1
Initial Water Saturation (1)	0.3
Critical Water Saturation (1)	0.6
Reservoir Depth (m)	4000
Thermal Gradient (°C/100m)	2.8
Surface Temperature (°C)	27
Thermal Conductivity (J/ (m· day·°C))	1.73×10 ⁵
Heat Capacity (J/ (cm ³ ·°C))	2.385
Microwave Frequency (MHz)	2450
Operation Power (Watt)	1000
Fracture Half Length (m)	100
Fracture Porosity	0.8
Fracture Permeability (mD)	3000

123 The numerical model was built in ANSYS with the geometry illustrated in Figure 4. The
 124 excitation method is rectangular waveguide (TE10) mode. The excited electromagnetic wave
 125 (2.45GHz) propagates through the reservoir sandstone and generated heat.



126
 127 **Figure 4 The Geometry Dimensions and Meshing of Numerical Model (Waveguide is the microwave**
 128 **device located in the wellbore and radiate microwave to the reservoir; sandstone is the object formation;**
 129 **PML is the layer absorbing microwave, so that the microwave will not be reflected by the boundary.**

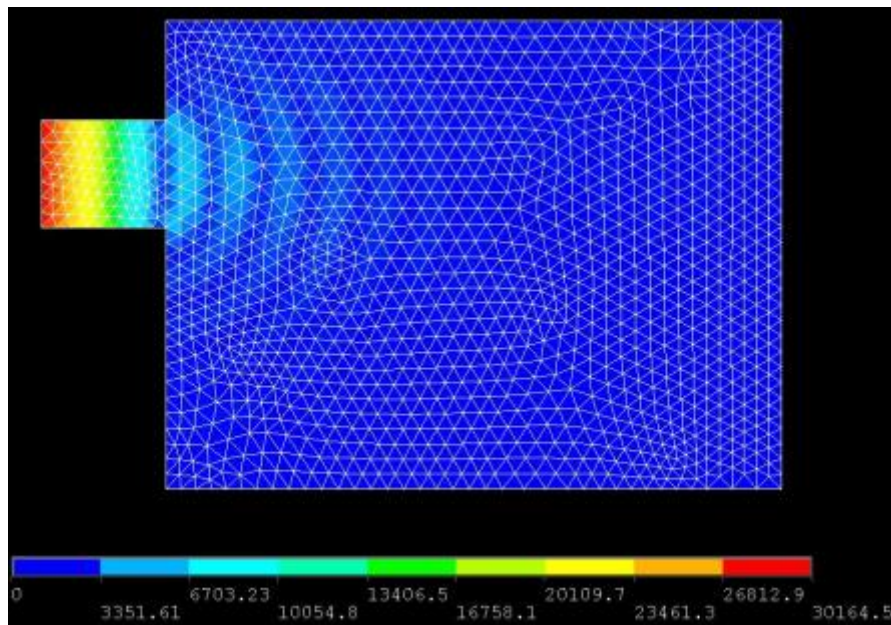
130 Different mesh sizes, namely no refinement mesh, minimum refinement, medium refinement
 131 and maximum refinement, have been applied to the model in order to investigate the grid
 132 dependency. As shown in grids, regardless of its level, the output is reliable.

133 Table 3, the large mesh sizes yield greater results, while three refinement sizes have smaller
 134 and similar results. So as long as the refinement has been conducted on the grids, regardless
 135 of its level, the output is reliable.

136 **Table 3 Grid Dependency in ANSYS**

	Maximum Electric Field (V/m)	Dielectric Power (Watt)	Maximum Joule Heat (Joule)	Maximum Temperature (°C)
No Refinement	32816	267	0.394×10^7	387
Refinement Minimum	30139	186	0.135×10^7	265
Refinement Medium	30164	183	0.165×10^7	264
Refinement Maximum	30135	184	0.206×10^7	268
Refinement				

137 The electric field distribution and Joule heat generated in the reservoir are shown in Figure 5.
 138 The maximum electric field strength is 30164 V/m. The average dissipated power is 183 Watt
 139 and daily Joule heat generation is around 2.87×10^9 Joule/m³ in the near wellbore region. The
 140 reservoir simulation has been carried out in STARS-CMG and coupled with ANSYS
 141 Multiphysics.



142
 143 **Figure 5 Electric Field Distribution (V/m) in the Reservoir (The maximum electric field is in the region**
 144 **near the source and its value is 30164 V/m. The microwave penetrates over 10 cm in the reservoir with**
 145 **electric field decreasing to around 6703.23 V/m).**

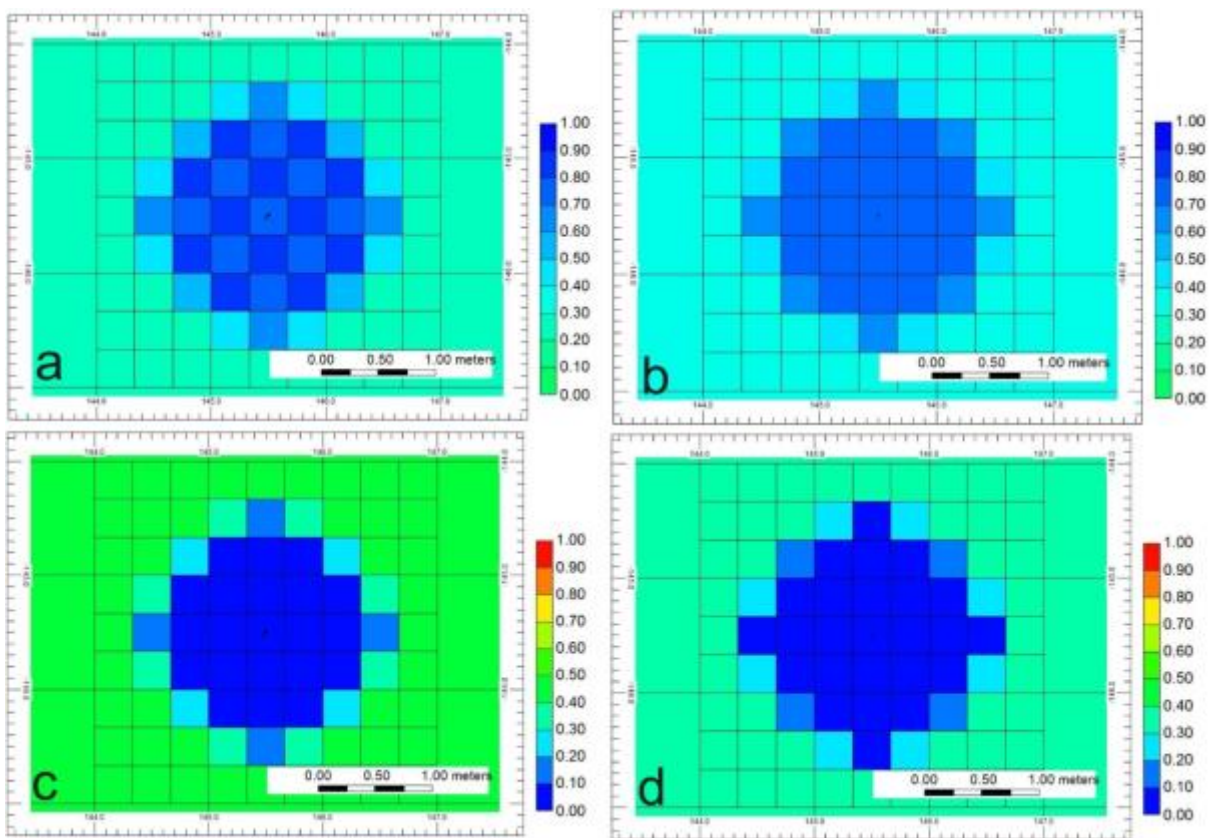
146 **3 Microwave Heating in Tight Gas Reservoir**

147 The well was injected with water for 5 days to simulate the water invasion process and then
 148 the producer started to produce water and gas. Two scenarios considered in this paper are: the

149 well producing without microwave heater and with microwave heater. To simplify the
150 problem, the reservoir properties were set to be temperature independent.

151 After the injector operated for 5 days, the water saturation in the near wellbore area increased
152 from 0.3 to around 0.83 and the invasion depth reached as far as 1.16 m (Figure 6a). Then the
153 gas well was put to production, but the water saturation near the wellbore remained at a
154 higher value at around 0.7 (Figure 6b). Accordingly, the gas relative permeability decreased
155 with the increase of water saturation to almost 0 after water injection (Figure 6c) and the
156 formation damage persisted after water injection stopped (Figure 6d). To increase the relative
157 permeability to gas, one method is to remove water phase trapped in the near wellbore area
158 by applying intensive heat to target formation. The simulation used four downhole
159 microwave devices, each with the same operation parameters as in FEM simulation
160 abovementioned, to generate heat in four different directions in the wellbore. The reservoir
161 size is 291m (length) \times 291m (width) \times 100m (thickness).

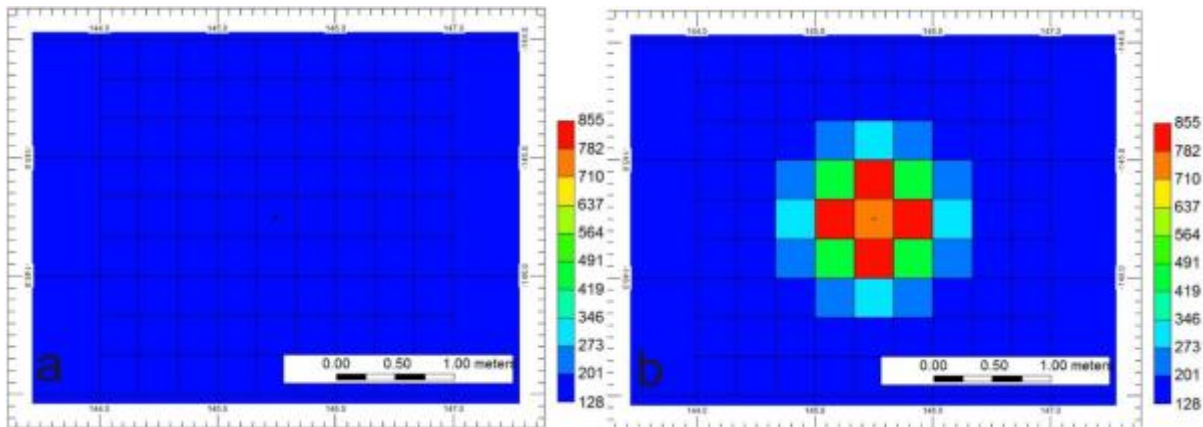
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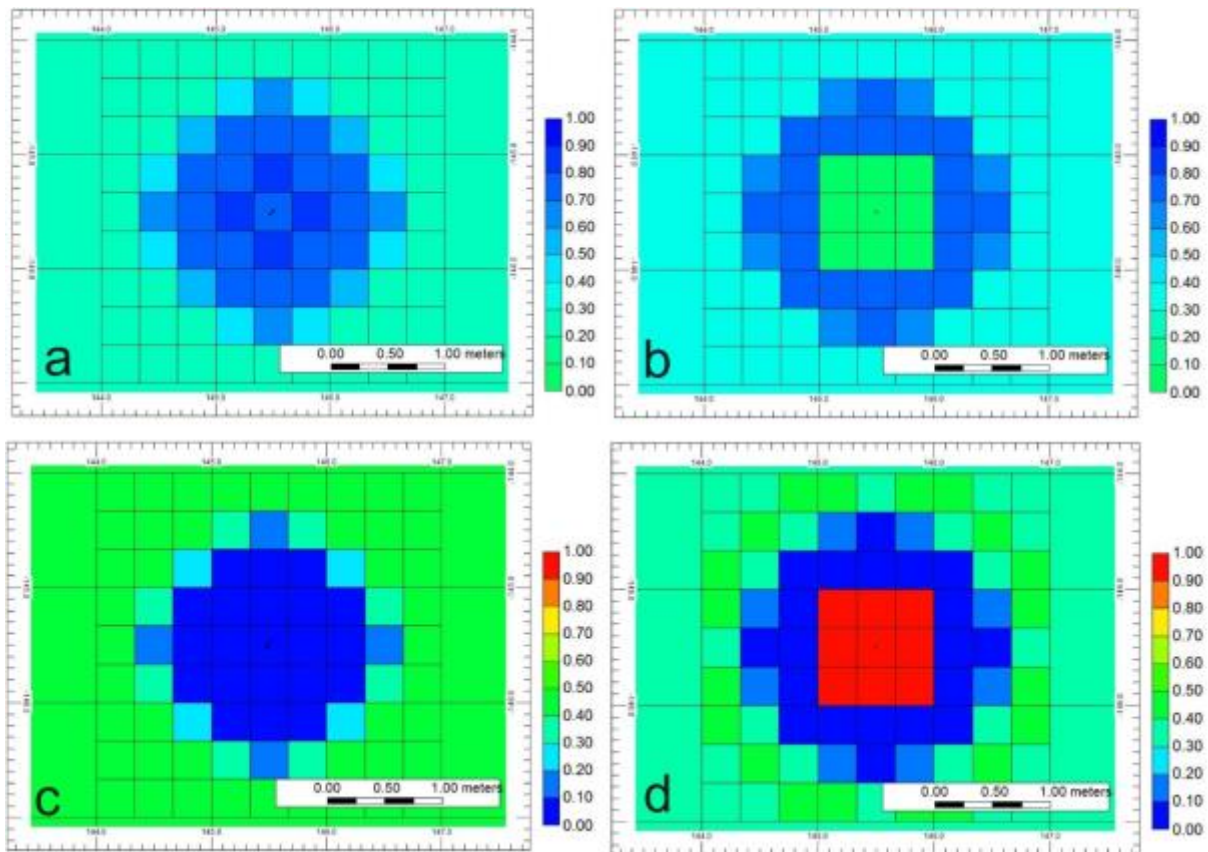
164 **Figure 6 Water Saturation Distribution and Relative Permeability to Gas in the Well without Heater. (a**
165 **indicates the water saturation distribution after injecting water for 5days; b is the water saturation**
166 **distribution after 3-day production; c is the relative permeability to gas after injecting water for 5 days; d**
167 **is the relative permeability to gas after producing for 3 days)**

168 Coupled with ANSYS Multiphysics, with suitable input of reservoir properties, CMG
169 computes the temperature distribution as well as water saturation and relative permeability to
170 gas in the heated formation. The temperature of injected water is set the same as the reservoir
171 temperature, so it does not affect the reservoir temperature (Figure 7a). During gas
172 production, the microwave heater was switched on, thus the reservoir temperature increased
173 up to 853 °C after 3-day heating (Figure 7b) and the heating depth of microwave is limited to
174 approximately 83cm due to low thermal conductivity.



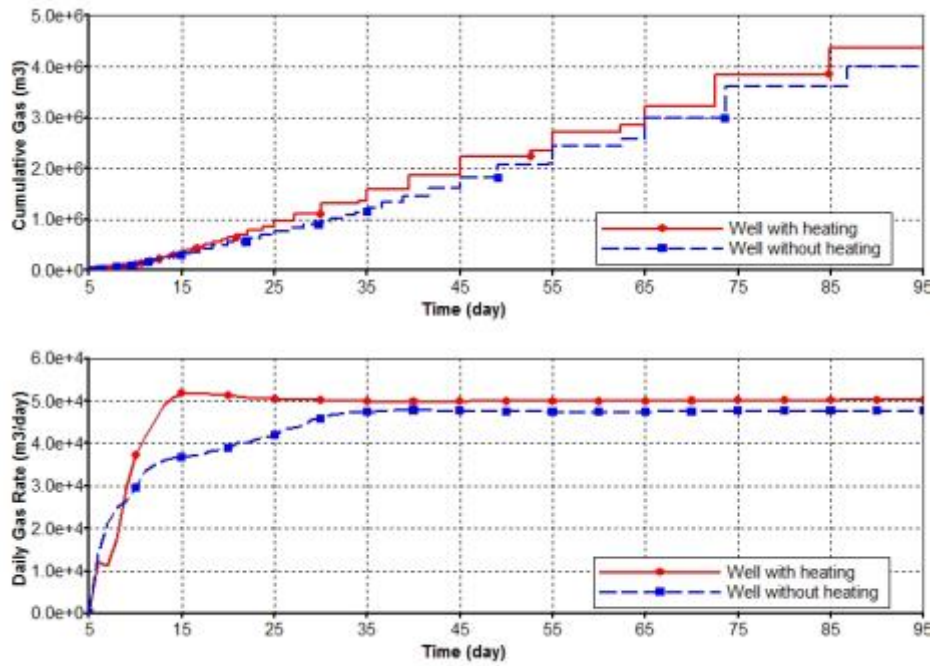
175
176
177 **Figure 7 Temperature Distribution in the Formation at the End of Injection (a) and at the End of**
178 **production (b) in the Well with Heater**

179 As shown in Figure 8a and c, the water saturation increased from 0.3 to 0.8 and relative
180 permeability to gas decreased to zero after water injection, which indicates a severe formation
181 damage has happened. Consequently, the well failed to produce gas after water invasion and
182 the pores are blocked by water around the well. During production period, the downhole
183 microwave heater was employed to heat up the reservoir. The heat generation rate is 6.4×10^8
184 Joule/day in one grid, which is within the penetration depth of microwave. The application of
185 heat brought down the water saturation in the near wellbore area by evaporating water phase.
186 In Figure 8-b, the water saturation dropped from 0.8 to 0 near the wellbore. Moreover, the
187 relative permeability increased in the heated formation from almost 0 to almost 1 (Figure 8-d)
188 because of the water phase has been removed by evaporation.



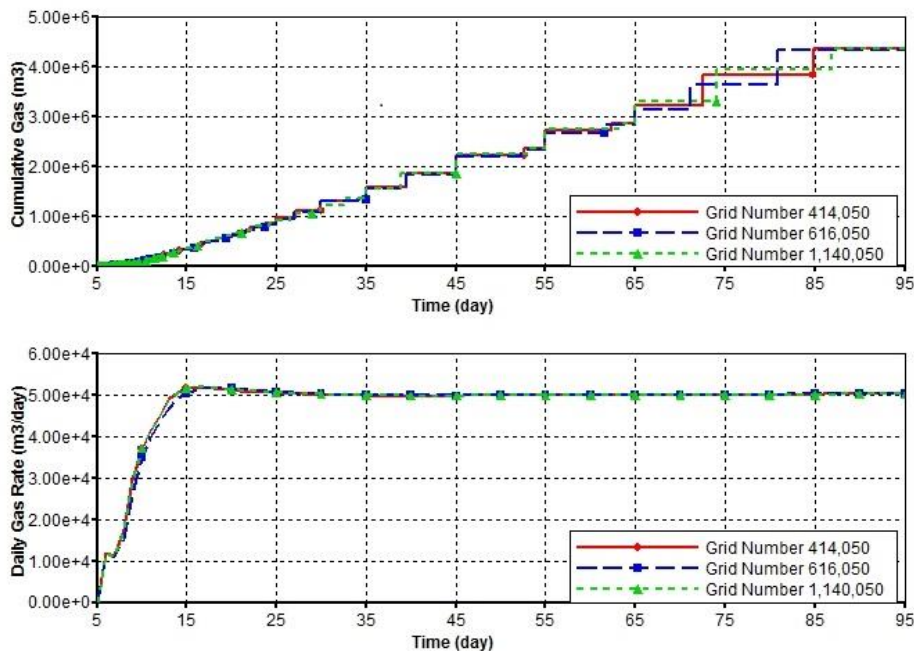
189
 190 **Figure 8 Water Saturation Distribution and Relative Permeability to Gas in the Well with Heater. (a is the**
 191 **water saturation distribution after injecting water for 5 days; b is the water saturation distribution after**
 192 **3-day production; c is the relative permeability to gas after injecting water for 5 days; d is the relative**
 193 **permeability to gas after producing for 3 days)**

194 The gas production rate and the cumulative gas production are compared for heated well and
 195 non-heated well. In Figure 9, the cumulative gas production is higher in the heated well than
 196 the non-heated well increasing from $4.0 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ to $4.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ in 90 days while the daily gas
 197 rate reached to $5.3 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ compared with $3.8 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ on the 15th day. After that the
 198 performance of both wells is steady at $5 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3$ and $4.8 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3$ respectively. To some extent,
 199 the microwave heating is effective in improving the gas production rate.



200
 201 **Figure 9 Gas Production Rate and Cumulative Gas Production in Tight Gas Well with MW Heating and**
 202 **without MW Heating.**

203 To investigate the influence of grid size on the results, three models with different grid
 204 numbers have been built and run. The computed cumulative gas and daily gas rate have been
 205 compared in Figure 10, which shows a very close result for three grid sizes.

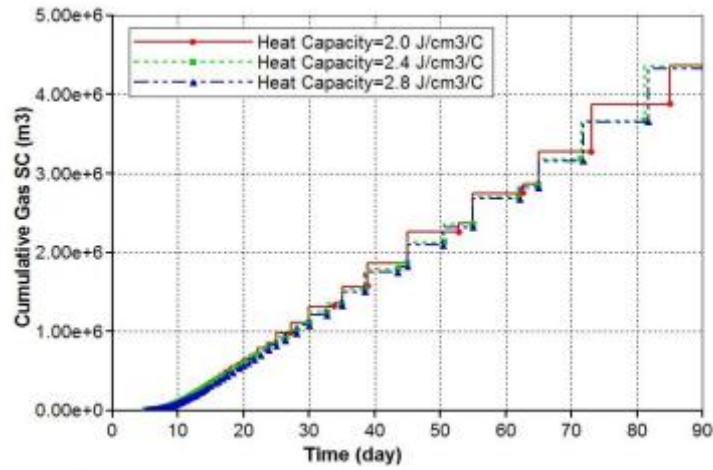


206
 207 **Figure 10 Grid Dependency Analysis in CMG-STAR5**

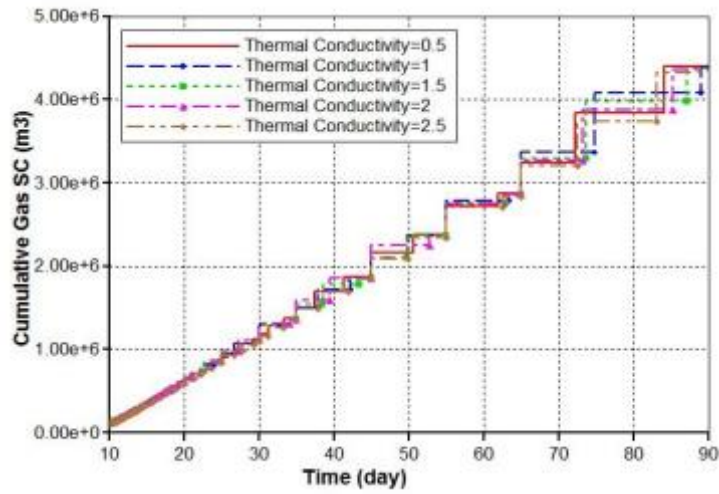
208 The sensitivity analysis has been conducted on the matrix permeability, thermal conductivity
 209 and heat capacity. The value of matrix permeability ranges from 0.1 to 50 mD, while that of

210 thermal conductivity and heat capacity ranges from 0.5×10^5 to 2.5×10^5 J/ (m· day· °C) and
211 from 2 to 2.8 J/ (cm³ · °C) respectively. As shown in Figure 11, the heat capacity and thermal
212 conductivity of sandstone have the minimal influences on cumulative gas production in the
213 microwave-heated well. The less heat capacity, the greater cumulative gas production, and
214 the less thermal conductivity the greater cumulative production. The matrix permeability has
215 a greater influence on the gas production in the microwave-heated well. The microwave
216 heating improved more gas production in the higher permeable reservoir.

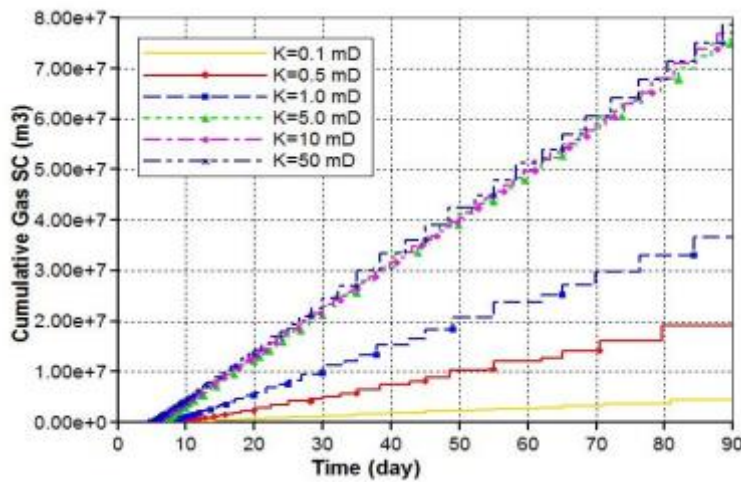
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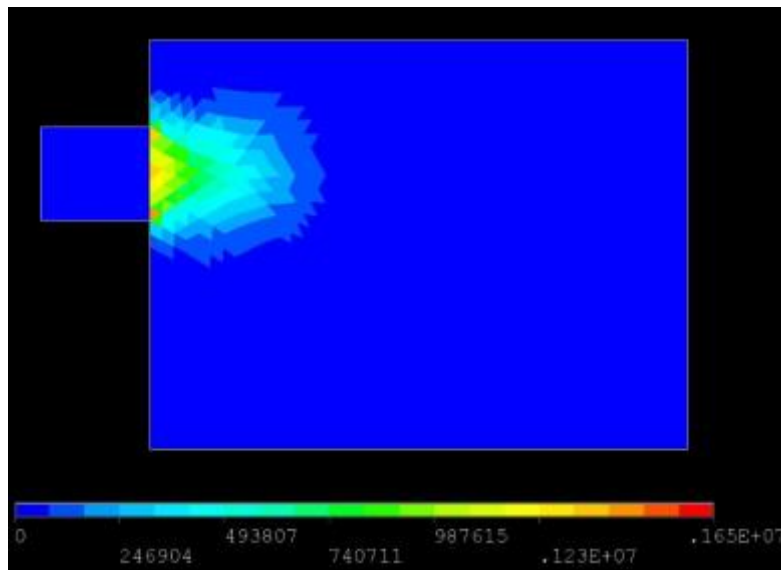


220 Figure 11 Sensitivity Analysis on Reservoir Rock Properties. The heat capacity values taken are 2, 2.4 and
 221 2.8 J/(cm³·°C), the thermal conductivities are 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, and 2.5 ×10⁵J/ (m· day·°C) and the
 222 permeability values are 0.1, 0.5, 1, 5, 10 and 50 mD.

223 **4 Comparison of Simulation Solutions**

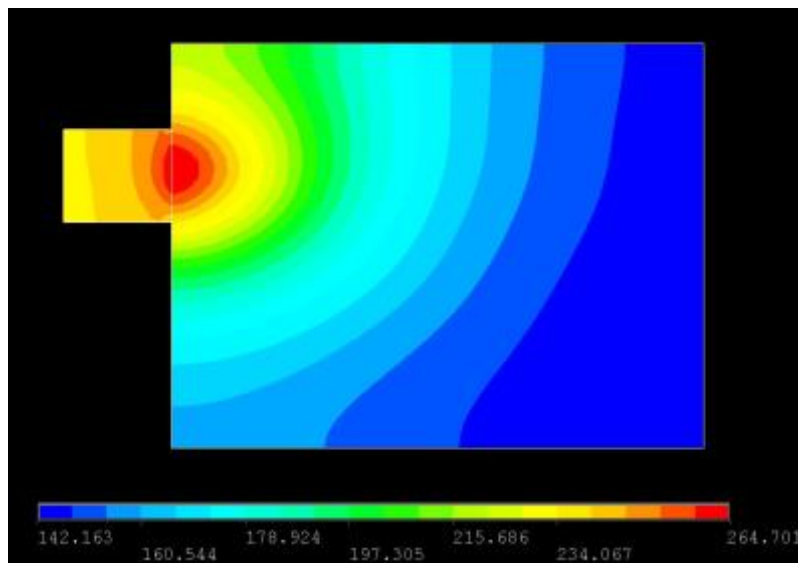
224 The joule heat induced by microwave radiation in the reservoir is computed with ANSYS.
 225 With increasing penetration depth into the reservoir, the value of joule heat decreased (Figure

226 12). The maximum joule heat generation is $1.65 \times 10^6 \text{ J/m}^3$, and the influenced depth reached
227 about 10 cm.

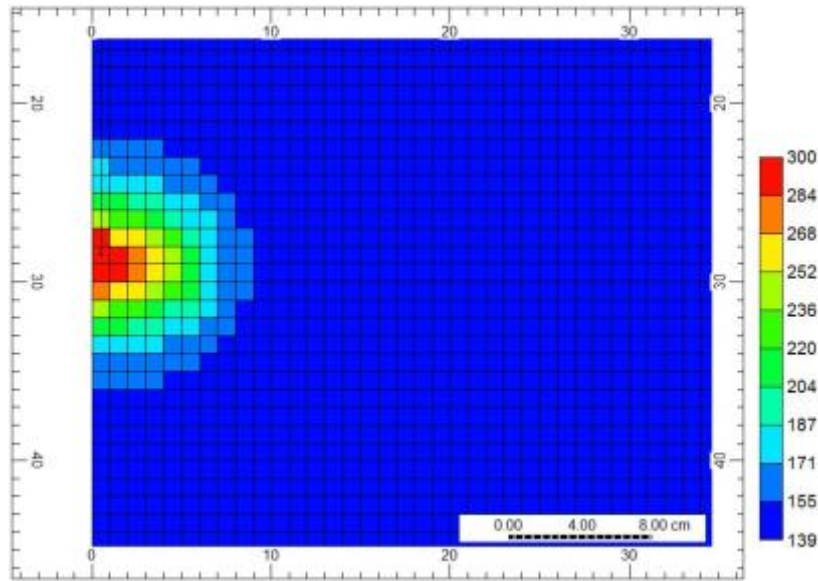


228
229 **Figure 12 Joule Heat Distribution in the Reservoir.**

230 The temperature distributions in the reservoir are computed in ANSYS software and CMG-
231 STARS. Two results are compared with each other to verify the reservoir microwave heating
232 method.



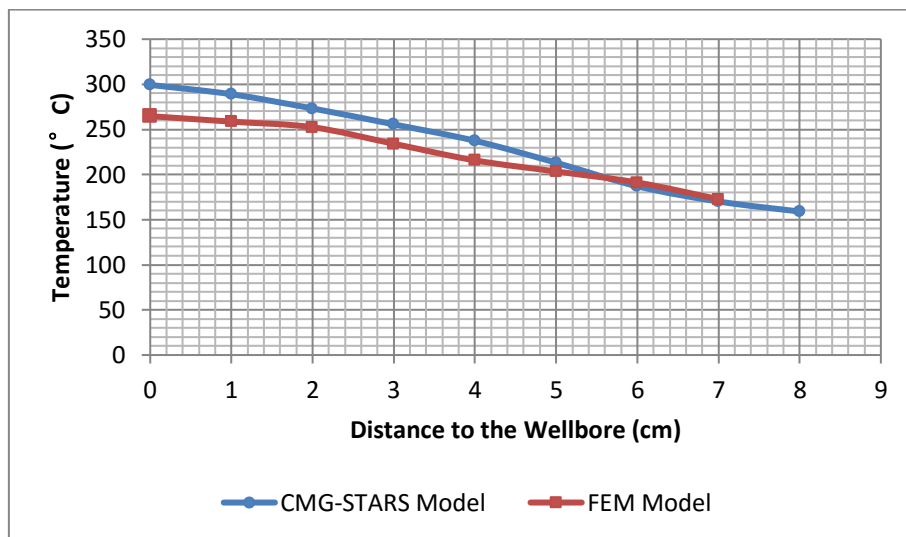
233
234 **Figure 13 Temperature Distribution after Heating with Microwave for 30 minutes in ANSYS**



235

236 **Figure 14 Temperature Distribution after Heating with Microwave for 30 minutes in CMG-STARS**

237 According to Figure 13 and Figure 14, after 30-minute microwave heating, the highest
 238 temperature in the target formation reached over 300 °C in both computation methods. The
 239 influence depth of microwave heating reached about 10cm in 30 minutes. Comparison of
 240 solutions from CMG and ANSYS are plotted in Figure 15. The Finite Element Method
 241 (FEM) model shows a little bit lower temperature than CMG-STARS model near the wall of
 242 wellbore but the differences decreases with increasing distance to the wellbore. The
 243 temperature distributions with distance have a good correlation.



244

245 **Figure 15 Temperature versus Depth in CMG Model and FEM Model**

246 **5 Microwave Heating in the Lab**

247 To validate the FEM, a 2D Model has been constructed to simulate the heating of core plugs
 248 by microwave, and the results are compared with laboratory heating data. Details of the

249 simulation are described below. The microwave oven operates at 2.45GHz with power 1000
 250 Watt. In this model, the dimension of waveguide used 109.22mm×50mm. The dimension of
 251 microwave oven plays a critical role in the distribution of electric field. For rectangular oven,
 252 one or more dimensions are several half wavelengths long at the excitation wavelength
 253 (Meredith, 1998). In this model, the wavelength is 122mm (half wavelength 61mm), so the
 254 oven internal dimension is 427mm×366mm.

255 **5.1 Parameters of Sandstone Plug**

256 Tight sandstone samples are collected from Perth Basin, Western Australia. The
 257 petrophysical properties are measured in the lab as the input properties of sandstone in the
 258 model (Table 4). The electrical properties, electrical conductivity and relative permittivity, of
 259 three samples are measured at 2.45GHz (Table 5).

260 **Table 4 General Parameters for Simulation**

Property	Value	Unit
Thermal Conductivity	2	W/(m*K)
Density	2650	Kg/m3
Relative Permeability	1	1
Heat Capacity	900	J/(kg*K)
Permeability	9.87e-17	m2
Porosity	0.1	1

261

262 **Table 5 Electrical Properties at 2.45GHz of Tight Sandstone Samples**

Property	Value	Unit
WR-1 Relative Permittivity	7.19-0.49i	1
WR-1 Electrical Conductivity	0.21	S/m
WR-11 Relative Permittivity	5.18-0.20i	1
WR-11 Electrical Conductivity	0.027	S/m
W-ERREG Relative Permittivity	6.93-0.665i	1
W-ERREG Electrical Conductivity	0.084	S/m

263

264 **5.2 Temperature Distribution in Core Plugs**

265 The electric field distributions are determined by the electrical properties of sandstone
 266 samples. Different relative permittivity and electrical conductivity are used for three tight
 267 sandstone plugs of WR-1, WR-11 and W-ERREG. More importantly, the different electric
 268 field distributions in the core plug lead to a different temperature distribution. In Figure 17,
 269 the differences of temperature distribution in the core plugs are distinct. Firstly, the maximum
 270 temperatures in the samples are different in WR-1 (508°C), WR-11 (389°C) and W-ERREG
 271 (436°C). Atomic Energy of Canada Limited Research Company and Voss Associates

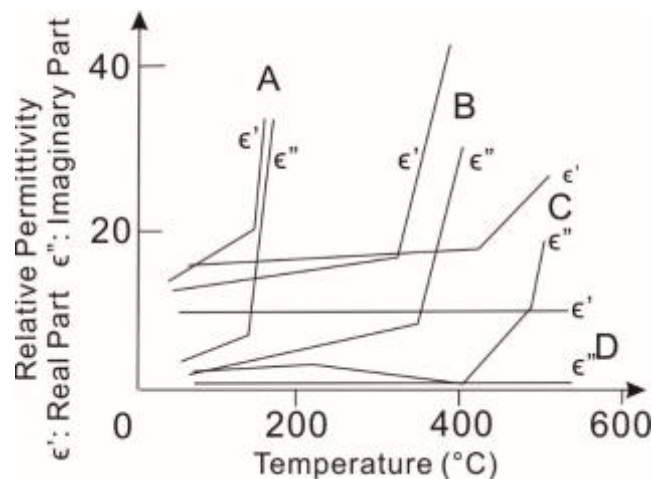
272 Engineering Ltd. (1990) considered the reason for the cut-off temperature is the surface
 273 reflection limits the heating process. The dielectric constant is of great importance in this
 274 phenomenon. The fraction of reflected power is expressed by dielectric constant and loss
 275 tangent as:

$$276 \quad R = \frac{1 - \sqrt{2\epsilon' [1 + \sqrt{1 + (\tan\delta)^2}] + \epsilon' \sqrt{1 + (\tan\delta)^2}}}{1 + \sqrt{2\epsilon' [1 + \sqrt{1 + (\tan\delta)^2}] + \epsilon' \sqrt{1 + (\tan\delta)^2}}}$$

277 The fraction of absorbed power is estimated as (Bykov, et al., 2001):

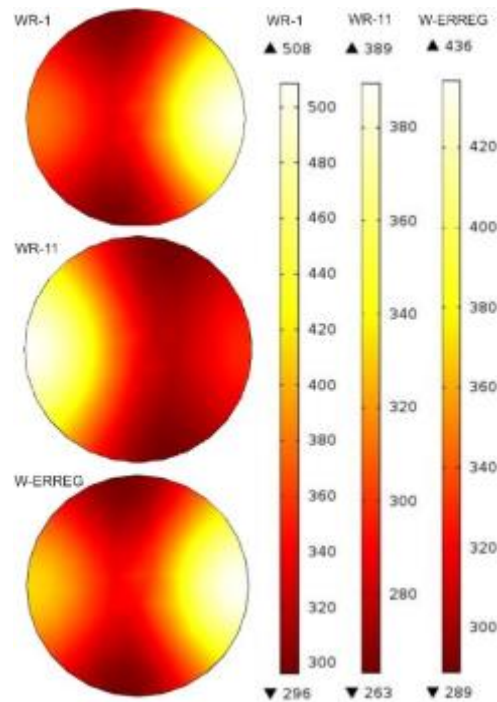
$$278 \quad 1 - R \approx 2 \sqrt{\frac{2}{\epsilon' \tan \delta}}$$

279 The dielectric constant of minerals increases with temperature in the manner of Figure 16.
 280 This leads to the fraction of absorbed power reduced to 0 and the fraction of reflected power
 281 rose close to 1.



282
 283 **Figure 16 Dielectric Data for Four Sulphide Minerals and Ores at 2375MHz. (A: pyrrhotite, $Fe_{1-x}S$, where x lies**
 284 **between 0 and 0.2; B: chalcopyrite, $CuFeS_2$; C: pyrite, FeS_2 and D: sphalerite, ZnS . (After Atomic Energy of Canada**
 285 **Limited Research Company and Voss Associates Engineering Ltd., 1990.)**

286 Secondly, the positions of the maximum temperatures in three samples vary with each other.
 287 The dielectric properties and electrical conductivity contribute to these differences by
 288 influencing the electric field distributions: the temperature is higher if the electric field is
 289 strong while the temperature is lower if the electric field is weak.

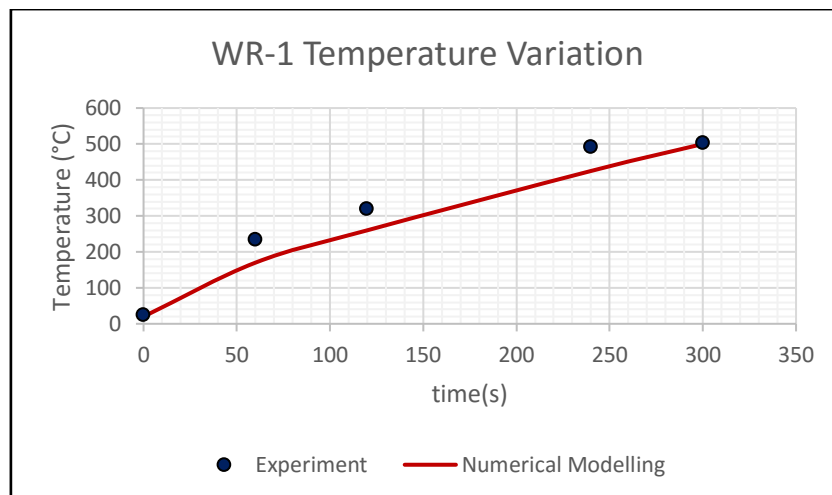


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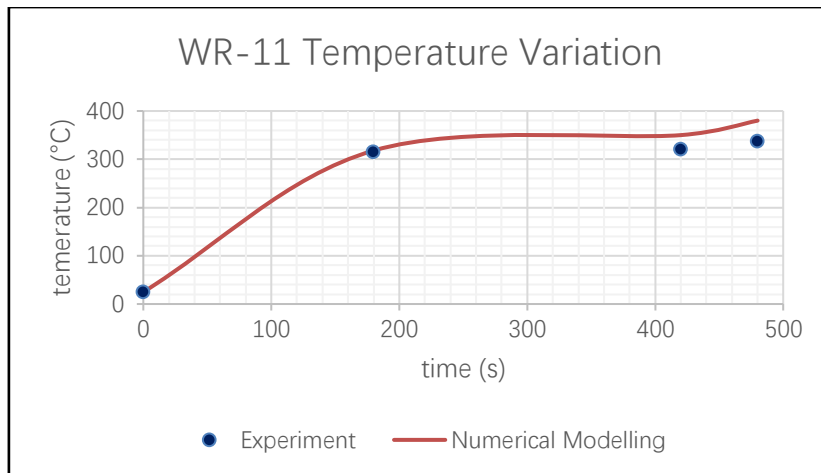
291 **Figure 17 Numerical Modelling of Temperature Distributions for Three Tight Sandstone Samples in**
 292 **COMSOL.**

293 **5.3 Comparison of Surface Temperatures between Experiment and Numerical**
 294 **Modelling**

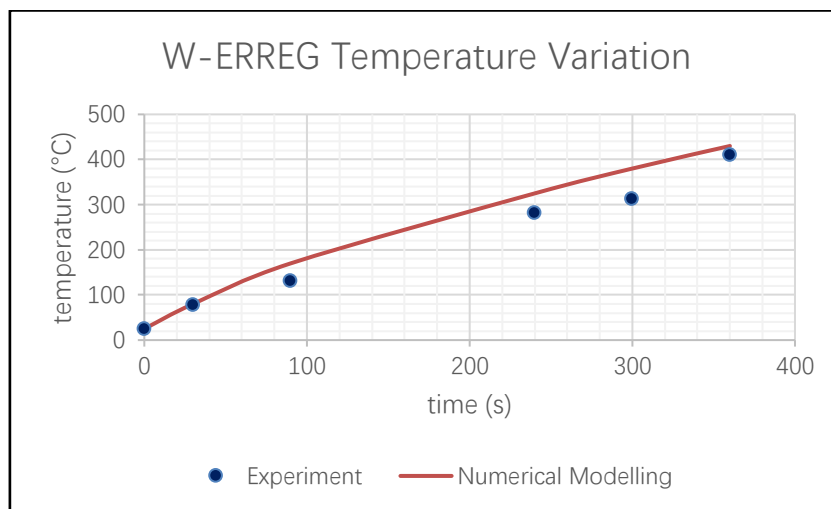
295 The tight sandstone plugs are heated with microwave in the lab and surface temperatures are
 296 recorded with time. The simulated surface temperatures are plotted against time in the same
 297 coordinates. As indicated in Figure 18, the increase of surface temperature is nonlinear, both
 298 in simulation and in experiments, due to the complex mechanisms of microwave heating. The
 299 experimental data correlates well with the numerical modelling for the three tight sandstone
 300 samples WR-1, WR-11 and W-ERREG. The surface temperature reaches its maximum in
 301 300s for WR-1 (500 °C), 480s for WR-11 (337 °C) and 360s for W-ERREG (409.8 °C).



302



303



304

305 **Figure 18 The Temperature Variations in Sample WR-1, WR-11 and W-ERREG.**

306 **6 Discussions and Conclusions**

307 The Formation Heat Treatment with microwave has been simulated with FEM modelling
 308 software and reservoir modelling software. Two numerical modelling at the reservoir scale
 309 agree with each other well. Furthermore, the FEM simulation results are validated with
 310 laboratory data in the lab scale. The present study considered the effect of microwave heating
 311 on the formation only, the heating effects on fractures generation, clay shrinkage and
 312 chemical composition have not been considered. The absolute porosity and permeability may
 313 have a change due to heating. Furthermore, the temperature dependent reservoir properties
 314 need to be considered in the future to close the gap between numerical model and actual
 315 production. The penetration depth of electromagnetic wave is inversely proportional to its
 316 frequency. The microwave frequency used in this study is 2.45GHz. Alternatively, 915MHz
 317 microwave can be considered to increase the penetration depth of microwave. However, the
 318 design of the downhole needs to be modified accordingly.

319 Based on the above study, we come to the following conclusions:

- 320 1. The reservoir temperature reached up to 853 °C after 3-day production and heating, and
321 due to the low thermal conductivity, the heating depth reaches about 83 cm. Nevertheless,
322 the heating depth is sufficient for removing skin damage in the reservoir with porosity
323 ranging from 8% to 20%.
- 324 2. The increase of water saturation in the near wellbore area causes the drop in relative
325 permeability to gas and production. However, by elevating the reservoir temperature
326 dramatically, the water saturation has been successfully brought down and the relative
327 permeability to gas has been significantly improved.
- 328 3. The sensitivity analysis on reservoir properties revealed that, in the process of microwave
329 heating treatment, the heat capacity and thermal conductivity have less influence on gas
330 production improvement while the matrix permeability has a greater influence on it.
- 331 4. When the proper electrical conductivity and relative permittivity are provided, the FEM
332 simulation agrees well with the experimental data in terms of the surface temperature of
333 sandstone plugs.
- 334 5. Two simulation methods have a good correlation in computing the reservoir temperature.
335 Moreover, the FEM simulation can be an effective method to predict the temperature
336 distribution in an actual well.

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397 **Appendix A -The Conservation Equations in the CMG Numerical Model**
 398 **(Computer Modelling Group, 2015)**

399

400 Two phases, water and gas, are considered in this paper. In order to discuss the conversation
 401 equations in this study, different terms are defined as below.

402 The accumulation term for water and gas: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [V_f(\rho_w S_w w_i + \rho_g S_g y_i)]$

403 The accumulation term for energy: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [V_f(\rho_w S_w U_w + \rho_g S_g U_g) + V_r U_r]$

404 The flow term of flowing component between two regions:

405 $\rho_w v_w w_i + \rho_g v_g y_i + \phi D_{wi} \rho_w \Delta w_i + \phi D_{gi} \rho_g \Delta y_i$

406 Where, the volumetric flow rates for water and gas $v_j = T \left(\frac{k_{rj}}{\mu_j r_j} \right) \Delta \Phi_j$, $j=w,g$

407 The well source/sink term for flowing component: $\rho_w q_{wk} w_i + \rho_g q_{gk} [well\ layer\ k]$

408 Where, $q_{jk} = I_{jk} \cdot (p_{wfk} - p_k)$, $j= w, g$

409 The well source/sink term for energy: $\rho_w q_{wk} H_w + \rho_g q_{gk} H_g$

410 The flow term of energy between two regions:

411 $\rho_w v_w H_i + \rho_g v_g H_g + K \Delta T$

412 The heat loss source/sink term for energy:

413
$$\sum_{k=1}^{n_r} HL_k + HL_v + HL_c$$

414 The conservation equation for water and gas is:

415
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [V_f(\rho_w S_w w_i + \rho_g S_g y_i)]$$

416
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{n_f} [T_w \rho_w w_i \Delta \Phi_w + T_g \rho_g y_i \Delta \Phi_g] + \sum_{k=i}^{n_f} [\phi D_{wi} \rho_w \Delta w_i + \phi D_{gi} \rho_g \Delta y_i]$$

417
$$+ \rho_w q_{wk} w_i + \rho_g q_{gk} y_i [well\ layer\ k]$$

418 The conservation equation of energy:

$$\begin{aligned}
419 \quad & \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [V_f(\rho_w S_w U_g + \rho_g S_g U_g) + V_r U_r] \\
420 \quad & = \sum_{k=1}^{n_f} [T_w \rho_w H_w \Delta \Phi_w + T_g \rho_g H_g \Delta \Phi_g] + \sum_{k=1}^{n_f} K \Delta T + \rho_w q_{wk} H_w \\
421 \quad & + \rho_g q_{gk} H_g [\text{well layer } k] + HL_o + HL_v + HL_c
\end{aligned}$$

422 Where,

423 V_f Volume of fluid phases added together

424 ρ density

425 S saturation

426 w_i water phase mole fraction

427 y_i gas phase mole fraction

428 U internal energies as a function of temperature and phase composition

429 V_r rock volume

430 U_r internal energies per rock volume

431 T the transmissibility between two regions

432 $\Delta \Phi_j$ the potential differences

433 I_{jk} phase j index for layer k

434 p_{wfk} flowing wellbore pressure in well layer k

435 p_k the node pressure of the region with well layer k

436 H the enthalpy

437 K thermal transmissibility at the interface between the two regions

438 ΔT the drop of temperature between the nodes

439 HL_k the rate of heat transfer to the region of interest through block face number k from the

440 adjacent formation

441 HL_v the rate of heat transfer from a convective model

442 HL_c represents a constant heat transfer model