

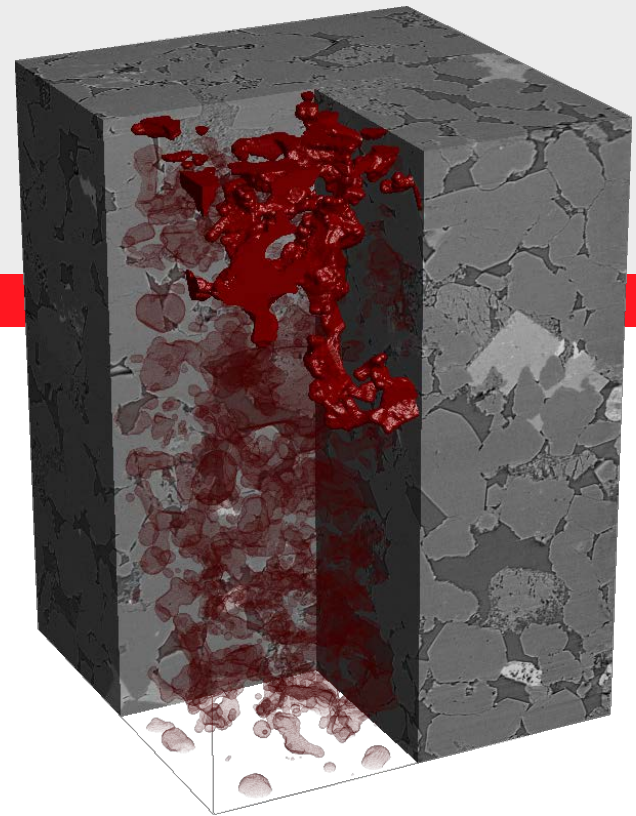
Pore Morphology Method with Hysteresis Effect for Enhanced Oil Recovery Applications

Interpore 05/11/2017, Rotterdam, Netherlands

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Math2Market GmbH



Math2Market GmbH and its GeoDict software

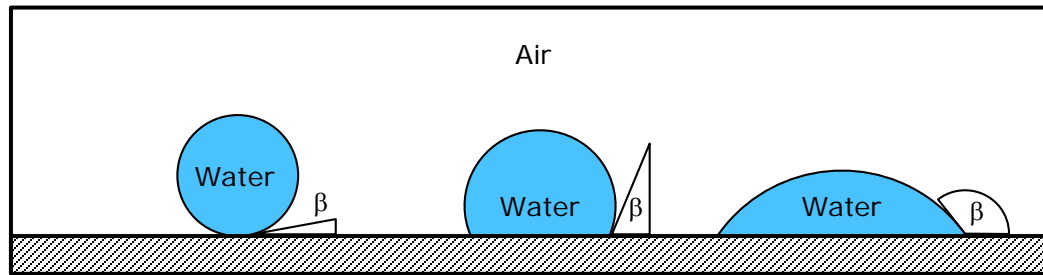
Some background information

- Math2Market creates & markets software to analyze/design porous & composite materials based on the material's geometric inhomogeneity
- M2Ms software is called GeoDict, the Digital Material Laboratory
- GeoDict works on μ CT-based, FIB-SEM-based and intrinsic models
- in all cases, the computer representation consists of 3-D images
- M2M was spun off in 2011 from Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics
- M2M is based in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and privately owned
- M2M has more than 100 clients from around the world



Two-Phase Systems

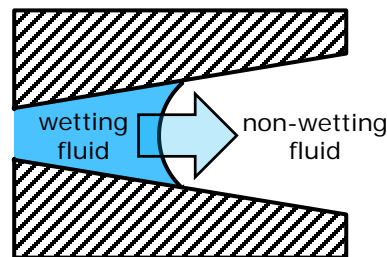
- Consider the distribution of two fluids at given static conditions in a porous media
- Two fluids are not mixed but separated by an interface that has a meniscus shape caused by surface tension
 - One fluid wets the surface with a concave shape
 - One fluid has less affinity & is non-wetting with a convex shape



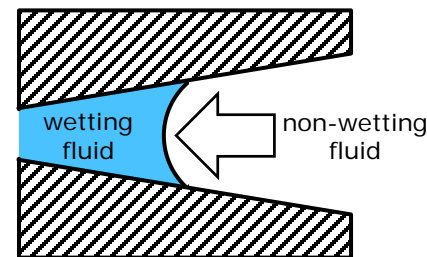
Transition from air-wet (left) to water-wet (right)

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 - One fluid has less affinity & is non-wetting with a convex shape
- For pure (non-)wetting fluid behavior two processes exist
 - Imbibition: **wetting fluid** displaces **non-wetting fluid**
 - Drainage: **non-wetting fluid** displaces **wetting fluid**



Imbibition



Drainage

Young Laplace Equation

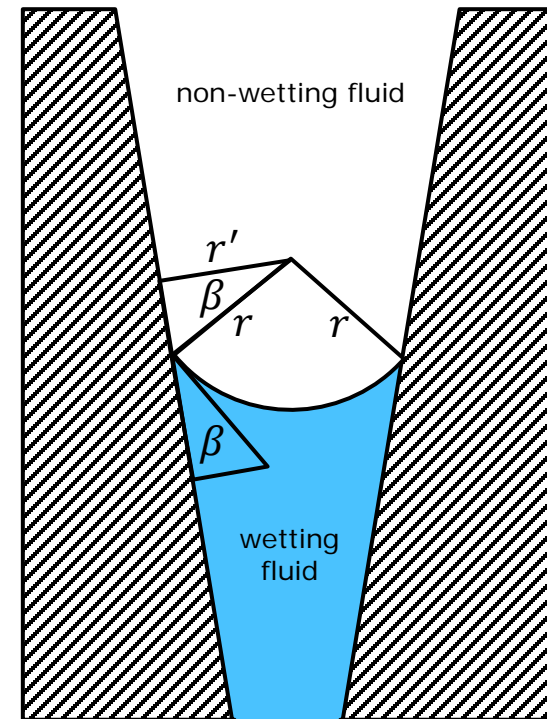
- For a given pressure difference (capillary pressure) p_c and surface tension γ then mean curvature κ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} p_c &= \gamma \cdot \kappa \\ &= \gamma \cdot (\kappa_1 + \kappa_2) \\ &= \gamma \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r_1} + \frac{1}{r_2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- Interface radii $r_{1/2}$ are defined by the capillary pressure
- Interface position is such that the angle of the interface with the cone wall is equal to the contact angle β
- Conical means $r_1 = r_2$ then we can use the pore radius r' which is a function of the position along the cone

$$p_c = \gamma \cdot \frac{2 \cos \beta}{r'}$$

capillary pressure + contact angle \rightarrow pore radius



Pore Morphology Methods ...

... predict the distribution of the two phases inside porous media

Basic Idea

- “Push” spheres into/outside the structure & reduce/increase sphere radii [Hilpert and Miller, 2001]
- Superposition of spheres represent the non-wetting phase
- Perform connectivity checks to consider trapped/residual phases [Ahrenholz et al., 2008]
- Use sphere radii & Young-Laplace to predict the capillary pressure
- Construct different contact angles by using interface radii larger than pore radii [Schulz et al. 2015]

Advantage

- No partial differential equations are solved
- Very low runtime & memory requirements

Assumption

- Quasi-stationary phase distribution
- Cylindrical pores

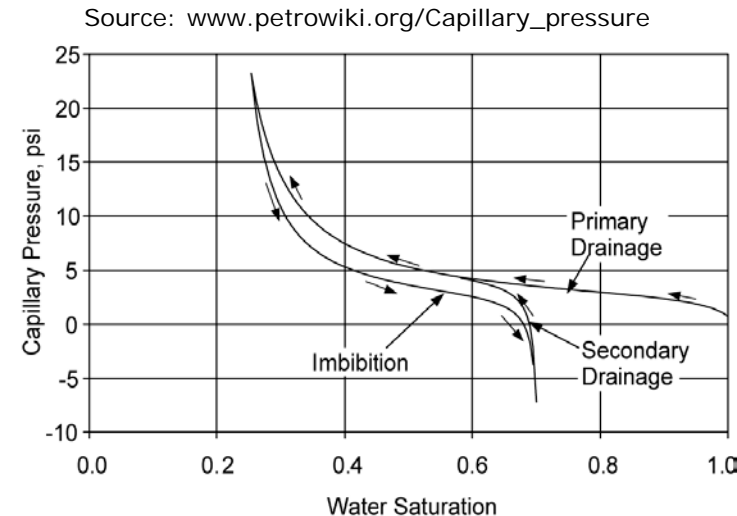
Applications of Two Phase Systems

- Filtration
 - Filter cake washing and drying
- Electro chemistry
 - Gas and Water distribution in gas diffusion layers
- Hygiene
 - Air and liquid distribution in diapers
- Oil and Gas
 - Mercury intrusion capillary pressure (MICP)
 - Capillary pressure and relative permeability for oil and water systems



Two-Phase Flows for Enhanced Oil Recovery

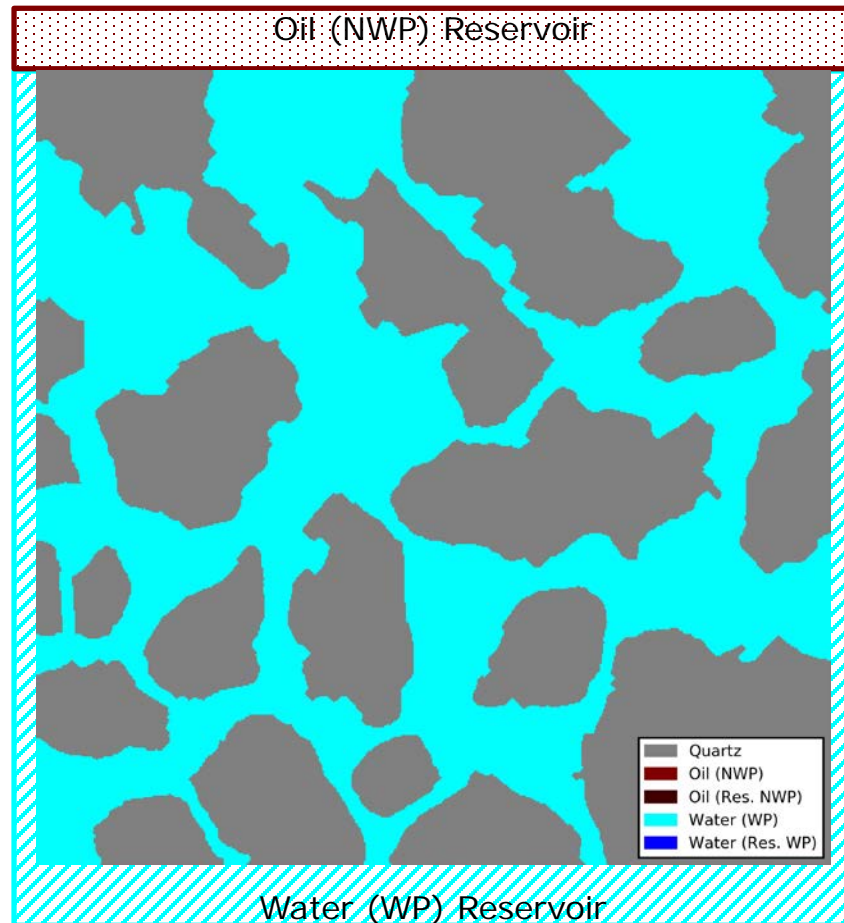
- Two-phase properties of rocks depend on the physical history of the sample
 - Oil that invades a fully water saturated rock leaves a *residual water saturation*
 - If water invades the rock again (waterflooding) then residual water may *reconnect* to invading water phase
 - These *hysteresis* effects have significant influence on the capillary pressure curve and other relative properties
 - Hysteresis effects do not occur in highly porous structures (e.g. gas diffusion layers)



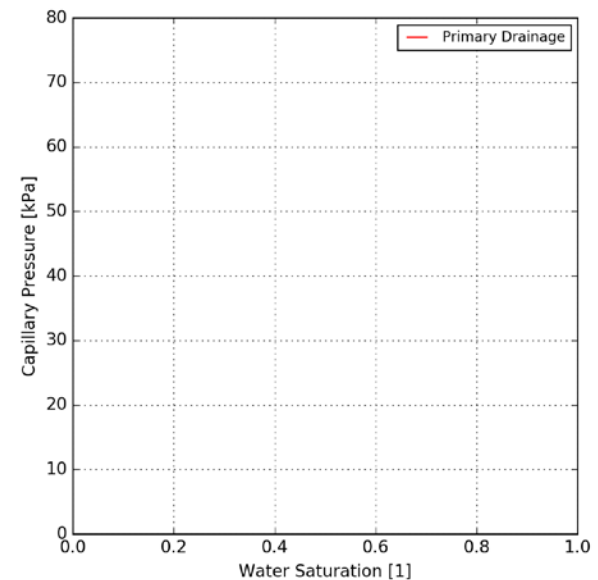
The original pore morphology method is not able to consider residual WP and residual NWP at the same time

Primary Drainage

Oil displaces Water

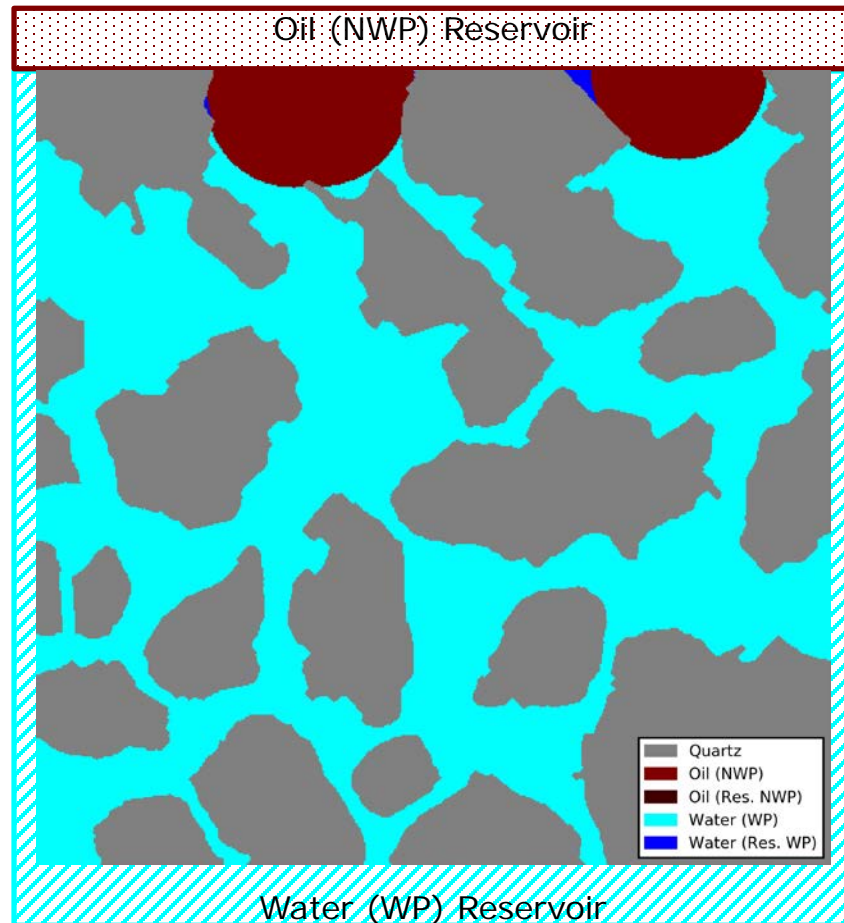


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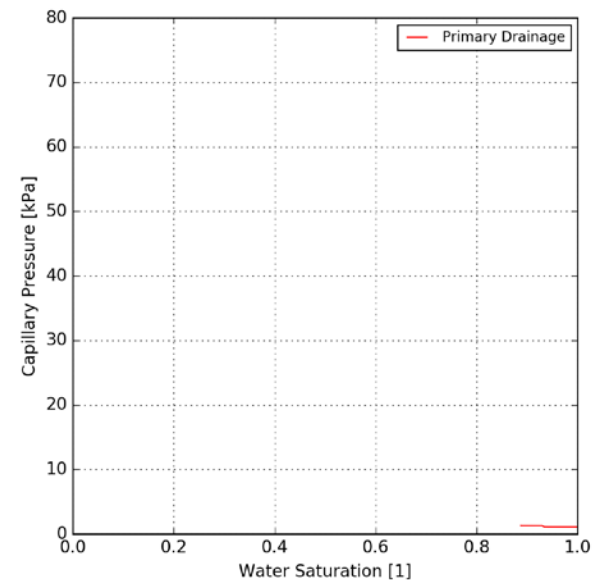


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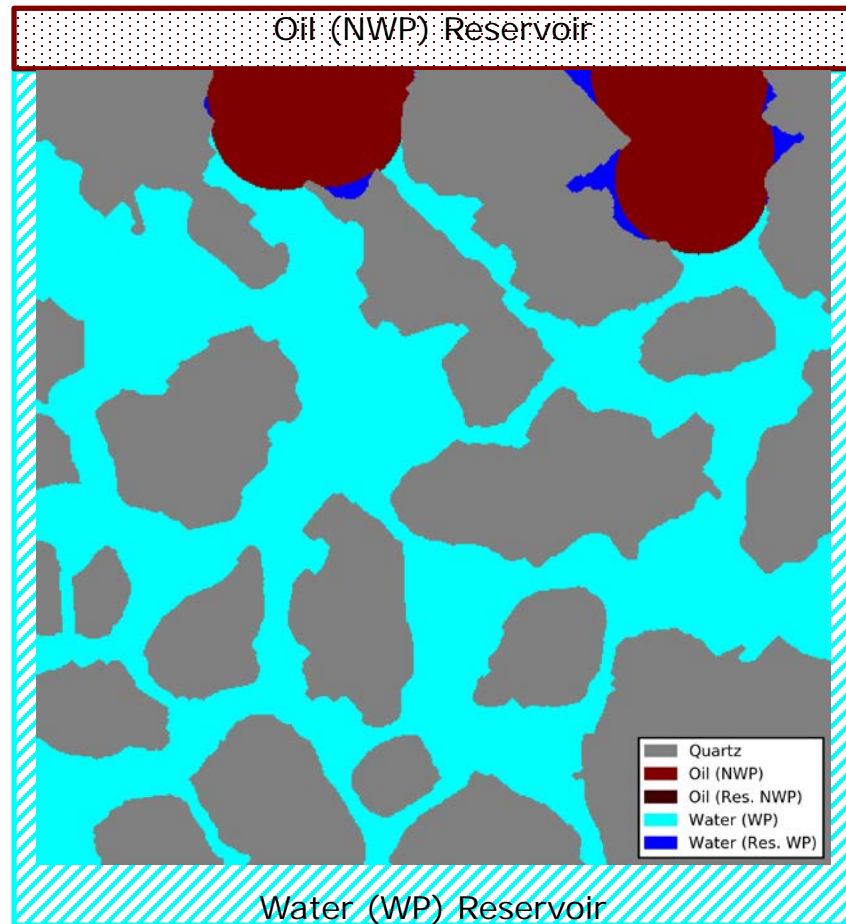


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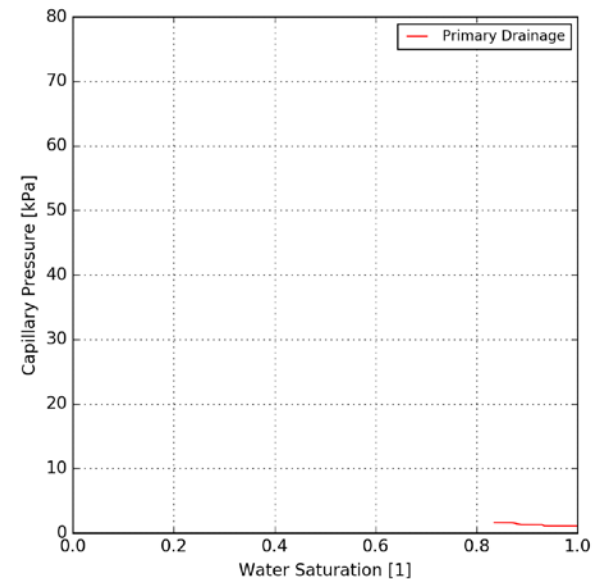


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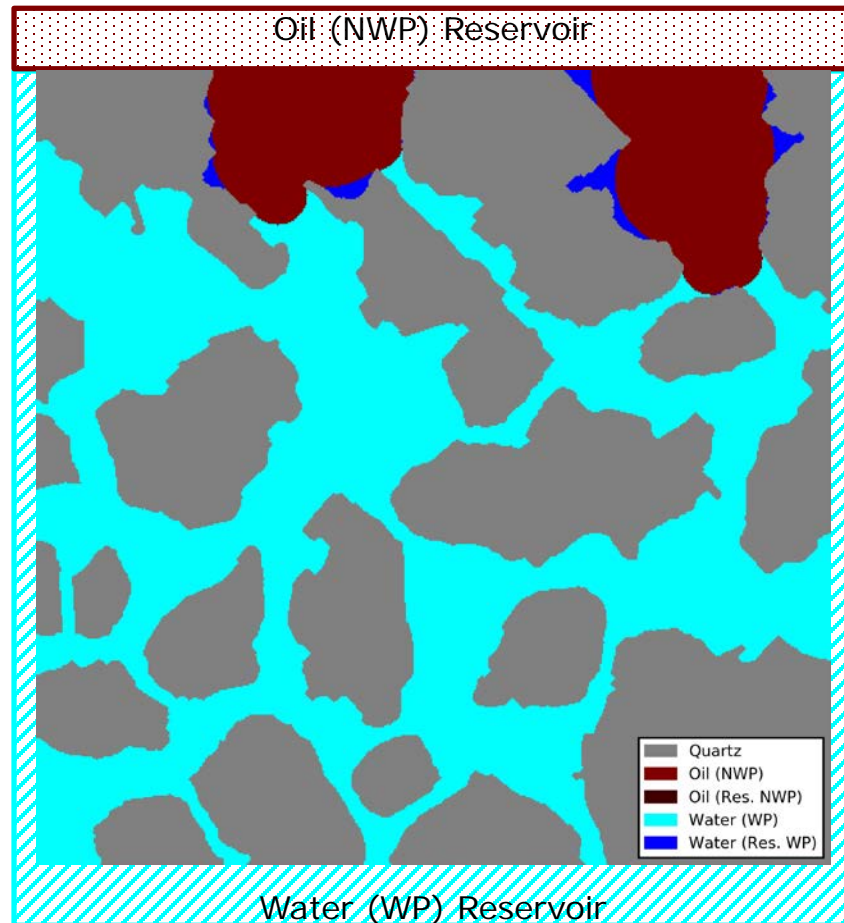


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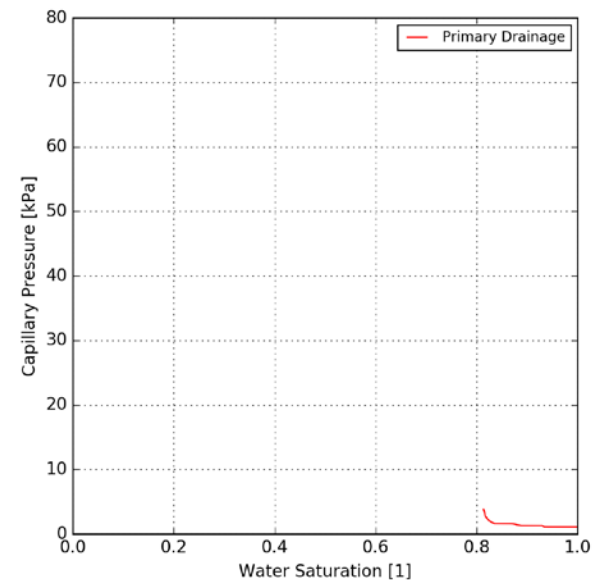


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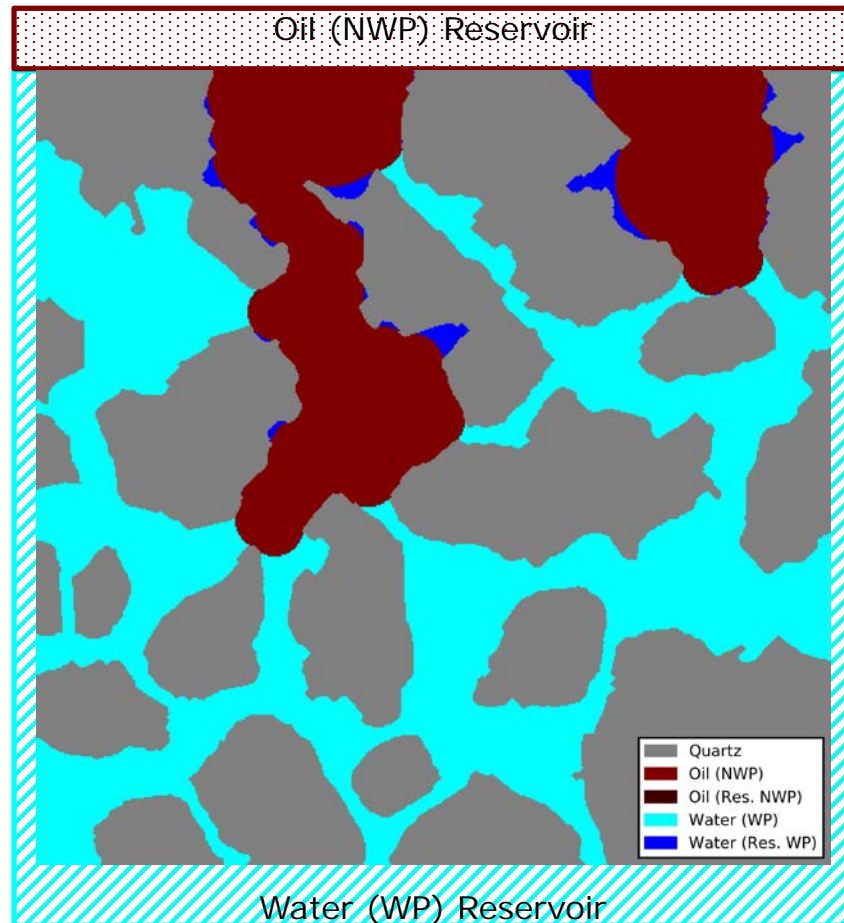


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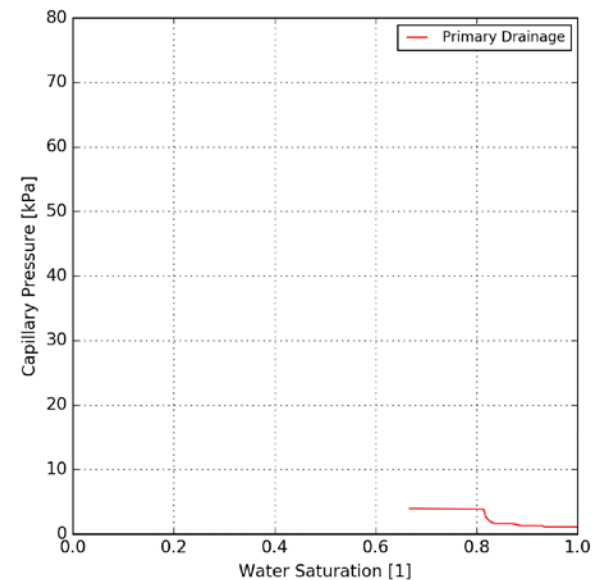


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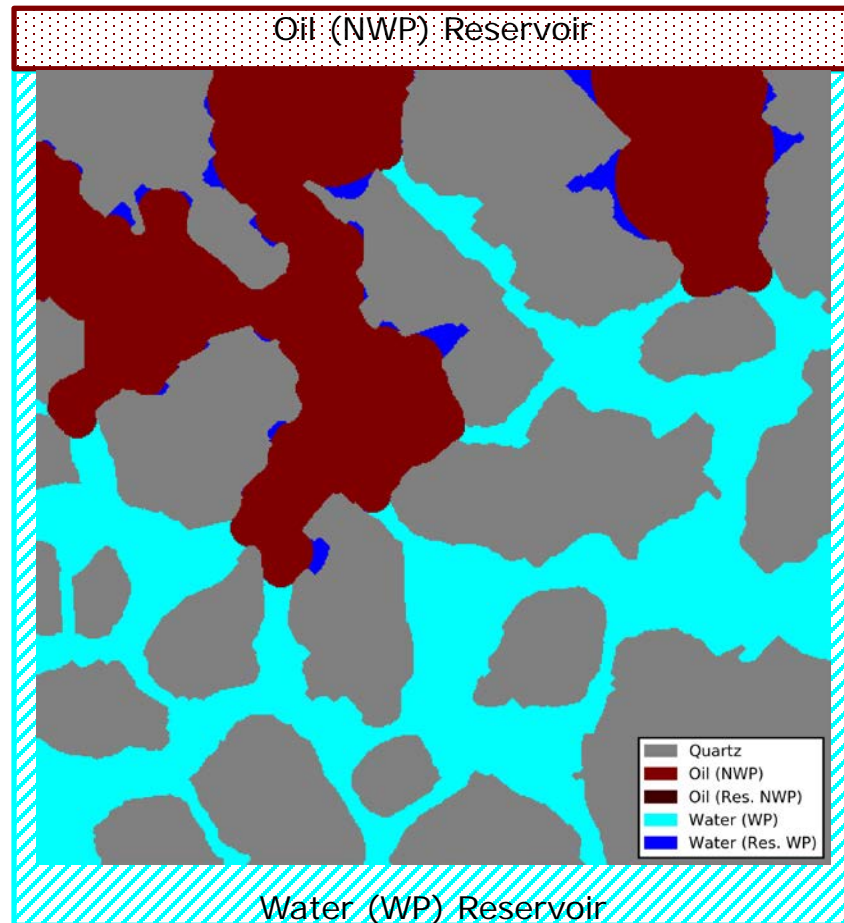


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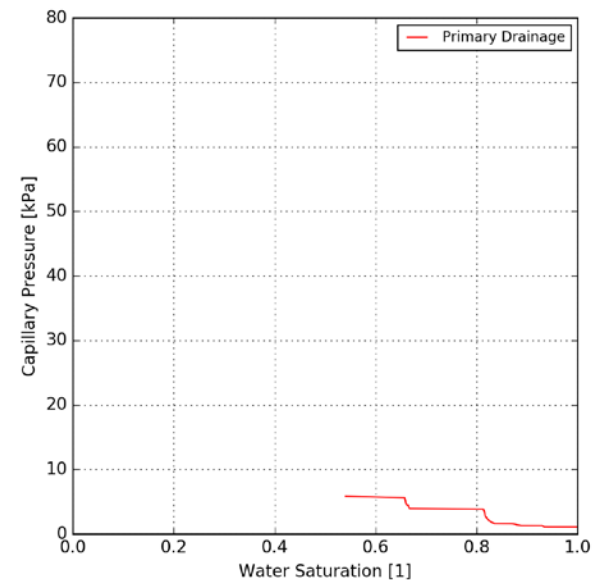


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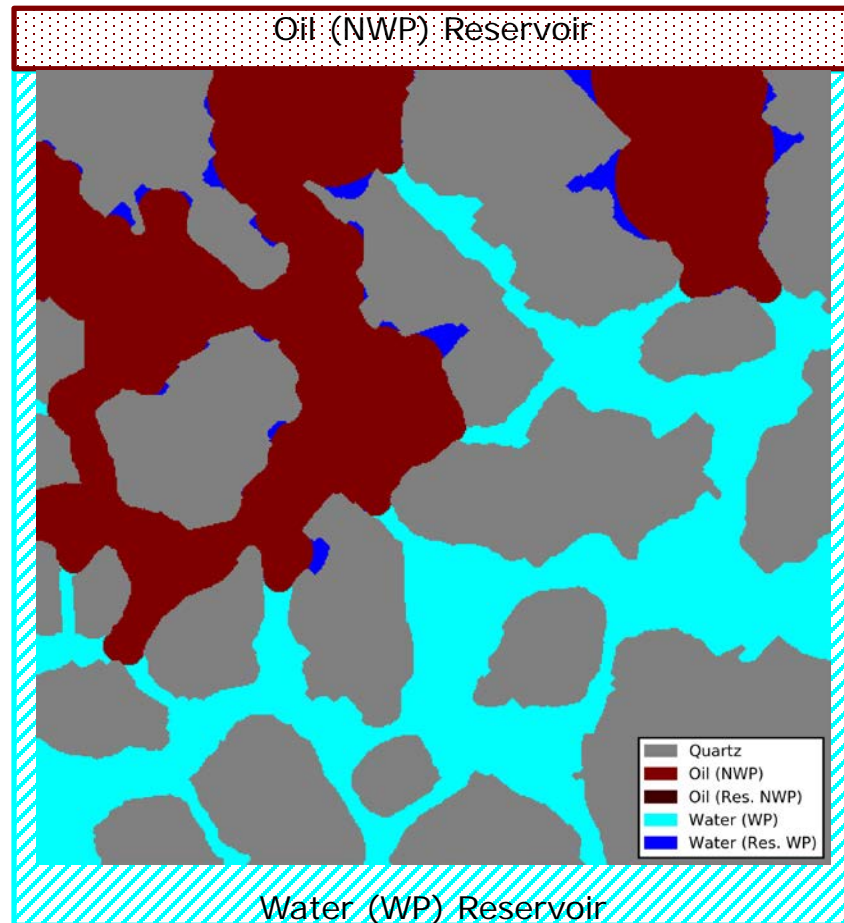


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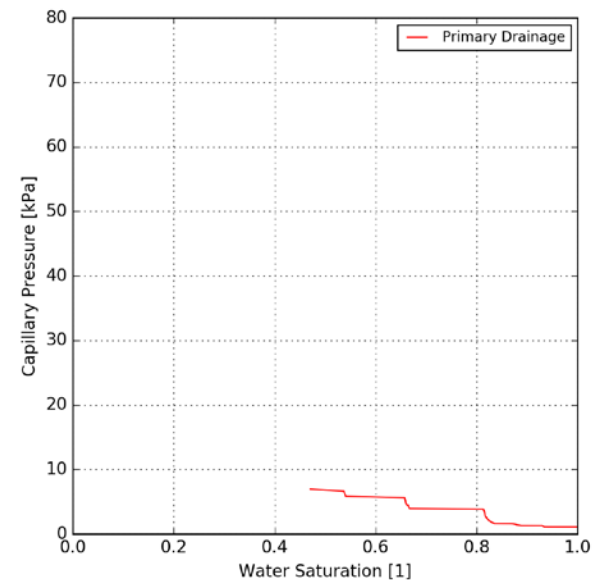


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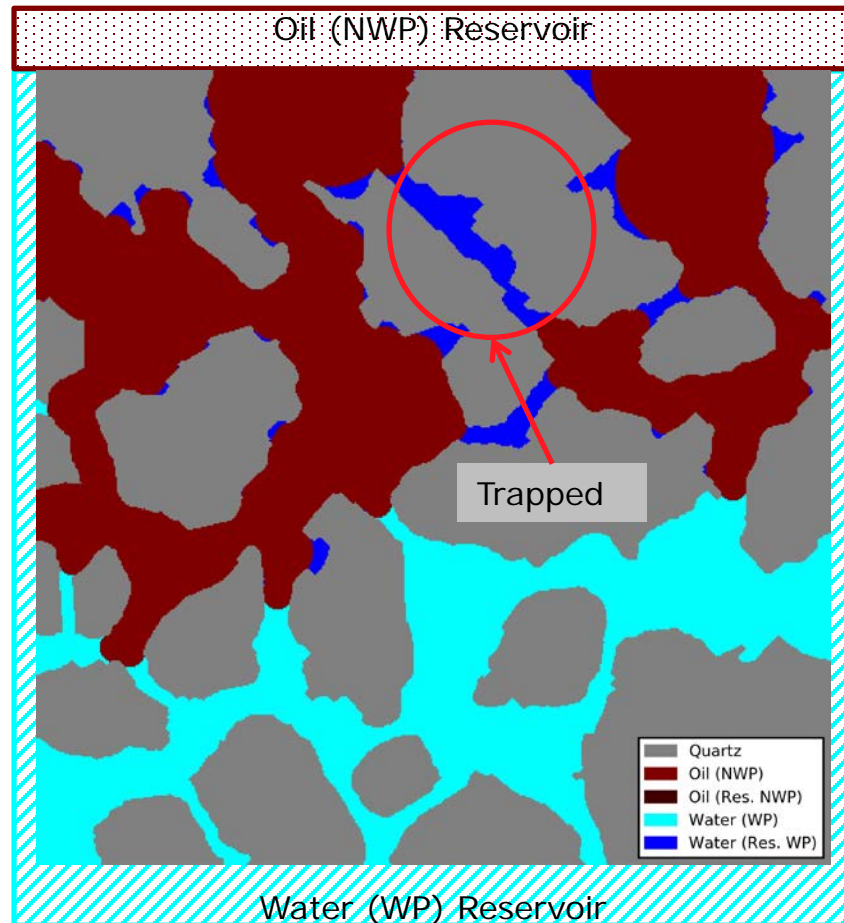


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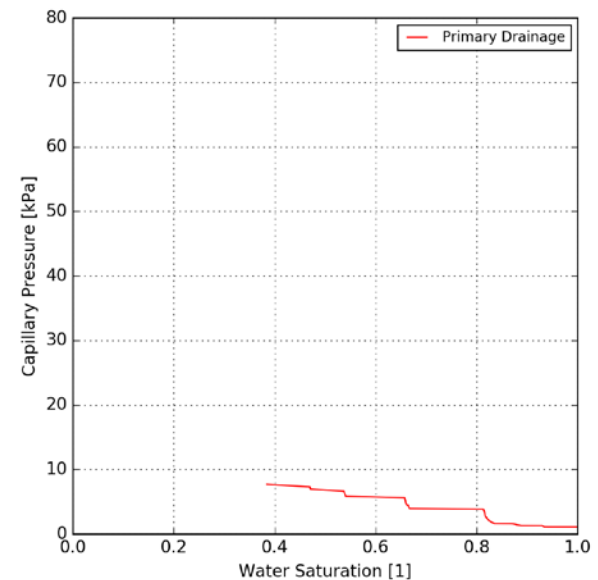


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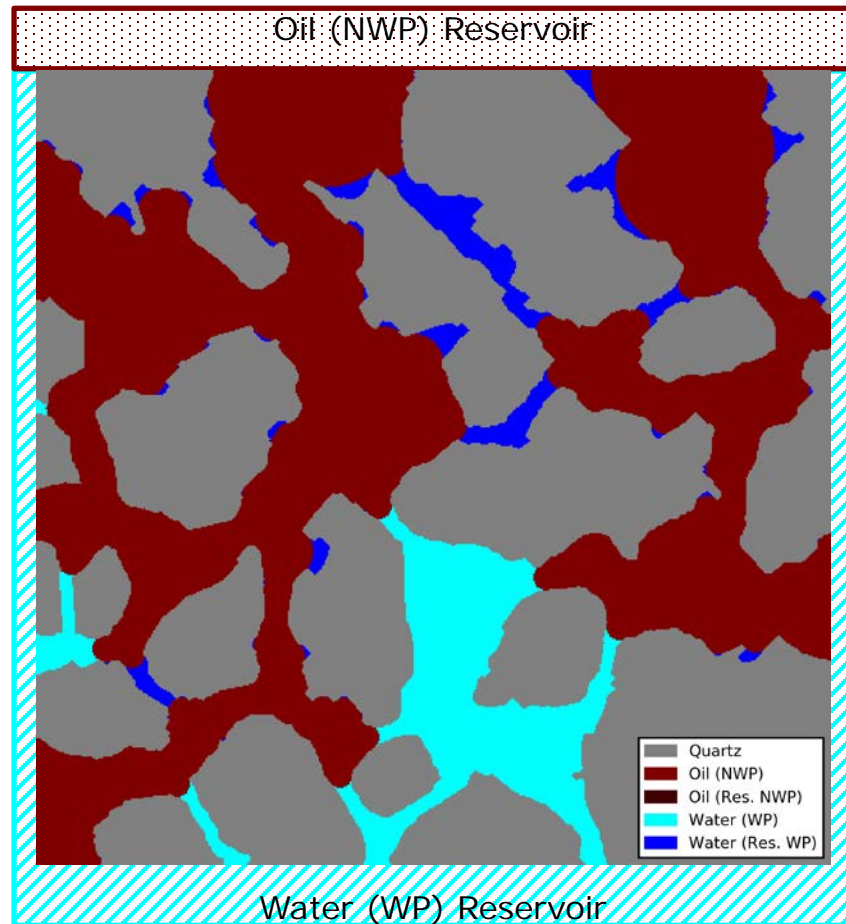


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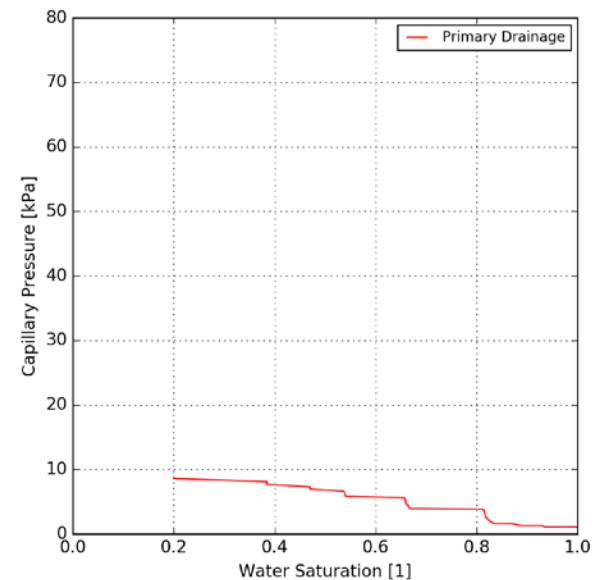


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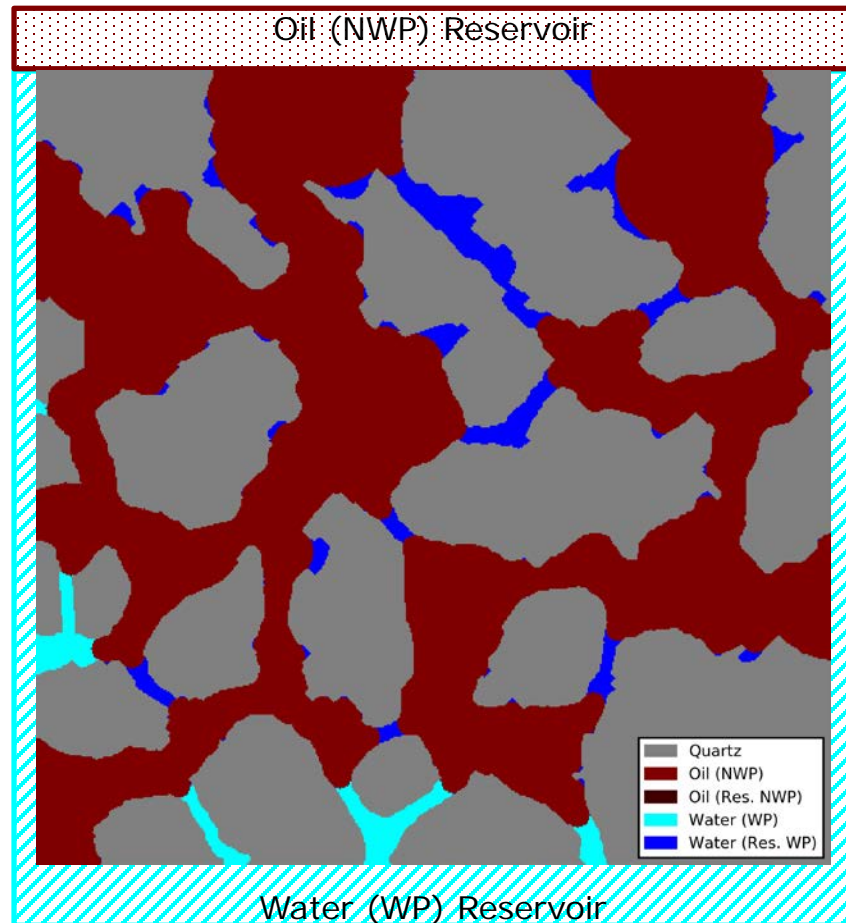


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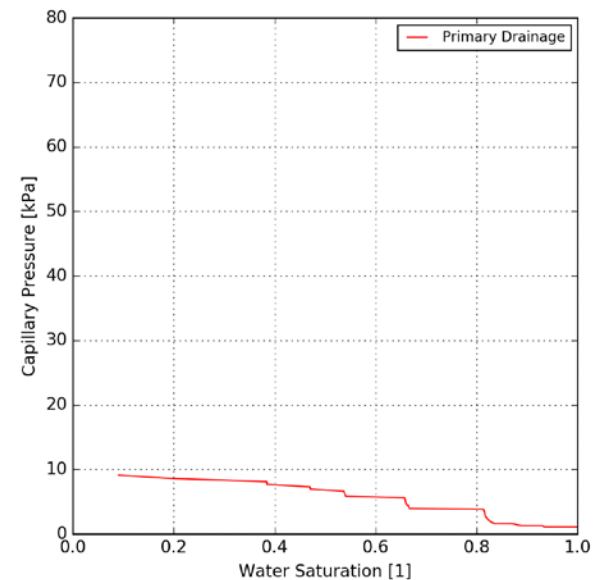


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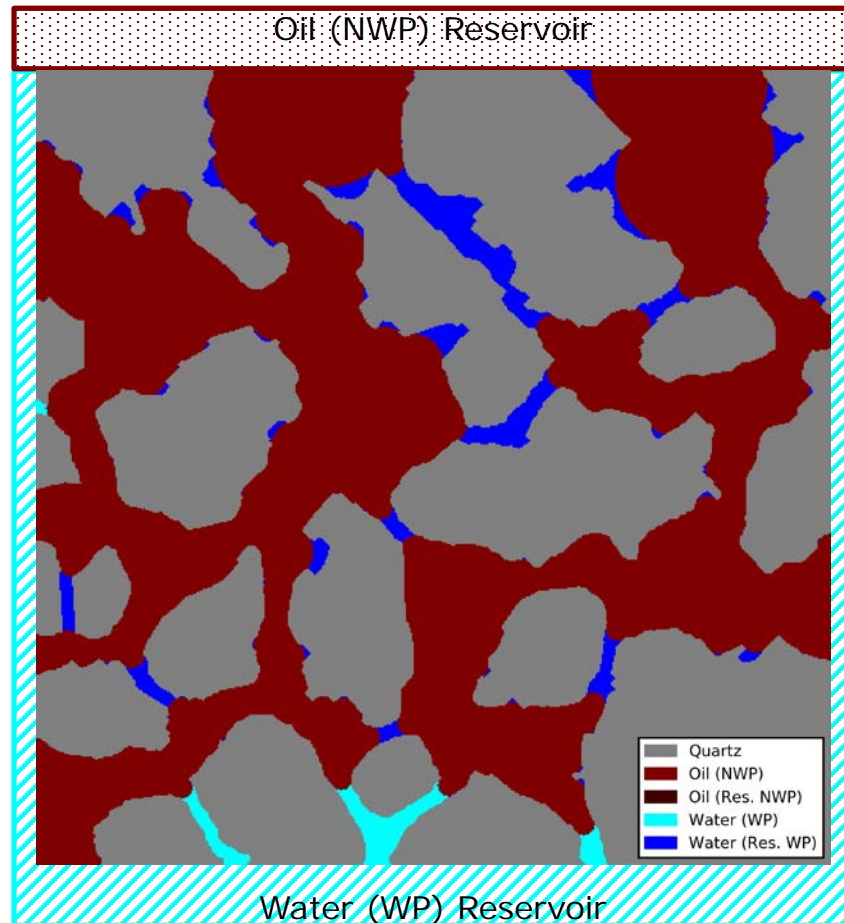


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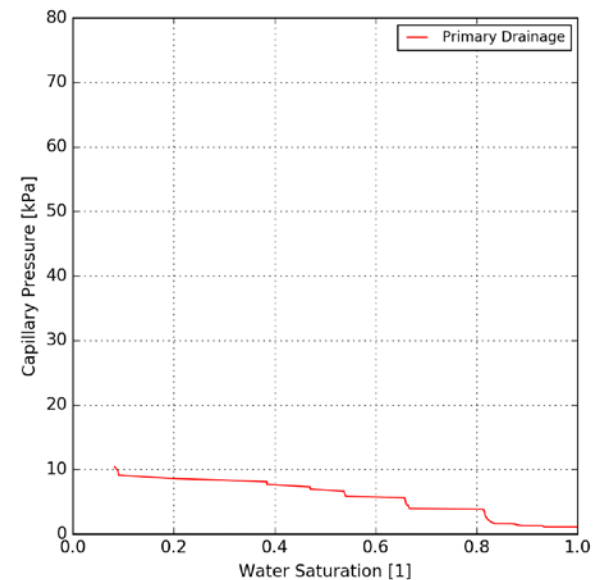


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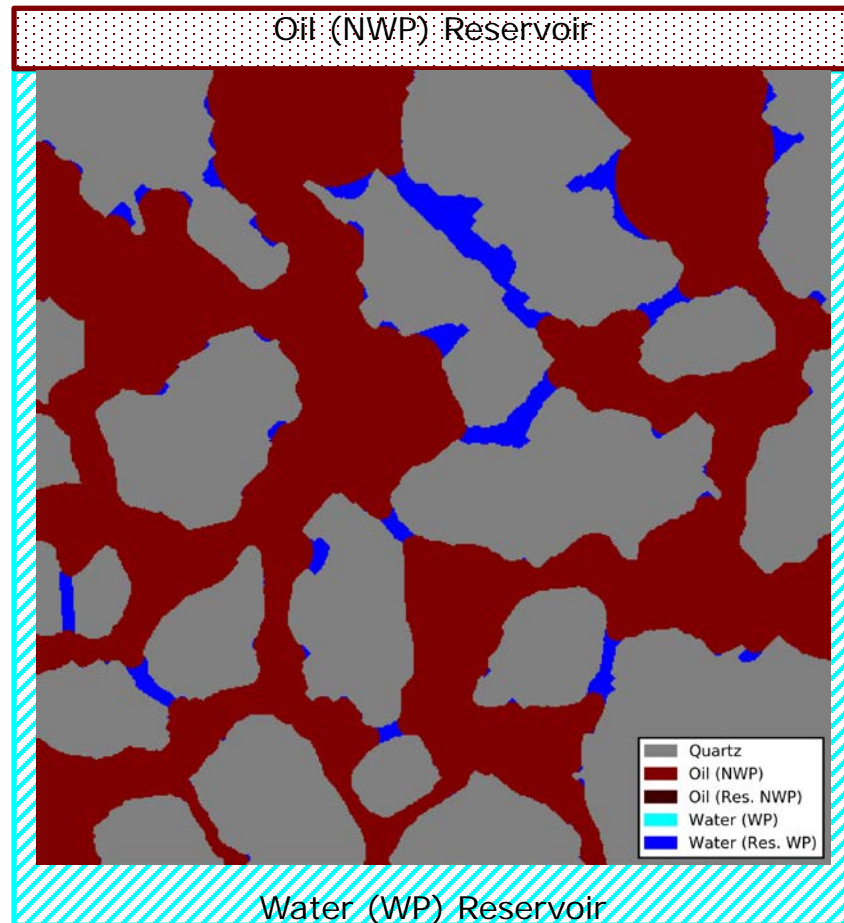


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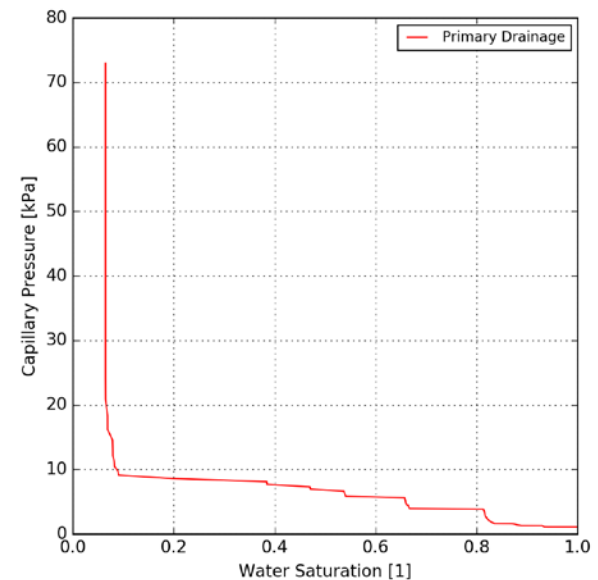


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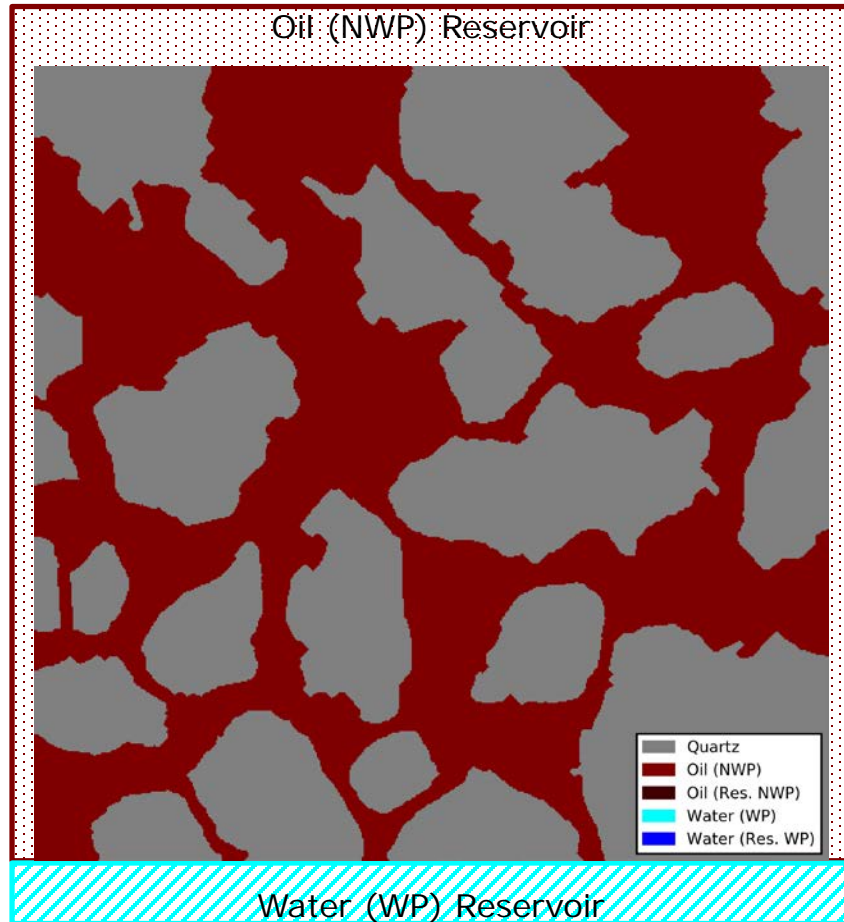


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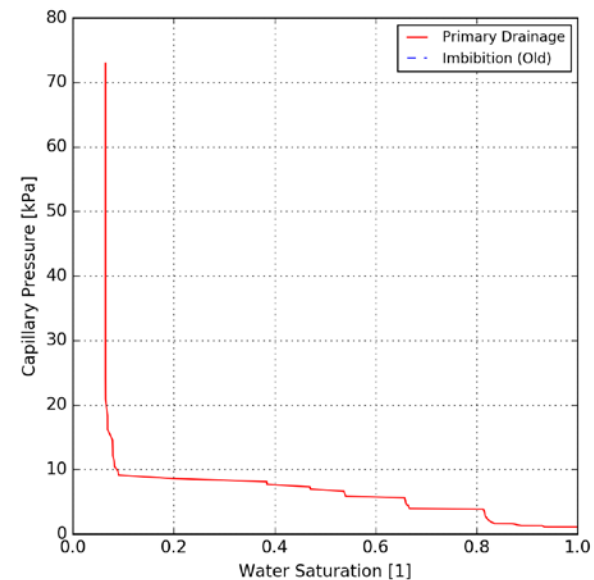


Imbibition (Waterflooding)

Water displaces Oil (Old Method, ignores residual water)

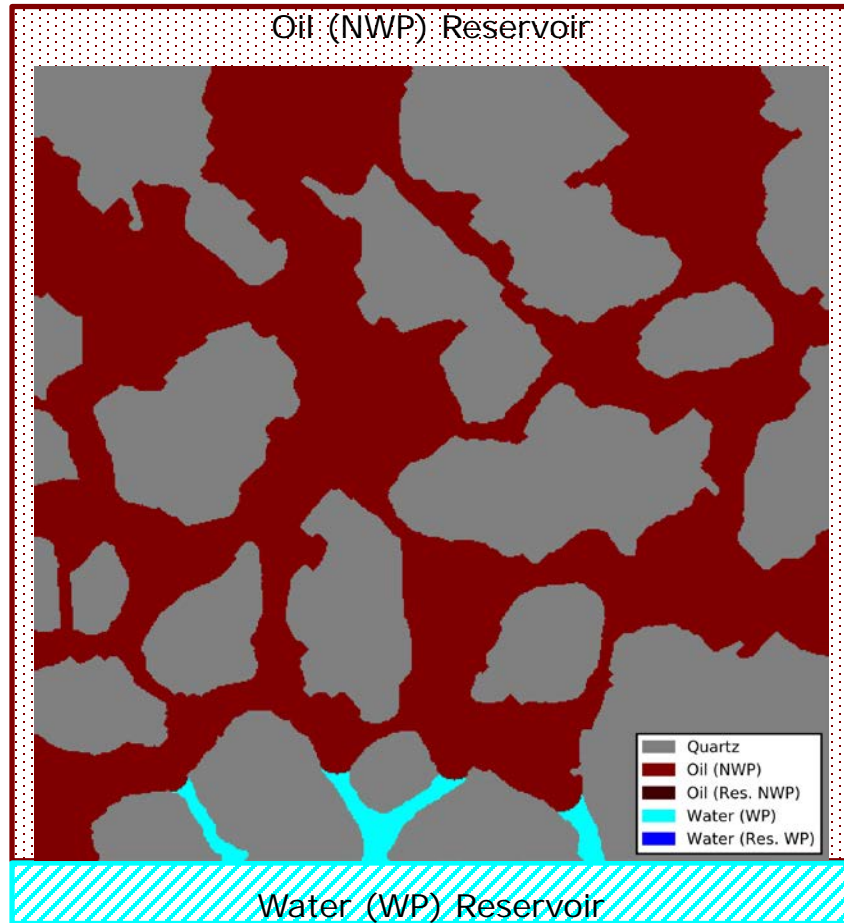


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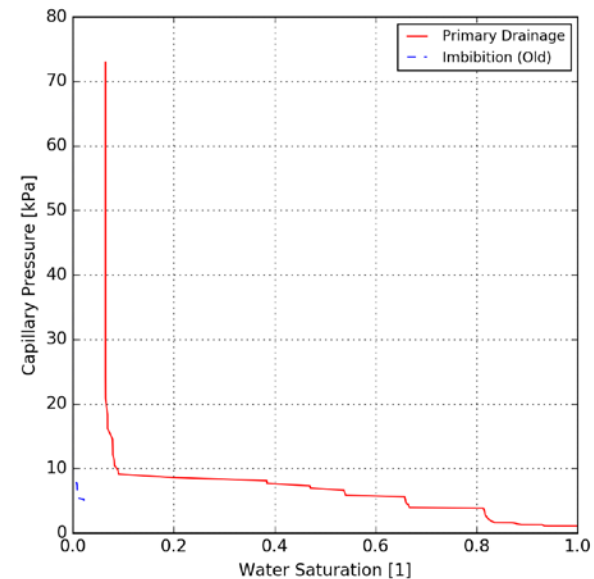


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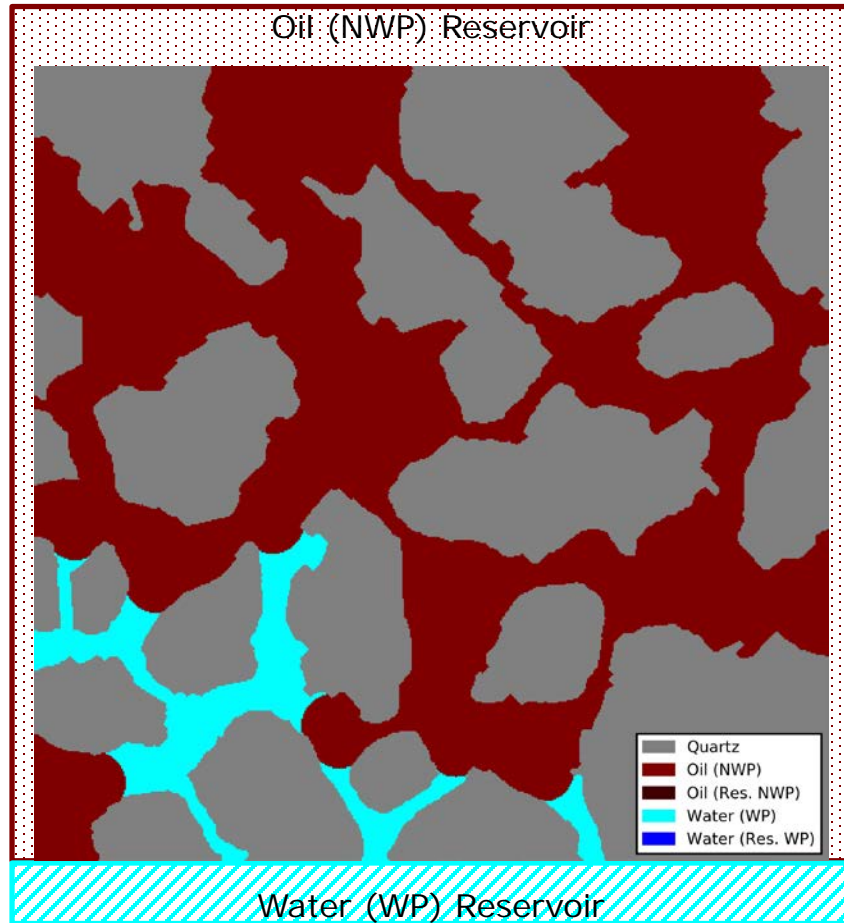


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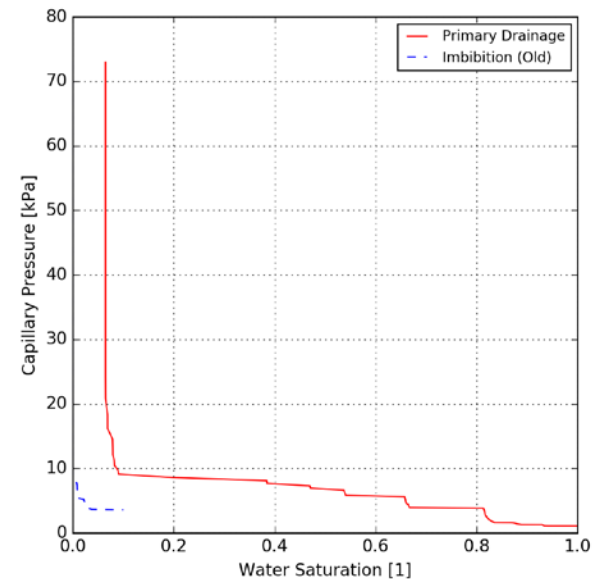


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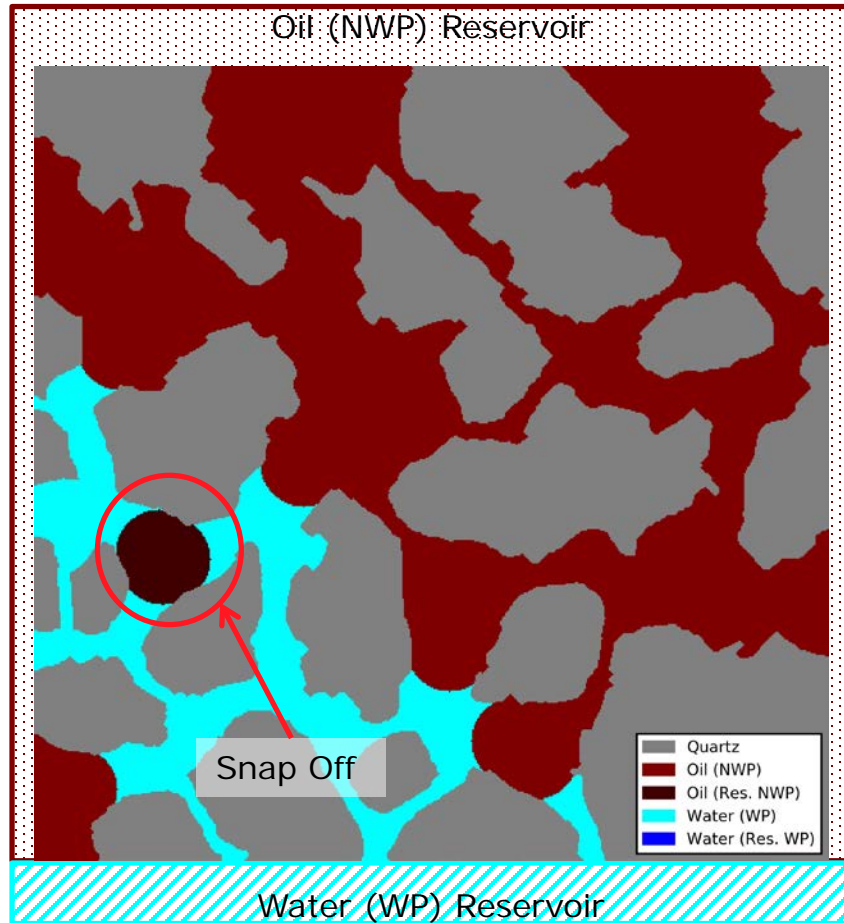


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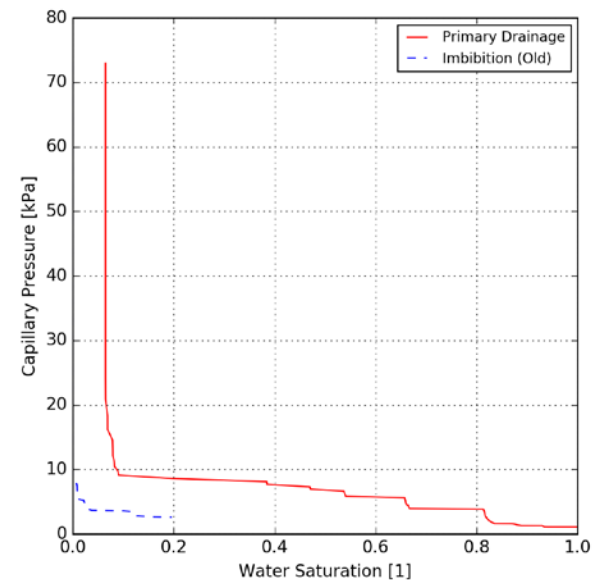


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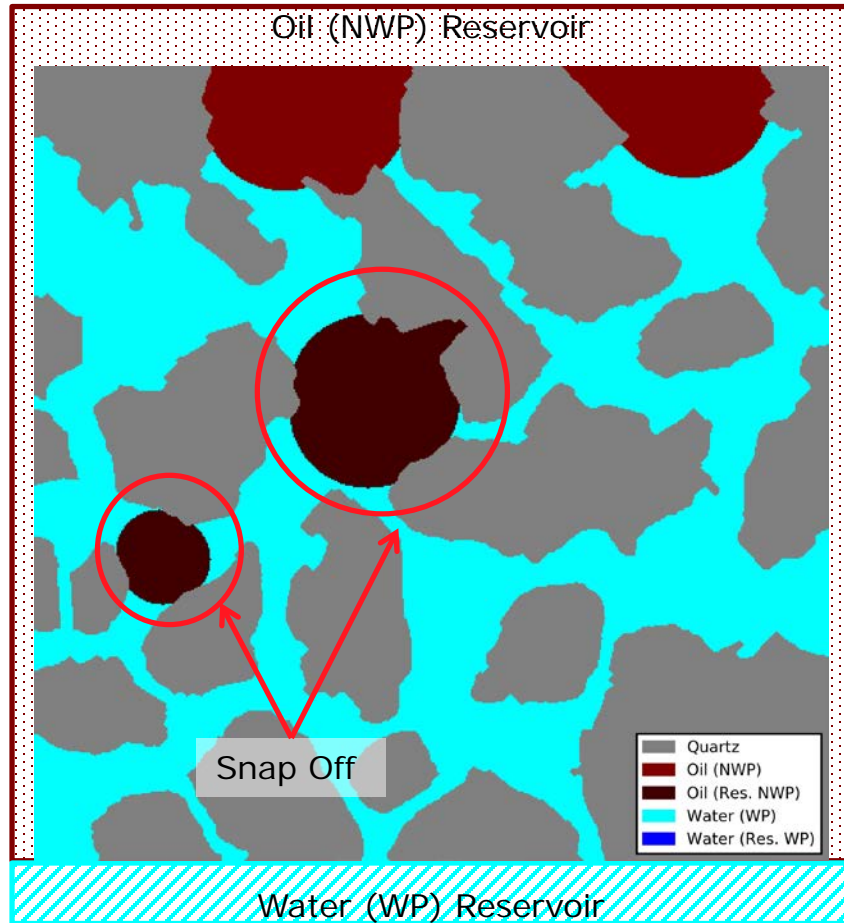


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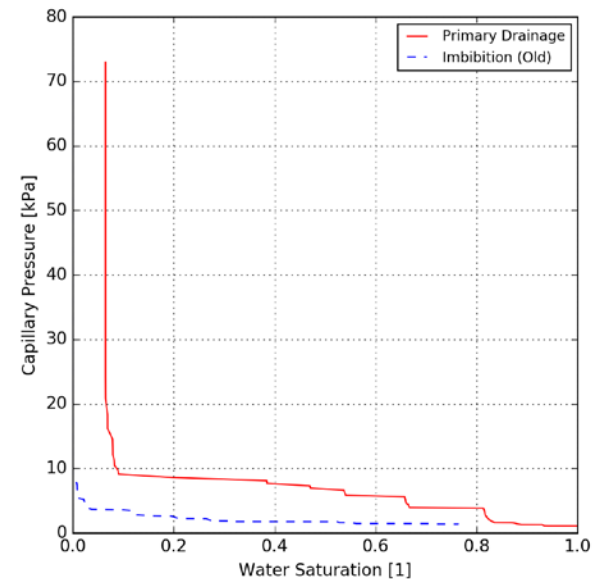


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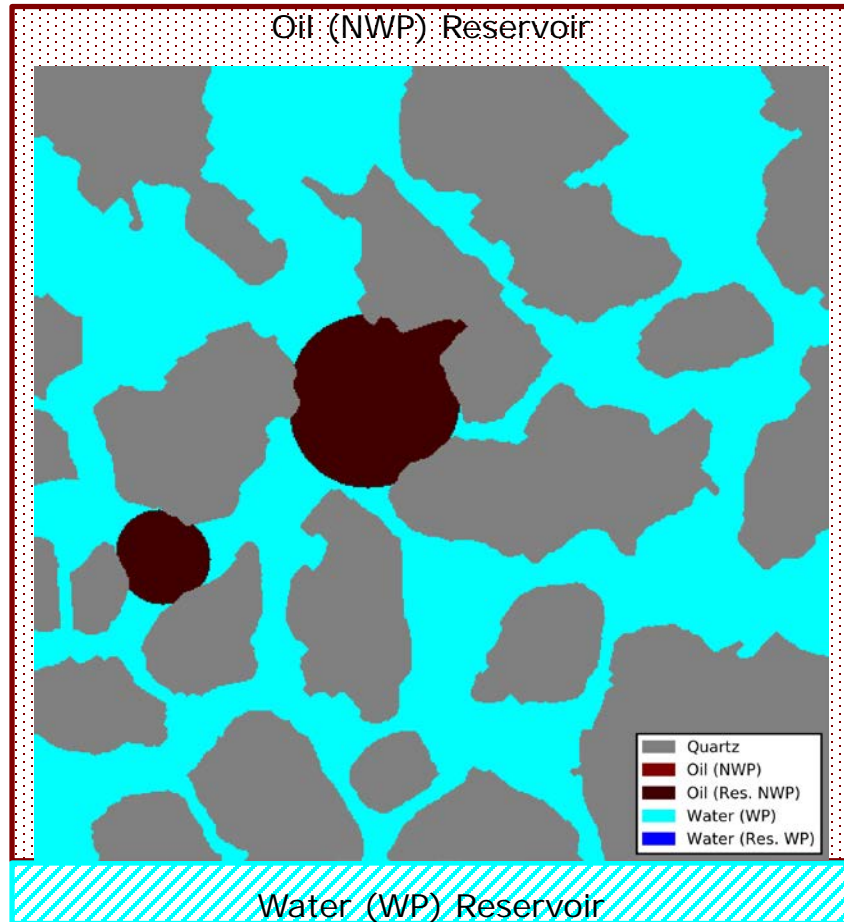


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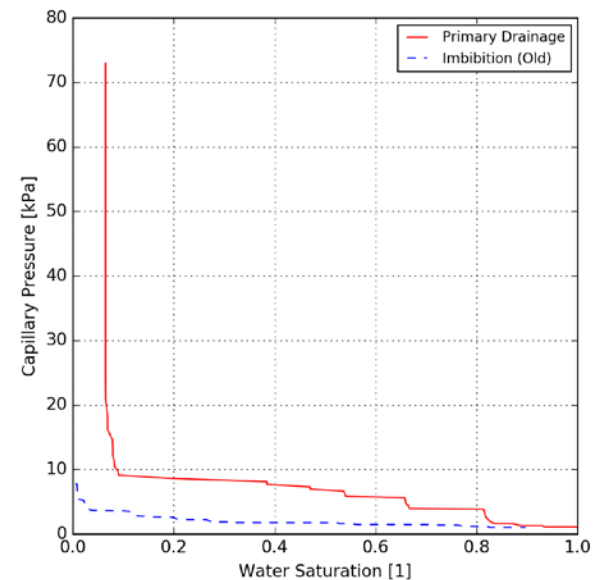


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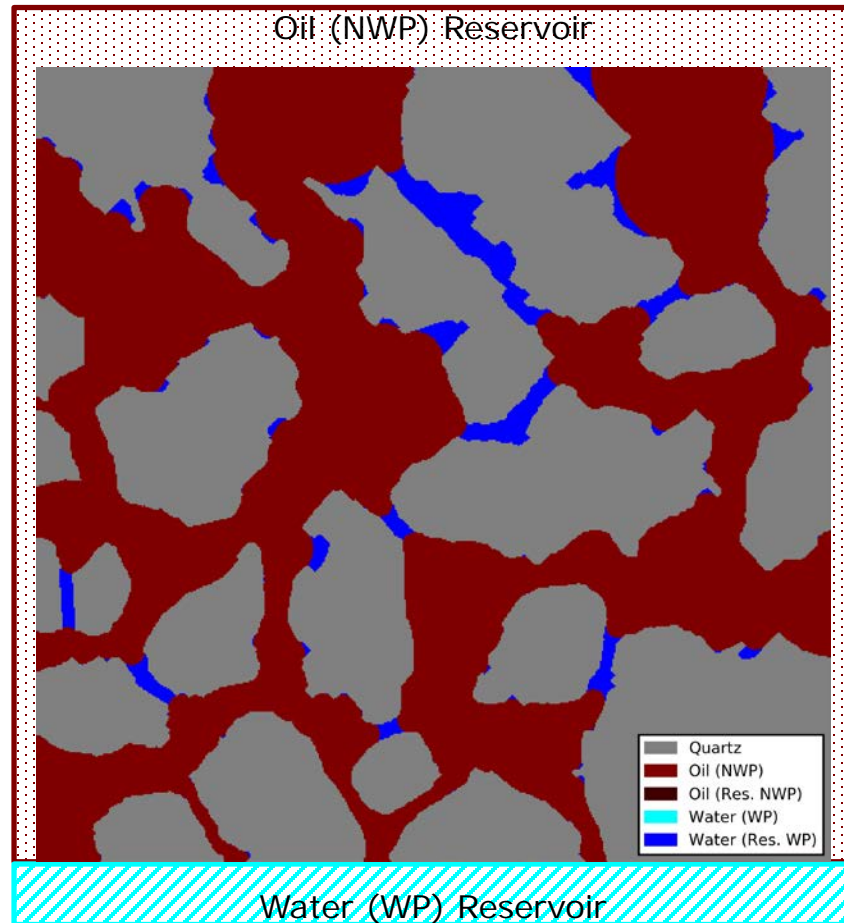


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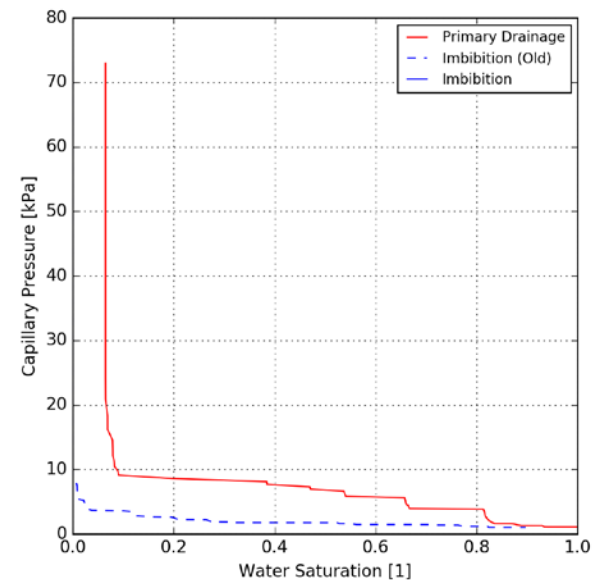


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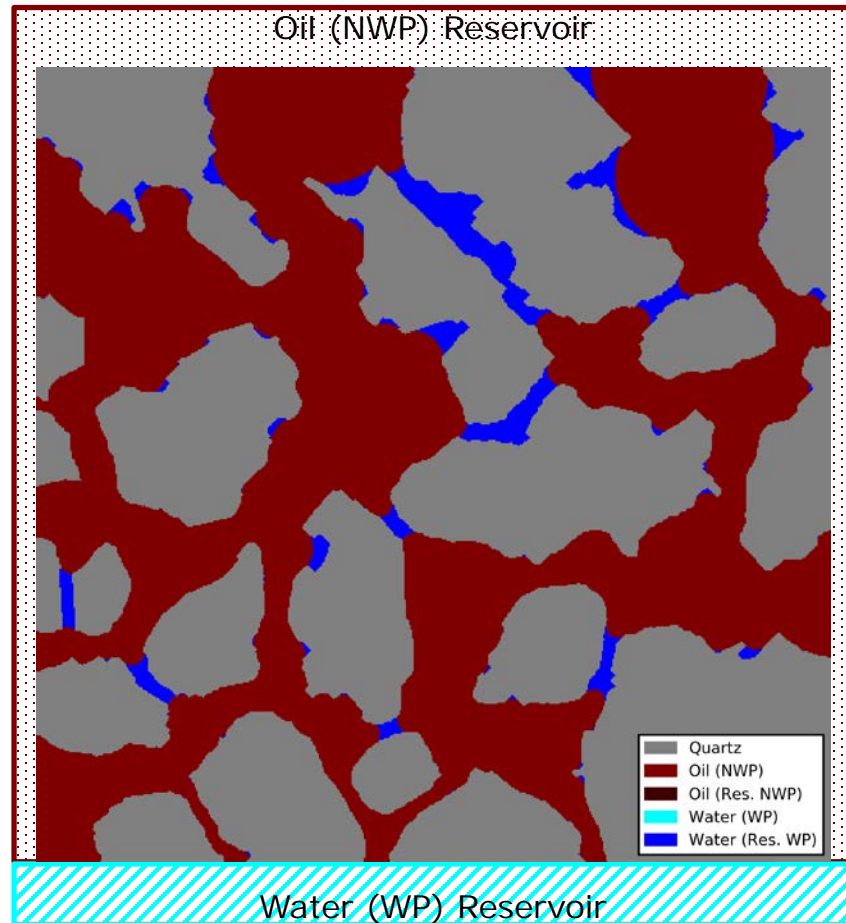


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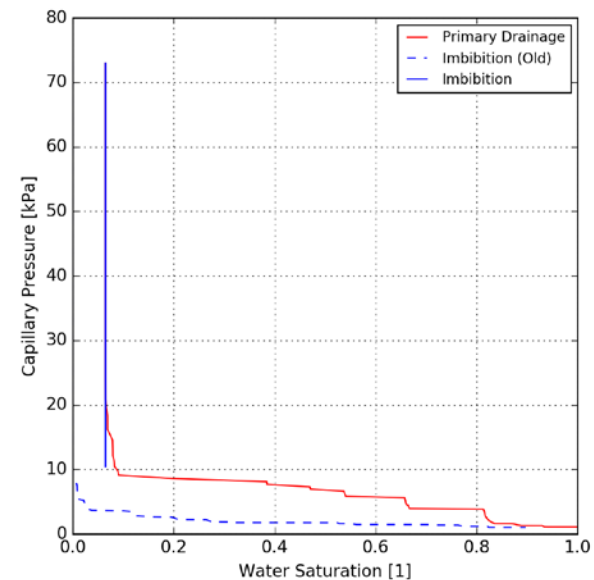


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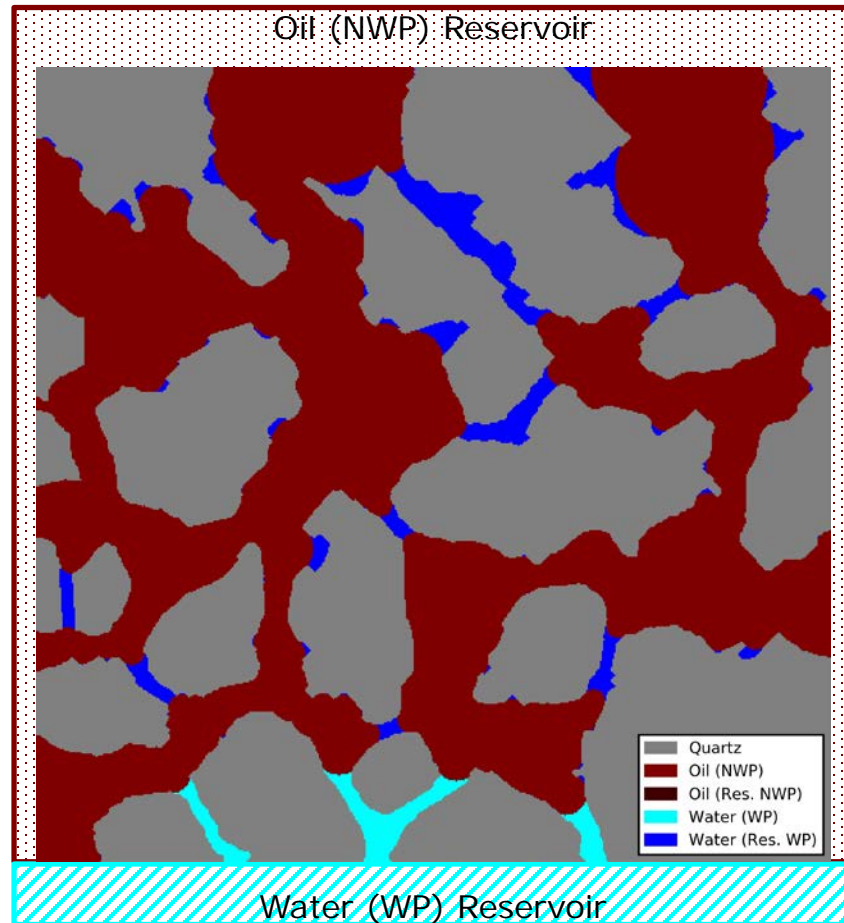


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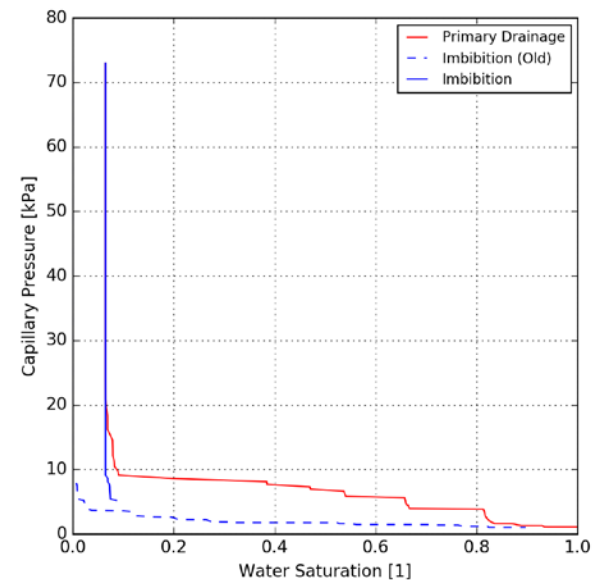


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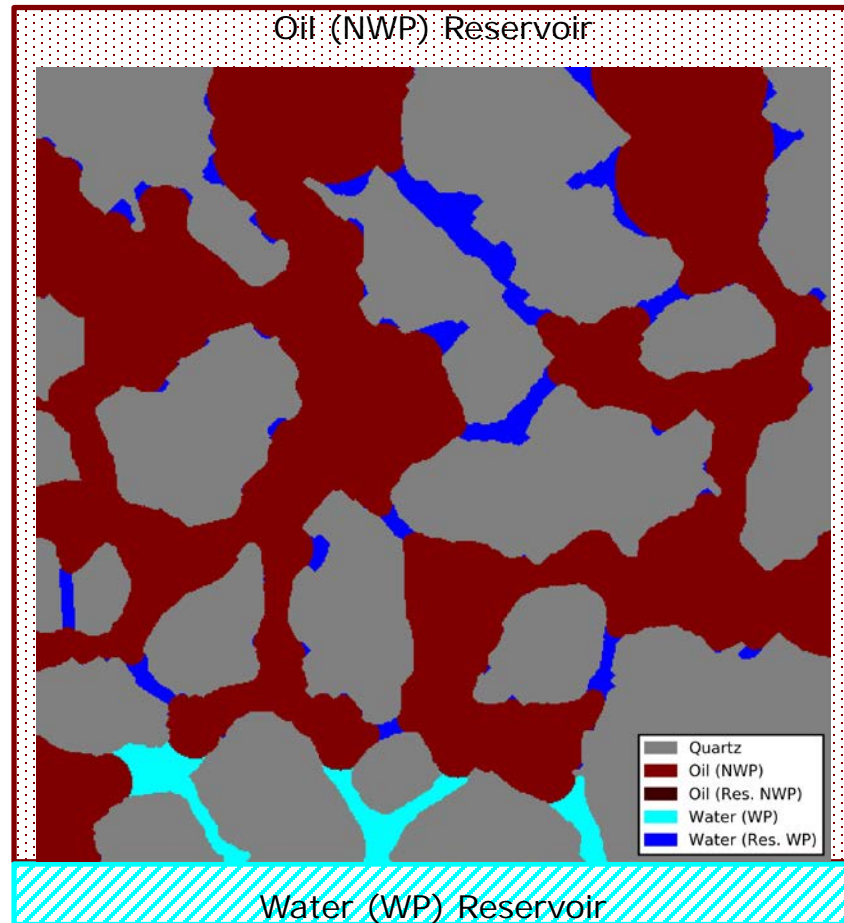


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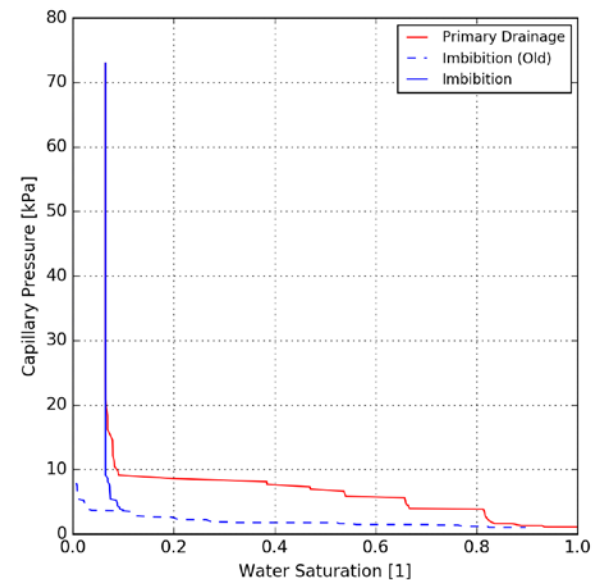


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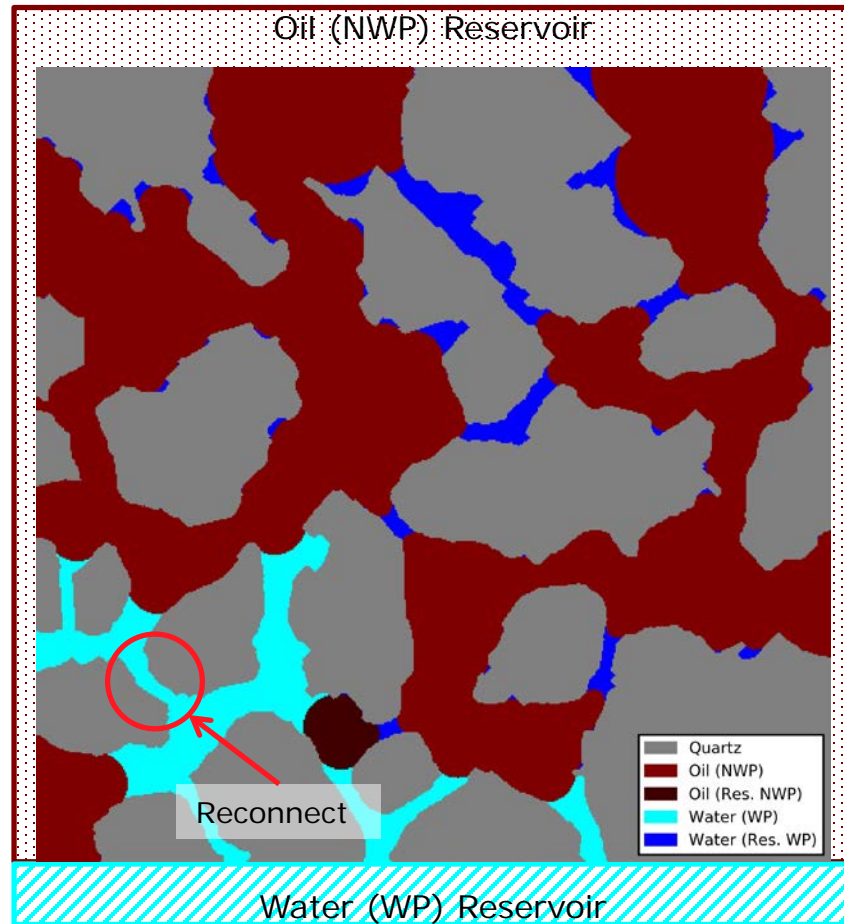


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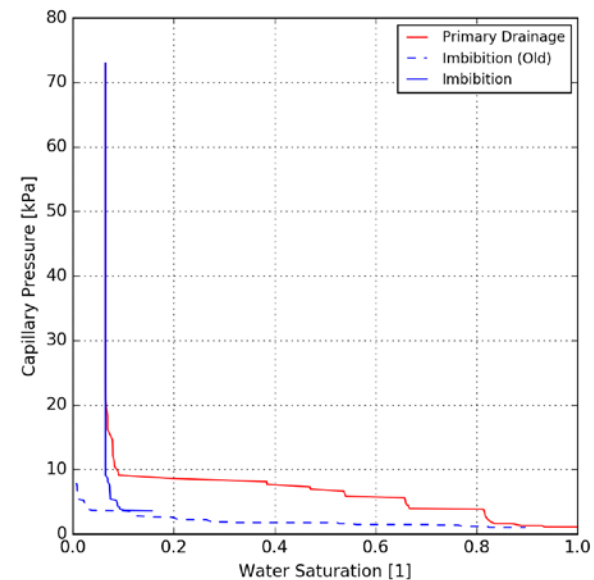


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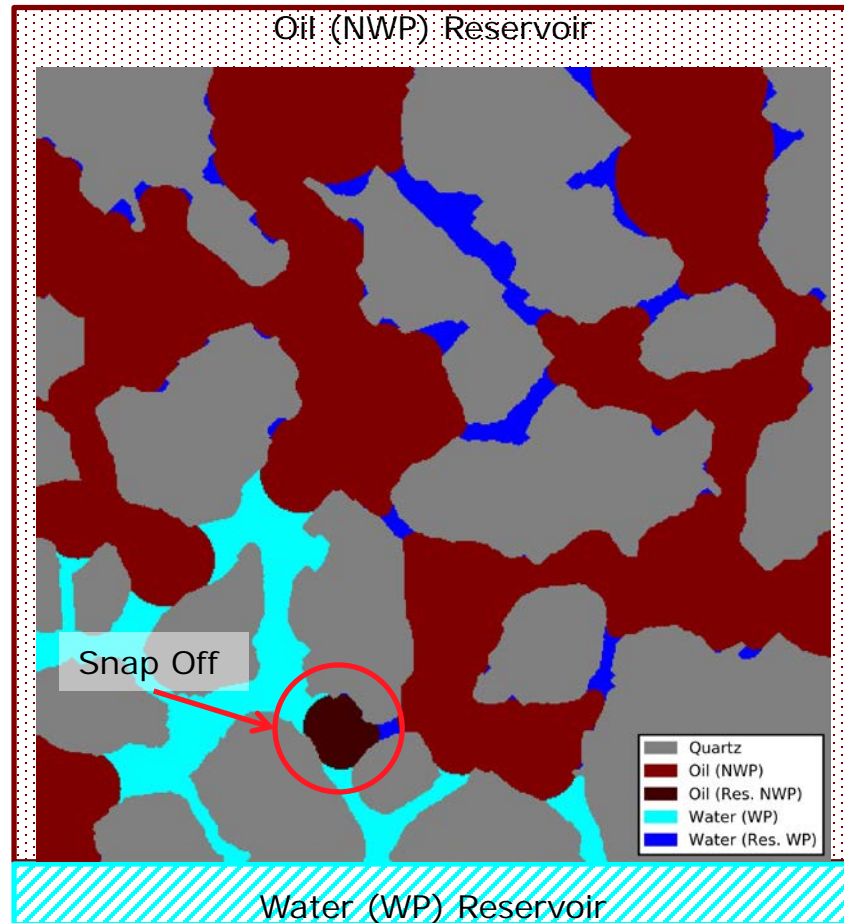


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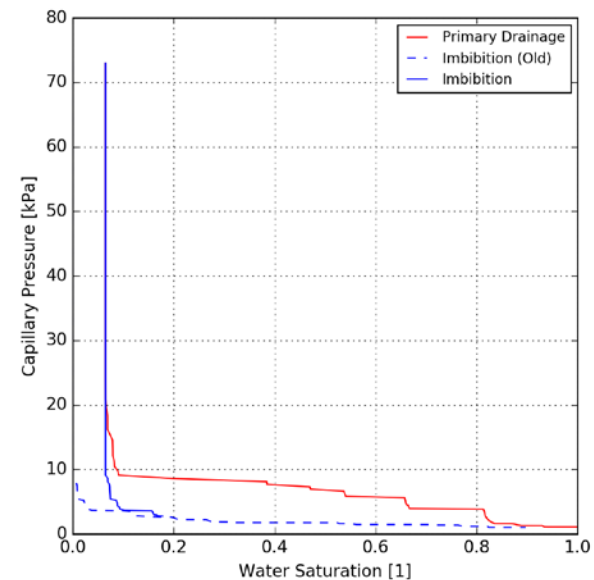


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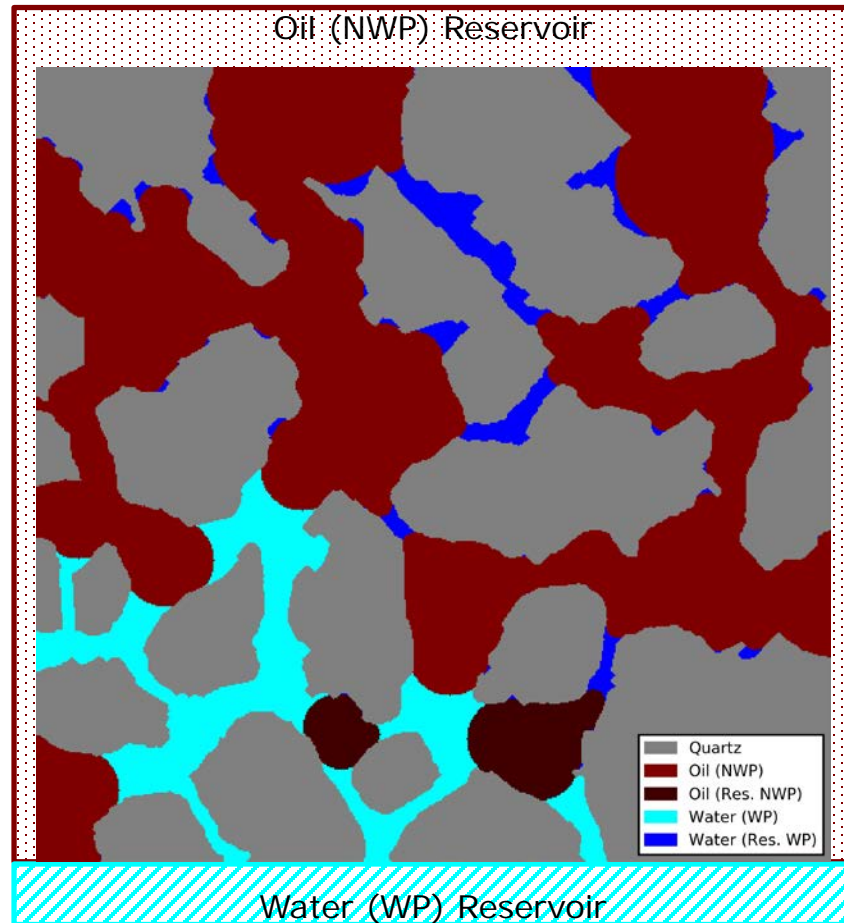


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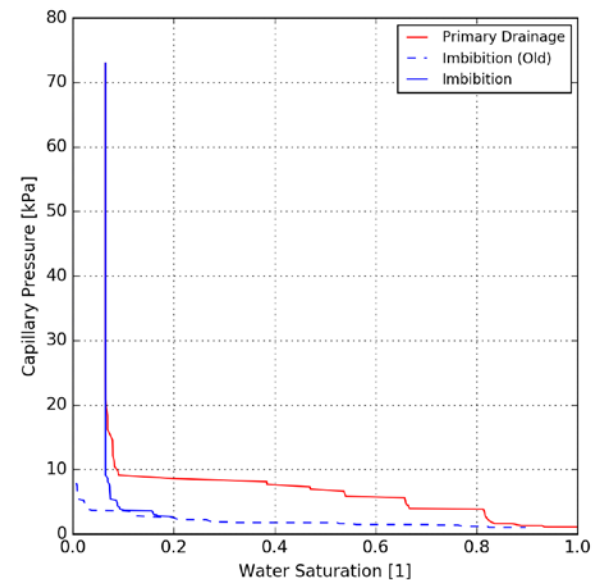


Imbibition (Waterflooding)

Water displaces Oil

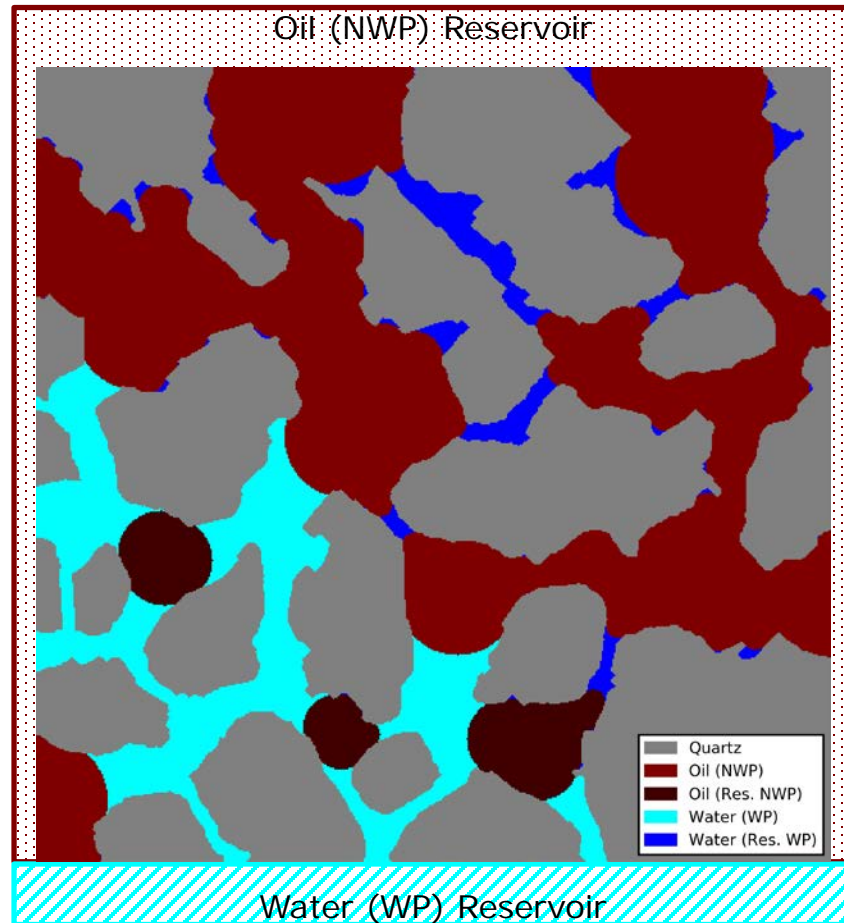


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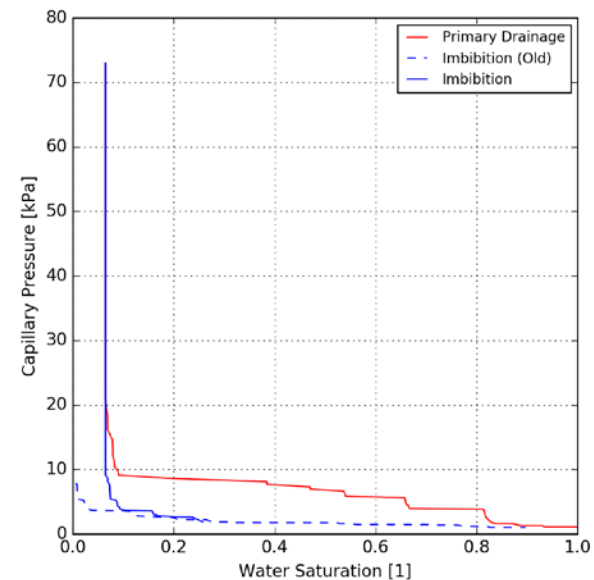


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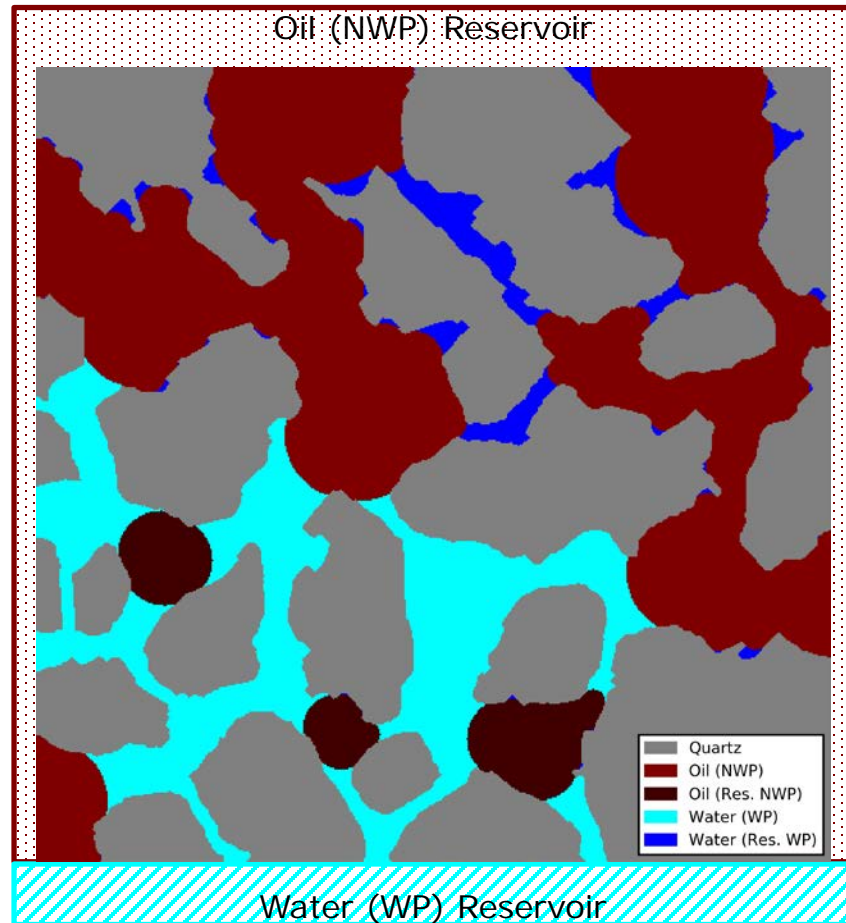


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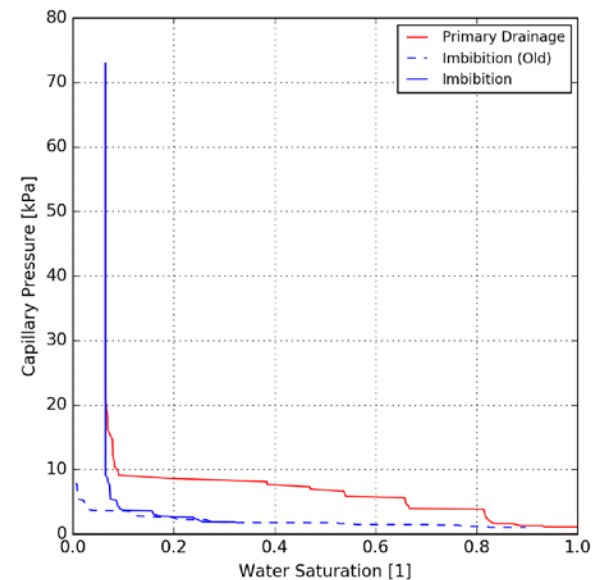


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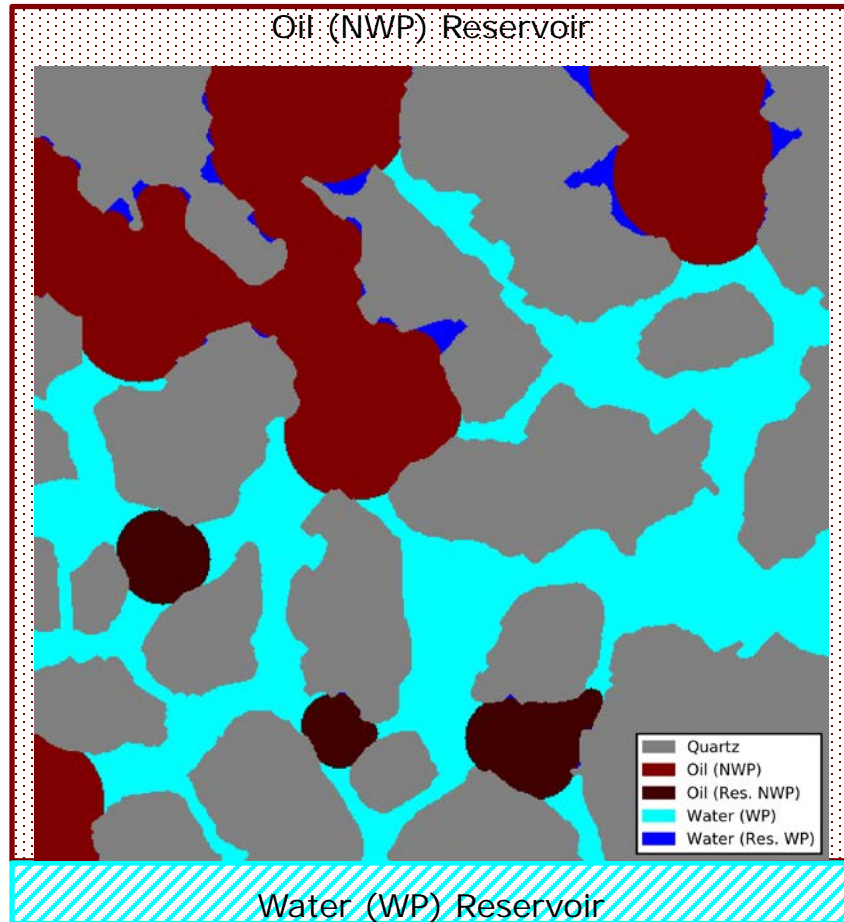


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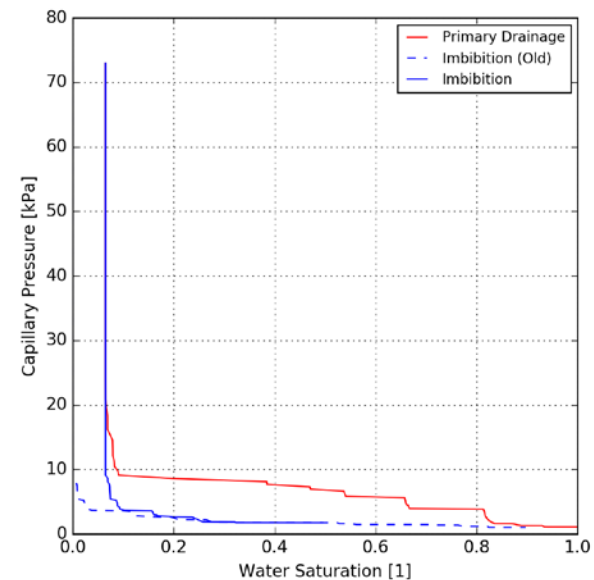


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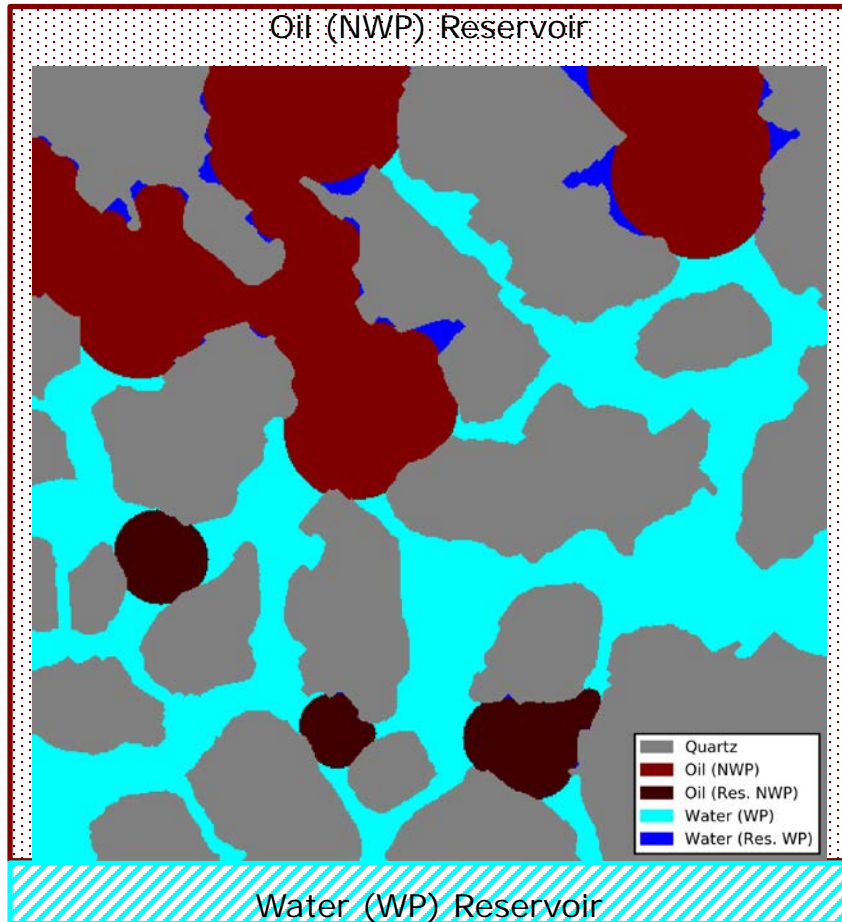


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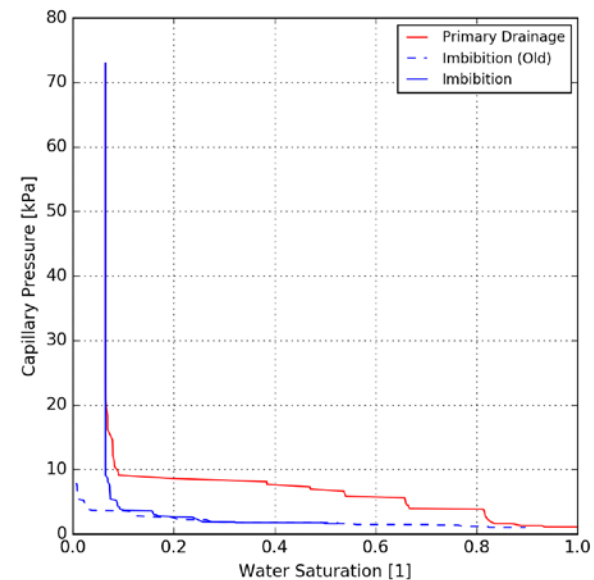


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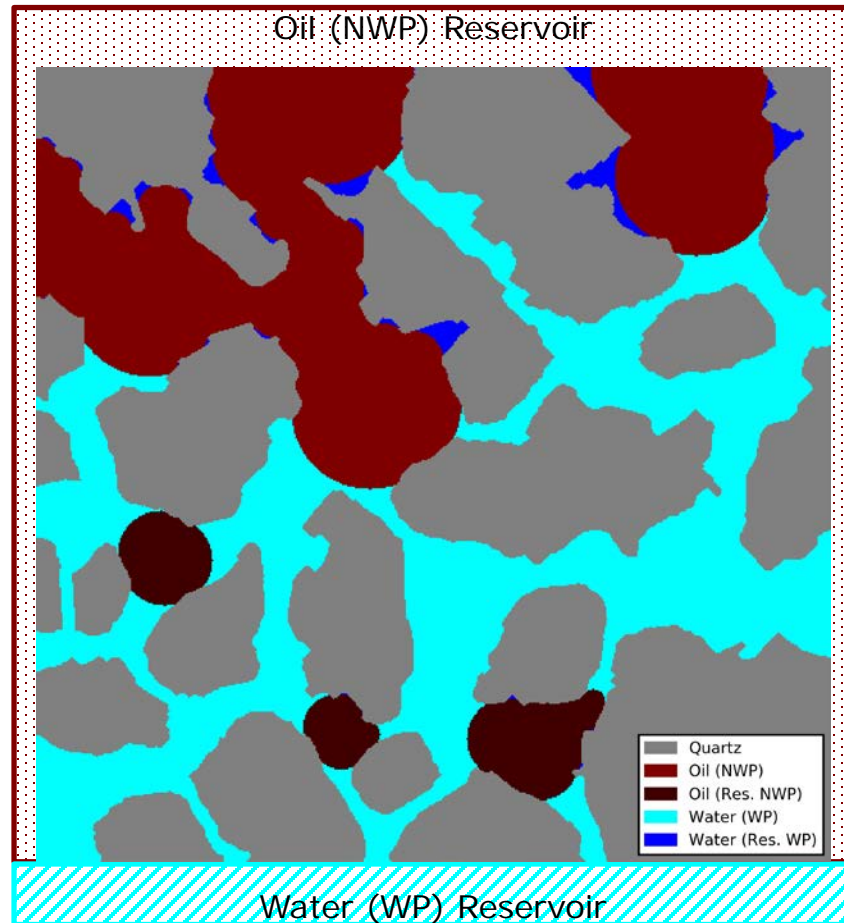


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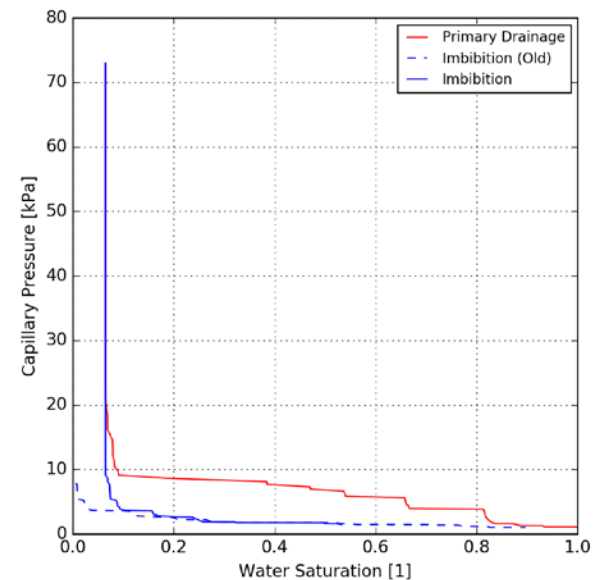


Imbibition (Waterflooding)

Water displaces Oil

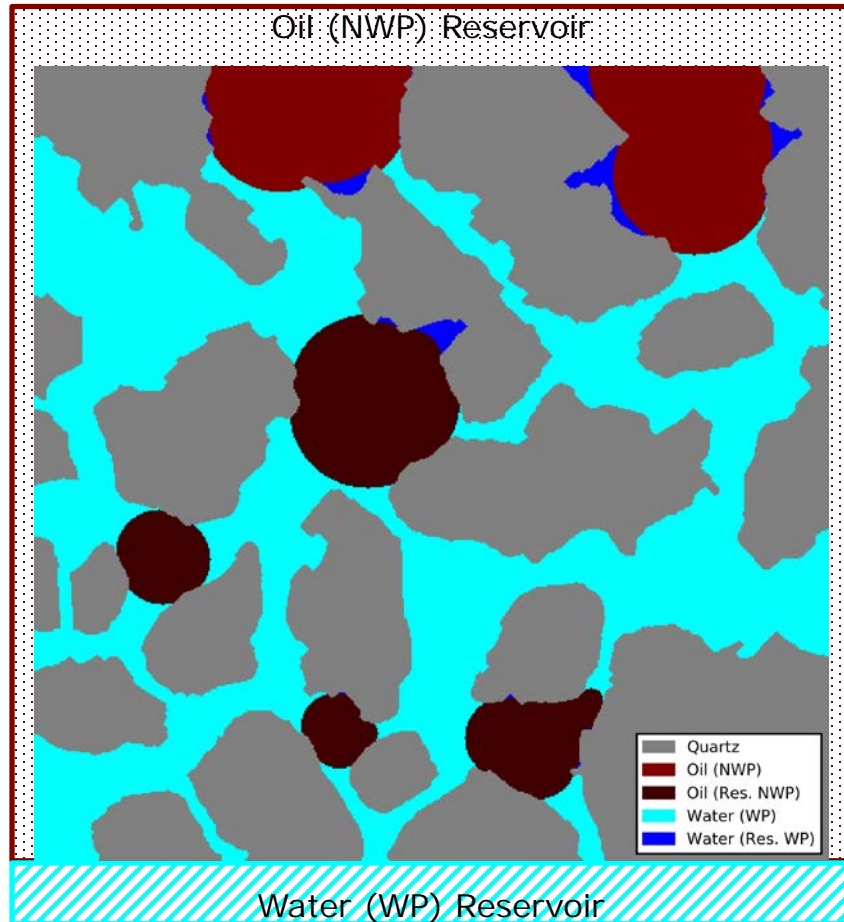


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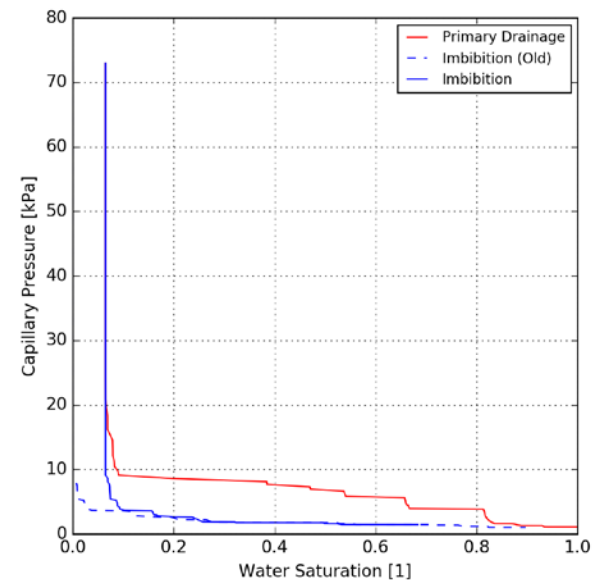


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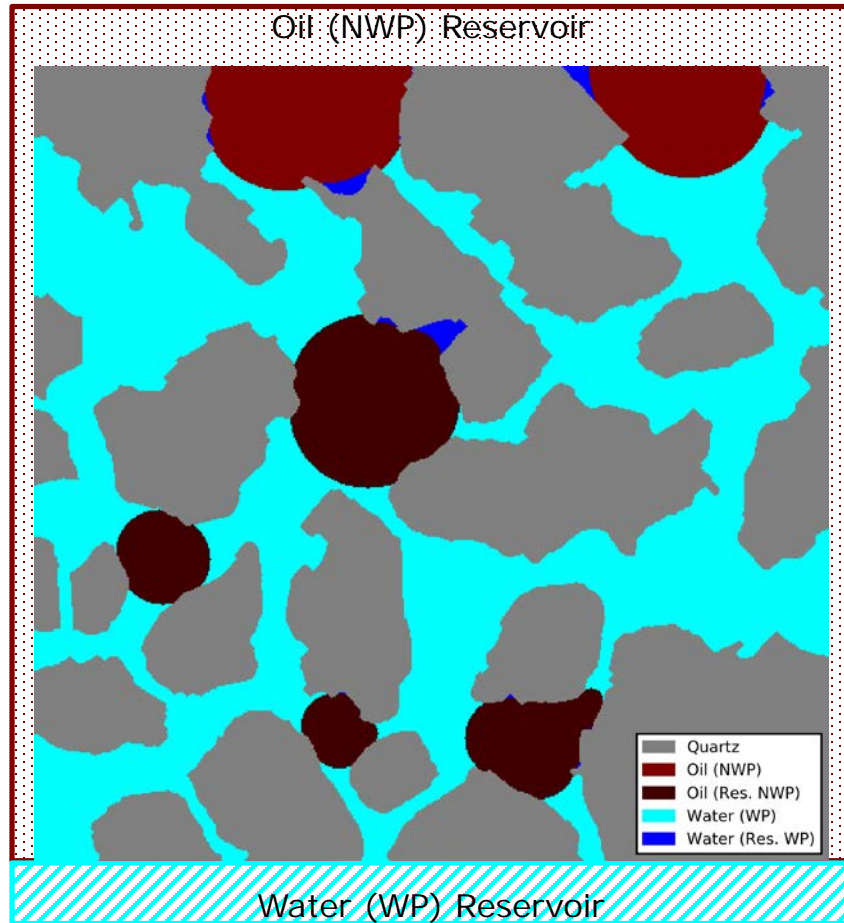


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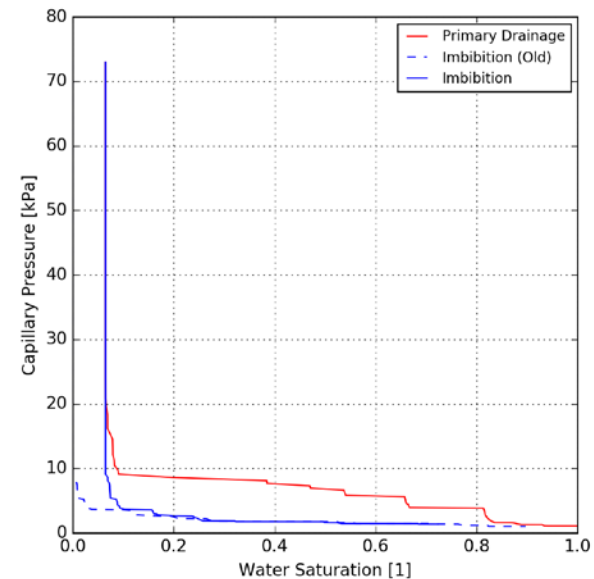


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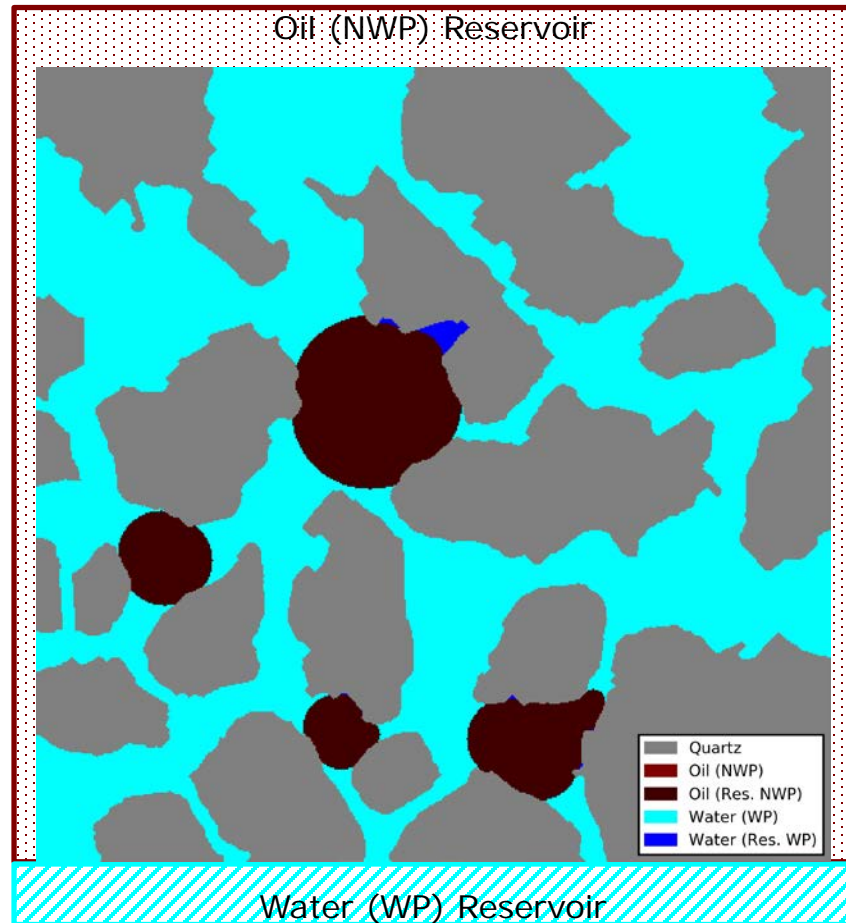


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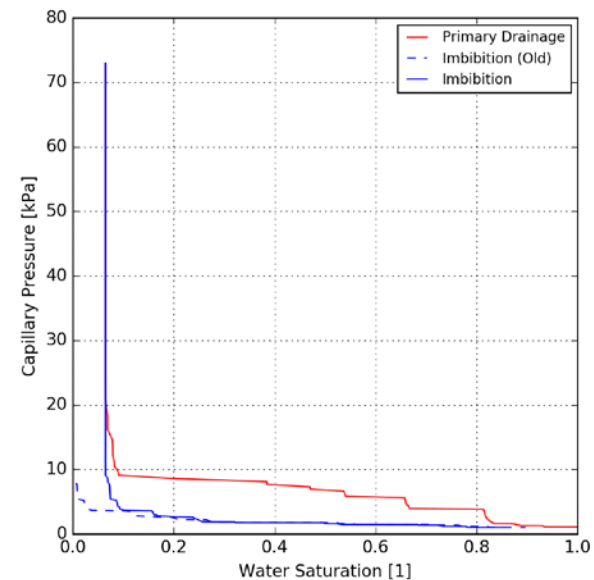


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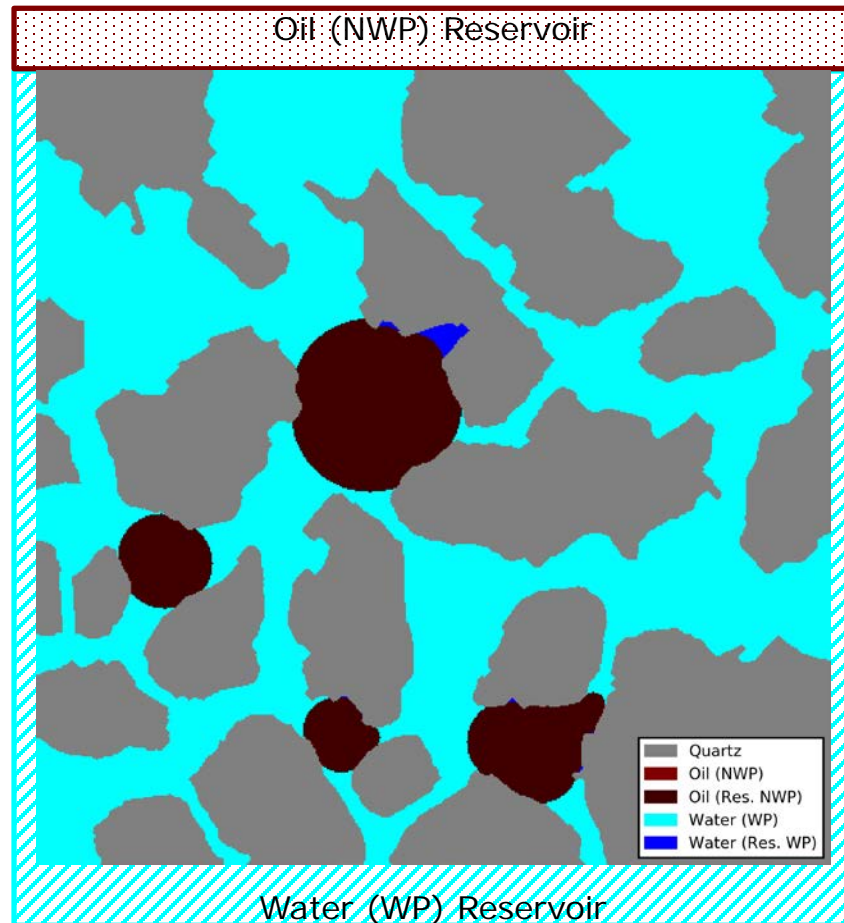


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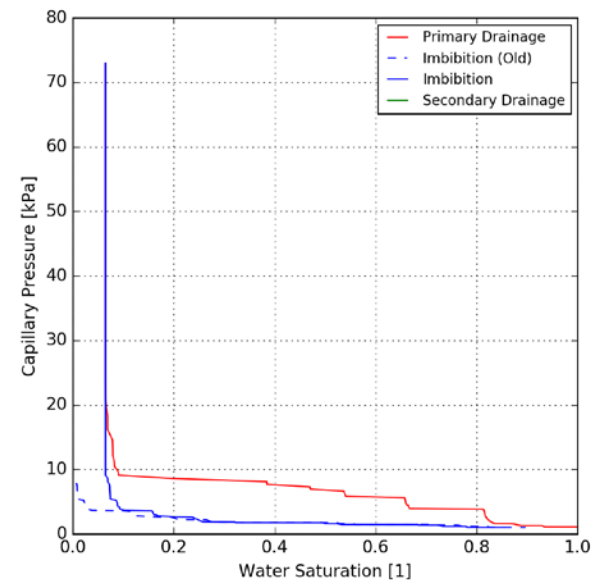


Secondary Drainage

Oil displaces Water

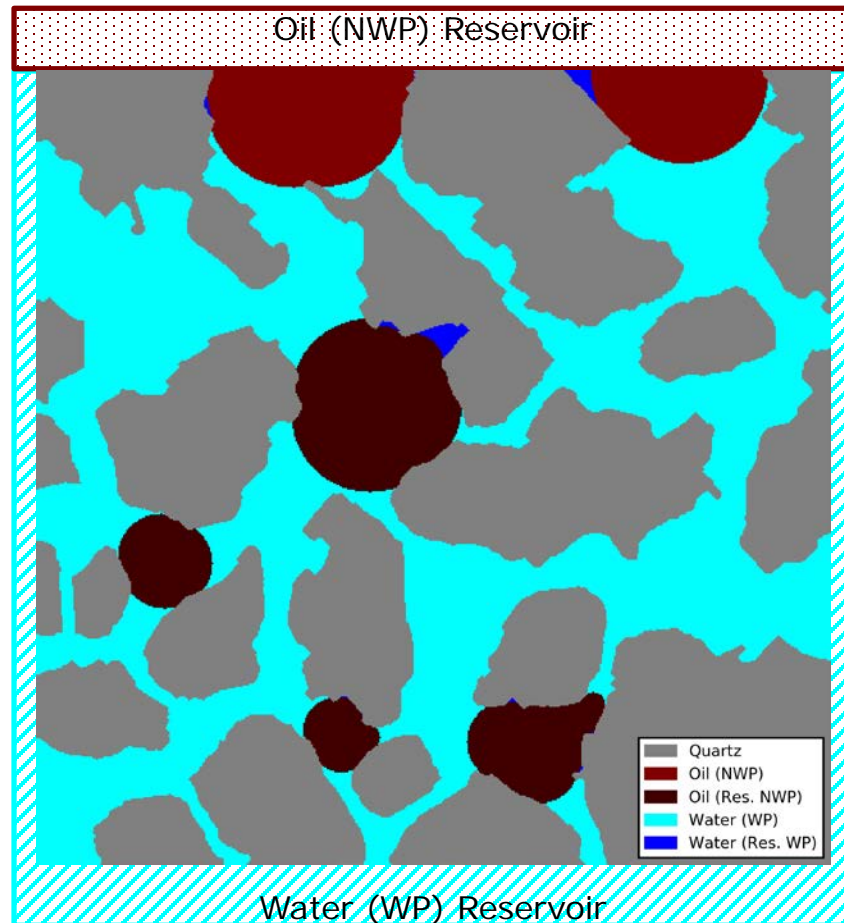


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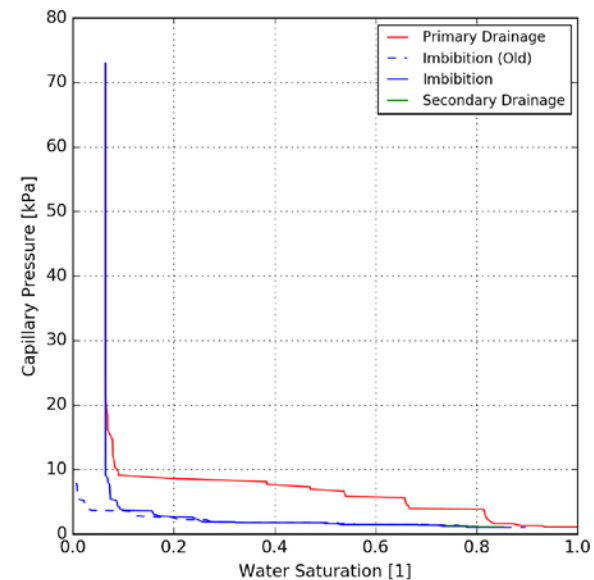


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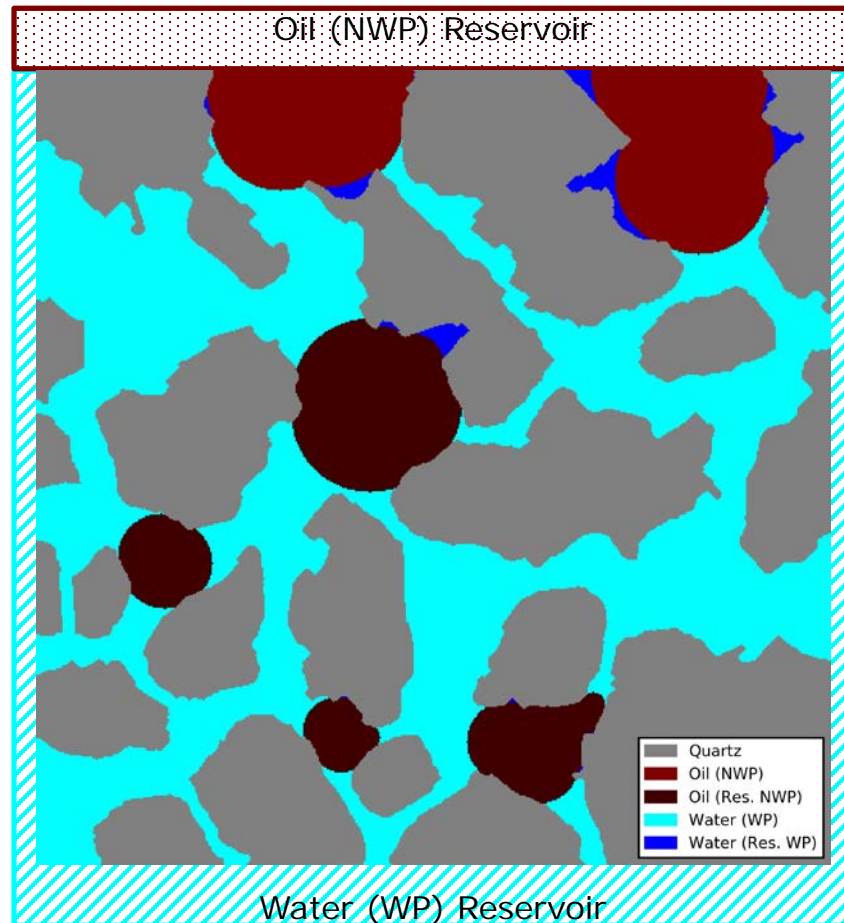


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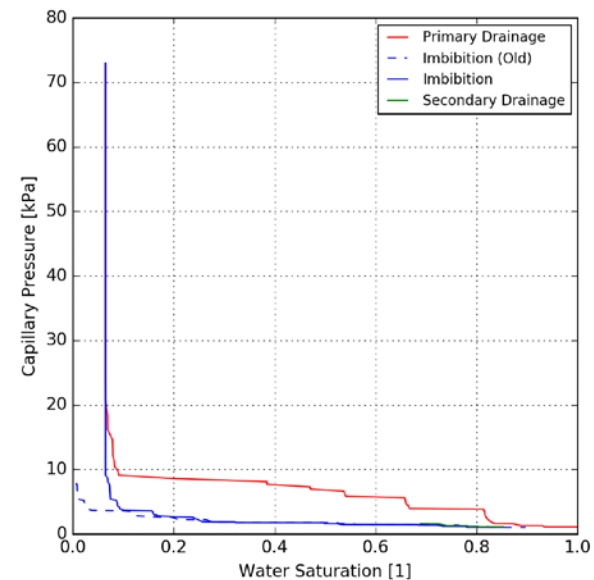


Secondary Drainage

Oil displaces Water

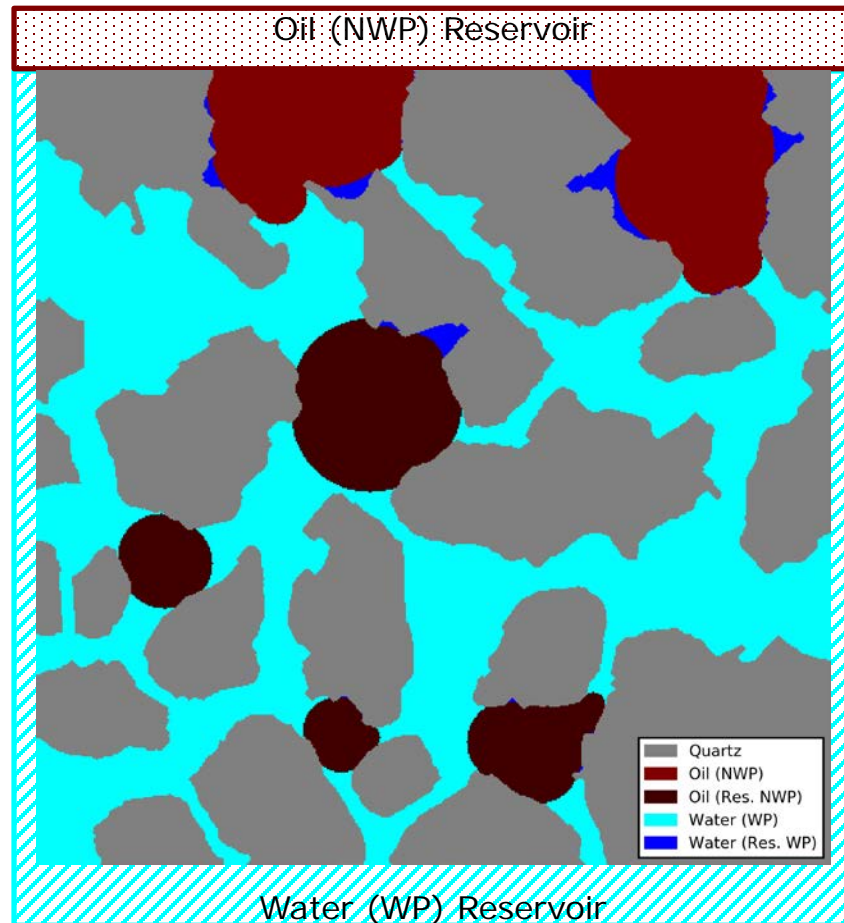


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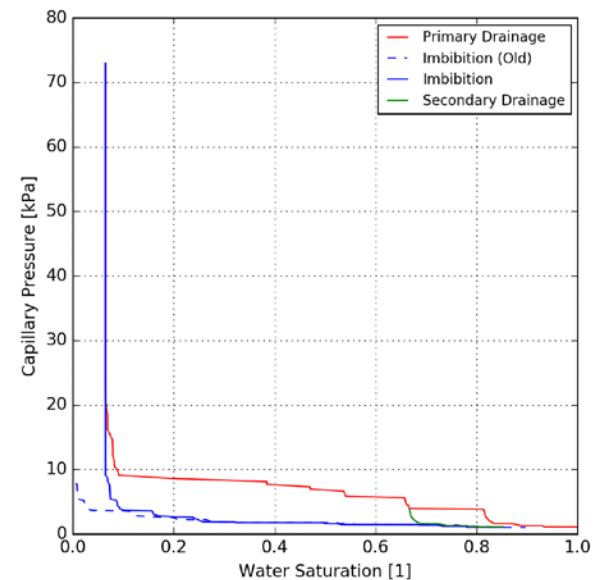


Secondary Drainage

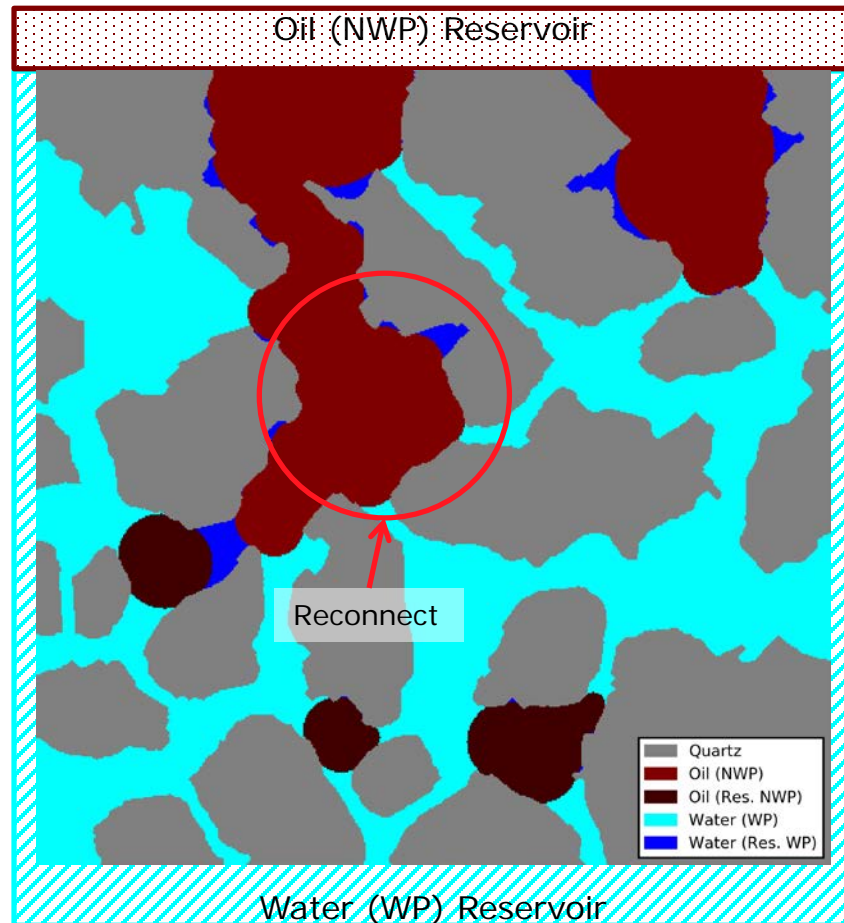
Oil displaces Water



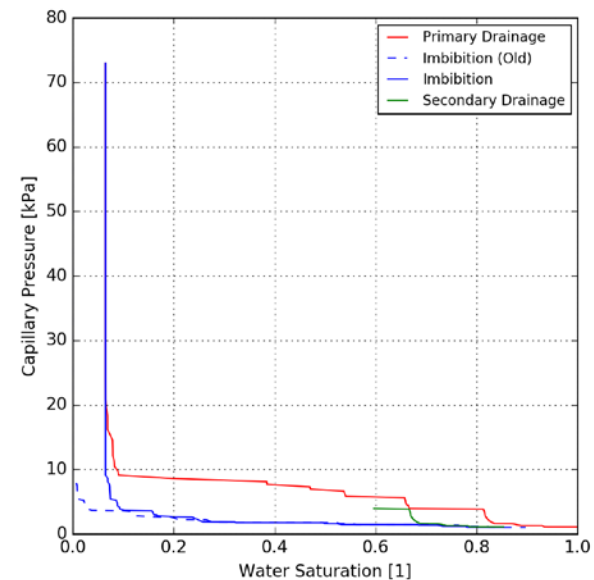
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Secondary Drainage Oil displaces Water

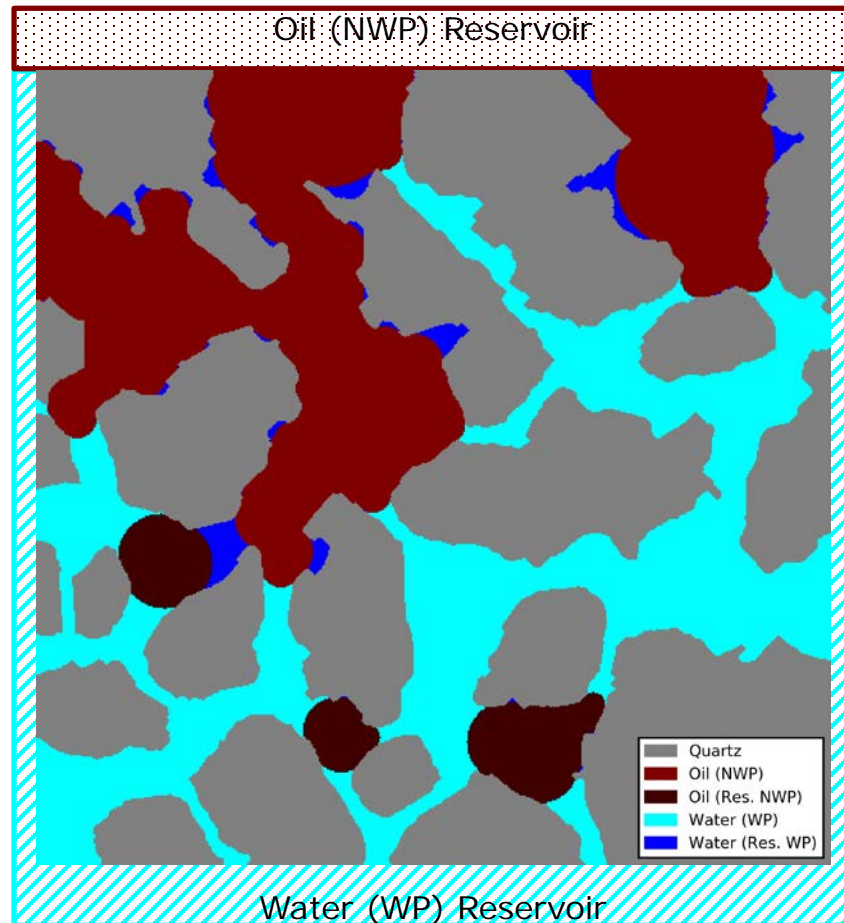


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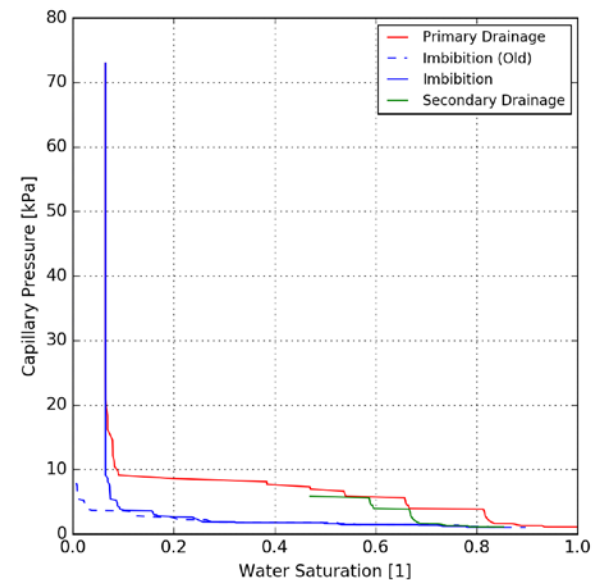


Secondary Drainage

Oil displaces Water

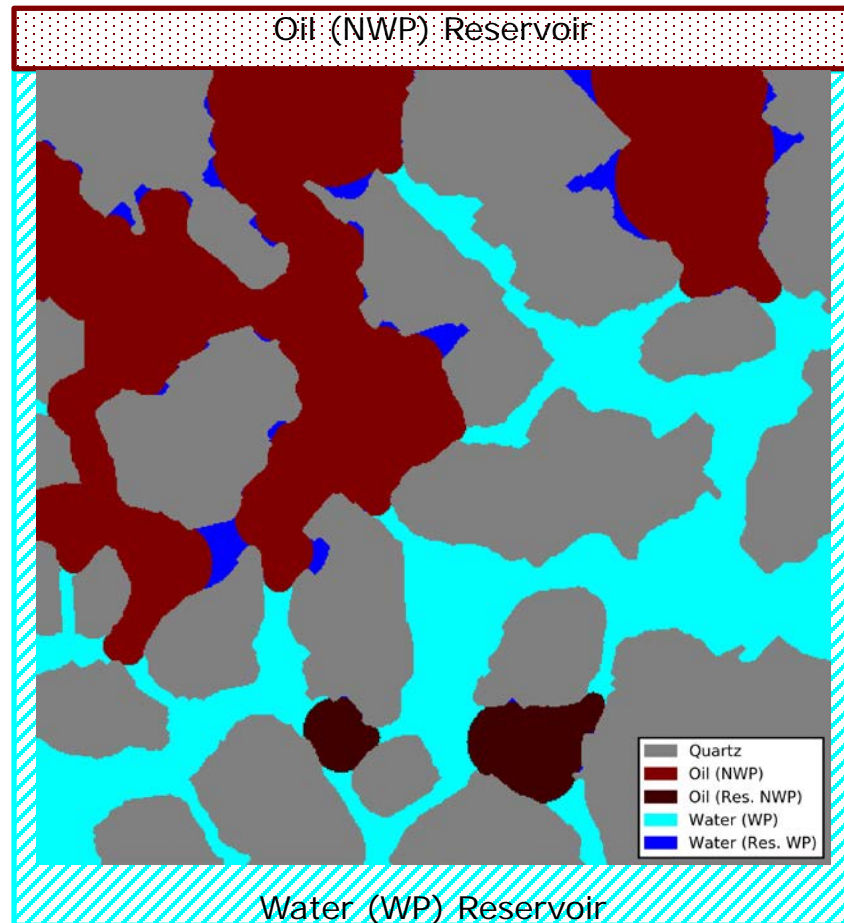


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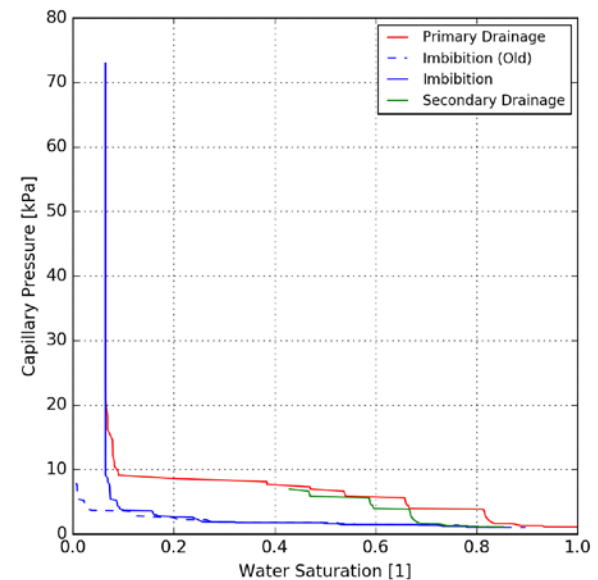


Secondary Drainage

Oil displaces Water

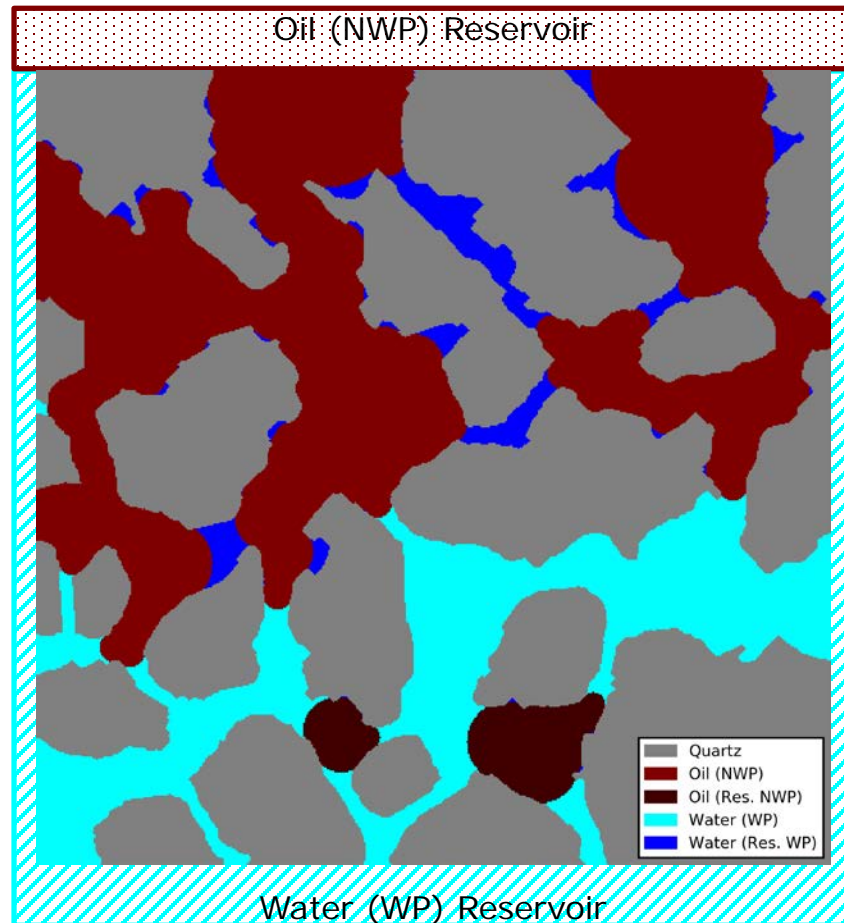


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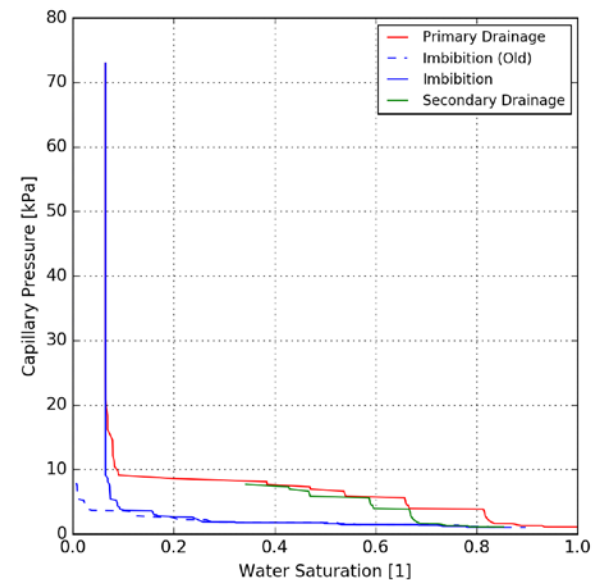


Secondary Drainage

Oil displaces Water

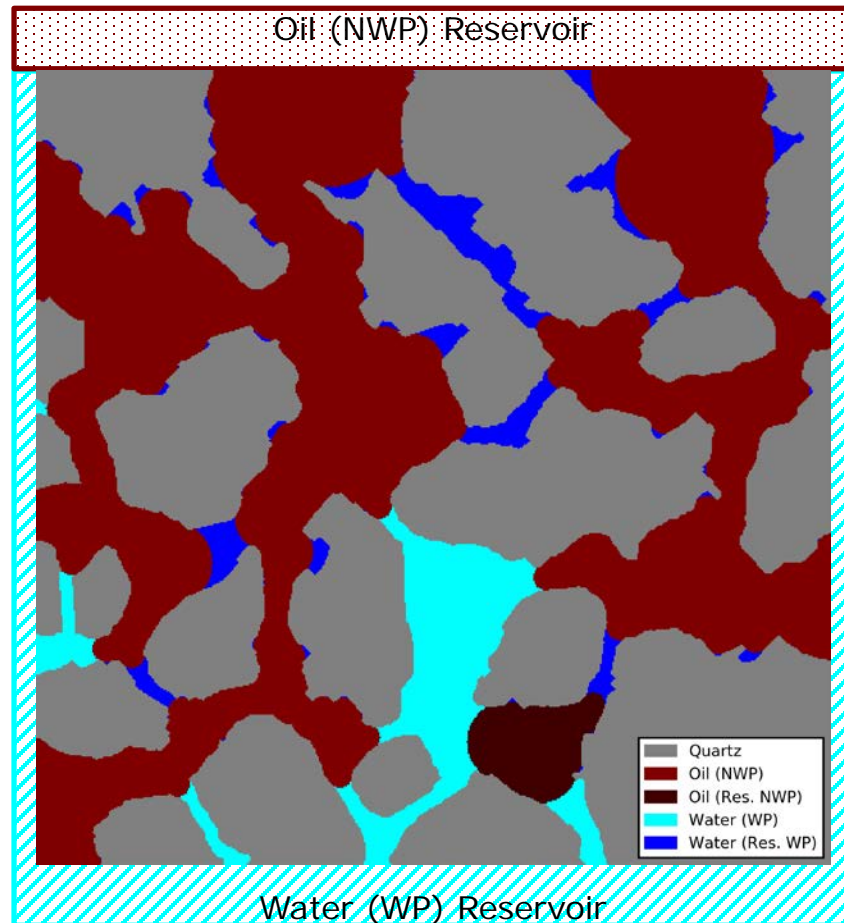


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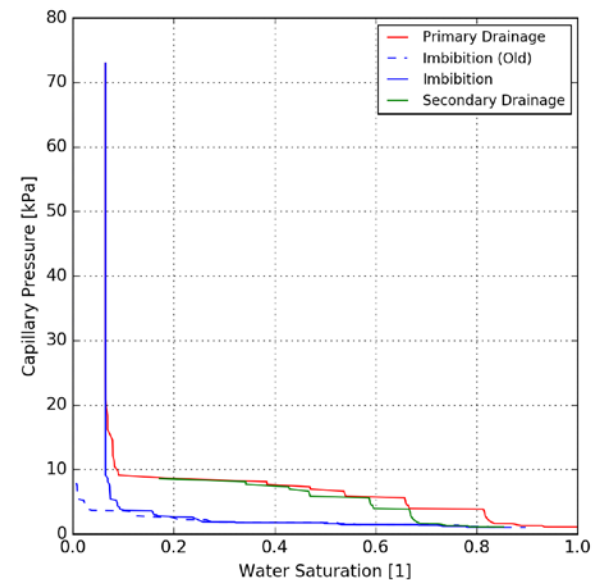


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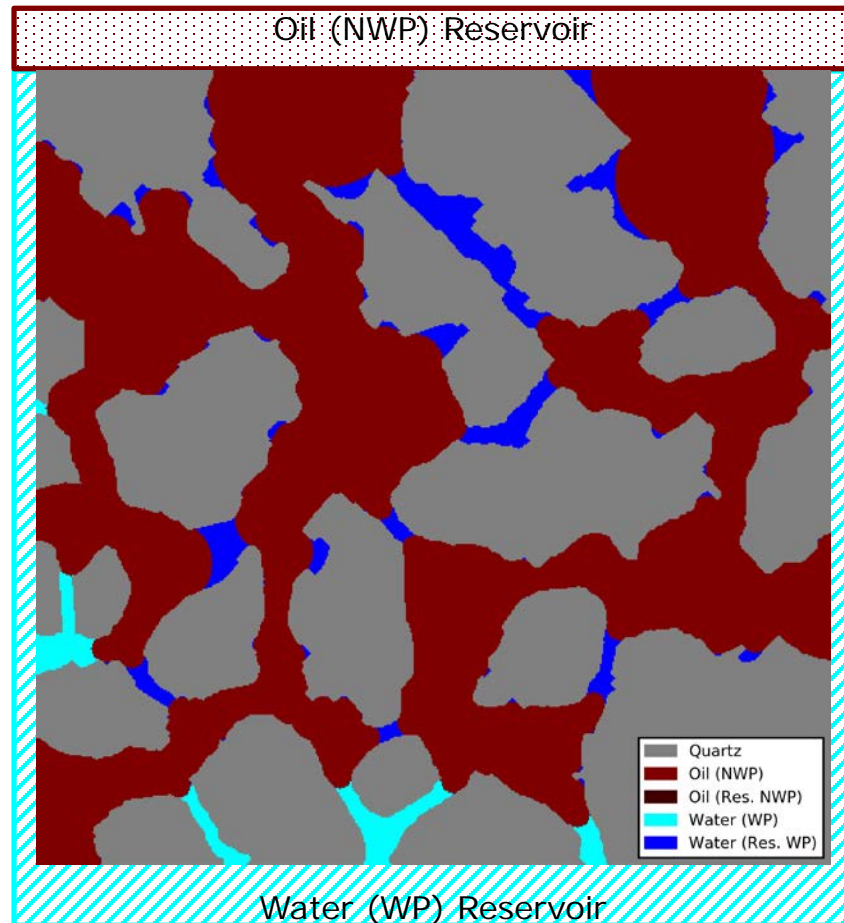


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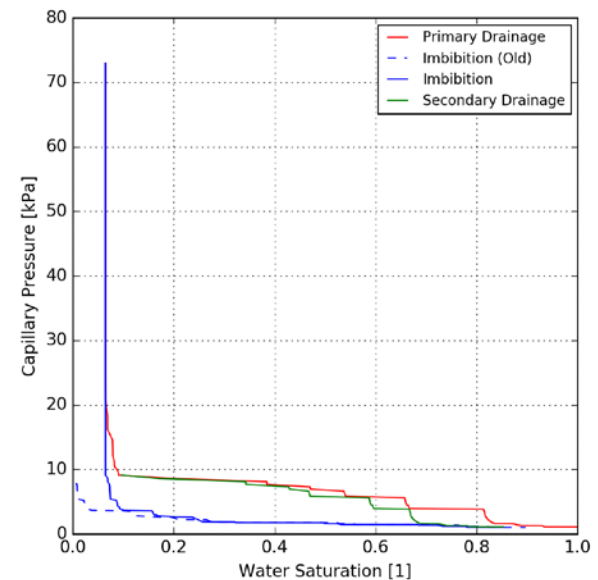


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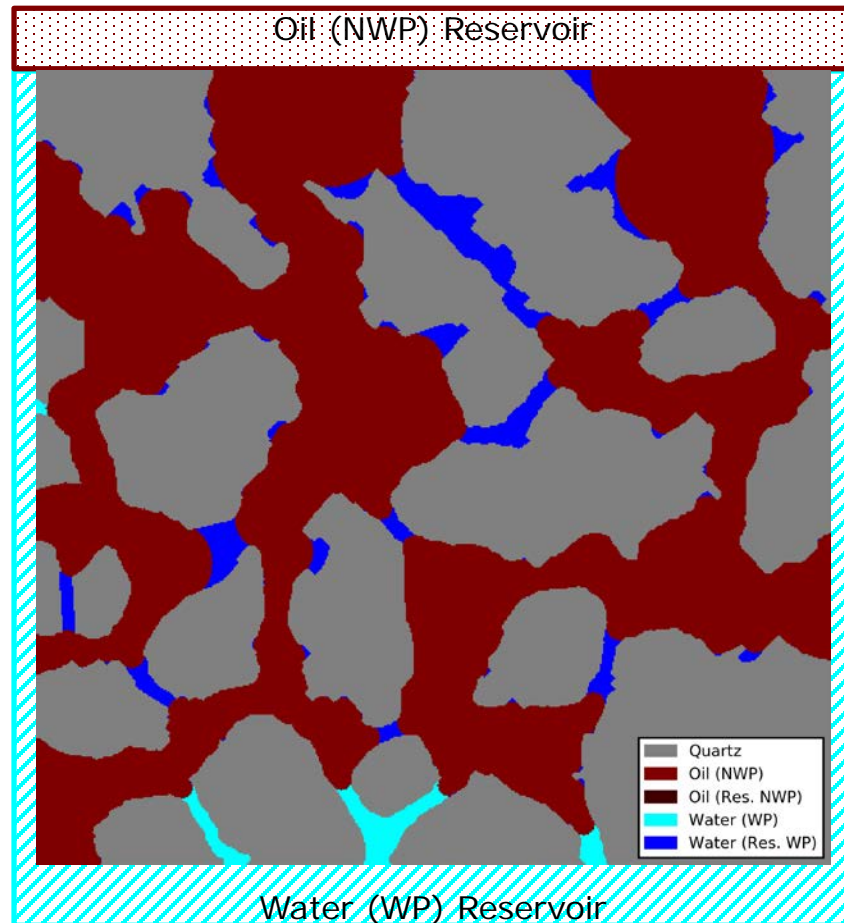


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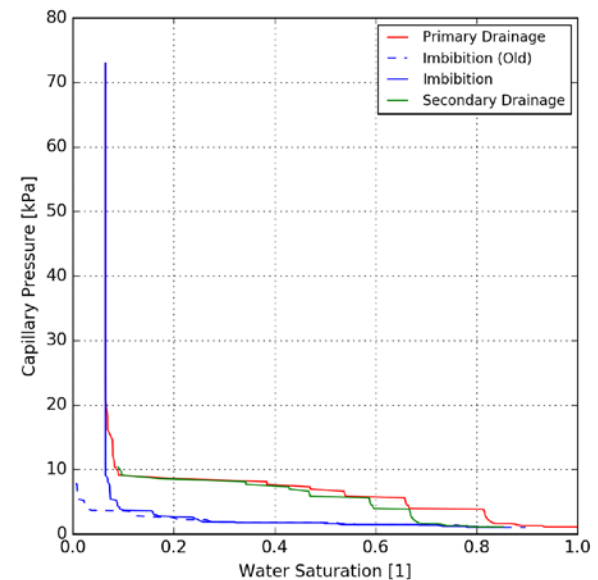


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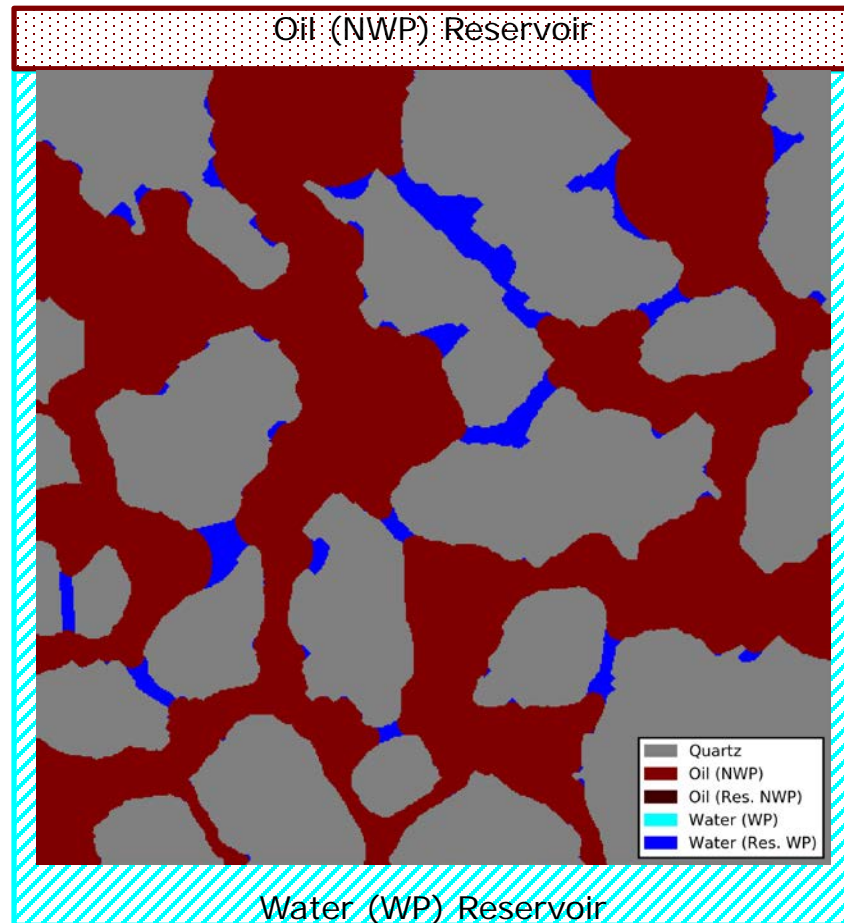


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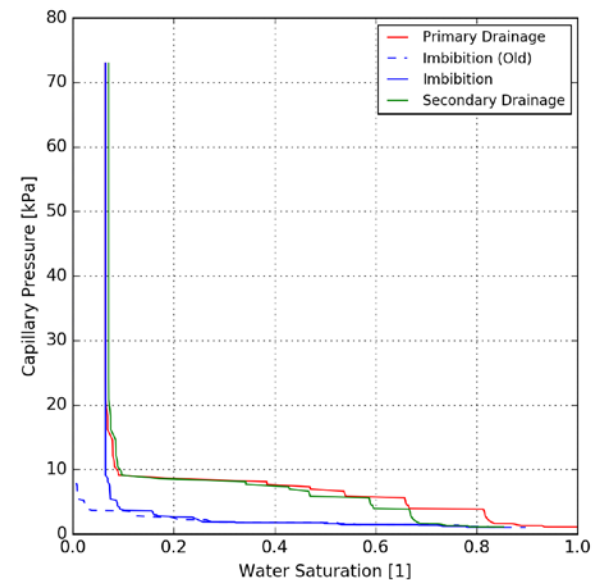


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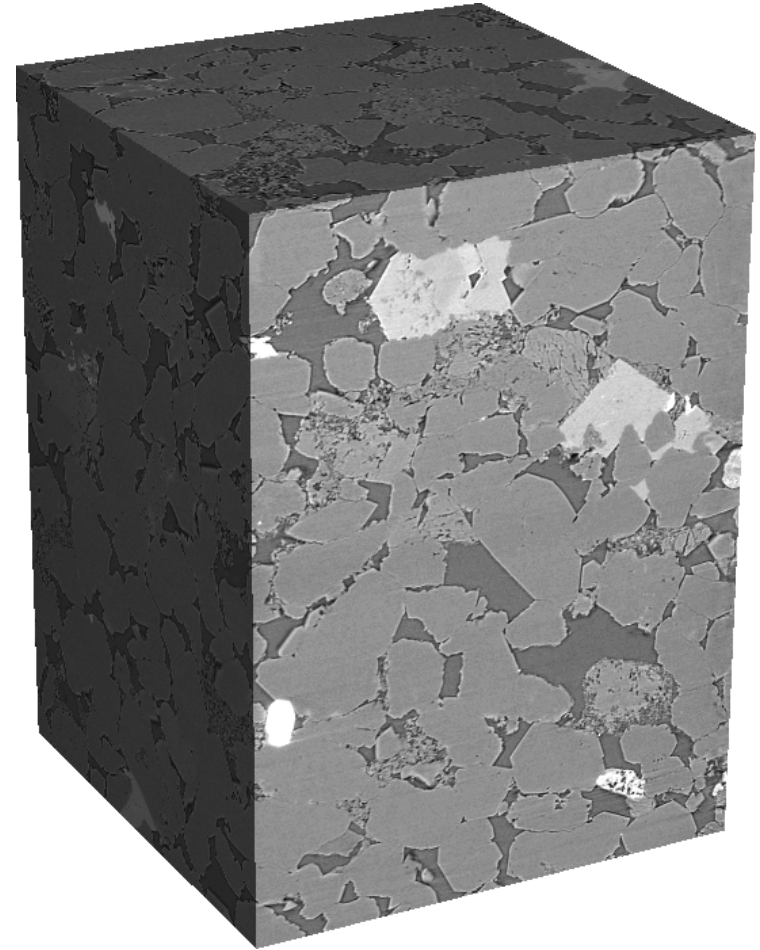
Capillary Pressure for a Berea Sandstone

Structure - Berea Sandstone:

- Size: 720x720x1024
- Voxel length: 0.74 μm
- Porosity: 18.4 %

Simulation Parameters:

- Contact Angle: 30°
- Surface Tension: 0.027 N/m



Capillary Pressure for a Berea Sandstone

Structure - Berea Sandstone:

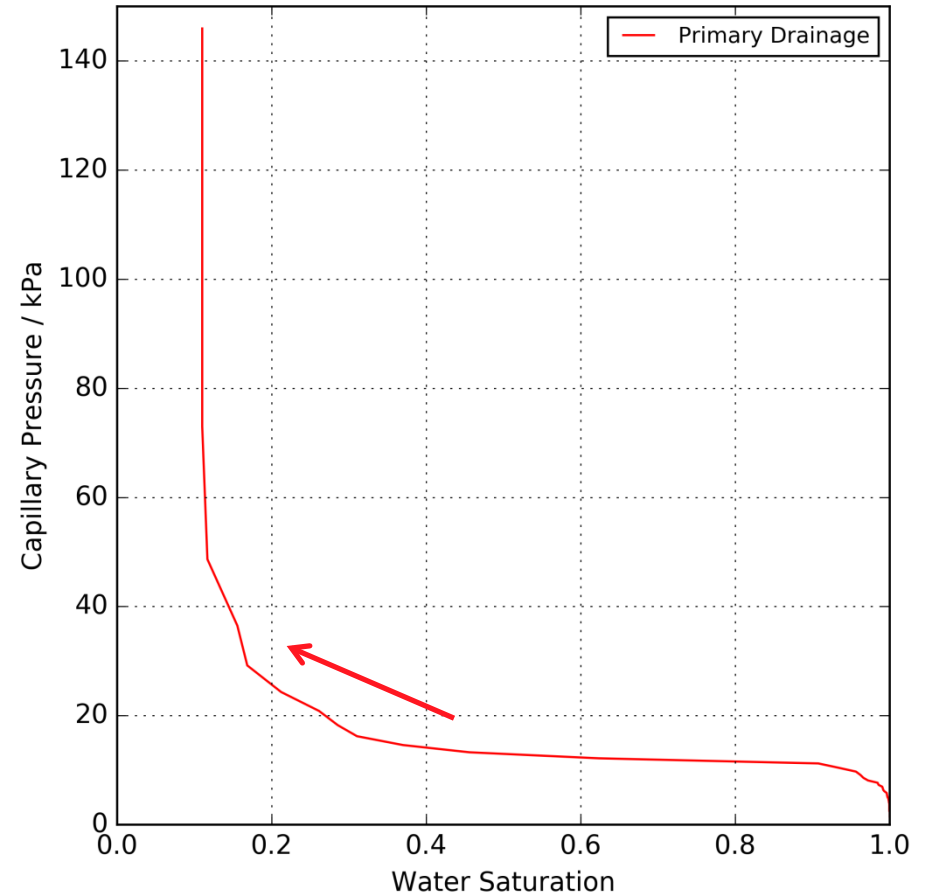
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Simulation Results:

- Displacement Pressure: 11.2 kPa
- Irreducible WP: 11%



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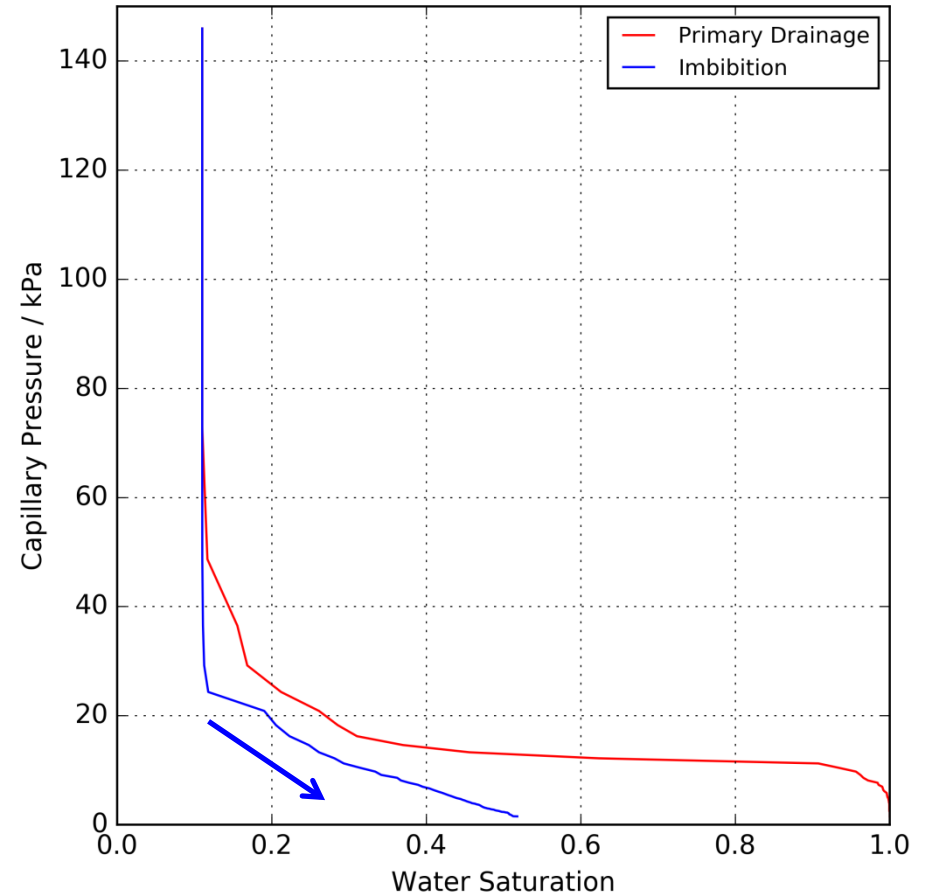
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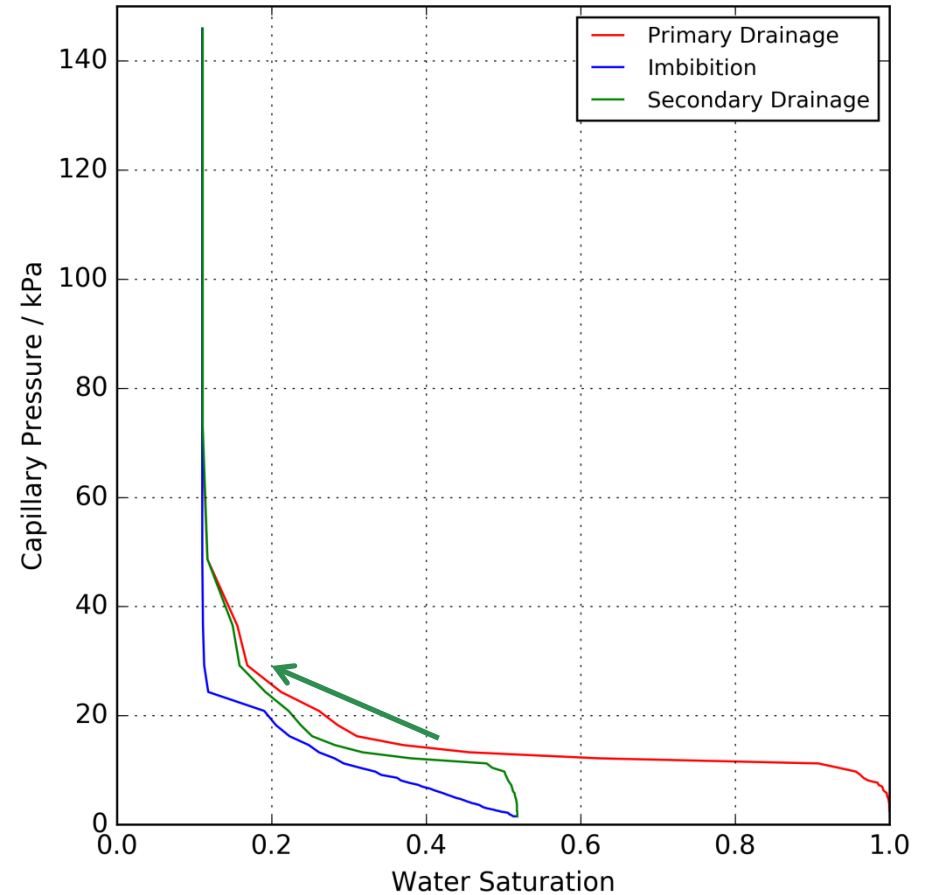
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- Irreducible NWP: 51%

Simulation Performance:

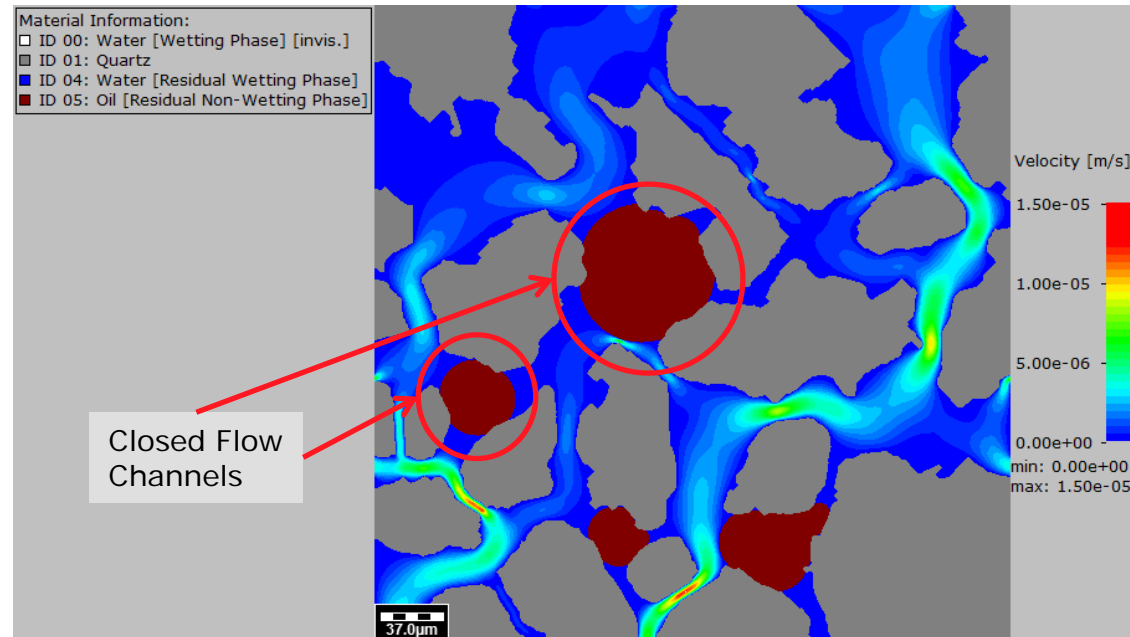
- Memory: 5.2 GB
- Runtime: 6.7 h



Computation of Relative Permeability

Basic Idea

- Find
 - Oil distribution and
 - Water distribution
- Choose
 - Saturation levels and
 - Flow solver parameters
- Solve Stokes equations in
 - Water phase and treat oil phase as solid
 - Oil phase and treat water phase as solid



Stokes flow of water from bottom to top.
Oil droplets close large flow channels.

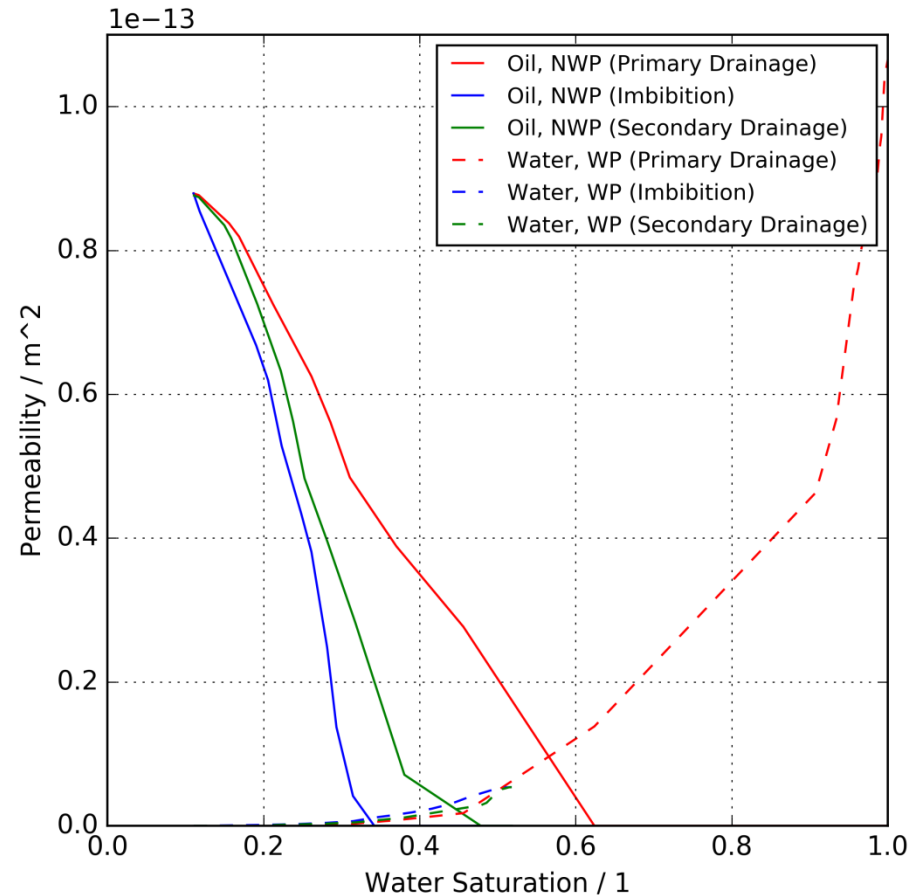
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Conclusions & Future Work

Conclusions

- The pore morphology method was extended to consider residual non-wetting and residual wetting phase at the same time
- The approach is able to reproduce the hysteresis effect of capillary pressure for digital rocks

Future Work

- Validation of the approach by comparing simulation results with experiments

Vision

- Compressibility of residual phases
- Mixed wettability

GEO DICT

The Digital Material Laboratory

Standard Edition

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and Andreas Wiegmann, PhD

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