

Partial Differential Equations

# Weak solutions for immiscible compressible multifluid flows in porous media

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Received 26 September 2008; accepted after revision 27 January 2009

Available online 20 February 2009

Presented by Jean-Michel Bony

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## Abstract

We consider a multifluid flow model describing evolution of pressures and relative saturations of non-miscible and compressible phases in porous media. This model is obtained by a macroscopic representation of the flow. It takes into account capillary effects and velocity fields are described by Darcy laws. Global weak solutions for such a model is introduced. **To cite this article:** *C. Galusinski, M. Saad, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 347 (2009).*

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## Résumé

**Solutions faibles pour un modèle d'écoulement multifluide compressible immiscible en milieu poreux.** Dans cette note, nous considérons un modèle décrivant l'évolution des pressions et des saturations relatives à des fluides non-miscibles compressibles. Ce modèle est obtenu à l'aide d'une représentation macroscopique de l'écoulement où le champ de vitesse de chaque phase est décrit par une loi de Darcy et prend en compte les effets capillaires. L'existence de solutions faibles pour ce problème de Cauchy est présentée. **Pour citer cet article :** *C. Galusinski, M. Saad, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 347 (2009).*

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## Version française abrégée

Le problème de Cauchy pour des solutions faibles d'écoulements diphasiques non-miscibles est bien compris en écoulement incompressible depuis l'introduction de ces modèles [1,3,5]. En revanche les écoulements compressibles s'avèrent beaucoup plus ardu. Les premiers résultats d'existence de solutions faibles globales sont récents [6,7] et s'appuient sur une estimation d'énergie non triviale pour un modèle à deux phases faisant intervenir une pression dite globale introduite dans [3]. Dans [6,7], les modèles traités font intervenir la densité de chaque phase comme une fonction de la pression globale, ce qui constitue une approximation. Cette approche est justifiée lorsque les pressions capillaires sont faibles devant les pressions de chaque phase. Dans ce travail, le résultat est étendu au cas des densités de chaque phase dépendantes de leur propre pression. Pour un écoulement biphasique immiscible et compressible,

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on montre l'existence de solutions faibles sous la seule hypothèse d'une densité bornée, non dégénérée et fonction croissante de la pression.

On présente également une généralisation aux écoulements multifluides ( $m$ -phases,  $m$  quelconque). Pour les écoulements triphasiques, l'hypothèse de « différentielle totale » est introduite pour définir la pression globale [3]. En écoulement incompressible triphasique, sous cette hypothèse de différentielle totale, l'existence de solutions faibles est établie dans [4]. Dans cette Note, ce concept de « différentielle totale » est étendue au cas de  $m$  phases ( $m \geq 3$ ) et au cas d'écoulements compressibles. La pression  $p_i$  de chaque phase se représente par une variation de la pression globale :

$$p_i = p + g_i,$$

où  $g_i$  est une fonction des saturations. L'hypothèse de différentiabilité totale se traduit par une relation entre les pressions capillaires et les mobilités permettant de définir judicieusement les écarts ( $g_i$ ) à la pression globale  $p$ . Dans le cas biphasique, cette hypothèse est automatiquement vérifiée.

Une estimation d'énergie nouvelle permet de traiter le cas de  $m$  phases et d'établir que  $\nabla p$  et  $\nabla g_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) sont de carré sommable en temps et en espace (Theorem 2.2). Les gradients de pression de chaque phase ( $\nabla p_i$ ) ne sont pas de carré sommable mais dégénère avec la mobilité de la phase  $i$ . C'est le choix de la construction de la pression globale qui a permis de contrôler  $\nabla p$ .

Pour deux phases, le résultat  $\nabla g_1$  de carré sommable s'écrit de façon équivalente  $\nabla \beta(s_1)$  de carré sommable, avec  $\beta$  une fonction injective. L'injectivité de  $\beta$  provient de la monotonie de la pression capillaire comme fonction de la saturation, le signe de la dérivée étant essentiel pour que le problème d'évolution soit bien posé.

Pour  $m$  phases ( $m \geq 3$ ), l'hypothèse (H6) généralise l'existence de  $\beta$  par un facteur intégrant. L'hypothèse de signe sur les dérivées capillaires est généralisée en (5) et rend le problème d'évolution bien posé pour les temps croissants.

Les phénomènes dissipatifs en pression globale et en saturations sont ainsi exploités. En écoulement stationnaire, le problème elliptique est ainsi bien posé. Pour prendre en compte les phénomènes instationnaires, les termes d'évolution, pour un écoulement compressible font apparaître un couplage non linéaire entre les pressions, les saturations et les pressions capillaires. Dans [6,7], la dépendance en pression globale des densités simplifiait l'analyse. On présente ici une généralisation de l'estimation d'énergie permettant de traiter le cas de plusieurs phases pour le modèle original faisant intervenir toutes les pressions des phases. Le théorème d'existence qui en découle constitue un résultat nouveau aussi complet que les résultats obtenus en écoulements incompressibles à trois phases et s'étend même au cas de  $m$  phases,  $m$  quelconque.

## 1. Model

The equations describing the immiscible displacement of  $m$  compressible fluids are given by the following mass conservation of each phase [2]:

$$\phi(x) \partial_t (\rho_i s_i)(t, x) + \operatorname{div}(\rho_i \mathbf{V}_i)(t, x) + \rho_i s_i f_p(t, x) = \rho_i s_i^I f_I(t, x), \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad (1)$$

where  $\phi$  is the porosity of the medium,  $\rho_i$  and  $s_i$  are respectively the density and the saturation of the  $i$ th fluid. Here the functions  $f_I$  and  $f_p$  are respectively the injection and production terms.

The velocity of each fluid  $\mathbf{V}_i$  is given by the Darcy law:

$$\mathbf{V}_i(t, x) = -\mathbf{K}(x) M_i(\mathbf{s}) (\nabla p_i(t, x) - \rho_i(p_i) \mathbf{g}), \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{K}$  is the permeability tensor of the porous medium,  $M_i$  is the phase's mobility of the  $i$ th phase and  $p_i$  the  $i$ -phase's pressure and  $\mathbf{g}$  is the gravity.

The model is completed as follows. By definition of saturations, one has

$$\sum_{i=1}^m s_i(t, x) = 1, \quad s_i \geq 0. \quad (3)$$

Let us denote  $\mathbf{s}$  the vector  $\mathbf{s} = (s_2, \dots, s_m)$ . The curvature of the contact surface between the two fluids links the jump of pressure of two phases to the saturation by the capillary pressure law,

$$p_{1j}(\mathbf{s}(t, x)) = p_1(t, x) - p_j(t, x), \quad j = 2, \dots, m. \quad (4)$$

This choice of capillary pressures is not restrictive. The whole of capillary pressures follows from the data of  $m - 1$  capillary pressure. Denote  $P_c$  the map from  $\mathbb{R}^{m-1}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^{m-1}$  whose component are  $p_{1j}$ . We assume that the map  $P_c$  has a monotony property and derives from a potential: there exists a function  $F: \mathbb{R}^{m-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that,

$$p_{1j}(\mathbf{s}) = -\frac{\partial F(\mathbf{s})}{\partial s_j}; \quad \partial_{s_i} p_{1i} \leq 0. \tag{5}$$

When the capillary pressure  $p_{1j}$  depends only on  $s_j$  (which is the case for classical model), the assumption (5) is automatically verified.

In the sequel, a global pressure  $p$  plays a crucial mathematical role (for compactness result), it is defined such that

$$p_i = p + g_i(\mathbf{s}), \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \tag{6}$$

in order to realize the identity

$$\sum_{j=1}^m M_j(\mathbf{s}) \nabla g_j(\mathbf{s}) = 0. \tag{7}$$

Functions  $g_i$  are then defined by

$$g_i(\mathbf{s}) = g_1(\mathbf{s}) - p_{1i}(\mathbf{s}), \quad i = 2, \dots, m. \tag{8}$$

Define the total mobility as  $M(\mathbf{s}) = \sum_{j=1}^m M_j(\mathbf{s})$ , under the assumption that  $\frac{1}{M(\mathbf{s})} \sum_{j=2}^m M_j(\mathbf{s}) \nabla p_{1j}(\mathbf{s})$  is a gradient, where the function  $g_1$  is defined such that

$$\nabla g_1(\mathbf{s}) = \frac{1}{M(\mathbf{s})} \sum_{j=2}^m M_j(\mathbf{s}) \nabla p_{1j}(\mathbf{s}). \tag{9}$$

The assumption (9) was introduced for three phase flows in [3] and was called the “total differential condition” (page 209). Nevertheless, for two phase flows, this assumption is trivially fulfilled. Indeed, for  $m = 2$ , the function  $g_1$  is given by

$$g_1(s_2) = g_1(0) + \int_0^{s_2} \frac{M_2(z)}{M(z)} p'_{12}(z) dz.$$

An other assumption links capillary pressure and mobility. It says that  $\sqrt{M_j(\mathbf{s})} \nabla g_j$  is a gradient, there exists  $A_j$  a function from  $\mathbb{R}^{m-1}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  ( $j = 2, \dots, m$ ) such that

$$\sqrt{M_j(\mathbf{s})} \nabla g_j = \nabla A_j(\mathbf{s}). \tag{10}$$

For  $m = 2$ , this assumption is satisfied by taking

$$\sqrt{M_2(s_2)} g'_2(s_2) = A'_2(s_2).$$

We complete the model with boundary conditions and initial conditions. We consider the boundary  $\partial\Omega = \Gamma_{inj} \cup \Gamma_{imp}$ , where  $\Gamma_{inj}$  denotes the injection boundary and  $\Gamma_{imp}$  the impervious one.

$$\begin{cases} s_j(t, x) = s_j^\Gamma \geq 0, & j = 1, \dots, m, & \sum_{j=1}^m s_j^\Gamma = 1, & p_1(t, x) = p_1^\Gamma & \text{on } \Gamma_{inj}, \\ \mathbf{V}_j \cdot \mathbf{n} = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{imp}, & j = 1, \dots, m, \end{cases} \tag{11}$$

where  $\mathbf{n}$  is the outward normal to the boundary  $\Gamma_{imp}$ . The missing data,  $p_j$ ,  $j = 2, \dots, m$ , on the boundary  $\Gamma_{inj}$  are deduced from the other data by virtue of the capillary pressure law (4).

The non-stationary equations (1) are completed with initial data

$$\begin{cases} p_j(0, x) = p_j^0(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \quad j = 1, \dots, m, \\ s_j(0, x) = s_j^0(x) & \text{in } \Omega, \quad j = 1, \dots, m, \\ \sum_{j=1}^m s_j^0 = 1, \quad s_j^0 \geq 0. \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

Let  $T > 0$ , fixed and let  $\Omega$  be a bounded set of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  ( $d \geq 1$ ). We set  $Q_T = (0, T) \times \Omega$ ,  $\Sigma_T = (0, T) \times \partial\Omega$ .

For  $m$  phases flows,  $m \geq 3$ , some structural constraints between capillary pressures and mobilities have been introduced in (5), (9), (10). We add hereafter some physical and mathematical assumptions.

(H1) The porosity  $\phi \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$  and there is two positive constants  $\phi_0$  and  $\phi_1$  such that  $\phi_0 \leq \phi(x) \leq \phi_1$  almost everywhere  $x \in \Omega$ .

(H2) The tensor  $\mathbf{K}$  belongs to  $(W^{1,\infty}(\Omega))^{d \times d}$ . Moreover, there exist two positive constants  $k_0$  and  $k_\infty$  such that

$$\|\mathbf{K}\|_{(L^\infty(\Omega))^{d \times d}} \leq k_\infty \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathbf{K}(x)\xi, \xi) \geq k_0|\xi|^2 \quad (\text{for all } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, \text{ almost everywhere } x \in \Omega).$$

(H3) The positive functions  $M_i$  are continuous and satisfy  $M_i(s_i = 0) = 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ . In addition, there is a positive constant  $m_0$ , such that, for all  $\mathbf{s}$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^m M_i(\mathbf{s}) \geq m_0.$$

(H4)  $(f_p, f_I) \in (L^2(Q_T))^2$ ,  $f_p(t, x), f_I(t, x) \geq 0$  almost everywhere  $(t, x) \in Q_T$ ,  $s_i^I(t, x) \geq 0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) and  $\sum_{i=1}^m s_i^I(t, x) = 1$  almost everywhere in  $(t, x) \in Q_T$ .

(H5) The densities  $\rho_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) are  $C^2(\mathbb{R})$  and increasing, there exist  $\rho_m > 0$ ,  $\rho_M > 0$  such that  $\rho_m \leq \rho_i(p) \leq \rho_M$ , for all  $p$ .

(H6) The functions  $\mathbf{s} \rightarrow A(\mathbf{s}) = (A_2(\mathbf{s}), \dots, A_m(\mathbf{s}))$  is invertible and  $A^{-1}$  is assumed to be a  $\theta$ -Hölder function with  $0 < \theta \leq 1$ .

(H7) The functions  $g_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) defined by (8) and (9) belong to  $C^1([0, 1]^{m-1}; \mathbb{R})$ .

## 2. Cauchy problem

Let us define the following Sobolev space

$$H_{\Gamma_{\text{inj}}}^1(\Omega) = \{u \in H^1(\Omega); u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_{\text{inj}}\},$$

this is an Hilbert space when equipped with the norm  $\|u\|_{H_{\Gamma_{\text{inj}}}^1(\Omega)} = \|\nabla u\|_{(L^2(\Omega))^d}$ .

In order to simplify the displayed result, and without loss of generalities, we assume that boundary data verify  $s_j^\Gamma = 0$  for  $j = 2, \dots, m$ ,  $p_1^\Gamma = 0$  on  $\Gamma_{\text{inj}}$ .

**Definition 2.1.** We say that  $(s_j, p_j)_j$  is a weak solution of (1)–(4), (11), (12) if

$$\begin{aligned} p_1 &\in L^2((0, T); H_{\Gamma_{\text{inj}}}^1(\Omega)), \quad \mathbf{s} \in (L^{\frac{2}{\theta}}((0, T), W^{\tau, \frac{2}{\theta}}(\Omega)))^{m-1}, \quad 0 < \tau < 1, \\ A(\mathbf{s}) &\in (L^2((0, T); H_{\Gamma_{\text{inj}}}^1(\Omega)))^{m-1}, \end{aligned}$$

and the following weak formulation is satisfied for all  $\varphi_i \in C^1([0, T]; H_{\Gamma_{\text{inj}}}^1(\Omega))$  with  $\varphi_i(T) = 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} &-\int_{Q_T} \phi \rho_i(p_i) s_i \partial_t \varphi_i \, dx \, dt - \int_{\Omega} \phi(x) \rho_i(p_i^0(x)) s_i^0(x) \varphi_i(0, x) \, dx + \int_{Q_T} \rho_i(p_i) M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{K} \nabla p_i \cdot \nabla \varphi_i \, dx \, dt \\ &-\int_{Q_T} \mathbf{K} \rho_i^2(p_i) M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{g} \cdot \nabla \varphi_i \, dx \, dt + \int_{Q_T} \rho_i(p_i) s_i f_p \varphi_i \, dx \, dt = \int_{Q_T} \rho_i(p_i) s_i^I f_I \varphi_i \, dx \, dt, \quad i = 1, \dots, m. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

**Theorem 2.2.** Under assumptions (5), (9), (10) and (H1)–(H7), there exists a weak solution of (1)–(4), (11), (12) in the sense of Definition 2.1 satisfying  $s_i \geq 0$  almost everywhere in  $Q_T$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ). Furthermore, it verifies the following energy estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} \partial_t E \, dx + \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{K} M_i(\mathbf{s}) \nabla p_i \cdot \nabla p_i \, dx - \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{Q_T} \mathbf{K} \rho_i(p_i) M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{g} \cdot \nabla p_i \, dx \, dt + \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{Q_T} \rho_i(p_i) s_i f_P r_i(p_i) \, dx \, dt \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{Q_T} \rho_i(p_i) s_i^I f_I r_i(p_i), \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

where  $E = \sum_{i=1}^m (\rho_i(p_i) s_i r_i(p_i) - s_i p_i) + F(\mathbf{s})$ ,  $r_i(p_i) = \int_0^{p_i} \frac{1}{\rho_i(z)} \, dz$  and  $F$  is defined in (5). The function  $E$  has a lower bound and

$$\int_{Q_T} \sum_{i=1}^m M_i(\mathbf{s}) |\nabla p_i|^2 \, dx \, dt + \int_{Q_T} |\nabla A(\mathbf{s})|^2 \, dx \, dt < +\infty.$$

### 3. Proof arguments

The proof is splitted in four steps. The first one deals with a time discrete model of (1), (2) with non-degenerate mobilities. Indeed, we are first interested in dealing with an elliptic problem. Let  $\rho_i^*$  and  $s_i^*$  be formally the  $h$ -translated solution with time of  $\rho_i(p_i)$  and  $s_i$ , we consider the equation

$$\phi \frac{\rho_i(p_i) Z(s_i) - \rho_i^* s_i^*}{h} - \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{K} \rho_i(p_i) M_i^\varepsilon(s_i) \nabla p_i) + \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{K} M_i(s_i) \rho_i^2(p_i) \mathbf{g}) + \rho_i(p_i) s_i f_P = \rho_i(p_i) s_i^I f_I, \tag{15}$$

where  $M_i^\varepsilon = M_i + \varepsilon$ , with  $\varepsilon > 0$ . The functions  $M_i$  and  $Z$  are bounded and continuous extension of mobilities  $M_i$  and identity outside the convex  $\mathcal{C} = \{\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^{m-1}, s_i \geq 0, i = 2, \dots, m, \sum_{i=2}^m s_i \leq 1\}$ . A fixed point theorem allows to define a solution  $(s_i, p_i)$  with the additional equations (3) and (4).

The second step is to pass to the limit as  $\varepsilon$  goes to zero. A uniform estimate (with respect to  $\varepsilon$ ) based on the scalar product of (1) with  $p_i$  ensures

$$\int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i(p_i) M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{K} \nabla p_i \cdot \nabla p_i \, dx < +\infty.$$

The identity (7) allows a non-degenerate estimate on global pressure by virtue of:

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \int_{\Omega} M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{K} \nabla p_i \cdot \nabla p_i \, dx = \int_{\Omega} M(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{K} \nabla p \cdot \nabla p \, dx + \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{\Omega} M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{K} \nabla g_i \cdot \nabla g_i \, dx.$$

Compactness on global pressure then follows. The assumptions (10) and (H6) provide also a compactness result on saturations by virtue of the identity

$$\sum_{i=2}^m \int_{\Omega} M_i(\mathbf{s}) \mathbf{K} \nabla g_i \cdot \nabla g_i \, dx = \int_{\Omega} \sum_{i=2}^m \mathbf{K} \nabla A_i(\mathbf{s}) \cdot \nabla A_i(\mathbf{s}) \, dx < +\infty.$$

The convergence with respect to  $\varepsilon$  on a weak formulation of (15) is then possible by replacing  $p_i$  by  $p + g_i(\mathbf{s})$ . At the limit, the original formulation is then rewritten by returning to variables  $p_i$ .

The third step is very simple but crucial, as  $M_i(s_i = 0) = 0$  (assumption (H3)), a maximum principle ensures that

$$s_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m.$$

The last step is to pass to the limit as the discrete time  $h$  goes to zero. The main estimate of this paper is to obtain a discrete estimate analogous to (14). This estimate is obtained by the scalar product of (15) with  $r_i(p_i) = \int_0^{p_i} \frac{1}{\rho_i(z)} \, dz$ . Such a choice is essential to exploit the capillary pressure law (4). Then, the limit as  $h$  goes to zero is similar to the limit as  $\varepsilon$  goes to zero with additional difficulties on time derivative terms which are overcome in the same manner as in [7]. The assumption (5) is fundamental at this step.

## Acknowledgements

This work was partially supported by GnR MoMaS.

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