Contents

Preface vii

Introduction xi

Chapter 1. Experiments in a Representative Environment 1

1.1. Mechanical set-up 1
1.2. Pulsed arc electric generator 4
1.3 Material properties 6
1.4. Measurements of radial permeability 7
1.5. X-ray tomography 9
1.6. Results on model materials 10
1.6.1. Influence of injected electrical energy on permeability 10
1.6.2. Influence of the number of shocks on permeability 12
1.6.3. X-ray scans 13
1.6.4. Evolution of the pore size distribution 15
1.7. Summary of the results on sandstone 17
1.8. Discussion 18

Chapter 2. Computational Modeling of the Process: Principles 21

2.1. Pressure generated by the pulsed arc electrical discharge 22

2.2. Mechanical modeling of rocks
under dynamic loads 29
2.2.1. Rate-independent damage growth 33
2.2.2. Rate-dependent damage growth 35
2.2.3. Failure and strain softening 38
2.3. Coupled effects between damage
and permeability 41
2.4. Summary and conclusions 44

Chapter 3. Validation of the Computational Model 47

3.1. Simulation of the experiments in
uniaxial compression 47
3.2. Confined tests on hollow cylinders 52
3.2.1. Numerical results under low confinement 55
3.2.2. Numerical results under medium confinement . . . 61
3.2.3. Numerical results under high confinement 64
3.3. Isotropic versus anisotropic permeability 67
3.4. Conclusions 68

**Chapter 4. Computations on Representative
Reservoir Geometries** 71

4.1. Effect of repeated shocks 72
4.2. Simulation on a typical reservoir geometry 75
4.3. Optimization of the process 79
4.3.1. Decreasing the attenuation 80
4.3.2. Influence of the wave form 83

Concluding Remarks and Future Outlook 91

Bibliography 97

Index 103