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Numerical studies of capillary flow in paper-based microfluidic devices

Wednesday, 2 June 2021 16:00 (1 hour)

Paper-based microfluidic devices are rapidly becoming popular as a platform for developing point-of-care medical diagnostic tests[1]. Capillary force is the main driving force for the transportation of test liquids in paper-based devices. Therefore, a deep understanding of its internal capillary flow are indispensable for designing sensitive and accurate paper-based point-of-care medical diagnostic device. Spontaneous absorption in papers is an unsaturated flow process, which was often modelled by the Richards equation[1-5]. It is well known that two constitutive relationships including relative permeability and capillary pressure are crucial to the model prediction. In this work, we use μ CT scanning to obtain the three-dimensional porous structure of a filter paper. The PoreSpy based on the watershed algorithm is used to extract the pore network[6]. A quasi-static pore-network model (QPNM) is used to obtain the capillary pressure and relative permeability relationships. Moreover, we verify the numerical results against lab experiments. Combining imaging technique and pore-network simulations could help us understand material properties of capillary flow in paper-based microfluidic devices, which will guide us to design high-performance paper-based devices.

Time Block Preference

Time Block A (09:00-12:00 CET)

References

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