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Simulation of the Microscopic Three-Phase Flow Process in CO₂ Miscible Flooding at the Pore Scale

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CO₂ flooding after water flooding can effectively improve the recovery efficiency of low-permeability reservoirs. At present, the seepage law of CO₂ flooding after water flooding is generally determined through indoor core experiments and macroscopic numerical simulation methods, and simulations of the seepage process at the microscopic pore scale are lacking. Among the existing microscopic numerical simulation methods, two-phase flow simulation is generally the main focus, and multiphase flow simulation under the conditions of three-phase coexistence of oil, gas, and water is lacking. In view of the above problems, this paper conducts a microscopic numerical simulation of the CO₂ flooding seepage process after water flooding based on a two-dimensional heterogeneous pore model of circular media and studies the effects of interface tension and injection velocity on the three-phase seepage process, gas breakthrough time, and gas recovery degree during the multistage miscible process. The research shows that when the interfacial tension between CO₂ and oil is high, CO₂ pushes water and oil forward in a piston-like manner and penetrates the water layer to contact the oil, which ultimately causes the continuous water phase to separate from the gas phase and form the main flow line of the continuous gas phase. With decreasing interfacial tension between CO₂ and oil, i.e., closer to the miscible state, the gas diffuses into the water after injection and accumulates at the water-oil interface, the crude oil is displaced toward the production end, and the flow speed of CO₂ is faster than that of the water phase. The lower the interfacial tension is, the shorter the gas breakthrough time at the outlet after CO₂ injection. Before the miscible state of CO₂ and oil, the lower the interfacial tension is, the earlier the gas channeling time, and the lower the recovery degree. After mixing, a turning point occurs. An increase in the injection velocity will advance the gas breakthrough time and gas channeling time at the outlet, leading to an increase in the gas recovery degree. This study has reference and guiding significance for understanding the three-phase flow characteristics of oil, water, and gas during CO₂ miscible flooding in mines.

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