

Test No.	S_h [%]	n [%]	P [MPa]	T [°C]	$k_{0,x}$ [μm^2]	$k_{0,y}$ [μm^2]	$k_{0,z}$ [μm^2]	$k_{e,x}$ [μm^2]	$k_{e,y}$ [μm^2]	$k_{e,z}$ [μm^2]	k_x [%]	k_y [%]	k_z [%]	Sand Type	Formation
1	8.0	30.8	13.8	4.5	12.63	11.95	12.28	5.37	4.85	5.25	42.5	40.6	42.8	Ottawa	Excess-gas
2	11.6	38.0	13.8	12	33.94	31.10	39.34	23.38	9.92	26.03	68.9	31.9	66.2	Ottawa	
3	25.2	35.8	12.4	10	26.06	23.26	25.65	8.74	7.14	8.76	33.5	30.7	34.2	Ottawa	
4	39.5	37.4	10.7	5	27.28	28.04	32.14	1.67	2.31	2.60	6.1	8.2	8.1	Ottawa	
5	48.2	38.8	12.4	10	16.08	12.99	15.48	2.23	1.16	2.78	13.9	8.9	17.9	Mixture	
6	51.6	44.5	12.4	10	9.03	8.66	9.14	0.37	0.21	0.23	4.1	2.4	2.5	F110	
7	57.2	36.6	13.8	6.5	46.64	47.05	43.99	1.40	2.29	1.89	3.0	4.9	4.3	Ottawa	
8	68.1	35.0	13.8	7.4	41.02	34.87	37.81	0.77	0	0	1.9	0	0	Ottawa	
9	75.0	36.0	13.8	6.5	37.55	37.07	36.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ottawa	
10	86.5	32.5	13.8	6.5	26.14	25.37	27.57	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ottawa	
11	41.1	35.8	12.4	10	26.06	23.26	25.65	2.21	1.21	2.15	8.5	5.2	8.4	Ottawa	Excess-water from excess-gas
12	51.5	38.8	12.4	10	16.08	12.99	15.48	1.11	0.51	1.47	6.9	3.9	9.5	Mixture	
13	55.2	36.6	14.1	6.5	46.88	47.20	44.22	1.14	1.03	1.14	2.4	2.2	2.6	Ottawa	
14	56.8	37.4	10.7	5	27.28	28.04	32.14	0.51	0.74	1.12	1.9	2.6	3.5	Ottawa	
15	75.8	44.5	12.4	10	9.03	8.66	9.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	F110	
16	24.7	36.7	17.2	12	40.91	37.65	39.43	15.60	14.24	13.86	38.1	37.8	35.2	Ottawa	Excess-water
17	41.9	32.7	24.1	8.5	11.81	10.97	11.85	0.21	3.38	3.18	1.8	30.8	26.8	Ottawa	
18	43.5	37.4	10.3	4	27.28	28.04	32.14	2.32	2.01	2.20	8.5	7.2	6.8	Ottawa	
19	71.5	33.4	24.1	8.5	13.79	12.98	13.43	0	0	0.14	0	0	1.0	Ottawa	
20	71.9	36.7	24.1	8.5	42.50	40.32	42.08	0.23	0.04	0.08	0.5	0.1	0.2	Ottawa	
21	89.6	33.7	24.1	8.5	13.40	11.73	12.62	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ottawa	

S_h = Hydrate Saturation; n = Porosity; P = Pore Pressure; T = Temperature; k_0 = intrinsic permeability; k_e = effective permeability; k = normalized permeability; Ottawa = Ottawa Sand with ~250 μm mean diameter; F110 = F110 Sand with ~120 μm mean diameter; Mixture = Specimen with a layer of Ottawa sand and a layer of F110 sand.

Excess-gas: Sand is mixed with water and packed into a column-shaped specimen. Methane pressure and temperature are adjusted to the targeted values to form methane hydrate with constant pressure gas supply. Excess-water from excess-gas: Brine is flushed through hydrate-bearing specimens formed under excess-gas condition. Excess-water: High pressure methane is introduced to water-saturated specimens, then temperature is reduced and hydrate forms with constant pressure water supply.

Table 1

Information of hydrate-bearing specimens used in this study.

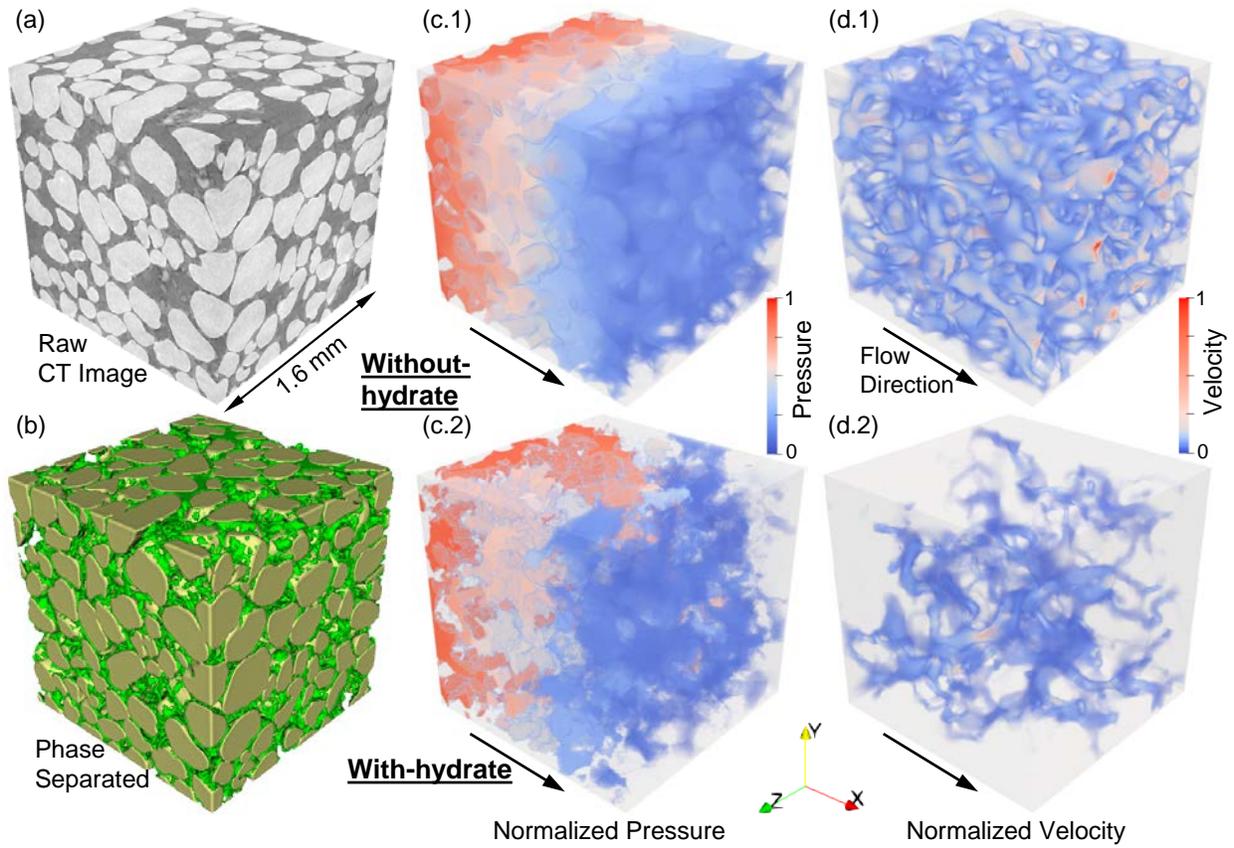


Figure 1

Procedure from raw CT image to pressure and velocity fields of fluid flow through specimens (Test 4, excess-gas condition, $S_h = 39.5\%$). (a) Raw 3D micro-CT image. (b) 3D pore structures after segmentation: sand particles in brown, hydrate in green, and free methane transparent. (c) Normalized pressure fields with a flow direction along the X axis. (d) Normalized velocity fields with a flow direction along the X axis. (c.1-d.1) is Without-hydrate case and (c.2-d.2) is With-hydrate case.

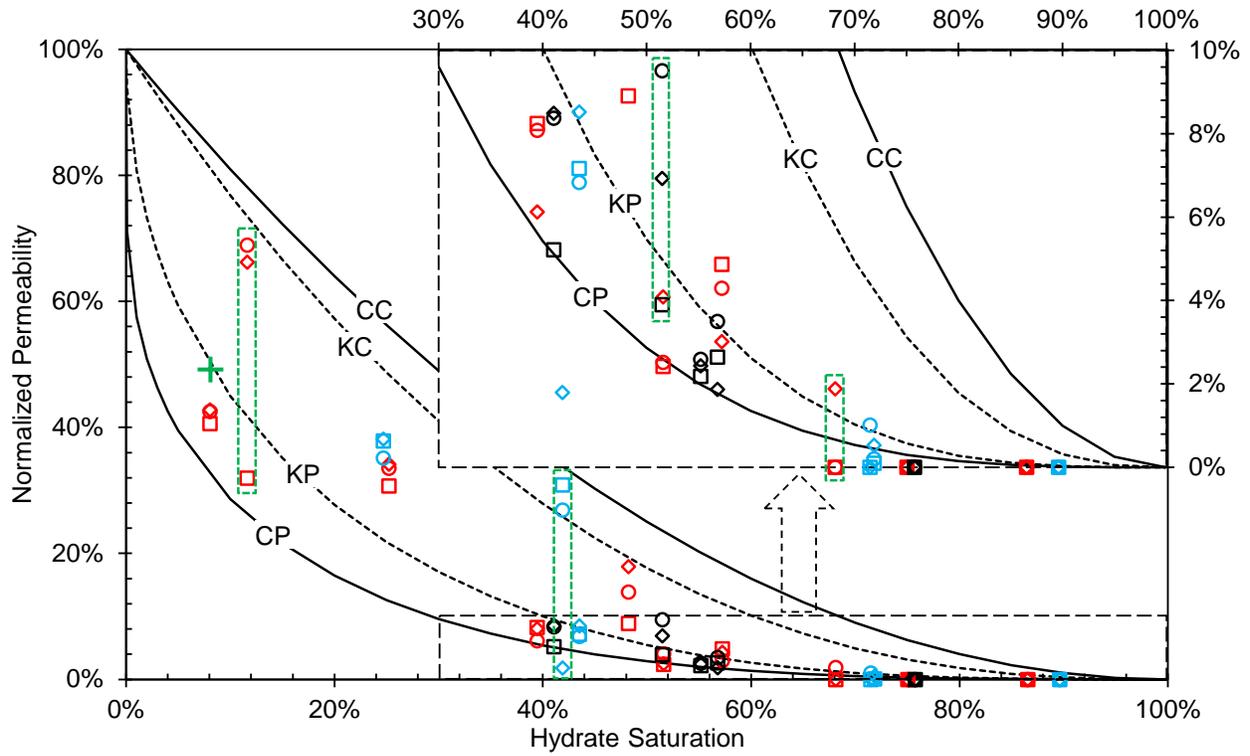


Figure 2

Normalized permeability from numerical simulations as a function of hydrate saturation. CC = Capillary-tube Coating, KC = Kozeny-grain Coating, KP = Kozeny-grain Pore-filling, and CP = Capillary-tube Pore-filling (Kleinberg et al., 2013). Symbols are results on conditions of excess-gas (red), excess-water from excess-gas by fluid injection (blue) and excess-water (black) as summarized in Table 1, and \diamond , \square and \circ represent permeability in X, Y, and Z direction. The green + shows the result in Figure 3b. Vertical green frames highlight permeability anisotropy.

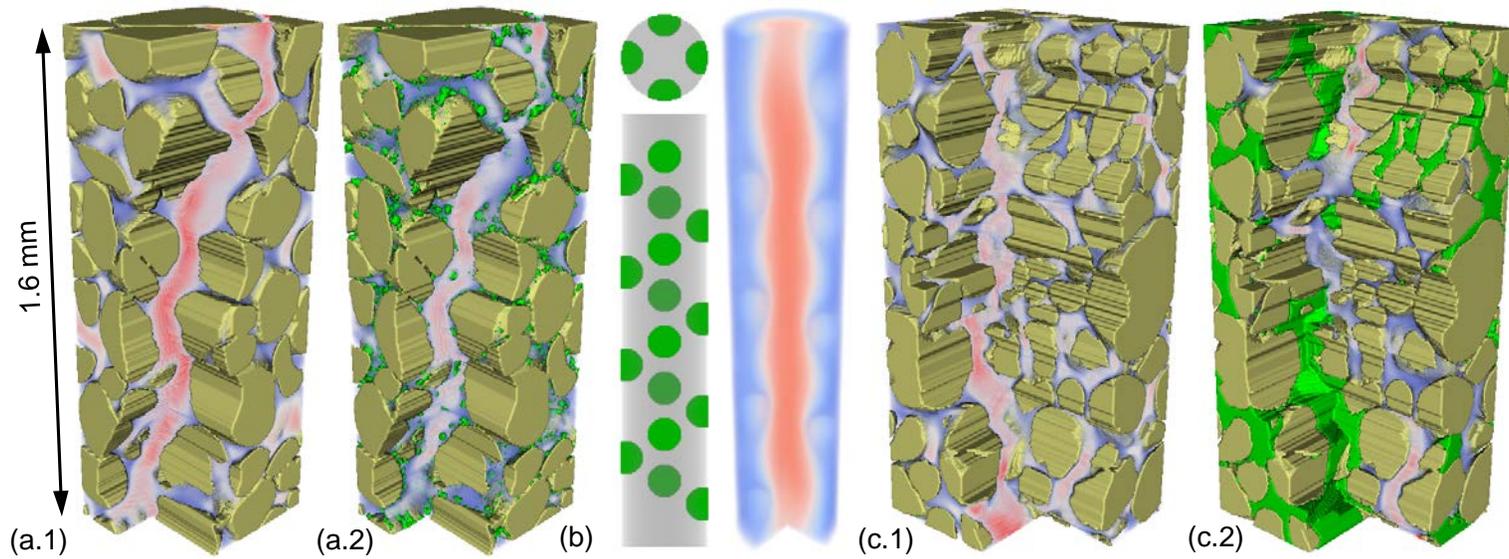


Figure 3

Effect of hydrate on geometry of flow path and velocity fields. (a) and (c) show the effect of actual hydrate distribution with hydrate saturation of 8.0% (Test 1) and 71.5% (Test 19). (b) presents the effect of hydrate with idealized distribution mimicking that in (a).

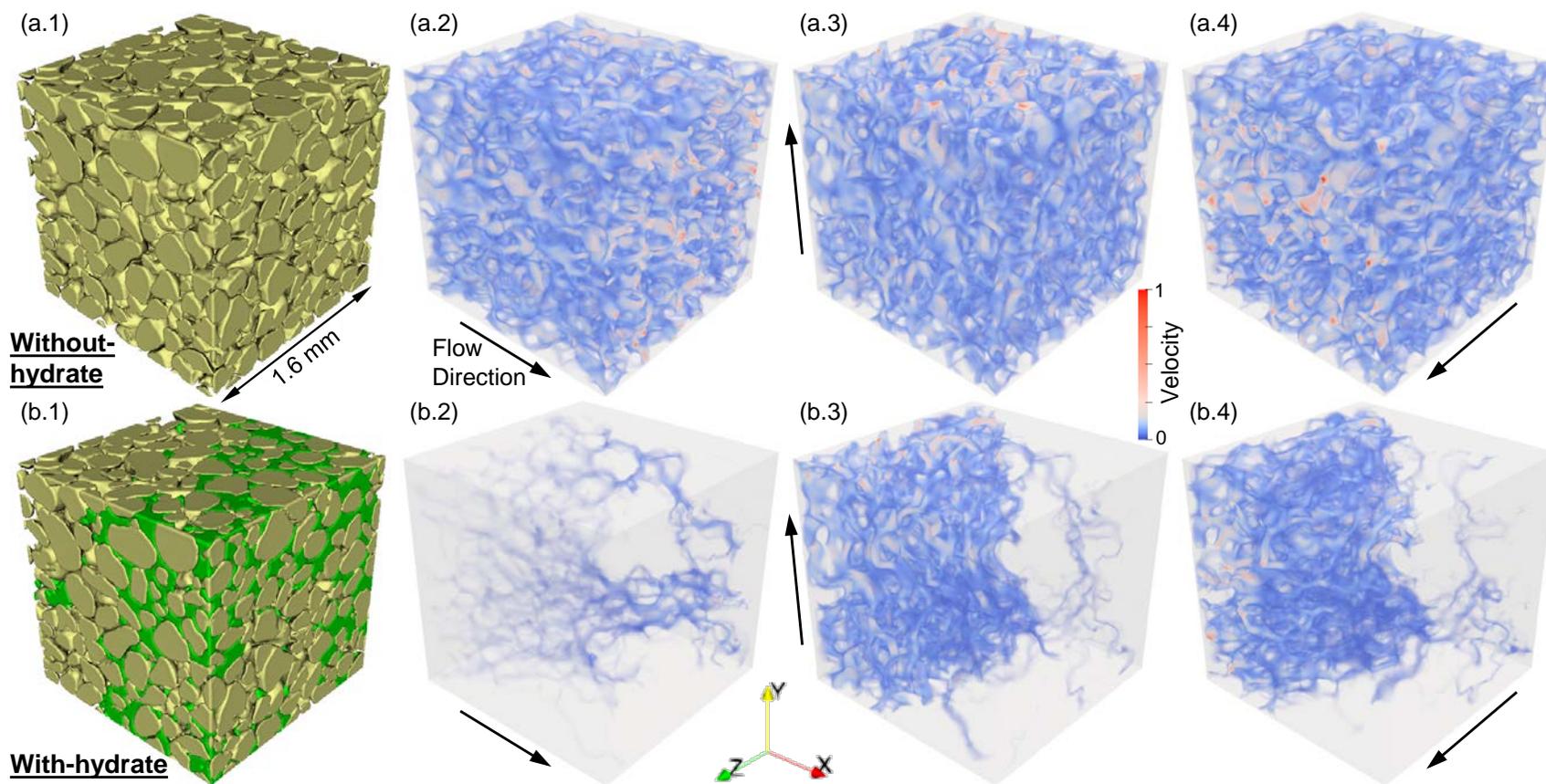


Figure 4

Unevenly distributed hydrate induced permeability anisotropy (Test 17, $S_h = 41.9\%$). (a-b) show Without-hydrate case and With-hydrate case. (a/b.1-a/b.4) present 3D pore structure, and flow velocity fields along X, Y and Z directions.

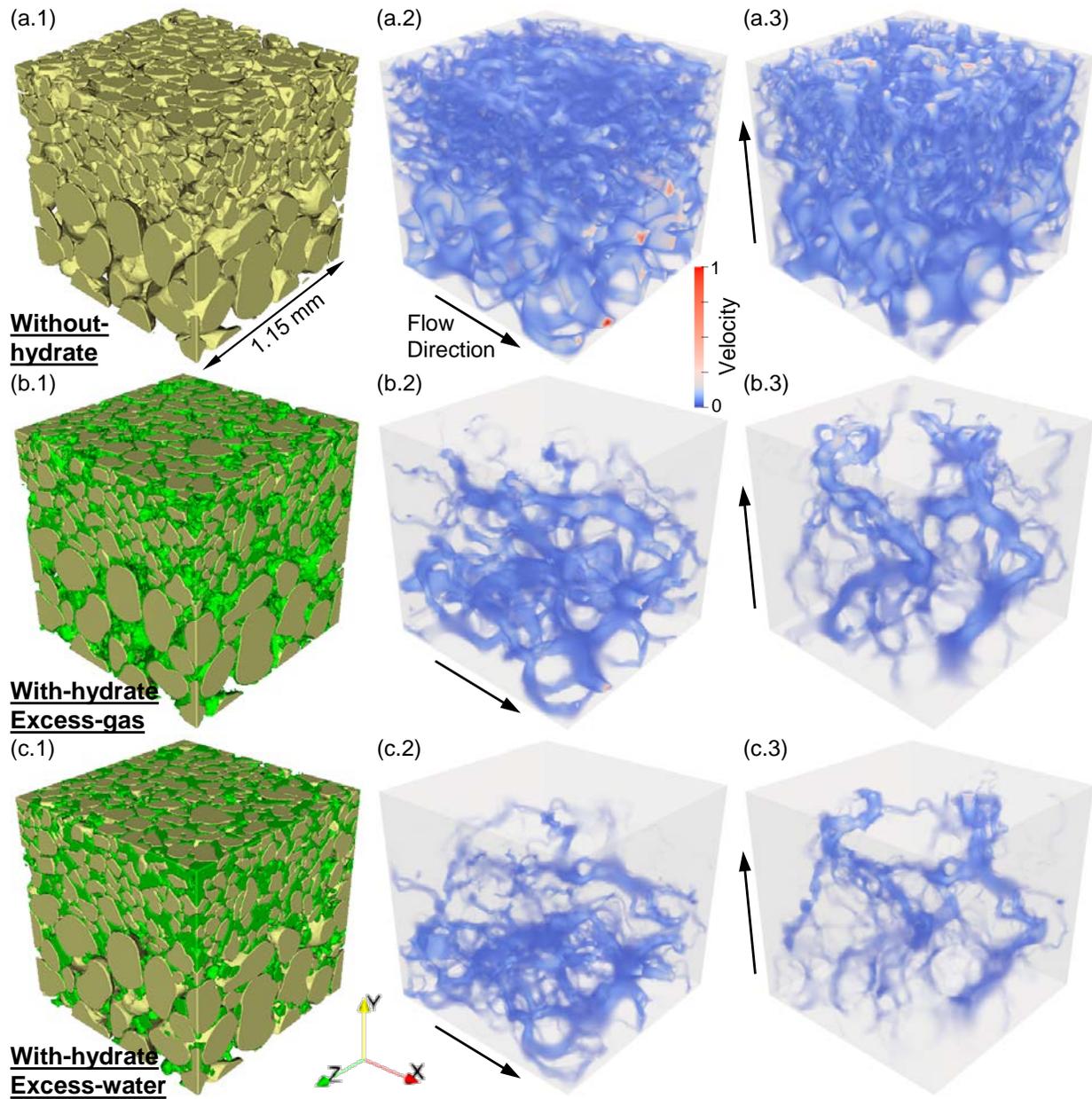


Figure 5

Permeability in layered systems. (a-c) show cases of Without-hydrate, With-hydrate under excess-gas condition (Tests 5, $S_h = 48.2\%$) and excess-water condition (Tests 12, $S_h = 51.5\%$). (a/b/c.1-a/b/c.3) present 3D pore structures, and flow velocity fields along X and Y directions.