

Processes of freezing and thawing of porous media

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- Study the effects of climate and temperature change on soil grounds ([Žák A.](#))

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 - e.g. improve ground structure design and maintenance in cold regions and in winter

Introduction

Mathematical model - Stefan problem

For $x \geq 0$ and $t > 0$:

$$\rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t) = \nabla(\kappa \nabla T(x, t)) + Q \quad (\text{heat conduction equation})$$

$$\kappa \frac{\partial T}{\partial \eta}(x, t) \Big|_S - \kappa \frac{\partial T}{\partial \eta}(x, t) \Big|_L = Lv \quad (\text{Stefan condition})$$

$$T(x, 0) = T_0 \quad (\text{boundary condition})$$

$$T(0, t) = T(t_0) \quad (\text{initial condition})$$

where

ρ : density

C_p : heat capacity

κ : thermal conductivity

Q : heat source

L : latent heat

Introduction

Homogeneous geometry

- No phase change - Internal energy

$$U(x, t) = \int_{T^*}^{T(x, t)} \rho C_p dT$$

Introduction

Homogeneous geometry

- No phase change - Internal energy

$$U(x, t) = \int_{T^*}^{T(x, t)} \rho C_p dT$$

- Phase change - Enthalpy

$$H(x, t) = \underbrace{U(x, t)}_{\text{internal energy}} + L \cdot \mathcal{H}(T(x, t))$$

where

L : latent heat

$\mathcal{H}$: Heaviside function

$$\mathcal{H}(T(x, t)) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } T(x, t) > T^* \\ 0 & \text{for } T(x, t) < T^* \end{cases}$$

Introduction

Heterogeneous geometry

Heat conduction equation

$$C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t) + L \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t}(T(x, t)) = \nabla(\kappa \nabla T(x, t))$$

where

η : porosity

$$\theta(T(x, t)) = \eta \phi(T(x, t))$$

$$\phi(T(x, t)) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } T(x, t) \geq T^* \\ \left| \frac{T^*}{T(x, t)} \right|^b & \text{if } T(x, t) < T^* \end{cases}$$

b : positive constant

Introduction

Heterogeneous geometry

Ω_S Domain containing soil

Ω_L Domain containing liquid (water here)

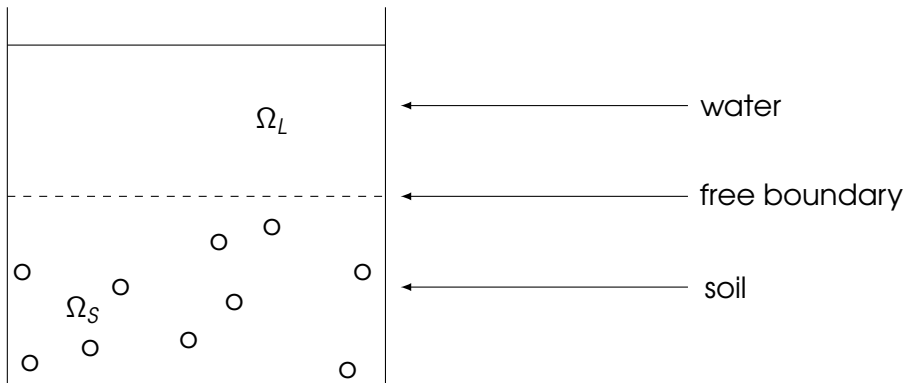


Figure: Illustration of the problem

Freezing of pure water H_2O

Computations

First derivative of the enthalpy in respect to time :

Freezing of pure water H_2O

Computations

First derivative of the enthalpy in respect to time :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial H}{\partial t}(x, t) &= \frac{\partial U}{\partial t}(x, t) + L \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial T}(T(x, t)) \\ &= \rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t) + L \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial T}(T(x, t)) \\ &= \rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t) + L \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial T}(T(x, t) - T^*) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t) \\ &= \nabla(\kappa \nabla T(x, t)) + Q\end{aligned}$$

Freezing of pure water H_2O

Computations

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Regularization :

Freezing of pure water H_2O

Computations

First derivative of the enthalpy in respect to time :

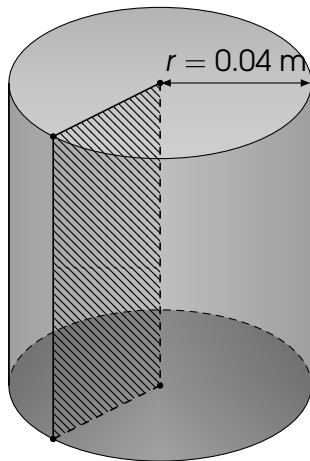
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Regularization :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial U}{\partial t}(x, t) &= \rho C_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t) \\ &= \nabla(\kappa \nabla T(x, t)) - L \cdot \frac{\partial \mathcal{H}_\varepsilon}{\partial T}(T(x, t) - T^*) \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}(x, t)\end{aligned}$$

Freezing of pure water H_2O

Modelling



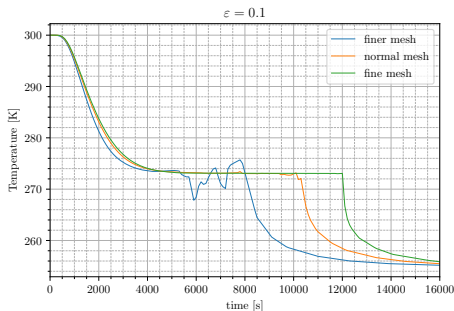
$$V = 0.5 \text{ L}$$

Density ρ	997 kg/m^3
Heat capacity C_p	$4200 \text{ J/kg}\cdot\text{K}$
Thermal conductivity κ	$0.5918 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$

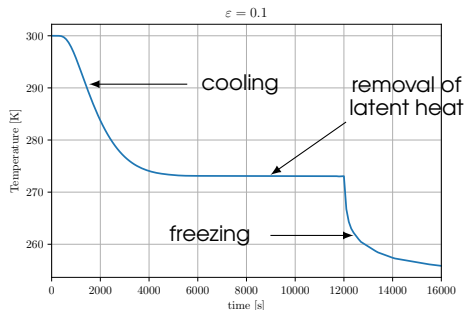
Finer mesh animation : <https://youtu.be/oWznctWiYmo>

Freezing of pure water H_2O

Modelling



(a) Freezing evolution with different types of meshes



(b) Freezing evolution with finer mesh

Figure: Freezing evolution of water

Freezing of porous media

Experiment



→
after freezing



→
after
thawing



(a) Freezing and thawing experiment with smaller diameter grains of pink sandstone



→
after freezing



→
after
thawing



(b) Freezing and thawing experiment with larger diameter grains of pink sandstone

Freezing of porous media

Experiment

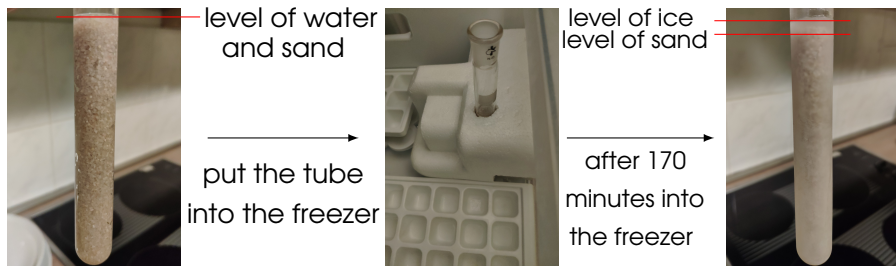
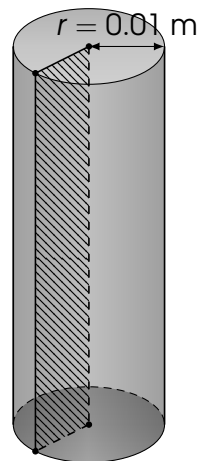


Figure: Experimental setup

Freezing of porous media

Modelling



$$V = 22.2 \text{ mL}$$

Boundary condition (T_0)	$-0.1 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Depressed melting point (T^*)	$-0.01 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Latent heat (L)	$2.5 \cdot 10^6 \text{ J/kg}$
Initial temperature ($T(t_0)$)	$0.2 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
Thermal conductivity (κ)	$2.2 \text{ W/m}\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}$
Heat capacity (C_p)	$4.2 \cdot 10^6 \text{ J/kg}\cdot^{\circ}\text{C}$

Freezing of porous media

Modelling

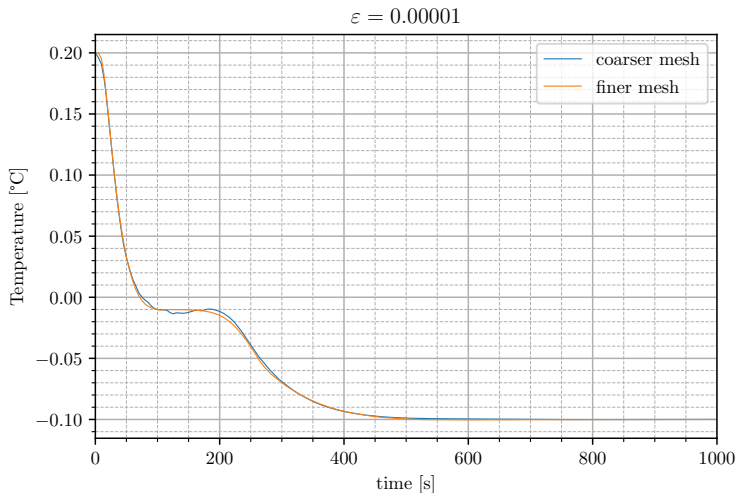


Figure: Freezing evolution of wet sand with different types of meshes

Freezing of water with gas

Is the gas released from ice ?

- Frozen Perrier water animation :
<https://youtu.be/SeN-wov-Jsw>
- Thawed Perrier water animation :
<https://youtu.be/cFtkSg1dRAY>

References

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-  Abraham J. Methane release from melting permafrost could trigger dangerous global warming. The Guardian, October 13:1, 2015.