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**Fluid Flow in the Subsurface**

History, Generalization and Applications of Physical Laws

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- Presents a unique attempt to generalize some fundamental physical laws of interest to a broad audience of researchers, engineers, and students in the areas of hydrogeology, soil science, reservoir engineering, and rock mechanics
- Describes the history of discovering the related physical laws and their scope of validity, which is especially important to younger generations of earth scientists
- Discusses applications of the proposed generalizations to selected engineering projects of international importance (such as the Yucca Mountain project)

This book presents a systematic attempt to generalize several fundamental physical laws related to subsurface fluid flow that are important for a number of contemporary applications in the areas of hydrogeology, reservoir engineering and rock mechanics. It also covers the history of discovering these physical laws, their respective scope of validity, and their generalizations or extensions.

The physical laws discussed include Darcy’s law, Darcy-Buckingham law and Hooke’s law. Darcy’s law is the fundamental law for subsurface fluid flow. For low-permeability media, it is not always adequate because of the strong fluid–solid interaction. Though the Darcy-Buckingham law is often used for modeling subsurface multiphase flow, it is only valid under the local equilibrium condition. This condition does not hold in many cases, especially when fingering flow occurs. It is well known that subsurface fluid flow is coupled with mechanical deformation of subsurface media; in some applications, this coupling can play a dominant role. The continuum-scale elastic deformation of natural rock, however, does not always follow the traditional form of Hooke’s law.

The book also presents applications of the proposed generalizations of the physical laws to several important engineering projects.