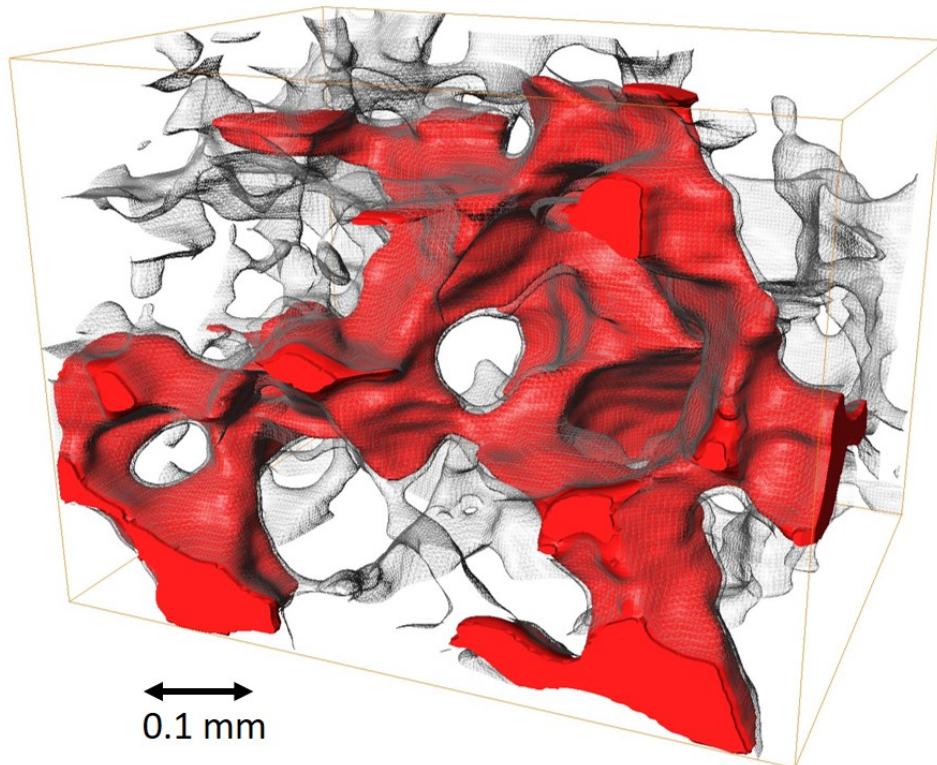




GAS TRAPPED IN THE PORE SPACE OF A SANDSTONE

Ying Gao, Ab Coorn, Niels Brussee, Hilbert van der Linde, and Steffen Berg

Shell Global Solutions International B.V.



Hydrocarbon gas bubble (propane, red) trapped inside the pore space of Bentheimer sandstone[1, 2, 3]. The experimental study aims at determining the mobility of a gas phase in a gas-liquid system in porous media. It is relevant for many processes in subsurface engineering ranging from the recovery of oil and gas to CO₂ sequestration and underground hydrogen storage. The image shows a small region of interest of a larger rock sample (4 mm diameter and 10 mm length) during an experiment where the pore space of the rock was initially filled with a propane-decane liquid hydrocarbon mixture (gas is shown in red, liquid is transparent). Gas bubbles form when pressure is decreased below the bubble point pressure. The image was obtained by X-ray computed tomography *in situ* of a flow experiment where the cylindrical rock sample of 4 mm diameter and 10 mm length was enclosed in a miniature pressure vessel that allowed to control the fluid composition in the sample and the pressure. *In situ* 3D Imaging was performed using a benchtop micro-CT scanner (Zeiss Versa 520) at spatial resolution of 4 micrometers and a temporal resolution of 1 hour.

1. Berg S. et al. (2020). *Petrophysics—The SPWLA J. Formation Evaluation and Reservoir Description*, 61(2):133.
2. Gao Y. et al. (2021). *Oil Gas Sci. Tech. – Rev. IFP Energies nouvelles*, 76:43.
3. Xu K. et al. (2017). *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 119(26).

Contact: Steffen Berg <steffen.berg@shell.com>