

Flow-based Upscaling of Reservoir Models

Knut-Andreas Lie

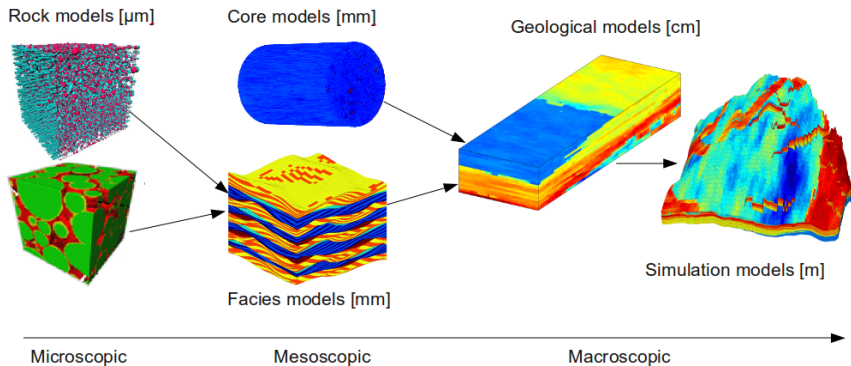
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Multiscale Methods Summer School
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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Detour: generation of coarse grids
- 3 Averaging methods
- 4 Flow-based upscaling of permeability
- 5 Flow-based upscaling of transmissibility
- 6 Examples

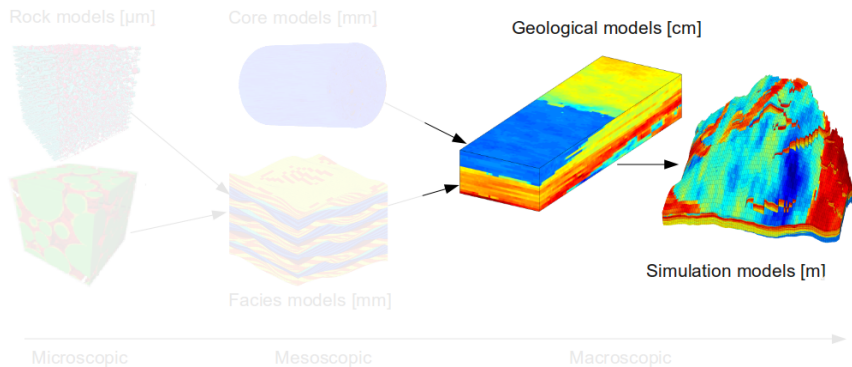
Quick recap: subsurface modeling

Multiscale structure induces a hierarchy of models



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Multiscale structure induces a hierarchy of models



Quick recap: geological models

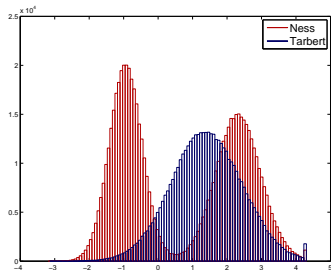
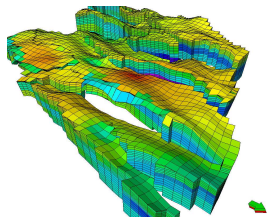
Articulation of the geologists' perception of the reservoir

Geological models:

- here: geo-cellular models
- describe the reservoir geometry: horizons, faults, etc
- typically generated using geostatistics
- give rock properties: permeability, porosity, net-to-gross

Rock properties:

- have a multiscale structure
- details on all scales impact flow
- permeability spans many orders of magnitude



Quick recap: geological models

Ever increasing complexity

As computational power increases, methods improve, and more data becomes available:

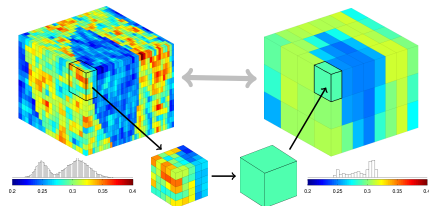
- Geological models increase in detail – today, geologists are routinely building models with 1–100 million cells
- A lot of the 'easy oil' is recovered → models must account for fractures, faults, thin zones, high-contrast media, horizontal and deviated multilateral wells → complex unstructured grid models

Building a coarse-scale model

Upscaling: geological \rightarrow simulation model

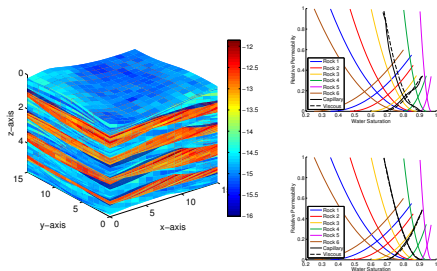
Single-phase upscaling:

- Analytical methods: geometric, harmonic, arithmetic
- Flow-based: linear pressure, periodic, generic, specific, local, global, local-global, ...
- Wavelet, multi-resolution, renormalization, ...
- Ensemble methods



Two-phase/multiphase upscaling:

- Pseudo methods
- Steady-state upscaling: capillary limit, viscous limit, general steady-state
- Dynamic pseudo
- Vertical-equilibrium



Theoretical background: homogenization

Periodic medium with permeability $\mathbf{K}(\frac{x}{\varepsilon})$. Elliptic flow problem:

$$-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{K}\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)\nabla p_\varepsilon = q, \quad \vec{v}_\varepsilon = -\mathbf{K}\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)\nabla p_\varepsilon$$

Theorem: There exists a constant symmetric and positive-definite tensor \mathbf{K}_0 such that $p_\varepsilon, \vec{v}_\varepsilon$ converge uniformly as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ to the corresponding solutions of a homogenized equation

$$-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{K}_0 \nabla p_0 = q, \quad \vec{v}_0 = -\mathbf{K}\left(\frac{x}{0}\right)\nabla p_0$$

Unfortunately, natural rocks are seldom periodic. . .

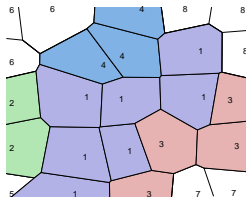
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Grid coarsening in MRST

In MRST, the 'coarse grid' concept always refers to a grid that is defined by partitioning another grid, which is referred to as the 'fine' grid:

- each cell in the fine grid G belongs to one, and only one, block in the coarse grid CG
- each block in CG consists of a *singly connected* subset of cells from G
- CG is defined by a partition vector p defined such that $p(i) = \ell$ if cell i in G belongs to block ℓ in CG



Tools for partitioning and coarsening of grids are found in two different modules of MRST:

- The `coarsegrid` module defines grid structure for representing coarse grids, and supplies routines for partitioning logically Cartesian grids
- The `agglom` module offers methods for defining coarse grids that adapt to geological features, flow patterns, etc

The coarsegrid module

Example: partition a Cartesian grid

Make the fine 4×4 grid:

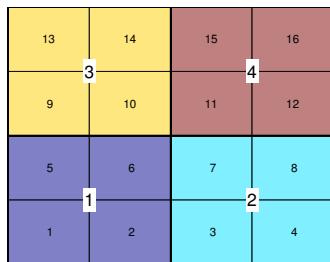
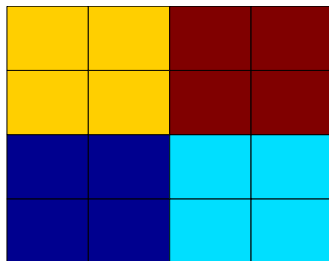
```
G = computeGeometry(cartGrid([4,4]));
```

Partition into a 2×2 grid:

```
p = partitionCartGrid(G.cartDims, [2,2]);  
plotCellData(G,p,'EdgeColor','w','EdgeAlpha',.2)
```

Construct a coarse grid:

```
CG = generateCoarseGrid(G, p);  
CG = coarsenGeometry(CG);
```



The coarsegrid module

Example: partition a faulted model

Make the fine grid:

```
nx = 20; ny = 20; nz = 8;  
Nx = 5; Ny = 4; Nz = 2;  
grdecl = simpleGrdecl([nx, ny, nz], 0.15);  
G = processGRDECL(grdecl);  
G = computeGeometry(G);  
plotGrid(G); view(30,20); axis off
```

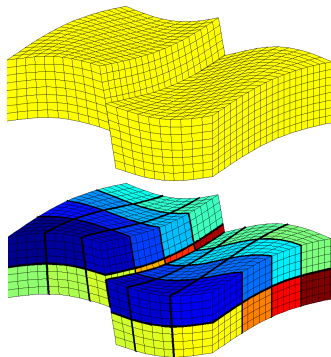
Next, we introduce a uniform partition (or in general, a load-balanced linear partition):

```
p = partitionUI(G,[Nx, Ny, Nz]);  
plotCellData(G, p, 'EdgeColor', 'k');  
outlineCoarseGrid(G, p, ...  
    'FaceColor', 'none', 'LineWidth', 3);
```

Then, we split blocks that are not connected and construct a coarse grid:

```
p = processPartition(G, p);  
CG = generateCoarseGrid(G, p)
```

in which the fields have the same structure and interpretation as in standard grids



CG =

```
cells: [1x1 struct]  
faces: [1x1 struct]  
partition: [3200x1 double]  
parent: [1x1 struct]  
griddim: 3  
type: {'generateCoarseGrid'}
```

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Upscaling porosity

Porosity is an additive property and can be upscaled through a standard volume average:

$$\phi^* = \frac{1}{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) d\vec{x}.$$

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In MRST: assume q is a partition vector on grid G

```
crock.poro = accumarray(q,rock.poro.*G.cells.volumes)./ ...  
              max(accumarray(q,G.cells.volumes),eps);
```

Here, we use `max(...,eps)` to safeguard against division by zero if q is not contiguous or all cells in a block have zero porosity

Upscaling additive properties

For other additive properties, we weight by pore volume:

$$n^* = \left[\int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) d\vec{x} \right]^{-1} \int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) n(\vec{x}) d\vec{x}.$$

```
pv = rock.poro.*G.cells.volumes;  
N = accumarray(q, pv.*n) ./ max(accumarray(q,pv),eps);
```


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```

Let us verify that this is the correct average:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^* n^* &= \left[\frac{1}{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) d\vec{x} \right] \left[\int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) d\vec{x} \right]^{-1} \int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) n(\vec{x}) d\vec{x} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Omega} \int_{\Omega} \phi(\vec{x}) n(\vec{x}) d\vec{x} = (\phi n)^* \end{aligned}$$

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Other quantities like concentration should be weighted by saturation.
For integer properties like rock type, one should use a majority vote

Upscaling absolute permeability

Single-phase flow:

$$-\nabla \cdot \mathbf{K} \nabla p = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

Subdivide grid into coarse blocks B ,
seek tensors \mathbf{K}^* such that

$$\int_B \mathbf{K} \nabla p \, dx = \mathbf{K}^* \int_B \nabla p \, dx,$$

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Use Darcy's law on the coarse scale

$$\bar{u} = -\mathbf{K}^* \overline{\nabla p}$$

net flow rate through B average pressure gradient inside B

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net flow rate through B average pressure gradient inside B

Observations:

- \mathbf{K}^* is not uniquely defined by the second equation
- or conversely, there does not exist a unique \mathbf{K}^* so that this equation holds for all pressures
- \mathbf{K}^* depends on flow through B and hence on the boundary conditions on ∂B
- there is no guarantee that $\bar{\mathbf{z}} \cdot \mathbf{K}^* \bar{\mathbf{z}} > 0$ for all nonzero $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$. Hence, the upscaling problem is fundamentally ill-posed

Averaging absolute permeability

Simplest approach – the power average:

$$\mathbf{K}^* = A_p(\mathbf{K}) = \left(\frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{K}(\vec{x})^p d\vec{x} \right)^{1/p}$$

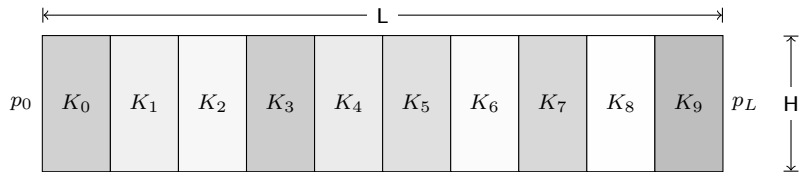
$p = 1$: arithmetic mean $p = -1$: harmonic mean

Geometric mean: obtained in the limit $p \rightarrow 0$ as

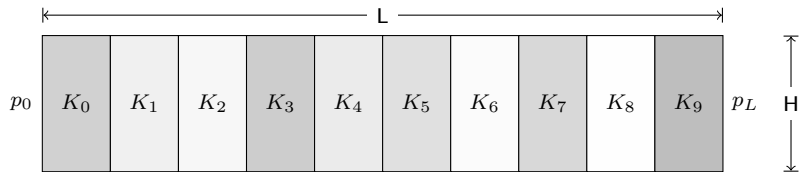
$$\mathbf{K}^* = A_0(\mathbf{K}) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Omega} \log(\mathbf{K}(\vec{x})) d\vec{x} \right)$$

Theoretical backing in the Wiener bounds: $A_{-1}(K) \leq \mathbf{K}^* \leq A_1(\mathbf{K})$

Motivation: perpendicular layers



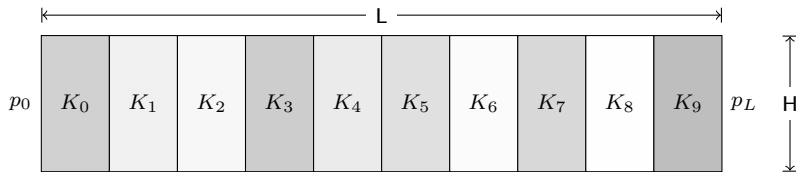
Motivation: perpendicular layers



From the flow equations:

$$-(K(x)p'(x))' = 0 \quad \implies \quad v(x) = K(x)p'(x) \equiv \text{constant}$$

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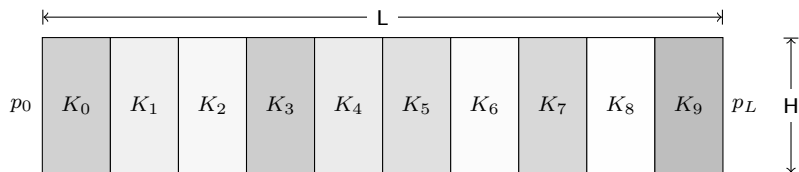
The constant v follows from Darcy's law on the coarse scale:

$$v = -K^*[p_L - p_0]/L$$

or can be determined from the definition of \mathbf{K}^* :

$$K^* \int_0^L p'(x) dx = K^*(p_L - p_0) = \int_0^L K(x)p'(x) dx = - \int_0^L v dx = -Lv.$$

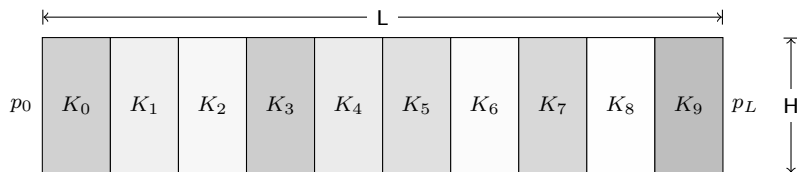
Motivation: perpendicular layers



Starting from the average pressure gradient, we derive

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^L p'(x) dx &= - \int_0^L \frac{v}{K(x)} dx \\ &= \underbrace{K^* \frac{p_L - p_0}{L}}_v \int_0^L \frac{1}{K(x)} dx = K^* \left(\int_0^L p'(x) dx \right) \left(\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \frac{1}{K(x)} dx \right)\end{aligned}$$

Motivation: perpendicular layers



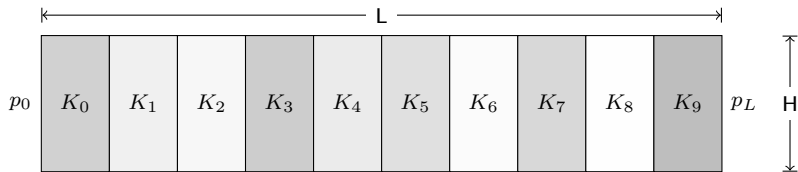
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from which it follows that

$$K^* = \left(\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L \frac{1}{K(x)} dx \right)^{-1}$$

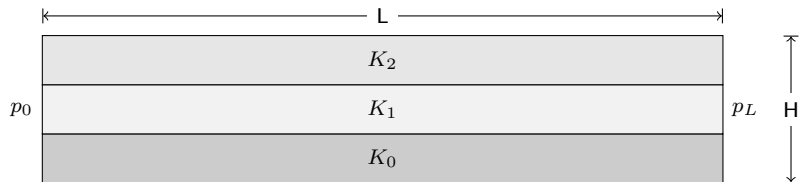
Motivation: perpendicular layers



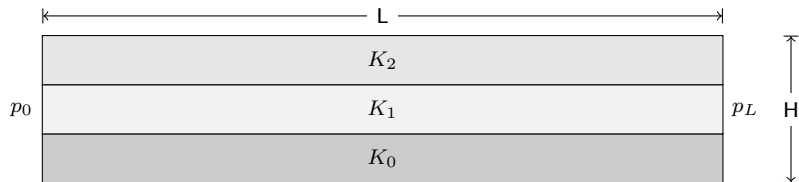
In MRST:

```
vol = G.cells.volumes;  
for i=1:size(rock.perm,2)  
    crock.perm(:,i) = accumarray(q,vol) ./ ...  
                        accumarray(q,vol./rock.perm(:,i))  
end
```

Motivation: perfectly stratified medium



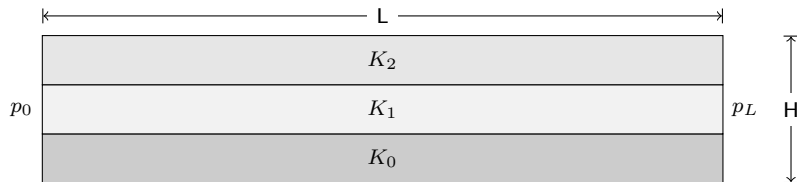
Motivation: perfectly stratified medium



Linear pressure drop in the x -direction:

$$p(x, y) = p_0 + x(p_L - p_0)/L$$

Motivation: perfectly stratified medium



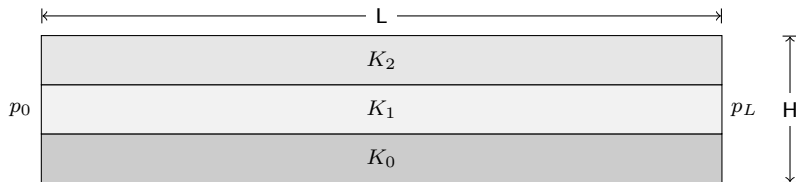
Linear pressure drop in the x -direction:

$$p(x, y) = p_0 + x(p_L - p_0)/L$$

Using definition of \mathbf{K}^* :

$$\begin{aligned} K^* &= \int_0^H \int_0^L \partial_x p(x, y) dx dy \\ &= \int_0^H \int_0^L K(x, y) \partial_x p(x, y) dx dy \end{aligned}$$

Motivation: perfectly stratified medium



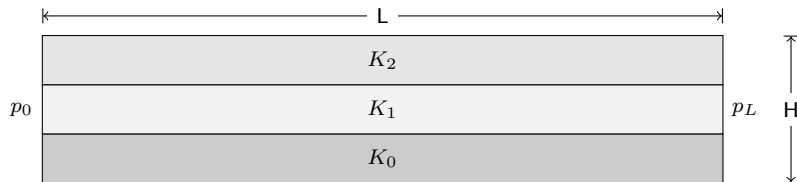
Linear pressure drop in the x -direction:

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$$\begin{aligned} K^* \int_0^H \int_0^L \partial_x p(x, y) dx dy &= K^* H(p_L - p_0) \\ &= \int_0^H \int_0^L K(x, y) \partial_x p(x, y) dx dy = \frac{p_L - p_0}{L} \int_0^H \int_0^L K(x, y) dx dy \end{aligned}$$

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Using definition of K^* :

$$\begin{aligned} K^* \int_0^H \int_0^L \partial_x p(x, y) \, dx \, dy &= K^* H (p_L - p_0) \\ &= \int_0^H \int_0^L K(x, y) \partial_x p(x, y) \, dx \, dy = \frac{p_L - p_0}{L} \int_0^H \int_0^L K(x, y) \, dx \, dy \end{aligned}$$

from which it follows that

$$K^* = \frac{1}{LH} \int_0^H \int_0^L K(x, y) \, dx \, dy.$$

Harmonic-arithmetic averaging

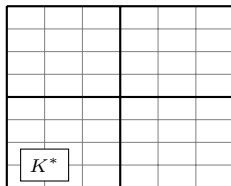
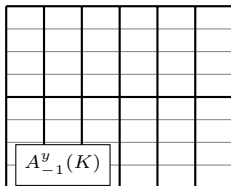
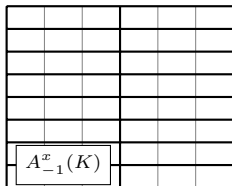
$$\mathbf{K}^* = \begin{bmatrix} A_1^{yz}(A_{-1}^x(\mathbf{K})) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_1^{xz}(A_{-1}^y(\mathbf{K})) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_1^{xy}(A_{-1}^z(\mathbf{K})) \end{bmatrix}$$

Harmonic-arithmetic averaging

$$\mathbf{K}^* = \begin{bmatrix} A_1^{yz}(A_{-1}^x(\mathbf{K})) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & A_1^{xz}(A_{-1}^y(\mathbf{K})) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & A_1^{xy}(A_{-1}^z(\mathbf{K})) \end{bmatrix}$$

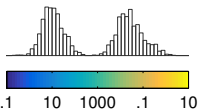
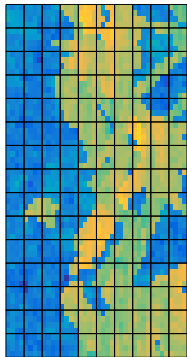
In MRST:

```
q = partitionUI(G, coarse);  
vol = G.cells.volumes;  
for i=1:size(rock.perm,2)  
    dims = G.cartDims; dims(i)=coarse(i);  
    qq = partitionUI(G, dims);  
    K = accumarray(qq,vol)./accumarray(qq,vol./rock.perm(:,i));  
    crock.perm(:,i) = accumarray(q,K(qq).*vol)./accumarray(q,vol);  
end
```

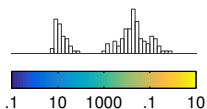
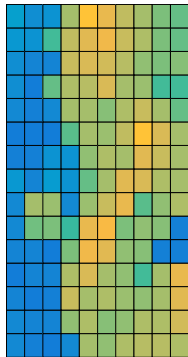


Example: Layer 46, SPE 10

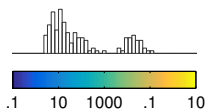
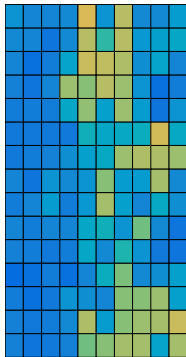
Fine scale



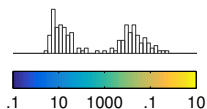
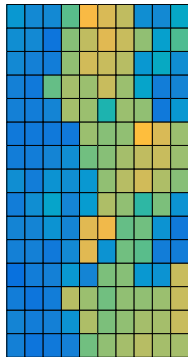
Arithmetic



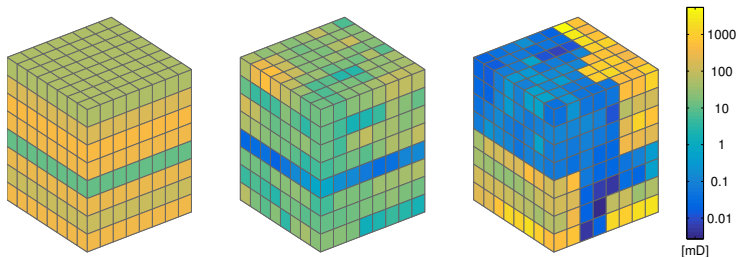
Harmonic



Harmonic-arithmetic



Example: ratio of fine and coarse-scale fluxes

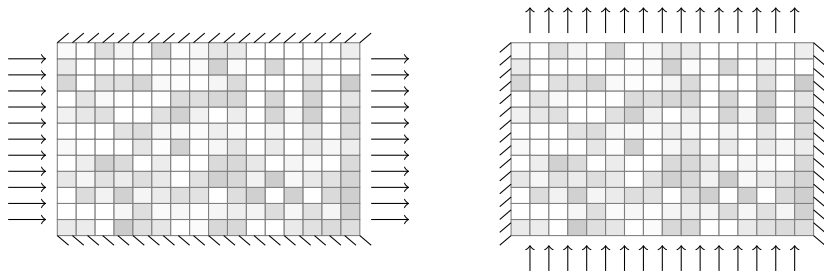


Model	Flow pattern	Arithmetic	Harmonic	Harm-arith
Layered	East → West	1.0000	0.2662	1.0000
	North → South	1.0000	0.2662	1.0000
	Top → Bottom	3.7573	1.0000	1.0000
Tarbert	East → West	1.6591	0.0246	0.8520
	North → South	1.6337	0.0243	0.8525
	Top → Bottom	47428.0684	0.3239	0.8588
Upper Ness	East → West	3.4060	0.0009	0.8303
	North → South	1.9537	0.0005	0.7128
	Top → Bottom	6776.8493	0.0020	0.3400

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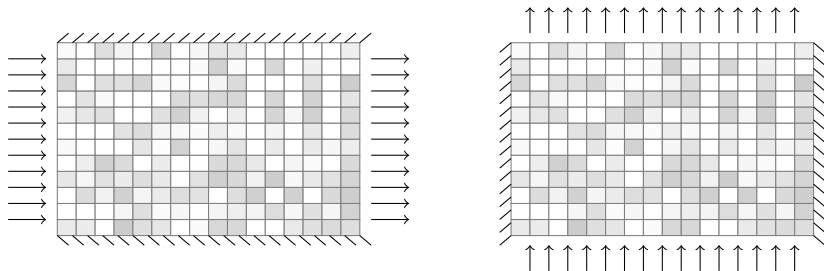
Flow-based upscaling



Emulate laboratory setup: pressure drop in each axial direction and sealing conditions along the other boundaries \rightarrow diagonal tensor:

$$K_{xx} = -\frac{v_x L_x}{\Delta p_x}, \quad K_{yy} = -\frac{v_y L_y}{\Delta p_y}, \quad K_{zz} = -\frac{v_z L_z}{\Delta p_z},$$

Flow-based upscaling



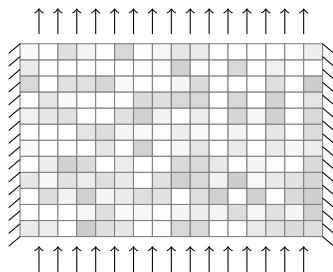
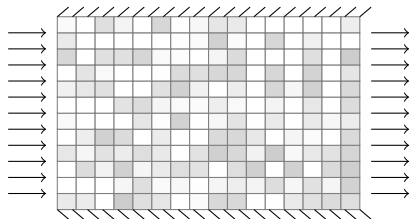
Emulate laboratory setup: pressure drop in each axial direction and sealing conditions along the other boundaries \rightarrow diagonal tensor:

$$K_{xx} = -\frac{v_x L_x}{\Delta p_x}, \quad K_{yy} = -\frac{v_y L_y}{\Delta p_y}, \quad K_{zz} = -\frac{v_z L_z}{\Delta p_z},$$

Only valid when \mathbf{K} is symmetric with respect to the faces of the coarse grid, i.e., the block is surrounded by mirror images of itself.

Tends to introduce bias toward lower permeability values: thickening shale barriers and narrowing sand channels.

Flow-based upscaling

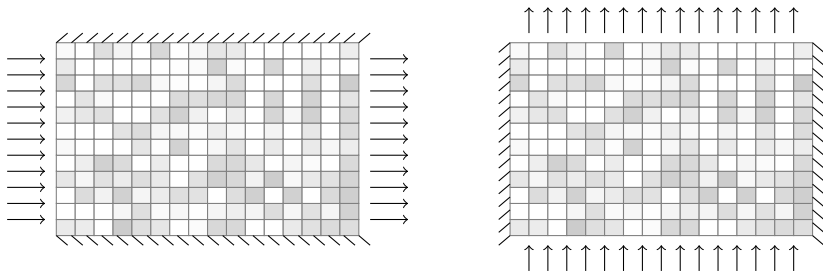


In MRST, for a rectangular grid:

```
bcsides = {'XMin', 'XMax'; 'YMin', 'YMax'; 'ZMin', 'ZMax'};
for j = 1:d;
    bcl{j} = pside([], G, bcsides{j, 1}, 0);
    bcr{j} = pside([], G, bcsides{j, 2}, 0);
end
Dp = {4*barsa, 0};
L = max(G.faces.centroids)-min(G.faces.centroids);
```

The `bcl` and `bcr` are templates storing all boundary conditions. Although not necessary now, we will use them later.

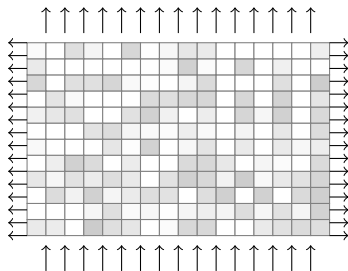
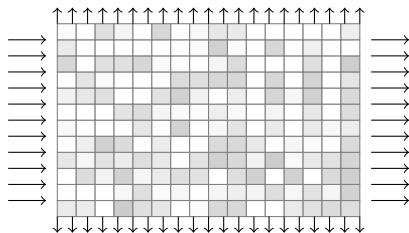
Flow-based upscaling



The upscaling can then be computed by looping over all axial directions:

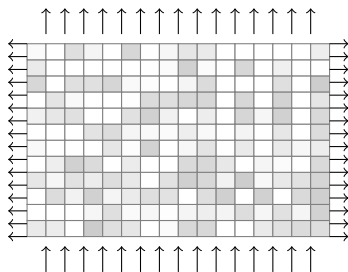
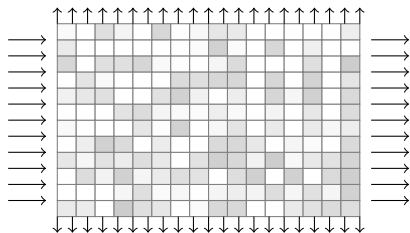
```
for i=1:d
  bc = addBC([], bcl{i}.face, 'pressure', Dp{1});
  bc = addBC(bc, bcr{i}.face, 'pressure', Dp{2});
  xr = incompTPFA(initResSol(G, 100*barsa, 1), G, hT, fluid, 'bc', bc);
  v(i) = sum(xr.flux(bcr{i}.face)) / sum(G.faces.areas(bcr{i}.face));
  dp(i) = Dp{1}/L(i);
end
K = convertTo(v./dp, milli*darcy);
```

Flow-based upscaling



More natural: pressure drop in each axial direction, but open boundaries, or alternatively a linear pressure drop parallel to flow direction $\rightarrow \mathbf{K}^*$ is full tensor.

Flow-based upscaling



Another popular option: periodic boundary conditions, here for the x -component:

$$p(L_x, y, z) = p(0, y, z) - \Delta p,$$

$$p(x, L_y, z) = p(x, 0, z),$$

$$p(x, y, L_z) = p(x, y, 0),$$

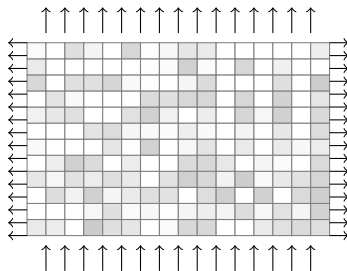
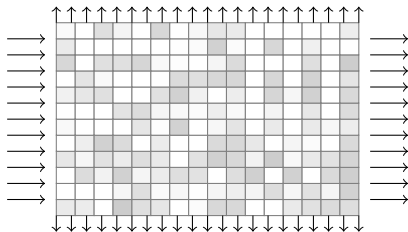
$$v(L_x, y, z) = v(0, y, z),$$

$$v(x, L_y, z) = v(x, 0, z),$$

$$v(x, y, L_z) = v(x, y, 0).$$

Gives symmetric and positive definite \mathbf{K}^*

Flow-based upscaling

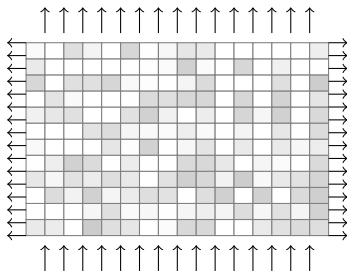
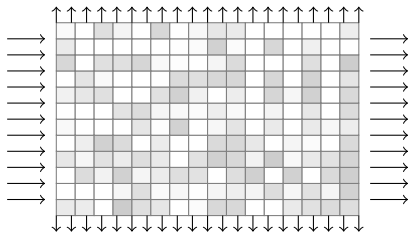


We start by modifying the grid structure

```
[Gp, bcp] = makePeriodicGridMulti3d(G, bcl, bcr, Dp);  
for j=1:d, ofaces{j} = bcp.face(bcp.tags==j); end
```

Technically, the grid is extended with a set of additional faces that connect cells on opposite boundaries of the domain. The routine also sets up an appropriate structure for representing periodic boundary conditions.

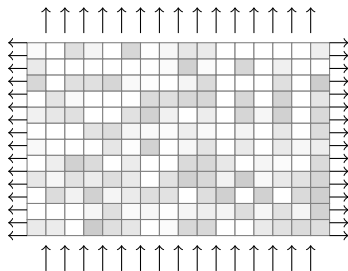
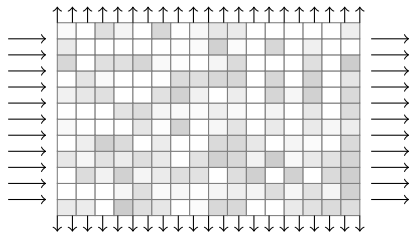
Flow-based upscaling



```
dp = Dp{1}*eye(d); nbcp = bcp;
for i=1:d
    for j=1:d, nbcp.value(bcp.tags==j)=dp(j,i); end
    xr = incompTPFA(initResSol(Gp, 100*barsa, 1), Gp, hT, fluid, 'bcp', nbcp);
    for j=1:d
        v(j,i) = sum(xr.flux(ofaces{j})) / sum(Gp.faces.areas(ofaces{j}));
    end
end
```

First inner loop: extracts the correct pressure drop to be included in the periodic boundary conditions from the diagonal matrix dp . Second loop: Compute total flux across all outflow faces

Flow-based upscaling

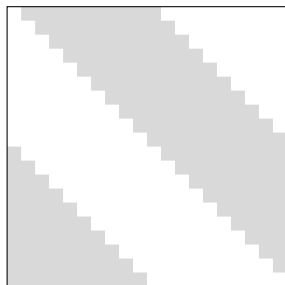


We can then compute the average pressure drop and invert Darcy's law to compute K^*

```
dp = bsxfun(@rdivide, dp, L);  
K = convertTo(v/dp, milli*darcy)
```

Sealing and periodic upscaling are implemented in two functions in the upscaling module: `upscalePermeabilityFixed`, `upscalePermeabilityPeriodic`

Example: two simple examples

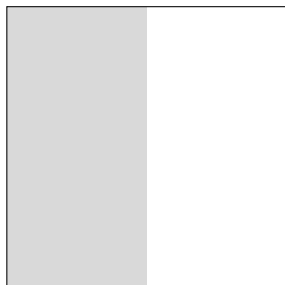


10 mD

30 mD

$$\mathbf{K}_s = \begin{bmatrix} 17.23 & 0 \\ 0 & 17.23 \end{bmatrix}$$

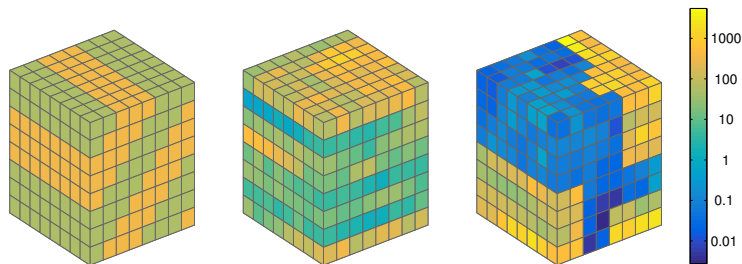
$$\mathbf{K}_p = \begin{bmatrix} 17.25 & -2.25 \\ -2.25 & 17.25 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$\mathbf{K}_s = \begin{bmatrix} 15.0 & 0 \\ 0 & 20.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{K}_p = \begin{bmatrix} 15.0 & 0 \\ 0 & 20.0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example: ratio of fine and coarse-scale fluxes

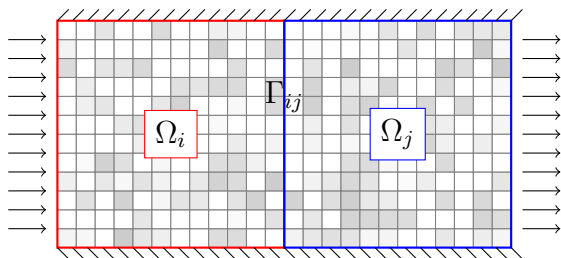


Model	Flow pattern	Harm-arith	Sealing	Periodic
Layered	East → West	0.78407	1.00000	1.02594
	North → South	0.49974	1.00000	1.00000
	Corner → Corner	1.04273	1.30565	1.34228
Tarbert	East → West	0.86756	1.00000	0.56111
	North → South	0.89298	1.00000	0.53880
	Corner → Corner	0.00003	0.00027	39.11923
Upper Ness	East → West	0.83026	1.00000	0.40197
	North → South	0.71283	1.00000	0.28081
	Corner → Corner	0.09546	0.62377	2183.26643

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Detour: generation of coarse grids
- 3 Averaging methods
- 4 Flow-based upscaling of permeability
- 5 Flow-based upscaling of transmissibility
- 6 Examples

Local transmissibility upscaling

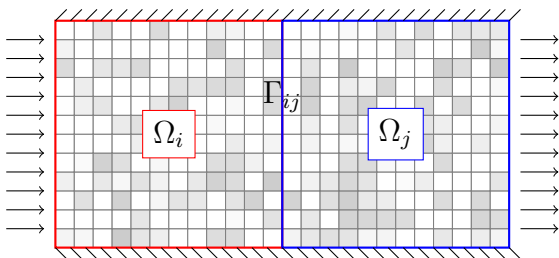


Instead of \mathbf{K}^* , we seek block transmissibilities T_{ij}^* satisfying

$$v_{ij} = T_{ij}^* \left(\frac{1}{|\Omega_i|} \int_{\Omega_i} p d\vec{x} - \frac{1}{|\Omega_j|} \int_{\Omega_j} p d\vec{x} \right),$$

where $v_{ij} = - \int_{\Gamma_{ij}} (\mathbf{K} \nabla p) \cdot \vec{n} d\nu$ is the total Darcy flux across Γ_{ij}

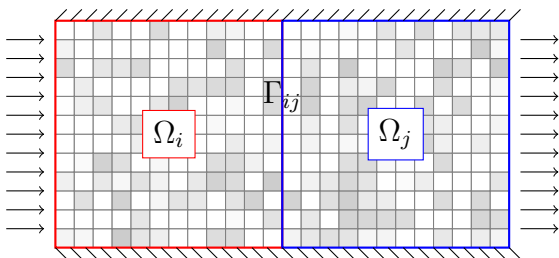
Local transmissibility upscaling



Construct coarse grid:

```
CG = generateCoarseGrid(G, q);  
CG = coarsenGeometry(CG);
```

Local transmissibility upscaling



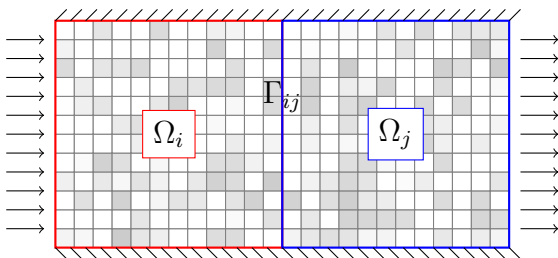
Construct coarse grid:

```
CG = generateCoarseGrid(G, q);  
CG = coarsenGeometry(CG);
```

Find all faces in the fine grid that lie on Γ_{ij} :

```
i = find(~any(CG.faces.neighbors==0,2));  
faces = CG.faces.fconn(CG.faces.connPos(i):CG.faces.connPos(i+1)-1);  
sgn = 2*(CG.faces.neighbors(i, 1) == 1) - 1;
```

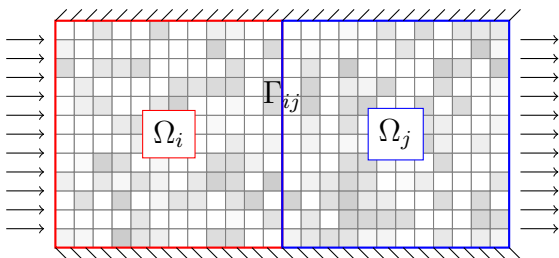
Local transmissibility upscaling



Using pressure drop and sealing boundary conditions:

```
bc = pside([], G, 'XMin', Dp(1));  
bc = pside(bc, G, 'XMax', Dp(2));  
xr = incompTPFA(initResSol(G, 100*barsa, 1), G, hT, fluid, 'bc', bc);  
flux = sgn * sum(xr.flux(faces));  
mu = fluid.properties();
```

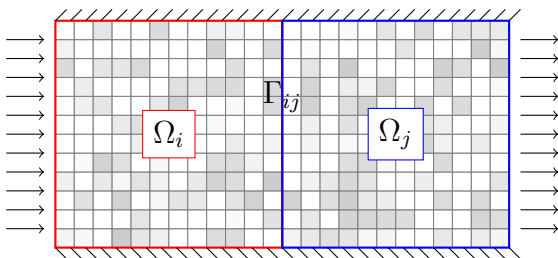
Local transmissibility upscaling



Compute average pressure values and invert Darcy's law:

```
P = accumarray(q,xr.pressure)./accumarray(q,1);  
T = mu*flux/(P(1) - P(2));
```

Local transmissibility upscaling



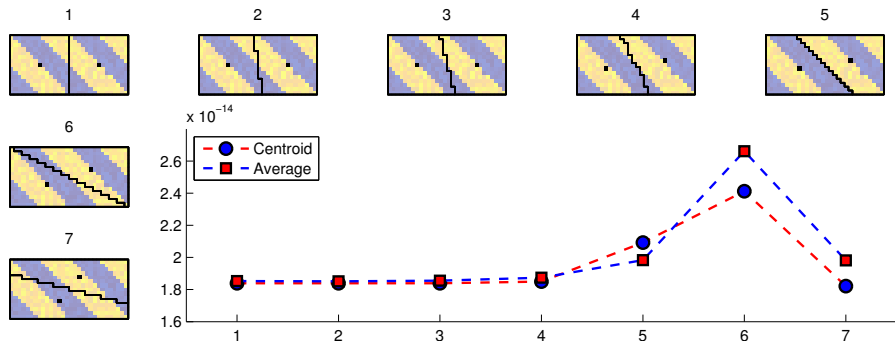
Compute average pressure values and invert Darcy's law:

```
P = accumarray(q,xr.pressure)./accumarray(q,1);  
T = mu*flux/(P(1) - P(2));
```

Alternatively, use pressure at e.g., the block centroids:

```
cells = findEnclosingCell(G,CG.cells.centroids);  
P      = xr.pressure(cells);
```


Example: rotated two-block configuration



Positive transmissibilities

Transmissibilities should be positive to ensure that

$$\sum_j T_{ij}^* (p_i - p_j) = q_i,$$

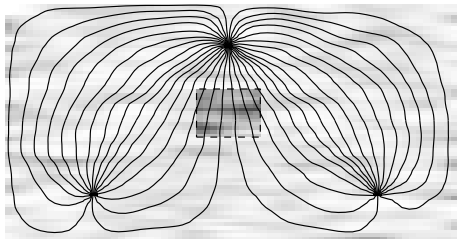
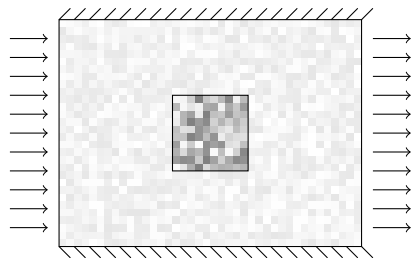
will reproduce the net grid block pressures $p_\ell = \frac{1}{|\Omega_\ell|} \int_{\Omega_\ell} p \, d\vec{x}$

Not always the case:

- if the chord between the cell centroids does not cross the coarse interface
- if the petrophysical values are too heterogeneous (e.g., SPE 10 model)
- unique T^* may not exist since the upscaling problem is generally not well-posed

Trick of the trade: set $T_{ij} = \max(T_{ij}^*, 0)$

Oversampling, global, and local-global methods



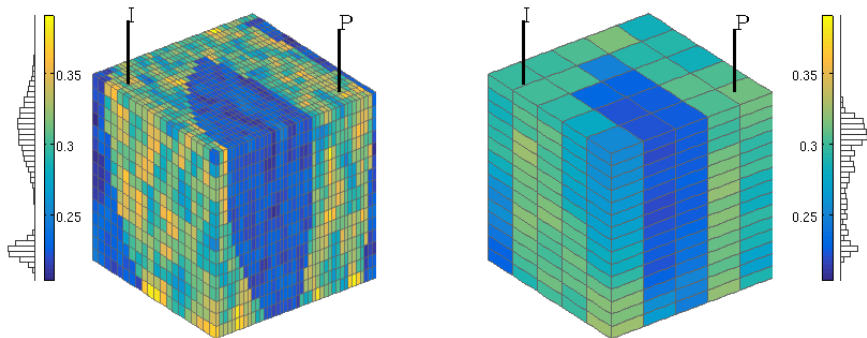
- Oversampling: lessen impact of the choice of b.c.
- Global: use global flow solution (*generic* or *specific*)
- Local-global: bootstrapping method, global flow problem solved on coarse grid
- Various fallback strategies to prevent/reduce negative values

In MRST: `upscaleTrans`

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Detour: generation of coarse grids
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- 6 **Examples**

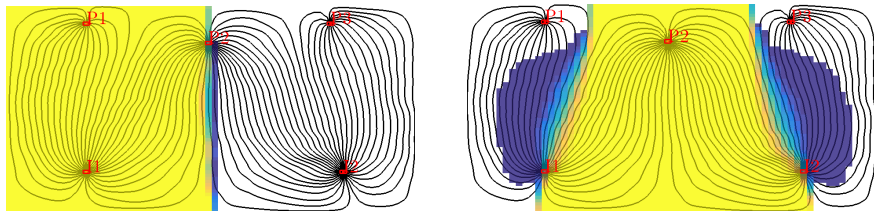
Example: model with two rock types



- Two facies with contrasting properties
- Vertical wells diagonally opposite in high-permeable part of model
- Two methods: local upscaling of \mathbf{K} , global generic upscaling of T

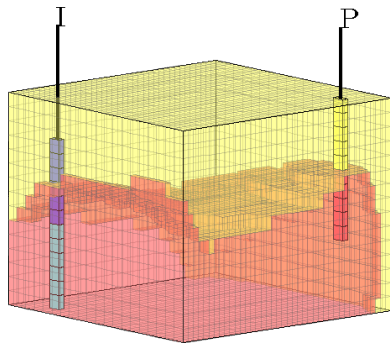
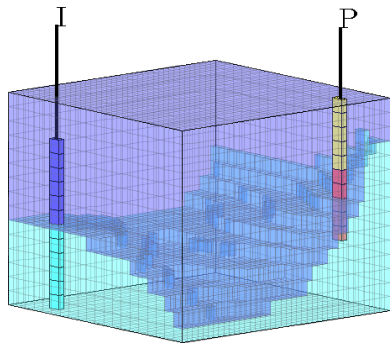
Example: model with two rock types

Quality assurance – flow diagnostics



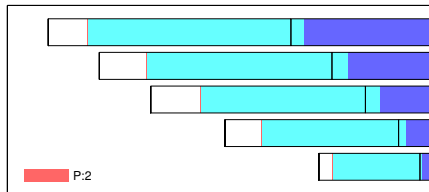
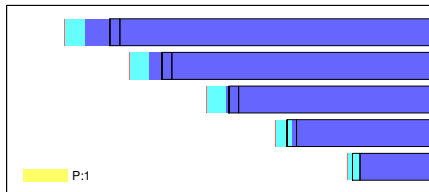
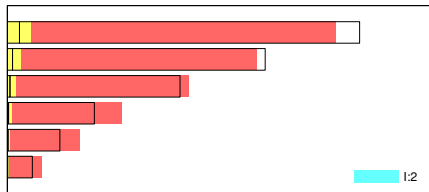
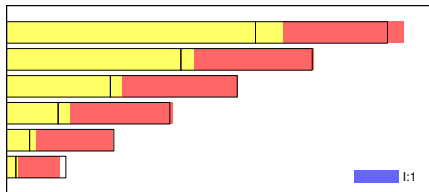
Influence regions, from which one can e.g., compute well-allocation factors.

Example: model with two rock types



Example: model with two rock types

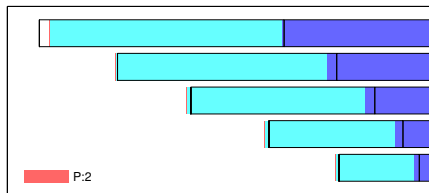
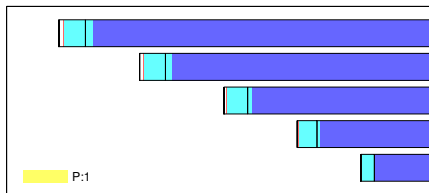
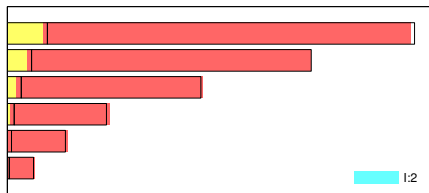
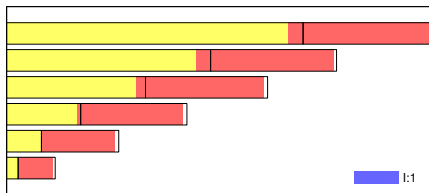
Local flow-based upscaling of K :



Cumulative well-allocation factors computed on fine model (solid lines) and upscaled model (colorbars)

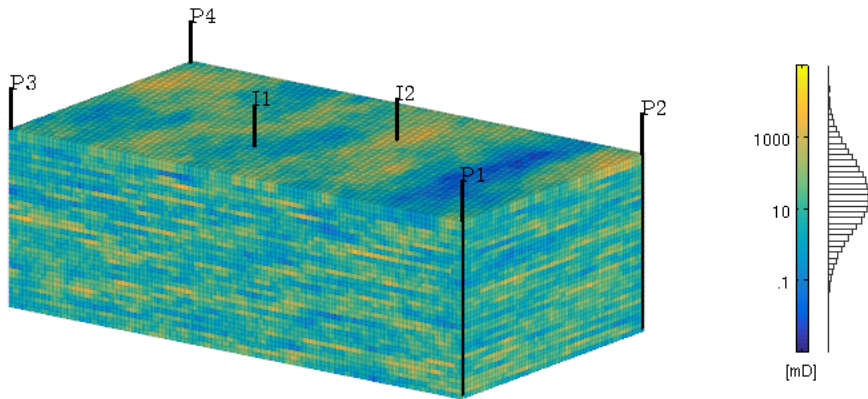
Example: model with two rock types

Global generic upscaling of T + upscaling of well indices:



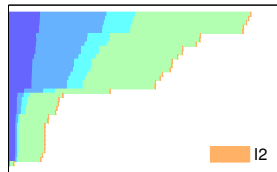
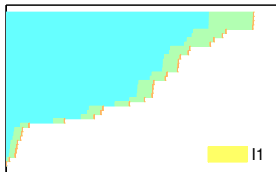
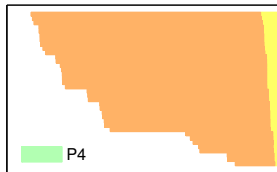
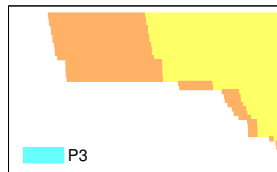
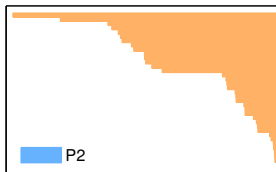
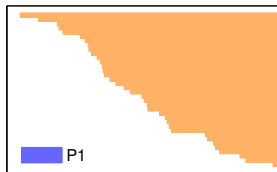
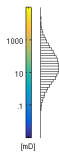
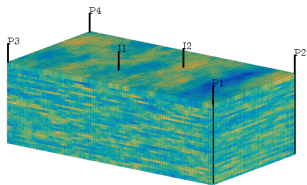
Cumulative well-allocation factors computed on fine model (solid lines) and upscaled model (colorbars)

Example: SPE 10 benchmark



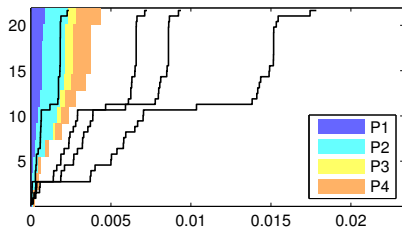
Tarbert formation (shallow marine, $220 \times 60 \times 36$) upscaled to a $22 \times 6 \times 12$ coarse model by four different methods. All wells controlled by bottom-hole pressure

Example: SPE 10 benchmark

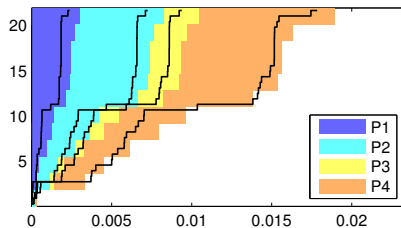


Example: SPE 10 benchmark

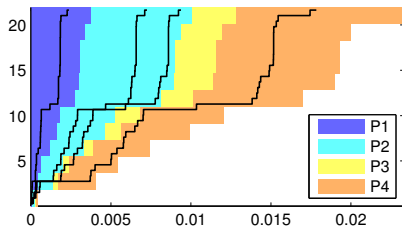
Harmonic



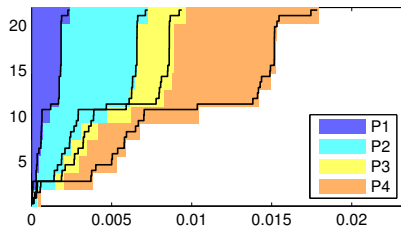
Harmonic-arithmetic



Flow-based, pressure drop

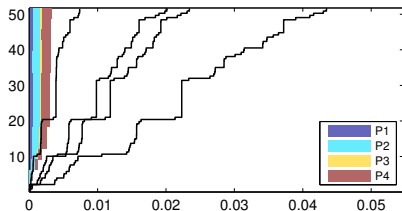


Global, flow-based

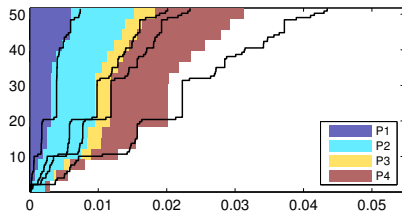


Example: SPE 10 benchmark

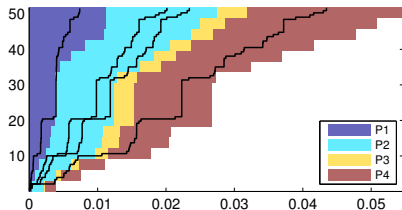
Harmonic



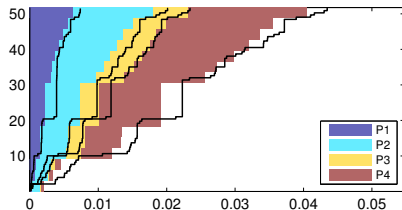
Harmonic-arithmetic



Flow-based, pressure drop



Global, flow-based



Summary

- Finding accurate and robust upscaling is difficult, no single method is unequivocally better than others
- Best choice depends upon purpose: aggressive coarsening with specific method if you only simulate a given scenario, otherwise pick a robust method
- Try different methods, starting by simple averaging to bound your values
- Try different coarse grids
- Check validity using single-phase flow physics (e.g., flow diagnostics) to exclude multiphase effects