



Minisymposium 9 - Nichtlineare Evolutionsgleichungen und Probleme mit freiem Rand

Homogenization of degenerate two-phase flow equations with a free boundary approach

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We consider the one-dimensional degenerate two-phase flow equations as a model for water-drive in oil recovery. The effect of oil trapping is observed in strongly heterogeneous materials with large variations in the permeabilities and in the capillary pressure curves. In such materials, a vanishing oil saturation may appear at interior interfaces and inhibit the oil recovery. We introduce a free boundary problem that separates a critical region with vanishing permeabilities from a strictly parabolic region and give a rigorous derivation of the effective conservation law.