



## Table of contents

<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Abstract .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>List of figures .....</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>List of tables .....</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Motivations and objectives.....	1
1.2 Thesis outline.....	5
<b>2 Tight gas field Leer in the North German Basin .....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 North German Basin .....	9
2.2 Tight gas sandstone and Rotliegend sandstone.....	11
2.3 Historical field development .....	13
<b>3 Fundamentals of hydraulic fracturing and application in Leer.....</b>	<b>18</b>
3.1 Fracturing fluids, well types and fracture orientation .....	18
3.2 Procedure and stages of hydraulic fracturing.....	21
3.3 Bottomhole pressure record.....	23
3.4 Formation characterization .....	28
3.4.1 Well and reservoir testing .....	29
3.4.2 Rock properties from well logs.....	33
3.4.3 Reservoir properties from well logs.....	46
3.4.4 Minifrac test.....	55
3.5 Fracture conductivity lab testing.....	64
<b>4 Modeling of hydraulic fracturing.....</b>	<b>67</b>
4.1 Historical development of hydraulic fracture modeling .....	68
4.1.1 Modelling of penny-shaped fractures.....	68
4.1.2 2D model.....	70
4.1.3 Planar 3D and pseudo-3D models.....	75



<b>4.2</b>	<b>Real 3D hydraulic fracture modeling with coupled THM effects .....</b>	<b>81</b>
4.2.1	Governing equations for mechanical deformation .....	82
4.2.2	Fracture propagation .....	85
4.2.3	Governing equations for solid-liquid two phase flow in the fracture.....	87
4.2.4	Flow interaction between the fracture and the formation.....	89
4.2.5	Governing equations for the heat transport .....	90
4.2.6	Coupled THM effects between each of the processes.....	92
<b>5</b>	<b>Development of the Frac- and FracProdu-Simulator for the optimization of multistage hydraulic fracturing .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>RDO simulator optiSLang .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>The coupled Frac-Simulator optiSLang-FLAC3D<sup>plus</sup> .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Verification of the Frac-Simulator .....</b>	<b>99</b>
5.3.1	Problem definition.....	99
5.3.2	Sensitivity analysis.....	101
5.3.3	Global optimization.....	103
5.3.4	Local optimization .....	104
5.3.5	Check uniqueness of the solution.....	106
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Reservoir simulator TMVOCMP.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>The coupled FracProdu-Simulator optiSLang-FLAC3D<sup>plus</sup>-TMVOCMP .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Verification of the developed FracProdu-Simulator .....</b>	<b>111</b>
5.6.1	Sensitivity analysis.....	112
5.6.2	Global optimization.....	114
5.6.3	Local optimization .....	115
5.6.4	Check uniqueness of the solution.....	116
<b>6</b>	<b>Optimization of the hydraulic fracturing operation in the tight gas reservoir Leer .....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Numerical simulation of the hydraulic fracturing.....</b>	<b>118</b>
6.1.1	Simulation results of frac-stage 1.....	122
6.1.2	Simulation results of frac-stage 2.....	127
6.1.3	Simulation results of frac-stage 3.....	133



6.1.4	Simulation results of frac-stage 4.....	138
6.1.5	Summary.....	143
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Numerical simulation of the gas production .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Proposal of a new calculation formula of <math>F_{CD}</math> .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Sensitivity analysis .....</b>	<b>150</b>
6.4.1	Proppant type .....	150
6.4.2	Viscosity of the injection fluid.....	152
6.4.3	Injection time/rate .....	154
6.4.4	Summary .....	156
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Optimization of the treatment schedule and fracture number/spacing .....</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusions and outlook .....</b>	<b>169</b>
	<b>References.....</b>	<b>173</b>