

Novel Modeling of Non‑Isothermal Flow‑Induced Fine Particle Migration in Porous Media Based on the Derjaguin‑Landau‑Verwey‑Overbeek Theory

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Abstract

Mobilization of in situ fne particles in geothermal reservoirs is a key contributor to permeability damage and clogging of the reservoir rock, leading to a decline in well productivity during enhanced geothermal operations. This phenomenon is a result of disturbance in the mechanical equilibrium of the forces acting on a given fne particle, most signifcant of which are electrostatic and drag forces. These forces are afected by changes in fuid flow velocities, in situ temperatures, or ionic strength of in situ fluids. Theoretical formulation of migration of fne particles in porous media driven by non-isothermal fow remains challenging, and requires a considerable number of parameters to quantify the characteristics of a given colloidal particle-pore fuid–solid grain system. The identifcation of all the involved parameters often necessitates costly, intricate, and time-consuming physical experiments. Moreover, implementing the complete form of the Derjaguin-Landau-Verwey-Overbeek (DLVO) theory, commonly adopted to evaluate changes in electrostatic forces, is complicated, computationally demanding, and impractical, particularly when applied to evaluate fnes migration at a reservoir scale. This study presents a theoretical framework for accurate and practical prediction of fne particle migration driven by nonisothermal fow in a clay-NaCl-quartz system. The novel contributions of this study are twofold. Firstly, a new numerical model is developed based on the complete DLVO theory, which integrates for the frst time the efects of both thermal and hydraulic loads on all underlying parameters including both the static dielectric constant and the refractive index of the pore fuid. Secondly, an innovative simplifed DLVO-based model has been introduced, requiring notably fewer parameters compared to existing models, thus ofering a practical and efficient solution. The proposed models are utilized to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the fundamental mechanisms involved in fne particle liberation. Findings are key to predict fnes-migration-induced permeability damage in geothermal reservoirs to achieve a sustainable design of energy storage/production operations as well as to develop effective strategies to prevent or mitigate the decline in well productivity in time.

Keywords DLVO theory · Electrostatic force · Fines mobilization · Non-isothermal fow · Geothermal reservoir clogging

Extended author information available on the last page of the article

List of symbols

Greek Symbols

1 Introduction

Decline in well productivity during enhanced geothermal operations is a widely reported challenge that has adverse efects on the sustainable extraction of heat (Baudracco [1990a](#page-29-0), [b;](#page-29-1) Baudracco and Aoubouazza [1995;](#page-29-2) Priisholm et al. [1987](#page-30-0); Rosenbrand and Fabricius [2012;](#page-30-1) Rosenbrand et al. [2012](#page-30-2), [2014](#page-30-3), [2015\)](#page-30-4). The release of in situ fne particles is a major factor contributing to this issue. These liberated particles move through the porous formation and become trapped in narrow pore throats, causing damage to permeability (Lever and Dawe [1984](#page-30-5); Muecke [1979](#page-30-6); Sarkar and Sharma [1990](#page-31-0)). Liberation of fnes occurs when the mechanical equilibrium of the attaching forces (i.e., electrostatic and gravity forces) and the detaching forces (i.e., drag and lifting forces) exerted on the particle is disturbed (Fig. [1\)](#page-3-0). In geological reservoirs, the equilibrium of in situ fnes can be disturbed as a result of fuid fow velocities, temperature alterations in the porous formation, or reduced ionic strength of the in situ fuids (Bradford et al. [2013;](#page-29-3) Sharma et al. [1992a](#page-31-1), [b\)](#page-31-2).

Non-isothermal injection of fuids deep into geological reservoirs is a frequent process during energy related operations including enhanced geothermal projects, and thermal energy storage in aquifers. Such operations generate spatiotemporal alterations in in situ pore pressures as well as temperatures, resulting in a coupled thermo-hydro-mechanical (THM) response of the reservoir formation (Chen and Ewy [2005](#page-29-4); Tao and Ghassemi [2010;](#page-31-3) Zhai and Atefi-Monfared $2020a$, [b,](#page-31-5) [c](#page-31-6)), in addition to liberation and migration of the in situ fne particles (Yu et al. [2019;](#page-31-7) Zhai and Atef-Monfared [2021a,](#page-31-8) [b](#page-31-9)). In situ stresses can be tightly coupled with pore pressure and temperature changes, while the reduction in permeability due to straining of the liberated particles also impacts in situ pore pressures and fow. As a result, in a porous formation containing in situ fnes, a complex coupling exists between the THM response of the formation and the liberation, migration, and straining of the fne particles. It is critical to predict fnes-migration-induced permeability damage in aquifers and geothermal reservoirs to achieve a sustainable design of energy operations and to develop efective strategies to prevent or mitigate the decline in well productivity in time.

Numerous laboratory experiments and theoretical studies have been conducted to evaluate the fundamental mechanisms behind fne-migration-induced permeability reduction in porous formations. Many studies have focused on fnes migration induced as a result of high fluid flow velocities, and/or a reduced ionic strength of in situ fluids (e.g., Alem et al.

[2015;](#page-29-5) Bedrikovetsky et al. [2012;](#page-29-6) Kia et al. [1987a](#page-30-7), [b](#page-30-8); Liu et al. [2016a](#page-30-9), [b](#page-30-10); Zhai and Atef-Monfared [2020a,](#page-31-4) [b](#page-31-5)). A number of studies have also been looking into temperature-induced particle mobilization (e.g., Schembre and Kovscek [2005a,](#page-31-10) [b;](#page-31-11) Wang et al. [2021](#page-31-12); You et al. [2019,](#page-31-13) [2016\)](#page-31-14). The impact of temperature loads on the stability of in situ fnes in a saturated porous formation introduces further intricacies as it generates various competitive mechanisms. An increase in reservoir temperatures results in a decline in the attaching electrostatic forces between fne particles and the solid surface. At the same time, the viscosity of the pore fuid decreases with an increase in in situ temperatures, leading to a reduction in the detaching drag and lifting forces (Yang et al. ([2016\)](#page-31-15). Theoretical formulation and investigation of problems of such intricate nature remains challenging.

Variations of the electrostatic force with temperature is often explained through the Derjaguin-Landau-Verwey-Overbeek (DLVO) theory (Schembre and Kovscek [2005a](#page-31-10), [b\)](#page-31-11). Based on the DLVO theory, an increase in temperature in a saturated porous formation––consisting of quartz sand as the solid skeleton––with in situ clay particles present in the porous space, leads to a decrease in the dielectric permittivity of the pore fuid. As a result, the thickness of the electrical double layer (EDL) is reduced. Furthermore, an increase in temperature results in an increase in the negative surface charge of both clay particles and sand (Ramachandran and Somasundaran [1986](#page-30-11); Rosenbrand et al. [2014](#page-30-3)), further enhancing particle-grain repulsion and contributing to the detachment of fne particles. Consequently, higher temperatures lead to decreased attaching electrostatic forces.

One of the key theoretical studies on temperature-induced fnes migration was con-ducted by You et al. ([2019\)](#page-31-13) who studied liberation of in situ fines in geothermal reservoirs for low concentrations of fnes. They proposed a solution for axisymmetric water fow toward the wellbore derived based on the DLVO theory. The reservoir domain was divided into two zones: a damaged zone, where the fuid is assumed to be incompressible and the fuid velocity was assumed to be constant; and an undamaged zone where fuid is compressible and the pore pressures are taken to be temporal. The proposed model involved many parameters related to the physical, chemical and mechanical properties of the solid grain, pore fuid, and in situ fne particles. Likewise, other pertinent research based on the DLVO theory involves a multitude of parameters to depict the detachment, mobilization, and straining of fnes induced by thermal efects (e.g., Oliveira et al. [\(2014](#page-30-12)) Wang et al. ([2021\)](#page-31-12); Yu et al. [\(2019](#page-31-7)); Khilar and Fogler ([1998\)](#page-30-13).

Electrostatic force is the force acting between a charged colloidal particle and a given surface in an electrolyte solution. In the context of DLVO theory, colloidal particles are assumed to possess a signifcantly larger size compared to electrolyte ions. Consequently, the electrostatic force can be estimated by considering the summation of the London–van der Waals potential, short-range repulsive electrical double layer interactions, and Born potential (Schembre and Kovscek [2005a](#page-31-10), [b](#page-31-11)). The London–van der Waals potential is related to the separation distance between the colloidal particle and the solid grain surface, the Hamaker constant, and the characteristic wavelength of interaction. The interaction deriving from the electrical double layer between the colloidal particle and solid surface relies on factors such as the separation distance, surface charges, ion concentration, and zeta potential of the interacting system. The short-range repulsive Born potential is related to the separation distance, collision diameter, the Hamaker constant, and particle size of the porous matrix. This comprehensive analysis necessitates a considerable number of experiments to determine the relative factors within the colloidal particle-pore fuid–solid grain system, ultimately enabling the prediction of the electrostatic force. The identifcation of all the parameters involved often necessitates costly, intricate, and time-consuming physical experiments. Moreover, implementing the complete DLVO theory is complicated and

computationally demanding requiring sophisticated numerical modeling techniques. These techniques might encounter challenges related to convergence and runtime, particularly when applied to evaluate fnes migration at a reservoir scale. As a result, the practicality of this theory in feld applications is limited. Current numerical studies on migration of fne particles in porous media driven by non-isothermal fow have been established based on a number of simplifying assumptions (e.g., Bedrikovetsky et al. [\(2012](#page-29-6)), You et al. [\(2019](#page-31-13)), Wang et al. ([2021\)](#page-31-12)). Hence, the development of a simplified DLVO theory is crucial to facilitate accurate yet practical predictions of fnes migration's impact on the THM behavior of geological reservoirs.

The goal of this study is to develop a novel theoretical framework for accurate and practical prediction of fne particle migration driven by non-isothermal fow. This work contains two novel components: Firstly, a new numerical model is developed based on the full DLVO theory. The proposed model integrates the infuence of thermal and hydraulic loads on all the involved parameters, including both the static dielectric constant and the refractive index of the pore fuid. Subsequently, a comprehensive analysis utilizing this developed model is undertaken to gain new insights into the impacts of temperature, velocity, and ionic strength of in situ fuids on electrostatic forces. The newly acquired knowledge is then utilized to develop an innovative simplifed DLVO-based model which requires notably fewer parameters compared to existing models, thus offering a practical and efficient solution. This model is then verifed against the proposed model presented in the frst part of this paper. The fnal part of the paper presents a sensitivity analysis conducted using the proposed simplifed model, aimed at obtaining a better understanding of the impact of the key parameters on mobilization of in situ fnes.

2 Methodology

The frst part of this paper presents a new theoretical and numerical model based on the complete DLVO theory aimed at evaluating the mechanical equilibrium of fne particles in saturated porous media under induced temperatures and fuid velocities, while incorporating the efects from the ionic strength of in situ fuids. The second part of the paper presents a novel simplifed DLVO-based model considering the efects of fuid velocity, temperature, and the ionic strength of in situ fuids. The assumptions behind the full theoretical model presented in the frst part of the paper are primarily typical assumptions adopted in previous studies (You et al. [2016;](#page-31-14) Zhai and Atef-Monfared [2021a](#page-31-8), [b](#page-31-9)), including constant porosity; trivial changes in permeability due to particle mobilization, thus incorporating particle straining as the main source of permeability change; and negligible gravity and uplift forces compared to the other existing forces. The in situ fne particles examined in this study are kaolinite clay (Leluk et al. [2010a,](#page-30-14) [b\)](#page-30-15). The clay particles are not considered mono-sized, and the grain size distribution of these in situ fnes has been integrated in the proposed models. The solid skeleton of the porous medium is assumed to be of quarts, and the pore fuid is considered to be NaCl solution (i.e., clay-water–sand system). The proposed theoretical framework is developed for a temperature range of 5–170 °C (where variations in the static dielectric constant of clay particles (ϵ_2) with temperature can be assumed negligible), in situ pore pressures<100 MPa, and for NaCl solution concentrations below 2 M. Following the approach of previous studies (e.g., Bedrikovetsky et al. [2011a,](#page-29-7) [b](#page-29-8); You et al. [2015;](#page-31-16) Yuan et al. [2012](#page-31-17)), a maximum retention function has been adopted as a mathematical means to examine fne particle liberation.

3 Mechanical Equilibrium of Fines Using the Complete DLVO Theory

3.1 Drag Force

The drag force acting on in situ fne particles situated within a porous medium subjected to a fowing fuid can be estimated using the following expression derived from the analytical solution of the Navier–Stokes equations obtained for fow around a fnite size particle fxed on a plane (Goldman et al. [1966a](#page-29-9), [b](#page-29-10); O'Neill [1968;](#page-30-16) Sharma et al. [1992a](#page-31-1), [b](#page-31-2))

$$
F_{\rm d} = \omega \pi \mu r_s u_t \tag{1}
$$

where the drag factor $\omega = 6 \times 1.7$ is adopted in this study ($\omega = 6$ corresponds to the Stokes formula for a particle in the uniform boundary-free fux) (Yang et al. [2016](#page-31-15)).

The following empirical relation from AL-Shemmeri, T., [2012\)](#page-29-11), also adopted by previous researchers (e.g., You et al. [2019](#page-31-13)), has been utilized in this study to describe the temperature dependency of water viscosity

$$
\mu = 2.414 \times 10^{-5} \times 10^{\frac{247.8}{T+133.15}}
$$
 (2)

Equation [2](#page-6-1) is valid for a temperature range of 0 °C–370 °C. Figure 2 presents variations of water viscosity with temperatures according to Eq. (2) (2) (2) and shows a decrease in water viscosity with increasing temperature which leads to a decline in the drag force. This reduction rate is notably higher under lower temperatures and reduces as the temperature rises.

For Hele-Shaw flow in a slot, u_t can be estimated as (Yang et al. [2016](#page-31-15))

$$
u_t = \frac{3r_s\overline{u}}{H} \tag{3}
$$

where the average velocity \overline{u} is related to fluid flux *U*, as a function of formation's porosity ϕ (assumed to be constant in this study)

Fig. 2 Variation of water viscosity with temperatures based on Eq. [\(2](#page-6-0))

$$
\overline{u} = \frac{U}{\phi} \tag{4}
$$

By substituting Eqs. (3) (3) and (4) (4) in Eq. (1) (1) , the drag force can be expressed as

$$
F_{\rm d} = \frac{\omega \pi \mu r_s^2 U}{\phi H} \tag{5}
$$

3.2 Electrostatic Force

In studies concerned with colloid stability or particle deposition on a solid surface, the van der Waals attraction force between the fne particle and the solid grain is computed as a function of the separation distance between the solid grain and the fne particle, *h*[∗] (m). Two approaches have been commonly adopted to predict electrostatic forces between macroscopic bodies: applying a pairwise summation of all relevant intermolecular interactions (widely known as Hamaker ([1937a](#page-29-12), [b](#page-30-17)) based approach); a more rigorous approach based on Lifshitz theory (Lifshitz and Hamermesh [1992\)](#page-30-18) which depends entirely on macroscopic electrodynamic properties of the interacting media. Despite a number of limitations, the Hamaker approach continues to be widely adopted (e.g., You et al. ([2016\)](#page-31-14) due to simplicity of use while providing reasonably accurate results for practical systems (Bedrikovetsky et al. [2011a,](#page-29-7) [b](#page-29-8)). In the current study, the Hamaker approach is adopted to compute the total electrostatic force (F_e, N) acting on a fine particle

$$
F_{\rm e} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial h^*} \tag{6}
$$

According to the DLVO theory, total energy is the sum of the London-van-der-Waals attraction (V_{LW} , J), the double electric layer repulsion (V_{EDL} , J), and the Born repulsion (V_B, J) potentials (Derjaguin and Landau [1993](#page-29-13); Elimelech et al. [1995\)](#page-29-14)

$$
V = V_{\text{LW}} + V_{\text{EDL}} + V_{\text{B}} \tag{7}
$$

London-van-der-Waals Attraction V_{LW} is computed as

$$
V_{\text{LW}} = -\frac{A_{132}r_s}{6h^*} \left[1 - \frac{5.32h^*}{\lambda} \ln \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{5.32h^*} \right) \right]
$$
 (8)

where $\lambda = 100$ nm is adopted (Gregory [1981a](#page-29-15), [b\)](#page-29-16); A_{132} for a clay-water–sand system can be estimated as (Israelachvili [2011](#page-30-19))

$$
A_{132} = \frac{3}{4} k_{{\rm B}} (T + 273.15) \left(\frac{\epsilon_{1} - \epsilon_{3}}{\epsilon_{1} + \epsilon_{3}} \right) \left(\frac{\epsilon_{2} - \epsilon_{3}}{\epsilon_{2} + \epsilon_{3}} \right) + \frac{3h\nu_{e}}{8\sqrt{2}} \frac{\left(n_{1}^{2} - n_{3}^{2} \right) \left(n_{2}^{2} - n_{3}^{2} \right)}{\left(n_{1}^{2} + n_{3}^{2} \right)^{1/2} \left(n_{2}^{2} + n_{3}^{2} \right)^{1/2} \left[\left(n_{1}^{2} + n_{3}^{2} \right)^{1/2} + \left(n_{2}^{2} + n_{3}^{2} \right)^{1/2} \right]}
$$
(9)

where the constant value of absorption frequency $v_e = 3 \times 10^{15} s^{-1}$ is taken from Israelach-vili [\(2011](#page-30-19)). The static dielectric constants for clay and NaCl solution are temperature sensitive, while variations in ε_2 with temperature can be assumed negligible for $T < 170^{\circ}$ C (Stuart [1955](#page-31-18)). To explain the sensitivity of ε_1 with temperature, the following empirical relationship is adopted based on the results reported by Leluk et al. ([2010a](#page-30-14), [b\)](#page-30-15), also utilized by some previous studies (e.g., You et al. [\(2019](#page-31-13))

$$
\varepsilon_1 \approx \varepsilon_{10} - 0.005(T - T_0) \tag{10}
$$

 ϵ_3 is believed to be sensitive to both temperature and fluid pressure. For simplicity, some previous studies have assumed ε_3 to be linearly related to temperature (e.g., You et al. [\(2019\)](#page-31-13). In order to obtain a higher accuracy, a more rigorous approach is adopted in this study. According to Hasted ([1948](#page-30-20)), for solution concentrations less than 2 M, the relation between ε_3 and salt concentration could be expressed as

$$
\varepsilon_3 = \varepsilon_{3,w} + 2\delta c_n \tag{11}
$$

A value of δ = -11 has been adopted (Hasted [1948\)](#page-30-20). The following empirical equation by Fernández et al. [\(1997\)](#page-29-17) has been utilized to predict the temperature dependency of ε_3 for saturated formations

$$
\begin{cases}\n\varepsilon_{3,w} = 5.36058 \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{8} L_i \theta^i \right) \\
\theta = \left(1 - \frac{T + 273.15}{T_{\text{ref}}} \right)^{1/3}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(12)

where $T_{\text{ref}} = 647.096K$. The values for the parameter L_i are presented in Table [1](#page-8-0). Equa-tion [\(11\)](#page-8-1) can predict ε_3 with high accuracy (99.95%) for T < 360.85°C (Fernández et al. [1997\)](#page-29-17).

The effect of fluid pressure (P, Pa) on ε_3 can be expressed as (Fernández et al. [1997\)](#page-29-17)

$$
\frac{\partial \varepsilon_3}{\partial P} \approx 0.035 \times 10^{-6}
$$
 (13)

It is important to note that the impact of pressure on the static dielectric constant of NaCl solution is dependent on both the in situ temperature and the initial in situ pressure. The abovementioned relation has been provided for an in situ temperature of ~ 126 °C and a reference pressure P_{ref} of 10 MPa. A sensitivity analysis was conducted in the current study and results suggest minimal changes when utilizing the

Table 1 L_i values to be implemented in Eq. [11](#page-8-1) (Fernández et al. [1997](#page-29-17))

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various relations proposed by Fernández et al. [\(1997\)](#page-29-17) for a wide range of in situ temperatures and initial pressures applicable for the study of interest.

The effect of temperature variations on n_1 is unknown, and the authors were not able to find any references studying this effect. The variation of $n₂$ over temperature can be estimated as (Radhakrishnan [1951\)](#page-30-21)

$$
\frac{\partial n_2}{\partial T} \approx -0.3 \times 10^{-5} \tag{14}
$$

The dependence of n_3 on temperature is given by Leyendekkers and Hunter ([1977\)](#page-30-22)

 ϵ

$$
n_3 = \sqrt{\frac{2f(n_3) + 1}{1 - f(n_3)}}
$$

(15)

$$
f(n_3) = A\Psi_w^{-B} \exp(-CT) + \Delta f(n_3)
$$

where *A*, *B* and *C* are only related to the wavelength, and adopted to be $A = 0.2057691$, $B = 0.88542$ and $C = 6.0835 \times 10^{-5}$; Ψ_w is the apparent specific volume of water present in the solution, computed as

$$
\begin{cases}\n\Psi_w = v_w \left[1 - 0.315 \log \left(\frac{B_T + P_e + P}{B_T + 1 \times 10^5} \right) \right] \\
B_T = 1 \times 10^5 \left[2671.8 + 19.454T - 0.27028T^2 + 0.0009798T^3 \right] \\
v_w = \frac{1}{d_w} 1.000028 \\
d_w = 1 - (T - a_1)^2 (T + a_2) / a_4 / (T + a_3)\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(16)

where $a_1 = 3.9863$, $a_2 = 288.9414$, $a_3 = 68.12963$ and $a_4 = 508929.2$. The "effective pressure" P_e is

$$
P_e = h_0 + h_1 x + h_2 x^2 + h_3 x^3 \tag{17}
$$

where $h_0 = -0.03$, $h_1 = 5078.65$, $h_2 = 2.022$ and $h_3 = 11206.30$ for NaCl solution; *x* is the grams of solute present in 1 g solution. $\Delta f(n_3)$ in Eq. ([14](#page-9-0)) can be computed as (Leyendekkers and Hunter [1977\)](#page-30-22)

$$
\Delta f\left(n_3\right) = c_1 x + c_2 x^2 \tag{18}
$$

where $c_1 = 5.69338 \times 10^{-2}$ and $c_2 = 0.00433 \times 10^{-2}$ for NaCl solution.

Double Electric Layer Repulsion. V_{EDL} is estimated as a function of temperature as (Gregory [1975a](#page-29-18), [b\)](#page-29-19)

$$
V_{\rm EDL} = \frac{128\pi r_s n_{\infty} k_{\rm B} T}{\kappa^2} \gamma_s \gamma_{\rm pm} \exp\left(-\kappa h^*\right) \tag{19}
$$

where $n_{\infty} = 1000 N_A c_n$ (m⁻³) and κ (m.⁻¹) is computed as (Elimelech et al. [1995\)](#page-29-14)

$$
\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{e^2 \sum_{i} n_{i0} z_i^2}{\epsilon_0 \epsilon_3 k_{\text{B}} (T + 273.15)}}
$$
(20)

where γ_s and γ_{pm} (V) are computed as

$$
\gamma_s = \tanh\left[\frac{ze\zeta_s}{4k_\text{B}(T+273.15)}\right]
$$

$$
\gamma_{\text{pm}} = \tanh\left[\frac{ze\zeta_{\text{pm}}}{4k_\text{B}(T+273.15)}\right]
$$
(21)

where ζ_s and ζ_{nm} (V) are related to temperature (Schembre and Kovscek [2005a,](#page-31-10) [b](#page-31-11))

$$
\zeta_i(T) = [0.01712(T - T_0) + 1]\zeta_i(T_0)
$$
\n(22)

Born Potential. V_B is computed as

$$
V_{\rm B} = \frac{A_{132}\sigma_c^6}{7560} \left[\frac{8r_s + h^*}{\left(2r_s + h^*\right)^7} + \frac{6r_s - h^*}{\left(h^*\right)^7} \right] \tag{23}
$$

where $\sigma_c = 0.5$ nm is adopted in this study (Elimelech et al. [1995](#page-29-14)).

By substituting Eqs. (7) (7) , (8) (8) , (19) (19) (19) , and (23) (23) (23) in Eq. (6) (6) (6) , the electrostatic force is obtained to be

$$
F_e = F_{e, \text{LW}} + F_{e, \text{EDL}} + F_{e, B} \tag{24}
$$

where

$$
\begin{cases}\nF_{e,\text{LW}} = -\frac{A_{132}r_s \lambda}{6} \times \frac{1}{(h*)^2 (5.32h * + \lambda)} \\
F_{e,\text{EDL}} = \frac{128\pi r_s n_{\infty} k_B (T + 273.15)}{\kappa} \gamma_s \gamma_{pm} e^{-\kappa h *} \\
F_{e,B} = \frac{A_{132} \sigma_c^6}{7560} \left[\frac{54r_s + 6h *}{(2r_s + h *)^8} + \frac{42r_s - 6h *}{(h *)^8} \right]\n\end{cases} (25)
$$

3.3 Mechanical Equilibrium of In situ Fine Particles

The stability status of in situ fne particles can be determined using the equilibrium of the attaching and detaching torques exerted on the particle (Bedrikovetsky et al. [2011a](#page-29-7), [b](#page-29-8)). Assuming negligible gravity and uplift forces, the torque balance equation results in

$$
\frac{F_{\rm d}}{|F_{\rm e}|} = \frac{l_{\rm e}}{l_{\rm d}} \approx \varepsilon_p \tag{26}
$$

The lever arm ratio ε ^{*p*} for a solid fine particle situated on a solid substrate is believed to be in the order of $10^{-2} - 10^{-3}$ (Bradford et al. [2013](#page-29-3); Kalantariasl [2014,](#page-30-23) [2015\)](#page-30-24).

The electrostatic force is of an attractive nature where $F_e < 0$, and of a repulsive nature for $F > 0$. F_e is a function of the fine-solid matrix separation distance (h^*) (Eq. [6](#page-7-3)), and thus varies depending on the separation distance of the fne particle with respect to the solid matrix. In the context of mechanical equilibrium of fines, Eq. (25) (25) (25) , the electrostatic force corresponds to the maximum negative F_e value. Once the equilibrium of a fine particle positioned on a solid matrix is disrupted, the particle will begin to move (either detaches or rotates on the surface surrounding the tangent point depending on in situ conditions). During this period, the separation distance *h** between the particle and the solid surface will begin to increase from its minimum value to a certain value after which the electrostatic attraction between the fne particle and the solid matrix becomes negligible. The latter state corresponds to the particle dislodging stage, where the torque from the drag force exceeds that of the maximum attractive electrostatic forces. It is thus important to have a correct understanding of the complex variations in the electrostatic force between fnes and the solid matrix.

Figure [3](#page-11-0) presents variations of the total potential energy and the electrostatic force exerted on a fne particle as a function of the separation distance parameter computed using Eqs. [\(7](#page-7-1)) and [\(24\)](#page-10-2), under three diferent in situ temperatures. Input parameters given in Table [2](#page-12-0) have been adopted for these analyses.

Results indicate that the maximum attractive electrostatic force is indeed temperature dependent. Therefore, to accurately assess fine particle mobilization, F_e should be identifed incorporating *h** and in situ temperatures. The aforementioned parameters are both

Fig. 3 Variations of the total potential energy and electrostatic force as a function of the fne-solid matrix separation distance at three diferent in situ temperatures

Table 2 Input parameters adopted in this study (You et al. [2019](#page-31-13))

Boltzmann constant, k_B	1.381×10^{-23} J/K
T_0	25° C
P_0	1×10^5 Pa
ε_{10} at $T = T_0$	11.8
ε ₂	5
n ₁	1.563
n_2 at $T = T_0$	1.544
Salt concentration, c_n	0.2 M mol/L
Mass percent of salt corresponding to $c_n = 0.2, x$	0.01163
Absorption frequency, v_e	3.0×10^{15} s ⁻¹
Planck constant,h	$6.62607015 \times 10^{-34}$ J·s
Characteristic wavelength of interaction, λ	100 nm
Porosity, ϕ	0.106
Half-width of the channel, H	$2 \mu m$
Elementary electric charge,e	1.602×10^{-19} C
Avogadro constant, N_A	$6.02214076 \times 10^{23}$ mol ⁻¹
The valence of ions, z	1
Dielectric permittivity of vacuum, ε_0	8.854×10^{-12} F/m
Zeta potential for particles at $T_0, \zeta_s(T_0)$	-30.4 mV
Zeta potential for porous medium at $T_0, \zeta_s(T_0)$	-24.3 mV
Collision diameter, σ_c	0.5 nm
ε_n	0.021
critical temperature T_{ult} , ^o C	109.9
Simplified model parameters	
index of largest particle sizes d_g , μ m	3.747
M	0.9
N	3.727
critical temperature T_{ult} , °C	109.9

time-dependent under non-steady-state conditions. These graphs show one absolute value for F_e (Fig. [3a](#page-11-0)) in case of low in situ temperatures, while under higher in situ temperatures two local maximum values (negative) (F_{max}) exist for the electrostatic force as h^* varies (Fig. [3](#page-11-0)b, c).

Figure [4](#page-13-0)a illustrates variations in the two probable F_{emax} values along with the absolute maximum value of the electrostatic force (F_e) with temperature, under different salt concentrations in the range of 0.025 M–0.6 M. Figure [4](#page-13-0)b presents the corresponding *h** for $F_{\text{emax}}^{(1)}$ and $F_{\text{emax}}^{(2)}$ reported in Fig. [4](#page-13-0)a as a function of temperature for various salt concentrations. Results reveal that $F_{\text{emax}}^{(1)}$ corresponds to a smaller separation distance and decreases rapidly with an increase in temperature, while $F_{\text{emax}}^{(2)}$ corresponds to a larger separation distance and seems to be insensitive to temperature changes. The electrostatic force adopted in Eq. ([25](#page-10-1)) corresponds to the overall F_{emax} for various h^* , which will be: $F_{\text{emax}}^{(1)}$ in case of lower in situ temperatures, is temperature dependent, and occurs under a smaller h^* where the fines are very close to the solid skeleton; and $F_{\text{max}}^{(2)}$ in case of higher in situ temperatures, undergoes trivial changes with temperature variations maintaining a negative value close to zero, and occurs at a larger h^* . Results from Fig. [4b](#page-13-0) suggest that

Fig. 4 a Variations in F_e _{max} under different temperatures. **b** The corresponding h^*

the separation distance corresponding to $F_{\text{emax}}^{(1)}$ is practically not sensitive to temperature, while those corresponding to $F_{\text{emax}}^{(2)}$ can vary with temperature.

Looking at F_{emax} variations with temperature under a wide range of solution concen-tration (0.025 M–0.6 M) in Fig. [4](#page-13-0), it is clear that $F_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$ variation with temperature is sensitive to salt concentration, while $F_{\text{emax}}^{(2)}$ is not affected by the aforementioned parameter. Overall, an increase in solution concentration resulted to a higher negative value for $F_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$ and thus an overall increase in F_{max} under lower temperatures. Furthermore, under higher temperatures, the h^* corresponding to the maximum electrostatic force drops substantially with an increase in salt concentration.

Another key parameter for assessing fne particle liberation is the critical particle radius $r_{\rm sc}$, defined as the minimal particle size that can detach from solid surface under a given in situ condition. Particles with radius greater than the critical particle radius ($r > = r_{sc}$) will detach from solid surface, while particles with a radius smaller than the critical particle radius $(r < r_{sc})$ will remain affixed to the solid surface. The critical particle radius can be estimated using the torque equilibrium equation (Eq. [25](#page-10-1)) under diferent fuid velocities, in situ temperatures, and solution concentration. It should be restated that the electrostatic force adopted for these analyses is F_{emax} obtained from Eq. [\(24\)](#page-10-2).

Figure [5](#page-14-0) presents variations in the critical particle radius as a function of temperature and fuid velocity using input parameters provided in Table [2.](#page-12-0) Results indicate that for a given in situ temperature, the critical radius decreases with an increase in fuid fow velocity. On the other hand, for a given fuid fow velocity, an increase in in situ temperatures initially results in an increase in the critical radius up to a certain temperature, after which further increase in in situ temperatures will decrease this parameter. Ultimately, there exists a temperature threshold beyond which the temperature's infuence on the critical particle radius becomes minimal. This threshold temperature is referred to in this paper as the ultimate temperature, T_{ult} . For $T < T_{\text{ult}}$, the electrostatic force equals to $F_{\text{max}}^{(1)}$ and var-ies drastically with temperature (Fig. [3](#page-11-0)a), having a significant effect on the critical radius with temperature changes. However, for temperatures greater than the ultimate temperature (*T* > T_{ult}), the electrostatic force equals to $F_{\text{emax}}^{(2)}$ which maintains a trivial value (\approx 0) independent of temperature, leading to the infnitesimal value of the critical radius. In other words, for $T > T_{\text{ult}}$, almost all particles have already detached from the solid grain surface and are in a mobilized state within the pore space.

Fig. 5 Critical particle radius as a function of **a** fuid velocity, and **b** in situ temperatures

As illustrated in Fig. [5,](#page-14-0) the impact of temperature on the critical radius under a given fluid flow velocity is complex. In case of in situ temperatures $T < T_{\text{ult}}$, the electrostatic force decreases with increasing temperature, which favors fne particle liberation (Fig. [4a](#page-13-0)). On the other hand, the drag force experiences an initial rapid decline as the temperature rises. However, beyond a certain threshold, the rate of change in the drag force decreases substantially with further temperature increase (Fig. [2](#page-6-1)). Hence, the critical particle radius frst increases with temperature increase before decreasing beyond a certain temperature threshold. In case of high in situ temperatures $T > T_{\text{ult}}$, the variation of electrostatic force with temperature is very small (Fig. [4a](#page-13-0)), while the drag force decreases with increasing temperature due to variations in the fuid viscosity (Fig. [2](#page-6-1)). Thus, the critical particle radius exhibits a slight increasing trend for $T > T_{ult}$, particularly under lower fluid flow velocities.

4 Proposed Simplifed DLVO Theory

4.1 Simplifcation of Electrostatic Force

The objective of this section is to present a simplifed DLVO-based theory to explain fne liberation due to non-isothermal flow. Based on Eq. (24) and Eq. (25) , the maximum attractive electrostatic force can be expressed as

$$
F_{e\max} = \langle F_{e\max} \rangle^{\text{LW}} + \langle F_{e\max} \rangle^{\text{EDL}} + \langle F_{e\max} \rangle^B \tag{27}
$$

As explained earlier in the paper, in situ temperatures, pore pressures, and solution concentration impact the electrostatic force and are incorporated in the DLVO theory. To develop a simplifed DLVO-based model, the sensitivity of the electrostatic force to in situ pressures, temperature variations, and solution concentrations is investigated next.

To better understand the impact of in situ pore pressures on the electrostatic force, variations in F_{emax} are plotted versus pore pressures, considering a wide range of in situ temperatures (Fig. 6). Results reveal that the electrostatic force changes less than 4% when pore pressures vary in the range of 0.1 MPa to 100 MPa. This observation suggests that the impact of pore pressures on the electrostatic force is negligible for pore pressures<100 MPa. Accordingly, pore pressure efects on the electrostatic force are

Fig. 6 Variations of the electrostatic force with in situ pore pressures for a wide range of in situ temperatures

disregarded in the proposed simplifed DLVO-based theory in the current study for simplicity.

The effects from temperature alterations on the electrostatic force are studied in Fig. [7](#page-15-1). This figure presents F_e and its components (Eq. [27](#page-14-1)) as a function of in situ temperatures using input parameters presented in Table [2](#page-12-0). For in situ temperatures smaller than the ultimate temperature $(T < T_{\text{ult}})$, an increase in in situ temperature results in a linear decrease in the electrostatic force and $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{\text{EDL}}$ while generating a slight linear increase in $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{\text{LW}}$ and $\langle F_{e \text{max}} \rangle^B$. Where in situ temperatures exceed the ultimate temperature $(T > T_{\text{ult}})$, the electrostatic force yields zero.

Based on the trends detected in Fig. [7](#page-15-1), quadratic and linear functions are proposed in this study to simplify the DLVO theory for explaining the attractive electrostatic

Fig. 7 Variations of the electrostatic force and its components as a function of temperature

Fig. 8 a Variations in the product of the reduced zeta potentials of the fne and porous matrix as a function of temperature for a given range of salt concentration. **b** Proposed expression for the fitting coefficient a_{y1} and m_i coefficients

force between fne particles and the solid matrix as a function of temperature. First, the component $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{\text{EDL}}$ is simplified to explain its sensitivity to temperature changes. According to Eq. ([25\)](#page-10-1), $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{\text{EDL}}$ is computed based on the product of zeta potentials of the fine particles and the porous matrix $(Y_s \cdot Y_{pm})$, as well as the Debye length (κ) . Thus, to simplify the expression for $\langle F_{\text{emax}} \rangle^{\text{EDL}}$, the aforementioned two terms will be simplifed. First, variations in the zeta potentials with respect to temperature are evaluated. Using input values from Table 2 and Table 3 obtained from experimental data reported by You et al. ([2019\)](#page-31-13), the normalized product of the two reduced zeta potentials is computed using the theoretical Eq. (21) (21) and plotted as a function of temperature (Fig. [8\)](#page-16-1). Results suggest a fairly linear relationship between the normalized product of the reduced zeta potential values and temperature variations. Based on the results presented in Fig. [8](#page-16-1), the following ftting relationship is proposed to estimate the normalized product of the reduced zeta potential values as a function of temperature

$$
\gamma_s \cdot \gamma_{\rm pm} = \left(a_{\gamma 0} + a_{\gamma 1} T \right) \left(\zeta_{s0} \cdot \zeta_{\rm pm0} \right) \tag{28}
$$

where $a_{\nu 0}$ and $a_{\nu 1}$ are related to the salt concentration, pressure and pH values.

 a_{v1} obtained from the data presented from You et al. ([2019](#page-31-13)) under different salt con-centrations presented in Fig. [8](#page-16-1) can be fitted using $a_{\gamma 1} = m_1 - m_2 \times m_3^{c_n}$. $a_{\gamma 0}$ is found to be 36 for sand-clay-NaCl solution. Results obtained from the proposed simplifed Eq. ([29](#page-17-0)) (Fig. [8](#page-16-1)a) suggest a good approximation obtained for a temperature range of 5° C–170 $^{\circ}$ C, particularly for higher salt concentrations. The proposed values for m_1 , m_2 , m_3 have been determined using curve ftting from Fig. [8a](#page-16-1), as depicted in Fig. [8b](#page-16-1).

Fig. 9 Variations of the Debye length with temperature for solutions with diferent salt concentrations

Next, a simplifed relation is proposed for the Debye length as a function of temperature. To achieve this, the Debye length versus temperature (Eq. [20](#page-10-4)) is plotted in Fig. [9.](#page-17-1) Results suggest the Debye length to vary in the order of $\sim 10\%$ with temperatures $< 170^{\circ}$ C. Therefore, the Debye length can be assumed insensitive to temperature changes for $T < 170^{\circ}$ C. Ignoring temperature effects, the expression of the Debye length for the NaCl solution (Eq. 20) can be simplified as

$$
\kappa^{-1} \approx \sqrt{\frac{273.15k_{\mathrm{B}}\epsilon_0\epsilon_{30}}{2 \times 10^3 \times e^2 N_{\mathrm{A}}c_n}}
$$
(29)

The Debye length computed using the simplifed Eq. ([29\)](#page-17-0) presented in Fig. [8](#page-16-1) confrms a fairly reasonable approximation in case of temperatures in the range of $5-170$ °C. The precision of this simplified equation increases for solutions with higher salt concentrations.

Substituting the two simplifed Eqs. [\(28](#page-16-2)) and ([29\)](#page-17-0) in Eq. ([25b](#page-10-1)), the following approximation is obtained for $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{\text{EDL}}$

$$
\langle F_{e\max} \rangle^{EDL} = 128\pi r_s n_{\infty} k_B \kappa^{-1} \zeta_{s0} \zeta_{pm0} \left[273.15 a_{\gamma 0} + \left(a_{\gamma 0} + 273.15 a_{\gamma 1} \right) T + a_{\gamma 1} T^2 \right] e^{-\kappa h *}
$$
\n(30)

where κ^{-1} is calculated using Eq. [\(29\)](#page-17-0) independent of temperature.

Another temperature-sensitive parameter present in the DLVO theory is *h**. Based on Fig. [4](#page-13-0)b, the separation distance appears not sensitive to temperature changes where $T < T_{\text{ultr}}$. As a result, h^* can be assumed temperature independent when calculating the maximum value of attractive electrostatic force where $T < T_{\text{ult}}$. Based on this assumption, $e^{-\kappa h*}$ is taken to be constant (B_{EDL}) for $T \leq T_{\text{ult}}$ and therefore Eq. ([30\)](#page-17-2) is further simplifed as

$$
\langle F_{e\max} \rangle^{\text{EDL}} = 128 B_{\text{EDL}} \pi r_s n_{\infty} k_{\text{B}} \kappa^{-1} \zeta_{s0} \zeta_{\text{pmo}} \left[273.15 a_{\gamma 0} + \left(a_{\gamma 0} + 273.15 a_{\gamma 1} \right) T + a_{\gamma 1} T^2 \right], \ T \le T_{\text{ult}} \tag{31}
$$

where B_{EDL} is related to material properties and independent of temperature and fluid velocity.

The Hamaker constant A_{132} defined in Eq. ([9\)](#page-7-4) is related to temperature, salt concentration and pore pressure. The efect of pore fuid pressure on Hamaker constant is very small and can be neglected compared with the effects of temperature and salt concentration. The variation of Hamaker constant is quadratic under diferent temperatures, as shown in Fig. [10](#page-18-0). Based on Tayler series, the following approximation of Hamaker constant is obtained

$$
A_{132} = \hat{A}_{132} + a_{h1}T + a_{h2}T^2 - c_n(a_{h3}T + a_{h4}T^2)
$$
\n(32)

where \hat{A}_{132} is computed as follows:

$$
\hat{A}_{132} = \frac{3}{4} k_{B} (T_{0} + 273.15) \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{10} - \varepsilon_{30}}{\varepsilon_{10} + \varepsilon_{30}} \right) \left(\frac{\varepsilon_{2} - \varepsilon_{30}}{\varepsilon_{2} + \varepsilon_{30}} \right) \n+ \frac{3h\nu_{e}}{8\sqrt{2}} \frac{\left(n_{1}^{2} - n_{30}^{2} \right) \left(n_{20}^{2} - n_{30}^{2} \right)}{\left(n_{1}^{2} + n_{30}^{2} \right)^{1/2} \left(n_{20}^{2} + n_{30}^{2} \right)^{1/2} \left[\left(n_{1}^{2} + n_{30}^{2} \right)^{1/2} + \left(n_{20}^{2} + n_{30}^{2} \right)^{1/2} \right]}
$$
\n(33)

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The ftting parameters for the Hamaker constant are determined using the least square method and presented in Table [4](#page-18-2). The results shown in Fig. [10](#page-18-0) suggest that the simplifed Eq. ([32](#page-18-1)) can adequately predict the Hamaker constant under various temperatures and salt concentrations.

Applying Eq. ([32](#page-18-1)) into Eqs. ([25a](#page-10-1), c), the following equations are proposed to estimate $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{LW}$ and $\langle F_{e \text{ max}} \rangle^{B}$

$$
\begin{cases}\n\langle F_{e\max}\rangle^{\text{LW}} = -\frac{r_s \lambda}{6} \left(B_{\text{LW0}} + B_{\text{LW1}} T + B_{\text{LW2}} T^2 \right) \\
\langle F_{e\max}\rangle^B = \frac{r_s \sigma_c^6}{7560} \left(B_{B0} + B_{B1} T + B_{B2} T^2 \right) \\
\end{cases} \quad \text{for} \quad T \le T_{\text{ult}} \tag{34}
$$

where B_{LWi} and B_{Bi} (*i* = 0, 1, 2) are computed as follows.

$$
\begin{cases}\nB_{\text{LWO}} = \frac{\hat{A}_{132}}{(h*)^2 (5.32h * + \lambda)} \\
B_{\text{LW1}} = \frac{a_{h1} - a_{h3}c_n}{(h*)^2 (5.32h * + \lambda)} \\
B_{\text{LW2}} = \frac{a_{h2} - a_{h4}c_n}{(h*)^2 (5.32h * + \lambda)}\n\end{cases} (35)
$$

$$
\begin{cases}\nB_{B0} = \frac{42}{(h*)^8} \hat{A}_{132} \\
B_{B1} = \frac{42}{(h*)^8} (a_{h1} - a_{h3}c_n) \\
B_{B2} = \frac{42}{(h*)^8} (a_{h2} - a_{h4}c_n)\n\end{cases} (36)
$$

Substituting Eqs. (31) (31) (31) and (34) in Eq. (27) , the approximate equation for the attractive electrostatic force in obtained for $T \leq T_{\text{ult}}$

$$
F_{e\max} = -(B_0 - B_1 T - B_2 T^2) r_s, \ T \le T_{\text{ult}} \tag{37}
$$

where

$$
\begin{cases}\nB_0 = 3.4963 \times 10^4 \times B_{\text{EDL}} \pi n_{\infty} k_{\text{B}} \kappa^{-1} a_{\gamma 0} \zeta_{s0} \zeta_{\text{pm0}} + \frac{\lambda}{6} B_{\text{LWO}} - \frac{\sigma_c^6}{7560} B_{B0} \\
B_1 = 128 (a_{\gamma 0} + 273.15 a_{\gamma 1}) B_{\text{EDL}} \pi n_{\infty} k_{\text{B}} \kappa^{-1} \zeta_{s0} \zeta_{\text{pm0}} - \frac{\lambda}{6} B_{\text{LW1}} + \frac{\sigma_c^6}{7560} B_{B1} \\
B_2 = 128 a_{\gamma 1} B_{\text{EDL}} \pi n_{\infty} k_{\text{B}} \kappa^{-1} \zeta_{s0} \zeta_{\text{pm0}} - \frac{\lambda}{6} B_{\text{LW2}} + \frac{\sigma_c^6}{7560} B_{B2}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(38)

For in situ temperatures $T > T_{\text{ult}}$, the electrostatic force remains relatively constant with temperature variations (Fig. [2\)](#page-6-1). Therefore, the proposed simplifed expressions for the maximum attractive electrostatic force based on in situ temperatures are as follows

$$
F_{e\max} = \begin{cases} -(B_0 - B_1 T - B_2 T^2) r_s, \ T \le T_{\text{ult}} \\ -(B_0 - B_1 T_{\text{ult}} - B_2 T_{\text{ult}}^2) r_s, \ T > T_{\text{ult}} \end{cases}
$$
(39)

Figure [11](#page-20-0) presents a comparison between the maximum attractive electrostatic force computed using the exact solution at $c_n = 0.2M$ and the values obtained using the pro-posed simplified model (Eqs. [39\)](#page-20-1). The separation $h *$ value for $T < T_{ult}$ is 3.63 × 10⁻¹⁰ based on the results shown in Fig. [4](#page-13-0). Other parameters are calculated based on Eqs. ([35](#page-19-1), [36](#page-19-2), [38\)](#page-19-3) using the values provided in Tables [2](#page-12-0) and [3.](#page-16-0) Figure [11](#page-20-0) indicates that the proposed simplifed equations exhibit a high level of accuracy for predicting the electrostatic force. As depicted in Fig. [11](#page-20-0), the maximum electrostatic force exhibits continuity across temperature. However, there is an abrupt change in its slope at $T = T_{ult}$: denoted as $F_{emax}^{(1)}$ for $T < T_{\text{ult}}$, and $F_{\text{emax}}^{(2)}$ for $T > T_{\text{ult}}$ (as shown in Figs. [3](#page-11-0) and [4\)](#page-13-0). The key determinant of the maximum electrostatic force, along with its primary components, is h^* . Notably, T_{ult} marks the temperature threshold beyond which the electrostatic force diminishes to a negligible value (\approx 0), regardless of temperature. This condition denotes the detachment of the fne particle from the solid grain surface (higher *h**) and its transition to a mobilized state within the pore space. Consequently, this explains the observed discontinuity in the $\langle F_{\text{emax}}\rangle$ $>^B, \langle F_{\text{max}} \rangle^{\text{EDL}}, \langle F_{\text{max}} \rangle^{\text{LW}}$ curves.

4.2 Critical Radius Based on the Proposed Simplifed *Fe***max**

The expression for the drag force given in Eq. [\(5\)](#page-7-5) can be rewritten as

$$
F_{\rm d} = A_{\rm d} r_s^2 U \times 10^{\frac{247.8}{7 + 133.15}}
$$
\n(40)

where

$$
A_d = 7.242 \times 10^{-5} \times \frac{\omega \pi}{\phi H}
$$
\n⁽⁴¹⁾

Substituting Eq. (39) (39) (39) and Eq. (40) into Eq. (26) results in

$$
r_s = \begin{cases} \frac{A_0 - A_1 T - A_2 T^2}{U} \times 10^{\frac{-247.8}{T + 133.15}}, & T \le T_{\text{ult}}\\ \frac{A_0 - A_1 T_{\text{ult}} - A_2 T_{\text{ult}}^2}{U} \times 10^{\frac{-247.8}{T + 133.15}}, & T > T_{\text{ult}} \end{cases}
$$
(42)

where

$$
A_i = \frac{B_i}{A_d} \varepsilon_p, \ i = 0, 1, 2 \tag{43}
$$

Figure [12](#page-21-0) presents variations in the critical radius as a function of temperature under diferent fuid fow velocities obtained using the exact solution (Eqs. [5](#page-7-5), [24](#page-10-2), and [26](#page-10-5)) and the proposed new simplifed equations (Eq. [42\)](#page-21-1). The results indicate that the proposed simplifed Eq. ([42\)](#page-21-1) provides a satisfactory approximation, especially for temperatures below the ultimate temperature. However, for temperatures above T_{ult} , the simplified model slightly underestimates the r_s values, although it still captures the overall trend. This discrepancy is attributed to the assumption adopted in the simplifed model that alterations in the electrostatic force are negligible for $T > T_{\text{ult}}$.

5 Summary of the Assumptions behind the Proposed Simplifed DLVO Theory

To provide a better understanding of the proposed simplifed DLVO-based model, a summary of all the adopted assumptions is presented next: negligible fuid pressure impacts on electrostatic force; a linear change in the reduced zeta potential function

Fig. 12 Critical radius obtained using the simplifed DLVO-based model versus the full DLVO theory

with temperature, with the curve slope attributed solely to the salt concentration of the solution; minimal temperature infuence on the Debye length; constant separation distance at lower temperatures $(T < T_{ult})$; a parabolic assumption regarding temperature impacts on the Hamaker constant; minimal and temperature-independent electrostatic force under higher temperatures $(T > T_{\text{ult}})$."

6 Maximum Retention Function

The Beerkan estimation of soil transfer (BEST) (Bayat [2015](#page-29-20)) model is adopted in this study to describe the particle size distribution of in situ fnes, as shown below

$$
P_{psd}(d \le d_s) = \left[1 + \left(\frac{d_g}{d_s}\right)^n\right]^{-m} \tag{44}
$$

where d_e , m , and n are model parameters. Adopting the input parameters given in Table [2](#page-12-0), the particle size distribution of in situ fnes considered in this study is obtained and plotted in Fig. [13](#page-22-0).

Based on the proposed simplifed DLVO-based model, the general form of the maximum retention function can be expressed as

$$
\frac{\sigma_{cr}}{\sigma_0} = \begin{cases}\n\left[1 + \left(\frac{0.5d_g U}{A_0 - A_1 T - A_2 T^2}\right)^n 10^{\frac{247.8n}{T + 133.15}}\right]^{-m}, \ T \le T_{\text{ult}} \\
\left[1 + \left(\frac{0.5d_g U}{A_0 - A_1 T_{\text{ult}} - A_2 T_{\text{ult}}^2}\right)^n 10^{\frac{247.8n}{T + 133.15}}\right]^{-m}, \ T > T_{\text{ult}}\n\end{cases} (45)
$$

6.1 Model Verifcation

The proposed model presented in the frst part of this paper (developed based on the full DLVO theory) along with the proposed DLVO-based simplifed model is verifed against the theoretical results presented by You et al. [\(2019](#page-31-13)). The input parameters adopted for this

verifcation are those presented in Table [2.](#page-12-0) The maximum retention concentration of fnes using the proposed full DLVO-based model is simulated using Eqs. [\(24\)](#page-10-2), [\(26\)](#page-10-5), ([40](#page-20-2)) and ([44](#page-22-1)) and that of the simplifed model is simulated using Eq. ([45](#page-22-2)). Figure [14](#page-23-0) presents the maximum retention concentration of fnes under various in situ temperatures. Parameters A_0 , A_1 , and A_2 of the simplified model are obtained Based on Eqs. [\(41\)](#page-21-2) and ([43](#page-21-3)). T_{ult} is determined according to variations of the electrostatic force, as explained earlier in this paper. With regard to the grain size distribution data, the values for parameters d_a , *m* and *n* in Eq. [44](#page-22-1) were determined by ftting the fne particle size distribution curves such to obtain the mean particle size and variance coefficient reported by You et al. (2019) (2019) .

In an earlier study, You et al. [\(2016](#page-31-14)) presented variations of the maximum retention function with respect to fuid velocities under diferent particle size distribution curves. Figure [15](#page-24-0) presents a comparison between the results obtained using the proposed simplifed model and fndings from You et al. ([2016\)](#page-31-14), adopting input parameters from Table [2](#page-12-0). The parameters of the BEST model are determined such to obtain the mean particle size (r_s) and variance coefficient (C_v) values reported by You et al. [\(2016](#page-31-14)). Results show that the simplifed model (Eq. [45](#page-22-2)) is able to nicely predict the maximal retention concentration of fne particles under diferent fuid velocities and temperatures.

7 Sensitivity Analysis

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of fne particle detachment in a porous skeleton under non-isothermal fow, the proposed simplifed DLVO-based model has been adopted to conduct a sensitivity analysis. Key model parameters have been selected for this analysis, and the remaining input parameters have been chosen based on Table [2](#page-12-0). The typical ranges of the parameters selected for this sensitivity analysis have been obtained from the relevant literature. For each case scenario, the electrostatic force is obtained based on

Fig. 15 Comparison of the proposed simplifed DLVO-based model and the experimental results presented by You et al. ([2016\)](#page-31-14)

the proposed simplifed model using Eqs. [\(38\)](#page-19-3), [\(41\)](#page-21-2) and ([43](#page-21-3)), and the maximum retention function for concentration of fnes is computed using Eq. ([45](#page-22-2)).

Fig. 16 The impact of ε_{10} on: **a** electrostatic force; **b** maximum retention concentration. ($T_{\text{ult}} = 76.2 \text{ °C}$, 90.9 °C at ε_{10} = 5, 40, respectively)

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7.1 Static Dielectric Constant of Clay

In the current study, in situ fne particles are assumed to be clay. The static dielectric constant of clay (ε_{10}) can vary from 5 to 40 (Davis and Annan [\(1989a](#page-29-21), [b\)](#page-29-22). Variations of the electrostatic force with temperature computed using the proposed simplifed model are pre-sented in Fig. [16a](#page-24-1). Results show higher electrostatic forces under a larger ε_{10} value. Figure [16](#page-24-1)b presents the maximum retention concentrations of fnes at two diferent temperatures (25 °C and 60 °C) as a function of fluid flow velocity. Overall, a higher ε_{10} results in an increase in the detachment of fnes independent of in situ temperatures or velocities. A higher static dielectric constant of clay minerals implies that they have a greater ability to polarize the surrounding water molecules, leading to a more extended EDL. This extended EDL can weaken the attractive forces between clay particles and surrounding surfaces, facilitating the detachment of fnes.

7.2 Refractive Index of Clay

The refractive index of clay (n_1) varies between 1.5 and 1.6 (You et al. (2019) (2019)). Figure [17](#page-25-0)a shows a higher electrostatic force under a larger n_1 . The maximum retention concentrations of fines under 25 °C and 60 °C are calculated with different n_1 values and presented in Fig. [17](#page-25-0)b. A larger percentage of clay particles detach from the solid surface under smaller n_1 values. In case of $T = 60 °C$, the effect of n_1 on the maximum retention concentration of fnes seems to be minimal. The main reason is the decrease in the drag force with an increase in temperature due to the changes in the fuid viscosity (Eq. [2](#page-6-0)).

A comparison between Figs. [16](#page-24-1)b and [17](#page-25-0)b suggests that the refractive index of clay has a higher impact on fne particle mobilization compared to the static dielectric constant.

7.3 Refractive Index of Sand

Current study assumes the solid skeleton of the porous medium to be composed of quartz sand. The refractive index of quartz is in the range of 1.54–1.68 (Radhakrishnan [1951](#page-30-21)). This range is adopted to evaluate the sensitivity of fine particle liberation based on the n_{20}

Fig. 17 The effect of n_1 on: **a** electrostatic force; **b** maximum retention concentration. ($T_{\text{ult}} = 68.6$ °C, 104.4 °C at n_1 = 1.5, 1.6, respectively)

Fig. 18 The effect of n_{20} value on: **a** electrostatic force; **b** maximum retention concentration. ($T_{\text{ult}} = 90.8 \text{ °C}$, 142.4 °C at n_{20} = 1.54, 1.68, respectively)

parameter. Results from Fig. [18a](#page-26-0) reveal a higher electrostatic force under a larger n_{20} value. Figure [18b](#page-26-0) shows a higher percentage of fnes detachment from the surface of the solid skeleton under smaller n_{20} values, due to lower electrostatic forces (Fig. [18a](#page-26-0)). In case of higher n_{20} values, the resulting higher electrostatic forces limit fine particle migration.

7.4 Salt Concentration

The characteristic properties of the pore fuid and the Debye length change substantially under diferent salt concentrations present in the pore fuid, afecting the electrostatic forces and fne particle mobilization. The zeta potential values under 0.11 M, 0.2 M and 0.6 M given by You et al. ([2019\)](#page-31-13) are chosen to evaluate the sensitivity of fne liberation based on salt concentrations. Figure [19a](#page-26-1) shows a higher electrostatic force under higher salt concentrations. The impact of salt concentration on the electrostatic force is less signifcant under

Fig. 19 The effect of c_n value on: **a** electrostatic force; **b** maximum retention concentration. ($T_{\text{ult}} = 85.2 \text{ °C}$, 89.3 °C at $c_n = 0.025$ M, 0.2 M, respectively)

Fig. 20 The effect of λ on: **a** electrostatic force; **b** maximum retention concentration. ($T_{\text{ult}} = 64.6 \text{ °C}$, 89.9 °C at *λ*=10 nm, 100 nm, respectively)

lower temperatures. Figure [19](#page-26-1)b shows a minimal effect of salt concentration on the maximum retention concentrations of fines under lower temperatures (25 °C).

7.5 Characteristic Wavelength of Interaction

The characteristic wavelength of interaction has a direct impact on the London-vander-Waals Attraction and the electrostatic force. The range of the characteristic wavelength adopted in this section is $10 \sim 1000$ nm following You et al. [\(2019\)](#page-31-13). There is an increase in the electrostatic force with an increase in λ for λ < 100nm (Fig. [20a](#page-27-0)). In case of smaller λ values, a lower electrostatic force is detected resulting in a higher percentage of fne particle detachment. Figure [20b](#page-27-0) shows a higher percentage of fne particle migration under higher fluid temperatures, especially for smaller λ values.

Fig. 21 The effect of σ_c value on: **a** electrostatic force; **b** maximum retention concentration. ($T_{\text{ult}} = 110.1 \text{ °C}$, 91.5 °C at σ_c = 0.4 nm, 0.5 nm, respectively)

7.6 Collision Diameter

The collision diameter has a signifcant efect on the short-range repulsive Born potential. The range of collision diameter adopted for the current sensitivity analysis is $0.4-0.6$ nm (You et al. (2019) (2019) (2019) . As shown in Fig. [21a](#page-27-1), the electrostatic force decreases under larger collision diameters. Figure $21(b)$ $21(b)$ shows a higher percentage of fine particle liberation under larger σ_c values.

8 Conclusions

This study presents a novel theoretical framework aimed at accurate yet practical prediction of migration of fne particles in geological reservoirs driven by non-isothermal fuid fow. The novel contributions are twofold. Firstly, a new numerical model is developed based on the complete DLVO theory, which integrates for the frst time the efects of both thermal and hydraulic loads on all underlying parameters including both the static dielectric constant and the refractive index of the pore fuid. This model, similar to previous DLVO-based models presented in the literature, involves a considerable number of characteristic parameters related to the colloidal particle-pore fuid–solid grain system. The identifcation of all these parameters often necessitates costly, intricate, and time-consuming physical experiments. The second part of the paper presents an innovative simplifed DLVO-based model which involves only 7 input parameters as opposed to the full DLVO-based model containing 23 input parameters, thus offering a practical and efficient solution. Finally, a sensitivity analysis was conducted using the simplifed model to evaluate the impact of the key input parameters on particle liberation. Findings reveal that salt concentration had the least impact compared to the other parameters. Furthermore, the maximum retention concentration of fnes is seen to be more sensitive to input parameters in case of higher in situ temperatures.

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Declarations

Conficts of interest Not applicable.

Consent to Participate All authors whose names appear on the submission: made substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data; or the creation of new software used in the work; drafted the work or revised it critically for important intellectual content; approved the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Consent for Publication All authors agree with the content and that all gave explicit consent to submit. "Consent of responsible authorities in organization" does not apply to our work.

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