It’s a Small World After All: Mudrock Pore Systems

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Understanding pore systems in shale reservoirs is critical to understanding the nature of flow and potential for matrix contribution from various shale plays. The size range of such pores requires new ways of observing and quantifying porosity. The types of pores in these rocks have given rise to a variety of classification systems, in part because we now have tools that allow us to distinguish pores ranging from nanometers to microns in diameter. This presentation will show some new techniques for imaging pores and fabrics in mudrocks, as well as approaches for computing properties beyond pore size and area. These include mechanical, electrical, and transport properties. Pitfalls and outstanding issues will also be addressed.