

The Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security (CFSES)

Mario Martinez, Susan J. Altman

July 13, 2016



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science

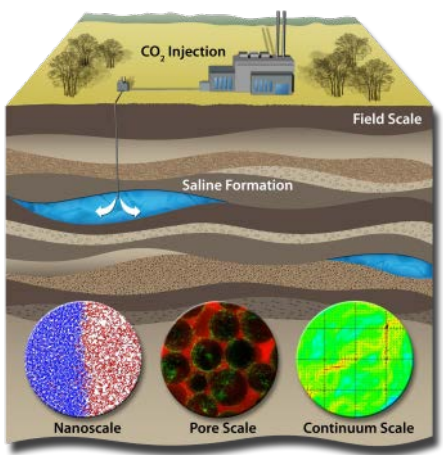


Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

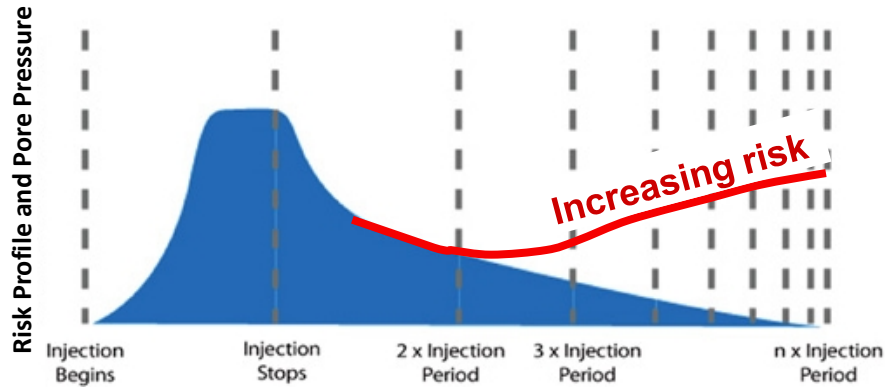
THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —



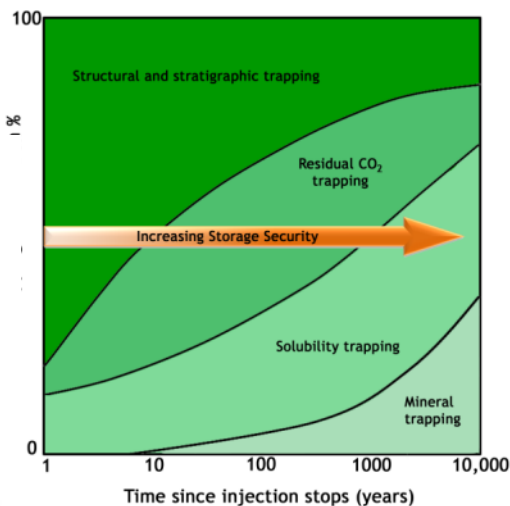
Science to Inform Geological CO₂ Storage Security



Mission: Understand and control emergent behavior arising from coupled physics and chemistry in heterogeneous geomaterials, particularly during the years to decades time scale.



Benson, IPCC, 2007

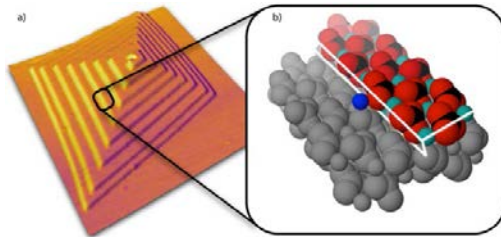


Modified after Benson et al., 2005

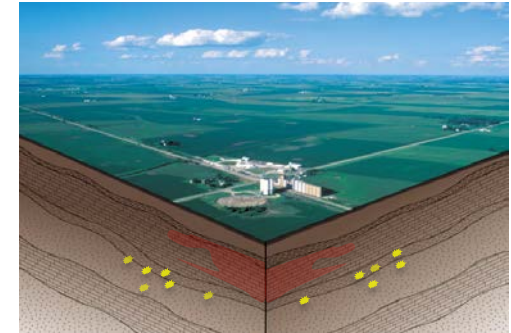


Three GCS EFRCs Complement Each Other

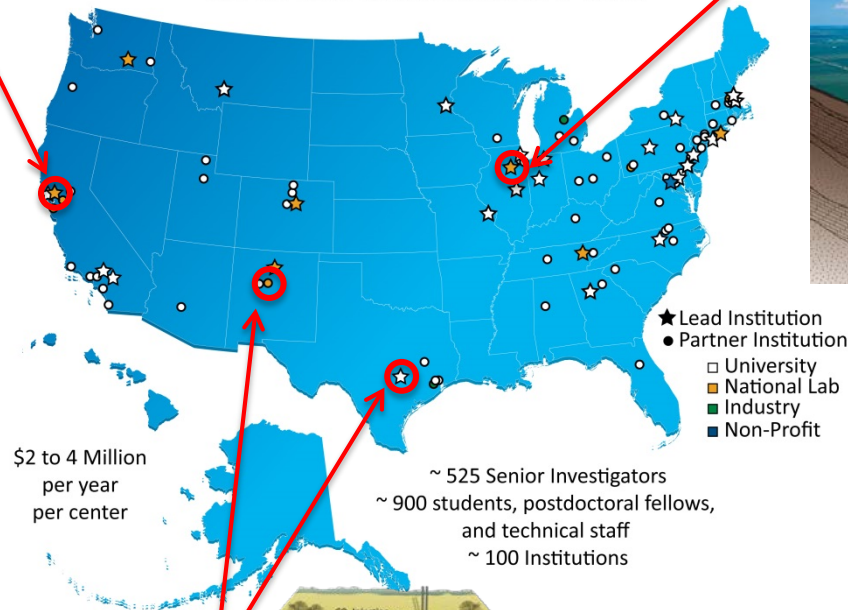
Center for Nanoscale Control of Geologic CO₂ (NCGC)



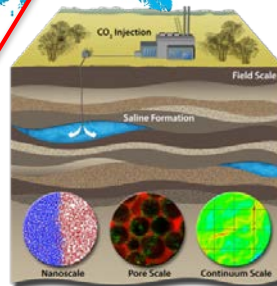
Center for Geologic Storage of CO₂ (GSCO₂)



32 EFRCs in 32 States + D.C.



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security (CFSES)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —



Sandia
National
Laboratories

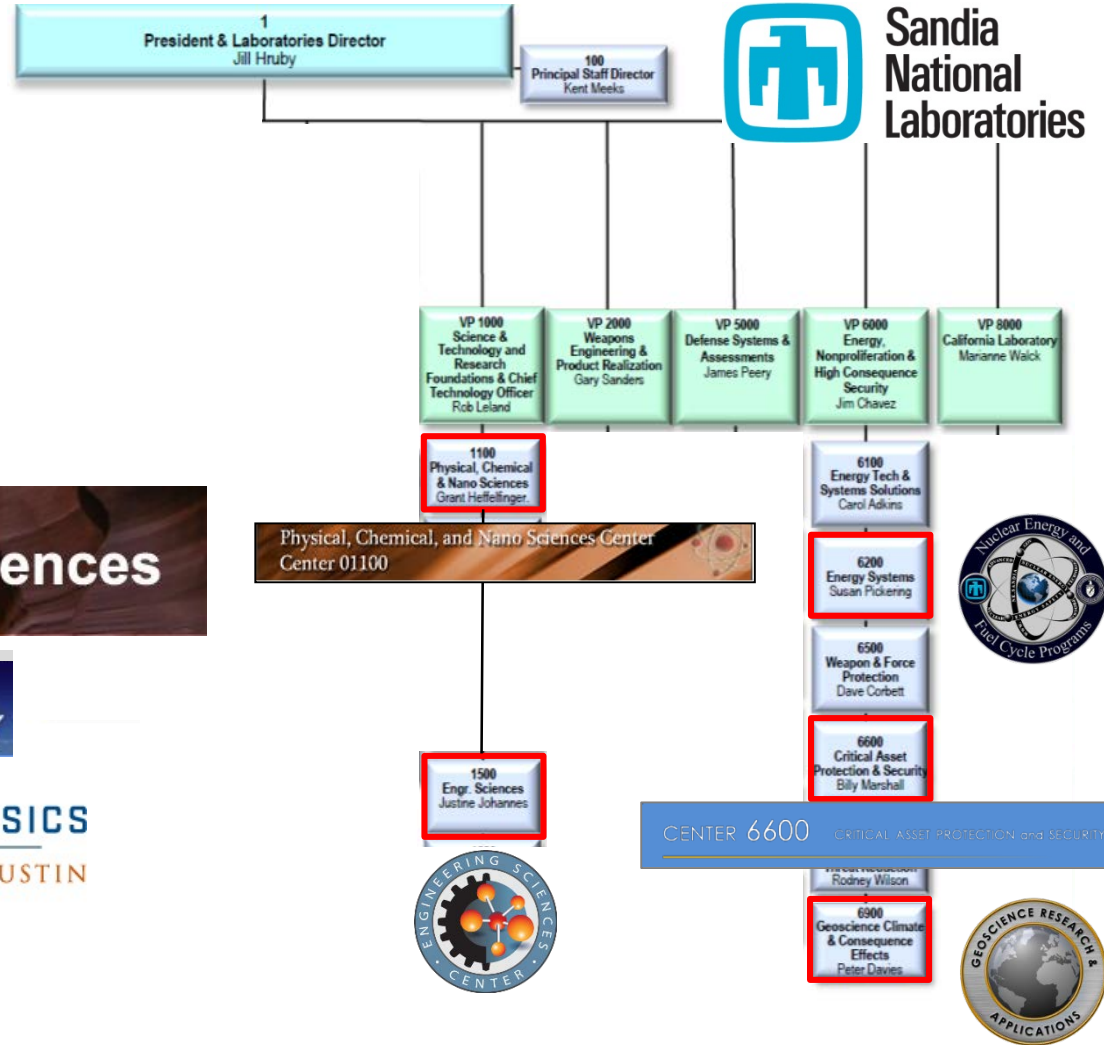
Collaborations of Institutions within Institutions



The University of Texas at Austin
Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering

The University of Texas at Austin
McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering

The University of Texas at Austin



CFSES Organizational Structure

EAB

Steve Bryant
Michael Carney
Charles Christopher
Don DePaolo
Derek Elsworth
Scott Frailey
Kurt House
Jean Roberts



Management Team

Larry W. Lake – Director
Grant Heffelfinger – Associate Director
Susan Altman, Hilary Olson – Assistant Directors

Administrative Associate

Barb Messmore



THEME 1: FLUID-ASSISTED GEOMECHANICS

Matt Balhoff, Tom Dewers

P. Eichhubl, D. N. Espinoza, A. Ilgen,
M. Martinez, P. Newell, M. Prodanovic,
M. Wheeler, H. Yoon, N. Hayman

C. Choens, S. Lee

M. Aman, J. Major, Z. Sun,
M. Mirabolghasemi, M. Shafiei

THEME 2: MULTIFLUID GEOCHEMISTRY

Anastasia Ilgen, Marc Hesse

P. Bennett, B. Cardenas, R. Cygan,
O. Ghattas, T. Larson, C. Tenney, C. Yang

T. Ho, L. Wang, B. Wen

K. Gilbert, E. Gultinan,
H. Christensen, C. Mcneece

THEME 3: BUOYANCY-DRIVEN MULTIPHASE FLOW

Tip Meckel, Mario Martinez

B. Cardenas, D. DiCarlo, S. Hovorka,
C. Huh, K. Johnston, Y. Wang, H. Yoon

K. Chojnicki, A. Kucala, L. Trevisan, I. Kim

X. Chen, C. Da, E. Gultinan,
P. Krishnamurthy, S. Senthinalthan
A. Worthen, Z. Xue



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



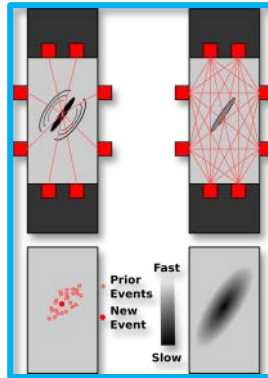
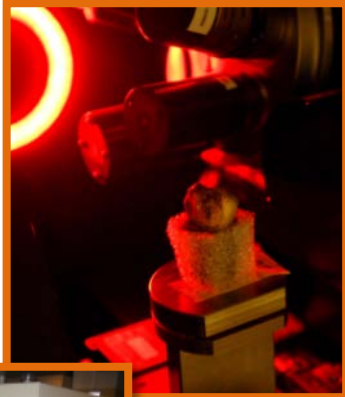
Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security



Sandia
National
Laboratories

Partnership Enables a Unique Combination of Laboratory Facilities

Micro Computed Tomography for imaging of contact angles and fracture geometry



Computed tomography for imaging multi-phase fluid flow through cores

Computed tomography for imaging multi-phase fluid flow through cores with or without nanoparticles



High pressure and multiphase fluid delivery system for pore-scale flow experiments



Laser scanning confocal microscopy for imaging reactive transport at the pore scale



Geomechanical testing for acoustic and ultrasonic imaging of rock deformation



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —

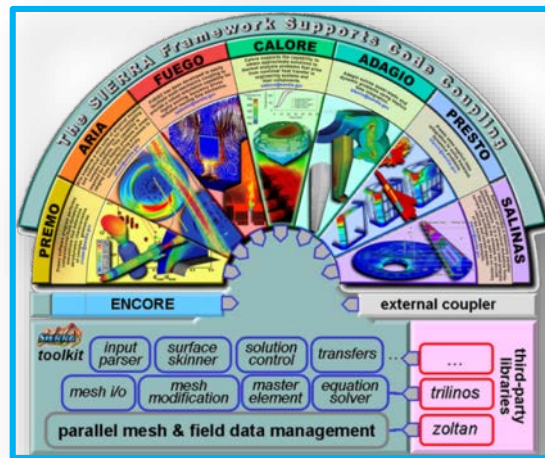


Sandia
National
Laboratories

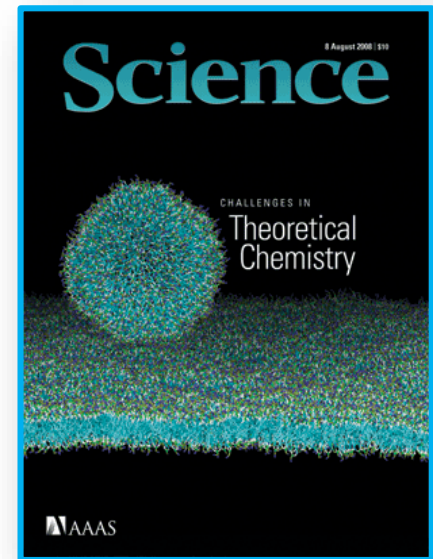
World-Class Computational Facilities and Software



Sandia National
Laboratories' Super
Computer Red Sky



Sierra Mechanics engineering
analysis codes



Molecular Dynamics Code
LAMMPS



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —



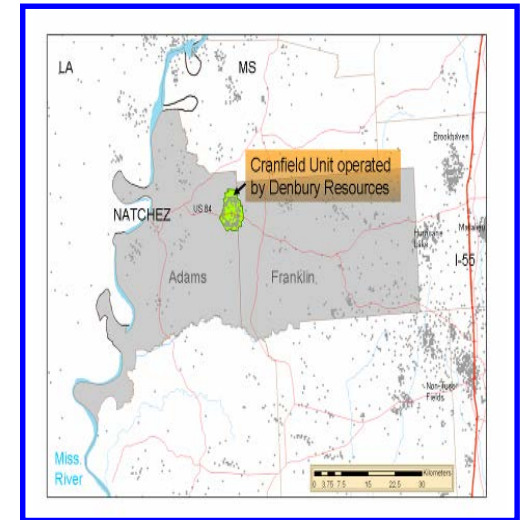
Sandia
National
Laboratories

Connection to Field Sites

Little Grand Wash Fault Zone



Bravo Dome Natural CO₂ Field



Core from Cranfield Pilot Test



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —



Sandia
National
Laboratories

Publications

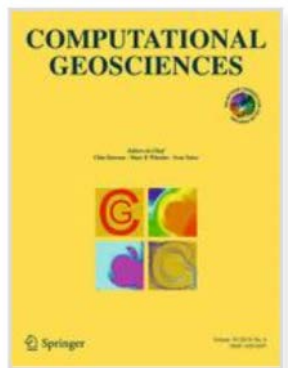
- 110 Publications
- 1209 Citations
- 42 Journals

Geophysical Research Letters

AN AGU JOURNAL

4.5 Impact Factor 6 publications

5 publications



6 publications

5.5 Impact Factor



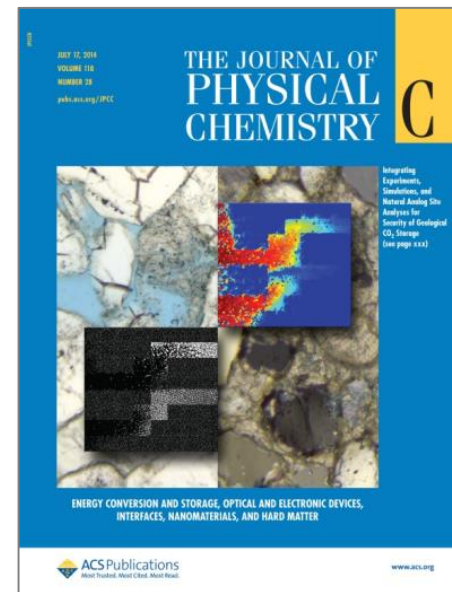
4 publications

Water Resources Research

AN AGU JOURNAL

3.7 Impact Factor 11 publications

Cover Article



9.8 Impact Factor

Constraints on the magnitude and rate of CO₂ dissolution at Bravo Dome natural gas field

Kiran J. Sathaye^a, Marc A. Hesse^{a,b,1}, Martin Cassidy^c, and Daniel F. Stockli^a

^aDepartment of Geological Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712; ^bInstitute of Computational Engineering and Sciences, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712; and ^cDepartment of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204

Edited by Susan L. Brantley, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, and approved September 12, 2014 (received for review April 4, 2014)

The injection of carbon dioxide (CO₂) captured at large point sources into deep saline aquifers can significantly reduce anthropogenic CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels. Dissolution of the injected CO₂ into the brine is the primary mechanism for CO₂ storage. (11). Determining the rates of CO₂ dissolution is therefore an important aspect of geological CO₂ storage and it has been the focus of intense research in the last decade.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science



Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security



Sandia
National
Laboratories

Challenges

CHALLENGES

Sustaining Injectivity

Control wellbore failure

Enhance permeability/avoid precipitation during injection

Guide injection limits

Storage Efficiency

Improve sweep efficiency

Predict solubility trapping

Predict mineral trapping

Enhance capillary (ganglion) trapping

Controlling Emergence

Prevent unwanted fracturing

Control pathway development

Prevent unexpected migration of CO₂

Challenge 1

Sustaining large storage rates

Challenge 2

Using pore space with unprecedented efficiency

Challenge 3

Controlling undesired or unexpected behavior



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science




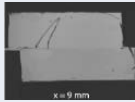
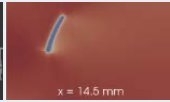
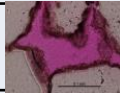


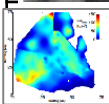
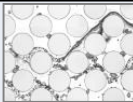
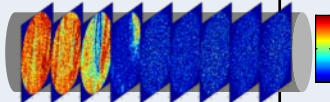

Center for Frontiers of Subsurface Energy Security

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
— AT AUSTIN —



Sandia
National
Laboratories

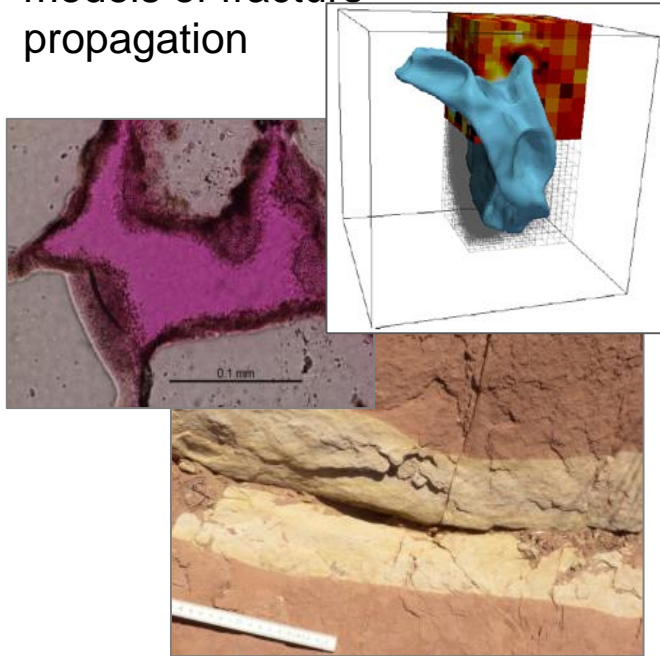
Research Activities

	Challenge 1: Sustaining Large Storage Rates	Challenge 2: Using pore space with unprecedented efficiency	Challenge 3: Controlling undesired or unexpected behavior
Theme 1 Fluid-Assisted Geomechanics	Chemo-mechanical coupling during fracture propagation		 
		Chemo-mechanical effects on reservoir rock weakening	
	---		 Coupled chemo-mechanical processes in shale caprock
Theme 2: Multifluid Geochemistry	---	 Geochemistry at the fluid-fluid interface	Reactions of CO ₂ with clay minerals
		Reservoir dynamics of Bravo Dome natural CO ₂ reservoir	
Theme 3: Buoyancy-Driven Multiphase Flow	 Multiphase flow and reactive transport at the pore scale		
	 ---		CT high pressure CO ₂ core flood experiments with and without nanoparticles
			Experimentally tested invasion percolation modeling of buoyancy driven flow

Challenge 1 – Sustaining Large Storage Rates

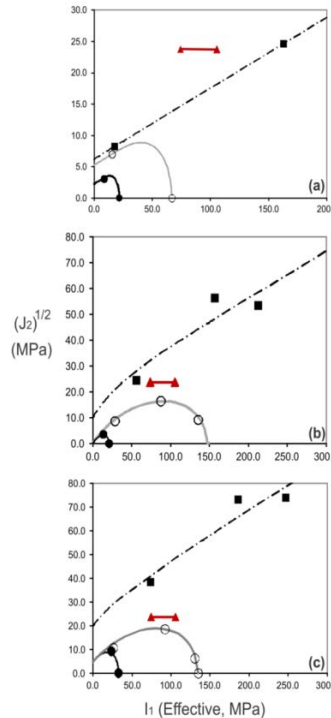
Control wellbore failure

- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated constitutive models
- Experimentally validated models of fracture propagation



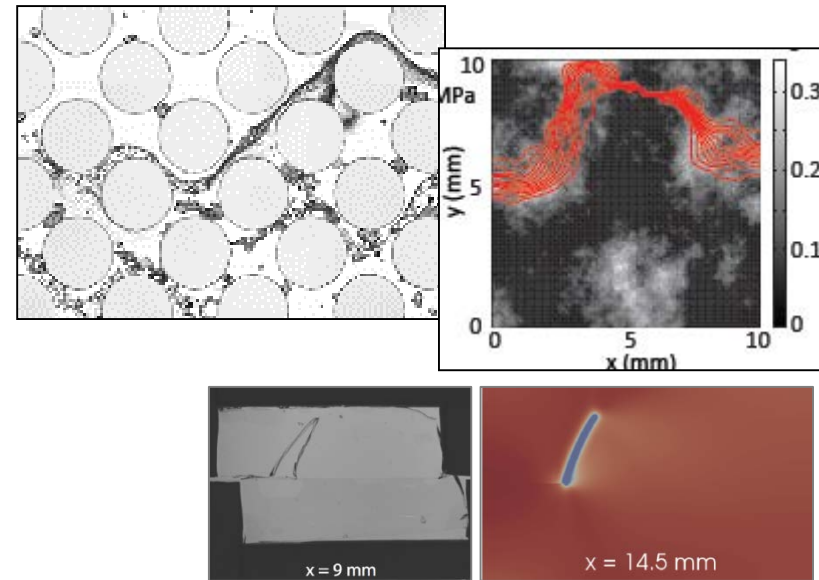
Enhance permeability/avoid precipitation during injection

- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models



Guide injection limits

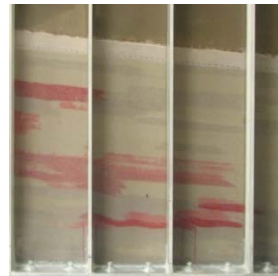
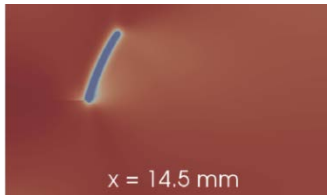
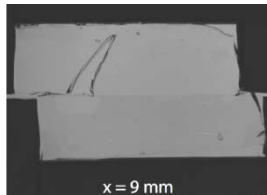
- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated constitutive models
- Injection pressure coupled fracture closure model



Challenge 2 – Using Pore Space with Unprecedented Efficiency

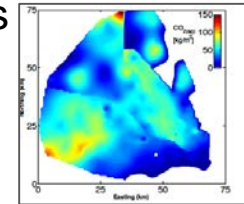
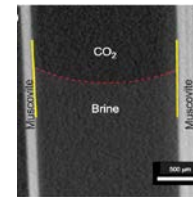
Improve sweep efficiency

- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations



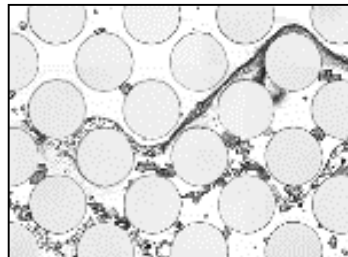
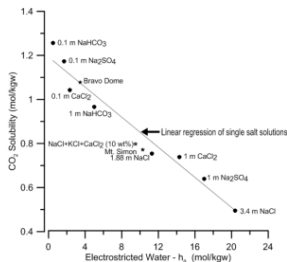
Predict solubility trapping

- CO₂ solubility model
- Molecular level understanding of solvation of ions and CO₂ in brines
- Bravo Dome studies
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations



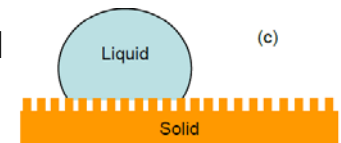
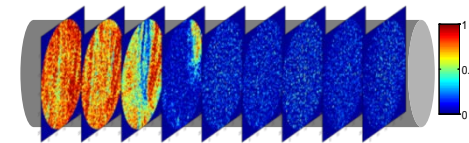
Predict mineral trapping

- CO₂ solubility model
- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models



Enhance capillary (ganglion) trapping

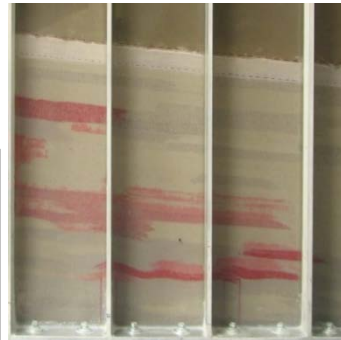
- Modeling of impact of roughness on wettability
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations
- Surface-treated nanoparticle synthesis and testing
- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models



Challenge 3 – Controlling Undesired and Unexpected Behavior

Prevent unwanted fracturing

- Experimentally validated chemo-mechanical models
- Experimentally validated constitutive models
- Experimentally validated of fracture propagation
- Caprock alteration experiments



Control pathway development

- Caprock alteration experiments
- Surface-treated nanoparticle synthesis and testing

Prevent unexpected migration of CO₂

- Wettability measurements and simulations on shales
- Pore-scale experiments linked to flow and reactive transport models
- Experimentally validated invasion percolation simulations
- Surface-treated nanoparticle synthesis and testing

