

## Area of Interest 1: Geomechanical Research

# Development of Geomechanical Screening Tools to Identify Risk: An Experimental and Modeling Approach for Secure CO<sub>2</sub> Storage

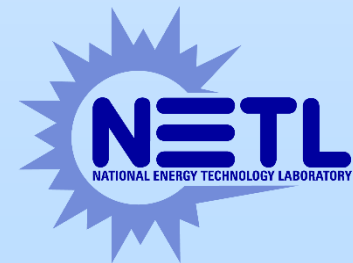
DE-FE0023314

**Mary F. Wheeler**

**The University of Texas at Austin**



U.S. Department of Energy  
National Energy Technology Laboratory  
Mastering the Subsurface Through Technology, Innovation and Collaboration:  
Carbon Storage and Oil and Natural Gas Technologies Review Meeting  
August 16-18, 2016



# Presentation Outline

**1**

**Benefit to the Program**

**2**

**Goals and Objectives**

**3**

**Technical Status from Tasks 2 to 6**

**4**

**Accomplishments to Date**

**5**

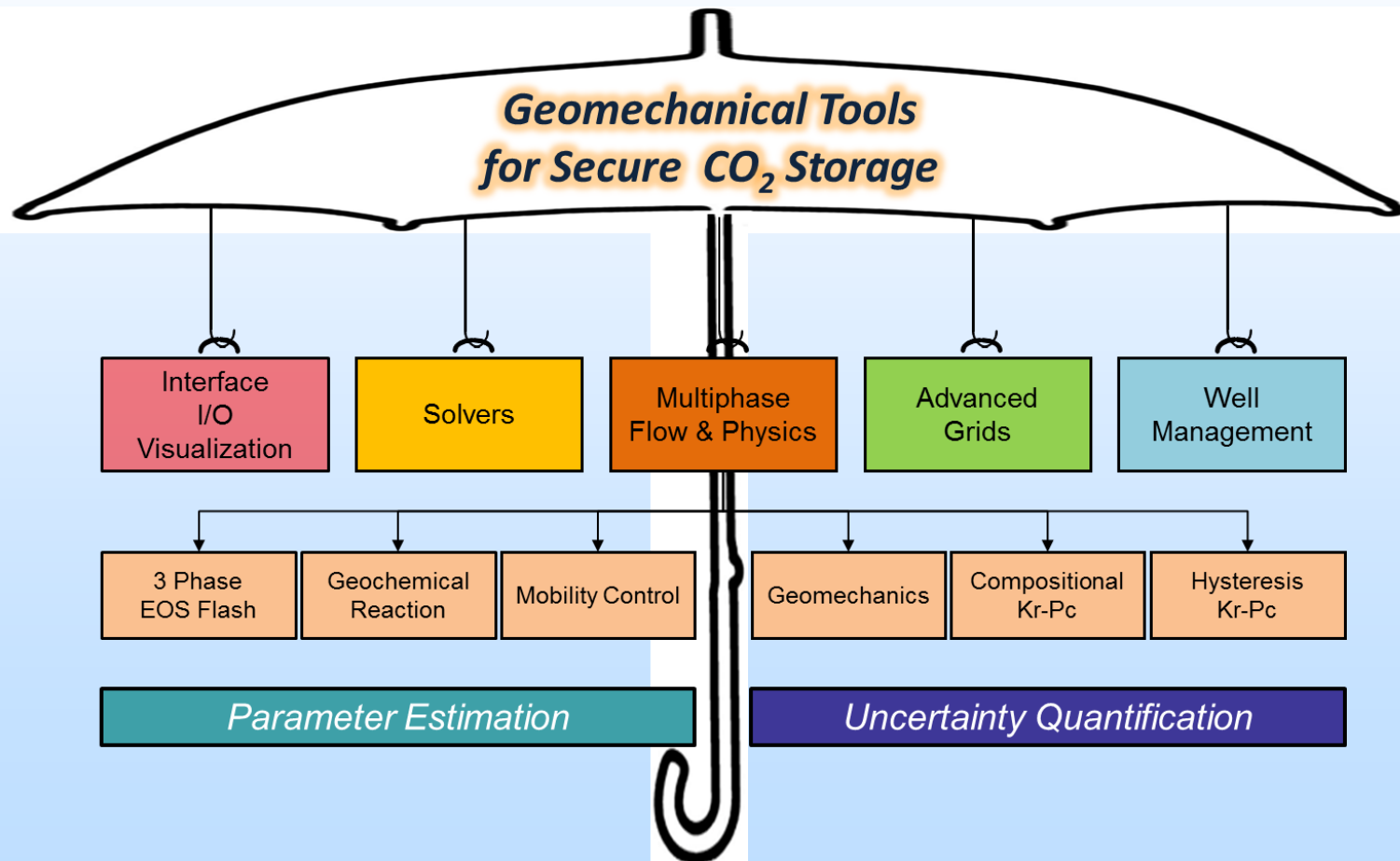
**Synergy Opportunities**

**6**

**Summary**

# Benefit to the Program

- ❑ Develop a **Geomechanical Screening Tool** to Identify Risk
  - ✓ *Experimental & Modeling Approach for Secure CO<sub>2</sub> Storage*



# Project Overview: Goals and Objectives

- ❑ **Develop a screening tool** for improved understanding of geomechanical effects associated with CO<sub>2</sub> injection
- ❑ Derive a workflow **from experimental and computational** studies conducted for specific CO<sub>2</sub> sites, e.g. Frio, Cranfield

**Task 1** Project **management** (M.F. Wheeler–lead)

**Task 2** Conduct **laboratory experiments** for hydro-mechanical rock properties (N. Espinoza–lead)

**Task 3** **Upscale** to bridge from laboratory to field scales (M.F.W.–lead)

**Task 4** Extend **simulator** capability to model CO<sub>2</sub> storage field scale studies (M. Delshad & B. Ganis–leads)

**Task 5** Perform **parameter estimation & uncertainty quantification** (M.F.W.–lead, S. Srinivasan–consultant)

**Task 6** Integrate results to generate **geomechanical screening tool** / workflow (M.F.W.–lead, S.S.–consultant)

# Technical Status

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## Task 2.

**Conduct Laboratory Experiments for  
Petrophysical & Hydro-mechanical  
Rock Properties  
(N. Espinoza–lead)**

# Task 2: Laboratory Experiments

## Objectives

Complete modeling, perform reservoir simulations, and analyze geological uncertainty for two CO<sub>2</sub> storage field studies (Frio, TX & Cranfield, MS)

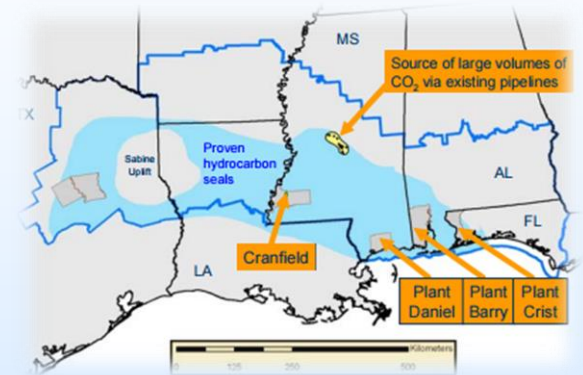
Measure mechanical property from Task 2

Collect other existing data  
(seismic, well logs, etc.)

Measure impact of geochemical alteration on  
mechanical properties

Study rock dissolution and its effect on  
weakening the rocks and creating leakage  
pathways

Enhanced simulation for studying and  
quantifying parameters, e.g. reservoir over  
pressure, chemical and thermal loading



Site 1: Cranfield, Mississippi

(Source: DOE Cranfield Fact Sheet)



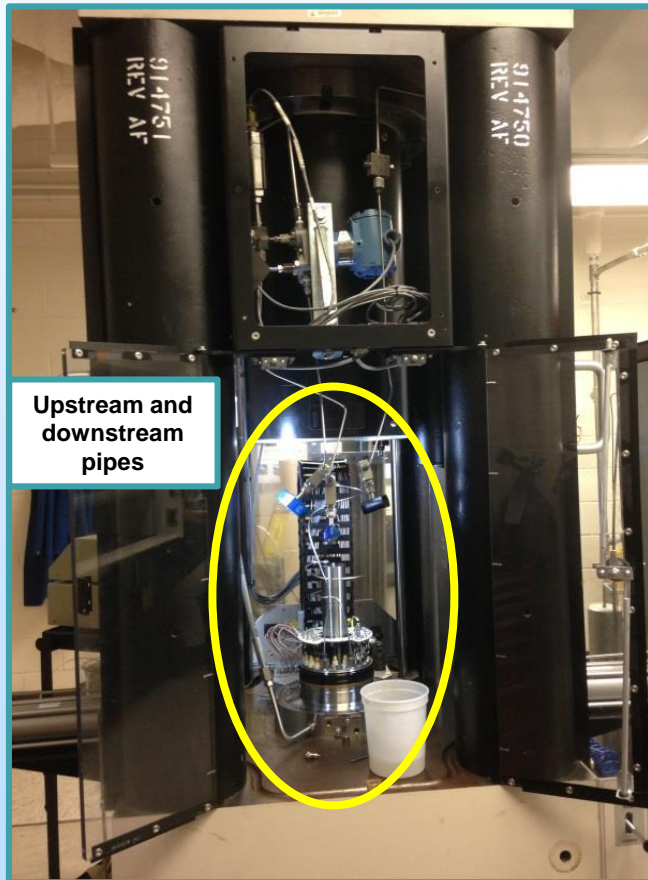
Site 2: Frio pilot study, Texas

# Large Axisymmetric Triaxial Frame Connected to ISCO Pumps for Fluid Injection

- Experimental setup

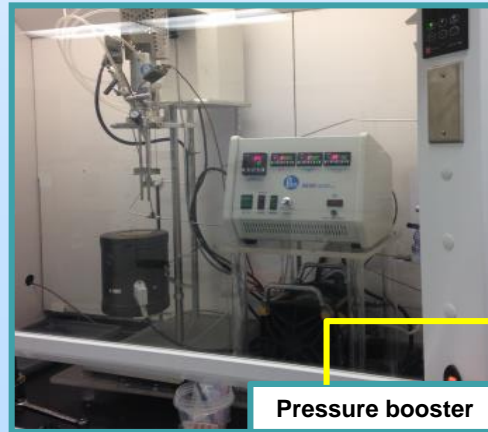
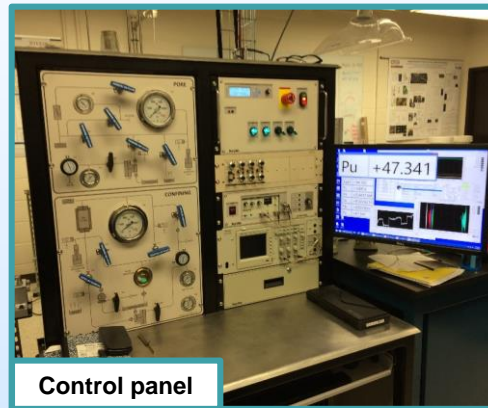
1

Sample mounted on the loading frame



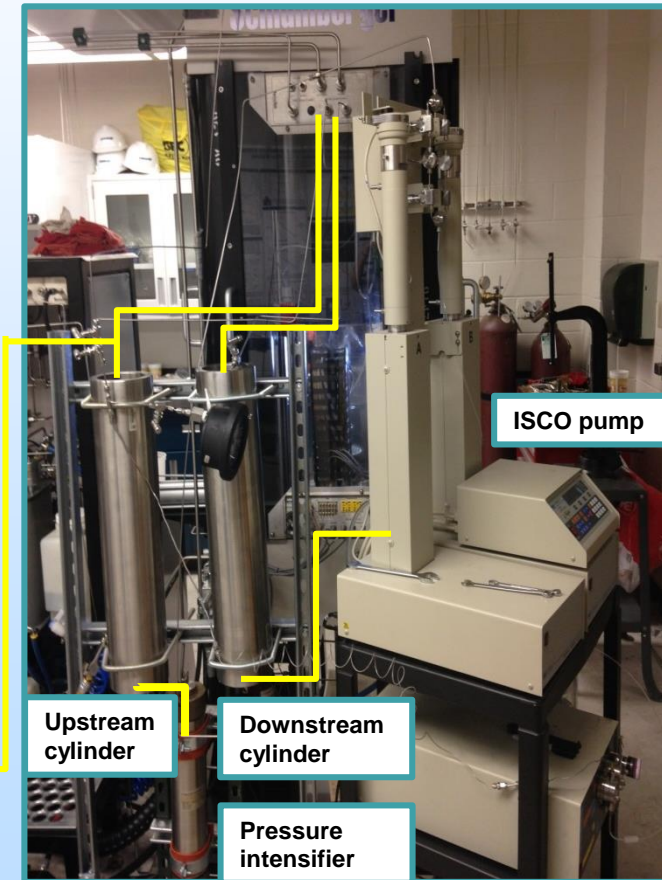
2

Data acquisition



3

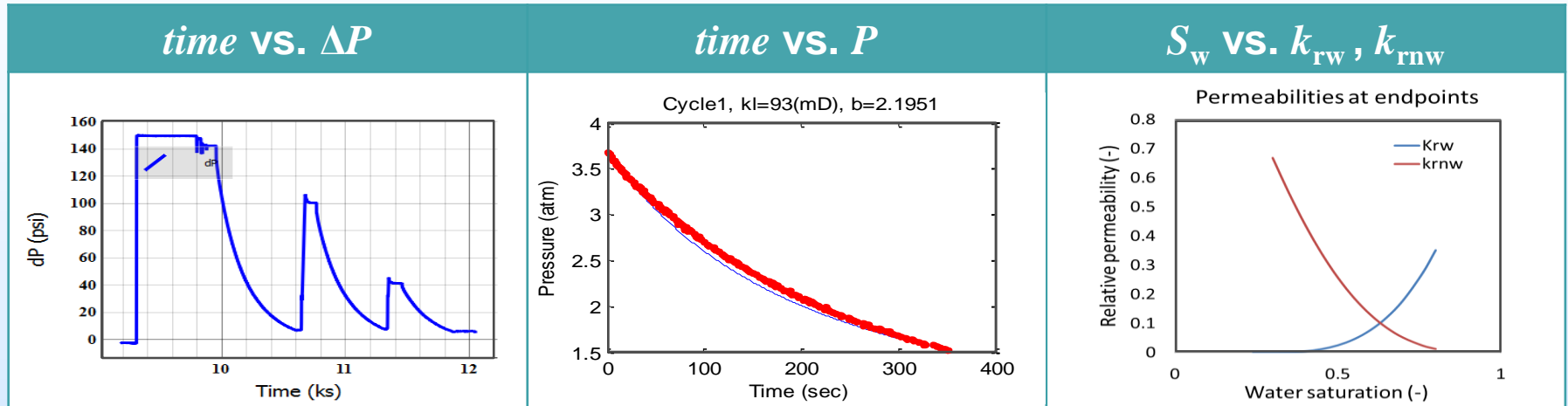
Cylinders & pumps for flow system connected to the triaxial cell





# Petrophysical Properties at CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Sites

- Cranfield, MS (Tuscaloosa sandstone): unsteady state gas permeability test



## CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Sites

### C-sandstone (Frio, Texas)

- Porosity: ~ 0.36
- Permeability

	k (mD)	$k_g$ at breakthrough (mD)	$k_w$ at $S_{gr}$ (mD)
Vertical	470	184	263

- Capillary pressure measured (porous-plate method and mercury injection capillary pressure method)
- Relative permeability (Brooks-Corey model)

### Tuscaloosa Sandstone (Cranfield, Mississippi)

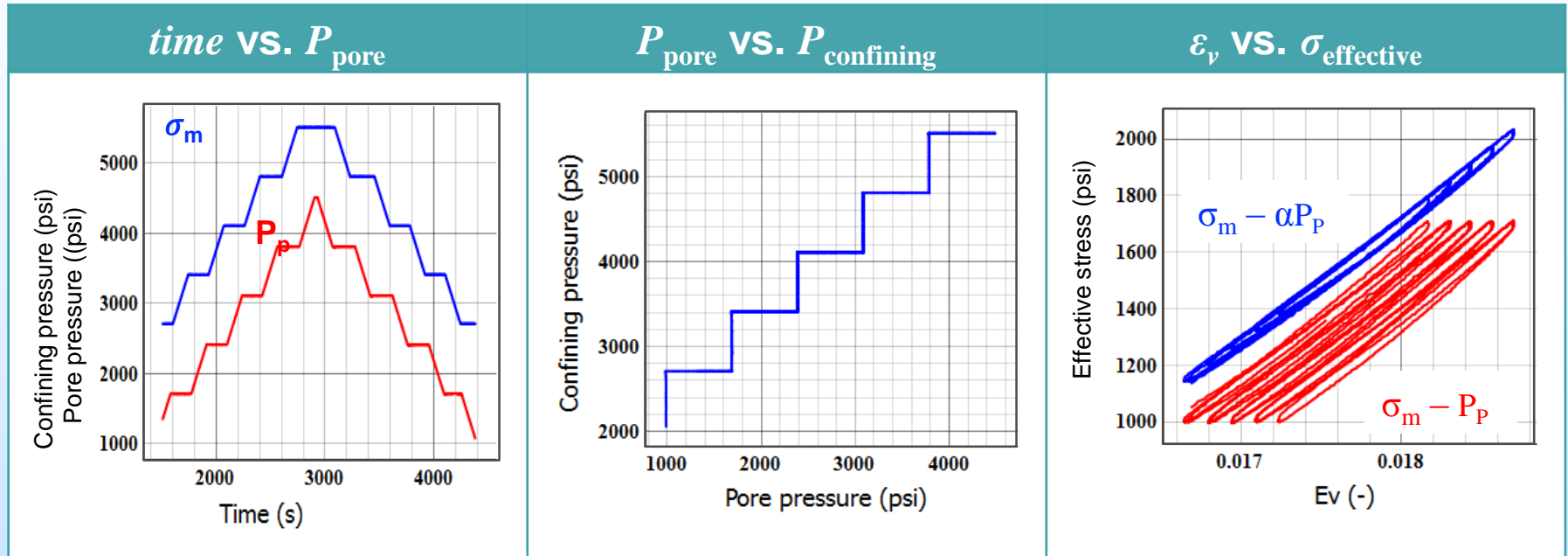
- Porosity : ~ 0.31
- Permeability

	k (mD)	$k_g$ at breakthrough (mD)	$k_w$ at $S_{gr}$ (mD)
Vertical	6.2	1.3	1.43
Horizontal	93	62	37



# Mechanical Properties at CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Sites

- Cranfield, MS (Tuscaloosa sandstone): determination of bulk Biot coefficient at in-situ reservoir stress condition



## CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Sites

### C-sandstone (Frio, Texas)

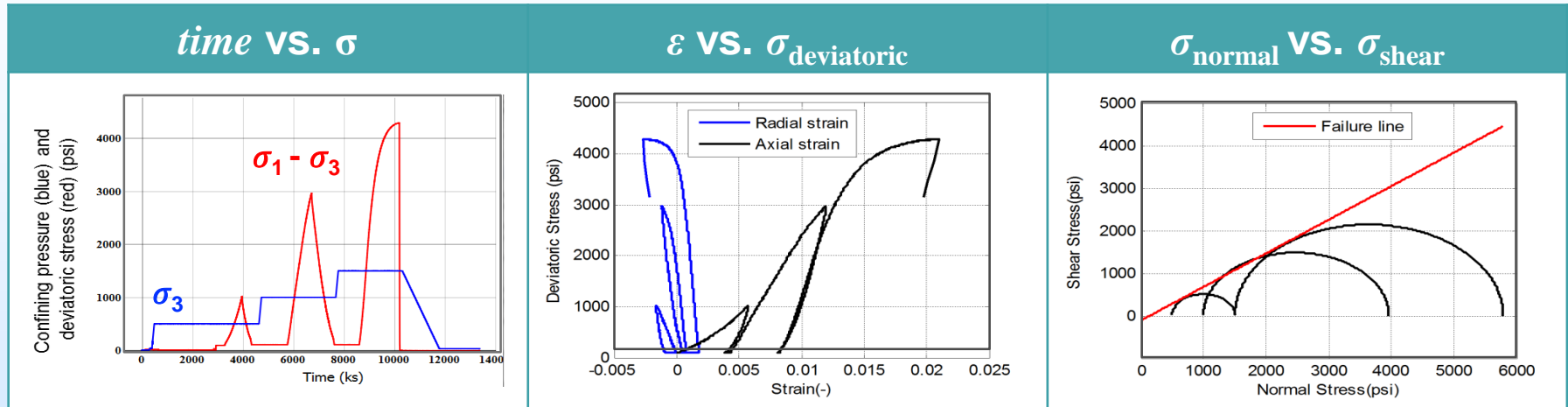
- Biot coefficient ( $\alpha$ ): 0.96
- Stress condition  
Axial deviatoric stress : 200 psi  
Radial effective stress : 400 ~ 600 psi

### Tuscaloosa Sandstone (Cranfield, Mississippi)

- Biot coefficient ( $\alpha$ ): 0.90 ~ 0.915
- Stress condition  
Axial deviatoric stress : 500 psi  
Radial effective stress : 1,000 ~ 1,700 psi

# Mechanical Properties at CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Sites

- Frio, Texas (C-sand): multistage triaxial loading test at confining stress 500, 1,000 and 1,500 psi



## CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Sites

### C-sandstone (Frio, Texas)

- Drained mechanical moduli at reservoir stress condition

	$E_{\text{static\_loading}}$ (GPa)	$E_{\text{static\_unloading}}$ (GPa)	$\nu$
Vertical	2.74	8.74	0.2 ~ 0.4

- Significant elastic nonlinearity and plastic strains
- Shear strength
  - Friction angle (38°)
  - Cohesive strength (Zero, Unconsolidated sandstone)
- Remarkable creep measurement at constant stress

### Tuscaloosa Sandstone (Cranfield, Mississippi)

- Drained mechanical moduli, Stress anisotropy

	$E_{\text{static\_loading}}$ (GPa)	$E_{\text{static\_unloading}}$ (GPa)	$\nu$
Vertical	1.9	10.91	0.12 ~ 0.29
Horizontal	1.81	7	0.11 ~ 0.17

- Elastic nonlinearity only beyond the yield cap
- Noticeable creep measurement at constant stress

# Technical Status

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## Task 3.

**Upscale by Completing Bridge  
from Laboratory to Field Scales  
(M.F. Wheeler–lead)**

# Task 3: Bridge from Laboratory to Field

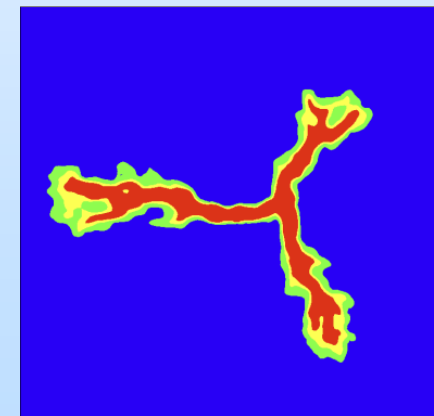
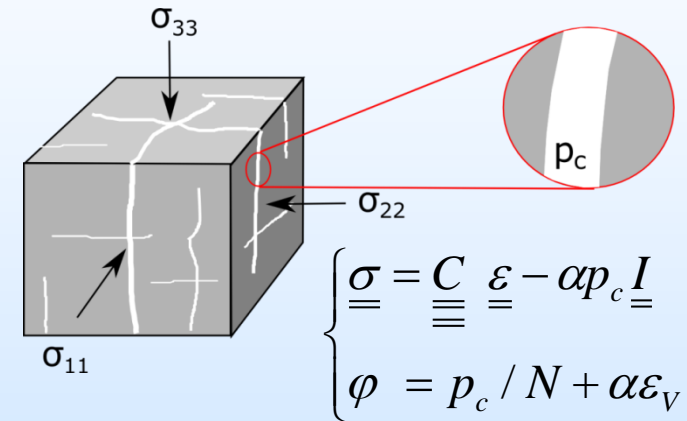
## Objectives

Upscale measured rock properties (fluid flow & geomechanics) to scale relevant to field processes

Development of **homogenization** schemes combining numerical and analytical approaches

Particular emphasis will be put on including **natural fractures** in effective properties and localization effects

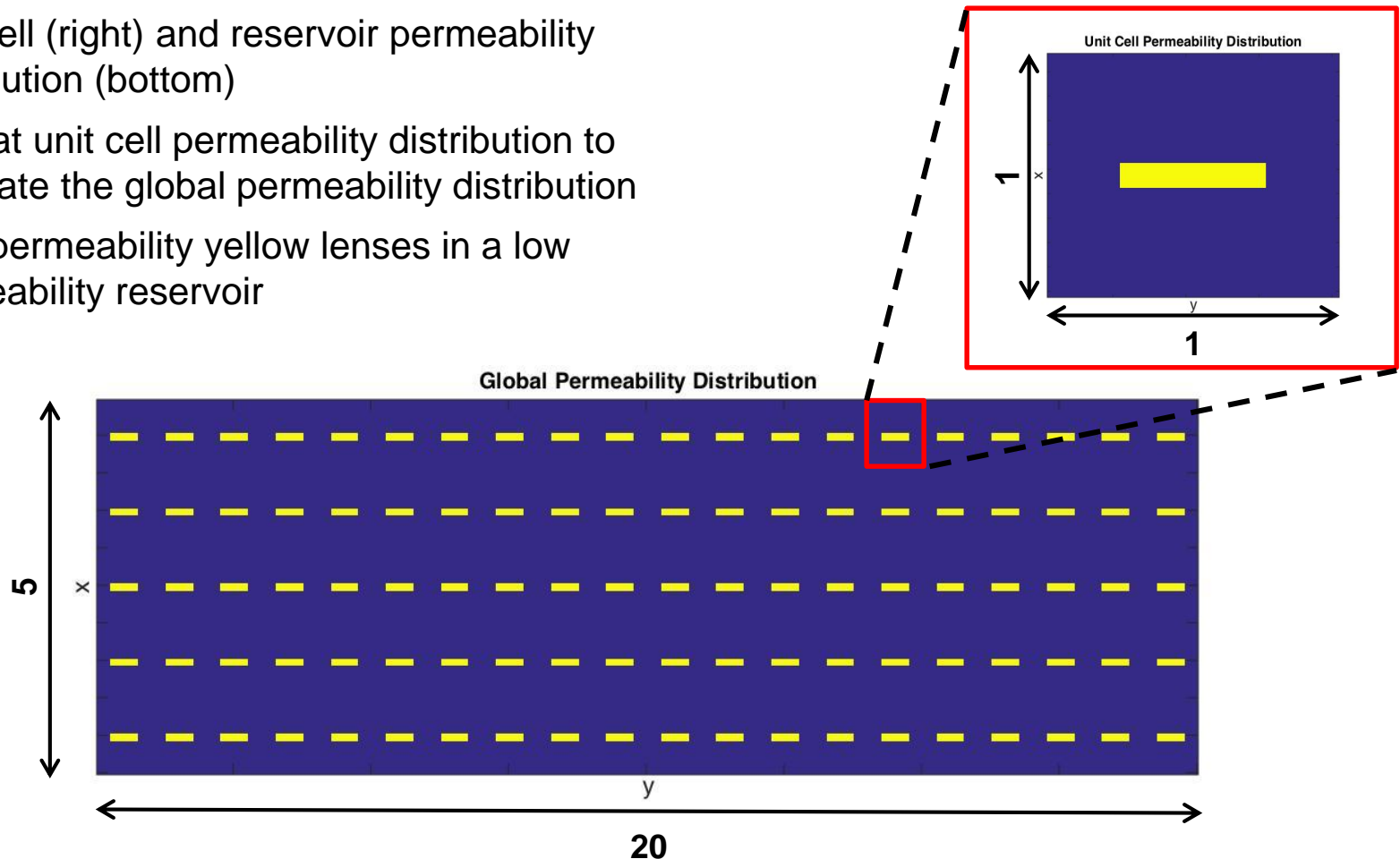
Obtain field scale constitutive parameters to perform **coupled fluid flow and geomechanical** numerical simulation



# Verification of Homogenization

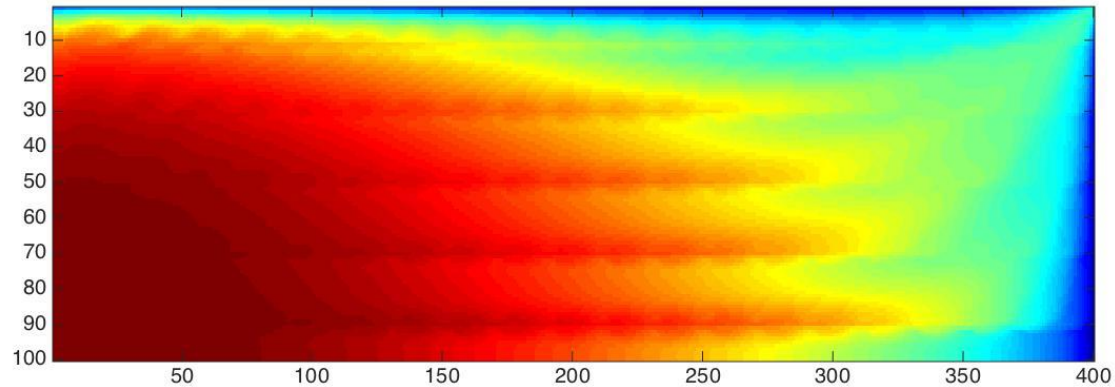
## Permeability Distribution of the Reference Field

- Unit cell (right) and reservoir permeability distribution (bottom)
- Repeat unit cell permeability distribution to generate the global permeability distribution
- High permeability yellow lenses in a low permeability reservoir

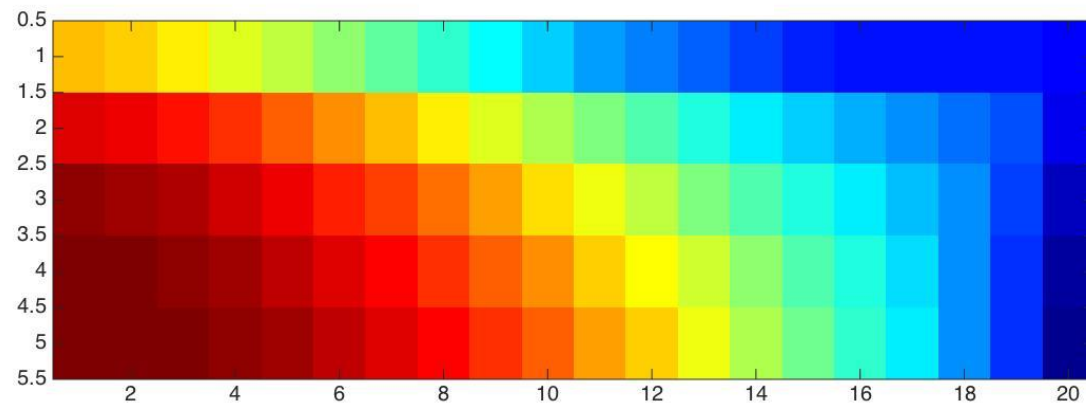


# Verification of Homogenization

## Concentration on Fine-Scale Gridblocks



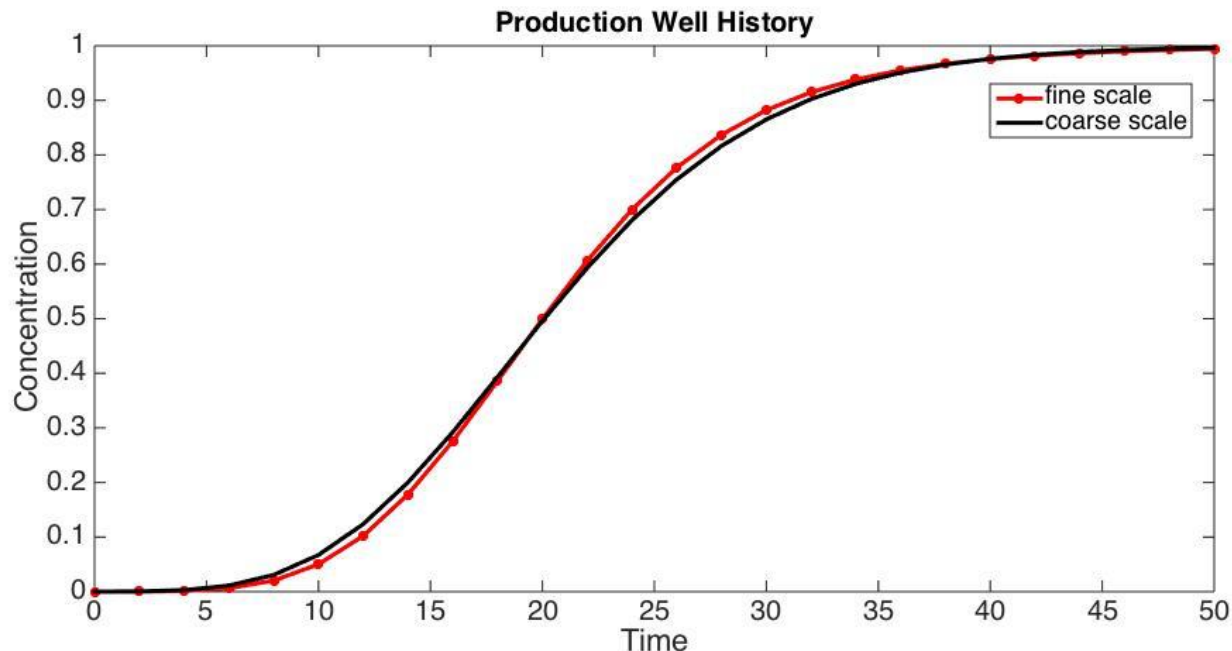
## Concentration on Coarse-Scale Gridblocks



# Verification of Homogenization

## Tracer History at Production Well

- Multi-well tracer test with continuous injection of tracer
- Single/multi-well tracer tests provide information to validate the upscaled model
- Fine and coarse scale concentration profiles in good agreement
- Validation for single phase flow and transport with  $\varepsilon$  order diffusion.



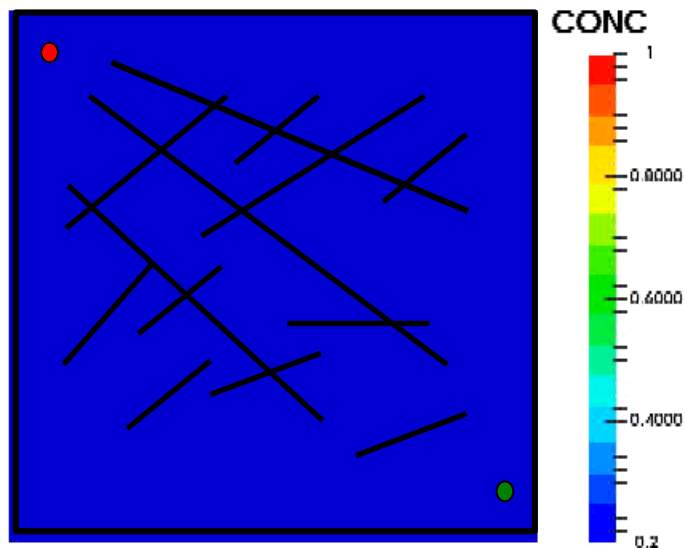


# Verification of Homogenization

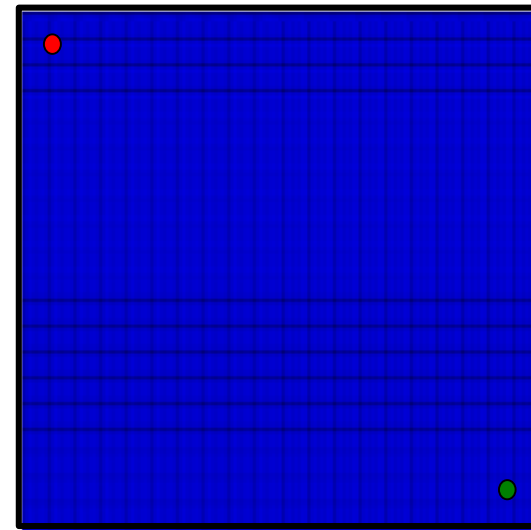
## Model Description

- Simple 2D problem
- Easy extension to 3D case
- Effective permeability and dispersion tensor calculation
- Single phase flow with tracer transport

### Fine-Scale Gridblocks



### Coarse-Scale Gridblocks



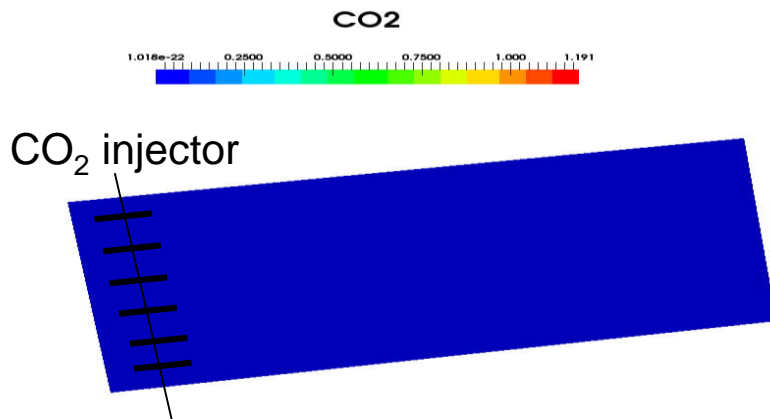
# Application to the Frio Field Model

## Homogenization of Frio Field Model

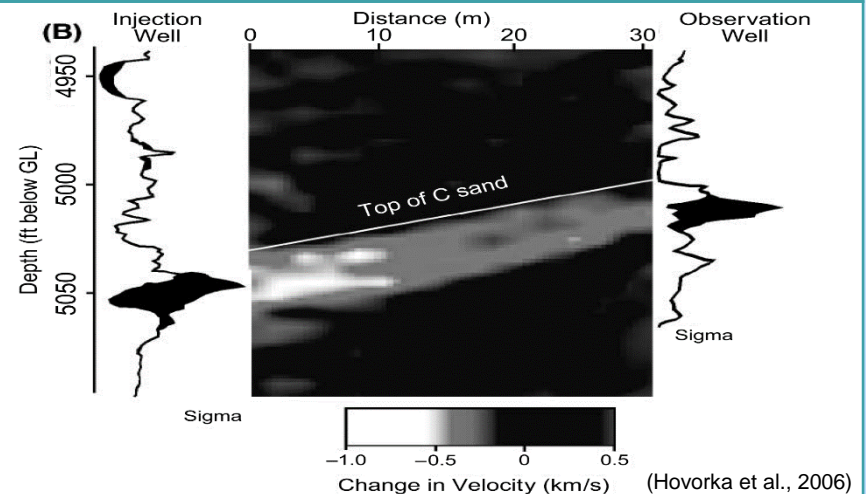
- Running Integrated Parallel Accurate Reservoir Simulator (IPARS)
  - Grid refinement in the region of pilot study: enhanced velocity
  - Upscaling toolset HOMOGEN implemented and verified
- C sand only 20 ft thick
- Only 30 permeability values separated in the vertical direction
- Scale separation ( $\epsilon$ ) assumption of homogenization does not apply
- Resolving differences in plume migration for fine and coarse scale underway

## CO<sub>2</sub> Plume Migration

- Good match with seismic observation



## Seismic Observations



# Technical Status

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## Task 4.

**Simulator Development and Modeling CO<sub>2</sub>  
Storage Field Scale Studies**

**(M. Delshad and B. Ganis—leads)**

# Task 4: Simulator Development

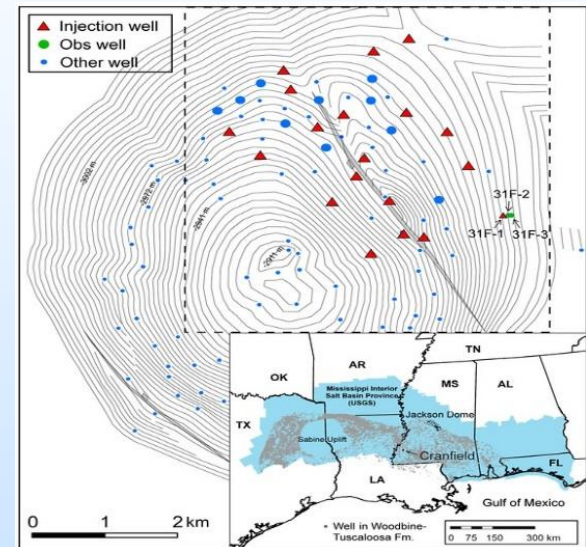
## Objectives

Complete simulator development with numerical schemes for coupled processes

Develop computational methods for coupled processes based on multiscale discretization for **flow, geomechanics & hysteresis**

Development of efficient **solvers & pre-conditioners**

**Model CO<sub>2</sub> storage field sites** and perform simulations



# Multiphase Relative Permeability and Hysteresis Models at a CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Field for CCS Utilization

## Gas Mobility Control Methods

- **Water Alternating Gas (WAG)**
- Simultaneous Water and Gas (CoInj)
- **Surfactant-alternate-gas (SAG)\***
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> surfactant lowers Sor: reducing IFT
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> surfactant controls gas mobility: generating foam

(Currently, commercial S/Ws do not implement the injection of two surfactant types.)
- Surfactant dissolved in CO<sub>2</sub> (in-situ foam)
- Polymer Assisted WAG
- Polymer dissolved in CO<sub>2</sub> (viscosifying CO<sub>2</sub>)

W  
A  
G  
  
S  
A  
G

- Inject the 1<sup>st</sup> surfactant. Then, alternate water & gas



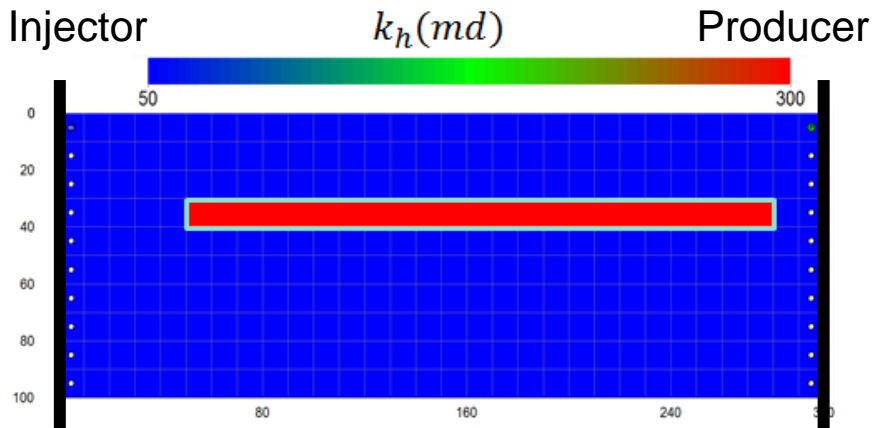
- Inject the 1<sup>st</sup> surfactant. Then, alternate 2<sup>nd</sup> surfactant foam & gas



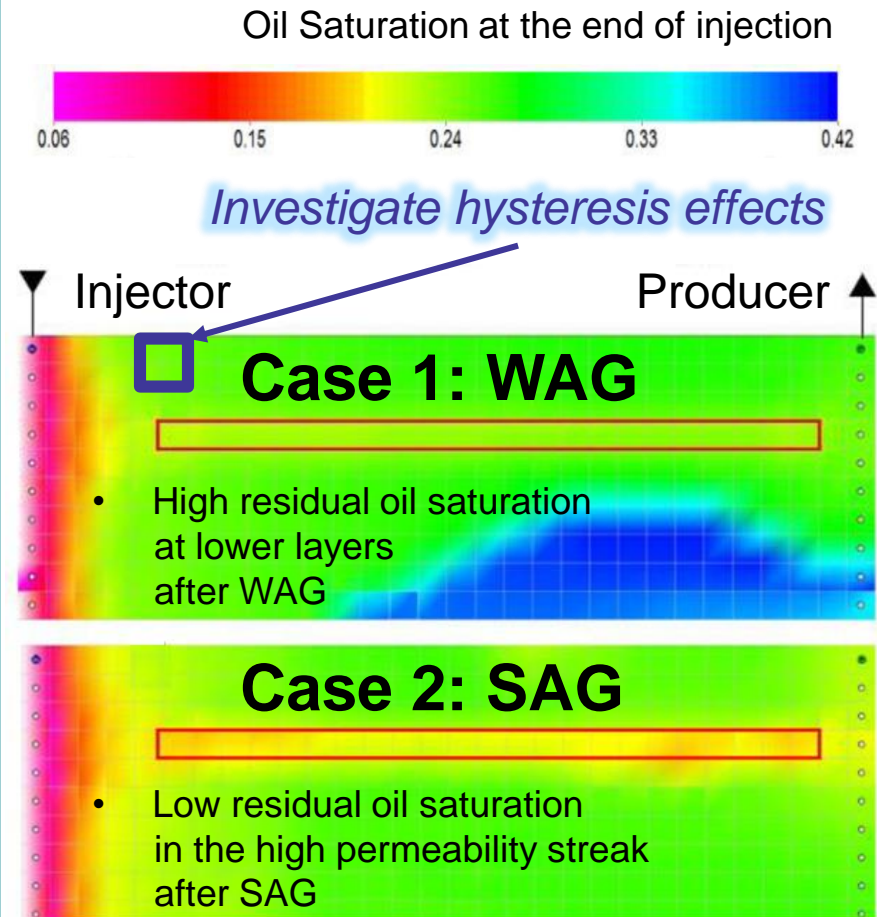
# Multiphase Relative Permeability and Hysteresis Models at a CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Field for CCS Utilization

## Model Description

- $\Phi = 0.2$ ;  $\frac{k_v}{k_h} = 0.1$ ;  $S_o^{initial} = S_{orw} = 0.35$
- Initial pore volume = 53.4 MSTB
- $T^{initial} = 90^\circ\text{F}$ ;  $p^{initial} = 1,500 \text{ psia}$
- Initial oil composition:  
 $C_{10}=30\%$ ;  $C_{15}=40\%$ ;  $C_{20}=30\%$
- High perm streak in a low perm matrix



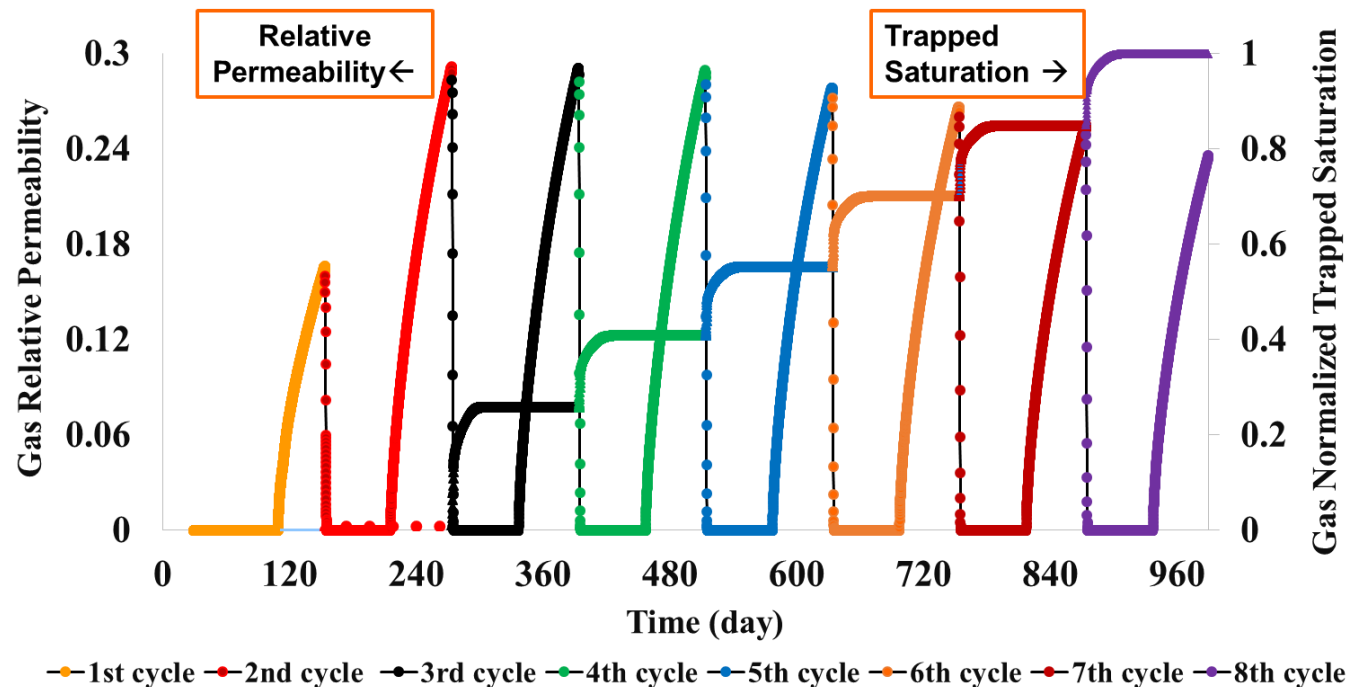
## Simulation Results



# Multiphase Relative Permeability and Hysteresis Models at a CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Field for CCS Utilization

## Cycle-dependent Relative Permeability in Multi-cycle WAG Processes

- As the cycle number increases from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>,
  - Gas relative permeability decreases in time.
  - Gas normalized trapped saturation increases monotonically.  
: *due to hysteresis !*

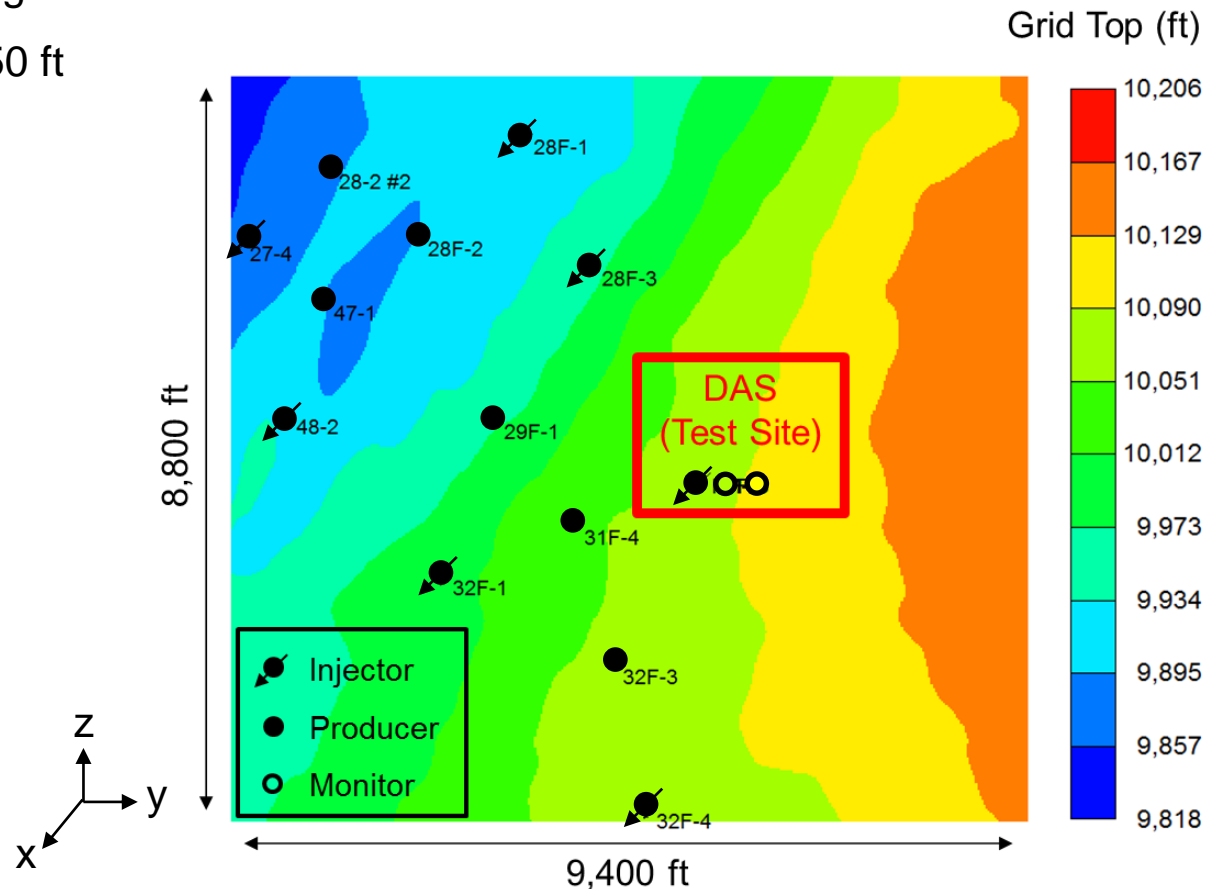




# Compositional Simulation for the CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR field: Cranfield, MS

## Reservoir Model of Cranfield, MS

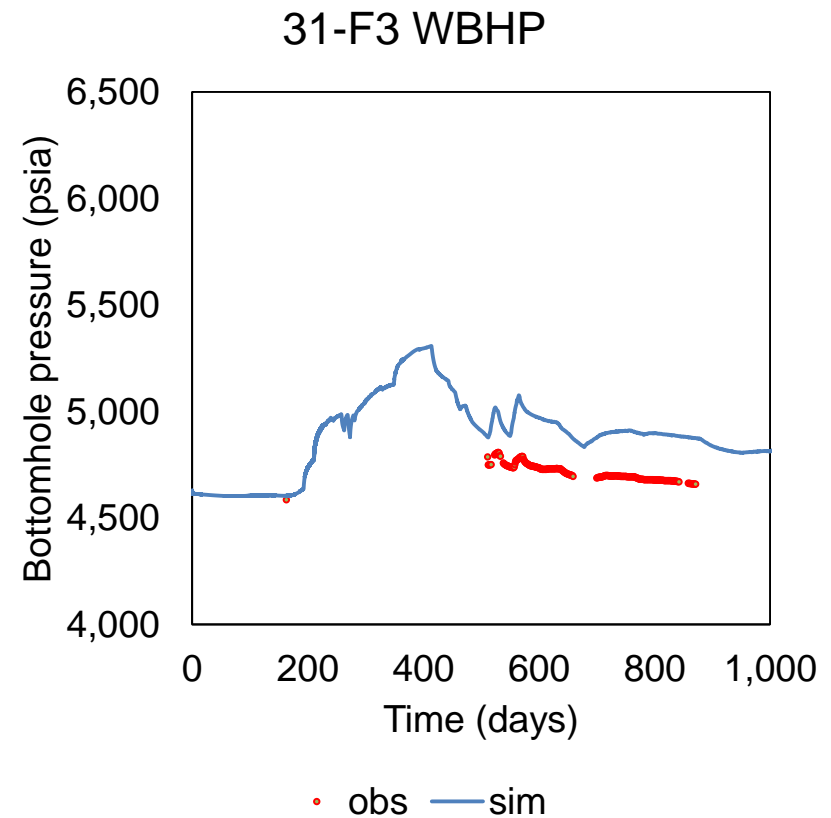
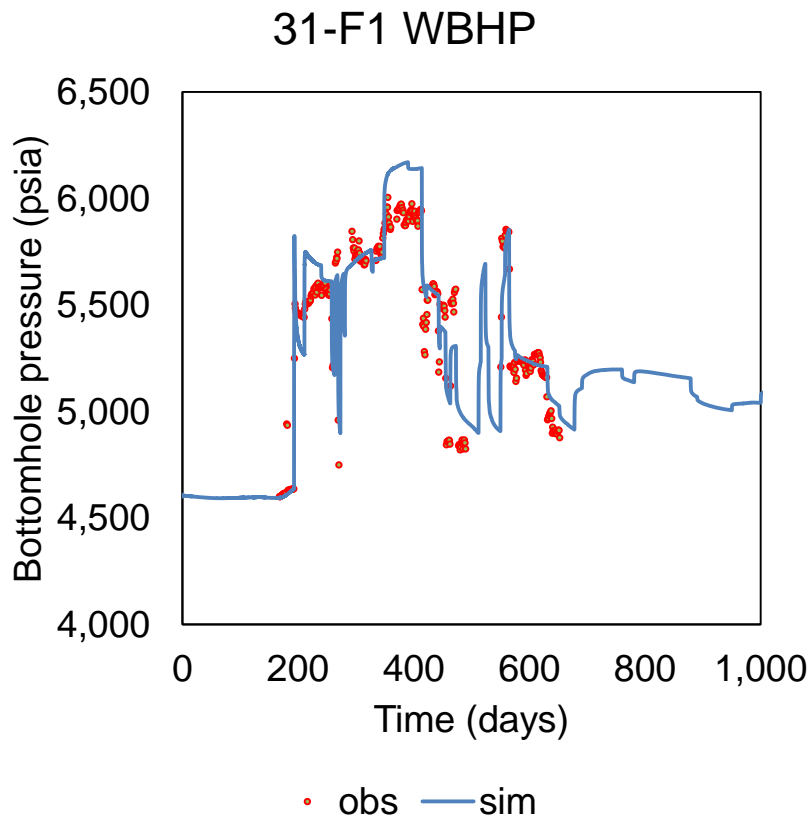
- 661,760 = 20x188x176 grid cells
- Grid size: 4 ft x 50 ft x 50 ft
- 6 oil producers
- 7 CO<sub>2</sub> injectors
- 2 monitoring wells



# Compositional Simulation for the CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR field: Cranfield, MS

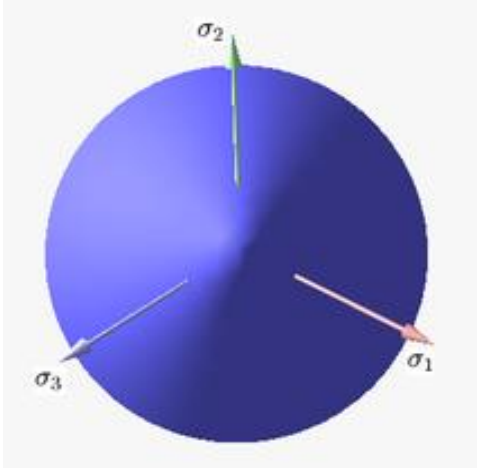
## 31F-1 (CO<sub>2</sub> injection well)

## 31F-3 (monitoring well)



(\* Special thanks to Sun, A. and Hovorka, S. This work was collaborated with Bureau of Economic Geology.)

# Geomechanical Effects of CO<sub>2</sub> Injection with a Poro-plasticity Model

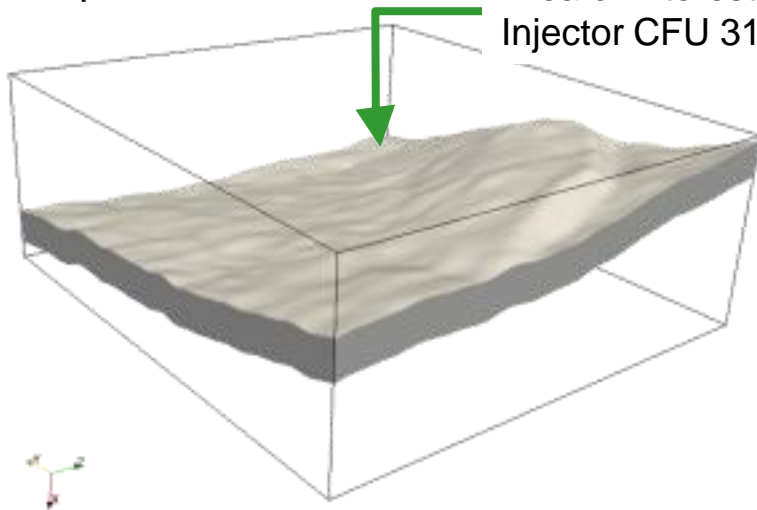
Fluid Flow	$\frac{\partial(\rho(\phi_0 + \alpha\varepsilon_v + \frac{1}{M}(p - p_0)))}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \frac{K}{\mu} (\nabla p - \rho g \nabla h) \right) - q = 0$	
Stress Equilibrium	$\nabla \cdot (\sigma'' + \sigma_o - \alpha(p - p_0)I) + f = 0$	
Hooke's law	$\sigma'' = D^e : (\varepsilon - \varepsilon^p)$	Druker-Prager Yield Surface
Strain-Displacement Relation	$\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla u + \nabla^T u)$	
Plastic Strain Evolution	$\dot{\varepsilon}^p = \lambda \frac{\partial F(\sigma'')}{\partial \sigma''}, \quad \text{at } Y(\sigma'') = 0$ $\dot{\varepsilon}^p = 0, \quad \text{at } Y(\sigma'') < 0$	
Yield and Flow Functions	$Y = q + \theta \sigma_m - \tau_0$ $F = q + \gamma \sigma_m - \tau_0$	

# Poro-plasticity Simulation for the CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Field: Cranfield, MS

## Reservoir Model Description

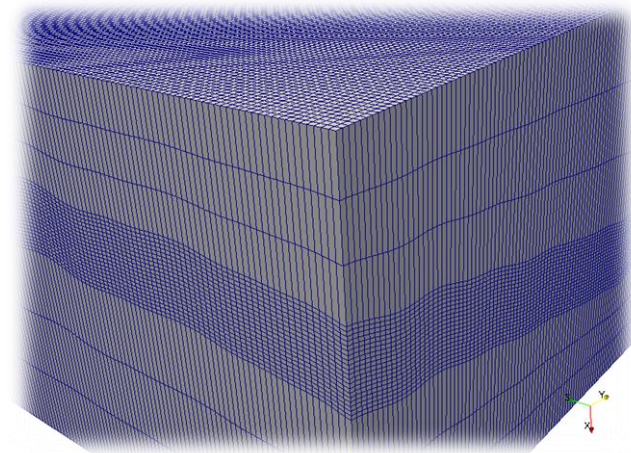
- Latest Cranfield numerical experiments:
  - Fully compositional multiphase flow
  - Druker-Prager poro-elasto-plasticity
  - Stress-dependent permeability
  - 4 injection wells / 2 production wells
- Domain size: 150 x 1,000 x 1,000 ft<sup>3</sup>
- Simulation time: 595 days
- Depth: 10,000 ft

Area of Interest:  
Injector CFU 31F1



## Hexahedral Geometry

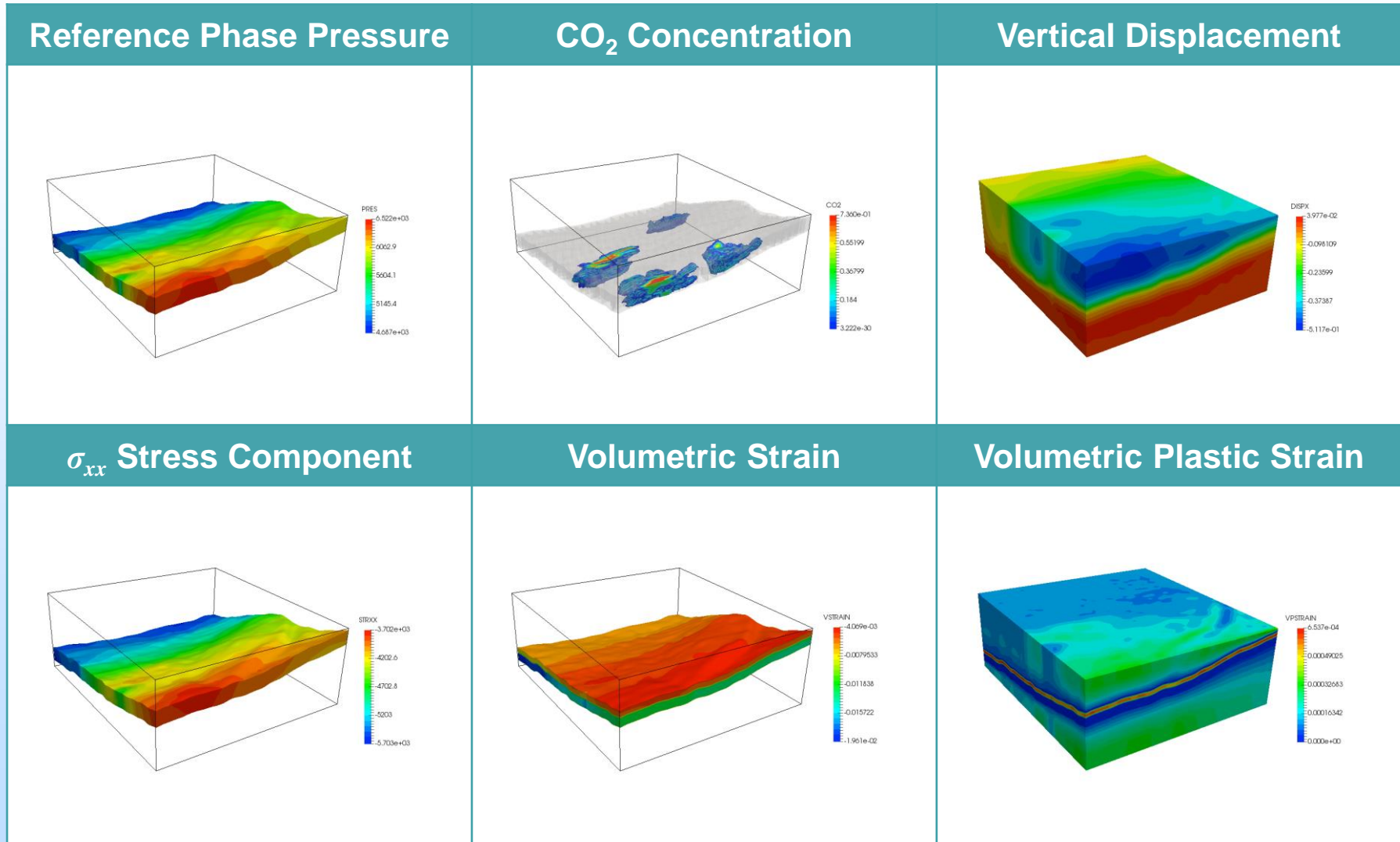
- Grid Resolution:
  - 26 x 188 x 176 = 860,288 hexahedral finite elements



- Computer Used:
  - Stampede at TACC
  - Parallel simulation using 512 cores
  - Runtime of 34 hours



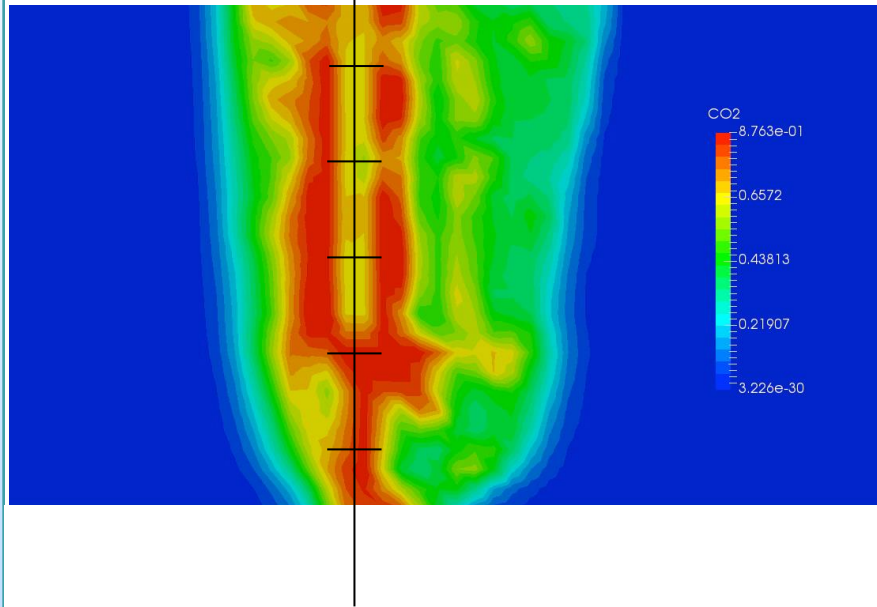
# Poro-plasticity Simulation for the CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Field: Cranfield, MS



# Shape of CO<sub>2</sub> Plume at the Injector CFU-31F1 at Cranfield, MS

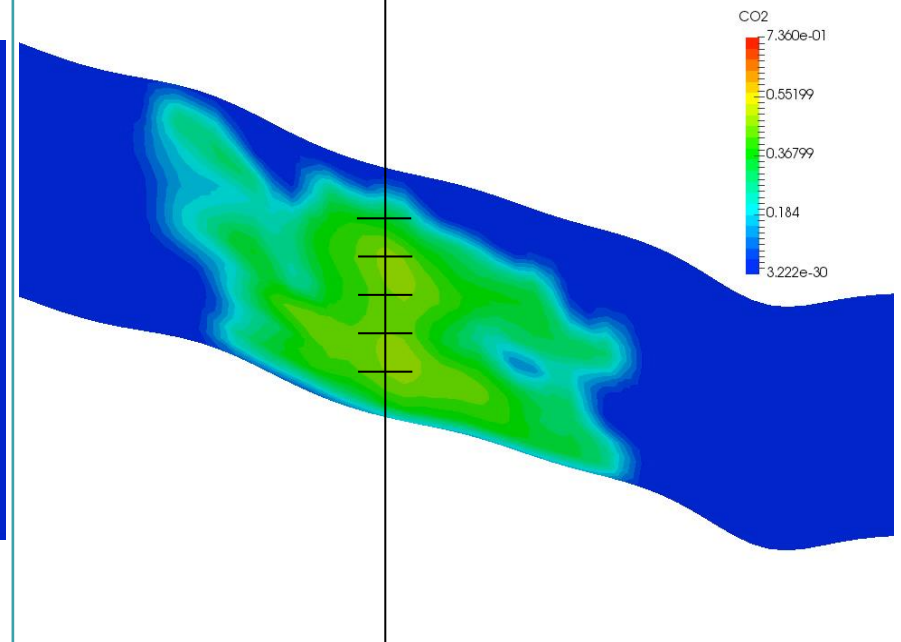
## Brick Geometry Model

CO<sub>2</sub> injection well



## Hexahedral Geometry Model

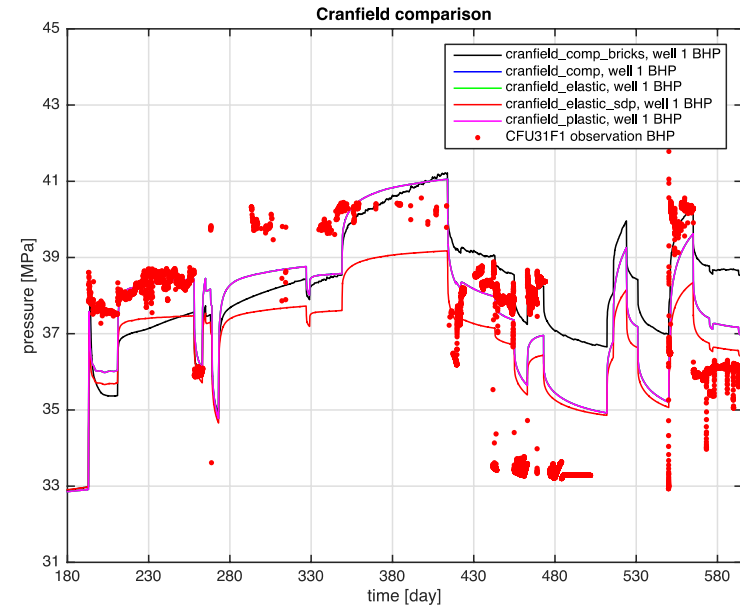
CO<sub>2</sub> injection well



# Shape of CO<sub>2</sub> Plume at the Injector CFU-31F1 at Cranfield, MS

## Effects of Poro-elasticity, Poro-plasticity, & Stress-dependent Permeability

- Hexahedral geometry and gravity had positive impacts on BHP results.
- Mechanics allows computation of displacements, stresses, & plastic strain.
- Either linear or nonlinear mechanics did not significantly impact well BHP.
- **Stress-dependent permeability (SDP)** had a noticeable effect on well BHP, but calibration is needed.
- Not yet history-matched using a compositional-geomechanics module



## Future Works

- Perform history matching using the coupled compositional-geomechanical model w/ SDP
- Incorporate local grids and time stepping with more accurate well information
- Perform near-wellbore studies with discretely meshed well for better plastic effects



# Technical Status

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## Task 5.

**Parameter Estimation &  
Uncertainty Quantification**

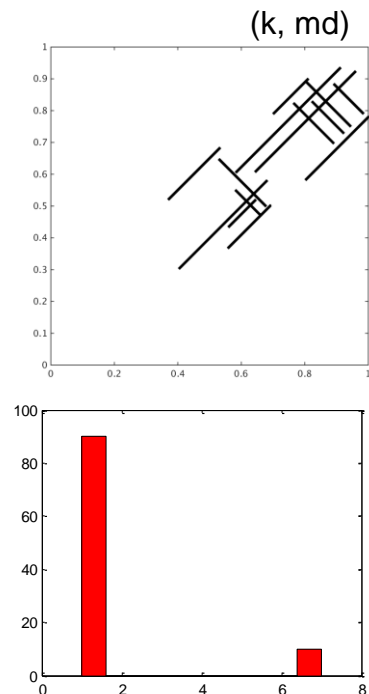
**(M.F.W.–lead, S. Srinivasan–consultant)**

# Task 5: Uncertainty Quantification

## Objectives

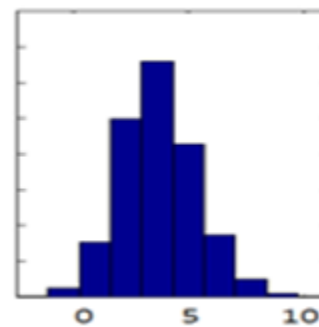
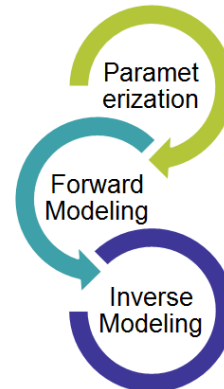
Update input parameters for numerical models, e.g. simulated responses match observations

### A Priori Model



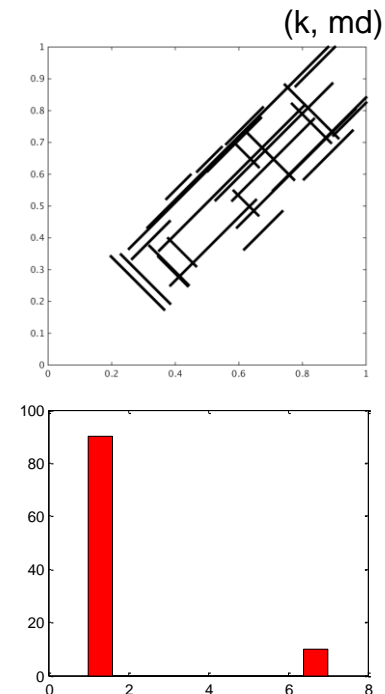
**Multi-modal  
histogram of  
permeability**

### History Matching



**Gaussian  
histogram of  
Level-set parameters**

### A Posteriori Model

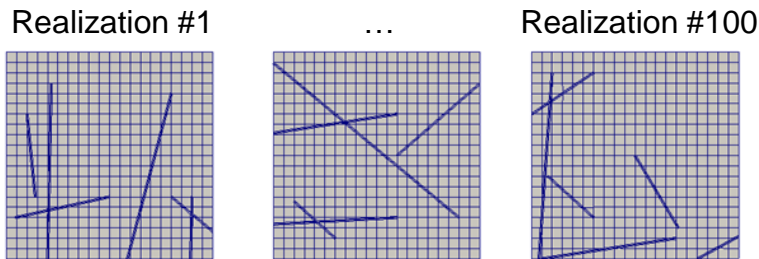


**Multi-modal  
histogram of  
permeability**

# History Matching Coupled with Level-Set Parameterization, MFDfrac, and EnKF

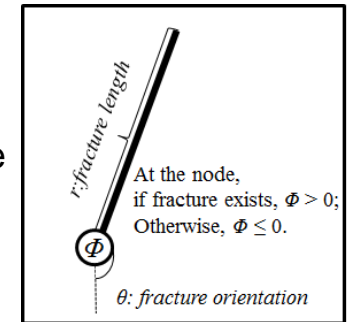
## 1 Initialization

- Generate initial fractured realizations



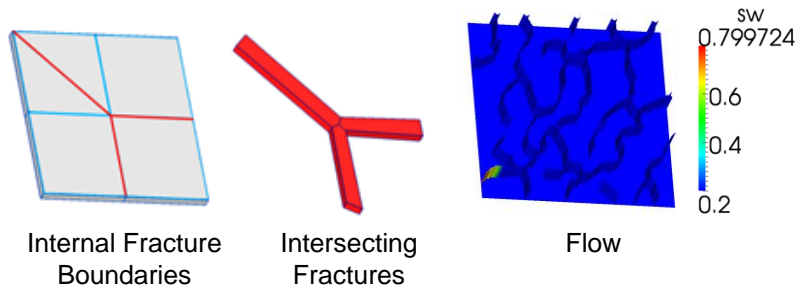
## 2 Level-Set Parameterization

- Convert non-Gaussian to Gaussian parameters
- $\Phi$ : level set at the node
- $r$ : fracture length
- $\theta$ : fracture orientation



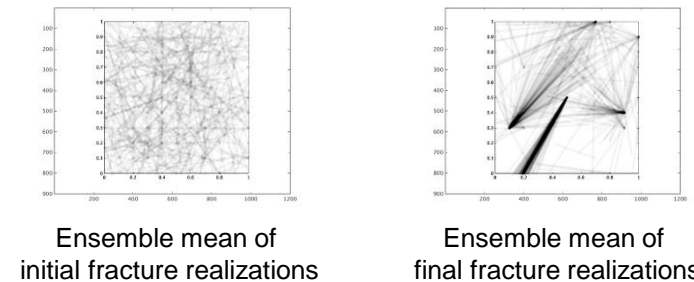
## 3 Simulation using MFDfrac

- Mimetic Difference Approach



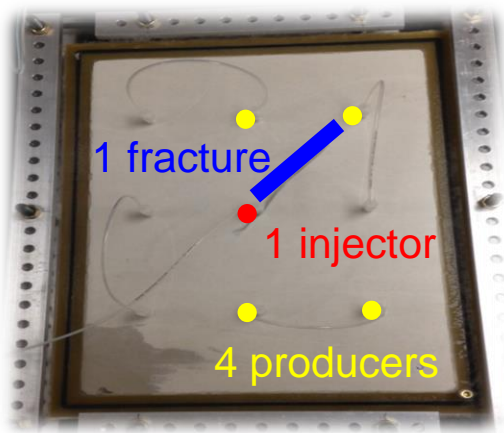
## 4 Inverse Modeling using EnKF

- EnKF for updating Gaussian parameters

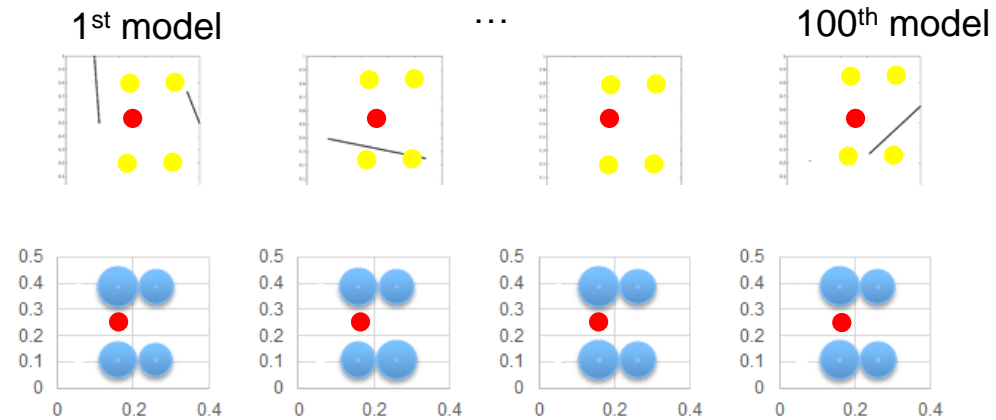


# History Matching Coupled with Level-Set Parameterization, MFDfrac, and EnKF

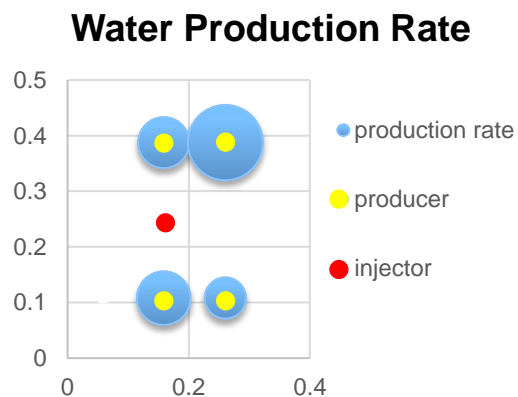
## 1 Lab-scale Sandpack



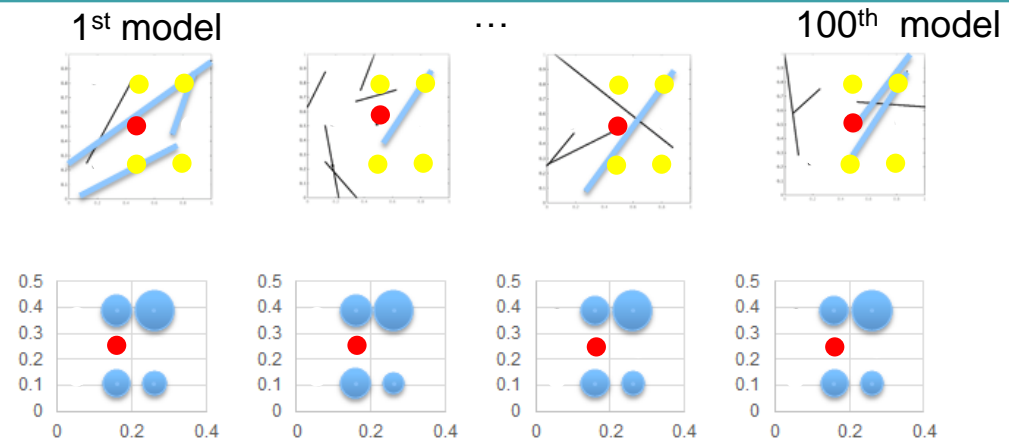
## 3 100 Prior Models (before history matching)



## 2 Observed Lab Data

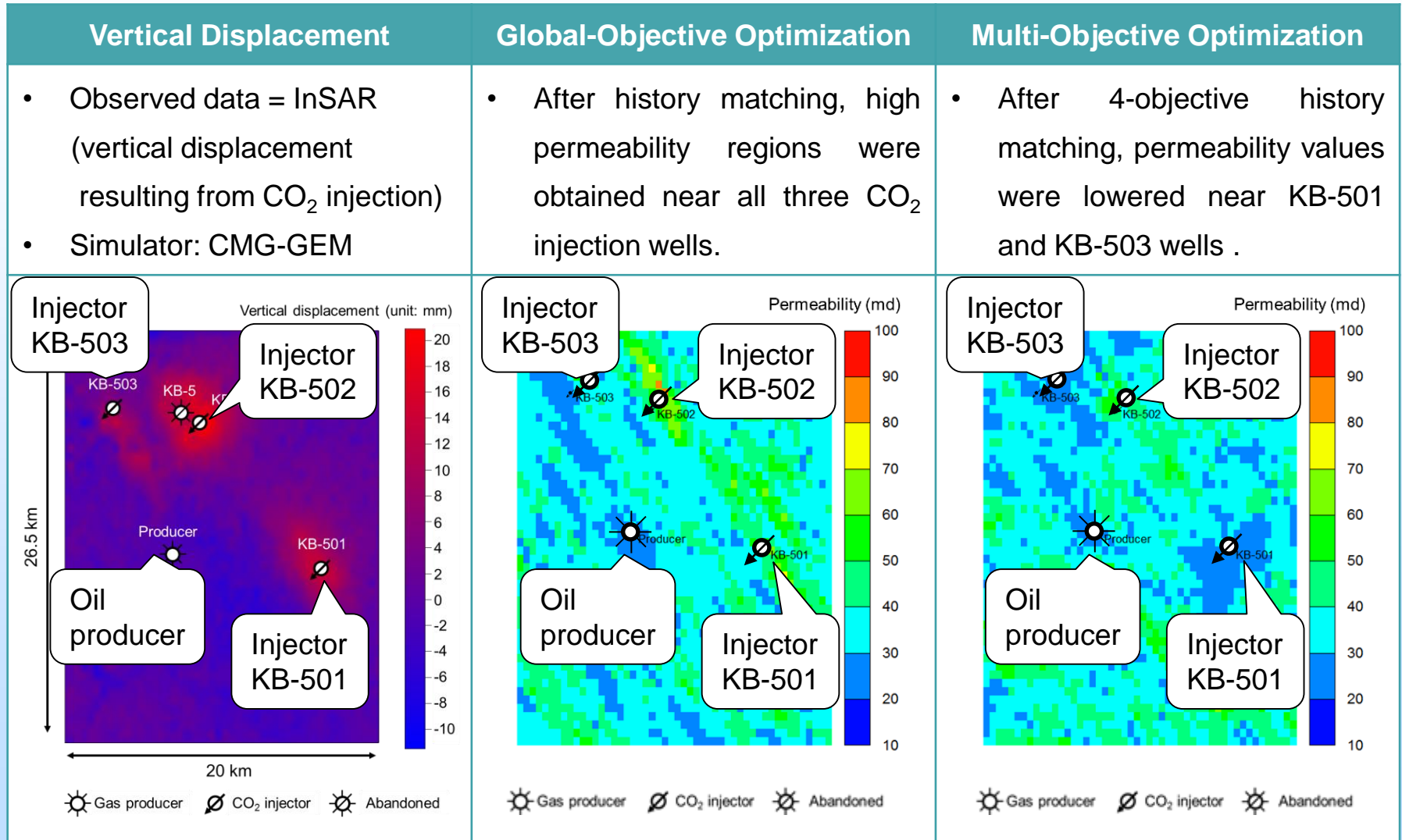


## 4 100 Posterior Models (History-matched)



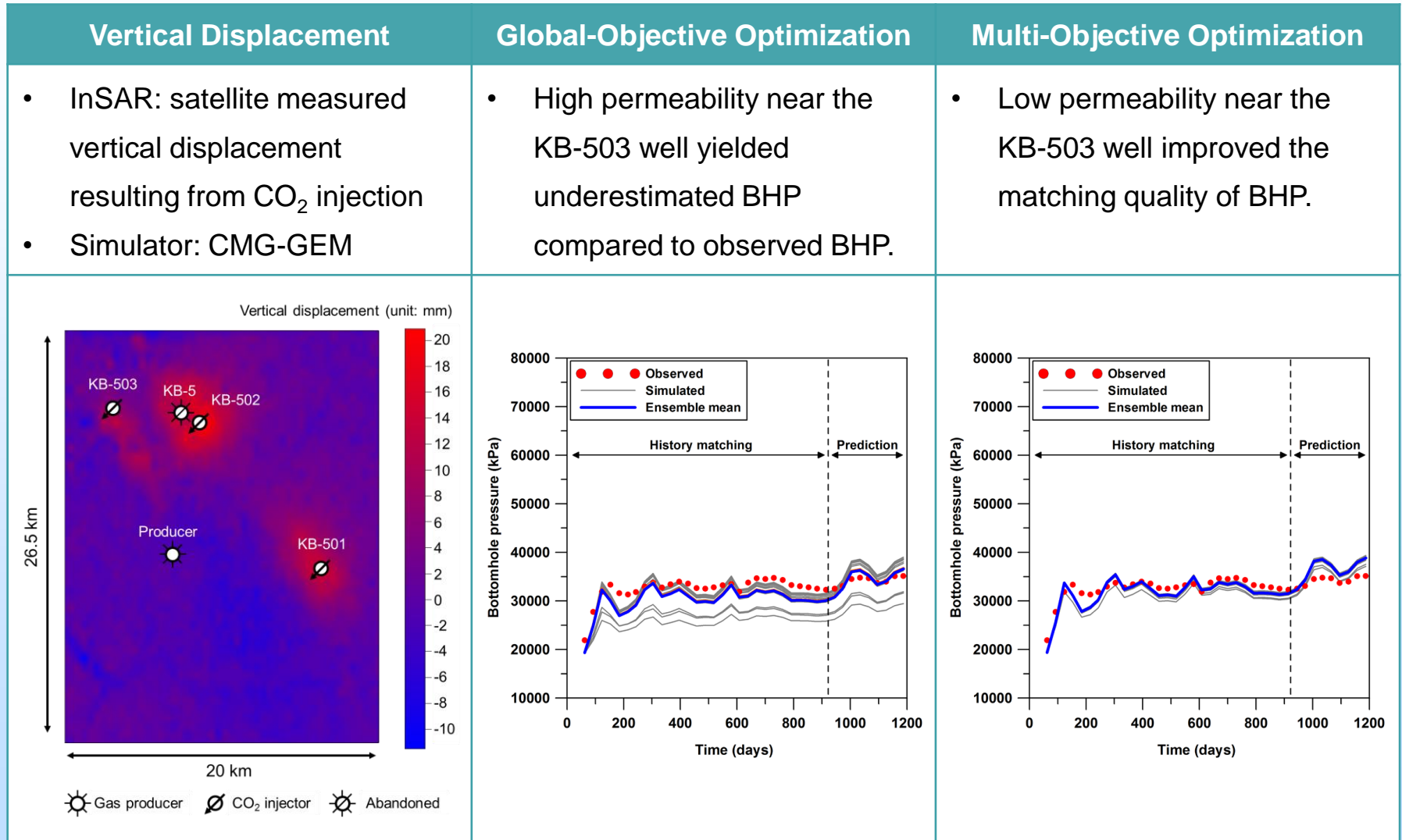
(Jing et al., 2016)

# History Matching of a Fractured Reservoir : at the Well KB-503 in the In Salah CCS Field



(Nwachukwu et al., 2016; Min et al., 2016)

# History Matching of a Fractured Reservoir : at the Well KB-503 in the In Salah CCS Field



(Nwachukwu et al., 2016; Min et al., 2016)

# Technical Status

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## Task 6.

**Integrate Results to Generate Geomechanical  
Screening Tool/Workflow**

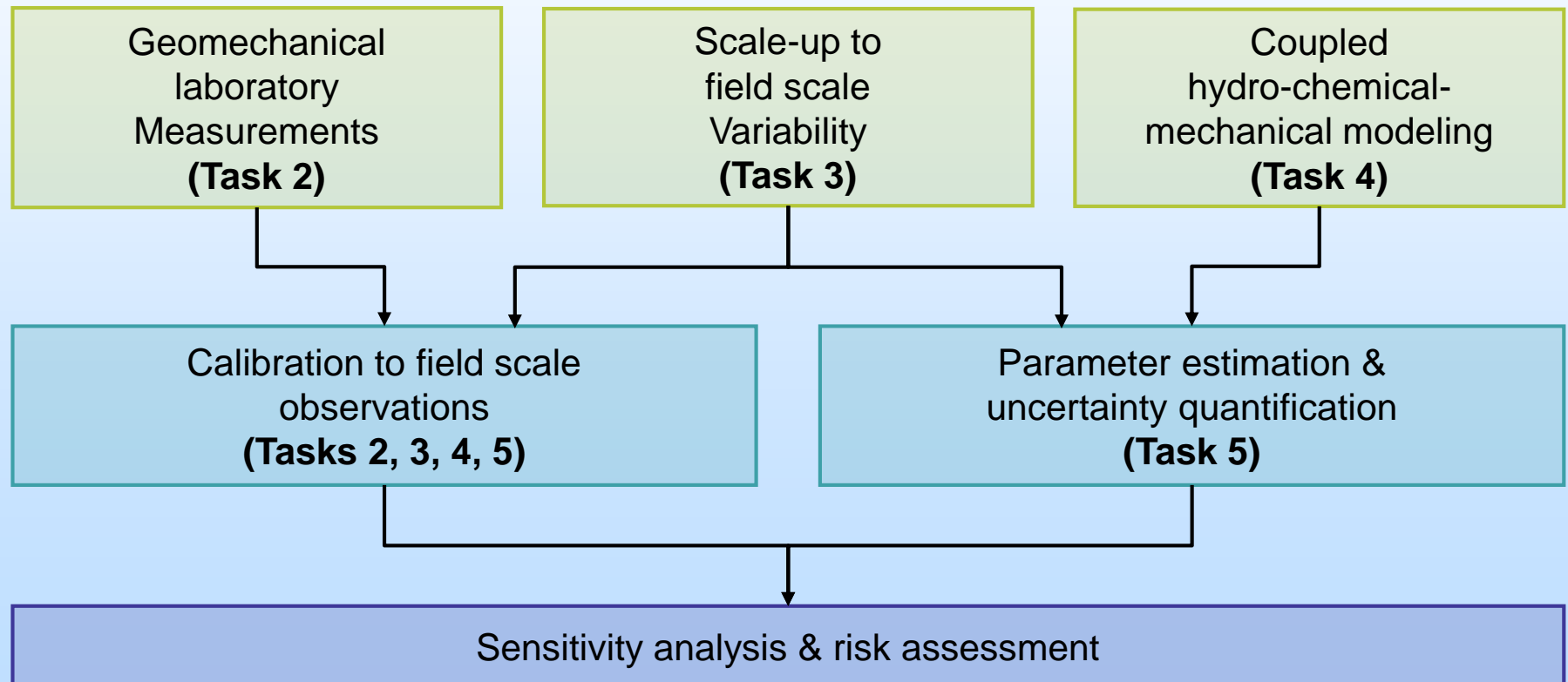
**(M.F.W.–lead)**



# Task 6: Geomechanical Screening Tool

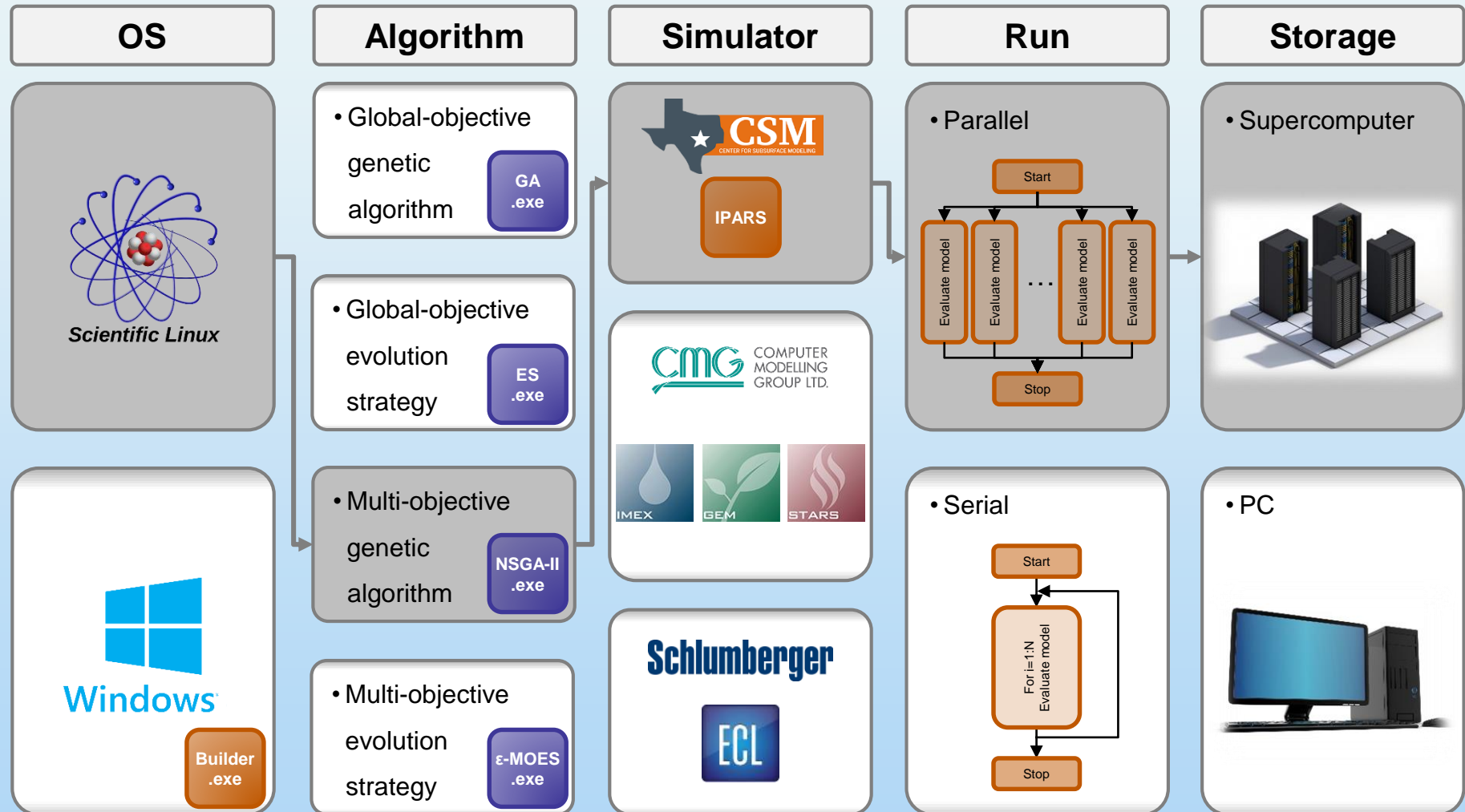
## Objectives

Derive a workflow based on project tasks performed - experimental and numerical investigation of geomechanical processes, effects, & conditions related to CO<sub>2</sub> storage and analysis of two CO<sub>2</sub> storage field case studies



# Development of a Multiple Model Optimizer : IRMS (Integrated Reservoir Management S/W)

All products of the tasks are being integrated with CSM's IPARS for Subsurface Modeling



# Accomplishments to Date

## Integrated Geomechanical Screening Tool / Workflow (T6)

### ❑ Lab-scale Experiments (T2)

- Experimental setup (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Non-destructive test (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> years)
  - Flow properties  
 $k$ ,  $k_r$  (for T3 & T4)
  - Mechanical properties  
 $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\alpha$  (for T3 & T4)
- Destructive test (3<sup>rd</sup> year)
  - Strong acid to accelerate fractures for geochemical reaction (for T3)
  - Effect of hysteresis (for T4)

### ❑ Development of Forward Models (T3 & T4)

- Enhanced velocity for LGR (T3)
- Compositional (T4)
- MFMFE (T4)
- Homogenization (T3)
- Poro-plasticity (T4)
- Gas-mobility control (T4)
- Time stepping (T3)
- Hysteresis (T4)

### ❑ Development of Inverse Models (T5)

- Level-set (T5)
- EnKF (T5)
- Multi-objective optimization (T5)

### ❑ Field Observations (T2 to T5)

- Frio (T3)  
Tracer w/ minimal chemical reaction
- Cranfield (T4 & T5)  
No chemical reaction  
Few core data  
History matching w/ Mechanics and Hysteresis
- Castlegate (T2 & T3)  
Outcrop sandstone for destructive test

#### Legend

- Tasks during the 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Tasks during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Tasks during the 3<sup>rd</sup> year

# Synergy Opportunities

## Assistance in Decision Making

- Assist in selection of suitable sites for safe CO<sub>2</sub> storage using generalized S/Ws based on a posteriori knowledge



## Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Enhance understanding of the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> migration on open and closed faults and fractures



## Training & Education

- Support training and education of students who will take part in an interdisciplinary work, e.g. IPARS tutorial



***Contribution to Identifying Geological Risk  
for Secure CO<sub>2</sub> Storage!***

# Outreach

## Annual Affiliates Meeting

- The annual two-day event presents opportunities for our industrial partners to hear about latest developments in timely and critical areas of technology (November 3-4, 2015)




## UTPREP4

- The Role of Computation in Protecting the Environment: A Workshop for High School Students on Energy and the Environment (July 13-14, 2016)



# Summary



We have measured fluid and geomechanical properties such as relative permeability, Biot Coefficients, for Frio and Cranfield sites through lab-scale non-destructive experiments.

We have imported the experimental data into numerical models of Frio and Cranfield and calibrated the CCS models using EnKF with level-set and multi-objective optimization methods.

We have developed advanced flow & geomechanics modules, which are not yet well-implemented in commercial software: Homogenization, Hysteresis, Capillary-trapping, Poro-elasticity, Poro-plasticity, parameterized EnKF, Multi-objective optimization

Achieved ahead of milestone

# Acknowledgements



Thank you for your attention

Contact: [mfw@ices.utexas.edu](mailto:mfw@ices.utexas.edu)

# Organization Chart

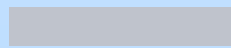
<p align="center"><b>Project Director</b></p> <p align="center"><b>M.F. Wheeler</b></p>					
<u>Task 1</u> Management	<u>Task 2</u> Laboratory Program	<u>Task 3</u> Bridging between Laboratory and Field Scales	<u>Task 4</u> Modeling and Field Studies	<u>Task 5</u> Uncertainty Quantification and Parameter Estimation	<u>Task 6</u> Integrate Results to Generate Geomechanical Screening Tool / Workflow
<u>Task Leader</u> M.F. Wheeler	<u>Task Leader</u> N. Espinoza	<u>Task Leader</u> M.F. Wheeler	<u>Task Leader</u> M. Delshad	<u>Task Leader</u> M.F. Wheeler	<u>Task Leader</u> M.F. Wheeler
<u>Key Personnel</u> M. Delshad S. Srinivasan N. Espinoza	<u>Key Personnel</u> M.F. Wheeler M. Delshad ½ Postdoc 1 Student (Y 1&2)	<u>Key Personnel</u> S. Srinivasan N. Espinoza ½ Postdoc 1 Student	<u>Key Personnel</u> M.F. Wheeler N. Espinoza ½ Postdoc 1 Student (Y 3)	<u>Key Personnel</u> M. Delshad M.F. Wheeler 1 Student S. Srinivasan (Consultant)	<u>Key Personnel</u> M. Delshad S. Srinivasan N. Espinoza Postdoc Student



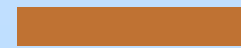
# Gantt Chart

Task		Sep. 2014 - Aug. 2015				Sep. 2015 - Aug. 2016				Sep. 2016 - Aug. 2017			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Management	A, B											
2	Laboratory Experiment			C	D		E		F	G			
3	Upscale from Lab. to Field								H		I		
4	Simulator Development				J				K	L		M	
5	Uncertainty Quantification												O
6	Integrated Geo-Screening Tool												P

A to P : Milestones



Scheduled



Accomplished

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- Publication:

- Amanbek, Y., Singh, G., and Wheeler, M.F. Upscaling reservoir properties using homogenization for Frio field CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, (in preparation).
- Min, B., Nwachukwu, A., Srinivasan, S., and Wheeler, M.F. 2016, Selection of geologic models based on Pareto-optimality using surface deformation and CO<sub>2</sub> injection data for the In Salah gas sequestration project. SPE Journal (submitted).  
Nwachukwu, A., Min, B., and Srinivasan, S. 2016, Model selection for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration using surface deformation and injection data. International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control (submitted).
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- Conference:

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- Ping, J., Al-Hinai, O., Srinivasan, S. and Wheeler, M.F., 2016, History matching for fractured reservoirs using mimetic finite differences and ensemble Kalman filter. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, California, 12–16 Dec. (submitted).
- Wheeler, M.F., Amanbek, Y., and Singh, G. 2016. Upscaling reservoir properties using single well tracer test, Computational Method in Water Resources, Toronto, Canada, 21–24 Jun.