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# INVESTIGATION OF CO<sub>2</sub> SEEPS AT THE CRYSTAL GEYSER SITE USING NUMERICAL MODELING WITH GEOCHEMISTRY

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# INVESTIGATION OF CO<sub>2</sub> SEEPS AT THE CRYSTAL GEYSER SITE USING NUMERICAL MODELING WITH GEOCHEMISTRY

by

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# Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my loving family.

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#### Abstract

## INVESTIGATION OF CO<sub>2</sub> SEEPS AT THE CRYSTAL GEYSER SITE USING NUMERICAL MODELING WITH GEOCHEMISTRY

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The University of Texas at Austin, 2012

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Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sequestration requires that the injected CO<sub>2</sub> be permanently trapped in the subsurface and not leak from the target location. To accomplish this, it is important to understand the main mechanisms associated with CO<sub>2</sub> flow and transport in the subsurface once CO<sub>2</sub> is injected. In this work CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at the Crystal Geyser site were studied using modeling and simulation to determine how CO<sub>2</sub> geochemically reacts with formation brines and how these interactions impact the migration of CO<sub>2</sub>. Furthermore different scenarios for CO<sub>2</sub> migration and seepage along the Grand Wash fault are studied and the possible outcomes for these different scenarios are documented. The GEM (Generalized Equation-of-State Model) from CMG Ltd. was used to perform the simulation studies. A 2-D model was built without geochemical reactions to mainly study the mechanism associated with dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> gas. The process of CO<sub>2</sub> release from the brine as the fluid mixture flows up along the fault was modeled. Then, 3-D models with geochemical reactions were built for CO<sub>2</sub> migration corresponding to two different sources of CO<sub>2</sub> - deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved in groundwater. In both these cases, CO<sub>2</sub> reacted with the aqueous components and minerals of the formation and caused carbonate mineralization. In the case of deep crustal  $CO_2$  source, there were vertical patterns of calcite mineralization simulated along the fault that indicated that calcite mineralization might be localized to isolated vertical flow paths due to vertical channeling of  $CO_2$  from the crust. In the case of  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater flowing along the sandstone layers, calcite mineralization is spread over the entire fault surface. In this case, the groundwater flow is interrupted by the fault and there is vertical flow along the fault until a permeable sandstone layer is encountered on the other side of the fault. This vertical migration of  $CO_2$ -saturated brine causes a release in pressure and subsequent ex-solution of  $CO_2$ . As a result, modeling allowed us to establish difference in surface expression of  $CO_2$  leakage due to two different  $CO_2$  migrations scenarios along the fault and helped develop a scheme for selecting appropriate model for  $CO_2$  leakage based on surface observation of travertine mounds.

A key observation at the Crystal Geyser site is the lateral migration of  $CO_2$  seep sites over time. These migrations have been confirmed by isotope studies. In this modeling study, the mechanism for migration of seep sites was studied. A model for permeability reduction due to precipitation of calcite was developed. It is shown using percolation calculations that flow re-routing due to permeability alterations can result in lateral migration of  $CO_2$  seeps at rates comparable to those established by isotope dating.

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## **Chapter 1 : Introduction**

#### **1.1 Overview**

With large amounts of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere from emissions and consequential problems such as a rise in temperature around the globe, many methods have been proposed to reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. One of the most viable methods is to sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in the subsurface. Injecting CO<sub>2</sub> under supercritical condition into saline aquifers can possibly store a significant amount of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> in the subsurface for a long period. There are many potential sites for CO<sub>2</sub> storage such as depleted oil and gas reservoirs and deep aquifers. However, a general lack of knowledge about CO<sub>2</sub> transport mechanisms in the subsurface is one of the main source of concern about CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration; namely, the migration of injected CO<sub>2</sub> may not behave as predicted and consequently, it may not be trapped permanently. Therefore, it is important to understand the main CO<sub>2</sub> transport mechanisms in the subsurface.

There are different types of mechanisms involved in CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration such as mineral trapping (Ghanbarnezhad, 2011). In mineral trapping, the injected CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in aquifer brine and reacts with rock minerals which typically dissolve carbonates. Then, these carbonates precipitate subsequently because of changes in the pH condition. The precipitated carbonate reduces the permeability of the rock formation and traps  $CO_2$ . Many laboratory experiments and simulation studies have attempted to understand the impact of geochemistry on CO<sub>2</sub> transport in the subsurface and on sequestration (Perkins and Gunter, 1995; Nghiem, 2004; Druckenmiller, 2005; Johnson, 2004; Xu et al., 2001; Mito et al., 2008). Leakages of  $CO_2$  gas have been observed on the surface as a possible result of mineral trapping of  $CO_2$ . Several  $CO_2$ -charged geysers and evidence of calcite precipitations in forms of travertine mounds around the geysers have also been reported. Thus, many studies have focused on the cause of the phenomena and to identify potential leakage scenarios (Moore et al., 2004; Heath et al., 2008). This thesis focuses on modeling CO<sub>2</sub> gas emissions from seeps at the Crystal Geyser site in Utah and numerically modeling potential leakage scenarios to link with actual events in the field. This allows us to predict the main mechanisms of CO<sub>2</sub> transport in subsurface and the

role of the fault system in the activity of geysers at this site. Significant uncertainties and a lack of understanding about the observations of  $CO_2$  seeps remain such as the source of the  $CO_2$  and the properties of the fault fill material. Modeling these uncertainties and attempting to calibrate them against field observations are essential for understanding the primary factors that controls the subsurface migration and potential leakage of  $CO_2$  from storage sites. This study provides much needed information on  $CO_2$  transport mechanism in the subsurface and ultimately the  $CO_2$  sequestration process.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

The objective of this research is to model and investigate the mechanisms controlling the spatial and temporal observations of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at the Crystal Geyser site in Utah using the flow reservoir simulator, GEM (Generalized Equation-of-State Model). Different hypotheses about the source of the CO<sub>2</sub> are presumed and incorporated into the simulator. The behavior of CO<sub>2</sub> leakage along the fault and its effects on the surface expression of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps are studied. A geostatistical approach is used to determine the uncertain fault properties such as permeability and model the fault system. The fault properties are also altered for sensitivity studies. The modeling also includes aspects of geochemistry associated with CO<sub>2</sub> interaction with minerals. Important effects such as the lateral migration of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at geological time scales established by isotope studies.

#### **1.3 Thesis Outline**

Chapter 2 presents a literature review of the previous works on the mechanisms of  $CO_2$  transport in the subsurface including numerical modeling of laboratory experiments. Previous field studies investigating  $CO_2$ -driven geysers at natural  $CO_2$  storage sites are also reviewed. Chapter 3 gives a description of the materials and methods used in modeling the Grand Wash fault system at the Crystal Geyser site. The geology of the field site is described. Also, the geochemical model used in the numerical model is explained.

Chapter 4 illustrates  $CO_2$  gas release mechanism along the fault and a sensitivity study by varying the fault properties in a cross-sectional model. Chapter 5 demonstrates  $CO_2$  flow and transport in subsurface and the results corresponding to two scenarios of  $CO_2$  source in 3-D model. In Chapter 6, the mechanism for flow diversion due to plugging of pore space by chemical precipitate is investigated. In Chapter 7, conclusions and key findings drawn from the research studies and suggestions for future work are presented.

## **Chapter 2 : Literature Review**

#### 2.1 Overview

In this chapter, the literature and previous research related to the proposed theories, experimental laboratories, and simulation and field studies of natural  $CO_2$  sequestration analogs is reviewed. First, relevant subsurface mechanisms proposed at these sites and involved geochemical reactions are discussed. Then, previous studies that present various interpretations of subsurface mechanisms associated with  $CO_2$  are reviewed. Finally, the literature specifically related to  $CO_2$ -driven geyser activities is reviewed to gain a better understanding of the phenomenon.

## 2.2 Mechanism of CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration: Mineral Trapping

 $CO_2$  sequestration process, which captures and stores the carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) in the subsurface, has become one of the most viable methods for reducing the greenhouse gas effect because it has many advantages over alternative methods such as low costs and capability to remove large amounts of atmospheric  $CO_2$ . Various subsurface mechanisms for  $CO_2$  sequestration process are proposed in the literature; one of the most controversial mechanisms is mineral trapping. When  $CO_2$  is injected in a saline aquifer, it dissolves in the aquifer and reacts with rock minerals to form calcite. At a certain pH condition, the calcite precipitates and this results in the mineral trapping mechanism by reducing rock permeability and trapping the injected  $CO_2$ .  $CO_2$  sequestration with mineral trapping involves numerous geochemical reactions and there have been a surprising number of studies devoted to the specialized topic of geochemical reactions associated with  $CO_2$  in different environments and their possible outcomes. In the following section, previous studies on geochemical reactions associated with  $CO_2$  migration in the subsurface are reviewed.

#### 2.2.1 Geochemical Reactions

Table 2-1 shows one of the most frequently suggested geochemical reactions associated with the mineral trapping mechanism; CO<sub>2</sub> gas dissolves in brine and carbonic

acid forms. This further dissociates into bicarbonates and carbonate ions that react with Ca, Mg, and Fe to form mineral precipitations such as calcite, dolomite, and magnesite. However, the actual geochemical reactions that may happen in the subsurface vary because these reactions could be affected by many other factors including pH of the system, rock and brine compositions, minerals, temperature, and pressure (Druckenmiller et al., 2005).

$$CO_{2}(g) \longleftrightarrow CO_{2}(aq)$$

$$CO_{2}(aq)+H_{2}O \longleftrightarrow H_{2}CO_{3}$$

$$H_{2}CO_{3} \longleftrightarrow H^{+}+HCO_{3}^{-}$$

$$HCO_{3}^{-} \longleftrightarrow H^{+}+CO_{3}^{2-}$$

$$Ca^{2+}+CO_{3}^{2-} \longleftrightarrow CaCO_{3}^{-}$$

$$Mg^{2+}+CO_{3}^{2-} \longleftrightarrow MgCO_{3}^{-}$$

$$Ca^{2+}+Mg^{2+}+CO_{3}^{2-} \longleftrightarrow CaMg(CO_{3})_{2}^{-}$$

Table 2-1. Suggested geochemical reactions in mineral trapping.

Different geochemical reactions involved in mineral trapping have been outlined by a number of researchers. Johnson et al. (2004) studied  $CO_2$  storage in a shale-capped sandstone aquifer. They suggested that dawsonite precipitation and cementation take place with dissolution of K-feldspar which reduces the shale porosity and permeability. The reaction equation is the following;

K-feldspar+Na<sup>+</sup>+CO<sub>2(aq)</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O
$$\longleftrightarrow$$
dawsonite+SiO<sub>2</sub>+K<sup>+</sup>

Also, shale that has a high concentration of Fe-Mg due to clay rich mineralogy reacts with  $CO_2$  as shown in the following equation and causes significant amounts of magnesite cementations. Johnson et al. (2004) also argue that the drop in porosity and permeability from these reactions is severe within shale.

K-feldspar+Mg-chlorite+CO<sub>2(aq)</sub>  $\longrightarrow$  muscovite+kaolinite+magnesite+SiO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O

For the rocks with Na/K or Ca/Mg/Fe minerals, Gunter et al. (1996) postulates that the injected  $CO_2$  forms bicarbonate brines and results in siderite, calcite or dolomite. These reactions are assumed to lead to trapping and immobilization of  $CO_2$ . The reactions with Ca/Mg/Fe-bearing silicate minerals can be summarized as follows (Saylor et al., 2001).

Ca/Mg/Fe feldspar+clays+CO<sub>2</sub>+H<sub>2</sub>O=kaolinite+Ca/Mg/Fe carbonate+quartz

A case study of geochemical reactions performed at the Nagaoka site in Japan revealed (Mito et al., 2008) an increase in cations of Ca, Mg and Fe with dissolution of plagioclase and chlorite in early stage of  $CO_2$  storage as shown in Table 2-2. Dissolution of plagioclase and chlorite help neutralize the acidic formation water and eventually results in an increase in the carbonate mineral precipitation:

 $CO_{2}(supercritical) \longrightarrow CO_{2}(aq)$   $CO_{2}(aq)+H_{2}O \longrightarrow H^{+}+HCO_{3}^{-}$   $plagioclase+2H^{+}+3H_{2}O \longrightarrow Ca^{2+}+2Al(OH)_{3}+2H_{4}SiO_{4}+NaAlSi_{3}O_{4}$   $chlorite+20H^{+}+ \longrightarrow 5Mg^{2+}+5Fe^{2+}+4Al(OH)_{3}+6H_{4}SiO_{4}$   $Calcite+H^{+} \longrightarrow Ca^{2+}+HCO_{3}^{-}$ 

Table 2-2. Geochemical processes at Nagaoka during an early stage of CO<sub>2</sub> storage (Mito et al., 2008).

There have been numerous studies on the effect of the pH on geochemical reactions. Drunkenmiller et al. (2005) found that the pH determines which geochemical reaction in Table 2-1 dominates. For example, at low pH the dominant product is  $H_2CO_3$  while at high pH,  $CO_3^{2^-}$  is dominant. Thus, the dissolution of carbonate minerals is favored due to the insufficient carbonate ions when pH of the system is acidic. Soong et al. (2004) investigated the CO<sub>2</sub> reactions with brine samples and the effect of pH, temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> pressure on the reactions. Soong et al. (2004) also found that the pH

of the brine changes the precipitation species and reaction rates and mineral precipitation increases as pH of the system becomes basic.

#### 2.2.2 Laboratory Experiments and Simulation Studies

Studies on mineral trapping mechanism have yielded conflicting findings; some researchers (Gunter et al., 1993; Johnson et al., 2004; Zerai et al., 2006) proposed it as an effective long-term  $CO_2$  trapping mechanism due to carbonate mineral precipitation, while others (Heath et al., 2009; Urquhart, 2011) disputed it to be ineffective for long-term sequestration of  $CO_2$ .

Gunter et al. (1996) performed both experiments and modeling for a glauconitic sandstone aquifer in the Alberta Sedimentary Basin and stated that geochemical reactions of  $CO_2$  are effective in trapping  $CO_2$ . Even though the  $CO_2$  trapping reactions occur very slowly, Gunter et al. (1997) argues it to be sufficient for  $CO_2$  sequestration process due to the slow flow velocity of the aquifer. Geochemical modeling results based on the code PATHARC.94 and rate data from the literature also showed that near-well pressure buildups could be avoided by injecting  $CO_2$  in a local high permeability zone.

Simulation studies have been done by many researchers for various fields using geochemical models (Cantucci et al., 2009; Liu et al., 2010; Zerai et al., 2006). First, a case study was carried out using the PRHEEQC (V2.14) Software Package, a geochemical model, for the Weyburn project, Canada. Cantucci et al. (2009) claimed that the geochemical simulations for the injected  $CO_2$  at the Weyburn Oil Field showed favorable results for mineral trapping through dawsonite precipitation. Also, Zerai et al. (2006) conducted the path-of-reaction and kinetic modeling for  $CO_2$  injection in the Rose Run Sandstone. These authors argued that mineral trapping in the Rose Run Sandstone is viable to capture and store large amounts of  $CO_2$ . Lastly,  $CO_2$  injection was simulated using a coupled reactive flow and transport model in the Mt. Simon sandstone formation, Midwest U.S. As a result, Liu et al. (2010) concluded that the Mt. Simon siliciclastic sandstone was an appropriate site for  $CO_2$  storage and mineral trapping would be effective for trapping  $CO_2$  over longer time scales.

Heidaryan et al. (2008) asserted that both laboratory experiments and simulated results for a  $CO_2$  injection coreflood indicated geochemical reactions that were favorable for  $CO_2$  sequestration. The results showed an increase in porosity for the first half of the core due to mineral dissolution and a decrease in porosity for the second half of the core due to the mineral precipitation. These changes in porosity could be correlated with permeability through the Kozeny-Carman equation or the Civan Power Law, and/or empirical correlations by Wellman et al. (2003) and Izgec et al (2006).

However, uncertainties regarding the mineral trapping mechanism remain. Parameters such as mineral kinetic properties and reactive surface areas are very difficult to measure so that it is almost impossible to calculate the accurate time frame for geochemical reactions to occur in  $CO_2$  sequestration process. Also, decrease in porosity around the wellbore due to carbonate mineral precipitation could lower the injectivity of  $CO_2$  as detected in  $CO_2$  injection process for enhanced oil recovery (Xu et al., 2001). This in turn could lead to formation of fractures that could provide leakage paths for the  $CO_2$ . In  $CO_2$  sequestration process, it is important to monitor the injected  $CO_2$  so that we can prevent an undesirable leakage from happening. In order to gauge the long term fate of stored  $CO_2$ , some researchers have focused on activities of  $CO_2$ -driven geysers because they could provide clues about  $CO_2$  gas leakage and migration. Importantly, there are indications on the surface for occurrences of geochemical reactions and carbonate mineralization associated with  $CO_2$  in subsurface such as travertine mounds observed at the Crystal Geyser site.

### 2.3 CO<sub>2</sub>-driven Geysers

There have been a number of studies devoted to the specialized topic of  $CO_2$ leakage risk (Shipton et al., 2004). To have a better understanding of risk of  $CO_2$  leakage and migration from the subsurface, many researchers have studied naturally occurring  $CO_2$  storage system, and their surface expression in the form of  $CO_2$ -driven geysers. Exploratory or abandoned wells drilled into these natural  $CO_2$  storage sites result in geysers that are characterized by intermittent eruption of  $CO_2$ -enriched gas and waters as shown in Figure 2-1. Figure 2-1 shows an eruption from the Crystal Geyser, which is located on the bank of the Green River in the Colorado Plateau, Utah.



Figure 2-1. An eruption at the Crystal Geyser (Gouveia et al., 2005).

Surface seeps could possibly be appropriate sites for identifying  $CO_2$  gas leakage in  $CO_2$  sequestration process if we completely understand the scenarios for the source of  $CO_2$  and the mechanism of transportation to the site. Geochemical data suggest that  $CO_2$ in most of these surface seep sites either originated from a deep subsurface source such as the Earth's crust or regional groundwater that transports dissolved  $CO_2$  (Shipton et al., 2004). At the Crystal Geyser site, most of the  $CO_2$  seeps occur along the Little Grand Wash and Salt Wash faults shown in Figure 2-2 (Shipton et al., 2004). The probable origins of  $CO_2$  gas and the location of the seep spots in the fault regions indicate a possibility of the fault acting as conduits for  $CO_2$  migration to the surface.

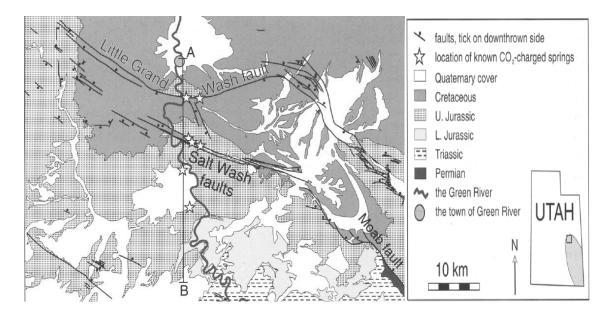


Figure 2-2. Location of  $CO_2$ -driven geysers in the Colorado Plateau, Utah (Shipton et al., 2004).

There are travertine mounds and carbonates around springs at the Little Grand Wash fault region. Figure 2-3 shows the ancient, active and inactive travertine mounds (Shipton et al., 2004). Figure 2-4 shows travertine platform deposited on surface caused by calcite precipitation and subsequent biogeochemical effects (Urquhart, 2011). Although carbonate mineralization occurs in the subsurface and results in the form of travertine deposits on the surface, there is also leakage of  $CO_2$  gas to the surface (Heath et al., 2009). Thus, Heath et al. (2009) argued that the geochemical reactions associated with  $CO_2$  in mineral trapping mechanism do not self-seal the leakage path of  $CO_2$ . However, there is a lack of rigorous modeling and simulation studies that can help us have a better understanding of the mechanisms controlling the location and temporal evolution of the  $CO_2$ -seepage sites. It is necessary to integrate field observations at these natural  $CO_2$  sequestration sites in order to develop a better understanding of subsurface processes. Simulation studies with geochemical models could also investigate whether pore plugging due to chemical precipitation can cause temporal migration of seepage sites.

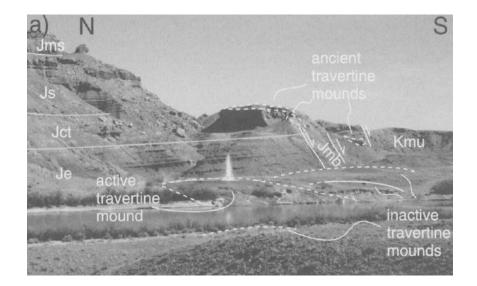


Figure 2-3.Ancient, active and inactive travertine mounds and carbonates along the Grand Wash fault in Utah (Shipton et al., 2004).



Figure 2-4. Crystal Geyser and travertine platform (Urquhart, 2011).

## 2.4 Numerical Model of Subsurface Transport of CO<sub>2</sub>

Previous research studies on numerical models of subsurface transport of  $CO_2$  such as EOS (equation-of-state) models and relative permeability model are reviewed in this section. Negabban et al. (2010) used the PVT data to develop the EOS model that

would reproduce the phase behavior of a reservoir fluid subject to injection of  $CO_2$ . The Peng-Robinson equation-of-state (Peng and Robinson, 1976) with volume correction was used for EOS model with  $CO_2$ . Jessen et al. (2005) also compared the two most commonly used fluid characterization methods for  $CO_2$  sequestration: Whitson et al. (1989) with the modified PR EOS (Peng-Robinson equation-of-state) and Pedersen et al. (1989) with the Soave-Redlich-Kwong equation-of-state (Soave et al., 1972).

Understanding the relative permeability of a reservoir system in  $CO_2$  sequestration is also important because the relative permeability impacts the storage, migration, and injectivity of  $CO_2$  (Bennion and Bachu, 2005). Bennion and Bachu (2005) performed the experiments with three sandstones and three carbonate formations from the Wabamun Lake in Alberta to investigate the relative permeability of  $CO_2$ -brine systems and the displacement of  $CO_2$ . Spiteri et al. (2005) also studied models of trapping and relative permeability hysteresis and their impact in  $CO_2$  sequestration. Wettability is also studied in previous research because it is one of the most important parameters in  $CO_2$  storage process which affects relative permeability, fluid saturations and capillary pressure of a system. Chalbaud et al. (2007) carried out the laboratory experiments to investigate the effects of wettability in case of  $CO_2$  injection.

Numerical schemes for  $CO_2$  sequestration are reviewed. Yang et al. (2005) investigated a proper grid system for numerical simulation of  $CO_2$  injection. Different numerical simulation models such as GEM (Generalized Equation-of-State Model) and STARS (Steam, Thermal, and Advanced Processes Reservoir Simulator) from CMG (Computer Modeling Group) and PATHARC 94 were used by many researchers in the literature on  $CO_2$  sequestration (Izgec et al., 2006; Pruess et al., 2003). In Chapter 3, the numerical models with reactive transport elements are examined in detail.

## **Chapter 3 : Methodology for Modeling**

#### 3.1 Overview

It is essential to have a scientific understanding of the subsurface processes associated with the flow and transport of carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) in the subsurface so that its long-term fate can be predicted. However, it is not possible to physically monitor or observe these processes in the subsurface and instead, we have to rely on surface expressions of these processes in order to infer characteristics of the processes and for calibrating numerical models. Thus, simulation studies and modeling are performed to integrate the field observations and predict the possible physical, chemical, and biological processes in the subsurface. Moreover, modeling can investigate the possible consequences of  $CO_2$  sequestration and long-term storage at the field scale whereas experimental methodologies, such as laboratory experiments, can explain the subsurface processes at shorter length scales and over a short period of time.

## **3.2 Modeling Method**

#### 3.2.1 Field Site

The area of focus is the Colorado Plateau region in east-central Utah, especially around the fault system, The Little Grand Wash fault, shown in Figure 3-1.



Figure 3-1. The Little Grand Wash fault zone in Utah (Urquhart, 2011).

Several  $CO_2$  seeps have been detected in this region; some active and others inactive. These  $CO_2$ -driven seeps are localized along the Little Grand Wash fault. Figure 3-2 shows the location of the  $CO_2$  seeps along the fault system in Utah (Urquhart, 2011). One of the most active indicators of the subsurface  $CO_2$  storage systems is the Crystal Geyser which is located on the east bank of the Green River.  $CO_2$  charged groundwater flow is observed at that location along an abandoned well and several researchers (Gouveia et al., 2006; Nishi et al., 2000) have studied the characteristics of the geyser eruptions. All  $CO_2$  seeps are located within the Little Grand Wash fault zone, which indicates that the fault system has regional control on the locations of  $CO_2$  seeps. Shipton et al. (2004) stated that the geological and geochemical data were consistent with the faults being conduits for  $CO_2$  moving to the surface.

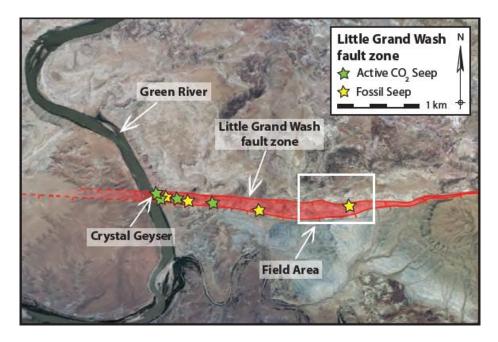


Figure 3-2. Active and fossil CO<sub>2</sub> seeps along the Little Grand Wash fault (Urquhart, 2011).

Several researchers have worked on both advanced geological interpretations of the Crystal Geyser area as well as laboratory analyses using samples from that site (Gouveia et al., 2006; Heath et al., 2009; Shipton et al., 2004; Urquhart, 2011). In addition to the previous research studies, analyzing the surface expressions of the  $CO_2$ 

seep events using numerical models will help us understand the dominant subsurface processes.

## 3.2.2 Geology

The Little Grand Wash fault system is located in the Colorado Plateau near Green River, Utah. The fault system and its geological settings are illustrated in Figure 3-3. The fault system is about 200 meter wide and comprises of hundreds of subparallel fault segments. All these small segments have different offsets ranging from 1 meter to over 100 meter; we assumed that the total throw of the fault system is 80 meter in our numerical models. We also assumed that the regional groundwater flow is restricted to the Navajo Sandstone that is about 500 meter deep (Shipton et al., 2004). We assumed that this groundwater is being recharged from the San Rafael Swell which is located in the northwest side of the Little Grand Wash fault.

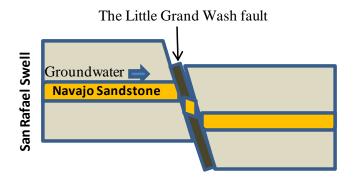


Figure 3-3. Illustration of The Little Grand Wash fault system and the main aquifer zone.

The Navajo Sandstone is presumed to be composed of multiple sand layers which the aquifer flows through. Thickness and permeability about the sand layers are listed in Table 3-1 and incorporated into the modeling.

Lithology	Thickness	Thickness Permeability	
	(meter)	(md)	
sand 5	5	100	
shale	5	0	
sand 4	5	375	
shale	5	0	
sand 3	5	215	
shale	15	0	
sand 2	11	37	
shale	10	0	
sand 1	5	100	

Table 3-1. Stratigraphy of the Navajo Sandstone.

## 3.2.3 Geochemical Model

#### 3.2.3.1 Description

Several equilibrium geochemical models have been developed and used in literature to study geochemical reactions in simulation; WATEQ4F, MINTEQA2, etc. (Saylor et al., 2001). However, geochemical models need to be fully coupled with reactive transport models to characterize the reservoir and processes at field scale. For this we used GEM (Generalized Equation-of-State Model), which is one of the well-known reservoir flow simulators in the oil industry that has a reactive transport model. The simulator was improved for modeling CO<sub>2</sub> storage by coupling with geochemical and compositional Equation-of-State (EOS) models. Nghiem et al. (2004) give details on the geochemical compositional EOS modeling. The main elements of the model include components material balance equation, chemical equilibrium equations, and the rate law for the mineral dissolution and precipitation reaction.

#### **3.2.3.2 Fluid and Reaction Parameters**

The settings for the geochemical model are described in this section. Two components are included in the model,  $CO_2$  and  $C_1$ .  $C_1$  is used as a trace component to prevent gas or oil phase from absolutely disappearing in the water zone when gas solubility is activated. The PVT properties for the two components are obtained from literature (Nghiem et al., 2004) and shown in Table 3-2. A phase diagram of  $CO_2$  with

initial conditions is also shown in Figure 3-4. The geochemical reaction equations are selected so as to be consistent with the surface observation of travertine mounds at the Crystal Geyser site. The values for the parameters in chemical equilibrium reactions are not directly obtained from the field sampling in the Colorado Plateau, Utah, but extracted from the literature. There are also several assumptions made regarding uncertain properties such as initial mineral compositions and aqueous component concentrations. However, simulation results from case studies and sensitivity analysis could still give us a valuable interpretation of ongoing subsurface processes in the field.

	CO2	C <sub>1</sub>
Molecular Wt. (g/gmole)	44.01	16.04
Critical Pressure (atm)	72.8	45.4
Critical Temperature (K)	304.2	109.6
Acentric factor	0.225	0.008
Critical Volume (m <sup>3</sup> /kgmole)	0.094	0.099
Parachor	78	77
Specific Gravity	0.818	0.3
Boiling Point (°C)	-78.45	-161.45
EOS omega A	0.457	0.457
EOS omega B	0.0778	0.0778
Binary Interaction Coefficient	0.103	

Table 3-2. PVT properties for component CO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>1</sub> (Nghiem et al., 2004).

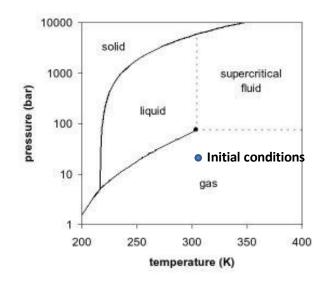


Figure 3-4. Phase diagram of CO<sub>2</sub> with initial conditions (Moore et al., 2008).

First of all, three geochemical reactions and three mineral dissolution and precipitation reactions are selected as shown in Table 3-3 for modeling the surface  $CO_2$  seeps in the Colorado Plateau, Utah. Three mineral reactions are chosen with emphasis on carbonate mineralization because travertine mounds are observed in the field which are formed by the process of calcium carbonate precipitation.

$$H_2O=H^++OH^-$$
  
 $CO_2(aq)+H_2O=H^++HCO_3^-$   
 $CO_3^-+H^+=HCO_3^-$   
 $Calcite+H^+=Ca^{++}+HCO_3^-$   
 $Kaolinite+6H^+=5H_2O+2SiO_2+2Al^{+++}$   
Anorthite+8H<sup>+</sup>=Ca<sup>++</sup>+2Al<sup>+++</sup>+2SiO\_2(aq)+4H\_2O

Table 3-3. Chemical and mineral dissolution/precipitation reactions in simulation(Nghiem et al., 2004).

Next, seven aqueous components are chosen excluding the gaseous solutes in the geochemical model as follows:  $H^+$ ,  $Ca^{++}$ ,  $SiO_2$  (aq),  $Al^{+++}$ ,  $OH^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^-$ . Initial aqueous phase concentrations for these components are listed in Table 3-4. Also, the

aqueous chemical equilibrium reactions and mineral reaction parameters are shown in Table 3-5 and Table 3-6, respectively (Nghiem et al., 2004; Shrivastava et al., 2004). The reference temperature at which the rate constants are specified is 25°C. The dissolution of minerals or the precipitation of solutes is controlled in the simulator using a super-saturation-index. In the numerical models for the Crystal geyser area, the simulator was allowed to determine this index internally (without user input) based on considerations such as the pH of the reservoir fluid system. For instance, precipitation of carbonate minerals dominates in areas with a basic pH because carbonate ions form and become available in that condition.

Aqueous species	Molality
H⁺	1.0000E-07
Ca <sup>++</sup>	9.1185E-05
SiO <sub>2</sub> (aq)	2.3454E-08
AI <sup>+++</sup>	2.3178E-11
OH	5.4563E-07
HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	2.4893E-02
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup></sup>	1.1703E-05

Table 3-4. Initial aqueous species concentration in simulation (Nghiem et al., 2004).

Reactions	log K <sup>a</sup> eq
$H_2O=H^++OH^-$	-13.2631
$CO_2(aq)+H_2O=H^++HCO_3^-$	-6.3221
CO <sub>3</sub> <sup></sup> +H <sup>+</sup> =HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	-10.2342

Table 3-5. Aqueous chemical equilibrium reaction parameter in simulation (Nghiem et al.,2004).

Mineral	log K <sup>m</sup> <sub>eq</sub>	$\log K_{\beta}$	Â <sub>β</sub>	Ε <sub>aβ</sub>	Initial volume fraction
Calcite	1.356	-8.79588	88	41870	0.0088
Anorthite	23.0603	-12	88	67830	0.0088
Kaolinite	5.4706	-13	17600	62760	0.0176

Table 3-6. Mineral reaction parameters in simulation (Nghiem et al., 2004).

### 3.2.3.3 Limitations

There is a major challenge in representing the Grand Wash fault system in the simulator. As mentioned before, the Little Grand Wash fault system comprises of hundreds of subparallel fault segments that are composed of different filling materials. Rather than representing all these fault segments and there consequent offsets, a stochastic modeling approach was adopted for assigned properties within the fault region.

Xu et al. (2001) suggest that the range of problems related to  $CO_2$  sequestration in subsurface environments is far more extensive and complex than any code currently accommodates due to uncertainties in the kinetics of heterogeneous reactions and reactive surface areas, and a lack of geochemical data at field sites. Therefore, simulation results could possibly be biased depending on what physical and chemical modeling capabilities are incorporated in the simulator. Consequently, simulation results require careful interpretation and analysis.

## **Chapter 4 : Modeling CO<sub>2</sub> Leakage through a Fault System**

#### 4.1 Overview

A number of  $CO_2$ -seepage sites have been observed along the Little Grand Wash fault in the Colorado Plateau, Utah. The Little Grand Wash fault is composed of multiple subparallel fault segments that could help transport dissolved  $CO_2$  from depth. When brine with dissolved  $CO_2$  migrates to a shallower depth through the fault system, the solubility of  $CO_2$  in water decreases due to the drop in pressure. As a result degassing of  $CO_2$  gas may occur that in turn results in  $CO_2$  gas driven geyser eruptions such as the Crystal Geyser.

The solubility of  $CO_2$  in water is a function of temperature, pressure and salt composition. Wiebe et al. (1940) conducted laboratory experiments to study the effects of temperature and pressure on the solubility of  $CO_2$  in water and Duan et al. (2002) calculated  $CO_2$  solubility (mol/kg water) in water at different temperature and pressure. The experimental data showing that the solubility of  $CO_2$  in water decreases as pressure decreases is shown in Figure 4-1. Therefore, the solubility of  $CO_2$  in water is expected to decrease as  $CO_2$  dissolved groundwater flows up along the fault and consequently, this decrease in solubility of  $CO_2$  in water can lead to release of  $CO_2$  gas.

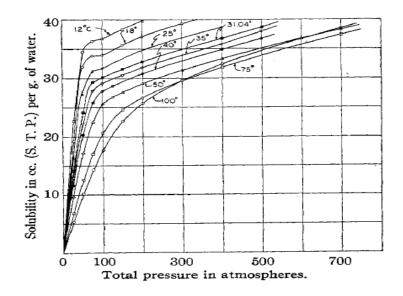


Figure 4-1. Pressure vs. solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in water (Wiebe et al., 1940).

A generic 2-D model with sand layers and a vertical fault was built to study the gas release mechanism as the groundwater with dissolved  $CO_2$  flows up through a homogeneous fault system. For the reasons mentioned in the previous chapter, it is difficult to exactly represent the flow of transport along the Grand Wash fault. Instead, the flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-saturated brine through a generic transmissive fault modeled after the Grand Wash fault is attempted in this and subsequent chapter. Then, sensitivity analyses are performed to understand the extent to which the fault systems can influence the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> gas released in the surface. The effect of two parameters, fault offset and fault permeability, are examined for the sensitivity analyses.

## 4.2 Flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved Groundwater up a Fault System

To understand and model the process of  $CO_2$  gas release, a simple 2-D grid with a general vertical fault was set up. Geochemical reactions were not included in this model.

Dissolution of CO<sub>2</sub> gas was simulated in a 2-D model with variation only in pressure. Temperature is assumed to be constant at 140°F everywhere in the simulation. It is assumed that CO<sub>2</sub> dissolved groundwater is at shallow depth and its temperature does not change substantially as it leaks up to the surface. The salt composition of the groundwater is also assumed to be unchanging. Figure 4-2 illustrates the generic 2D model with sand layers and a vertical fault. The properties of sand layers are mentioned in Chapter 3, Table 3-1. Reservoir has the dimensions of 25x1x30 in the x, y, and z directions and each grid block is 100 ft long in the x and y direction with thickness of 50 ft for shale layers. Porosity is 0.2 uniformly. The fault region has the dimensions of 1x1x30 and the fault offset is 200 ft. Injectors are placed in each sand layer far away from the fault plane to mimic the regional flow of groundwater. The ground water is assumed to be made up of 0.012 mole fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> and 0.988 mole fraction of H<sub>2</sub>O flowing in each sand layer at the rate of 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/day to mimic the natural flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater.

Monitoring wells were placed on the top layer and the right side of each sand layer to minimize the pressure build-up. Volume modifiers of 30,000 were used in all boundary blocks to create infinite-acting boundaries. These infinite-acting boundaries reduce any undesirable pressure build-up from injecting  $CO_2$  in the reservoir. The permeability of the fault was 5 md uniformly in all grid blocks and the permeability of sand layers are listed in Table 3-1. The simulation ran for 400 years from 1901 to 2301. Pressure profiles at the start and end of the simulation are shown in Figure 4-3; pressure varied with depth and pressure buildup during the simulation was minimal indicative of a flowing groundwater system.

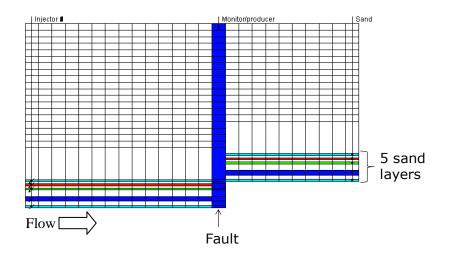


Figure 4-2. Illustration of the 2-D model with sand layers and a vertical fault.

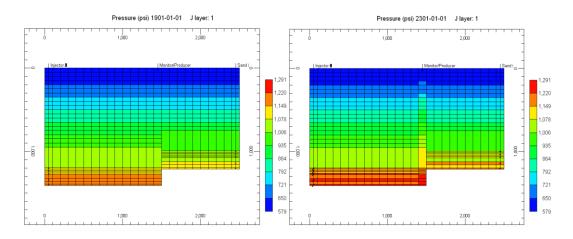


Figure 4-3. Initial and final pressure profiles of the simulation.

 $CO_2$ -dissolved solvents were injected at a very low rate to imitate the slow groundwater flow system in the field. As a result, this injected fluid took about 300 years in our case to flow up the fault system and reach the surface in 2200. Figure 4-4 shows the mole fractions of  $CO_2$  in groundwater in year 2000, 2100, 2200 and 2250; The dissolved mole fraction of  $CO_2$  in 2250 was lower at the shallower depth than it was at a deeper depth; illustrating that solubility of  $CO_2$  in water decreased as the groundwater travelled up the fault. This decrease in solubility of  $CO_2$  in water causes the  $CO_2$  to be released from groundwater. Since the temperature and salt composition of the groundwater were fixed, the decrease in pressure as groundwater leaked up along the fault was the main cause for the release of  $CO_2$ .

Figure 4-5 shows the gas mole fraction of  $CO_2$  in year 2240, 2250, 2260 and 2270.  $CO_2$  gas did not appear until 2250 when the groundwater made its way to the fault and during its transit up the fault gas was released out of groundwater and started filling up the fault blocks. This appearance of  $CO_2$  gas is also shown in the gas saturation profile. Figure 4-6 shows the gas saturation in year 2240, 2250, 2260 and 2270. Gas saturation increased slowly from zero in 2250 as  $CO_2$  gas dissolved out of groundwater.

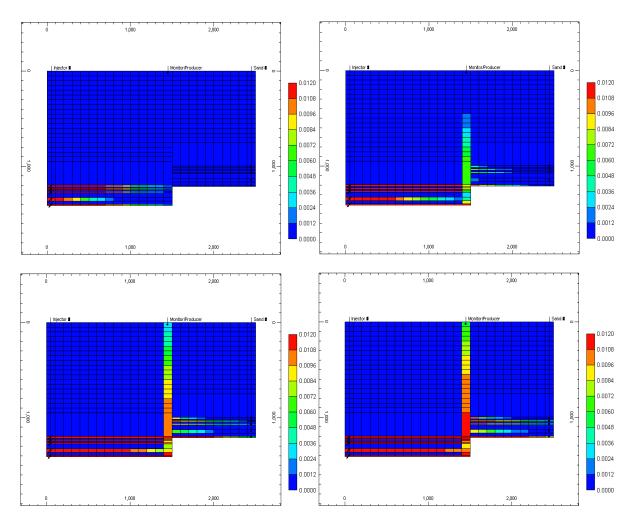


Figure 4-4. CO<sub>2</sub> mole fraction in groundwater in year 2000, 2100, 2200 and 2250.

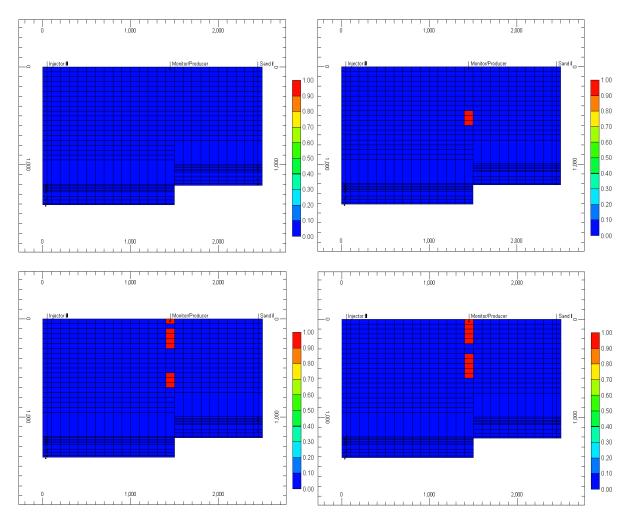


Figure 4-5. Gas mole fraction of  $CO_2$  in year 2240, 2250, 2260 and 2270.

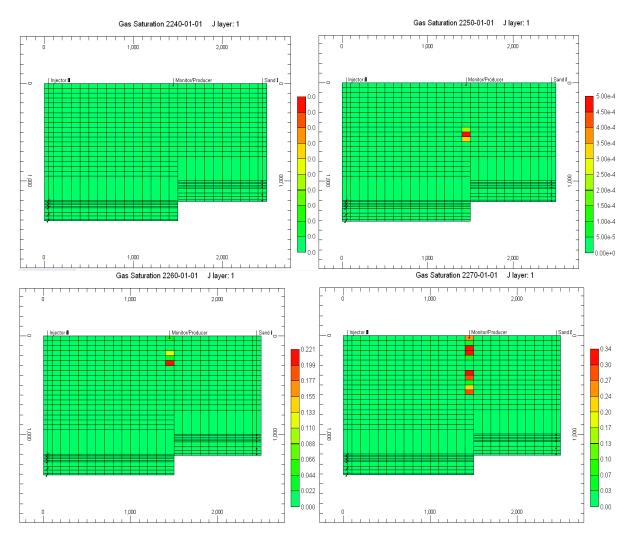


Figure 4-6. Gas saturation in year 2240, 2250, 2260 and 2270.

# 4.3 Sensitivity Analysis on the Amount of CO<sub>2</sub> Gas Leakage

The amount of  $CO_2$  gas that leaks through the fault system and appears on the surface may be controlled by several parameters such as fault properties and subsurface structure and it is impossible to fully ascertain these parameters from surface or subsurface measurements. Therefore, the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage can never be deterministically estimated. However, the impact of variations in these parameters on the amount of  $CO_2$  gas leakage can be studied using simulation. In this section, the effect of fault offset and fault flow properties on the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage are discussed.

### **4.3.1 Effect of Fault Offset**

We studied the effect of fault offset on the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage based on simulation. We predict less amounts of  $CO_2$  leakage to the surface with a smaller fault offset because fault with a smaller offset would result in less vertical rise of the ground water before it finds a permeable layer to flow through. Several cases were run with different fault offsets in the 2-D base model and the amount of  $CO_2$  liberated in grammoles was recorded at the surface. It is assumed that the fault is composed of only one subparallel fault segment. Figure 4-7 shows the amount of  $CO_2$  leaked in gram-moles on the surface corresponding to different fault offsets. The amount of  $CO_2$  leaked on the surface decreased with smaller fault offsets. This confirms that the smaller the fault offset, the smaller the vertical rise of the  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater and consequently the smaller the pressure drop. This is also shown in the velocity profile of the flow up along the fault. Figure 4-8 shows velocity magnitude of the  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater in year 2020 with two different fault offsets; the smaller the fault offset, the smaller the vertical velocity of the  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater.

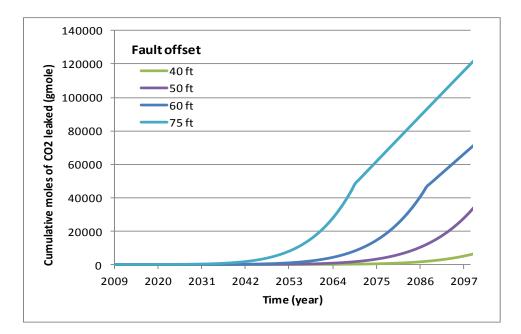


Figure 4-7. Cumulative amount of CO<sub>2</sub> leaked in gram-mole corresponding to different fault offsets.

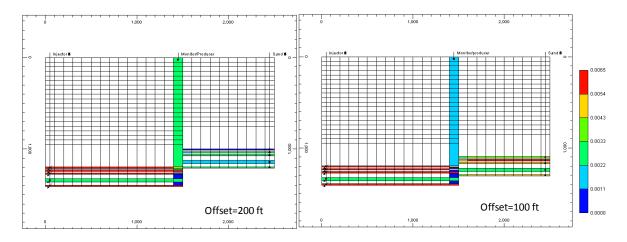


Figure 4-8. Velocity of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater in ft/day corresponding to different fault offsets in year 2020.

## 4.3.2 Effect of Fault Permeability

Permeability determines the extent to which a rock can transmit fluids. Thus the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage through a fault system is very likely to depend on the permeability of the fault fill material. In this section, the effect of fault permeability on the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage was studied. Less  $CO_2$  gas leakage was expected with lower permeability. A simulation was run with different sets of fault permeabilities in a 2-D base model. Figure 4-9 shows the amount of  $CO_2$  leaked in aqueous and gas phases with different levels of fault permeabilities. Declines in the amount of  $CO_2$  produced were observed in both aqueous and gas phases of  $CO_2$  as permeability of the fault decreases. The slope of the graph in Figure 4-9, which indicates the effect of permeability change on the amount of  $CO_2$  leaked change, is larger at a lower permeability because same amount of change in permeability would impact more with low initial permeability than with high initial permeability.

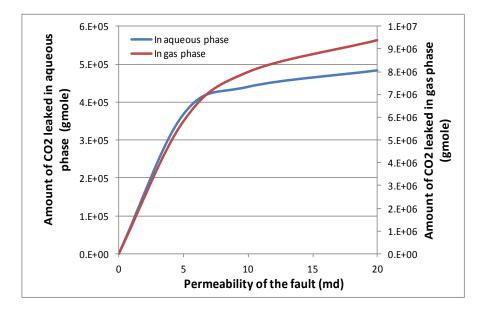


Figure 4-9. Amount of CO<sub>2</sub> leaked in aqueous and gas phases as a function of the permeability of the fault.

In reality, the permeabilities of fault sub-segments around shale layers are low due to the smearing of the shearing action of the fault. The shale layers wear down and plug up the fault system. In our model, shale layers are smeared up and down in both side due to the fault offset as shown in Figure 4-10. However, smearing of the shale layers might happen preferentially to only up or down according to the dip direction of the fault. To examine the potential impact of this phenomenon, the simulation was run with the permeability reduced from 20 md to 3 md in the fault sub-segments around the shale layers and the results were compared with the results in case of the homogeneous fault with uniform permeability of 20 md and no shale smearing effect. Figure 4-11 compares the CO<sub>2</sub> gas mass rates from the cases with non-homogeneous fault using reduced permeability around the shale layers against the result for the homogeneous fault. The  $CO_2$  gas mass rate with the reduced permeability around the shale layers was higher than that with the homogeneous permeability. Also,  $CO_2$  gas production at the monitoring well starts at an earlier date due to the erosion of shale layers into fault system, which indicates that CO<sub>2</sub> gas reached the surface earlier. The shale drape effectively reduces the area of cross section available to flow and that in turn cause a higher pressure drop over

the fault offset. The higher pressure drop in turn results in an increase in the gas exsolution rate. The gas rates on the surface are sporadic because  $CO_2$  gas is dissolving out of the solution arbitrarily due to unsteady condition of the simulation wherever  $CO_2$  is fully saturated along the fault.

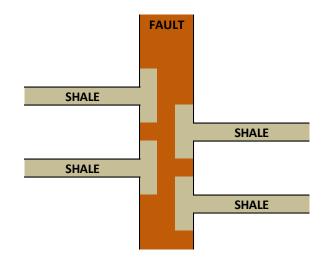


Figure 4-10. Illustration of eroded shale layers in the fault system

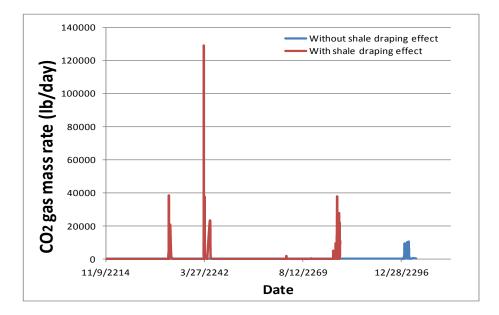


Figure 4-11. CO<sub>2</sub> gas mass rates from the simulation cases with and without the shale drape along the fault plane.

### **4.4 Conclusions**

The study in this chapter reports two major findings. The simulation results for the effect of pressure on the solubility of  $CO_2$  in water agreed with our prior conjecture based on the solution characteristics of  $CO_2$  established in literature. We found that when the  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater flows up along the fault, the solubility of  $CO_2$  in water is reduced due to the pressure drop and as a result,  $CO_2$  gas dissolves out of the groundwater. On the basis of the simulation, our investigation of the effects of the fault offset and permeability on the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage found an increasing trend in the amount of  $CO_2$  gas leakage with increase in fault offset and increase in fault permeability. The smearing of clays along the fault plane significantly impacts the amount of  $CO_2$  gas leakage. Our simulation results showed that  $CO_2$  gas reached the surface through the fault faster and the amount of  $CO_2$  gas leakage increased due to the presence of shale drapes.

The simulation results suggest that the release of  $CO_2$  gas from groundwater due to the pressure drop during vertical transit through the fault could be a mechanism for  $CO_2$  gas leakage along the fault. Also, sensitivity analysis on the fault parameters suggests that several parameters such as fault offset and fault fill material properties affect the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage. The simulation studies may not accurately predict the amount of  $CO_2$  leakage through the fault system; however, it gives valuable insights on the role of the fault parameters and its impact on the amount of  $CO_2$  gas leakage. In the next chapter, we specify actual field observations in modeling and develop a detailed 3-D model. Moreover, the effects of geochemical reactions involved in  $CO_2$  sequestration processes are investigated using simulation.

# **Chapter 5 : Modeling Source of CO<sub>2</sub> at the Seep Location**

#### 5.1 Overview

Understanding how Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) migrates after injection is vital for successful CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration process. For this purpose, we investigate the CO<sub>2</sub> seeps along the Little Grand Wash fault region and their spatial and temporal characteristics. Specifically, we focus on the origin of the CO<sub>2</sub> so that we can understand the migration and leakage path of CO<sub>2</sub> gas in subsurface. Many processes for CO<sub>2</sub> generation in subsurface are proposed in literature such as mantle degassing, the degradation of organic matter, and decarbonation of carbonates (Selley 1998). Two possible CO<sub>2</sub> sources in the Little Grand Wash fault region are suggested based on previous research - i) a deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub> source and, ii) the CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater as illustrated in Figure 5-1. Helium isotope data from the Crystal Geyser indicates that a crustal CO<sub>2</sub> source is probable (Heath et al., 2009). The surface expression corresponding to such a source is contrasted against that corresponding to regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater flowing vertically through the fault because of the vertical offset of sandstone layers.

In this chapter, 3-D simulation models with geochemical reactions are constructed together with geological information for the two possible  $CO_2$  sources and the results from two different case studies are described and discussed. We anticipate that modeling could allow us to establish difference in a surface expression of  $CO_2$  leakage due to these two hypotheses and develop a scheme for selecting appropriate model for  $CO_2$  leakage based on a surface observation of travertine mounds. Also, the effect of the fault system on  $CO_2$  flow and transport is further studied using these geochemical models.

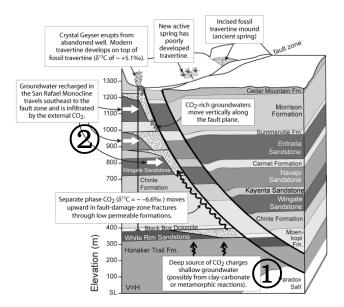


Figure 5-1. Illustration of CO<sub>2</sub> migrations in the Little Grand Wash fault region from the two probable CO<sub>2</sub> sources: (1) Deep Crustal CO<sub>2</sub> (2) regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved Groundwater (Vrolijk et al., 2005).

## 5.2 Case 1: Deep Crustal CO<sub>2</sub>

## 5.2.1 Simulation Setup

A 3-D simulation model with geochemical reactions is constructed for  $CO_2$  migration from the deep Earth's crust in the Little Grand Wash fault region. In previous chapter, a more generic case with up-dip fault is modeled to study the gas release mechanism as the groundwater with dissolved  $CO_2$  flows up through a homogeneous fault system. In this chapter, down-dip fault as the Little Grand Wash fault is modeled. Basic parameters for the simulation setup are shown in Table 5-1. Also, the geochemical reactions and the stratigraphy of the formation used for the modeling are listed in Table 3-1 to Table 3-5. In order to render the flow properties along the fault heterogeneous, sequential Gaussian simulation (Deutsch and Journel, 1992) was used; the method to generate the realization of the fault system used in this chapter is explained in detail in Appendix A. Figure 5-2 shows the permeability for the top layer of the simulation model.

Producers are placed on the top layer as monitoring locations similar to the  $CO_2$  seeps along the Grand Wash fault; producers are only constrained to the minimum bottomhole pressure which is equal to initial reservoir pressure so that they will not deplete any initial reservoir pressure other than pressure build-up due to the injections and will behave as monitoring wells. Figure 5-3 shows the permeability for the bottom layer of the simulation model and Figure 5-4 illustrates the well locations of  $CO_2$  injectors. These injectors are analogous to possible  $CO_2$  sources in the deep Earth's crust;  $CO_2$  is injected below the lowest sand layer and its vertical migration to the fault is observed. The fault offset for this model is 80 meter and is illustrated in Figure 5-4. Values for pore volume modifiers in GEM are specified as 30,000 at all the boundary blocks. In our case, the pore volumes for all the boundary blocks of the model except injection locations are multiplied by 30,000 in the simulation to establish infinite acting reservoir boundaries and to minimize any pressure buildup. Lastly, the simulation runs from 2000 to 2500 for 500 years.

Model dimensions	15 m x 7.5 m x 15 m		
Grid	20 x 19 x 19		
CO <sub>2</sub> injection rate	10 m³/day		
Porosity	0.2		
Temperature	20-40 °C		
Pressure on surface	101 kPa		
Pressure on bottom	2687 kPa		

Table 5-1. Simulation setup in the case of deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub>.

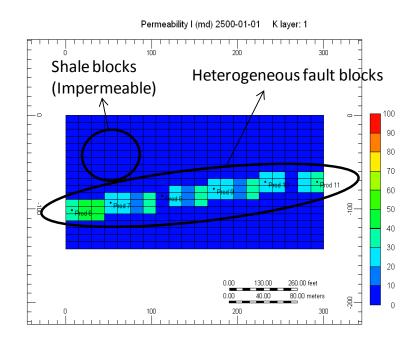


Figure 5-2. Permeability of a top layer from top view in the case of the deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub> and regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater: producers are placed on the top layer as monitoring locations similar to the surface seeps at the field site.

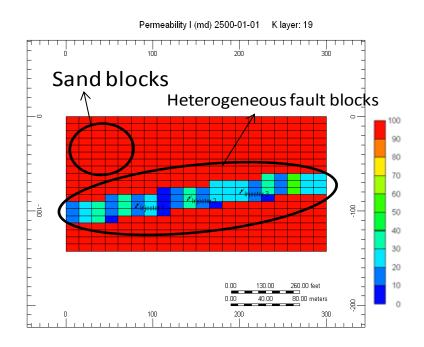


Figure 5-3. Permeability of the bottom layer showing the location of injectors used to mimic the vertical rise of CO<sub>2</sub> gas from the Earth's crust.

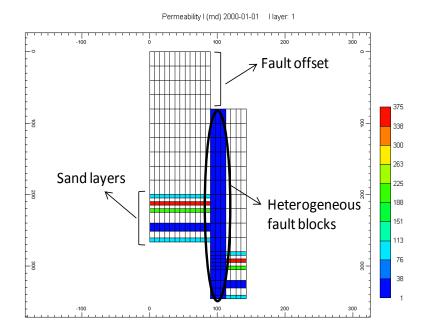


Figure 5-4. Permeability distribution from side view in the case of deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub>.

#### **5.2.2 Results and Discussion**

Gas migration along the fault due to  $CO_2$  migration from deep Earth's crust is studied in the simulation.  $CO_2$  gas is produced at the monitoring wells on the surface mimicking surface seep and calcite precipitations form along the fault due to the geochemical reactions associated with  $CO_2$ . These calcite precipitations reduce the pore volume and effective porosity of the formation accordingly.

Calcite precipitation occurs along the fault as  $CO_2$  flows and reacts with initial aqueous components and minerals in the formation. Figure 5-5 shows the calcite mineralization in gram-mole formed at the end of the simulation in the top layer. It shows a non-uniform distribution of calcite mineralization formed along the fault; this indicates that calcite precipitations are localized to isolated vertical flow paths in case of the deep crustal  $CO_2$ . This may have been caused by vertical channeling of  $CO_2$  due to heterogeneity in fault fill material when  $CO_2$  release is from the deep Earth's crust. Figure 5-6 shows calcite mineralization along the cross section AB. It clearly illustrates the localized calcite precipitation in the vertical flow paths of  $CO_2$ .

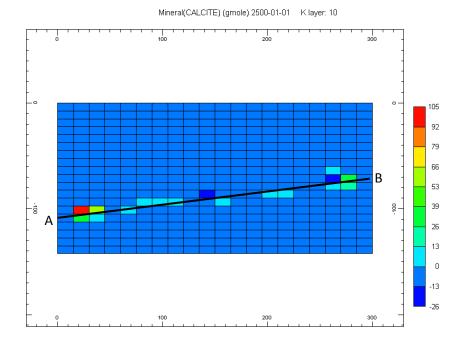


Figure 5-5. Calcite mineralization in gram-mole in the top layer for the case of vertical migration of deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub>.

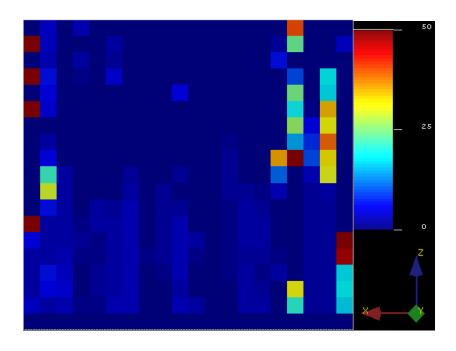


Figure 5-6. Cross sectional along the section AB in Figure 5-5 showing the calcite mineralization in gram-mole.

The simulation results also captured the effects of calcite mineralization on effective porosity. Figure 5-7 and 5-8 show effective porosity and calcite mineralization with respect to time for a grid block, (X=12, Y=10, Z=2), in the fault region. Effective porosity has an inverse relationship to calcite precipitation because creation of calcite minerals in the formation reduces the pore volume of the rock. This demonstrates the capability of the simulator to account for the effects of mineral precipitation on effective porosity of the reservoir. Precipitation of calcite minerals may influence subsequent  $CO_2$  flow and transport because it affects the porosity and permeability. There are numbers of correlations that express the relationship between porosity and permeability such as the Carman-Kozeny equation. However, the simulator used for this study (GEM) is not capable of relating the changes in effective porosity to effective permeability; therefore actual fluid flow and transport was not affected by the mineral reactions associated with  $CO_2$ . This important issue will be addressed in Chapter 6.

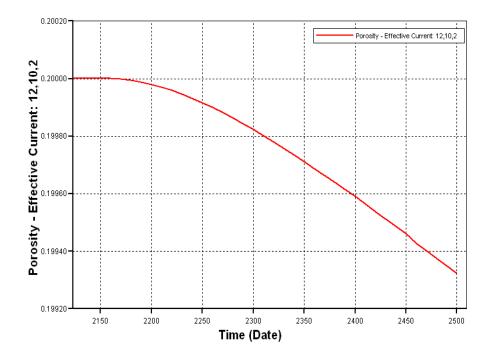


Figure 5-7. Effective porosity vs. time for a fault block in the case of deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub>.

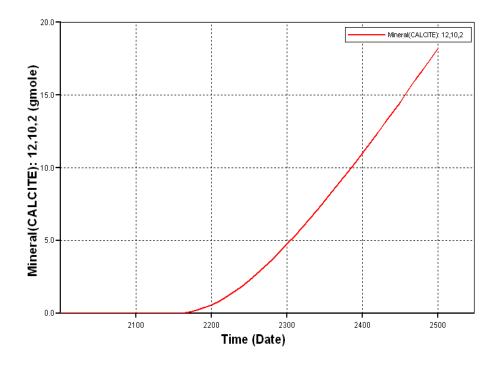


Figure 5-8. Calcite mineralization vs. time for a fault block in the case of deep crustal  $CO_2$ .

# 5.3 Case 2: CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved Groundwater

#### 5.3.1 Simulation Setup

A 3-D model incorporating geochemistry is built for the case of regional flow of  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater intersecting the Little Grand Wash fault. Basic parameters for the simulation setup are shown in Table 5-2. The geochemical reactions parameters and stratigraphy used in modeling are listed in Table 3-1 to Table 3-5 as well. Producing wells are placed on the top layer as monitoring locations similar to the  $CO_2$  seeps at the Crystal Geyser site as shown in Figure 5-2. A naturally flowing groundwater in the region, or an aquifer, is supposed to have dissolved  $CO_2$  in the aqueous phase. To mimic the natural flow system of the  $CO_2$ -groundwater, aqueous solutions are injected into each sand layer with 0.1 molality of  $CO_2$  and 0.9 molality of  $H_2O$ . The well locations are shown in Figure 5-9 and reservoir conditions are superimposed in the phase diagram of  $CO_2$  in Figure 5-10.  $CO_2$  is initially injected in the aqueous phase and does not partition

into the gas phase because of the initial pressure and temperature conditions assumed. Aqueous solutions are injected at a slow rate of 2 m<sup>3</sup>/day and to avoid any significant pressure build-up around the wellbore. The offset, or throw, of the fault system is 80 meter, same as in Case 1. The simulation runs from 2000 to 2500 for 500 years.

Model dimensions	15 m x 7.5 m x 15 m	
Grid	20 x 19 x 19	
Aqueous solution injection rate	2 m³/day	
Porosity	0.2	
Temperature	20-40 °C	
Pressure on surface	101 kPa	
Pressure on bottom	2687 kPa	

Table 5-2. Simulation setup in the case of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater.

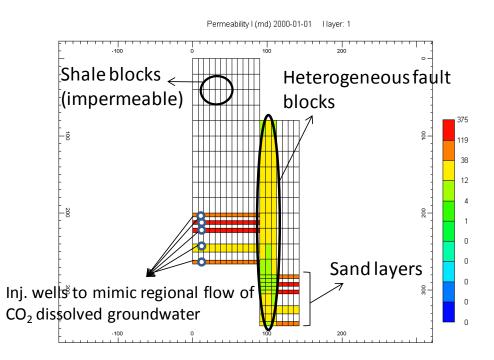


Figure 5-9. Permeability from side view in the case of regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater: injectors are placed in sand layers to imitate natural flow of groundwater system.

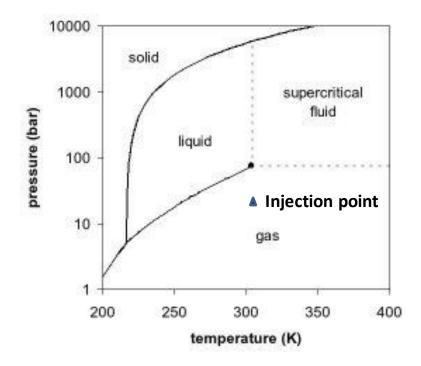


Figure 5-10. Phase diagram of  $CO_2$  with injection conditions in both cases (Moore et al., 2008).

## **5.3.2 Results and Discussion**

Subsurface transport of  $CO_2$  gas in the case of regional flow of  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater is studied in this simulation.  $CO_2$  is in the aqueous phase in each sand layer and calcite mineralization occurs when the  $CO_2$  comes out of solution. There was a different pattern of calcite mineralization observed along the fault in the case of the  $CO_2$ dissolved groundwater from the pattern observed in case of the deep crustal  $CO_2$ . Figure 5-11 shows amounts of calcite mineralization in gram-mole in the top layer for case of the deep crustal  $CO_2$ . Calcite precipitation is spread evenly over the entire fault surface. This indicates that calcite precipitation along the fault may have been heavily affected by vertical migration of  $CO_2$ -saturated brine along the entire cross section of the fault system which causes a release in pressure and subsequent ex-solution of  $CO_2$ . Figure 5-12 shows the cross sectional view for calcite mineralization in gram-mole along the cross section from C to D. It clearly illustrates that calcite precipitation spreads over the entire fault system.

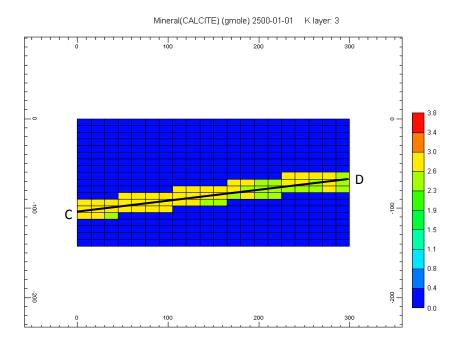


Figure 5-11. Calcite mineralization in gram-mole along the top layer in the case of regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater.

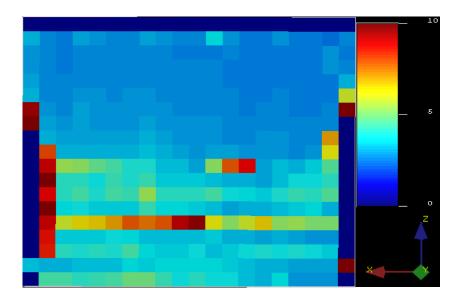


Figure 5-12. Cross sectional view along section CD in Figure 5-11 indicating calcite mineralization in gram-mole for the case of regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater.

### 5.4 Spatial Distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> Gas Release on Surface

The effects of a heterogeneous fault system on the spatial observation of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps on surface at the Crystal Geyser site are studied in this section. First, monitoring wells are placed at every single fault block on the surface for both the deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub> and  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater cases to measure the amount of  $CO_2$  gas reaching the surface all along the fault region. It is obvious that the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> gas reaching the surface is directly related to the amount of  $CO_2$  injection, which is very subjective and arbitrarily determined. Therefore the actual amount of CO<sub>2</sub> gas reaching the surface is not the main focus of this study. Instead, the spatial distributions of CO<sub>2</sub> gas released on the surface for these two cases were different even though the same permeability distribution was assumed for the fault system. Figure 5-13 and Figure 5-14 show the amounts of  $CO_2$ gas reaching the surface through the same fault system in the case of regional flow of  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater and in the case of  $CO_2$  migration from the deep; red indicates higher amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> gas release. In both cases, amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> gas release through the fault system at different locations are mainly affected by the permeability distribution of the fault system. The spatial distribution of  $CO_2$  gas release on the surface in case of the CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater looks similar to, and is thus largely affected by, the overall permeability distribution of the fault system while the spatial distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> gas release on the surface in case of the deep crustal CO<sub>2</sub> was mainly affected by the location of the high permeability features and their location in relation to the location where  $CO_2$ is introduced into the system. The permeability heterogeneity in that case is highlighted due to the vertical channeling of gas.



Figure 5-13. Spatial distribution of CO<sub>2</sub> gas release at the surface along the fault system in the case of the regional flow of CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved groundwater.



Figure 5-14. Spatial distribution of  $CO_2$  gas release at the surface along the fault system in the case of deep crustal  $CO_2$ .

### **5.5 Conclusions**

Results presented in this chapter indicate that the origin or source of  $CO_2$  has significant effects on the surface expression of  $CO_2$  leakage along the fault system. Different observations corresponding to the two hypotheses for  $CO_2$  source were found by modeling. However, the models for the  $CO_2$  seeps at the field site lack accurate field data. Thus, the simulation studies in this chapter are more intended to provide an insight into probable  $CO_2$  transport and flow mechanisms in subsurface. A more robust and precise modeling is recommended with accurate field data including brine and formation composition,  $CO_2$  production with time,  $CO_2$  seep locations, and topography. More information about the fault system is also necessary for more accurate flow characterization.

# **Chapter 6 : Modeling Diversion of CO<sub>2</sub> Flow**

## 6.1 Overview

Variations in spatial locations of the Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) seeps with time are observed at the Crystal Geyser site. The migration of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps indicates that migration paths of CO<sub>2</sub> in subsurface have changed over time. We suspect that the change in paths of CO<sub>2</sub> flow may have been caused by mineral dissolution and subsequent precipitation that alter the pore structure of rocks that CO<sub>2</sub> migrates through. The changes in pore structure results in permeability change that will affect the dynamics of CO<sub>2</sub> flow. In this chapter, the diversion of CO<sub>2</sub> flow due to mineral precipitation in rocks is studied using simulation.

## 6.2 Porosity vs. Permeability with Mineralization

The void volume of the porous medium can be altered by mineral dissolution and precipitation. In order to express the relationship between mineral dissolution and precipitation and porosity, consider the following:  $\hat{\phi}_{ref}$  is the reference porosity with mineral precipitation or dissolution,  $\phi$  is the porosity,  $\phi_{ref}$  is the reference porosity without mineral precipitation or dissolution,  $N_{\beta}$  is the total moles of mineral  $\beta$  per bulk volume,  $N_{\beta}^{0}$  is the total moles of mineral  $\beta$  per bulk volume,  $N_{\beta}^{0}$  is the total moles of mineral  $\beta$  per bulk volume at time 0,  $\rho_{\beta}$  is the mineral molar density,  $c_{\phi}$  is the rock compressibility, and  $p_{ref}$  is the reference confining pressure. The relationship between the porosity and mineral precipitation or dissolution can be expressed as:

$$\hat{\phi}_{\mathrm{ref}} = \phi_{\mathrm{ref}} - \sum_{\beta=1}^{\mathrm{n_m}} \left( \frac{\mathrm{N_\beta}}{\mathrm{\rho_\beta}} - \frac{\mathrm{N_\beta^0}}{\mathrm{\rho_\beta}} \right)$$

The porosity at any confining pressure p different from  $p_{ref}$  can be written as:

$$\phi = \hat{\phi}_{\text{ref}} [1 + c_{\phi} (p_{\text{confining}} - p_{\text{ref,confining}})]$$

The change in porosity due to mineral dissolution and precipitation can be related to the change in absolute permeability for example through the Kozeny-Carman equation. In the following equation,  $k^0$  and  $\phi^0$  are initial permeability and porosity, respectively.

$$\frac{\mathbf{k}}{\mathbf{k}^0} = \left(\frac{\phi}{\phi^0}\right)^3 \cdot \left(\frac{1-\phi^0}{1-\phi}\right)^2$$

However, changes in absolute permeability from mineral precipitation and dissolution cannot be modeled using the GEM ( $\[mathbb{C}\]$  CMG) simulator. Thus, these changes are manually calculated in a spreadsheet and inserted into the simulation to observe the effect of mineral precipitation and dissolution on fluid transport of CO<sub>2</sub>.

It can be speculated that the temporal evolution of  $CO_2$  seeps is caused by complete plugging of  $CO_2$  flow path due to mineral precipitation. However, complete plugging of  $CO_2$  flow path, which reduces a grid block porosity to zero, cannot be modeled using a flow simulator because this would make the flow simulation unstable. As a result, a drastic change in direction of  $CO_2$  flow path could not be modeled properly due to the limitation of the simulator. However, flow velocity could still be affected by a partial plugging of grid blocks that  $CO_2$  flows through due to mineral precipitation.

#### 6.3 Simulation Setup

A 2-D simulation model was built to investigate the migration of CO<sub>2</sub> fluid due to mineral precipitation. Figure 6-1 illustrates a 2-D model with 1 injector and 9 producers from a top view; the effect of gravity on CO<sub>2</sub> flow is disregarded with a 2-D horizontal plane. Table 6-1 shows the basic simulation setup parameters. Pore volume of grid blocks is reduced by choosing a small porosity of 0.001; this will help us to observe the impact of mineral precipitation or dissolution on porosity and flow transport. Aqueous solution is injected with 0.2 molality of CO<sub>2</sub> and 0.8 molality of H<sub>2</sub>O. Initial conditions of aqueous components, minerals, and others components in the formation are the same as in Chapter 5 and shown in Tables 3-1 to 3-5. The first simulation is run from 2000 to 2010 for a period of 10 years. The output, effective porosity in 2010, is extracted and used to update the absolute permeability of the grid blocks based on the Kozeny-Carman equation. Then, the updated absolute permeability is input in simulation for next 10 years of simulation from 2010 to 2020 using the restart command in GEM. The results are analyzed and discussed in the subsequent section.

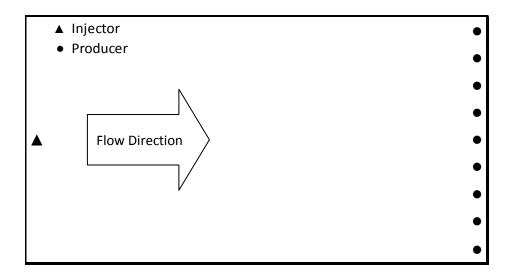


Figure 6-1. Illustration of the 2-D model with 1 injector and 9 producers from a top view.

Model dimensions	10 m x 10 m x 10 m	
Grid	20 x 9 x 1	
CO <sub>2</sub> injection rate	0.1 m³/day	
Porosity	0.001	
Temperature	19.375 °C	
Pressure	150.1 kPa	

Table 6-1. Simulation setup of the 2-D model.

## **6.4 Results and Discussion**

The results from the 2-D model are described and discussed in this section. First, calcite and kaolinite mineralizations for the whole reservoir are shown in Figure 6-2 and Figure 6-3, respectively. Figure 6-2 and Figure 6-3 also illustrate the locations where

kaolinite and calcite precipitations formed in 2010 after 10 years of simulation. Most of the calcite and kaolinite precipitations formed in the upper-right part of the model. Consequently, the biggest reduction in effective porosity was observed in the same area due to mineral precipitation; Figure 6-4 shows the effective porosity in 2010. Then, absolute permeability in 2010 is updated by the effective porosity in 2010 based on the Kozeny-Carman equation. The simulation carried on for next 10 years from 2010 to 2020 using the updated absolute permeability to find out the influence of mineral precipitation on  $CO_2$  transport. Figure 6-5 shows the total velocity magnitude in the x-direction, which is the main direction of flow, at the end of simulation; it shows the decrease in velocity where mineral precipitation formed significantly. Complete plugging of the formation and complete diversion of fluid flow would require running this explicitly-coupled simulation several times over a long duration. However, we were still able to observe the change in fluid flow velocity from mineral precipitation associated with  $CO_2$  which indicates mineral precipitation influences the flow and transport of  $CO_2$ .

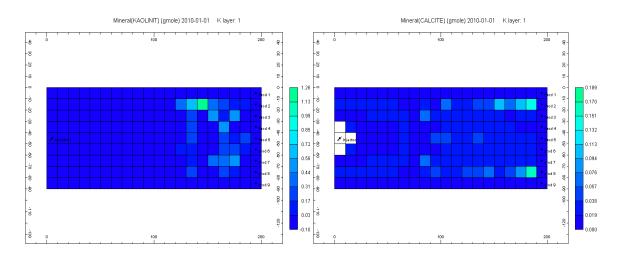


Figure 6-2. Kaolinite mineral precipitation in gram-mole in year 2010.

Figure 6-3. Calcite mineral precipitation in gram-mole in year 2010.

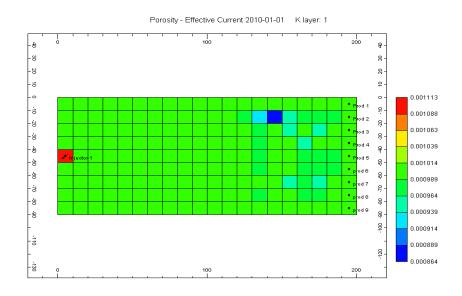


Figure 6-4. Effective porosity in gram-mole in year 2010.

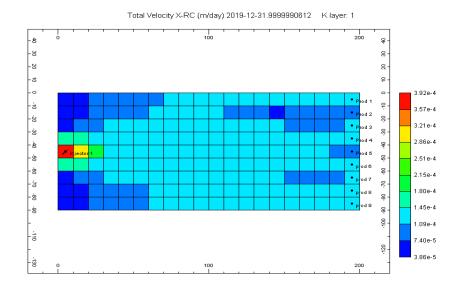


Figure 6-5. Total velocity magnitude in the x-direction in year 2020.

The relationships between calcite and kaolinite precipitations and porosity are obtained using the analytical equations shown in Chapter 6.2. The current size for each grid block is  $1000 \text{ m}^3$  with initial porosity of 0.001. Thus, the void volume of the each grid block used in the calculations is  $1 \text{ m}^3$  or  $1,000,000 \text{ cm}^3$ . Table 6-2 shows the density and molar weight of calcite and kaolinite used in the calculations. These data allow us to determine the volume of the mineral precipitation and ultimately relate it to the change in

porosity. As a result, plots of variation in porosity vs. amount of precipitation of calcite and kaolinite are shown in Figure 6-6 and Figure 6-7, respectively. The porosity vs. permeability plot is also acquired based on the Kozeny-Carman equation in Figure 6-8. According to Figure 6-6 and Figure 6-7, about 10 moles of kaolinite or 27 moles of calcite precipitations are needed to plug the whole void volume for each grid block which will reduce permeability of the grid block to zero. However, kaolinite and calcite precipitations stop at some point in the numerical simulation. In other words, mineral precipitations do not increase after some duration of the simulation. This is due to the fact that quantities of calcite and kaolinite precipitations that can form from the geochemistry associated with CO<sub>2</sub> also depend on the availability of  $Ca^{2+}$ , SiO<sub>2 (aq)</sub>, and Al<sup>3+</sup> aqueous components in formation. These aqueous components are assumed to be the limiting factor for calcite and kaolinite precipitations in our case because amounts of minerals for dissolution and these aqueous components are confined initially in GEM. Initial aqueous components and minerals in formation influence the quantities of mineral precipitations that can possibly form and, therefore, these initial conditions of reservoir formation also decide the likelihood of plugging the  $CO_2$  flow paths due to mineral precipitations.

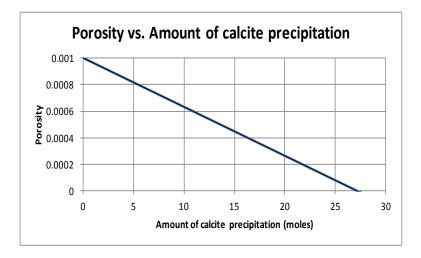


Figure 6-6. Variation in porosity as a function of amount of calcite mineral precipitation for a simulation model with initial porosity of 0.001 and void volume of  $1 \text{ m}^3$  for each grid block.

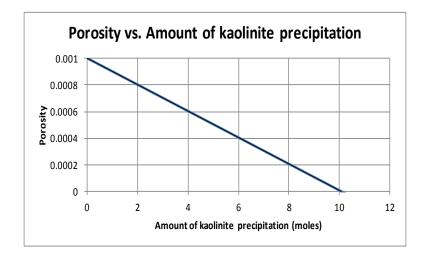


Figure 6-7. Variation in porosity as a function of amount of kaolinite mineral precipitation in a model with initial porosity of 0.001 and void volume of 1 m<sup>3</sup> for each grid block.

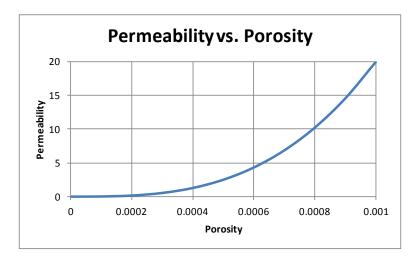


Figure 6-8. Variation in permeability over the range of altered porosity due to mineral precipitation.

	Calcite	Kaolinite
Density (g/cm^3)	2.711	2.6
Molar weight (g/mol)	100.0869	258.2

Table 6-2. Density and molar weight of calcite and kaolinite.

### 6.5 Percolation Model for Modeling Impact of Geochemical Alterations

Percolation theory has been widely used to understand and model the connectivity characteristics of porous media because it describes the behavior of connected clusters in complex systems (Sahimi, 1994). A porous medium in reality is heterogeneous and is composed of different sizes of pores in a seemingly disordered manner and so it is appropriate to talk about the average connectivity characteristics of rocks with different spatial distribution of pore bodies. It is in this context that percolation theory is applied in this chapter to model the transport phenomena of  $CO_2$  in a complex porous medium with mineral precipitations.

A 2D model with different sizes of pores is constructed using MATLAB; the MATLAB code is included in Appendix B.3.1. The model only contains a total number of 10,000 pores, 100x100 in the x and y directions, due to the computational costs. The pore size distribution used in this chapter is shown in Figure 6-9 and is estimated from the pore size distribution of a Berea sandstone sample obtained by Hg porosimetry (Song, 2010). Using the pore size distribution in Figure 6-9, 10,000 different sizes of pores are sampled randomly and assigned to the site nodes in the percentation model.

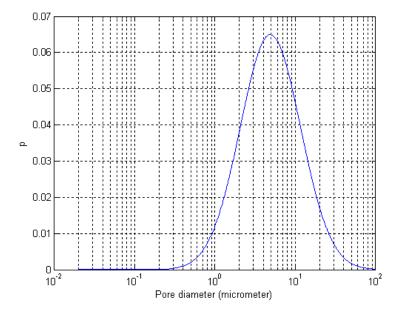


Figure 6-9. The pore size distribution.

All the pores are initially open and connected as shown in Figure 6-10 (left). Then, calcite precipitations occur due to the geochemical reactions with  $CO_2$ ; the precipitations are assumed to be distributed uniformly throughout the model. Corresponding to a bulk amount of precipitations, a random selection of pores is closed as shown in Figure 6-10 (middle). Then, the disconnected paths due to the precipitations are identified in different colors in Figure 6-10 (right).

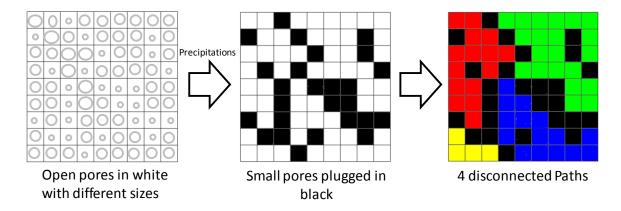


Figure 6-10. Illustration of the Percolation model with precipitations.

Based on the pore diameters, pore volume of the entire model is calculated assuming that the pore is a sphere. Pore volume is estimated to be around 0.0013 cm<sup>3</sup>. Then, the maximum amounts of calcite mineral that can be precipitated in this model is computed to be  $3.4328 \times 10^{-5}$  mole which will fill up the entire pore volume of the model. Different amounts of calcite mineral are assumed to be precipitated and the numbers of disconnected paths due to these precipitations are obtained, accordingly. A plot of number of disconnected paths vs. calcite precipitation in gram-mole is obtained in Figure 6-11; as the amount of precipitations increases, the number of disconnected path also increases due to the plugging. Figure 6-12 visualizes the plugged pores in white and the disconnected paths in different colors. Most pores and flow paths are connected up to  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  gram-mole of calcite precipitation; as a result of high flow connectivity, there are countless numbers of the spanning paths, in which fluids can be transported from one end to the other end in this model. However, flow paths start showing lack of connectivity

above  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  gram-mole of calcite precipitation. For example, over 400 disconnected paths are identified with  $8 \times 10^{-7}$  gram-mole of calcite precipitation in Figure 6-12. This is also shown in Figure 4 as disconnected paths in different colors.

It is also verified that the pore volume does not need to be completely plugged in the model to achieve a complete disconnection of flow paths from one end to the other end. Figure 6-13 shows the histogram of the amounts of calcite precipitation that results in complete disconnection of the flows paths from one end to the other end in the northsouth and east-west directions from 500 trials. These 500 trials or realizations represent the variability in connectivity characteristics due to the uncertainty in the spatial distribution of plugged pores. The percentage of plugged pores in the model is plotted against the calcite precipitation in Figure 6-14. On the average, about 3.25×10<sup>-7</sup> grammole of calcite precipitation is needed for complete disconnection and zero spanning flow path, and this amount of calcite precipitations plugs about 30% of the initial existing pores based on our analysis. In other words, flow paths do not require all the pores but only about 30% of the pores to be plugged for complete disconnection from one end to the other end in our model. The percolation results indicate that flow re-routing due to mineral precipitations are possible at the pore scale which could possibly lead to lateral migration of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps. In reality, the amount of calcite precipitation required, the percentage of plugged pores, and the time to achieve zero spanning flow path will depend on the size and network of actual CO<sub>2</sub> flow path in a reservoir.

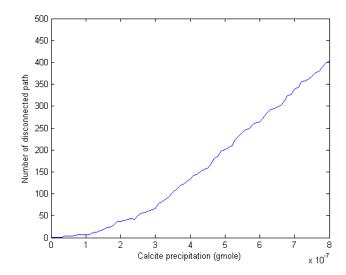


Figure 6-11. Number of disconnected paths vs. calcite precipitation in gram-mole.

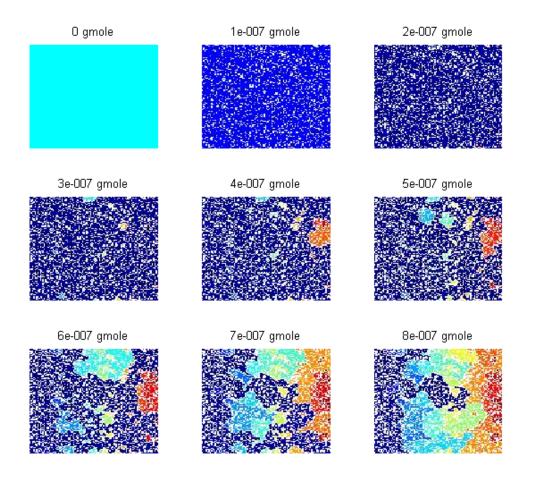


Figure 6-12. Plugged pores in white and disconnected paths in different colors as a function of the amount of calcite precipitations in gram-mole.

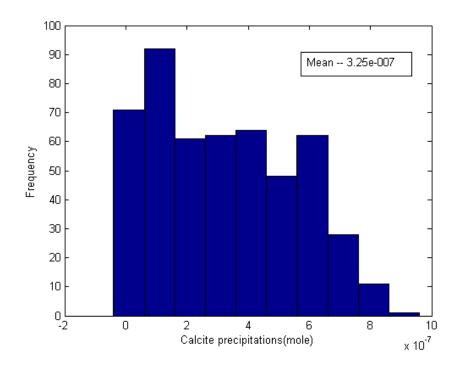


Figure 6-13. Histogram of calcite precipitations over 500 trials that completely disconnect the flow paths from one end to the other end in the percolation model.

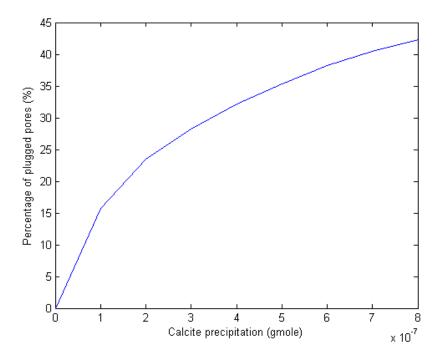


Figure 6-14. Percentage of plugged pores vs. calcite precipitation in gram-mole.

## **6.6 Conclusions**

From the reservoir simulation studies in the 2-D model, it is evident that fluid flow of  $CO_2$  in subsurface could be affected by the mineral precipitations. In reality, if complete plugging of the pore spaces happens due to mineral precipitations, then diversion of  $CO_2$  flow from the original migration path is possible which could results in temporal migration of  $CO_2$  seeps at field site as  $CO_2$  leaks to the surface. However, further modeling and laboratory experiments are required to confirm this phenomenon.

# **Chapter 7 : Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Work**

#### 7.1 Conclusions

Active  $CO_2$  seeps as well as locations of ancient seeps are observed at the Crystal Geyser site. We were interested in these events because they present a surface expression of  $CO_2$  leakage. The key objectives of this research work were:

- 1. To find the main mechanisms and effects associated with  $CO_2$  flow and transport in the subsurface
- 2. To model and investigate the spatial and temporal observations of CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at the Crystal Geyser site

The reservoir and geochemical models for the research study were built using the compositional simulator GEM (© Computer Modeling Group). Geological information, such as the stratigraphy of the formation and geochemical reaction parameters including aqueous and mineral compositions, were obtained from the literature and presented in Chapter 3. Based on the surface observation of travertine mounds at the Crystal Geyser site, a suite of probable geochemical reactions were adopted in modeling. For the fulfillment of the first objective, a base cross-sectional model was described in Chapter 4 to simulate CO<sub>2</sub> gas leakage and to study the dissolution mechanism of CO<sub>2</sub> gas when CO<sub>2</sub> is transported through a fault system. The simulation results demonstrate the effect of change in pressure on the solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in brine when CO<sub>2</sub>-saturated brine is flowing through the fault system that results in the ex-solution of CO<sub>2</sub> gas leakage through a fault offset and permeability on CO<sub>2</sub> gas leakage through a fault system are also presented in Chapter 4.

For the second objective, 3-D models with accurate description of the geochemistry associated with  $CO_2$  were built and described in Chapter 5. The fault system is very heterogeneous which is composed of thousands of different sub-segments and materials. A Sequential Gaussian simulation was implemented to characterize the

heterogeneous fault system in these models. Multiple realizations of the fault system were generated for the simulation studies. Two probable sources of  $CO_2$  at the Crystal Geyser site were studied and incorporated in modeling; the deep crustal  $CO_2$  and the regional flow of  $CO_2$ -dissolved groundwater. Carbonate mineralization occurred along the fault from the geochemical reactions associated with  $CO_2$  and the mineral precipitations reduced the void pore space and consequently effective porosity. Here is the list of key conclusions in this paper.

- The simulation results from the 2-D model in Chapter 4 suggest that the release of CO<sub>2</sub> gas from groundwater due to the pressure drop during vertical transit through the fault could be a mechanism for CO<sub>2</sub> gas leakage along the fault.
- Different results are observed for the two cases in terms of the surface expression of CO<sub>2</sub> leakage and calcite precipitation. These simulations could be used as the framework for modeling the spatial location of the CO<sub>2</sub> seeps and travertine mounds observed at the Crystal geyser site.
- The GEM model for the diversion of  $CO_2$  flow showed the change in fluid flow velocity from mineral precipitations associated with  $CO_2$  which indicates mineral precipitations influences the flow and transport of  $CO_2$ . Furthermore, the percolation results indicate that flow re-routing due to mineral precipitations are possible at the pore scale which could possibly lead to lateral migration of  $CO_2$  seeps.

#### 7.2 Recommendations for Future Work

The work in this thesis is fairly new and requires further research. Based on the results of this thesis and some previous work, here are some recommendations and suggestions for future work:

• The brine composition, initial mineral composition, rock mineralogy, and aqueous components concentrations used for the geochemical modeling of the CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at the Crystal Geyser site were estimated from the other field sites in literature.

Also, significant uncertainty exists in estimating the parameters of heterogeneous geochemical reactions such as surface reactive area and chemical equilibrium constant. Therefore, modeling may not perfectly represent the actual subsurface processes in the field due to a lack of geochemical data. It is recommended to obtain these geochemical parameters by directly performing experiments with rock samples from the field using the brine collected in the field. This would give us a better idea of actual geochemical reactions occurring in subsurface. Ultimately, more accurate modeling would provide much needed information about the  $CO_2$  seeps.

- A fault system has a major role in underground CO<sub>2</sub> leakage. Thus, fault modeling is very important when we model the CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at the Crystal Geyser site. However, a fault system is very heterogeneous and hard to model accurately. In this research, a geostatistical technique, Sequential Gaussian simulation was used to model the spatial variability in the flow properties of the fault system. However, due to a lack of data availability on the fault system, there is still significant uncertainty associated with this model. More data is needed about the fault system. Also, if CO<sub>2</sub> production data and location of both active and inactive CO<sub>2</sub> seeps in the past are available, history matching could be done with multiple realizations of the fault system to find the best match that reproduces both historical and present activity of the CO<sub>2</sub> seeps at the Crystal Geyser site.
- Current and inactive  $CO_2$  seeps indicate that the flow path and migration of  $CO_2$ in subsurface have changed in the past and will change in future as well. Many researchers believe that the change in flow path of  $CO_2$  may be caused by several events including earthquakes, surface deformation, and mineralization. Specifically, surface structure and topography of the field site such as erosion by the meandering river significantly influence the locations of active and inactive  $CO_2$  seeps. Therefore, we recommend incorporating these aspects of topography at the field site accurately for modeling  $CO_2$  seeps.

• An attempt was made to model the plugging of the formation and self-sealing of CO<sub>2</sub> flow pathways due to mineralization in GEM. However, GEM was not able to perfectly model the self-sealing mechanism of CO<sub>2</sub>. A percolation model was implemented to better represent the mechanism of flow blockage and diversion. However, that model was essentially at the scale of pore bodies. A systematic scheme for computing the effective flow property of the grid blocks taking into account the plugging mechanism would be imperative to investigate and understand the self-sealing mechanisms associated with CO<sub>2</sub> transport through cracks and faults.

## **Appendix A: Stochastic Modeling of a Heterogeneous Fault System**

#### A.1 Overview

Any existing fault system is composed of many sub-compartments with various materials which have different properties such as permeability. These properties for the sub-compartments in a fault system are immeasurable because the sub-compartments and its fracture networks are too complex and heterogeneous in subsurface. It is impractical to extract the fault properties such as permeability from direct sampling for each segment and to model the entire fault system. Therefore, a stochastic method is approached to model and characterize the entire heterogeneous fault system in this paper. The Stanford Geostatistical Modeling Software (SGEMS) is used to perform the Geostatistical analysis, a Sequential Gaussian simulation, for characterizing the fault system in modeling.

### A.2 Characterization of a Fault System

A stochastic method is used to characterize the fault system in SGEMS; initial permeability values at several locations (hard data) are estimated and variograms at different directions are created to perform a Sequential Gaussian simulation (Deutsch and Journel, 1992) for generating values of the fault permeability at each block.

The grid blocks for the fault system are created in SGEMS. The fault blocks and its locations are shown from a top and 3-D view in Figure A-1 and in Figure A-2, respectively. There are 20 blocks in the x-direction, 3 blocks in the y-direction, and 19 blocks in the z-direction for the fault system: a total 1140 blocks. In SGEMS, a rectangular-shaped grid block with dimensions of 20x3x19 is created for the fault system and shown in Figure A-3. The fault blocks in GEM are slanted from the South-West to the North-East direction as shown in Figure A-1 and Figure A-2, which is not a straight rectangular shape. Thus, the realizations in SGEMS for rectangular-shaped fault system were translated to the fault blocks in GEM. Also, GEM has a different coordinate system from the coordinate system in SGEMS. Therefore, the realizations produced in SGEMS

for permeability values of the fault blocks are re-coordinated into the GEM coordinate system when it's transported to GEM.

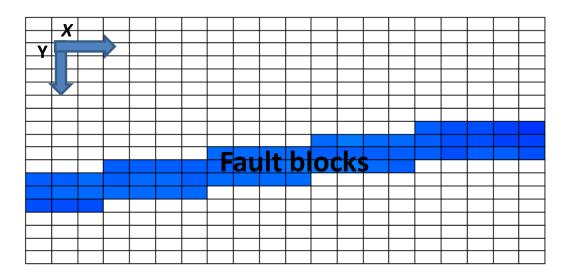


Figure A-1. Fault blocks in a top view.

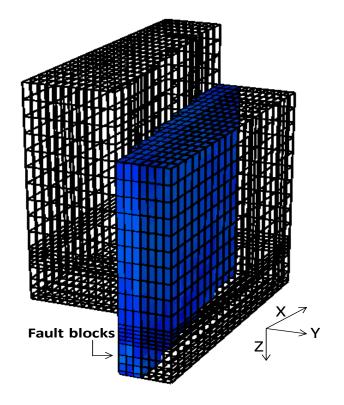


Figure A-2. Fault blocks in a 3-D view.

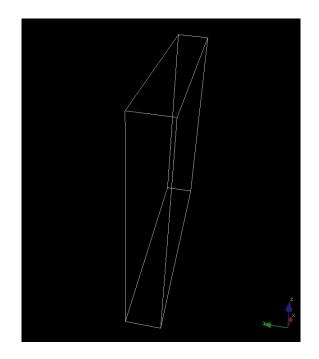


Figure A-3. Rectangular-shape fault grid blocks in SGEMS 3-D view.

## A.2.1 Hard Data

Permeability values are estimated at arbitrary locations; by looking at the stratigraphy information around the fault system in Table 3-1. We assume that the fault blocks adjacent to shale layers are more impermeable due to possibility of shale erosion into the fault system than the fault blocks adjacent to sand layers. The input data for the Sequential Gaussian simulation, which is hard permeability values at arbitrary locations, are shown in following.

Hard data					
4					
Х					
Y					
Z					
Permea	bility	in	Fault	(md)	
1	1	3	23	3	
5	1	2	20	C	
12	1	0	24	1	
16	1	4	14	1	
19	1	5	20	C	
6	1	15	15	5	
7	1	18	19	9	
9	1	11	1	7	
10	1	6	22	1	

11	1	8	15
0	1	16	25
15	1	13	16
18	1	17	17
3	1	10	19
17 0	1	9	22
0	0	18	5
1	0	10	7
1 2 3 5	0	14	3
3	0	12	5
5	0	16	4
8	0	15	1
12 3	0	11	4
3	2	12	5
1	2	13	8
8	2	10	10
12	2 2	18	13
17		15	14
14	2	9	9
19	2	7	7
2	2	16	6

## A.2.2 Realizations

The hard data is used to produce variograms at different directions and the Sequential Gaussian simulation is implemented in SGEMS to characterize the fault system. Multiple realizations for the fault blocks could be generated. One of the realizations for the fault characterization is exported from SGEMS into GEM and used in Chapter 5.

# **Appendix B : Input Files**

#### **B.1 Deep Crustal CO<sub>2</sub> Case**

\*\*------ Input/Output ------FILENAMES OUTPUT SRFOUT RESTARTOUT INDEXOUT MAINRESULTSOUT INUNIT SI INTERRUPT INTERACTIVE XDR ON MAXERROR 20 RANGECHECK ON WRST 365 WPRN WELL TIME WPRN GRID TIME WPRN ITER MATRIX WSRF WELL 1 WSRF GRID TIME OUTSRF WELL PSPLIT DIARY CHANGES OUTPRN WELL ALL OUTPRN RES NONE OUTPRN GRID MINERAL 'ANORTHIT' MINERAL 'CALCITE' MINERAL 'KAOLINIT' MOLALITY 'CO2' POROS PRES TEMP W 'CO2' X 'CO2' Y 'CO2' OUTSRF GRID DENG DENW DPORMNR MINERAL 'ANORTHIT' MINERAL 'CALCITE' MINERAL 'KAOLINIT' MOLALITY 'Al+++' MOLALITY 'CO2' MOLALITY 'CO3--' MOLALITY 'Ca++' MOLALITY 'H+' MOLALITY 'HCO3-' MOLALITY 'OH-' MOLALITY 'SiO2(aq)' PH POROS PRES SG SO SW TEMP VELOCRC W 'C1' W 'CO2' X 'C1' X 'CO2' Y 'C1' Y 'CO2' Z 'C1' Z 'CO2' OUTSRF WELL GHGAQU GHGGAS GHGSCRIT GHGMNR GHGSOL GHGLIQ OUTSRF RES ALL RESULTS XOFFSET 0.0000 RESULTS YOFFSET 0.0000 RESULTS ROTATION 0.0000 RESULTS AXES-DIRECTIONS 1.0 -1.0 1.0 \*\*----- Grid ------GRID VARI 20 19 19 KDIR DOWN DI CON 15 DJ CON 7.5 DK ALL 3800\*20 1900\*5 380\*15 380\*11 380\*10 380\*5 DTOP 0

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16       1       13       30000         17       1       13       30000         18       1       13       30000         19       1       13       30000         20       1       13       30000         20       1       13       30000         20       1       15       30000         21       15       30000         21       15       30000         3       1       15       30000         4       1       15       30000         6       1       15       30000         7       1       15       30000         10       1       15       30000         11       15       30000       11         12       1       15       30000         13       1       15       30000         14       1       15       30000         15       1       15       30000         16       1       15       30000         17       1       15       30000         18       1       15       30000         19 <td>16       1       19       30000         17       1       19       30000         18       1       19       30000         19       1       19       30000         20       1       19       30000         1       2       19       30000         1       2       19       30000         1       2       19       30000         1       4       19       30000         1       4       19       30000         1       6       19       30000         1       7       19       30000         1       19       30000       10         1       19       30000       111         10       19       30000       141         12       19       30000       145         14       19       30000       15         15       19       30000       18         14       19       30000       18         15       19       30000       18         18       19       30000       12         18       19       30000       13</td> <td>1 6 13 30000 1 7 13 30000 1 8 13 30000 1 9 13 30000 1 10 13 30000 1 11 13 30000 1 12 13 30000 1 12 13 30000 1 13 13 30000 1 14 13 30000 1 15 13 30000 1 16 13 30000 1 17 13 30000 1 18 13 30000 1 2 11 30000 1 4 11 30000 1 5 11 30000 1 6 11 30000 1 7 11 30000 1 8 11 30000 1 9 11 30000 1 10 11 30000 1 11 11 30000 1 12 11 30000 1 12 11 30000 1 12 11 30000 1 13 11 30000 1 14 11 30000 1 14 11 30000 1 14 11 30000</td> <td>20 15 17 30000 20 16 17 30000 20 17 17 30000 20 18 17 30000 20 2 15 30000 20 3 15 30000 20 4 15 30000 20 5 15 30000 20 6 15 30000 20 7 15 30000 20 8 15 30000 20 9 15 30000 20 10 15 30000 20 11 15 30000 20 12 15 30000 20 13 15 30000 20 14 15 30000 20 15 15 30000 20 16 15 30000 20 16 15 30000 20 18 15 30000 20 2 13 30000 20 3 13 30000 20 4 13 30000 20 5 13 30000 20 5 13 30000</td> <td>6 13 1 30000 7 13 1 30000 8 13 1 30000 9 13 1 30000 10 13 1 30000 11 13 1 30000 12 13 1 30000 12 13 1 30000 1 4 1 30000 2 14 1 30000 3 14 1 30000 4 14 1 30000 5 14 1 30000 6 14 1 30000 7 14 1 30000 1 15 1 30000 1 15 1 30000 2 15 1 30000 4 12 1 30000 5 12 1 30000 6 12 1 30000 8 12 1 30000 9 12 1 30000 10 12 1 10 12 1 30000 10 12 1 12 1 30000 10 12 1 12 1 12 12 1 12 12 12 12 12 12 12</td>	16       1       19       30000         17       1       19       30000         18       1       19       30000         19       1       19       30000         20       1       19       30000         1       2       19       30000         1       2       19       30000         1       2       19       30000         1       4       19       30000         1       4       19       30000         1       6       19       30000         1       7       19       30000         1       19       30000       10         1       19       30000       111         10       19       30000       141         12       19       30000       145         14       19       30000       15         15       19       30000       18         14       19       30000       18         15       19       30000       18         18       19       30000       12         18       19       30000       13	1 6 13 30000 1 7 13 30000 1 8 13 30000 1 9 13 30000 1 10 13 30000 1 11 13 30000 1 12 13 30000 1 12 13 30000 1 13 13 30000 1 14 13 30000 1 15 13 30000 1 16 13 30000 1 17 13 30000 1 18 13 30000 1 2 11 30000 1 4 11 30000 1 5 11 30000 1 6 11 30000 1 7 11 30000 1 8 11 30000 1 9 11 30000 1 10 11 30000 1 11 11 30000 1 12 11 30000 1 12 11 30000 1 12 11 30000 1 13 11 30000 1 14 11 30000 1 14 11 30000 1 14 11 30000	20 15 17 30000 20 16 17 30000 20 17 17 30000 20 18 17 30000 20 2 15 30000 20 3 15 30000 20 4 15 30000 20 5 15 30000 20 6 15 30000 20 7 15 30000 20 8 15 30000 20 9 15 30000 20 10 15 30000 20 11 15 30000 20 12 15 30000 20 13 15 30000 20 14 15 30000 20 15 15 30000 20 16 15 30000 20 16 15 30000 20 18 15 30000 20 2 13 30000 20 3 13 30000 20 4 13 30000 20 5 13 30000 20 5 13 30000	6 13 1 30000 7 13 1 30000 8 13 1 30000 9 13 1 30000 10 13 1 30000 11 13 1 30000 12 13 1 30000 12 13 1 30000 1 4 1 30000 2 14 1 30000 3 14 1 30000 4 14 1 30000 5 14 1 30000 6 14 1 30000 7 14 1 30000 1 15 1 30000 1 15 1 30000 2 15 1 30000 4 12 1 30000 5 12 1 30000 6 12 1 30000 8 12 1 30000 9 12 1 30000 10 12 1 10 12 1 30000 10 12 1 12 1 30000 10 12 1 12 1 12 12 1 12 12 12 12 12 12 12
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16 9 1 30000 17 9 1 30000 18 9 1 30000 19 9 1 30000 20 9 1 30000 \*\*-----Fluid Model -----MODEL PR NC 2 2 COMPNAME 'CO2' 'C1' HCFLAG 0 0 VISCOR HZYT MIXVC 1.000000E+00 VISCOEFF 1.0230000E-01 2.3364000E-02 5.8533000E-02 -4.0758000E-02 9.3324000E-03 PVC3 1.200000E+00 4.4010000E+01 1.6043000E+01 MW 2.2500000E-01 8.0000000E-03 AC PCRIT 7.2800000E+01 4.5400000E+01 VCRIT 9.400000E-02 9.9000000E-02 TCRIT 3.0420000E+02 1.9060000E+02 PCHOR 7.800000E+01 7.7000000E+01 8.1800000E-01 3.0000000E-01 SG TΒ -7.8450000E+01 -1.6145000E+02 OMEGA 4.5723553E-01 4.5723553E-01 OMEGB 7.7796074E-02 7.7796074E-02 VSHIFT 0.000000E+00 0.000000E+00 VISVC 9.400000E-02 9.9000000E-02 BIN 1.030000E-01 TRES 20 20 500 40 PHASEID GAS CW 4.35E-07 REFPW 101.0 SOLUBILITY HENRY HENRYC 1.9510547E+05 0.0 REFPH 9.400000E+03 9.400000E+03 VINFINITY 3.5089333E-02 3.5242646E-02 DERIVATIVEMETHOD NUMERALL DIFFC-AQU 2.0E-05 0.0 YAQU-RATE-CUTOFF 1.0E-4 100.0 DER-CHEM-EQUIL ANALYTICAL DER-REACT-RATE ANALYTICAL ACTIVITY-MODEL B-DOT SALINITY 0.1 AQUEOUS-DENSITY ROWE-CHOU AQUEOUS-VISCOSITY KESTIN NC-AQUEOUS 7 COMPNAME-AQUEOUS 'H+' 'Ca++' 'SiO2(aq)' 'Al+++' 'OH-' 'HCO3-' 'CO3--' MW-AQUEOUS 1.0079 40.0800 60.0843 26.9815 17.0073 61.0171 60.0092 ION-SIZE-AQUEOUS 9.0 6.0 -0.5 9.0 3.5 4.5 4.5 CHARGE-AQUEOUS 1 2 0 3 -1 -1 -2 NC-MINERAL 3 COMPNAME-MINERAL

'CALCITE' 'KAOLINIT' 'ANORTHIT' MW-MINERAL 100.0869 258.1616 278.2082 MASSDENSITY-MINERAL 2710.00 2410.00 2740.00 N-RATE-REACT 3 N-CHEM-EQUIL 3 \*\*REACTION NO. 1: (OH-) + (H+) = H2O STOICHIOMETRY 0.000 0.000 1.000 -1.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 -1.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 LOG-CHEM-EQUIL-COEFS 1.492816E+01 -4.187619E-02 1.973673E-04 -5.549507E-07 7.581087E-10 \*\*REACTION NO. 2: CO2(aq) + H2O = (H+) + (HCO3-) STOICHIOMETRY -1.000 0.000 -1.000 1.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 1.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 LOG-CHEM-EQUIL-COEFS -6.549243E+00 9.001740E-03 -1.021150E-04 2.761879E-07 -3.561421E-10 \*\*REACTION NO. 3: (CO3--) + (H+) = (HCO3-) STOICHIOMETRY 0.000 0.000 -1.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 1.000 -1.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 LOG-CHEM-EQUIL-COEFS 1.060796E+01 -1.276757E-02 1.202580E-04 -3.017310E-07 2.693718E-10 \*\*REACTION NO. 4: CALCITE + H+ = (Ca++) + (HCO3-) STOICHIOMETRY 0 0 0 -1 1 0 0 0 1 0 -1 0 0 SPEC-REACT-SURFACE-AREA 1.0E+04 MIN-REACT-SURFACE-AREA 1.0 ACTIVATION-ENERGY 41870.0 REF-TEMP-RATE-CONST 25.0 LOG-CHEM-EQUIL-COEFS 2.068889E+00 -1.426678E-02 -6.060961E-06 1.459215E-07 -4.189284E-10 LOG-TST-RATE-CONSTANT -8.79588 \*\*REACTION NO. 5: KAOLINITE + 6(H+) = 5(H2O) + 2SiO2(aq) + 2(Al+++) STOICHIOMETRY 0 0 5 -6 0 2 2 0 0 0 0 -1 0 SPEC-REACT-SURFACE-AREA 1.0E+05 MIN-REACT-SURFACE-AREA 0.0 ACTIVATION-ENERGY 62760.0 REF-TEMP-RATE-CONST 25.0 LOG-CHEM-EQUIL-COEFS 9.729544E+00 -9.889756E-02 2.915576E-04 -3.270281E-07 -3.311012E-10 LOG-TST-RATE-CONSTANT -13.00 \*\*REACTION NO. 6: ANORTHITE + 8H+ = 4(H2O) + (Ca++) + 2[SiO2(aq)] + 2(Al++) STOICHIOMETRY 0 0 4 -8 1 2 2 0 0 0 0 0 -1 SPEC-REACT-SURFACE-AREA 1.0E+04 MIN-REACT-SURFACE-AREA 1.0

ACTIVATION-ENERGY 67830.0 REF-TEMP-RATE-CONST 25.0 LOG-CHEM-EQUIL-COEFS 3.174573E+01 -2.012538E-01 5.958903E-04 -9.041158E-07 9.153776E-11 LOG-TST-RATE-CONSTANT -12.0 ANNIH-MATRIX 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 -1.0 -1.0 -2.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 1.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 OGW FLASH NO H2OVAP TRACE-COMP 2 PERM-VS-POR \*K-C Rf exponent 3 \*\*\_\_\_\_\_ Rock Fluid -----\*\* ROCKFLUID RPT 1 DRAINAGE \*\* Sw krw krow Pcow SWT 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.050000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.100000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.150000 0.000010 0.000000 0.000000 0.2000000.0001500.0000000.0000000.2500000.0007700.0000000.0000000.3000000.0024400.0000000.000000 0.350000 0.005950 0.000000 0.000000 0.400000 0.012350 0.000000 0.000000 0.450000 0.022870 0.000000 0.000000 0.500000 0.039020 0.000000 0.000000 0.550000 0.062500 0.000000 0.000000 0.600000 0.095260 0.000000 0.000000 0.650000 0.139470 0.000000 0.000000 0.700000 0.197530 0.000000 0.000000 0.750000 0.272070 0.000000 0.000000 0.800000 0.365950 0.000000 0.000000 0.850000 0.482250 0.000000 0.000000 0.900000 0.624300 0.000000 0.000000 0.950000 0.795620 0.000000 0.000000 1.000000 1.000000 0.000000 0.000000 \*\* Sg krg krog Pcog SGT 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.000000 0.050000 0.000080 0.000000 0.000000 0.100000 0.000680 0.000000 0.000000 0.150000 0.002330 0.000000 0.000000 0.200000 0.005610 0.000000 0.000000 0.250000 0.011140 0.000000 0.000000 0.300000 0.019610 0.000000 0.000000 0.350000 0.031740 0.000000 0.000000 0.400000 0.048370 0.000000 0.000000 0.450000 0.070420 0.000000 0.000000 0.500000 0.098940 0.000000 0.000000 0.550000 0.136180 0.000000 0.000000 0.600000 0.180650 0.000000 0.000000 0.650000 0.232750 0.000000 0.000000

0.700000 0.307520 0.000000 0.000000 0.750000 0.395200 0.000000 0.000000 0.800000 0.506570 0.000000 0.000000 0.850000 0.655620 0.000000 0.000000 0.900000 0.954430 0.000000 0.000000 0.950000 0.977220 0.000000 0.000000 1.000000 1.000000 0.000000 0.000000 KROIL STONE2 SWSG \*\*----- Initial -----\*\* TNTTTAL VERTICAL BLOCK CENTER WATER GAS ZOIL 0.001 0.999 ZGAS 0.000001 .9999999 REFPRES 101. REFDEPTH 0. DWGC 1. SWOC 0.999 MOLALITY-AQUEOUS 1.00000D-07 9.118492D-01 2.345433D-08 2.317806D-11 5.456322D-06 2.489299D-02 1.170273D-05 VOLUMEFRACTION-MINERAL 0.0088 0.0176 0.0088 \*\*----- Numerical -----\*\* NUMERICAL NORTH 80 ITERMAX 200 ITERMIN 1 DTMIN .00000000001 NORM PRESS 125 NORM SATUR 0.2 NORM GMOLAR 0.45 NORM AQUEOUS 0.45 MAXCHANGE PRESS 250 MAXCHANGE SATUR 0.4 MAXCHANGE GMOLAR 0.9 CONVERGE MAXRES LOOSER CONVERGE CEQAQU 1 CONVERGE CEQCHE 1 CONVERGE CEQMNR 1 DTMAX 365 NCHECK-CEO 5 PRECC 0.05 PIVOT ON \*\*----- Well/Date Data ------\*\* RUN INCOMP SOLVENT 1. 0. DATE 2000 01 01 OPERATE MAX STG 10. CONT DTWELL 0.01 GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0. WELL 'Injector-1' PERF GEO 'Injector-1' INJECTOR 'Injector-1' 2 14 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'

OPEN 'Injector-1' WELL 'Injector-2'OPERATE MAX STW 10 CONTINJECTOR 'Injector-2'GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.INCOMP SOLVENT 1. 0.PERF GEO 'Brine-Injector-3'OPERATE MAX STG 10. CONT2 3 15 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.OPEN 'Brine-Injector-3' OPERATE MAX STW 10 CONT WELL 'Injector-2' PERF GEO 'Injector-2' 6 13 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' WELL 'Brine-Injector-4' OPEN 'Injector-2' INJECTOR 'Brine-Injector-4' INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.0 0. 0.5 0. 0. 0. WELL 'Injector-3' 0.5 0 0. WELL 'Injector-3'0.5 0 0.INJECTOR 'Injector-3'OPERATE MAX STW 10 CONTINCOMP SOLVENT 1. 0.GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.OPERATE MAX STG 10. CONTPERF GEO 'Brine-Injector-4'GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.2 3 17 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'PERF GEO 'Injector-3'OPEN 'Brine-Injector-4' 10 12 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' 1012191. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'OPEN 'Injector-3'WELL 'Brine-Injector-5'WELL 'Injector-4'INJECTOR 'Brine-Injector-5'INJECTOR 'Injector-4'INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.0 0. 0.5 0. 0. 0.INCOMP SOLVENT 1. 0.0.5 0 0.OPERATE MAX STG 10. CONTOPERATE MAX STW 10 CONTGEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.PERF GEO 'Injector-4'PERF GEO 'Brine-Injector-5'14111411141411141412141414141414141514161417141814141414141414151416141714181414141414141415141614171418141914111514151414151616171618161916191610161117111411161516161717171816191619171916<t 14 11 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' 2 3 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Injector-4' OPEN 'Brine-Injector-5' WELL 'Injector-5' WELL 'Injector-5'WELL 'Prod 1'INJECTOR 'Injector-5'PRODUCER 'Prod 1'INCOMP SOLVENT 1. 0.OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3OPERATE MAX STG 10. CONTGEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0.GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.PERF GEO 'Prod 1'PERF GEO 'Injector-5'1 14 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' WELL 'Prod 1' 18 10 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 1' OPEN 'Injector-5' WELL 'Prod 2'WELL 'Brine-Injector-1'WELL 'Brine-Injector-1'WELL 'Prod 2'UNJECTOR 'Brine-Injector-1'OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.0 0. 0.5 0. 0. 0GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. OPERATE MAX STW 10 CONT 4 13 1 1 OPT 4 13 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0. OPEN 'Prod 2' PERF GEO 'Brine-Injector-1' 2 3 11 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Brine-Injector-1' WELL 'Prod 3' PRODUCER 'Prod 3' WELL 'Brine-Injector-2'OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3INJECTOR 'Brine-Injector-2'GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.0 0. 0.5 0. 0. OPERF GEO 'Prod 3' 8 12 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' 0.5 0 0. OPERATE MAX STW 10 CONT OPEN 'Prod 3' GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Brine-Injector-2' WELL 'Prod 4' 2 3 13 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' PRODUCER 'Prod 4' OPEN 'Brine-Injector-2' OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. WELL 'Brine-Injector-3' INJECTOR 'Brine-Injector-3' PERF GEO 'Prod 4' 12 11 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 4'

WELL 'Prod 5' PRODUCER 'Prod 5' OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Prod 5' 16 10 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 5'	WELL 'Prod 6' PRODUCER 'Prod 6' OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Prod 6' 20 10 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 6'
DATE 2000 01 15 DATE 2007 01 01	DATE 2160 01 01 DATE 2340 01 01
DATE 2000 02 29 DATE 2008 01 01	DATE 2170 01 01 DATE 2350 01 01
DATE 2000 03 31 DATE 2009 01 01	DATE 2180 01 01 DATE 2360 01 01
DATE 2000 04 30 DATE 2010 01 01	DATE 2190 01 01 DATE 2370 01 01
DATE 2000 05 31 DATE 2020 01 01	DATE 2200 01 01 DATE 2380 01 01
DATE 2000 06 30 DATE 2030 01 01	DATE 2210 01 01 DATE 2390 01 01
DATE 2000 07 31 DATE 2040 01 01	DATE 2220 01 01 DATE 2400 01 01
DATE 2000 08 31 DATE 2050 01 01	DATE 2230 01 01 DATE 2410 01 01
DATE 2000 09 30 DATE 2060 01 01	DATE 2240 01 01 DATE 2420 01 01
DATE 2000 10 31 DATE 2070 01 01	DATE 2250 01 01 DATE 2430 01 01
DATE 2000 11 30 DATE 2080 01 01	DATE 2260 01 01 DATE 2440 01 01
DATE 2001 01 01 DATE 2090 01 01	DATE 2270 01 01 DATE 2450 01 01
DATE 2001 06 01 DATE 2100 01 01	DATE 2280 01 01 DATE 2460 01 01
DATE 2002 01 01 DATE 2110 01 01	DATE 2290 01 01 DATE 2470 01 01
DATE 2003 01 01 DATE 2120 01 01	DATE 2300 01 01 DATE 2480 01 01
DATE 2004 01 01 DATE 2130 01 01	DATE 2310 01 01 DATE 2490 01 01
DATE 2005 01 01 DATE 2140 01 01	DATE 2320 01 01 DATE 2500 01 01
DATE 2006 01 01 DATE 2150 01 01	DATE 2330 01 01 STOP

#### **B.2** CO<sub>2</sub>-dissolved Groundwater Case

Input/Output, Grid, Fluid model, Rock fluid, Initial, and Numerical sections are same as in Deep Crustal  $CO_2$  case.

```
**----- Well/Date Data -----
                              GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.
RUN
                              PERF GEO 'Injector-2'
DATE 2000 01 01
                              2 3 13 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'
DTWELL 0.01
                              OPEN 'Injector-2'
WELL 'Injector-1'
INJECTOR 'Injector-1'
                             WELL 'Injector-3'
INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.1 0. 0.45 0. 0. INJECTOR 'Injector-3'
0. 0.45 0 0.
                             INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.1 0. 0.45 0. 0.
OPERATE MAX STW 2 CONT
                             0. 0.45 0 0.
GEOMETRY I0.20.371.0.OPERATEMAXSTW2CONTPERFGEO'Injector-1'GEOMETRYI0.20.371.
WELL 'Injector-2'
INJECTOR 'Injector-2'
                             WELL 'Injector-4'
INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.1 0. 0.45 0. 0. INJECTOR 'Injector-4'
                              INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.1 0. 0.45 0. 0.
0. 0.45 0 0.
OPERATE MAX STW 2 CONT
                              0. 0.45 0 0.
```

OPERATE MAX STW 2 CONTWELL 'Prod 3'GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0.PRODUCER 'Prod 3'PERF GEO 'Injector-4'OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 2 3 17 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. OPEN 'Injector-4' PERF GEO 'Prod 3' 8 12 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 3' WELL 'Injector-5' INJECTOR 'Injector-5' INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.1 0. 0.45 0. 0. WELL 'Prod 4' 0. 0.45 0 0. RODUCER 'Prod 4' OPERATE MAX STW 2 CONT OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 

 GEOMETRY I
 0.2
 0.37
 1.
 0.
 GEOMETRY K
 0.2
 0.37
 1.
 0.

 PERF GEO
 'Injector-5'
 PERF GEO
 'Prod 4'

 PERF GEO 'Injector-5' PERF GEO 'Prod 4' 2 3 19 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE'12 11 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Injector-5' OPEN 'Prod 4' WELL 'Prod 1' WELL 'Prod 5' PRODUCER 'Prod 1' PRODUCER 'Prod 5' OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Prod 1' PERF GEO 'Prod 5' 1 14 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' 16 10 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 1' OPEN 'Prod 5' WELL 'Prod 2' WELL 'Prod 6' PRODUCER 'Prod 2' PRODUCER 'Prod 6' OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 OPERATE MIN BHP 984.3 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. 
 PERF GEO
 'Prod 2'
 PERF GEO
 'Prod 6'

 4 13 1 1.
 OPEN
 FLOW-TO
 'SURFACE'
 20 10 1 1.
 OPEN
 FLOW-TO
 'SURFACE'
 OPEN 'Prod 2' OPEN 'Prod 6' DATE20000115DATE20070101DATE21600101DATE23400101DATE20000229DATE20080101DATE21700101DATE23500101DATE20000331DATE20090101DATE21800101DATE23600101DATE20000430DATE20100101DATE21900101DATE23800101DATE20000531DATE20200101DATE22100101DATE23800101DATE20000630DATE20300101DATE22200101DATE23900101DATE20000731DATE20400101DATE22200101DATE23900101DATE20000831DATE20500101DATE22300101DATE24000101DATE20000930DATE20600101DATE22300101DATE24000101DATE20001031DATE20600101DATE22400101DATE24000101DATE2000</t

#### **B.3 Diversion of CO<sub>2</sub> Flow Case**

Fluid model, Rock fluid, and Initial sections are same as in Deep Crustal  $\mbox{\rm CO}_2$  case.

FILENAMES OUTPUT SRFOUT RESTARTOUT INDEXOUT MAINRESULTSOUT INUNIT SI INTERRUPT INTERACTIVE XDR ON MAXERROR 20 RANGECHECK ON WRST 365 WPRN WELL TIME WPRN GRID TIME WPRN ITER ALL WPRN ITER MATRIX WSRF WELL 1 WSRF GRID TIME OUTSRF WELL PSPLIT OUTPRN WELL ALL OUTPRN RES NONE OUTPRN GRID MINERAL 'ANORTHIT' MINERAL 'CALCITE' MINERAL 'KAOLINIT' MOLALITY 'CO2' POROS SOLID VELOCRC permeff permint perm rfo rfg rfw kro krg krw OUTSRF GRID DENG DENW DPORMNR MINERAL 'ANORTHIT' MINERAL 'CALCITE' MINERAL 'KAOLINIT' MOLALITY 'Al+++' MOLALITY 'CO2' MOLALITY 'CO3--' MOLALITY 'Ca++' MOLALITY 'H+' MOLALITY 'HCO3-' MOLALITY 'OH-' MOLALITY 'SiO2(aq)' PH POROS PRES SG SO SW TEMP VELOCRC W 'C1' W 'CO2' X 'C1' X 'CO2' Y 'C1' Y 'CO2' Z 'C1' Z 'CO2' rfo rfg rfw OUTSRF WELL GHGAQU GHGGAS GHGSCRIT GHGMNR GHGSOL GHGLIQ OUTSRF RES ALL DIARY CHANGES-UNCONV 0.0000 RESULTS XOFFSET RESULTS YOFFSET 0.0000 RESULTS ROTATION 0.0000 RESULTS AXES-DIRECTIONS 1.0 -1.0 1.0 \*\*----- Grid -----\*\* GRID CART 20 9 1 KDIR DOWN DI CON 10 DJ CON 10 DK CON 10 NULL CON 1 POR CON 0.001 PERMI CON 25 PERMJ EQUALSI PERMK EQUALSI PINCHOUTARRAY CON 1 CPOR MATRIX 1.E-08 PRPOR MATRIX 1000. \*\*-----Infinite acting boundary-----VOLMOD IJK 1 1 1 30000 20 2 1 30000 20 5 1 30000 1 9 1 30000 20 3 1 30000 20 6 1 30000 20 1 1 30000 20 4 1 30000 20 7 1 30000

13 1 1 30000 14 1 1 5 8 9 1 30000 20 8 1 30000 9 9 1 30000 20 9 1 30000 14 1 1 30000 10 9 1 30000 2 1 1 30000 15 1 1 30000 11 9 1 30000 3 1 1 30000 16 1 1 30000 4 1 1 30000 17 1 1 30000 12 9 1 30000 5 1 1 30000 18 1 1 30000 13 9 1 30000 19 1 1 30000 14 9 1 30000 6 1 1 30000 2 9 1 30000 3 9 1 30000 15 9 1 30000 7 1 1 30000 8 1 1 30000 16 9 1 30000 17 9 1 30000 9 1 1 30000 4 9 1 30000 5 9 1 30000 18 9 1 30000 10 1 1 30000 

 11
 1
 30000
 6
 9
 1
 30000

 12
 1
 30000
 7
 9
 1
 30000

 19 9 1 30000 \*\*----- Numerical -----NUMERICAL NORTH 80 ITERMAX 200 ITERMIN 1 DTMIN .00000001 norm unknown DTMAX 60 PRECC 0.5 SDEGREE 3 PIVOT \*ON \*\*----- Recurrent ------GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. RUN DATE 2000 01 01 PERF GEO 'Prod 3' 20 3 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' DTWELL 0.01 OPEN 'Prod 3' WELL 'Injector-1' INJECTOR 'Injector-1' INCOMP AQUEOUS 0.2 0. 0.4 0. 0. OWELL 'Prod 4' 0.4 0 0. 0.4 0 0. OPERATE MAX STW .1 CONT GEOMETRY I 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Injector-1' PRODUCER 'Prod 4' OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Prod 4' PRODUCER 'Prod 4' 1 5 1 1. OPEN FLOW-FROM 'SURFACE' 20 4 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 4' OPEN 'Injector-1' WELL 'Prod 1' WELL 'Prod 5' PRODUCER 'Prod 1' PRODUCER 'Prod 5' PRODUCER'Prod 1'PRODUCER'Prod 5'OPERATEMINBHP 150.1OPERATEMINBHP 150.1GEOMETRYK0.20.371.0.GEOMETRYK0.20.371.0.PERFGEO'Prod 1'PERFGEO'Prod 5'2011.OPENFLOW-TO'SURFACE'2051.OPENFLOW-TO'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 1' OPEN 'Prod 5' WELL 'Prod 2' WELL 'prod 6' PRODUCER 'Prod 2' PRODUCER 'prod 6' OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1 OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1 GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0. PERF GEO 'Prod 2' PERF GEO 'prod 6' PERF GEO 'Prod 2' PERF GEO 'prod 6' 20 2 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' 20 6 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE' OPEN 'Prod 2' OPEN 'prod 6' WELL 'Prod 3' WELL 'prod 7' PRODUCER 'Prod 3' PRODUCER 'prod 7' OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1 OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1

```
GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0.
                                            20 8 1 1. OPEN FLOW-TO 'SURFACE'
PERF GEO 'prod 7'
20 7 1 1. OPEN
                                            OPEN 'prod 8'
                     FLOW-TO 'SURFACE'
OPEN 'prod 7'
                                            WELL 'prod 9'
                                            PRODUCER 'prod 9'
WELL 'prod 8'
                                            OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1
PRODUCER 'prod 8'
                                           GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0.
OPERATE MIN BHP 150.1
                                           PERF GEO 'prod 9'
GEOMETRY K 0.2 0.37 1. 0.
                                           20 9 1 1. OPEN
                                                                  FLOW-TO 'SURFACE'
PERF GEO 'prod 8'
                                           OPEN 'prod 9'
                   DATE20060101DATE20110101DATE20070101DATE20120101DATE20080101DATE20130101DATE20090101DATE20140101DATE20100101DATE20150101
                                                                DATE 2018 01 01
DATE 2000 01 01
                                                                DATE 2019 01 01
DATE 2001 01 01
DATE 2001 01 01
                                                                  DATE 2020 01 01
DATE 2002 01 01
                                                                  Stop
                                                                  **(2<sup>nd</sup> run)
                                           DATE 2015 01 01
DATE 2003 01 01
                     DATE 2010 01 01
DATE 2004 01 01
                      Stop
                                            DATE 2016 01 01
                     **(1<sup>st</sup> run)
DATE 2005 01 01
                                          DATE 2017 01 01
```

#### **B.3.1 Percolation Model**

```
Following is the MATLAB input file for the percolation model.
x=100; y=100;
                                  %number of pores in the x and y directions
NumOfPore=x*y;
                                  %total number of pores
%Pore size distribution
m=15;
                                  %mean of the pore size distribution in um
v=250;
                                  %variance of the pore size distribution
mu = log((m^2)/sqrt(v+m^2));
                                  %mean in lognormal
sigma = sqrt(log(v/(m^2)+1));
                                 %variance in lognormal
[M,V] = lognstat(mu, sigma);
                                 %pore size distribution based on mu and sigma
R=lognrnd(mu,sigma,[x,y]);
                                 %producing 10,000 pores from the distribution
R volume=4/3*pi()*((R./10000).^3) %volume of each pore in cm^3
PV=sum(sum(R volume));
                                 %total pore volume in cm^3
%Pore size distribution plot visualization
figure('Color', [1 1 1]);
x = (0.0:0.02:100);
y = lognpdf(x,mu,sigma);
semilogx(x,y); grid;
xlabel('Pore diameter (micrometer)'); ylabel('p');
%Loop for the Percolation model
Num_Disconnected_Path=zeros(1,81);
calcite gmole=zeros(1,81);
for p=1:81
calcite gmole(p)=-0.00000001+0.00000001*p;
%calcite gmole=[0 0.0000001 0.0000002 0.0000003 0.0000004 0.0000005 0.0000006
0.0000007 0.000008];
                                 %for path visualization
calcite density=2.711;
                                 %g/cm^3
calcite MW=100.0869;
                                 %g/mol
MaxCalcite=calcite density/calcite MW*PV; %Maximum amounts of calcite in mole
CalciteInPore(p)=calcite gmole(p)*calcite MW/calcite density/NumOfPore;
%cm^3/pore
threshold = CalciteInPore(p); %Threshold due to precipitations
Z=R volume;
for i=1:100
    for j=1:100
if Z(j,i)>threshold;
```

```
Z(j,i)=1;
else
    Z(j,i)=0;
end
    end
end
[L, Num Disconnected Path(p)] = bwlabel(Z, 4);
img = label2rgb(L);
imwrite(img,['data',num2str(p),'.jpg']); %exporting image in jpg file
%Plot NumOfDisconnectedPath vs. calcite precipitations
plot(calcite gmole,Num Disconnected Path,'-');
xlabel('Calcite precipitation (gmole)');
ylabel('Number of disconnected path');
xlim([0 .0000003]);
ylim([0 100])
drawnow
%Path Visualization graph
figure('Color', [1 1 1]);
for u=1:9
Path=imread(['data',num2str(u),'.jpg']);
subplot(3,3,u), image(Path)
title([num2str(calcite gmole(u)), ' gmole'])
axis off
end
%Calculating calcite amounts for complete disconnectivity and zero spanning path
with 500 samples
for b=1:500
R=lognrnd(mu, sigma, [x, y]);
R volume=4/3*pi()*((R./10000).^3);
PV=sum(sum(R volume));
Spanning Path=200;
p=0;
while Spanning Path>0
p=p+1;
calcite gmole(p)=-0.00000001+0.00000001*p;
calcite density=2.711; %g/cm^3
calcite MW=100.0869;
                      %g/mol
MaxCalcite=calcite density/calcite MW*PV;
CalciteInPore(p)=calcite gmole(p)*calcite MW/calcite density/NumOfPore;
threshold = CalciteInPore(p); %Due to mineralizations
Z=R_volume;
for i=1:100
    for j=1:100
if Z(j,i)>threshold;
    Z(j,i)=1;
else
    Z(j,i)=0;
end
    end
end
[L,Num Disconnected Path(p)] = bwlabel(Z,4);
img = label2rgb(L);
A=zeros(4,100);
A(1,:) = L(1,:);
A(2,:)=L(100,:);
A(3,:) = L(:,1);
A(4,:) = L(:, 100);
```

```
for r=1:100
    if A(2, r) == 0
     A(2,r)=-1;
    end
    if A(4, r) == 0
       A(4, r) = -1;
    end
    X(p) = sum(A(1, :) = = A(2, r));
    Y(p) = sum(A(3, :) == A(4, r));
end
Spanning Pathnew=X+Y;
Spanning_Path=Spanning_Pathnew(p);
end
Calcite_mole(b) =calcite_gmole(p);
end
%Plot histogram of the calcite precipitation
figure('Color',[1 1 1]);
s=1e-8:1e-7:1e-6;
Mean=mean(Calcite mole);
hist(Calcite mole,s)
xlabel('Calcite precipitations(mole)')
ylabel('Frequency')
mnlabel = sprintf('Mean -- %3.2d', Mean);
h = annotation('textbox',[.63 .75 0.1 0.1]);
set(h,'String',{mnlabel});
%Count number of plugged pores
Q=0;
Plug=sum(sum(Z==Q))
Percent Plug=Plug/NumOfPore %percent
%plot percent of plugged pores vs. calcite precipitation
figure('Color',[1 1 1]);
plot(calcite_gmole, Percent_plug)
xlabel('Calcite precipitation (gmole)');
ylabel('Percentage of plugged pores (%)');
```

# Glossary

$\hat{A}_0$	:	initial reactive surface area in $m^2/m^3$ of bulk volume of rock
$\hat{A}_{S}$	:	initial specific reactive surface area in $m^2 / m^3$ of bulk volume of mineral
aq	:	aqueous phase
Ea	:	activation energy in J/mol
g	:	gas phase
K <sub>eq</sub>	:	chemical equilibrium constant
k	:	permeability, mD
$k^0$	:	initial permeability, mD
$k_{\beta}$	:	rate constant of mineral reaction $\beta$
k <sub>r</sub>	:	relative permeability
$k_{\rm H}$	:	Henry's law constant
$N_{eta}$	:	total moles of mineral $\beta$ per bulk volume
Р	:	pressure, kPa
р	:	partial pressure
$r_{\beta}$	:	reaction rate of mineral $\beta$
$Q_{\beta}$	:	activity production of mineral reaction $\beta$
Ss	:	super saturation index
Т	:	temperature, °C
t	:	time, year

Х	:	grid coordinate in x-direction
Y	:	grid coordinate in y-direction
Z	:	grid coordinate in z-direction
Cφ	:	rock compressibility
ρ	:	molar density
$\phi$	:	porosity
$\phi^0$	:	initial porosity
$\hat{\phi}$	:	porosity with the mineral precipitation/dissolution
μ	:	viscosity, cp

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