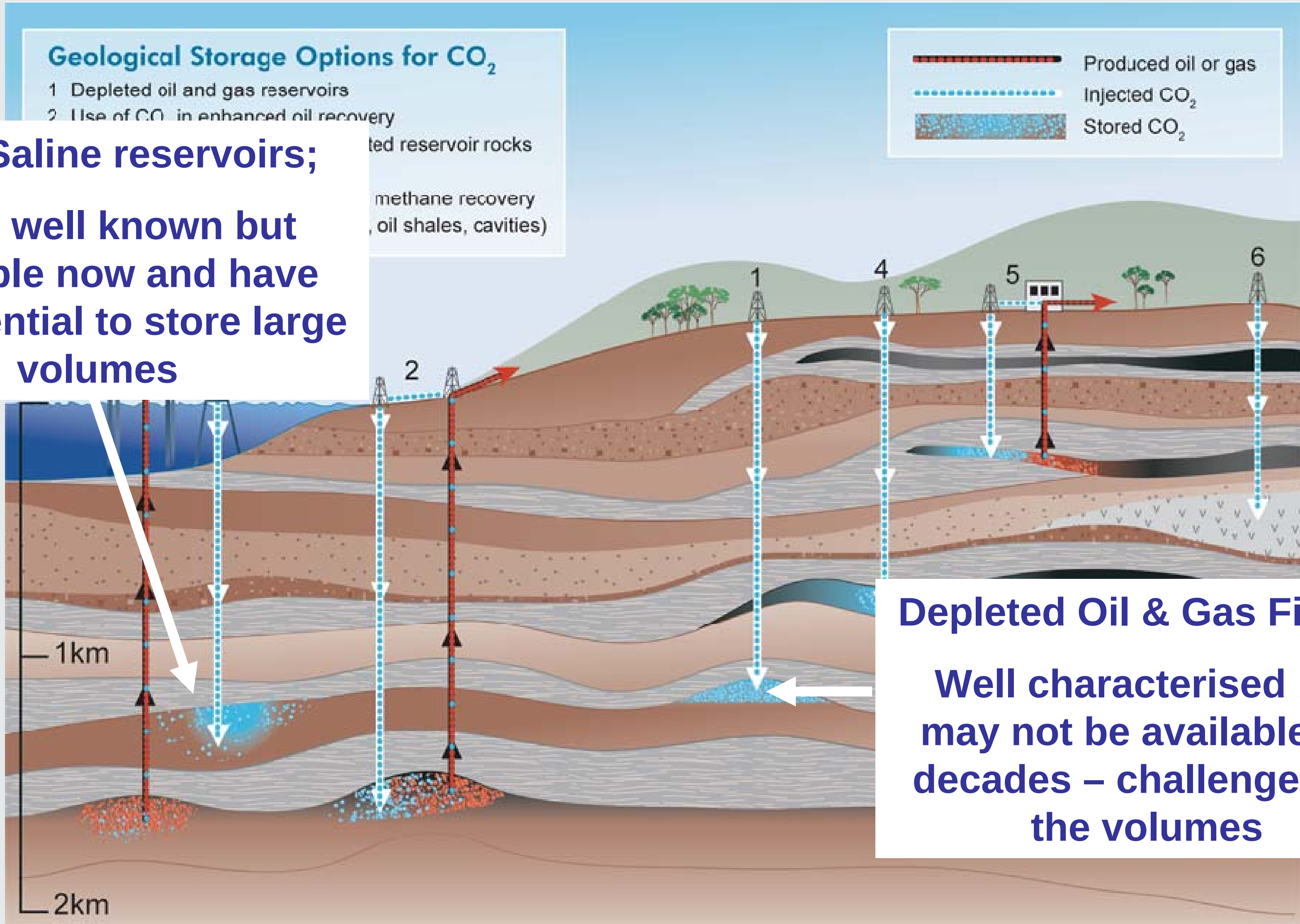
Australian Government
Geoscience Australia

Brief Overview of Capacity Estimation Methodologies for saline reservoirs

Rick Causebrook – Geoscience Australia

Review of Basic Concepts

Geological Storage Options



Deep Saline reservoirs;

Less well known but available now and have the potential to store large volumes

Depleted Oil & Gas Fields;

Well characterised but may not be available for decades – challenged by the volumes

CO_2 Trapping Mechanisms in Porous Rocks

When CO2 is injected into the subsurface it will rise under buoyancy until it becomes immobilised by a combination of factors

- **Structural and Stratigraphic**
- **Residual Trapping**
- **Solubility Trapping**
- **Mineral Trapping**

Unless residual storage occurs the buoyant free phase CO2 will ultimately rise to accumulate under the top seal of the reservoir

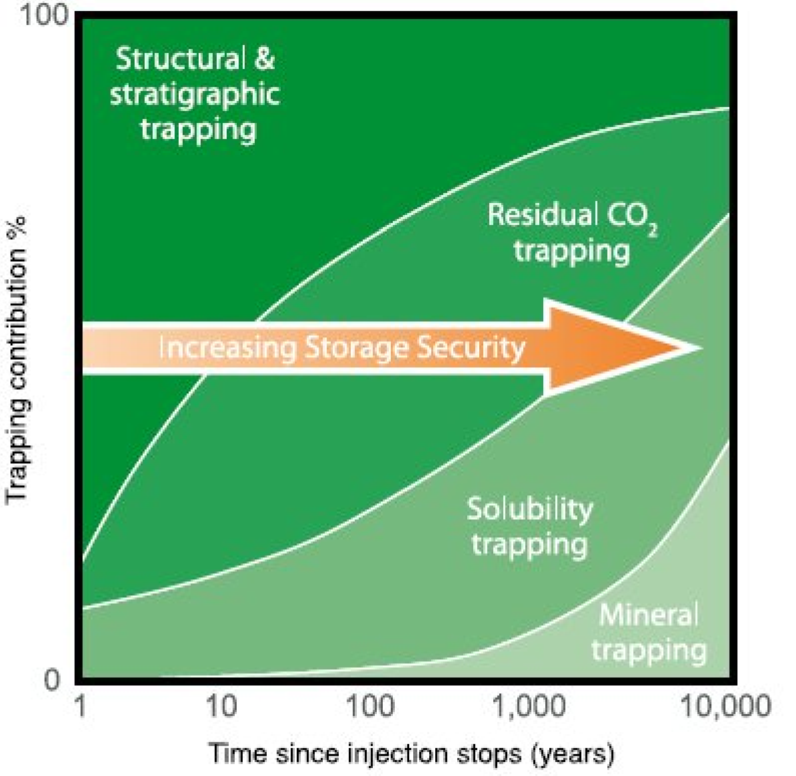


Figure 5.9 Storage security depends on a combination of physical and geochemical trapping. Over time, the physical process of residual CO_2 trapping and geochemical processes of solubility trapping and mineral trapping increase. IPCC SRCCS 2005

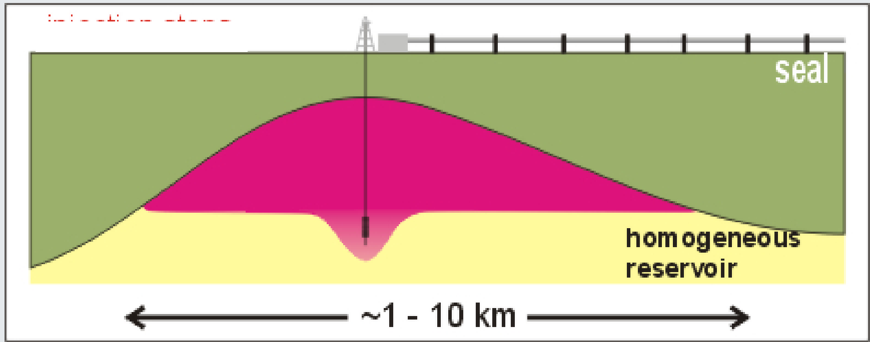
Basin Scale Assessment versus Site characterisation

- Ideally capacity assessments should be made on the basis of detailed geological and geophysical analysis and modelling.
- But frequently high level assessments are required for political, strategic or financial reasons.
- It may then be necessary to carry out a high level assessment of a particular basin, region or country.

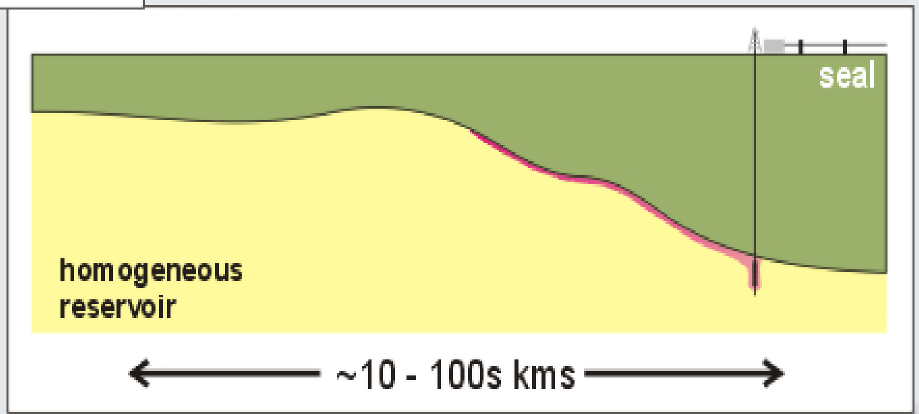
Basin Scale Assessment versus Site characterisation

- Basin Scale requires a general formula to allow high level assessment of total potential capacity
- Site assessment requires detailed geological and reservoir simulation modelling to determine if the site has the capacity to contain the volumes which it is proposed to inject.

Conventional Traps v Deep Saline Formations



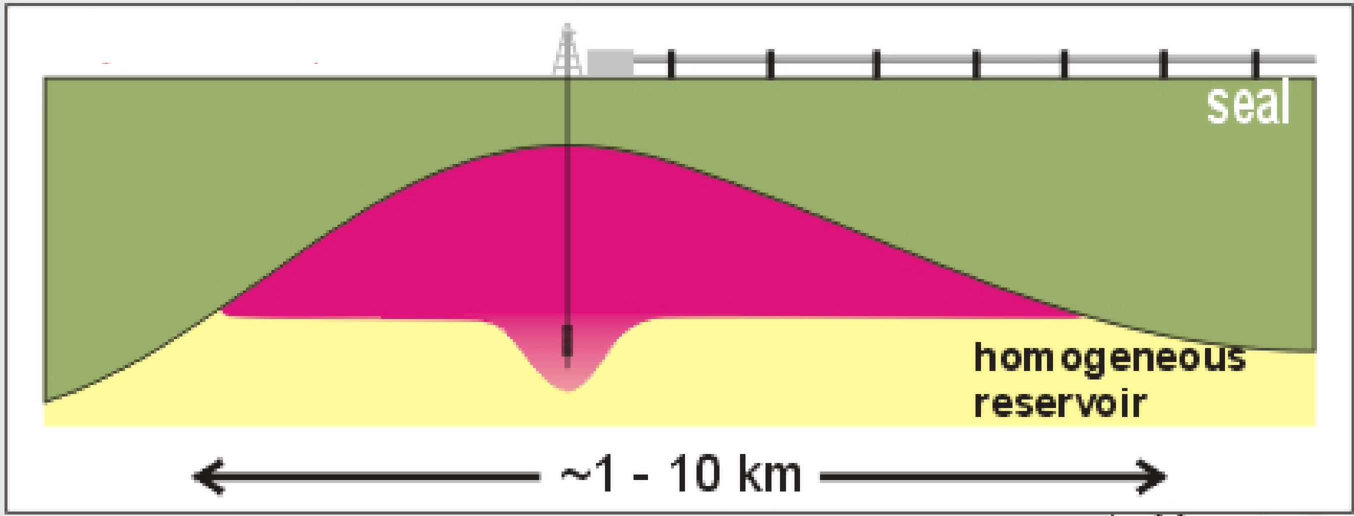
Conventional trap – may be a depleted field or a “dry” structure



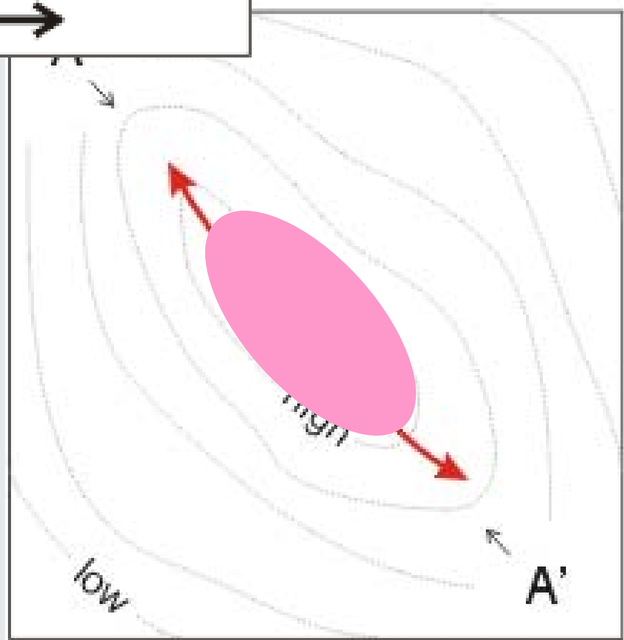
Deep Saline Formation

Conceptual CO_2 Storage Scenario

Depleted field / structural trap



Trap Structure



Conventional Trap / Depleted Field

Can be clearly structurally defined.

Physical trapping causes back pressure to force the CO2 to fill the structure.

Past oil field experience aids capacity evaluation

(Slide courtesy of Robert Root)

Structural Traps
Depleted Fields and Dry Structures

- General agreement on capacity estimations for physical structures.

- If it is a depleted field can assume that capacity will match volume of petroleum extracted, less any constraints from injection pressure versus fracature pressure.

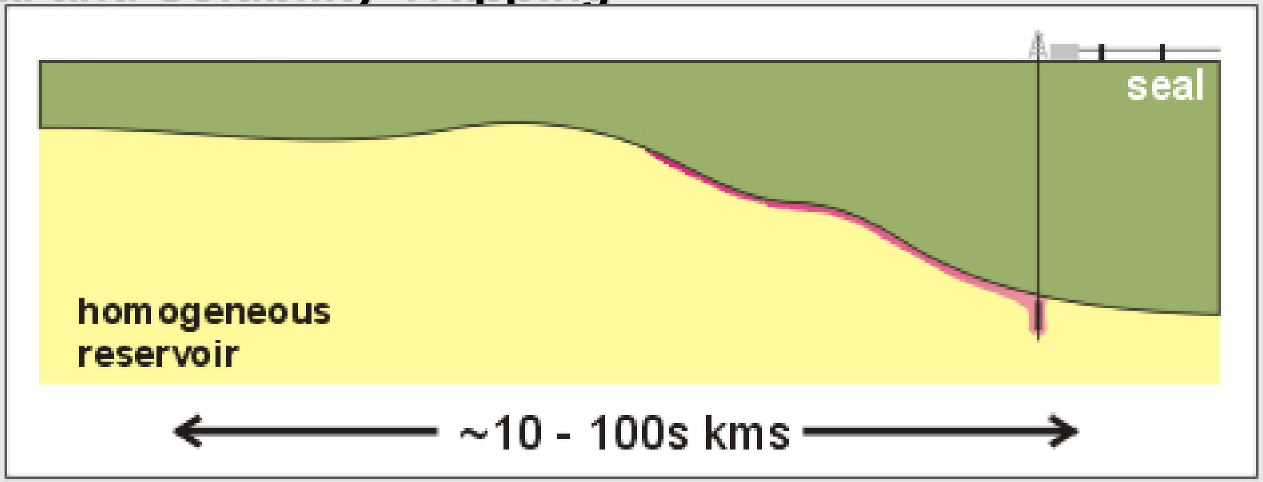
"Dry" Structure

- If a "dry" structure capacity can be estimated by conventional methods:
  - Area * av net thickness *av porosity*(1-Sw)*structural correction

- Again this may be reduced due to fracture pressure or seal capacity constraints.

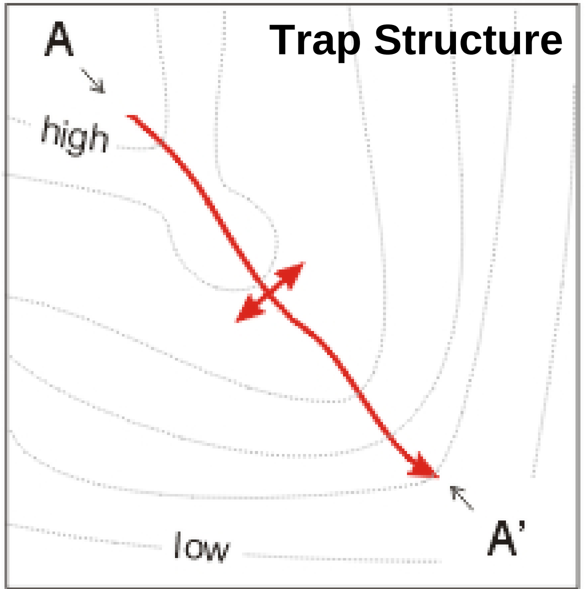
- "Dry" structures can be considered a subset of saline aquifers.

Conceptual Saline Reservoir CO_2 Storage Scenario
Residual and Solubility Trapping



Large, open structure long migration path

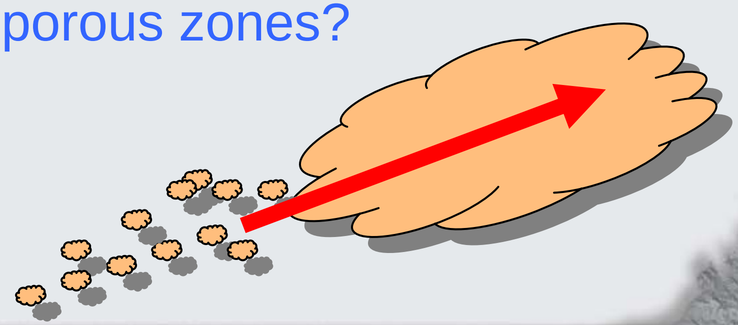
- Residual and dissolution the major trapping mechanisms.
- Long term mineral trapping
- Minor structural trapping
- How can the capacity of these reservoirs be assessed?



(Slide courtesy of Robert Root)

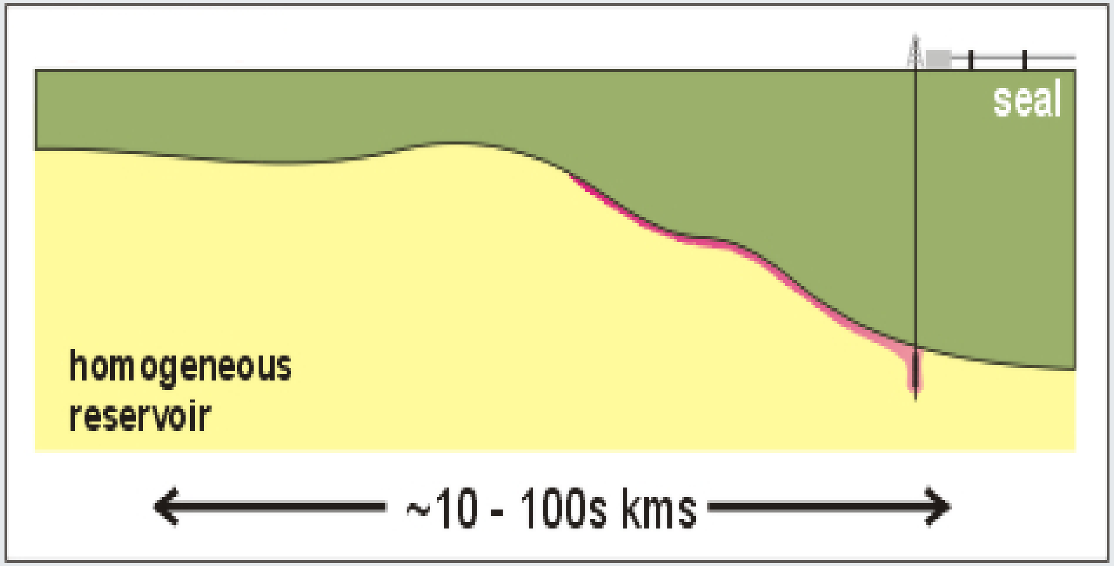
Saline Reservoir Trapping

- Some percentage of trapping in structural and stratigraphic closures within the body of the rock and beneath beneath overlying seal- may be below seismic resolution.
- Main trapping mechanisms will be residual and dissolution
- Critical issues then are:
  1. how much of the pore space in the path of the migrating plume will ultimately contain residual oil?
  2. How much of the total pore space of the rock will the migrating plume "see", because it will move preferentially through the most porous zones?



The Efficiency or Capacity Factor

In this simple case the CO_2 is moving along under the base of the seal so it does not contact the main mass of the rock



How much of the rock does the CO2 “see”?

Key Recent Published Methodologies

- **DOE 2006** — USDOE Capacity and Fairways Sub-group – Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships
- **CSLF 2007** — CSLF Task Force for Review and Development of Standard Methodologies for Storage Capacity Estimation
- **CO2CRC 2008** — Generally based on the DOE methodology
- **USGS 2003/2006 –** Specific sequestration Volumes. A useful tool for CO2 Storage Capacity Assessment
- **USGS 2009 –** Development of a Probabilistic Assessment Methodology for Evaluation of Carbon Dioxide storage
- **Purely geological assesments not economically constrained.**

Capacity of saline formations
The DOE Formula

$$G_{CO2} = A\, h_g\, \phi_{tot}\, \rho\, E$$

Parameter	Units*	Description
G_{CO2}	M	Mass estimate of saline-formation CO_2 storage capacity
A	L^2	Geographical area that defines the basin or region being assessed for CO_2 storage-capacity calculation
h_g	L	Gross thickness of saline formations for which CO_2 storage is assessed within the basin or region defined by A
ϕ_{tot}	L^3/L^3	Average porosity of entire saline formation over thickness hg. Total porosity of saline formations within each geologic unit's gross thickness divided by hg
ρ	M/L^3	Density of CO_2 evaluated at pressure and temperature that represents storage conditions anticipated for a specific geologic unit averaged over hg
E	L^3/L^3	CO_2 Storage Efficiency Factor that reflects a fraction of the total pore volume that is filled by CO_2

- 1-4% or less?

Methodology for Development of Carbon Sequestration Capacity Estimates – Appendix A., DOE 2006

The CSLF Formula

In the CSLF methodology this formula is only applied to the structural and stratigraphic traps that exist within the body of the reservoir and at the base of the seal. Requires a greater level of knowledge than the DOE

$$V_{CO2t} = V_{trap} \times \phi \times (1 - S_{wirr}) \equiv A \times h \times \phi \times (1 - S_{wirr}) \qquad (10)$$

where A and h are the trap area and average thickness, respectively.

The effective storage volume, V_{CO2e}, is given by:

$$V_{CO2e} = C_c \times V_{CO2t} \qquad (11)$$

where C_c is a capacity coefficient that incorporates the cumulative effects of trap heterogeneity, CO_2 buoyancy and sweep efficiency.

Capacity Coefficient is - this the same as the E Factor?

DOE or CSLF _ What is the difference? (1)

- "The methodologies proposed by the CSLF Task Force and the USDOE Subgroup are basically identical, with minor differences in computational formulation".
- Bachu 2008

- "Fundamentally, the CSLF and DOE methods are the same Method"

$$“V_{CO_2,DOE_e} = V_{CO_2,CSLF_e}”$$

- Gorecki (EERC) 2009

DOE or CSLF _ What is the difference? (2)

- But there is a major difference in philosophy

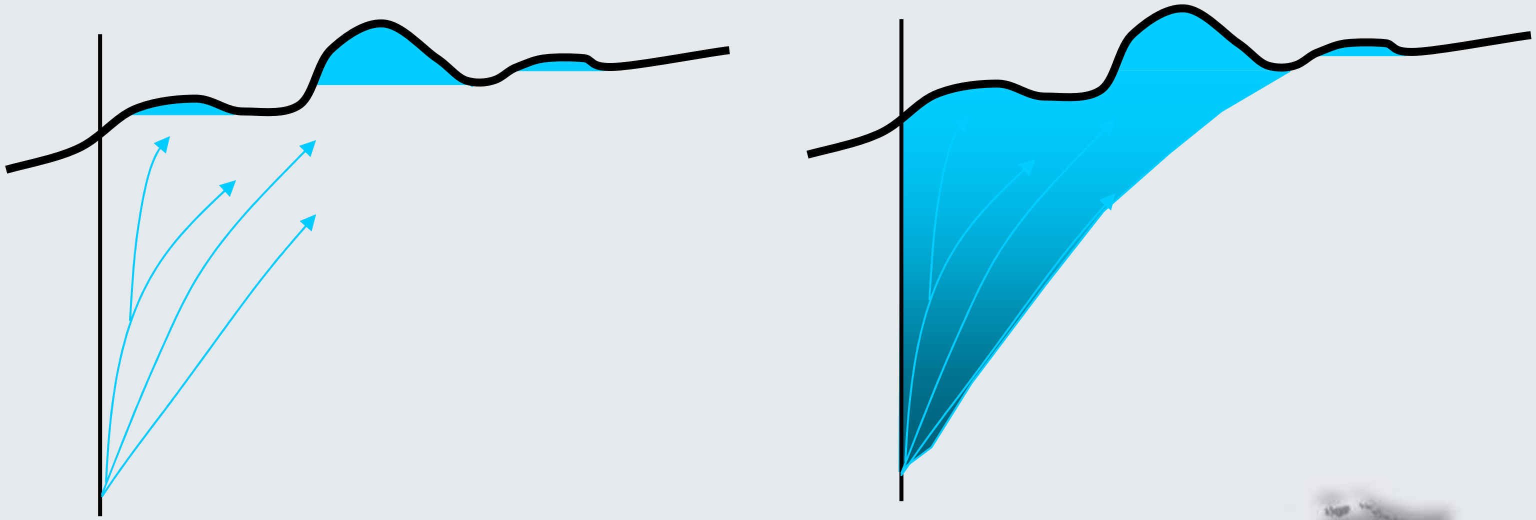
DOE or CSLF _ What is the difference? (3)

- The only difference of significance is that the CSLF Task Force propose to estimate static CO2 capacity in deep saline aquifers by considering only stratigraphic and structural traps present in those aquifers, whilst the USDOE Subgroup proposes to consider the entire aquifer, not only the traps..

- Bachu 2008

DOE or CSLF _ What is the difference? (4)

- This difference is critical if you believe that residual trapping may be the most significant component in deep saline aquifer storage.



But there is another catch

- The DOE methodology estimates the maximium storage available on the assumption that:
- "injection wells can be placed regularly through the basin/region to maximise storage"
- "there is no restriction placed on the number of wells that could be used"

- Are either of these reasonable assumptions??.

Specific Sequestration Volumes

- Brennan and Burruss (2006)

- Does not assess the capacity of a basin as a whole but determines what amount of pore space would be required to store a given volume of CO_2 at a specific temperature and pressure.

Specific Sequestration Volumes

- For instance:
- At 60^{o}C and 15 Mpa CO_2 has a density of 604 Kg/m^{3}.
- Therefore: 1 tonne CO_2 requires a pore space of 1.7 m^{3} to contain it.
- If a reservoir sandstone has a porosity of 10% and a residual water saturation of 75%, it will require 60m^{3} of rock to hold 1 tonne of CO_2.
- Therefore a power station emitting 8.7 million tonnes annually would require 0.519 km^{3} of this reservoir rock to store 1 years emissions.

Specific Sequestration Volumes

- From this the volume of rock required over the life of a power plant can be calculated, and if the thickness of the reservoir is known the areal extent of the plume can be calculated.
- Again, although not specifically stated, the concept that the CO_2 is stored within the body of the rock implies residual storage.
- This methodology also includes an equation to calculate the volume of CO_2 that can be dissolved in the saline water within the reservoir.

Specific Sequestration Volumes

- This methodology is very good for rapidly assessing if a basin or sub-basin has the capacity to dela with the emissions from a specific point source or group of point sources.

- However it will not easily give total potential storage capacity if that is what is asked for.

USGS Probabilistic Assessment- 2009

- Develops methodology similar to natural resource assessments in the USGS National Oil and Gas Assessment.

- Regards the "geological commodity" of "pore space in the subsurface" as a resource that can be assessed in a similar way to other natural resources.

- Uses " Monte Carlo" analysis to define Minimum, maximum and most likely values.

USGS Probabilistic Assessment- 2009

- Subdivides the basin into a series of storage assessment areas (SAU).
- Calculates the capacities of Discovered Physical Traps (PT_D) and undiscovered Physical Traps (PT_U) and saline formations (SF).
- Considered storage in the total trap volume of the physical traps but restricts the capillary (residual) trapping in saline formations to the most porous units of the formation.
- Require estimation of a carbon storage efficiency Factor (C_{se})

USGS Probabilistic Assessment- 2009

- This methodology is probably the most rigorous proposed has a well established precedent in the National Oil and Gas Assessment.

- However in many cases it requires a level of knowledge and data that may not be available in the saline formation proposed for storage.

The Critical Question

- What is the appropriate E or Cc or Cce value to use?

- This issue will be the subject of two talks to be given in the workshop.

Where is the Empirical Data?

- Almost all of the E factor quoted are based on expert assessments from oil field experience and computer modelling.
- There is only one long running saline reservoir storage project in the world – Sleipner.
- And in that we are still very unsure of what CO2 saturation is being reflected in the seismic image.
- Only when we have a portfolio of real storage projects we we be able to approach this number with any certainty.

- **Questions?**

References

- Bachu, S., Bonijoly, D., Bradshaw, J., Burruss, R., Holloway, S., Christensen, N.P., and Mathiassen, O.M., 2007, CO2 storage capacity estimation—Methodology and gaps: International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control, v. 1, p. 430–443.
- Bachu, S. 2008 Comparison between Methodologies Recommended for Estimation of CO2Storage Capacity in Geological Media by the CSLF Task Force on CO2 Storage Capacity Estimation and the USDOE Capacity and Fairways Subgroup of the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships Program-Phase III Report –Available online at *http://www.cslforum.org/publications/documents/PhaseIIIReportStorageCapacityEstimationTaskForce0408.pdf*
- Brennan, S.T., and Burruss, R.C., 2006, Specific storage volumes—A useful tool for CO2 storage capacity assessment: Natural Resources Research, v. 15, no. 3, p. 165–182, doi:10.1007/s11053–006–9019–0.
- Burruss, R.C., Brennan, S.T., Freeman, P.A., Merrill, M.D., Ruppert, L.F., Becker, M.F., Herkelrath, W.N., Kharaka, Y.K., Neuzil, C.E., Swanson, S.M., Cook, T.A., Klett, T.R., Nelson, P.H., and Schenk, C.J., 2009, Development of a probabilistic assessment methodology for evaluation of carbon dioxide storage: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2009–1035, 81 p., available only online at *tp://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2009/1035/*
- Gorecki,C.D. et al, Development of Storage Co-coefficients for Carbon Dioxide storage in Deep Saline Formations and depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs, EERC Power Point presentation available online at :*www.ifp.com/content/download/68004/1473899/file/32_Gorecki.pdf*
- U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 2008a, Carbon sequestration atlas of the United States and Canada (2d ed.; Atlas II): 142 p., available online at *http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/carbon_seq/refshelf/atlasII/2008%20ATLAS_Introduction.pdf.* .