

1 **A Method for Quick Assessment of CO₂ Storage Capacity in Closed and**
2 **Semi-Closed Saline Formations**

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15 **Abstract:** Saline aquifers of high permeability bounded by overlying/underlying seals
16 may be surrounded laterally by low-permeability zones, possibly caused by natural
17 heterogeneity and/or faulting. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection into and storage in such
18 “closed” systems with impervious seals, or “semi-closed” systems with nonideal (low-
19 permeability) seals, is different from that in “open” systems, from which the displaced
20 brine can easily escape laterally. In closed or semi-closed systems, the pressure buildup
21 caused by continuous industrial-scale CO₂ injection may have a limiting effect on CO₂
22 storage capacity, because geomechanical damage caused by overpressure needs to be
23 avoided. In this research, a simple analytical method was developed for the quick
24 assessment of the CO₂ storage capacity in such closed and semi-closed systems. This
25 quick-assessment method is based on the fact that native brine (of an equivalent volume)
26 displaced by the cumulative injected CO₂ occupies additional pore volume within the
27 storage formation and the seals, provided by pore and brine compressibility in response to
28 pressure buildup. With nonideal seals, brine may also leak through the seals into
29 overlying/underlying formations. The quick-assessment method calculates these brine
30 displacement contributions in response to an estimated average pressure buildup in the
31 storage reservoir. The CO₂ storage capacity and the transient domain-averaged pressure
32 buildup estimated through the quick-assessment method were compared with the “true”
33 values obtained using detailed numerical simulations of CO₂ and brine transport in a two-
34 dimensional radial system. The good agreement indicates that the proposed method can
35 produce reasonable approximations for storage-formation-seal systems of various
36 geometric and hydrogeological properties.

37 **Keywords:** geological CO₂ sequestration; storage capacity; saline aquifer; pressure
38 buildup; numerical simulation

39 **1. Introduction**

40 Geological carbon dioxide (CO₂) sequestration in deep formations (e.g., saline aquifers,
41 gas and oil reservoirs, and coal beds) is a promising measure for mitigating the impact of
42 climate change (Bachu et al., 1994, 2002; Koide et al., 1992; IPCC, 2005; van der Meer,
43 1992). Reliable estimates are needed for the CO₂ storage capacity of geologic basins
44 (Bradshaw et al., 2007). Currently, basin-scale storage capacity is often estimated based
45 on the effective pore volume of suitable formations (i.e., those formations with sufficient
46 injectivity, size, and long-term CO₂ containment capability). The effectiveness, or the
47 storage efficiency factor, of suitable formations describes the fraction of total pore space
48 available for CO₂ storage, limited by heterogeneity, buoyancy effects, residual water
49 saturation, etc. (Bachu and Adams, 2003). Guidelines for estimating the storage capacity
50 of deep saline formations were recently developed by the Capacity and Fairways
51 Subgroup of the Geological Working Group of the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE)
52 Carbon Sequestration Regional Partnerships (USDOE, 2007). The current practice
53 generally involves estimating storage capacity of “open” formations (Figure 1, top), from
54 which the native fluid can easily escape laterally and make room for the injected CO₂
55 (e.g., Doughty and Pruess, 2004; Holloway et al., 1996; Shafeen et al., 2004; van der
56 Meer, 1995). For such open formations, the pressure buildup caused by CO₂ injection is
57 usually not a limiting factor except for maximum bottom-hole pressure at the injection
58 well. However, the large amount of native brine laterally displaced by injected CO₂ in
59 open systems may have a hydrological and geochemical impact on shallow groundwater

60 resources (Birkholzer et al., 2007; Nicot, 2008), an issue not addressed directly in this
61 paper.

62 In certain geological situations, a storage basin may be composed of a number of
63 compartmentalized reservoirs laterally separated by low-permeability zones. These zones
64 may be formed by natural heterogeneity and/or faulting. When such a reservoir, bounded
65 vertically by impervious seals, is surrounded on all sides by barriers of very low
66 permeability, this reservoir acts as a “closed” system (Figure 1, middle) (i.e., there is
67 negligible hydraulic communication with other formations during the injection period of
68 interest, usually 30–50 years). Evidence of such closed systems has been found in
69 hydrocarbon reservoirs, as indicated by sharp changes in fluid pressure along their
70 boundaries (Muggeridge et al., 2004; Neuzil, 1995; Puckette and Al-Shaieb, 2003).
71 Examples of such closed systems also include natural CO₂ reservoirs of high purity,
72 which can be used as analogues for geological CO₂ sequestration (e.g., Allis et al., 2001;
73 Pearce et al., 1996; Stevens et al., 2001). When large volumes of CO₂ are injected into a
74 compartmentalized formation, which acts like a closed system (with the time scale of
75 interest being the CO₂ injection period), a significant pressure buildup will be produced
76 (e.g., Holloway et al., 1996; Polak et al., 2004). This pressure buildup can severely limit
77 the CO₂ storage capacity, because overpressure-associated geomechanical damage needs
78 to be avoided (Rutqvist and Tsang, 2002; Rutqvist et al., 2007). In this case, the storage
79 capacity mainly depends on pore and brine compressibilities that provide expanded pore
80 space available for storing the injected CO₂, and on the maximum pressure buildup that
81 the formation can sustain.

82 Of course, the overlying and underlying seals of a storage aquifer are not perfectly
83 impervious, allowing the pressure buildup caused by CO₂ injection and storage to
84 partially dissipate into and through these seals. In this case, the saline aquifer acts like a
85 “semi-closed” system (Figure 1, bottom), allowing some fraction of the displaced brine to
86 migrate into and through the overlying and underlying sealing units, which in turn would
87 increase the storage capacity for CO₂. (Meanwhile, the stored CO₂ is safely contained
88 within the storage formation because of permeability and capillary barriers.) The
89 importance of this vertical interlayer communication mostly depends on the permeability
90 of the seals, which can vary widely (from 10⁻²³ to 10⁻¹⁶ m², or from 10⁻⁸ to 10⁻¹ mD)
91 depending on their hydrogeological characteristics (e.g., Domenico and Schwartz, 1998;
92 Hart et al., 2006; Hovorka et al., 2001; Neuzil, 1994). Relatively permeable sealing units
93 (e.g., with permeability on the order of 10⁻¹⁸ m² or higher) may allow considerable
94 vertical brine leakage out of the storage reservoir over the injection period. In this case,
95 the pressure buildup may be reduced, and pressure constraints may not be a limiting
96 factor in CO₂ storage.

97 Our research aims at developing a method for the quick assessment of CO₂ storage
98 capacity in deep closed and semi-closed saline formations, complementing existing
99 methods for capacity estimates in open systems (USDOE, 2007). This method can be
100 used to estimate the storage efficiency factor and the transient domain-averaged pressure
101 buildup. The validity of the method is demonstrated by comparing the estimated storage
102 capacities to the “true” values calculated through detailed modeling of multiphase flow
103 and multicomponent transport of CO₂ and brine. The modeling was conducted using the
104 TOUGH2/ECO2N code, which has been tested and compared with other codes (Pruess,

105 2005; Pruess et al., 2004). The validity range is demonstrated for a range of hypothetical
106 formation-seal systems, with varying lateral radial extent (i.e., pore volume) and
107 hydrogeological properties (i.e., permeability and pore compressibility) of the storage
108 formation and sealing units.

109 **2. A Quick-Assessment Method for CO₂ Storage Capacity**

110 We developed a simple method for assessing the storage capacity of closed and semi-
111 closed storage formations. The basic principle is that CO₂ injection into these systems
112 will lead to pressurization (pressure buildup), because an additional volume of fluid
113 needs to be stored. The injected CO₂ displaces an equivalent volume of native brine,
114 which may either (1) be stored in the expanded pore space in the storage formation, (2)
115 be stored in the expanded pore space in the seals, or (3) leak through the seals into
116 overlying/underlying formations. The quick-assessment method predicts the pressure-
117 buildup history over a given injection period and the “actual” storage efficiency factor at
118 the end of injection. We define the storage efficiency factor, E , as the volumetric fraction
119 of stored CO₂, per unit initial total pore volume of the storage formation, similar to the
120 earlier definition for open systems (USDOE, 2007). The method is designed to provide
121 capacity estimates at early stages of site selection and characterization, when (1) quick
122 assessments of multiple sites may be needed and when (2) site characterization data are
123 rather sparse. More specifically, the estimated pressure increase caused by injection and
124 storage of a specified volume of CO₂ can be compared to a sustainable pressure
125 threshold, which is the maximum pressure that the formation can sustain without
126 geomechanical damage. Alternatively, one may determine the maximum CO₂ volume

127 that can be injected without jeopardizing the geomechanical structure of the formation-
128 seal system.

129 **2.1. Simplifications and Assumptions**

130 Several simplifications and assumptions of both reservoir characteristics (geometric and
131 hydrogeological properties) and processes made in the quick-assessment method are
132 outlined below for an idealized, two-dimensional radial formation-seal system:

- 133 • The homogeneous storage formation for CO₂ sequestration is of radial extent R and
134 thickness B_f , with an initial porosity ϕ_f . The initial total pore volume is
135 $V_f = \phi_f AB_f = \pi R^2 \phi_f B_f$, where A is the horizontal area. The storage formation has a
136 pore compressibility β_p ($= \frac{1}{\phi_f} \frac{\partial \phi'_f}{\partial p}$, where ϕ'_f is the storage formation porosity,
137 dependent on pressure change), which includes the possible contribution of vertical
138 formation expansion and reflects the confining pressure and overburden stress prior to
139 CO₂ injection.
- 140 • The upper and lower homogeneous seals have a uniform, identical thickness, B_s ,
141 permeability k_s , porosity ϕ_s , and pore compressibility β_{ps} . The total pore volume of
142 both seals is $V_s = 2\phi_s AB_s$.
- 143 • The native brine has compressibility, β_w ($= \frac{1}{\rho_w} \frac{\partial \rho_w}{\partial p}$), representing the change in
144 brine density (ρ_w) in response to pressure buildup, and viscosity, μ_w , dependent on
145 temperature, pressure, and salinity at the initial time of injection.
- 146 • The above hydrogeological parameters are assumed to be constant over the relevant
147 range of pressure conditions, from the initial hydrostatic pressure to the elevated
148 pressure value under final storage conditions. Only porosity changes are considered in
149 response to pressure increases.
- 150 • The storage formation has uniform pressure buildup at any time of injection,
151 independent of formation permeability. This overpressure decreases linearly through
152 the seals to the hydrostatic pressure (prior to CO₂ injection) assumed at the top of the
153 overlying seal and at the bottom of the underlying seal.

154 • All injected CO₂ mass is contained as a CO₂-rich phase, with negligible dissolved
 155 CO₂ mass within the storage formation. The total volume of stored CO₂ depends on
 156 CO₂ density, which in turn depends on temperature and transient pressure conditions.
 157 • Native brine leakage occurs through the entire formation-seal interface with a
 158 uniform leakage rate, independent of CO₂ plume extent.
 159 The validity of some of these assumptions is discussed in Section 4, based on the detailed
 160 simulation results presented in Section 3. Note that the storage formation can have any
 161 shape with varying thickness, because only its total pore volume is used in the quick-
 162 assessment method. Specifications on the geometry of the storage formation have been
 163 chosen for easier comparison with numerical simulation results.

164 2.2. Basic Equations

165 The quick-assessment method considers that the pore volume needed to store injected
 166 CO₂, $V_{CO_2}(t_I)$, after a given injection time, t_I , is provided by three contributions: (1) the
 167 expanded storage volume in the storage formation resulting from pressure buildup, (2)
 168 the expanded storage volume within the seals resulting from pressure buildup, and (3) the
 169 volumetric leakage of brine into the formations above the upper seal and below the lower
 170 seal. The expanded storage volume is caused by both brine and pore compressibility. A
 171 simple expression describes this volumetric relationship, as follows:

$$172 \quad V_{CO_2}(t_I) = (\beta_p + \beta_w) \Delta p(t_I) V_f + 0.5 (\beta_{ps} + \beta_w) \Delta p(t_I) V_s + \int_0^{t_I} \frac{2Ak_s \Delta p(t)}{\mu_w B_s} dt, \quad (1)$$

173 where $\Delta p(t_I)$ is the pressure buildup at time t_I , $\Delta p(t)$ ($t = [0, t_I]$) is the transient
 174 pressure buildup from the beginning to the end of injection, and the factor of 0.5 stems
 175 from the assumption of linear pressure buildup from zero at the top of the overlying seal
 176 (and the bottom of the underlying seal) to the storage-formation value at the formation-

177 seal interfaces. Each of the three terms on the right-hand side of Equation (1) corresponds
 178 to one of the three storage contributions mentioned above. Equation (1) essentially links
 179 $V_{CO_2}(t_I)$ to the average pressure buildup in the storage formation. By solving Equation
 180 (1) for t_I , the total pressure buildup in the closed or semi-closed formation can be
 181 assessed as a function of $V_{CO_2}(t_I)$.

182 Based on the definition of the storage efficiency factor and Equation (1), the storage
 183 efficiency factor, $E(t_I)$, for a semi-closed system can be calculated:

$$184 \quad E(t_I) = (\beta_p + \beta_w)\Delta p(t_I) + 0.5(\beta_{ps} + \beta_w)\frac{V_s}{V_f}\Delta p(t_I) + \int_0^{t_I} \frac{2Ak_s\Delta p(t)}{\mu_w B_s V_f} dt, \quad (2)$$

185 where the storage efficiency factor consists of three individual efficiency contributions
 186 from expanded pore volume in the storage formation and the seals, as well as from brine
 187 leakage into the underlying and overlying formations. To compare the relative
 188 importance of the three individual contributions, we define the volumetric fractions of
 189 displaced brine stored in the storage formation (F_f), in the seals (F_s), and in the
 190 overlying/underlying formations (F_l), relative to the total pore volume storing CO₂, as
 191 follows:

$$192 \quad F_f = (\beta_p + \beta_w)\Delta p(t_I)V_f/V_{CO_2}(t_I), \quad (3a)$$

$$193 \quad F_s = 0.5(\beta_{ps} + \beta_w)\Delta p(t_I)V_s/V_{CO_2}(t_I), \quad (3b)$$

$$194 \quad F_l = \int_0^{t_I} \frac{2Ak_s\Delta p(t)}{\mu_w B_s} dt / V_{CO_2}(t_I). \quad (3c)$$

195 By definition, F_f , F_s , and F_l add up to one. Note that from these volumetric fractions,
196 one can calculate the total volumes of the displaced brine leaking into other formations
197 and stored in the seals and the storage formation, by multiplying these fractions by the
198 volume of stored CO₂ at the final storage condition.

199 Note that V_{CO_2} is not the total volume of CO₂ at the injection condition; it is the total pore
200 volume occupied by injected CO₂ under the final storage condition, depending on the
201 density of CO₂-rich phase. The necessary CO₂ storage capacity for a given site is often
202 provided in total CO₂ mass, M_{CO_2} , instead of V_{CO_2} . Conversion of volume to mass is
203 achieved through $M_{CO_2} = \rho_{CO_2}(t_I)V_{CO_2}$, in which the CO₂ density, ρ_{CO_2} , is evaluated at
204 pressures and temperatures representing the final storage conditions. Because the
205 pressure buildup caused by injection is not known beforehand for a given total CO₂ mass,
206 the CO₂ density at storage conditions is either estimated a priori (in anticipation of an
207 estimated pressure buildup) or determined in an iterative procedure, using the calculated
208 average pressure to correct the density and vice versa.

209 **2.3. Application to Closed Systems**

210 In a closed system, the available volume for storage of CO₂ is provided only by the
211 expansion of the pore volume and the increased brine density in response to pressure
212 buildup in the storage formation. Equation (1) can then be simplified to the following
213 linear expression:

$$214 \quad V_{CO_2}(t_I) = (\beta_p + \beta_w)\Delta p(t_I)V_f \quad (4)$$

215 This equation can be used, for example, to estimate the maximum storage capacity for a
216 given sustainable pressure buildup, Δp_{\max} . Similarly, one can calculate the expected

217 average pressure buildup, $\Delta p(t_I)$, for a given total volume of stored CO₂ or a given CO₂
218 mass.

219 The storage efficiency factor of CO₂ storage in a closed system with average pressure
220 buildup $\Delta p(t_I)$ can be derived from a simplification of Equation (2)

$$221 \quad E = E_p(\Delta p(t_I)) + E_b(\Delta p(t_I)) = (\beta_p + \beta_w)\Delta p(t_I), \quad (5)$$

222 where E_p is the storage efficiency factor caused by pore compressibility, and E_b is the
223 storage efficiency factor produced from brine compressibility. Inserting the sustainable
224 pressure buildup, Δp_{\max} , into Equation (5) results in the maximum storage efficiency. For
225 example, using $\Delta p_{\max} = 6.0$ MPa, a pore compressibility of 4.5×10^{-10} Pa⁻¹ and a brine
226 compressibility of 3.5×10^{-10} Pa⁻¹, we arrive at $E_p = 0.0027$ and $E_b = 0.0021$, and $E =$
227 0.0048 . In other words, less than half a percent of the total pore volume of a closed
228 system would be available for the volumetric storage of CO₂ in a closed system during
229 the injection period.

230 **2.4. Application to Semi-Closed Systems**

231 Unlike the linear relationship of the total volumetric storage capacity and pressure
232 buildup to pore and brine compressibilities for a closed system, such relationships for a
233 semi-closed system are nonlinear and transient, with the pressure buildup in the storage
234 formation affecting leakage rate through the seals, and vice versa. This makes solving of
235 Equation (1) more complicated; however, a solution can be achieved through a simple
236 numerical integration in time. For this purpose, the injection time period $[0, t_I]$ can be
237 discretized into a number (n) of equally spaced time intervals of duration Δt to form a

238 time series: $t_0, t_1, \dots, t_{i-1}, t_i, \dots, t_{n-1}, t_n$, with $t_0 = 0$ and $t_n = t_I$. Equation (1) converts
 239 into its discrete form as follows:

$$240 \quad \Delta p(t_i) = \frac{V_{CO_2}(t_i) - \frac{2Ak_s \Delta t}{\mu_w B_s} \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} \Delta p(t_j)}{(\beta_p + \beta_w)V_f + 0.5(\beta_{ps} + \beta_w)V_s + \frac{Ak_s \Delta t}{\mu_w B_s}}, \quad i = [1, n]. \quad (6)$$

241 At each new time step, the pressure-buildup values at all previous time steps are known,
 242 such that the summation term in Equation (6) (representing the cumulative brine leakage
 243 from beginning of injection to the previous time step) can be executed. Equation (6)
 244 eventually yields the pressure buildup at all time steps from the beginning to the end of
 245 injection. Once Equation (6) has been solved, the storage efficiency factors in Equation
 246 (2) or the volumetric fractions in Equation (3) can be derived using the known injection
 247 and pressure history.

248 In the quick-assessment method, it is assumed that the semi-closed systems have a radial
 249 impervious layer to bound the systems laterally. This method may not be applicable to
 250 the systems bounded laterally by a permeable layer with a permeability value between
 251 those of the storage formation and the overlying/underlying sealing units.

252 Note that continued CO₂ injection into a semi-closed system would eventually lead to a
 253 steady-state condition at which the volumetric injection rate, Q_{CO_2} (as a function of the
 254 steady-state storage condition), equals the rate of displaced brine leakage through the
 255 seals, assuming that the geomechanical and hydraulic integrity of the storage unit and
 256 seals is maintained. The pressure buildup, Δp_s , associated with this steady-state
 257 condition can be calculated as follows:

258
$$\Delta p_s = \frac{Q_{CO_2}}{2Ak_s / \mu_w B_s}, \quad Q_{CO_2} = \frac{G_{CO_2}}{\rho_{CO_2}(\Delta p_s)}, \quad (7)$$

259 where G_{CO_2} is the injection rate of CO₂ mass. If Δp_s is unrealistically high, i.e., higher
260 than the sustainable pressure buildup, the storage capacity is pressure constrained and
261 needs to be evaluated, using Equation (6). If, on the other hand, Δp_s is relatively small,
262 brine leakage through the seals is sufficient to allow for significant CO₂ storage without
263 pressurization concerns. In this case, the semi-closed system acts like an open storage
264 formation, and its storage capacity is not pressure-constrained.

265 **2.5. Sustainable Pressure Buildup**

266 The CO₂ storage capacity of pressure-constrained systems depends on the *sustainable*
267 *pressure buildup* that a given formation-seal system is expected to tolerate without
268 geomechanical degradation (such as microfracturing and/or fault reactivation) of the
269 sealing structures (USEPA, 1994; Neuzil, 2003; Rutqvist and Tsang, 2002; Rutqvist et
270 al., 2007). Fluid pressure in the storage formation may also be constrained to limit the
271 pressure driving forces into neighboring formations, or to account for potential concerns
272 about seismicity. According to Rutqvist et al. (2007), the sustainable pressure buildup
273 should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account initial stress fields and
274 geomechanical properties of the rock units at the selected sites.

275 Some guidance on the determination of a sustainable pressure buildup (for
276 geomechanical damage) is provided by the current practice for underground injection
277 control of liquid wastes. The regulatory standard states that maximum injection pressure
278 should be less than the measured *fracture closure pressure*. Below the fracture closure
279 pressure, any existing fractures cannot open and no new fractures can form, implying no

280 enhanced migration of waste fluids out of the injection intervals (USEPA, 1994). The
281 regional guidance for implementation is that the maximum injection pressures can be
282 determined either by a site-specific fracture closure pressure derived from direct or
283 indirect testing, or by formation-specific default values for the fracture-closure pressure
284 gradients. For example, a default value of 0.0129 MPa/m (130% of the hydrostatic
285 pressure gradient) is given for the Mt. Simon Formation in Illinois, USA; 0.0181 MPa/m
286 (181% of the hydrostatic pressure gradient) is reported for the Dundee Limestone in the
287 Michigan Basin in USA. These fracture-closure pressure gradients correspond to
288 sustainable fluid pressures of 15.5 and 21.7 MPa at 1,200 m depth, leading to sustainable
289 pressure buildup of 3.5 and 9.7 MPa, respectively. In the following example applications,
290 we chose a sustainable pressure buildup of 6.0 MPa, which corresponds to 50% of the
291 initial hydrostatic pressure at the top (1,200 m) of the hypothetical storage formation.
292 This value was used to demonstrate the quick-assessment method, and a site-specific
293 value is needed when applied to a specific geologic site.

294 **3. Numerical Simulations and Results**

295 To validate the quick-assessment method discussed above, the “true” CO₂ storage
296 capacity of closed or semi-closed formations was calculated through numerical
297 simulation of the multiphase flow and multicomponent transport of CO₂ and brine in a
298 hypothetical deep saline formation, using the TOUGH2/ECO2N simulator (Pruess, 2005;
299 Pruess et al., 1999). The validity range of the quick-assessment method was demonstrated
300 using different simulation runs, varying the radial extent to evaluate the effect of storage
301 formation size, varying storage-formation properties to evaluate the uniformity of
302 pressure buildup, and varying seal permeability to investigate the effect of brine leakage

303 into and through the seals and its impact on storage capacity. For each simulation run, we
304 calculated the storage efficiency factor (E) and the domain-averaged pressure buildup. If
305 the simulated pressure buildup in the storage formation at the end of the injection period
306 is less than the sustainable pressure buildup, the designated storage scenario is not
307 pressure-constrained, and we refer to E as the *actual storage efficiency factor*. In contrast,
308 in cases where the simulated pressure buildup exceeds the sustainable pressure buildup
309 (which may occur before reaching the designated injection volume), the storage scenario
310 is pressure-constrained. In such cases, we refer to E as the *maximum storage efficiency*
311 *factor*, which corresponds to the sustainable pressure buildup.

312 **3.1. Model Setup**

313 A two-dimensional radially symmetric model domain was chosen to represent a deep
314 saline aquifer. The storage formation, located at a depth of approximately 1,200 m below
315 the ground surface, is 250 m thick and bounded at the top and bottom by sealing units
316 (caprock and baserock) of 60 m thick each. The outer lateral boundary has a no-flow
317 condition. In the base case, the model domain has a radial extent of 20 km, and the
318 sealing units are assumed to be impervious. Carbon dioxide is injected in a zone of 125 m
319 in thickness and 50 m in radial extent. Injection operates over 30 years at a rate of 120
320 kg/s (i.e., annual rate of 3.8 million tonnes of CO₂). The aquifer is initially fully brine-
321 saturated, assuming a hydrostatic fluid pressure distribution. Isothermal conditions are
322 modeled with a uniform temperature of 45°C. Table 1 lists the assigned values of
323 hydrogeological properties typical of a homogeneous brine aquifer suitable for CO₂
324 storage. Note that the brine compressibility is intrinsically taken into account in
325 TOUGH2/ECO2N in terms of density variation with fluid pressure.

326 The capacity of CO₂ storage in a closed or semi-closed system depends on the
327 hydrogeological properties of the storage formation and the confining units (e.g.,
328 permeability, porosity, and pore compressibility), and the total pore volume of the storage
329 formation (e.g., thickness and radial extent). The sensitivity simulations conducted in this
330 study are listed in Table 2. In each sensitivity case, only the property of interest was
331 changed from the base-case value. The van Genuchten model was used to calculate the
332 capillary pressure and the relative permeabilities for the two phase flow in all the
333 simulation cases (van Genuchten, 1980). This model contains two fitting parameters α
334 and m ; the van Genuchten α parameter represents the inverse of the characteristic
335 capillary pressure or roughly of the entry pressure for the nonwetting phase and the van
336 Genuchten m parameter is a measure of the pore-size distribution. The α and m values of
337 the storage formation used in the simulations are $5.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$ and 0.46, respectively
338 (Table 1). In Cases 10 through 13 with imperfect seals, the seal porosity and α
339 parameter are 0.05 and $5.1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$, respectively. All other properties of the seals are
340 identical to the storage formation. In the model, fixed hydrostatic pressure conditions are
341 set at the top of the upper seal and the bottom of the lower seal.

342 **3.2. Results and Discussion**

343 Figures 2a and 2b show the spatial distributions of CO₂ saturation and pressure buildup
344 (compared to the initial hydrostatic pressure) at the end of the 30-year injection period for
345 the base case. The CO₂ plume is approximately 4 km wide and is concentrated at the top
346 portion of the aquifer, a result of the buoyant CO₂ accumulating below the impervious
347 caprock. As shown in Figure 2b, the region of elevated pressure is much larger than the
348 CO₂ plume size. In fact, a substantial pressure increase is observed throughout the entire

349 20 km model domain, with the pressure buildup at the outer radial boundary at
350 approximately 4.5 MPa. The pressure buildup near the injection zone is slightly higher
351 than 6.0 MPa, thus exceeding the assumed sustainable threshold. Notice that the pressure-
352 buildup contour lines away from the CO₂ plume region are mostly vertical, indicating
353 horizontal brine displacement. Nonvertical contour lines can be seen in the CO₂ plume
354 region, where the pressure conditions are affected by buoyancy and nonlinearity inherent
355 in two-phase flow processes. We may conclude that this example features a pressure-
356 constrained formation near or slightly beyond its capacity limits at the end of the
357 designated injection time.

358 Radial pressure-buildup profiles at different times throughout the injection period are
359 shown in Figure 3. At the very beginning of injection, the injected CO₂ displaces native
360 brine in the area very close to the injection zone. The strong initial pressure buildup
361 results from (1) the driving forces needed to move native brine away from the injection
362 zone and (2) phase interference between aqueous and CO₂ phases in the region of two-
363 phase flow (Pruess and Garcia, 2002). This pressure increase, referred to here as
364 *injection-driven pressure buildup*, depends on the boundary condition (i.e., CO₂ injection
365 rate in the injection zone, injection strategy), formation permeability, and two-phase flow
366 conditions. The pressure pulse propagates away from the injection zone and reaches the
367 outer radial boundary after approximately two years. After that, the pressure at the outer
368 boundary starts to increase with injection time in an approximately linear manner; i.e., the
369 entire model domain becomes overpressurized such that additional pore volume is made
370 available to store the injected CO₂. The pressure buildup related to the need for
371 generating additional pore space is referred to as *storage-driven pressure buildup*, which

372 depends mainly on the pore compressibility of the formation (as well as on changes in
373 brine density).

374 Cases 1 through 5 analyze different storage formation sizes, with radial extent ranging
375 from 10 km to 100 km, including scenarios that range from clearly pressure-constrained
376 to not pressure-constrained for the given injection volume. Figures 2c and 2d show the
377 spatial distribution of CO₂ saturation and pressure buildup at the end of the 30-year
378 injection period for the case of a domain of 100 km radial extent. Comparison of Figures
379 2a and 2c indicates that the CO₂ plumes in both cases are generally similar in shape, with
380 minor differences in the lateral extent of the plumes caused by differences in pressure
381 buildup and thus CO₂ density. In contrast to the small difference in CO₂ plume extent, a
382 significant difference in the pressure conditions is observed in Figures 2b and 2d. The
383 larger model domain is not pressure-constrained, representing the pressure conditions of
384 an open system. As a result, the maximum pressure increase near the injection zone,
385 about half of which is observed in the 20 km case, mainly represents injection-driven
386 pressure buildup. At a radial distance of 20 km, the pressure buildup is 0.8 MPa in the
387 100 km case, significantly lower than the 4.5 MPa observed in the 20 km case. In the 10
388 km case (not shown), the simulated total pressure buildup actually reaches an
389 unrealistically high level at the end of 30-year injection, with maximum values above
390 18.0 MPa. Injection would have to cease after approximately eight years to keep the
391 actual pressure buildup smaller than the sustainable threshold of 6.0 MPa.

392 Figure 4 shows the sensitivity of local pressure buildup near the injection zone to the
393 permeability and pore compressibility of the storage formation. For the case with higher
394 permeability (one order of magnitude higher than the base case), the pressure buildup in

395 the formation is almost uniform over the entire domain, varying from 5.1 MPa close to
396 the injection zone to 4.7 MPa at the outer boundary (Figure 4a). For the second case with
397 a lower permeability (a factor of two lower than the base case), a strong local pressure
398 buildup near the injection zone leads to fluid pressure buildup in excess of the assumed
399 sustainable threshold of 6.0 MPa—see Figure 4b. As a result, the permeability of the
400 storage formation influences both the uniformity of pressure buildup over the domain and
401 the propagation velocity of the pressure pulse away from injection zone. This behavior
402 can be explained easily using the two-dimensional radial flow equation (i.e., the diffusion
403 equation for pressure propagation), and the diffusivity defined by
404 $D_d = k/[\phi_f(\beta_w + \beta_p)\mu_w]$, neglecting the two-phase flow within the CO₂ plume (de
405 Marsily, 1986; Muggeridge et al., 2004). Pressure dissipates (diffuses) faster for higher
406 permeability and/or lower compressibility.

407 As shown in Figures 4c and 4d, the domain-averaged pressure buildup at 30 years is 0.8
408 and 9.0 MPa for the pore compressibility of 4.5×10^{-9} and 4.5×10^{-11} Pa⁻¹, respectively.
409 This indicates that for the case of lower pore compressibility, the system will be pressure-
410 constrained, and the designated CO₂ mass cannot be safely injected into the closed
411 system without geomechanical damage. The pore compressibility of the storage
412 formation is a key input parameter in the quick-assessment method. Wide ranges of pore
413 compressibility have been reported in the literature, depending on the subsurface
414 materials (e.g., Fjaer et al., 1991; Domenico and Schwartz, 1998; Hart, 2000; Harris,
415 2006).

416 Figure 5 shows horizontal profiles of pressure buildup at the top of the storage formation,
417 as a function of seal permeability. The pressure buildup observed in the storage formation
418 is very sensitive to increases in seal permeability. While the lowest seal permeability
419 (10^{-20} m² or 10^{-5} mD) shows a behavior similar to the closed system for the time scale
420 relevant to estimating CO₂ storage capacity (i.e., the injection time period), we see a
421 strong reduction of overall pressure buildup in all other cases, particularly those with
422 permeabilities of 10^{-18} and 10^{-17} m². In these cases, a significant fraction (e.g., 0.46 and
423 0.93) of the displaced brine escapes from the storage formation into the seals, and
424 through the seals into the overlying and underlying formations during the injection period
425 of 30 years, thereby providing additional storage capacity for the injected CO₂ such that
426 less pressure buildup occurs. We have calculated the cumulative fraction of displaced
427 brine escaping from the storage formation relative to the total volume of stored CO₂ at in-
428 situ conditions. With a seal permeability of 10^{-20} m² (10^{-5} mD), this volume fraction is
429 rather insignificant at 0.07, whereas with a seal permeability of 10^{-17} m² (10^{-2} mD), this
430 fraction increases to 0.93; i.e., the additional CO₂ storage capacity from brine leakage
431 would amount to about 93% of the total injected CO₂ at 30 years. (In the latter case, the
432 average Darcy's velocity in the seals is approximately 2.0 mm/year for the steady-state
433 condition.) This effect can be very important for storage-capacity estimates in
434 compartmentalized systems that have sealing units with small, but non-zero,
435 permeability. Notice that the pressure profiles in Figure 5d remain relatively unchanged
436 after a few years of injection, indicating that a quasi-steady state has been reached in
437 which the volumetric rate of leakage of displaced brine is identical to the volumetric rate
438 of injected CO₂ under final storage conditions.

439 In contrast to the significant leakage of displaced brine, negligible amounts of CO₂
440 escape from the storage formation into the seals. The cumulative fractions of CO₂ leaking
441 into the caprock are 0.22, 0.35, 0.70, and 3.1% of the total injected CO₂ mass, for the seal
442 permeability cases of 10⁻²⁰ (10⁻⁵ mD) to 10⁻¹⁷ m² (10⁻² mD) respectively. Most of this
443 leakage is dissolved CO₂ that the quick-assessment method cannot account for, migrating
444 with leaking brine from the storage formation into the seals. Carbon dioxide as the
445 nonwetting-phase fluid needs to overcome a considerable capillary entry pressure before
446 being able to migrate into the water-saturated pores of the sealing units. The observed
447 migration of CO₂ within the seals is limited to the immediate vicinity of the storage
448 formation; CO₂ is not able to escape into units overlying or underlying the seals. When a
449 higher entry pressure is used (as represented by a smaller site-specific value of the van
450 Genuchten α parameter), the CO₂ phase leakage will be smaller.

451 The simulation results suggest that compartmentalized storage reservoirs with reasonably
452 good, but imperfect, seals may allow for enough displaced brine leaking out of the
453 formation to offset pressure-related storage limitations, while still having sufficient
454 sealing capacity to trap supercritical CO₂. Seal permeabilities can range over orders of
455 magnitude, from 10⁻²³ to 10⁻¹⁶ m² (Domenico and Schwartz, 1998; Hart et al., 2006;
456 Hovorka et al., 2001; Neuzil, 1994). Relevant to geological CO₂ sequestration, the
457 measured permeability of the sealing unit overlying the storage formation is 1.0×10^{-18}
458 m² (10⁻³ mD) at the Frio test site (Doughty and Pruess, 2004; Hovorka et al., 2001), and
459 0.75 to 1.5×10^{-18} m² at the Sleipner site (Chadwick et al., 2007).

460 **4. Validity of the Quick-Assessment Method**

461 To validate the quick-assessment method, we derived quick estimates of domain-
462 averaged pressure buildup and storage efficiency factors for the simulation scenarios
463 discussed above, and compared those estimates with their corresponding “true” values
464 obtained via detailed numerical simulations.

465 **4.1. Comparison of Pressure-Buildup Estimates**

466 The first step in demonstrating the validity of the quick-assessment method is to compare
467 the estimated domain-averaged pressure buildup against the numerical simulation results
468 for both closed and semi-closed systems. Figure 6a shows domain-averaged pressure
469 buildup, as a function of injection time, for closed systems of varying total pore volume
470 (Cases 1 through 5 in Table 2). The quick-assessment estimates have been obtained using
471 Equation (4), solving for pressure buildup $\Delta p(t)$ at given times t during the injection
472 period. The corresponding cumulative CO₂ volume $V_{CO_2}(t)$ at each time step t is derived
473 from the constant CO₂ injection rate of 120 kg/s used in the numerical simulation, and the
474 CO₂ density under the storage condition. Conversion from CO₂ mass to CO₂ volume is
475 conducted at each time step using the CO₂ density calculated at average pressure
476 conditions. The agreement between the true numerical solutions and the quick estimates
477 is excellent, considering that several simplifications and assumptions are involved in the
478 quick-assessment method (e.g., uniform pressure buildup in domain, no dissolution,
479 constant compressibility values). In Case 2, with 10 km radial extent, pressure builds up
480 to values exceeding the sustainable pressure threshold soon after injection.

481 Figures 6b and 6c show domain-averaged pressure buildup for the closed-system cases
482 with varying formation permeability (Cases 1, 6, and 7 in Table 2) and varying pore

483 compressibility (Cases 1, 8, and 9 in Table 2), for a radial extent of 20 km. The results of
484 the quick-assessment method are independent of formation permeability, and only one
485 profile obtained by the quick-assessment method is shown in Figure 6b. The agreement
486 between simulated and estimated average pressure buildup is very good. While formation
487 permeability defines the magnitude of local injection-driven pressure buildup (see Figure
488 4), the average pressure change over the entire domain is hardly affected by permeability
489 changes. Pore compressibility, in contrast, has a strong impact on the average pressure
490 buildup in response to CO₂ injection (Figure 6c). In the case with the lowest pore
491 compressibility, pressure buildup is so strong that the designated CO₂ volume cannot be
492 safely stored. Since pore compressibility is a parameter explicitly accounted for in the
493 quick-assessment method, the quick-assessment estimates provide an accurate
494 representation of the detailed simulation results.

495 Figure 6d shows a similar comparison of domain-averaged pressure buildup for the semi-
496 closed system with nonideal seals of different permeability (Cases 10 through 13). In
497 these cases, the quick-assessment estimates are obtained using Equation (6). Overall, the
498 agreement between estimated and numerical results is reasonably good, with a maximum
499 discrepancy of less than 6%. While the quick-assessment method captures well the
500 general transient, nonlinear trends in pressure buildup, it slightly underestimates the
501 pressure buildup for the case with the lowest seal permeability (i.e., 10⁻²⁰ m² or 10⁻⁵ mD)
502 and slightly overestimates pressure buildup in the cases with relatively high seal
503 permeability (e.g., 10⁻¹⁷ m² or 10⁻² mD).

504 Both numerical and estimated results show clearly that the average pressure approaches
505 an asymptotic maximum after a few years for the case with the relatively high seal
506 permeability of 10⁻¹⁷ m² (Figure 6d). This indicates a steady-state condition with equal
507 volumetric rates of CO₂ entering and displaced brine leaving the storage formation. We

508 apply Equation (7) to estimate the average pressure buildup that would correspond to
509 such a condition and arrive at values of 0.34, 3.23, and 27.02 MPa for the three cases
510 with seal permeabilities of 10^{-17} , 10^{-18} , and 10^{-19} m² (10^{-2} , 10^{-3} , 10^{-4} mD), respectively. In
511 the first case, the estimated value is identical to the final pressure buildup shown in
512 Figure 6d. In the second case, a steady-state condition has not yet been established after
513 30 years of injection, but would be reached if injection would continue for a few more
514 years. The pressure value of 3.23 MPa associated with this steady-state condition is less
515 than the sustainable pressure threshold, indicating that this scenario would not be
516 pressure-constrained even if the injection period were much longer. In the third case,
517 however, with a seal permeability of 10^{-19} (10^{-4} mD) or less, a steady-state condition
518 cannot be reached without geomechanical degradation.

519 In summary, the quick-assessment method provides reliable pressure estimates that can
520 be compared with the sustainable pressure buildup to judge whether the designated
521 volume of CO₂ can be safely stored in a storage formation, with or without vertical
522 interlayer communication with other formations.

523 **4.2. Comparison of Storage Efficiency Factors for Closed Systems**

524 We now compare the calculated and estimated (actual) storage efficiency factors of CO₂
525 storage in a closed system with different total pore volume (i.e., radial extents of 10, 20,
526 30, 50, 100 km). The estimated values are obtained using Equation (5) and the pressure
527 buildup calculated from Equation (4) for the same injection and storage-formation
528 conditions as in the numerical simulations. We calculate the actual storage efficiency
529 factor corresponding to the considered scenarios of injection and observed pressure
530 buildup, regardless of whether this pressure buildup is higher than the sustainable

531 pressure buildup. Notice that the simulated storage efficiency factors include storage
532 contributions from CO₂ in supercritical phase, as well as CO₂ dissolved in brine.

533 Table 3 shows the comparison of the actual storage efficiency factors for each case after
534 30 years of injection, indicating reasonable agreement between estimated and calculated
535 results. The quick-assessment estimates are slightly higher than those obtained through
536 detailed numerical simulations. The significant decrease in the actual storage efficiency
537 factor is observed with the increase in the radial extent, because of the decrease in the
538 pressure buildup. In comparison, the maximum storage efficiency factor, calculated using
539 the sustainable pressure buildup of 6.0 MPa and assigned brine and pore compressibilities
540 would be $E = 0.0048$. The calculated actual storage efficiency factors can be evaluated
541 against the maximum storage efficiency factor to check whether the designated CO₂
542 volume can be safely stored.

543 **4.3. Comparison of Storage Contributions for Semi-Closed Systems**

544 In this validation exercise, we compare the three volumetric fractions for a semi-closed
545 system obtained through the quick-assessment method (using Equations 3a through 3c)
546 against those directly derived from the numerical simulations. Table 4 summarizes the
547 results at the end of the 30-year injection period for the different seal permeability cases.
548 Most of the storage capacity is provided by the storage formation when seal permeability
549 is low (e.g., more than 90% for seal permeability of 10^{-20} m² or 10^{-5} mD). In contrast,
550 most of the storage capacity is provided by brine escaping through the seals when seal
551 permeability is comparably high (e.g., more than 90% for seal permeability of 10^{-17} m² or
552 10^{-2} mD). In all cases, the match between the simulated and estimated fractions is
553 reasonably good. The largest relative discrepancies occur with respect to the seal storage

554 of brine, because of the assumed linear pressure variation within the seals in the quick-
555 assessment method.

556 **4.4. Adequacy of Important Assumptions and Simplifications**

557 As shown in the above comparisons, the quick-assessment method provides reasonable
558 estimates for the CO₂ storage capacity and pressure buildup in closed and semi-closed
559 saline formations at various conditions. The accuracy of these estimates depends on the
560 degree to which the process-related assumptions are satisfied in a real problem. One
561 assumption is that the pressure buildup throughout the entire storage formation is
562 uniform. This assumption works well as long as the average pressure is reasonably
563 representative of the true pressure conditions (or, in other words, if the injection-driven
564 pressure buildup is less important than the storage-driven pressure buildup). The detailed
565 simulations in Section 3.2 feature one sensitivity case with small formation permeability
566 of 5×10^{-14} m² (50 mD), where injection pressure alone exceeds the sustainable threshold.
567 The quick-assessment method is not applicable in this case.

568 We generally recommend judging the quick-assessment results with care, knowing that
569 average pressure predictions may underestimate the local conditions near the injection
570 zone. On the other hand, the assumption of negligible CO₂ dissolution leads to an
571 overestimation of pressure buildup and an underestimation of CO₂ storage capacity. The
572 resultant approximation error depends on the CO₂ solubility in brine (which in turn varies
573 with pressure, temperature, and salinity) and the fraction of CO₂ in contact with water.
574 The detailed numerical simulations presented in this study suggest that the mass fraction
575 of CO₂ dissolved in brine ranges from 0.02 to 0.03, and that the dissolved CO₂ accounts
576 for approximately 7% of the total injected CO₂ mass at the end of 30-year injection.

577 Carbon dioxide density is calculated based on the estimated domain-averaged pressure
578 buildup at storage conditions and the initial hydrostatic pressure. The density calculation
579 captures transient pressure changes, but still introduces some inaccuracies because the
580 domain-averaged pressure buildup may differ from actual pressure conditions within the
581 CO₂ plume (which, of course, define CO₂ density). For native brine, the assumption of
582 constant viscosity and compressibility leads to negligible errors over the pressure range
583 relevant in this study.

584 **5. Summary and Conclusions**

585 We evaluated the CO₂ storage capacity in compartmentalized structures, where potential
586 storage formations are bounded laterally and by overlying/underlying seals. If CO₂ is
587 injected at an industrial scale into such closed systems (with impervious seals) or semi-
588 closed systems (with non-ideal seals), pressure buildup can have a limiting effect on CO₂
589 storage capacity. We developed a simple quick-assessment method to assess the expected
590 pressure buildup and CO₂ storage capacity in such potentially pressure-constrained
591 systems. For validation of the method, we used “true” results from a numerical
592 simulation model, which captures all relevant multiphase processes, determining the
593 transient pressure buildup and CO₂ plume evolution in a hypothetical two-dimensional
594 radial system.

595 The validity of the proposed method was demonstrated by the good agreement between
596 the simple estimates and the numerical results regarding (1) the pressure buildup history
597 over the injection period and (2) the storage efficiency factor calculated at the end of the
598 injection period. We consider the new method useful for site selection and
599 characterization, when storage capacity estimates may have to be compared over a large

600 number of sites. For a storage formation of relatively low permeability, the quick-
601 assessment method may not be suitable because of low injectivity and high degree of
602 non-uniformity of the pressure field, and detailed numerical simulations are required.

603 One interesting finding of this research is the importance of upper- and lower-seal
604 permeability on pressure buildup in the storage formation. Closed systems with
605 impermeable seals allow CO₂ storage only up to the point at which pressure in the storage
606 formation approaches a sustainable threshold. This pressure constraint translates into
607 small storage efficiency, on the order of 0.5% of the initial pore space for a typical pore
608 compressibility value. However, only storage-formation-seal systems with very low seal
609 permeabilities of 10⁻²⁰ m² or less exhibit such a closed-system behavior at the time scale
610 of interest to capacity estimation; i.e., the leakage of native brine into and through the
611 bounding seals is so small that the observed pressure buildup is similar to a closed
612 system. With seal permeability varying from 10⁻¹⁹ to 10⁻¹⁷ m², brine leakage into and
613 through the seals had a moderate to strong effect in reducing or limiting the pressure
614 buildup in the storage formation, thus allowing for considerably higher storage
615 efficiency, while CO₂ was still safely trapped because of the combined capillary and
616 permeability barriers. Our results indicate that a semi-closed system with seal
617 permeability of 10⁻¹⁷ m² is essentially an open system with respect to pressure buildup,
618 because the rate of displaced brine leaking through the seals equals the rate of injected
619 CO₂ at a later time of injection.

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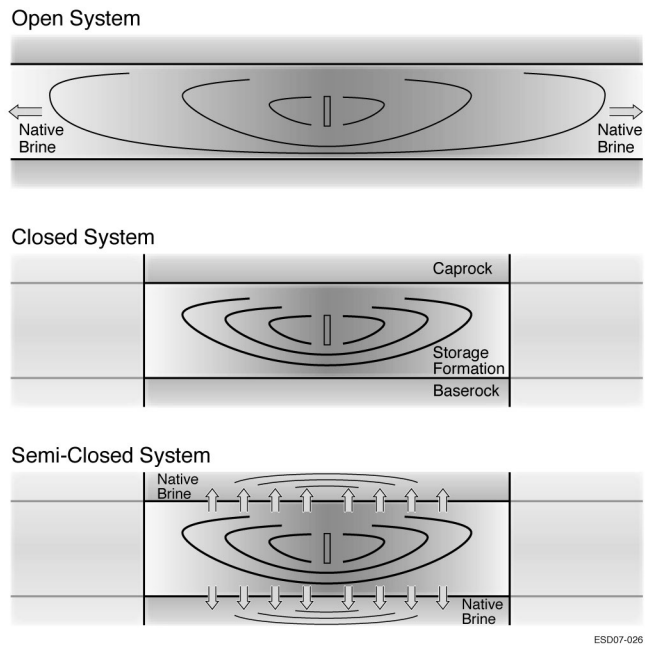
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740 conductivity of unsaturated soils. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 44, 892–898.

- 741 Figure 1. Schematic showing open systems versus closed or semi-closed systems (not to
742 scale)
- 743 Figure 2. Spatial distributions, simulated at 30 years of CO₂ injection, of (a) CO₂
744 saturation and (b) pressure buildup for the base case with the closed domain of
745 a 20 km radial extent, and (c) CO₂ saturation and (d) pressure buildup for the
746 case of a closed domain of 100 km radial extent. Figures 2a and 2c show
747 close-ups of the CO₂ plume region with two-phase flow of CO₂ and brine
- 748 Figure 3. Pressure-buildup profiles along the aquifer top at different injection times.
749 Filled squares indicate the CO₂ plume extent to show the radial extent of the
750 evolving two-phase flow region
- 751 Figure 4. Horizontal profiles of pressure buildup at different times of CO₂ injection for
752 formation permeability of (a) 10^{-12} and (b) 5×10^{-14} m², and pore
753 compressibility of (c) 4.5×10^{-9} and (d) 4.5×10^{-11} Pa⁻¹. All other parameters
754 are kept the same as the base case. See comparison with Figure 3
- 755 Figure 5. Horizontal profiles of pressure buildup along the aquifer top at different times
756 of CO₂ injection for seal permeability of (a) 10^{-20} , (b) 10^{-19} , (c) 10^{-18} , and (d)
757 10^{-17} m². See comparison with Figure 3
- 758 Figure 6. Comparison of the transient profiles of domain-averaged pressure buildup
759 obtained through numerical simulations and through the quick-assessment
760 method for (a) a closed system with varying radial extents R , (b) a closed
761 system with radial extent $R = 20$ km and varying formation permeability, (c) a
762 closed system with radial extent $R = 20$ km and varying pore compressibility,
763 and (d) a semi-closed system with radial extent $R = 20$ km and seals of
764 varying permeability (k_s)

- 765 Table 1. Hydrogeologic properties for the storage formation and CO₂ injection rate used
766 in the base-case simulations
- 767 Table 2. Numerical simulation runs for different radial extents of storage formation, and
768 different values of permeability and pore compressibility of the storage
769 formation, as well as permeability of the seals
- 770 Table 3. Comparison of the actual storage efficiency factors for CO₂ storage in closed
771 systems, obtained through numerical simulation results and the quick-
772 assessment method in Equation (5), at 30 years of injection
- 773 Table 4. Comparison between simulated and estimated volumetric fractions of
774 displaced brine stored in the storage formation, in the seals, and in the
775 overlying and underlying formations, relative to the total pore volume
776 occupied by CO₂ at the end of the 30-year injection period, for different seal
777 permeability values

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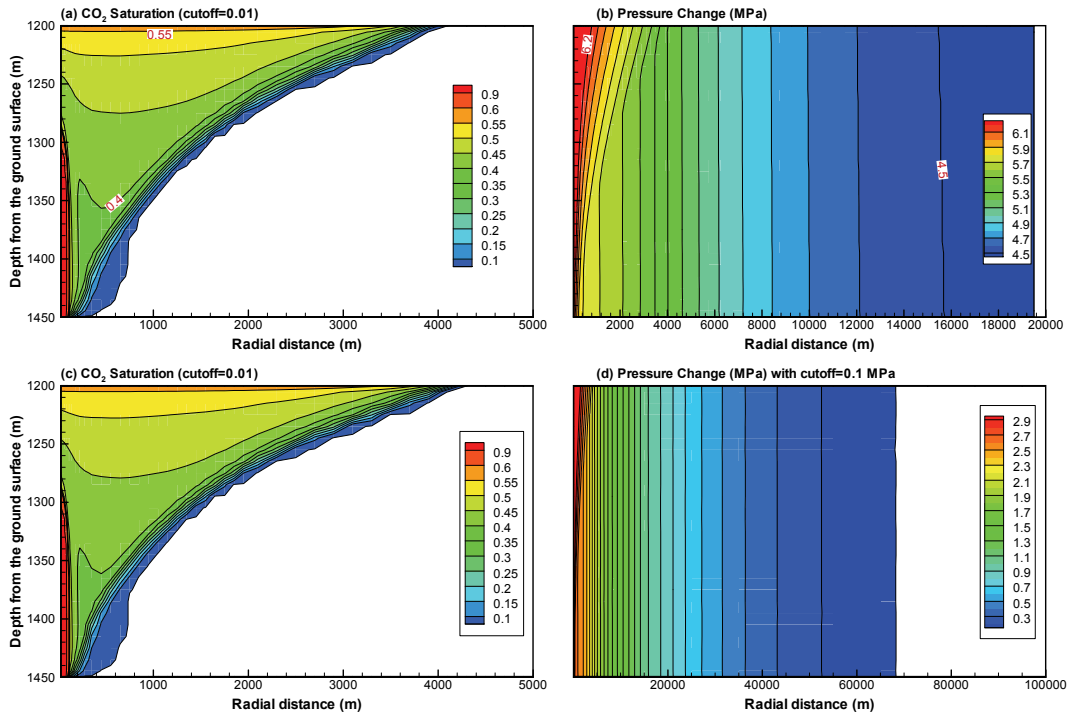


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780 Figure 1.

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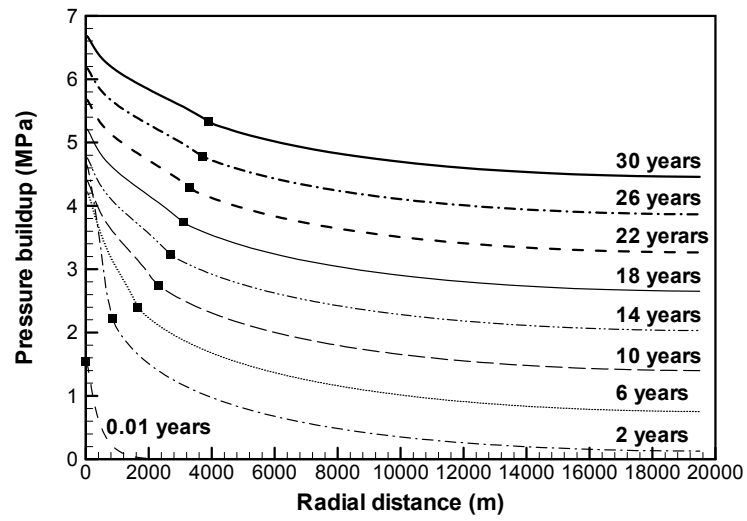
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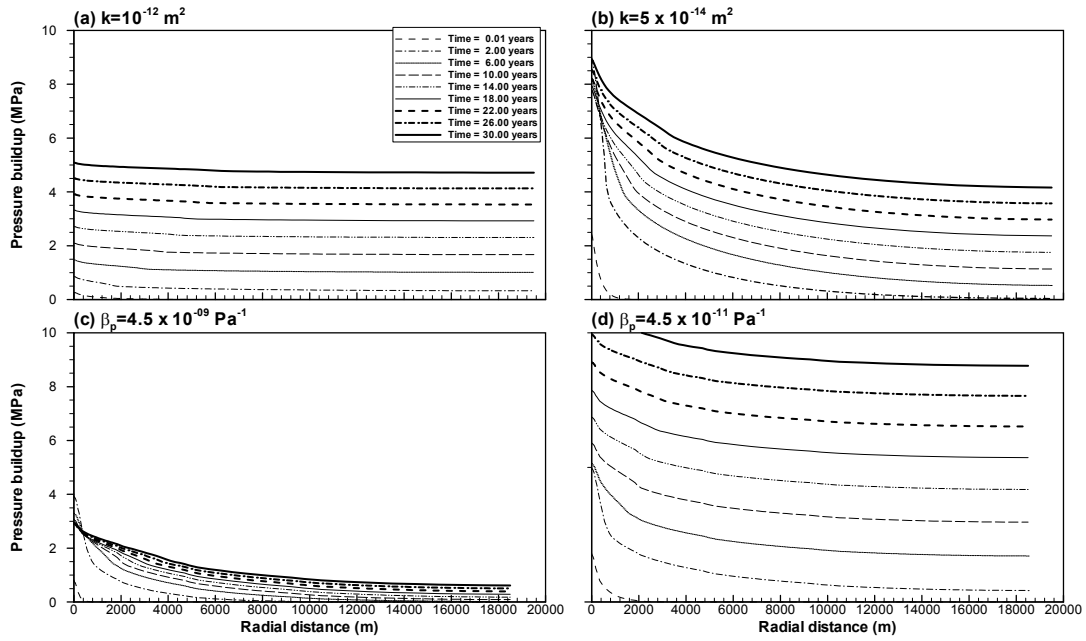
Figure 2.

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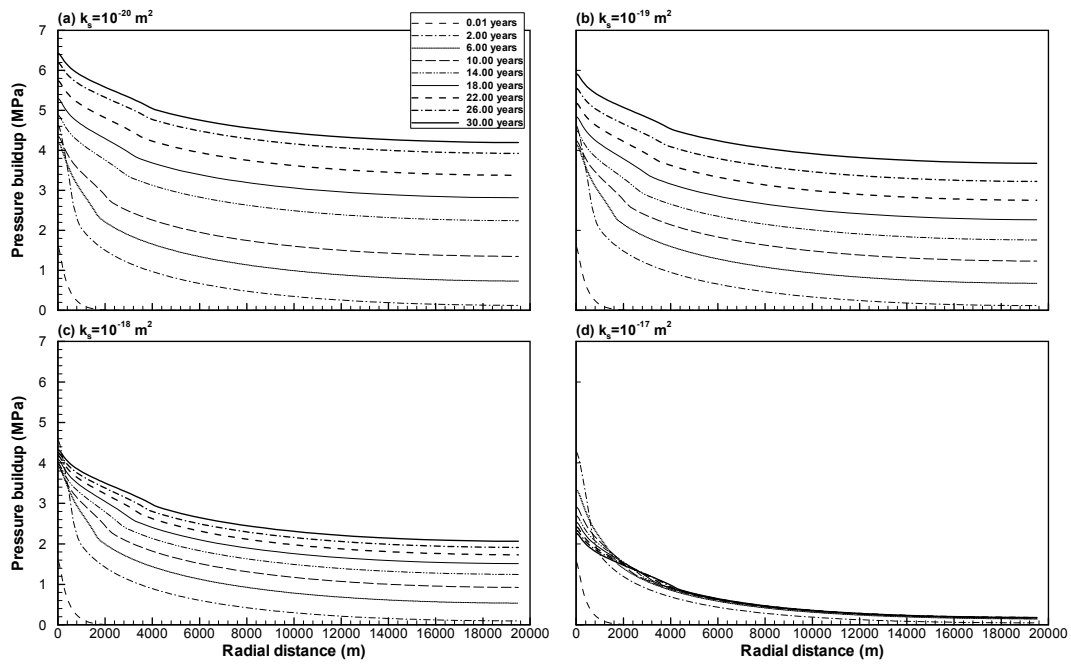
787 Figure 3.



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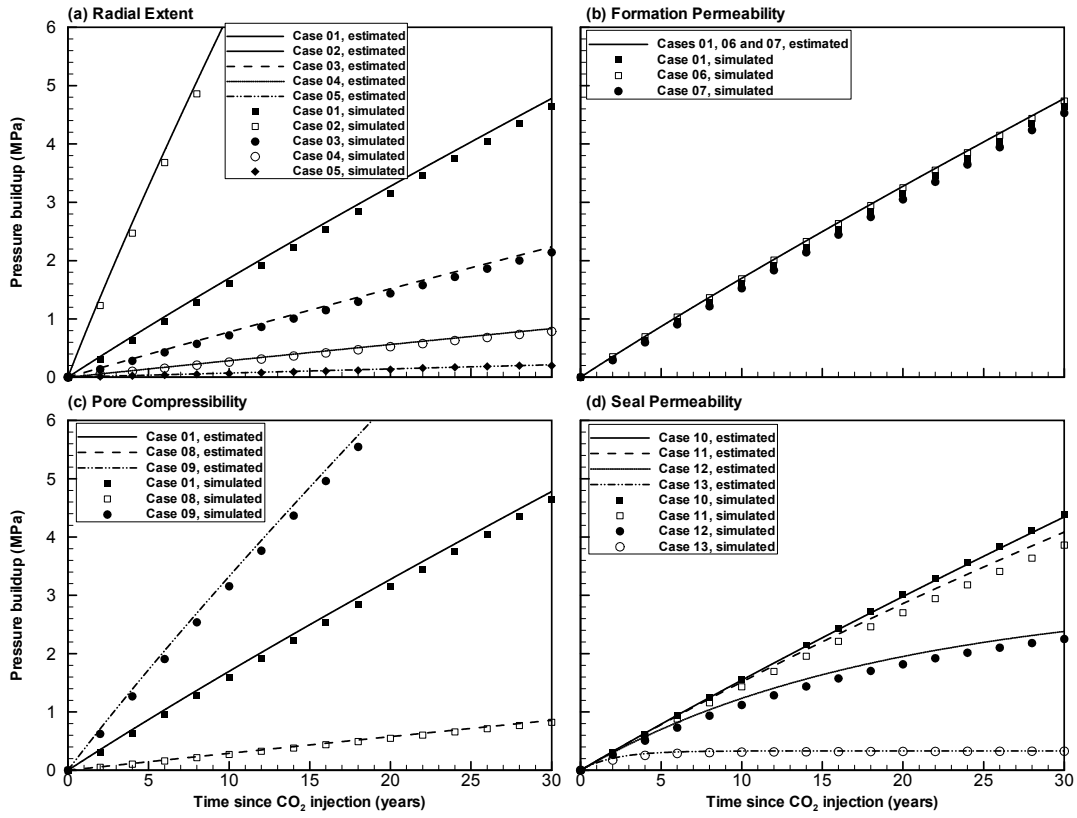
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791 Figure 4.



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794 Figure 5.



795

796 Figure 6.

797 Table 1.

Properties	Values
Horizontal permeability (m ²)	10 ⁻¹³
Vertical permeability (m ²)	10 ⁻¹³
Pore Compressibility (Pa ⁻¹)	4.5 × 10 ⁻¹⁰
Porosity	0.12
van Genuchten (1980) <i>m</i>	0.46
van Genuchten α (Pa ⁻¹)	5.1 × 10 ⁻⁵
Residual CO ₂ saturation	0.05
Residual water saturation	0.30
CO ₂ injection rate (kg/s)	120

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799 Table 2.

	Case No	Radial Extent (km)	Formation Permeability (m ²)	Formation Compressibility (Pa ⁻¹)	Seal Permeability (m ²)
Base Case	Case 1	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
Storage Formation Volume	Case 2	10	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
	Case 3	30	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
	Case 4	50	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
	Case 5	100	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
Formation Permeability	Case 6	20	1.0×10^{-12}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
	Case 7	20	5.0×10^{-14}	4.5×10^{-10}	0
Formation Compressibility	Case 8	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-09}	0
	Case 9	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-11}	0
Seal Permeability	Case 10	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	1.0×10^{-20}
	Case 11	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	1.0×10^{-19}
	Case 12	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	1.0×10^{-18}
	Case 13	20	1.0×10^{-13}	4.5×10^{-10}	1.0×10^{-17}

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801 Table 3.

		Simulation-Based Results			Quick-Assessment Estimates
Domain Radius (km)	Initial Pore Volume (10^9 m^3)	Total Stored CO_2 Volume ^a (10^9 m^3)	Average Pressure Buildup Δp (MPa)	Actual Storage Efficiency Factor	Actual Storage Efficiency Factor
100	942.5	0.139	0.2	0.00015	0.00017
50	235.6	0.138	0.79	0.00059	0.00066
30	84.8	0.136	2.14	0.0016	0.0018
20	37.7	0.131	4.64	0.0035	0.0039
10	9.4	0.117	16.60 ^b	0.0124	0.014 ^b

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^a Injected mass is identical for all domains. Stored volumes differ slightly because of different pressure/density conditions.

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^b Average pressure buildup is higher than sustainable threshold. The calculated actual storage efficiency is therefore not feasible.

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808 Table 4.

Seals Permeability	Simulation Results			Estimation by Equation (3)		
	Storage Formation	Seals	Other Formations	Storage Formation	Seals	Other Formations
10^{-17} m^2	0.071	0.011	0.918	0.069	0.007	0.925
10^{-18} m^2	0.470	0.104	0.426	0.500	0.050	0.450
10^{-19} m^2	0.824	0.150	0.026	0.850	0.085	0.065
10^{-20} m^2	0.931	0.059	0.010	0.903	0.090	0.007

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