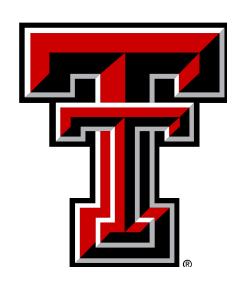


# Experimental Insights on the Impact of Injection Strategies on CO<sub>2</sub> Storage in Aquifers

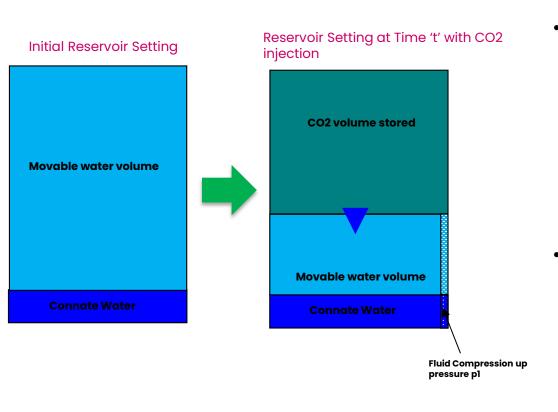


Dr. Stella Eyitayo

Texas Tech University (Geoenergy, Unconventional Resources, Numerical Simulation)

#### **Storage Capacity and Efficiency**





Storage Capacity=  $Ah\emptyset (1 - S_{wirr})$ 

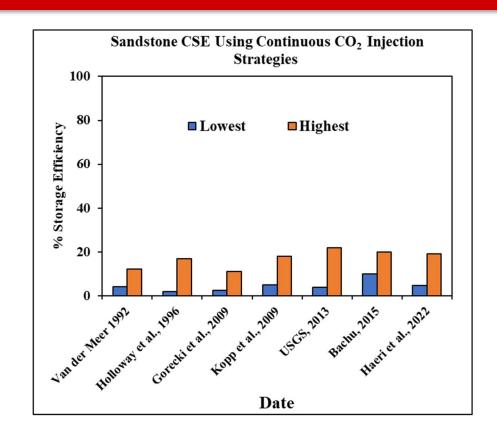
- Storage capacity is a pore volume within the structure or alternatively, the volume of mobile water within the structure (Total Storage, total pore volume, effective pore volume, bulk volume, or storable quantity for a specific project)
- Storage efficiency is the ratio of estimated ultimate storage to the storage capacity

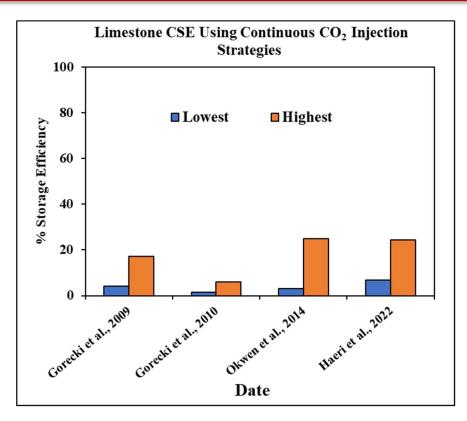
$$E_{saline} = E_{A_n/A_t} \times E_{h_n/h_g} \times E_{\phi_e/\phi_{tot}} \times E_v \times E_d$$

 $E_{An/At} - \text{Net-to-total area}$   $E_{An/At} - \text{Net-to-total area}$   $E_{hn/hg} - \text{Net-to-gross thickness}$   $E_{\phi e/\phi tot} - \text{Effective-to-total porosity}$   $E_{d} - \text{Microscopic displacement efficiency} = 1 - \text{Swirr}$   $E_{v} - \text{Volumetric displacement efficiency} = E_{A} E_{v} E_{g}$ 

#### Subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> storage gaps







- There is a need to optimize or enhance all the storage trapping mechanisms, limiting rock alterations in the formation.
- There are limited storage efficiency (partly may be due to method of estimation) due to constraint such as Overpressure, capillary breakthrough, and injectivity impairment limit CO2 storage efficiency

#### **Optimize Storage Efficiency**



#### Accurate Site Characterization



- Identify key geological properties, such as porosity, permeability
- Evaluate caprock integrity or seal performance
- Detect the presence of faults or fractures, which influence storage capacity and efficiency

#### Reservoir Monitoring and Surveillance



- Continuous monitoring and modeling to assess storage performance
- Track changes in pressure temperature and the spatial distribution of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Detect potential leakage pathways
- Information used to adapt injection strategies and improve storage efficiency

#### Maintaining CO<sub>2</sub> storage Supercritical Condition



- scCO<sub>2</sub>, rather than gas, occupies less volume, allowing for greater storage efficiency.
- scCO<sub>2</sub> has a higher density than gaseous CO<sub>2</sub> and occupies less volume, allowing for more efficient use of available pore space and better storage capacity
- CO<sub>2</sub>-interaction with reservoir fluid

#### **Injection Strategy**



- Injection Scheme-Rate, pressure, etc.
- Duration of injection, CO<sub>2</sub>
   plume distribution, CO<sub>2</sub>
   trapping mechanism
- Well type/Orientation, pattern, spacing, and number
- Monitoring and adaptive management

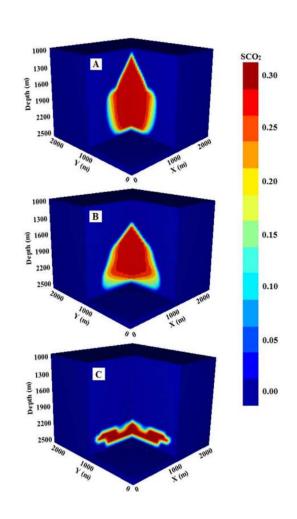
#### **Optimizing Injection through Injection schemes**

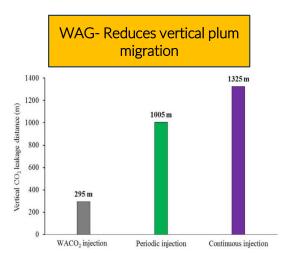


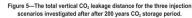
	Injection Strategy	Description	Reservoir Type	Type of Study
	Continuous CO <sub>2</sub> Injection	CO <sub>2</sub> is injected at a constant rate over time.	Deep Saline Aquifers, CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR	Field/Pilot
	Cyclic CO <sub>2</sub> Injection	Alternating periods of CO <sub>2</sub> injection and shut-in to allow pressure equilibration and enhance trapping.	CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR	Numerical Simulation, Field
•	Water Alternating Gas (WAG)	CO <sub>2</sub> injections are alternated with water injections to enhance sweep efficiency	CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR	Field/Pilot, Numerical Simulation
_	Simultaneous CO <sub>2</sub> and Brine Aquifer Injection (SAI)	Simultaneous injection of CO <sub>2</sub> and brine to enhance sweep efficiency	CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR	Numerical Simulation
	Pulsed CO <sub>2</sub> Injection	Short, repeated bursts of $CO_2$ injection to optimize plume distribution and prevent pressure build-up.	Deep Saline Aquifers, CO <sub>2</sub> -EOR	Numerical Simulation
	Push-Pull Injection	${\rm CO_2}$ (push) is injected, followed by water or ${\rm CO_2}$ -saturated water, and subsequent fluid withdrawal (pull).		Experiment, Field/Pilot
	Dissolved CO <sub>2</sub> Injection	Injection of CO <sub>2</sub> dissolved in brine at the surface to minimize free-phase CO <sub>2</sub> migration.	Deep Saline Aquifers	Numerical Simulation, Experiment
	Continuous Injection with Pressure Management	CO <sub>2</sub> injection combined with water production from adjacent wells to control reservoir pressure.	Deep Saline Aquifers	Numerical Simulation, Field
	Acid-Gas Injection	Injection of a CO <sub>2</sub> -H <sub>2</sub> S mixture, sometimes dissolved in brine, for storage or disposal.	Depleted Oil and Gas Reservoirs, Deep Saline Aquifers	Field/Pilot

#### **Numerical Insight**









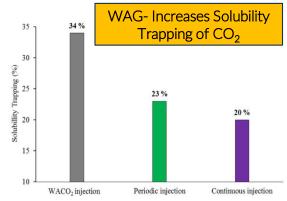


Figure 7—The percentage of the solubility trapping capacity to the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> injected (20 Mton) for the three injection scenarios investigated after 200 years CO<sub>2</sub> storage period.

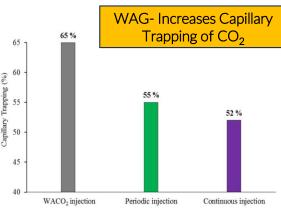


Figure 6—The percentage of the capillary trapping capacity to the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> injected (20 Mton) for the three injection scenarios investigated after after 200 years CO<sub>2</sub> storage period.

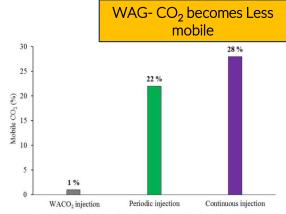


Figure 8—The percentage of the free CO<sub>2</sub> to the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> injected (20 Mton) for the three injection scenarios investigated after 200 years CO<sub>2</sub> storage period

Al-Khdheeawi, Emad A. et al (2018)

What if low-salinity or freshwater is replaced by high-salinity water? What is the effect?

#### Requirements



Provide experimental data to calibrate and validate the concept of using WAG/ SAI injection strategy to improve storage efficiencies of DSAs.

This includes the microstructural, mineralogical, petrophysical, and geomechanical changes in sandstone and carbonate.

This also includes substituting the injected water with high salinity water to mimic the PW scenario for water conservation

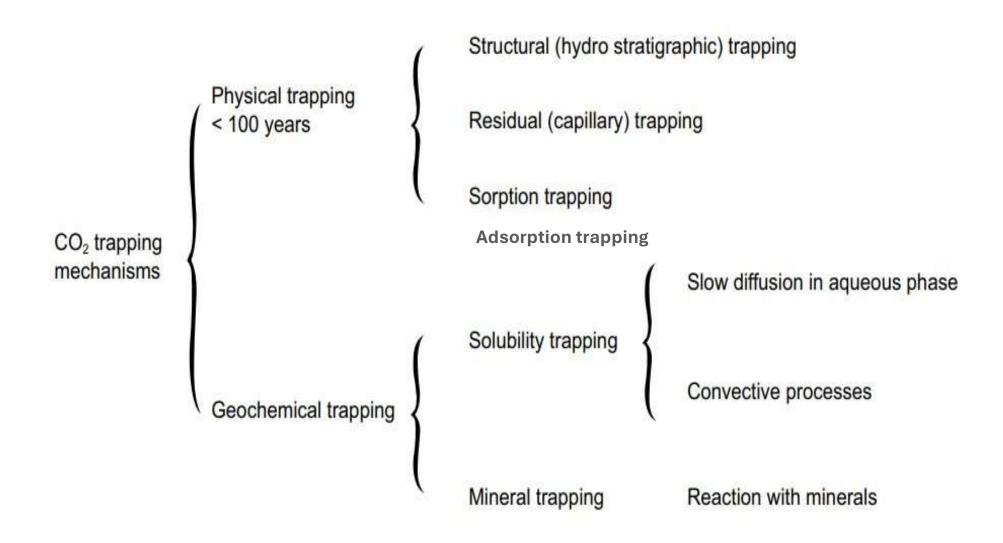
Numerical simulation to quantify the life cycle storage efficiency and also identify risks and uncertainties that could occur.



## Experimental Investigation

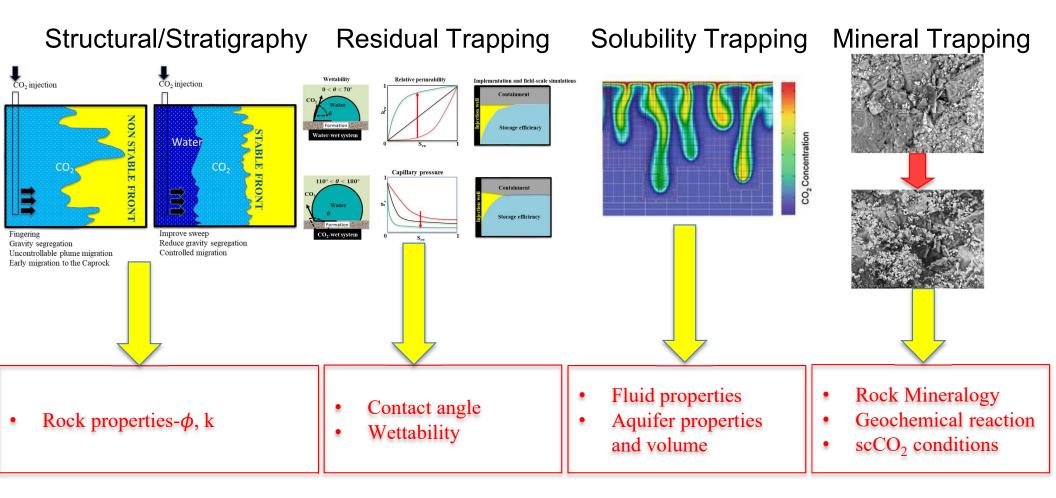
#### **Storage Trapping Mechanism**





#### **Properties Indicative of Storage Mechanism**





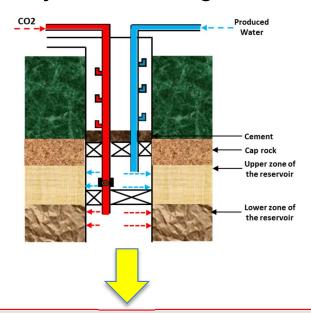
#### Reservoir Integrity

Rock Geomechanical properties

#### Parameters considered in the experimental study



#### **Injection Strategies**



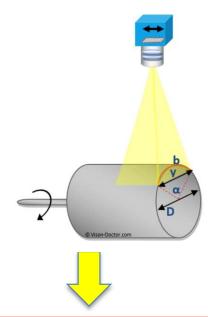
Salinity Effect





- •scCO<sub>2</sub> Continuous Injection(base case)-CCI
- •scCO<sub>2</sub> and water/brine alternating injection-WAG
- •scCO<sub>2</sub> and water/brine simultaneous injection-SAI
- 0g/l, (0ppm)
- 20g/l (20,000ppm)
- 50g/l (50,000ppm)
- 100g/l (100,000ppm)
- 200g/1 (200,000ppm)

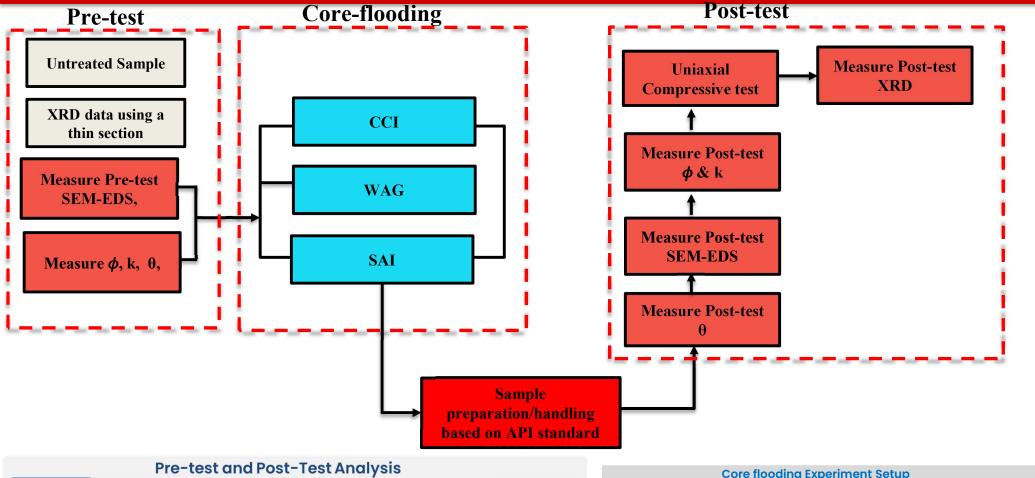
#### Different Exposure times

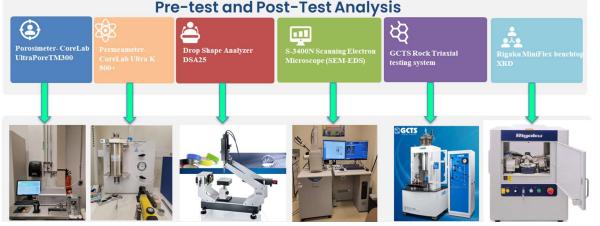


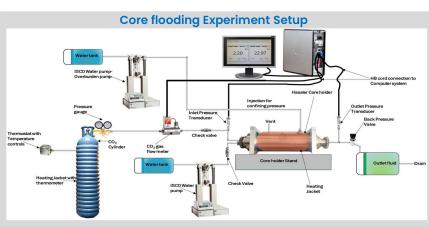
- 75PV injection (24hours CO<sub>2</sub> injection)
- 225PV injection (72 hours CO<sub>2</sub> injection)
- 525PV injection (168hrs of scCO<sub>2</sub> injection)

#### Comprehensive Experimental Workflow



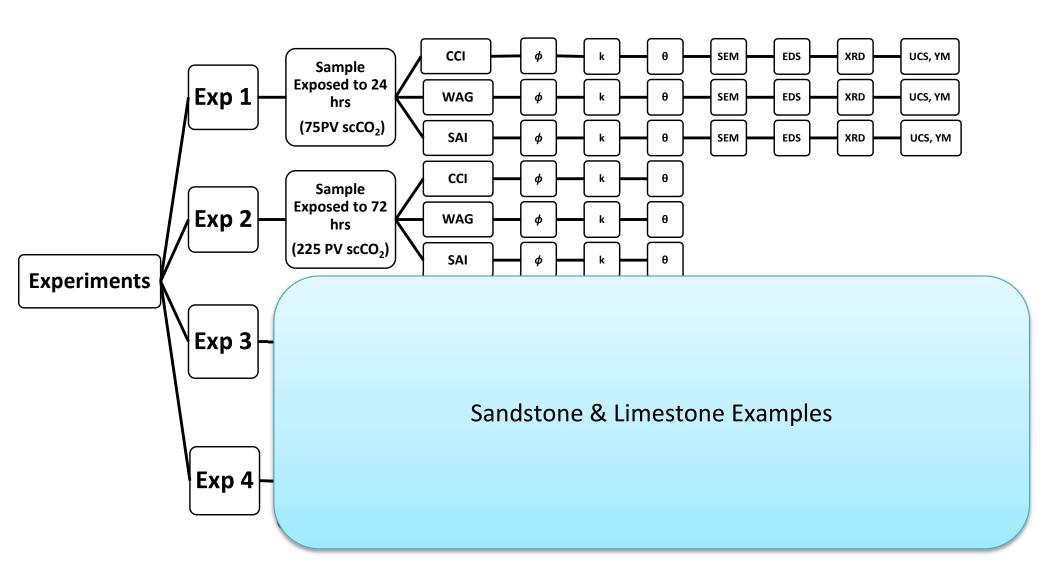






### Experimental Design (Cont'd)



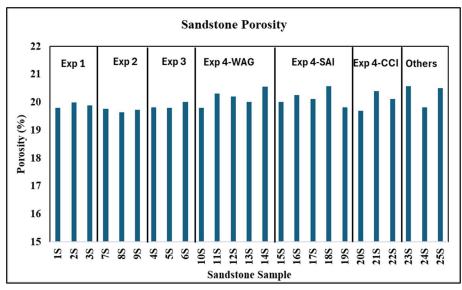


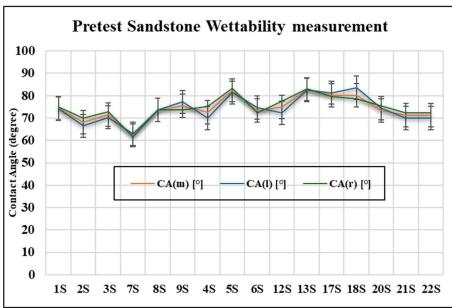
over 500 experiments (24 core flooding exposures, 110 pretests, and 120 post-tests each for Sandstone & Carbonate samples)

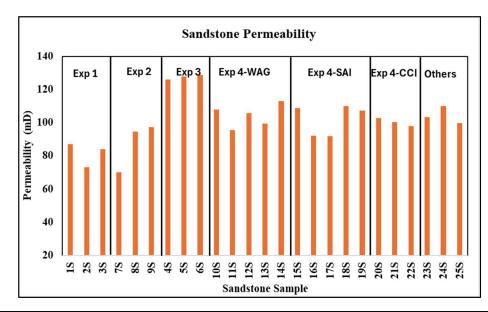
#### **Pretest**

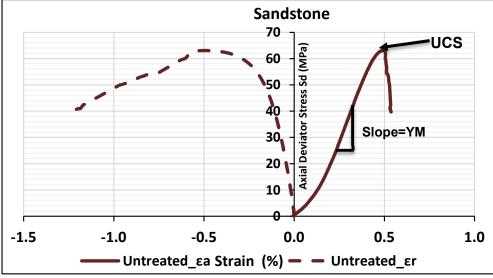
#### (Sandstone Examples)







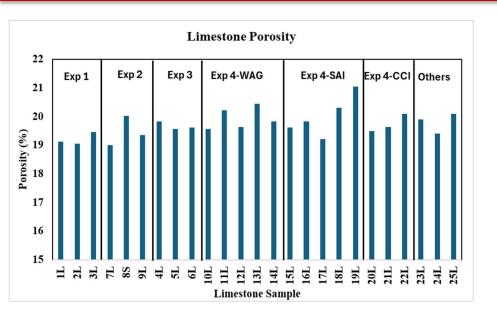


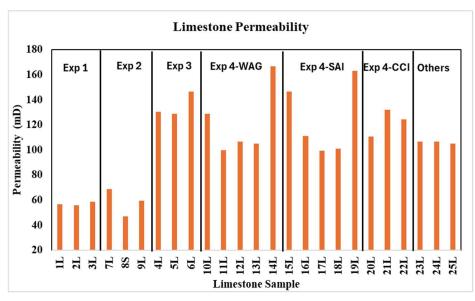


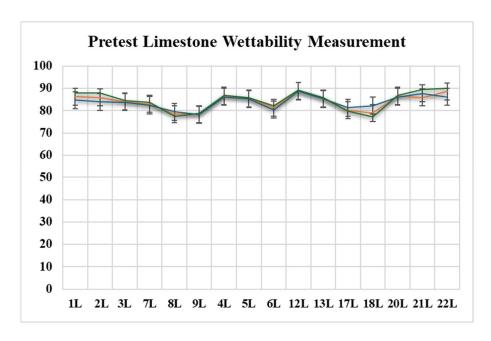
#### **Pretest**

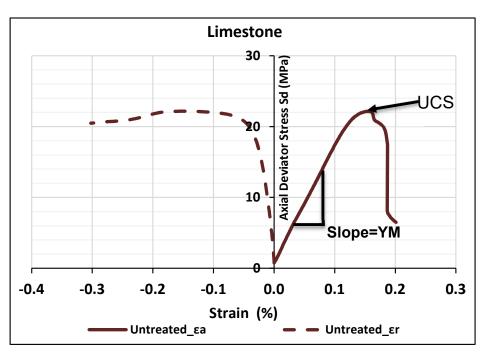
#### (Limestone Examples)







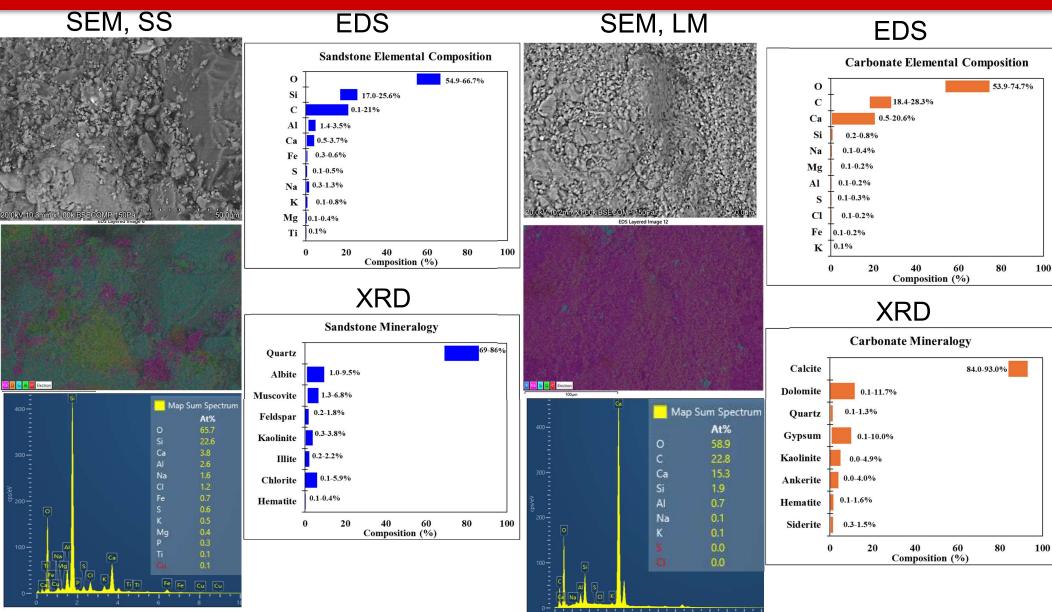




#### **Pretest**

#### (Microstructural, Elemental mapping & Mineralogy)





#### (Petrophysical Changes)



Permeability Change

#### SS

Porosity ↓ / Permeability ↑ Exp 1-CCI, WAG, SAI Exp 2-CCI, WAG, SAI	Porosity ↑ / Permeability ↑
Porosity ↓ / Permeability ↓  Exp 3-CCI, WAG, SAI  Exp 4-CCI, WAG	Porosity ↑ / Permeability ↓  Exp 4- SAI

**Porosity Change** 

- CCI has more reduction in porosity than other injection methods at salinity <20g/L</li>
- WAG preserves the porosity when salinity is
   <50g/L, equivalent to the changes observed in</li>
   CCI.
- >50g/L, there is a considerable reduction in porosity when using WAG.
- However, SAI offers the highest porosity increase at higher salinity

#### LM

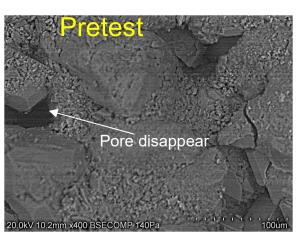
ity Change	Porosity ↓ / Permeability ↑ Exp 4-CCI	Porosity ↑ / Permeability ↑ Exp 1-WAG, SAI Exp 2-WAG, SAI Exp 3-WAG, Exp 4- WAG, SAI
Permeability	Porosity \ / Permeability \ Exp 1-CCI	Porosity ↑ / Permeability ↓  Exp 2-CCI Exp 3- SAI

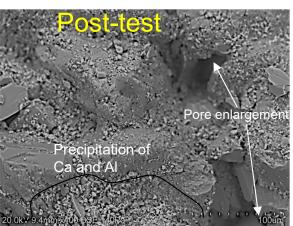
**Porosity Change** 

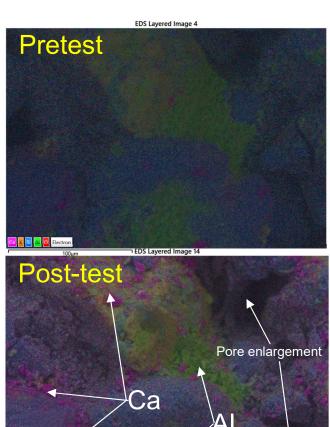
- WAG and SAI offer a high potential for increasing storage capacity in limestone, even at high salinity levels.
- WAG exhibits a significant increase in permeability as salinity increases, whereas SAI displays moderate changes in permeability.
- Increased porosity enhances stratigraphic trapping, which is crucial for  $CO_2$  storage ( $G_{CO2} = A^d h^s \phi^s \rho^s E_{saline}^s$ ).

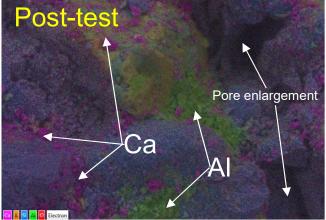
#### (Microstructural changes and Elemental mapping, SS)

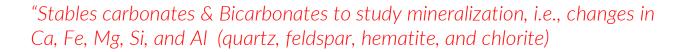


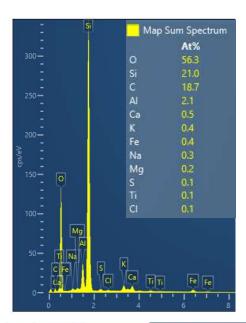


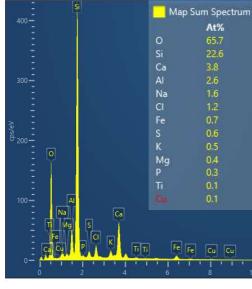






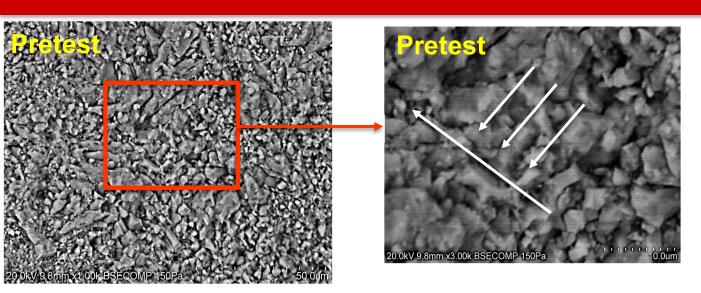


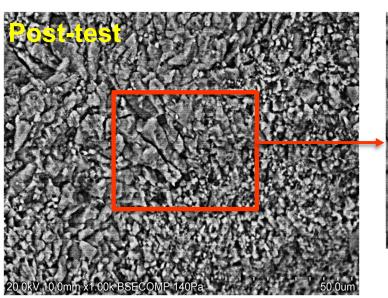


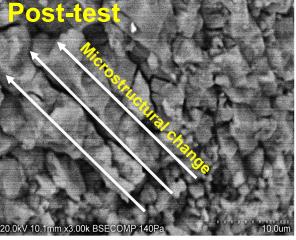


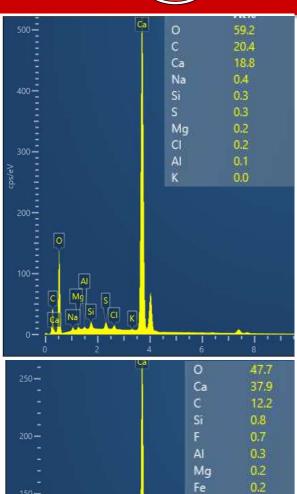
(Microstructural changes and Elemental mapping, LM)

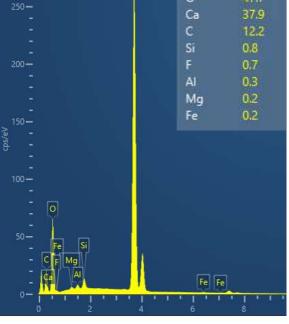






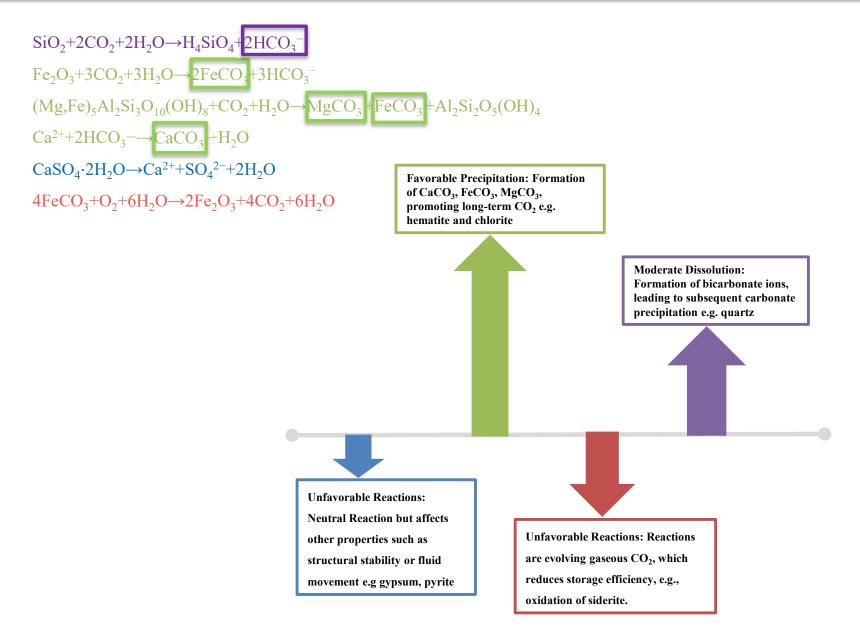






#### CO<sub>2</sub> Geochemistry (Mineralization)

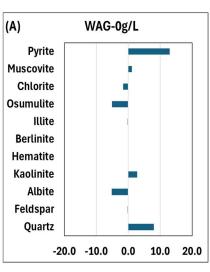


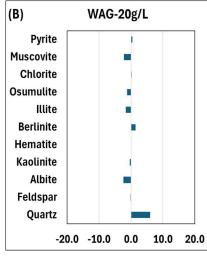


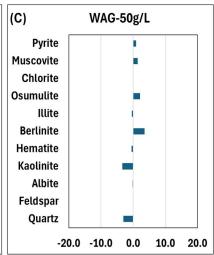
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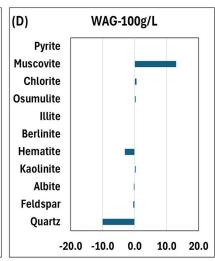
#### (Mineralogy Changes in SS)

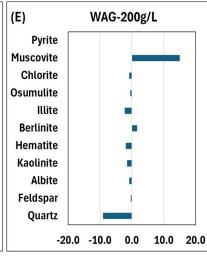


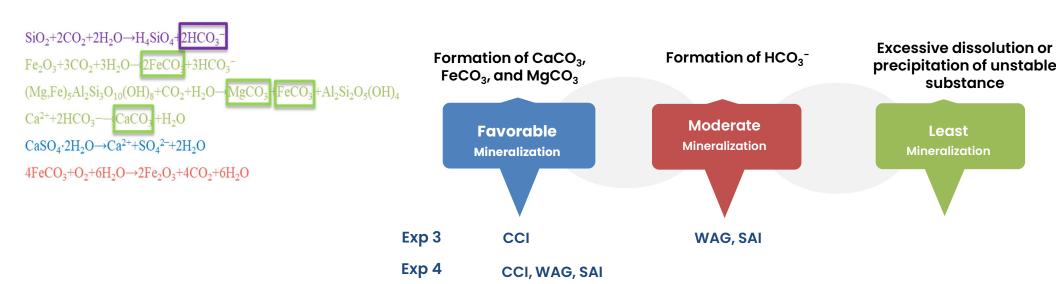












#### (Combined interpretation for SS)



	Injection Pore XRD (mineral) EDS (element)			Mineralization						
Rock type	Strategy	volume Injected	Precipitation	Dissolution	Precipitation	Dissolution	Porosity	Porosity Permeability	SEM	(CaCO <sub>3</sub> , FeCO <sub>3</sub> , MgCO <sub>3</sub> )
Sandstone	CCI	75	Feldspar, Albite, Kaolinite, Hematite, illite, osumulite, Chlorite,	Quartz, Berlinite, illite, muscovite, pyrite	C, Ca	O, Na, K, Fe, Mg, Al, Si	Decrease	Increase (least)	Microstructural changes observed- Mineral dissolution, pore enlargement, and new pore spaces.	CaCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation
	WAG	75	Feldspar,Hematite, Berlinite, osumulite, Chlorite, pyrite	Quartz, Albite, Kaolinite, Berlinite, illite, muscovite,	C, Al, Si, K, Fe	Ca*, Na, Mg, O	Decrease (most)	Increase	Minimal microstructural changes, pore sizes reduction	CaCO <sub>3</sub> and FeCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation
	SAI	75	Feldspar, Albite, Kaolinite, Hematite, Berlinite, illite	Quartz, osumulite, muscovite, pyrite	Ca, C, Fe	Al, Si, Na, K, Mg, O	Decrease (least)	Increase (most)	Overall pore enlargement, significant formation of new minerals, and minor dissolution hence moderate microstructural changes	CaCO <sub>3</sub> and FeCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation
	CCI	525	Kaolinite, Hematite, illite, muscovite,	Quartz, Feldspar, Albite, Berlinite, osumulite, Chlorite,	C, Ca,K	O, Na, Si, Fe, Mg, Al	Decrease (most)	Decrease (least)	Higher change in the microstructure features due to excessive precipitation reducing pore sizes and distribution	CaCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation
	WAG	525	Quartz, Berlinite, Chlorite, pyrite	Feldspar, Albite, Kaolinite, Hematite, illite, osumulite, muscovite,	Ca, C, Si, Na, Fe, O	Al, K, Mg	Decrease	Decrease (most)	Minimal microstrural changes with minor visible mineral dissolution, and precipitation effect. Pore enlargement visible or the x3000 magnification digital image.	CaCO <sub>3</sub> and FeCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation
	SAI	525	Quartz, Feldspar, Hematite, Berlinite,	Kaolinite, Albite, illite, osumulite, Chlorite, muscovite, pyrite	Si, O, C, Fe	Al, Ca*, K, Mg	Decrease (least)	Decrease	Severe microstructural changes du to precipitation with minimal alterations in pore sizes and notable changes in pore distribution	FeCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation

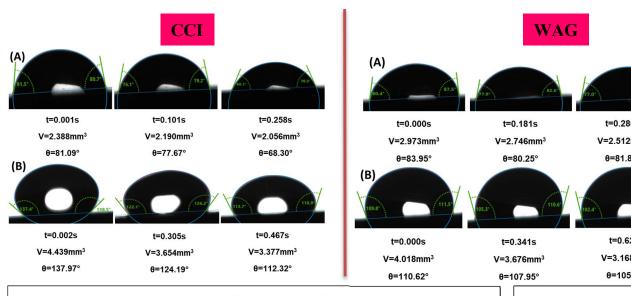
#### (Combined interpretation for LM)

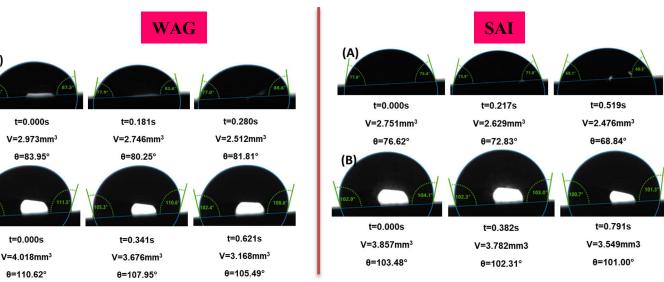


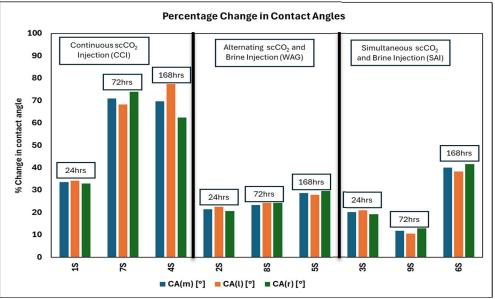
D 1	Injection Strategy	Pore volume Injected	XRD (mineral) EDS (element)		ement)	ъ	B 1324	O.D.M.	Mineralization	
Rock type			Precipitation	Dissolutio n	Precipitation	Dissolution	Porosity	Permeability	SEM	(CaCO <sub>3</sub> , FeCO <sub>3</sub> , MgCO <sub>3</sub> )
Limestone	CCI	75	Gypsum, siderite,hematite, ankerite	Calcite, dolomite, kaolinite,	Ca, C, O,Fe,	Al, Si, Mg	Decrease (most)	Decrease (most)	Visible microstructural changes at a x3000 magnification due to precipitation (Ankerite and siderite) outweighing calcite, dolomite	unfavorable dissolution reactions;
	WAG	75	Gypsum, dolomite, kaolinite, hematite, ankerite	Calcite, Quartz, kaolinite, siderite,	Ca, Al, Si,	О, С	Increase (same)	Increase (most)	Minor mineral dissolution and precipitation, accompanied by slight pore size and microstructural changes	CaCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation
	SAI	75	Calcite, Quartz, Gypsum, dolomite, kaolinite, siderite,	hematite,	Al, Si, C, Mg	Ca, O, Fe	Increase (same)	Increase	Severe microstructural changes, including significant rearrangement and grain orientation. At ×3000 magnification, pore enlargement with minimal precipitation is observed.	Moderate to limited mineralization (MgCO <sub>3</sub> ). Moderate mineralization due to precipitation of carbonate minerals.
	CCI	525	Calcite, Quartz, dolomite, kaolinite,	Gypsum, siderite, ankerite	Ca, Mg, C	Si,O	Decrease (most)	Increase (most)	Visible microstructural rearrangements however both dissolution, and precipitation.	Unfavorable dissolution Reactions
	WAG	525	Gypsum, dolomite, kaolinite, siderite,hematite, ankerite	Calcite, Quartz,	Al, Si, Mg, C,Fe	Ca, O	Increase (most)	Increase	Visible microstructural changes with pore reductions (x400 magnification). Minimal dissolution but higher precipitation. Mineral build-up from precipitation and some pore enlargements are visible in the digital images (x3000 magnification)	FeCO <sub>3</sub> and MgCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation, moderate mineralization due to precipitation of carbonate minerals.
	SAI	525	Quartz, Gypsum, dolomite, kaolinite, siderite,hematite,	Calcite, ankerite	Al, Si, Fe, Cl,C,Mg, O	Ca, Na	Increase	Decrease	Minimal or no microstructural changes, little pore rearrangement, minimal pore size alterations, and no changes in pore distribution	FeCO <sub>3</sub> and MgCO <sub>3</sub> precipitation

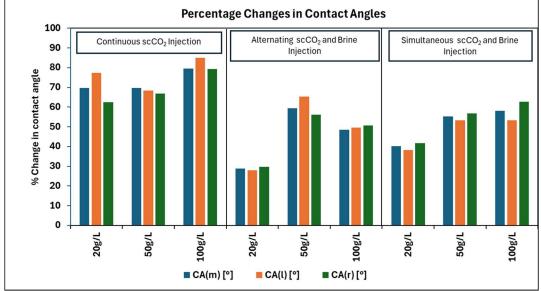
#### (Wettability Alteration in Sandstone)





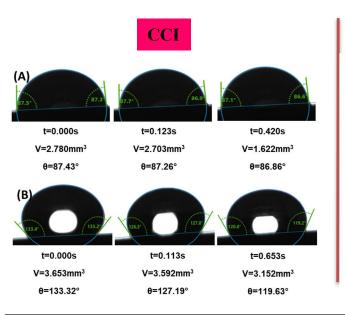


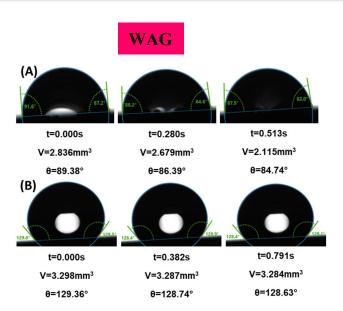


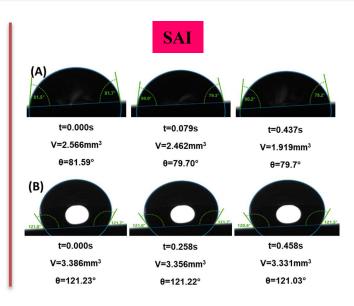


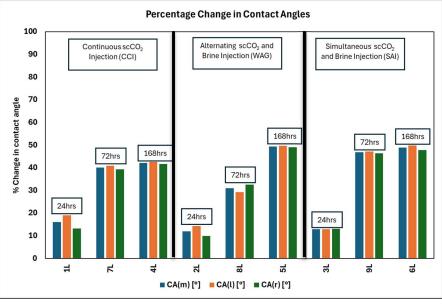
#### (Wettability Alteration in Limestone)

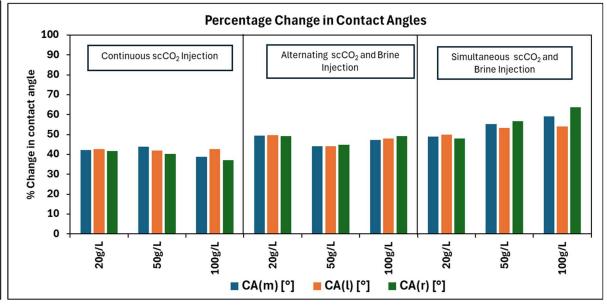






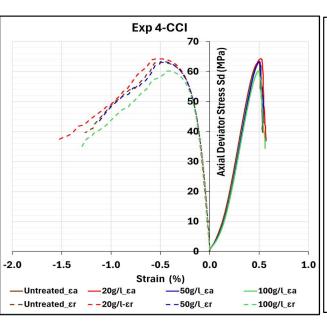


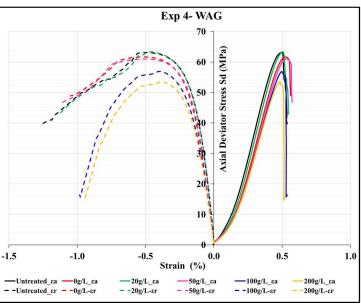


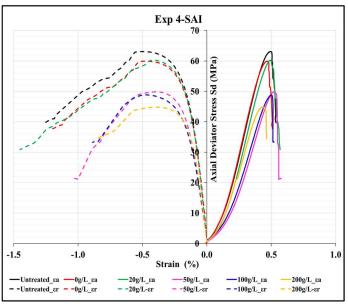


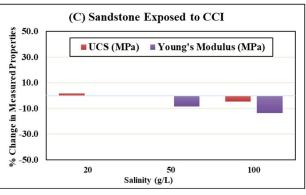
#### (Geomechanical Changes in SS)

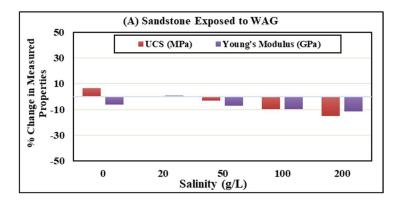


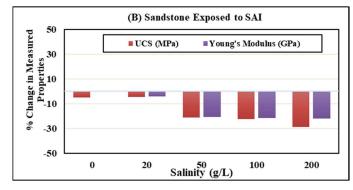






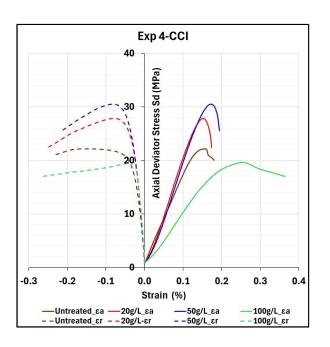


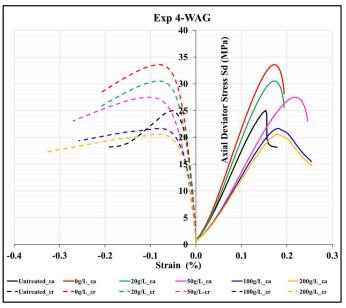


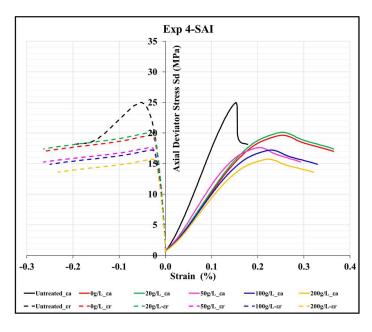


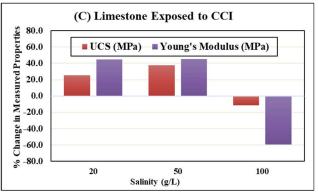
#### (Geomechanical Changes in LM)

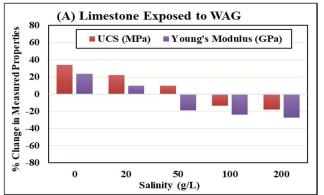


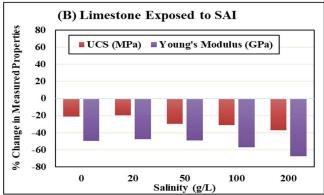










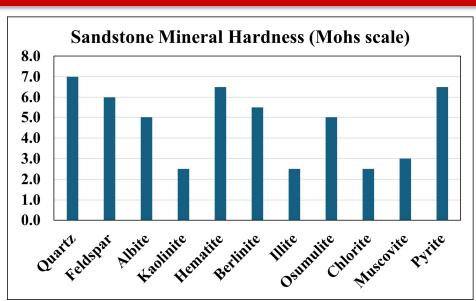


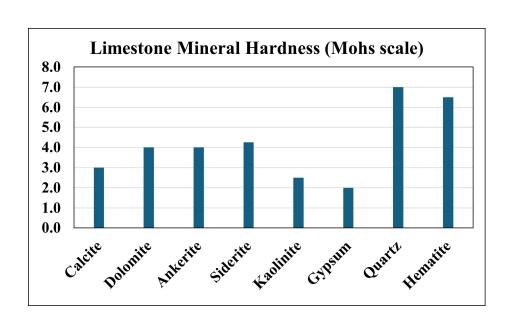
#### (Geomechanical Changes)



Factors responsible for mechanical integrity or mineral stability loss are:

- Geochemical reaction,
- Sequences of the dissolution and precipitation processes,
- Cyclic effect, and
- Mineral hardness.
- Acidification





# Comparative Analysis of Results (Sandstone)

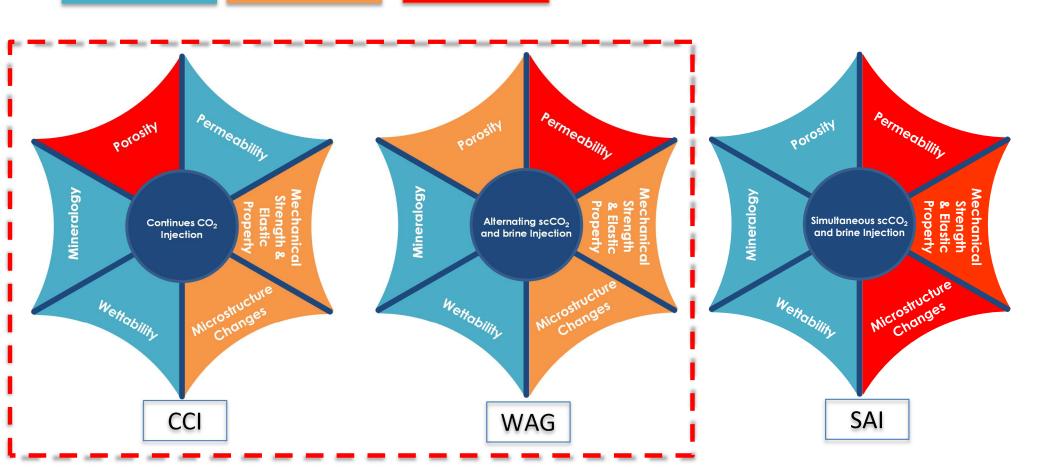


Minor changes or beneficial result

Moderate changes but not detrimental

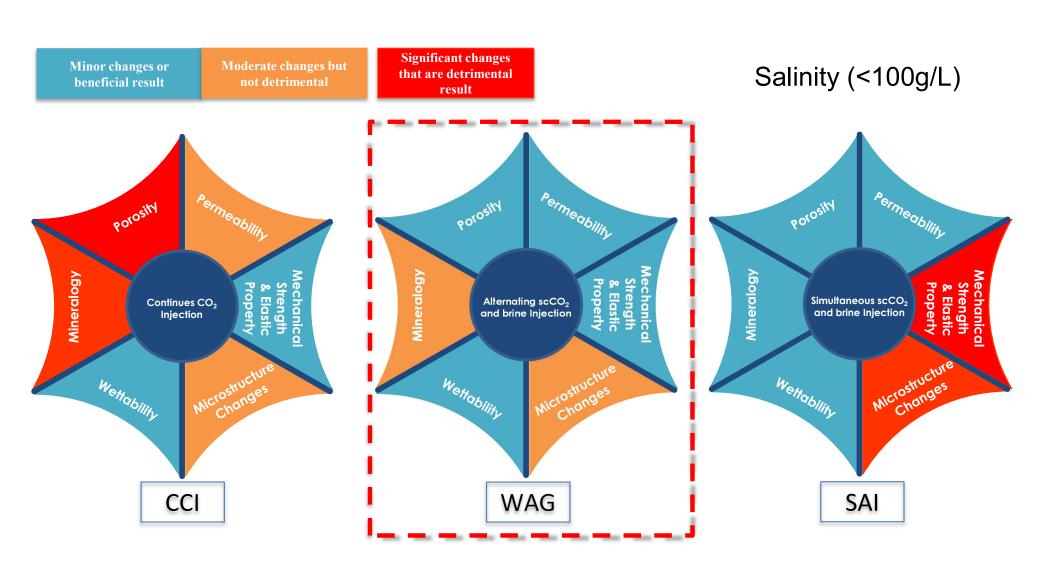
Significant changes that are detrimental result

Salinity (<100g/L)



# Comparative Analysis of Results (Limestone)



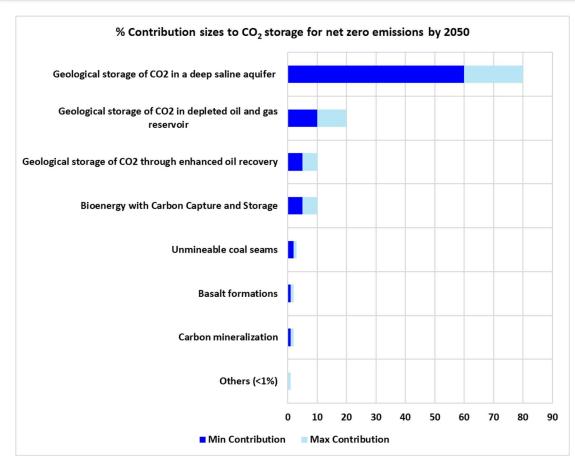




# Opportunity

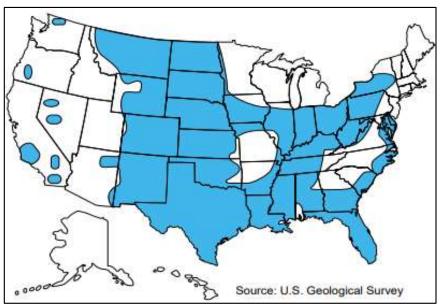
#### How is CO<sub>2</sub> currently stored?

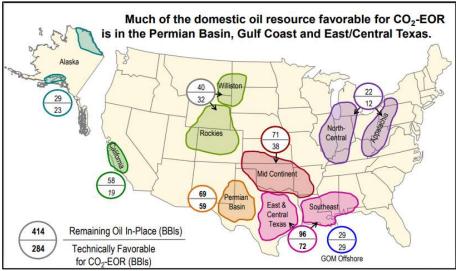




DSA offers a significant opportunity for CO<sub>2</sub> storage due to their large capacity (US DOE NETL, 2015).

#### Location of deep saline aquifer in the United States





#### **Economics Support Storage in Aquifers**

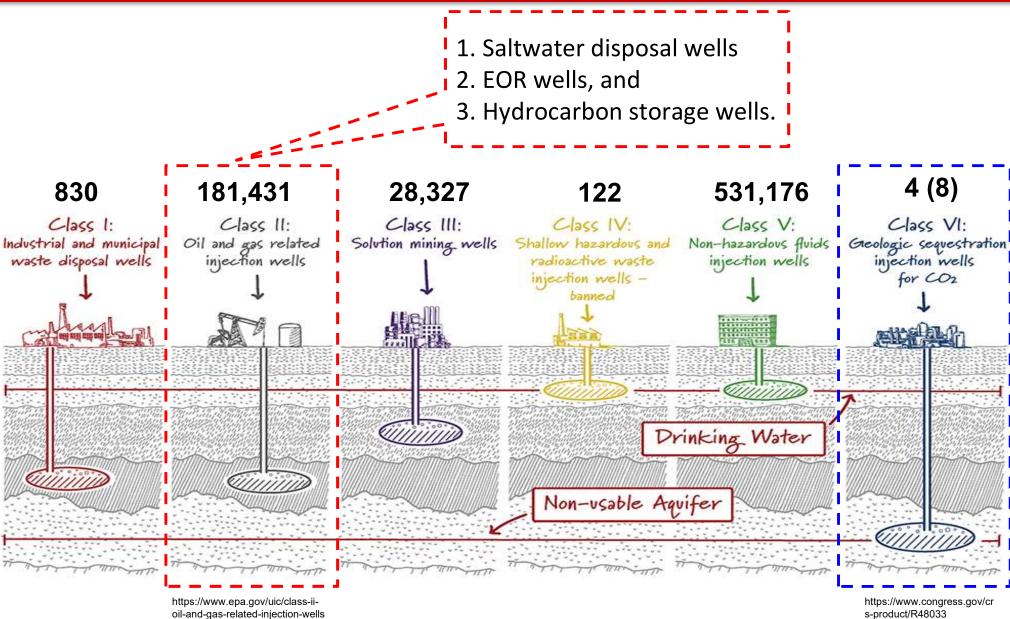


	(First Proposed)	Credits in IRA	Updated 45Q Credits in IRA (Direct Air Capture)	
Dedicated Secure Geologic Storage In saline or other geologic formations	\$50 per ton	\$85 per ton	\$180 per ton	
Carbon Utilization Projects Conversion of CO or CO <sub>2</sub> into useful products (e.g., fuels, chemicals)	\$35 per ton	\$60 per ton	\$130 per ton	
Secure Geologic Storage (Enhanced Oil Recovery) In oil and gas fields through enhanced oil recovery	\$35 per ton	\$60 per ton	\$130 per ton	

If the deep saline aquifer is the largest, why is deployment not as fast as in CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR in the oil and gas industry?

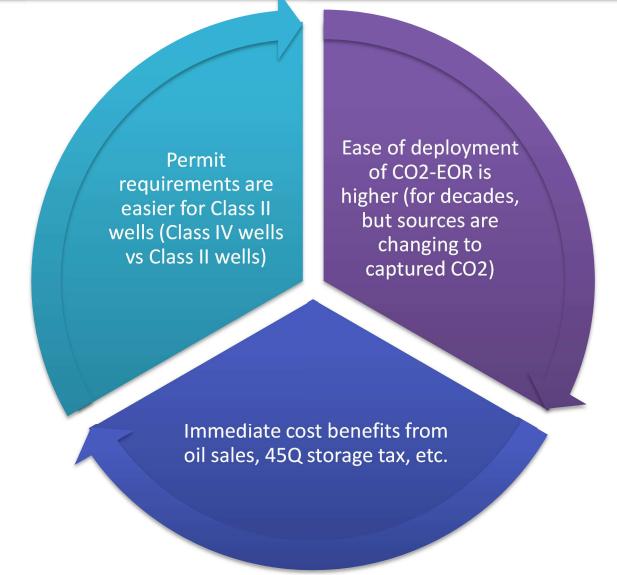
#### **UIC Injection Well Numbers As of 2024....**





#### CO<sub>2</sub>- EOR Drivers



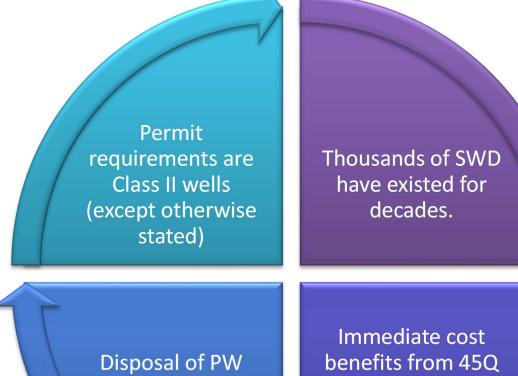


Is there any other methods that has all this benefit aside CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR but injection in deep saline aquifer?

#### Deep Saline Aquifer using SWD



#### Can SWD a potential conduit for DSA storage?

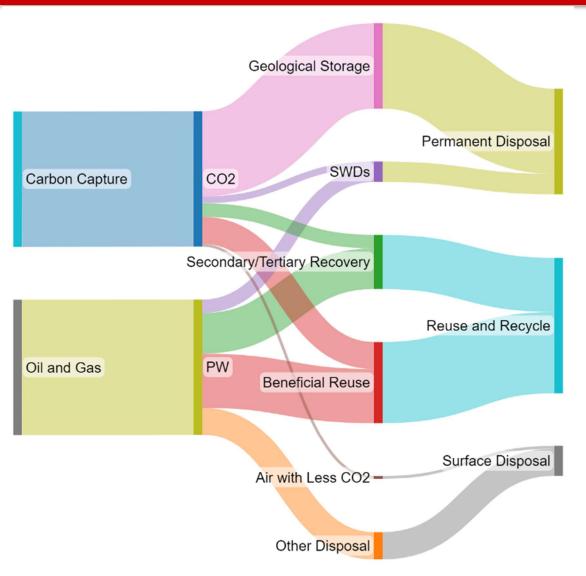


benefits from 45Q storage tax, and

What would this mean is that CO2 and PW are disposed using one well?

#### CO<sub>2</sub> Storage and PW- Lots in common



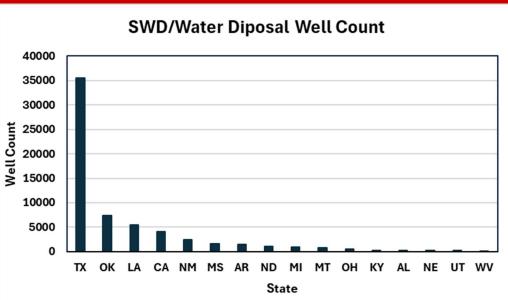


- CO<sub>2</sub> storage and produced water share significant operational and geochemical commonalities.
- Both use deep subsurface formations for their fluid injection.
- However, both involve complex fluid-rock interactions, reservoir pressure management, and long-term containment considerations,

#### **Integrating SWD in CCS Projects**







- SWDs are pre-existing wells used for oil and gas PW disposal (62,567) with a 4,000 to 10,000 ft (≈1,200 to 3,000 m).
- As more production wells are drilled, more SWD wells are also drilled
- SWD wells are the cheapest means for PW Disposal (\$0.50-\$2.50 per bbl according to the US EPA- this includes transportation to the SWD site (via truck or pipeline), injection costs, and regulatory compliance and monitoring)

#### Research Impact





#### **Technical**

- Validating the concept
- Calibrating models
- Improved storage capacity and efficiencies

#### **Environmental**

Potential to enhance CO<sub>2</sub> trapping and reduce the environmental impact of produced water disposal.

#### **Economic**

Potential for higher tax credits (\$85-180 per ton vs \$60-130 per ton) via integration with SWD

#### **Deployment**

Supports CCUS deployment in DSAs

#### Conclusion



#### Sandstone

- WAG balances reactivity and stability in clastic systems
- •WAG/SAI increases
  Mineralization enhancing
  mineral trapping
- WAG enhanced storage, minimal degradation, ideal for integration with produced water.

#### Carbonate

- •SAI increases capacity up to 30% in carbonates,
- Severe rock degradation
- •Excessive reductive in fluid mobility due to permeability reduction,
- •SAI is recommended for end-of-life for permeability reduction & sealing effects

Injection strategies impact the reaction kinetics, sequence, types and severity of the geochemical reactions in all cases.

These control the petrophysical changes, wettability alteration, and geomechanical degradation.

WAG and SAI have a lower wettability alteration effect than aiding the capillary trapping of CO<sub>2</sub> in sandstone reservoir, but CCI is better in carbonates

PW at a salinity of 20–50 g/L, offered a balanced performance while using WAG, but rock weakens at salinity >100 g/L (especially in SAI)

#### Reservoir Simulation Model

These results are used to calibrate reservoir models for:

- CO2 plume migration
- Geomechanical stability
- Trapping efficiency under WAG/SAI

# Acknowledgements





#### **Publications**



- 1. Eyitayo, S. I., Gamadi, T., Kolawole, O. and Watson, M. C. (2025). Experimental study of scCO<sub>2</sub> injection strategies: Effects on geochemical reactions and reservoir properties in sandstone and carbonate formations, *Gas Science and Engineering*, Vol 140, <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgsce.2025.205660">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgsce.2025.205660</a>
- **2.** Eyitayo, S. I., Watson, M. C., Ispas, I., and Kolawole, O. (2025). Geochemical Interactions of Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>-Brine-Rock under Varying Injection Strategies: Implications for Mechanical Integrity in Aquifers. *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering*. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s00603-025-04496-7">https://doi.org/10.1007/s00603-025-04496-7</a>
- **3. Eyitayo, S. I.,** Gamadi, T., Ispas, I., Kolawole, O., Watson, M. C. (2024). Produced Water Integration in CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Using Different Injection Strategies: The Effect of Salinity on Rock Petrophysical, Mineralogy, Wettability and Geomechanical Properties. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 372, 123307, 2600. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2024.123307">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2024.123307</a>
- **4. Eyitayo, S. I.,** Gamadi, T., Kolawole, O., Okere, C. J., Ispas, I., Arbad, N., Emadibaladehi, H., Watson, M. C. (2024). Experimental Investigation of the Impact of CO<sub>2</sub> Injection Strategies on Rock Wettability Alteration for CCS Applications. *Energies*, 17(11), 2600. DOI: 10.3390/en17112600
- **5. Eyitayo, S. I.,** Arbad, N., Kolawole, O., Watson, M. C. (2024). Optimizing CO<sub>2</sub> storage in deep saline formations: A comprehensive review of enhancing pore space utilization through simultaneous or alternate aquifer injection. *Energy Sources, Part A: Recovery, Utilization, and Environmental Effects*, Volume 46, Issue 1. DOI: 10.1080/15567036.2024.2347417
- **6.** Eyitayo, S., Arbad, N., Okere, C. et al. Advancing geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO2) with emerging technologies for climate change mitigation. Int. J. Environ. Sci. Technol. 22(6):1-34. 10.1007/s13762-024-06074-w.

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