

# Status and Opportunities in CO<sub>2</sub> Capture, Storage and Utilization



Professor Sally M. Benson

Energy Resources Engineering Department

Director, Global Climate and Energy Project

Director, Precourt Institute for Energy

Stanford University

San Antonio, TX  
March 1, 2015

Workshop on Energy Research and Applications for  
Physics Students and Postdocs , APS

# What is Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage and Why is it Important?

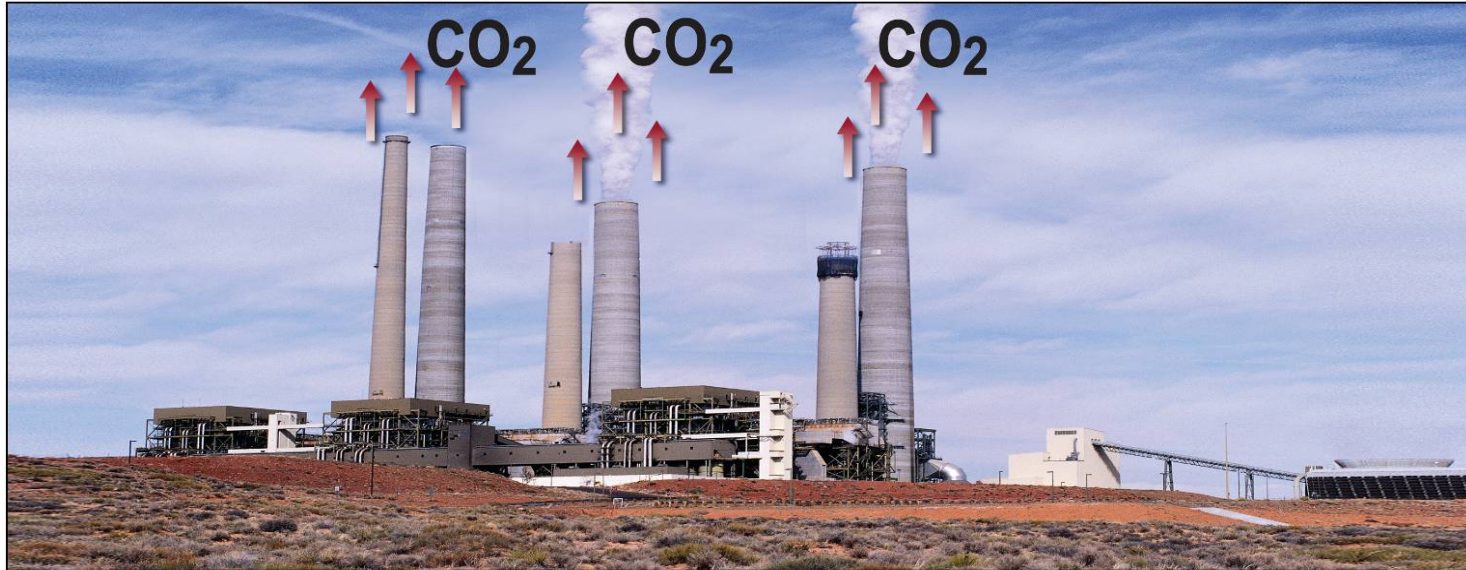


2



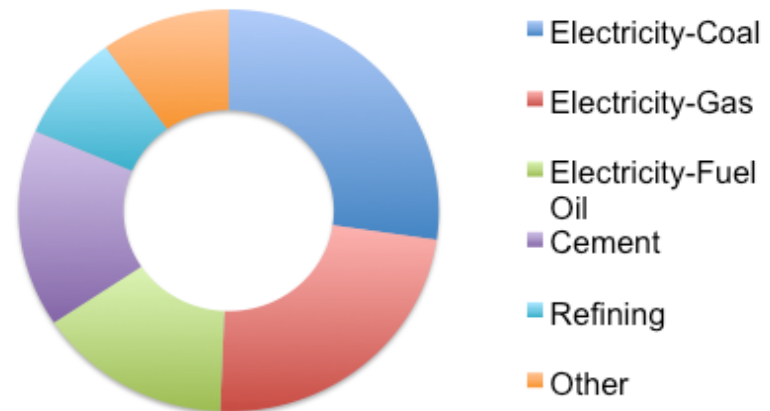
- Carbon dioxide capture and storage technology can reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere from using fossil fuels
- More than 80% of today's energy comes from fossil fuels and a rapid transition to low carbon energy sources is difficult and expensive
- Necessary to achieve large and rapid carbon dioxide emission reductions

# CCS Can Reduce Emissions from Many Sources

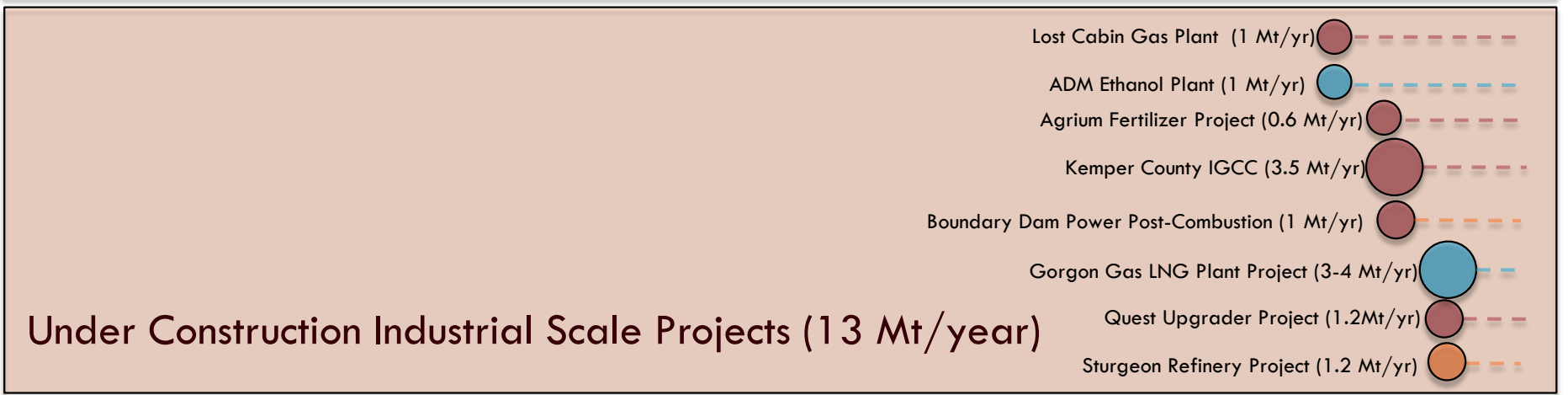
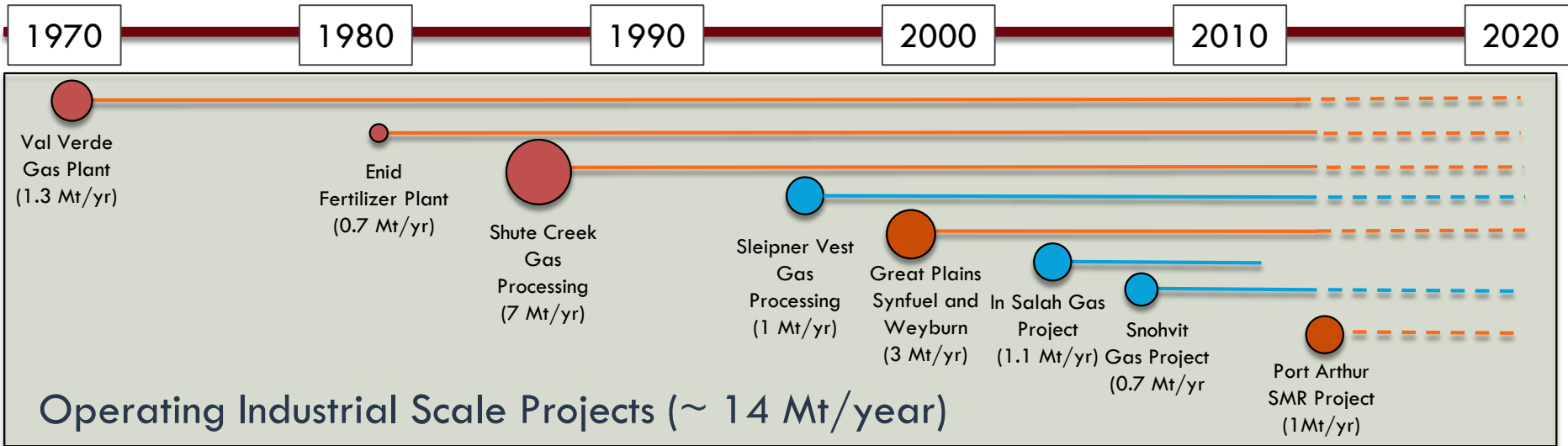


7,400 sources greater than 0.1 Mt/yr

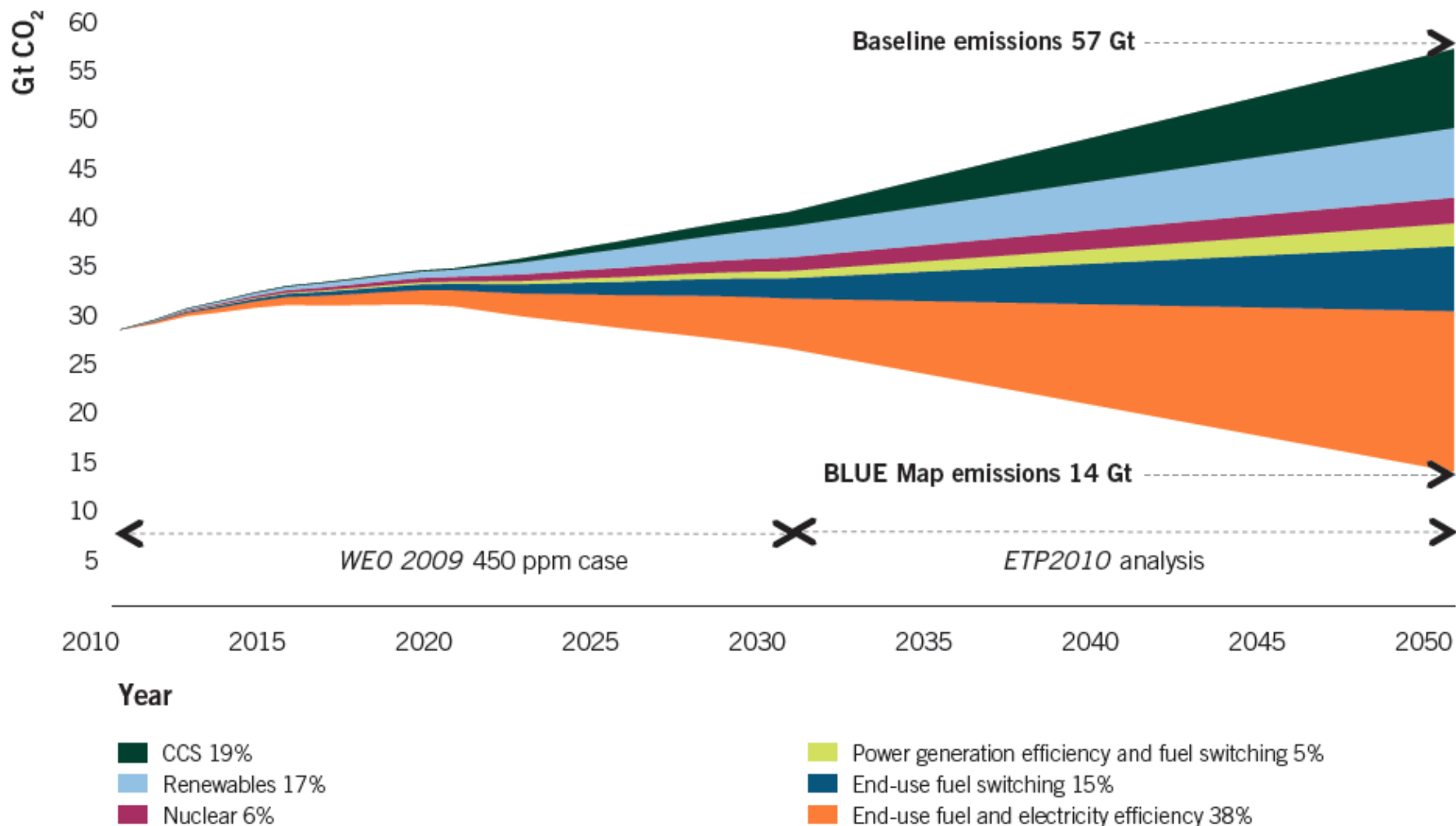
CCS is applicable to the 60% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which come from stationary sources such as power plants, cement plants and refineries.



# CCS Continues to Expand Worldwide



# CCS Is Expected to Contribute About 20% to Needed CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Reductions



Source: IEA, 2010.

# CCS is an Efficient Means of Large Emission Reductions



CCS with 90% capture



One 1,000 MW coal-fired power plant (~6.5 MT CO<sub>2</sub>/year)

Increase efficiency from 25 to 50 mpg



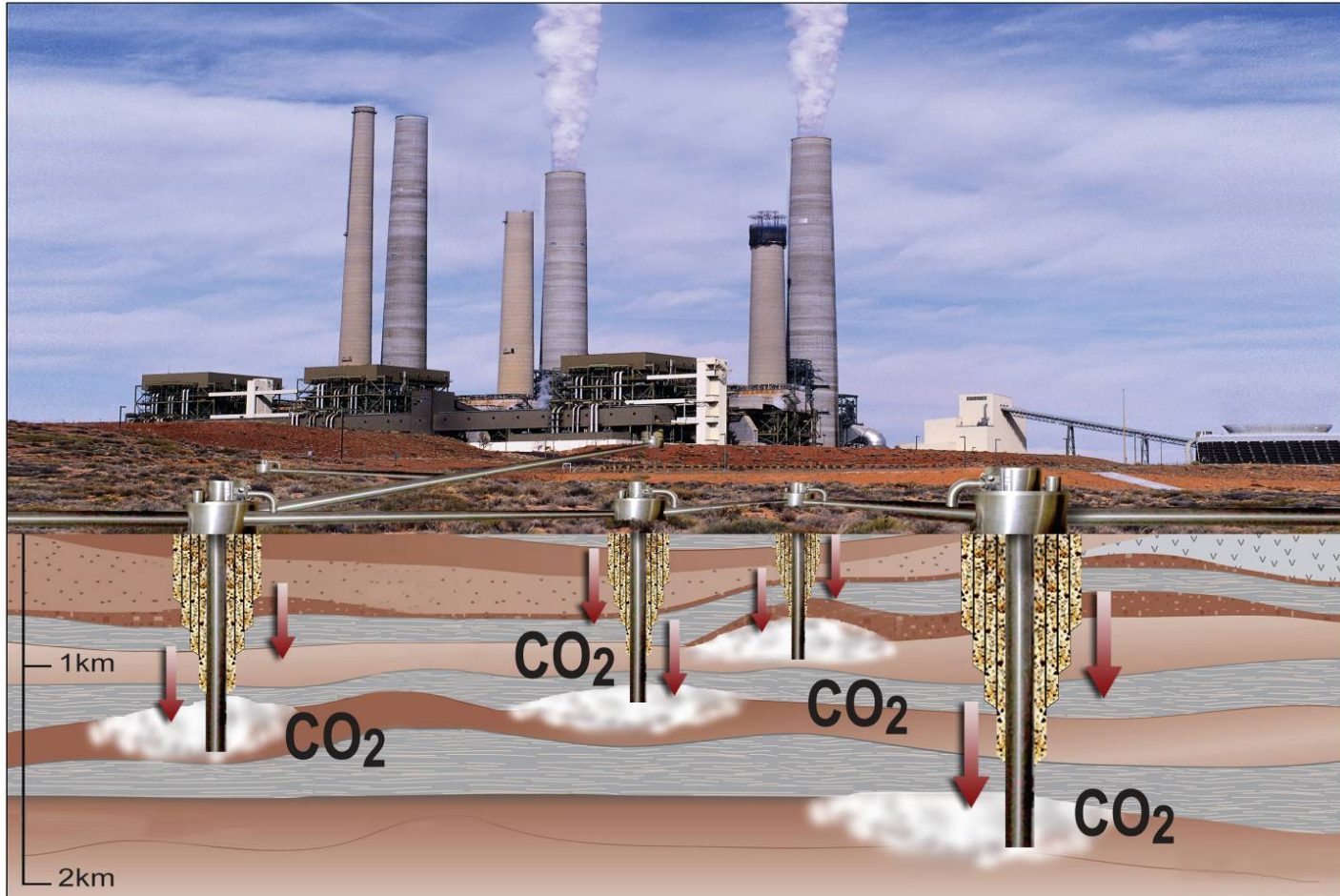
2.8 Million Cars  
(10% of California Fleet)

CCS dramatically reduce the number of actors needed to achieve large emission reductions.

# CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage Involves Four Steps



7



Capture



Compression

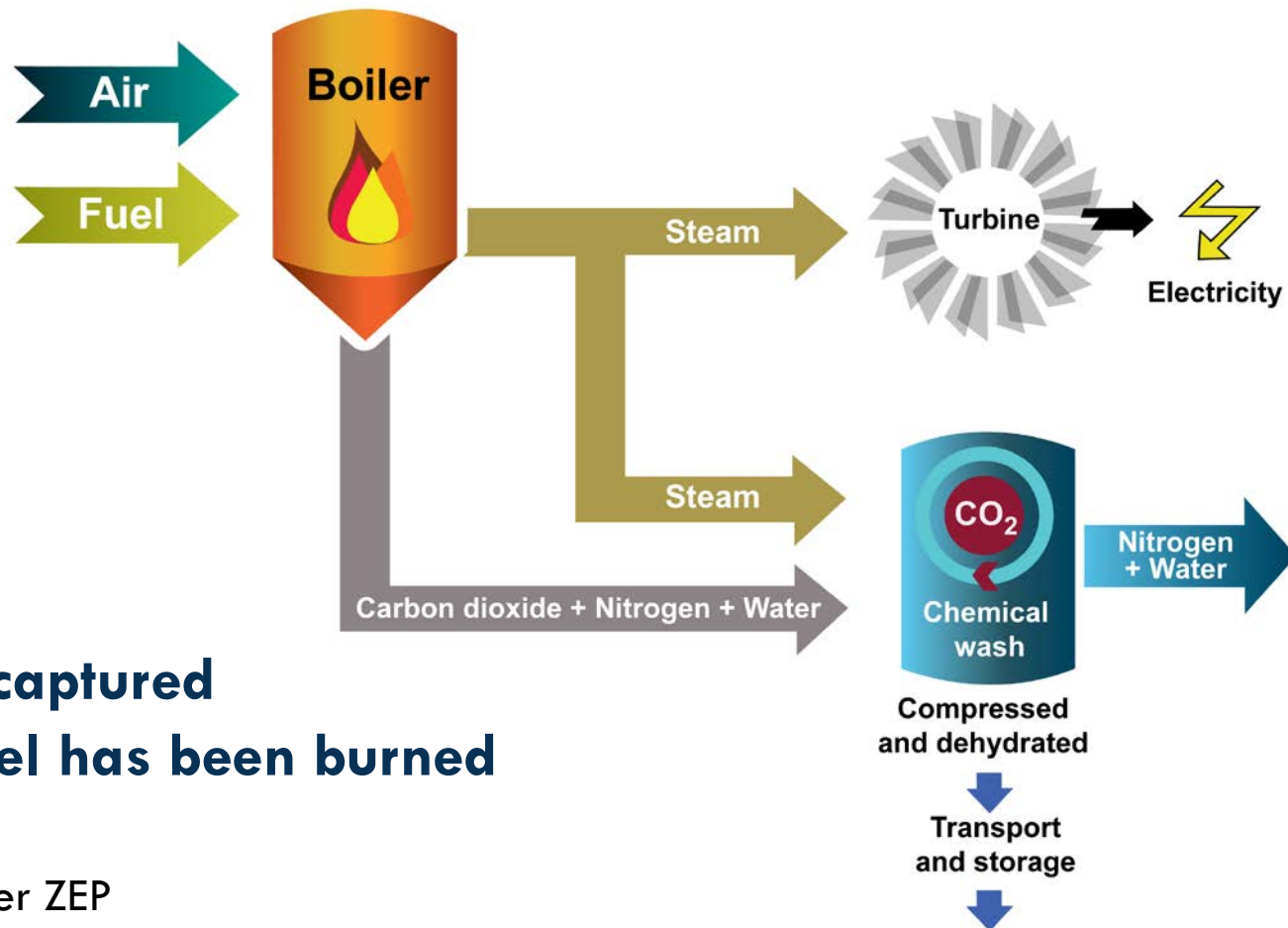


Pipeline  
Transport



Storage  
or Reuse

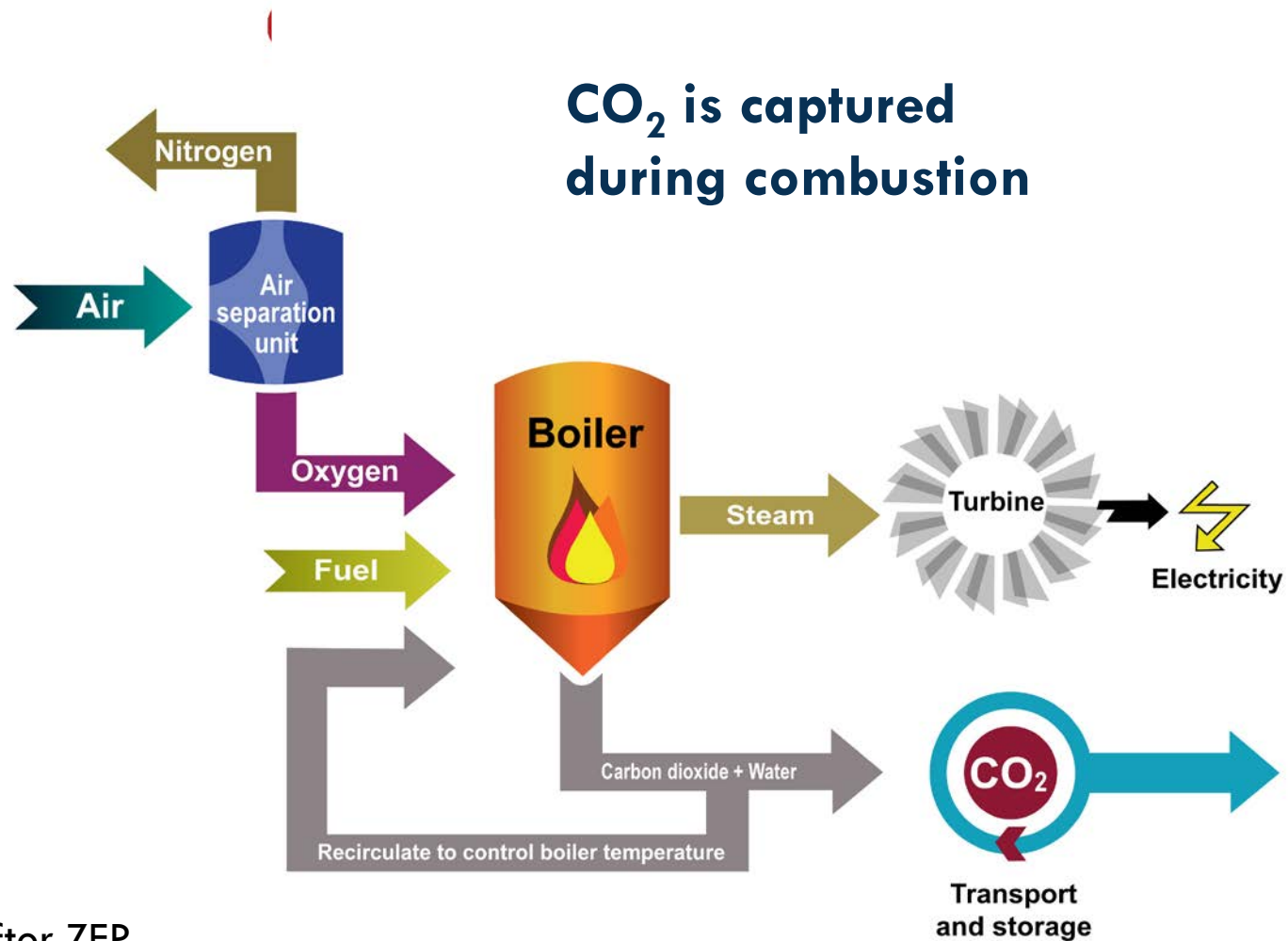
# Post-Combustion Capture



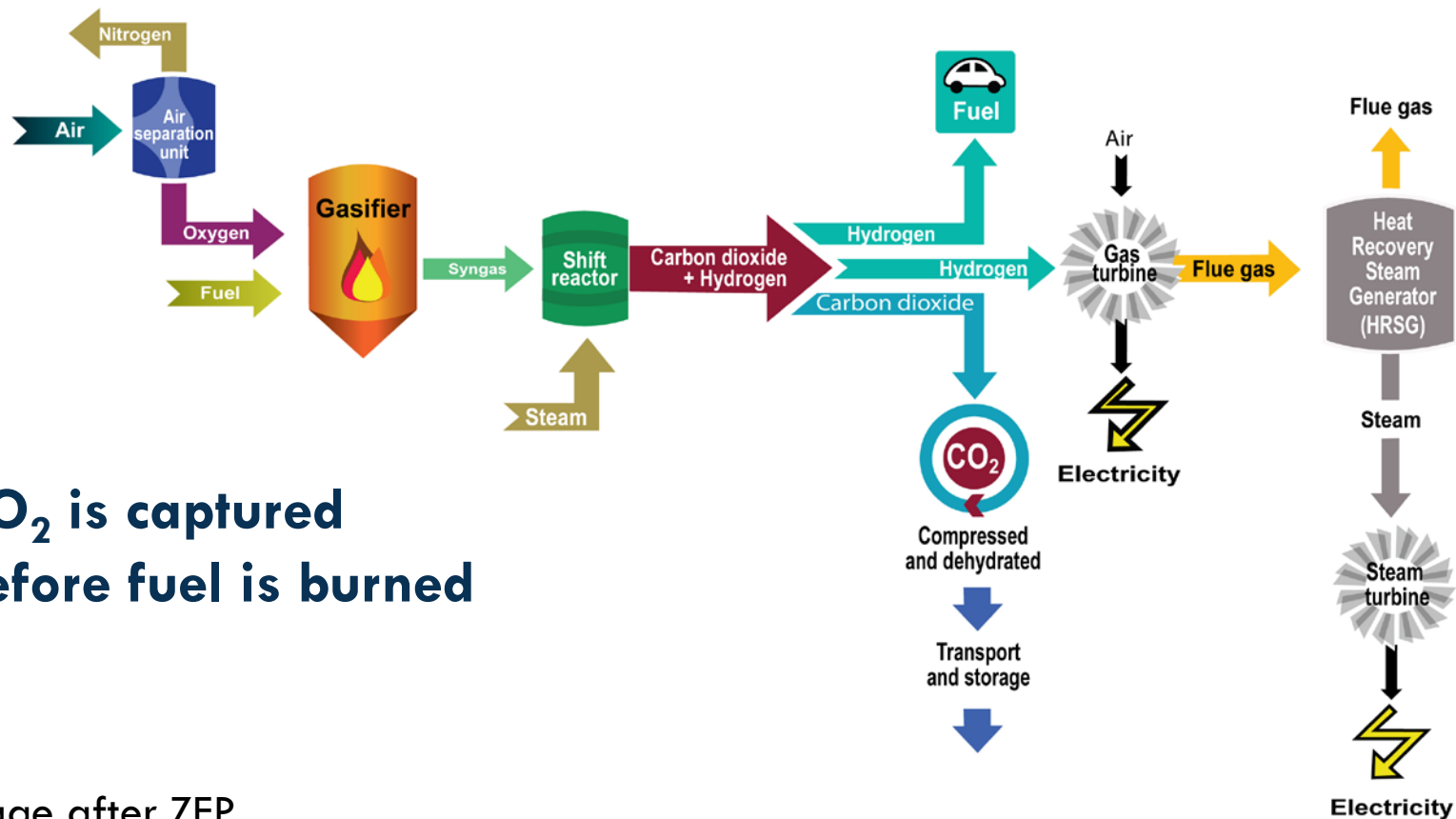
**CO<sub>2</sub> is captured  
after fuel has been burned**



# Oxy-Combustion

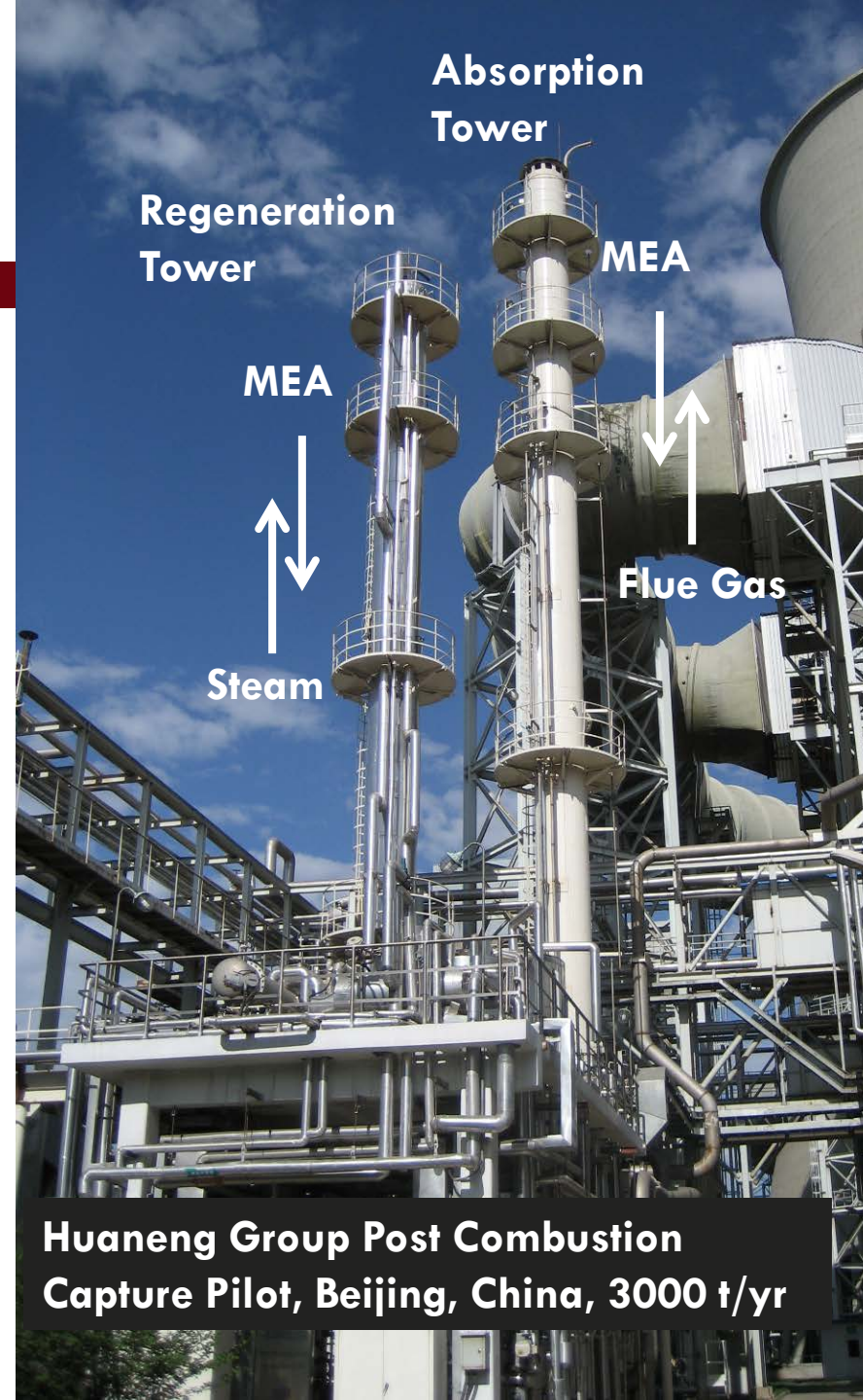
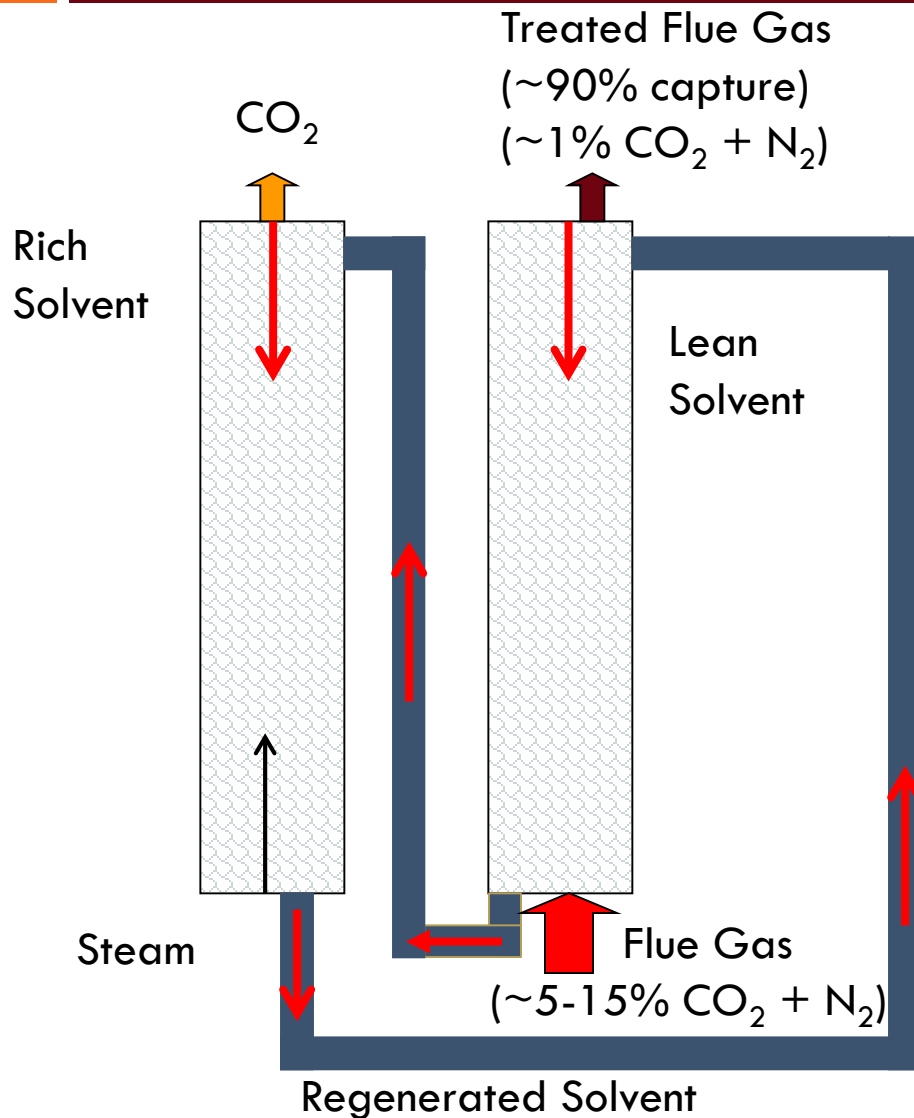


# Pre-Combustion Capture



**CO<sub>2</sub> is captured before fuel is burned**

# Post-Combustion Capture



**Huaneng Group Post Combustion Capture Pilot, Beijing, China, 3000 t/yr**

# The World's First Power Plant with CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage





# Comparison of Capture Options

13

## Technology

## Advantages

## Challenges

**Post-Combustion**

- Mature technology
- Standard retrofit

- High energy penalty (20-30%)
- High cost for capture

**Pre-Combustion (IGCC)**

- Lower costs than post-combustion
- Lower energy penalties (10-15%)
- H<sub>2</sub> production

- Complex chemical process
- Repowering
- Large capital investment

**Oxygen-Combustion**

- Avoid complex post-combustion separation
- Potentially higher generation efficiencies

- Oxygen separation
- Repowering

# Cost and performance of today's capture technology



- Energy penalty: 10 to 30%
- Cost
  - \$60 to \$110/tonne CO<sub>2</sub> for the n<sup>th</sup> plant
  - Significantly more for the 1<sup>st</sup> plants (\$150 to \$250/tonne CO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Cost of electricity generation: 50 to 100% increase
- Uncertain reliability
- R&D needed to develop new options and improve existing ones

# Advanced Materials and Processes for CO<sub>2</sub> Capture



Separation Approach	Absorption	Adsorption	Cryogenic	Membranes	Mineralization
Example Materials	Aqueous amine solutions  Chilled ammonia  Ionic liquids	Zeolites  Metal organic frameworks (MOFs)  Activated carbon	No specific material requirements	Polymer membranes  Inorganic membranes	Magnesium silicates  Alkali-rich waste streams
Advantages	Numerous solvent options  Rapid improvements in energy requirements achieved	Potentially lower energy requirements for regeneration	Avoid need for solvents or sorbents  Lower energy requirements	Avoid regeneration energy requirements	CO <sub>2</sub> is converted to a solid substrate that can be reused as a building material or disposed of in surface facilities
Technological Challenges	Reducing energy for regeneration  Solvent degradation	Adsorption capacity and kinetics	Solid separation and handling	Permeability Selectivity	Rate of reactions  Large mass of reactants (e.g. source of Mg, Ca)

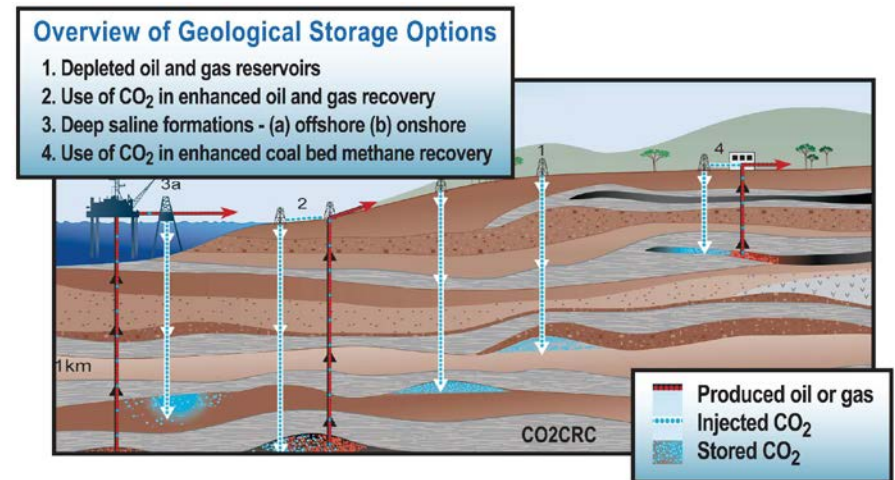
# What Do You do with the CO<sub>2</sub> Once it's Captured?



- Underground injection for sequestration or CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR

OR

- Reuse for producing fuels, chemicals, or services





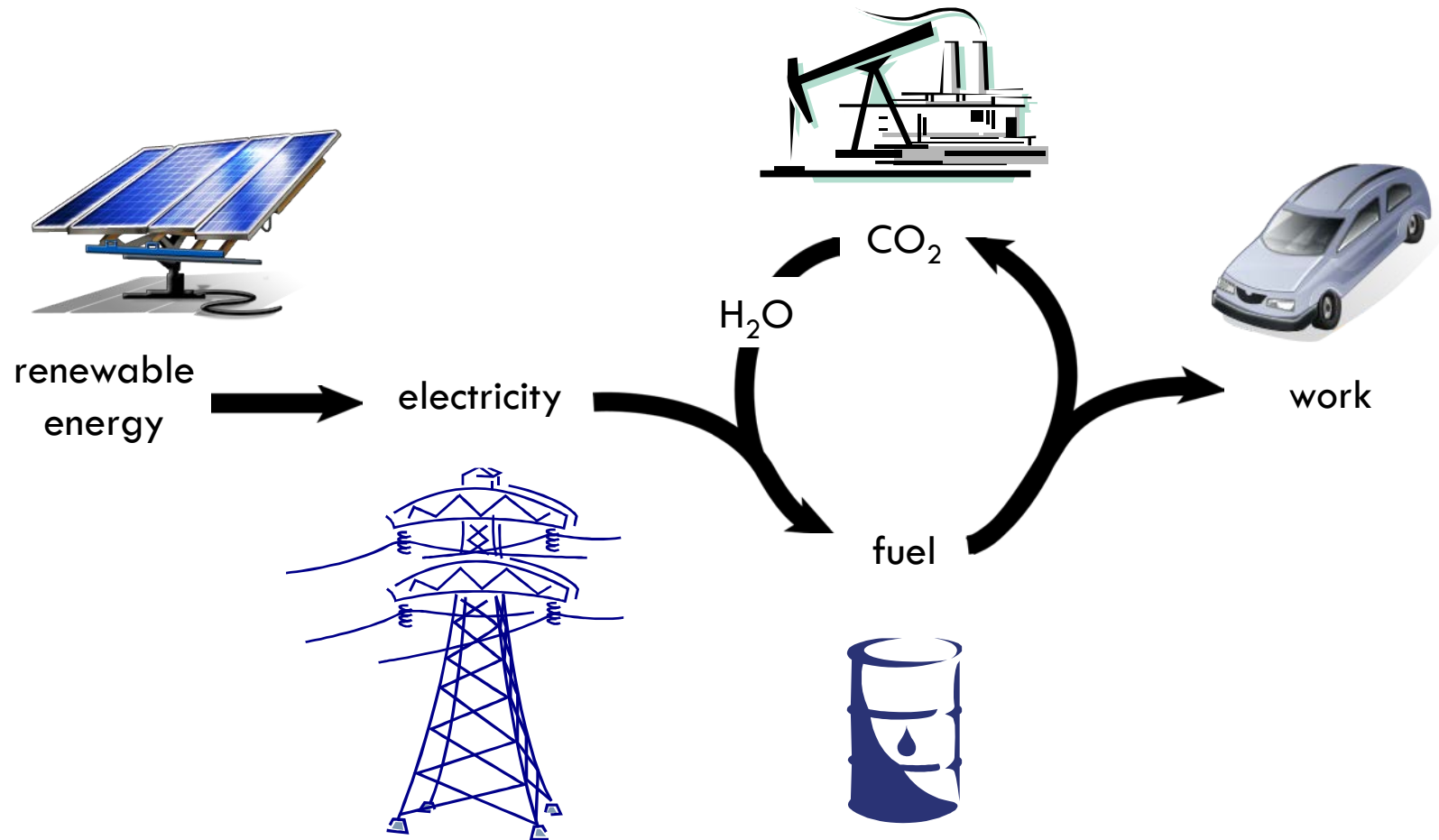
# Potential for CO<sub>2</sub> Reuse in the Chemical Industry is Extremely Limited



Rank	Chemical	Estimate +13% for		GWe if equimolar rxn with CO <sub>2</sub> 90% capture	
		2002 Production Mt *	2007 Mt		Gmol
1	Sulfuric Acid	36.65	41.54	423.54	2.74
2	Nitrogen	30.76	34.87	1244.65	8.06
3	Ethylene	23.67	26.83	838.44	5.43
4	Oxygen	22.04	24.98	890.27	5.76
5	Lime	18.42	20.87	372.24	2.41
6	Polyethylene	16.06	18.20	568.91	3.68
7	Propylene	14.46	16.38	380.27	2.46
8	Ammonia, Anhydrous	13.20	14.96	878.51	5.69
9	Chlorine	11.39	12.91	182.02	1.18
10	Phosphoric Acid	10.81	12.26	125.06	0.81
95	Sodium Bicarbonate	0.54	0.61	7.24	0.05
96	Cyclohexanone	0.54	0.61	6.19	0.04
97	Propylene Glycol	0.53	0.60	7.92	0.05
98	Phthalic Anhydride	0.53	0.60	4.03	0.03
99	Sodium Sulfate	0.51	0.58	4.06	0.03
100	Potassium Hydroxide	0.47	0.54	9.55	0.06
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>443.08</b>	<b>502.16</b>	<b>10339.12</b>	<b>66.95</b>

Global top 100 chemicals produce a total of 0.5 Gt/yr; CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 35 GT/yr. Therefore, opportunities for CO<sub>2</sub> reuse in the chemical industry are limited. **Fuels are the best option for CO<sub>2</sub> reuse at scale.**

# Abiotic Renewable Fuels



# Catalysts are the Key for CO<sub>2</sub> Reuse

Matthew Kanan, Christina Li  
Chemistry

- Novel copper copper oxide derived catalyst converts carbon monoxide (CO) to ethanol and acetate at room temperature

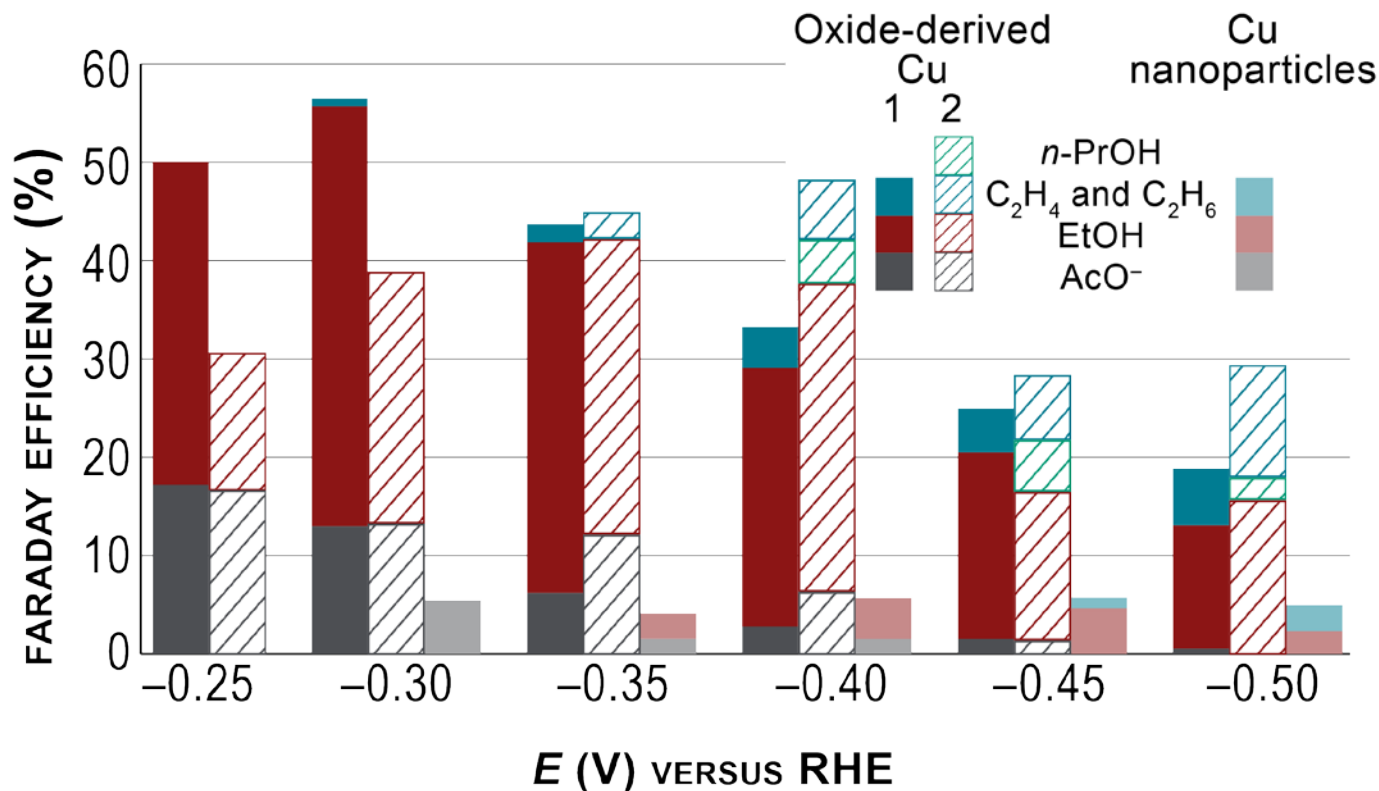


**LETTER**

**Electroreduction of carbon monoxide to liquid fuel on oxide-derived nanocrystalline copper**

Christina W. Li, Ian Garcia & Matthew W. Kanan

The electrochemical conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O into liquid fuel is ideal for high-density sustainable energy storage and could provide an alternative for CO<sub>2</sub> capture. However, efficient electrocatalysts for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> and the formation of a double bond are not available at present. Although many catalysts can reduce CO<sub>2</sub> to carbon monoxide (CO), liquid fuel synthesis requires that CO is distributed among CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. Some copper catalysts have been shown to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> to ethanol and acetate, but their activity is significantly lower than that of copper catalysts. Here we show that nanocrystalline Cu prepared from Cu<sub>2</sub>O yields a broad range of products and high Faraday efficiency, and is compatible with a wide range of electrolytes. This catalyst shows a high selectivity for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to ethanol and acetate, and a high Faraday efficiency. The results demonstrate that the electrochemical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to liquid fuel is possible with a simple catalyst. The Faraday efficiency for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to ethanol and acetate is 16% at a current density of 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> at -0.40 V versus RHE. The Faraday efficiency for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to ethanol and acetate is 16% at a current density of 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> at -0.40 V versus RHE. The Faraday efficiency for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to ethanol and acetate is 16% at a current density of 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> at -0.40 V versus RHE.

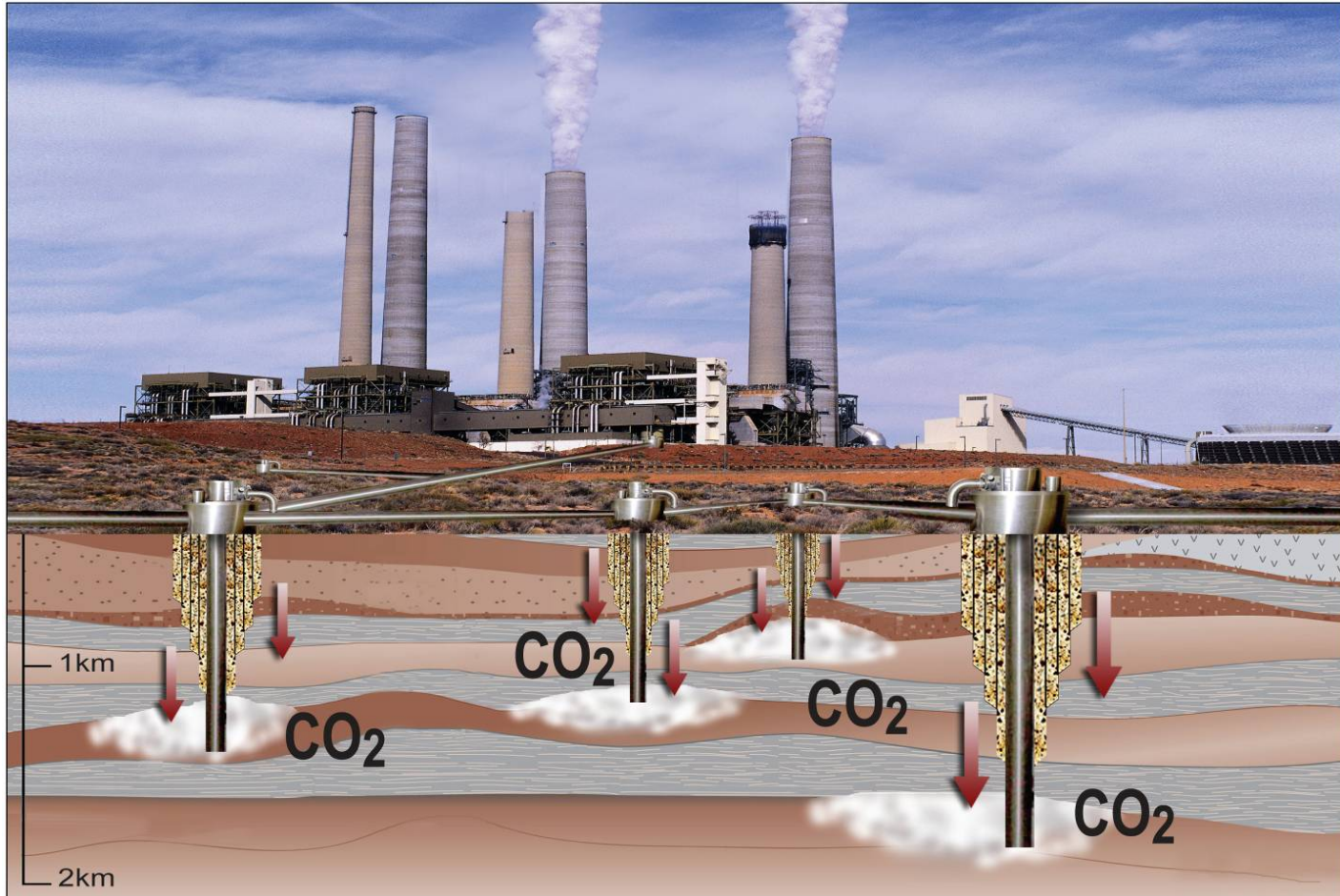


Nature, April 2014

# CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage Involves Four Steps



20



Capture



Compression



Pipeline  
Transport

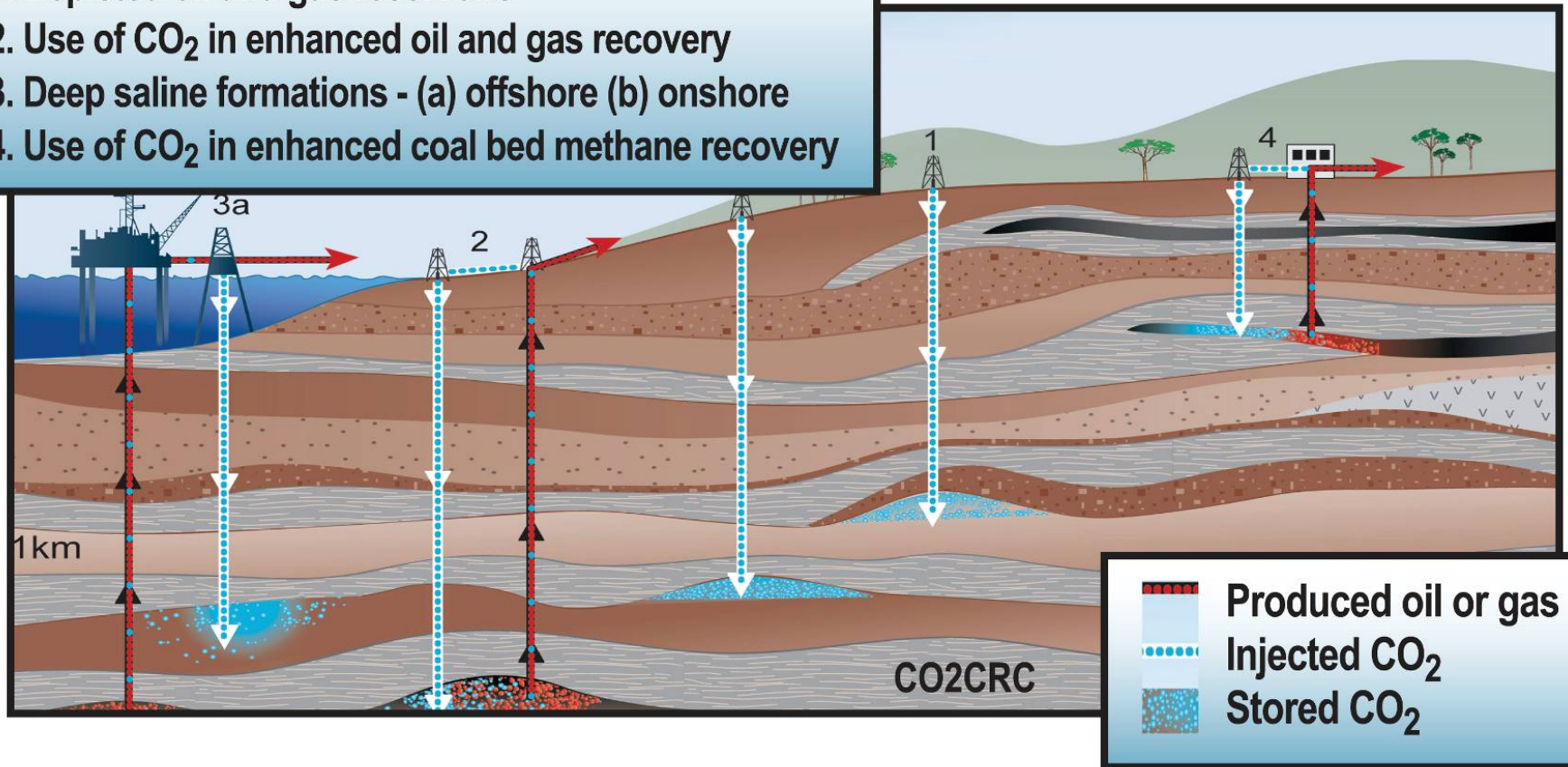


Storage  
or Reuse

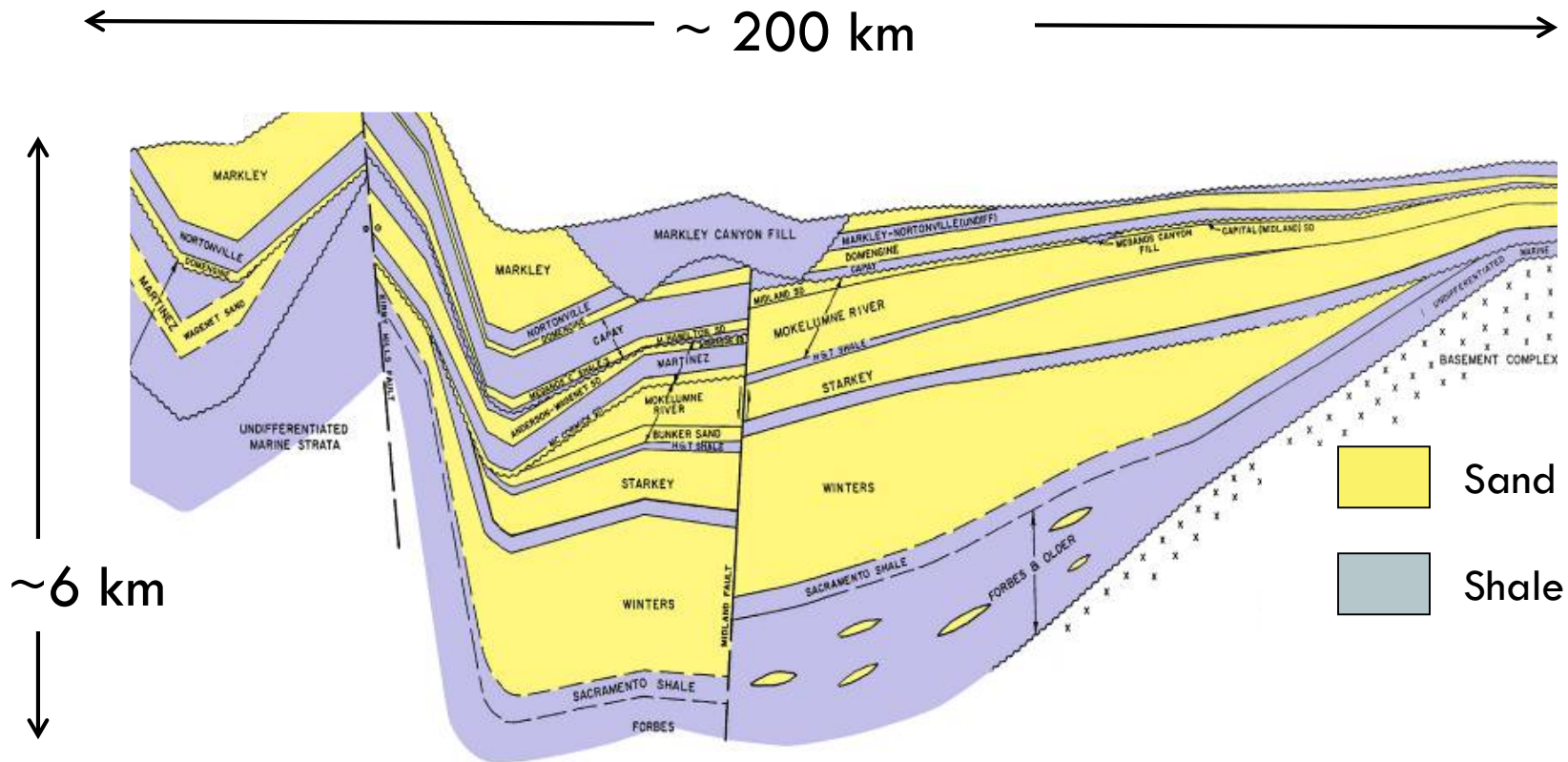
# Options for Geological Storage

## Overview of Geological Storage Options

1. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs
2. Use of CO<sub>2</sub> in enhanced oil and gas recovery
3. Deep saline formations - (a) offshore (b) onshore
4. Use of CO<sub>2</sub> in enhanced coal bed methane recovery



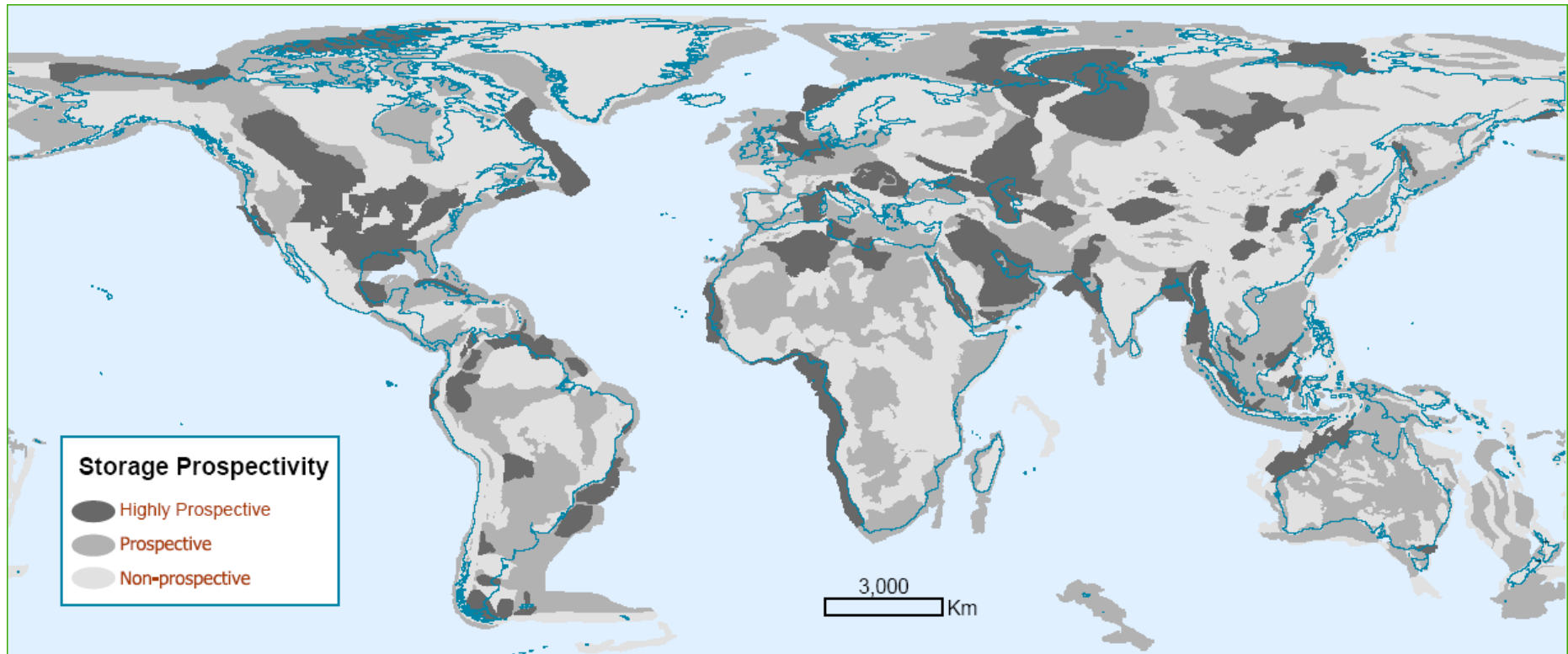
# Cross Section of Typical Sedimentary Basin



Northern California Sedimentary Basin

Example of a sedimentary basin with alternating layers of coarse and fine textured sedimentary rocks.

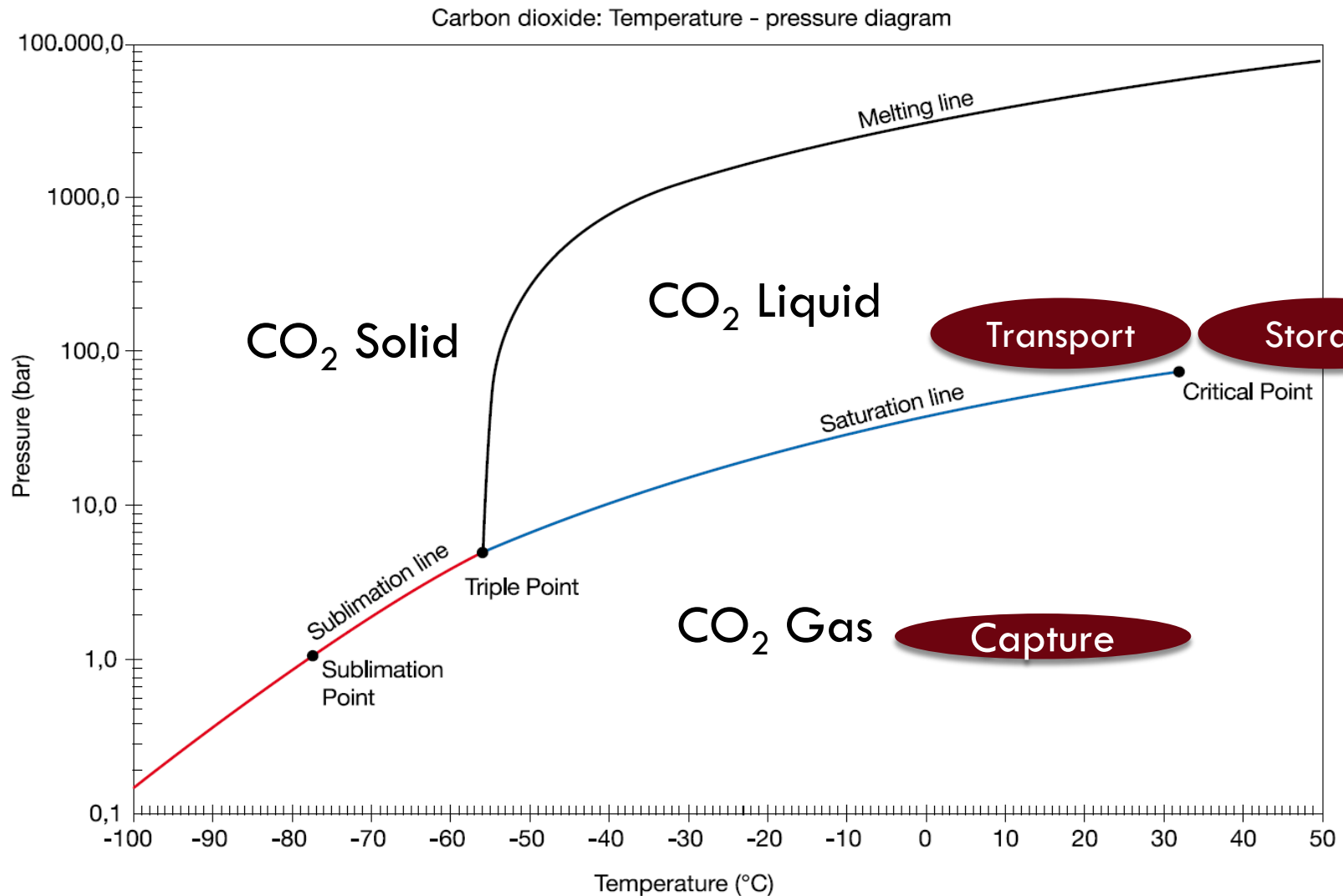
# Prospectivity for Storage Around the World



From Bradshaw and Dance 2005



# Phases of CO<sub>2</sub> for the CCS System

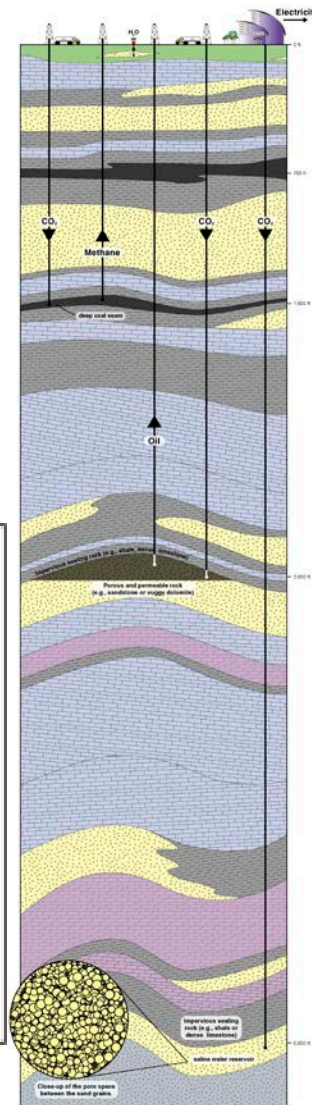
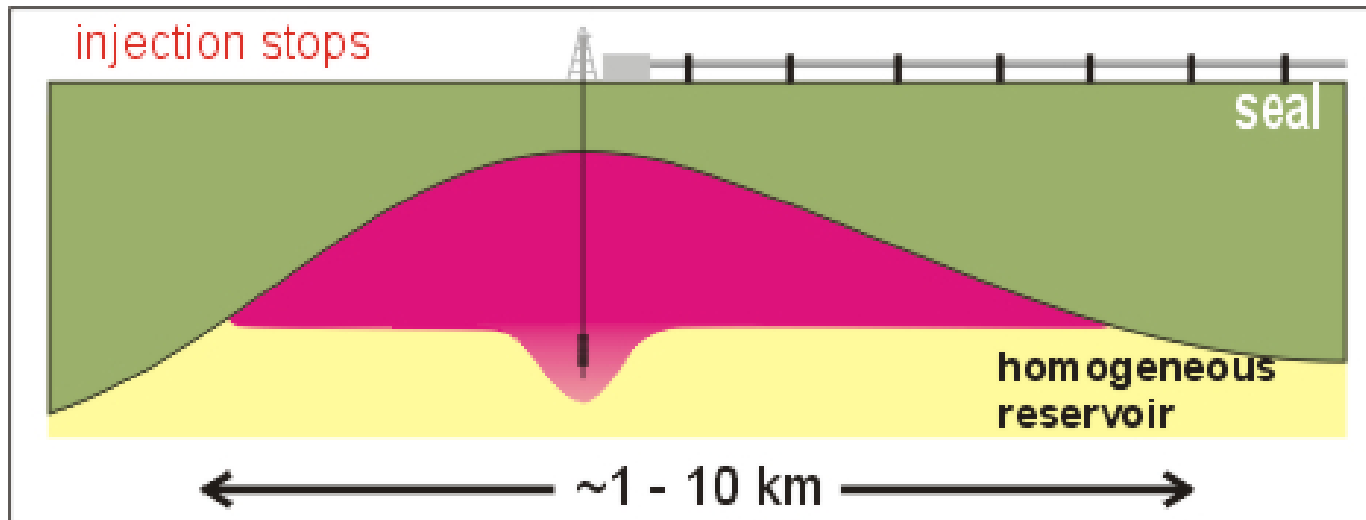






# Basic Concept of Geological Storage of CO<sub>2</sub>

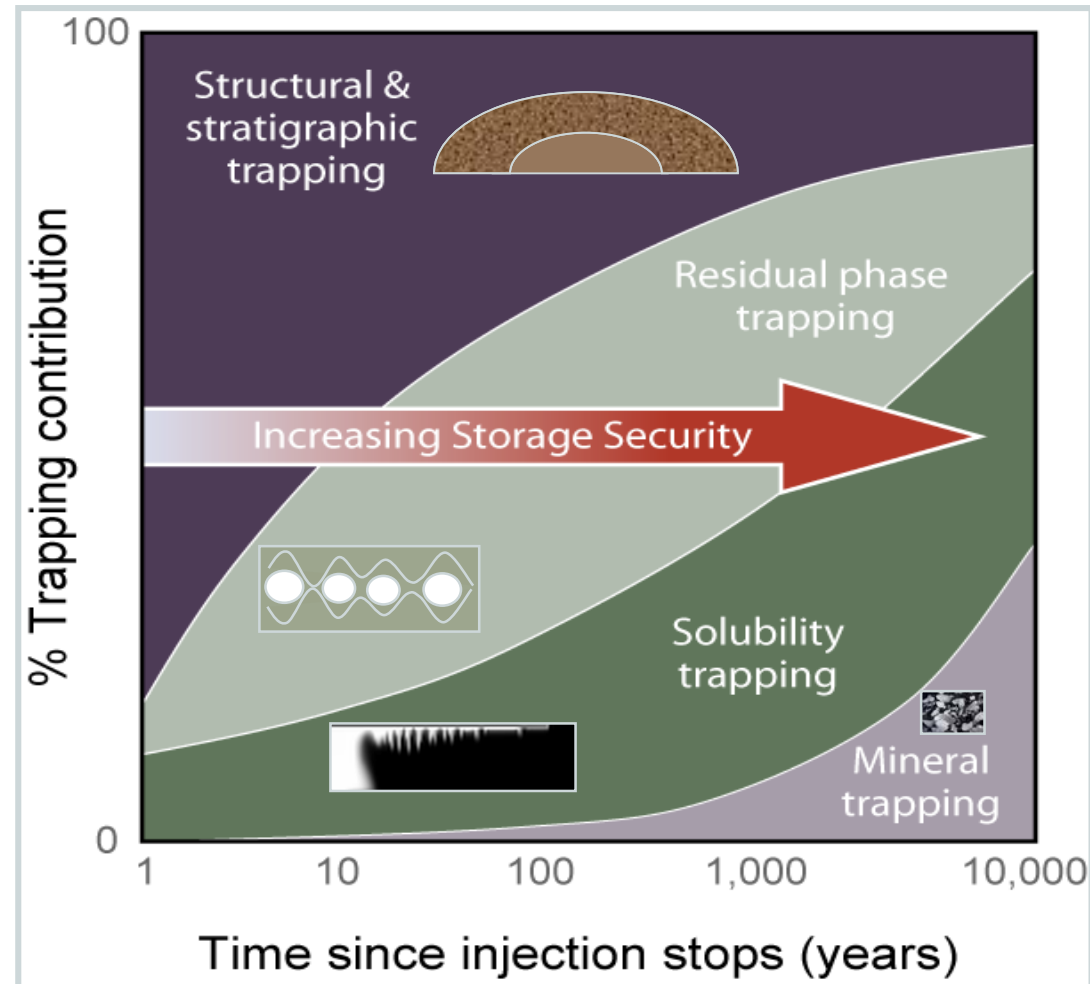
- Injected at depths of 1 km or deeper into with tiny pore spaces
- Primary trapping
  - ▣ Beneath seals of low permeability rocks



# Secondary Trapping Mechanisms Increase Over Time



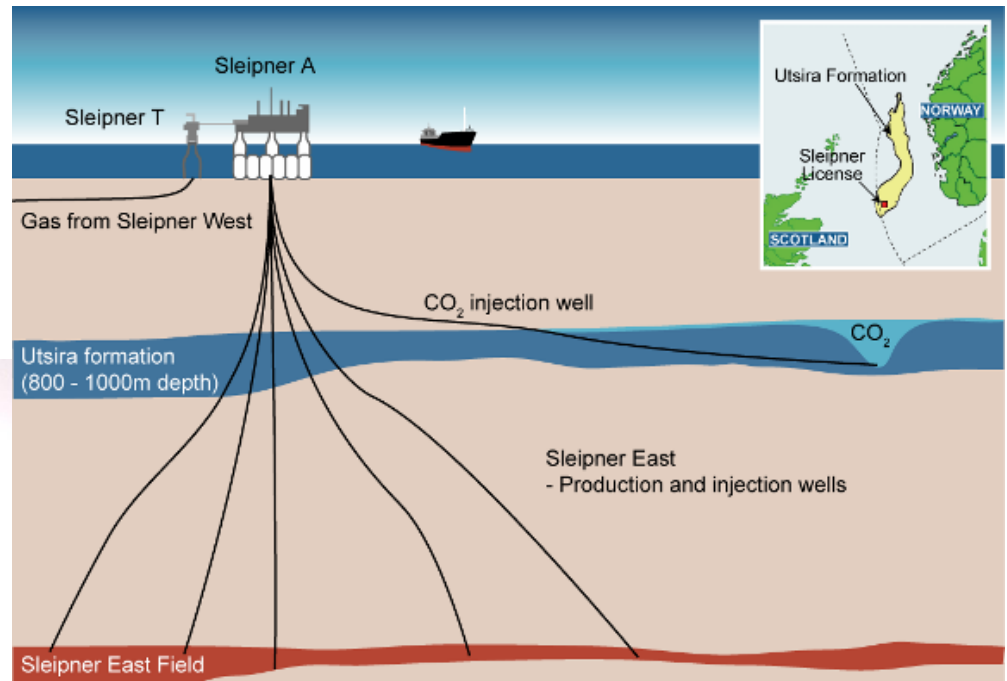
- Solubility trapping
  - ▣ CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in water
- Residual gas trapping
  - ▣ CO<sub>2</sub> is trapped by capillary forces
- Mineral trapping
  - ▣ CO<sub>2</sub> converts to solid minerals
- Adsorption trapping
  - ▣ CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbs to coal



# Sleipner Project, North Sea

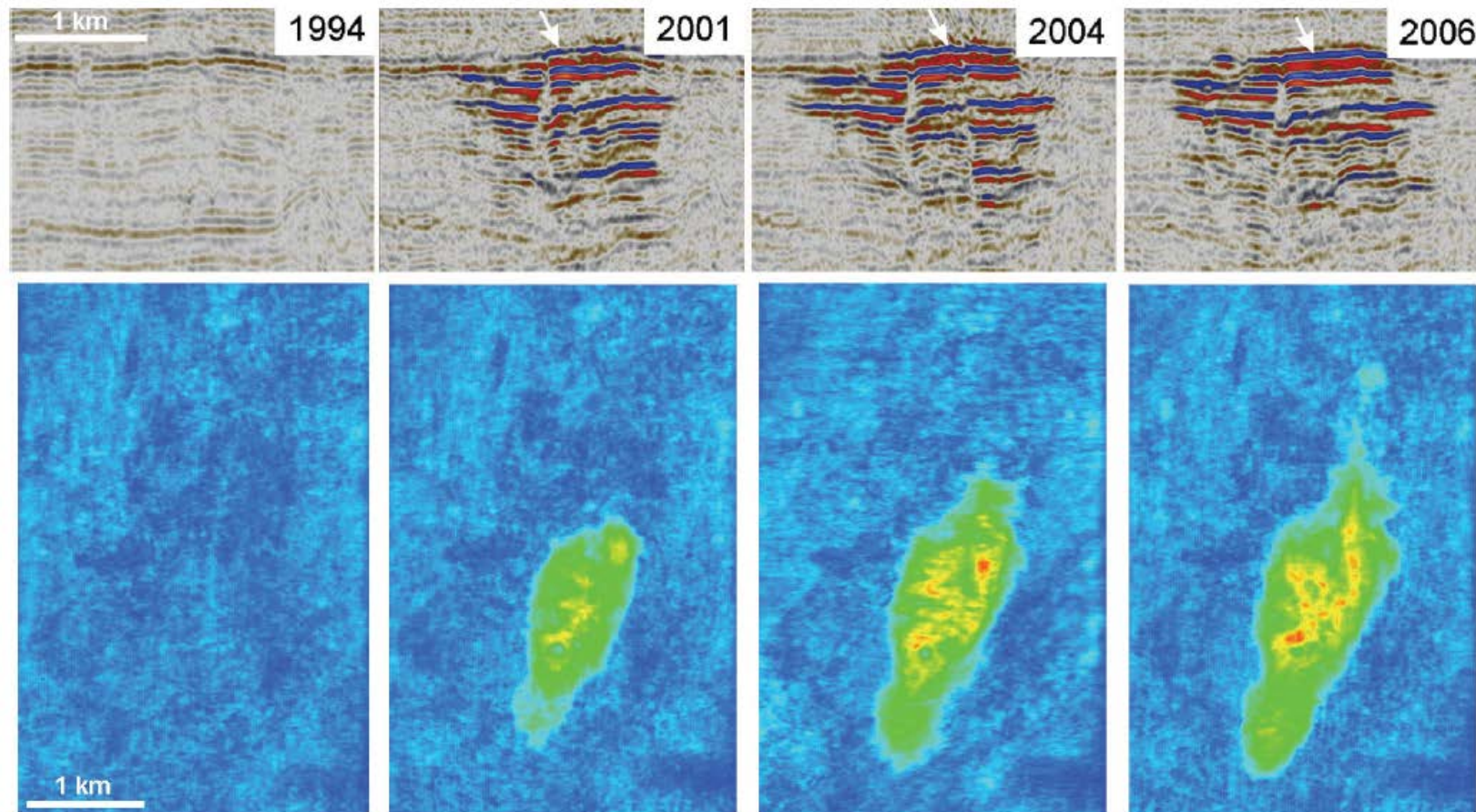


- 1996 to present
- 1 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> injection/yr
- Seismic monitoring



Courtesy Statoil

# Seismic Monitoring Data From Sleipner, Norway



From Chadwick et al., GHGT-9, 2008.

# Key Elements of a Geological Storage Safety and Security Strategy



“ With *appropriate site selection* informed by available subsurface information, a *monitoring program* to detect problems, a *regulatory system*, and the appropriate use of *remediation methods...*”

Financial  
Responsibility

“... risks similar to existing activities such as natural gas storage and EOR.”

Regulatory Oversight

“... the fraction retained is likely to exceed 99% over 1,000 years.”

Contingency Planning  
and Remediation

IPCC, 2005

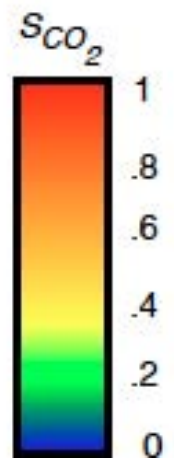
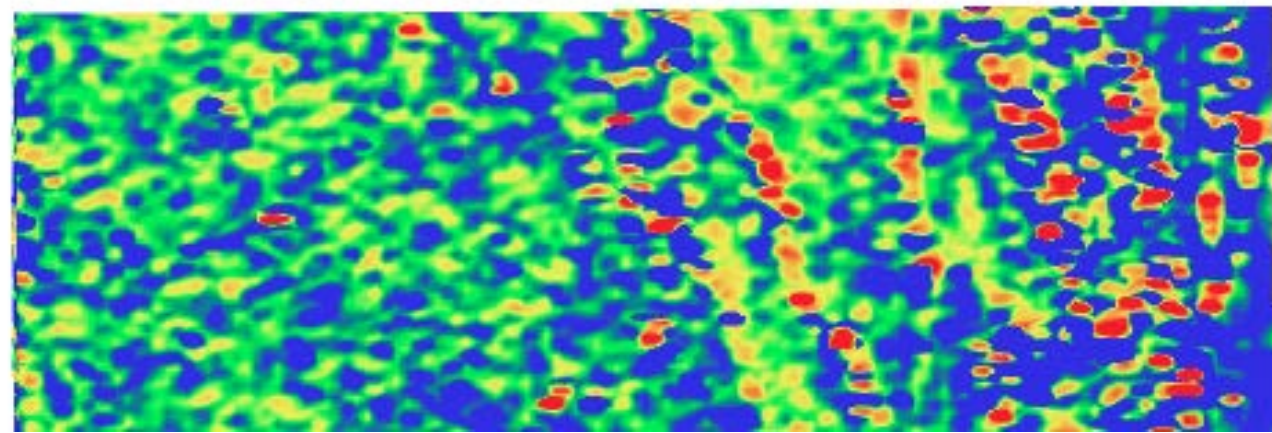
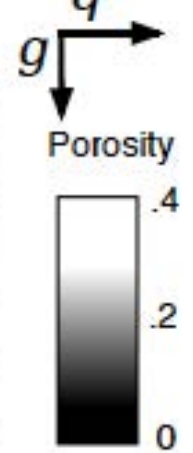
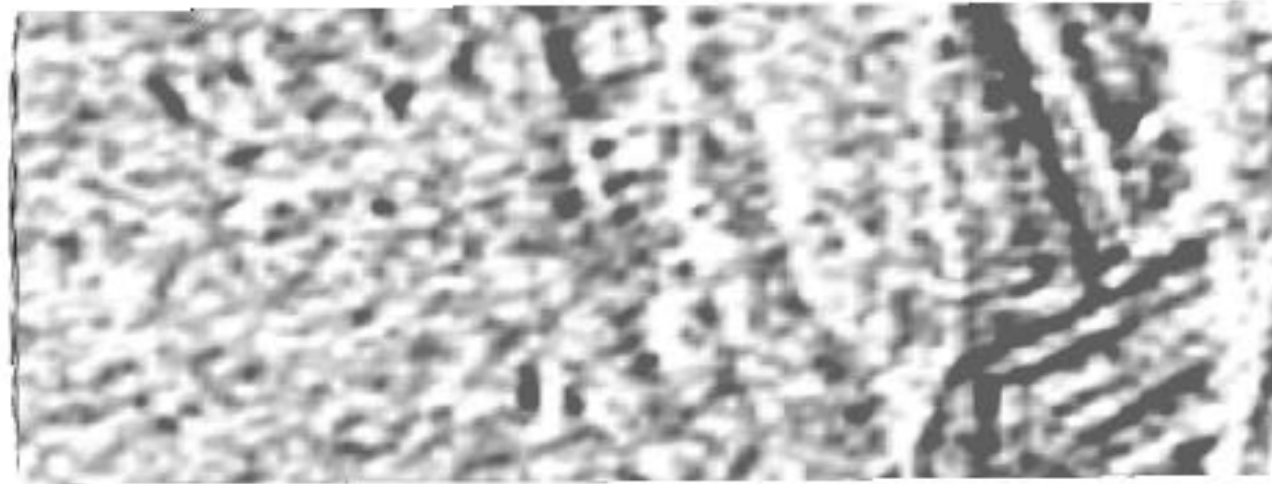
Monitoring

Safe Operations

Storage Engineering

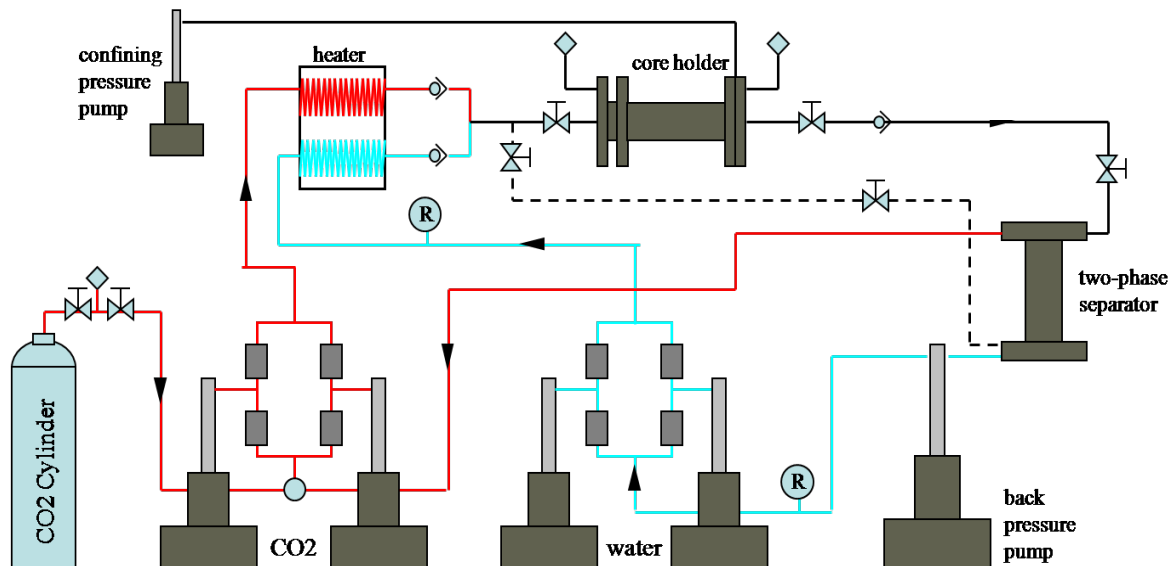
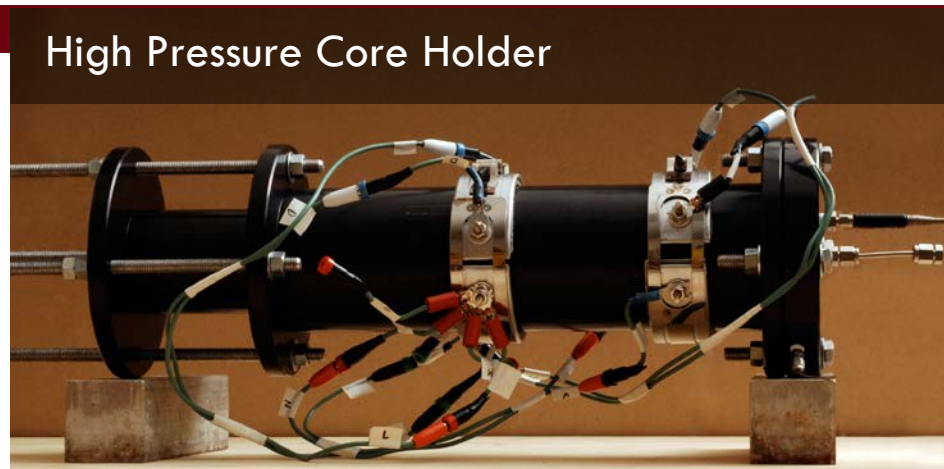
Site Characterization  
and Selection

Fundamental Storage  
and Leakage Mechanisms



## Influence of Heterogeneity on CO<sub>2</sub> Storage

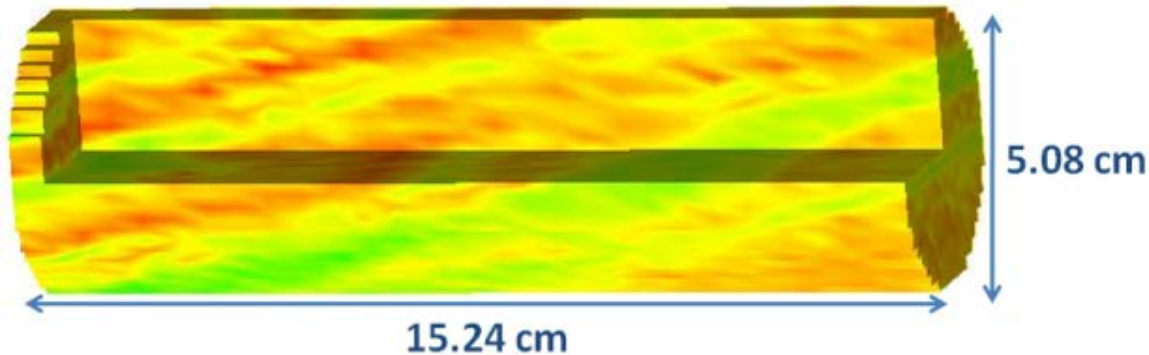
# Core-Flood Visualization Lab



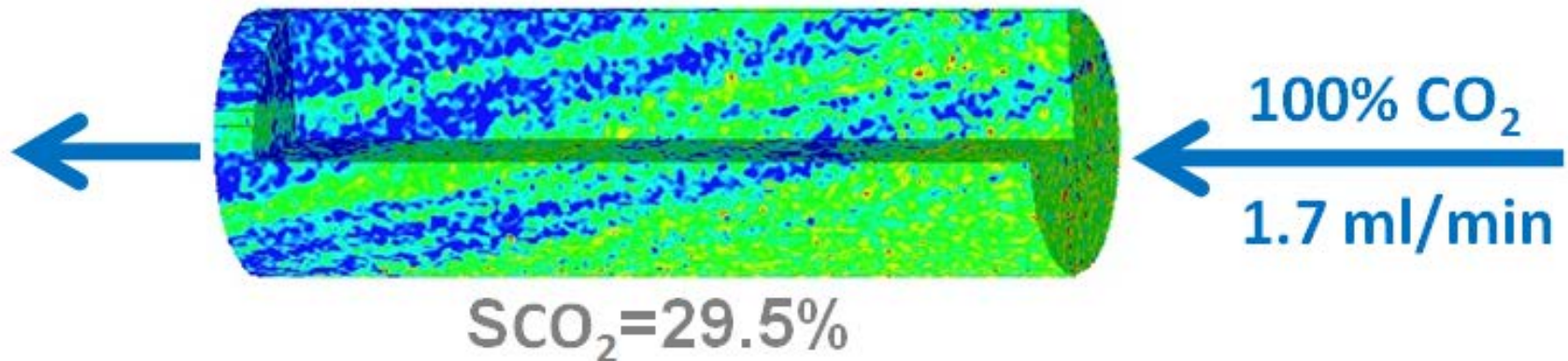
Continuous Flow Core-Flooding Apparatus

# CO<sub>2</sub> Saturations are Highly Variable

## Porosity

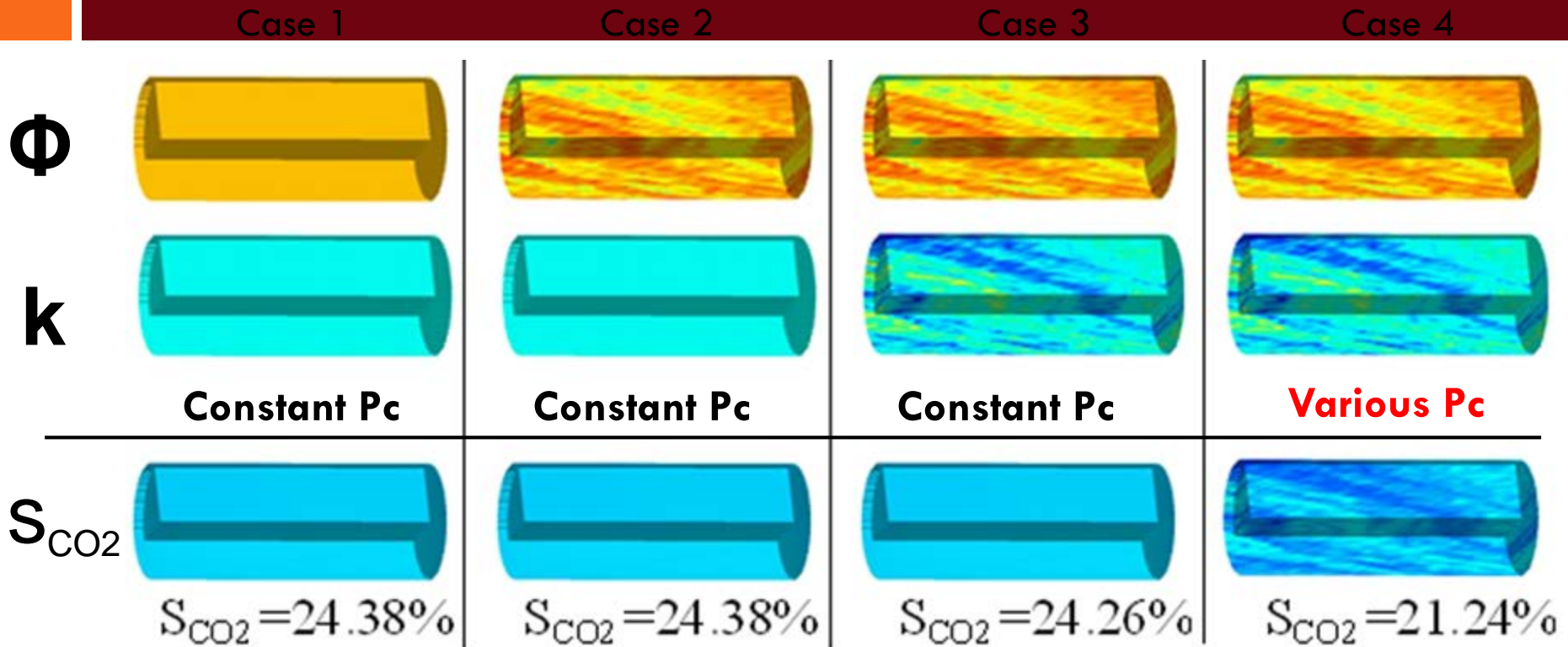


## Saturation Distribution



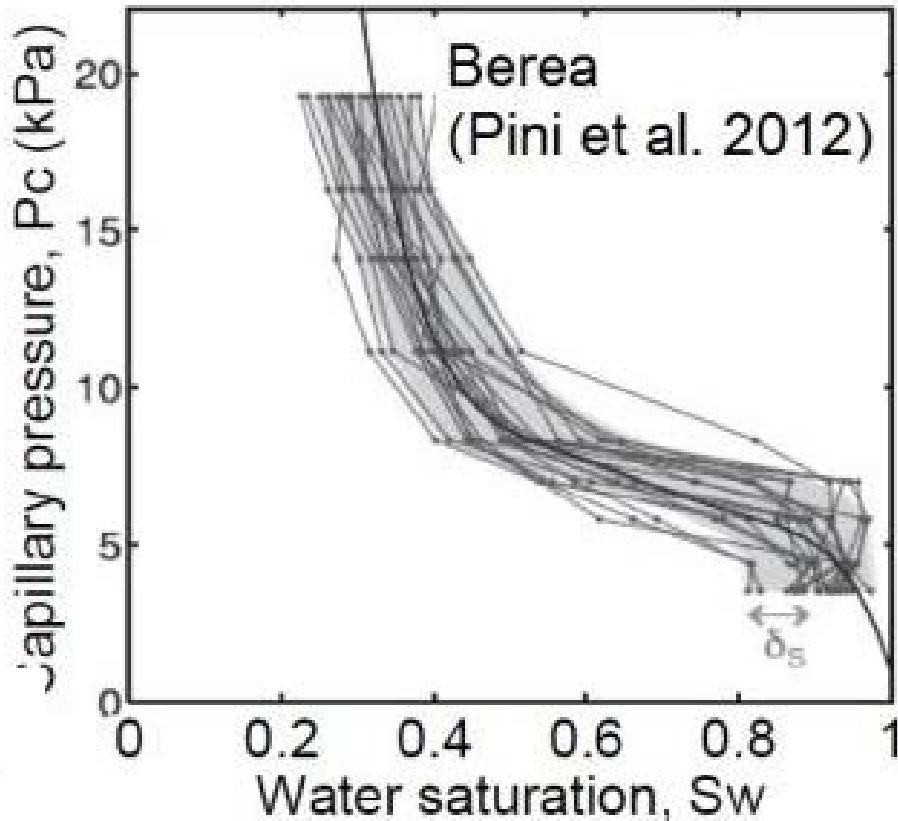


# Capillary Pressure Curve Heterogeneity Causes CO<sub>2</sub> Saturation Variations



 Unique capillary pressure curves are needed to create spatial variations in CO<sub>2</sub> saturation.

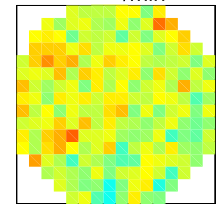
# Direct Measurement of Capillary Heterogeneity



35 ml/min

25 ml/min

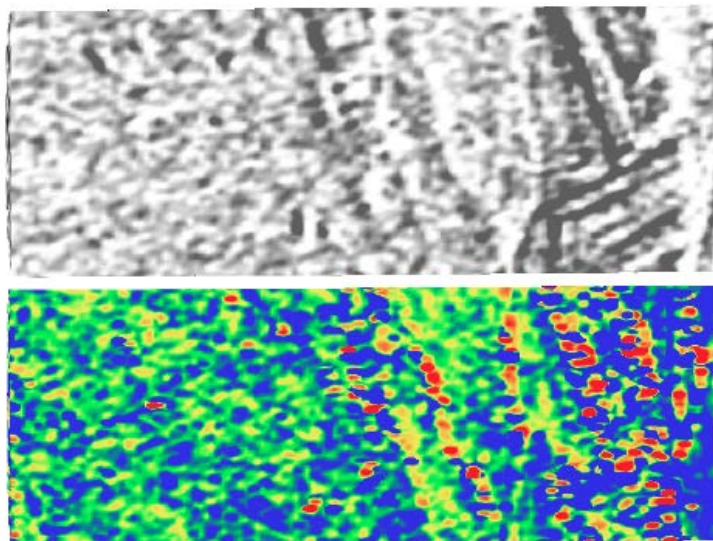
/min



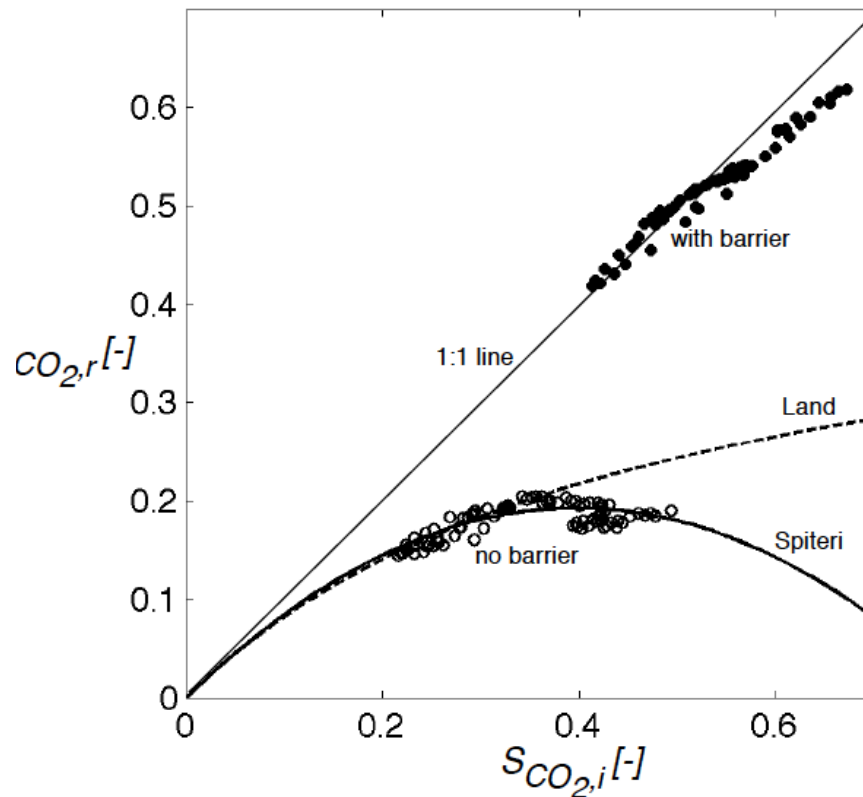
R. Pini, S.C. R. Krevor, and S. M. Benson, 2012. Capillary pressure and heterogeneity for the  $\text{CO}_2$ /water system in sandstone rocks at reservoir conditions, *Advances in Water Resources* 38 (2012) 48–59.

# Local Capillary Heterogeneity Leads to Increased Trapping

Mt. Simon Sandstone Rock Showing Bedding Planes



Saturation Distribution Showing CO<sub>2</sub> Trapping Before the Barrier



Krevor, S. C. M., R. Pini, B. Li and S. M. Benson, Capillary heterogeneity trapping of CO<sub>2</sub> in a sandstone rock at reservoir conditions, GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 38, L15401, 5 PP., 2011. doi:10.1029/2011GL048239

# X-Ray microtomography showing droplets of CO<sub>2</sub> in the rock (ALS, LBNL)



Micro-tomography Beamline

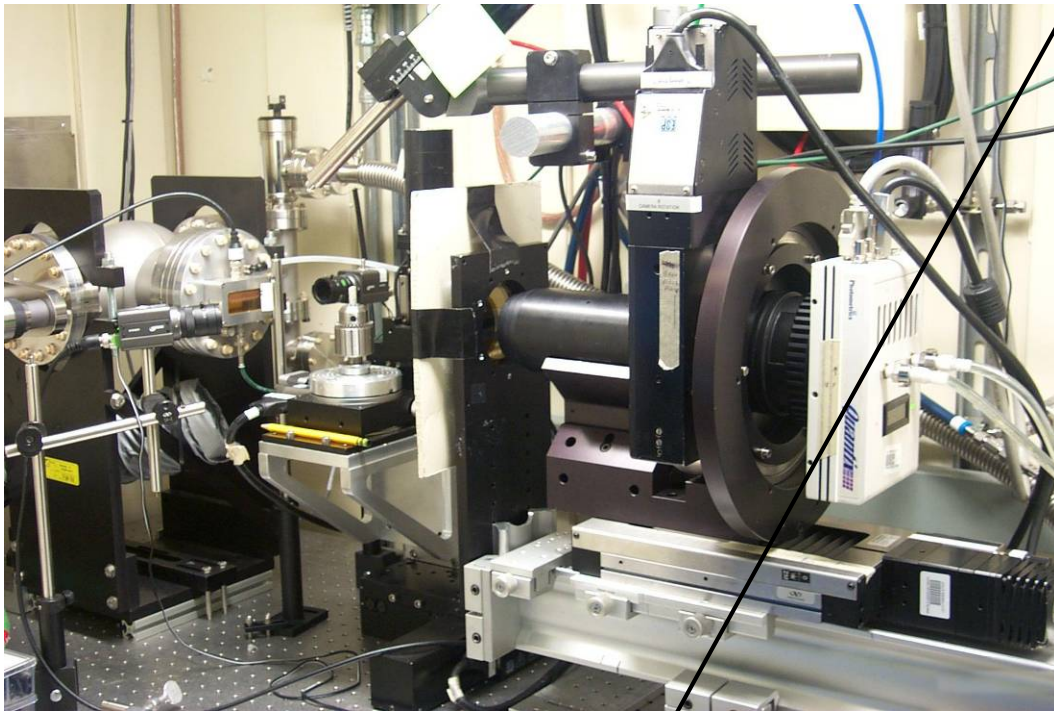
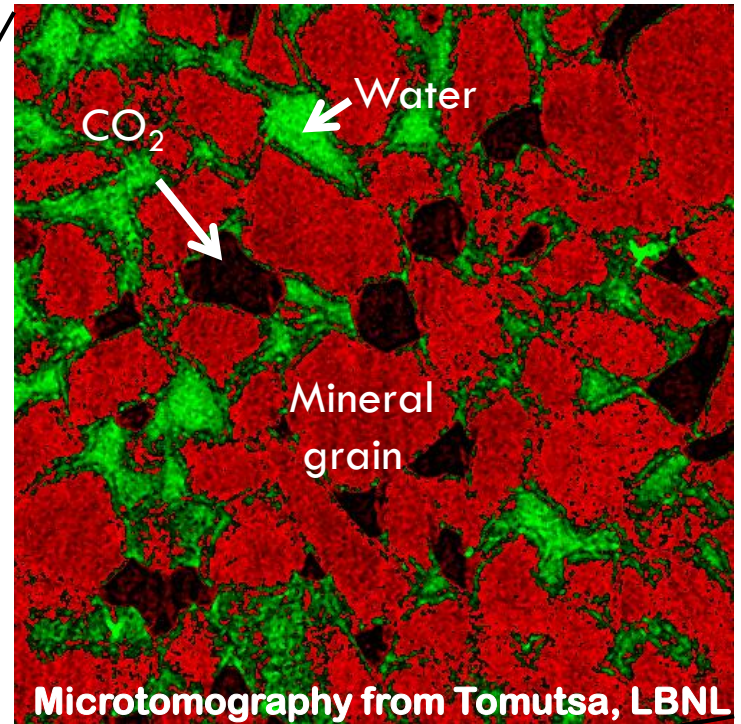
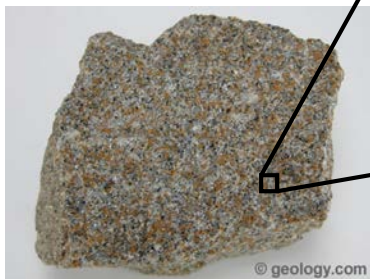


Image of Rock with CO<sub>2</sub>



← 2 mm →

Resolution ~ 5 μm





# Critical Issues for CCS

- Gain practical experience with power generation with CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage
  - Reliability and operating costs
- Lower the cost of capture by 50% or more
  - Current technology estimated to cost 3-6 cents per kWh
- Increase confidence in storage safety and security
  - CO<sub>2</sub> retention and groundwater impacts
  - Induced seismicity?
- Sustain R&D
  - New capture technologies
  - Storage security, site characterization, and monitoring
- Favorable policy environment