

Ranking importance of uncertainties for the assessment of residual and dissolution trapping of CO₂ on a large-scale storage site

Motivation

- > CO₂ plume migration and trapping after storage operations is often investigated through **numerical flow simulation**
- > EU Directive on the geological storage of CO₂: “**Multiple simulations** shall be undertaken to **identify the sensitivity** of the assessment to assumptions made about particular parameters”

What could be the challenges for such an importance ranking (sensitivity analysis) ?
and
How to face them ?

Variance-Based global Sensitivity Analysis

- > **Basic idea:** Variance (model output) ~ measure of uncertainty
- > **Tools:** Sobol' indices [Sobol', 1993; Saltelli et al., 2008].
 - if one knew the true value of one input parameter
⇒ Expected reduction in Variance (model output) ~ measure of sensitivity
= **Main effect of each input parameter**
 - if one knew the true value of all input parameters but one
⇒ Expected variance (model output)
= **Total effect of each input parameter**
- > **Objectives:**
 - **Main effect:** prioritizing the characterization effort to decrease the output uncertainty
 - **Total effect:** shows the « **non-influential** » parameters

Challenges

- > Best practices for global sensitivity analysis requires running models a **large number of times** (> 1,000-10,000)
- > Relevant numerical models generally include **many processes, on a large scale**, and **long simulation times** to capture long term phenomena: **High computation time** (several hours- days)
- ⇒ Proper sensitivity analysis should be conducted combined with fast-running approximations (**reduced-order models** aka **metamodels**)

- > Relevant numerical flow models generally require **numerous input data (~10)**, of **different types** and **with different levels of uncertainty**.
- > Several ways to account for the related uncertainty:
 - **Fixed value:**
ex. structural geological model
 - **Continuous probability distribution for parameter uncertainty:**
ex. porosity / permeability distribution
 - **Discrete variables (scenarios) for model uncertainty:**
ex. flow model gridding
ex. capillary pressure scenarios
- ⇒ Accounting for discrete variables in meta-models has been addressed recently [Storlie et al., 2013]

Case study: objective and hypothesis

- > **Injection of 30 Mt of CO₂ during 30 years** in the lower Triassic sandstone formation in the Paris basin (France).
- > **Objective:** assessing the **evolution of the mobile free-phase CO₂** plume up to 250 years after injection

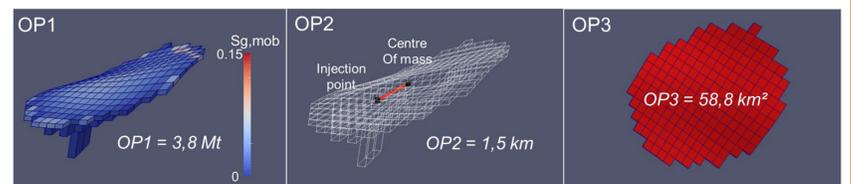
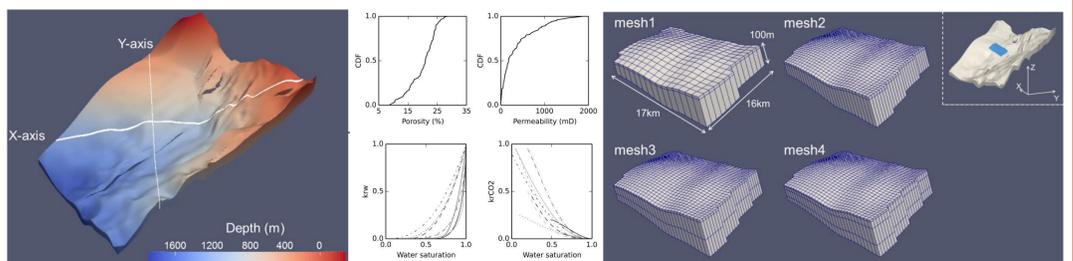
> Data / Inputs:

- **Fixed value:**
 - Geological model of the reservoir
 - Temperature / salinity at injection point
- **Continuous probability distribution:** Porosity/permeability: distribution from well data
- **Discrete variables (scenarios):**
 - Permeability anisotropy: 3 different scenarios
 - Local pressure gradient: 2 extreme scenarios
 - Capillary pressure: 2 extreme scenarios
 - Relative permeability: 10 scenarios from literature dataset
 - Gridding: 4 scenarios from 4 different refinements degree

> Model and outputs:

- Flow simulator: LBNL TOUGH2 (accounting for solubility and residual trapping)
- **3 outputs parameters (OPs) of interest:**
 - OP1: Mass of mobile free-phase CO₂
 - OP2: Distance from the injection point
 - OP3: Surface in contact with the caprock

[Manceau and Rohmer, 2014; Submitted]



Case study: application of the methodology and results

> Procedure:

- 300 samples of the input parameters randomly generated
- Flow simulation for the 300 samples and assessment of the 3 OPs (ca. **1.25 m. CPU-time**)
- ACOSSO-type meta-model for each OP and for several simulation times
- Approximation quality ($R^2 > 90\%$) / Predictive quality by 10-fold cross-validation procedure ($R_{cv}^2 > 75\%$)
- 90,000 meta-model runs for computing the main and total effects (Ca. **30 y. CPU-time with the initial model**)

> Results (example for OP1)

- Most important parameters: **kabs, kr and Pc**
- Pc importance decrease vs. Kabs and kr increase: early trapping driven by Pc
- « Non-influential » parameters: **kh/kv, mesh, regional gradient, porosity**

> Main outcomes on the methodological perspective

- The method provides physically sound outcomes
- The method provides important elements to derive recommendations to reduce uncertainties with a limited time cost

[Manceau and Rohmer, 2014; Submitted]

