

New tricks for old dogs: modelling for storage

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5.30pm Houghton Lecture Theatre, Museum Building, Trinity College

So CO₂ storage projects are not just gas injection schemes? For some of us this was a surprise and for a while it looked like future petroleum engineering work in the era of storage would be dull. Far from it.

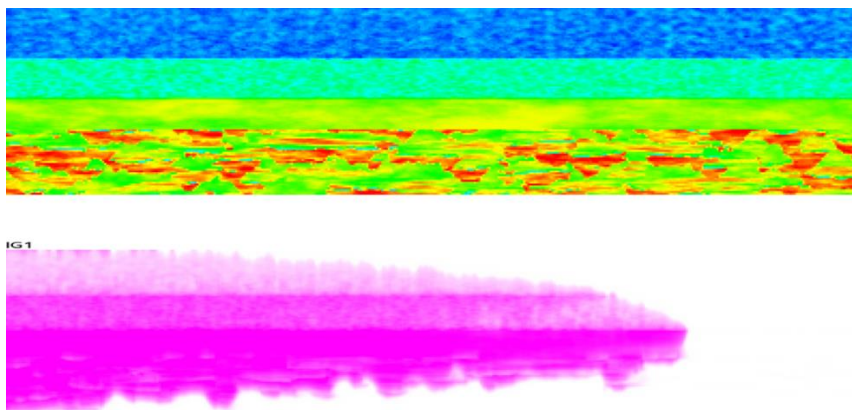


The closer we look, the more tricky it is. We're engaging in multi-phase flow with a highly unfavourable mobility ratio and we are more than usually sensitive to reservoir heterogeneity, which we often struggle to model correctly for production projects. We also need to change our mindset from familiar concepts such as in-place resource volumes and recovery factor to less familiar ideas of storativity and storage efficiency.

There is also the overarching issue of scale: both the scales we need to think and model at but also the scalability of storage projects themselves to achieve net-zero goals and whether this can be practically possible.

In this short talk I will share some experiences from colleagues working on the pioneering CCS schemes in Norway and now the UK, and researchers working on the underlying physics, chemistry and geomechanics of CCS schemes. No one is yet an expert, as so little has really been done at scale. I'll also offer my own perspectives as a reservoir modeller; to cut a long story short, it's going to be harder to get right than modelling for production.

Dull? Not at all ...



Mark is a geoscientist who has spent most of his career making reservoir models and delivering training courses. His past was spent happily at Shell and TRACS and he now works independently as Langdale Geoscience. He was recently an SPE DL and is very grateful for the nice bag. He also holds a part-time post at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

