Geomechanical Issues Affecting Long-term Storage of CO_2

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Eminar Series 2
April 27, 2022

Stanford | Stanford Center for Induced and Triggered Seismicity
School of Earth, Energy & Environmental Sciences

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Topics – Massive Scale CCS *from a Geomechanical Perspective*

- The Need for Massive Scale for Carbon Storage
- Saline Aquifers
  - Basal Aquifers and the Critically-Stressed Crust
    - Lessons from Induced Seismicity in Oklahoma
- Can we Identify Potentially Active Faults Prior to Injection?
- Saline Aquifers
    - Lessons from Induced Seismicity in the Delaware Basin
- Depleted Oil and Gas Reservoirs
  - How Poroelastic Stress Changes Limit Induced Seismicity
  - How Past Production has Affected Potential CCS Reservoirs
- Progress to Date

Massive Scale CCS?

- Achieving the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Sustainable Development Scenario will require 6 Gt scCO_2 per year to be stored by 2050. Volumetrically equivalent to 150% of current global oil production.
- The CCS industry is expected to reach 1 Gt scCO_2 per year by 2030.
- Today's carbon sequestration industry must grow by 50 times. ~20 Mt per year of anthropogenic CO_2 is currently being injected in 46 projects to reach 2030 targets.
- It is estimated that about $1 trillion of investment will be needed to support this growth, necessitating investment from capital providers across the entire development pipeline (capture -> transport -> storage).
- "***Reaching net zero will be virtually impossible with CCUS***" – IEA, September 2020

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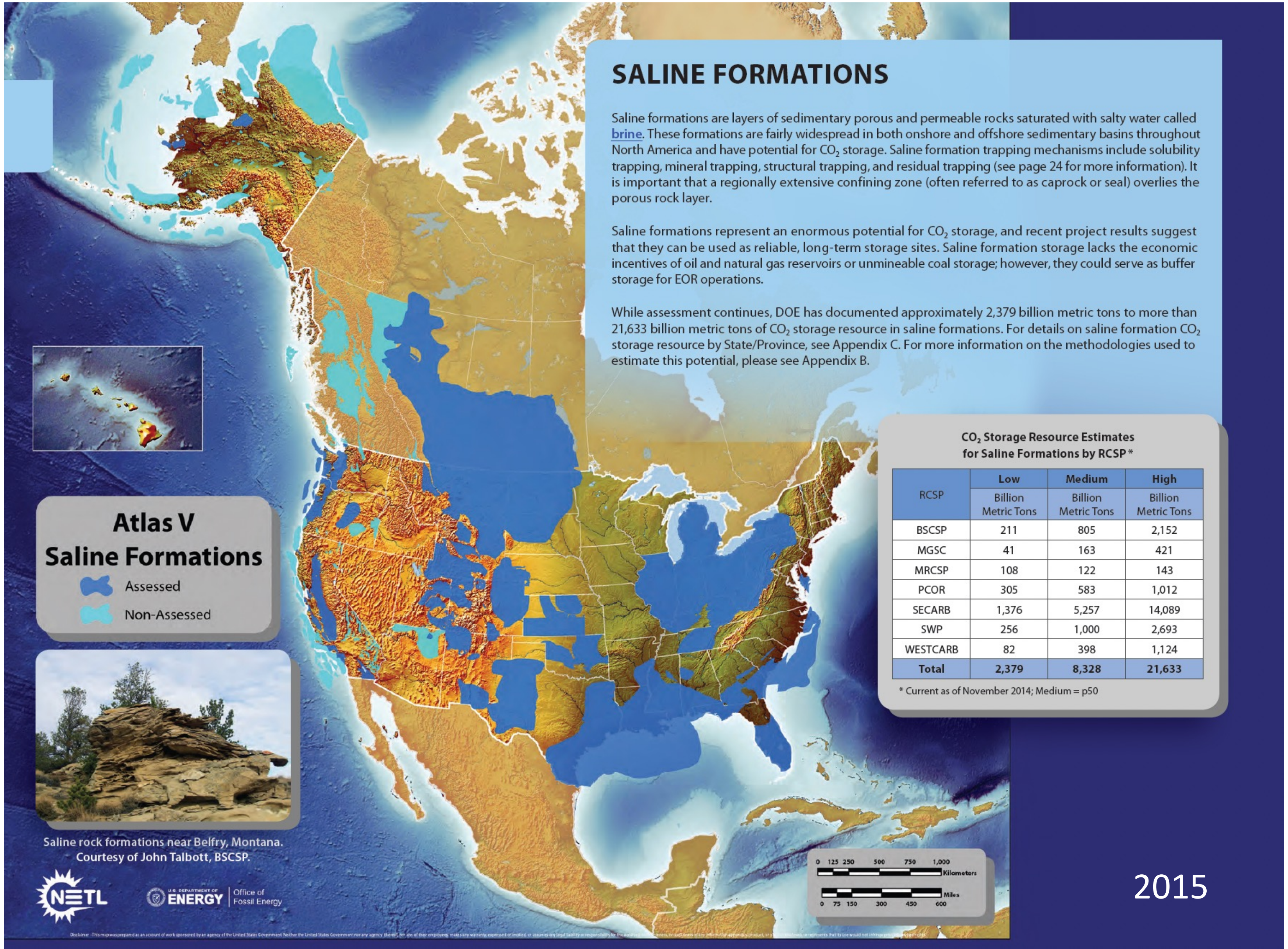
Volumetric Assessments of Saline Aquifer Storage (Theoretically Available Pore Space)



SALINE FORMATIONS

Saline formations are layers of sedimentary porous and permeable rocks saturated with salty water called brine. These formations are fairly widespread in both onshore and offshore sedimentary basins throughout North America and have potential for CO_2 storage. Saline formation trapping mechanisms include solubility trapping, mineral trapping, structural trapping, and residual trapping (see page 24 for more information). It is important that a regionally extensive confining zone (often referred to as caprock or seal) overlies the porous rock layer.

Saline formations represent an enormous potential for CO_2 storage, and recent project results suggest that they can be used as reliable, long-term storage sites. Saline formation storage lacks the economic incentives of oil and natural gas reservoirs or unmineable coal storage; however, they could serve as buffer storage for EOR operations.

While assessment continues, DOE has documented approximately 2,379 billion metric tons to more than 21,633 billion metric tons of CO_2 storage resource in saline formations. For details on saline formation CO_2 storage resource by State/Province, see Appendix C. For more information on the methodologies used to estimate this potential, please see Appendix B.

CO_2 Storage Resource Estimates for Saline Formations by RCSP*

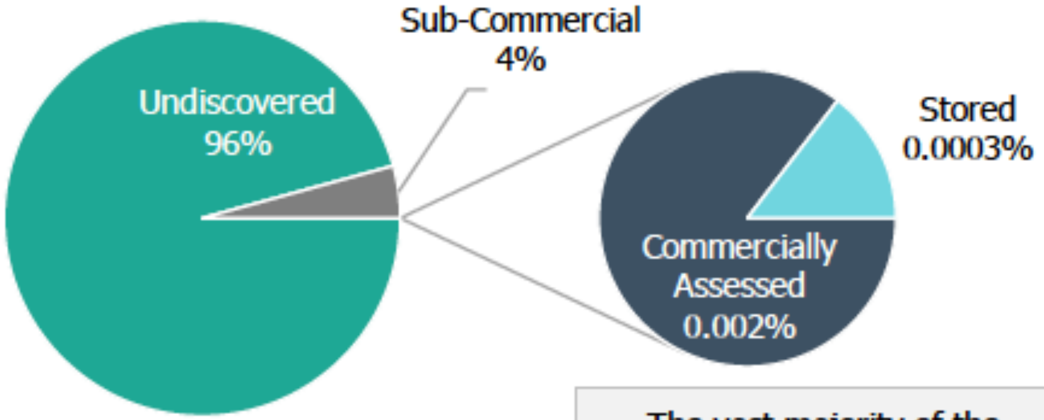
RCSP	Low	Medium	High
	Billion Metric Tons	Billion Metric Tons	Billion Metric Tons
BSCSP	211	805	2,152
MGSC	41	163	421
MRCSP	108	122	143
PCOR	305	583	1,012
SECARB	1,376	5,257	14,089
SWP	256	1,000	2,693
WESTCARB	82	398	1,124
Total	**2,379**	**8,328**	**21,633**

* Current as of November 2014; Medium = p50

Mid-range est.
8328 GT tonnes

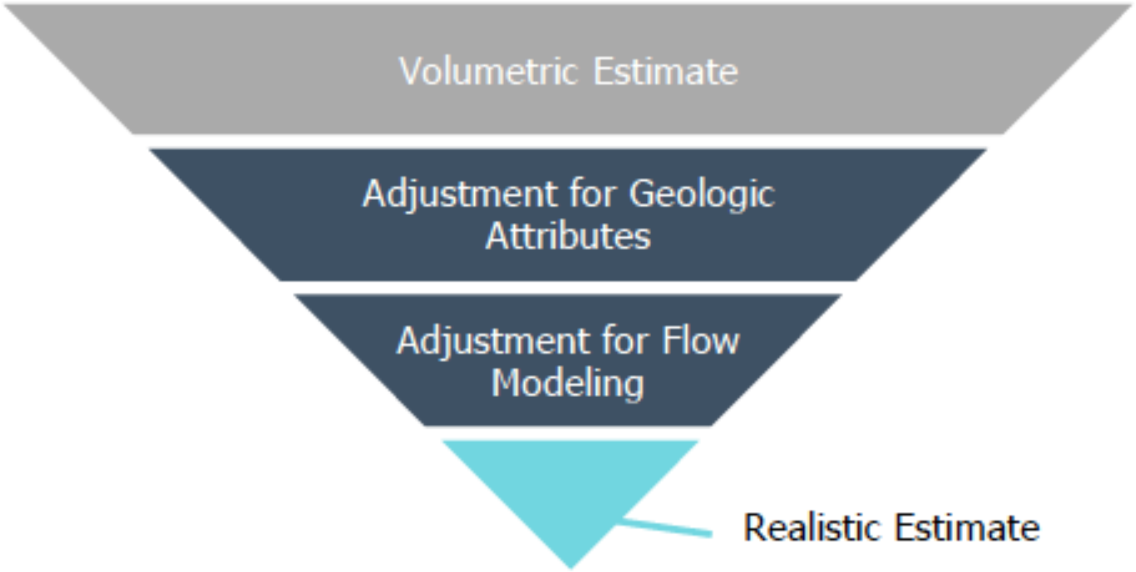
Realistically Assessing Capacity

Global Storage Resource Classification
Using SPE Storage Resources Management System (SRMS)



The vast majority of the global sequestration resource is not well characterized.

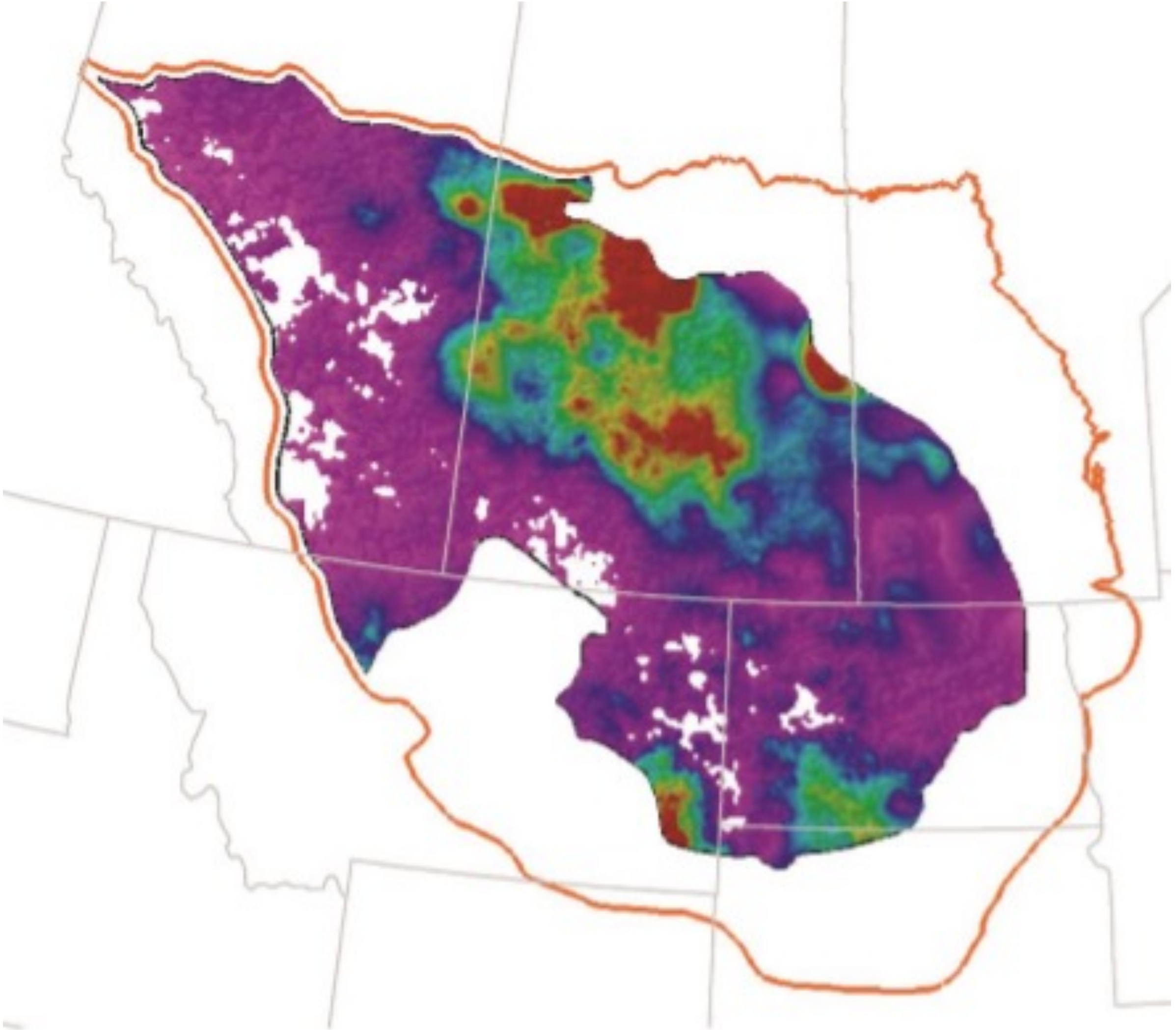
Illustrative Sequestration Resource Volume
Volumetric Estimate vs. Realistic Estimate



Basal Saline Aquifers

Basal Cambrian Sandstone,
Great Plains of the U.S. and Canada

- The aquifer with largest estimated resources in the area
- Volumetric approach: 223 – 721 Gt resources
- Storage formation for Quest and Aquistore projects



Teletsky et al. (2019) argue that from a flow modeling perspective, volumetric estimates are ~10 x too high

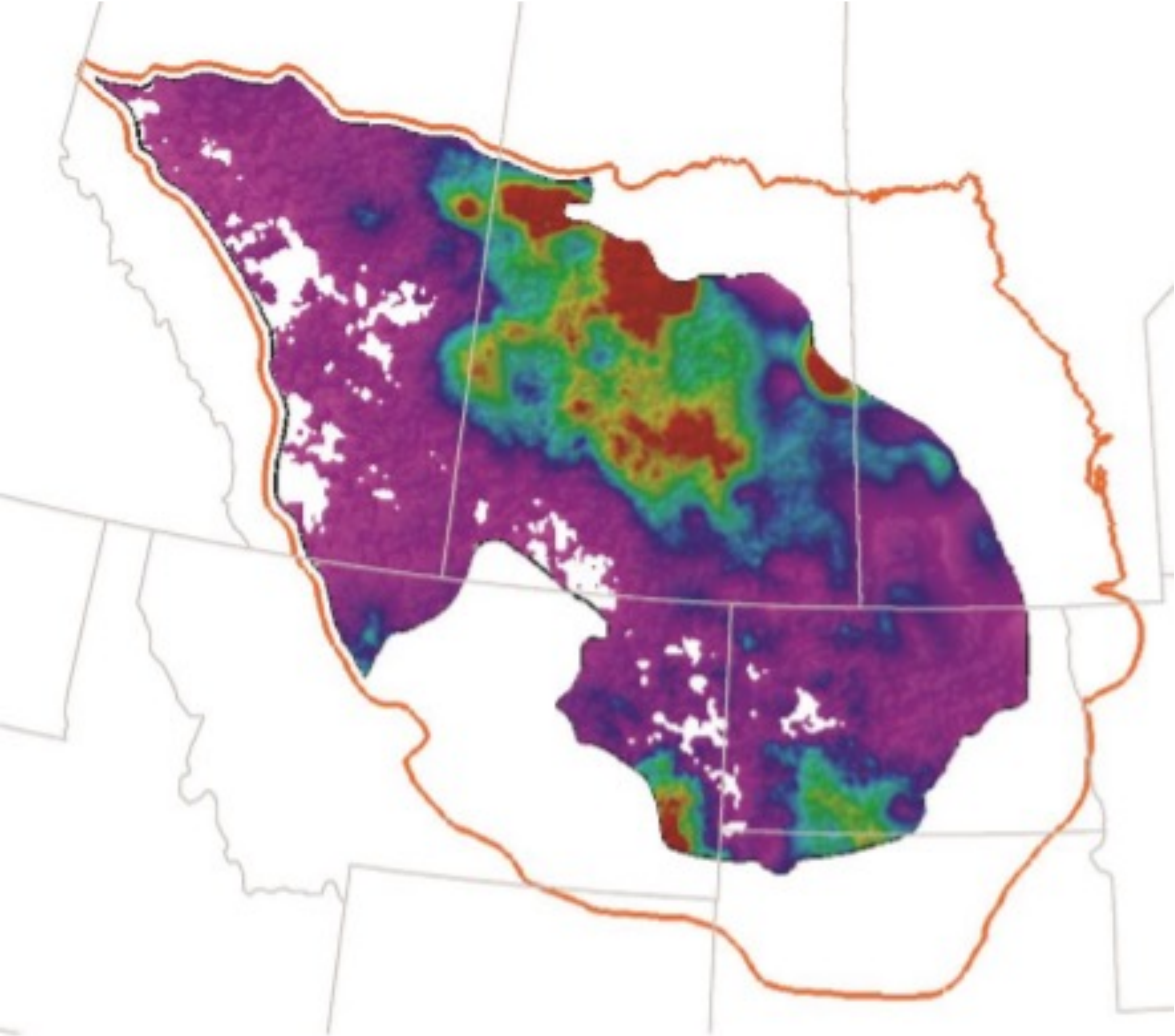
Basal Saline Aquifers

OGCI assessment of the Great Plains Basal Cambrian Sandstone storage resource

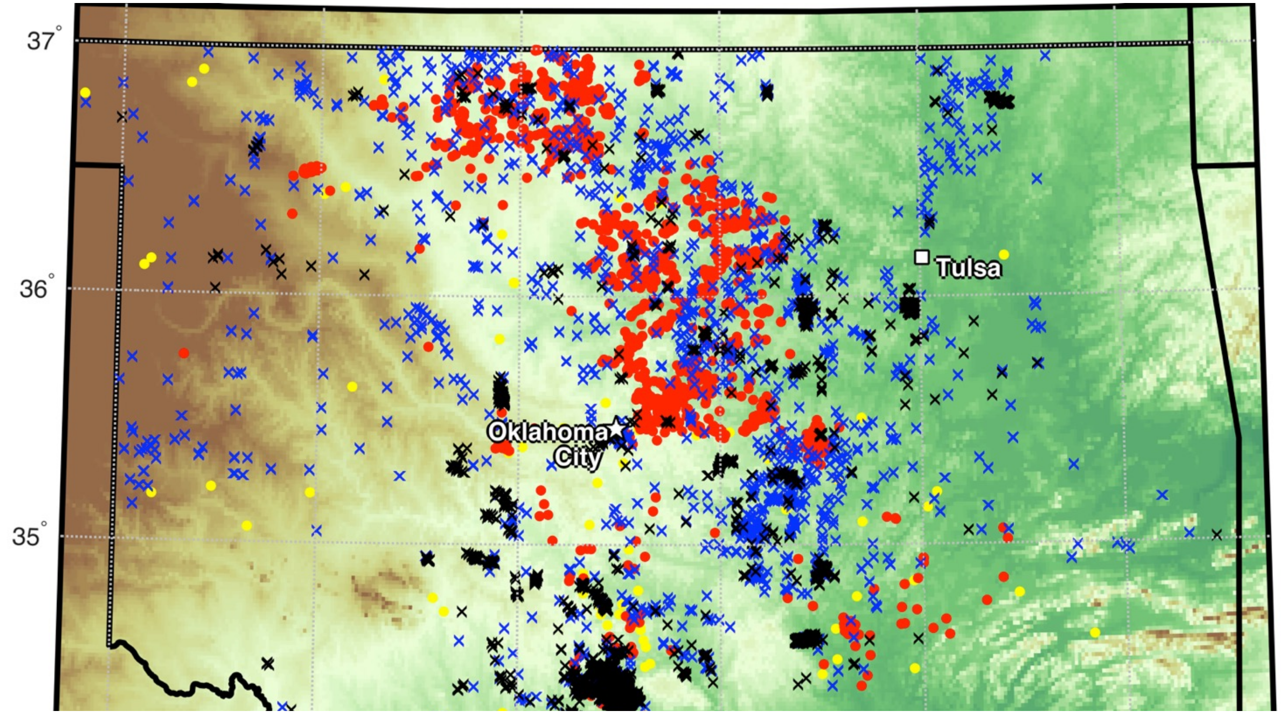
- Flow modeling: ~3 Gt of capacity based on injection from 16 major sources in the area at ~100 MTPA

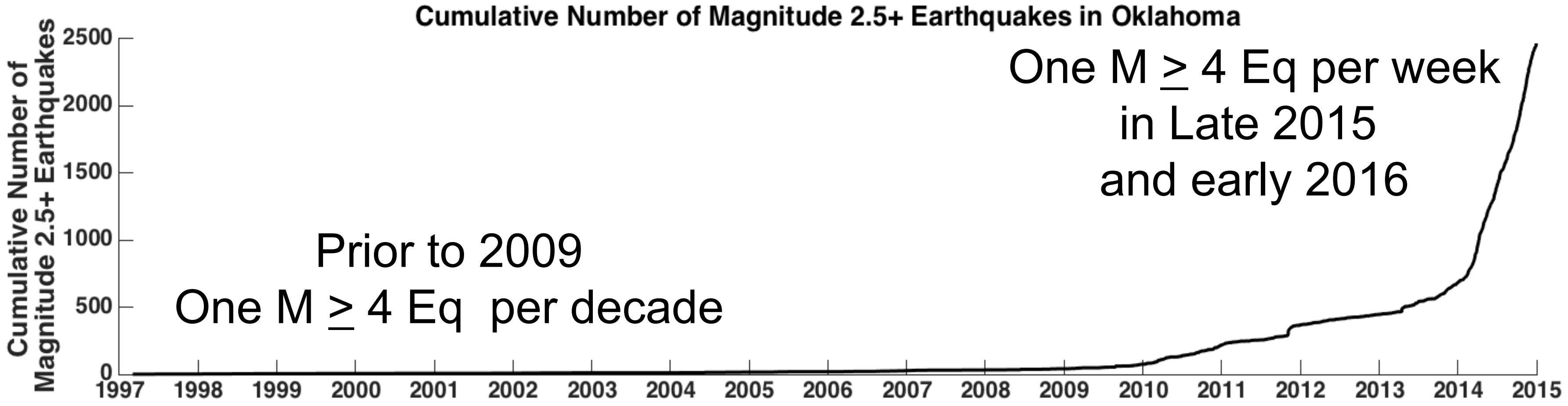
➢ Large gap between volumetric and capacity assessments

* EERC report 2015-EERC-02-14

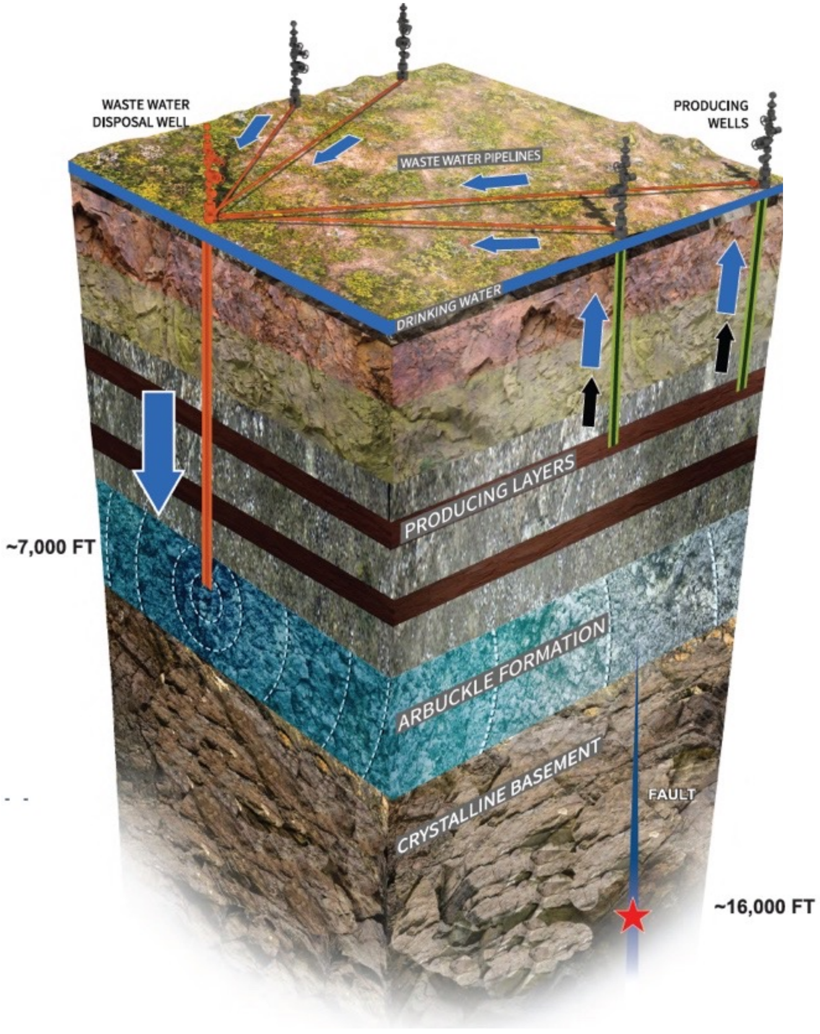


Is Injection into Basal Formations Viable? Triggered Earthquakes in Oklahoma



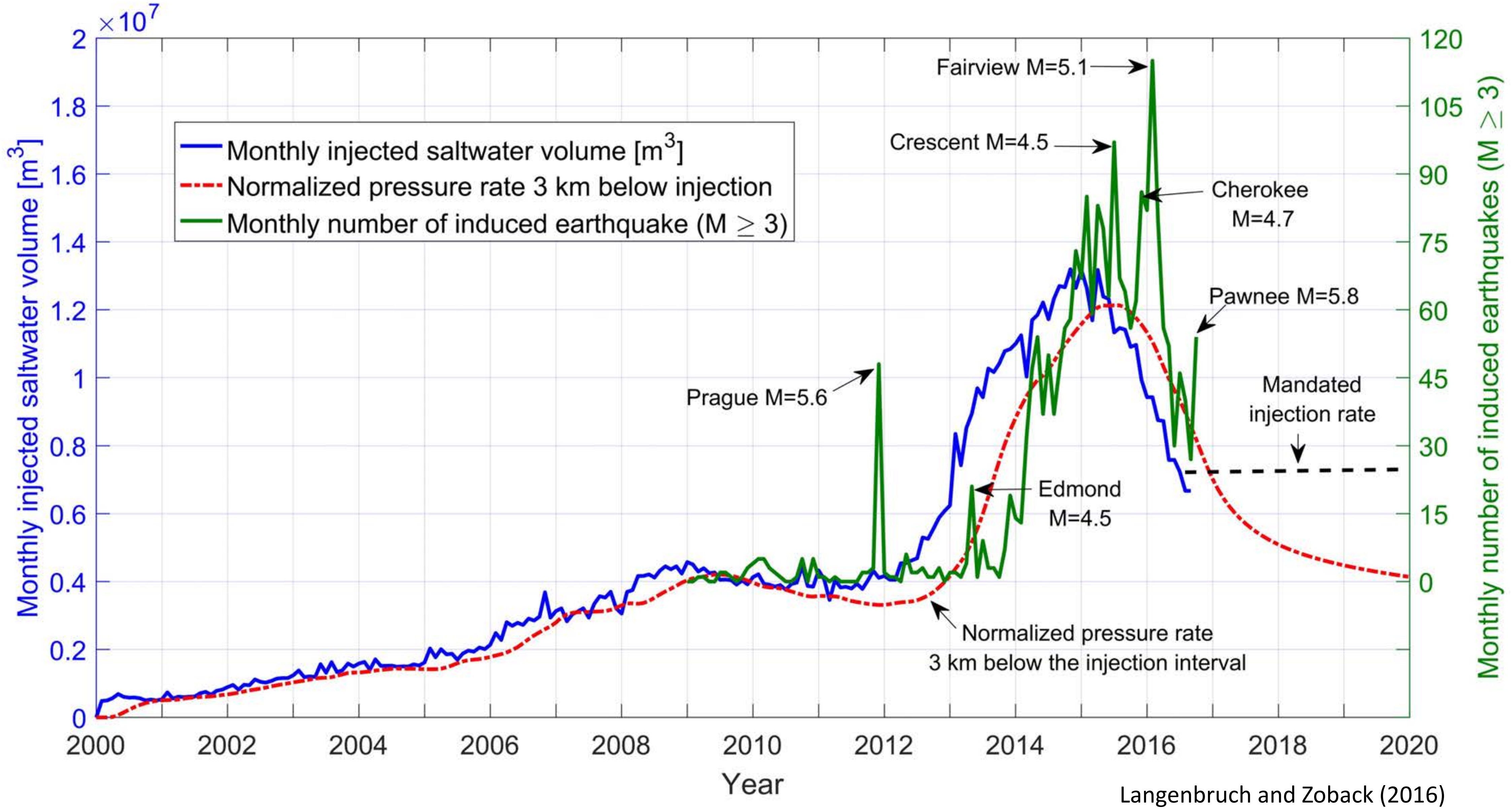


Produced Water Disposal is Triggering Earthquakes



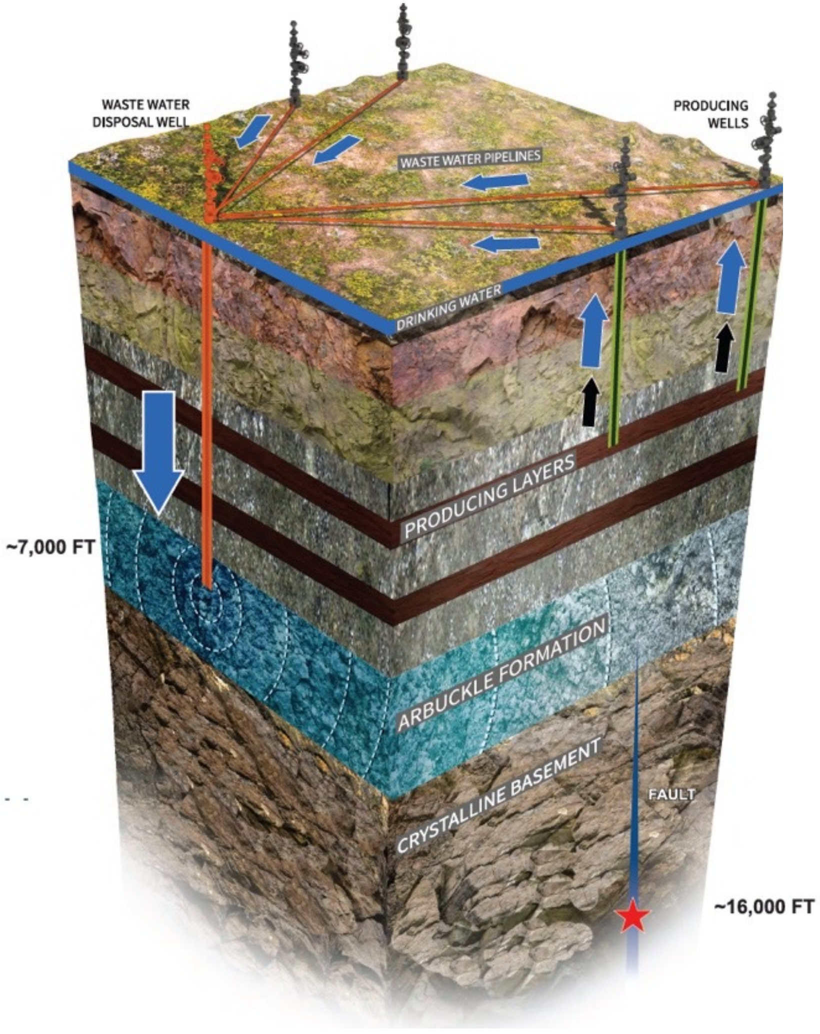
- Massive quantities of produced saltwater (from formations like the Mississippi Lime) was being injected into the basal Arbuckle group.
- About 3 billion barrels were injected in north-central Oklahoma (AOI) over a few years.
- Earthquakes occurring on pre-existing critically-stressed faults <u>in basement</u> due to small increases in pore pressure in the Arbuckle Group
- Potentially active faults are likely to be permeable and extend from the crystalline basement up into the Arbuckle.

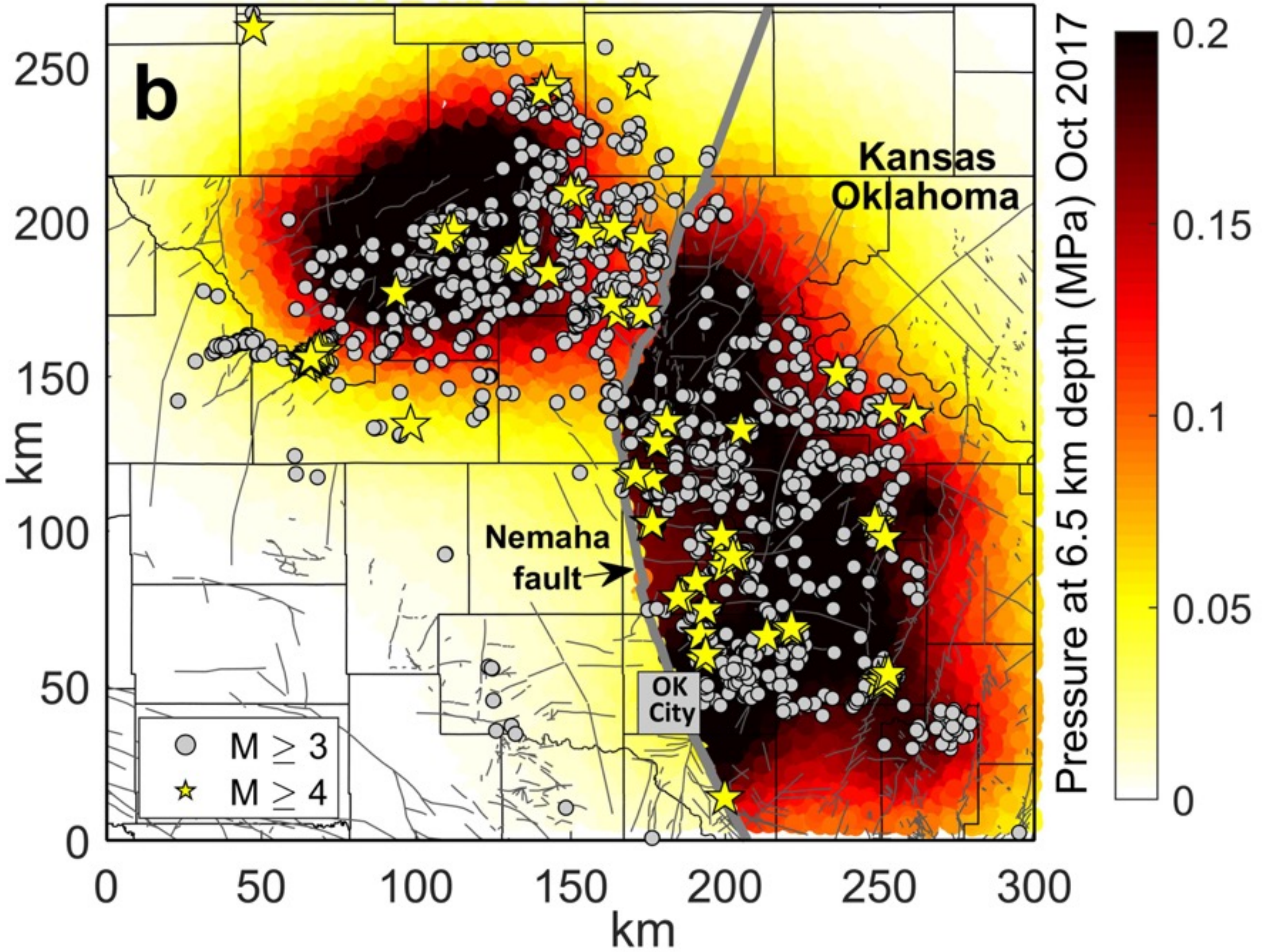
Using the Seismogenic Index Model to Predict How the Rate of Produced Water Disposal Controls the Rate of Earthquake Triggering



Langenbruch and Zoback (2016)

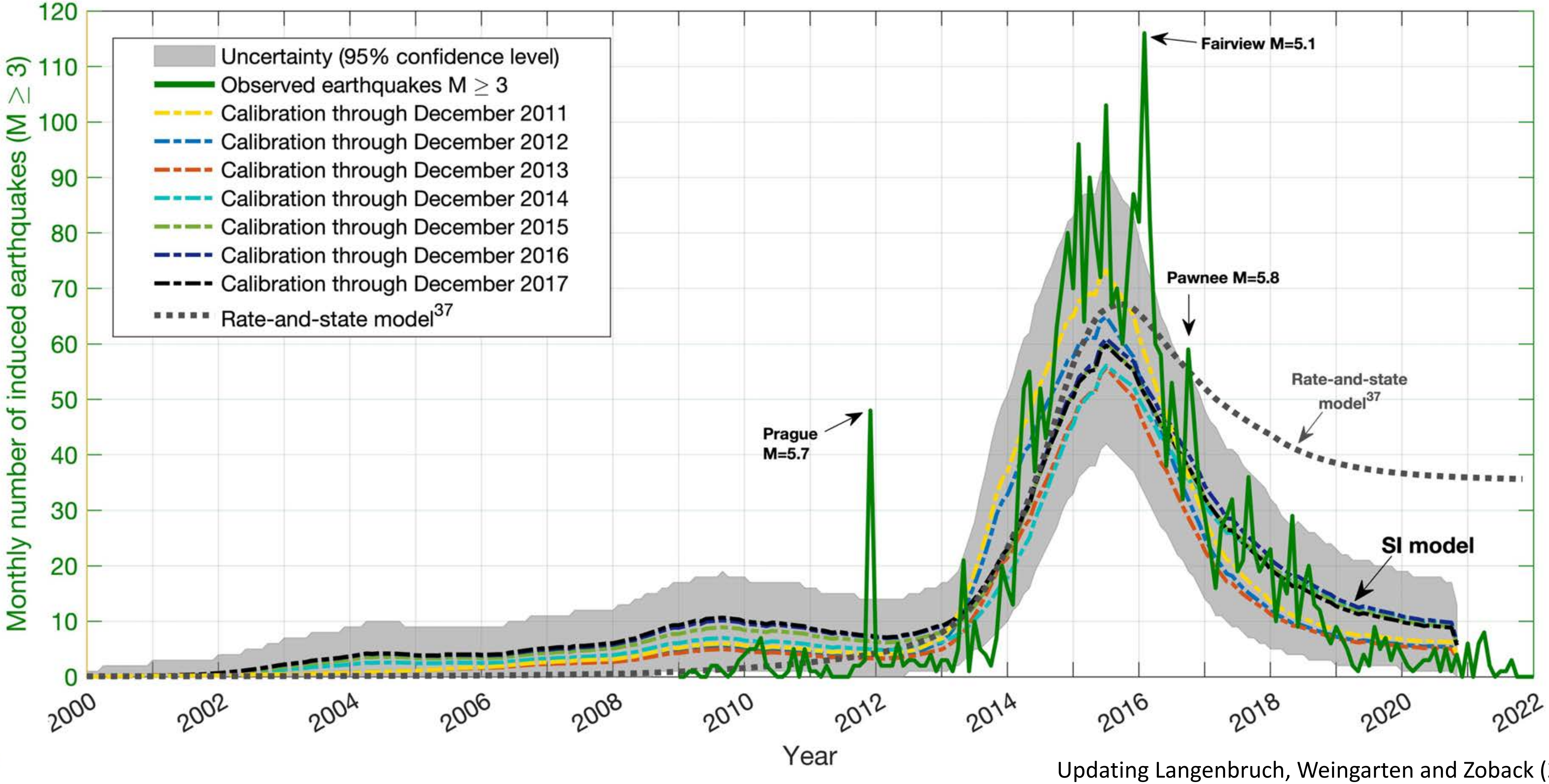
Produced Water Disposal is Triggering Earthquakes





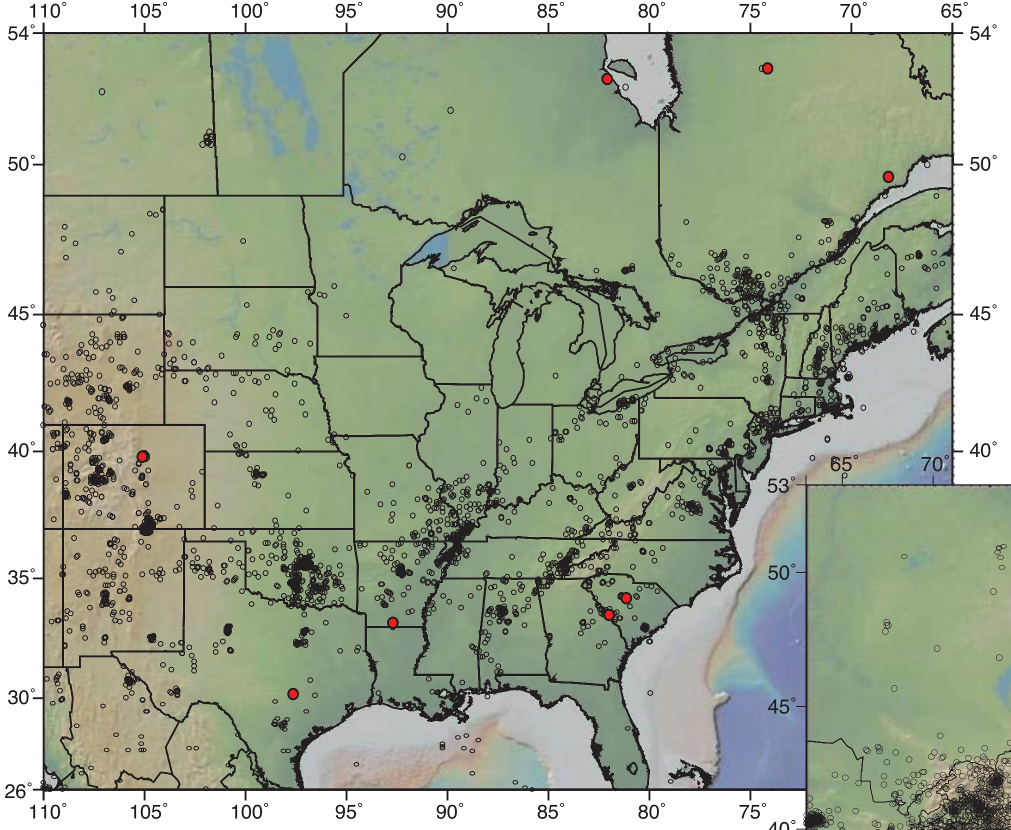
Langenbruch, Weingarten and Zoback (2018)

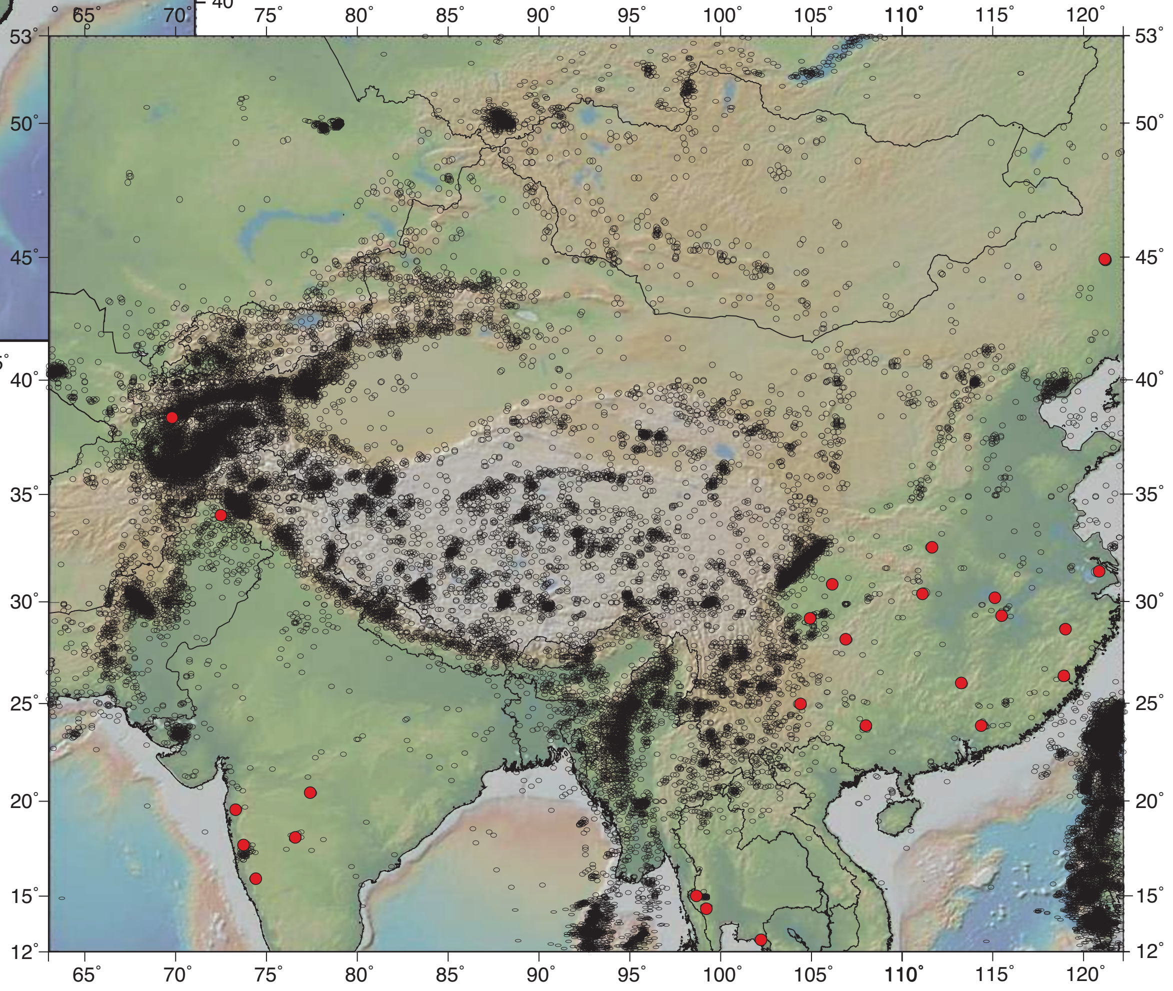
Using the Seismogenic Index Model to Predict How the Rate of Produced Water Disposal Controls the Rate of Earthquake Triggering



Updating Langenbruch, Weingarten and Zoback (2018)

The *Critically-Stressed* Crust

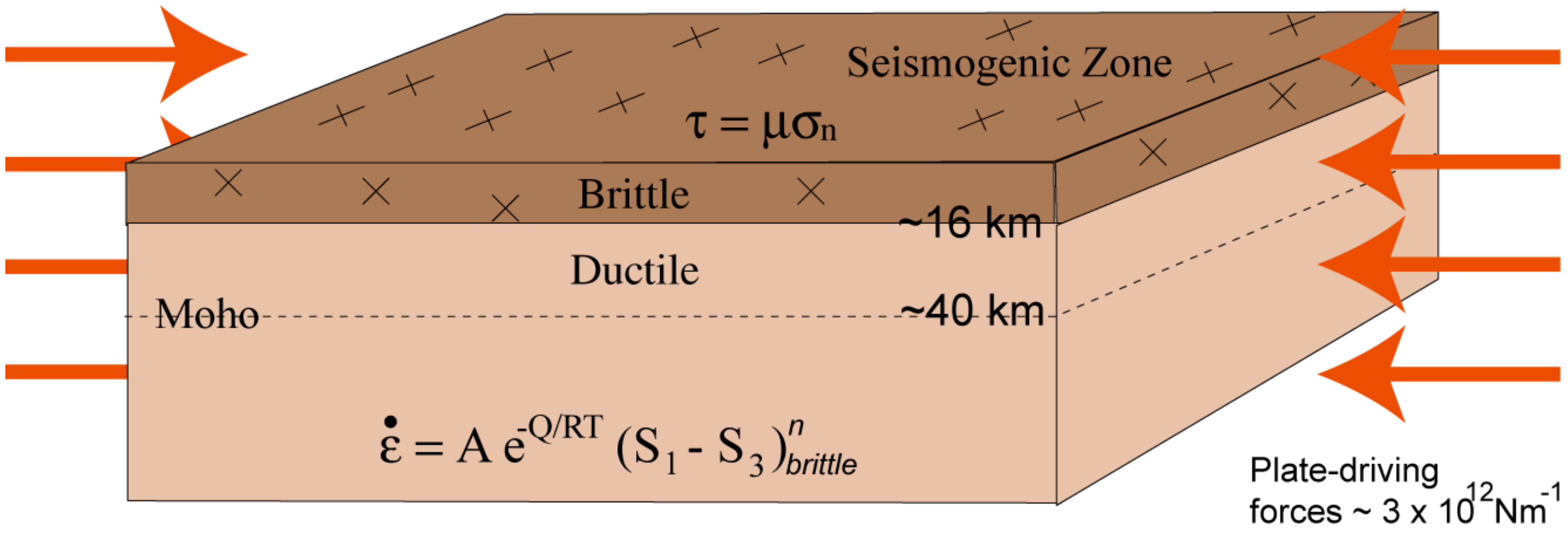




- Earthquakes Occur in Basement Rocks Nearly Everywhere in Intraplate Areas

- The Occurrence of Reservoir-Induced Seismicity Indicates that Very Small Pore Pressure Perturbations are Capable of Triggering Seismicity, Even in “Stable Areas”

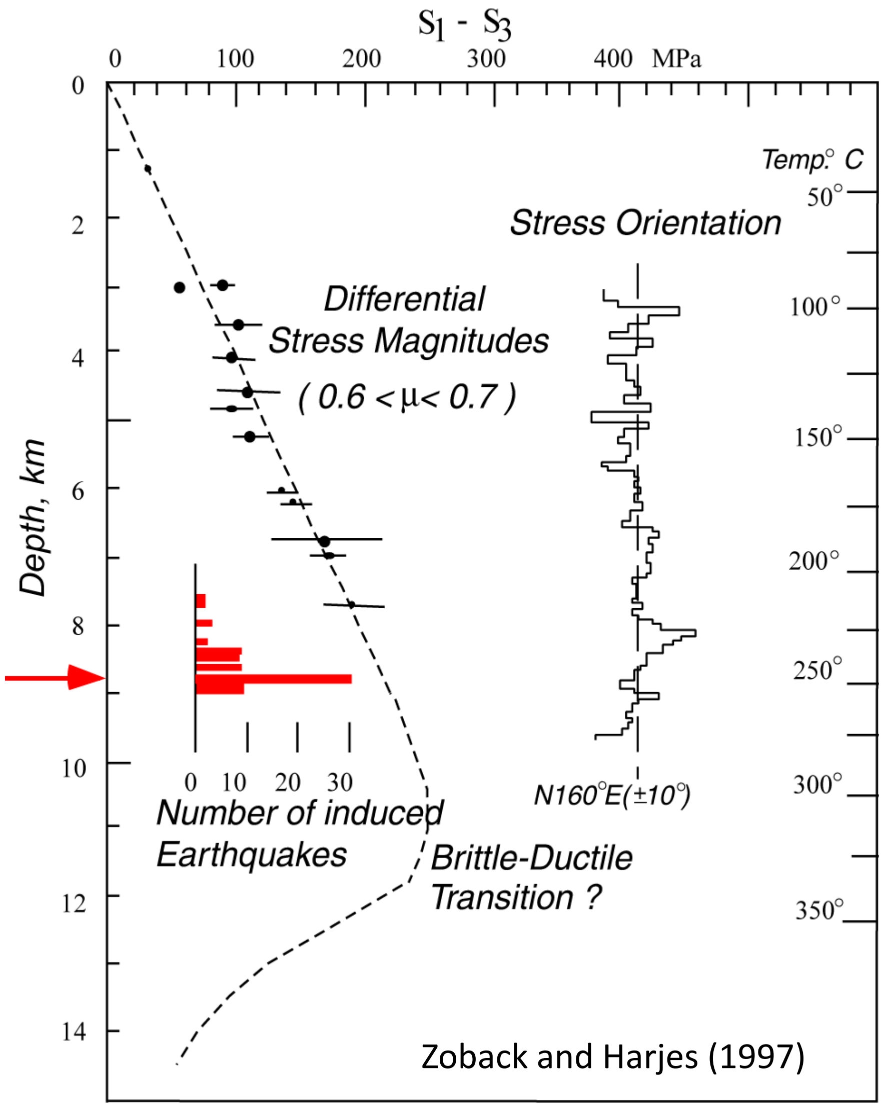
A Lithosphere in Failure Equilibrium

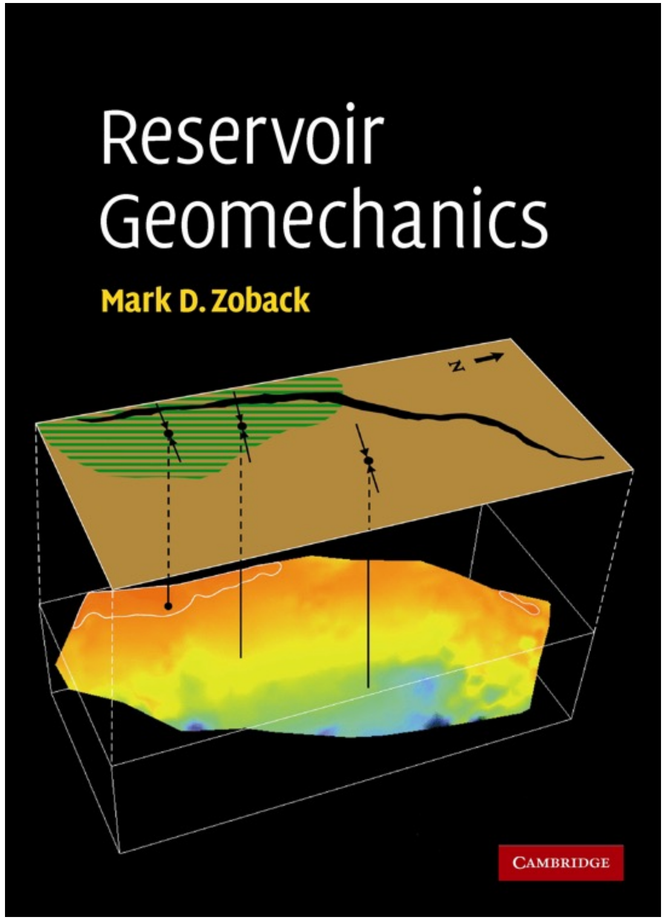


Zoback et al. (2002)

Brittle Failure in Critically-Stressed Crust
Creep in Lower Crust and Upper Mantle

Stress Measurements Confirm Critically-Stressed Crust (and the Applicability of Coulomb Faulting Theory)





These principles are applicable to brittle sedimentary formations

PNAS

PERSPECTIVE

Earthquake triggering and large-scale geologic storage of carbon dioxide

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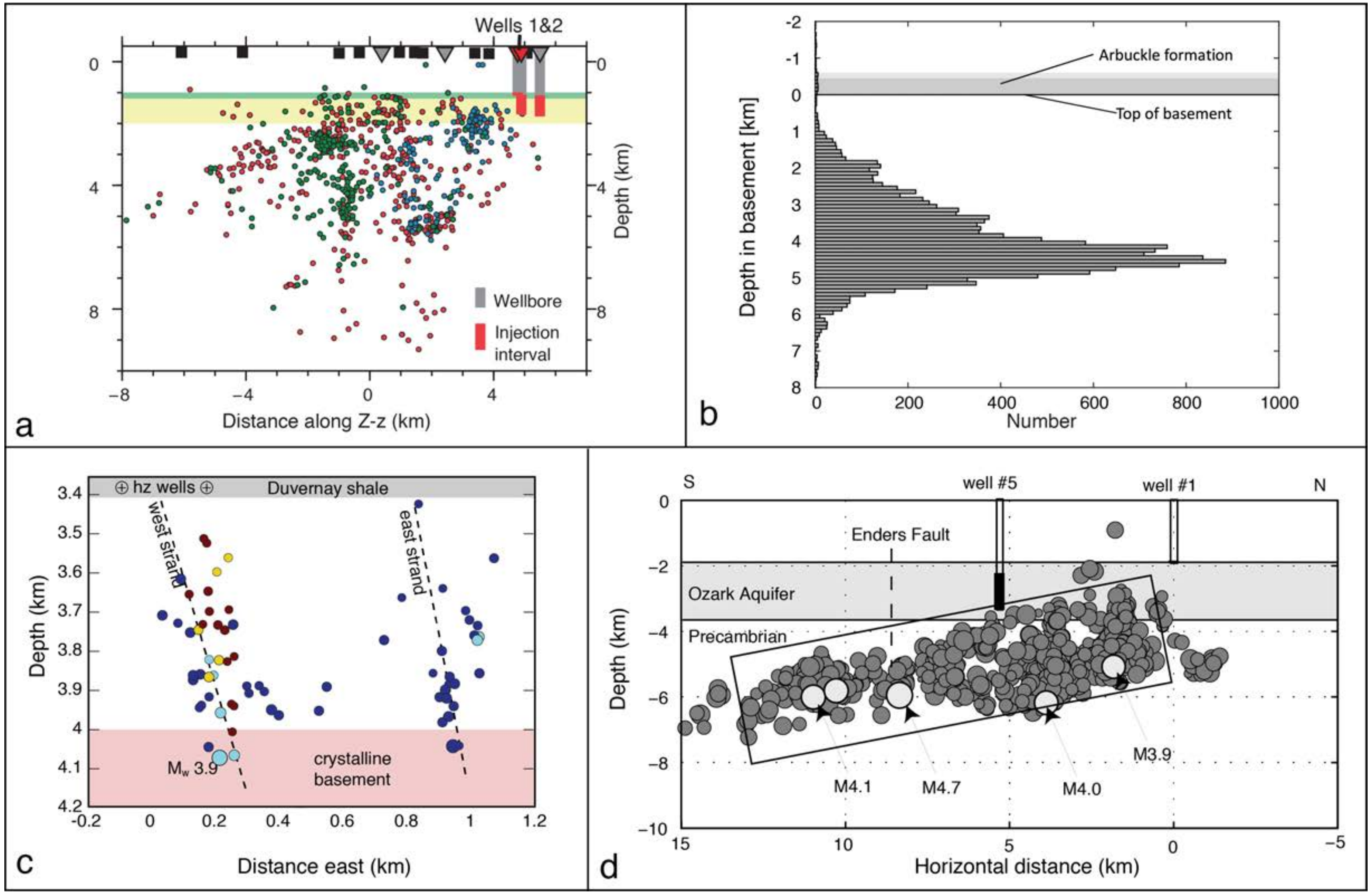
Departments of [a]Geophysics and [b]Environmental Earth System Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Edited by Pamela A. Matson, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, and approved May 4, 2012 (received for review March 27, 2012)

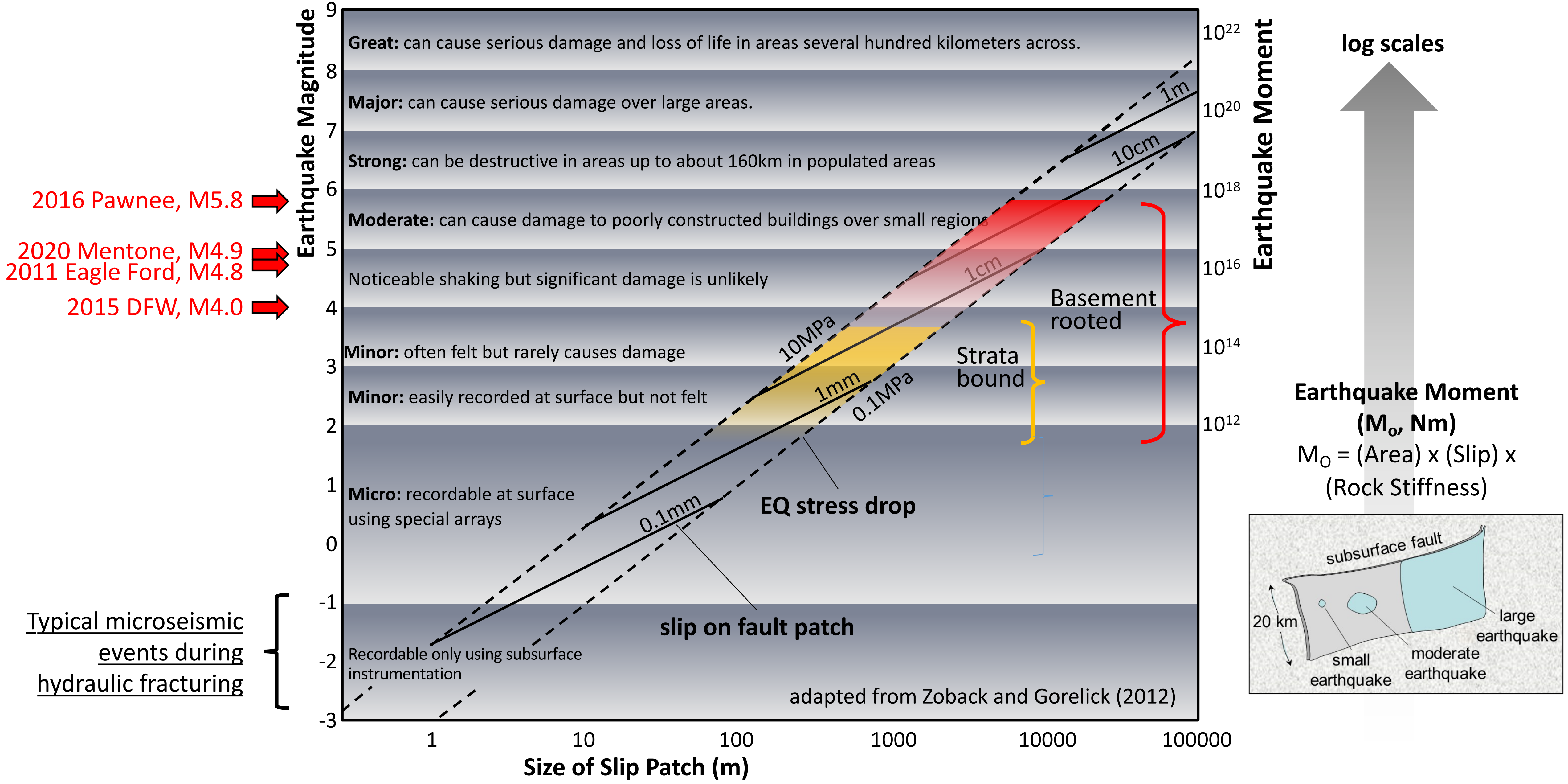
Despite its enormous cost, large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) is considered a viable strategy for significantly reducing CO_2 emissions associated with coal-based electrical power generation and other industrial sources of CO_2 [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2005) IPCC Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage. Prepared by Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, eds Metz B, et al. (Cambridge Univ Press, Cambridge, UK); Szulczewski ML, et al. (2012) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 109:5185–5189]. We argue here that there is a high probability that earthquakes will be triggered by injection of large volumes of CO_2 into the brittle rocks commonly found in continental interiors. Because even small- to moderate-sized earthquakes threaten the seal integrity of CO_2 repositories, in this context, large-scale CCS is a risky, and likely unsuccessful, strategy for significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

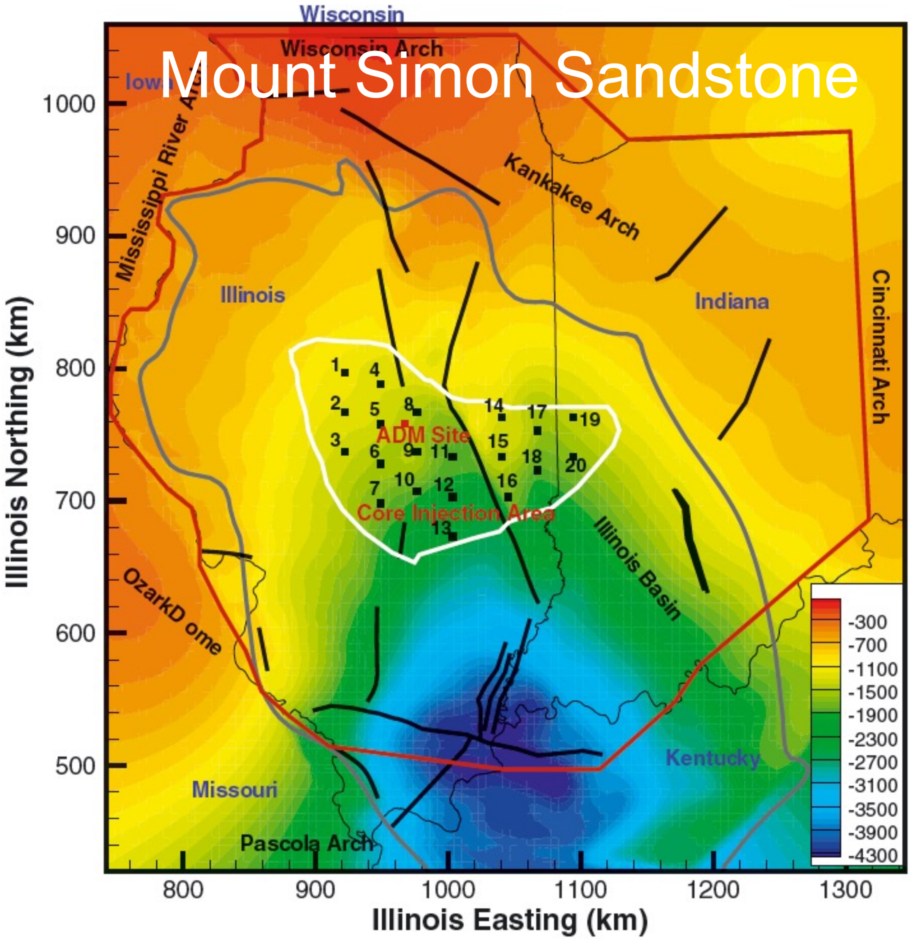
Earthquake Magnitude Depends on Whether Injection Increases Potentially Activate Basement Faults

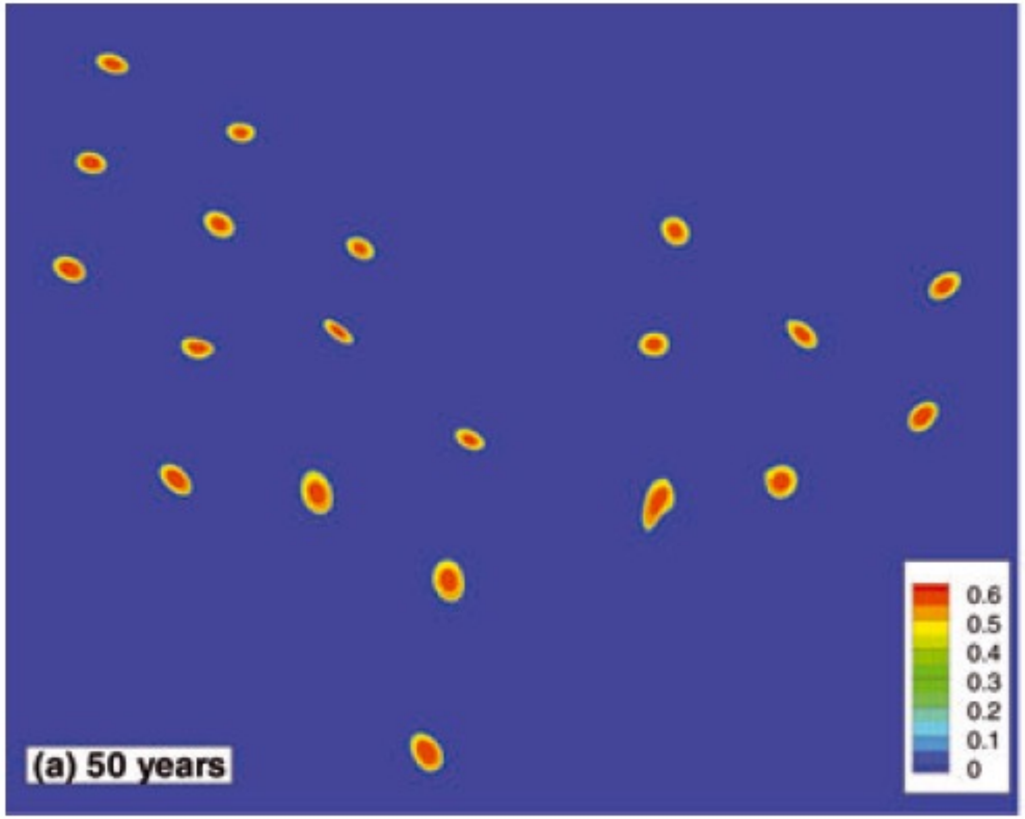


Faulting on Basement Faults is Occurring in Response to Injection in Overlaying Sedimentary Formations

Shallow (Strata-bound) vs Basement-Rooted Faults







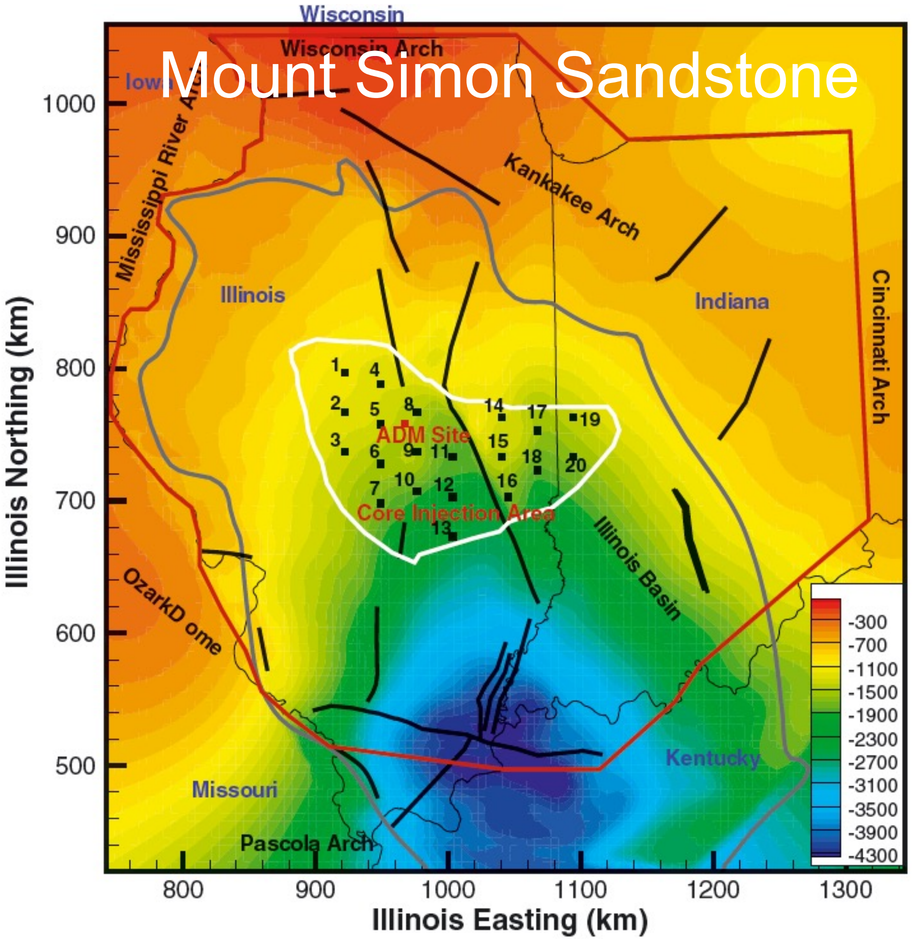
CO_2 Footprint

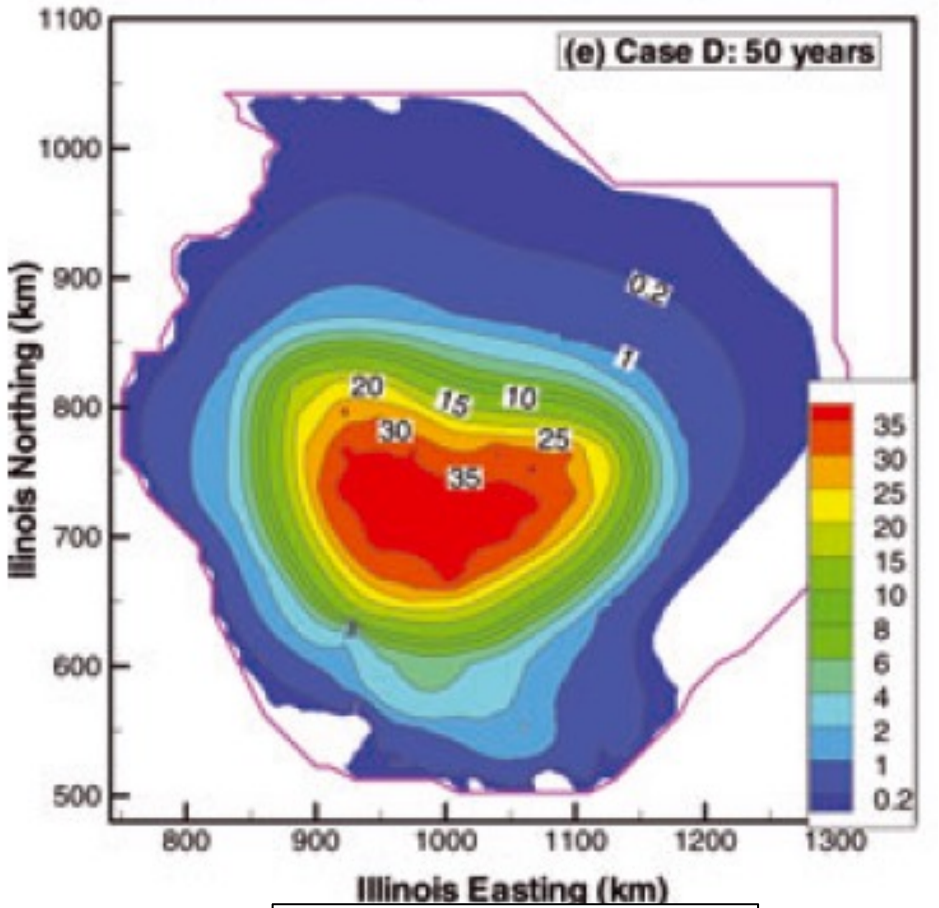
100 MT/year
20 Wells

ground water

Modeling Basin- and Plume-Scale Processes of CO_2 Storage for Full-Scale Deployment

by Quanlin Zhou[1], Jens T. Birkholzer[1], Edward Mehnert[2], Yu-Feng Lin[3], and Keni Zhang[1] (2010)





Pressure Change

100 MT/year
20 Wells

ground water

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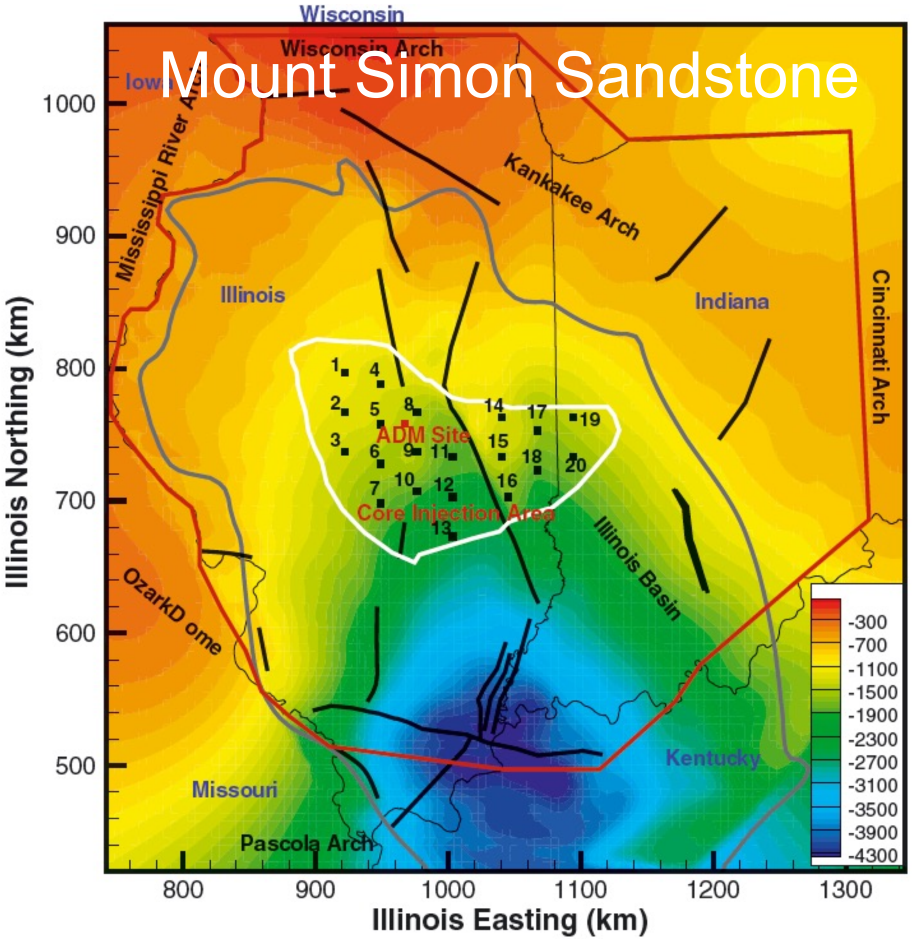

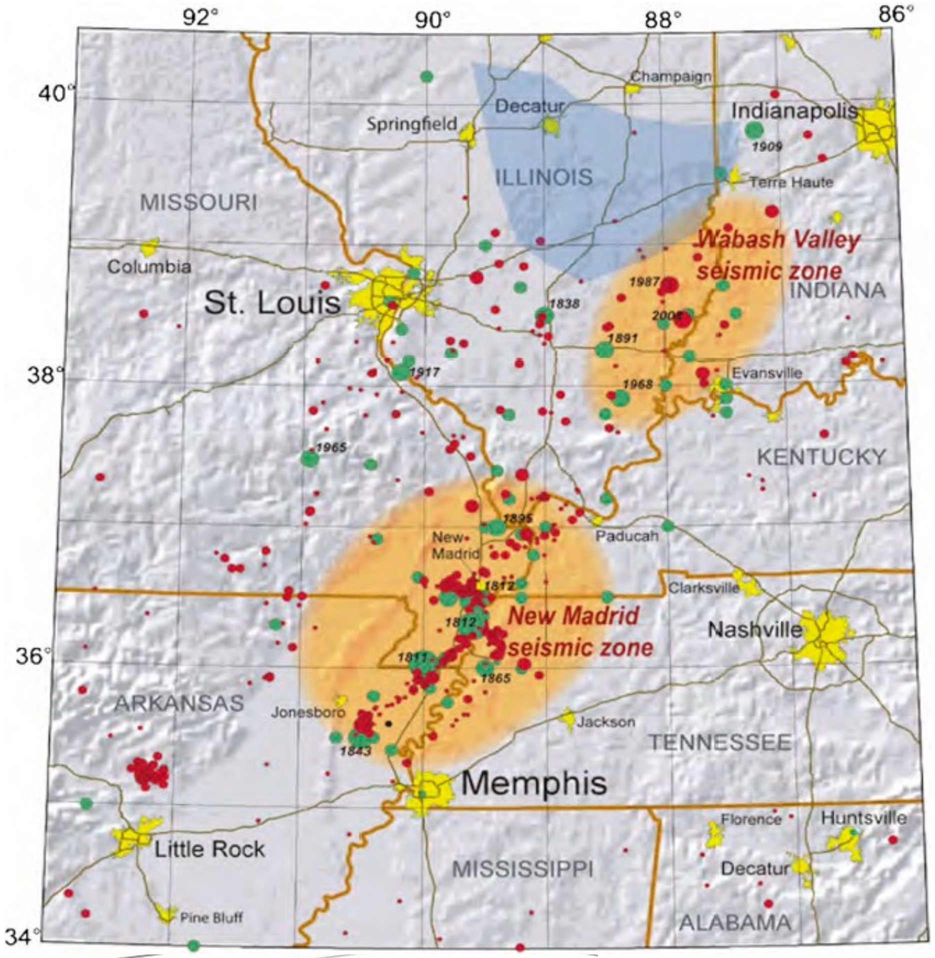

groundwater

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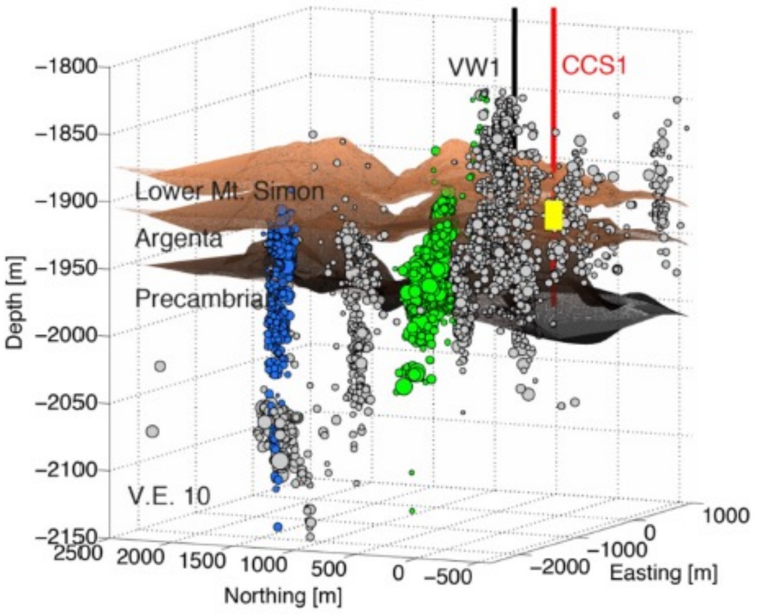
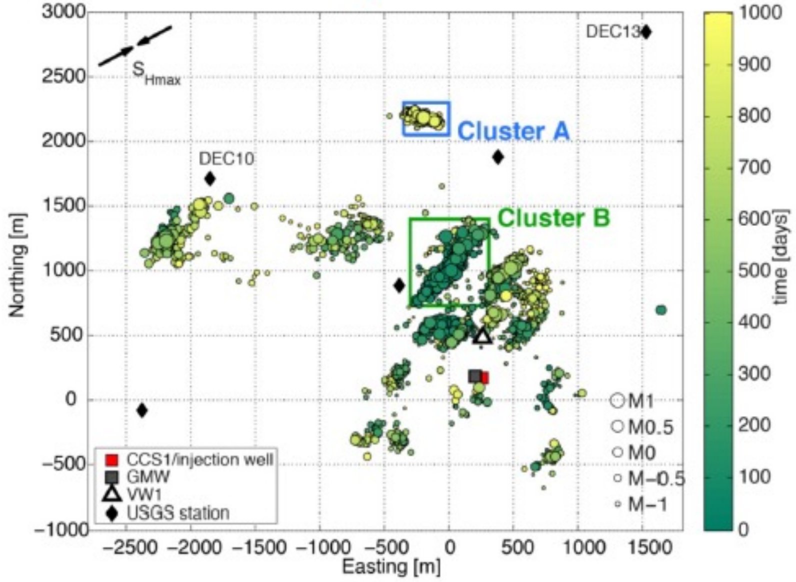
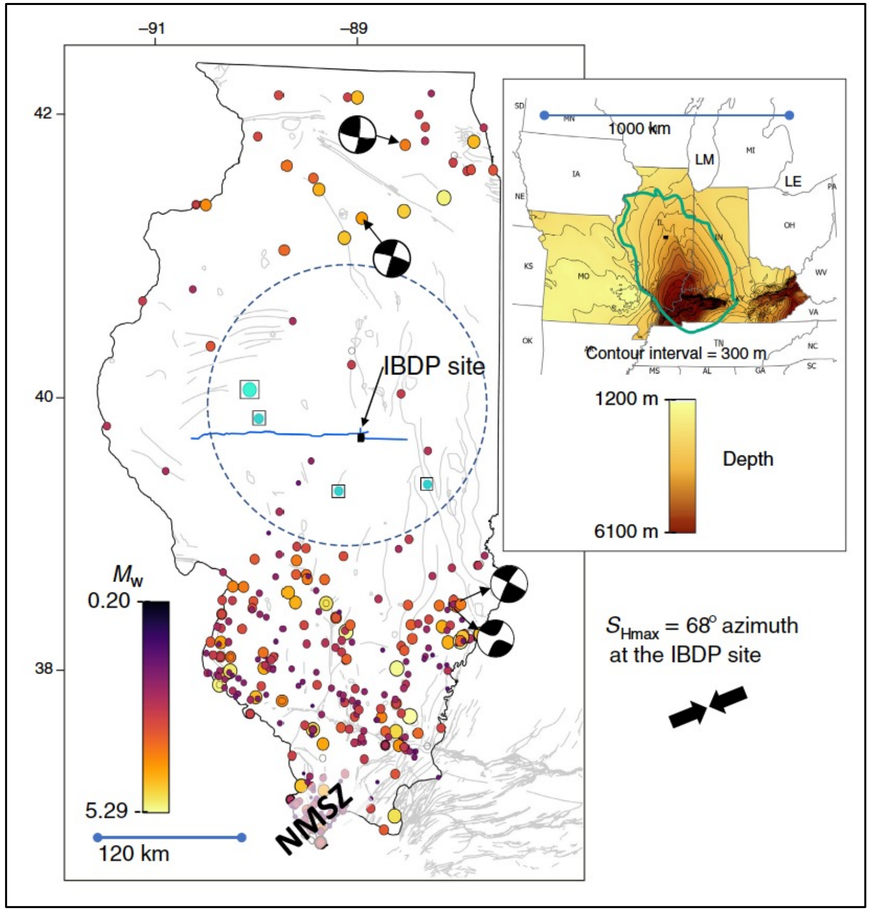
CO_2 Injection Into the Mt. Simon Sandstone At Decatur, Illinois



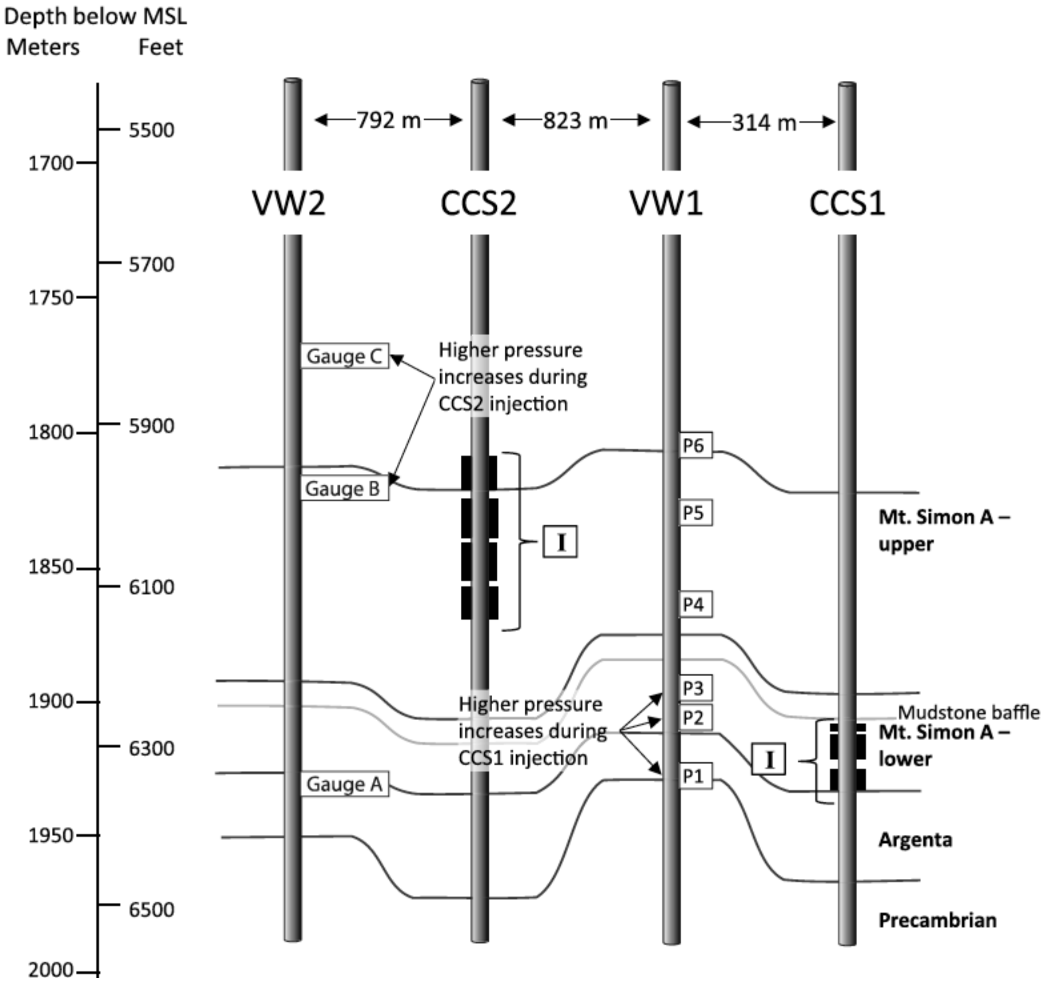
Goertz-Allman et al. (2017, JGR)

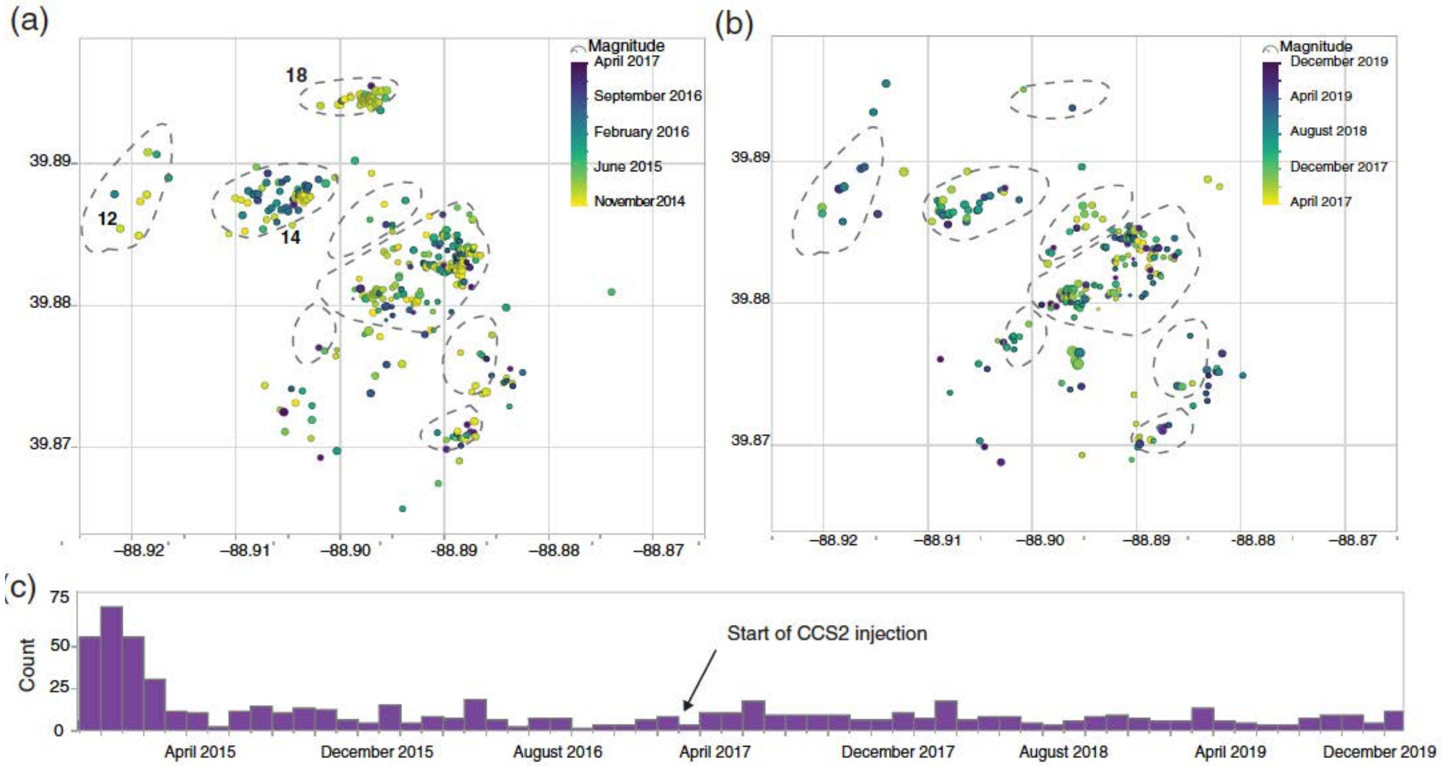
- Injection of 1 million tons of CO_2 over a 3-year period into the Mt. Simon (8 million barrels, 1.3 million m³)
- Small earthquakes define faults in Precambrian basement
- Pressure change less than 1 MPa





New Injection Zone is Still in the Mt. Simon (Above a Mudstone *Baffle*)
Seismicity is Continuing (at a Lower Rate) on the Same Basement Faults



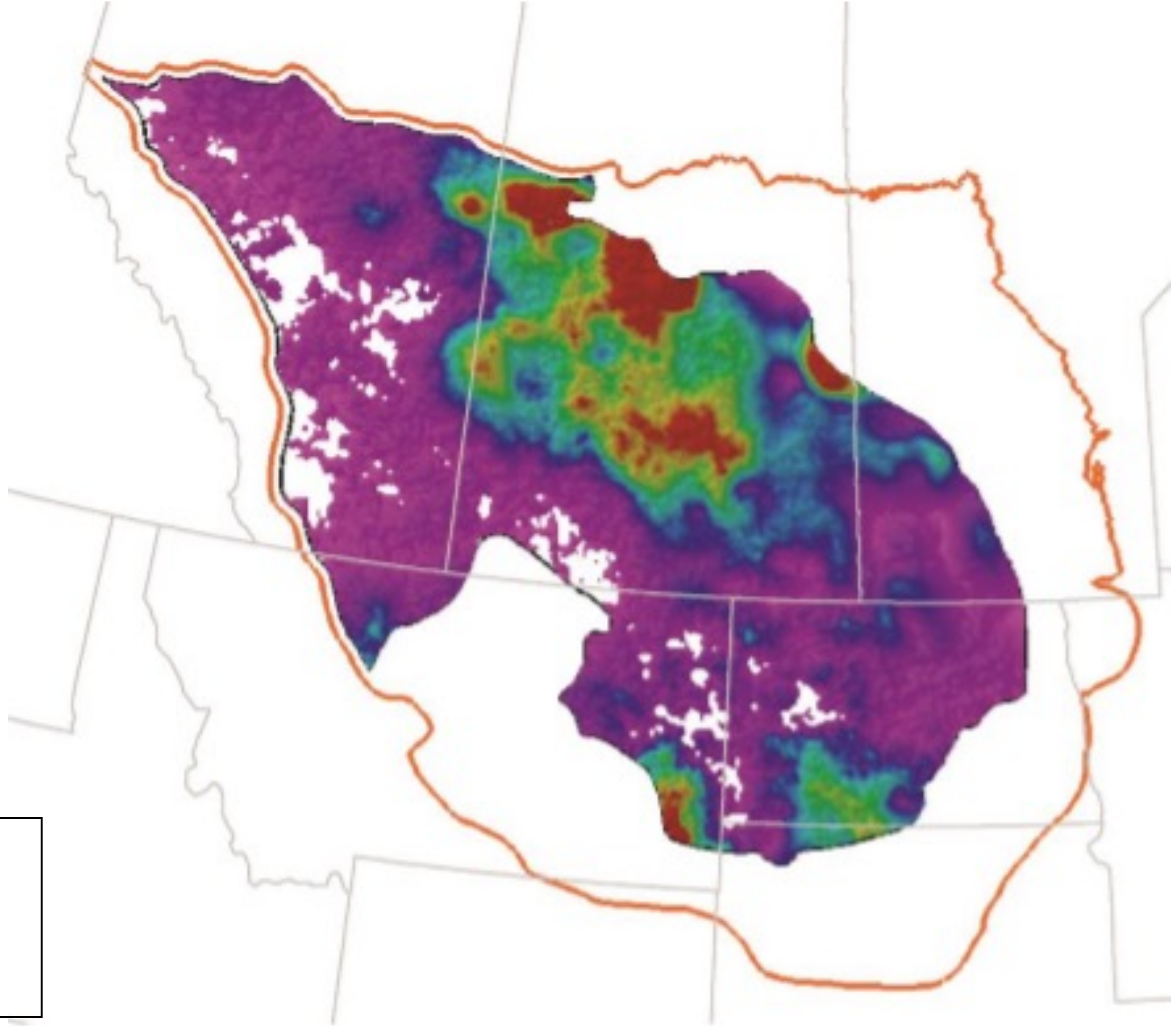


Williams-Stroud et al. (BSSA, 2020)

Injection Rate in CCS2 Well is 1.7 times that in CCS1 (~560,000 tonnes/year)

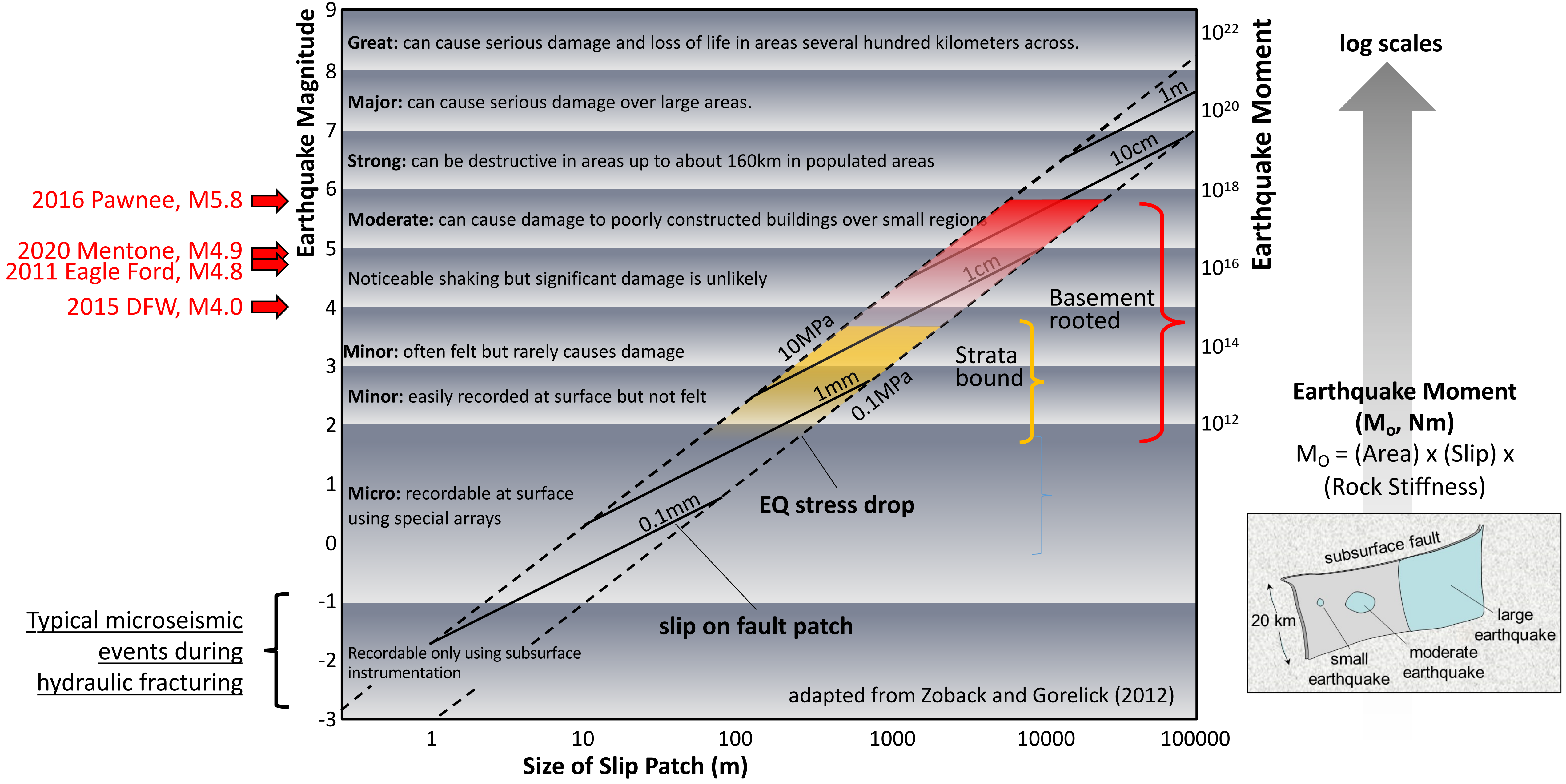
Basal Saline Aquifers

Example
- Basal Cambrian Sandstone, Great Plains
- The aquifer with largest estimated resources in the area
- Storage formation for Quest and Aquistore projects



Is it Feasible to Consider Large-Scale CO_2 Storage in Basal Saline Aquifers?

Shallow (Strata-bound) vs Basement-Rooted Faults



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Can We Avoid Injection into Potentially Active Faults?

Yes, if we Know the Key Parameters – State of Stress, Fault Orientations and Pore Pressure Perturbation

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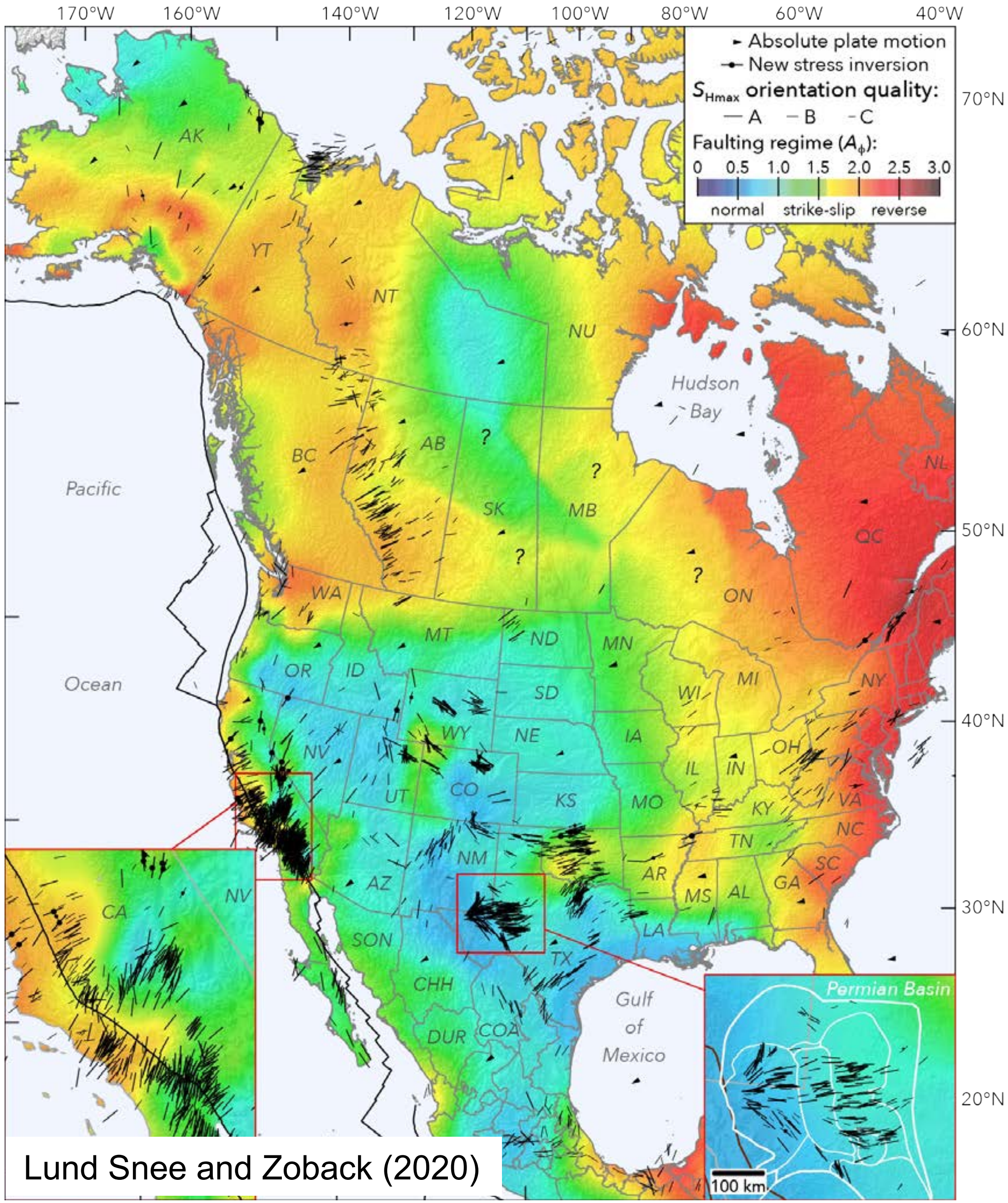
Probabilistic assessment of potential fault slip related to injection-induced earthquakes: Application to north-central Oklahoma, USA

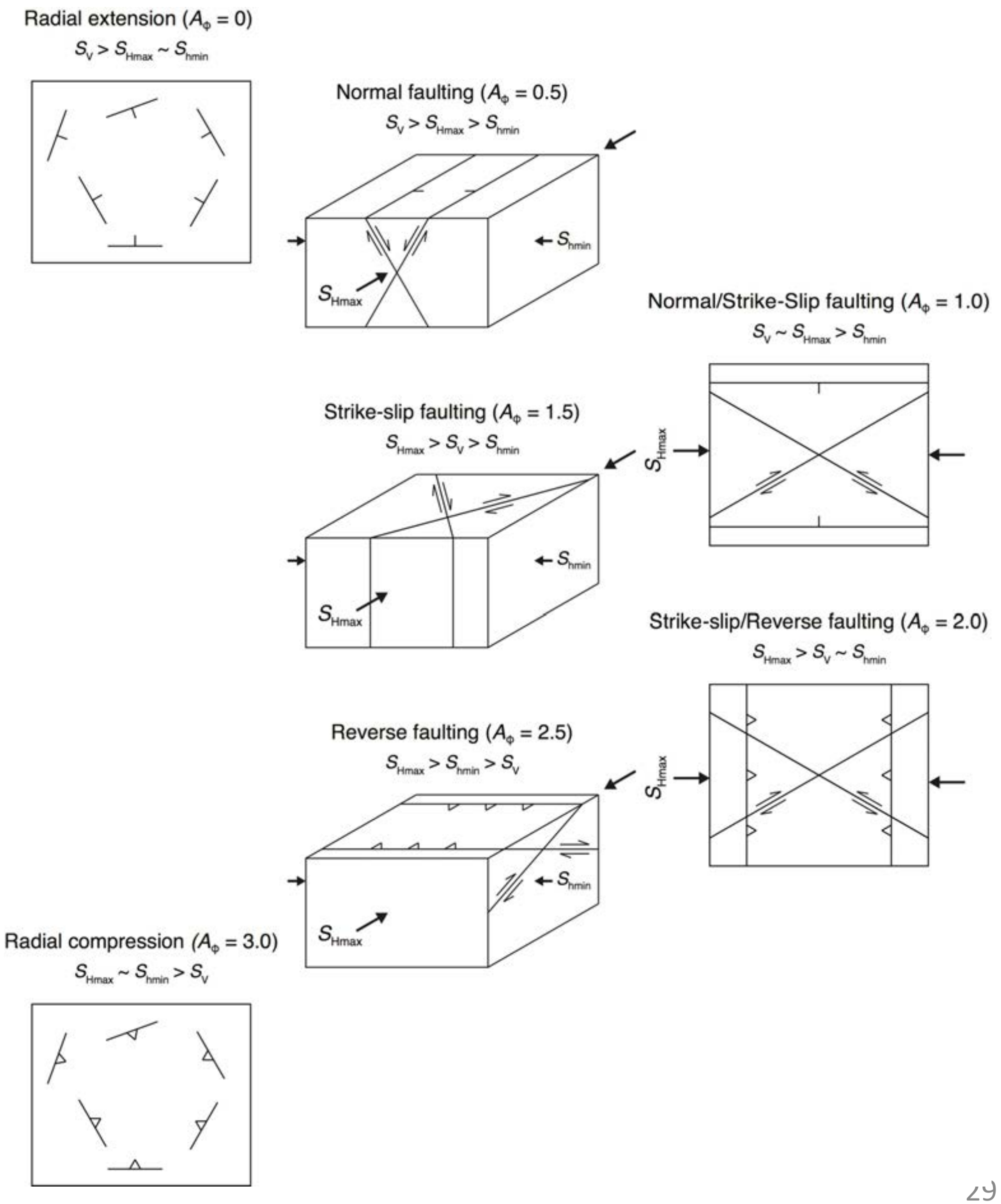
F. Rall Walsh, III, and Mark D. Zoback
Department of Geophysics, Stanford University, 397 Panama Mall, Stanford, California 94305, USA

GEOLOGY Data Repository item 2016334 | doi:10.1130/G38275.1

Anderson Faulting Theory Revisited



Lund Snee and Zoback (2020)



Permian Basin

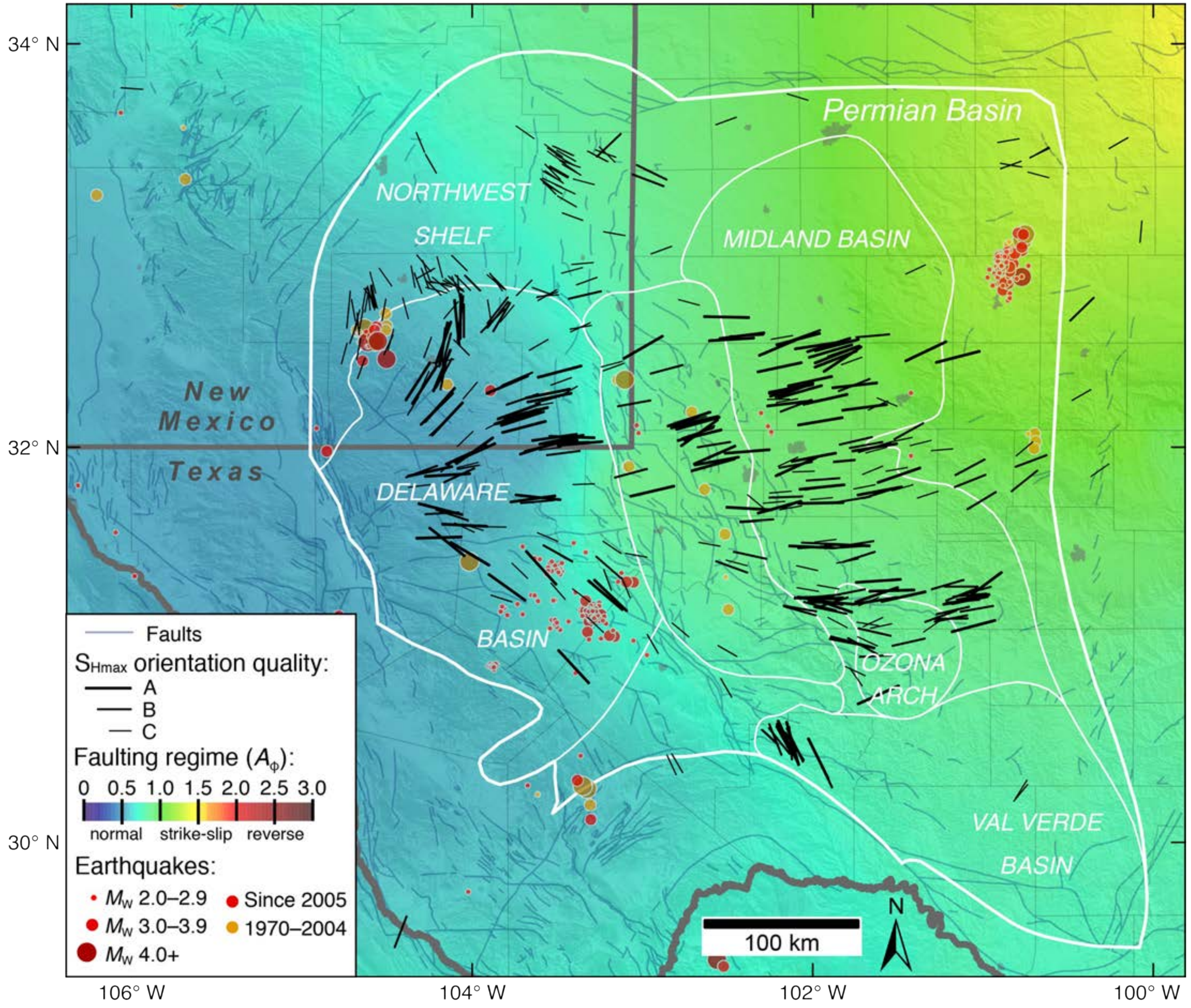


Fig. 7.3

Lund Snee and Zoback (2017)

Can We Avoid Injection into Potentially Active Faults?

Yes, But We Need to Incorporate the Uncertainties of Key Parameters – State of Stress, Fault Orientations and Pore Pressure Perturbation

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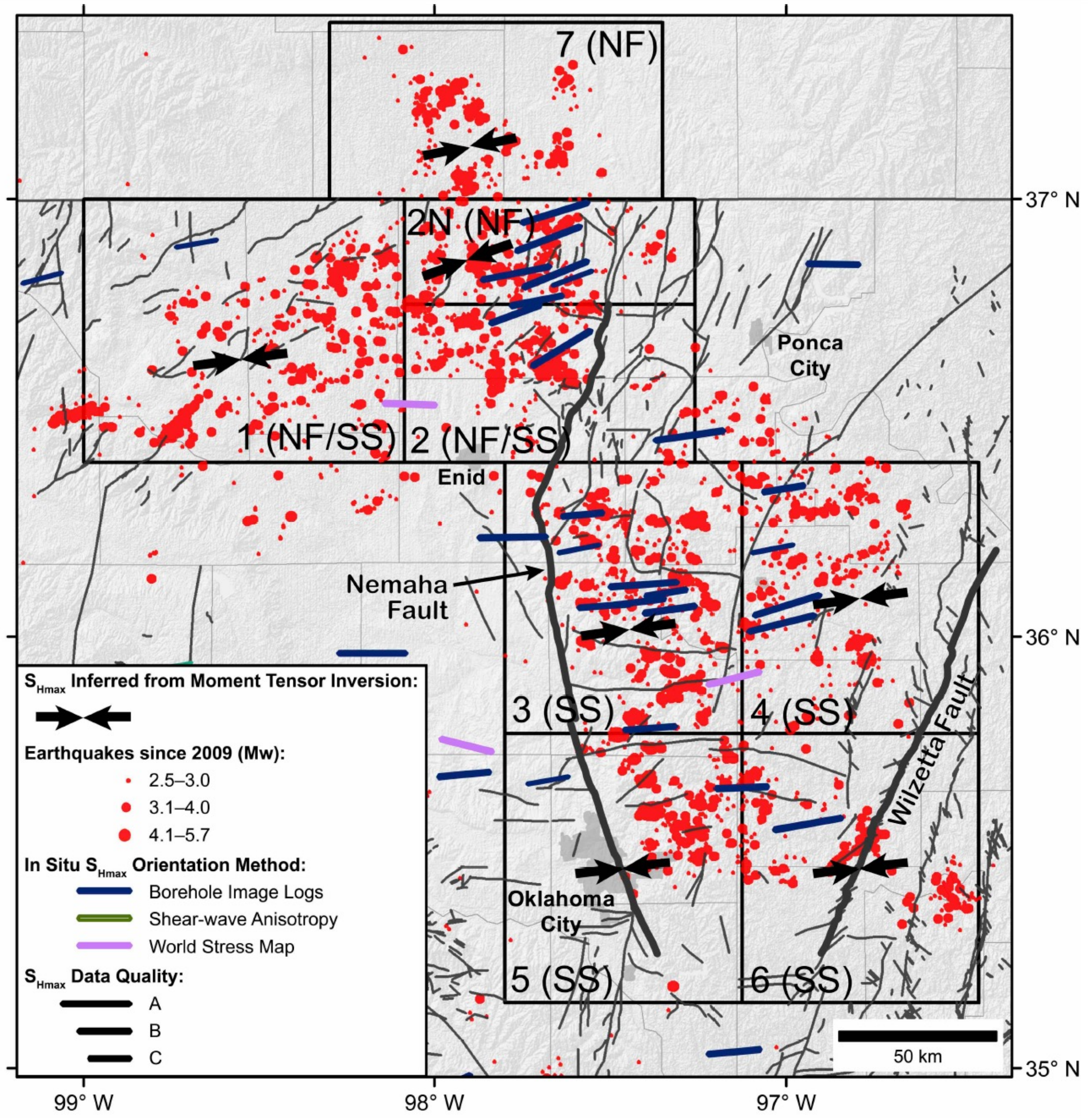
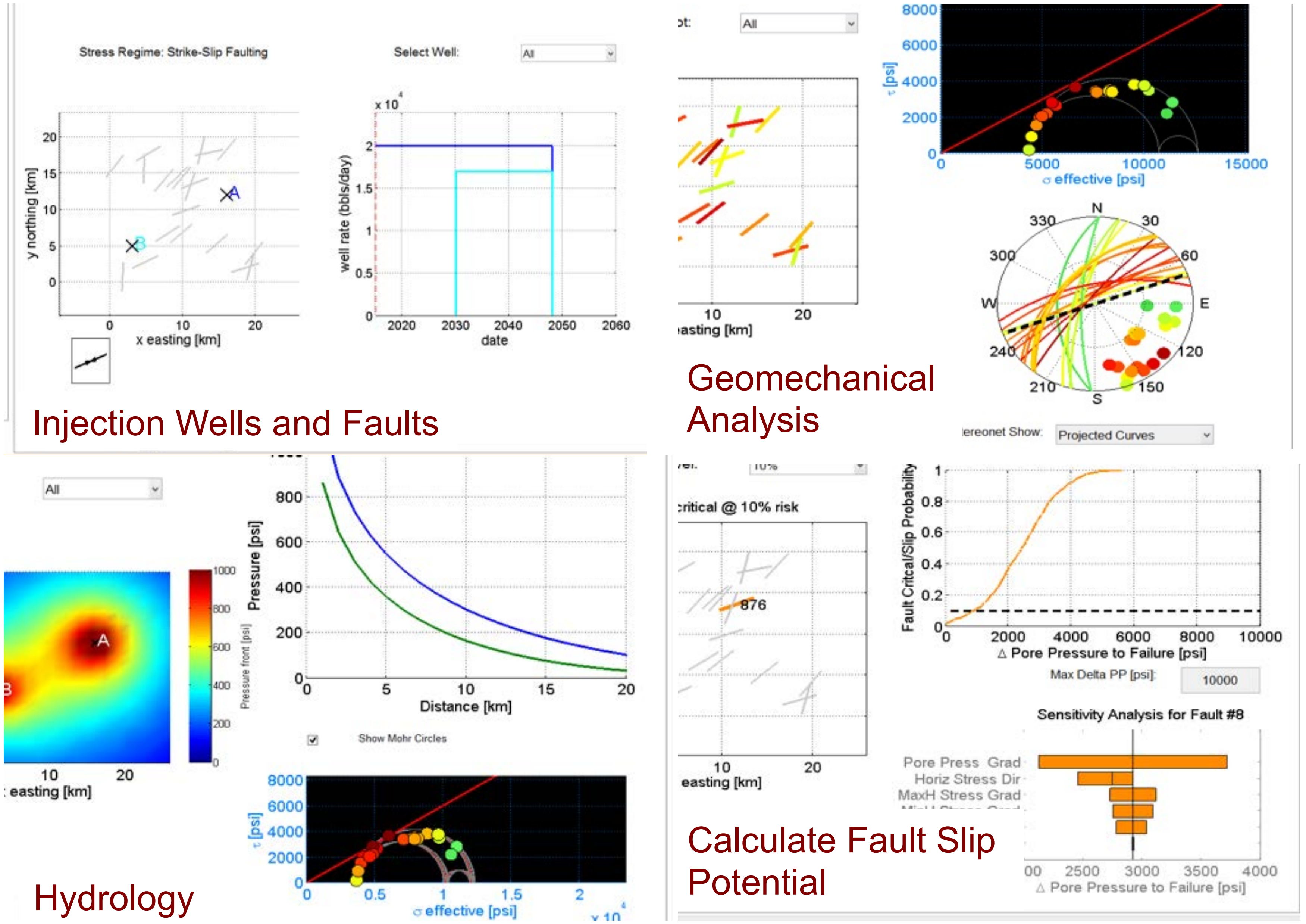


Alt and Zoback (BSSA, 2017)

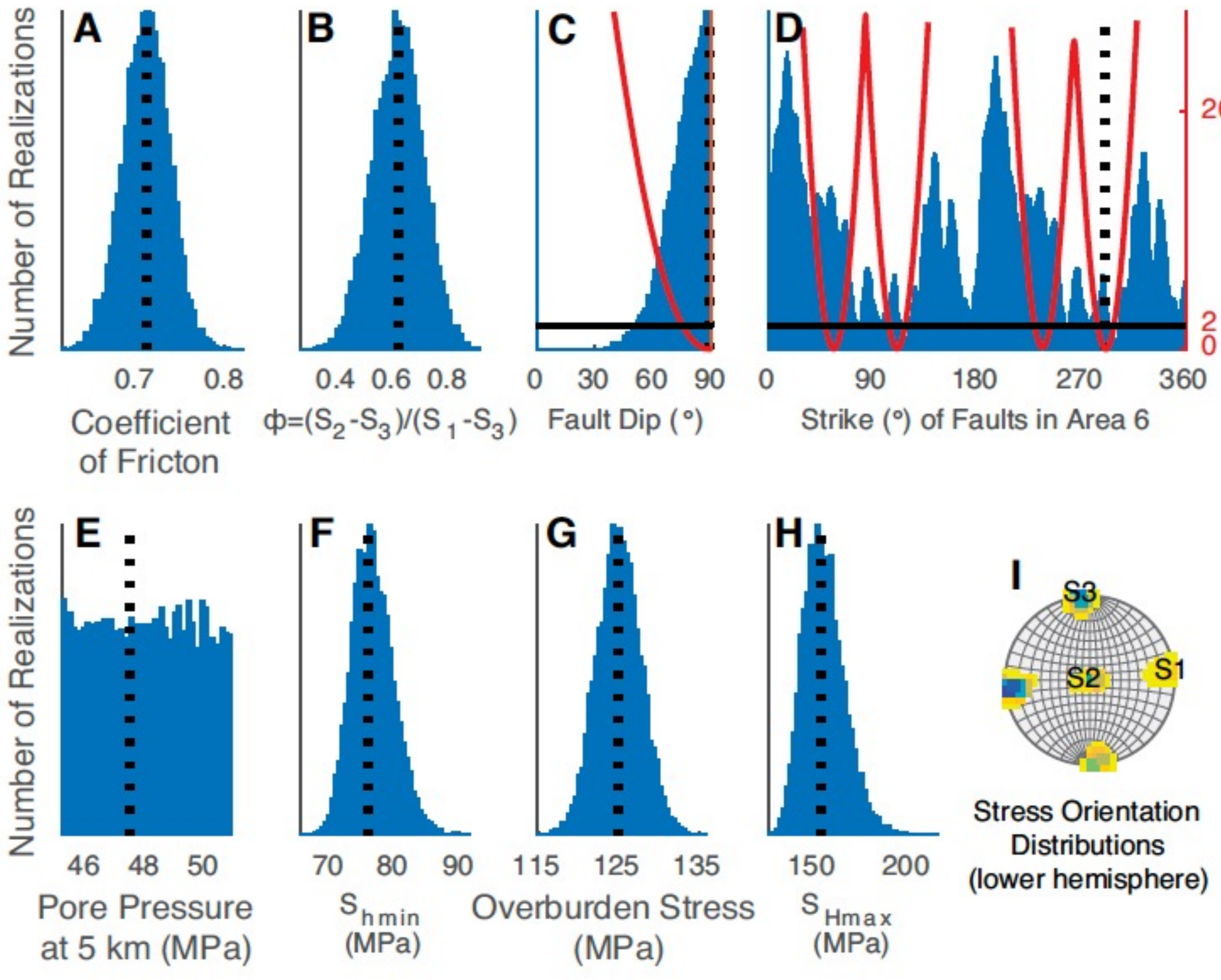
- Detailed Mapping of Stress Orientation and Relative Magnitudes
  - Wellbore Observations
  - Earthquake FM Inversions
  - Slowly Varying Relative Stress Magnitudes
- Utilize Information About Pre-Existing Faults (Darold and Holland, 2015)
- Combine Data to Identify Potentially Active Faults Knowing the Maximum Change in Pore Pressure

Free, Online Software uses QRA to Assess Fault Slip Potential (*URL SCITS.stanford.edu*)

FSP
Fault Slip Potential
Stanford Center for Induced & Triggered Seismicity



Estimating Uncertainty in Key Parameters (More Complicated than it Seems)



Fault Slip Probability (2 MPa Max Pressure Change)

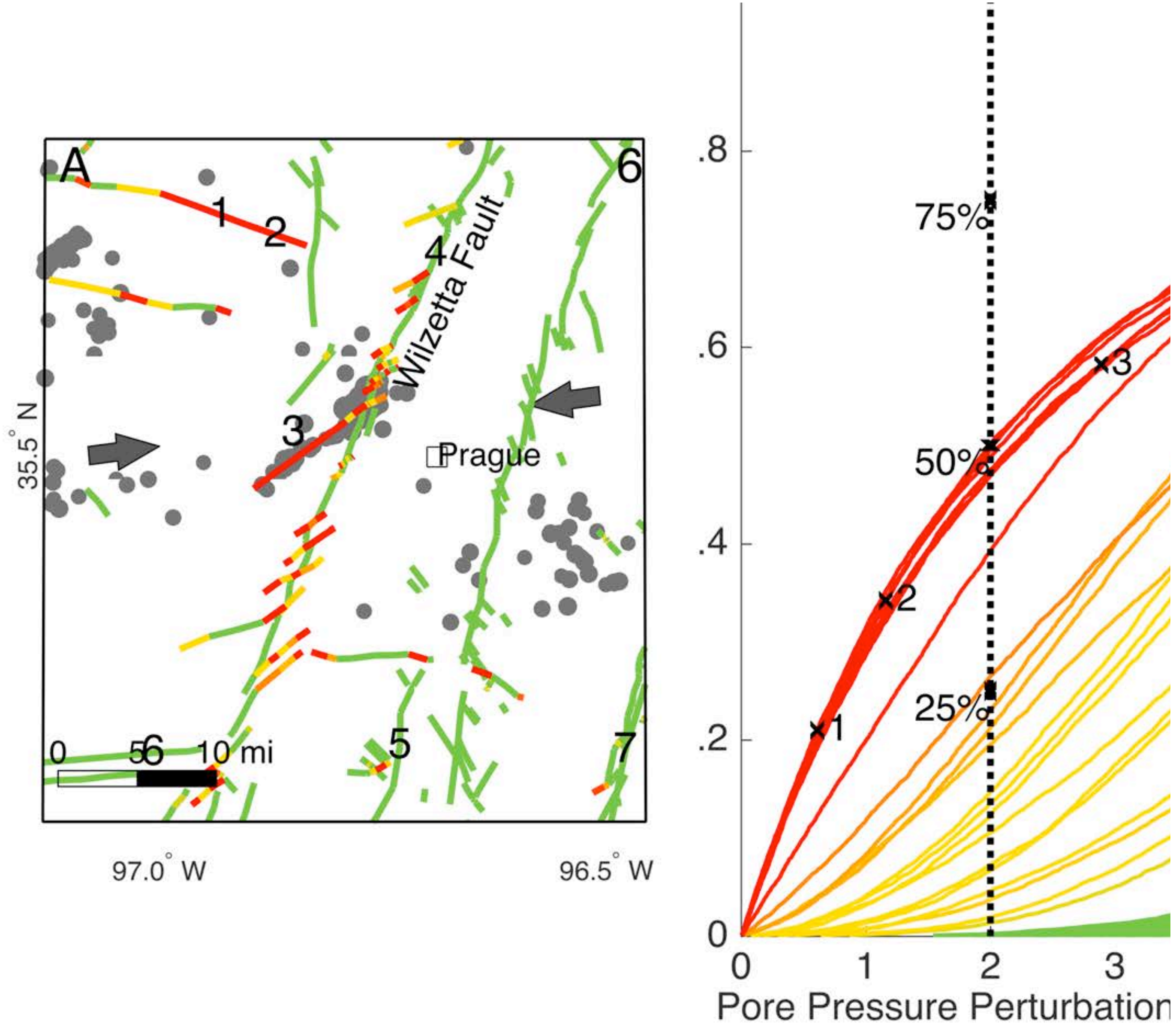
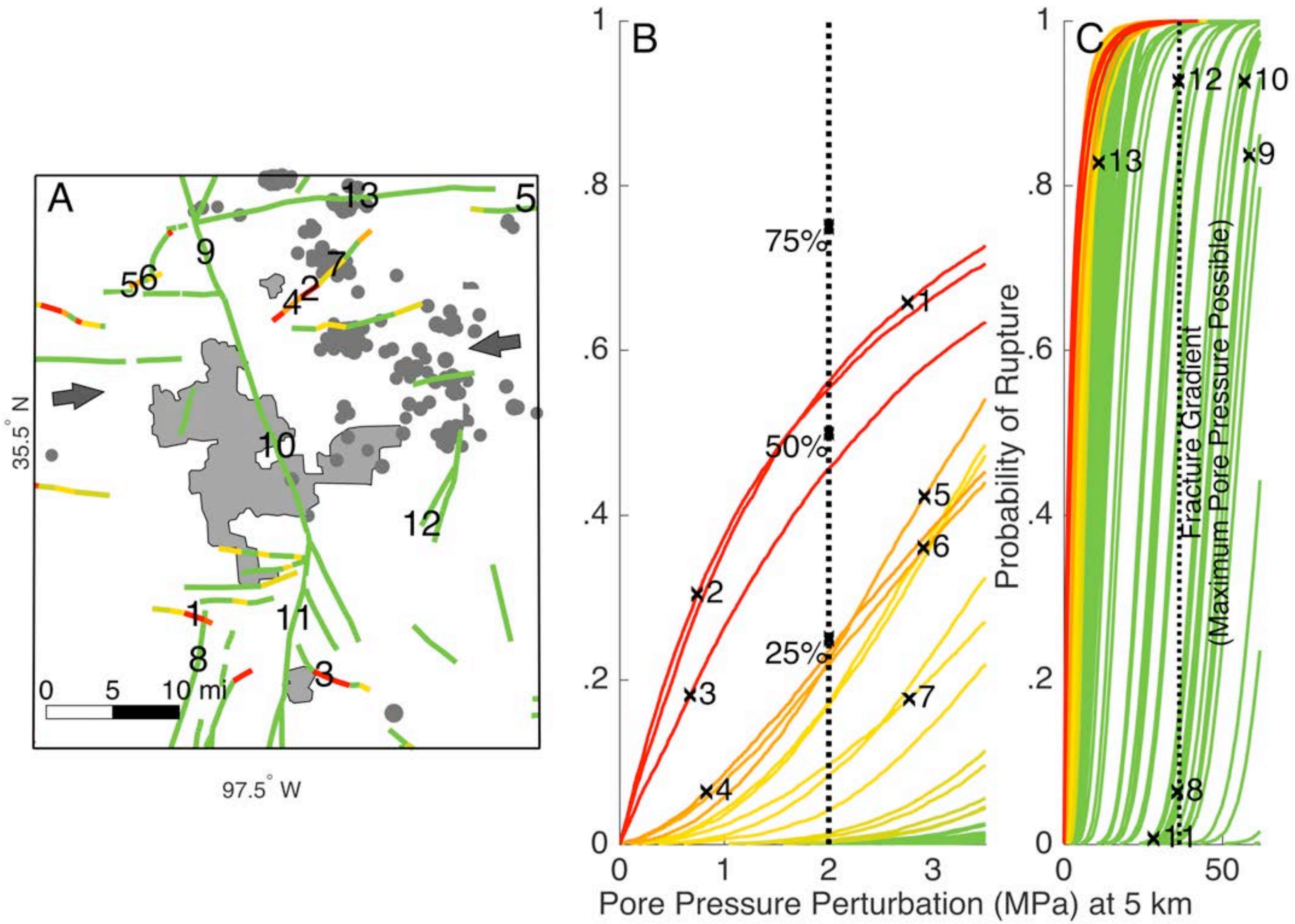


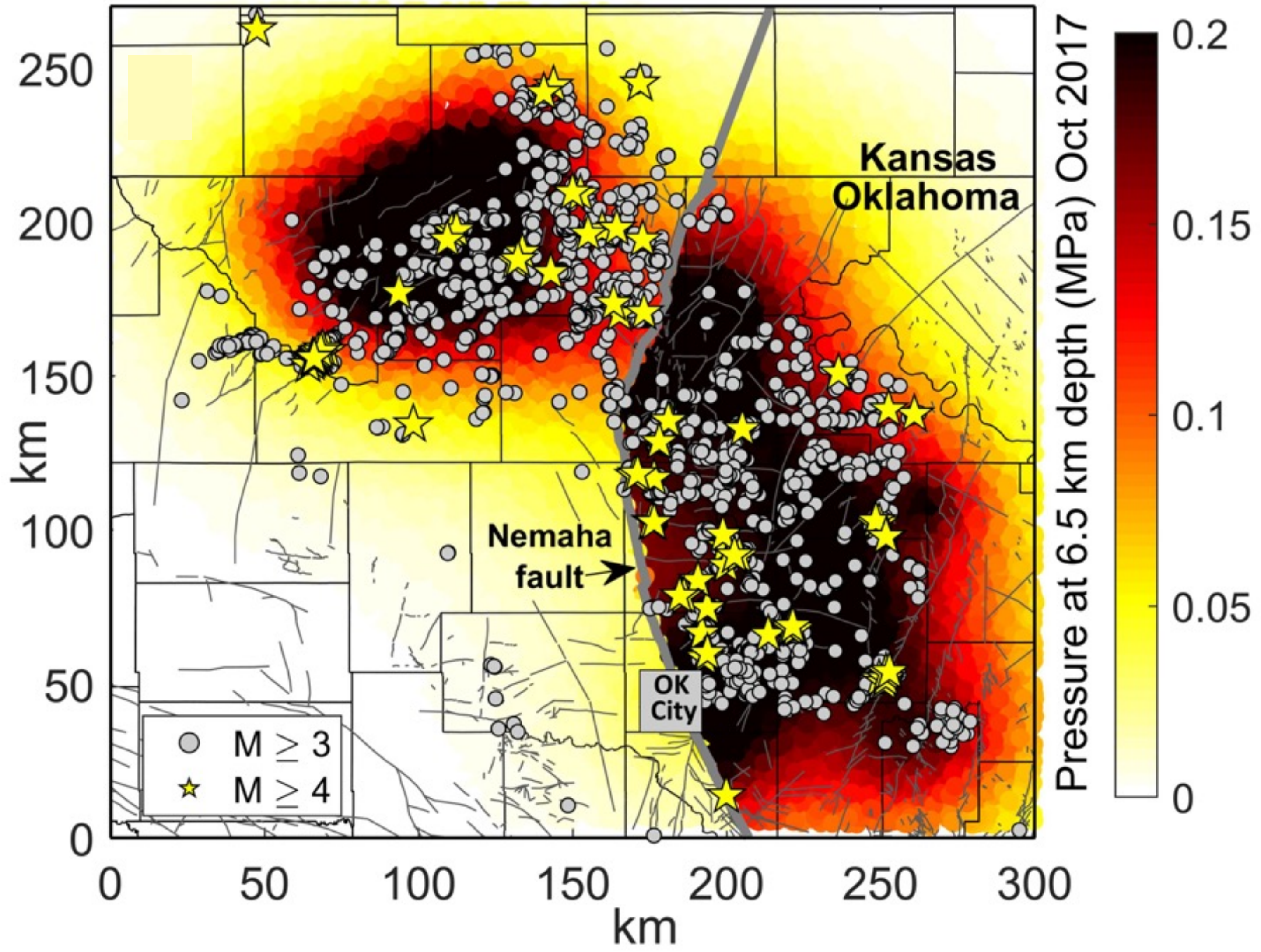
Fig. 14.4

Identification of Faults That are Not Likely to be Problematic is Important Too!



Walsh and Zoback (2016)

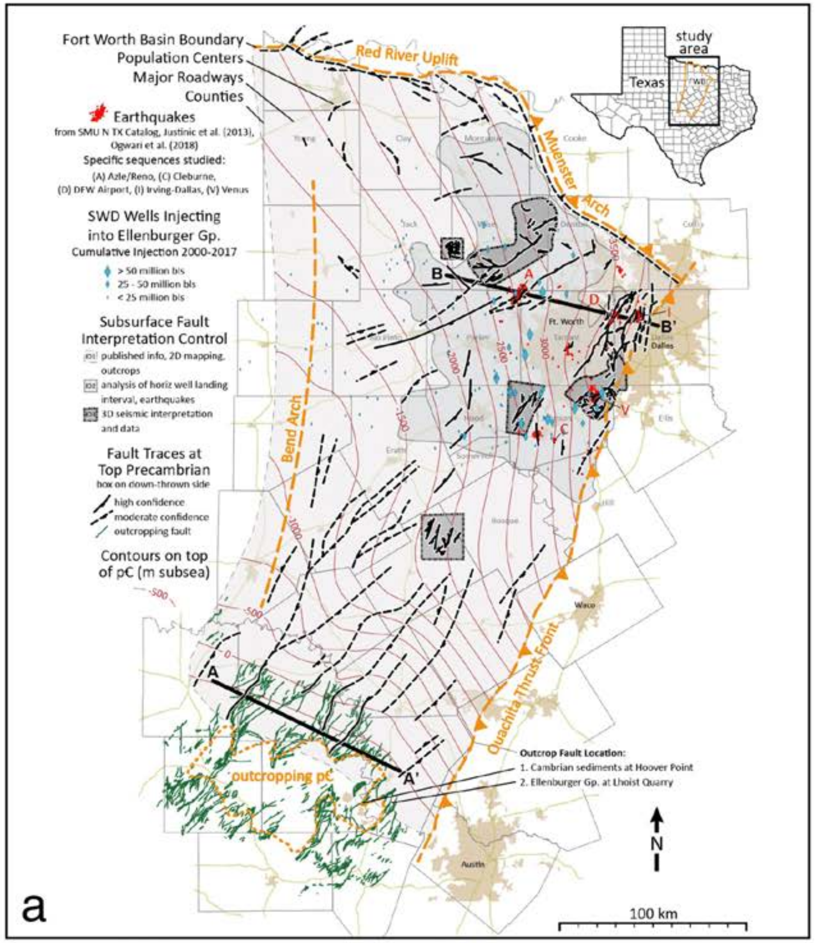
Does FSP Work? In Retrospect, Every Significant Eq in OK Can be Explained by Coulomb Faulting Theory



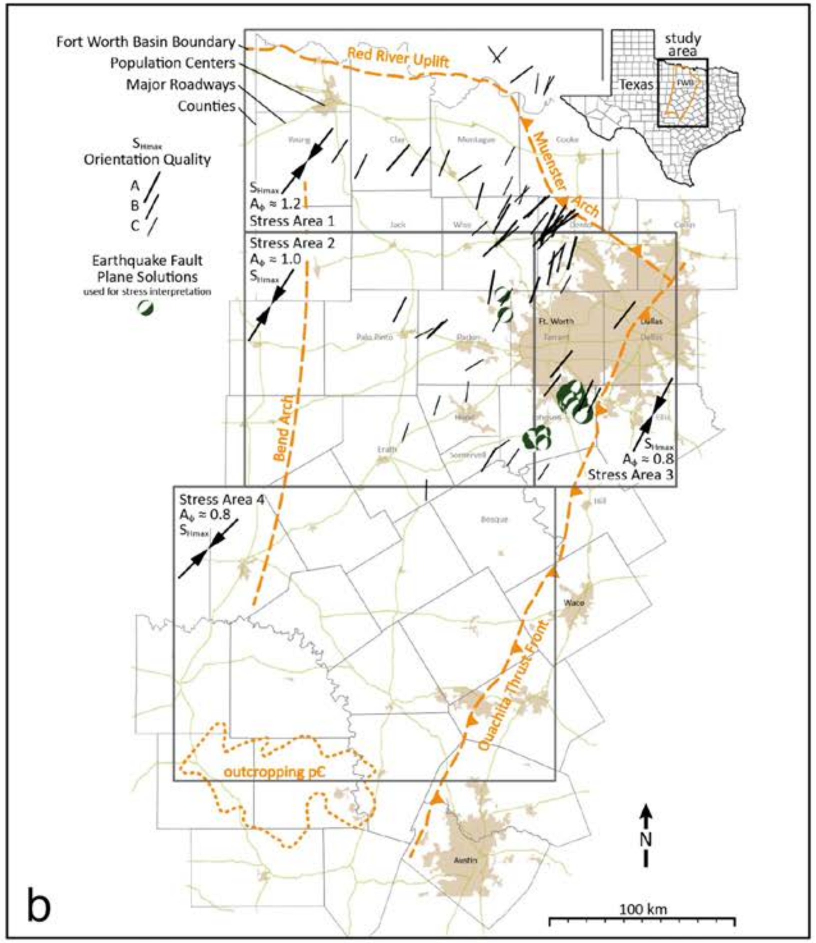
Langenbruch and Zoback, 2016

Application to the Fort Worth Basin

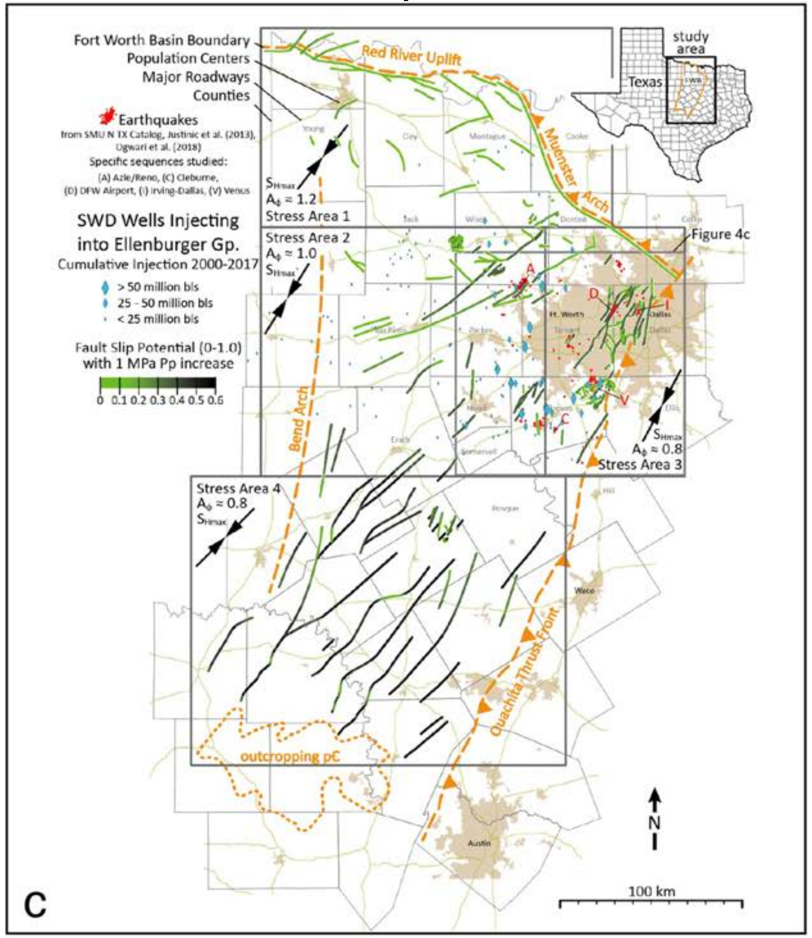
Faults



Stress

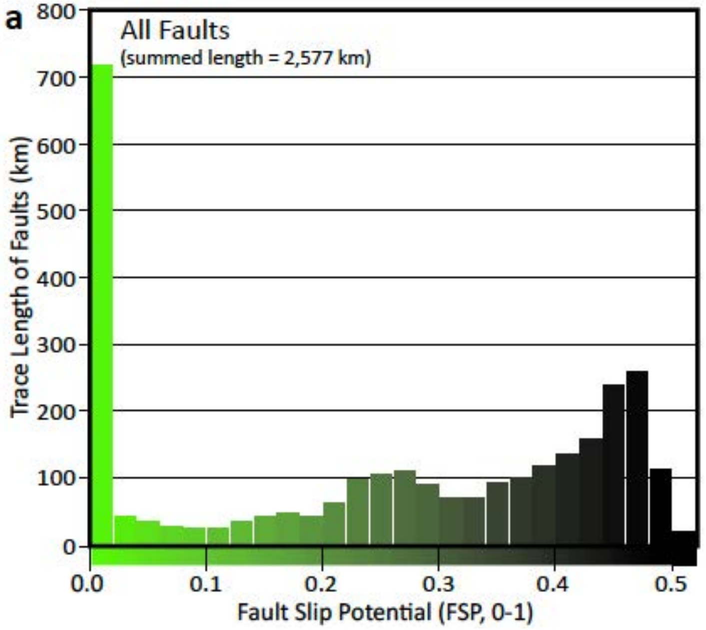


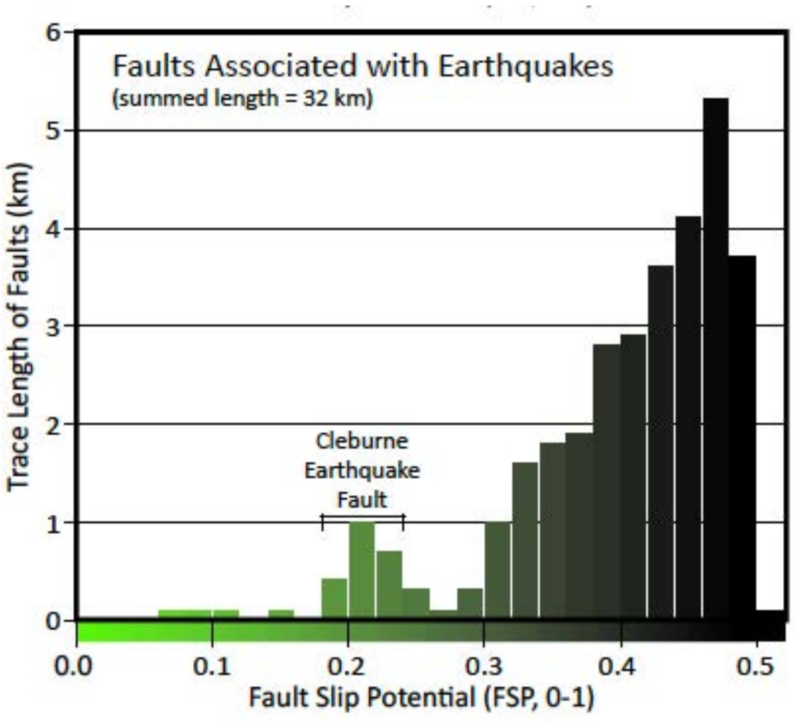
Fault Slip Potential

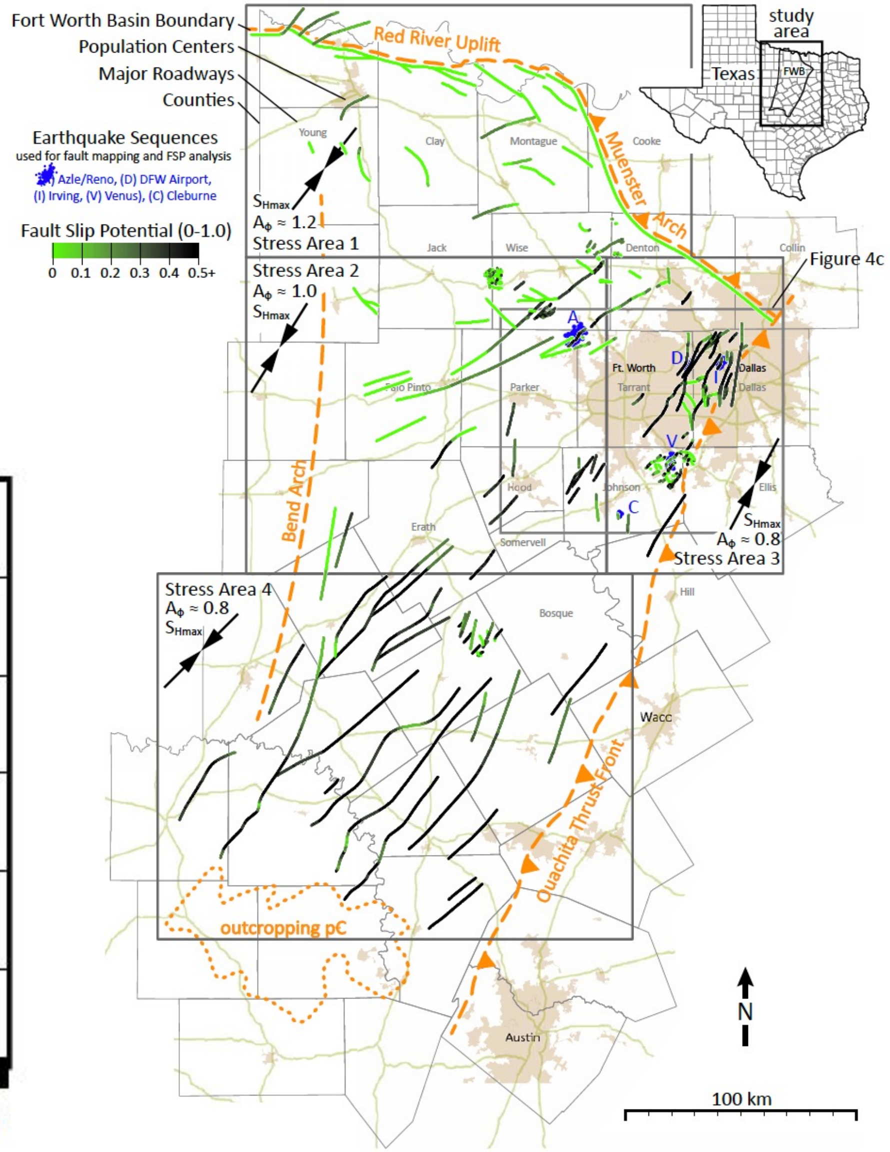


Hennings et al. (2019)

Calibration







Application

Hennings et al. (2019)

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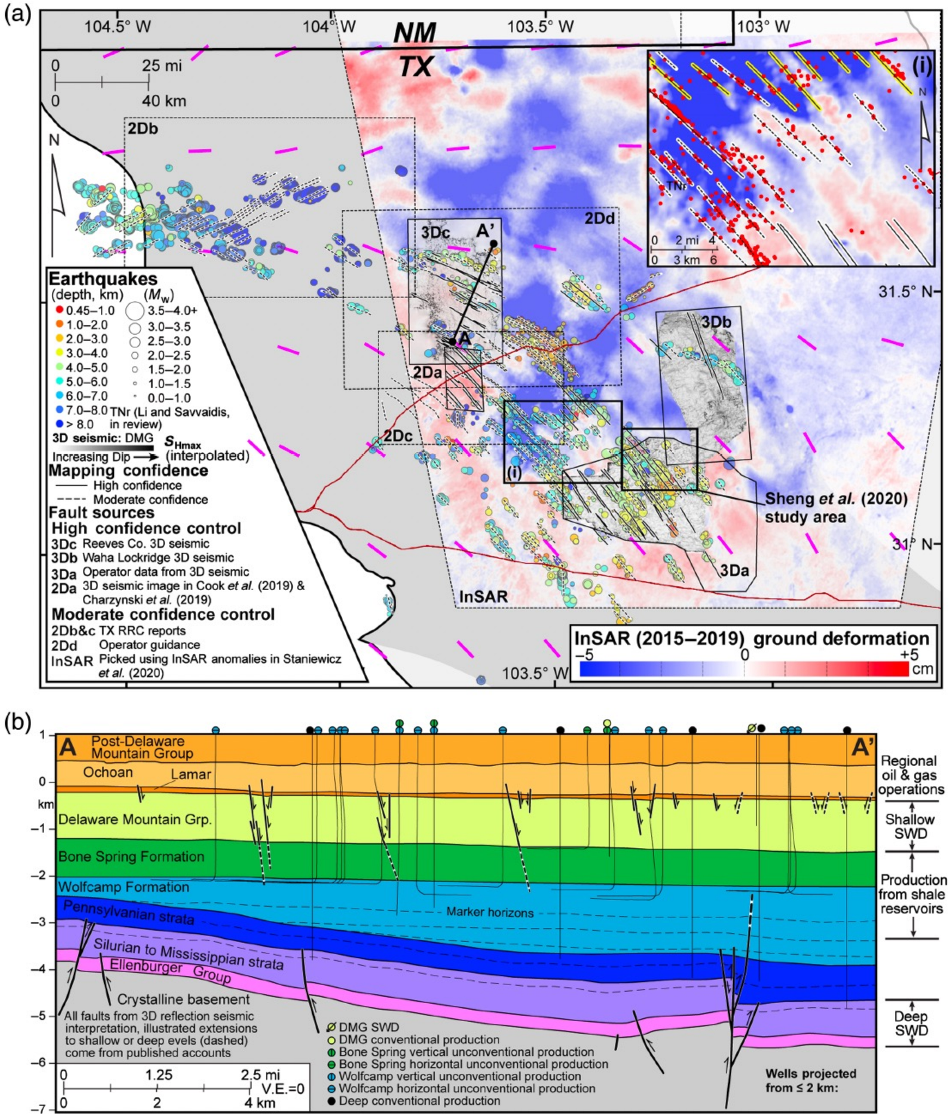
https://doi.org/10.1130/G49015.1

Manuscript received 22 February 2021
Revised manuscript received 7 April 2021
Manuscript accepted 18 April 2021

Prior oil and gas production can limit the occurrence of injection-induced seismicity: A case study in the Delaware Basin of western Texas and southeastern New Mexico, USA

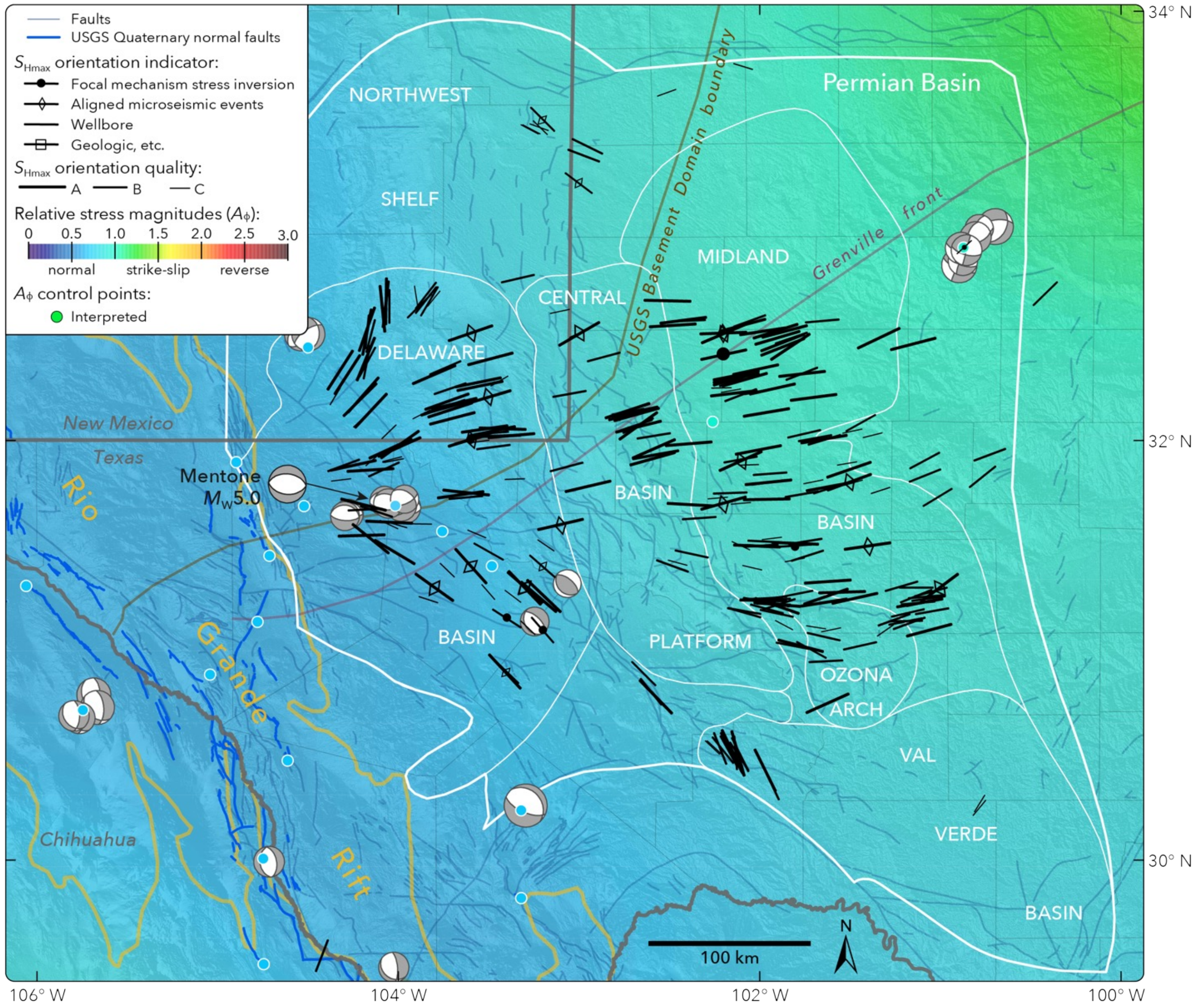
Noam Z. Dvory and Mark D. Zoback
Department of Geophysics, Stanford University, 397 Panama Mall, Stanford, California 94305, USA

In the Seismically Active Area the Delaware Mountain Group and Bone Spring are Saline Aquifers



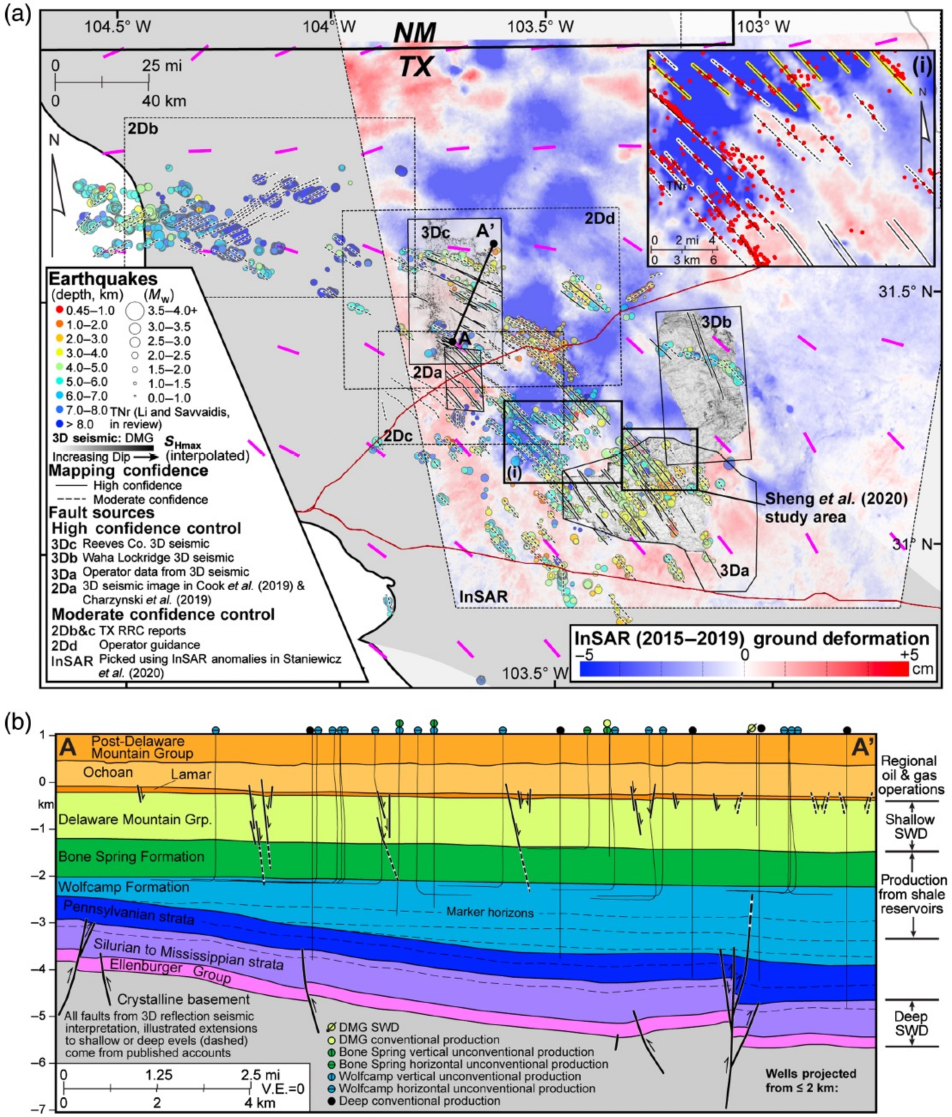
Fault mapping from Hennings et al. (2021)

State of Stress in the Permian Basin
Does FSP Work? Every Significant Eq in The Delaware Basin Can be Explained by Coulomb Faulting Theory



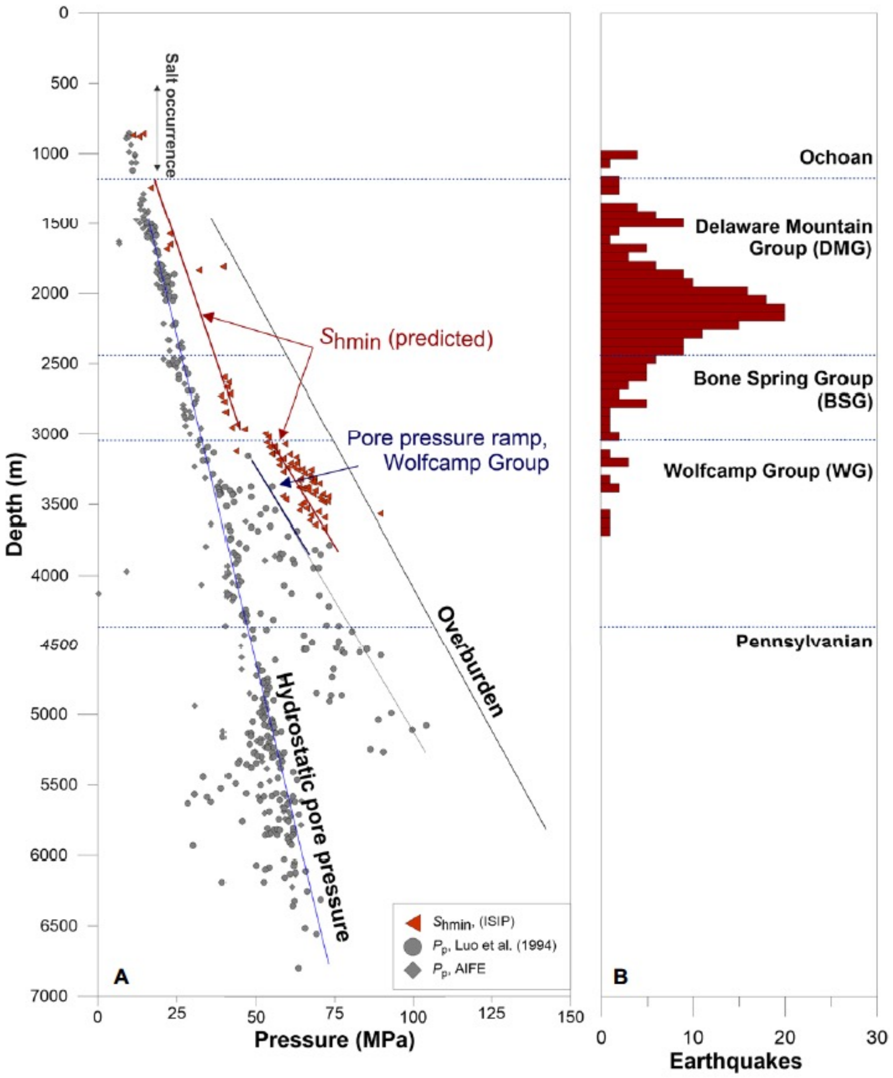
Stress data from Lund Snee and Zoback (2021)

In the Seismically Active Area the Delaware Mountain Group and Bone Spring are Saline Aquifers



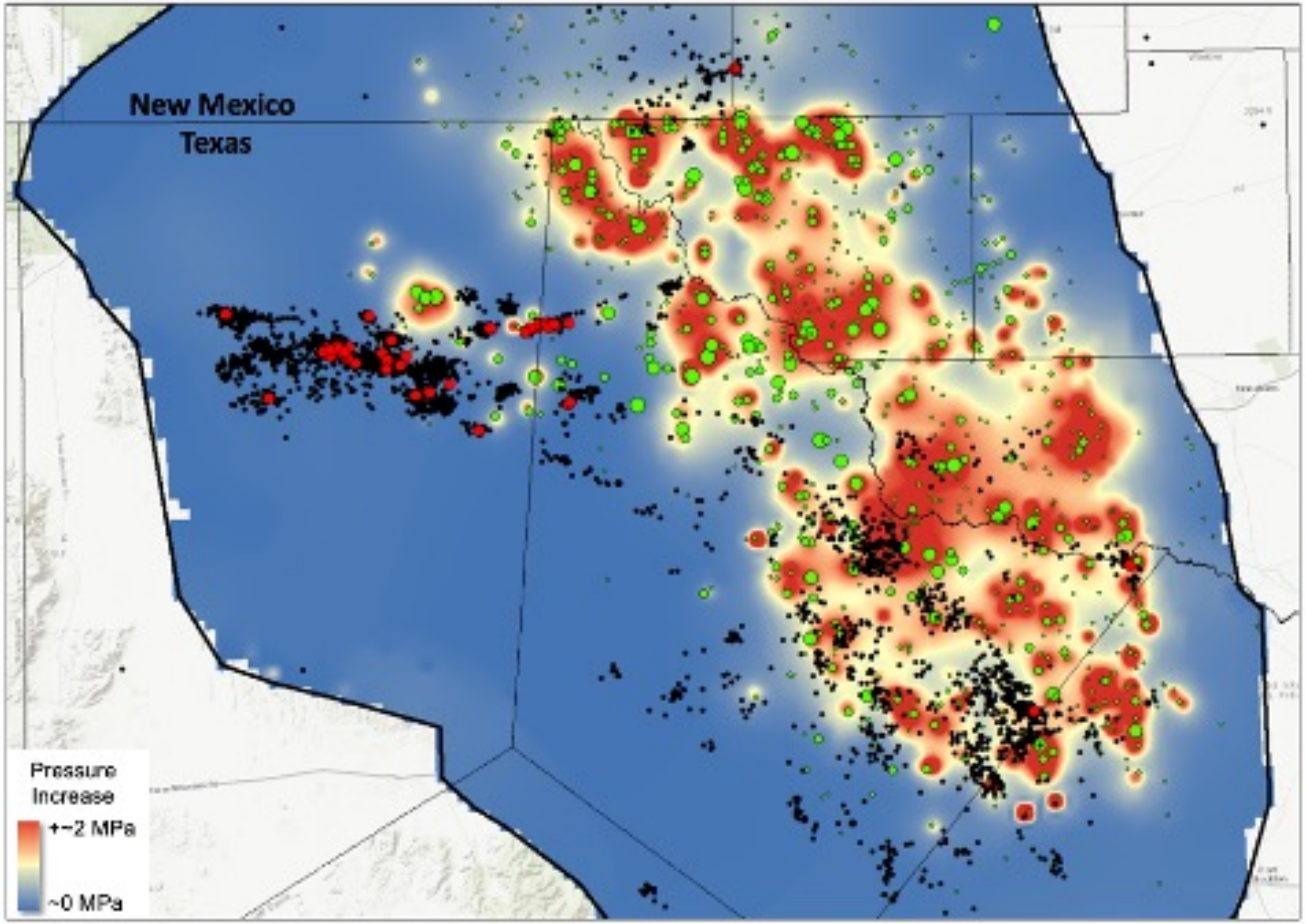
Fault mapping from Hennings et al. (2021)

Pore Pressure is Hydrostatic and Normal Faults are in a State of Frictional Equilibrium



Dvory and Zoback (2021)

Small Pressure Changes Induce Seismicity in the Delaware Mountain Group



Ge, Nicot et al. (2022)

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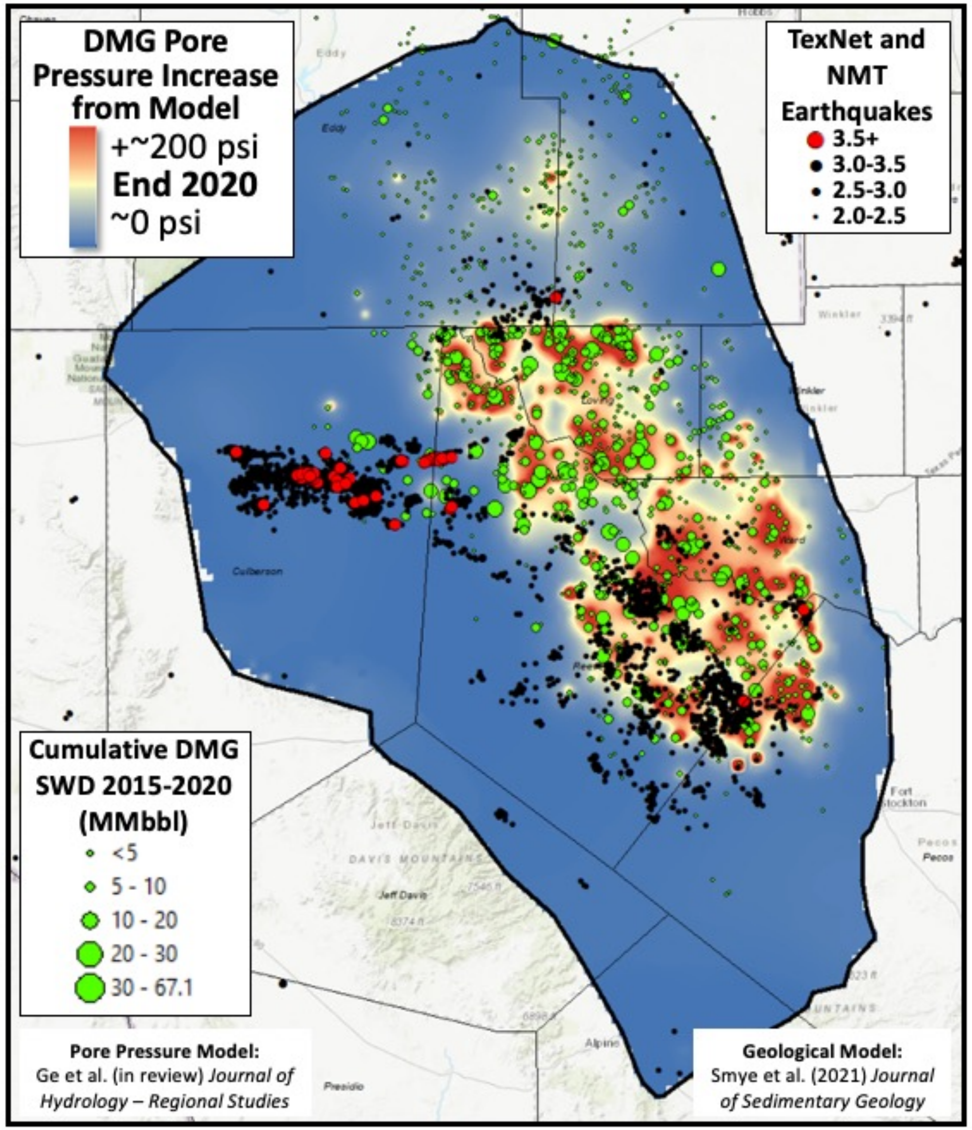
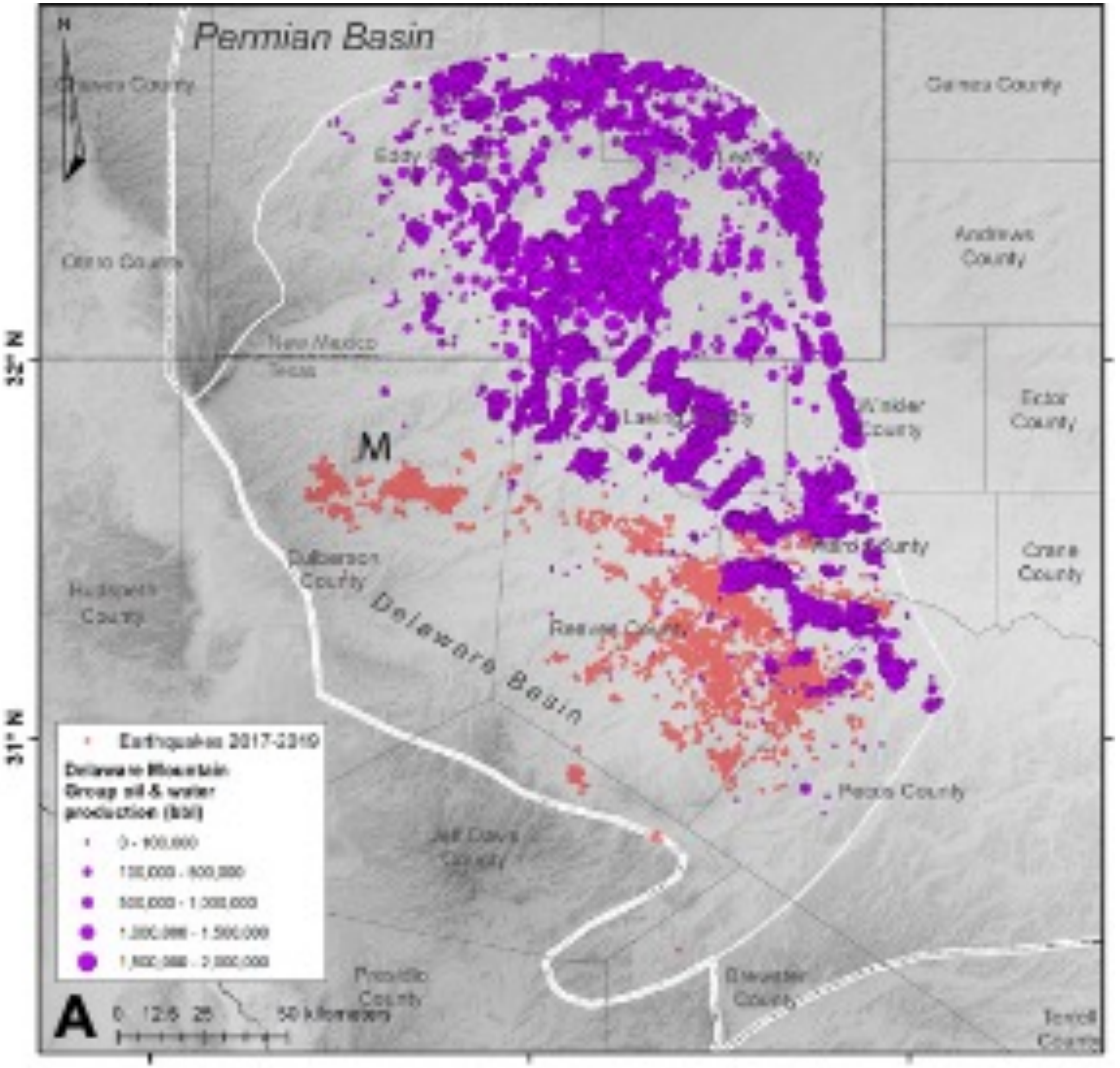
Shallow Seismicity in DMG Induced by Very Small Pressure Changes



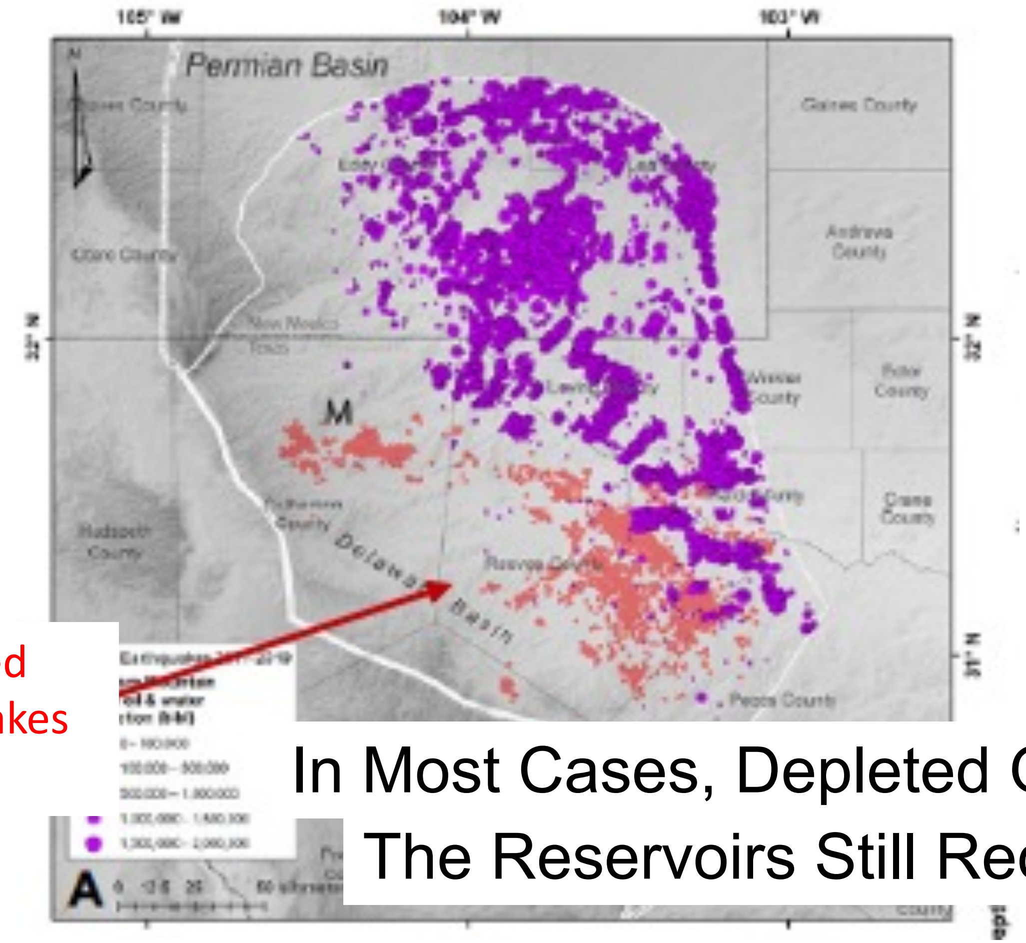
No Shallow Seismicity Where There Has Been Previous DMG Production



P. Hennings, pers. comm.

Dvory and Zoback (2021)

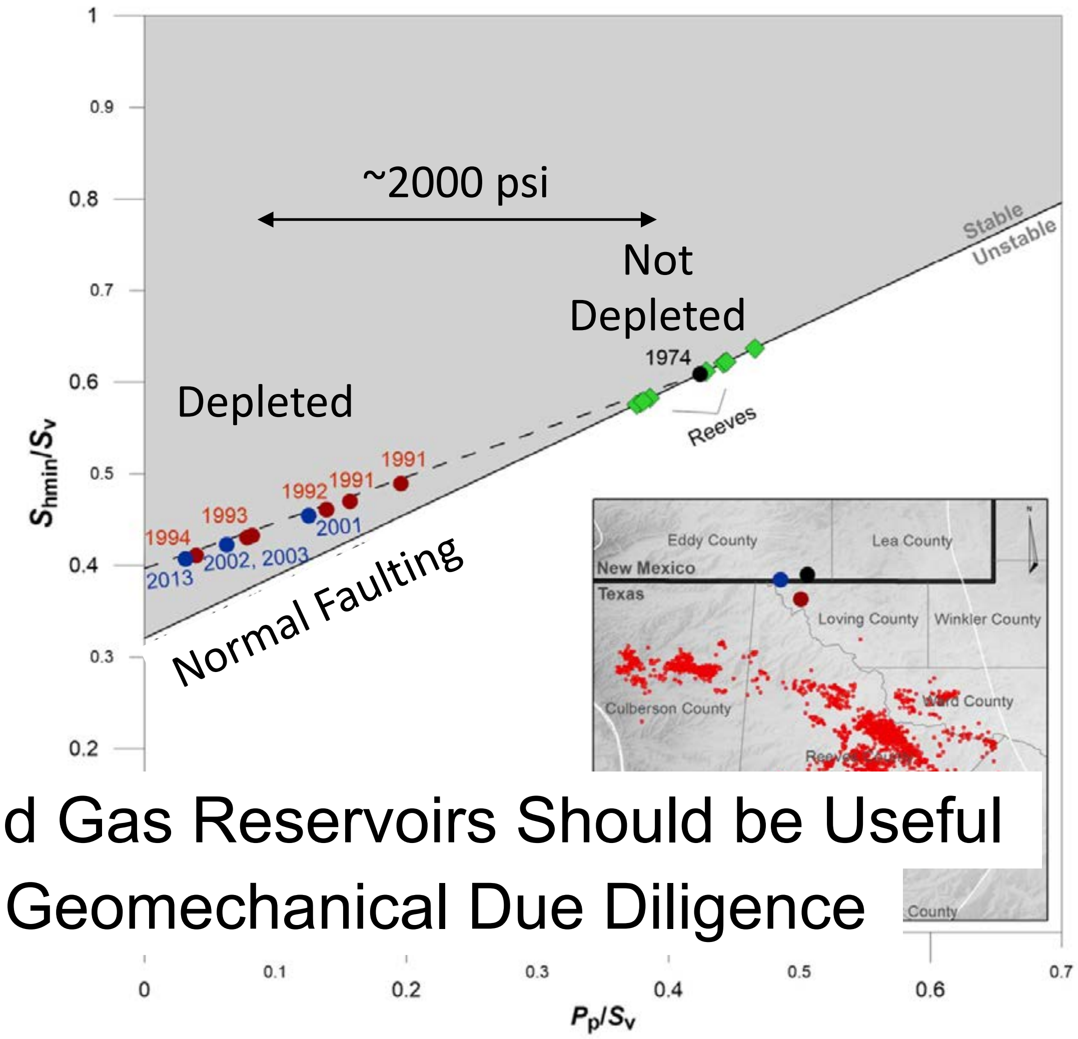
No Earthquakes are Not Being Triggered Where There Has Been Past Production



Induced Earthquakes

Delaware Mountain Group Production

Poroelastic Stress Path Associated with Depletion Makes Normal Faults More Stable



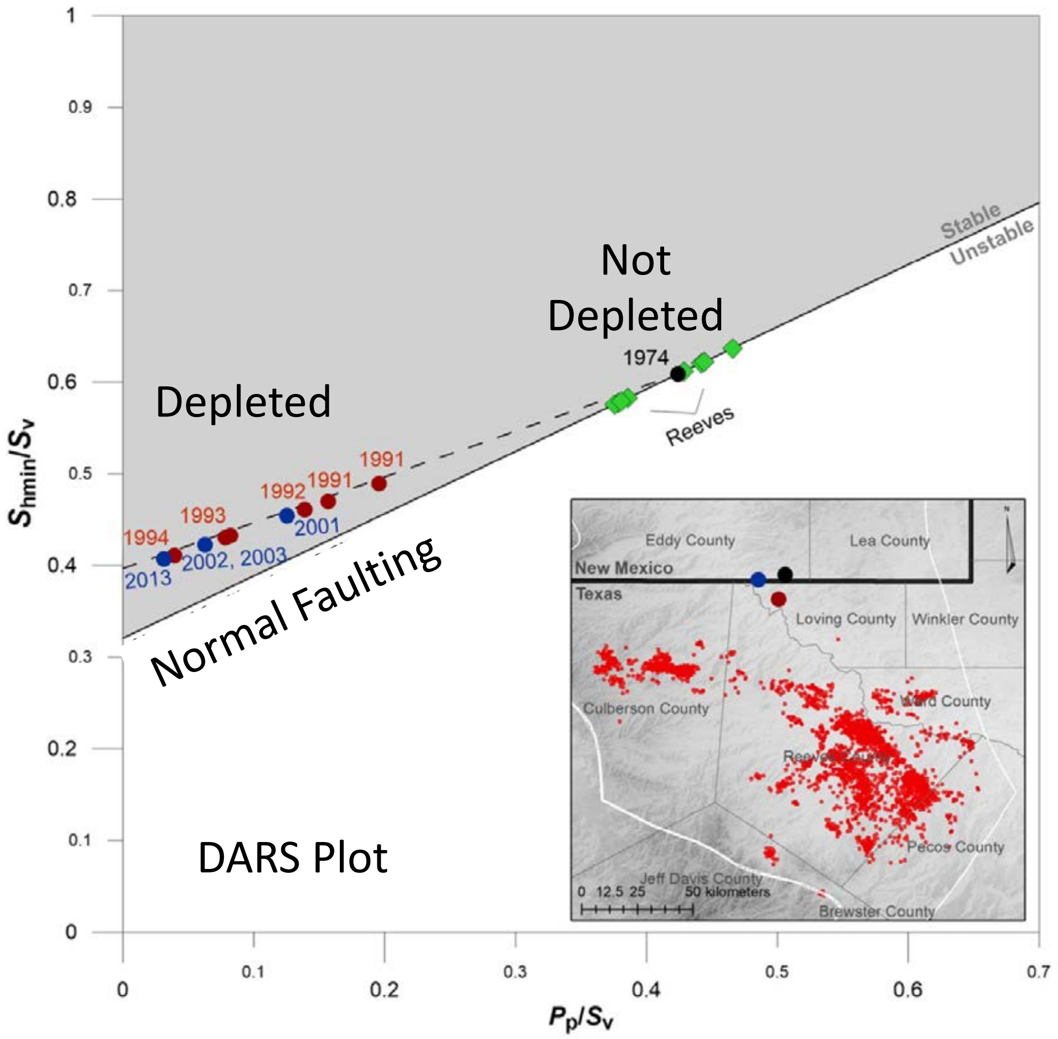
In Most Cases, Depleted Oil and Gas Reservoirs Should be Useful

The Reservoirs Still Require Geomechanical Due Diligence

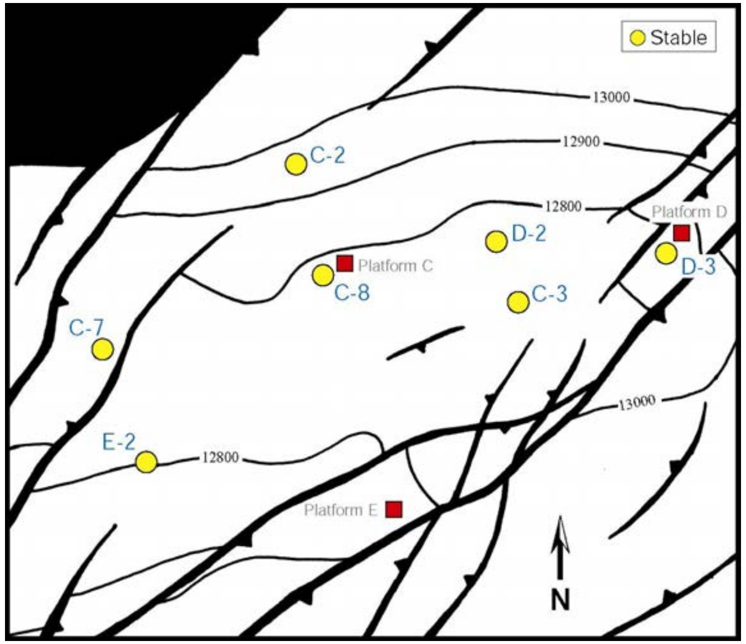
Deformation Analysis in Reservoir Space (DARS)

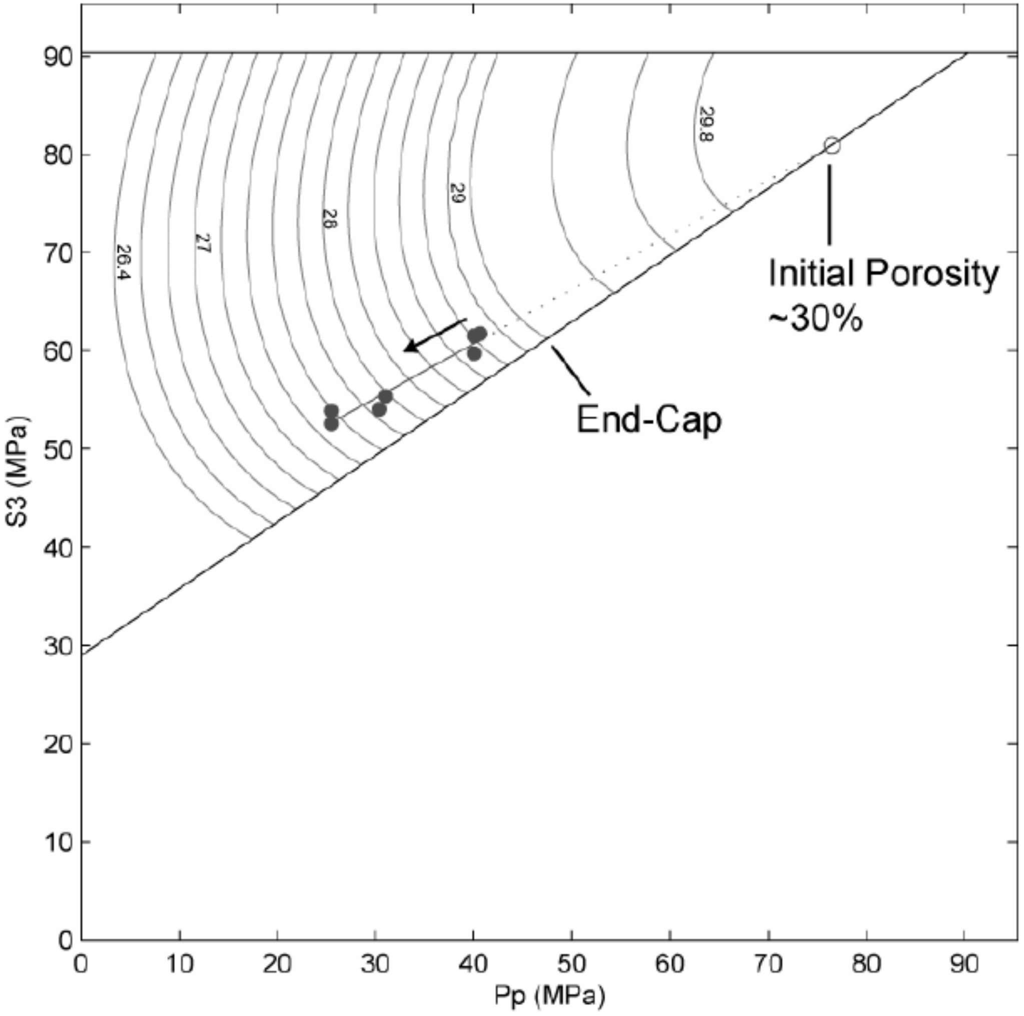
- To understand the deformation mechanisms of a producing reservoir utilizing relatively simple laboratory tests and in situ measurements

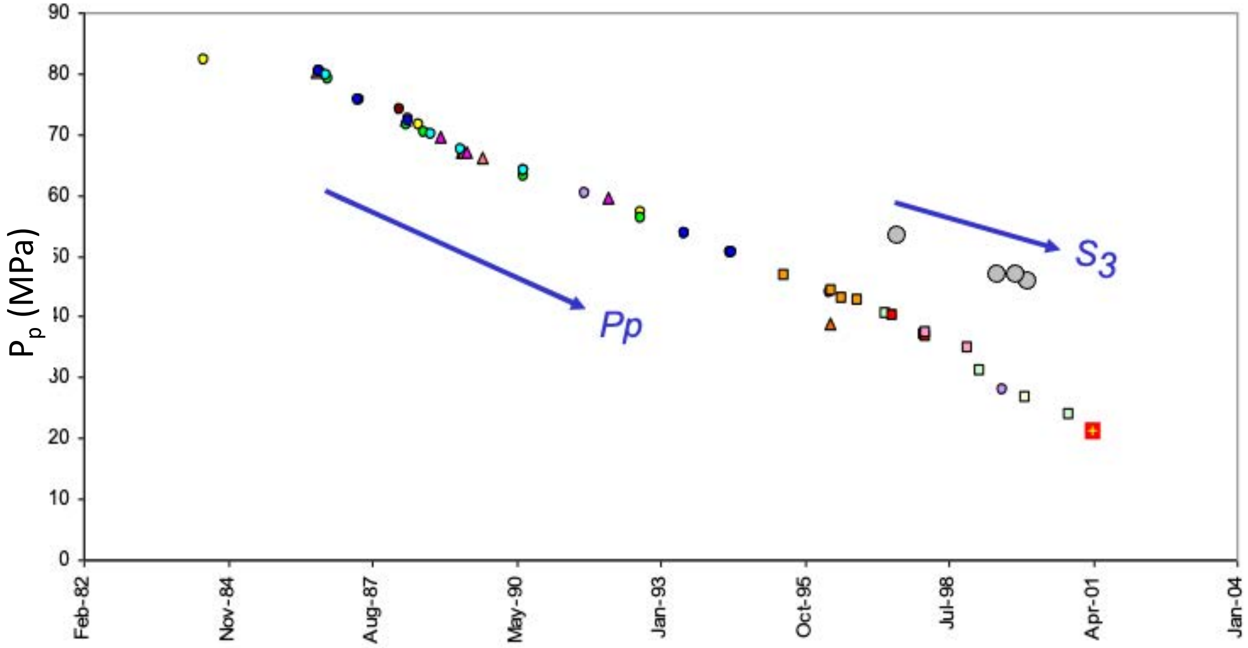
- DARS is a formalism for estimating the evolution of porosity (and permeability) and the potential for induced normal faulting in a producing reservoir



DARS Applied to a GOM Offshore Field







Zoback (2007)

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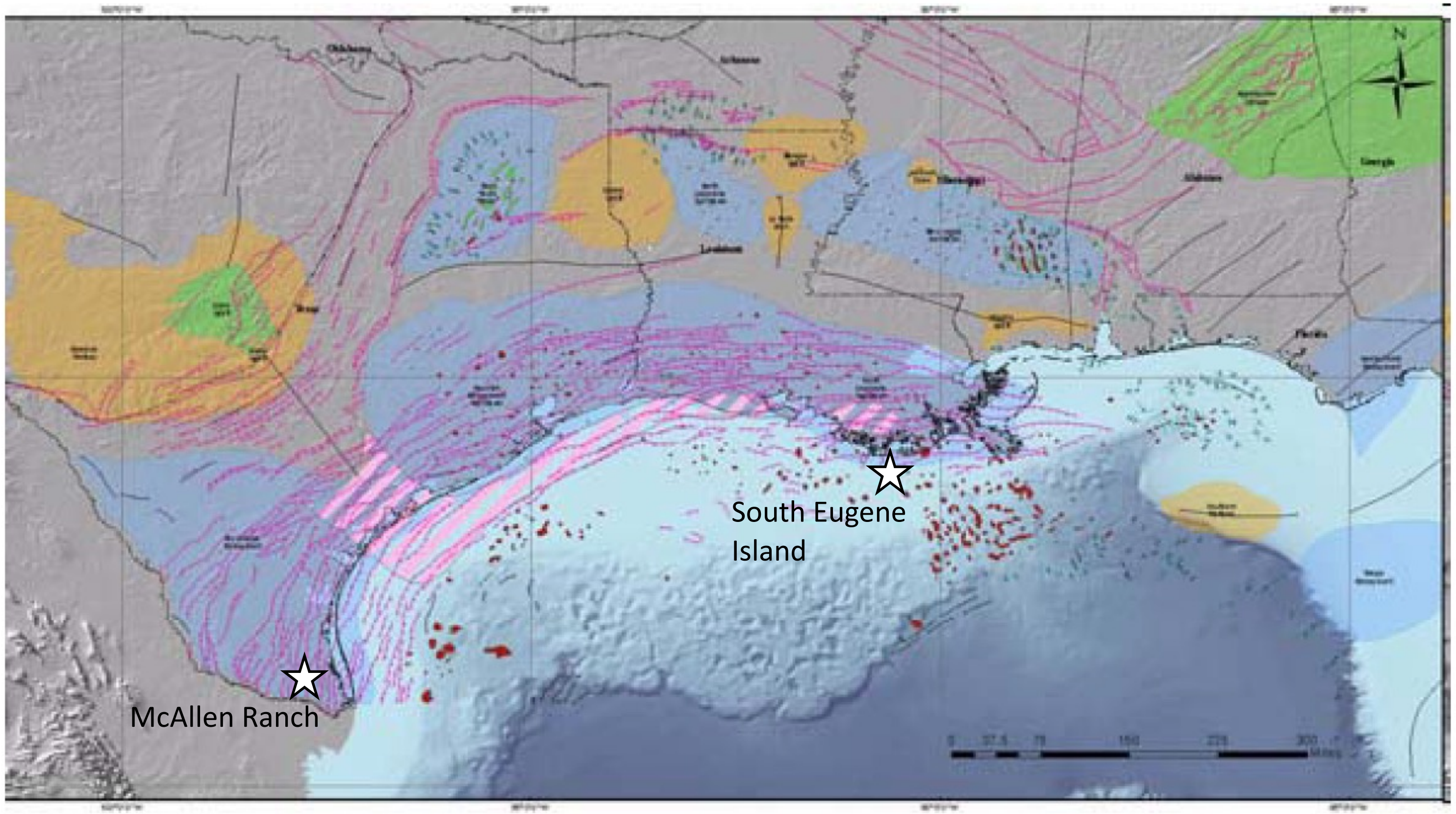
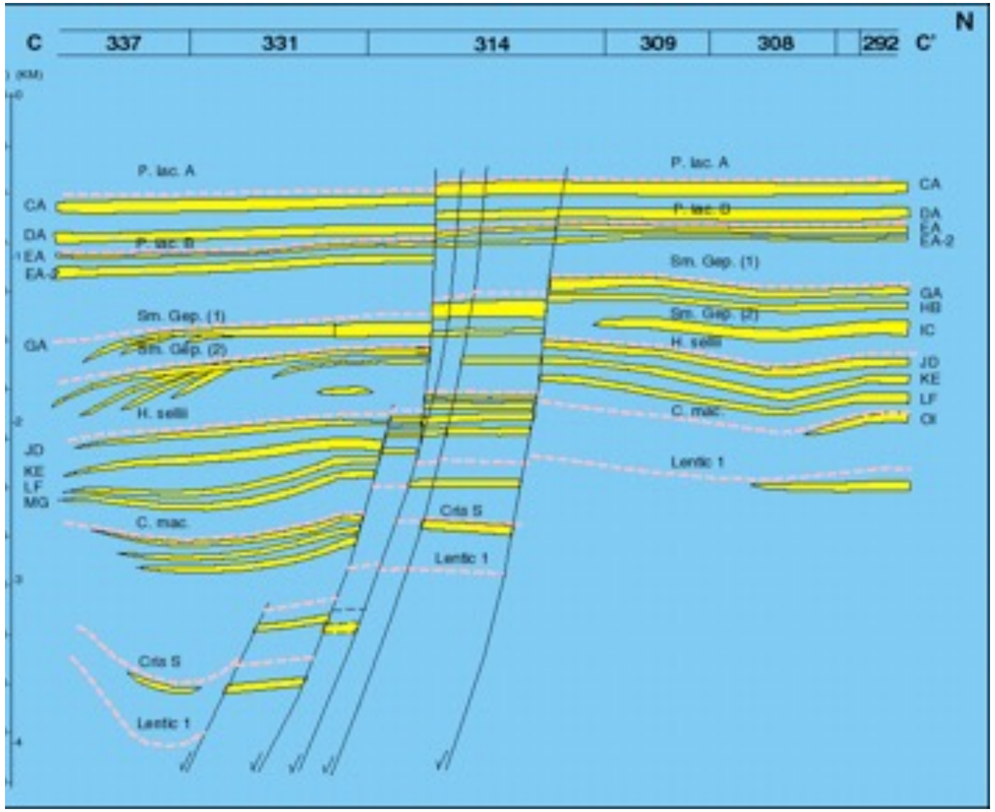
Weak Sands of the Gulf of Mexico

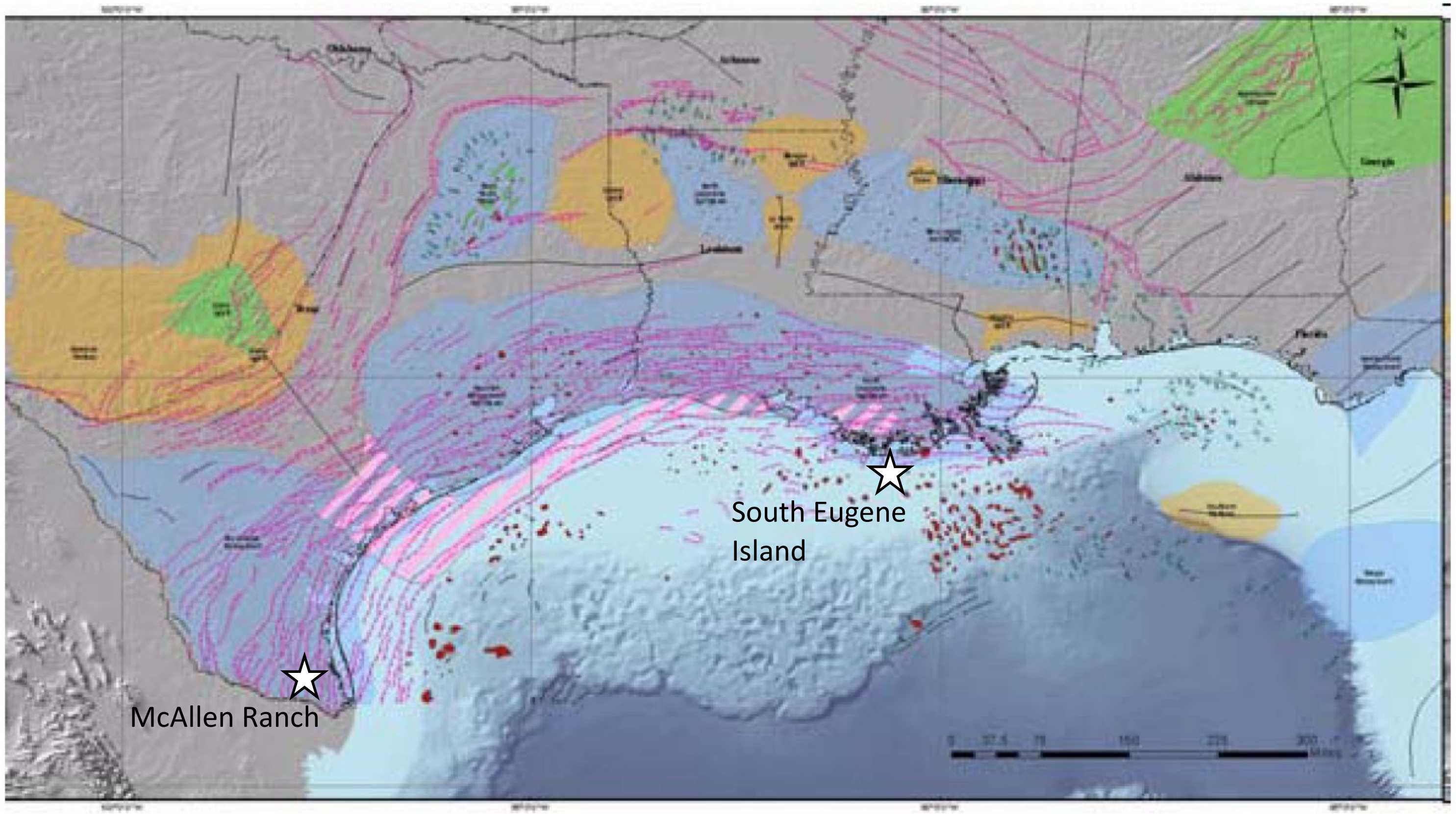


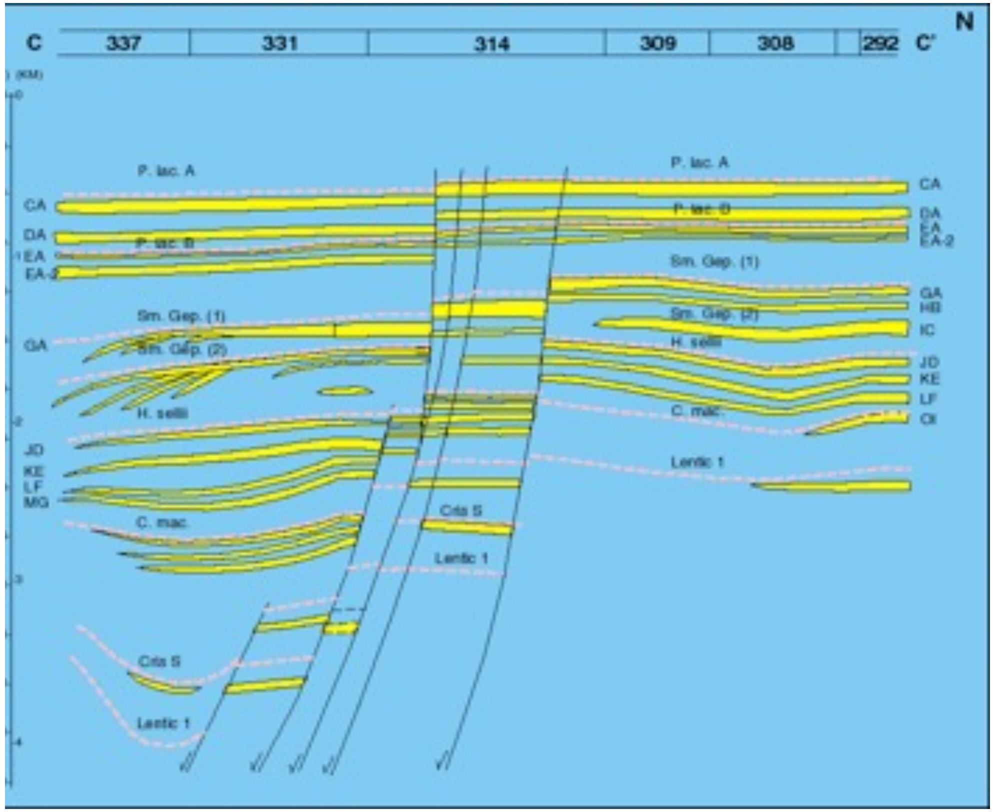


The Good News:

- Weakly-Cemented Sands are Not Likely to Produce Earthquakes
- Both Depleted Reservoirs and Saline Aquifers are Relatively Well Characterized

Weak Sands of the Gulf of Mexico

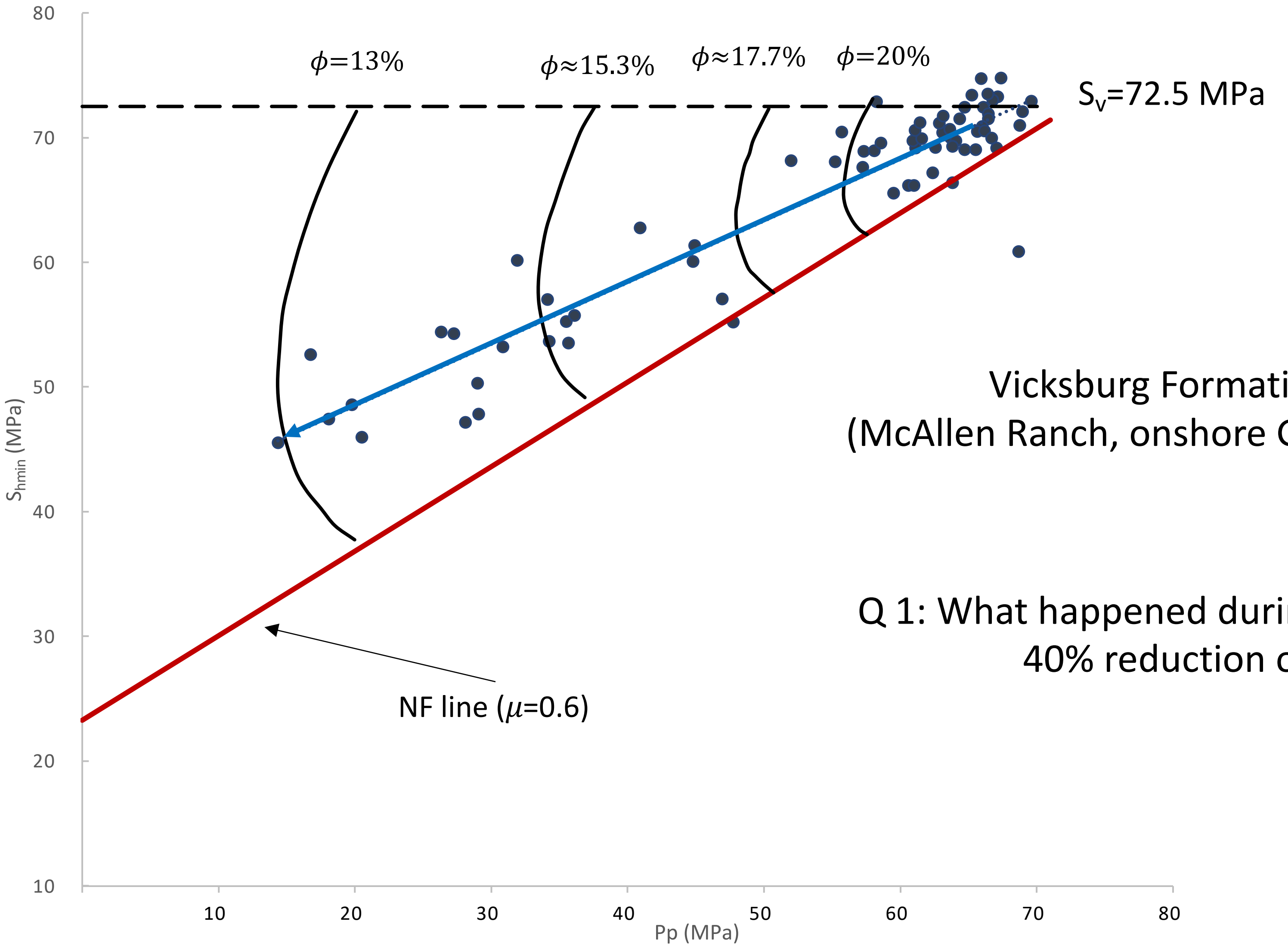




Requires Further Study:

- How Has Production Has Affected Depleted Oil and Gas Reservoirs?

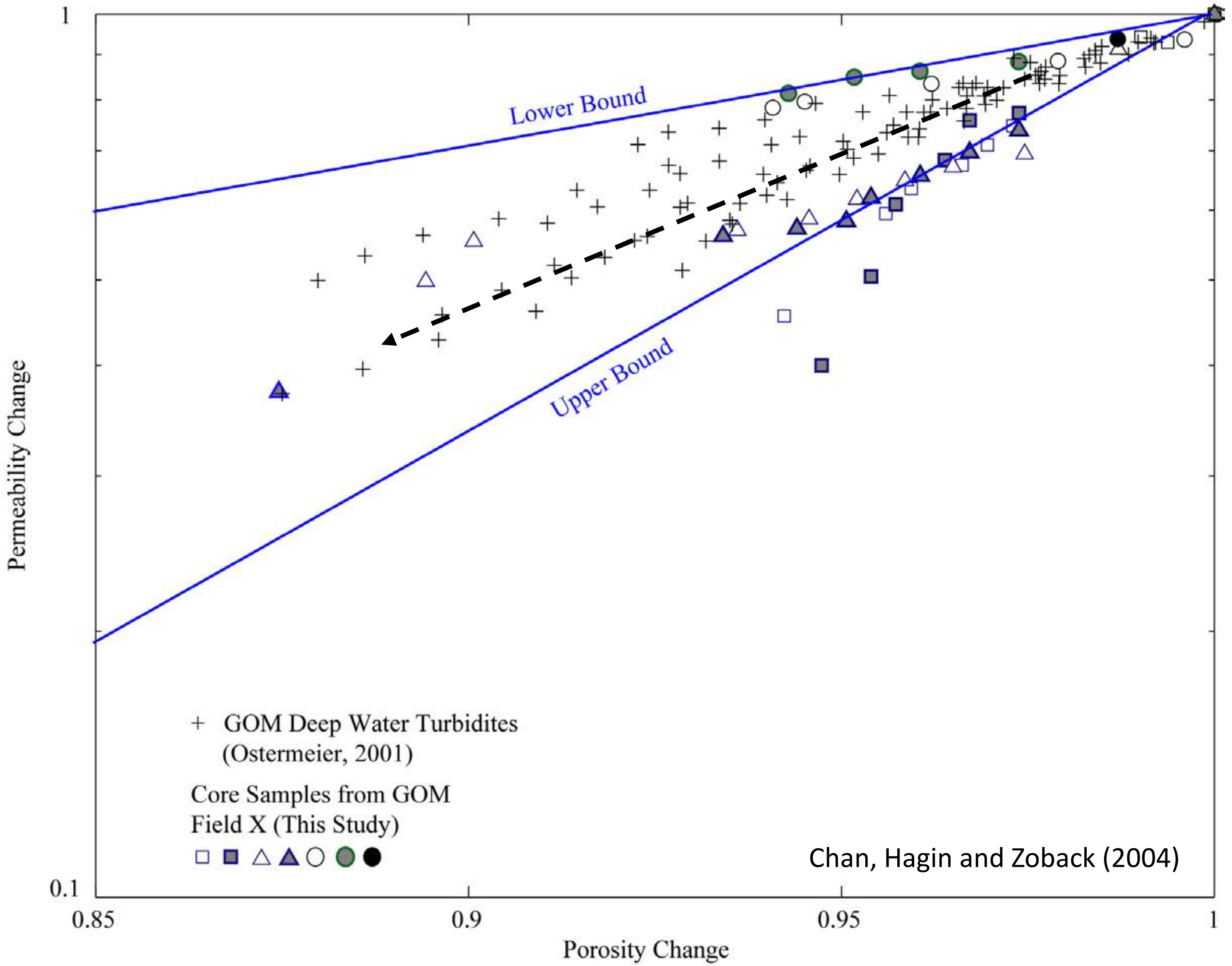
Depletion and Stress Path in Reservoir Space



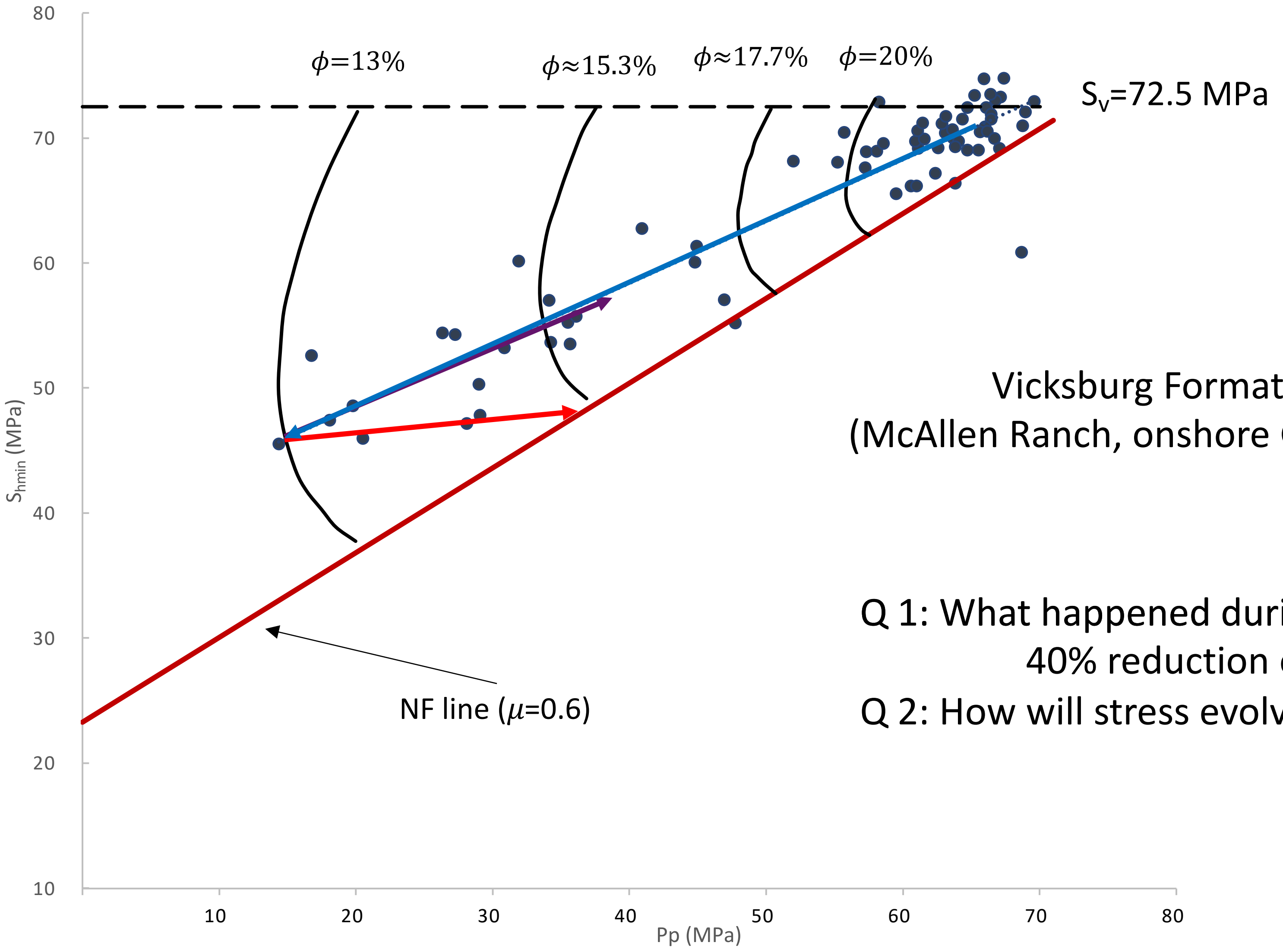
Vicksburg Formation
(McAllen Ranch, onshore GOM Texas)

Q 1: What happened during production?
40% reduction of porosity

Compaction and Permeability Loss in Weak GOM Sands



Depletion and Stress Path in Reservoir Space



Vicksburg Formation
(McAllen Ranch, onshore GOM Texas)

Q 1: What happened during production?
40% reduction of porosity
Q 2: How will stress evolve during CO_2 injection?

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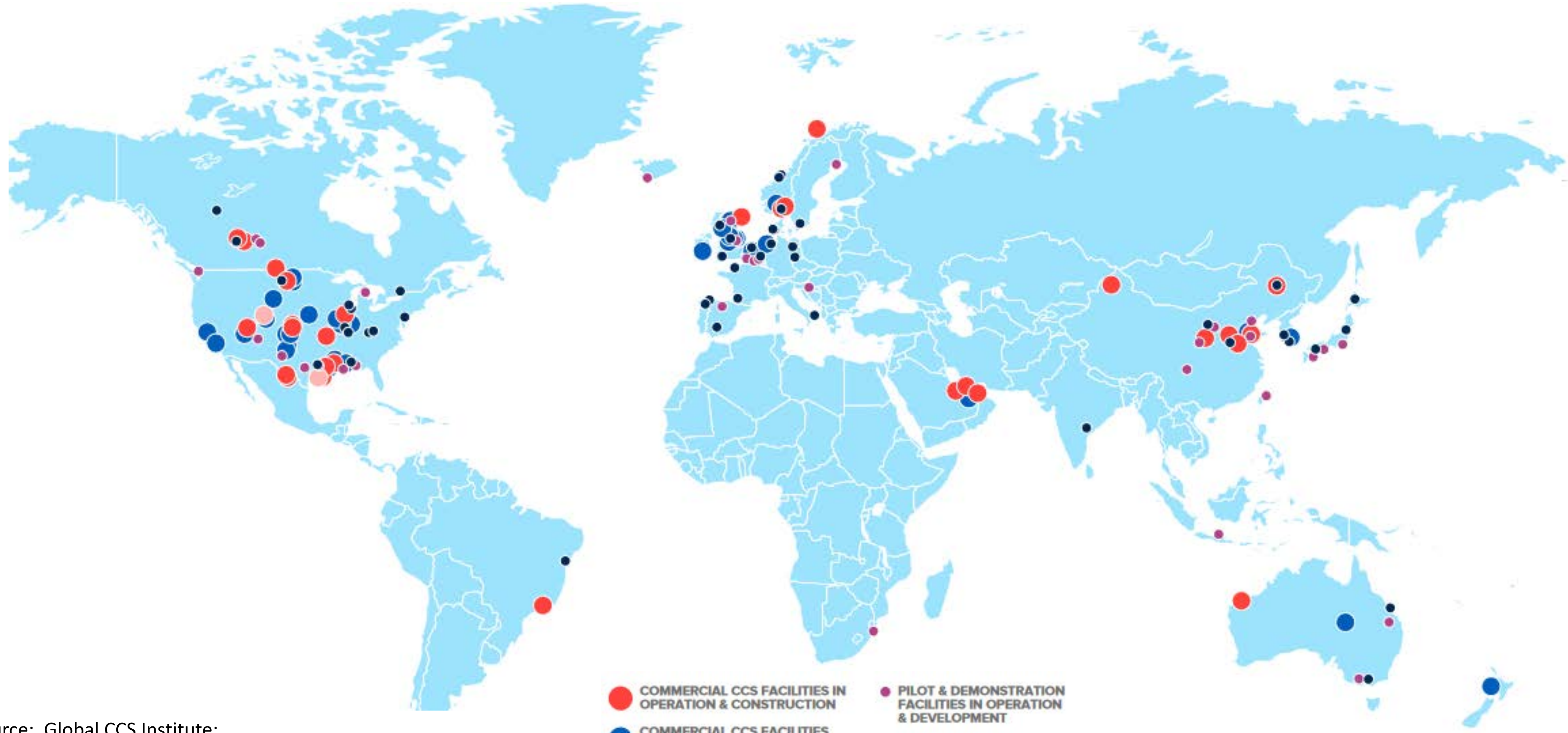
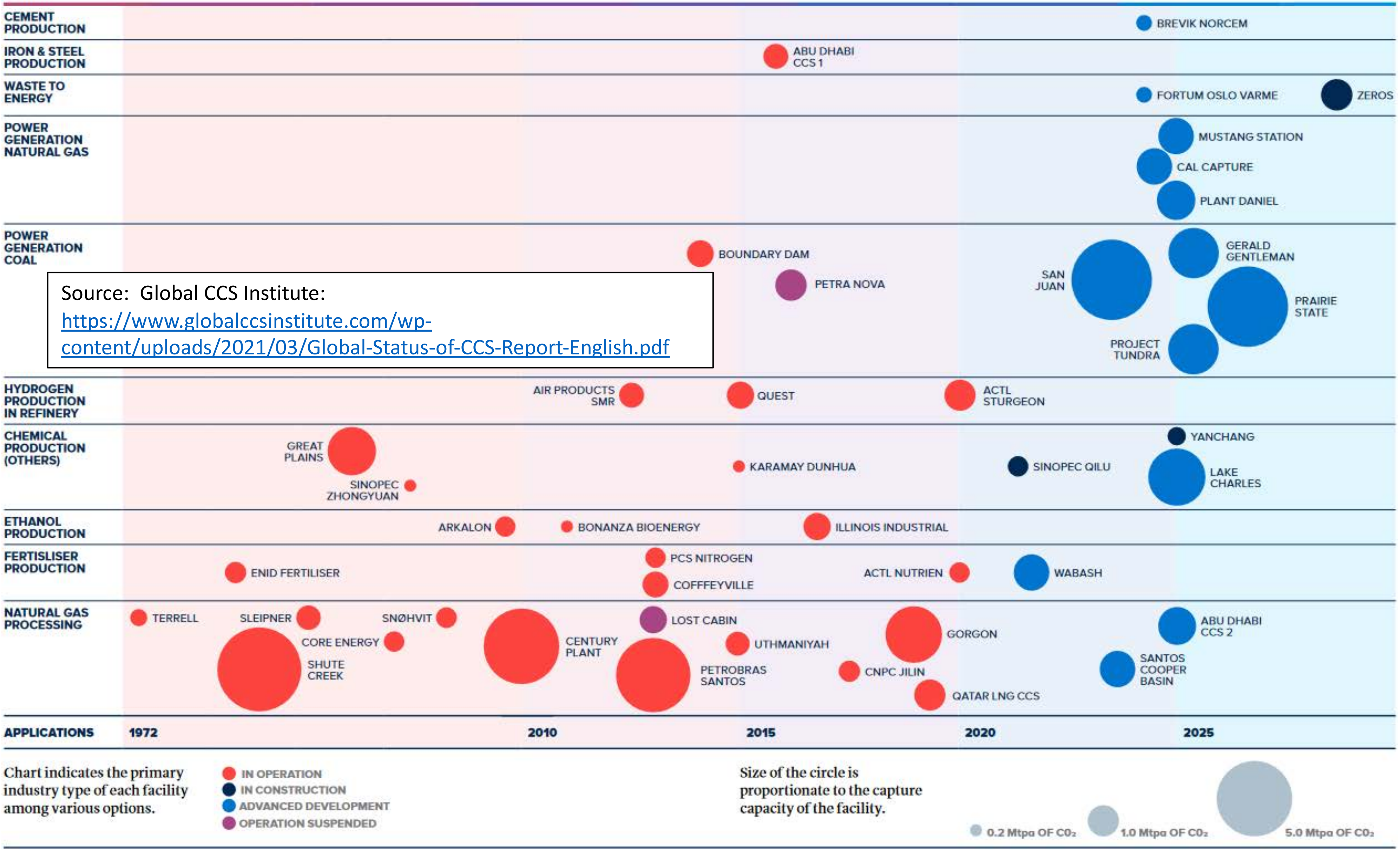
Global CCS Projects 2020



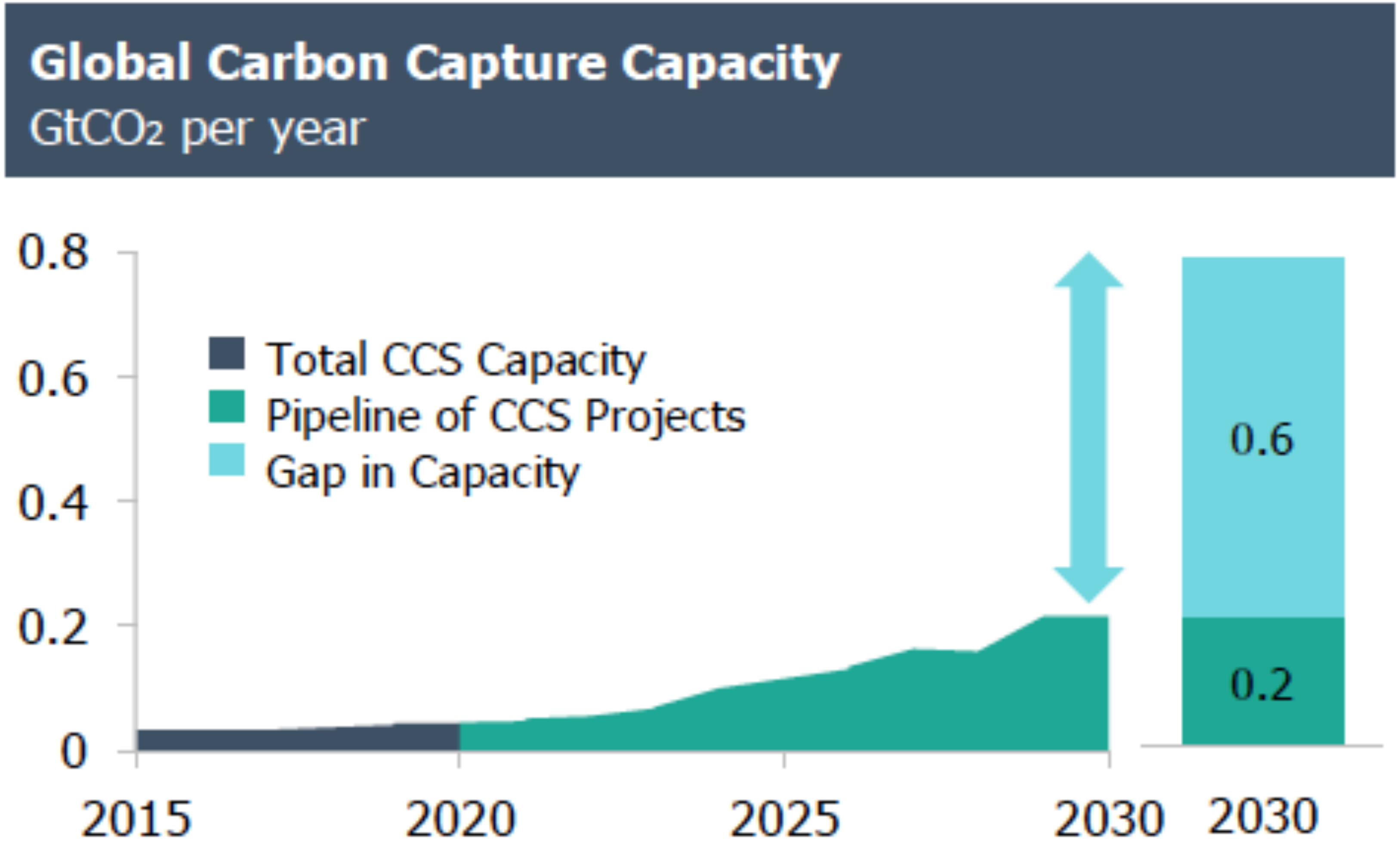
Source: Global CCS Institute: https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Global-Status-of-CCS-Report-English.pdf

Global CCS Projects 2020



Source: Global CCS Institute: https://www.globalccsinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Global-Status-of-CCS-Report-English.pdf

If all these new planned projects go forward, the total injection capacity would increase by 175 $MtCO_2$/yr



There is a large gap (0.6 $GtCO_2$ per year) between industry targets and the capacity of CCS projects currently being planned.

<u>70-100 new projects must be commissioned annually</u> to achieve the necessary rate of growth.

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Thank you