



A ViSUALizer (**VSUL**) for Demonstration of CCS Dynamics

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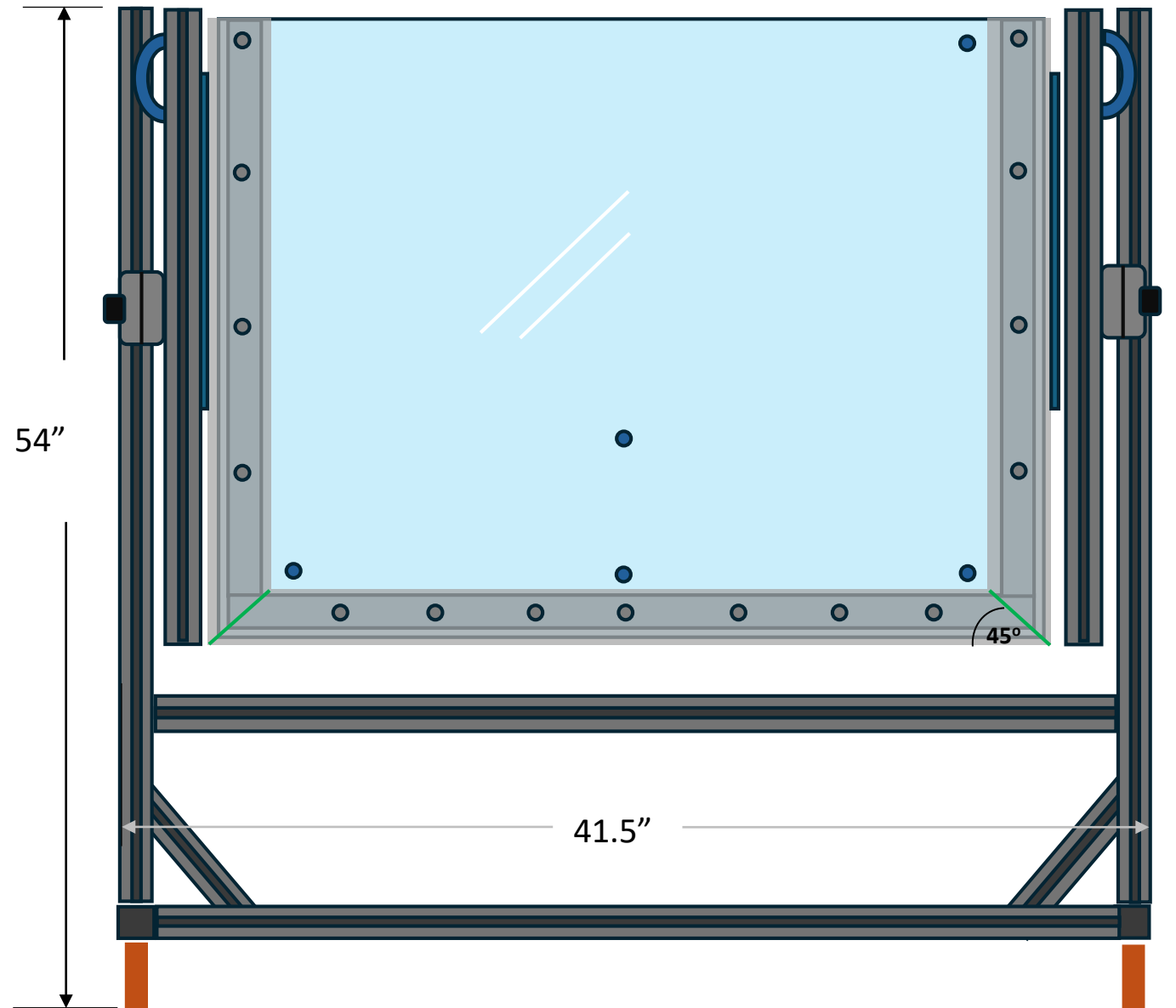
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Outline

- Background
- Objectives
- First **VSUL**
- Results
- Next steps
- Acknowledgement



Background

- ...carbon “storage” methods are unproven and unpredictable. There’s no guarantee that all that carbon will stay put — plus the process creates all kinds of harms and risks.
- <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2023/09/06/carbon-storage-bad-idea/>

- Experiential learning—learning by participating
 - build practical understanding to connect theories and knowledge to real-world situations
 - enhance knowledge retention, motivation, and additional skill development
 - gain nuanced understanding and a broader view of the world
 - pictorial demonstrations are an equitable approach to learning

Project objectives

- plan, build, and deploy 2D visualization apparatuses for CO₂ storage dynamics with porous media geometry analogous to Gulf of Mexico stratigraphy

- 60 by 100 cm, demonstrations and also for quantitative experiments



- 30 by 20 cm, portable, and suitable for students as well as interested community members



VSUL: 60 by 100 cm model



Details

- Sides and bottom are closed, top is constant pressure
- Gaseous CO_2 (near atmospheric pressure)
- pH sensitive dyes for visualization

Methyl red



Bromothymol blue



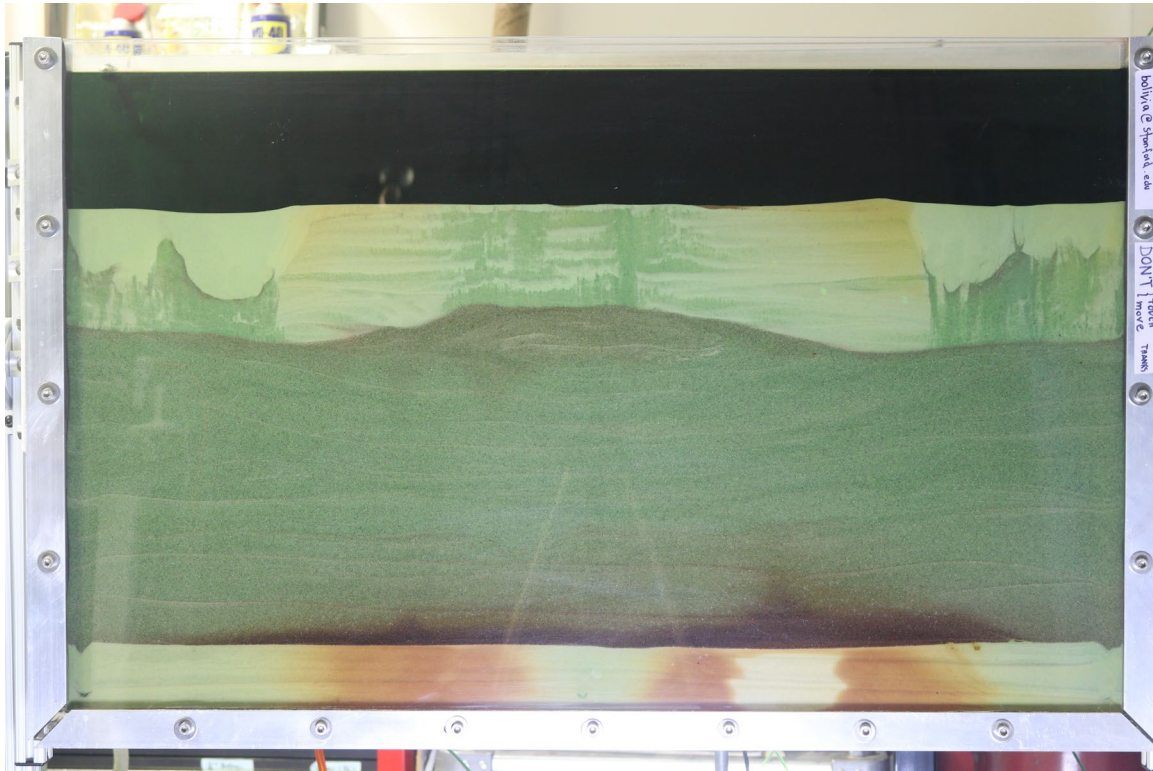
[4.8

6.0

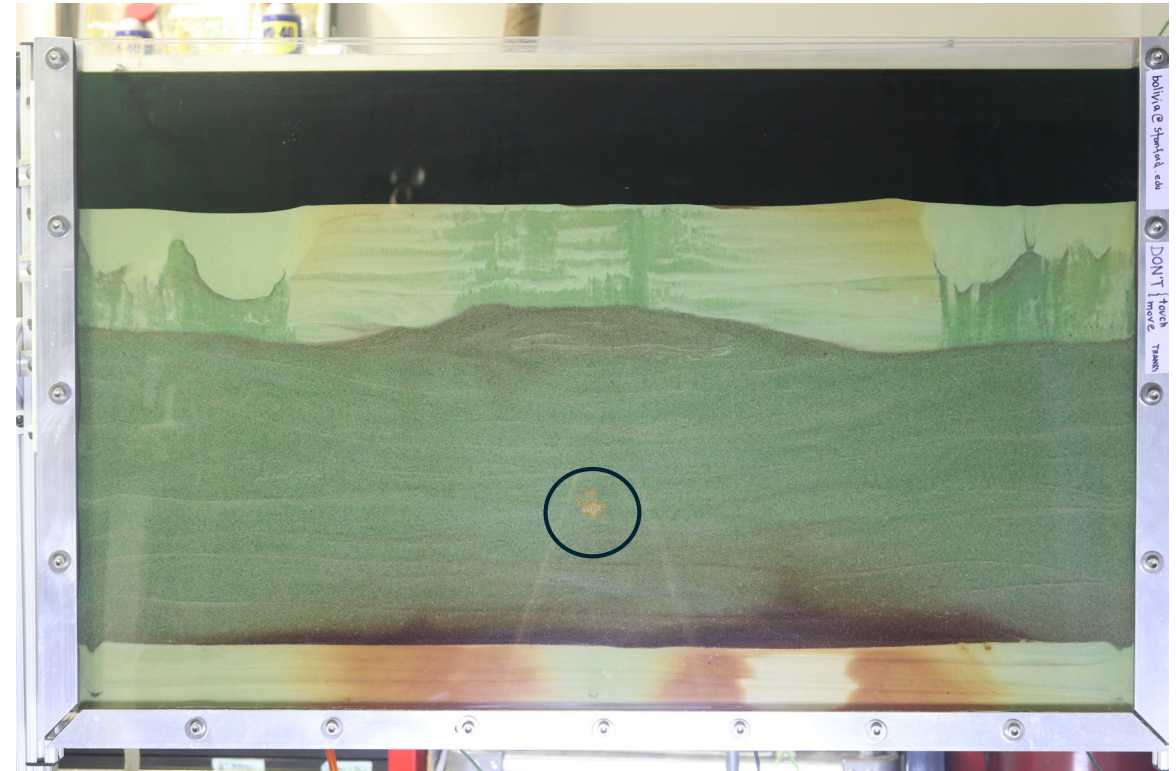
7.6]

Demonstration

Rate = 0.5 mL/min, Injection time = 5.5 hrs



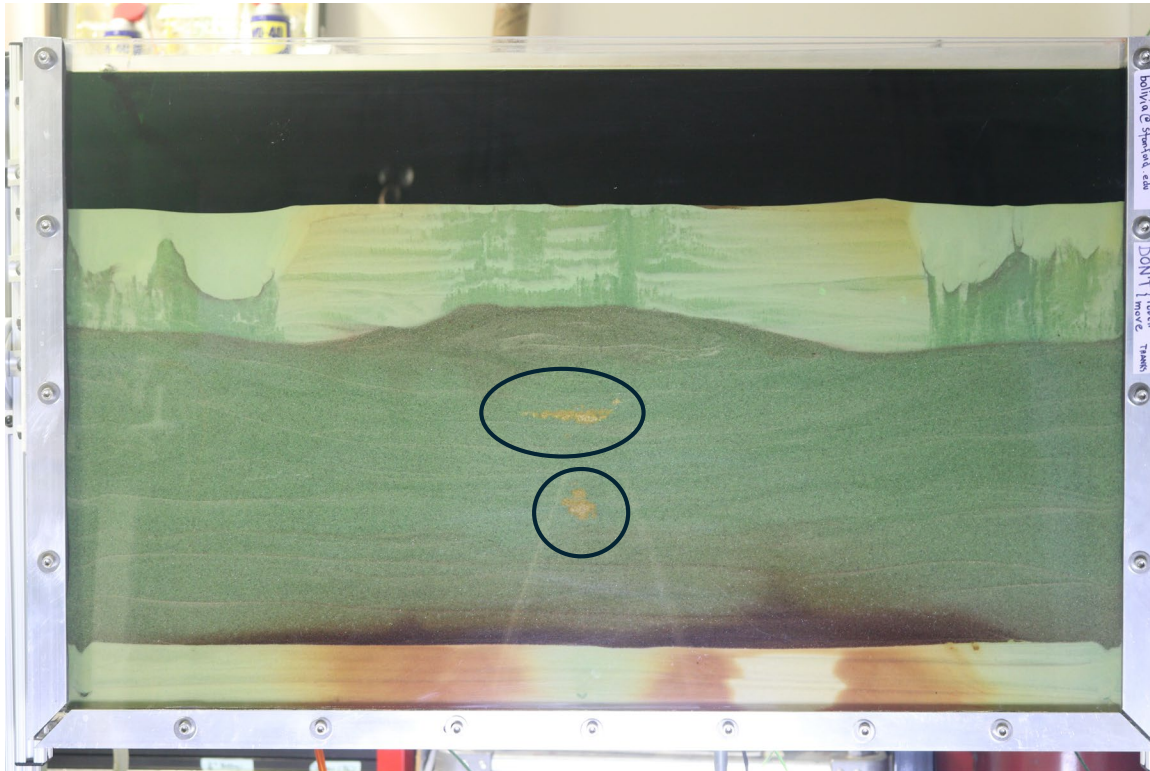
Initial condition, $t = 0$



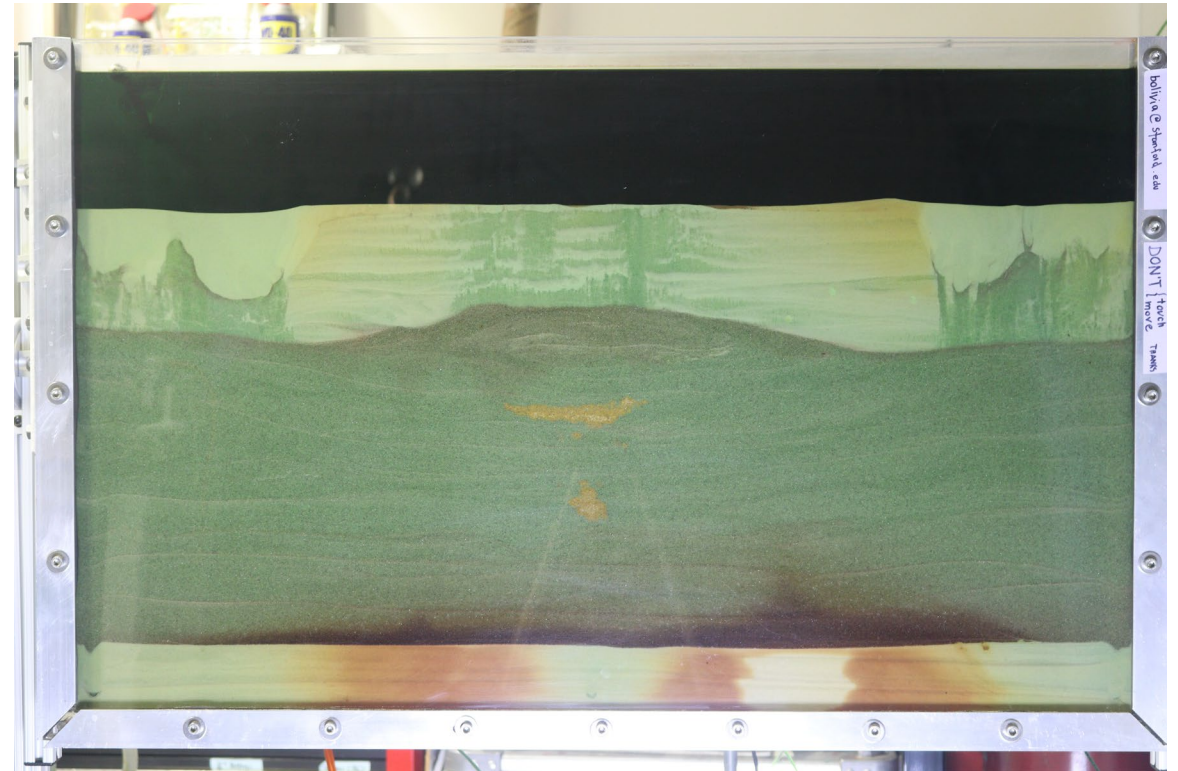
7 min

Demonstration

Rate = 0.5 mL/min, Injection time = 5.5 hrs



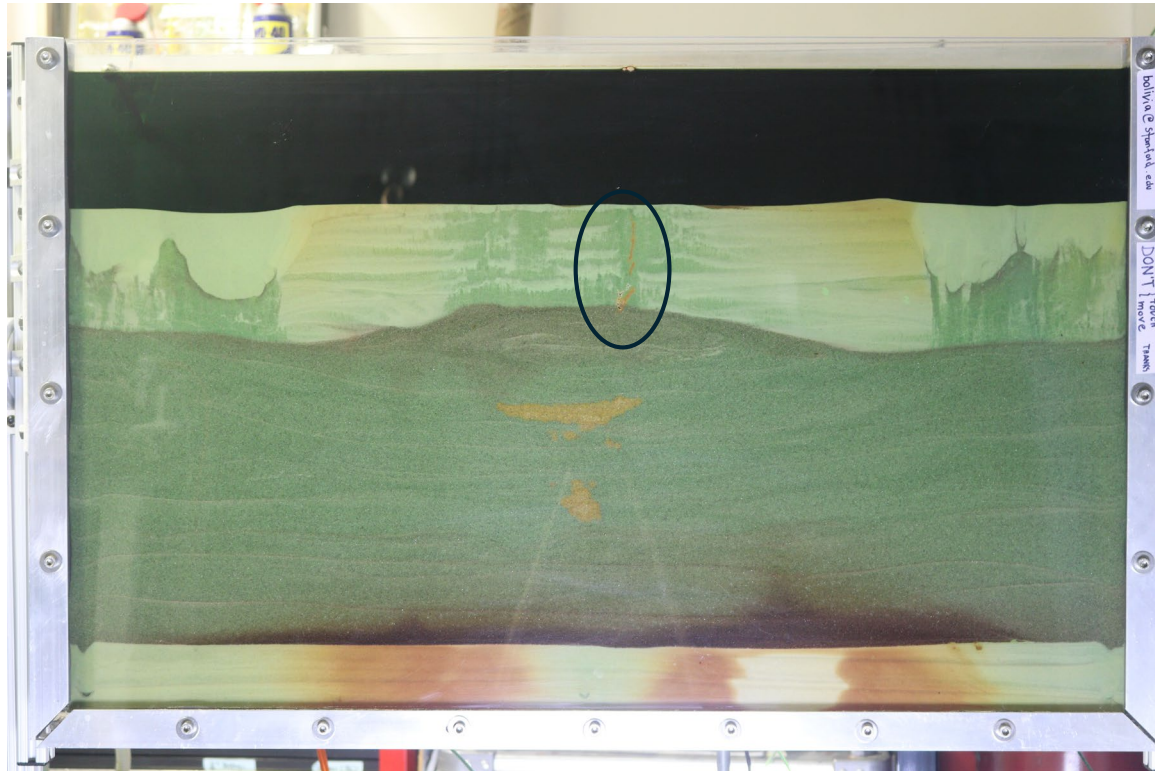
13 min



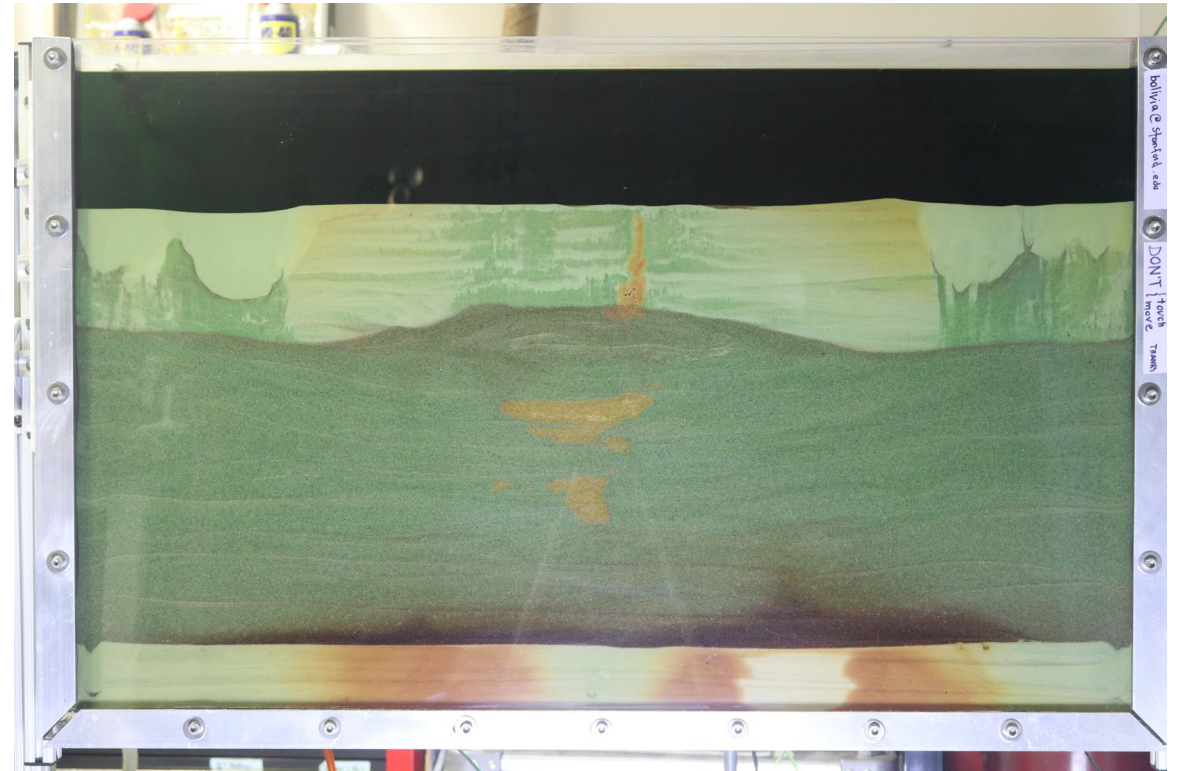
23 min

Demonstration

Rate = 0.5 mL/min, Injection time = 5.5 hrs



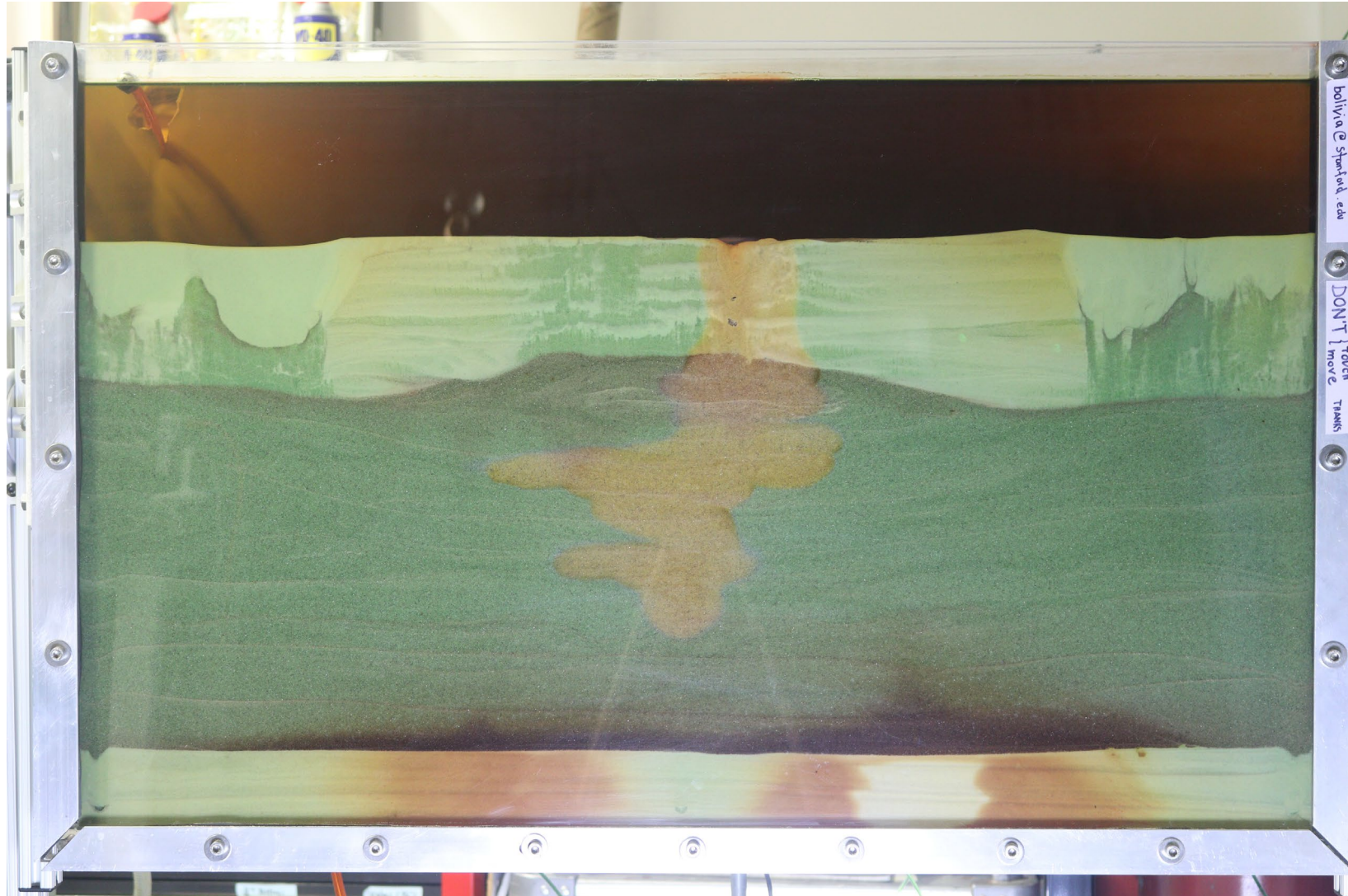
31 min



62 min

Demonstration

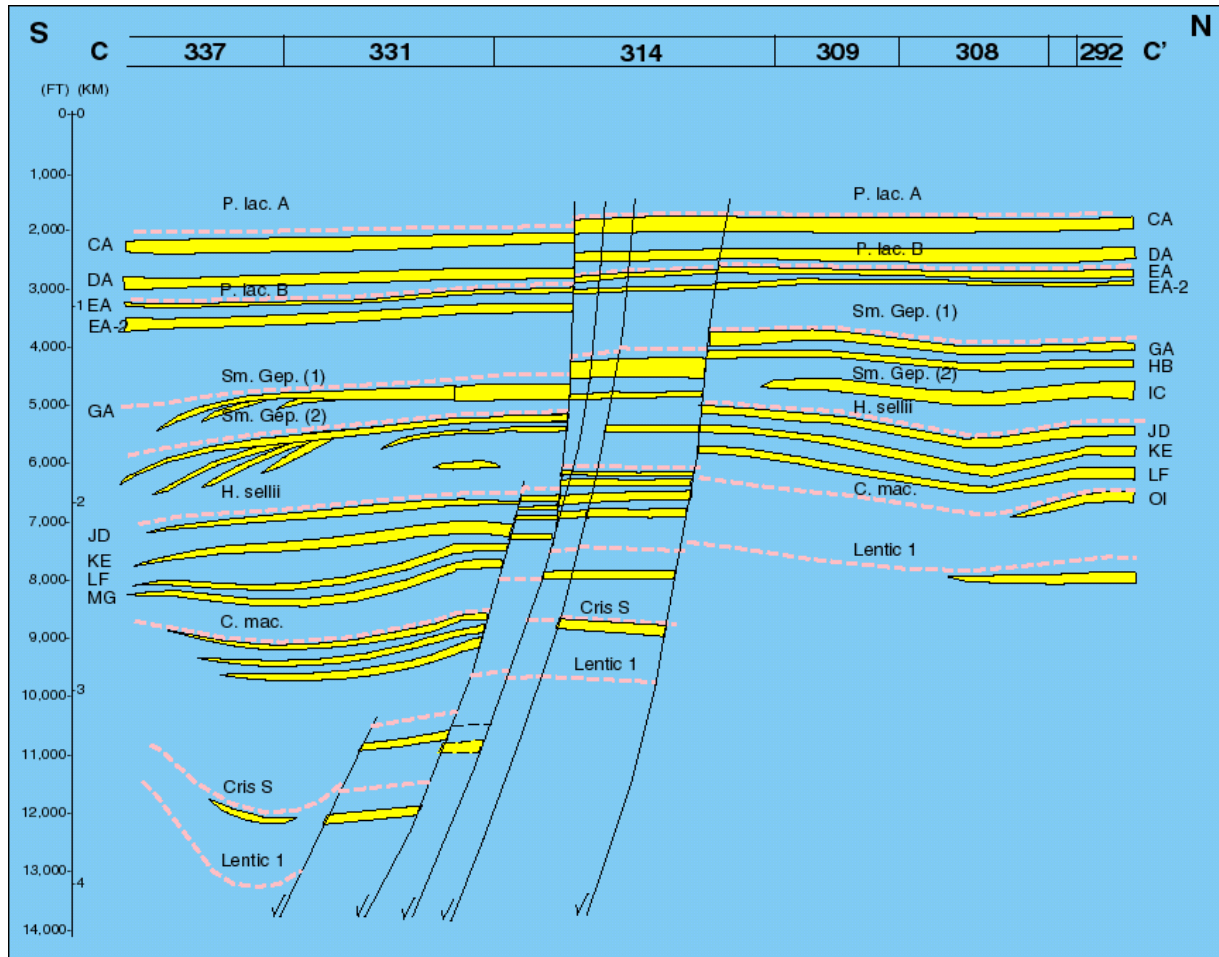
Rate = 0.5 mL/min, Injection time = 5.5 hrs



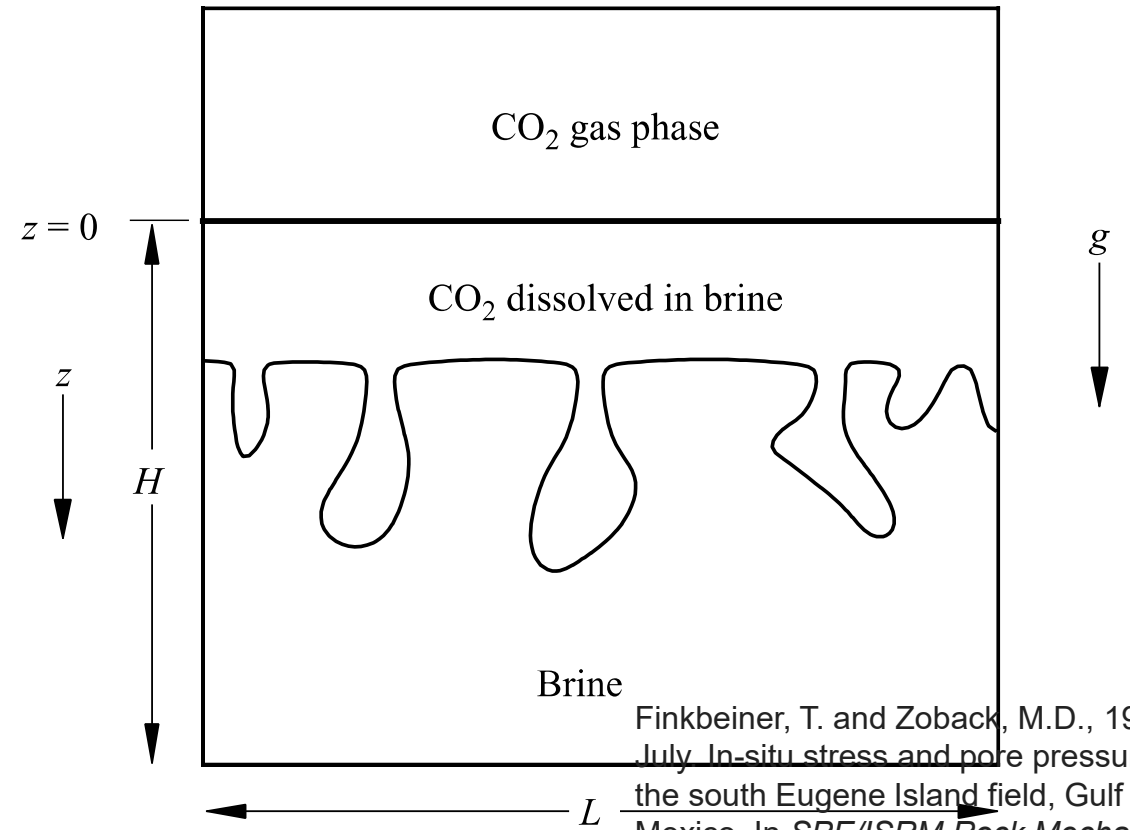
7.5 hours

Next steps

- Sand geometry



- Convective mixing



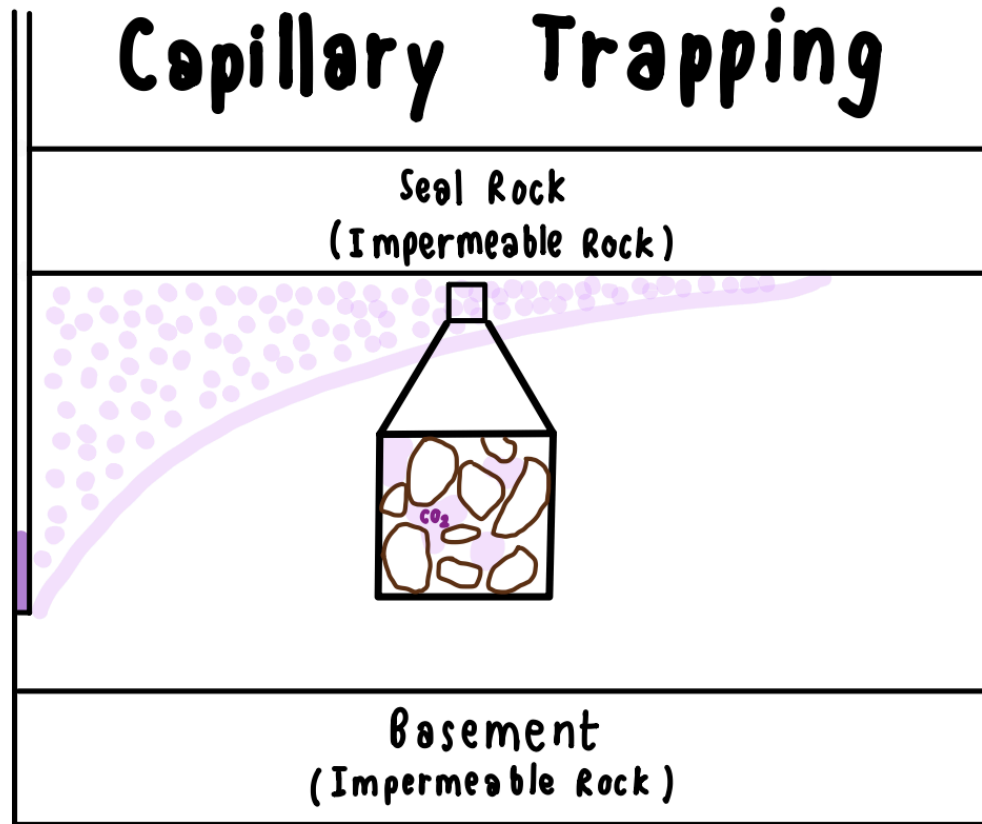
Finkbeiner, T. and Zoback, M.D., 1998, July. In-situ stress and pore pressure in the south Eugene Island field, Gulf of Mexico. In *SPE/ISRM Rock Mechanics in Petroleum Engineering* (pp. SPE-47212). SPE.

Riaz, A., Hesse, M., Tchelepi, H. A., & Orr, F. M. (2006). Onset of convection in a gravitationally unstable diffusive boundary layer in porous media. *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 548, 87-111.

Next steps

- Small VSUL (30 by 20 cm)

Injection



- Educational modules



<https://sustainability.stanford.edu/admissions-education/k-12-outreach>

Cabbage juice pH indicator

anthocyanins are water-soluble, biological pigments that appear as red, purple, blue or black, *depending on their pH*

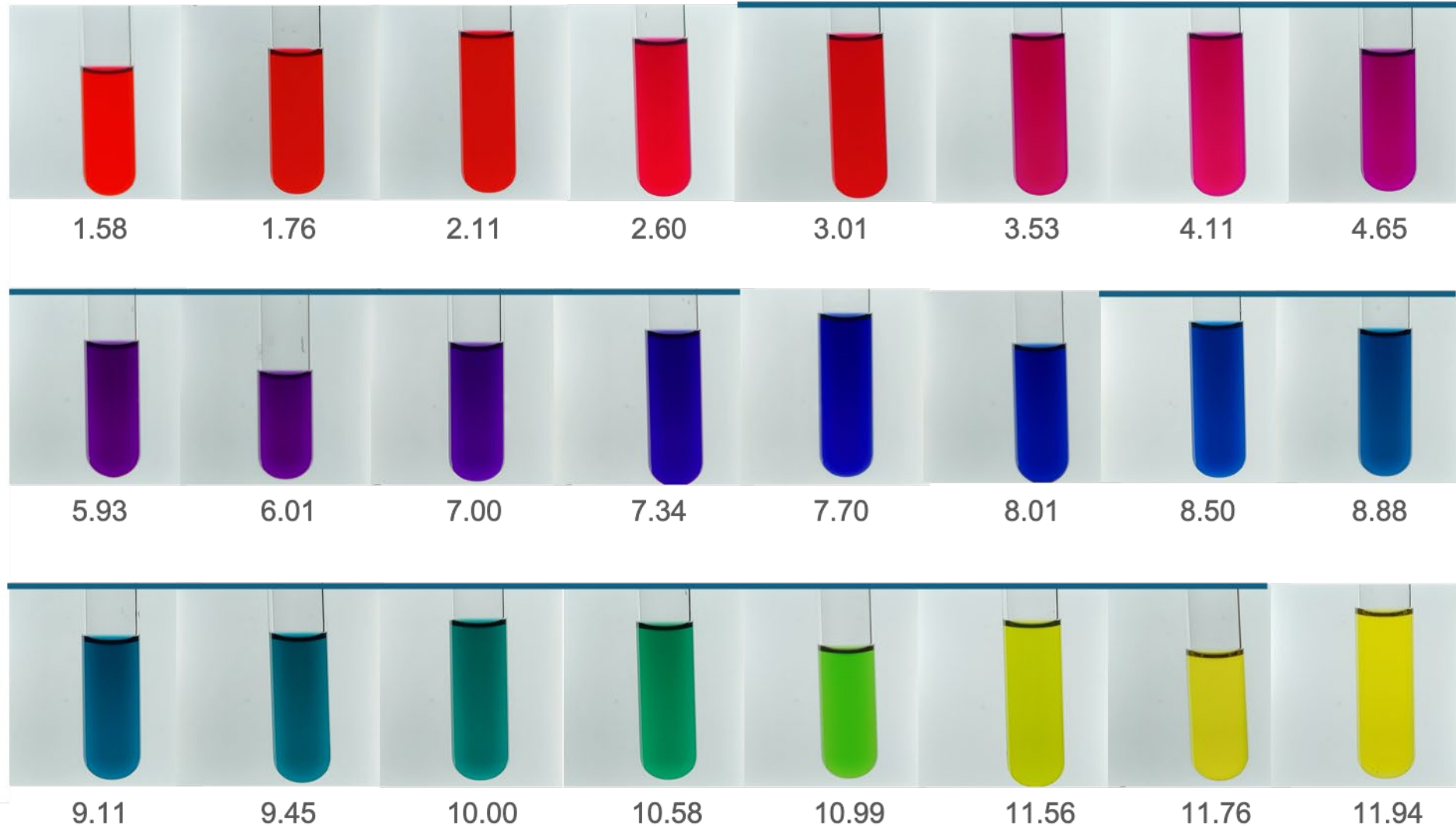


red cabbage

Red cabbage
anthocyanins



Anthocyanins



Acknowledgment

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1-4 September 2025, Bergen Norway



**WORLD CARBON CAPTURE
UTILISATION AND STORAGE**
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- > Interdisciplinary networking
- > Real-world impact

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