

Inference of CO₂ flow patterns - a feasibility study

Abhinav P Gahlot² Huseyin Tuna Erdinc¹ Rafael Orozco¹ Ziyi Yin¹ Mathias Louboutin^{2,4} Felix J. Herrmann^{1,2,3}

Thursday, November 9, 2023

¹  Georgia Tech College of Computing
School of Computational Science and Engineering

²  Georgia Tech College of Sciences
School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

³  Georgia Tech College of Engineering
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

⁴now at Devito Codes

SLIM 
Georgia Institute of Technology

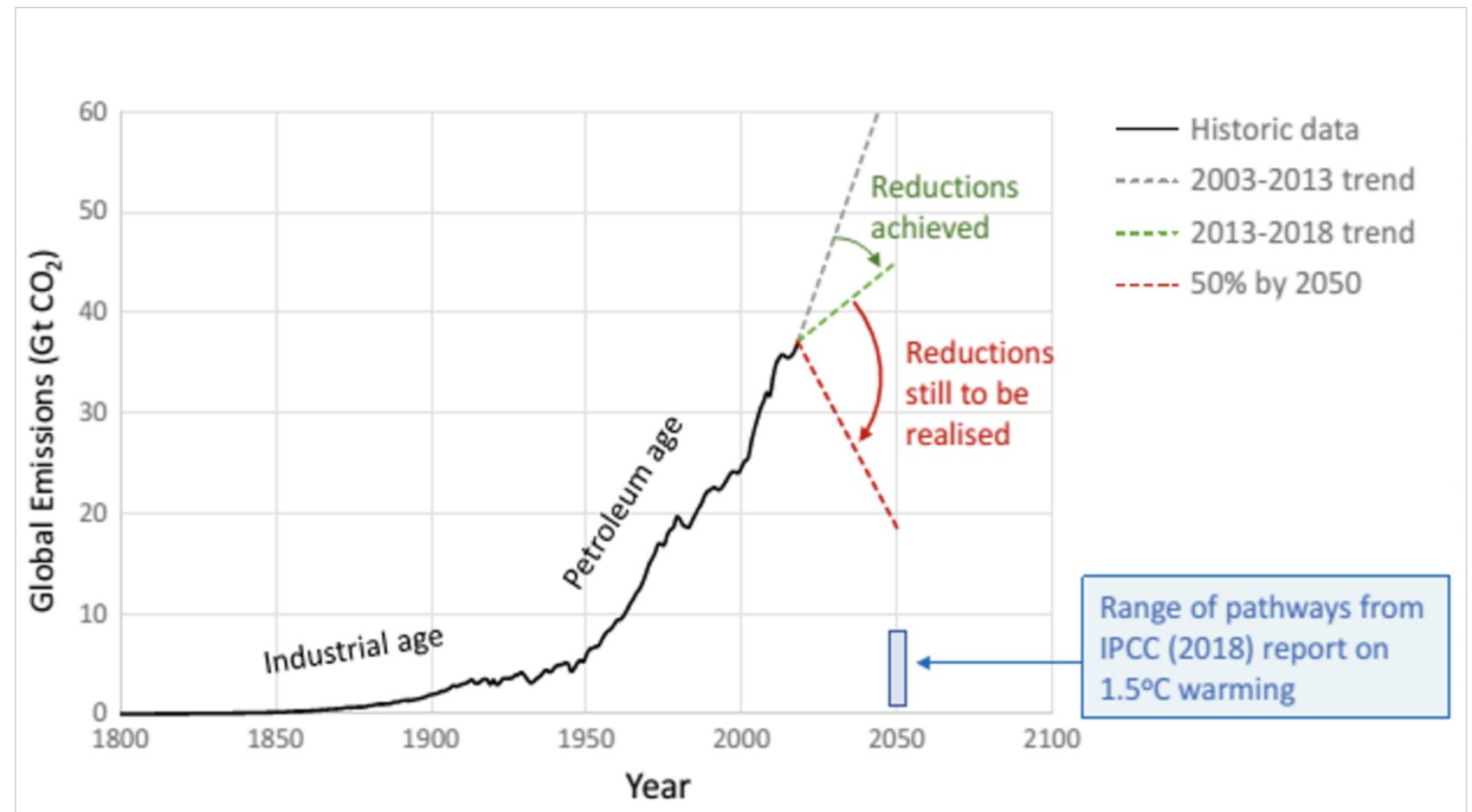
NeurIPS'23

Background

Geological Carbon Storage (GCS): What is it?

Involves capturing, transporting, and storing greenhouse gas emissions in the ground

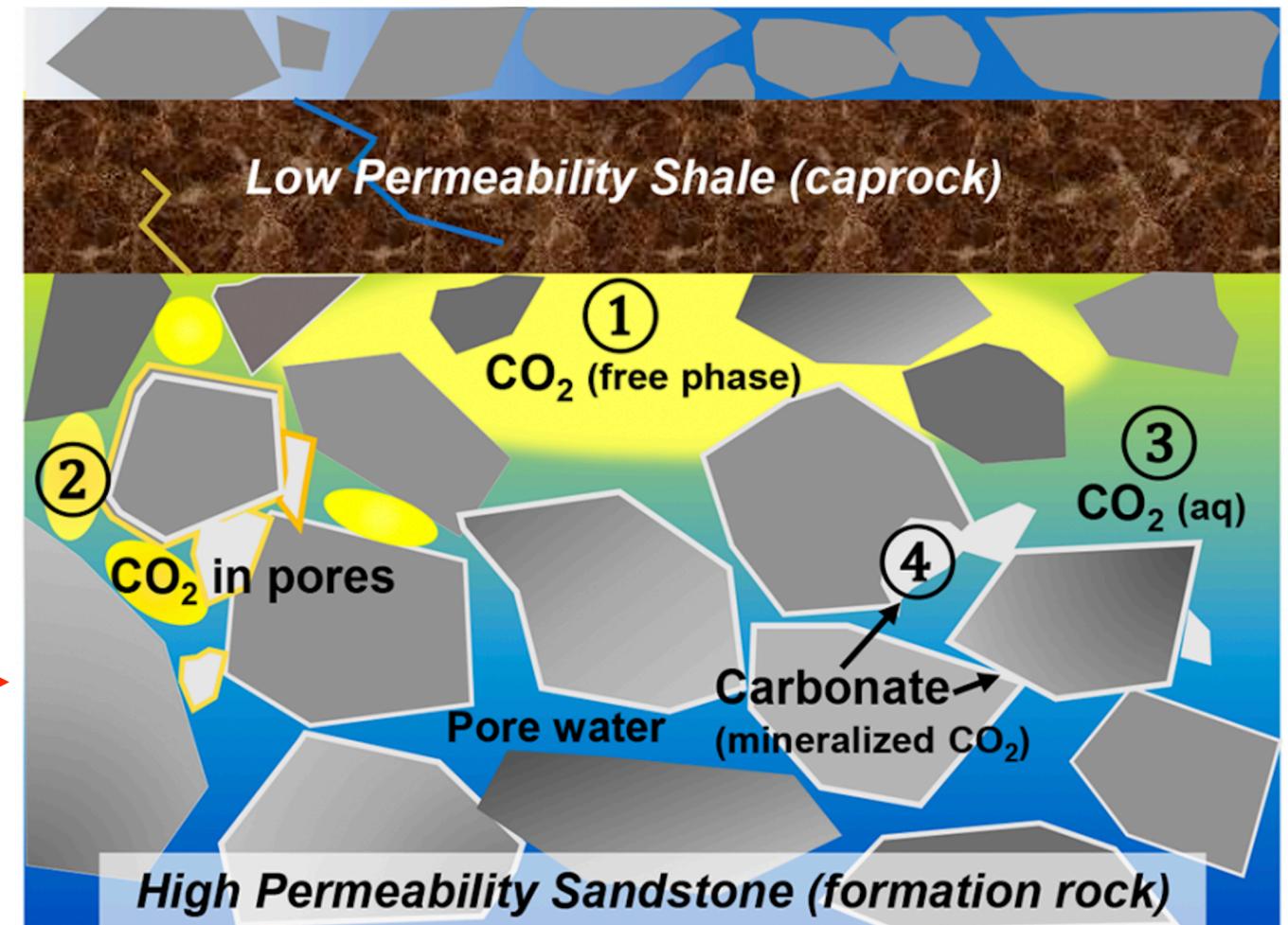
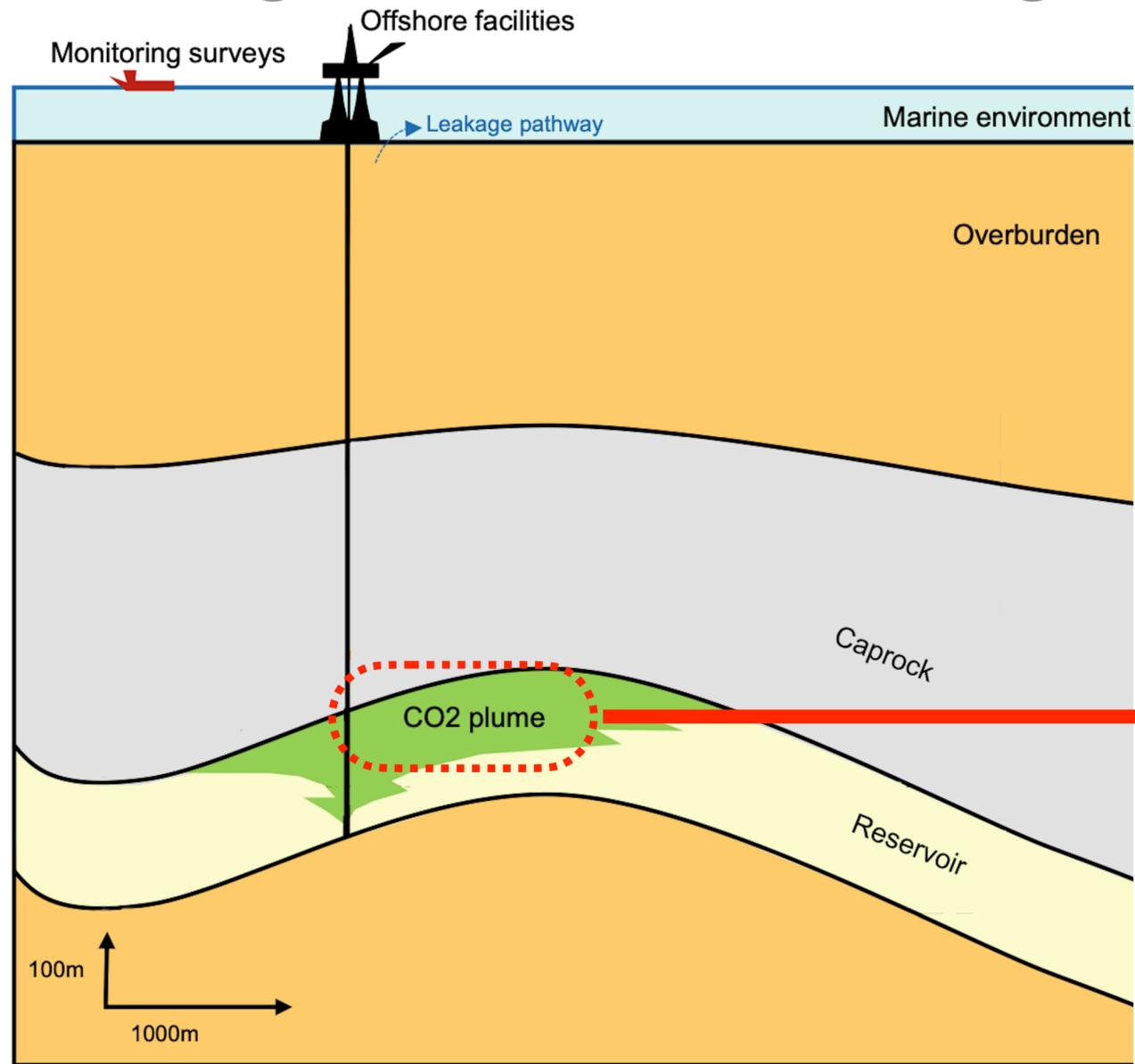
50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions required by 2050 to avoid 1.5 °C (IPCC 2018).



Ringrose, P. (2020)

Background

Geological Carbon Storage (GCS): How is it stored?



- ① Structural trapping
- ② Residual trapping
- ③ Solubility trapping
- ④ Mineral trapping

Jun et al (2017)

Adapted from Ringrose (2020)

Background

Geological Carbon Storage (GCS): Is there a risk?

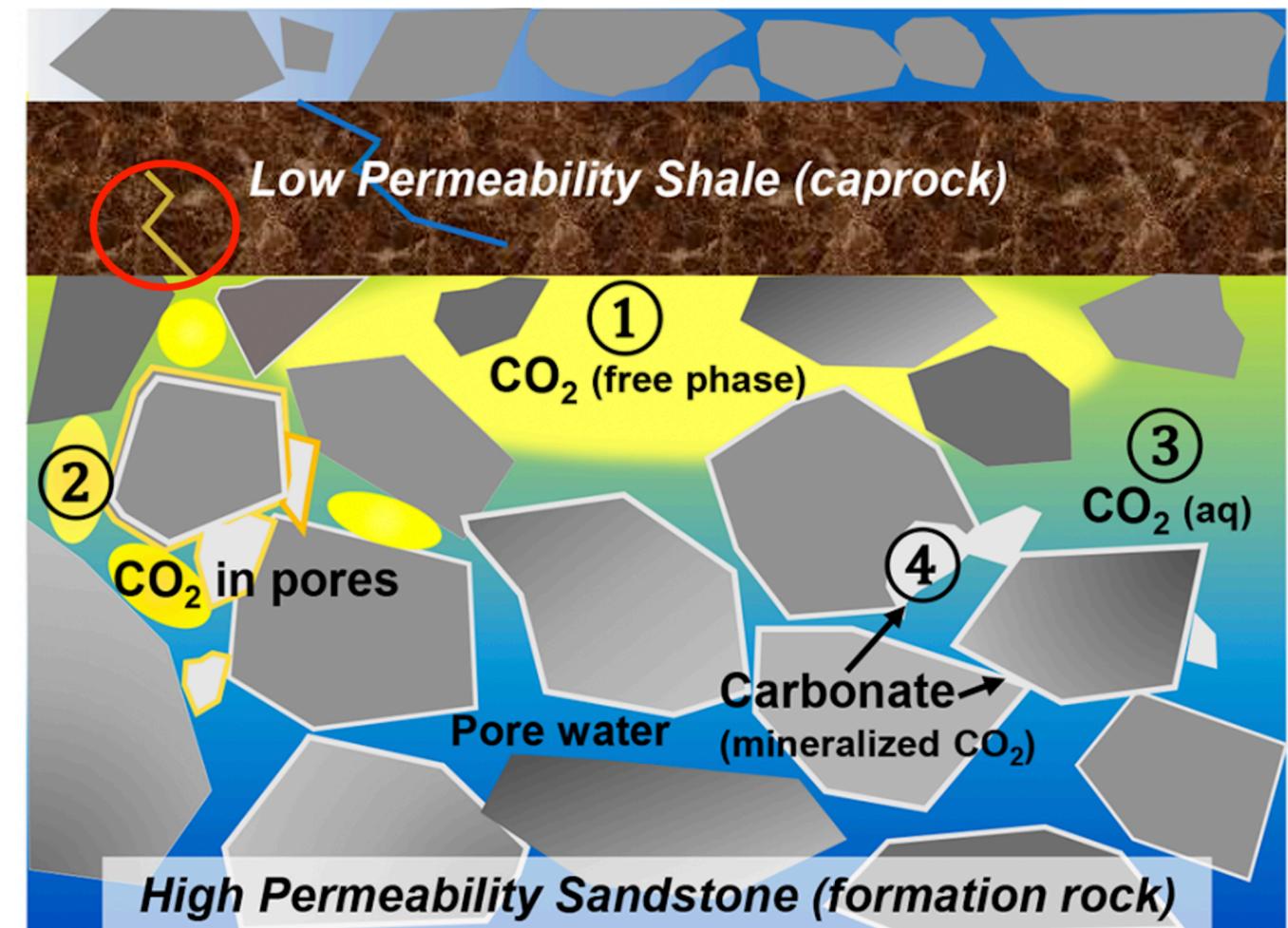
Leakage

Exceeding fracture pressure due to injection

Pre-existing faults

Imperfect storage sealing

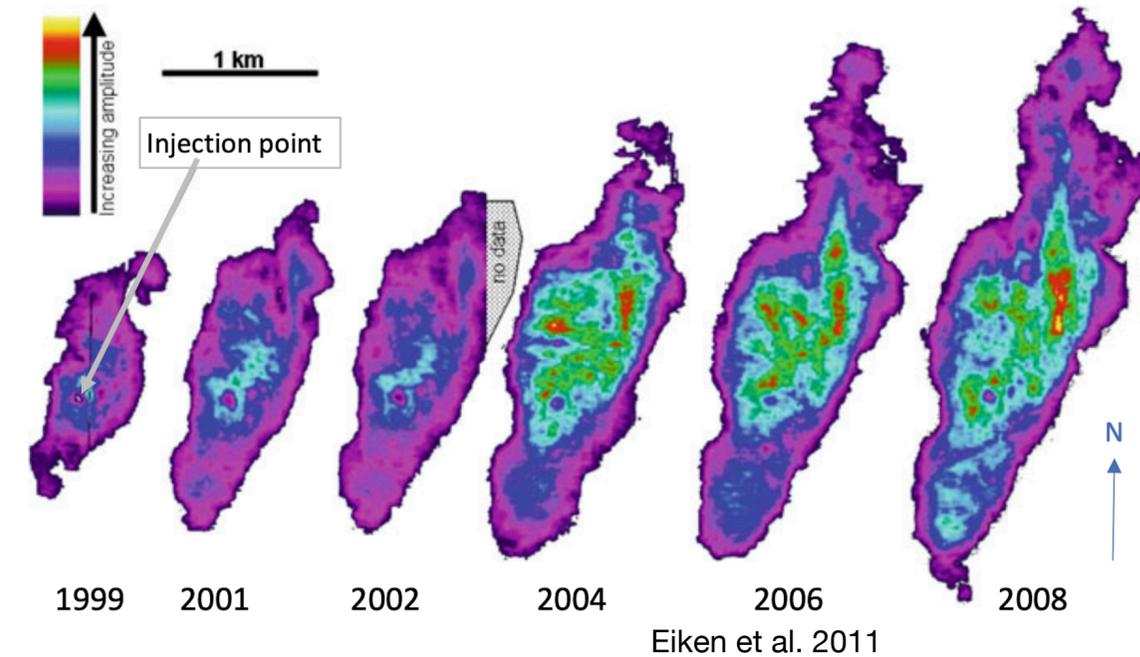
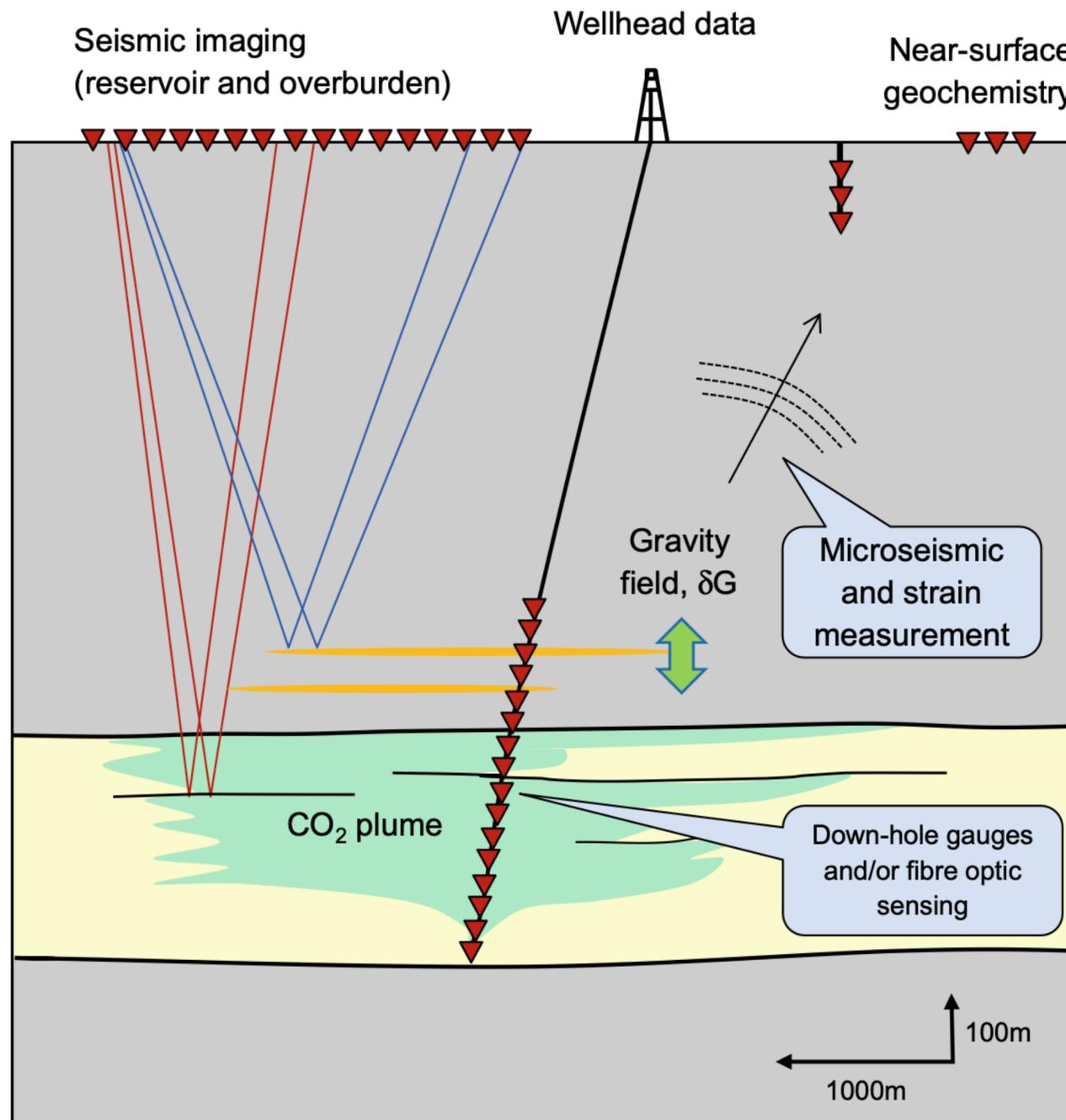
Abandoned wells



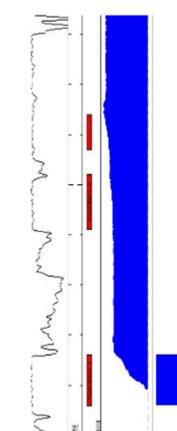
- ① **Structural trapping**
- ② **Residual trapping**
- ③ **Solubility trapping**
- ④ **Mineral trapping**

Background

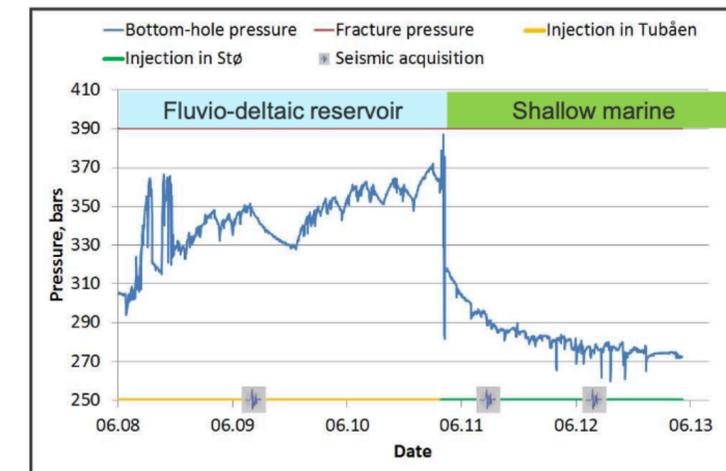
geophysical time-lapse monitoring : GCS application



Down-hole data: PLT flow log



Down-hole pressure data



Hansen et al. 2013; Pawar et al., 2015

Motivation

CO₂ plume *forecasts* based on fluid flow *simulations* alone are *uncertain*

- ▶ can ***not*** expect *precise* predictions of regular & irregular flow
- ▶ need to *constrain* CO₂ plumes by incorporating *monitoring* data

Calls for a *principled* approach using techniques from ML & data assimilation to

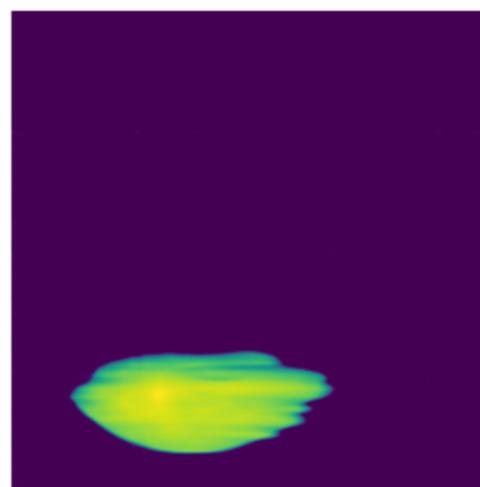
- ▶ incorporate time-lapse well & seismic data *jointly*
- ▶ assess *uncertainty* in CO₂ plumes to *inform* policy decisions

Methodology

Training & sampling

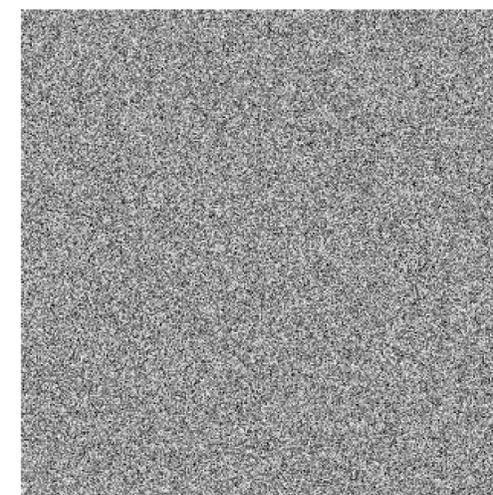
w/ Normalizing Flows (NFs)

Training:



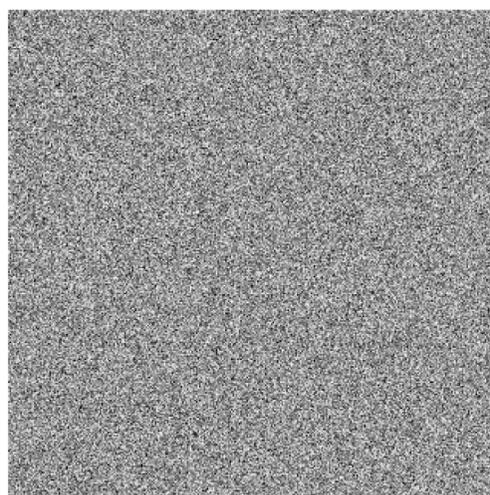
$$\mathbf{x} \sim p_X(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathcal{G}_w^{-1}(\mathbf{x})$$

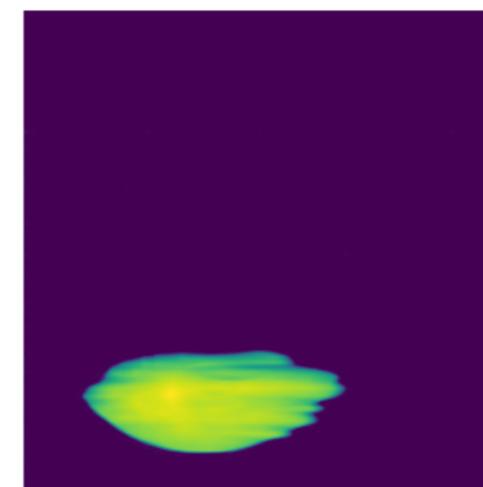
$$\mathbf{z} \sim p_Z(\mathbf{z})$$

Sampling:



$$\mathbf{z} \sim p_Z(\mathbf{z})$$

$$\mathcal{G}_w(\mathbf{z})$$

$$\mathbf{x} \sim p_X(\mathbf{x})$$

Simulation-based inference

w/ conditional Normalizing Flows (CNFs)

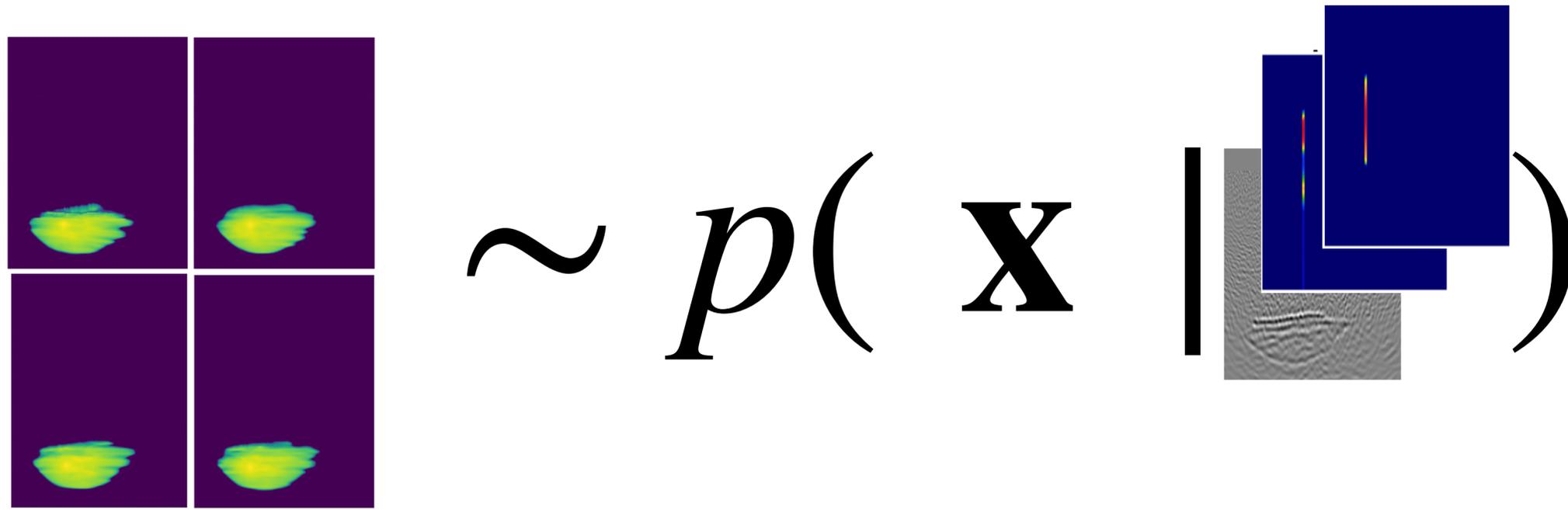
$$\mathbf{x} \sim p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y})$$

Given *simulated* training pairs (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})

- ▶ *amortized* training of CNFs to sample from the posterior $p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y})$ for any \mathbf{y}
- ▶ when trained, CNFs solve inference problems by generating samples $\mathbf{x} \sim p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y}^*)$
- ▶ samples are conditioned on observed data, \mathbf{y}^*

Simulation-based inference

w/ CO₂ saturation/pressure at wells & imaged seismic



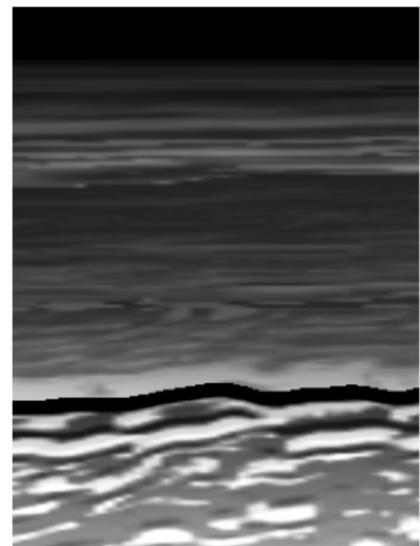
Given *simulated* training pairs (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) for the CO₂ saturation & saturation/pressure at wells

- ▶ *amortized* training of CNFs to sample from the posterior $p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y})$ for any \mathbf{y}
- ▶ when trained, CNFs solve inference problems by generating samples $\mathbf{x} \sim p(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{y}^*)$
- ▶ sampled CO₂ saturations are conditioned on observed CO₂ saturation/pressure & seismic data, \mathbf{y}^*

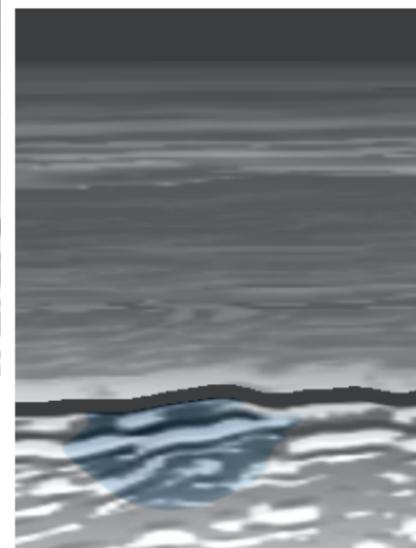
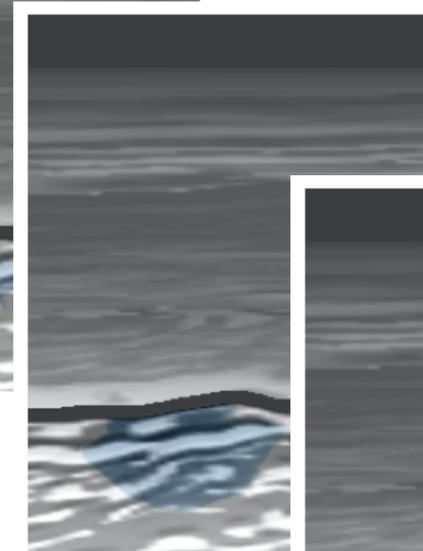
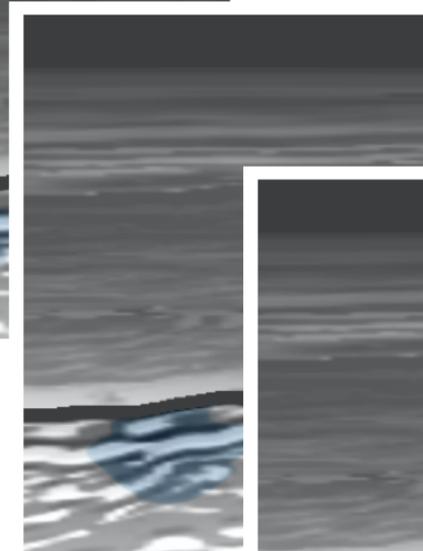
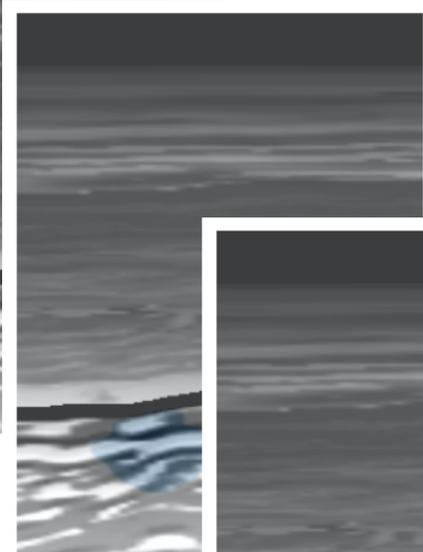
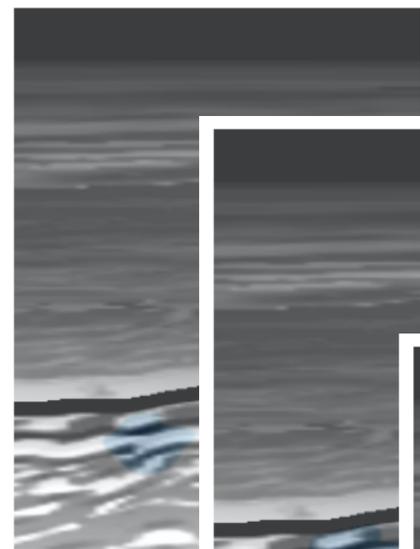
Dataset Generation

fluid-flow simulations

permeability
 $p(\mathbf{K})$



fluid-flow
physics



CO₂ saturation

 Jutul

 JutulDarcy


x

Dataset Generation

time-lapse observations

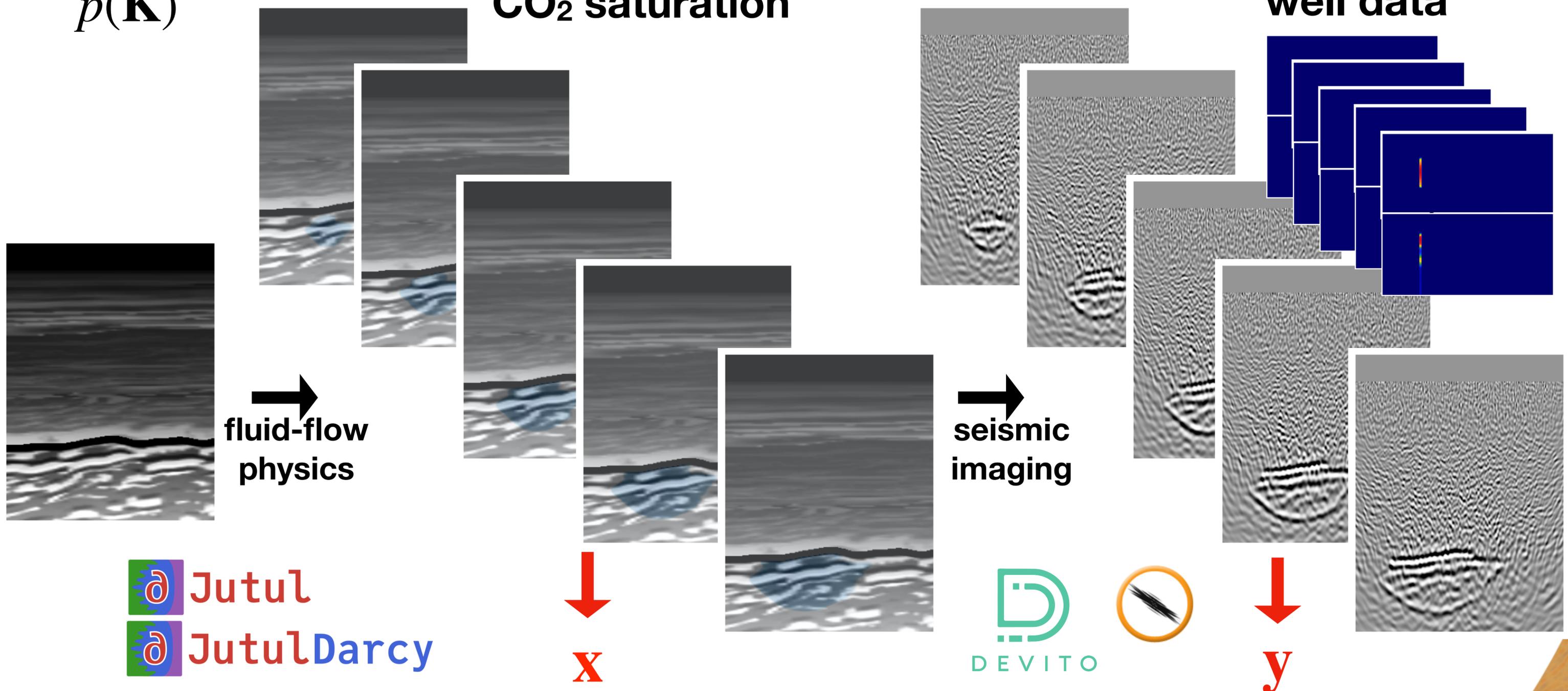
$p(\mathbf{K})$

CO₂ saturation

seismic images

+

well data



 Jutul
 JutulDarcy

↓
x

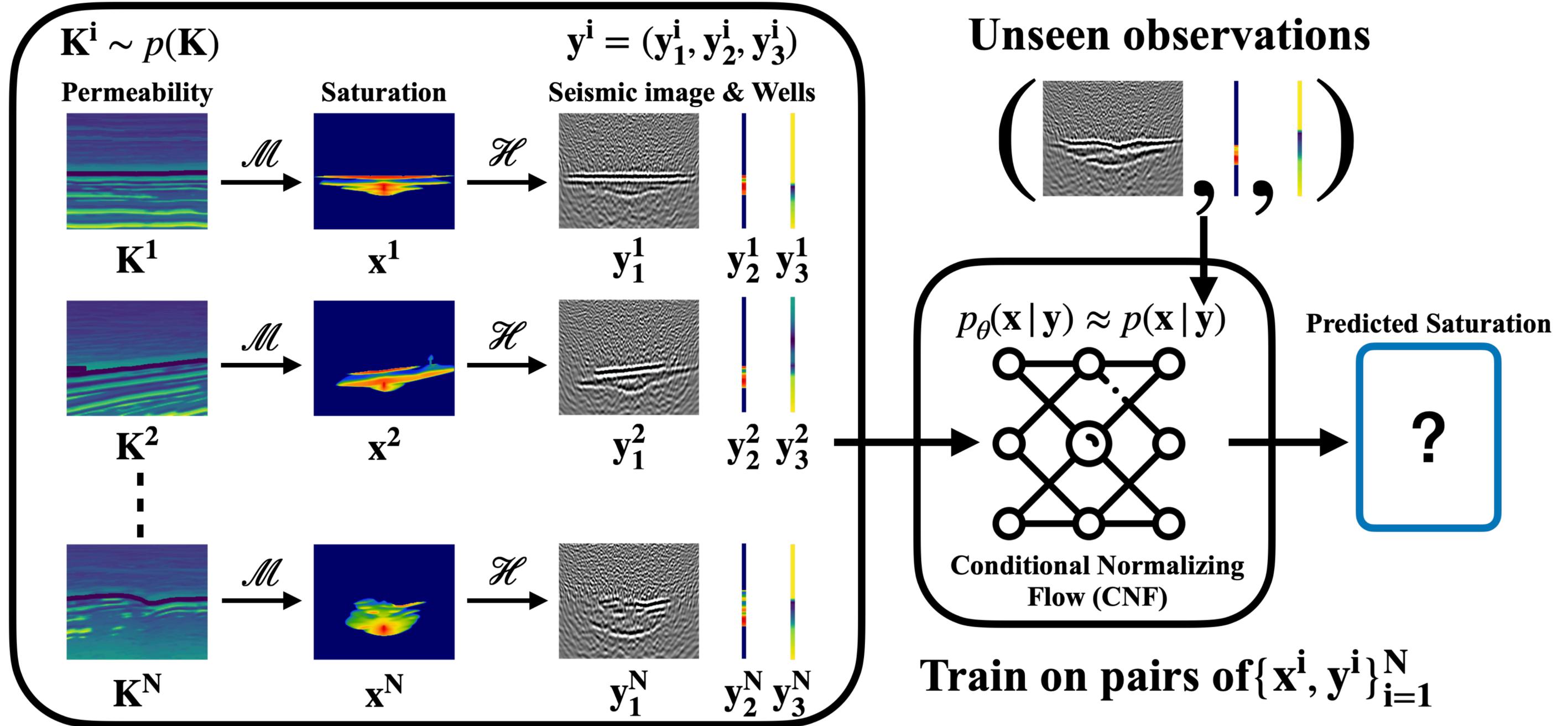
 DEVITO



↓
y

Training Configuration & Results

Training & Testing Schematic



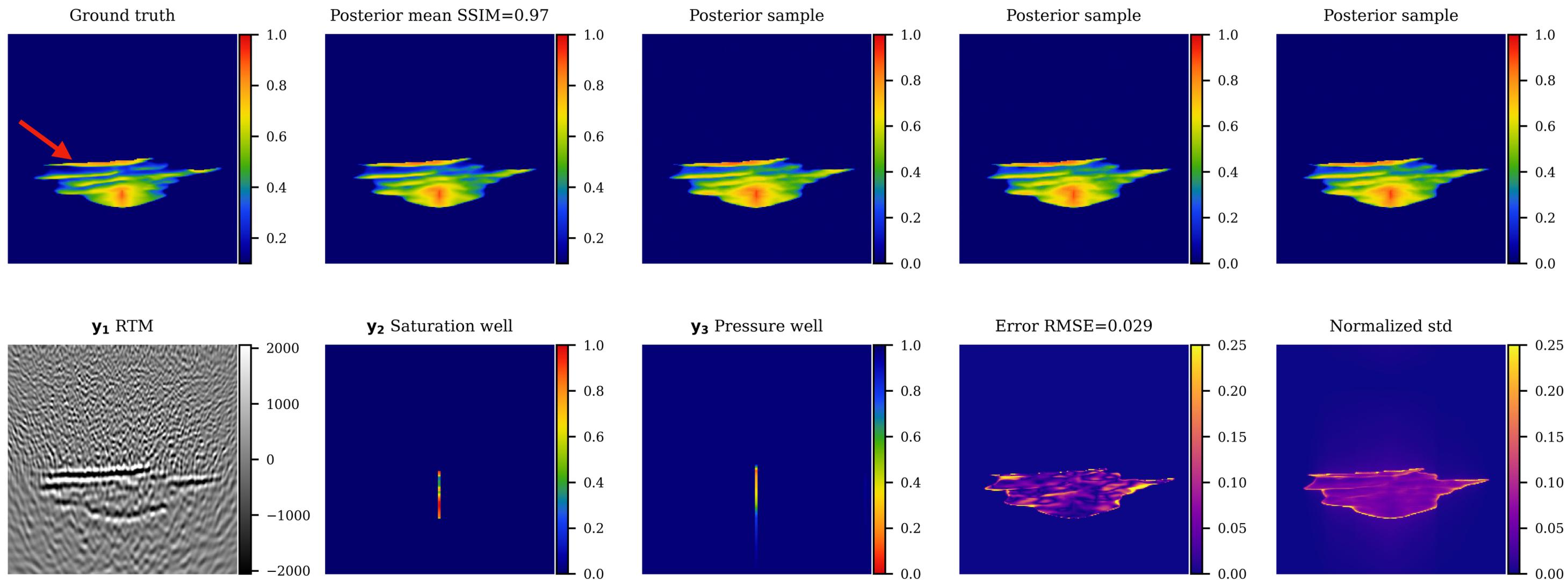
\mathcal{M} dynamics operator

\mathcal{H} observation operator

\mathbf{K} permeability model

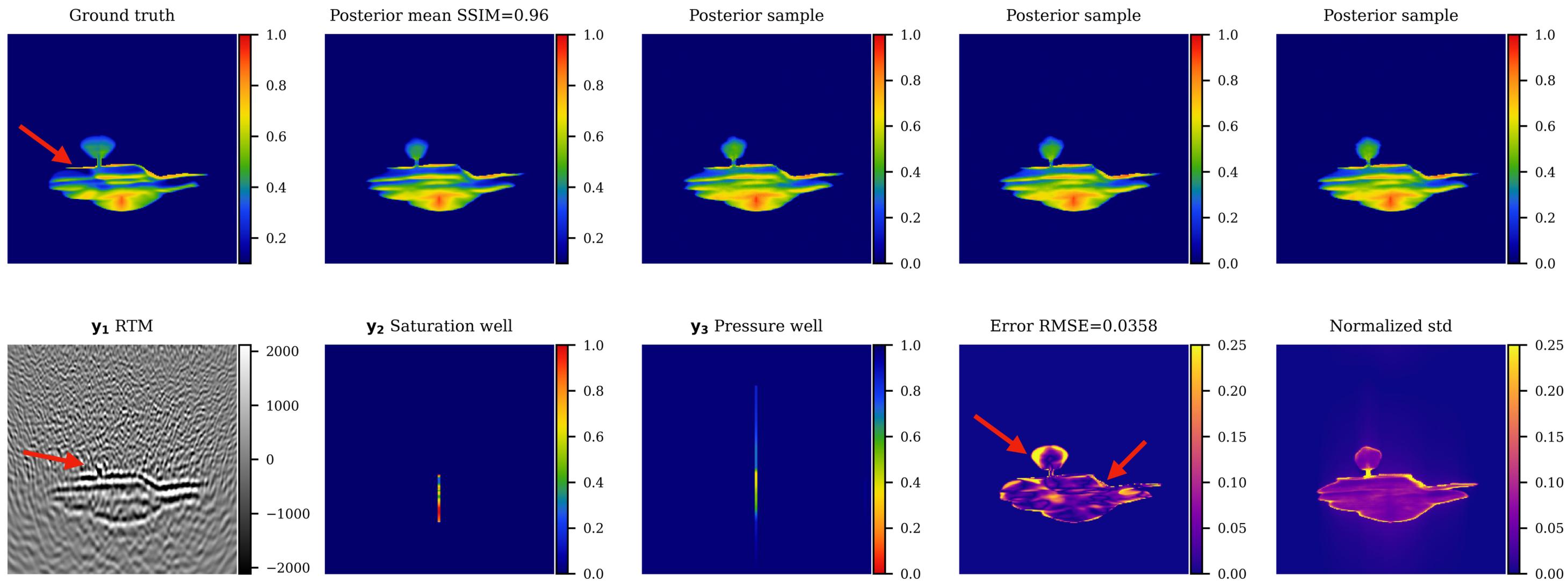
Results

no-leakage scenario



Results

leakage scenario



Acknowledgement

This research was carried out with the support of Georgia Research Alliance and partners of the ML4Seismic Center and in part by the US National Science Foundation grant OAC 220382.