Massively parallel simulation of Geologic CO_2 storage on the Earth Simulator

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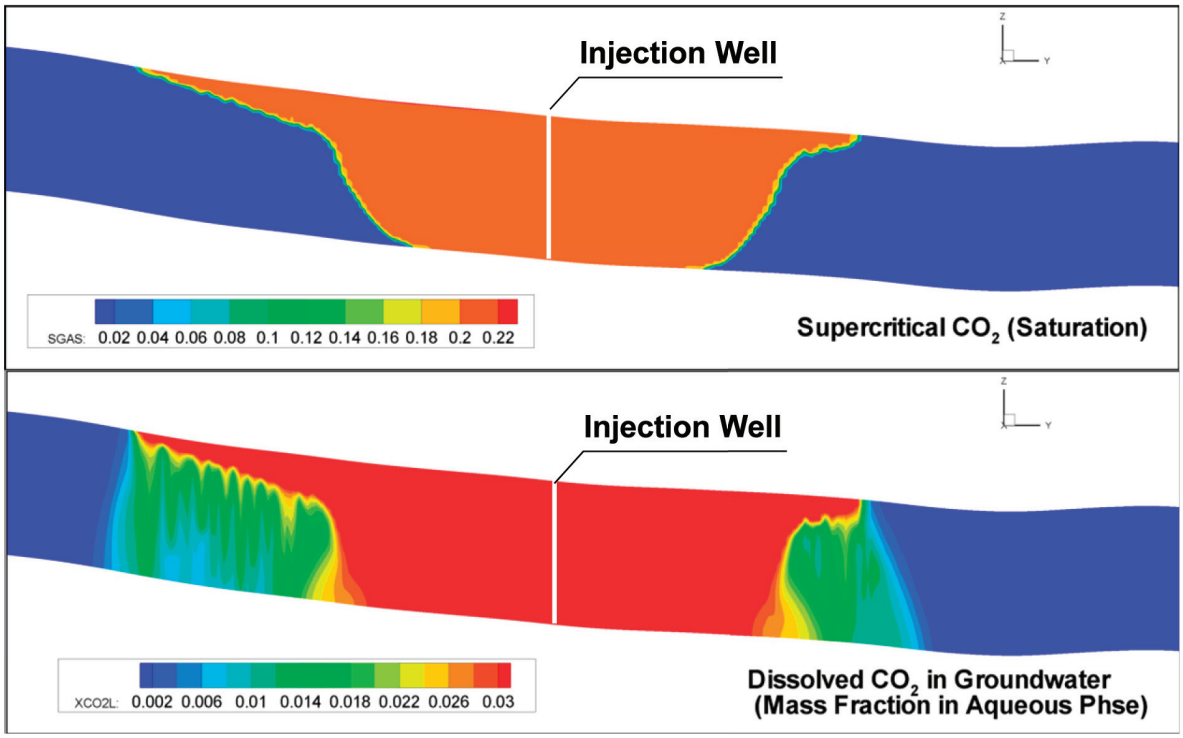
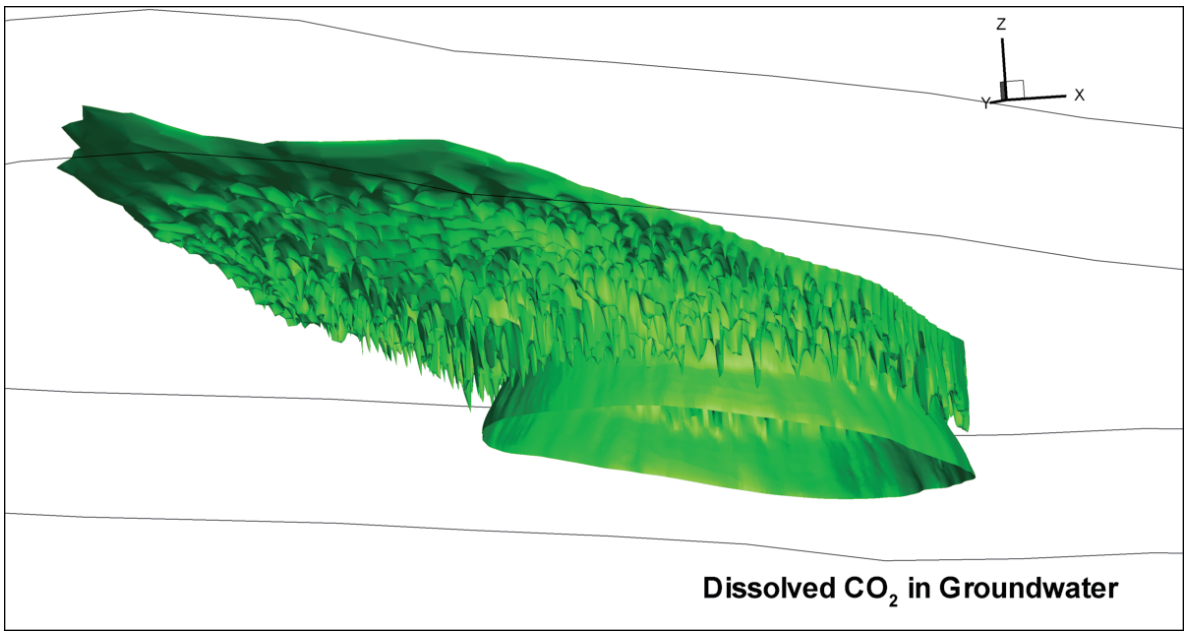
Abstract

CCS (carbon dioxide capture and storage) is a promising approach for reducing the greenhouse gas content in the atmosphere, through capturing carbon dioxide (CO_2) from large emission sources and injecting it into reservoirs (such as deep saline aquifers). Large-scale storage projects will likely involve very long-term storage of huge amounts of CO_2, potentially exceeding hundreds of millions of tonnes (Mt). This study intends to demonstrate potential benefits of massively parallel computing technology for simulating geologic CO_2 storage for important scientific and engineering topics. A parallelized general-purpose hydrodynamics code TOUGH2-MP has been used on scalar architectures where it exhibits excellent performance and scalability. However, on the Earth Simulator (ES2), which is a massively parallel vector computer, extensive tune-ups were required for increasing the vector operation ratio. In this year, we simulated a diffusion-dissolution-convection process in a three-dimensional, field-scale reservoir model, which is largely computationally demanding; for investigating the impact of the convective mixing of dissolved CO_2 on long-term stability of CO_2 in storage reservoirs.

Keywords:　large-scale simulation, CCS, CO_2, global warming, groundwater



(a) Cross-sectional view



(b) Perspective view

Figure 1 A preliminary simulation result of diffusion-dissolution-convection process in a 3D reservoir model. CO_2 is injected in supercritical state with the rate of 100kt/year for one year. Due to the gravity convection, CO_2 dissolution in groundwater is greatly enhanced and eventually the supercritical CO_2 disappears.