

# Reaction path modelling illustrating the fluid history of a natural CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>S reservoir

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## *Abstract*

Despite the increasing interest in geologic co-sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S, the long-term consequences of the chemical interactions involved in this process remain largely unknown on a reservoir scale. A Mississippian aged CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>S reservoir in LaBarge Field, Wyoming, USA is an ideal study site to investigate mineral and fluid reactions related to gaseous H<sub>2</sub>S and CO<sub>2</sub>. We conducted two reaction path models based on mineralogical, fluid, gas, and stable isotope compositional data to discern the role of CO<sub>2</sub> influx upon the generation of H<sub>2</sub>S through thermochemical sulphate reduction (TSR). We discriminate between two models- one in which TSR is triggered by temperature at a given burial depth and one where TSR is triggered by ingress of CO<sub>2</sub>. The reaction path model based upon burial-controlled TSR and later CO<sub>2</sub> influx is consistent with mineralogical observations and stable isotope measurements from drill cores. The models show that CO<sub>2</sub> influx leads to calcite precipitation which is only limited by the calcium concentration in the fluid. This modelling approach is useful in constraining the timing of fluid flux in the reservoir and gives further insight into the mineralogical consequences of the gas, water, and rock interactions occurring in the reservoir. In terms of geologic co-sequestration this implies that the addition of CO<sub>2</sub> into a reducing carbonate system can result in calcite precipitation, instead of anhydrite as previously thought. Furthermore, it is only limited by the availability of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and will therefore not diminish the amount of H<sub>2</sub>S in the system.

## *Introduction*

Natural oil and gas reservoirs can give insight into key processes acting over geological timescales (Allis et al., 2001; Bickle et al., 2013; Kampman et al., 2014; Kaszuba et al., 2011). Additionally, knowledge of the H<sub>2</sub>S concentration in reservoirs is of interest for drilling safety and gas degradation. It is important to understand the fluid history in these reservoirs in order to predict which reactions can occur and to what extent. In particular, there is increasing interest in the feasibility of geologic co-sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S within carbonate systems (Kaszuba et al., 2011; Williams & Paulo, 2002). The long term consequences, however, are difficult to predict using lab and field experiments or geochemical reaction modelling alone.

The CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>S reservoir in LaBarge Field, southwestern Wyoming, USA, has been classified and studied as a natural analogue for geological co-sequestration (Allis et al., 2001; Kaszuba et al., 2011) (Figure 1). The gas trapped in LaBarge Field consists on average of 66% CO<sub>2</sub>, 21% CH<sub>4</sub>, 7% N<sub>2</sub>, 5% H<sub>2</sub>S and 0.6% He (Huang et al., 2007). The H<sub>2</sub>S is thought to be produced by thermochemical sulphate reduction (TSR) whereas the CO<sub>2</sub> is believed to be from a magmatic source (De Bruin, 1991, 2001; Huang et al., 2007; Stilwell, 1989; Zwahlen et al., 2019). However the timing of the fluids remains controversial. Hydrocarbons are thought to have migrated into the reservoir approximately 84 -76 Ma ago (Johnson, 2005) (Figure 2). Different techniques and data sets have been employed to study the influence of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S upon each other (Huang et al., 2007; Kaszuba et al., 2011; Obidi, 2014; Zwahlen et al., 2019): diffusion modelling of the CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> distribution concluded that hydrocarbon and CO<sub>2</sub> were introduced at similar times, around 50 Ma ago (Huang et al., 2007) and reaction path modelling has been used to suggest that TSR was triggered by the influx of CO<sub>2</sub> (Kaszuba et al., 2011). In contrast, a more complex diffusion model, using the same CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> distribution, suggests a larger time gap of >45 Ma between the CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> influx, with the CO<sub>2</sub> arriving <3 Ma ago (Obidi, 2014). Mineralogical observations and stable isotope measurements also suggest a two step process in which CO<sub>2</sub> arrived later (Zwahlen et al., 2019). In this paper, we build a geochemical model that is informed by petrographical and geochemical observations to further constrain the fluid history in

LaBarge Field. This will improve our understanding of the mineralogical consequences of the CO<sub>2</sub> influx, the initiation of TSR and hence the H<sub>2</sub>S generation in the carbonate reservoir.

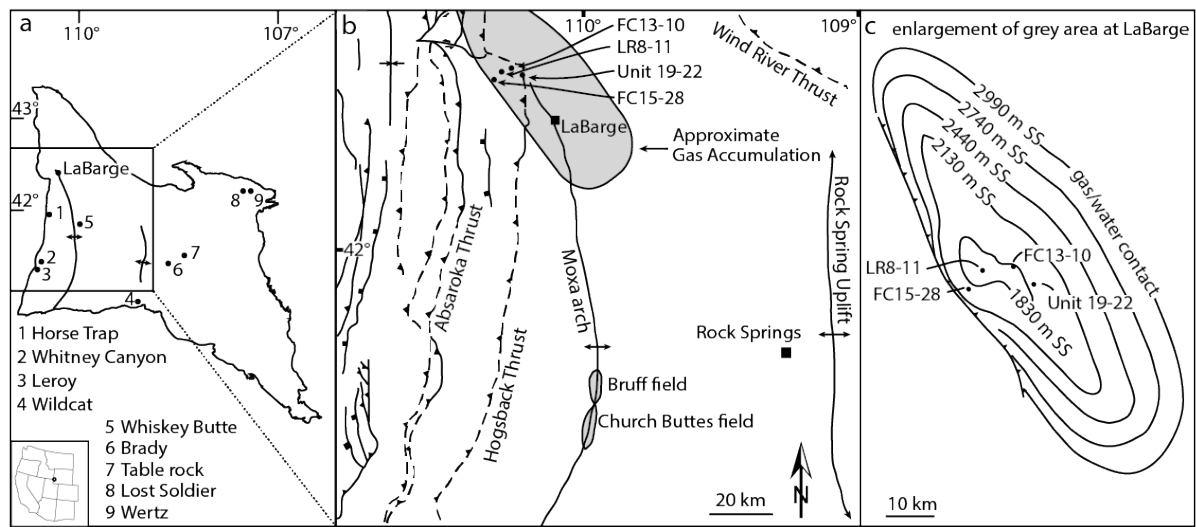


Figure 1 a) Map of greater green river basin with marked fluid sample localities b) Map of the CO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>S reservoirs along the Moxa arch and main tectonic features in the area modified after Becker and Lynds, (2012). c) The LaBarge Field with sampling wells modified after (Stilwell, 1989).

We conducted two different reaction path models: Model 1 involved a two step process where burial related TSR occurred and CO<sub>2</sub> ingress occurred later (Figure 3). Model 2 assumed TSR was triggered by the CO<sub>2</sub> influx (Figure 3). The two different scenarios also occurred at different temperatures. The CO<sub>2</sub> is thought to have entered the reservoir at the maximal burial temperature, estimated to be 200 to 215 °C (Zwahlen et al., 2019), whereas burial related TSR is thought to have started around 175 °C based on fluid inclusion microthermometry data (Zwahlen et al., 2019). Using a simple titration model of the organosulphur compound methionine(aq) and CO<sub>2</sub>(g) we simulated TSR and CO<sub>2</sub> input into the reservoir, respectively (Figure 3). This approach could be applied to other systems in order to improve the understanding of their fluid history and the long-term fate of the presence of a reactive gas such as H<sub>2</sub>S.

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65 Figure 2 Burial history of the Madison Formation at LaBarge modified after Roberts et al., (2005) and adapted to 500 m  
66 further uplift at LaBarge in the last 5 Ma. The Madison Formation is highlighted in grey. Fm., Formation; Sh., Shale; Gp.,  
67 Group; Ss., Sandstone; L. Cret., Lower Cretaceous rocks.

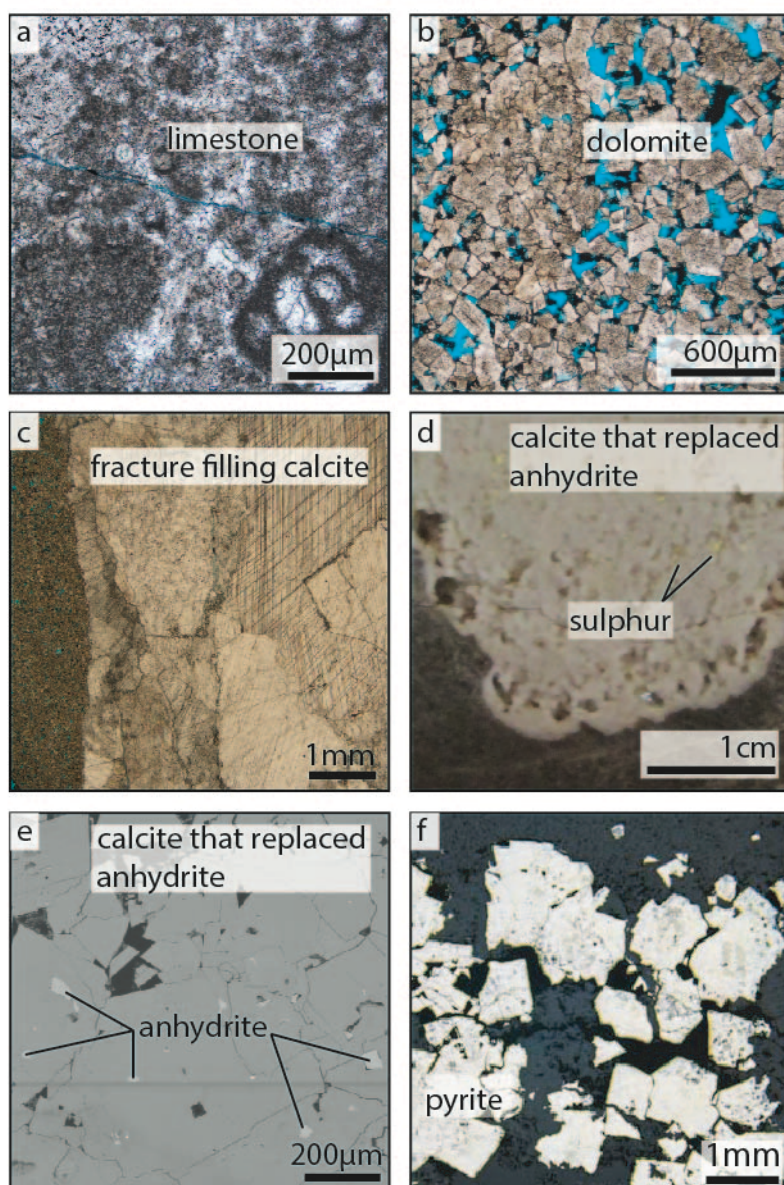
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69 Figure 3 Schematic of model 1 & 2 including reaction temperature and aimed mineral precipitates.

70 *Mineralogy and paragenesis of LaBarge*

71 The Mississippian Madison Formation in LaBarge Field consists of limestone, that was deposited in  
72 shallow water, interlayered with dolomite that formed during shallow burial, and former anhydrite  
73 nodules that were replaced by calcite (Figure 4). A similar succession has been observed in other  
74 parts of Wyoming, USA (Budai & Cummings, 1987; Budai, 1985; Budai et al., 1984; Buoniconti, 2008;  
75 Katz, 2008; Katz et al., 2007; Smith et al., 2004; Sonnenfeld, 1996). The following summary of the  
76 paragenetic sequence in LaBarge Field has been established by petrographic observations, stable  
77 isotope and fluid inclusion microthermometric analysis (Zwahlen et al., 2019). The carbon and

oxygen isotopic signatures measured on whole rock limestone and dolostone are consistent with other measurements of the Mississippian Madison Formation in Wyoming (e.g. Budai and Cummings, 1987; Katz et al., 2006)(Figure 5). Calcite cements fill primary and secondary matrix macropores. Thereafter, quartz, fluorite and fracture filling calcite precipitated in sequence from hydrothermal fluids that cooled during fluid circulation and mineral precipitation. This is supported by decreasing primary fluid inclusion homogenisation temperatures within single quartz crystals from core to rim (145 - 110 °C), by primary fluid inclusion homogenisation temperatures in fluorite of 105-110 °C and carbon and oxygen isotopic values of the fracture filling calcite phase that show equilibration with the host rock (Figure 4c & 5). After the fracture filling calcite precipitation, hydrocarbons seeped into the system at 84-76 Ma ago (Roberts et al., 2005). The last precipitating carbonate mineral phase is the calcite that replaces anhydrite, which has primary fluid inclusion homogenisation temperatures between 175-200 °C (Figure 4d & e). This is interpreted to have occurred during thermochemical sulphate reduction, also leading to precipitation of pyrite, elemental sulphur and solid bitumen (Figure 4d & f). There is no primary anhydrite left except for micro inclusions in the calcite nodules (Figure 4e). The distinctive, depleted carbon and oxygen isotopic values of these samples are in consistent with an isotopically light carbon source, which could either be hydrocarbon or carbon dioxide, and with the elevated precipitation temperatures (Figure 5).



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97 Figure 4 a) Mississippian limestone and b) dolomite host rock. c) Fracture filling calcite d) Former anhydrite nodule that  
 98 was replaced by calcite with elemental sulphur precipitated between calcite crystals e) Remaining anhydrite  
 99 microinclusions in calcite that replaced anhydrite f) pyrite

100

101

102 Figure 5 Carbon and oxygen isotopic data from carbonate samples. Black, grey and white symbols represent samples from  
103 drill core FC13-10, LR8-11 and FC15-28 respectively. Data is from (Zwahlen et al., 2019).

#### 104 *Model input data and constraints*

105 The two different titration models are based on gas, mineralogical and fluid compositional data from  
106 four boreholes at the centre of the reservoir (Blondes et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2007; Zwahlen et al.,  
107 2019) (Figure 1). Therefore, the reservoir conditions are calculated for this part of the field. The  
108 reservoir temperature is calculated to be 133 °C based on an average maximum depth of the four  
109 drill cores, 4612 m, and a geothermal gradient of 28.8 °C/km (Roberts et al., 2005). According to  
110 bottom hole pressures the gas pressure is on average 450 bar for the four bore holes and identical to  
111 hydrostatic pressure (Becker & Lynds, 2012).

The model was further constrained by mineralogical data from three drill cores (LR8-11, FC15-28 and FC13-10, Figure 1B & C). The model is set up for 1 kg of water. Based on a density of 1 kg/dm<sup>3</sup> and a porosity of 9% (Huang 2007) this water would fill a rock volume of 10111 cm<sup>3</sup>. The host rock is composed of dolomite (~60%) and limestone, however, in the model we use dolomite as a sole host-rock condition (10091 cm<sup>3</sup>) to avoid over-constraining the system (Zwahlen et al., 2019). The estimated volume of calcite that replaced anhydrite in the drill cores is 0.2 vol% which equates to 20 cm<sup>3</sup> (Zwahlen et al., 2019). The pH in the carbonate reservoir is likely governed by calcite and dolomite. The original fluid at 133 °C with the pH set in equilibrium with either dolomite or calcite results in a pH of 5.5 to 5.7 and therefore we choose a starting pH of 5.6.

H<sub>2</sub>S fugacity was used as a constraint for the oxygen fugacity of the model. The H<sub>2</sub>S fugacity can be calculated based on the gas composition, the total gas pressures and the fugacity coefficient:

$$f_{H_2S(g)} = P \cdot x_{H_2S(g)} \cdot \phi_{H_2S(g)} \quad (1)$$

where  $f_{H_2S(g)}$  is the gas fugacity,  $P$  the total pressure,  $x_{H_2S(g)}$  the mole fraction of H<sub>2</sub>S and  $\phi_{H_2S(g)}$  the fugacity coefficient. The fugacity coefficient of H<sub>2</sub>S in the gas mixture was calculated to be 0.33 with the Peng-Robinson equation of state which has been implemented into the Thermosolve software (Barnes, 2007; Koretsky, 2004; Peng & Robinson, 1976; Richard et al., 2005). The partial pressure of H<sub>2</sub>S is 22 bar and results in a fugacity of 7.3 bar. This value lies in the range of fugacities calculated for carbonate reservoirs in the Alberta Basin (Richard et al., 2005). It has been suggested that these fugacities are controlled by metastable equilibrium between hydrocarbons, organic sulphur compounds and elemental sulfur (Richard et al., 2005). All these compounds are also present in the Madison Formation in the LaBarge Field and hence it is likely that a metastable equilibrium between the same compounds controls the H<sub>2</sub>S fugacity.

The fluid composition in the reservoir has been reported for well Unit 22-19 (Blondes et al., 2016) (Figure 1). This fluid composition is similar to the fluid reported for the Whiskey Buttes Field further



south along the Moxa Arch (Figure 1, Table 1) (Blondes et al., 2016). These fluids are characterized by a higher  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations but lower  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentrations compared to fluids from wells penetrating the Madison Formation away from the Moxa Arch area in the Greater Green River Basin (Table 1) (Blondes et al., 2016). Initial fluid concentrations were set to those measured in well Unit 19-22 with the exception for  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ . The  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentration is excessively high due to the equilibration with the  $\text{CO}_2$  in the reservoir. Therefore we used the average concentration from wells outside the Moxa Arch (Table 2) (Blondes et al., 2016). The initial  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations were set in equilibrium with dolomite and anhydrite, respectively (Table 2). The chlorine concentration acted as a charge balance throughout the reaction path.

Table 1

Field	Depth [m]	pH	$\text{HCO}_3^-$ [mg/L]	$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ [mg/L]	$\text{Cl}^-$ [mg/L]	$\text{Fe}^{2+}$ [mg/L]	$\text{K}^+$ [mg/L]	$\text{Mg}^{2+}$ [mg/L]	$\text{Na}^+$ [mg/L]	$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ [mg/L]
Whiskey Butte	5224	7.9	8330	305	2758		94	36	6817	4938
LaBarge Unit 19-22	4229	7.9	5226	247	3894			100	8888	10174
Wildcat	4867		2635	848	43400		1852	391	27188	1800
Leroy	1777	7.2	2270	816	8181			337	6438	3863
Wertz	1798	7.0	1586	682	5112	1	198	118	4311	2921
Whitney Canyon	2975	7.5	1170	536	11200			132	8081	2600
Brady	4626	6.5	1006	3283	70737		4560	98	39961	750
Lost soldier	1792	7.6	937	1149	7604		243	386	4459	2764
Horse Trap	1686	8.8	556	335	663		47	1	3832	7417
Table Rock		4.4	378	6335	33400		1755	845	11939	85

Table 1 Average fluid composition of the Madison Formation water (Appendix 1) in different locations within the Greater Green River Basin (Figure 1a).

Table 2

Model	Stage	Temperature [C]	pH	$\text{HCO}_3^-$ [mg/L]	$\text{Ca}^{2+}$ [mg/L]	$\text{Cl}^-$ [mg/L]	$\text{Na}^+$ [mg/L]	$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ [mg/L]	$\text{Fe}^{2+}$ [mg/L]	$\text{Mg}^{2+}$ [mg/L]	Methionine titrated [mol]	$\text{CO}_2$ titrated [mol]
Model 1 part 1	initial	175	5.6	1300	250	3894	8888	220	1	17	0.145	
Model 1 part 1	end	175	5.6	1002	54	9000	9540	1000	1.E-10	4.0		
Model 1 part 2	initial	200	5.6	9026 as $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$	54	9000	9540	19880 as $\text{H}_2\text{S}(\text{aq})$	1.E-10	3.0		0.5
Model 1 part 2	end	200	5.6	3810 as $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$	18	8970	9370	19880 as $\text{H}_2\text{S}(\text{aq})$	1.E-10	2		
Model 2	initial	200	5.6	1300	250	3894	8888	110	1	13	0.145	0.5
Model 2	end	200	5.6	29000 as $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$	21	7000	9620	18250 as $\text{H}_2\text{S}(\text{aq})$	2.00E-10	3		

Table 2 Fluid composition at the beginning and end of model 1 and 2.

We conducted the modelling with the react module and the V8R6 thermodynamic database within Geochemist's Workbench® (GWB) software (Appendix 3). In model 1, the burial related TSR process

was simulated as a titration model where methionine (aq) was titrated into the fluid at 175 °C, initially in equilibrium with dolomite and anhydrite, until 20 cm<sup>3</sup> of calcite precipitated (Table 2). The resulting fluid was then reacted with 0.5 mol of CO<sub>2</sub> (g) at 200 °C and 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of anhydrite (Table 2). The anhydrite was added at the onset of CO<sub>2</sub> addition to simulate the reaction of any remaining sulphate. For model 2, the TSR triggered by CO<sub>2</sub> model, the same amount of methionine (aq) and CO<sub>2</sub> (g) were titrated simultaneously into the fluid at 200 °C, initially in equilibrium with dolomite and anhydrite (Table 2). We chose 200 °C as a CO<sub>2</sub> influx temperature in order to not overestimate it and to be in agreement with primary fluid inclusion homogenisation temperature data (Zwahlen et al., 2019). In all cases the Eh was kept fixed during the reaction path since it controlled by the sulphur species and buffered by the H<sub>2</sub>S(g) concentration (Kaszuba et al., 2011). We chose methionine as an organic compound because it includes sulphur which is in agreement with solid bitumen analysis (King et al., 2014). Parts of the organo-sulfur in the solid bitumen are likely from the original oil. However in terms of sulphur mass balance the sulphur in methionine plays a very minor role compared to the vast amount of anhydrite that gets consumed. Methionine also contains nitrogen, which results in an overestimation of gaseous nitrogen; however, the database doesn't list an organosulphur compound without nitrogen such as cystine. For the stable isotope fractionation modelling, we updated the GWB stable isotope database (Appendix 2). For the sulphate fractionation we used equilibrium and kinetic fractionation factors (Kiyosu & Krouse, 1990b; Ohmoto & Rye, 1979). We choose a  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  composition for anhydrite of 15‰, in agreement with Mississippian sulphate and carbonate-associated sulphate measured in pre-TSR calcite in the LaBarge Field (Zwahlen et al., 2019). The sulphur isotopic composition of methionine was set to the average phosphoria oil composition of 1‰ (King et al., 2014; Orr, 1974). The minerals were segregated from isotopic exchange with the fluid unless they dissolved or precipitated.

### *Modelling results*

The oxygen fugacity of the models, constrained by the calculated  $H_2S$  fugacity, resulted in the Hm-Mt buffer (Figure 6). This is close to oxygen fugacities calculated for other carbonate reservoirs and is much larger than has been estimated for clastic reservoirs (Figure 6) (Helgeson et al., 1993; Richard et al., 2005). It remains unclear whether the difference in oxygen fugacities between carbonate and clastic reservoirs is an effect of thermodynamic dataset inconsistency (Richard et al., 2005).

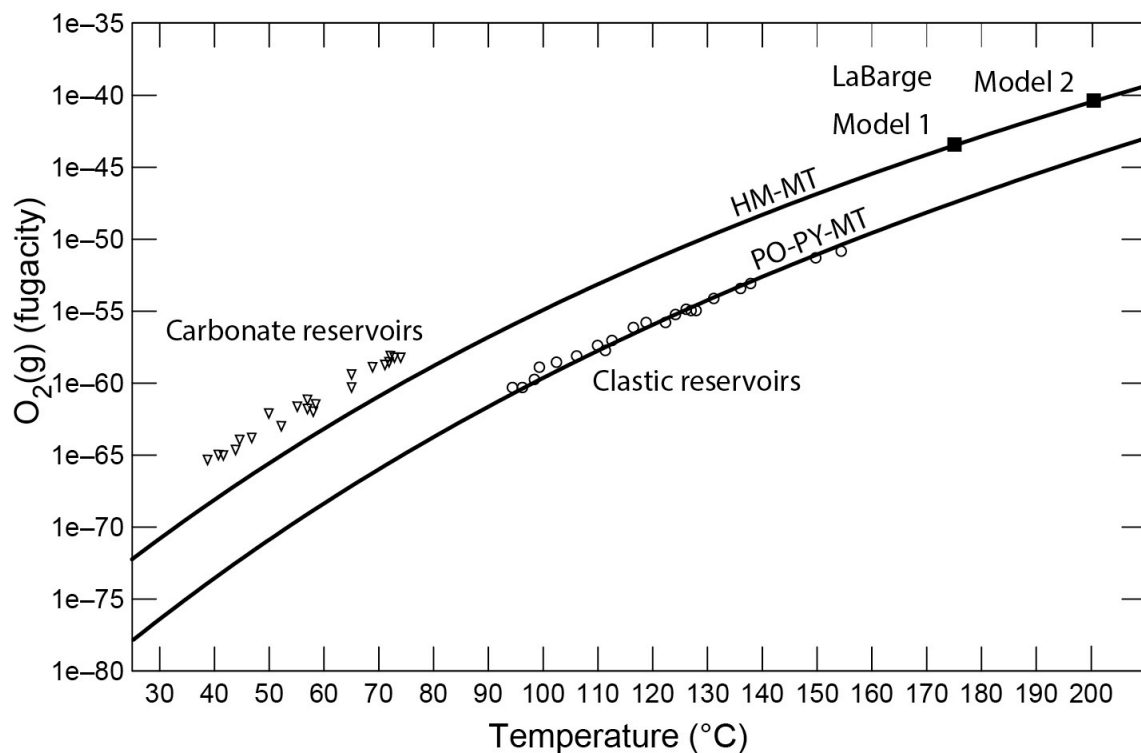


Figure 6 Oxygen fugacity calculated for the LaBarge reservoir (filled square) compared to other carbonate (triangles) (Richard et al., 2005) and clastic (circles) reservoirs (Helgeson et al., 1993). The curves correspond to the  $O_2(g)$  fugacities set by the hematite-magnetite (HM-MT) and the pyrrhotite-pyrite-magnetite (PO-PY-MT) buffers.

In both models (model 1 & 2) the fluid evolved to higher dissolved carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide and lower calcium concentrations (Table 2). The two models show distinctly different mineralogical results (Figure 7). In the burial-related TSR model (model 1) anhydrite dissolved while 20 cm<sup>3</sup> calcite and elemental sulphur precipitated as a result of methionine titration (Figure 7a). Pyrite and dolomite remained saturated throughout the model, although pyrite precipitation is limited by the low amount of iron in the fluid. In the second part of this model (model 1) calcite precipitated as a consequence of  $CO_2$  influx (Figure 7b). We also tested the  $CO_2$  influx without the 1

cm<sup>3</sup> of anhydrite. This resulted in an equally saturated volume of calcite, however, less calcite precipitated due to the limiting amount of Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the fluid. The porosity remained almost unchanged and increased by only 0.1% throughout the model.

Figure 7 Mineralogical results of the two titration models: a) model 1 part 1 with methionine titration including runs at 165°C, 175°C and 185°C b) model 1 part 2 with CO<sub>2</sub> influx and c) model 2 with simultaneous methionine titration and CO<sub>2</sub> influx.

In the CO<sub>2</sub>-triggered TSR model (model 2) anhydrite also dissolved, along with calcite precipitation. However, with the same amount of methionine, more than 1 cm<sup>3</sup> anhydrite remained undissolved at the end of the reaction path and less than 19 cm<sup>3</sup> of calcite precipitated (Figure 7c). A further difference to model 1 is that elemental sulphur did not become saturated (Figure 7c). Since elemental sulphur precipitated in model 1 but not in model 2 we explored the effect of temperature on the saturation of elemental sulphur and ran the methionine titration of model 1 at different

temperatures (Figure 7a). The results showed that elemental sulphur saturated at 165 °C whereas at 185 °C calcite was the only precipitating mineral (Figure 7a).

Additionally we investigated the isotopic fractionation of sulphur during the reaction paths, with pre-defined  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  isotopic values for the different phases, and compared it to existing mineral and gas stable isotope data (King et al., 2014; Zwahlen et al., 2019) (Figure 8). There was no fractionation expected for aqueous sulphate incorporation into calcite, therefore we can compare the measured carbonate associated sulphate (CAS) isotopic composition to the modelled aqueous sulphate isotopic composition (Burdett et al., 1989). The modelled extent of the sulphate fractionation depends on whether equilibrium or kinetic fractionation factors are used (Figure 8a) (Kiyosu & Krouse, 1990a; Ohmoto & Rye, 1979). The modelled sulphate fractionation with the kinetic fractionation factor overlaps completely with the extent of fractionation observed in carbonate associated sulphates measured in anhydrite-replacive calcite (15.3 to 22.7‰) (Zwahlen et al., 2019) (Figure 8a). Therefore the kinetic fractionation factor is used for the following fractionation calculation. The fractionation between aqueous and gaseous hydrogen sulphide is negligible above 150 °C which enables us to compare the measured gaseous isotopic  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  composition to the modelled aqueous isotopic  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  composition (Czarnacki & Hałas, 2012; Eldridge et al., 2016). The modelled  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  value of the aqueous hydrogen sulphide increased during the reaction path to close to 10‰, which is the measured composition for the gaseous  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  in the reservoir (King et al., 2014) (Figure 8b). Hence there modelled aqueous hydrogen sulphide isotopic composition is in agreement with the reservoirs value.

225

226 Figure 8 a) Kinetic and equilibrium fractionation of sulphate in model 1 in comparison with measurements from the  
227 reservoir carbonate associated sulphate (15.3 to 22.7‰, grey area) (Zwahlen et al., 2019) and b) Isotopic evolution of  
228 aqueous sulphide in model 1 by contrast with gaseous hydrogen sulphide data from the reservoir (dotted line) (King et al.,  
229 2014).

## 230 *Discussion*

231 In terms of mineralogy, the two models differ mainly in the saturation of elemental sulphur and the  
232 amount of calcite that is precipitated. Model 1 predicts the mineralogy observed in the cores,  
233 specifically calcite, elemental sulphur and pyrite. Elemental sulphur doesn't saturate when the  
234 model is run above 175 °C. This indicates that TSR likely occurred at  $\leq 175$  °C. The lower amount of  
235 dissolved anhydrite and precipitated calcite in model 2 could be related to the decreasing solubility  
236 of anhydrite with increasing temperature. Both models suggest that calcite precipitates as a  
237 consequence of CO<sub>2</sub> influx, not anhydrite as previously suggested (Kaszuba et al., 2011). All together  
238 model 1 represents the mineralogical data better than model 2. This indicates that the initiation of  
239 TSR was most likely related to temperature, and occurred at  $\leq 175$  °C. This is in agreement with the  
240 lowest primary fluid inclusion homogenisation temperatures measured in calcite that replaced  
241 anhydrite (Zwahlen et al., 2019). The modelled TSR process is more efficient at temperatures around  
242 175°C compared to 200 °C due to the higher anhydrite solubility at lower temperatures. This might  
243 explain why TSR has not been observed at high temperature ( $\geq 200$  °C) in the LaBarge Field and in  
244 other study areas (Biehl et al., 2016; Bildstein et al., 2001; Cai et al., 2001; Claypool & Mancini, 1989;  
245 Hao et al., 2015; Heydari & Moore, 1989; Jenden et al., 2015; Jiang et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2013;

Machel, 2001; Riciputi et al., 1994; Worden et al., 1995; Worden & Smalgeoley, 1996) and could indicate that there is an upper temperature limit for TSR.

Model 1 is further validated by consideration of the fractionation of the sulphur species present in the reservoir. The modelled fractionation of aqueous sulphate and hydrogen sulphide is consistent with mineral and gas data from the reservoir when a kinetic fractionation factor is used. The fractionation between the CAS sulphate isotopes has been previously related to fractionation during the reduction step (Meshoulam et al., 2016; Zwahlen et al., 2019). Therefore the modelled fractionation during the reduction step is in agreement with the extent of fractionation of the CAS samples also confirms that reduction rather than diffusion is the rate limiting step (Meshoulam et al., 2016).

In both models the calcium concentration in the fluid limited the extent of calcite precipitation. The low calcium concentration in the modelled fluid is in agreement with the reported concentrations of the fluid from the LaBarge Field (Table 1). The high sulphate concentration in the reported fluid analysis suggests that calcium sulphate was not the limiting factor for TSR and that the calcium concentration is low due to calcite precipitation. The aqueous hydrogen sulphide concentration predicted by the models is extremely high but might be much lower in reality due to sorption onto organic matter or precipitation of more metal sulphides (King et al., 2014).

The insights regarding the initiation and mineralogical consequences of the TSR process based on reaction path modelling in the LaBarge Field could help to predict the occurrence of TSR elsewhere if fluid and mineral data are available. For geologic co-sequestration, these models show that anhydrite does not precipitate as a consequence of CO<sub>2</sub> addition into a reducing carbonate system. This disagrees with previous predictions (Kaszuba et al., 2011) and indicates that the H<sub>2</sub>S concentration is solely diminished by sorption and sulphide precipitation. These results have to be taken into account when co-sequestration storage security is evaluated due to the reactive character

of H<sub>2</sub>S. However the insignificant porosity change is consistent with previous modelling results (Kaszuba et al., 2011), which is important for pressure predictions of co-sequestration scenarios.

## *Conclusion*

Based on two simple reaction path models we explored the effect of burial related TSR and compared it to TSR triggered by hot CO<sub>2</sub> influx. Model 1, which assumed burial related TSR and subsequent CO<sub>2</sub> influx, correctly predicts the mineralogy observed in the core. On the other hand model 2 fails to saturate elemental sulphur. Therefore TSR at LaBarge was likely induced by burial and the CO<sub>2</sub> influx had no influence on TSR. Further both reaction path models suggest that the CO<sub>2</sub> influx leads to calcite precipitation instead of anhydrite as previously thought (Kaszuba et al., 2011).

This modelling approach is further validated by the agreement between sulphate and sulphide fractionation and the measurements of the corresponding phases in the reservoir. The output of the model adds additional constraints on the fluid history of the reservoir and can help predicting TSR elsewhere. In terms of geologic co-sequestration the modelled mineralogical consequences differ from previous predictions but are consistent with little porosity changes observed in previous models and have to be taken into account when assessing different co-sequestration scenarios.

However, more fluid analysis from wells in the LaBarge Field could improve the validity of the model. Additionally kinetic rate laws could be included into the model to compare the rates of the different occurring processes such as dissolution and precipitation to the rate of sulphate reduction. Future research could also look at the complex fractionation processes of carbon and oxygen isotopes.

## *Acknowledgment*

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