



# SMART Initiative



Science-informed Machine Learning to Accelerate  
Read Time (SMART) Decisions in Subsurface Applications

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# Motivation: Real-Time Forecasting





## Real-Time Forecasting *“Advanced Control Room”*

**Vision:** Transform reservoir management decisions through rapid analysis of real time data to visualize forecasted behavior in an advanced control room “human-in-the-loop” format.

**Real time** means in seconds to minutes—rapidly enough to inform the decision.

**Forecasted behavior** means pressure evolution, injection/production rates, hydrocarbon recovery, storage efficiency, etc.

**The rise of intelligent oil fields**



**Changing times**

Other sectors, such as healthcare and financial services, were early adopters of digital technologies and big data.

The oil and gas industry has been slower to adapt. But it is catching up as companies seek to unlock more energy at less cost.

In July, Baker Hughes and General Electric's oil and gas businesses merged, creating a larger oil field services company looking to capture and analyse growing data volumes.

In the USA, ConocoPhillips is using data to drill wells more quickly. UK-based BP is planning a big increase in the company's ability to gather and

Shell and other energy companies use control rooms like this one in Malaysia to monitor and analyse live data

### Potential Operational Decisions

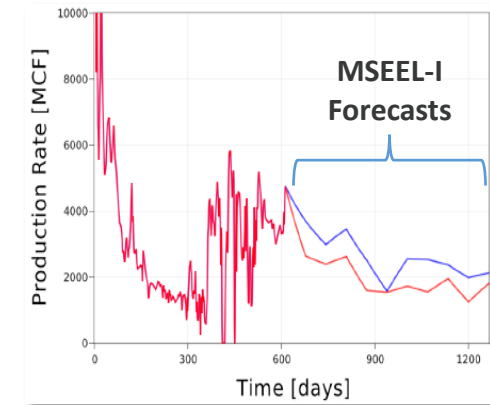
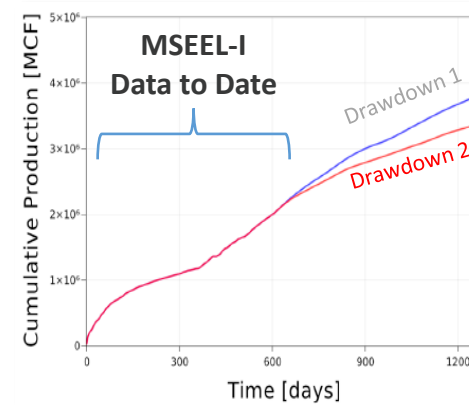
- **How to adjust production rates and pressures to maximize recovery, sweep efficiency, economics,...**
- How to adjust CO<sub>2</sub> injection & brine production in multiple wells to maximize storage and minimize pressure plume
- Where to place infill wells to increase total recovery
- When to inject fluids for managing reservoir pressure to increase total recovery

# Vision: Accurate Real-time Forecasting of Fractured Reservoirs

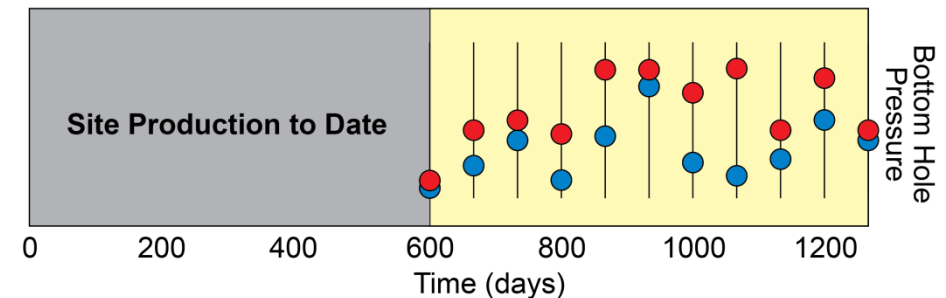
## MSEEL DOE Field Site



## Real-time Pressure Management Dashboard

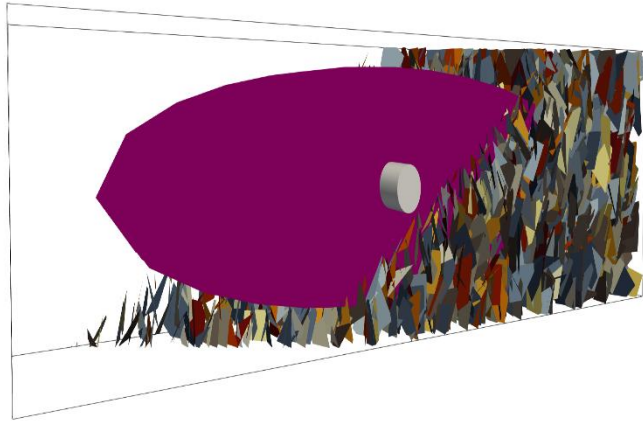


### Dashboard for User-Defined Draw Down Forecasts

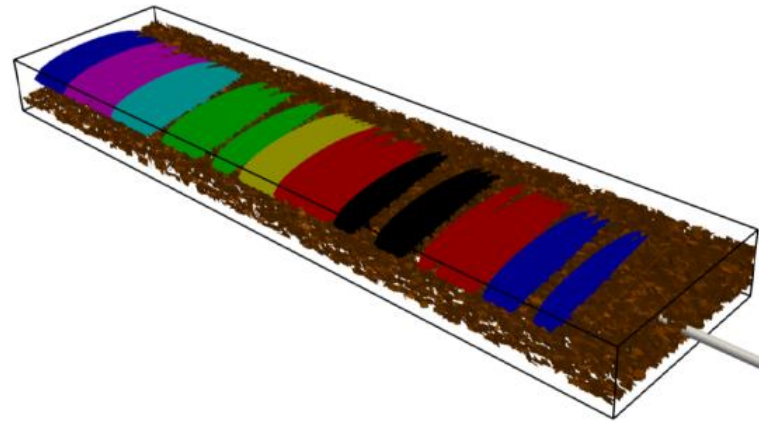


Prototype for Real-time Forecasting of Pressure Management Scenarios for MSEEL-I

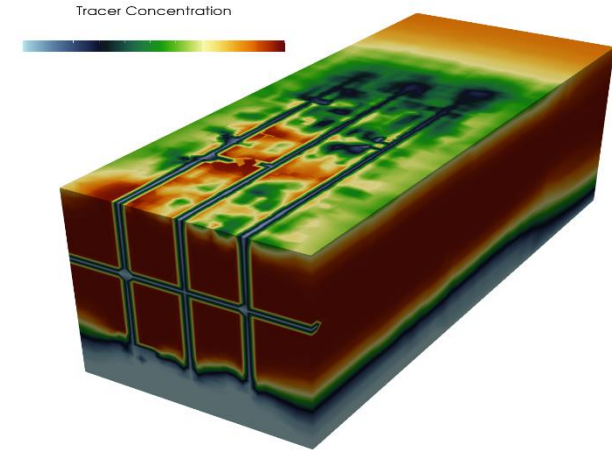
# Phase 1 Goals: Enable real-time forecasting at MSEEL to predict the pressure dependent behavior relative to recovery efficiency



*Natural fractures  
around a single  
stage in MIP-3H*

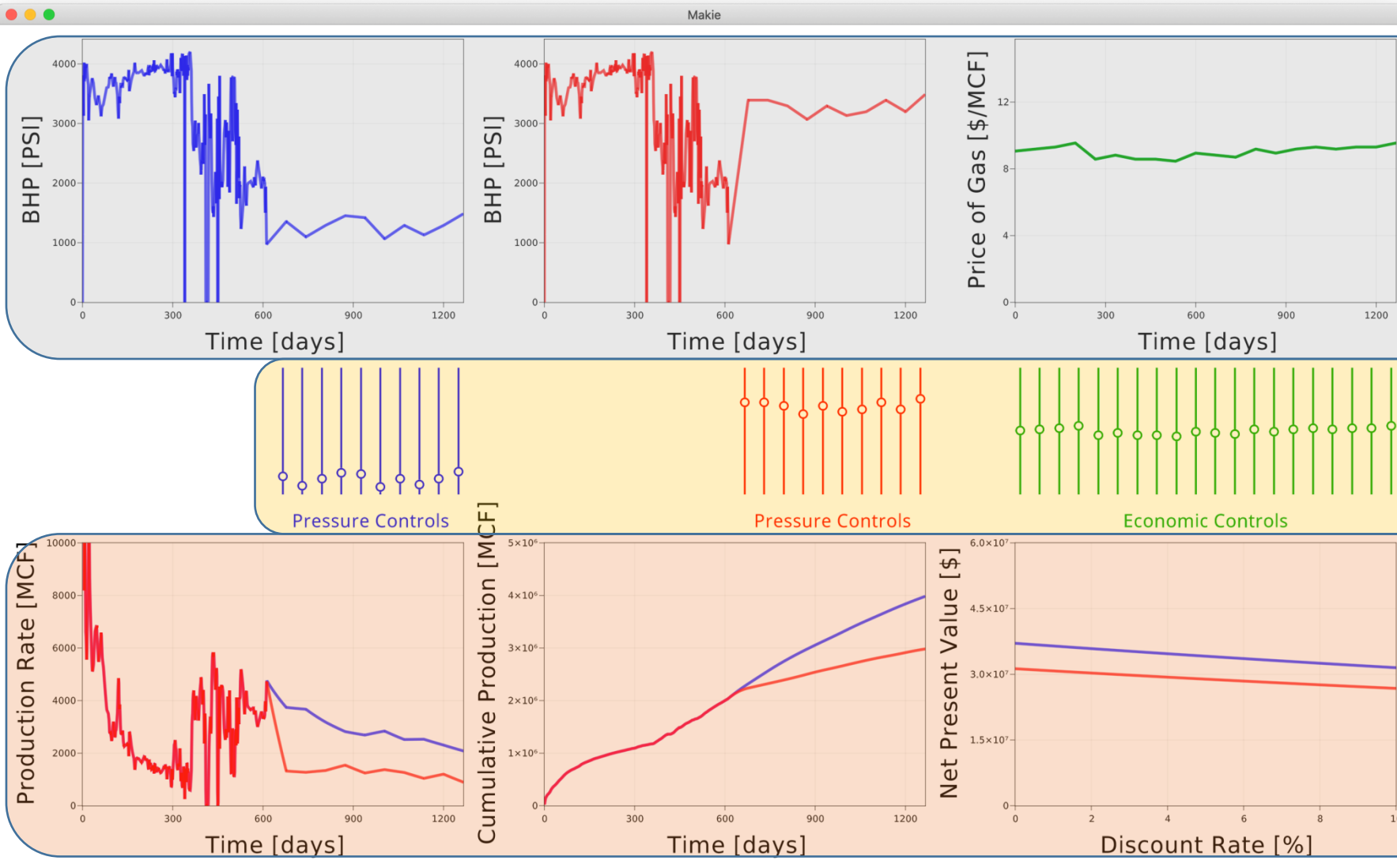


*Fracture network along entirety of MIP-3H*



*Initial simulation of  
drainage along  
fracture network.*

# Real-time forecasting demo

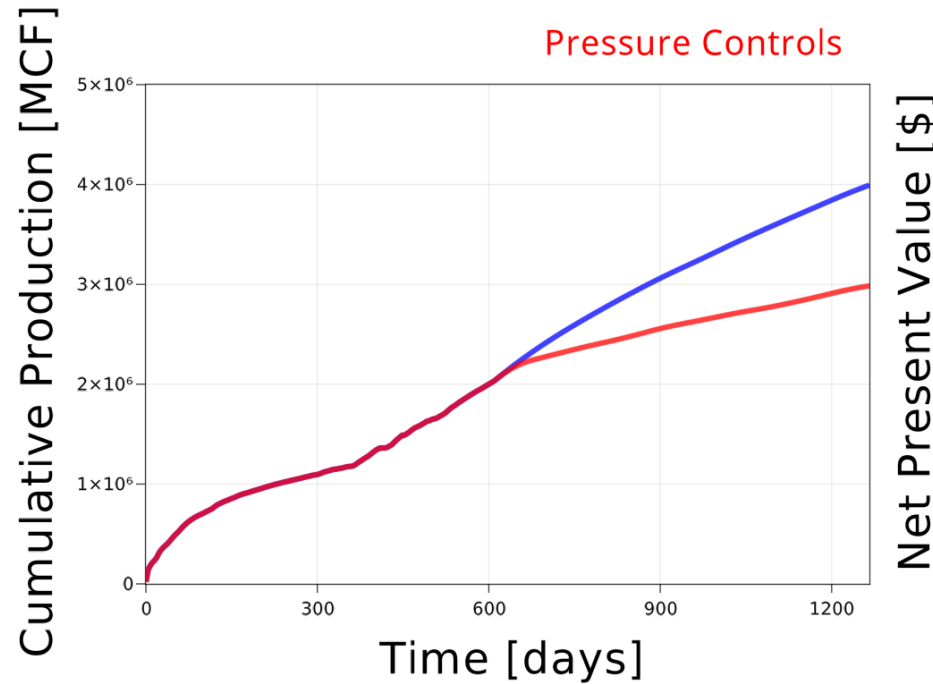
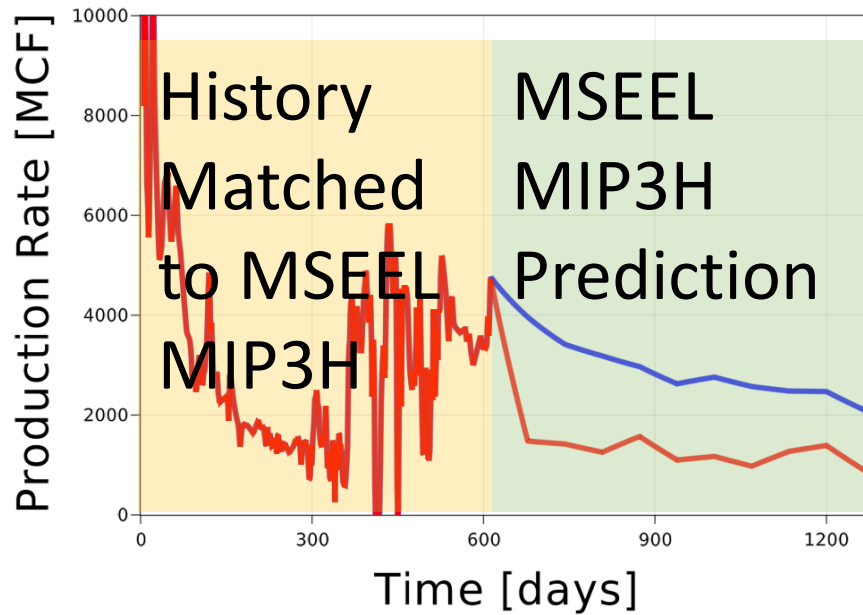
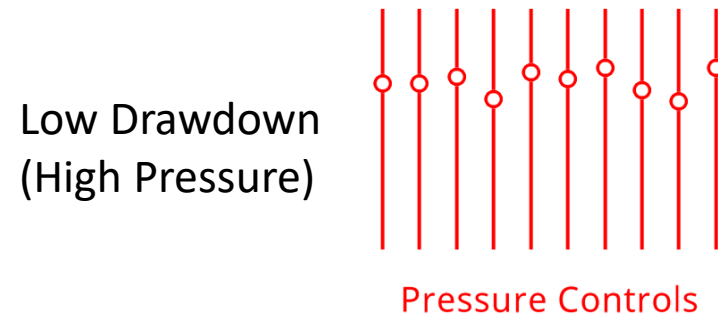
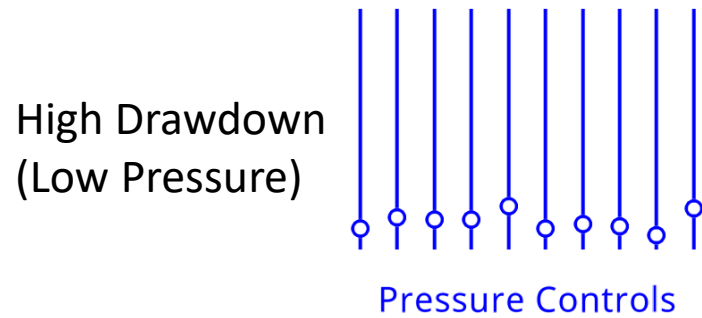


What is being controlled

Controls

Real-time predictions

# High drawdown (blue) vs low drawdown (red) with no fracture closure

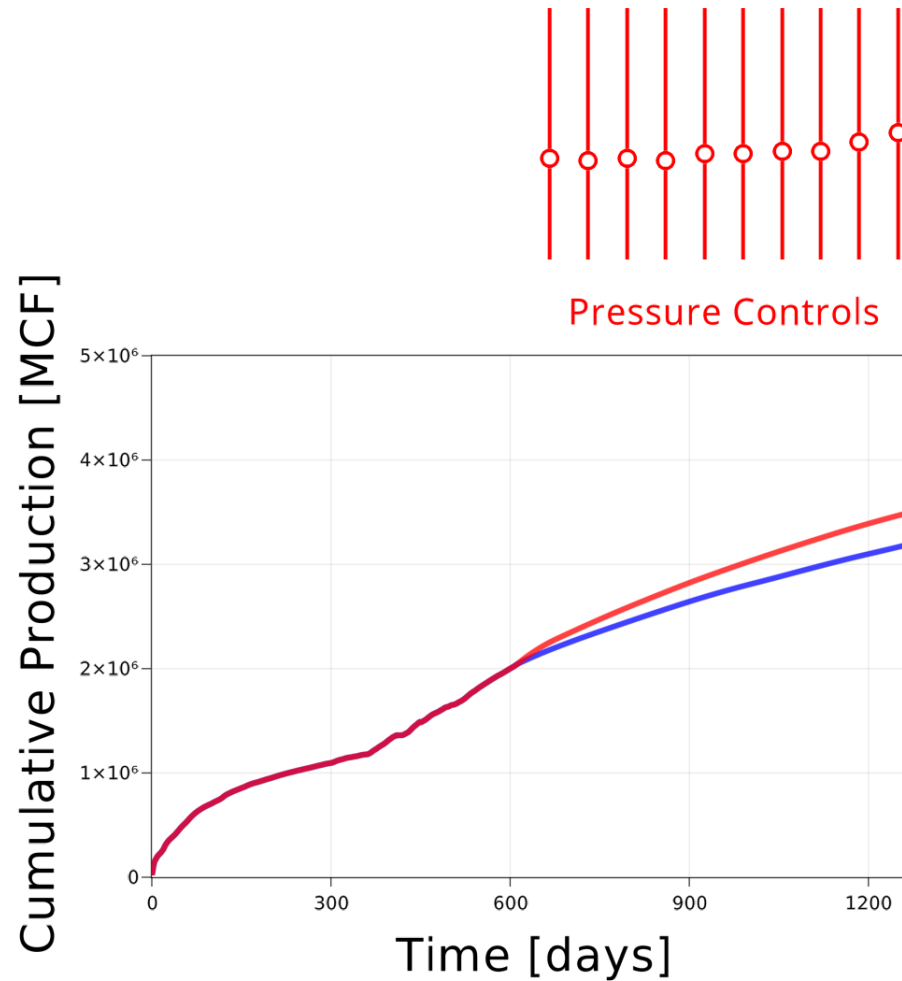
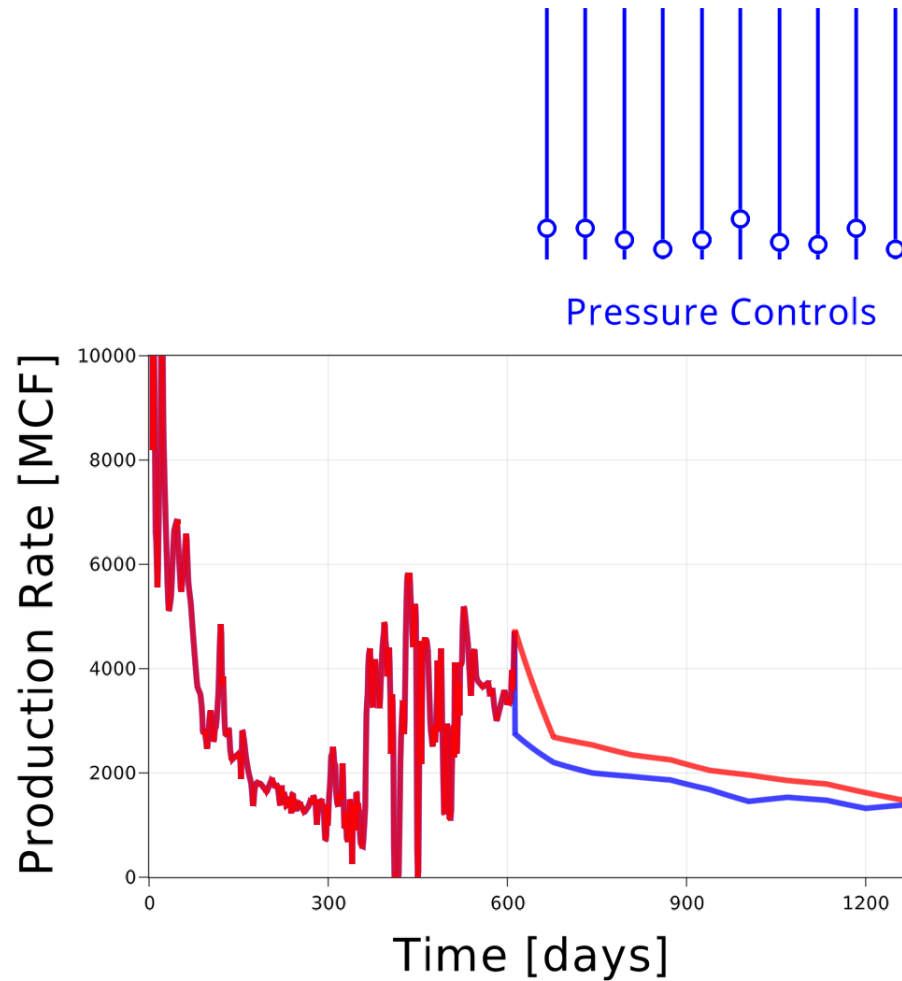


High drawdown  
produces  
25% more gas  
than

Low drawdown if  
fracture closure  
due to draw  
down is not  
considered,  
**But...**



# High drawdown (blue) vs low drawdown (red) with fracture closure



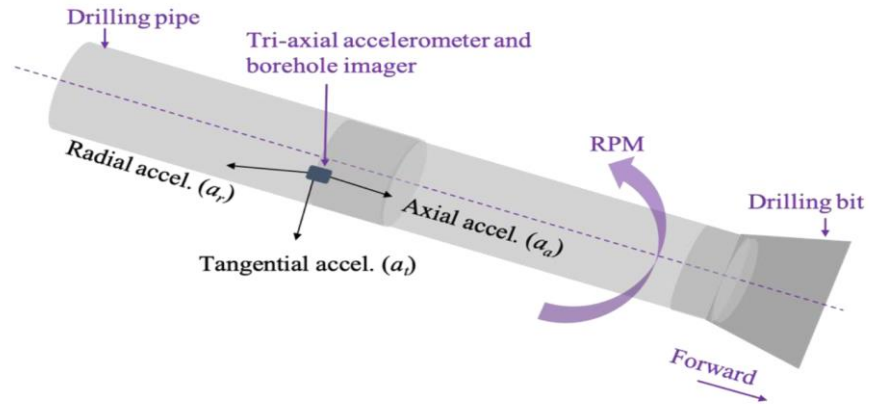
Lower drawdown  
can produce more  
with more complex  
physics of fracture  
closure considered

# Key Tools Developed in Phase 1 for Phase 2 CO<sub>2</sub> Injection Case

- Cost-efficient machine learning approaches to reservoir imaging and design
- Transfer Learning and Multi-Fidelity Methods
- Site Behavior Libraries
- Graph-based machine learning emulators for fractured systems
- Methods to combine reservoir forecasting and economics forecasting



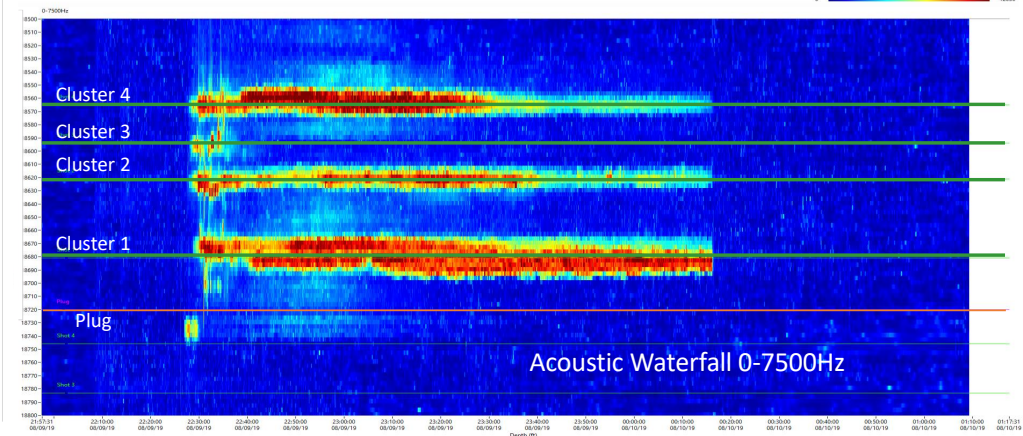
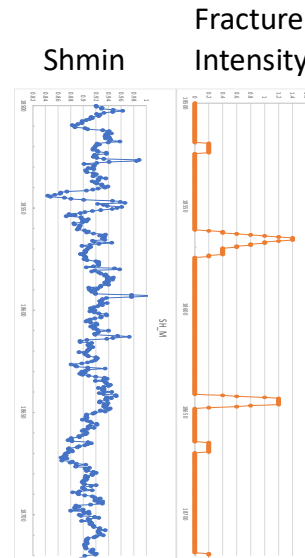
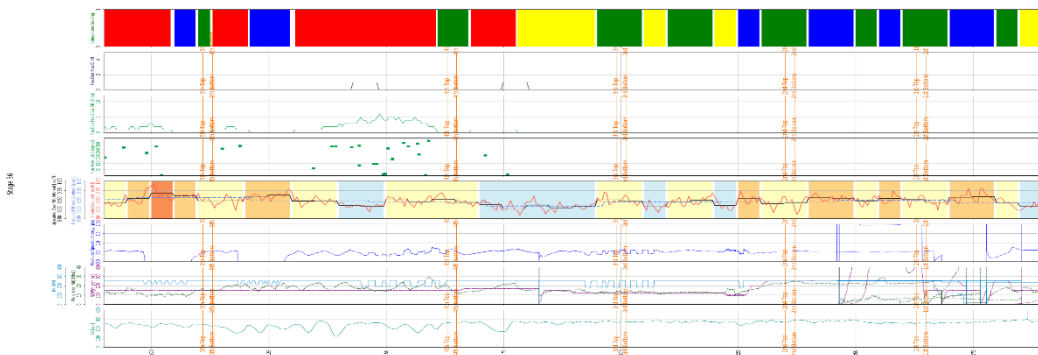
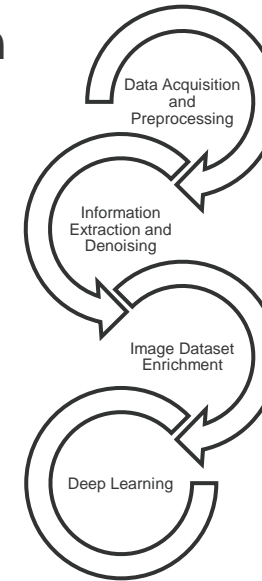
# WVU Characterization ML Tools



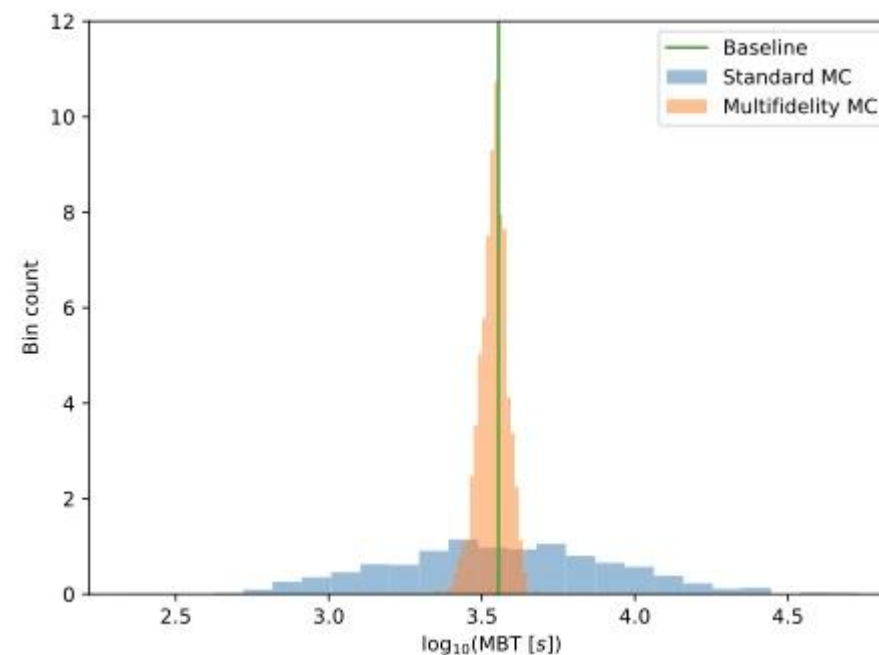
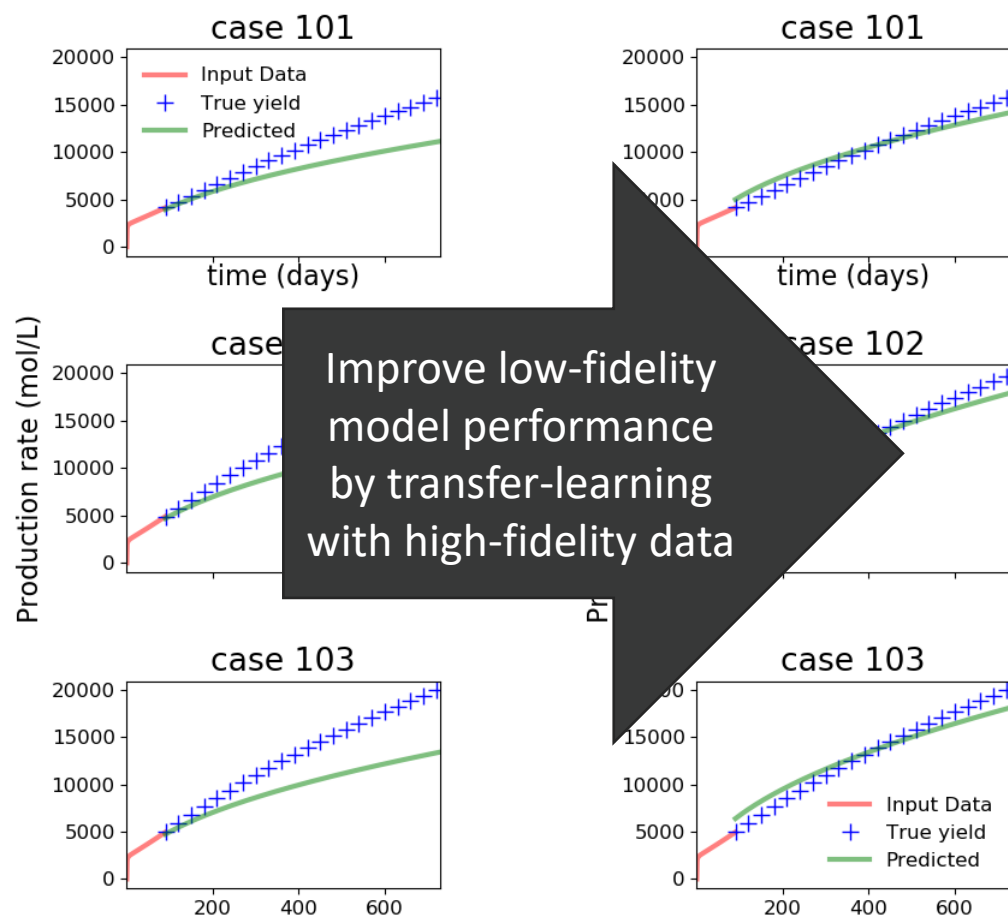
Drill string borehole imager and vibration sensor.

## Drill String Acceleration Data Analysis

**Low Fidelity Approaches Integrated with High Fidelity Approaches to make Smart Decisions**

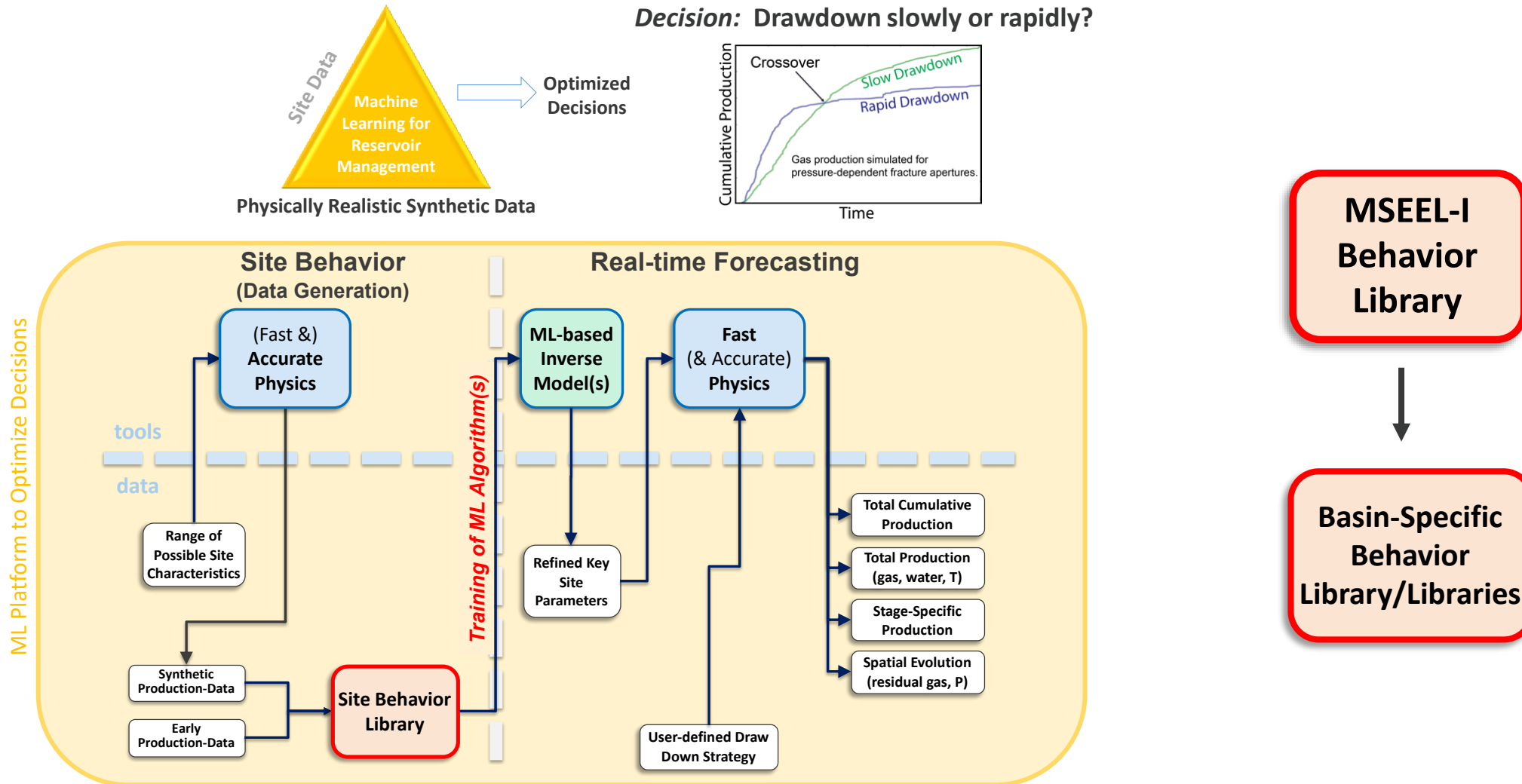


# Transfer Learning and Multi-Fidelity Methods

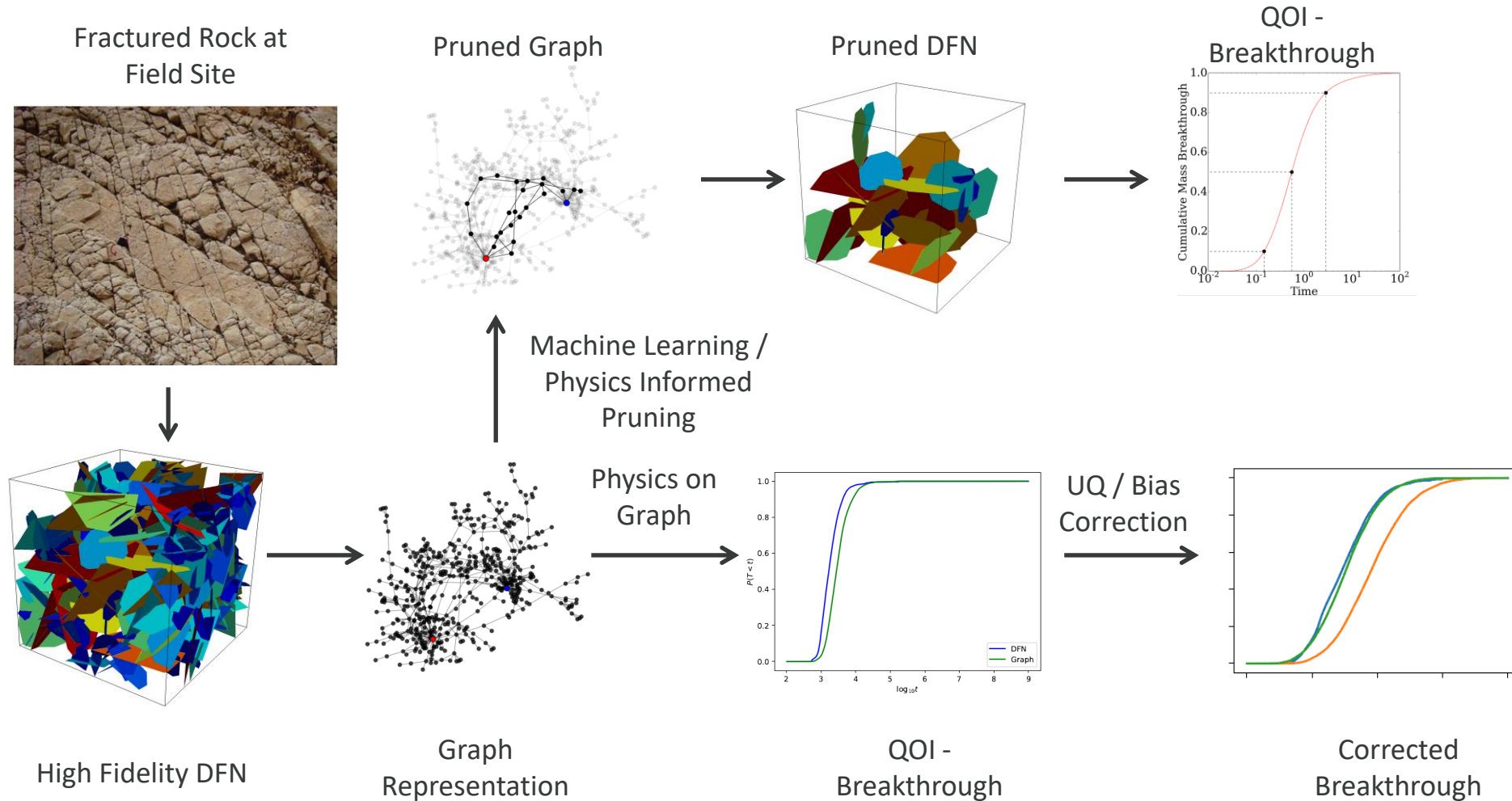


Reduce uncertainty by combining high-fidelity and lower-fidelity models for improved UQ performance

# “Behavior Library” that allows operators to tailor pressure drawdown for optimum recovery.



# Workflow for Fractured Systems using Machine Learning and Graphs to Accelerate Physics-Based Reservoir Models

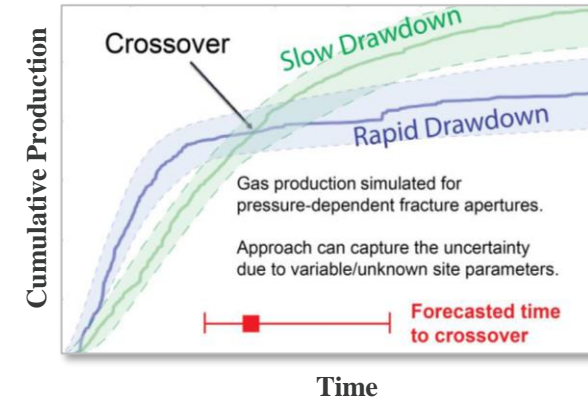




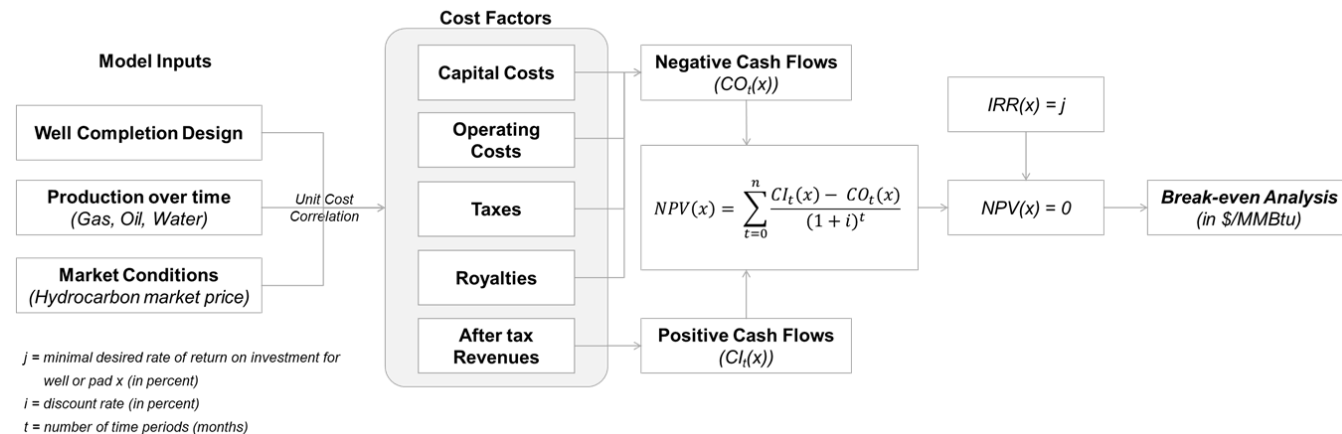
# Role of Technoeconomic Analysis (TEA) in Evaluating Pressure Drawdown Strategies

- **Traditional production of unconventional oil and gas wells is aimed at acquiring high initial production via rapid pressure draw down**
  - Rapid drawdown allows the operator to realize returns on investments quickly
- **Preliminary modeling has shown that increasing flowing bottom hole pressure by reducing the choke setting at the wellhead can result in a greater of production over time**
- **Analysis is needed to cross-check the economic viability of the pressure management strategies resulting from the model predictions**
  - Facilitates development of optimization schemes that balance
    1. Improving recovery efficiencies of unconventional reservoirs
    2. Attaining desired economic rates of return

## Cumulative gas production curves under large and small drawdown cases



## Modeling process of technical-economic boundary of FECM/NETL Unconventional Shale Well Economic Model



# NETL Economic Tools – Unconventional Shale Well Economic Model

Data Input and Summary Sheet		Well Number <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">1</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">▲</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">▼</div>																																																																																
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Gas Delivery Trunkline Costs	<b>\$250,000</b> (\$)																																																																																		
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Capital G&A	<b>10%</b> (%)																																																																																		
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Lease Acquisition Costs	<b>\$75,000</b> (\$)																																																																																		
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Drilling Operation Costs	<b>\$6,000,000</b> (\$)																																																																																		
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Lease Operating Expense	<b>\$150,000</b> (\$/w/dll/yr)																																																																																		
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Model evaluates economics of unconventional shale wells on a per well and per pad level



The model allows for direct comparison of alternative technologies through multiple profitability indicators



## Model Input

- Production data for the life of the well
- Can compare the economics of 700 wells in a single model run

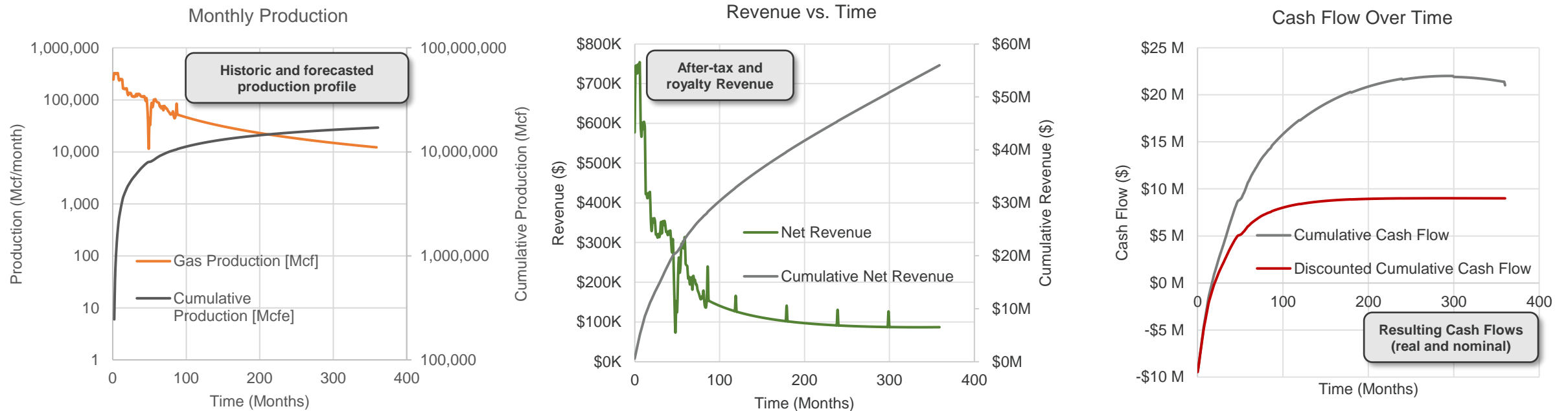


## Model Outputs (month or pad basis)

- Net cash flow, NPV, IRR, EBITDA, breakeven price, payout month, and payout year

# NETL Economic Tools – Unconventional Shale Well Economic Model

NETL is augmenting the existing Task 7 Phase I efforts by leveraging the Unconventional Shale Well Economic within the LANL/WVU workflow to enable a robust TEA analytical capability



Research Approach: 1) Infuse time-series production data generated from LANL that explore various drawdown strategies  
2) Evaluate and analyze modeling results  
3) Perform sensitivity analyses on economic parameters to assess impact on result outcomes

# Phase 2 Planning: CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in saline aquifer

- Pressure management is equally important for injecting fluid and CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration
  - Optimize CO<sub>2</sub> without setting off felt seismic events
  - Optimize most gas in without harming reservoir (inverse of O&G)
- How do we transition oil sector to storage sector?
  - Big companies not really doing it (optimize storage but going after product)
  - Will be small independents but they don't have R&D
- Integrate task 7 tools with tasks 1-6
  - MSEEL WVU tools: 1) leaks we can characterize, 2) seismic hazard characterization, 3) ML to characterize data
  - Transfer learning and multi-fidelity machine learning tools
  - Scenario libraries
  - Graph-based machine learning emulators for fractured systems
  - Economic tools integrated with machine learning workflows is unique



# Questions?

# Thank you!

**[viswana@lanl.gov](mailto:viswana@lanl.gov)**