

Applying Geochemical Signals and Statistical Tools to Ensure CO₂ Storage Through Water Monitoring



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Carbon Sequestration

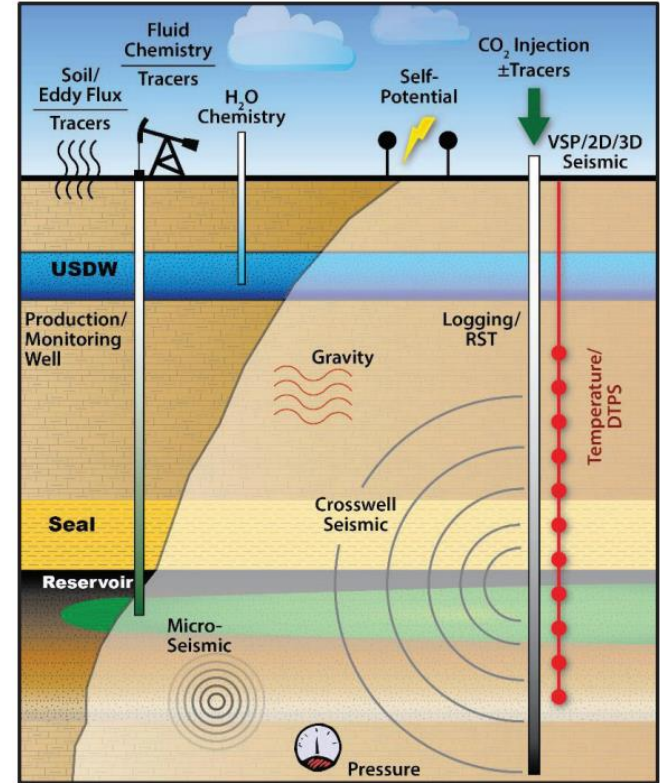
Importance of Monitoring

- Ensures CO₂ storage
- Protects valuable assets
- Provides assurance to community

Geochemical Monitoring

- Sampling reservoir fluid through existing infrastructure
- Employing developed tools to observe relevant reactions
- Provides source attribution, distinguish between different types of geologic fluids, like deep and shallow formation fluid.

Figure from Balch et al., 2017



Field Studies

Samples

- Ogallala Fm. groundwater
- Santa Rosa Fm. groundwater
- San Andres Fm. produced water

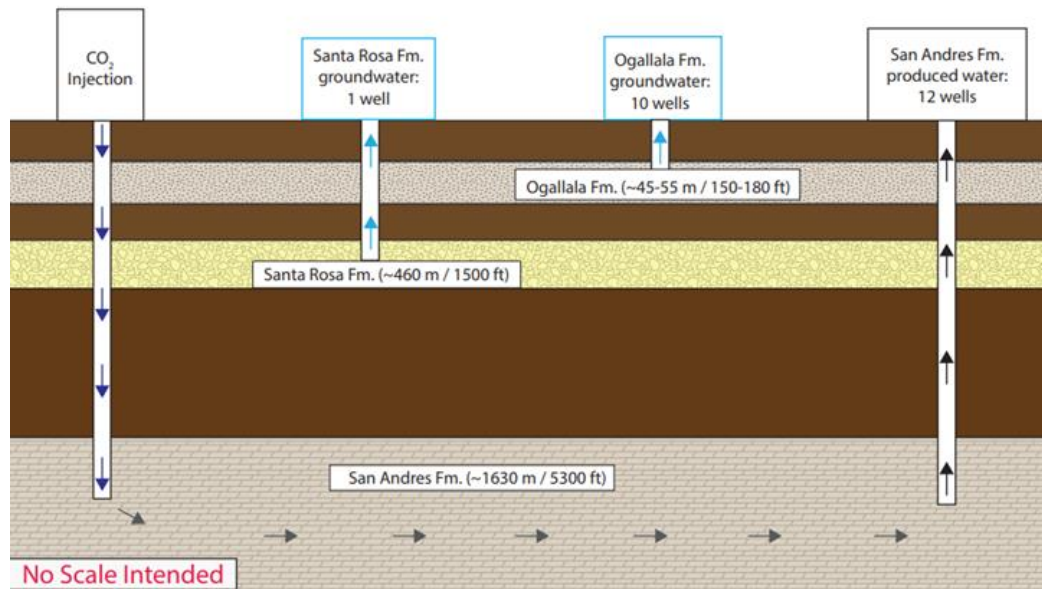
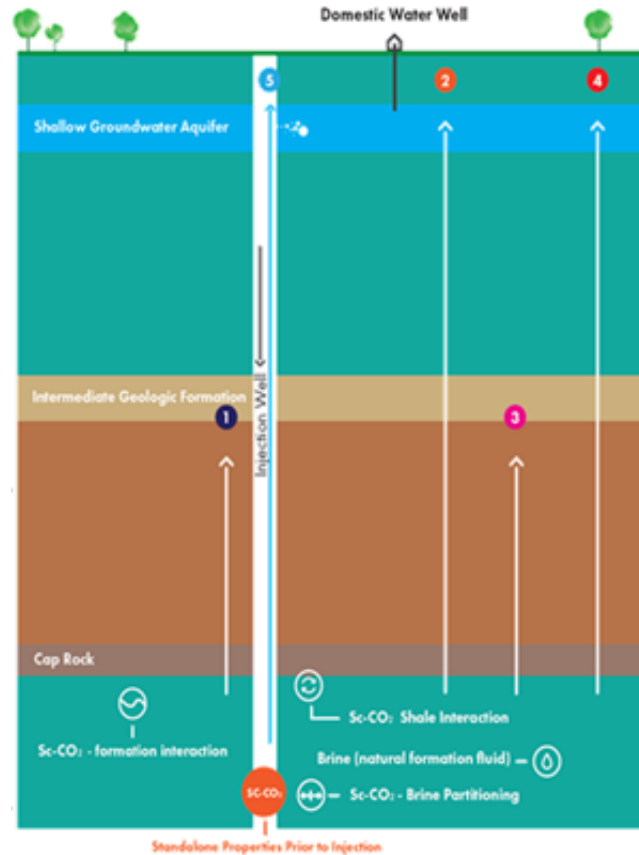


Figure from Miller et al., 2022

Application of Field Results: GILD

- **Problem Definition**
 - Need for a low-cost, easily implementable monitoring strategy for carbon storage reservoir leak detection
- **Proposed Solution**
 - Geochemically Informed Leak Detection (GILD)

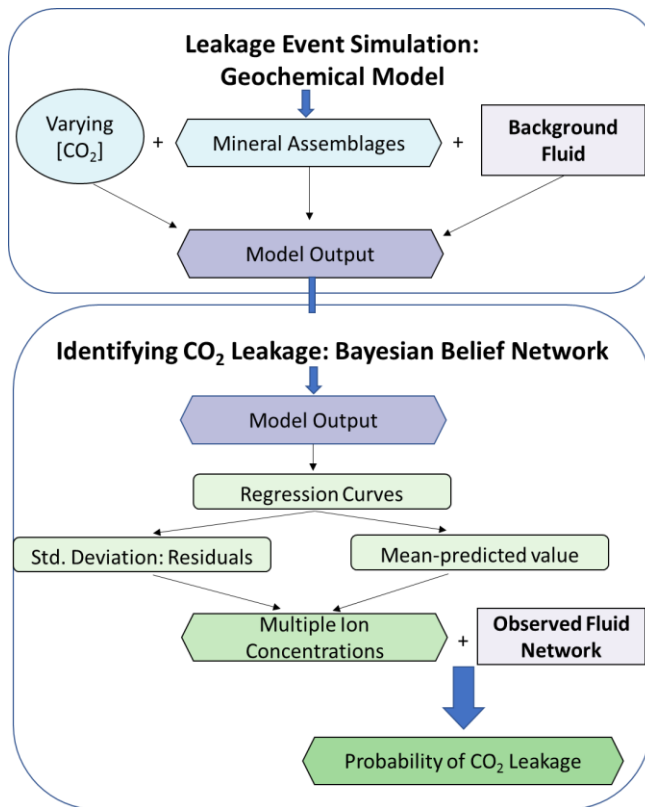


Leakage Pathways

- 1 Wellbore to intermediate formation
- 2 Wellbore to shallow groundwater
- 3 Geologic conduit to intermediate formation
- 4 Geologic conduit to shallow groundwater
- 5 Well to shallow aquifer

GILD

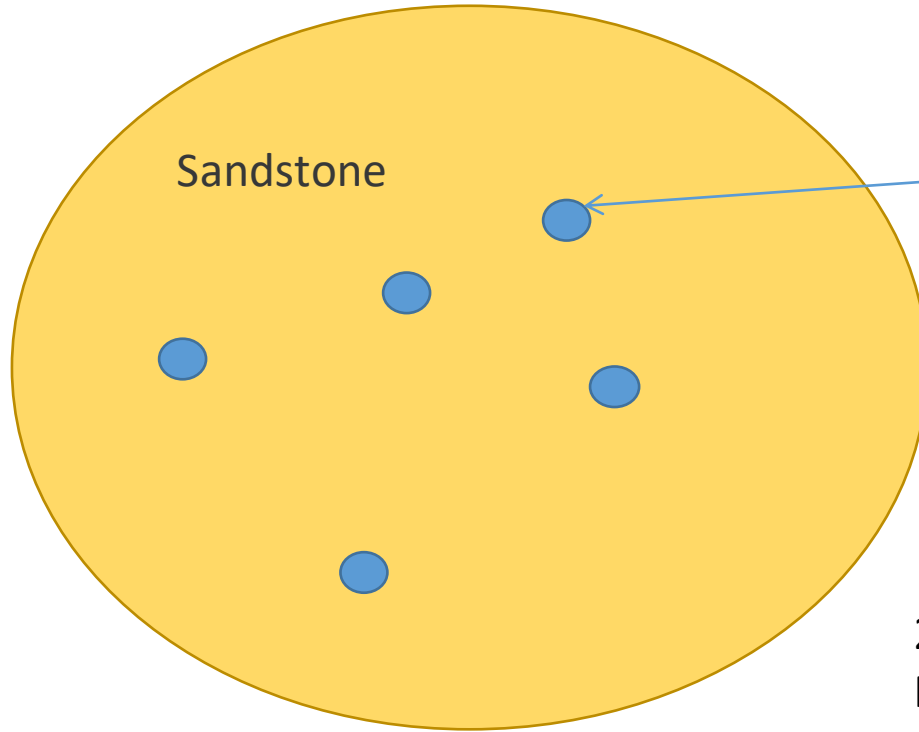
- 1) Assess fluid chemistry and mineral compositions of monitoring formation
- 2) Simulate leakage events with a geochemical model
- 3) Identify CO₂ leakage with a Bayesian Belief Network (BBN)



Bayesian Belief Network (BBN)

- Decision support tool
- Probabilistic inference from multiple sources of evidence
- Application for leak detection - given monitoring parameters, compute the probabilities of the presence of leakage

Geochemical Modeling



Pore space filled with
reservoir fluid

Fixed $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$ present
in the fluid

15% porosity 100 g rock, 2.5
 g/cm^3 density
6 g of water in pores

25 C

Fixed $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$ from 0.006–0.306 mol/kg

Geochemical Modeling

Sandstone minerals: quartz 80 g, kaolinite 10 g, multiple minor minerals

Mineral variance

No.	Carbonate	Feldspar		Mica		Chlorite
	Calcite(g)	Albite(g)	Anorthite(g)	Annite(g)	Phlogopite(g)	Ripidolit-14A(g)
1	0	0	1	0	1	0
2	0	0	1	0	1	1
3	0	0	1	1	0	0
4	0	0	1	1	0	1
5	0	1	0	0	1	0
6	0	1	0	0	1	1
7	0	1	0	1	0	0
8	0	1	0	1	0	1
9	1	0	1	0	1	0
10	1	0	1	0	1	1
11	1	0	1	1	0	0
12	1	0	1	1	0	1
13	1	1	0	0	1	0
14	1	1	0	0	1	1
15	1	1	0	1	0	0
16	1	1	0	1	0	1
17	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	0	1	1	1	1	1

Reaction time 2 hrs

Reactive surface 1000 cm²/g

Rate	mol/cm ² /s
Quartz	1.02E-18
Kaolinite	6.61E-18
Calcite	1.55E-10
Albite	9.12E-17
Anorthite	7.08E-16
Annite	8.51E-18
Phlogopite	3.98E-17
Ripidolit-14A	3.02E-17

Rate constants from Palandri and Kharaka, 2014

Geochemical Modeling

Fluid variance

Santa Rosa ground water samples

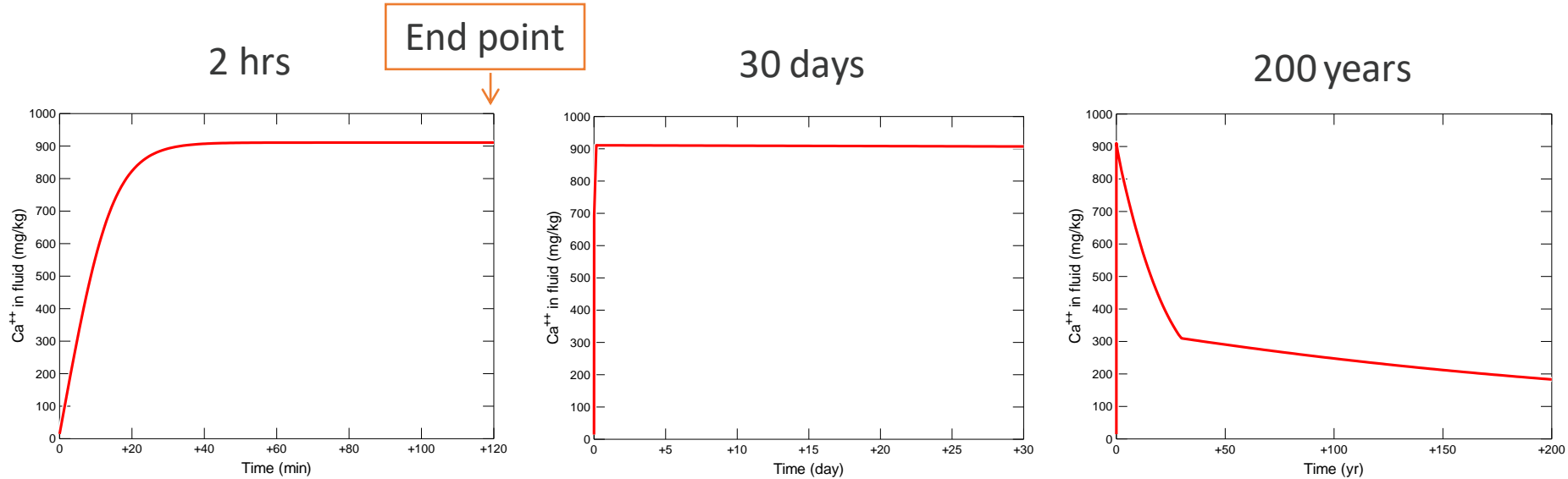
ID	Date	pH	Na	Ca	Mg	K	Cl	SO ₄	Br	HCO ₃	TDS	Charge balance
			----- mg/L -----									
<i>Santa Rosa Fm. groundwater - depth of 460 m</i>												
B1	Jun-13	8.0	1410	26.5	12.6	4.88	440	2200		372	4460	-0.38%
B1	Jan-14	9.1	1090	9.73	9.07	6.12	242	2120		385	3860	-9.02%
B1 [#]	May-14	8.2	1490	20.7	8.51	7.87	456	2030		459	4480	3.17%
B1	Sep-15	8.8	1420	1.21	7.71	4.66	449	2060	2.17		3950	6.17%
B1	May-16	9.5	1450	3.75	1.32	4.60	488	2010	2.24	389	4350	-0.04%
B1	Nov-16	8.4	1470	21.1	11.3	4.84	458	2180	2.16	205	4350	3.54%
B1	Jul-17	7.7	1490	20.9	11.1	4.73	454	2160	2.11	449	4590	1.55%
Average		8.5	1400	14.8	8.81	5.39	427	2110	2.17	377	4290	0.71%

32 scenarios

17	all minerals	1	1	1	1	1	1
18	all except calcite	0	1	1	1	1	1

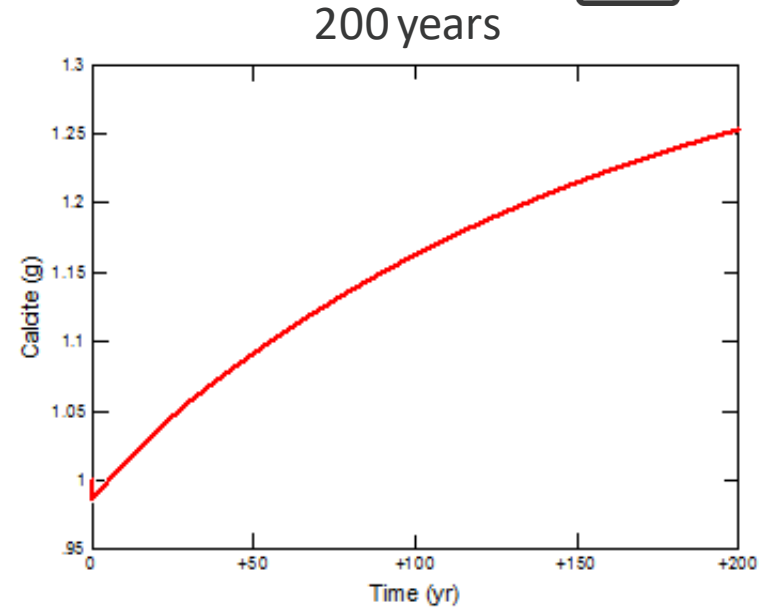
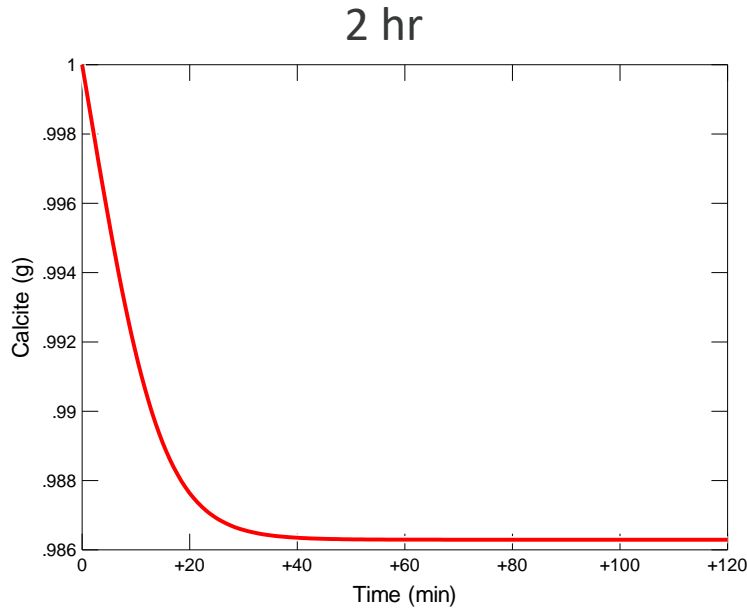
Ca²⁺ Change over Time

CO₂ = 0.3 mol/kg, Scenario 17, all minor minerals, average fluid



Rapid and significant Ca⁺ concentration increases only hours after the reaction. The concentration remains at a high level for days, weeks, even months, making it possible to detect this huge increase in a short monitoring period.

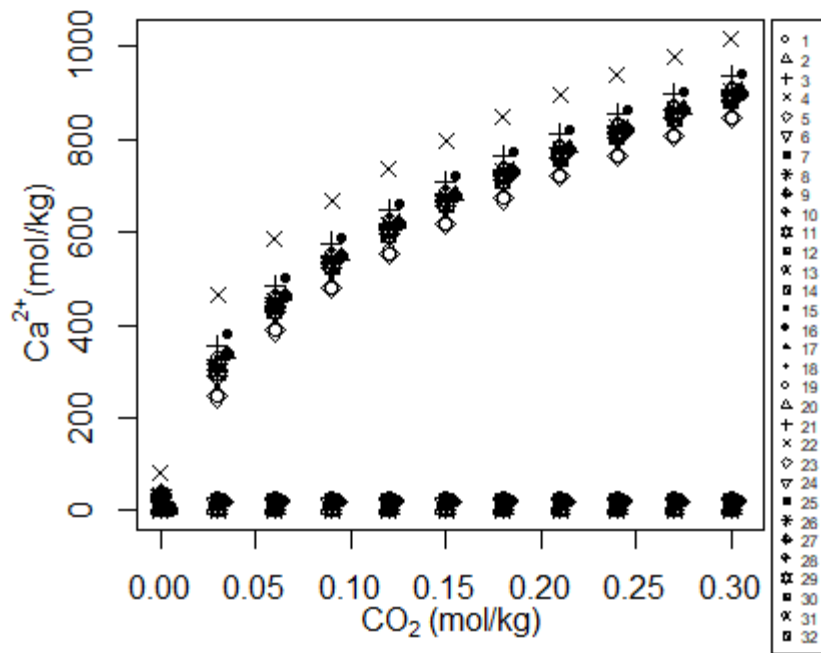
Minimal Calcite is Needed



Minimal calcite (<2%) dissolution results in high Ca^{2+} concentration increase.

Calcite reprecipitation due to excessive CO_2 dissolution over time.

Geochemical Model Output Example



Sc 1-8 no calcite

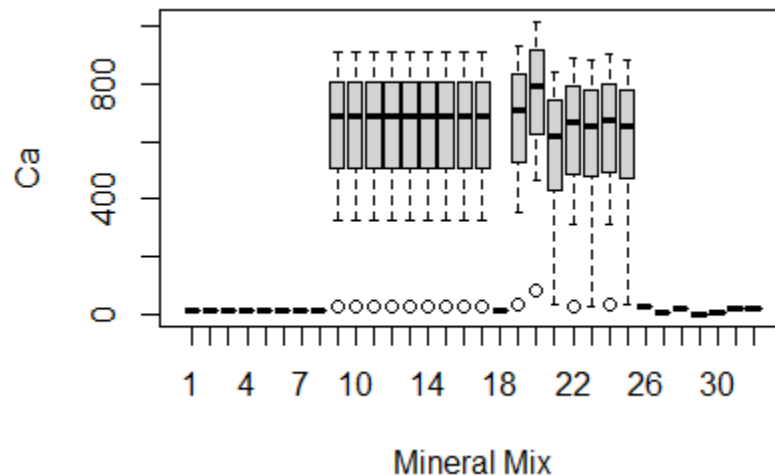
Sc 9-16 with calcite

Sc 17 all minerals with calcite

Sc 18 all minerals except calcite

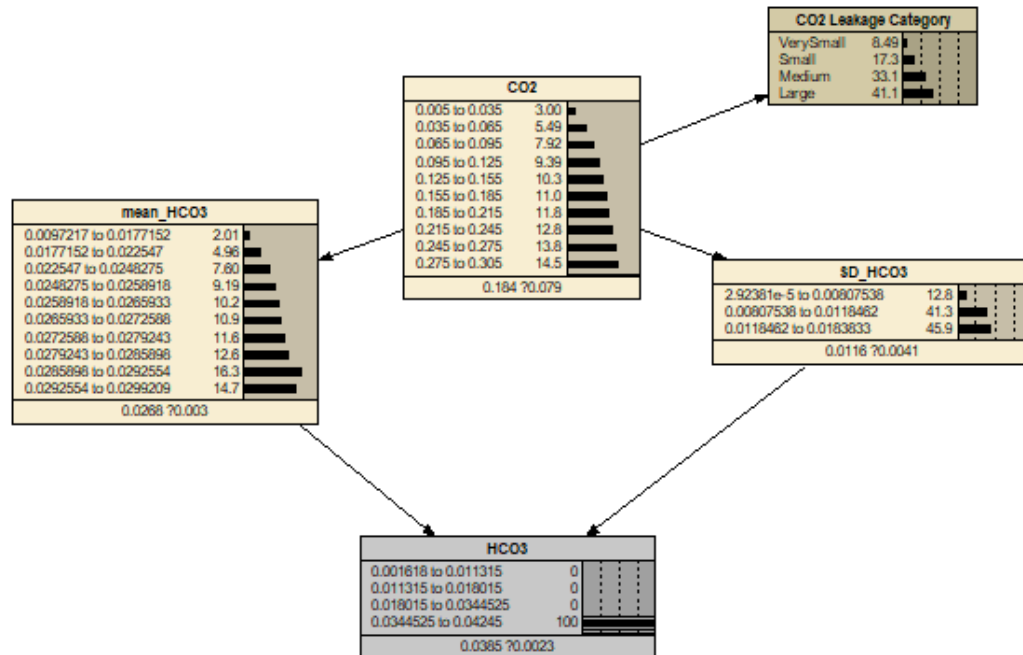
Sc 19-25: Sc17 with fluid variance

Sc 26-32: Sc18 with fluid variance



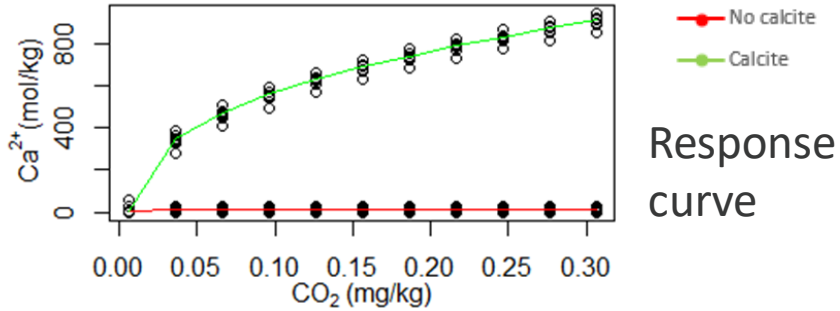
BBN for Leak Detection

- **Upstream node**
 - CO₂ added concentration
- **Arrows**
 - Causal effect
- **Downstream nodes**
 - Monitoring parameters
- **Bars of each node**
 - Probability of a particular range
- **Conditional probability**
 - Probability of downstream given upstream
- **Purpose**
 - Back inference

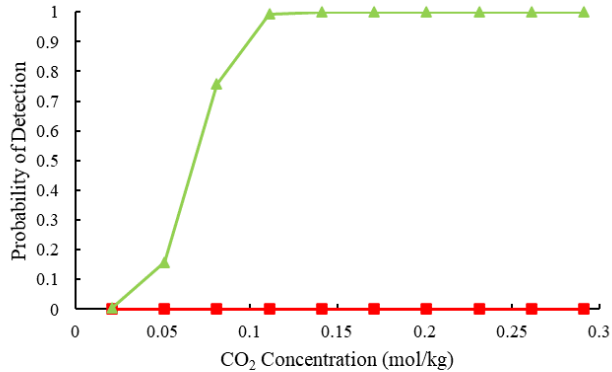


Single index BBN example

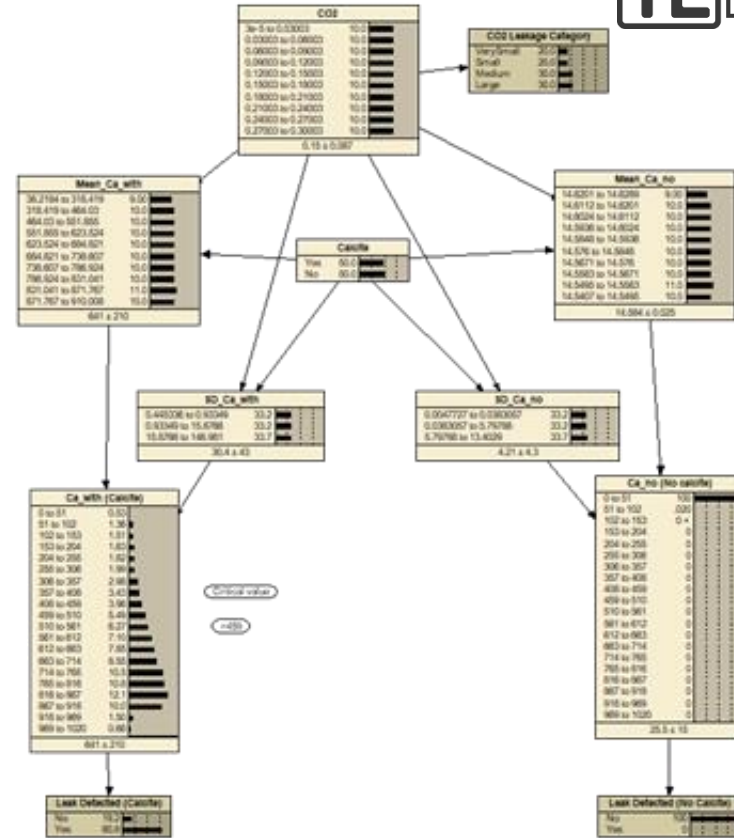
Single index (Ca²⁺) example



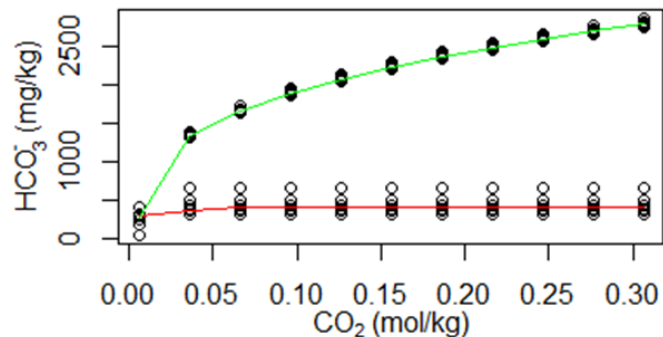
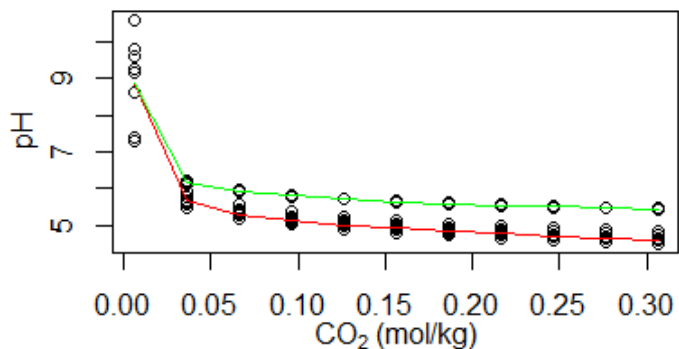
Response curve



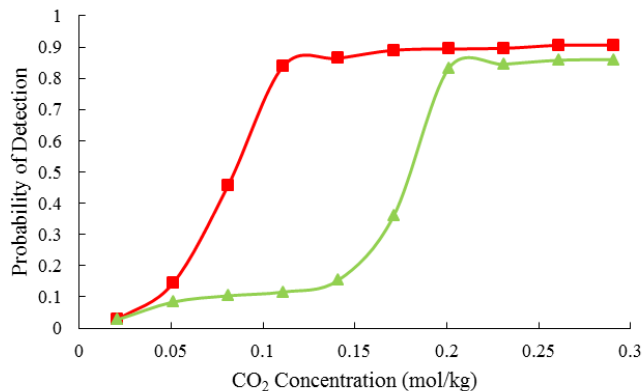
■ No calcite ▲ Calcite



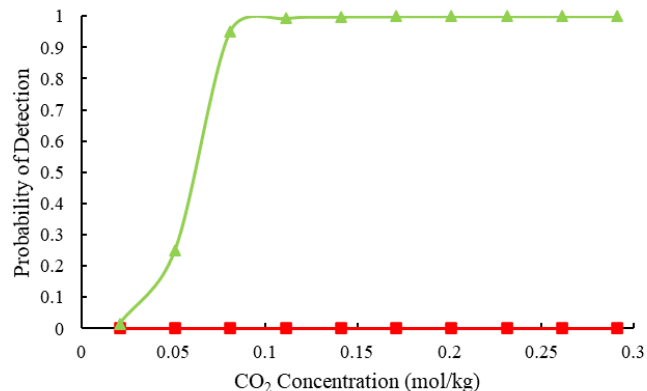
Other Indices for Single Index BBN



Ca²⁺, pH, and HCO₃⁻ are chosen as indices for BBN.



■ No calcite ▲ Calcite

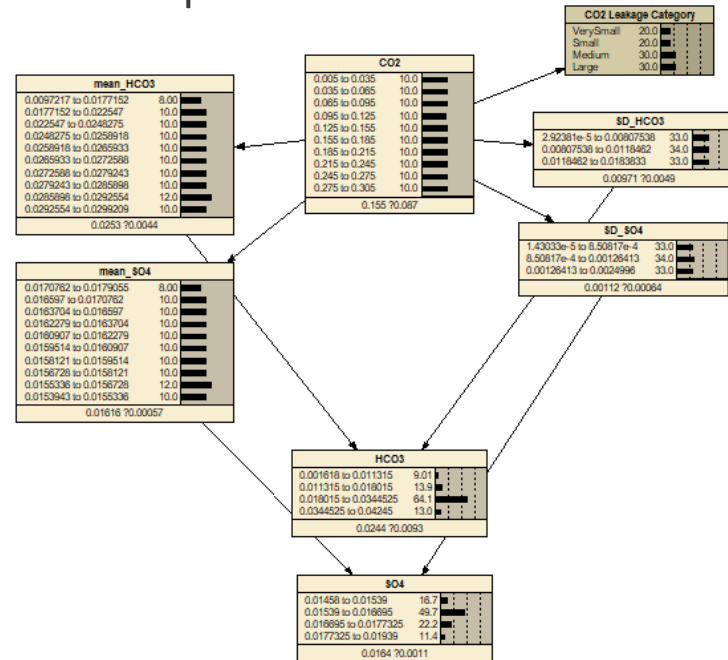


■ No calcite ▲ Calcite

In progress:

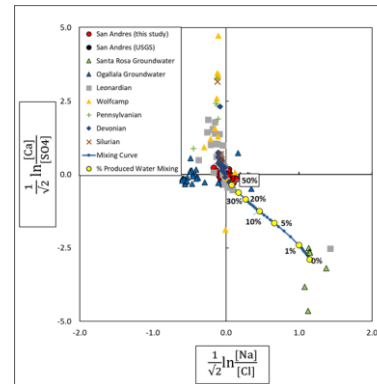
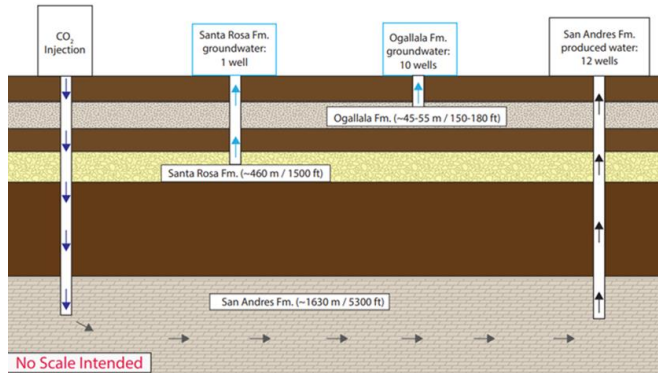
- Combining Ca^{2+} , pH and HCO_3^- for multi-index BBN model and CO_2 (leakage) detection.
- Manuscript in preparation for Environmental Science & Technology.

Example:



Conclusions

- Geochemical monitoring provides insight into groundwaters and target formation reactions
- Geochemical-statistical models (GILD) can provide CO₂ leakage detection via robust statistical analysis
 - The current model applies user input via licensed software and researcher knowledge
 - Goal is to create a standalone version that can be used by groundwater observers



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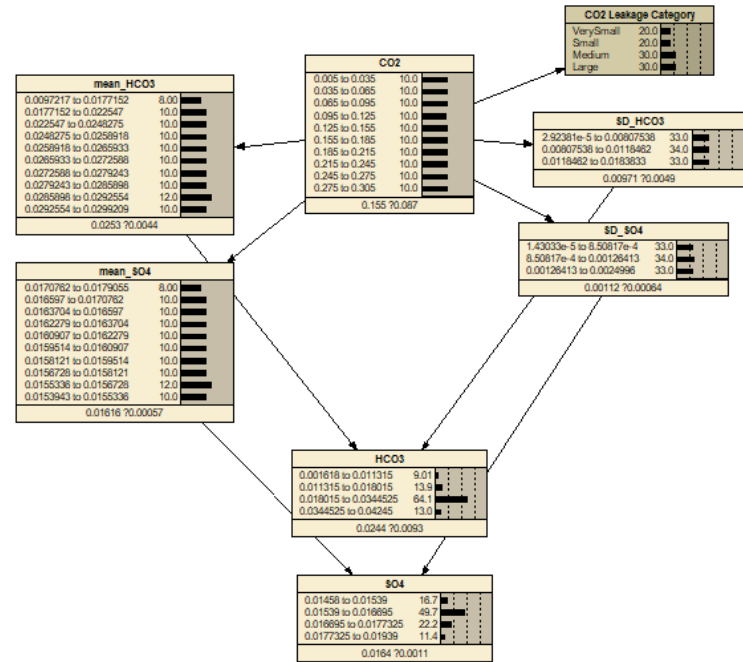
Contact: Wei Xiong, wei.xiong@netl.doe.gov



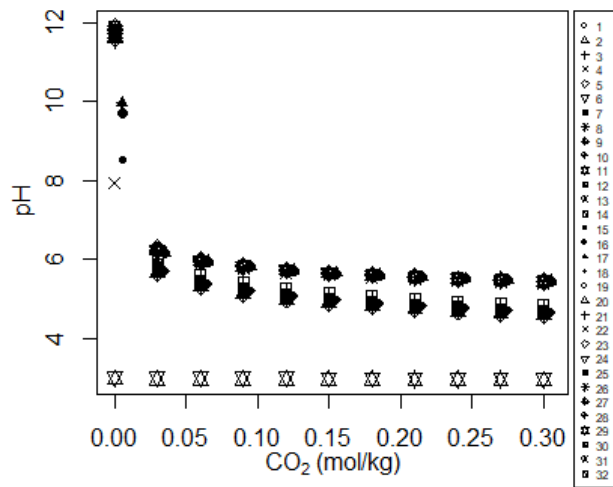
Supplemental Slides

Construction of BBN-Regression Results

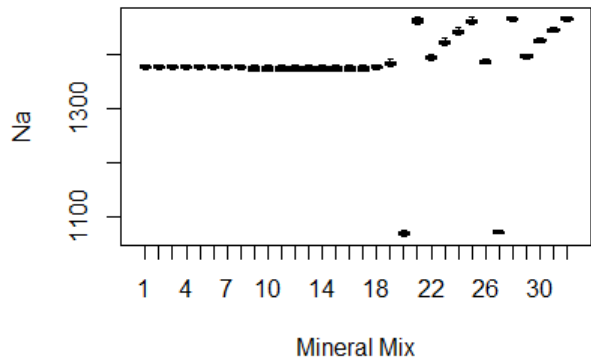
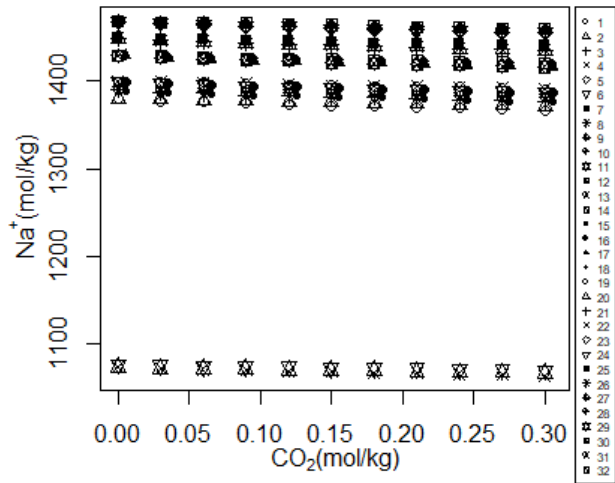
- Mean-predicted value from the response function for each CO₂ level
- SD-standard deviation of residuals (geochemical model output-predicted values)
- Ion concentration-normally distributed with mean and SD



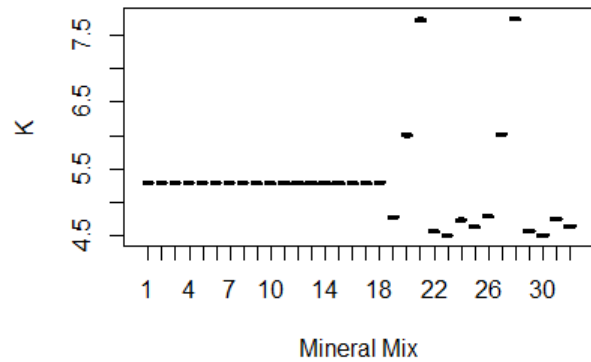
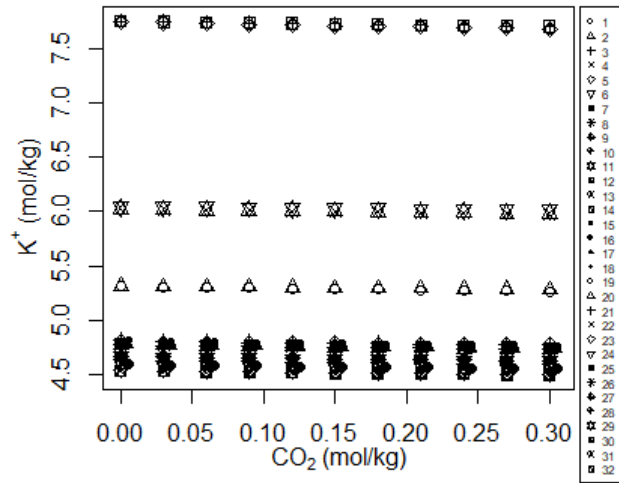
pH



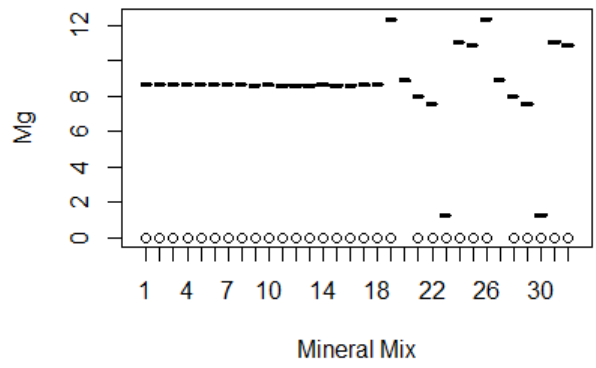
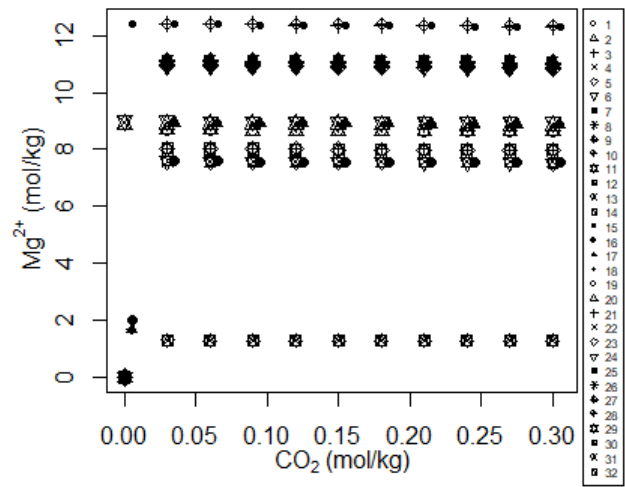
Na



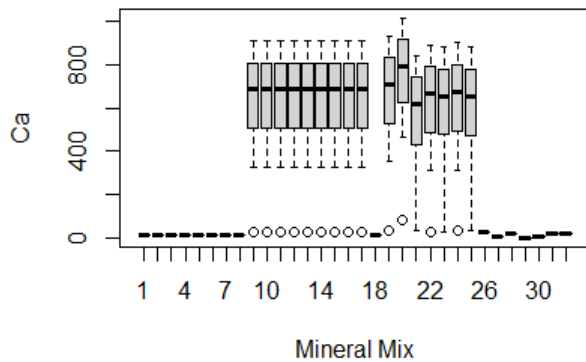
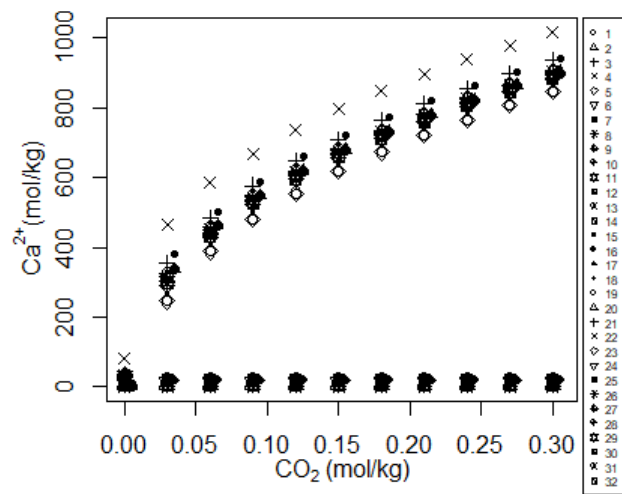
K



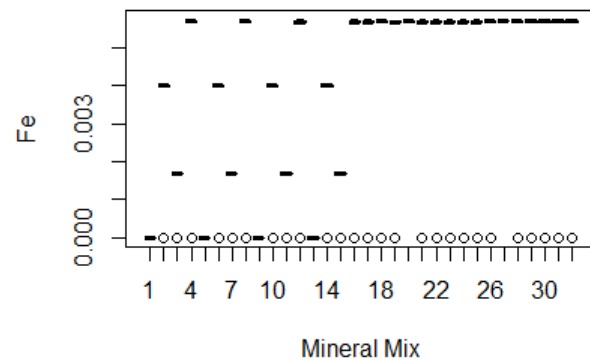
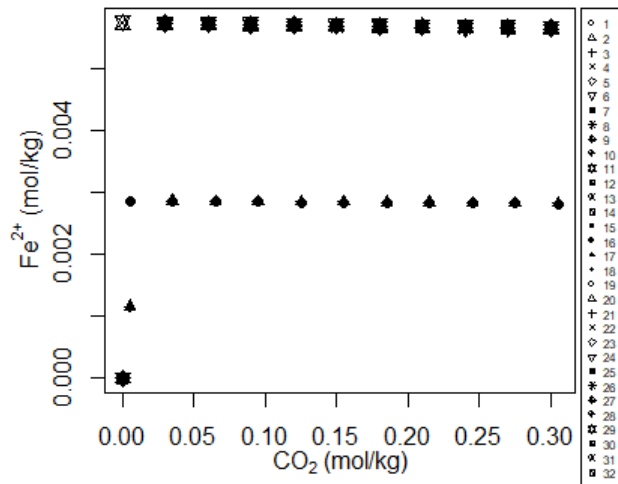
Mg



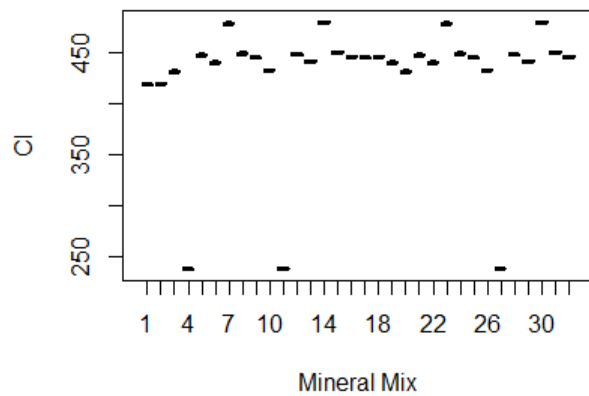
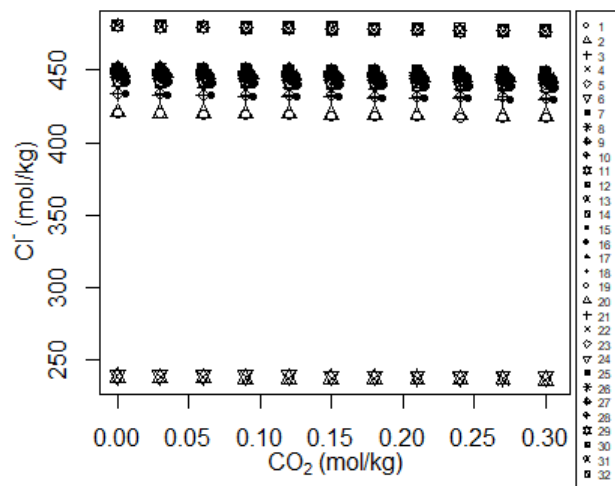
Ca



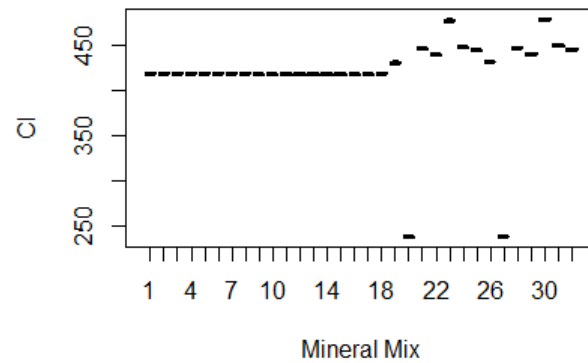
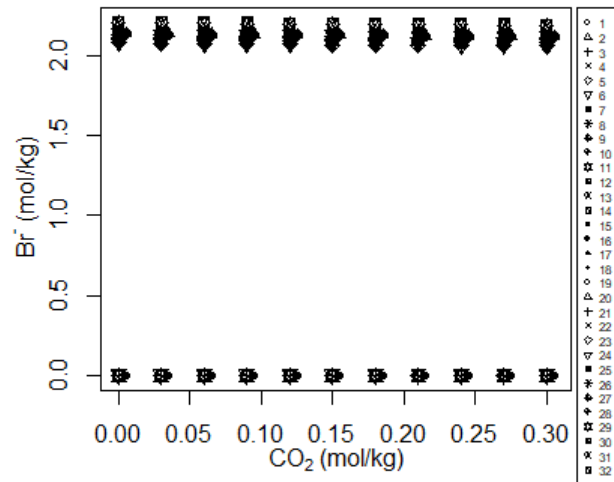
Fe



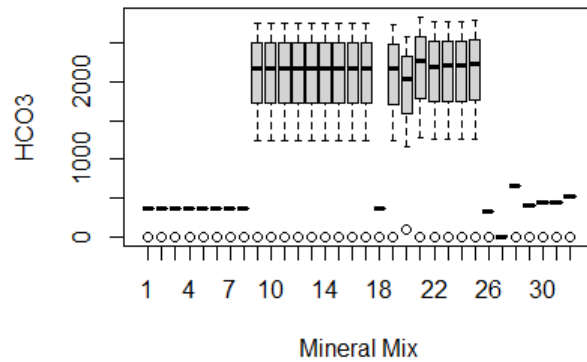
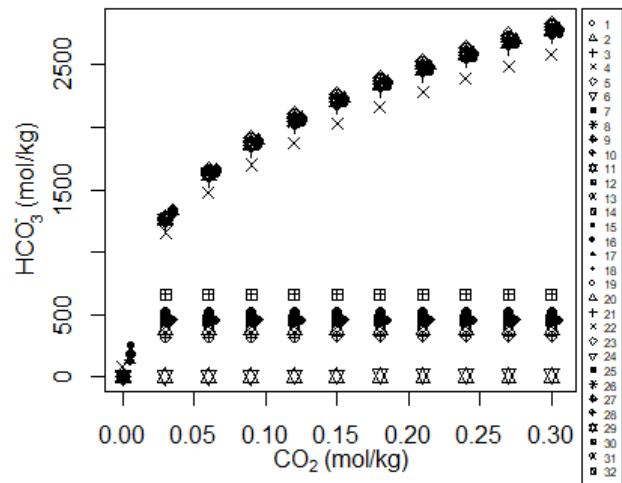
Cl



Br



HCO₃



SO₄

