

IMMC 2022 Greater China Problem B (Autumn) (English 简体 繁體)

# How much CO<sub>2</sub> can we store within the subsurface in China?

#### **Background**

Humans have had an unprecedented impact on Earth's climate system since the mid-20th century, causing undesired global warming of the Earth system. Emission of gases, in particular, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the major driver of this global warming. Carbon emission reduction and carbon sequestration techniques have been proposed to address the negative impacts of carbon emission on climate change. In September 2020, Chinese government has declared that China would strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. Carbon neutrality of a country means that the carbon emissions by this country have been balanced out directly, or indirectly, by carbon saving measures such as replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, planting trees, energy-saving and carbon reduction. Even though it is important to develop and apply carbon emission reduction and clean energy technologies such as natural gas hydrate, geothermal, hot dry rock, nuclear energy, hydropower, wind energy, solar energy, and hydrogen energy, carbon sequestration technologies are also crucial.

In subsurface carbon sequestration, CO<sub>2</sub> is stored in depleted oil and gas reservoirs, deep saline aquifers, and/or unmineable coal seams (Figure 1). Saline aquifers are not typically useful as a source of water for either drinking or agriculture, and thus they are considered for carbon sequestration. In addition, deep saline aquifers are believed to have the greatest storage potential world-wide. Saline aquifers suitable for storage are plentiful in many parts of the world (Figure 2).

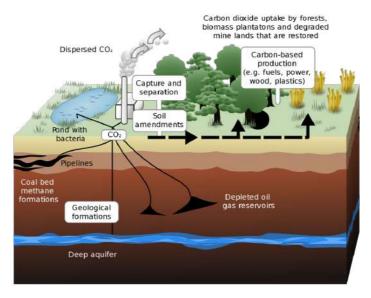


Figure 1. Schematic showing both terrestrial and geological subsurface sequestration of carbon dioxide (adapated from the website https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\_sequestration)

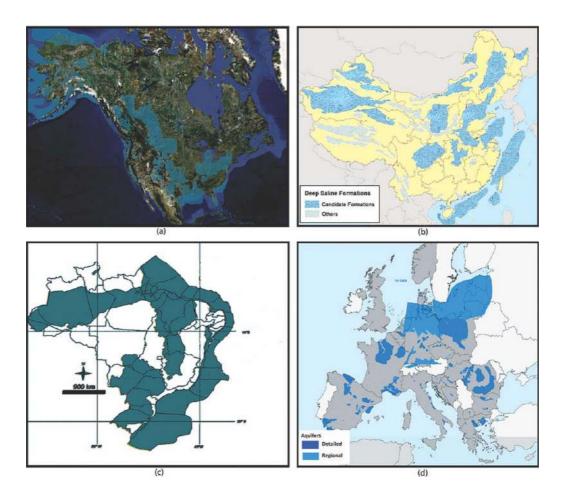


Figure 2: Aquifer distribution in selected regions of the world: (a) USA and Canada, (b) China, (c) Brazil, and (d) the EU

(adapated from the paper "Prospects for Subsurface CO<sub>2</sub> Sequestration" by A. Firoozabadi and P. C. Myint, in AIChE Journal, 2010)

### **Problem Context**

Estimation of  $CO_2$  storage capacity can help us to assess how much  $CO_2$  can be stored in the future and it can also help us to decide whether or not  $CO_2$  storage can provide a feasible method for reducing the levels of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere.

The volumetric approach to estimate CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity is natural and also quite straightforward. In this approach, you first estimate the total pore volume of the aquifer, the proportion of the volume which the CO<sub>2</sub> will occupy within the pore volume, and the density of CO<sub>2</sub> (or the density of CO<sub>2</sub>-water or the density of CO<sub>2</sub>-brine depending on your model). The total pore volume can be calculated from the product of the areal extent, the average thickness and the average porosity of the aquifer. The CO<sub>2</sub> density depends on temperature and pressure, and it can be estimated by searching the corresponding data under a certain pressure and temperature condition typically occurring in the aquifer, or by using an equation of state. The estimation of the proportion of pore

space is trickier and more subjective, sometimes modeled as a product of several factors; but it is clear that the proportion of pore space is positive but less than one if we take account of the fact that  $CO_2$  will not be able to access all of the pore space.

Many deep saline aquifers do not have significant build-up of pressure when injecting  $CO_2$ ; in this case, the previously-discussed volumetric approach seems to be reasonable. Other (relatively smaller) aquifers might raise the pressure when  $CO_2$  is injected; in this case, the compressibility of the pore space and the brine, and the maximum average pressure build-up in the aquifer might both affect  $CO_2$  storage capacity.

#### **Tasks**

- 1. Construct an evaluation model for CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity in China. Search the Internet and the literature to obtain relevant data for your model. Estimate the total CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity within all deep saline aquifers in China.
- 2. For your estimation in Task 1 above (i.e., your estimation of the total CO<sub>2</sub> storage capacity within all deep saline aquifers in China), how sensitive does this estimation depend on the density of CO<sub>2</sub> (or the density of CO<sub>2</sub>-water or the density of CO<sub>2</sub>-brine depending on your model)?
- 3. Based on your model and estimation, please write a popular science essay stating the significance and policy implications of your CO<sub>2</sub> storage model in achieving the goals of "carbon emissions peaking" and "carbon neutrality".

#### **Submission**

Your solution paper should include a 1-page Summary Sheet and a piece of short public science essay. The body cannot exceed 20 pages for a maximum of 23 pages with the Summary Sheet and short essay inclusive. The appendices and references should appear at the end of the paper and do not count towards the 23 pages limit.



IMMC 2022 Greater China Problem B (Autumn) (English 简体 繁體)

# 在中国,我们可以在地下储存多少二氧化碳?

# 背景

自 20 世纪中叶以来,人类活动造成了全球变暖,极大地影响了地球气候系统,这主要是由于二氧化碳 (CO<sub>2</sub>)等温室气体的排放。碳减排和碳封存技术可以有效减少碳排放,从而减少碳排放对环境的负面影响。2020年9月,中国政府宣布中国力争在2030年之前实现"碳达峰",在 2060年之前实现"碳中和"。碳中和是指国家在一定时间内直接或间接产生的二氧化碳或温室气体排放总量,通过使用低碳能源取代化石燃料、植树造林、节能减排等形式,以抵消自身产生的二氧化碳或温室气体排放量,实现正负抵消,达到相对"零排放"。为了实现碳减排,开发和应用清洁能源十分重要,如天然气水合物、地热、热干岩、核能、水电、风能、太阳能和氢能等;同时,碳封存技术也同等重要。

碳的地下封存是将 CO<sub>2</sub> 储存在枯竭的油气层、深部盐水层或不可开采的煤层中(图 1)。盐水层的水通常不能用作饮用水或农业用水,但是可以用于固碳。而且深部盐水层被认为具有世界范围内最大的储存潜力,适合储碳的盐水层在全世界也很常见(图 2)。

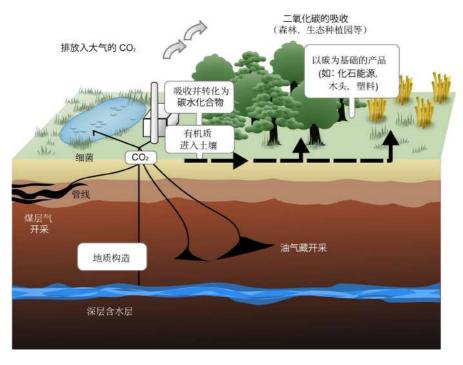


图 1. 二氧化碳的地下封存示意图(取自 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\_sequestration)

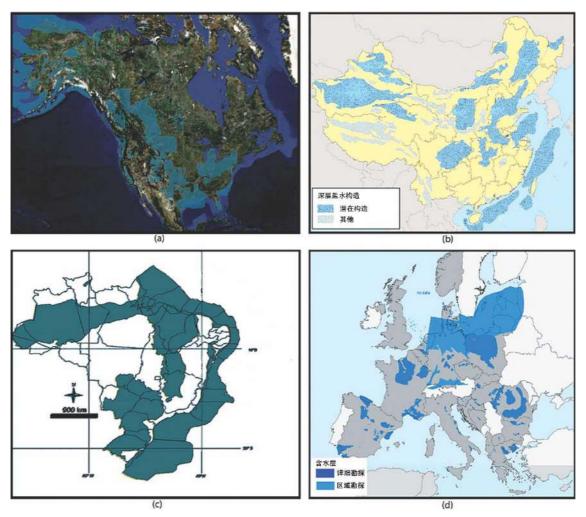


图 2: 世界各地区的含水层分布: (a) 美国和加拿大, (b) 中国, (c) 巴西, (d) 欧盟 (取自 A. Firoozabadi 和 P. C. Myint 的论文"Prospects for Subsurface  $CO_2$  Sequestration", AIChE Journal, 2010 年)

### 问题与情境

估算 CO<sub>2</sub> 的储集能力可以帮助我们评估未来可以存储多少 CO<sub>2</sub>,也可以帮助我们决定二氧化碳的储存是否可以为减少大气中的二氧化碳水平提供一个可行的方法。

体积法是估算二氧化碳储存容量自然而直接的方法。在这种方法中,首先需要计算含水层的总孔隙体积, $CO_2$ 在孔隙体积中所占的比例以及 $CO_2$ 的密度(或 $CO_2$ -水的密度,或 $CO_2$ -盐水的密度,该密度取决于所使用的模型)。总孔隙体积可以由含水层的面积、平均厚度和平均孔隙度的乘积计算得出。 $CO_2$ 密度取决于温度和压力,可以通过检索含水层特定压力和温度条件下的相应数据得到,或使用状态方程来估算。孔隙空间比例的估计比较棘手和主观,受多个因素影响;但有一点很明显, $CO_2$ 是无法占据全部的孔隙空间的,因此孔隙中 $CO_2$ 的比

例为正数,且小于1。

在大部分深部咸水层注入 CO<sub>2</sub>时,内部压力没有明显的增加;在这种情况下,上面提到的体积法是合理的。但是在另外一些(相对较小的)含水层中,内部压力也可能会升高;在这种情况下, 孔隙和盐水会被进一步压缩, CO<sub>2</sub> 储量会受到其压缩性和最大平均压力增加的影响。

## 任务

- 1. 请构建一个中国二氧化碳封存量的估算模型,并且估算中国所有深层盐水层的 CO2 总储量。模型的相关数据可以通过检索互联网和相关文献获得。
- 2. 对于任务 1 中的估算(即对中国所有深部盐水层 CO<sub>2</sub>总储量的估计),分析 CO<sub>2</sub>密度(或 CO<sub>2</sub>水的密度,或 CO<sub>2</sub>-盐水的密度,该密度取决于所使用的模型)的敏感性。
- 3. 请根据你的模型及估算,撰写一篇科普短文,阐述你的二氧化碳封存模型对于实现"碳达峰"和"碳中和"目标的意义及公共政策建议。

# 提交

你团队的解决方案论文应包括 1 页的摘要和 1 篇科普短文。正文不能超过 20 页,含摘要及短文最多 23 页。附录和参考资料应出现在正文之后,不算在 23 页的限制之内。



IMMC 2022 Greater China Problem B (Autumn) (English 简体 繁體)

# 在中國,我們可以在地下儲存多少二氧化碳?

### 背景

自 20 世紀中葉以來,人類活動造成了全球變暖,極大地影響了地球氣候系統,這主要是由於二氧化碳 (CO<sub>2</sub>)等溫室氣體的排放。碳減排和碳封存技術可以有效減少碳排放,從而減少碳排放對環境的負面影響。2020 年 9 月,中國政府宣布中國力爭在 2030 年之前實現"碳達峰",在 2060 年之前實現"碳中和"。碳中和是指國家在一定時間內直接或間接產生的二氧化碳或溫室氣體排放總量,通過使用低碳能源取代化石燃料、植樹造林、節能減排等形式,以抵消自身產生的二氧化碳或溫室氣體排放量,實現正負抵消,達到相對"零排放"。為了實現碳減排,開發和應用清潔能源十分重要,如天然氣水合物、地熱、熱幹巖、核能、水電、風能、太陽能和氫能等;同時,碳封存技術也同等重要。

碳的地下封存是將 CO<sub>2</sub> 儲存在枯竭的油氣層、深部鹽水層或不可開采的煤層中(圖 1)。鹽水層的水通常不能用作飲用水或農業用水,但是可以用於固碳。而且深部鹽水層被認為具有世界範圍內最大的儲存潛力,適合儲碳的鹽水層在全世界也很常見(圖 2)。

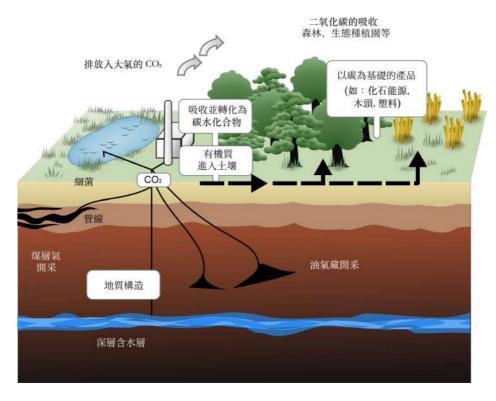


图 1. 二氧化碳的地下封存示意圖(取自 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\_sequestration)

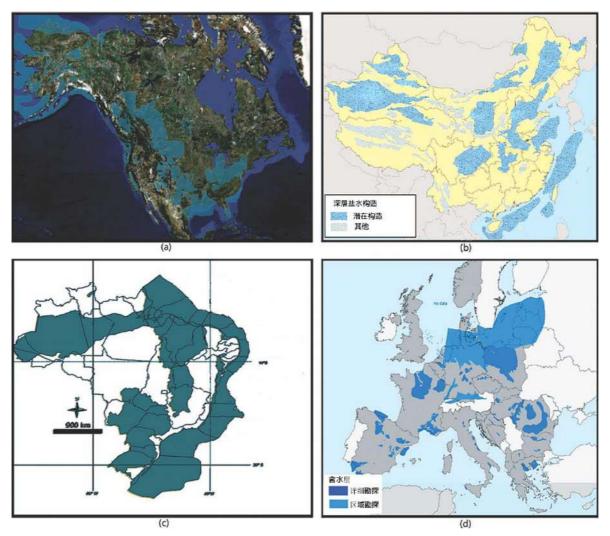


图 2: 世界各地區的含水層分布: (a) 美國和加拿大, (b) 中國, (c) 巴西, (d) 歐盟 (取自 A. Firoozabadi 和 P. C. Myint 的论文"Prospects for Subsurface  $CO_2$  Sequestration", AIChE Journal, 2010 年)

## 問題與情境

估算 CO<sub>2</sub> 的儲集能力可以幫助我們評估未來可以存儲多少 CO<sub>2</sub>,也可以幫助我們決定二氧化碳的儲存是否可以為減少大氣中的二氧化碳水平提供一個可行的方法。

體積法是估算二氧化碳儲存容量自然而直接的方法。在這種方法中,首先需要計算含水層的總孔隙體積, $CO_2$ 在孔隙體積中所占的比例以及 $CO_2$ 的密度(或 $CO_2$ -水的密度,或 $CO_2$ -鹽水的密度,該密度取決於所使用的模型)。總孔隙體積可以由含水層的面積、平均厚度和平均孔隙度的乘積計算得出。 $CO_2$ 密度取決於溫度和壓力,可以通過檢索含水層特定壓力和溫度條件下的相應數據得到,或使用狀態方程來估算。孔隙空間比例的估計比較棘手和主觀,受多個因素影響;但有一點很明顯, $CO_2$ 是無法占據全部的孔隙空間的,因此孔隙中 $CO_2$ 的

比例為正數,且小於1。

在大部分深部鹽水層注入 CO<sub>2</sub>時,內部壓力沒有明顯的增加;在這種情況下,上面提到的體積法是合理的。但是在另外一些(相對較小的)含水層中,內部壓力也可能會升高;在這種情況下, 孔隙和鹽水會被進一步壓縮, CO<sub>2</sub> 儲量會受到其壓縮性和最大平均壓力增加的影響。

## 任務

- 1. 請構建一個中國二氧化碳封存量的估算模型,並且估算中國深部鹽水層的 CO<sub>2</sub>總儲量。 模型的相關數據可以通過檢索互聯網和相關文獻獲得。
- 2. 對於任務 1 中的估算(即對中國所有深部鹽水層 CO<sub>2</sub>總儲量的估計),分析 CO<sub>2</sub>密度(或 CO<sub>2</sub>-水的密度,或 CO<sub>2</sub>-鹽水的密度,該密度取決於所使用的模型)的敏感性。
- 3. 請根據你的模型及估算,撰寫一篇科普短文,闡述你的二氧化碳封存模型對於實現"碳達峰"和"碳中和"目標的意義及公共政策建議。

# 提交

你團隊的解決方案論文應包括 1 頁的摘要和 1 篇科普短文。正文不能超過 20 頁,含摘要及短文最多 23 頁。附錄和參考資料應出現在正文之後,不算在 23 頁的限制之內。