

The goal was to demonstrate the application and feasibility of aPC-based methods in the context of realistic CO₂ injection scenarios. We implemented this method for a typical CO₂ storage problem. Four uncertain parameters with assumed uncertainty distributions are considered. Injection and early migration of CO₂ is studied. The flow sensitivity to geological heterogeneity is evaluated and quantified using Sobol indices. Risk analysis is performed on the defined problem. Flow dynamics are discussed and corresponding interpretations and explanations of the sensitivity and risk results are provided.

The performance of the aPC method has been satisfactory. It is very fast, compared to other stochastic methods for low-parametric systems, and this speed-up allows us to perform an extensive Monte-Carlo process on the aPC-based response surface to calculate the probability of response values throughout simulation time. This study was a first-time application of the aPC to study a realistically complex type of geological structural uncertainty. Based on our assessment of aPC feasibility, we can strongly encourage the use of aPC for sensitivity and risk analysis in complex situations.

The results have shown that the most influential parameter for most of the responses is the aggradation angle of deposition layers of the considered shallow-marine aquifer. The least relevant parameter is the regional groundwater effect, especially during injection time. We re-iterate that the aim of this study was to demonstrate a practice of using arbitrary polynomial chaos expansion for the sensitivity and risk analysis of a typical CO₂ storage problem. Since, in general, the levels of involved input uncertainty are not unique, the physical and geological conclusions of this study are restricted to the probability assumptions taken here and should not be generalized to systems that are very different.

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