

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The Motivation for Geologic CO ₂ Storage	1
1.2	CCS Overview	3
1.2.1	Storage Mechanisms	3
1.2.2	Unmineable Coal Seams	5
1.2.3	Depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs	5
1.2.4	Saline Aquifers	5
1.3	Thesis Overview	6
1.3.1	Geomechanical Deformation	6
1.3.2	Microseismic Monitoring	7
1.3.3	Thesis Outline	8
	References	9
2	The Weyburn CO₂ Injection Project	11
2.1	Introduction to Weyburn	11
2.2	Weyburn Geological Setting	12
2.2.1	History of the Weyburn Field	13
2.3	Microseismic Monitoring at Weyburn	15
2.3.1	System Setup	15
2.4	Event Timing and Locations	17
2.4.1	Phase IB	17
2.4.2	Phase II	23
2.5	Discussion	24
2.6	Summary	25
	References	26
3	Inverting Shear-Wave Splitting Measurements for Fracture Properties	27
3.1	Introduction	27
3.2	Inversion Method	29

3.2.1	Model Building Using Rock Physics	29
3.2.2	Inversion for Rock Physics Properties	36
3.3	Synthetic Testing of Inversion Method	38
3.3.1	Sensitivity of δ and γ	39
3.4	SWS Measurements at Weyburn	43
3.4.1	Method	43
3.4.2	Splitting Results for Weyburn	45
3.4.3	Phase IB	46
3.4.4	Modelling Two Fracture Sets	48
3.4.5	Phase II	48
3.5	Discussion	51
3.6	Summary	51
	References	52
4	A Comparison of Microseismic Monitoring of Fracture Stimulation Due to Water Versus CO₂ Injection	55
4.1	Introduction	55
4.1.1	Field Background and Description	56
4.2	Event Locations	57
4.2.1	Water Injection	58
4.2.2	CO ₂ Injection	59
4.3	Event Magnitudes	62
4.4	Shear Wave Splitting	64
4.4.1	Splitting Measurements	65
4.5	Initial S-Wave Polarisation	66
4.5.1	Modelling the Effects of θ_S On Splitting Analysis	69
4.5.2	θ_S and ψ in the Data	72
4.6	Interpretation of Shear Wave Splitting Results	73
4.6.1	Synthetic Tests	73
4.6.2	Interpretation of Datasets	76
4.7	Discussion	79
4.8	Summary	80
	References	81
5	Geomechanical Simulation of CO₂ Injection	83
5.1	Introduction	83
5.2	Effective Stress and Stress Path Parameters	83
5.2.1	Mean and Differential Stress	84
5.2.2	Mohr Circles	84
5.2.3	Stress Path Parameters	85
5.3	Numerical Modelling	86
5.3.1	Fluid-Flow Simulation	87
5.3.2	Geomechanical Modelling	87

5.3.3	Coupling of Fluid-Flow and Geomechanical Simulations	89
5.3.4	Workflow	90
5.3.5	Simple Representative Models	92
5.4	Results	94
5.4.1	Stress Arching	96
5.4.2	Fracture Potential	99
5.4.3	Shallower Reservoirs	101
5.5	Surface Uplift	101
5.6	Summary	104
	References	104
6	Generating Anisotropic Seismic Models Based on Geomechanical Simulation	107
6.1	Introduction	107
6.2	Stress-Sensitive Rock Physics Models	108
6.2.1	3rd-Order Nonlinear Elasticity	108
6.3	A Micro-Structural Model for Nonlinear Elasticity	110
6.3.1	Theoretical Background	111
6.3.2	Inversion for Scalar Cracks	113
6.3.3	Joint Inversion for α and β	114
6.3.4	Effects of Stress on Crack Density	121
6.3.5	Results	123
6.3.6	Anisotropy	123
6.3.7	Coring and Damage	127
6.4	Calibration with Literature Data	129
6.5	Comparison of Rock Physics Models	133
6.6	Summary	136
	References	137
7	Forward Modelling of Seismic Properties	141
7.1	Introduction	141
7.2	<i>SeisModel</i> [®] Workflow	142
7.2.1	Input of Results and Parameters	142
7.2.2	Initialisation	142
7.2.3	Stress Dependence	144
7.2.4	Fractures	145
7.2.5	Fluid Substitution	145
7.2.6	<i>SeisModel</i> [®] Output	146
7.3	Results From Simple Geomechanical Models	146
7.3.1	Overburden Travel Time-Shifts	146
7.3.2	Shear Wave Splitting	148
7.4	Summary	150
	References	150

8 Linking Geomechanical Modelling and Microseismic Observations at Weyburn. 153

8.1 Introduction 153

8.2 Model Description 154

8.2.1 Fluid Flow Simulation 155

8.2.2 Geomechanical Model 155

8.2.3 Material Properties 157

8.2.4 Rock Physics Properties. 157

8.3 Results 158

8.3.1 Stress Evolution and Failure. 158

8.3.2 Seismic Properties. 160

8.4 A Softer Reservoir? 162

8.4.1 Heterogeneity 165

8.5 Discussion 168

8.6 Summary 169

References 170

9 Conclusions 171

9.1 Novel Contributions. 175

9.2 Future Work 176

References 177

Appendix: In Support of Carbon Capture and Stroage. 179