



## Building Confidence on Simulation of Salt Caverns for Energy Storage

Multiscale Experimental-Numerical, from Lab to Field

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*B. Sluys (TUD), M. Houben (Shell), K. Bisdorn (Shell), A. Linden (Shell), K. de Borst (shell)*

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Hengelo 1991

**A cavern 'structure' collapse → Sinkhole of 30m wide, 4.5m deep**

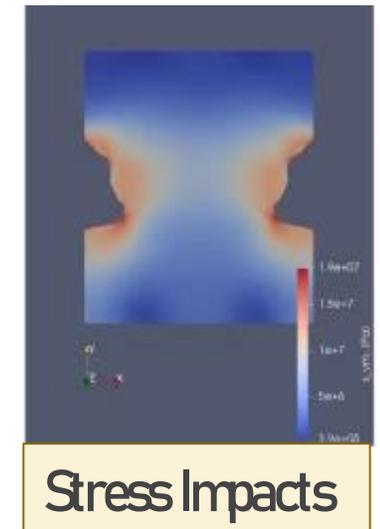
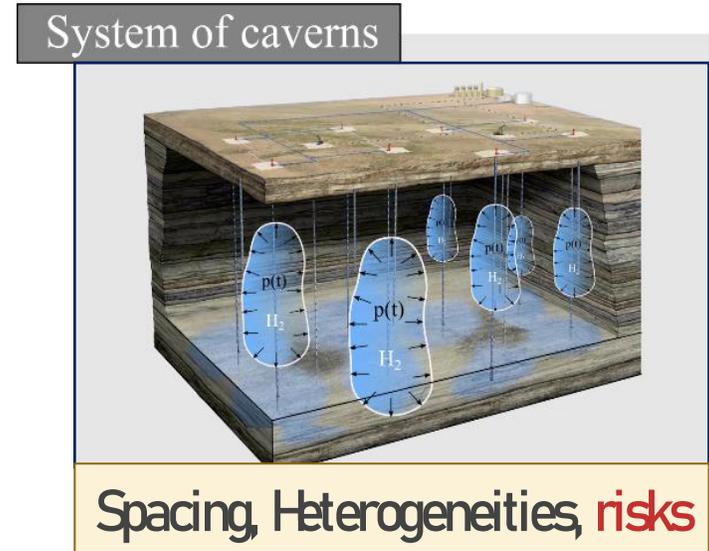
Caves&Waves Project (Naomi van den Ameele et al.): risks of scaling up caverns for UHS

**Scaling up salt caverns  
for energy storage:  
how safe & confident can/should we  
be?**



# Salt Caverns for (H2) Cyclic Energy Storage: **system caverns**

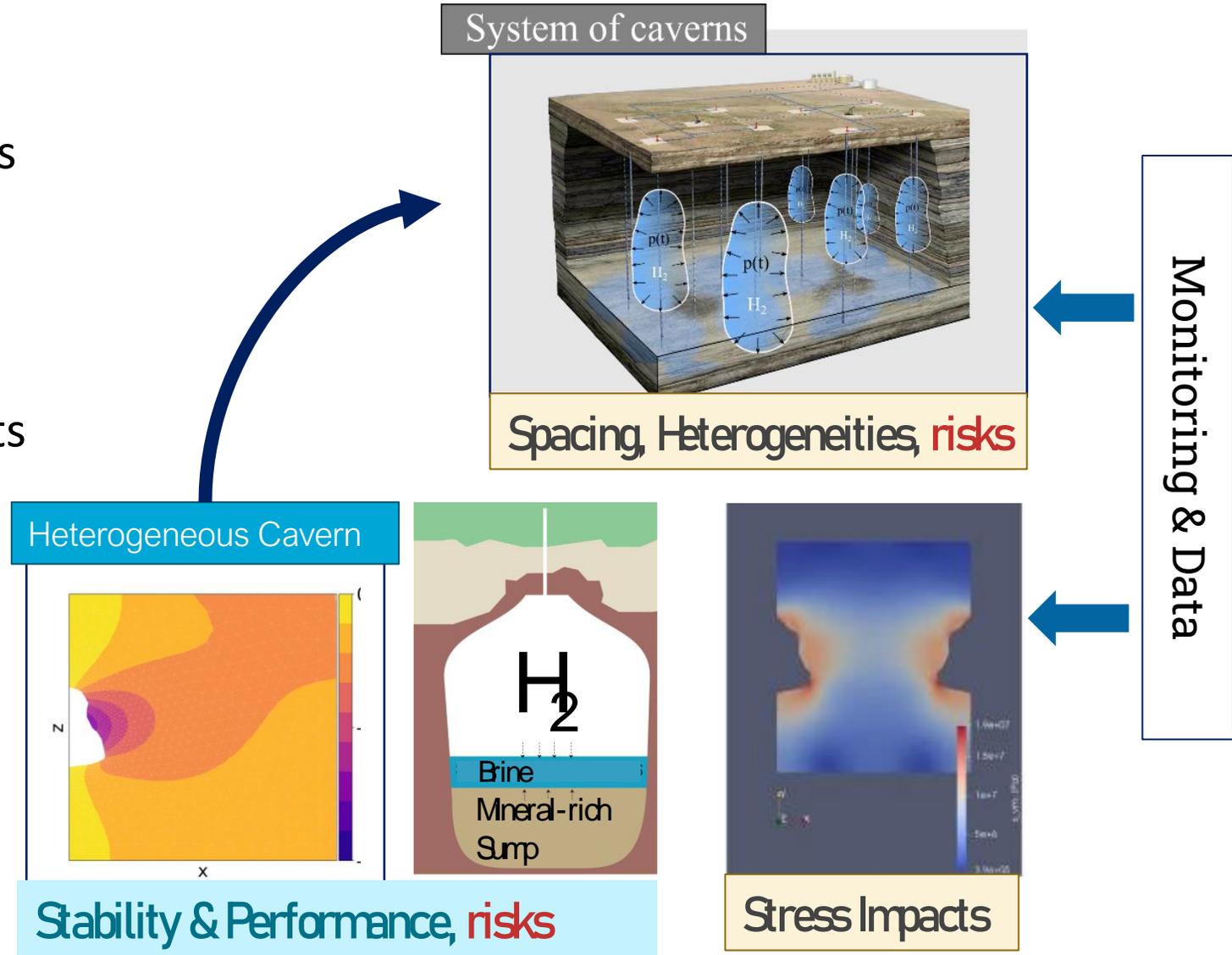
- Dome-scale heterogeneities / caverns stability
- Nearby faults & weakness zones & subsidence
- System Cyclic Operations
- Caverns connectivity
- Scaled up 'risks'
- Monitoring, Uncertainty reduction
- Design: Spacing, Volumes, ...
- ...



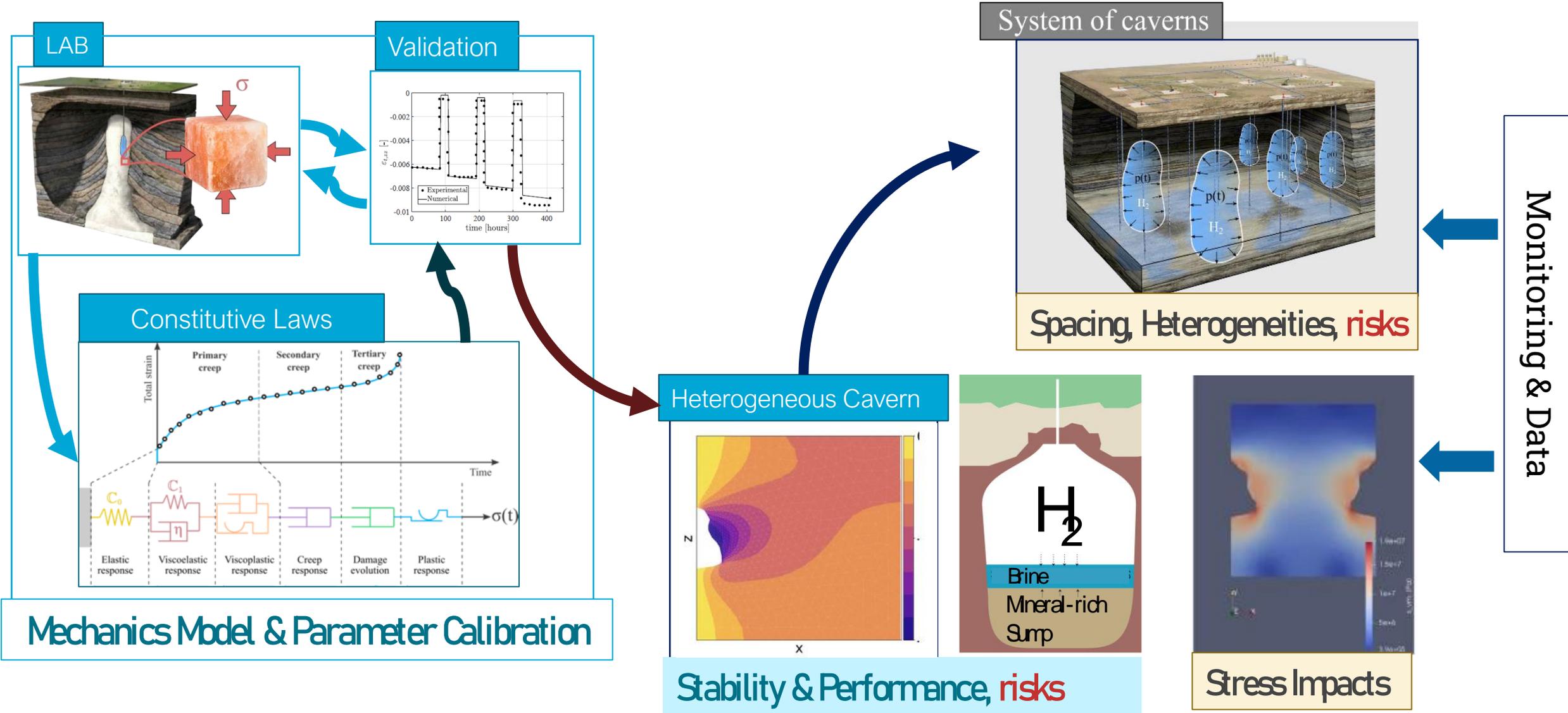
Monitoring & Data

# Salt Caverns for (H<sub>2</sub>) Cyclic Energy Storage: 1 cavern

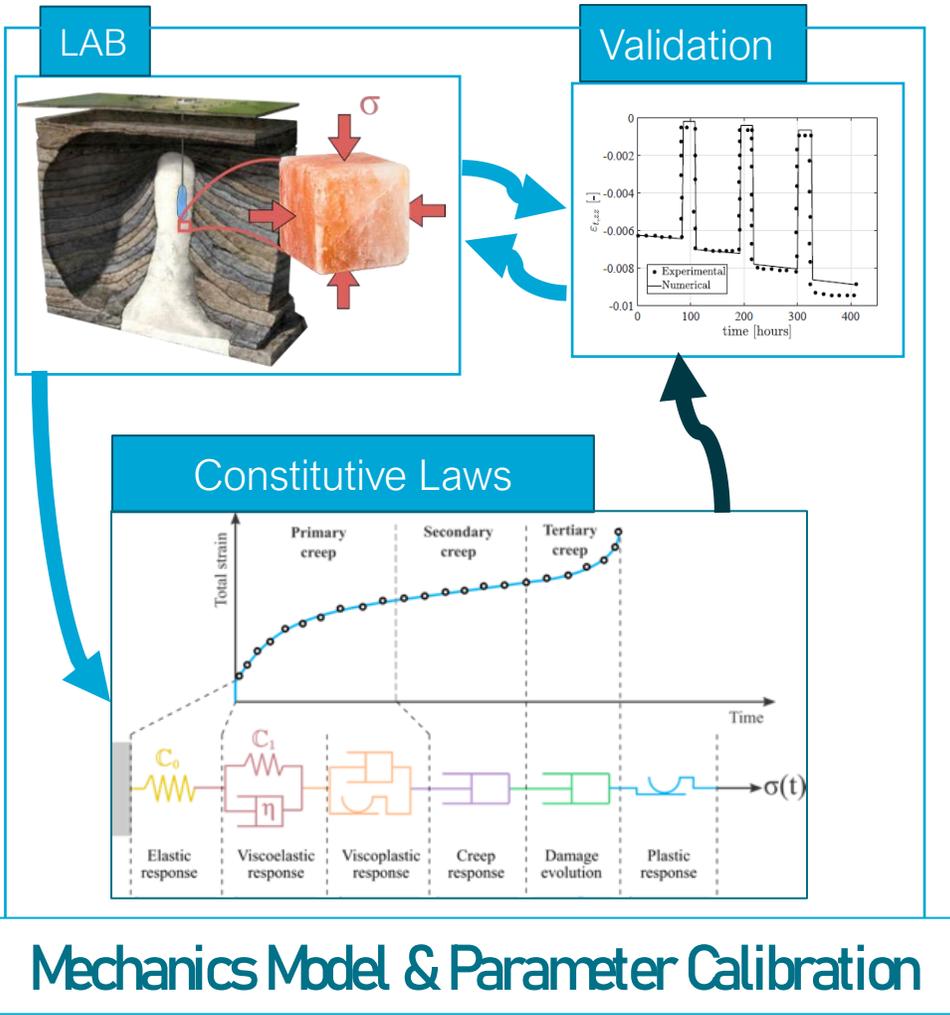
- Heterogeneities, complex geometries
- Structural stability, subsidence, ...
- Near well-bore stability
- Bio-geochemistry & exposure impacts  
(new or old for H<sub>2</sub>)
- Abandonment & Monitoring, ...



# Salt Caverns for (H2) Cyclic Energy Storage: rock mechanics

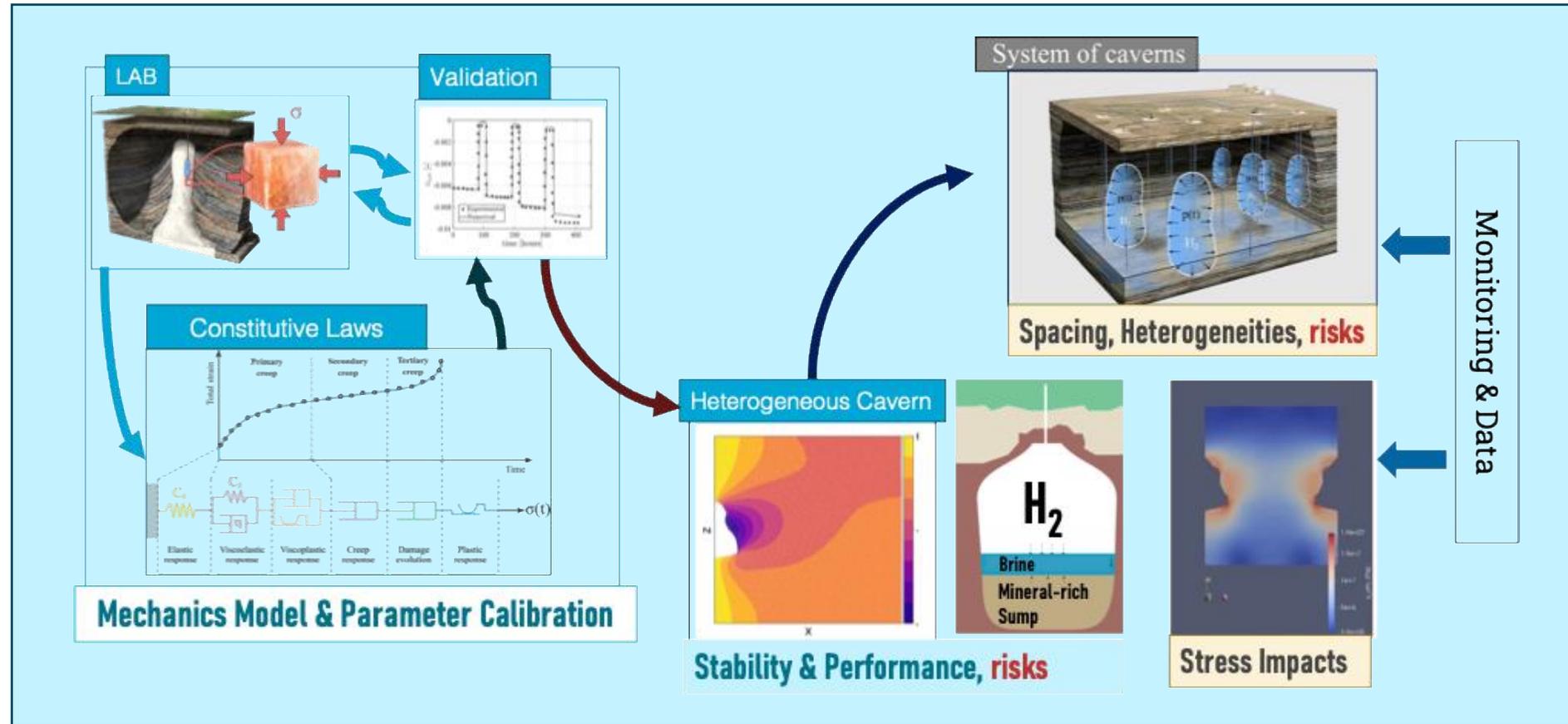


# Salt Caverns for (H2) Cyclic Energy Storage: rock mechanics



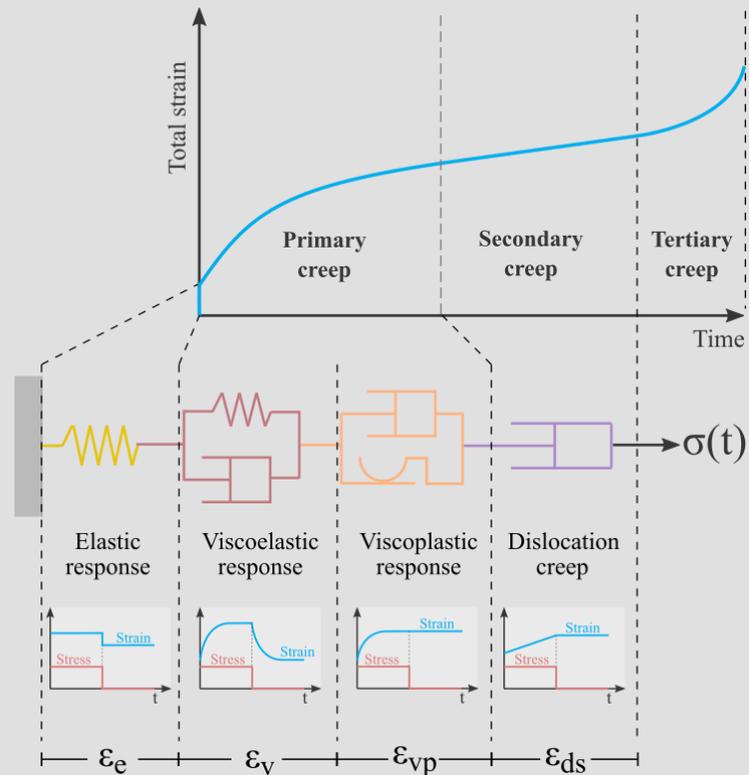
- Model selection & Parameter Calibration
- Challenges:
  - High quality 'relevant' experiments
  - Heterogeneous rocks?
  - Many models, or yet a new one?
  - Full-physics contains many mechanisms!
  - Too many parameters to calibrate, how to be predictable?

# Salt Caverns for (H2) Cyclic Energy Storage: rock mechanics

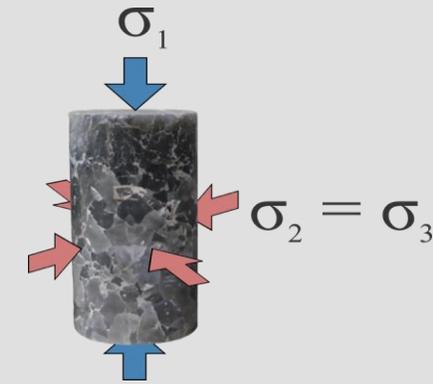


Open-Source Simulator for forward & inverse modeling:  
Calibrate, Simulate, Optimize

## Constitutive model



## Rock Under Load

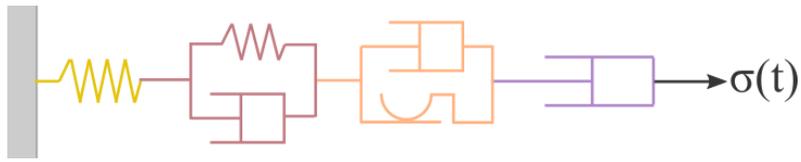


$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

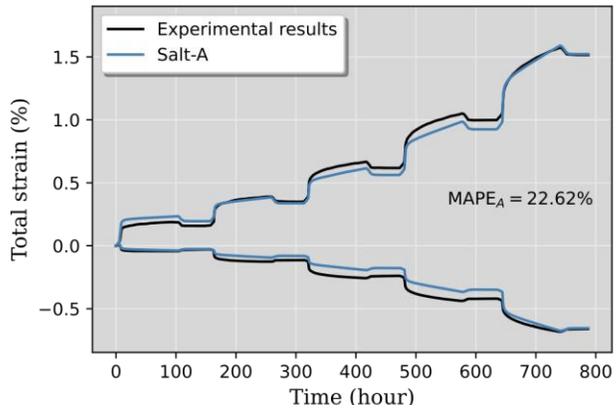
$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon} = F(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \mathbf{k})$$

Hermínio Tasiñafó Honório et al. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrmms.2024.105922> (2024)

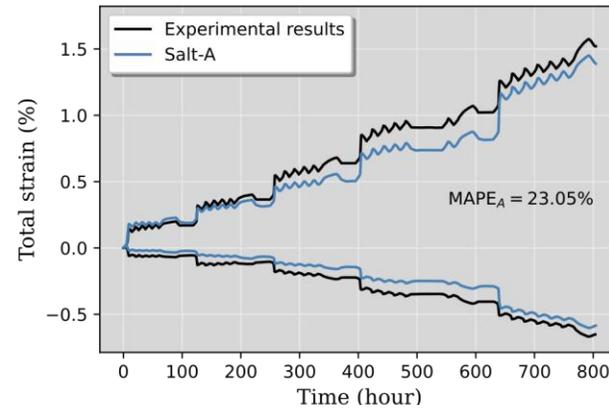
# Model Selection & Parameter Calibration



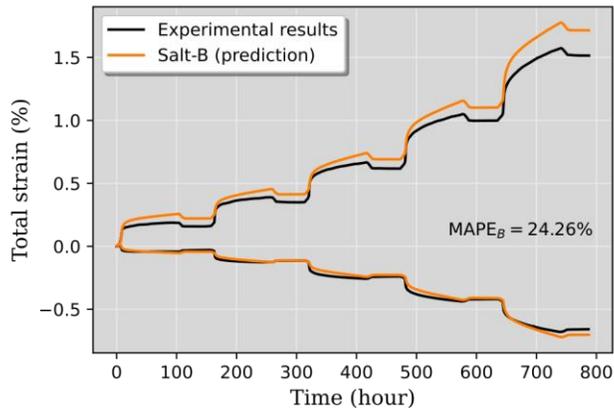
Test1



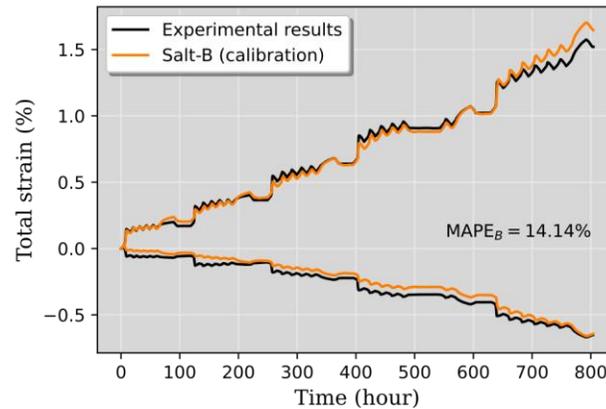
Test2



Test1



Test2

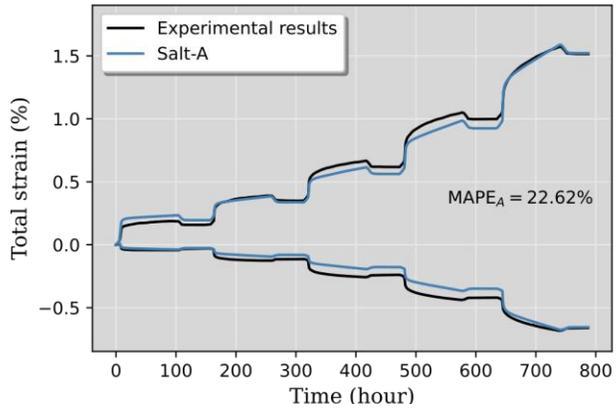


- 2 experiments on similar samples!
- Calibrating **k** with Test1 is not predictive for Test 2! & vice versa
- How do we reliably calibrate **k**?

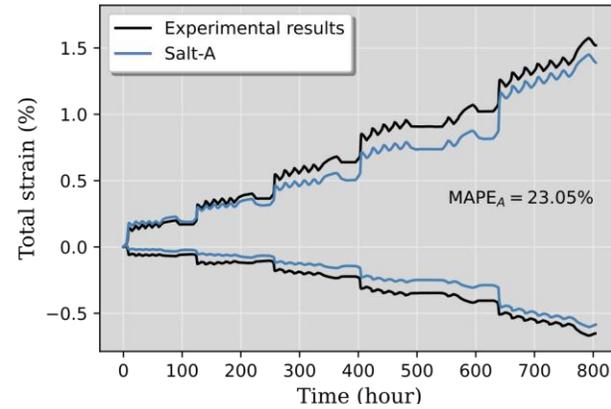
# Model Selection & Parameter Calibration



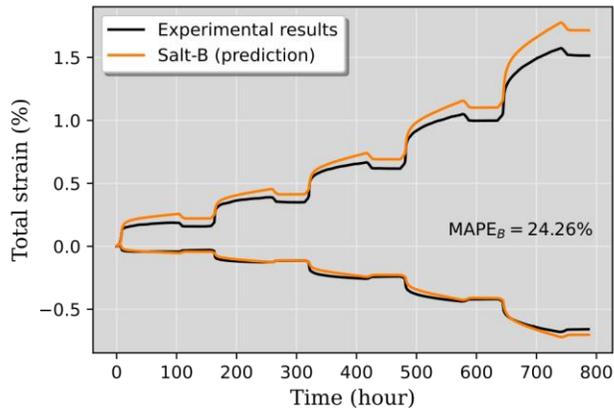
Test1



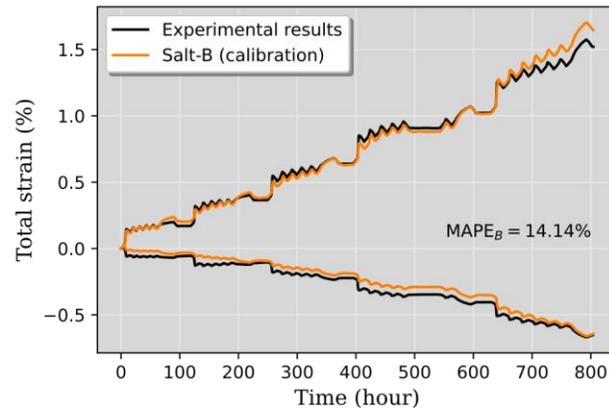
Test2



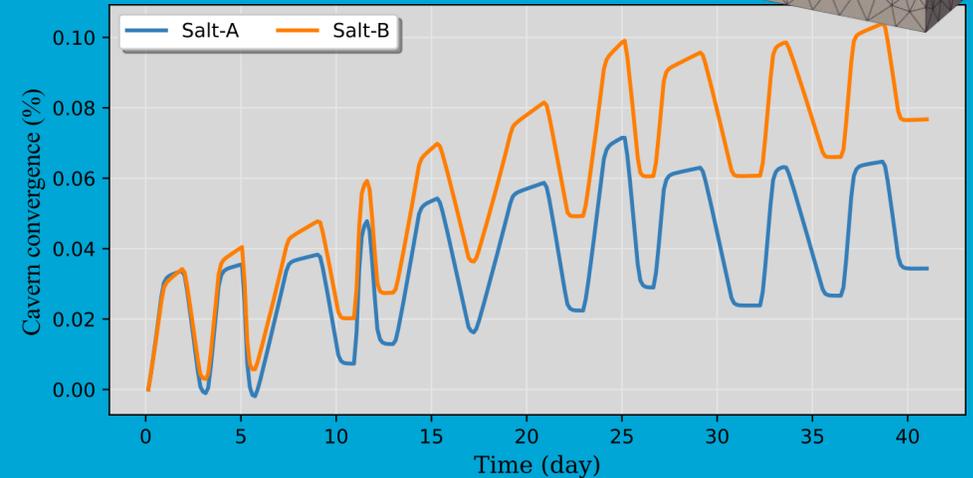
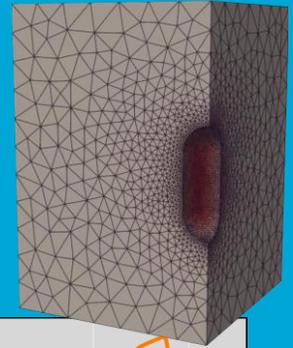
Test1



Test2

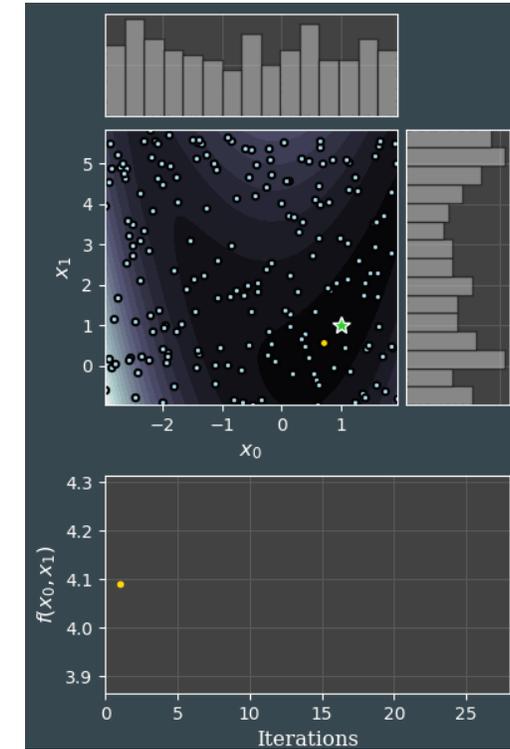
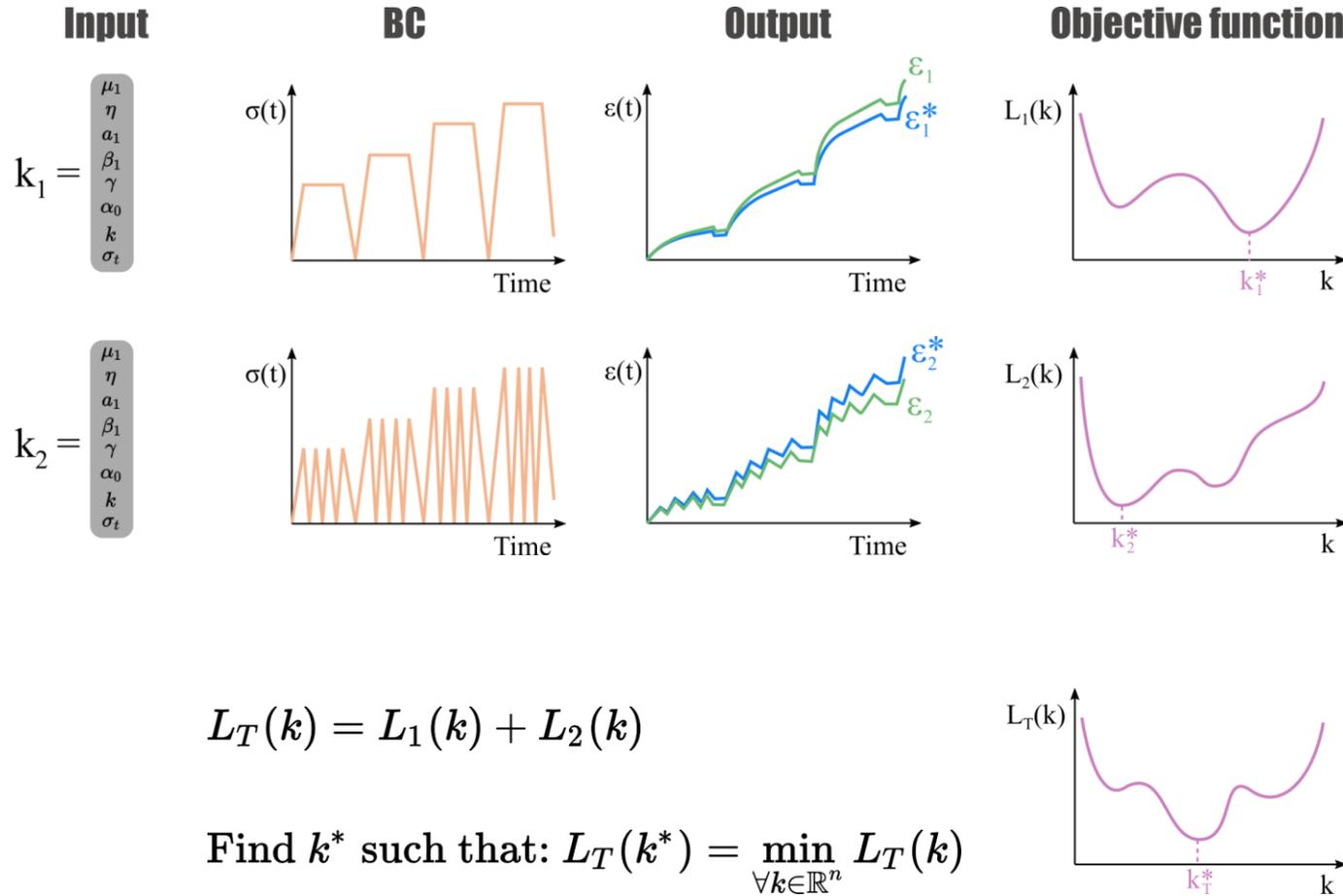


- 2 experiments on similar samples!
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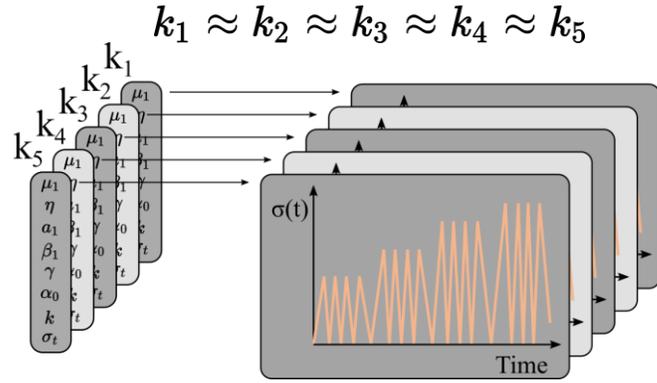
**Significantly different results at cavern scale!**

# Model Selection & Parameter Calibration



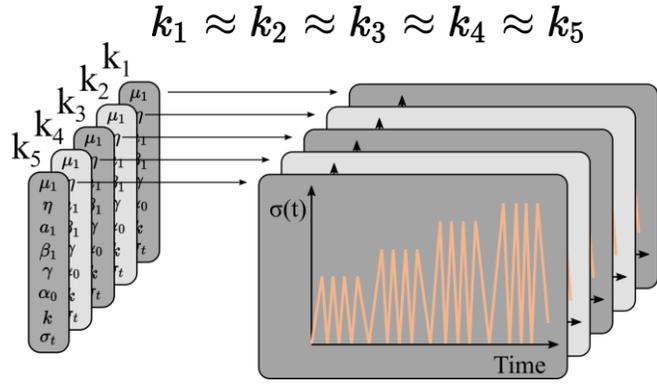
Particle Swarm Optimization

# Test: Model known, parameters uncertain

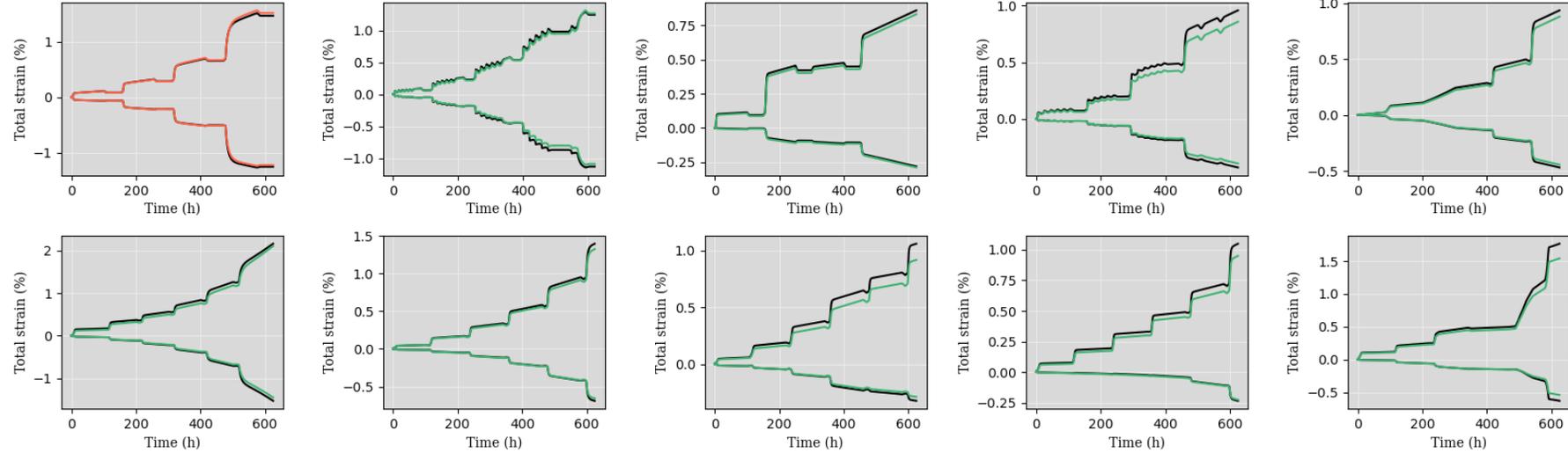


Model uncertainty: **NO**  
Property uncertainties: **YES**

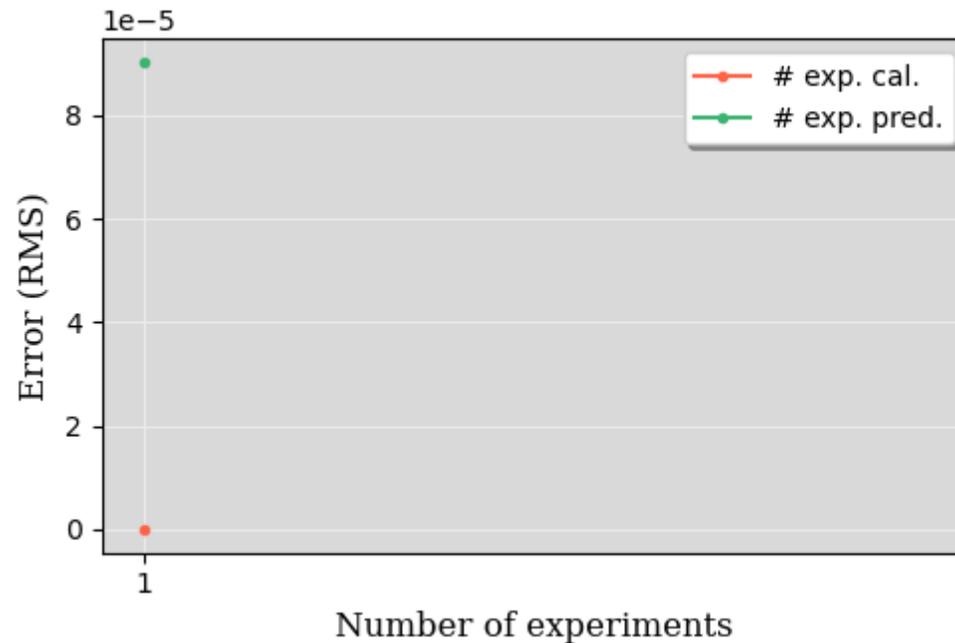
# Test: Model known, parameters uncertain



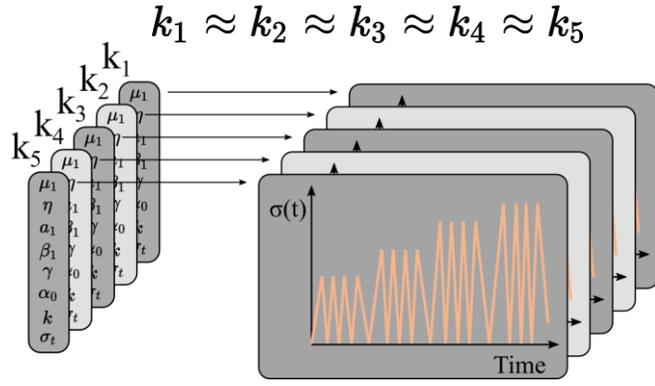
Model uncertainty: **NO**  
 Property uncertainties: **YES**



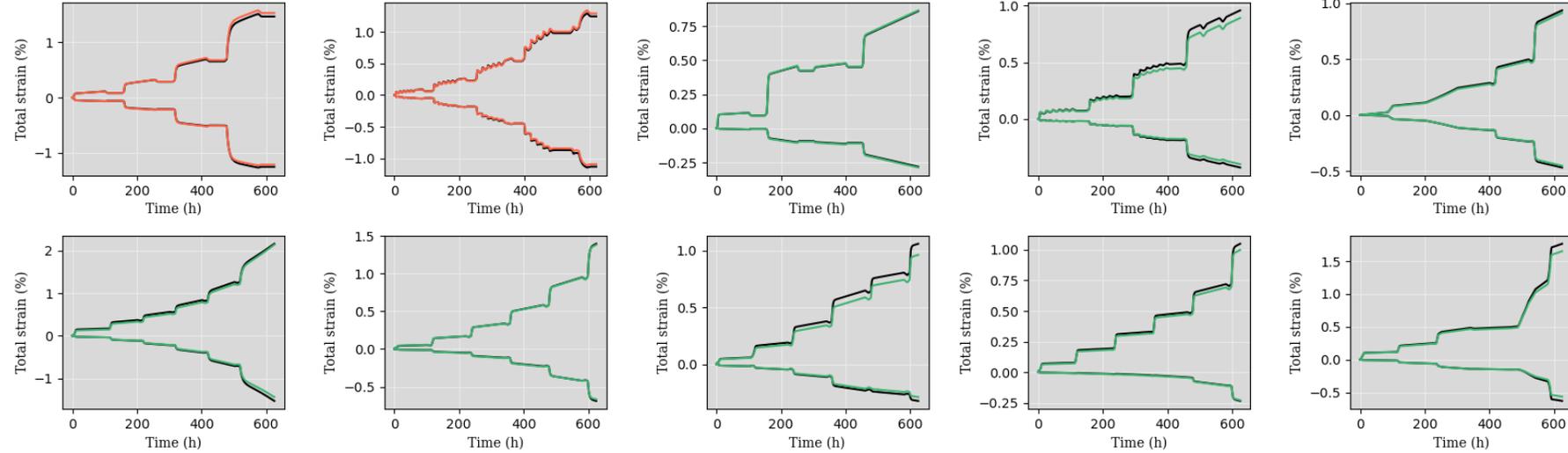
**Calibration**      **Prediction**



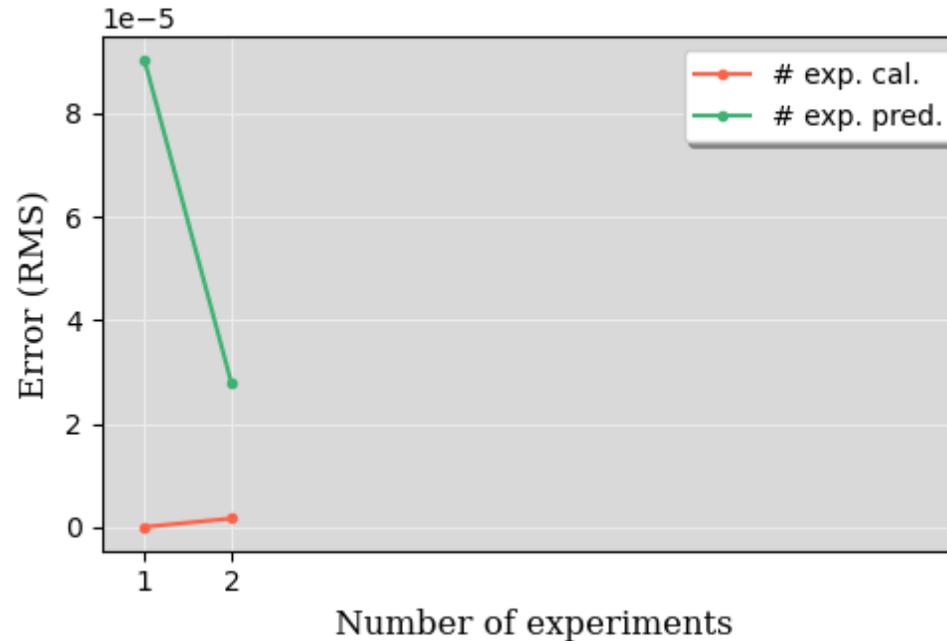
# Test: Model known, parameters uncertain



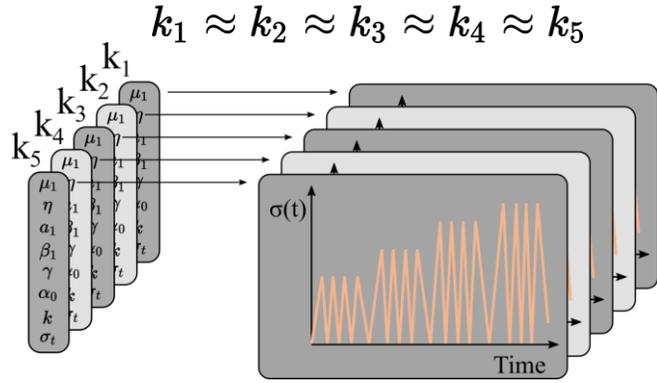
Model uncertainty: **NO**  
 Property uncertainties: **YES**



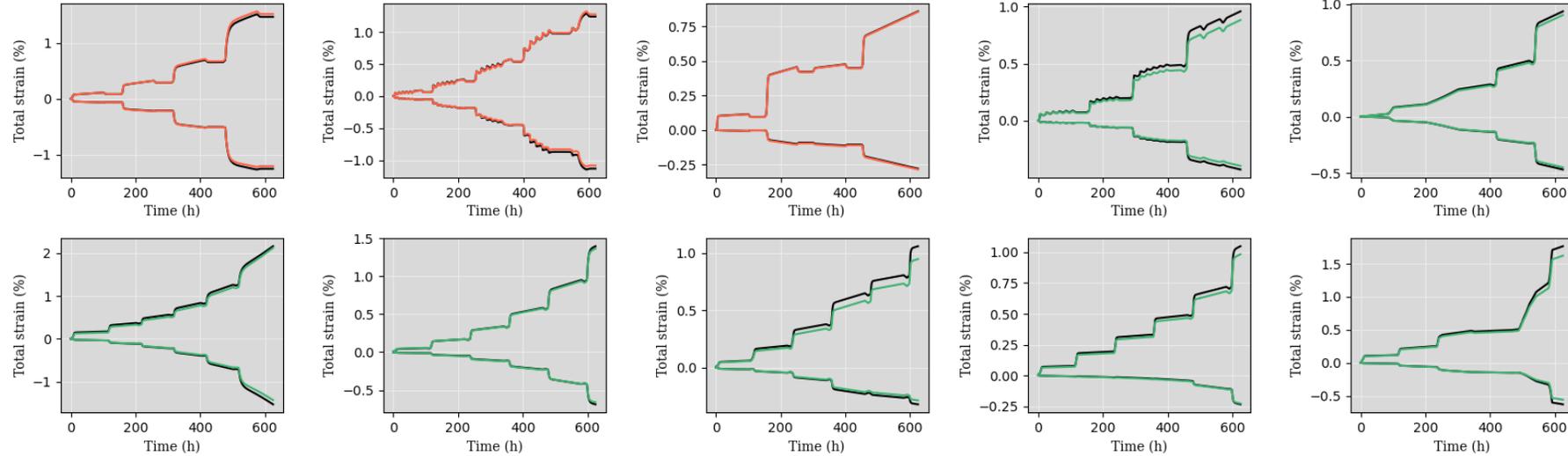
**Calibration**      **Prediction**



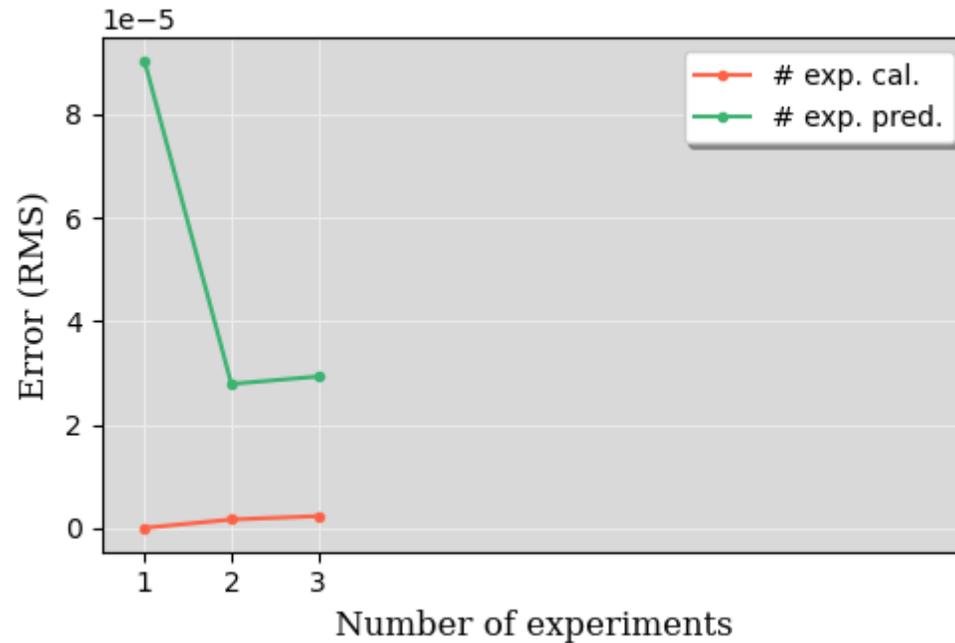
# Test: Model known, parameters uncertain



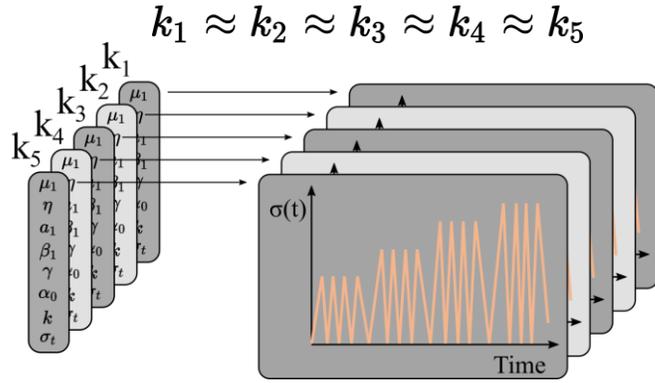
Model uncertainty: **NO**  
 Property uncertainties: **YES**



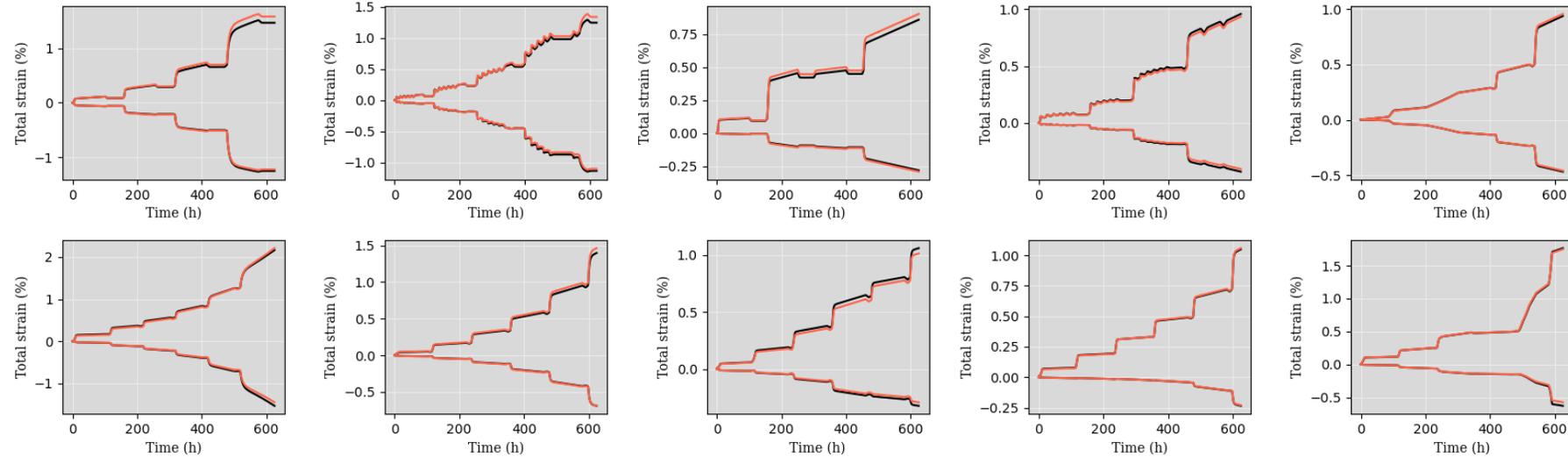
**Calibration**      **Prediction**



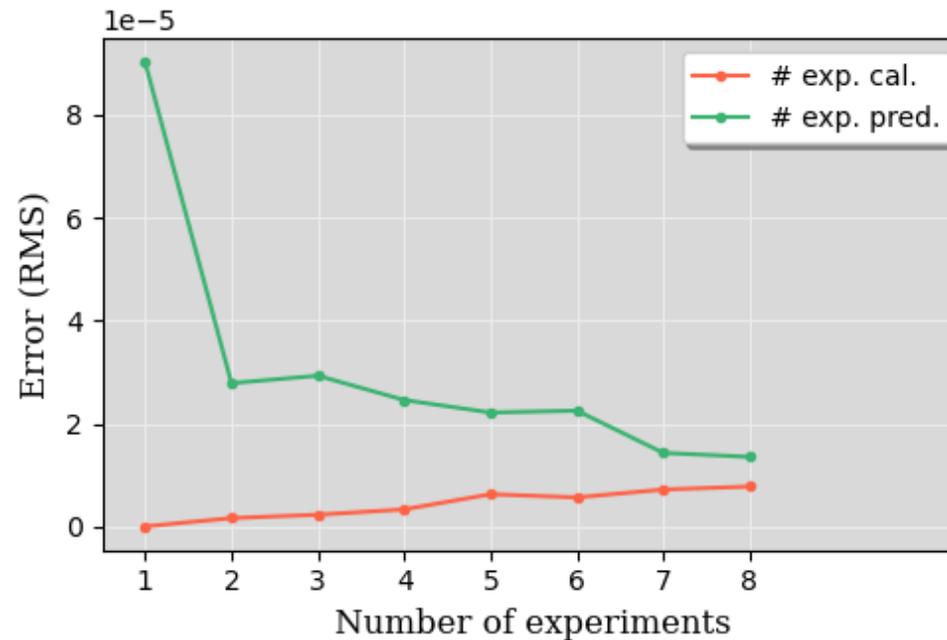
# Test: Model known, parameters uncertain



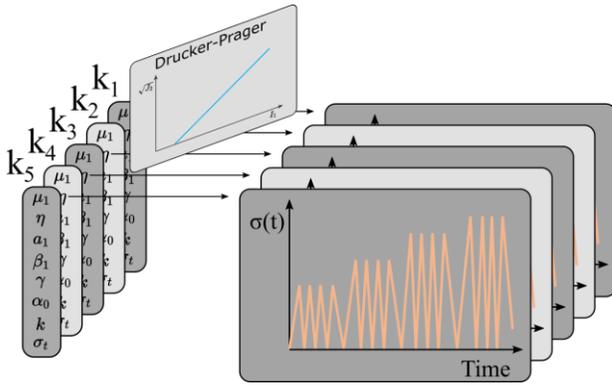
Model uncertainty: **NO**  
 Property uncertainties: **YES**



**Calibration**      **Prediction**



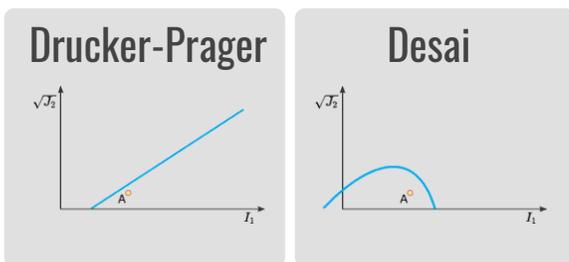
# Test: Model **unknown**, parameters uncertain



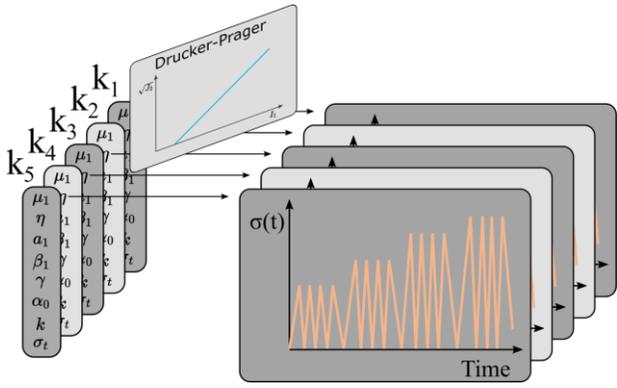
Model uncertainty: **YES**  
Property uncertainties: **YES**

  
**Calibration**

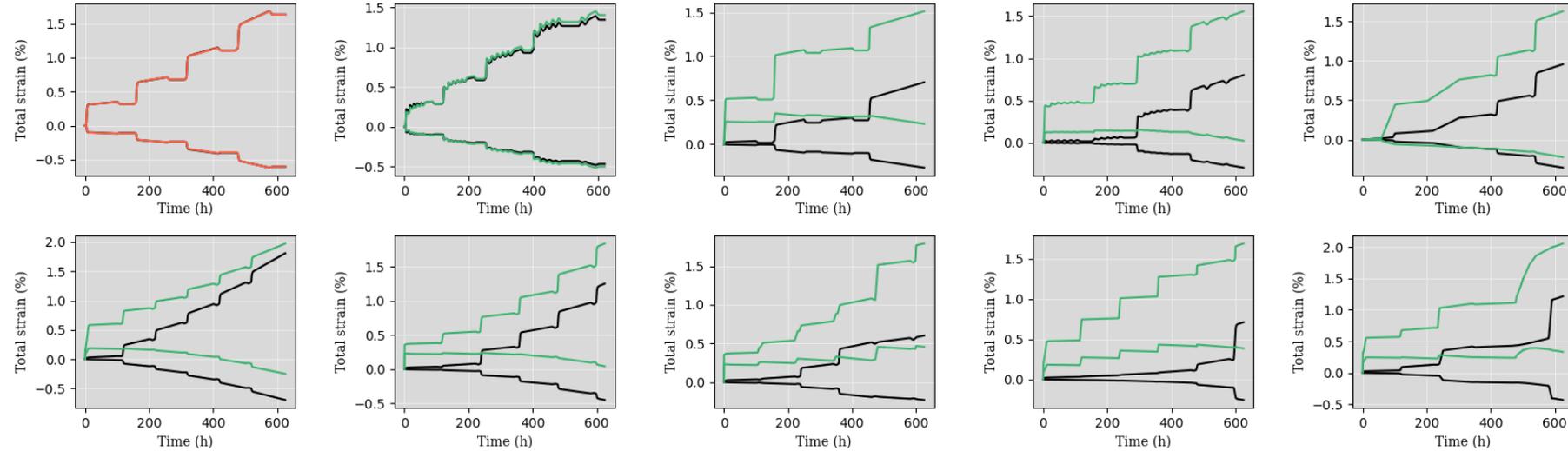
  
**Prediction**



# Test: Model **unknown**, parameters uncertain

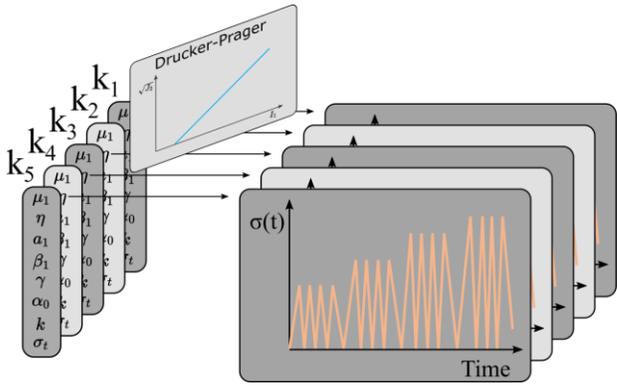


Model uncertainty: **YES**  
 Property uncertainties: **YES**

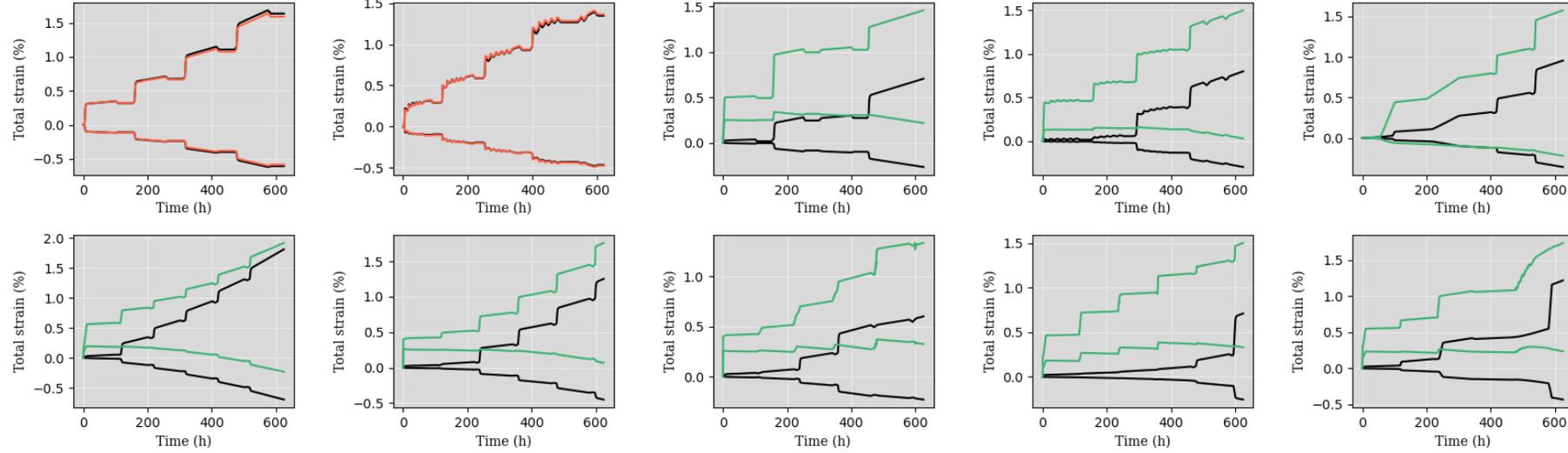


**Calibration**      **Prediction**

# Test: Model **unknown**, parameters uncertain

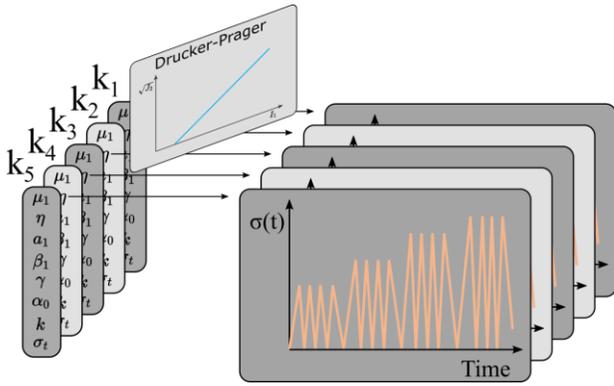


Model uncertainty: **YES**  
 Property uncertainties: **YES**

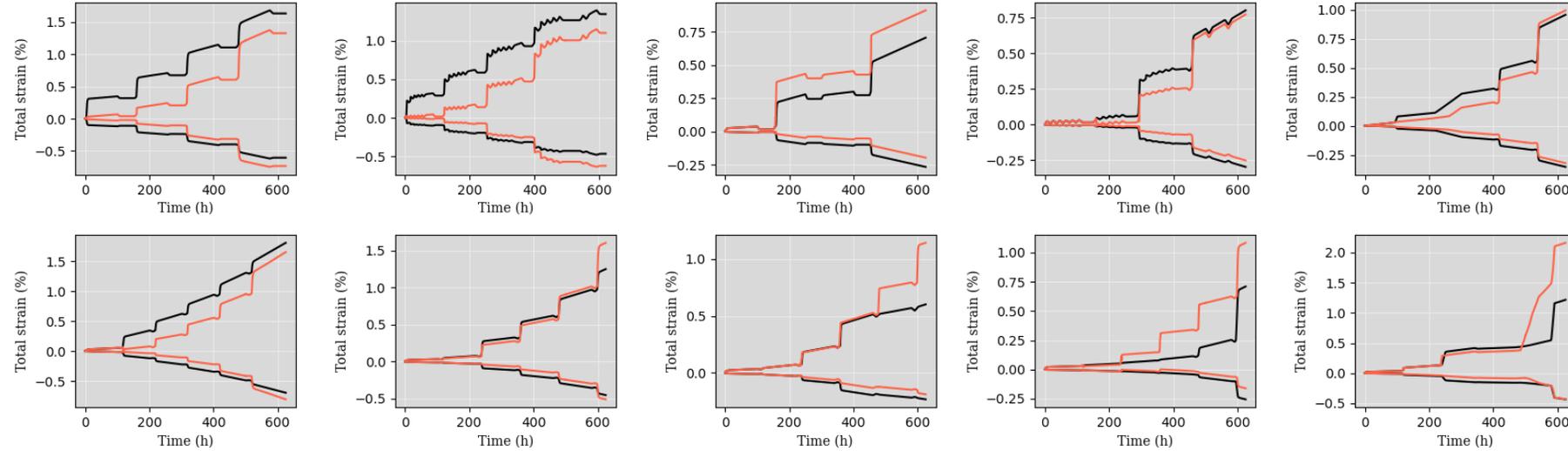


Calibration Prediction

# Test: Model **unknown**, parameters uncertain

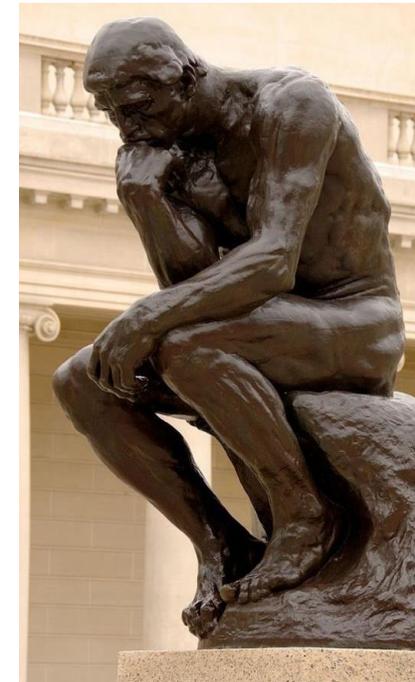


Model uncertainty: **YES**  
Property uncertainties: **YES**

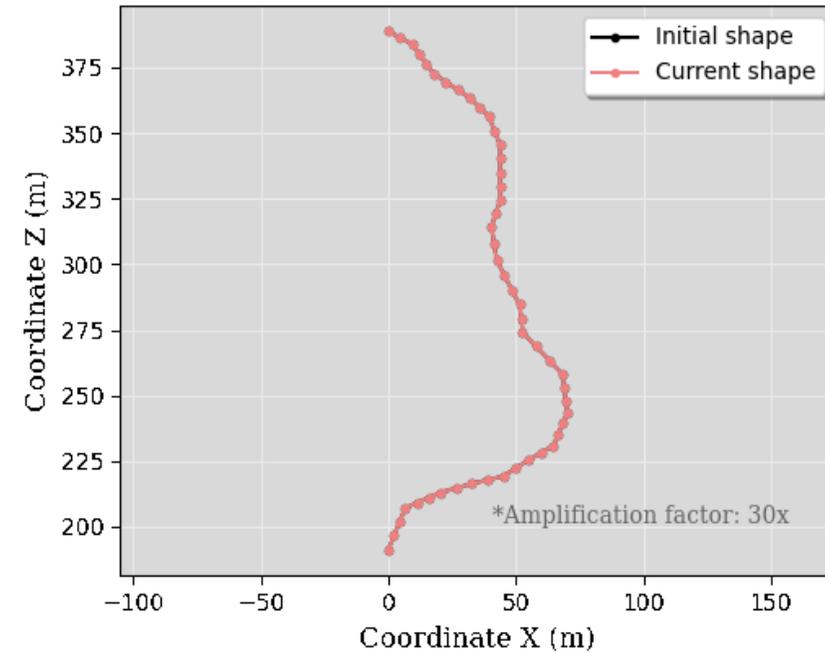
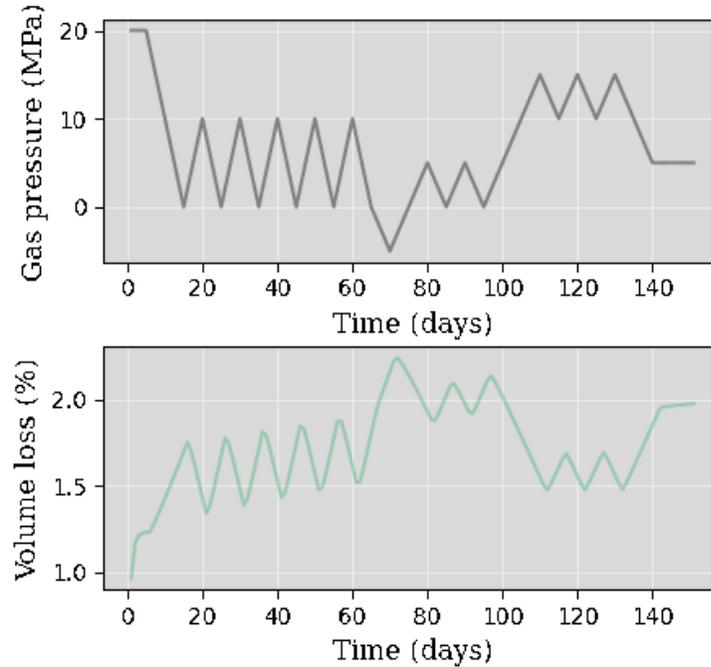
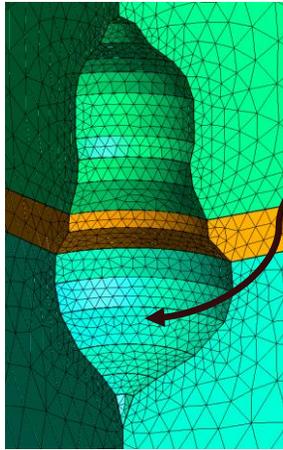


— Calibration — Prediction

When it is impossible to match, change the model!



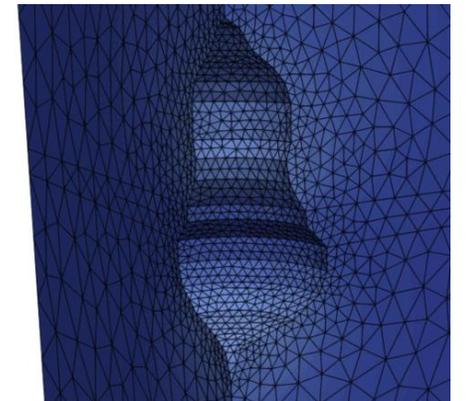
# After calibration, perform 3D complex simulations



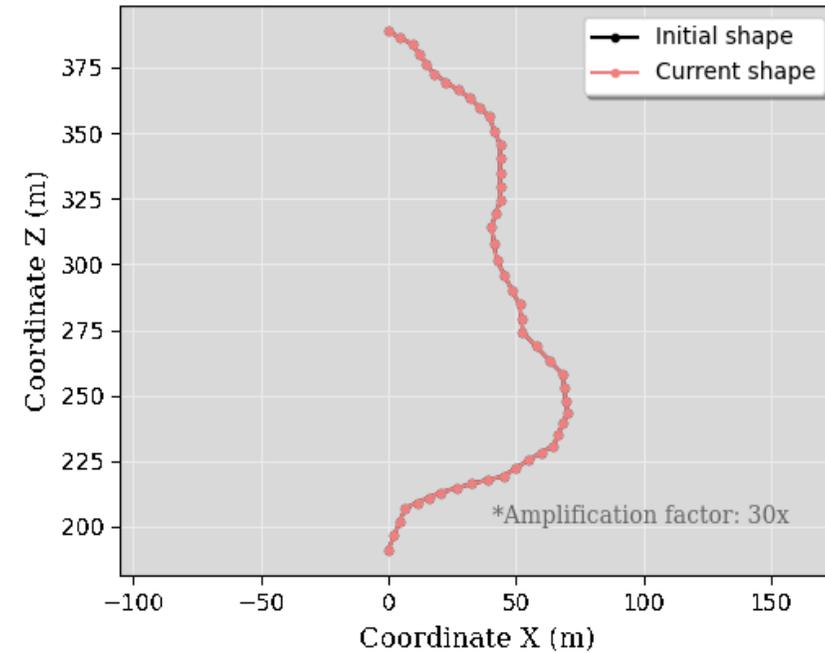
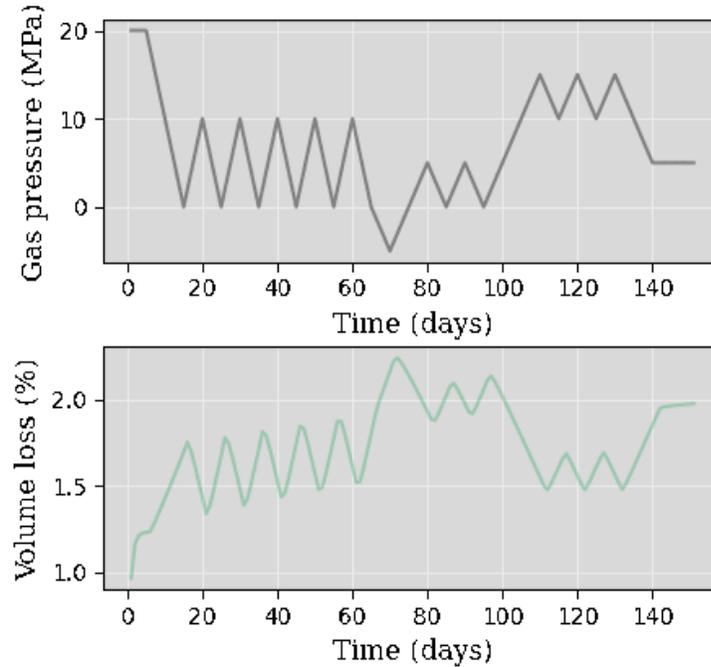
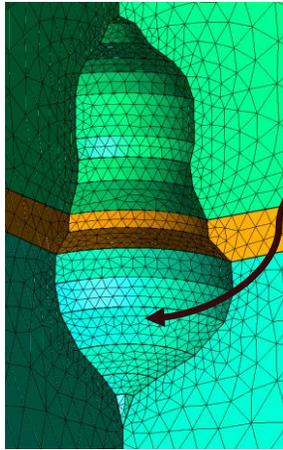
Performance analyses & closure .... with the impact of

- ✓ Geometries, heterogeneities, operational cycles
- ✓ Deformation mechanisms: elastic, viscoelastic, creep, viscoplastic, thermoplastic

Honório & Hajibeygi, arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.18777 (2024)



# After calibration, perform 3D complex simulations

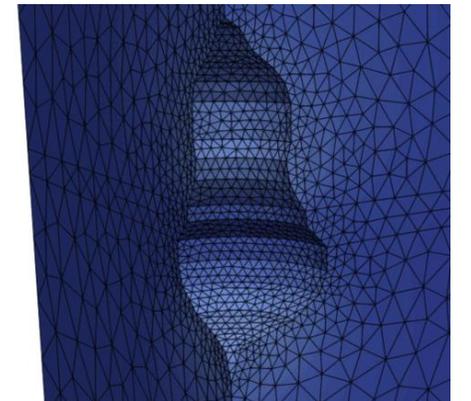


Performance analyses & closure .... with the impact of

- ✓ Geometries, heterogeneities, operational cycles
- ✓ Deformation mechanisms: elastic, viscoelastic, creep, viscoplastic, thermoplastic

Current Work: structure integrity analyses & induced seismicity risks & subsidence with including also pressure solution, damage, H<sub>2</sub>-exposure, ...

Future: connect with monitoring data (or physical twins)

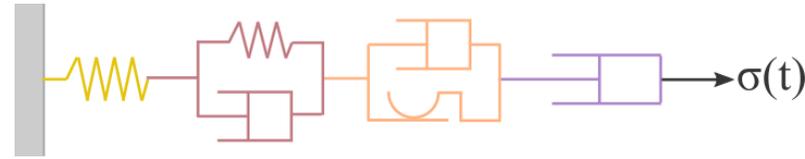




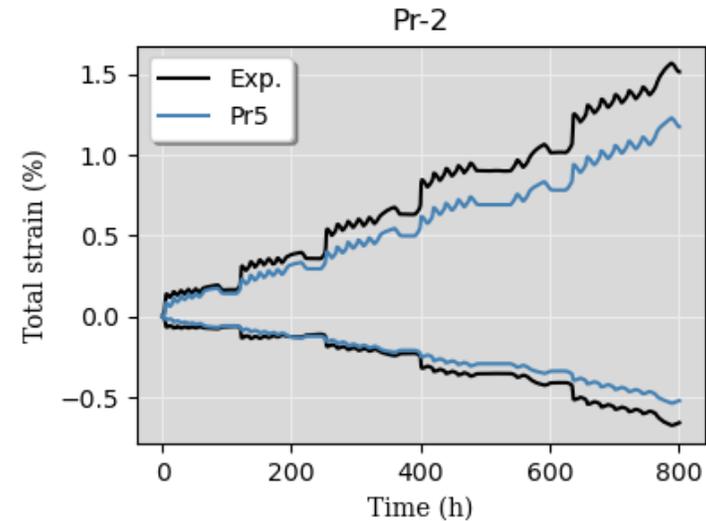
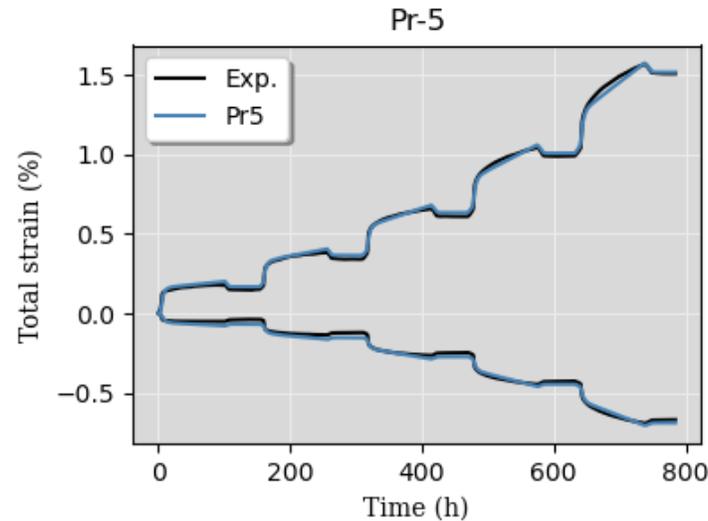
Thank You

Prof.dr. Hadi Hajibeygi  
H.Hajibeygi@TUDelft.nl





Calibration →



- 2 experiments on similar samples!
- Calibrating  $k$  with Test1 is not predictive for Test 2! & vice versa
- How do we reliably calibrate material properties  $k$ ?

# 3D Salt Cavern Simulation

## Mathematical formulation

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mathbf{b}$$

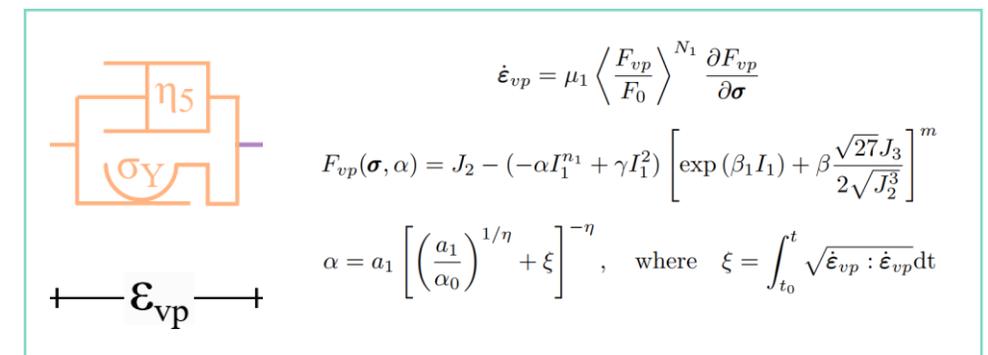
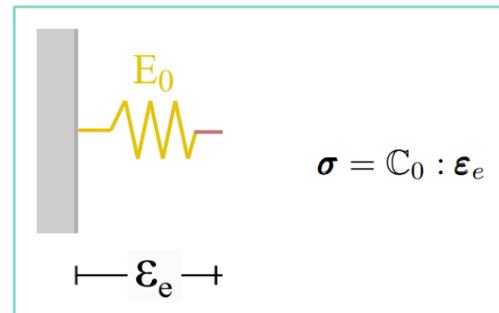
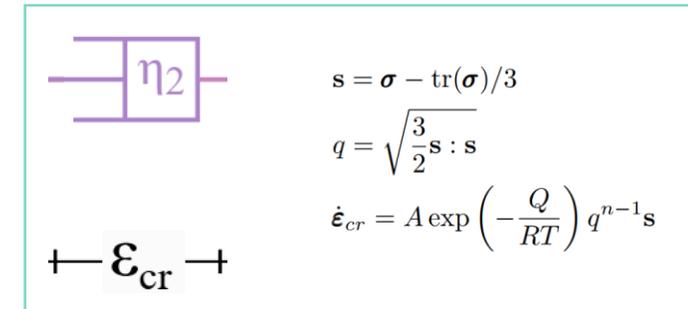
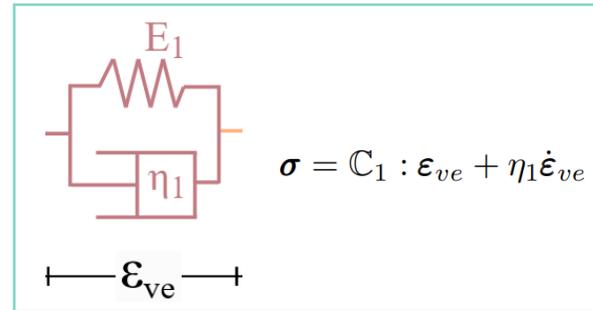
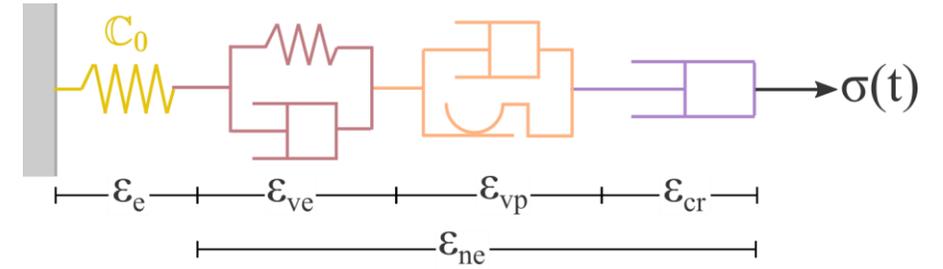
$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mathbb{C}_0 : (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{ve} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{vp} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{cr})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \mathbf{u} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^T)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{ve} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{ve}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{vp} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{vp}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \alpha)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{cr} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{cr}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$$



# 3D Salt Cavern Simulator

## Mathematical formulation

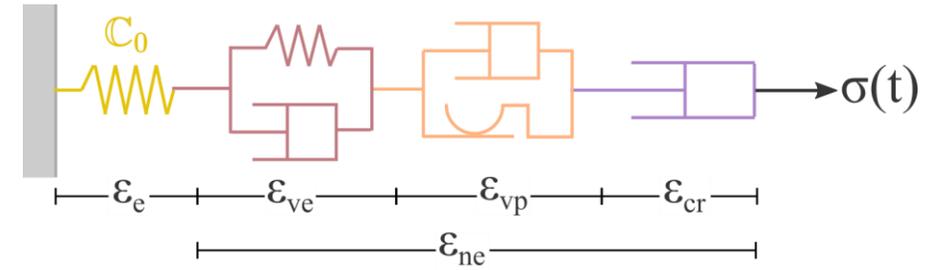
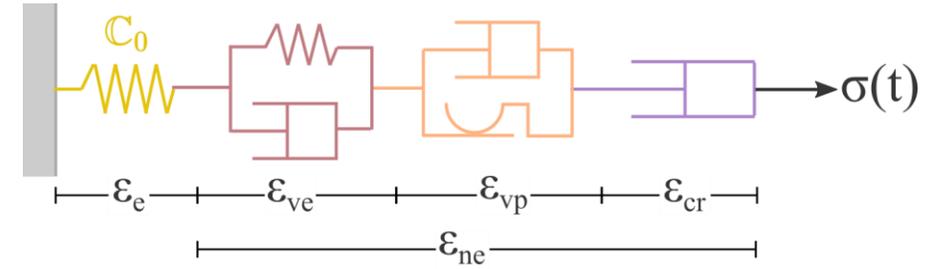


Table 1: Material parameters to be calibrated.

Group	Model	Parameters
1	Dislocation creep	$A, n$
2	Elastic	$E_1, \nu_1$
	Viscoelastic	$E_2, \nu_2, \eta_2$
3	Viscoplastic	$\mu_1, \eta, N_1, n_1, \beta, m$ $a_1, \beta_1, \gamma, \alpha_0, k, \sigma_t$

# 3D Salt Cavern Simulator

## Numerical formulation



$$\nabla \cdot \mathbb{C}_T : \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}^{k+1} = \mathbf{f} + \nabla \cdot \mathbb{C}_T : (\bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ne}^k - \phi_2 \mathbb{G}_{ne} : \boldsymbol{\sigma}^k - \phi_2 \mathbf{B}_{ne})$$

$$\mathbb{C}_T = \left( \mathbb{C}_0^{-1} + \phi_2 \mathbb{G}_{ne} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\bar{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ne}^k = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{ne}} \left( \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_i^o + \phi_1 \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_i^o + \phi_2 \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_i^k \right)$$

$$\mathbb{G}_{ne} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{ne}} \mathbb{G}_i$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{ne} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{ne}} \mathbf{B}_i$$

$$\mathbb{G}_{ve} = \frac{\partial \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ve}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}} = (\eta_1 \mathbb{I} + \phi_2 \mathbb{C}_1)^{-1} \quad \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ve} = (\eta_1 \mathbb{I} + \phi_2 \mathbb{C}_1)^{-1} : [\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \mathbb{C}_1 : (\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{ve}^o + \phi_1 \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ve}^o)]$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{ve} = 0$$

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{ve}^{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{ve}^o + \phi_1 \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ve}^o + \phi_2 \left( \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{ve}^k + \mathbb{G}_{ve} : \delta \boldsymbol{\sigma} \right)$$

$$\mathbb{G}_{vp} = \frac{\partial \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{vp}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}} - \frac{1}{h_{vp}^k} \frac{\partial \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{vp}}{\partial \alpha} \frac{\partial r_{vp}^k}{\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{vp}^k = \frac{r_{vp}^k}{h_{vp}^k} \frac{\partial \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{vp}}{\partial \alpha}$$

$$F_{vp}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \alpha) = J_2 - (-\alpha I_1^{n_1} + \gamma I_1^2) \left[ \exp(\beta_1 I_1) + \beta \frac{\sqrt{27} J_3}{2\sqrt{J_2}} \right]^m$$

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{vp} = \mu_1 \left\langle \frac{F_{vp}}{F_0} \right\rangle^{N_1} \frac{\partial F_{vp}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}}$$

$$r_{vp}^k = \alpha^k - a_1 \left[ \left( \frac{a_1}{\alpha_0} \right)^{1/\eta} + \xi^k \right]^{-\eta}, \quad \text{where } \xi^k = \int_{t_0}^t \sqrt{\dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{vp}^k : \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{vp}^k} dt$$

$$h_{vp}^k = \frac{\partial r_{vp}^k}{\partial \alpha}$$

$$\mathbb{G}_{cr} = \frac{\partial \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{cr}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}}$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{cr} = 0$$

$$\mathbf{s} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})/3$$

$$q = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2} \mathbf{s} : \mathbf{s}}$$

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}_{cr} = A \exp\left(-\frac{Q}{RT}\right) q^{n-1} \mathbf{s}$$