Clustering of carbon dioxide injection-induced earthquakes using feature-based representation of time series data

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Geological Carbon Sequestration (GCS) can help us achieve global net zero goals



GCS involves:

- Compressing captured CO₂ into a supercritical fluid (a dense but gas-like fluid)
- Transporting supercritical CO₂ to injection site
- Pumping supercritical CO₂ ~1000 m below the surface down a well and into a natural underground fluid reservoir (e.g. a saline aquifer)

Induced seismicity and leakage of CO₂ from storage reservoirs are among the risks associated with GCS



Fault (fracture within

the subsurface rock)

CO₂ escaping at high concentrations has health effects

Escaped CO_2 can increase fault stress above the threshold needed for an earthquake

Won Chang, K. et al. Modeling Leakage through Faults of CO_2 Stored in an Aquifer

My aim is to use machine learning to analyze seismic time series to gain more insights into GCS seismic hazards



Preliminary analysis of 858 earthquakes from the GCS site in the Illinois Basin – Decatur Project





Filtering each time series with wavelet decomposition



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We significantly reduced the dimensionality of our 858-earthquake dataset



Clustering lower-dimensional earthquake set identified large magnitude events



Several larger magnitude earthquakes remain un-clustered (represented in grey)

We are tuning our clustering to identify the obvious time distribution of the earthquakes



Section of earthquake plot colored based on day of occurrence

Section of earthquake plot colored based on clustering result

Next steps

• Refine the clustering process to better observe the time distribution and separation of large magnitude earthquakes from smaller ones

• Write a report on the effectiveness of representing these earthquakes in a lower dimension with our methodology