

Influence Factors and Feasibility Evaluation on Geological Sequestration of CO₂ in Coal Seams: A Review

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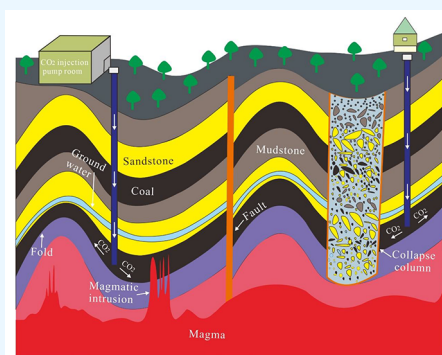
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ABSTRACT: The geological sequestration of CO₂ in coal seams holds significant implications for coalbed methane development and greenhouse gas mitigation. This paper examines the principles, influencing factors, and evaluation methods for geological CO₂ sequestration in coal seams by analyzing relevant domestic and international findings. Suitable geological conditions for CO₂ sequestration include burial depths between 300 and 1300 m, permeability greater than $0.01 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m}^2$, caprock and floor strata with water isolation capabilities, and high-rank bituminous coal or anthracite with low ash yield. Geological structures, shallow freshwater layers, and complex hydrological conditions should be avoided. Additionally, the engineering conditions of temperature, pressure, and storage time for CO₂ sequestration should be given special attention. The feasibility evaluation of CO₂ geological storage in coal seams necessitates a comprehensive understanding of coalfield geological factors. By integrating the evaluation principles of site selection feasibility, injection controllability, sequestration security, and development economy, various mathematical models and “one vote veto” power can optimize the sequestration area and provide recommendations for rational CO₂ geological storage layout.



1. INTRODUCTION

The greenhouse effect, a term coined in 1827 by Baron Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier, introduced and qualitatively discussed the atmosphere's greenhouse effect.¹ By 1861, John Tyndall, an Irish chemist, discovered that the atmosphere contained a few triatomic molecules such as CO₂, H₂O, CH₄, N₂O, and O₃, which exhibited a greenhouse effect.² Since the Industrial Revolution, human consumption of fossil energy sources and the release of greenhouse gases, primarily CO₂, have exceeded natural regulatory capacity, leading to a sharp increase in atmospheric CO₂ deposition.³ Large CO₂ emissions exacerbate global warming, causing glacier melting, rising sea levels, significant declines in plant and animal species, and an increased frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.^{4,5}

Reducing CO₂ emissions has become a critical issue for scientists worldwide.⁶ Coal, as a natural CO₂ adsorbent, exhibits two to three times the adsorption capacity for CO₂ compared to CH₄.^{7,8} Geological sequestration of CO₂ in coal seams represents an effective measure to decrease atmospheric CO₂ concentration and alleviates the greenhouse effect.⁹ Additionally, CO₂ can be utilized to displace CH₄, improving coalbed methane (CBM) recovery, increasing economic benefits, and reducing sequestration costs.^{3–5} Pilot experiments and theoretical studies have been conducted in the United States' San Juan Basin, Canada's Alberta Basin, Japan's

Ishikari, Germany's Krmovic, Poland's Silesian Basin, and China's Qinshui and Ordos Basins.^{4,9} However, limitations exist in the geological conditions suitable for CO₂ sequestration in coal seams.^{7,9,10} Moreover, uncontrollable CO₂ injection into coal seams and technical constraints collectively influence the feasibility of geological CO₂ sequestration.¹¹ This paper reviews the influencing factors of geological CO₂ sequestration in coal seams and their feasibility evaluation based on relevant domestic and international literature, aiming to provide a theoretical foundation for carbon reduction projects.

2. PRINCIPLE OF GEOLOGICAL SEQUESTRATION OF CO₂ IN COAL SEAMS

Coal seams exhibit a significant dual-pore structure and possess substantial gas adsorption and storage capacity. The dual-pore structure comprises primary micropores, secondary macropores, and even fractures, which form in coal seams under the influence of coalification and geological processes.¹² These

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structures provide the necessary sites and pathways for CO₂ storage and transport.¹³ The gas adsorption capacity of coal seams is dependent on specific temperature and pressure conditions, and the coal seam offers a stable storage environment for CO₂.¹⁴ The adsorption properties of coal seams involve interactions between CO₂ and the coal surface, which are manifested by differences in stress between surface and internal molecules in the dual-pore space of the coal matrix, leading to the formation of surface potential energy.¹⁵ Consequently, the concentration of CO₂ on the coal pore walls increases, forming adsorption and releasing adsorption heat.¹⁵ Initially, CH₄ molecules are bound to the coal matrix surface via weak van der Waals forces. Upon CO₂ injection, CO₂ molecules compete for adsorption sites on the coal surface due to their stronger affinity, reducing the surface free energy and displacing CH₄ from its original position. Furthermore, CO₂ lowers the partial pressure of CH₄, prompting the desorption of additional CH₄ to achieve a new pressure equilibrium.¹⁶ From a quantum chemistry perspective, the adsorption potential well for CO₂ molecules on the coal seam is considerably larger than that for CH₄ molecules.¹⁷

Geological sequestration of CO₂ in coal seams and enhanced coalbed methane (CO₂-ECBM) recovery are employed to achieve carbon sequestration.^{9,10,18} CO₂ geological sequestration in coal seams encompasses two major systems: injection and extraction. Injection involves pumping captured CO₂ into designated coal seams using an injection pump, transforming the coal bed methane from an adsorbed state to a free state. Extraction refers to the recovery of CBM through a production well and subsequent water treatment, component separation, and gas compression, ultimately enabling the recovery and utilization of CBM (Figure 1).^{5,19}

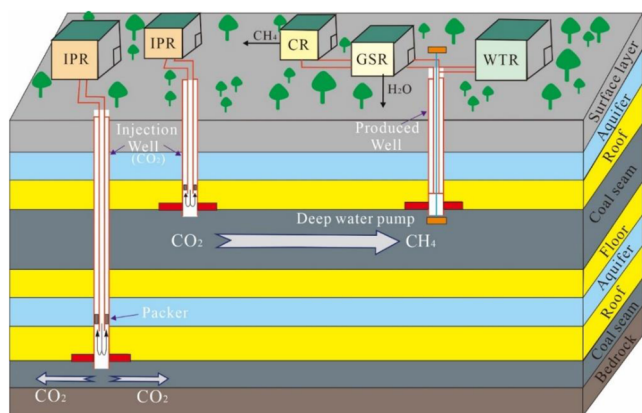


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of carbon dioxide geological storage in coal seams and exploitation of CBM. IPR, injection pump room; CR, compressor room; GSR, gas separation room; WTR, water treatment room.

3. GEOLOGICAL FACTORS

3.1. Geological Structure. The variety of geological structures encompasses faults, collapse columns, folds, and magmatic intrusions (Figure 2). Both faults and collapse columns disrupt the continuity of the seam,²⁰ particularly the horizontal integrity of caprock, which increases the risk of CO₂ diffusion in coal seams during geological evolution.²¹ Moreover, faults and collapse columns frequently serve as diversion channels, posing a threat to the long-term storage of CO₂.²²

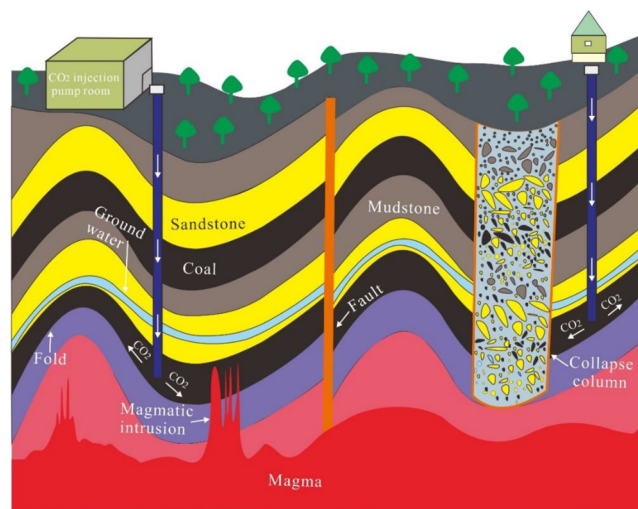


Figure 2. Schematic diagram of the geological structure affecting CO₂ sequestration.

Most notably, well-developed coal seams predominantly consist of mylonitized coal and granulated coal with extremely low permeability, which can facilitate the structural migration of CO₂ and form an abnormally high-pressure zone.²³ To a significant degree, the origins and characteristics of a fault determine whether it functions as a channel or barrier in the geological sequestration of CO₂.²⁴ Generally, faults subject to pressure torsional forces contribute to CO₂ containment, while tensional faults are predisposed to CO₂ leakage.²¹

Successful CO₂-ECBM test sites, both domestic and international, exhibit underdeveloped fractures and tectonic stability.^{21,23} The magnitude of folds should not surpass half of the coal seam thickness, as this could compromise the stability of the coal seam and the efficiency of CO₂ injection.²⁵ Furthermore, magmatic intrusions impair the coal seam structure and continuity.²⁰ Consequently, site selection for the geological sequestration of CO₂ in coal seams should circumvent areas with complex structures.²⁶

3.2. Occurrence Characteristics of Coal Seams. The occurrence characteristics of coal seams are decisive indicators for determining the CO₂ sequestration potential,⁷ which include coal seam thickness, dips, and burial depths.^{20,21}

On the premise that coal seams have sufficient capacity to store CO₂, nonminable coal seams with small thickness, high sulfur, and high mining risk should be selected in order to save and utilize coal resources. Simultaneously, the coal seam is characterized by property permeability and adsorption, and the upper overlayer is capable of ensuring the long term stability and safety of CO₂ sequestration.^{21,26,27} Coal seams with large thicknesses and small spacing should be selected from the perspective of CO₂-ECBM and the safety of CO₂ sequestration. Theoretically, the coal seam thickness is more than 8 m.²² This not only depends on the larger space for storing CO₂ in thick coal seams but also relates to the influence of thickness on the permeability of coal seams where CO₂ displaces CH₄.²⁵ The coal seams with small dips are characterized by good continuity and stability, which help ensure the diffusion and sealing of CO₂ in the coal seams.^{24,27}

As the burial depth of the coal seam increases, the porosity and permeability of the caprock gradually decrease.^{26,27} From an economic standpoint, the burial depth of the coal seam should not surpass 3300 m.²⁸ Concurrently, the current status

of CO₂ geological storage-related projects worldwide is presented in Table 1.^{21,27,29} In summary, the suitable burial depth of coal seams for CO₂ storage ranges from 300 to 1300 m.

Table 1. Projects of CO₂ Geological Sequestration in the World

Project name	Country	Location	Total storage capacity (10 ³ t)	Depth (m)
Allison Unit	USA	New Mexico	277	950
MGSC-ECBM	USA	Illinois	0.7	273
PCORLignite	USA	North Dakota	-	500
SECARBC Central Appalaehian	USA	West Virginia	0.9	490–570
SECARBC Black Warrior Basin	USA	Alabamla	0.9	460–470
SWP Sanjua	USA	New Mexico	35	910
Lignite Field Validation	USA	Burke County	0.09	335
Black Warrior Basin Coal	USA	Tuscaloosa County	0.252	287–548
Marshall County	USA	Marshall County	4.5	400–530
Virginia Central Apalachian Basin Coal Test	USA	Russell County	0.9	427–671
Allison Unit, San Juan Basin	USA	Southern New Mexico	336	945
Pump Canyon, San Juan Basin	USA	San Juan Basin	16.699	918
Tanquary Farms	USA	Wabash County	0.0923	274
Buchanan County	USA	Buchanan County	1.47	274–671
FBV 4A MicroPilot	Canada	Alberta	0.18	1260
CSEMP	Canada	Alberta	10	430
RECOPOL	Poland	Kaniow	0.76	1050–1090
RECOPOL	Poland	Kaniow	0.692	1012–1076
Yuban Project	Japan	Ishikari Coal Basin	0.884	890
Qinshui Basin ECBM	China	Southern Shizhuang CBM Block	0.192	478
Qinshui Basin ECBM	China	Northern Shizhuang CBM Block	0.234	923
APP ECBM	China	Liulin CBM Block	0.46	560
Qinshui Basin multiple wells	China	Northern Shizhuang CBM Block	4.491	972

3.3. Surrounding Rock. Roof-floor strata, a stable coal seam, is an effective guarantee for realizing the geological storage of CO₂.²² In order to prevent vertical dispersion of CO₂ and reduce the percolation and diffusion of CO₂, the overlapped effective strata ensure that more of the CO₂ is found in the coal seams within a certain geological time scale while maintaining the balance of strata pressure and phase state.^{20,21} The developmental level, mechanical properties, and distribution range of caprock directly affect the advantages and disadvantages of CO₂ storage and site selection in coal seams.^{32,33} Rock formations with low permeability, undeveloped fractures, certain thickness, continuity, and toughness, such as paste salts, mudstones, and shales, are suitable as caprock for CO₂ geological sequestration.^{23,34} The increase of reservoir pressure after the injection of CO₂ into the coal seam

can easily induce microcracking or fissions in the coal seam roof-floor strata, thus disrupting the closeness of caprock.^{25,33} Simultaneously, it is easy for the CO₂ to form gas channeling when a large amount of CO₂ is injected into the coal seam. It will cause the thin caprock to be breached by the CO₂ injection pressure and cause leakage.²¹ Therefore, the geological site selection of CO₂ for coal seams should give priority to strata with favorable reservoir-cap assemblage.^{22,24,27} Moreover, caprock is characterized by continuous spatial distribution, relatively large thickness, completeness, impermeability, and nonpenetrating brittle fracture.²²

3.4. Physical Properties. Porosity is a critical factor influencing the CO₂ sequestration capacity of coal seams.^{25,34} Higher porosity corresponds to a greater CO₂ sequestration capacity within the coal seams.²⁴ When coal seams contain a substantial amount of water, CO₂ and H₂O within the coal seam combine to form H₂CO₃, which leads to the dissolution of minerals and an increase in the number and volume of pores.³⁵ This process may even result in the formation of secondary dissolution fractures. However, the dissolution of carbonate cement causes the release of numerous particles that block the pores, ultimately reducing porosity.³⁶

Permeability is a key determinant of the feasibility of CO₂ injection into coal seams and the containment capacity of the caprock.^{21,29} An elevated permeability rate and a well-developed fissure system promote CO₂ injection, facilitating the entry of CO₂ into coal seam pores.^{23,37} Furthermore, numerical simulations investigating CO₂ displacement of CBM have demonstrated that CO₂ sequestration is suitable for low permeability coal seams.³⁸ In thin or discontinuous coal seams, mudstone with low permeability can hinder overall coal seam permeability.²⁶ A medium permeability range (1×10^{-3} – $5 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m}^2$) is favorable for the replacement of CBM by CO₂.³⁷ Deep coal seams should have a minimum permeability of $0.01 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m}^2$ to ensure effective CO₂ injection.³⁹

Alterations in coal seam permeability result from a combination of factors such as temperature, gas adsorption/desorption, and pore pressure.^{22,38} Concurrently, the volume fraction of the CO₂/CH₄ gas mixture shifts during movement, affecting coal seam distribution and permeability.⁴⁷ Expansion strain exerts some control over permeability.⁴⁰ In the early stages of low permeability, the dissolution of calcite veins contributes to increased permeability.⁴¹ However, the presence and distribution of undissolved salt precipitates within the pore structure can lead to a 21%–66% reduction in permeability.⁴² Therefore, permeability is the primary factor influencing the geological sequestration of CO₂ in coal seams.

3.5. Coal Rank. In general, vitrinite reflectance progressively increases, and the coal's capacity to adsorb CO₂ correspondingly grows.^{43,44} Among various coal ranks, the CO₂ absorption order is as follows: long-flame coal < gas coal < coking coal < anthracite.³⁷ Lignite and low metamorphic bituminous coals exhibit high permeability.²⁶ The adsorption capacity of lignite for CO₂ is approximately 10 times that of CH₄,²² however, its shallow burial depth renders it unsuitable for CO₂ storage.¹⁷ Domestic and international researchers have investigated the competitive adsorption effect of CO₂/CH₄ on coal through experiments and molecular simulations, finding that the competitive adsorption ratio of CO₂/CH₄ declines as coal rank increases.⁴⁵ By studying the competitive adsorption of CH₄ on three different coal-rank coals, the selective competitive adsorption of CO₂ on CH₄ decreased with increasing coal rank and water content.⁴⁶ The absorption

performance of CO₂/CH₄ for coals with varying degrees of metamorphism was analyzed, revealing that higher coalification led to an increased CH₄ displacement rate under low pressure.¹⁶ A higher degree of coalification results in a greater propensity for desorption when driving CBM with supercritical CO₂ displacement for different coal-rank coals, subsequently enhancing CBM recovery.^{47,48} The desorption–diffusion of CH₄/CO₂ within different coal-rank coals is associated with the internal surface properties and pore structure of coal micropores.^{49,50} At the same effective stress, coal seam permeability during supercritical CO₂ percolation gradually diminishes with increasing coal metamorphism (Figure 3).⁵⁰

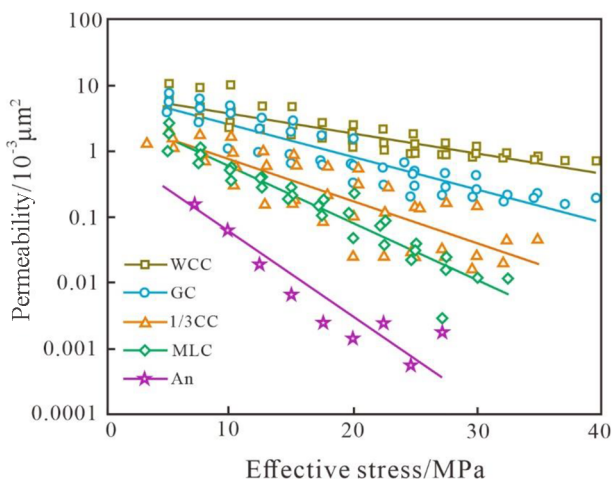


Figure 3. Relationship between permeability and effective stress of coal seams under different coal rank conditions. WCC, weak caking coal; GC, gas coal; 1/3CC, 1/3 coking coal; MLC, meager-lean coal; An, anthracite.

Additionally, the expansion deformation of the coal seam decreases with increasing coal rank when it adsorbs the same amount of CO₂.⁵¹ This phenomenon is linked to “significant variations in the content and distribution of organic and mineral components in coals of different ranks, resulting in strong heterogeneity in mesomechanical properties”.^{52,53}

3.6. Coal Quality. Moisture can diminish the capacity of anthracite to adsorb CH₄/CO₂.⁵¹ However, the coal’s ability to absorb CH₄/CO₂ remains virtually unaltered by water once the coal’s water content surpasses the equilibrium water content.⁵² This phenomenon is associated with the gas adsorption capacity of CH₄/CO₂, as water molecules preferentially form hydrogen bonds with oxygen-containing functionalities, such as carbonyl, hydroxyl, and carboxyl groups on the coal surface.⁵³ In the presence of high water content, supercritical CO₂ can extract oxygen-containing functional groups from the coal surface, altering its functional group structure and mechanical properties.^{20,54} This process is evidenced by the formation of H₂CO₃ upon the dissolution of supercritical CO₂ in water; the dissolution of calcite, potassium feldspar, and other minerals present in primary fractures; the reopening of filled fractures;^{55,56} and an increase in micropore volume within macropores and microcrystalline structures.^{57,58} Fluids within the coal seam throat disrupt CO₂ continuity, decreasing its contact area with the coal surface and significantly reducing coal’s CO₂ adsorption capacity.⁵⁹ Supercritical CO₂’s plasticizing effect induces a transition of the coal matrix from a glassy to rubbery state, reducing the

coal’s rigidity and internal friction angle and ultimately decreasing its resistance to slide deformation.⁶⁰ Local mechanically weak regions are typically the initial cracking sites within coal petrography.⁶¹ Moreover, the more mineral matter present in the coal, the less CO₂ gas is adsorbed.²⁷ High ash yield coal cleats and fission filled with minerals reduce the permeability and impair the rate of CO₂ displacement of CH₄.³⁷ Consequently, a lower ash yield coal seam is more suitable for CO₂ sequestration. The smaller the contact angle of the coal seam pore surface, the larger the breakthrough pressure gradient and the greater the pressure difference to be overcome in the initial stage of supercritical CO₂ displacement of water.⁶² This indicates that salt precipitation can block the entire forked throat, leading to a decline in permeability when the coal seam pore surface is hydrophilic and neutral. However, when the pore surface is hydrophobic, salt precipitates occupy only a small pore space, and the permeation rate remains virtually unchanged.⁶³

The coal surface functional group is the decisive factor for adsorption performance within the coal’s large molecular structure.⁶⁴ For instance, the adsorption energy of various functionalized structures on CH₄/CO₂ was investigated using density functional theory, revealing that the adsorption energy of CO₂ (−50.56 kJ/mol) in the pyridine nitrogen-functionalized structure is greater than that of CO₂ (−14.71 kJ/mol) in the pyrrole nitrogen-functionalized structure.⁶⁵ Furthermore, the oxygen- and nitrogen-containing functional groups on the coal surface exhibit a stronger affinity for CO₂ compared to CH₄.^{66,67} Among these, the order of adsorption energy for CO₂ in different functionalized structures is as follows: C-layer (−32.54 kJ/mol) < carbonyl-layer structure (−33.43 kJ/mol) < hydroxy-layer structure (−34.06 kJ/mol) < carboxyl-layer structure (−36.33 kJ/mol).⁶⁵ Therefore, the surface properties of the coal reservoir play a critical role in determining the efficiency of CO₂ displacement of CH₄ and the geological storage capacity.

3.7. Hydrogeology. The CO₂-ECBM effect is intimately connected to hydrogeological conditions. Suitable hydrogeological conditions serve as a foundation for the long-term, safe sequestration of CO₂.²¹ For instance, unstable hydrogeological conditions may compromise the integrity of CO₂ sequestration, while stable hydrogeological conditions can generate a hydrostatic closure that promotes CO₂ sequestration.²² The larger the water volume in the aquifer, the closer the groundwater flow direction aligns with the coal seam tendency, and the more stringent the geological sequestration of CO₂ conditions become.²⁵ Ideal aquifer water quality necessitates a water isolation layer between the CO₂-injected coal seam and the roof and floor strata’s water seam, ensuring that the water isolation layer’s thickness will not compromise its functionality even after the top layer collapses.²³ In cases where groundwater exists in a reduced environment and consists of highly salinized CaCl₂-type brine, the groundwater layer exhibits favorable conditions for geological sequestration of CO₂.⁵¹ Moreover, the higher the water content in the coal seams, the weaker the geological storage capacity of CO₂ in the coal seams.⁶⁸ To avert CO₂ leakage that could contaminate freshwater layers, CO₂ geological sequestration sites should be located far from shallow freshwater layers.⁶⁹

4. ENGINEERING FACTORS

4.1. Temperature. Temperature is an important parameter that affects the adsorption of CO₂ in coal seams. Jiang and

Ozdemir demonstrated that the adsorption of CO₂ in coal is an exothermic reaction through isothermal adsorption tests of CO₂ in coal seams at different temperatures.^{37,70} Meanwhile, as the temperature increases, the adsorption capacity of CO₂ decreases.³⁷

Supercritical CO₂ permeability within coal seams decreases as temperature increases when the volumetric stress applied to the coal seam is 36 MPa.⁷¹ At 12.7 MPa, CO₂ displacement CH₄ tests at 35 °C, 45 °C, and 55 °C were conducted on lean coal from the Tunliu mine in Shanxi Province using an ISO-300 isothermal adsorber.⁷² Results show that the volume fraction of the supercritical CO₂ adsorbing phase increases with temperature, while the CH₄ adsorbing phase decreases with temperature.^{66–73} This occurs because gas absorption processes release calories, and rising temperatures not only inhibit gas adsorption but also activate CO₂ molecules.^{65,66} This encourages gas collection at the coal matrix interface and reduces CH₄ adsorption,⁷² indicating that supercritical CO₂ effectively enhances internal coal sample cracking and achieves high CH₄ recovery through CO₂ displacement at 35 °C.⁶⁷

4.2. Pressure. During CBM extraction, CH₄ recovery increases with CO₂ injection pressure, but the contribution rate of increasing CO₂ injection pressure gradually diminishes through the expansion of the Langmuir equation and numerical simulation.⁵¹ At low desorption pressures, CO₂ occupies high-energy adsorption positions in anthracite micropores and large mesopores.⁷⁴ As pressure continues to rise, CO₂ at low-energy adsorption sites in anthracite gradually increases until the coal pore inner surfaces are completely covered, forming a multimolecular layer.⁷⁵ Furthermore, CO₂/CH₄ absorption by coal-rock increases as pressure rises in a supercritical state, and the adsorption growth rate of coal petrography gradually decreases after pressure continues to increase.^{45,76} According to the Hoek–Brown criterion,³ the internal fissile structure of coal petrography compresses or even closes under high confining pressure, resulting in decreased permeability and reduced CO₂ adsorption space. Surrounding rock pressure increases, and axial strain rates of different coal ranks decrease with injection pressure (Figure 4).^{48,50} This observation suggests that the confinement pressure significantly inhibits the weakening of the mechanical properties of CO₂ injected in coal.^{15–17,77}

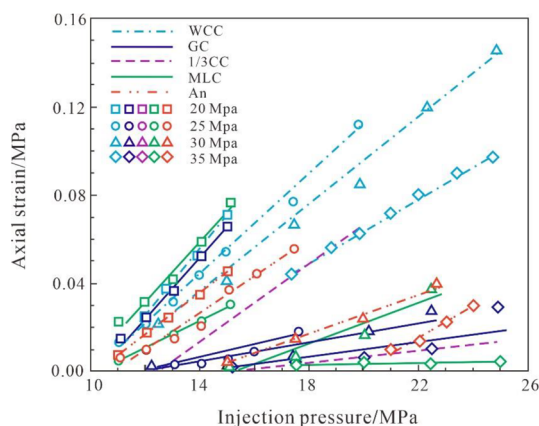


Figure 4. Relationship between axial strain and injection pressure of coal seams under different coal rank and confining pressure. WCC, weak caking coal; GC, gas coal; 1/3CC, 1/3 coking coal; MLC, meager-lean coal; An, anthracite.

4.3. Time. Temporal variations in CO₂ sequestration within coal seams can be classified into short-term adsorption sequestration and long-term CO₂ dissolution, ion reactions, and mineralization sequestration.⁸ Prolonging the duration substantially enhances the safety and reliability of geological CO₂ sequestration.⁷⁸ This is primarily due to the unsaturated energy present on the pore surface of the coal seam, which facilitates the generation of van der Waals forces between nonpolar molecules, enabling the coal seam to adsorb and mitigate CO₂ emissions.¹⁰ Moreover, secondary CO₂ sequestration reactions are slow, persistent, and constrained by temperature and pressure, preventing the rapid release of large quantities of sequestered CO₂.⁸ As time elapses following CO₂ exposure, primary storage transitions to secondary storage, characterized by bound, dissolved, and mineralized forms.⁷⁹ This is exemplified when CO₂ is injected into a coal seam with a high water content, where a portion of the CO₂ dissolves in H₂O to form weakly acidic H₂CO₃, which subsequently reacts with minerals in the surrounding rock via dissolution.¹² Roof-floor strata develop small dissolution pores after 10 days of reaction, and these pores gradually expand or even open.³¹

The CO₂ injection duration during the implementation of CO₂-ECBM technology not only influences the single-well production of CBM but also controls the quantity of CO₂ injected and entrained.²³ This is related to “the expansion and deflection of the coal matrix surrounding the initial cracking during CO₂ infusion and the internal and large pores of the coal matrix expanding and deforming with increased permeability as the CO₂ infusion amount continues to rise”.⁹ The alterations in coal petrography performance due to CO₂ injection are time-dependent and phasic.¹⁸ It is demonstrated that the maximum reduction in the elastic modulus and peak strength of the coal petrography can reach 30%–69% 3 days prior to CO₂ injection.⁸⁰ Over a short time frame, nonuniform expansion and deformations, as well as additional expansion stress within the coal petrography, cause CO₂ transport in the coal seam to be dominated by Darcy seepage.⁸¹ In contrast, under long-term interactions, mineral erosion, loss of macromolecules, and Fick diffusion prevail in CO₂ transport in coal.⁸² Consequently, a suitable coal-bearing formation can retain CO₂ for 100 a or even over 1000 a.²¹

5. FEASIBILITY EVALUATION OF CO₂ STORAGE IN COAL SEAMS

Previous studies have conducted geological site selection and environmental risk assessment for CO₂ sequestration through an analytic hierarchy process, gray correlation method, analytic hierarchy process fuzzy index method, fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method, and numerical simulation method.^{24,82–84} However, there is still a lack of effective, systematic, and accurate evaluation methods for the feasibility of CO₂ geological sequestration in coal seams.⁷⁹ Therefore, the feasibility evaluation of CO₂ geological sequestration in coal seams is proposed in this paper (Figure 5).

Initially, the survey of coal field geological conditions necessitates understanding geological factors such as coal quality, structural background, hydrological conditions, reservoir physical properties, coal seams, and surrounding rocks in the study area.

Subsequently, geological storage of CO₂ in coal seams should adhere to principles of site selection feasibility, injection controllability, sequestration security, and development economy. Site selection feasibility serves as the foundation for

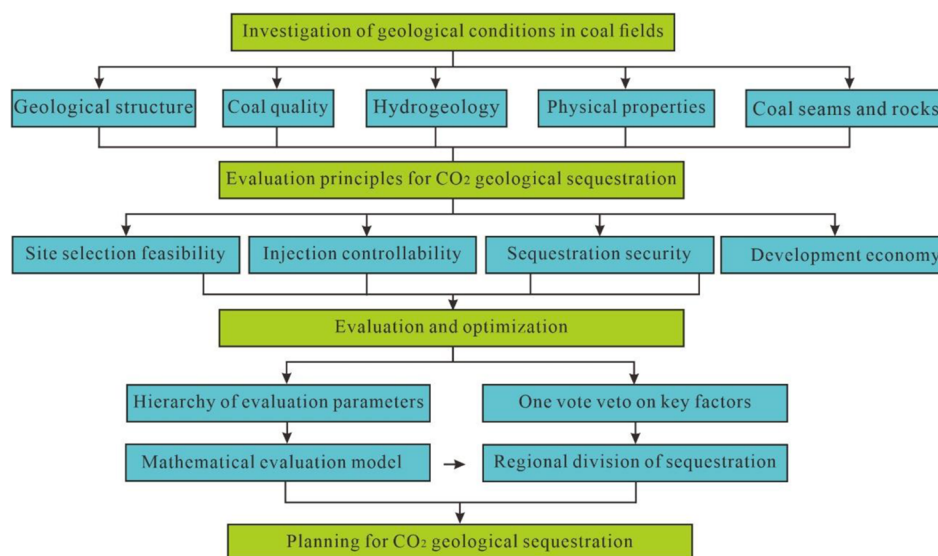


Figure 5. Geological evaluation and optimization process for CO₂ geological sequestration in coal seams.

geological storage of CO₂ in coal seams.⁸⁵ Injection controllability represents a decisive indicator of CO₂ storage in coal seams and is influenced by reservoir physical properties like coal seam porosity, permeability, and breakthrough pressure resistance.^{6,17} The security of sequestration and development economy are prerequisites and guarantee conditions for geological storage of CO₂ in coal seams.^{22,26} Sequestration security encompasses the entire process from preconstruction site selection to several years post CO₂ storage.^{85,86} Development economy is jointly governed by geological factors such as coal rank, physical properties, effective thickness, geological structure, and engineering factors like CO₂ injection and production increase.^{29–31} Also, it must be well recognized that CO₂ leaks directly or indirectly threaten the stability of the lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmospheric ecosystems.

Finally, the evaluation and optimization of CO₂ sequestration potential in coal seams involve clarifying the hierarchy of evaluation parameters, identifying the primary and secondary factors affecting CO₂ storage in coal seams, establishing a mathematical evaluation model based on the comparison, evaluation, and assignment of evaluation parameters. This process should be combined with the study area's actual situation, existing geological data, and related research results to organize the evaluation parameters and classify the CO₂ storage potential area into various favorable and unfavorable areas based on numerical values. Simultaneously, attention should be paid to enhancing the “one-vote veto” power of CO₂ storage to rapidly identify unsuitable areas for coal seam storage in mining regions, further analyze the geological storage approaches for CO₂ in coal seams, and propose recommendations for CO₂ geological storage plans and rational layout.

6. CONCLUSIONS

1. Optimal coal seams for geological sequestration of CO₂ should possess burial depths of 300–1300 m, permeability exceeding $0.01 \times 10^{-3} \mu\text{m}^2$, roof-floor strata with water isolation toughness, and high-rank bituminous coal or anthracite with low ash yield. It is essential to

avoid areas with complex geological structures, shallow freshwater layers, and intricate hydrological conditions.

2. The feasibility evaluation of CO₂ geological sequestration in coal seams relies on a comprehensive understanding of geological factors within the coal field. This includes integrating the evaluation principles of site selection feasibility, injection controllability, sequestration security, and development economy, utilizing a range of mathematical models and employing the “one-vote veto” power to optimize the storage area and provide suggestions for a rational layout of CO₂ geological sequestration.

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Notes

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