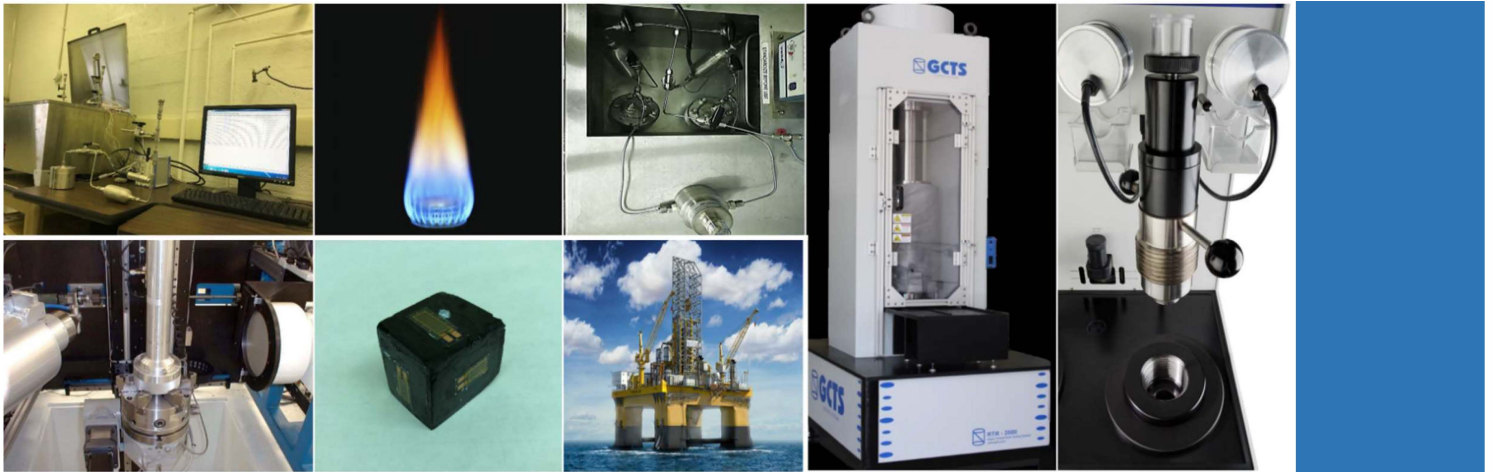




UNCONVENTIONAL  
GEOMECHANICS LAB

Est. 2013

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY



## Shimin Liu Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

Joseph Kreutzberger Early Career Professor of Energy and Mineral Engineering

Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering

The Pennsylvania State University

Phone: 814-863-4491

Fax: 814-865-3248

E-mail: [szl3@psu.edu](mailto:szl3@psu.edu)





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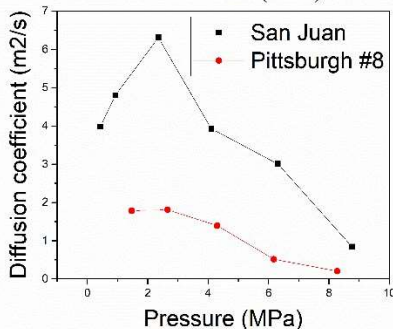
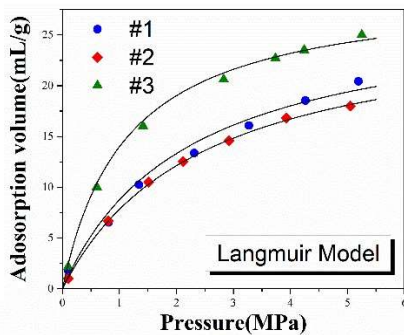
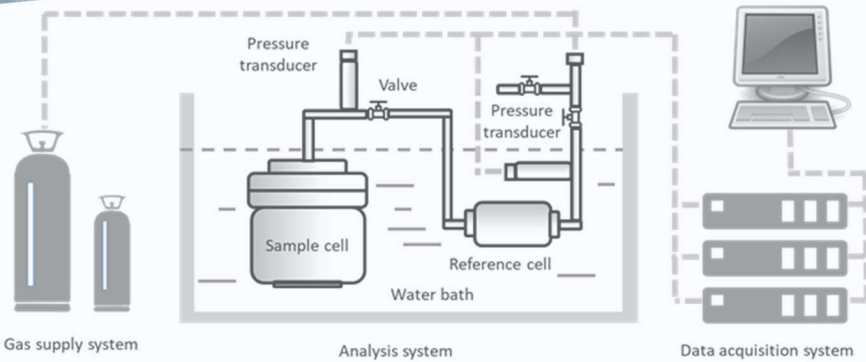
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## Capacity Specifications

- Pressure range: 0-3000 psi
- Measured accuracy: 0.01 psi
- Temperature range: -20°C to 95°C
- Pressure sampling rate: up to 1000/s
- Gas content range: >100 scf/t
- Gas types: CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub> and other hydrocarbon gases



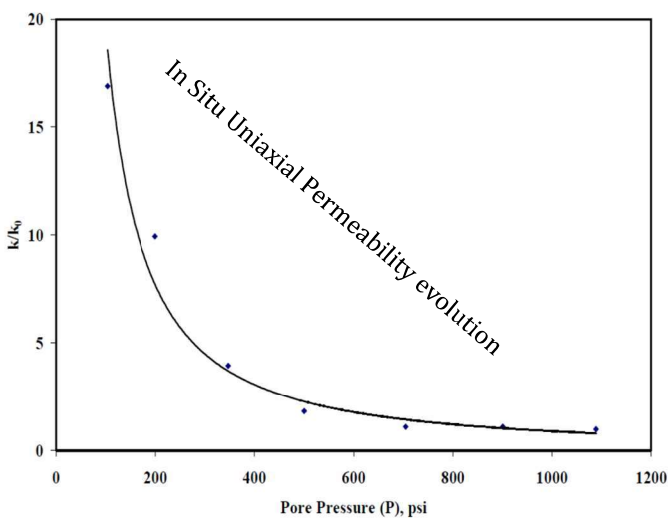
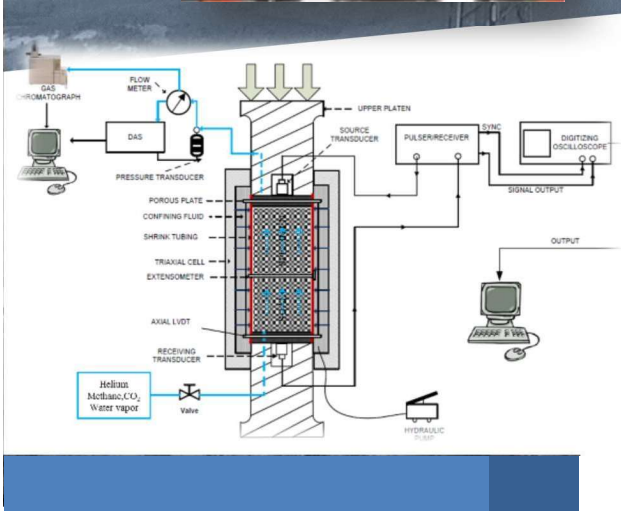
## Description

- **Gas sorption isotherm** is essential to determine the maximum gas holding capacity of a coal sample. It is used to estimate the gas-in-place (GIP) for a coalbed methane reservoir. The Unconventional Geomechanics Lab has measured various coal sorption isotherms (both adsorption and desorption) for different clients. The Lab also provides gas **diffusion coefficient and diffusive permeability** estimation services.
- The Lab also provided modeling services. We can use **Langmuir, BET, D-A, D-R models** to describe the sorption behavior of coals.



## Capacity Specifications

- Axial load capacities up to 4,500 kN
- Pore pressure up to 210 MPa
- Pressure-dependent permeability measurement
- Temperature range: ambient to 200°C
- In situ uniaxial strain condition
- Servo-controlled applied stresses
- Pulse-decay permeability measurement (coal and shale)
- Steady-state permeability measurement (high permeability rocks)



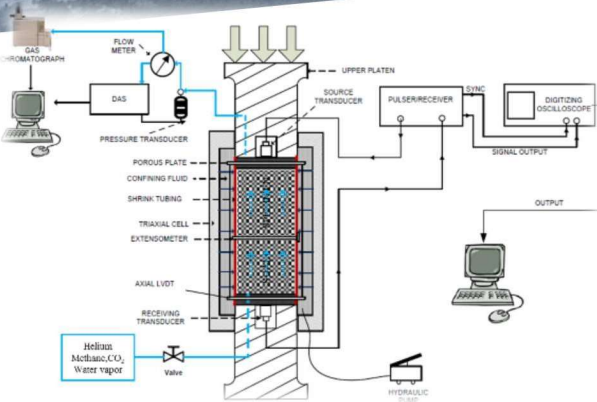
## Description

The Lab can simulate the *in situ* reservoir rock stress/strain boundary conditions. We can measure the pressure dependent rock permeability under different stress conditions, including, hydrostatic condition, uniaxial strain condition, different deviatoric stress conditions. We have measured coal, tight sand and shale permeability

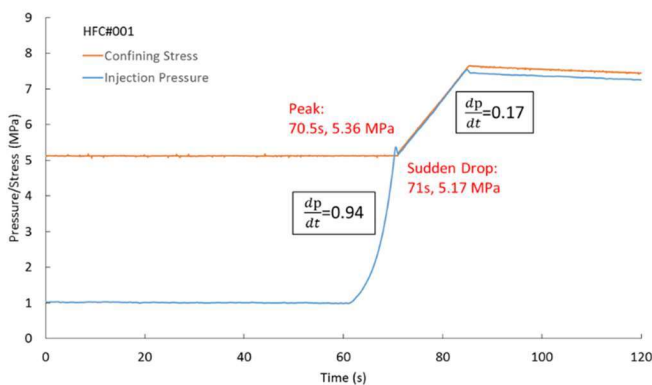


## Capacity Specifications

- Axial load capacities up to 4,500 kN
- Pore pressure up to 210 MPa
- Specimen size: 25 mm to 100 mm
- Different fracturing fluids experiments
- Fracturing morphology characterization
- Different deviatoric stress fracturing experiments

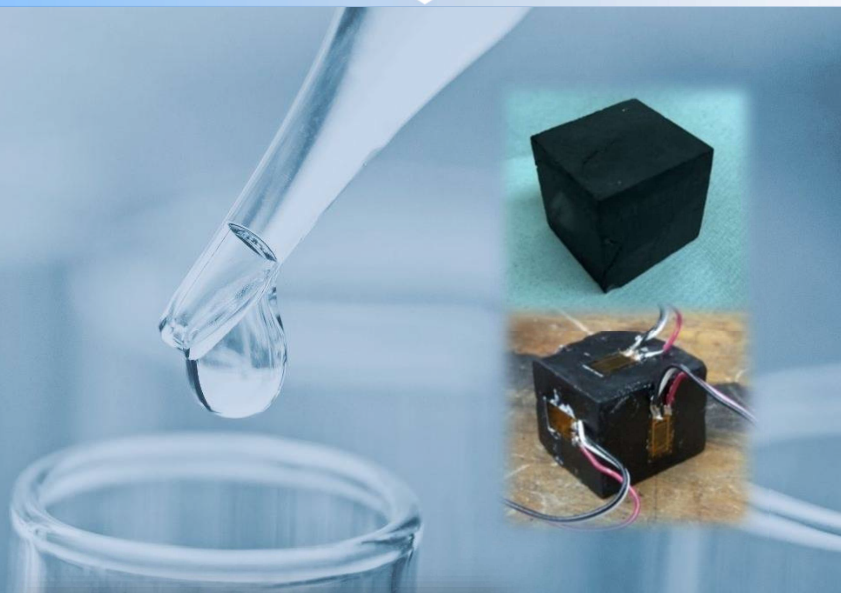


## Reservoir Rock Breakdown Pressure Responses



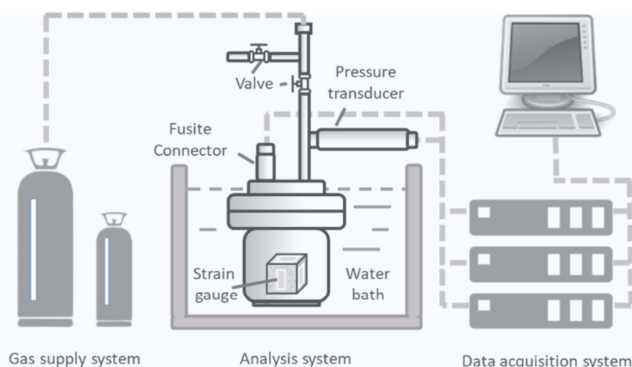
## Description

The hydraulic fracture system was established to simulate the hydraulic fracturing fluid pumping, fracturing closure, and to measure the fracturing permeability. The fracturing fluids can be single phase gas ( $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2$ ), slick water, water, active water, VES-fracturing fluid, cross-link gel, and different foams. We can study the break-down pressure, fracturing propagation behavior using different fracturing fluids.

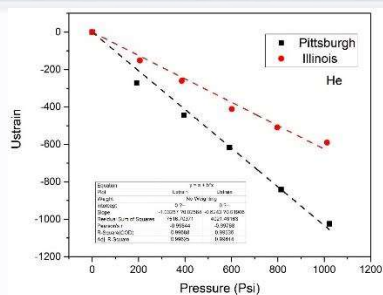


## Capacity Specifications

- Pressure range: 0-2000 psi
- Measured accuracy:  $\pm 0.0001$  micron strain
- Temperature range: ambient to  $95^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Pressure sampling rate: up to 1000/s
- Gas mixture matrix shrinkage/swelling



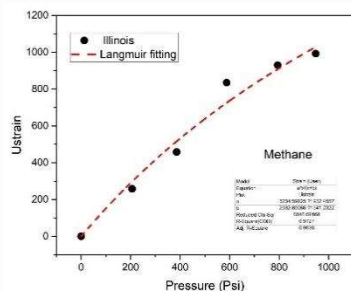
## TYPICAL RESULTS



Description

### Coal matrix compressibility - Helium

- The Lab can measure coal matrix compressibility due to mechanical compression by using non-sorbing Helium.



Description

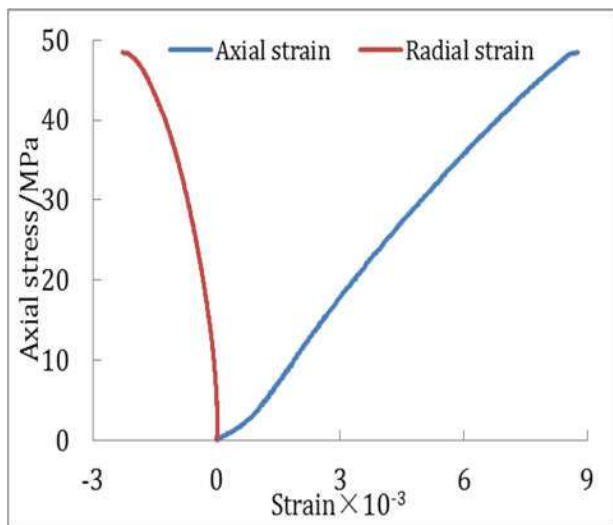
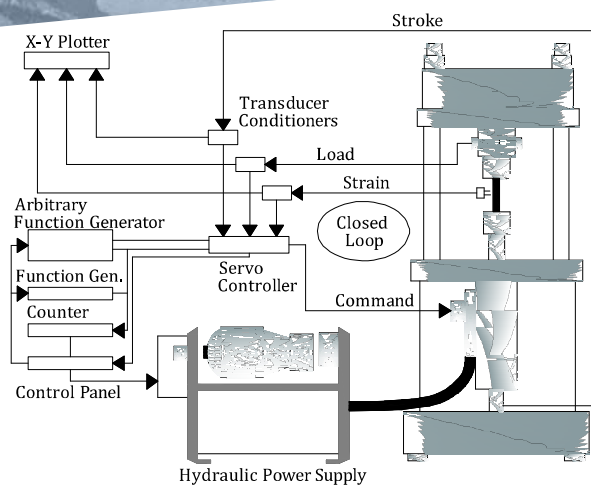
### CH<sub>4</sub> and/or CO<sub>2</sub> matrix shrinkage/swelling

- CH<sub>4</sub>-/CO<sub>2</sub>-/N<sub>2</sub>-induced coal matrix shrinkage and swelling measurements
- Gas mixture coal matrix shrinkage and swelling



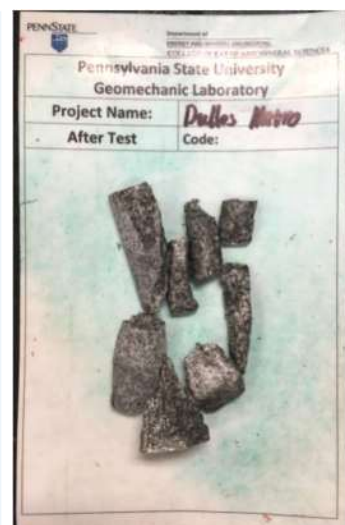
## Capacity Specifications

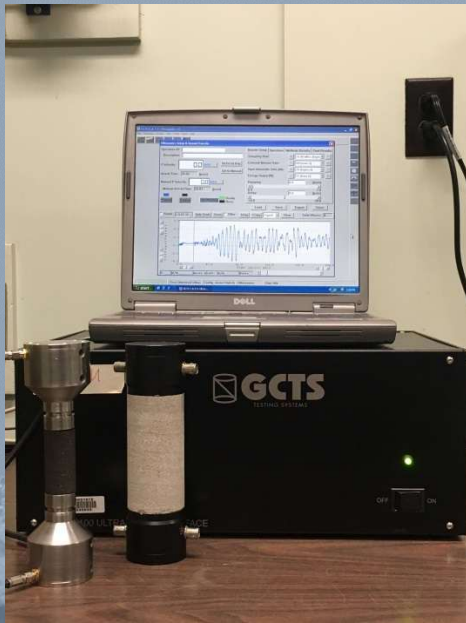
- Compression rating: 200 kip
- Tension rating: 150 kip
- Actuator displacement: 4 inch
- Spring rate:  $1.5 \times 10^7$  lb/inch



## Mechanical Properties

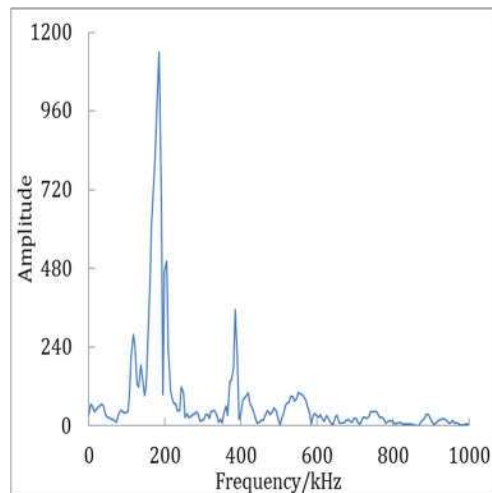
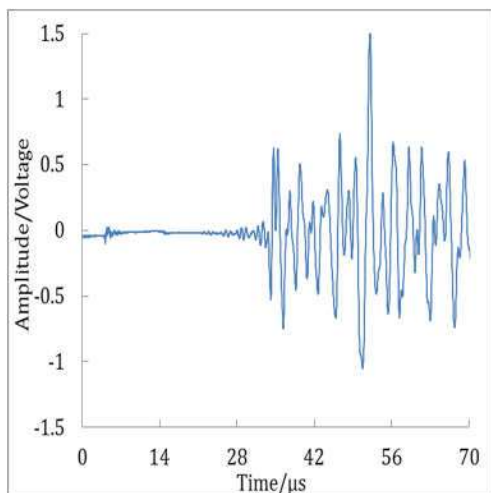
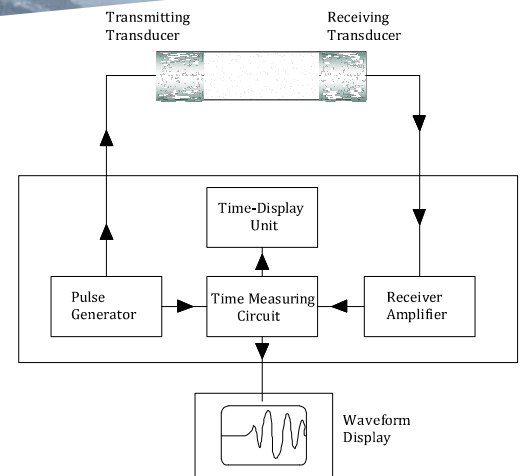
- Uniaxial compressive strength
- Young's modulus
- Poisson's ratio
- Strain-stress relationship





## Capacity Specifications

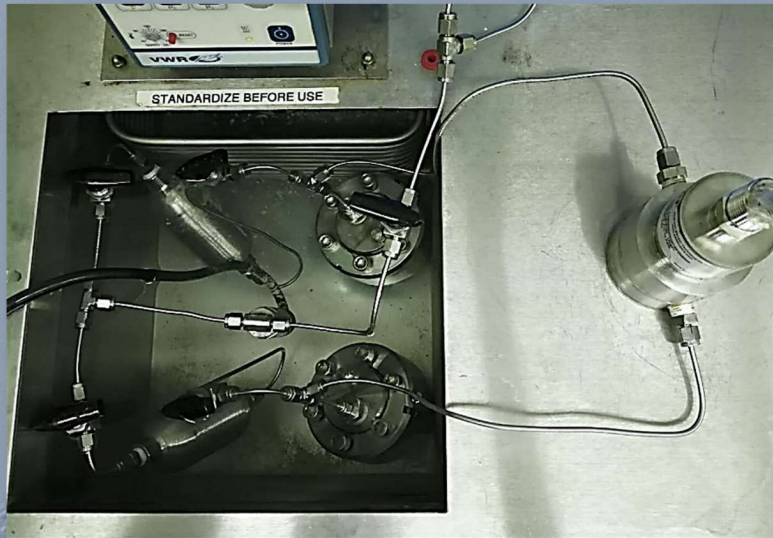
- Maximum resolution: 20 MHz
- Minimum resolution: 156 kHz
- Acquisition rate: 20 MHz
- Receiver bandwidth: 10 MHz



## Measurable Properties

- P- and S-wave velocities
- Attenuation
- Dynamic modulus
- Rock dynamics
- Saturation measurement
- Fracture characteriation



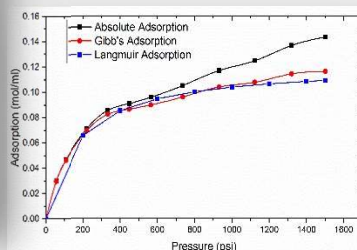
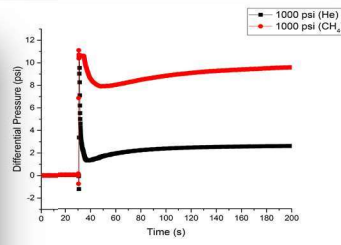
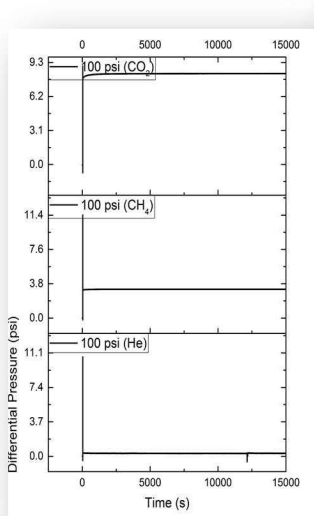
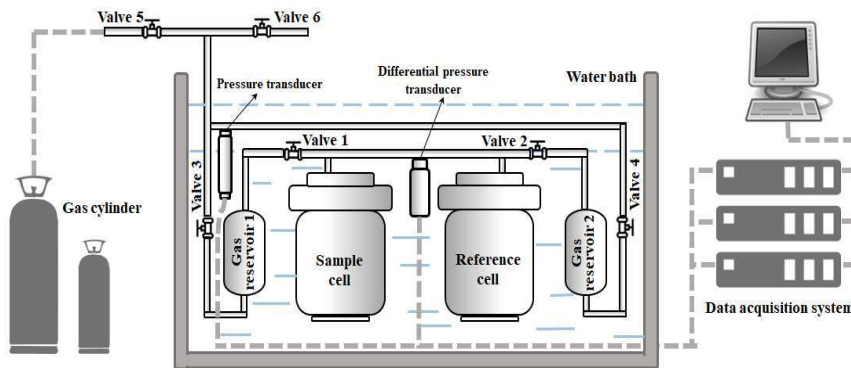


## Challenges for Shale Sorption

Since the shale sorption capacity is very low compared to coal, the accurate measurement of shale sorption capacity is very challenging. Shale sorption capacity is 10~100 scf/t, and conventional method will involve large error. We established a high accuracy, high-line pressure shale sorption system which can measure gas sorption capacity less than 10 scf/t with accuracy of  $\pm 3\%$ .

## Capacity Specifications

- Capable of monitoring the **small pressure reduction (0-10 psi)** induced by adsorption.
- Pressure range: **0~2000 psi**
- Pressure Accuracy: **0.01 psi**
- Temp range: **-20~100 °C**
- Modelling: Langmuir, Diffusion coefficient, Adsorption potential energy, Multicomponent gas adsorption



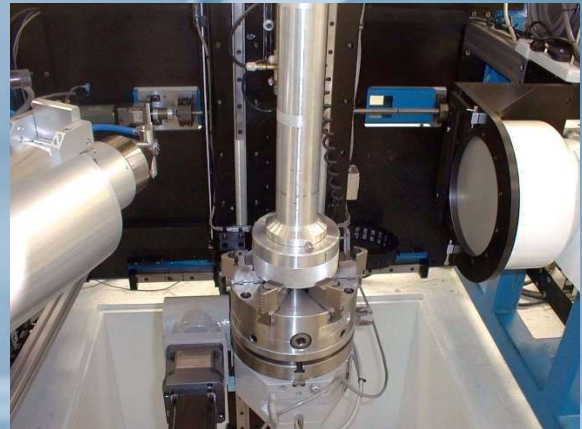
Description

- Adsorption induced pressure reduction
  - Differential pressure vs time
  - Single phase and multi-phase shale adsorption induced pressure drop with time

Description

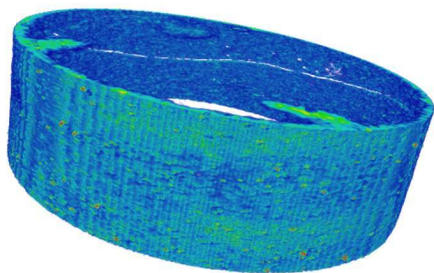
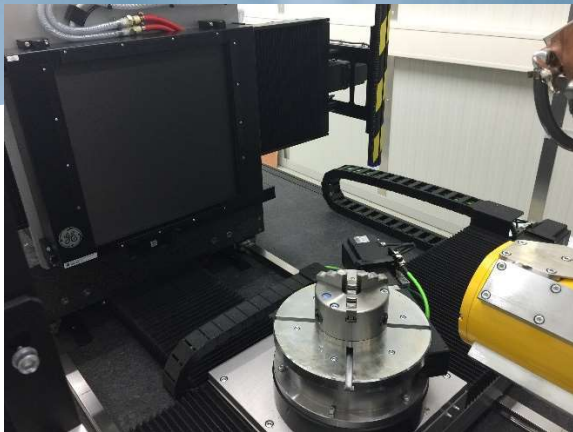
- Adsorption isotherm curves
  - Shale adsorption capacity under various temperature conditions
  - Fitting curves of Langmuir and Gibb's adsorption isotherm curves

## GE v|tome|x L300 multi-scale nano/microCT system

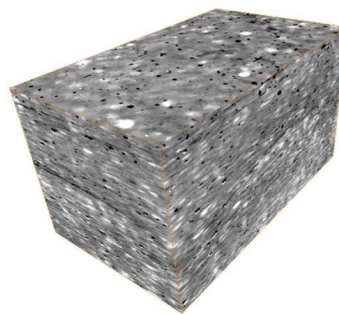


### Capacity Specifications

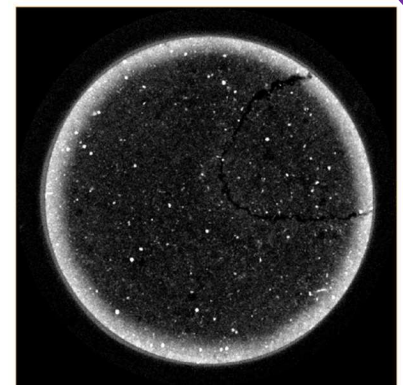
- 300kV unipolar microfocus X-ray tube
- 180kV nanofocus X-ray tube with transmission target and a high contract digital flat detector
- 3D image rock core data
- High pressure core holder is available
- Fracture characterization of rocks
- 3D visualization for rock structures



Gas transport in rock core



Nano-porosity quantification



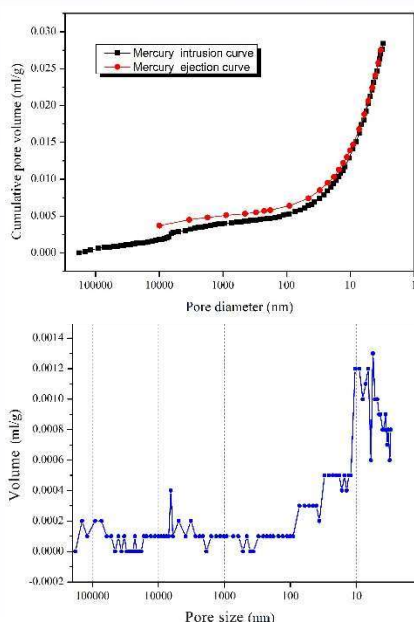
Rock Fracture Characterization



## Capacity Specifications

- Four low pressure ports
- Two high pressure ports (60,000 psi)
- Measurements can occur in 30 to 60 minutes
- Pore size diameters can be measured between 0.003 and 360 microns
- Measurements include pore volume, pore area, material density and percent porosity.

## TYPICAL RESULTS



## Description

### Mercury injection/ejection curve

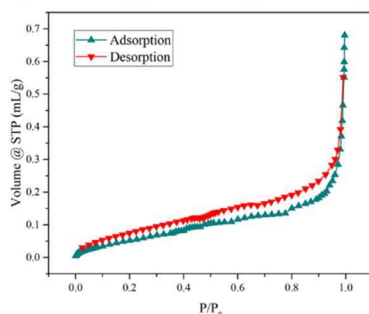
- Mercury porosimetry is used to measure the porosity of a material by applying controlled pressure to a sample immersed in mercury. External pressure is required for mercury to penetrate into the pores of a material due to high contact angle of mercury. The amount of pressure required to intrude into the pores is inversely proportional to the size of the pores. The larger the pore the smaller the pressure needed to penetrate into the pore.



## Capacity Specifications

- Gas used:  
▲ N<sub>2</sub> ▲ CO<sub>2</sub> ▲ He ▲ H<sub>2</sub> ▲ Ar ▲ Kr
- Pore size range: 3.5 to 5000 Å
- Typical Application: Ceramic, activated carbons, carbon black, catalysts, nanotubes, electronics, aerospace, fuel cells, clays et al.

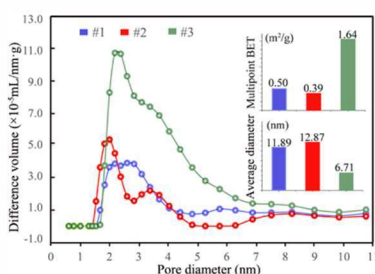
## TYPICAL RESULTS



Description

### Liquid N<sub>2</sub> adsorption curve

- Liquid N<sub>2</sub> adsorption curve is widely used in analyzing pore characteristics of shale and coal. Based on the hysteresis loop, the pore shape can be generally inferred.



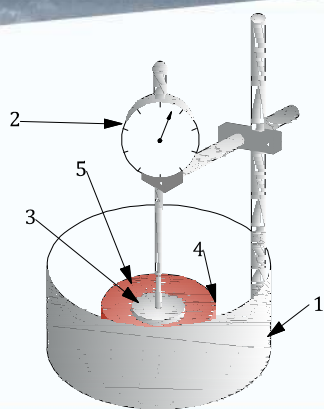
Description

### Pore size distribution

- With the theory of t-polt, BET, BJH, DFT and other methods, the pore size distribution (volume and surface area), BET surface area and average pore width et al. can be obtained precisely.



Geotechnical Testing – Mudstone Swelling for tunneling, mining industries.



1. Stainless-steel container;
2. Dial gauge;
3. Stainless-steel plate;
4. Stainless-steel band;
5. Rock specimen.

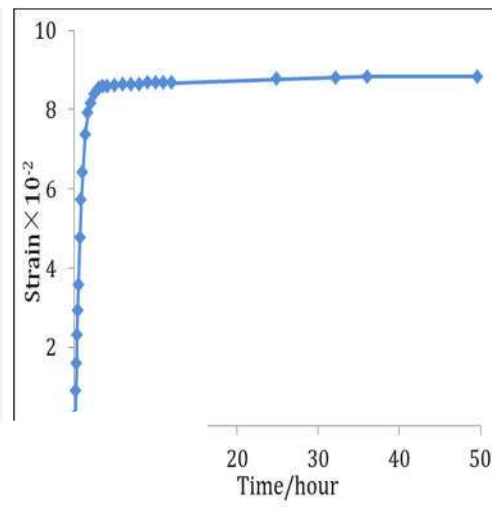
## Capacity Specifications

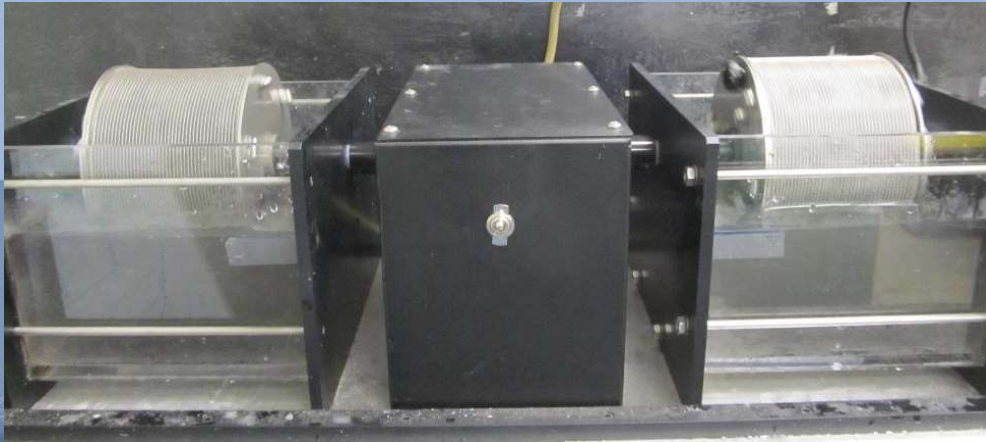
- Measuring range: 0-1 inch
- Resolution: 0.0005 inch
- Accuracy: 0.001 inch
- Repeatability: 0.0005 inch
- Maximum measuring speed: 1.5 m/s



## Measurable Properties

- Axial free strain
- Radial free strain
- Volumetric free strain
- Time-dependent swelling





Slake Durability Index

$$I_{d1} = [(W_{f1} - C)/(W_i - C)] \times 100$$

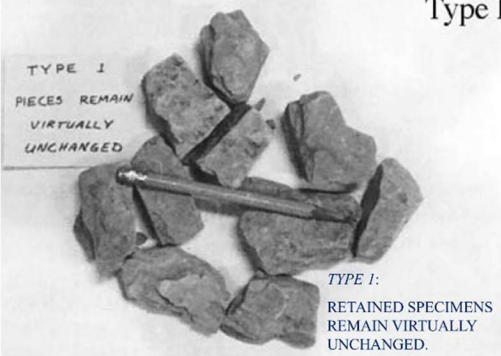
$$I_{d2} = [(W_{f2} - C)/(W_i - C)] \times 100$$

Where  $W_i$  = mass of drum plus oven-dried specimen before the first cycle, g,  $W_{f1}$  and  $W_{f2}$  = mass of drum plus oven-dried specimen retained after the first and the second cycles accordingly, g, and  $C$  is mass of drum.

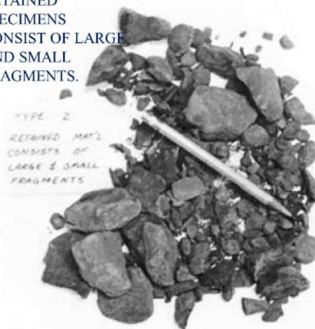
## Goal/Objective

To determine the slake durability index of water sensitive rocks after two drying and wetting cycles with abrasion.

Type I

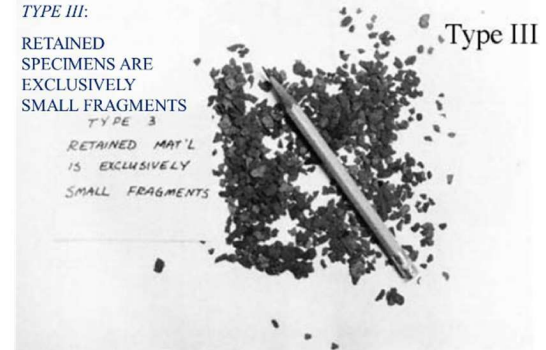


TYPE II:  
RETAINED  
SPECIMENS  
CONSIST OF LARGE  
AND SMALL  
FRAGMENTS.

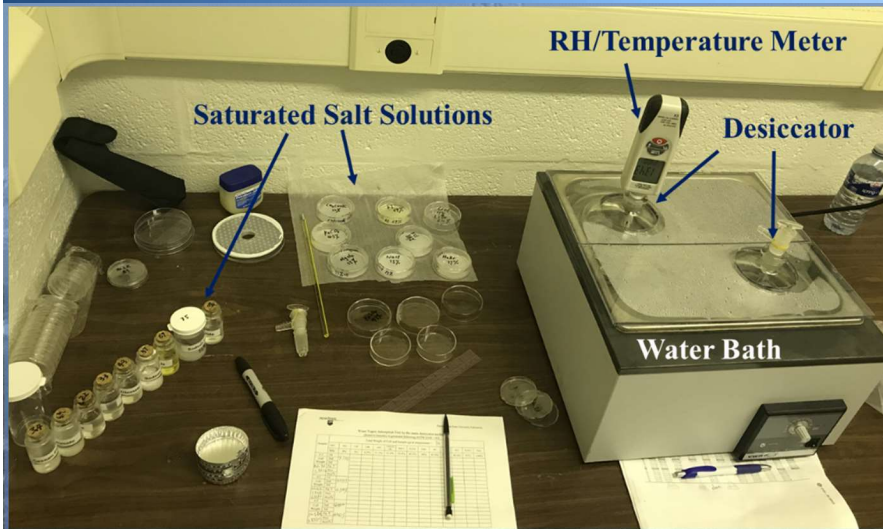


Type II

TYPE III:  
RETAINED  
SPECIMENS ARE  
EXCLUSIVELY  
SMALL FRAGMENTS

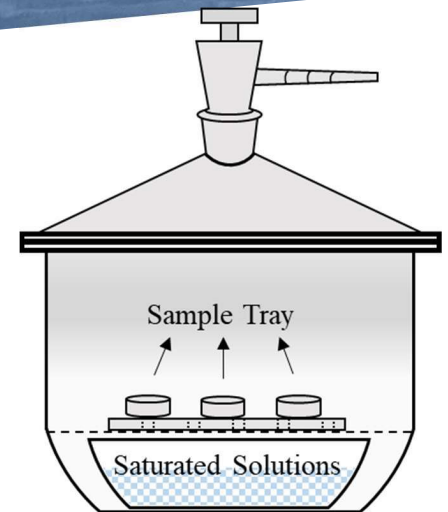


TYPE I: Retained specimens remain virtually unchanged. TYPE II: Retained specimens consist of large and small fragments. TYPE III: Retained specimens are exclusively small fragments.



## Capacity Specifications

- Relative humidity range: 0%~97.3%
- RH accuracy:  $\pm 2\%$
- Temperature range: 5-80 °C
- Temperature accuracy:  $\pm 0.5$  °C

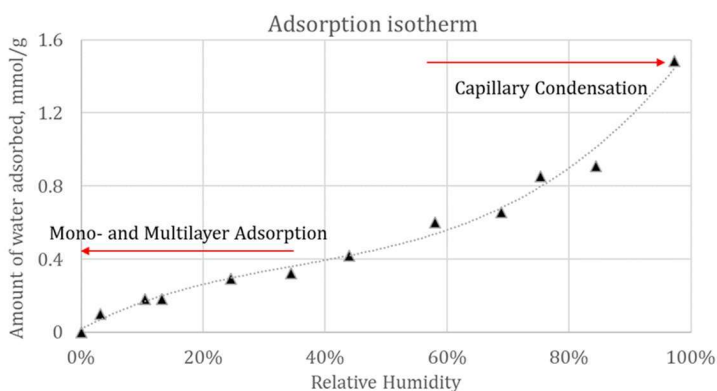


ASTM E104-02 (2012)

Equilibrium RH

Relative Humidity Generated by Different Saturated Salt Solutions at 25 °C

| Salts | CsF | LiBr | LiCl | CH <sub>3</sub> COOK | MgCl <sub>2</sub> | K <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | NaBr | KI   | NaCl | KCl  | K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> |
|-------|-----|------|------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|
| RH, % | 3.4 | 6.4  | 11.3 | 22.5                 | 32.8              | 43.2                           | 57.6 | 68.9 | 75.3 | 84.2 | 97.3                           |



Modeling

- Monolayer Adsorption
  - Multilayer Adsorption
  - Capillary Condensation -- Kelvin Equation
- } BET Theory