DITOCO2030

TOPICAL SESSION 3 - DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

DITOCO2030 and HERMES

Sergey Churakov (PSI) and Réka Szőke (IFE)
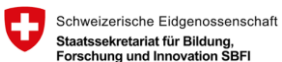
10.09.2025   Eurad-2 First annual event, Bologna

HERMES & DITOCO2030: BACKGROUND & AIMS

Despite the continuous growth of the computational resources, the **realism of the current models applied in the simulations of repository systems remains severely limited in terms of dimensions, time-space resolution and process couplings**. Major challenge remains to be efficiency of the process couplings in the available computer simulation tools.

WP-HERMES is RD&D project aiming at the development of high-fidelity numerical models for simulations of strongly coupled THMC processes in repository nearfield, repository design optimisation and interpretation of mock-up experiments using a combination **of physics-based models and accelerated computing** assisted with **machine learning and artificial intelligence**.

WP-DITOCO2030 is a StSt project aiming to lay-out the path on how to close the R&D gap between the currently fragmented digital twins (DT) of individual disciplines, common data environments and decision-making platforms **to better understand** the **opportunities & limitations of DT** in **their deployment** in **whole life cycle of waste management.**

HIGH FIDELITY SIMULATIONS

High-fidelity simulations refer to **accurate and detailed model-based representations of real-world** systems, processes, or phenomena involving advanced computational models, precise data inputs, sophisticated computational algorithms and use of advanced High-Performance-Computing (HPC).

Detailed System representation:

- High resolution spatial representation of the system with its components and material properties
- Description of coupled physical phenomena, complex material behavior and system interactions
- Close match of real-world observations (monitoring data)

Computational Challenges

- High computational demands
- Handling of complex equations and large (in time & in space) datasets

SURROGATE MODELS

Surrogate models are simplified **mathematical approximations** of more complex, computationally expensive models. Surrogate models are designed based on the high-fidelity reference data developed with the aim to **reduced computational costs** while **providing required accuracy**.

Key Features of Surrogate Models:

- *Efficiency*: Much lower computational costs compared to the reference high-fidelity models.

- *Accuracy*: Provide key outputs parameters within acceptable error margins.

- *Flexibility* and *application* range: Use generic approach for various types of engineering problems. Interpolate data from the original complex model or real-world experiments.

Key application domains:

- *Optimization*: Multi-factor optimization of model parameters and system design.

- *Uncertainty Quantification*: Assessing variability of the input-outputs relationships.

- *Sensitivity Analysis*: Identification of most impactful system parameters.

- *Real-Time Decision Making*: Providing quick approximations in dynamic or interactive environments.

What is a Digital Twin?

What is the Digital Twin for Eurad-2?

A key challenge lies in aligning & integrating the diverse objectives of Digital Twin technologies (ranging from digital engineering to long-term safety) across multiple disciplines, including geology, performance assessment, systems optimization, realization, and infrastructure.

Achieving a coherent & functional integration across these areas remains a significant difficulty.

Have repositories been constructed? | Nagra

VISION OF DITOCO2023

- **to agree on what is needed** from the individual disciplines in a DT,
- **at what point in time**
- **to what level of detail**, in order to use the DT for effective decision-making during the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of radioactive waste management facilities, and for interactions with stakeholders.

The study will **identify** the major challenges to tackle and set key performance indicators to identify the **expertise & capacity that is needed** to address the RD&D challenges.

The added value lies in the evidence-based **i)** identification & management of risks, **ii)** performance assessment of safety margins, **iii)** optimization of design configurations, **iv)** calculation of costs to completion, **v)** engagement improvement with stakeholders.
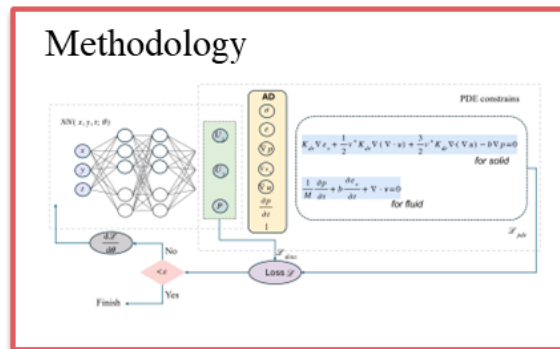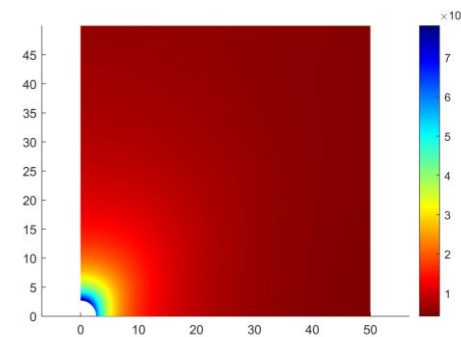
SURROGATE MODES EXAMPLES

Surrogate models or proxy models provide a significant acceleration to the THMC simulation codes. How: Apply, benchmark and implement scientific machine learning methods
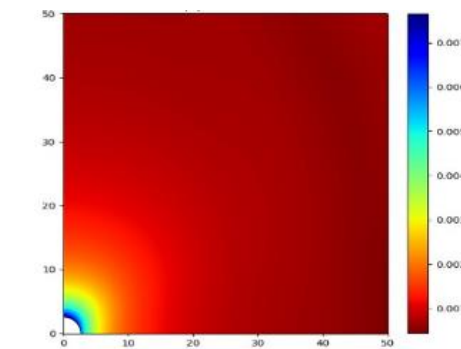
Numerical study of Hydromechanical response using Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINN) Method
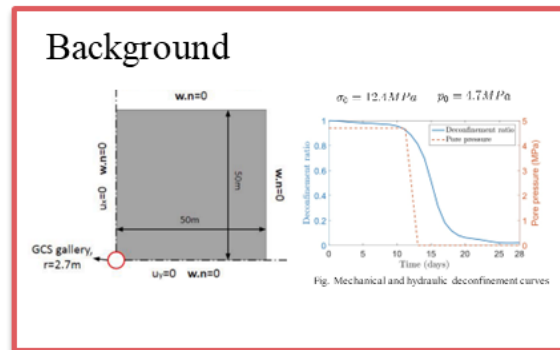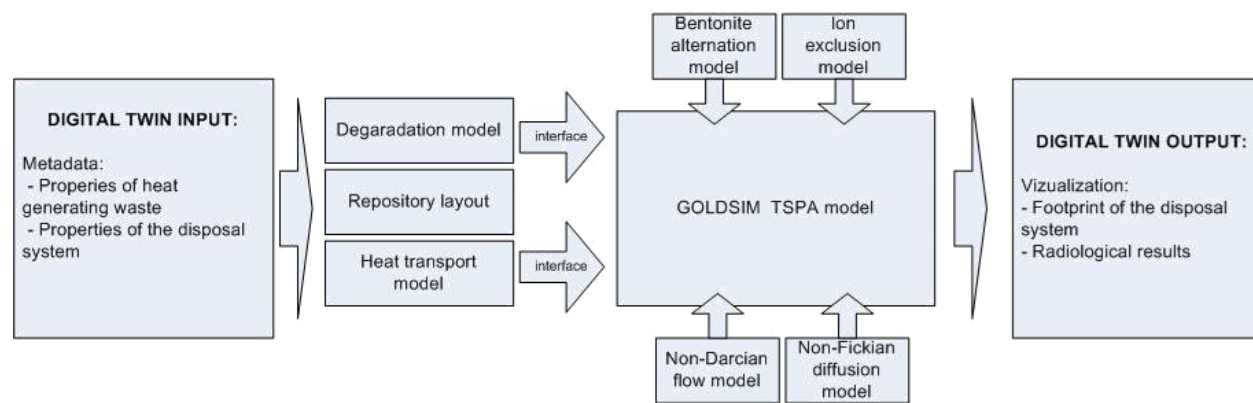

Displacement distribution (FEM Vs PINN)

TAILORED MODELS FOR FIELD SCALE MOCK-UPS

- **FISST (Full scale In-Situ System Test) backfilled tunnel with two deposition holes, each one containing a canister embedded in expansive clay in ONKALO, Olkiluoto (Finland)**

(I) calibration of THM material models

(II) performing 3D TH simulations with the "in situ"
test real geometry (Digital Twin);

(III) predictive THM calculations in 3D at a reduced (simplified) scale

MODEL-HUB: DATA AND MODEL INTEGRATION
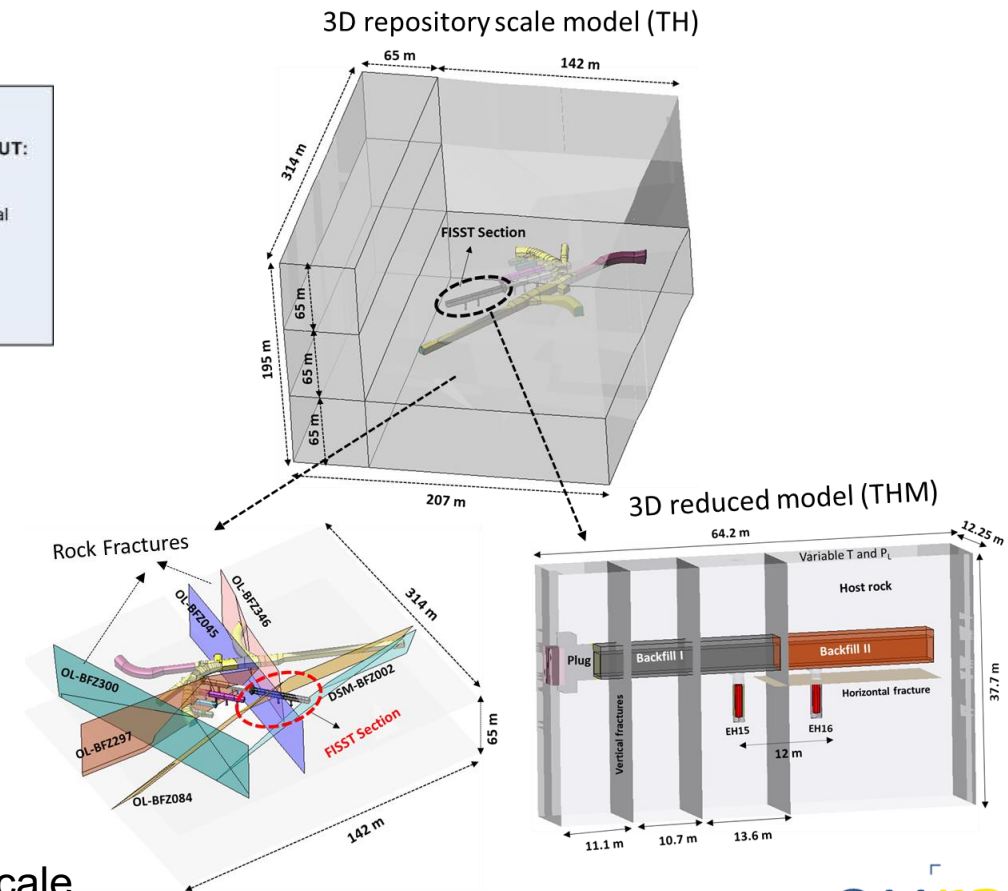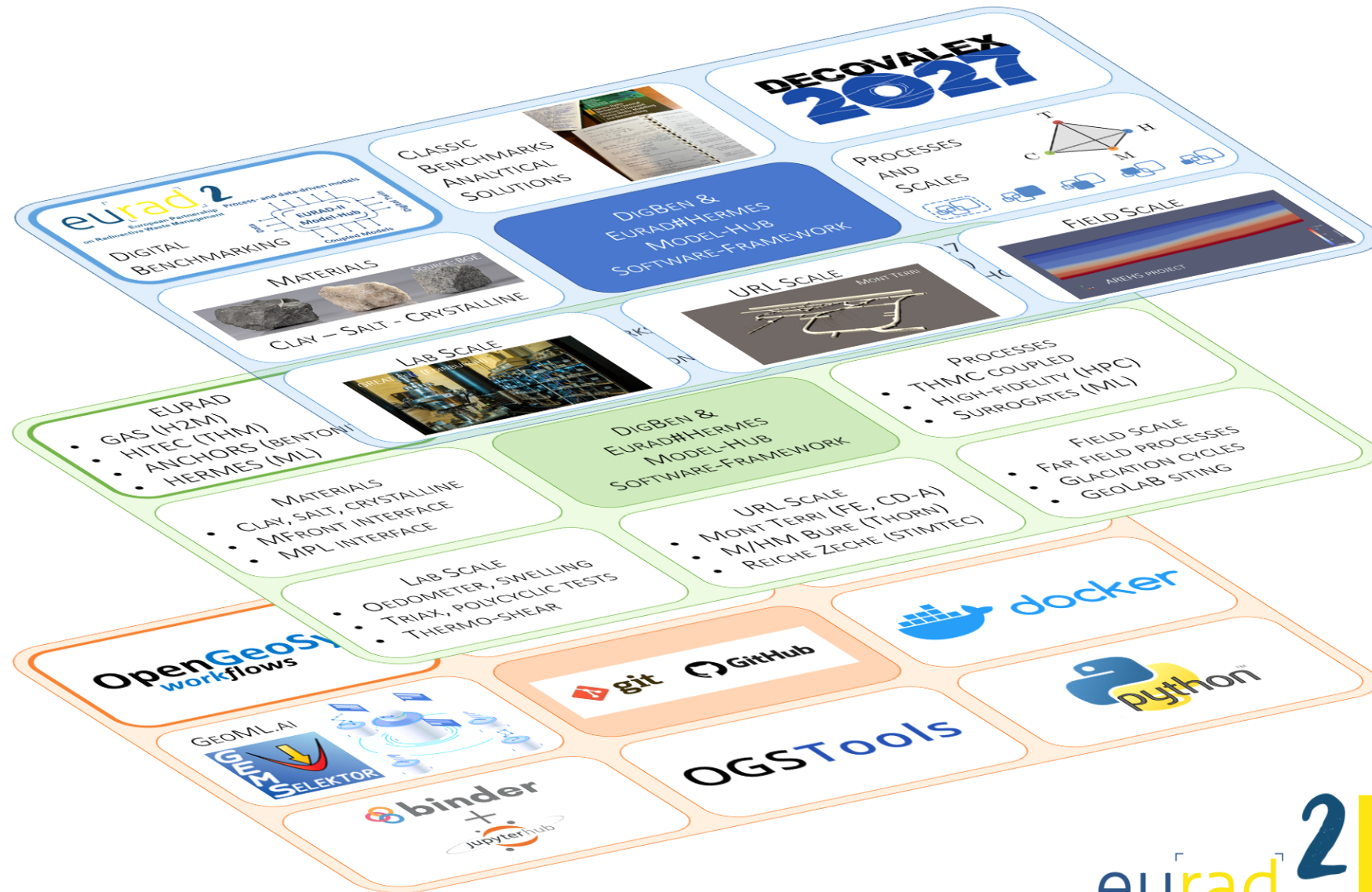
WebLayer

structured user-web-interface organized by thematic areas: materials, processes, scales > projects

InfoLayer

specific information about thematic areas including literature links > list of current benchmarks and examples (extending)

JupyterLab

interactive Jupyter Notebooks of benchmarks and examples < coding area for interactive work

AIM OF THE DIGITAL TRANFORMATION DISCUSSION

- Status update on development, use and application of high-fidelity models coupled models

- RD&D challenges and knowledge gaps

- Define the meaning of DT in nuclear waste management community

- Prospective on design and use DT in nuclear waste disposal (e.g., use cases, pilot studies, …)

- Innovative approaches for integration of knowledge from simulation of coupled processes into digital twins

DIGITAL TRANFORMATION SESSION AGENDA

10'   Réka Szőke & Sergey Churakov Introduction and scope

20'   Arto Laikari Insights from DITOCO green paper

20'   Pablo Cayón Insights from DITOCO white paper

20'   Olaf Kolditz   HERMES-Model/Data-HUB development

20'   Nikolaos Prasianakis Application of AI in reactive transport modelling

20'   Magdalena Dymitrowska Macroscopic and pore-scale modelling of gas transport

10'   Réka Szőke & Sergey Churakov Concluding remarks

Reporter: Attila Baksay (TS-Enercom)

Observer: Alex Papafotiou (Nagra);