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# High-resolution seismic reservoir monitoring with multitask and transfer learning

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## ABSTRACT

High-resolution real-time monitoring of reservoir changes is essential during CO<sub>2</sub> injection or hydrocarbon production. Here, we leverage convolutional neural networks (CNNs) that employ multitask (MTL) and transfer (TL) learning to accurately predict relevant reservoir parameters from time-lapse seismic data. CNNs are initially trained to estimate the P-wave velocity from 2D multicomponent seismic data and then are fine-tuned through TL to obtain the S-wave velocity, density, and saturation. This methodology is applied to a synthetic CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration model based on California’s Kimberlina storage reservoir. When using MTL, CNNs are trained simultaneously on several related tasks by taking advantage of their commonalities. We show that after pretraining the model on a 2D line, it can be fine-tuned to predict the reservoir parameters from the data acquired in the crossline direction. Our work addresses the challenge of training-data scarcity, promotes efficient use of computational resources in reservoir monitoring, and helps increase the accuracy of real-time monitoring of the fluid movement inside the reservoir.

**Key words:** CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring, time-lapse, multitask-learning, transfer-learning

## 1 Introduction

Monitoring the time-lapse changes in subsurface reservoirs is crucial for effectively managing oil and gas production and CO<sub>2</sub> injection for carbon capture and storage (CCS). These changes, particularly the fluid movement and saturation level, directly impact operational strategies and environmental safety. Elastic time-lapse full-waveform inversion (FWI) of seismic data is capable of estimating the parameters of realistic heterogeneous anisotropic models (Queißer and Singh, 2013; Liu and Tsvankin, 2021).

Huang and Zhu (2020) present a computationally efficient time-lapse FWI algorithm with a hierarchical matrix-powered extended Kalman filter (HiEKF). While HiEKF reduces costs compared to more traditional KF methods, handling cross-covariance matrices for large data sets remains resource-intensive. Huang et al. (2023) develop a data-assimilated time-lapse FWI method for attenuative media that produces high-resolution models of velocity and attenuation changes, which is essential for monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> migration and detecting potential leakages. While Huang et al. (2023) include attenuation, it is not as well constrained as velocity, which leads to lower-resolution Q-models. Also, the method of Huang et al. (2023) requires significant computational resources, especially for large-scale real-time monitoring projects. In general, FWI faces such challenges as parameter crosstalk and trade-offs, which are only partially mitigated by choosing an optimal model parameterization (Kamath and Tsvankin, 2016; Mardan et al., 2022; Pan et al., 2018; Singh et al., 2021).

The variation in fluid saturation within a reservoir may lead to changes in the elastic parameters (the P- and S-wave velocities and density), but density is the most difficult parameter to estimate in time-lapse FWI (Pan et al., 2018). Also, evaluating fluid saturation from time-lapse seismic data involves complex and often error-prone processes (Ajo-Franklin et al., 2013; Vasco et al., 2019). Finally, conventional (physics-based) inversion methods, such as FWI, are

computationally intensive and may not be suitable for efficient continuous long-term seismic monitoring.

Here, we employ recent advances in computational science and machine learning to solve complex nonlinear inverse problems that arise in reservoir monitoring. Deep-learning (DL) algorithms use a data-driven input-output relationship that circumvents some of the FWI constraints without relying solely on physical and geologic information (Biswas et al., 2019; Zhang and Gao, 2022; Liu et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023b; Wu et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020). Among commonly used ML techniques are convolutional neural networks (CNNs), recurrent neural networks (RNNs), and transformer methodologies. For example, Leong et al. (2024) and Um et al. (2022, 2024) present a DL network for monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> saturation. Leong et al. (2024) use SeisCO2Net, which combines deep CNNs and autoencoders to predict P-wave velocity for viscoacoustic media from field data. Their method, however, does not fully incorporate shear-wave effects (or elasticity in general), which limits its applicability in practice. Feng et al. (2023) introduce a benchmark data set for predicting the P- and S-wave velocities using CNNs. Long short-term memory (LSTM) and CNNs are employed by Simon et al. (2023) for velocity model-building.

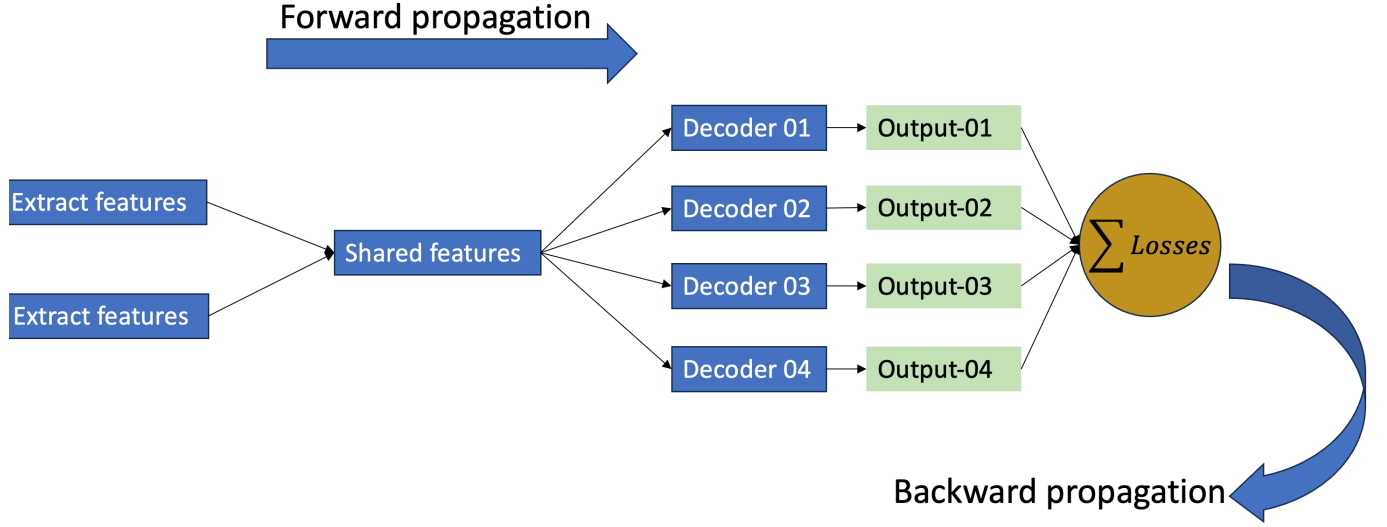
Transformers, whose application in geophysics is still nascent, are a type of neural-network architecture originally developed for Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithms (Maurício et al., 2023); they are known for their ability to capture long-range dependencies in the data. Transformers offer potential advantages in processing complex spatial and temporal patterns, but they are not yet as widely used in geophysics as CNNs. Wang et al. (2023a) combine CNNs (U-Net autoencoder - autodecoder) and transformers in seismic interpretation for fault detection. If CNNs are trained with transfer learning (TL), they may perform better than pure transformer-based networks, especially for relatively small data sets (Kornblith et al., 2019; Maurício et al., 2023).

Incorporating multitasking into CNNs is a promising approach for predicting multiple reservoir parameters. Multiple-target multitasking CNNs are designed to simultaneously predict multiple outputs, which enables them to share learned features across tasks. This approach enhances efficiency and reduces overfitting by leveraging shared representations, making it particularly useful for predicting related reservoir parameters. Multitasking with multiple encoders and decoder CNN architectures is a potentially powerful tool for capturing complex geospatial relationships by simultaneously processing several seismic attributes. The encoder compresses the input data into a compact representation for the inversion tasks. The multiple decoders handle several tasks simultaneously by learning various properties of seismic data. However, these architectures require extensive and diverse training data sets to capture the variability of geologic formations. They also incur higher computational costs due to their complex structure.

Transfer learning (TL) leverages models pretrained on similar data sets, which enables the application of the learned features to new (but related) tasks. TL enhances model generalizability and accelerates the training process, which helps overcome data scarcity and/or lack of computational resources (Simon et al., 2023). The effectiveness of TL depends on the relevance of the features learned from the source domain for the target domain, which makes selection of appropriate pretrained model particularly important. The papers by Tajbakhsh et al. (2016), Becherer et al. (2019), and Kumar et al. (2022) highlight the value of fine-tuning in optimizing neural-network models and challenges in adjusting pretrained models to new tasks. Although geologic and geophysical model-driven CNNs are potentially capable of estimating the elastic parameters (Li et al., 2022), they are limited by the memory and data requirements, particularly for 3D data sets (Li et al., 2023). The results also strongly depend on the quality of the input data, and CNNs require extensive computational resources.

Such challenges in ML as limited generalizability and scalability, as well as scarcity of training data, are well-recognized. Another serious problem for ML is the memory limitations of GPU nodes when dealing with large-scale data sets. For our initial testing, we used the original dimensions of the Kimberlina seismic data (4000 time samples  $\times$  289 receivers) and the reservoir model (350 depth samples  $\times$  600 horizontal extension) to train the network. However, this configuration exceeded the memory capacity of a single GPU node (Volta V100) available to us, even for a data subset based on the batch size. To address this issue, we decimated the seismic data (by increments of 4 in time samples  $\times$  3 in receiver samples) and the reservoir model (by increments of 4 in depth samples  $\times$  4 in horizontal samples) to make the training feasible. Extending this methodology to 3D data sets makes computational problems even more severe.

We leverage the advantages of CNNs with TL and single-target MTL to efficiently predict relevant reservoir param-



**Figure 1.** Flowchart of a multiple-targets multitask learning (MTL) CNN architecture.

ters from seismic data. In addition, we take advantage of using Gaussian activation instead of the LeakReLU function. Model selection is curcial for ML training, and there is a wide range of models which have performed adequately in seismic inversion. The better the chosen neural-network model (RELU, LeakyRELU, GELU, etc.) employed in CNN has a strong influence on the performance of the network and generalizability. For the purpose of transfer learning, we found that the Gaussian function helps improve learning dynamics and generalization. In the tests described below we train a model for P-wave velocity and then fine-tune it to estimate the other medium parameters.

We propose a novel approach in which CNNs, initially trained to estimate the P-wave velocity from multicomponent seismic data, are fine-tuned through TL to obtain other medium parameters. We start by discussing multitasking (MTL), transfer learning (TL), and the corresponding neural network architectures. Then we present a methodology for preparing training data using the available physics information and prior knowledge about the model. The network's performance is validated using noise-contaminated data generated for the realistic synthetic model of CO<sub>2</sub> injection into Kimberlina reservoir in California. Finally, we discuss the impact of the available prior information and of the quality of the simulated training data on the accuracy of the reconstructed time-lapse parameter variations.

## 2 Methodology

### 2.1 Multitask learning (MTL)

Applying deep learning to seismic inversion allows CNN algorithms to recognize patterns and infer relationships in seismic data for parameter predictions. MTL is designed to enhance model generalization by leveraging domain-specific information across related tasks. It involves parallel training on a shared representation that includes feature extraction from the encoders. After obtaining these shared features, the network branches into multiple decoders, each responsible for a separate task. The outputs from these decoders are evaluated, and the cumulative losses are used in the back-propagation process to further train the network. This feedback loop allows the network to develop shared representations that are beneficial for all tasks (Figure 1).

The MTL architecture, conceptualized by Caruana (1997), fosters inter-task learning, with different tasks acting as mutual regularizers, which increases prediction accuracy (Vafaeikia et al., 2020; Zhang and Yang, 2022). This architecture is further analyzed in recent studies by Li et al. (2023), where MTL is applied to seismic inversion tasks, demonstrating its effectiveness in predicting reservoir properties. The main goal of MTL is to obtain the mapping function  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  that connects the input domain  $\mathbf{x}(i) \in X$  to the output domain  $\mathbf{y}(i) \in Y$  across  $n$  input-output

pairs  $\{[\mathbf{x}(1), \mathbf{y}(1)], [\mathbf{x}(2), \mathbf{y}(2)], \dots, [\mathbf{x}(n), \mathbf{y}(n)]\}$ . This mapping seeks to minimize the loss across all tasks without increasing the model complexity by using regularization:

$$\min_W \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} \left\{ \mathcal{L}[w_t, x_t(i), y_t(i)] \right\} + \lambda \Omega(W), \quad (1)$$

where  $t = 1, 2 \dots T$  is a task with the corresponding data set  $[\mathbf{x}_t(i), \mathbf{y}_t(i)]$ ,  $n_t$  is the number of training samples for the task  $t$ ,  $w_t$  are the model parameters for  $t$ ,  $\mathcal{L}$  is the total loss for the model parameters  $w_t$ ,  $W = \{w_t\}_{t=1}^T$  is the combined set of model parameters for all related tasks, and  $\lambda$  is the weighting factor for the regularization term  $\Omega$ .

Our implementation utilizes a CNN-based autoencoder-decoder framework to extract the features shared among tasks and translate them into the pertinent elastic parameters. Despite the challenges posed by cross-task interference and the need for a large network size to accommodate multitask learning, this approach has proven effective by leveraging multiple prediction tasks.

## 2.2 Transfer learning (TL)

Our focus is on monitoring the  $\text{CO}_2$  movement in the reservoir by employing a neural network trained with seismic data to predict the velocities, density, and saturation. CNN models, however, tend to have a large size, which necessitates using substantial memory and storage. Also, training these models is computationally expensive due to the complexity of the data and the intricacies of the simulation. Finally, fine-tuning the models requires a careful optimization of numerous hyperparameters.

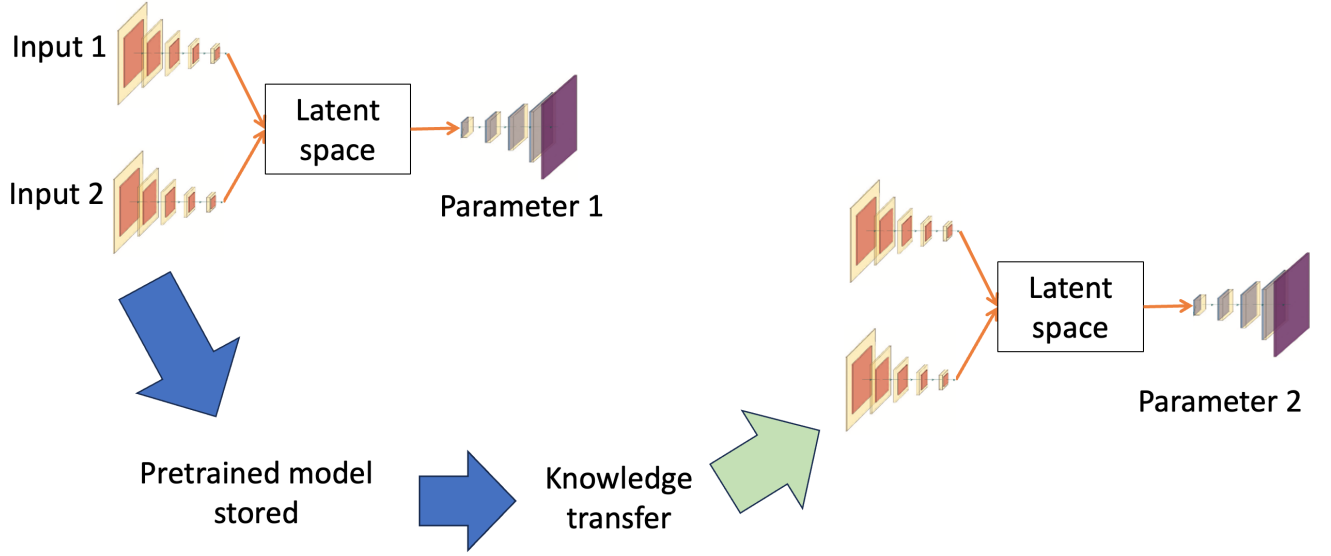
To mitigate these challenges, we employ transfer learning, which utilizes pretrained models that can be adapted to a specific task with relatively minor adjustments. The proposed methodology involves training the CNN on a well-sampled parameter and then fine-tuning it for other parameters in a different domain (Ruder, 2019). This approach mitigates the problems caused by a limited sample size for specific parameters and can produce accurate results without requiring an extensive data set for fine-tuning.

Pretraining on a sufficiently large data set before transferring knowledge to a new task significantly increases the accuracy and learning capabilities of the network compared to training models from scratch (Zhao et al., 2024), which enhances both performance and generalization (Figure 2). TL can mitigate the need for new data collection by transferring knowledge from a domain similar to the target (Weiss et al., 2016; Zhuang et al., 2020). Depending on the domain variability, TL can be categorized as homogeneous (same feature space) or heterogeneous (different feature spaces). For example, Simon et al. (2023) apply TL to velocity model-building by starting with horizontally layered media before training the network on more complex 2D models with dipping structures. TL implementation involves feature extraction or fine-tuning, both aimed at reducing computational demands (Ruder, 2019). We demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach by training our model using data acquired on a 2D line (inline) and then applying the pretrained model to fine-tune the parameters obtained from data on the orthogonal line (crossline). This approach facilitates hyperparameter optimization. Unlike MTL, which balances the focus across multiple tasks, TL is designed to prioritize the target task.

## 2.3 Neural network architecture

We developed a CNN architecture designed for multiparameter prediction of reservoir properties by utilizing auto-encoders and auto-decoders. The term “auto-decoder” refers to a decoding component that reconstructs (or predicts) reservoir properties directly from the latent representation learned by the encoder. It functions similarly to the decoder in an autoencoder architecture, but here it is explicitly tasked with mapping the encoded features to multiple reservoir parameters rather than merely reconstructing the original input. Thus, each “auto-decoder” can be seen as a decoder attached to the shared encoder that allows us to address different prediction objectives (e.g., predict velocity and saturation) using the same latent space.

The starting point for our development is open-access software InversionNet (InvNet; Wu and Lin, 2020) for P-wave



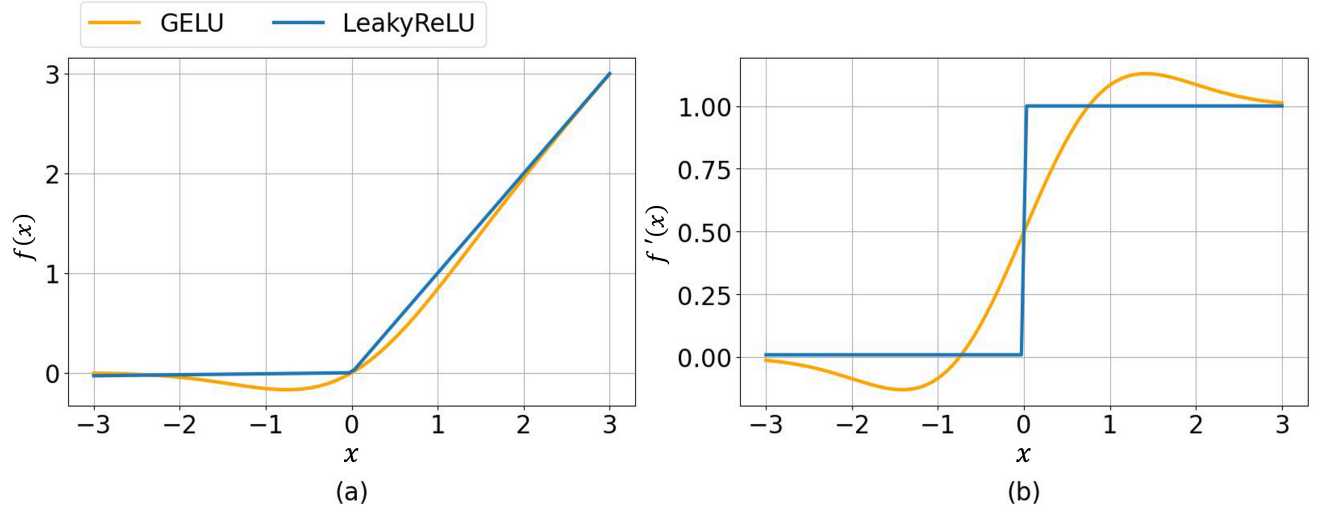
**Figure 2.** Transfer-learning workflow includes sequential steps of freezing layers, fine-tuning the non-frozen layers to adapt to new data, training the model with the new data, and evaluating the model's performance for the new task.

velocity prediction from seismic data for a horizontally layered media. The new features of InvNet include adjustments to accommodate larger models and optimization of the activation function. We changed the model dimensions, modified the corresponding convolutional layers, and replaced rectified linear unit (LeakyReLU) activation functions by the Gaussian error linear Unit (GELU).

InvNet is limited to data with dimensions much smaller than those of the Kimberlina data set. Additionally, we need to handle multi-input and single/multi-output configurations, which necessitates modifications to the model dimensions and convolutional layers in the CNN architecture. Also, InvNet originally used the LeakyReLU function, which introduces nonlinearity to enable the network to capture complex relationships between inputs and outputs. However, for our purposes [in particular, to improve generalization and support Transfer Learning (TL)] we replaced LeakyReLU with the Gaussian Error Linear Unit (GELU). This change significantly reduces the number of epochs required to fine-tune the pretrained model. For instance, estimating density in one of our trials required only 120 training epochs rather than 880 epochs with LeakyReLU. Whereas the specific number of epochs varied among the estimated parameters, the number of training epochs decreased from thousands to hundreds when using GELU.

Ultimately, although our work started with InvNet network designed for homogenous media, the extensive modifications of the dimensions, layers, and activation function resulted in a significantly different architecture suitable for heterogeneous media. The three CNN versions of CNNs developed and used in our study are as follows:

- (i) Multiple-targets multitask-learning network with two encoders and four decoders designed to predict several model parameters simultaneously ( $V_P$ ,  $V_S$ ,  $\rho$ , and saturation).
- (ii) Multiple-targets multitask-learning network with two encoders and two decoders designed to predict the P- and S-wave velocities. The transfer-learning methodology is applied to fine-tune the pre-trained model to predict the other model parameters.
- (iii) Single-target MTL network with two encoders and one decoder designed to predict only the P-wave velocity, with TL employed to predict the other parameters. The trained model from this workflow is then saved to disk for knowledge transfer. Here, “knowledge” refers to the optimized parameters of the trained network. We created three additional copies of the pretrained model and applied a TL approach to fine-tune each model and estimate the remaining parameters independently.



**Figure 3.** (a) GELU and LeakyReLU activation functions. (b) The derivatives of both functions.

Activation functions are mathematical operations applied to the input of a neuron in a CNN. Non-linearity of the model is crucial for the network to learn complex mappings between inputs and outputs, enabling it to capture intricate patterns in the data. Thus, the choice of activation functions can significantly influence the performance of trained models in seismic inversion (Bai et al., 2021; Xie et al., 2021). The GELU activation function, introduced by Hendrycks and Gimpel (2016), is smooth and differentiable, in contrast to the LeakyReLU (Figure 3). As a result, GELU has been employed in various large language models (LLM) and transfer-learning models, including BERT (Devlin et al., 2019), GPT (Brown et al., 2020), and ViT (Dosovitskiy et al., 2021).

For positive values of  $x$  in equation 2, the GELU function gradually approaches unity (Figure 3), thus allowing more of the input to pass through with increasing  $x$ . The LeakyReLU, however, passes through all positive values with no changes. For  $x \approx 0$ , the GELU function allows a small fraction of negative values to pass through, similar to a leakyReLU, but in a smooth manner. This helps in maintaining the gradient flow during backpropagation for small  $x$ , which enhances the learning dynamics. The probabilistic nature of GELU improves the generalization performance of the trained model. GELU avoids the “dying” ReLU problem (where neurons can become inactive and only output zeros) and promotes a more diverse activation pattern across the neurons. The GELU function is represented as:

$$\text{GELU}(x) = x \Phi(x) = x \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \text{erf} \left( \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right) \right], \quad (2)$$

where  $\Phi(x)$  denotes the cumulative distribution function (CDF) of the standard normal distribution, which effectively weighs the inputs in a nonlinear fashion based on their magnitude. This inherent probabilistic nature of GELU supports a more flexible input processing, leading to variable decision boundaries, which can be particularly beneficial in complex learning problems. To increase computational efficiency, GELU is often approximated as:

$$\text{GELU}(x) = 0.5 x \left\{ 1 + \tanh \left[ \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \left( x + 0.045 x^3 \right) \right] \right\}. \quad (3)$$

This approximation closely emulates the behavior of the Gaussian CDF, thus offering a practical solution for integrating GELU into neural networks. The network architecture effectively translates seismic data into subsurface parameter predictions while balancing the model complexity against computational demands. The encoder part of the network consists of eight convolutional blocks, each containing a convolutional layer, batch normalization (BN), and GELU (Table 1). If the network inputs have a zero mean and the unit variances are not correlated, the convergence of the network speeds up. Whereas BN is applied within each convolutional block to stabilize activation during training, the initial zero-mean/unit-variance normalization of inputs ensures that the network parameters are exposed to well-scaled

Layer Type	Output shape	Kernel size	Stride	Activation
ConvBlock 1	32x500x97	7x1	2x1	GELU
ConvBlock 2	64x250x97	3x1	2x1	GELU
ConvBlock 3	64x125x97	3x1	2x1	GELU
ConvBlock 4	128x63x97	3x1	2x1	GELU
ConvBlock 5	128x32x49	3x3	2x2	GELU
ConvBlock 6	256x16x25	3x3	2x2	GELU
ConvBlock 7	256x8x13	3x3	2x2	GELU
ConvBlock 8	512x1x1	8x12	2x2	GELU
DeconvBlock 1	512x10x10	4x4	2x2	GELU
DeconvBlock 2	256x20x10	4x4	2x2	GELU
DeconvBlock 3	128x40x40	4x4	2x2	GELU
DeconvBlock 4	64x80x80	4x4	2x2	GELU
DeconvBlock 5	32x160x160	4x4	2x2	GELU
Pad	32x88x150			
DeconvBlock 6	512x10x10	3x3	1x1	Tanh

**Table 1.** Summary of the CNN architecture.

model features from the outset. Consequently, both the input normalization and BN contribute to faster convergence and more stable optimization.

The decoder part consists of six deconvolutional blocks that produce the outputs. The input to the network includes the vertical and horizontal displacement components of the simulated shots. The loss functions of different tasks are calculated by combining the  $L_1$ -norm and the mean-square error (MSE). The total loss function of the network is defined as:

$$L_{\text{total}} = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i (l_i + \text{MSE}_i), \quad (4)$$

where  $k$  is the number of the predicted parameters,  $l_i$  is the calculated  $L_1$ -norm for each predicted parameter, and  $\lambda_i$  are the scaling factors that define the contributions of each loss function to the total loss.

### 3 Synthetic test

#### 3.1 Data preparation

##### 3.1.1 Forward modeling

The proposed network is trained and tested on synthetic data for the model of the Kimberlina reservoir, a potential CO<sub>2</sub> storage site in the Southern San Joaquin Basin of California. This data set includes models corresponding to different times during simulated CO<sub>2</sub> injection (from pre-injection to 20 years after its start). The available parameters include the P- and S-wave velocities, density, fluid saturation, and electrical resistivity defined on a 3D grid. Synthetic well logs of the P-wave velocity, density, and CO<sub>2</sub> saturation in the injection well and three monitoring wells provide additional information for monitoring the CO<sub>2</sub> migration (Alumbaugh et al., 2023).

The velocity, density, and CO<sub>2</sub> saturation models are provided on a 10 m x 10 m x 10 m grid with 601 x 601 x 351 grid points. We use 2D seismic line extracted at  $x = 2100$  m to map the CO<sub>2</sub> movement and estimate the time-lapse variations of the observed model parameters. CO<sub>2</sub> is injected into a saline reservoir through a central well that traverses six sand-shale layers. The CO<sub>2</sub> movement inside the reservoir is modeled by considering buoyancy-driven migration patterns (Sigfusson et al., 2015).

The forward-modeling algorithm involves generating synthetic seismic traces by solving the elastic wave equation using the finite-difference method. The simulated data include the vertical and horizontal displacement components, which provide information about changes in the subsurface properties (e.g., fluid saturation and elastic parameters) caused by CO<sub>2</sub> injection. The P- and S-wave velocities and density used in the forward modeling are computed for the



corresponding stage of CO<sub>2</sub> simulation. Accurate forward modeling is essential for high-resolution monitoring of the CO<sub>2</sub> plume’s movement.

### 3.1.2 Data generation

Saturation levels can be approximately estimated using empirical relationships between the P-wave velocity, porosity, and permeability validated by laboratory and field studies (Gassmann, 1951; Mavko and Mukerji, 1995). We adopted the linear velocity–saturation relationships from Liu et al. (2023) (see their Figure 10) to generate synthetic CO<sub>2</sub> saturation maps based on well logs from the Kimberlina reservoir. The linear regression coefficients were estimated by examining sonic logs from the injection and monitoring wells. We analyzed the velocity  $V_P$  from well logs at the injection site to find its maximum and minimum values over multiple years. This velocity range determined the sampling used for our synthetic training models. As the P-wave velocity changed in the perturbed models, the S-wave velocity and density were adjusted accordingly. This strategy maintained internal consistency among  $V_P$ ,  $V_S$ , density, and saturation and prevented unphysical parameter combinations from appearing in the training data. These velocity-saturation relationships are derived from specific well logs at Kimberlina and remain site-dependent, so they may not be valid for other reservoirs. For other data sets, one would need to recalibrate the linear coefficients and, possibly, use more complex models (e.g., Gassmann-based), if the velocity–saturation relationship proves to be more nonlinear.

Prior knowledge of the actual baseline model is used to generate reliable training samples. The baseline velocity field, assumed to be estimated by full-waveform inversion (FWI), is perturbed only inside the reservoir to obtain the training data (labels) and ensure accurate predictions from the monitor data set. Following Liu et al. (2023), the training data were generated by approximating CO<sub>2</sub> movement in the reservoir using a depth-dependent transportation velocity function. Specifically, CO<sub>2</sub> is assumed to migrate parallel to the upper reservoir boundary, with the migration velocity  $V_{\text{mig}}$  decreasing exponentially with depth:

$$V_{\text{mig}}(z) = V_{\text{mig}}(z_0) \exp[-\alpha(z - z_0)], \quad (5)$$

where  $z$  is the depth,  $z_0$  is the depth of the reservoir’s top, and  $\alpha$  is a constant that controls the rate of velocity reduction. This model captures the buoyancy-driven nature of CO<sub>2</sub> plumes, which tend to travel faster near the reservoir top and slow down with increasing depth (Sigfusson et al., 2015). This velocity function is used to simulate the CO<sub>2</sub> plumes’ evolution for up to 20 years post-injection. We emphasize that this framework is tailored to the structure of the Kimberlina reservoir and may require adaptation for other sites.

A total of 14,000 data samples were generated to model the reservoir parameters ( $V_P$ ,  $V_S$ ,  $\rho$ , saturation,  $V_P/V_S$  ratio, and acoustic impedance). For example, the training data samples for  $V_P$  correspond to velocities ranging from 2.0 to 2.3 km/s with an increment of 0.1 km/s. The synthetic elastic wavefield is excited by 37 shots (point explosions) placed with an increment of 80 m at a depth of 130 m. We employ an absorbing boundary at the top of the model to eliminate the free-surface multiples and mode conversions that would complicate wave propagation. This also minimizes grid dispersion and numerical artifacts, leading to more stable wavefield simulations. The source signal is the Ricker wavelet with a central frequency of 10 Hz. We employ 289 receivers evenly distributed along the line with an increment of 20 m at a depth of 140 m.

A subset of 12,000 samples covering the time interval from zero to 10 years after the injection was used to train the P-wave velocity prediction model. Testing for  $V_P$  is carried out with an additional 500 samples that correspond to about 12 years post-injection. Then transfer learning is employed to fine-tune the predictions of  $V_S$ ,  $\rho$ , saturation,  $V_P/V_S$  ratio, and acoustic impedance using 2,000 training samples and 500 testing samples.

## 3.2 Test results

### 3.2.1 Multitask and transfer learning

Examining the training time for various encoder-decoder configurations helps evaluate the model’s efficiency (Table 2). As expected, the time increases with the number of encoders and decoders. For 120 training epochs, the configuration with two encoders and four decoders takes the most time (approximately 2 hr 45 min using one GPU node). In contrast, the setup with a single decoder reduces the training time to about 1 hr 35 min. The targeted training

Configuration	Training samples	Trained parameters per layer	Batch size	Epochs	Training duration (hrs:min:sec)
2 Enc. - 4 Dec.	12000	All	60	120	2:45
2 Enc. - 2 Dec.	12000	All	60	120	1:45
2 Enc. - 1 Dec.	12000	All	60	120	1:35
2 Enc. - 1 Dec.	2000	*see below	60	120	0:15

**Table 2.** Encoder-decoder configurations and their training duration for one GPU node.

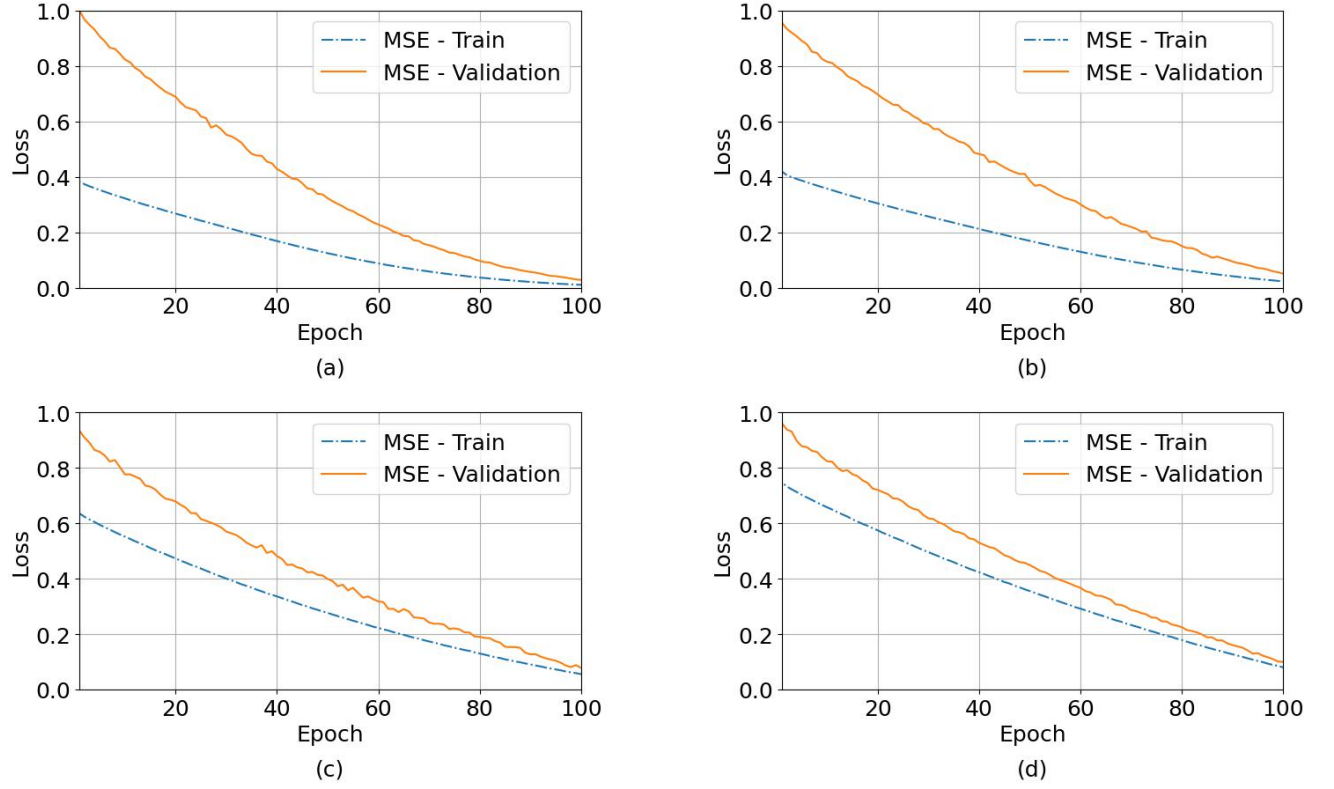
\*Trainable parameters are in the last layer of the encoder and all layers of the decoder.

of the last layer of the encoders and all decoder layers during the fine-tuning phase brings the training time down to just 15 min, thus confirming the method’s computational efficiency. Hence, focusing on fewer convolutional layers offers an advantage for rapid convergence or in iterative training scenarios. Further analysis will explore the implications of these efficiency gains for model performance and generalizability when using a pretrained model for transfer learning. Analyzing the learning rates and convergence patterns, particularly for the four-decoder configuration, reveals informative trends (Figure 4). The normalized loss function trajectories indicate that the velocities  $V_P$  and  $V_S$  share similar decline patterns. Therefore, their optimization paths can be aligned, whereas the density and saturation curves exhibit a more gradual decline and, therefore may require different training strategies. The final training loss for saturation ( $\sim 0.1$ ) remains significantly higher than that for other parameters (e.g.,  $V_P$ ), which correlates with poorer saturation predictions. Clearly, it is more difficult for the model to predict saturation and density, a conclusion confirmed by the robustness test where the trained model fails to capture these properties as accurately as  $V_P$  and  $V_S$ . Hence, although loss-function trajectories alone do not constitute a definitive measure of the model’s effectiveness, they serve as a valuable diagnostic tool in conjunction with final performance metrics. Our results indicate that higher training losses in saturation and density translate to less accurate final predictions. Figure 5 shows the reservoir parameters predicted with the multiple-target MTL approach. The input to the neural network used for the training included the simulated shots and the four training parameters ( $V_P$ ,  $V_S$ ,  $\rho$ , and saturation). The normalized differences for the parameters predicted from the clean data show a relatively small error not exceeding 0.03, except for the density field that includes an artifact up shallow. This issue could not be addressed by additional training or redoing the experiment.

The parameters predicted from the noisy data (Figure 5 i - l and q - t) have a lower accuracy. Apparently, the trained model works well for one reservoir parameter but needs further optimization for the rest of them. In both cases, training with a multiple-target MTL network is computationally intensive and time consuming. Our approach to optimizing the seismic inversion process involves a combination of the MTL and TL techniques. First, the neural network is trained using 12,000 samples to predict the velocity  $V_P$  (Figure 6). Then, the pretrained model is applied to optimize the seismic inversion process by fine-tuning separate networks, each responsible for estimating one of the remaining medium parameters (Figure 7). During this fine-tuning phase, we selectively freeze or unfreeze convolutional layers, preserving the learned features from the pretrained model while adapting specific layers as needed. The encoders in all tests were frozen while we performed testing to determine the number of layers that needed to be unfrozen. This approach reduces computational cost by limiting the number of parameters to be updated and effectively transferring the knowledge gained from the initial training phase. We emulate a field-data application where the number of training samples for each parameter is different. A smaller number of training samples is used for fine-tuning, which reduces computational resources without impacting the prediction accuracy. In elastic FWI, parameterizing the model in terms of the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio and acoustic impedance (IP) often reduces the crosstalk compared to using  $V_P$ ,  $V_S$ , and  $\rho$ . Therefore, next we perform the following tests:

- (i) Use dual encoder - dual decoders to train the CNN for the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio and IP.
- (ii) Use a pretrained model to fine-tune the CNN parameters for each parameter ( $V_P$ ,  $V_S$ ,  $\rho$ ) individually.

The results of these two tests are similar, but the second approach is more computationally efficient (Figure 8). It is important to test the potential of extending the proposed flow to 3D seismic surveys. As the first step, we extracted another line from the 3D Kimberlina model, which crosses the injection well and is perpendicular to the previous



**Figure 4.** Normalized loss functions for different parameters with four decoders. (a)  $V_P$ , (b)  $V_S$ , (c)  $\rho$ , and (d) saturation.

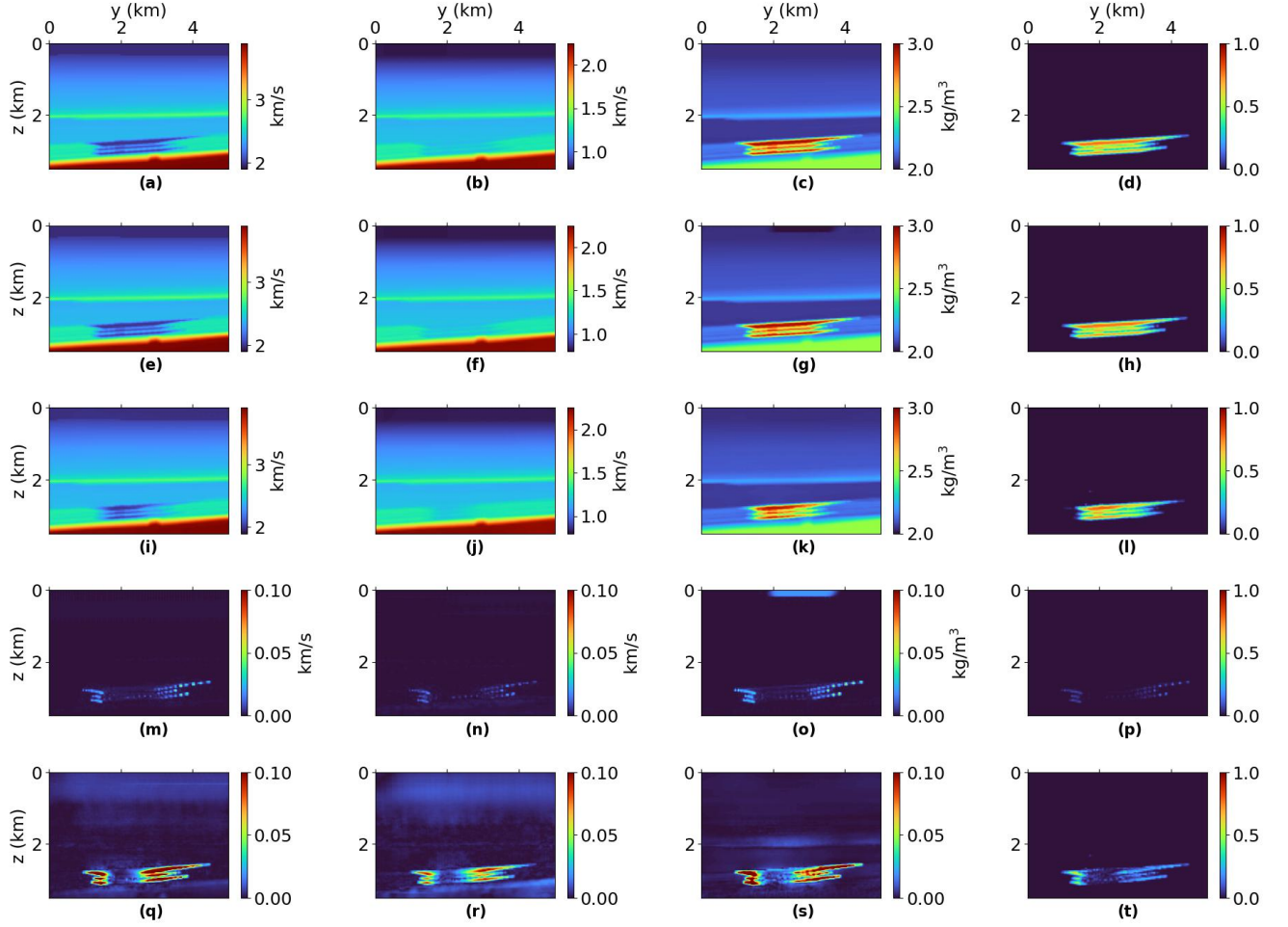
Parameter	SSIM Index	Frobenius norm	$l_1$ -norm	$l_2$ -norm	MSE
$V_P$ (noise-free)	1.03	5.22	1.54	5.22	2.01
$V_P$ (SNR = 15%)	0.86	1.13	2.94	1.13	8.51
$V_S$ (noise-free)	0.98	9.72	1.24	9.62	7.11
$V_S$ (SNR = 15%)	0.95	2.03	5.54	2.03	3.22
$\rho$ (noise-free)	1.12	5.63	8.4	5.63	2.43
$\rho$ (SNR = 15%)	0.97	6.33	1.45	6.33	2.93
Saturation (noise-free)	1.00	0.64	8.55	0.64	$3.1 \times 10^{-5}$
Saturation (SNR = 15%)	0.99	1.32	22.3	1.32	$1.33 \times 10^{-4}$

**Table 3.** Performance metrics of the parameters predicted from the clean and noisy (the signal-to-noise ratio is 15%) data.

testing line (Figure 9). For fine-tuning the network, we used about 2000 training samples and froze the encoders and decoder. To avoid disrupting the pretrained model’s optimized weights and biases, we first unfroze the last decoder layer and applied a small learning rate of  $10^{-5}$  for the first 40 epochs. As the training progressed, we gradually unfroze the remaining decoder layers while increasing the learning rate. For clean data, the predictions contained minor edge errors, with a normalized difference of around 0.05. Adding noise to the data slightly increased the error near the edges to 0.08, which is still acceptable. The pretrained model also maintains prediction accuracy when the testing data are contaminated with Gaussian noise with the signal-to-noise (SNR) ratio equal to 15 (Table 3).

### 3.2.2 Influence of pretrained model distribution on fine-tuning efficiency

The parameters that closely match the source task’s distribution are generally predicted with faster convergence, which underscores the importance of the parameter distribution in model adaptation (Tajbakhsh et al., 2016; Kumar et al., 2022; Becherer et al., 2019). Thus, the range and distribution of the medium parameters strongly influence the

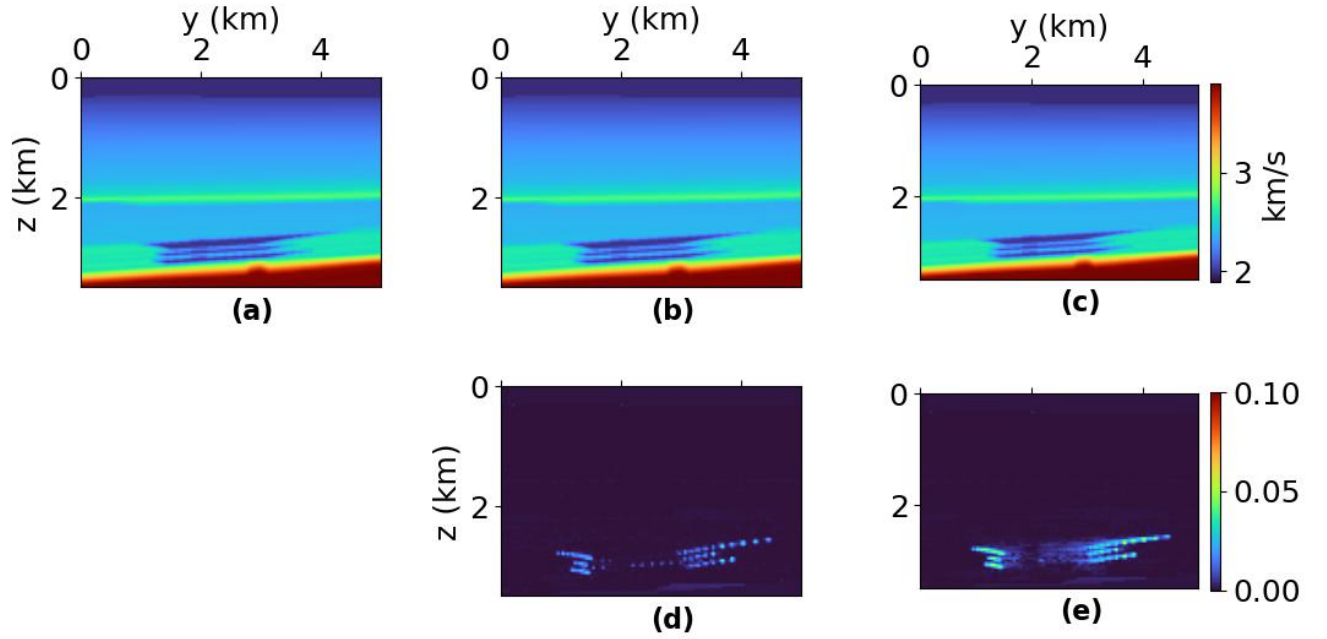


**Figure 5.** Predictions of the reservoir parameters. (a)-(d) The actual models of the P-wave velocity, S-wave velocity, density, and saturation, respectively. (e)-(h) The corresponding models predicted from the noise-free data. (i)-(l) The corresponding models predicted from the noisy data. (m)-(p) The normalized differences between (e) and (a), (f) and (b), (g) and (c), and (h) and (d), respectively. (q)-(t) The normalized differences between (i) and (a), (j) and (b), (k) and (c), and (l) and (d), respectively.

model's fine-tuning efficiency.

In the proposed flow, the CNNs were trained for the velocity  $V_P$ , which ranges from 1.9 km/s to 3.9 km/s, and its normalized values range approximately from 0.5 to 1.0. The histogram (Figure 11a) shows a highly skewed distribution which might be a sign of outliers or non-representative samples in the data. This could potentially lead to slower convergence if the new data set does not match this distribution. We fine-tuned the pretrained model to predict the velocity  $V_S$  but could not achieve satisfactory convergence. Fine-tuning the network was repeated several times (with up to 3000 epochs in some tests) but we could not obtain a robust solution. In particular, the CNN did not perform well on noisy data for the S-wave velocity (Figure 7g and m), with the errors in the three reservoir zones exceeding 0.1. The velocity  $V_S$  ranges from 0.8 km/s to 2.25 km/s, and its normalized range is from 0.35 to 1.0, which is wider than that of  $V_P$  (Figure 11b). Because the pretraining was done with  $V_P$ , whereas  $V_S$  has a different distribution, the model requires more iterations to properly adjust its weights for predicting  $V_S$ .

Next, the network was fine-tuned to predict the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio (Figure 8e), which ranges from 1.7 to 2.47, and its normalized values range from 0.7 to 1.0 (Figure 11c). During the fine-tuning process, the model leverages its existing knowledge of  $V_P$  to achieve faster convergence for  $V_P/V_S$ . This approach yielded a more accurate solution with errors smaller than 0.02, and we needed fewer training epochs (up to 288).



**Figure 6.** P-wave velocity field for the Kimberlina reservoir. (a) The actual model, (b) the model predicted from the noise-free data, and (c) the model predicted from the noisy data. The normalized differences: (d) between plots (b) and (a), and (e) between plots (c) and (a).

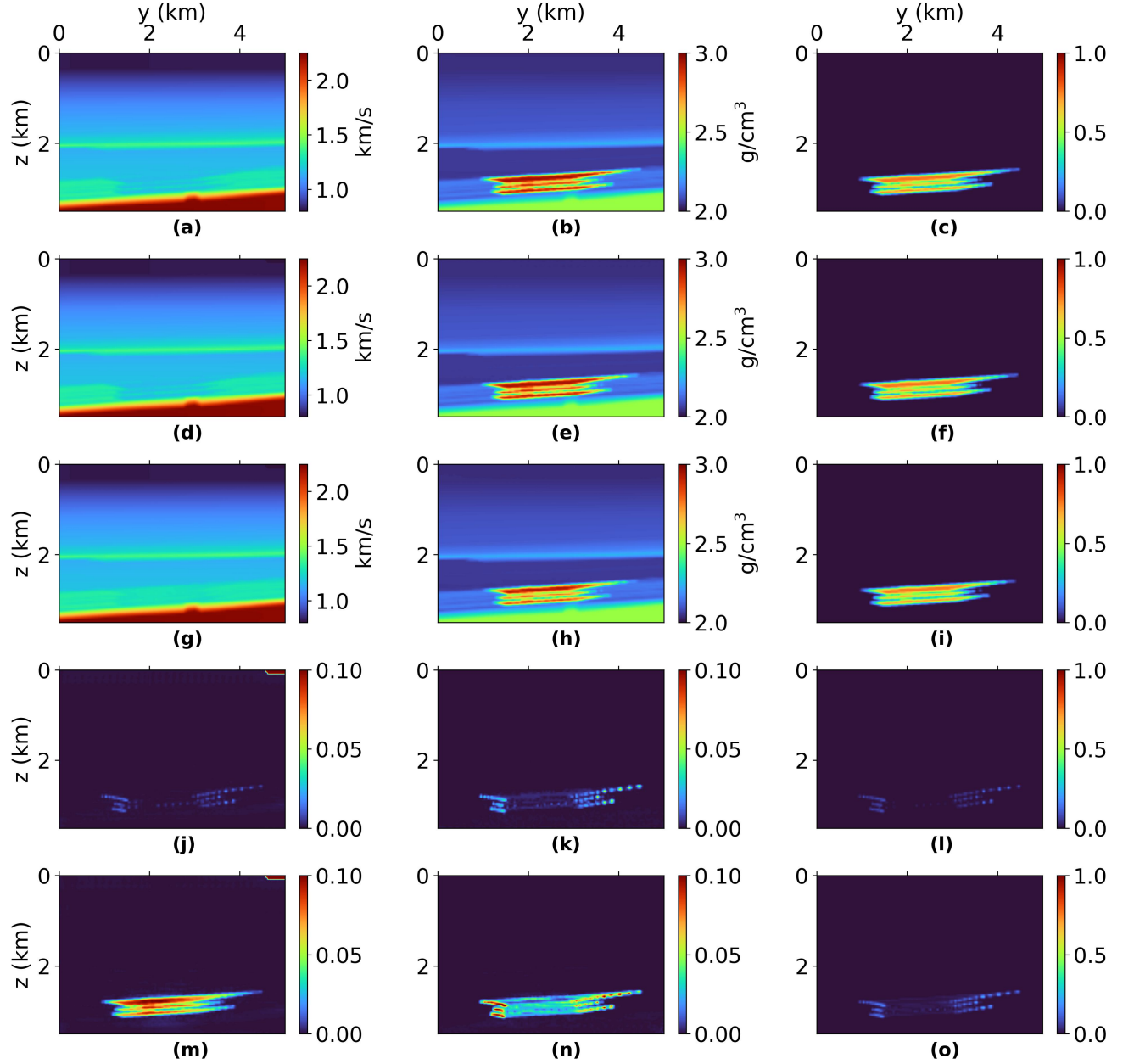
Figure 12 compares the velocity  $V_S$  predicted directly and calculated from the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio. The better prediction of  $V_P/V_S$  yields more accurate estimates of  $V_S$ , as discussed in more detail below. Another way to overcome the issue of slow convergence with a limited number of training samples is to remove the outliers or non-representative values. Therefore, we reduced the range of  $V_S$  from 0.8 - 2.23 km/s to 1.0-1.8 km/s prior to fine-tuning the pretrained model. With the more narrow distribution, the model can converge faster, as the reduced range of the input helps focus the fine-tuning process. It takes only 120 training epochs for the model to converge and achieve an accurate  $V_S$  prediction for the noisy data (Figure 13). Here, if the distribution of the target task is different from that of the source task, there are two possible scenarios. First, if the number of training samples is sufficient for fine-tuning, the network learns the new distribution and converges to an accurate solution. Second, if the number of samples is limited, the network requires more training epochs to converge.

#### 4 Discussion

Implementation of multiple-targets multitask learning (MTL) for simultaneous prediction of four reservoir parameters involves a complex interplay between computational resources and model optimization. The large GPU memory required for such tasks significantly limits the critical CNN parameters, such as the batch size, which in our study was constrained to 60. This limitation underscores the computational demands of multiple-targets MTL and highlights the need for efficient memory-management strategies.

Moreover, the variable learning rates and the extended duration of training required for each parameter further emphasize the inherent complexity in the simultaneous prediction of multiple properties. In particular, Figure 5 illustrates the challenges in accurately predicting density in the shallow layers, which is likely caused by local-optimization minima encountered during training. Clearly, it is essential to strike a balance between extending training to enhance model performance for specific parameters and the risk of overfitting other parameters.

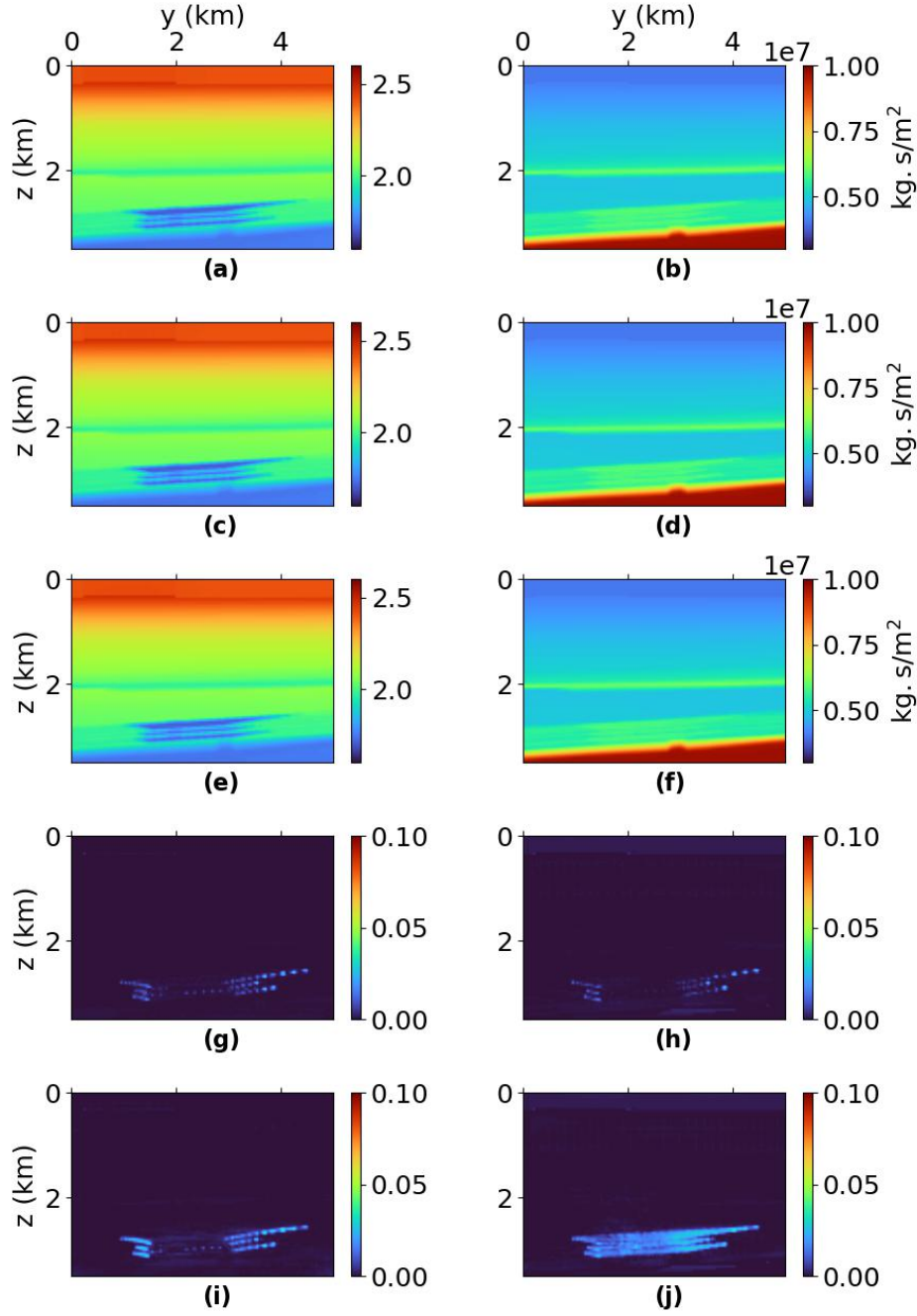
The trial-and-error nature of CNN training, driven by the random initialization and subsequent parameter optimization, is time consuming, especially for multiple-targets MTL networks. This issue is critical in field-data applications, where it is desirable to include additional recorded displacement components in the training process. Single-target



**Figure 7.** Reservoir parameters predicted with transfer learning. The actual models of the (a) S-wave velocity, (b) density, and (c) saturation. (d), (e), (f) The corresponding models predicted from the noise-free data. (g), (h), (i) The corresponding models predicted from the noisy data. (j), (k), (l) The normalized differences between (d) and (a), (e) and (b), and (f) and (c), respectively. (m), (n), (o) The normalized differences between (g) and (a), (h) and (b), and (i) and (c), respectively.

MTL networks combined with transfer learning (TL) offer a promising approach for incorporating more features into the model. This should enhance the model's applicability and make it more flexible for parameter predictions. The resolution and robustness of these predictions are controlled by the quality and diversity of the training samples, which should encompass the reservoir geometry and thickness, well data, and other geologic and geophysical information. Such comprehensive training data sets are essential for accurately capturing the time-lapse changes in the reservoir. Ongoing research focuses on adapting these methodologies for field-data applications taking anisotropy into account. We also plan to employ transfer learning for processing of 3D surveys using 2D prediction results.

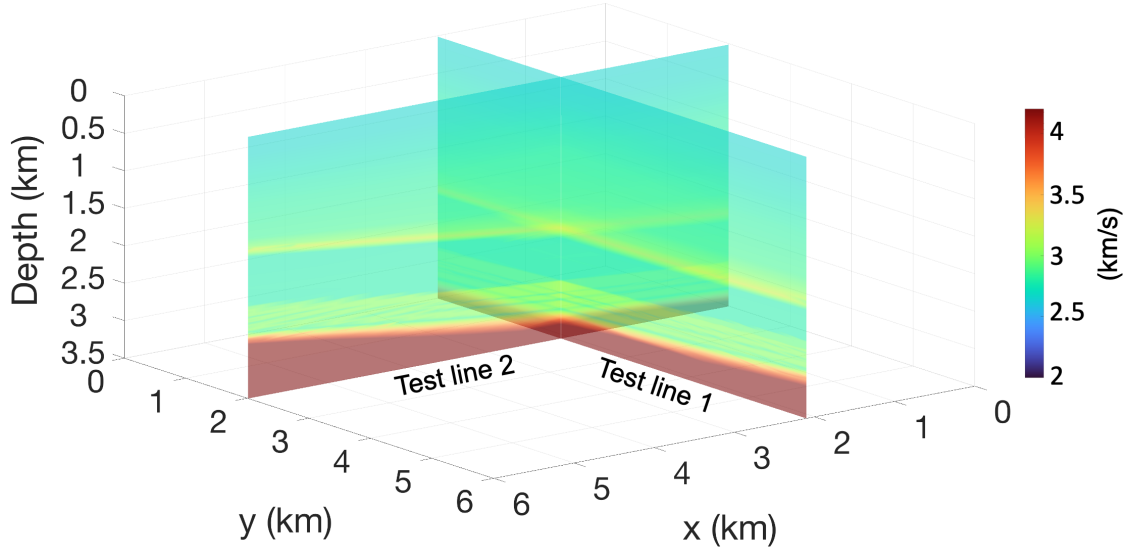




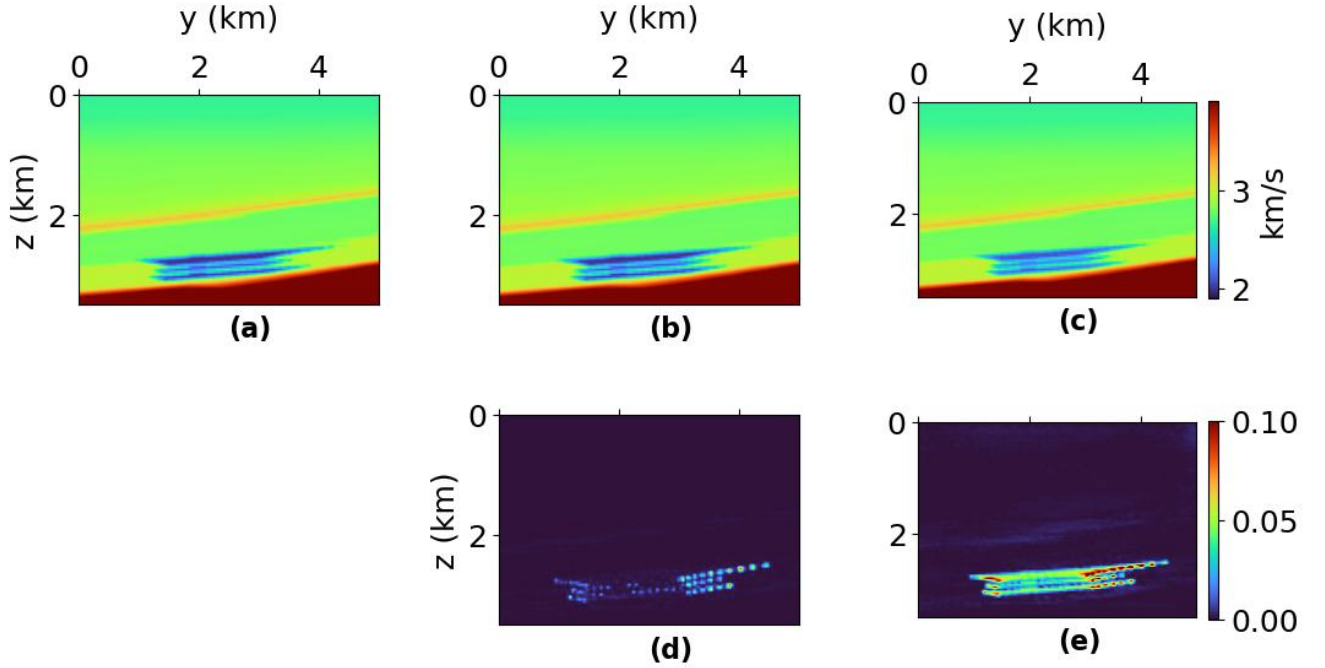
**Figure 8.** Sections of the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio and the acoustic impedance (IP). The ratio  $V_P/V_S$ : (a) the actual model, (c) the model predicted from the noise-free data, and (e) the model predicted from the noisy data. (g) and (i) The normalized differences between (c) and (a) and (e) and (a), respectively. The impedance (IP): (b) the actual model, (d) the model predicted from the noise-free data, and (f) the model predicted from the noisy data. (h) and (j) The normalized differences between (d) and (b) and (f) and (b), respectively.

## 5 Conclusions

Reservoir monitoring in hydrocarbon production and  $\text{CO}_2$  injection can be conducted through high-resolution estimation of the elastic parameters and saturation from seismic data. We proposed an efficient data-driven approach to seismic inversion that consists of multitasking (MTL) and transfer-learning (TL) algorithms incorporated into convo-



**Figure 9.** P-wave velocity on the orthogonal test lines for the Kimberlina reservoir.

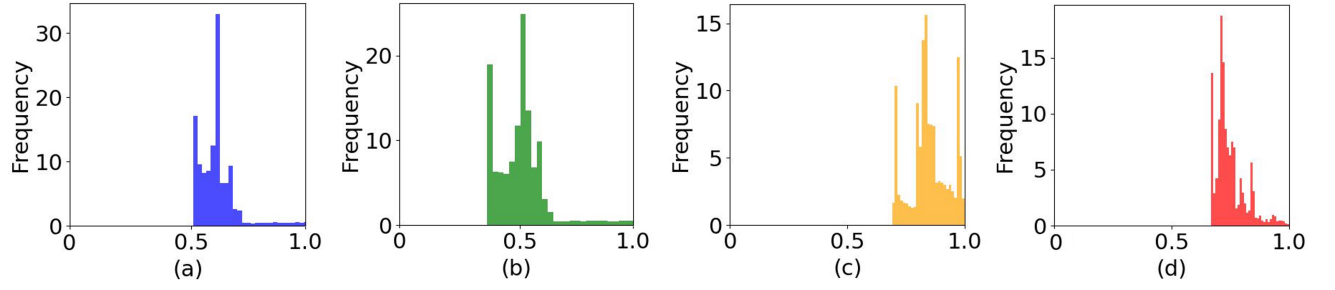


**Figure 10.** P-wave velocity field in crossline for the Kimberlina reservoir. (a) The actual model, (b) the model predicted from the noise-free data, and (c) the model predicted from the noisy data. The normalized differences: (d) between plots (b) and (a), and (e) between plots (c) and (a).

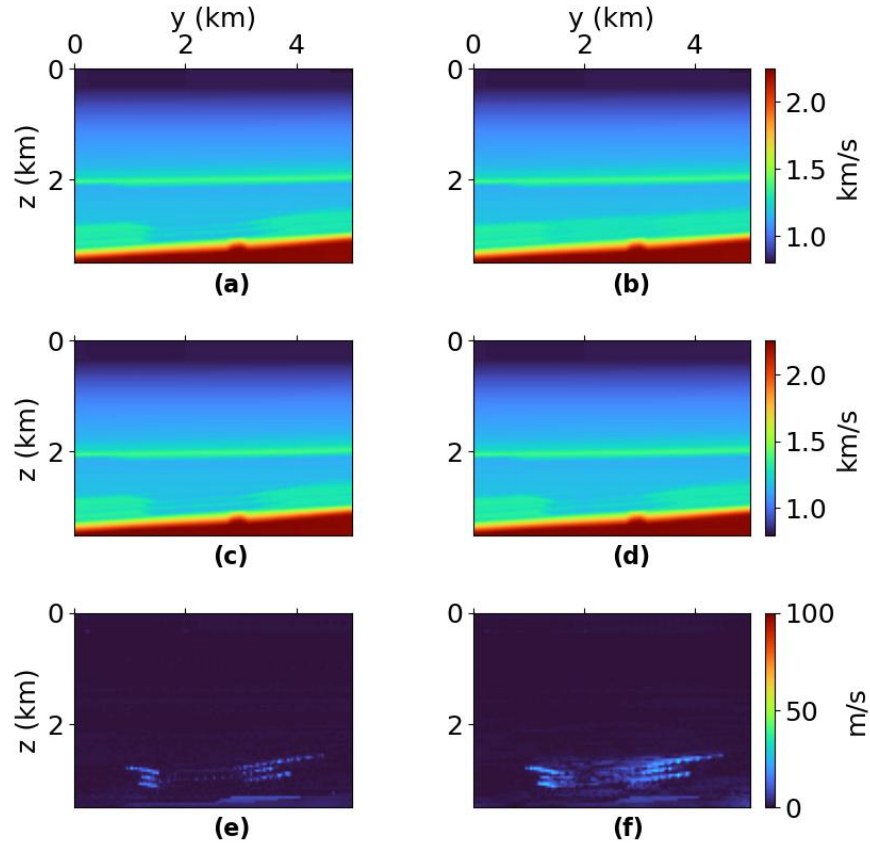
lutional neural networks (CNNs) that employ the GELU activation functions. The proposed methodology improves the trained model's learning dynamics and generalization properties. The shared features of the recorded data are extracted to predict one parameter, which is followed by fine-tuning the pretrained model to predict other parameters. We addressed several key challenges in ML applications including mitigation of data scarcity, efficient model initialization for trainable parameters, and optimization of computational resources.

The methodology is tested on the realistic Kimberlina reservoir model to emulate field-data applications. The P-wave



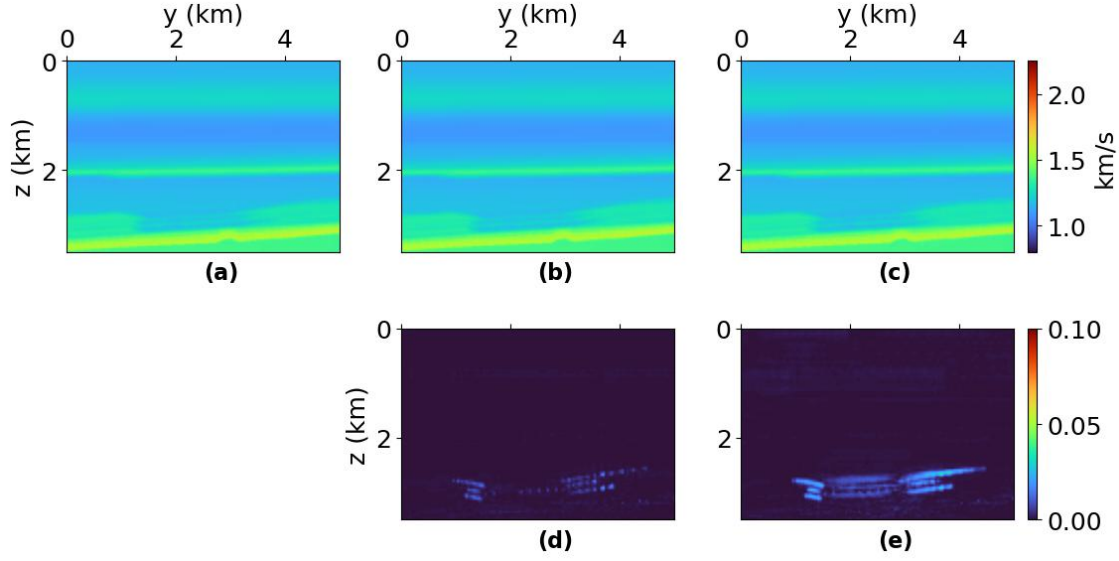


**Figure 11.** Histograms of the reservoir parameters: (a)  $V_P$ , (b)  $V_S$ , (c)  $V_P/V_S$  ratio, and (d) constrained  $V_S$ . Each parameter is normalized by its maximum value.



**Figure 12.** Comparison between the directly predicted  $V_S$  models and those calculated from the predicted  $V_P/V_S$  ratio. (a) The  $V_S$  model predicted from the noise-free data, (c) the model calculated from the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio predicted with the noise-free data, and (e) the normalized difference between plots (c) and (a). (b) The model predicted from the noisy data, (d) the model calculated from the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio predicted with the noisy data, and (f) the normalized difference between plots (d) and (b).

velocity is predicted for a 2D line (inline) using a CNN that consists of dual encoders and one decoder. Then the pre-trained model is fine-tuned to estimate the S-wave velocity, density, saturation,  $V_P/V_S$  ratio, and acoustic impedance. The robustness and generalization of the CNN are validated using the input data contaminated by Gaussian noise. The proposed fine-tuning process also makes it possible to estimate the medium parameters from data acquired in the crossline direction. The performance of the proposed method depends on the availability of prior information and the accuracy of the baseline model. Ongoing work includes an extension of this methodology to 3D seismic surveys with a focus on enhancing the model adaptability for field-data applications.



**Figure 13.** Sections of the velocity  $V_S$ . The predictions are made using a reduced range of  $V_S$  (1.0-1.8 km/s). (a) The actual model, (b) the model predicted from the noise-free data, and (c) the model predicted from the noisy data. The normalized differences: (d) between plots (b) and (a), and (e) between plots (c) and (a).

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