EM: Natural Sources

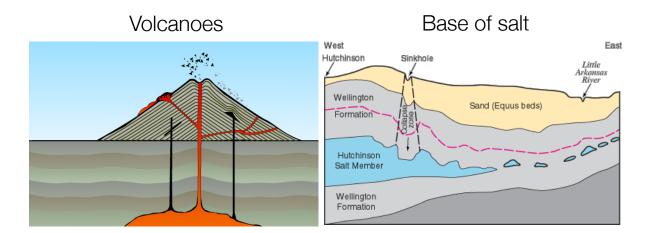


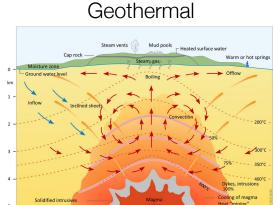


Outline

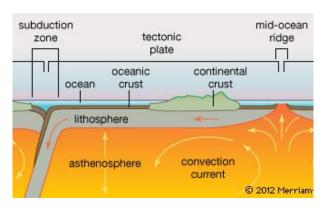
- Background on natural source EM methods
- Magnetotellurics
- Case histories: Geothermal, Minerals
- Z-axis tipper electromagnetics
- Case histories (ZTEM): Geologic Mapping, Minerals

Motivation

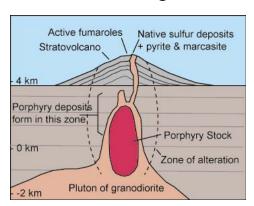




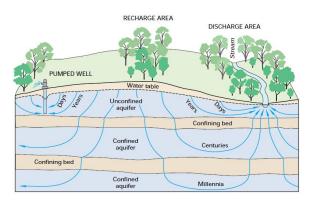
Tectonic settings of top few km



Mineral targets



Groundwater



Common challenge: getting enough energy into the ground

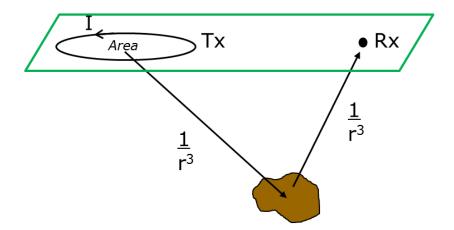
What is required to see deeper?

- Penetration depth depends upon system power
- Controlled source:
 - Using a small loop
 - Magnetic moment

$$m = IA$$

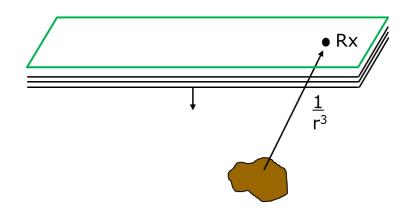
Total geometric decay

$$\sim \frac{1}{r^6}$$



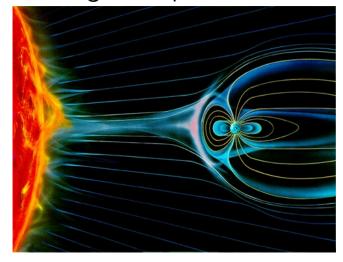
- Infinitely large loop source
 - Sheet currents generate plane waves
 - Total geometric decay

$$\sim rac{1}{r^3}$$



Natural EM sources

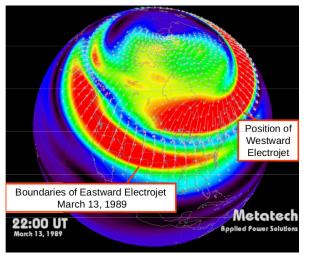
Sun and magnetosphere, solar storms



Lightning

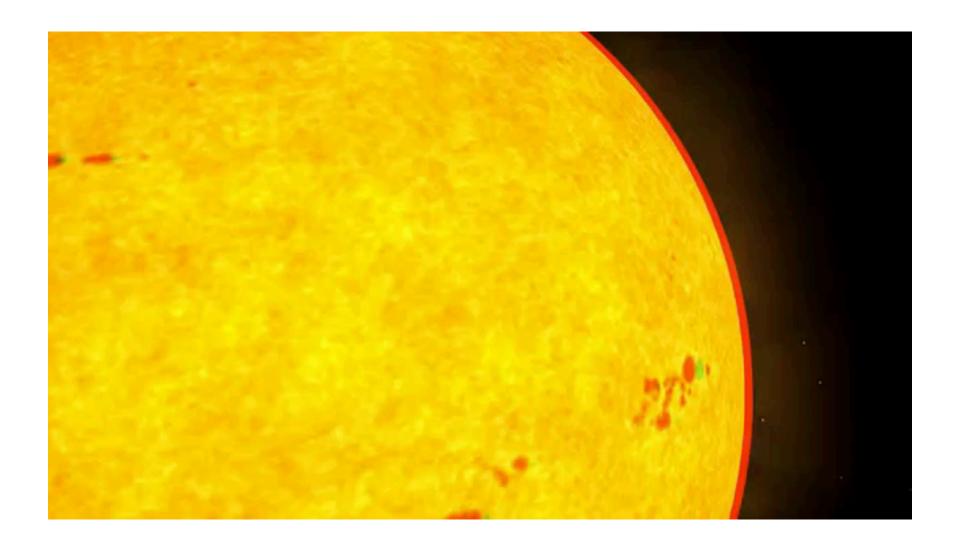


Auroral electrojet; aurora



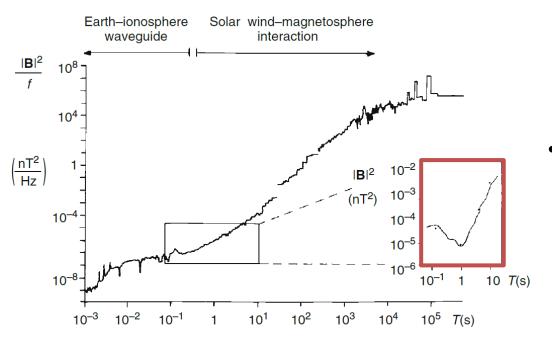


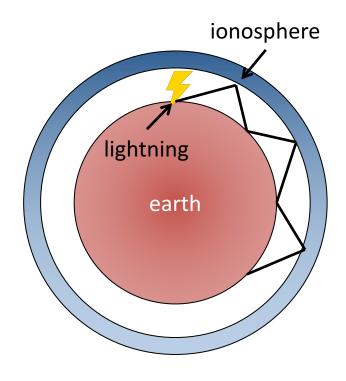
Aurora movie



Earth as a waveguide

- EM waves bounce between earth and highly conductive ionosphere
- Travel as plane waves





 Dead band: difficult to collect frequencies in notch (~1 Hz)

Refraction of waves

Snell's law

$$k_i \sin \theta_i = k_t \sin \theta_t$$

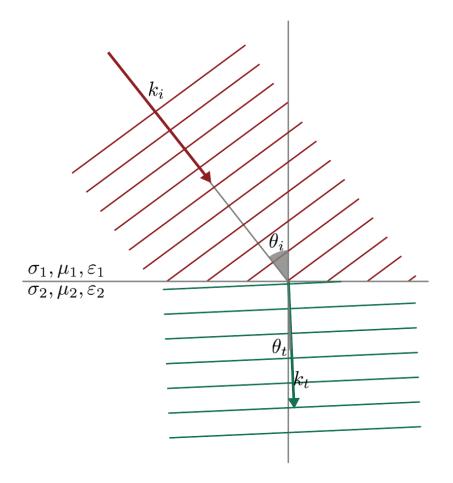
k is complex wave number

$$k^2 = \omega^2 \mu \varepsilon - i\omega \mu \sigma$$

• Quasi-static: $\frac{\omega \varepsilon_0}{\sigma} \ll 1$

$$\sin \theta_t = \sqrt{\frac{2\omega\varepsilon_0}{\sigma}} \sin \theta_i$$

• Angle of refraction is $\theta_t = 0^\circ$ in almost every instance



Example for 10,000 Hz

$$\begin{split} \sigma &= 10^{-3} \text{ S/m} \\ \theta_i &= 89^{\circ} \end{split}$$

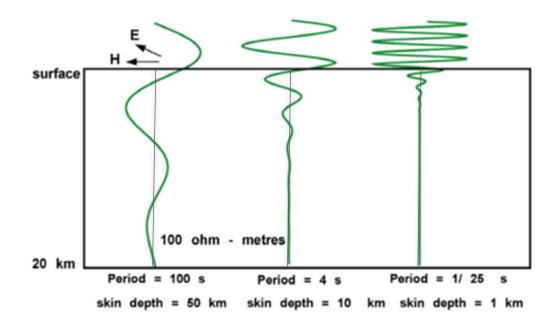
Then
$$\theta_t = 1.35^{\circ}$$

Plane waves and skin depth

Skin depth (meters)

$$\delta = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\omega\mu\sigma}} = 503\sqrt{\frac{1}{\sigma f}}$$

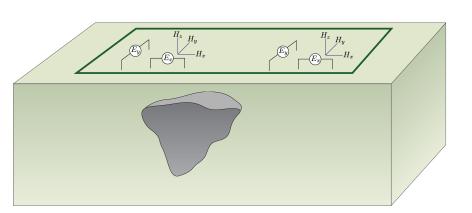
- Low frequency waves propagate further
- Depth of propagation
 - A few skin depths
 - Only a portion of a wavelength

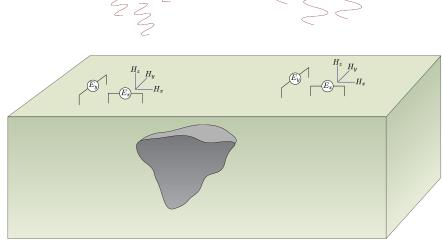


Control source vs Natural source

- Controlled source
 - Well-defined location, geometry, and amplitude

- Natural sources
 - Sources are random in space and time



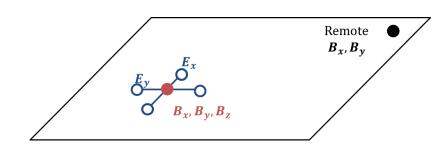


MT Station

- Maxwell's equations:
 - Linear in J_s
 - E and H affected in the same way
- Effects of unknown source removed by taking ratio
- Transfer function

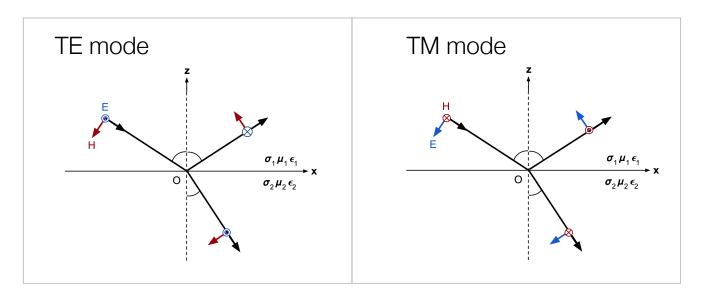
$$\mathbf{E}=\mathbf{ZH}$$
 impedance (matrix) $egin{pmatrix} E_x & Z_{xy} \ E_y \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} H_x \ H_y \end{pmatrix}$

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} + i\omega \mu \mathbf{H} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} - \sigma \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{J_s}$$



Impedance and resistivity

- Plane wave in homogenous media:
 - E and H fields are perpendicular



Homogeneous half space

Impedance Resistivity Phase
$$Z_{xy} = \frac{E_x}{H_y} \qquad \rho = \frac{1}{\omega \mu} \left| Z_{xy} \right|^2 \qquad \Phi = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{Im(Z_{xy})}{Re(Z_{xy})} \right) = \frac{\pi}{4}$$

MT soundings in 1D

• In general:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

Apparent resistivity:

$$\rho_a = \frac{1}{\omega \mu_0} \left| Z_{xy} \right|^2$$

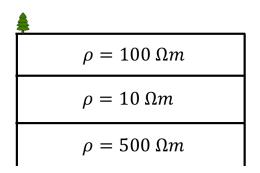
Phase:

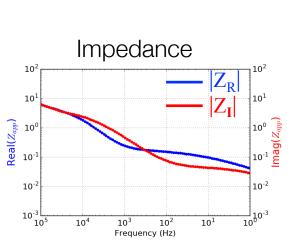
$$\Phi = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{Im(Z_{xy})}{Re(Z_{xy})} \right)$$

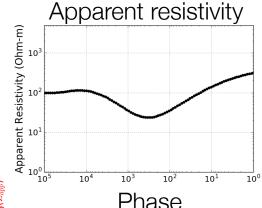
• In 1D:

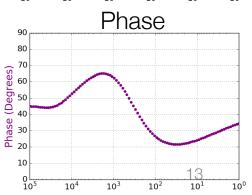
$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Z_{xy} = \frac{L_x}{H_y}$$



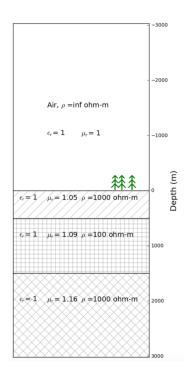


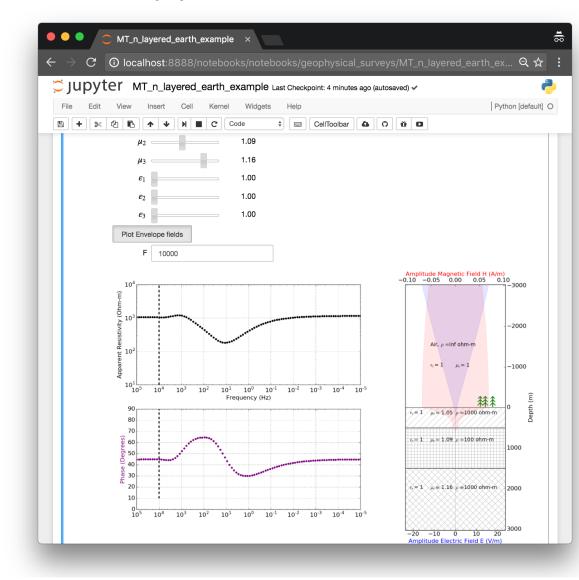




1D MT app

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} + i\omega \mu \mathbf{H} = 0$$
$$\nabla \times \mathbf{H} - \sigma \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{J_s}$$





MT soundings in 2D

In general:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

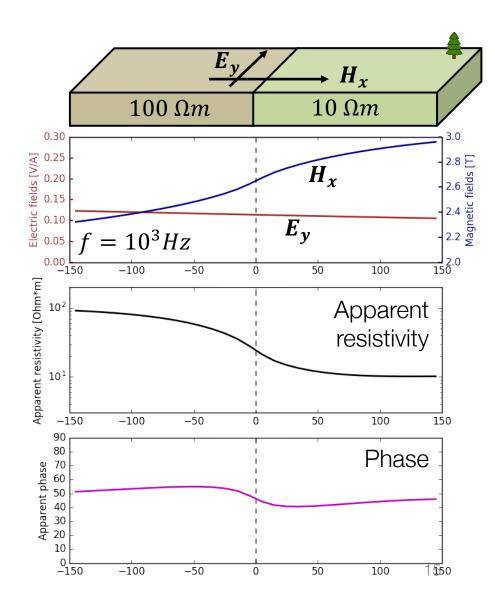
• In 2D:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Z_{xy} \neq Z_{yx}$$

- TE mode
 - E-field parallel to structure

$$Z_{yx} = \frac{E_y}{H_x}$$



MT soundings in 2D

In general:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

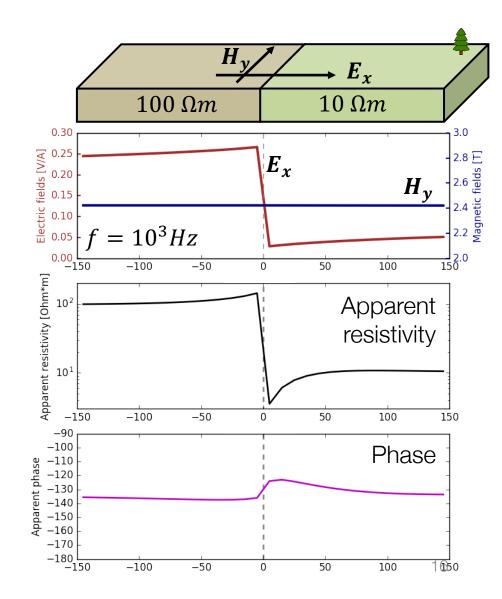
• In 2D:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Z_{xy} \neq Z_{yx}$$

- TM mode
 - H-field parallel to structure
 - E_x discontinuous

$$Z_{xy} = \frac{E_x}{H_y}$$



MT soundings in 3D

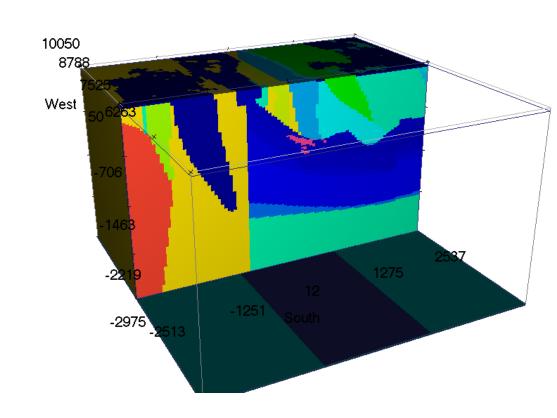
In general:

$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

• In 3D:

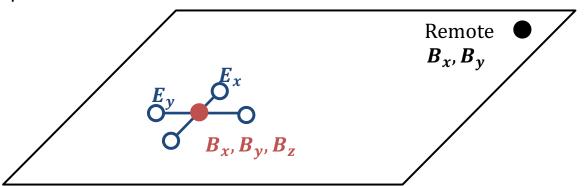
$$Z = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

No symmetry or special conditions



Measuring MT data

Basic acquisition

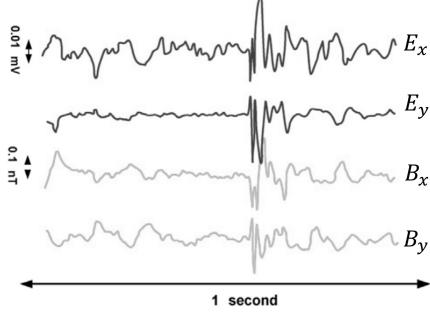


At each station, measure:

$$E_x$$
, E_y , B_x , B_y , B_z

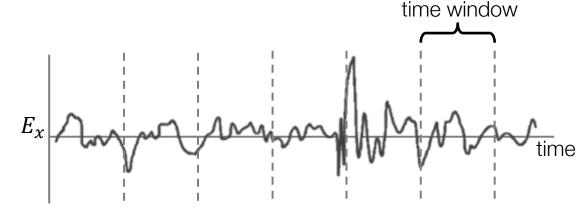
At remote reference, measure:

$$B_x$$
, B_y



Processing MT data

 Divide time series into time windows



- Apply Fourier transform
 - For each station:

$$e_{x}(t) \rightarrow E_{x}(\omega)$$

 $h_{y}(t) \rightarrow H_{y}(\omega)$

- For the remote reference:

$$h_y^R(t) \to H_y^R(\omega)$$

Form the impedance tensor:

$$Z_{xy}(\omega) = \frac{\langle E_x(\omega) H_y^{R*}(\omega) \rangle}{\langle H_y(\omega) H_y^{R*}(\omega) \rangle}$$

(*) complex conjugate

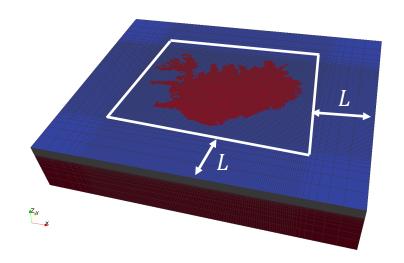
<> average over multiple samples

Inverting MT data

- Boundary conditions important for modelling
- Mesh size:
 - MT: extended grid

L: a few skin depths from data area

- Challenge: Unknown boundary conditions
 - Possible channeled currents
 - Data can be affected by distant structures
- Otherwise, inversion of MT is essentially same as CSEM data



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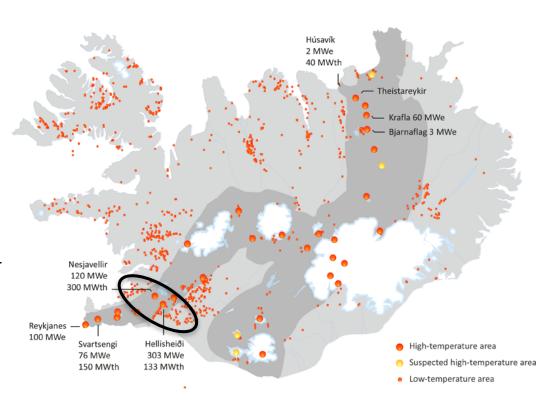
MT case history

Iceland



Hengill geothermal region: setup

- Iceland: geothermal hot spot
 - On the mid-Atlantic ridge
 - Hosts multiple high temperature geothermal systems
- Hengill geothermal area
 - Supplies majority of hot water in Reykjavik
 - Contributes ~450 Mwe to National power grid



Physical properties

Relationships between alteration, resistivity, Rel. unaltered temperature, and conduction processes Pore fluid conduction Smectite-zeolite zone Surface conduction Mixed layer clay zone in clay minerals Chlorite zone Surface and Chlorite-epidote zone pore fluid conduction **TEMPERATURE** ALTERATION RESISTIVITY Resistive near surface Saline Fresh 100 °C > 100 Ohm m water water **Boiling** Reservóir Conductive layer/coat 50-100 Ohm m curve 200 °C 50-100°C 1-15 Ohm m 300 °C Amb. 350 °C **Resistive core** temp 250-1000 Ohm m 400 °C 230-250°C 600 °C 250-300°C **Deep conductive layer High concentration** ~1100 °C 1-25 Ohm m of magma **Deep resistive** background >50 Ohm m

2

6

8

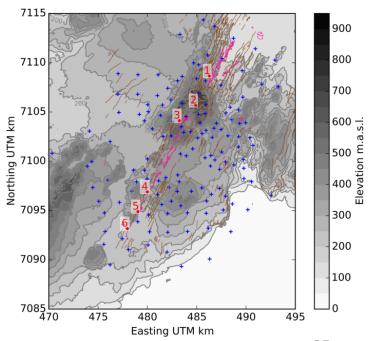
D

Survey

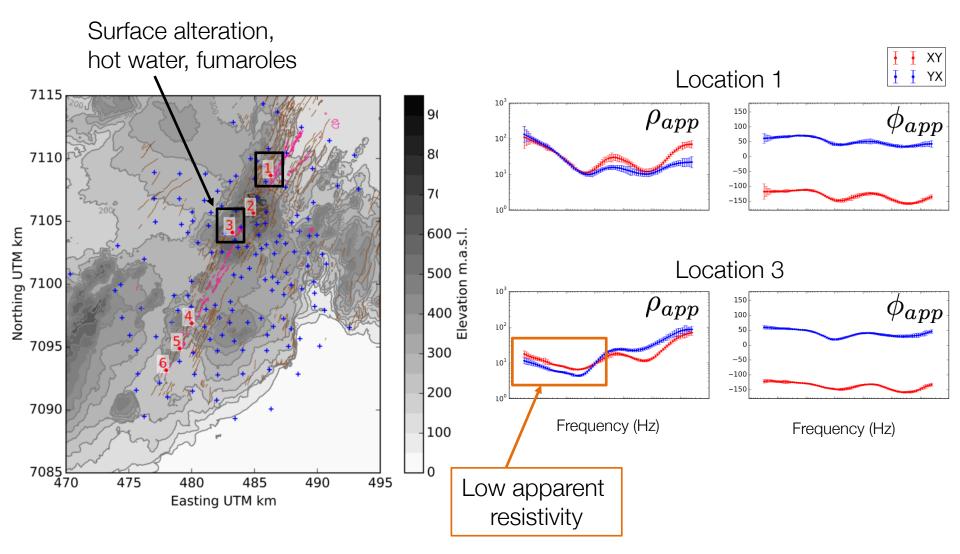
Remote B_x, B_y B_x, B_y, B_z

- MT instrumentation
 - Phoenix MTU5's
- Survey
 - 133 stations used
 - Combination of 2E and 2E+3H setup
 - Frequencies: 300 0.001 Hz
- Remote reference
 - About 40 km away
- Raw data processing using Phoenix software



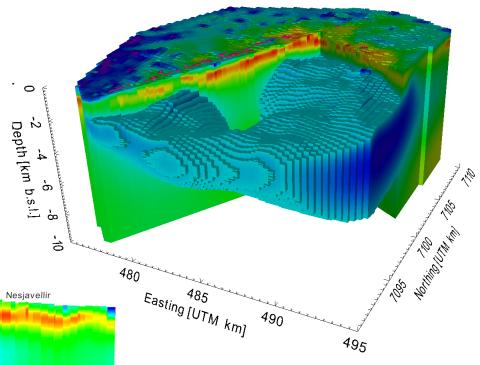


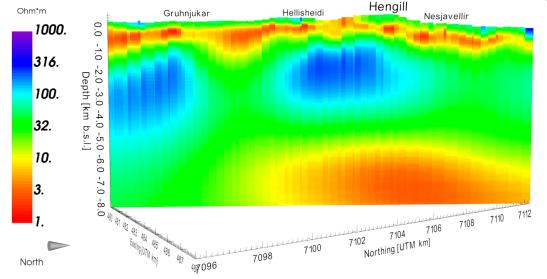
Data

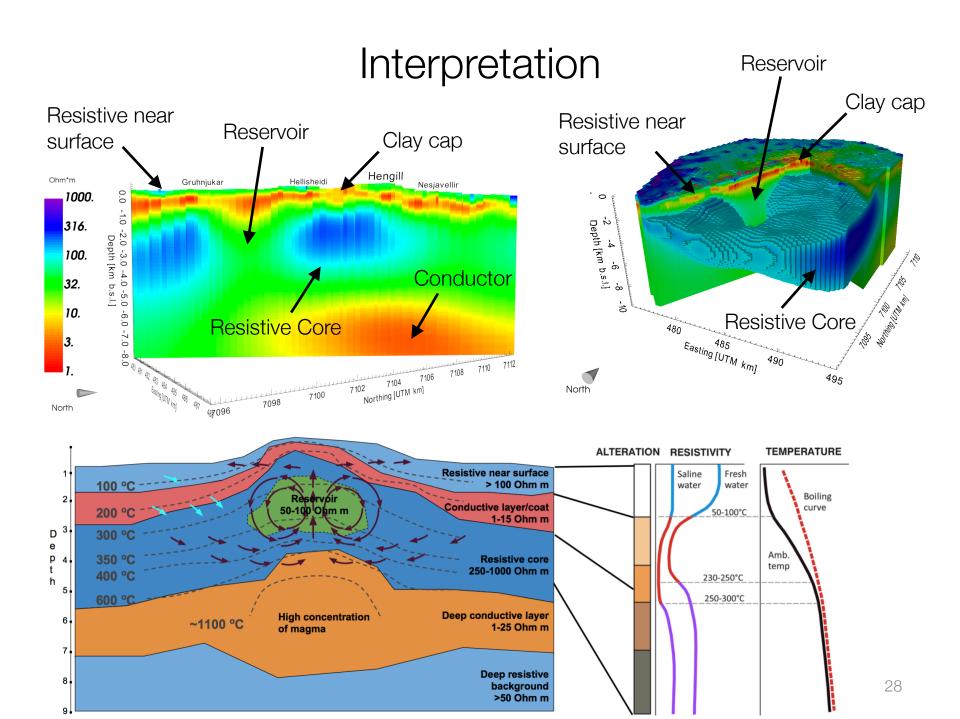


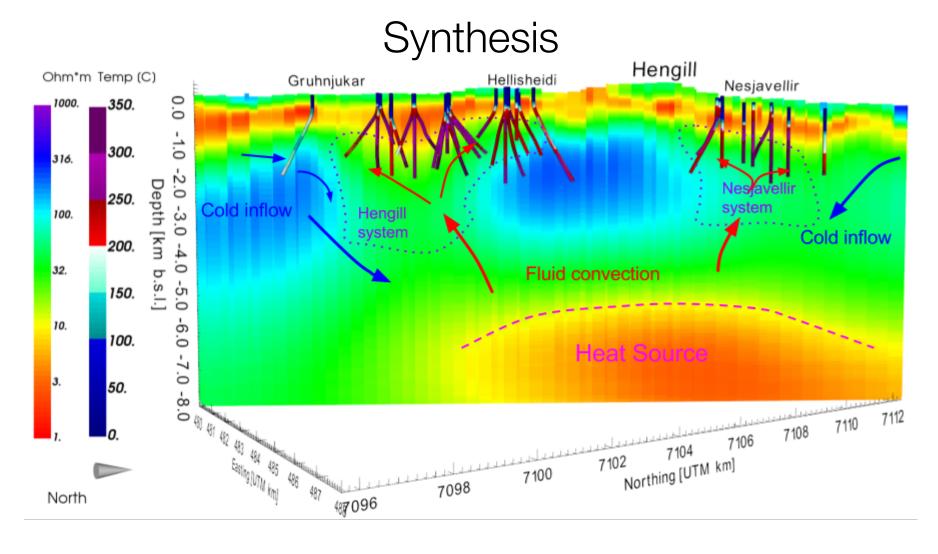
3D inversion

- Off-diagonal impedance $(Z_{xy} \text{ and } Z_{yx})$ used
- Combined multi-frequency inversion (300 Hz – 0.001 Hz)





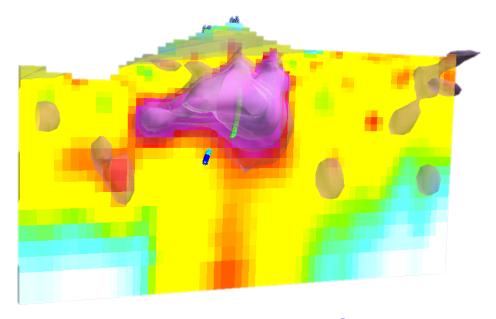




- Conductive layer corresponds with formation temperature
- Two main production fields: Hengill and Nesjavellir
- Deep conductive heat source

Case History: Santa Cecilia Porphyry System, Chile

Bournas and Thomson, 2013



Thanks to Rob Hearst at Quantec

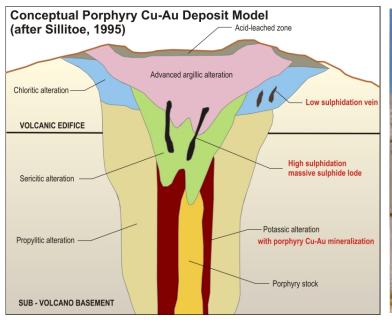


Setup



- Within the Maricunga Metallogenic Belt which hosts known goldcopper deposits
- Intense hydrothermal alteration (elevation between 3600 4600 m)
- Main mineralization: gold, silver, and copper

Setup

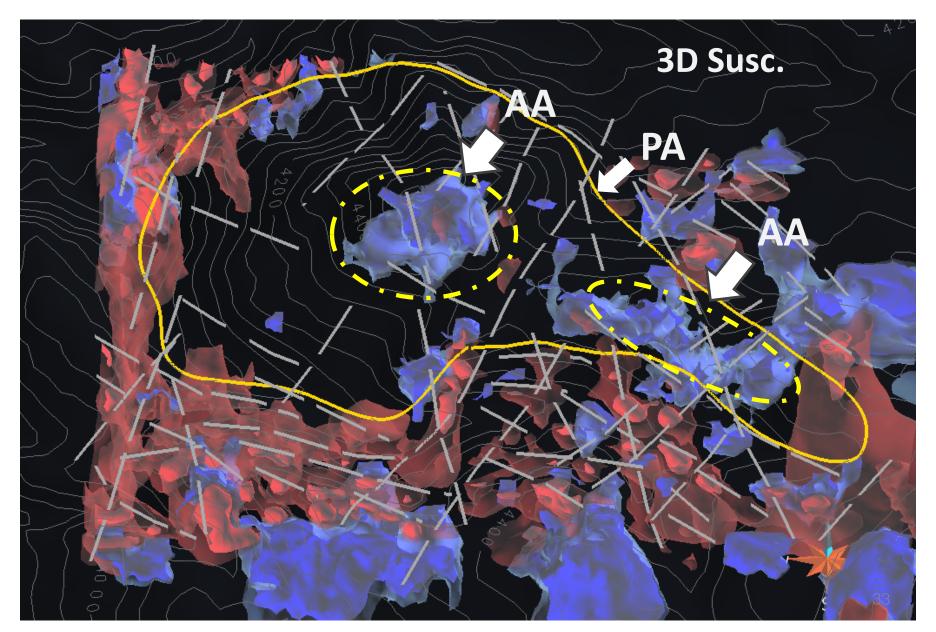




- Within the Maricunga Metallogenic Belt which hosts known goldcopper deposits
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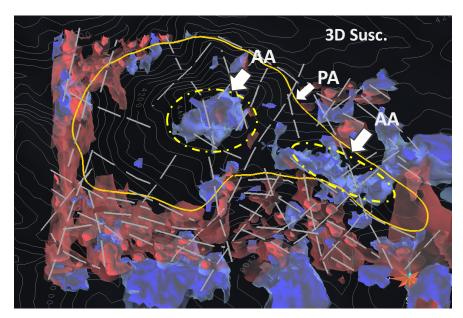
Can we image the porphyry system?

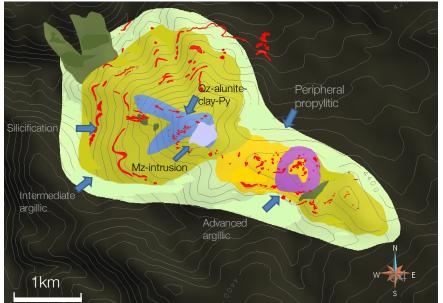
Setup: Ground Magnetics Inversion



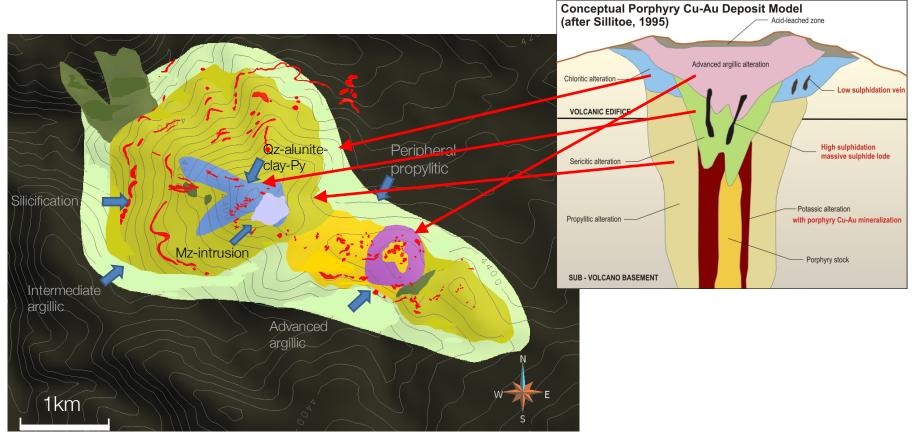
Setup: Discovery

- Ground magnetic data
 - Delineate alteration zones
- Mobile Metal Ion (MMI)
 - Gold and copper anomalies
- CSAMT
 - To test MMI
 - Found large conductor
- Two discovery holes
- ORION 3D: DC/IP & MT



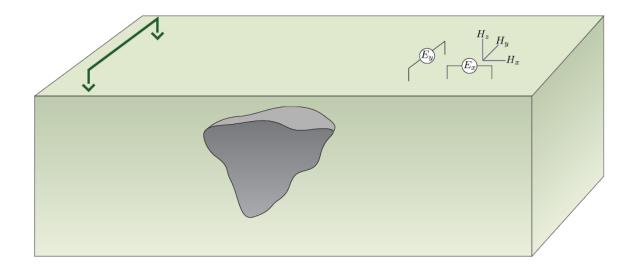


Properties



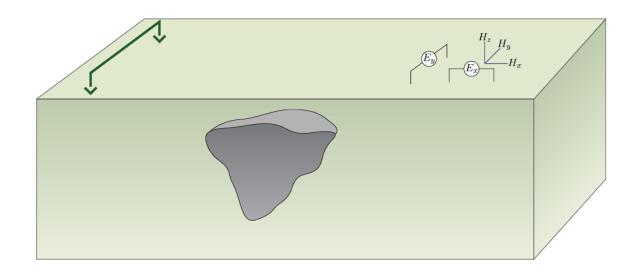
Units	Resistivity	Chargeability	Susceptibility
Host rock	High	None	Moderate
Stock	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Alteration zones	Low - Mod.	Mod High	Low

CSAMT



- Controlled Source Audio Magnetotellurics
- Plane wave assumption
 - Receivers need to be far away from source (several skin depths)
- Uses MT inversion algorithm

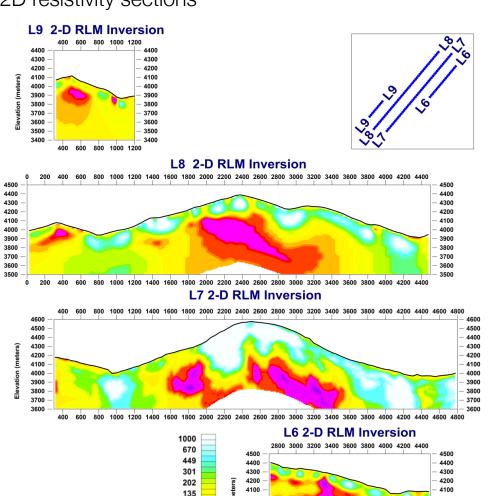
Survey: Discovery



- Controlled Source Audio Magnetotellurics
- Transmitter
 - 3.5 km dipole
 - Frequencies: 2-9000 Hz
- Receivers
 - 10 km from source

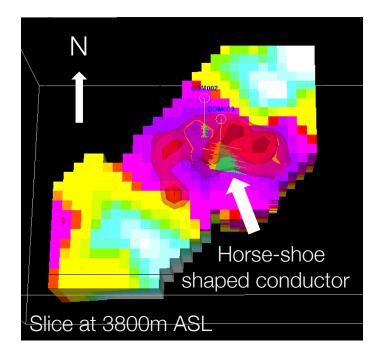
Processing: Discovery

2D resistivity sections



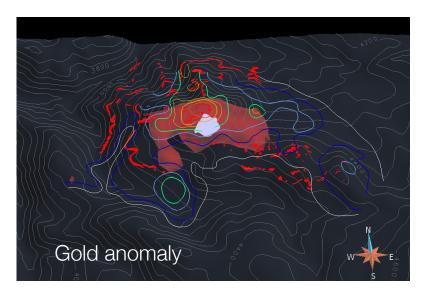
2800 3000 3200 3400 3600 3800 4000 4200 4400

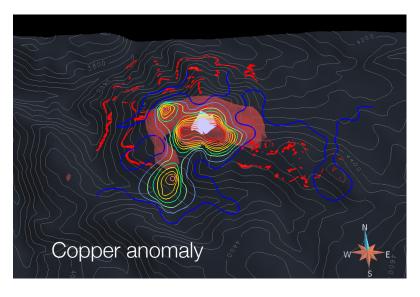
 Recovered horse-shoe shaped conductor



Interpretation and Synthesis: Discovery

3D cut-off volume from CSAMT

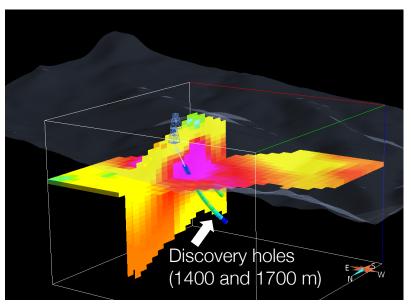


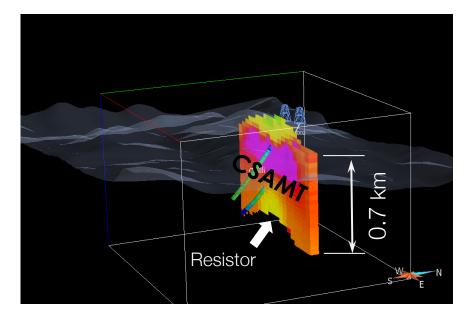


Recovered conductor consistent with Au and Cu anomalies from MMI

Interpretation and Synthesis: Discovery

2D resistivity sections with drill holes



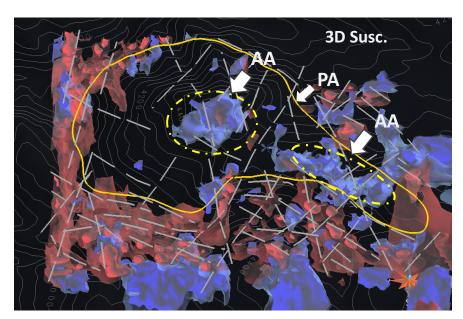


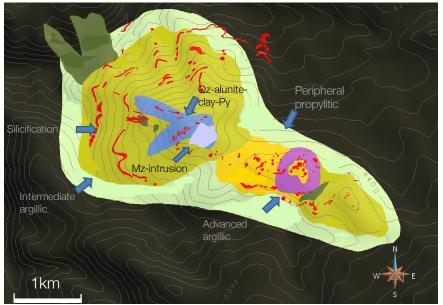
- Two holes are drilled and found mineralized zones (2011)
- Mineralization extends beyond CSAMT conductor
 - Lowest frequency in CSAMT (24 Hz, rho=10 ohm-m)

$$\delta = 500 \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{f}}$$
 ~ 325 m

Setup: Evaluation

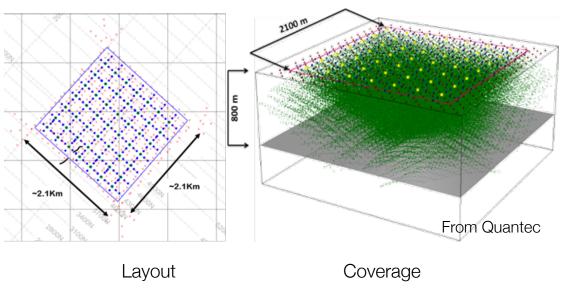
- Ground magnetic data
 - Delineate alteration zones
- Mobile Metal Ion (MMI)
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- CSAMT
 - To test MMI
 - Found large conductor
- Two discovery holes
 - Need to see deeper...
- ORION 3D: DC/IP & MT

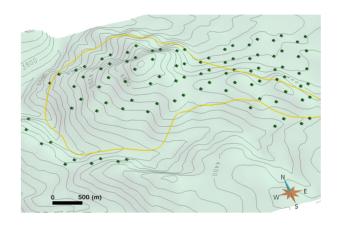




Survey: Evaluation

Orion 3D survey





100 MT sites

DC-IP

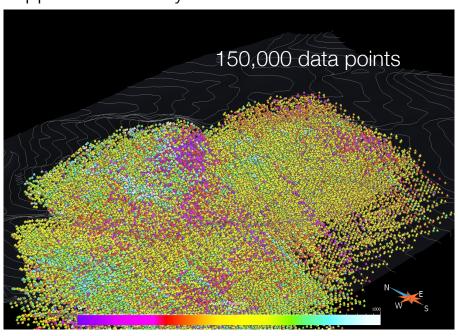
- 539 transmits
- 200 receiver dipoles
- Pole-dipole
- 150 m dipole length

MT

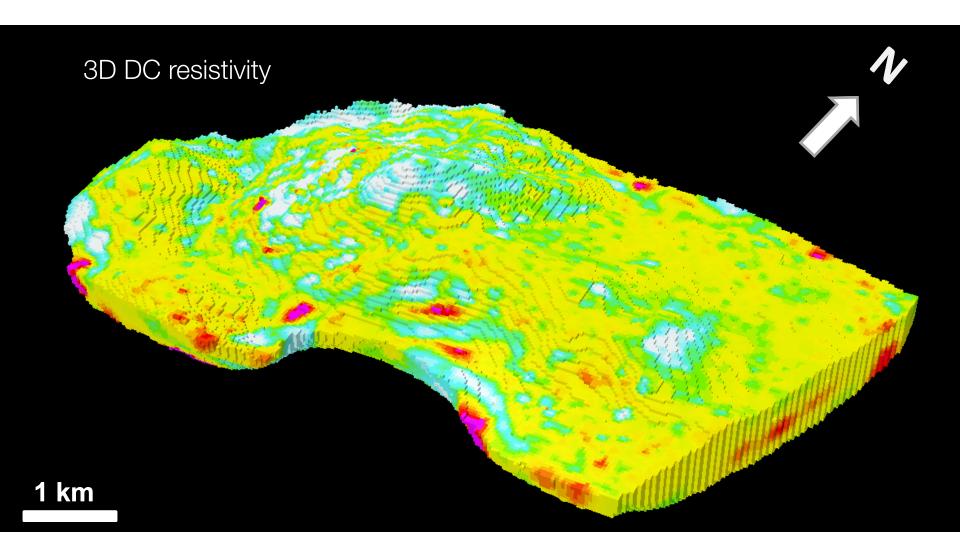
- 150 m dipole length
- Two orthogonal induction coils
- 450 m spacing
- Acquired over night
- Frequency range: 250-0.00½Hz

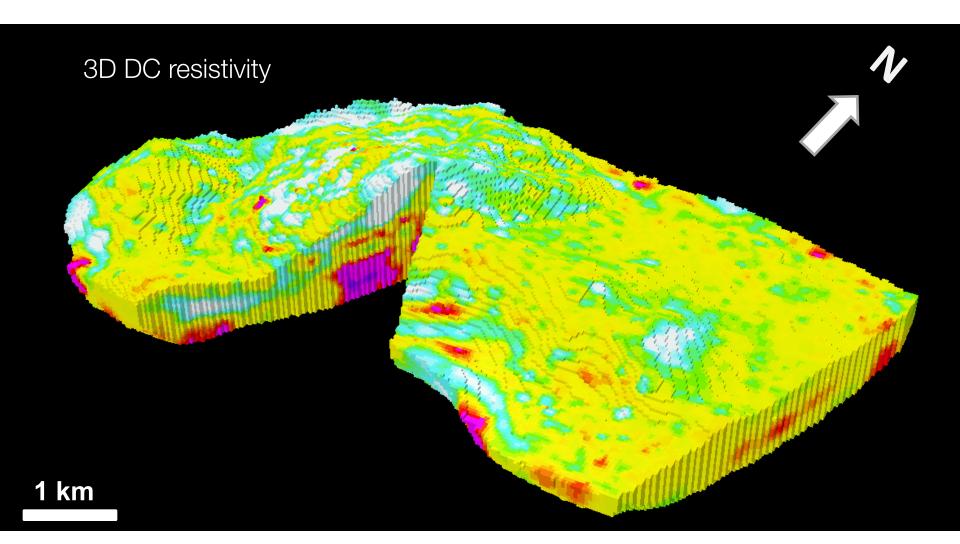
DC Data

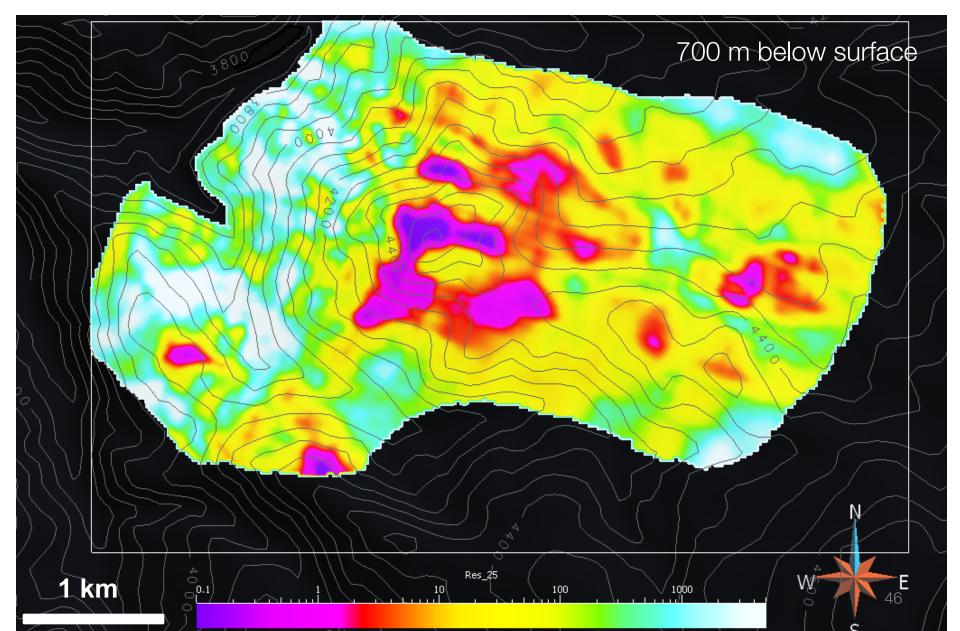
Apparent resistivity

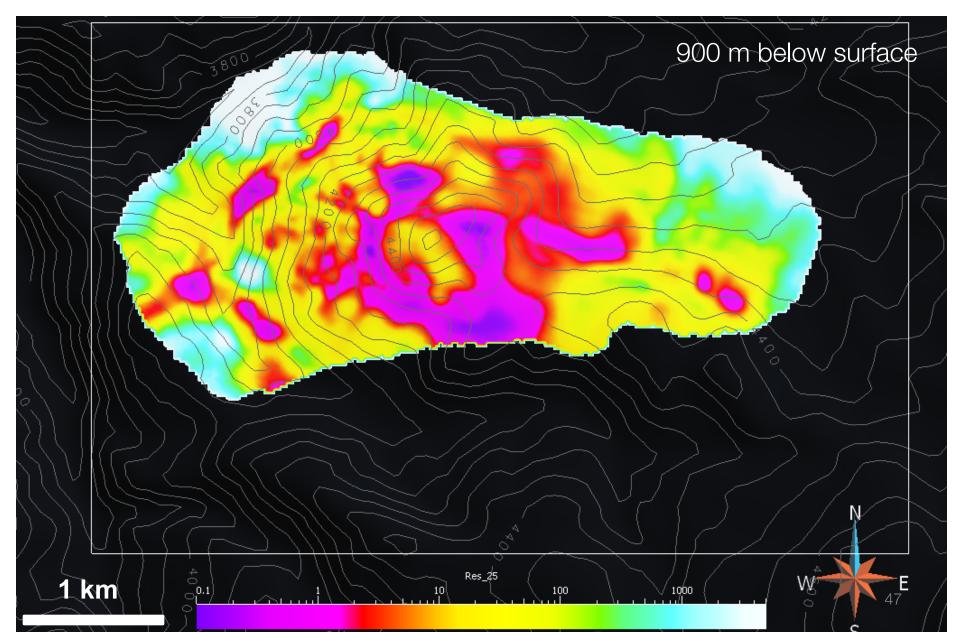


- 150,000 data points from
 - 540 sources
 - 300 dipole receivers
- Hard to visualize and interpret data
- Need to invert





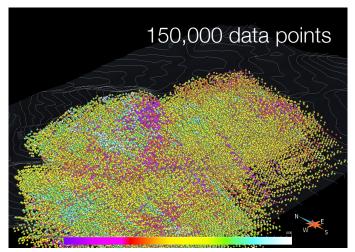




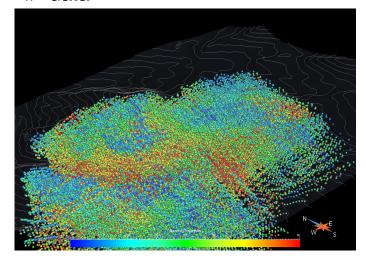
(we also have IP data)

DC-IP Data

DC data



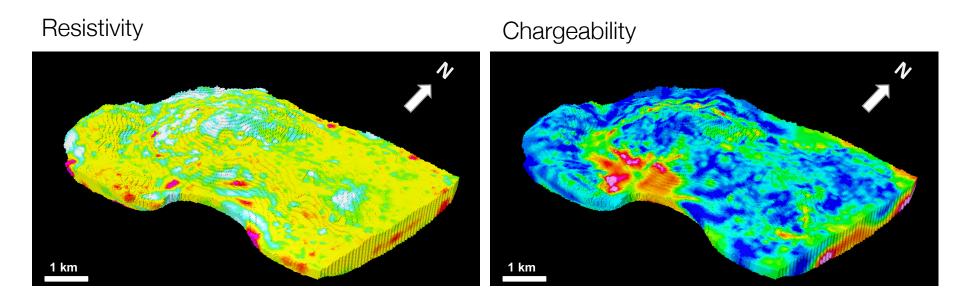
IP data



- 150,000 data points from
 - 540 sources
 - 300 dipole receivers
- Hard to visualize and interpret data
- Need to invert

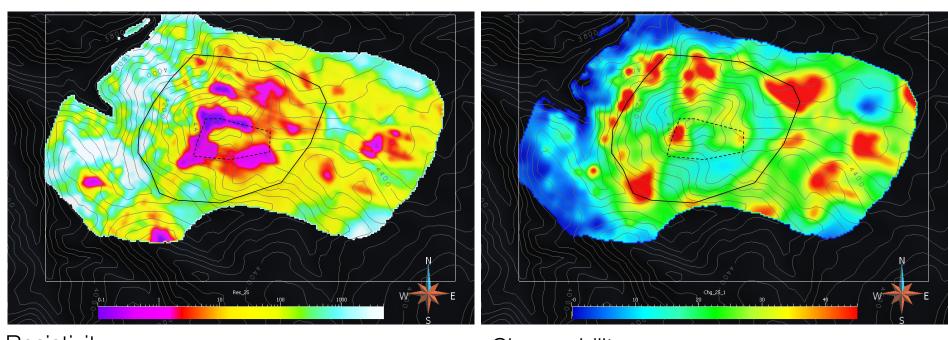
3D DC IP inversion

- Use DC conductivity
- Invert IP data, recover a 3D chargeability
- UBC DCIP3D



Interpretation: Resistivity & Chargeability

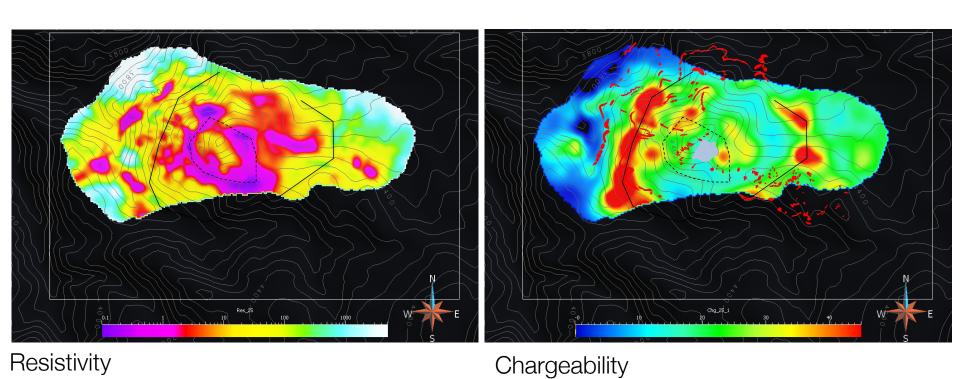
700m below surface



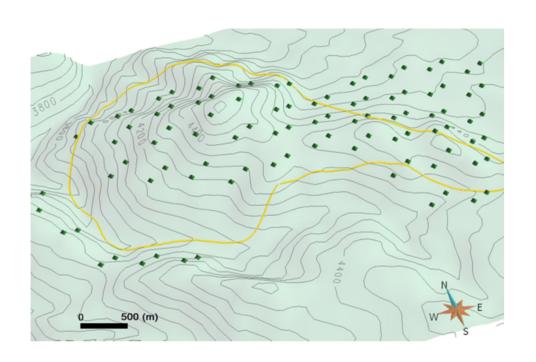
Resistivity Chargeability

Interpretation: Resistivity & Chargeability

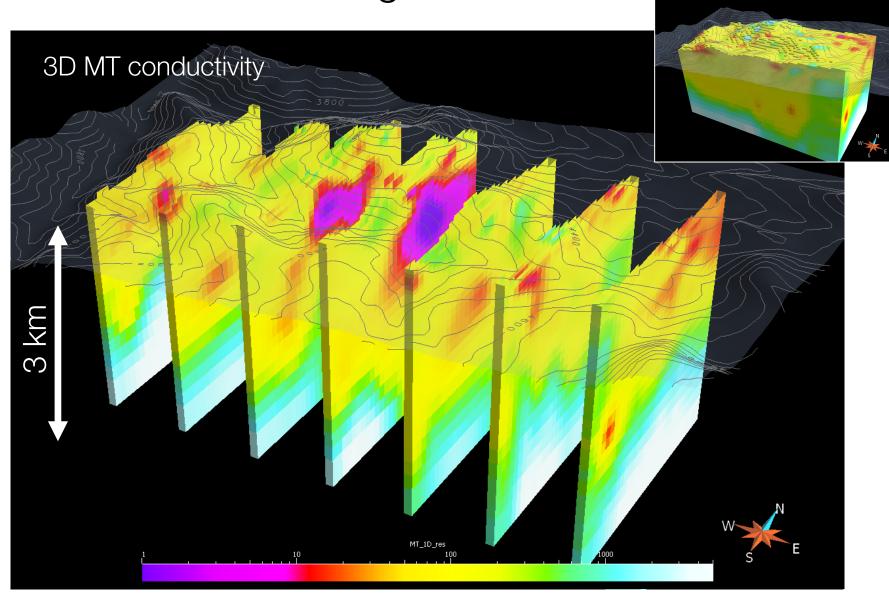
900m below surface

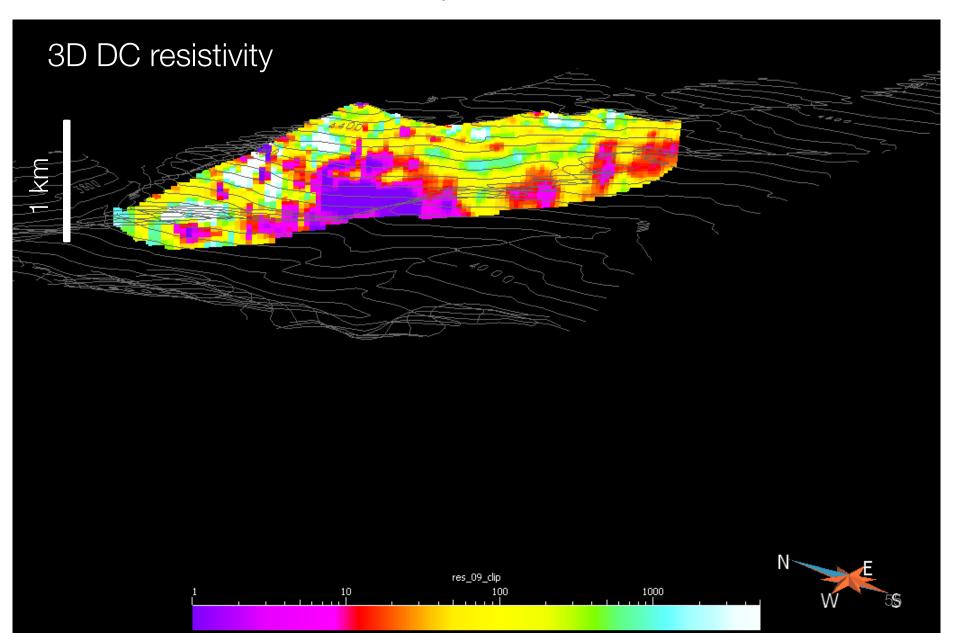


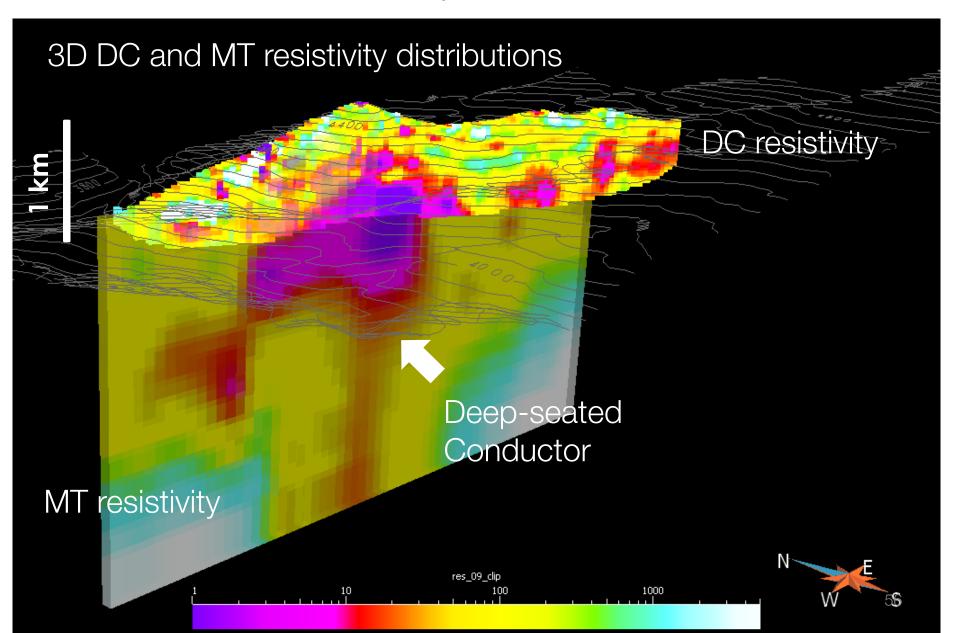
MT Data

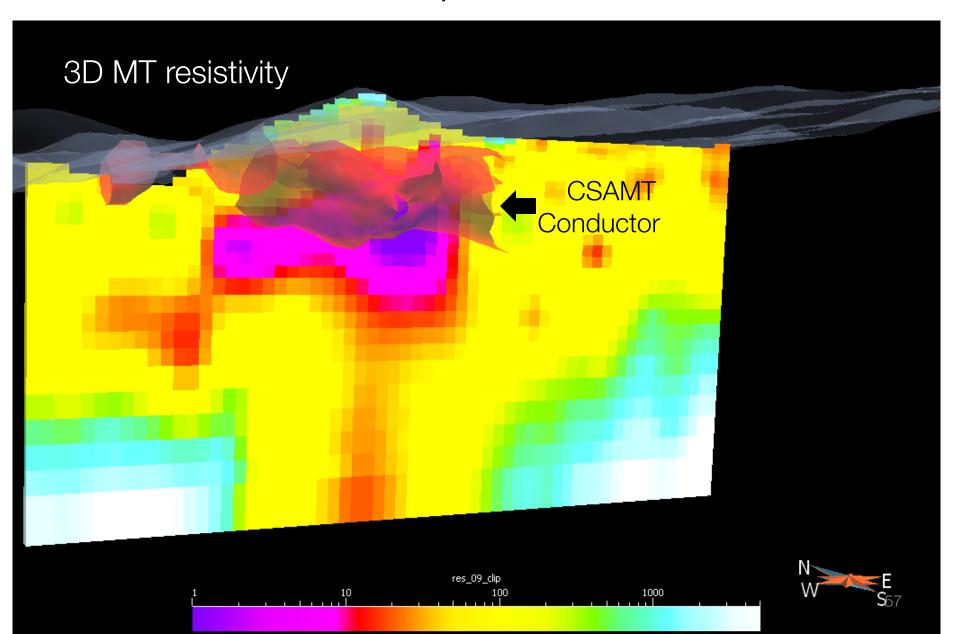


- 100 MT Sites
- 150 m dipole length
- Two orthogonal induction coils
- 450 m spacing
- Acquired over night
- Frequency range: 250-0.001 Hz

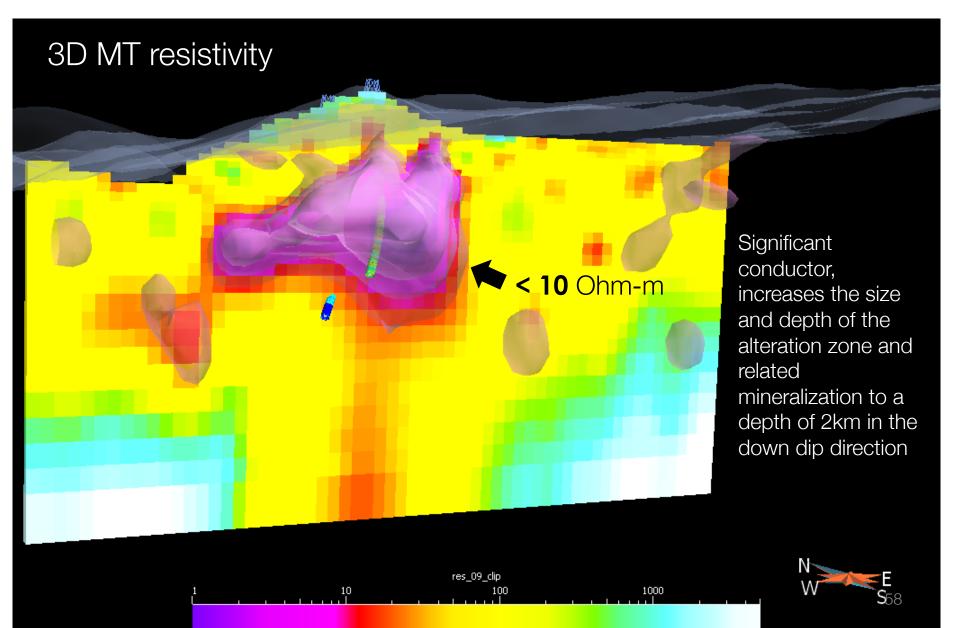








Synthesis



Tipper data (ZTEM)

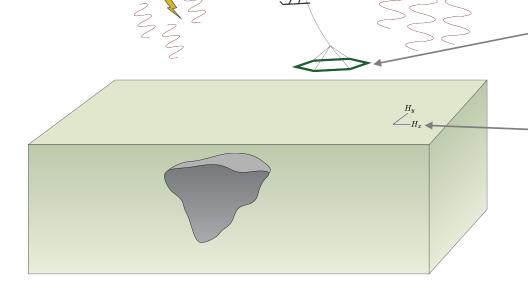
Magnetic transfer function

$$H_z = \mathbf{TH}$$

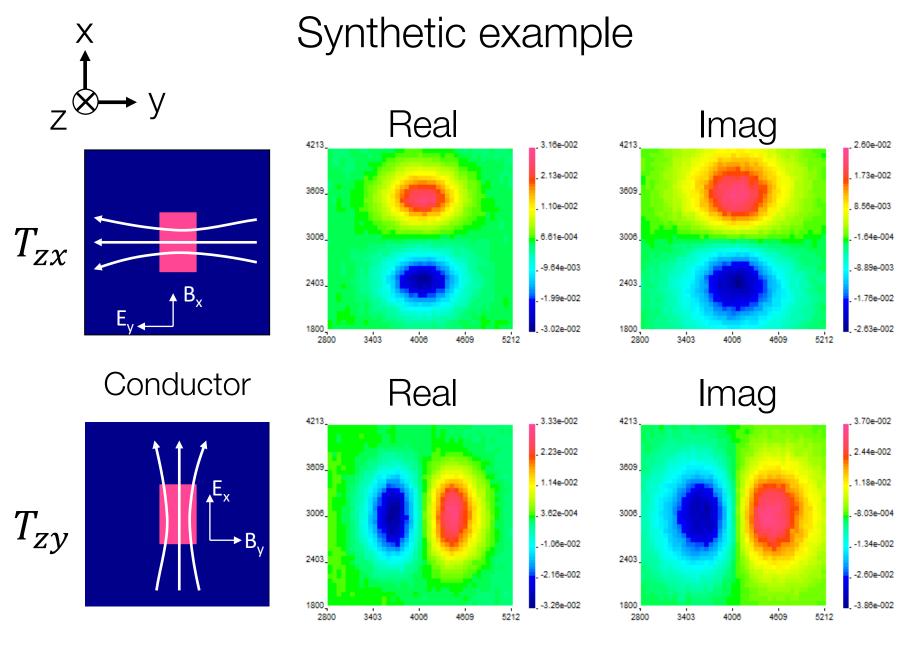
$$H_z(r) = T_{zx}H_x(r_0) + T_{zy}H_y(r_0)$$

• Frequencies 30Hz – 720 Hz







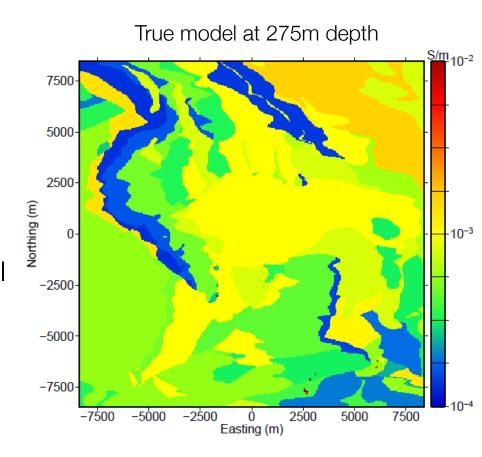


ZTEM case histories

 Synthetic based on Noranda district Balboa copper porphyry deposit

Noranda district, Canada

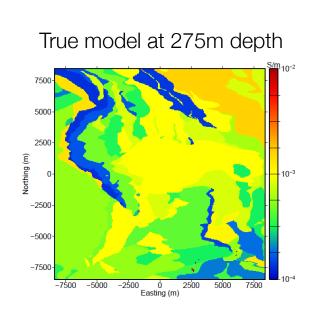
- Hosts many deposits:
 - 20 economic VMS
 - 19 orogenic gold
 - Several intrusion-hostedCu-Mo
- Physical properties
 - Synthetic from geologic model
 - 38 geologic units

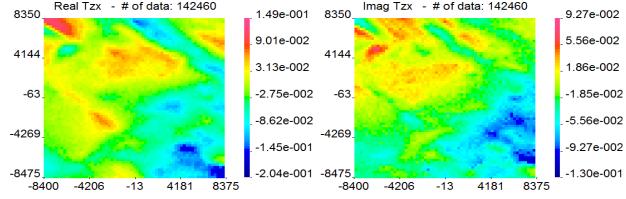


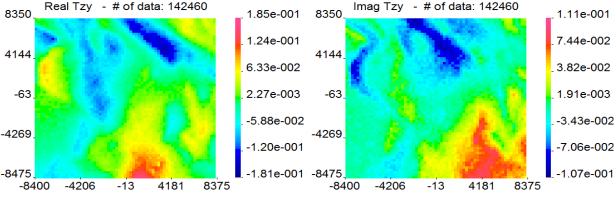
Data

- Forward model data at 6 frequencies
 - 30, 45, 90, 180, 360, and 720 Hz
- Need to invert data

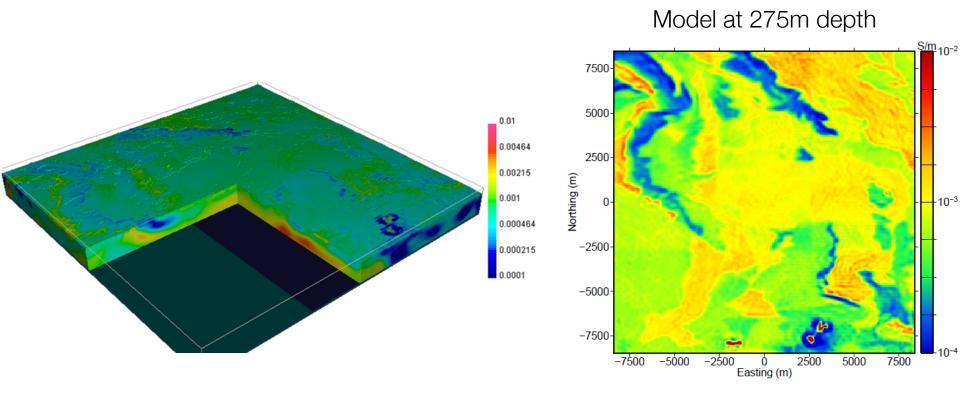
Observed (90 Hz)







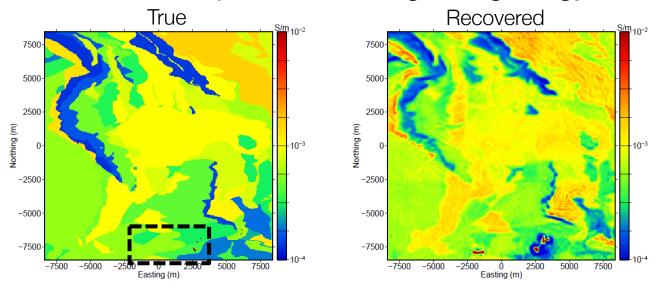
Recovered Model



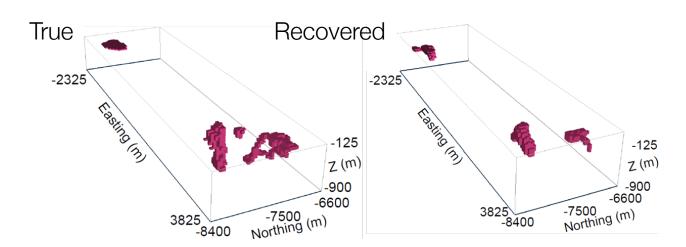
- Geologic units are well mapped
- Some mineralized bodies are located

Synthesis

Recovered model represents the regional geology



Mineralized zones are recovered

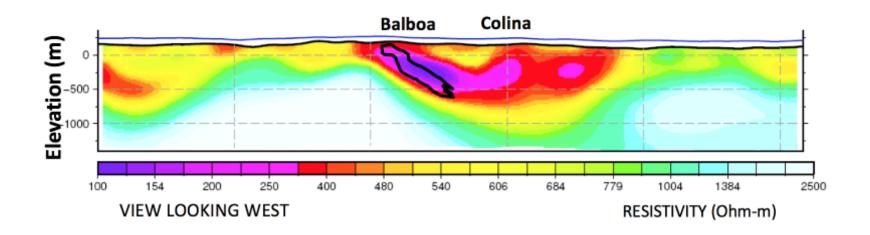


ZTEM case histories

 Synthetic based on Noranda district Balboa copper porphyry deposit

Case History: The Balboa ZTEM Cu-Mo-Au porphyry discovery at Cobre Panama

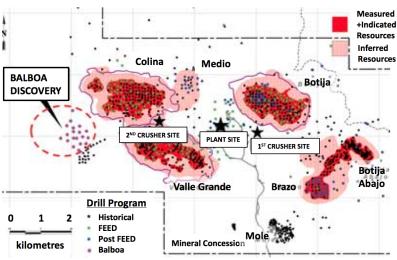
Legault et al., 2016



Setup

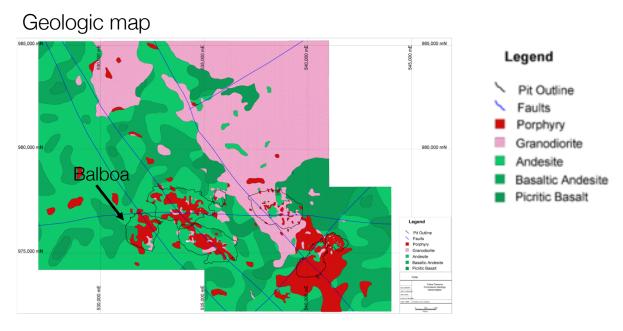


Resource map



- Balboa porphyry Cu-Mo-Au deposit
 - Located 1-2 km from known deposits: Colina, Medio, Botija, Valle Grande, Mole, Brazo, Botija Abajo
 - Most known deposits found with soil samples; followed by exploration programs

Setup

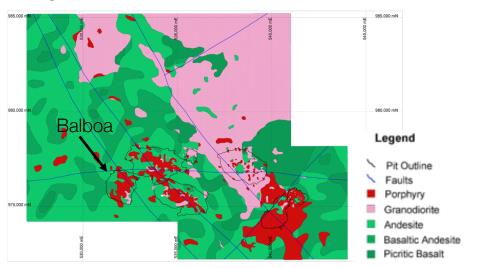


- Overburden: 20-30m of clay-rich saprolite
- Mineralization:
 - Mostly chlorite and chlorite-sericite alteration
 - Abundant disseminated chalcopyrite, pyrite and magnetite
- Previous helicopter TEM survey unsuccessful in detecting mineralized zones

Can ZTEM see mineralized zones below the conductive saprolite layer?

Properties

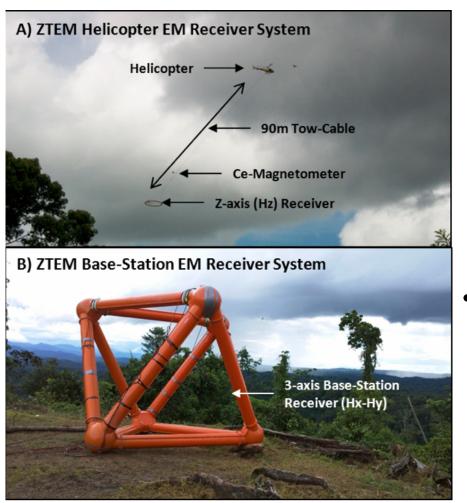
Geologic map

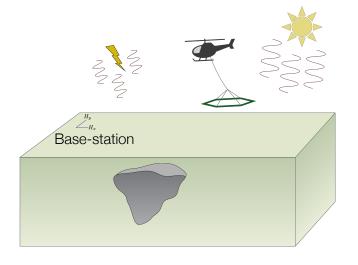


- Mineralized zone
 - High conductivity
 - Low magnetic susceptibility
- Highly conductive saprolite at surface (up to 30m thick)

Rock Unit	Resistivity ($\Omega \cdot m$)	Susceptibility (SI)
Saprolitic overburden	Low	Low
Host rock	High	Moderate
Granodiorite/porphyry (host rock; unmineralized)	Moderate	Moderate
Andesite/basalt (unmineralized)	Moderate	High
Mineralized/clay-altered	Low	Low

Survey



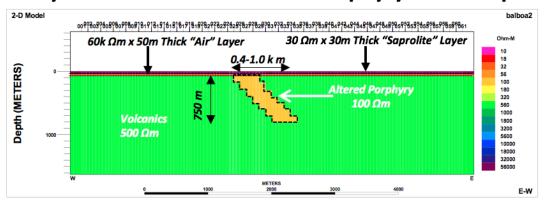


System

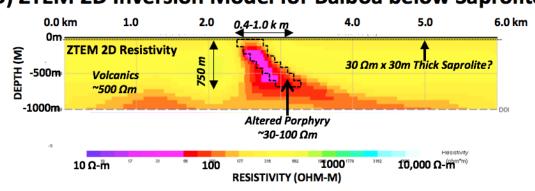
- 6 frequencies: 30-720 Hz
- Hz: airborne receiver
- Hx and Hy at base-station

Survey design

A) 2D Synthetic Model for Balboa Porphyry below Saprolite



B) ZTEM 2D Inversion Model for Balboa below Saprolite



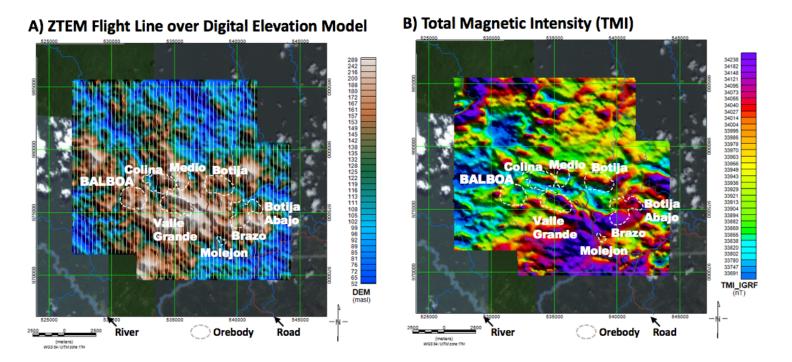
- Typical AEM survey can't see through conductive saprolite
- ZTEM insensitive to 1D conductivity

Data

Tipper transfer function:

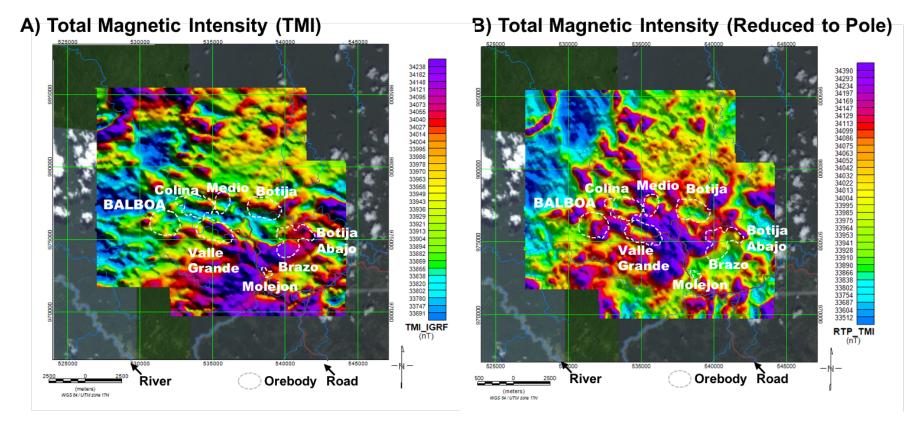
$$H_z(r) = T_{zx}(r, r_0)H_x(r_0) + T_{zy}(r, r_0)H_y(r_0)$$

- Tzx and Tzy obtained using similar processing as MT
- Hx and Hy obtained from reference site (r₀)
- ZTEM survey also acquires magnetic data



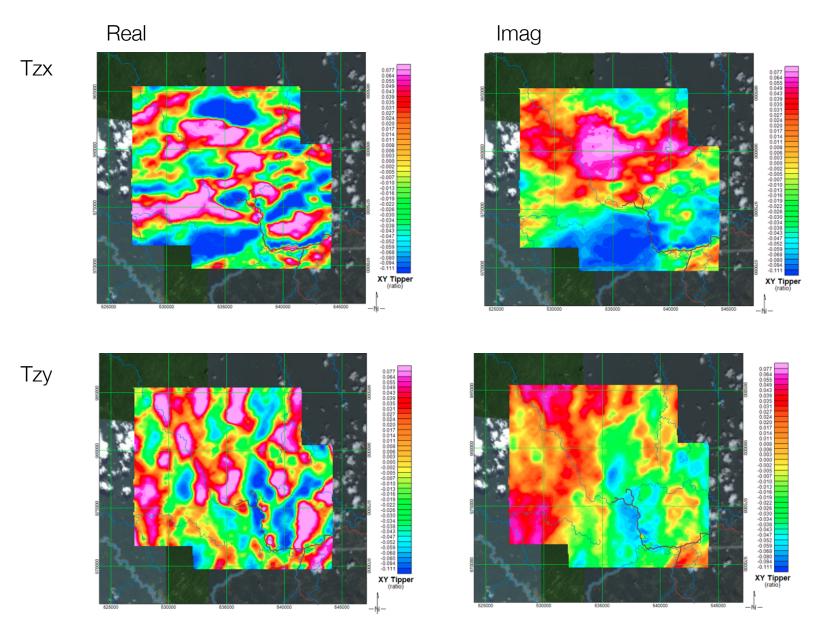
Processing: magnetic data

Reduced to pole (RTP)



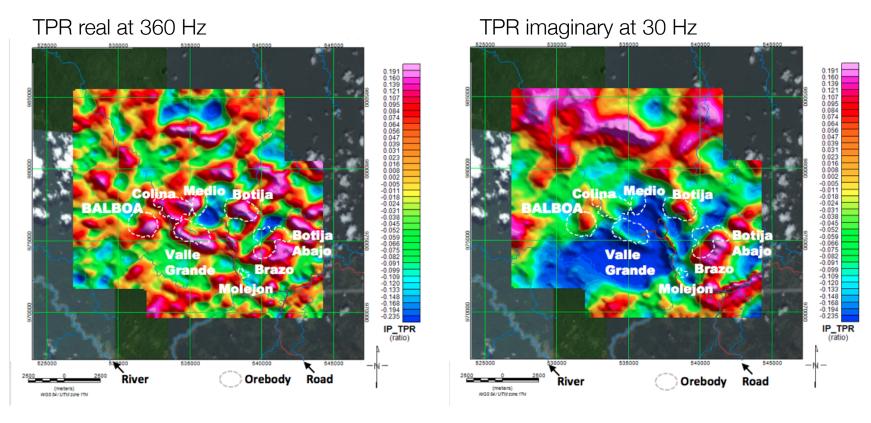
- Known deposits correlate with magnetic lows (after RTP)
- Demagnetized areas are due to alteration
- Balboa not delineated (has both high and low anomalies)

ZTEM data at 90 Hz



Processing: ZTEM data

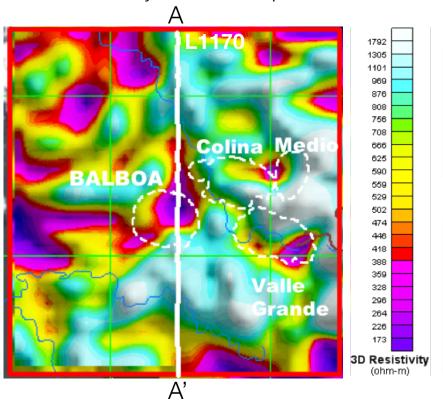
Total phase rotation (TPR)

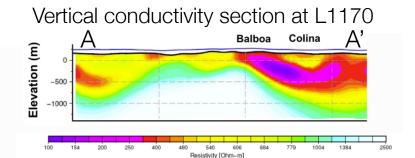


- At 360Hz, high values collocated with known deposits; some false positives
- At 30 Hz, regional resistive structure; deeper conductive structures collocated with some known deposits

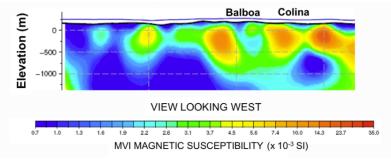
Inversion and Interpretation

3D conductivity at 500 m depth



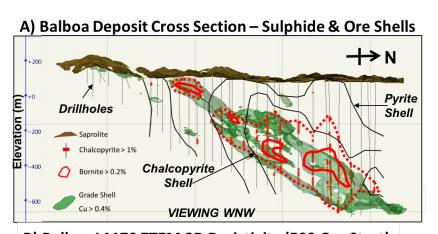


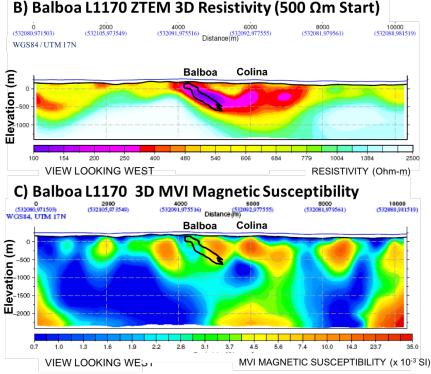




- Balboa deposit
 - Conductor imaged at depth
 - Magnetic low at depth

Synthesis



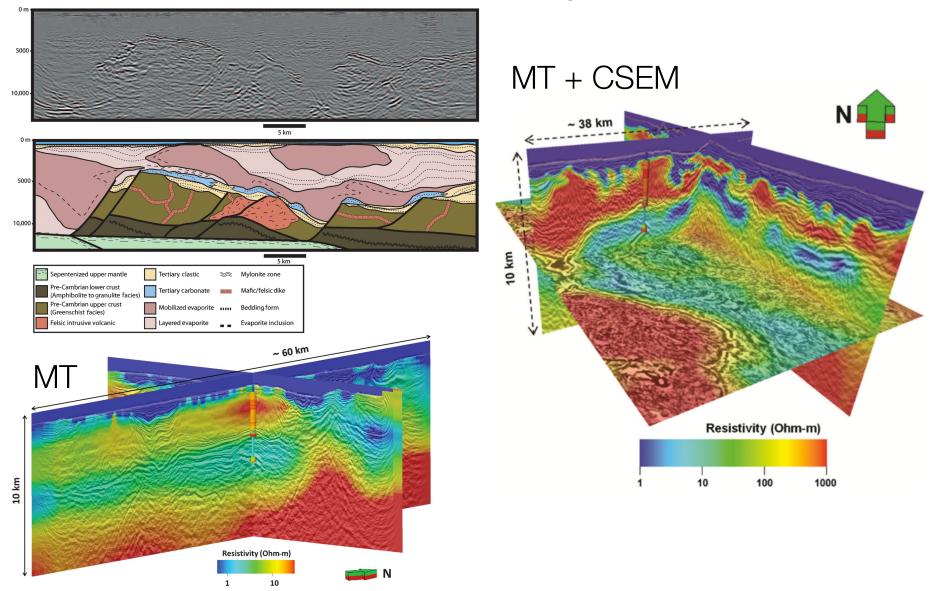


- Exploration and drilling motivated by soil sampling failed to identify Balboa
- Helicopter TDEM could not see through conductive saprolite
- Conductive anomaly collocated with Balboa deposit agrees with boundary of higher-grade zones from drilling

Additional Material

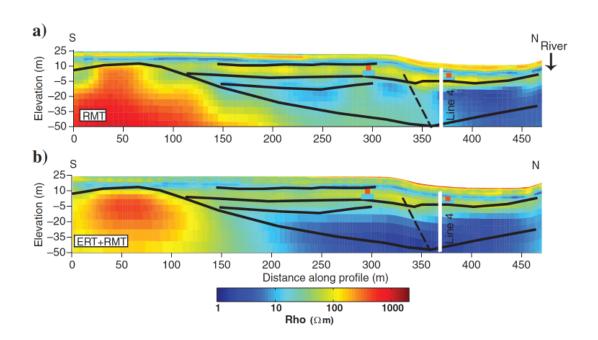
- Case History: Red Sea
- Case History: Landslides

Additional Case History: Red Sea



Case History: Landslides, Sweden

Shan et al., 2014

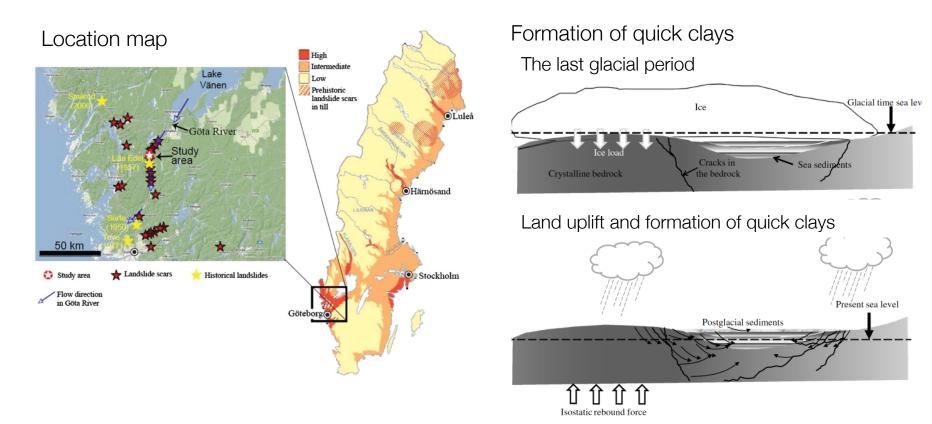


Landslides in Sweden





Setup



- Marine clay, deposited, uplifted then flushed with freshwater
 - Decreases salinity and reduces strength →quick clays

Can we detect quick clays?

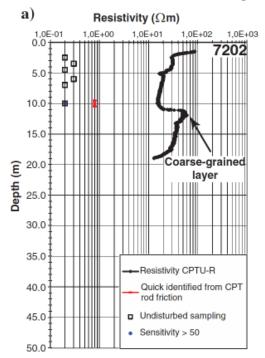
Properties

Soil material	Resistivity interval
Salt/intact marine clay	$1-10~\Omega m$
Leached, possible quick clay	$10-80~\Omega m$
Dry crust clay, slide deposits, coarser	$> 80 \ \Omega m$

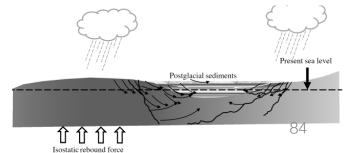
Clays

- Conductive
- Usually overlay sand / gravel
- Quick clays
 - Infiltration of water removes salt
 - More resistive than typical clays
- Coarse-grained layer
 - Resistive
 - Sand and gravel (porous)

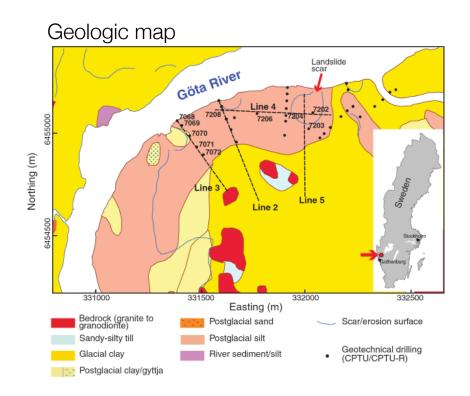
Resistivity (induction log)

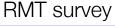


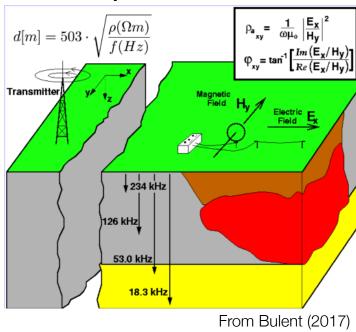
Formation of quick clays



Surveys



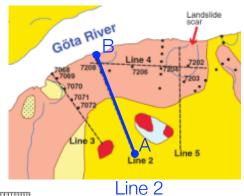


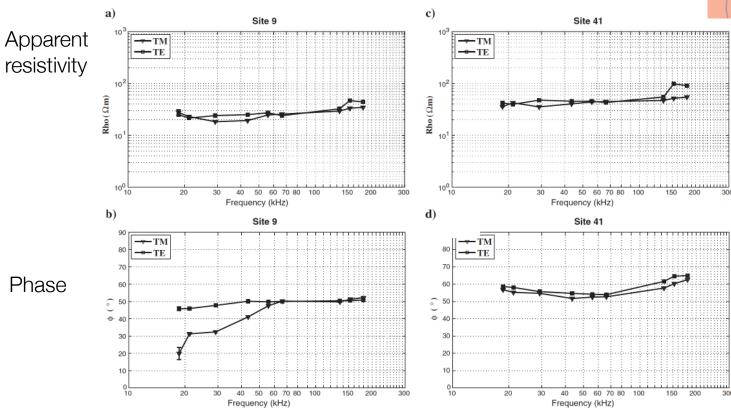


- DC (ERT)
 - Lines 2-5
 - ABEM system
 - Wenner array (5m spacing)

- Radio MT (RMT)
 - Same lines as DC
 - EnviroMT system
 - 21-28 radio transmitters
 - Frequencies: 18.3-183 kHz

RMT: sounding curves



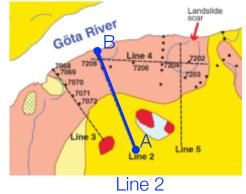


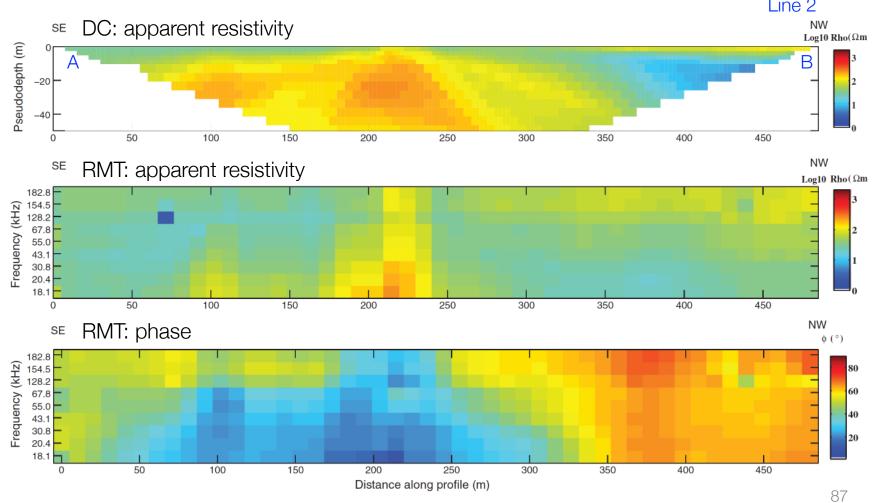
Computed using determinant of impedance tensor at two stations along Line 2

Impedance tensor:
$$\begin{bmatrix} E_x \\ E_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} H_x \\ H_y \end{bmatrix}$$
 Determinant: (complex-valued) $Z_{\text{det}} = \sqrt{Z_{xx}Z_{yy} - Z_{xy}Z_{yx}}$ 86

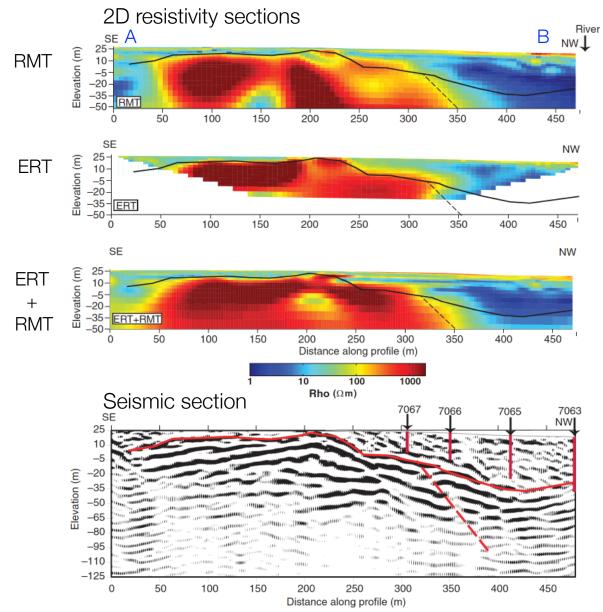
$$Z_{\text{det}} = \sqrt{Z_{xx}Z_{yy} - Z_{xy}Z_{yx}}$$

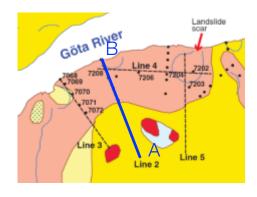
Pseudosections





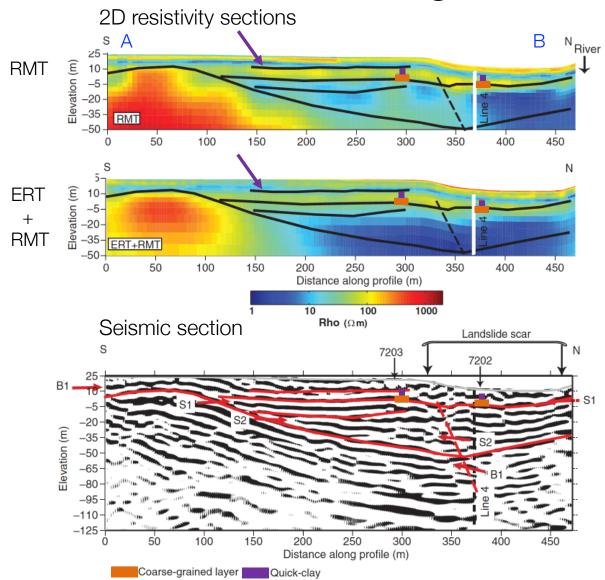
Processing and inversion

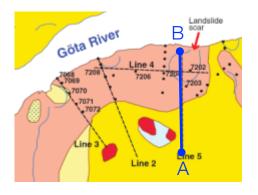




- ERT and RMT yield similar images
- Jointly invert ERT and RMT
- Correlates with seismic

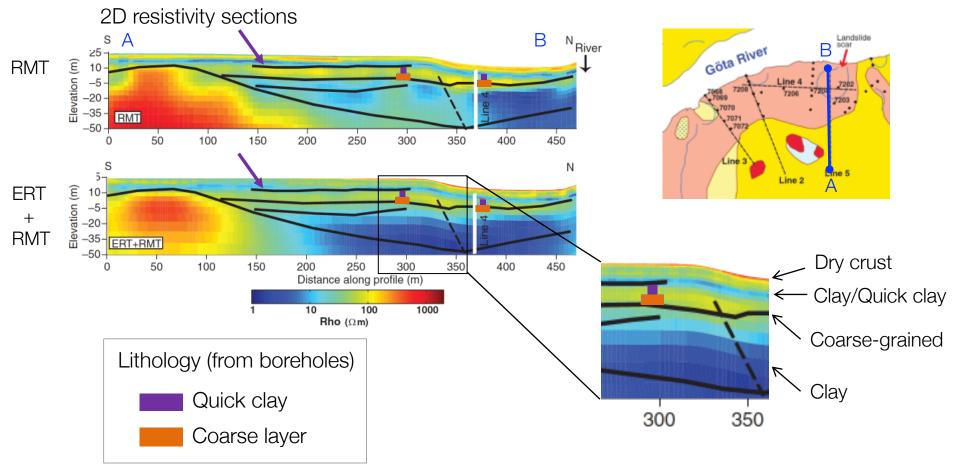
Processing and inversion





 Inverted RMT, ERT+RMT interpreted with seismic

Processing and inversion

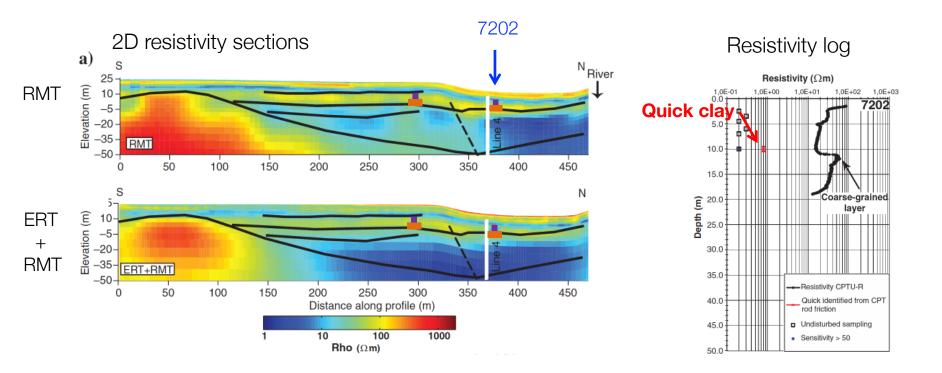


Soil material	Resistivity interval
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Dry crust clay, slide deposits, coarser	$>$ 80 Ω m

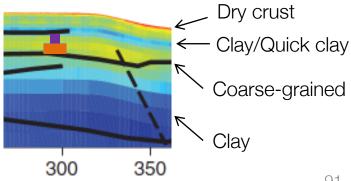
Quick clay

- Top interface: conductor to resistor
- Thickness difficult to estimate

Synthesis



- Resistivity is indicative of lithologic units -> identify possible quick clays
 - Corresponds with seismic
 - Determining thickness is challenging



End of Natural Sources

