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2 **The emergence of hydrogeophysics for improved understanding of subsurface**  
3 **processes over multiple scales**

4

5 Andrew Binley<sup>1\*</sup>, Susan S. Hubbard<sup>2</sup>, Johan A. Huisman<sup>3</sup>, André Revil<sup>4,5</sup>, David A. Robinson<sup>6</sup>,  
6 Kamini Singha<sup>7</sup>, Lee D. Slater<sup>8</sup>

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8 <sup>1</sup>Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YQ, UK

9 <sup>2</sup>Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA USA

10 <sup>3</sup>Agrosphere institute (IBG 3), Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Jülich, Germany

11 <sup>4</sup>Department of Geophysics, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA

12 <sup>5</sup>ISTerre, CNRS, UMR CNRS 5275, Université de Savoie, Le Bourget du Lac, France

13 <sup>6</sup>Soils, Land & Ecohydrology, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Bangor, UK

14 <sup>7</sup>Department of Geology and Geological Engineering, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO, USA

15 <sup>8</sup>Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Rutgers-Newark, NJ, USA

16

17 \*corresponding author: a.binley@lancaster.ac.uk

18

19 **Abstract**

20 Geophysics provides a multi-dimensional suite of investigative methods that are transforming our ability  
21 to see into the very fabric of the subsurface environment, and monitor the dynamics of its fluids and the  
22 biogeochemical reactions that occur within it. Here, we document how geophysical methods have  
23 emerged as valuable tools for investigating shallow subsurface processes over the past two decades and  
24 offer a vision for future developments relevant to hydrology and also ecosystem science. The field of  
25 “hydrogeophysics” arose in the late 1990s, prompted, in part, by the wealth of studies on stochastic  
26 subsurface hydrology that argued for better field-based investigative techniques. These new  
27 hydrogeophysical approaches benefited from the emergence of practical and robust data inversion  
28 techniques, in many cases with a view to quantify shallow subsurface heterogeneity and the associated  
29 dynamics of subsurface fluids. Furthermore, the need for quantitative characterization stimulated a  
30 wealth of new investigations into petrophysical relationships that link hydrologically relevant properties  
31 to measurable geophysical parameters. Development of time-lapse approaches provided a new suite of

32 tools for hydrological investigation, enhanced further with the realization that some geophysical  
33 properties may be sensitive to biogeochemical transformations in the subsurface environment, thus  
34 opening up the new field of “biogeophysics”. Early hydrogeophysical studies often concentrated on  
35 relatively small ‘plot-scale’ experiments. More recently, however, the translation to larger-scale  
36 characterization has been the focus of a number of studies. Geophysical technologies continue to  
37 develop, driven, in part, by the increasing need to understand and quantify key processes controlling  
38 sustainable water resources and ecosystem services.

39

## 40 Introduction

41

42 The ability to observe the fabric of the subsurface environment and processes that occur within it  
43 remains a challenge in many branches of science and engineering. This is particularly the case for  
44 hydrology, where the transport and transformation of fluids in the shallow subsurface (commonly < 100  
45 m deep) are governed by interactions between physical, biological and geochemical processes occurring  
46 in highly heterogeneous and often variably saturated soils, sediments and bedrock compartments  
47 (Figure 1). These complex and multi-scale interactions are difficult to observe and thus hinder our ability  
48 to understand, predict and ultimately manage shallow systems in a sustainable manner. The need to  
49 improve our understanding of processes within the subsurface environment exists due to several  
50 drivers, including: demands on provision of suitable quantities of groundwater at appropriate quality;  
51 determining the legacy of industrial, agricultural and military sources of groundwater contamination;  
52 quantifying terrestrial carbon cycling feedbacks to climate; ensuring food security; and understanding  
53 water resource impacts on ecosystem function. Hydrogeophysics provides a suite of tools that may  
54 assist in addressing such drivers through the quantification of the structure and function of the shallow  
55 subsurface (Figure 1).

56

57

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58

59 Traditional in-situ ‘point scale’ sampling of the subsurface for system properties (e.g. permeability) and  
60 states (e.g. water content, ion concentrations, redox potential) has been widely based on invasive  
61 drilling approaches, through the recovery of samples (e.g., cores) and installation of fluid sampling  
62 apparatus. Whilst such approaches may be relatively easy in the very near surface (< 1m), their financial  
63 (and labor) costs often constrain such investigations at greater depths, enforcing an interpretation

64 based on few observations and at shallow depths. These measurements are also limited by the scale of  
65 measurement they offer, as it is widely accepted that the subsurface process or property under  
66 investigation (e.g. permeability) can be scale dependent [e.g., Schulze-Makuch et al., 1999], particularly  
67 in fractured media. Furthermore, in some instances, invasive sampling of the subsurface is severely  
68 restricted, for example due to inaccessibility caused by features on the ground surface (e.g. built  
69 infrastructure), environmental protection constraints, the hazardous nature of a site, or the threat of  
70 disturbing and transforming contaminant pathways through an invasive activity. For these reasons,  
71 geophysical methods, many of which were originally developed for oil and mineral exploration, have  
72 emerged as valuable tools for supporting investigation of the shallow subsurface and for monitoring the  
73 dynamics of hydrological and biogeochemical processes that occur within it.

74

75 Several geophysical methods have been used in hydrological investigations for decades. Geophysical  
76 well logging, for example, is well established and routinely used to assist drilling operations through the  
77 recording of lithological geophysical descriptors, thus helping the development of hydrogeological  
78 conceptualizations at a site. However, over the past two or three decades new geophysical methods  
79 have emerged (or have developed significantly), several of which have proved to be extremely effective  
80 in providing valuable information about the subsurface environment beyond the borehole wall. New  
81 approaches have been developed to exploit the information attainable from these techniques,  
82 supported by new insights into relationships between properties of interest and observable geophysical  
83 properties. During the 1990s, "hydrogeophysics" arose as an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the  
84 improved understanding of hydrological processes through geophysical observations. Whilst initially  
85 focused on aiding in the development of conceptual subsurface models, applications of hydrogeophysics  
86 have developed to provide new insight into subsurface mechanisms, to aid in the parameterization of  
87 subsurface flow and transport models, and to advance new tools for monitoring the hydrological and  
88 biogeochemical status of the subsurface environment.

89

90 Several key challenges exist in translating geophysical measurements into information that is useful for  
91 improving our understanding and management of shallow subsurface systems. First and foremost,  
92 geophysical measurements do not generally provide direct information about hydrogeological  
93 properties or states and as such, their effective use is governed by the strength of the relationships  
94 between estimated geophysical properties and the properties of interest. In addition, they can suffer  
95 from limitations of measurement scale and resolution in that the target to be characterized may be

96 much smaller than the footprint of the geophysical measurement. Profound understanding of these  
97 factors is essential for successful application, and motivates the existence and continued evolution of  
98 hydrogeophysics as a research field.

99

100 Many of the key advances in hydrogeophysics have been documented in *Water Resources Research*;  
101 Figure 2 illustrates the growth of hydrogeophysics activity in the journal since 1990. The number of  
102 hydrogeophysics-related papers has continued to grow at an almost constant rate (Figure 2a) and now  
103 accounts for typically 5 - 6% of the journal content (Figure 2b). We use this celebratory issue to reflect  
104 on the emergence of the field through publications in the journal and the wider literature.

105

106

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107

108 In this review, we first introduce the commonly used geophysical methods for hydrological  
109 investigations and outline the principles of geophysical data inversion and measurement scale. We then  
110 discuss developments in hydrogeophysical relationships, which underpin successful application of  
111 hydrogeophysics. Early approaches of geophysical methods to hydrology based on characterizing  
112 structure are reviewed, followed by subsequent developments addressing temporal dynamics,  
113 biogeochemical processes and applications to ecosystem science. We then offer a vision for the future  
114 direction of hydrogeophysics.

115

## 116 Geophysical methods

117

118 A range of geophysical methods have been used effectively in hydrological investigations. Details of such  
119 methods can be found in many texts [e.g. Rubin and Hubbard, 2005; Vereecken et al., 2006; Robinson et  
120 al.,2008a]; we restrict this review to the general concepts. Within most methods a geophysical property  
121 (or properties) of the subsurface is evaluated using sensors deployed on the boundary of the area of  
122 study in response to a natural or activated source. A link between such a property and a hydrological  
123 property or state is clearly essential to using these data for hydrologic inference, as discussed later.  
124 Assuming such a link exists, the success of the method then relies on the ability to infer variations in the  
125 property (or state) of interest from the accuracy- and resolution-limited geophysical parameter(s). The  
126 most commonly used methods for hydrological applications (in no particular order) are: direct current  
127 (DC) resistivity, induced polarization (IP), self-potential (SP), ground penetrating radar (GPR),

128 electromagnetic induction (EMI), seismic refraction, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and  
129 microgravity. (Note that we use the term induced polarization here to capture a broad range of  
130 polarization measurement methods; IP is often used to define a time-domain measurement and  
131 complex resistivity is commonly used as a reference to measurements in the frequency domain, whilst  
132 spectral induced polarization (SIP) refers to the measurement of the frequency spectrum of complex  
133 resistivity). Table 1 lists the geophysical properties that these methods provide and the hydrological  
134 properties that have commonly been derived from these geophysical properties. Note that we have not  
135 included temperature sensing as a geophysical approach here, although we recognize the immense  
136 success in developments of such approaches for hydrological investigations [e.g. Hatch et al., 2006;  
137 Selker et al., 2006; Keery et al., 2007; Tyler et al., 2009].

138

139

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140

141 Several methods can be deployed in various configurations, allowing the user to tailor the survey to  
142 optimize the sensitivity. Electrical methods (DC resistivity, IP, SIP, SP), which involve making  
143 measurements using electrodes with galvanic or capacitive contact with the subsurface, allow significant  
144 flexibility in terms of acquisition configuration for plot-scale (<10 m deep) investigations. Most early  
145 applications of electrical methods in hydrology were based on surface-based configurations originally  
146 developed for resource exploration. However, the inherent adaptability of the basic configuration to  
147 target the problem of interest led to deployment in alternative configurations, e.g. in boreholes [e.g.  
148 Daily et al., 1992; Singha and Gorelick, 2005], or surrounding a column or object under examination, as  
149 in laboratory or lysimeter based studies [e.g. Binley et al., 1996; Koestel et al., 2008]. In some cases,  
150 deployment in contact with the water surface above the area of investigation (i.e. water-borne) has  
151 proved to be effective [e.g., Slater et al., 2010].

152

153 Geophysical methods based on electromagnetic induction (EMI) offer greater range of both application  
154 and scale of investigation than electrical methods. These methods may be deployed on the ground  
155 surface (manually or using towed platforms), in boreholes, and also in an airborne manner. Depth of  
156 investigation is controlled by varying the excitation frequency or separation of electromagnetic coils.  
157 Alternatively, depth information may also be obtained from the analysis of time-dependency in a  
158 measured transient signal response [Keller and Frischknecht, 1966].

159

160 GPR methods are based on the recording of high frequency electromagnetic signals transmitted into the  
161 ground. Ground-based surveys are used to sense signals that are either directly transmitted between  
162 antennas at shallow depths or reflected from greater depths to return to the ground surface; cross-  
163 borehole surveys, in contrast, measure transmitted energy between boreholes [Huisman et al., 2003].  
164 Reflection mode GPR can also be applied in single boreholes, as demonstrated, for example, by Dorn et  
165 al. [2011]. The popularity of GPR in hydrogeophysics can be attributed to the relatively high spatial  
166 resolution and the direct connectivity between radar velocity and moisture content [Topp et al., 1980].  
167 However, in most environments the depth of investigation of ground based GPR is limited to a few  
168 meters because of the high attenuation of electromagnetic energy in electrically conductive porous  
169 media. GPR methods can also be used to determine information about the electrical conductivity of the  
170 subsurface, given the measurement of signal attenuation at the receiver.

171  
172 Seismic methods measure the velocity and attenuation of seismic waves in order to infer information  
173 about mechanical properties of the subsurface. Like GPR, seismic methods are based on the  
174 transmission of an energy source (originating, for example, from a sledgehammer at the surface) and  
175 the measurement of a signal at a receiver (geophone). Again, like GPR, seismic methods may be used in  
176 a ground-based or cross-borehole configuration. New techniques have been developed to exploit the  
177 link between seismic and electromagnetic energy [Revil et al., 2014a; Sava et al., 2014].

178  
179 The SP method is a passive method (i.e. there is no applied source of signal) that probes directly non-  
180 equilibrium thermodynamic processes in the subsurface. A major application of SP measurements in  
181 hydrology is sensing the flow of the ground water, which drags the excess of ionic charges located in the  
182 vicinity of a charged mineral surface and therefore produces a (streaming) electrical current [Abaza and  
183 Clyde, 1969; Revil et al., 2003]. This approach has proven useful for estimating hydraulic properties  
184 during pumping tests [e.g. Darnet et al., 2003] and hydraulic tomography [Ahmed et al., 2014] or for  
185 mapping preferential flowpaths [Ikard et al., 2012].

186  
187 A relatively new geophysical technique that has shown potential for hydrological applications is nuclear  
188 magnetic resonance (NMR). Measurements can be made using downhole sondes, although the surface-  
189 based sounding (called magnetic resonance sounding (MRS), or surface NMR (SNMR)) can provide 1D  
190 and 2D models of hydraulic properties to depths of several tens of meters [e.g. Herckenrath et al., 2012;  
191 Vilhelmsen et al., 2014].

192

193 In contrast to NMR, gravimetry is a well-established geophysical technique. The method was originally  
194 developed for exploration and geodesy purposes. Gravimeters can sense differences in gravity caused  
195 by local variations in density. The temporal variability in gravimetry measurements offers the greatest  
196 value of this technique in hydrogeophysical studies. Such variation due to groundwater level changes  
197 has been studied in detail since, for non-hydrological applications, this contributes a significant noise  
198 component. Such 'noise' can thus represent 'signal' for monitoring groundwater storage changes [e.g.,  
199 Gehman et al., 2009] and constraining hydraulic parameter estimates [e.g., Blainey et al., 2007]. We  
200 also note the immense impact of the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellite-based  
201 gravimetry measurements on large scale observations of water storage and groundwater depletion in  
202 aquifers [e.g., Yeh et al., 2006; Fen et al., 2013], although we limit this review to land-based and  
203 airborne approaches.

204

205 A wide range of geophysical methods therefore exists, allowing us to investigate the subsurface at a  
206 range of spatial scales in a variety of survey configurations. As discussed later, some of these methods  
207 offer direct insight into the hydrological characteristics of the subsurface; furthermore, a number of  
208 methods are well-suited to studying the temporal variability of subsurface processes.

209

### 210 ***Data inversion***

211 Typically, geophysical surveys are conducted to assess the spatial variability of a property (or changes in  
212 a property) within the study region. The translation of raw geophysical measurements to spatial  
213 patterns of geophysical parameters is usually achieved through an inversion process (Figure 3). In the  
214 1980s, rapid growth in available computer resources needed for such inversion prompted numerous  
215 developments in inversion algorithms, leading to widely available tools that are now robust, and in  
216 many cases, capable of rapid production of 2D and 3D images of the subsurface.

217

218 INSERT FIGURE 3 NEAR HERE

219

220 Often the inversion of geophysical data is challenging because of ill-posedness and non-uniqueness, and  
221 typically some stabilizing mechanism is needed. Originating from exploration and deep Earth studies,  
222 the introduction of regularization functions to address problems of ill-posed, non-unique solutions by  
223 minimizing the roughness of an image [e.g. Tikhonov and Arsenin, 1977; Constable et al., 1987;

224 Tarantola, 2005] transformed the robustness of geophysical inverse codes and opened up some of the  
225 geophysical methods (in particular electrical methods) to a broader user base. Such approaches often  
226 naturally lead to smoothed images of some geophysical property, which can be argued as introducing *a*  
227 *priori* information about the subsurface as we may expect there to be some autocorrelation of  
228 properties over length scales. However, such approaches do not typically account for our quantitative  
229 knowledge of spatial variability of properties: they recognize that it exists but in many approaches the  
230 level of smoothing does not necessarily honor explicitly the geostatistical information that may be  
231 known about the subsurface. More sophisticated inverse methods that do consider such prior  
232 information on subsurface heterogeneity have been developed in hydrogeophysics [Hyndman et al.,  
233 1994; Eppstein and Dougherty, 1998; Yeh et al., 2002; Linde et al., 2006; Hermans et al., 2012].  
234 Introducing such additional knowledge (or assumed knowledge) of the subsurface in the inversion can  
235 have a dramatic effect on the resultant images: the spatial structure can be significantly enhanced.  
236 However, such approaches have to date been limited to synthetic studies or extremely well  
237 characterized research sites as applied to hydrologic systems.

238

239 Large-scale (e.g. airborne) investigations introduce further challenges for the inversion process due to  
240 the size of datasets. Traditionally, in airborne EMI surveys, maps of apparent electrical conductivity data  
241 would be constructed or individual soundings analyzed as 1D (conductivity-depth) models. However,  
242 developments in laterally constrained inversion methods [e.g. Auken and Christiansen, 2004] permit  
243 large scale quantitative modelling of the subsurface using airborne acquired data [e.g. Siemon et al.,  
244 2009]. The computational constraints of solving large-scale inverse problems for a wide range of  
245 geophysical problems has prompted developments in the use of wavelet transformations to reduce the  
246 density of the sensitivity matrix [e.g., Li and Oldenburg, 2003], seek adaptive mesh parameterization  
247 [e.g., Davis and Li, 2011] and exploit highly parallel computation [e.g. Cuma and Zhdanov, 2014]. There  
248 has also been a migration towards unstructured meshes that permit better adaptation to geological  
249 structures and topography, prompting the development of new regularization strategies [e.g., Lelièvre  
250 and Farquharson, 2013] that can exploit such flexible discretization of the subsurface.

251

252 Most inversion applications in hydrogeophysics have focused on the analysis of a single geophysical  
253 modality (e.g. DC resistivity); however, joint inversion of data from multiple geophysical data types may  
254 generate greater information about the subsurface. In its simplest form, joint inversion may focus on a  
255 simultaneous inversion of geophysical data sensitive to a common property (e.g. electrical conductivity).



256 Monteiro Santos et al. [2007] illustrated such an approach for 2D imaging of resistivity using DC  
257 resistivity and audio-magnetotelluric data. In a petrophysical approach, geophysical parameters are  
258 linked through rock properties (such as porosity or water content) to constrain the inversion. In this  
259 approach, the problem is often solved with *a priori* knowledge of some physical relationships between  
260 the parameters controlling the geophysical data [e.g. Hoversten et al., 2006]. The drawback of this  
261 approach is that the final model is a function of the *a priori* relationship, which may be poorly known  
262 and not necessarily constant within the area of investigation. In a structural approach it is assumed that  
263 spatial changes in geophysical parameters are related, irrespective of any common petrophysical  
264 relationship, i.e. changes in one parameter should coincide with changes in another parameter. The  
265 simple concept of cross-gradient constraints introduced by Gallardo and Meju [2003] has provided a  
266 flexible approach for addressing structural inversion of geophysical data [see also review by Gallardo  
267 and Meju, 2011]. Linde et al. [2006] illustrated the use of this approach in hydrogeophysics, using cross-  
268 borehole DC resistivity and GPR data. The resulting jointly inverted images (Figure 4) were then analyzed  
269 to determine bivariate trends in electrical conductivity and permittivity, revealing different lithological  
270 units at the study site.

271

272

INSERT FIGURE 4 NEAR HERE

273

274 As discussed later, studying the temporal dynamics of geophysical signals can provide improved  
275 knowledge of the system's behavior. Data inversion techniques have developed to exploit such  
276 approaches. Early methods relied on relatively simple comparisons of two datasets [e.g. Daily and  
277 Owen, 1991; LaBrecque and Yang, 2001]. More recently, approaches have been developed to invert  
278 multiple time-lapse datasets simultaneously [e.g., Kim et al. 2009; Karaoulis et al. 2011].

279

280 One may consider a geophysical image as a proxy for the spatial distribution of a property of interest  
281 (e.g. permeability) and traditionally geophysical data were used in this way, i.e. the flow of information  
282 is one way: from geophysics to hydrology. However, provided adequate knowledge of the relationship  
283 between geophysical and hydrological properties (or states) is known (through petrophysical  
284 transforms) then the inversion can be cast in a coupled manner, whereby a hydrological model  
285 generates proposals (e.g. the distribution of soil water content) and the consistency with observed  
286 geophysical measurements is evaluated (often in combination with other data). Thus the hydrological  
287 model constrains the inversion and the final result is guaranteed to be consistent with the hydrological

288 conceptualization. Such an approach may be considered to be a truly coupled hydrogeophysical  
289 inversion as feedback between geophysics and hydrology is explicitly defined. Furthermore, artifacts  
290 resulting from traditional (potentially unphysical) regularized geophysical inversion are eliminated.  
291 Kowalsky et al. [2005] documented one of the first attempts at following such a coupled approach, using  
292 cross-well GPR data to estimate soil water content in the vadose zone. Other examples following similar  
293 concepts include those of: Looms et al. [2008]; Hinnell et al. [2010]; Huisman et al. [2010]; Irving and  
294 Singha [2010]; Scholer et al. [2011]; Pollock and Cirpka [2012]; Jardani et al. [2013]; Vilhelmsen et al.  
295 [2014]. A further advantage of these methods is the natural ability to incorporate other data sources  
296 within the inversion; thus the geophysical data merely represent one of several possible data sources.  
297 The disadvantages of such coupled inversion approaches are (1) greater computational burden, and (2)  
298 the reliance on uncertain petrophysical relationships linking geophysical and hydrological quantities.  
299 Moreover, adopting such an approach enforces the prior hydrological conceptualization and thus relies  
300 on adequate confidence in the hydrological conceptual model. In some cases one may wish to explore  
301 the geophysical data independent of prior hydrological conceptualizations to reveal new insight rather  
302 than simply affirm prior assumptions of a system.

303  
304 Oware et al. [2013] offer an interesting alternative to the coupled approach by training images  
305 generated from a hydrogeological model within a framework that solves for sets of geophysical  
306 parameters with overall reduced dimensionality. They demonstrate that, under conditions of high  
307 uncertainty in the underlying hydrogeological model, their approach is superior to conventional  
308 smoothed or coupled inversions. Others have solved directly for hydrologic parameters of interest, such  
309 as plume moments or geometry [Day-Lewis et al., 2007; Miled and Miller, 2007; Pidlisecky et al., 2011],  
310 effective velocity and dispersivity [Koestel et al., 2008]. As in many areas of natural science, data may  
311 be used to support or to illuminate: the choice of inversion scheme will depend on the focus of the  
312 investigation and the level of *a priori* knowledge of the system.

### 313 314 **Measurement scale**

315 As noted earlier, a significant advantage of geophysical measurements over many traditional subsurface  
316 observational approaches is the greater measurement support volume that they offer. Western et al.  
317 [2002] already highlighted that the limited support volume of conventional sensors can constrain the  
318 value of hydrological process data.

319

320 We consider two aspects of measurement scale here. First, by conducting geophysical surveys over  
321 transects along the surface, or, for example, between boreholes, we can assess variability over some  
322 survey scale. Second, each individual geophysical measurement is an integrated measure, with its own  
323 support scale. The latter will constrain the spatial resolution achievable from the method, but has the  
324 advantage of characterizing properties over scales that may be more representative of the hydrological  
325 property or process under investigation. For example, the measurement of the time of flight of a radar  
326 signal between two boreholes is sensitive to the total water content along the pathway from transmitter  
327 to receiver. Thus, such a measurement can provide an integrated water content measure over several  
328 meters [e.g. Parkin et al., 2000; Binley et al., 2001; Strobach et al., 2014]. Similarly, developments in  
329 surface-based GPR based on measurement of direct waves travelling close to the ground surface [e.g.  
330 Huisman et al., 2001; Grote et al., 2003] or using above ground sensors [e.g. Lambot et al., 2006], offer  
331 the capability of providing mobile soil moisture sensors that sample larger volumes than normally  
332 achievable with standard point sensors. This enhanced measurement support volume is often  
333 overlooked, although it does present challenges as we strive to assess these new techniques but are  
334 constrained by verification from 'acceptable' measurement approaches based on a much smaller spatial  
335 scale [e.g. Huisman et al., 2002].

336

337 The survey scale for geophysical techniques varies considerably. Some methods (e.g. surface deployed  
338 GPR, frequency domain EMI) are fully mobile and can often provide information without the need for  
339 data inversion over extensive areas. Frequency domain EM tools are particularly well suited to vehicle-  
340 towed platforms [e.g. Sudduth et al., 2001; André et al., 2012]. Others, for example, electrical and  
341 seismic methods, use grounded multi-sensors on cable arrays that limit the mobility of measurement  
342 arrays, as does the survey time required for an individual measurement. Time domain EMI and NMR can  
343 require extensive setup periods for ground-based surveys, again limiting mobility. Attempts have been  
344 made to develop mobile land-based platforms, particularly for electrical methods. Panissod et al. [1997]  
345 and Christensen and Sørensen [2001], for example, illustrated different approaches using vehicle towed  
346 electrical arrays, which have proved effective, particularly for relatively shallow investigations. Allred et  
347 al. [2008] discuss other vehicle-mounted electrical measurement systems. Water-borne surveys can also  
348 be effective for greater scale of investigation. Rucker et al. [2011], for example, completed over 660 line  
349 kilometers along the Panama Canal, using a 170m long floating electrode array.

350

351 As noted earlier, EMI methods can be used on airborne platforms. As in many other geophysical  
352 methods, airborne electromagnetic methods were originally developed for mineral resource  
353 exploration, however, the value of these techniques for large-scale hydrogeological studies is now well  
354 established. Cook and Kilty [1992] illustrated the use of helicopter-borne frequency domain EMI (FDEM)  
355 surveys for mapping recharge rates over an area of 32 km<sup>2</sup> in south east Australia. They established an  
356 inverse relationship between subsurface electrical conductivity and recharge rate (due to leached salts  
357 and low water content in highly recharged areas) and thus were able to utilize maps of the variation in  
358 electrical conductivity in the top few tens of meters of the subsurface to obtain immensely valuable  
359 hydrogeological information. Paine [2003] illustrated the effectiveness of FDEM surveys for mapping  
360 groundwater salinization over a 35 km<sup>2</sup> area. Kirkegaard et al. [2011] utilized helicopter-borne time  
361 domain electromagnetic (TDEM) surveys to identify zones of low salinity groundwater discharging into a  
362 coastal lagoon in Denmark. Such examples demonstrate the immense power of airborne methods for  
363 surveying at regional scales.

364

365 Geophysical methods are often compared based on a measure of achievable horizontal survey scale;  
366 however, one also needs to consider the vertical (depth) scale of sensitivity that can be practically  
367 achieved. To illustrate this, Figure 5 shows a typical horizontal and vertical scale achievable in one day  
368 for three different methods (ERT, FDEM, TDEM) of sensing the spatial variation in electrical conductivity.  
369 For this comparison we assume: (i) a two person field crew; (ii) land-based application, not vehicle  
370 mounted; (iii) easily accessible terrain; (iv) a single transect survey. The comparison of horizontal and  
371 vertical scales shown in Figure 5 demonstrates the range achievable from different geophysical  
372 methods, which is important to consider in selecting an appropriate method for a given problem. FDEM  
373 methods may offer significant horizontal coverage but can lack depth of investigation, in contrast  
374 ground-based TDEM provides superior depth of investigation but mobility is more restricted than FDEM  
375 and thus horizontal coverage is limited. ERT offers greater flexibility in horizontal and vertical coverage  
376 by adjusting electrode spacing. The examples in Figure 5 show spatial coverage for 1 m and 5 m  
377 electrode spaced ERT arrays: greater depth of investigation is achievable for larger spacing of  
378 electrodes, although both horizontal and vertical resolution deteriorates.

379

380

INSERT FIGURE 5 NEAR HERE

381

## 382 Hydrogeophysical relationships

383

384 Constitutive relationships that link measured geophysical parameters to hydrological properties (or  
385 states) are essential for reliable hydrological interpretation of geophysical data (Figure 6). A number of  
386 relationships have long been established [e.g. Archie, 1942]; however, over the past two decades we  
387 have seen significant exploration into new theoretical or empirical models connecting hydrogeological  
388 properties and processes to geophysical observables. Some of this work has been driven by new insight  
389 into microscale mechanisms, new ways of simulating the effective properties of porous media, and also  
390 the arrival of new measurement techniques.

391

392 INSERT FIGURE 6 NEAR HERE

393

394 The work of Topp et al. [1980] (the second most cited paper in *Water Resources Research*) provided  
395 empirical polynomial relationships for mineral and organic soil that link soil moisture to dielectric  
396 properties or permittivity. The models underpin the now routinely used time domain reflectometry  
397 (TDR) method for soil water content measurement [Robinson et al., 2003] but also provide a valuable  
398 relationship for linking GPR-derived radar velocities to soil moisture content, since the radar velocity is  
399 inversely proportional to permittivity. Further studies of soil permittivity [Saarenketo, 1998] and rock  
400 permittivity [Chelidze and Gueguen, 1999] have explored frequency dependence (for example in the  
401 experimental studies of West et al. [2003], the effective medium modeling work of Chen and Or [2006],  
402 or the volume averaging approach of Revil [2013]), which is important to develop appropriate  
403 relationships for typical GPR frequencies (often lower than those used for TDR). Investigations of, and  
404 insight into, links between soil water content and electrical conductivity of porous media have also  
405 continued [e.g. Mualem and Friedman, 1991; Roberts and Lin, 1997; Brovelli et al., 2005; Revil, 2013]. An  
406 improved understanding of the role of textural properties on bulk permittivity and conductivity behavior  
407 has also been achieved [Friedman and Robinson, 2002; Brovelli and Cassiani, 2011]. Whilst most  
408 investigations exploring rock physics relations for GPR have focused on classical porous media, Comas  
409 and Slater [2007] and Parsekian et al. [2012] examined the unique characteristics of peat in order to  
410 derive ways of estimating biogenic gas content in peat bogs using permittivity measurements derived  
411 from GPR.

412

413 Most constitutive relationships for GPR have been developed at the scale of a representative  
414 homogenous medium; however, several researchers have identified potential bias in assuming these  
415 relations hold in layered [e.g. Chan and Knight, 1999; Robinson et al., 2005] or heterogeneous [e.g.  
416 Moysey and Knight, 2004] media, with clear implications for interpretation of field data.

417  
418 Models that link permeability to measurable geophysical properties have been the quest of many  
419 researchers over the past few decades, and continue to drive many hydrogeophysics studies. As  
420 illustrated by Worthington [1977], Urish [1981] and Purvance and Andricevic [2000], electrical  
421 conductivity and permeability relationships do not universally hold because of the surface conduction  
422 mechanisms in finer grained media. Recognizing this, Revil and Cathles [1999] provided a mechanistic  
423 framework for linking electrical conductivity and permeability in both clean and shaly sands; Doussan  
424 and Ruy [2009] later proposed the incorporation of a measurement of clay content to account for such  
425 surface conduction (although we note here that the clay mineralogy, not only the content, is important  
426 in accounting for surface conduction). Even totally clean (clay-free) rock formations exhibit an  
427 appreciable amount of surface conductivity for fresh water aquifers [see Revil et al., 2014b], a point  
428 often neglected in hydrogeophysics. The challenges associated with electrical conductivity-permeability  
429 models have driven recent research into utilizing measures of the ability of the porous medium to  
430 polarize electrically to infer permeability.

431  
432 Induced polarization (IP) is a well-established technique, originally developed for mineral exploration,  
433 which provides a measure of how well a material polarizes due to an applied electrical field. If we  
434 assume that the polarization occurs along the (charged) grain boundary, or at pore throat constrictions,  
435 then the extent of polarization is related to geometrical characteristics of the pore space that also  
436 influence permeability. Thus while electrical conductivity is principally sensitive to the pore volume and  
437 its connectivity, IP offers an additional measure of a grain/pore throat size effect. Slater and Lesmes  
438 [2002] illustrated the link, in an empirical sense, between a measure of polarization and permeability in  
439 unconsolidated sediments. Slater et al. [2014] extended this further for highly permeable sands and  
440 gravel mixtures in a cobble framework. This recent study highlights some of the limitations of using IP:  
441 whilst it may be possible to differentiate low permeability and high permeability units, to accurately  
442 resolve permeability in a coarse grained matrix is extremely challenging in a field setting given the weak  
443 polarization characteristic of such media relative to the resolving power of current field instrumentation.  
444

445 Extending IP measurements into the frequency domain permits an assessment of the time (or  
446 distribution of times) taken for the electrical polarization to return to equilibrium (i.e. relaxation times).  
447 Binley et al. [2005] explored such measurements in their study of sandstone permeability and  
448 illustrated, for the first time, a clear positive relationship between a measure of an effective electrical  
449 relaxation time and permeability. Revil et al. [2012a] developed an approach connecting the relaxation  
450 times of IP and the intrinsic formation factor to permeability. The relationships developed were,  
451 however, empirical and their universality is questionable. Developments of mechanistic models,  
452 however, have started to provide some insight into the potential link between IP measurements and  
453 permeability [e.g. Revil, 2012; 2013] (Figure 7).

454  
455 INSERT FIGURE 7 NEAR HERE  
456

457 More mechanistic models are also being developed in order to fully exploit the possible value of using  
458 measurements of patterns of the natural voltage (SP) in the subsurface to infer hydrological states, for  
459 example, water table elevations [Revil et al., 2003] and pore water velocity [Ikard et al., 2012]. Revil and  
460 Mahardika [2013] took such approaches further by also considering seismoelectric sources in their  
461 unified, coupled model of hydromechanical and electromagnetic disturbances in porous media. They  
462 provided a general framework that might be used with harmonic pumping tests to jointly invert  
463 hydraulic heads, ground deformation, and SP signals in order to image permeability and the specific  
464 storage around wells in confined and unconfined aquifers.

465  
466 Geophysical use of NMR was originally developed in the oil industry. These measurements directly sense  
467 the water component, as, when hydrogen atoms located in a static magnetic field are stimulated by a  
468 secondary alternating electromagnetic field, they produce a magnetic field. Studies into the links  
469 between NMR signals and pore size distributions [e.g. Hinedi et al., 1993,1997; Stingaciu et al., 2010;  
470 Mohke and Hughes, 2014] and extensions to water retention models [Costabel and Yaramanci, 2013]  
471 have been explored. It is perhaps the potential of using these measurements to infer permeability [e.g.  
472 Ionnidis et al., 2006; Gladkikh et al., 2007; Dlubac et al., 2013] that offers the greatest possible impact.  
473 As in the case of electrically-based models, NMR-permeability relationships still remain empirically  
474 based and are likely to be site-specific.

475

476 Recognizing the potential sensitivity of geophysical properties to subsurface contamination, a number of  
477 studies have explored the geophysical response to changes in groundwater quality, particularly for non-  
478 aqueous phase liquids. Hedberg et al. [1993] demonstrated the sensitivity of NMR measurements to the  
479 different fluid phases of gasoline-saturated sandstone, while Li et al. [2001] illustrated how the bulk  
480 dielectric behavior of soils is affected by the sorption of oil onto the grain surface. In their experimental  
481 study, Shefer et al. [2013] revealed the effect of decane (as a non-aqueous phase) on the electrical  
482 polarization of soils, showing an apparent change in the dominant relaxation time of the sample as the  
483 concentration of decane changed. The SP method has also been used with success to determine the  
484 redox potential of some organic-rich contaminant plumes [Revil et al., 2010]. Minsley et al. [2007]  
485 showed, through a field-based investigation, how SP measurements are sensitive to tetrachloroethylene  
486 (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination at the Savannah River field site, although they  
487 acknowledge that more insight into the mechanisms influencing measurable natural voltages in the  
488 subsurface is needed. In fact, most studies to date on contaminant-geophysical behavior have been  
489 purely empirical and an overarching physicochemical model that explains observed geophysical signals is  
490 currently lacking. Given the complexity of physicochemical processes within contaminated porous  
491 media, the search for universal models that link geophysical signals to contaminant characteristics is  
492 likely to be futile.

493

## 494 Characterizing hydrogeological heterogeneity with static geophysical data

495

496 During the late 1970s/ early 1980s the role of aquifer heterogeneity on solute transport in groundwater  
497 was realized, along with the inadequacy of traditional lumped representations of aquifer properties for  
498 predicting the fate of subsurface contaminants [e.g. Gelhar, 1986]. A large number of studies explored  
499 these issues in the new field of 'stochastic groundwater hydrology', mainly focusing on the impact of  
500 spatial variability in hydraulic conductivity on solute transport and the possible representation of such  
501 heterogeneity through effective parameters [e.g. Pickens and Grisak, 1981; Gelhar and Axness, 1983;  
502 Gomez-Hernandez and Gorelick, 1989; Dagan, 1990], leading to a greater appreciation of the effect of  
503 spatial-scale effects on solute transport behavior [e.g., Gelhar et al., 1992; Neuman, 1990]. Driven by  
504 some of these studies, the influence of soil heterogeneity on hillslope rainfall-runoff responses was also  
505 explored [e.g. Binley et al., 1989; Merz and Plate, 1997].

506



507 A number of large-scale tracer experiments, for example at the Cape Cod site [LeBlanc et al., 1991] and  
508 the Borden site [Woodbury and Sudicky, 1991], provided new experimental insight into solute transport  
509 processes; however, the need for better tools to characterize heterogeneity at the field scale was  
510 evident. This was already recognized in the review of stochastic hydrology by Gelhar [1986], who  
511 commented: "*Future research should be directed to finding better methods of estimating input*  
512 *covariance parameters including improvements in statistical methodology as well as on indirect methods*  
513 *based on geophysical and geologic information or bulk hydraulic properties*". Following this recognition,  
514 the use of geophysics to aid characterization was indeed explored in some large-scale tracer transport  
515 studies. For the Canadian Twin Lake tracer tests [Moltyaner and Wills, 1991], over 5 km of GPR survey  
516 data were collected and used to support interpretation of borehole core logs to develop  
517 hydrostratigraphic profiles [Killey and Moltyaner, 1988]. Perhaps more significant, however, is the  
518 geophysical work conducted at the Macrodispersion Experiment (MADE) site in Columbus, Mississippi in  
519 the late 1980s. DC resistivity, EMI and SP surveys were conducted over the site with a view to  
520 determining geostatistical models that could relate to hydraulic conductivity variability through  
521 relatively simple, assumed, hydrogeophysical relationships. Although the EMI data proved ineffective,  
522 Rehfeldt et al. [1992] reported computed correlation lengths from the DC resistivity and SP data and  
523 compared these against those computed from more direct measures of hydraulic conductivity. This was  
524 the first study where geophysical data were used to infer statistical properties of the spatial structure of  
525 hydraulic properties, and this work no doubt helped to trigger greater interest in the use of geophysical  
526 data for quantitative subsurface characterization.

527  
528 By the early 1990s several stochastic hydrology methods had been developed that helped provide  
529 information about the spatial structure of aquifer permeability given localized measurements of  
530 permeability (e.g. from core samples) and piezometric head data; however, most of these approaches  
531 were limited in a practical sense from the lack of data with a high spatial sampling density. Rubin et al.  
532 [1992] recognized the value of geophysical data to support such approaches and proposed a new  
533 Bayesian approach that used seismic data alongside traditional hydrology data to improve spatial  
534 models of permeability. Developments to their initial concepts using seismic data followed [Coptly et  
535 al., 1993; Coptly and Rubin, 1995], whilst Hubbard et al. [1997] explored the value of surface GPR surveys  
536 in recovering bimodal permeability structures in the vadose zone, assuming a link between permittivity  
537 and hydraulic conductivity. Also recognizing the potential of high-resolution GPR data for near-surface  
538 investigations, Rea and Knight [1998] explored the characteristics of GPR data in an attempt to

539 determine geostatistical properties of sedimentary structures, from which some relation to patterns in  
540 permeability was assumed. Irving et al. [2009] later continued this work in their study of the correlation  
541 structure of soil water content using high resolution GPR data. In the work of Hubbard et al. [1999] an  
542 explicit framework for the computation of correlation structure information using geophysical data was  
543 developed, exploiting the availability of new (cross-borehole) tomographic techniques. Building on the  
544 Bayesian approach originally proposed by Rubin et al. [1992], Hubbard et al. [2001] demonstrated the  
545 value of GPR and seismic data for the estimation of hydraulic conductivity distributions at the South  
546 Oyster Bacterial Transport Site, using tracer test data for verification of estimated models. This study  
547 took advantage of site-specific relationships between geophysical attributes and hydraulic conductivity  
548 developed using co-located field measurements. In a study performed to quantify the value of different  
549 types of data for constraining numerical flow and transport models based on different datasets collected  
550 at the South Oyster study site, Scheibe and Chien [2003] found that conditioning to geophysical  
551 interpretations with larger spatial support significantly improved the accuracy and precision of  
552 subsurface model predictions, while conditioning to a large number of small-scale (borehole-based)  
553 measurements did not significantly improve model predictions, and in some cases led to biased or  
554 overly confident predictions.

555 Again with the goal of developing a model of the spatial variability of permeability, McKenna and Poeter  
556 [1995] demonstrated how cross-well seismic tomography data can be used to identify hydrofacies,  
557 which can help constrain a permeability inverse model based on hydraulic head data. The work of  
558 Hyndman et al. [1994] and Hyndman and Gorelick [1996] followed a similar approach in that cross-  
559 borehole seismic tomography data (Figure 8) were used to assign hydrofacies, but in these two studies  
560 the permeability of each hydrofacies was inversely estimated from solute concentration measurements  
561 from a tracer test. More recent examples demonstrating the use of geophysical data to develop  
562 hydrofacies include Parra et al. [2006] and He et al. [2014].

563

564

INSERT FIGURE 8 NEAR HERE

565

566 Significant advances in characterizing hydrogeological heterogeneity using geophysical methods have  
567 clearly been made. The field of hydrogeophysics has progressed from using geophysics in isolation to  
568 approaches that attempt to honor multiple datatypes. In real problems, various data sources are likely  
569 to exist and methodologies that can incorporate the breadth of data (with variable quality) are likely to  
570 have practical value. Some approaches have focused on detailed mapping of hydraulic conductivity and

571 although such methods are likely to have value for problems at the site scale (e.g. in groundwater  
572 cleanup operations), the approaches that extend to larger scales offer exciting potential. He et al.[2014],  
573 for example, tackle structural characterization at the scale of multiple km<sup>2</sup> by using 3D maps of  
574 electrical conductivity derived from airborne EM surveys along with borehole geological logs to develop  
575 hydrofacies through a transitional probably framework (see Figure 9). Such methods account for  
576 uncertainty within the hydrogeological model and are underpinned by geological reasoning, and may  
577 lead to a new era of hydrogeological structural characterization at the large scale using geophysics.

578

579

INSERT FIGURE 9 NEAR HERE

580

## 581 Time – a new dimension for geophysical observations

582

583 Many of the early applications of geophysics to subsurface hydrology focused on structural  
584 characterization using static geophysical data (as, for example, shown schematically in Figure 1). Limited  
585 by the non-uniqueness of some geophysical – hydrological property relationships, many of these  
586 investigations utilized geophysical measurements as ‘soft’ data, aiding in the identification of  
587 hydrostratigraphy. However, it was soon realized that a number of geophysical properties are sensitive  
588 to groundwater and soil states (moisture content, salinity, etc.) and thus a new avenue of research  
589 developed, utilizing geophysical methods to explore temporal changes in states (see, for example, the  
590 schematic in Figure 3). Those based on electrical conductivity or permittivity were initially explored as  
591 some of the methodologies were reaching a level of maturity and the links between electrical  
592 conductivity/permittivity and pore water composition and content were reasonably well understood.

593

594 Daily and Ramirez [1989] is one of the pioneering studies of time-lapse geophysical imaging. They  
595 demonstrated the use of “electromagnetic geotomography” for monitoring changes in water content  
596 due to heating of rock mass (used as a preliminary experiment for examining the changes in water  
597 content in a nuclear repository setting). Their method is effectively cross-borehole low frequency GPR,  
598 which senses variation in permittivity. The study of Daily et al. [1992] brought a major breakthrough in  
599 hydrogeophysical investigation through their demonstration of a new technology, electrical resistivity  
600 tomography (ERT), in cross borehole mode to examine the movement of a water tracer through the  
601 vadose zone. They ran two field experiments (one lasting one day, the other lasting 72 days) and

602 demonstrated the capability of ERT for tracking the tracer movement (see Figure 10). Ramirez et al.  
603 [1993] took this technology further by demonstrating its effectiveness in monitoring subsurface flow  
604 pathways during steam injection for the remediation of hydrocarbon-contaminated groundwater, using  
605 changes in electrical conductivity as a proxy for changes in temperature.

606

607

INSERT FIGURE 10 NEAR HERE

608

609 Other early time-lapse geophysical studies include that of Binley et al. [1996], who studied the  
610 spatiotemporal changes in electrical conductivity (with ERT) in a large soil core during a tracer  
611 experiment. Their results revealed a three-dimensional distribution of breakthrough curves, illustrating  
612 preferential flow pathways. To illustrate the high spatiotemporal sampling of transport behavior they  
613 coined the term “pixel breakthrough curves”, which was subsequently used in a number of time-lapse  
614 hydrogeophysical studies. Zhou et al. [2001] also demonstrated the use of ERT for mapping preferential  
615 flow, in this case in a small field plot. Eppstein and Dougherty [1998], Parkin et al. [2000], Binley et al.  
616 [2001], Tsoflias et al. [2001], Alumbaugh et al. [2002] and Day-Lewis et al. [2003] are early examples of  
617 the use of GPR for monitoring stimulated changes to the subsurface (e.g. tracer injection or well  
618 pumping).

619

620 ERT and GPR techniques deal mostly with the production of 2D slices of the subsurface, or limited size  
621 3D volumes. In comparison, EMI has proved useful in providing time-lapse images over relatively large  
622 spatial areas. Although capable of providing semi-quantitative moisture maps [Huth and Poulton, 2007;  
623 Robinson et al., 2012], especially when combined with point sensor data, the real strength in EMI is in  
624 collecting qualitative data that identifies subsurface patterns of soil wetting and drying [Sherlock and  
625 McDonnell, 2003; Robinson et al., 2009].

626

627 Most of these early examples served as demonstrations of techniques and provided only qualitative  
628 interpretation of time-lapse geophysical signals. Binley et al. [2002] is one of the first attempts to use  
629 time-lapse geophysical data from the field (in this case, cross borehole ERT and GPR) to calibrate a  
630 hydrological model in a study of flow in an unsaturated sandstone. Kemna et al. [2002] and  
631 Vanderborght et al. [2005] also showed how time-lapse geophysical data (ERT) could be used to help  
632 quantify hydraulic properties. Kowalsky et al. [2005] also demonstrated the value of time-lapse  
633 geophysical data for hydraulic parameter estimation. Several other studies have followed [e.g. Farmani

634 et al., 2008; Pollock and Cirpka, 2012; Camporese et al., 2012; Busch et al, 2013; Anh Phuong et al.,  
635 2014]. From this wide range of investigations, numerous approaches are now available for hydraulic  
636 parameter estimation using geophysics as a primary or secondary source of data.

637

638 Time-lapse geophysical imaging has also been effective in revealing new insight into subsurface flow and  
639 transport mechanisms. Singha et al. [2007], for example, showed how time-lapse electrical resistivity  
640 measurements can be used to characterize mass transfer in dual-porosity systems [see also Swanson et  
641 al., 2012; Briggs et al., 2013]. Slater et al. [2007] demonstrated the use of electrical conductivity  
642 monitoring for revealing biogenic gas development in peat, thus offering the potential to explore, at the  
643 field scale, the mechanisms of carbon-gas generation in peatland environments. Hayley et al. [2009],  
644 Strobach et al. [2014], and Van Dam et al. [2014], amongst others, have utilized time-lapse geophysical  
645 methods to reveal complex infiltration and shallow recharge processes, contributing to our  
646 understanding of field-scale processes.

647

648 The need to better understand the interaction of groundwater and surface water and the appreciation  
649 of the potential significance of biogeochemical processes that occur at the interface of groundwater and  
650 surface water (e.g. within the hyporheic zone) has encouraged the search for new ways of investigating  
651 this zone of interaction. Geophysical methods have provided some insight into the complexity of the  
652 architecture of the subsurface at this interface [e.g. Crook et al., 2008; Slater et al., 2010; Chambers et  
653 al.,2014]; however, time-lapse geophysical imaging has proved to be highly effective in mapping the  
654 dynamics of vertical and lateral exchange of flows under natural conditions [Christiansen et al., 2011;  
655 Ward et al., 2012; Meyerhoff et al., 2014] and due to anthropogenic induced events [Johnson et al.,  
656 2012; Wallin et al., 2013].

657

658 One issue with time-lapse data is the volume of data generated, and how to explore signals in those  
659 data effectively. One successful example of manipulating and parsing multiple large time-lapse data sets  
660 is that of Johnson et al.[2012], who focused on ways to extract relevant hydrological information using  
661 time-series analysis techniques applied to large datasets obtained from autonomous data collection  
662 systems. They utilized time-frequency analysis to identify relations between river stage and bulk  
663 electrical conductivity to understand the potential impacts of uranium transport in an aquifer  
664 connecting to the Columbia River (see Figure 11).

665

666

INSERT FIGURE 11 NEAR HERE

667

668 Such time-series analysis approaches offer one way of handling such large volumes of data; another is  
669 joint inversion of hydrologic and geophysical data (see earlier discussion on data inversion). Numerous  
670 techniques have evolved in recent years, including methods that focus on using tomograms themselves,  
671 which include the errors from inversion, to those based on hydrologic and geophysical data directly  
672 [e.g., Hyndman and Gorelick, 1996; Kowalsky et al., 2005; Looms et al., 2008]. Markov chain Monte Carlo  
673 methods are growing in popularity for jointly inverting hydrologic and geophysical data [Hinnell et al.,  
674 2010; Huisman et al., 2010; Irving and Singha, 2010; Laloy et al., 2012]. Such schemes offer future  
675 potential for parsing these large, complex hydrogeophysical data sets.

676

### 677 **Biogeophysics: adding a biogeochemical dimension**

678

679 As outlined above, early hydrogeophysical studies focused on characterizing the hydrogeological  
680 structure of the subsurface, in many cases motivated by the need to predict the fate of subsurface  
681 contaminants. Driven by the legacy of former industrial and military operations, some studies began to  
682 focus attention on using hydrogeophysical methods to assist in designing, and monitoring the  
683 effectiveness of, remediation techniques. Initially, these studies attempted to address the need for  
684 better understanding of subsurface heterogeneity in order to provide a hydrological structure in which  
685 the biogeochemical mechanisms could be assessed. The study by Hubbard et al. [2001] at the South  
686 Oyster Bacterial Transport Site is a key example of such work. Here, multiple geophysical techniques  
687 were used to develop a permeability model, with which the transport of bacteria injected into the site  
688 (for bioremediation) could be assessed.

689

690 It was soon realized that some geophysical measurements may offer additional value beyond describing  
691 the physical heterogeneity of the subsurface. Although both sediment physical and mineralogical  
692 properties play a critical role in controlling the geochemical and biogeochemical processes occurring in  
693 the subsurface, field studies typically acquire little or no mineralogical data. Because several geophysical  
694 attributes are influenced by sediment texture, and because mineralogy often co-varies with texture,  
695 geophysical methods can potentially be used to characterize mineralogy. As a first illustration of this  
696 concept, Chen et al. [2004] used a stochastic approach and GPR data to estimate subsurface ferric and  
697 ferrous iron distributions, estimates that were in turn used to improve reactive transport simulations of

698 redox-sensitive process at the South Oyster site [Scheibe et al., 2006]. The recent work of Sassen et al.  
699 [2012] and Wainwright et al. [2014] developed and field tested a “reactive facies” concept focused on  
700 using geophysical methods to characterize subsurface units having distinct and linked physicochemical  
701 properties— a reactive transport equivalent (conceptually at least) to the much earlier hydrofacies  
702 mapping of Hyndman et al. [1994], McKenna and Poeter [1995] and others (see Figure 12).

703

704

INSERT FIGURE 12 NEAR HERE

705

706 Geophysical surveys have also assisted in developing biogeochemical conceptual models at  
707 contaminated sites, using, for example, electrical conductivity as a proxy for oxidation-reduction  
708 processes [e.g. Lendvay et al., 1998]. The challenge is to use geophysical properties as indicators of  
709 complex biogeochemical interactions at the field scale. Controlled laboratory experiments (e.g. as  
710 reported in Williams et al [2005], Chen et al [2009], Regberg et al. [2011] and Revil et al. [2012b]) are  
711 necessary to assess the value of geophysical measurements for quantifying biogeochemical processes  
712 and products. Whereas electrical conductivity may remain an ambiguous measure for such purposes  
713 (since it is controlled by physical and chemical states of the porous medium and its fluids), measures of  
714 the electrical polarization of porous media have shown greater potential in the context of  
715 biogeochemical characterization, given that these measures are more directly sensitive to grain/mineral  
716 surface processes. For example, Williams et al. [2009] used time-lapse field IP data to infer  
717 spatiotemporal variations in groundwater geochemistry due to microbial iron and sulfate reduction  
718 induced through bioremediation and Vaudelet et al. [2011] illustrated the different electrical  
719 polarization responses of silica sand with sorbed copper and sodium ions.

720

721 Despite the progress made, a reality check is prudent here to insure against unrealistic expectations of  
722 geophysical measurements with respect to extractable information on biogeochemical processes. Many  
723 biogeochemical processes involve a multitude of physical, chemical and/or biological transformations,  
724 some of which may generate geophysical signatures [Atekwana and Atekwana, 2010]. Whereas it may  
725 be possible to use time-series of geophysical data to ascertain when, where, and even how quickly  
726 biogeochemical transformations are occurring, the complexity of these transformations limits the use of  
727 geophysical measurements alone to quantify geochemical reactions involved or to quantify reliable  
728 reaction rates at the field scale. However, recent developments have indicated how the integration of  
729 time-lapse geophysical and aqueous geochemical datasets can be used to estimate the onset and

730 spatiotemporal distribution of biogeochemical transformations, including critical redox transitions [Chen  
731 et al., 2009; 2013]. Similarly, although geophysical datasets may increasingly be used to highlight  
732 hotspots of biogeochemical activity, for example associated with biodegraded contaminant plumes,  
733 quantifying concentrations of microbes or aqueous/solid phase by-products of microbial activity from  
734 geophysical observations is currently unlikely. However, laboratory electrical geophysical measurements  
735 have been shown to produce time-lapse data that mimic the shape of classical bacterial growth curves  
736 [Slater et al., 2009; Revil et al., 2012b], suggesting that characteristics of electrical datasets could be  
737 used to infer some information on microbial growth rates (see Figure 13).

738

739

INSERT FIGURE 13 NEAR HERE

740

## 741 Applications to ecosystem science

742

743 Recognizing the two-way interaction between hydrological and ecological systems, many hydrological  
744 investigations are nowadays linked to some ecosystem response; geophysics is suited to addressing such  
745 issues and wider ecosystem questions [Jayawickreme et al., 2014]. For example, as nitrate  
746 concentrations in an aquifer rise, recharge to a river or lake can have significant impact on the  
747 ecosystems that depend on the surface water body. Similarly, as we strive to address the agricultural  
748 demands of the planet, we must appreciate the subsurface water environment that crops (and hence  
749 livestock) depend on [Sudduth et al., 2001]. Hydrogeophysical methods have evolved relatively recently  
750 to address such ecohydrological problems.

751

752 Some key questions in ecohydrology include: What controls the spatial patterns of vegetation? How do  
753 these spatial patterns influence local hydrology? How will hydrological and vegetation interactions  
754 evolve with global change? How do these interactions influence the transfer of macronutrients to and  
755 from the terrestrial environment? At the field and small catchment scale, addressing these questions  
756 often presents a challenge because soil survey data often only provide qualitative information.

757

758 The work of Holden [2005] is an excellent early illustration of the value of hydrogeophysics for exploring  
759 the link between surface vegetation species and piping in peatland catchments. He investigated the  
760 occurrence of soil pipes in 160 UK peat catchments using a total of 115 km of GPR data. By



761 simultaneously mapping vegetation species in each plot, a link between *Calluna* species and soil pipe  
762 occurrence was established that suggested that *Calluna* root development enhanced preferential flow in  
763 these northern peatland environments.

764

765 EMI and electrical methods have also proved useful in addressing ecohydrological issues. EMI has been  
766 used to investigate links between soil and vegetation spatial patterns in dryland ecosystems [Robinson  
767 et al., 2008b; Robinson et al., 2010; Cassiani et al., 2012] and in the tropics [Brechet et al., 2012].

768 Recently, Franz et al. [2011] used EMI surveys of electrical conductivity to reveal how soil water patterns  
769 are influenced by, and influence, vegetation in a Kenyan dryland environment (see Figure 14).

770 Frequency-domain, ground-based EMI methods were once considered primarily as reconnaissance tools  
771 for qualitative mapping, however, there has been renewed interest given recent developments in multi-  
772 coil instrumentation, which now offer the potential for rapid surveying of electrical conductivity at  
773 multiple depths [e.g., Dafflon et al., 2013; Doolittle and Brevik, 2014; von Hebel et al., 2014].

774

775

INSERT FIGURE 14 NEAR HERE

776

777 DC resistivity has proved valuable for understanding soil moisture wetting patterns, redistribution, and  
778 vegetation uptake. Jayawickreme et al. [2008] used it to monitor the influence of climate and vegetation  
779 on root-zone soil moisture, bridging the intermediate scale gap between remotely-sensed and in-situ  
780 point measurements. They went on to infer the hydrological consequences of land-cover change  
781 [Jayawickreme et al., 2010]. The ability to penetrate to substantial depth allows for monitoring of deep  
782 rooted trees which is infeasible using other methods. For example, Davidson et al. [2009] used DC  
783 resistivity to study deep (> 11 m) rooting soil-water uptake in Amazonian woodlands during drought.  
784 Moreover, the sensitivity to salinity allowed Jackson et al. [2005] to use it to show that the planting of  
785 eucalyptus in shallow groundwater areas of Argentina had resulted in groundwater salinization. Other  
786 recent examples illustrating how electrical methods can help with understanding ecohydrological  
787 linkages include that of Comte et al. [2010], who showed, through electrical imaging of the subsurface,  
788 how vegetation can influence the development of freshwater lenses in a small coral island. Befus et al.  
789 [2013], in contrast, used electrical imaging to examine thermal buffering of intertidal zones by coastal  
790 groundwater systems, and highlight the ecological significance of such processes for maintaining the  
791 habitat of marine ecosystems.

792

793 Geophysical methods have also been used to study hydrological processes associated with managed  
794 ecosystems, such as agricultural sites [Allred et al., 2008]. Examples include the use of soil moisture to  
795 map vineyard water content and its influence on grapevine vigor [Lunt et al. 2005] and the joint use of  
796 EMI and gamma-radiometric approaches to estimate cation exchange capacity and clay content in cereal  
797 and sugarcane farms [Rodrigues et al., 2015]. Time-lapse geophysical monitoring has also been useful  
798 for understanding the effectiveness of irrigation. For example, Michot et al. [2003] applied resistivity  
799 imaging to monitor wetting patterns under irrigated corn (Figure 15); more recently, Garre et al. [2011]  
800 illustrated the value of 3D resistivity imaging for improved understanding of root water uptake  
801 processes. Geophysical techniques are also beginning to provide data to assist plant scientists in plant  
802 breeding programs. Macleod et al. [2013] showed how ERT can support more conventional data types in  
803 identifying grass hybrids that enhance soil structure and potentially alleviate flooding potential. More  
804 recently, Shanahan et al. [2015] illustrated how EMI can help phenotype root function in wheat at the  
805 field scale.

806

807

INSERT FIGURE 15 NEAR HERE

808

809 Complementing the ecohydrological studies described above, several studies have recently illustrated  
810 the use of geophysical data to investigate hydrological and other controls on subsurface production of  
811 greenhouse gasses, particularly in northern peatland and permafrost regions. Such improved  
812 understanding of interactions between hydrological and biogeochemical processes occurring within  
813 terrestrial ecosystems is required to reduce the uncertainty associated with global climate predictions  
814 [Friedlingstein et al., 2014]. Terrestrial ecosystem feedbacks to climate can occur through a variety of  
815 mechanisms, including through altering the energy balance, through vegetation dynamics, and through  
816 microbial decomposition of soil organic carbon, which can release a large amount of carbon back into  
817 the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>. Quantifying controls on greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems  
818 is challenging due to the wide range of interactions that occur in and across different compartments of  
819 the ecosystem, including vegetation, land surface, and the subsurface.

820

821 A review of several studies given by Comas and Slater [2009] describes the use of GPR to characterize  
822 the stratigraphy of peat systems and examine controls on CH<sub>4</sub> production dynamics in these systems,  
823 including peat structure [Comas et al., 2014] and atmospheric pressure [Comas et al., 2011]. Permafrost  
824 systems, which are vulnerable to climate change because large volumes of organic carbon are locked up

825 in the currently frozen but gradually warming permafrost, have also been a focus of recent  
826 hydrogeophysical studies. In particular, geophysical methods have been used to characterize the nature  
827 and distribution of properties within all compartments of these systems, including the permanently  
828 frozen zone [e.g., Dou and Ajo-Franklin, 2014; Hauck et al., 2010] and the active layer [e.g., Brosten et  
829 al., 2009]. A few new directions have emerged from these early studies that appear to be useful for  
830 developing insights about how these complex systems function and for tractably providing information  
831 over scales relevant for predicting ecosystem feedbacks. One is the use of airborne datasets to  
832 characterize the spatial variability of specific compartments of the system over large spatial extents,  
833 including permafrost using EMI [Minsley et al., 2012] and the active layer using LiDAR [Gangodagamage  
834 et al., 2014]. The other is the coincident use of multiple above- and below- ground geophysical datasets  
835 to characterize the co-variation of permafrost, active layer, and land-surface properties, and to use that  
836 information to delineate functional zones in the landscape that have unique distributions of properties  
837 that influence greenhouse gas fluxes [Hubbard et al., 2013].

838

839 The consideration of hydrogeophysical methods in ecosystem studies will no doubt continue to grow  
840 because of the unique ability of hydrogeophysical measurements to provide spatially continuous  
841 information on the shallow subsurface at the same landscape scale that is fundamental to  
842 understanding many ecosystem processes. As already advocated by Robinson et al. [2008a], a top-down  
843 multi-scale approach to ecosystem characterization seems ideal to make progress here. In such an  
844 approach, joint semi-quantitative interpretation of multiple geophysical data can provide meaningful  
845 delineations of landscape units that can be used to guide more detailed and quantitative site  
846 investigations. Ideally, such an approach simultaneously provides the much needed spatial context to  
847 local-scale investigations, and ensures that local-scale investigations are performed at representative  
848 sites that capture landscape heterogeneity.

849

## 850 Future directions

851

852 Despite the significant developments in both theoretical and experimental aspects of hydrogeophysics,  
853 as illustrated above, many challenges remain as we seek to better understand the subsurface  
854 hydrological and biogeochemical processes, and their interaction with ecosystems. We highlight here a  
855 number of areas worthy of future research within hydrogeophysics.

856

857 ***Watershed Systems: Key controls and characteristics***

858 One of the key drivers for hydrogeophysics is the potential for mapping subsurface patterns over large  
859 areas. Much of the development to date, however, has been directed at plot-scale (i.e. tens of meters)  
860 experiments. Just as environmental regulators have established procedures for dealing with point  
861 source groundwater pollution but still struggle to manage diffuse source contamination, we have seen  
862 immense development of local-scale characterization in hydrogeophysics, but very little addressing  
863 problems at larger scales or beyond. For example, while cross-borehole methods may provide high-  
864 resolution information about geophysical properties, which may help quantify hydrological and  
865 biogeochemical parameters, they still have limited spatial extent. A few exemplars of large-scale  
866 mapping do exist, however, such as the aquifer mapping of Denmark, where successful attempts have  
867 been made to utilize ground-based and airborne geophysical surveys to aid the production of high  
868 resolution maps of aquifer bodies in order to develop reliable groundwater protection strategies  
869 [Thomsen et al., 2004]. We see an increasing trend in geophysical methodologies to characterize and  
870 monitor systems over watershed and landscape scales, or scales that are relevant to the management of  
871 systems for environmental remediation, water resources, agriculture, and carbon cycling challenges. We  
872 also anticipate an increasing trend in the strategic deployment of plot-scale experiments to reveal  
873 dominant mechanisms that have an impact at the larger scale, and to quantify hot spots (locations in  
874 space that exert an inordinate control on larger system behavior) and hot moments (sporadic periods in  
875 time associated with high levels of activity). In attempting to understand the transfer of macronutrients  
876 from terrestrial to freshwater environments, for example, it may be valid to focus attention along the  
877 zone of exchange (i.e. 'hot spots'), rather than in the entire watershed [e.g. Binley et al., 2013].  
878 Furthermore, using geophysical techniques to help with the understanding of biogeochemical  
879 processing at the interface of groundwaters and surface waters (e.g. within the hyporheic zone) could  
880 be extremely beneficial to tackle the problems faced with managing diffuse pollution, particularly if such  
881 techniques can be applied over large scales.

882

883 ***Ubiquitous and Autonomous Environmental Sensing***

884 The need to characterize over larger scales and monitor key dynamics with sufficient temporal  
885 resolution has been driving the development of new sensing approaches and platforms. For example,  
886 autonomous electrical resistivity tomographic methods are becoming commonly used for monitoring  
887 moisture content dynamics with high temporal and spatial resolution. Fiber-optic based distributed

888 temperature sensing methods [e.g., Selker et al., 2006] have recently enabled catchment hydrological  
889 monitoring over greater scales of investigation and with significantly increased temporal and spatial  
890 resolution relative to conventional approaches. Technological developments in Distributed Acoustic  
891 Sensing (DAS) technologies emerging from the oil exploration industry [e.g. Mateeva et al., 2014], may  
892 similarly enable improved characterization of subsurface systems, including permafrost dynamics. At  
893 much larger scales, the opportunities presented by airborne methods become interesting. The study of  
894 He et al.[2014] illustrated how electrical conductivity data obtained from an airborne platform can be  
895 integrated into a stochastic geological modelling environment, covering an area of over 100 km<sup>2</sup> (see  
896 Figure 9). Resolution of shallow (<10 m) structures is still relatively poor with such surveys, but the  
897 technology is developing and improvements tailored to shallow mapping are emerging. Natural gamma  
898 surveys are proving particularly useful for mapping mineral soils [Cook et al., 1996] and even soil organic  
899 carbon (SOC). Rawlins et al. [2009] showed that the precision of regional predictions of SOC across  
900 Northern Ireland was substantially improved by using auxiliary information on radiometric potassium  
901 from airborne surveys. The challenges associated with both scale and cost of traditional airborne sensing  
902 approaches are likely to be mitigated by the rapid development of unmanned land and aerial vehicles. In  
903 particular, technological innovations associated with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) (which are  
904 allowing longer flight times, multiple sensor payloads, and cheaper cost) are expected to greatly  
905 accelerate the ability to monitor natural environments.

906

### 907 ***Data fusion and assimilation***

908 The majority of hydrogeophysical applications to date have focused on single modality datasets (i.e. one  
909 geophysical measurement approach). Combining multiple single modality surveys is relatively  
910 straightforward and thus 'stitching' datasets to form composite datasets covering a large area is  
911 achievable. However, in many cases we may be armed with data from multiple modalities, measuring  
912 different properties, in different configurations, with different depths of investigation and measurement  
913 support volume (e.g. Figure 5). Rather than treating each dataset independently, we should endeavor to  
914 formulate a single coherent image (model) of the subsurface. Coupled hydrogeophysical inversion  
915 approaches, as discussed earlier, go some way towards achieving this goal, but no generalized approach  
916 currently exists and more work is needed to provide practical solutions that do not depend on  
917 substantial *a priori* knowledge of the subsurface.

918

### 919 ***Uncertainty and information***

920 Uncertainty in hydrological models is now well established and yet most hydrogeophysical studies fail to  
921 recognize uncertainty in geophysical models and the transfer of these to hydrology. The treatment of  
922 measurement and model uncertainty in geophysics is not new, and yet it is routinely ignored. Such  
923 failure to account for uncertainty can incorrectly portray accuracy and resolution and can lead to  
924 misleading interpretation. The computational burden of computing some form of uncertainty estimate  
925 in an inversion is probably the main cause of such failure, however, for many plot-scale 2D studies  
926 computational demands should not preclude some assessment of model uncertainty. Uncertainty in  
927 model interpretation also propagates through from any constitutive relationships linking geophysical  
928 and hydrological properties, and yet these relationships are frequently assumed to be precise and error  
929 free. Greater recognition of all the contributing sources of uncertainty is needed in future studies. It may  
930 be that in some cases, geophysical data can provide little improvement over *a priori* estimates of some  
931 hydrological (or biogeochemical) quantity. Declaration of this limitation will not undermine  
932 hydrogeophysics.

933

934 Related to uncertainty estimation, there has also been a distinct lack of analysis of information content  
935 (or data worth) in the majority of hydrogeophysical studies. As we invest more resources for subsurface  
936 investigation it may be appropriate, in some studies, to question the worth of data during the survey  
937 design stage. JafarGandomi and Binley [2013] recently examined the information content of different  
938 geophysical data modalities using a simple Shannon Entropy measure in a Bayesian data fusion  
939 framework. One can envisage using cost functions in such an approach to deliver a realistic cost-benefit  
940 analysis of different geophysical data types.

941

#### 942 ***N=1 experimentation***

943 As in other areas of field-based experimental hydrology, we are often challenged with a sample size of  
944 one (a single hillslope, watershed, etc.). Consequently, in comparison to other science disciplines, our  
945 observations may be perceived to be anecdotal. For example, revealing preferential flow through soils in  
946 one small field plot does not necessarily demonstrate that such a phenomenon is prevalent across an  
947 entire watershed. However, there are opportunities, in some cases, for more robust experimental  
948 design that can help strengthen the value of hydrogeophysics. Where possible, comparisons against  
949 controls are needed along with more replicate studies. In a recent study, for example, Shanahan et al.  
950 [2015] used time-lapse EMI measurements on plots each sown with one of 23 breeds of wheat, each  
951 with four replicates in a random block experimental design, to demonstrate that different breeds extract

952 water from different depths of soil. Such experimental design may not be appropriate for many  
953 hydrogeophysical applications, but where applicable they can help steer hypothesis-driven research. The  
954 failure to use replicates in laboratory experiments is a clear weakness of many studies of the  
955 relationships between geophysical and hydrological properties.

956

### 957 ***Emerging application areas***

958 We have illustrated throughout this paper the progression of hydrogeophysics from tools for structural  
959 characterization to a means of studying the dynamics of subsurface hydrological and biogeochemical  
960 processes, and branching out to ecosystem science. We anticipate greater exploitation of geophysics for  
961 studying both natural and managed ecosystems. For example, as the need to produce more food with  
962 less resources (fertile land, fertilizer, water) increases, there is a significant opportunity to use  
963 geophysical approaches to advance precision farming and plant breeding programs. The plant sciences  
964 literature is beginning to show recognition of the potential value of geophysical methods in a wide range  
965 of areas, such as ERT and SP for monitoring root function and biomass [Amato et al., 2009; Li et al.,  
966 2015], and mapping root architecture with GPR [Hirano et al., 2012]. In his discussion on ecohydrology,  
967 van Dijk [2004] argued that: *“to date, no consistent physical theory has been developed to describe the  
968 relationships between topography, ecosystem maintenance and modification of soil structure, and the  
969 alteration of soil hydraulic properties all of which contribute to the expression of plant community  
970 structure, and are fundamental to understanding the long-term impacts of climate and land-use  
971 change”*. As previously described, geophysical approaches are now being developed to study the  
972 interactions and feedbacks between different compartments of terrestrial environments, with recent  
973 examples in peatland and permafrost ecosystems that are particularly vulnerable to climate change.  
974 New trends, such as the use of above-and-below ground sensing approaches and the identification of  
975 ecosystem functional zones [Hubbard et al., 2013] are expected to provide insights about how terrestrial  
976 environments are responding to climate and land-use associated stresses, and the associated  
977 implications for ecosystem services, including food production, clean water availability, and carbon  
978 sequestration.

979

980

### 981 **Closing remarks**

982

983 As illustrated with the examples reported here, the past 25 years have seen an immense growth in the  
984 development of new geophysical measurement approaches (and customization of existing methods) for  
985 investigating the subsurface environment. We have now developed greater insight into the sensitivity of  
986 geophysical parameters to processes that control the hydrological, biogeochemical and ecological  
987 functioning of the subsurface and interactions with non-terrestrial environments. The numerous works  
988 published in *Water Resources Research* and many other journals and texts illustrate how  
989 hydrogeophysics has emerged as an established sub-discipline of hydrology, with strong connections to  
990 many other fields, such as biogeochemistry, ecology, near surface geophysics, etc. The field is growing  
991 rapidly as emerging technologies (instruments, models) and new insights into hydrogeophysical  
992 relationships open up new areas for research and potential solutions to significant and challenging  
993 environmental problems.

994

995

## 996 Figure and table captions

997

998 Figure 1. Cartoon of a terrestrial environment, illustrating hydrogeological heterogeneity and how  
999 geophysical methods are often used to characterize the 'hidden' subsurface. Geophysical datasets  
1000 provide information about geophysical properties, such as electrical conductivity (shown here), which  
1001 can potentially be related to hydrogeological properties as shown in Table 1.

1002

1003 Figure 2. (a) Number of hydrogeophysics – related papers published per year in *Water Resources*  
1004 *Research* since 1990. (b) Number of hydrogeophysics – related papers expressed as a percentage of total  
1005 published papers per year in *Water Resources Research* (Source: ISI Web of Science).

1006

1007 Figure 3. Schematic representation of geophysical data inversion. The region of interest is investigated  
1008 through the measurement of responses to signal sources recorded on a number of receiver sensors. The  
1009 region is discretized into a series of geophysical model parameters ( $m$ ) that are consistent with the data  
1010 (d) through some inverse function ( $G^{-1}$ ). Changes in subsurface states are shown in the left figure at  
1011 different times ( $T_0, T_1, T_2$ ), which may represent evolution of a remediation process or contaminant  
1012 plume. The geophysical image on the right represents a snapshot of the distribution of a geophysical  
1013 property at a particular time.



1014

1015 Figure 4. Example joint inversion of cross well ERT and GPR data in the unsaturated zone of a sandstone  
1016 aquifer, modified after Linde et al. [2006]. The 3D volume contains regions where electrical conductivity  
1017 (from cross-well ERT) and relative permittivity (from cross-well GPR) follow different joint relationships,  
1018 which Linde et al.[2006] quantified to propose four lithological units.

1019

1020 Figure 5. Comparison of horizontal and vertical survey scales typically achievable in one day by a two  
1021 person field crew for ERT, FDEM and TDEM. ERT(1) and ERT(5) refer to 1m and 5m spaced electrode  
1022 arrays, respectively. FDEM(1) and FDEM(3.5) refer to 1m coil and 3.5m coil instruments, respectively.  
1023 For TDEM we assume a 50m loop sounding at multiple stations along a transect.

1024

1025 Figure 6. Illustration of hydrogeophysical relationships in porous media. The blue arrows represent  
1026 electrical pathways at the pore scale. At some representative volume, the macroscopic measurement of  
1027 electrical conductivity (EC) is linked to some property (e.g. porosity) or state (e.g. fluid saturation).

1028

1029 Figure 7. Comparison of permeability ( $k$ ) modeled from SIP measurements of an electrical time constant  
1030 ( $\tau_p$ ) or relaxation frequency ( $f_p$ ) and measured permeability [modified from Revil, 2013]. Here,  $D_{(+)}^S$  is the  
1031 diffusion coefficient of cations in the Stern layer of the electrical double layer, and  $F$  is the formation  
1032 factor.

1033

1034 Figure 8. Distribution of seismic slowness at the Kesterton site, modified after Hyndman and Gorelick  
1035 [1996]. The 3D distribution represents a realization of slowness generated using sequential Gaussian  
1036 simulation, preserving the correlation lengths and probability distributions from cross-well seismic  
1037 tomograms obtained within the boxed region in the image. Hyndman and Gorelick [1996] used this  
1038 information along with observations from tracer tests to compute 3D images of the zonation of  
1039 hydraulic conductivity at the site.

1040

1041 Figure 9. Simulated probabilities of sand fraction at a specific depth based on transitional probabilities  
1042 conditioned on different data, modified after He et al. [2014]. The left image shows probabilities  
1043 conditioned on borehole data (locations shown as dots in the image). The right image shows  
1044 probabilities conditioned on borehole data and electrical conductivity obtained using airborne EMI. The  
1045 black line shows the boundary of the geophysical survey. Each rectangular image represents an area of

1046 108 km<sup>2</sup>. He et al. [2014] demonstrate the value of adding the geophysical data to this structural  
1047 characterization problem.

1048

1049 Figure 10. Tracking the migration of a water tracer injected in the vadose zone using cross-well ERT,  
1050 modified after Daily et al. [1992]. The images show change in resistivity at different times after injection  
1051 of the tracer. The two long vertical lines indicate the 17.3m deep boreholes (positioned 7.4m apart). The  
1052 tracer was injected in the central 4m deep borehole (also shown). Cooler colors represent a decrease in  
1053 resistivity (associated with an increase in water content). The tracer injection stopped after 150 minutes.

1054

1055 Figure 11. Time series analysis of ERT data, modified after Johnson et al. [2012]. The images show the  
1056 correlation between the temporal variation in river stage and observed changes in subsurface electrical  
1057 conductivity. The river is on the eastern edge of the imaged region. Each image is a horizontal slice at  
1058 different elevations through the 3D volume. The horizontal slice at 98m highlights the localized area of  
1059 temporal changes in electrical conductivity that appear strongly linked to river stage change.

1060

1061 Figure 12. Reactive facies-based transport properties along the centerline of the uranium-contaminated  
1062 Savannah River Site F-Area plume, modified after Wainwright et al. [2014]. Stochastic approaches were  
1063 used to integrate multi-scale, multi-type measurements (including surface seismic data), providing  
1064 estimates of hydrological and mineralogical properties important for controlling plume behavior to a  
1065 reactive transport model - in high resolution and over plume-relevant spatial extents. The upper image  
1066 shows estimated percent fines; the middle image shows hydraulic conductivity ( $\log_{10}$  cm/s); the lower  
1067 image shows Al-Fe ratios.

1068

1069 Figure 13. Modeled and measured change in quadrature electrical conductivity (from IP) during bacterial  
1070 growth, modified after Revil et al. [2012].

1071

1072 Figure 14. Electrical conductivity maps obtained from EMI surveys at a Kenyan dryland site, modified  
1073 after Franz et al. [2011], showing electrical conductivity variations over time, reflecting moisture content  
1074 changes in patches of *Sansevieria volkensii* following a 6mm rainfall even on 24/25 July 2009. The blue  
1075 boundaries indicate surface run-on zones; red boundaries show surface runoff zones. More noticeable  
1076 changes in electrical conductivity, and hence soil moisture, occur inside the *S. volkensii* patches than in

1077 the interpatch areas. Franz et al. [2011] hypothesized this to be due to low infiltration within the  
1078 interpatches, coupled with capture of run-on and increased infiltration in the *S. volkensis* patches.  
1079

1080 Figure 15. Changes in soil water content derived from ERT images, during irrigation of a corn crop,  
1081 modified after Michot et al. [2003]. Thirty two electrodes were placed at 0.2m spacing along the ground  
1082 surface. The images show changes in soil water content inferred from changes in resistivity.  
1083

1084 TABLE 1: List of commonly used geophysical methods in hydrology and the geophysical properties they  
1085 sense.

1086  
1087

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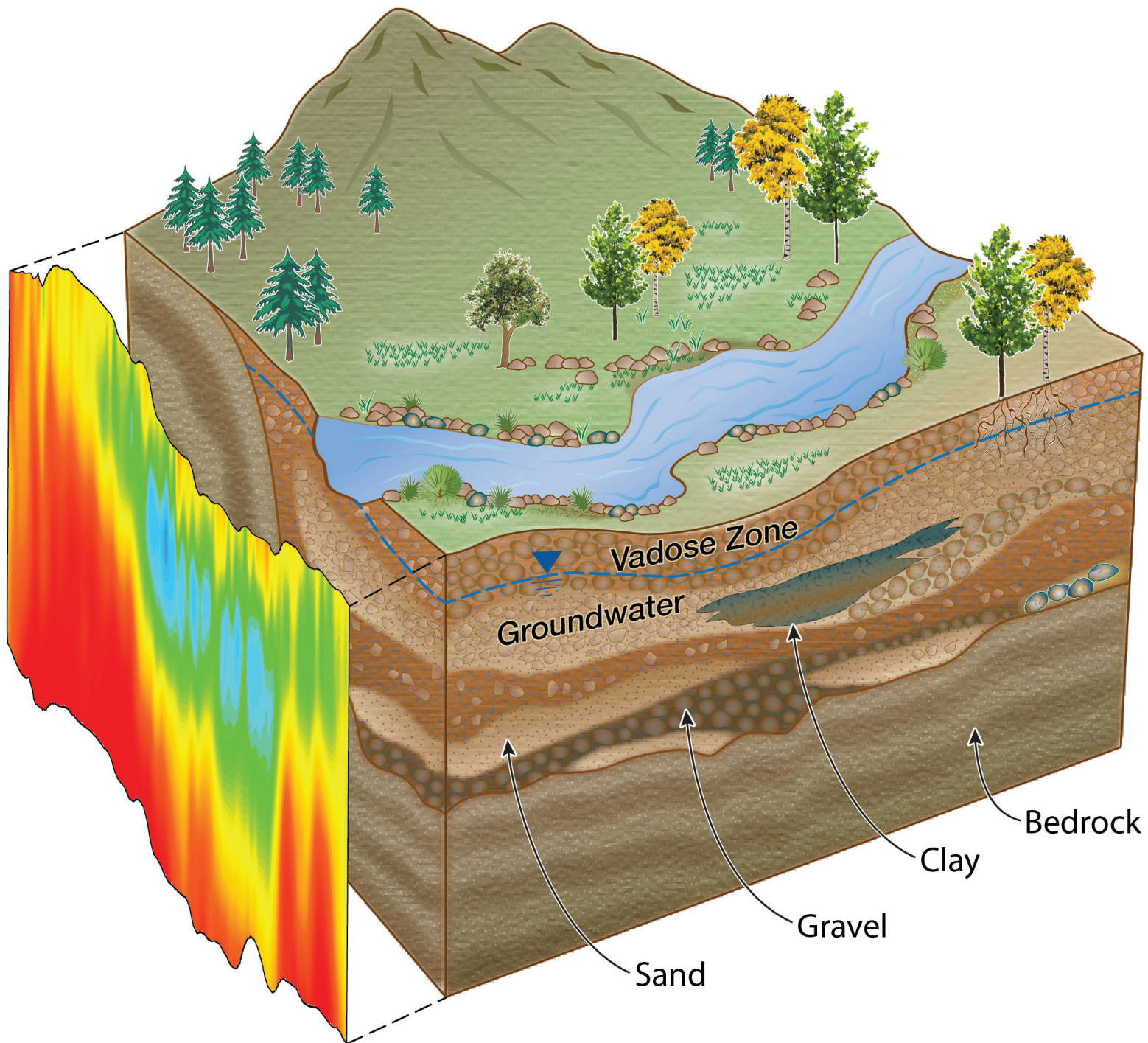
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Vadose Zone

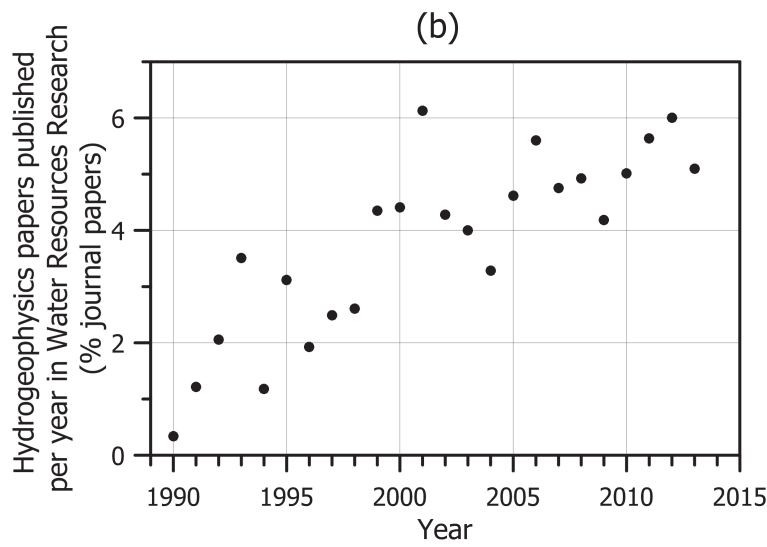
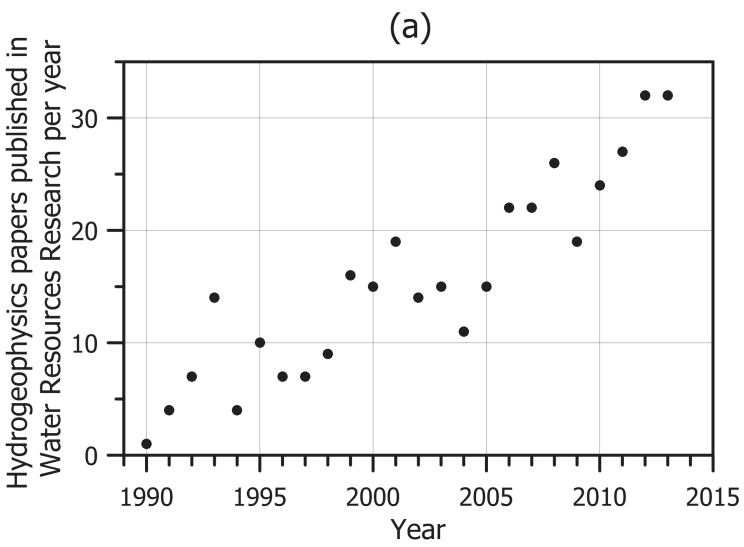
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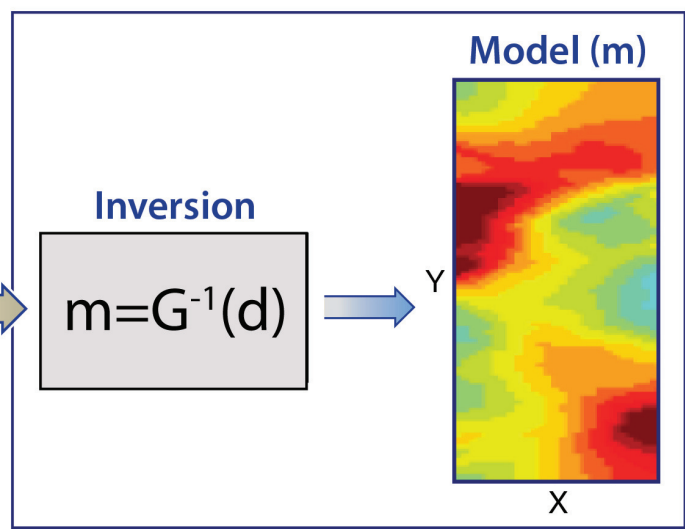
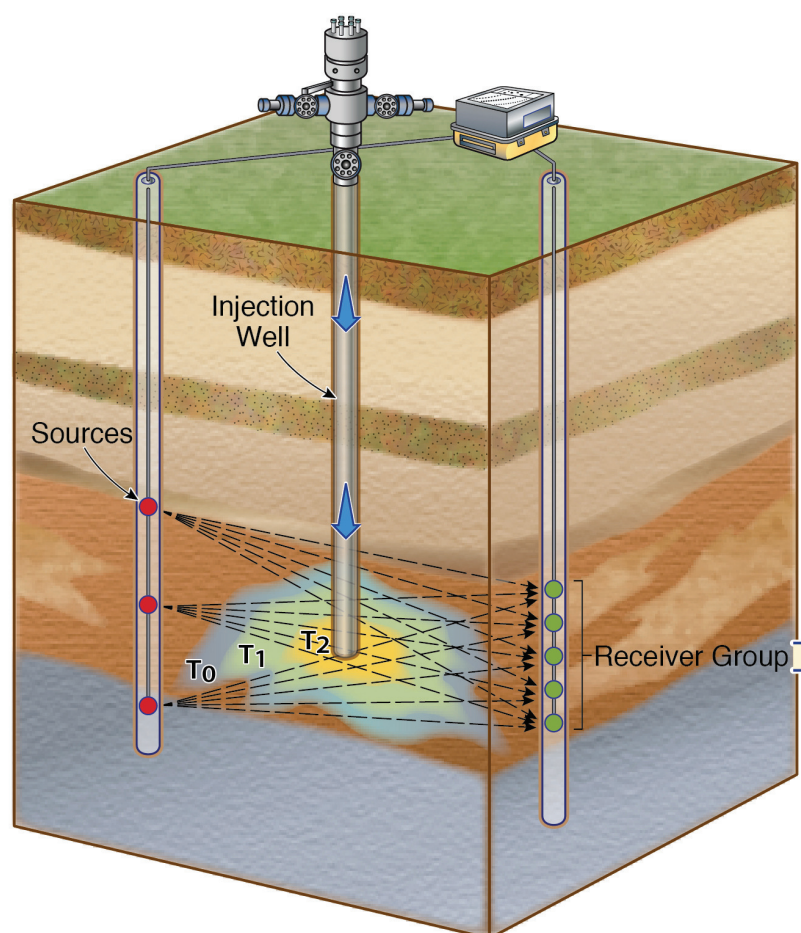
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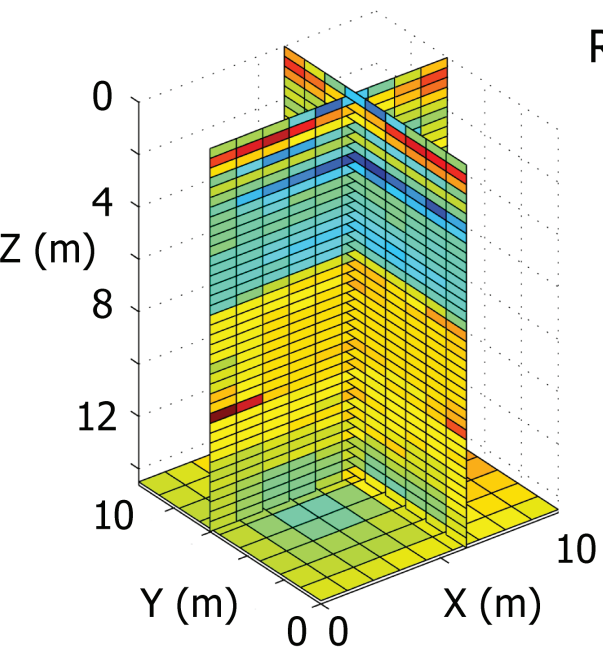
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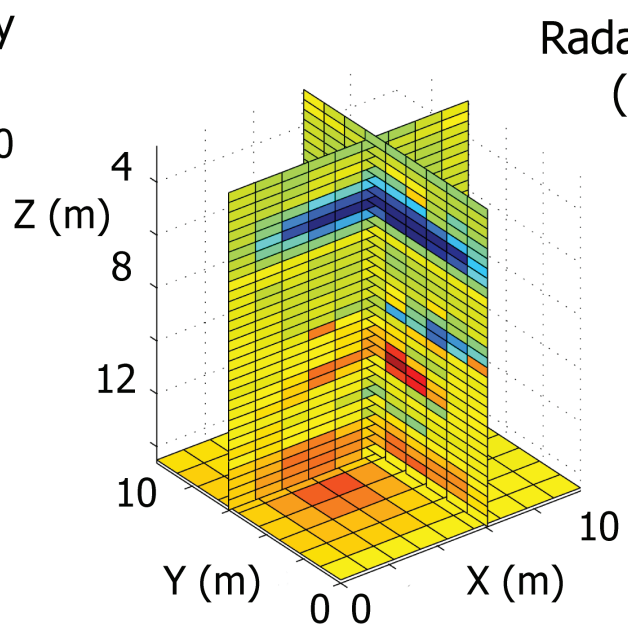
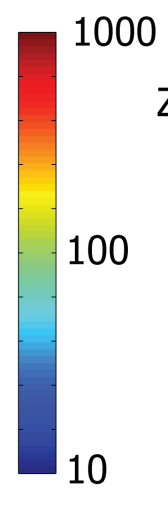
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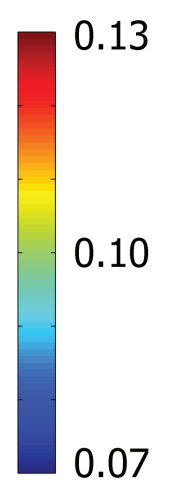


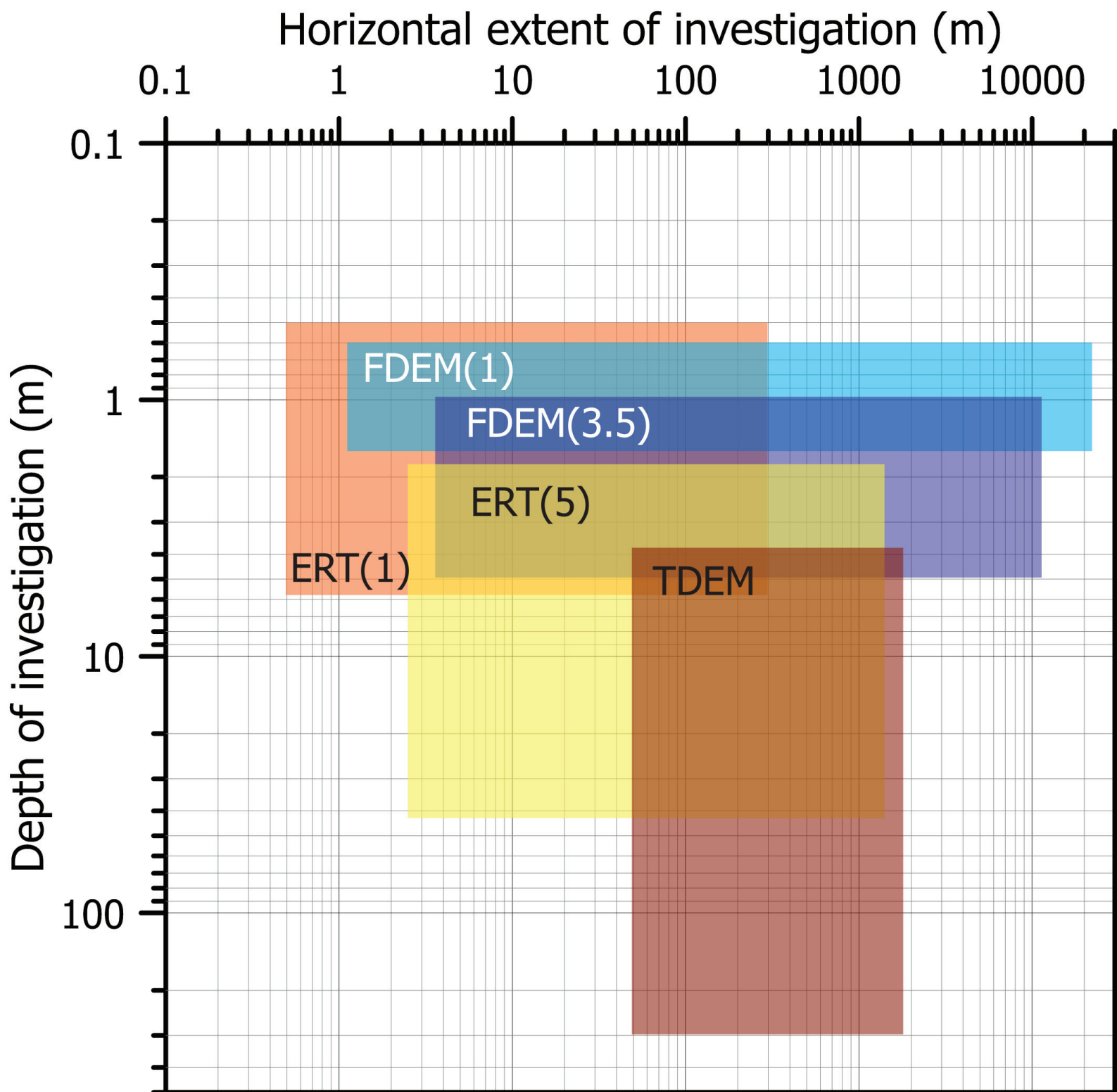


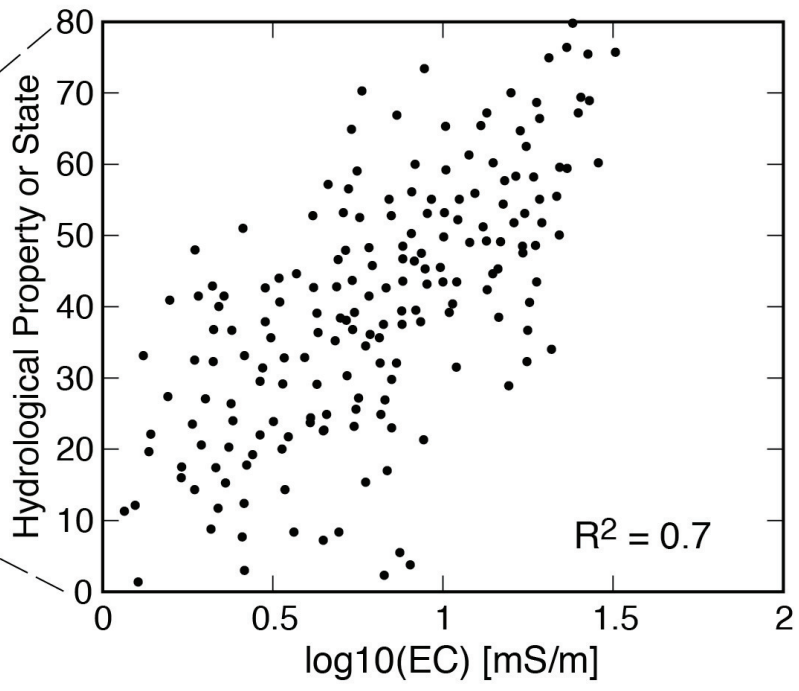
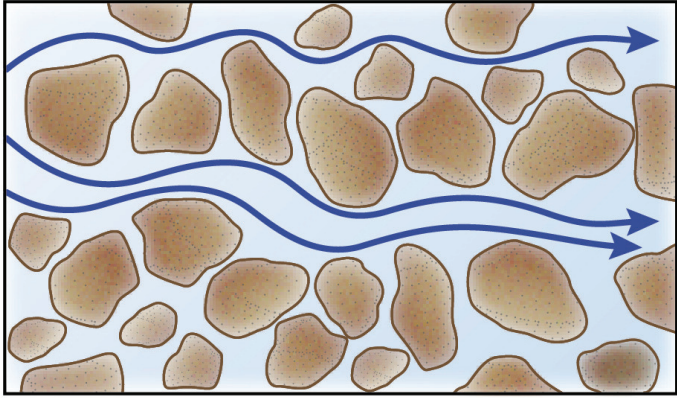
Resistivity ( $\Omega\text{m}$ )

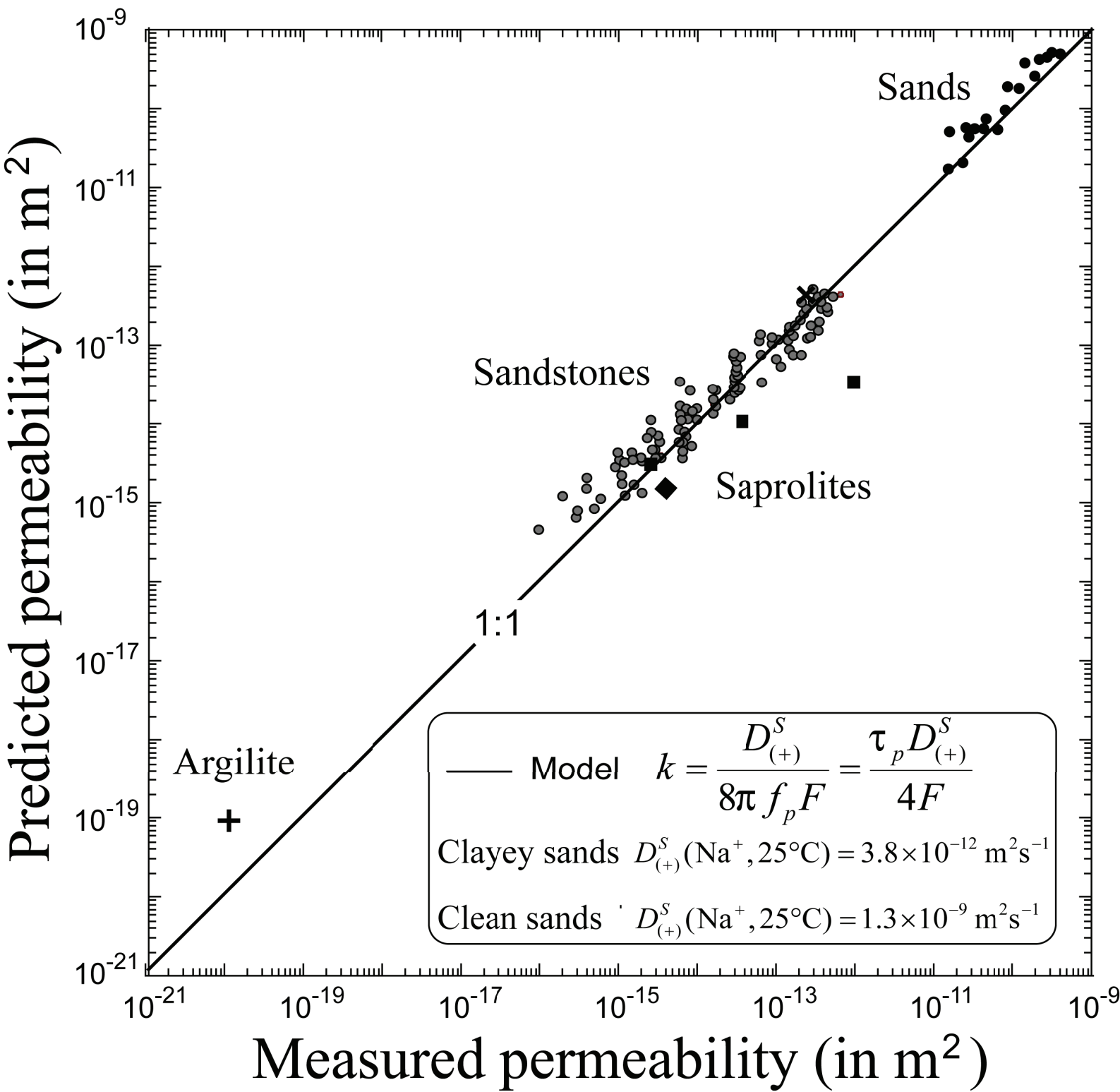


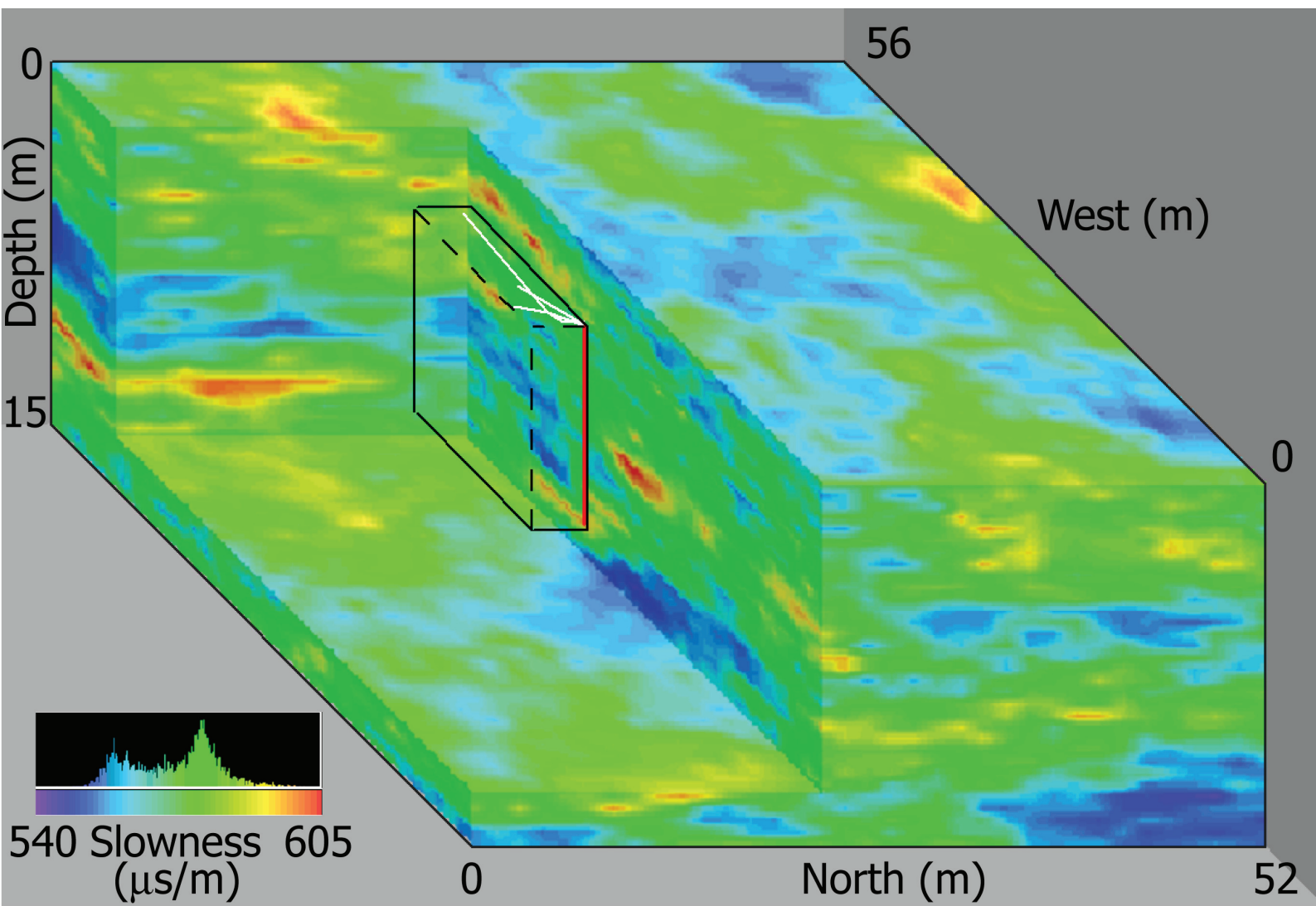
Radar velocity (m/ns)





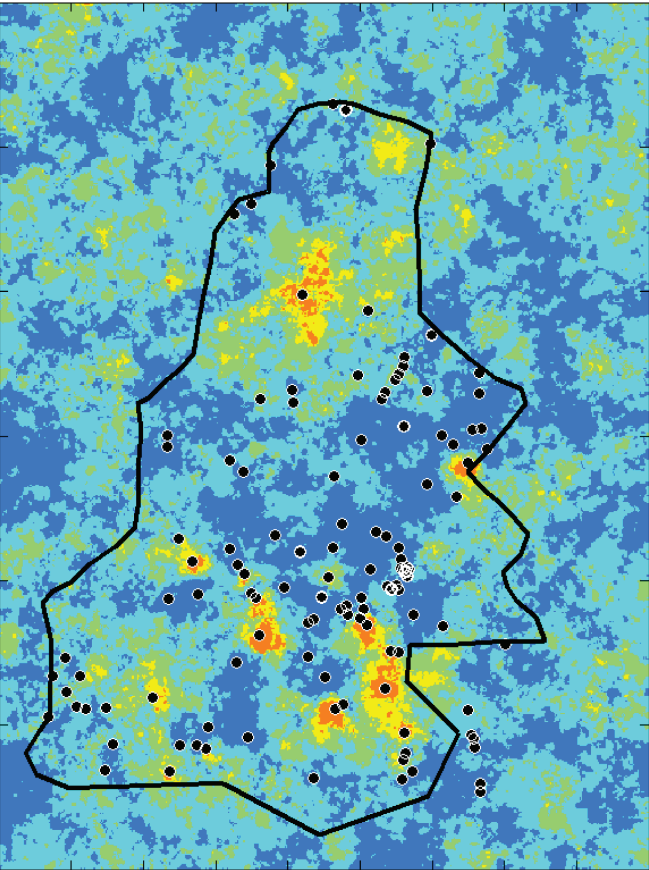




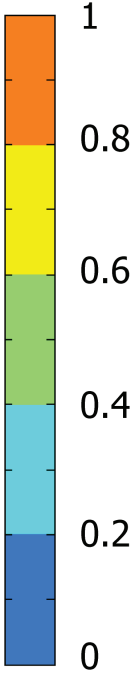
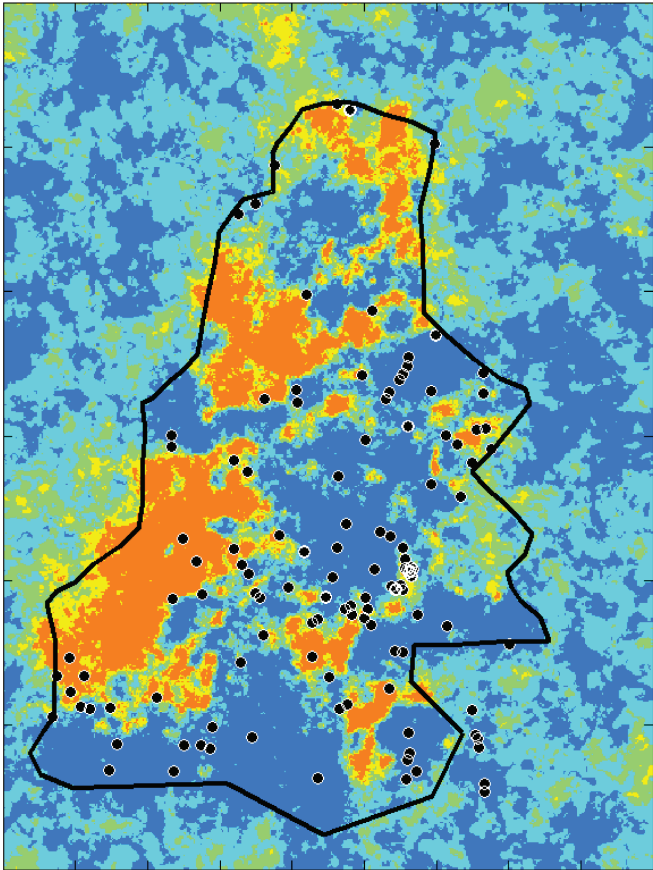




Conditioned on borehole data



Conditioned on borehole and EMI data



6 minutes

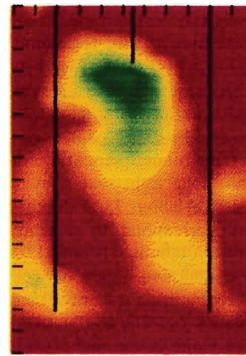
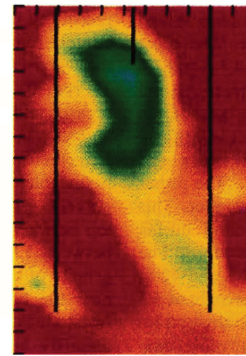
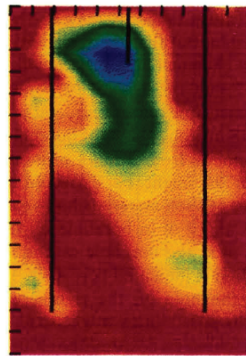
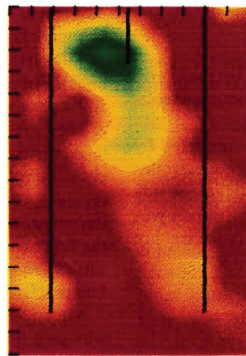
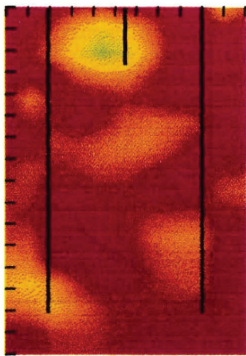
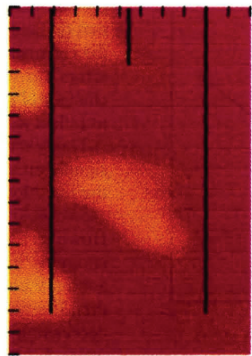
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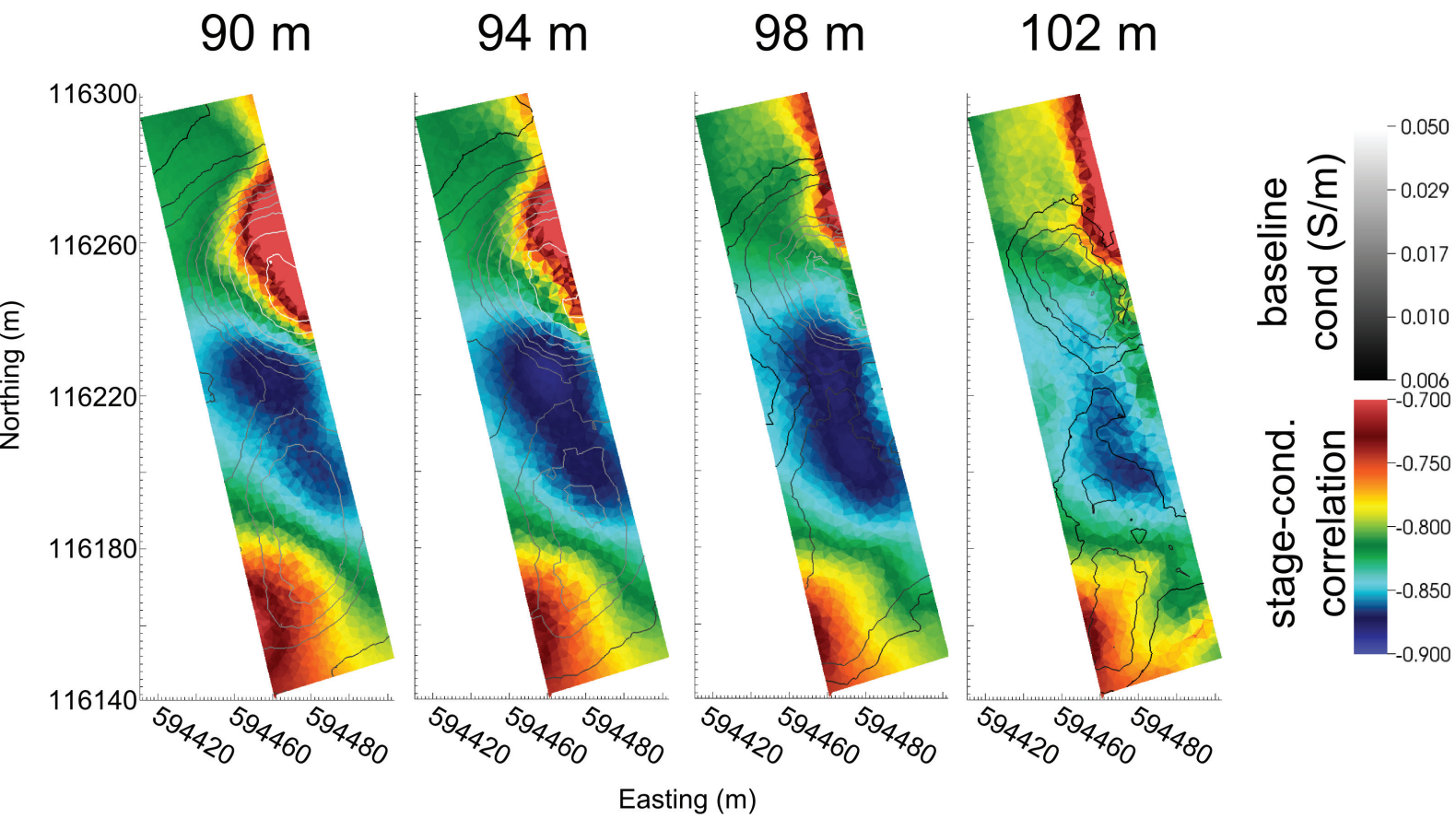
102 minutes

287 minutes

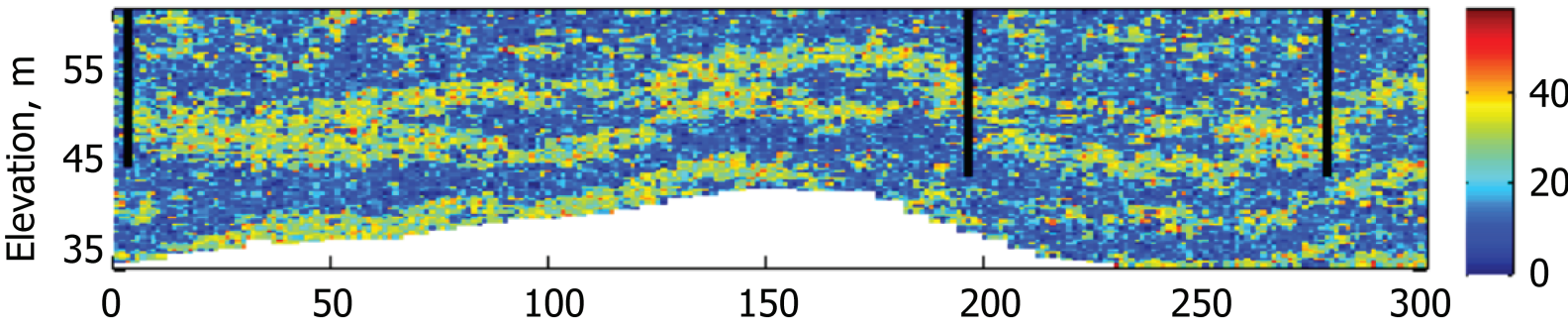
342 minutes

23 hours

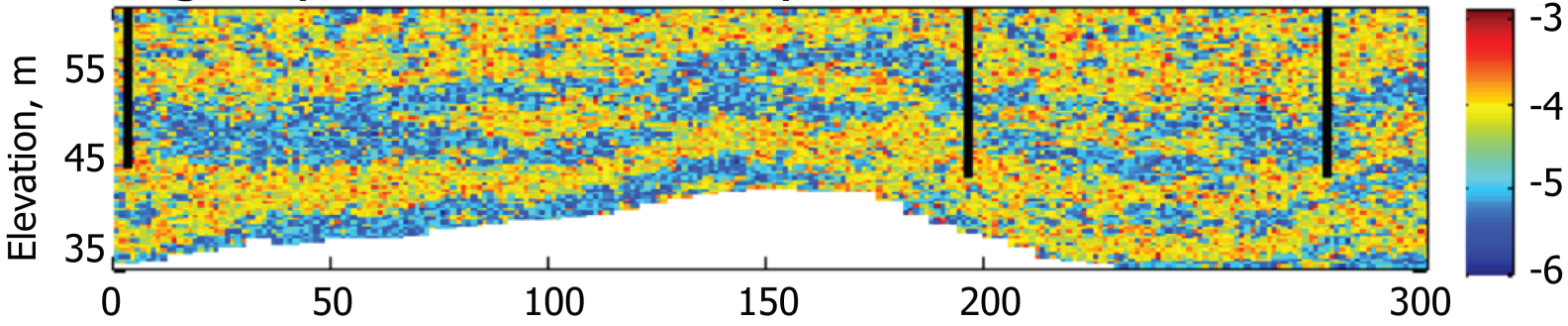




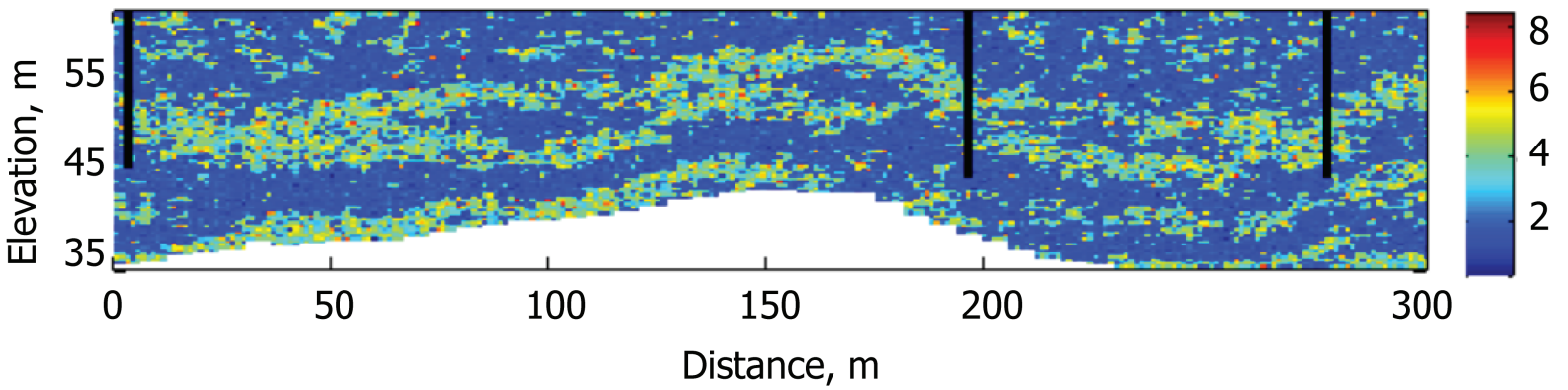
Percent of fines

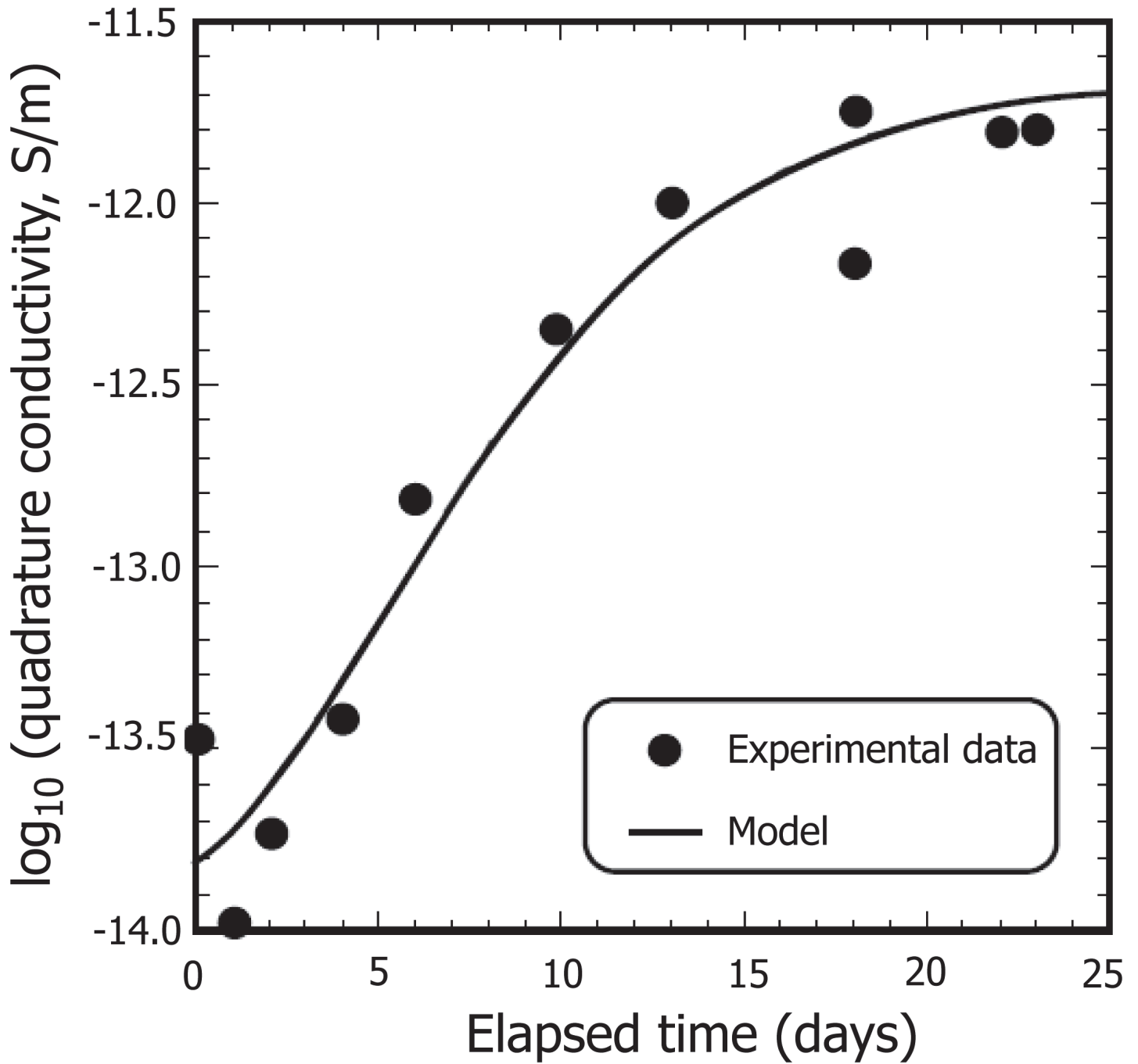


$\log_{10}$  hydraulic conductivity in cm/s

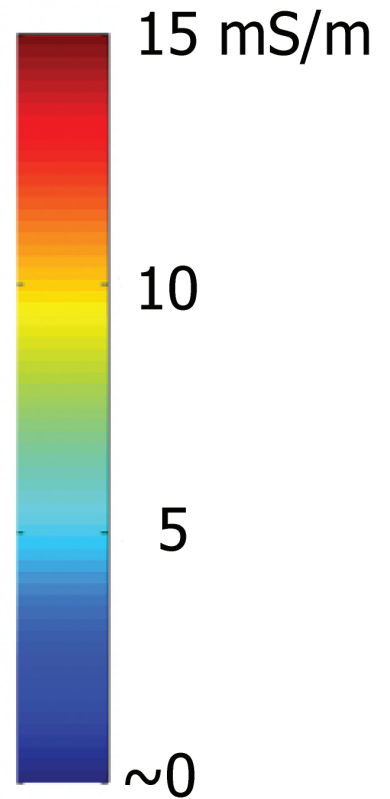
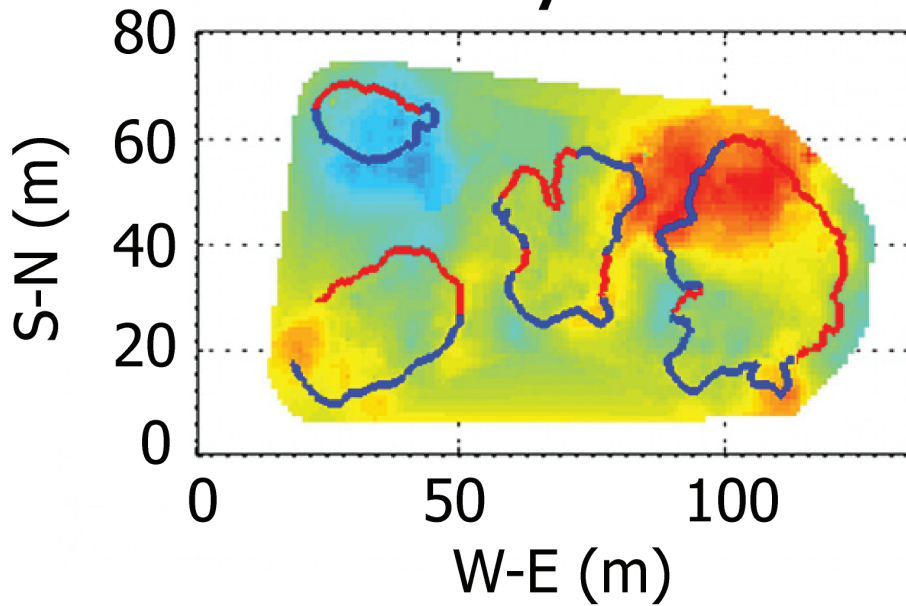


Al:Fe ratio

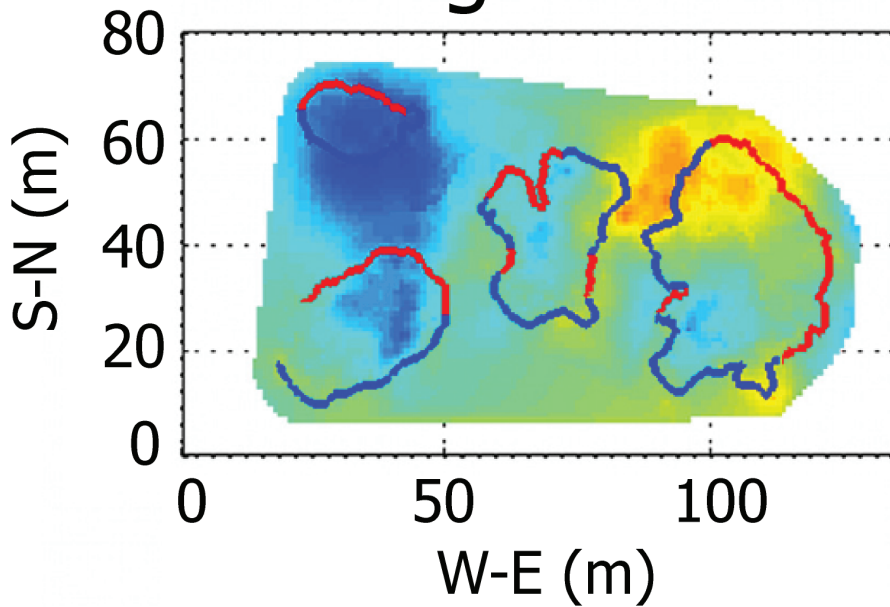


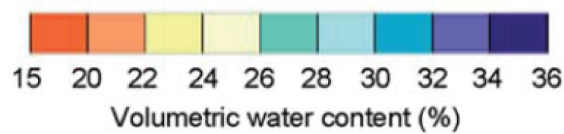
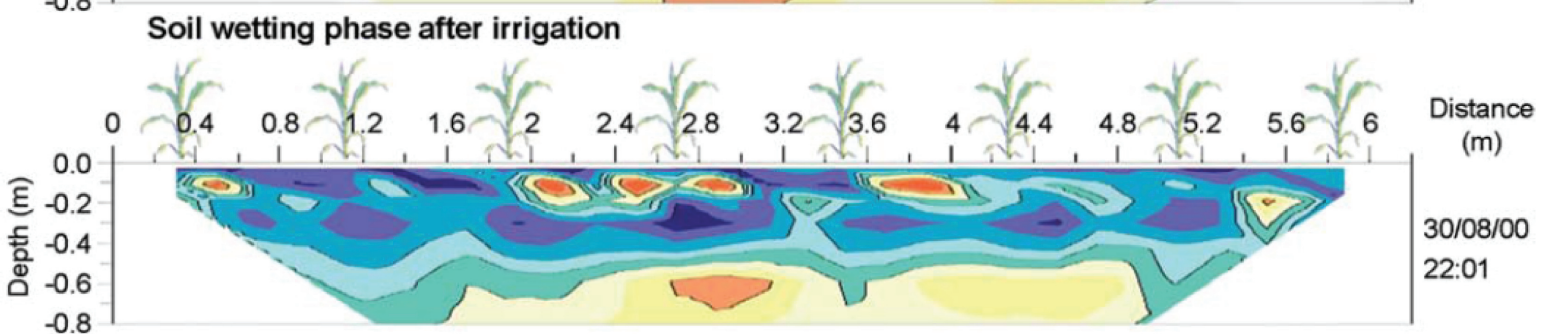
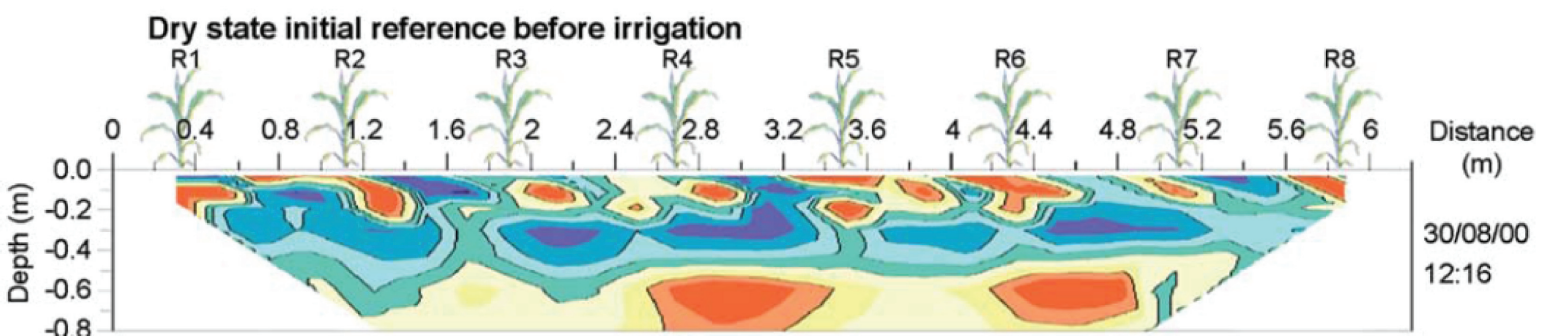


27 July 2009



5 August 2009





1

2 TABLE 1: List of commonly used geophysical methods in hydrology and the geophysical properties  
3 they sense.

4

<b>Geophysical method</b>	<b>Geophysical properties</b>	<b>Examples of derived properties and states</b>
DC resistivity	Electrical conductivity	Water content, clay content, pore water conductivity
Induced polarization	Electrical conductivity, chargeability	Water content, clay content, pore water conductivity, surface area, permeability
Spectral induced polarization	As above but with frequency dependence	Water content, clay content, pore water conductivity, surface area, permeability, geochemical transformations
Self-potential	Electrical sources, electrical conductivity	Water flux, permeability
Electromagnetic induction	Electrical conductivity	Water content, clay content, salinity
Ground penetrating radar	Permittivity, electrical conductivity	Water content, porosity, stratigraphy
Seismic	Elastic moduli and bulk density	Lithology, ice content, cementation state, pore fluid substitution
Seismoelectrics	Electrical current density	Water content, permeability
Nuclear magnetic resonance	Proton density	Water content, permeability
Gravity	Bulk density	Water content, porosity

5

6