

# New Age Geophysical Survey Techniques for Subsurface Investigations



Presented by:  
**Dr. Sanjay Rana**  
Managing Director, PARSAN

# About PARSAN

- An ISO 9001:2015 certified geophysical company
- Promoters recognized as leaders in region for launching new technology. Responsible for launch of:
  - Ground Penetrating Radar Technology- 1996
  - Shear Wave Seismic Refraction- 1997
  - High Resolution Seismic Tomography- 1998
  - Passive Seismic Tomography for Oil Exploration- 2008
  - Innovative use of geophysical methods for high resolution non-destructive testing of dams- 1998
- Highly experienced and trained staff.
- Offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Bhopal, Bahrain & Saudi Arabia
- Work experience in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Afghanistan, Singapore, Greece, Iran, Algeria, Georgia.....



# About Speaker (Dr. Sanjay Rana)

- Professional Geophysicist, with **32 years** of work experience. Chairman AF Academy & Managing Director, PARSAN, An engineering geophysics company
- **Gold Medalist- 1990**, University of Roorkee (Now IIT-Roorkee)
- Pioneered use of Near Surface Geophysics (Private Sector) in India in **1995**.
- Completed geophysical investigations of **>2000** projects.
- Member of various working committees for development of Code of Practices and Standards, **including IRC, TAI, IndSTT**.
- Principal author of
  - Guidelines on Geophysical Investigation of Dams
  - Guidelines for Geophysical Investigation of Tunnels (TAI)
  - Guideline for Geophysical Investigations for Bridges (IRC)
  - Indian Code for Subsurface Utility Mapping.





The Engineer's first problem in any design situation is to discover what the problem really is

Tools are available  
Use them  
Don't be scared, your job is still safe!

No thanks!

We are  
too busy

Too busy to improve?



# What is Investigation?



A methodology of acquiring advance knowledge of the site condition so that a techno-commercially viable project layout can be developed.

# Survey & Investigations Issues

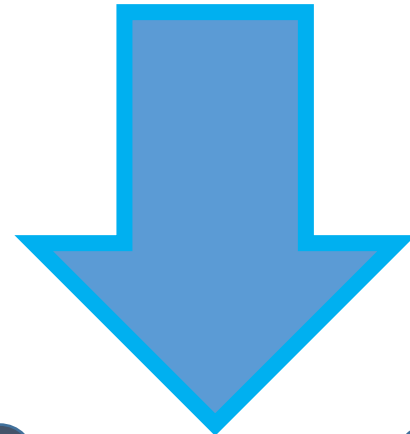
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1. Adequacy of Investigation of Underground Projects under question? (*How Much?*)
  2. Optimum time to be allowed for Investigations? (*Rushing into Construction*)
  3. Technological Improvements required to brought in? (*Tender conditions/ standards*)
  4. Cost to be allowed for Investigations? (*3-5%*)
-

**Quality of  
Investigations**

**Quantity of  
Investigations**

**Time allowed for  
Investigations**



**Less  
Uncertainties**

**Less Cost &  
Claims**



# Geological Surprises?

1. Expertise & engineering solutions available for dealing with any (almost) ground condition
2. The problem is 'meeting the unexpected' and 'uncertainty' of ground conditions



# Challenges of Underground

Even comprehensive exploration programs recover a relatively minuscule drill core volume that is less than **0.0005 percent** of the future excavated volume of the tunnel

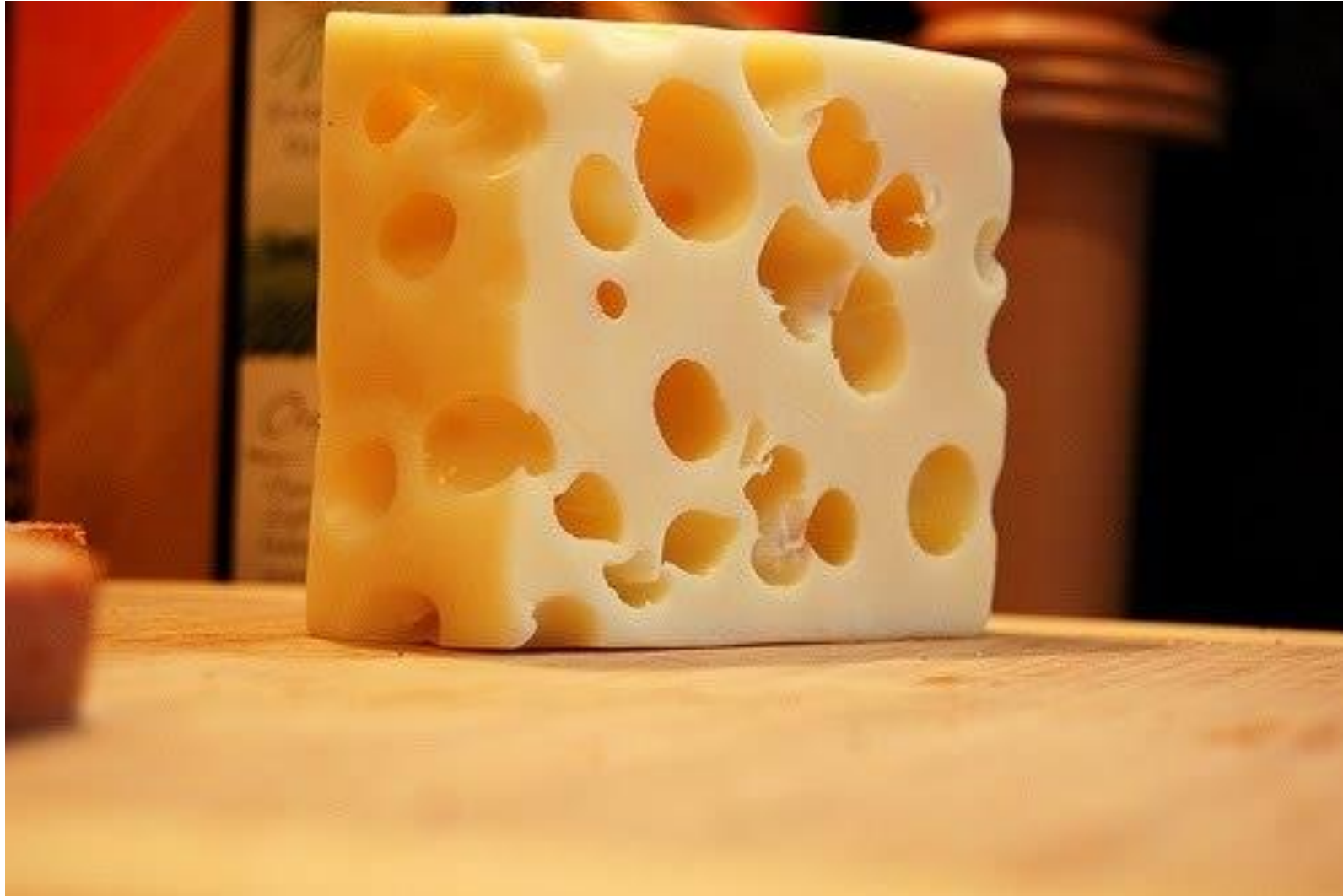


**CHALLENGE**

# A Smart Decision Maker???



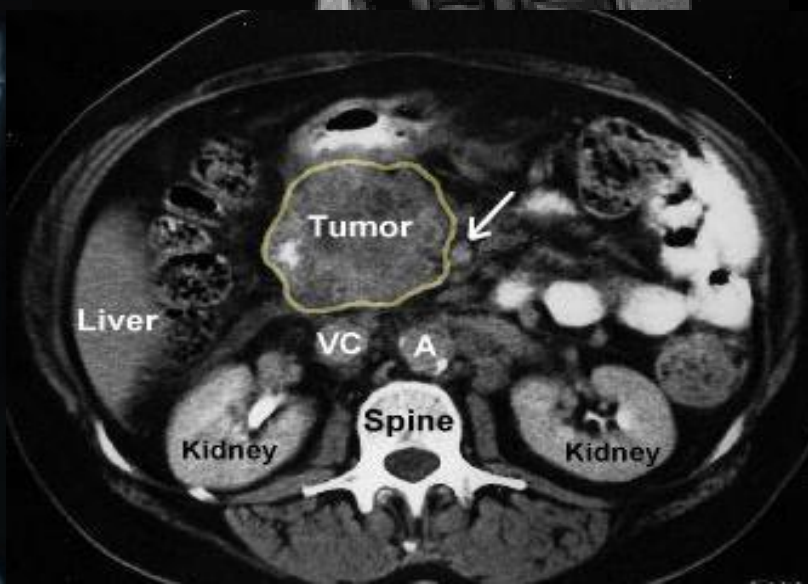
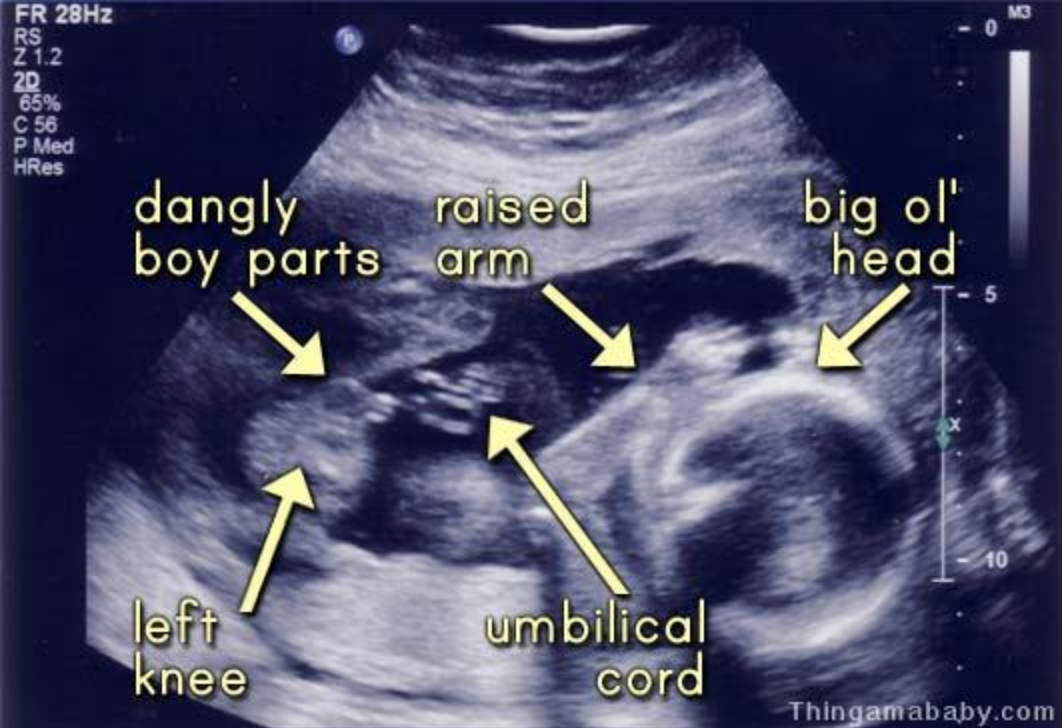
# Investigations, How & How Much?

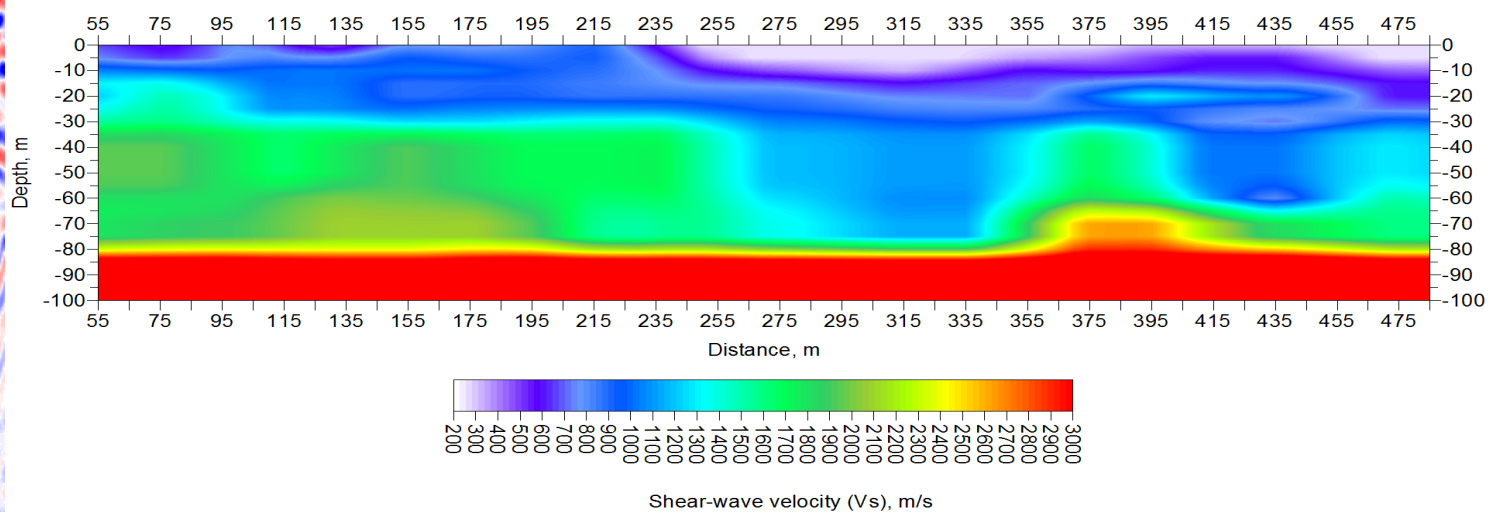
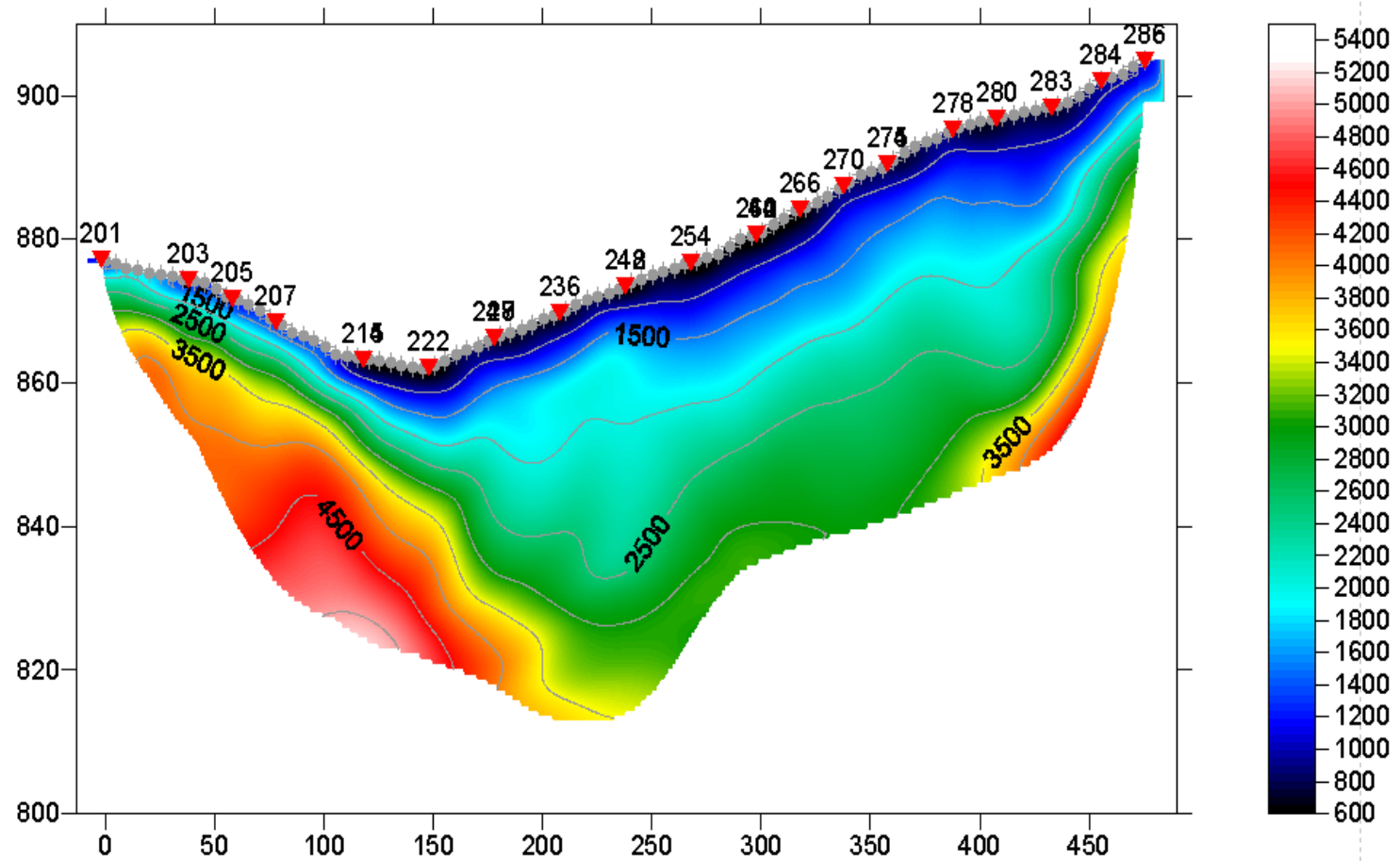
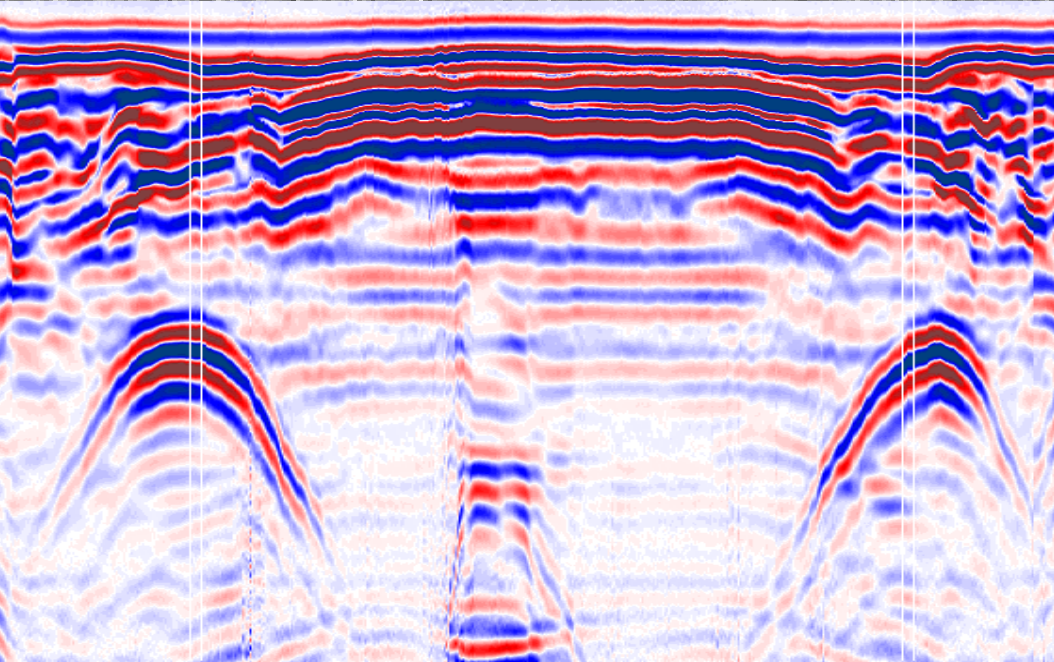
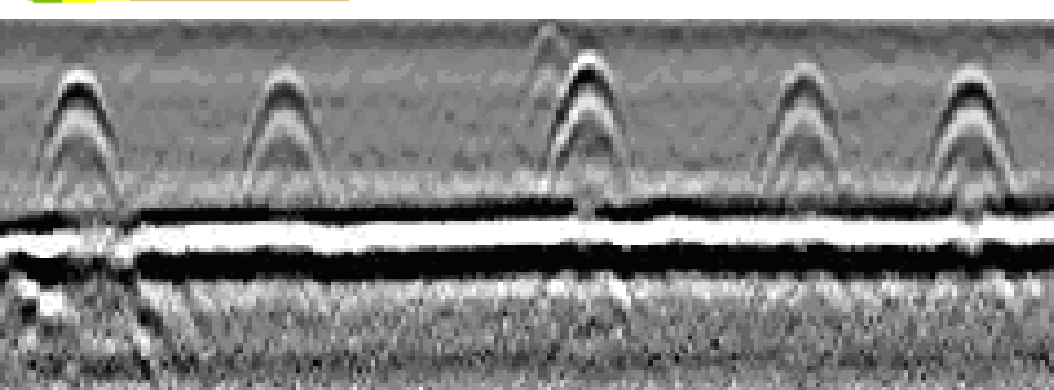
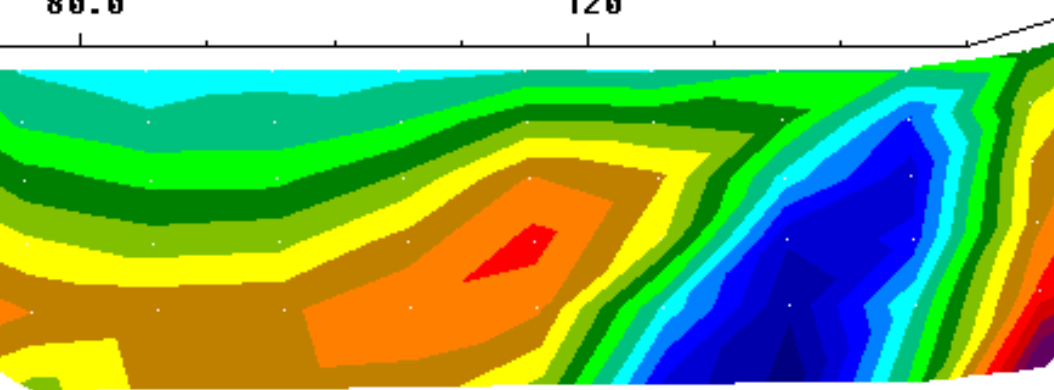




Geophysical  
Investigations.....

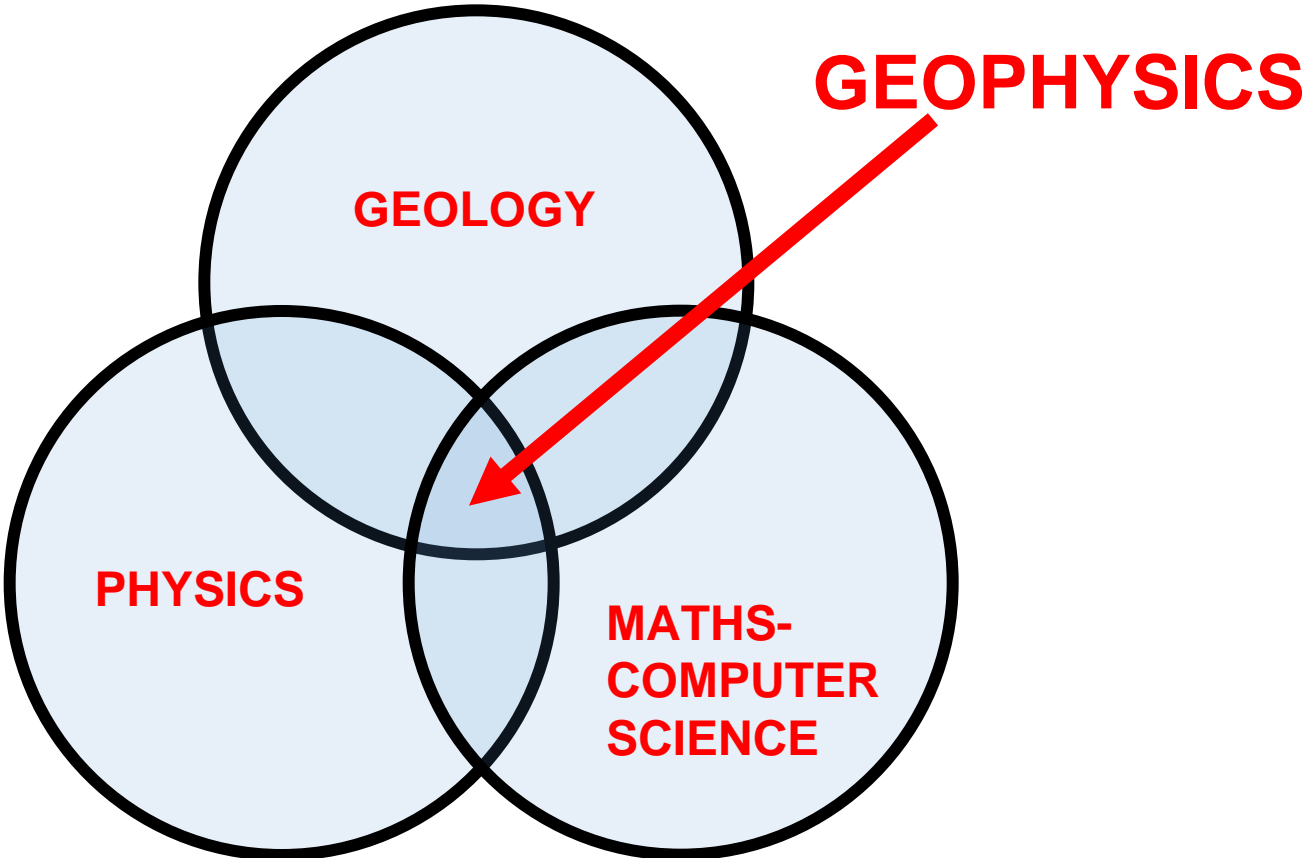
Investigations.....  
Geophysical





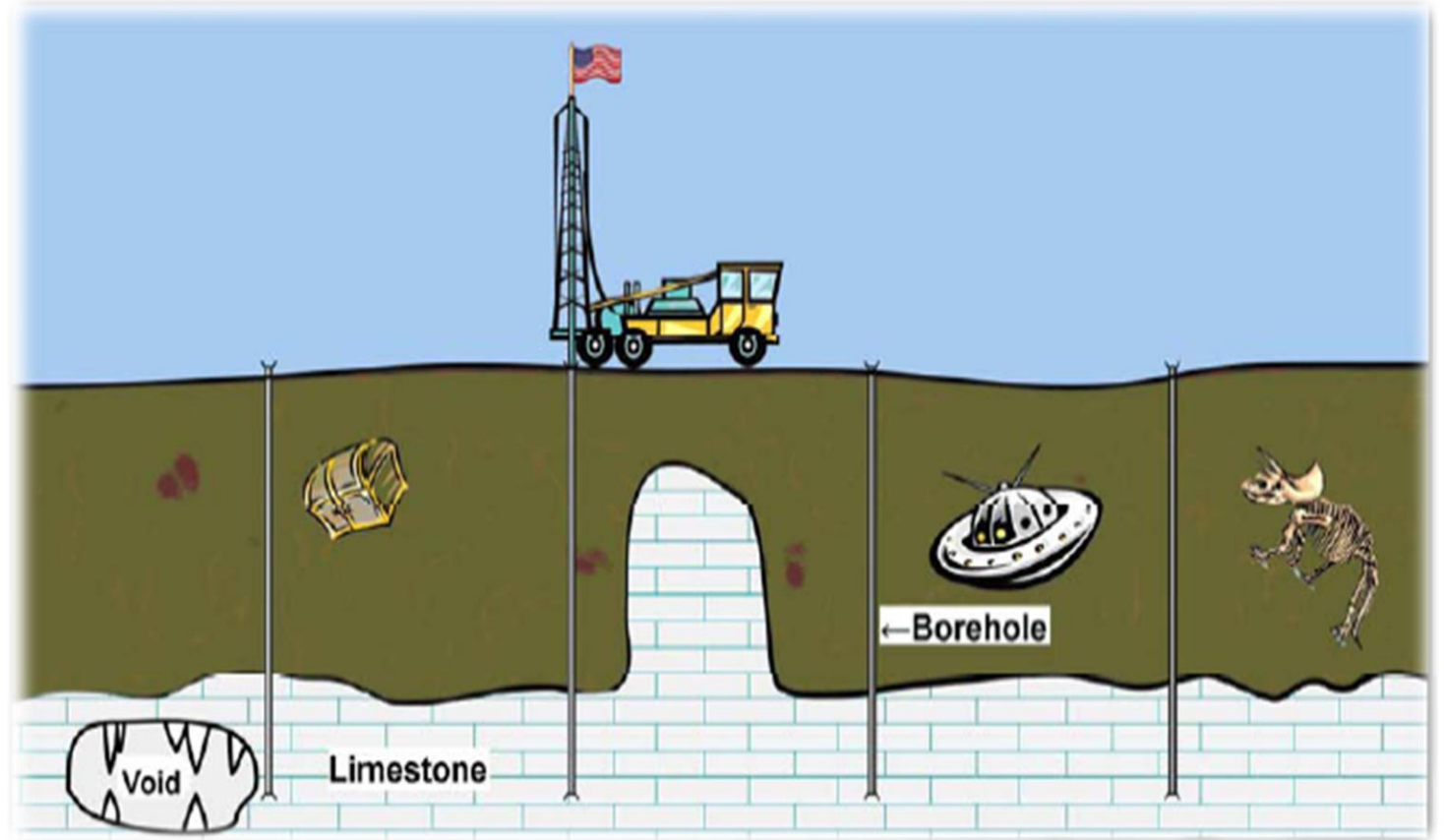


# Geophysics as a Science



# Why Use Geophysics.....

- Low Cost
- Rapid Coverage
- Continuous information
- Optimization of drill holes
- Minimization of 'Surprises'
- Early stage application...Better planning, smooth execution.



# Seven-step framework of Geophysics

- Setup:** Establish the geoscience objectives, consider conventional practice, and identify how geophysics might contribute.
- Contrasts:** Characterize materials that can be expected and establish the likely physical property contrasts.
- Survey Design:** Determine a suitable geophysical survey, and design an effective and efficient field survey. Identify possible sources of error, noise and mis-interpretation.
- Data Collection:** Carry out the field survey, taking all necessary actions to ensure complete, high quality, and cost effective data sets.
- Processing:** Plot the data, and apply appropriate processing and analysis.
- Interpretation:** Interpret results in terms of physical property distribution, and then in terms of the original geoscience objectives.
- Synthesis:** Combine interpretations with prior knowledge about the problem, and with other relevant information. Decide if your results are adequate for the particular problem. Decide further investigations, if needed.



# Choice of method- An Important Step

- The user has considerable scope for choice. However, some factors to be considered are:
  - What type and shape of feature is being imaged?
  - What physical properties will show the best contrast?
  - Are there any strong but irrelevant contrasts that will mask the results?
  - To what depth must the survey penetrate?
  - What spatial resolution is needed?
  - What are the time or cost constraints?
  - Are there any special restrictions eg. on access or damage?



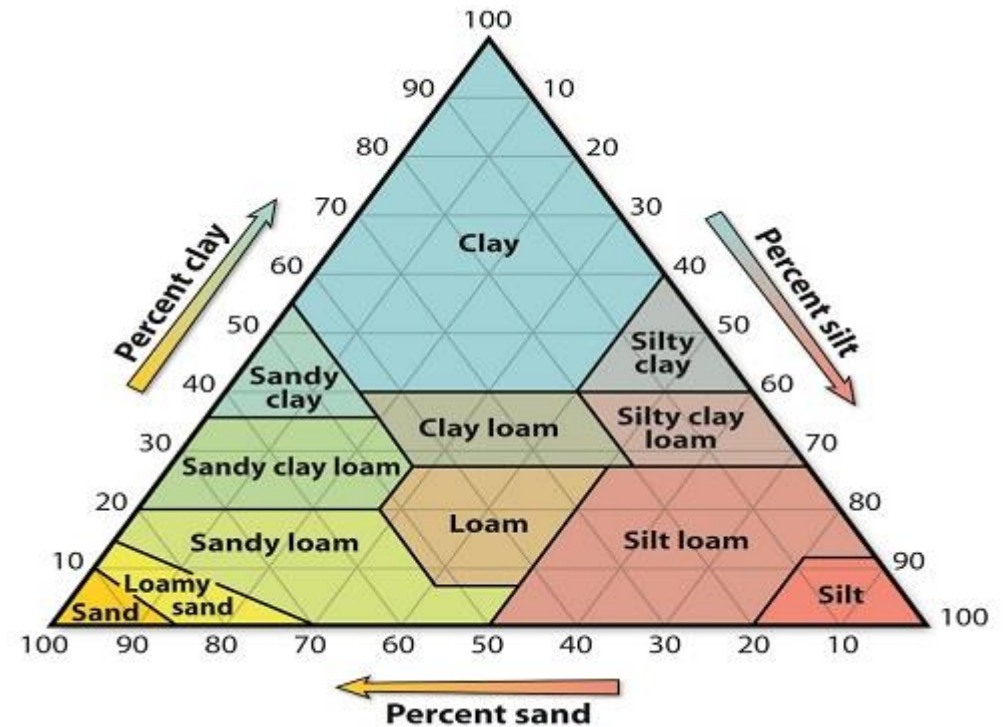
# Advantages & Limitations

- Advantages of geophysics
  - Rapid and cheap survey tool
  - Easily integrated with other forms of ground survey
  - Non-destructive (archaeology, Dams, urban areas generally)
  - Modern processing methods give a visual image of the subsurface
- Limitations of geophysics
  - Can be ambiguous without controls
  - Poor discrimination in some cases
  - Can suffer from noise or artefacts



# Different Methods for Different Property

- Some methods that are commonly used are:
  - **Seismic methods** = Elastic wave velocity
  - **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** = EM pulse velocity
  - **DC resistivity methods** = Electrical DC resistance
  - **EM conductivity methods** = Electrical AC conductivity
  - **Magnetic methods** = Magnetic field strength
  - **Gravity methods** = Gravity field strength
- The value of the surface measurement is determined by the contrast in the relevant property (hence material type) and by the three dimensional structure.



# Geophysics- Huge ROI...

- Detailed investigation of site...Saving huge costs towards changed plans, project delays when surprises crop up....
- No drilling, No digging...Vast information at fraction of cost of traditional methods.
- Early-stage application...Better planning, smooth execution.





# Tunnel Projects Site Investigations



# Necessary Investigation Steps...

- Study available geological maps
- Study satellite images
- Geological Mapping
- **Geophysical Investigations**
- Drilling (with geophysical logging)
- Hydrogeological studies
- Seismicity Study
- .....



# Geophysical Investigation for Tunnel Projects...

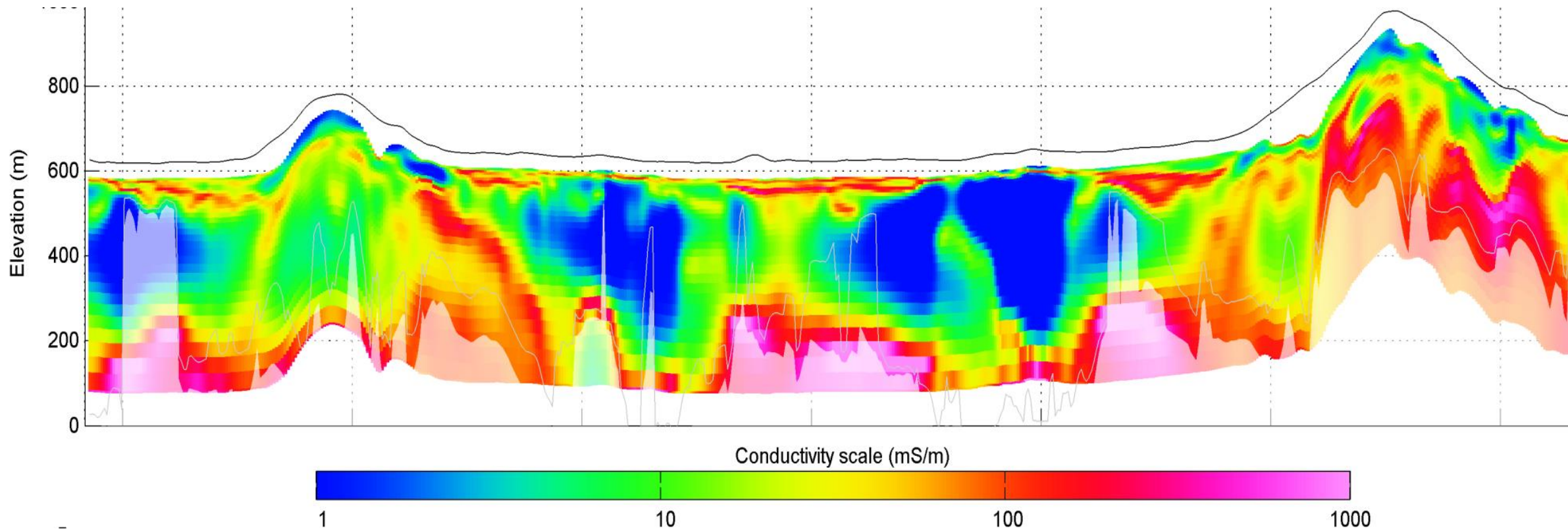
Different types of geophysical studies can be performed for new projects (at planning stage), for various components like tunnel route, portals etc.

- Investigations to choose best and least problematic tunnel alignment
- To indicate the mechanical properties of the rocks and the depth of the weathering zone.
- To detect faults/ fractures/ shear zones/ weak zones
- To conduct slope stability studies
- To determine shear wave velocities for seismic hazard studies
- Investigation of the water level or extended water bearing strata
- Investigation of contaminated areas
- Other obstacles like utilities, foundations, cavities etc., for urban tunneling projects

Heliborne TDEM.....

HELIPORNE TDEM.....

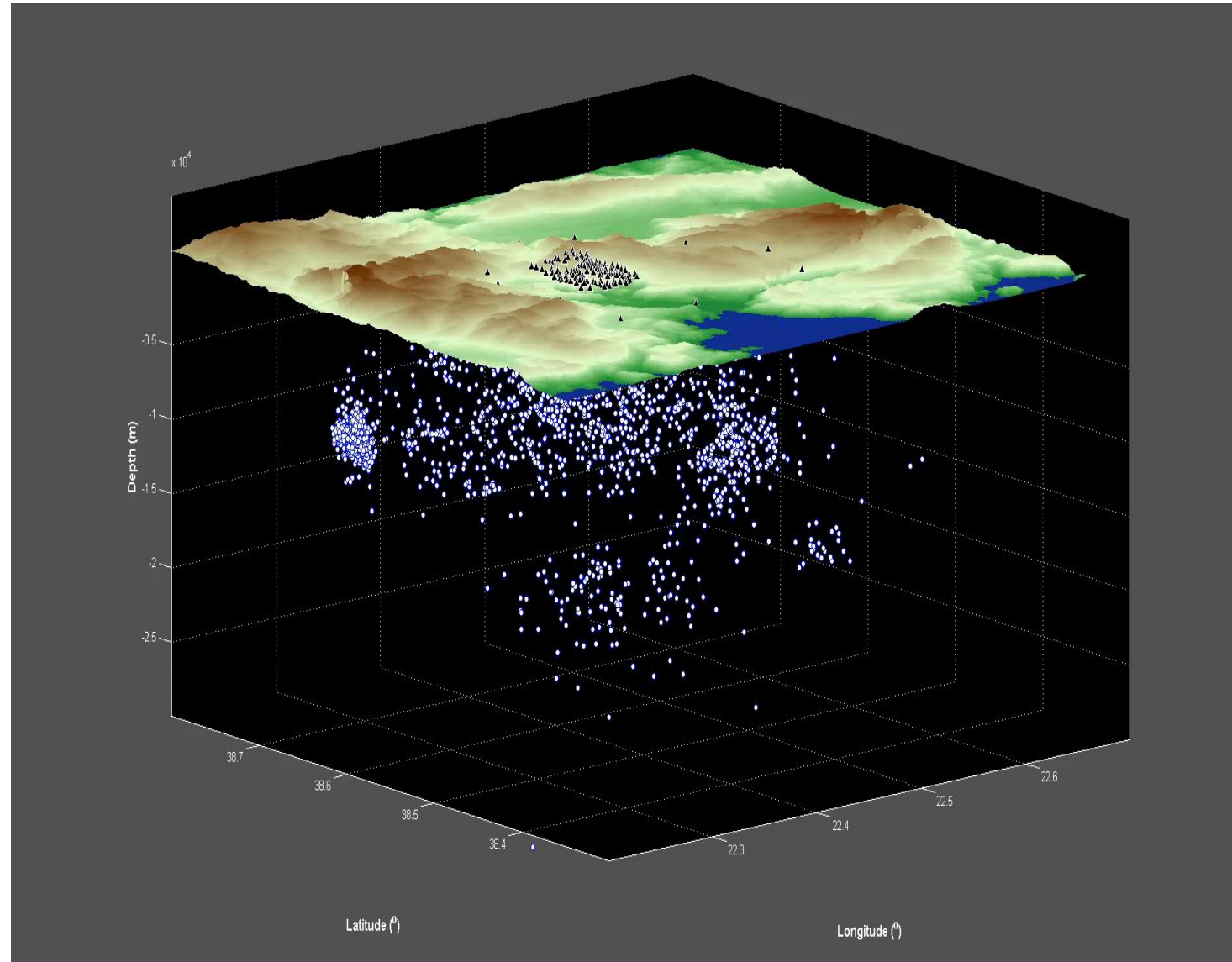


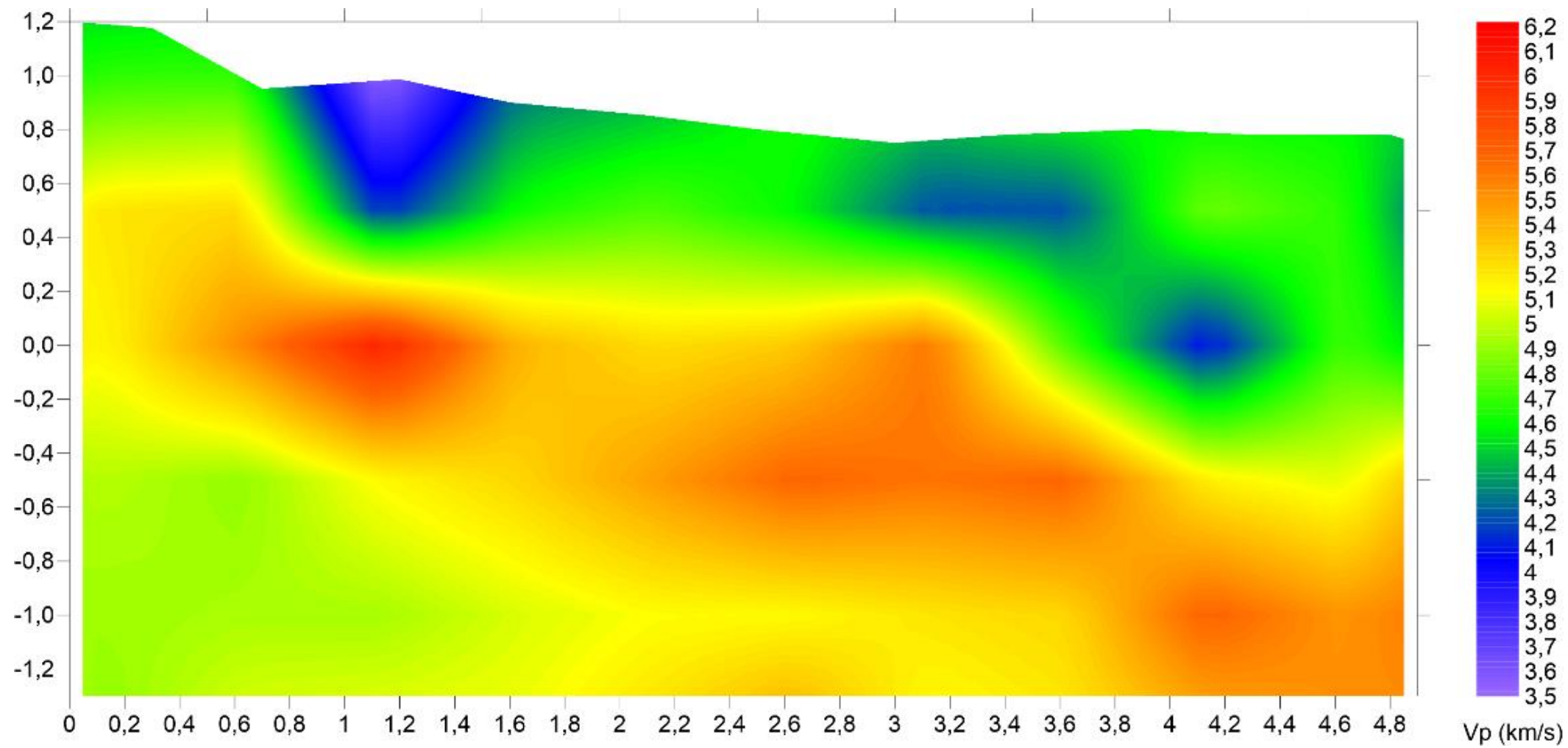


Passive Seismic Tomography.....

Passive Seismic Tomography.....

- **Local Earthquake Tomography** and **Reflected-wave Passive Seismic Interferometry** using earthquake sources. Also possible to use ambient noise, traffic noise.





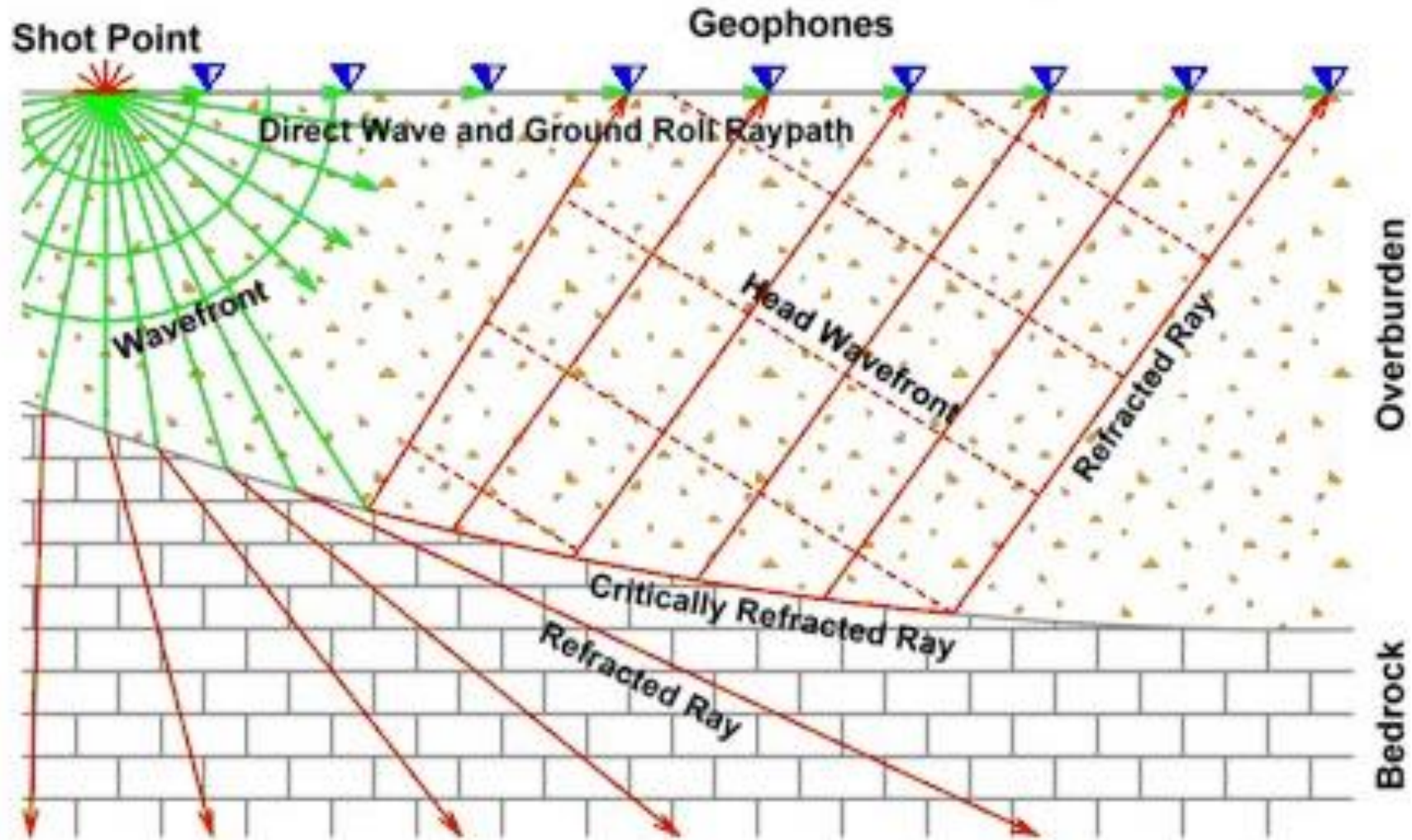
Depth Investigated > 2km



**Seismic Refraction Tomography.....**

**Σεισμική Βετράκτιον Τομογραφία.....**

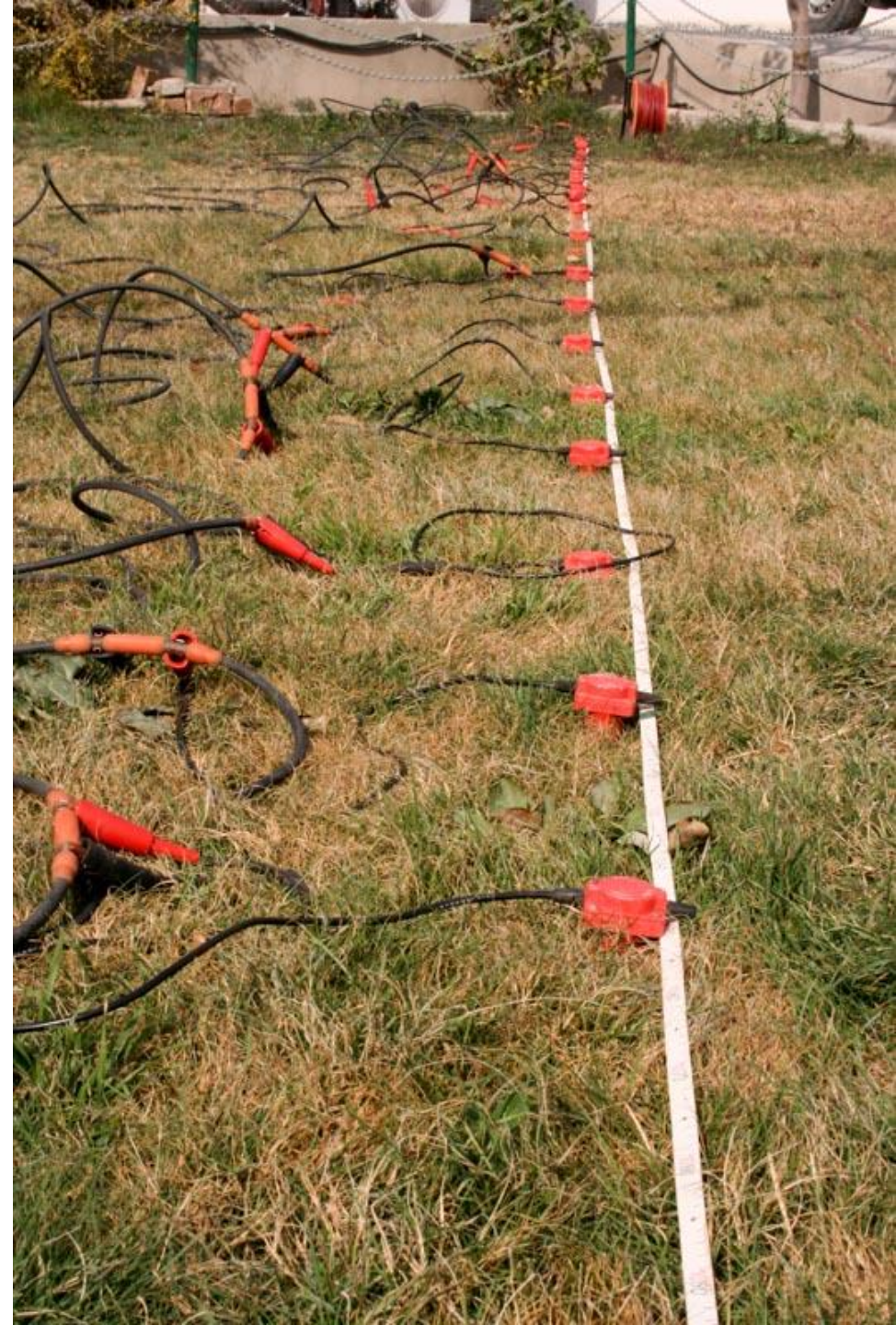
# Seismic Refraction- Basic Principle...



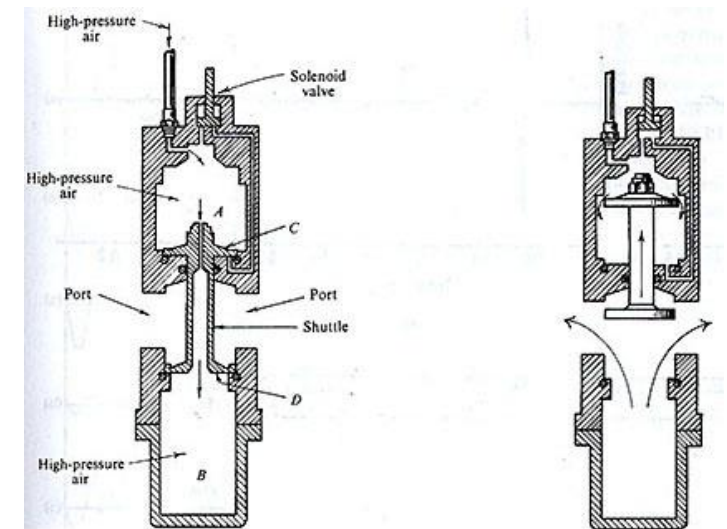
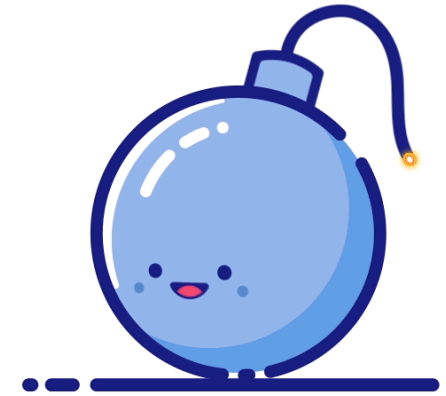


# Seismic Refraction- Field Work...

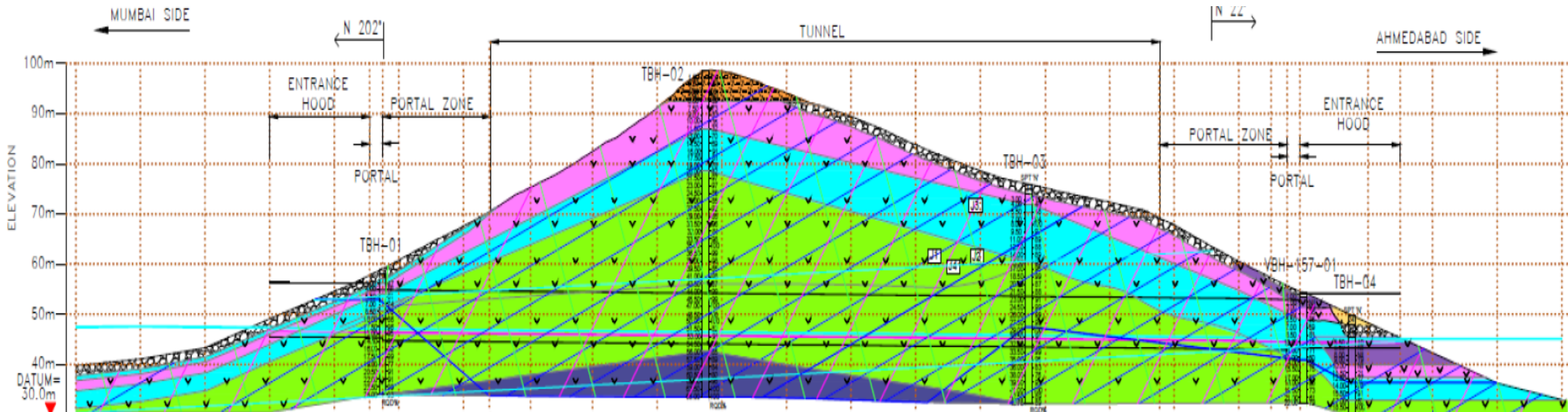
- Geophone Planting
  - Through Spikes
  - Through Metal Base
- Connecting geophones with multicore cable
- Cable connection to seismograph
- Trigger
- Checks (channels, Noise etc.)
- Recording of data



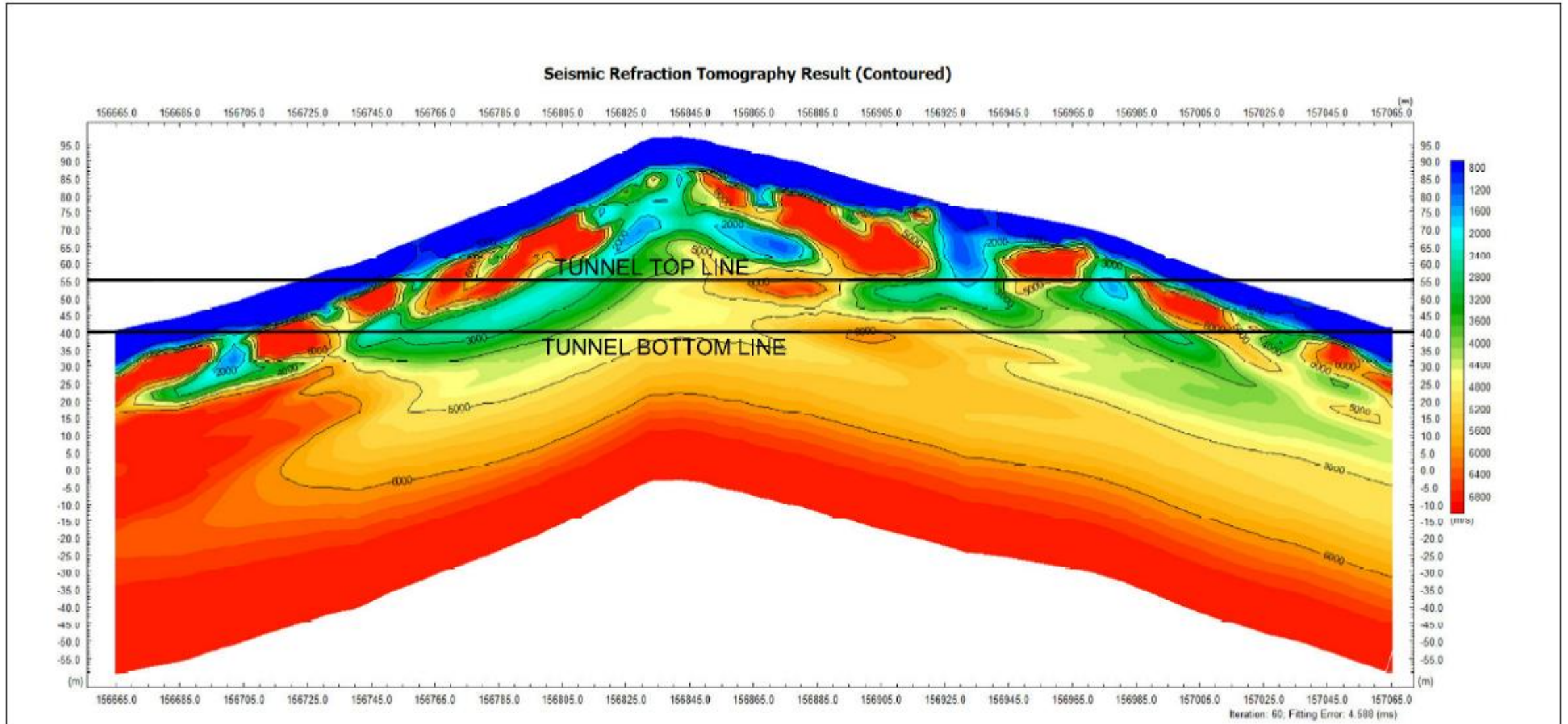
# Seismic Refraction- Field Work in Water...



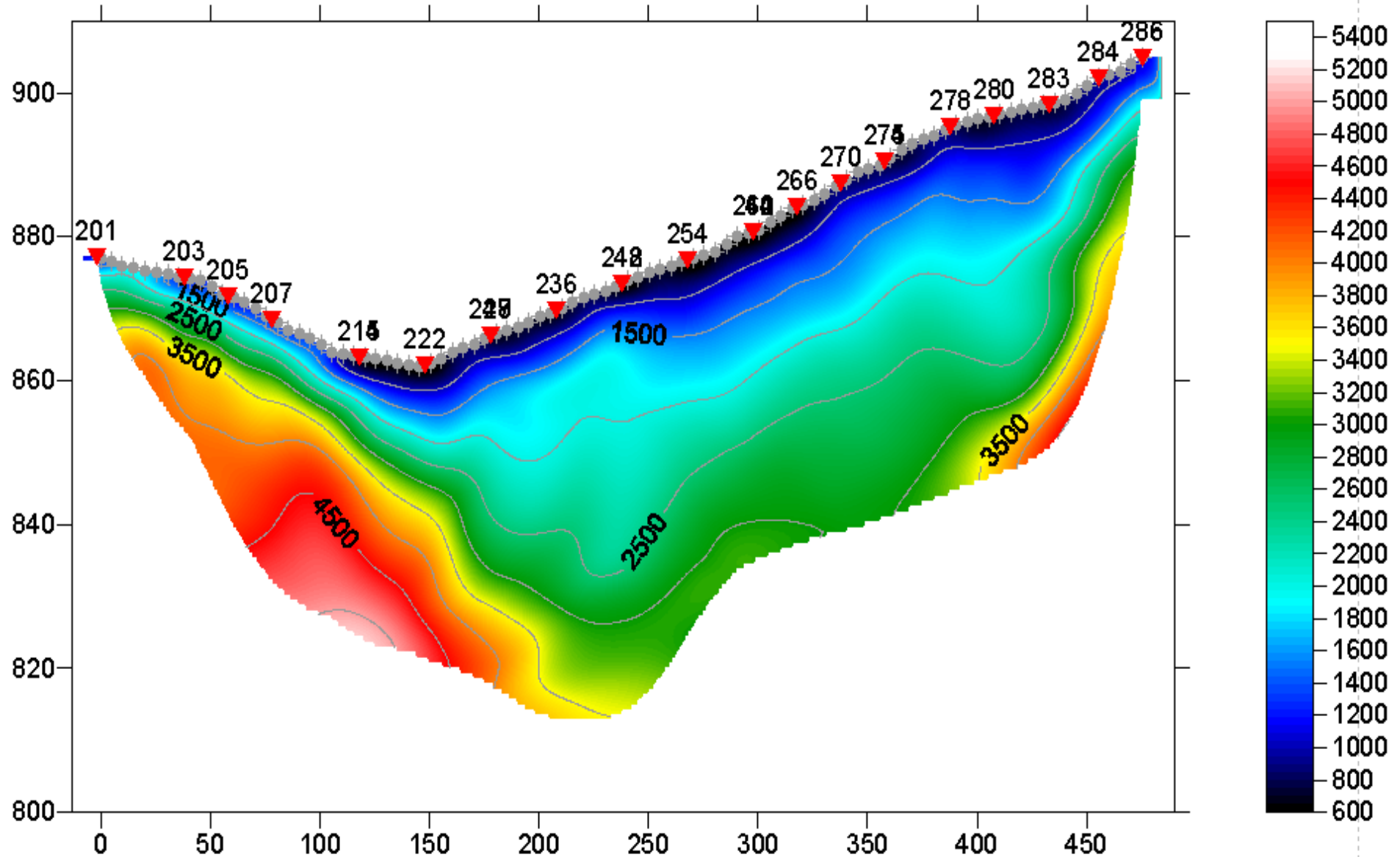
# Geological Model based on Boreholes.....



# Seismic Refraction Tomography Results.....

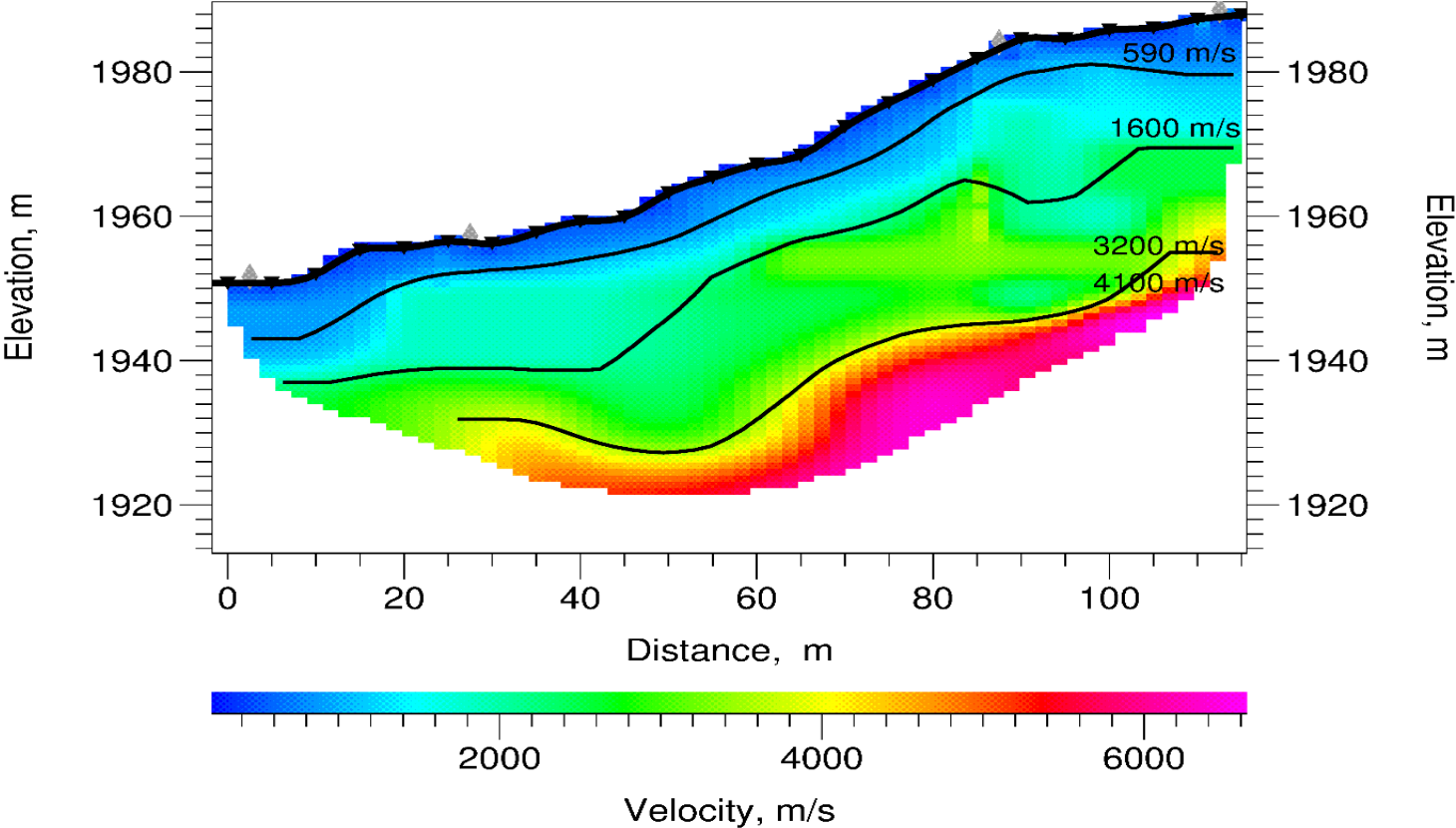


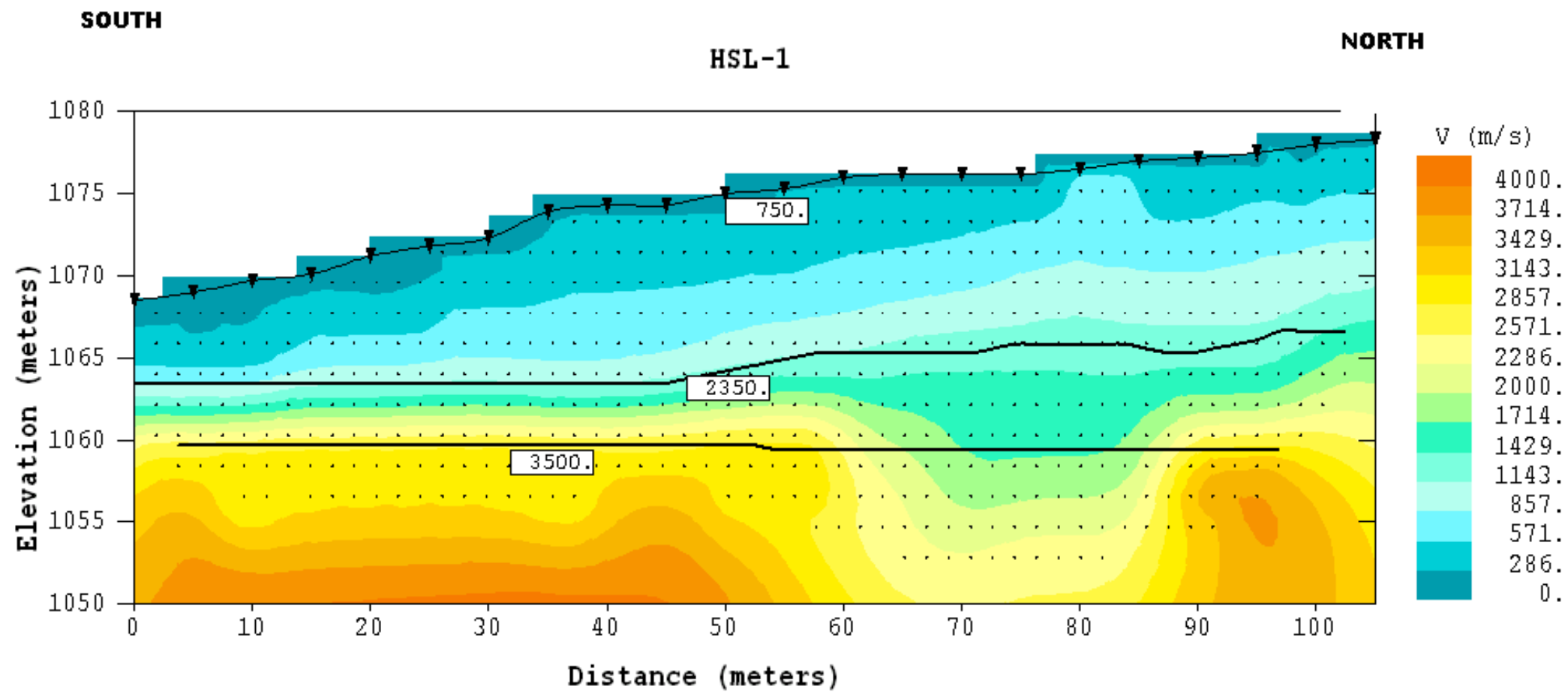
# Seismic Refraction Tomography Results.....

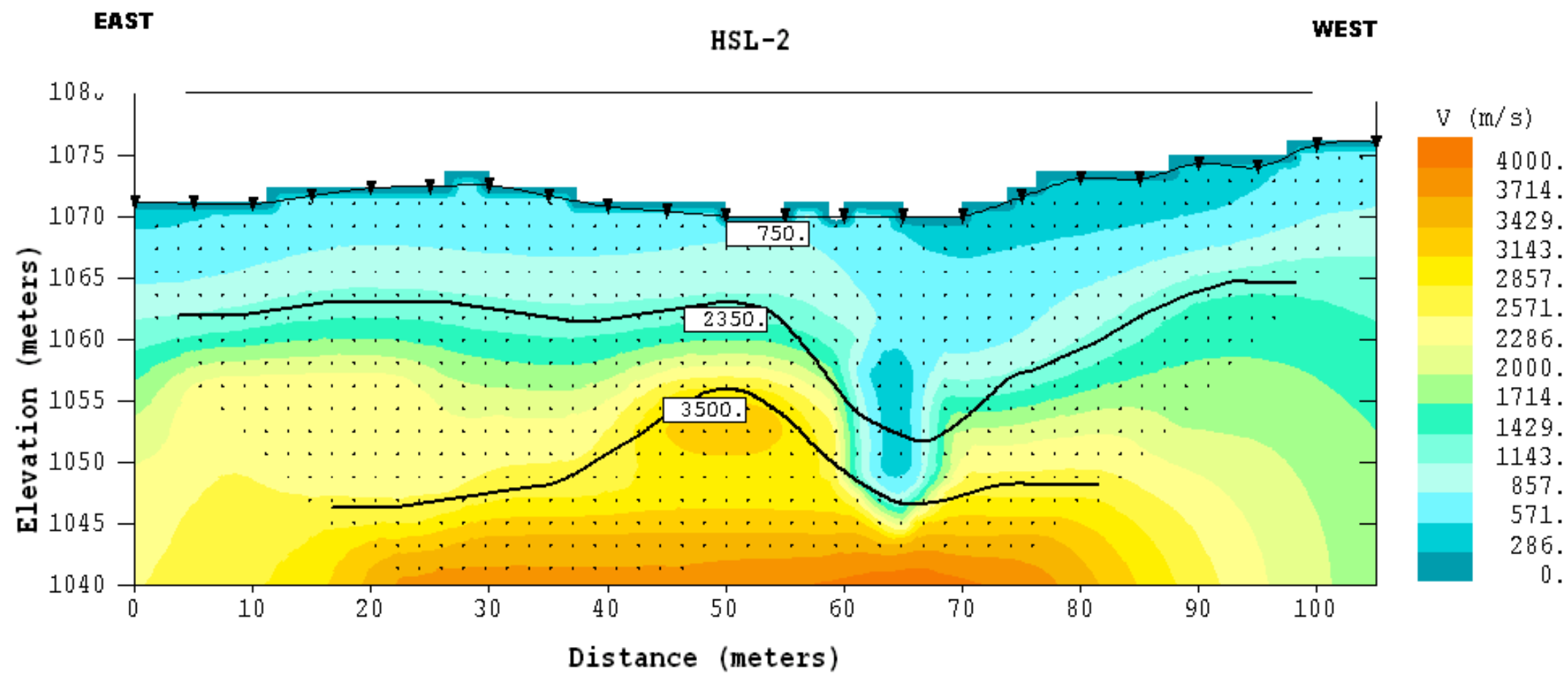


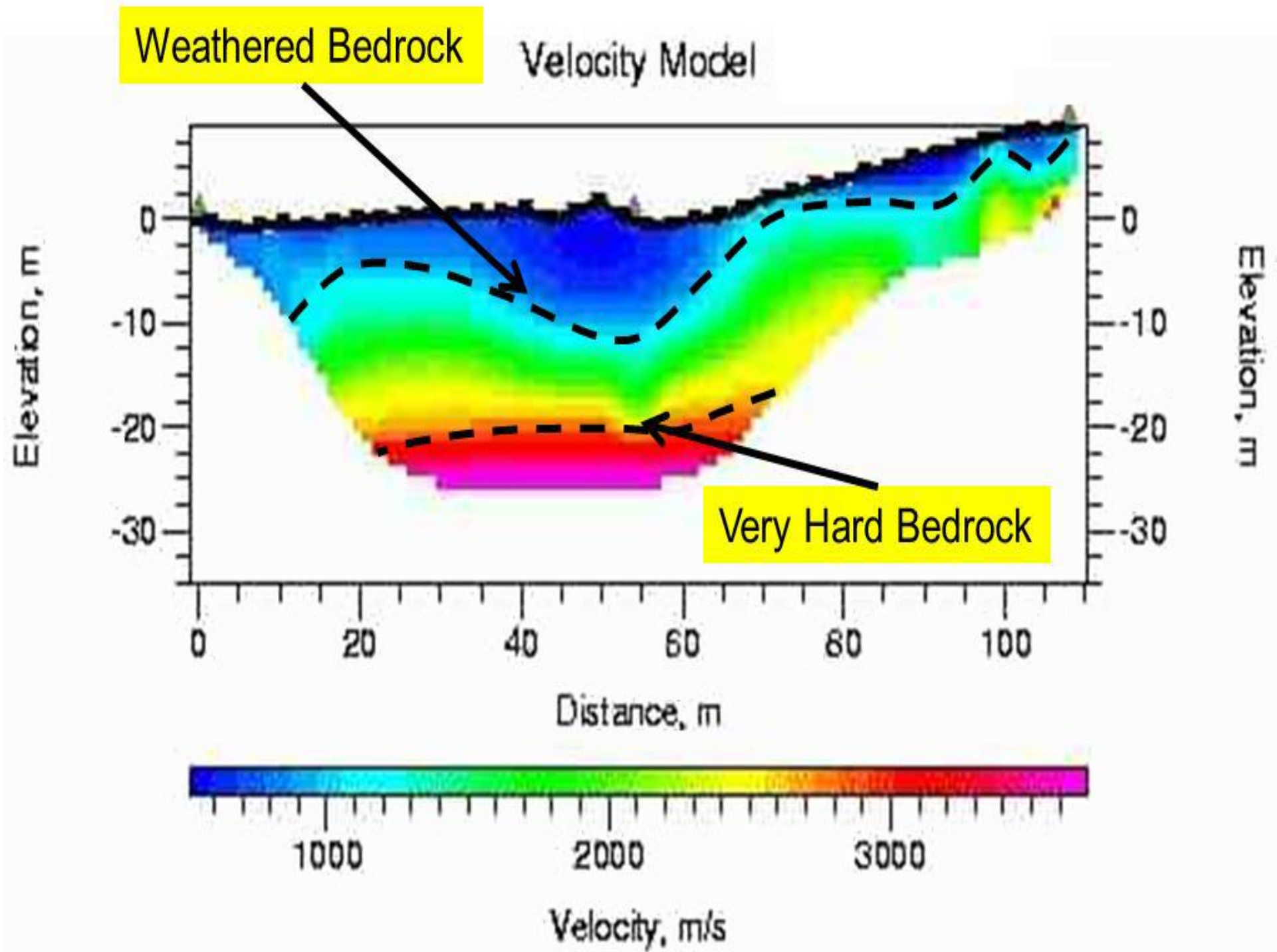


# Velocity Model.....









## **Seismic Refraction- Applications**

- Bedrock profile, rock quality and depth.
- Thickness of overburden
- Fractures and weak zones
- Slope stability studies

## **Seismic Refraction- Applications Areas**

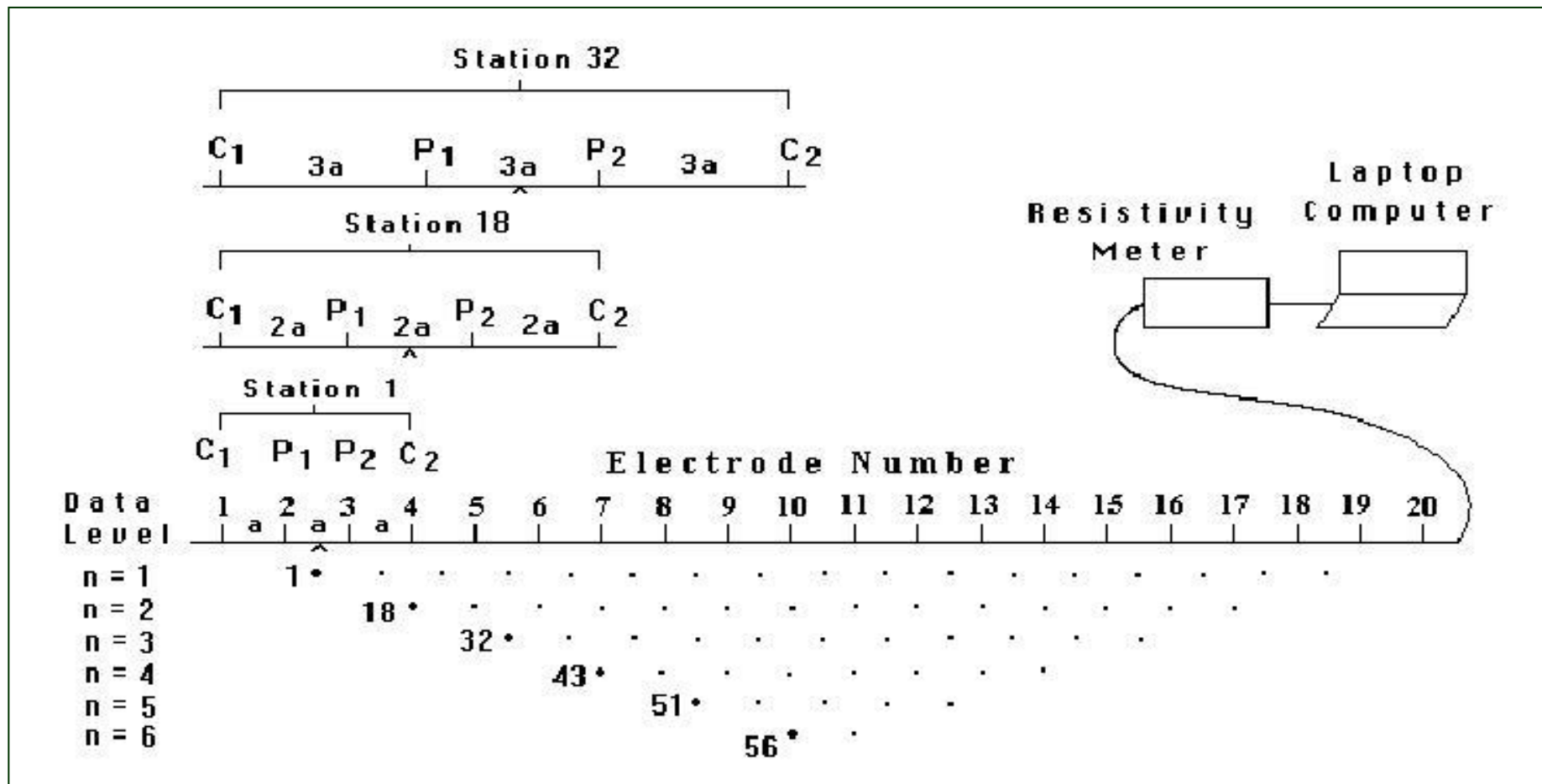
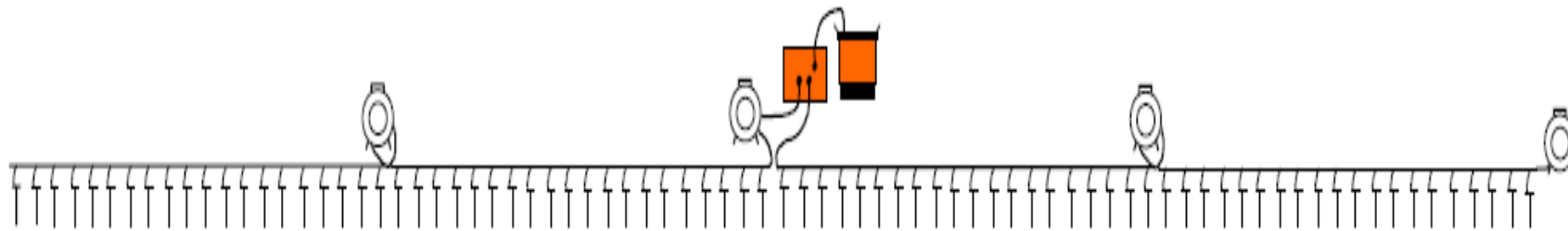
- Tunnel Portals.
- Tunnel Alignment
- Underground Caverns
- Complimentary tool to any geotechnical investigation

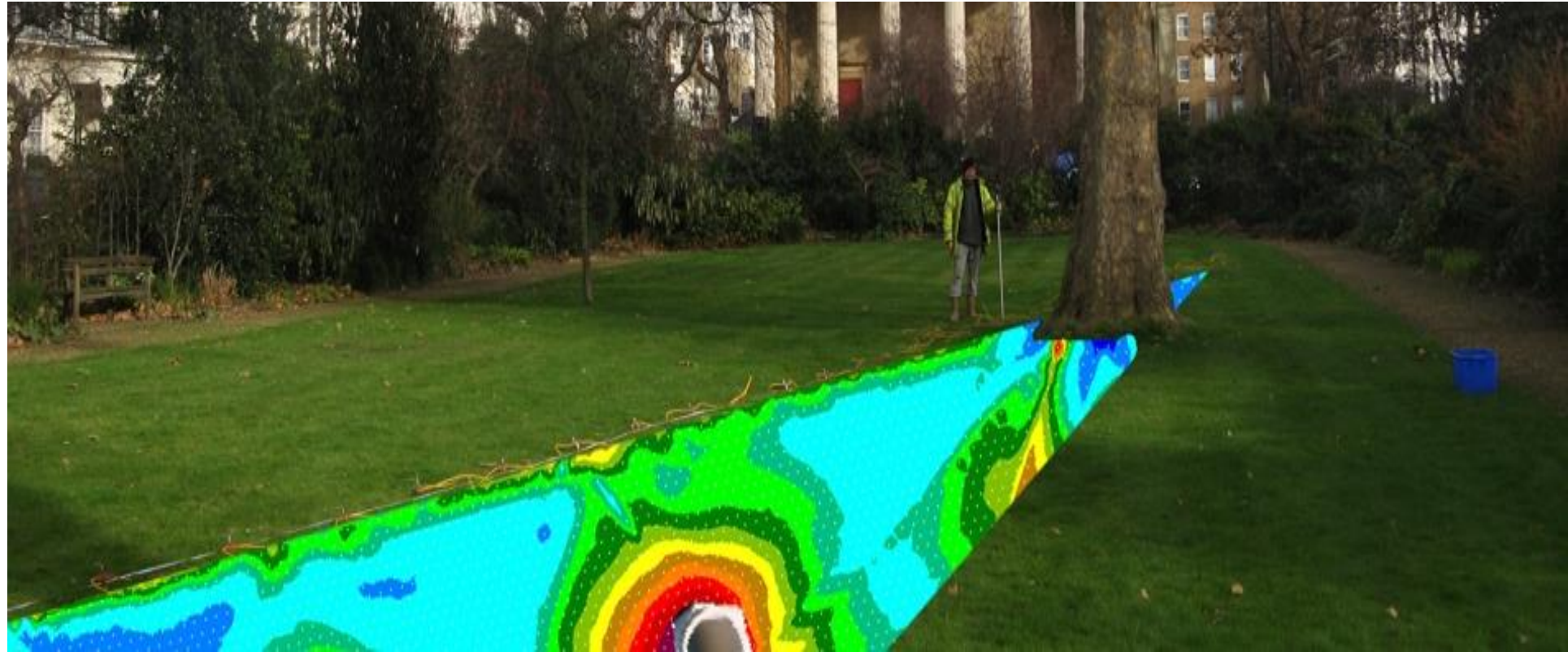
Electrical Resistivity Imaging/  
Tomography.....

Τομογραφία.....

ELECTRICAL RESISTIVITY IMAGING\

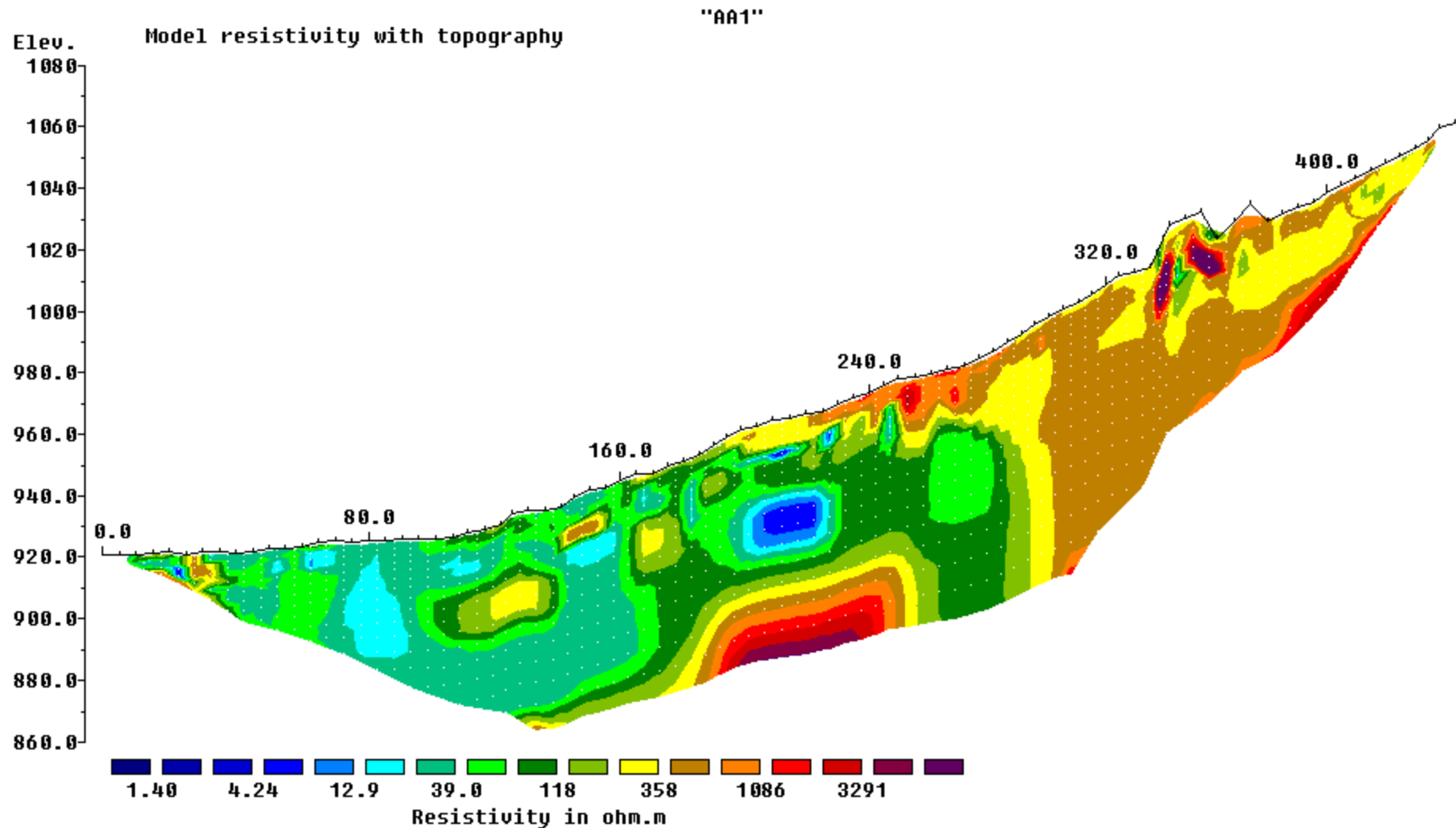
# Electrical Resistivity Imaging...



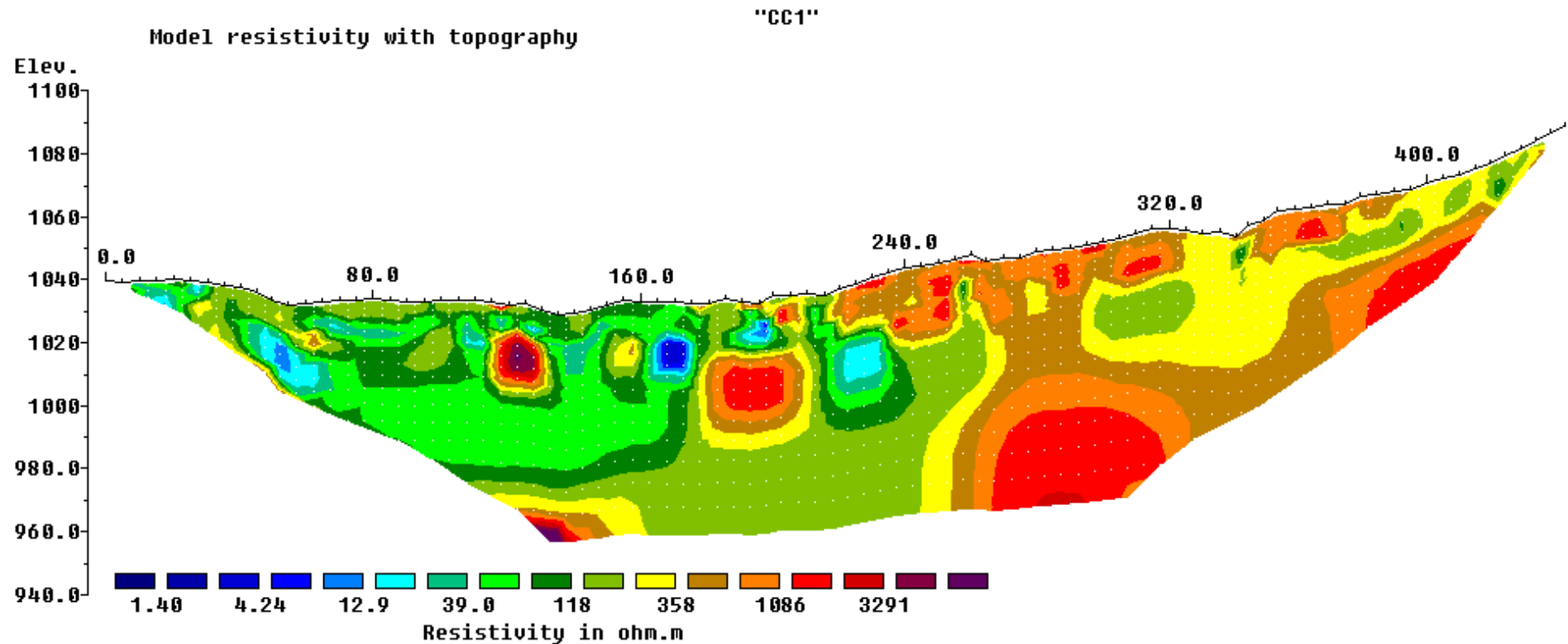








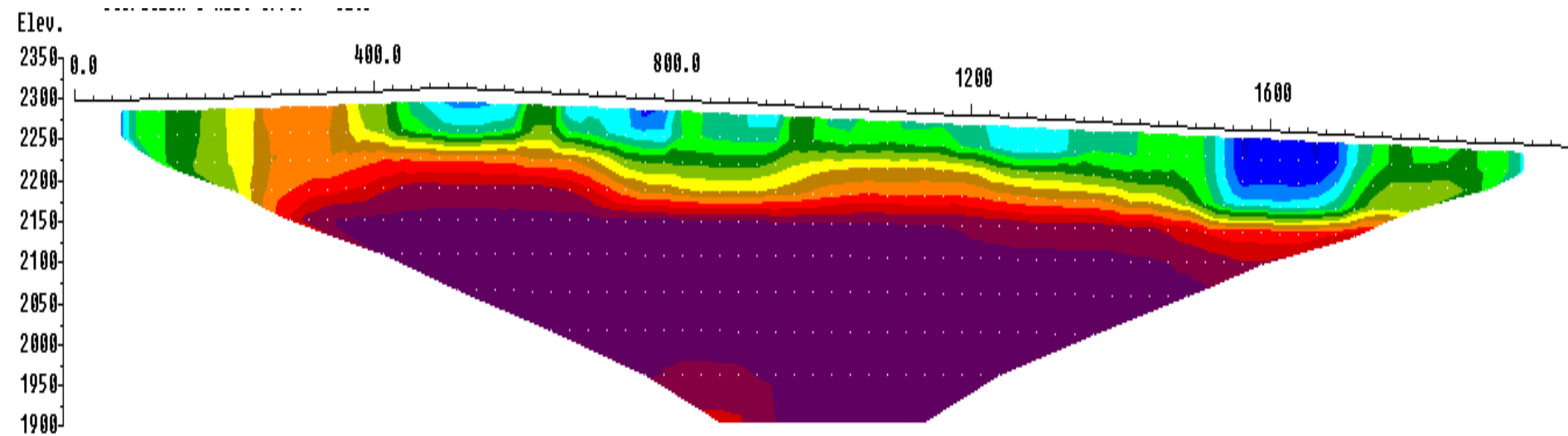
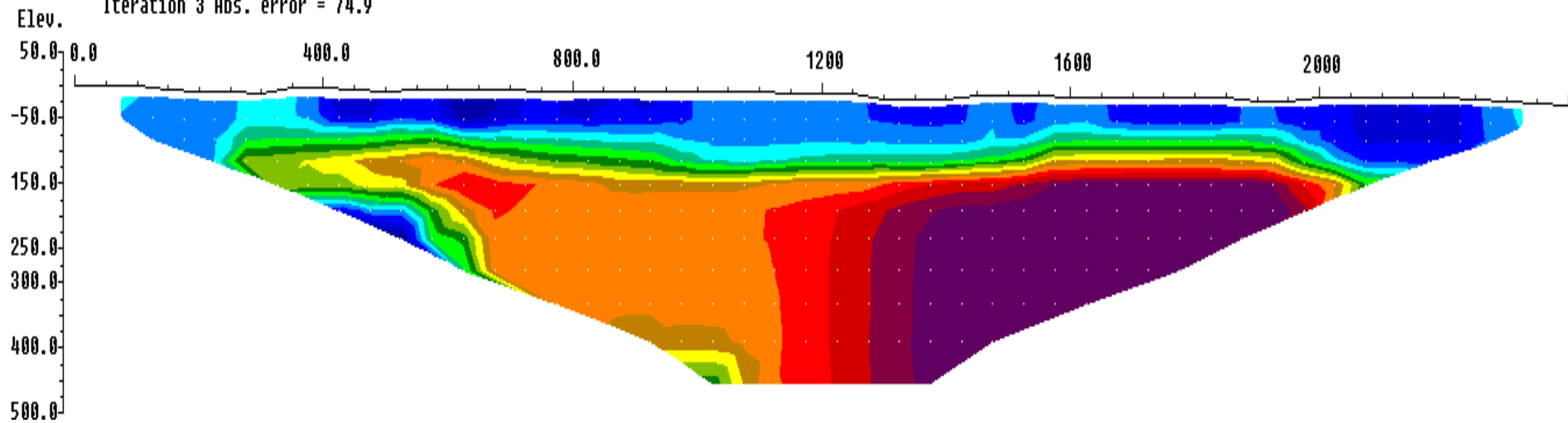
Horizontal scale is 10.58 pixels per unit spacing  
 Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.91  
 First electrode is located at 0.0 m.  
 Last electrode is located at 445.0 m.

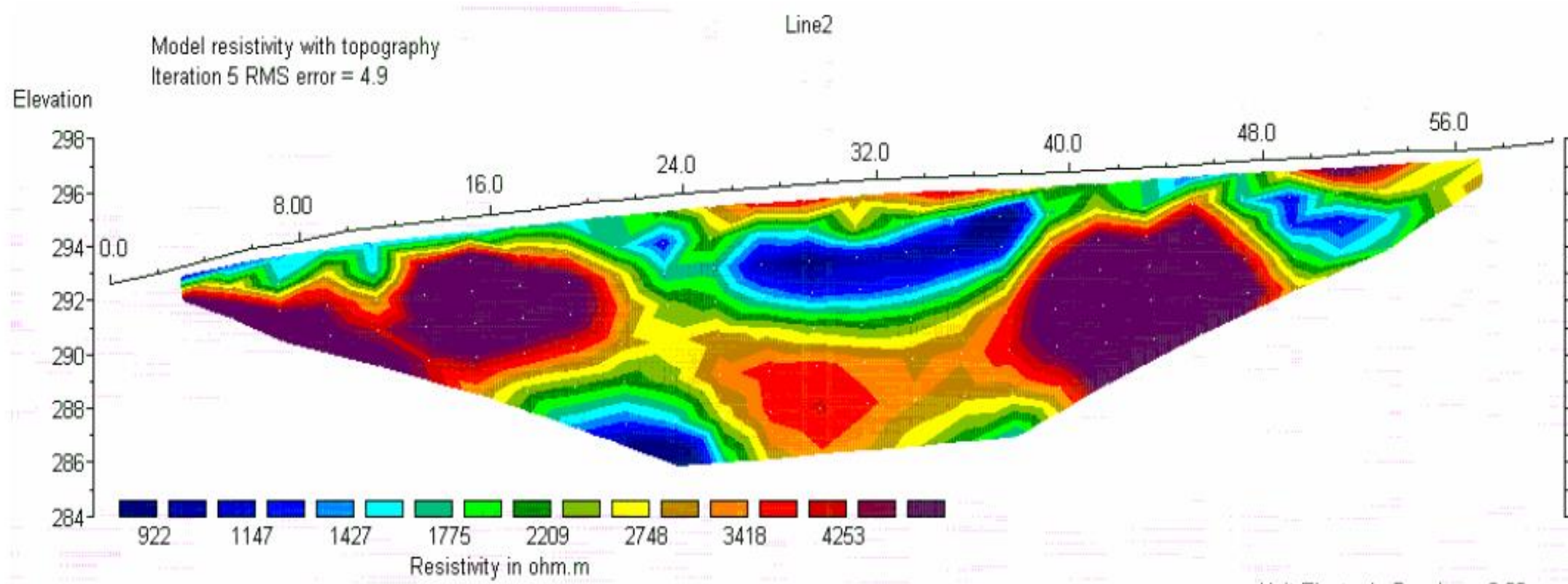


Horizontal scale is 10.47 pixels per unit spacing  
 Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.92  
 First electrode is located at 0.0 m.  
 Last electrode is located at 445.0 m.

Model resistivity with topography

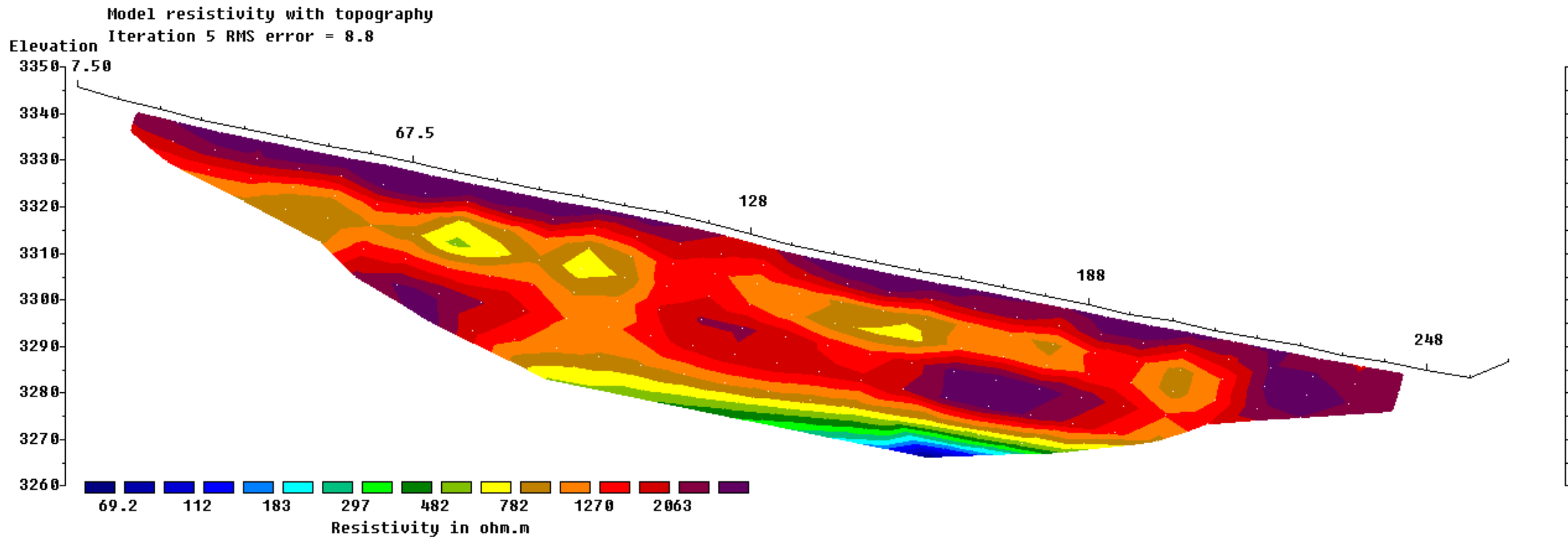
Iteration 3 Abs. error = 74.9





Unit Electrode Spacing = 2.00 m.

Horizontal scale is 31.40 pixels per unit spacing  
 Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.97  
 First electrode is located at 0.0 m.  
 Last electrode is located at 60.0 m.



Horizontal scale is 35.26 pixels per unit spacing  
Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.80  
First electrode is located at 7.5 m.  
Last electrode is located at 262.5 m.

Iteration 5 RMS error = 5.5

Elevation

22.1  
18.8  
15.5  
12.3  
9.0

0.0

16.0

32.0

48.0

64.0

80.0

Boulder?

Zone of water  
accumulation

Boulder?



395

521

688

908

1198

1581

2086

2753

Resistivity in Ohm.Meter

Electrode Spacing = 2.0 M.

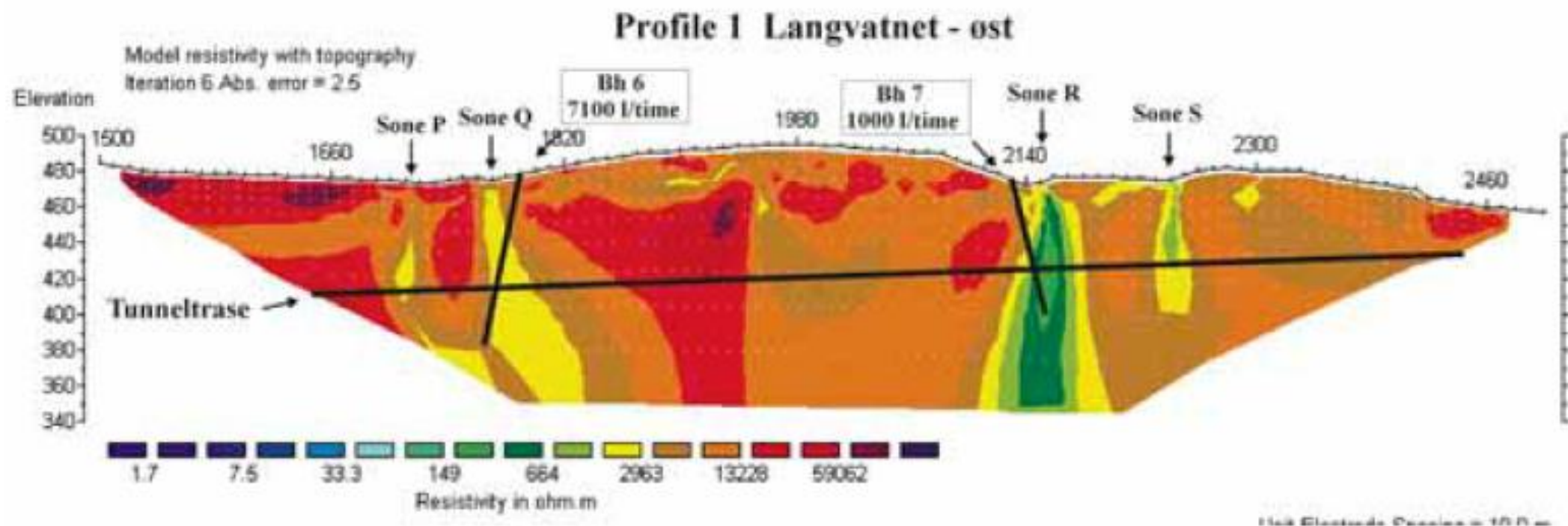
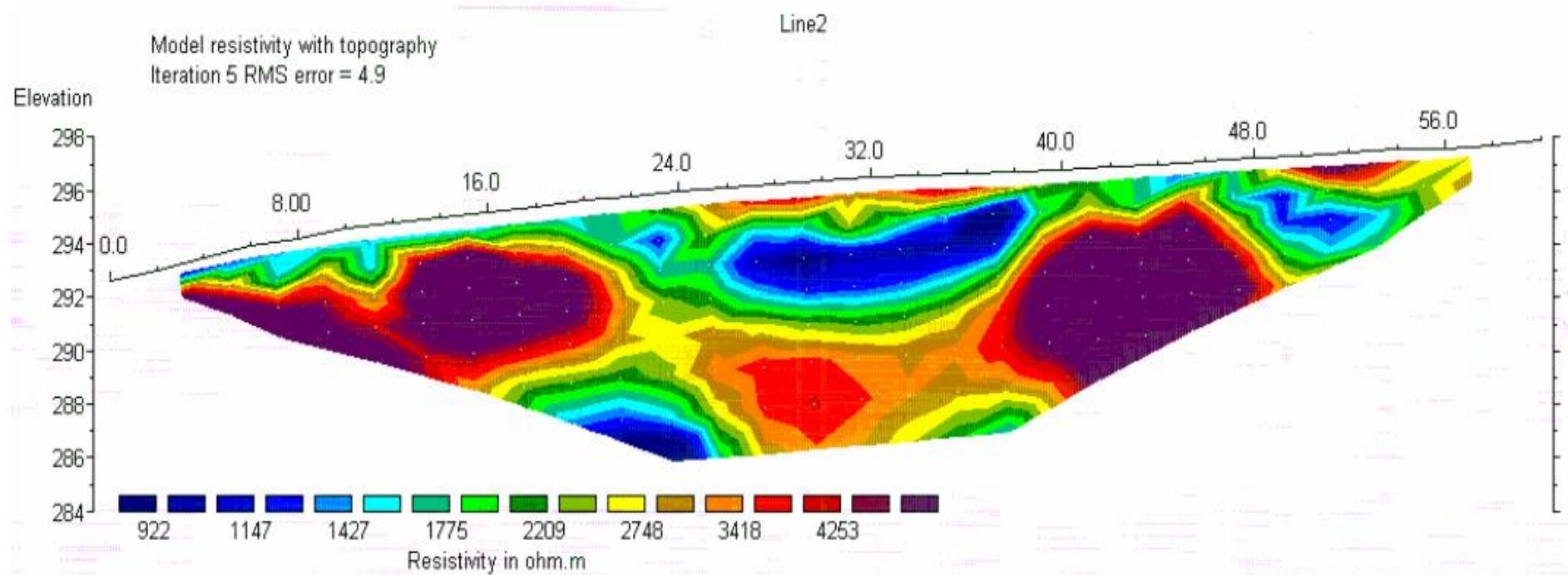


Figure 4 Resistivity profile from a section of the Lunner tunnel. Zones of low resistivity are further examined by borehole logging.



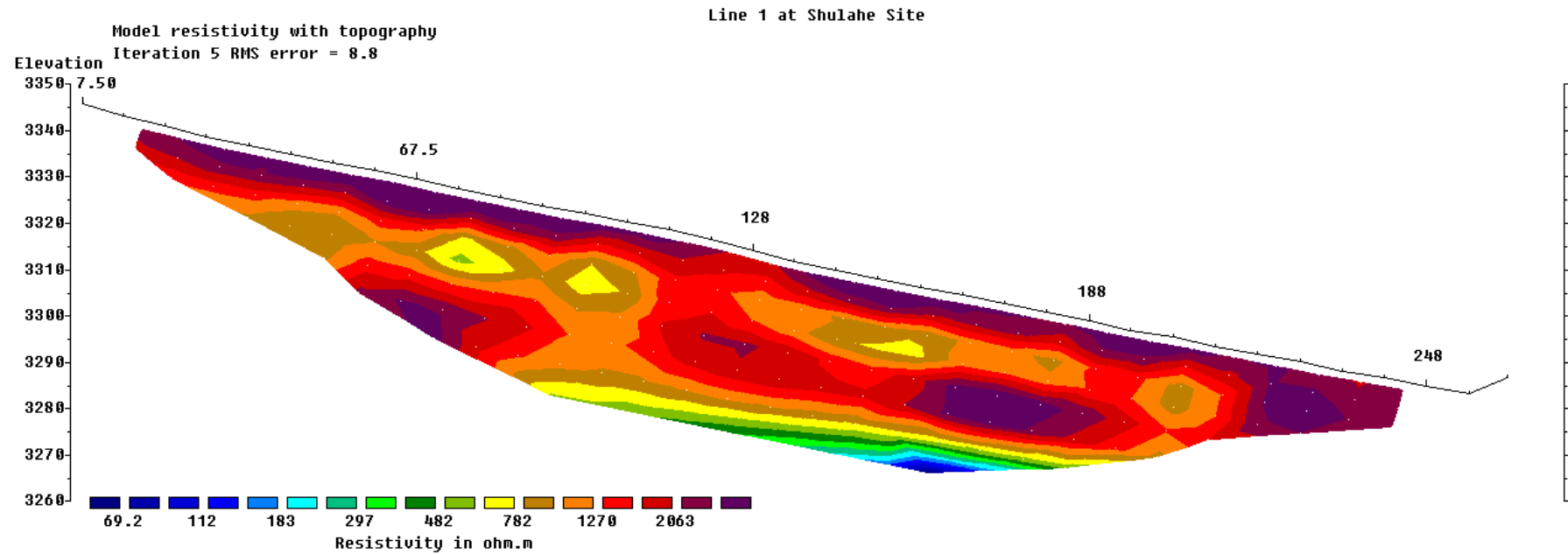
# Example.....



Horizontal scale is 31.40 pixels per unit spacing  
Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.97  
First electrode is located at 0.0 m.  
Last electrode is located at 60.0 m.

Unit Electrode Spacing = 2.00 m.

# Example.....



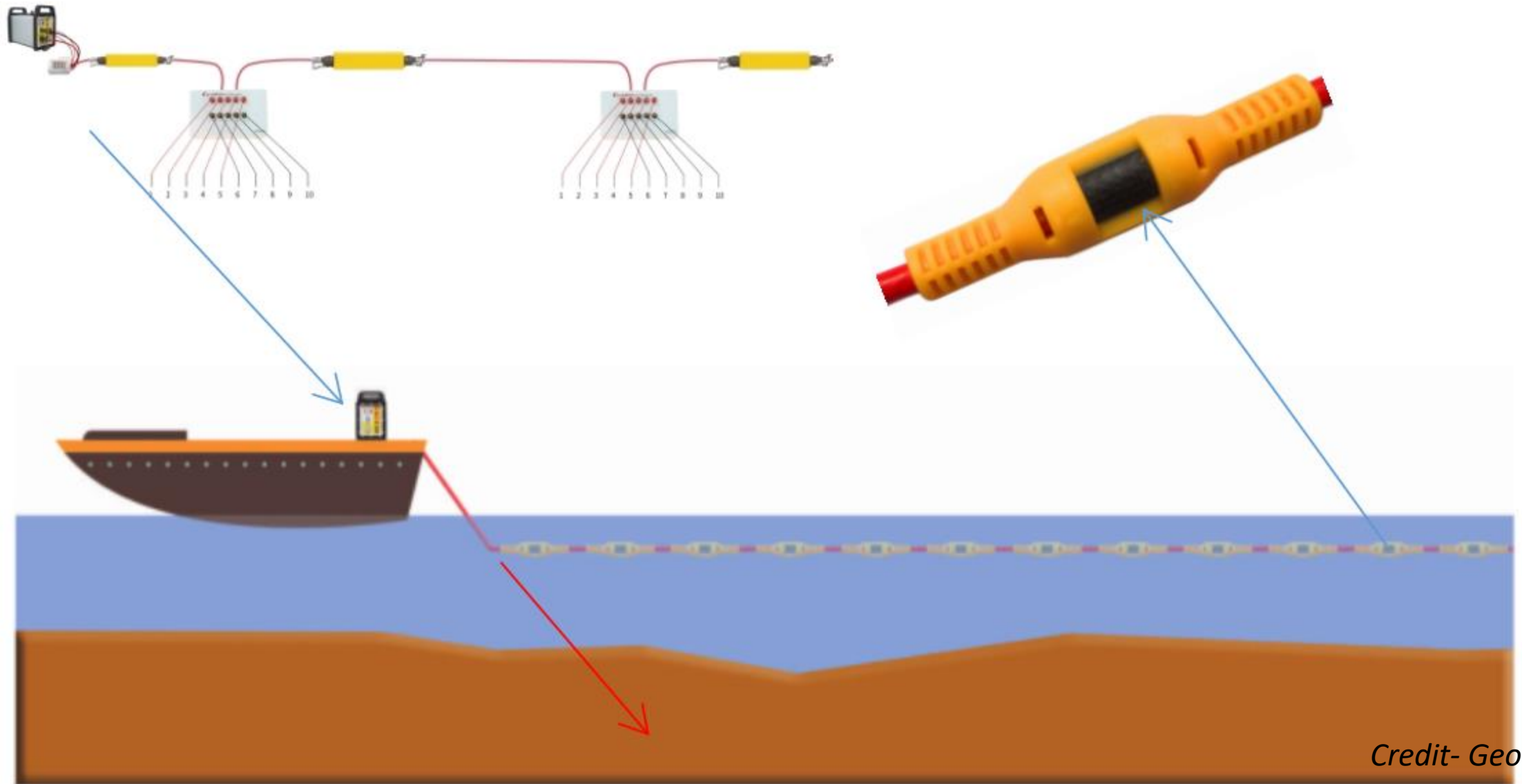
Unit Electrode Spacing = 7.50 m.

Horizontal scale is 35.26 pixels per unit spacing  
Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.80  
First electrode is located at 7.5 m.  
Last electrode is located at 262.5 m.

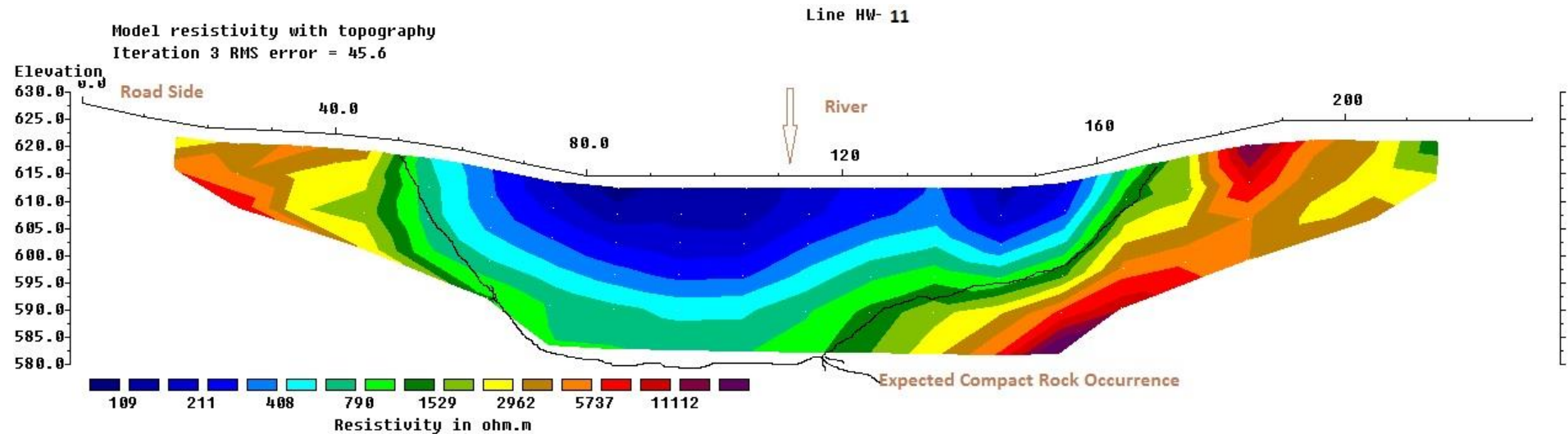
# River Crossing.....



# Submersible ERT cables with Titanium alloy takeouts



# River Crossing.....

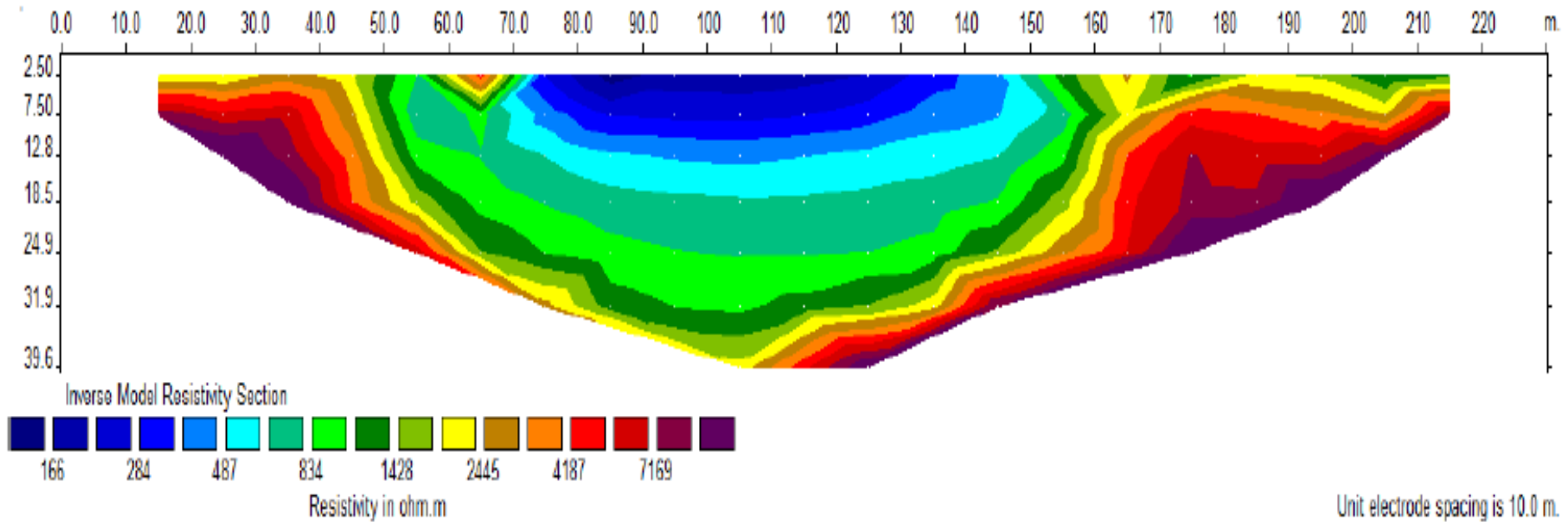


Unit Electrode Spacing = 10.0 m.

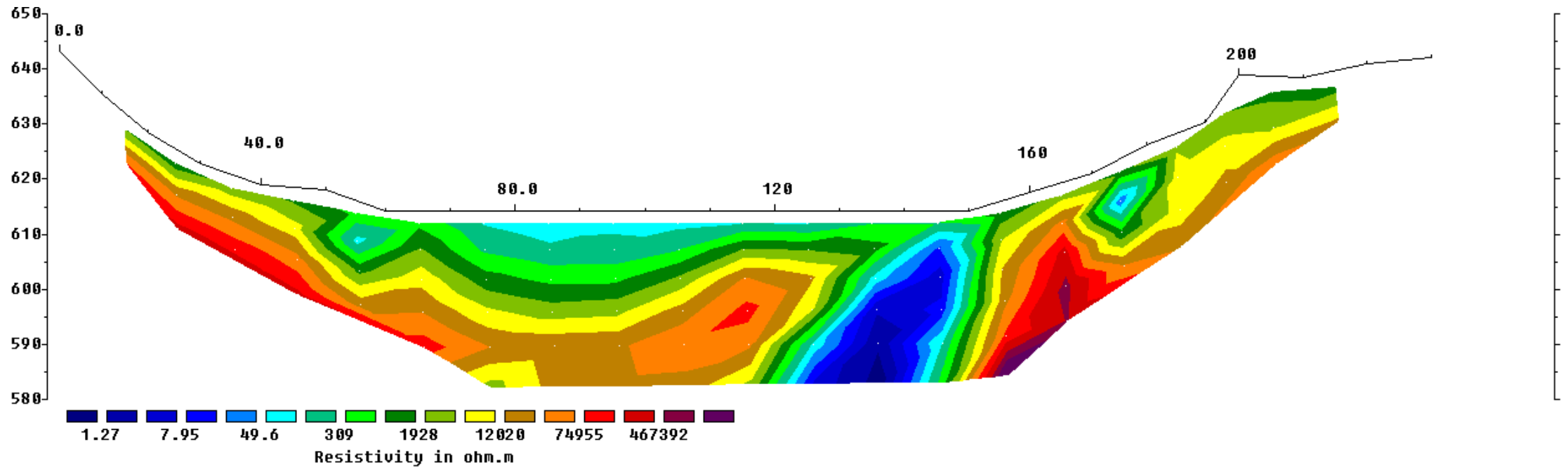
Horizontal scale is 52.13 pixels per unit spacing  
Vertical exaggeration in model section display = 0.85  
First electrode is located at 0.0 m.  
Last electrode is located at 230.0 m.

# River Crossing.....

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# River Crossing (Dam Axis)- Shear Zone.....

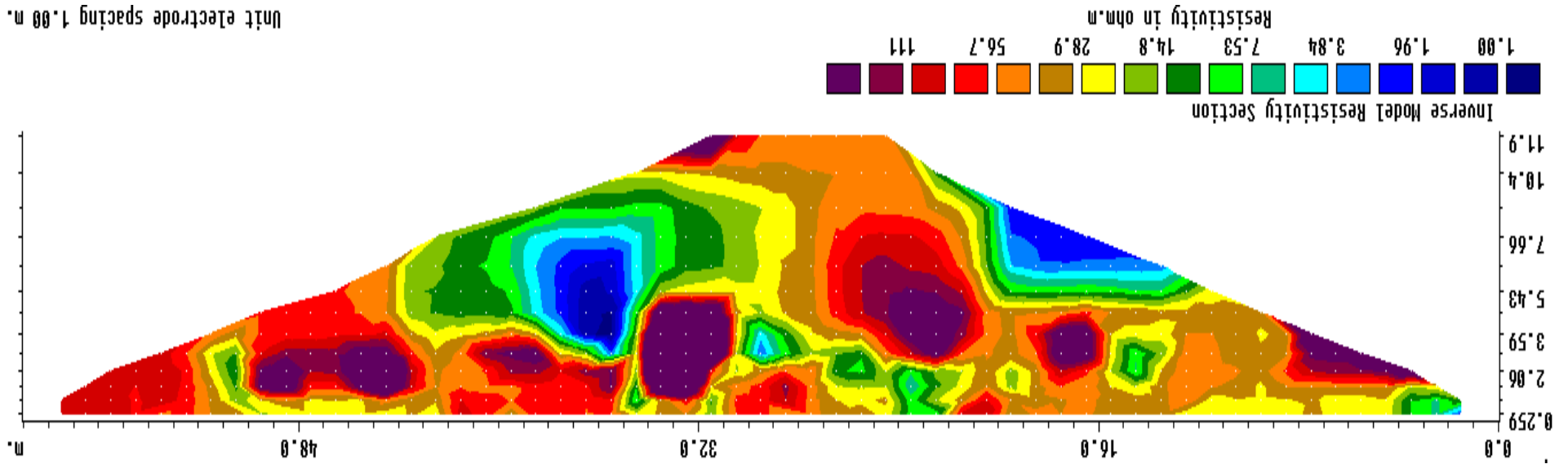


# Electrical Resistivity- Existing Tunnels Seepage...

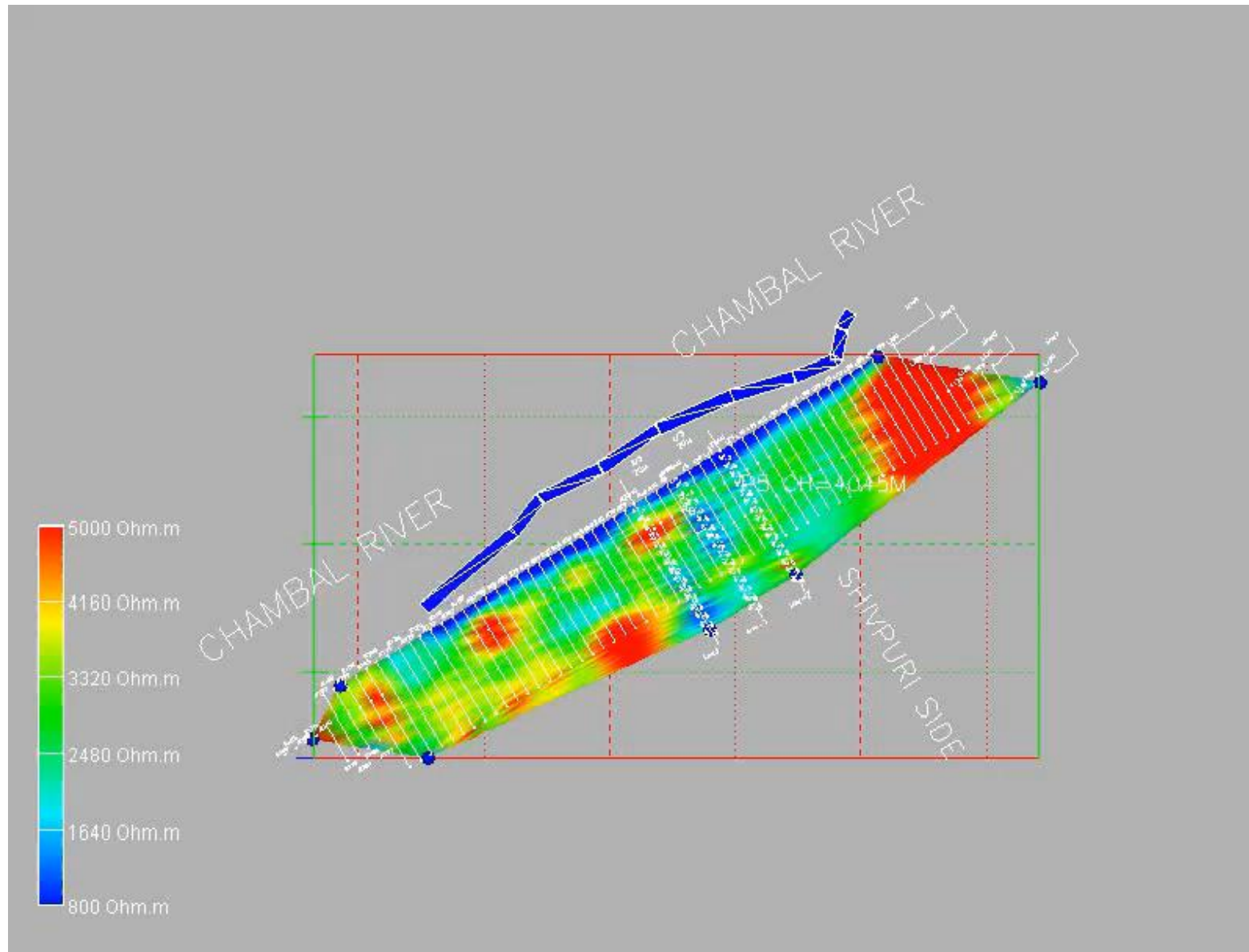




# Electrical Resistivity Imaging Results...



# Electrical Resistivity Imaging Results- 3D Volume...



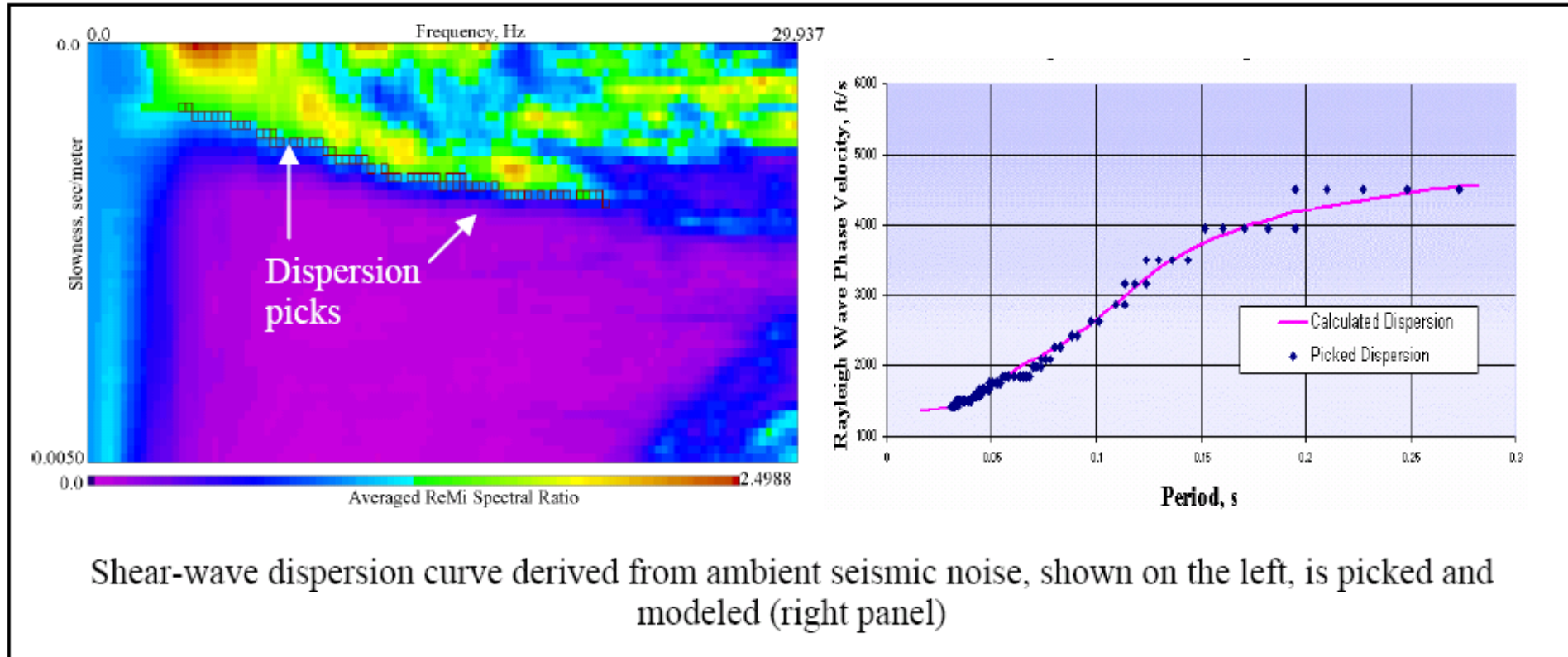
# Electrical Resistivity Imaging- Applications Areas

- Tunnel Portals
- Tunnel alignment/ tunnel route
- Inspection of existing tunnels (seepage zones)
- Complimentary tool to any geotechnical investigation

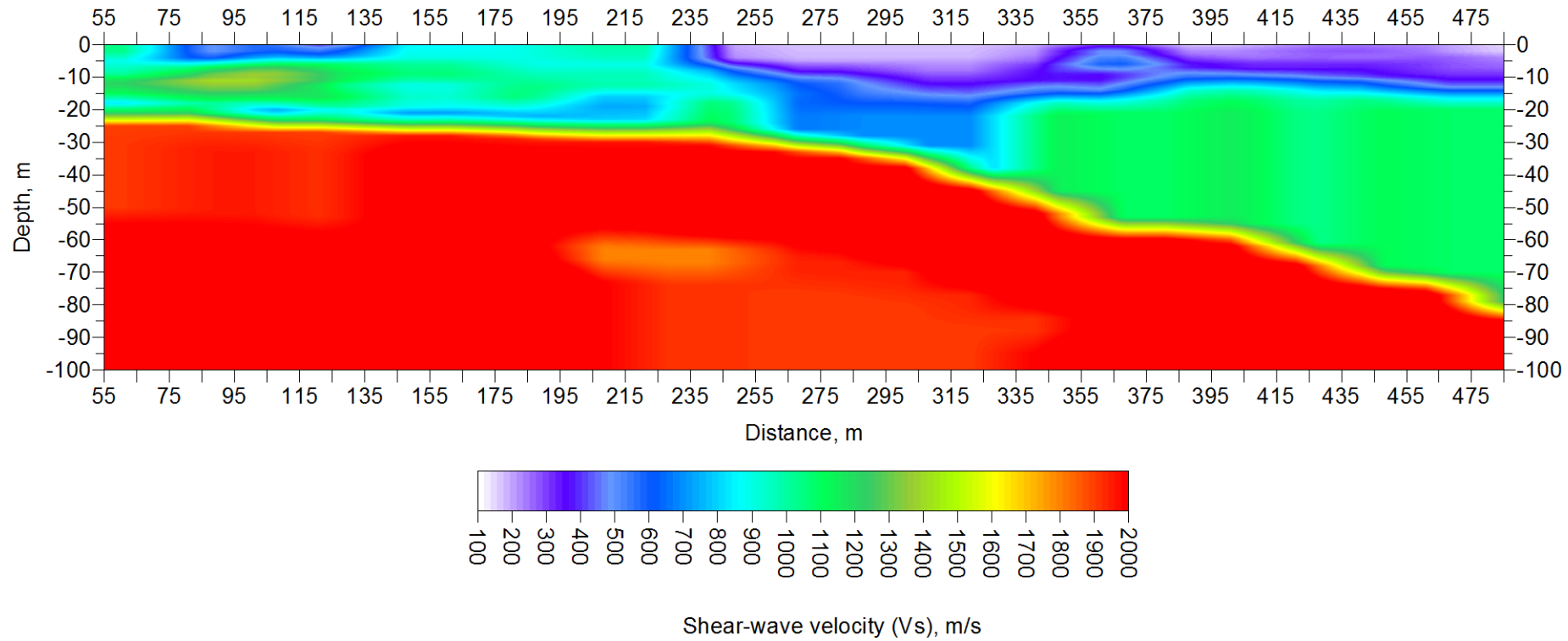
ReMi/ MASW

WSAM \ MASW

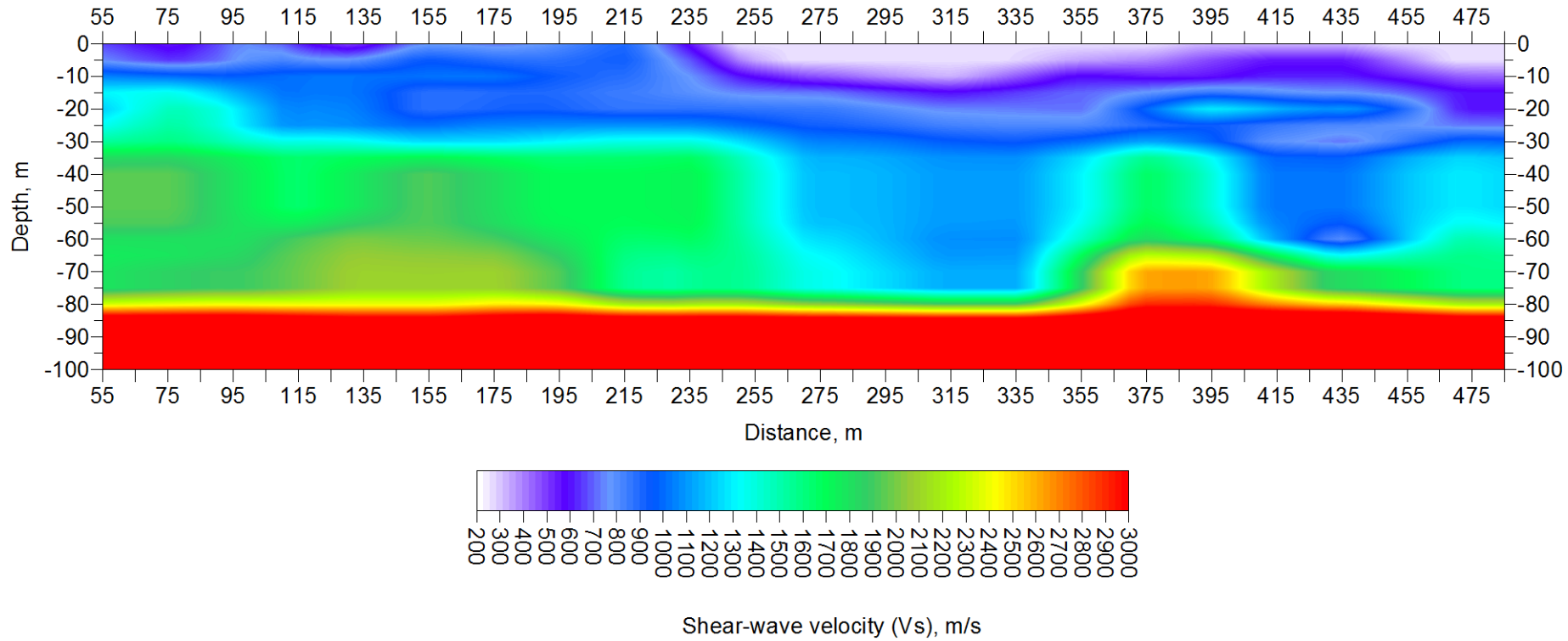
# Basic Principle...



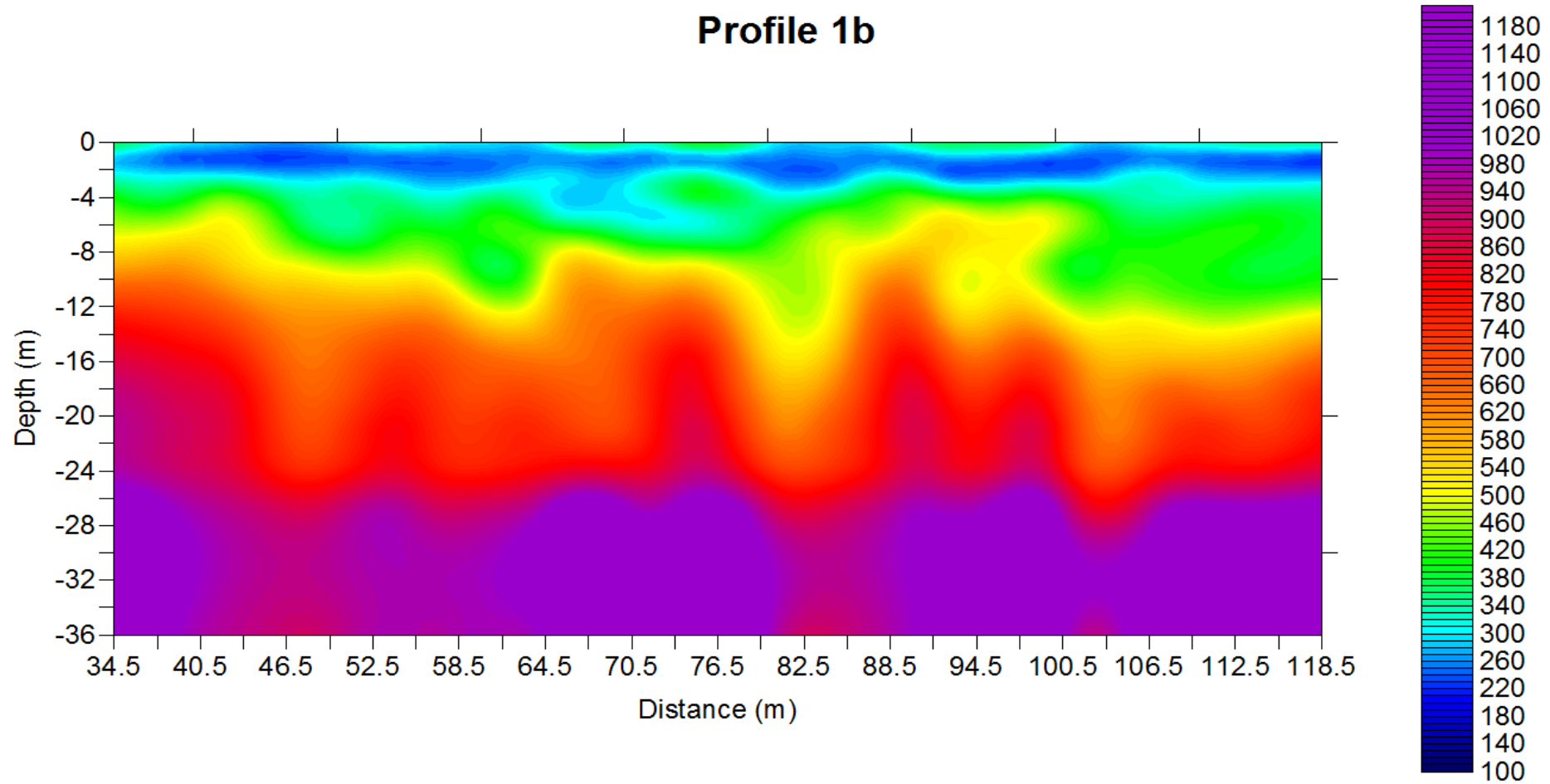
# ReMi Results...



# ReMi Results...

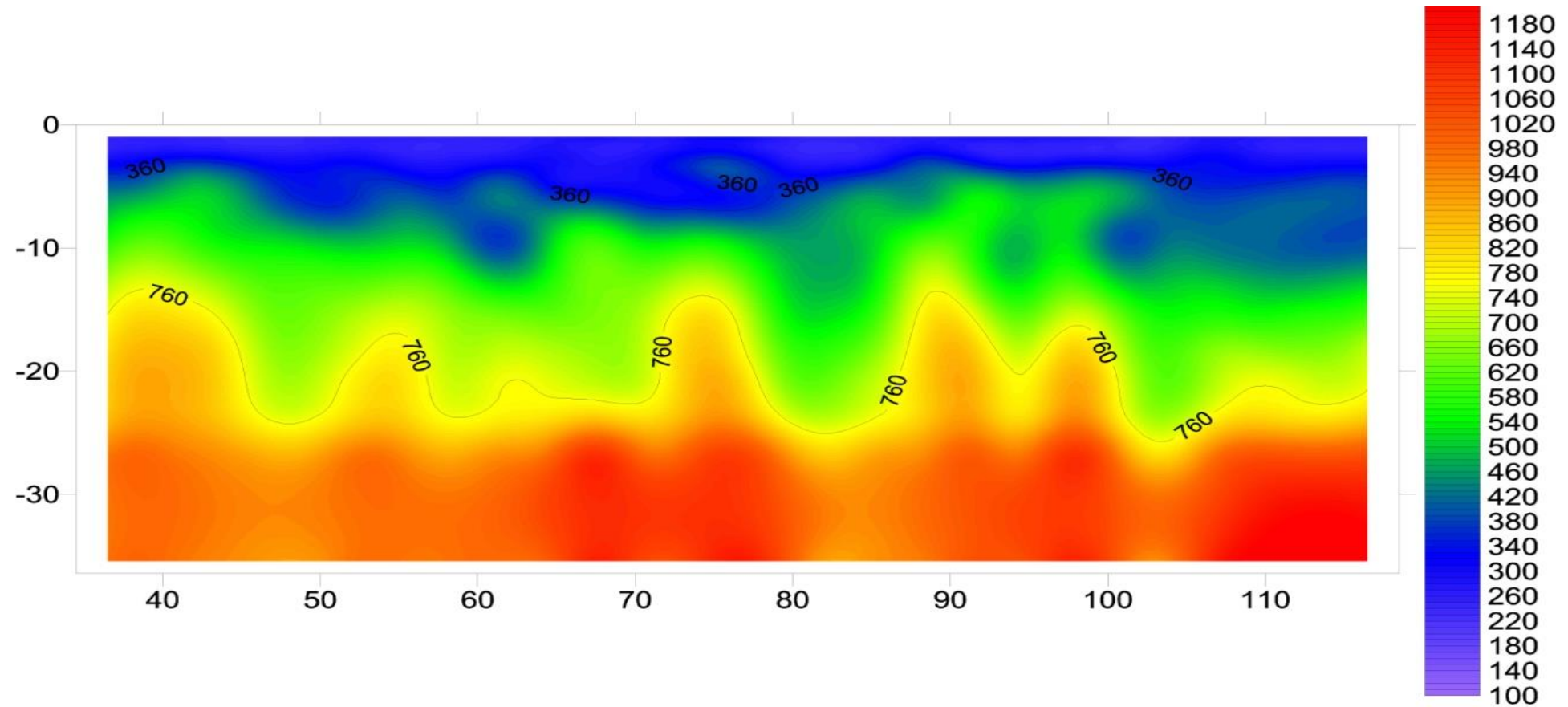


# Shear Wave Velocity.....

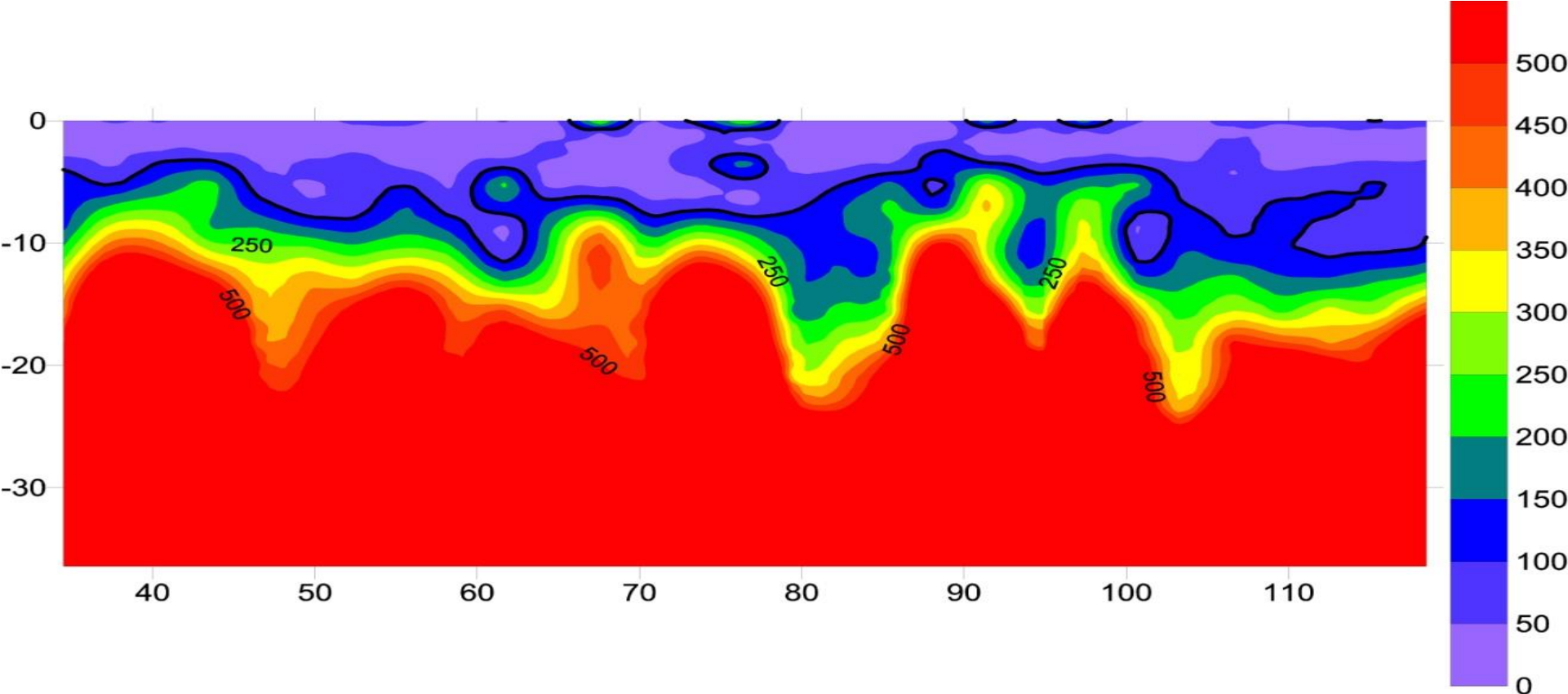




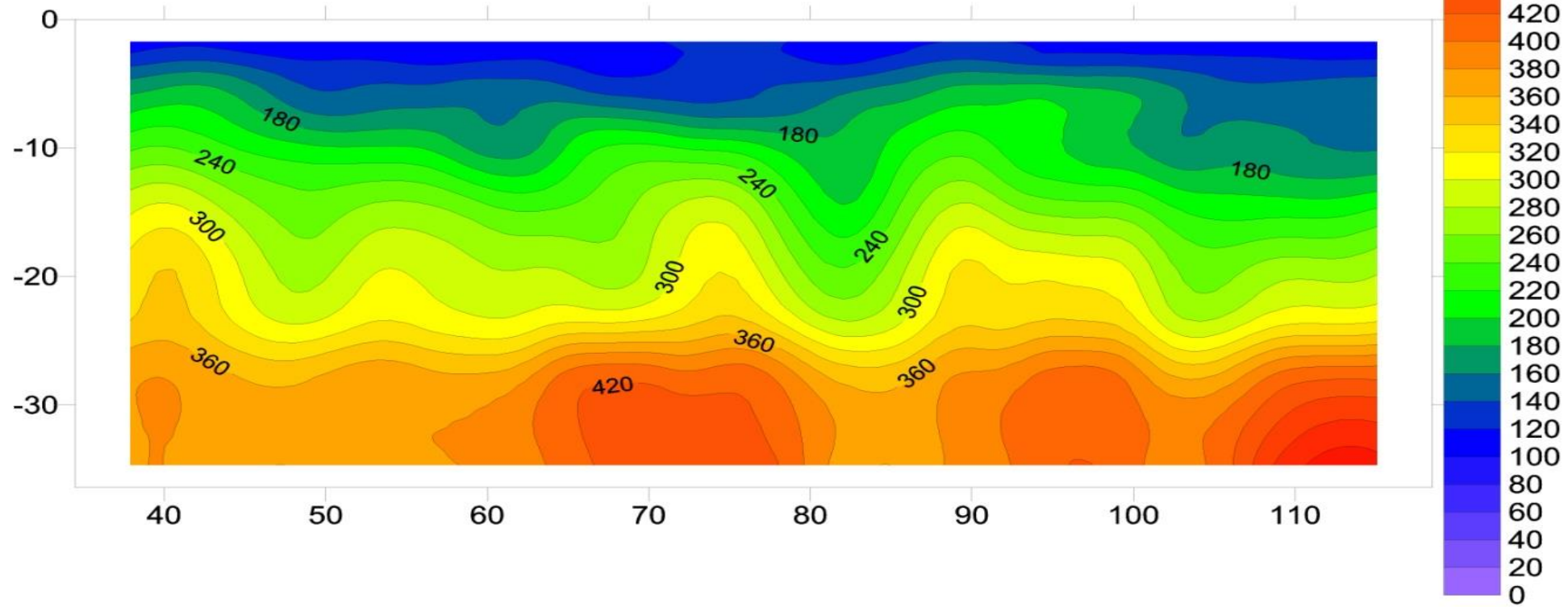
# Site Classification.....



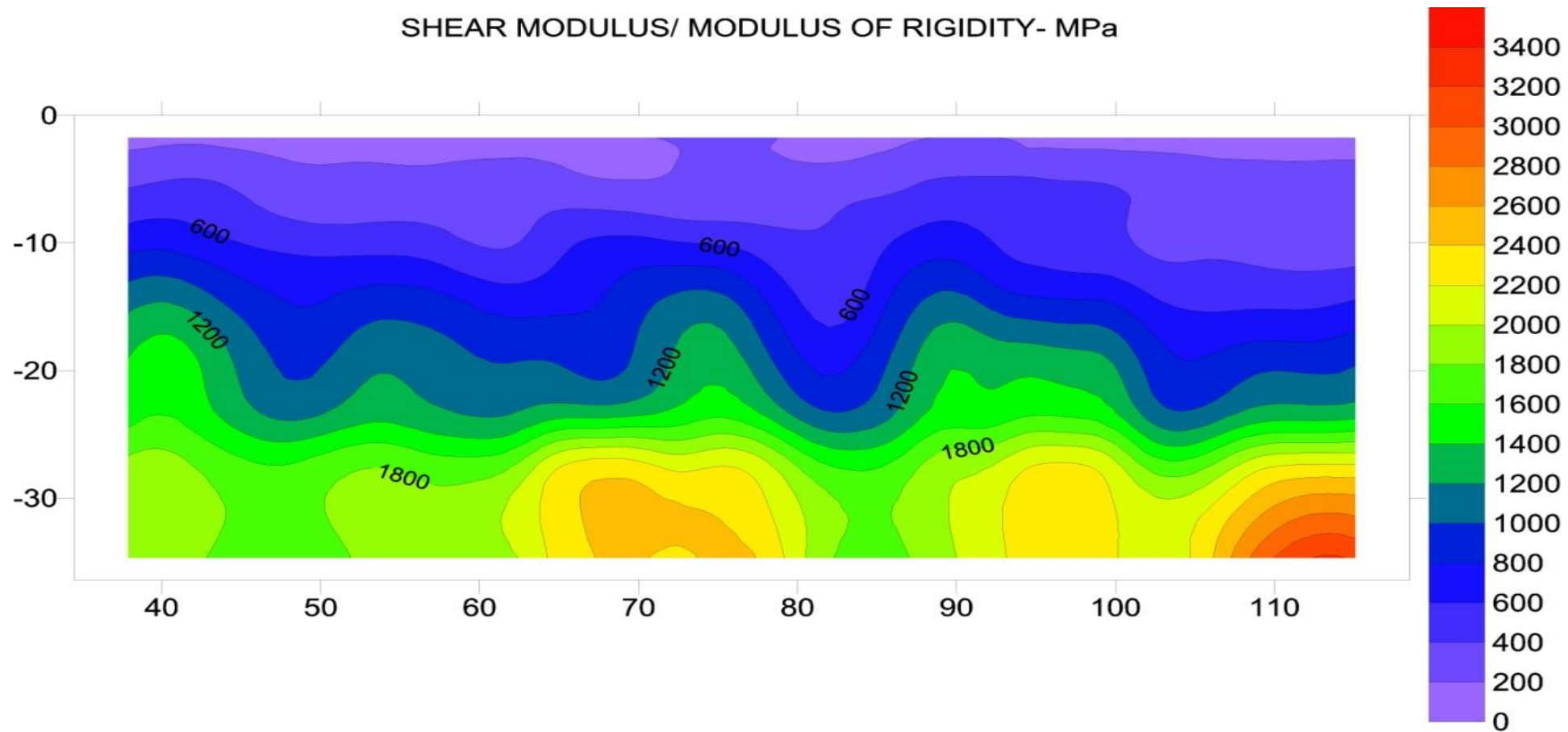
# N Value Distribution.....



ALLOWABLE BEARING CAPACITY (kN/m<sup>2</sup>)



SHEAR MODULUS/ MODULUS OF RIGIDITY- MPa



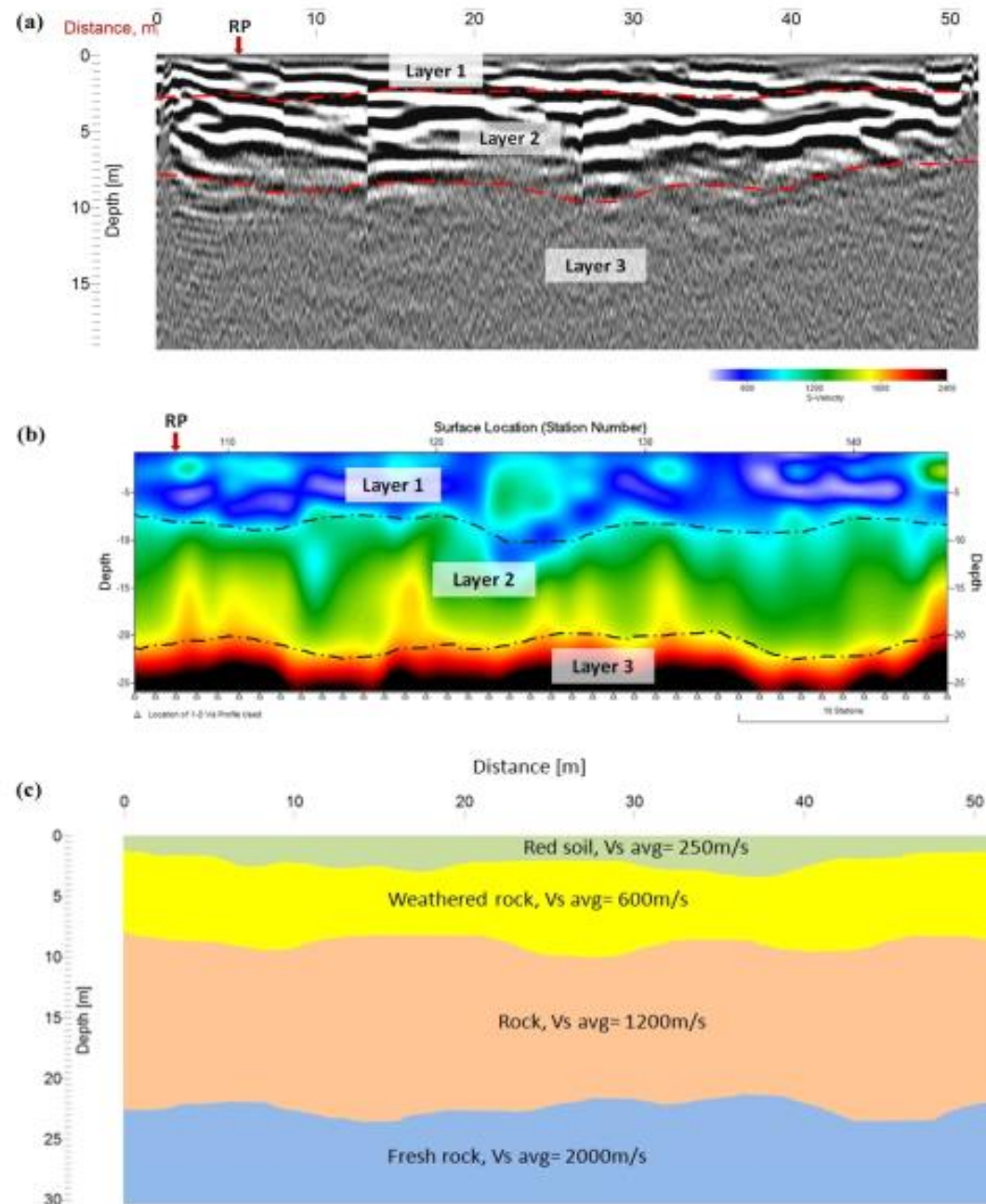
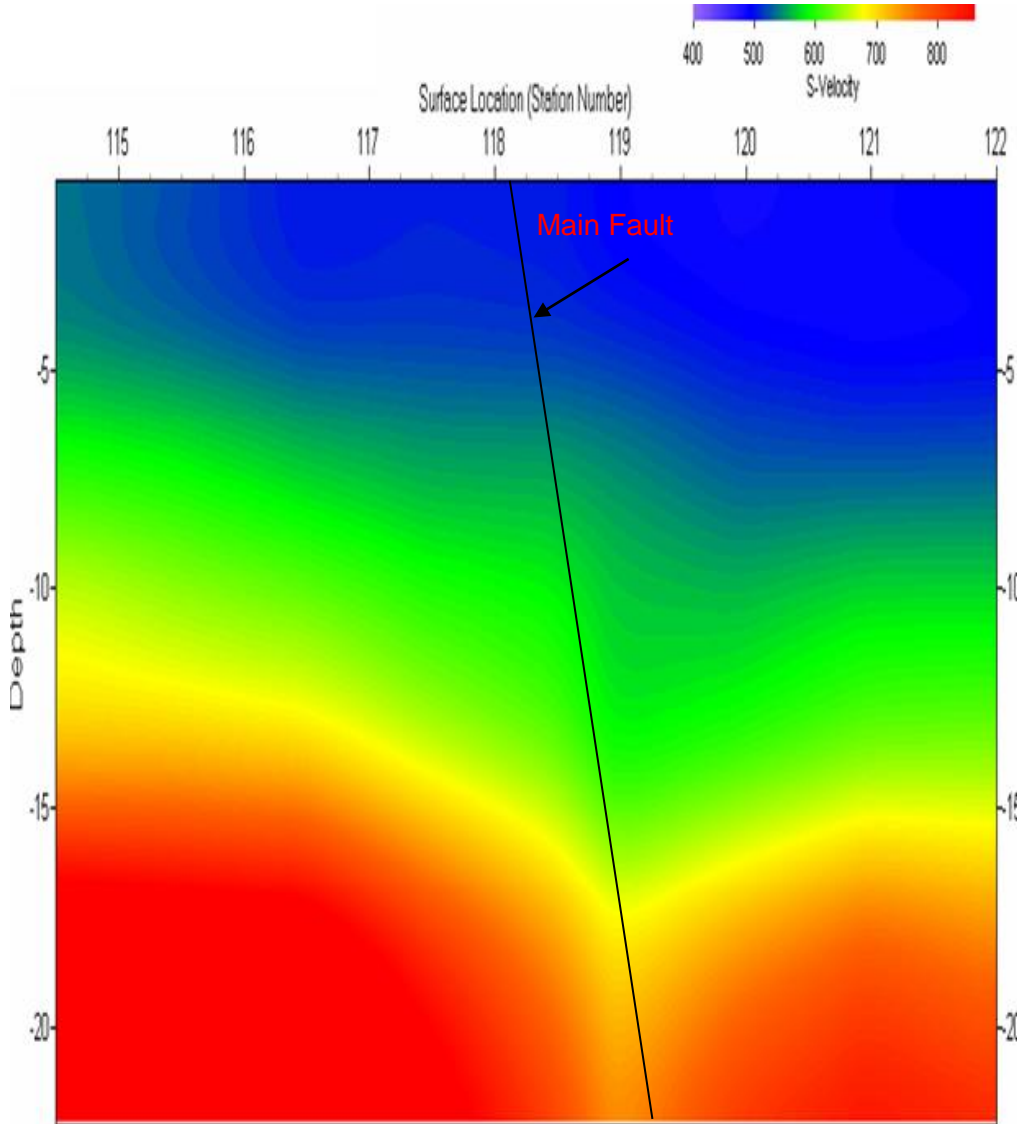
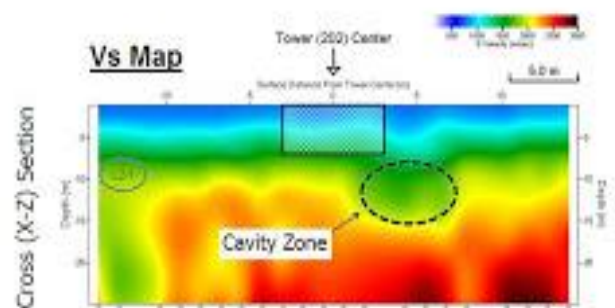


Figure 12. (a) GPR profile of line 2 after all corrections at the IISc site. (b) 2D MASW profile of line 2 at the IISc site. (c) Final subsurface profile of line 2 by comparing all the methods.

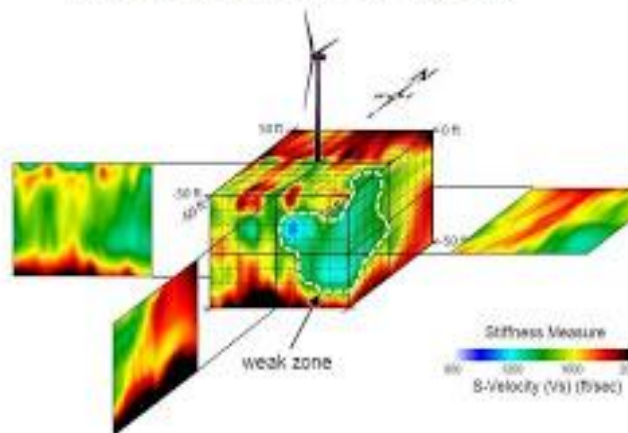
# Detection of subsurface fault using MASW technique



### Cavity Detection (2-D)



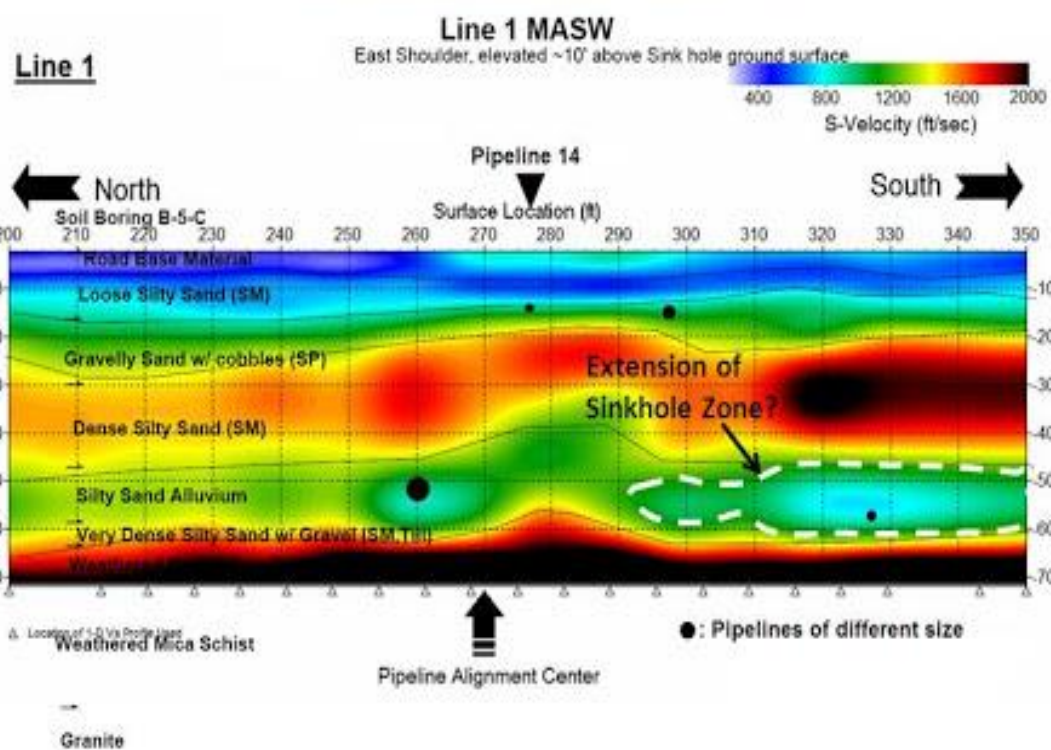
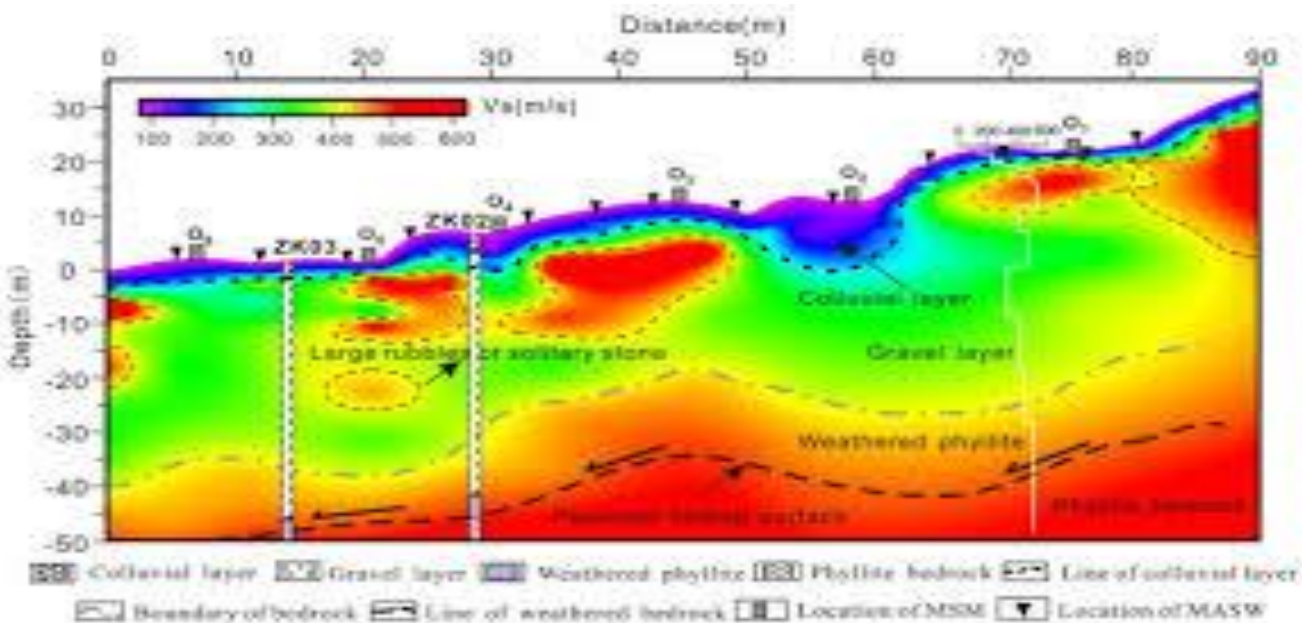
### Weak Zone Detection (3-D)



### Sinkhole study



### Landslide Study



A 2-D Vs map showing subsurface stiffness distribution matched to buried features of pipelines and borehole data. The survey was undertaken about 30 ft away from a surface subsidence sinkhole to map its possible subsurface extension.

# MASW- Applications Areas

- Tunnel Portals
- Detection of cavities/ voids
- Liquefaction analysis
- Earthquake site response
- Complimentary tool to any geotechnical investigation

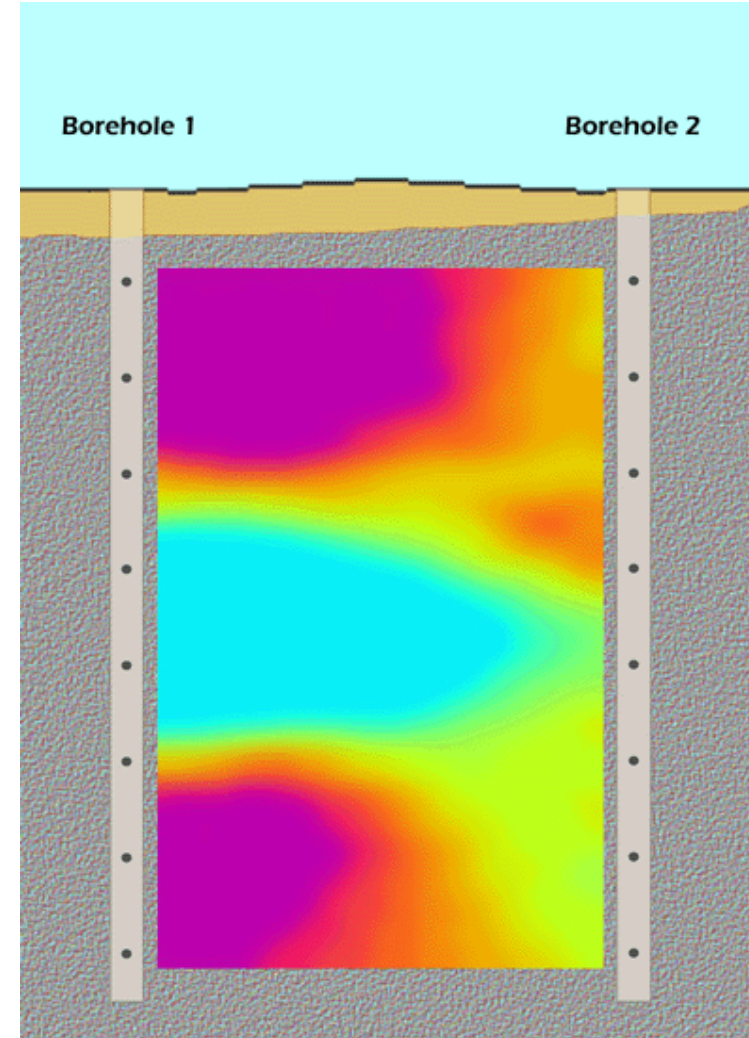


**Seismic (Sonic) Tomography**

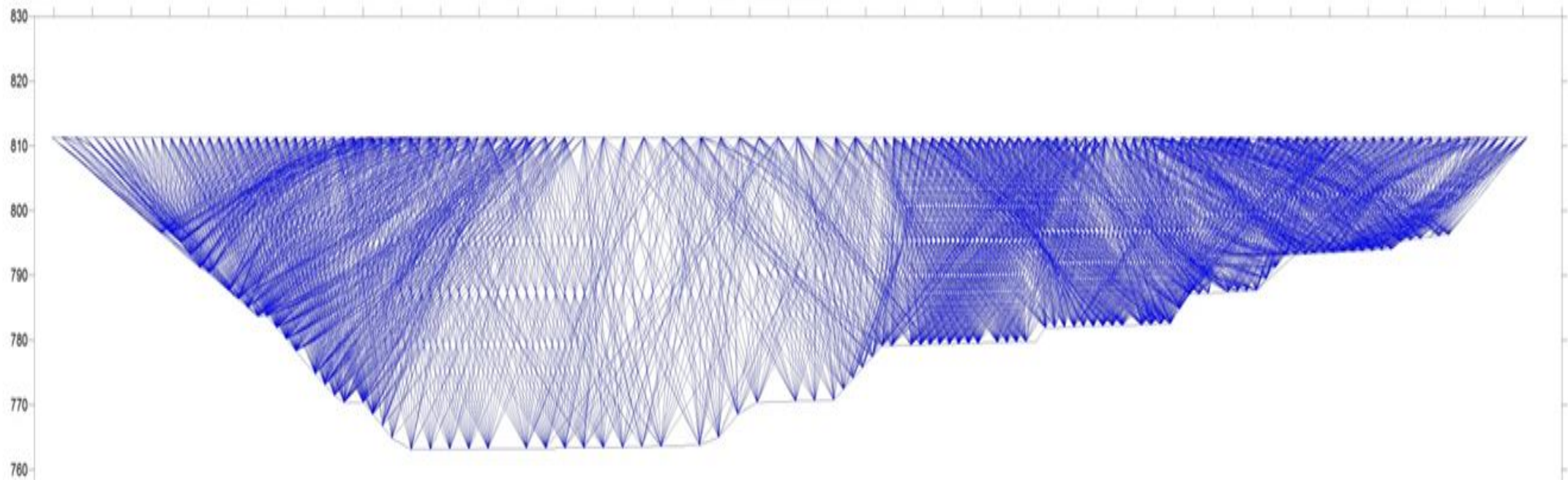
σεισμική (ζωνική) τομογραφία

# Application of Seismic Tomography...

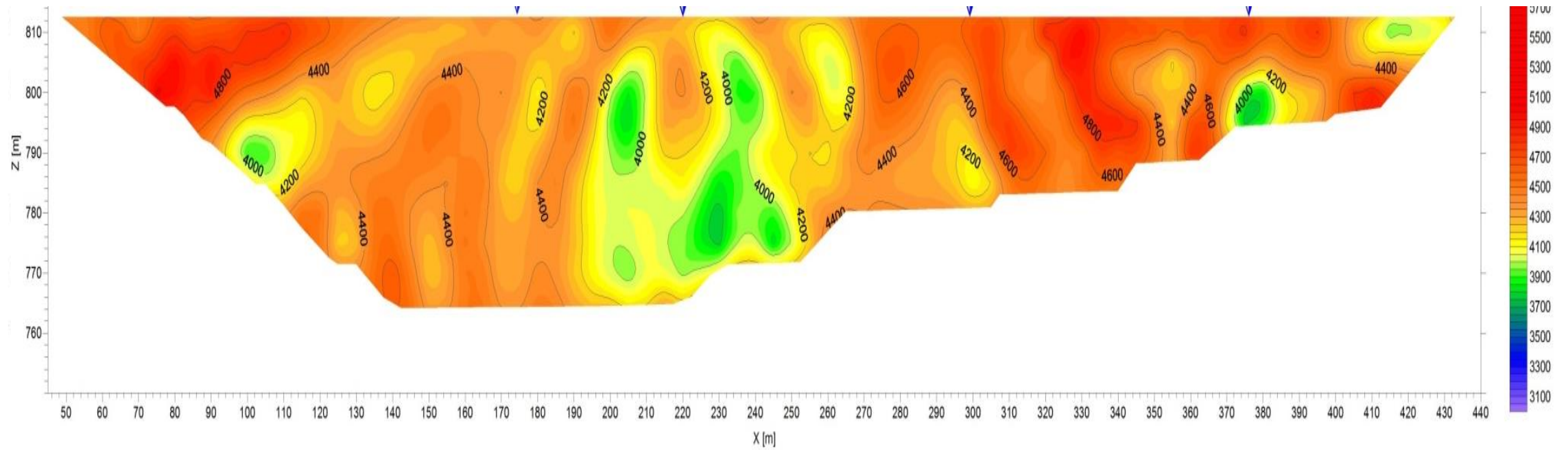
- Provides high resolution images of subsurface
- Provides P wave velocity- Directly linked to strength & Density
- Done between two boreholes/ faces
- Possible to pin-point weak zones
- Determines treatment success by pre and post treatment study



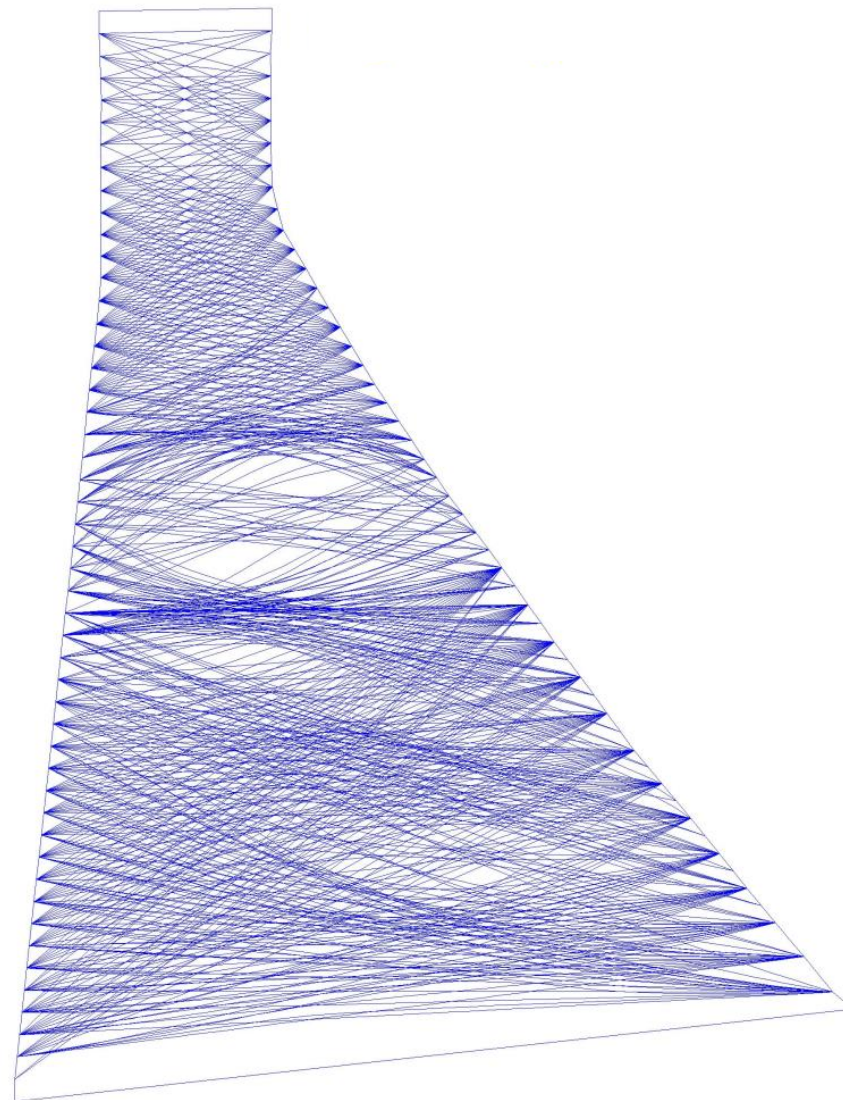
# L-Section Tomography...Ray Path Coverage



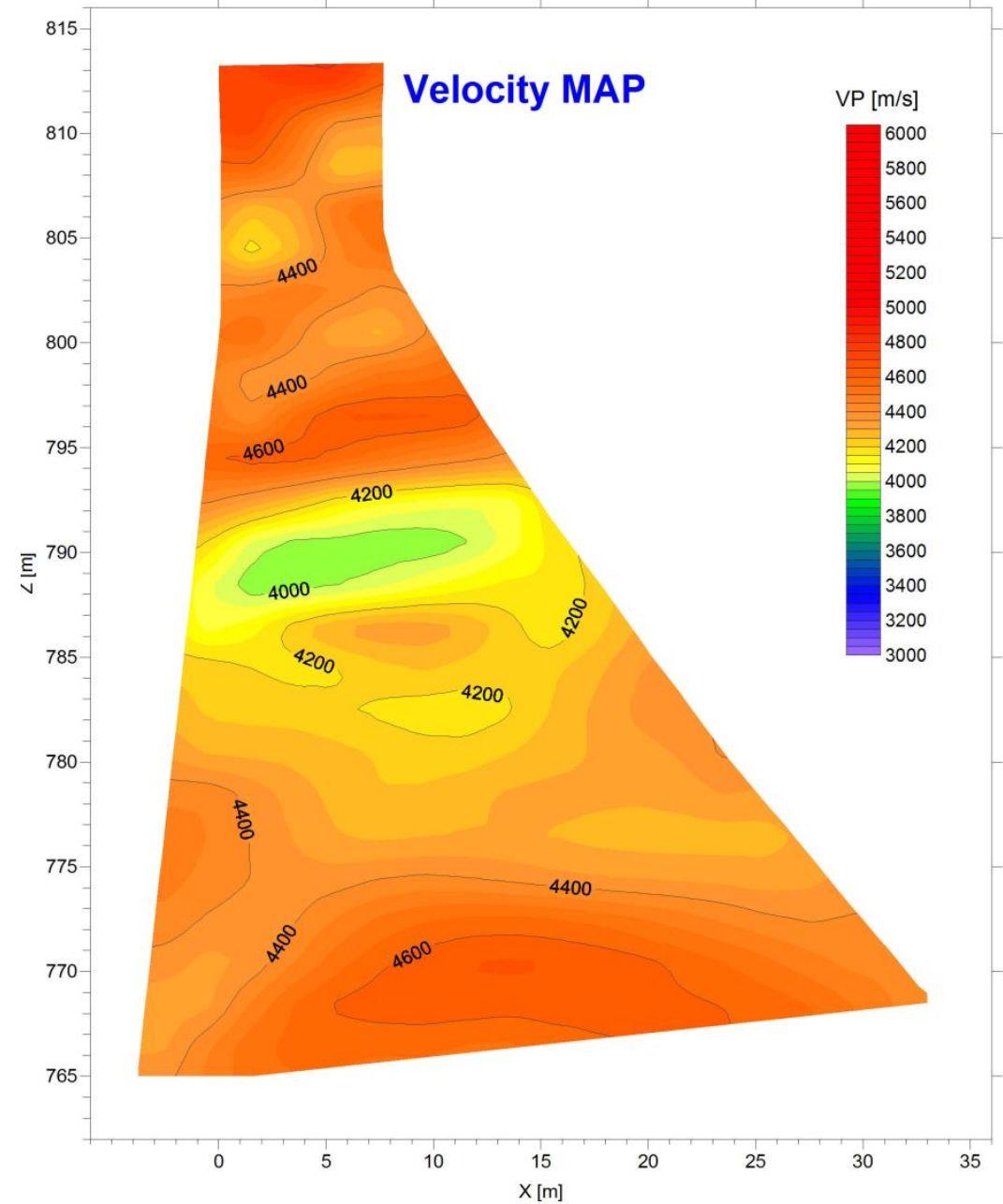
# L-Section Tomography..Inversion & Velocity Model

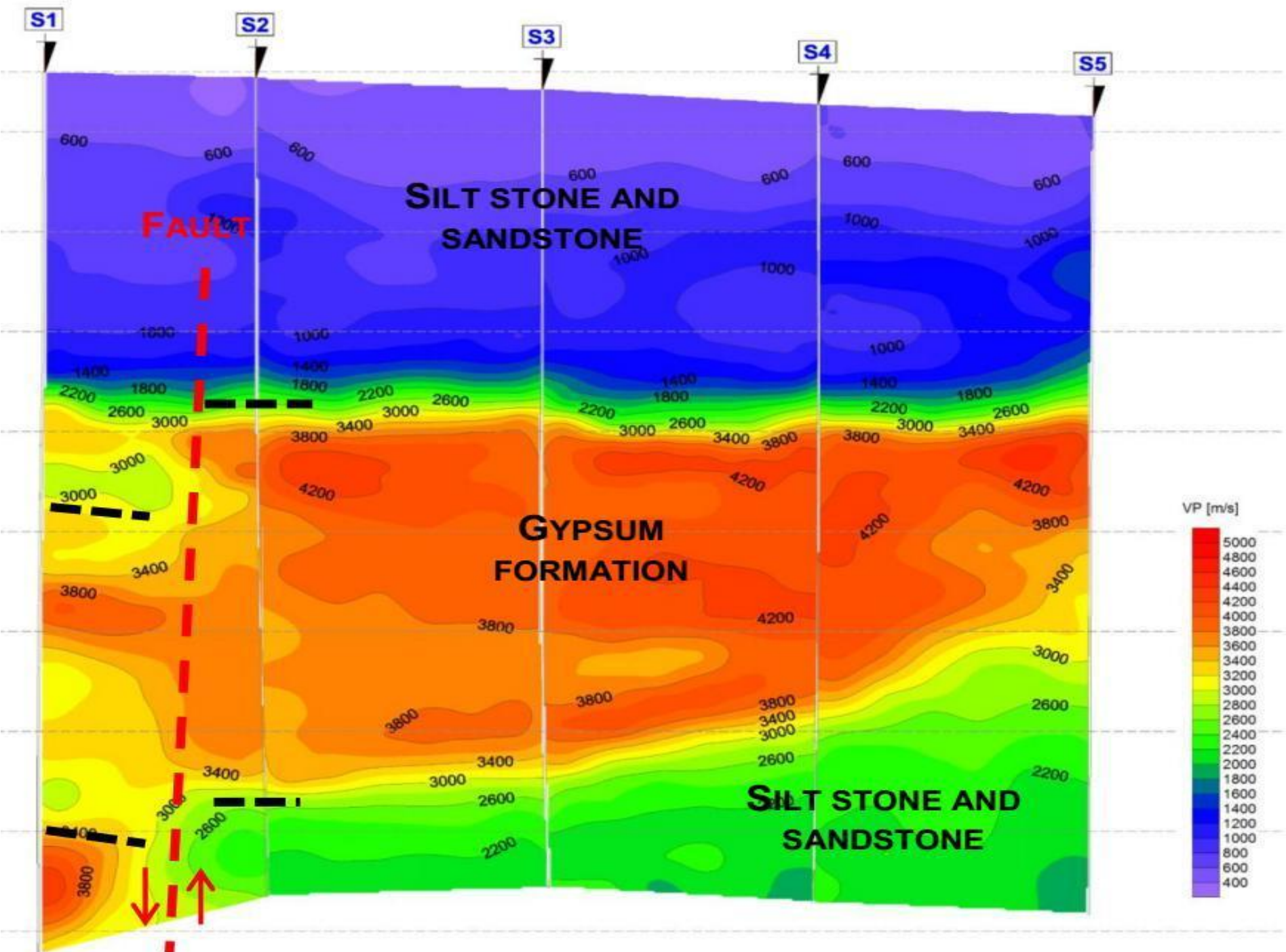


# Cross Face Tomography... Ray Coverage

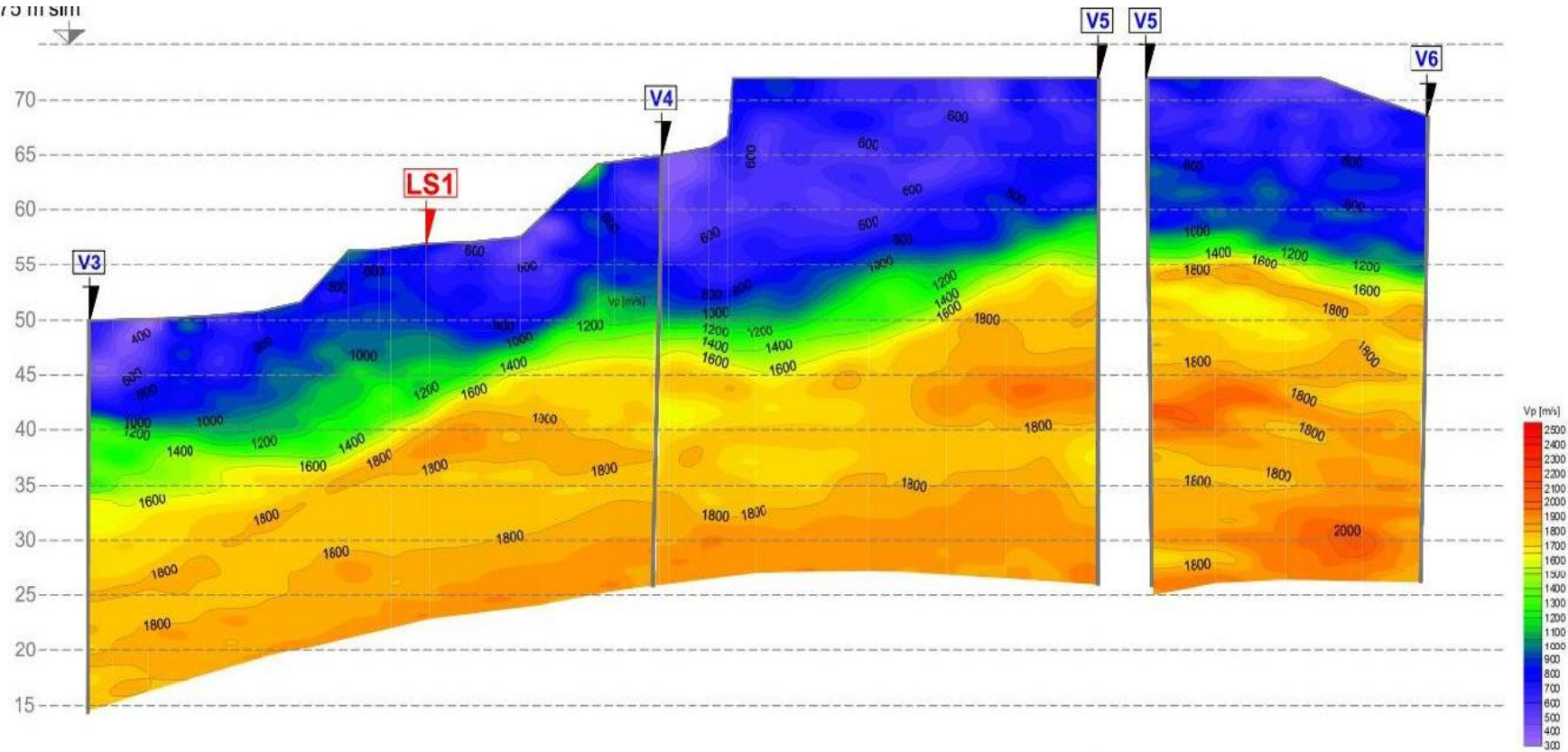


# Cross Face Tomography... Inversion & Velocity Model

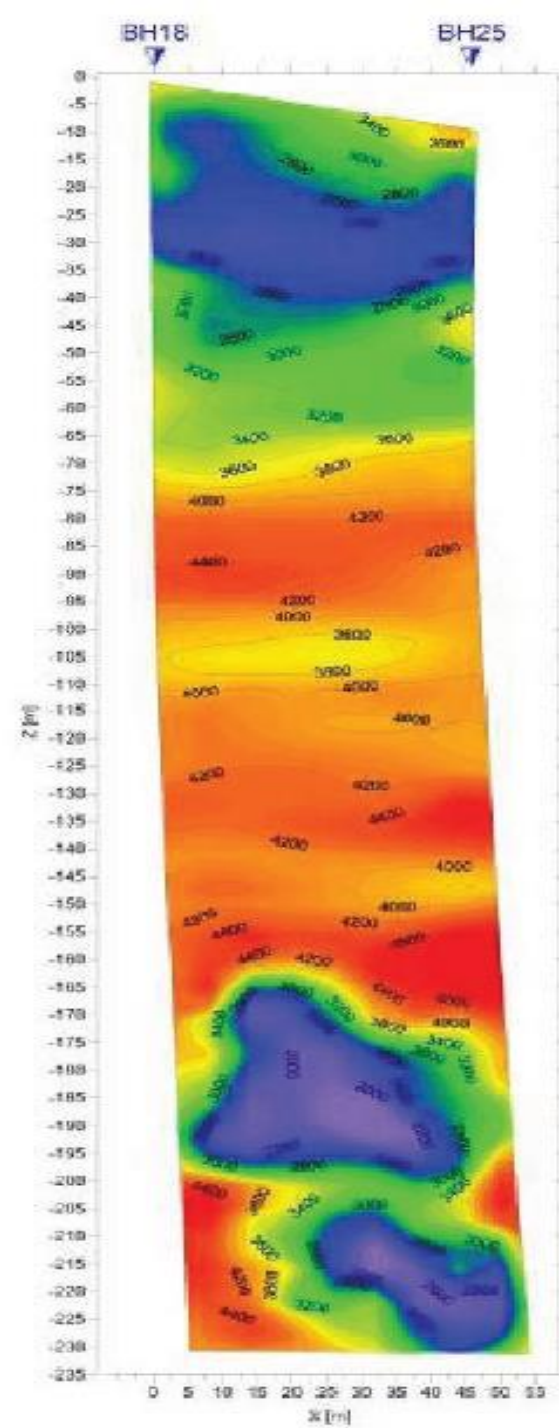
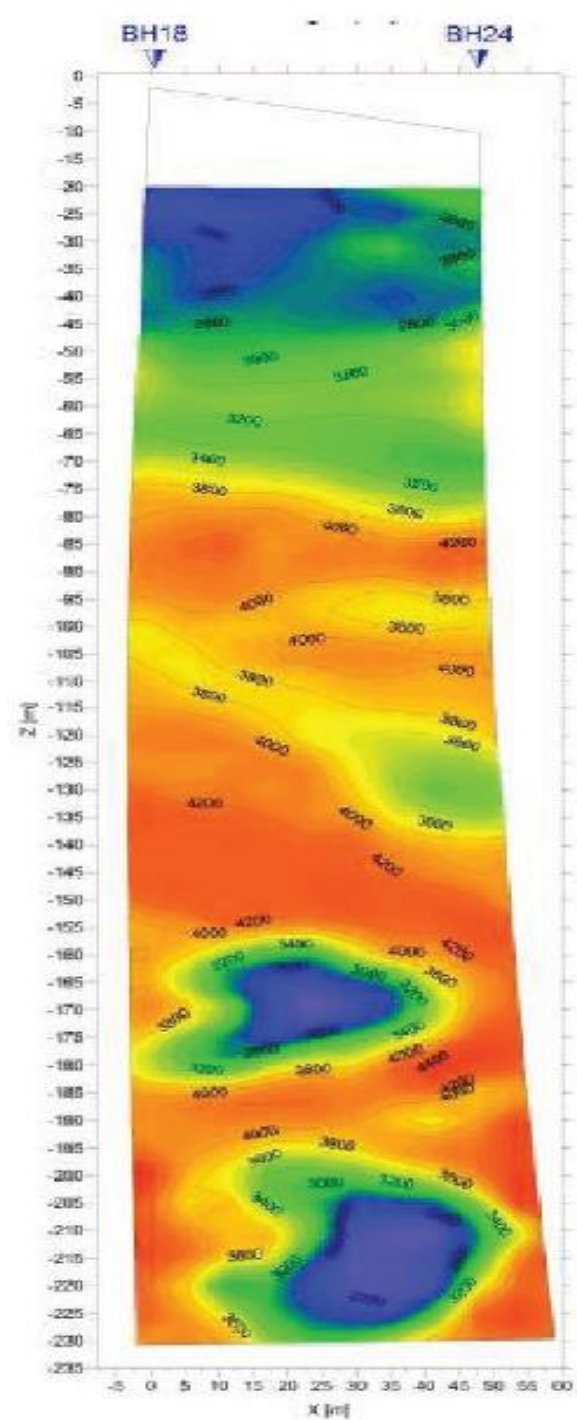
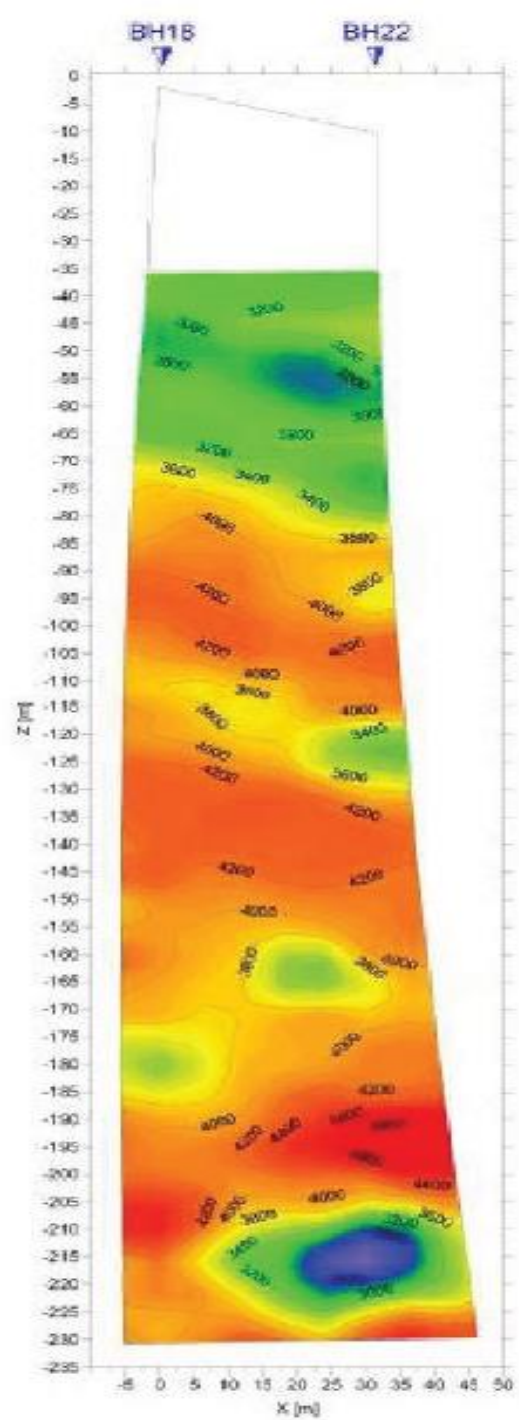


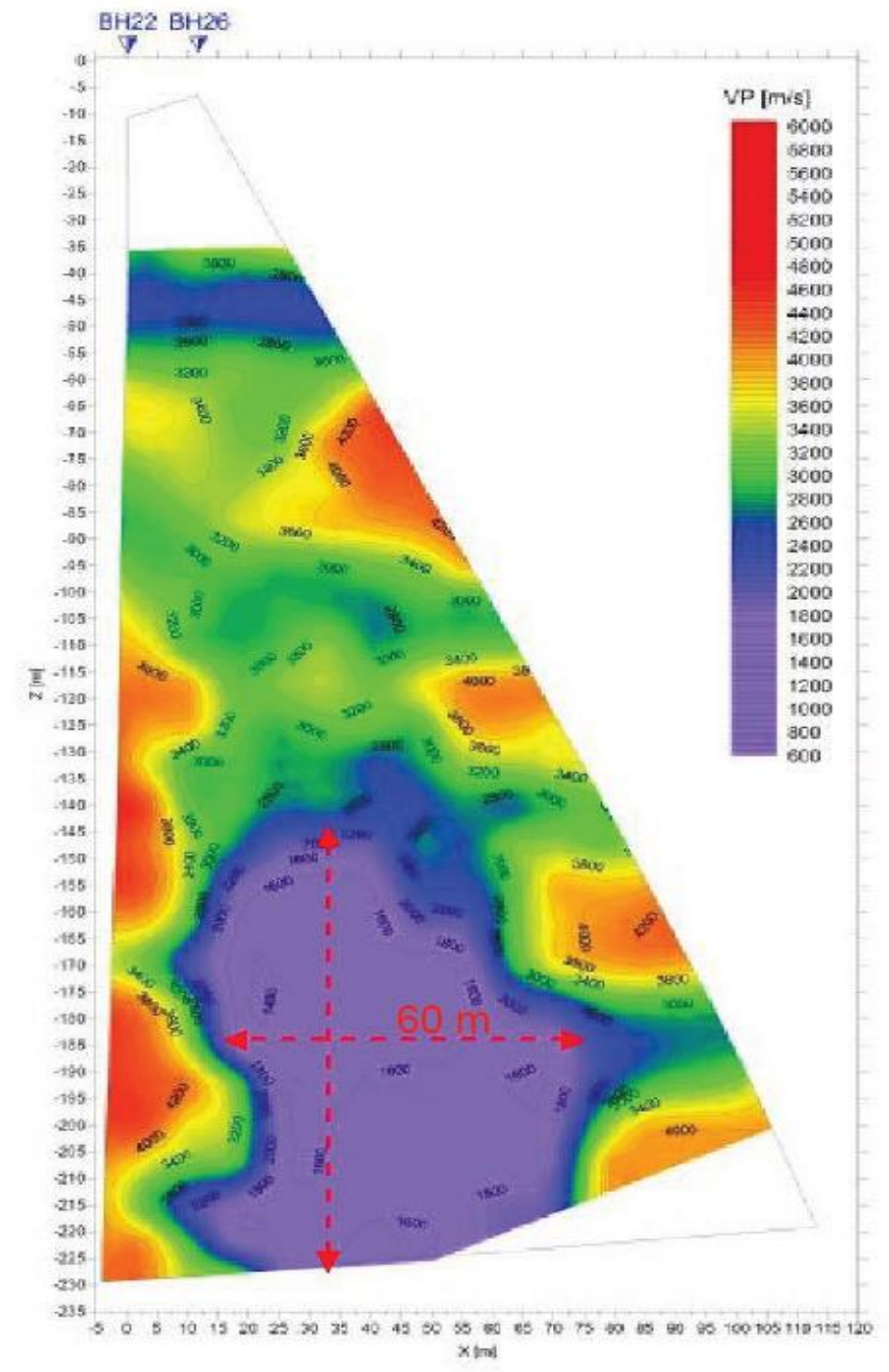
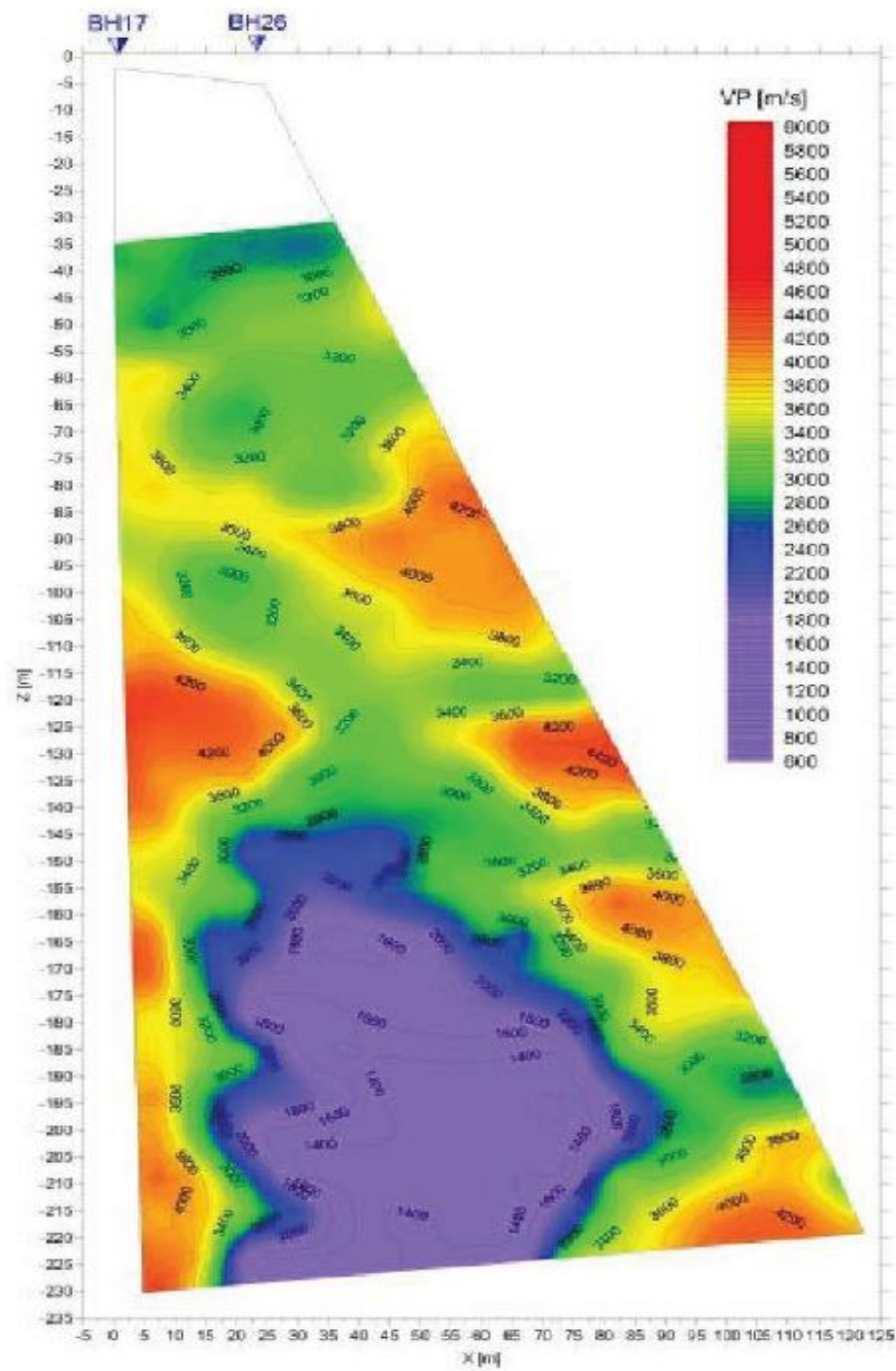


quota 75 m s.m.





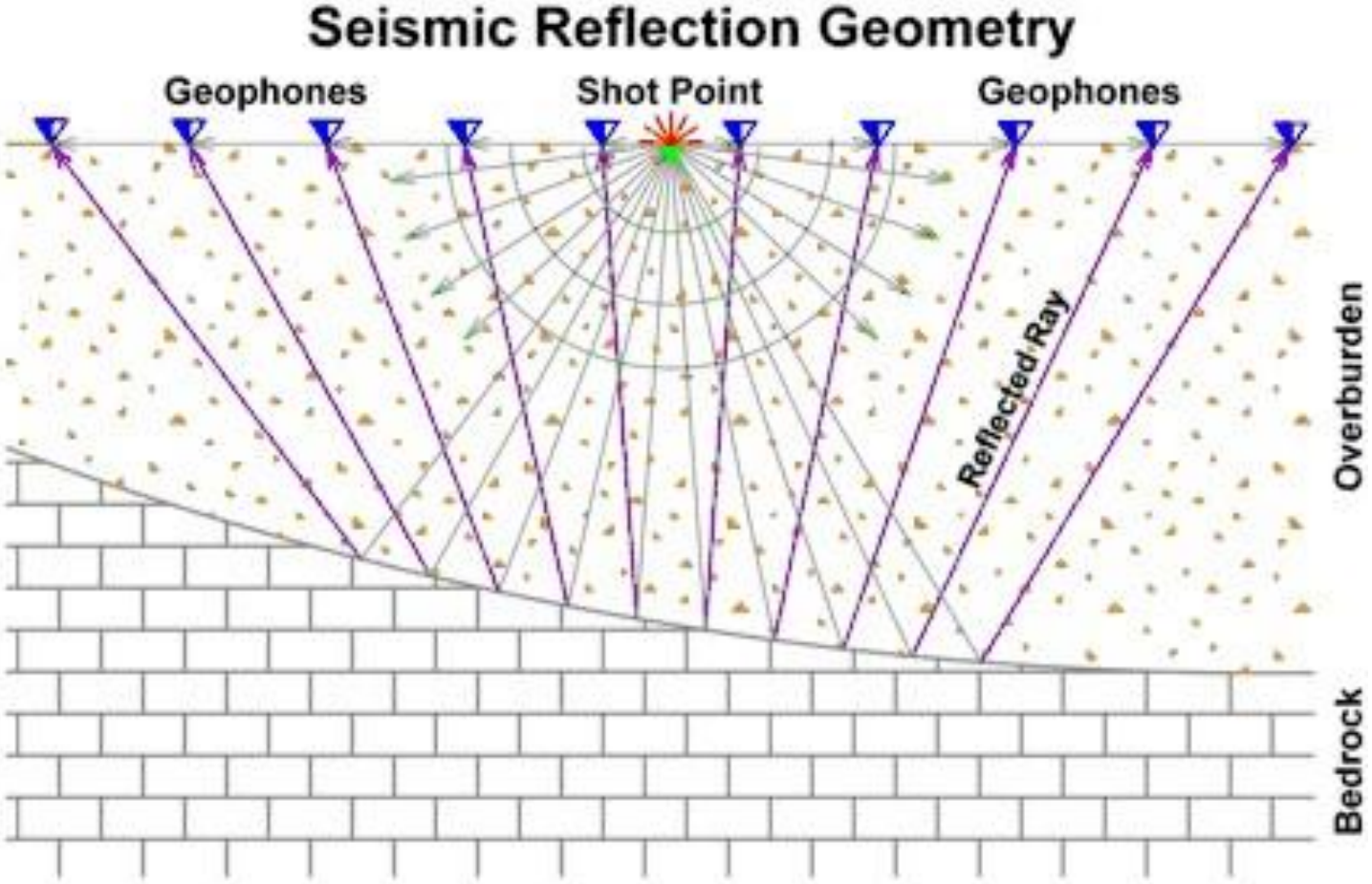


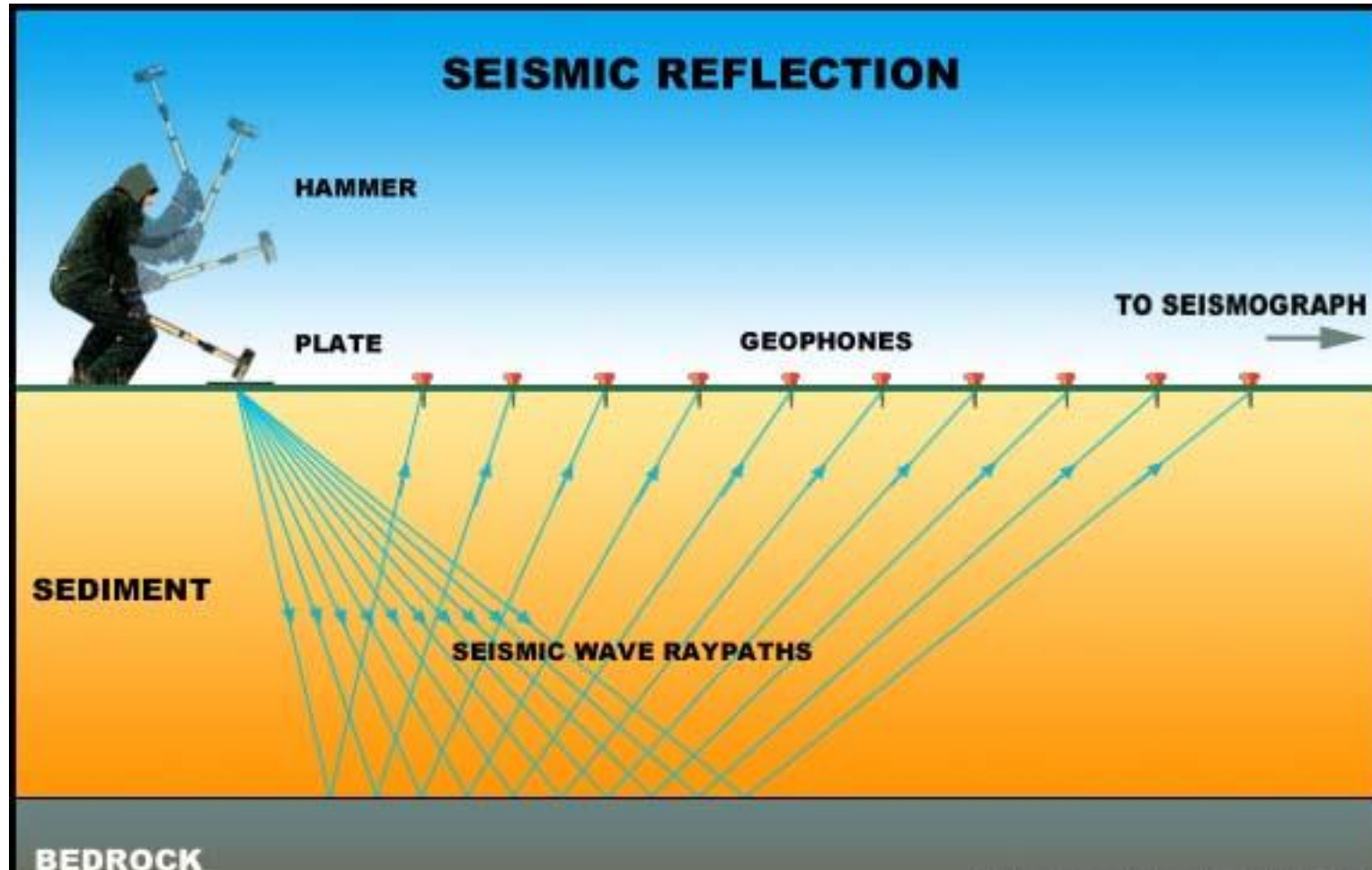


**Seismic Reflection**

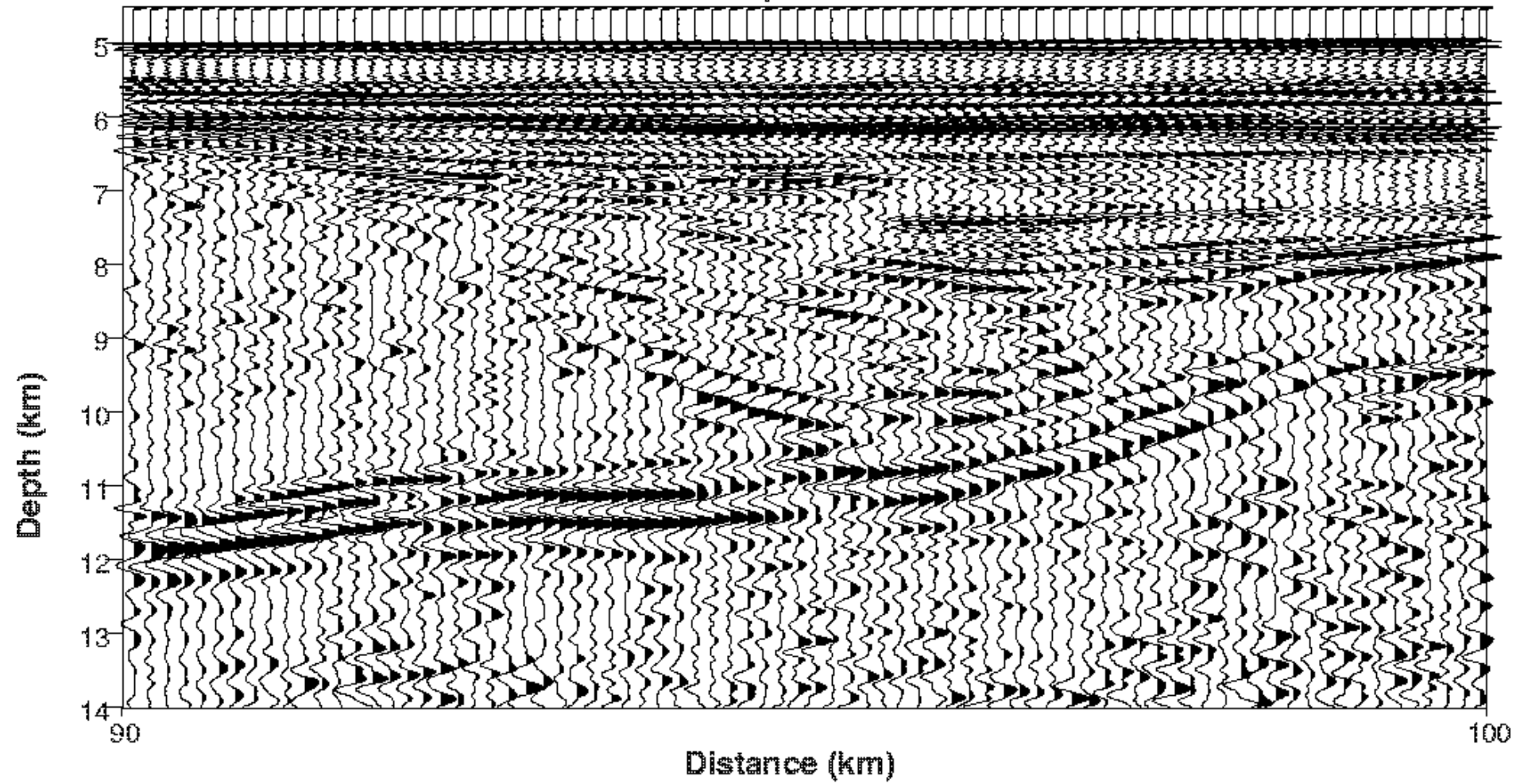
**SEISMIC REFLECTION**

# Basic Principle.....

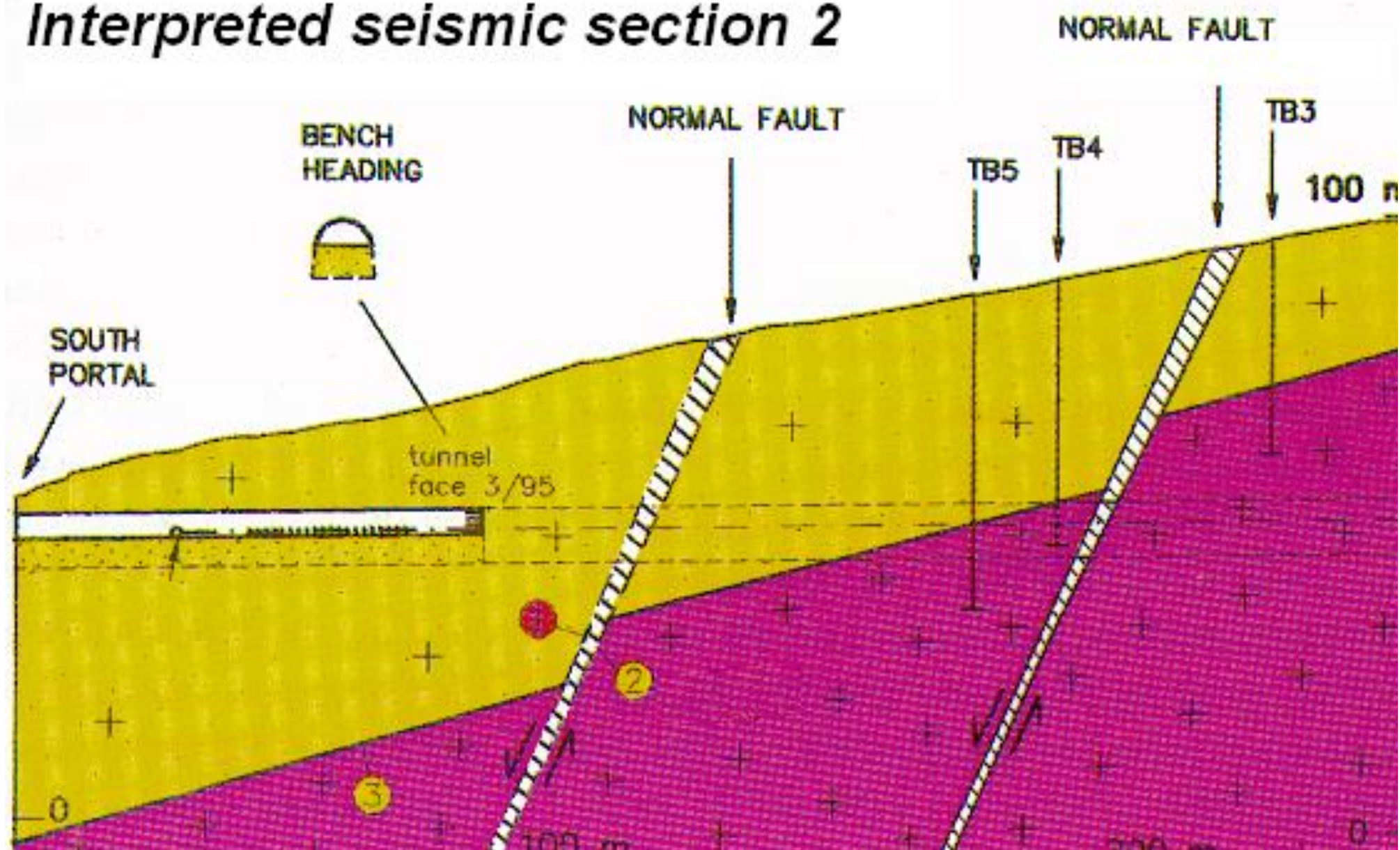




### Converted Depth Section



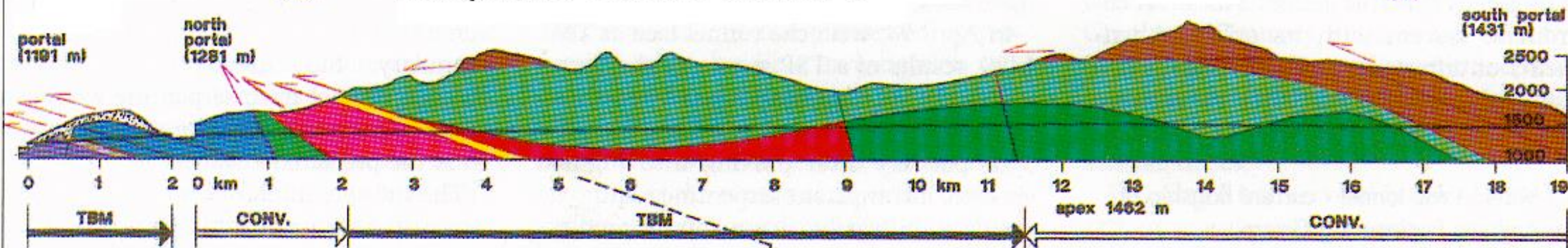
## Interpreted seismic section 2



NW

# Interpreted Seismic section 3

SE



- SEDIMENTS (Schafaläger)
- GNEISS (Dorfborg)
- SERPENTINE (Arosa)
- SEDIMENTS (Sulzfluh)
- LIMESTONES (Falknis)
- SHALY LIMESTONES

- AMPHIBOLITES
- SCHIST / GNEISS
- GRANITE-GNEISS
- DIORITE (Linard amphibolite)

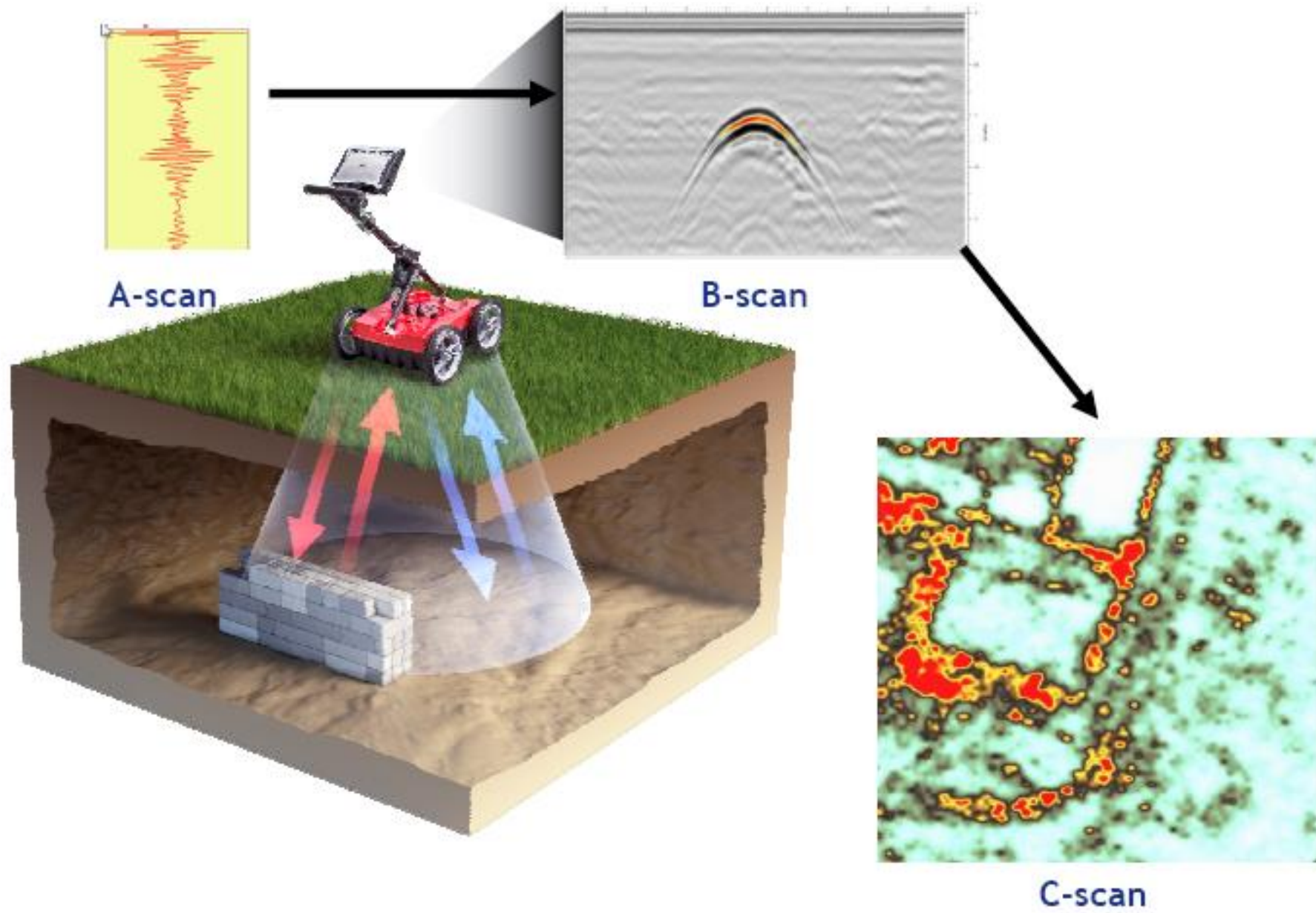
cover : MORaine (Gotschna creep)

tectonics: thrust (E-striking) / major basement fault (E-striking) / possible basement fault

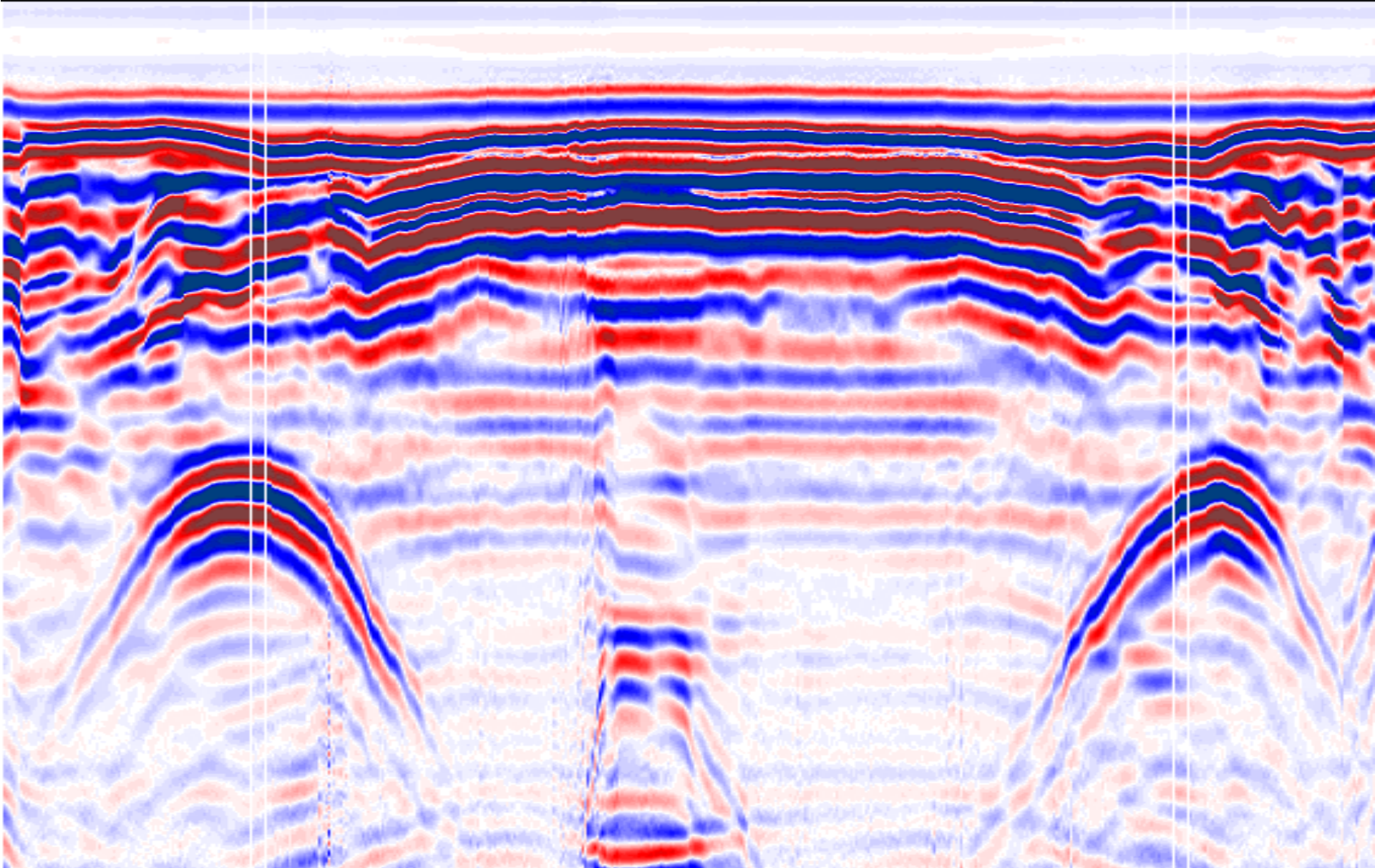


**Ground Penetrating Radar**

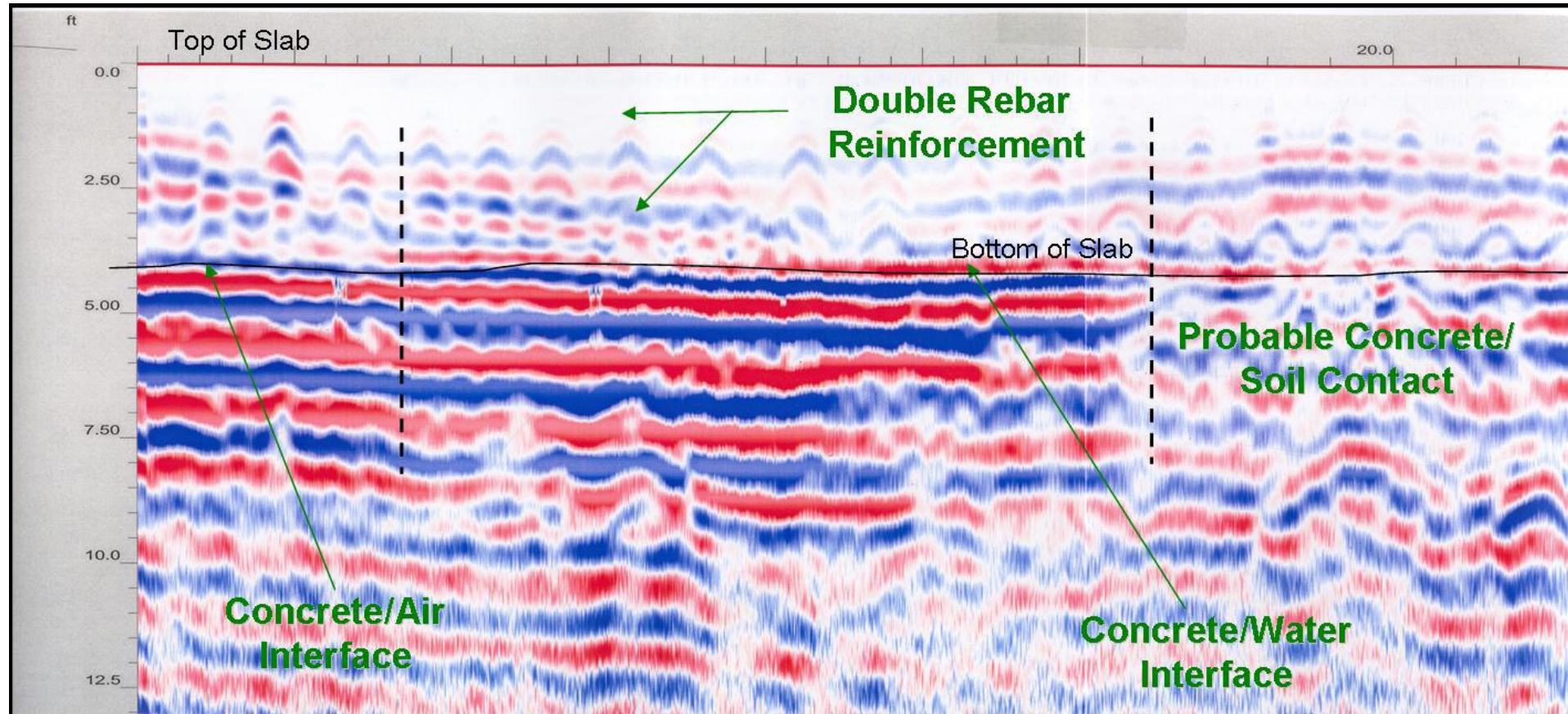
Երկրի Բեռնաբերող Քարեր



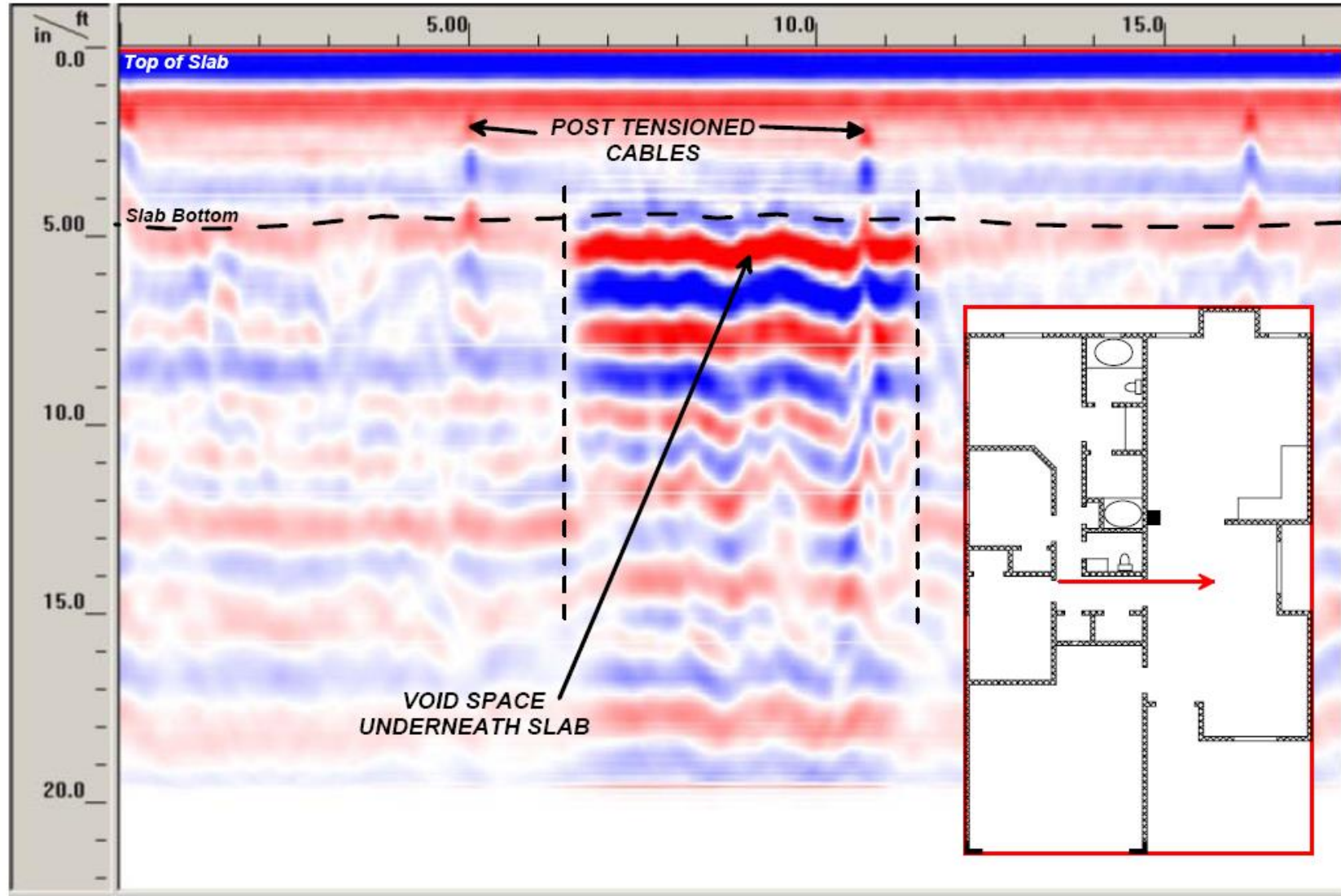
# Field Example- Pipes.....



# Concrete Inspection.....



# Concrete Inspection.....



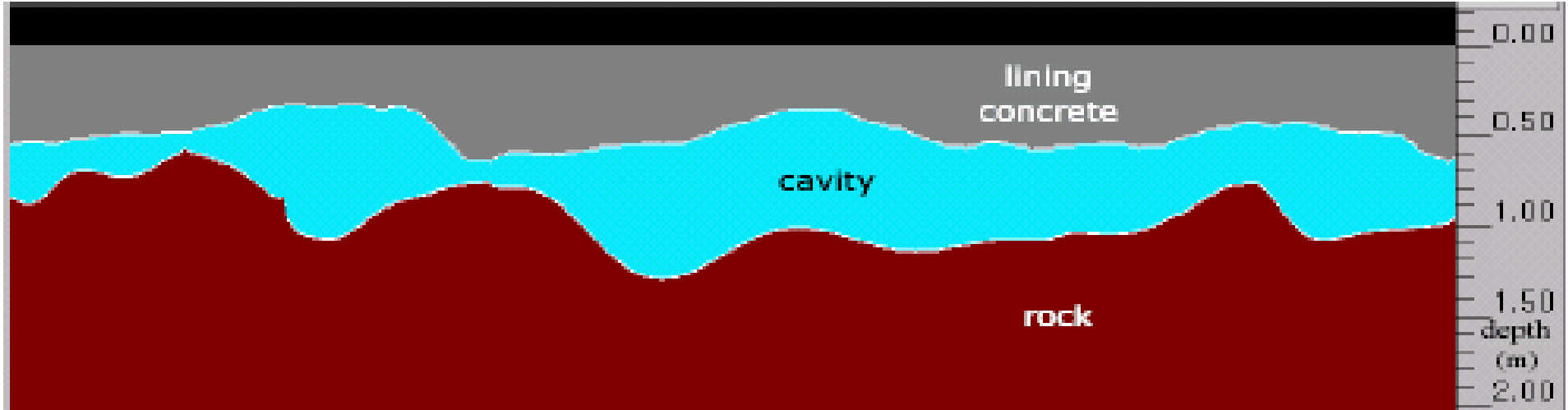
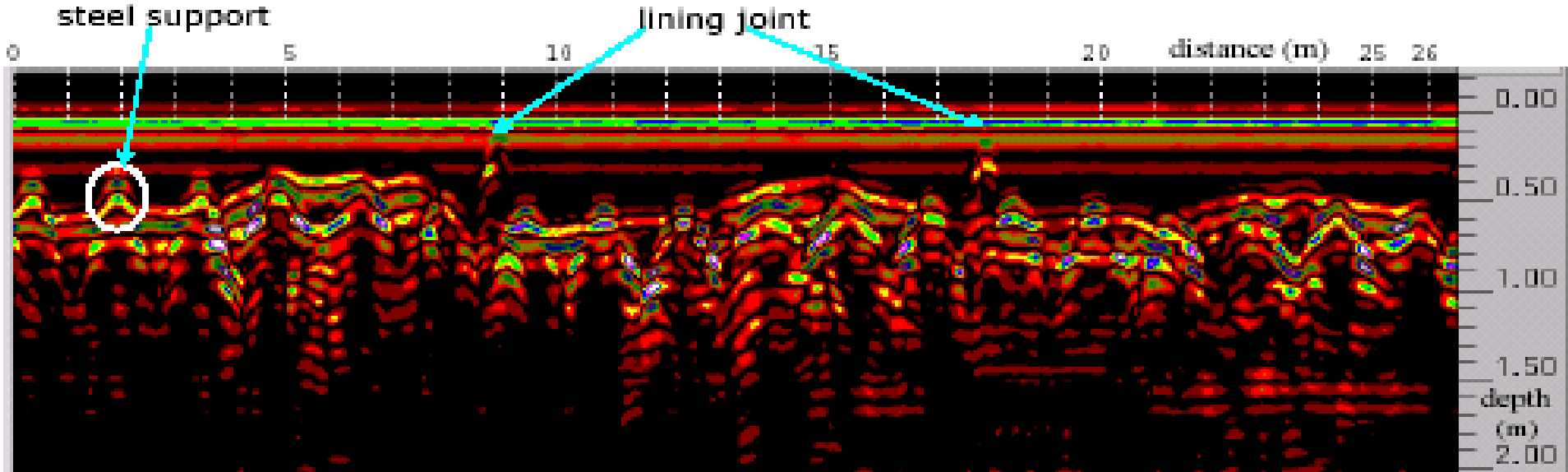
# Tunnel Inspection



# Tunnel Inspection



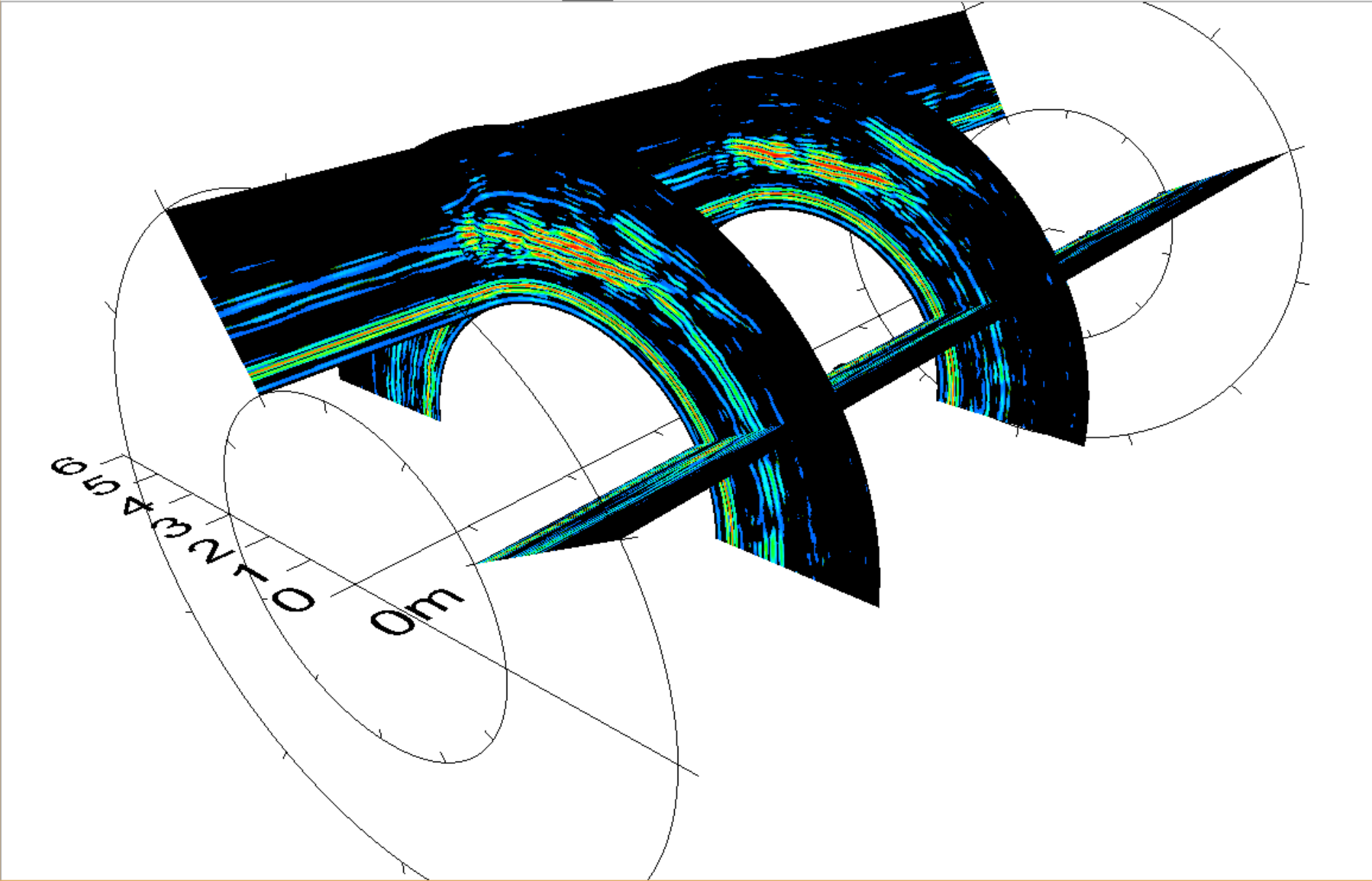
# Tunnel Inspection





GPR-SLICE - Vector 3D Radargram Open GL Display: c:\kisatchie\longitudinal+radial

0	-3	0	focus <input type="checkbox"/>	x-	x+	-	+	Z-	Z+	Prsp-	Prsp+	lt	rt	down	up	cut+	0	cut-	identifier	store .jpg	generate animation
10	3	72.4		step+	step-	bounce	store	stop	slower	faster	color										
lboxcar1		37rd42.dt1				clear														<input type="checkbox"/> 2D lock	export XYZA



# Ground Penetrating Radar- Applications Areas

- Shallow geological investigations
- Utility mapping
- Concrete inspection at existing infrastructure
- QC of concrete structures
- Inspection of existing tunnels
- Complimentary tool to any geotechnical investigation

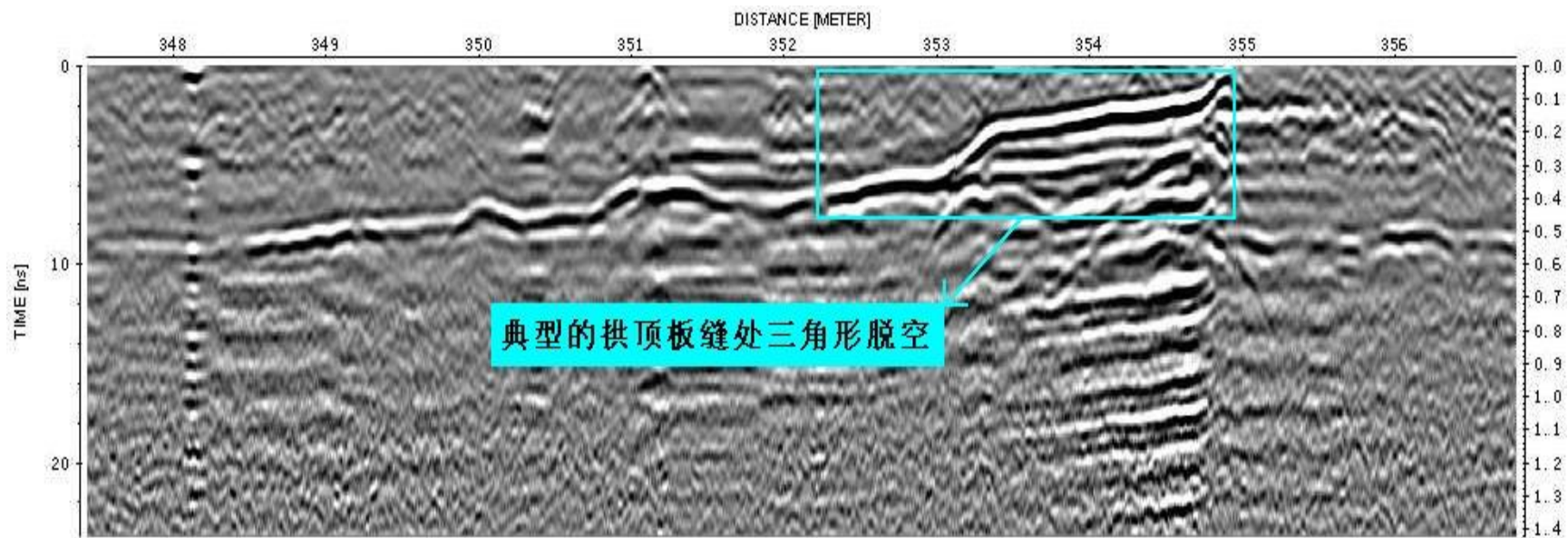
# QC of Completed Tunnels





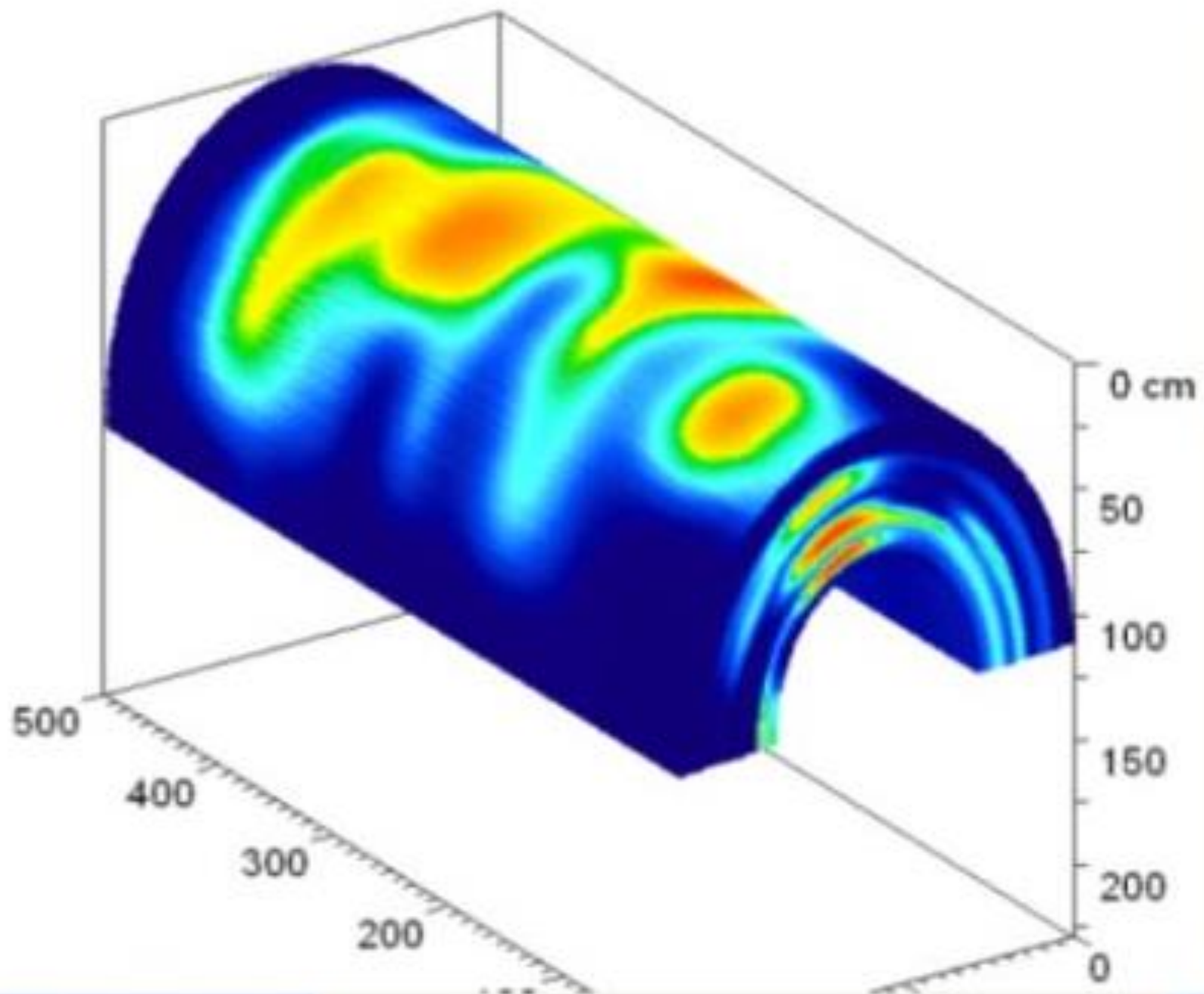
Tested in tunnels, ProEx+500MHz

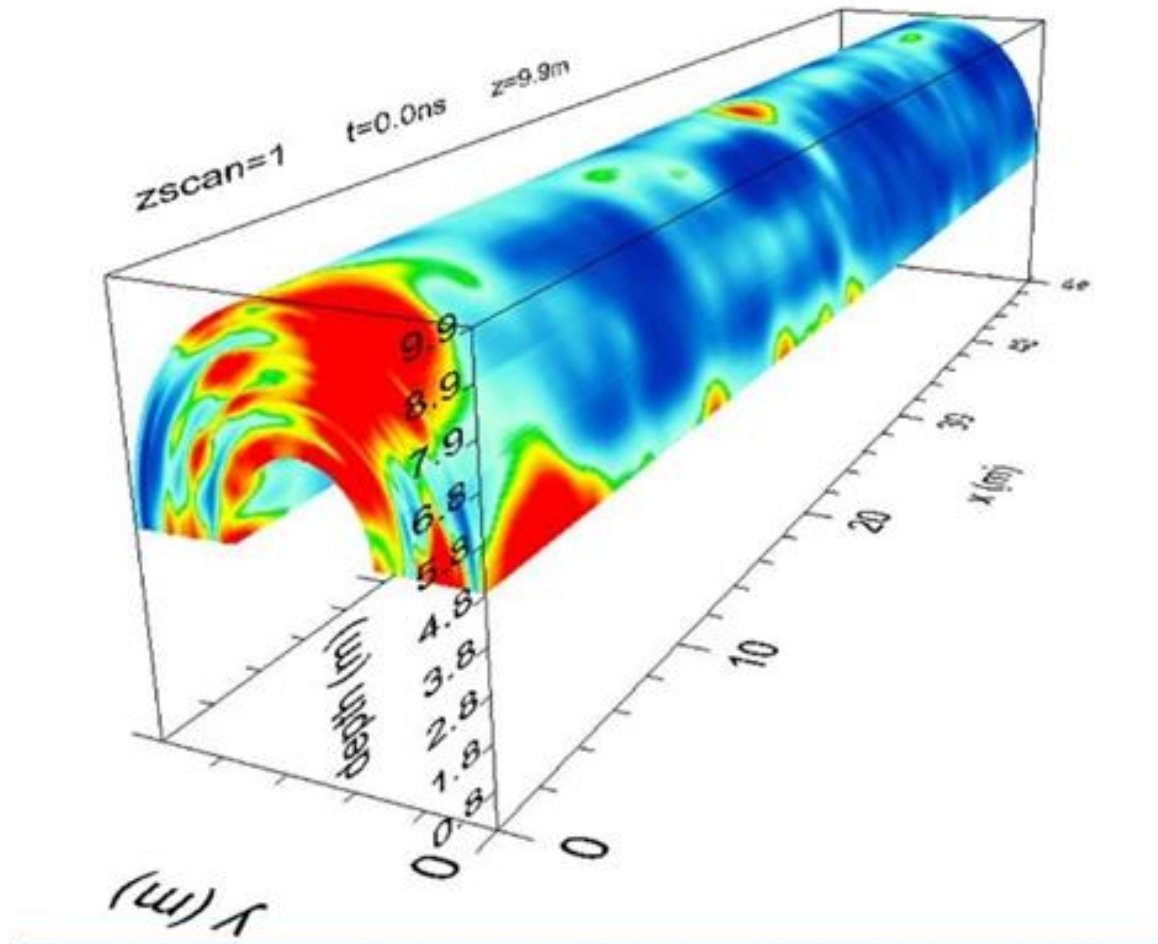


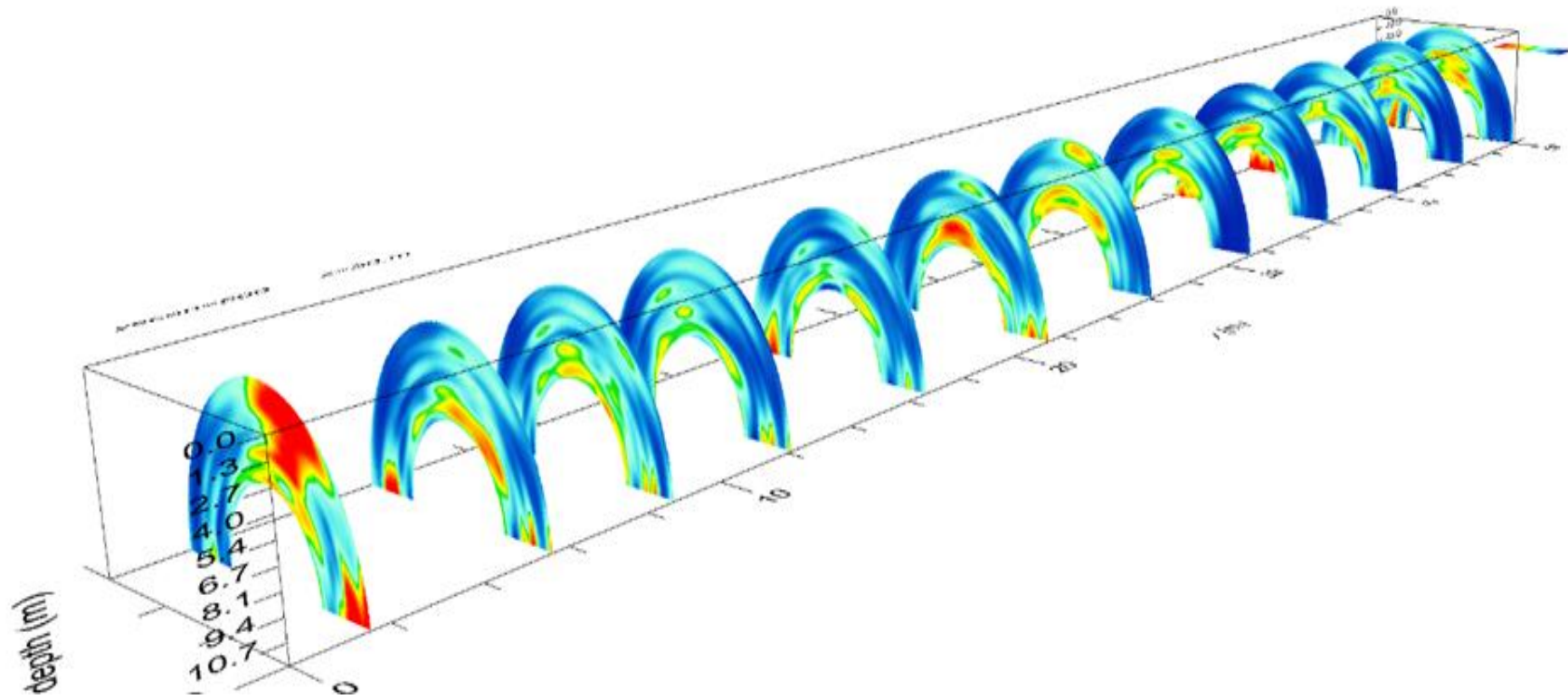


**Cavity beneath slab profile**

$x=0$ .cm





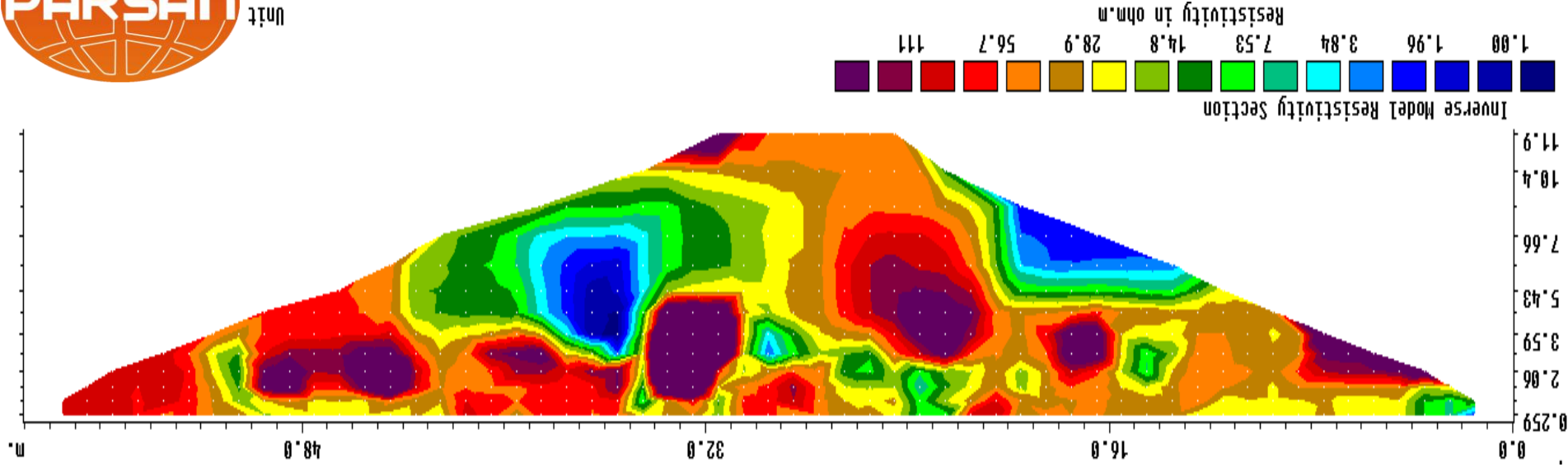




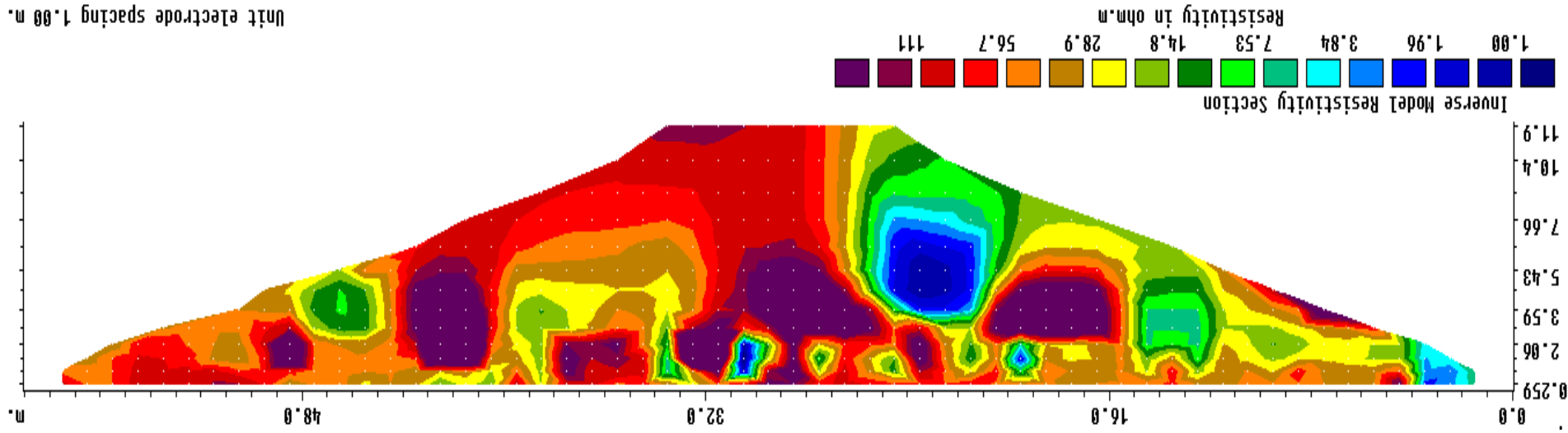


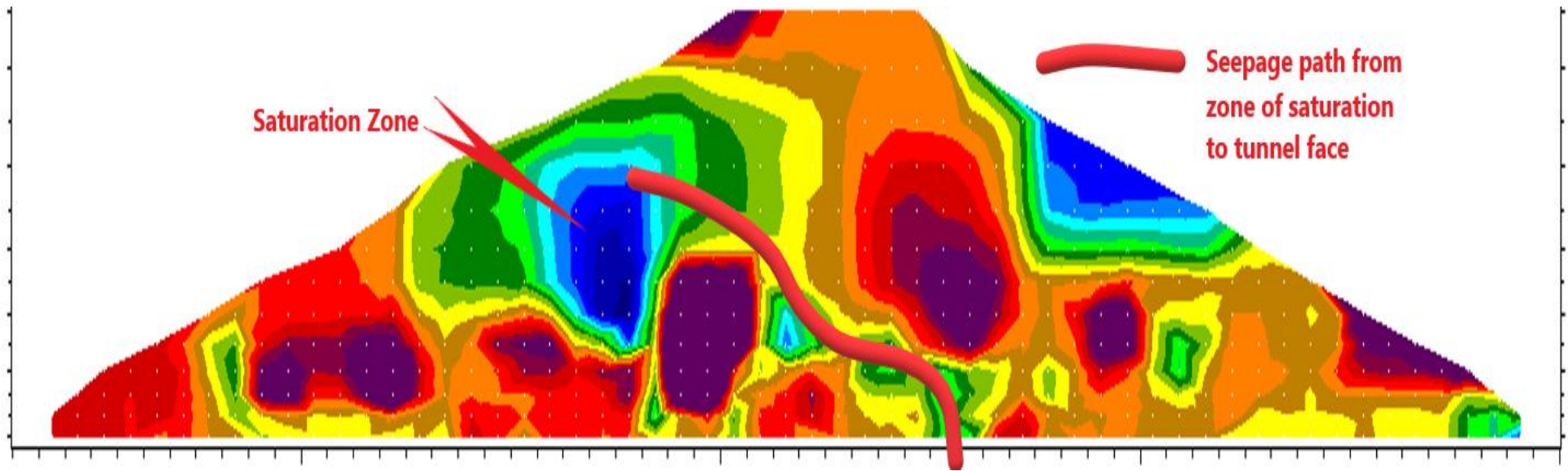


Unit



Unit electrode spacing 1.00 m.





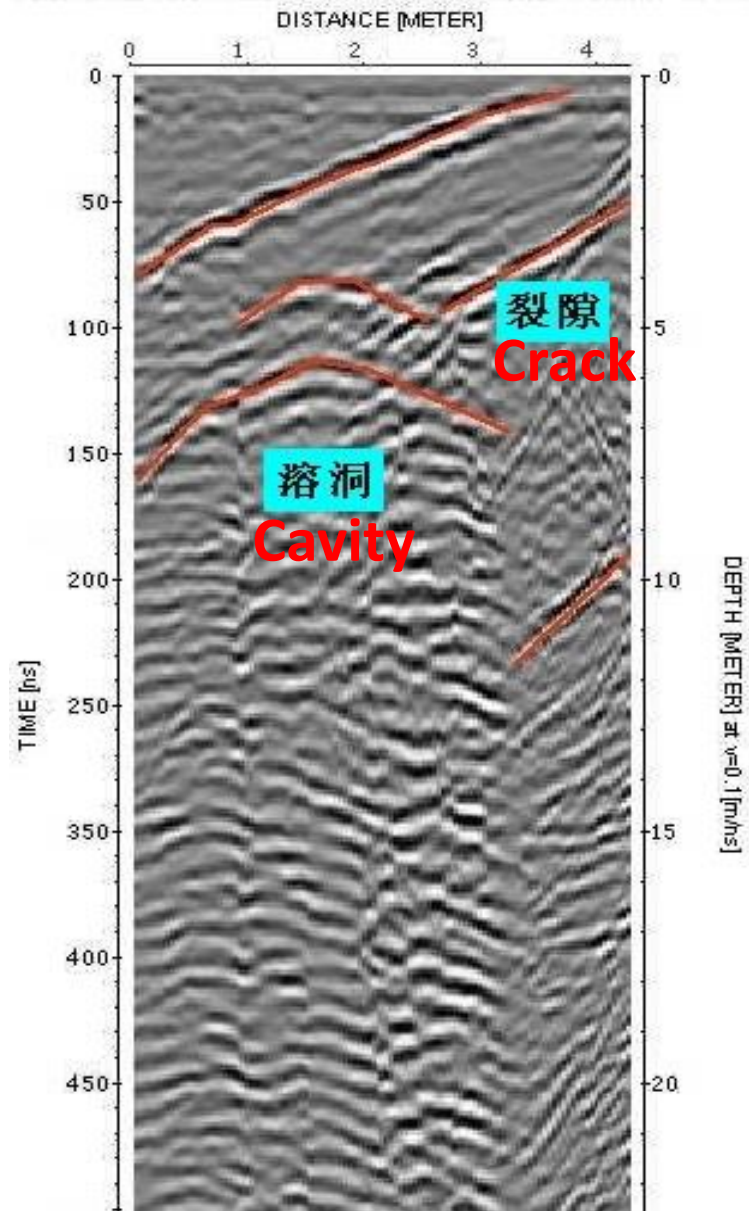
# Looking ahead of Tunneling



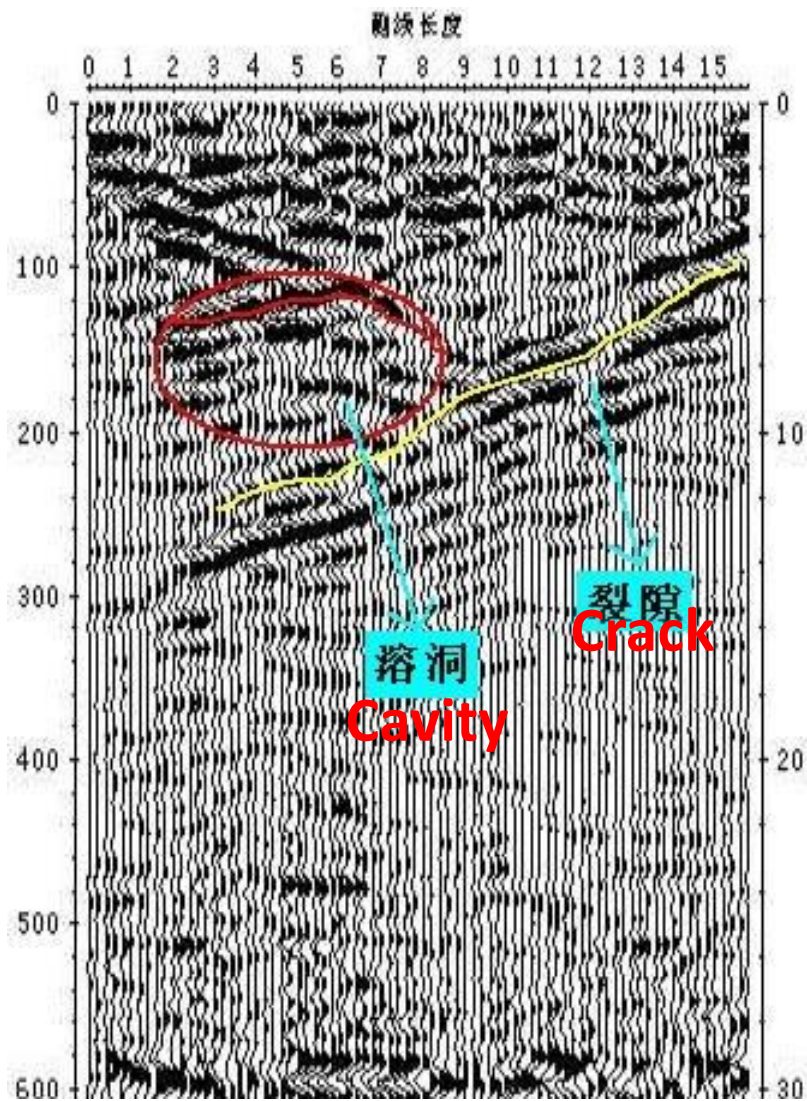
**Tunnel forehead using 100MHz shielded antenna**  
**Now we can use GX80 or GX160**



**Tunnel forehead using 50MHz unshielded antenna**

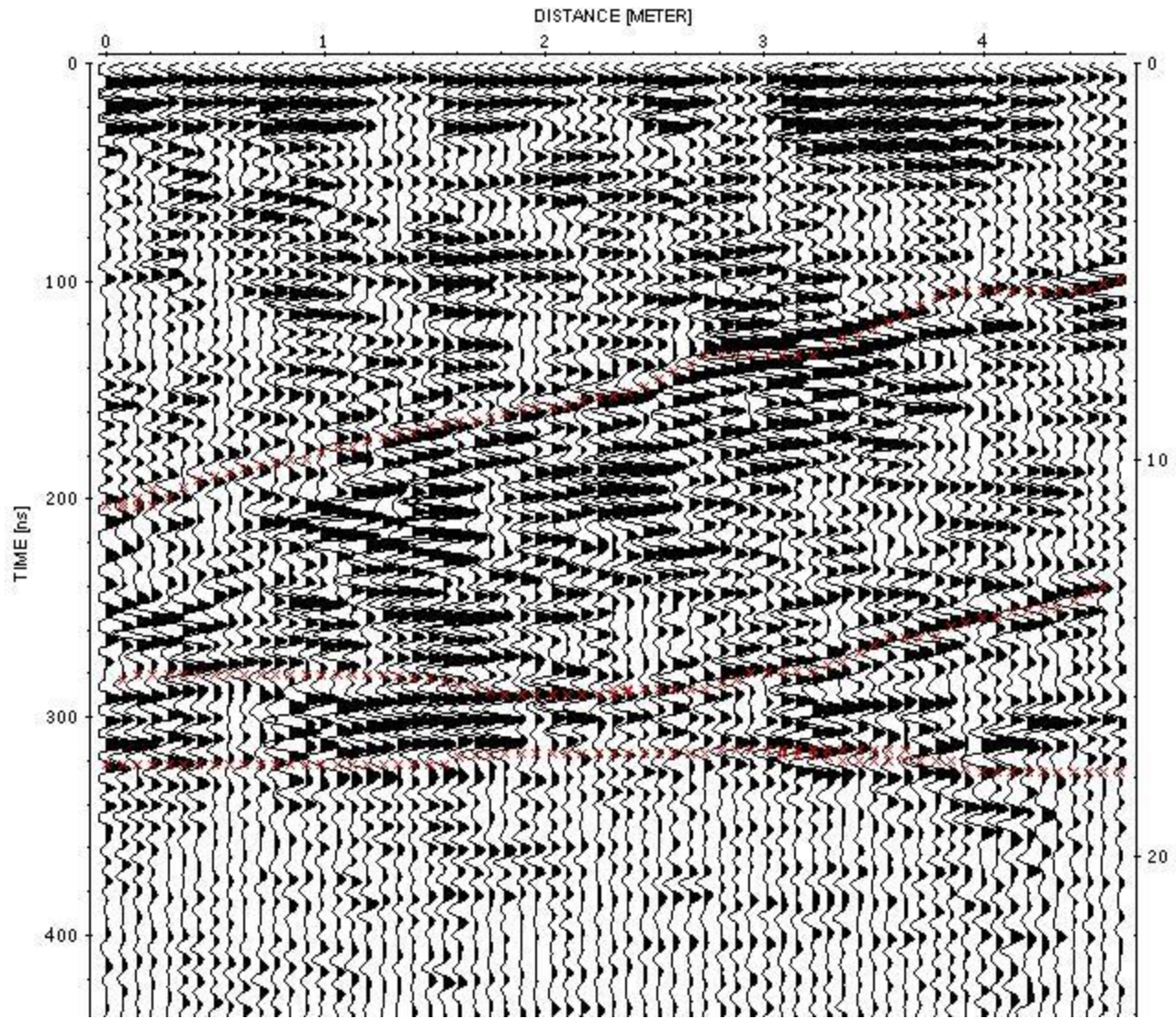


**Tunnel foreahead**  
**ProEx+100MHz shielded**



Tunnel foreahead  
ProEx+50MHz unshielded

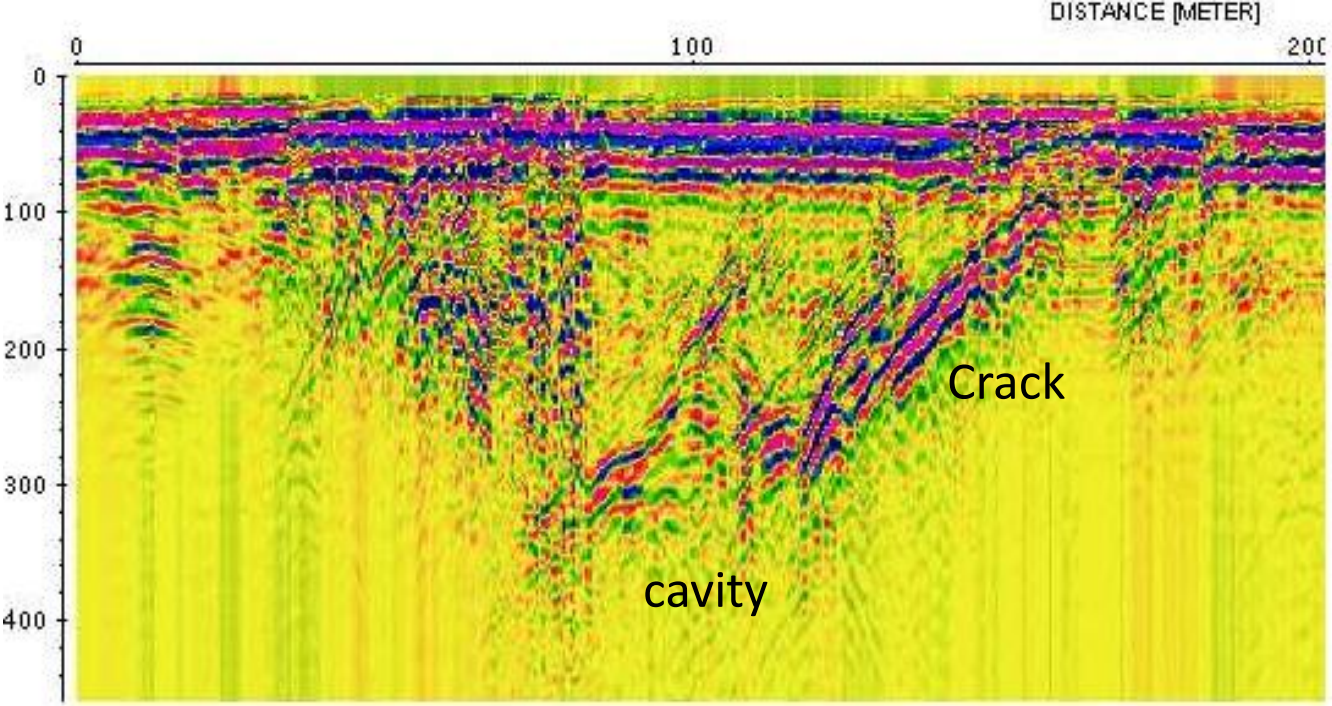




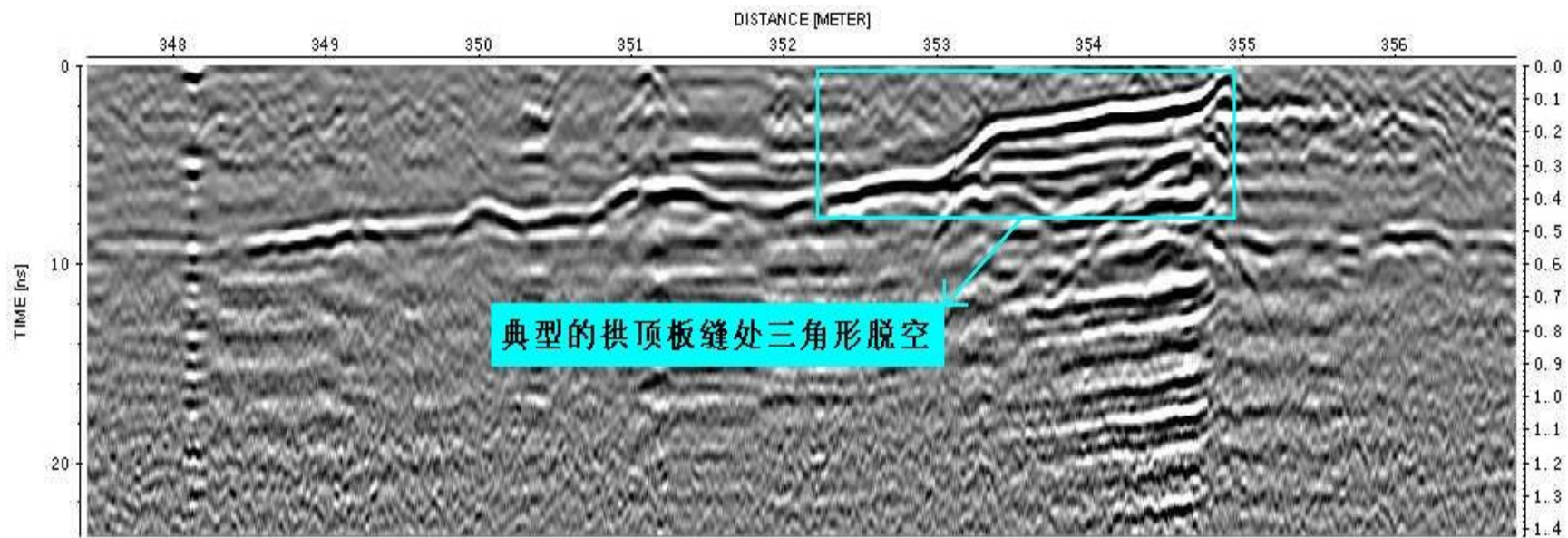
**Tunnel forehead  
Yichang-Wanzhou  
Railway tunnel**

**Red area is cavity**

# Crack and cavity detection in tunnel

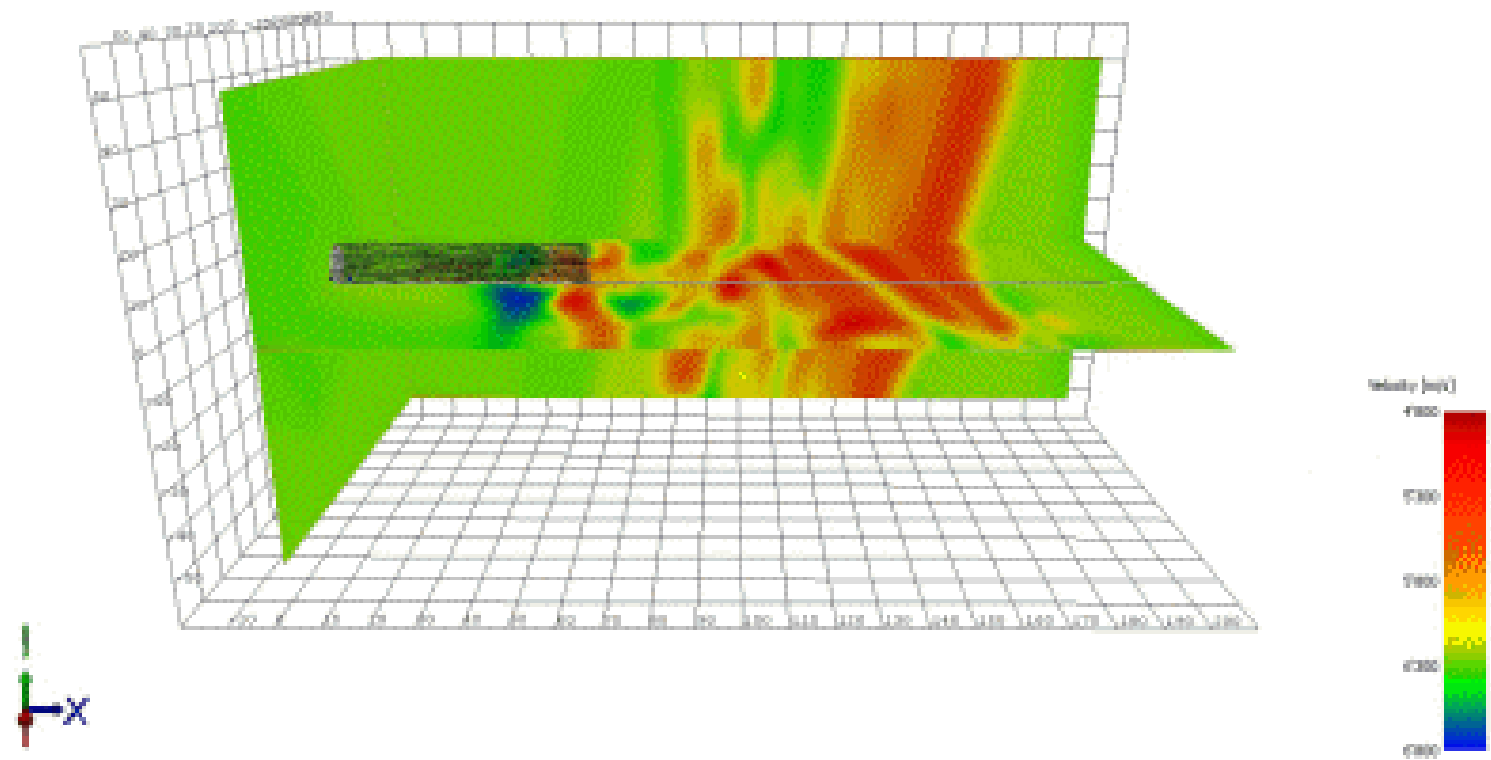


ProEx+50MHz unshielded antennas



**Cavity beneath slab profile**

# Tunnel Seismic Prediction



**BEAM....**



BEAM)))

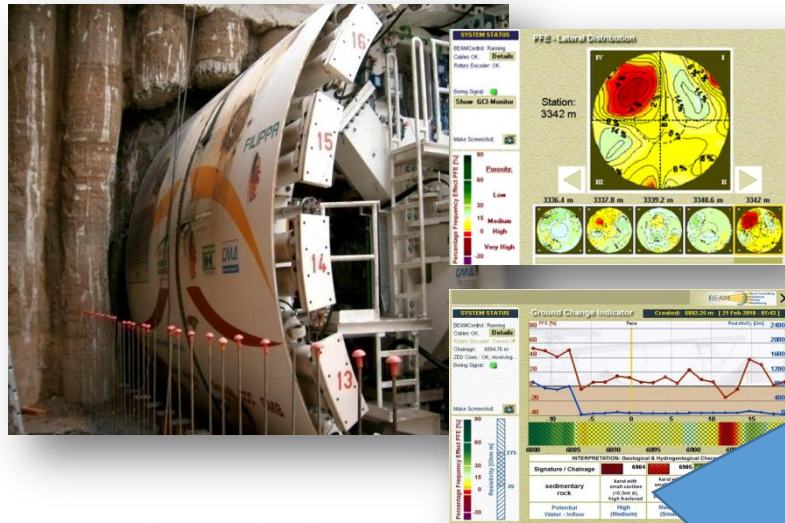
**BEAM<sup>®</sup>**

**Bore-tunnelling Electrical Ahead Monitoring**

*Real-time Ground Prediction While TBM Boring*

# BEAM Bore-tunnelling Electrical Ahead Monitoring

## TBM

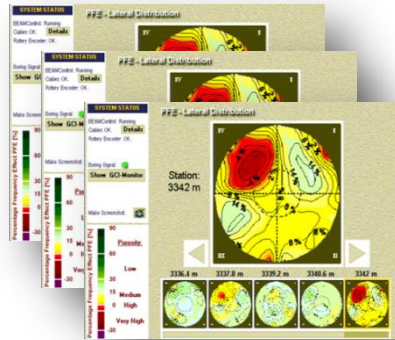


## Drill & Blast

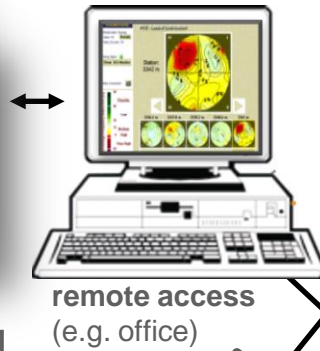


Most efficient and cost effective is the use for TBM ahead prediction because of the **automatic, continuous and non-invasive data acquisition, processing, evaluation, interpretation and documentation in real time without hindrance or stopping of TBM operation.**





visualisation of geological classification and hydro-geological characterisation in real-time

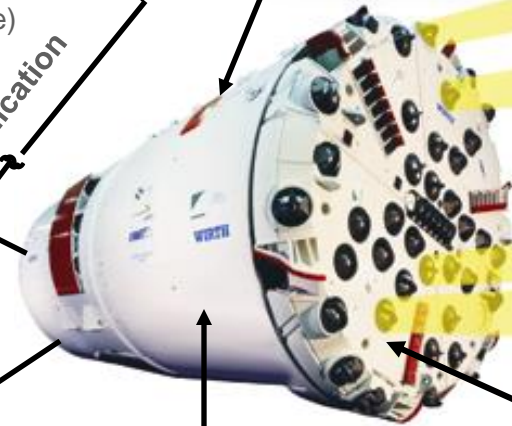


remote access  
(e.g. office)



A1 (+)  
guard electrode  
(e.g. shield, cutter head,  
armed lining)

communication



current beam



B (-)  
return electrode  
(e.g. steel rod, anchor etc.  
inside or outside the tunnel)

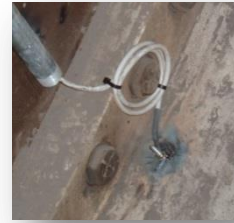
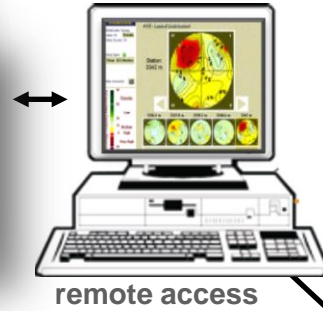
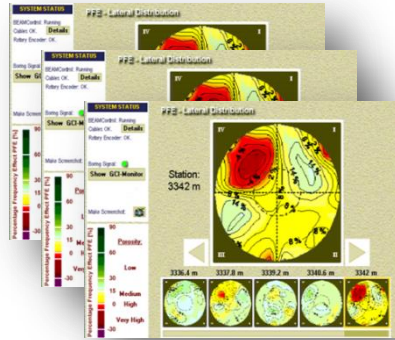


BEAM unit (placed in operator cabin)

Automation:  
guidance system

A0 (+) measuring electrode  
(e.g. cutter head, excavation tools)

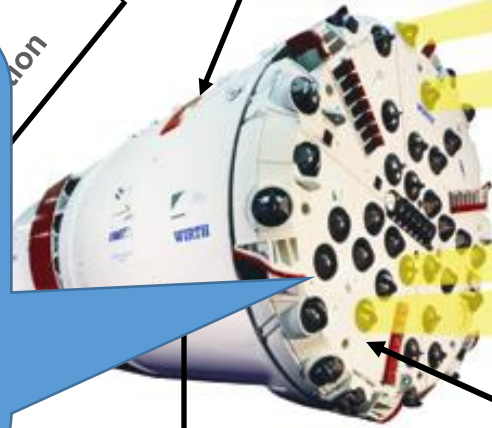




A1 (+)  
guard electrode  
(e.g. shield, cutter head,  
armed lining)

The focused-electrical system comprises the measuring electrode A0 which uses for the Integral mode the rotating and forward moving cutter head which therefore is well coupled to the face (1D forefield exploration).

(inside or outside the tunnel)



current beam



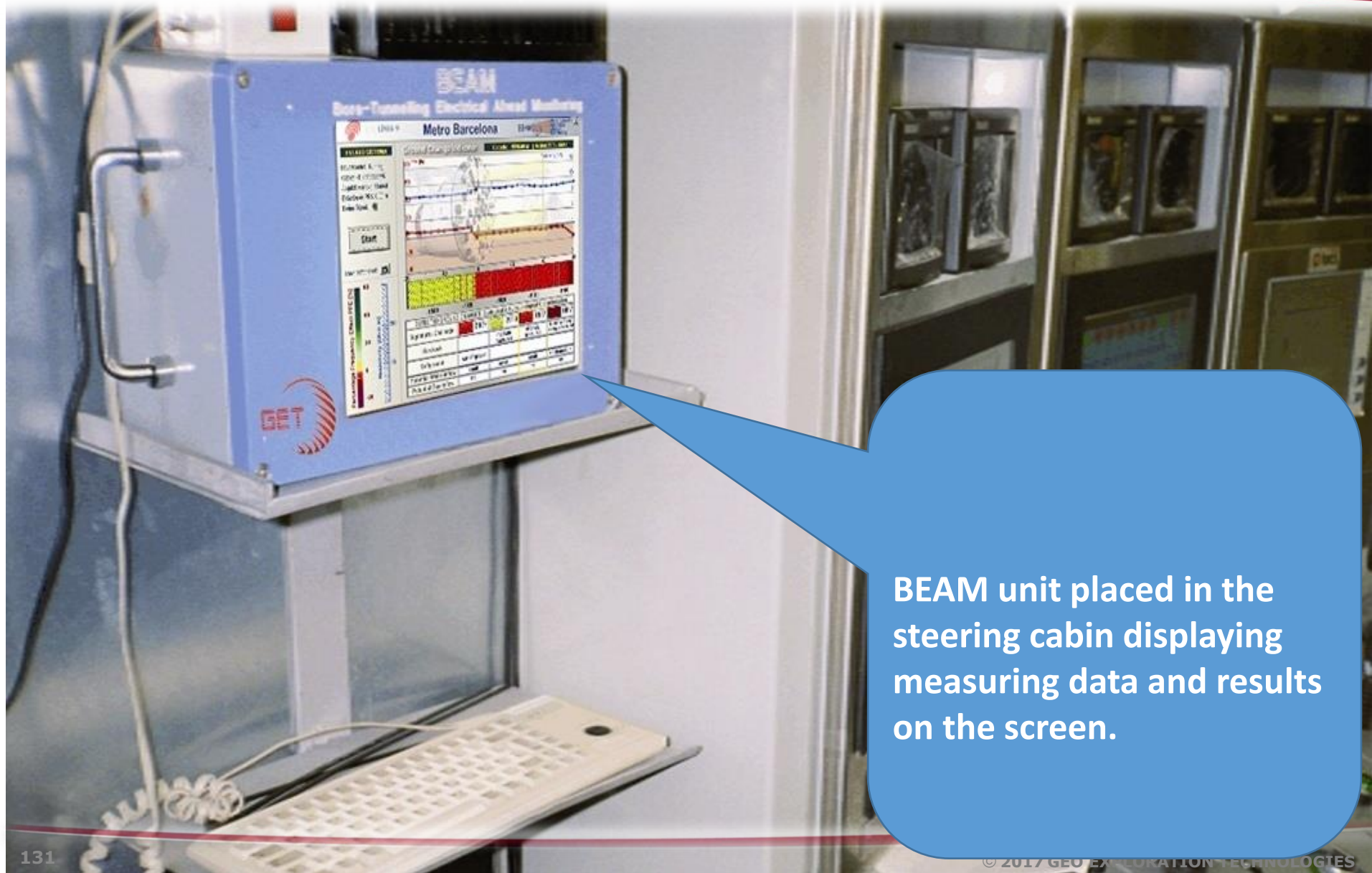
A0 (+) measuring electrode  
(e.g. cutter head, excavation tools)



Automation:  
guidance system



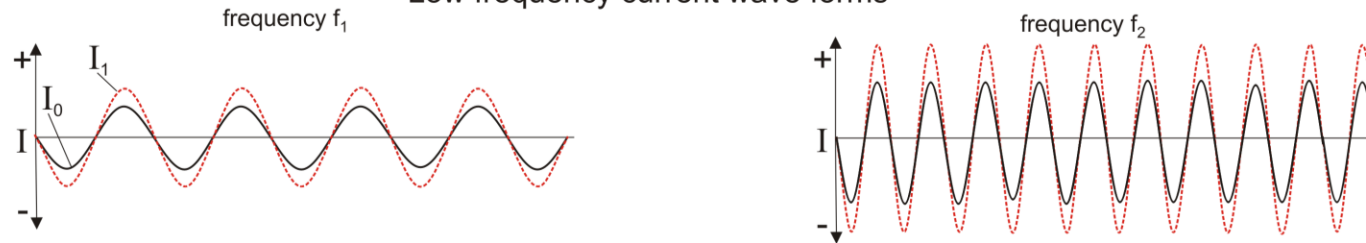
BEAM unit (placed in operator cabin)



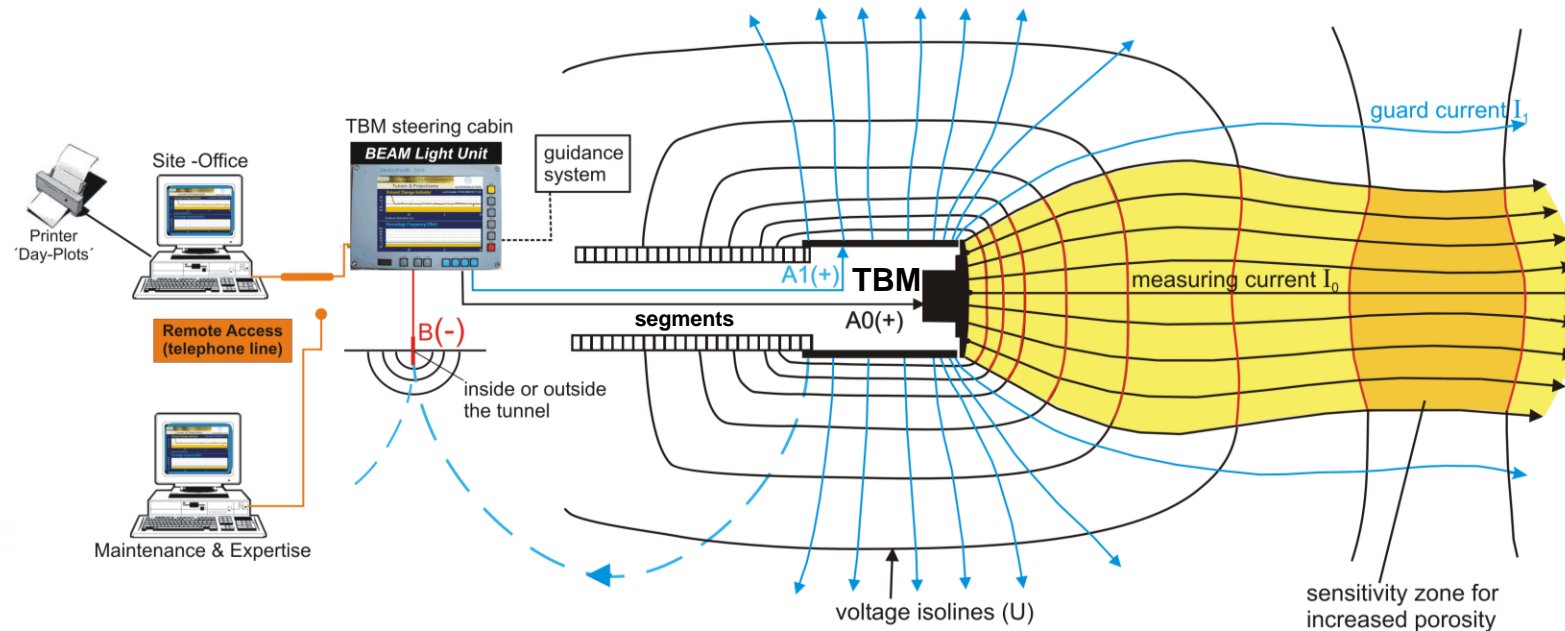
BEAM unit placed in the steering cabin displaying measuring data and results on the screen.

## Focused Induced Polarization (IP): Electrical Field and Current Lines

Low frequency current wave forms

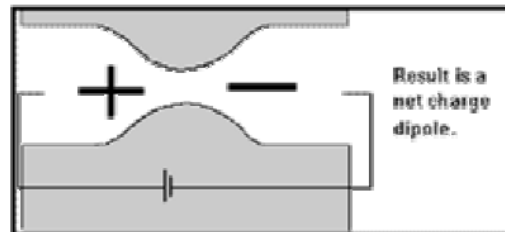
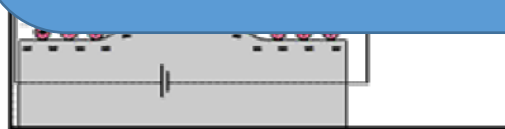


Resistances  $R_{(f1)} = U_{(f1)} / I_{0(f1)}$     Percentage frequency effect  $PFE = 100 \times (R_{(f1)} - R_{(f2)}) / R_{(f1)} [\%]$   
 $R_{(f2)} = U_{(f2)} / I_{0(f2)}$

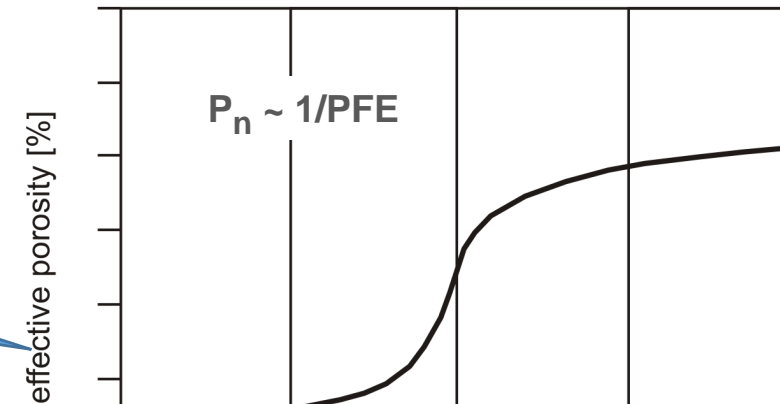


## Origin of Induced Polarization Effects (PFE)

Hence, the PFE parameter is reciprocally related to the effective porosity, which provide a geological relevant property in hard rock and soft ground.



Membrane polarization reciprocal to porosity

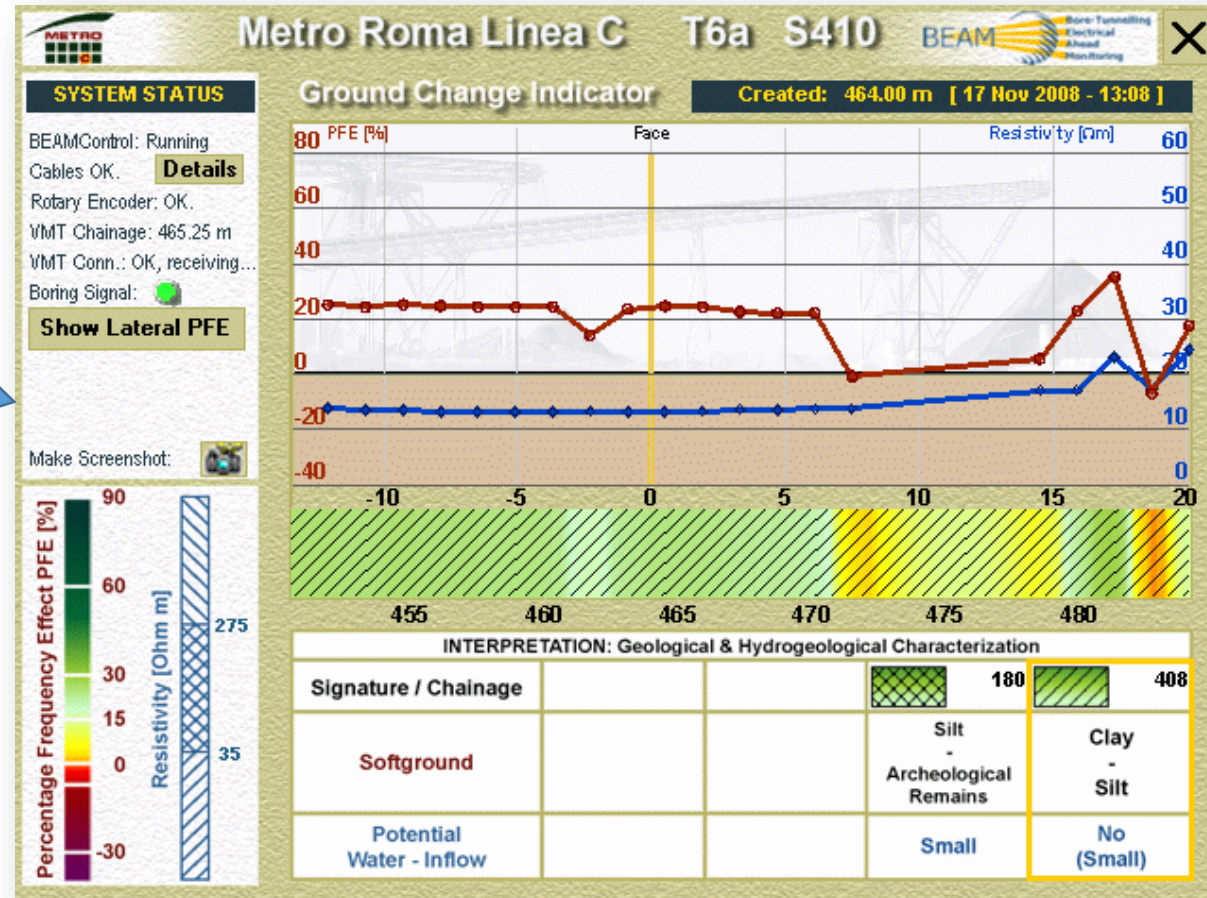


Soft Ground	clay	silt	sand fs ms gs	gravel
Hard Rock	compact rock mass		fractured	faulted/ karstified
PFE [%]	>15		0-15	<0

# Visualisation BEAM INTEGRAL (Animation)



This is a fast motion animation of a BEAM prediction during TBM drive of Rome Metro Line C. Different ground changes have been detected and characterized by various geoelectrical classes.



**System:**  
**TBM type/supplier:**  
**Geology:**  
**Exploration targets:**

BEAM-SCAN inclusive INTEGRAL  
 4 EPB-TBMs Herrenknecht, each about 6.7 m boring diameter  
 gravel/sand, clay/silt and pyroclastics  
 water-and air-filled cavities, archaeological remains

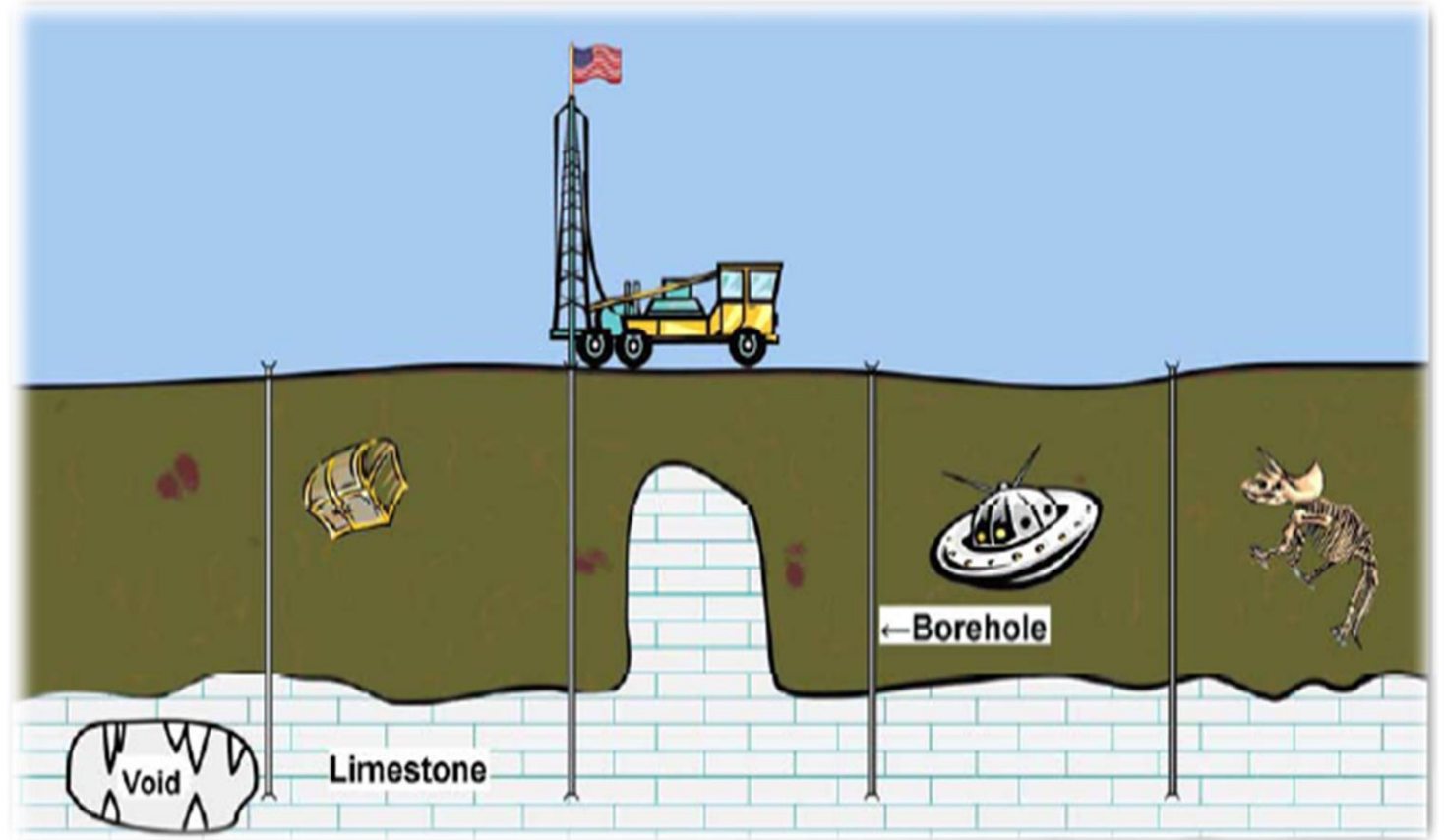
## Limitations & Reasons for Failures?

- Wrong tool selection
- Method lacking desired resolution
- Geology ignored
- Calibration ignored
- Only single tool used
- Wrong initial model



# Conclusion: Why Use Geophysics.....

- Low Cost
- Rapid Coverage
- Continuous information
- Optimization of drill holes
- Minimization of 'Surprises'
- Early stage application...Better planning, smooth execution.





**Thanks for your attention**



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**sanjay@parsan.biz**  
**+91-9811168288**

