



**RemPlex Seminar**

**June 3, 2025**

# **Subsurface Sensing: Advancing Electrical Geophysical Techniques for Non-Invasive Characterization and Monitoring at Complex Sites**



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# Today's Seminar and Speakers

## Subsurface Sensing: Advancing Electrical Geophysical Techniques



**Lee Slater**

Distinguished Professor  
Rutgers University



**Adrián Flores-Orozco**

Head of the Geophysics Institute  
Technical University (TU) Wien



**Hilary Emerson**

Earth Scientist  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

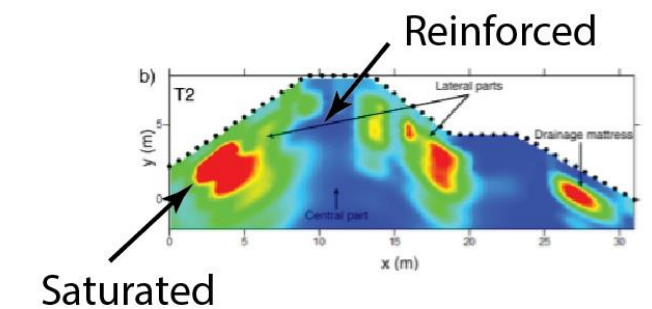
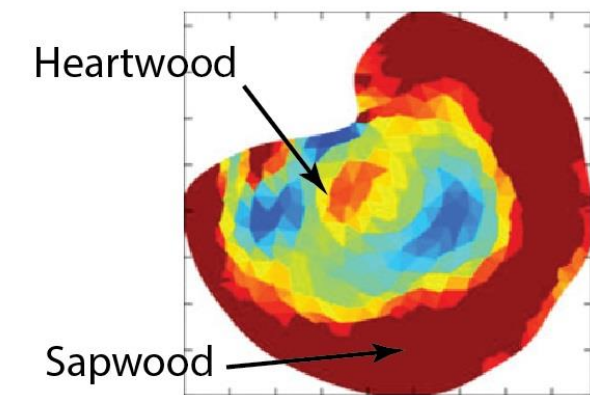
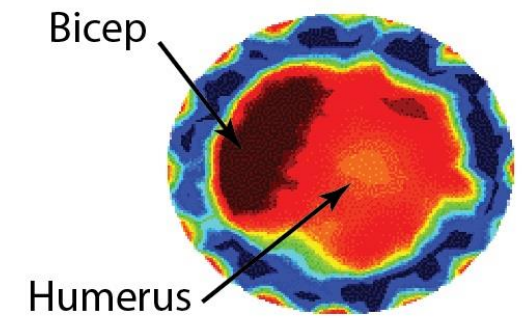
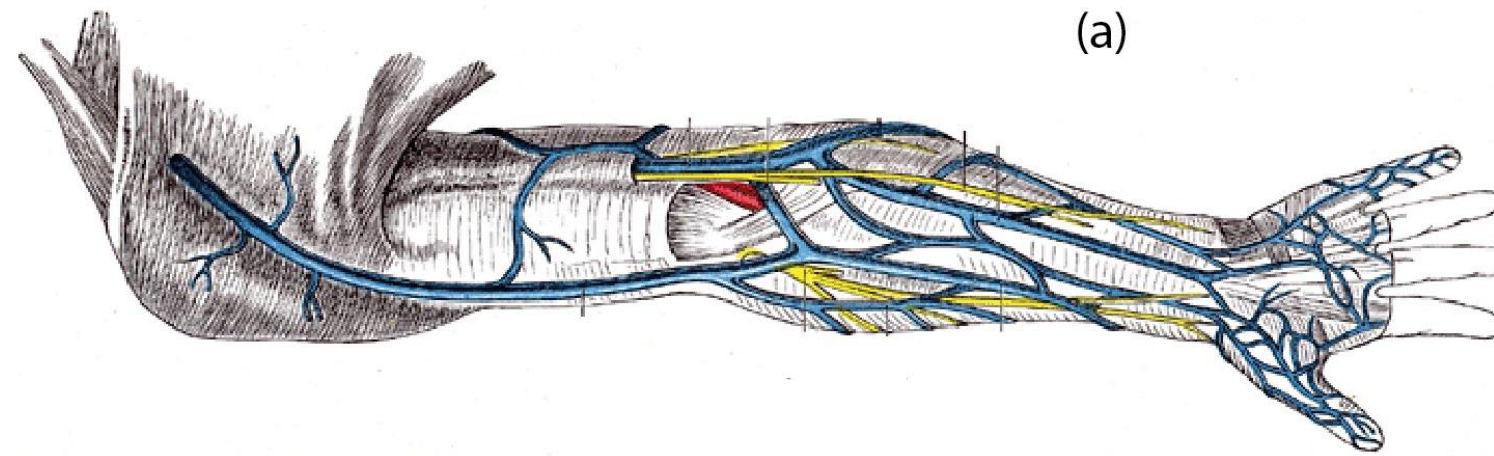
# ELECTRICAL GEOPHYSICS: THE SPECTRAL INDUCED POLARIZATION (SIP) METHOD

Lee Slater, Senior Geophysicist

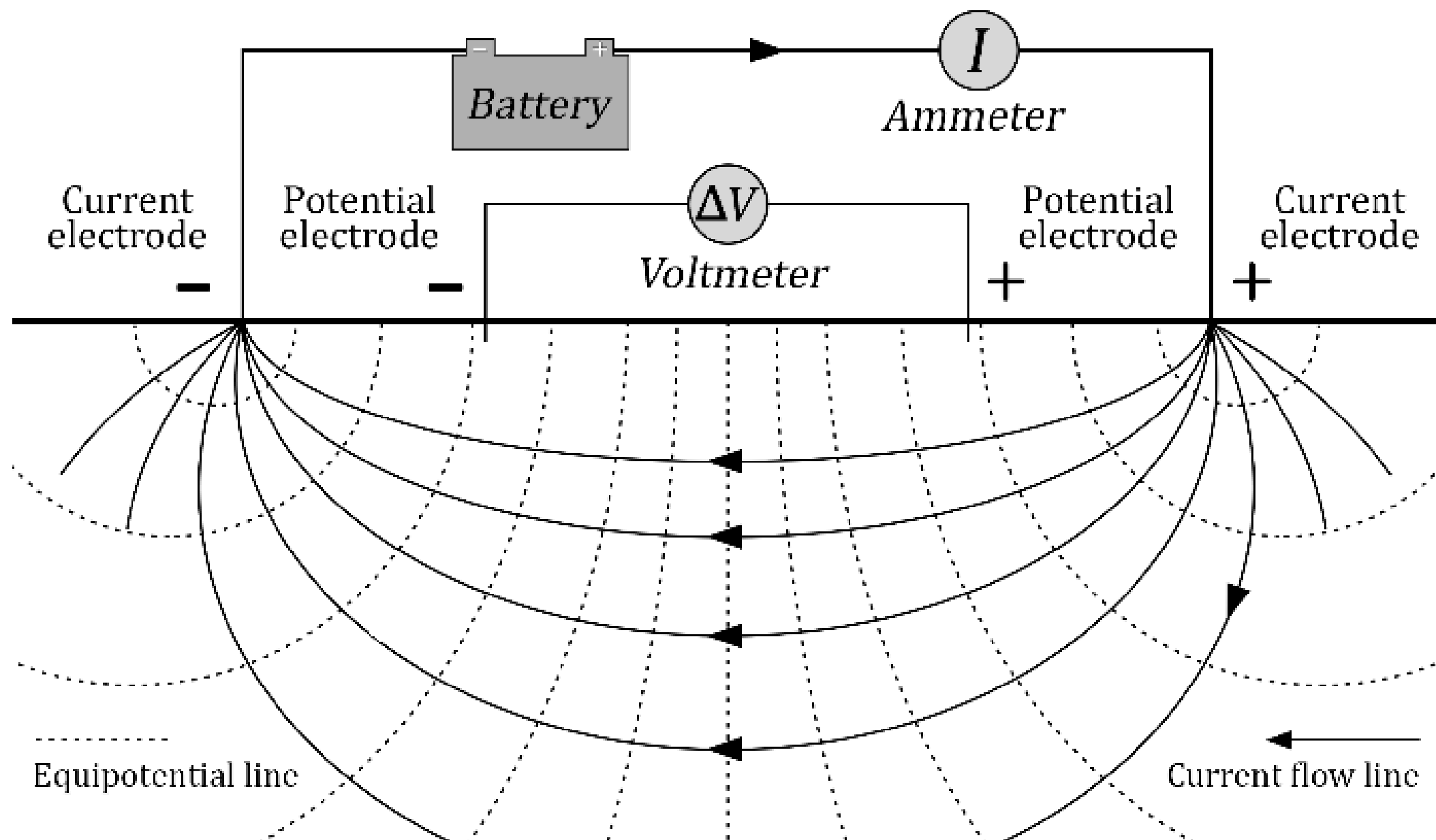
*Joint Appointment: Henry Rutgers  
Professor of Geophysics, Rutgers  
University Newark*



# Non-invasive electrical imaging

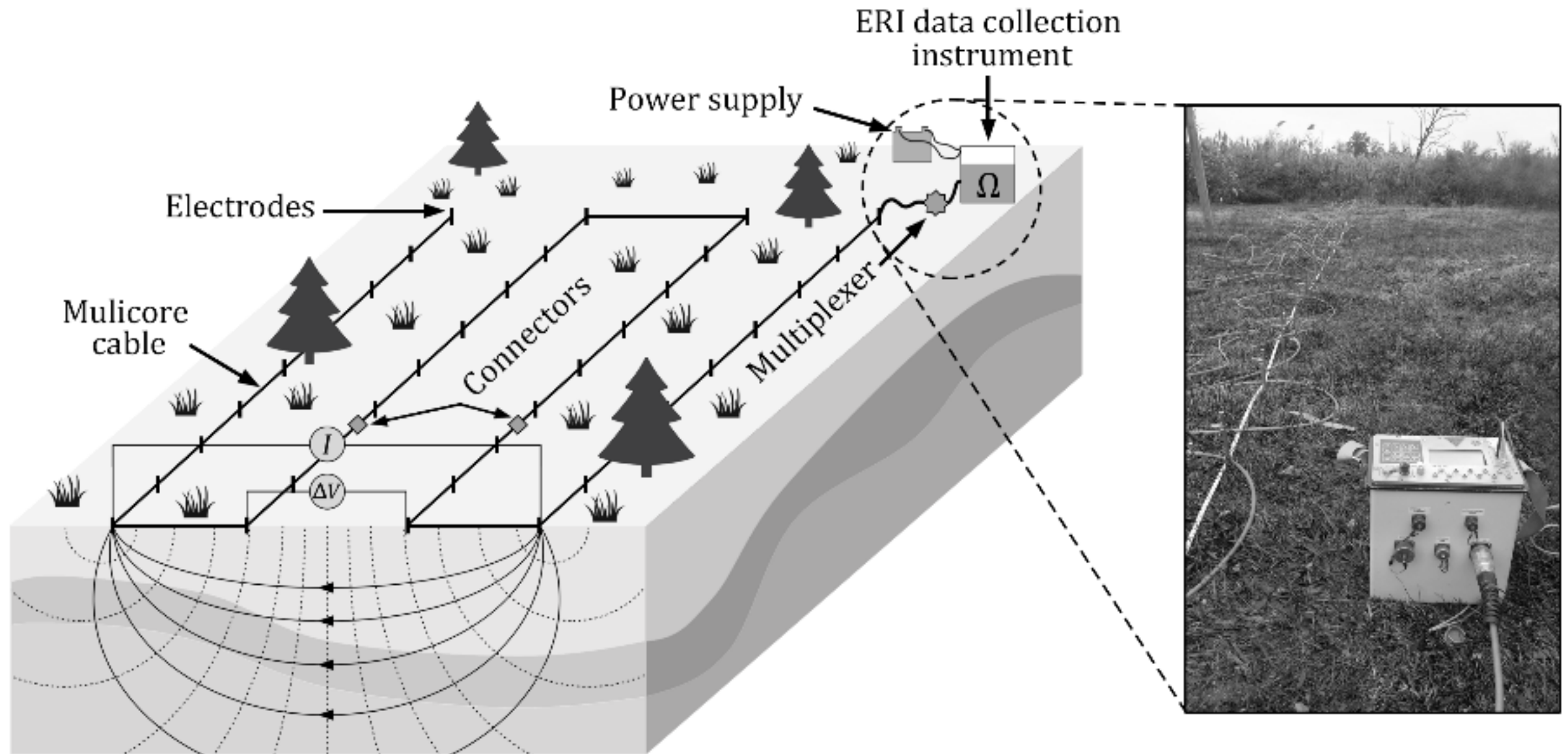








# Electrical geophysical imaging



Binley and Slater, 2020, *Resistivity and induced polarization: theory and applications to the near-surface Earth*

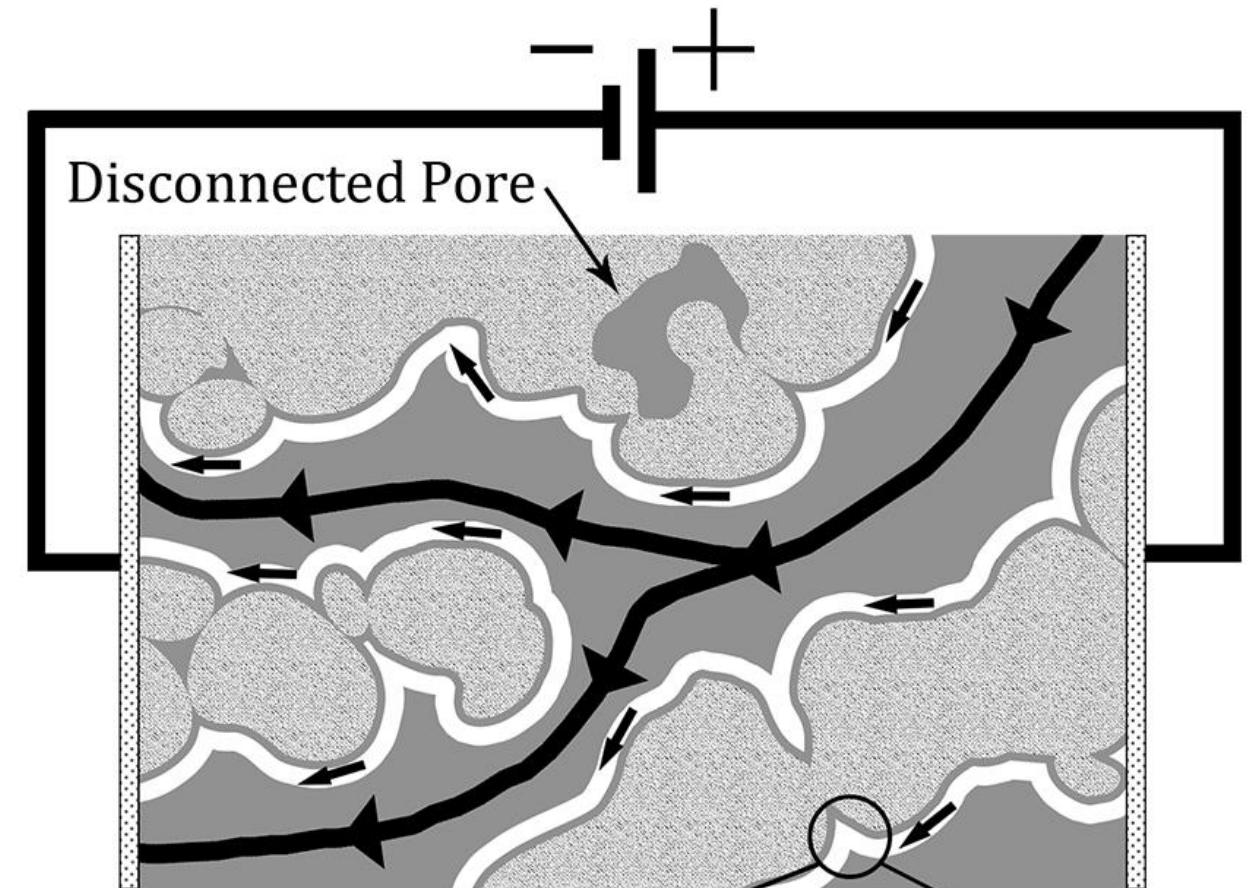


# Electrical current transport in the Earth

- Conduction: migration of ch  
applied electric field
- Earth acts as a resistor



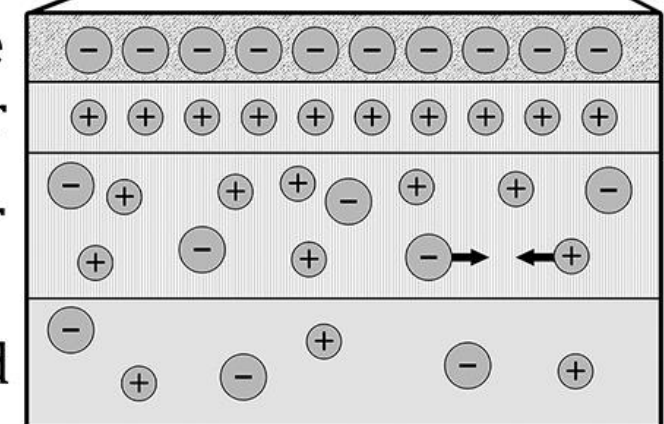
Quantified by electrical conductivity of  
the Earth



Mineral Surface  
Fixed (Stern) Layer

Diffuse Layer

Free Fluid



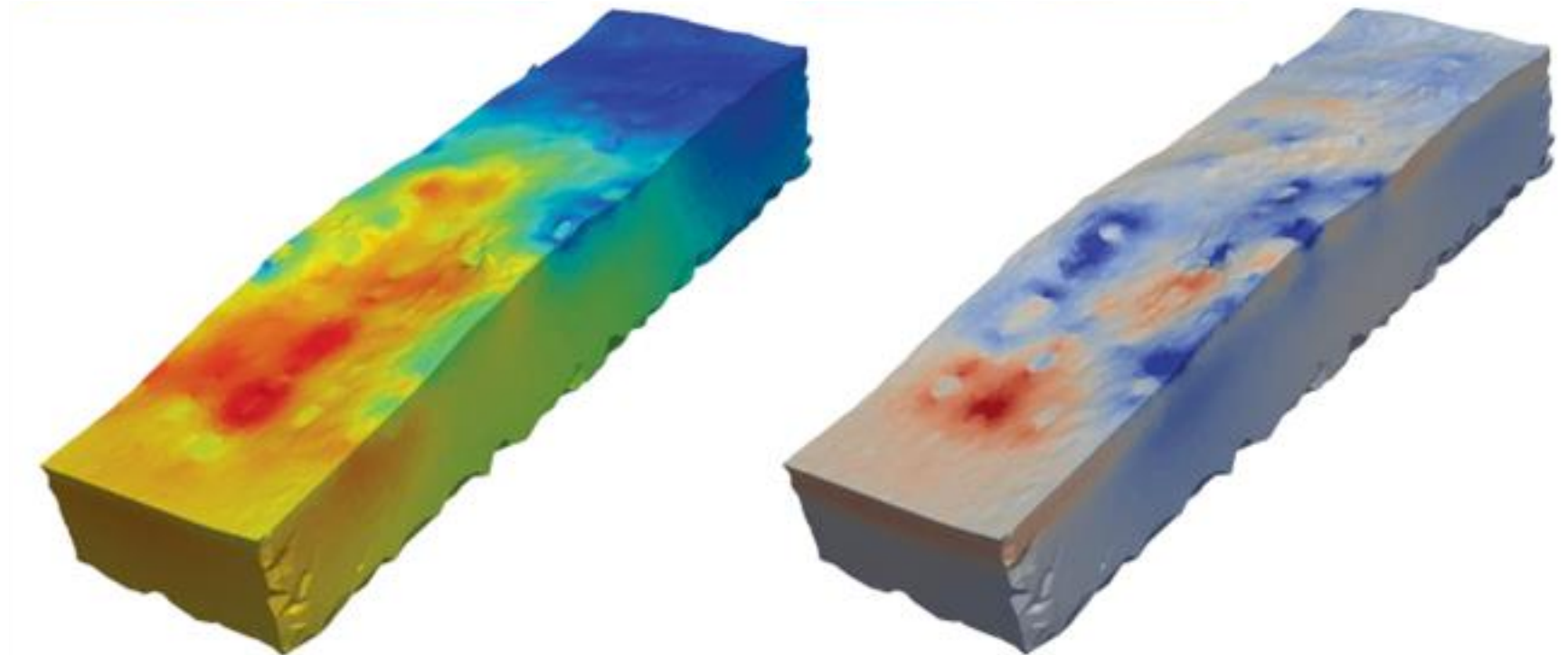
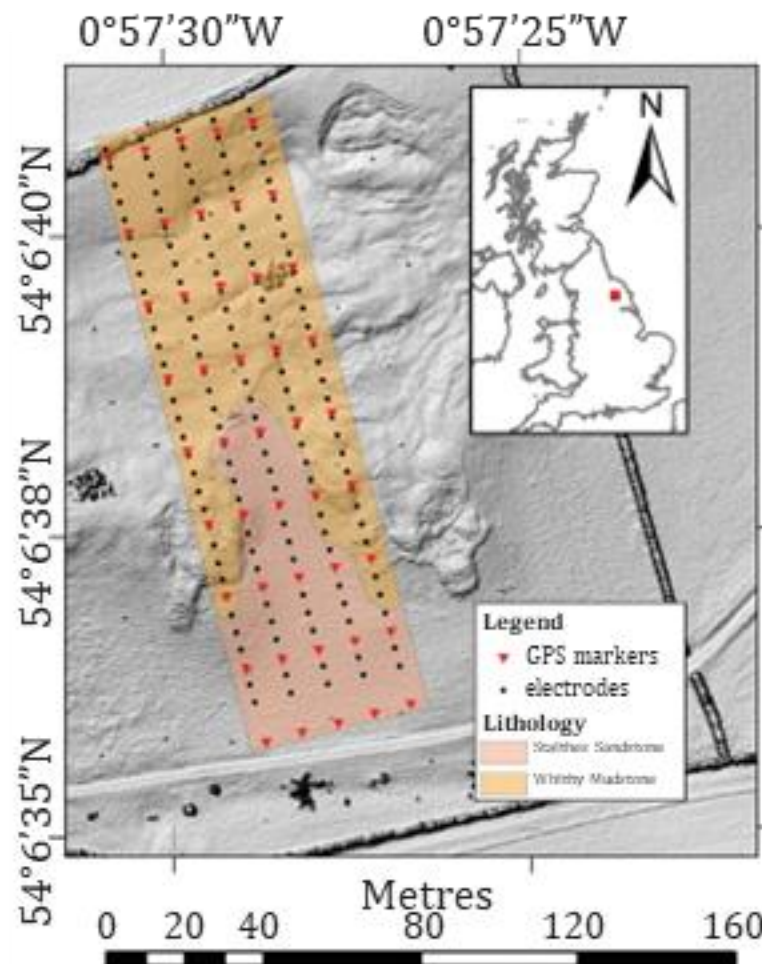


## Hydrogeophysical relationship

Spatial variations in electrical conductivity

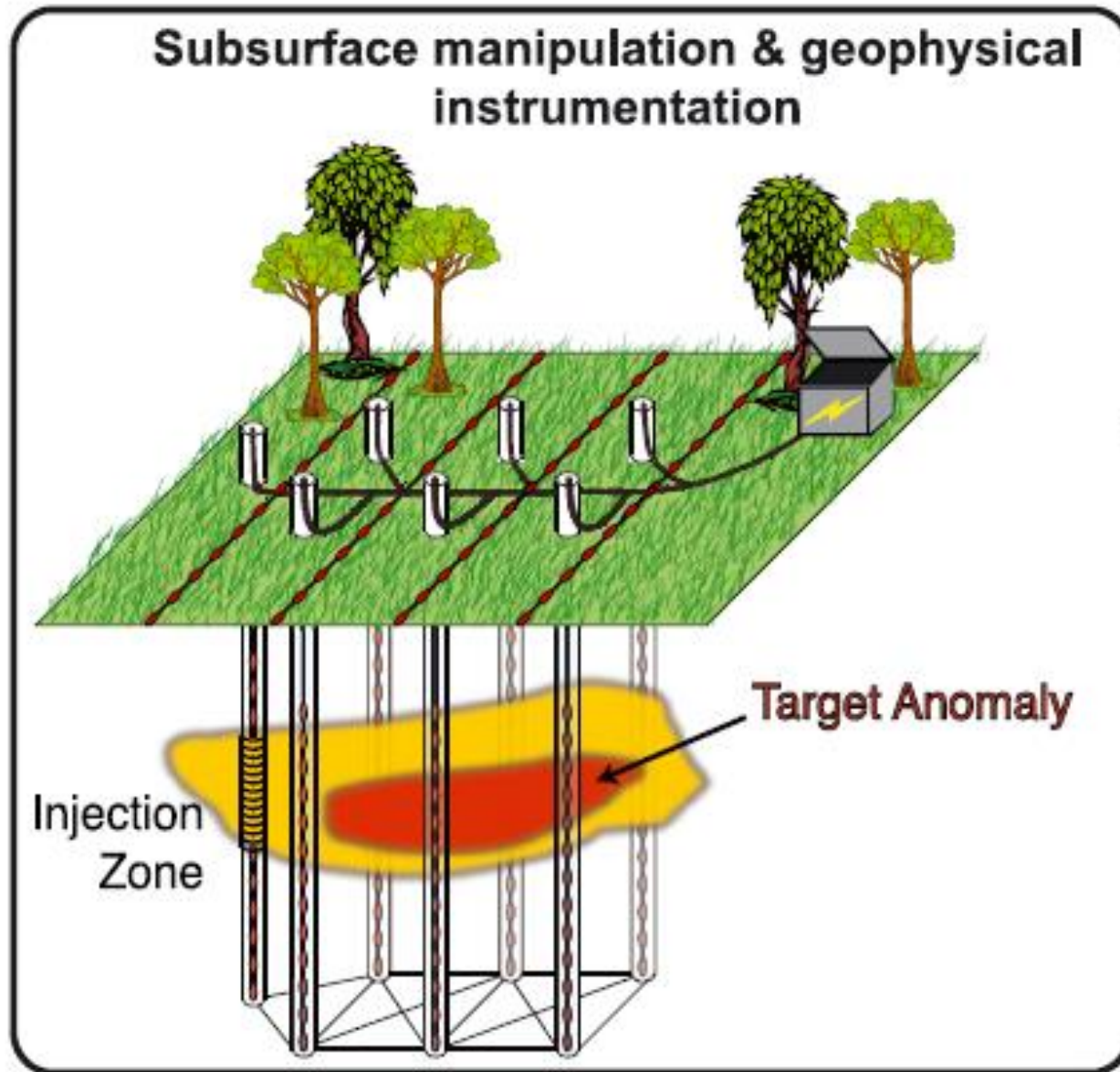


Spatial variations in property of interest  
(e.g. moisture content)

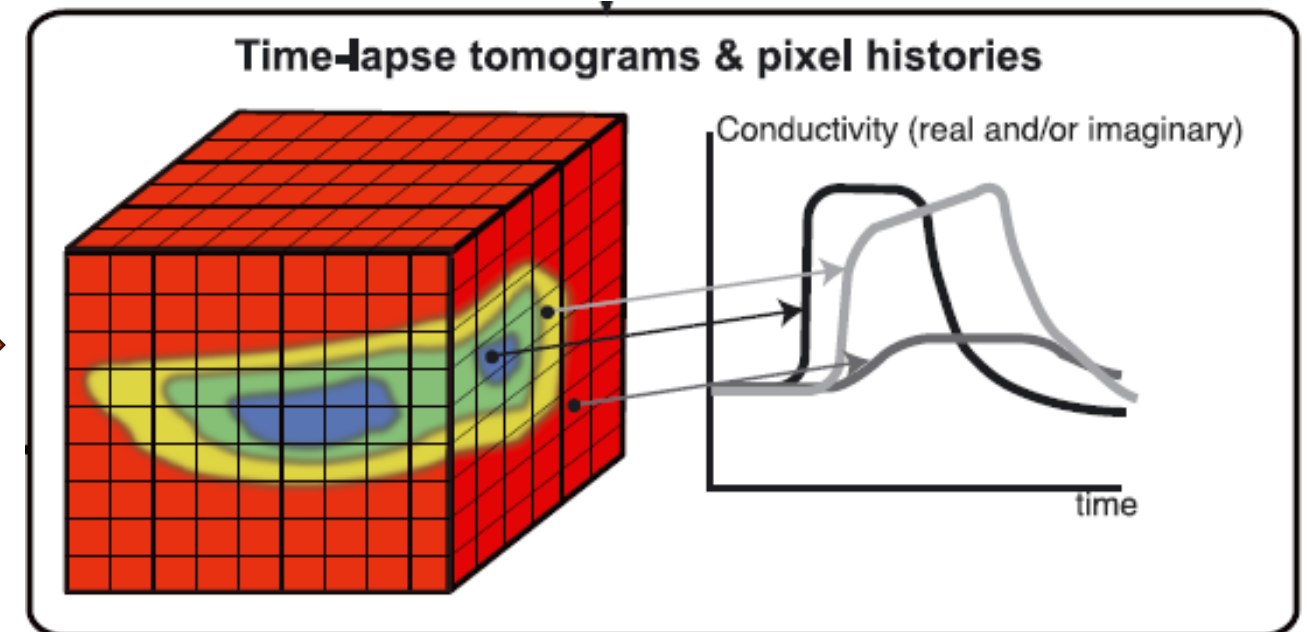


Binley and Slater, 2020, *Resistivity and induced polarization: theory and applications to the near-surface Earth*

# Electrical geophysical monitoring of subsurface processes



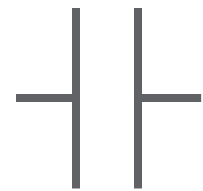
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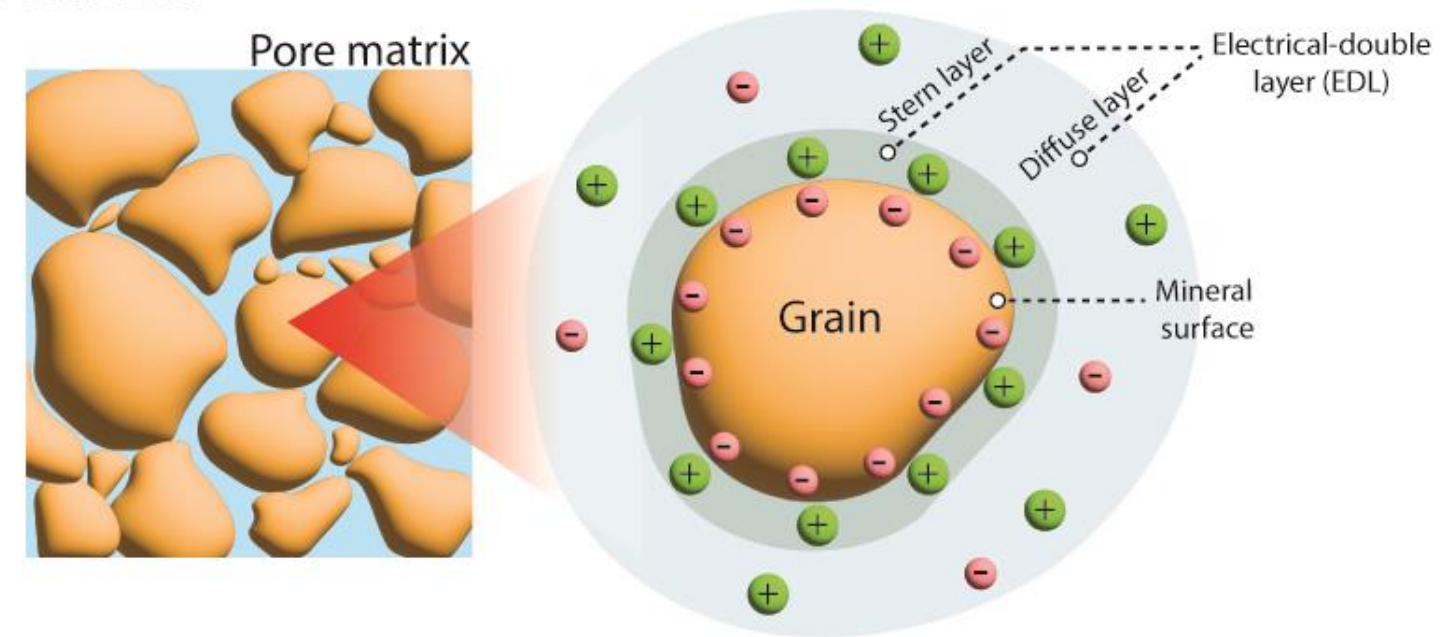


# Polarization of charge in the Earth: insulating grains

- Polarization: temporary displacement and storage of charge under an applied electric field
- Earth acts as a poor (**leaky**) capacitor



(a) Unpolarized



(b) Polarized

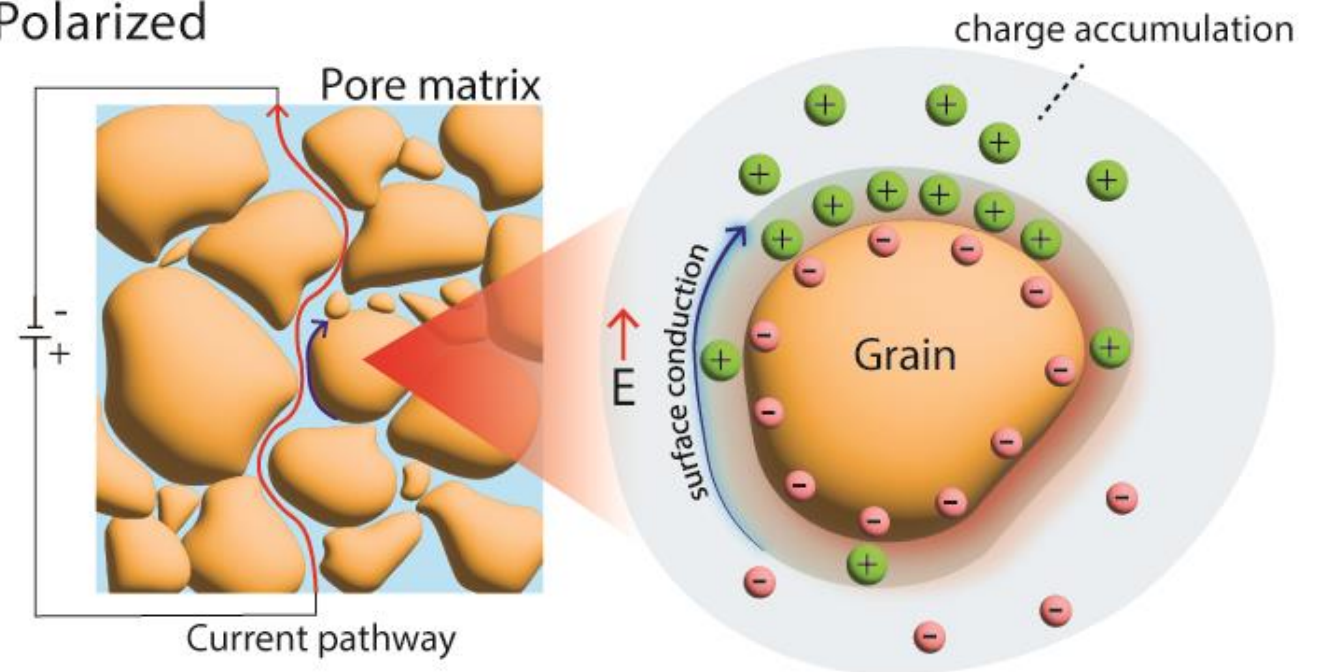
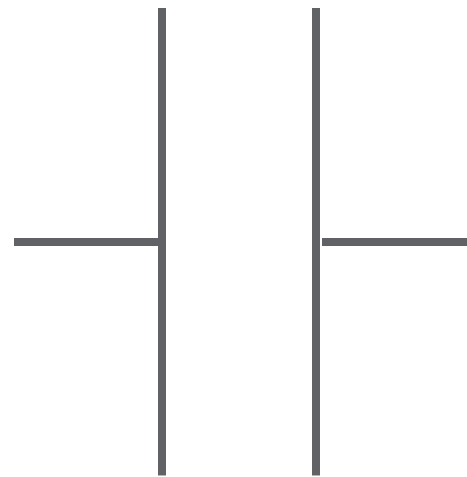


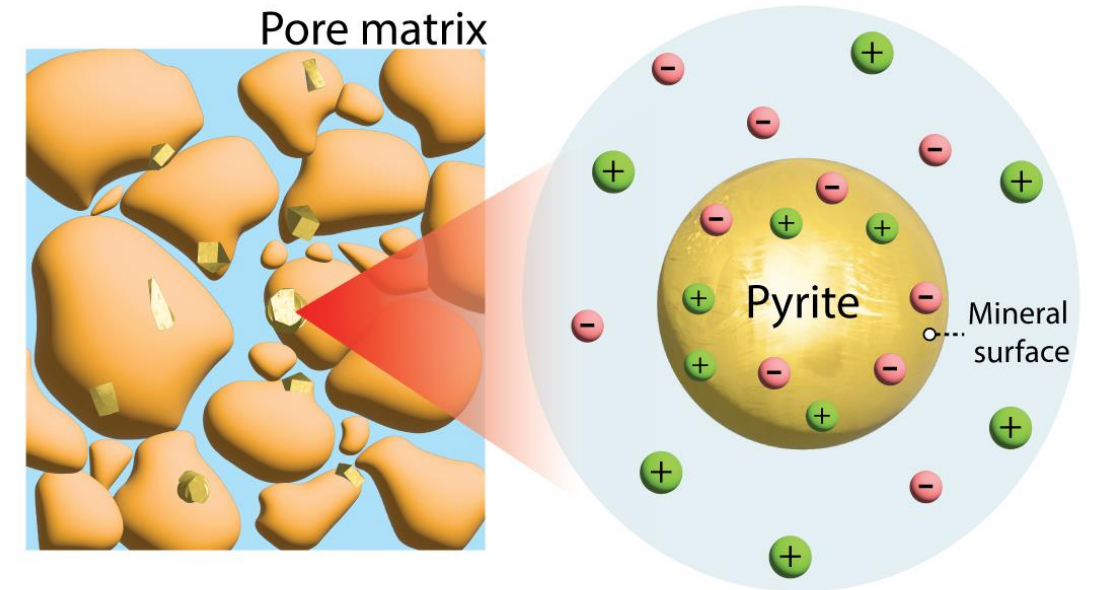
Figure credit: Klaudio Peshtani,  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

# Polarization of charge in the Earth: conducting grains

- Electron conductors make the Earth a much better capacitor



(a) Unpolarized



(b) Polarized

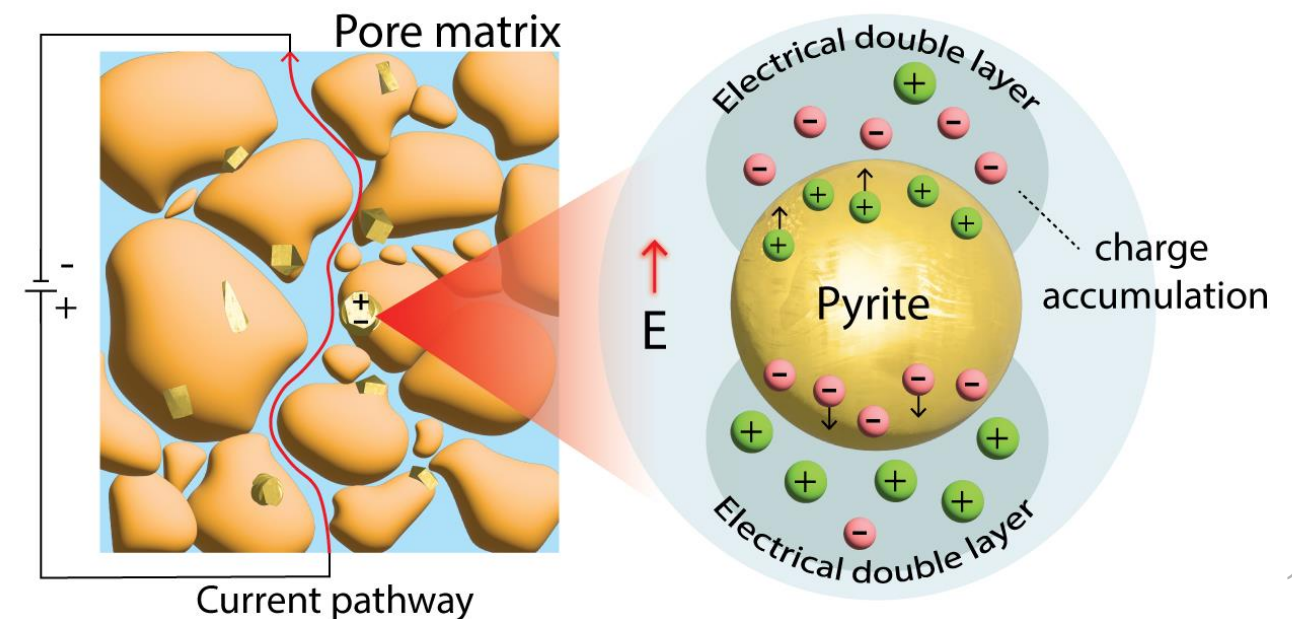
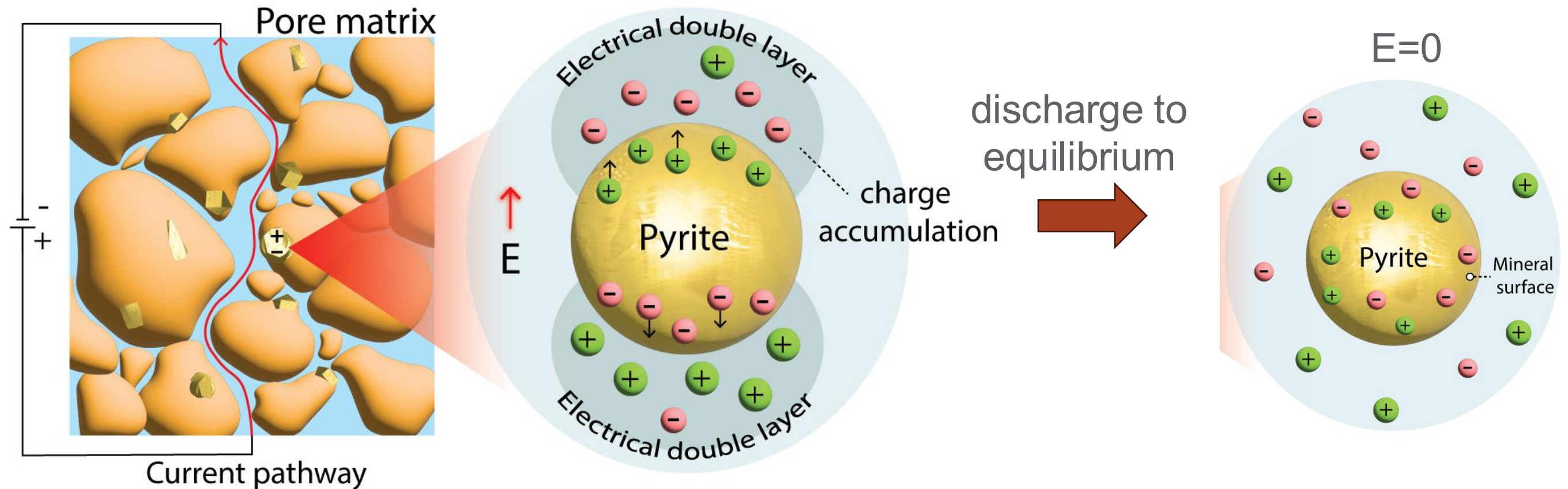


Figure credit: Klaudio Peshtani,  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory



# What Spectral Induced Polarization measures

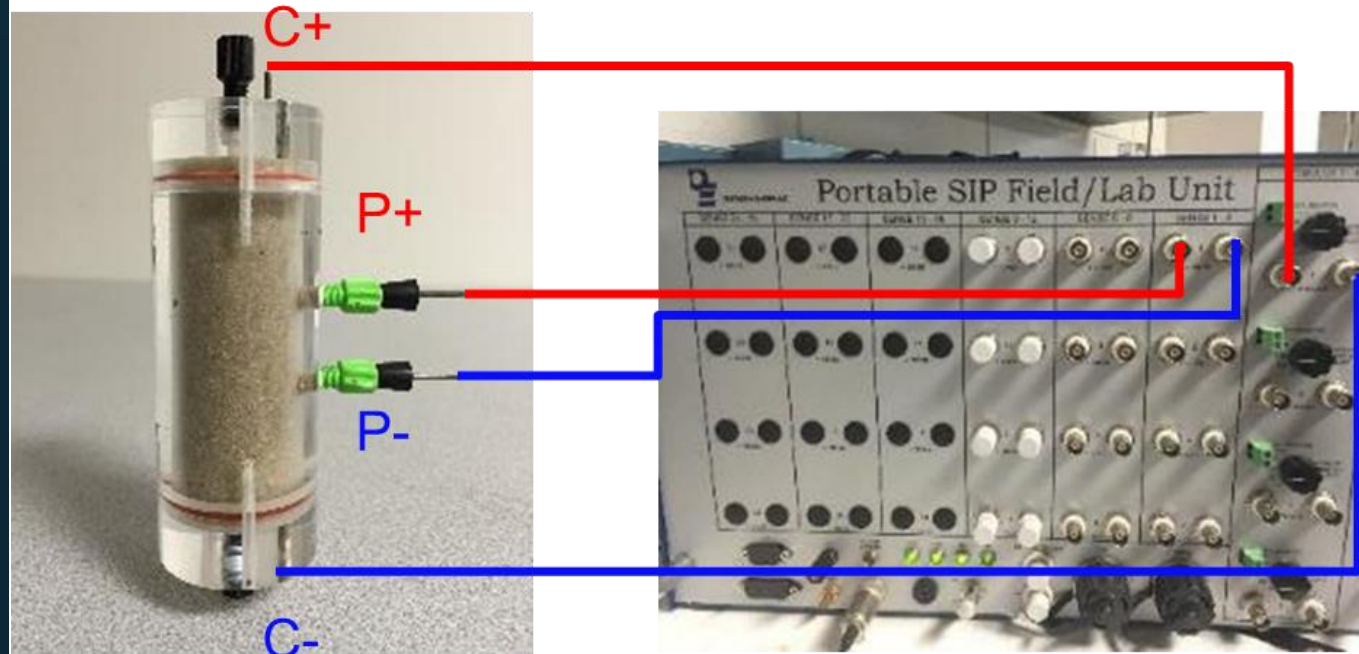
Electrical conduction + Amount of charge displaced (polarization magnitude) + Time to discharge (relaxation time)





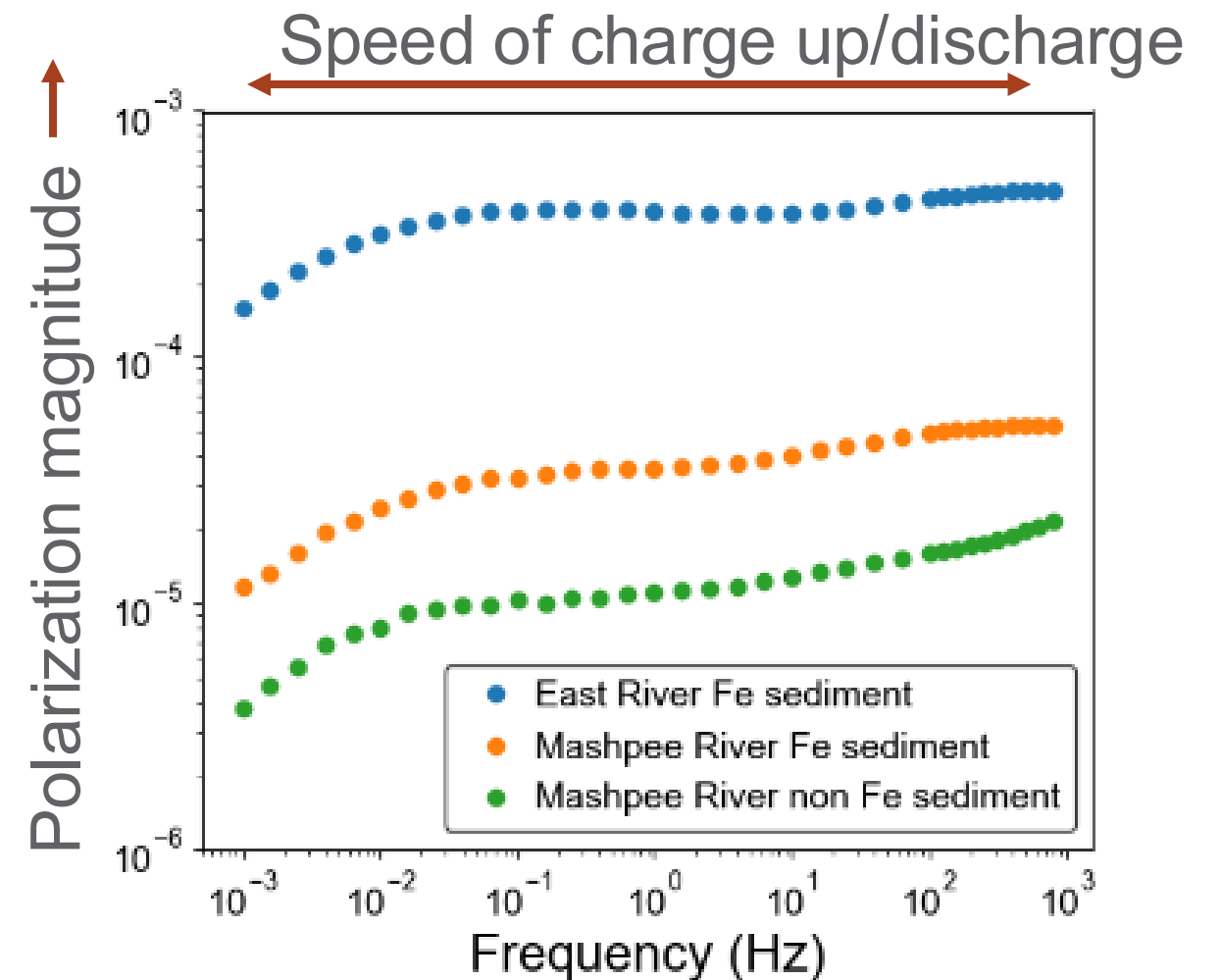
# Laboratory Spectral Induced Polarization (SIP) measurements

- Analyzes complex electrical properties as a function of frequency of the applied electric field



Sample

Electronics



Spectral response



# Multi-scale applications

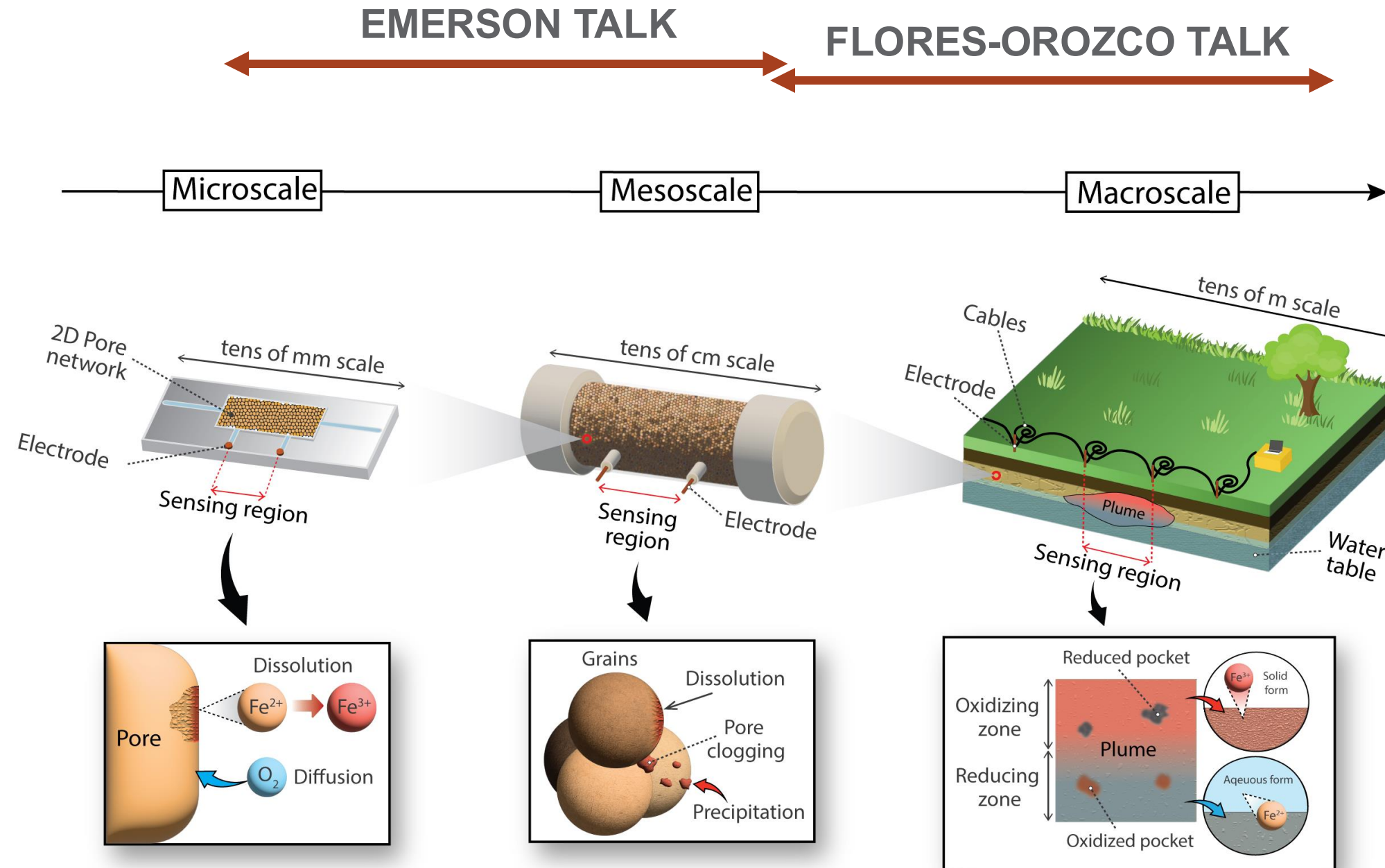


Figure credit: Klaudio Peshtani, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

# Thank you





# **Geophysical imaging for the design and evaluation of groundwater remediation**

**Adrián Flores-Orozco**

**Research Unit of Geophysics  
Department of Geodesy and Geoinformation**

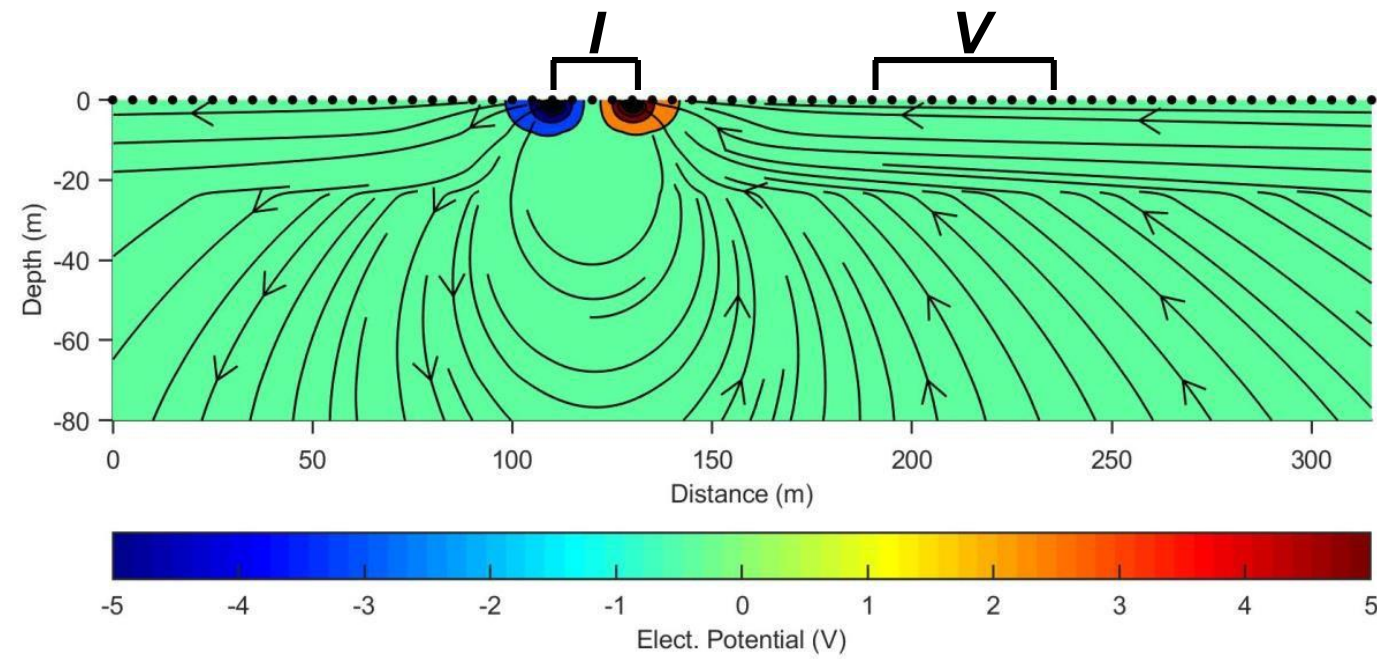
- ❑ What are the advantages of using the Induced Polarization (IP) imaging method for the characterization and monitoring of contaminated sites?
- We propose that IP investigations can be used at the field-scale to improve the design of remediation strategies by identifying the source-zone and plume of contaminants, the extension of contaminant plumes, lithological changes, etc.
- IP monitoring can help to improve the efficiency of the remediation by informing in quasi-real-time regarding the delivery of remediation agents, changes in the subsurface properties



- ❑ Distortions in IP imaging due to anthropogenic structures
- ❑ Comparison between different measuring techniques in IP
- ❑ The frequency-dependence of IP in hydrocarbon contaminant plumes
- ❑ Discriminating between the source zone and the plume of contaminants
  
- ❑ Induced Polarization along nanoparticles injection
  
- ❑ Monitoring the efficiency of groundwater remediation strategies



- Imaging methods aim at resolving change in the electrical properties
- 10 – 100's electrodes
- 100 – 1000's of quadrupoles





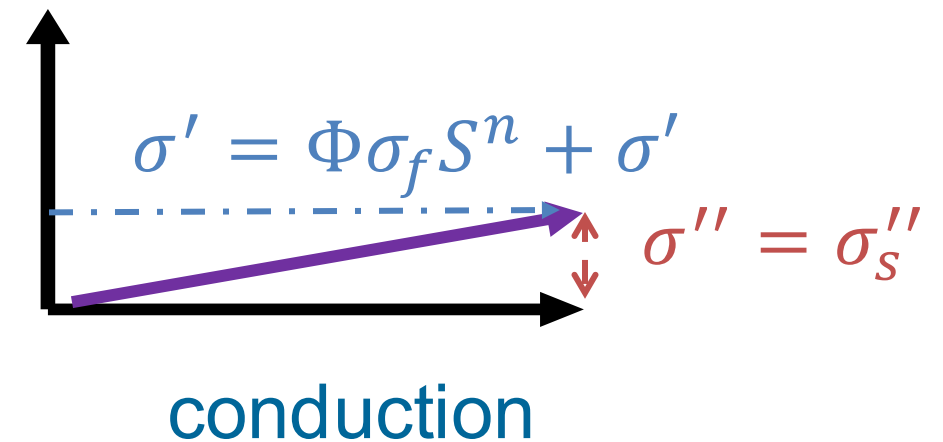
# Complex conductivity

- ❑ Two electrical properties simultaneously measured
- ❑ We use a complex- conductivity ( $\sigma^*$ ) to represent both properties:
  - ❑ Conductivity ( $\sigma'$ )
  - ❑ Capacitive ( $\sigma''$ ) - or induced polarization effect

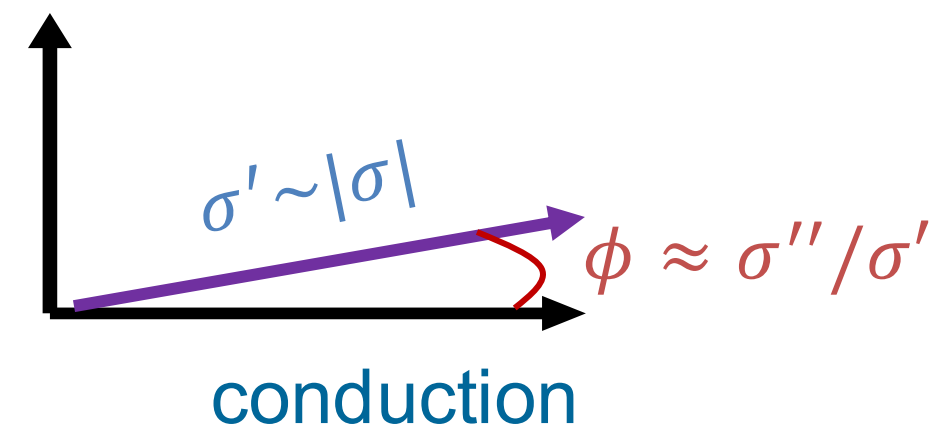
$$\sigma^* = \sigma' + i\sigma''$$

$$\sigma^* = |\sigma| e^{i\phi}$$

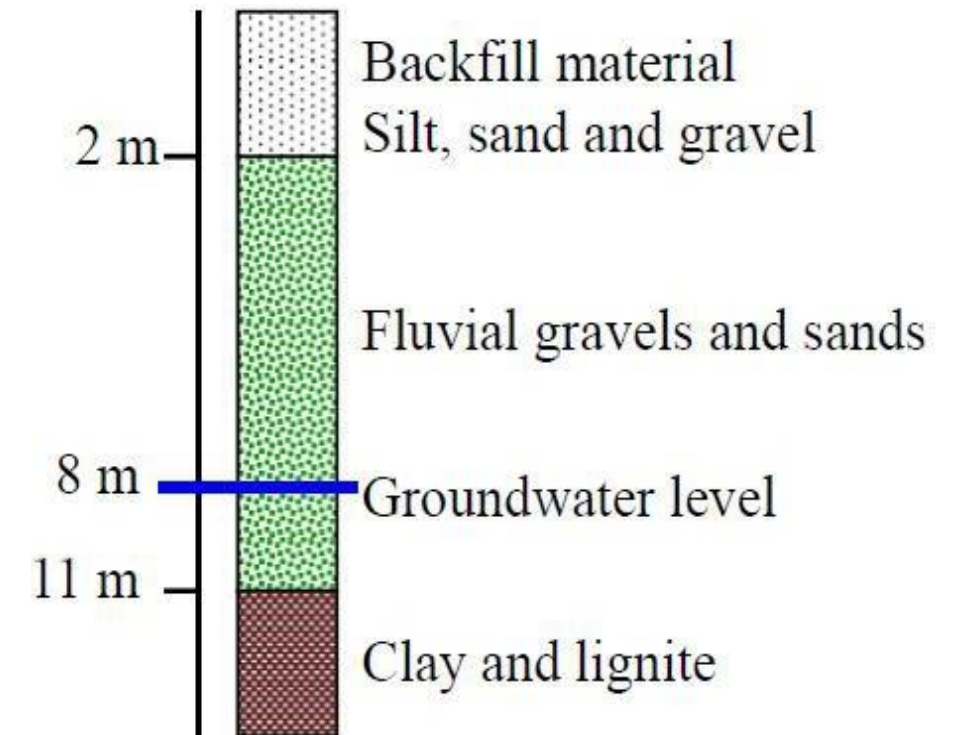
polarization



polarization



- ❑ Former hydrogenation plant
- ❑ BTEX contaminants: Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene
- ❑ Groundwater located at 8m depth
- ❑ High Benzene concentrations in groundwater



Flores Orozco, A, Kemna, A., Oberdörster, C., Zschornack, L., Leven, C., Dietrich, P. and Weiss, H., 2012. Delineation of subsurface hydrocarbon contamination at a former hydrogenation plant using spectral induced polarization imaging. *Journal of contaminant hydrology*, 136, pp.131-144  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jconhyd.2012.06.001>



# Measurements set-up

□ The electrical image should be centered at the area with the highest contaminant concentrations

## □ Time-domain (TDIP)

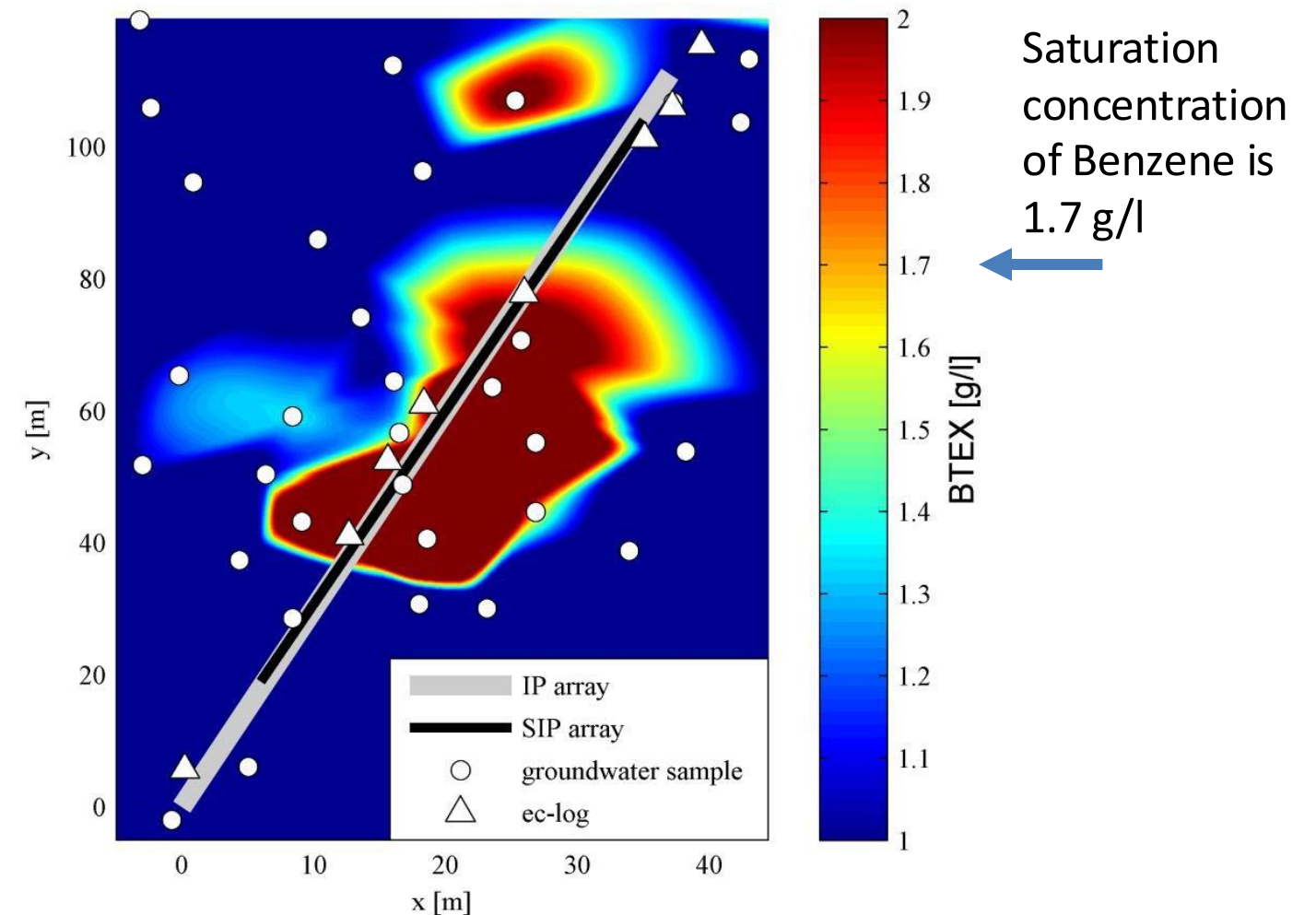
□ 48 electrodes – 2.5 m spacing

□ 2s pulse length (240 – 1840 ms)

## □ Frequency-domain IP (FDIP)

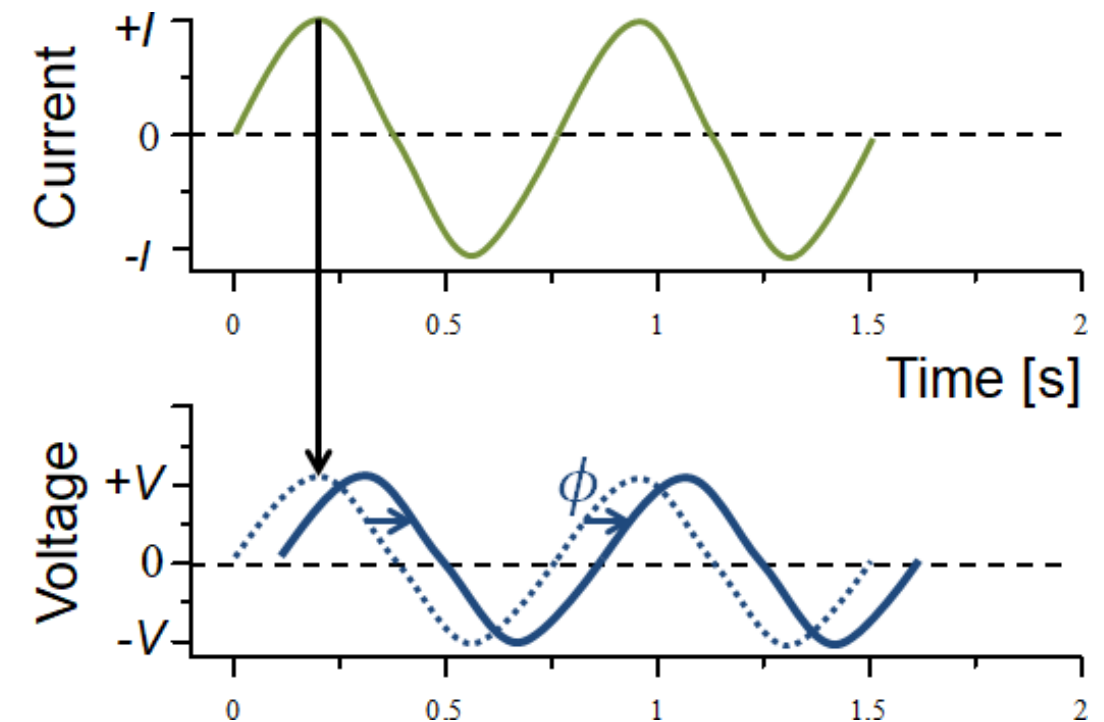
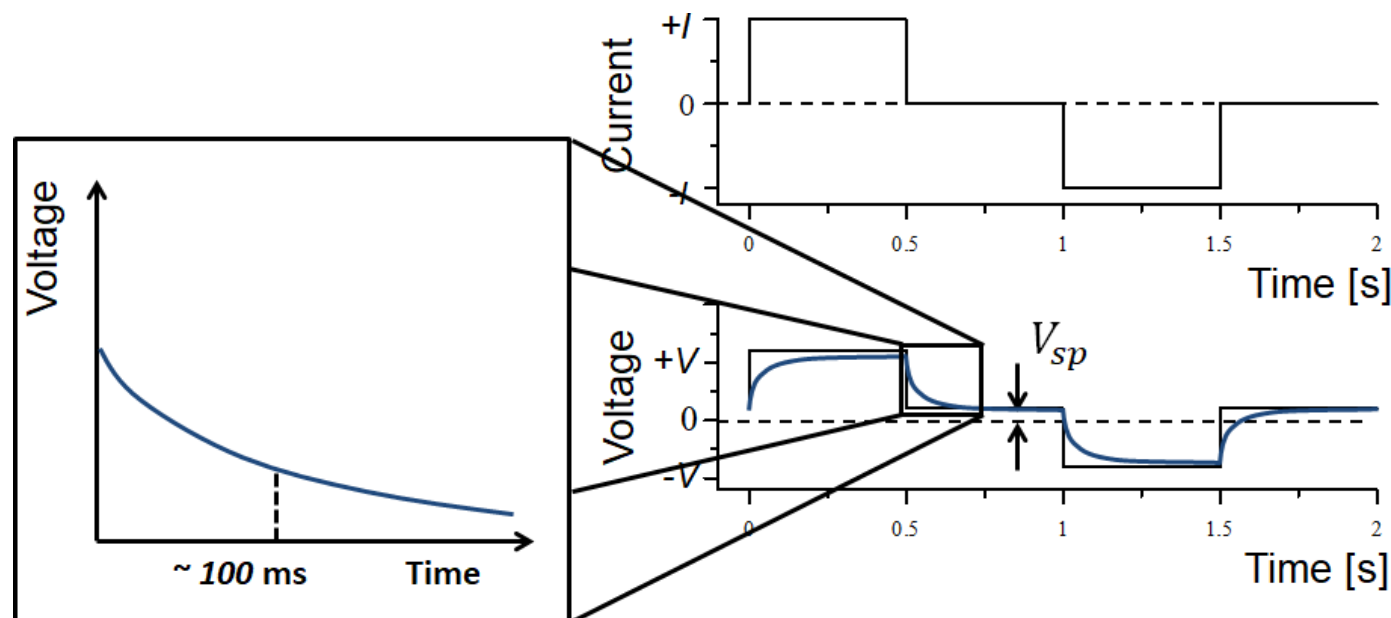
□ 36 electrodes – 2.3 m spacing

□ SIP between 0.07 and 1000 Hz



# Induced Polarization measurements

- The capacitive properties of the subsurface reflects as:
  - A slow decay in the voltage after switching the current off (discharging curve) for measurements using direct-current (time-domain IP)
  - A phase-shift ( $\phi$ ) between the injected current and measured voltage when using alternating current (frequency-domain IP)

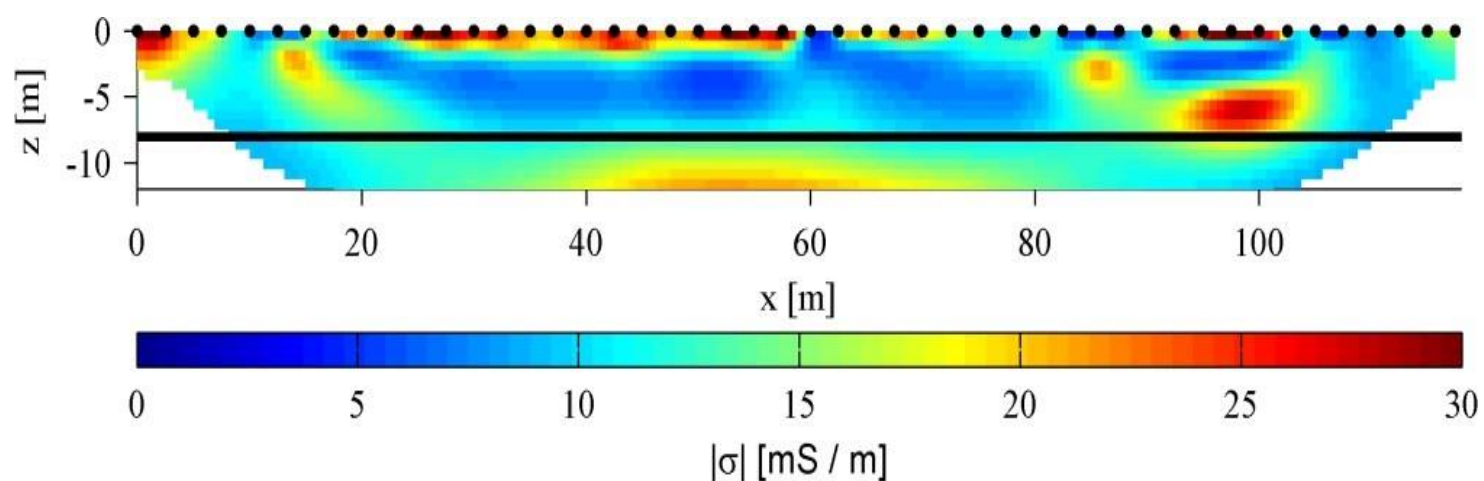




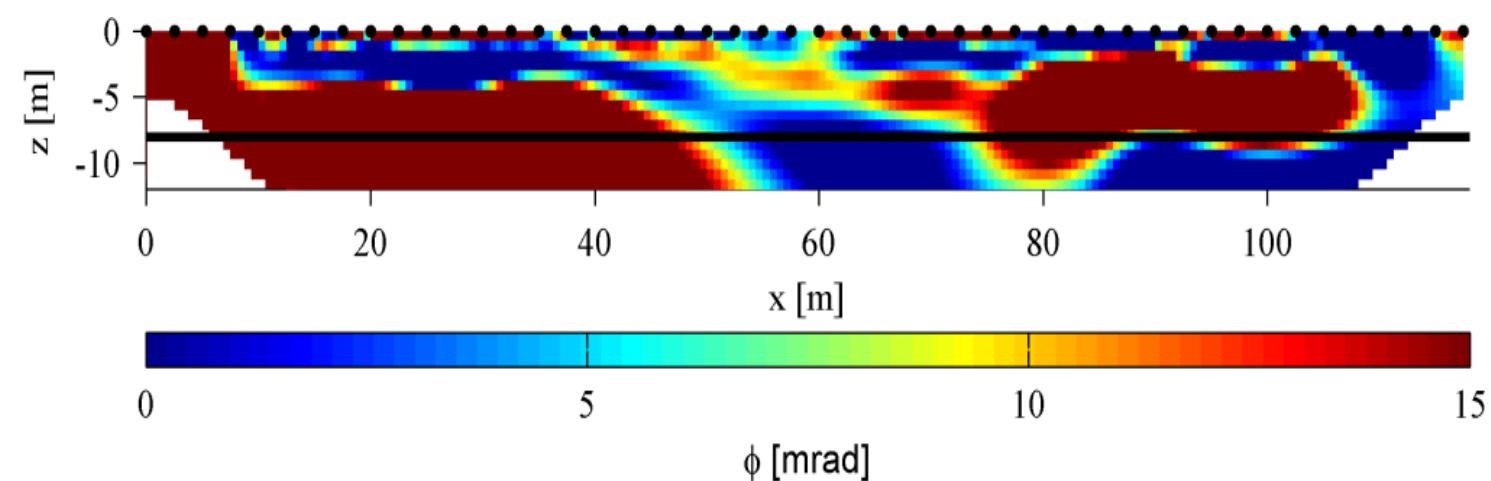
# Initial time-domain (TDIP) results

- Initial results for TDIP measurements reveal significant changes along the profile
- Is the high conductivity and low polarization response in the middle due to the presence of buried infrastructure?

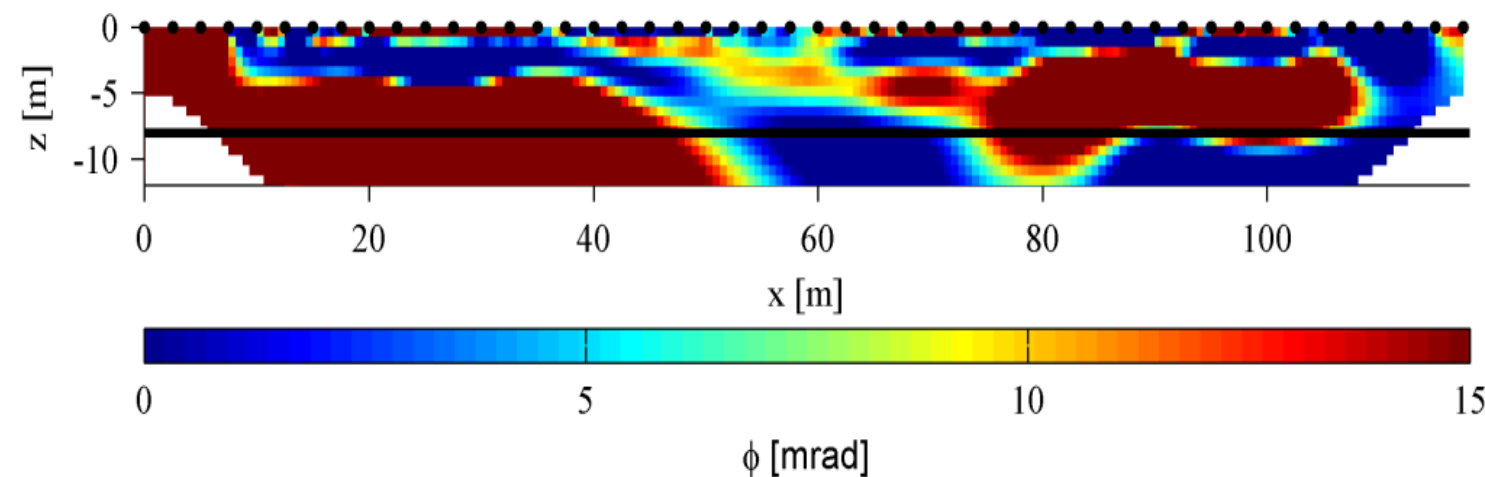
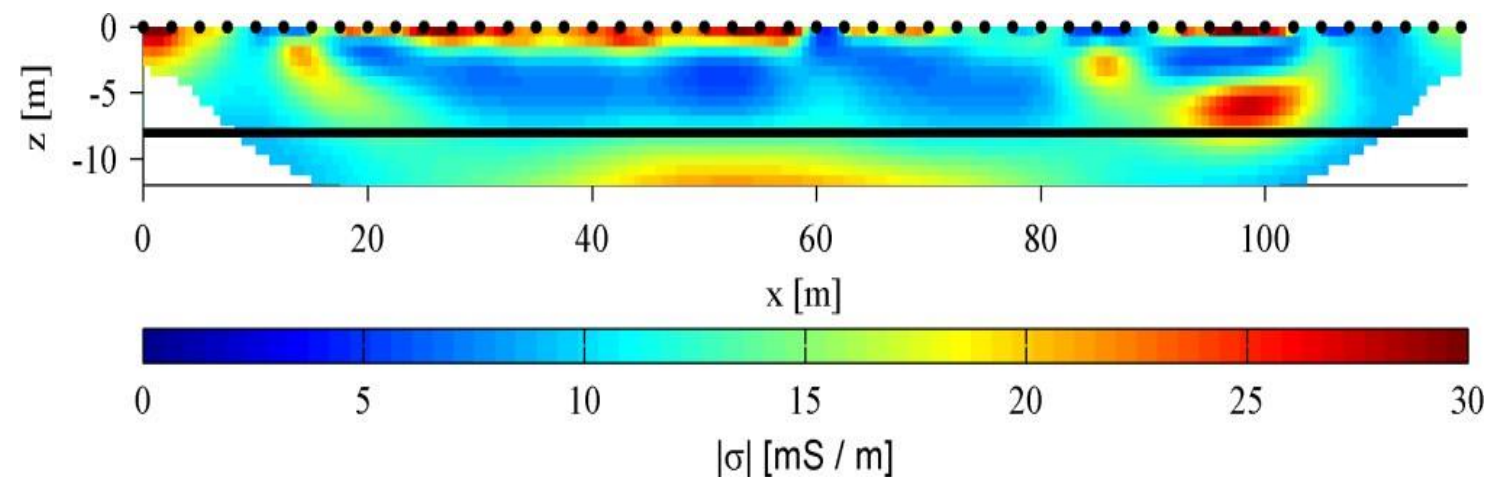
Electrical conductivity ( $\sigma'$ )



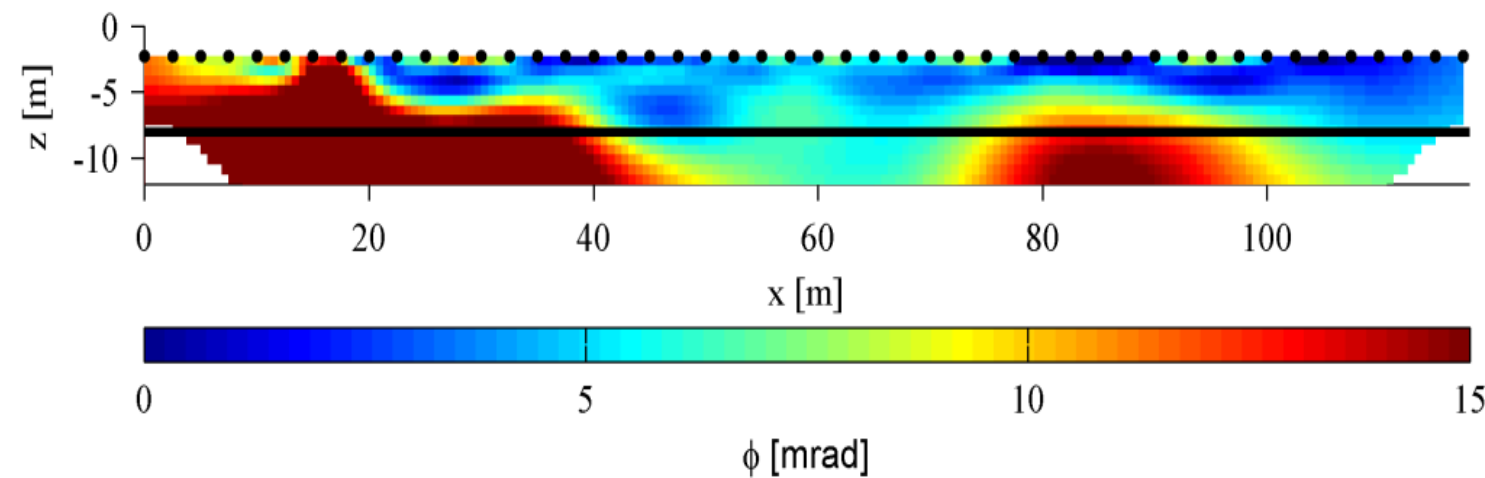
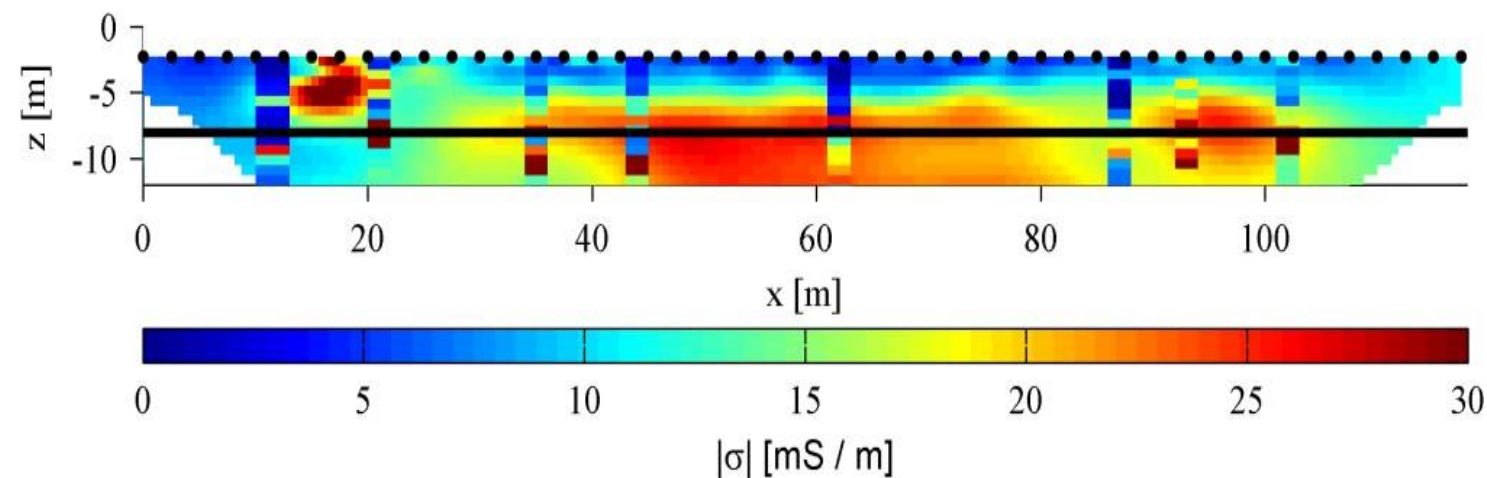
Induced Polarization ( $\phi$ )



# TDIP results 1: the effect of anthropogenic noise



**After excavation of the trench**

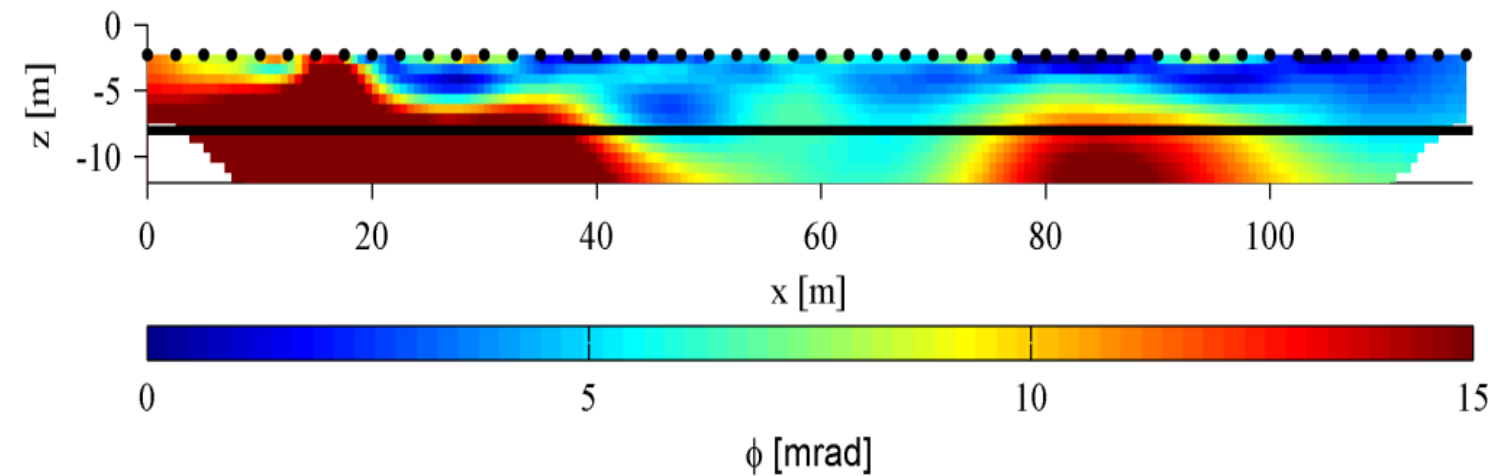
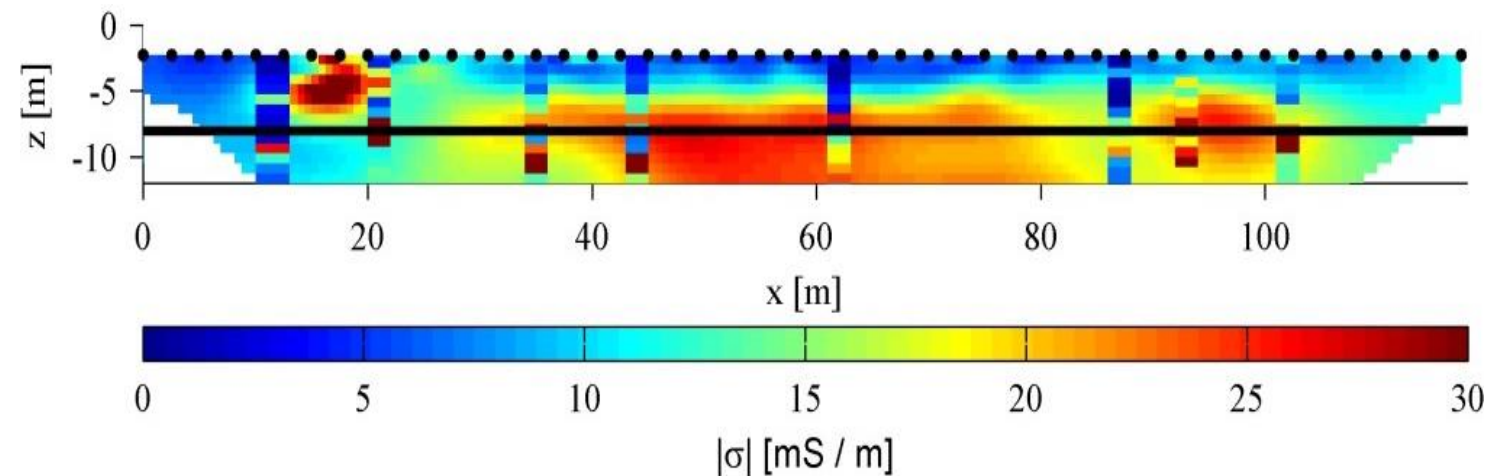




# TDIP results 1: the effect of anthropogenic noise

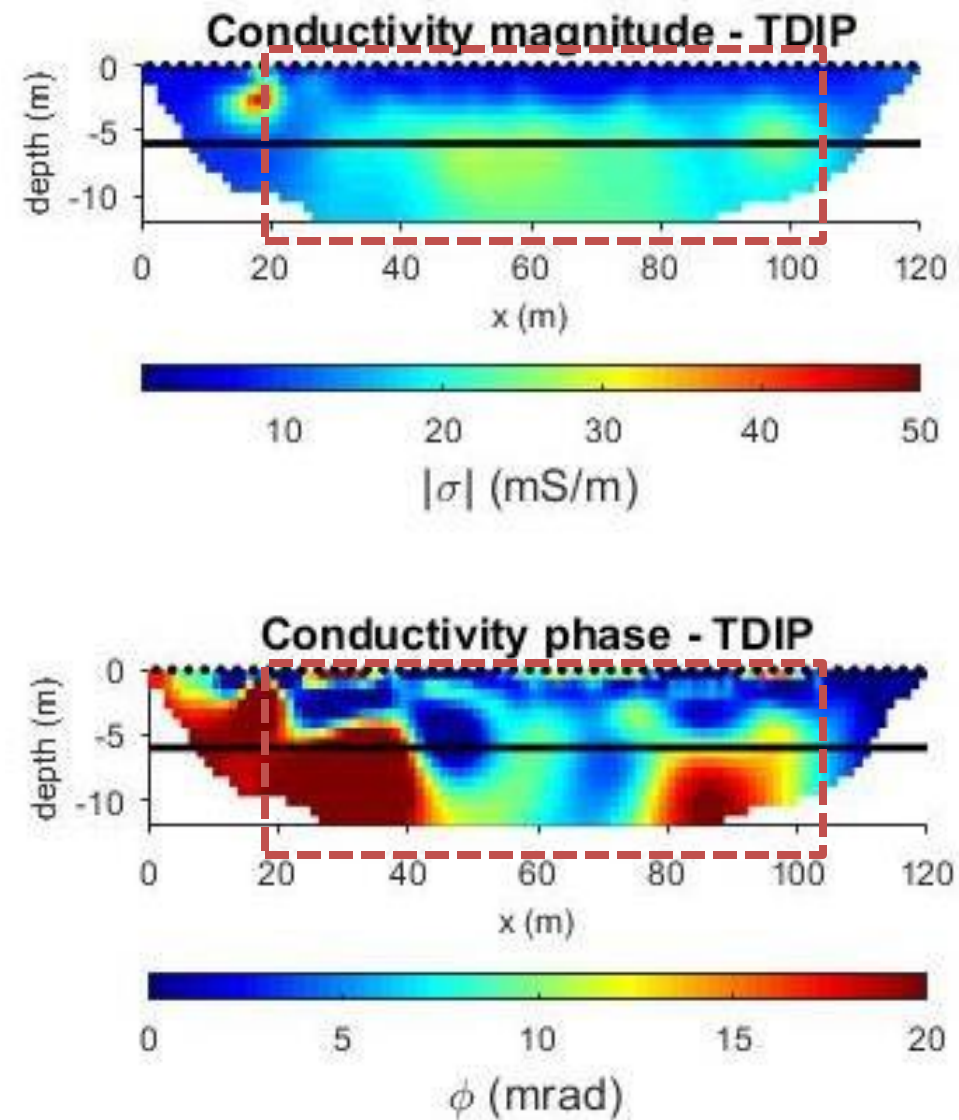
- Initial results reveal similar structures at depth for data collected before and after the excavation of a trench
- Seems that structures resolved with IP imaging might still be acceptable even if data is collected in urban environments

## After excavation of the trench

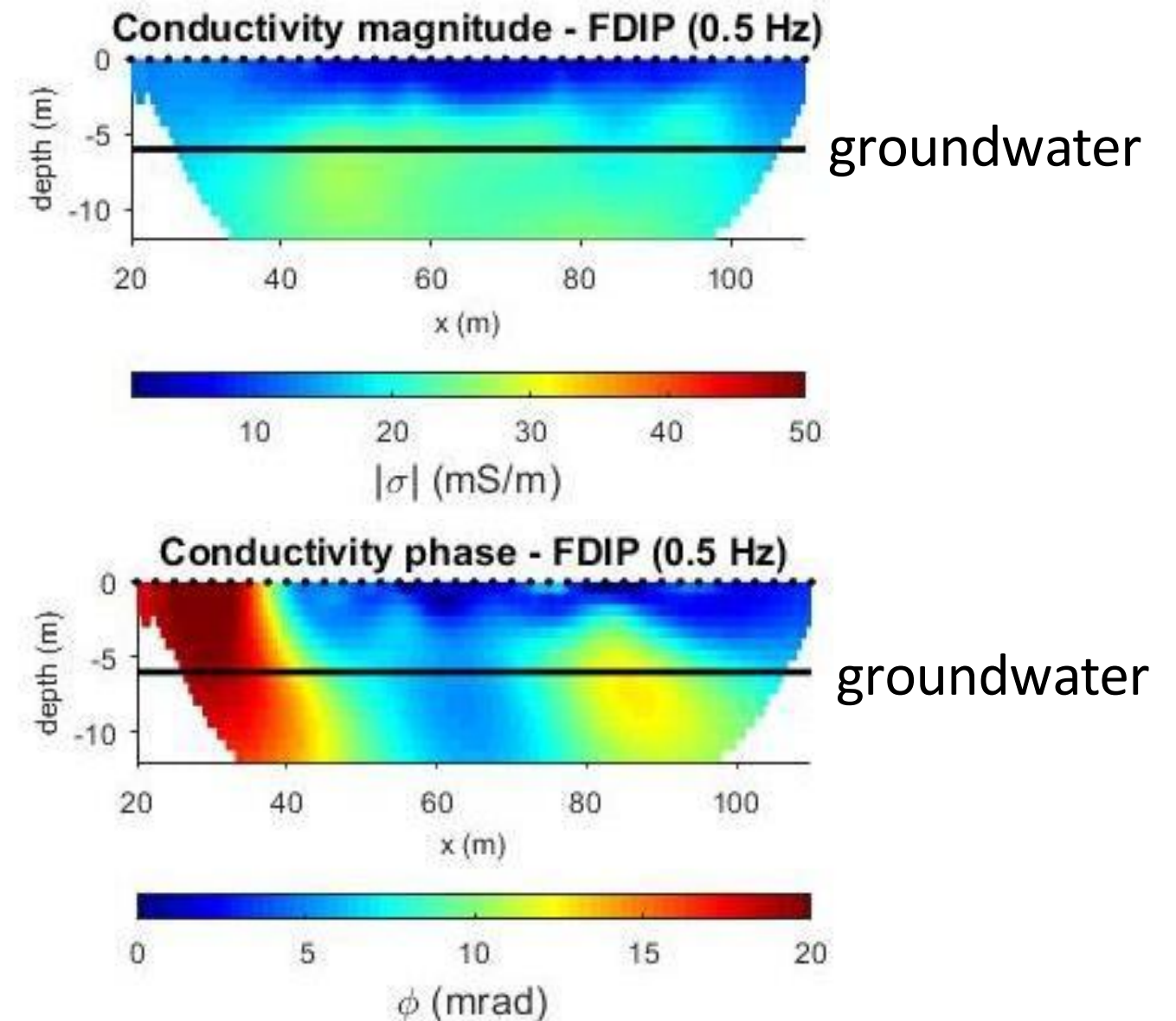


# How comparable are different IP techniques

## TDIP



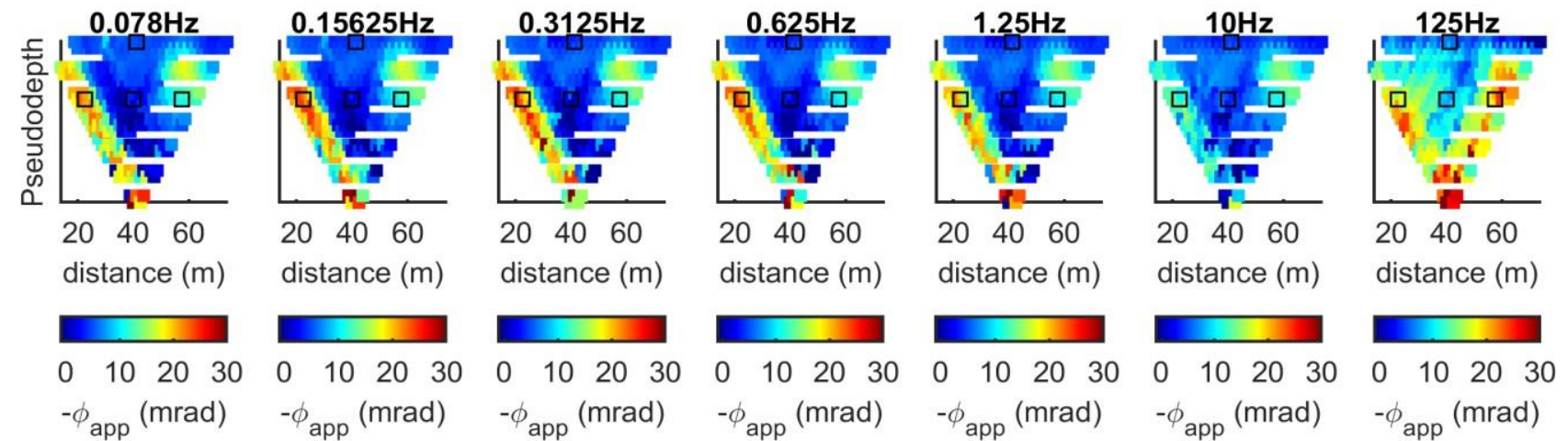
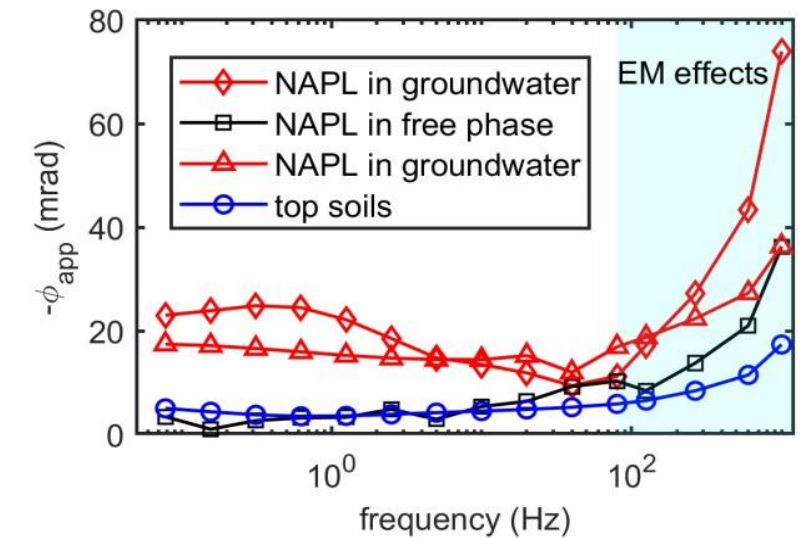
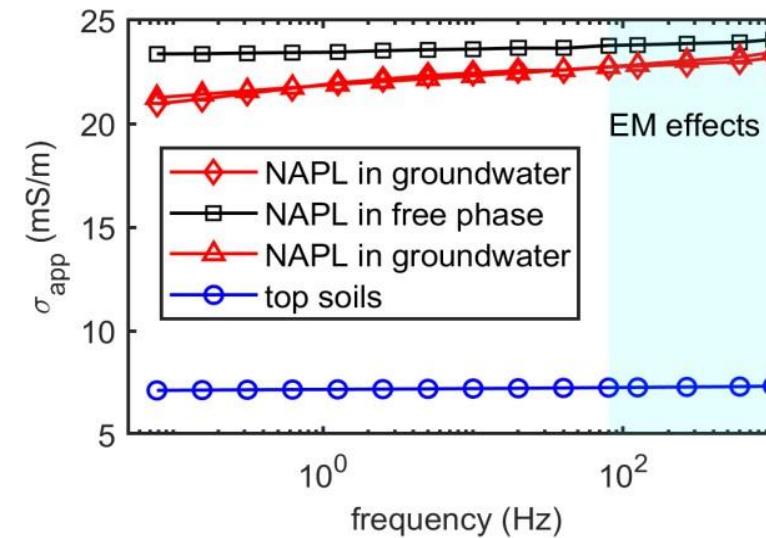
## FDIP





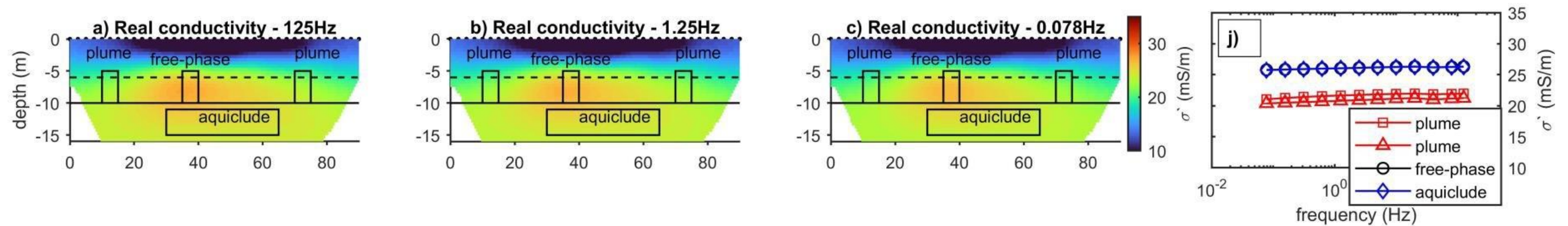
# Why spectral IP (SIP)?

- Frequency-dependence of the measured IP data
- Measurements are re-collected between 0.1 and 500 Hz
- Low frequencies are limited by the acquisition time
- High frequencies are affected due to parasitic electromagnetic (EM) effects



# SIP signatures in BTEX contaminant plumes

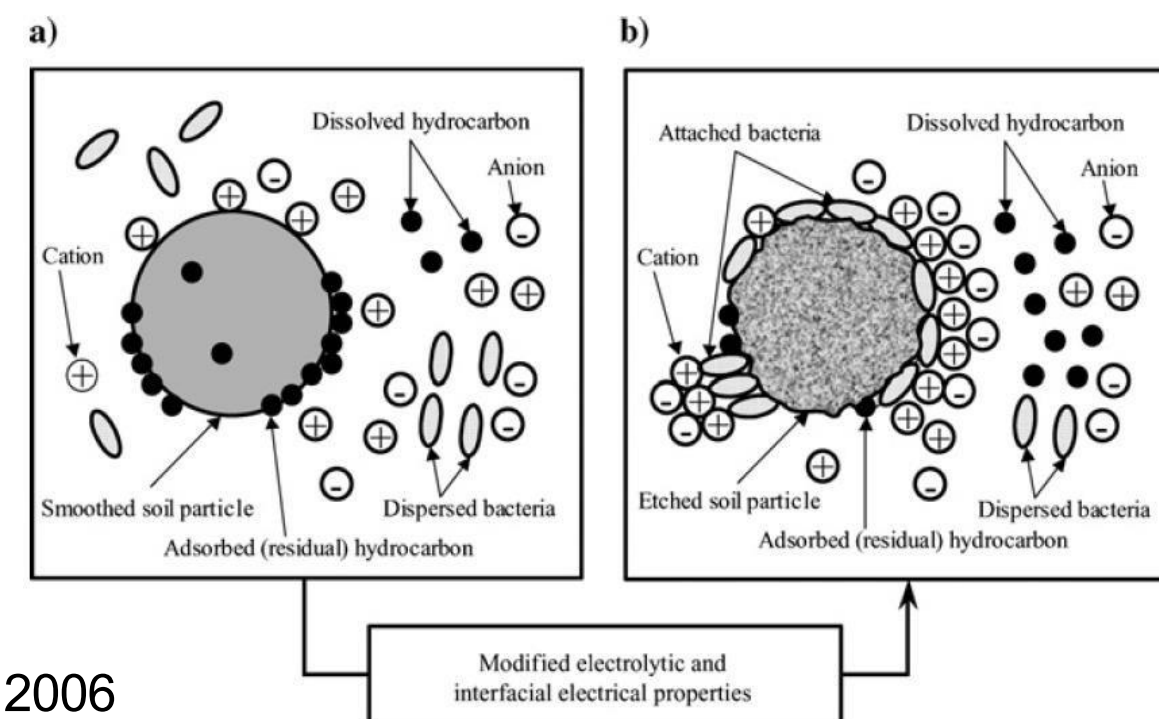
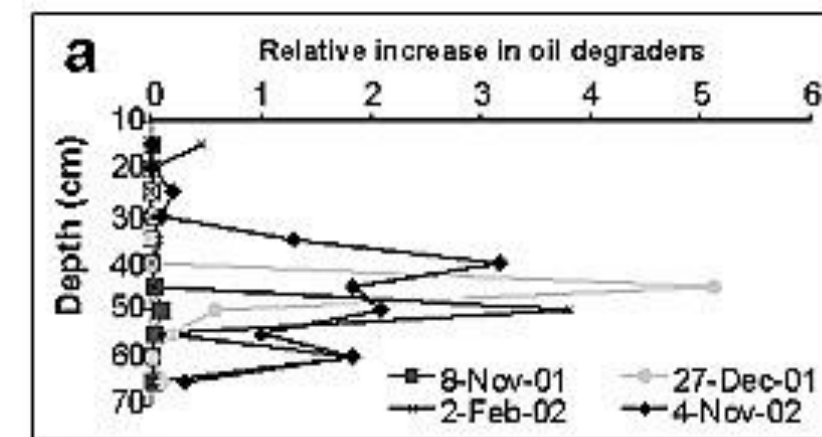
- ❑ Negligible frequency-dependence in conductivity
- ❑ The highest electrical conductivity ( $\sigma'$ ) is observed where higher BTEX concentrations are observed (free-phase)





## Increase in the electrical conductivity due to mature oil plumes

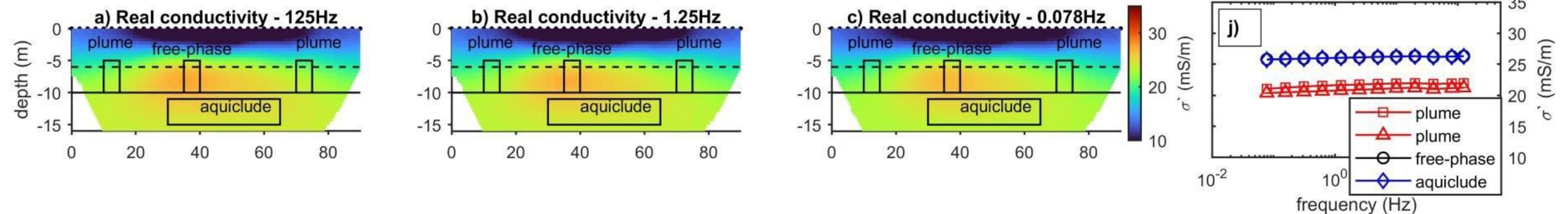
- Fresh hydrocarbon plumes: high electrical resistivity
- Aged hydrocarbon plumes: enhance microbial activity, which in turns results in the accumulation of organic acids and metabolic products increasing the fluid conductivity



AbdelAal et al., GRL, 2006

# SIP signatures in BTEX contaminant plumes

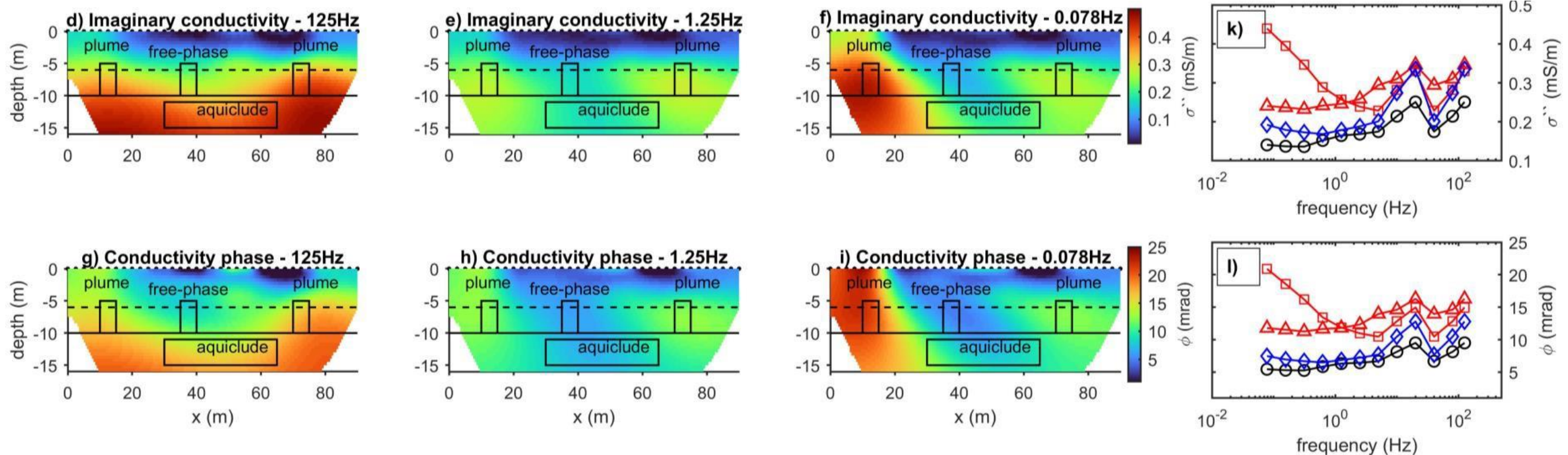
- The highest electrical conductivity ( $\sigma'$ ) is observed where higher BTEX concentrations are observed (free-phase)
- The high conductivity is expected for a mature contaminant plume, due to high ionic strength in pore water accompanying microbial activity
- The higher the BTEX concentrations the higher the degradation?





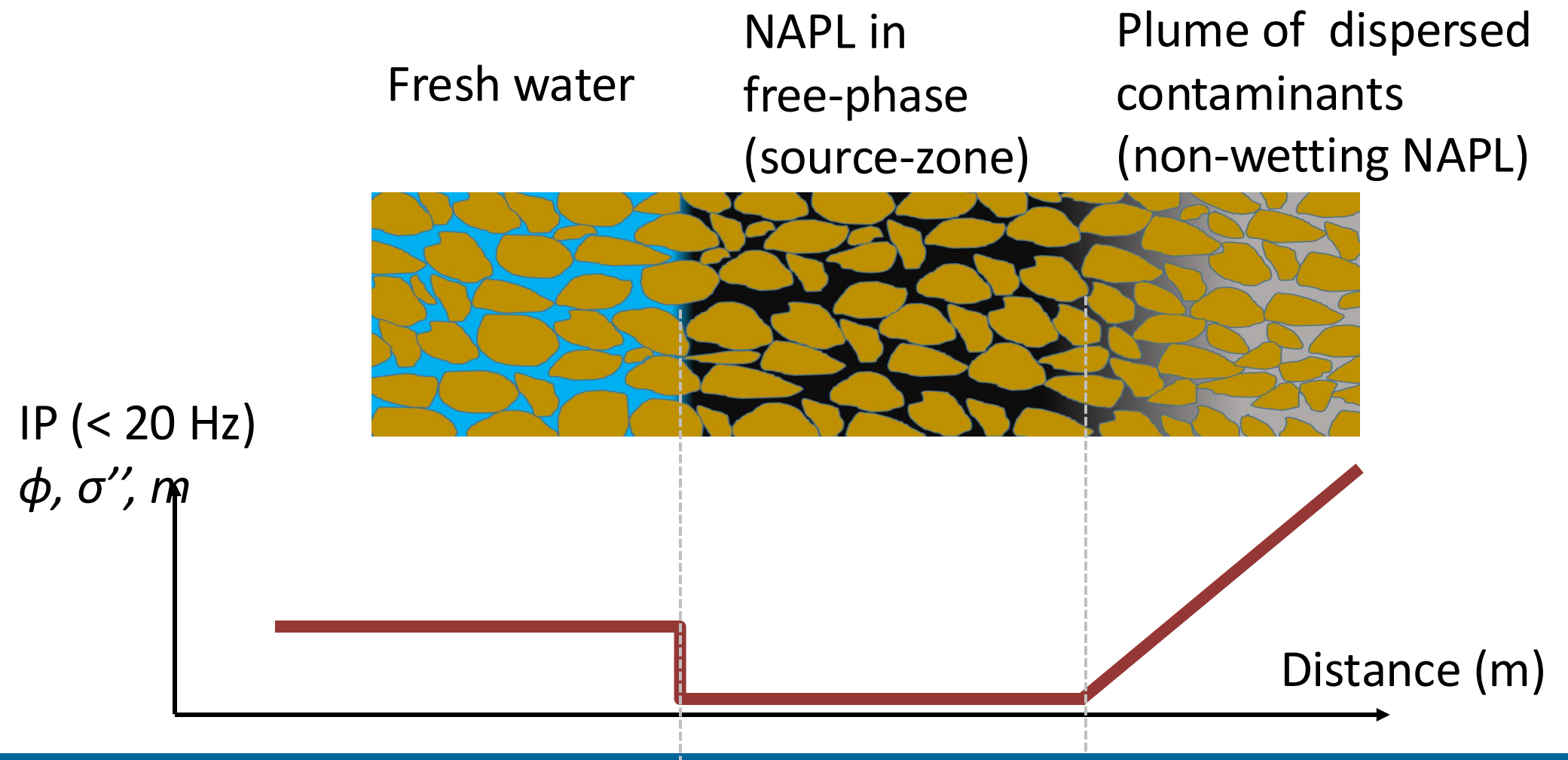
# The polarization imaging results

- The polarization ( $\sigma''$  or  $\phi$ ) images show high values at intermediate BTEX concentrations and negligible response in the middle of the profile, at the highest BTEX concentrations



# Design of a remediation strategy

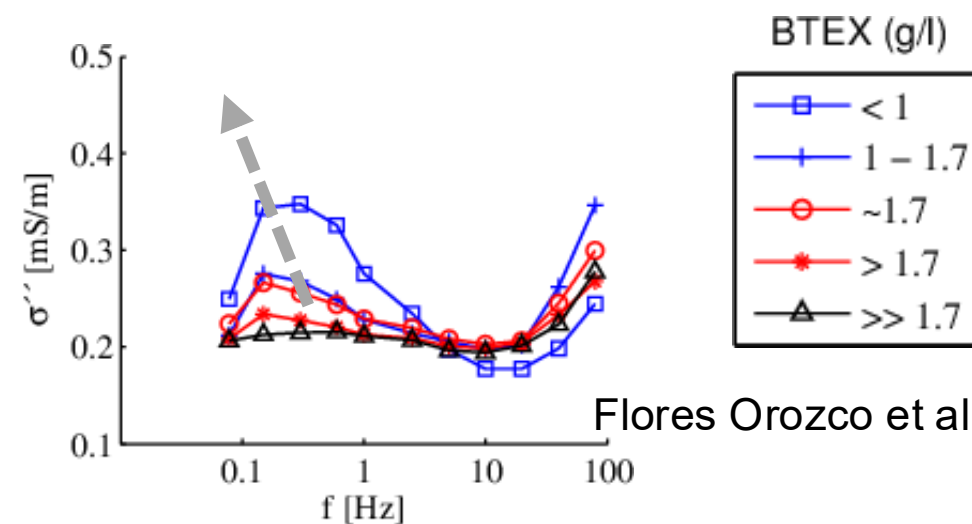
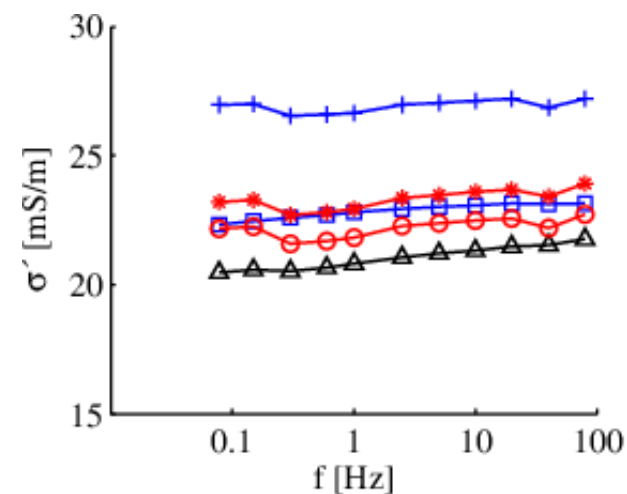
- IP permits to discriminate between the source-zone (contaminants in free-phase) and the plume of dispersed contaminants





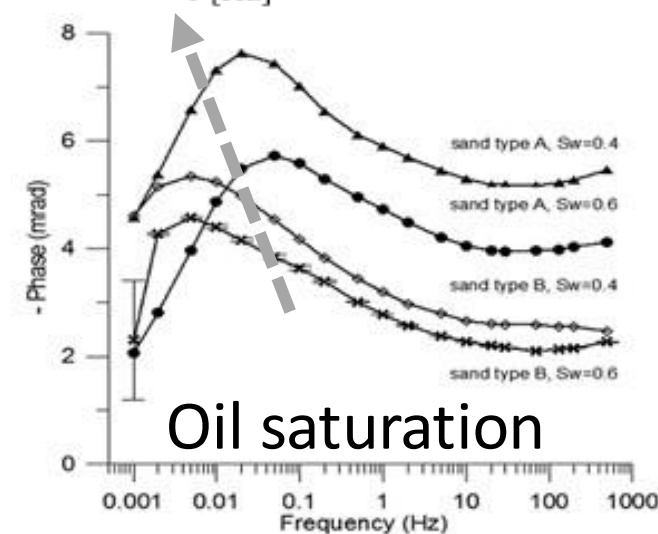
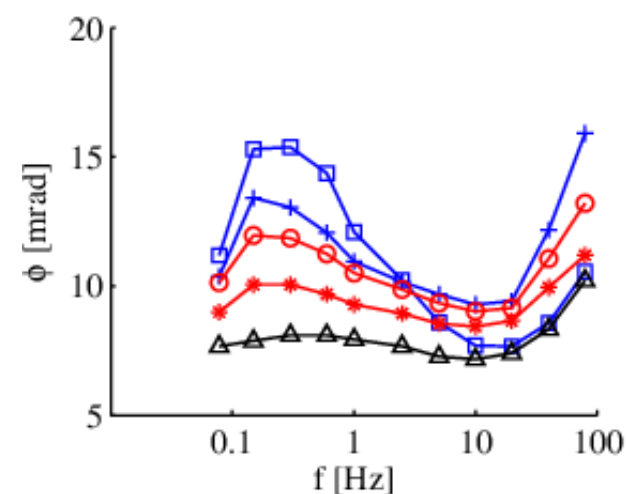
# The SIP response of hydrocarbon contaminants

- Increasing the polarization ( $\sigma''$  or  $\phi$ ) with increasing the hydrocarbon concentrations ( $< 1.7$  g/l)



Flores Orozco et al., JCH 2012

- Negligible polarization for contaminants in free-phase (concentration above 1.7 g/l)



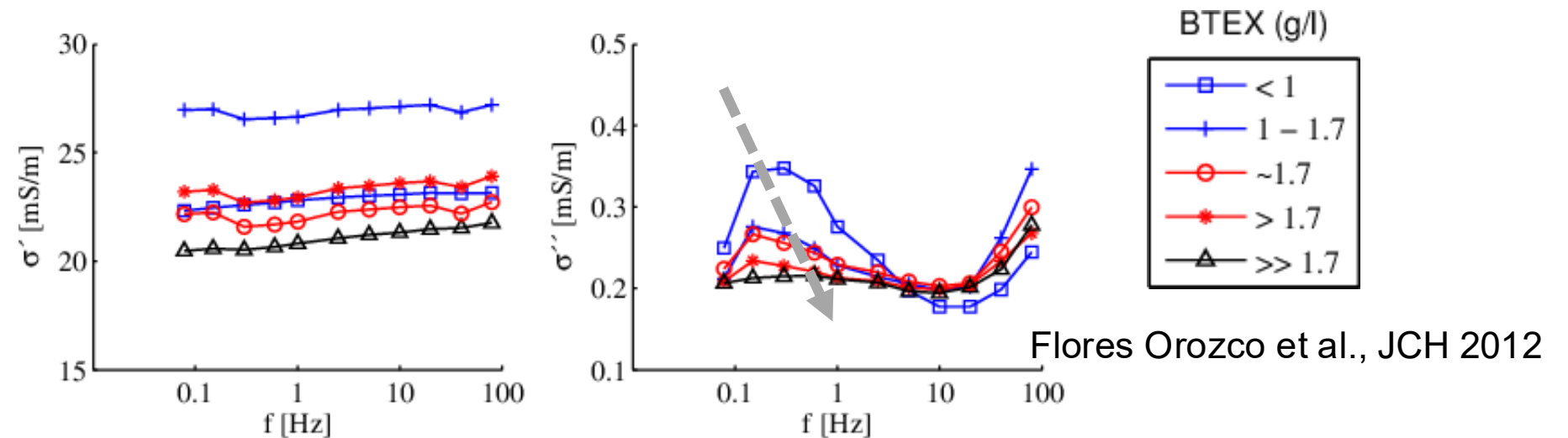
Oil saturation

Figure from:

Schmutz et al., 2010.  
Influence of oil saturation upon spectral induced polarization of oil-bearing sands. Geophysical Journal International, 183(1)

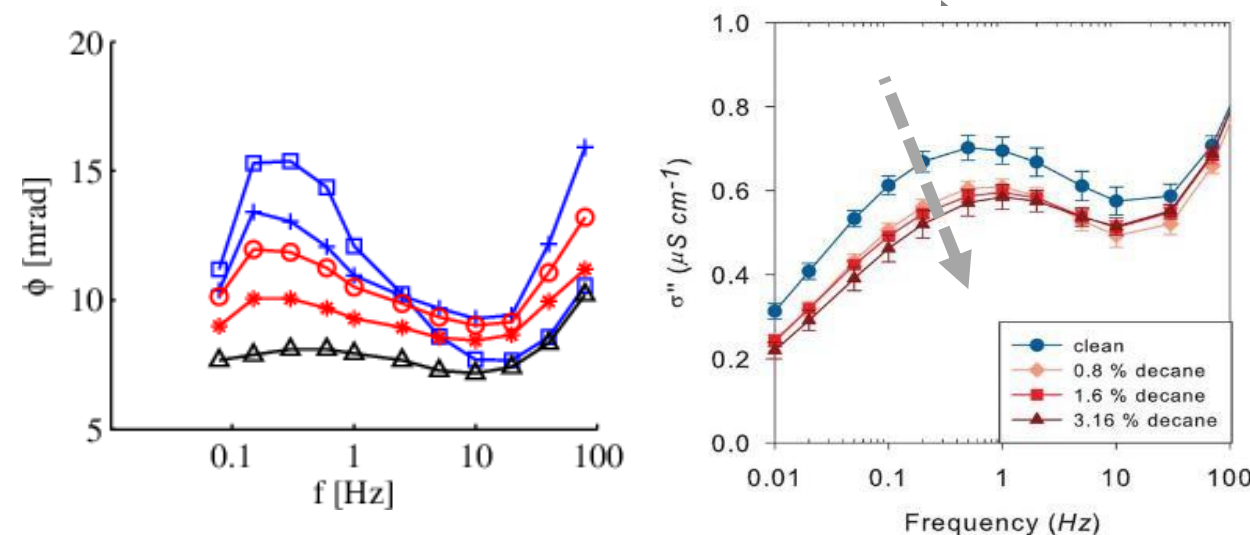
# The SIP response of hydrocarbon contaminants

- Decrease In the polarization with increasing contaminant concentration has also been reported for laboratory measurements by Shefer et al. (2013)



Flores Orozco et al., JCH 2012

Figure from:



in

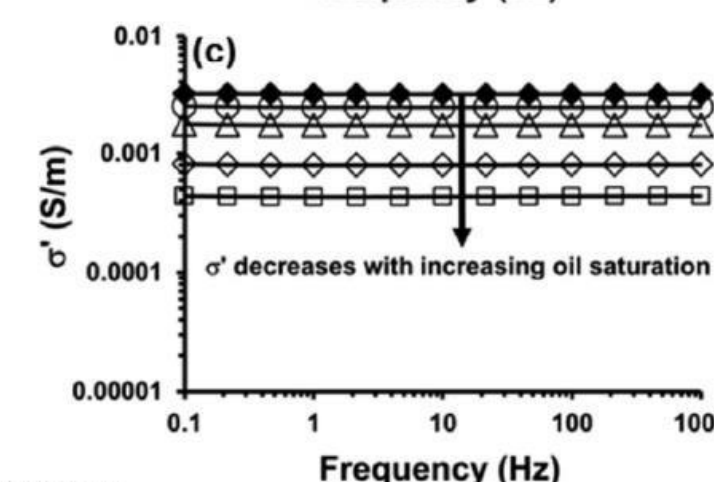
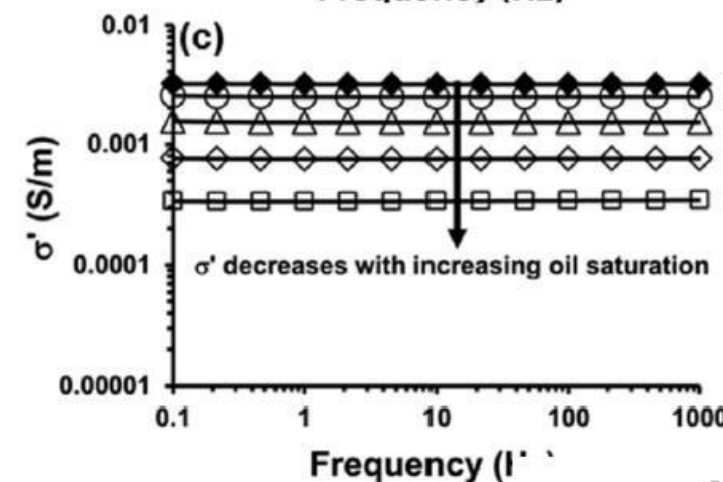
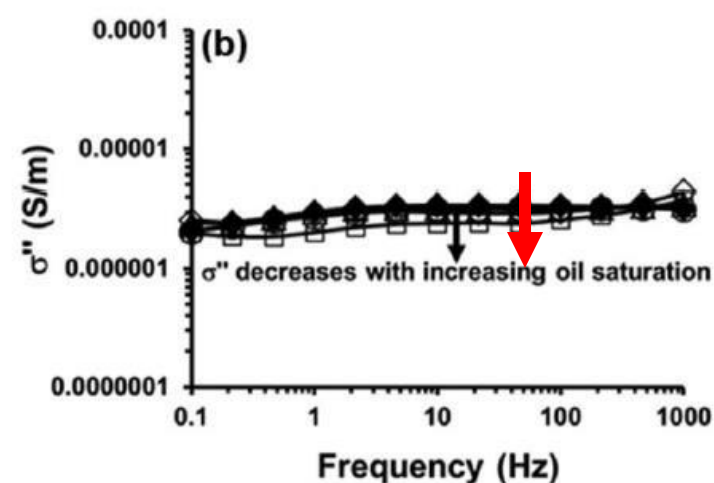
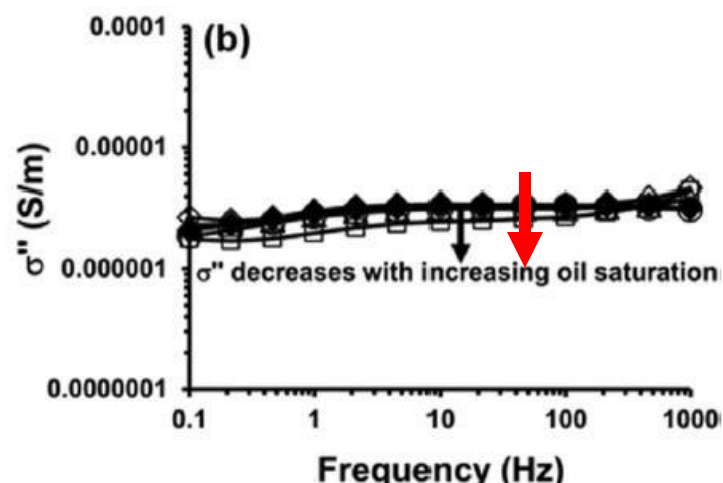
Shefer, I., Schwartz, N. And Furman, A., 2013. The effect of free-phase NAPL on the spectral induced polarization signature of variably saturated soil. Water Resources Research, 49(10),



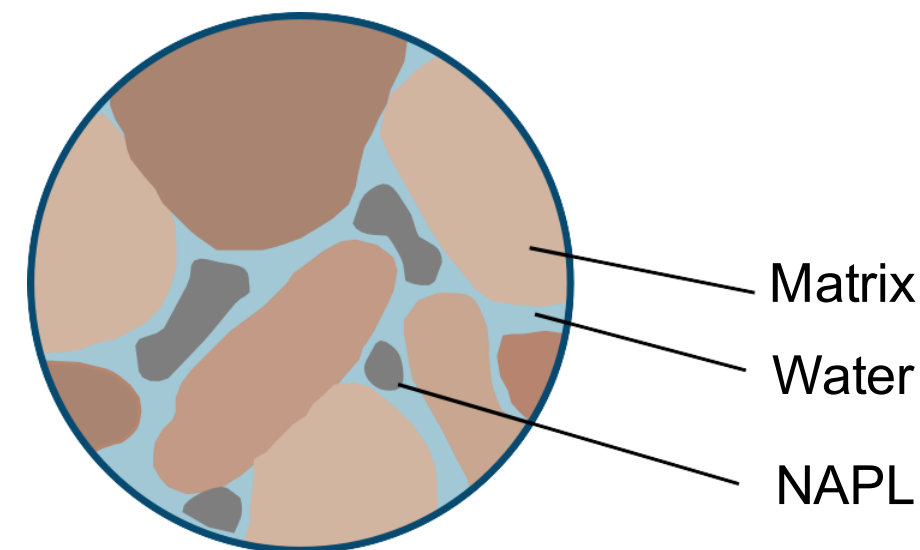
# SIP signatures for water-wetting oils

Fresh oil (water-wetting)  
and sand mixture

Degraded oil (water-wetting)  
and sand mixture



Oil saturation  
 $\blacklozenge$  0  $\circ$  0.2  $\triangle$  0.4  $\diamond$  0.6  $\square$  0.8

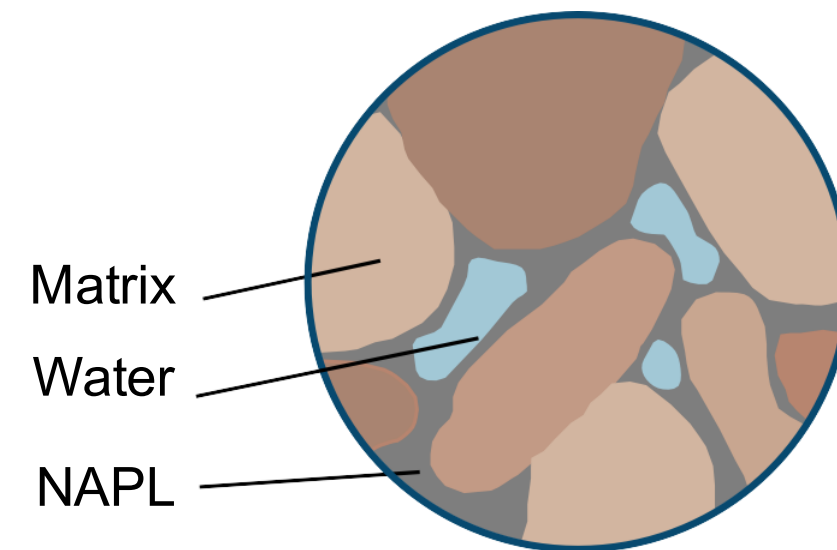
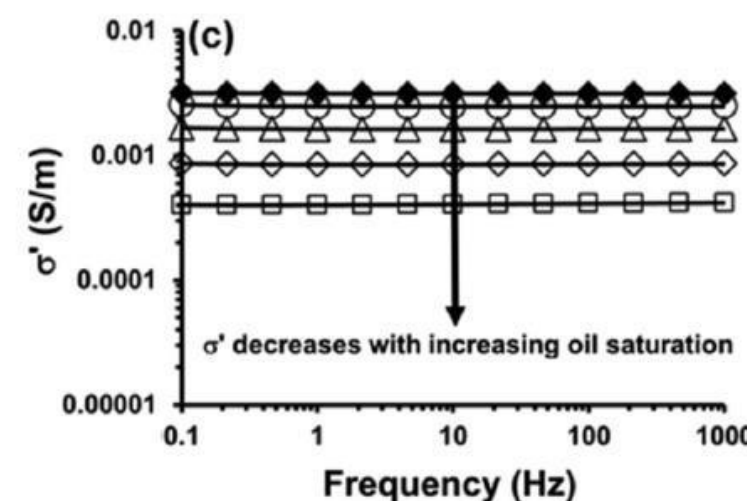
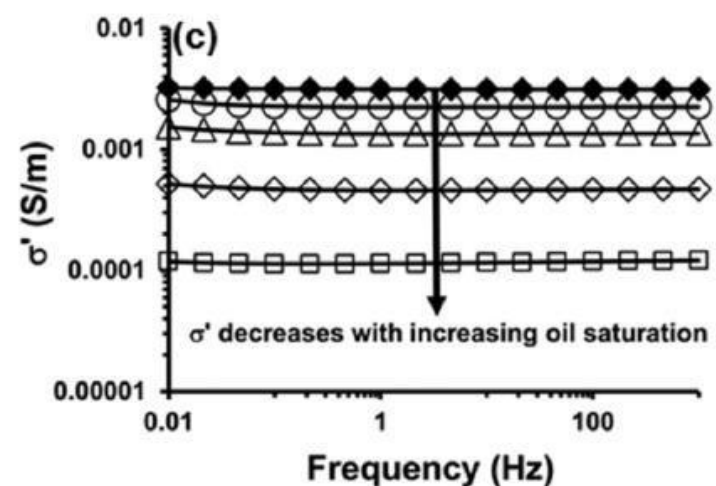
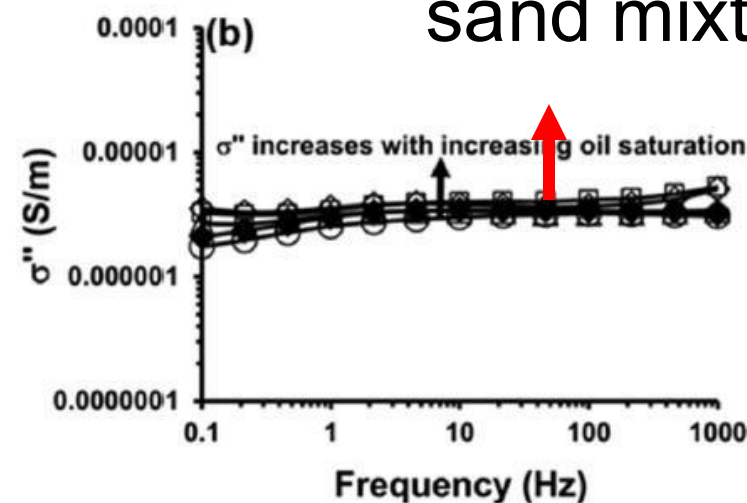
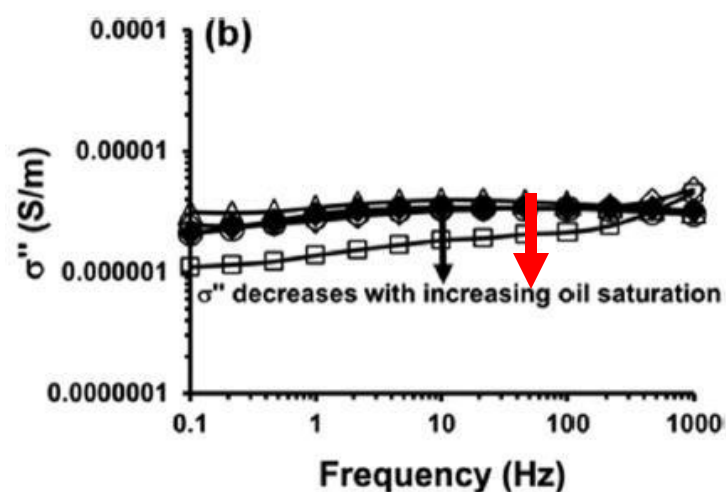


From: Abdel Aal, G.Z.  
And Atekwana, E.A.,  
2014. Spectral  
induced polarization  
(SIP) response of  
biodegraded oil in  
porous media.  
Geophysical Journal  
International, 196(2)

# SIP signatures for oil-wetting oils

Fresh (wetting-) oil and sand mixture

Degraded (wetting-) oil and sand mixture



From: Abdel Aal, G.Z.  
And Atekwana, E.A.,  
2014. Spectral  
induced polarization  
(SIP) response of  
biodegraded oil in  
porous media.  
Geophysical Journal  
International, 196(2)

# Aged plumes - wettability

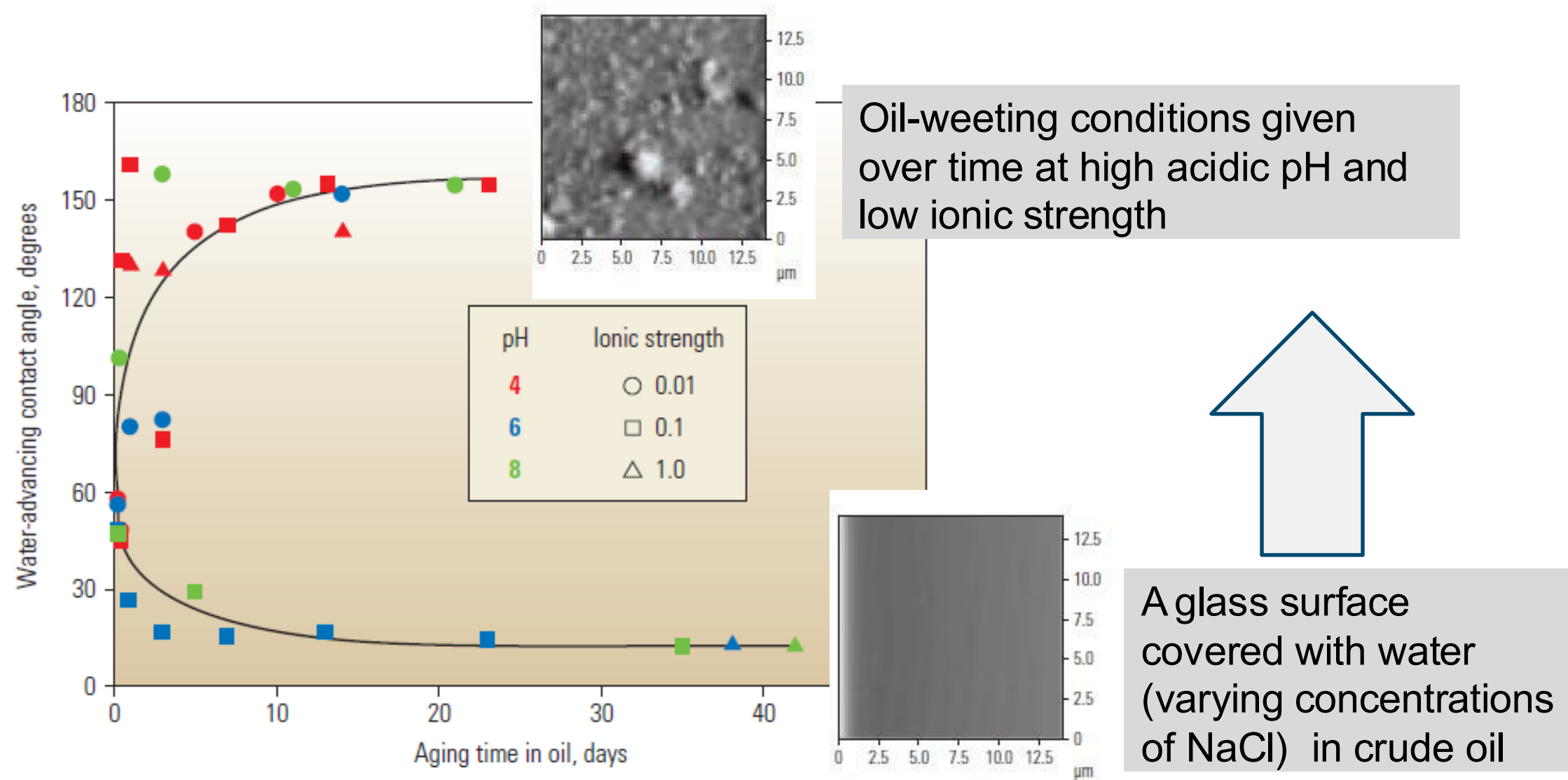


Figure from: Abdallah et al., 1986. Fundamentals of wettability. *Technology*, 38(1125-1144)

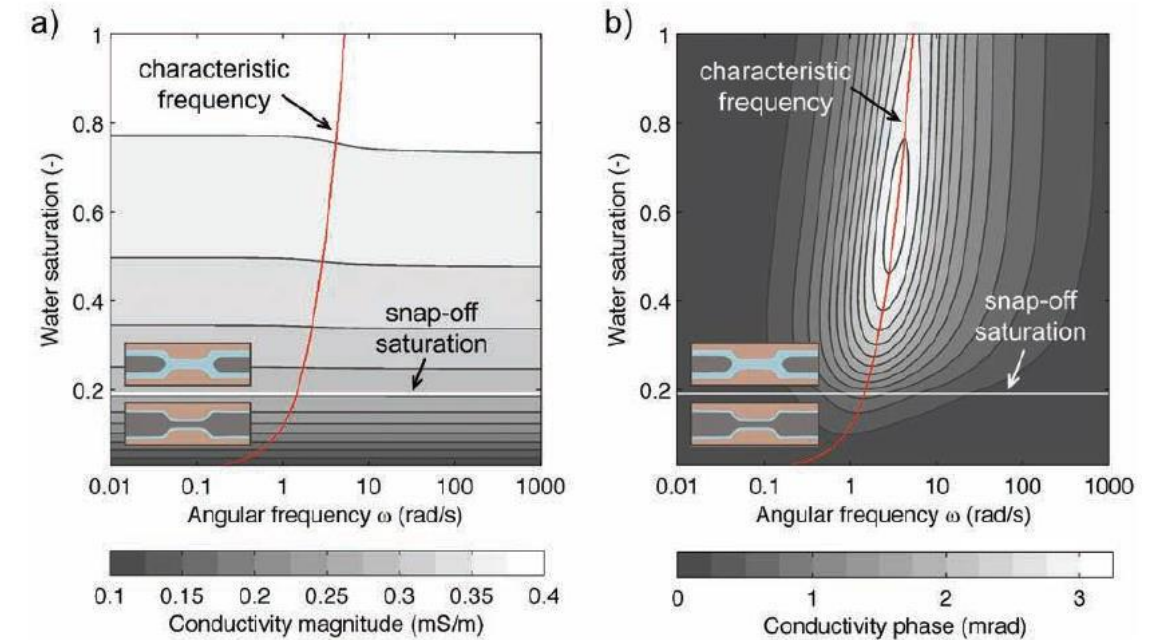


# Controls on the SIP signatures of hydrocarbon contaminants

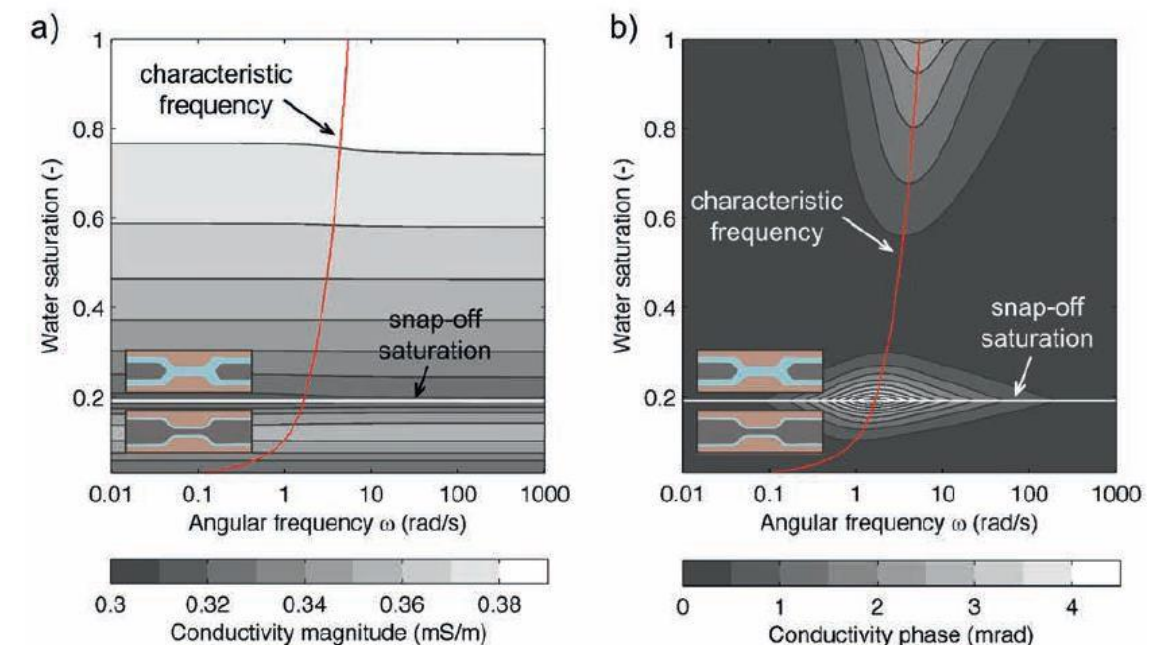
- ☐ Concentration
- ☐ Wettability
- ☐ Maturation
- ☐ Biogeochemical transformations
  - Wettability
  - Fluid conductivity
  - Weathering of grains – porosity
  - Accumulation of microbial cells

Figure from: Bücker et al., NSG 2017  
<https://doi.org/10.3997/1873-0604.2017051>

Water-wet oil with a  $\zeta$ -potential of -25 mV



Water-wet oil with a  $\zeta$ -potential of -125 mV



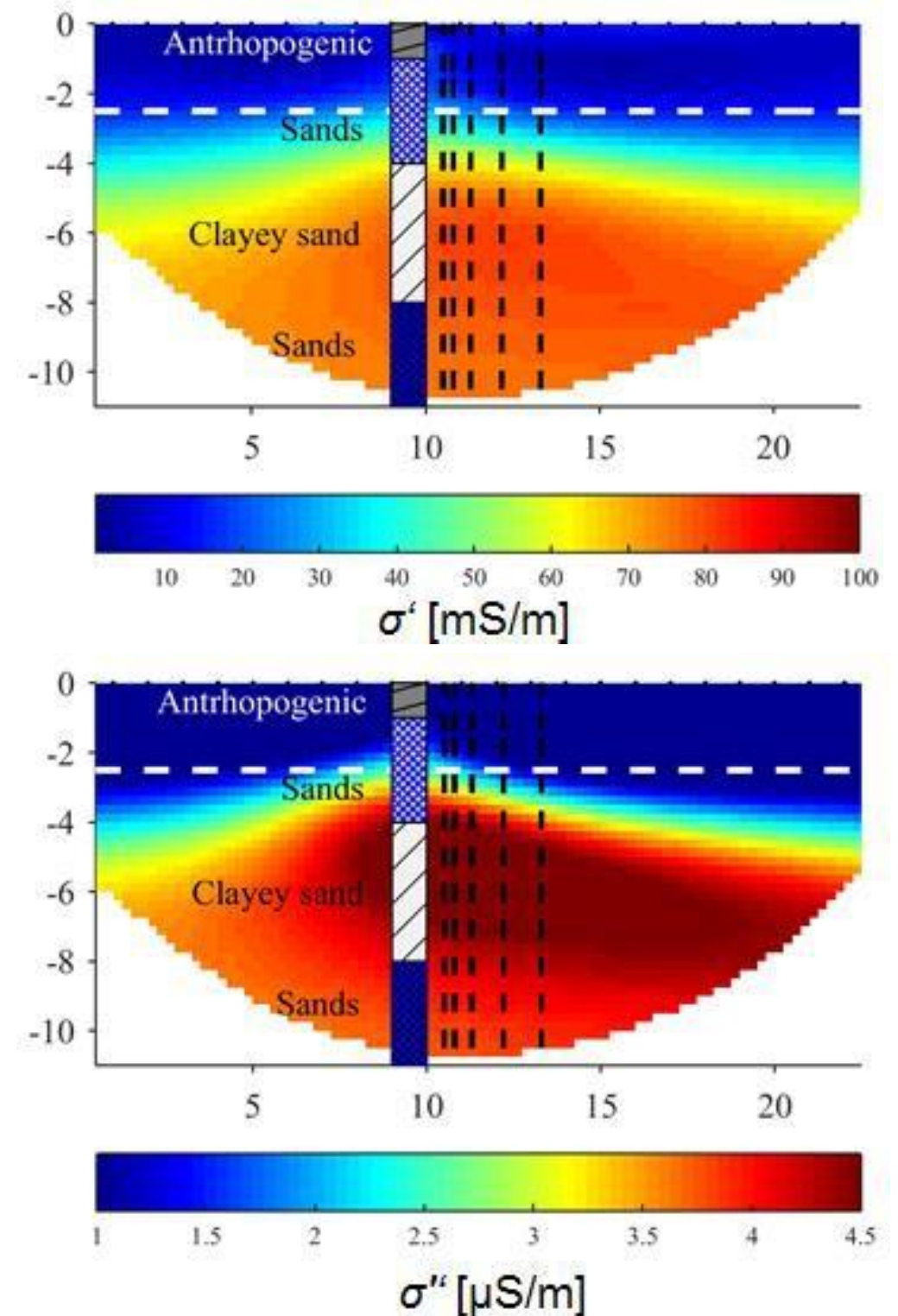


# Monitoring of remediation strategies



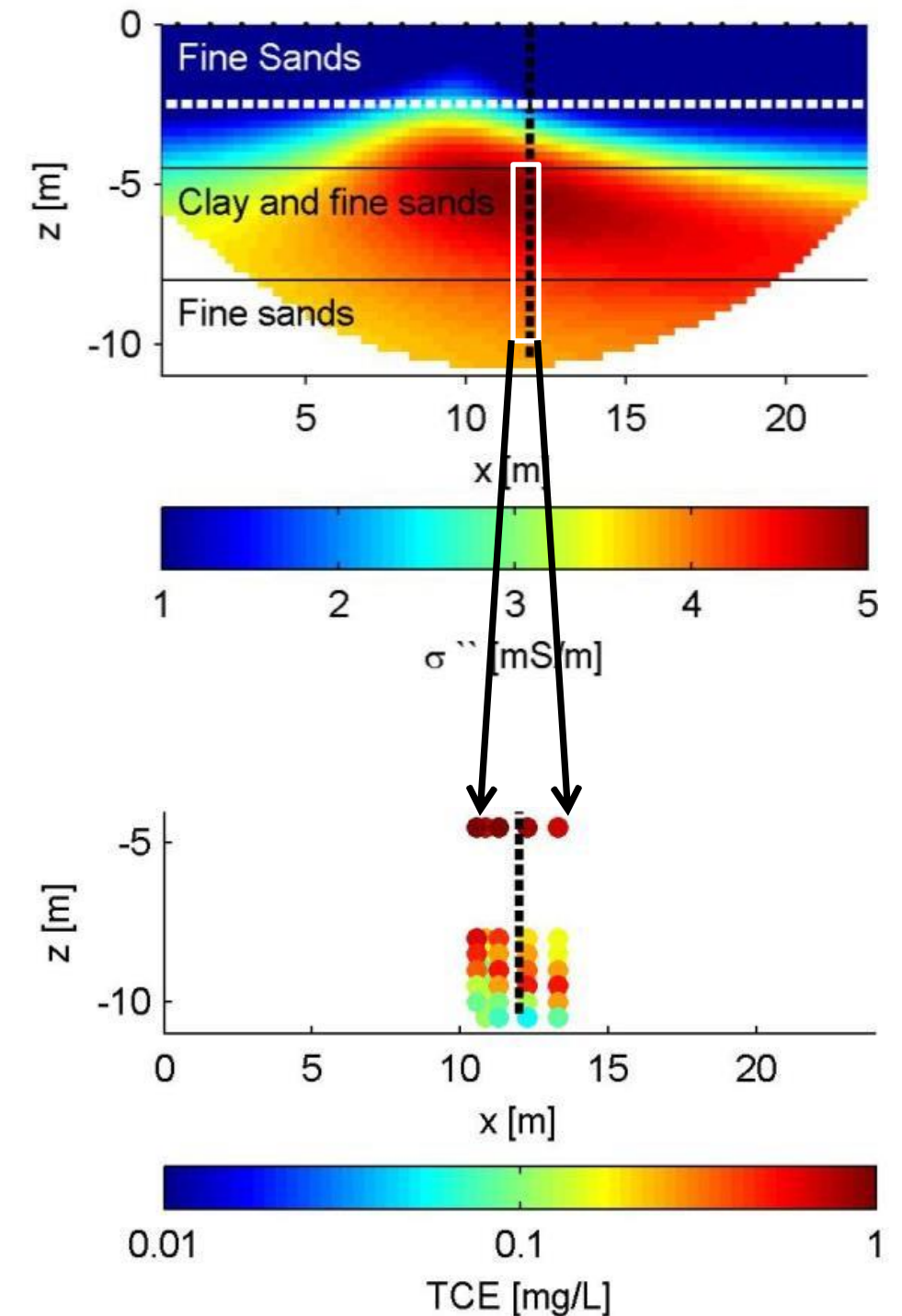


- ☐ Chlorinated solvents
- ☐ Sallow aquifer: between 2 and 4 m depth
- ☐ Deep aquifer: below 8 m depth
- ☐ Groundwater found at 2.5 m depth
- ☐ Electrical images prior to any remediation reveal changes related to lithology



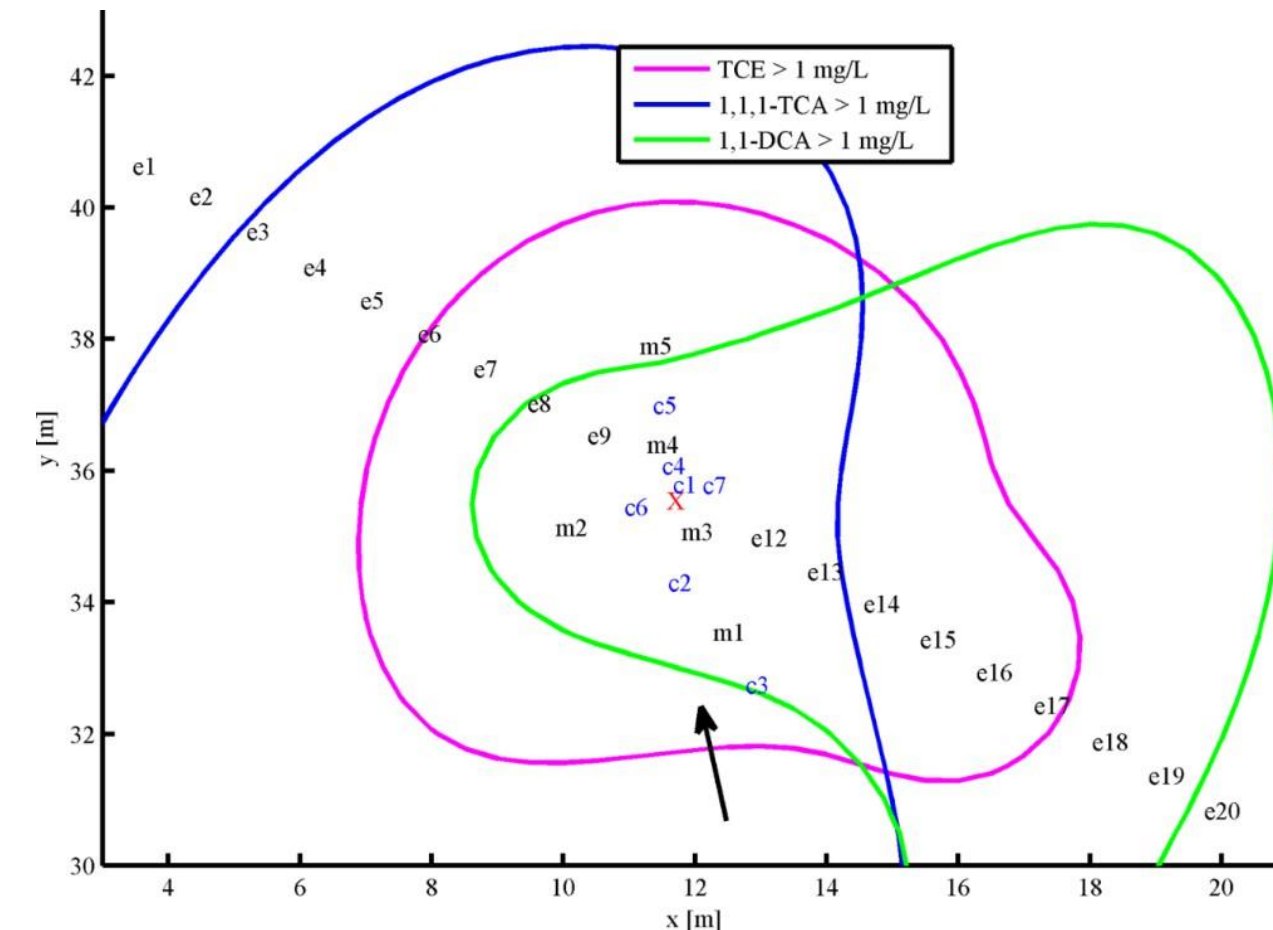
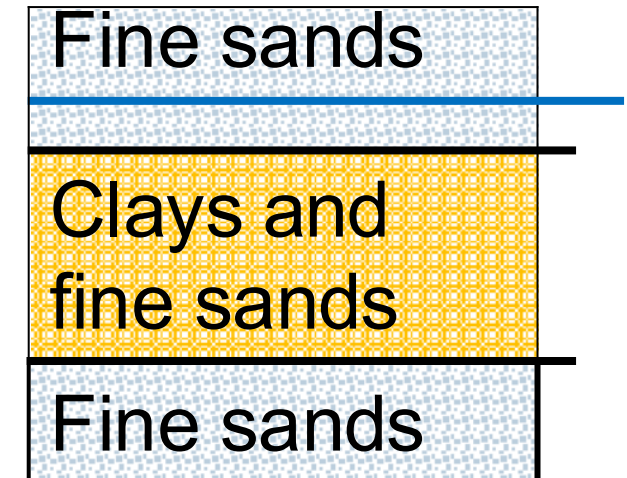


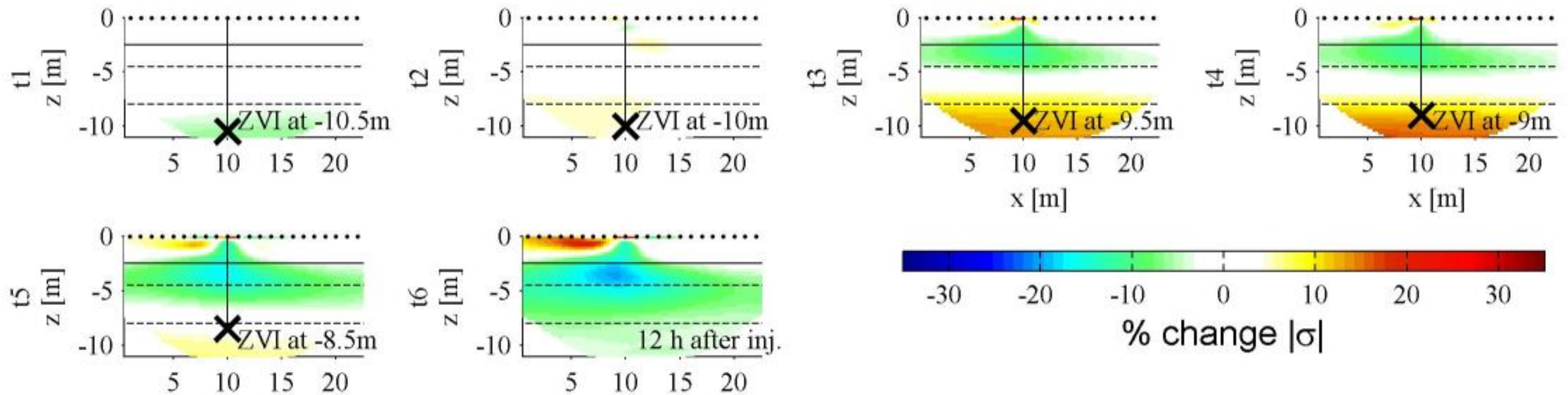
- Increase in the polarization effect ( $\sigma''$ ) with increasing concentrations of trichloroethene (TCE)
- Large spatial coverage in IP images than borehole data
- Information from areas not accessible for water samples



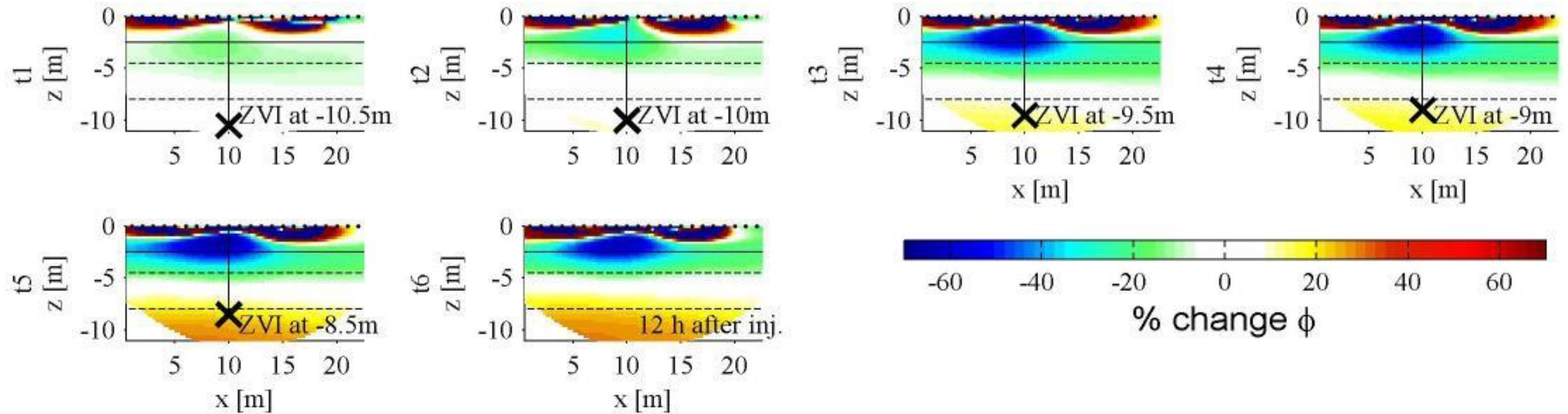
# Injection of micro-scale ZVI particles

- ❑ Target: deep aquifer
- ❑ Injections of ~21 kg of mZVI ( $d_{50} = 56 \mu\text{m}$ ) coated with biopolymer solution
- ❑ Injection at 10.5, 10, 9.5, 9, 8.5 m depth
- ❑ Final amendment of enzymes to removing the coating
- ❑ 15 minutes injection – 15 minutes to move the pump to the new position
- ❑ IP data collection < 15 minutes





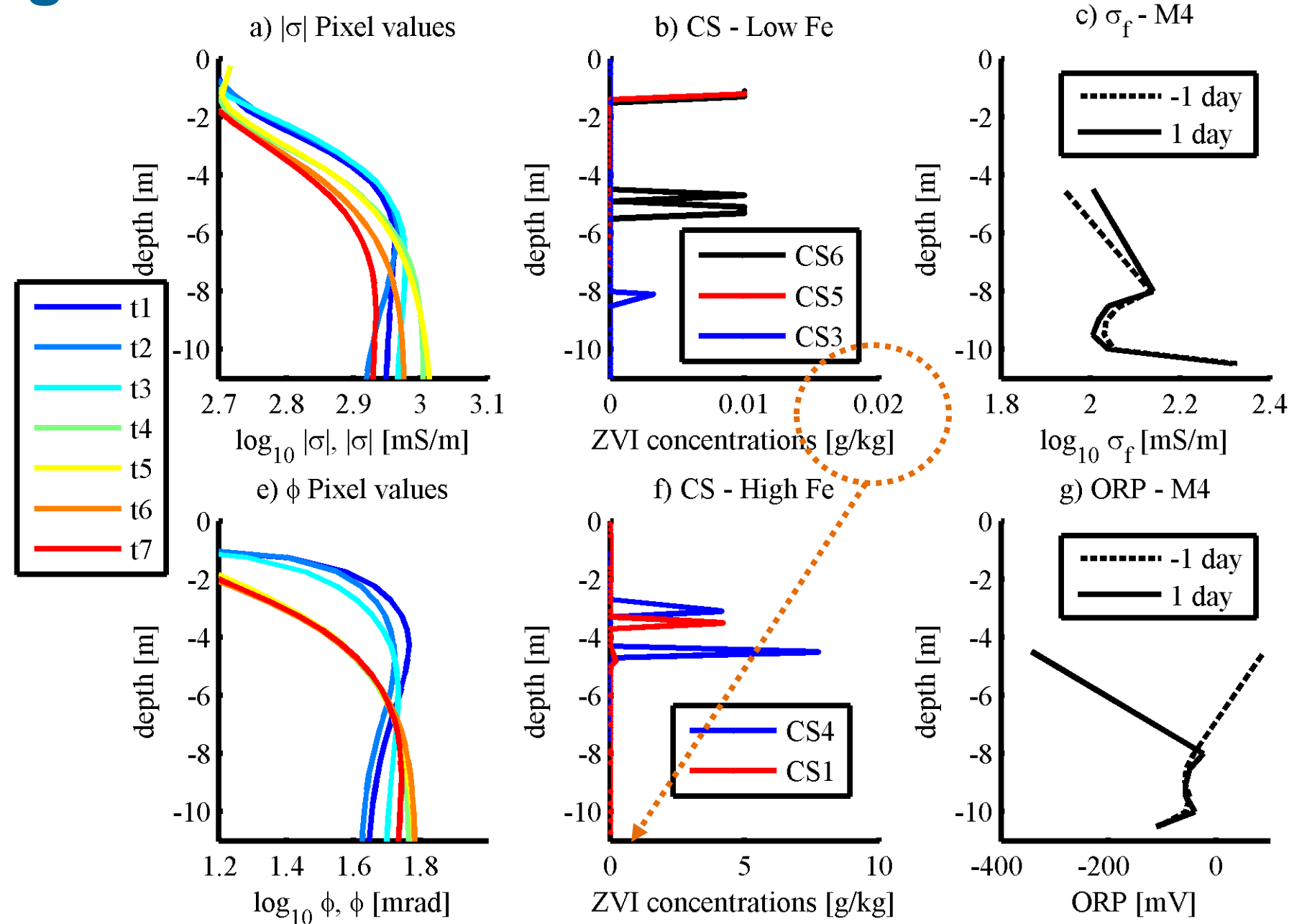




# What controls the IP signatures

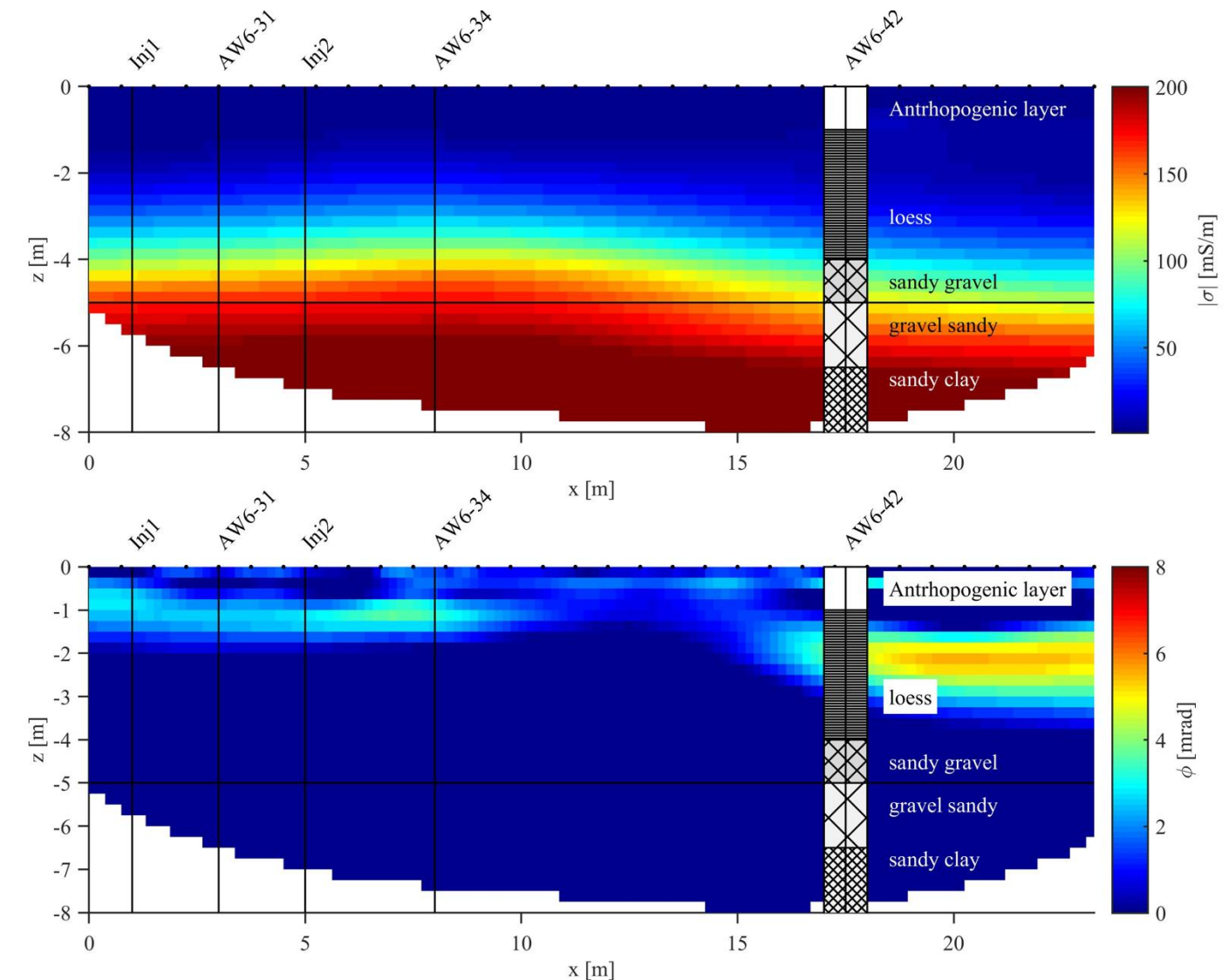
- IP imaging reveals the incorrect delivery of the particles
- Information can be gained on real-time to adjust the remediation strategy

Flores Orozco et al., ES&T 2015  
<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b00208>



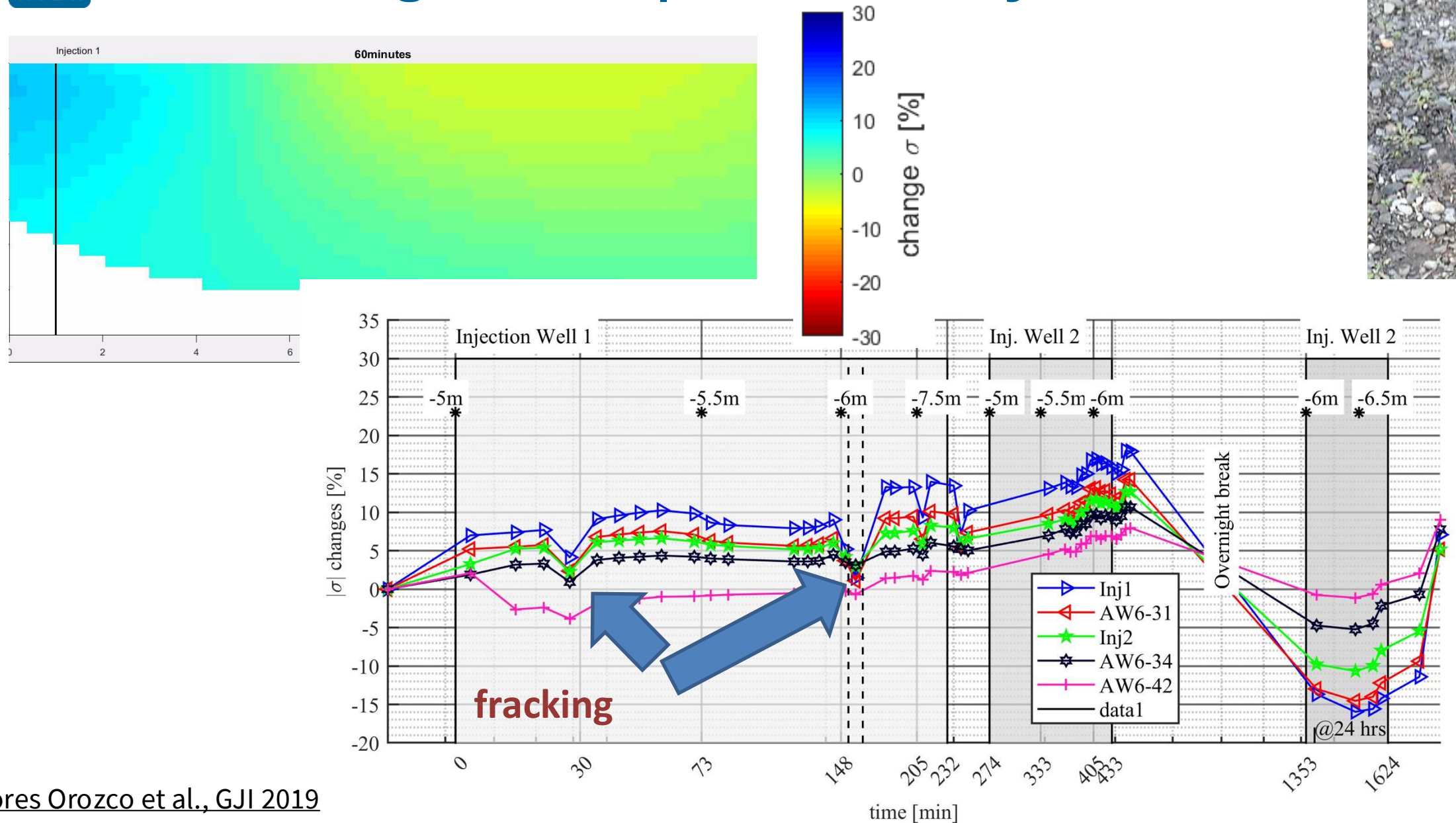
# Injection of nano-Goethite particles

- ❑ Benzene contaminated site
- ❑ Groundwater table at 5m depth (gravel sandy aquifer)
- ❑ Injections using nano-scale FeOx particles (iron oxides)
  - 300 kg iron (60 m<sup>3</sup>) in a solution of 5 g/l (Humic acids)
- ❑ Injection between 5 and 7 m depth





# Monitoring results | conductivity



Daylighting at  
~150 minutes

Flores Orozco et al., GJI 2019  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggz255>



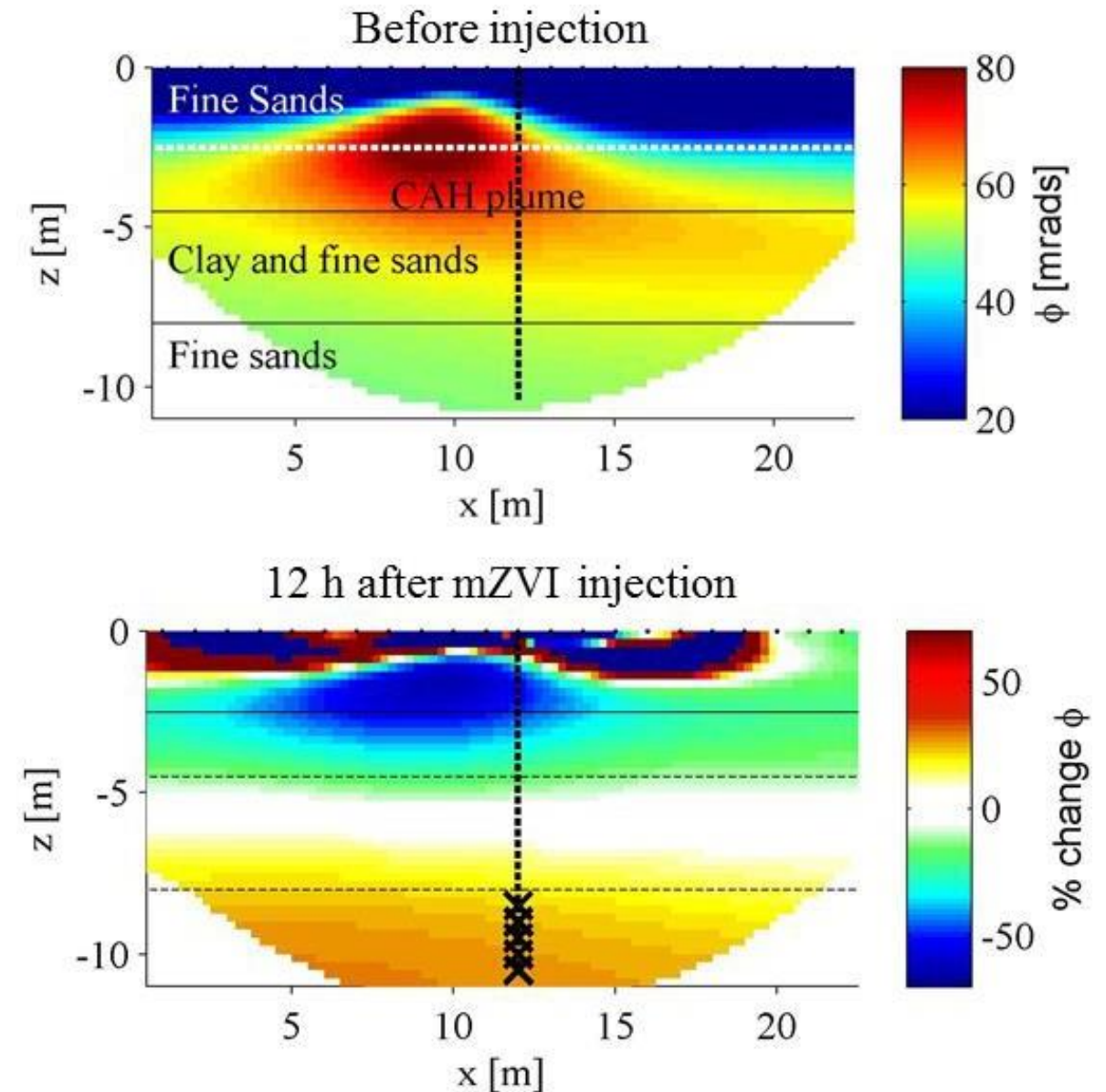
# Improving the efficiency of remediation strategies

- ❑ IP imaging can be useful to design and evaluate the efficiency of remediation strategies
- ❑ Identify the geometry of the source-zone and the plume of dissolved contaminants
- ❑ This information can be used to better design the remediation approach



# Evaluating the efficiency of remediation strategies

- IP monitoring can provide real-time information in the subsurface critical to adjust the remediation approach
  - Changes in pore-space geometry such as loss of permeability, fracking, etc.
  - Changes in the properties of the contaminant, such as wettability
  - Increase in the conductivity associated to enhanced microbial activity

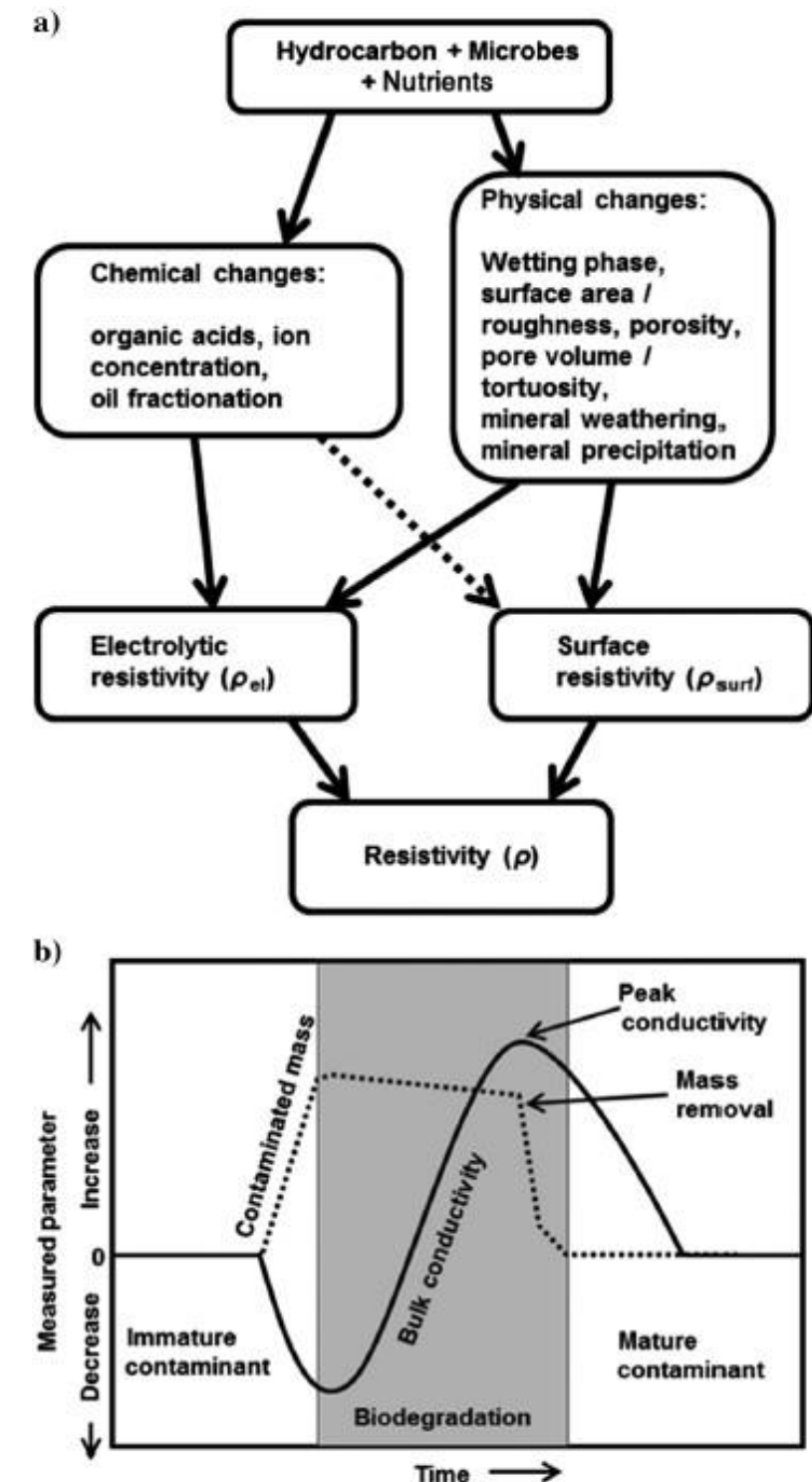




## Aged hydrocarbon plumes

- Physical and chemical changes into the grains, the pollutants will also change the properties of the pore water

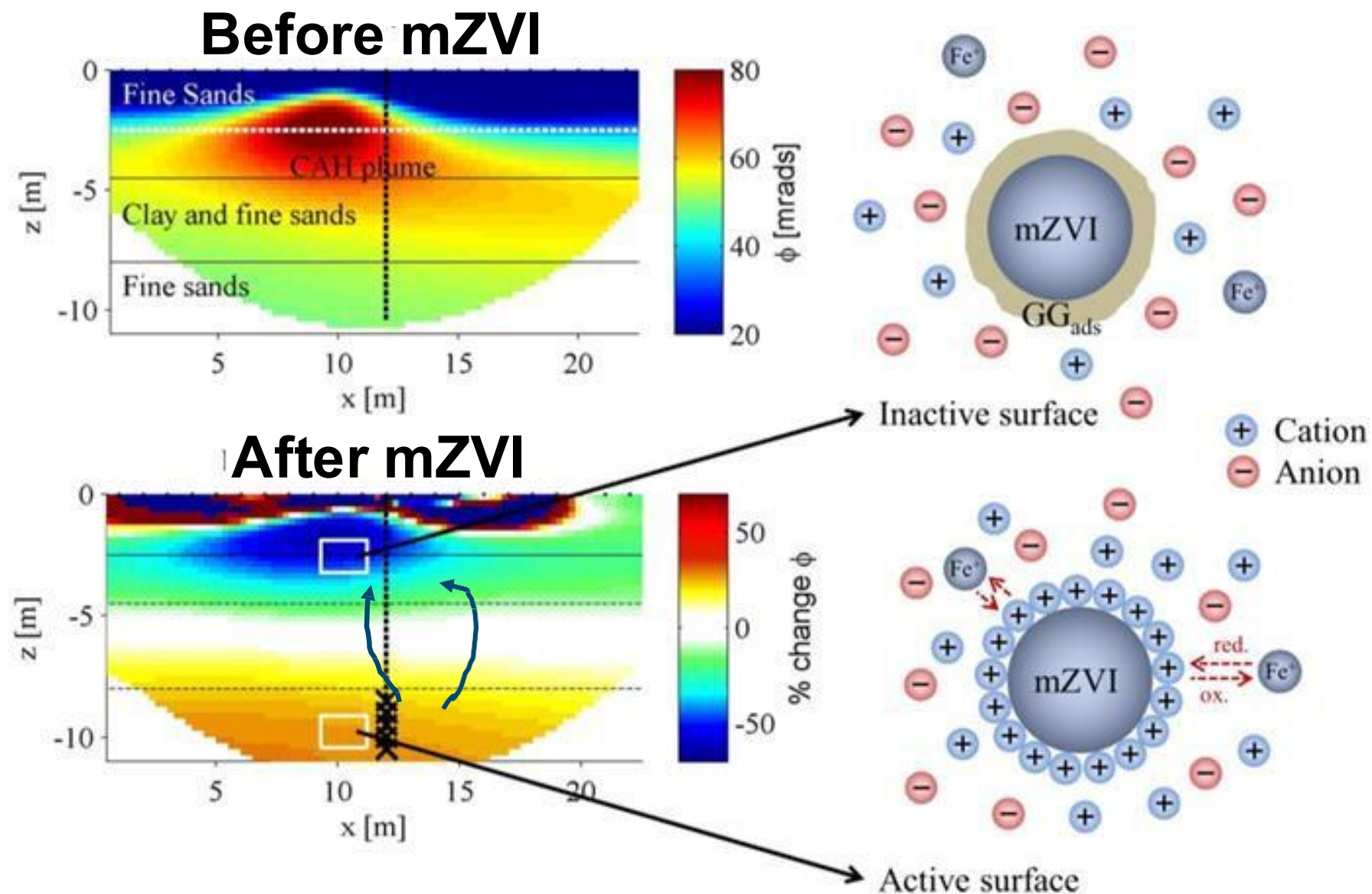
Figure from:  
Heenan, J., Slater, L.D., Ntarlagiannis, D., Atekwana, E.A., Fathepure, B.Z., Dalvi, S., Ross, C., Werkema, D.D. and Atekwana, E.A., 2015. Electrical resistivity imaging for long-term autonomous monitoring of hydrocarbon degradation: Lessons from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. *Geophysics*, 80(1)



# Surface properties control the IP response

□ Brush layer – adsorbed biopolymers to the surface of the metallic particles prevent charge transfer mechanisms between the electrolyte and the ZVI surface

□ Bare particles (after degradation of the brush layer) corresponds to electrode polarization





# Advancing Subsurface Monitoring: Spectral induced polarization for detecting remedial amendment delivery and reactivity

**Hilary P. Emerson**

Z Vincent, JN Thomle, K Peshtani,  
JE Szecsody, NP Qafoku, J Robinson, L Slater,  
and RD Mackley

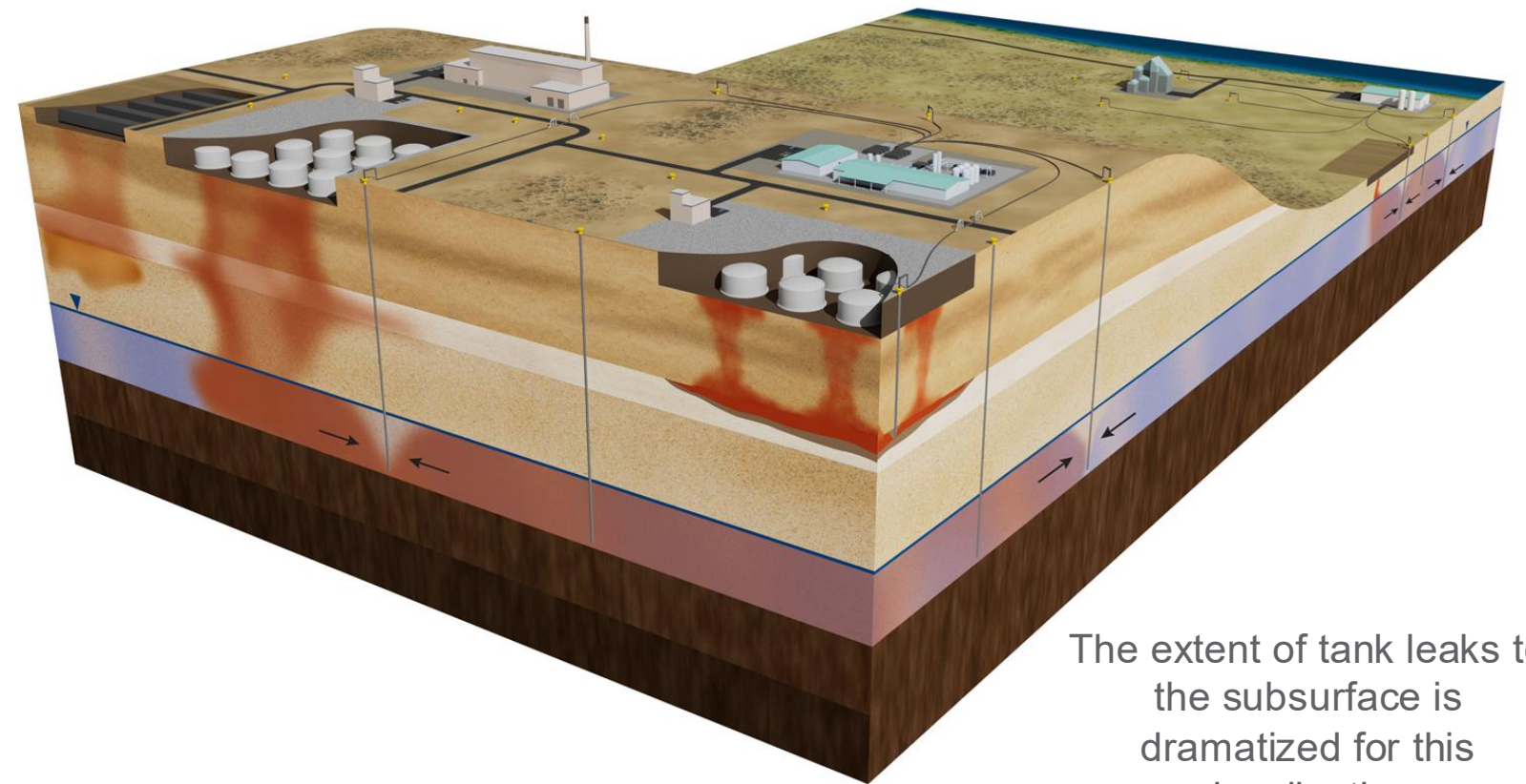




## Talk Preview

### Electrical geophysics for understanding reactions at the solid-water interface during subsurface remediation

- What is spectral induced polarization (SIP) and how does it relate to commonly used geophysical techniques?
- How can we use SIP to understand mineralogy and interfacial chemistry?
- Can we monitor apatite formation in sediments with SIP?
- Can we characterize iron transformations in sediments with SIP?



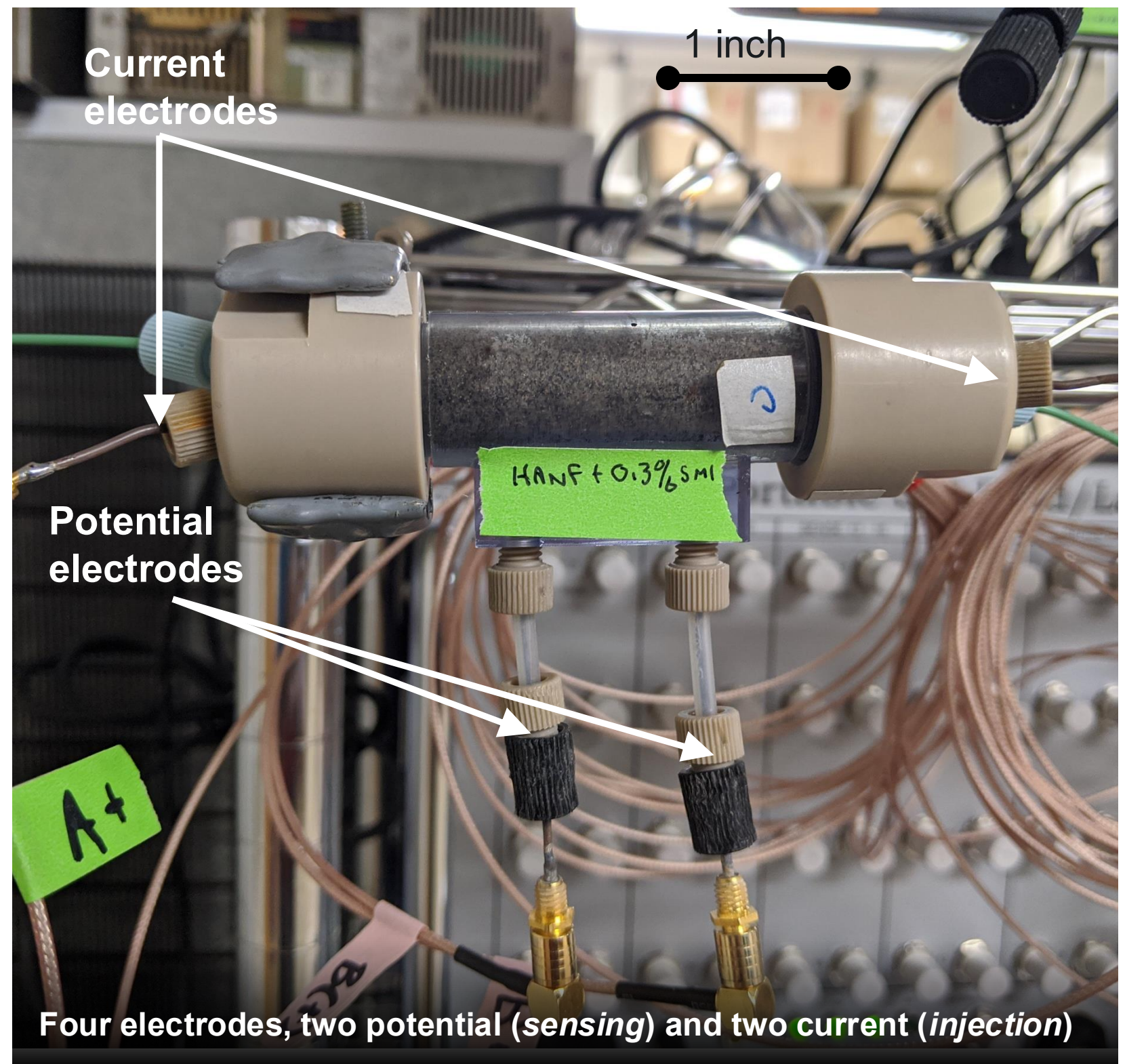
The extent of tank leaks to the subsurface is dramatized for this visualization.



## What is Spectral Induced Polarization?

A geophysical technique that applies low alternating electrical current across a pair of electrodes (*current*) and measures a response across sensing (*potential*) electrodes in-between the current electrodes

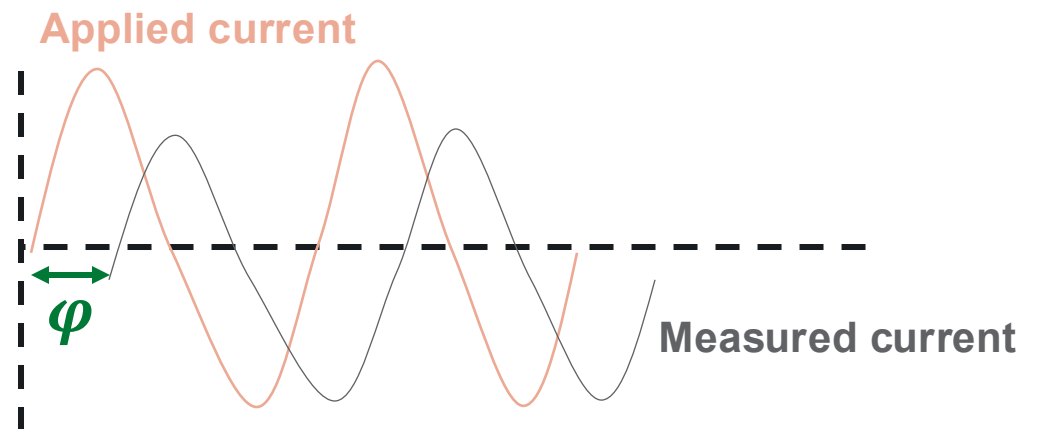
Collects both *resistivity* (inverse is conductivity) and *phase shifts*



# Comparison to Conventional Geophysical Techniques

- Electrical resistivity, ER
  - Commonly used in the field
  - ER does not allow separation of electrolytic (1 – via the fluid-filled pores) and interfacial (2 – via the EDL) charge transport processes
- Spectral induced polarization, SIP
  - Being developed for field, limited use to date
  - SIP measures **complex conductivity** and **phase,  $\varphi$**
  - Allows separation and provides high sensitivity to processes impacting interfacial charge transport mechanisms

\*Measured values in **orange** and **green**

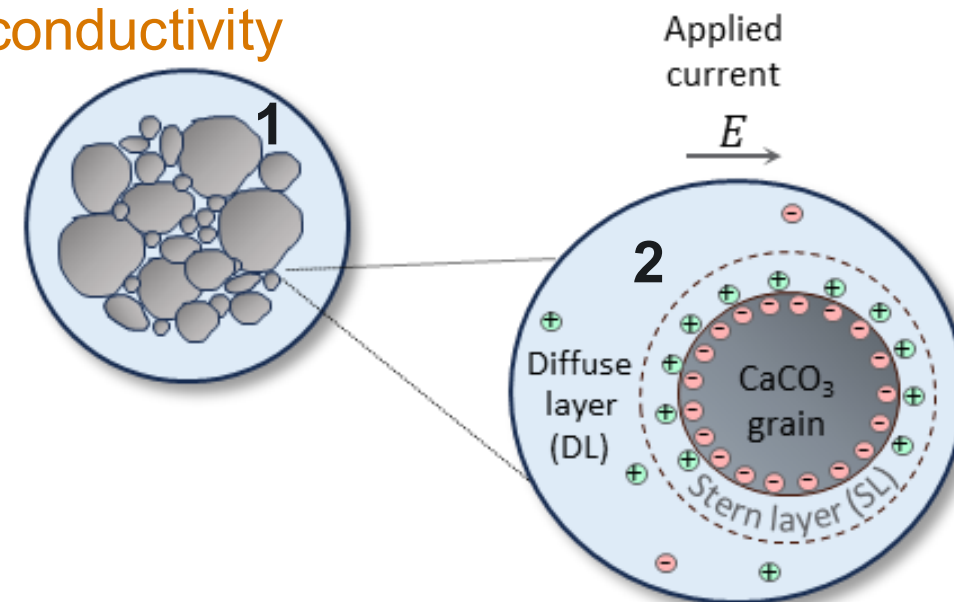


$$\text{Complex} = \text{Real} + [i \times \text{Imaginary}]$$

$$\sigma = \sigma' + i\sigma'' = |\sigma|e^{-i\varphi}$$

**complex conductivity** (orange)

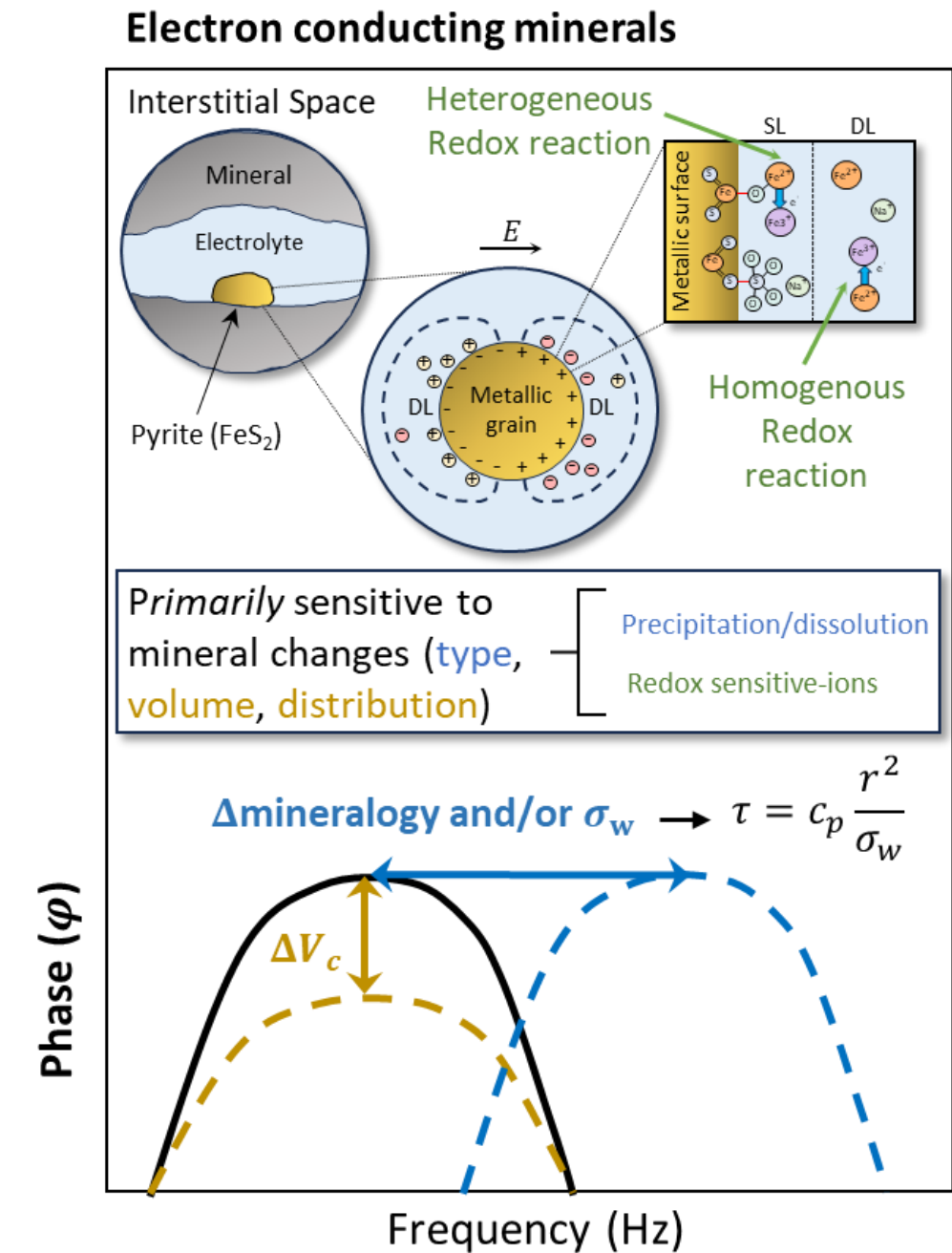
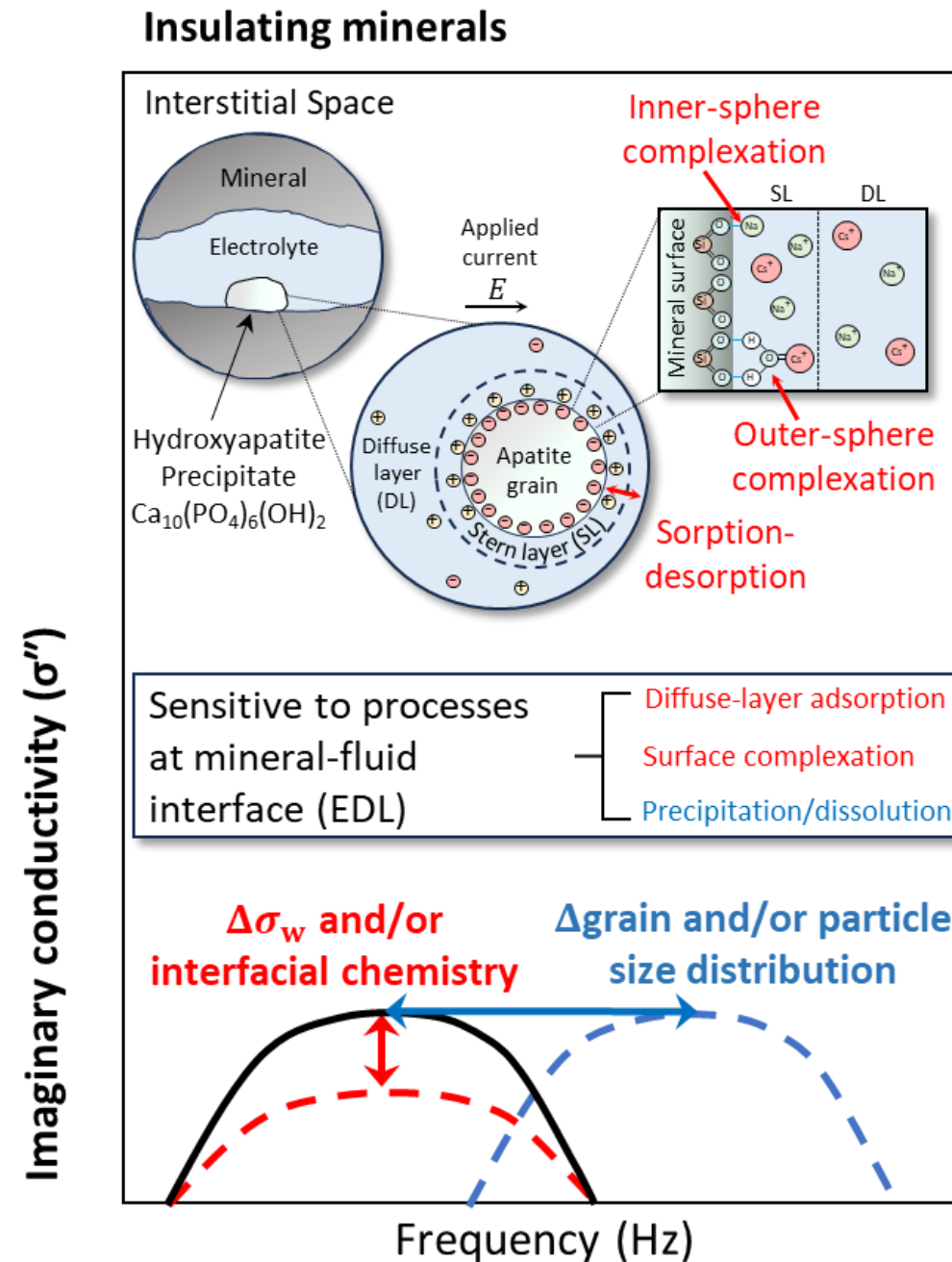
**phase** (green)





# Conceptual Model of SIP

- Significantly different response for *insulating* versus *electron conducting* minerals
- Shifts expected in both *frequency* and *magnitude* of response
- Physical* and *geochemical* changes impact response



$\Delta$  refers to change,  $\sigma_w$  is fluid conductivity, SSA is specific surface area,  $V_c$  is volume content (including particle size) of electron conducting minerals,  $\tau$  is relaxation time,  $c_p$  is specific polarizability, arrows delineate change from baseline peak (*black solid line*) after geochemical reaction (*dashed line*)

# Approach

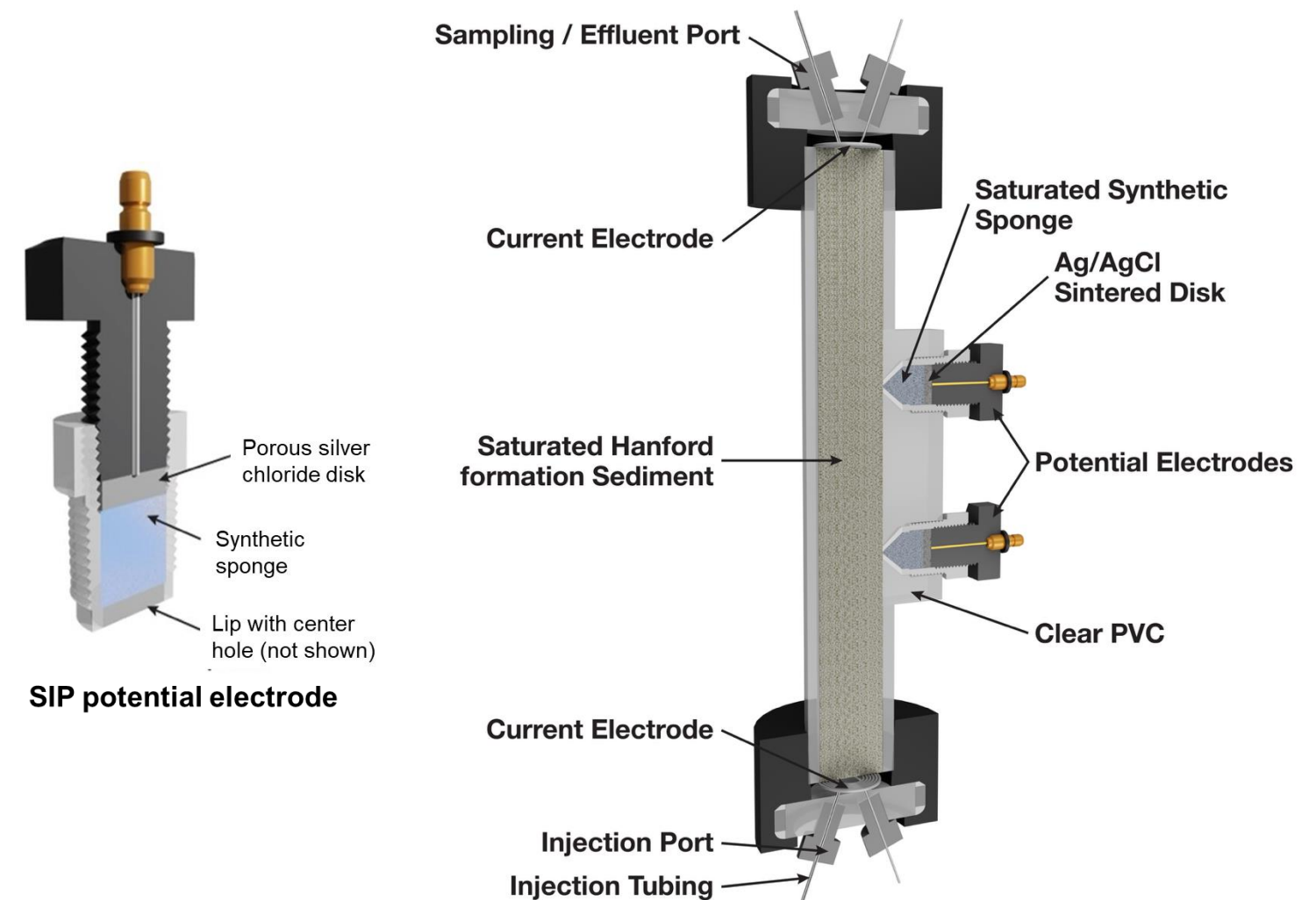
**Objective:** Evaluate SIP response for non-intrusively monitoring remediation in the subsurface (including both delivery and subsequent transformations)

## 1. Determine SIP response during remediation

- During treatment with particulate zero valent iron or liquid apatite-forming amendments
- Following groundwater flushing of injected solutions

## 2. Identify signatures associated with SIP response, if possible

- Characterize column sediments to quantify physical and geochemical changes





# What Happens During Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ Injection?

High ionic strength injection solution fills pore spaces

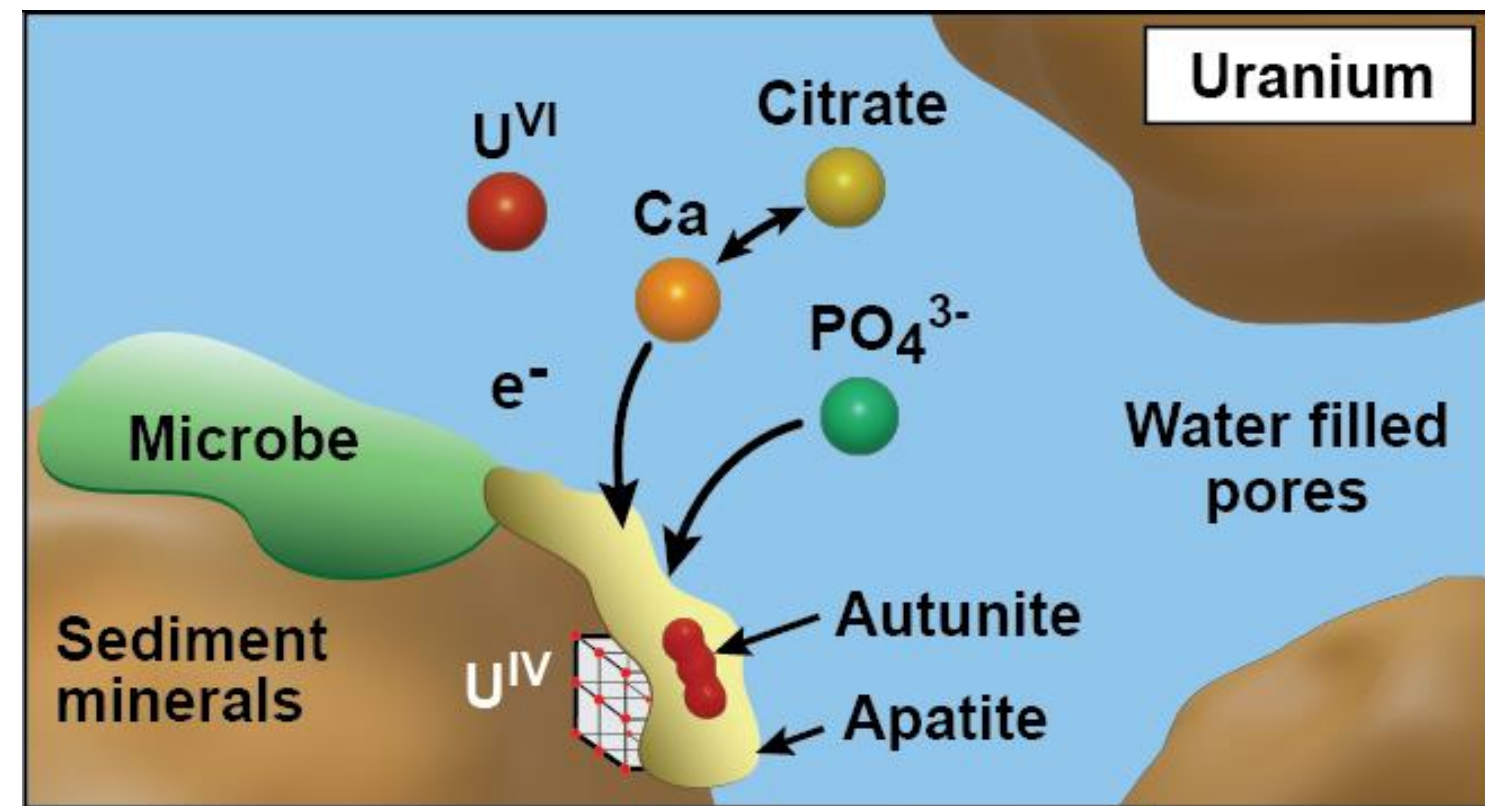


$\text{Ca}^{+2}$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$  become available in solution



Apatite  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$  precipitates on sediment particles

Conceptual diagram of delivery of calcium citrate  $\text{PO}_4$  solutions into pore space with subsequent precipitation of apatite and contaminant-specific precipitates (e.g., autunite)



*Can we identify when and where apatite is forming?*

# What Happens During Injection? Stage B Injection at 300 Area of Hanford Site

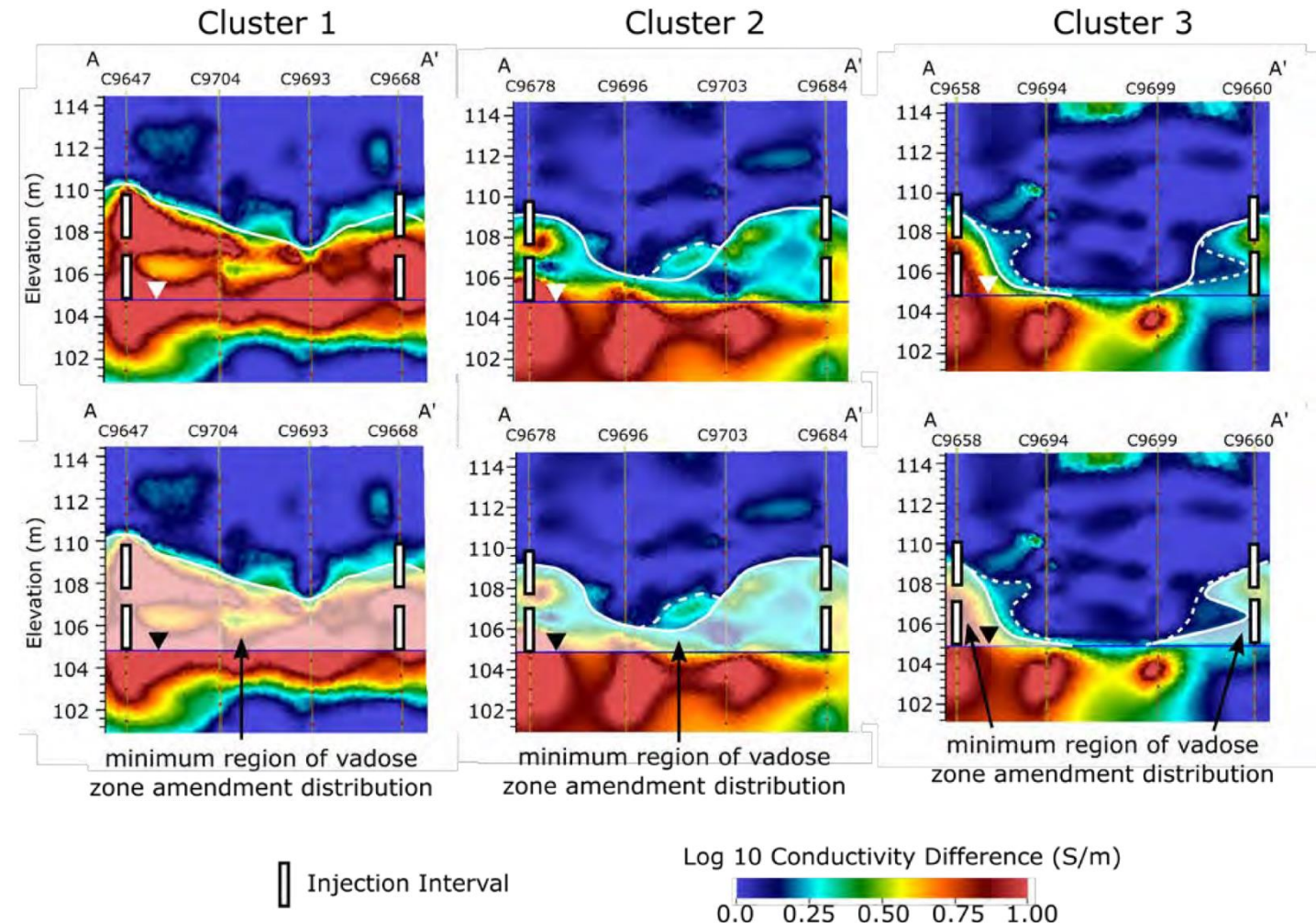
High ionic strength  
injection solution fills pore  
spaces



Poly- $\text{PO}_4$  chains slowly  
break apart,  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$   
exchanges into solution



Apatite  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$   
precipitates on sediment  
particles



Electrical resistivity shows where injection solutions are delivered but cannot indicate where amendment is precipitating (Johnson et al. 2019 PNNL-28619)

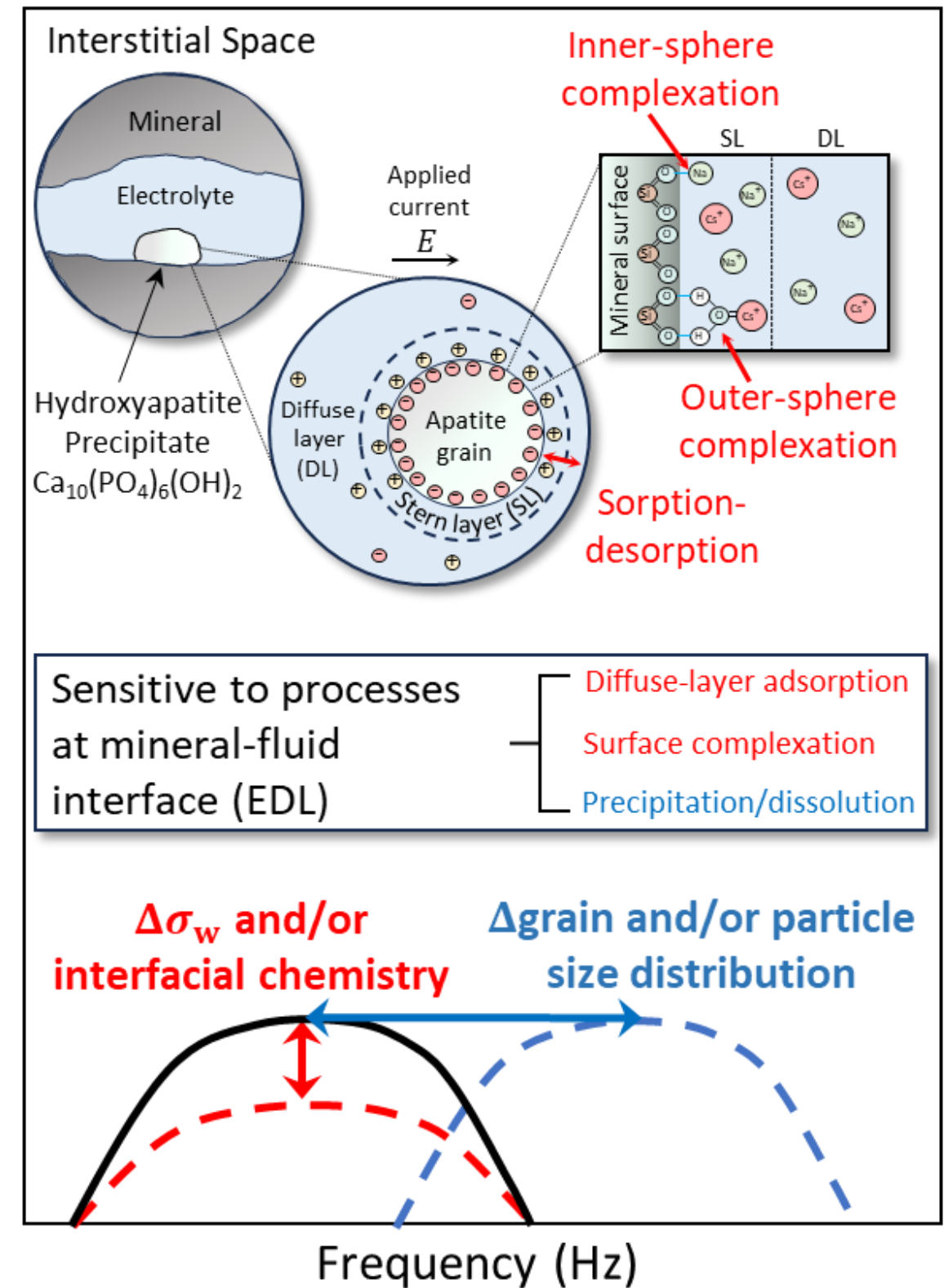


# Conceptual Model of Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ for SIP

- Initial injection
  - $\uparrow \sigma_w$  contributes to  $\uparrow \sigma'$  and  $\downarrow \phi$
  - $\uparrow \sigma''$  from ion exchange, adsorption, and/or initial  $\text{Ca-PO}_4$  precipitation
- Post injection
  - $\downarrow \sigma_w$  back to natural conditions  $\uparrow \phi$
  - $\uparrow \sigma''$  from ion exchange, adsorption, and/or initial  $\text{Ca-PO}_4$  precipitation
  - Shift in  $\tau$  (peak frequency) due to pore blocking or particle size changes

## Insulating minerals

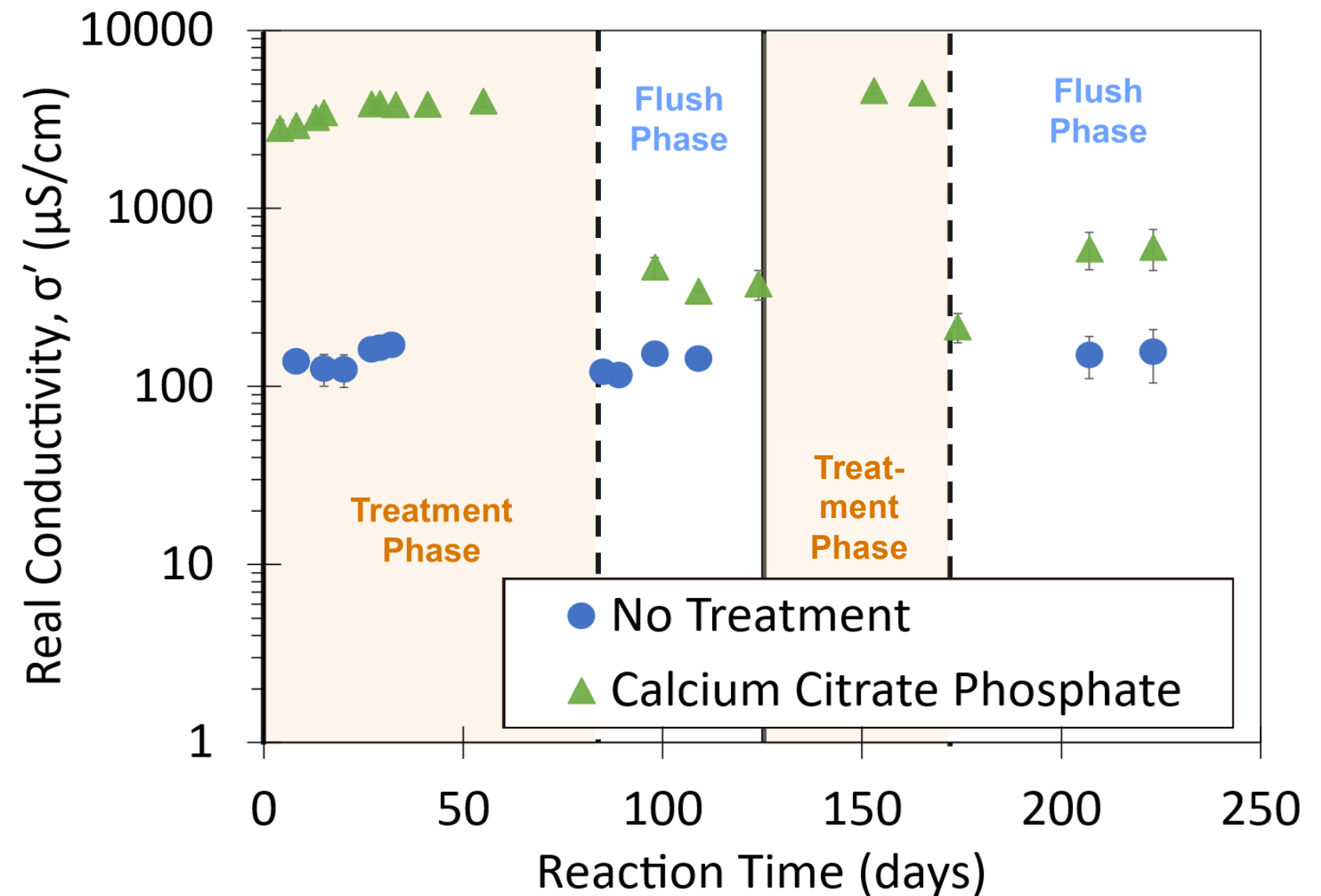
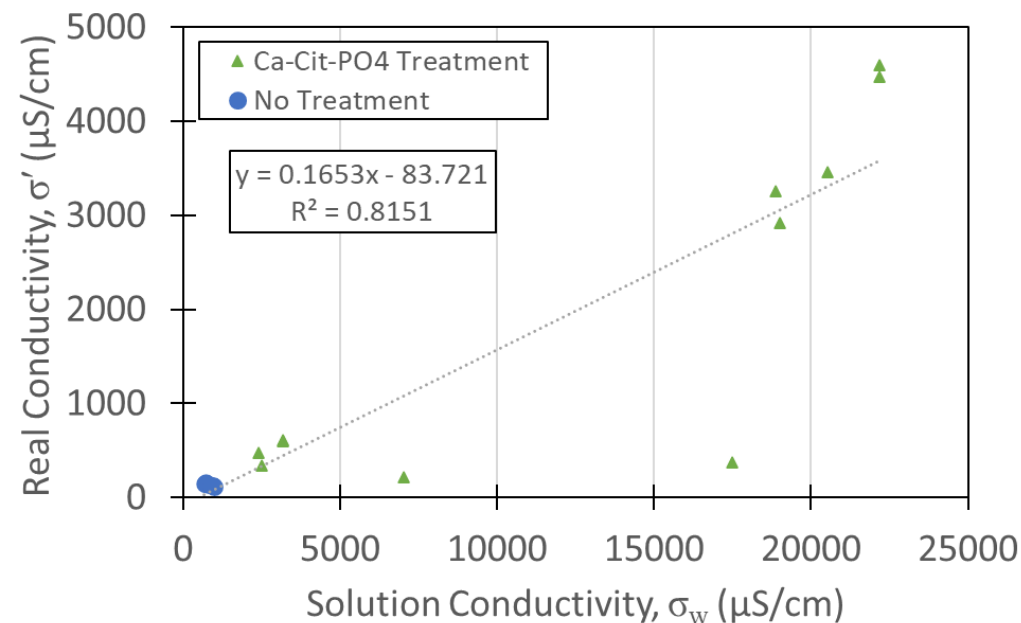
Imaginary conductivity ( $\sigma''$ )



# Results: Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ Amendments Column Testing

Significant increase in real conductivity,  $\sigma'$ , only during treatment with apatite-forming solutions

- Similar to ER response
- Correlates with solution conductivity increases

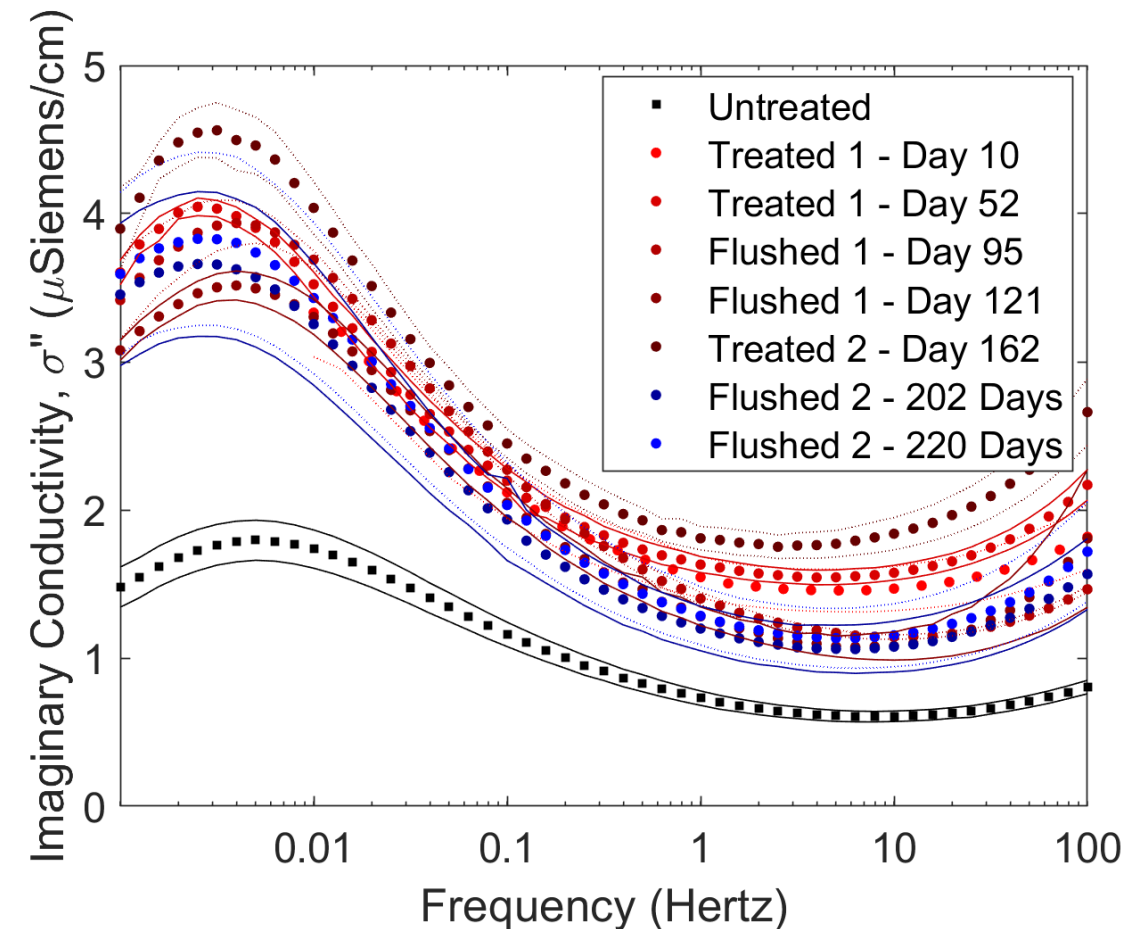
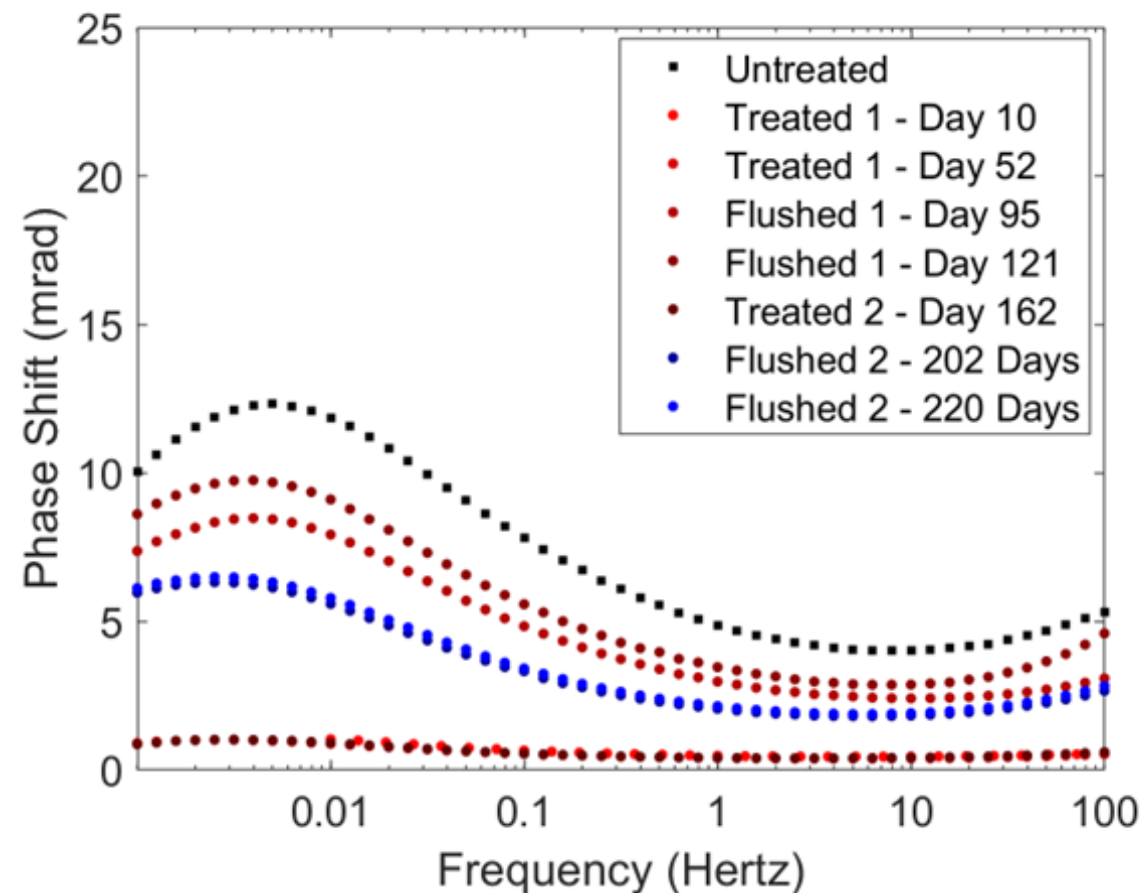




# Results: Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ Amendments Column Testing

Increase in imaginary conductivity ( $\sigma''$ ), following treatment and after flushing

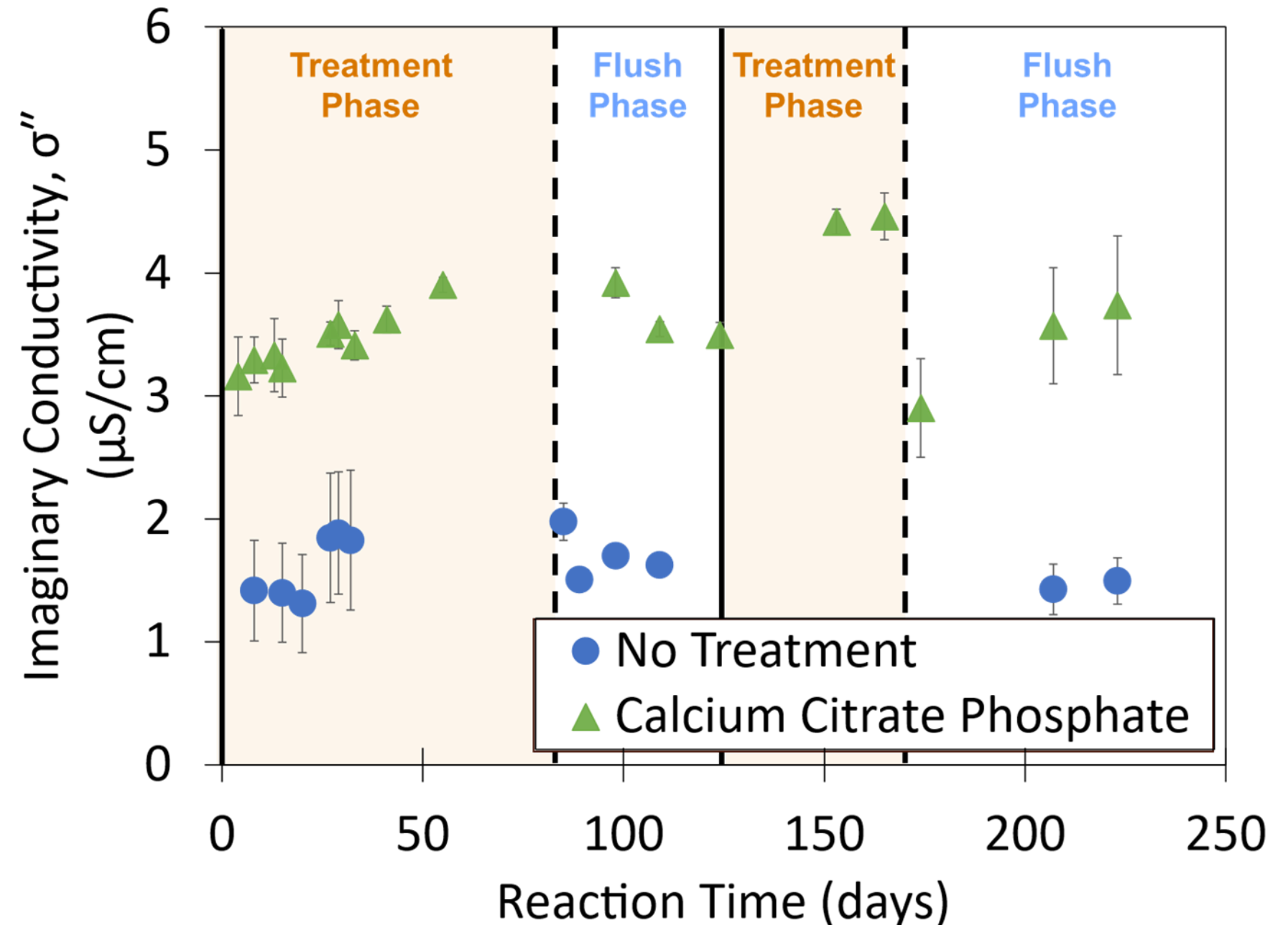
- Increase consistent after flushing, not impacted by solution ionic strength
- Frequency-specific response (peak at 0.005 Hz)
- Suggests impacts to particle surfaces from precipitation



# Results: Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ Amendments Column Testing

Increase in imaginary conductivity (at 0.005 Hz),  $\sigma''$ , following treatment and after flushing

- **Increase consistent after flushing**, not impacted by solution
- **Frequency-specific** response ( $\tau$  at 0.005 Hz)
- Suggests impacts to particle surfaces and interface
- SIP provides additional information not possible with ER



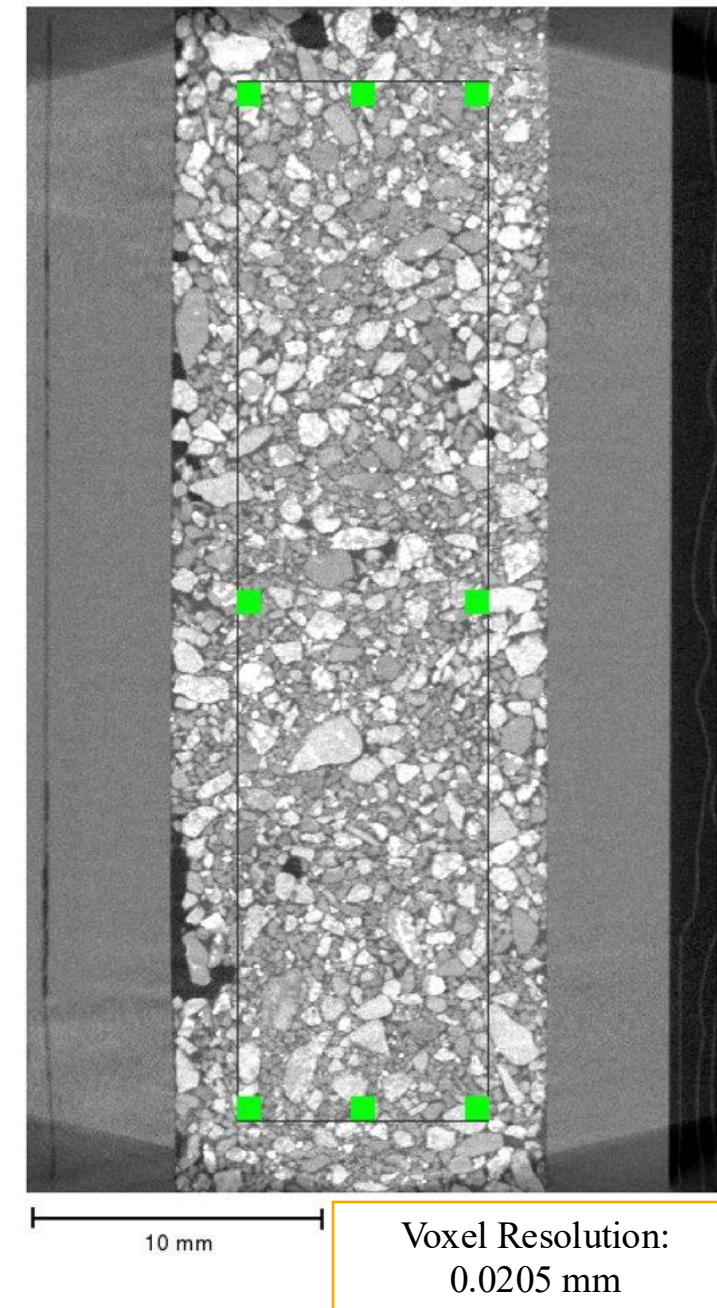
# Results: Liquid PO<sub>4</sub> Amendments Post Characterization

Condition	BET Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)
Untreated	7.7 ± 1.6
Before first flush	8.2 ± 0.1
After first flush	10.2 ± 0.6
After second flush	8.4 ± 0.3

Average 2-4 samples from a single column

Sample	Porosity		
	Inject #1	Flush #1	Flush #2
Treated	0.30	0.32	0.33
	0.33	0.31	0.36
	0.30	0.32	NM
	0.31	NM	NM
	0.32	NM	NM
Control	0.33	0.33	0.38
	0.31	0.26	0.29

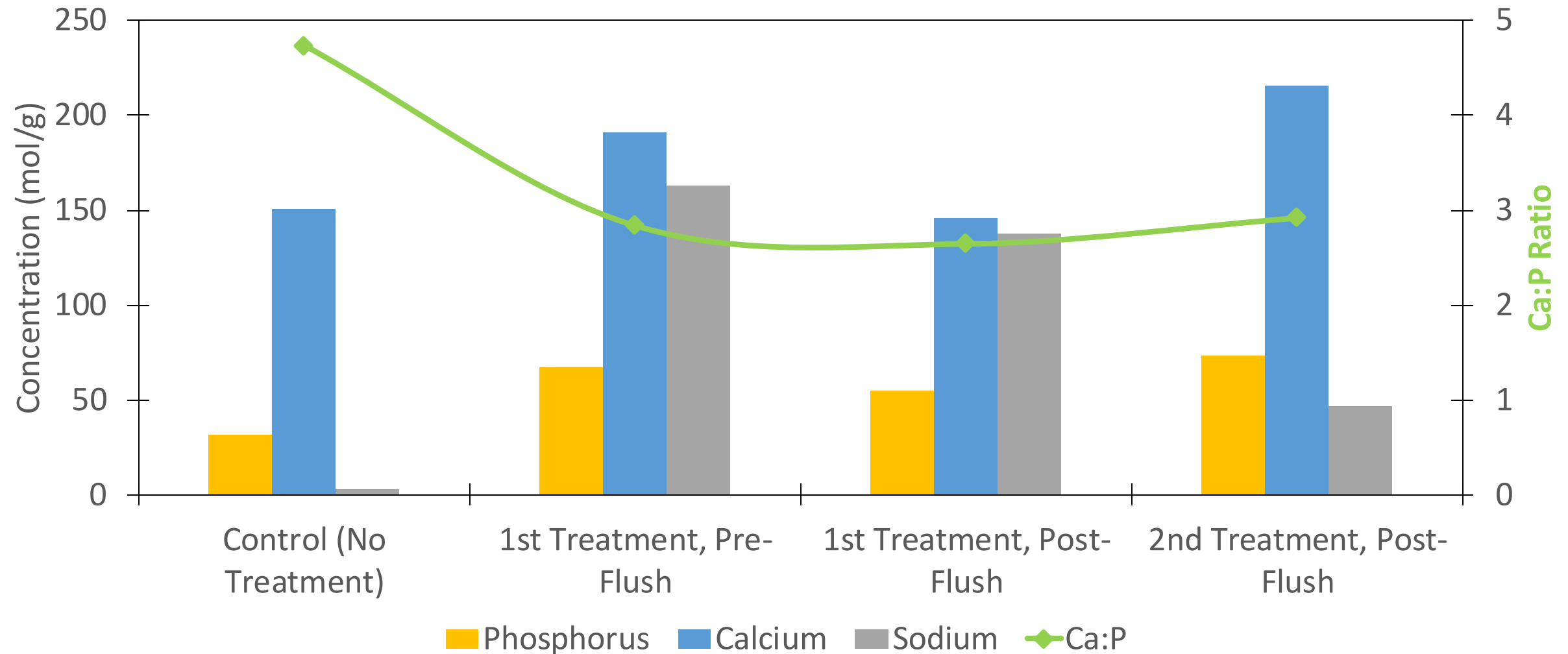
Showing replicates over time; NM = not measured



- No significant change in surface area as measured by BET
- No consistent change in porosity, pore connectivity, or pore size as shown by XCT



# Results: Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ Amendments Post Characterization

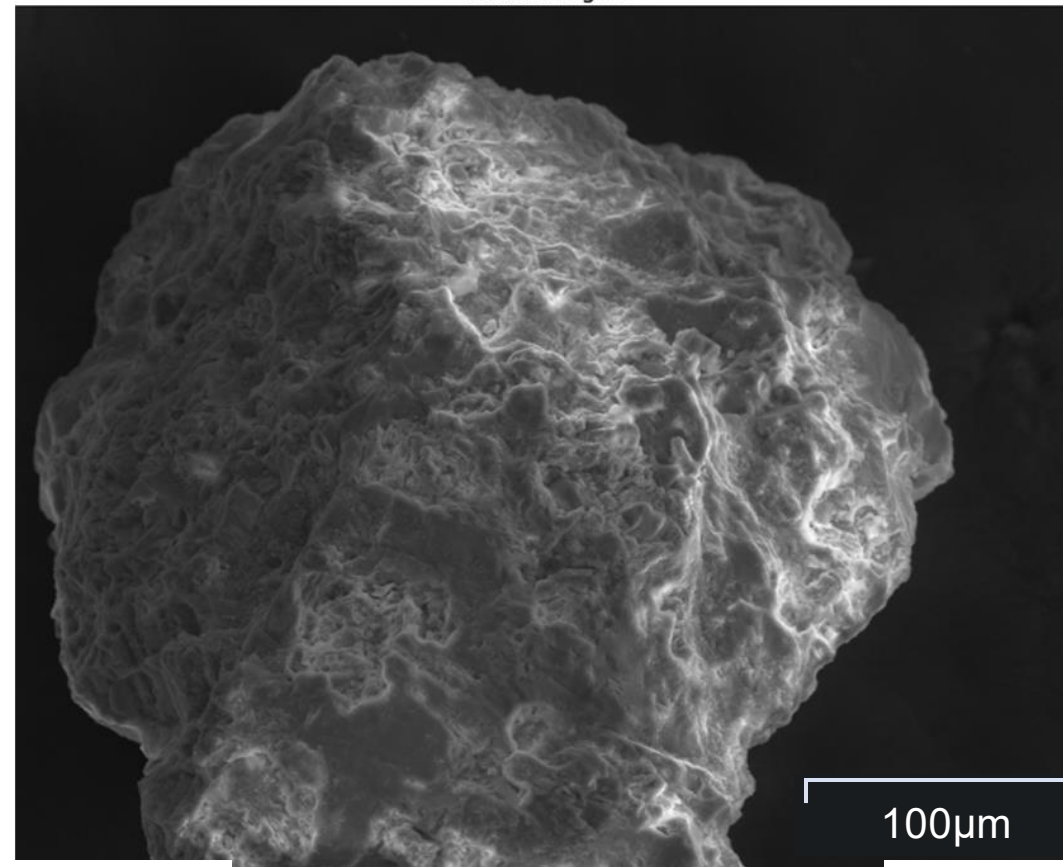


- Significant increase in solid phase phosphorus
- Ca:P ratio moving closer to apatite (1.25), likely significant  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in sediments

# Results: Liquid $\text{PO}_4$ Amendments Post Characterization

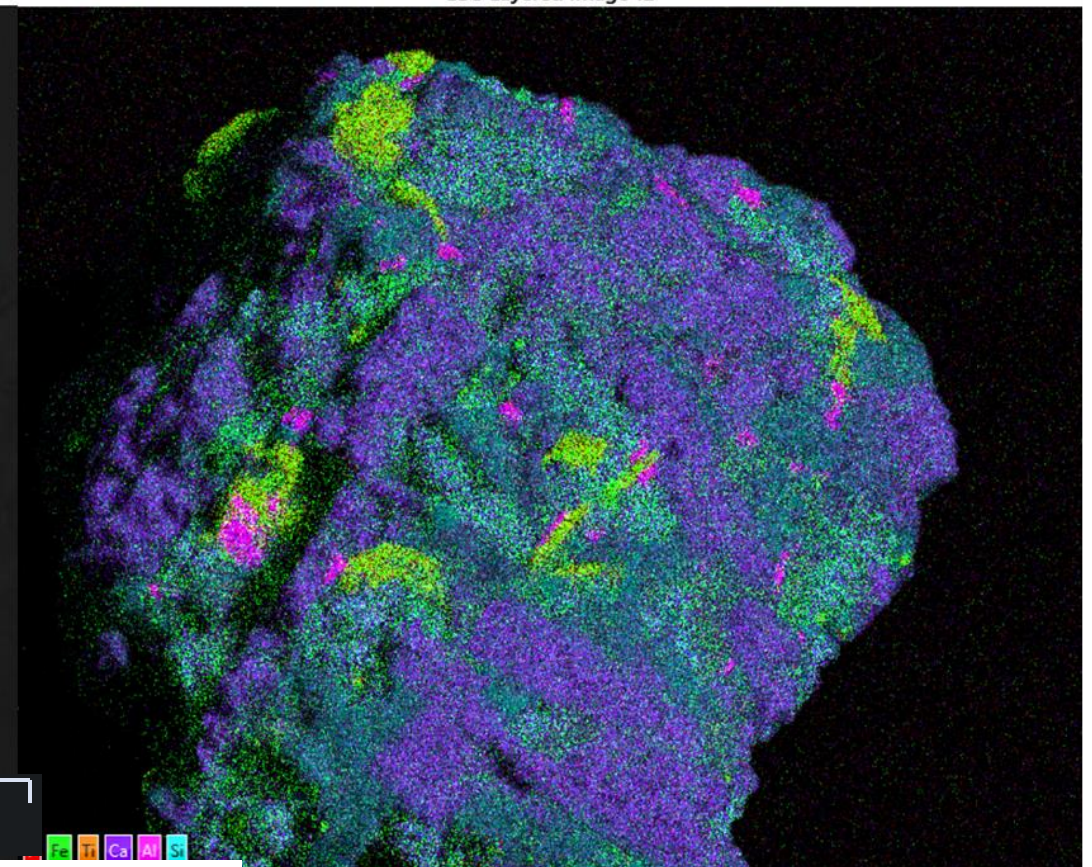
Electron Image

Electron image 12

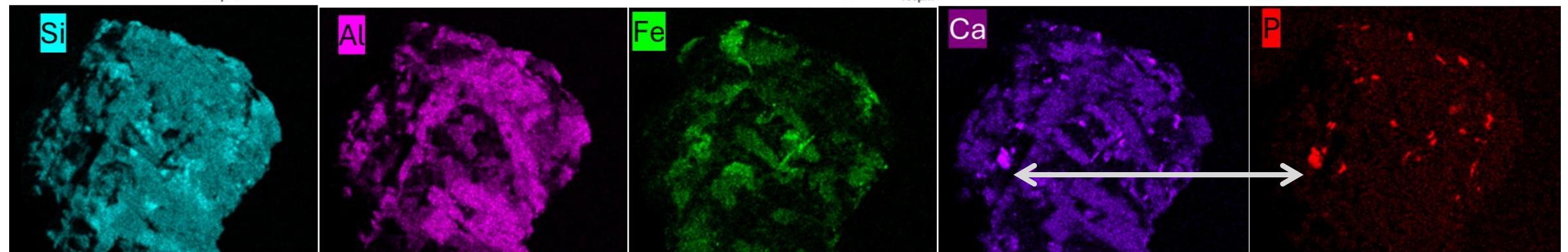


EDS Layered Image

EDS Layered image 12



Note: Co-association of Ca and P, potentially  $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$



100µm

100µm

100µm

100µm

100µm

100µm

100µm

100µm

100µm

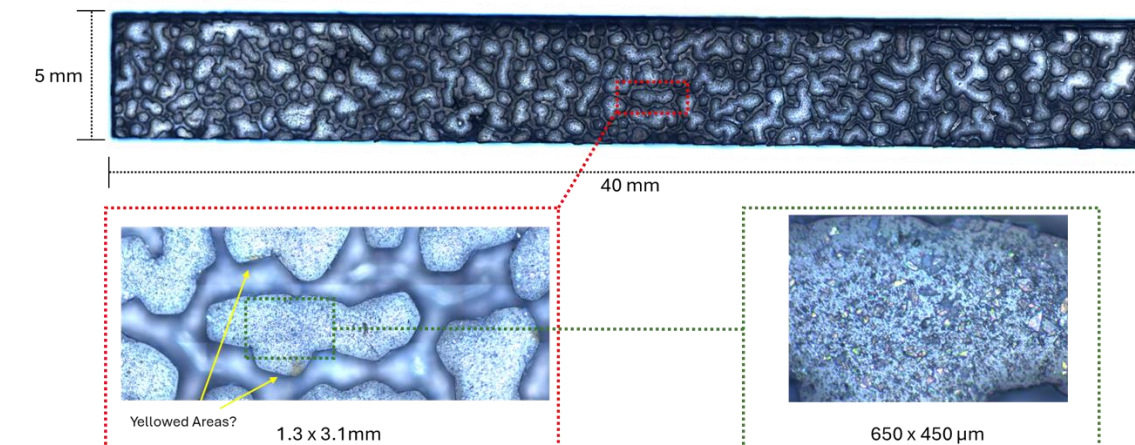
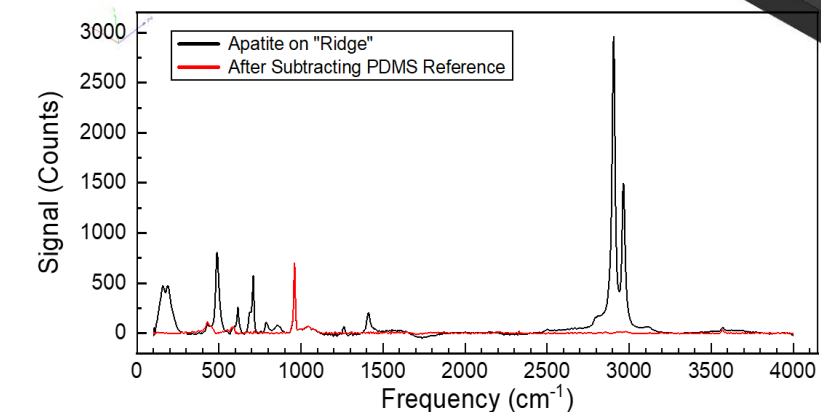
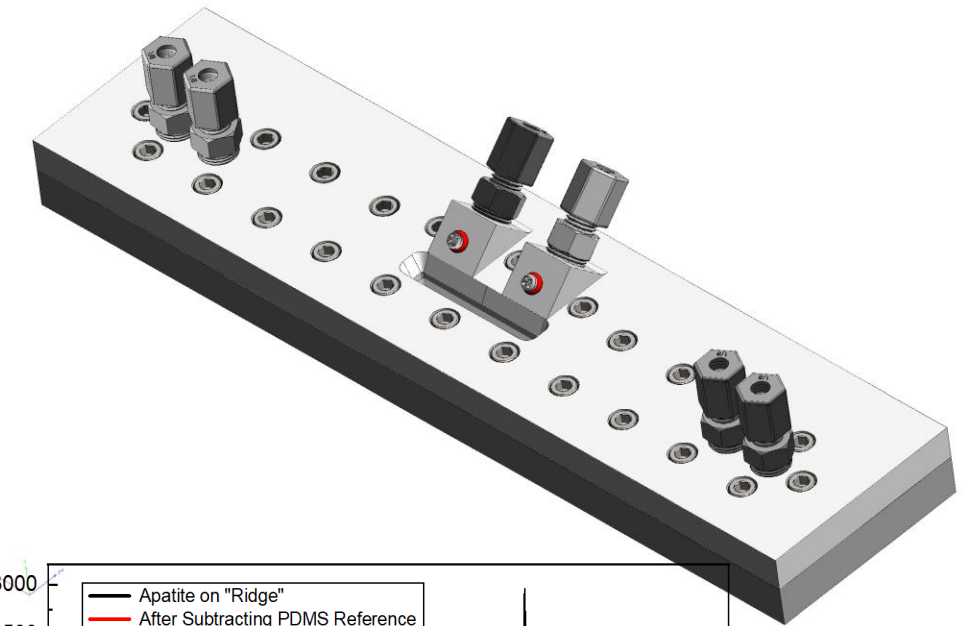
100µm



# Conclusions and Future Work

## Liquid PO<sub>4</sub>

- Real conductivity,  $\sigma'$  (similar to ER, delivery indicator)
  - Dominated by changes in fluid conductivity
  - Results show where liquid PO<sub>4</sub> was *delivered*
- Imaginary conductivity,  $\sigma''$  (apatite formation indicator)
  - $\uparrow$  as surface of minerals changed, *independent of solution conductivity*
  - $\Delta$  likely due to ion exchange, adsorption, apatite precipitation, and coating
- Results show promise for SIP for monitoring both delivery of solutions and formation of apatite coatings
- Future work: Decrease scale to confirm controlling mechanisms via microfluidics





# What Happens with Zero Valent Iron?

High ionic strength injection solution fills pore spaces with ZVI or SMI particles

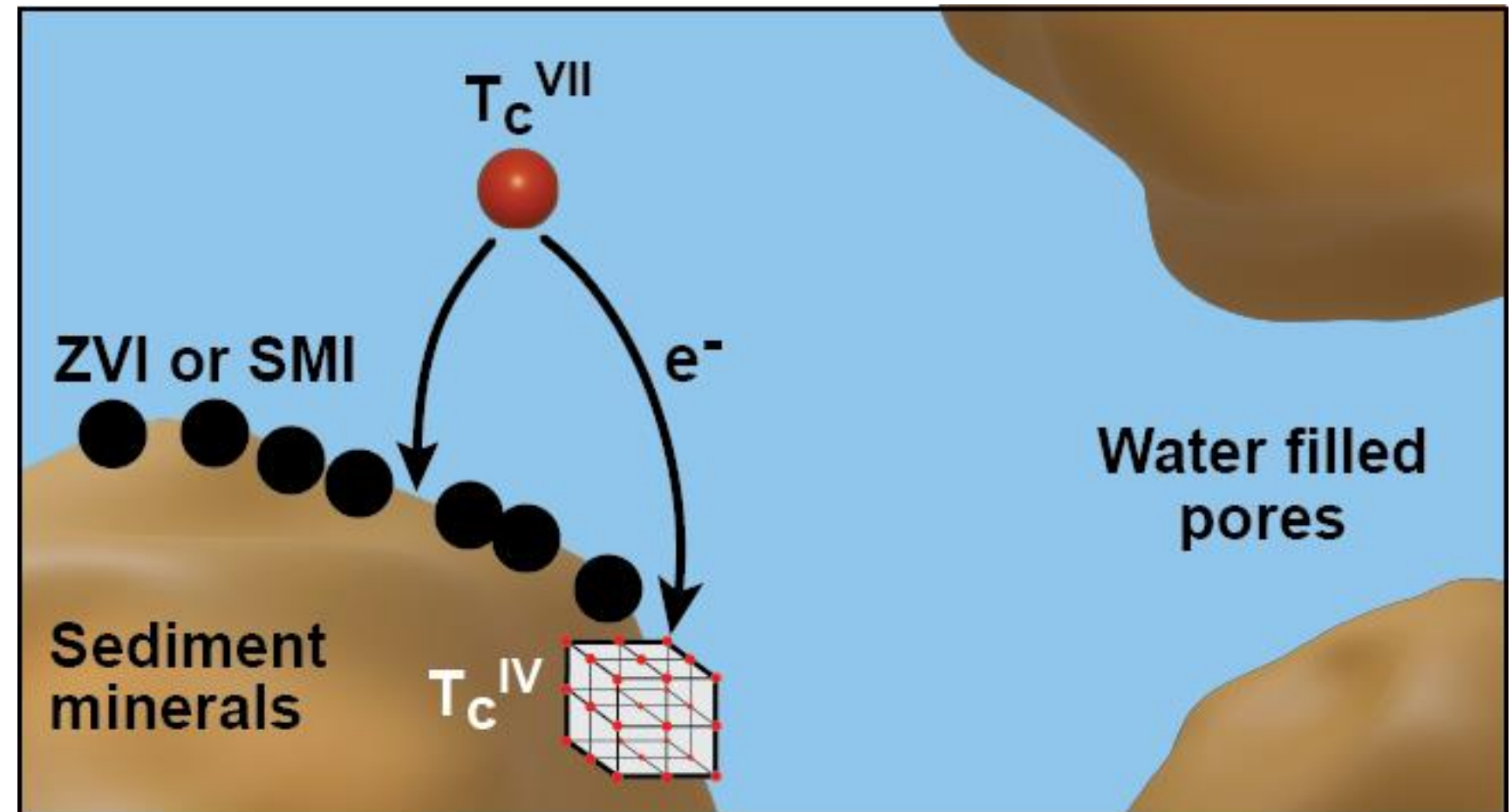


Reducing conditions generated impacting mobility of contaminants



ZVI or SMI corrosion: reduction capacity consumed, iron dissolution, and secondary precipitation

Conceptual diagram of delivery of zero valent iron (ZVI) or sulfur modified iron (SMI) into pore space with subsequent reductive precipitation of contaminants (e.g.,  $\text{TcO}_4^-$ ).

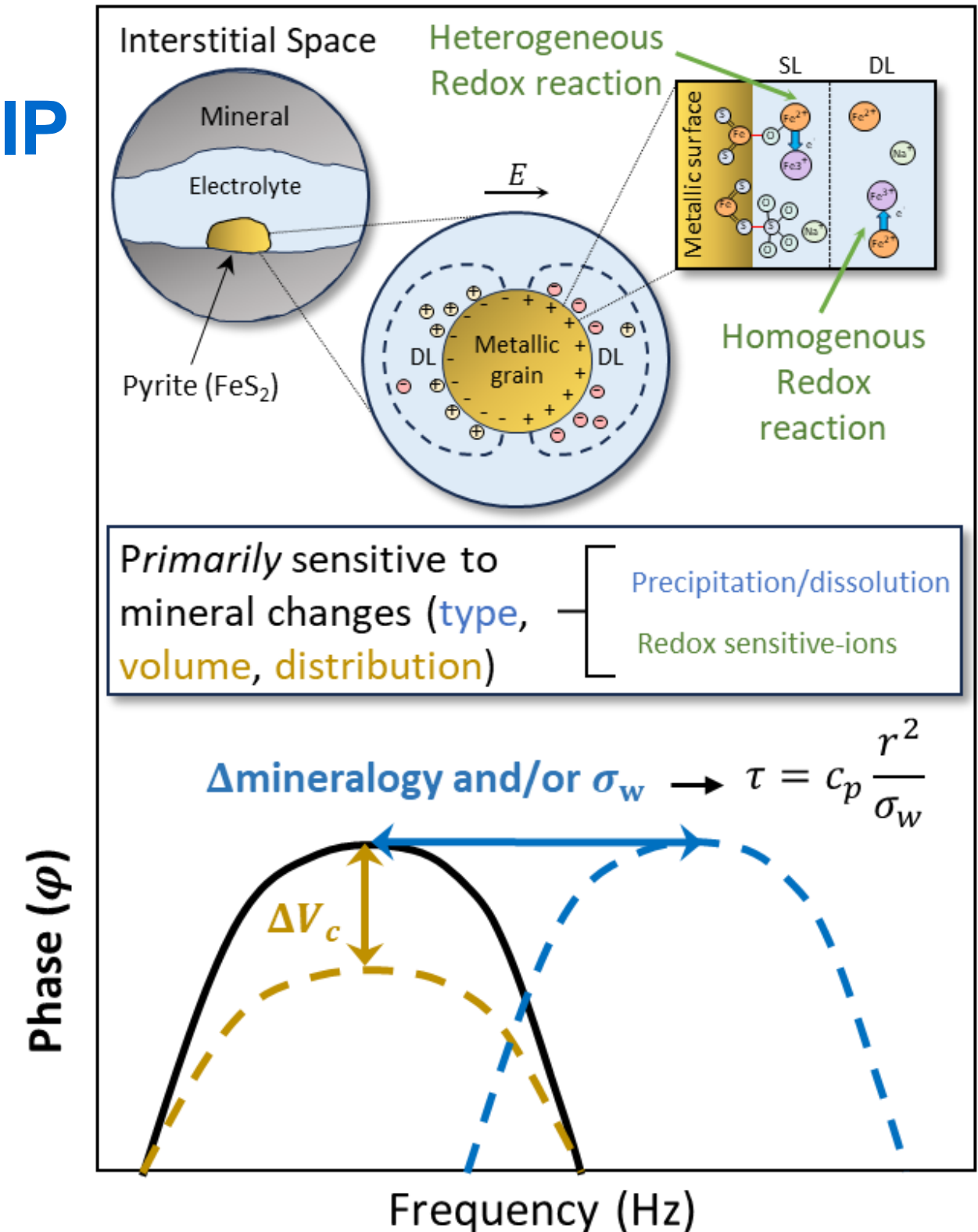


*Can we predict the point of failure for iron reductants?*

# Conceptual Model of Iron Amendments for SIP

- Initial injection
  - $\uparrow \sigma_w$  contributes to  $\uparrow \sigma'$  and shift in  $\varphi$  peak
  - $\uparrow \varphi$  coincident with  $\uparrow$  volume fraction of ZVI or SMI
- Post injection
  - $\downarrow \sigma_w$  back to natural conditions
  - $\Delta\varphi$  dependent on volume content of secondary minerals that are polarizable (e.g., magnetite)
  - Shifts in  $\varphi$  peak due to pore blocking or particle size changes

## Electron conducting minerals





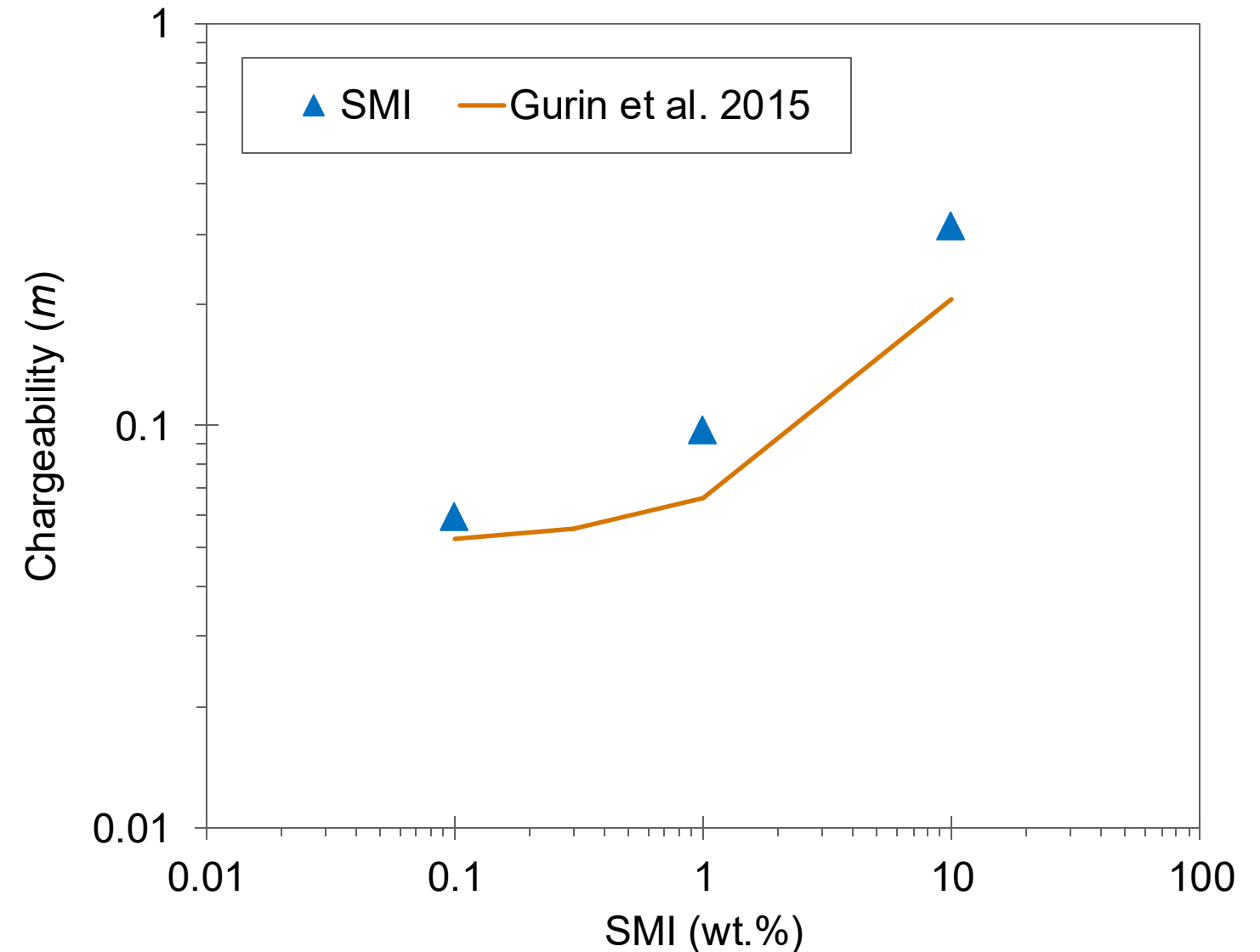
# Results: ZVI and SMI Amendments

## Column Testing

- Volume content strongly correlated with  $\phi$  and chargeability ( $m$ )
  - Background sediment polarization corrected based on previous literature

$$m = 1 - (1 - m_b) \frac{2(1 - \nu)^2}{(2 + \nu)(1 + 2\nu)}$$

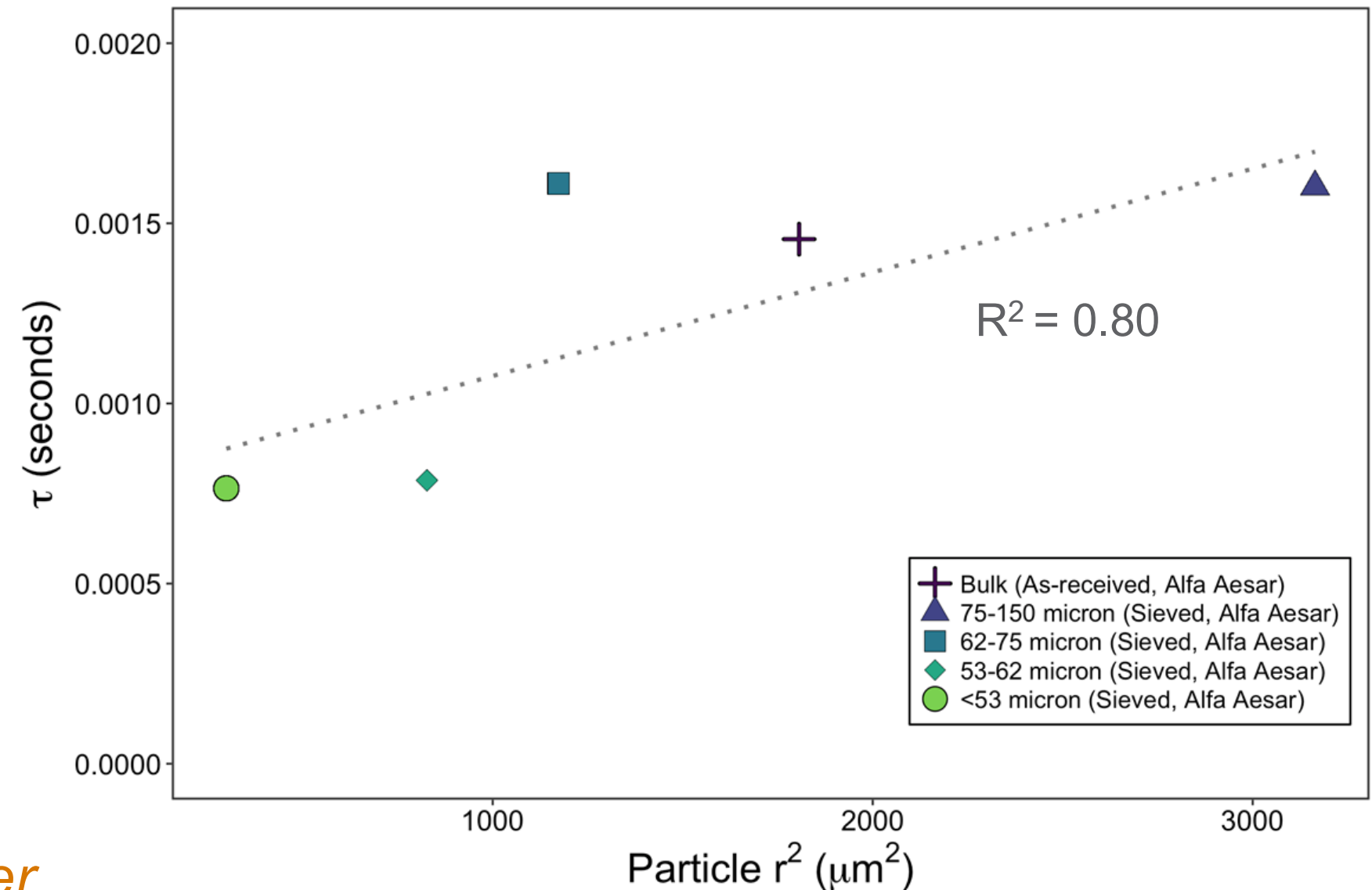
Gurin et al. (2015) Geophys J Int 200  
Emerson et al. (2024) J Contam Hydrol 264



# Results: ZVI and SMI Amendments

## Column Testing

- Sieved ZVI materials to isolate different size fractions
- Particle size strongly correlated with  $\tau$ 
  - Consistent with literature
  - Mineral-dependent



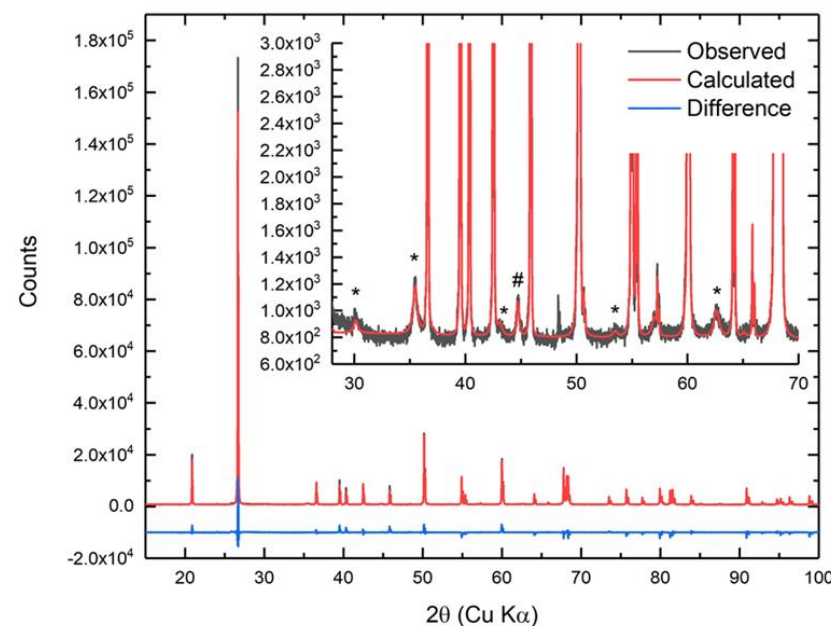
*What about changes over time due to corrosion?*

# Results: ZVI and SMI Amendments

## Iron Corrosion Testing

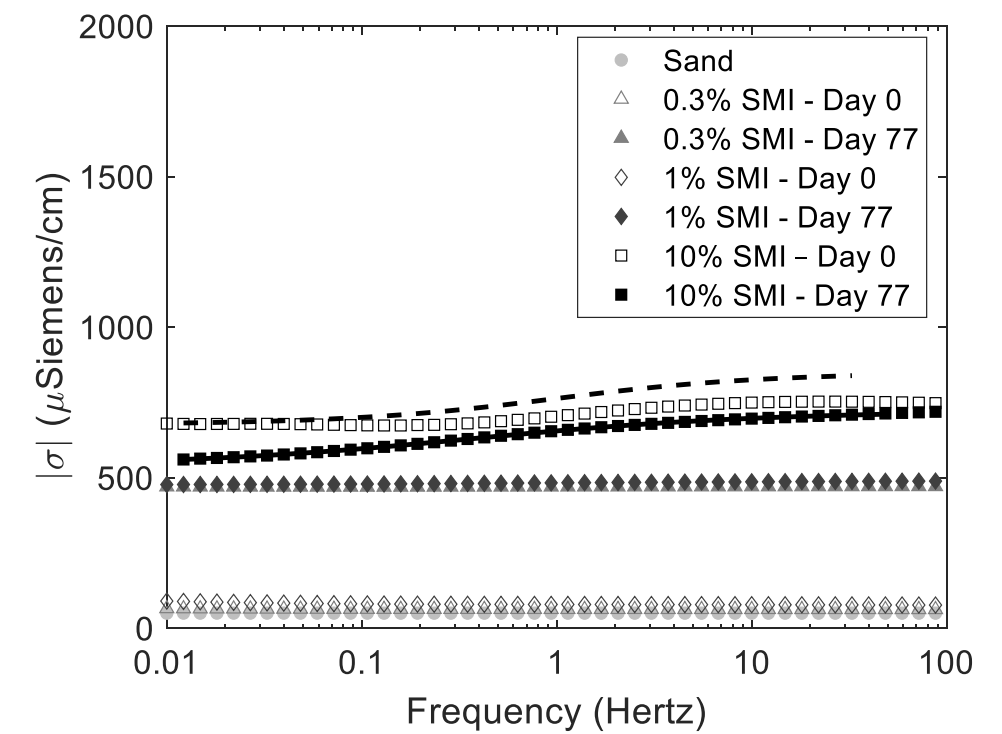
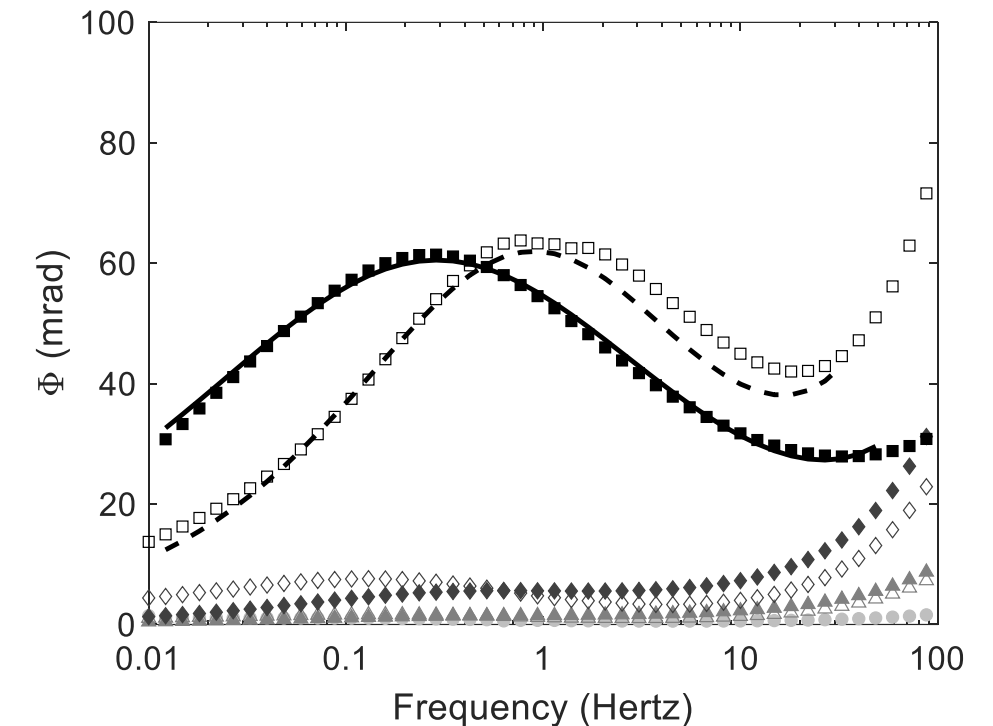
### SMI corrosion in silica sand

- Significant shifts in  $\tau$  over time, unclear which mechanisms are controlling response
  - $\Delta$  in particle size (via BET)
  - $\Delta$  in mineralogy (via XRD)
- No change in the magnitude of  $\varphi$ 
  - No *significant*  $\Delta$  in volume content



Emerson et al.  
(2024) J Contam  
Hydrol 264

\* magnetite  
# zero valent iron





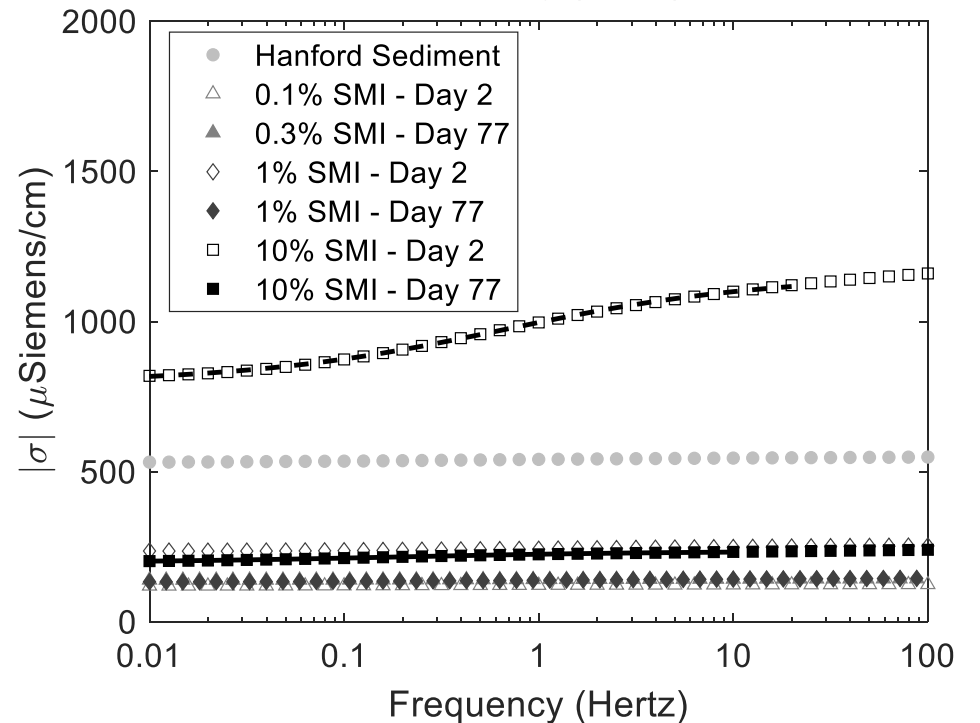
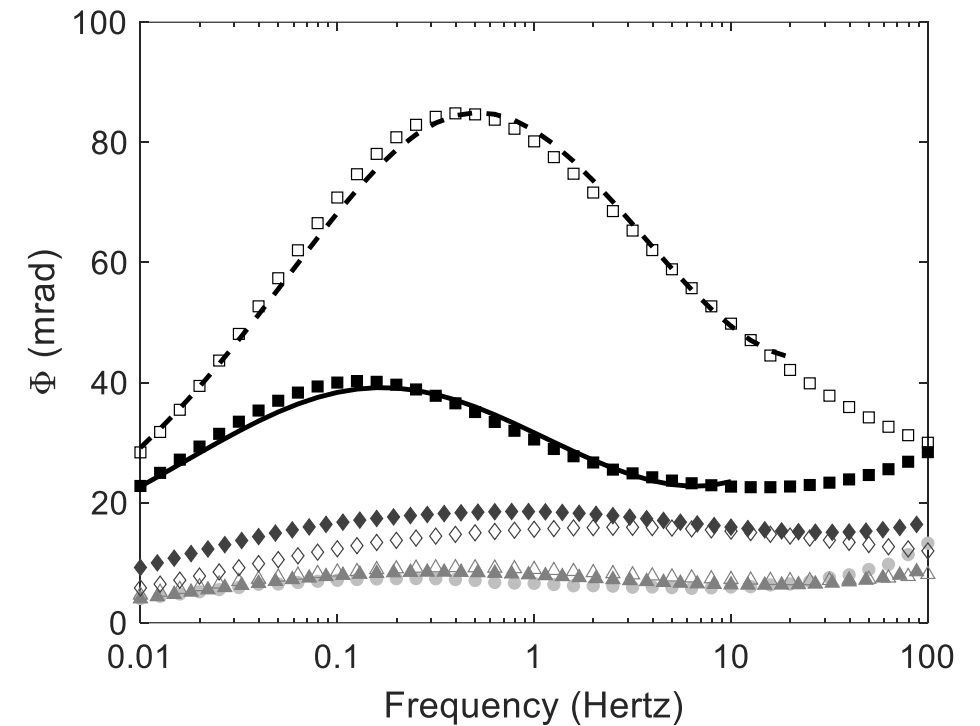
# Results: ZVI and SMI Amendments

## Iron Corrosion Testing

SMI corrosion in Hanford formation sediments

- Significant shifts in  $\tau$  over time
  - $\Delta$  in particle size (via BET)
  - $\Delta$  in solution conductivity ( $\text{Fe}^{+2/+3}$  dissolution)
- Significant shift in the magnitude of  $\phi$
- What are the primary mechanisms impacting polarization magnitude and frequency?

\*Contribution from  $\Delta$  in mineralogy inconclusive (not detected via XRD but redox condition changed over time, potentially moving to  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  oxides)



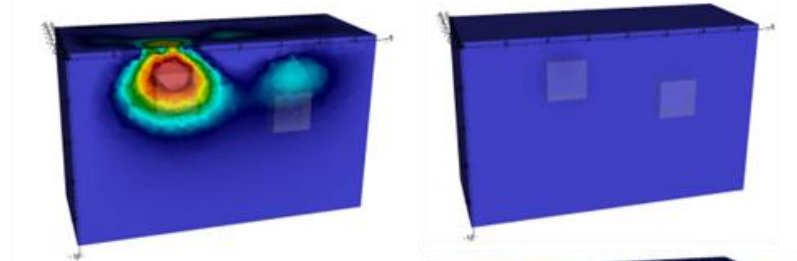
# Conclusions and Future Work Iron Amendments

- Real conductivity,  $\sigma'$ 
  - Dominated by changes in fluid conductivity
  - Results show where ZVI was *delivered*
- Phase,  $\phi$ 
  - $\uparrow$  with volume content
  - Shifts in  $\tau$  due to  $\Delta$  in  $\sigma_w$  and particle size
- Results show promise for SIP for monitoring both delivery of solutions and formation of apatite coatings

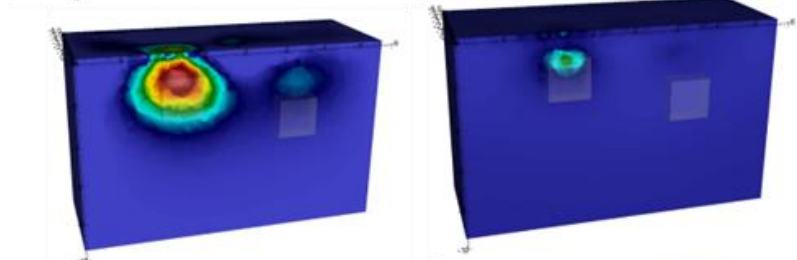
Future work: Improve real-time characterization to identify controlling mechanisms during corrosion

E4D  
inversion for  
SMI using  
two blocks  
model

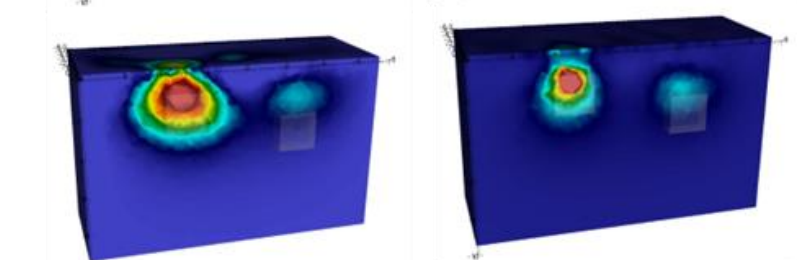
0.001 Hz



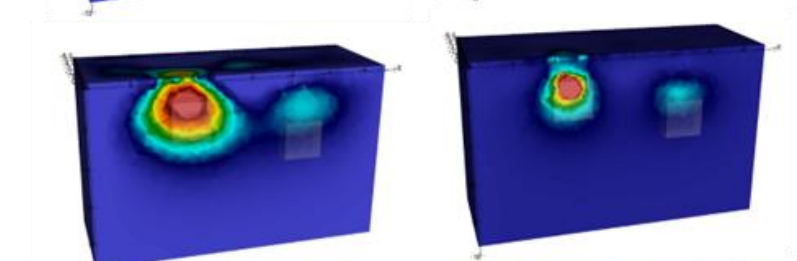
0.01 Hz



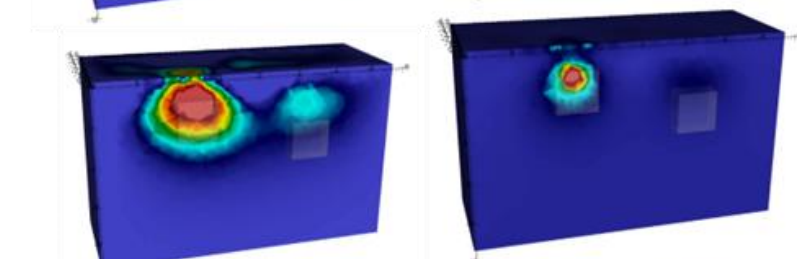
0.1 Hz



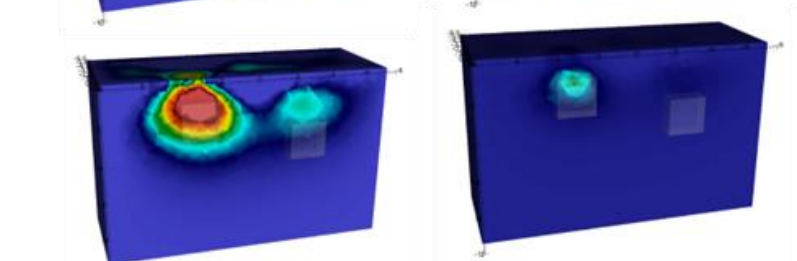
1.0 Hz



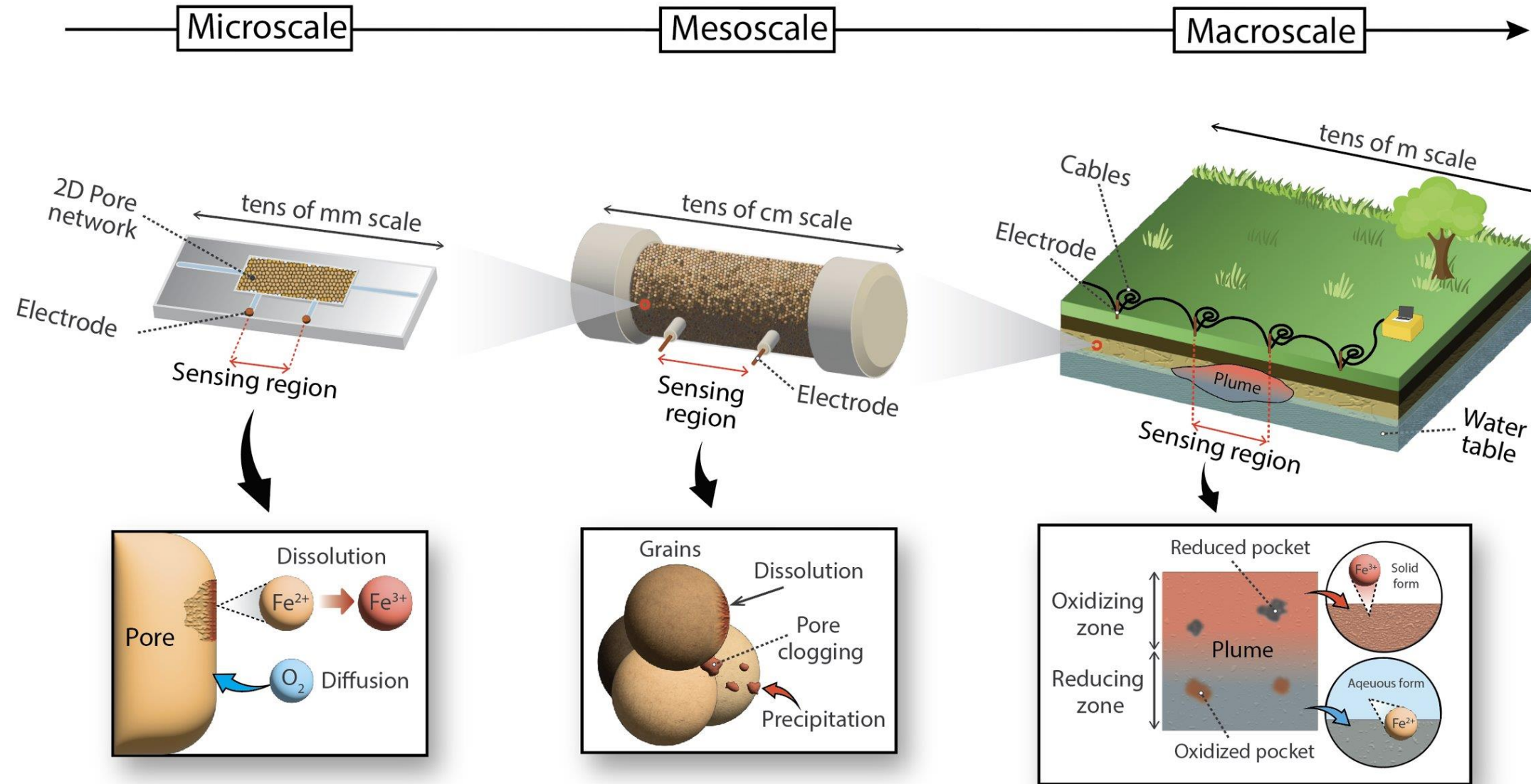
10 Hz



100 Hz



# Conclusions



Potential to monitor amendment delivery and transformation with SIP via  $\phi$ ,  $\sigma''$ , and  $\tau$  depending on material and alteration

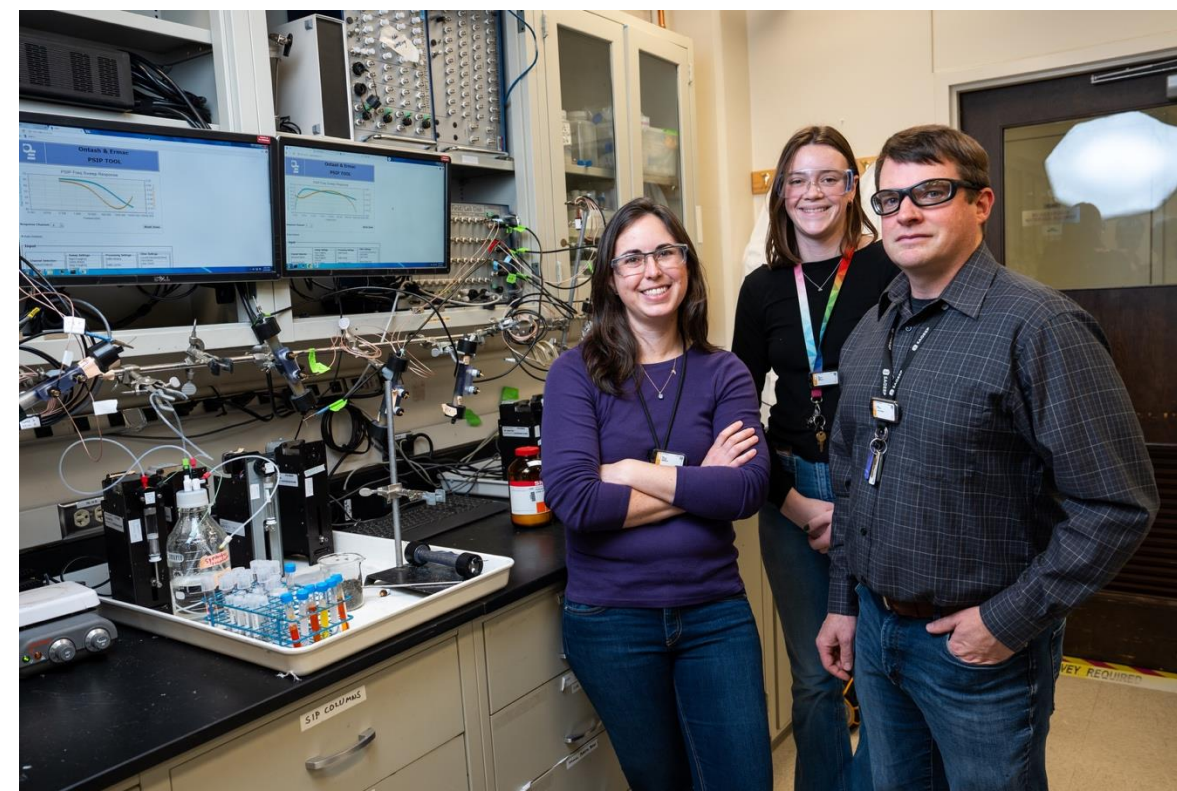
## Environmental Significance

Promising technology for monitoring source zones during remediation – including potential to confirm injection solution delivery and amendment precipitation



# Acknowledgements

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# Thank you

Questions?  
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The poster features a scenic background of a river flowing through a valley with layered rock formations under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a large, clear glass sphere sits on a rocky surface, reflecting the surrounding landscape and water. The top of the poster contains logos for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, RemPlex, and the IAEA.

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