

Monitoring and modelling groundwater flow dynamics in a glacial aquifer system with degrading & discontinuous permafrost (Umiujaq, Nunavik, Canada)

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J. Barth⁴, R. Murray^{1,2}, D. Banville^{1,2}, J. Sottas^{1,2}, M. Cochand^{1,2}

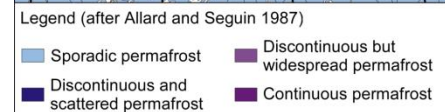
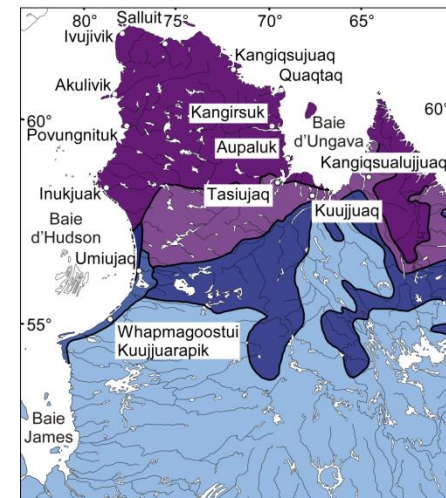
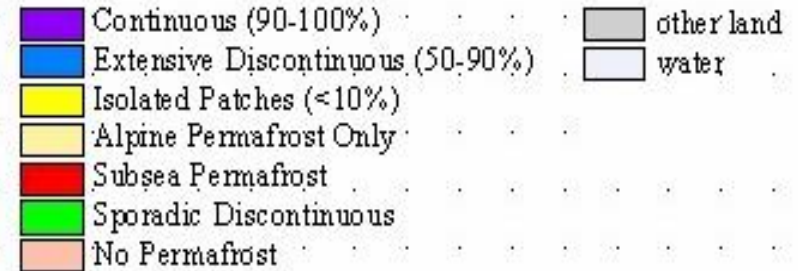
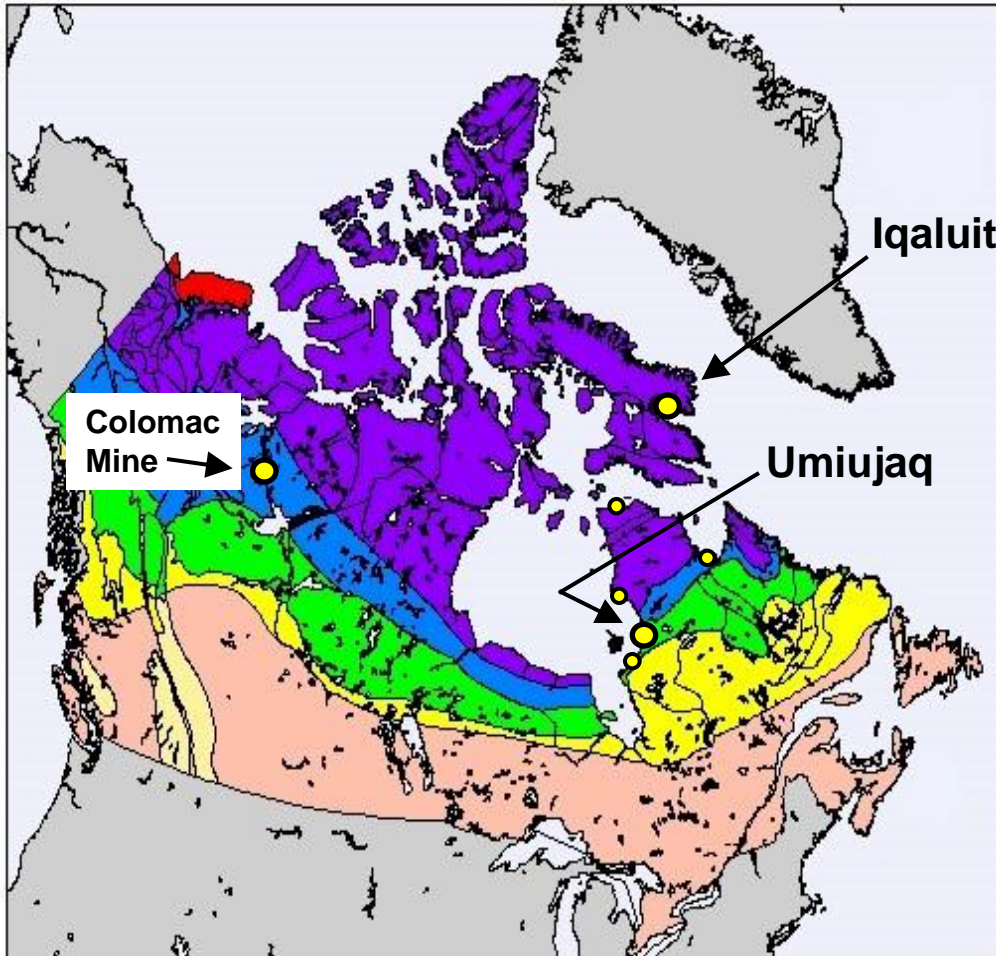


Research sites in Canadian permafrost

Permafrost map of Canada

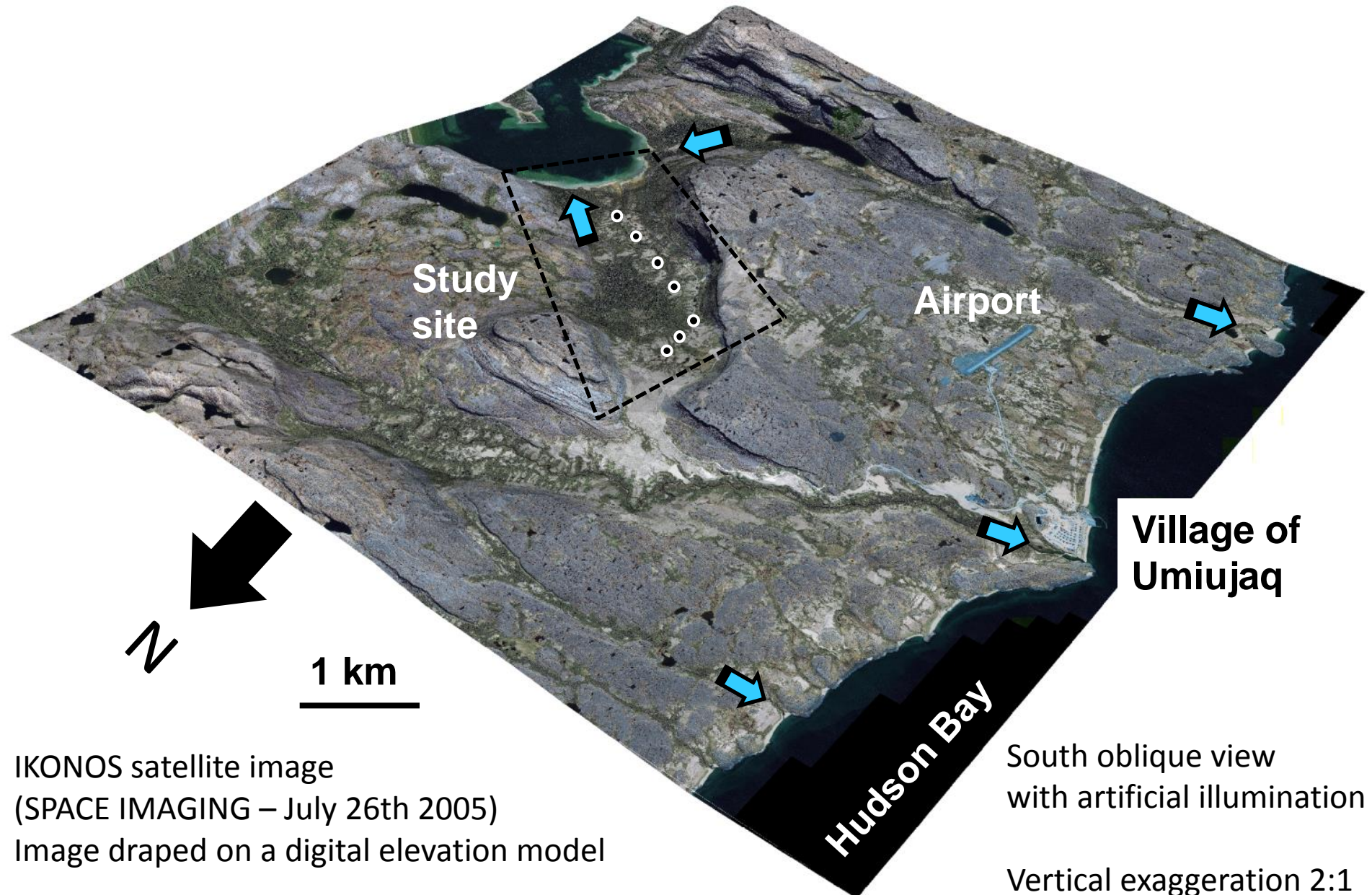


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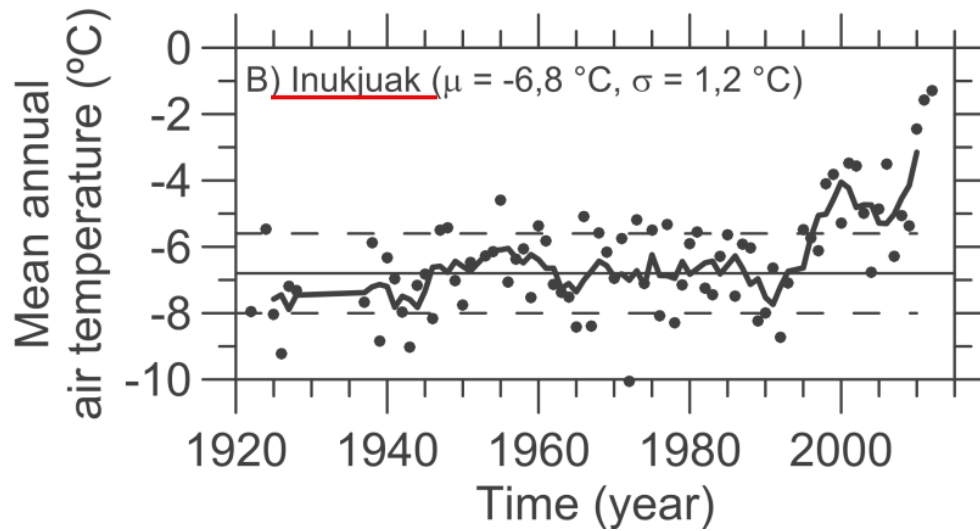
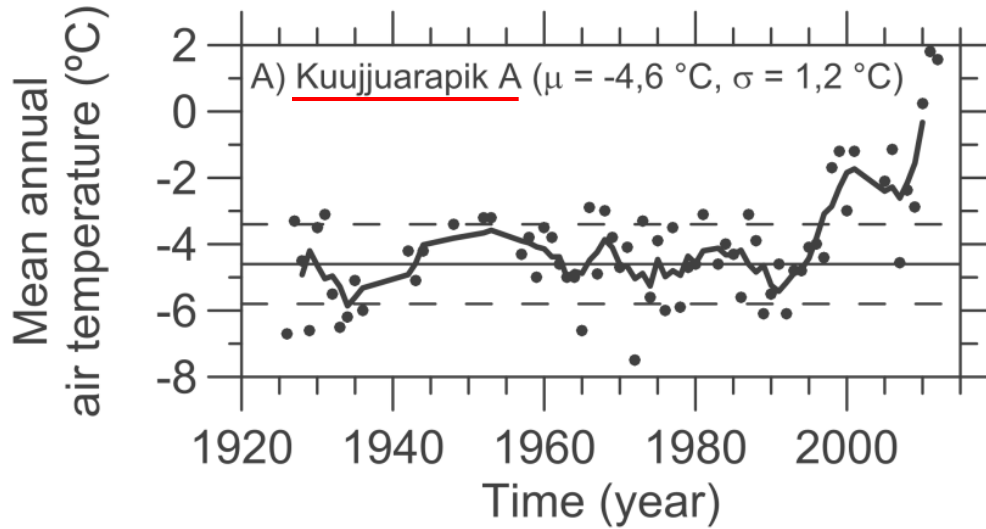
Heginbottom et al. 1995

Immatsiak network location



IKONOS satellite image
(SPACE IMAGING – July 26th 2005)
Image draped on a digital elevation model

Recent climate variability and impacts



Motivation and Objectives

- Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- Assess the impacts of climate change on groundwater resources (Quebec Climate Change Plan)
- Immatsiak network (meaning “source of fresh water” in Inuktitut), Umiujaq
- Study the groundwater dynamics in permafrost environments
- Hypothesis 1: Improved groundwater availability
- Hypothesis 2: Groundwater flow increases permafrost degradation



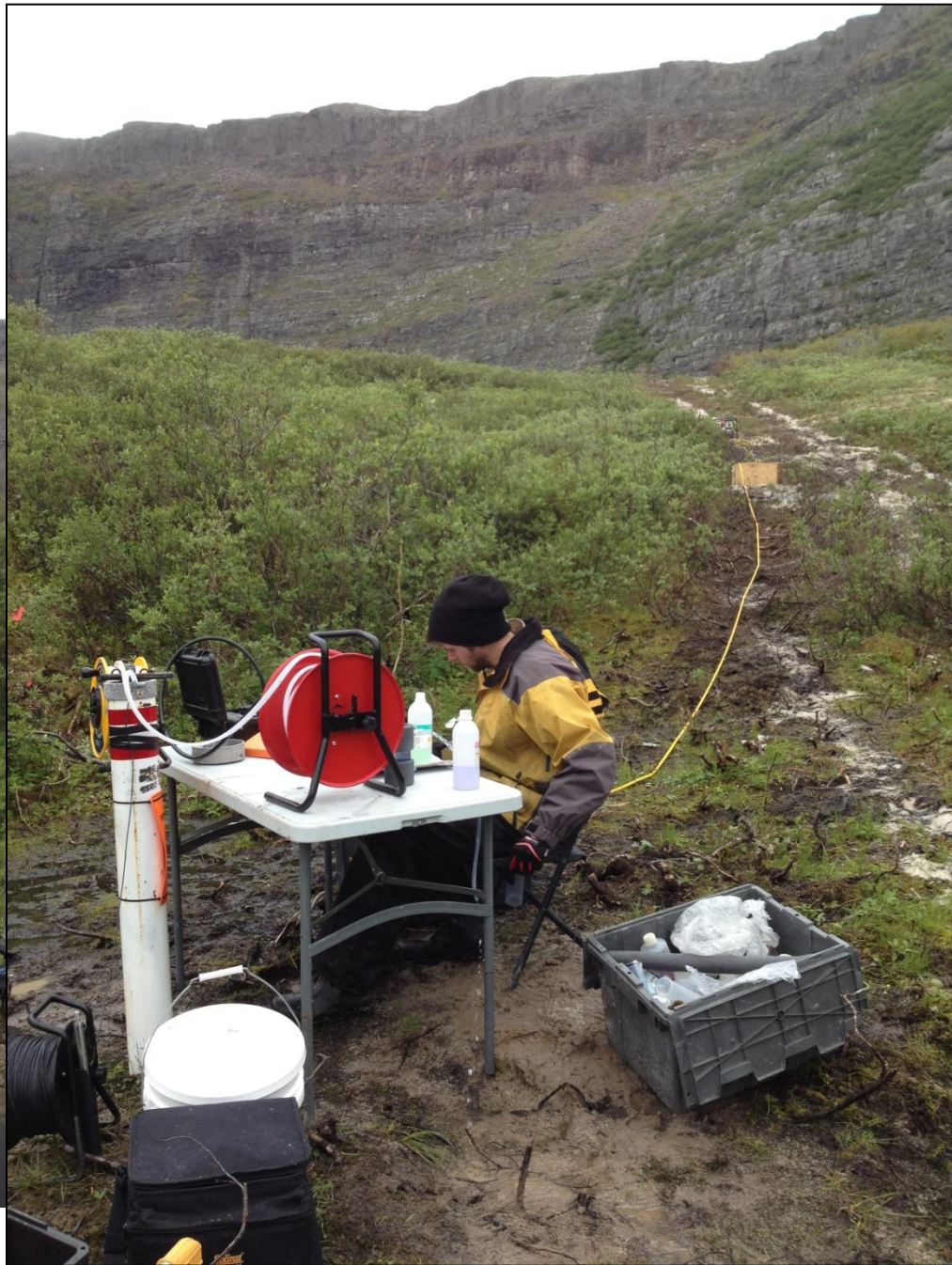




Drilling campaign June 2012



Sampling campaign July 2013



July 2013

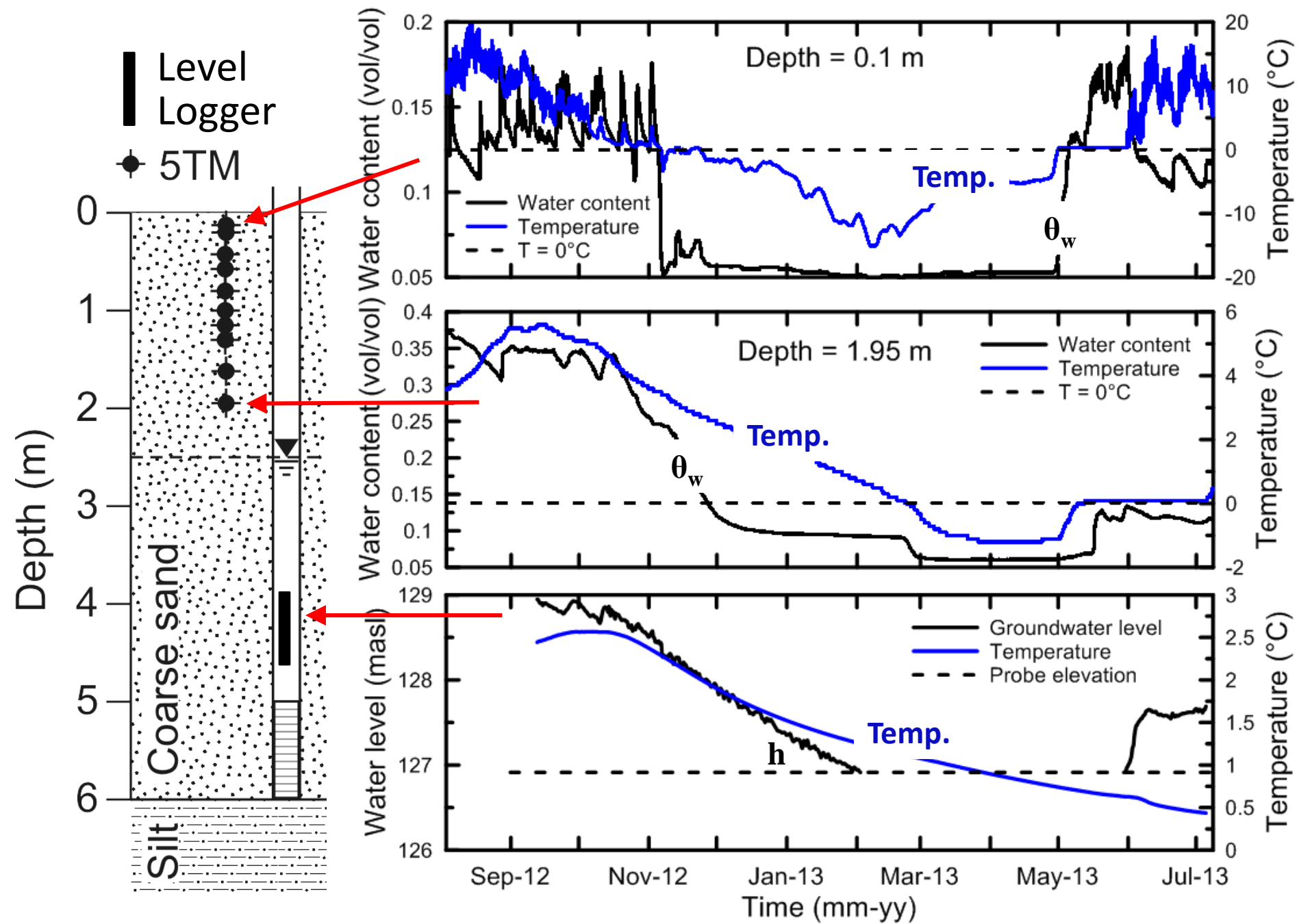


November 2014



November 2014



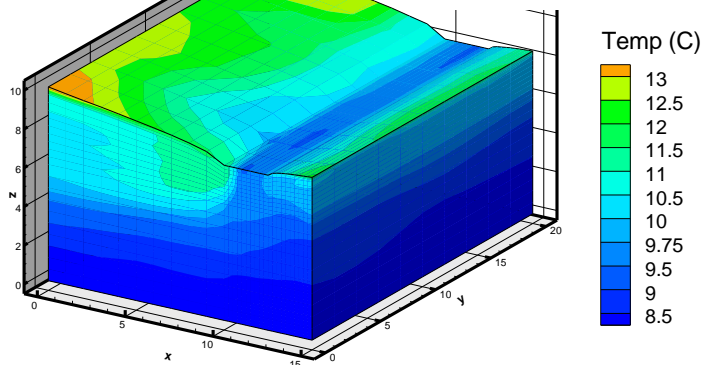


HEATFLOW/SMOKER Model

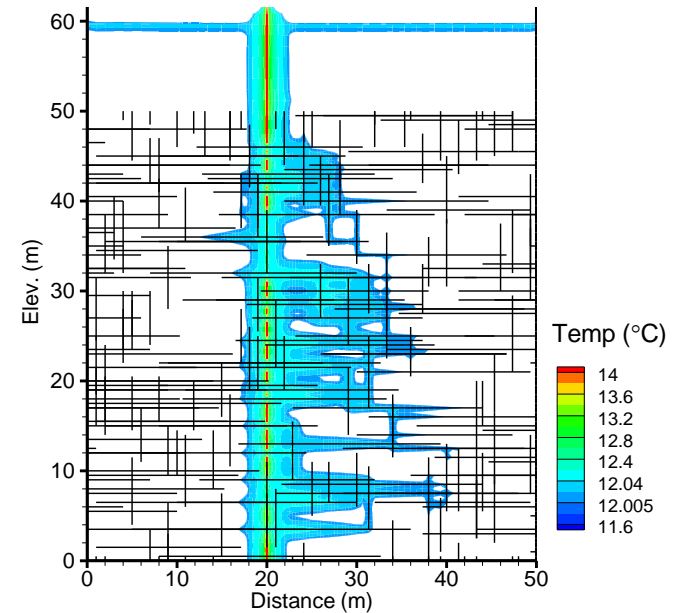
(Molson & Frind 2014)

- 3D Galerkin finite element
- Deformable brick elements
- PCG symmetric matrix solver
- Porous medium & discrete fractures
- Heat, mean age & mass transport
- Equilibrium geochemistry
- Liquid & ice phases, latent heat
- Picard iteration

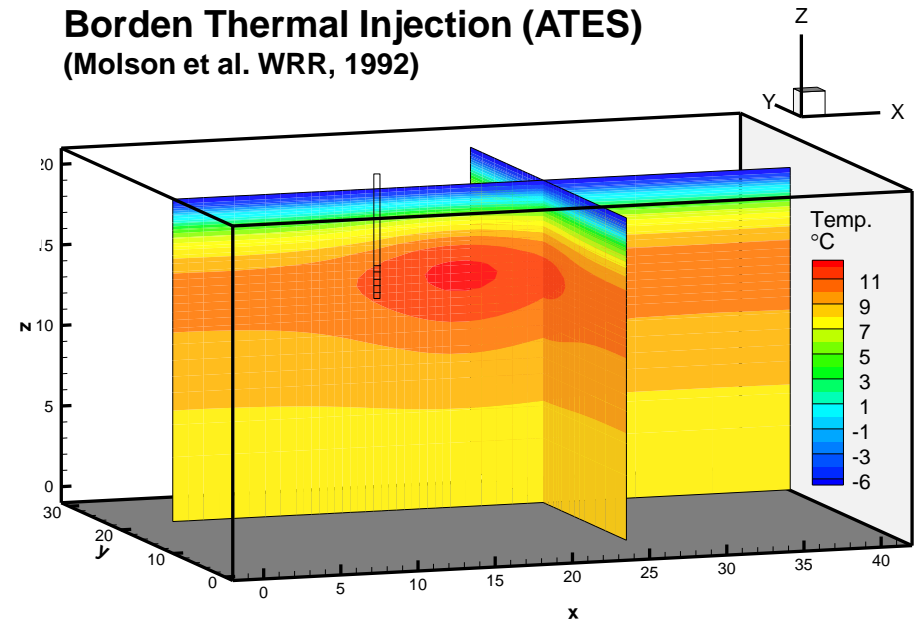
GW/SW Interaction
(Kalbus et al., *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.*, 2009)



Thermal tracers: DFN
(Pehme et al., *J. Hydrol.* 2013)



Borden Thermal Injection (ATES)
(Molson et al. *WRR*, 1992)



Numerical Simulation Approach:

HEATFLOW/SMOKER

Porous Matrix :

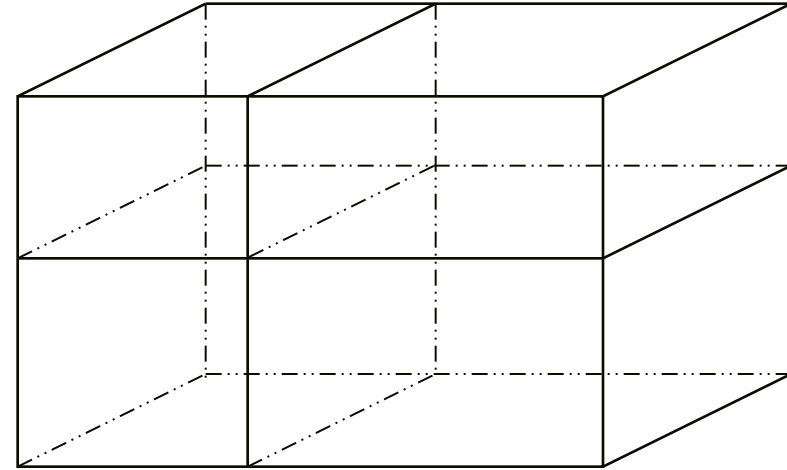
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[K_{i,j}(T) \left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x_j} + \rho_r(T) \cdot \bar{n}_j \right) \right] - \sum_{k=1}^N Q_k(t) \cdot \delta(x_k, y_k, z_k) = S_s \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}$$

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\theta S_w c_w \rho_w v_i T) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} (\bar{\lambda} + \theta S_w c_w \rho_w D) \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_j} + \Omega = \frac{\partial (C_o T)}{\partial t}$$

$$C_o = \theta S_w c_w \rho_w + \theta S_i c_i \rho_i + (1 - \theta) c_s \rho_s + \theta \rho_i L \left(\frac{\partial S_w}{\partial T} \right)$$

Surface b.c.:

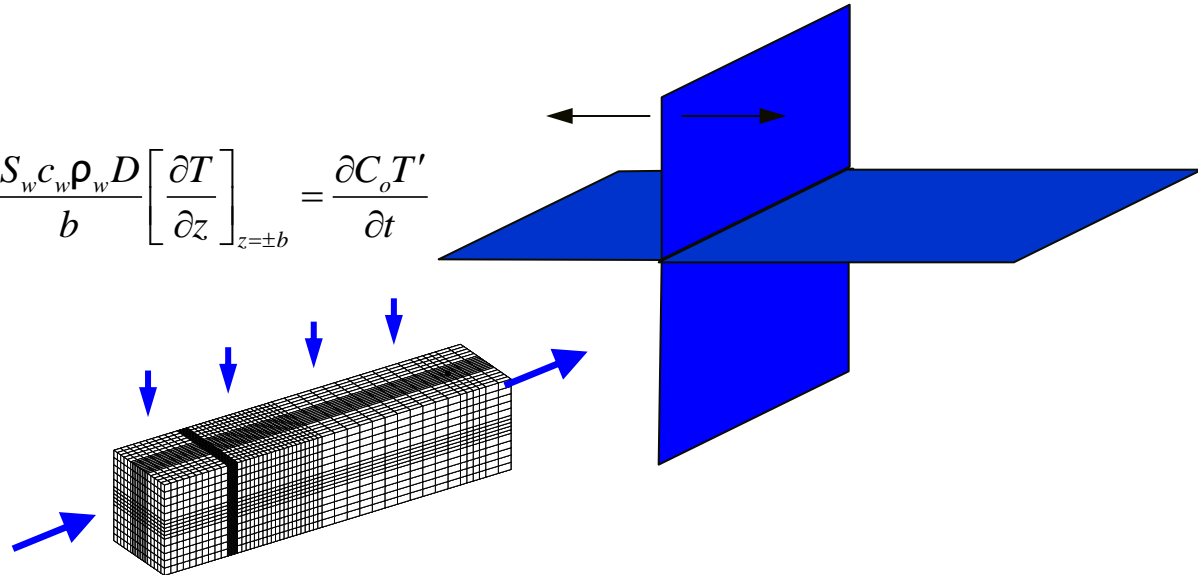
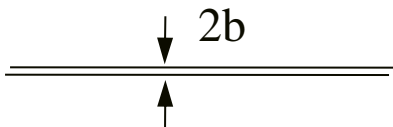
$$J_i = \left(\frac{\lambda_u}{B_z} \right) (T_a - T_s) + (q \cdot c_w \rho_w) \cdot (T_q - T_s)$$



Fractures:

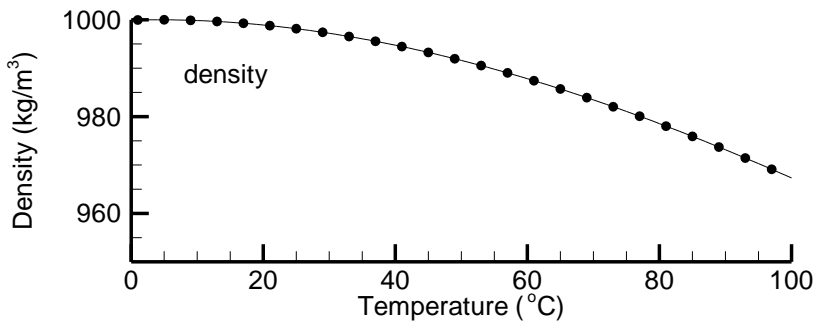
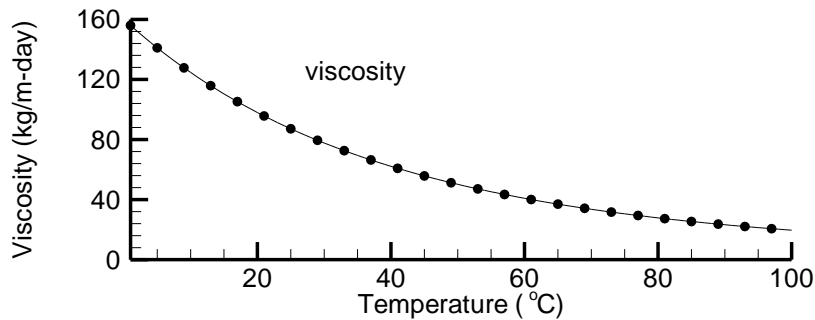
$$-\frac{\partial (S_w c_w \rho_w \bar{v}_i T')}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\bar{\lambda} + S_w c_w \rho_w D \frac{\partial T'}{\partial x_j} \right) + \frac{S_w c_w \rho_w D}{b} \left[\frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right]_{z=\pm b} = \frac{\partial C_o T'}{\partial t}$$

Fracture velocities: $v = \frac{-(2b)^2}{12\mu} \rho g \nabla h$

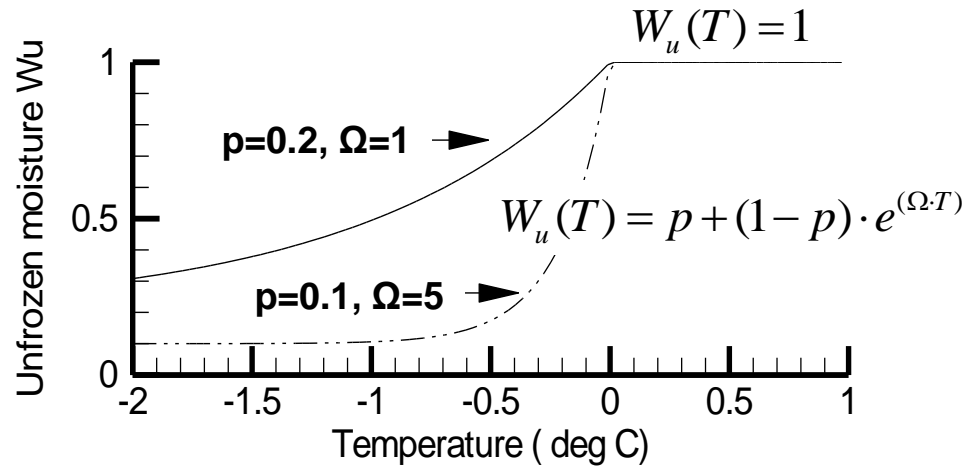


Fluid Viscosity and Density Functions:

Temperature-dependent fluid viscosity and density



Frozen/Unfrozen Water:

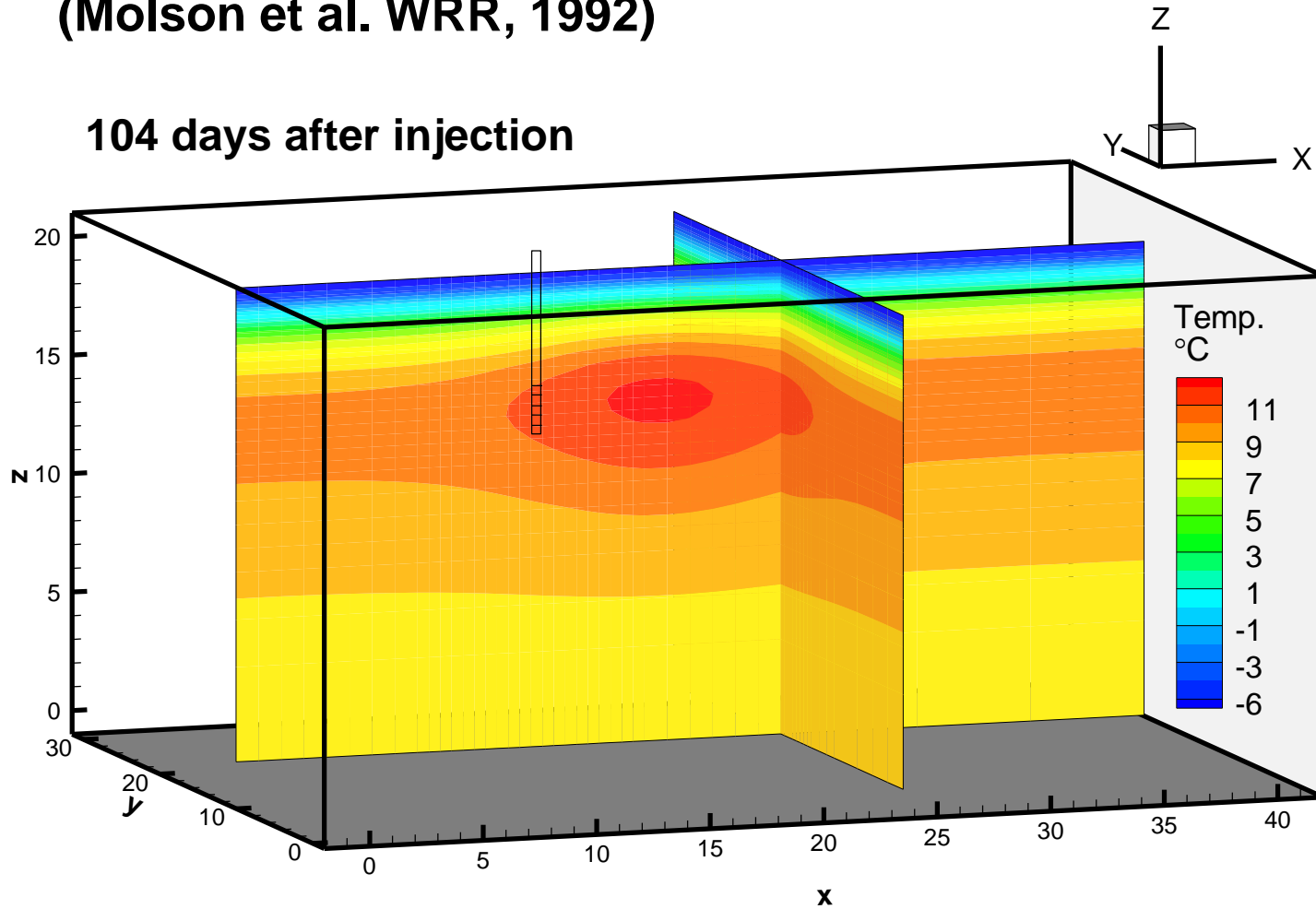


Relative Permeability k_r :

$$k_r = \max \left[\left(\frac{W_u(T) - p}{1 - p} \right)^4, 10^{-6} \right]$$

Borden Thermal Injection (Molson et al. WRR, 1992)

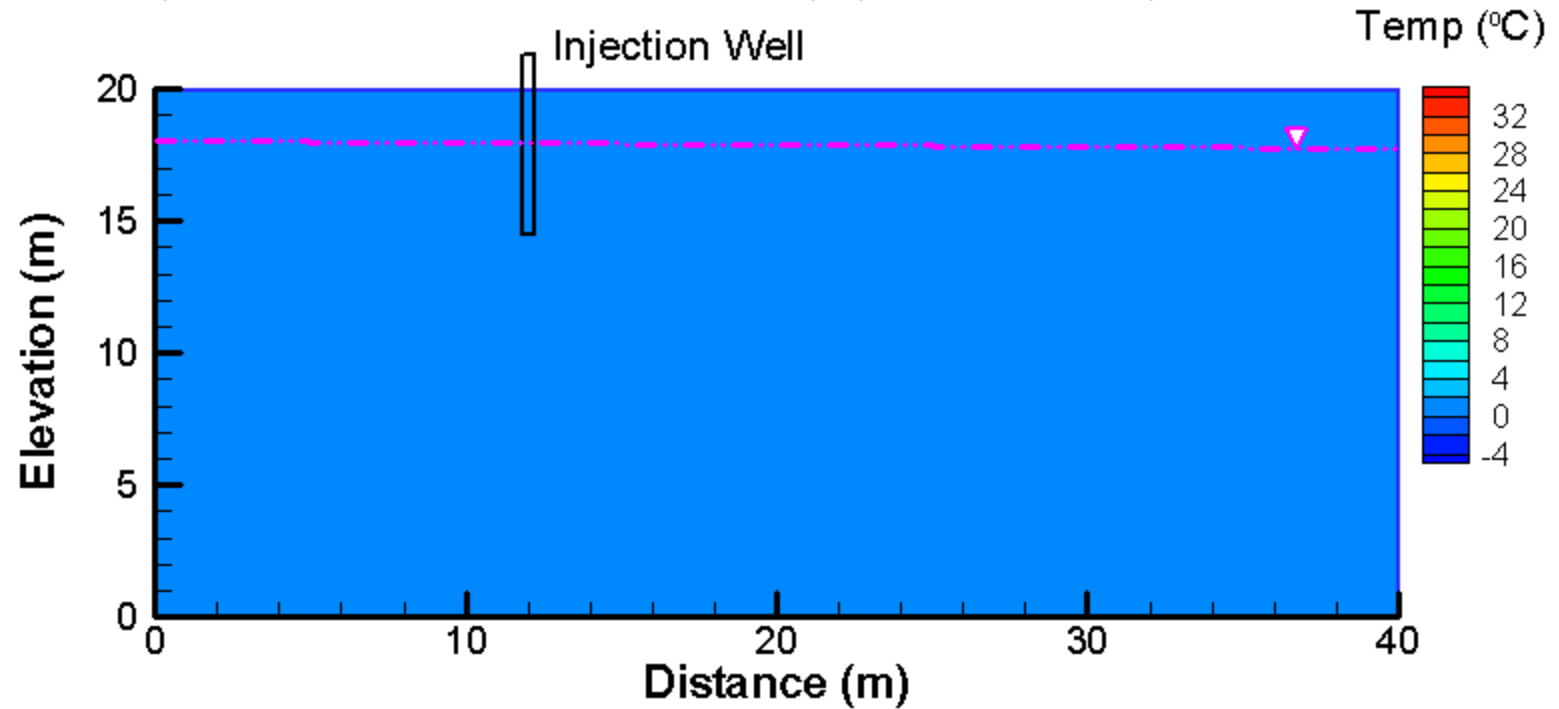
104 days after injection



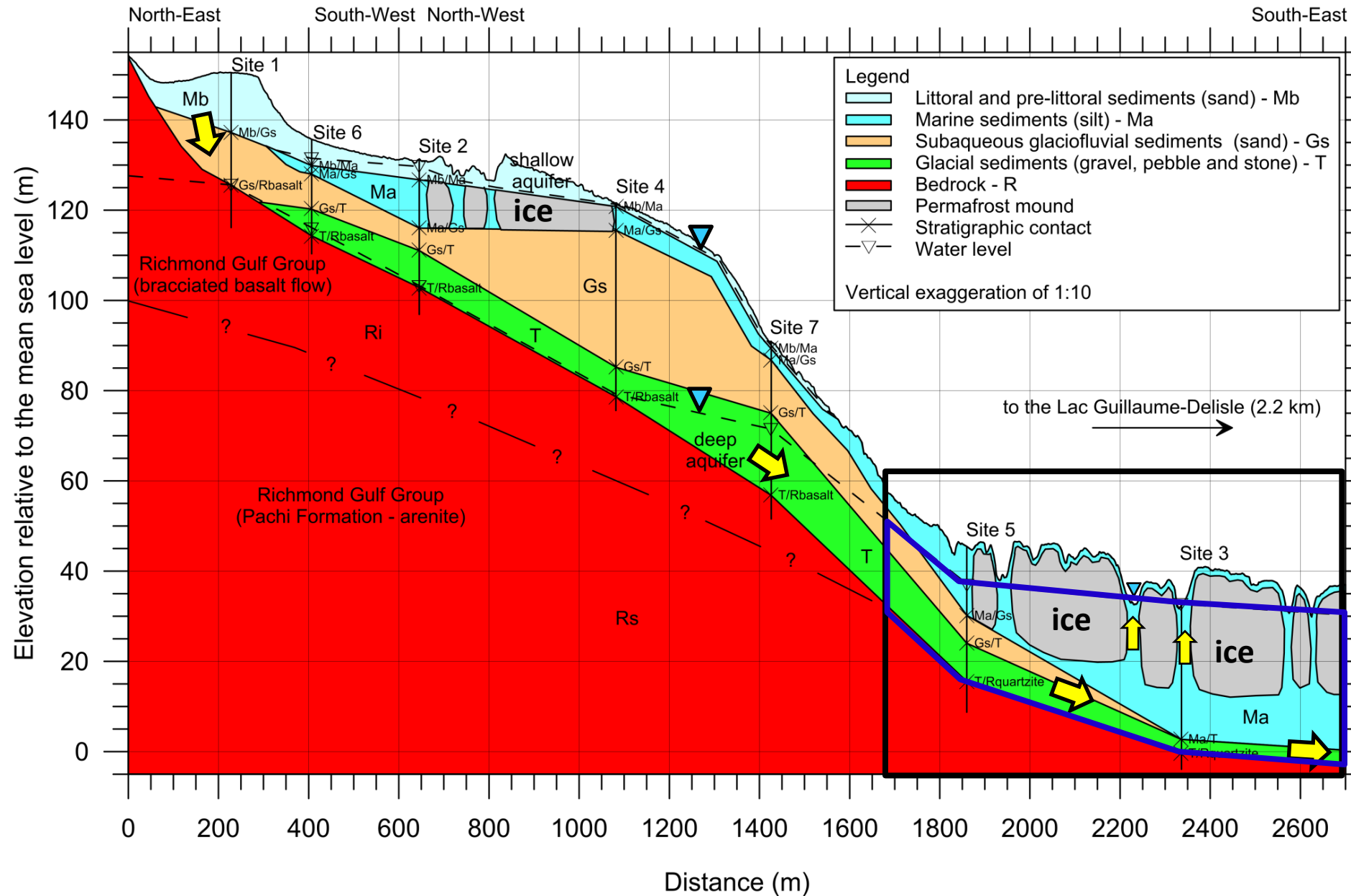
0.3 days

The Borden Thermal Injection Experiment HEATFLOW/3D Simulation

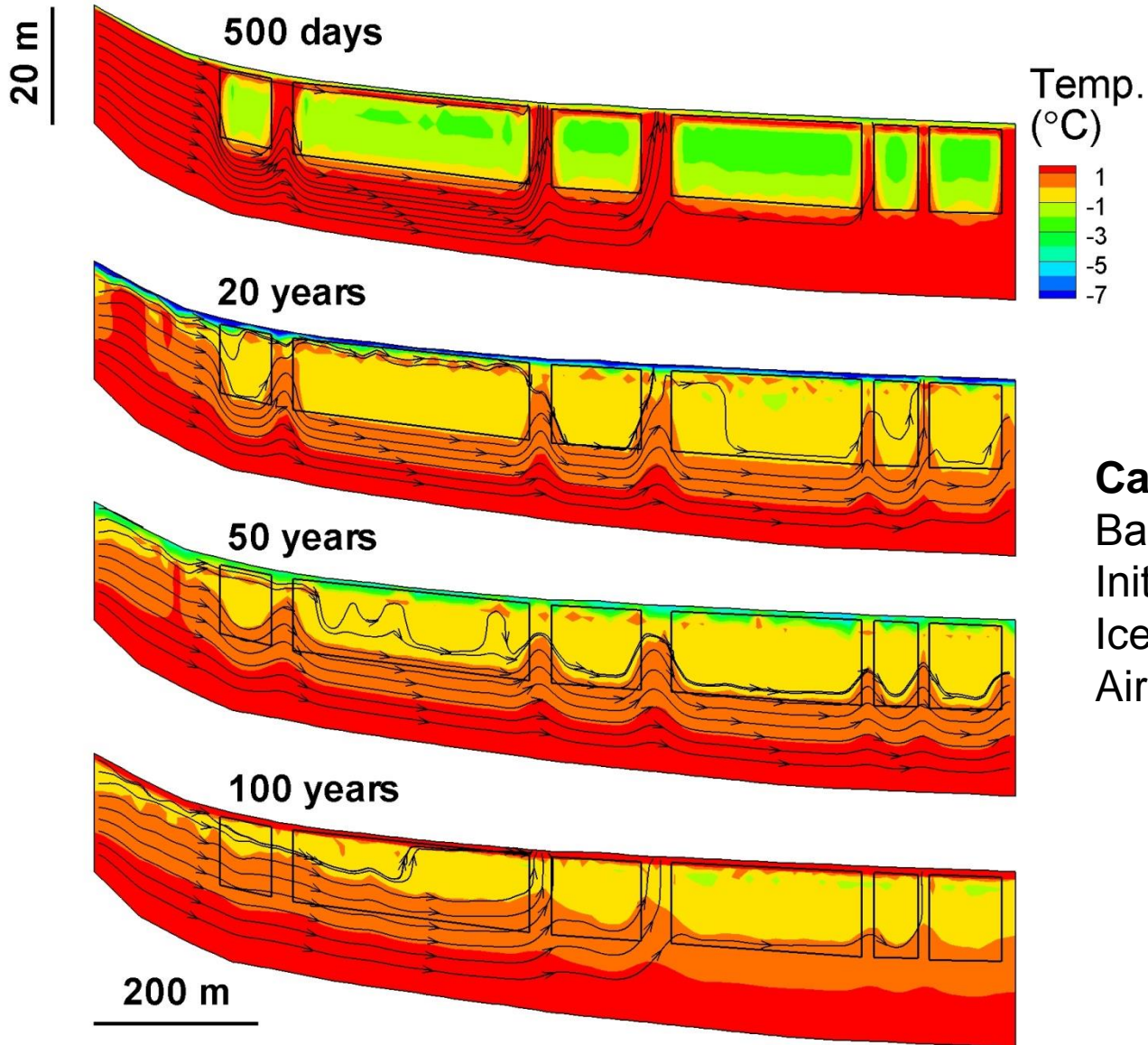
(see Molson et al., Water Resour. Res., 28 (10), 2857-2867, 1992)



Conceptual Cross-Section

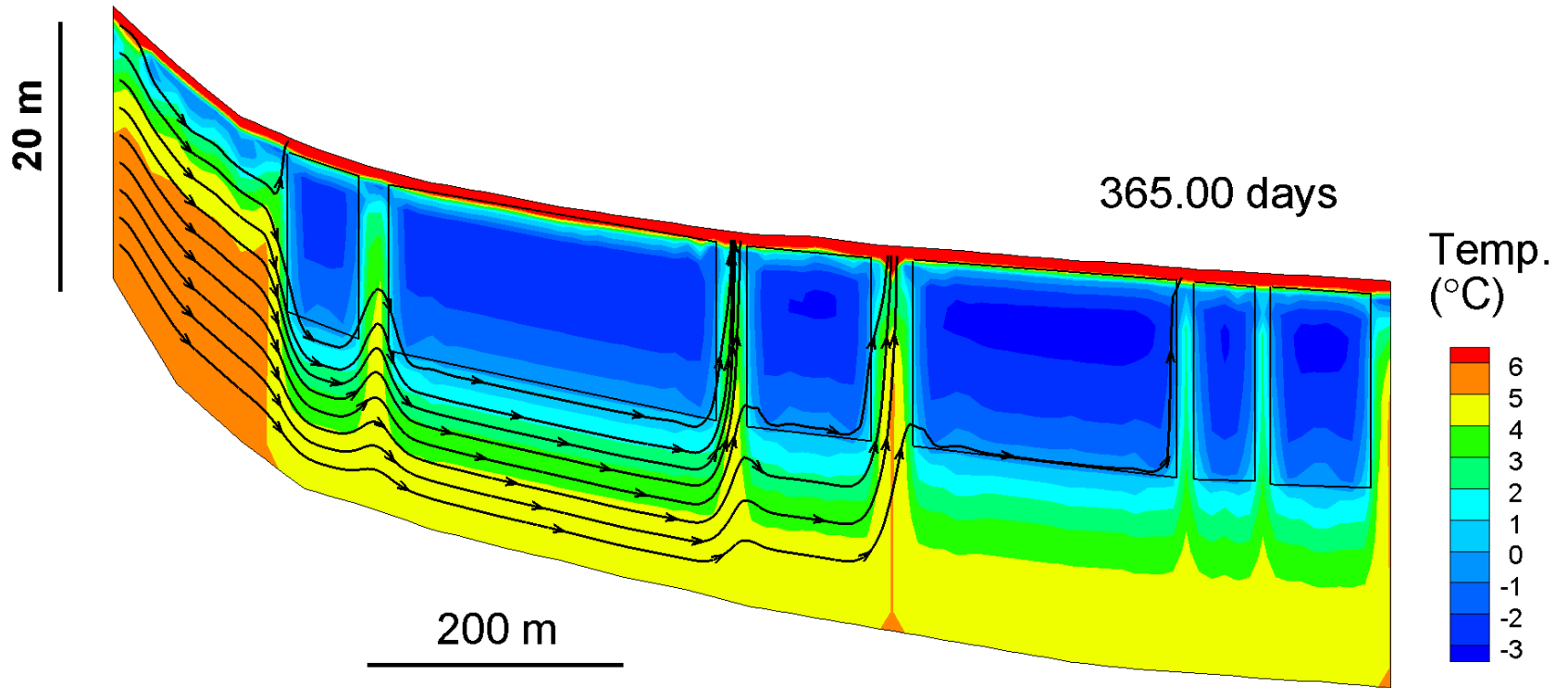


Permafrost Evolution: Umiujaq Temperature & flow lines



Case B: (warmer)
Base T= +2 °C
Initial T= +5 °C
Ice T= -5 °C
Air T_{min}= -20, A= +25 °C

Permafrost Evolution: Umiujaq Temperature & flow lines



Acknowledgements

***Développement durable,
Environnement et Lutte
contre les changements
climatiques***



**Stratégie de déploiement
du réseau Immatsiak**

2010-2013 \$ 400,000



Strategic Project Grant

2013-2016 \$ 530,166

***Fonds de recherche
Nature et
technologies***



Canada Foundation
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Fondation canadienne
pour l'innovation



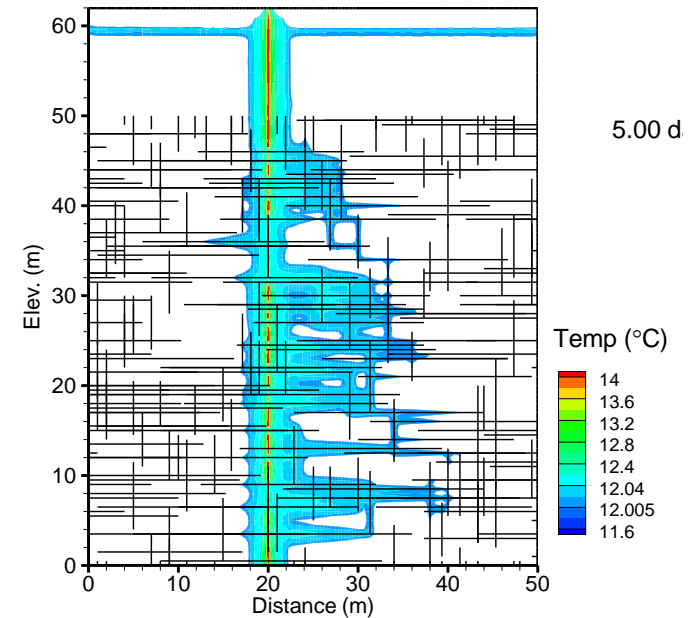
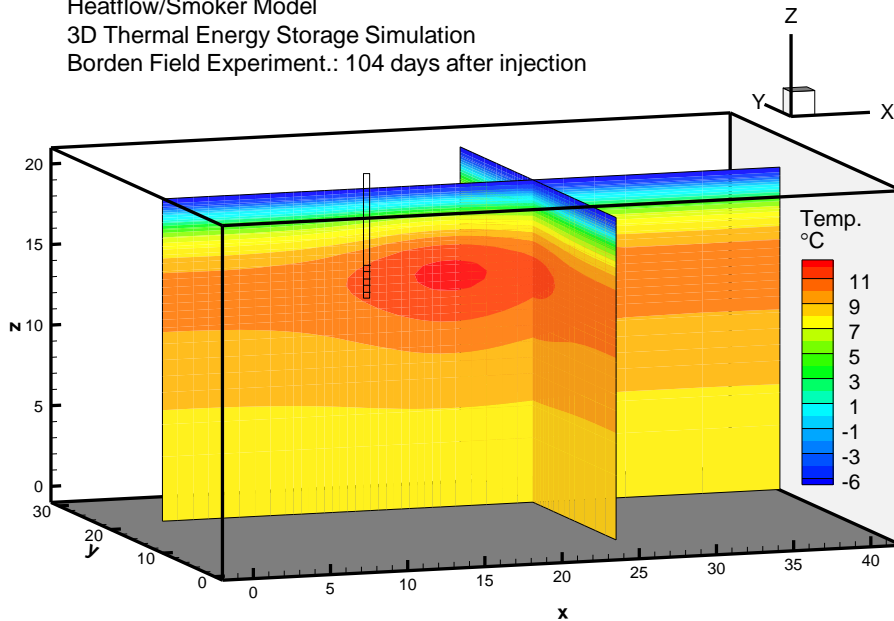
Program of Energy Research and Development (PERD)

Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Model Benchmarks

HEATFLOW/SMOKER Model

Heatflow/Smoker Model
3D Thermal Energy Storage Simulation
Borden Field Experiment.: 104 days after injection

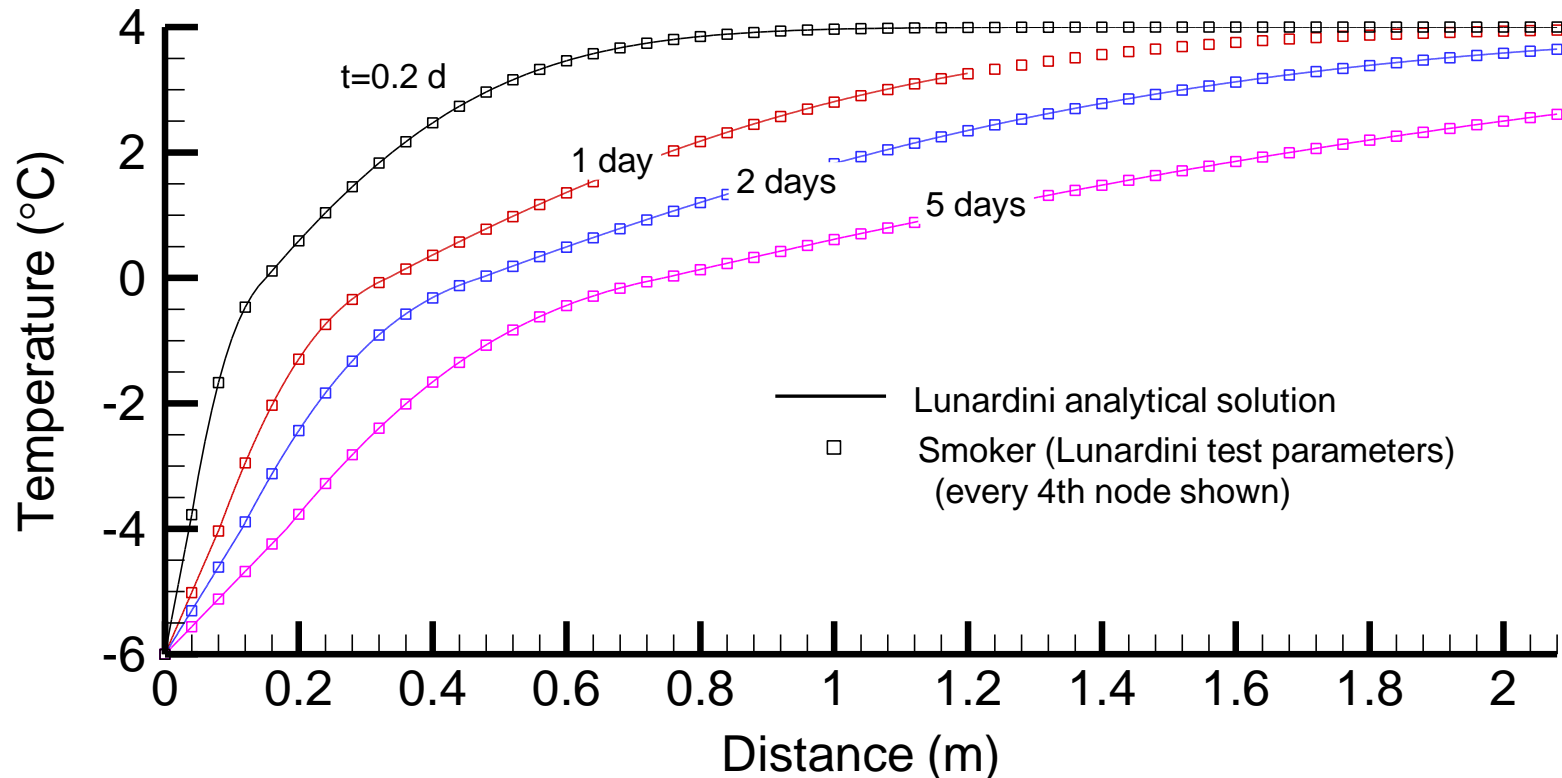
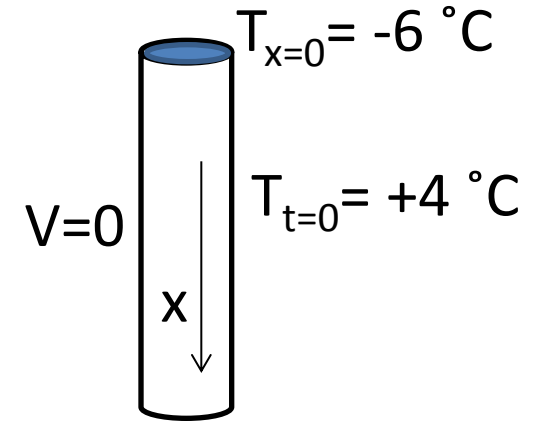


Model Benchmarks:

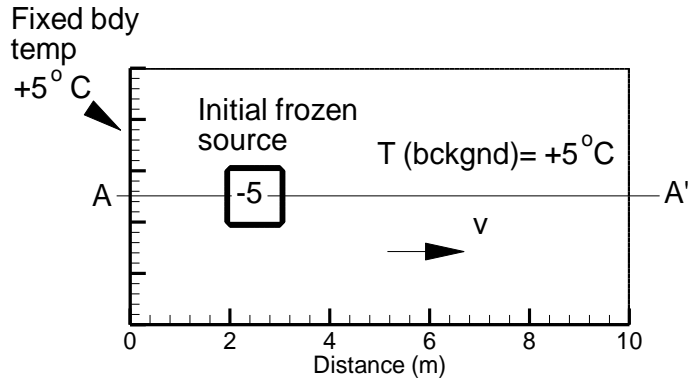
HEATFLOW/SMOKER Model

Validation:

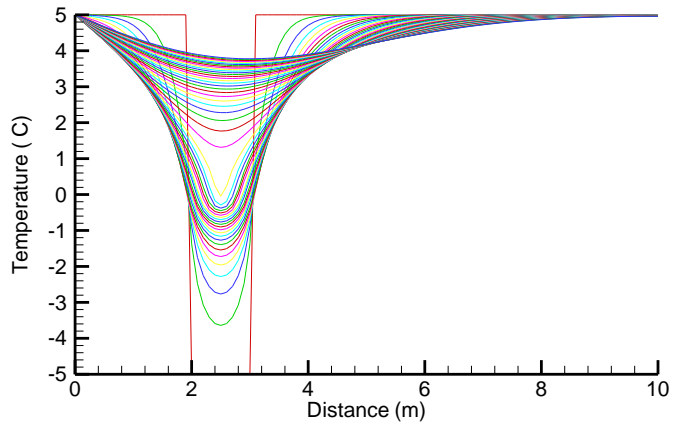
Lunardini (1985) 3-zone solution
programmed by M. Ghias, U. Laval



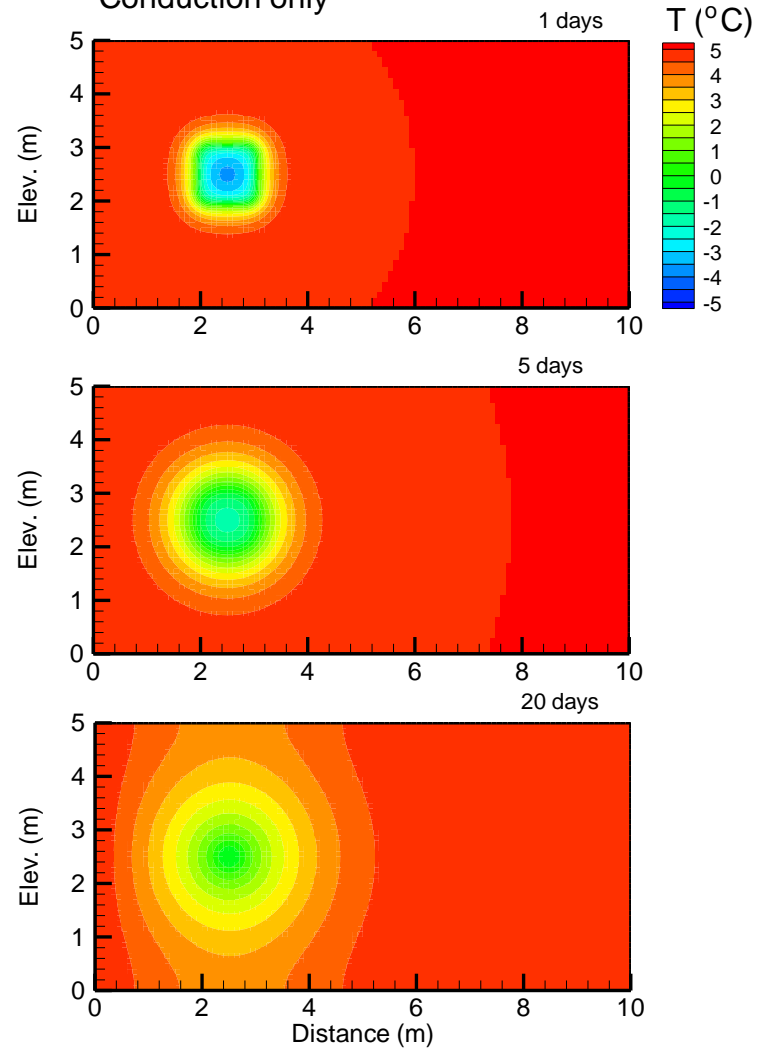
Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind, 2014)



Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind (2014)
Conduction only



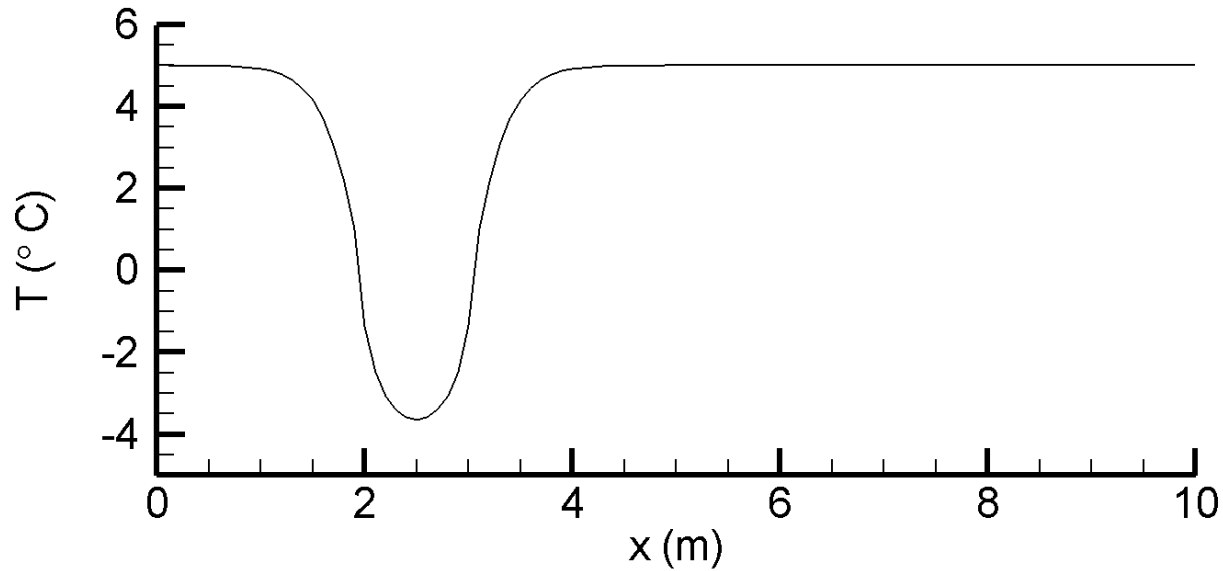
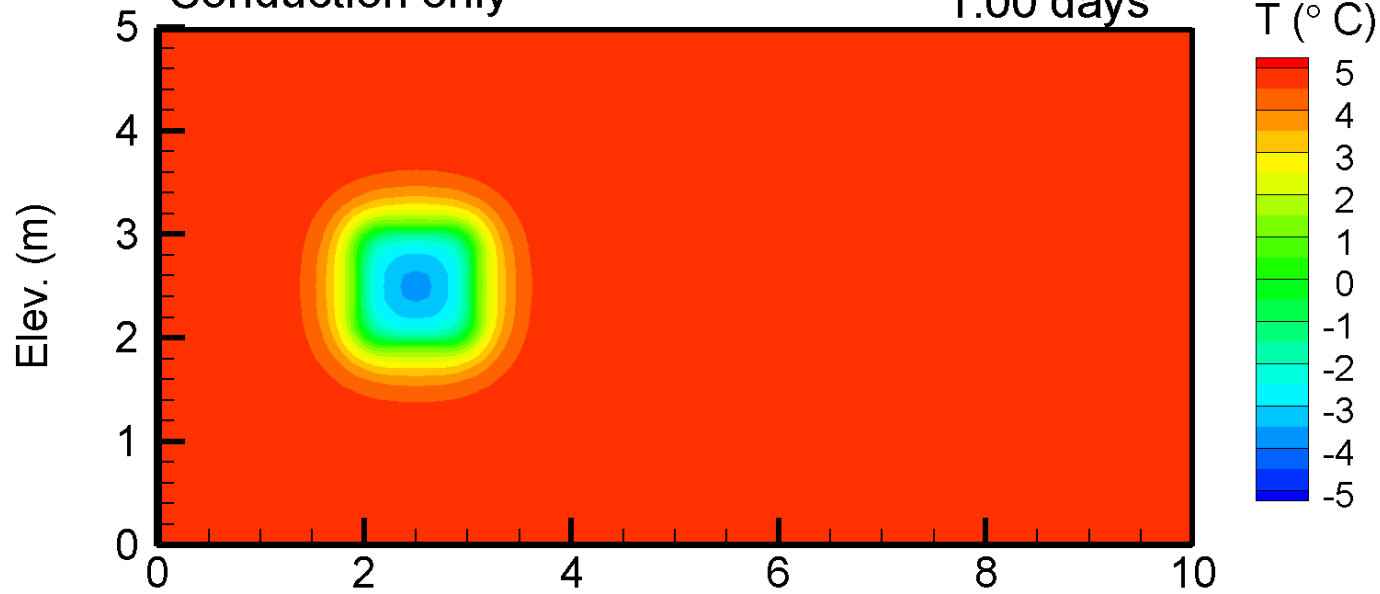
Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind, 2014)
Conduction only



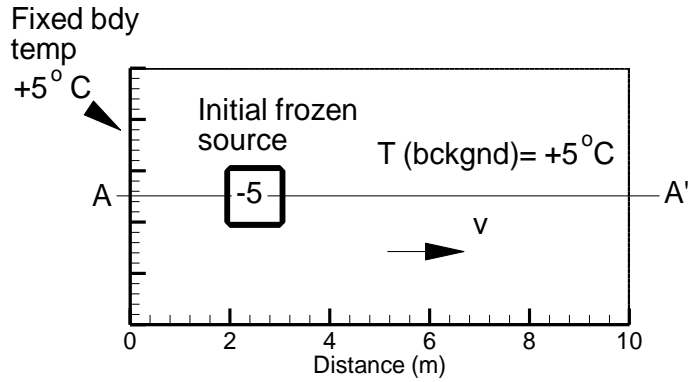
Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind, 2014)

Conduction only

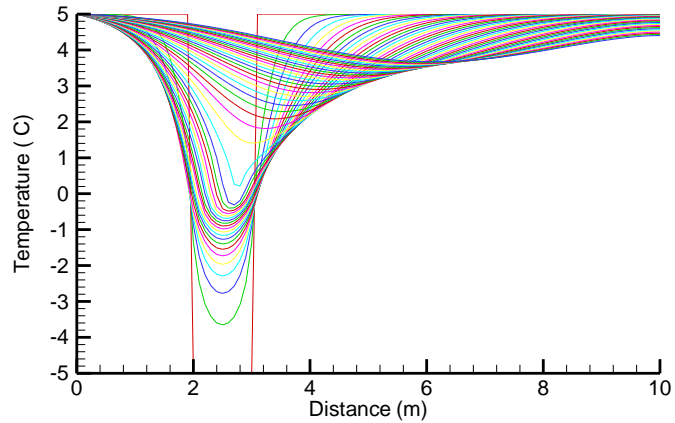
1.00 days



Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind, 2014)

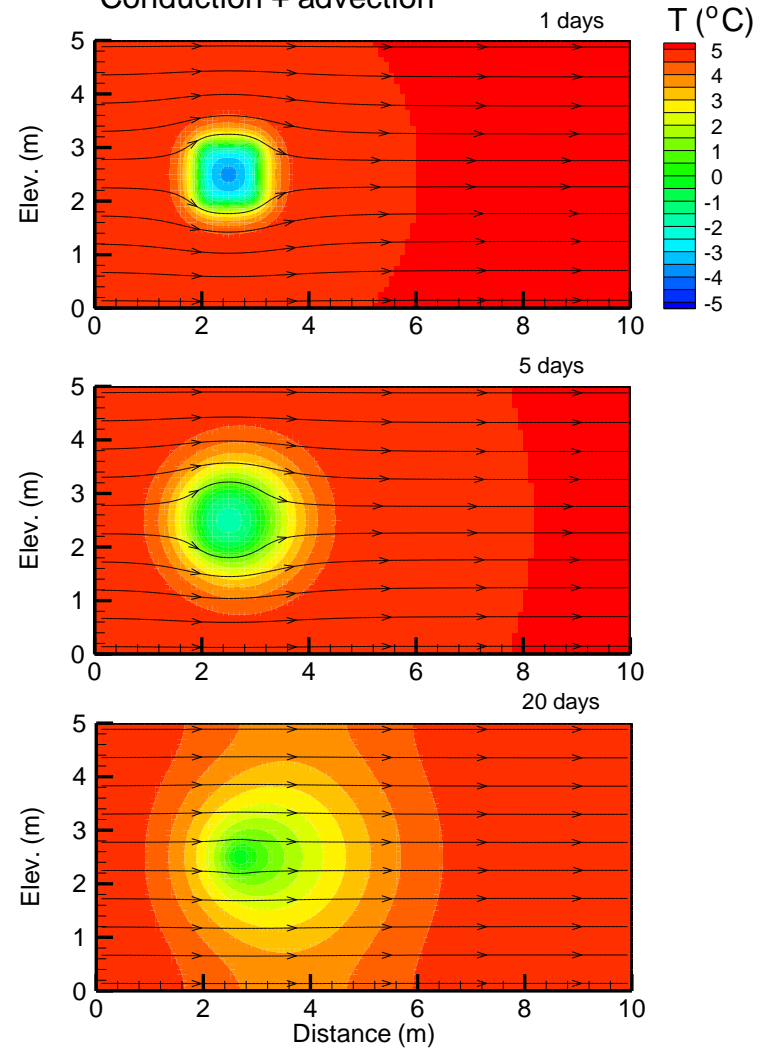


Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind (2014)
Conduction + advection



Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind, 2014)

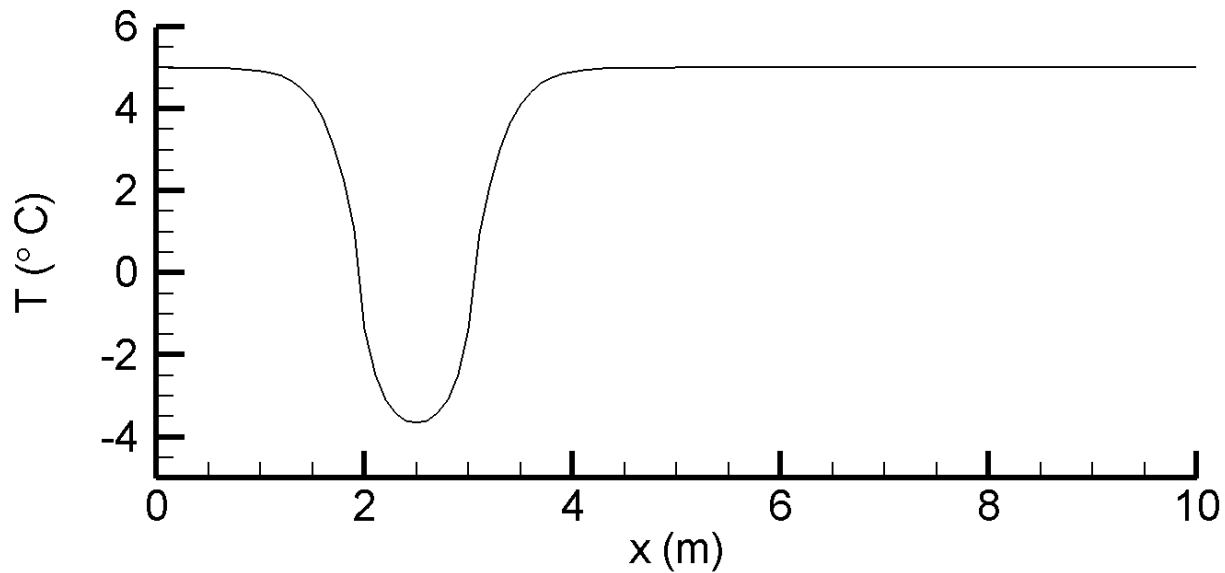
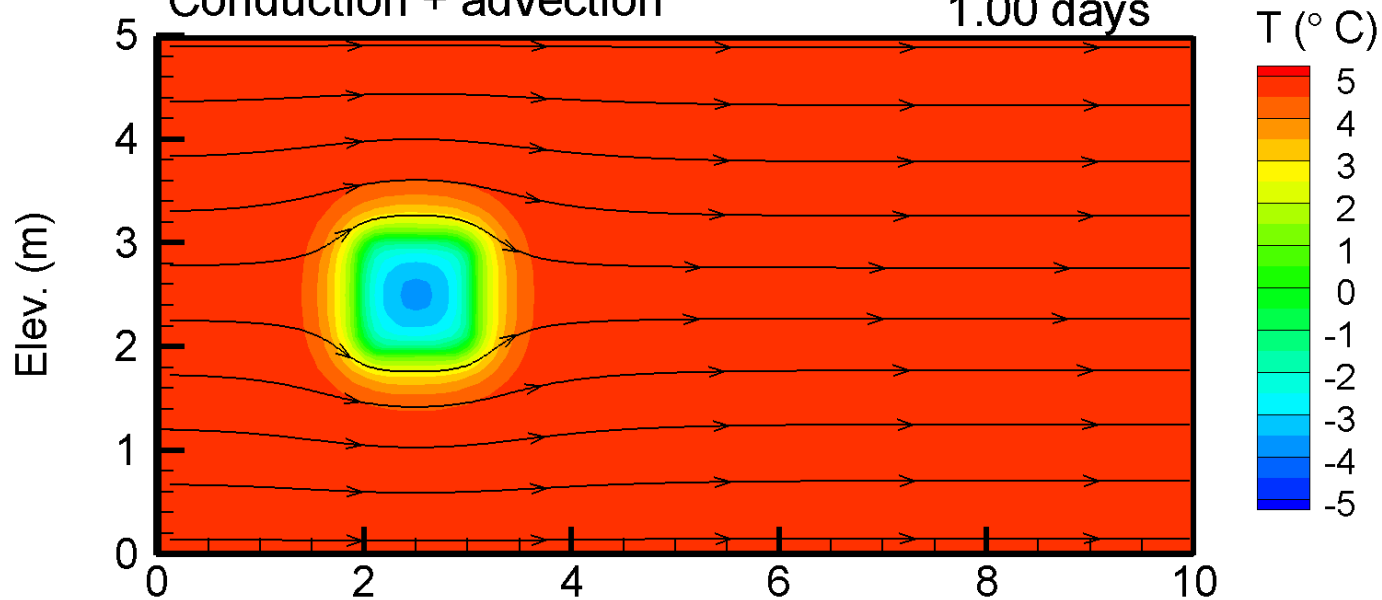
Conduction + advection



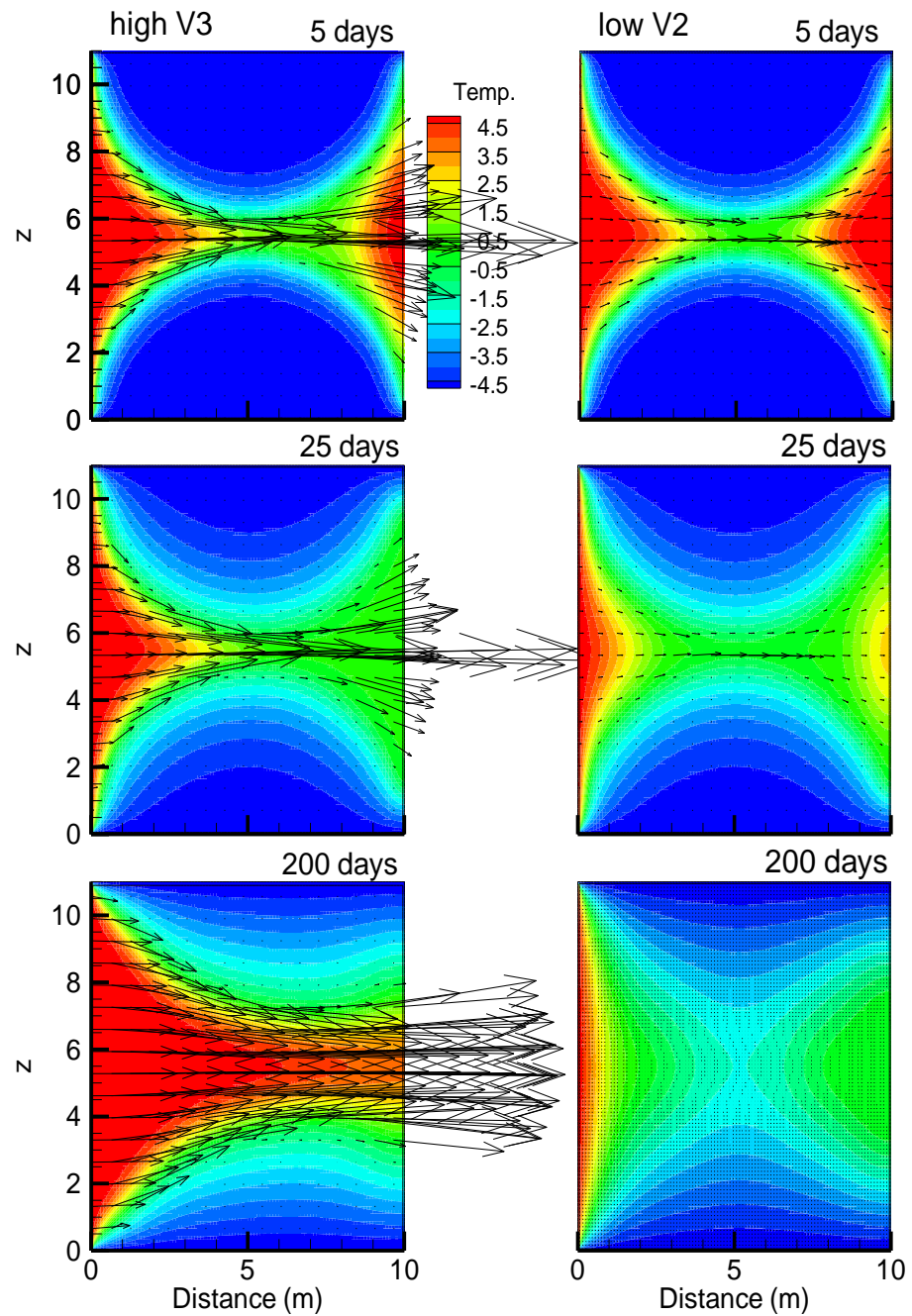
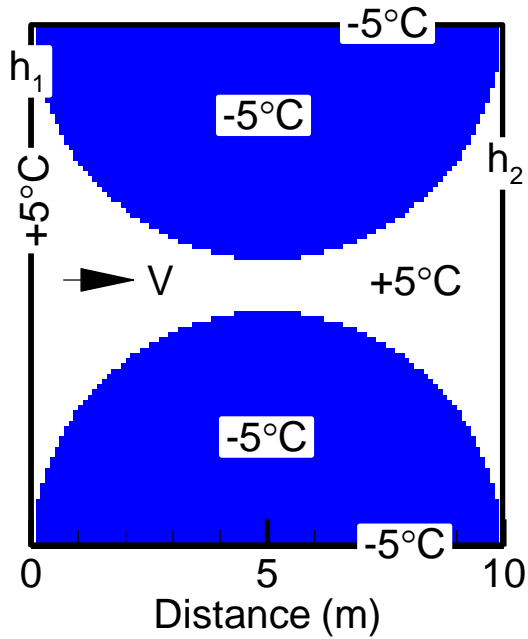
Benchmark TH2
SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind, 2014)

Conduction + advection

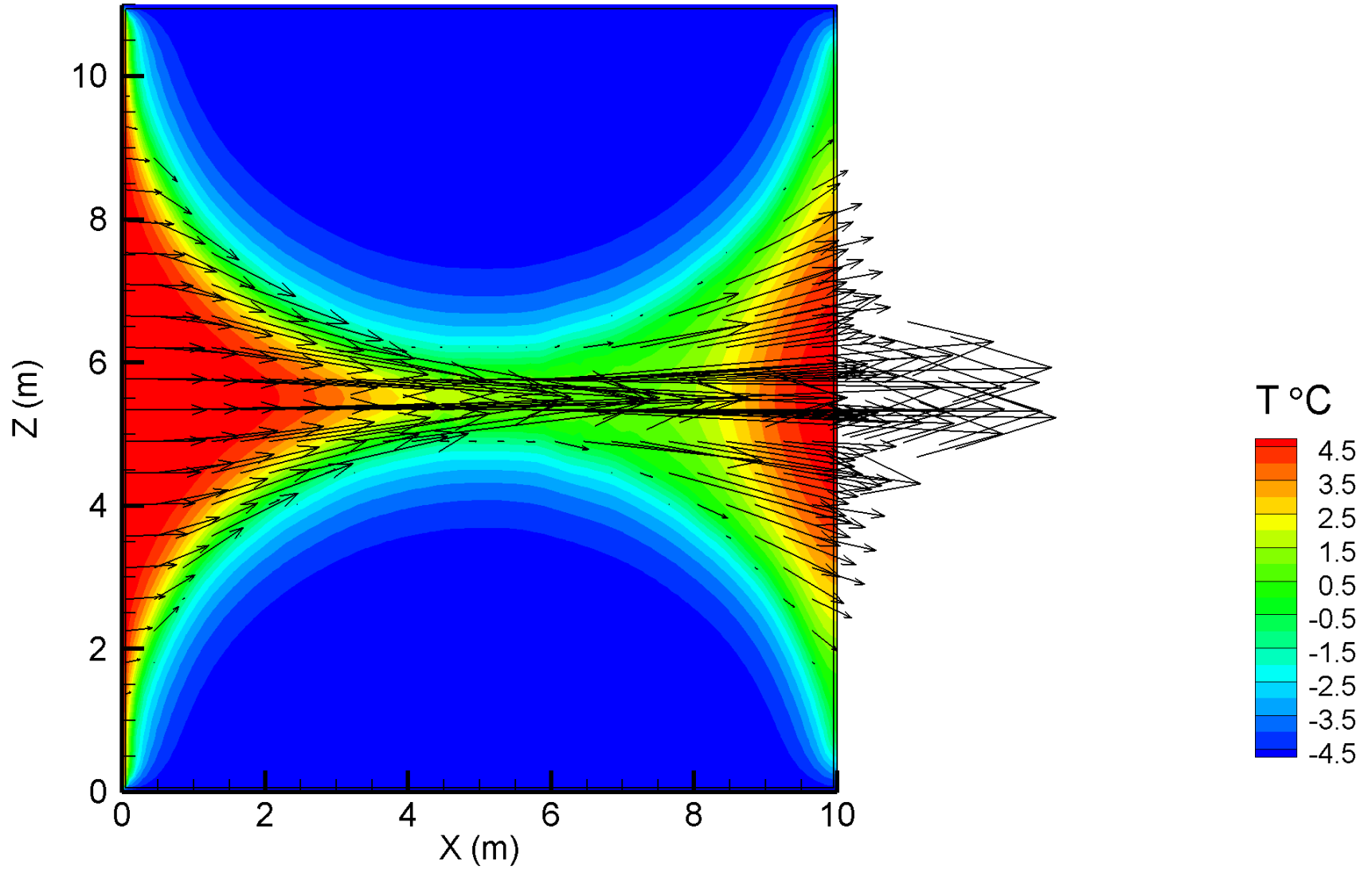
1.00 days



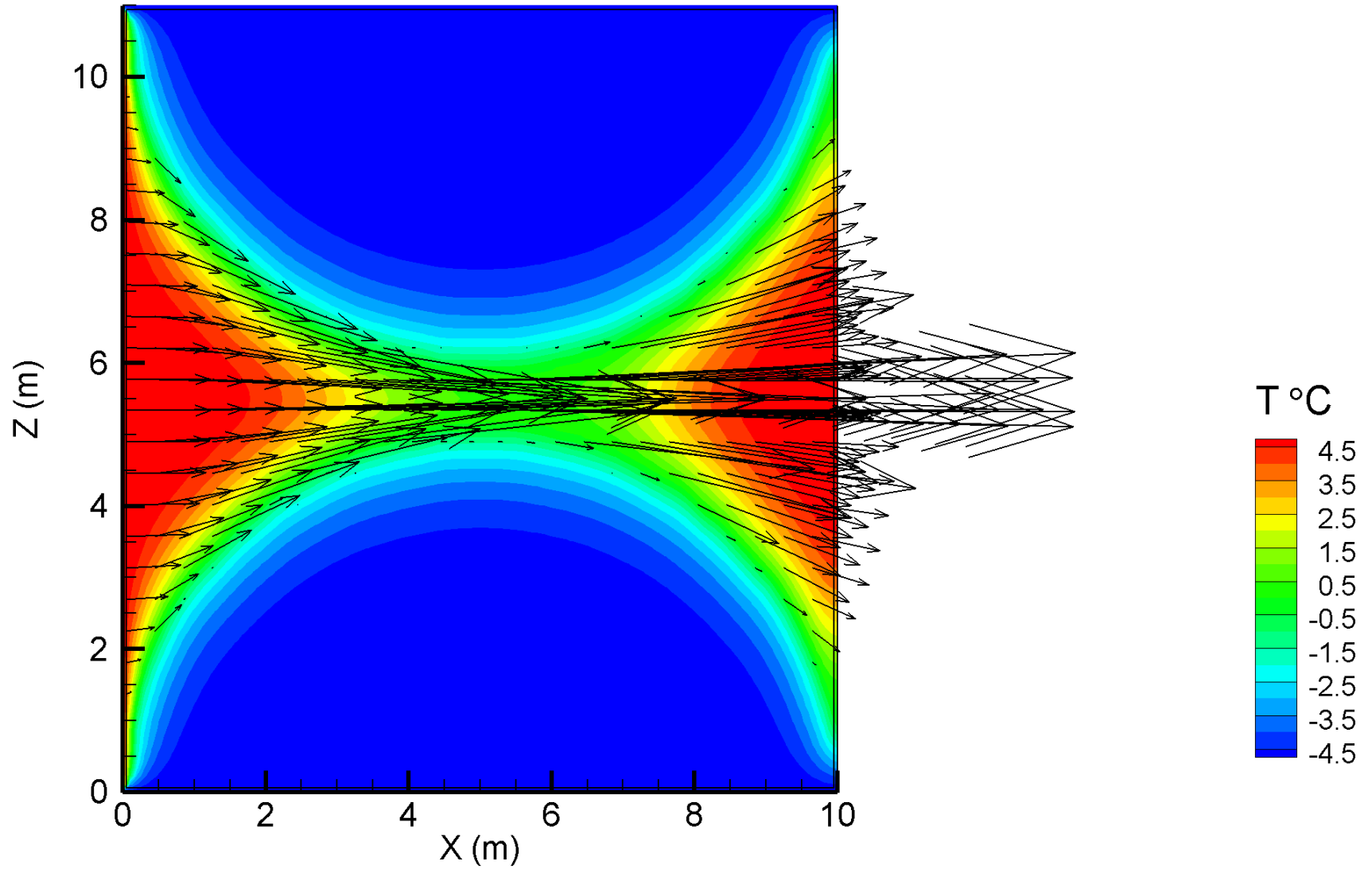
Benchmark TH3 SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind 2014)



0.00 days



0.00 days



Acknowledgements

***Développement durable,
Environnement et Lutte
contre les changements
climatiques***

Québec 

***Fonds de recherche
Nature et
technologies***

Québec 



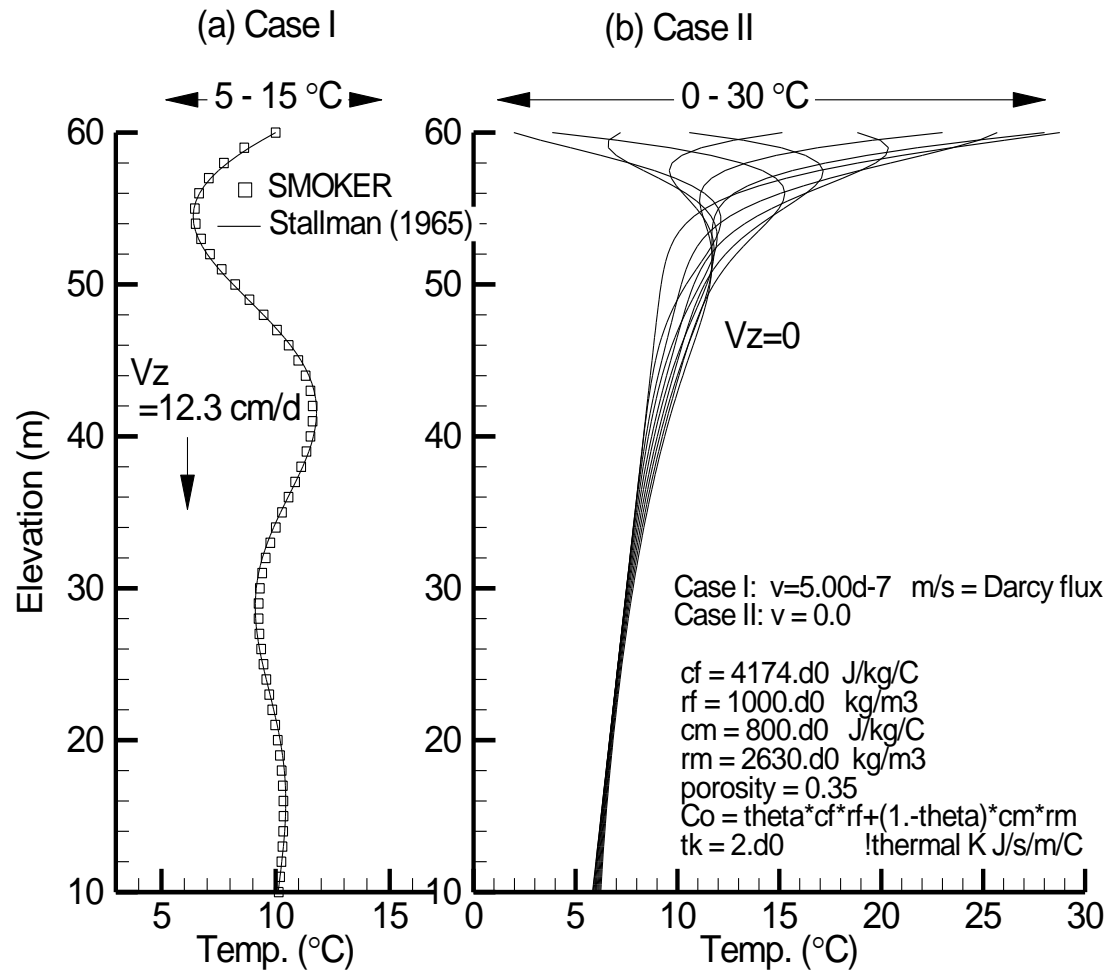
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pour l'innovation

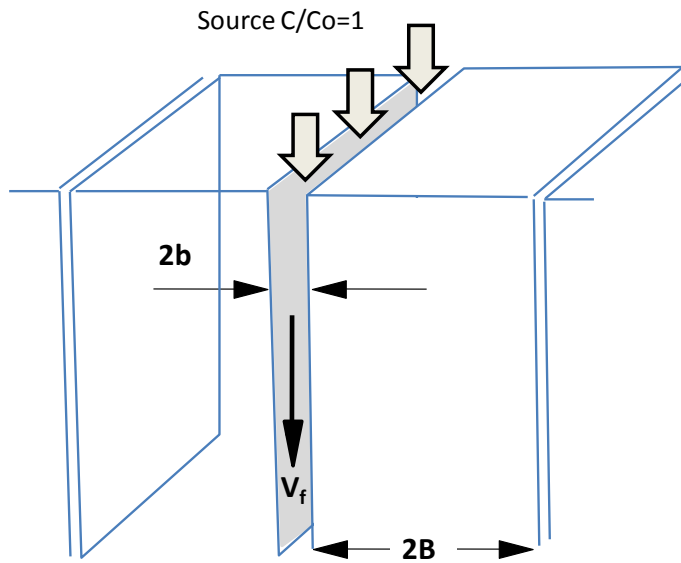


**Program of Energy Research and Development (PERD)
Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)**

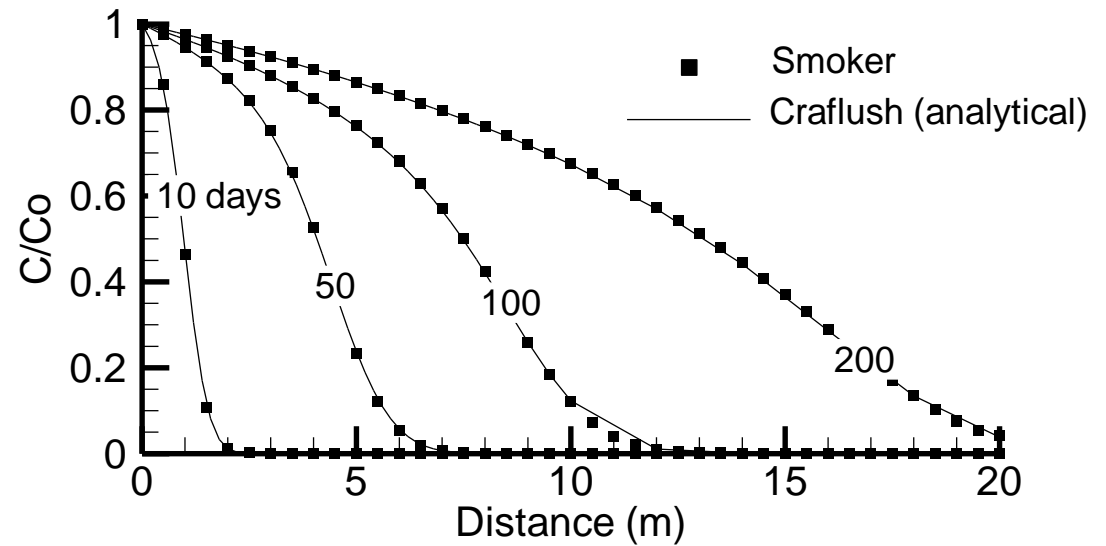
Validation: Stallman (1965) Solution



Validation: Discrete Fractures



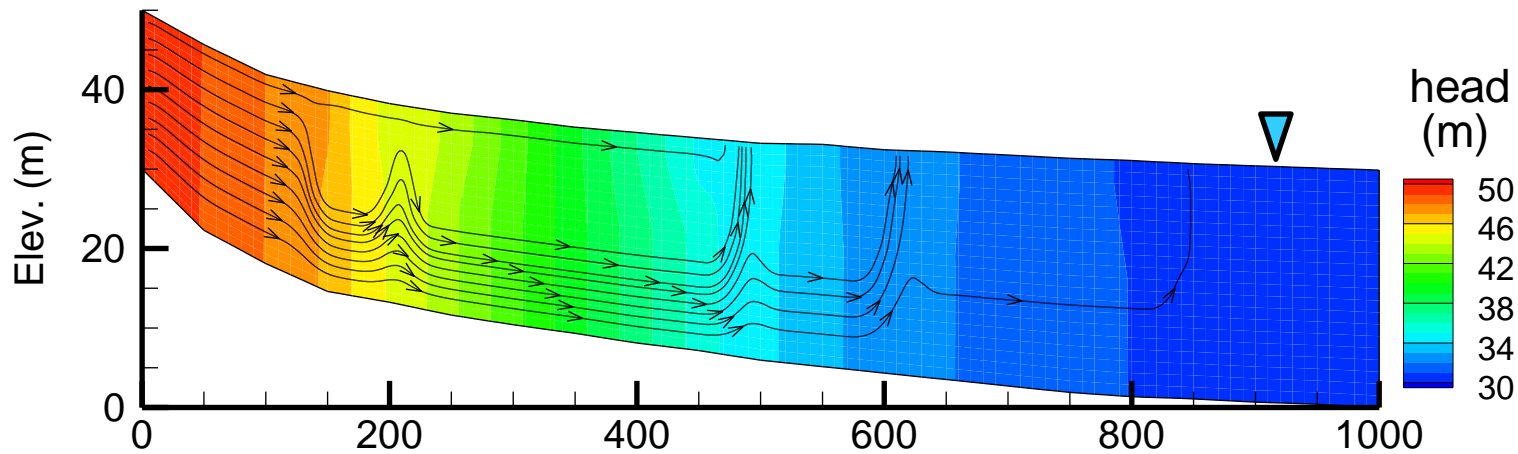
Craflush vs. Smoker
1D mass transport, single fracture



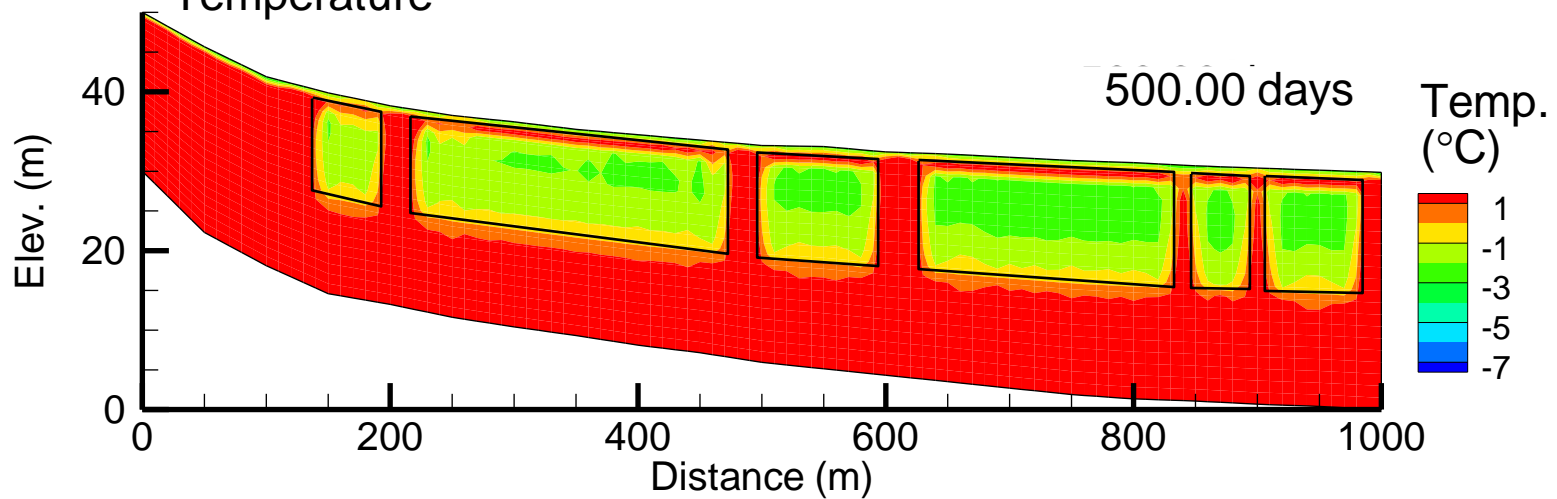
Umiujaq Model: Permafrost Hydrogeology

HEATFLOW/SMOKER Model

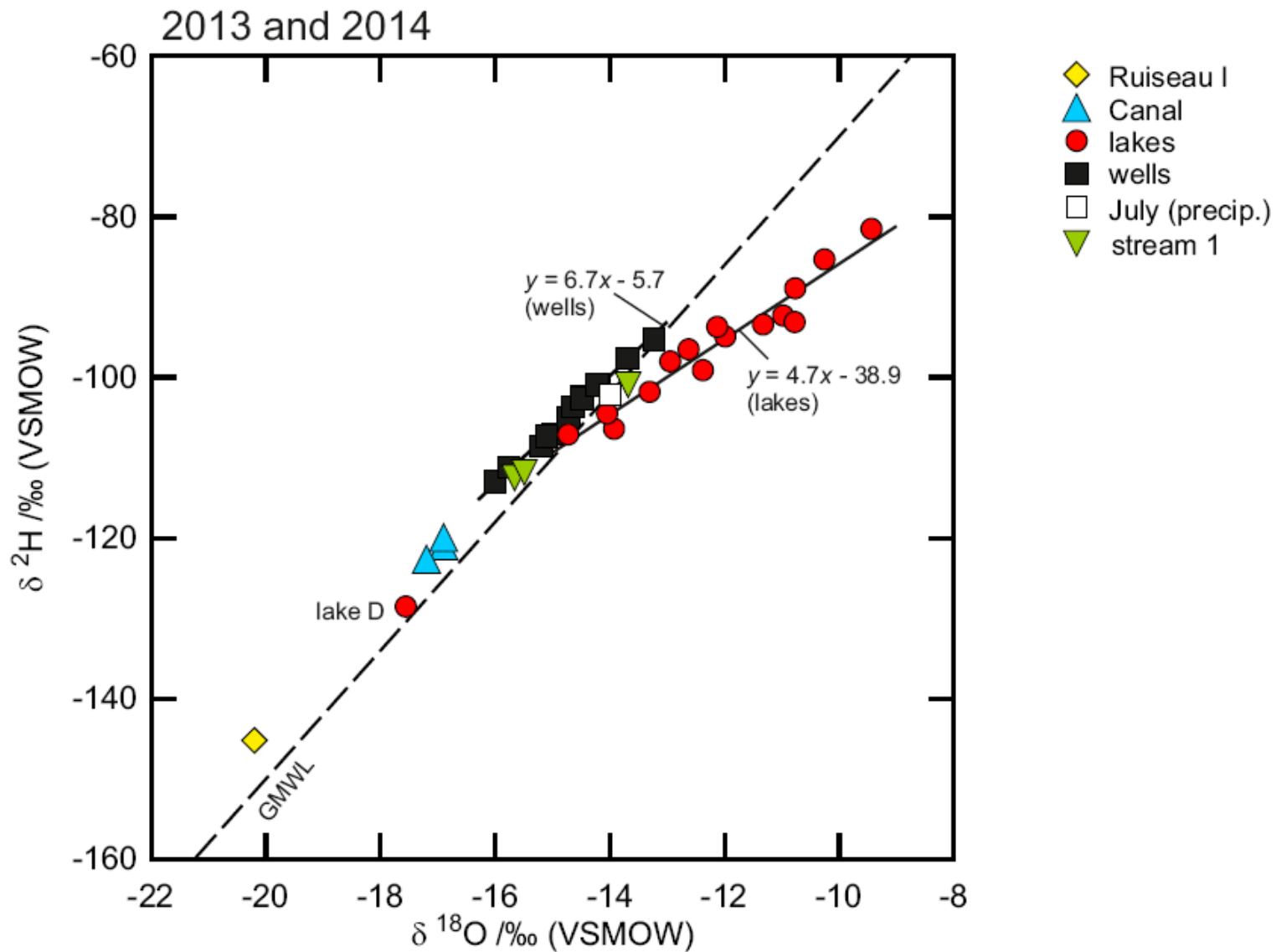
Hydraulic heads and streamlines



Temperature

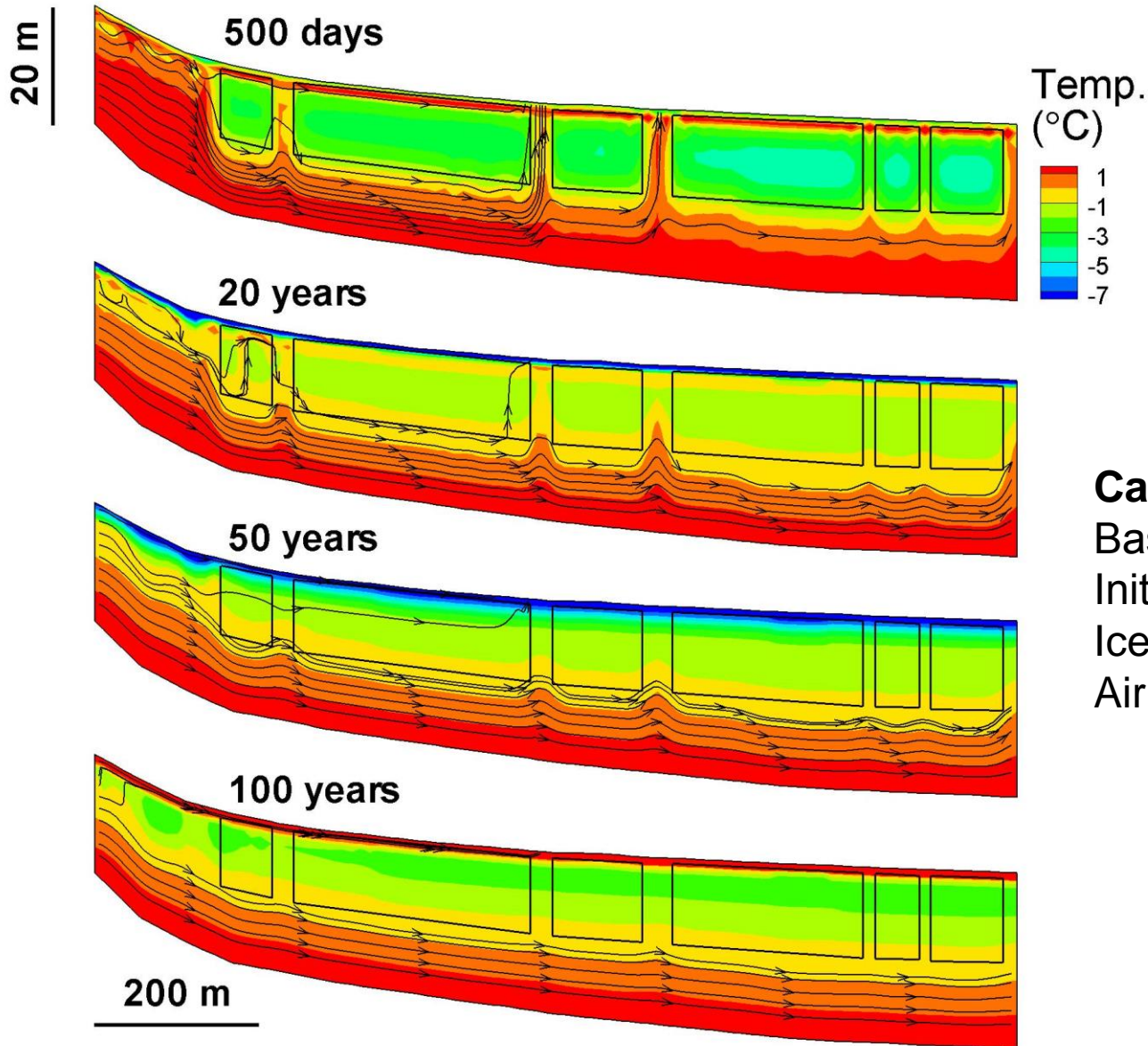


Umiujaq Isotope Data 2013-2014



Permafrost Evolution: Umiujaq

Temperature & flow lines



Case A:

Base T = +2 °C

Initial T = +1 °C

Ice T = -10 °C

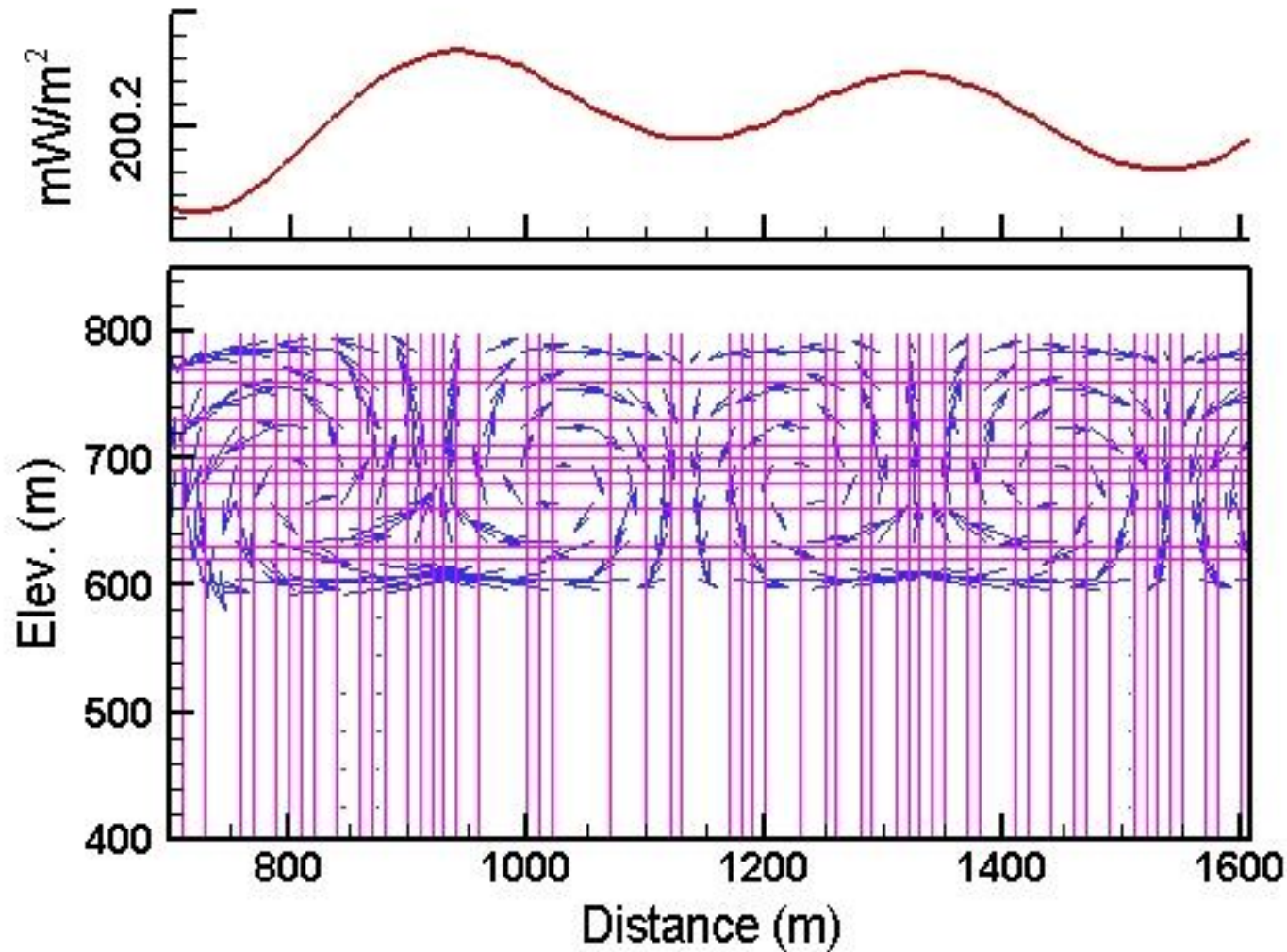
Air T_{min} = -25, A = +29 °C

Black Smoker Simulation

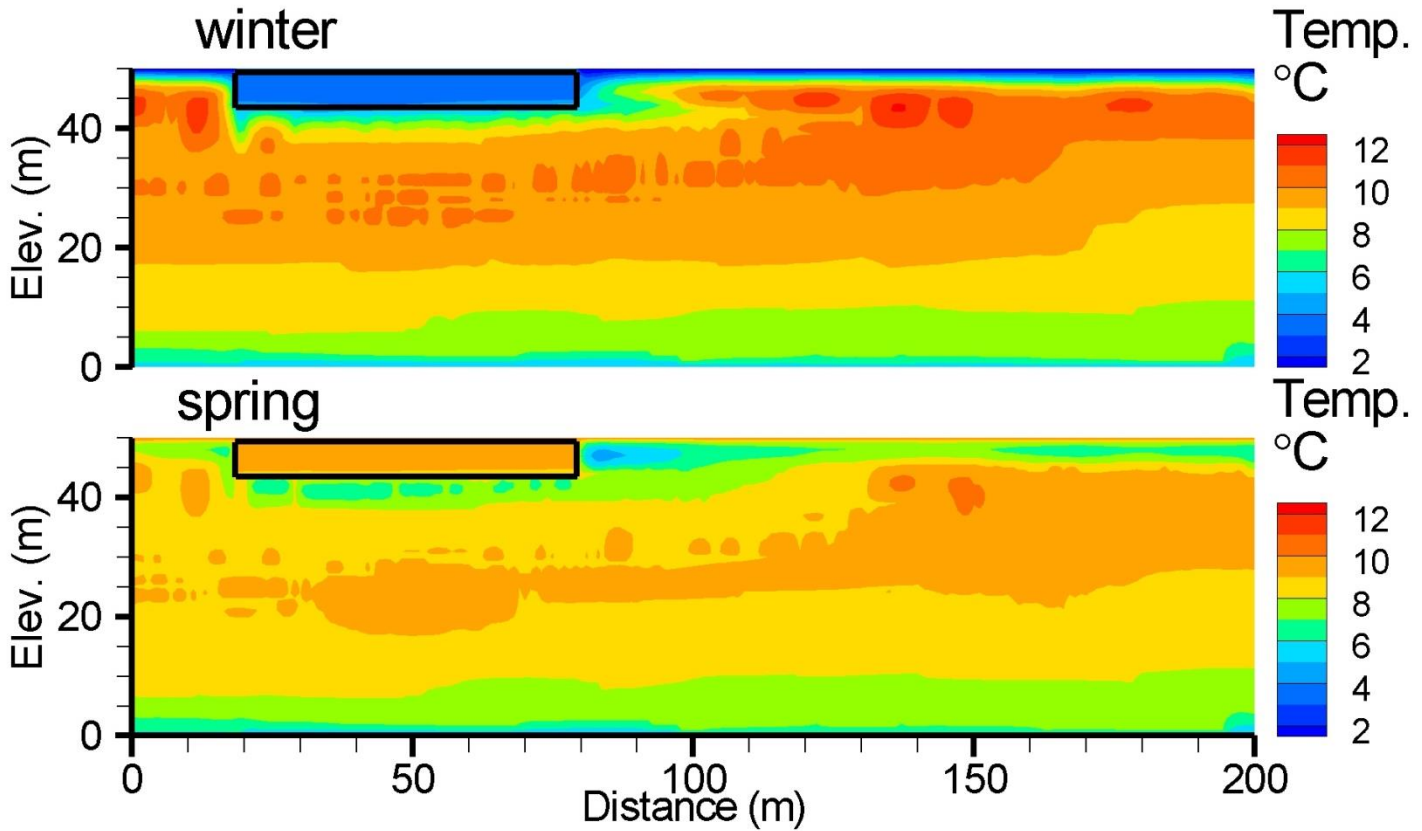
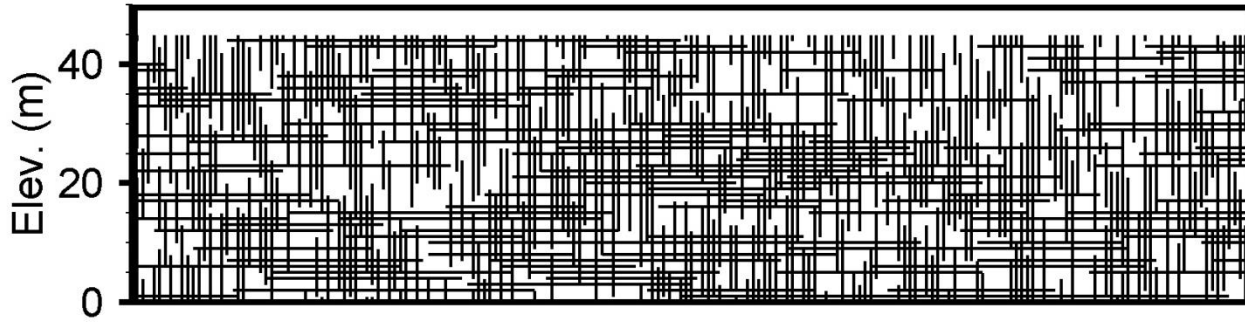
Smoker Heat Transport Model

Heat flux across sea floor

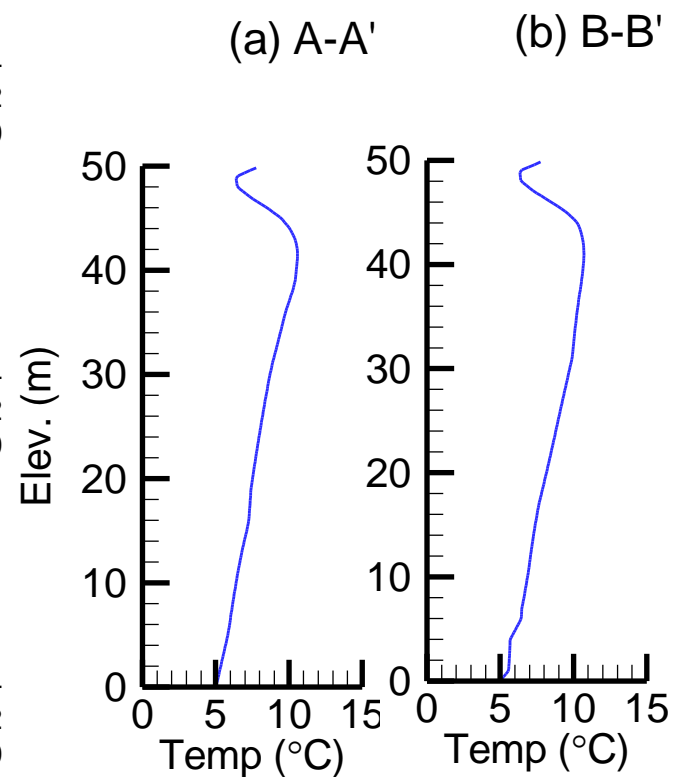
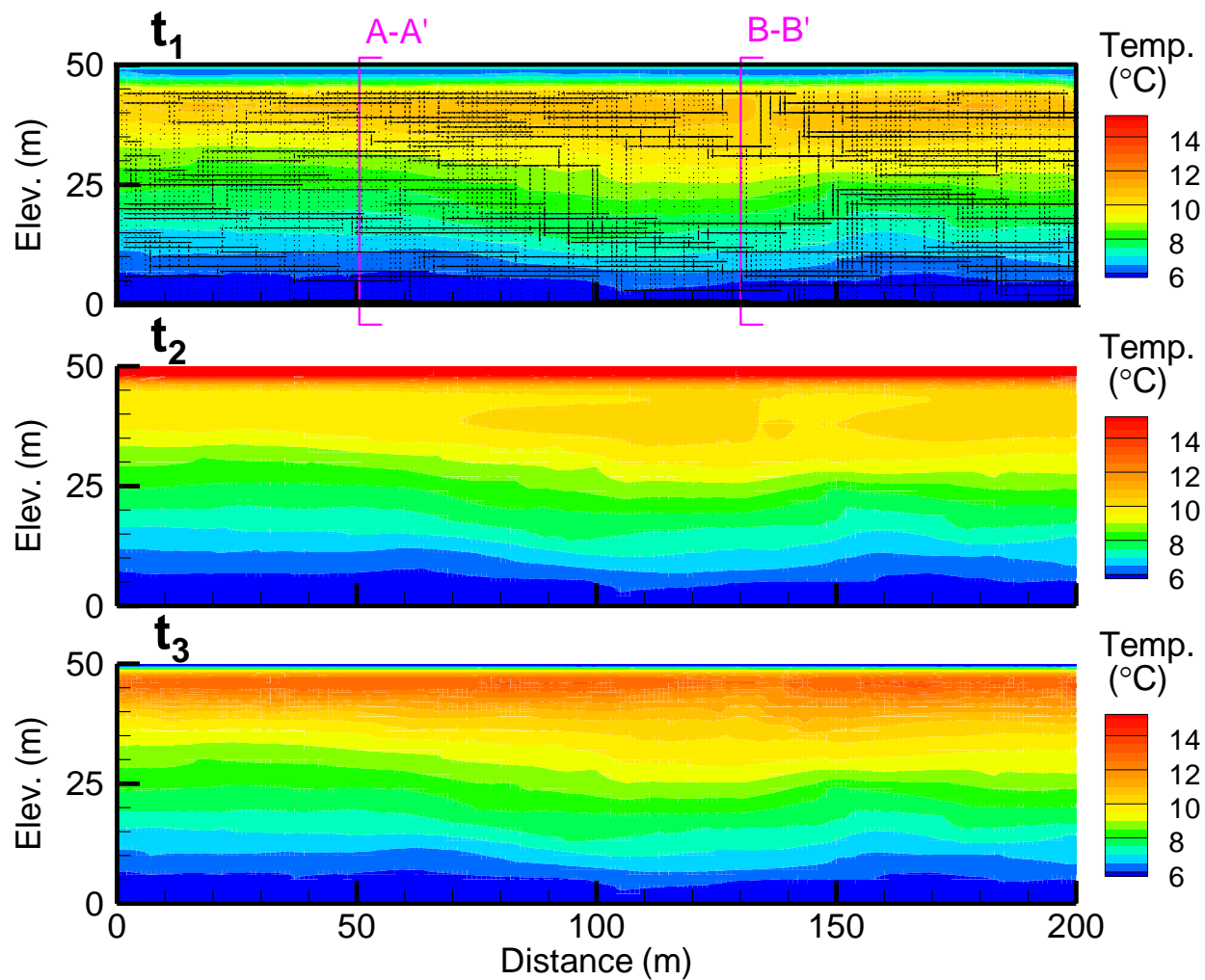
(Yang et al. JGR, 1996)



Fracture Network

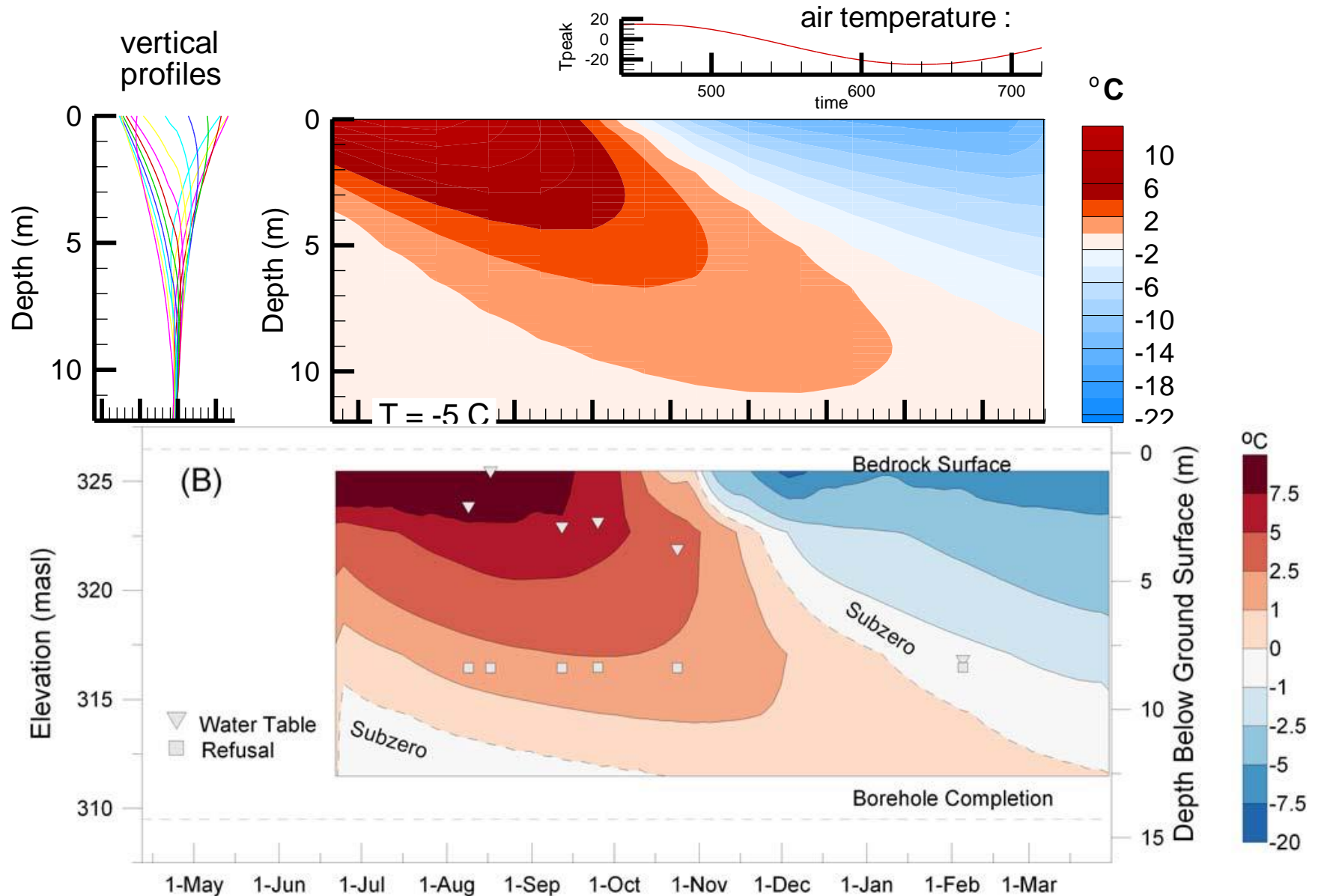


Simulated Temperature Distributions ($2b=500\mu\text{m}$)



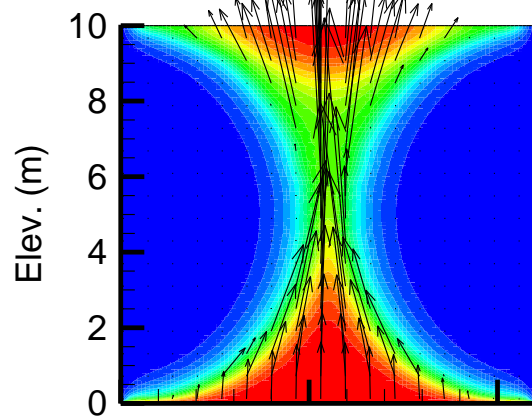
Simulated Subsurface Temperature Profiles

Heatflow model (Molson & Frind, 2009)

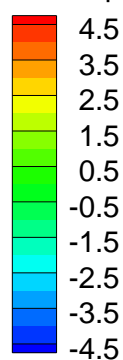


a) High V
(case V3)

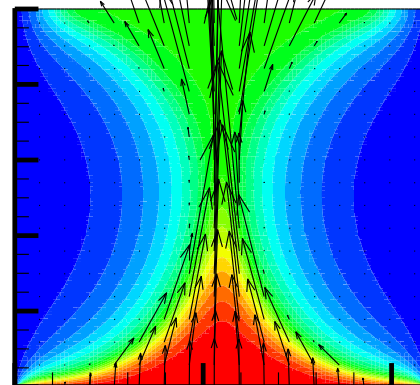
$\nabla h=2$ 5 days



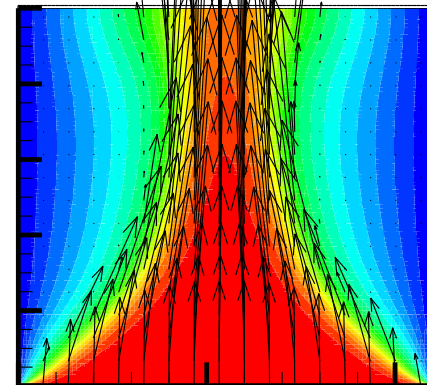
Temp.



25 days

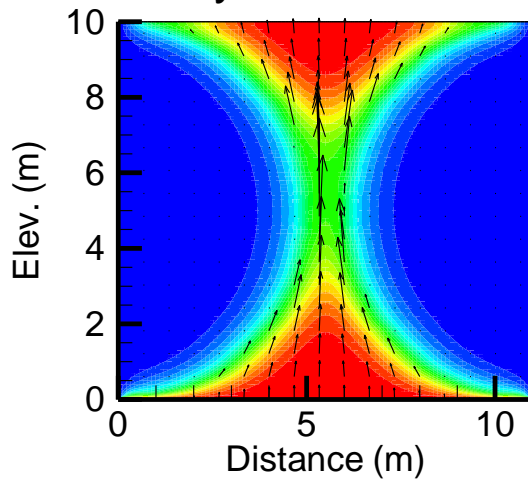


200 days

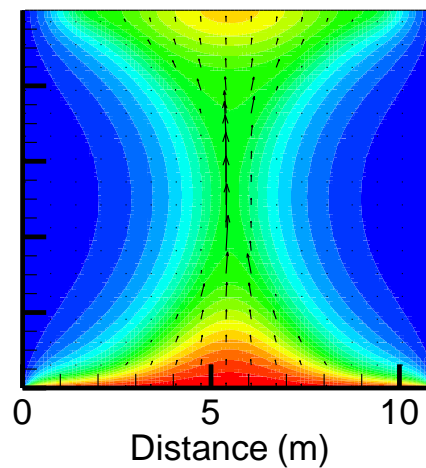


b) Low V
(case V2, $\nabla h=0.5$)

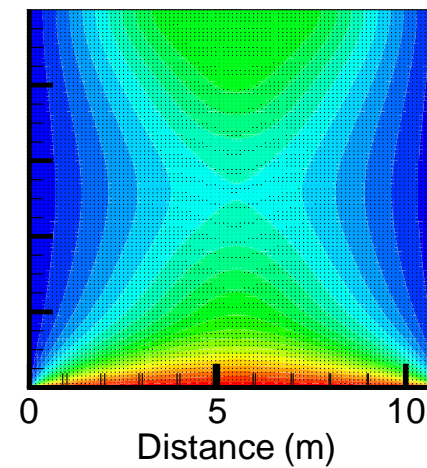
5 days



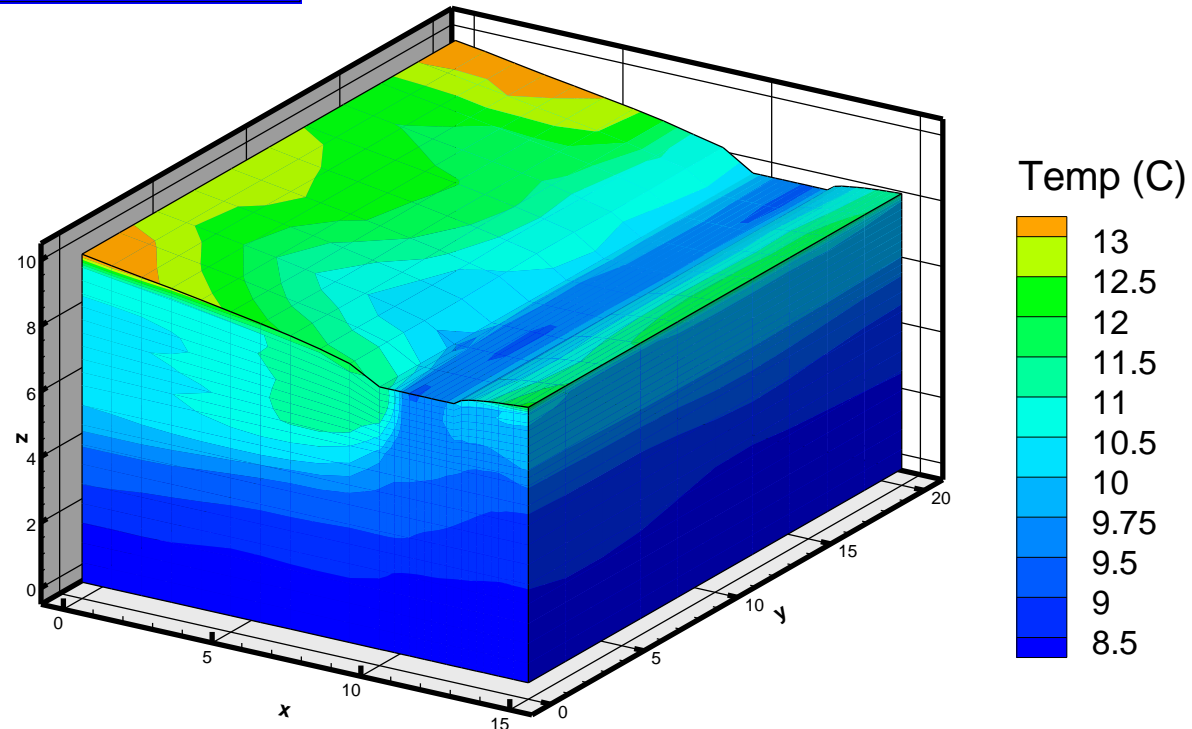
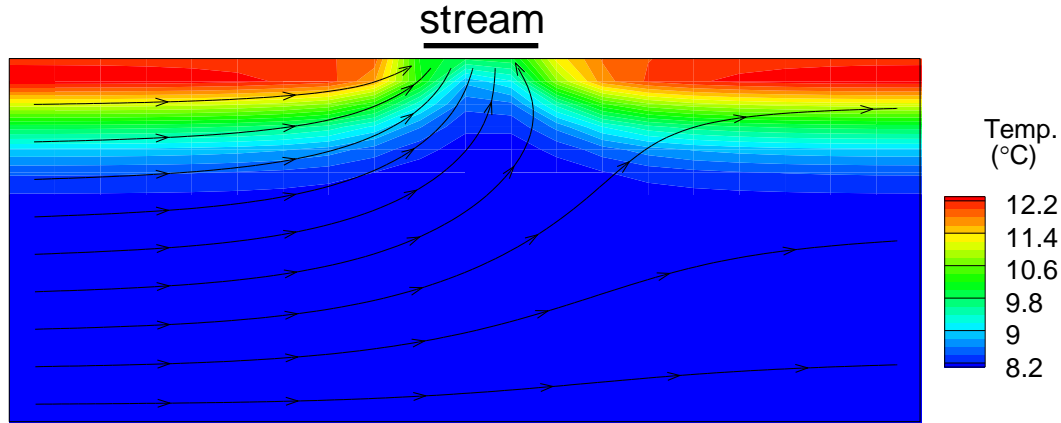
25 days



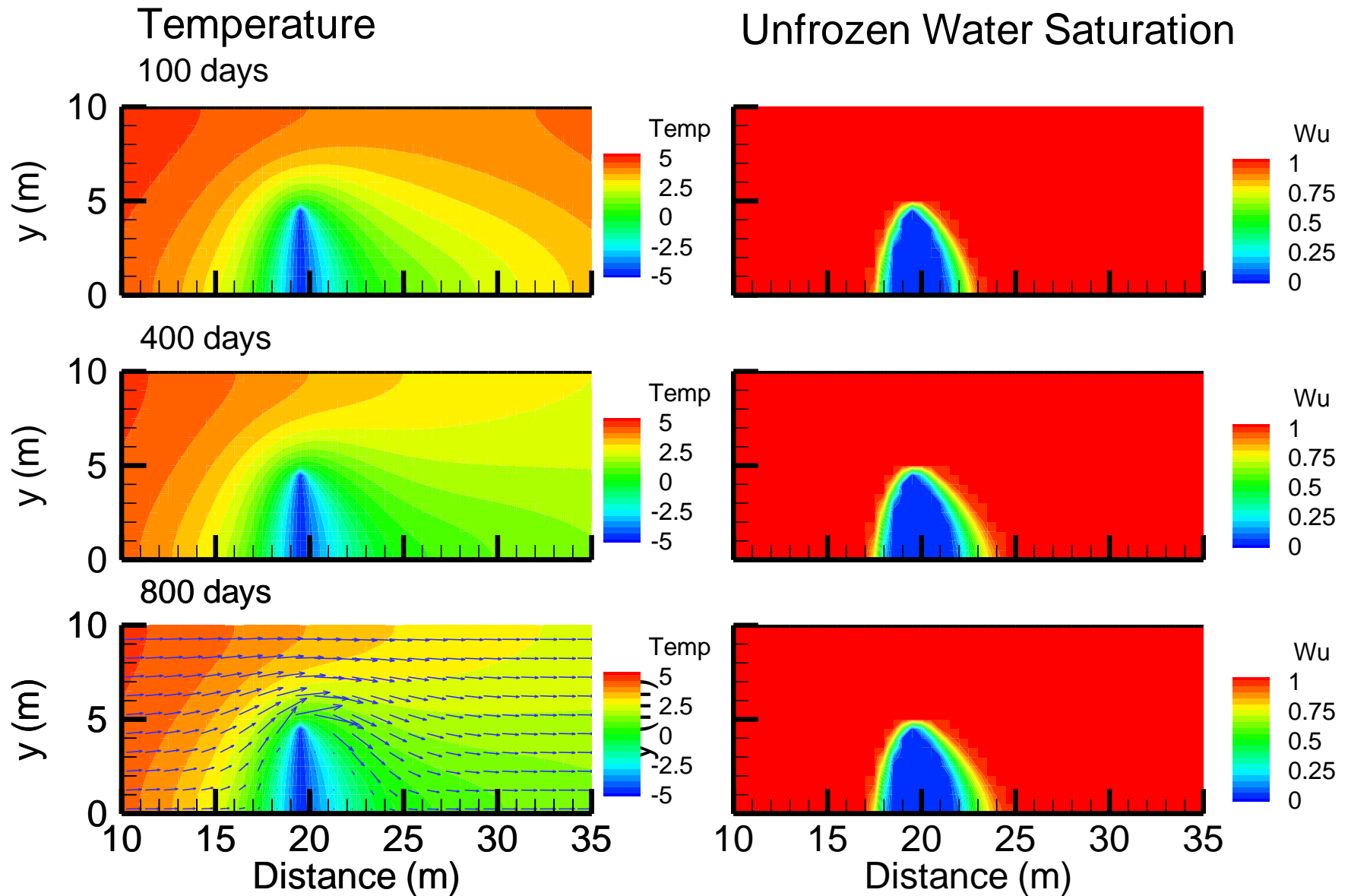
200 days



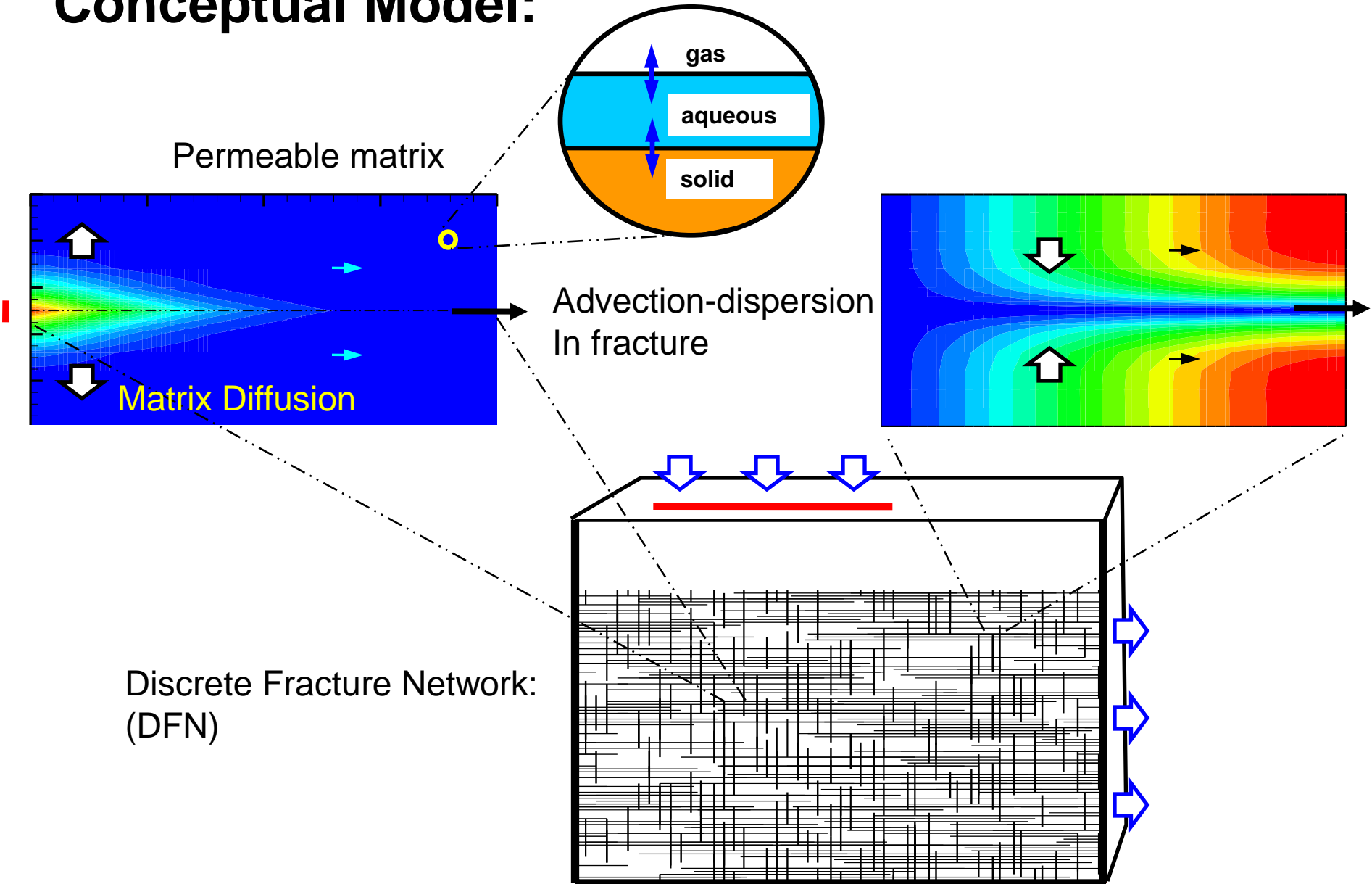
Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction: Use of thermal regimes to quantify contaminant discharge



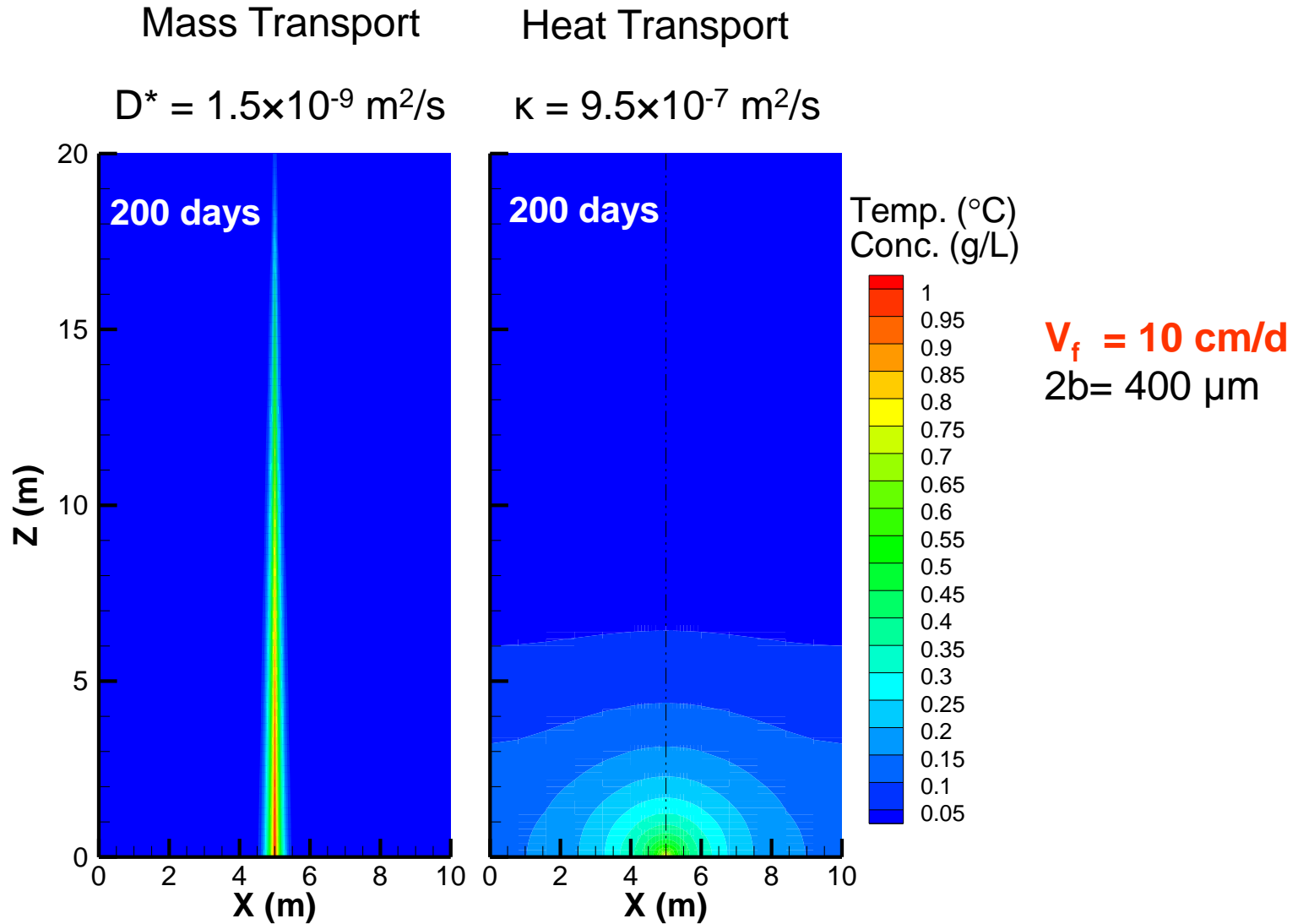
HEATFLOW Model: 3D Ice Wall Numerical Simulation



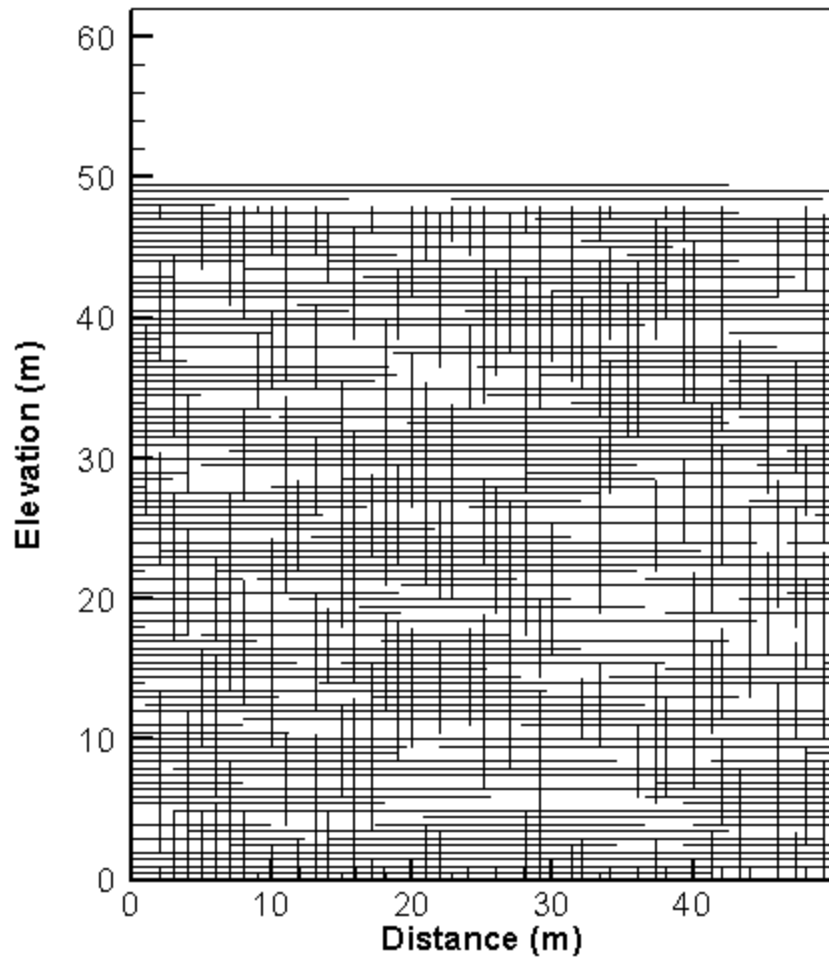
Conceptual Model:



Hydrodynamic Dispersion vs. Thermal Diffusivity



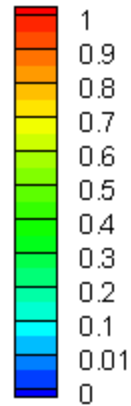
0.0 days

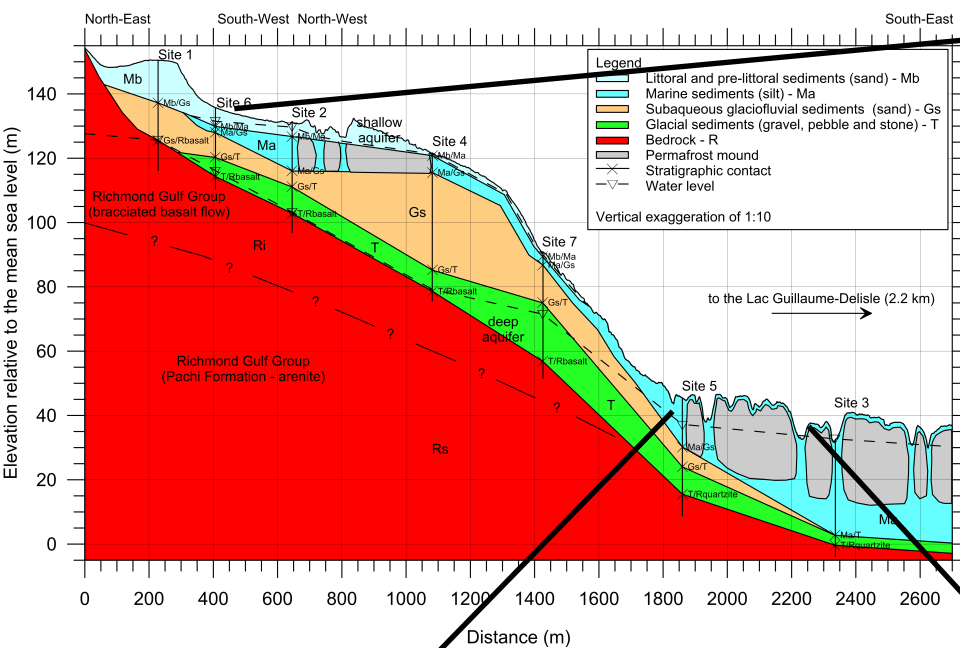


HeatFlow Simulation
Cambridge Thermal Tracer

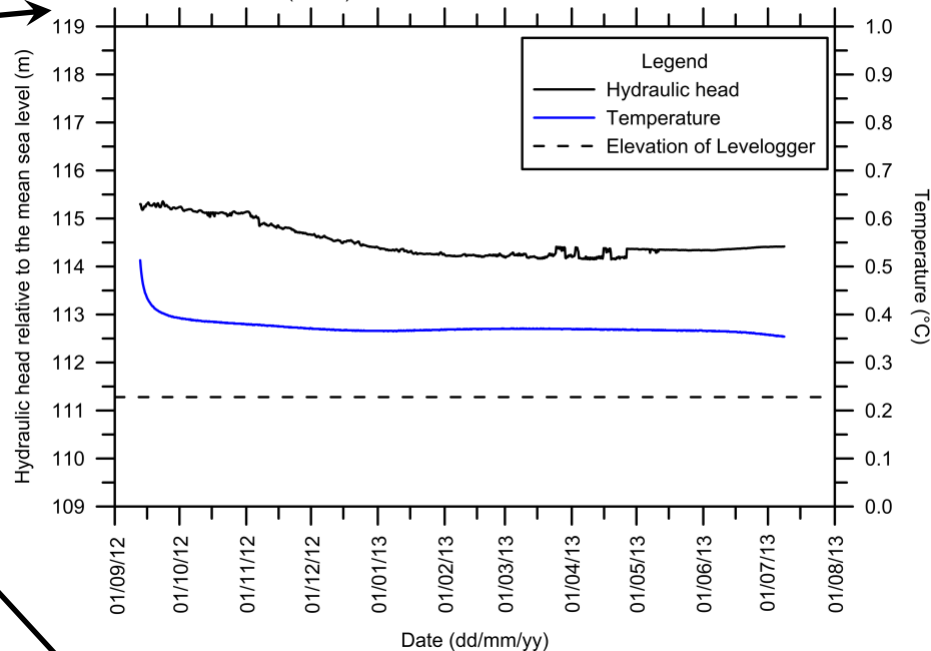
$2b = 500\mu\text{m}$
uniform initial temp = 12°C
thermal input rate = 10 W/m

$\Delta\text{Temp } (^\circ\text{C})$
(contour cutoff = 0.001°C)

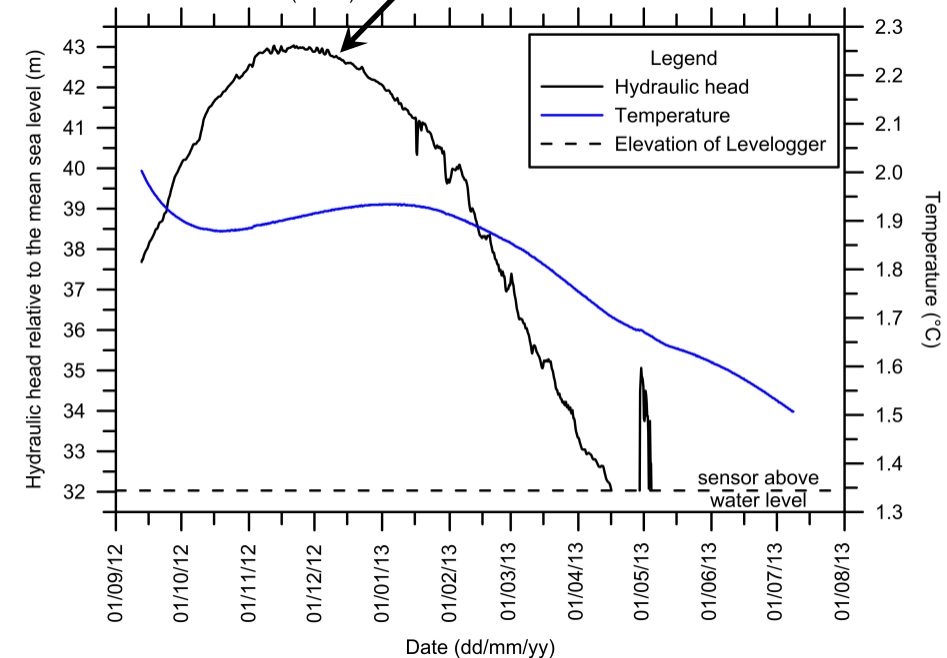




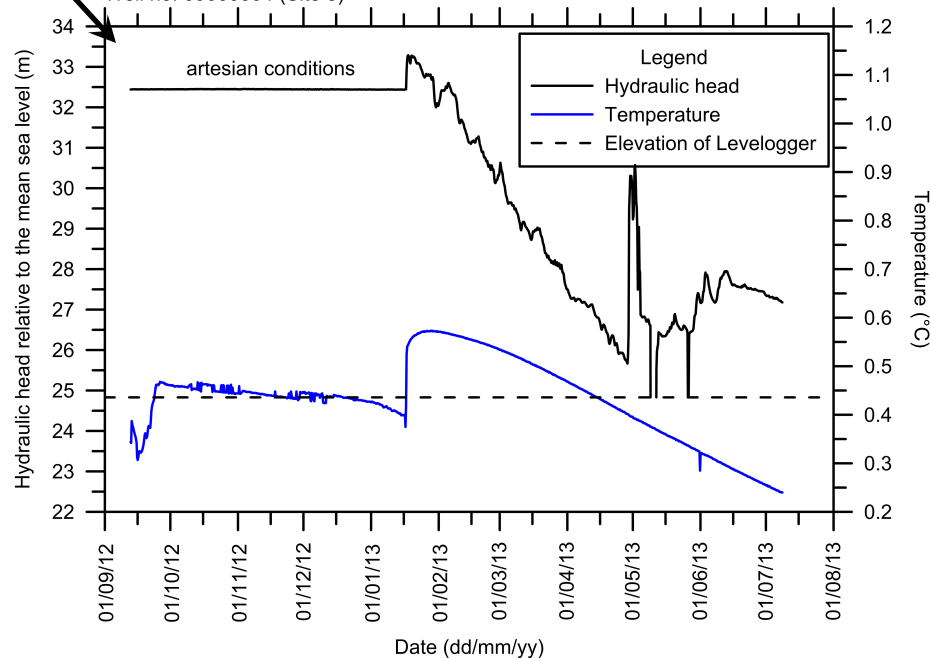
Well no. 09000008 (Site 6)



Well no. 09000006 (Site 5)

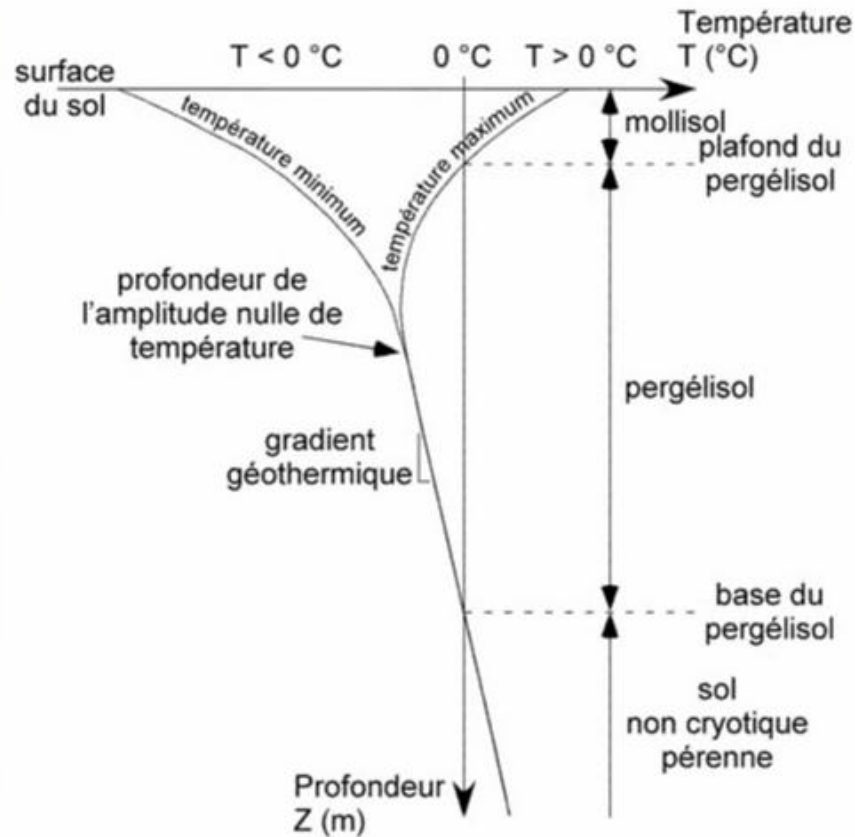


Well no. 09000004 (Site 3)



Le pergélisol: quelques concepts

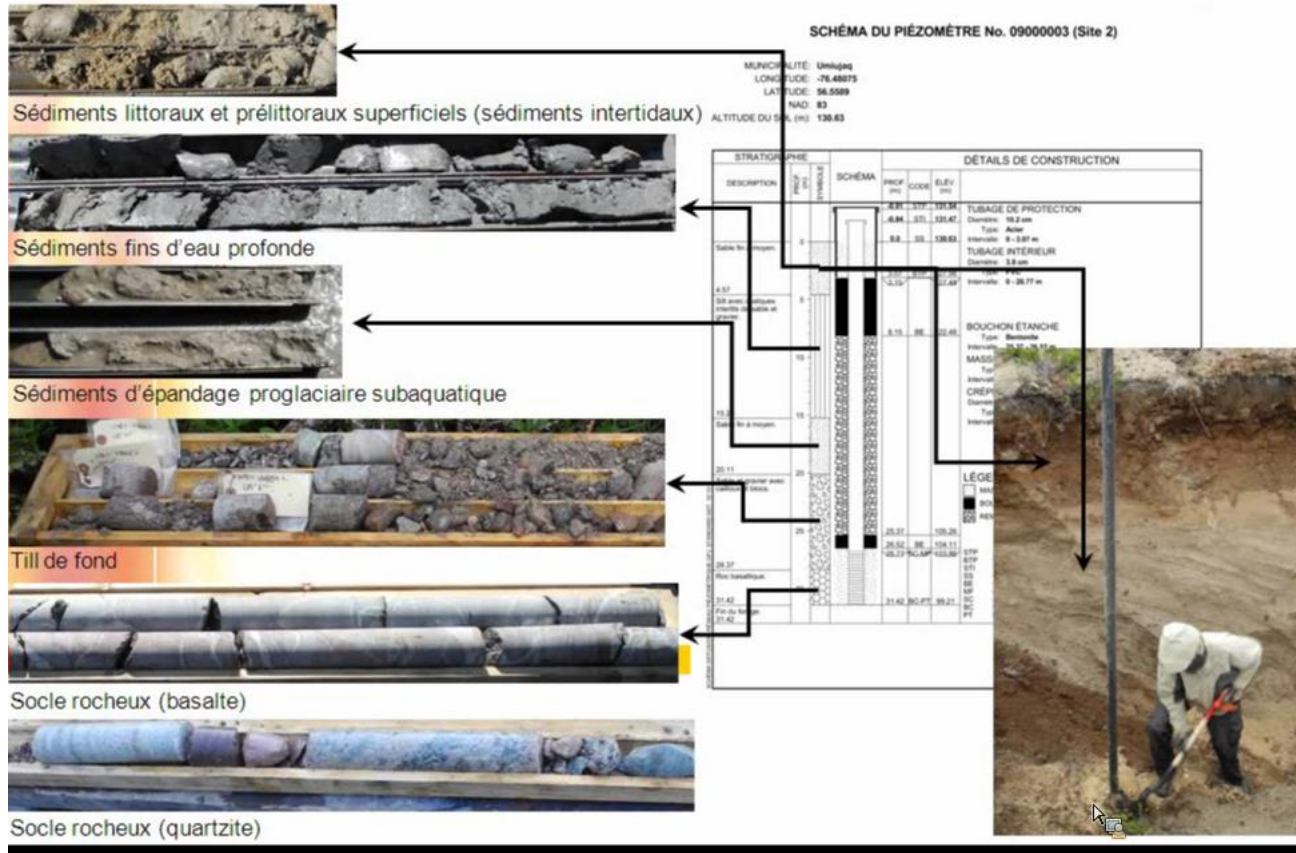
(profil thermique , définitions du pergélisol et du mollisol)



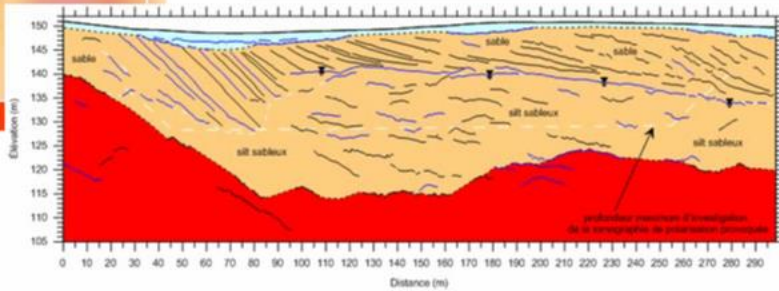
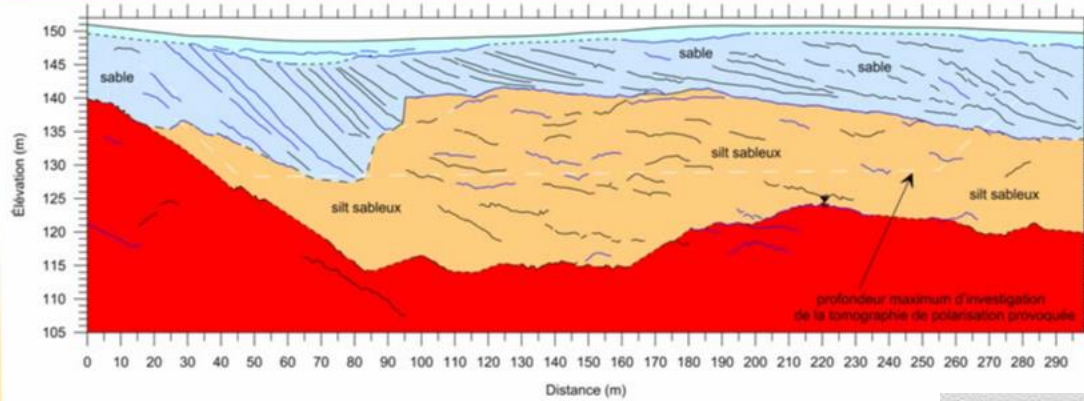
Mollisol:
couche superficielle
affectée par les cycles
de gel-dégel.

Pergélisol:
sol ou roche dont la
température demeure
sous 0°C durant au
moins deux années.

Deuxième exemple d'un bassin versant à Umiujaq (investigation hydrogéologique: campagne de forages à l'été 2012)



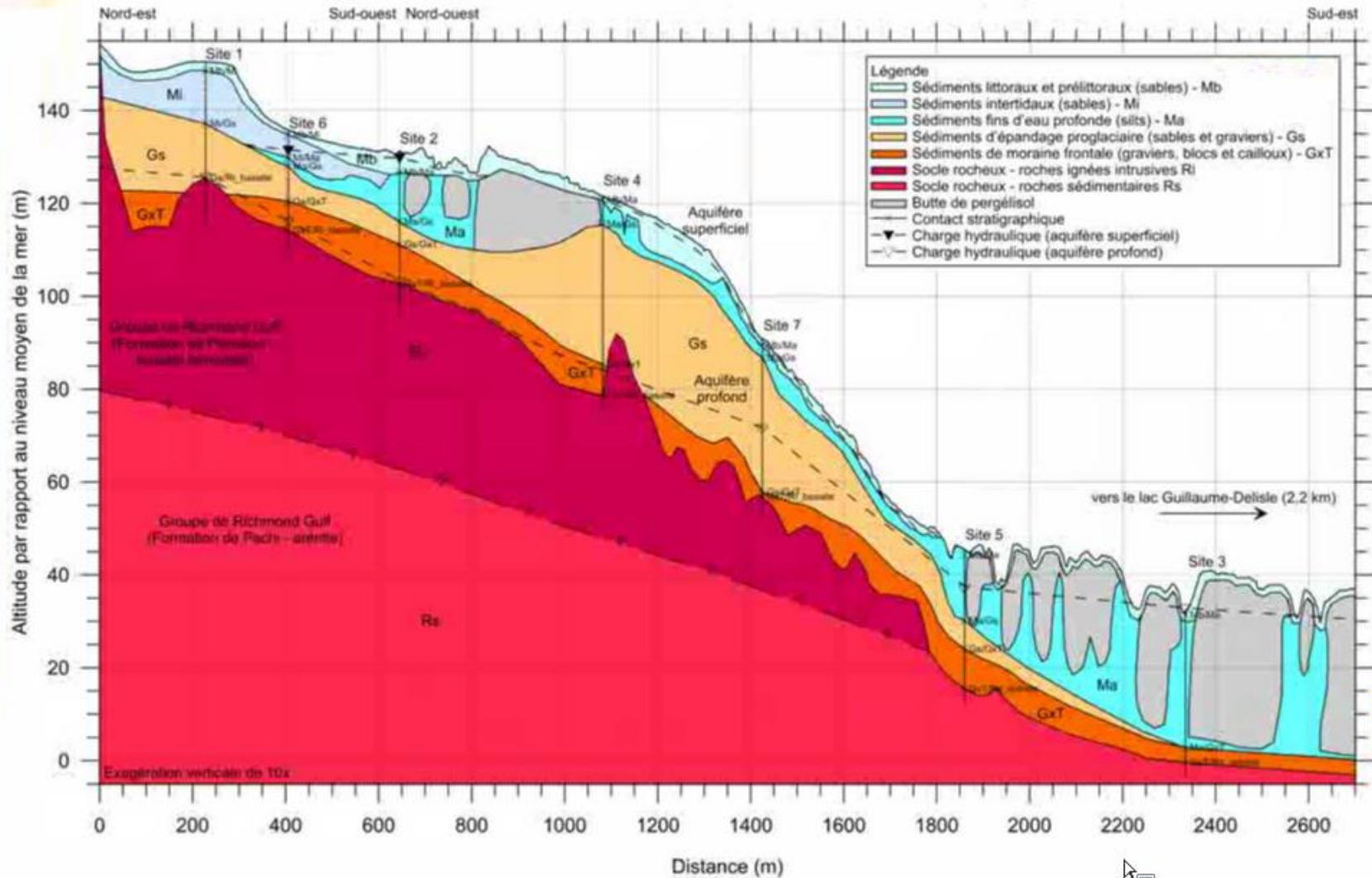
Deuxième exemple d'un bassin versant à Umiujaq (investigation cryohydrogéophysique: coupe hydrostratigraphique interprétative)



Camera and Voice



Deuxième exemple d'un bassin versant à Umiujaq (investigation hydrogéologique: coupe cryohydrostratigraphique interprétative)



Numerical simulation of coupled groundwater flow and heat transport in a continuous permafrost environment : Iqaluit, Canada

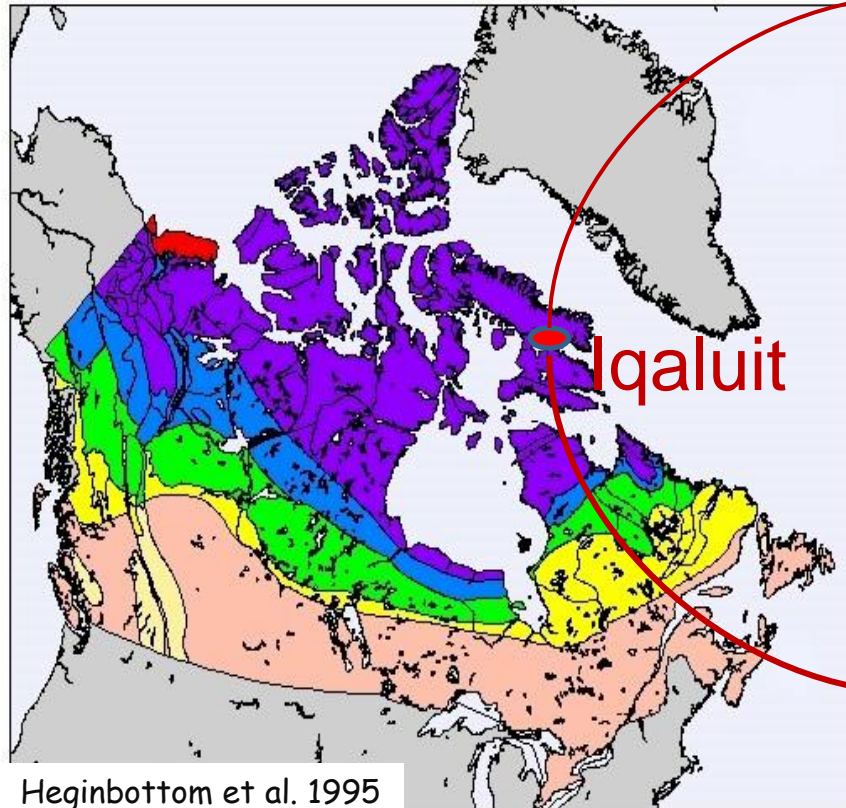
Masoumeh Shojae Ghias, René Therrien, John Molson,
Jean-Michel Lemieux

Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada



Study site: Iqaluit airport

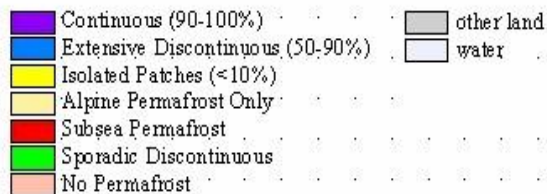
Permafrost map of Canada



Iqaluit airport



- Latitude of 63°45' N
- Continuous permafrost
- Mean Annual T: -7.76 C



Current Issues at Iqaluit airport

Thaw settlement



Ice wedges



Resurfacing



Frost cracks



Depressions



Concrete patch



Site investigation at Iqaluit airport

Surface and subsurface geology

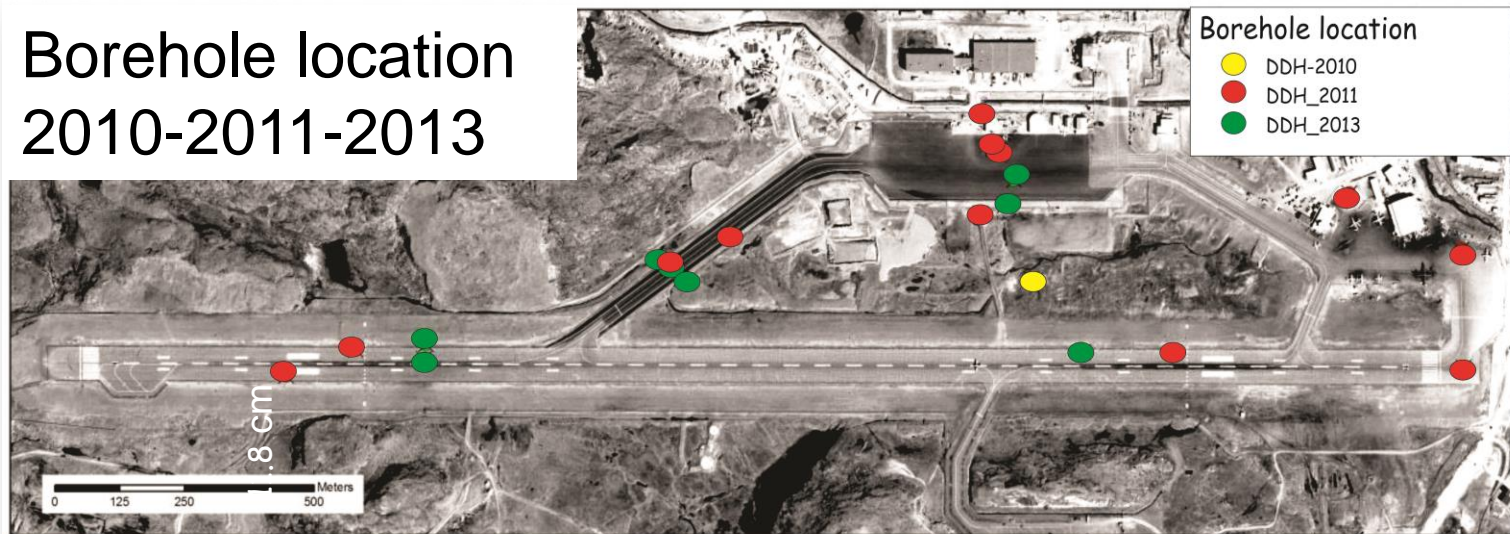
- Drilling, coring
- Geophysical survey
- Lab analysis

Climate related data

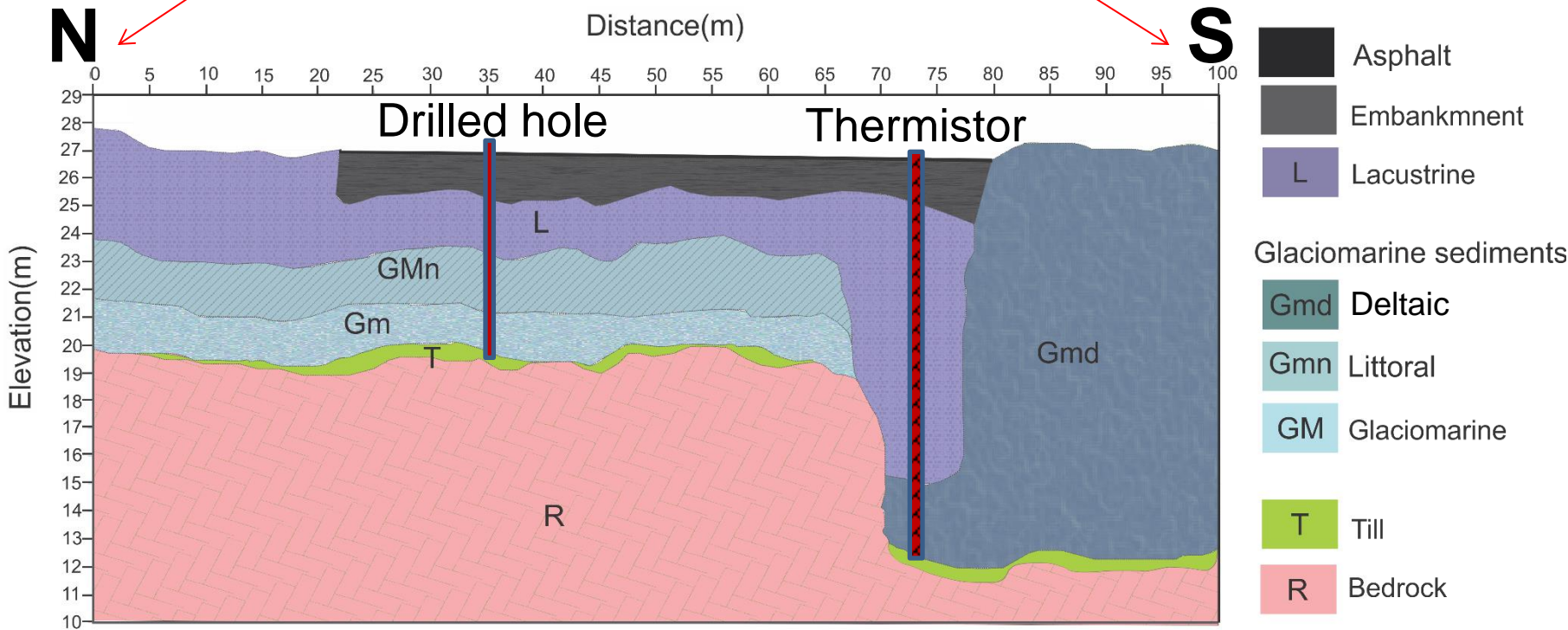
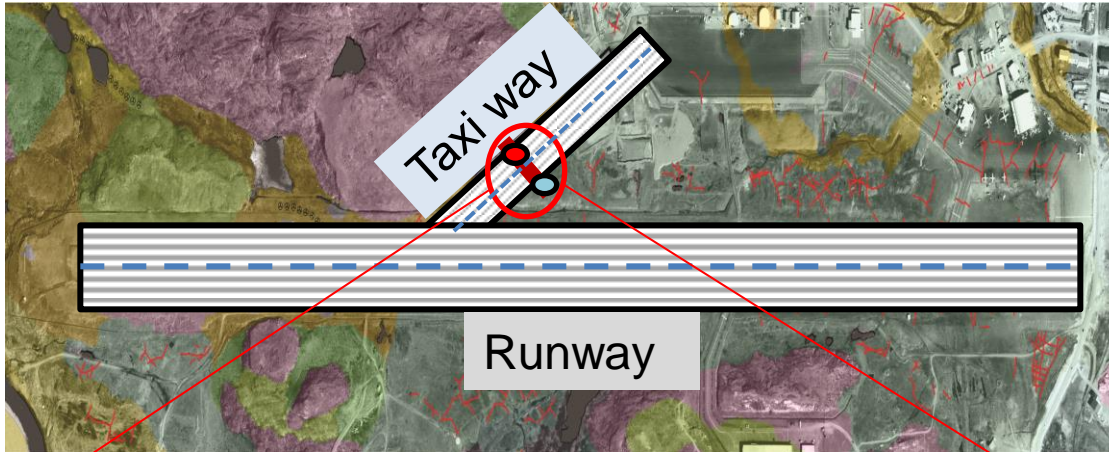
- Surface and subsurface T
- Snow depth

Ground movement

Borehole location
2010-2011-2013



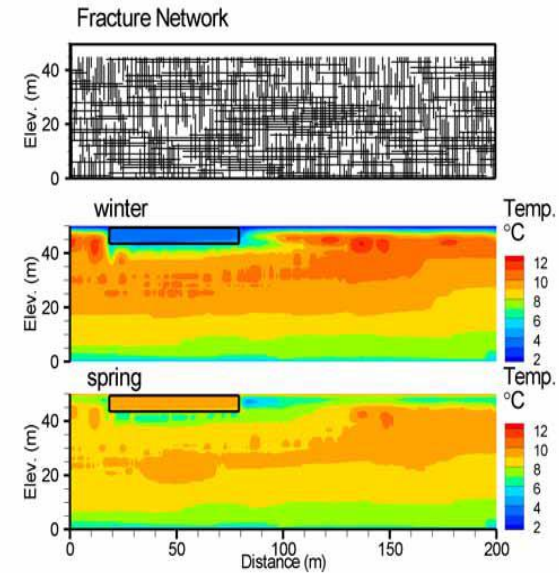
Conceptual Geological Cross-section



Vertical exaggeration 10x

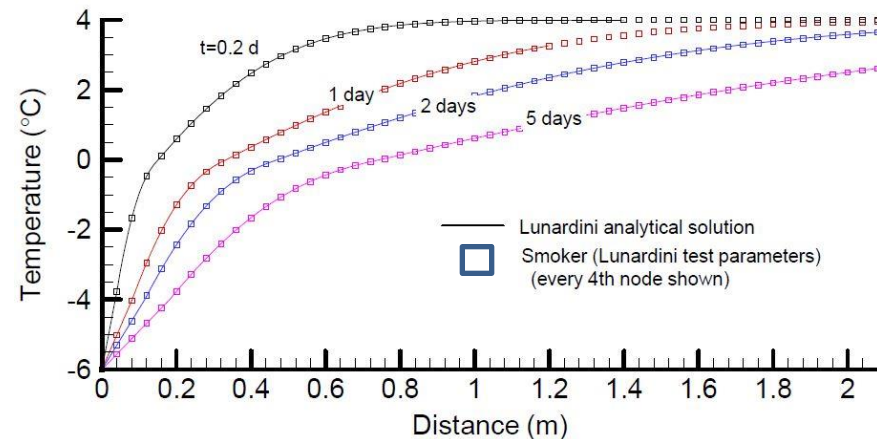
HEATFLOW-SMOKER MODEL (Molson et al. 2012)

- 3D finite element
- Freezing and thawing and latent heat
- Partially saturated zone for thermal transport
- Coupled density dependent flow and thermal transport



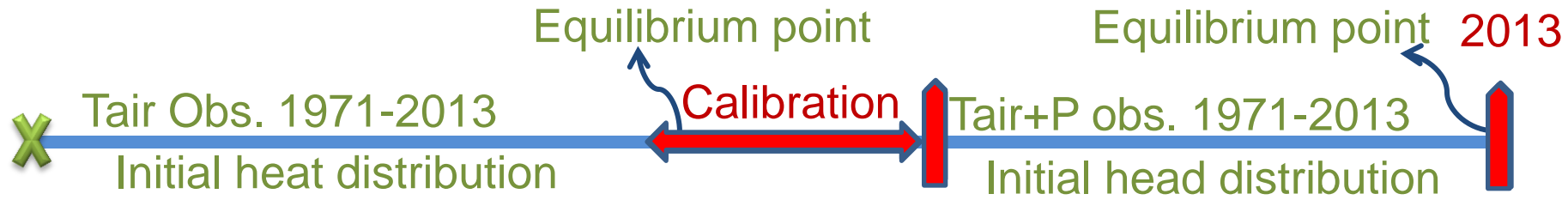
Validation of HEATFLOW-SMOKER

- Numerical vs. analytical model
(Lunardini, 3-zone freezing-front problem)



Coupled heat-fluid flow model

1. Calibration

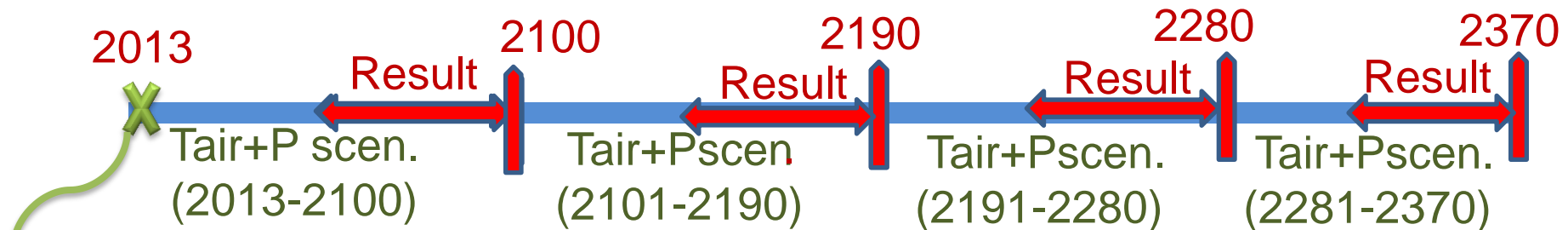


2. Designed scenarios

SR-1. Saturated vs. unsaturated

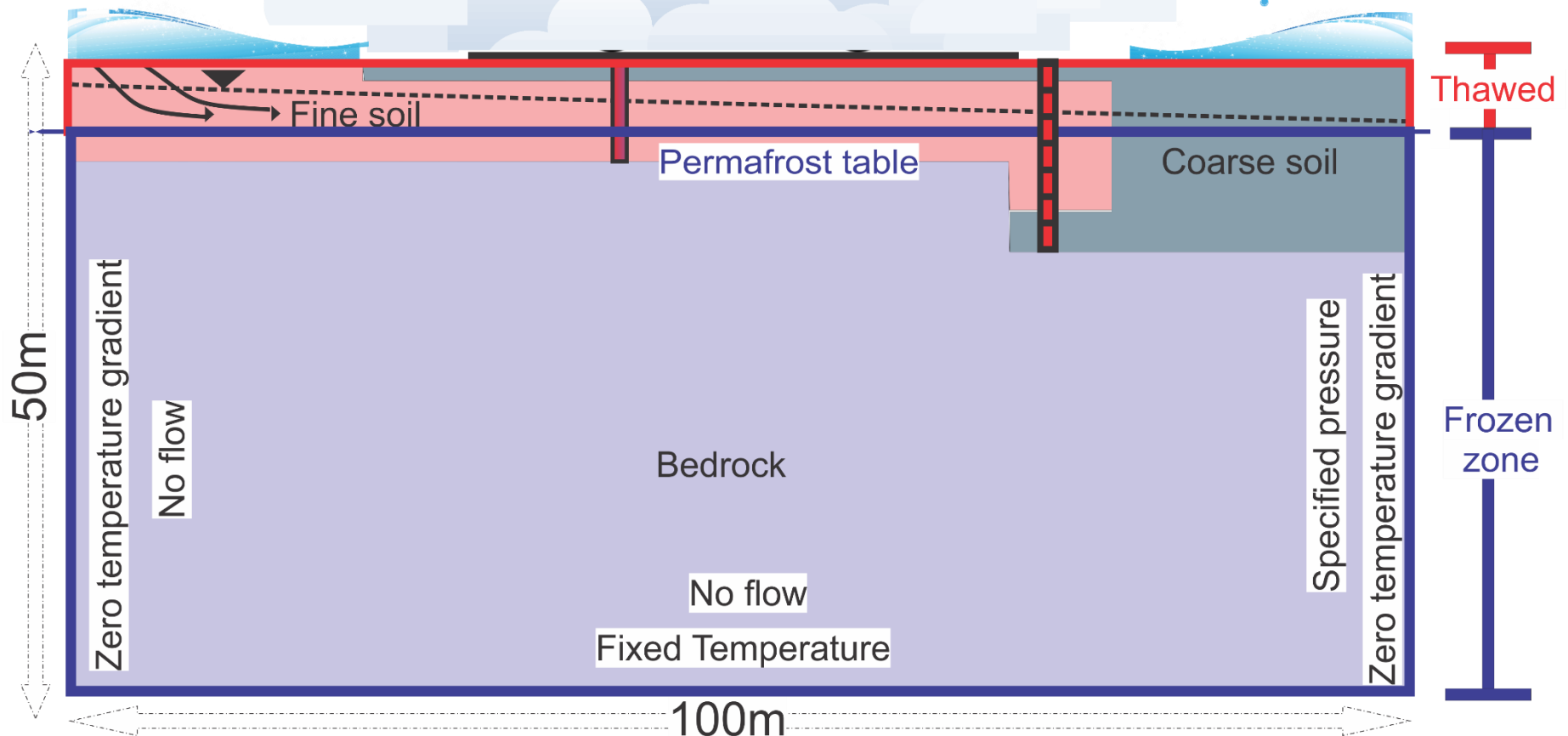
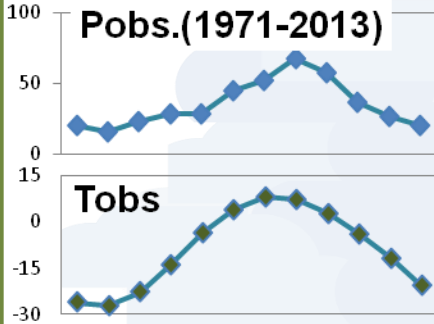
SR-2. Advection-conduction vs. conduction heat transport

SR-3. Heterogeneous hydraulic conductivity distribution



Starting point for all the designed scenarios

Conceptual model

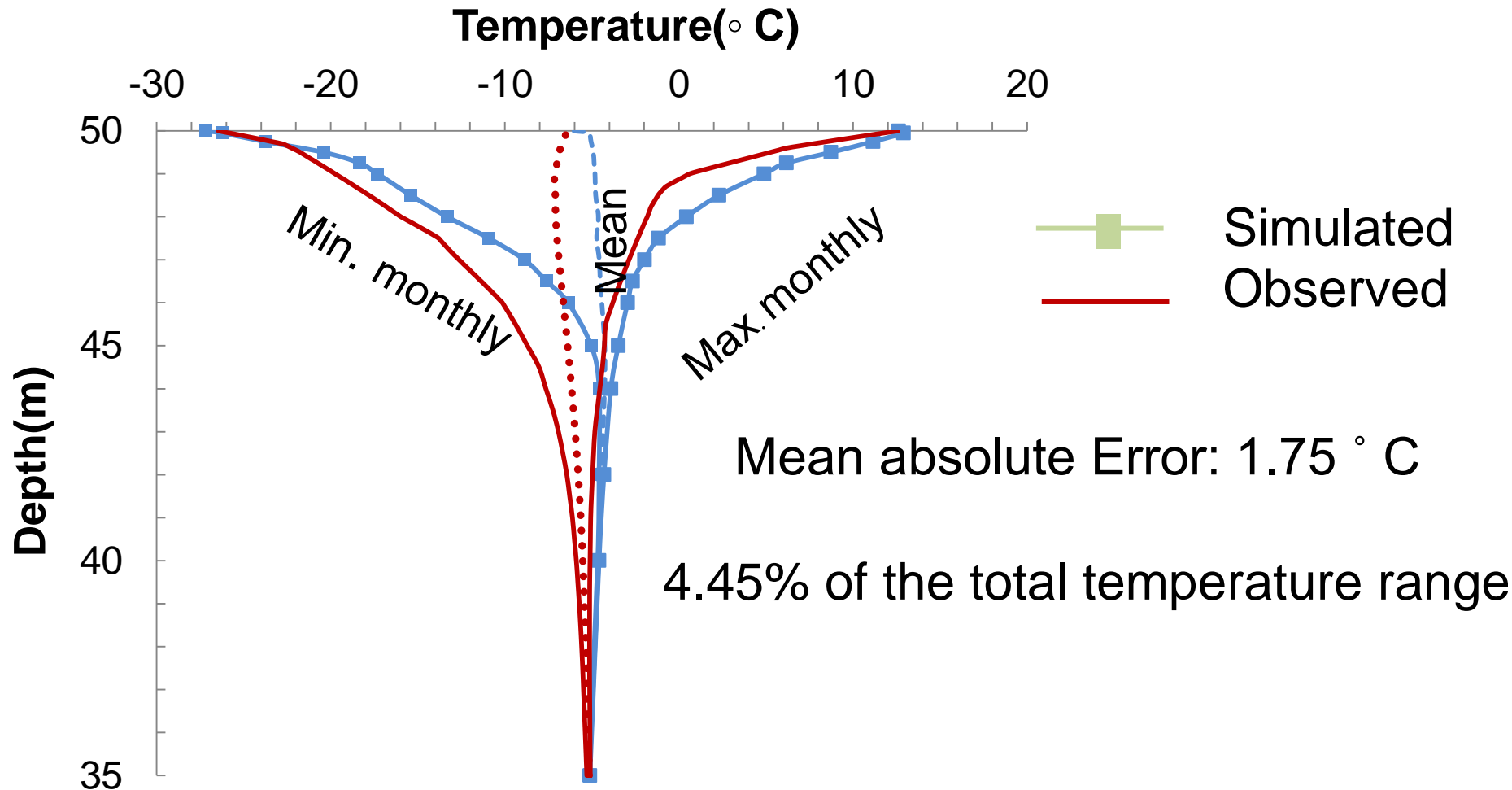


- Fine soil
- Coarse soil
- Bedrock
- TermistorCable DDH-11-07
- Drilled hole DDH-13-02
- Snow Pack

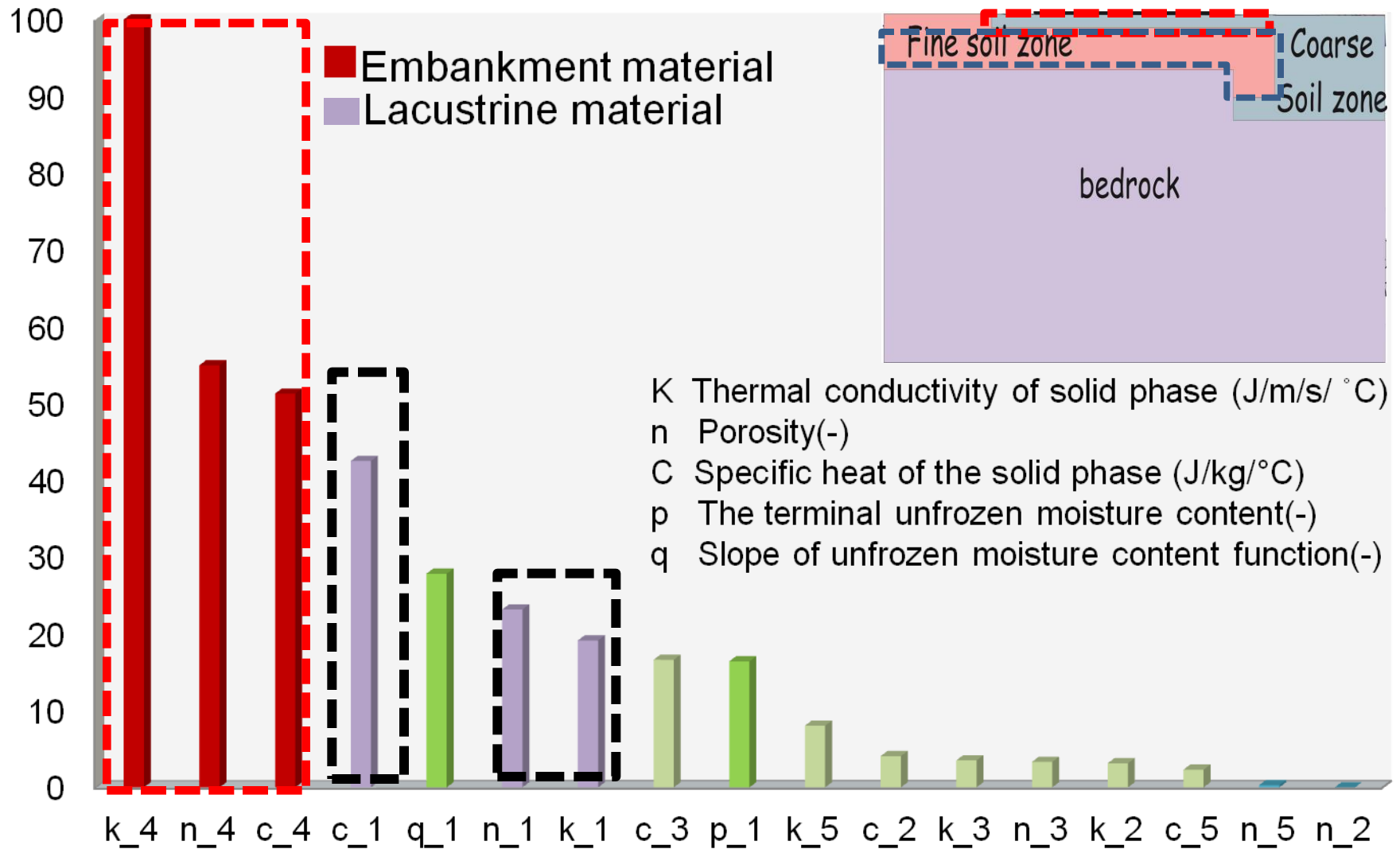
Model calibration

Temperature for the last year of simulation for 1971-2012

Monthly Min., Mean and Max. Temperature



Sensitivity Analysis



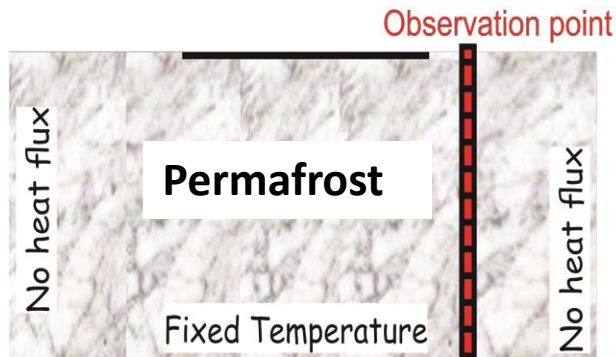
Future climate warming scenarios

- Data from GCM (AR4, IPCC 2007)
- SR-B1, SR-A1B, SR-A2 (low, medium and high greenhouse gas emission scenario)
- Time period: 2071–2100
- Downscale method : Delta change

Sr-1: effects of saturated vs unsaturated on permafrost

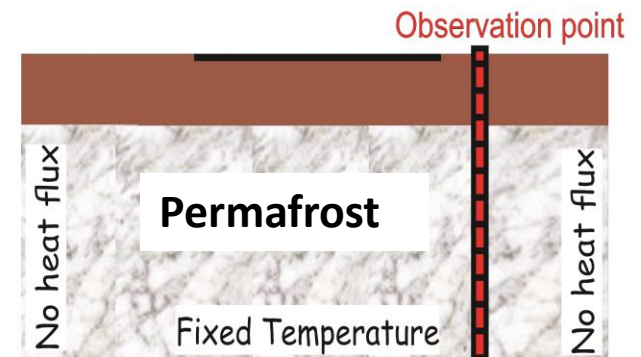
Saturated case

$T_{\text{surface}} < 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

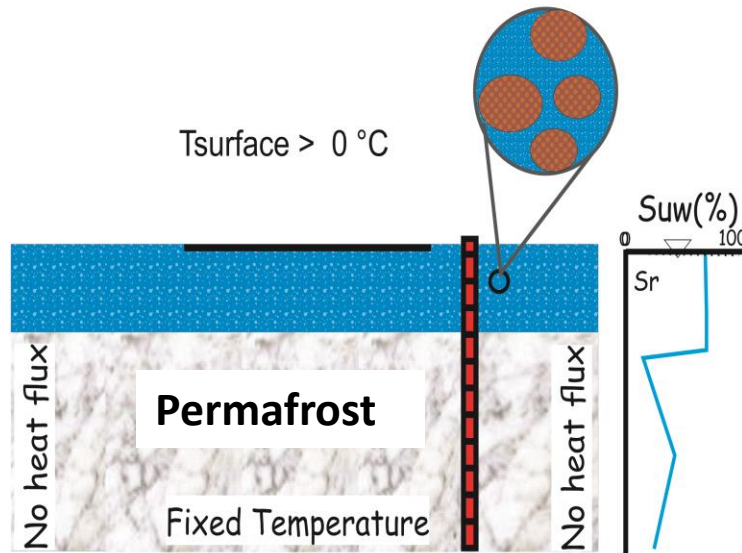


Unsaturated case

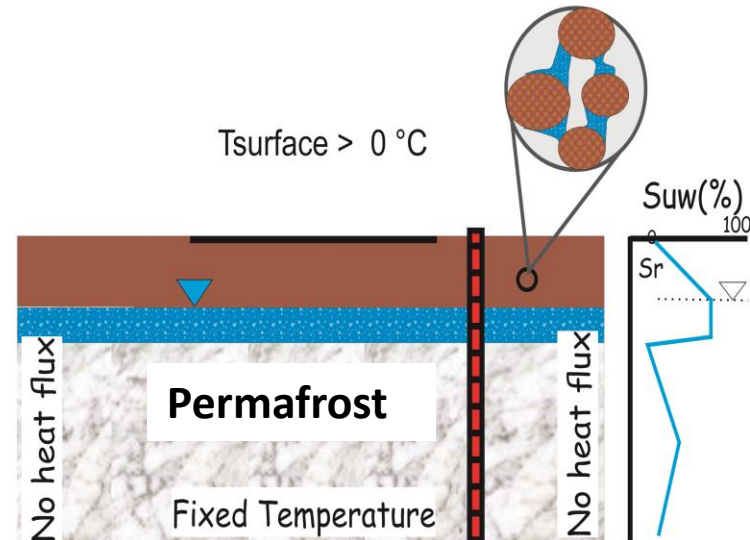
$T_{\text{surface}} < 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



$T_{\text{surface}} > 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

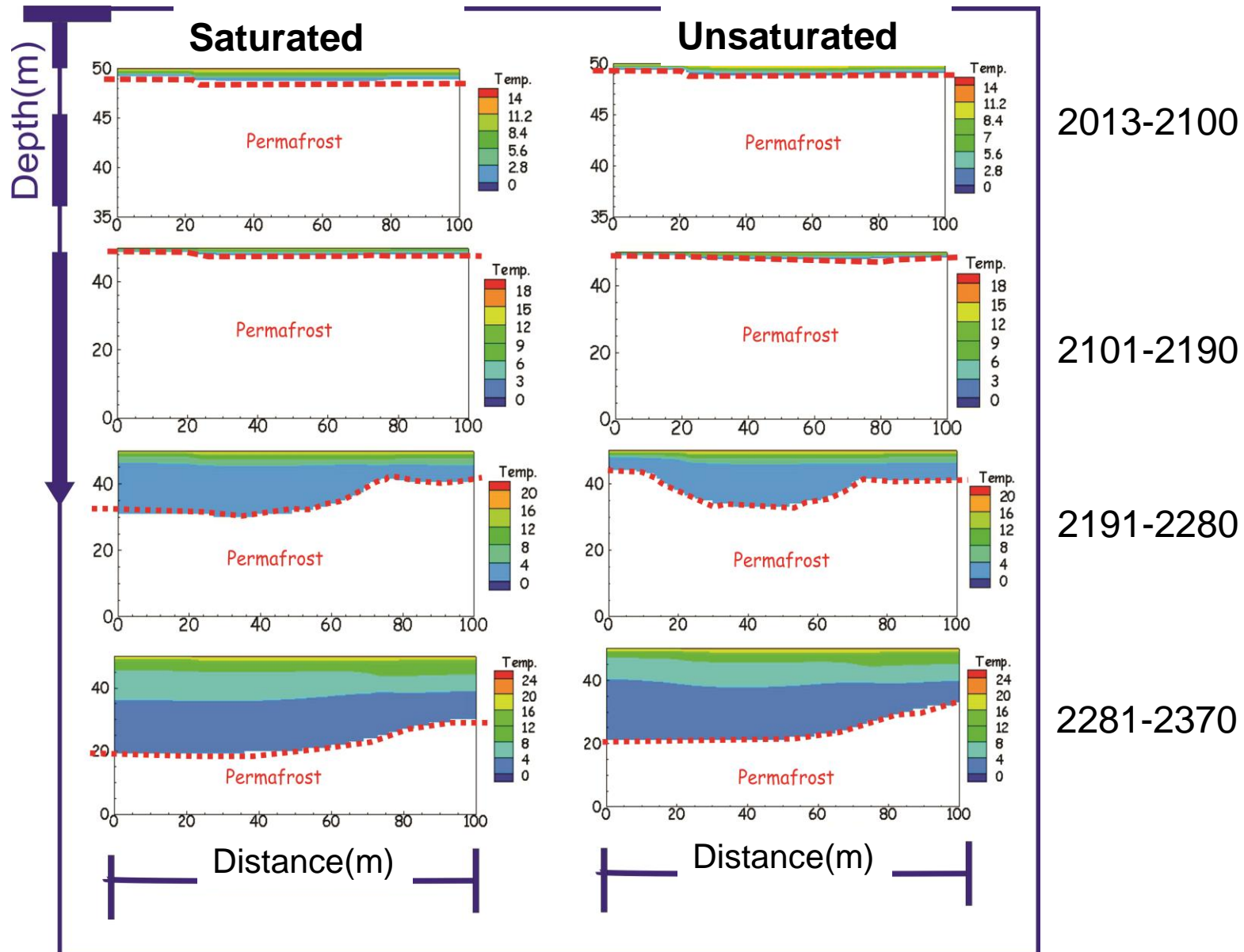


$T_{\text{surface}} > 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

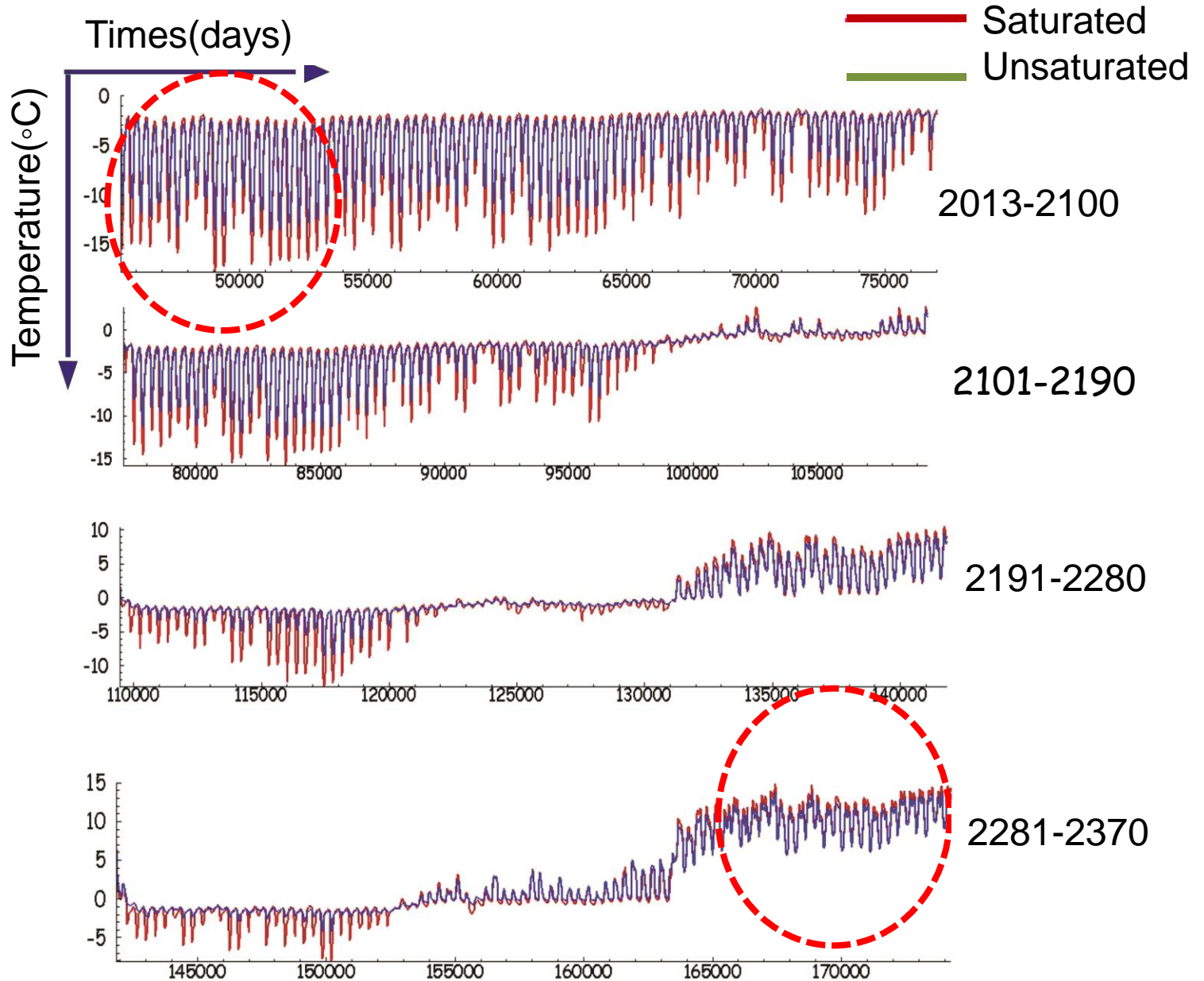


SR-1: Comparison of completely saturated and partly unsaturated model on permafrost thaw under future climate warming

Result Plotted for the last September of each warming period



SR- 1. Temperature changes as a function of time at a 2.5 m depth



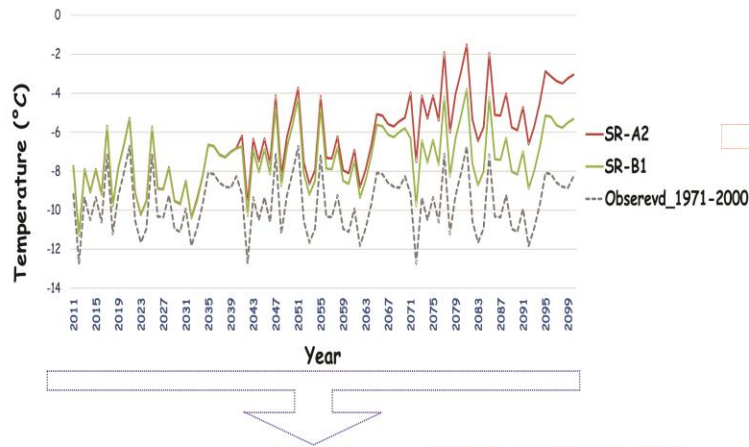
Conclusion

- ✓ Calibration of simplified 2D model
 - ✓ Best for Winter months
 - ✓ Greater difference for spring and early summer
- ✓ Key parameter : thermal conductivity of the uppermost soil layer
- ✓ **Saturated** vs. unsaturated upper zone
 - ✓ Differences are greater for negative temperatures at surface
 - ✓ **Active layer expands faster under the same climate warming**
 - ✓ **Deeper permafrost table**

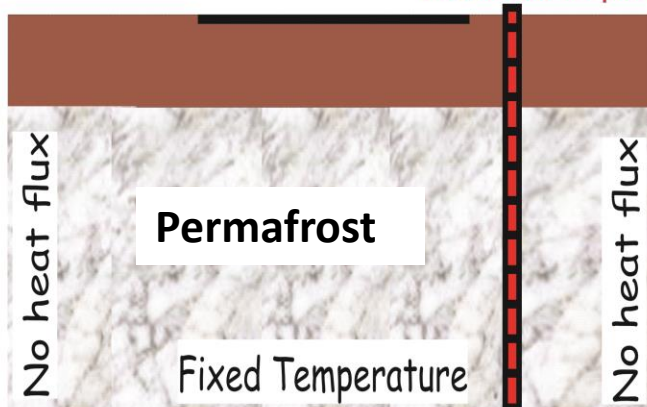
Ongoing work

SR- 2. Conductive vs advective conductive model

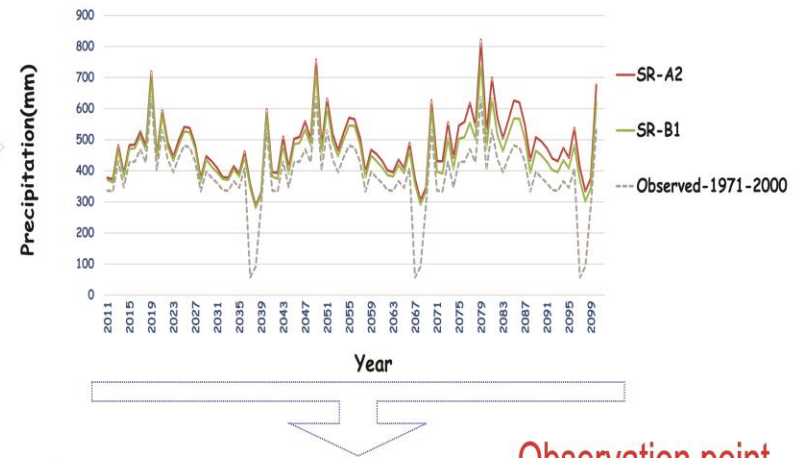
Conduction model



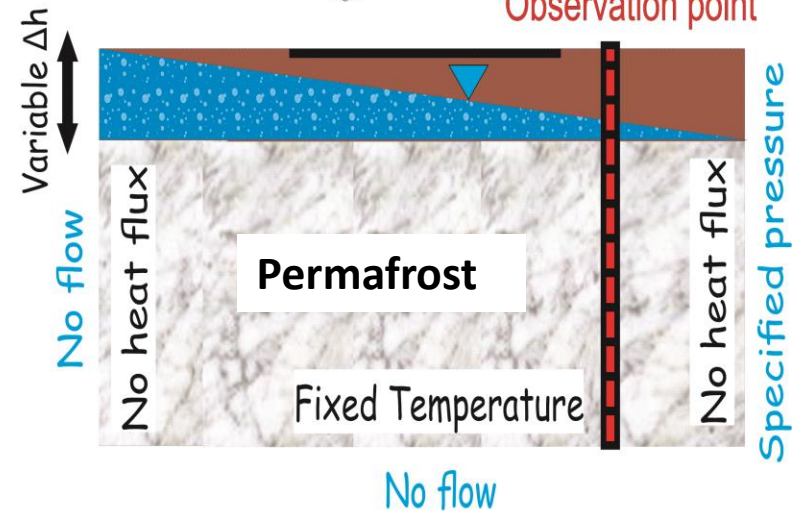
Observation point



Conduction-advection model



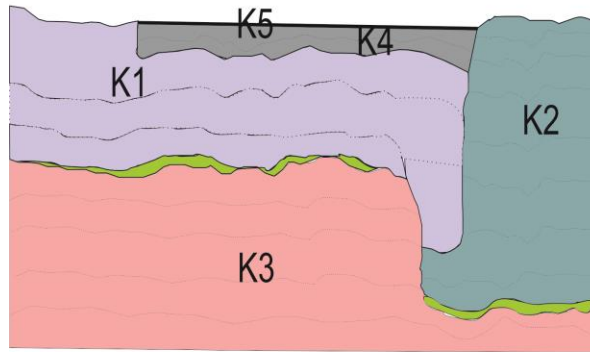
Observation point



Ongoing work

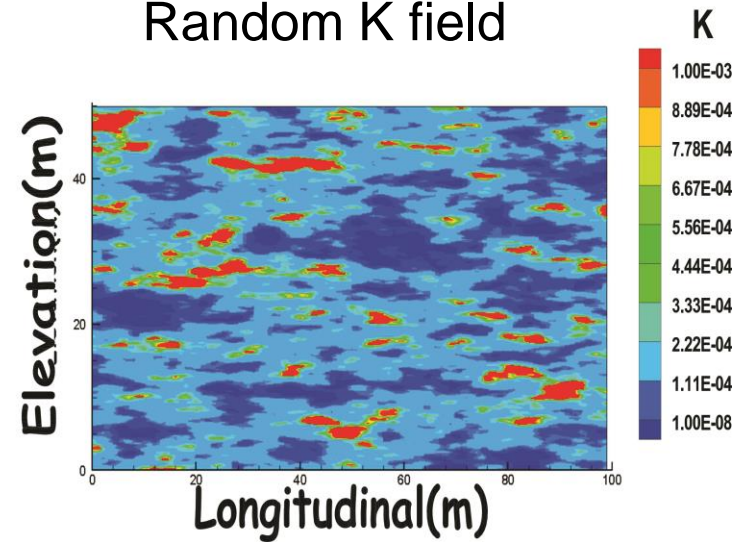
SR-3. Effects of heterogeneous hydraulic conductivity on permafrost

Natural layer




$$K = 10^{-12} - 10^{-3} \text{ (m/sec)}$$

Random K field




$$10^{-8} < K < 10^{-3} \text{ (m/sec)}$$

Acknowledgement

 Natural Resources Canada Ressources naturelles Canada

Canada 

 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada 



CENTRE D'ÉTUDES NORDIQUES

CEN Centre for Northern Studies













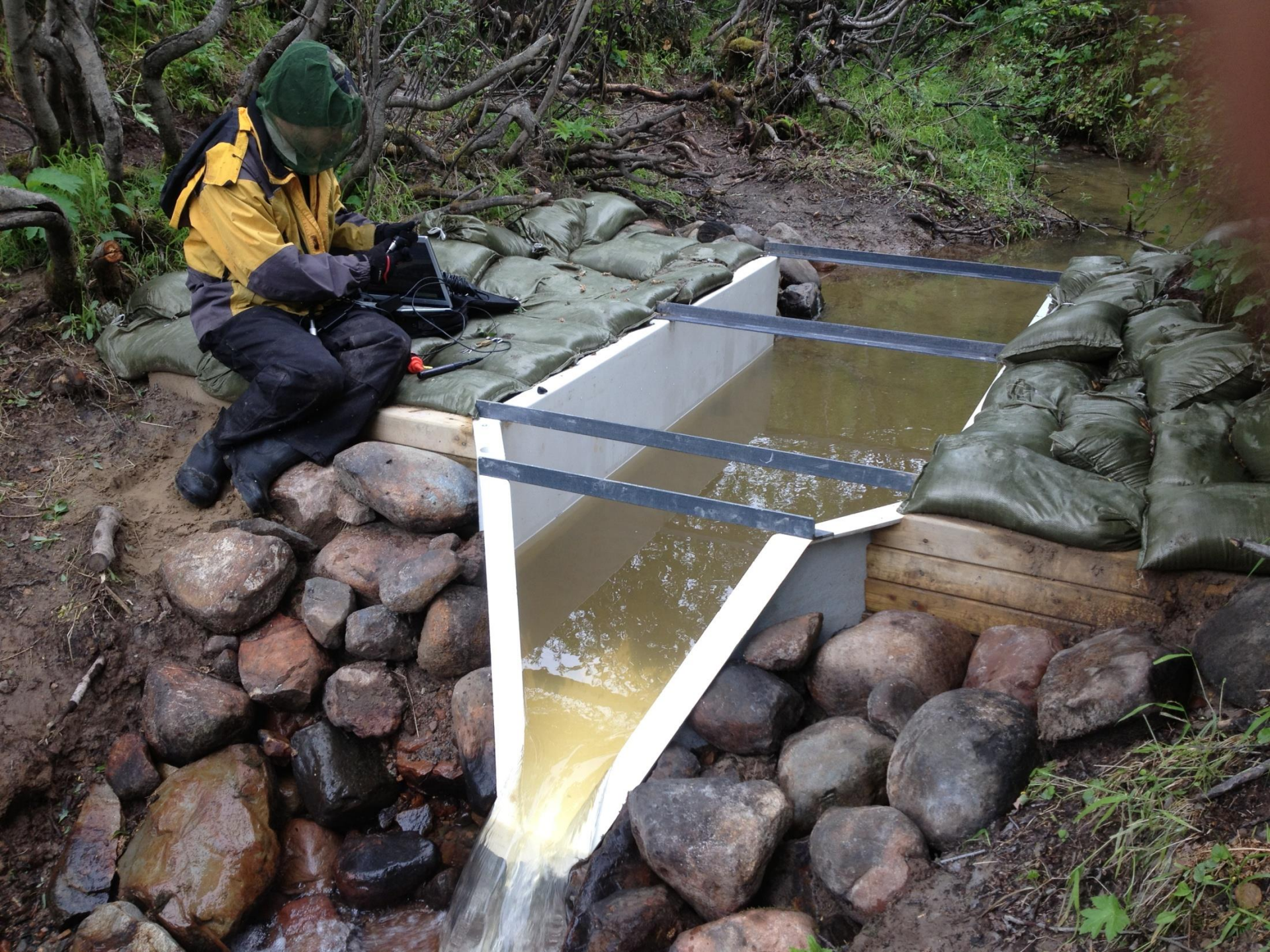




HERON
WATER TAPE
water el rodel

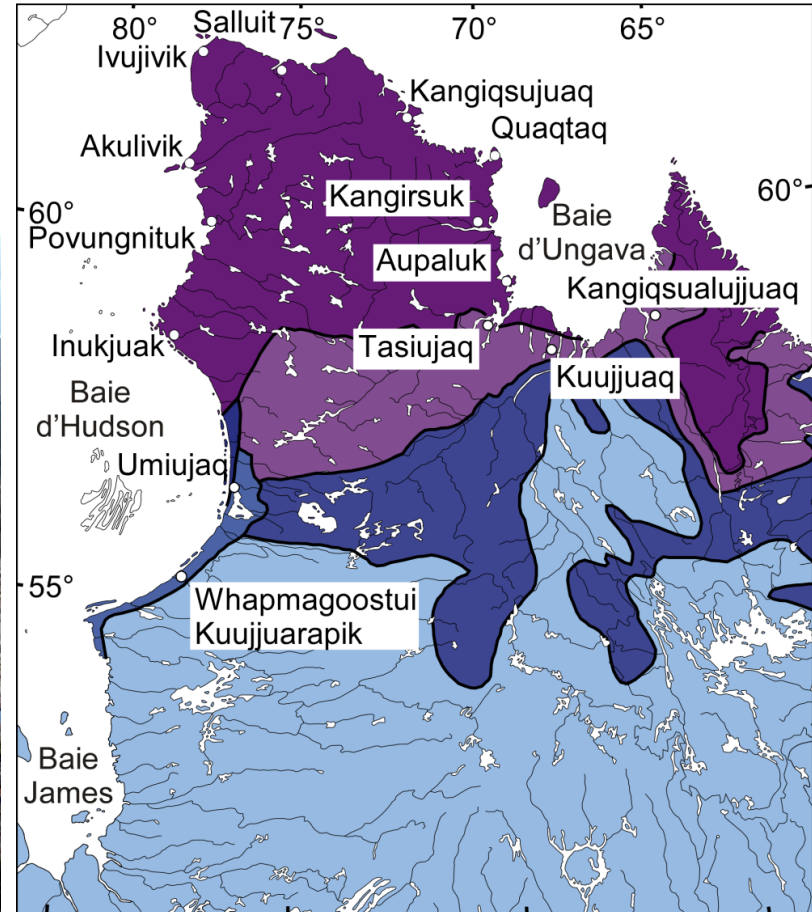
BREVOLU

Lehtinen Oy
Lentävä Oulu
Oulu
200 250
Telephone 0834 00 311





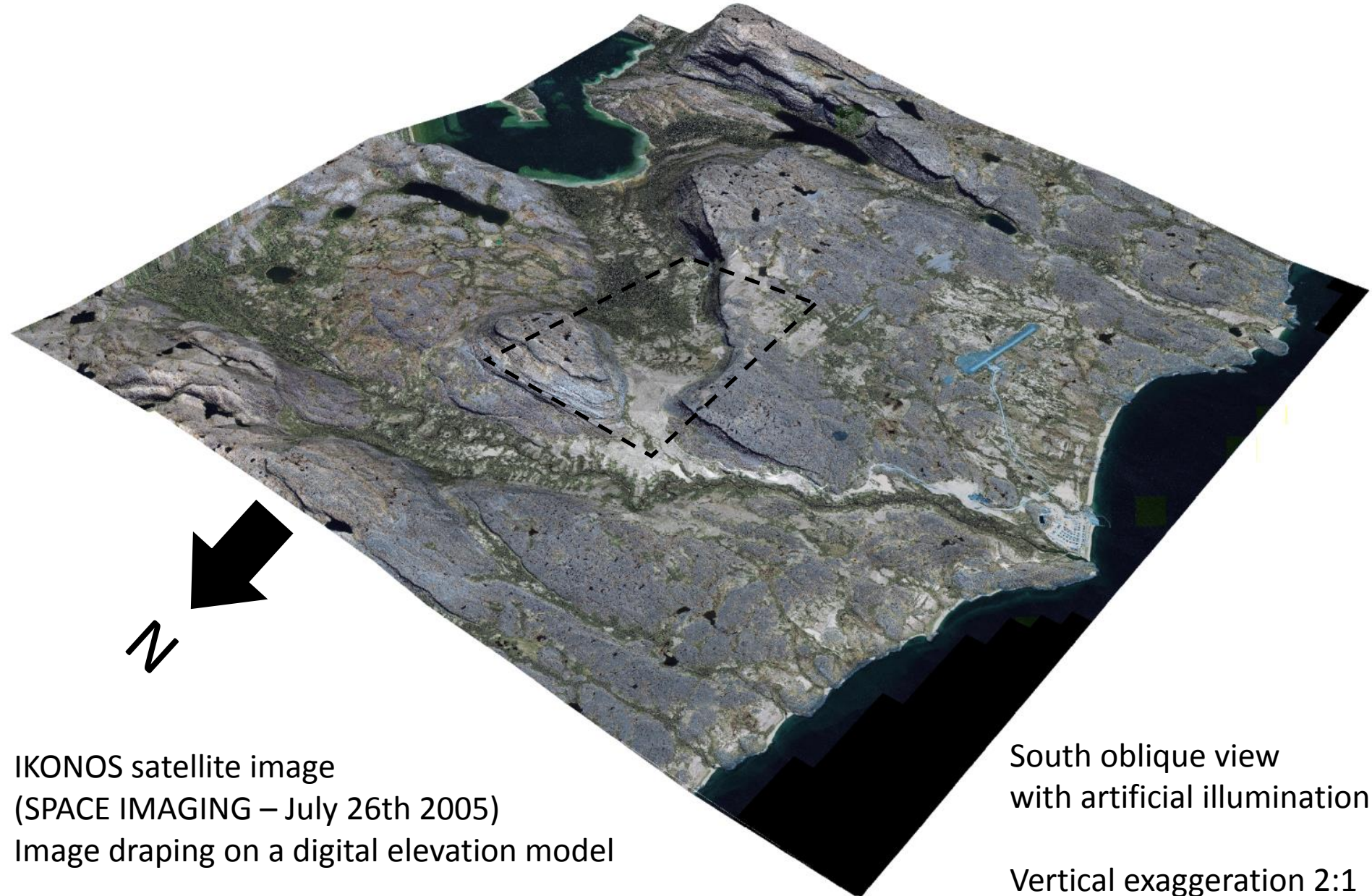
Permafrost in Northern Québec



Legend (after Allard and Seguin 1987)

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Sporadic permafrost |  Discontinuous but widespread permafrost |
|  Discontinuous and scattered permafrost |  Continuous permafrost |

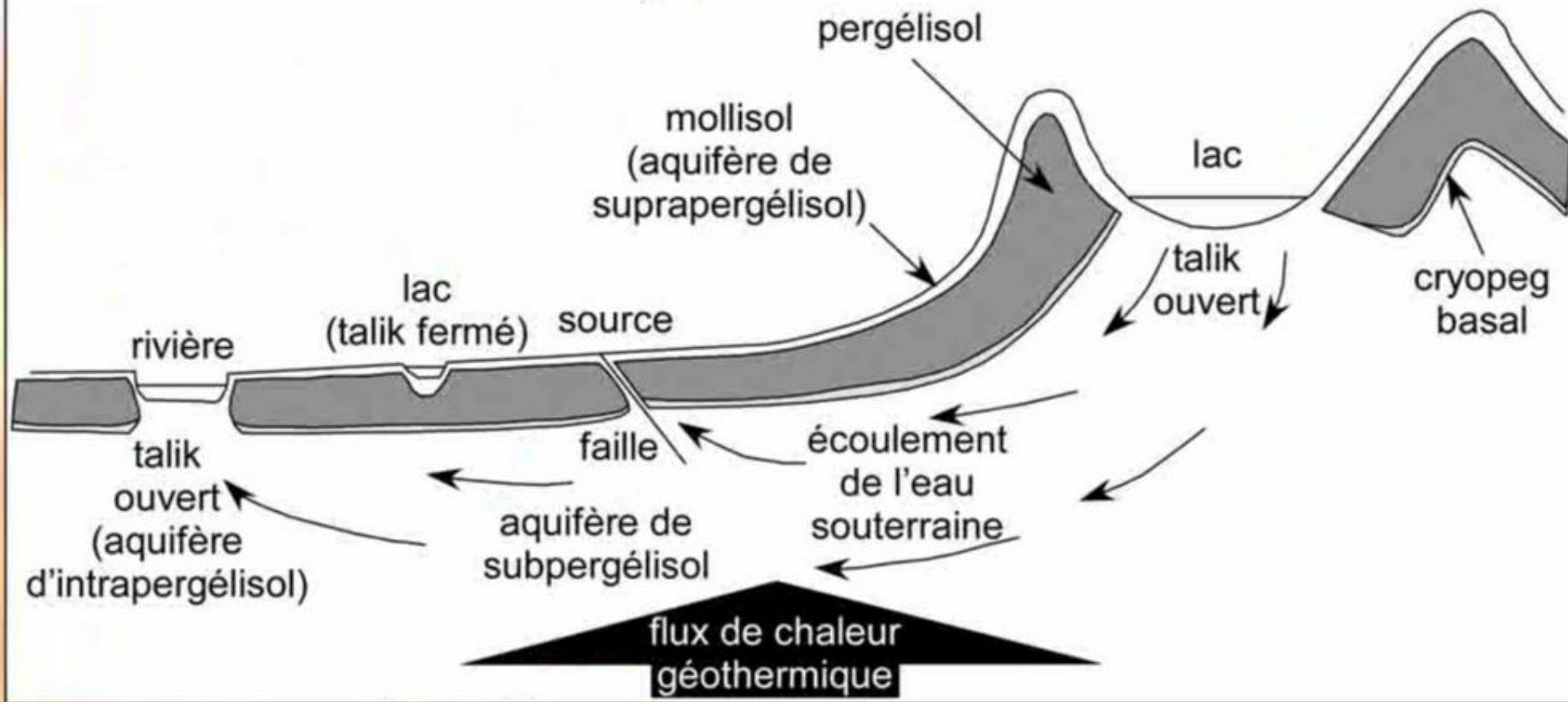
Immatsiak network location



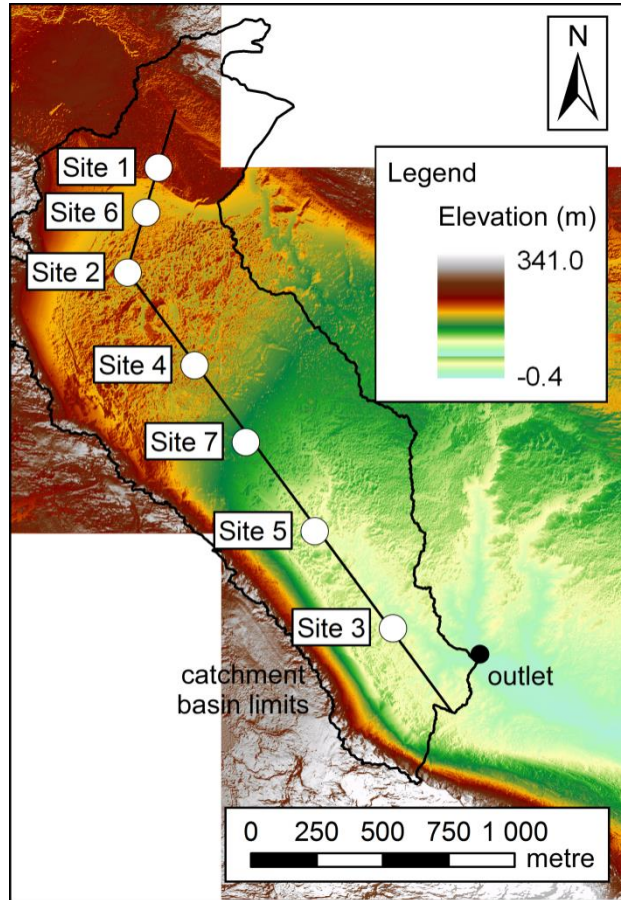
Le pergélisol: quelques concepts

(types d'aquifère en régions nordiques et talik ouvert ou fermé)

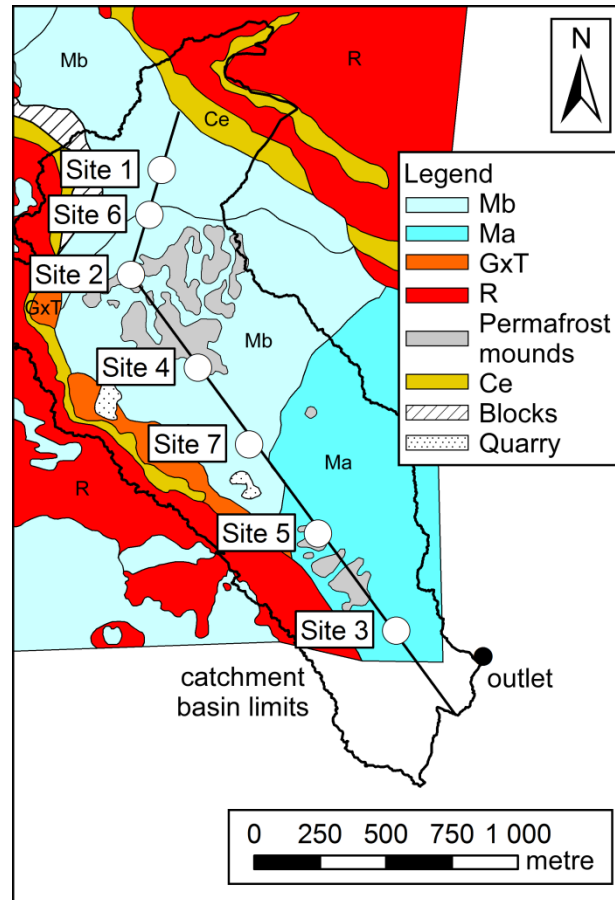
(inspiré de Haldorsen *et coll.* (1996) et van Everdingen (1990))



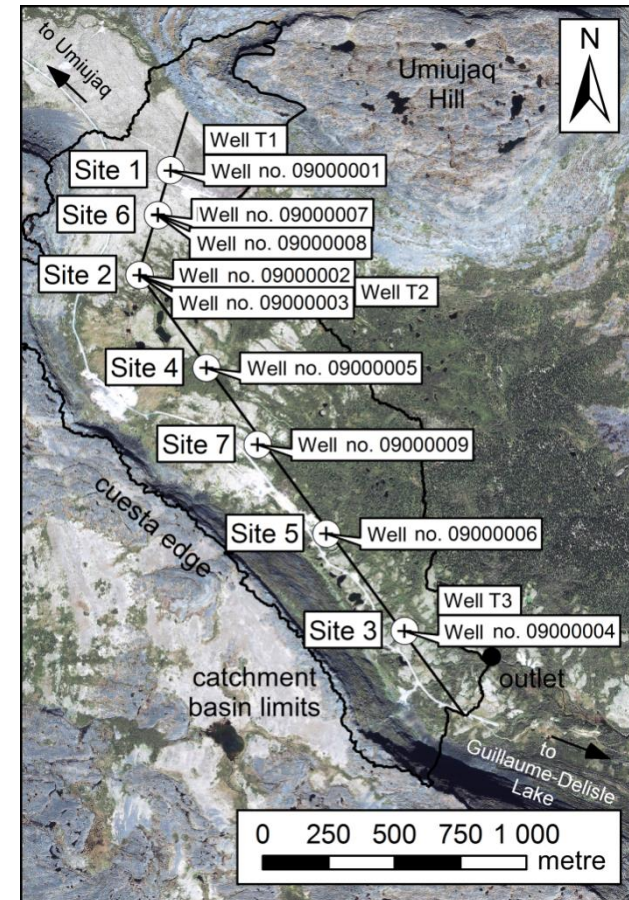
Site Description



LIDAR DEM

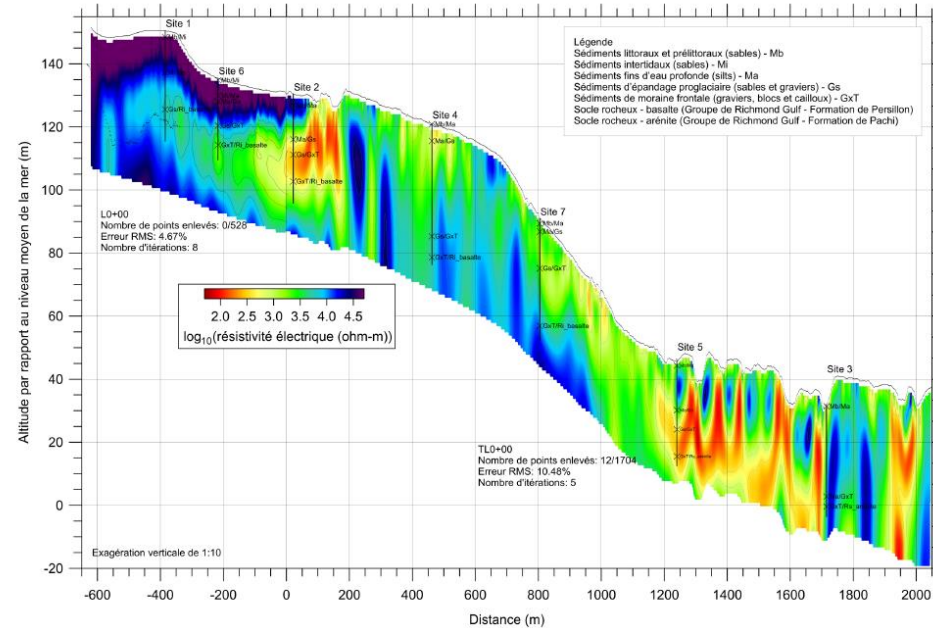


Surficial deposits



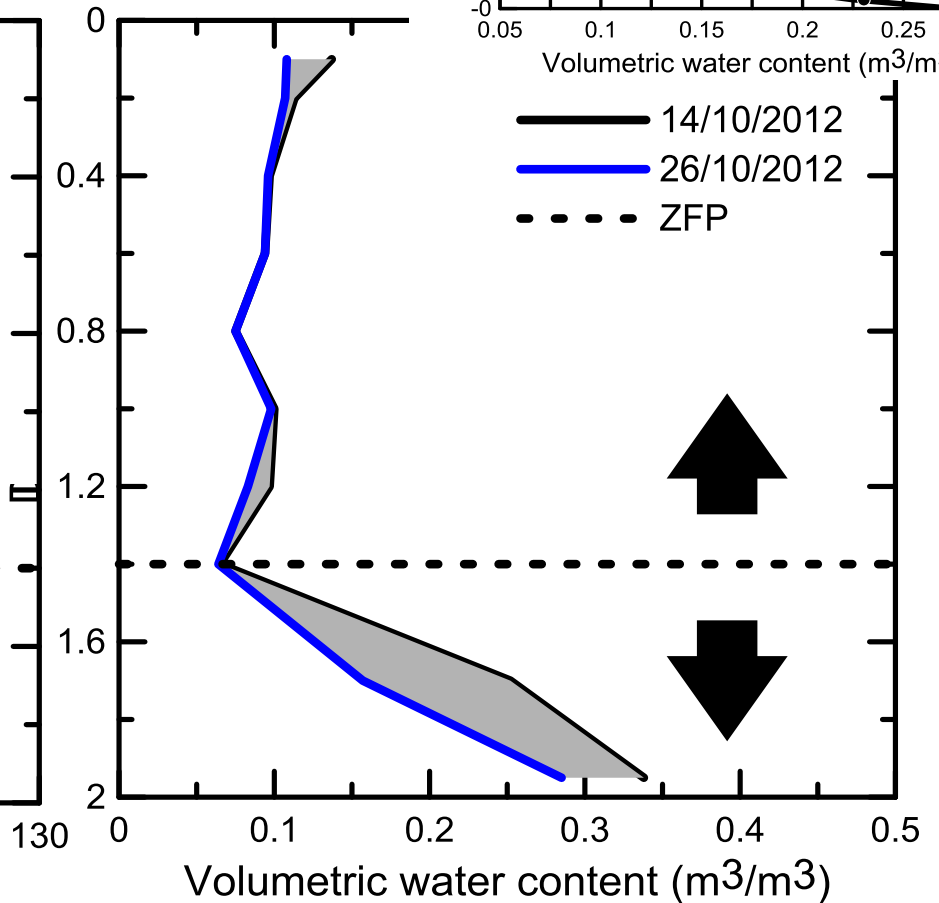
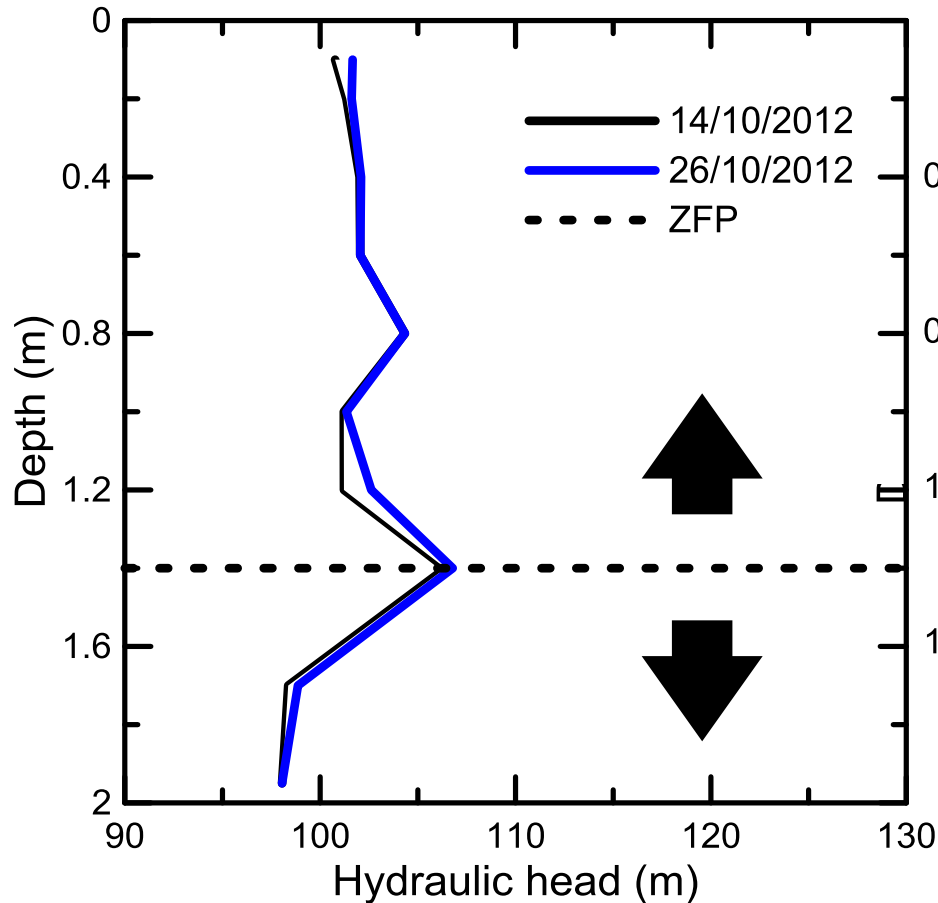
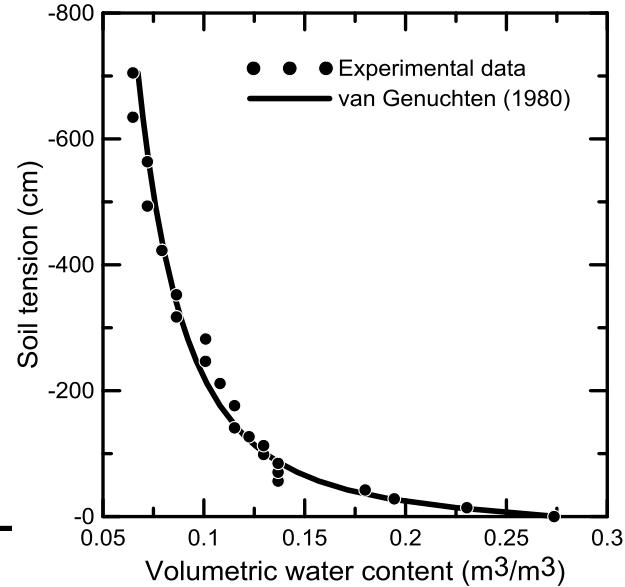
Wells location
Satellite image

Basic site investigation





Recharge: Zero flux plane method



Hydrocarbon Contamination in Fractured Rock at the Colomac Mine Site, NWT

Canada



Environment
Canada

Greg Bickerton, Dale Van Stempvoort

Environment Canada

Water Science & Technology Directorate

Burlington, Ontario



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

J. W. Molson

Canada Research Chair,

Quantitative Hydrogeology of Fractured Porous Media

Géologie & Génie Géologique

Université Laval, Quebec City



7th International Conference

***Contaminants in
Freezing Ground***

May 24-28, 2010

Kingston, Ontario, Canada

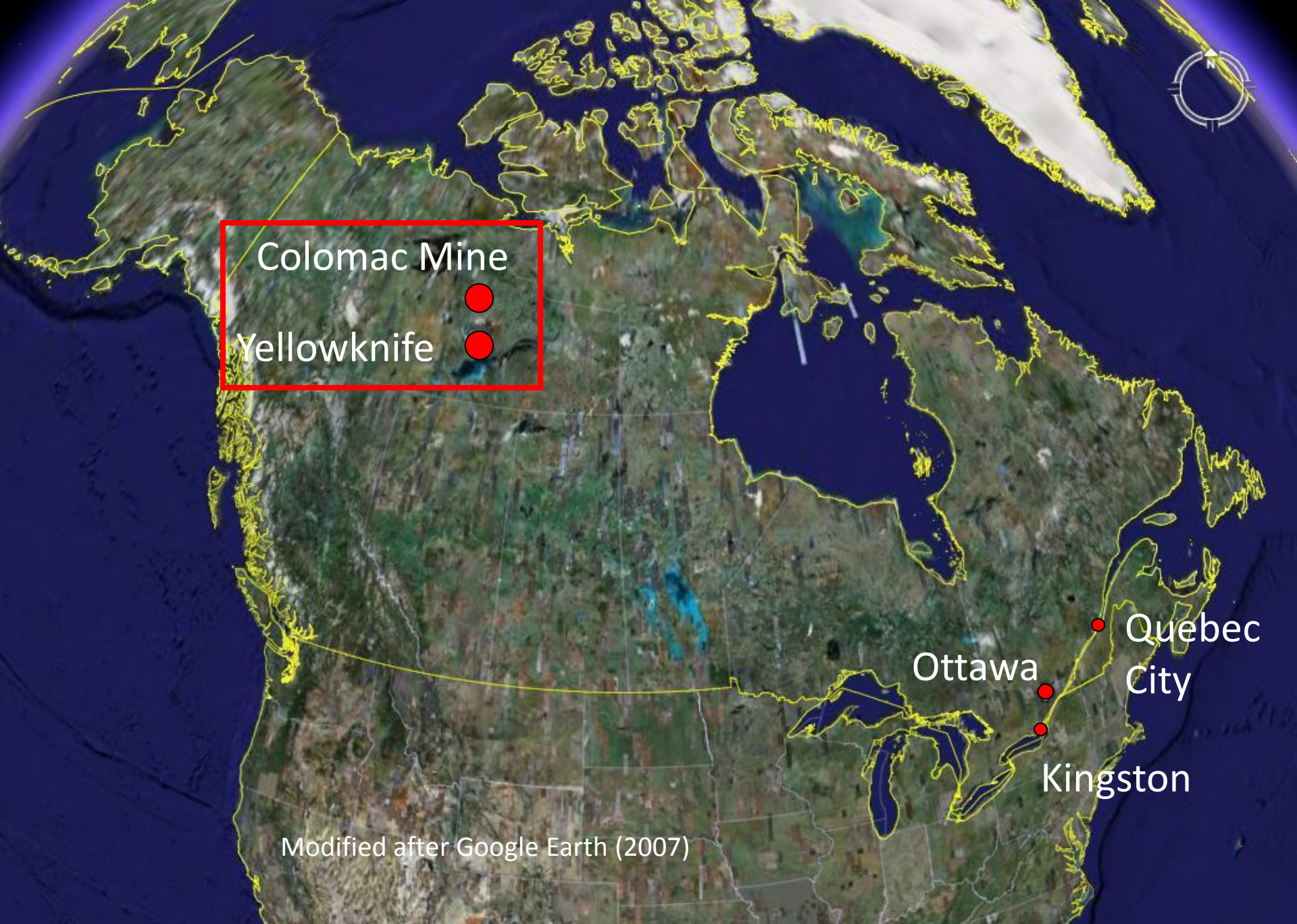


Interest in Northern Hydrogeology

- Guidance on petroleum impacts in Canadian North
- Expanding resource activity & contaminated sites legacy
- Hydrogeological knowledge gap in cold-climate regions
- Role of permafrost & seasonal active layer on groundwater



Colomac Mine (2005)



Colomac Mine ●
Yellowknife ●

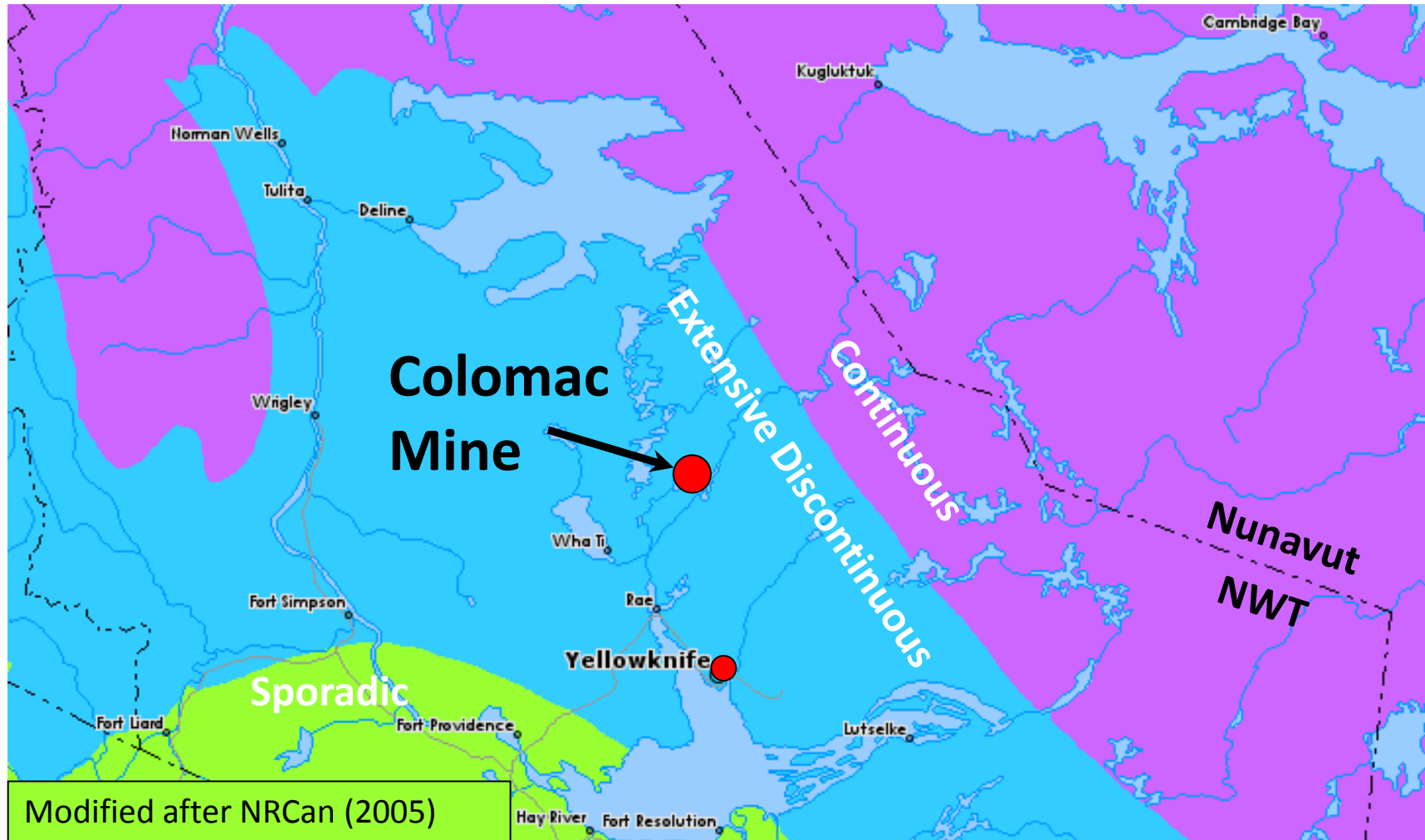
Ottawa

Quebec
City

Kingston

Modified after Google Earth (2007)

Canadian Permafrost Zones



Colomac Mine

(looking south circa 1997)

Steeves Lake

1990

4000L

Gasoline

Mill

1990

18 000L

Diesel

Study
Area

Machine Shop

Tank Farm

Free-Phase
Discharge

1997: 27 276L Diesel

Camp

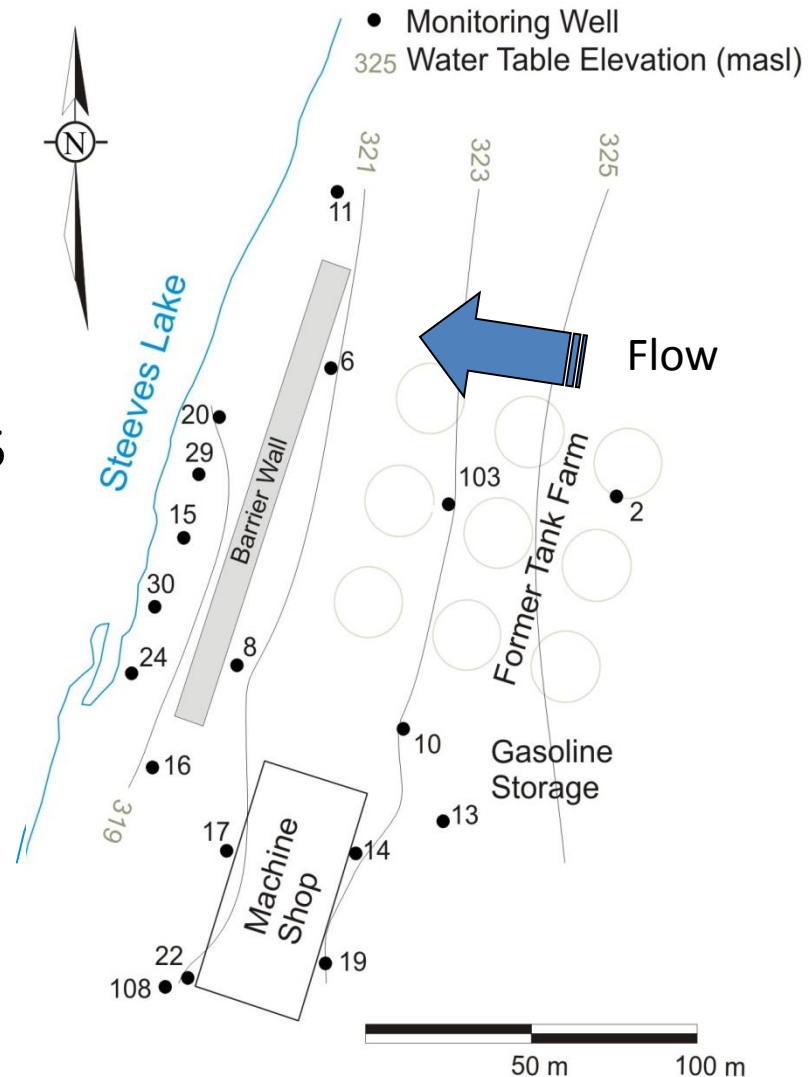
Objectives

- Characterize fractured bedrock permeability & contaminant distribution
- Document dynamics of subsurface thermal regime
- Explore geochemical evidence for intrinsic bioremediation
- Refine conceptual model of local groundwater system

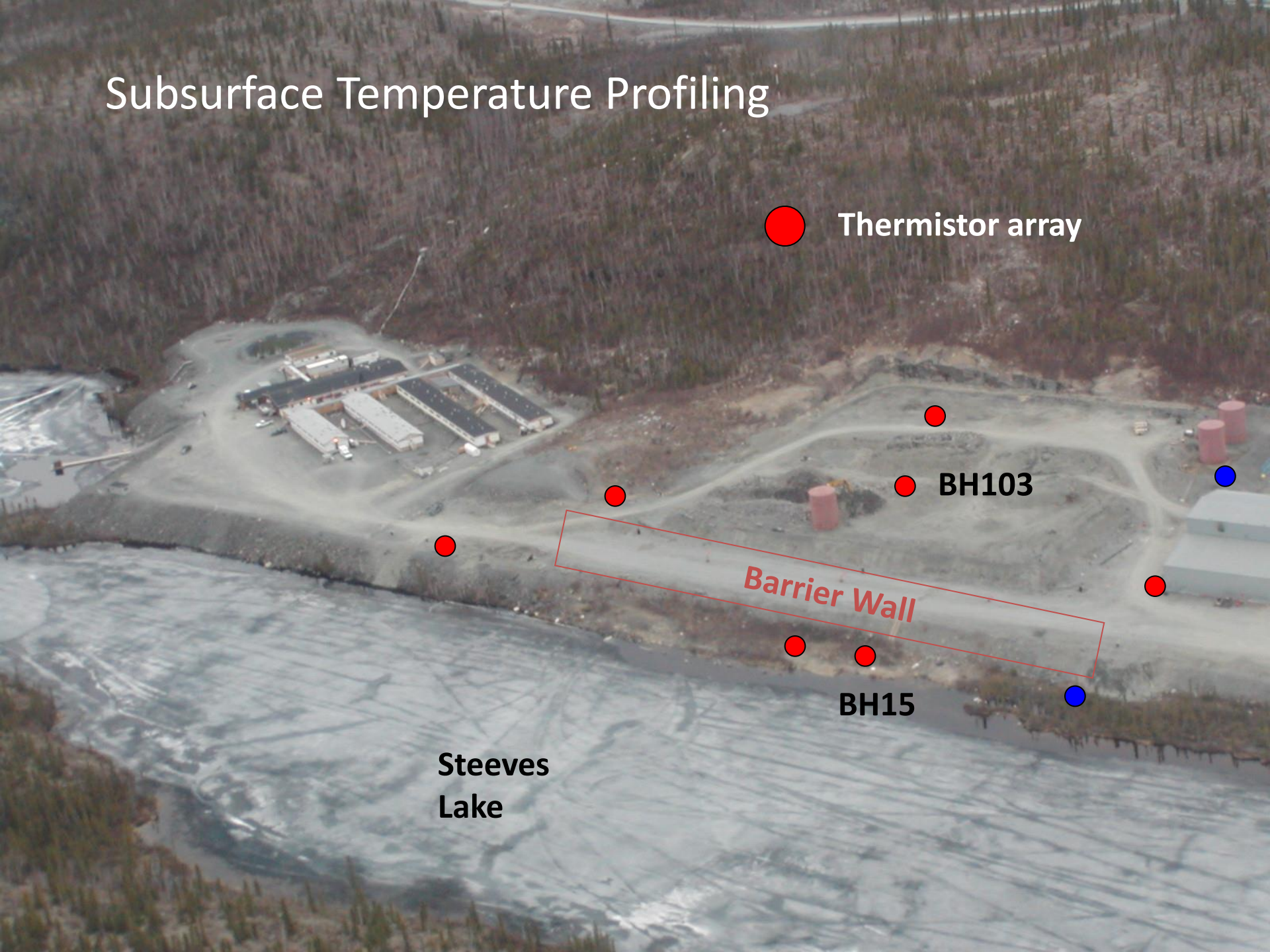


Monitoring Network

- 33 bedrock monitoring boreholes
- 10 thermistor arrays to 15 m depth
- 3 thermistor arrays at base of barrier wall



Subsurface Temperature Profiling



● Thermistor array

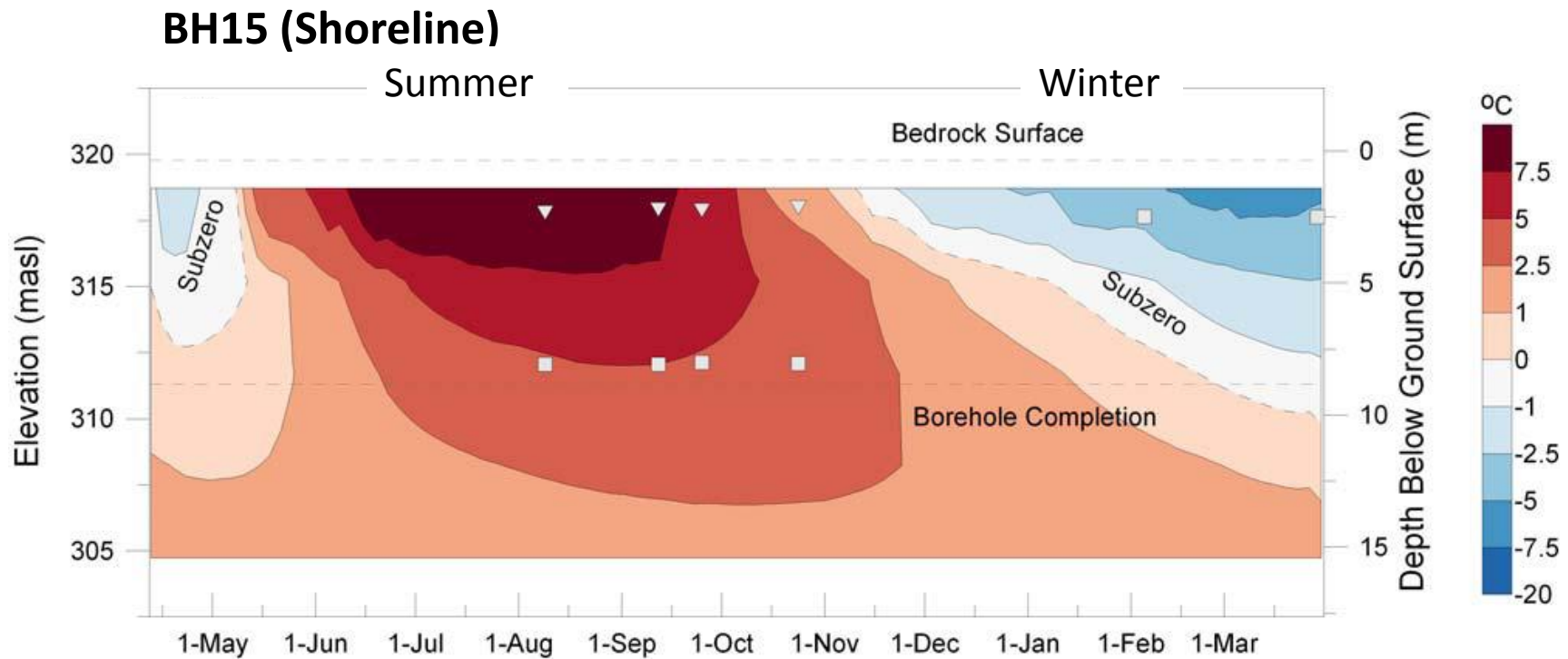
● BH103

Barrier Wall

● BH15

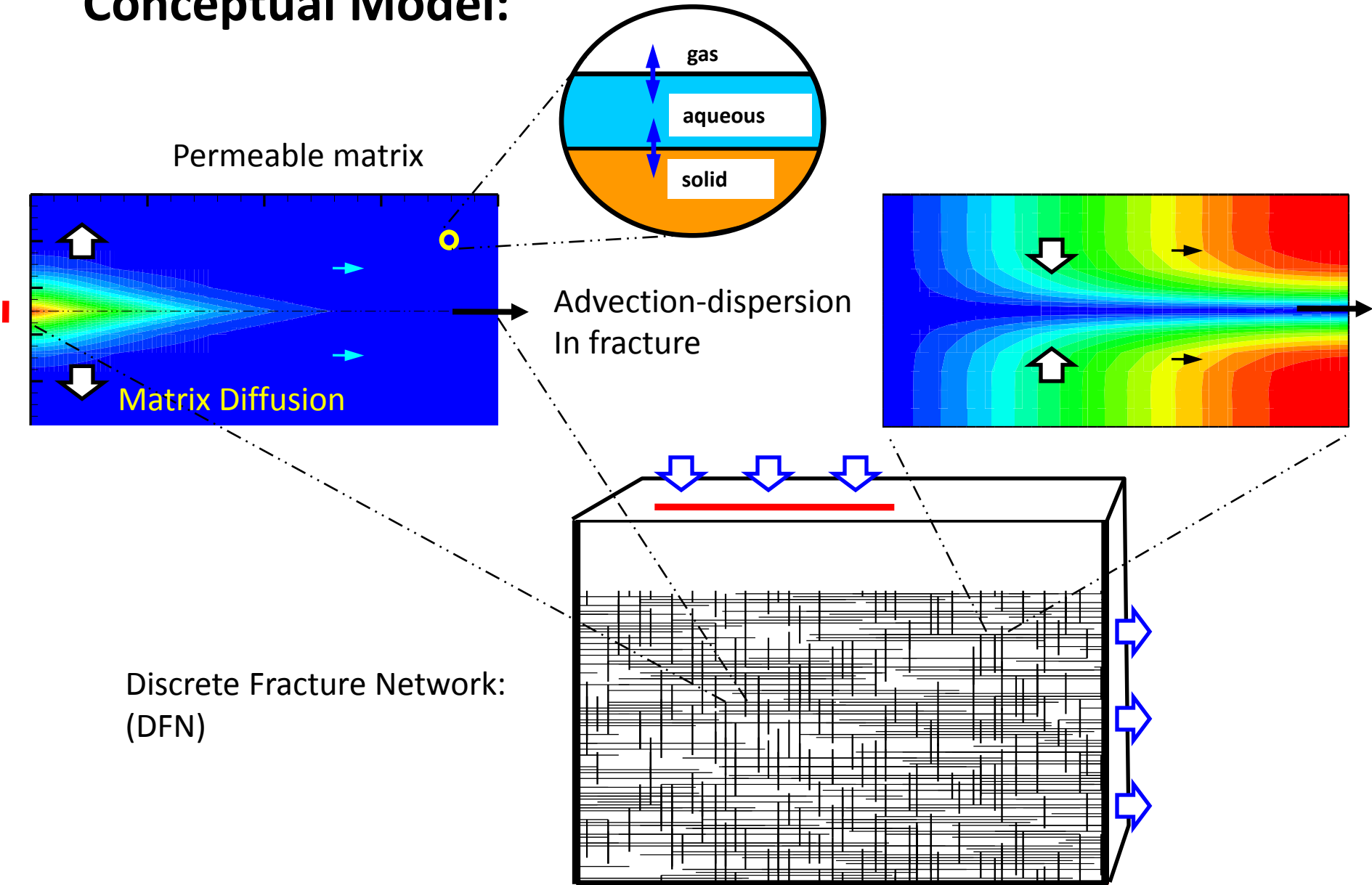
Steeves
Lake

Subsurface Temperature Profiling



April 12, 2006 to March 30, 2007

Conceptual Model:

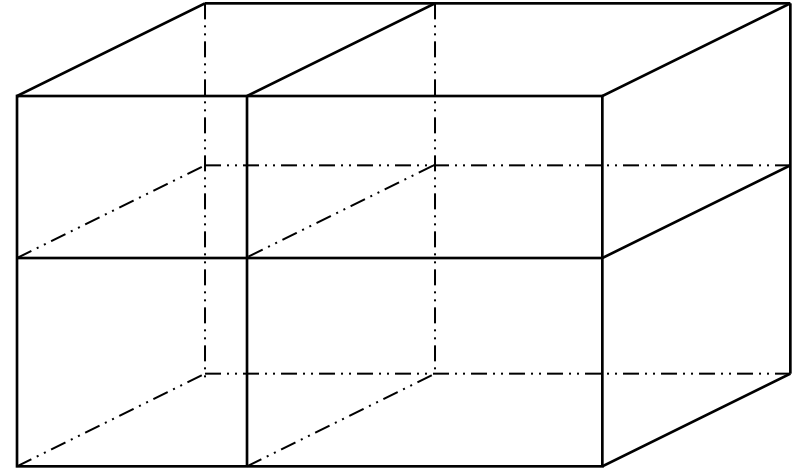


Numerical Simulation Approach:

HEATFLOW/SMOKER Model (Molson & Frind 2009)

3D Porous Matrix:

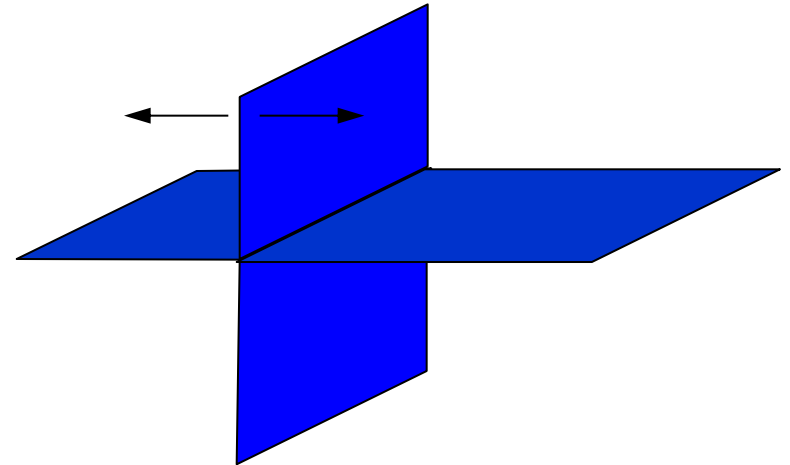
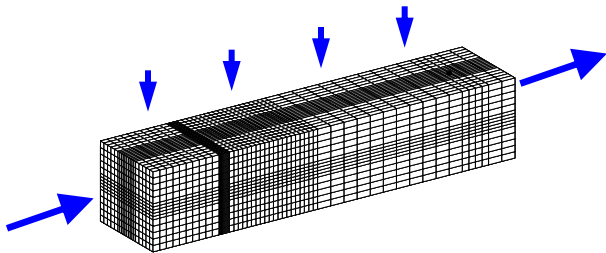
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[\left(\mathbf{K} + \frac{D_{ij}}{R} \right) \frac{\partial T}{\partial x_j} \right] - \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(\frac{v_i}{R} T \right) = \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}$$



2D Fractures:

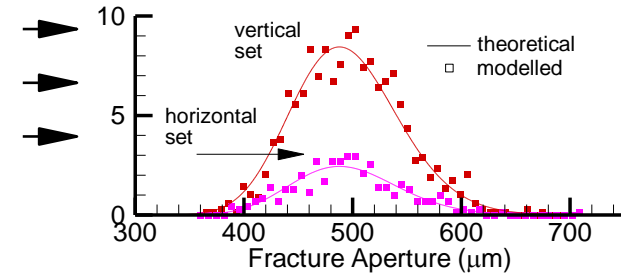
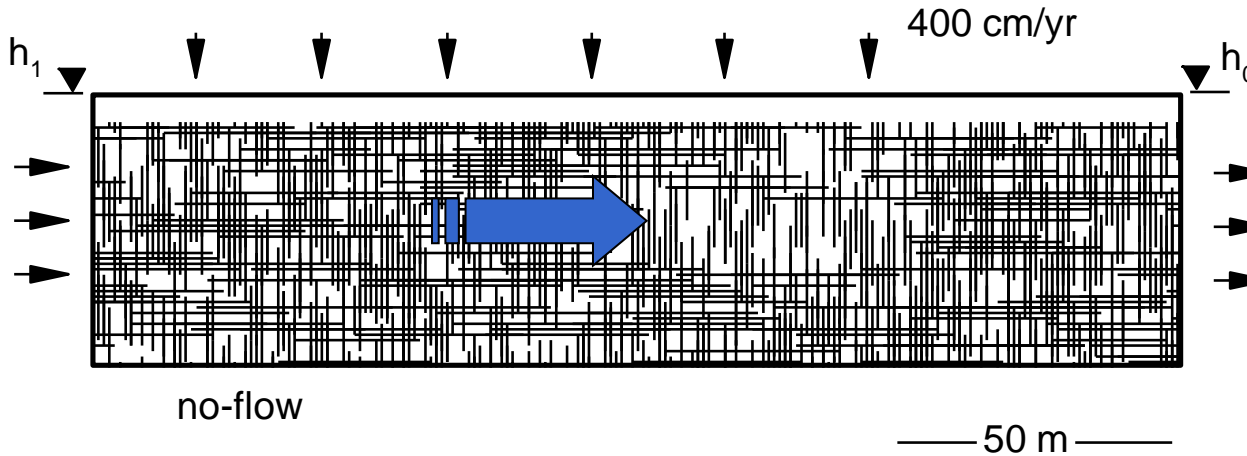
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(D'_{ij} \frac{\partial T'}{\partial x_j} \right) - \bar{v}_i \frac{\partial T'}{\partial x_i} - \frac{D'_{ij}}{b} \left[\frac{\partial T'}{\partial z} \right]_{z=\pm b} = \frac{\partial T'}{\partial t}$$

Fracture velocities: $\bar{v} = \frac{-(2b)^2}{12\mu} \rho g \nabla h$

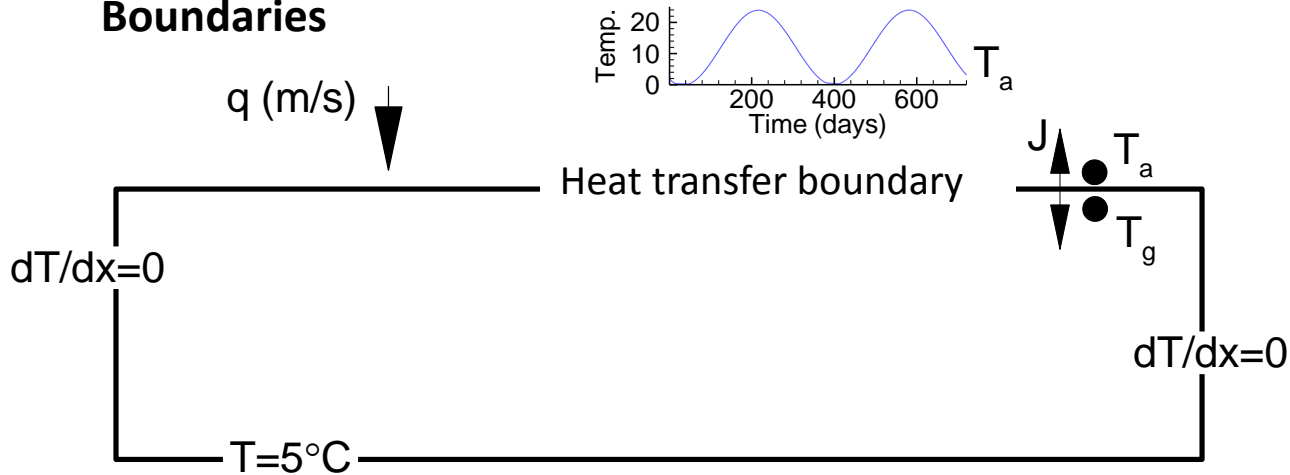


Natural Thermal Source Model

Flow Boundaries:

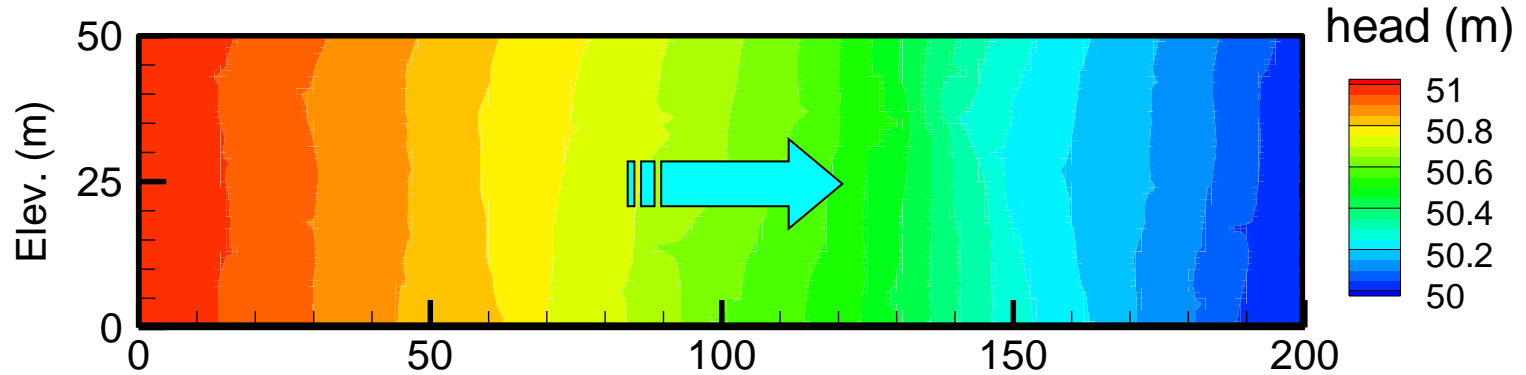


Thermal Transport Boundaries

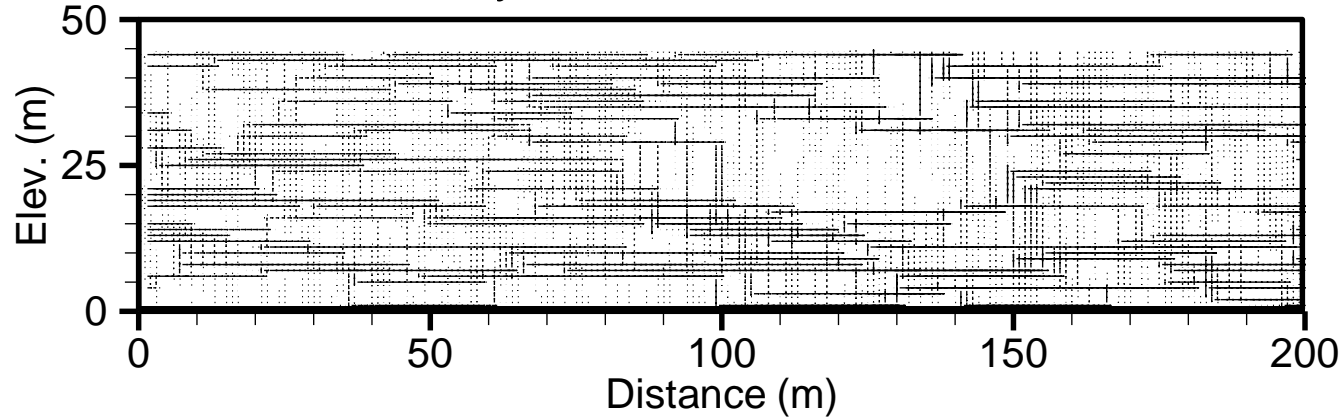


Flow Simulation

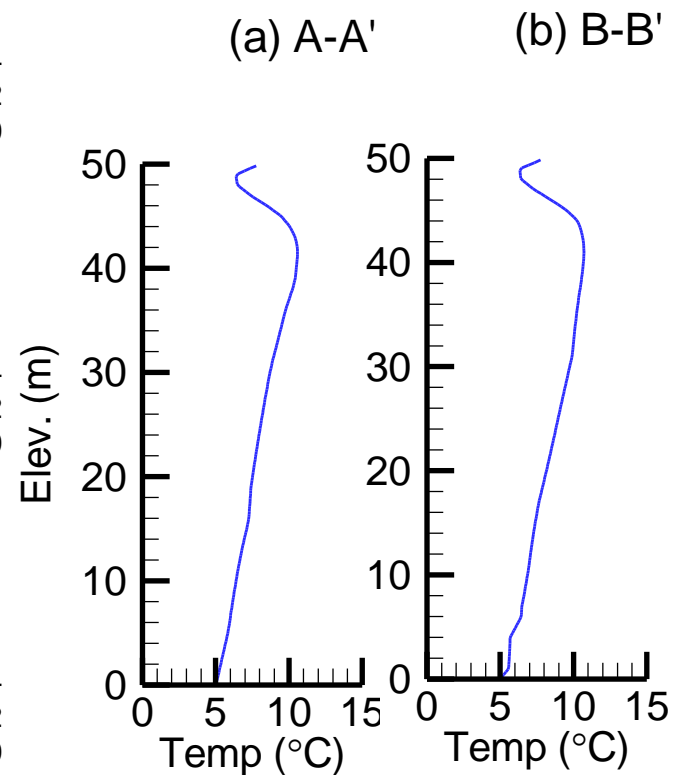
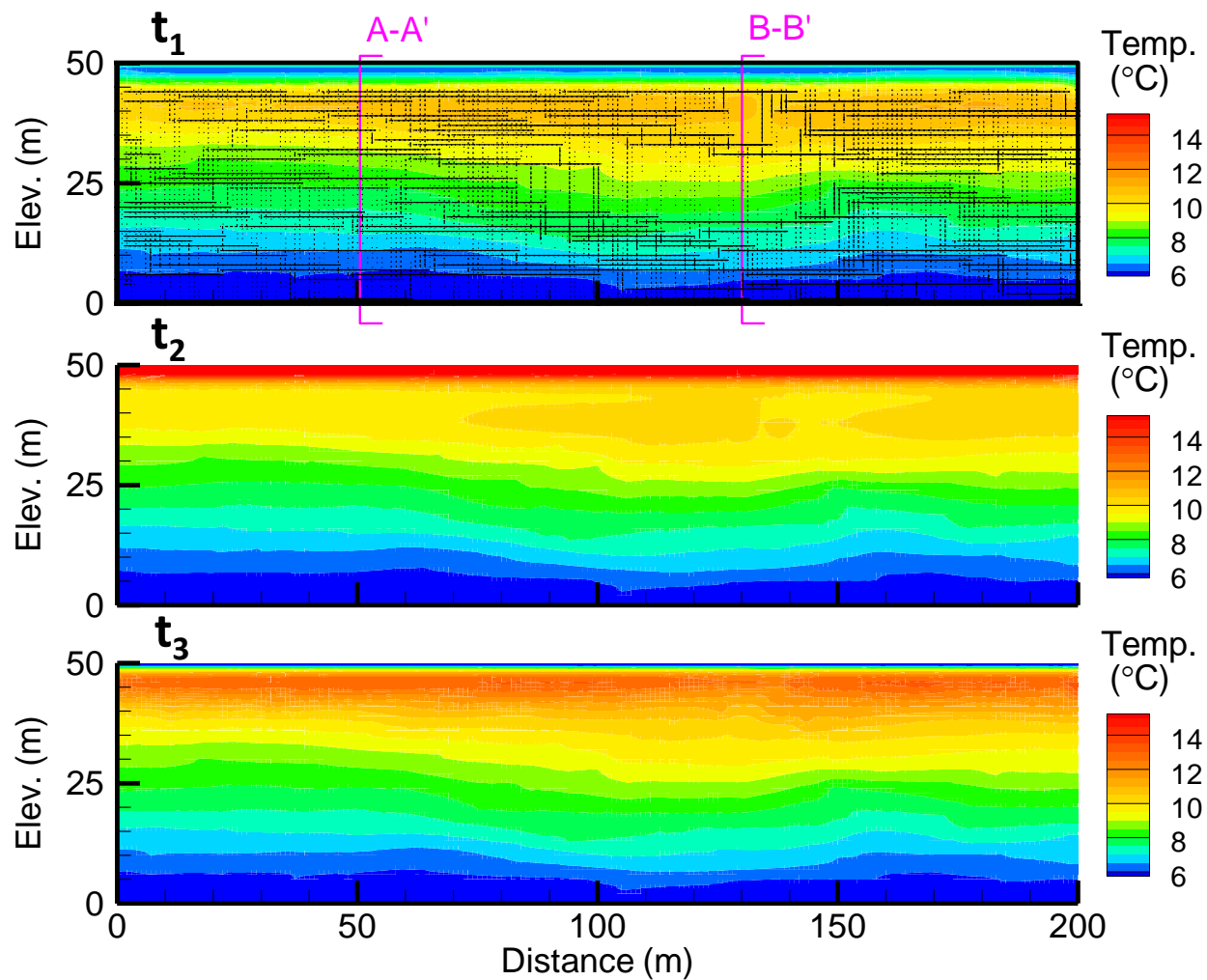
Steady State Hydraulic Head



Fracture Velocity Field

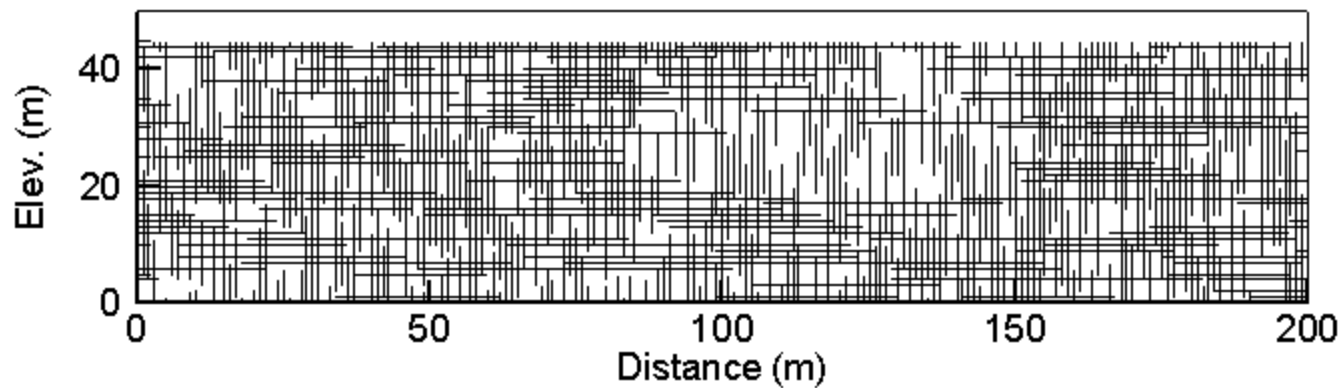


Simulated Temperature Distributions ($2b=500\mu\text{m}$)



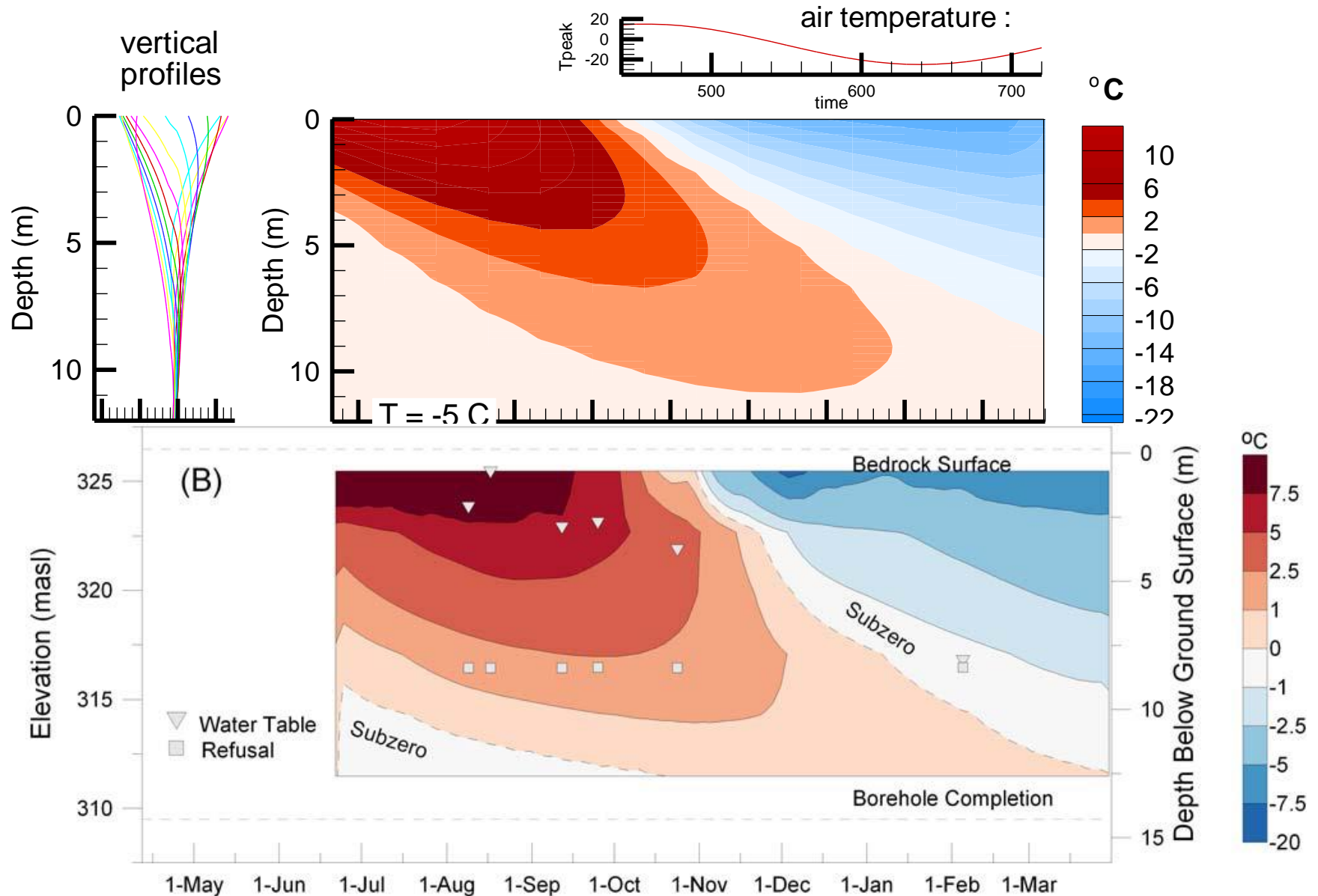
Heatflow Simulation:
Surface Temperature Source

0.00 days_ 's



Simulated Subsurface Temperature Profiles

Heatflow model (Molson & Frind, 2009)

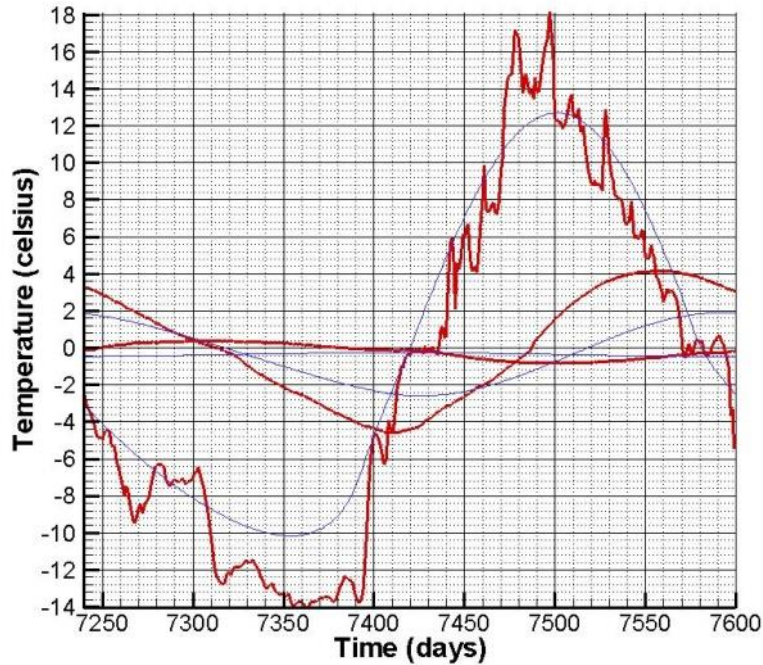


Simulated temperature profiles: Colomac site

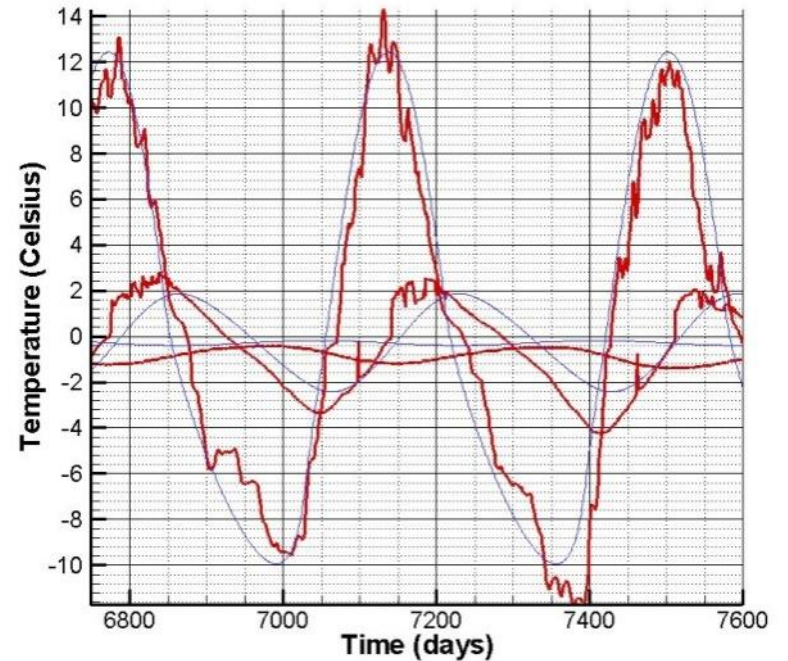
Conduction only, no flow

— Observed
— Simulated

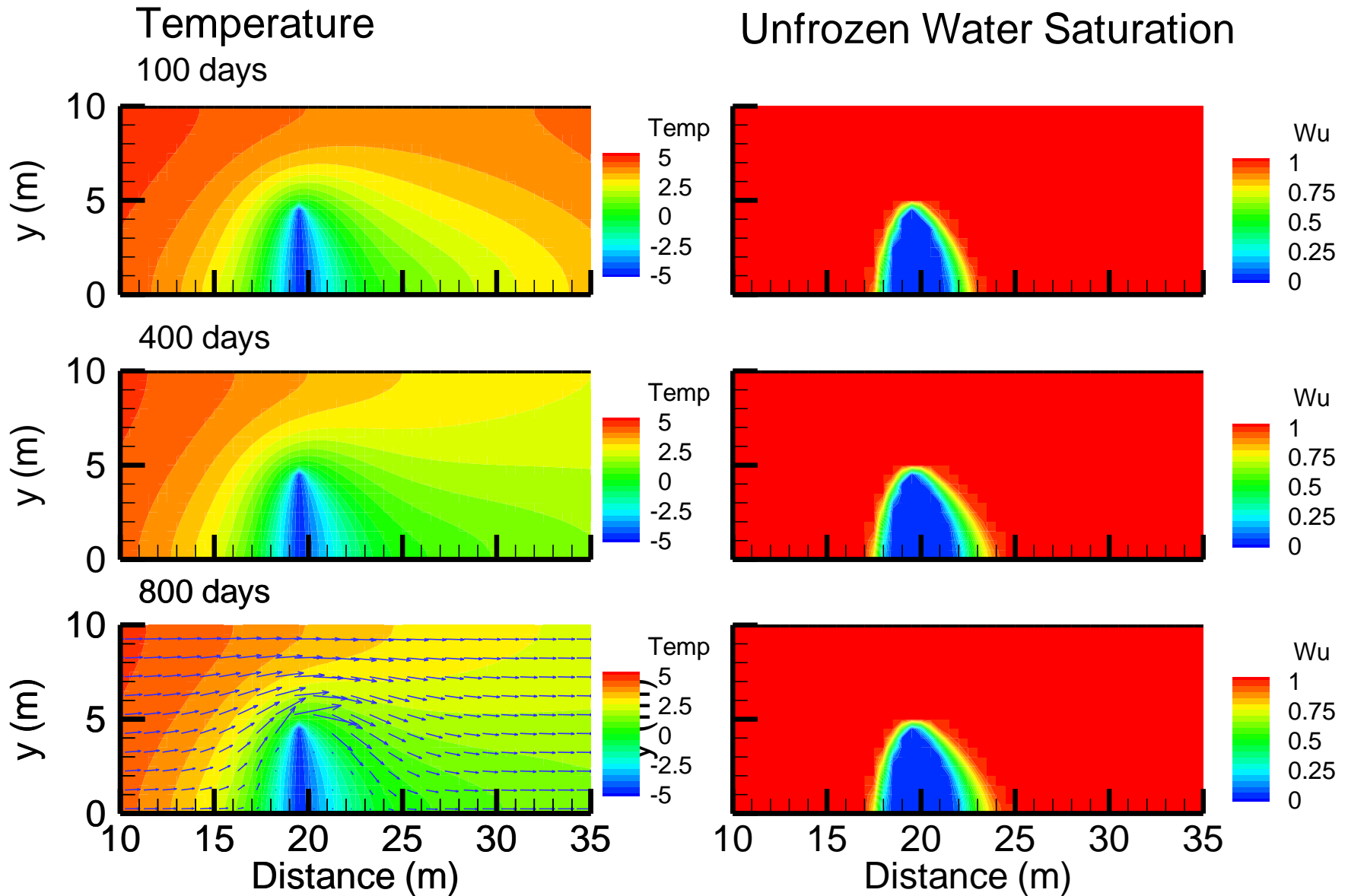
Well 2



Well 13

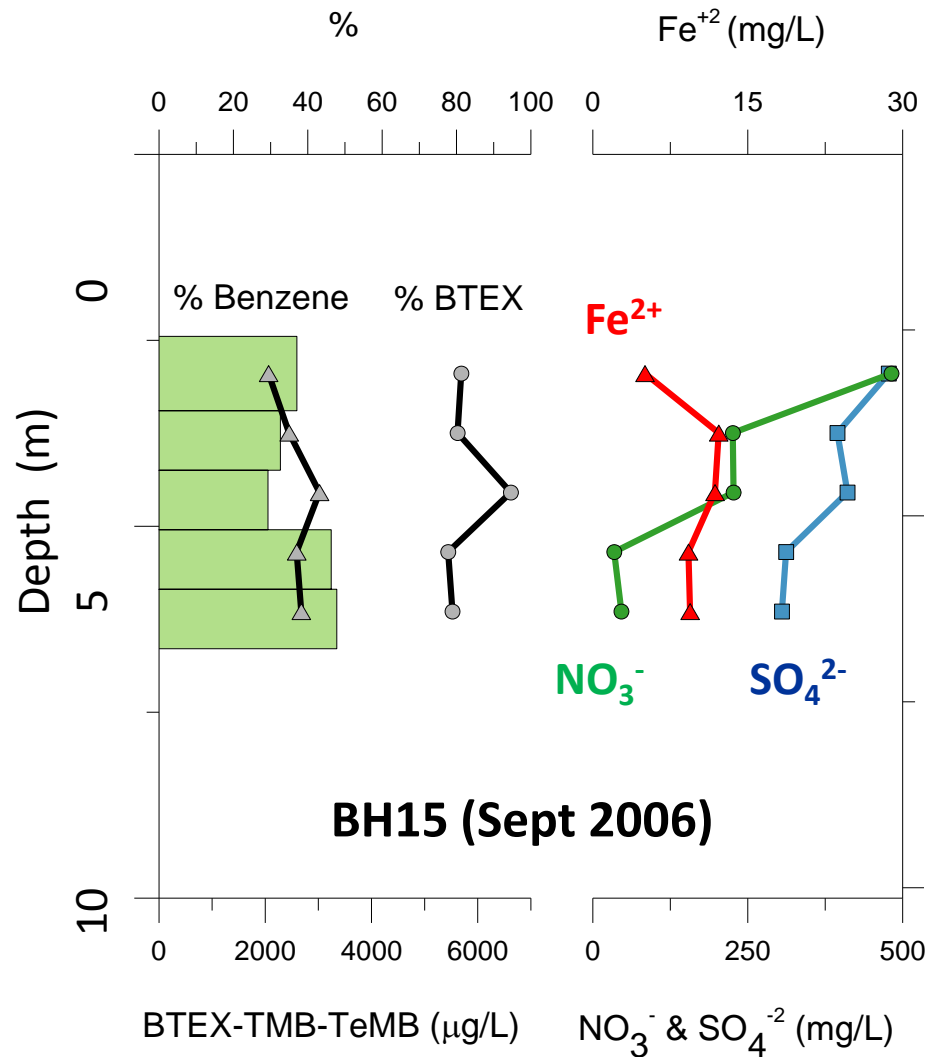


HEATFLOW Model: 3D Ice Wall Numerical Simulation



Groundwater Geochemistry

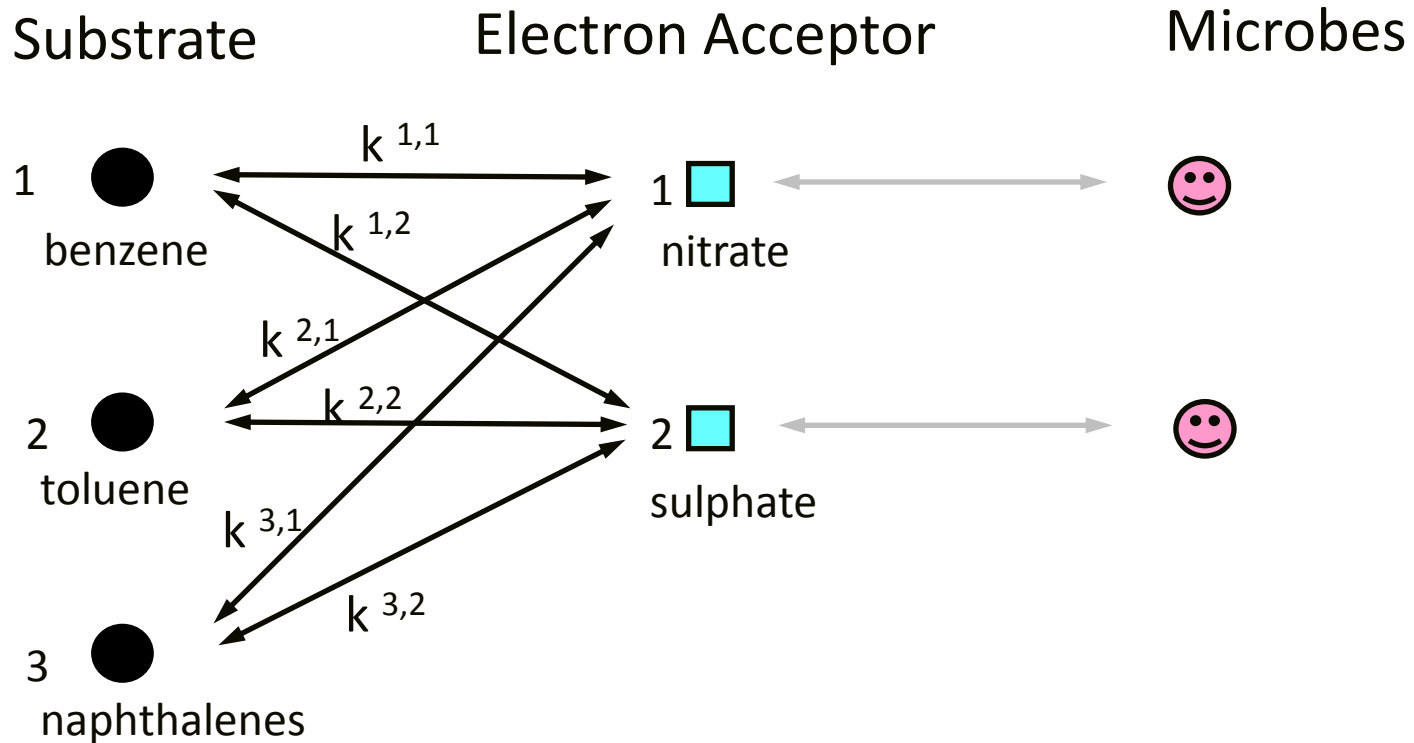
- Discrete samples from features identified in permeability profiling
- Petroleum impacts in most wells
- Uniform inorganic chemistry observed
- Volatile fatty acids suggest intrinsic bioremediation occurring

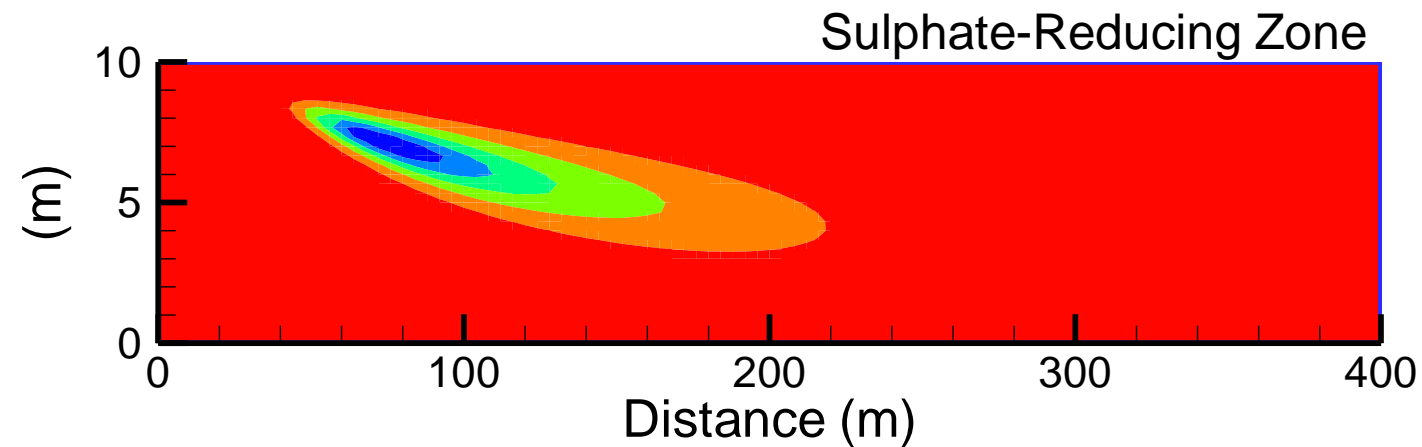
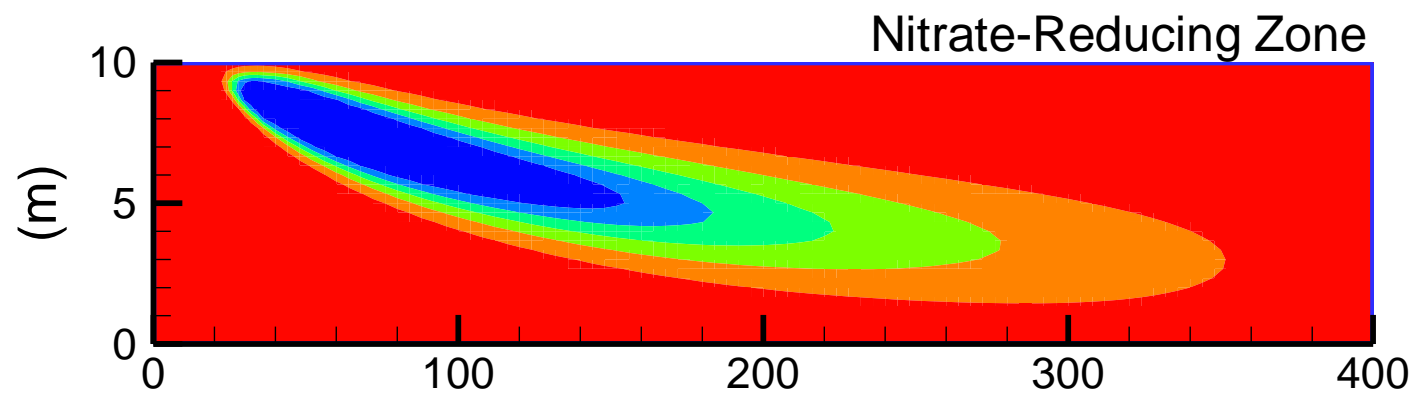
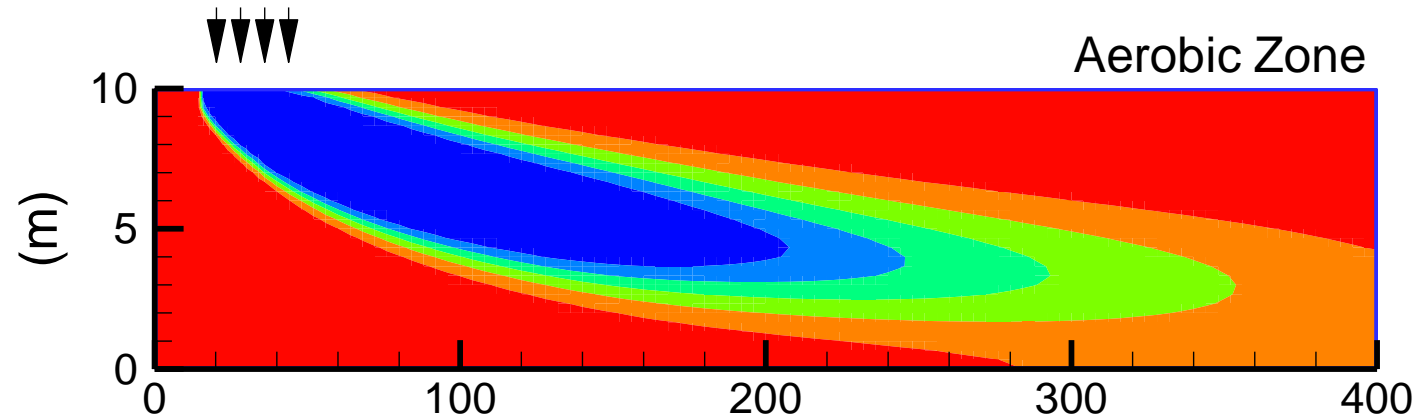


Substrate/Electron Acceptor/Microbe Coupling

BIONAPL / 3D

$$\frac{\partial C^\alpha}{\partial t} R = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left[D_{ij} \frac{\partial C^\alpha}{\partial x_j} \right] - v_i \frac{\partial C^\alpha}{\partial x_i} + \lambda_{DIS}^\alpha (C_S - C^\alpha) - \lambda_{BIO}^\alpha C^\alpha$$



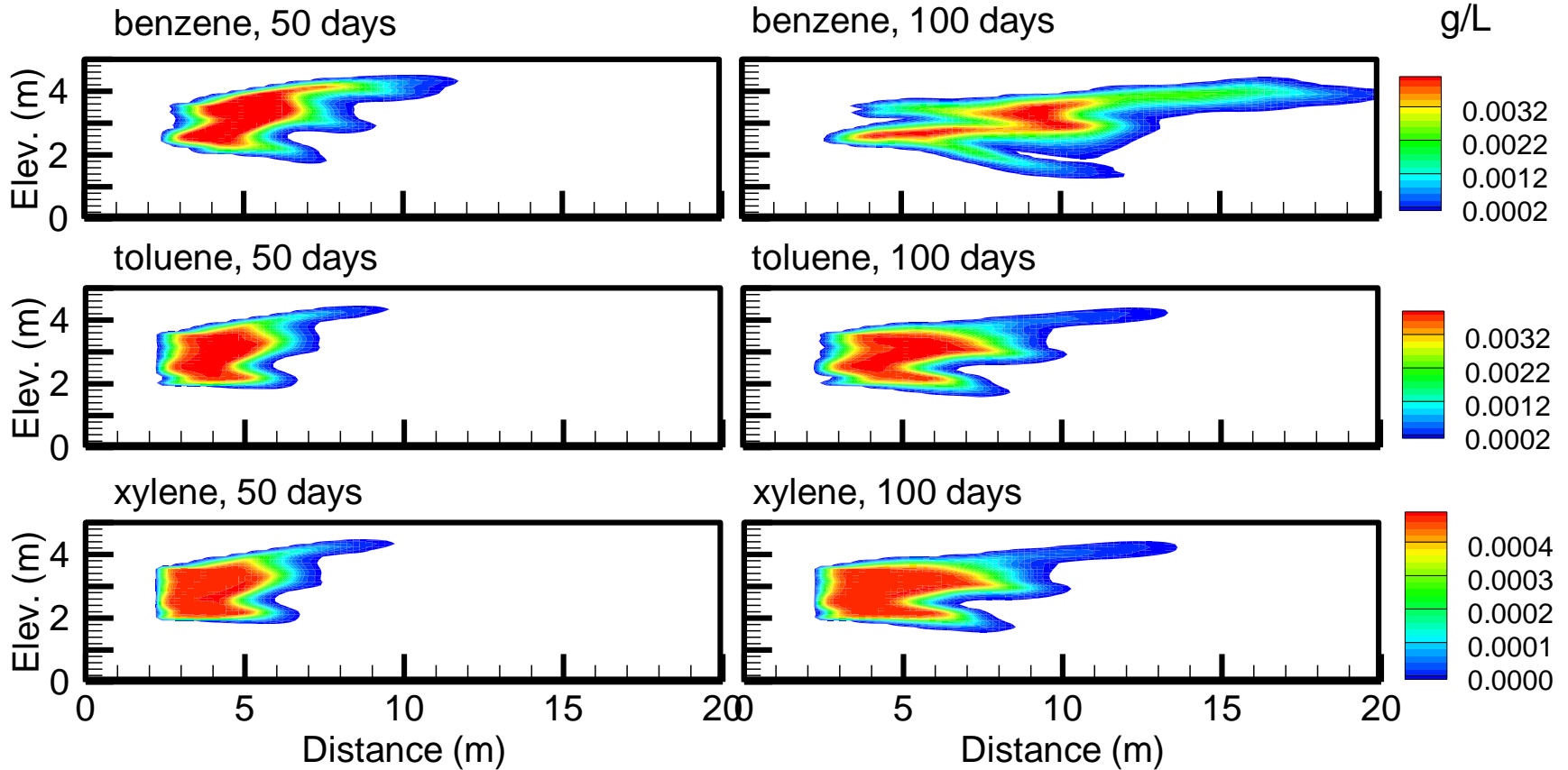


Simulated Gasoline Spill

Heterogeneous Porous medium: Realization 5

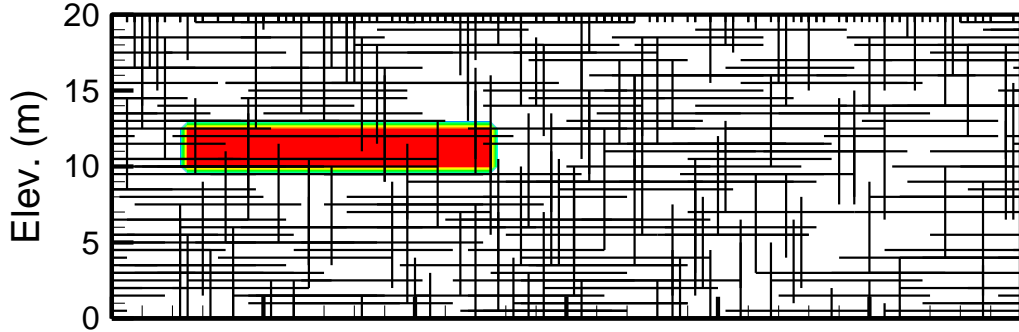
50 days

100 days

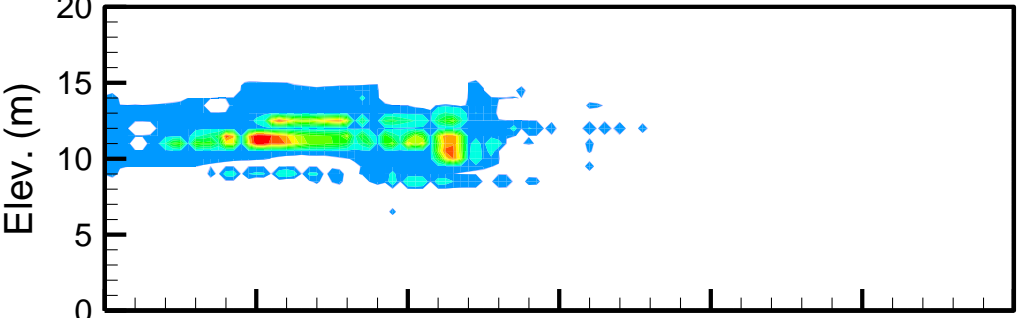


Simulated Gasoline Spill Fractured Porous Medium

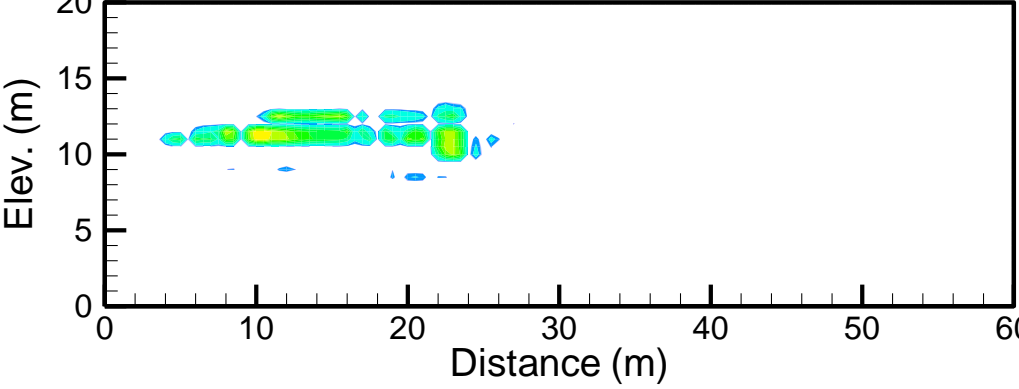
Initial Condition + Fracture Network



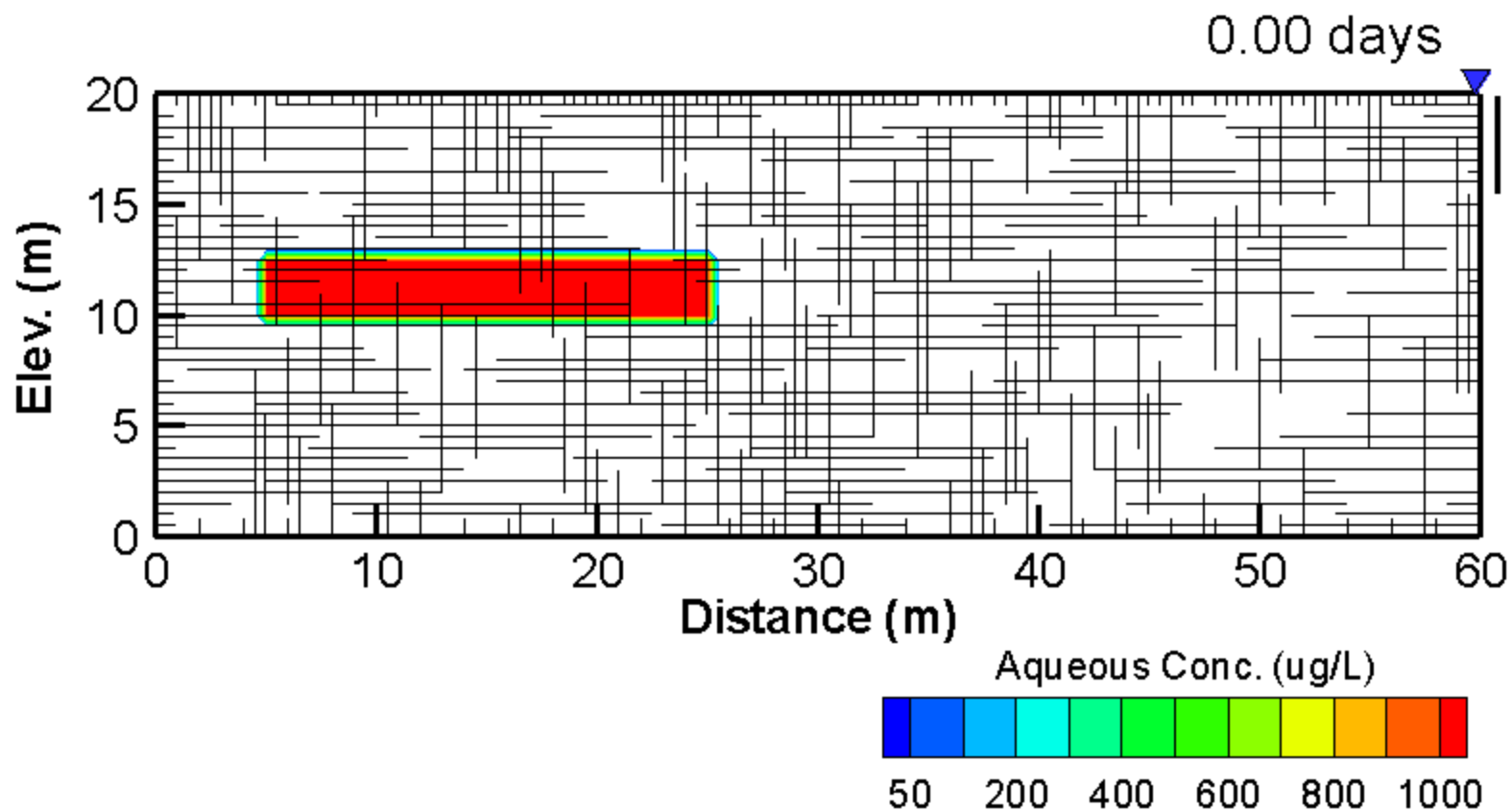
250 days, no degradation



250 days, half-life=500 days

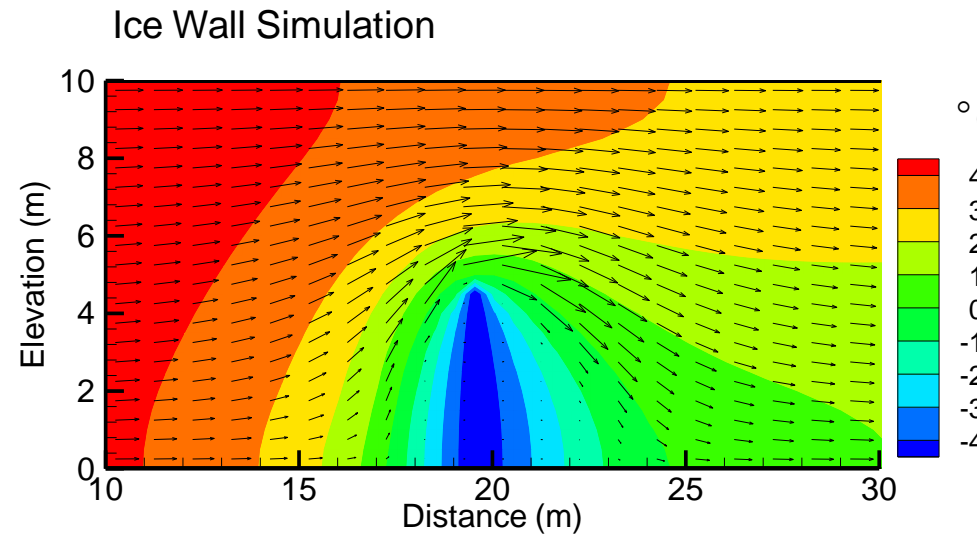


Colomac Conceptual Model:
Aqueous Phase Petroleum Hydrocarbons



Summary

- Seasonal dimension to groundwater system but deeper portions always active
- Absence of permafrost above 15 m depth
- Indicators of intrinsic bioremediation present



Colomac Mine (2007)

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