

# SCA 2020 Webinar Conference

September 23, 2020

- > Big Data From Core - A New Era in Core Analysis

**THE SOCIETY OF  
CORE ANALYSTS**

A chapter of the SPWLA

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Core Specialist Services

<http://www.core-specialist-services.com/>

SCA Industrial Relations Liaison

SPWLA European Director

SPE Reservoir Technical Discipline's Advisory Committee - Reservoir  
Technology of the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century, sub-committee Core Analysis



# What can be measured?

## Data Analysis?

## Applications?

A whistle-stop tour!

**STATEMENT**

Micro & Nano CT, Network Modelling and Digital Rock Physics (DRP / DRA) not covered but the methods described herein would be highly effective for DRP sample selection

# History of Core Logging

## **New techniques in sediment core analysis: an introduction**

R. GUY ROTHWELL<sup>1</sup> & FRANK R. RACK<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*National Oceanography Centre, Empress Dock, Southampton SO14 3ZH, UK  
(e-mail: rgr@noc.soton.ac.uk)*

<sup>2</sup>*Joint Oceanographic Institutions, 1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 400,  
Washington, DC 20005, USA*

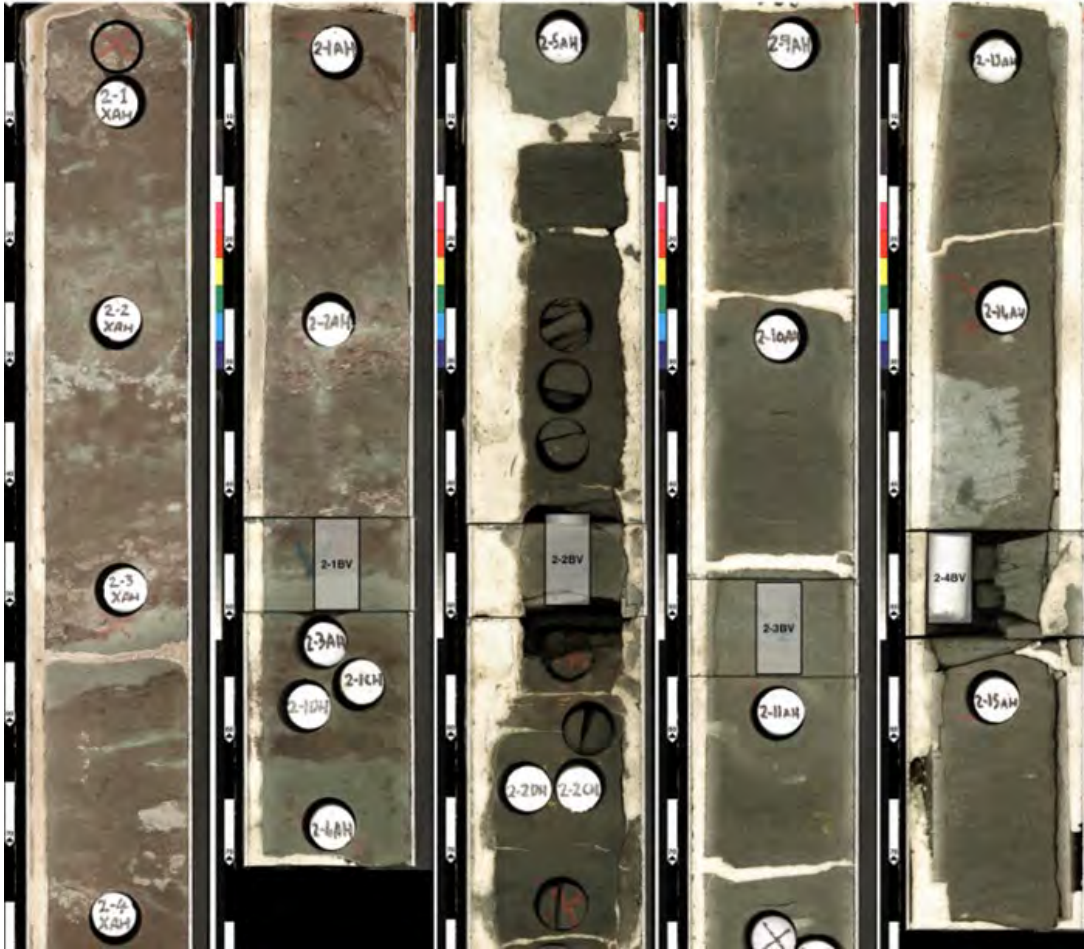
First recorded sediment recovered from the deep sea - 'fine soft blue clay' was sampled in 1773 by Captain John Phipps on HMS Racehorse in 1250m water depth on the southern margin of the Voring Plateau north of Norway.

Advanced core logging methodologies developed starting in the 1980's (began in 1940's as per oil industry)

Developed completely independent of oil industry – multi-sensor core loggers have become industry standard

*From: ROTHWELL, R.G. 2006. New Techniques in Sediment Core Analysis. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 267, 1–29. 0305-8719/06/\$15.00 © The Geological Society of London 2006.*

# Core analysis standard practice



Industry standard practice for “routine analysis”:

- Cut core plug every 25 cm or 1 ft. – in “reservoir rock”
- May measure “saturation of fluids” in “fresh” state
- Measure porosity, permeability and matrix density in “clean” condition
- OK in “homogeneous” rock (large scale beds)
- Finely bedded formations poorly characterised
- Value in “consistent” practice
- Reservoir model “scale” is >> core plug

# Core analysis – capturing heterogeneity?



White Light Photograph

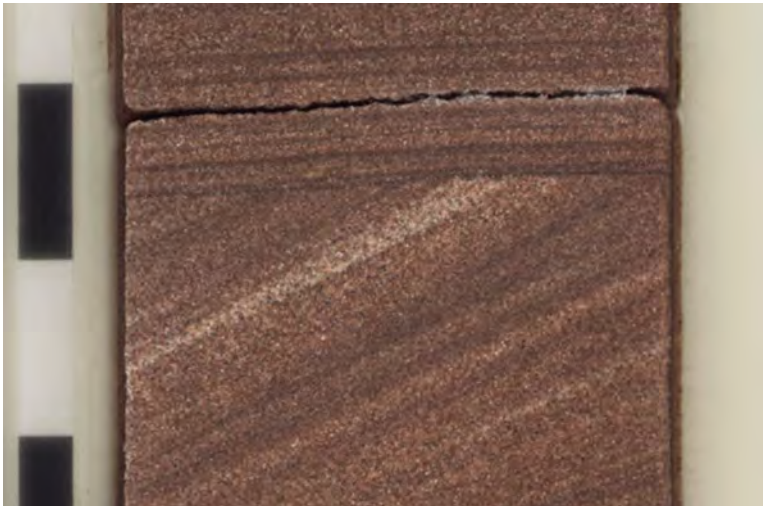


Approaches to heterogeneous rock:

- Whole core analysis

“Continuous” core data = higher resolution than 1 ft or 25 cm?

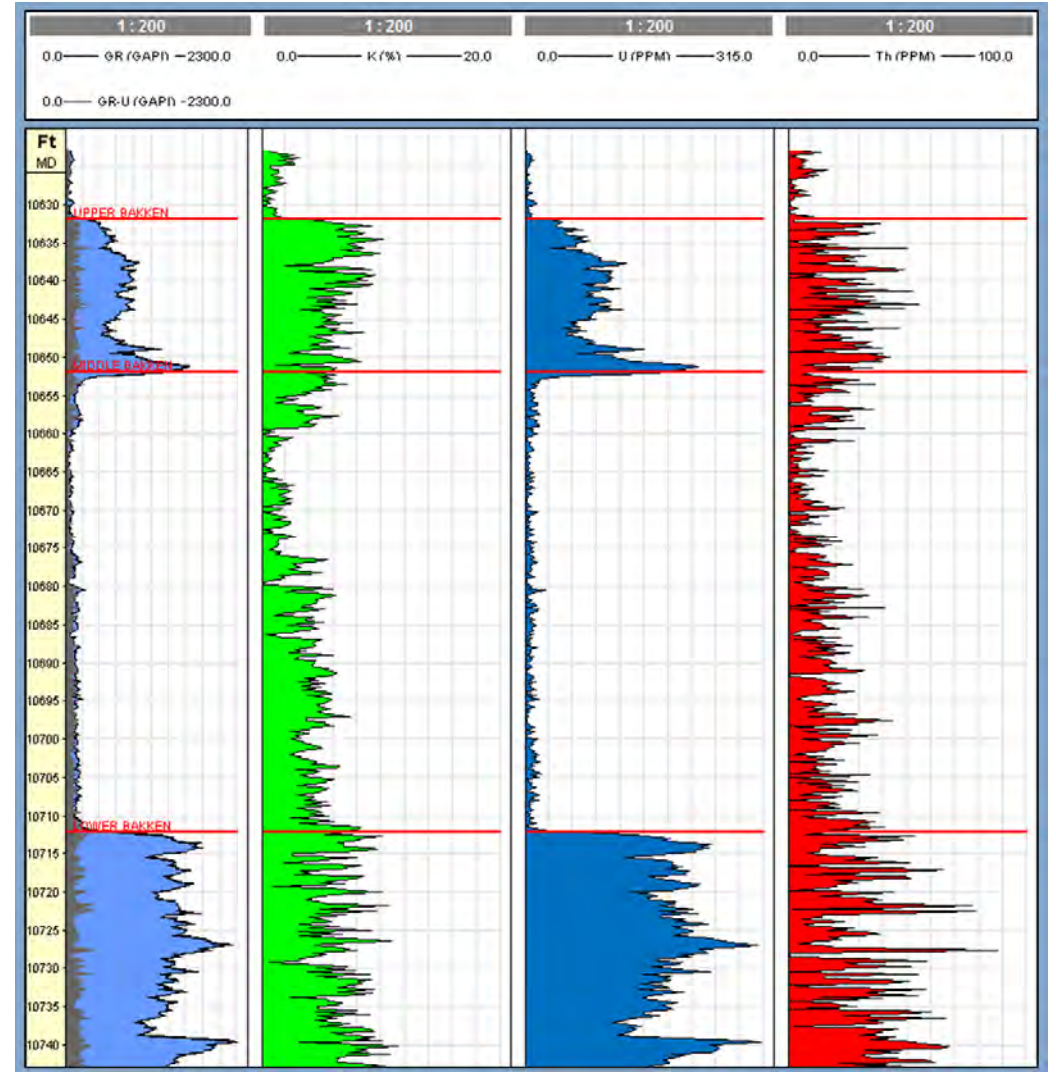
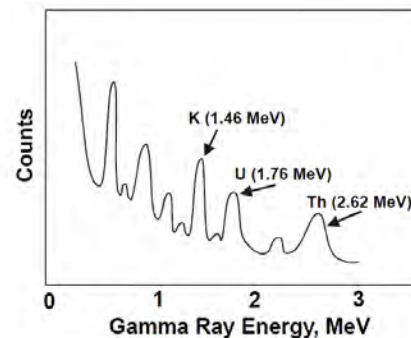
- Attempt to “capture” or “characterise” heterogeneity
- Core gamma – long established procedure (main application to establish core – log depth shift)
- Probe permeability
- High resolution core imaging
- Currently many more options



# Continuous Data - Core Gamma



- First “continuous” core data
- In use since 1940’s
- Core to log depth shifts
- Lithology discrimination
- Spectral core gamma



# Permeability – Well Quantified from Plugs?



- Core plug measurements at 1 per ft (25 cm) – may not fully characterise the level of permeability heterogeneity – especially in laminated formations
- Hurst and Rosvoll <sup>1</sup> – proposed method to determine minimum number of measurements ( $N_o$ ) to determine Arithmetic Mean Permeability  $\pm 20\%$
- Reducing the tolerances – unrealistic number of measurements
- Calculate coefficient of variation,

$$Cv = \text{Standard Deviation} / \text{Arithmetic Average}$$

$$N_o = 100 Cv^2$$

# Permeability vs. Heterogeneity

- Based upon Cv **Corbett and Jensen** proposed heterogeneity classes:
  - **0 - < 0.5 Homogeneous**
  - **0.5 - <1 Heterogeneous**
  - **>1 Very heterogeneous**

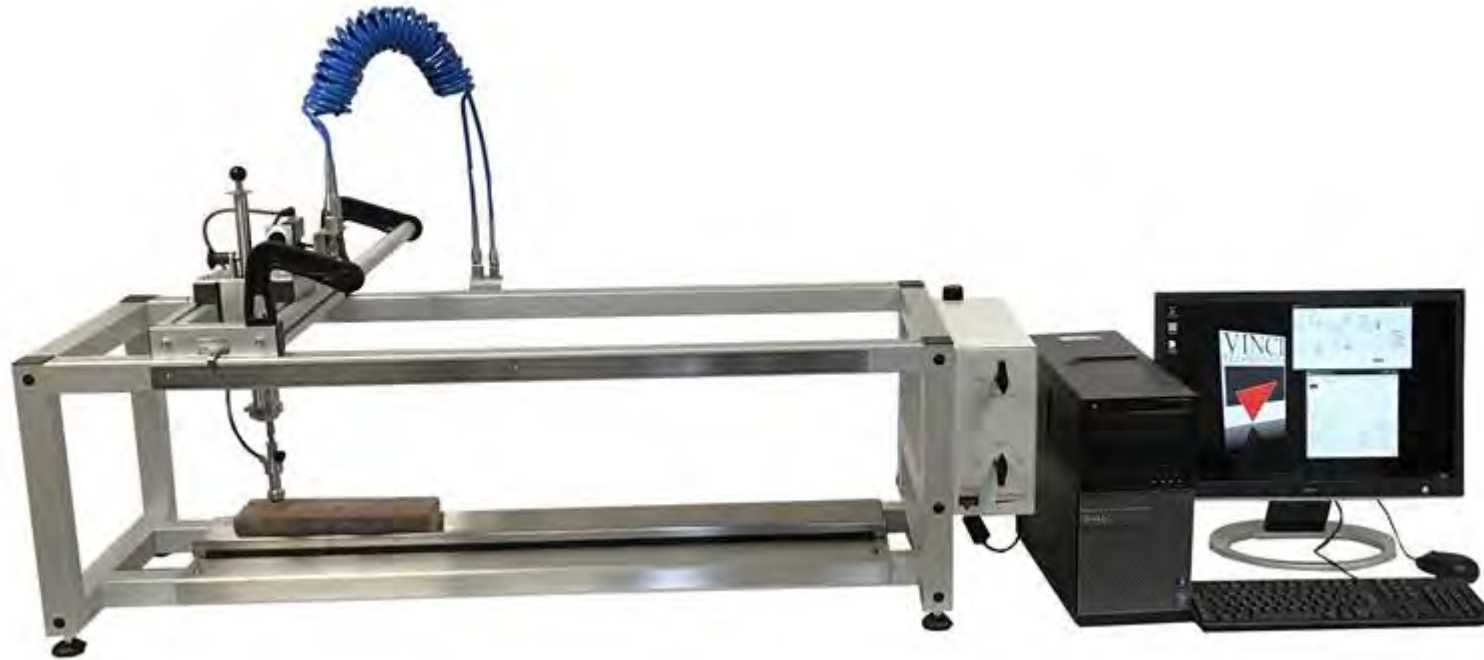
Three examples of applying these principles:

## Rotliegend reservoir, Southern North Sea, UK

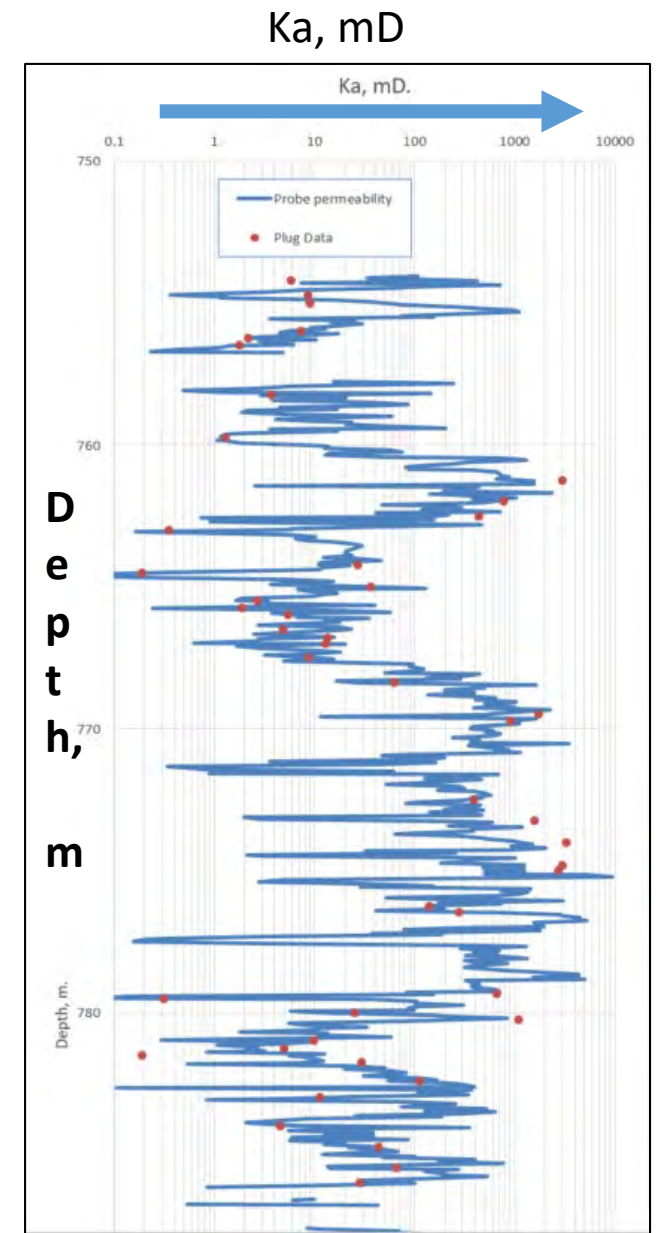
- 150 plugs acquired (1 per ft.)
- **Cv = 2.5, No = 625 Very heterogeneous**
- Plug alone data did not quantify permeability heterogeneity – probe permeability data @ 5 measurements per ft. = **729** points.



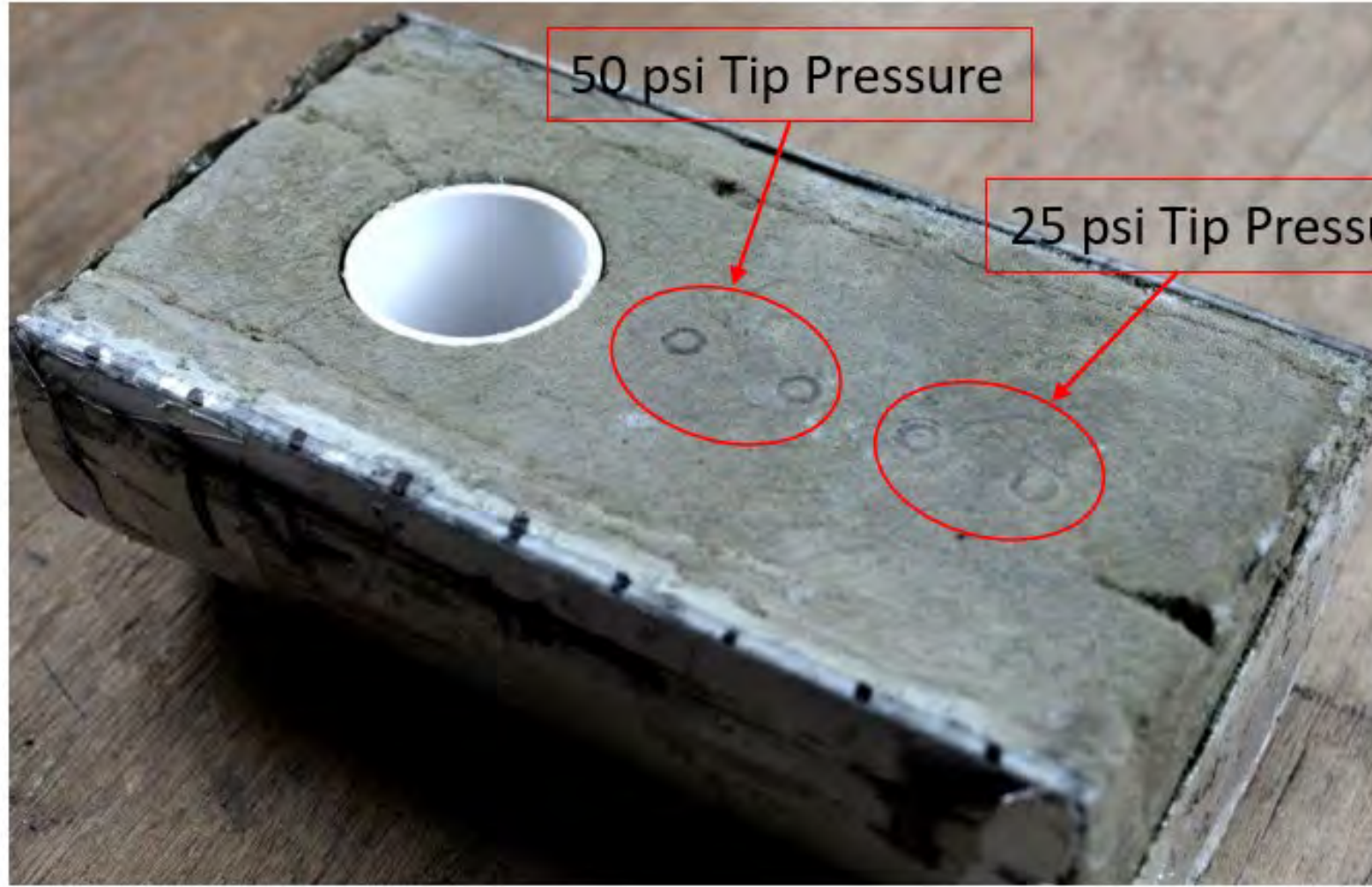
# Probe (profile) Permeameter



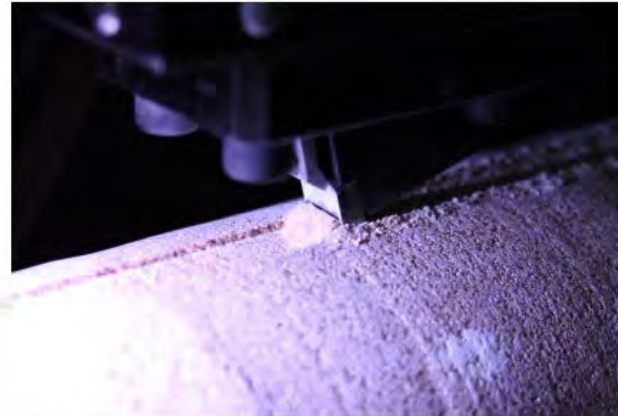
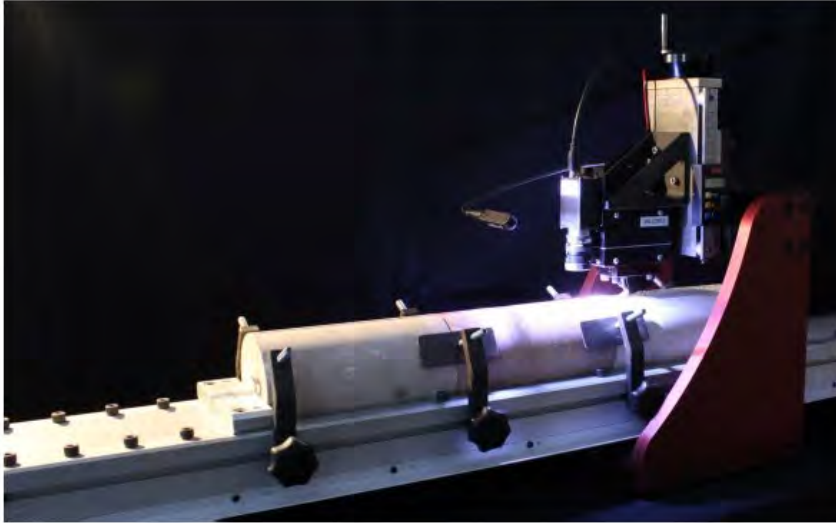
- Common technology since 1980's
- Requires smooth surface / contact technology
- Semi-Continuous



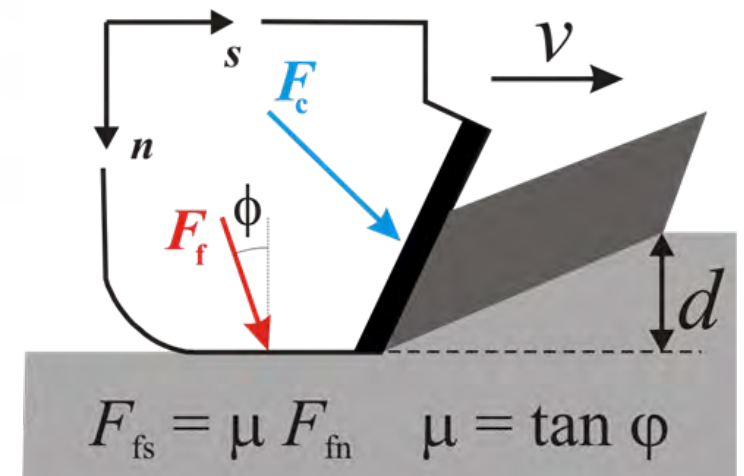
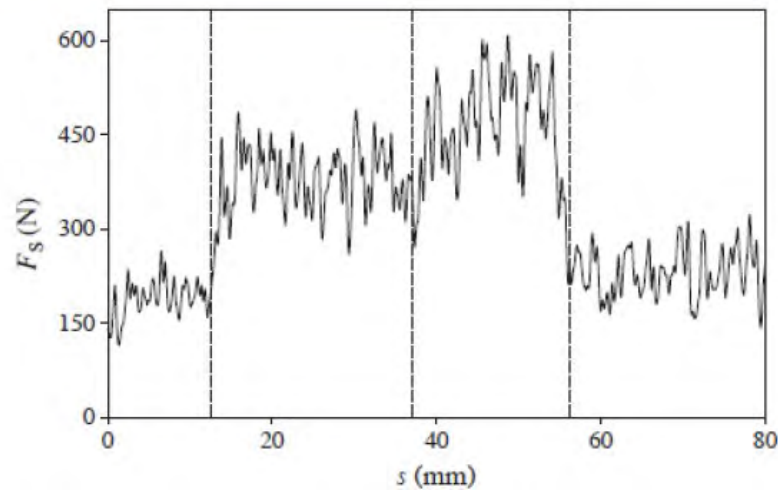
# Probe Permeameter Core Indent



# Rock Strength – The Scratch Test

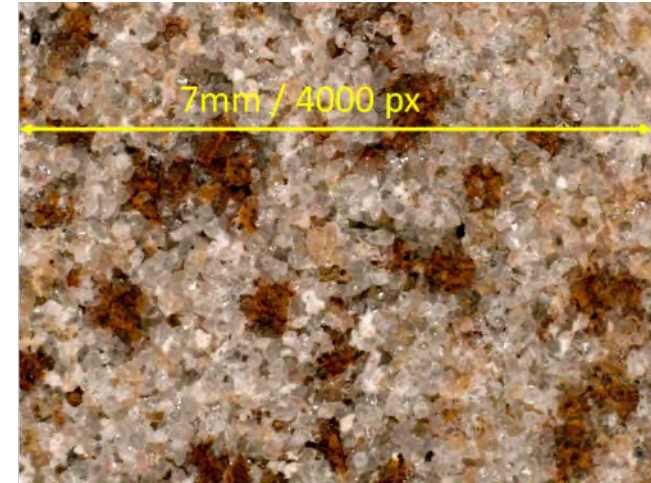


- Continuous measurement
- Unconfined Compressive Strength (UCS)

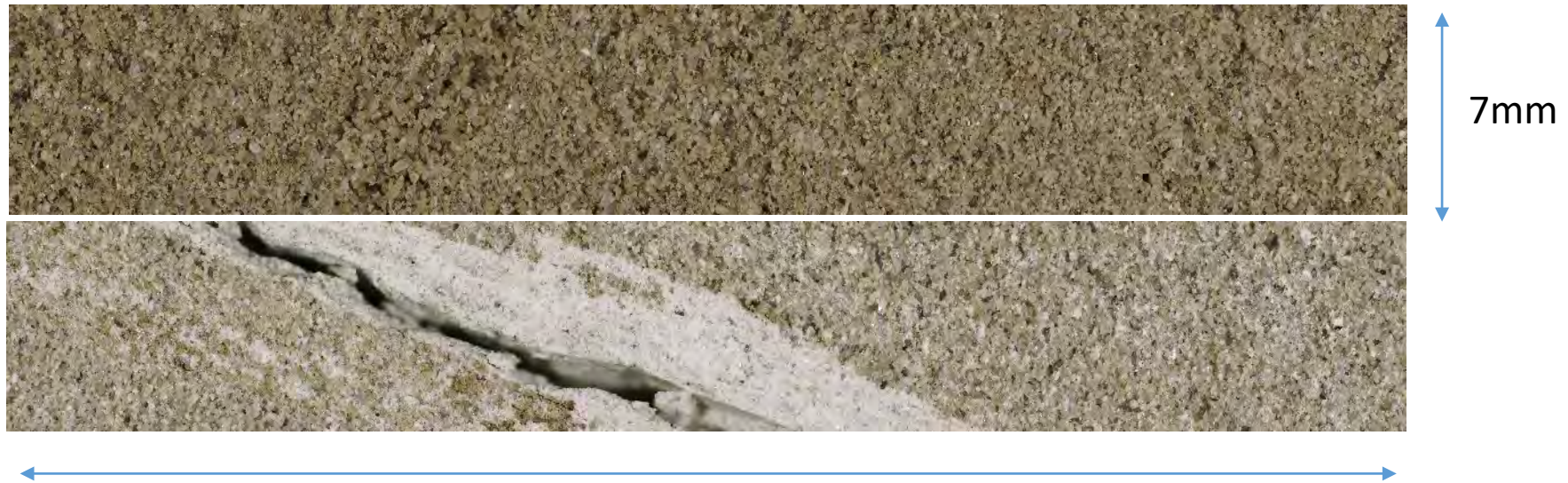


# High Resolution Core Photography

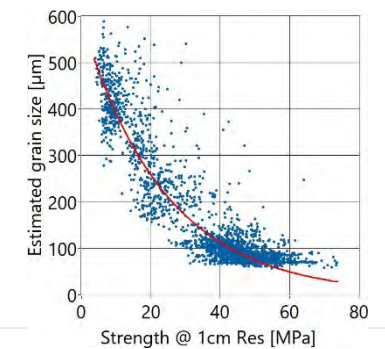
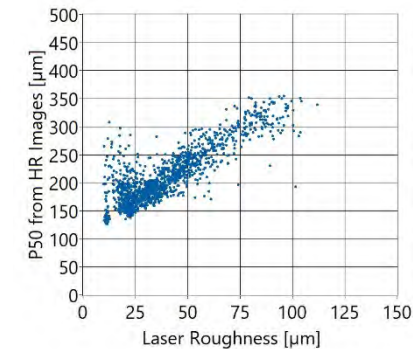
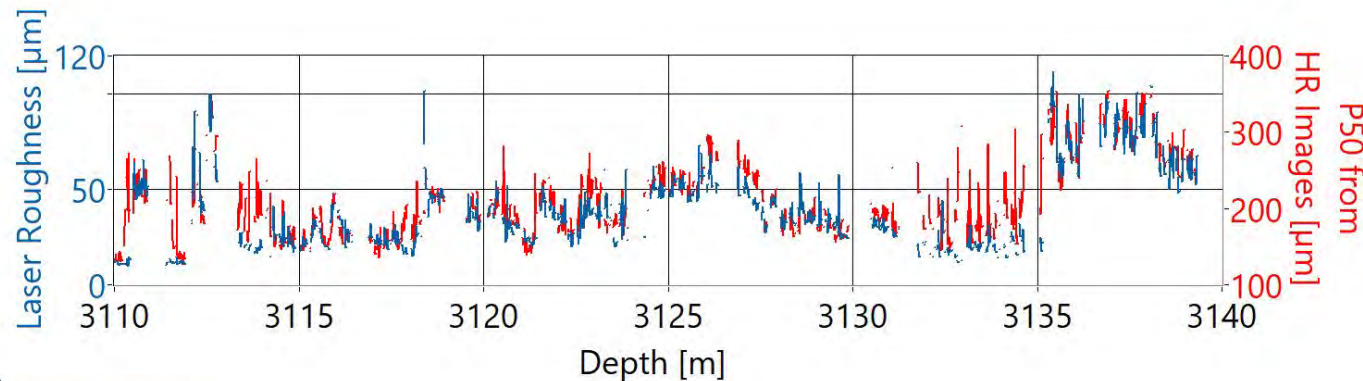
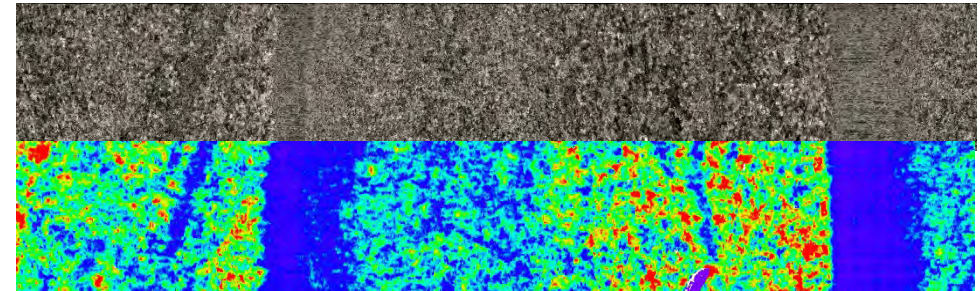
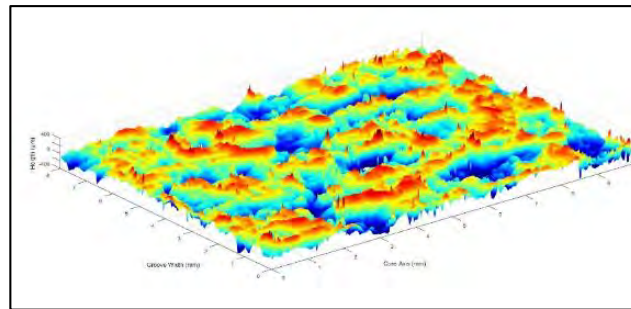
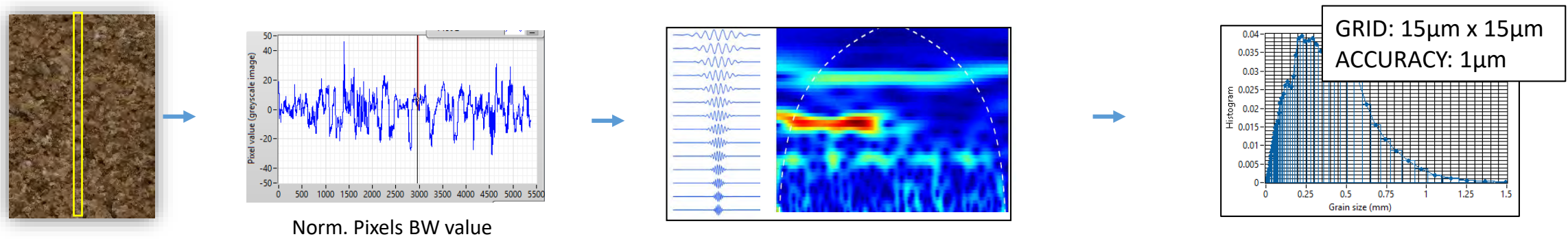
- VISIBLE LIGHT & UV LIGHT
- 1.8 $\mu\text{m}$  PER PIXEL
- MADE ON DRY CUT (NO FLUID DISPLACEMENT)
- EARLY IN THE WORKFLOW



Continuous "thin section" profile



# Grain Size Distribution Index Profile



# X-Ray CT Scanning of Core



- Method is use since 1980's
- Core orientation
- Screening prior to sampling
- Single energy (SECT)
- Dual Energy (DECT)

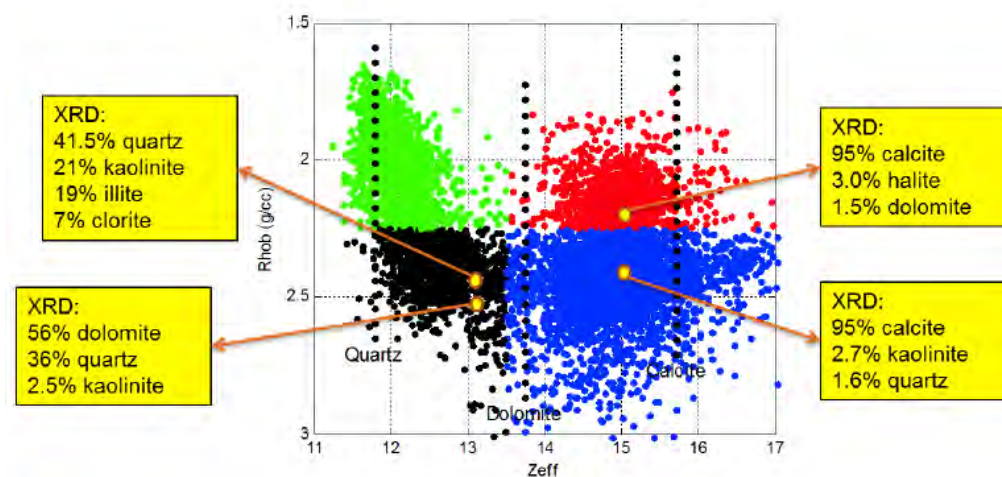
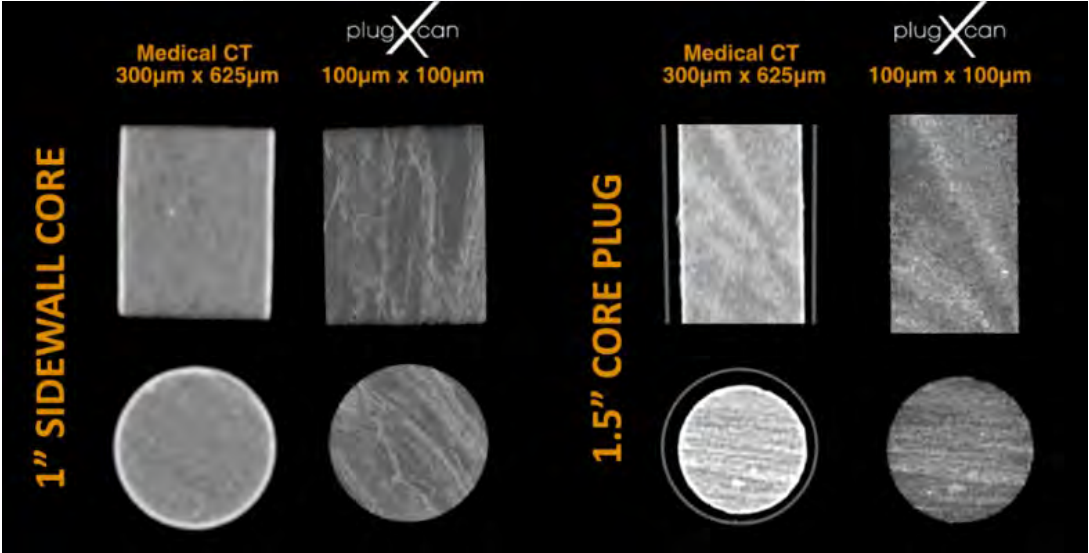


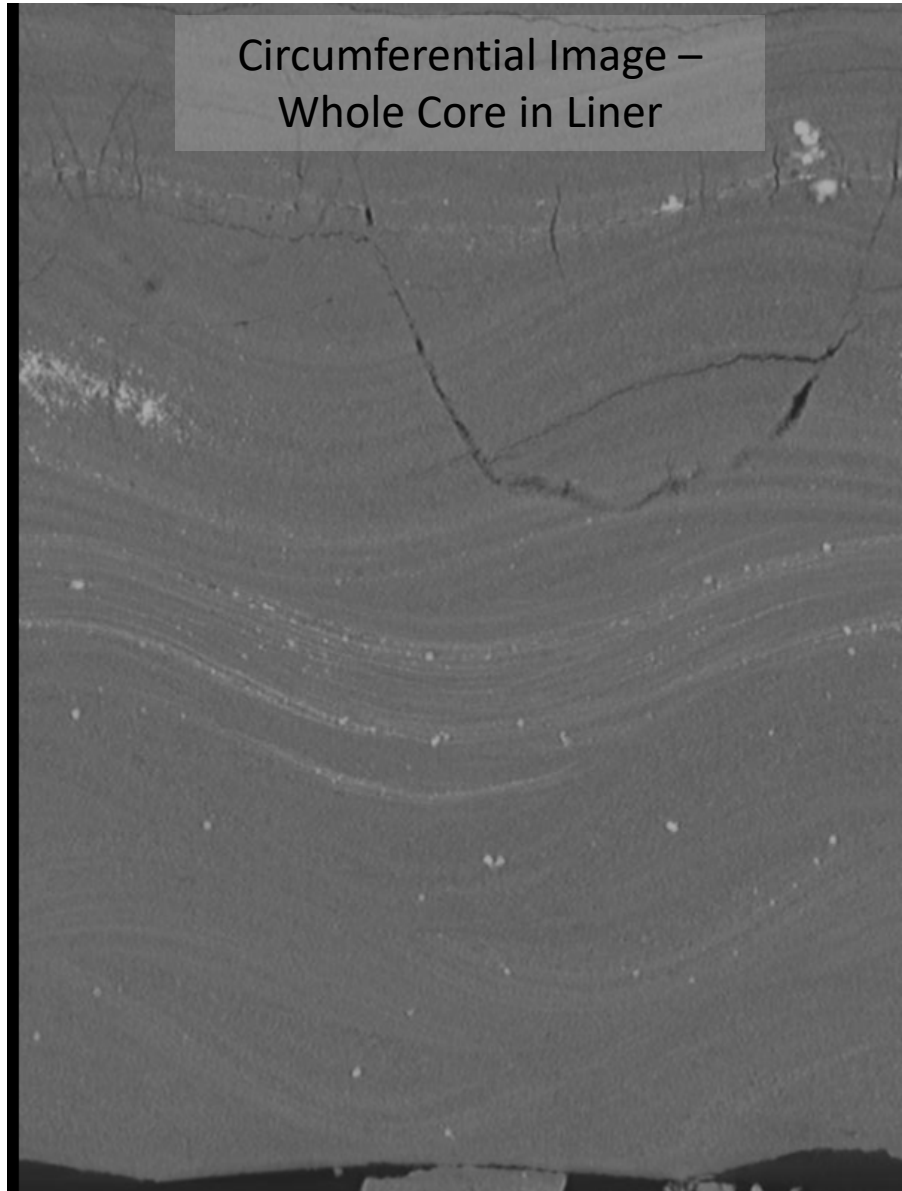
Fig. 17—Integration of XRD with DE CT scanning.

# High Resolution X-Ray CT Scanning of Core



# High Resolution X-Ray CT

1 m.



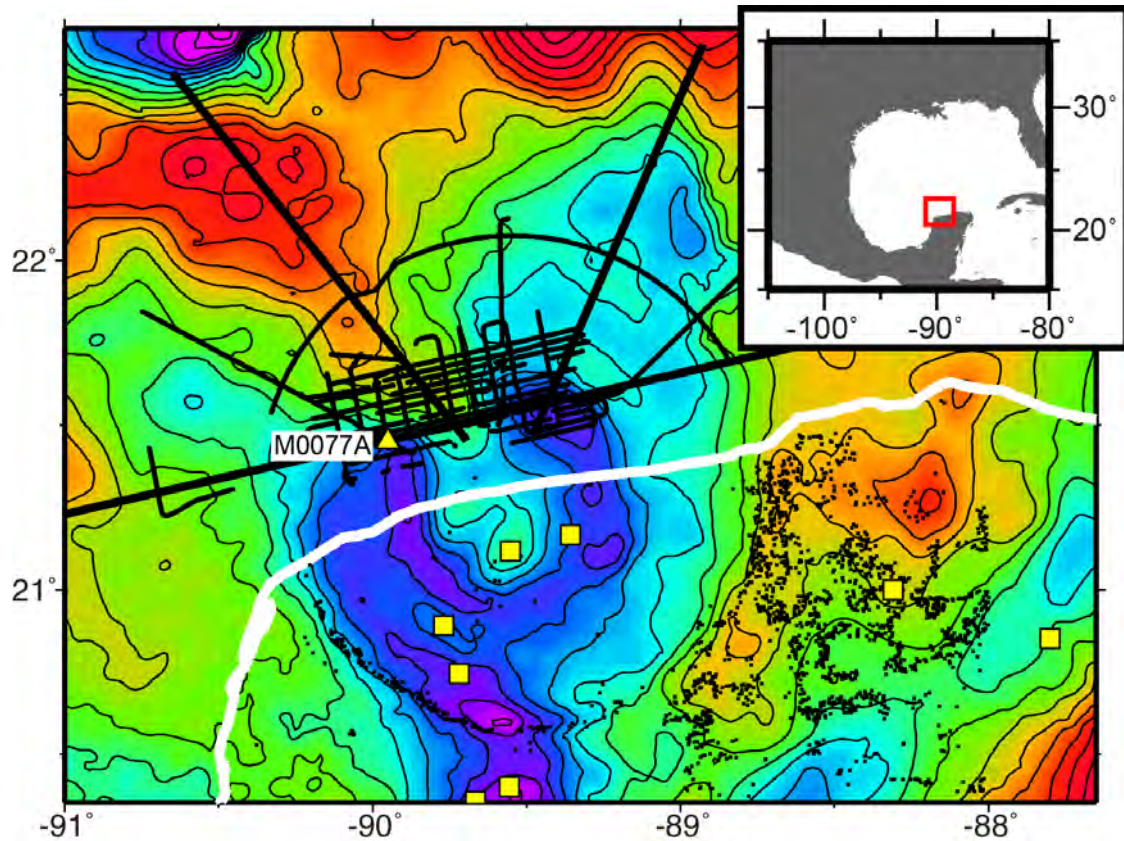
Sleeved Unconsolidated Core Plug



7 c m.

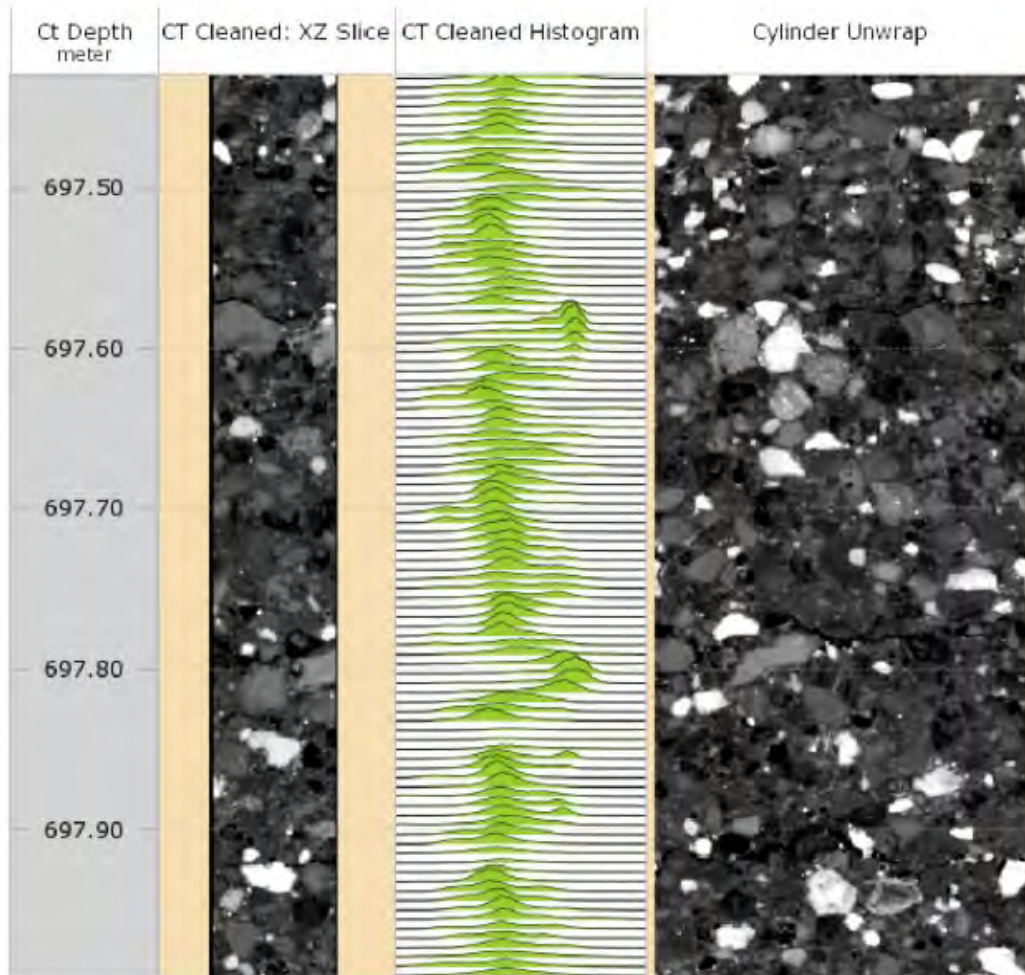


# Chicxulub Impact Structure

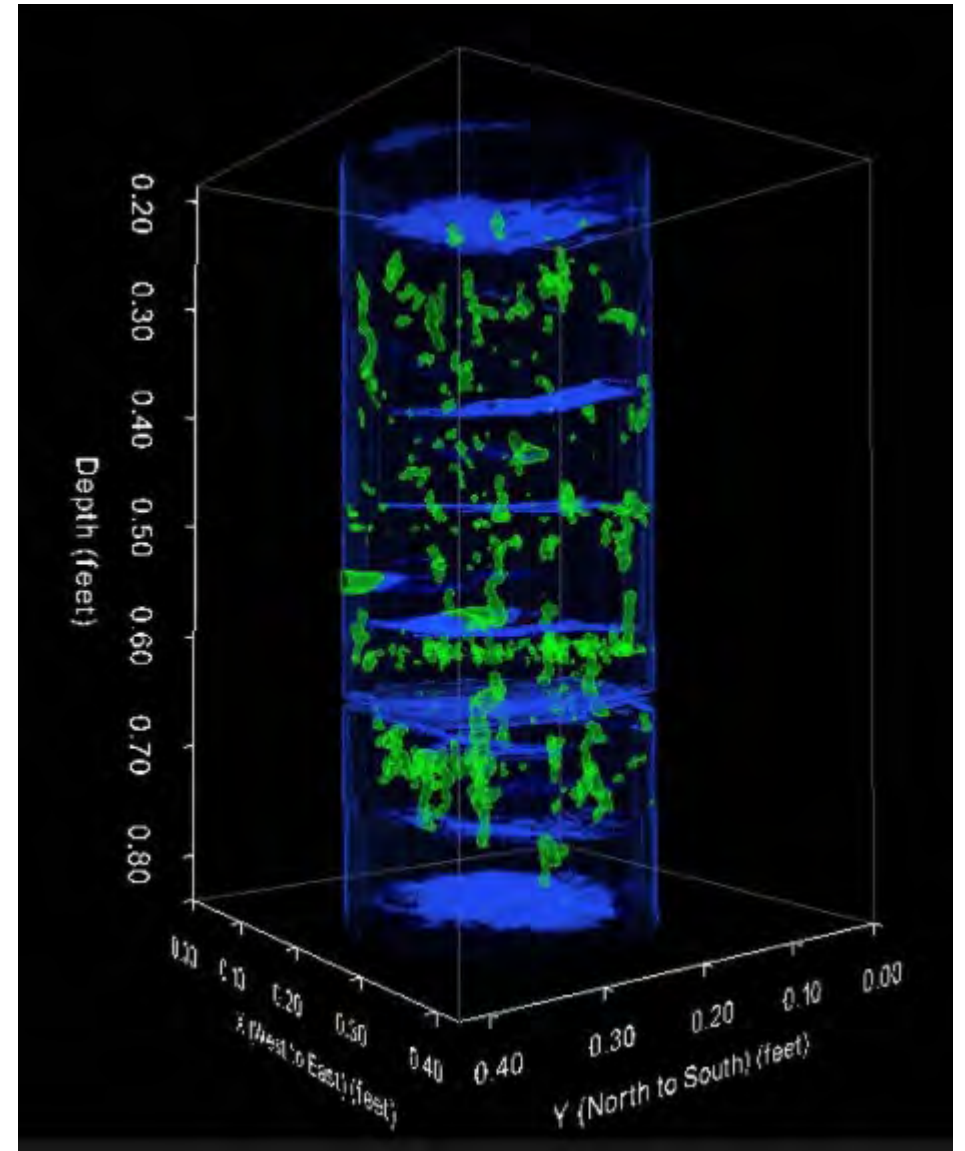


IODP / ICDP Expedition 364 in 2017 recovered 849 m. of core from hole M0077A

# X-Ray CT Scanning of Chicxulub Core



**Figure 2:** 2D images generated during processing of CT data. The CT histogram provides a visualization of the distribution of CT numbers every 10 slices.



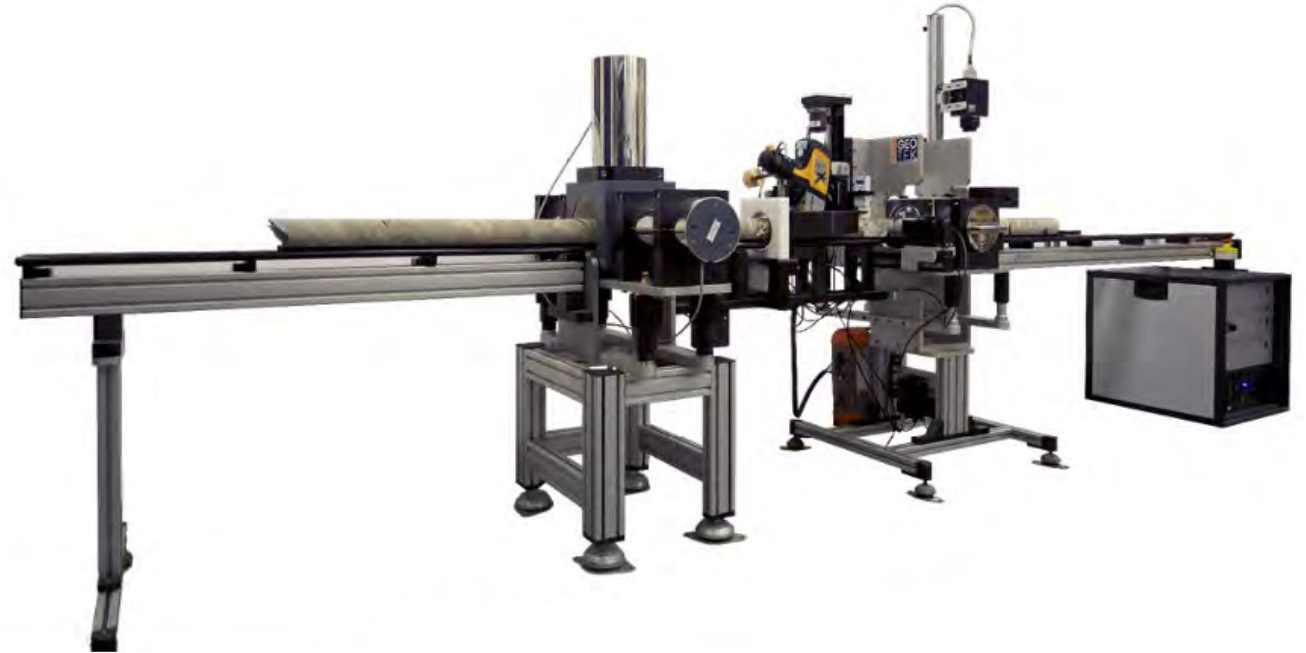
# Core Logging not just in Oil & Gas Industry

- Palaeoclimate Studies
- Limnology
- Marine Geology
- Terrestrial Geology
- Petroleum Research
- Unconventional Resources
- Mineral Exploration
- Ice Core Logging
- Repositories

**Instrumented core logging is standard practice in other disciplines!**

# Multi-Sensor Core Logger

- Automated core logging platform
- Cores are pushed passed sensors
- Measurement geometry is constant
- Multiple sensors (up to 8) can be installed at once
- Depth co-registration of data
- Data are collected simultaneously
- Variable resolution



# Multi-Sensor Core Loggers

## One Pass – Multiple High Resolution Data Types

- **CORE DIAMETER MEASUREMENTS**

Laser micrometers with a resolution of 0.02mm.

- **P-WAVE VELOCITY**

250-500 kHz piezo-electric ceramic transducers, spring-loaded against the sample. Accurate to about 0.2%, depending on core condition.

- **GAMMA DENSITY (BULK DENSITY)**

<sup>137</sup>Cs gamma source in a lead shield with optional 2.5mm or 5mm collimators. Density resolution of better than 1% depending upon count time.

- **MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY**

Bartington loop sensor 60-150mm diameter, or point sensor (on split cores) giving 5% calibration accuracy over two ranges;  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  &  $10 \times 10^{-6}$  cgs.

- **NON-CONTACT RESISTIVITY**

Non-contact resistivity measurements using a unique double paired coil induction method.

- **GEOSCAN V LINESCAN IMAGING**

Geoscan V full colour digital linescan imaging system. Produce RGB images and profile data from your cores.

- **COLOUR SPECTROPHOTOMETRY**

Konica Minolta colour spectrophotometer measuring reflectance in the near UV through the visible and just into the near IR range (wavelengths 360-740nm).

- **NATURAL GAMMA SPECTROMETRY**

Total natural gamma count or gamma spectra (K, U, Th) from two or more 3"x3" NaI(Tl) crystals (BGO crystals are available on request).

- **X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETRY**

Innov-X handheld X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer which provides elemental analyses.

- **NEAR-INFRARED & VISIBLE SPECTROPHOTOMETRY**

Near-infrared spectroscopy (= core mineralogy) using the ASDI LabSpec (the integratable equivalent of the TerraSpec) at wavelengths of 350-2500nm.



# Geological Core Scanning

- **British Geological Survey (BGS) new Core Scanning Facility** at the **National Geological Repository (NGR)** in Keyworth, UK
- £1.4 million to create this new, state-of the art core scanning facility equipped with four high-resolution and automated core scanner systems for core imaging and non-destructive core analysis
- 600 km of core, plus several million individual core and cuttings samples from over 8,000 offshore hydrocarbon wells and 15,000 onshore wells and boreholes.

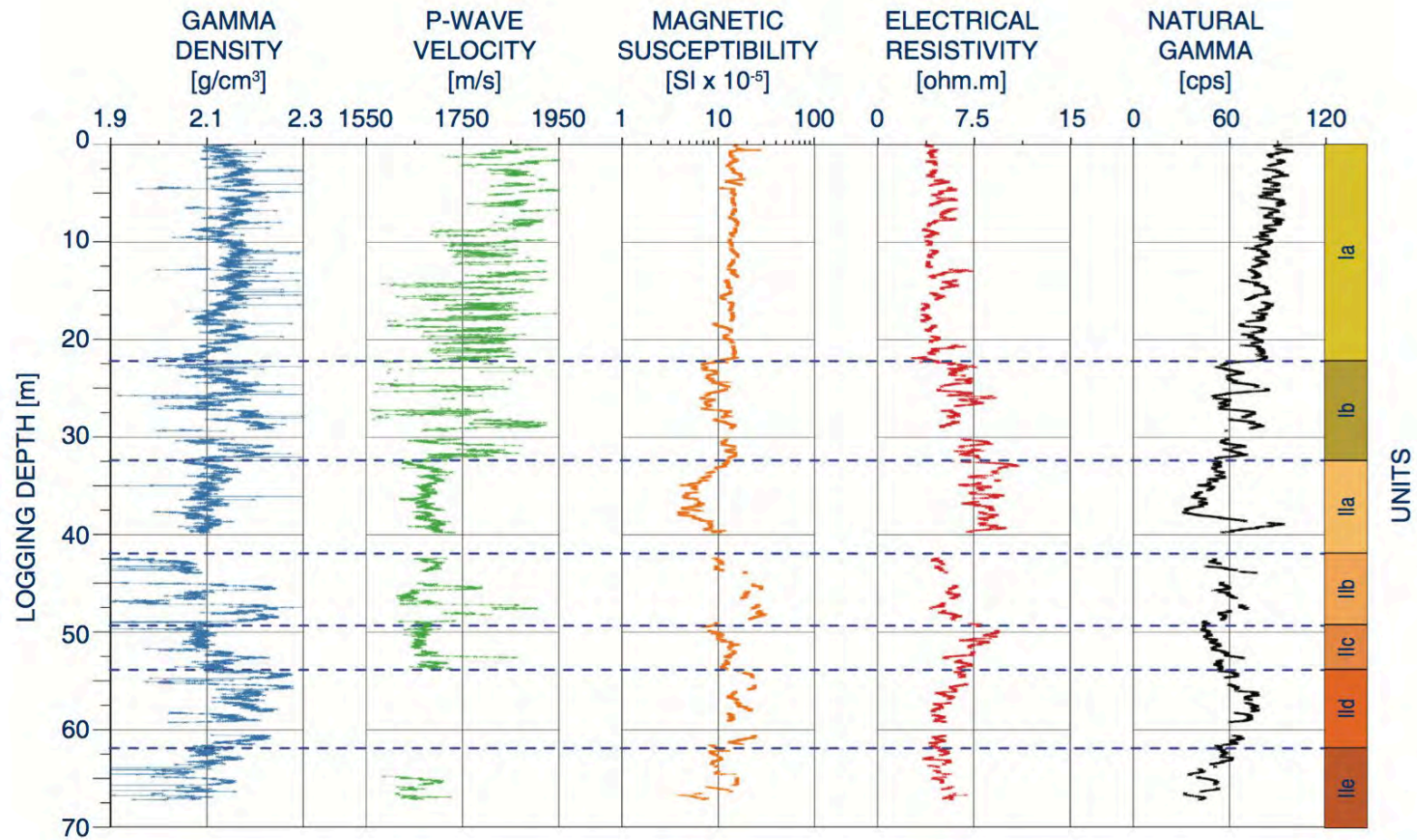


# Early Jurassic Earth System & Timescale (JET)

“The ... well will recover approximately **850 m** of primarily latest Triassic to Early Jurassic Strata, including the **Jurassic-Triassic boundary**. This new section is ideal for an integrated **astrochronology, chemostratigraphy**, biostratigraphy, and **magnetostratigraphy** which, combined with data being generated from the old Mochas core will become the international standard for these 25 million years of Earth history.”

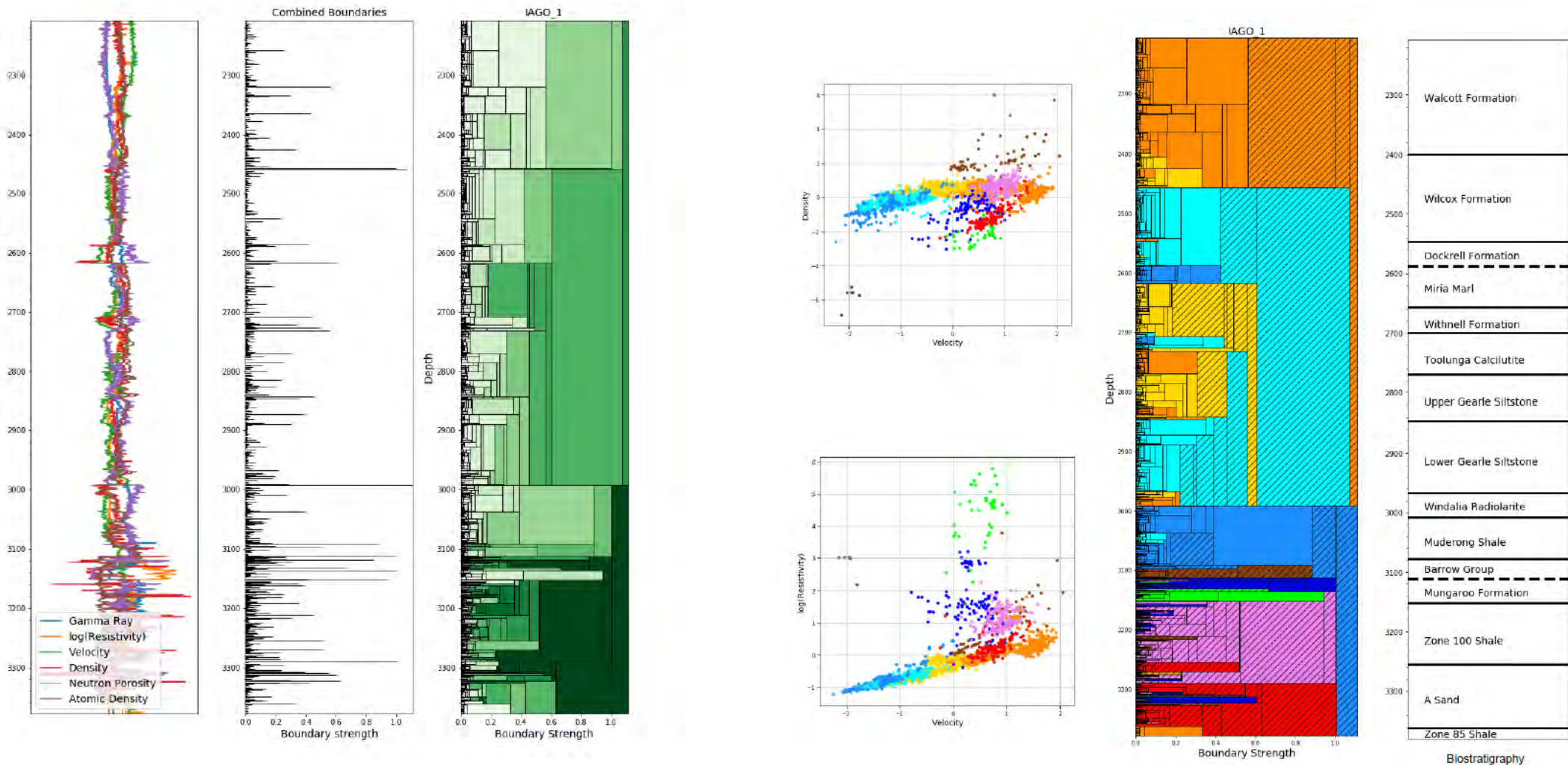


# ONDRAF/NIRAS: Multi-Parameter Stratigraphy



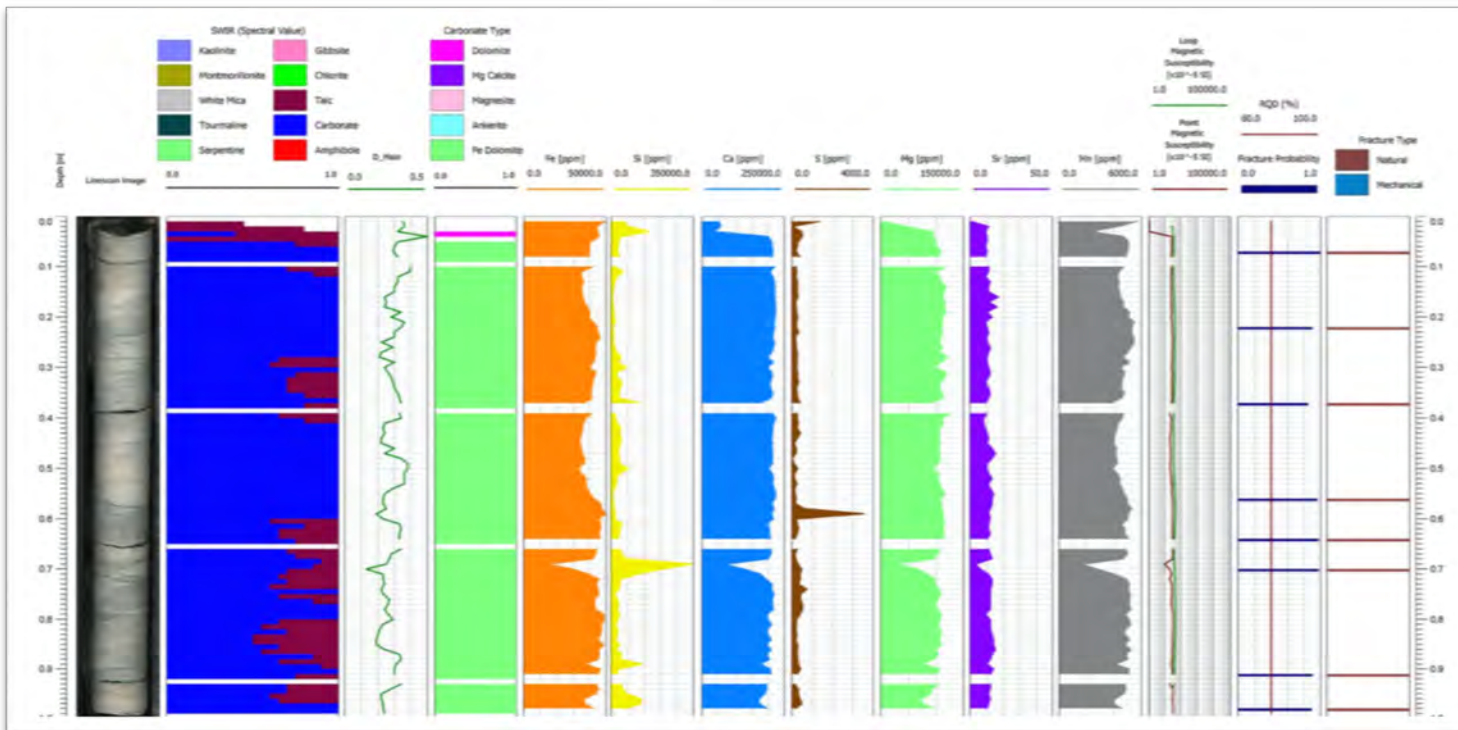
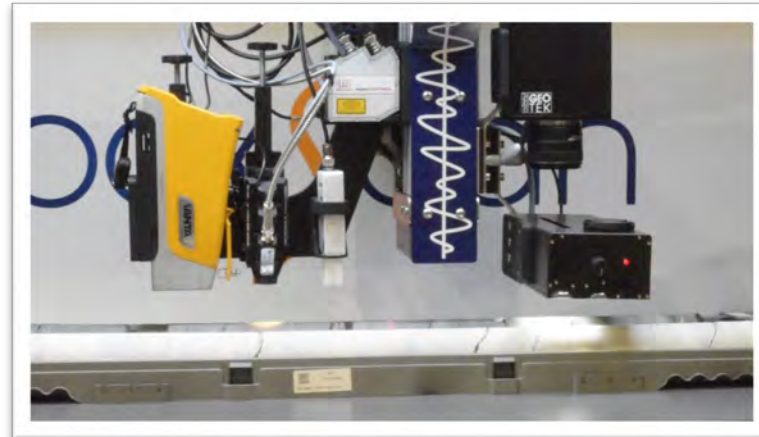
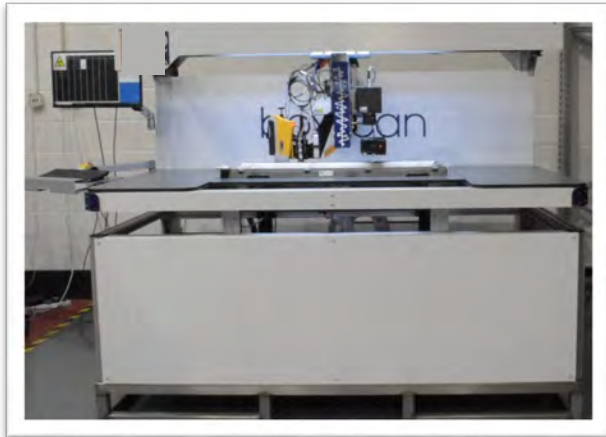


# Multiscale Automated Boundary Detection



**Wavelet tessellation** (Hill et al. 2015). Tessellation automatically picks boundaries in depth-attributed numeric data and attributes the area between the boundaries with an average of the data.

# BoxScan system



pXRF chemistry



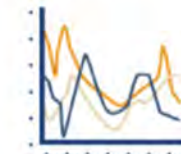
Magnetic susceptibility



Intelligent sampling



UHD linescan core photographs



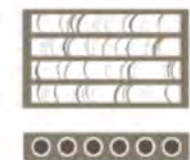
VNIR/SWIR mineralogy



Structural logging



RGB profiles



Core boxes/Chips



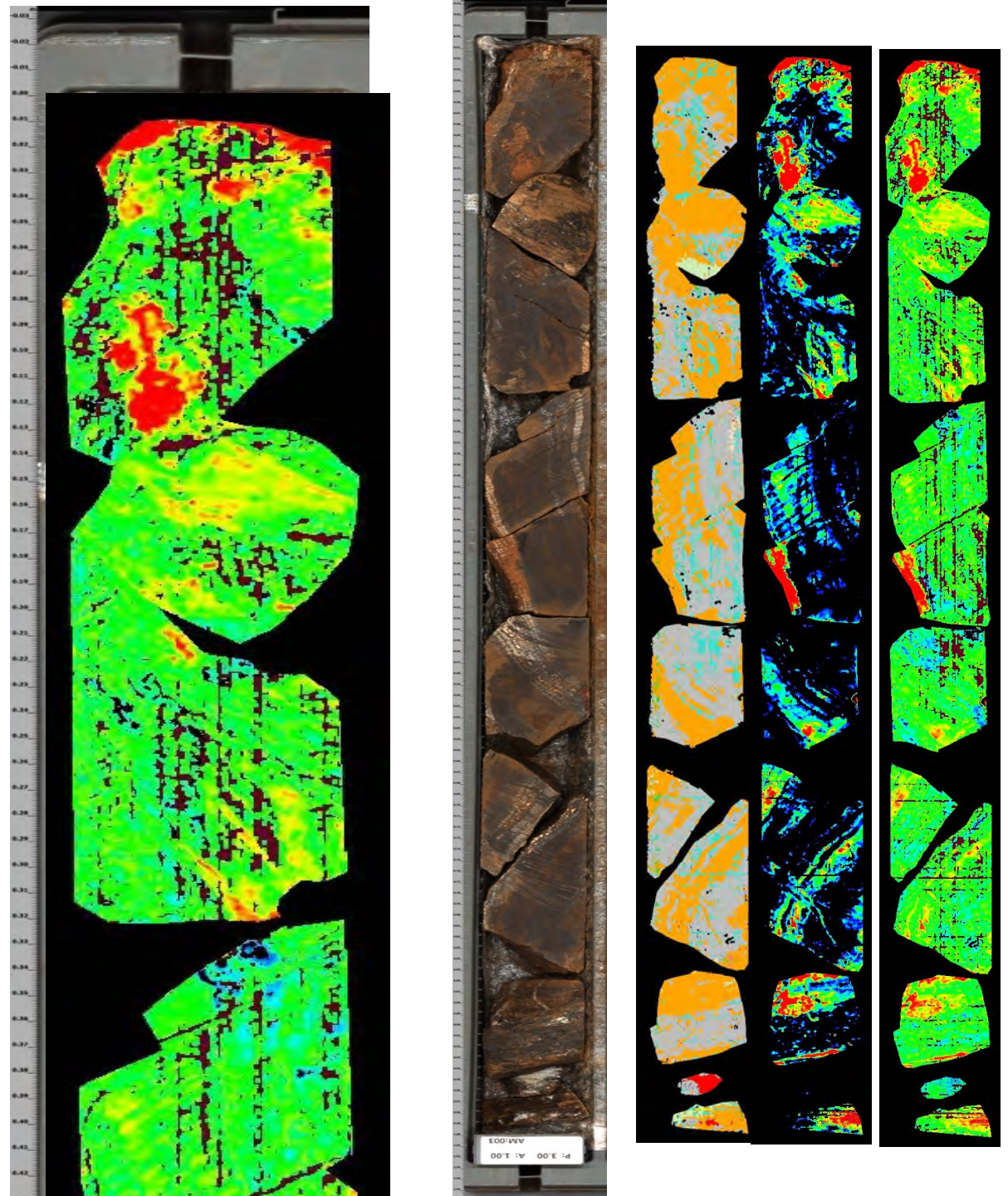
Spectral range from 400 nm to 2500 nm

Electronically controlled wavelength separation (down to 2nm)

Continuous coverage high image resolution is (0.5 mm x 0.5 mm)

Accurate % data derived for the minerals

Core and Cuttings

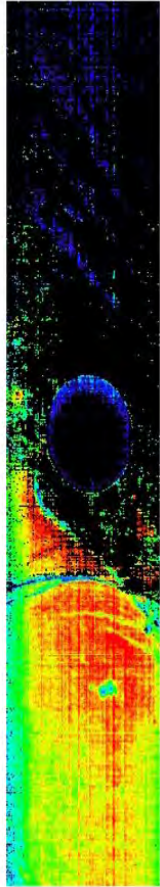


# Hyperspectral VNIR/SWIR MSCSL Technology

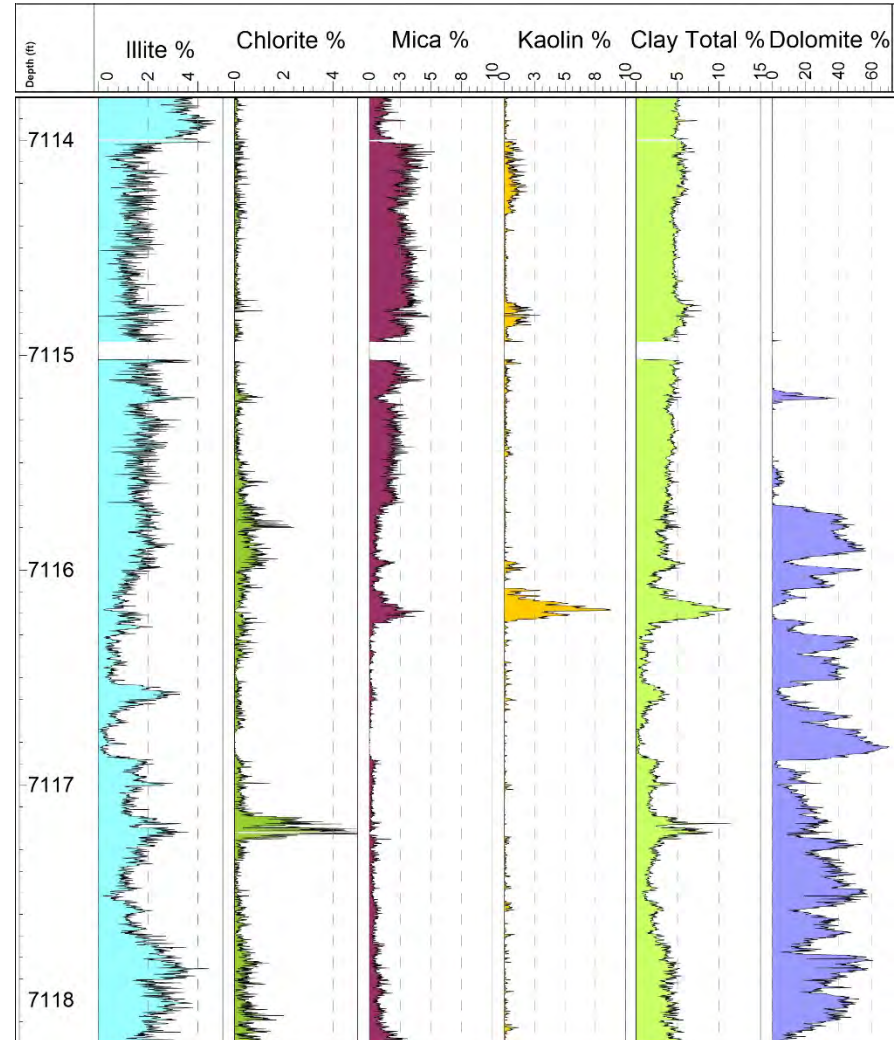
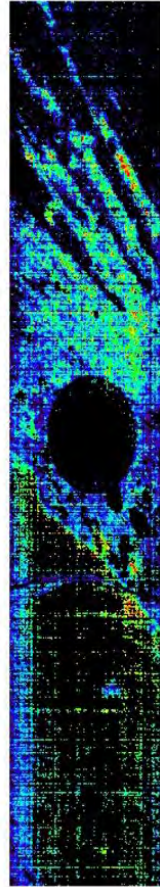
False Colour  
IR Image



Chlorite %



Mica %  
(Phengite)



**Multi-Sensor Core Scanning with a unique integration of mineralogy, elemental abundance and physical properties**

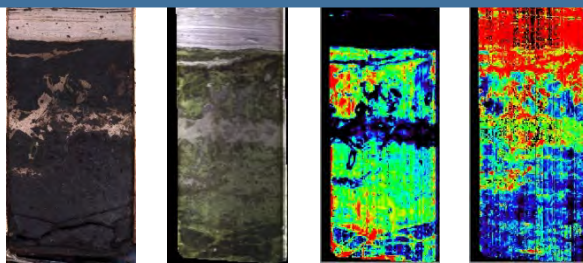
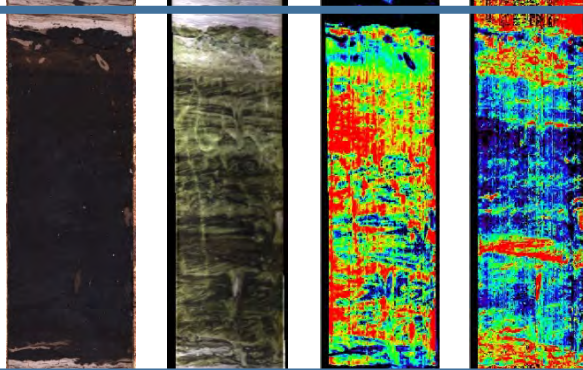
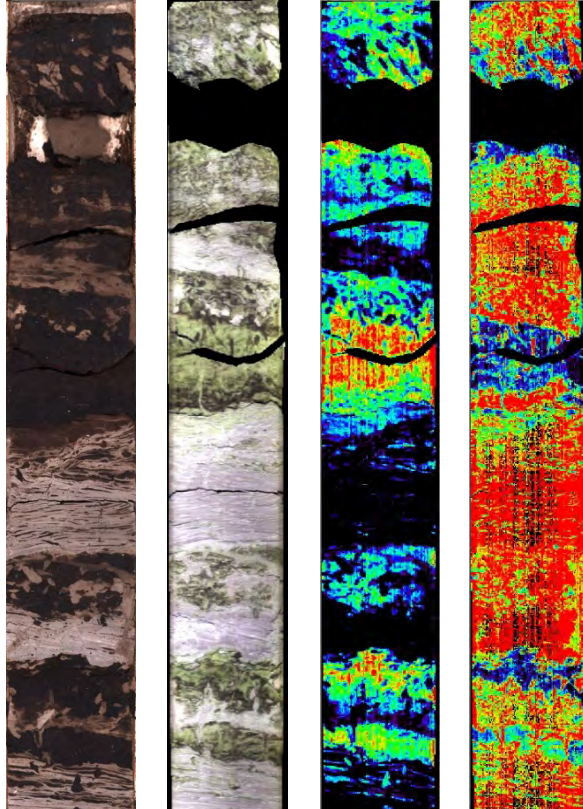
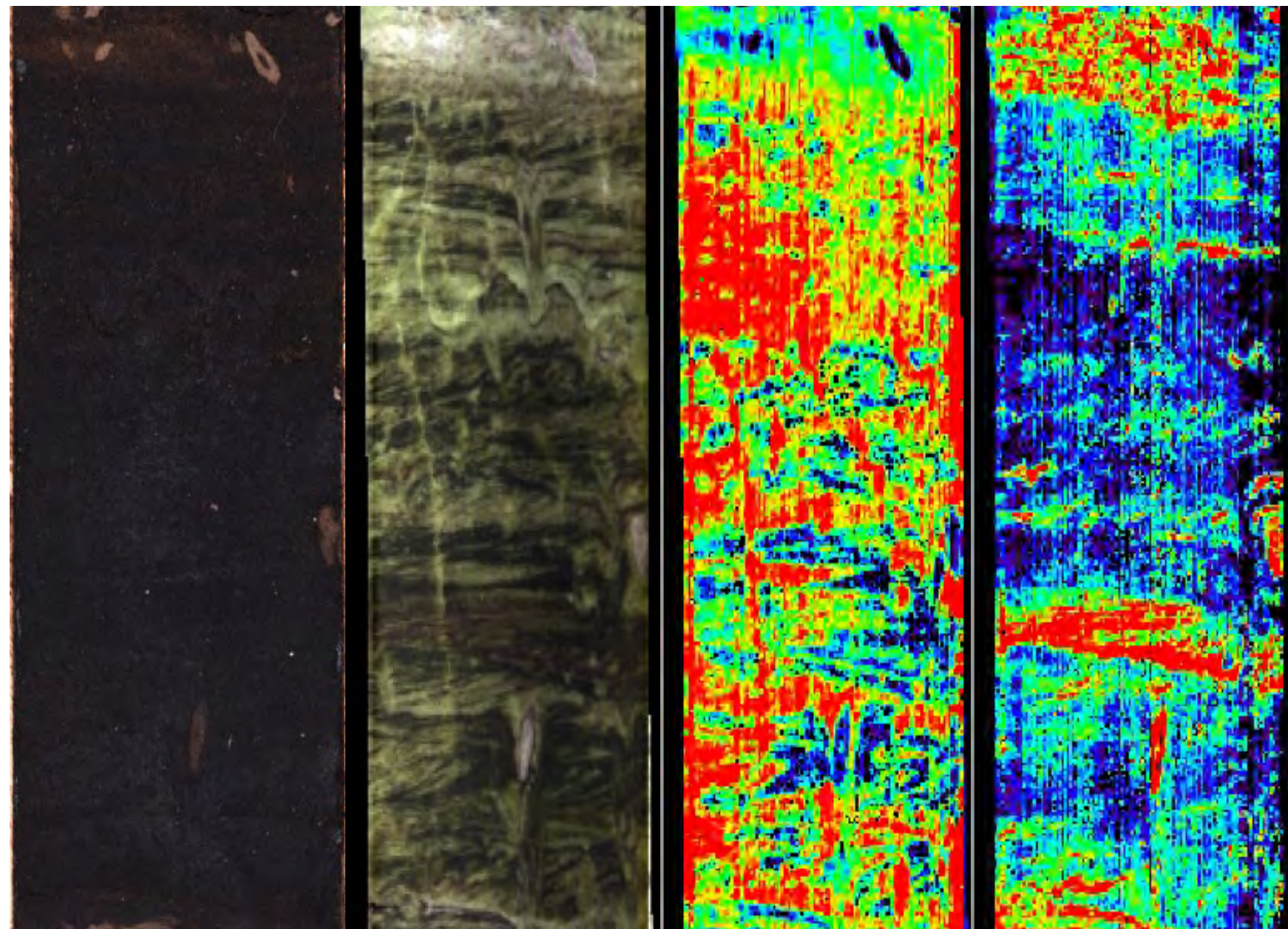
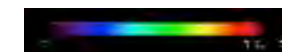
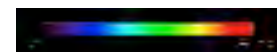
- Identification of minerals and their polymorphs
- Identification of mineral assemblages
- Clay crystallinity
- Mineral abundances (%) calculated, which are comparable to other analytical methods

VIS

False Colour

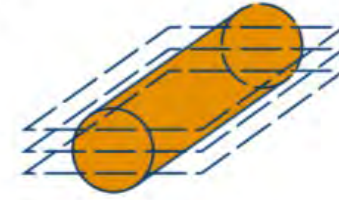
HC Comp.

Total Clay



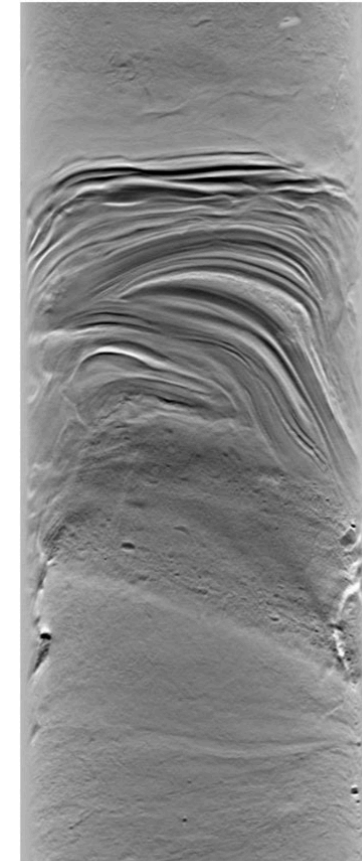
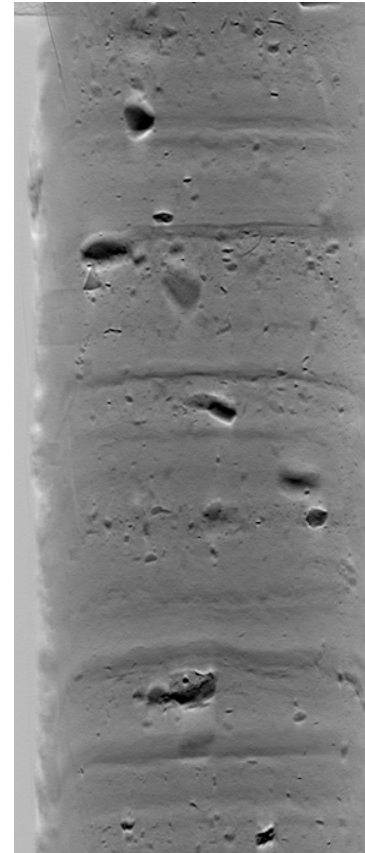
# Laminography

B



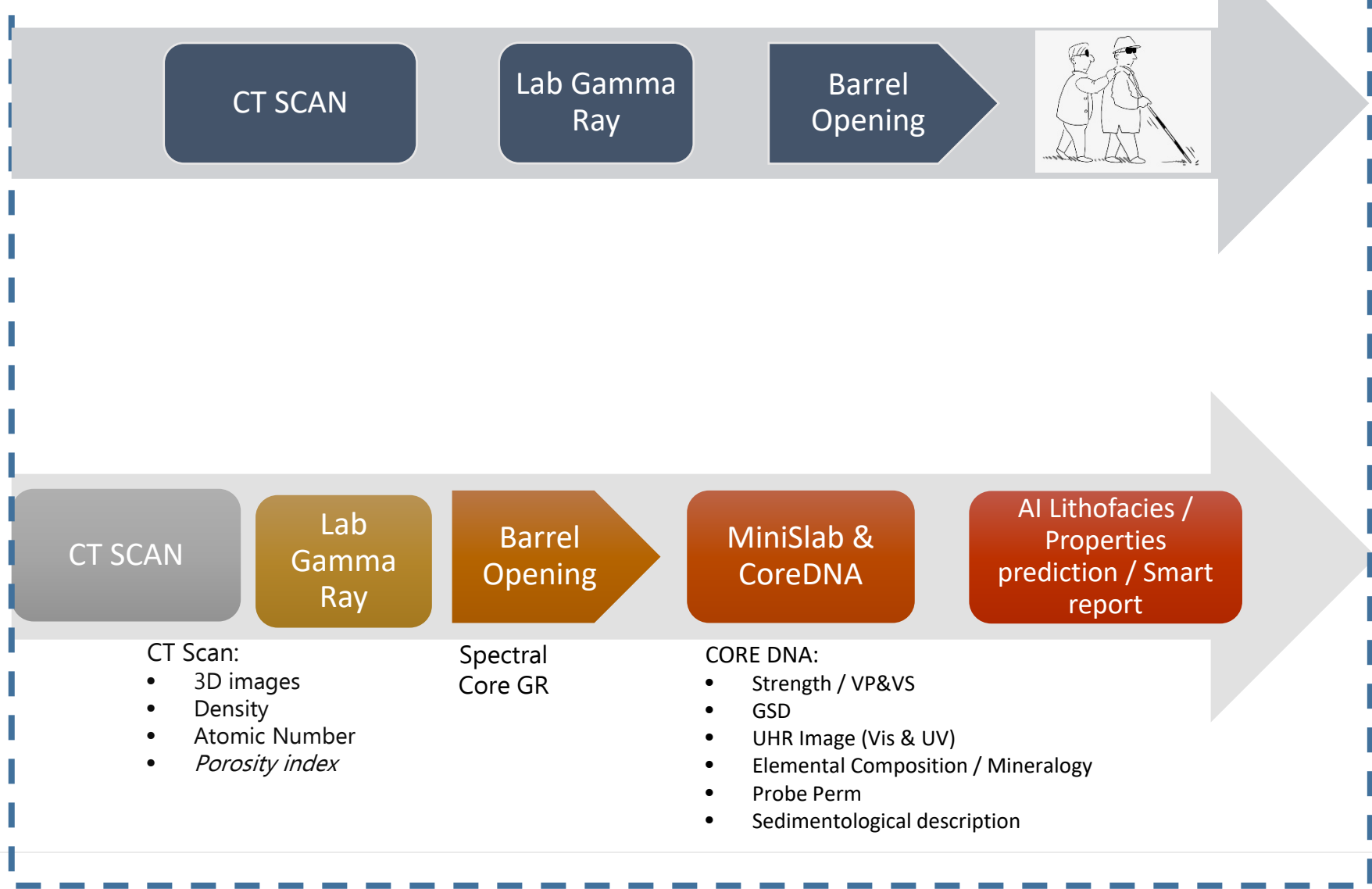
Laminography is an image processing technique used to **extract 3D information from 2D scans**

- **Reduce** scan time and data storage
- Create multiple laminographs (slabs) at different longitudinal depths from the core
- Laminography is perfect for:
  - **Depth position of dropstones** or shell fragments
  - Create core fly-through videos
  - Create **X-ray slabs of measurement surfaces** rather than averaged images
  - **Visualizing** the geological architecture/features more clearly
  - Creating **circumferential images**



**NEW**  
**WORKFLOW**  
**ILLUSTRATION**

# DISRUPTIVE CORE ANALYSIS WORKFLOW



CT SCAN

Lab Gamma Ray

Barrel Opening



« Blind » Plug Selection

Petrophysics  
(Routine Core Analysis)

Reservoir Engineering  
Special Core Analysis

Geomechanics  
Special Core Analysis

CT SCAN

Lab Gamma Ray

Barrel Opening

MiniSlab & CoreDNA

AI Lithofacies / Properties prediction / Smart report

Intelligent Plug Selection

- CT Scan:
- 3D images
  - Density
  - Atomic Number
  - *Porosity index*

Spectral Core GR

- CORE DNA:
- Strength / VP&VS
  - GSD
  - UHR Image (Vis & UV)
  - Elemental Composition / Mineralogy
  - Probe Perm
  - Sedimentological description



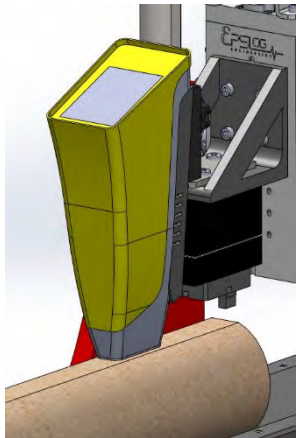
# Test Sequence 4" Core

3cm cut

MINISLAB

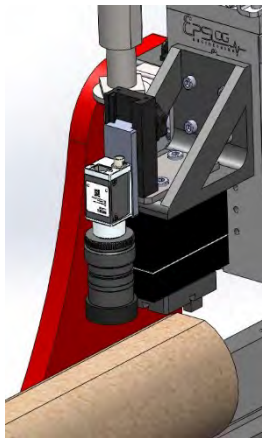
Core logging rate: 3ft per hour, resolution ~1cm

XRF



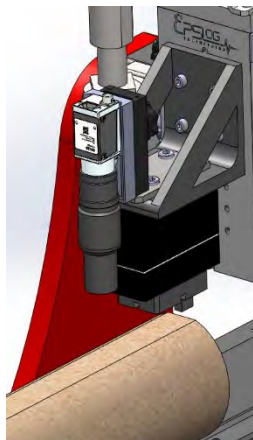
Elemental  
Composition

HR Photo



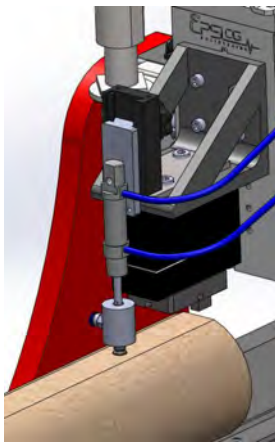
Core photo  
(Vis & UV)  
~35 $\mu$ m/px

UHR Photo



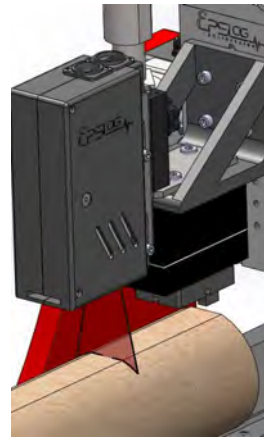
Core photo  
(Vis & UV)  
~1.8 $\mu$ m/px

Probe Perm



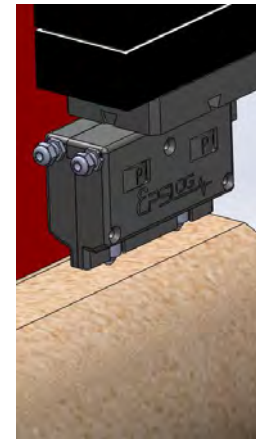
Permeability  
index

Laser Scan



Grain size  
index

Ultrasonic  
Vp&Vs



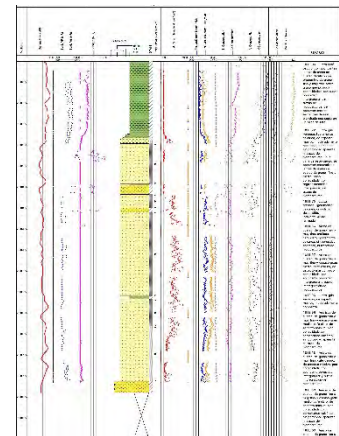
Sonic Logs

Strength



UCS

Sedimentology  
description



# More Knowledge Sooner

- **MULTI-SENSOR BENCH: ALL DEPTH SYNCRHONIZED HIGH RESOLUTION SUITES OF MEASUREMENTS (1CM OF ROCK SAMPLE)**
  - RAPID AND NON DESTRUCTIVE TESTS & ANALYSIS / EARLY IN CORE ANALYSIS WORKFLOW;

Generation of big data

Facies characterization (properties statistics per facies)

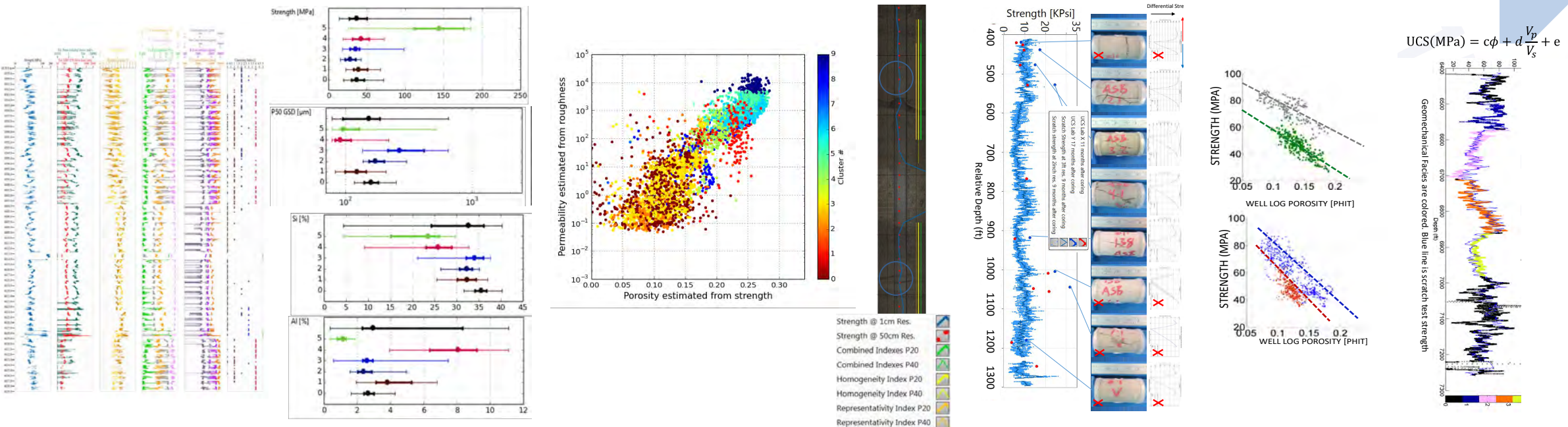
Prediction of reservoir quality indexes

Adaptive Sample Sites selection

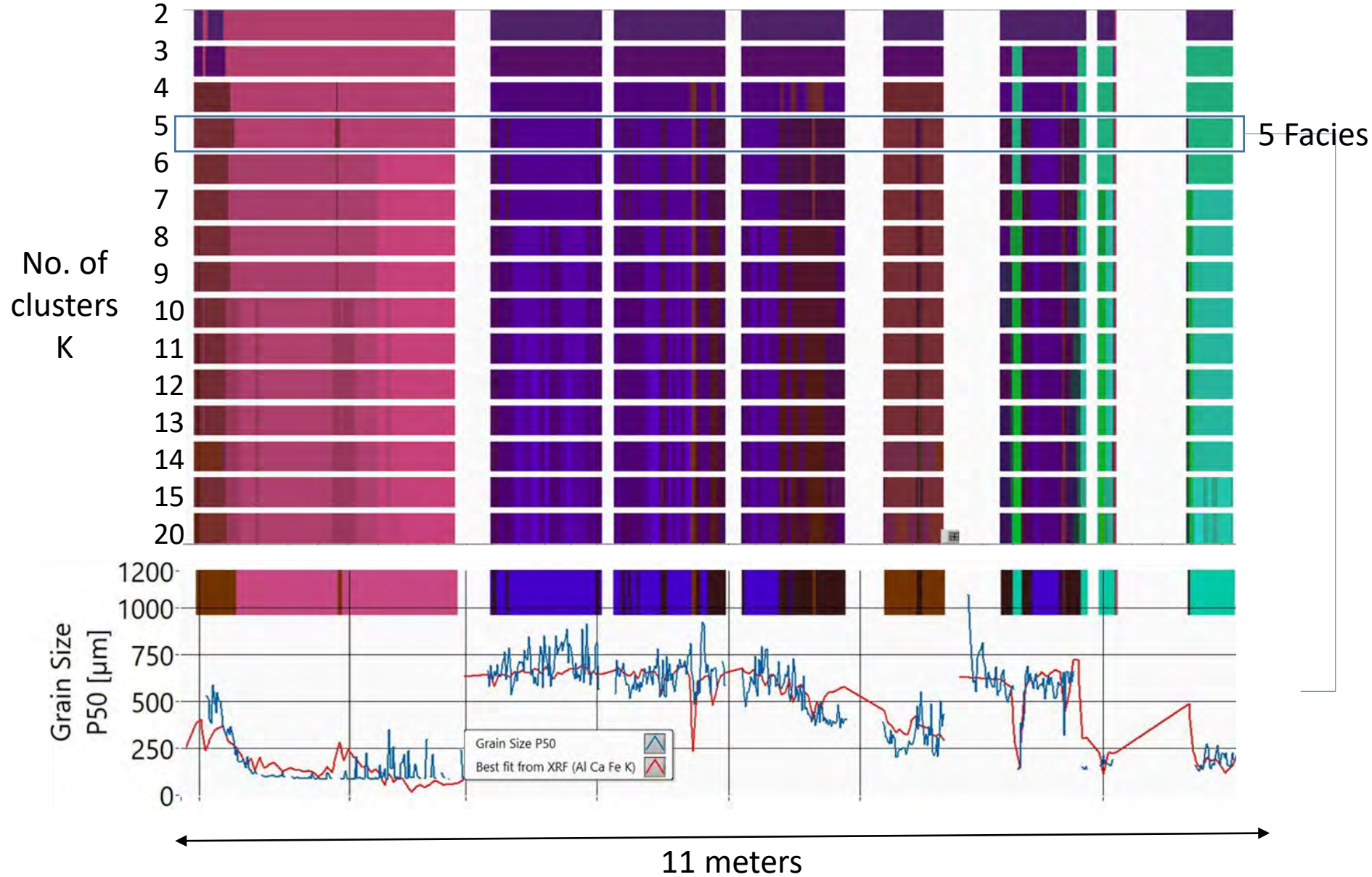
Qcing of Test results

Upscaling discrete test results

Establish robust and reliable proxies with wireline logs



# Facies Identification: Unsupervised Machine Learning

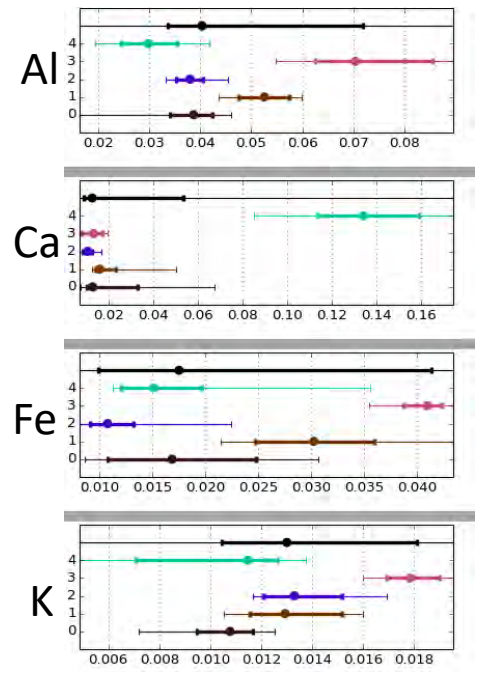


Clustering on Al Ca Fe K

Fraction of total core length

K4	K3	K2	K1	K0
11%	27%	28%	16%	18%

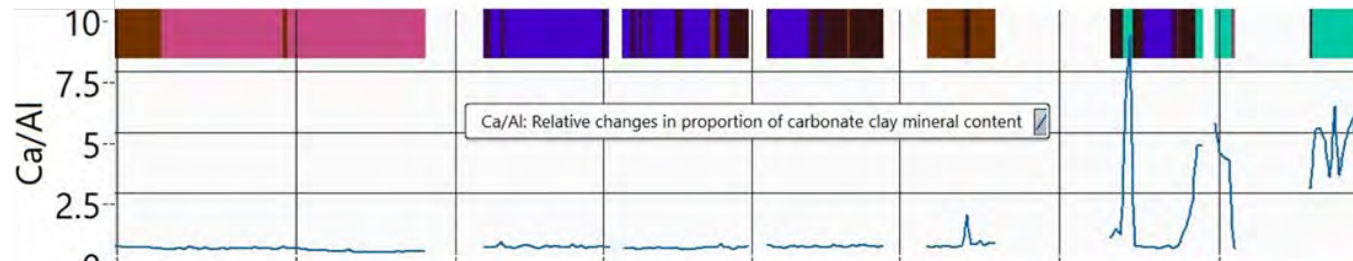
Elemental Concentrations per facies



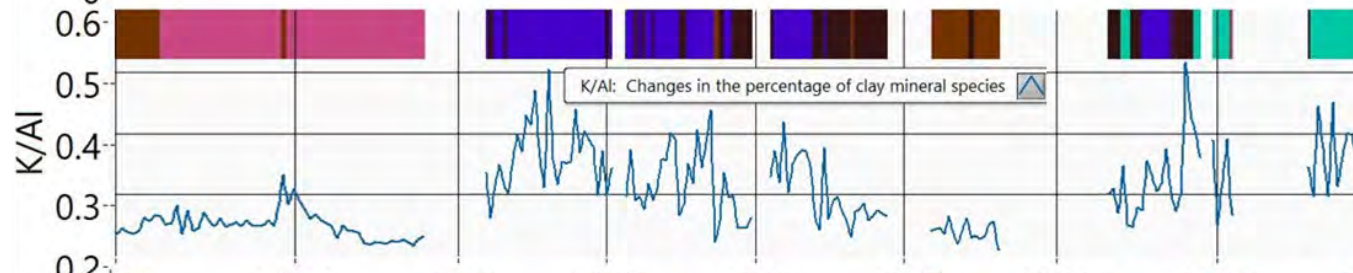
# Facies Characterisation: Quantitate Values

Relative changes:

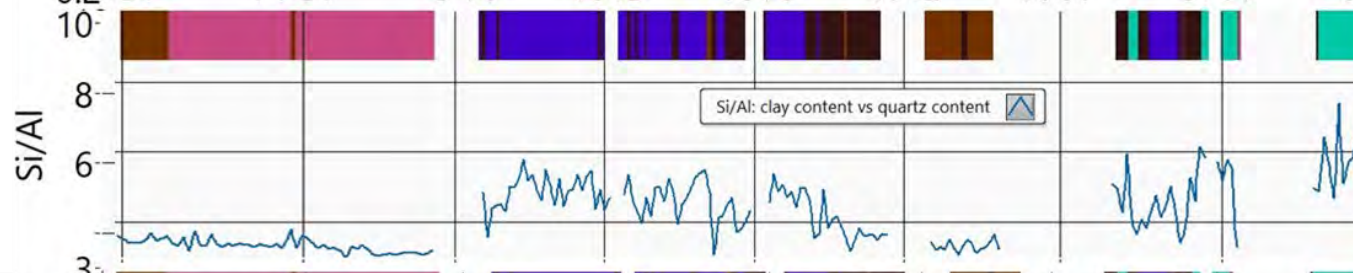
carbonate/clay



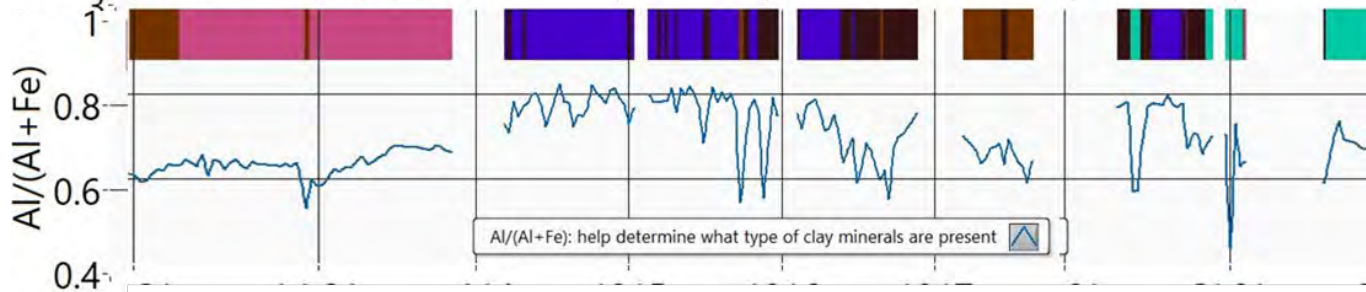
Clay Mineral species



Clay /Quartz



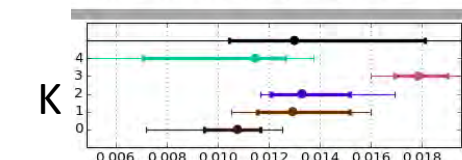
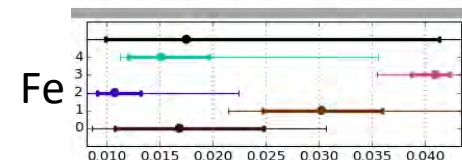
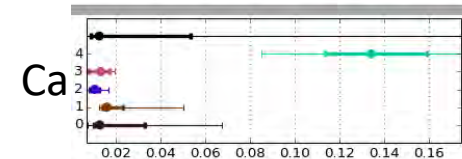
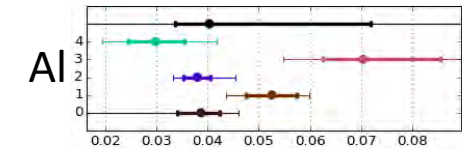
Type of clay minerals



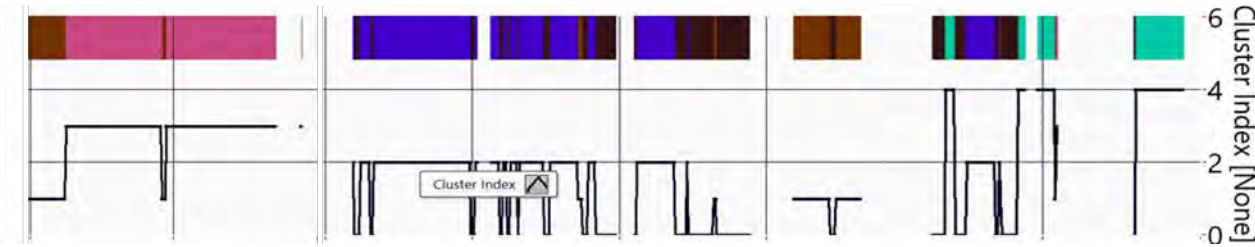
Fraction of total core length

K4	K3	K2	K1	K0
11%	27%	28%	16%	18%

Elemental Concentrations per facies

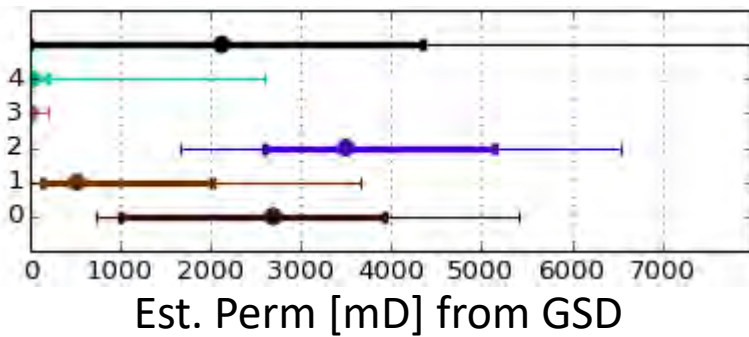


# Facies Characterisation: Quantitative Values



Fraction of total core length

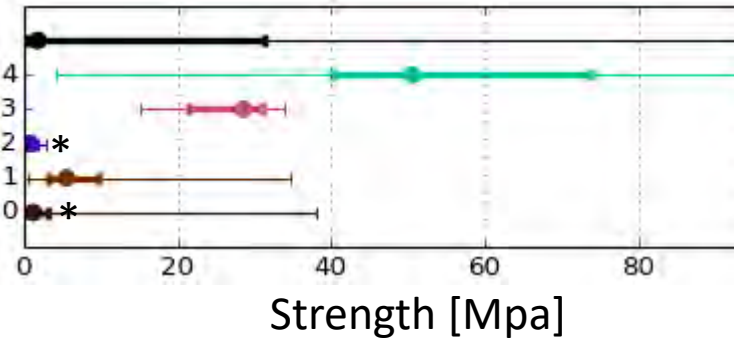
K4	K3	K2	K1	K0
11%	27%	28%	16%	18%



Low Perm



	Strength [Mpa]	Est. Perm [mD]
P10	23	0.1
P50	29	0.1
P90	60	65



Best Reservoir\*



	Strength [Mpa]	Est. Perm [mD]
P10	0.5	1500
P50	1	3300
P90	2	4900

Shaly Sand

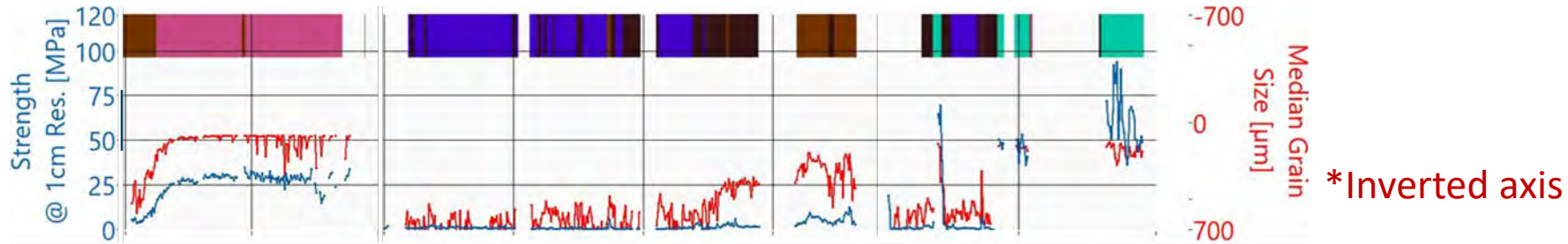


	Strength [Mpa]	Est. Perm [mD]
P10	3	128
P50	6	520
P90	10	2000

Optimized adaptive plugging strategy for each formation

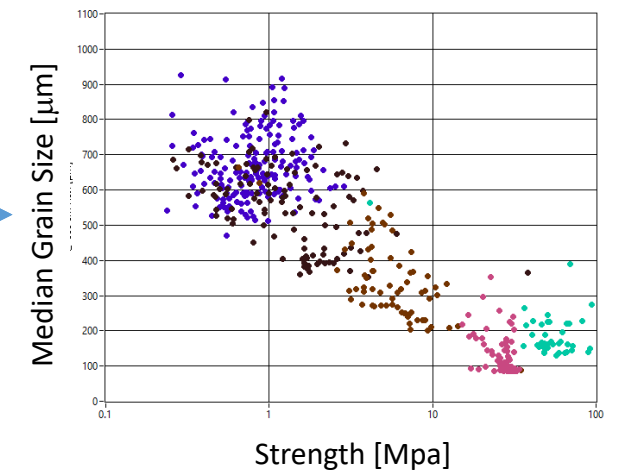
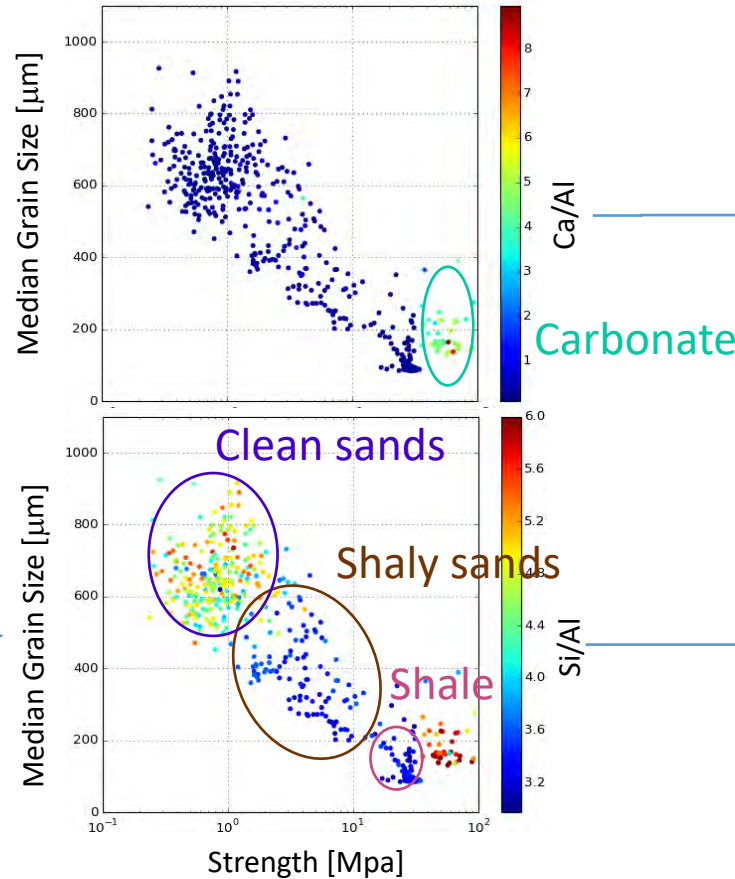
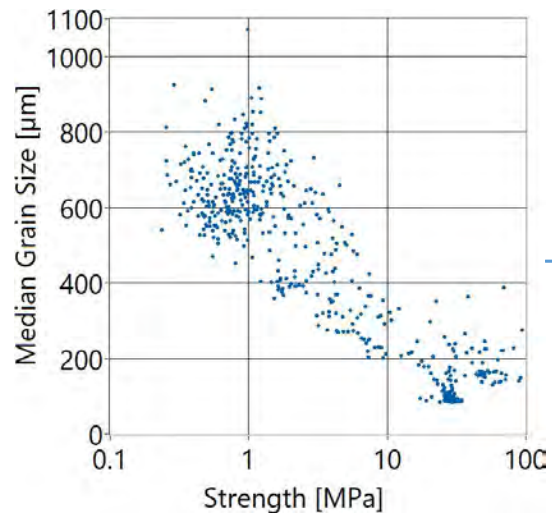
\*Risk of sanding from the reservoir (Completion designs adjusted to grain size measured on cores)

# Lithological Interpretation

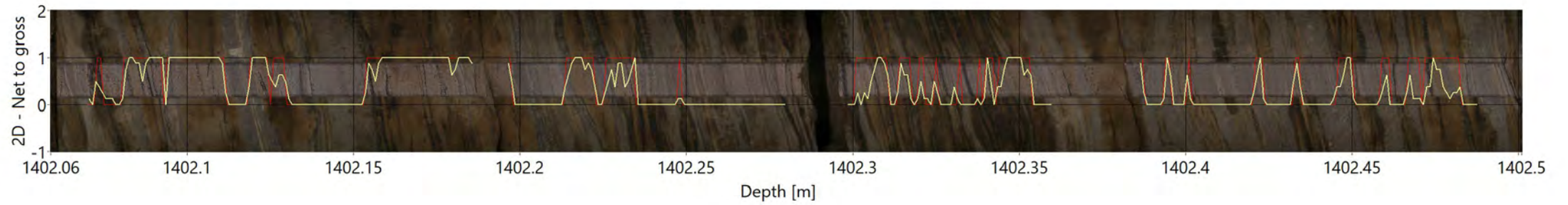
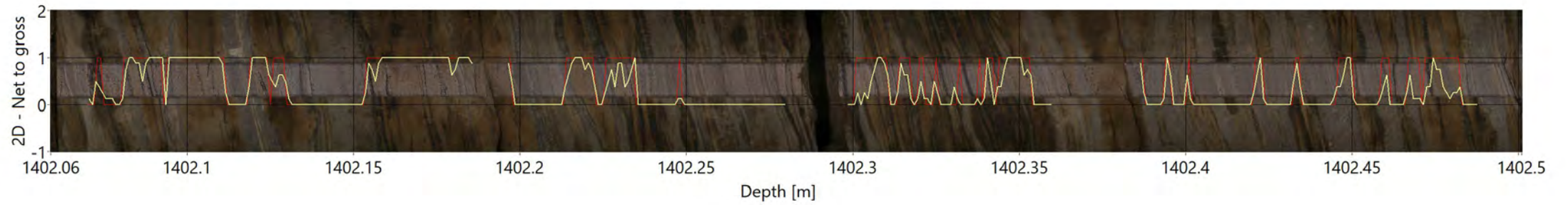
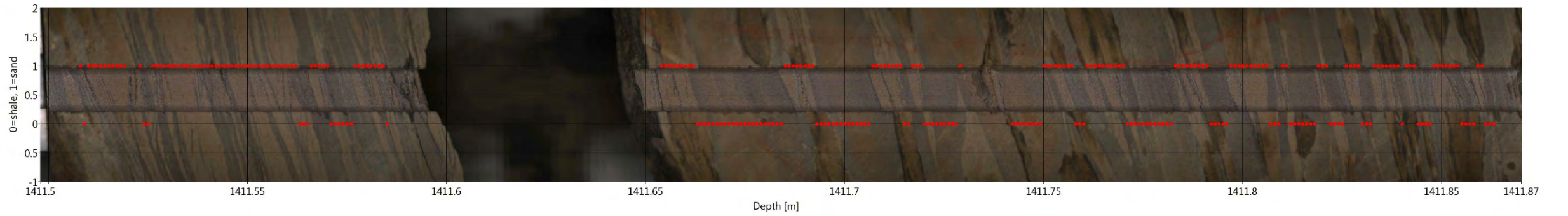
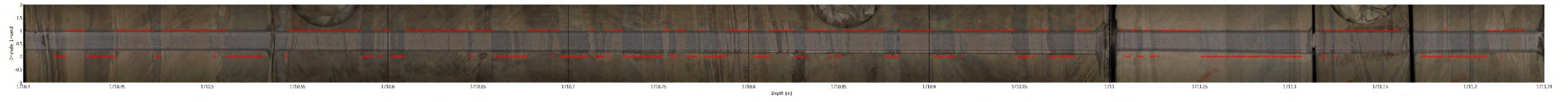


Fraction of total core length

K4	K3	K2	K1	K0
9%	25%	31%	14%	21%



# Net to Gross

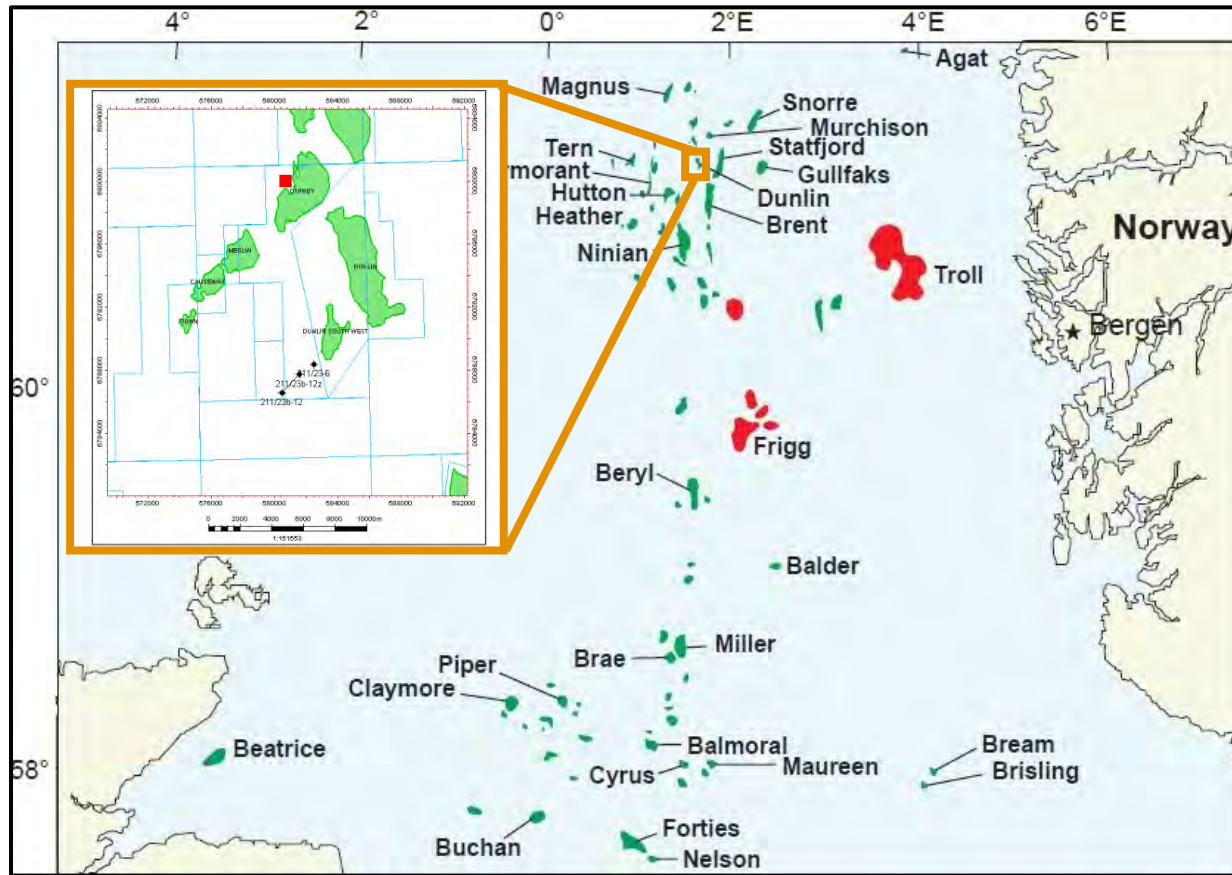


**MSCL CASE STUDY**

**FACIES PREDICTION**



# Case Study: Rock Core 211/23-8Z (8S1) Well Log and MSCL Data



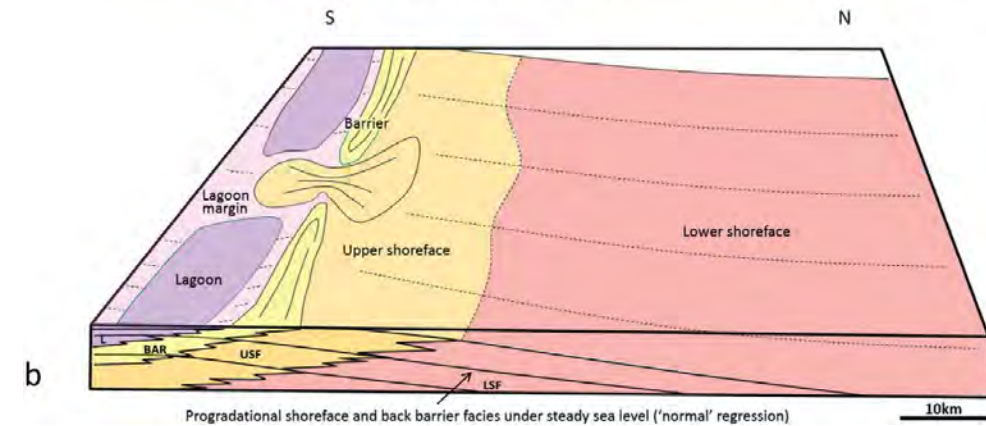
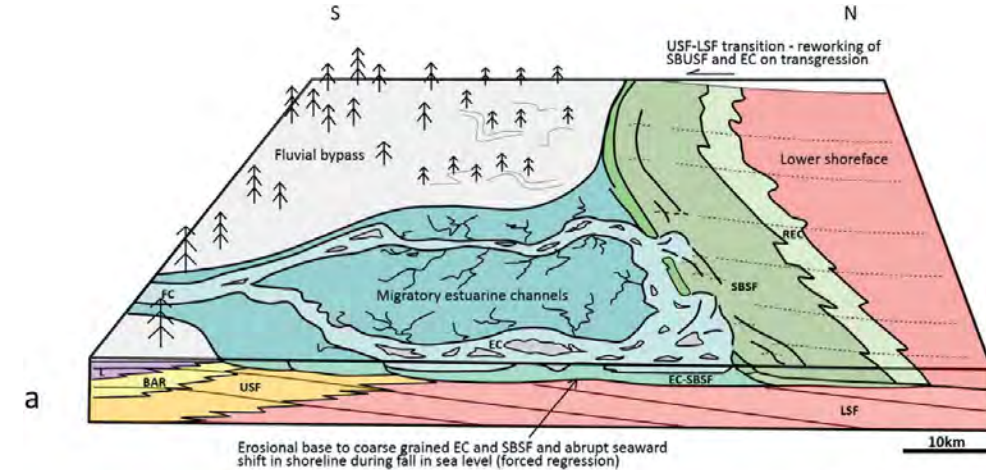
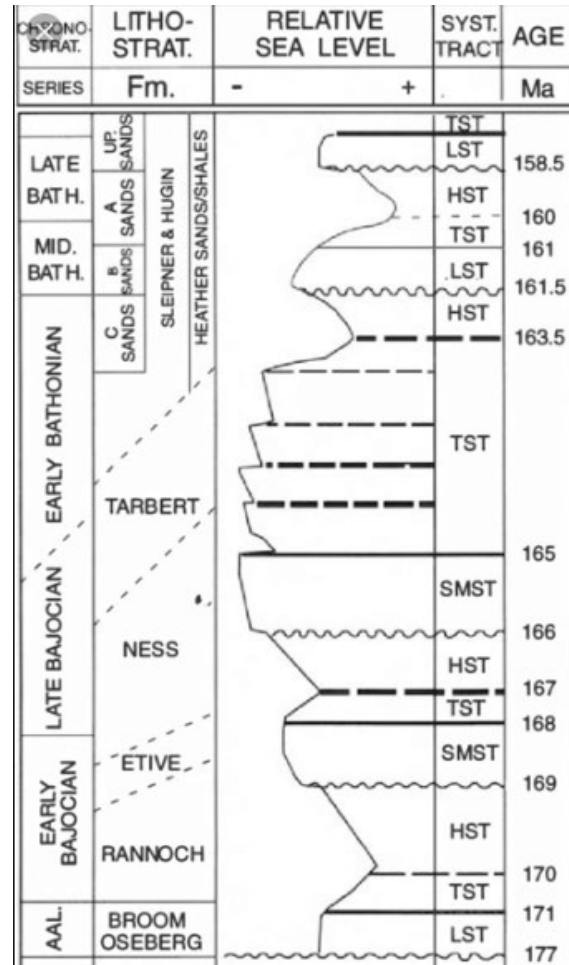
- Approximately 40' (between 9121' – 9163') slabbed core drilled in 1985 from borehole 211-23-8Z(8S1) from the UKCS Osprey/Dunlin field;
- Extensive set of well log and core analysis data was available from the UK's Oil and Gas Authority, National Data Repository (NDR) (open access);
- The core was logged and imaged using the following techniques: **Multi-Sensor Core Logger**, **Rotating X-ray CT (RXCT)**, and **SpecCam 4 VNIR/SWIR Hyperspectral Camera**. These data are combined with the existing well core data (core and log);
- Approximately 80,000 data points were interrogated using multivariate wavelet analysis to interpret facies or domains and a rock type pseudo-log

# Case Study: 211/23-8Z (8S1) Dunlin/Osprey Field

CORE	1	8927	-	8968
CORE	2	8968	-	9006.8
CORE	3	9007	-	9067
CORE	4	9067	-	9127
CORE	5	9127	-	9166
CORE	6	9171	-	9230
CORE	7	9231	-	9291

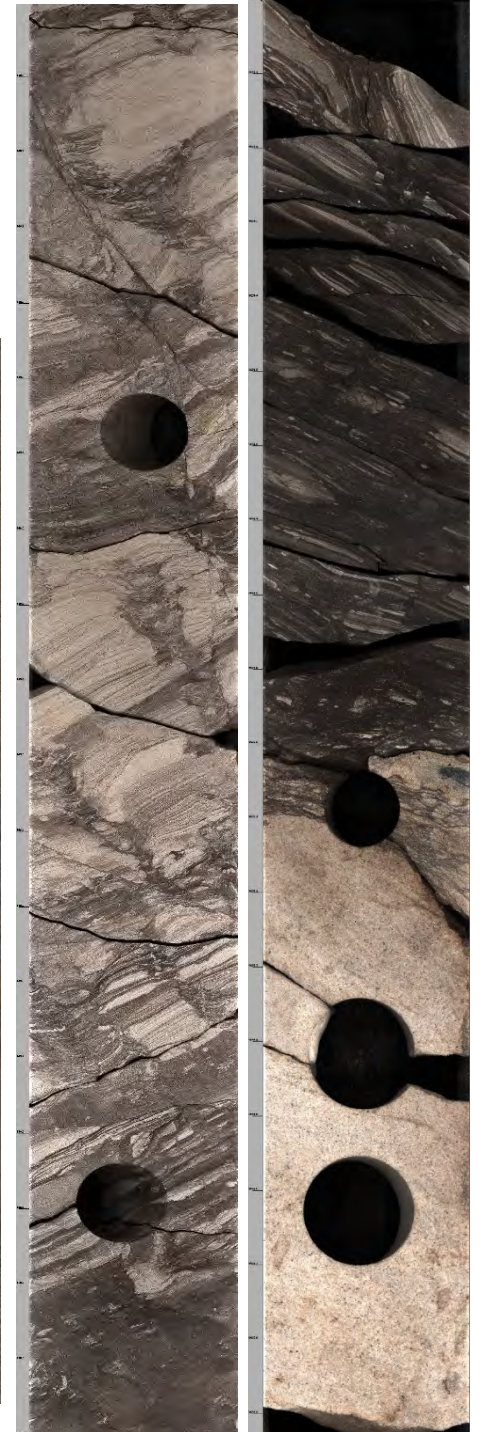
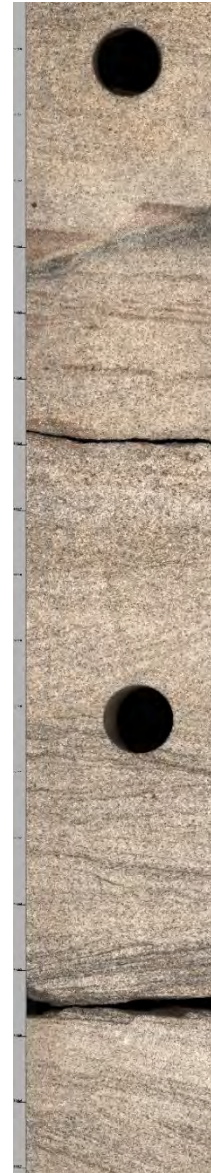
**Total of 357.8 ft**

Brent sequence cored from Heather through to Etive

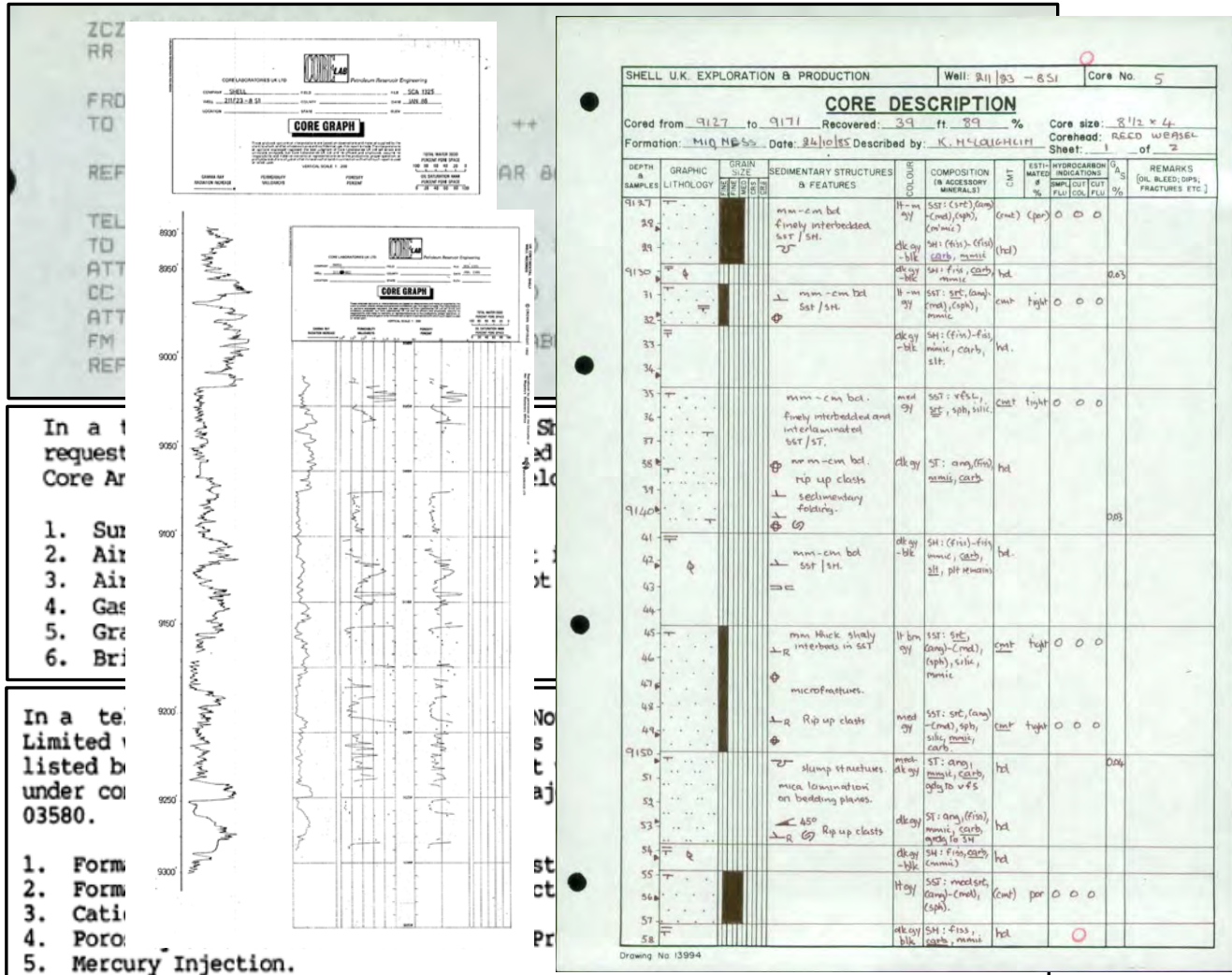


Described by: K. McLAUGHLIN Corehead: RECD WEASEL  
 Sheet: 1 of 2

# 211/23-8Z (8S1) - Sediments



# 211-23-8Z (8S1) - Vintage Core Analyst?



4th April, 1986.

CORE LABORATORIES UK LTD



Shell U.K. Exploration and Production,  
1, Altens Farm Road,  
Nigg,  
ABERDEEN.

DIRECTORS  
W. R. ALFROTH (U.S.A.)  
Wm. A. ROBBINS, JR. (U.S.A.)  
TED J. GRIFFIN, JR. (MANAGING)

For the attention of Mr. G. G. Bakker.

Subject : Core Analysis Study,  
Well : 211/23-8SI  
File : SCA 1325

Dear Sir,

In a telex dated 6th November 1985, Shell U.K. Exploration and Production requested Core Laboratories U.K. Limited to perform a series of Conventional Core Analysis measurements, as listed below, on samples from the subject well.

1. Surface Core Gamma
2. Air Permeability (Horizontal at foot intervals)
3. Air Permeability (Vertical at 20 foot intervals)
4. Gas Expansion Porosity (every foot)
5. Grain Density (every foot)
6. Brinell Hardness

The results of these measurements are presented herein as a Final Report and serves to confirm all data previously submitted in preliminary form. A table of contents immediately follows this letter.

This report replaces the copy issued on 27th January 1986, following the rectification of the sample numbering problem which occurred in Core No. 6, as discussed N. O'Neil/C. Lindsay. Thus the data for this core is now in the correct order.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused you whilst evaluating the data from this well.

The Brinell Hardness Data is reported in two formats as described in the procedures section. We hope this may be of use to yourselves when evaluating data for Brinell Hardness from different laboratories.

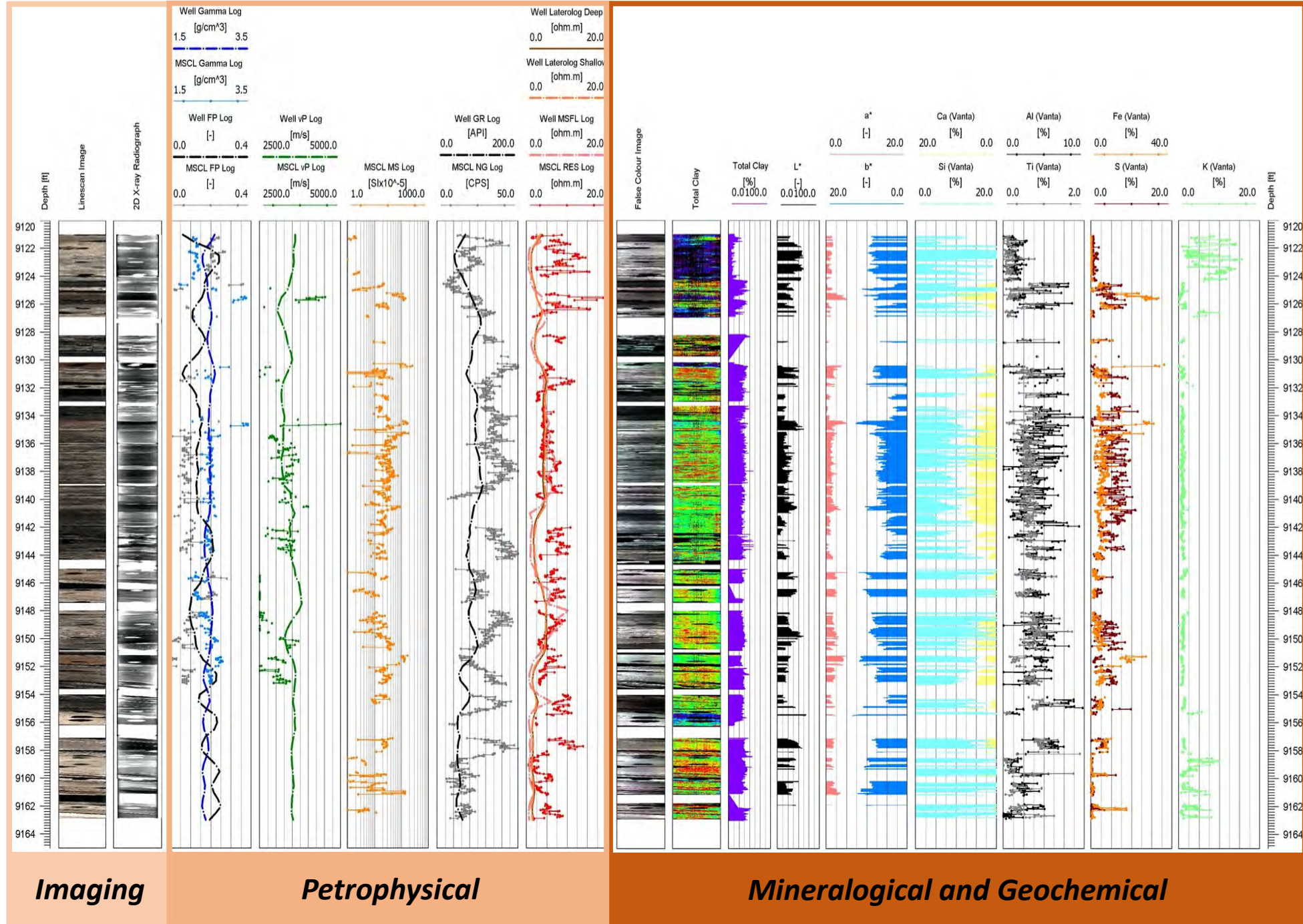
It has been a pleasure working with Shell U.K. Exploration and Production on this study. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,  
CORE LABORATORIES U.K. LIMITED

C.M. Lindsay  
Craig Lindsay,  
Core Analysis Department.

# MSCL Multi-Parameter Stratigraphy

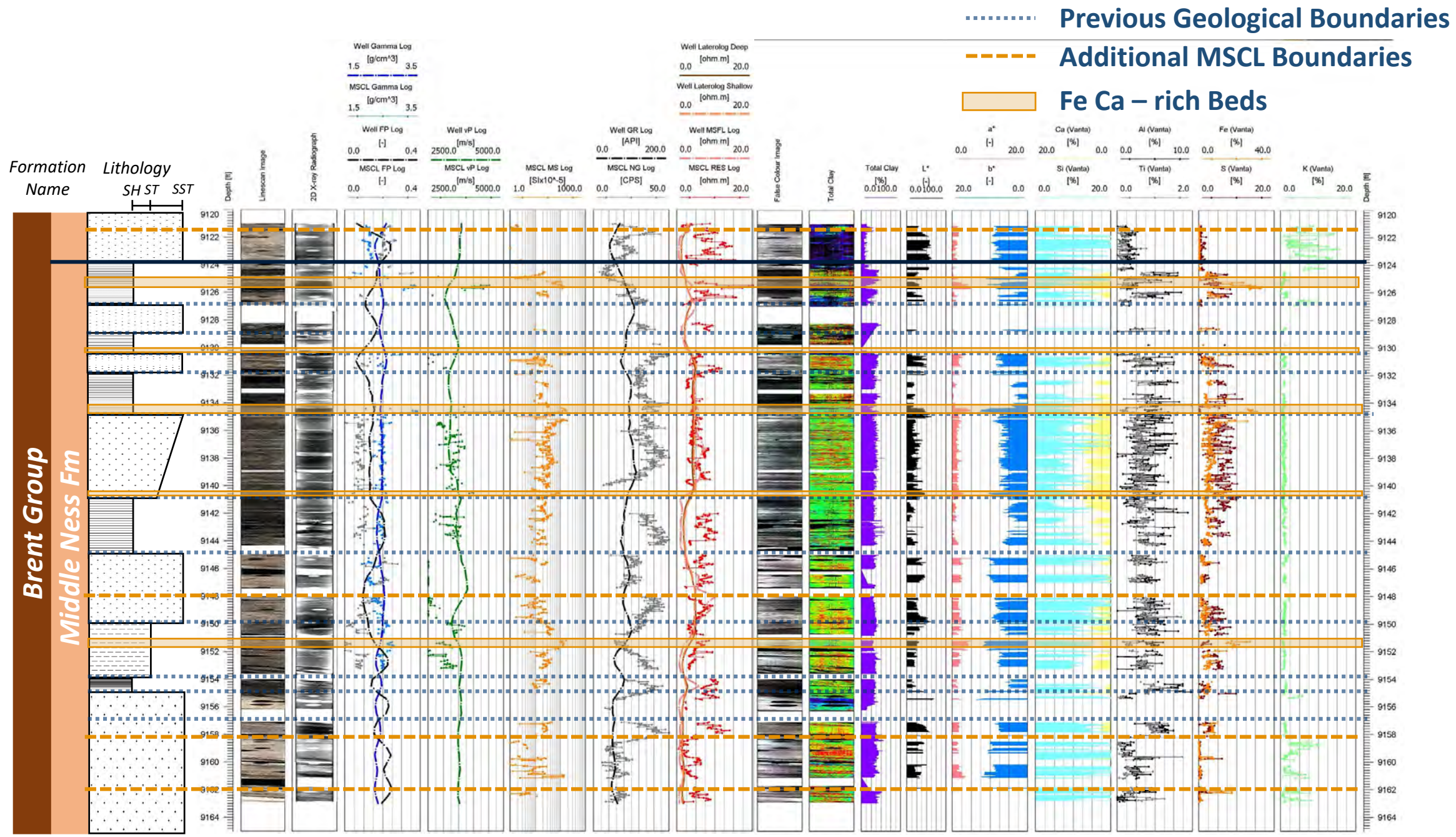
- Data acquired over 2 to 3 days
- Depth co-registered imaging, petrophysical, mineralogical, and geochemical data
- Good correlation between well log and core log



**Imaging**

**Petrophysical**

**Mineralogical and Geochemical**



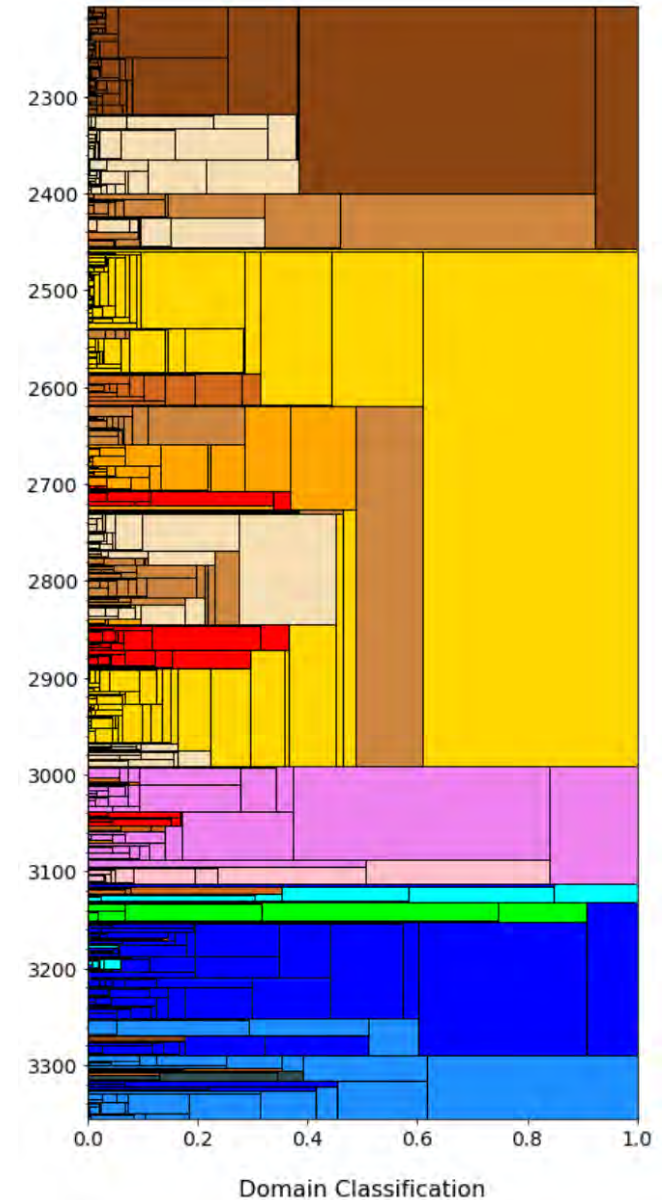
# Domain Classifications

- Untrained, automated method:
  - **Detect** natural boundaries in data;
  - **Classify** data independantly of boundary information;
  - Combine boundary and classification information, creating hierarchical domains;
- Very few assumptions (data, algorithm, No. clusters).



Hill E J, Robertson J and Uvarova Y (2015). Multiscale hierarchical domaining and compression of drill hole data. *Computers & Geosciences*, 79, 47-57.

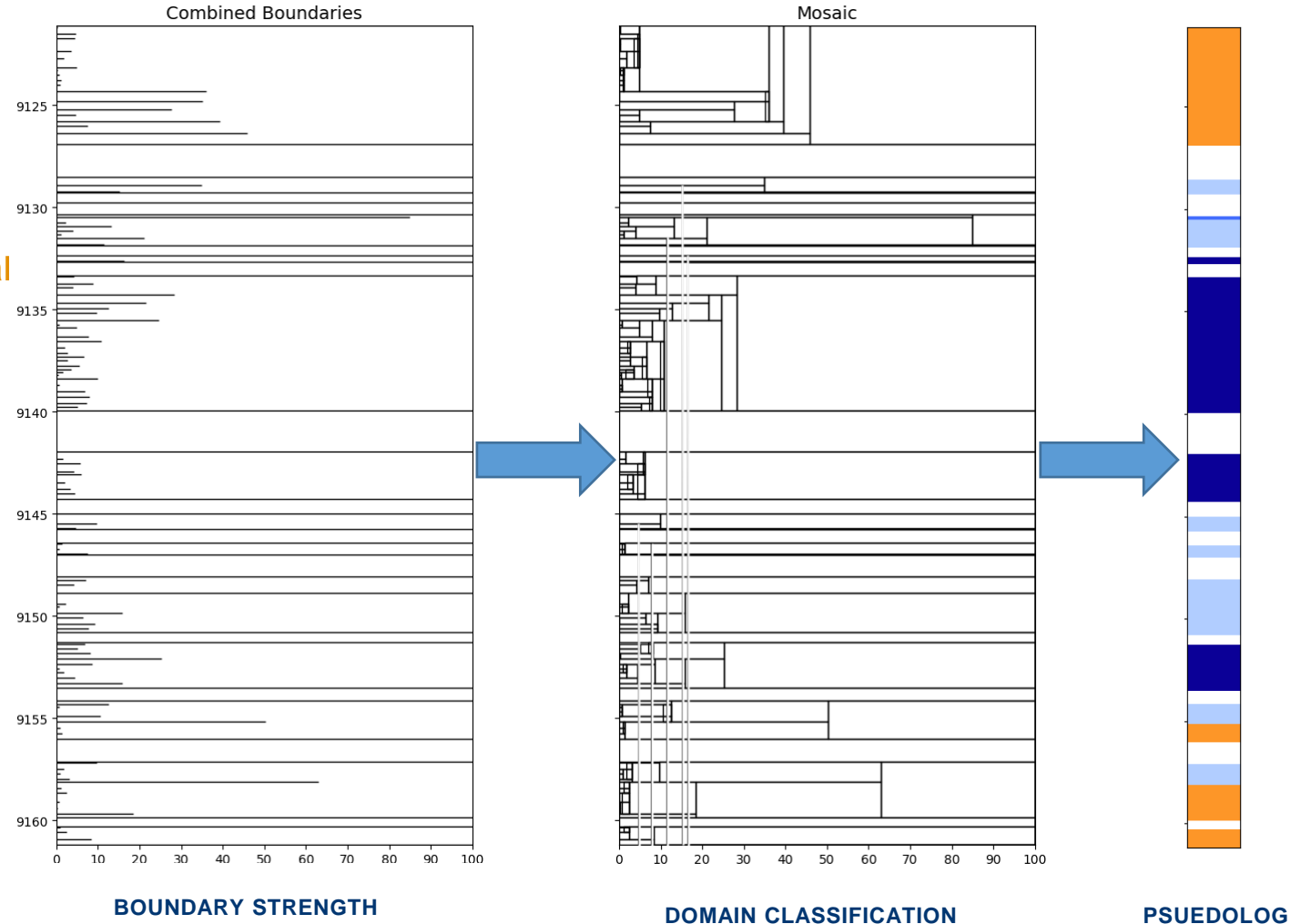
Hill E J, Uvarova Y (2018) Identifying the nature of lithogeochemical boundaries in drill holes. *Journal of Geochemical Exploration* 184:167-178



# 211/23-8Z (8S1)

## Classification Domain Workflow

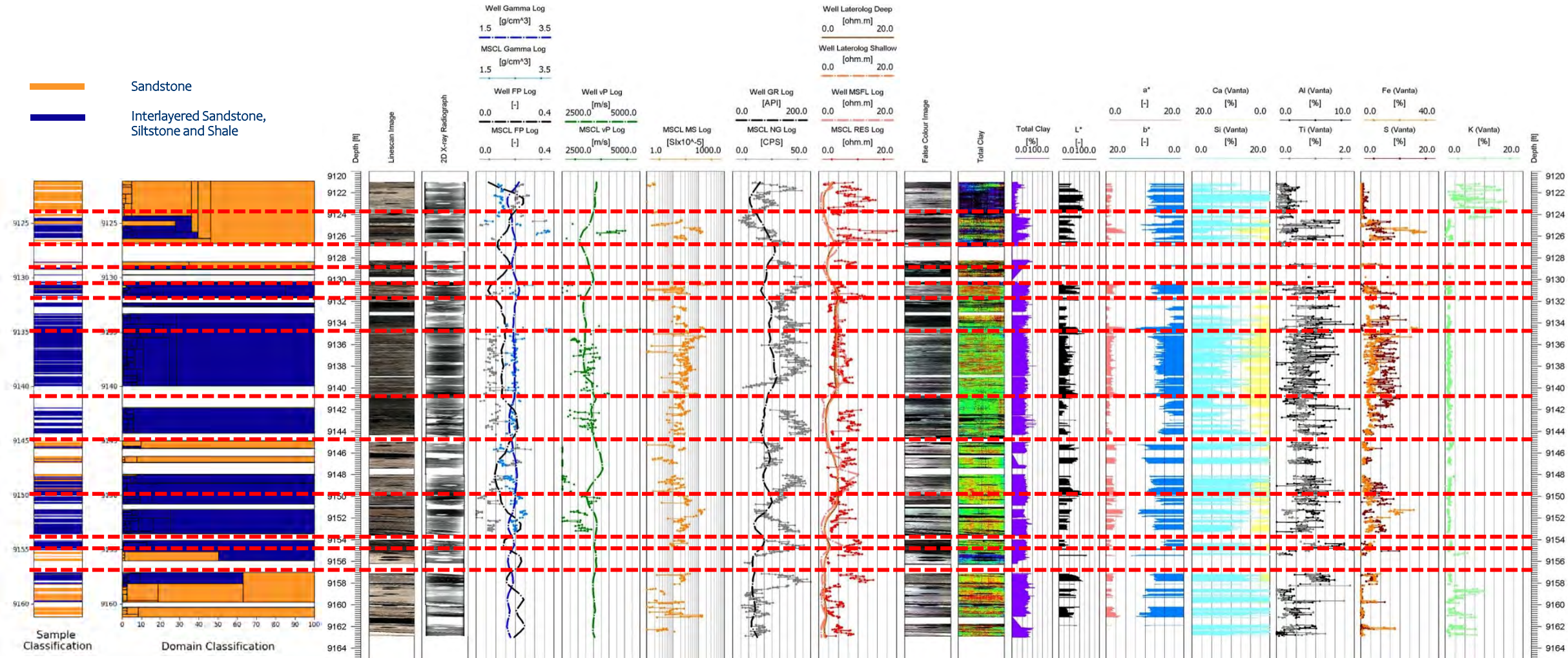
- MSCL data analysed by multiscale boundary detection using Continuous Wavelet Transform;
  - MSCL data used for analysis: **Magnetic susceptibility, electrical resistivity, natural gamma, colour (L\*,a\*, b\*) and XRF (Ca,Si,Al,Ti,Fe,S,K,total counts)**;
- Boundaries combined for multiple variables
- Domains created via multivariate tessellation
- MSCL dataset classified via K-means clustering
- Classification applied to mosaic plot
- Pseudolog generated at desired length resolution





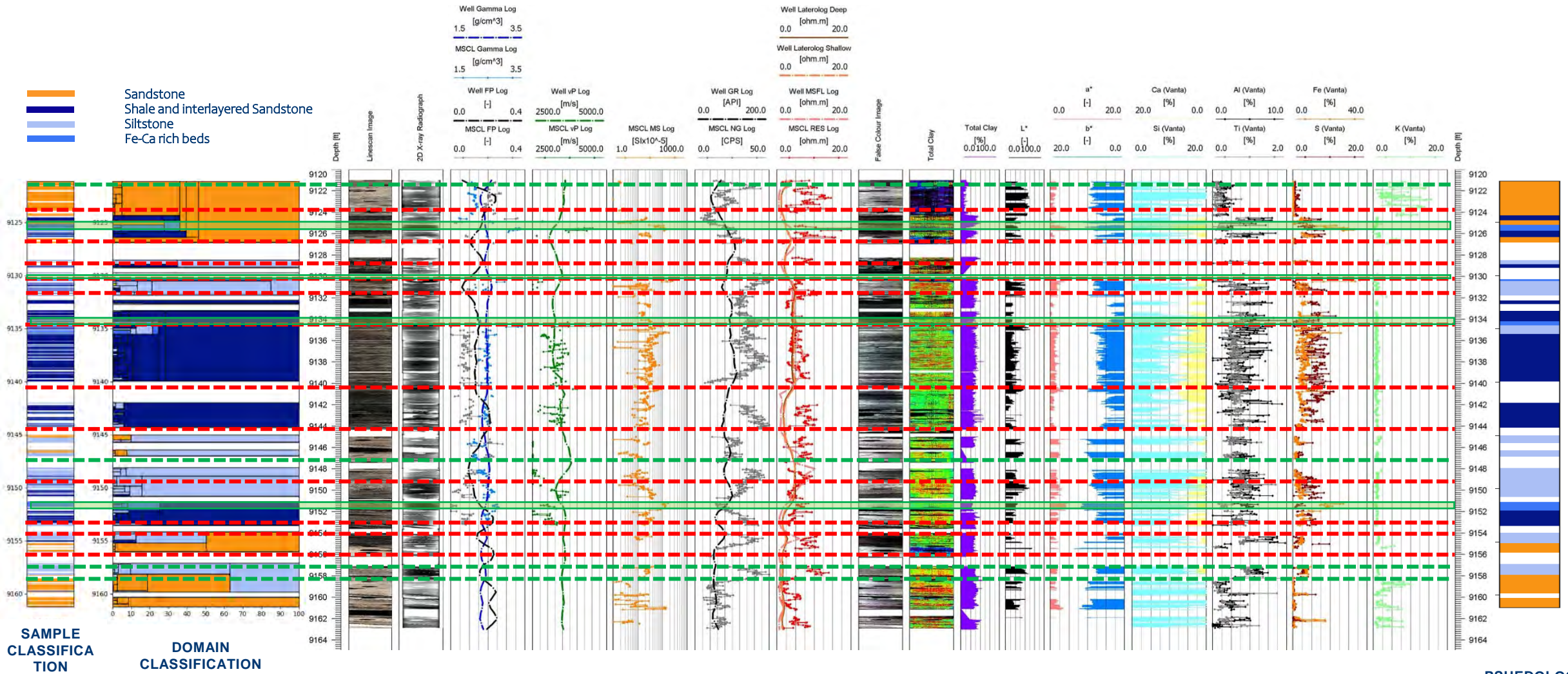
# 211-23-8Z (8S1)

## Two Rock Type Solution

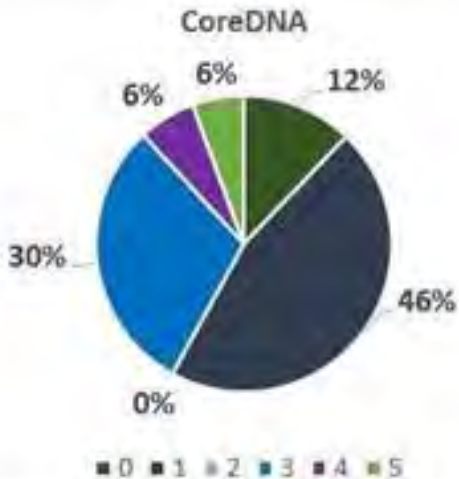
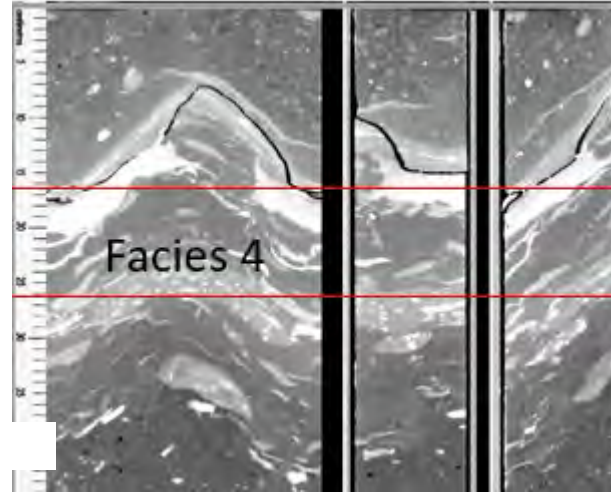


# 211-23-8Z (8S1)

## Four Rock Type Solution



# Man + Machine = Value<sup>2</sup>



From Core Logging 1 meter;

- 50 pXRF points for atoms above Mg.
- 500 000 x 3500 pixels
- 3D topography images: 66 000 x 66 pixels
- Strength: 100
- Vp & Vs: 2\*25

Facies Discussions:

Facies 0: 12%: Shaly Fine Sand. Low Si/Al ratio

Facies 1: 43%: Medium Sand. High Si/Al ratio, Low Ca

Facies 2: 5%: Clay. Very low Si/Al ratio, Low Ca, High Al, High S

Facies 3: 28%: Coarse to very coarse Sand. High Si/Al ratio, Low Ca, Low Al

Facies 4: 6%: Medium to coarse Sand. Low Si/Al ratio, large S

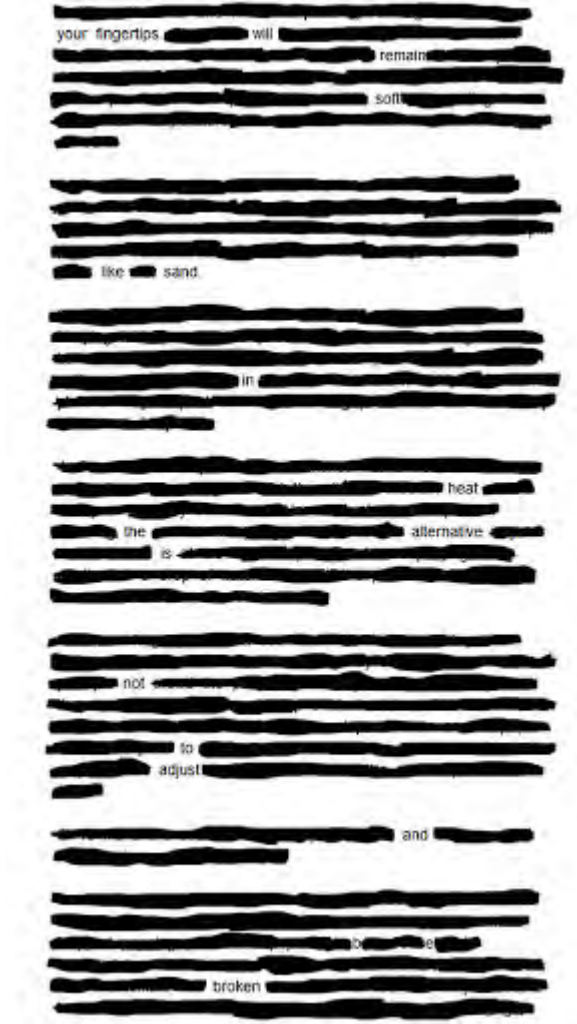
Facies 5: 5%: Hardest. Fine Sand with large Ca. High Si/Al ratio

I did an OK job at selecting sampling points BUT I had no ability to identify actual facies!

$$1+1 > 2$$

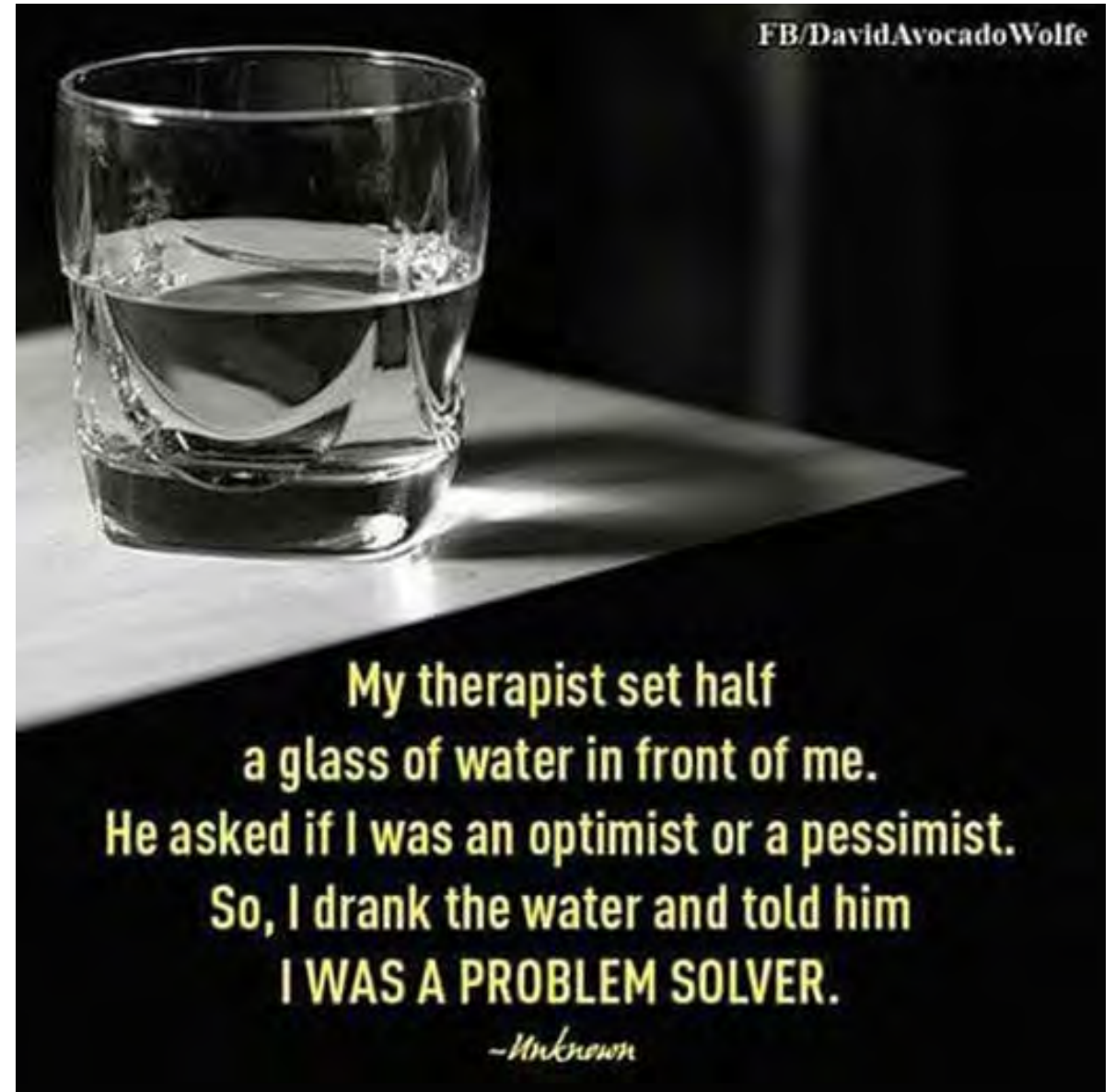
# Multi-sensor core logging?

- We have Routine Core Analysis (RCA or CCA)
- Special Core Analysis (SCAL)
- Digital Rock Analysis (DRA or DRP)
- Now we have Smart Core Analysis (SCA!)





**Core Analyst**



**Sw = 50%**