

# Muography in Wigner RCP

## Detector development and applications

Gergely Surányi<sup>1</sup>, László Oláh<sup>1,2</sup>, Dezső Varga<sup>1,2</sup>, Gergő Hamar<sup>1,2</sup>

1 HUN-REN Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Hungary

2 International Virtual Muography Institute (VMI), Global

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**HUN-REN**  
Magyar Kutatási Hálózat



  
NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION OFFICE  
HUNGARY

PROJECT  
FINANCED FROM  
THE NRDI FUND

**REGARD**  
RMKI ELTE Collaboration  
on Gaseous Detector  
Research and Development

# Outline

**I. Introduction**

**II. Detector Technologies**

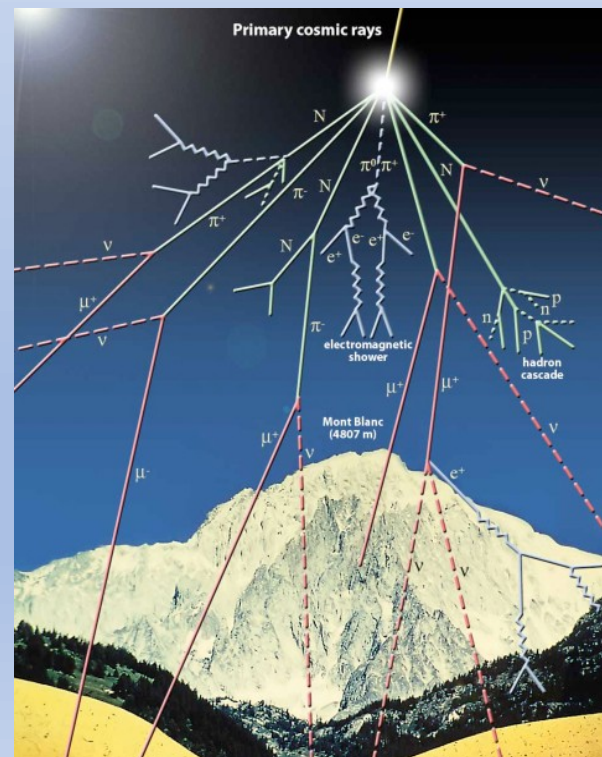
**III. Field measurement examples**

**IV. Summary**



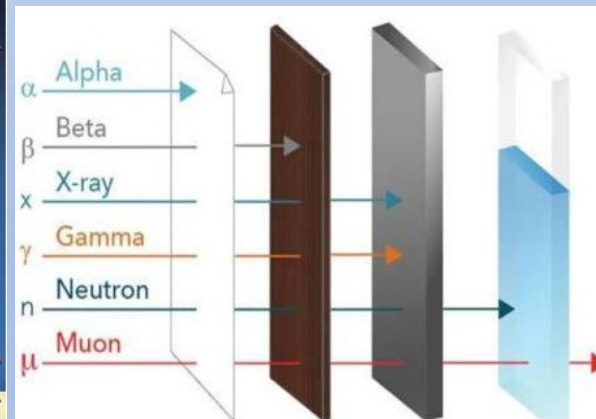
# I. Introduction: Muons and Muography

- **Cosmic-ray muons:** continuously produced in the atmosphere and observed everywhere on Earth. Muons are **highly penetrative particles** which can reach even a few km of depth into Earth's subsurface
- **Muography:** "X-raying" of large structures (mountains, volcanoes, pyramids, nuclear reactors, etc.) via tracking of cosmic-ray muons → **non-destructive, non-invasive, passive imaging technique**
- Methodology of muography was developed before mid 1960s (E.P. George, L.W. Alvarez et al.) but the imaging of large structures was achieved just in mid 2000s thanks to the development of detector technologies



Credit: CERN

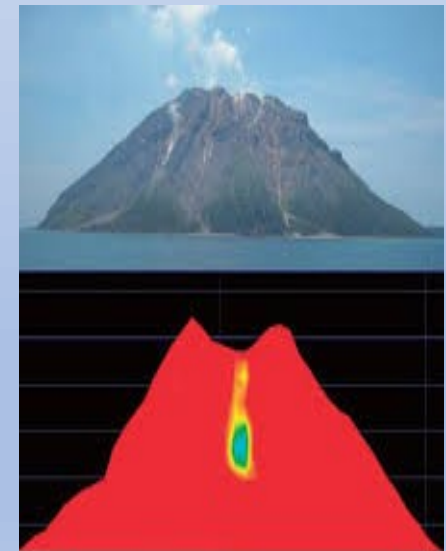
Paper    Wood    Iron    Concrete  
Al        Al        Lead    Water



Credit: Decision Sciences



First medical X-ray image by Röntgen (1895)



First muon images of volcanoes by Tanaka et al. (mid 2000s)

# “Generations” of muography

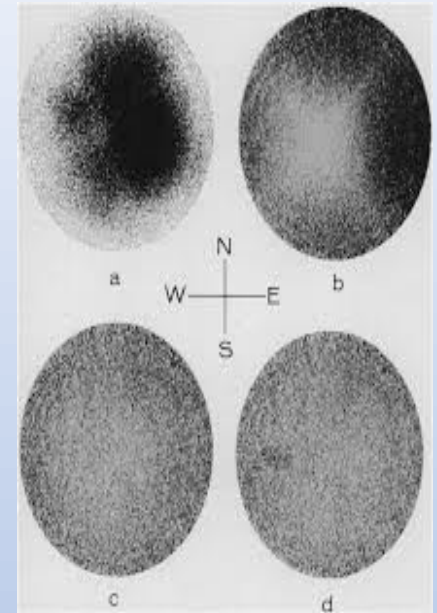
1<sup>st</sup> Generation: George 1955, Alvarez 1970 – demonstration of the principle for underground imaging

2<sup>nd</sup> Generation: around the 90-ies, Los Alamos, Italy, Japan... expanding the possibilities including scattering, various patents

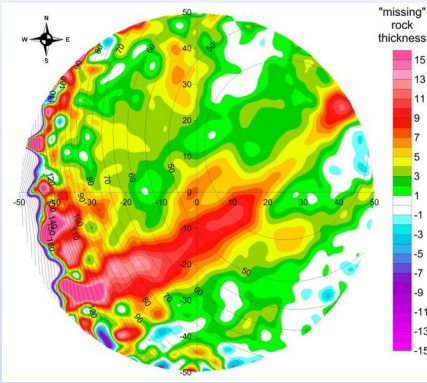
3<sup>rd</sup> Generation: around 2000, breakthroughs in volcanology (dynamics!), developing industries

4<sup>th</sup> Generation: dedicated systems, developments driven by the applications, expansion in possible use cases

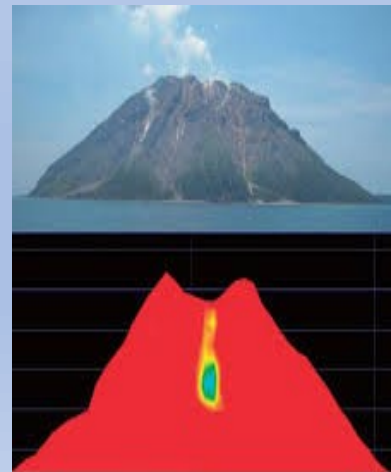
- High efficiency and resolution, high reliability
- Cost efficiency, durability on field, autonomy



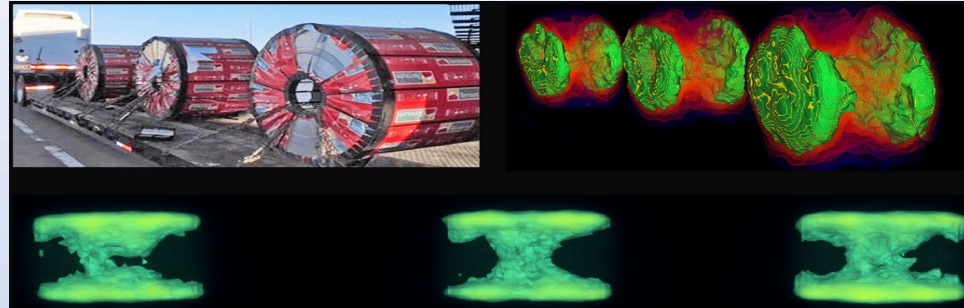
# Muon Imaging Techniques



HUN-REN Wigner RCP



The University of Tokyo

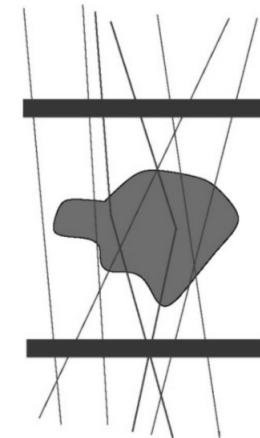
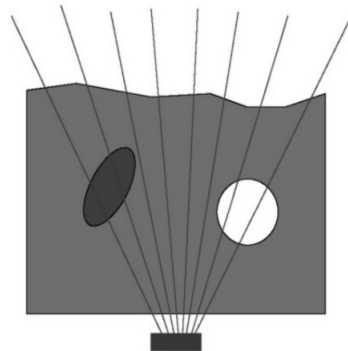


Decision Sciences

**Absorption** (reduction of number)

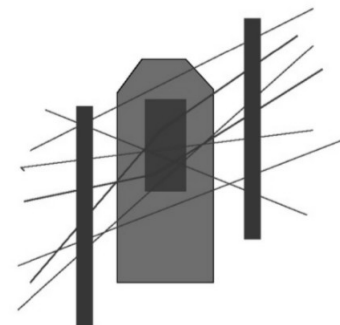
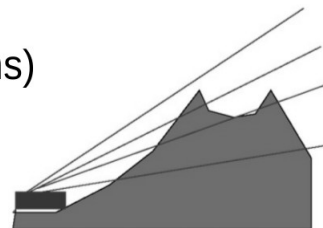
**Scattering** (directional change)

**Underground**  
(high or low density)



Object  
inside the  
detector

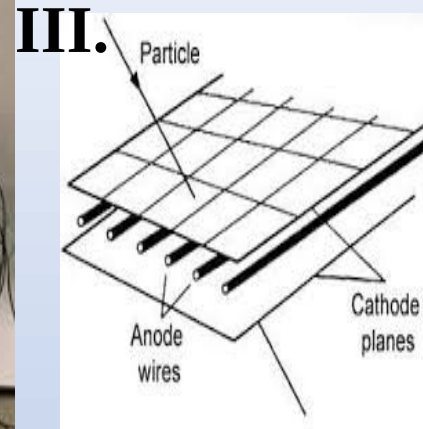
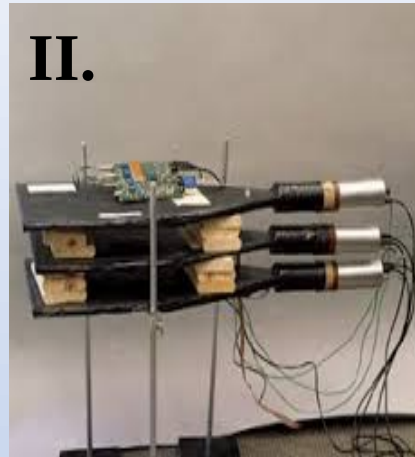
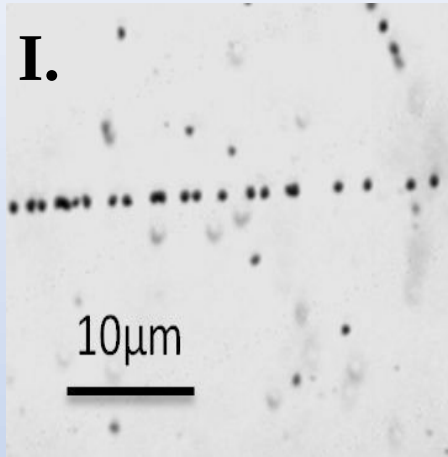
**On surface**  
(low angle muons)



Detector  
"around"  
object



# II. Muon Detector Technologies



## I. Emulsion detector:

good positional resolution,  
but no timing information

## II. Scintillator:

reliable, but positional  
resolution is costly

## III. Gaseous detector:

good positional resolution,  
but needs optimization to  
environment



Nagoya University



KEK

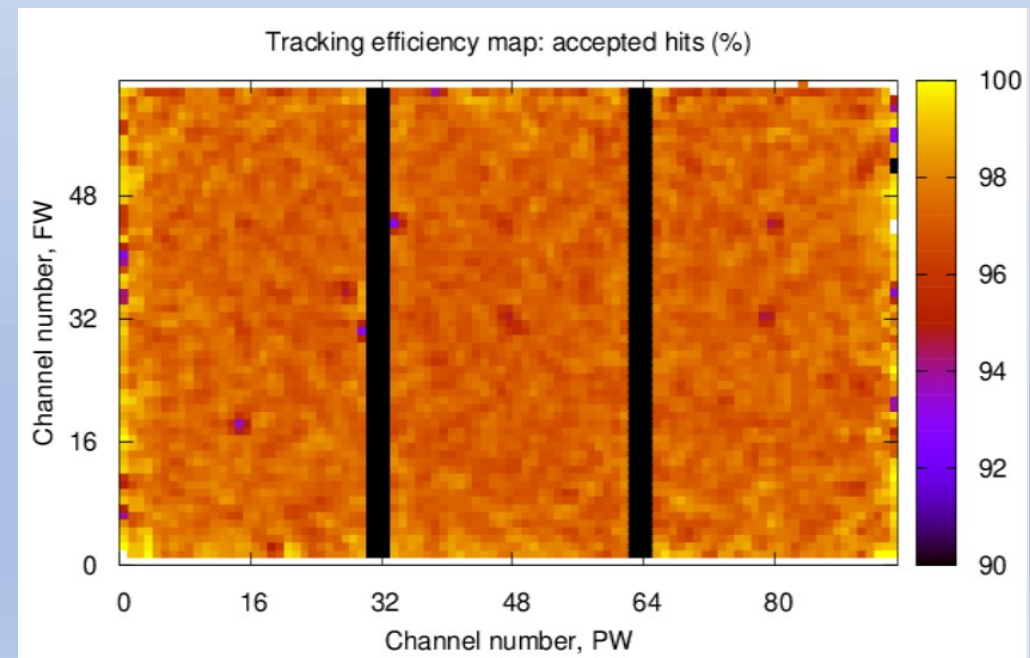
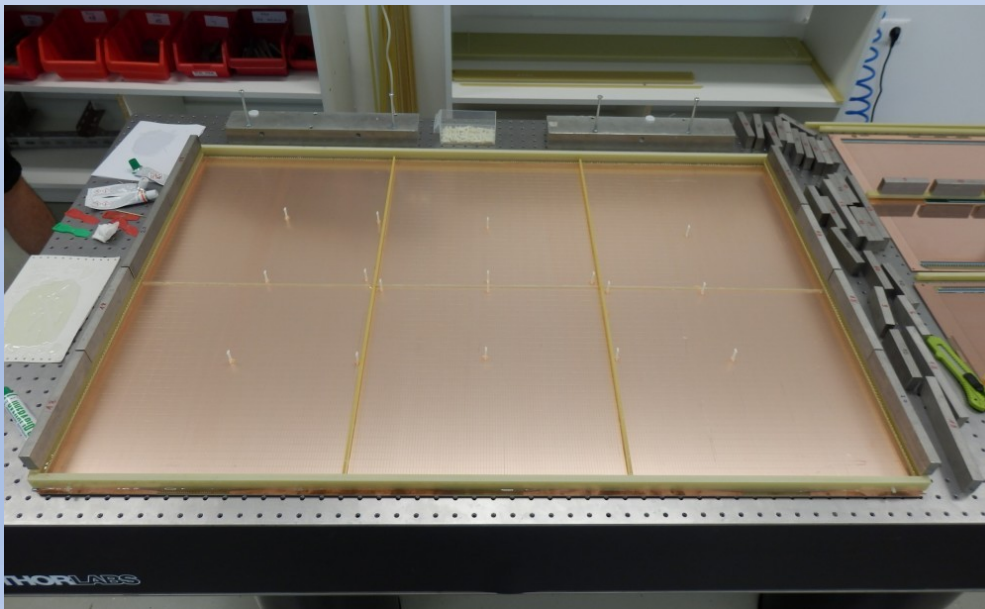


HUN-REN Wigner RCP  
The University of Tokyo

## II. Muon Detector Technologies: Recent Developments in HUN-REN Wigner RCP

### Large area MWPC detector construction

- Reliability, durability, scalability by design
- By now 200+ m<sup>2</sup> produced (70 m<sup>2</sup> at SMO)



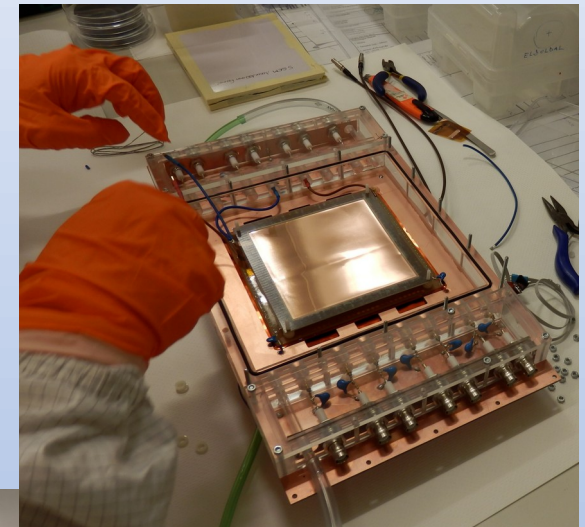
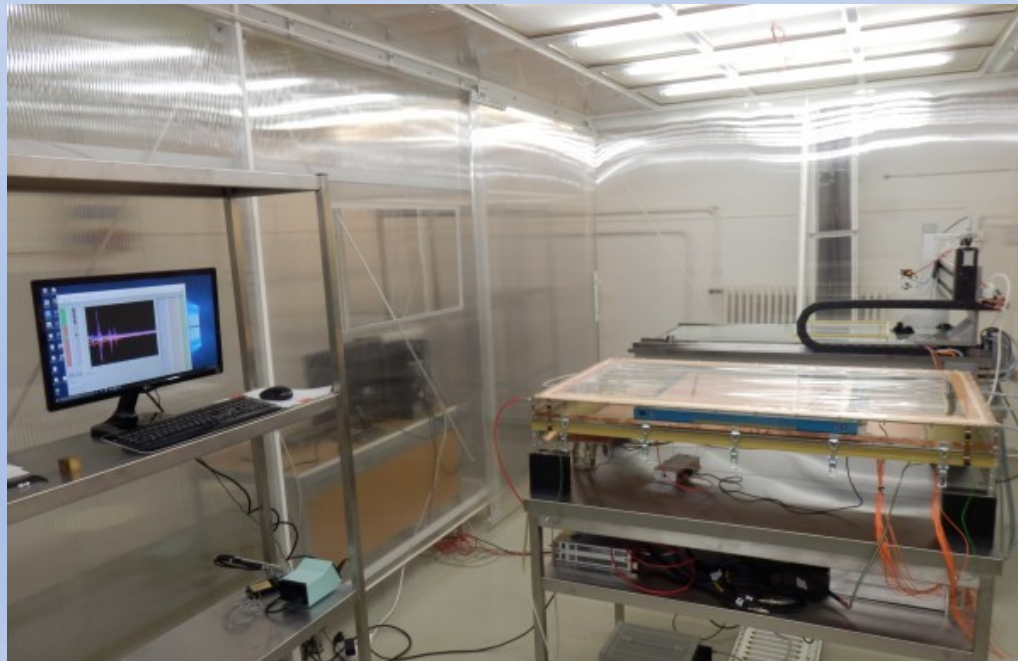


# Detector production: “Vesztergombi Laboratory for High Energy Physics”



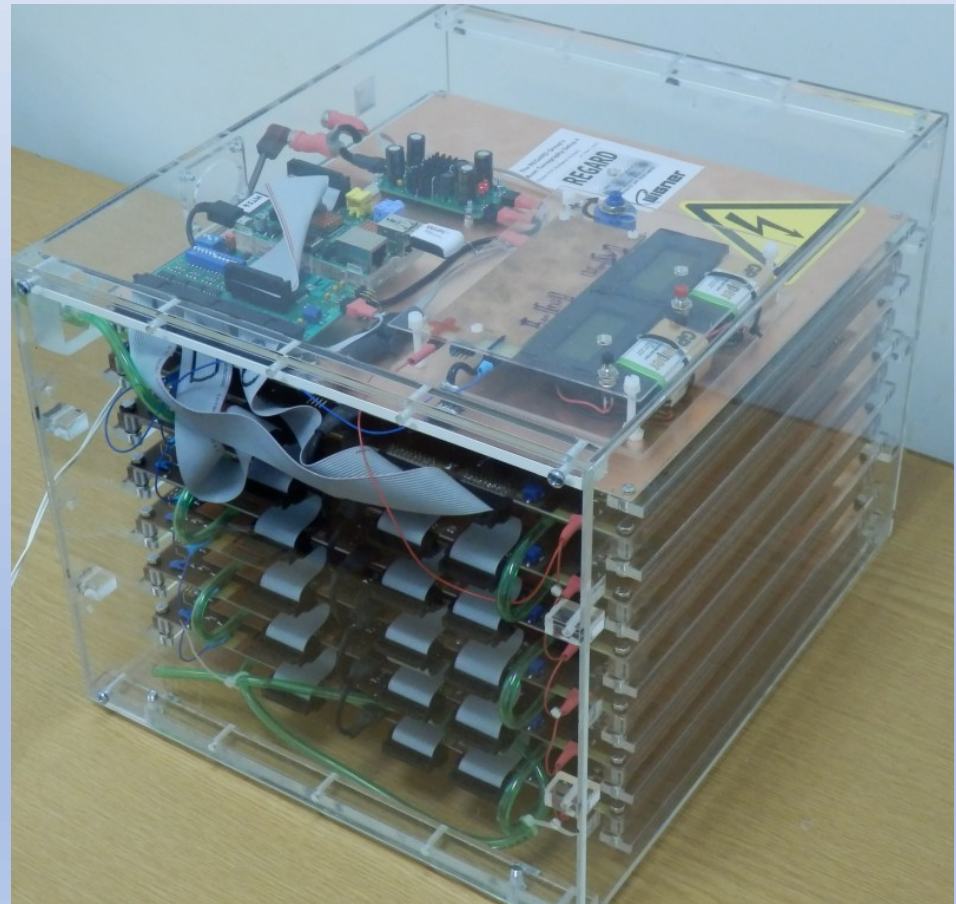
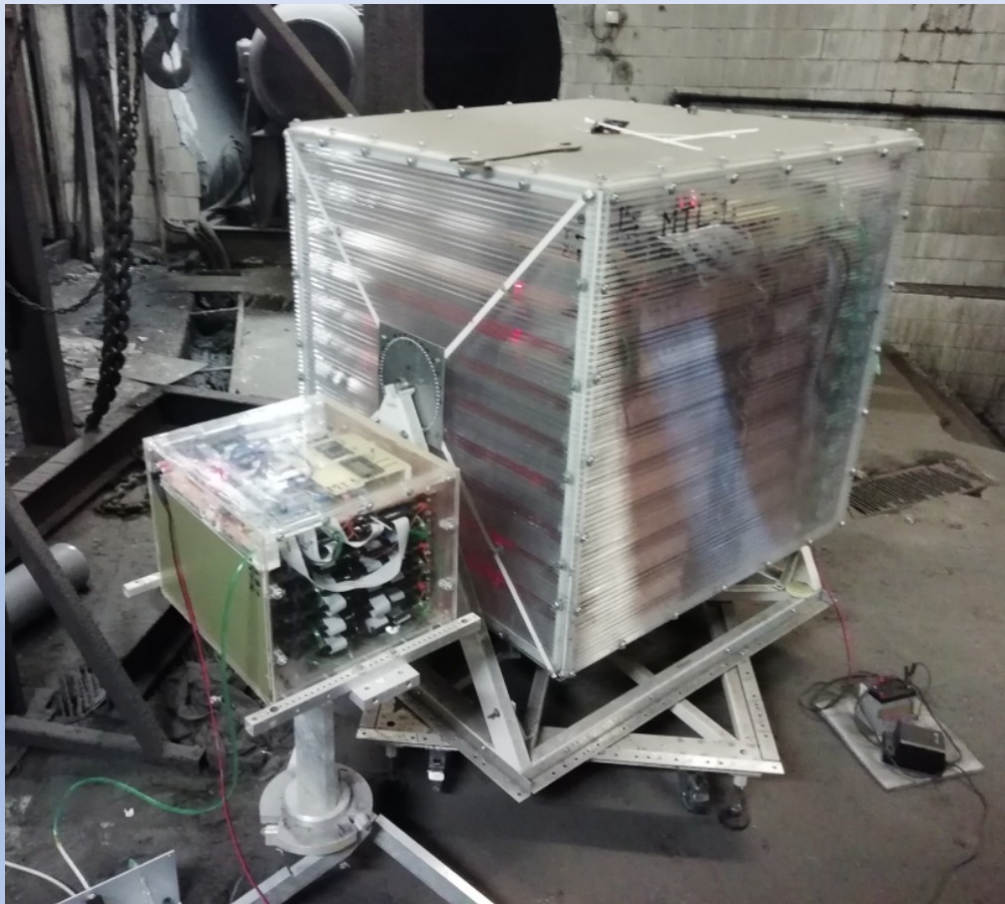
Dedicated infrastructure, nominated as excellent (Top50) nationally by the NRDl Office

Serves 5+ research groups at RMI



# Underground detectors: use what fits!! S to L-size

“Muon Tomograph Large” (MTL1) and “Compact”





# Challenge for particle physicists: from lab to field





# Hardware development: detector casing for harsh underground conditions

36-38 °C, 100% humidity !!





# Hardware development: detector casing for harsh underground conditions

Solution: fully sealed stainless steel casing with long buffer hose on the gas outlet



# Hardware development: underwater detector (in the frame of the Horizon Europe project „Mine.io”)

**Flooded mines up to the depth  
of 100m**  
(in collaboration with INESC TEC,  
Portugal)

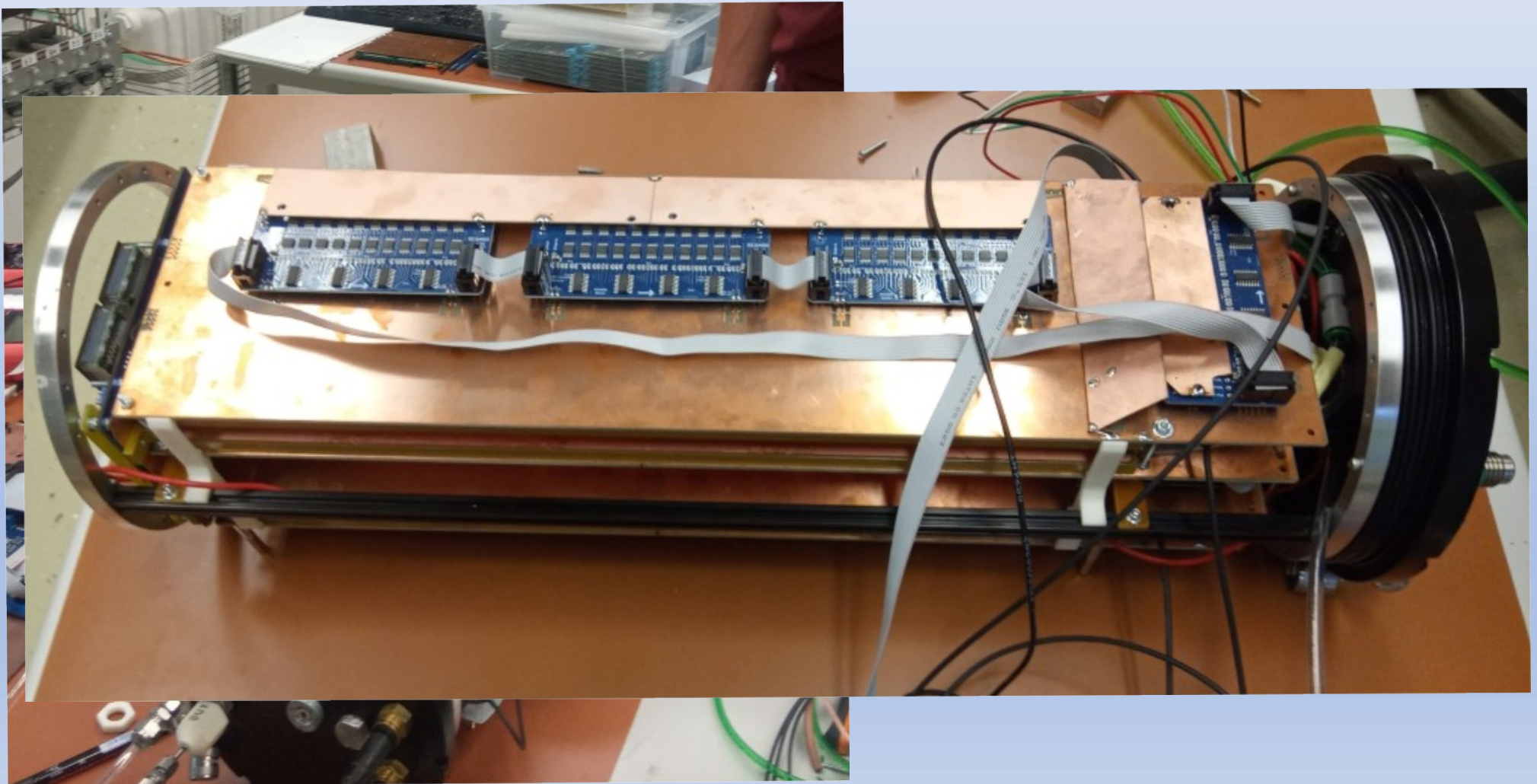
Narrow and hard to reach spaces

Large diameter **boreholes**  
(the diameter of the current  
version is 20 cm)



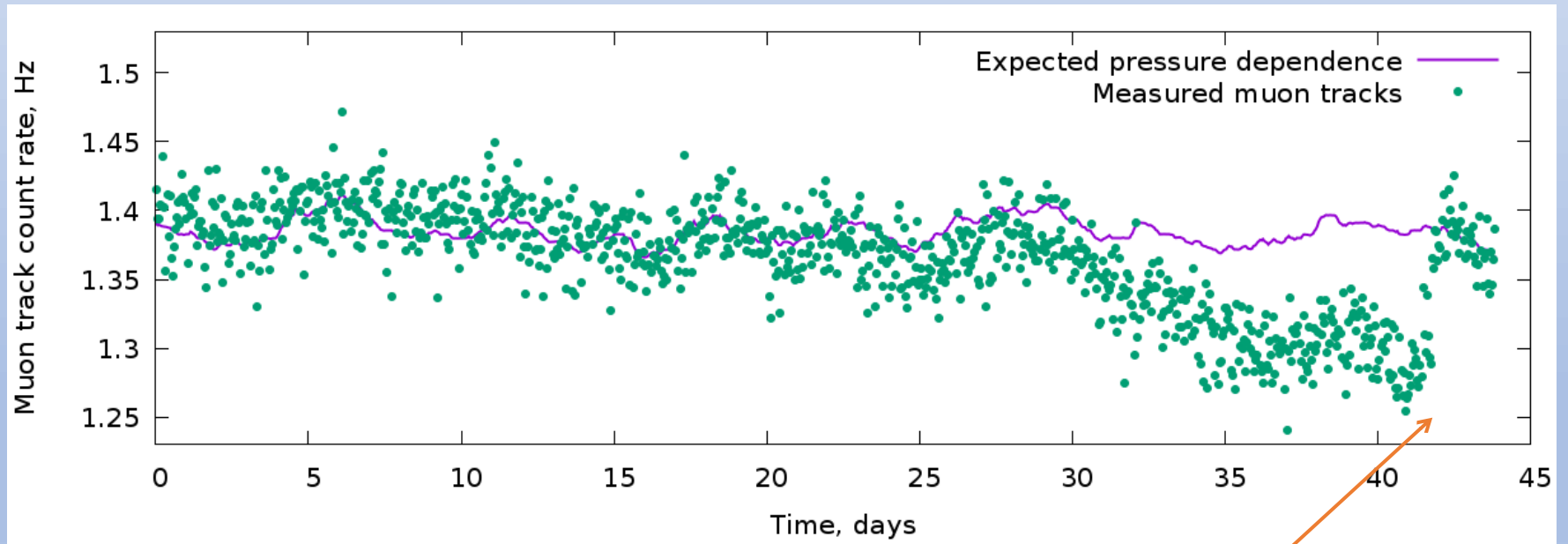
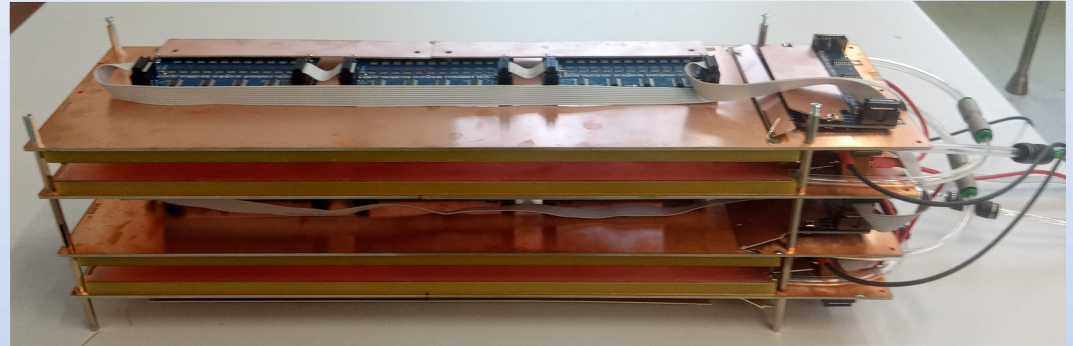


# Hardware development: underwater detector (in the frame of the Horizon Europe project „Mine.io”)



# Laboratory testing

- 4 layers, 128mm x 384mm, 4mm segmentation
- Detector was running **in sealed mode for 6 weeks!** Track rate drops by less than 10%



Sealed mode run from the beginning of the measurement

Gas flow restored

# Software development

## - **Framework and database manager for processing muographic measurement data**

The system generates a merged „**muogram**” file containing the binned input data required to perform the inversion.

## - **Inversion software package**

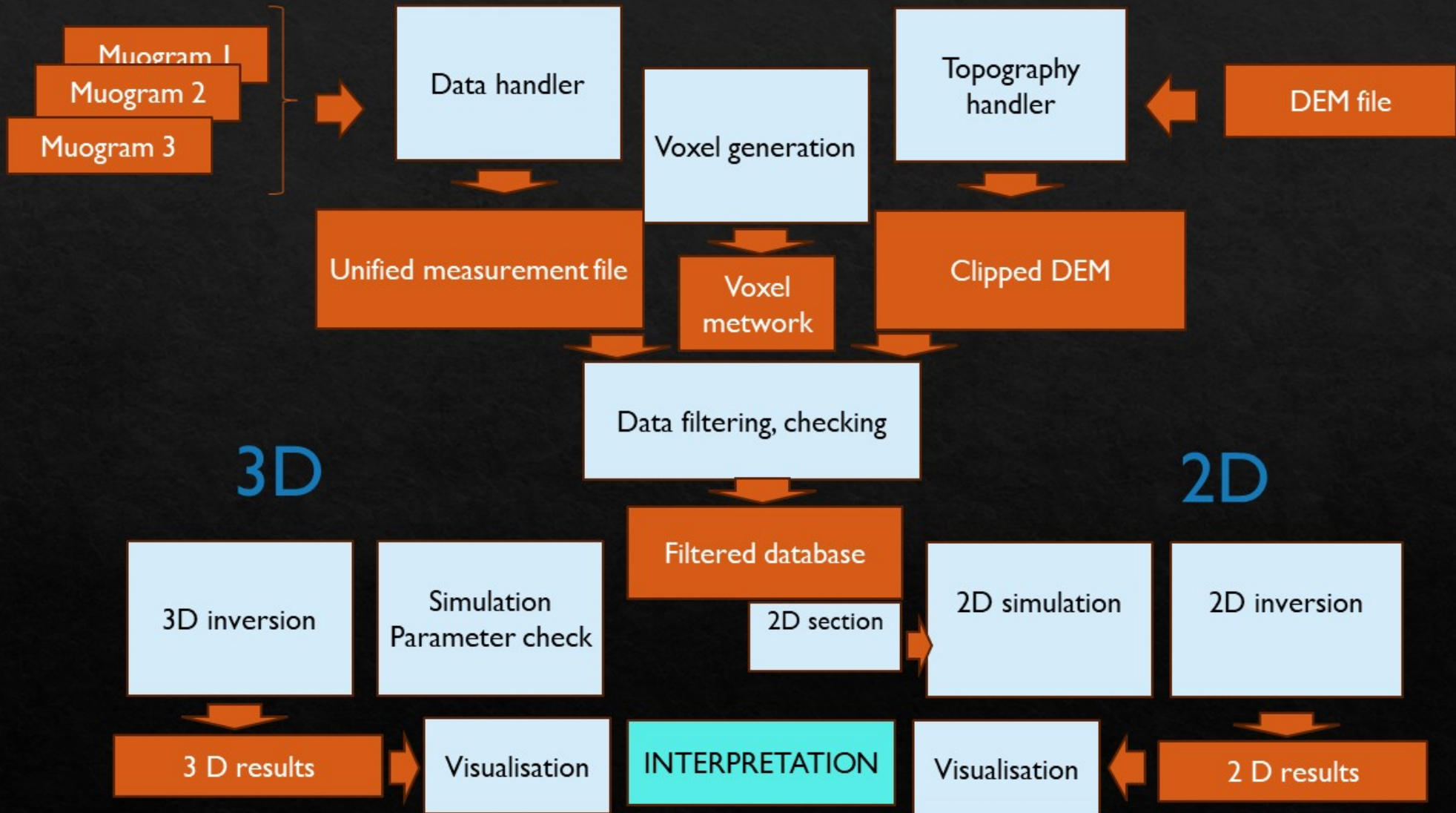
Bayesian (L2)-type discrete 3D tomographic inversion software (on MATLAB platform) Bayesian inversion can include geological and topographic constraints, with spatial dependencies to compensate for estimation bias. Matrix inversion is performed using LU decomposition with large voxel number. (Optionally, an L1-type Bayes condition can be specified and solved by Lasso-iteration) The package is also capable of performing 2D inversion.

## - **Control application on smartphone**

Easy to handle control unit for all the detectors built by Wigner for non professional users.



# Software development



# III. Field measurement examples

- Underground measurements

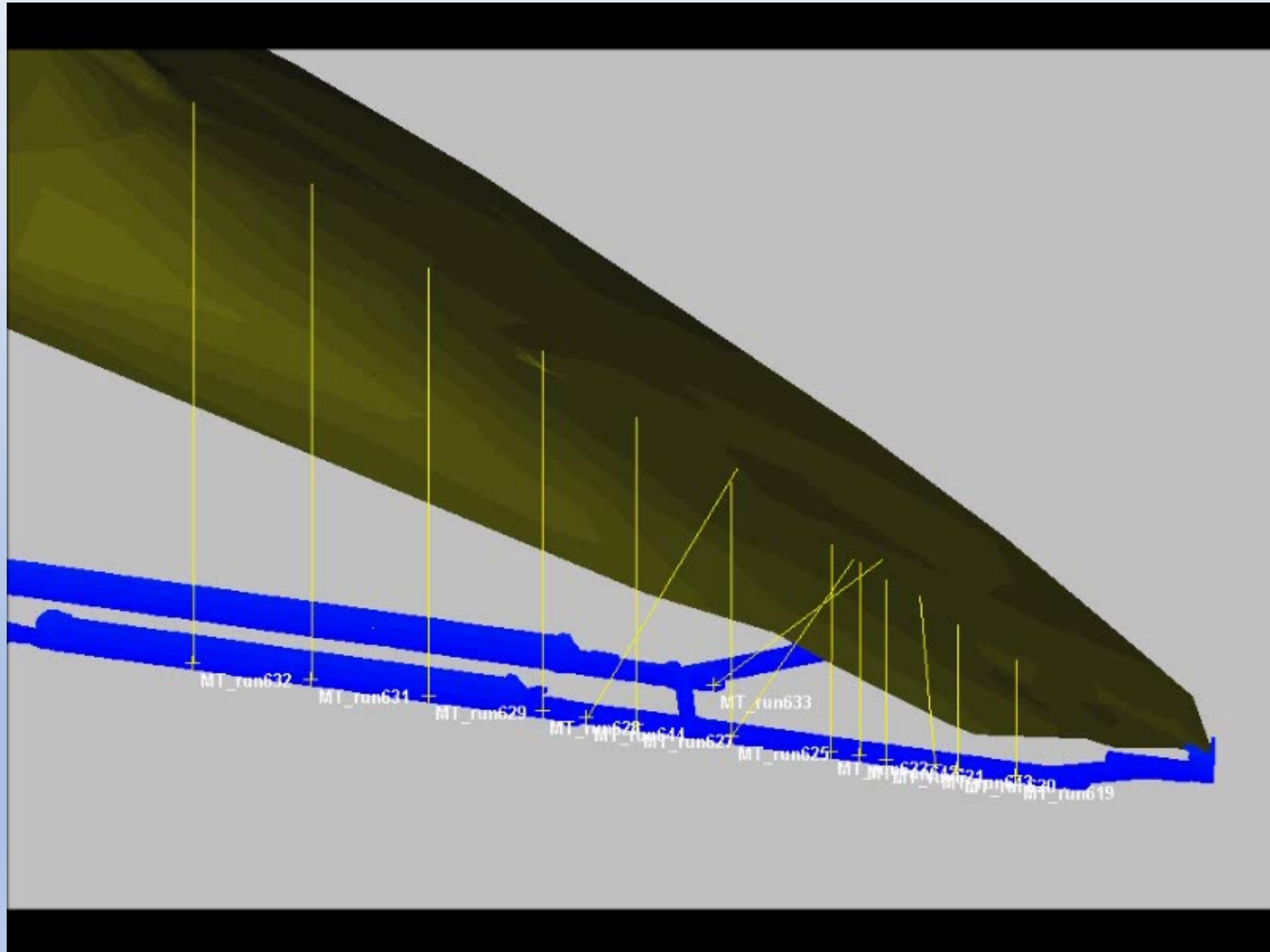




# Case study: Királylaki tunnel



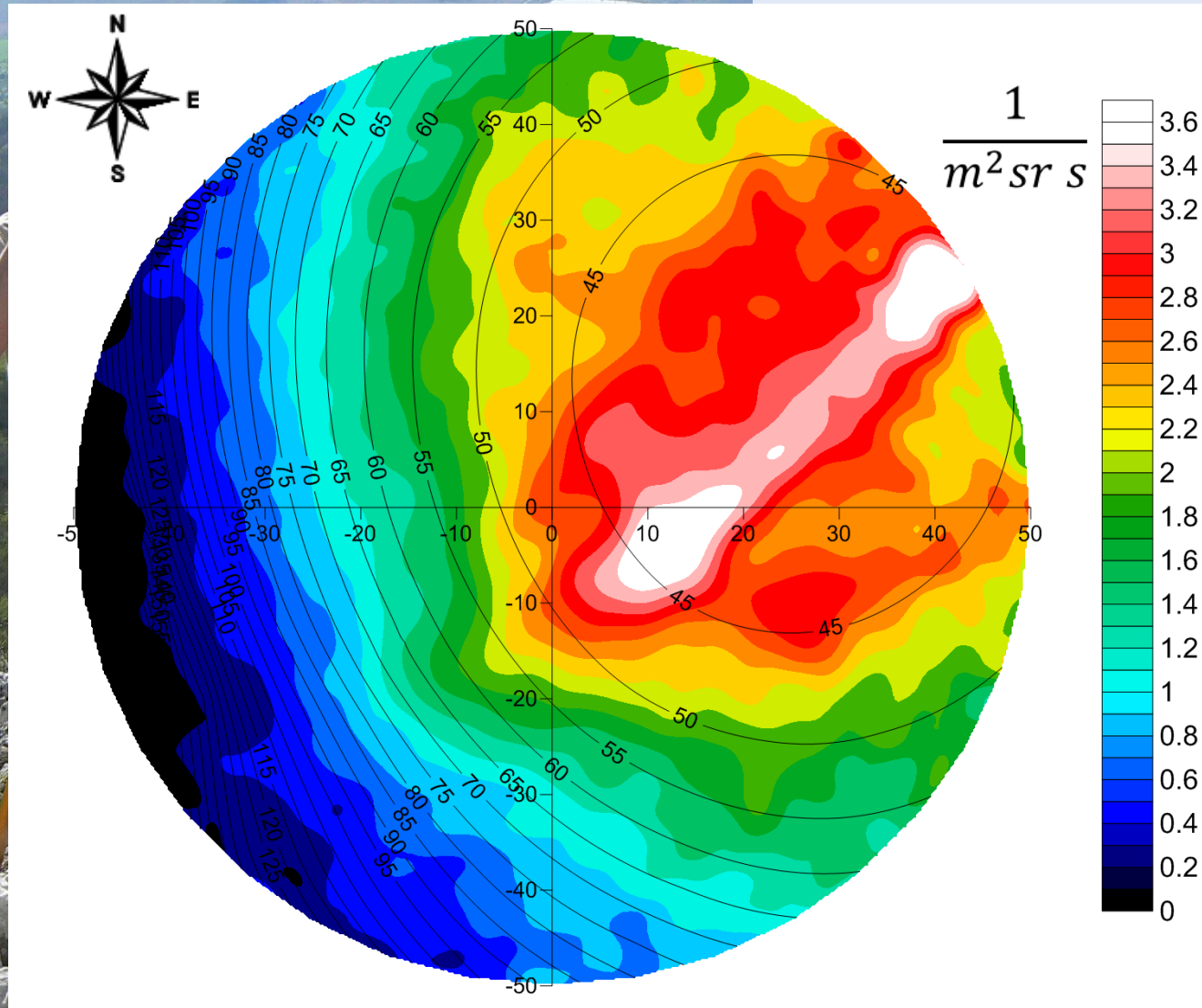
# Case study: Királylaki tunnel



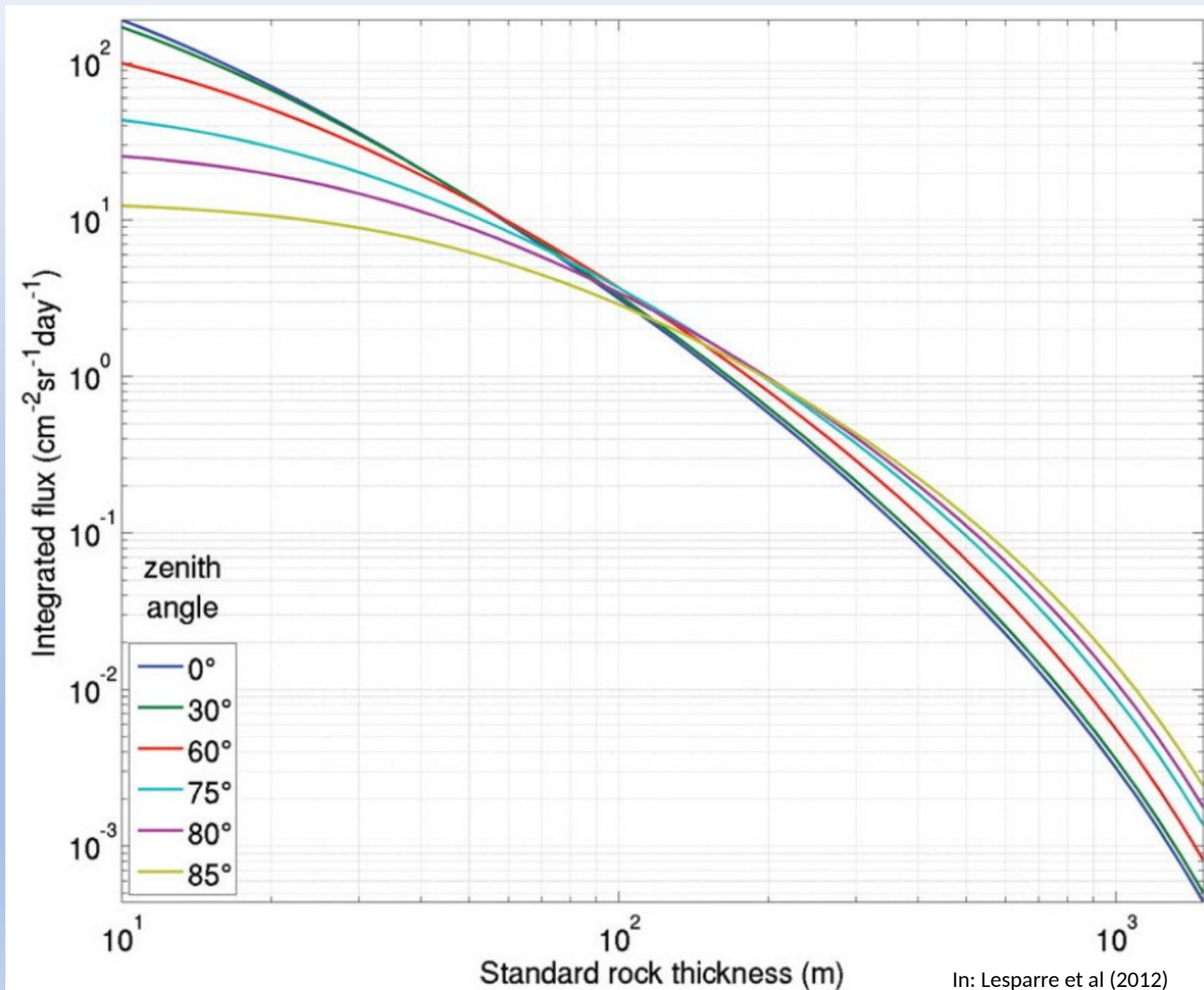




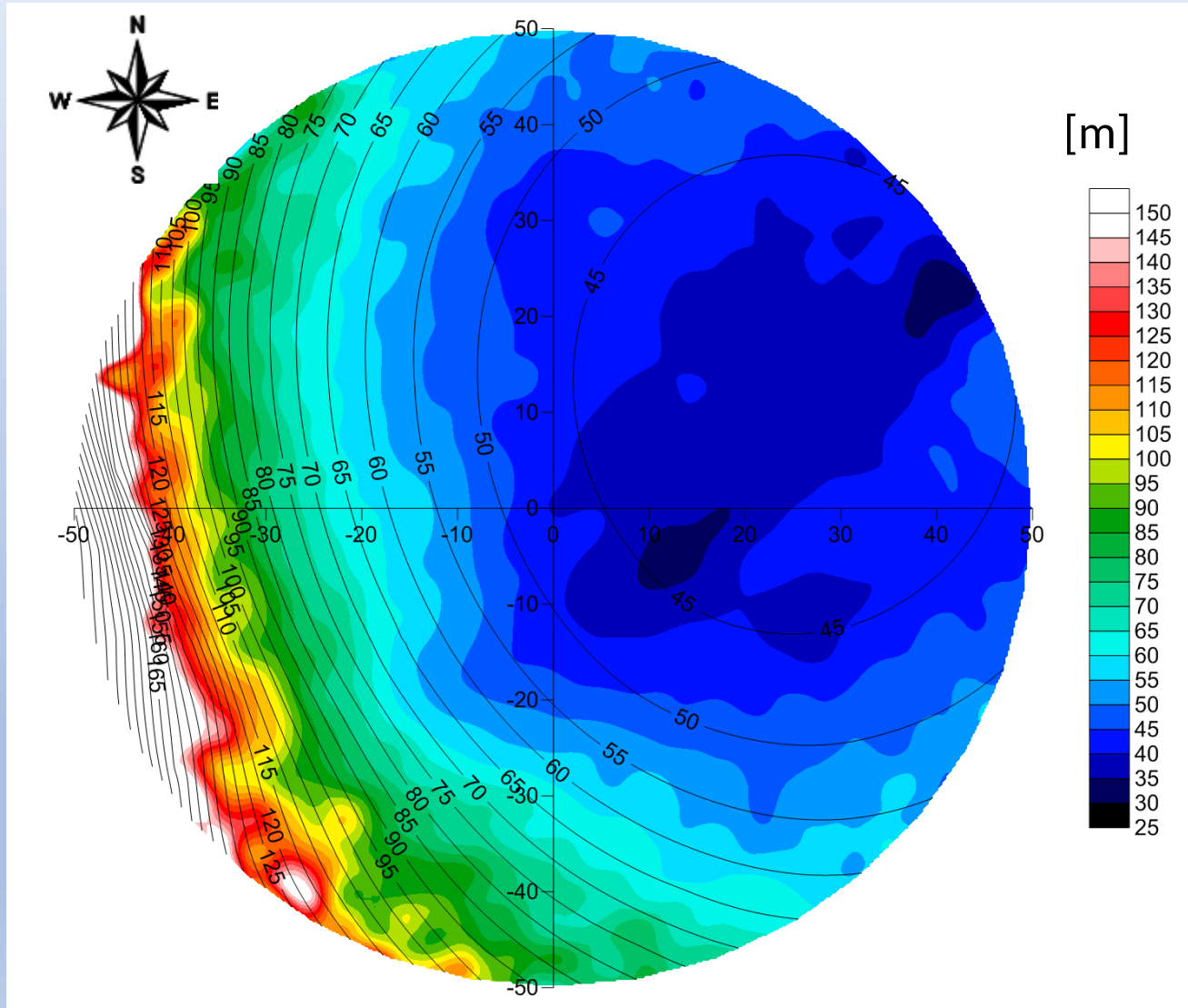
# muon flux + rock thickness



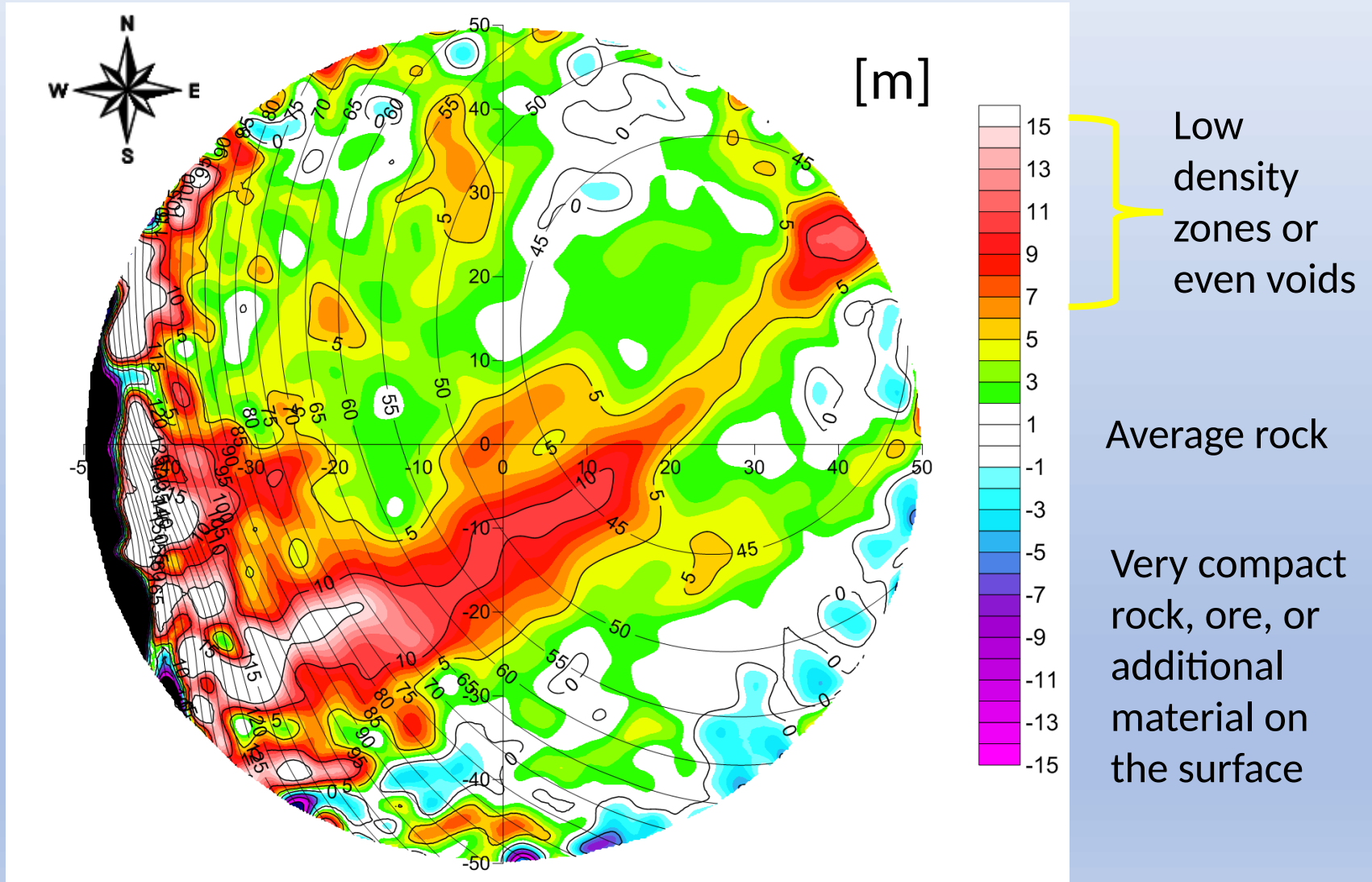
# Muon flux of the function of rock thickness at different zenith angle



# Calculated rock thickness based on muon flux

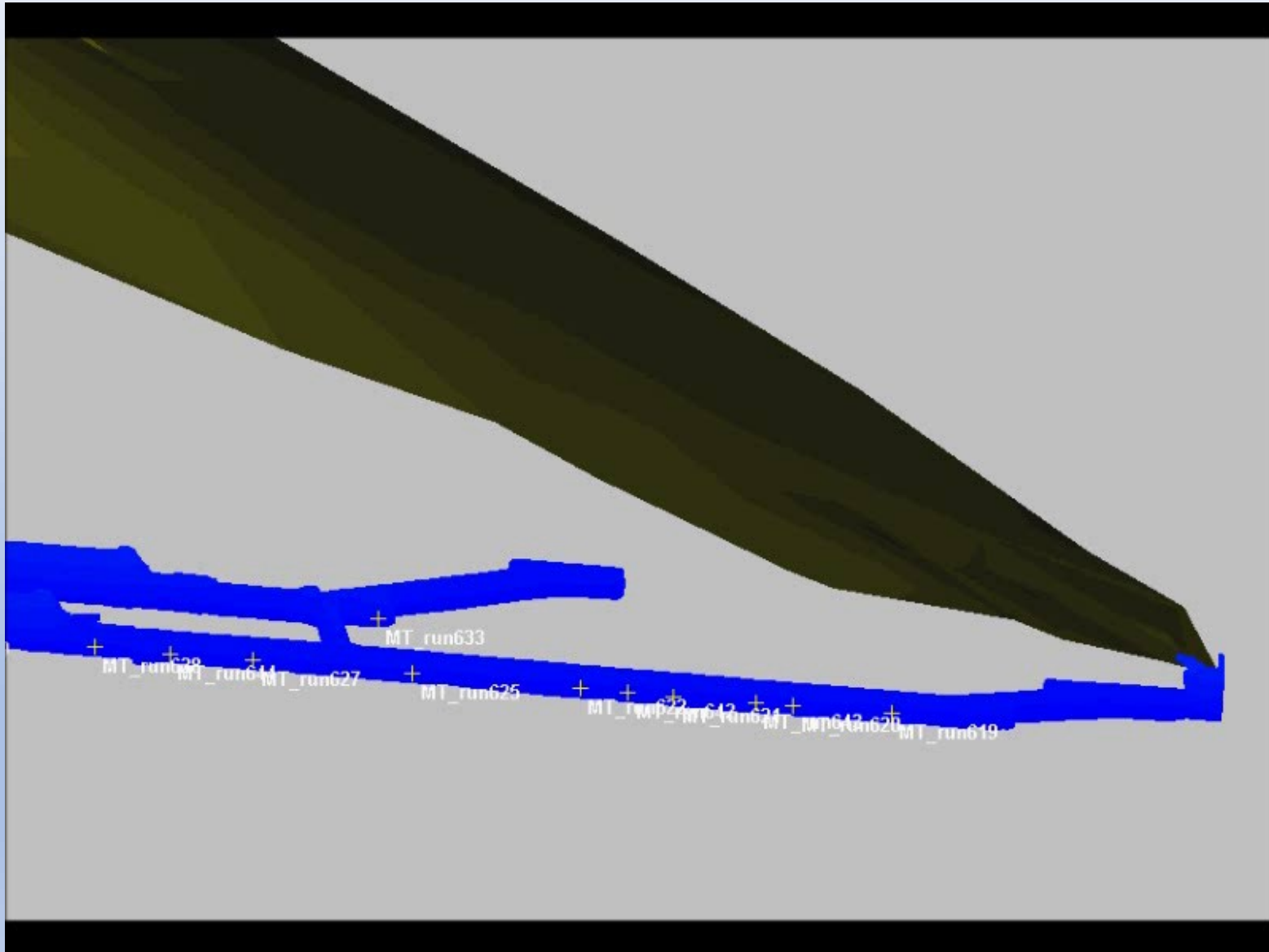


# Measured minus calculated rock thickness



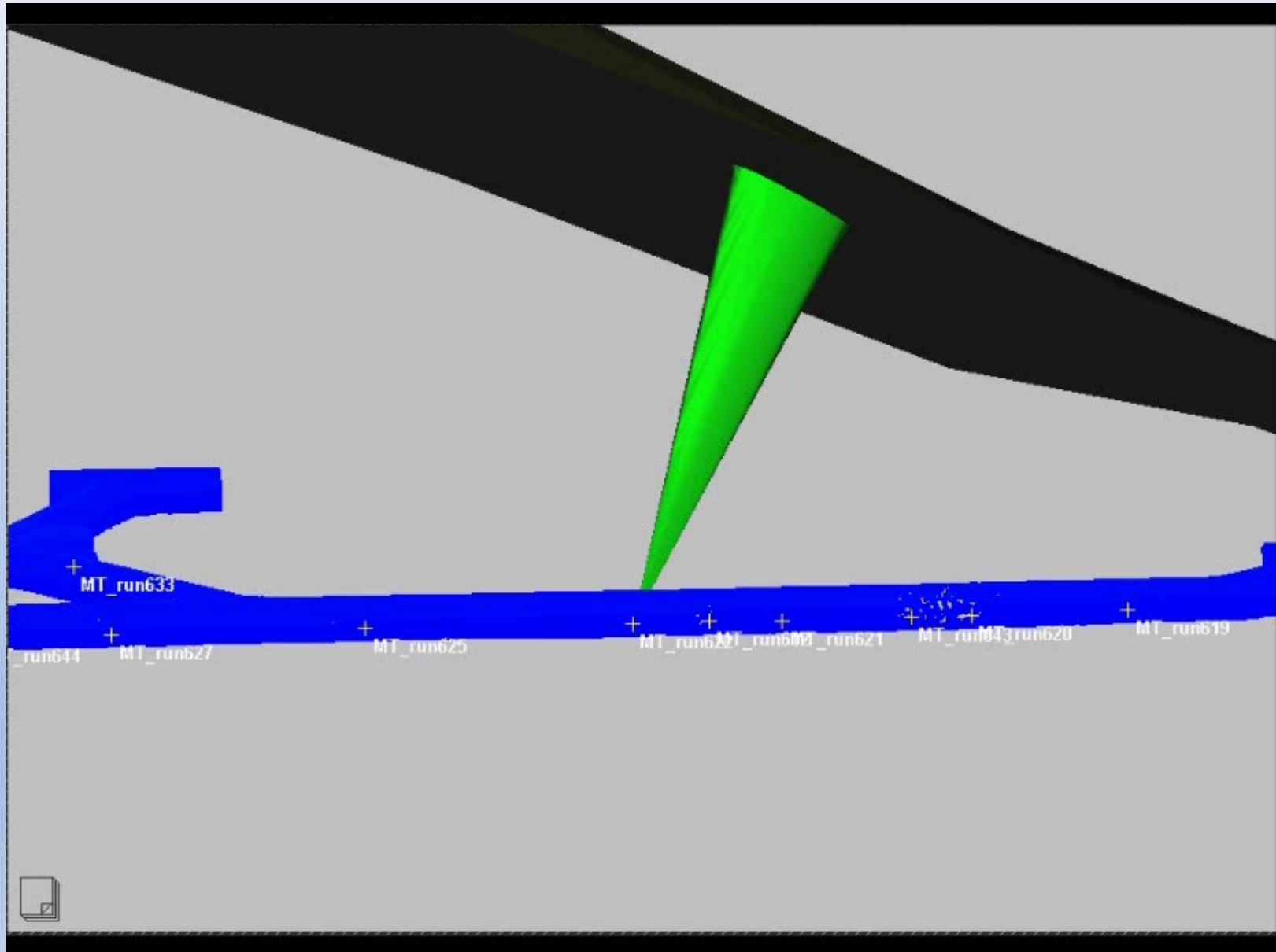


# Density anomaly in 3D model

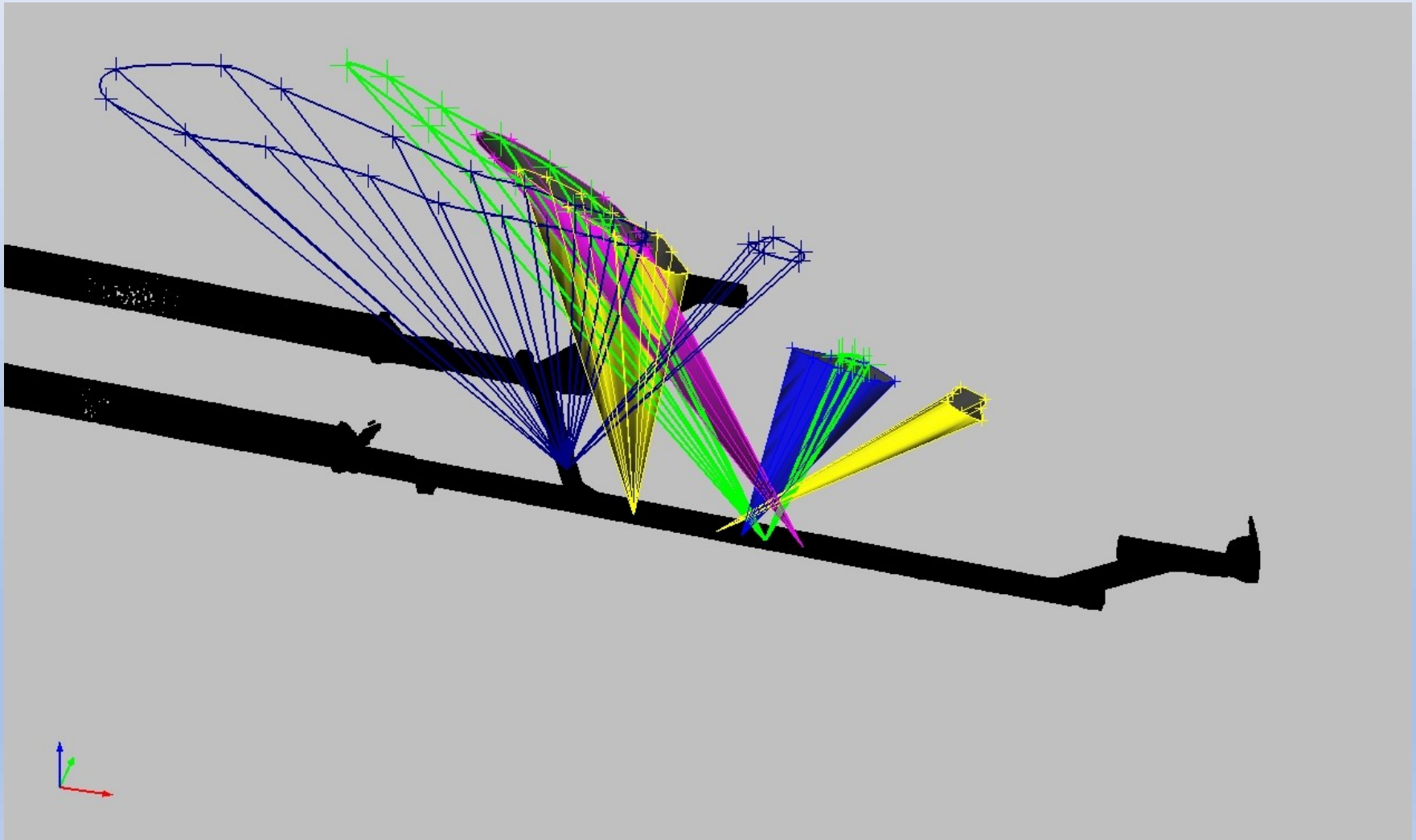




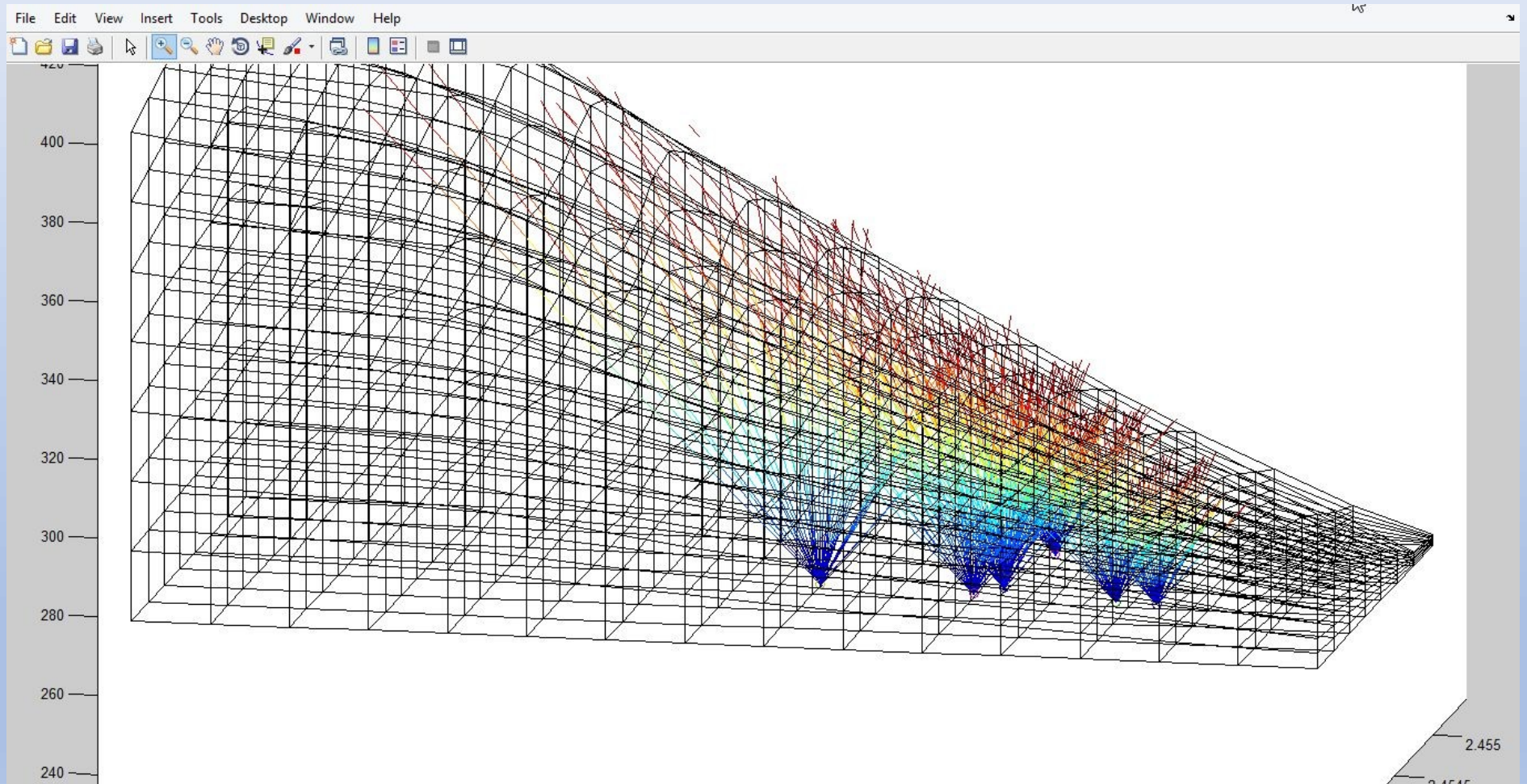
# Density anomaly in 3D model



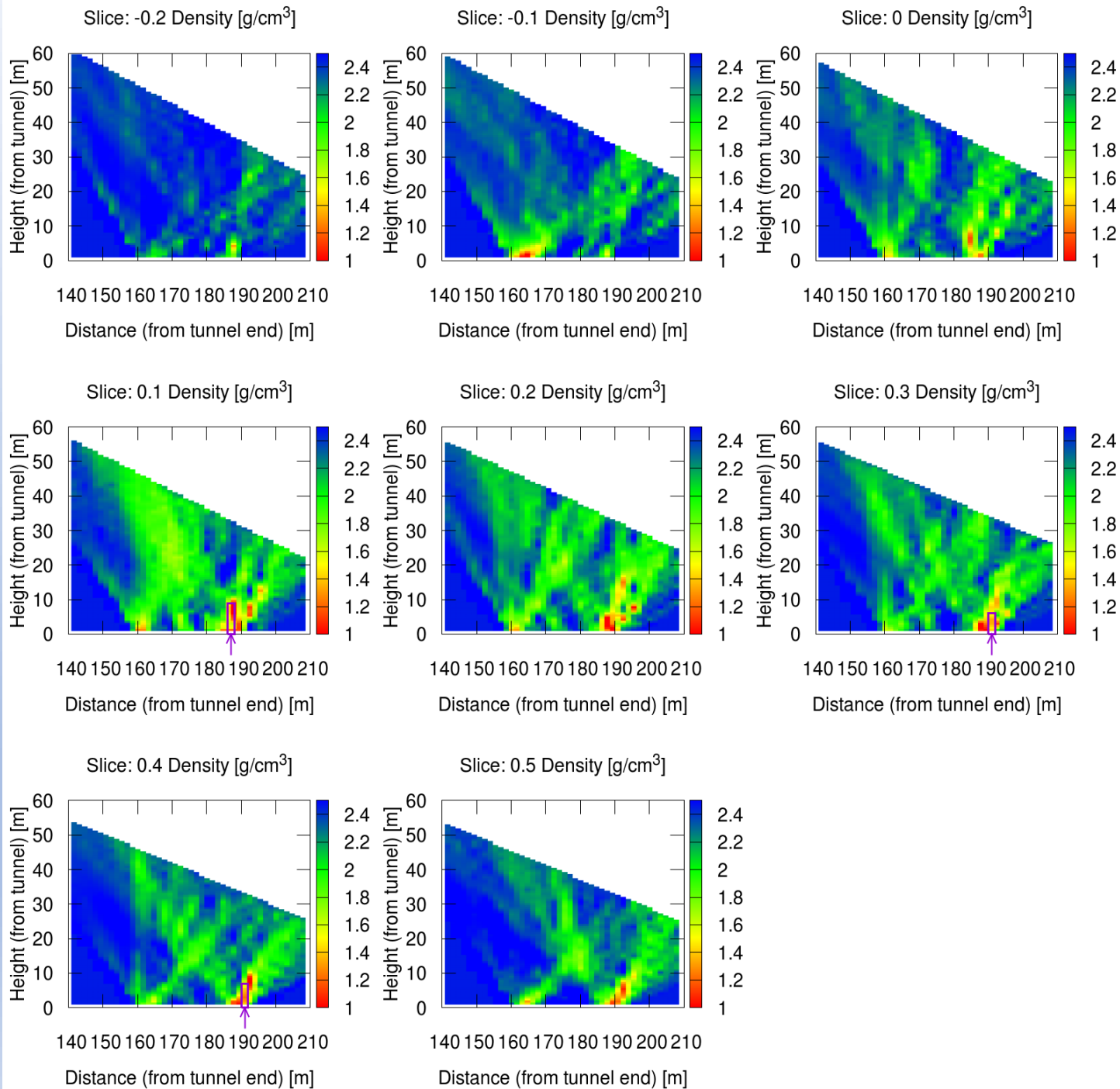
# Density anomaly in 3D model



# Model for inversion



# Result of inversion (vertical slices)



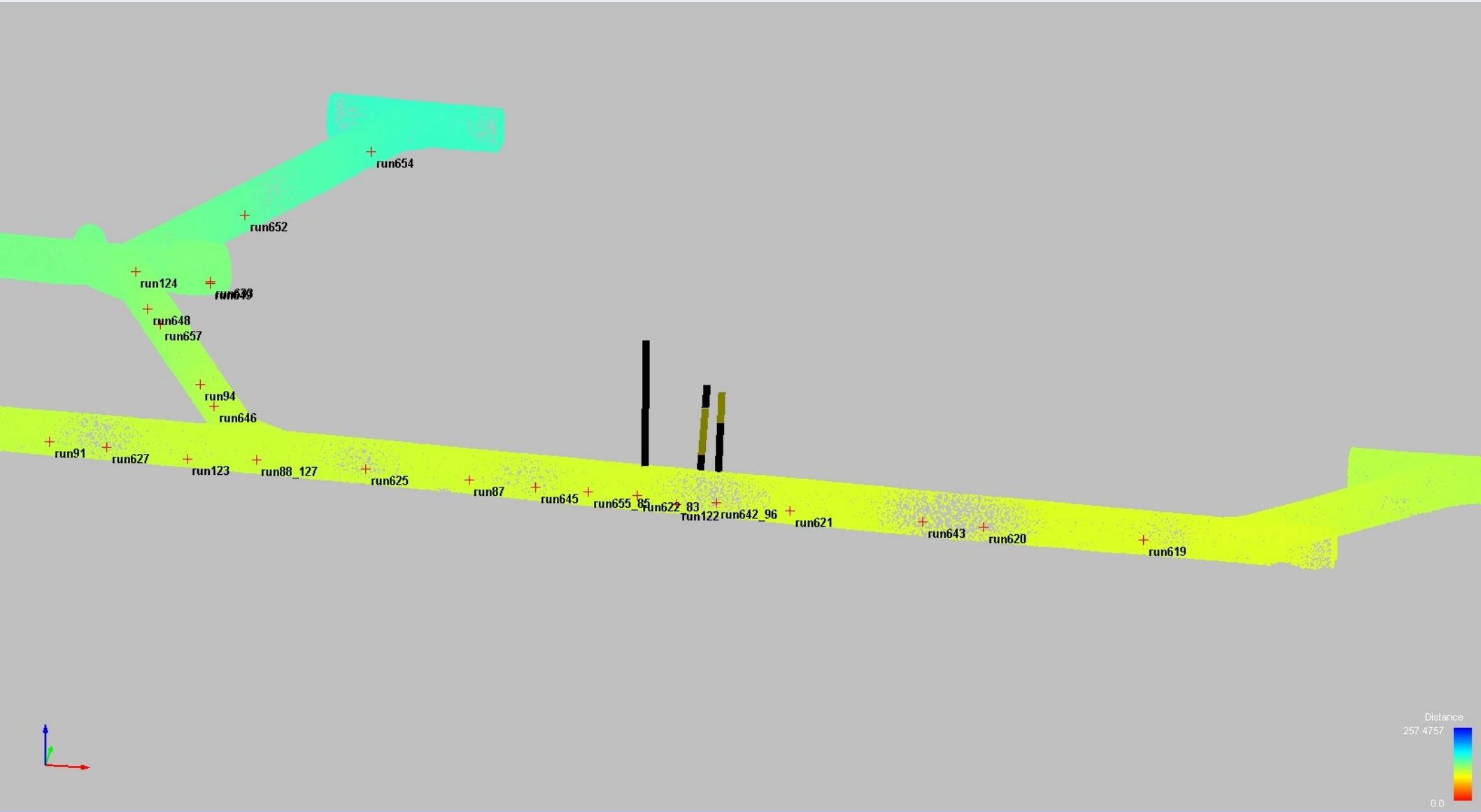


# Validation by drilling

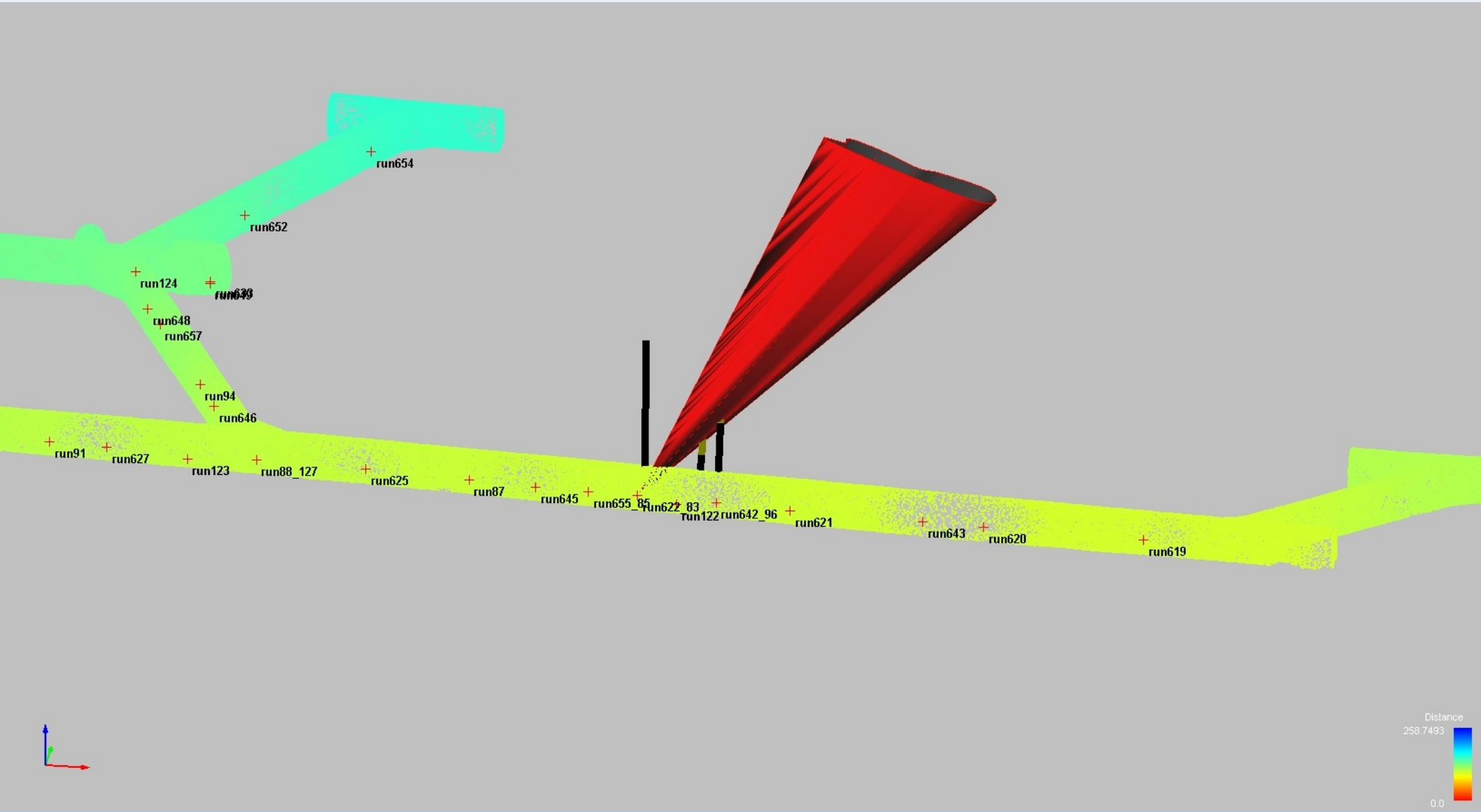




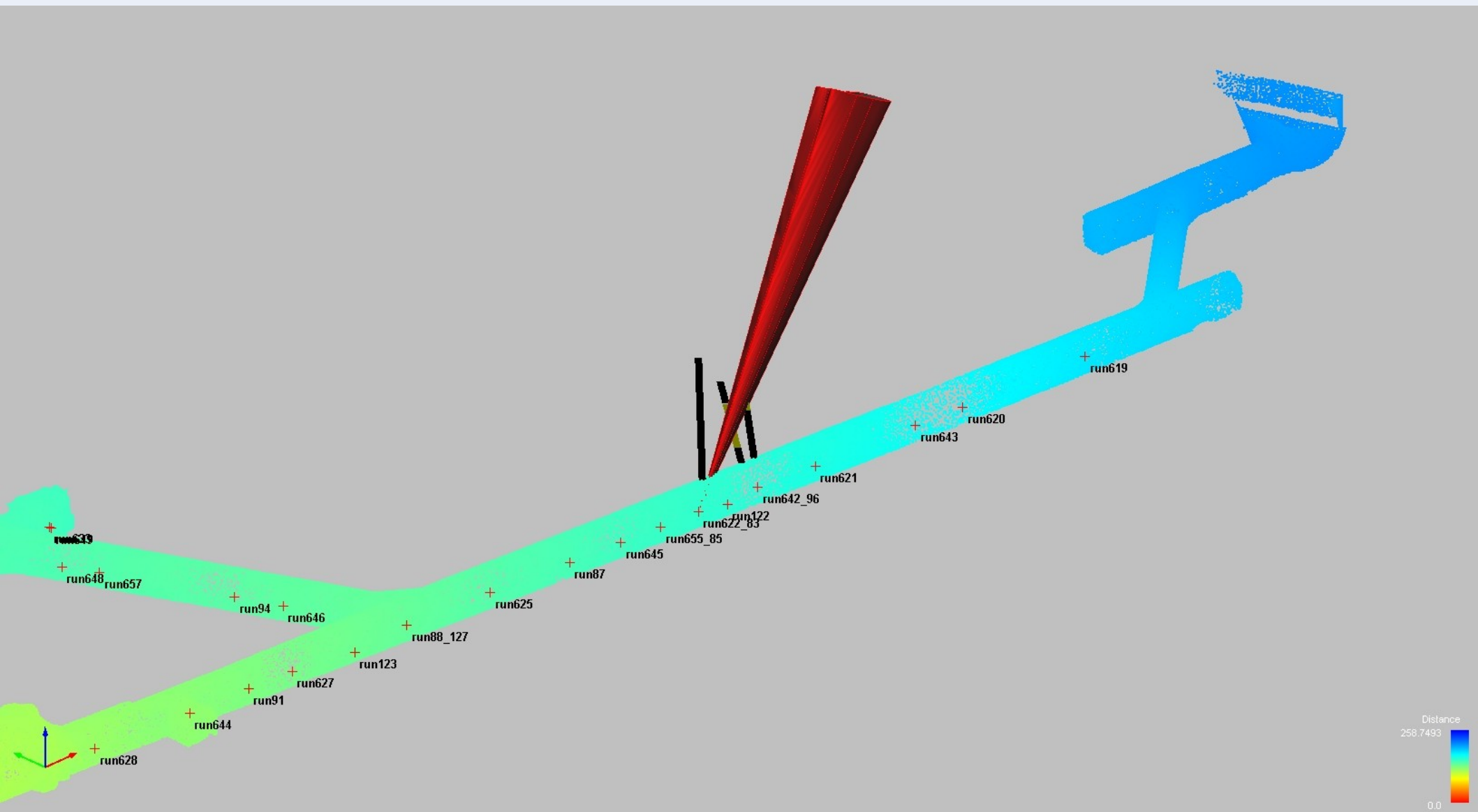


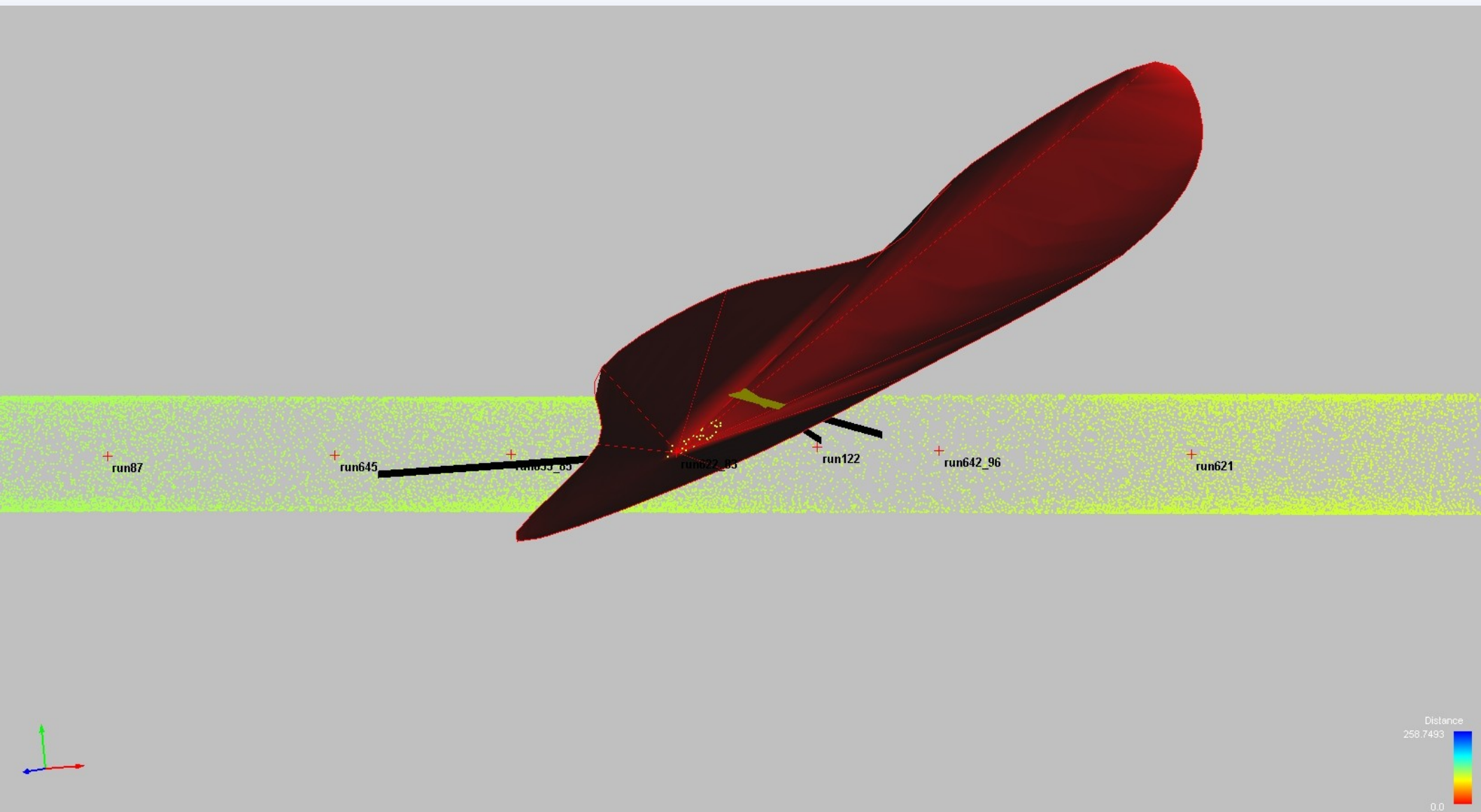


Distance  
257.4757  
0.0









L. Balázs et al. Geophysical Journal International, 236, 700-710 (2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggad428>

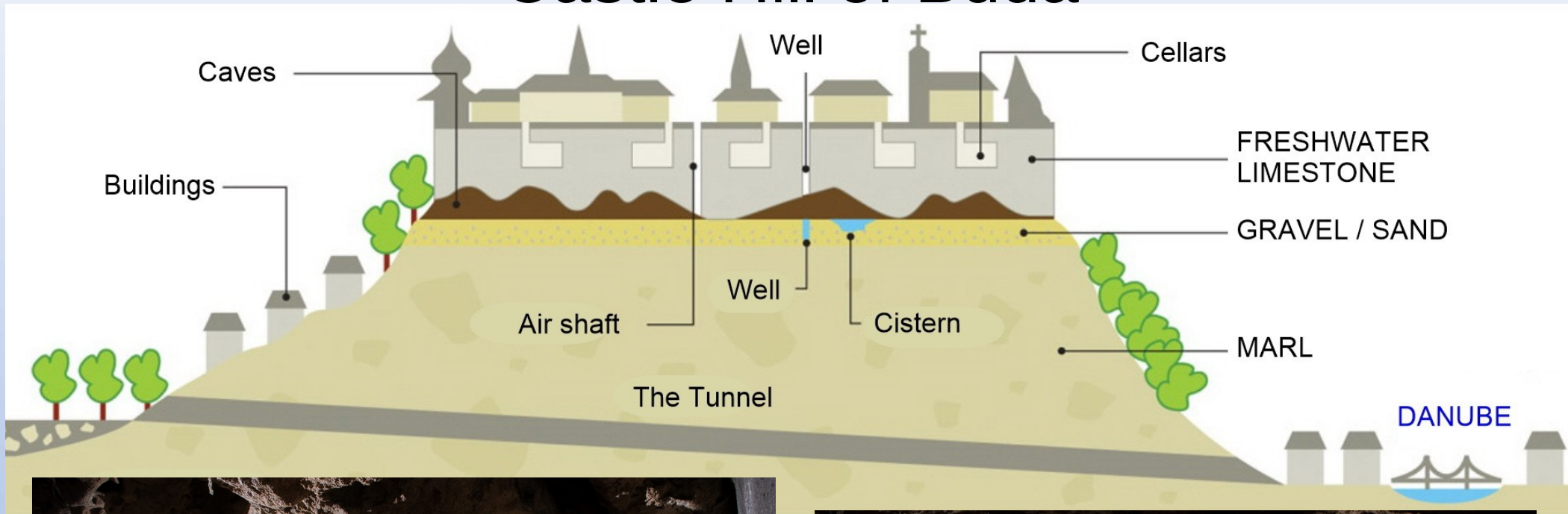


# Void searching under the Buda Castle





# Natural caves and artificial tunnels in the Castle Hill of Buda



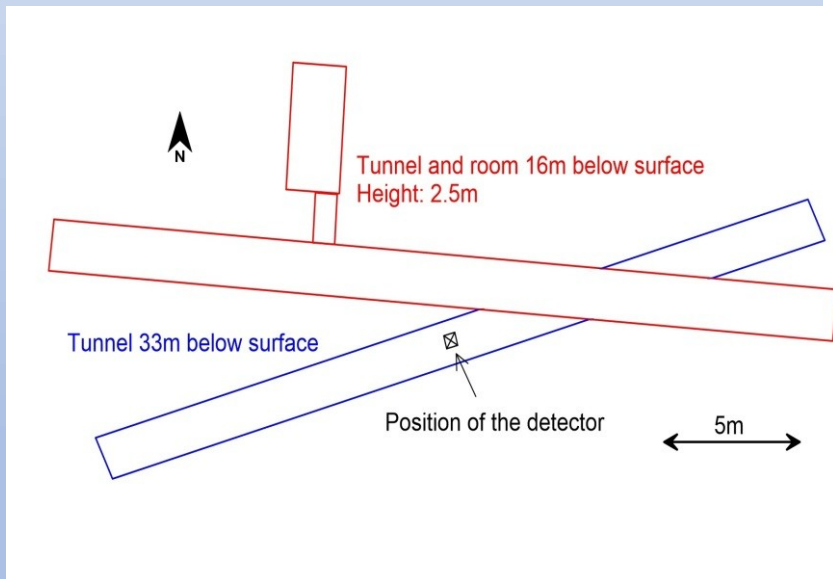


# Measurement places: tunnel system 25-50m underground.

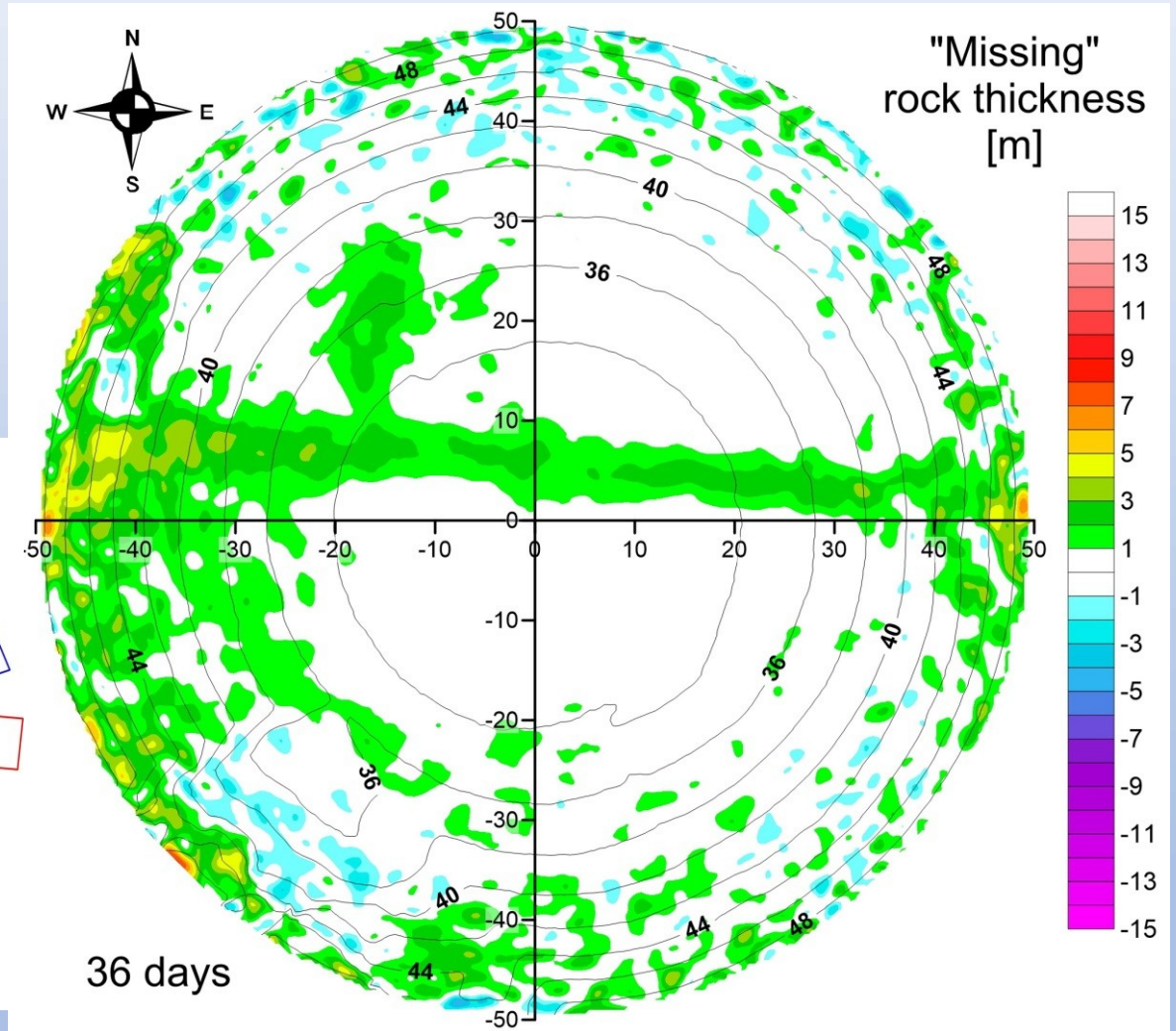




# Test measurement under a known void

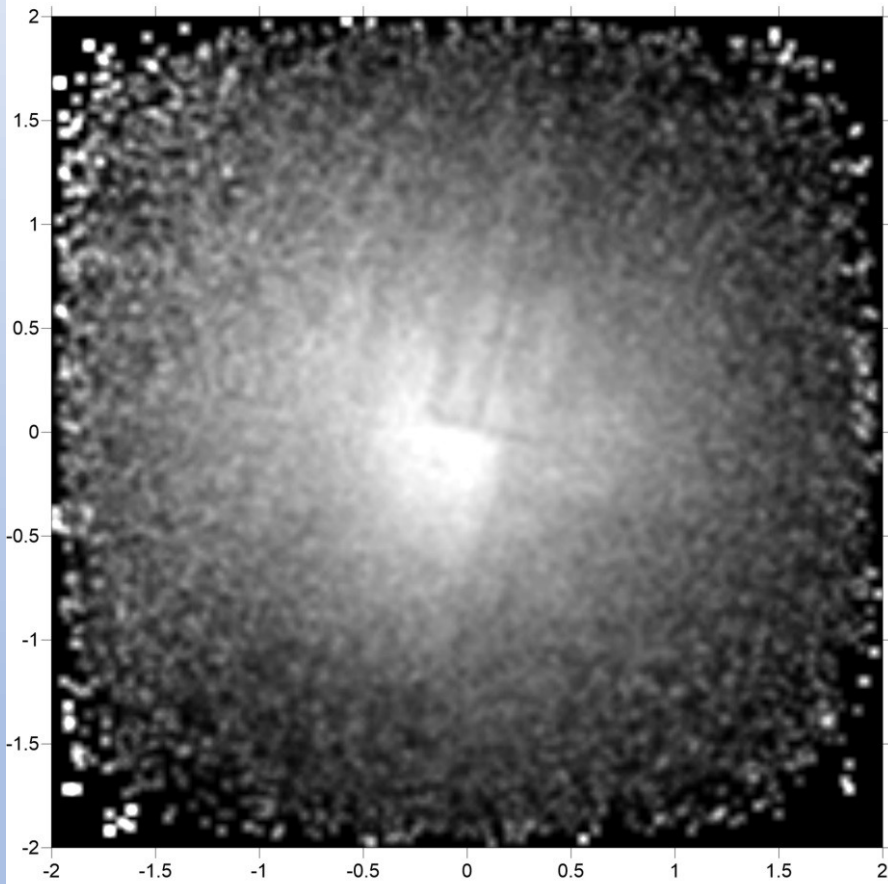


Geographical polar coordinate system

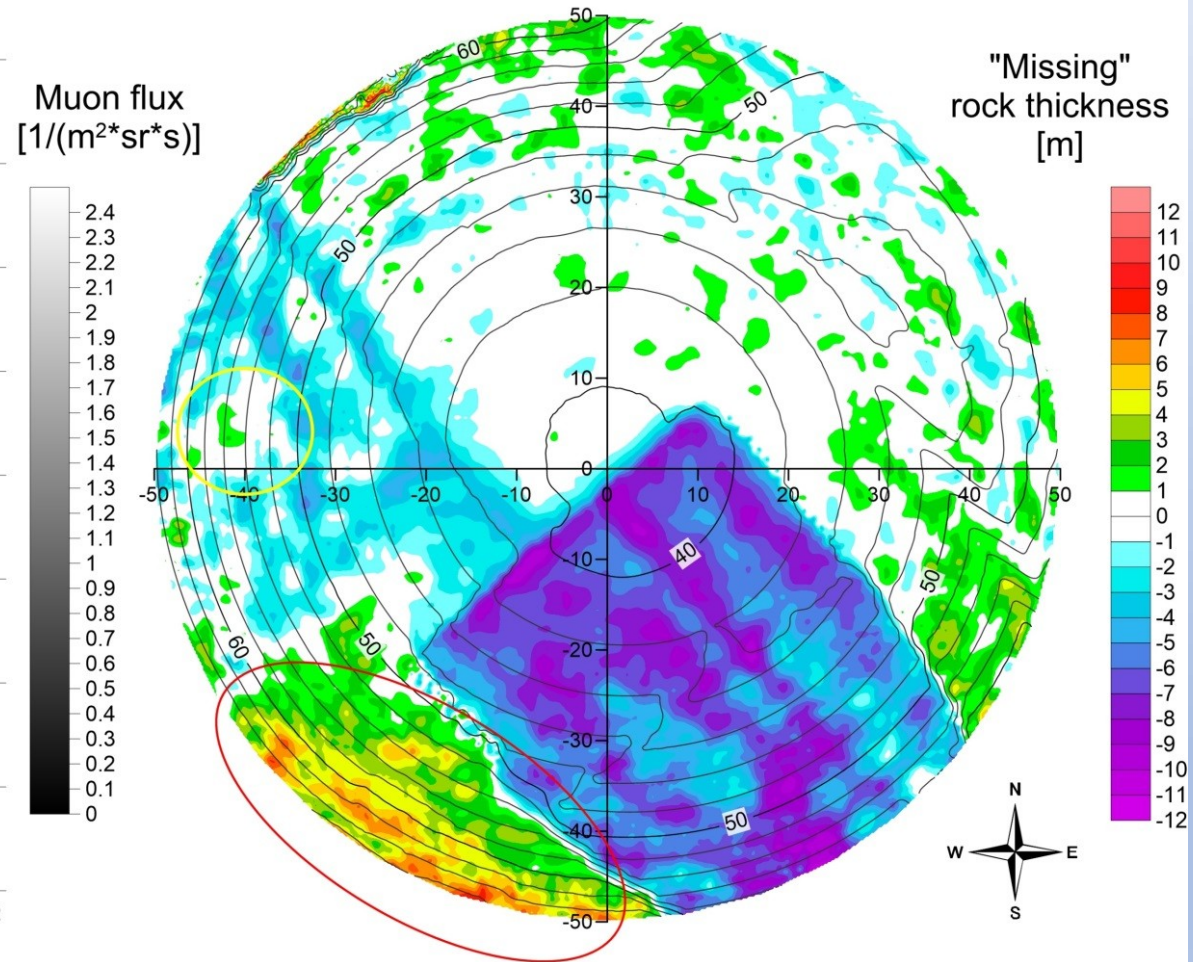


# Buda Castle 3

Detector coordinate system

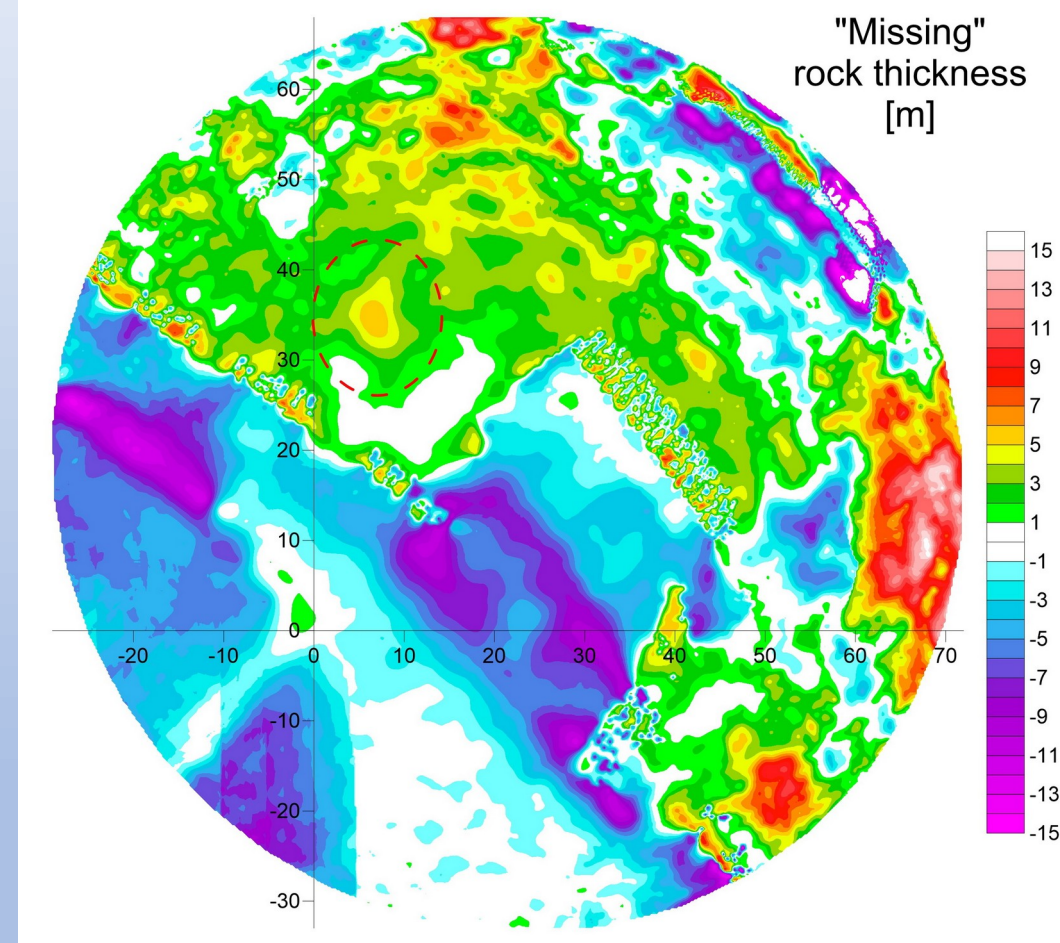
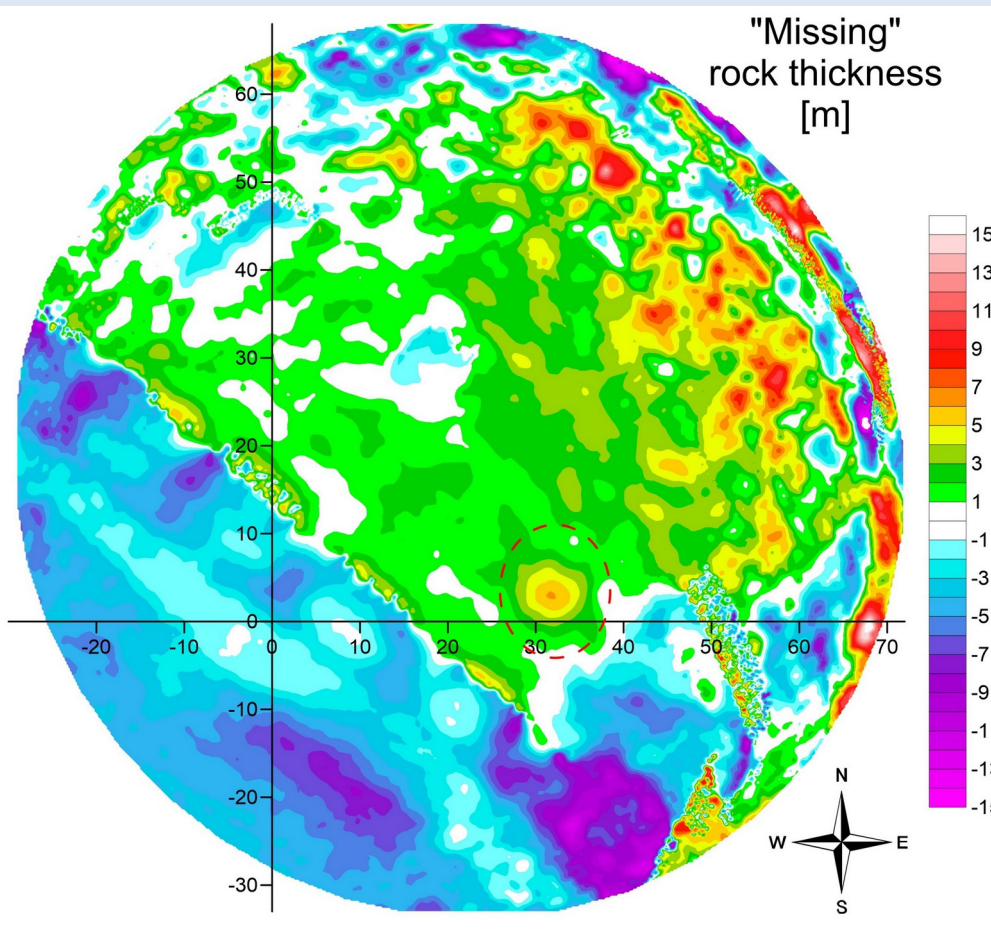


Geographical polar coordinate system



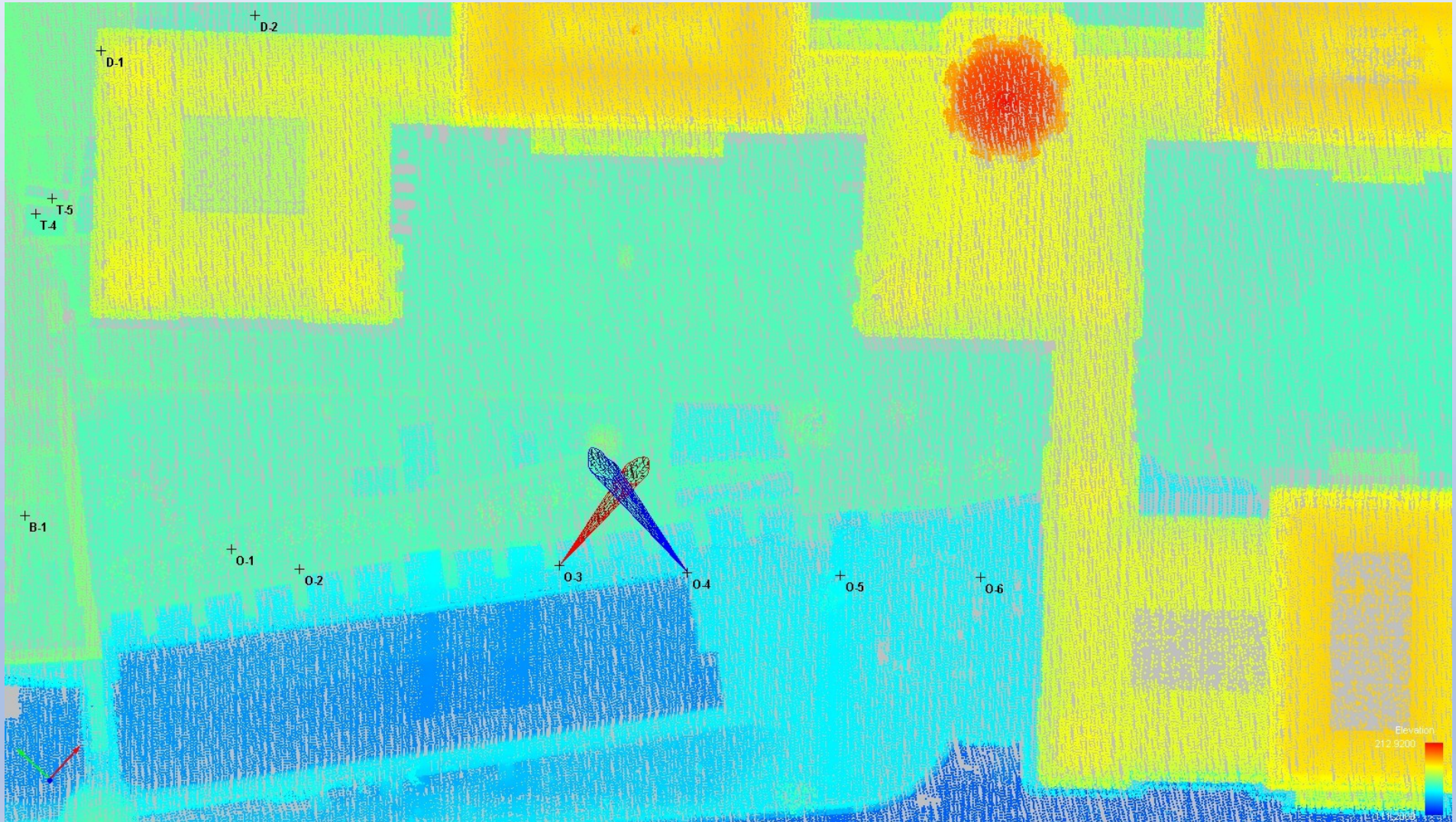


# Strong anomaly from two different measurement points



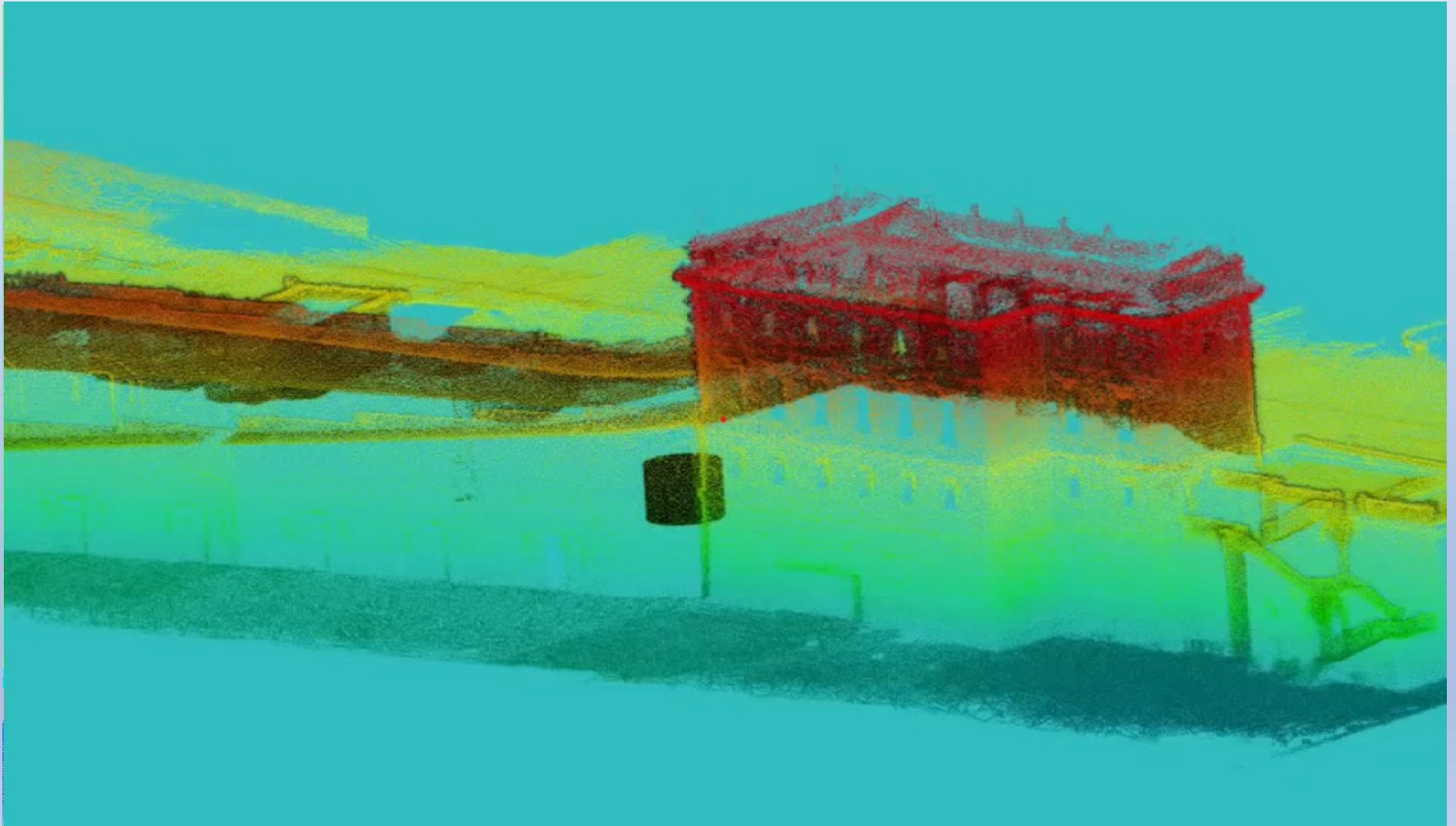


# Drawing of anomaly cones



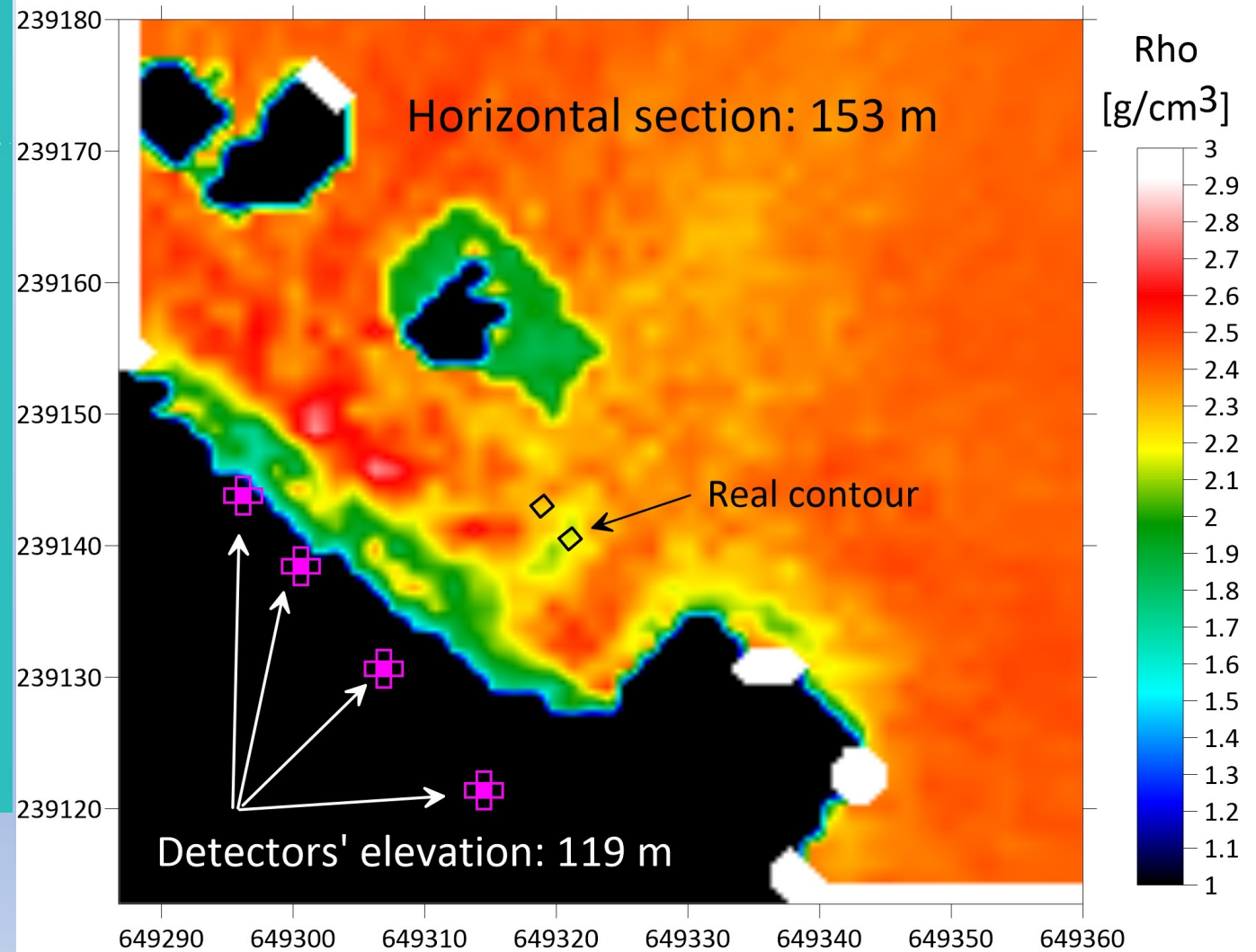
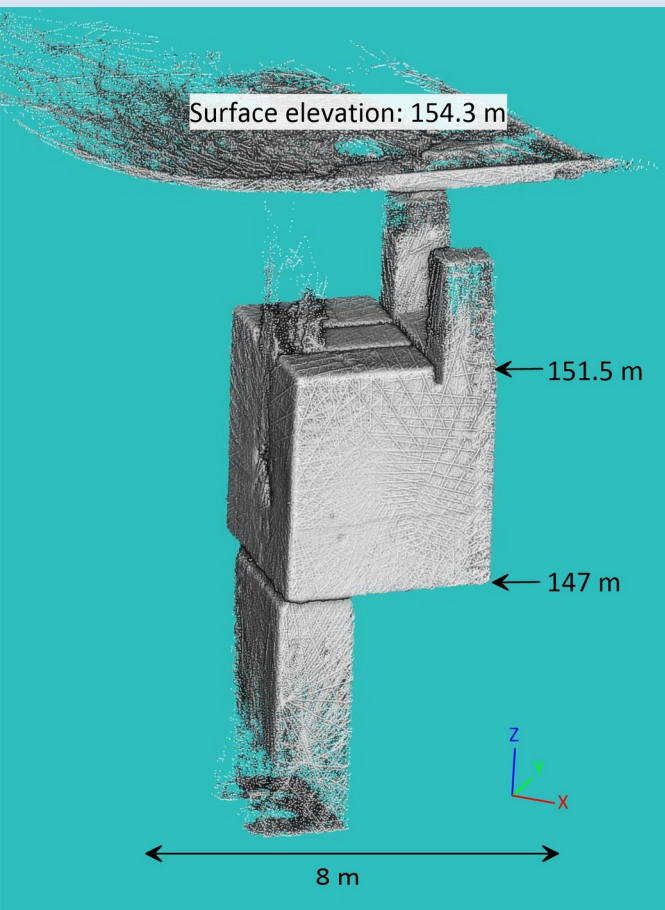


# Inversion result of field measurements: Buda Castle





# Inversion result of field measurements: Buda Castle



# III. Field measurement examples

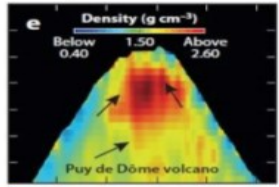
- Surface measurements





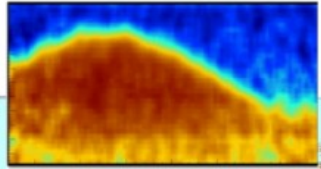
# World-wide Volcano Muography

Puy de Dome (FR)

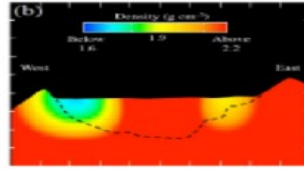


Carloganu et al. 2012

Saracino et al. 2017  
Vesuvio (IT)



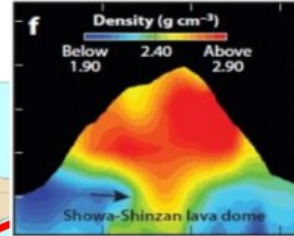
Kirishima (JP)



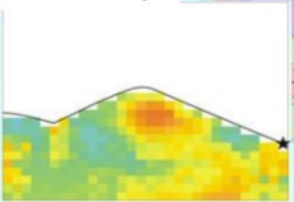
Kusagaya and Tanaka 2015

Source: H. K. M. Tanaka

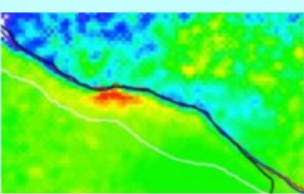
Showa-shinzan (JP) Tanaka et al. 2007



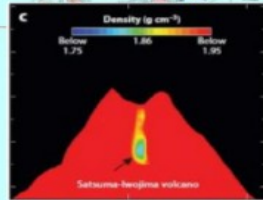
Canary Islands (ES) underway



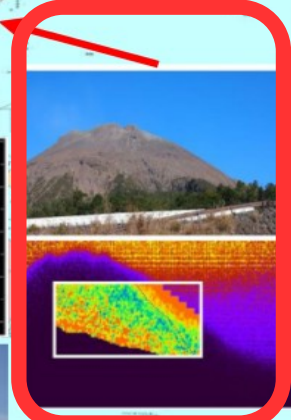
Carbone et al. 2014  
Etna (IT)



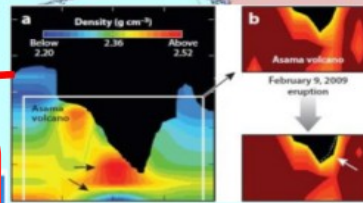
Tioiukov et al. 2017  
Stromboli (IT)



Tanaka et al. 2008  
Satsuma Iwojima (JP)

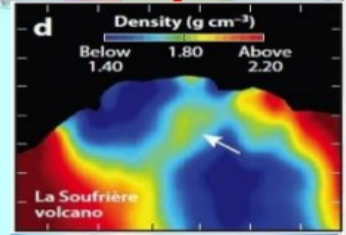


Olah et al. 2018  
Asama (JP)



Tanaka et al. 2007  
Sakurajima (JP)

Soufrier Hills (UK) underway



Lesparre et al. 2012  
La Soufriere (FR)

## Contributions of Muography to Volcanology:

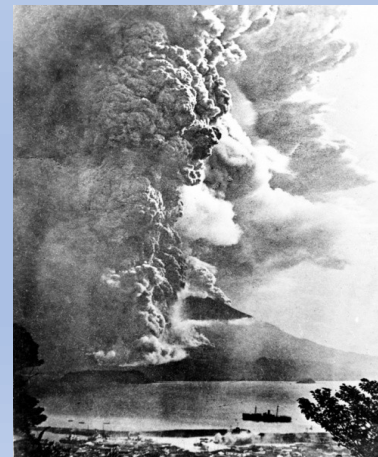
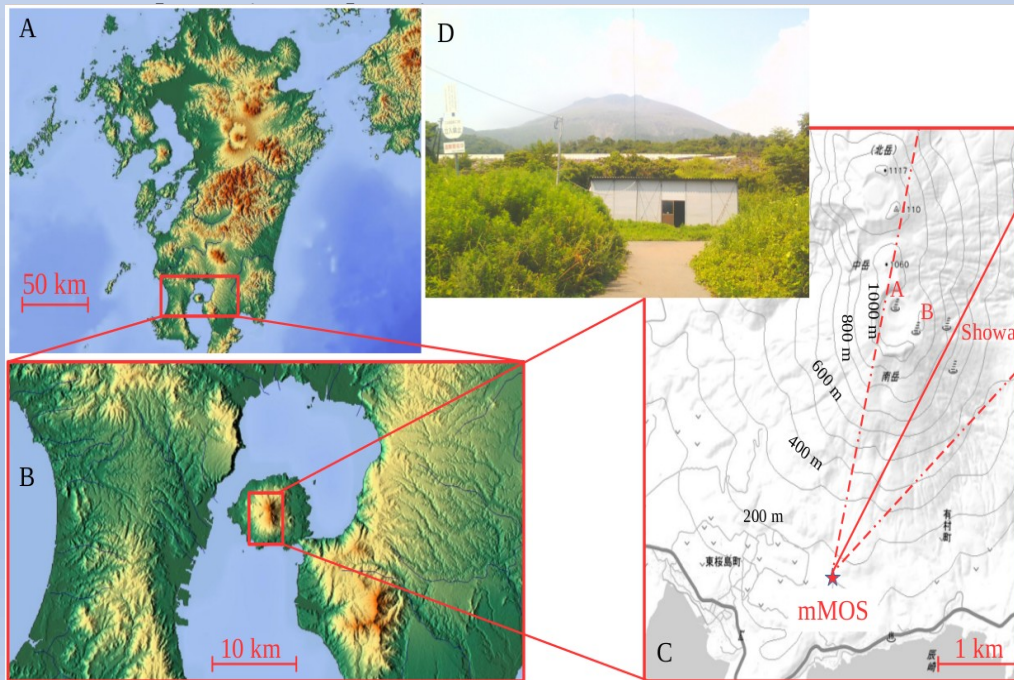
- (1) Studying formation and stability of lava domes (Showa-Shinzan, La Soufrière de Guadeloupe),
- (2) Exploring conduit structure for eruption modelling (Stromboli),
- (3) Monitoring magma evolution and movement (Asama, Sakurajima).

Showa crater



# Muography of Sakurajima volcano

- **An active stratovolcano** on the "Ring of fire" within the Aira caldera in Kagoshima Bay
- Latest plinian eruption occurred in 1914 → Next plinian eruption is expected in 25 years <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep32691>
- **Two craters of the southern peak** → **A few hundreds of (explosive) short-term eruptions per year**
- Short-term eruptions eject aerosols and gas with a bulk volume of  $\sim 10^7$  m<sup>3</sup> to a height of 1000–5000 meter above the crater rims, throwing fragments of volcanic plug and lava bombs usually within approx. 3000 m radius → **Sakurajima pose continuously hazard to the surrounding areas**
- MEXT launched Integrated Program for Next Generation Volcano Research and Human Resource Development <https://kazan-pj.bosai.go.jp/next-generation-volcano-pj-2019-jun>
- **The University of Tokyo and HUN-REN Wigner RCP conduct muography of Sakurajima since January 2017 to**



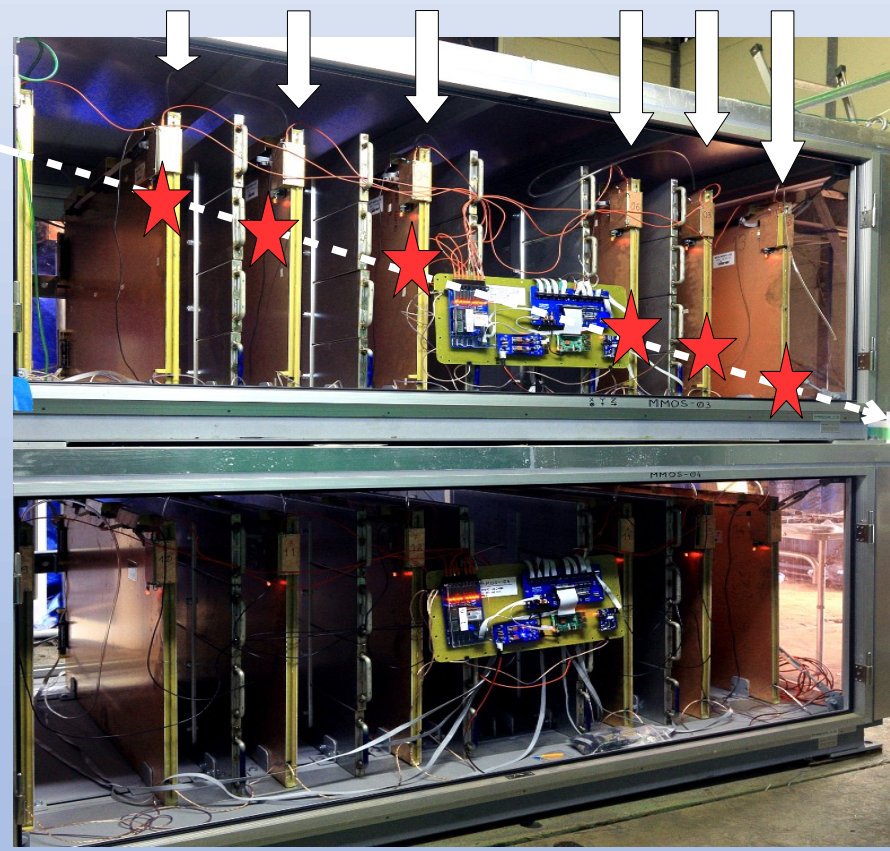
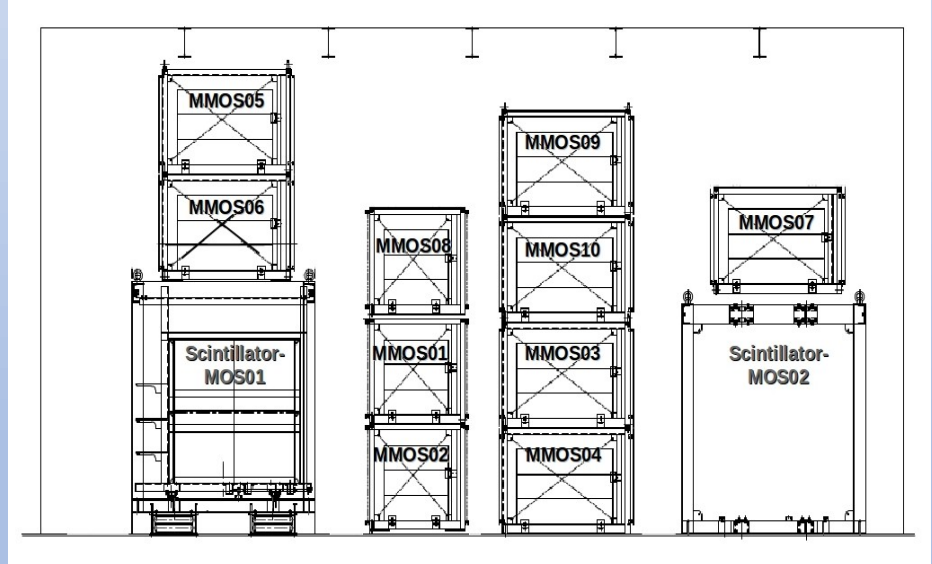
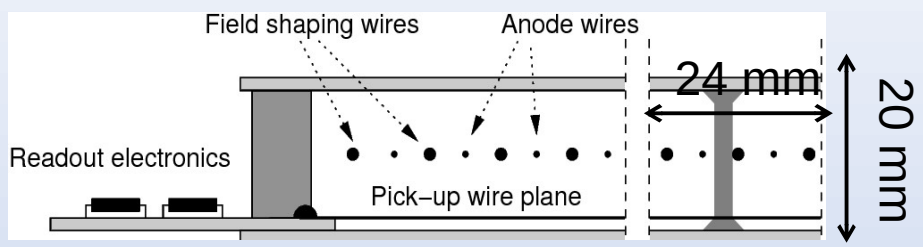
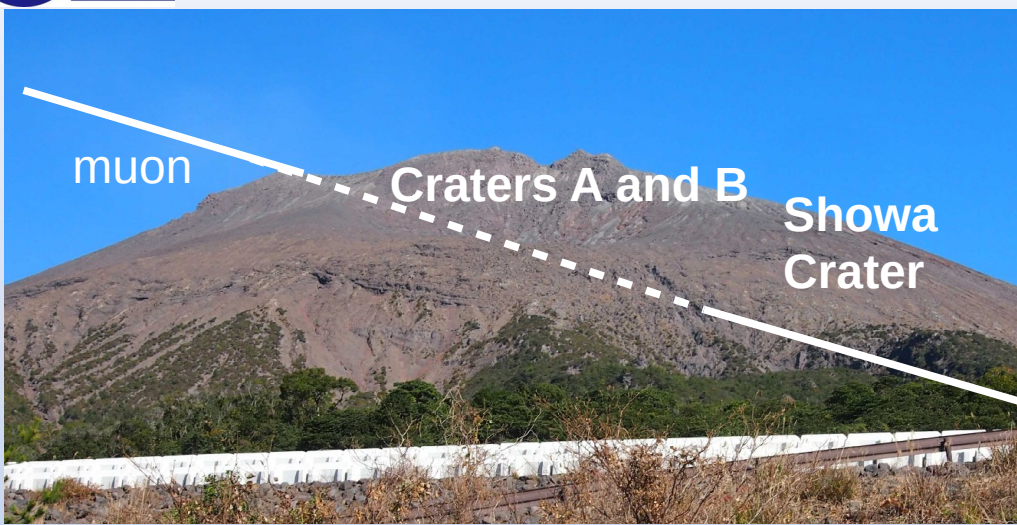
Source: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-21423-9>

Source: Wikipedia

Source: Kimon Berlin, CC BY-SA



# Muographic Observation Instrument (MOI)



**Modular infrastructure for volcano muography**  
 (11 MWPC-based trackers cover 10 sqm surface area)

Muographic Observation Instrument WO2017187308 <http://patentscope2.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=WO2017187308>

L. Oláh et al. Scientific Reports, 8, 3207, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-21423-9>

D. Varga et al. Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 958, 162236, 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nima.2019.05.077>

# The First Observations: Plug Formation, Tephra Deposition and Erosion

- Resolving the internal structure of the volcano with a spatial resolution of below 10 metres that is challenging to other techniques

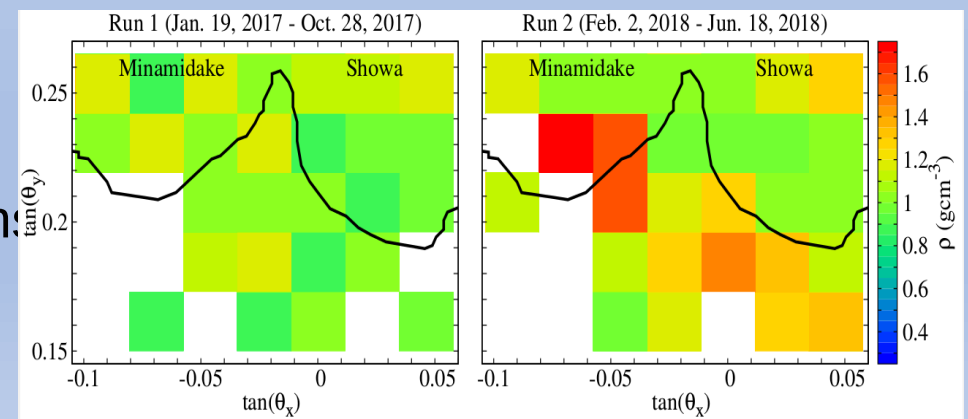
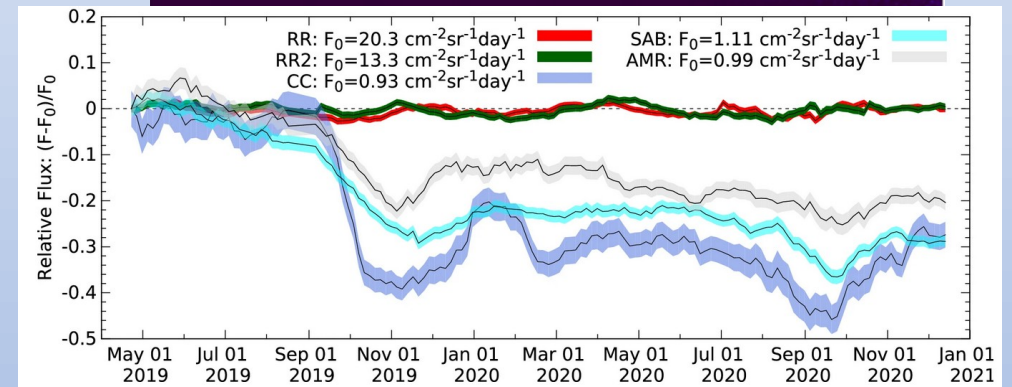
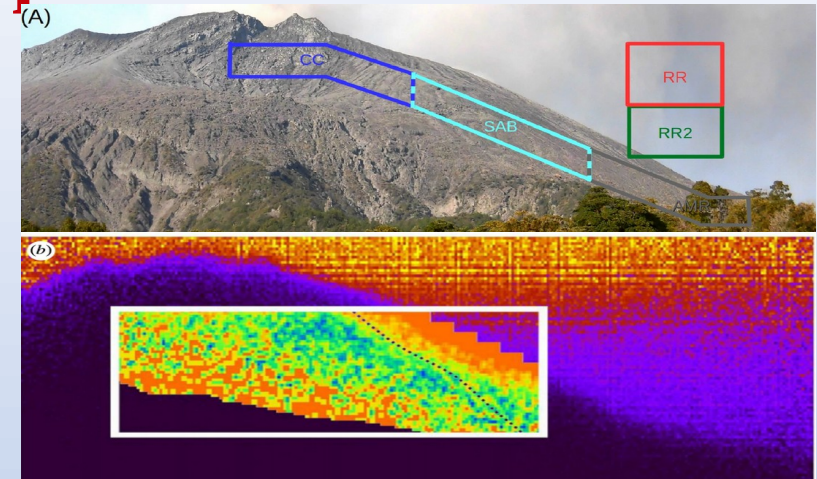
L. Oláh et al. *Scientific Reports*, 8, 3207, 2018, <http://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-21423-9>

- Monitoring changes in the amount of materials on the volcanic edifice due to volcanic ejecta deposition, erosion and mudflows (lahars)

L. Oláh et al. *Scientific Reports* 11, 17729, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-96947-8>

- Imaging of a magmatic plug beneath Showa crater with the cease of eruption

L. Oláh et al. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 46, 10417, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GL084784>





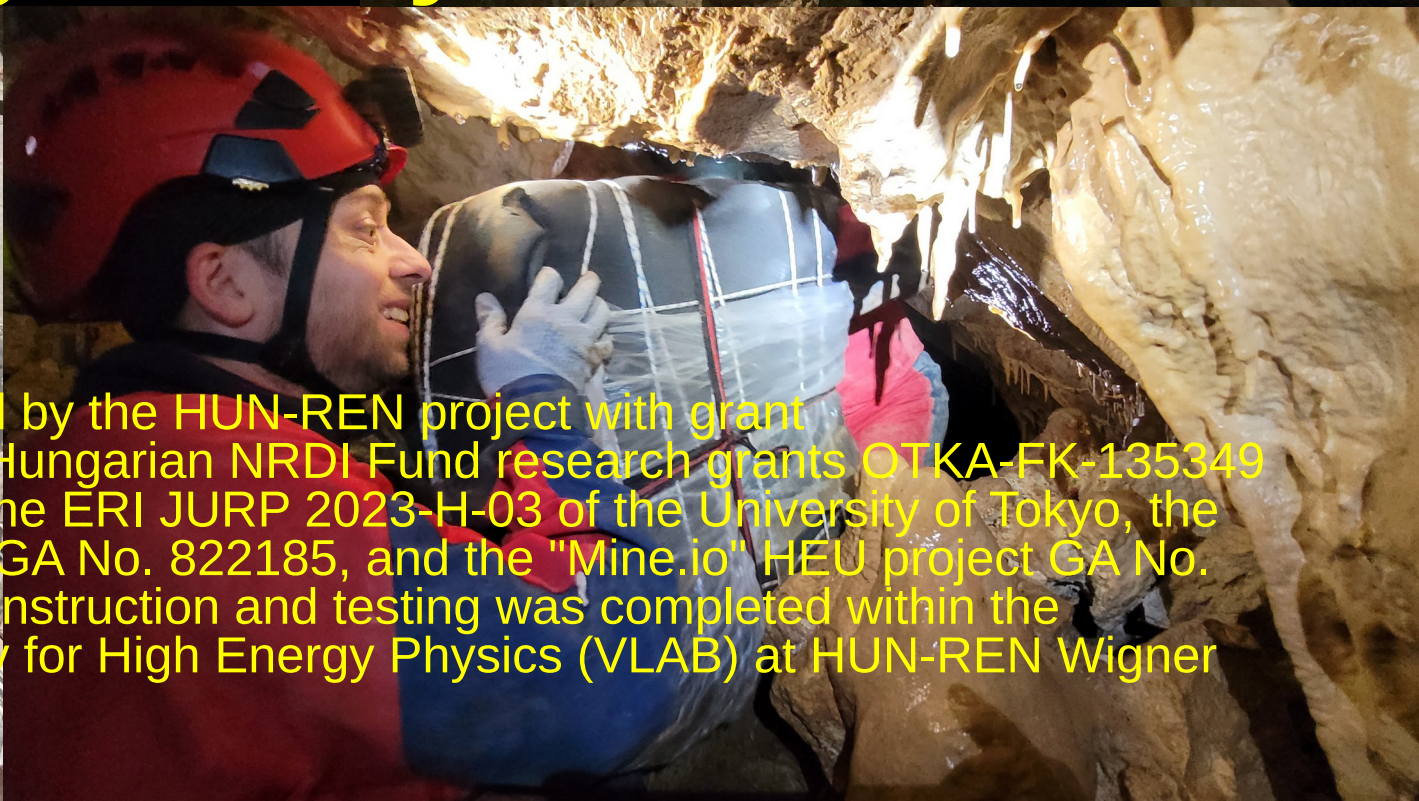
## IV. Summary

- Muography is an imaging method, based on either transmission or scattering, allows non-destructive, remote and passive inspection of large-sized structures.
- Muography is made real by contemporary technology and detector construction methods. Need reliable production and performance.
- HUN-REN Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Detector Development group: extensive collaborations (Finland, Japan, Italy, ...), VLAB infrastructure, multiple H2020 / HEU / national projects
- At the heart of that: HEP science and technology!





**Thank you for your attention !**



This work was supported by the HUN-REN project with grant ID KSFZ-144/2023, the Hungarian NRDI Fund research grants OTKA-FK-135349 and TKP2021-NKTA-10, the ERI JURP 2023-H-03 of the University of Tokyo, the "Intense" H2020 project GA No. 822185, and the "Mine.io" HEU project GA No. 101091885. Detector construction and testing was completed within the Vesztergombi Laboratory for High Energy Physics (VLAB) at HUN-REN Wigner RCP.