

Underwater ERT method to image karst cavity distribution below the river water

Daopu Wang^{1*} Haibin Chai² Dikun Yang¹ Banglia Lv²

- 1. Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China*
- 2. 2. CCCC-FHDI Engineering Co., Ltd., Canton, Guangdong, China*

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Gravity, Electrical, Magnetic
and Electromagnetic
Research at SUSTech



地球与空间科学系
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES



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Outline

01 | Introduction

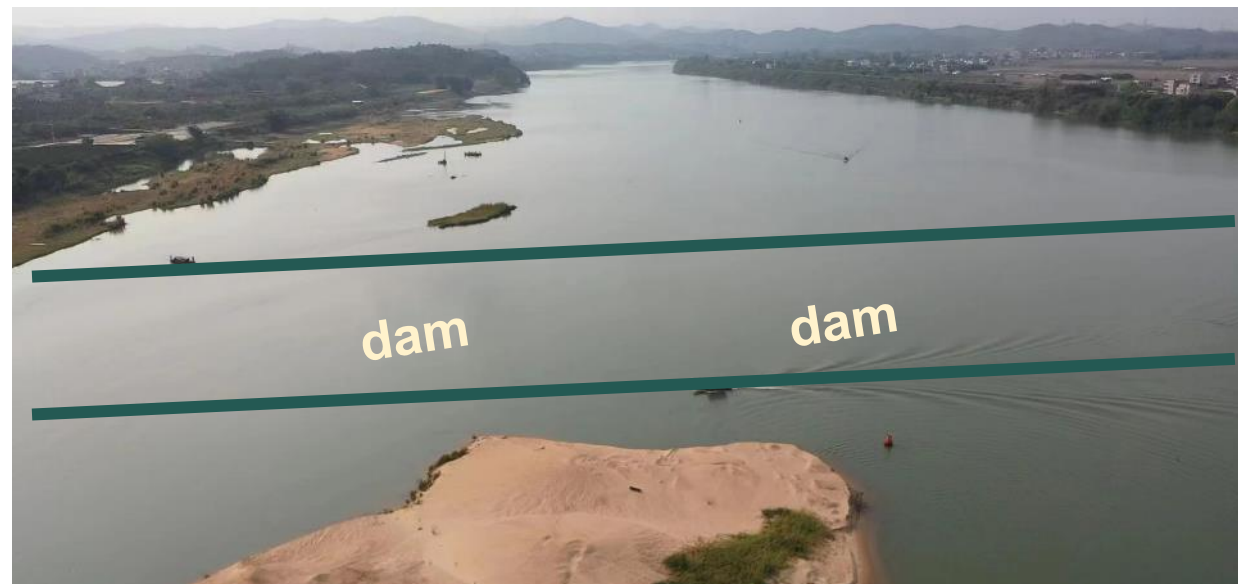
02 | Surveys

03 | Methods

04 | Results

05 | Conclusions

Dong River



(Huizhou, China)

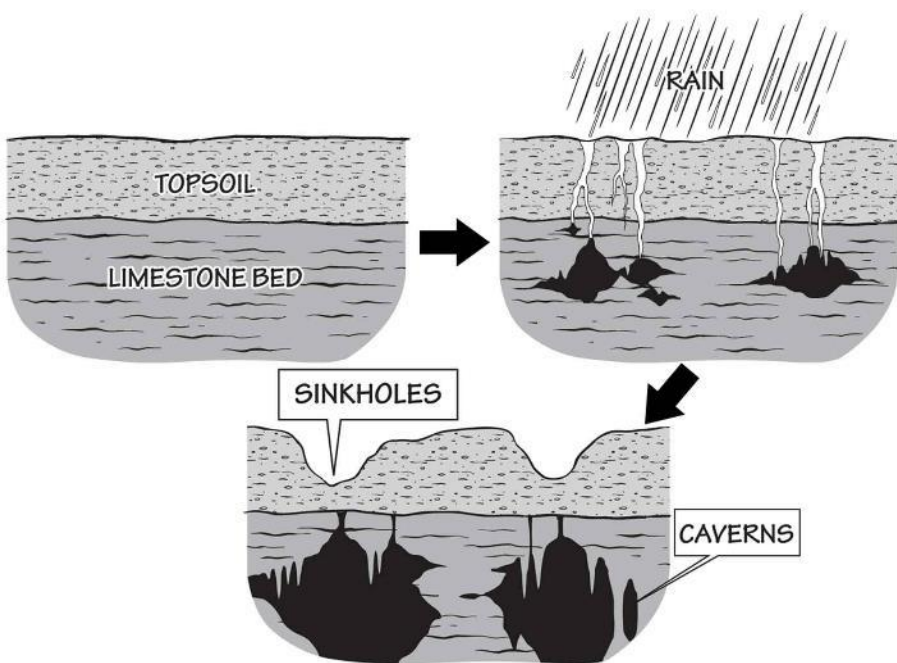
River Info

River Depth	0.5 — 9m
River Width	Above 700m
Rock Type	silt, weathered limestone, pulverized clay, shale, sandstone ...

Shallow

Deep

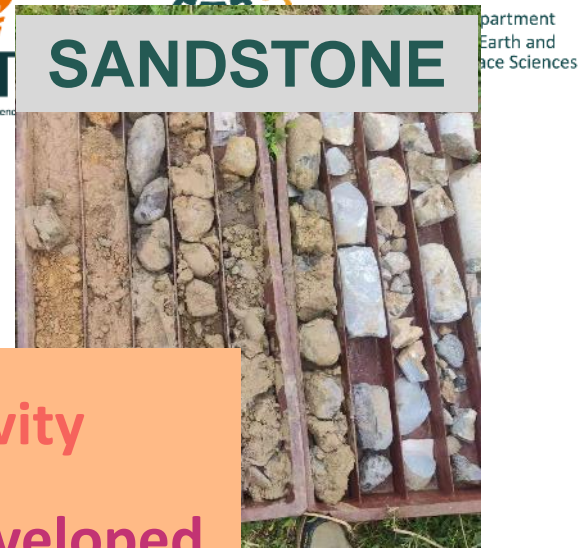
Karst Cave



SILT

SUST
Southern University of Science

SANDSTONE



Karst cavity

Unevenly developed

Buried deeply



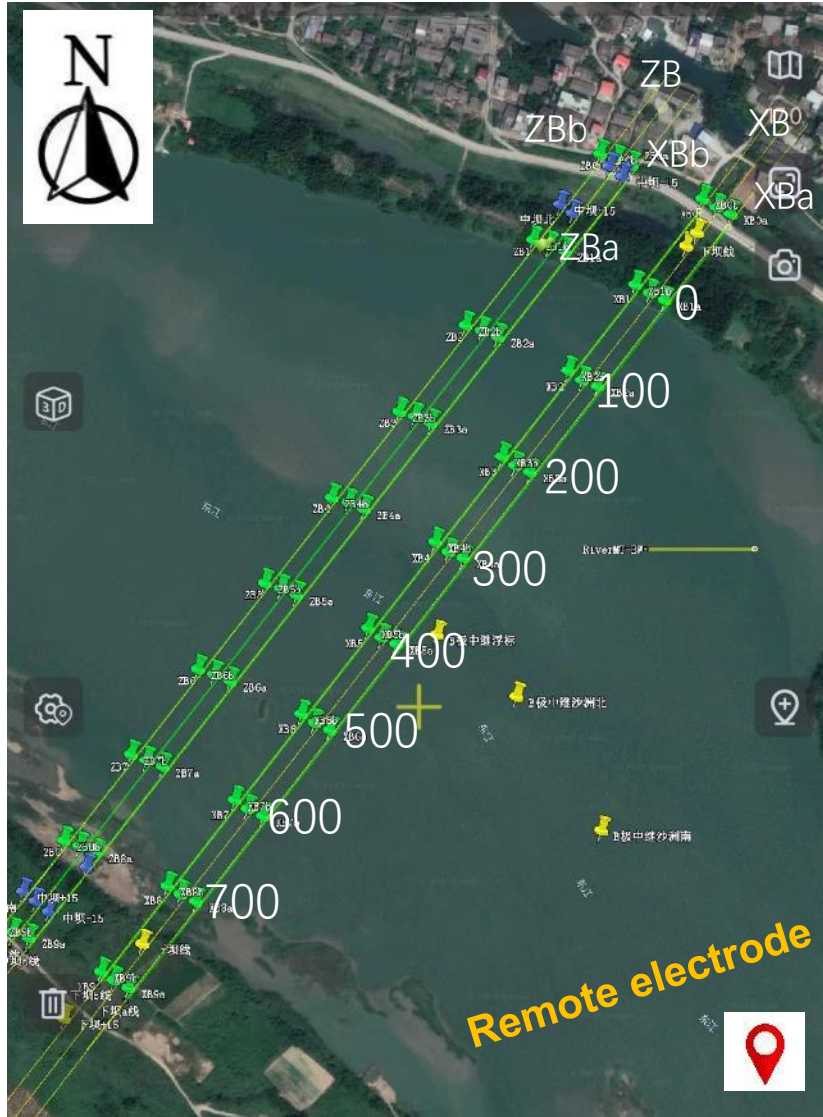
LIMSTONE



cavity size

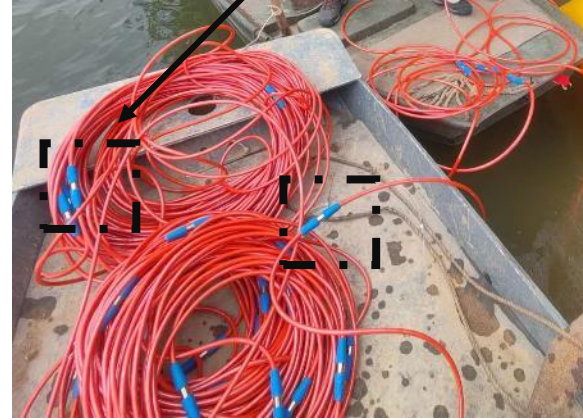
< 0.2m

> 24 m



Survey Lines Layout

Electrode



Measurement using red cable

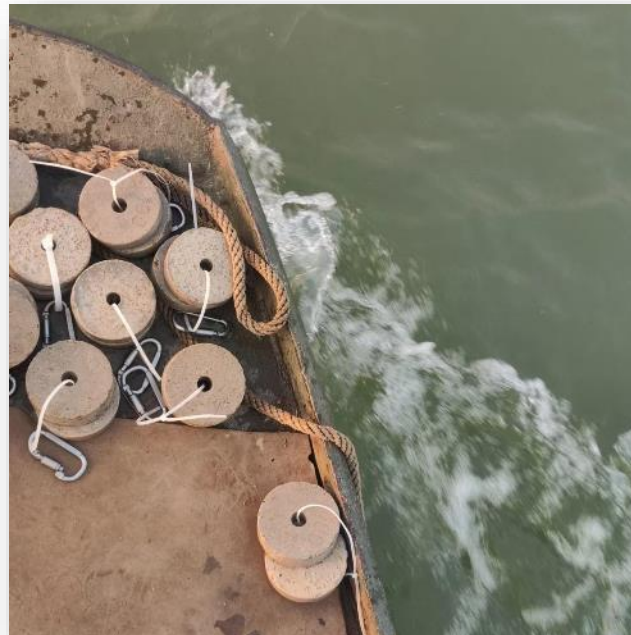
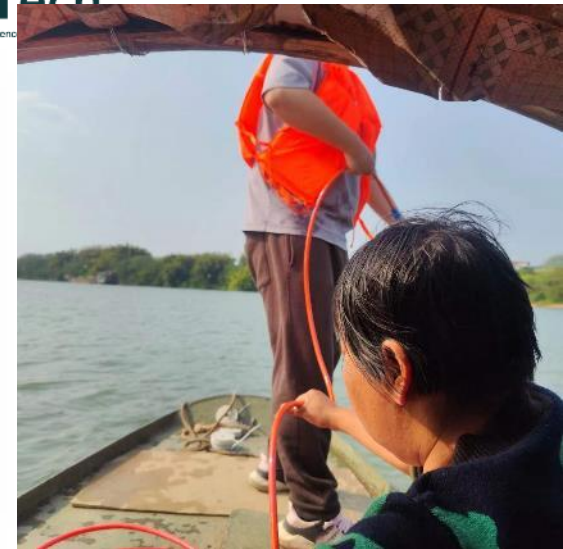


Cable for remote electrode



Titanium plate

- Red cable length : 200m
- Electrode spacing : 5m
- Number of electrodes: 40
- Transmit voltage: 450V
- Remote electrode(B): 800m





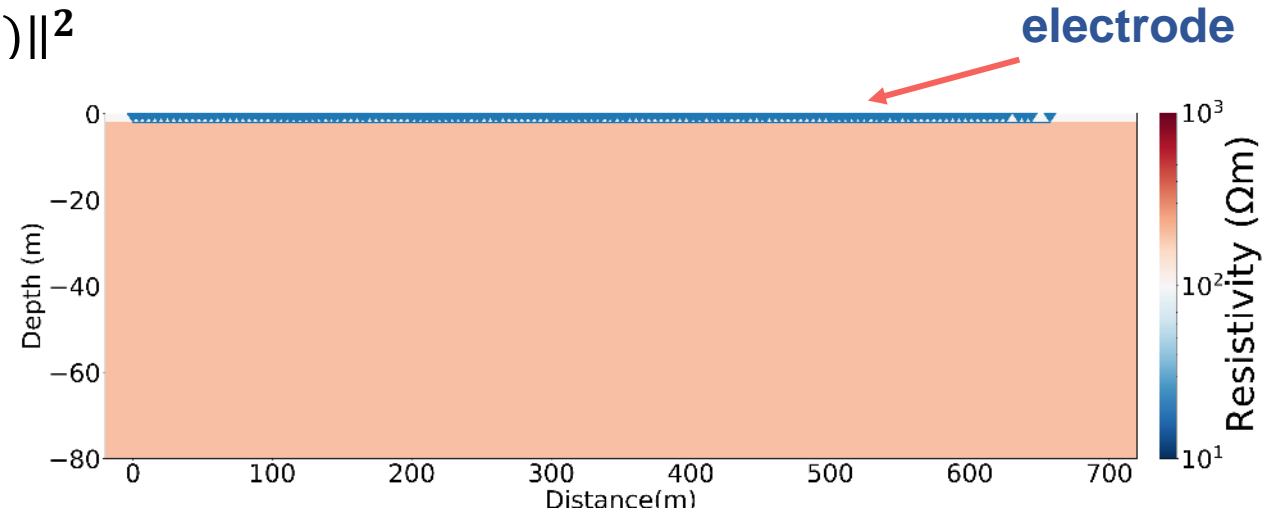
$$\varphi(\mathbf{m}) = \|W_d(d_{obs} - f(\mathbf{m}))\|^2 + \gamma \|W_m(\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{m}_0)\|^2$$

$$W_m = (\alpha_s I, \alpha_x W_x^T, \alpha_z W_z^T)^T$$

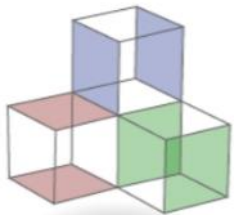
W_m *model weighted matrix*

$\alpha_s, \alpha_x, \alpha_z$ *Weight coefficient*

m_0 *Reference model*



m_0 Initial Model



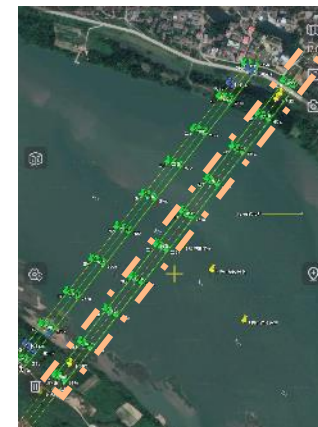
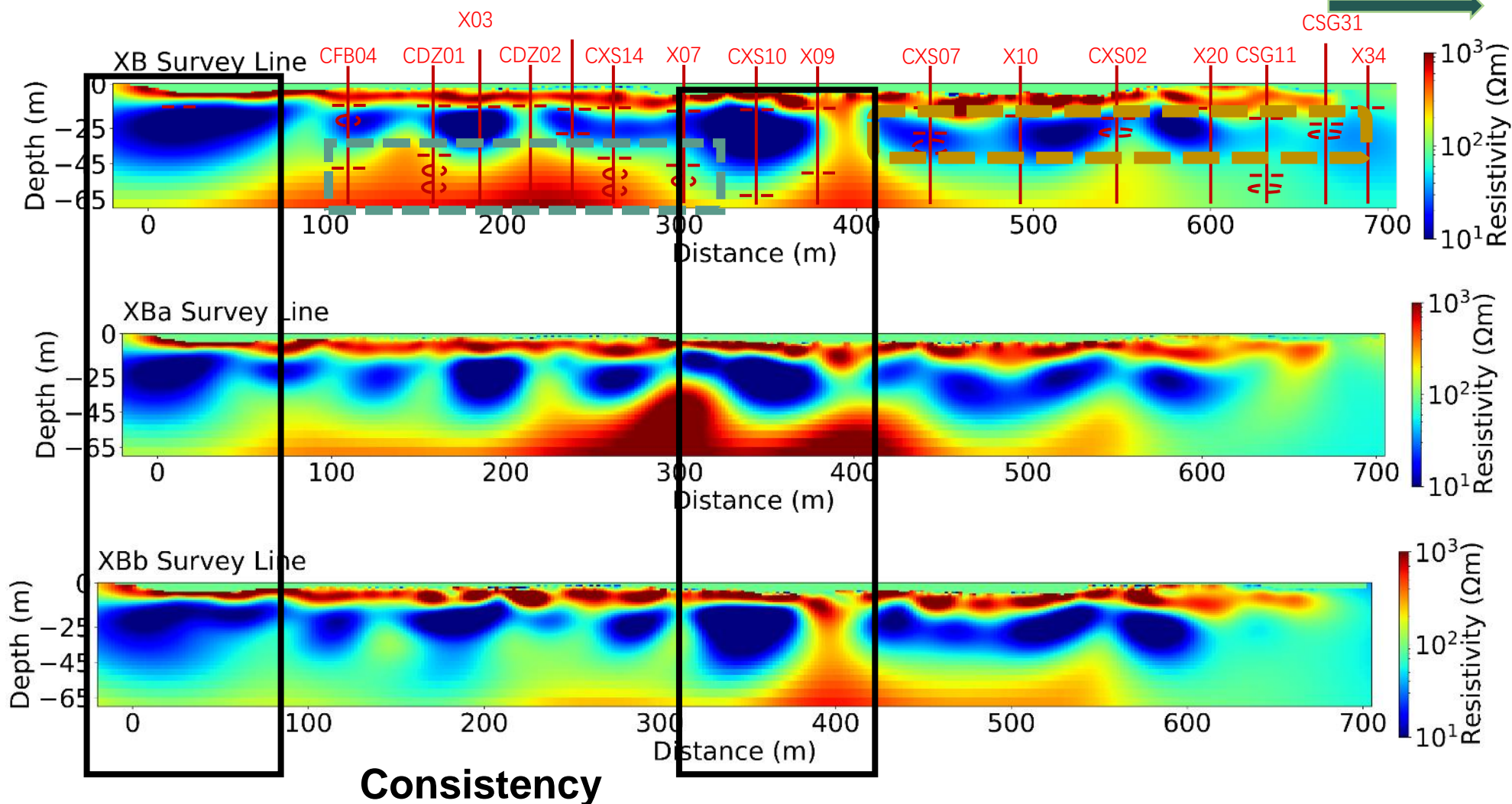
simpeg

(Cockett, et al., 2015)

○ Known cave

--- Speculative boundary

2D inverted results

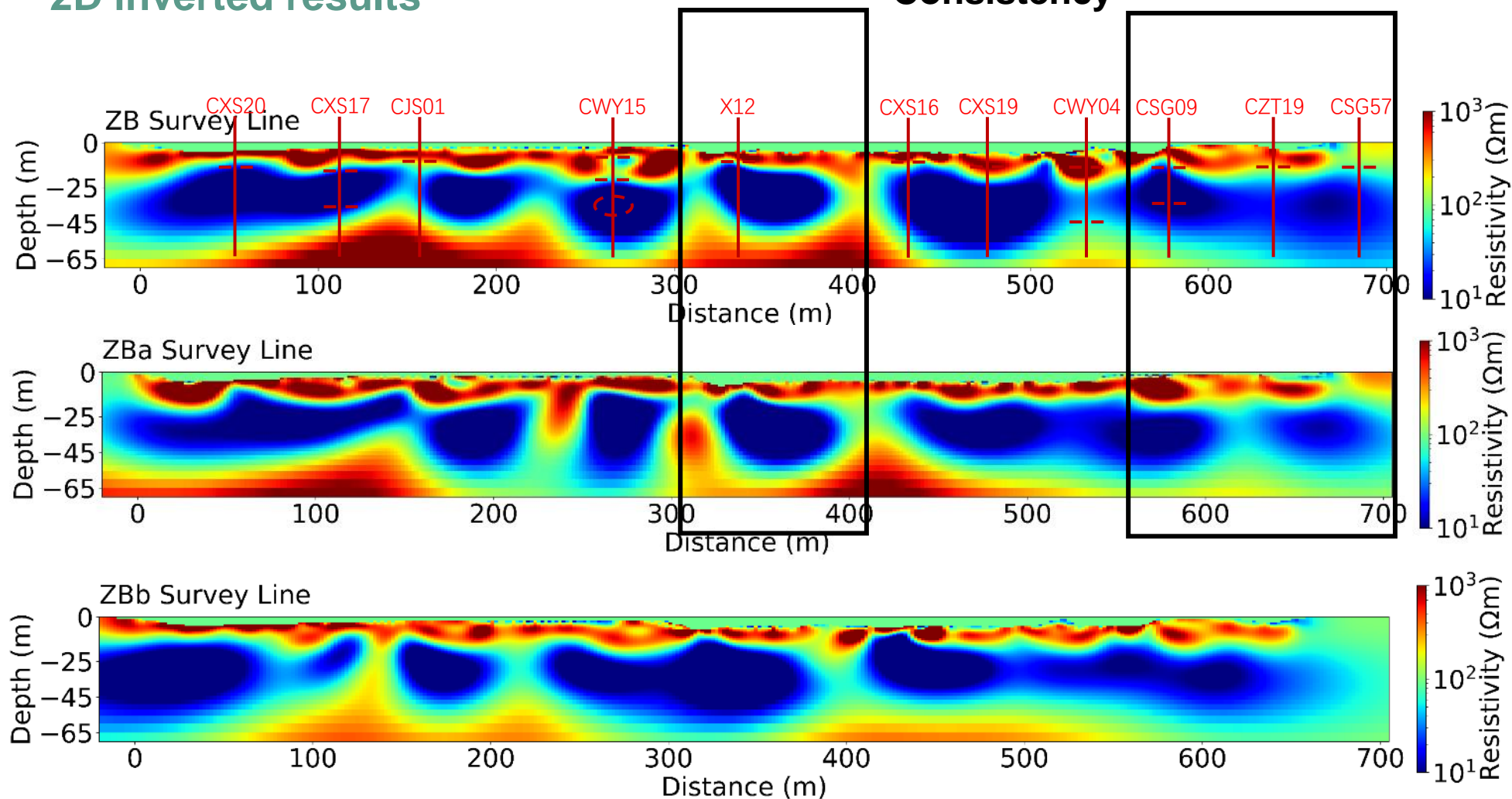


XB area

- **Three-layer electrical structure**
- **Continuity of resistivity structure**

2D inverted results

Consistency

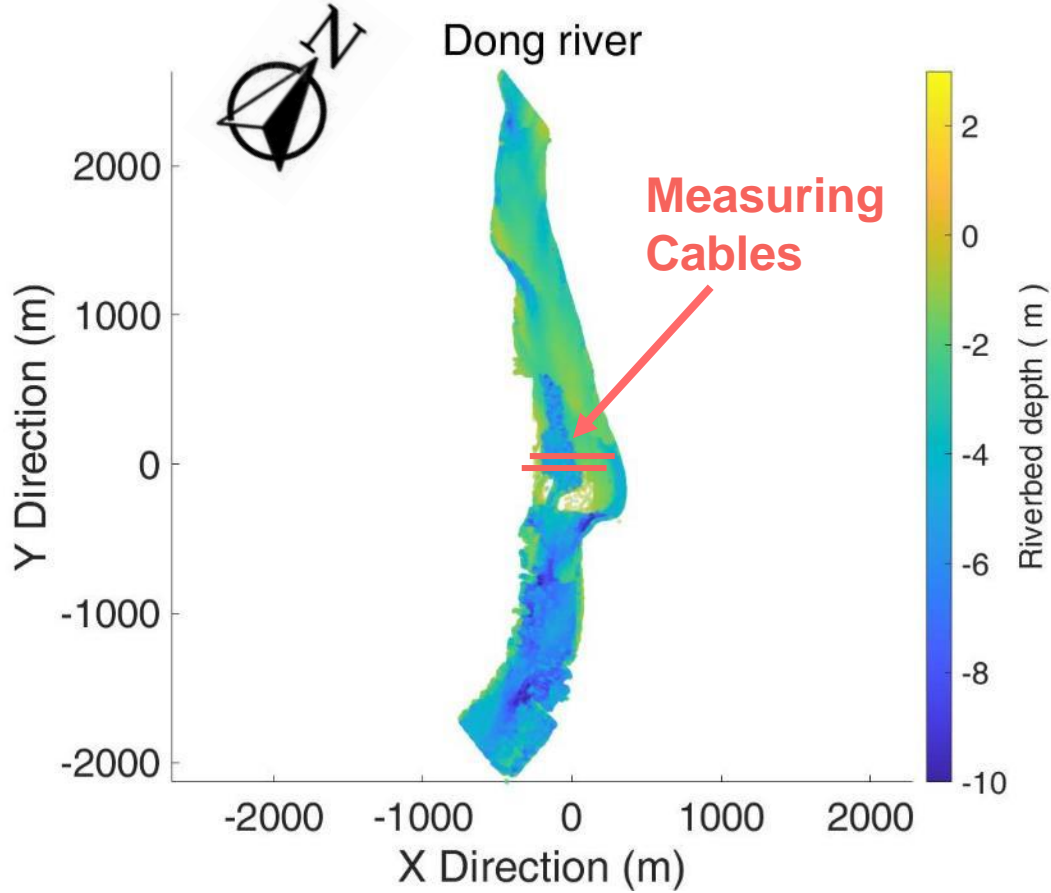


ZB area

- Cave filling has higher water saturation, presumably

Conclusions -2D :

- The electrical structure of 2D can be roughly divided into 3 layers, which is consistent with the available geologic information.
- The surface silt, gravel cobblestones roughly exhibit high resistivity, the middle sandstone and shale layer exhibit relatively low resistivity, and basement limestone exhibit high resistivity.
- Some of the cave's electrical structures exhibit low resistivity, inferred to be water-filled caves.
- The ERT method can only give the underground electrical layering structure and shallow buried caves, and cannot find caves in the deep limestone.



Dong River

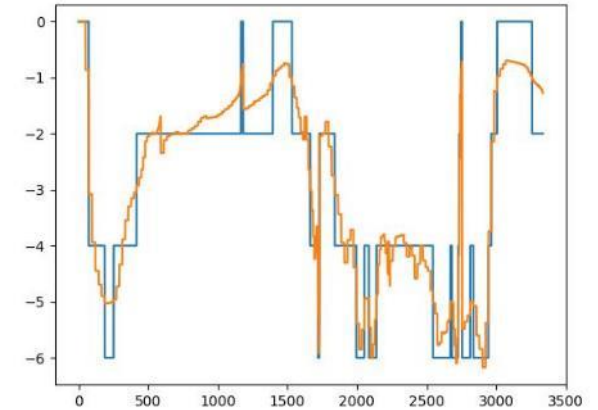
$$W_m = (\alpha_s I, \alpha_x W_x^T, \alpha_y W_y^T, \alpha_z W_z^T)^T \quad \alpha_x : \alpha_y \quad 10 : 1$$

MESH:

X unit width : 5m

Y unit width : 5m

Z unit width : 2m

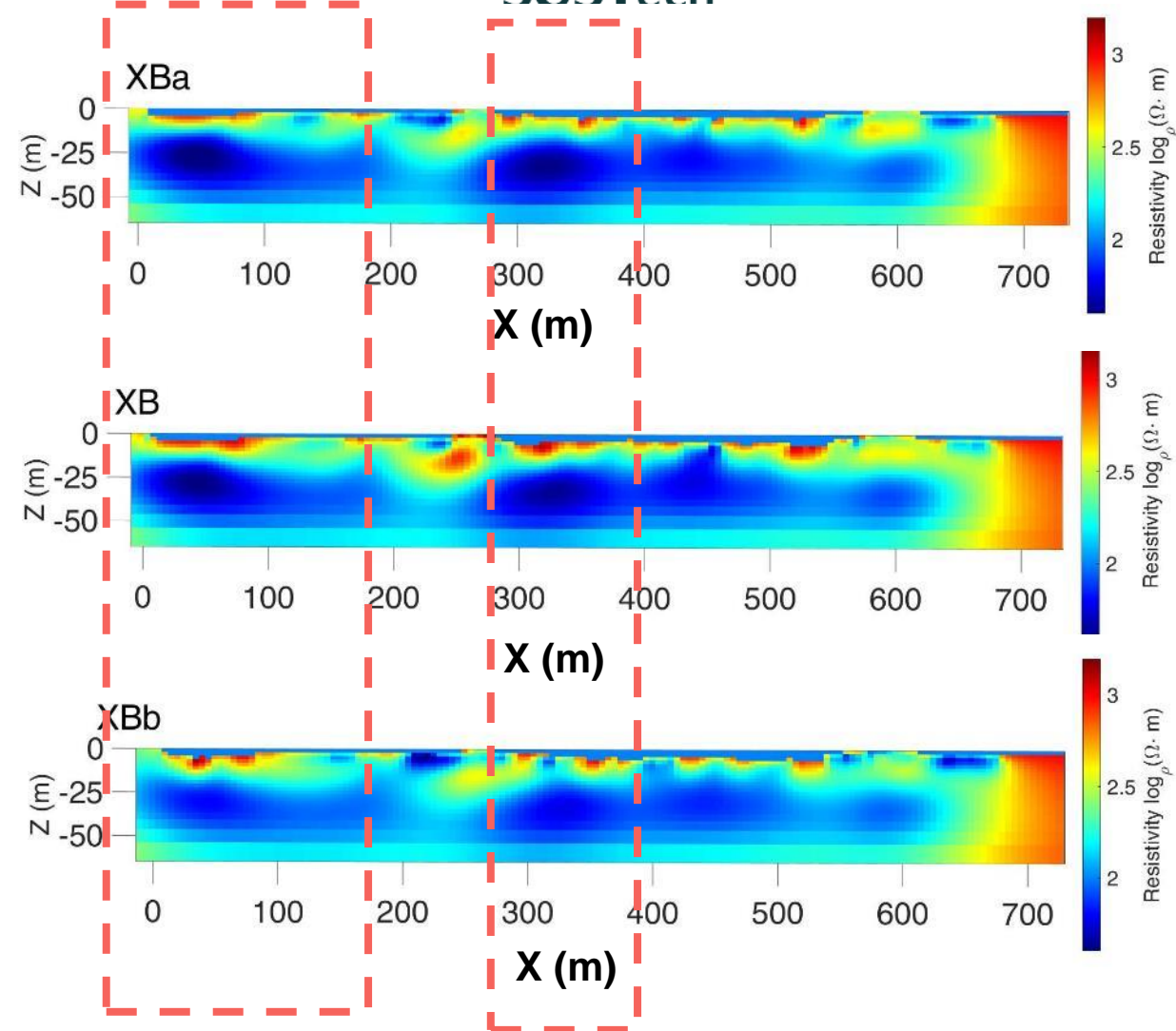
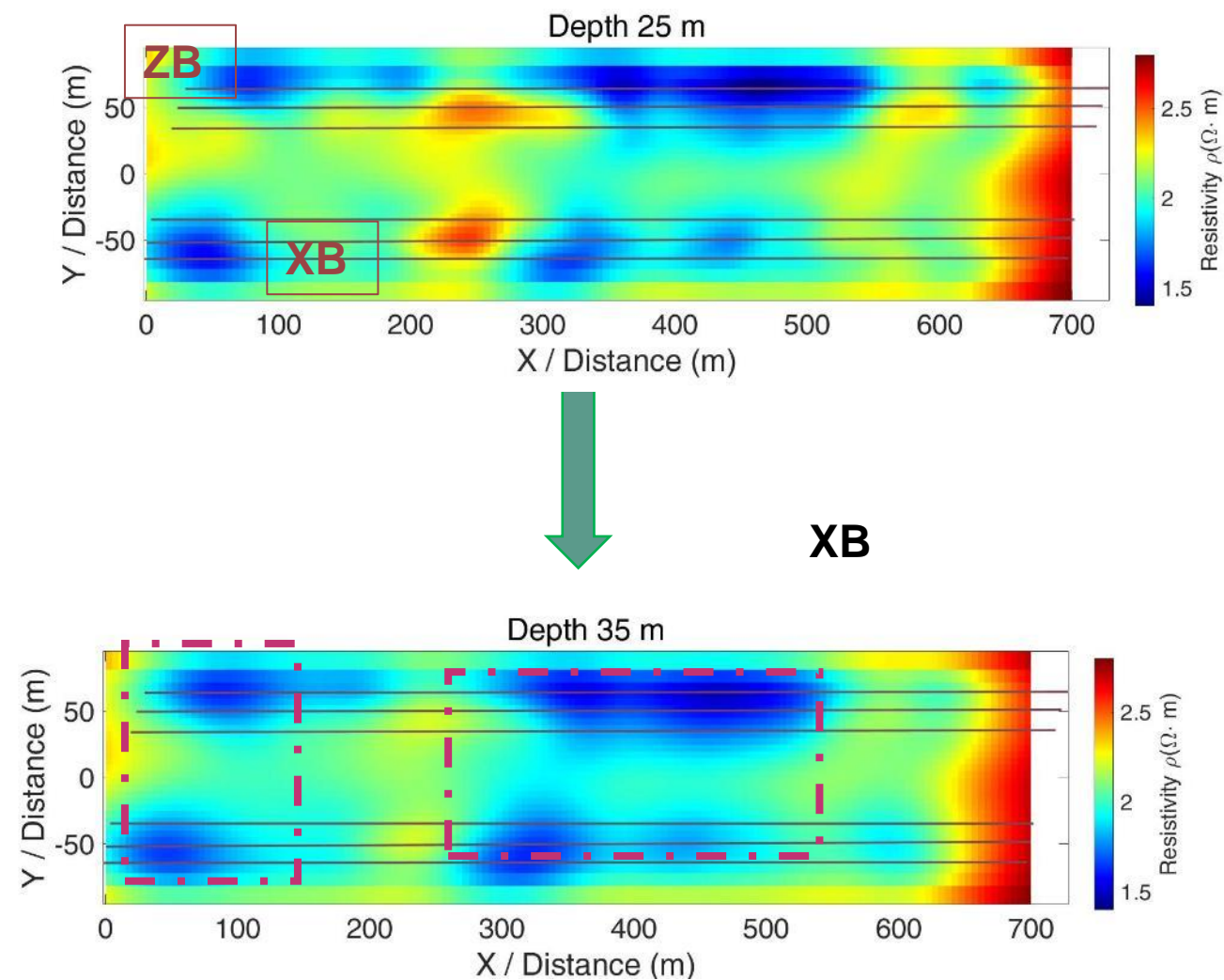


Topographic correction

Electrodes



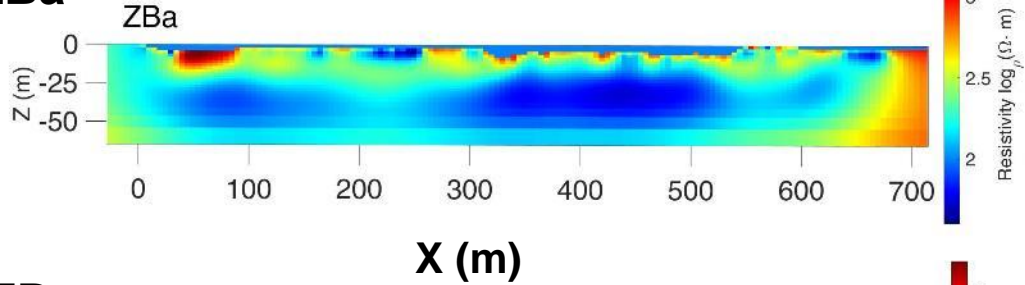
Electrode position at the interface
between water and rock



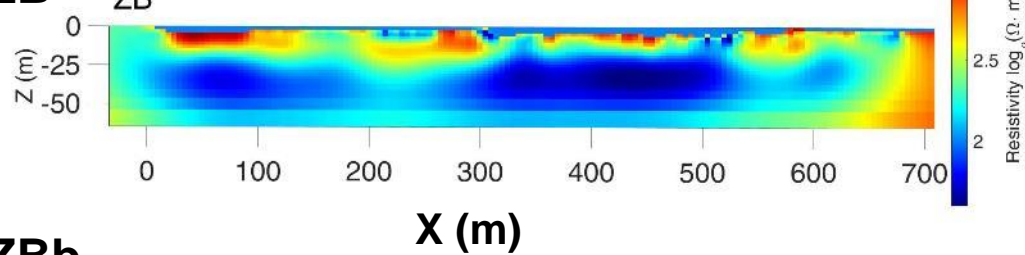
Consistency in position



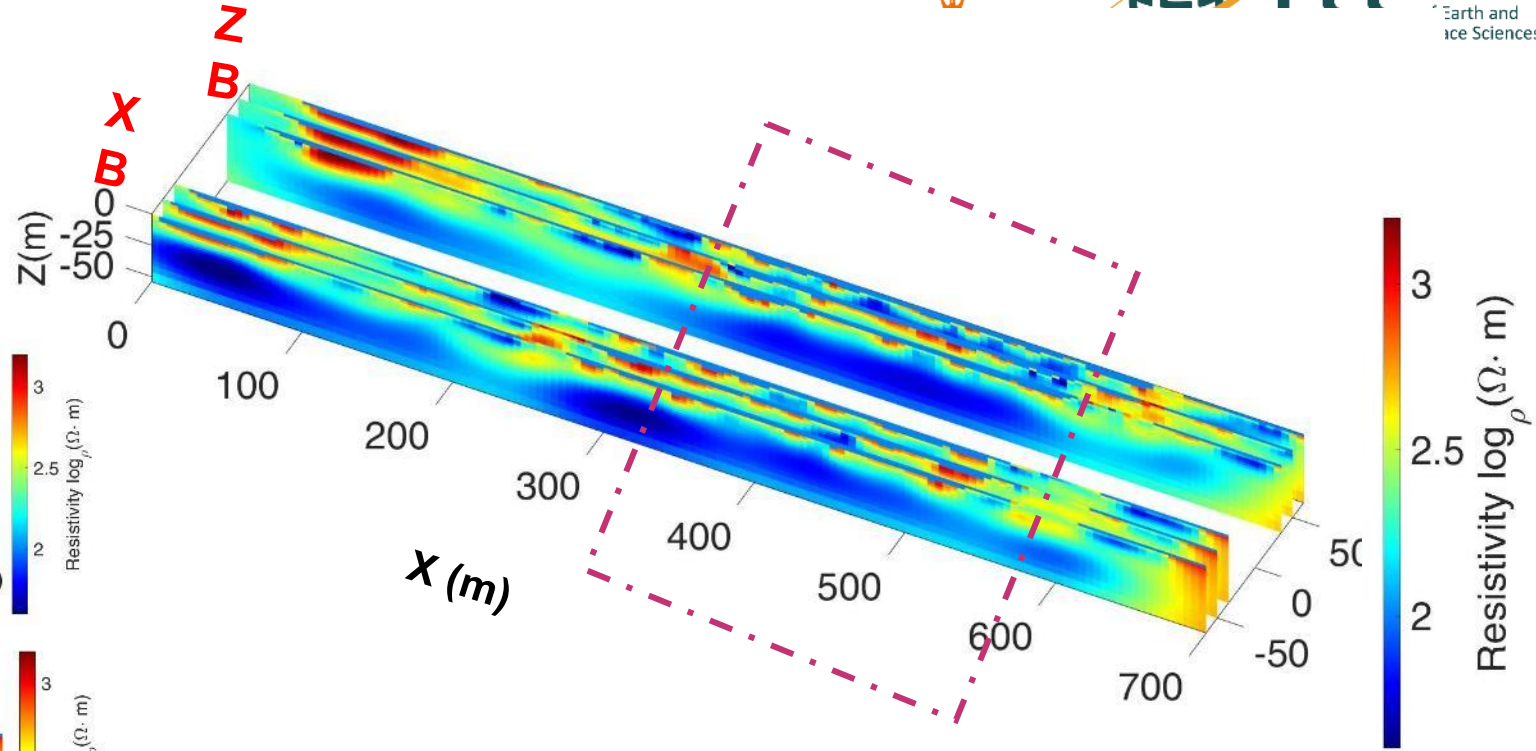
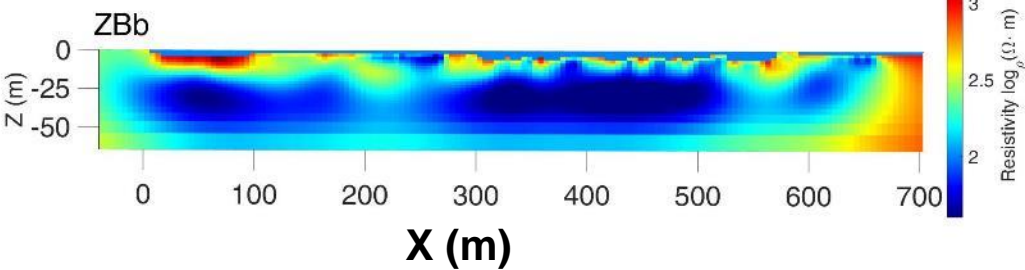
ZBa



ZB



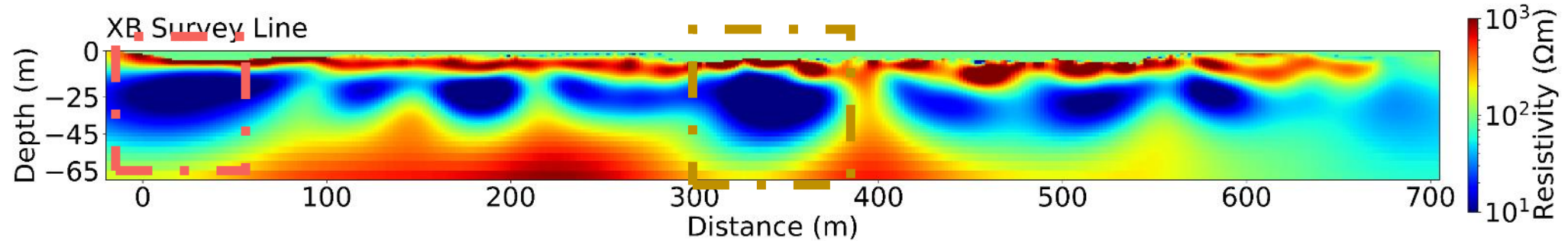
ZBb



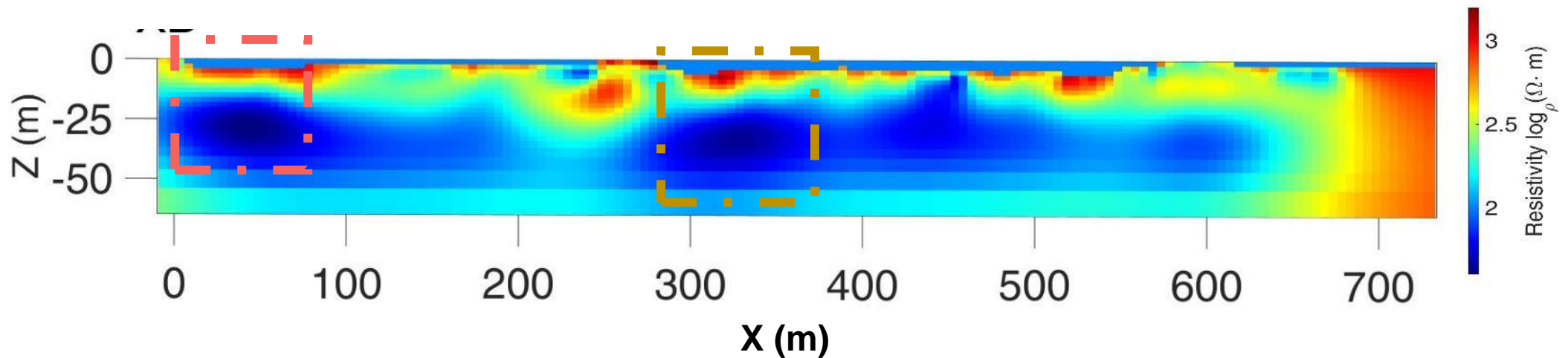
- Two-layer electrical structure
- The electrical structures of some parts of XB area and ZB area are continuously developed in space

2D > 3D ?

2D



3D



- The results of the 2D and 3D inversions have high similarity in some localizations.
- ERT is capable of effectively recognizing the interfaces of rock partings.
- The electrical partitioning of 2D is in good agreement with the drilling data.

Conclusions:

- In some cases, 2D electrical results better characterize the distribution of strata.
- Spatial continuity of electrically structured anomalies of XB and ZB
- Low resistivity anomalies revealed in 2D and 3D together can designate potential cavities and improve the reliability of the results.
- Some of the karst exhibits low resistivity characteristics, and ERT is unable to identify cavities if they are buried too deeply.



THANKS!

Q & A?