



# 2023 SPE EUROPE ENERGY GEOHACKATHON

## 1. Intro to Geothermal Energy and the Role of Seismic in this field

Elisabeth Moellendorff

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct2023

#DatafyingEnergy

# Elisabeth Moellendorff – Baker Hughes



**Elisabeth Moellendorff**  
Geothermal Sales  
Reservoir Technical Services

**Service Delivery Coordinator**  
Wireline  
Norway, 2021 - 2023

**RTS**  
Geothermal Sales Lead  
Europe 2023+

Supporting European Geothermal market with  
Geomechanical studies, Reservoir analysis, fracture modelling  
and other subsurface support.

Planning Norwegian wireline ops, focus on cement logging, interventions and  
perforations.

In-house support at Total Energies

**Data Acquisition Coordinator**  
(Wireline)  
UK, 2019-2021

**Geoscience**  
Formation Testing &  
Sampling Support  
UK, 2017 - 2019

**Wireline Field Engineer**  
UK, Norway, 2012-2017

Planning, modelling & supporting all wireline & LWD  
formation testing and sampling in the North Sea. Focus on  
HPHT testing, ultralow mobility pressure testing.

**M.Sc. Project at Baker Hughes**  
on Deep Geothermal  
Germany 2011-2012

OH/CH Wireline Engineer (FE to Senior to General)

Feasibility study of innovative casing designs to improve  
the economics of deep geothermal wells. 2 patents as co-  
author.

## Education

\* M.Sc. Mech. Eng. 2012 TU Bergakademie Freiberg  
\* B.Sc. Geology 2012 TU Bergakademie Freiberg



## Patents:

US patent 9303487:

*Heat Treatment for removal of Bauschinger Effect or to Accelerate Cement Curing*

US patent 10081845:

*Tubular strengthening and patterning method for enhanced heat transfer*

**Baker Hughes**

# Agenda

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|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 5 min    | Overview over Deep Geothermal systems  |
| 5-10 min | Existing capacity, applications and potential of Deep Geothermal in Europe   |
| 25 min   | <p>Seismic<br/>Basics: wave types, reflection vs refraction, acquisition<br/>Processing, CDP, migration, resolution<br/>2D vs 3D<br/>VSP<br/>Limitations and other methods</p> |
| 10 min   | Q & A  |

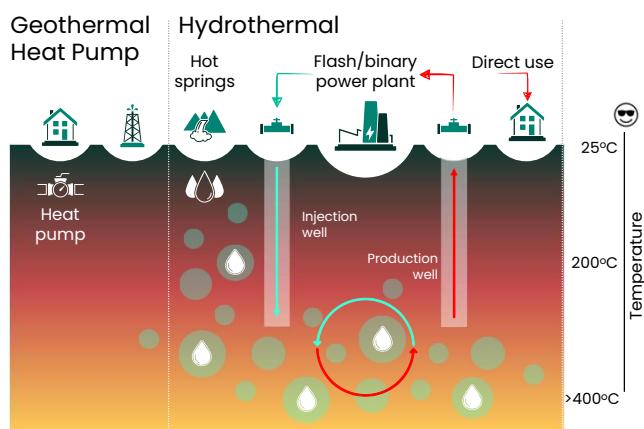
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## GEOHERMAL DEVELOPMENT: EGS & AGS

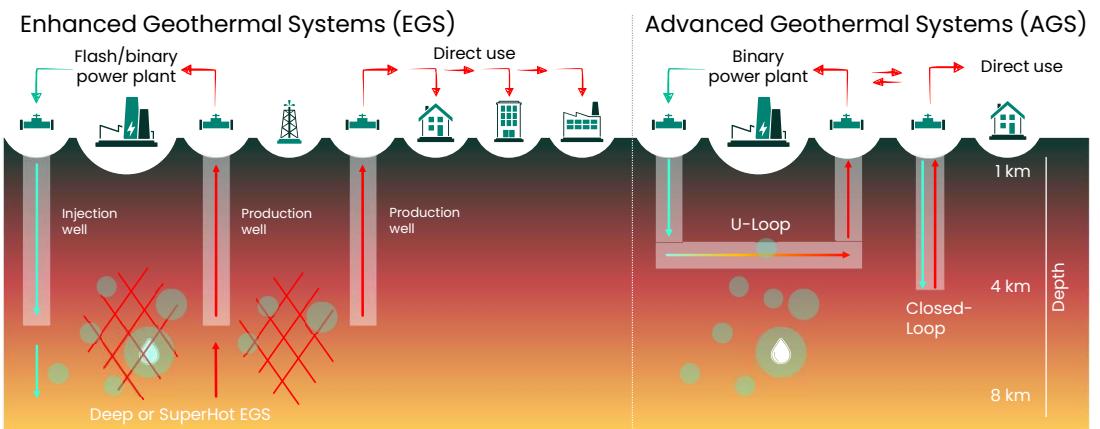
# The Geothermal Ecosystem

## Conventional



- ✓ Sufficient access to natural hot brine
- ✓ Successful hydrothermal industry.  
Geographically limited to areas with natural underground reservoirs

## Unconventional



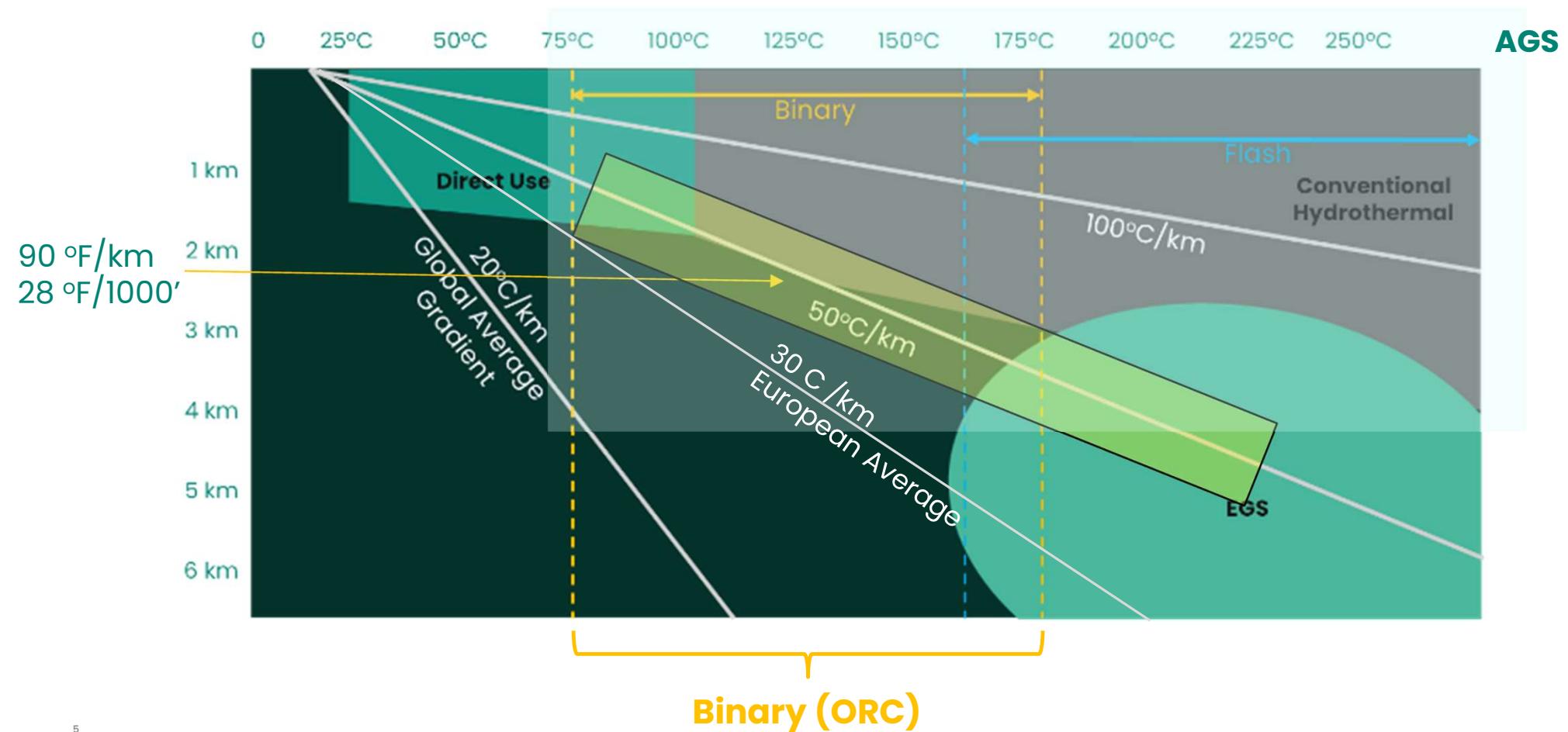
- ✓ Access to hot rock but insufficient permeability or fluid saturation.  
Engineered reservoirs, injecting fluid into the subsurface, or using closed-loop.
- ✓ Less geographic restrictions allowing for geothermal expansion and growth – ultimately geothermal anywhere

Installed Power of ~16 GW  
(ThinkGeoEnergy, 2022)

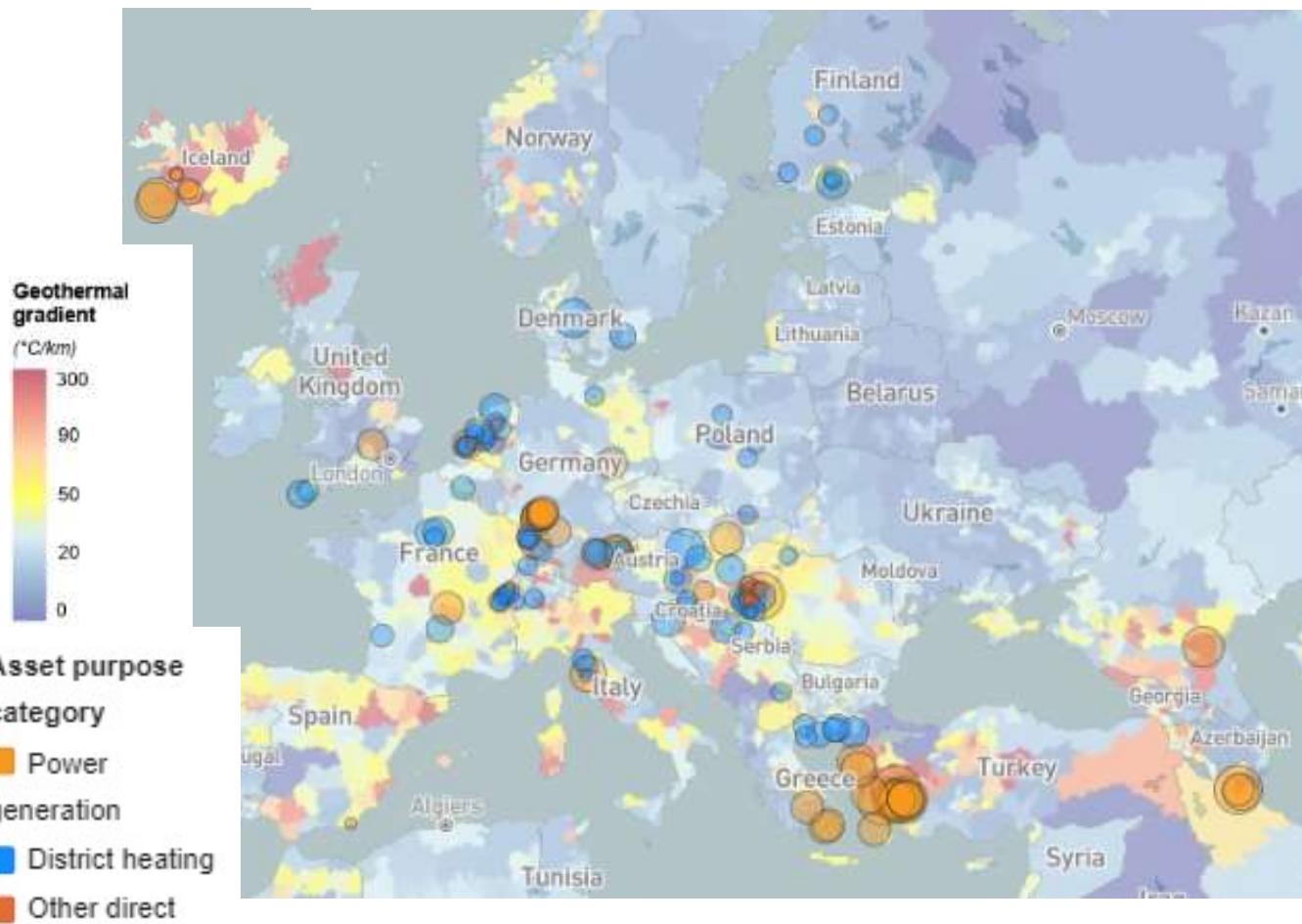
Conventional Power Potential of  
~200 GW (S&P 2022)

Unlimited Potential of  
Geothermal Anywhere

# Depth-Temperature for Geothermal Resources



# Deep Geothermal projects in Europe



## District Heating in Europe

- Germany
  - Population: 83 million
  - Circa 11 million are connected to district heating network
- UK
  - Population: 67 million
  - Circa 2 million are connected to district heating network
- Netherlands:
  - Population: 17.5 million
  - Circa 0.7 million are connected to district heating network
- Denmark:
  - Population: 5.8 million
  - Circa 3.6 million are connected to district heating network
- Poland:
  - Population: 38 million
  - Circa 16.5 million are connected to district heating network
- Hungary
  - Population: 9.7 million
  - Circa 1.6 million are connected to district heating network

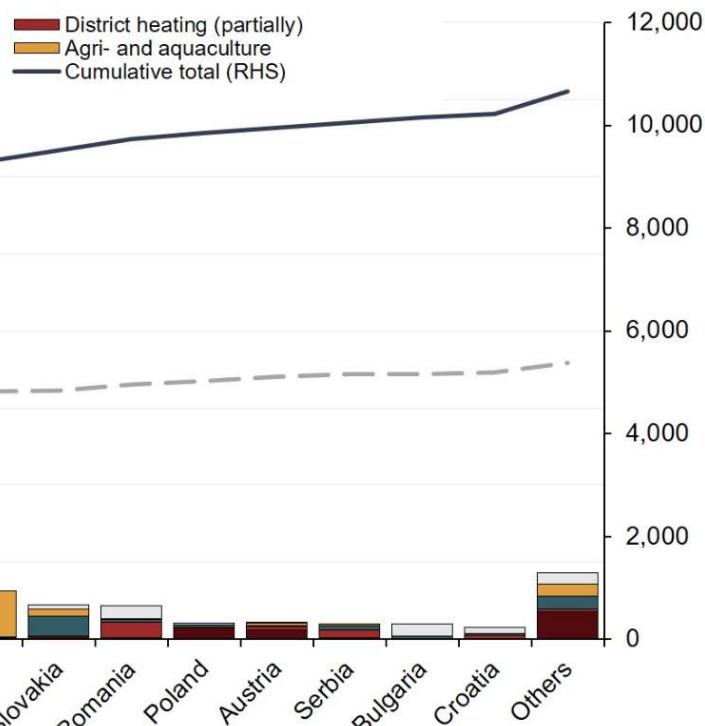
Source Rystad

# Geothermal direct use installed capacity in Europe

Installed capacity, MWt



Cumulative installed capacity district heating, MWt

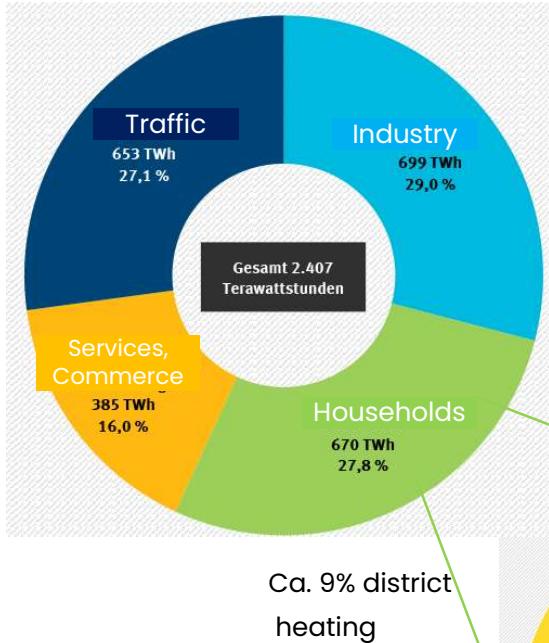


\*Turkey and Russia are both included under Europe in this aggregation  
Source: Rystad Energy research and analysis

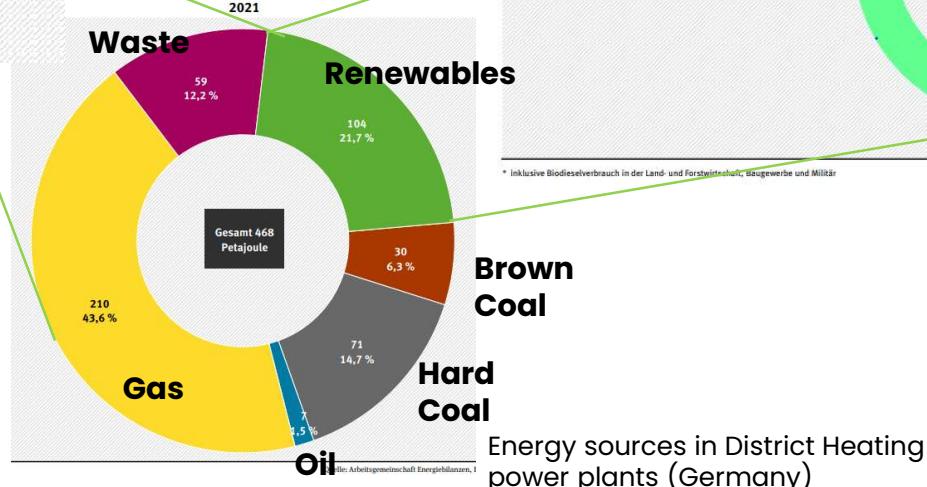
Source Rystad:  
<https://clients.rystadenergy.com/clients/report?rid=7340>

# Potential of the Geothermal Heating Market (Germany)

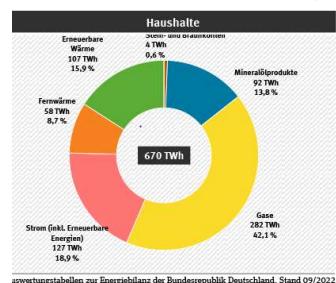
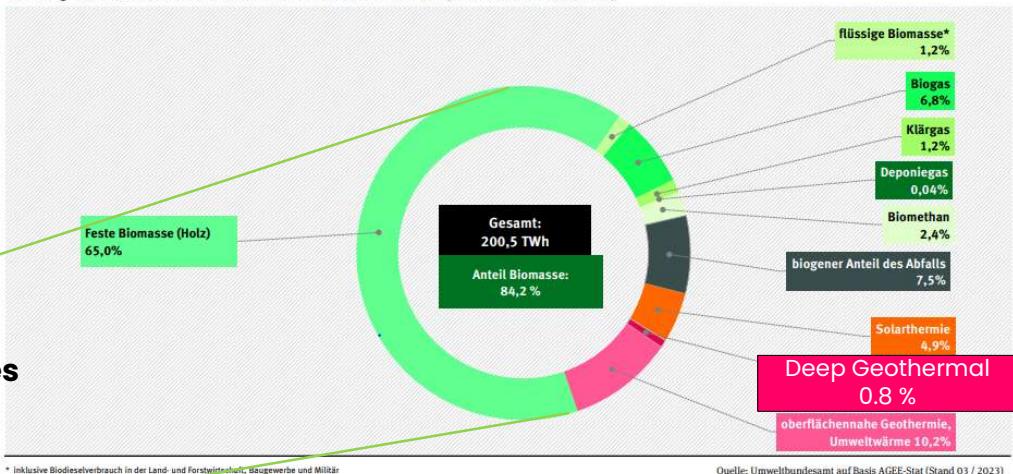
Energy usage per sector (Germany)



Renewables Mix in Heating (Germany)

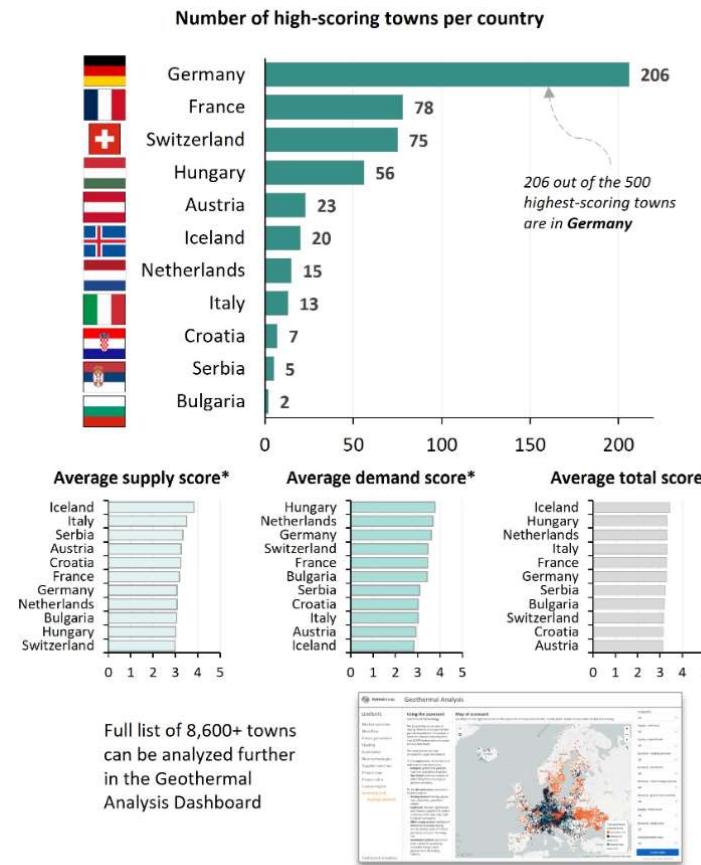
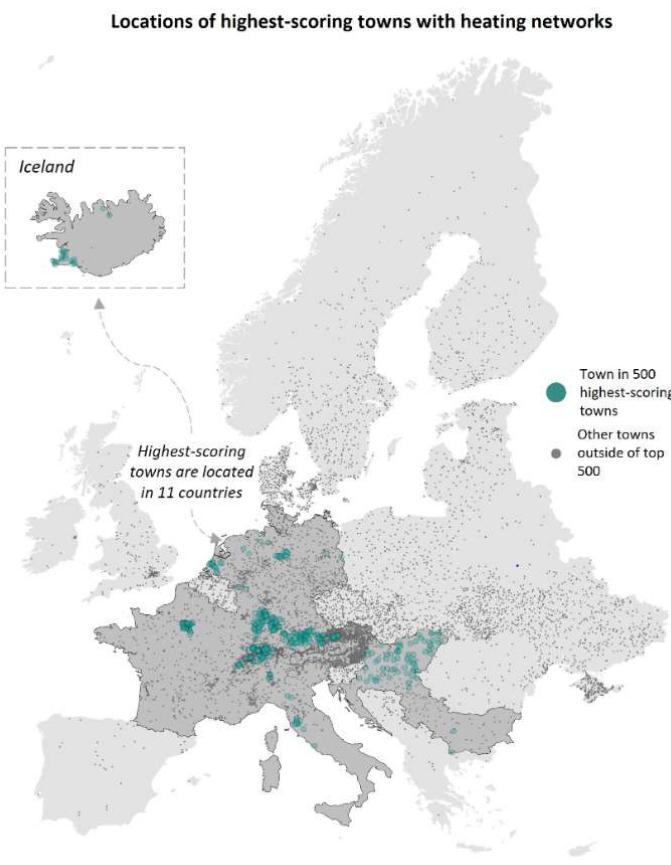


Erneuerbare Energie für Wärme und Kälte im Jahr 2022  
Endenergieverbrauch aus erneuerbaren Quellen für Wärme und Kälte (einschließlich Fernwärme)



Source:  
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/daten/energie/primarerenergieverbrauch#primarerenergieverbrauch-nach-energieträgern>

# Rystad: Europe's 500 highest-scoring heating networks by geothermal potential



\*These scores measure geothermal potential. The supply score focuses on technical and operational potential while the demand score measures demand for geothermal in municipalities  
Source: Rystad Energy Geothermal Solution

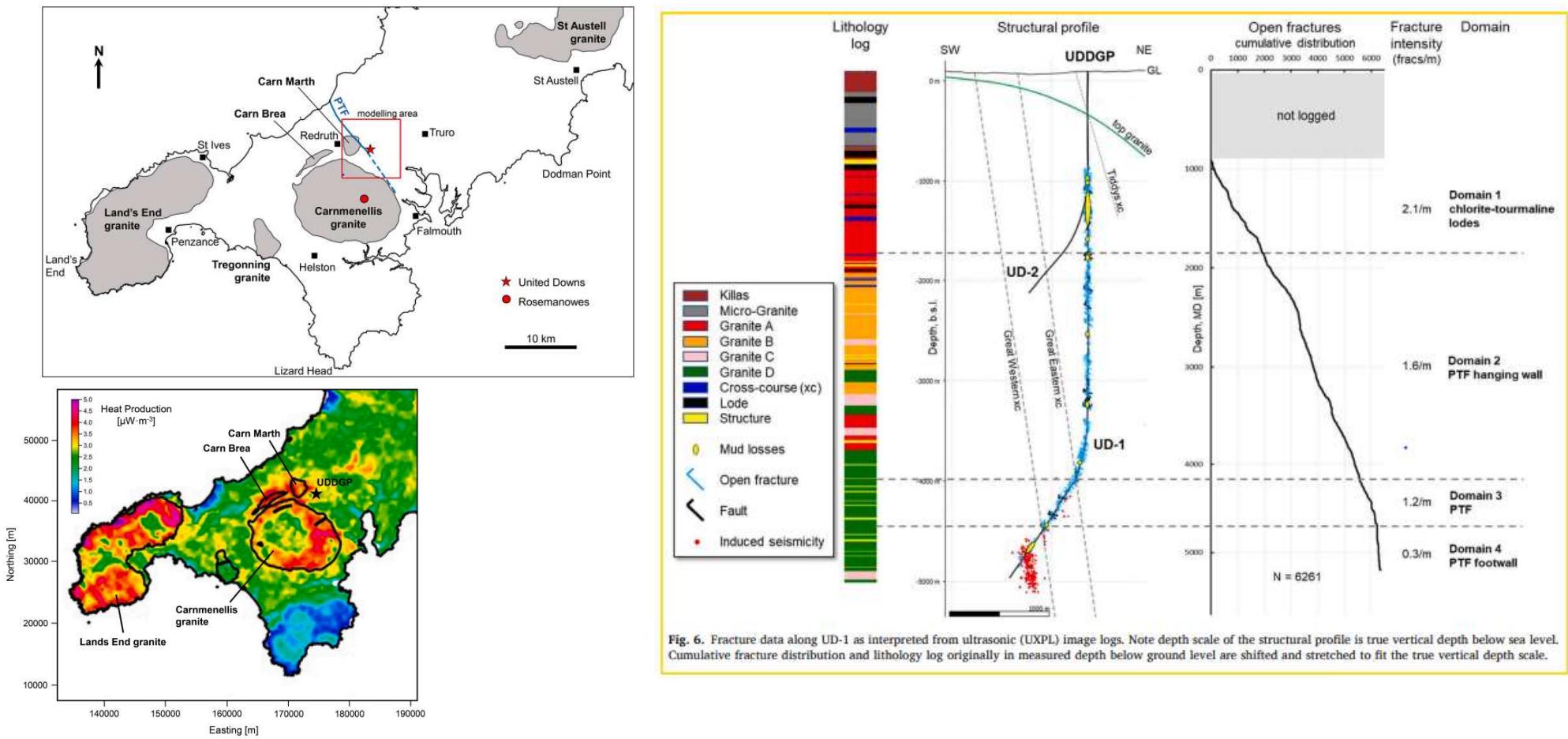
Source: Rystad:  
<https://clients.rystadenergy.com/clients/report?rid=371725&>

## Examples of geothermal systems in Europe

- \* United Downs UDDGP, Cornwall
- \* Upper Rheingraben, France/ Germany
- \* TU Delft, Netherlands

# UDDGP – United Downs Deep Geothermal Project

From Reinecker et al in Geothermics 97 (2021) 102226



# Upper Rheingraben (URG)

From Glaas et al Structural characterization of naturally fractured geothermal r

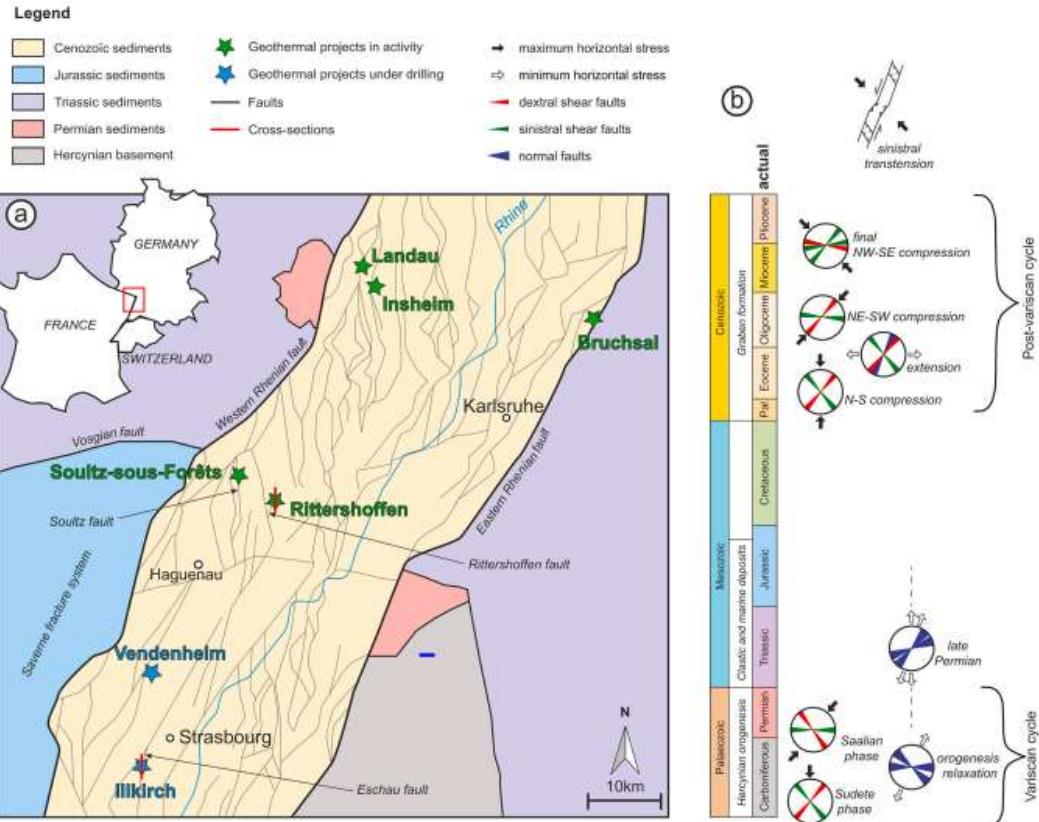


Fig. 1. a) Structural map of the centre of the Upper Rhine Graben showing the faults at the surface from the geoportal GeOrg (2017) in which the faults are derived from 2D vintage seismic data acquired in the Tertiary sediments for oil industry. The locations of the geothermal power plants under exploitation and under drilling are also shown. Two cross sections in reference to Figs. 4 and 5 are represented on the map. b) The orientations of faults and stresses in the URG during the several tectonic phases are presented along the geological timescale from the Palaeozoic to the Cenozoic ages.

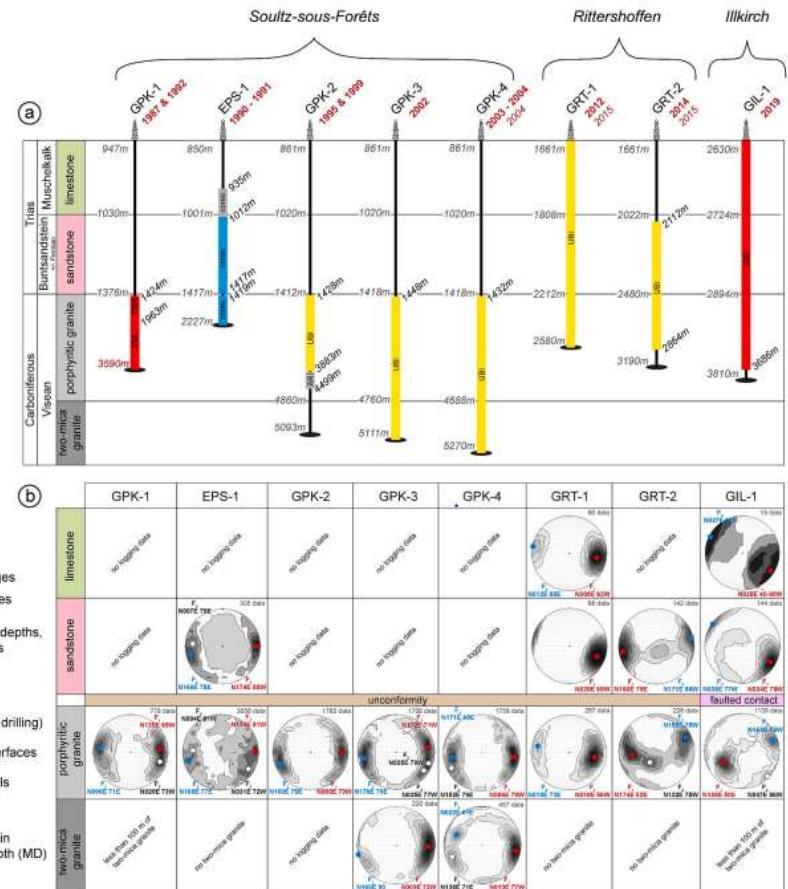
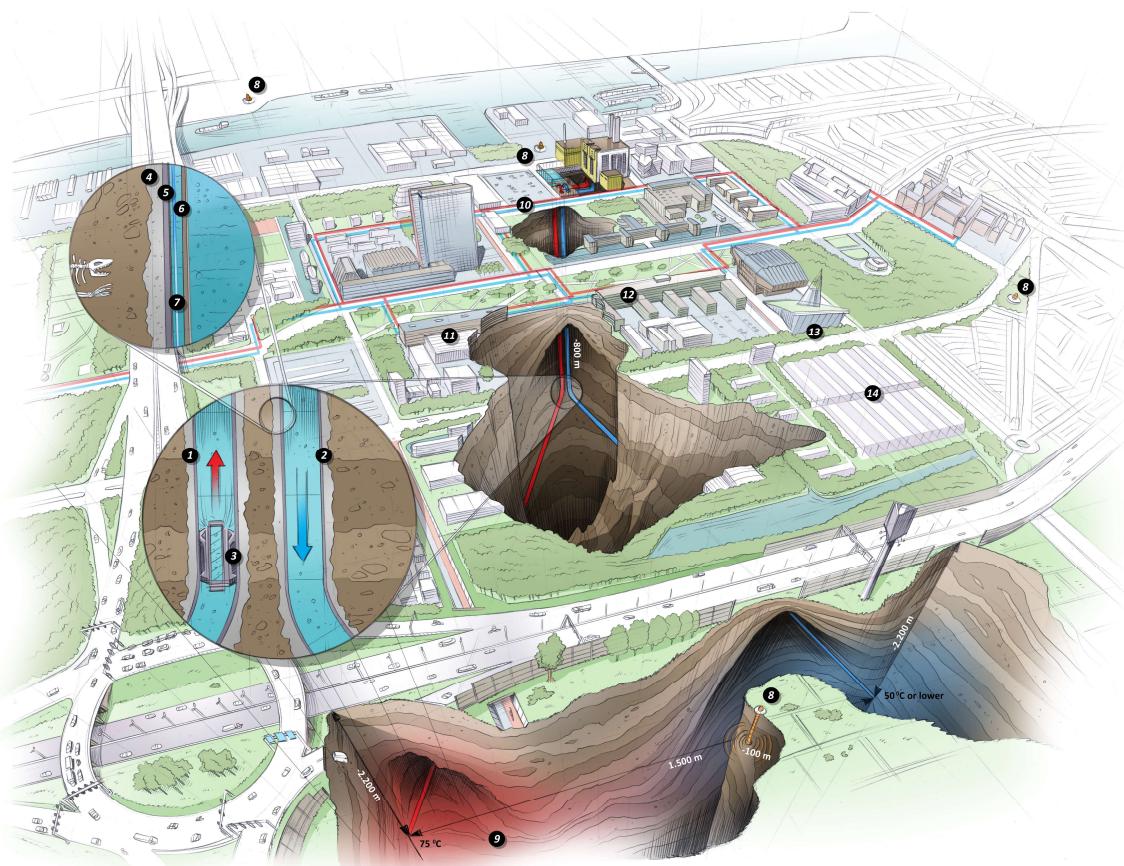


Fig. 2. a) Type of data available in each geothermal well, specifying the depth of the logged interval, the depth of the main geological interfaces, the drilling date and the logging date. b) Stereoplots (Schmidt lower hemisphere) per lithology in each geothermal well. The main fracture set is in red, the secondary set is in blue and the less represented one is in black. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

# TU Delft, Netherlands

Source: <https://www.tudelft.nl/en/delft-outlook/articles/campus-switching-to-geothermal-energy>



## TU Delft Geothermal Doublet

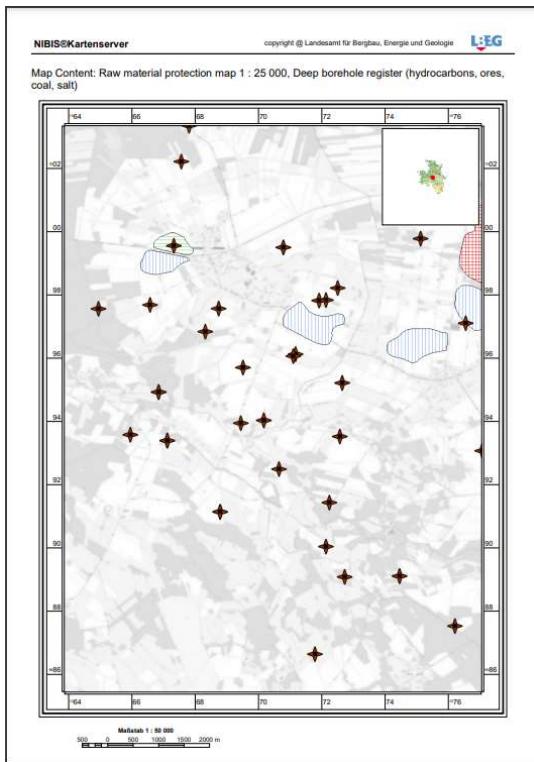
- Depth ca. 2300m
- Reservoir: Sandstone
- Planned temp:
- Ca. 75°C, return of ca. 50 degC.
- Thermal output → ca. 8 MWth
- Distance of doublets at TD ca. 1500m



# Risks and costs in deep geothermal exploration

SCOPE  
**Challenges**

## Oil and Gas



z.B.

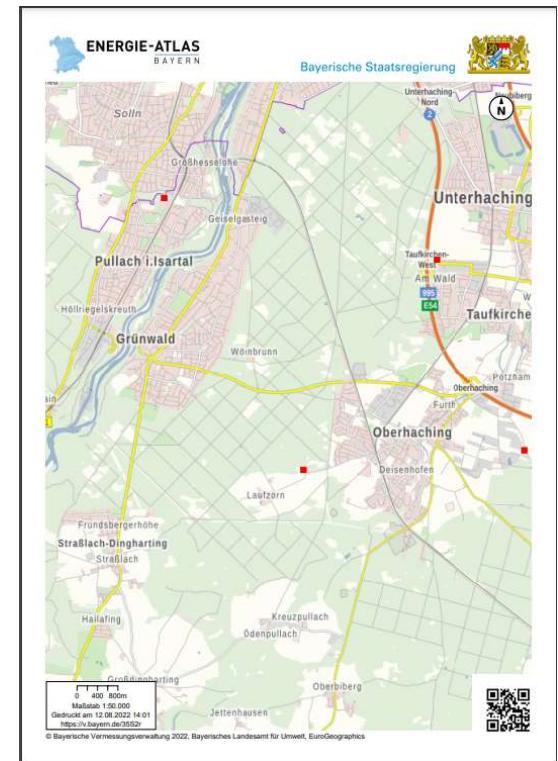
- Commercial Viability
- Unknown Technical Challenges
- Rate of Penetration
- ...

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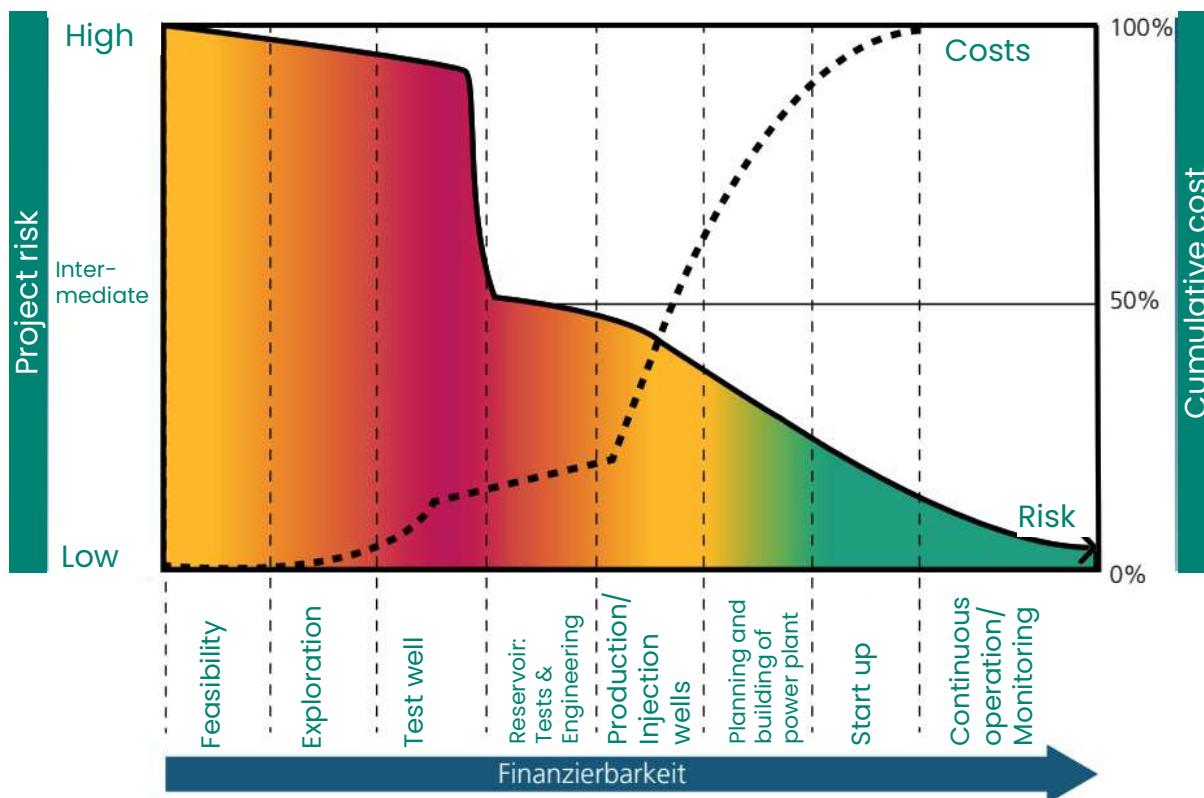


RISIKO

## Geothermal



# Cost vs. Risk in geothermal exploration



Source: ROADMAP TIEFE GEOTHERMIE FÜR DEUTSCHLAND – Fraunhofer Institut

## What do we need for a successful geothermal project

### • HEAT

- Effective porosity
- Permeability (matrix or fracture based)
- ROI < 20-25 yrs

## Why do geothermal projects fail?

### #1 Unforeseen drilling issues

- Challenging rock formation
- Wellbore stability issues
- Unplanned sidetracks and equipment lost in hole

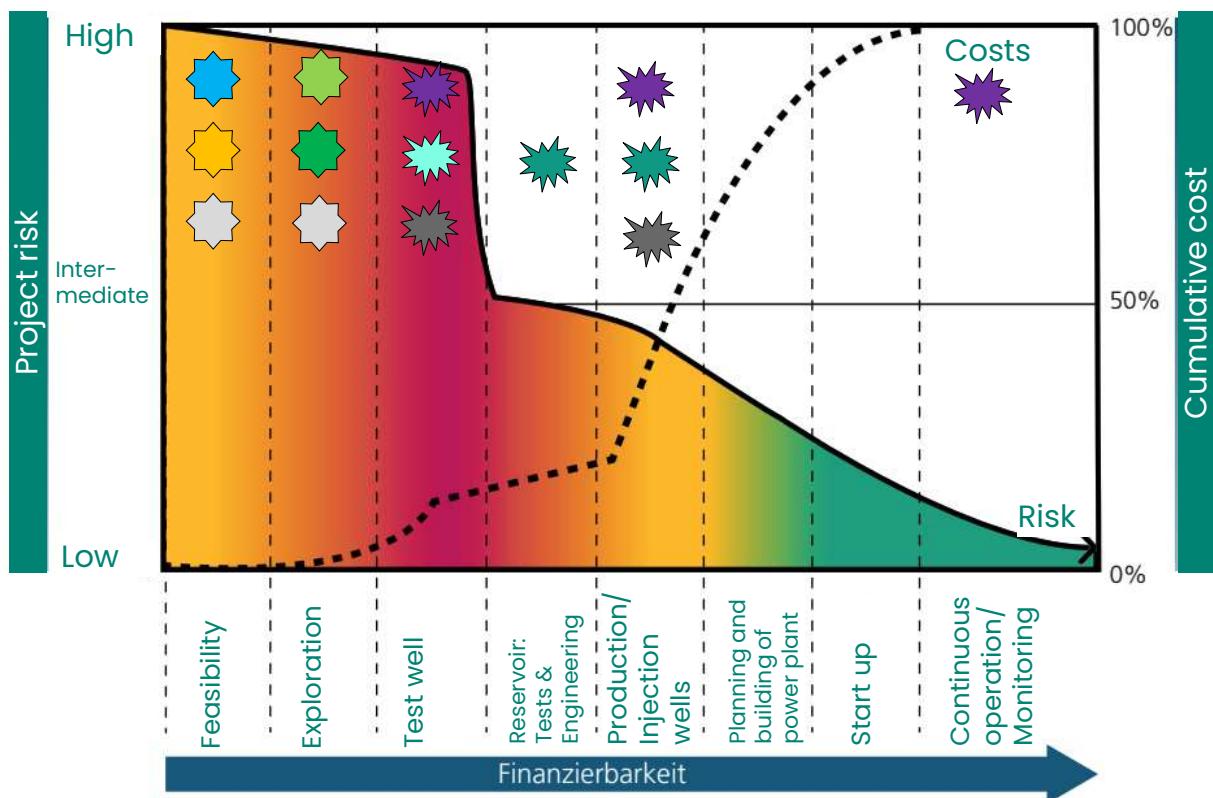
### #2 Reduced flow and heat production lowers ROI

- Suboptimal well placement
- Poor reservoir cooling management
- Corrosion, scaling and plugging
- Inappropriate completion design

### #3 Induced Seismicity risks and public acceptance

- Lack of geomechanical knowledge
- No passive seismic monitoring
- Unsuitable injection and production rates
- Reservoir containment issues

# Data derisks geothermal exploration

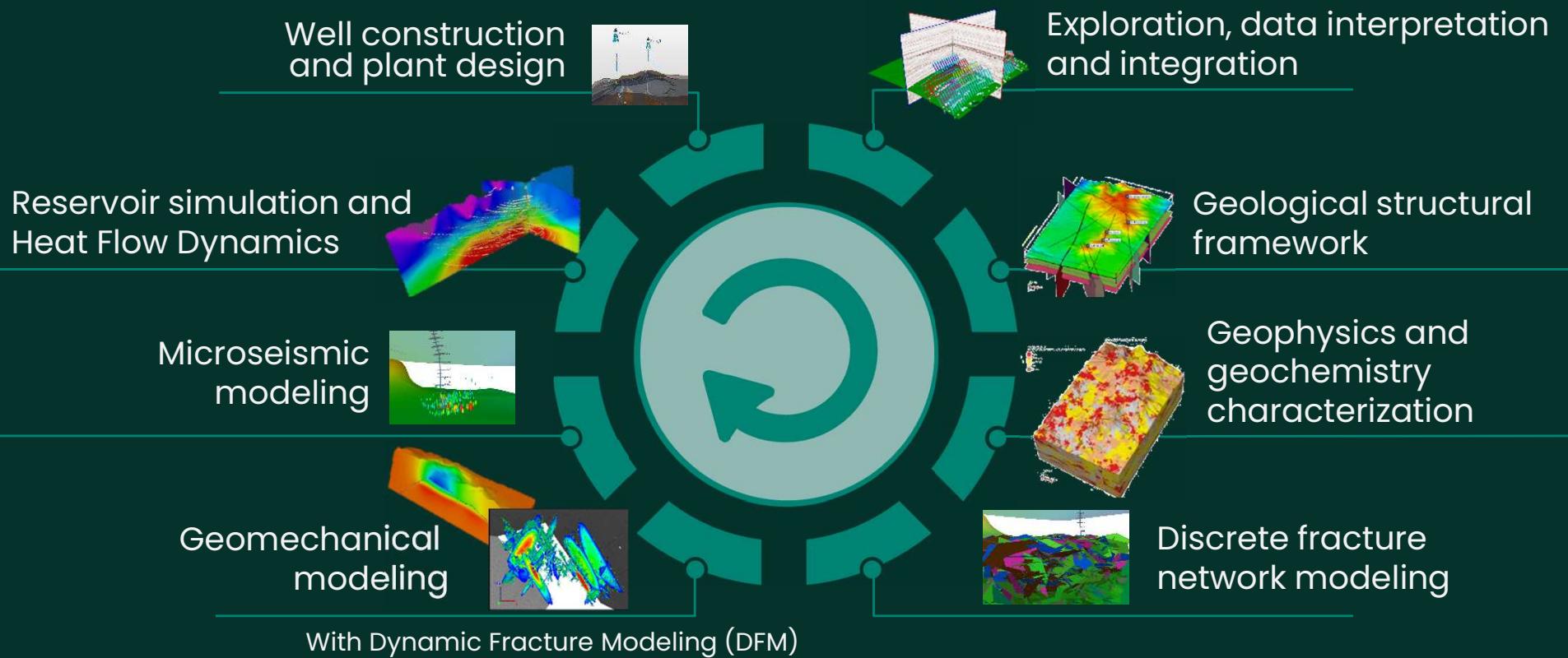


Source: ROADMAP TIEFE GEOTHERMIE FÜR DEUTSCHLAND – Fraunhofer Institut

## Data available

- Offset well data
  - General stratigraphic column, depths, temp gradients, porosity, permeability, etc.
- Old Seismic (reprocessed)
- 2D Seismic
- 3D Seismic
- Other geophysical surveys (magnetic, electrical or other)
- Logging data (e.g. Temperature, GR, Density, acoustic, caliper, porosity, imaging, permeability, NMR ...)
- Cores
- Drilling data (cuttings, DDR, surveys, temps, ROP, mud density, losses, ...)
- Well test

# Subsurface Geothermal Engineering (using JewelSuite)

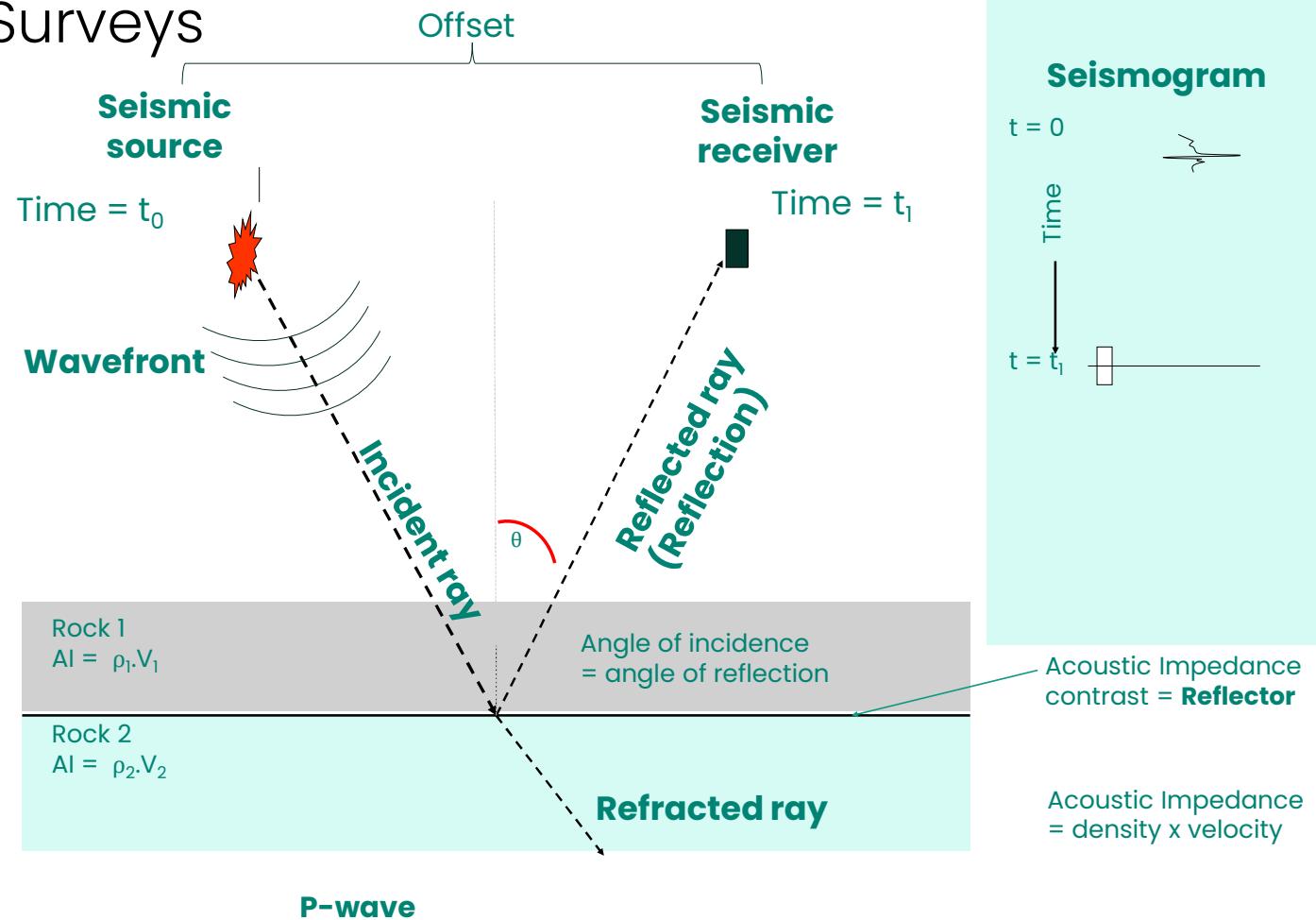
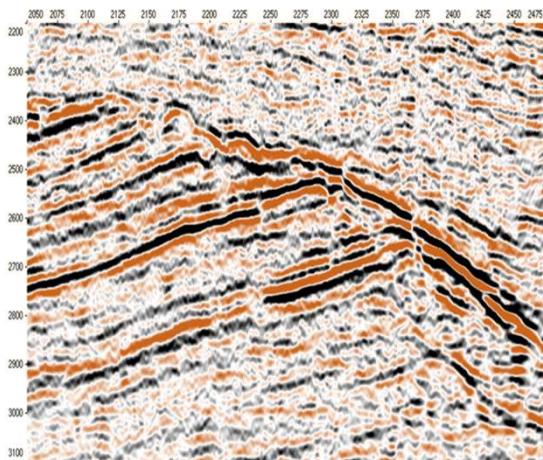


Seismic

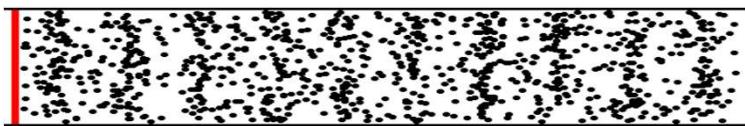


# Seismic Reflection Surveys

- A source is triggered to send acoustic energy into the ground
- The resulting “echoes” from rock layers are detected by arrays of geophones or hydrophones. These sensors output electrical signals proportional to the intensity of the echoes.
- These signals are recorded and processed.
- The resulting “data”, when properly processed, can reflect the structure of strata in the earth.



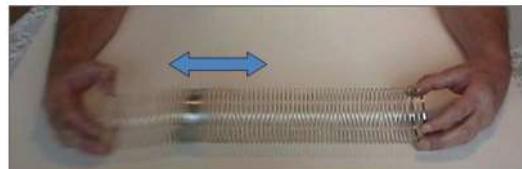
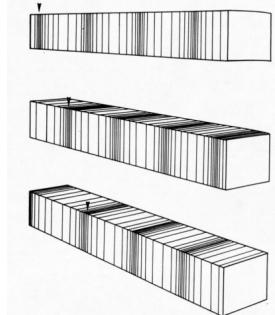
# P wave vs S Wave



## Pressure wave (P)

- Particle motion aligned with direction of travel
- Faster velocity
- Reflection depends mainly on density and velocity contrasts
- Will travel through rock matrix and fluids

Affected by pore fill of rock

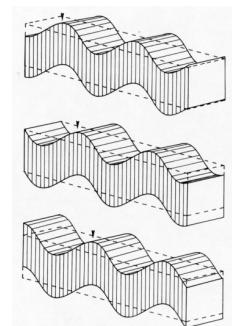
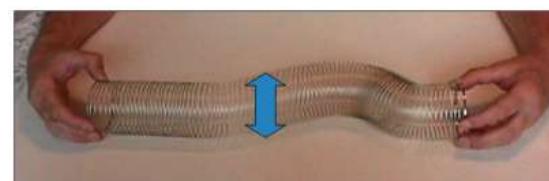


## Shear wave (S)

- Particle motion at right angles to direction of travel
- Slower velocity (higher resolution?)
- Reflection depends on shear strength contrasts
- Will not travel through fluids
- Not affected by pore fill of rock
- Obtain  $V_p/V_s$ , Anisotropic effects

## Good for:

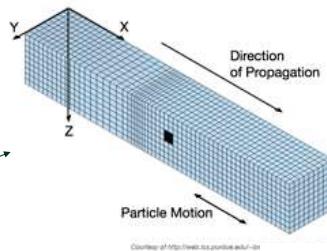
- Reservoirs with no P impedance contrast
- Lithology and Fluid discrimination (with P)
- Seeing through shallow gas / gas chimneys
- Fracture detection and orientation



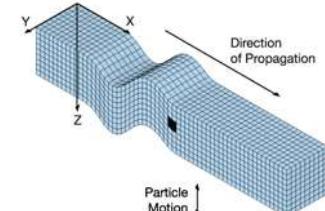
# Types of seismic waves

## Body Waves

- P- waves
- S- waves



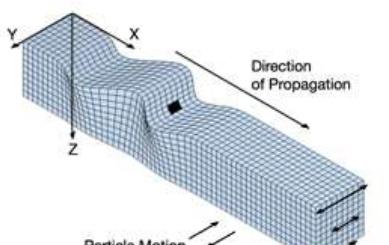
Courtesy of <http://web.cs.psu.edu/~dielektron/waves/WaveDemo.htm>



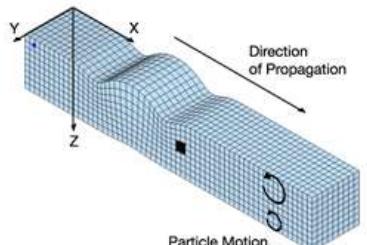
Courtesy of <http://web.cs.psu.edu/~dielektron/waves/WaveDemo.htm>

## Surface Waves

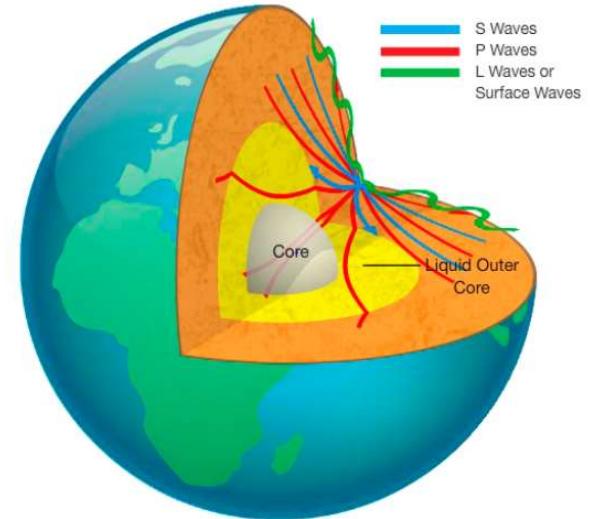
- Rayleigh waves
- Love waves



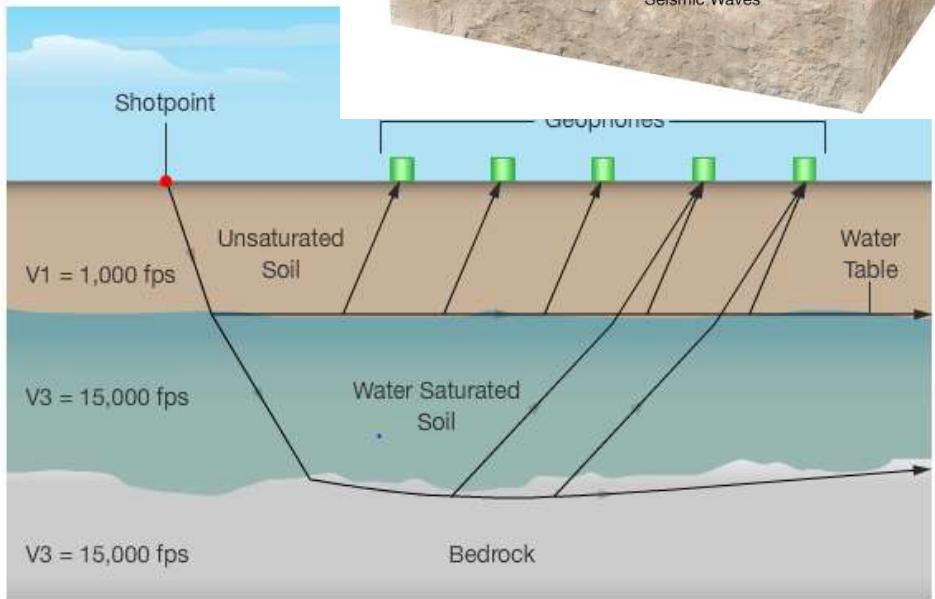
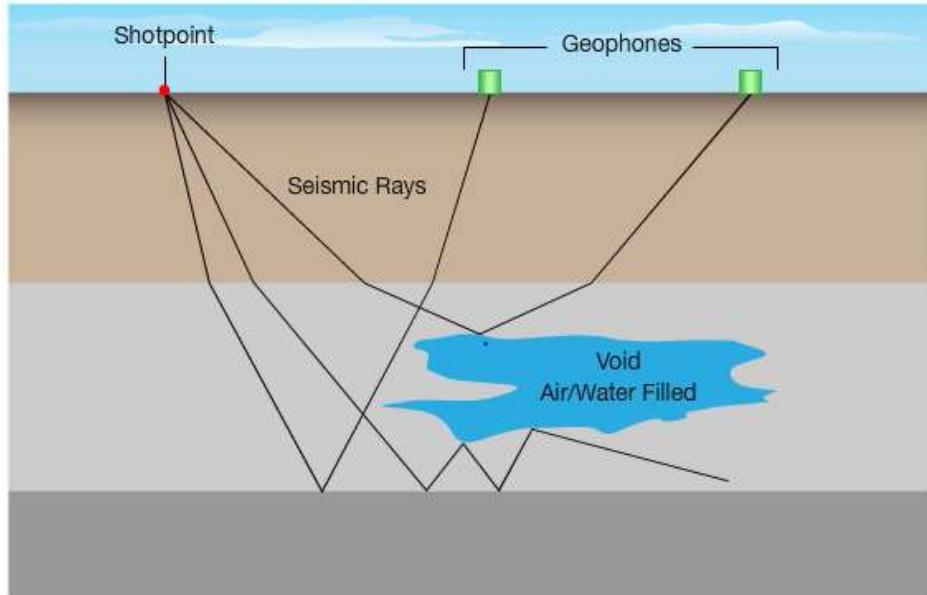
Courtesy of <http://web.cs.psu.edu/~dielektron/waves/WaveDemo.htm>



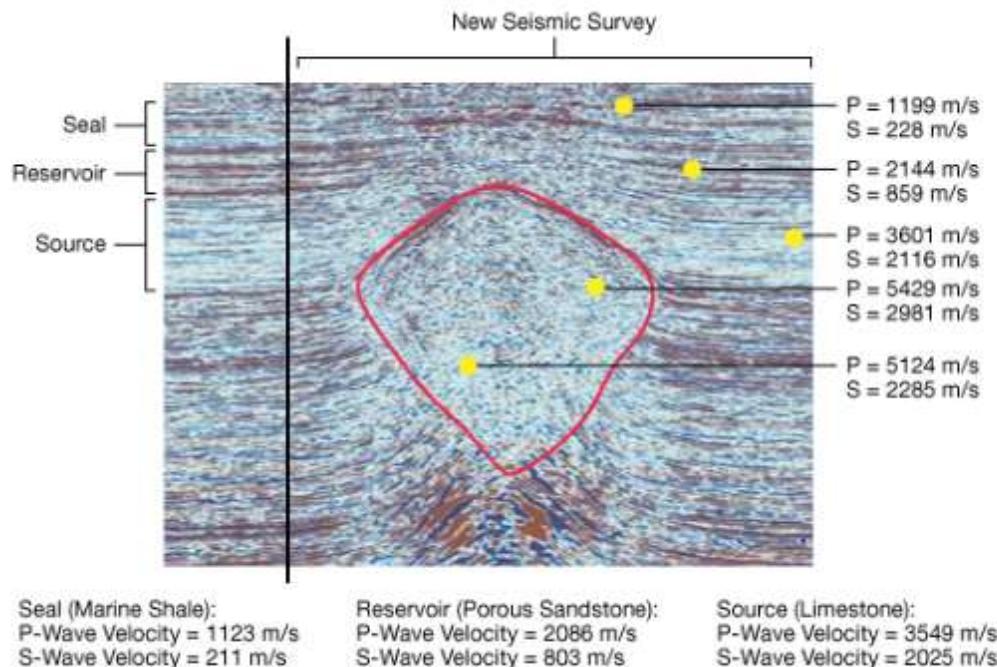
Courtesy of <http://web.cs.psu.edu/~dielektron/waves/WaveDemo.htm>



# Reflection vs Refraction



# Example



| Parameters That Influence Seismic Velocity<br><i>(Modified from Bourbie et. al., 1987)</i> |                       |                       |                              |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Type of formation  | P wave velocity (m/s) | S wave velocity (m/s) | Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> ) |
| Scree, vegetal soil  | 300-700               | 100-300               | 1.7-2.4                      |
| Dry sands  | 400-1200              | 100-500               | 1.5-1.7                      |
| Wet sands  | 1500-2000             | 400-600               | 1.9-2.1                      |
| Saturated shales and clays   | 1100-2500             | 200-800               | 2.0-2.4                      |
| Marls  | 2000-3000             | 750-1500              | 2.1-2.6                      |
| Saturated shale and sand sections  | 1500-2200             | 500-750               | 2.1-2.4                      |
| Porous and saturated sandstones  | 2000-3500             | 800-1800              | 2.1-2.4                      |
| Limestones   | 3500-6000             | 2000-3300             | 2.4-2.7                      |
| Chalk  | 2300-3600             | 1100-1300             | 1.8-3.1                      |
| Salt   | 4500-5500             | 2500-3100             | 2.1-2.3                      |
| Dolomite   | 3500-6500             | 1900-3600             | 2.5-2.9                      |

# Acquisition

- Things that make a “bang” – **Sources**
  - Airgun
  - Dynamite
  - Vibroseis
  - Thumper
- Things that listen for the echo – **Receivers**
  - Hydrophones – record pressure changes
    - use in water or swamp
  - Geophones – record particle velocity
    - Use on land or gimballed in cable)



# Seismic Processing

## Why?

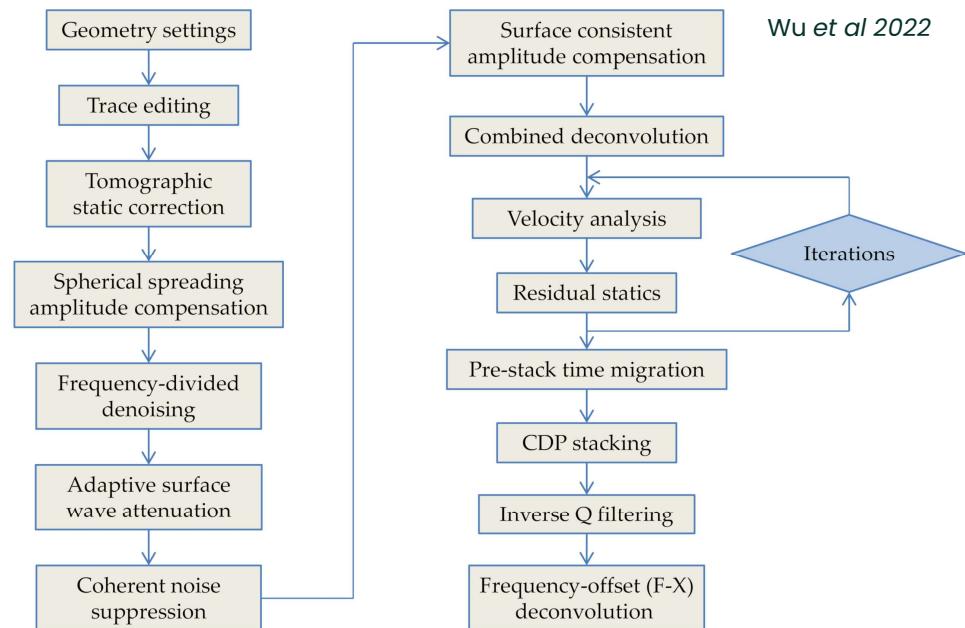
- Reduce data volume & standardize presentation
- Enhance "Signal" and suppress "Noise"
- Improve image resolution and fidelity

## Critical Requirements

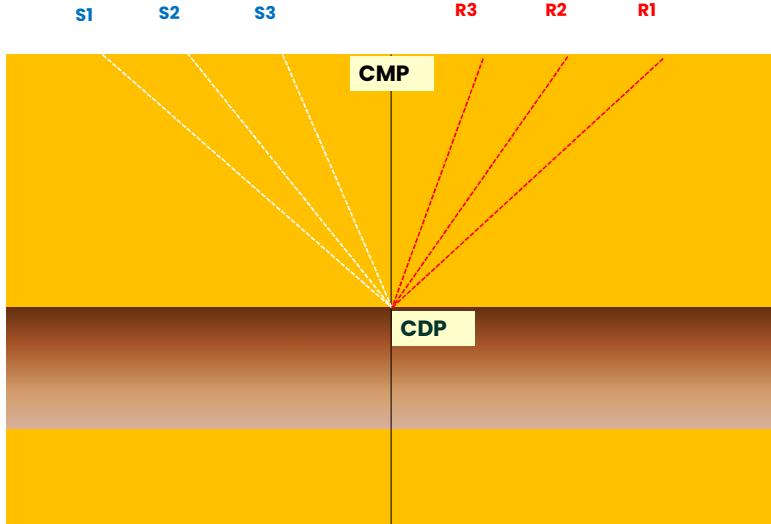
- High fold data – each Common Depth Point (CDP) sampled many times
- Ability to stack multi-sampled CDPs using correct velocities
- Attenuate noise, e.g. multiple attenuation
- Move CDP data to correct location using seismic migration

## Re-Processing

- Initial processing may have been fast tracked and sub optimal
- New requirement for improved data
- New technology or processing algorithms
- Poor initial processing
- New objectives

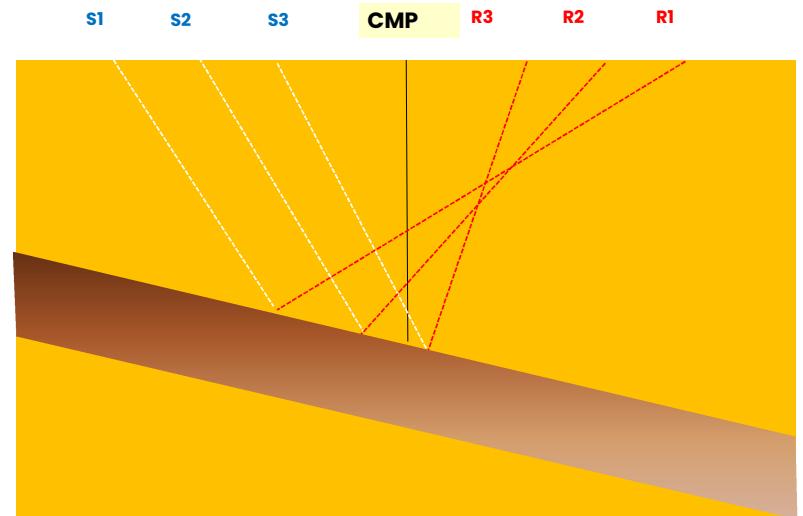


# Common Mid Point / Common Depth Point



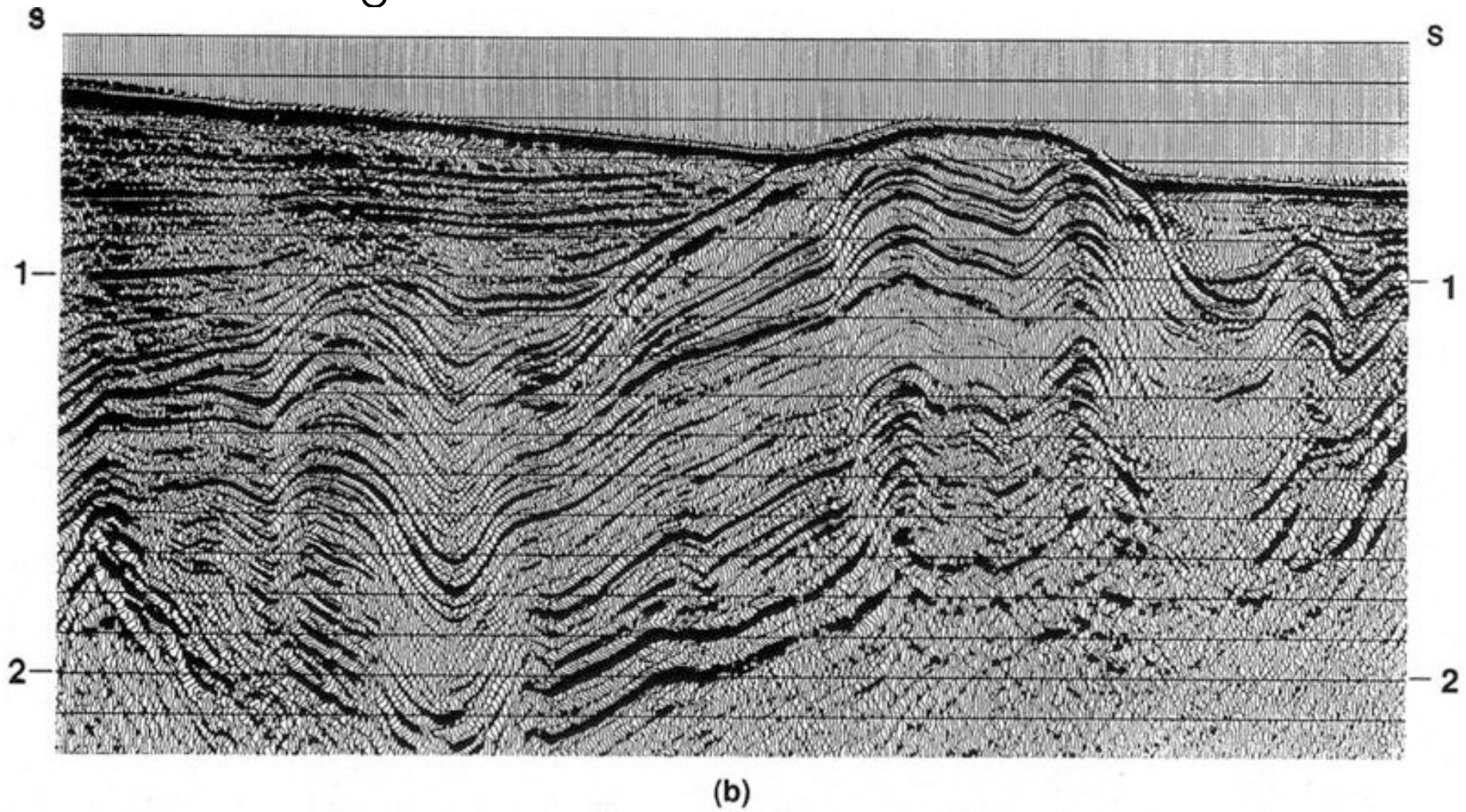
- In the case of dipping beds there is **no** CDP
- Therefore dip-moveout is required to remove inappropriate mixing of data (smearing)
- Do not use CDP and CMP interchangeably!

- The Common Mid Point is the point at the surface, halfway between source and receiver, that is shared by several source-receiver pairs
- The Common Depth Point is the point on a flat-lying reflector shared by source-receiver pairs

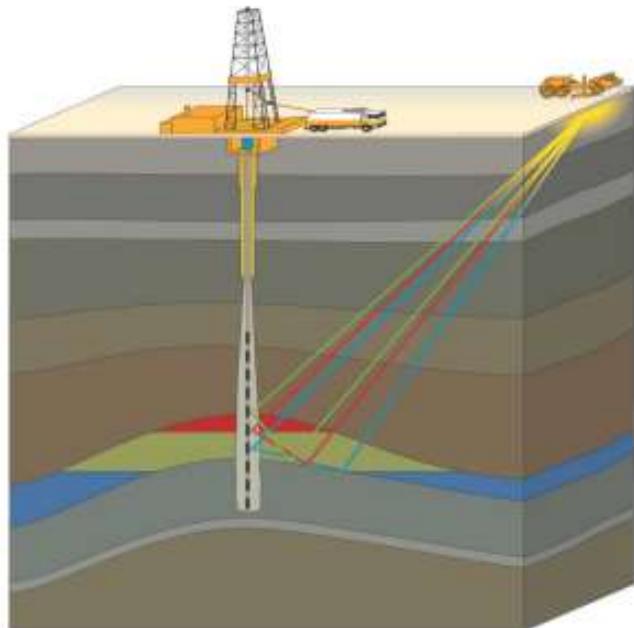


# Seismic Data Migration

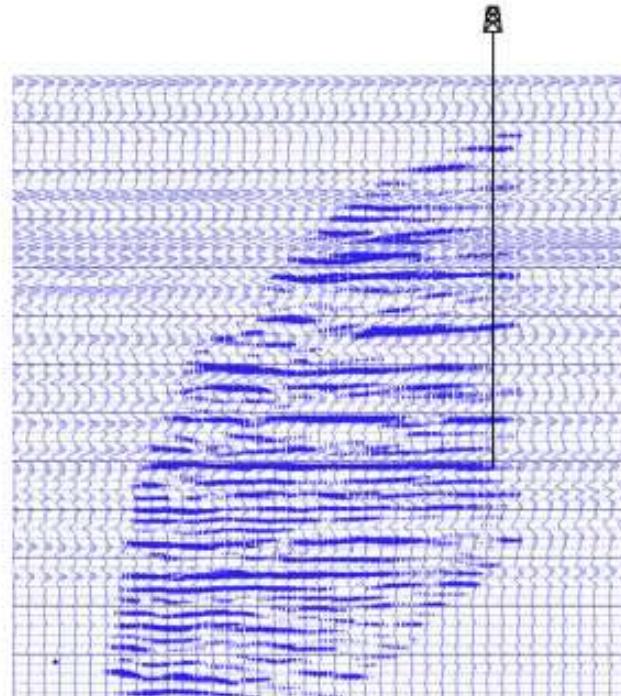
Larner & Hale, 1992



# VSP – Vertical Seismic Profiling



*Large offset from well and receivers*



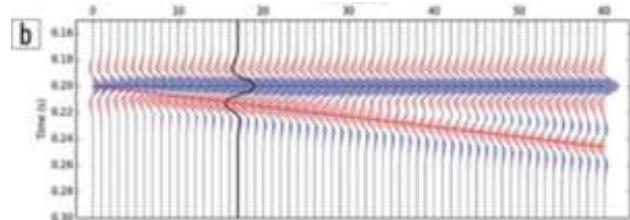
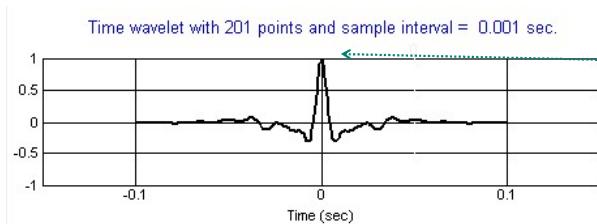
*High resolution lateral image away from well*

# Seismic Resolution

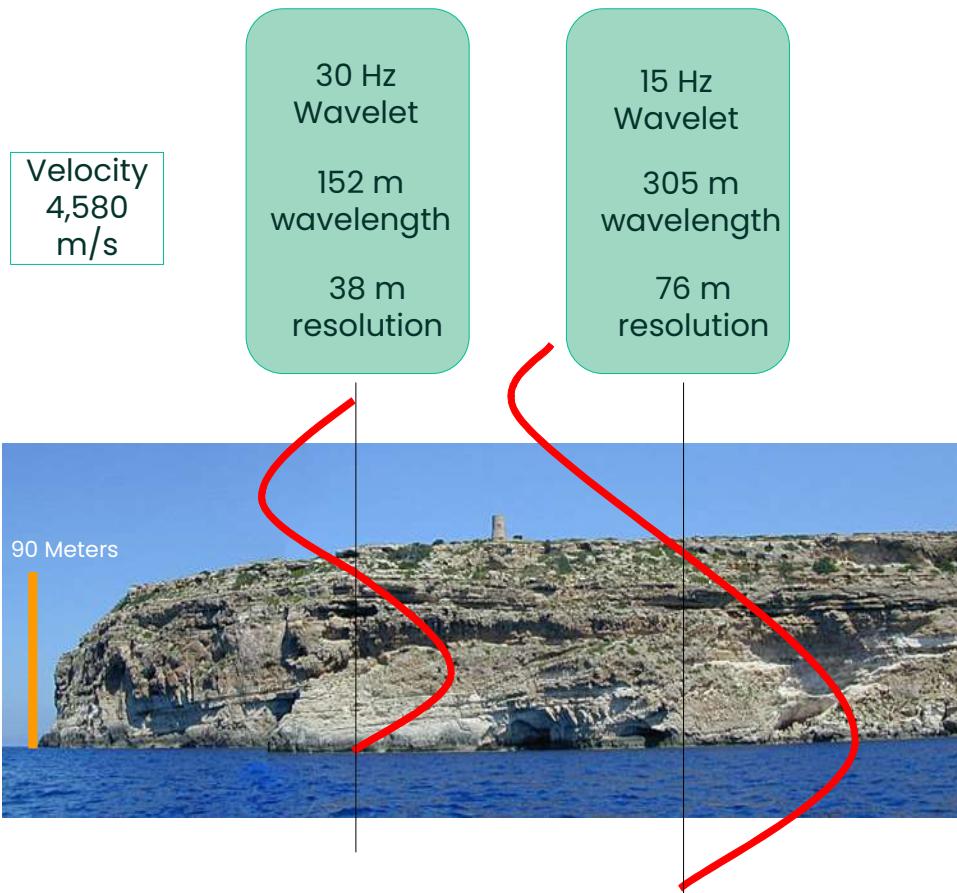
What can we actually “see” using seismic data?

$$\text{Wavelength} = \frac{\text{Interval Velocity}}{\text{Central Frequency}}$$

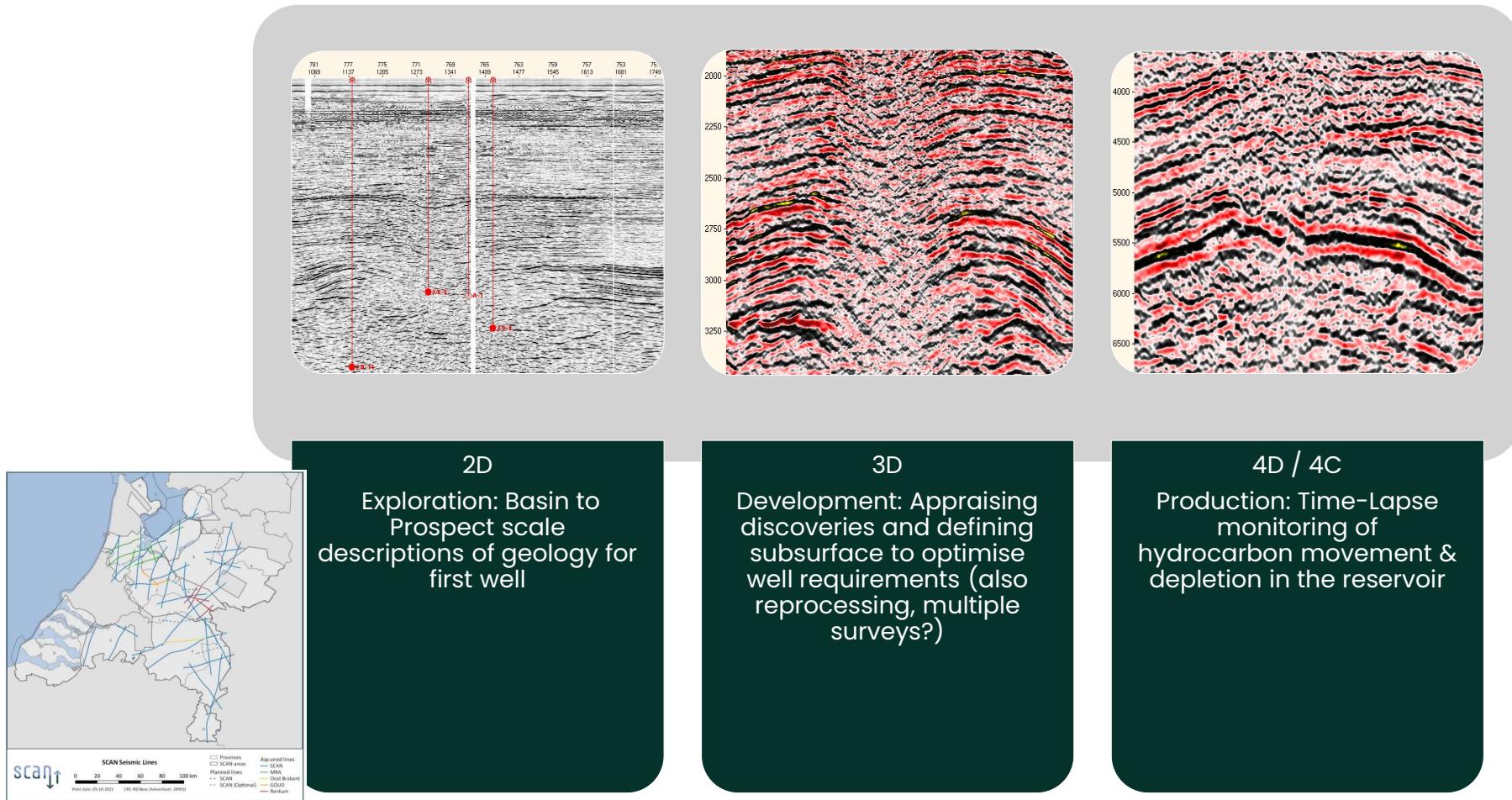
$$\text{Vertical Resolution} = \frac{1}{4} * \text{Wavelength}$$



$$\text{Tuning Thickness} = \frac{1}{2} * \text{Thickness(TWT)} * \text{Interval Velocity}$$



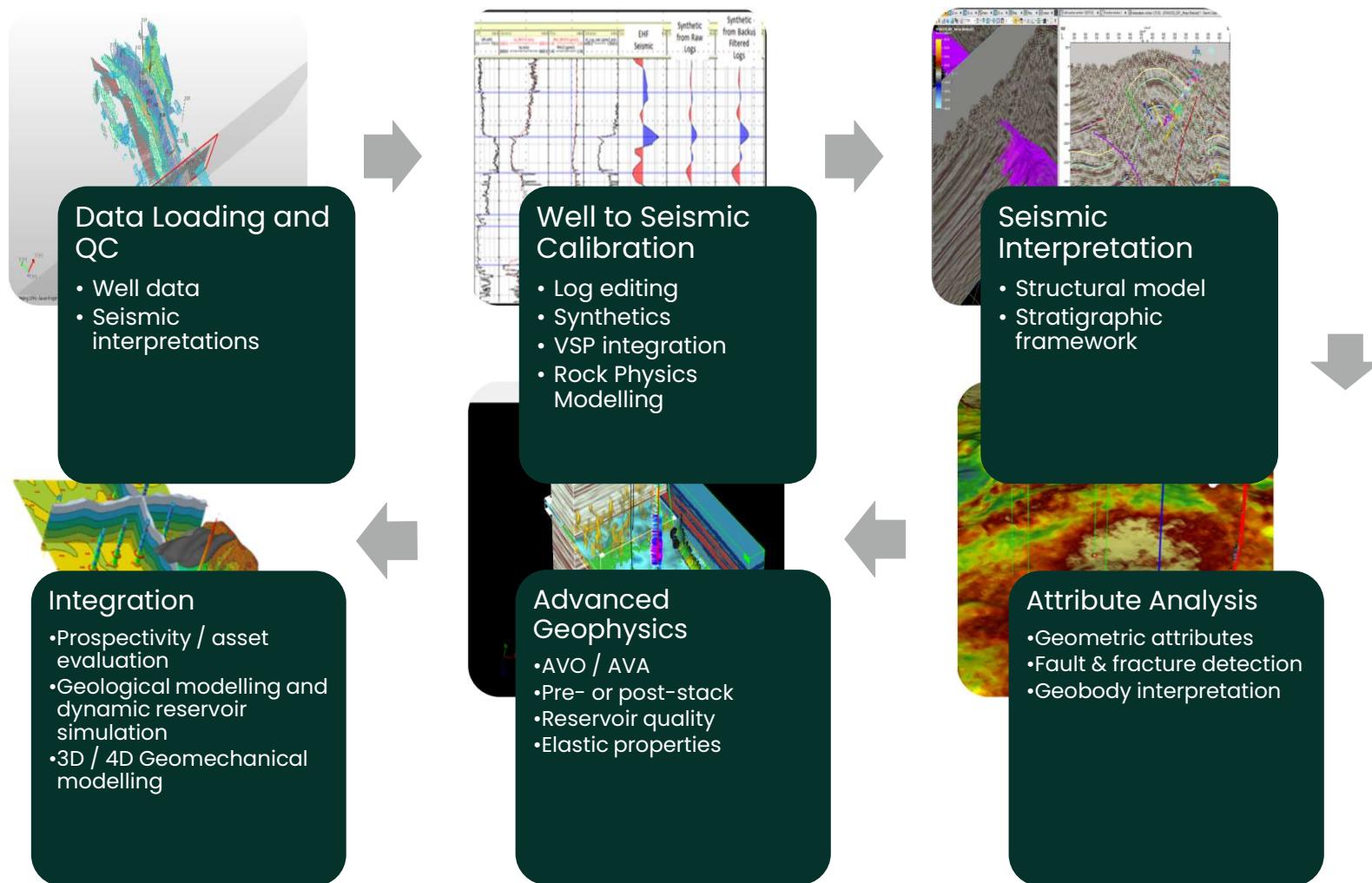
# How Seismic Data is used



# Interpretation

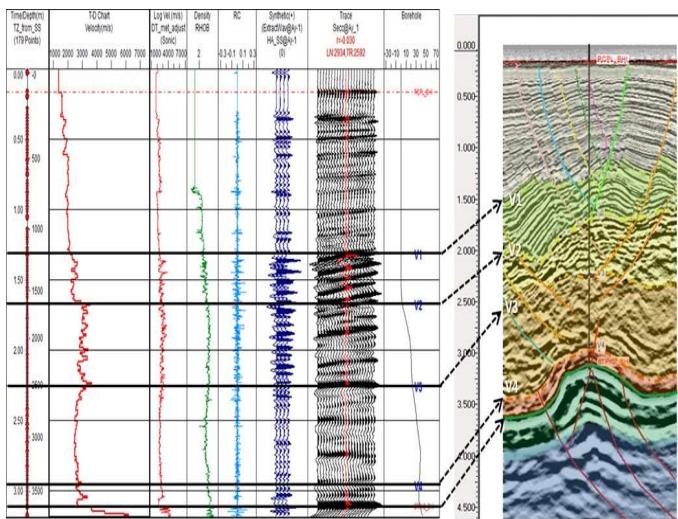


# Seismic Interpretation Workflows



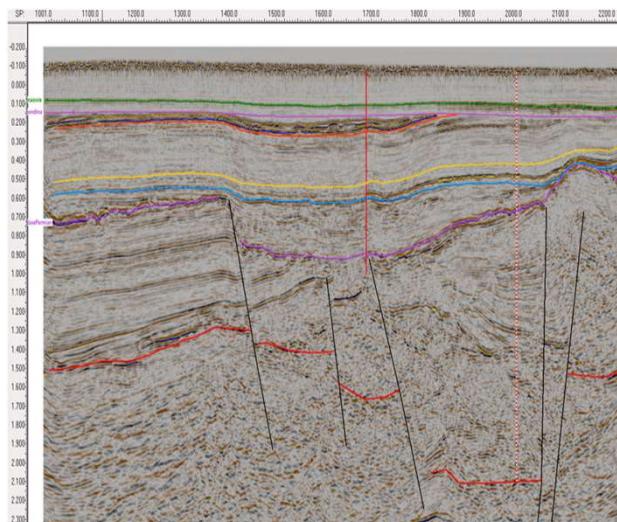
# Seismic Interpretation

**Defining the physical dimensions of the reservoir. Locating optimal drilling sites. Guiding well construction.**



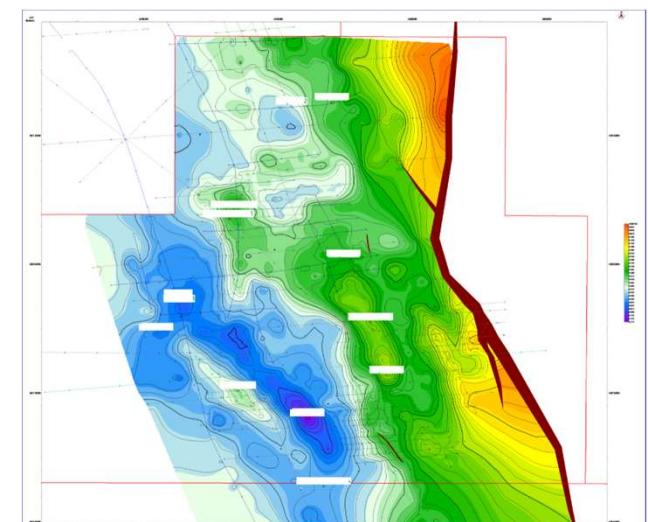
## Seismic – Well Calibration (Well Ties)

- Uses acoustic and density log data to generate acoustic impedance (AI) log
- AI log is integrated to generate a reflection coefficient (RC)
- RC is convolved with a suitable wavelet (theoretical or extracted from seismic data) to create a synthetic trace
- Synthetic trace is matched to real seismic.



## Horizon and Fault Interpretation

- Key markers from the wells are posted on the seismic section to allow horizon interpretation
- Precise requirements of the interpretation may be specific to the reservoir type (aquifer or basement)
- Other structural and stratigraphic features are interpreted as required



## Mapping

- Usually maps are generated for key reservoir horizons, using the seismic interpretation and fault polygons as input
- This highlights areas of high and low structural relief, structural traps indicated by closed contours etc.
- Maps are then typically converted from the two-way time domain to depth.

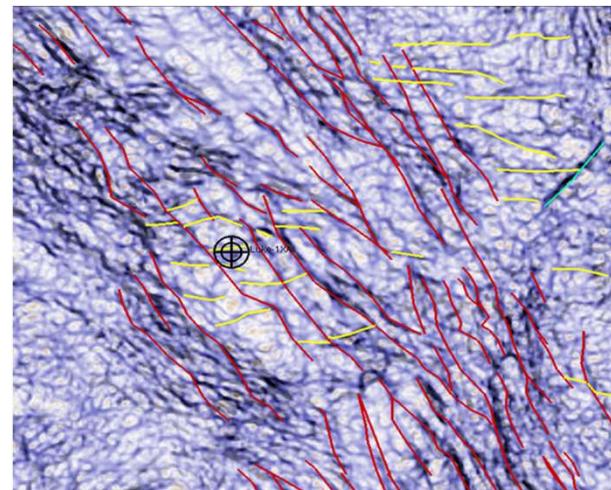
# Next Step - Seismic Attributes

Assessing reservoir extent, geometry, faulting and fracturing



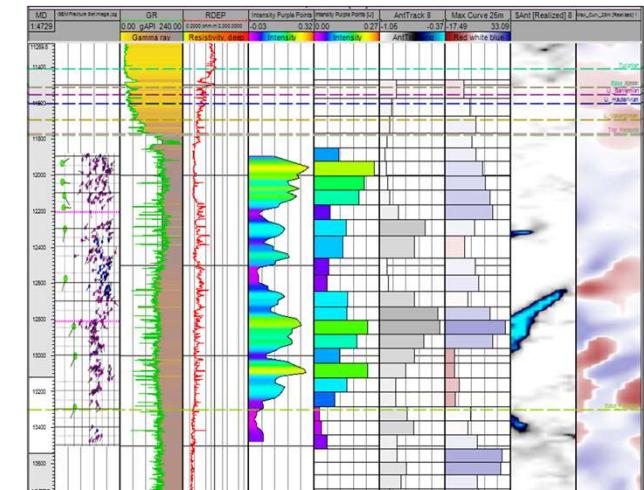
## Faults and fractures

- Faults may act as conduits for, or barrier to, fluid flow in a reservoir
- Fractures can play an extremely significant part in geothermal reservoirs
- Naturally occurring fractures may enhance permeability and therefore the rate at which fluid moves through the reservoir



## Attribute generation

- Attributes can be generated from seismic data that highlight the distribution of faults, and may indicate the presence of fractures
- These include similarity / coherency, curvature, thinned fault likelihood and many others
- Typically these are generated on 3D seismic volumes



## Calibration to well data

- We can compare the seismic attribute response to well data such as image logs, acoustic anisotropy and cores
- Once verified, seismic attributes can be used to guide the distribution of fractures in a Discrete Fracture Network model.

# Limitations of Seismic and other measurements

## Geophysical Methods for Geothermal resource evaluation

1. Seismic Methods

2. Gravimetric Methods

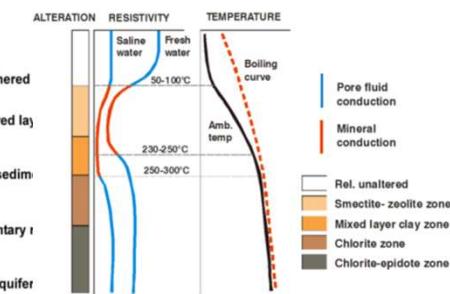
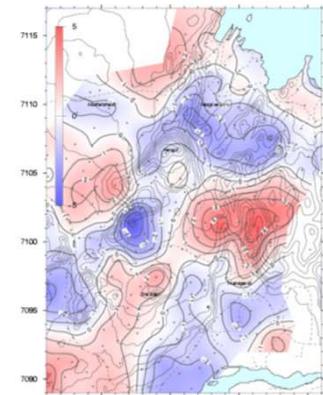
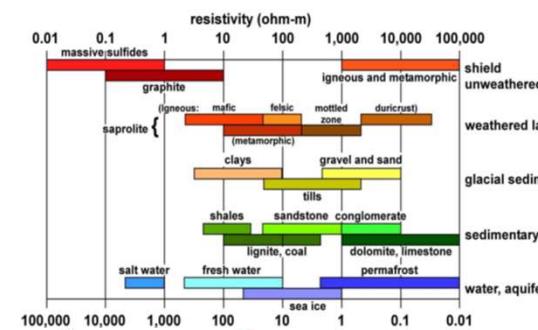
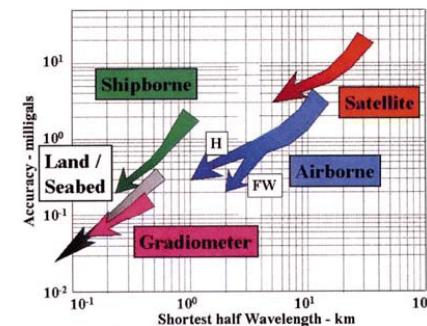
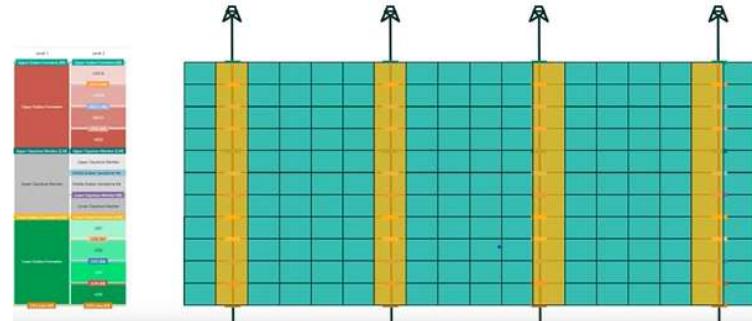
3. Magnetic Methods

4. Electrical Methods

### Very Important:

Offset and exploration well data:

Log, cores, VSP, well tests, cuttings etc.





# Q&A



Italian Section



Netherlands Section



London Section



Romanian Section



Croatian Section



Central Ukraine Section



Geothermal Technical Section



Data Science and  
Engineering Analytics  
Technical Section



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