

**Course: Groundwater Flow and Cont Transp. Modeling  
(for HG, EE, PGE students)  
2019**

## **Basics of theory of modeling**

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# What is a model?

- The model is the downscaled version of reality
    - (dummy or mock-up vs. model problem)
    - downscaling not only in size but also in all the important properties is needed
  - The modell is a simplified and/or schematic transformation of the reality
    - too scientific and not really relevant
  - The best I know: The modell completely fits at least one behavior of the reality



## Reality



## Model



# Consequences of „model-being”

- The modell is task oriented (It is formulated to solve a given task (problem))
- The model fits only one or only some properties and behavior of the real systems
- We may need as many models of the real systems, as many different tasks we want to deal with

- 

Reality



Model1



Model2



Model3



# Other consequences of „model-being”

- There is no universal or general model !!!
- The model is OK (good) in case it gives an accurate answer to the given problem
- From the sets of good models the best is the simplest...
- There are two types of models:
  - good models
  - instructive models
  - You must learn from all model runs
    - to understand the meaning of governing equations
    - to understand the real world processes
    - to determine the relevant and non-relevant properties of real systems
    - etc.

„All the models are wrong, but some are useful...”  
(Prof. Jacob Bear)



# Model types #1

## Physical model

- only downscaling

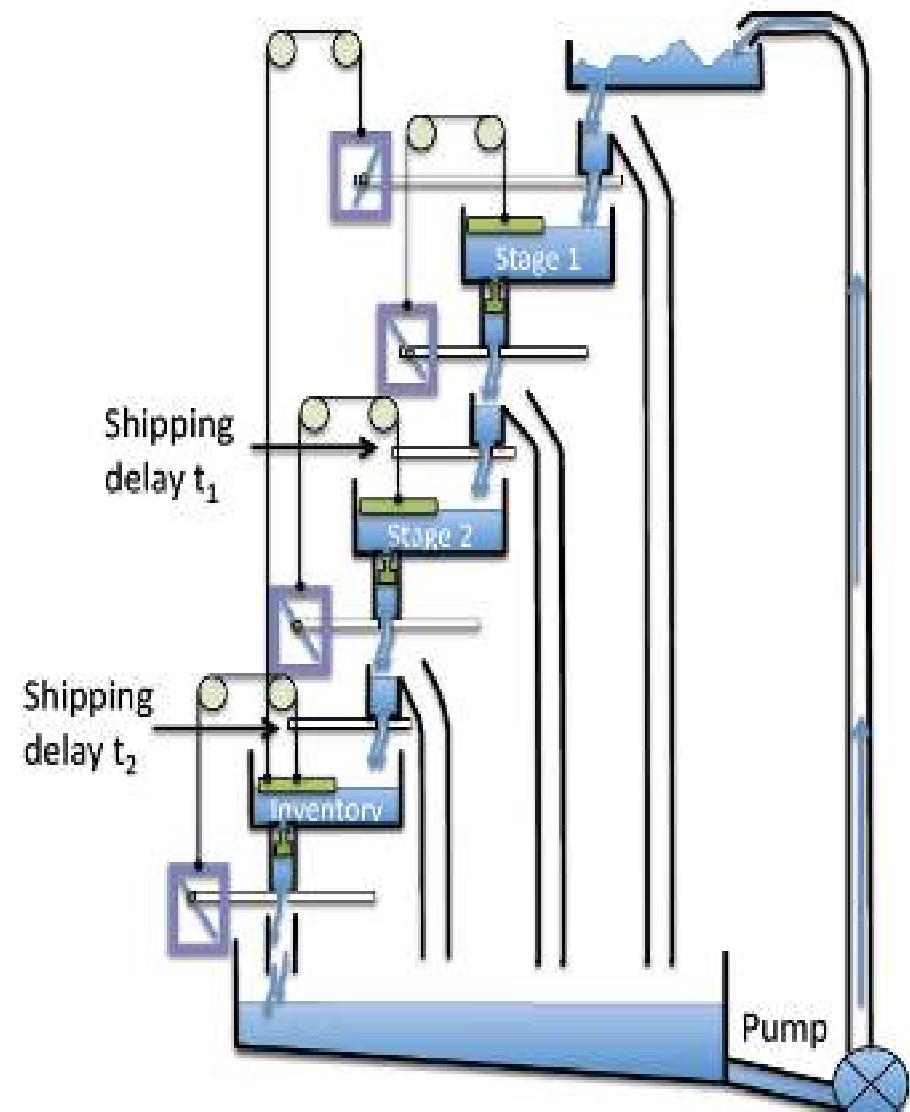
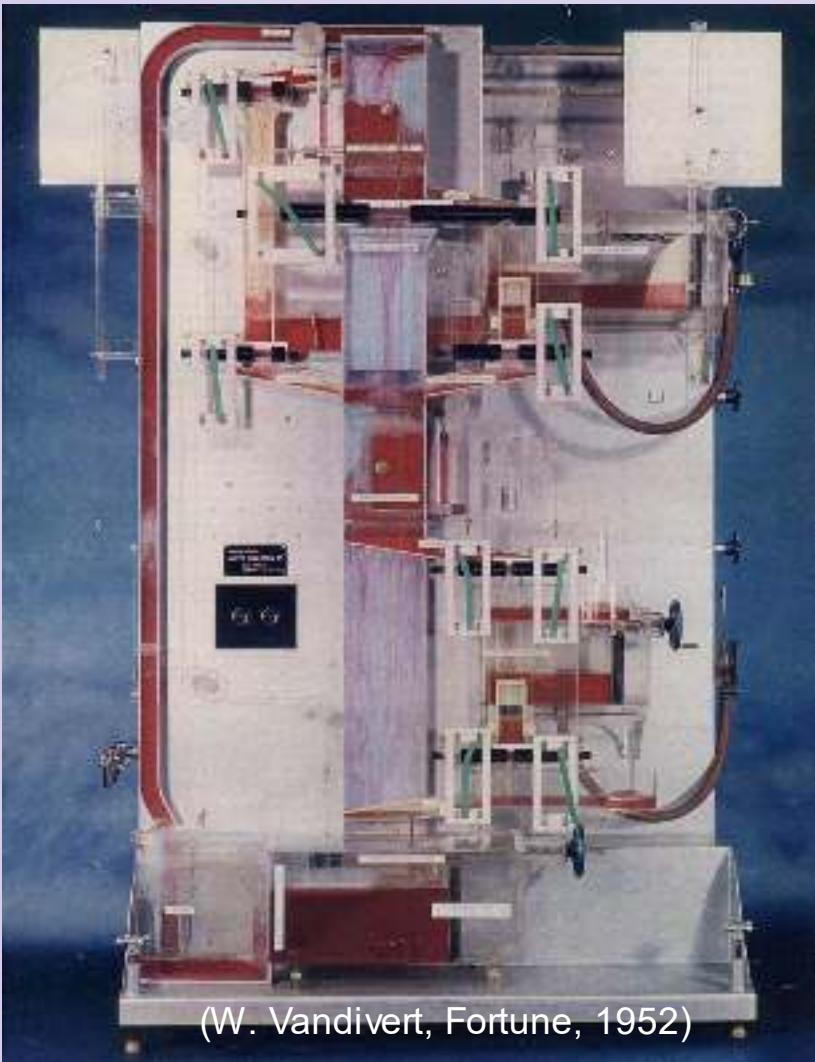


Legoland, Kalifornia



# Model types #2

Analogue model:



(W.H.Ryder, 2008)

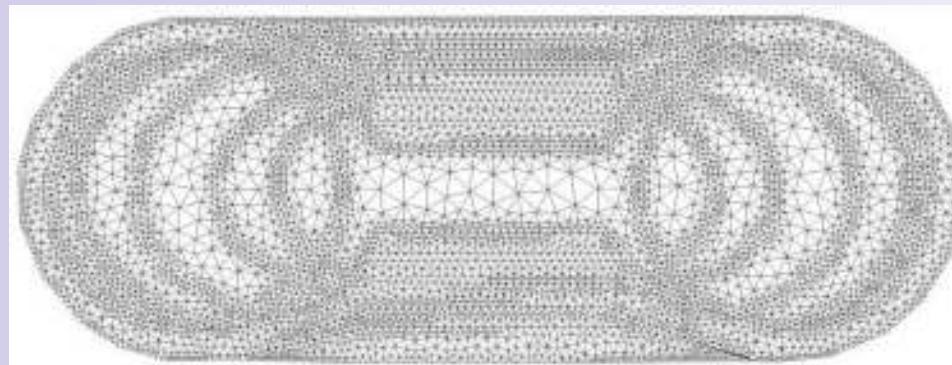


# Model types #3

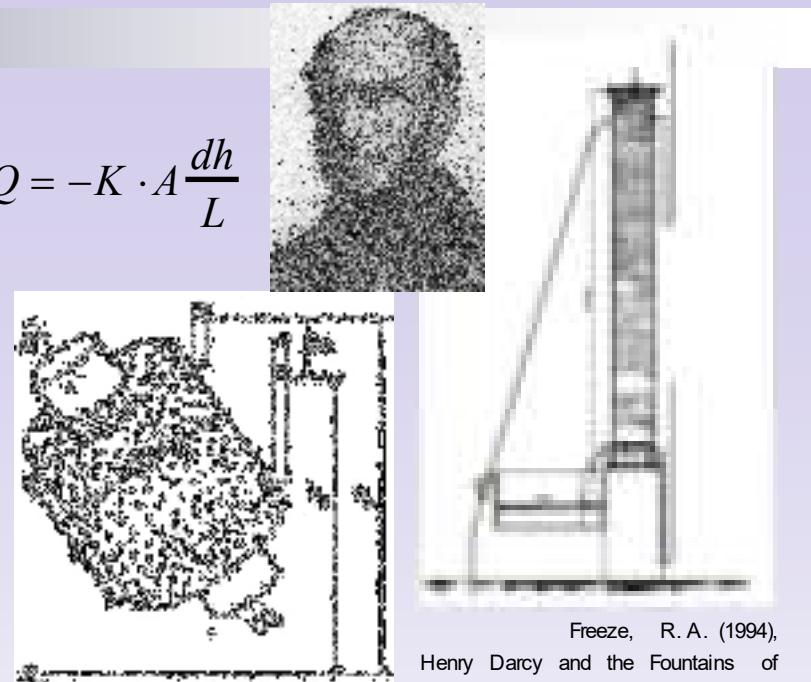
## Matematic models:

a felszín alatti vízáramlást leíró egyenletek megoldása  
(szivárgás alapegyenlete)

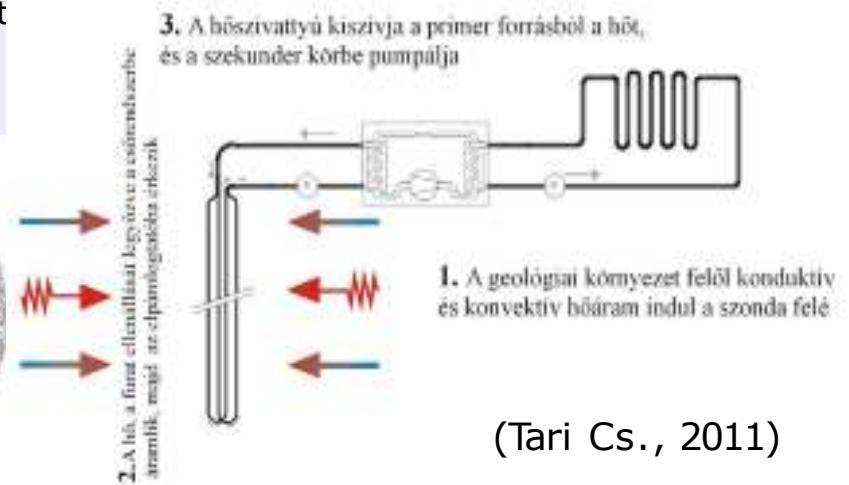
- **analytical models**: exact, mathematical solutions, but homogeneous and mostly isotropic environment
- **semianalytic model**
- **numerical model:**
  - an iterative, mathematically not exact solution of the groundwater, solute and/or heat transport equations
  - discretization in space and time, inside a given element at a given time step everything is constant



$$Q = -K \cdot A \frac{dh}{L}$$



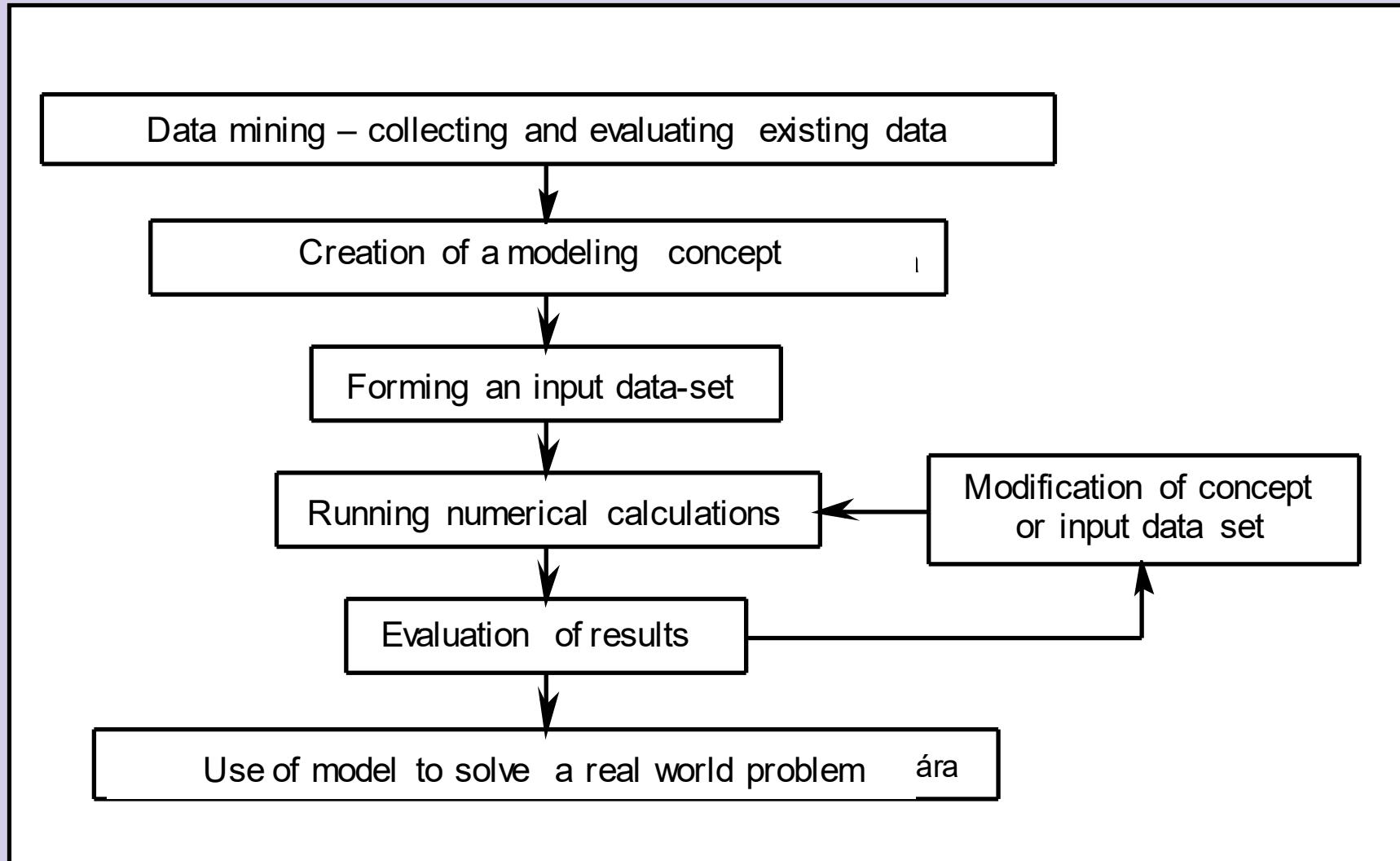
Freeze, R. A. (1994),  
Henry Darcy and the Fountains of  
Dijon. Ground Water, 32: 23-30.



(Tari Cs., 2011)

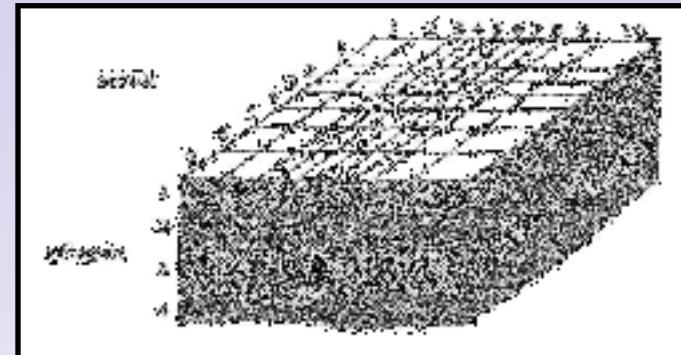


# The process of numerical modeling

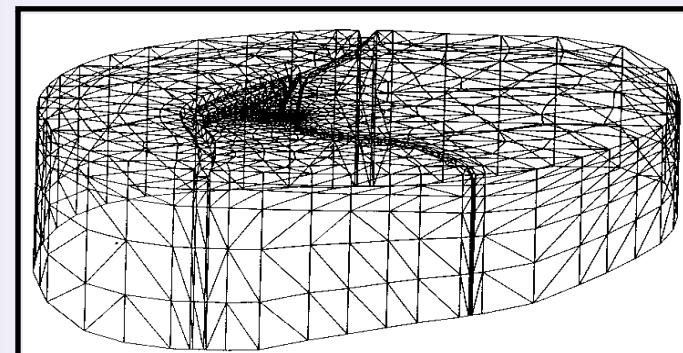


# Numerical methods applied in the practice

- **Finite difference method:** the modelled domain is discretized by a rectangular grid where all the neighbouring elements contacts each other by their sides. The system is described by an equation system consisting of the water budget of the elements and the unknown parameter is the average hydraulic head (GW flow potential) in the element. The equation system solved iteratively using different numeric techniques
  - advantage: Ease of use, partial results has physical meaning
  - disadvantage: restrictions in shape of elements
- **Finite element method:** The domain is divided into elements of different shape/dimension which are contacted to each other by the nodes only. Any element shape is possible until the form can be described mathematically. The resulted flow, chemical or heat potential field fits the best the values on the nodes (using local approximation). The potential distribution at the edges of neighbouring elements could be different at the different sides of the edges . The continuity on neighbouring element level is not assured: there can be a difference in in and outflowing fluxes at a side of the element.
  - advantage: any shape of elements
  - disadvantage: black box usage, high mathematics needed, no meaning of results during the run, only end results are to be evaluated



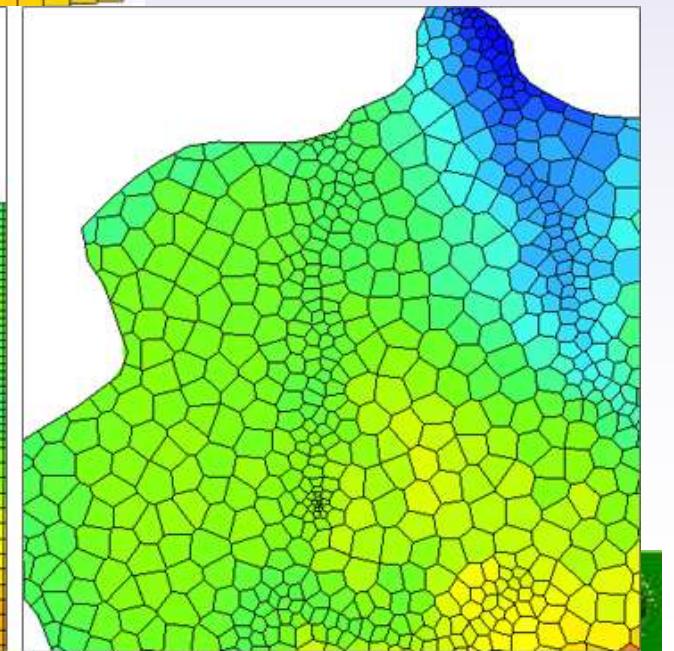
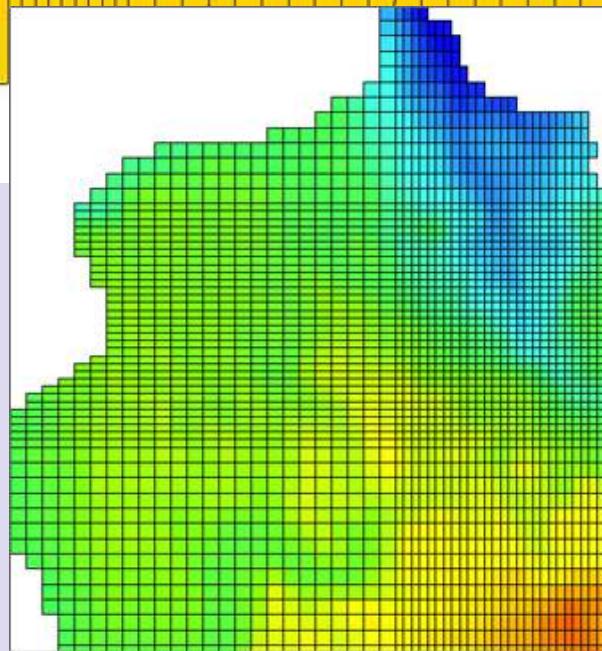
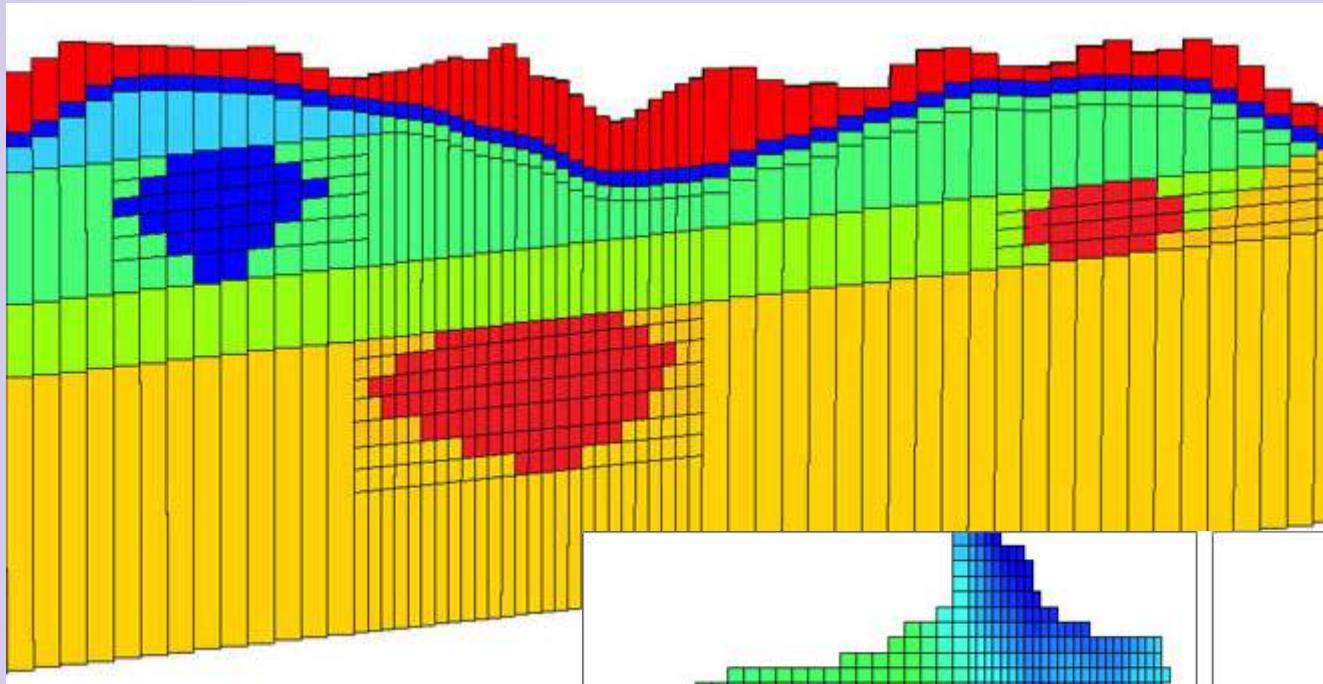
Finite difference grid of a four layer system  
(CHIANG és KINZELBACH, 1999)



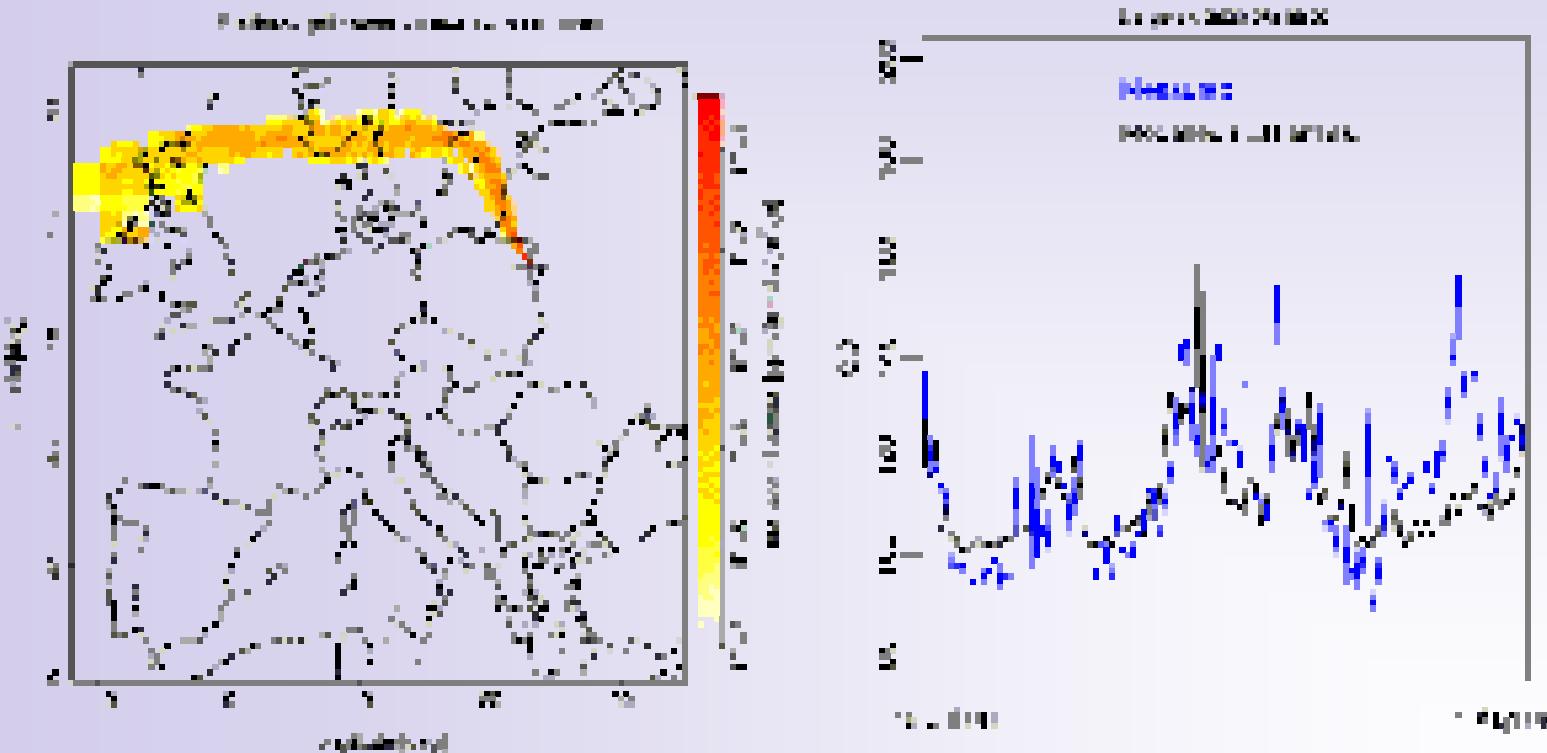
Finite element grid of a contaminant transport problem (VOGT, 1993.)



# Finite volume – USG-unstructured grid



# Handling suddenness: stochastic and deterministic modeling

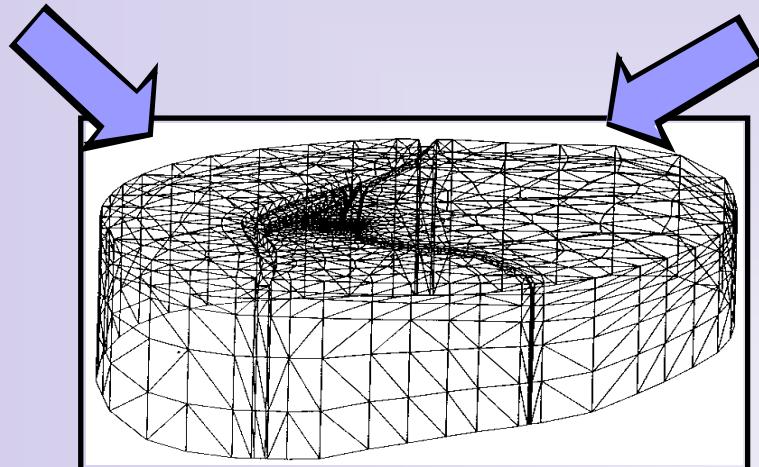


**STILT**, the Stochastic Time-Inverted Lagrangian Transport model



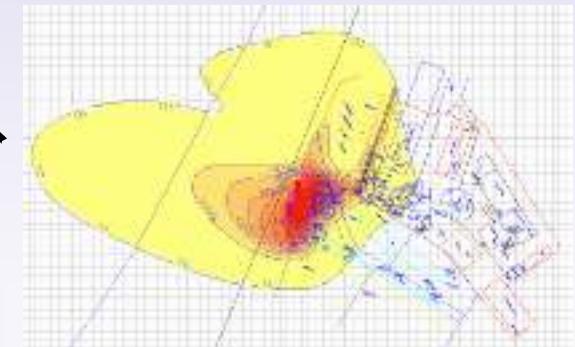
# A deterministic modeling

K, n, S<sub>s</sub>, S<sub>y</sub>, K<sub>d</sub>, α, λ

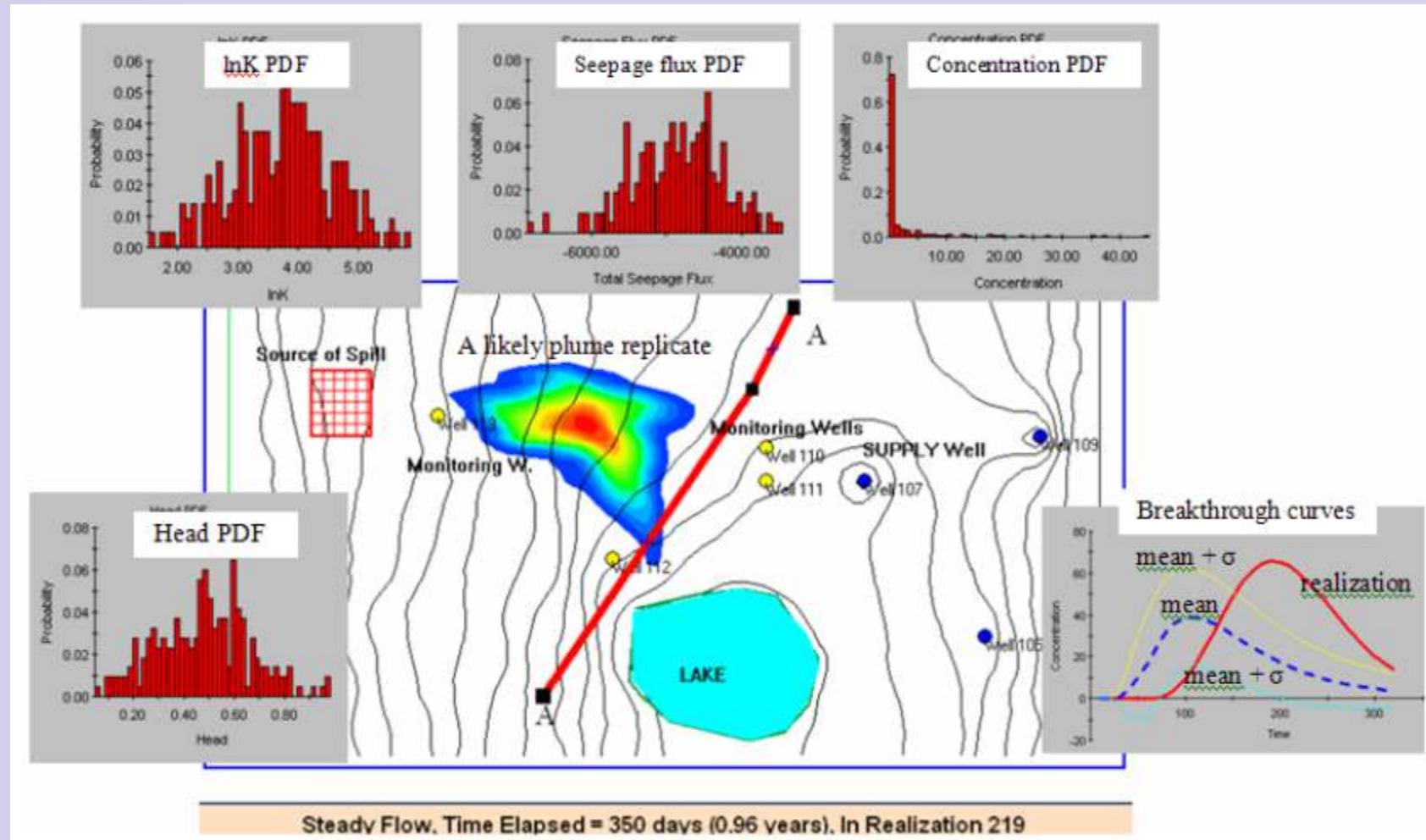


$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k_x \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( k_y \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( k_z \frac{\partial h}{\partial z} \right) = \rho S_s \frac{\partial h}{\partial t}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dM}{ndVdt} = & D_{xx}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x^2} + D_{xy}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x \partial y} + D_{xz}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x \partial z} + D_{yx}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial y \partial x} + D_{yy}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial y^2} + D_{yz}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial y \partial z} + \\ & + D_{zx}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial z \partial x} + D_{zy}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial z \partial y} + D_{zz}^* \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial z^2} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{v_x C}{n} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{v_y C}{n} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{v_z C}{n} \right) - \\ & - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\rho_b K_d C}{n} \right) - \lambda \left( C + \frac{\rho_b K_d C}{n} \right) \end{aligned}$$



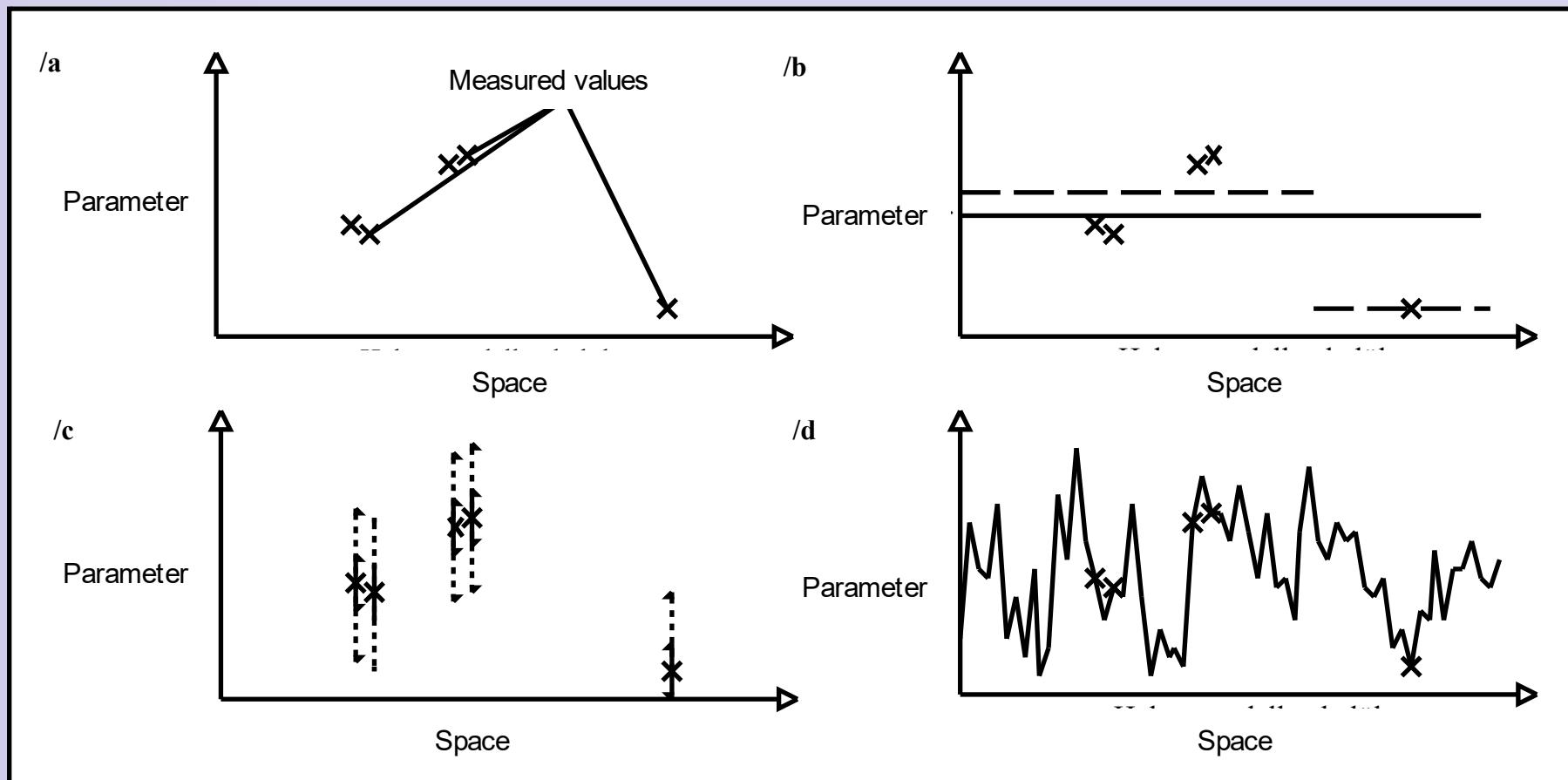
# Stochastic modeling



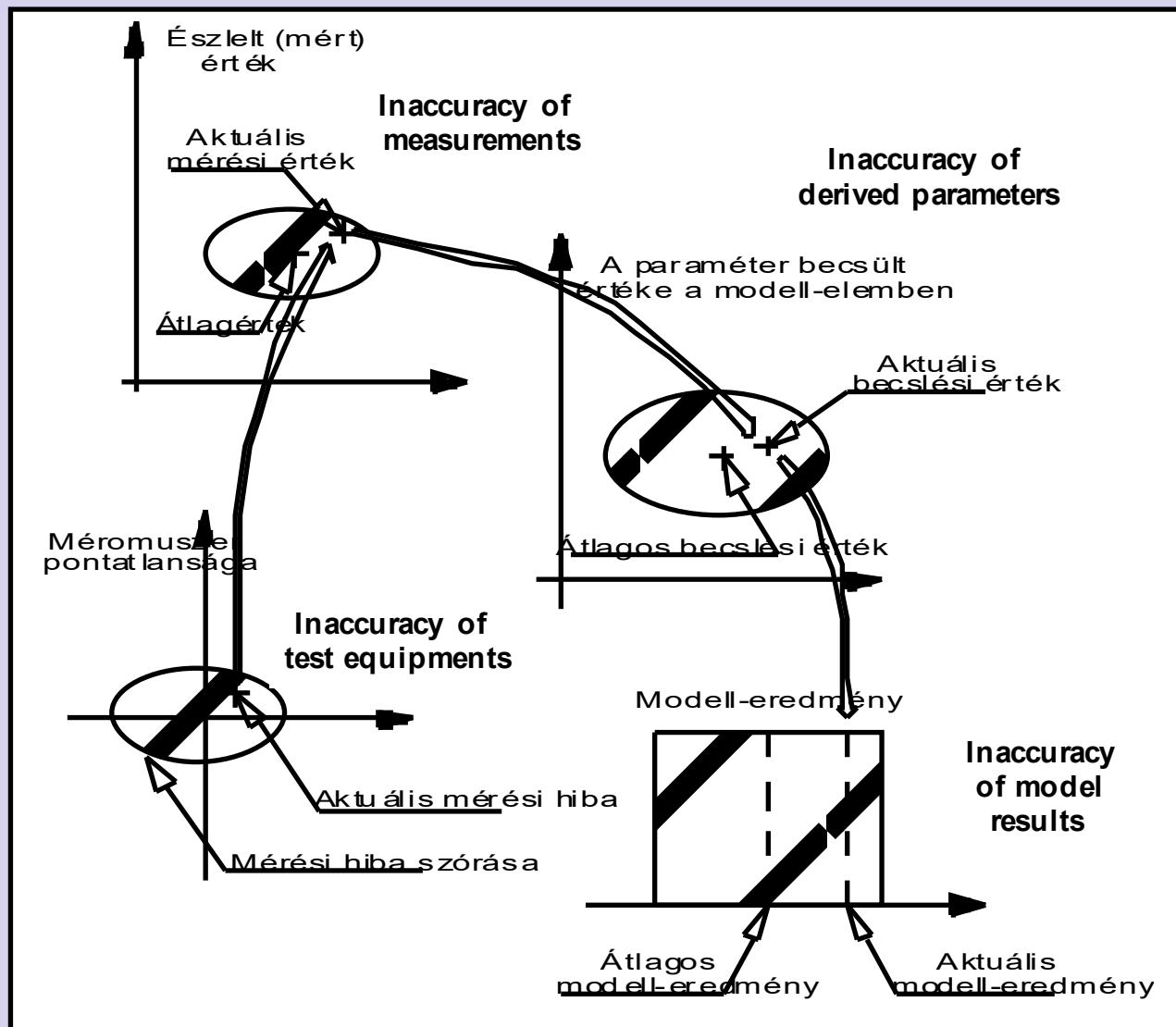
Shu-Guang Li, Hua-Sheng Liao, Qun Liu, 2005  
National Science Foundation



# Origin of parametric errors

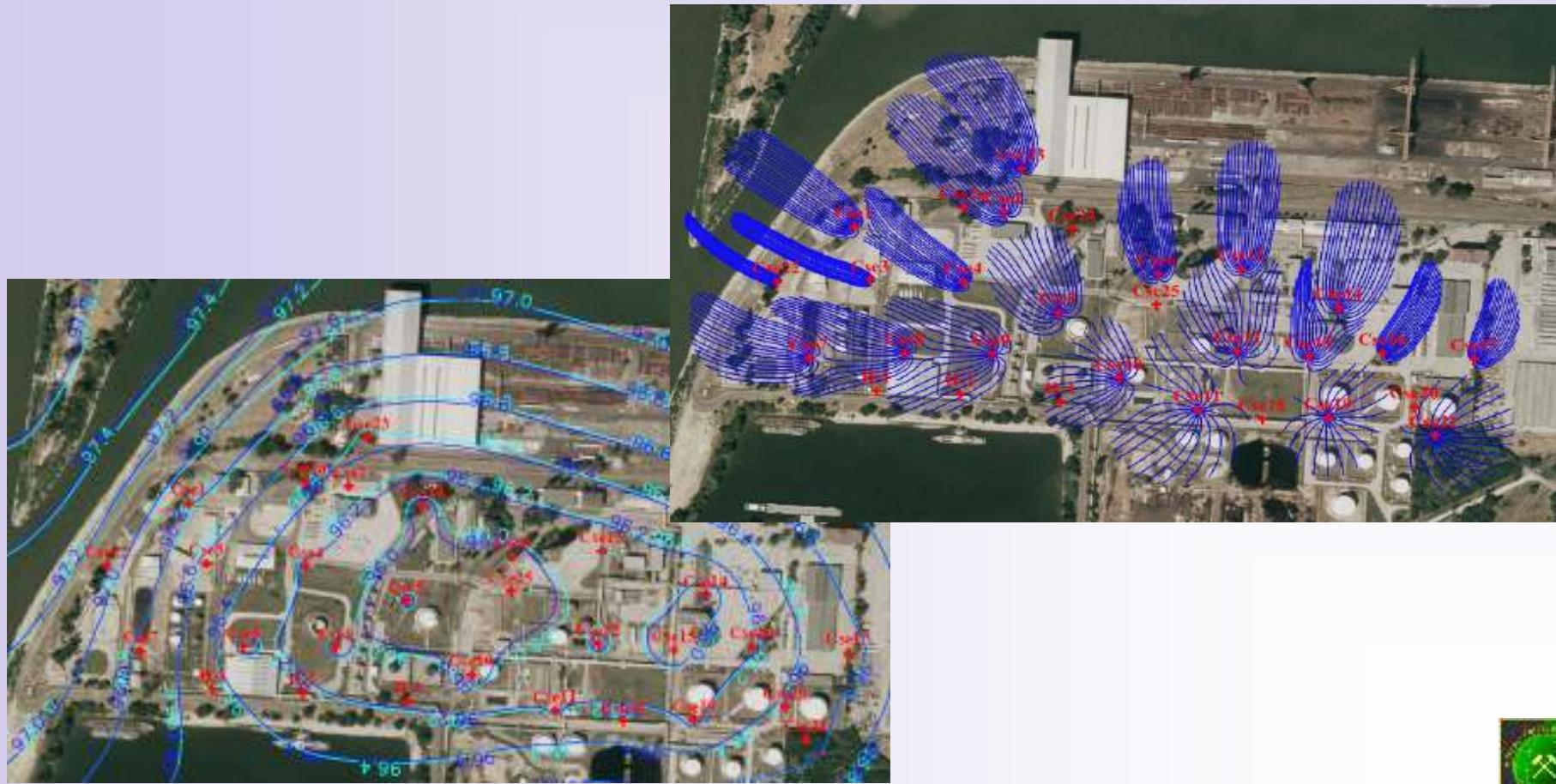


# Inheritance of errors



# GW Flow models

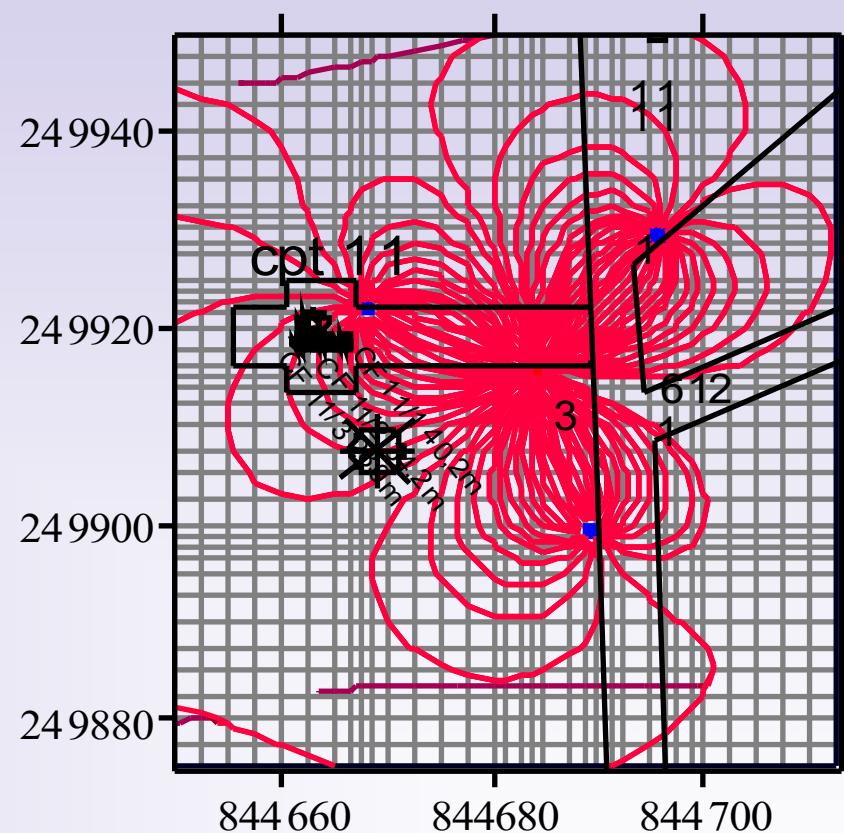
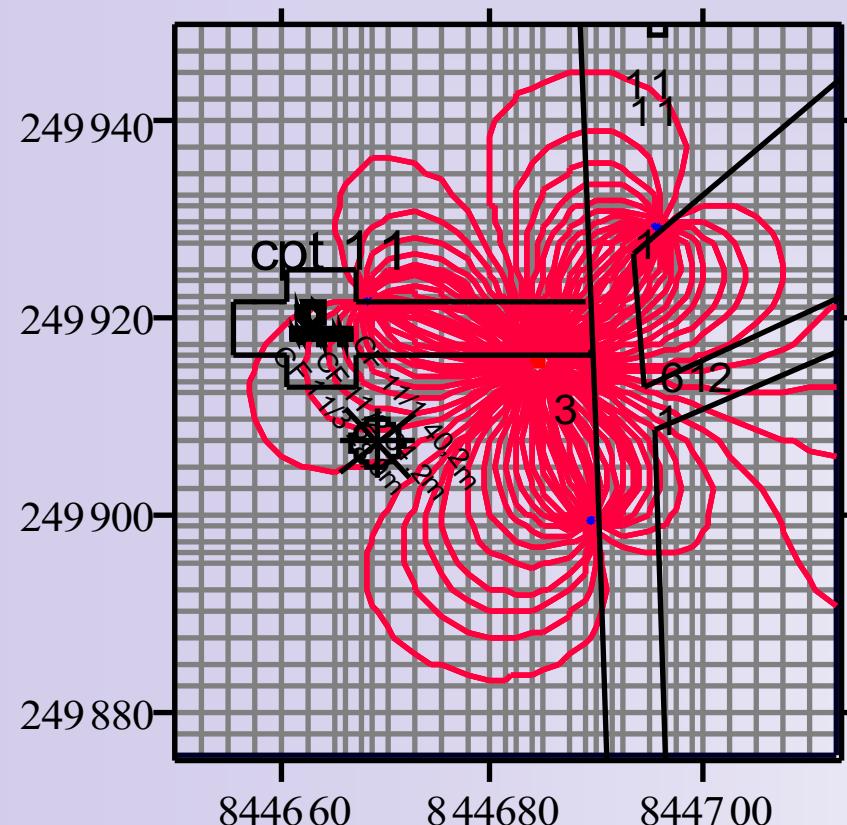
- Calculation of seepage direction and velocities
- transit time calculation



# GW Flow models #2

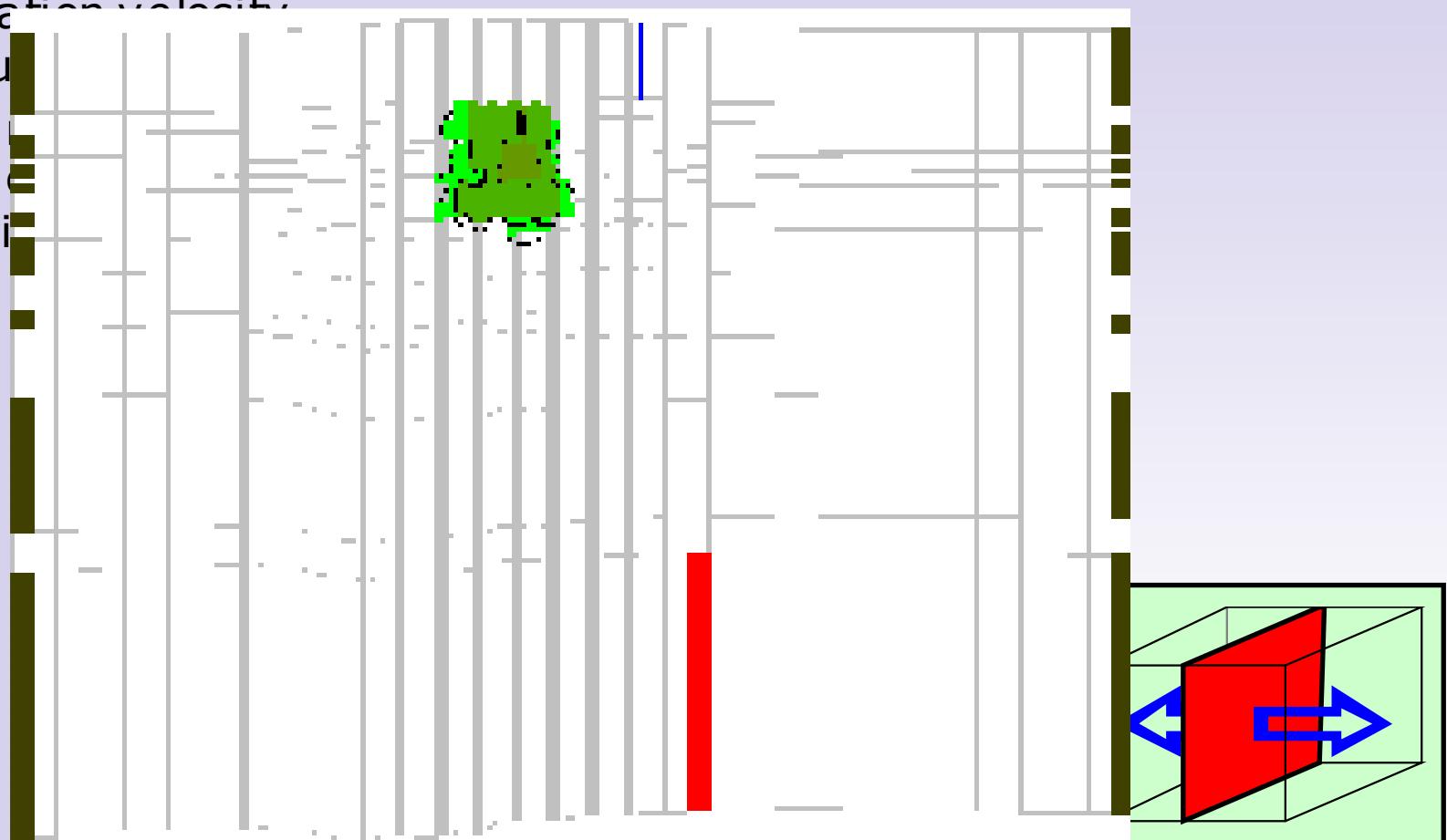


## Simulation of flow system of an injection and three production wells

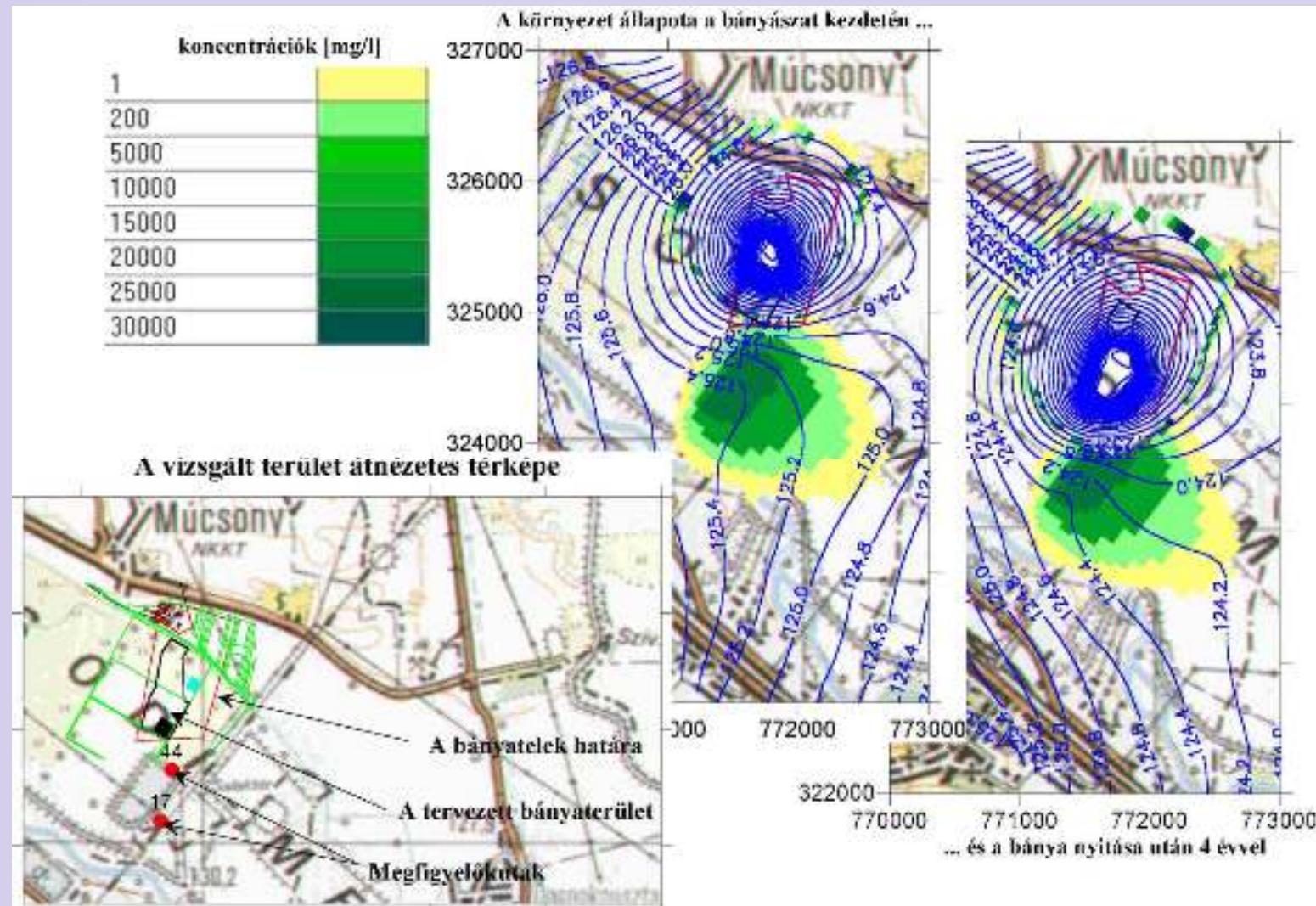


# Contaminant transport models

- Migration velocity, calculated
- Determination of concentration distribution

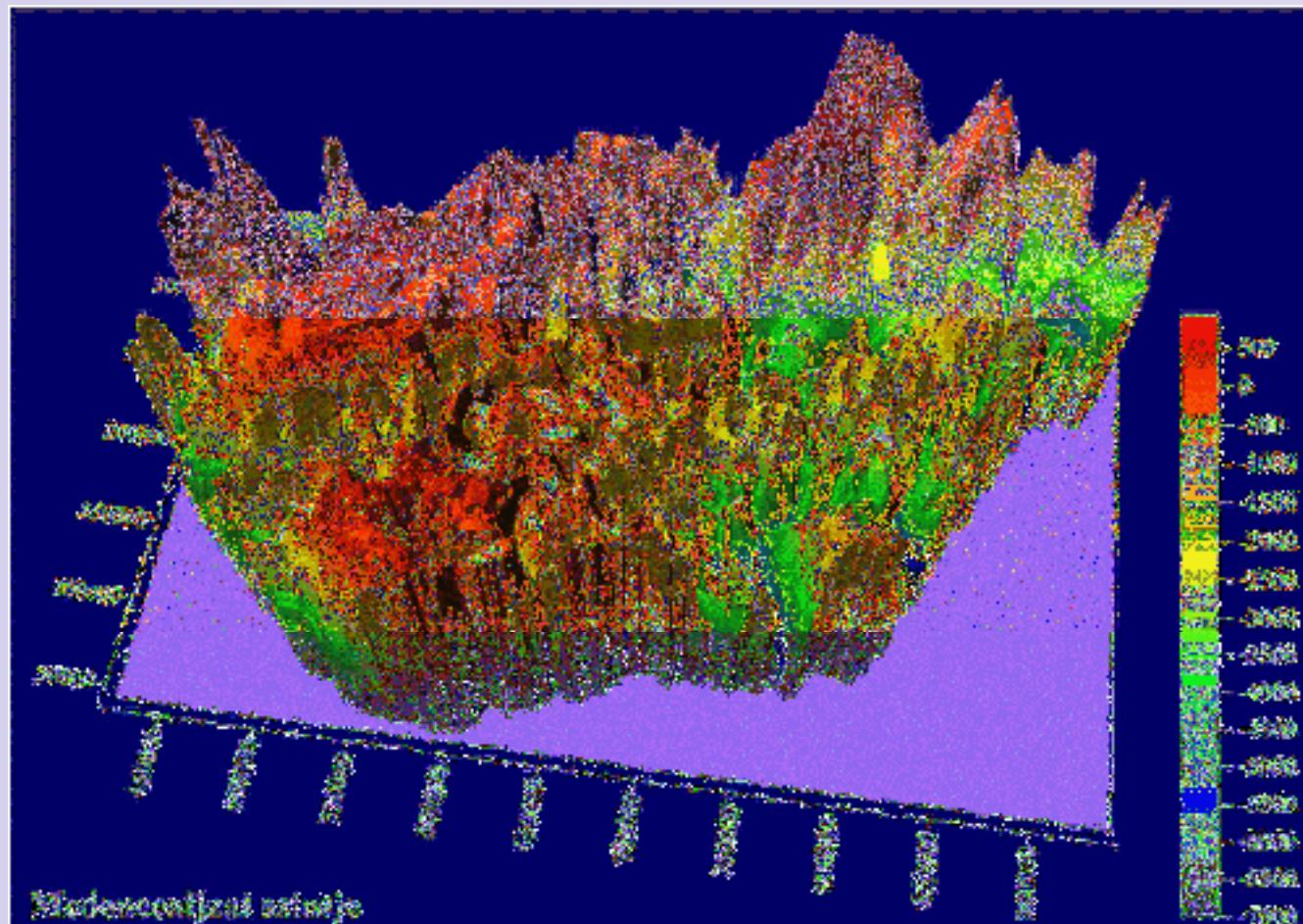


# Contaminant transport models #2

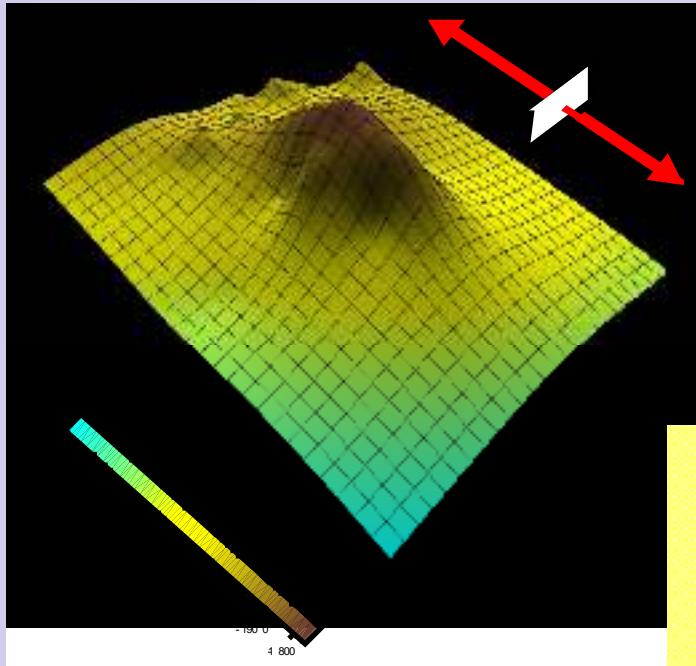


# Heat transport models

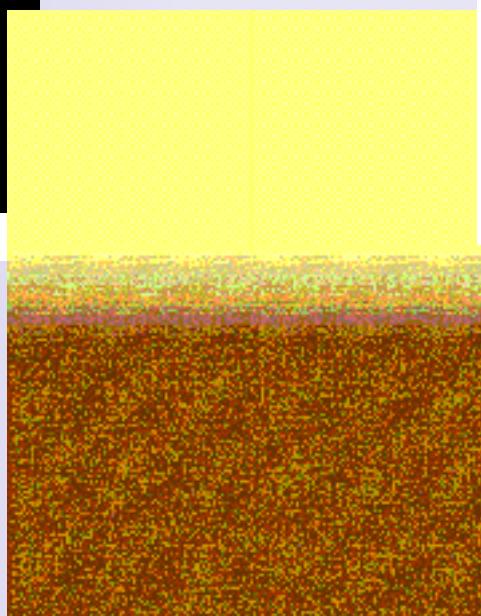
- Coupled calculations of GW flow and heat transport
- Determination of temperature distribution



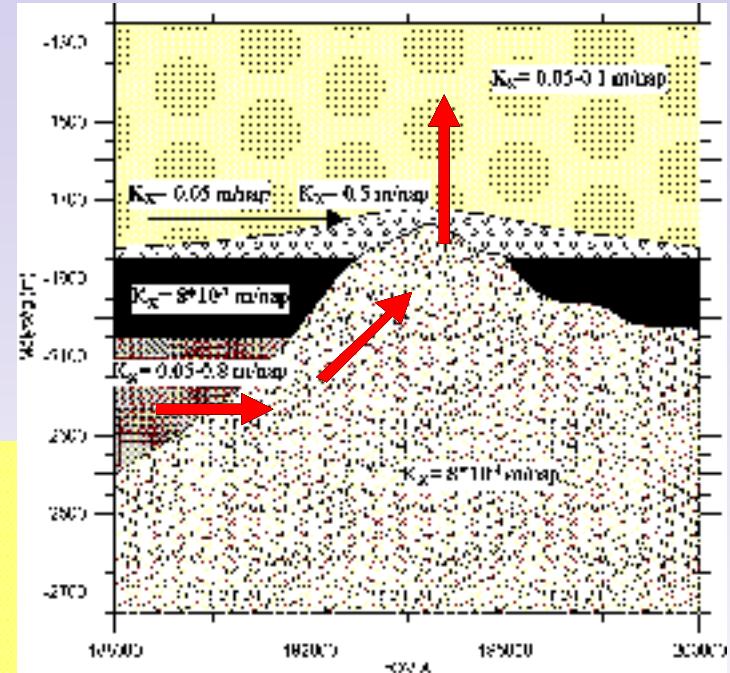
# Heat transport models #2



3D surface of the dome



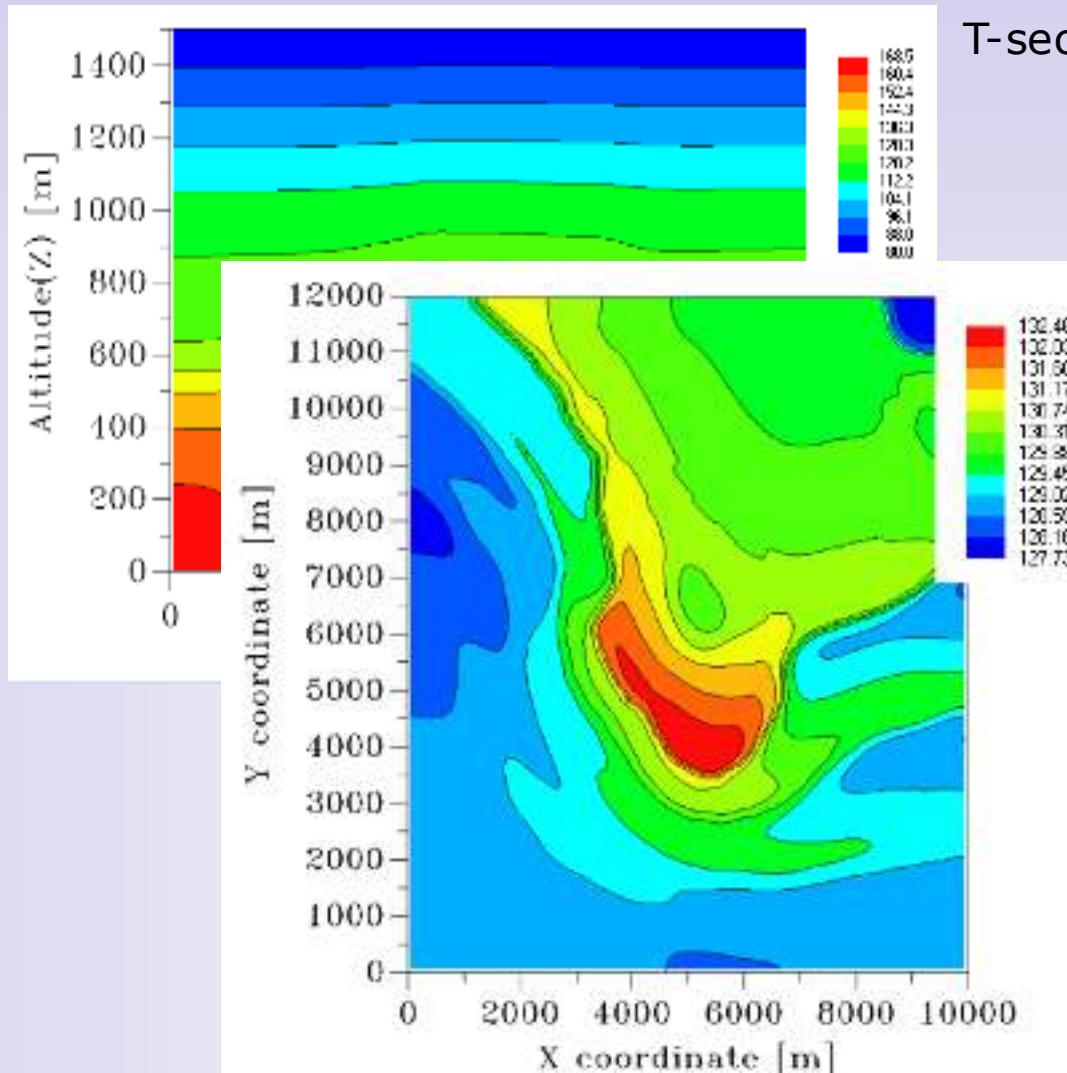
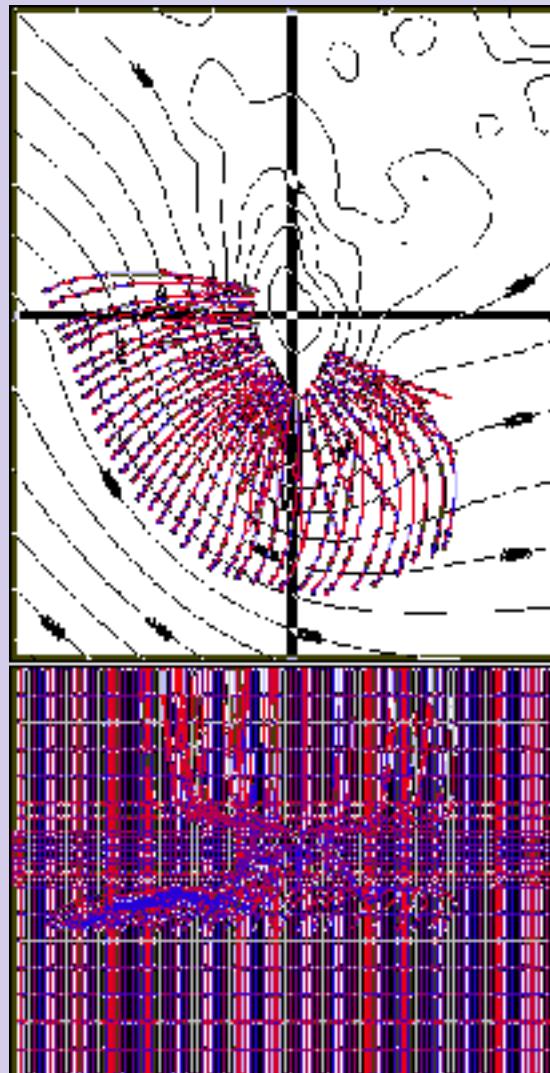
Calculated flow potential field  
E-W sections



Simplified hydrogeological model



# Heat transport models #3



# Application fields of numerical models? What we can do...

- to determine the validity ranges of legislative laws (governing equations)
- to control measurement results
- to compare different cases
- to perform
  - data sensitivity analysis
  - scenario analysis,
  - best-case worst case analysis
- etc.



## What we can not do ... (theoretically)

- forecasting with high accuracy
- forecasting small changes in pressure, concentration or temperature (for ex. determination of pollution above a limit value, etc)
- long term forecasting
- etc.

... but we use them for this as well having no better solution!

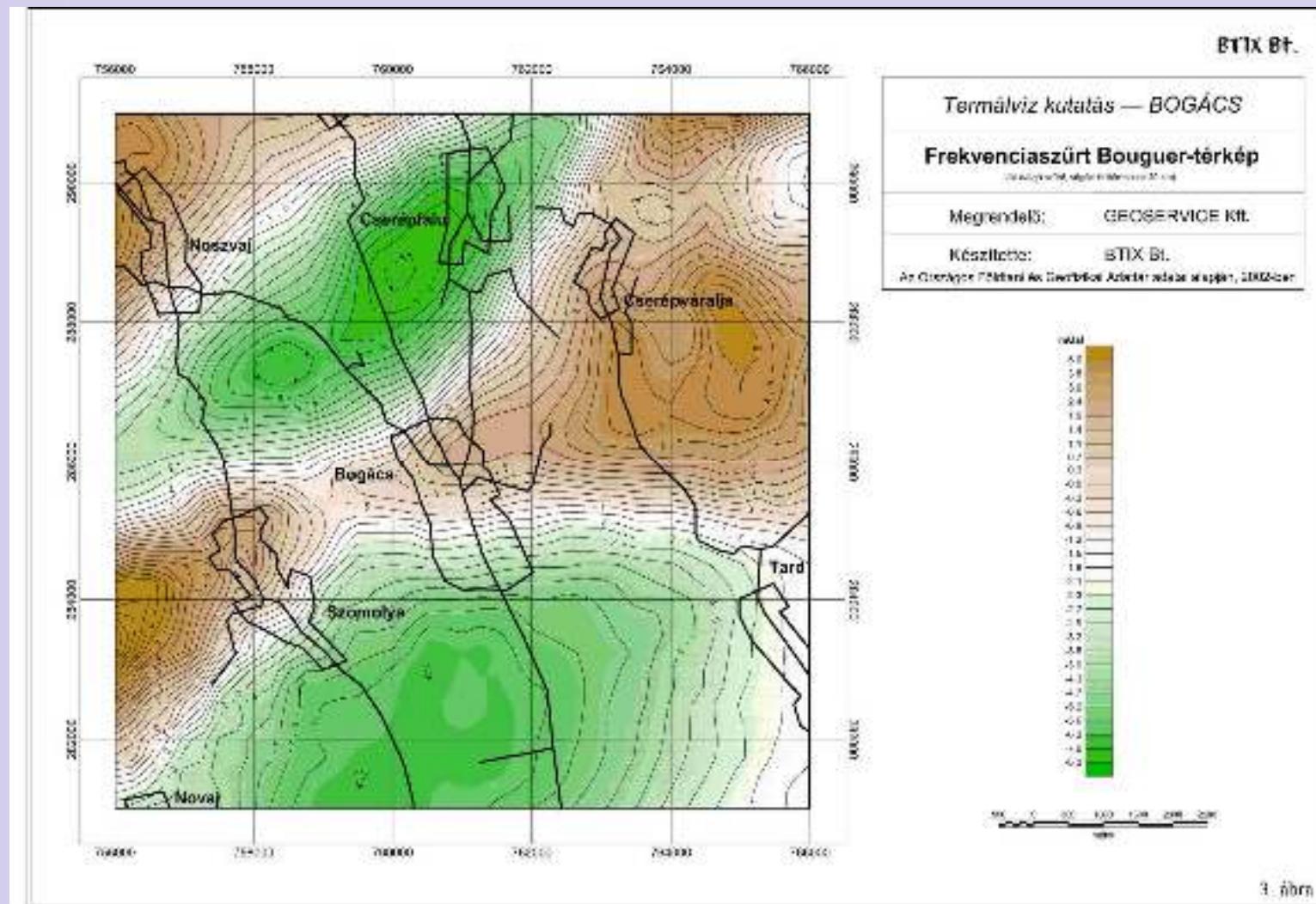


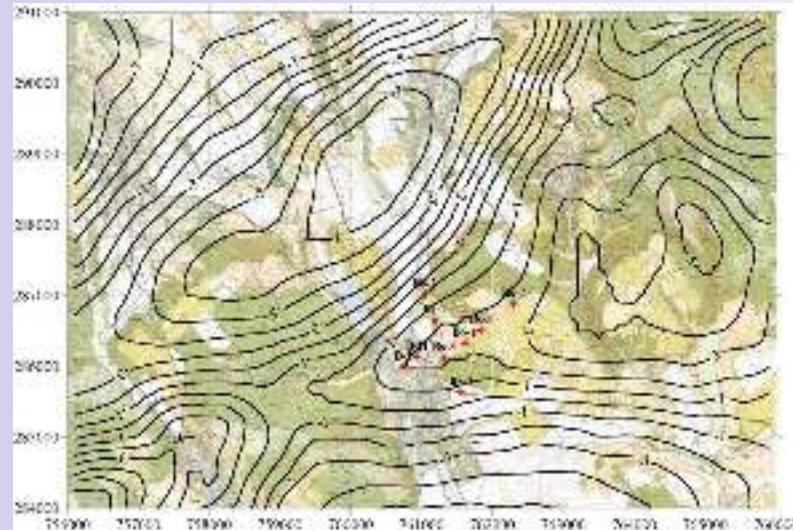
# Problems

- Lack of geological, hydrogeological information of reservoirs
- Inhomogeneity of geological formations
- Handling random behavior
- Handling and simulating real world dynamics (in some case the reality is too quick, in another case it is too slow...)
- Unknown relevant mechanisms of the real systems or misunderstanding the real world processes
- Inaccuracy of governing equations
- Numerical errors
- and so on...

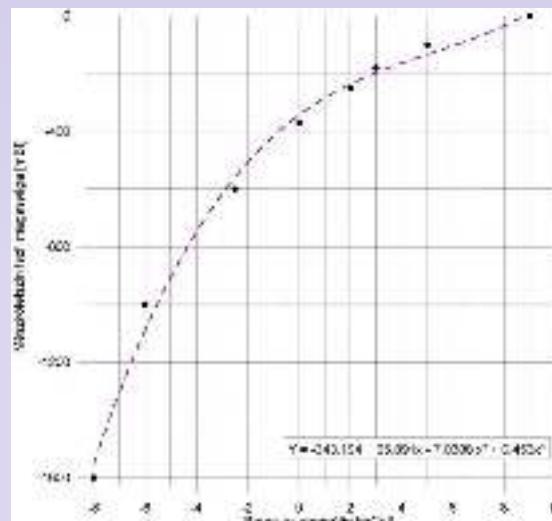


# Use of geophysical gravity measurements to overcome the lack of geological information to determine WHPA of gothermal wells

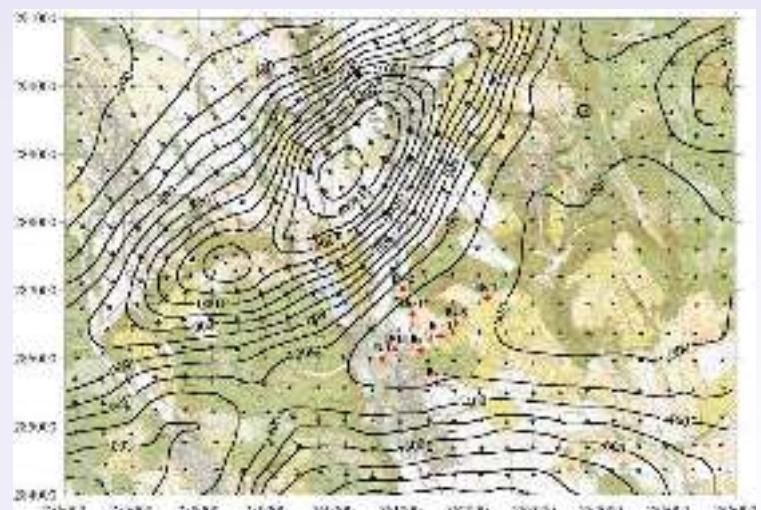




Bouguer anomaly map



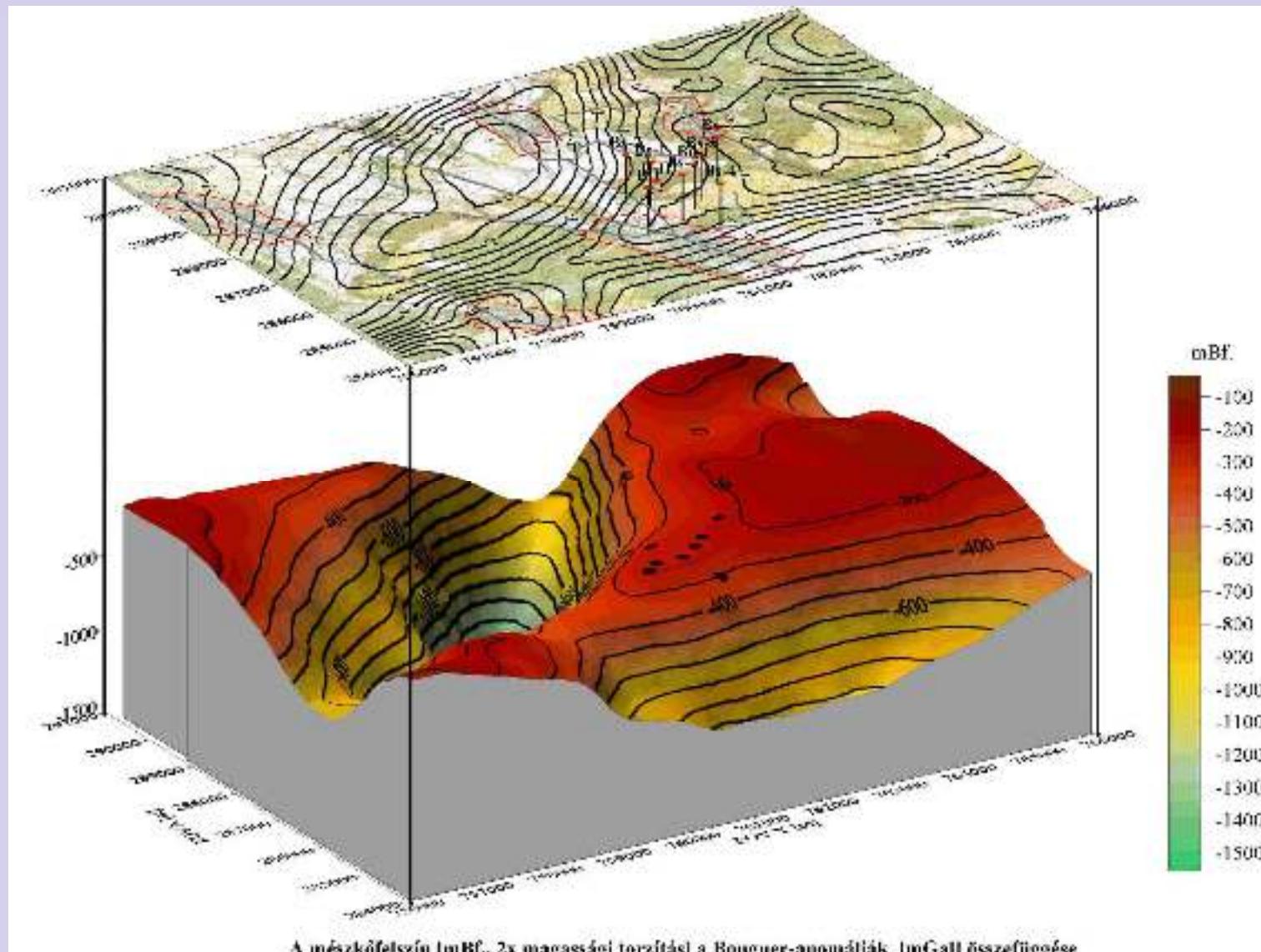
Use of gravity measurements at Bogács thermal well modeling



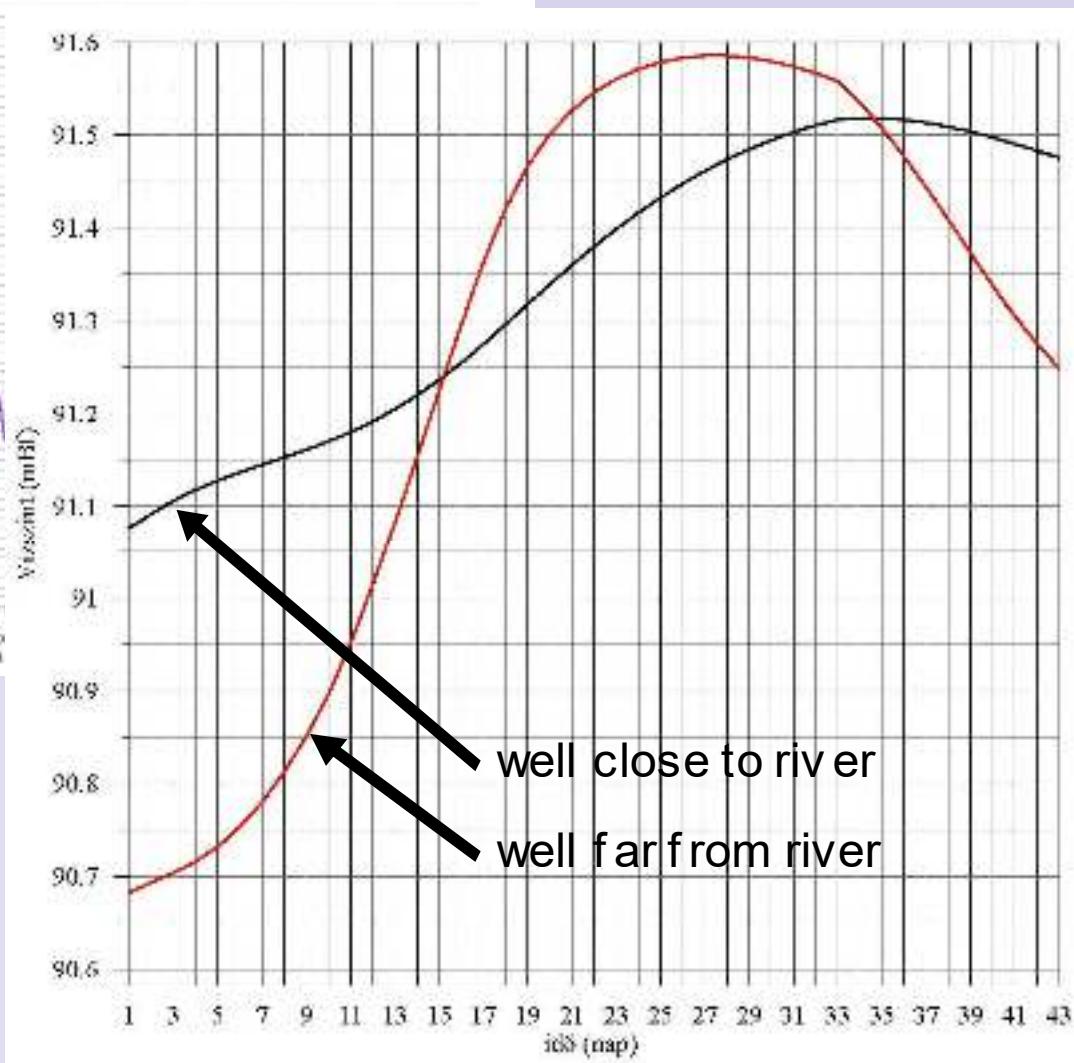
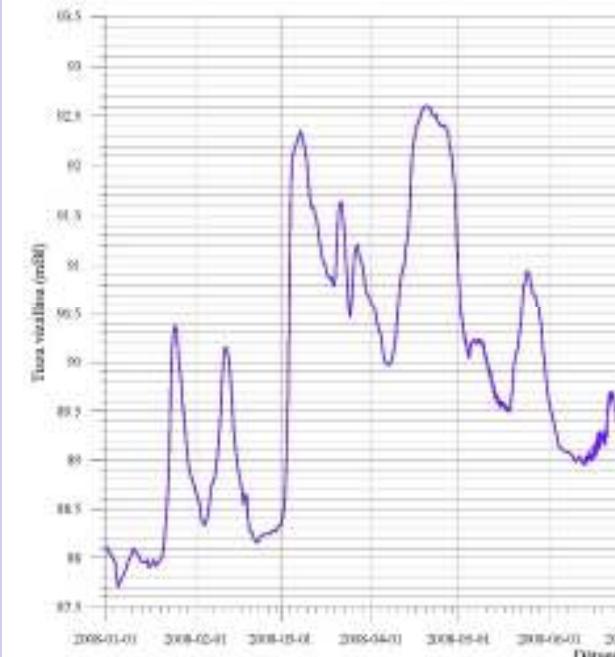
Hypothetic depth distribution



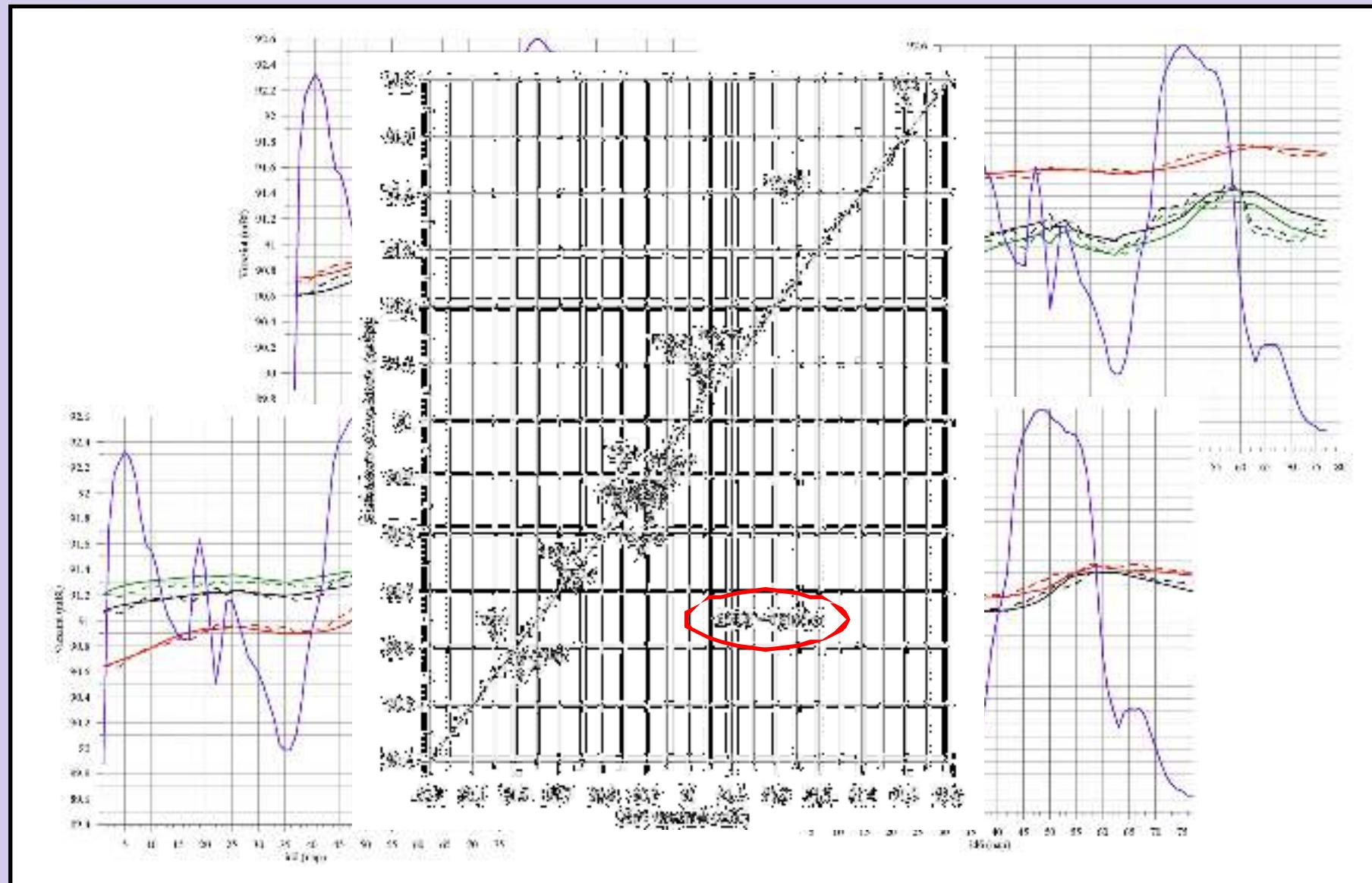
## 3D interpretation of gravity map data



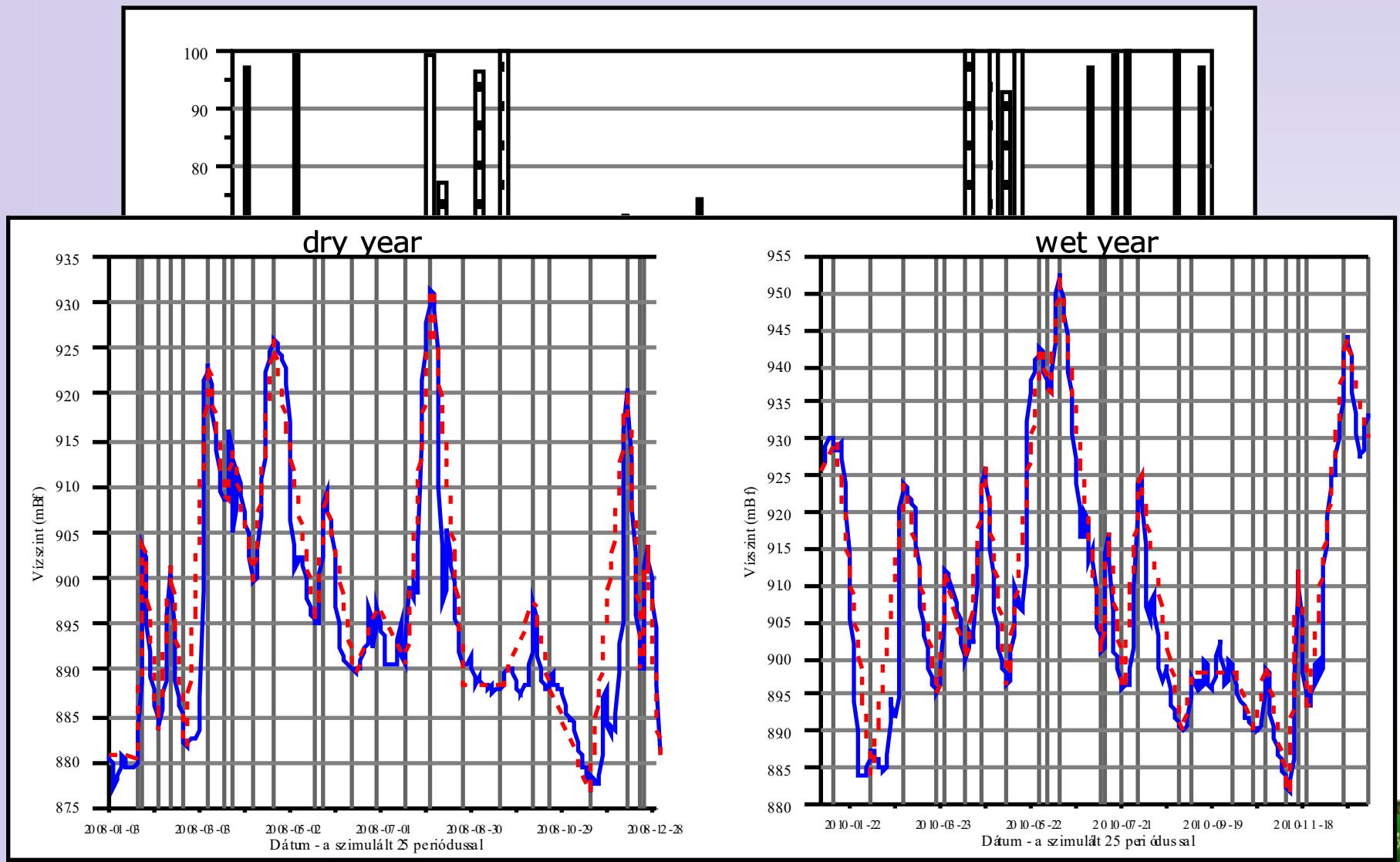
## Effect of riverhead changes



## Transient calibration



# Modification of hydrodynamics of the model at dry and wet conditions



**low river heads  
average groundwater levels**

**low river heads  
high groundwater levels**

**high river heads (flood)  
average groundwater levels**

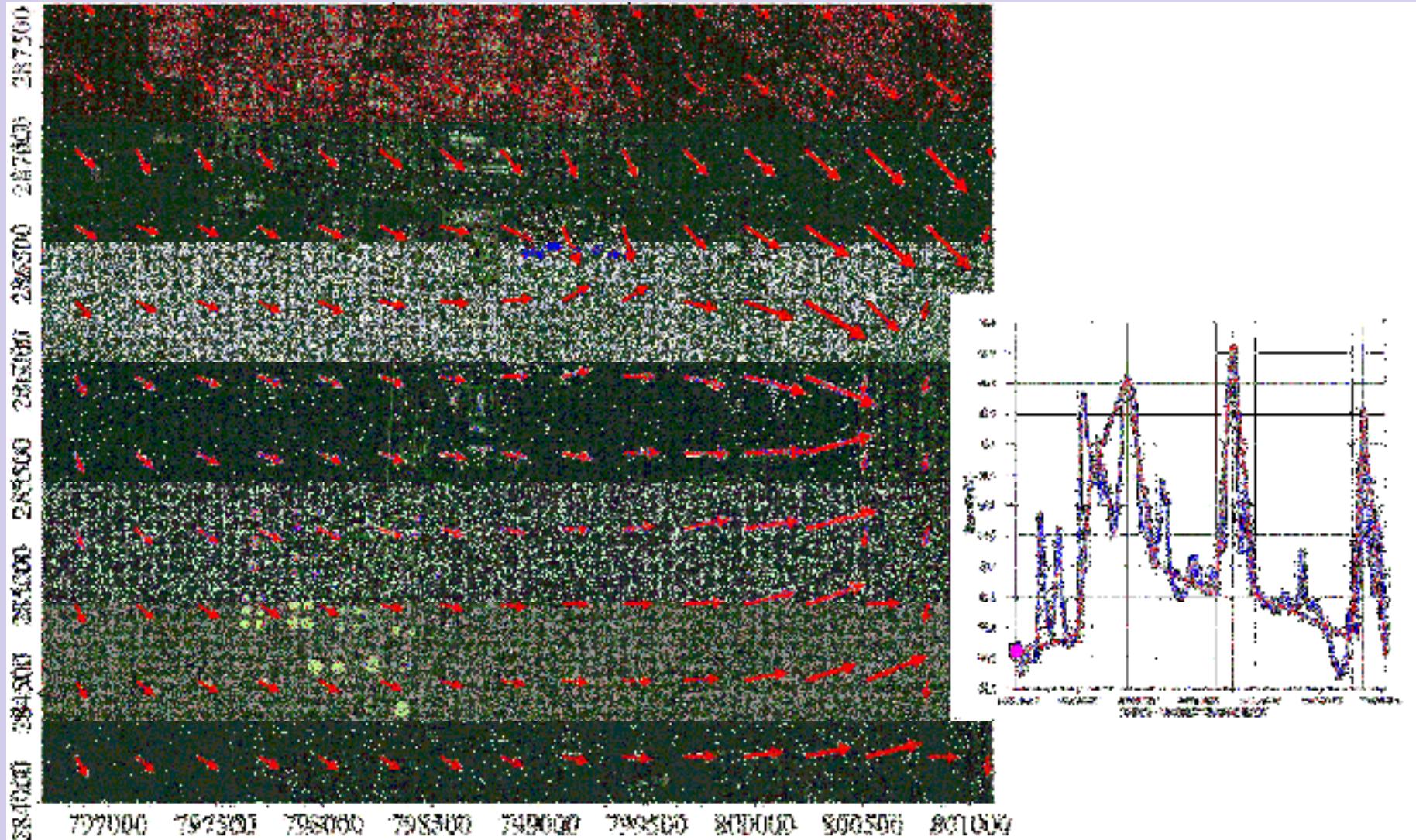
**high river heads (flood)  
high groundwater levels**

**dry year**

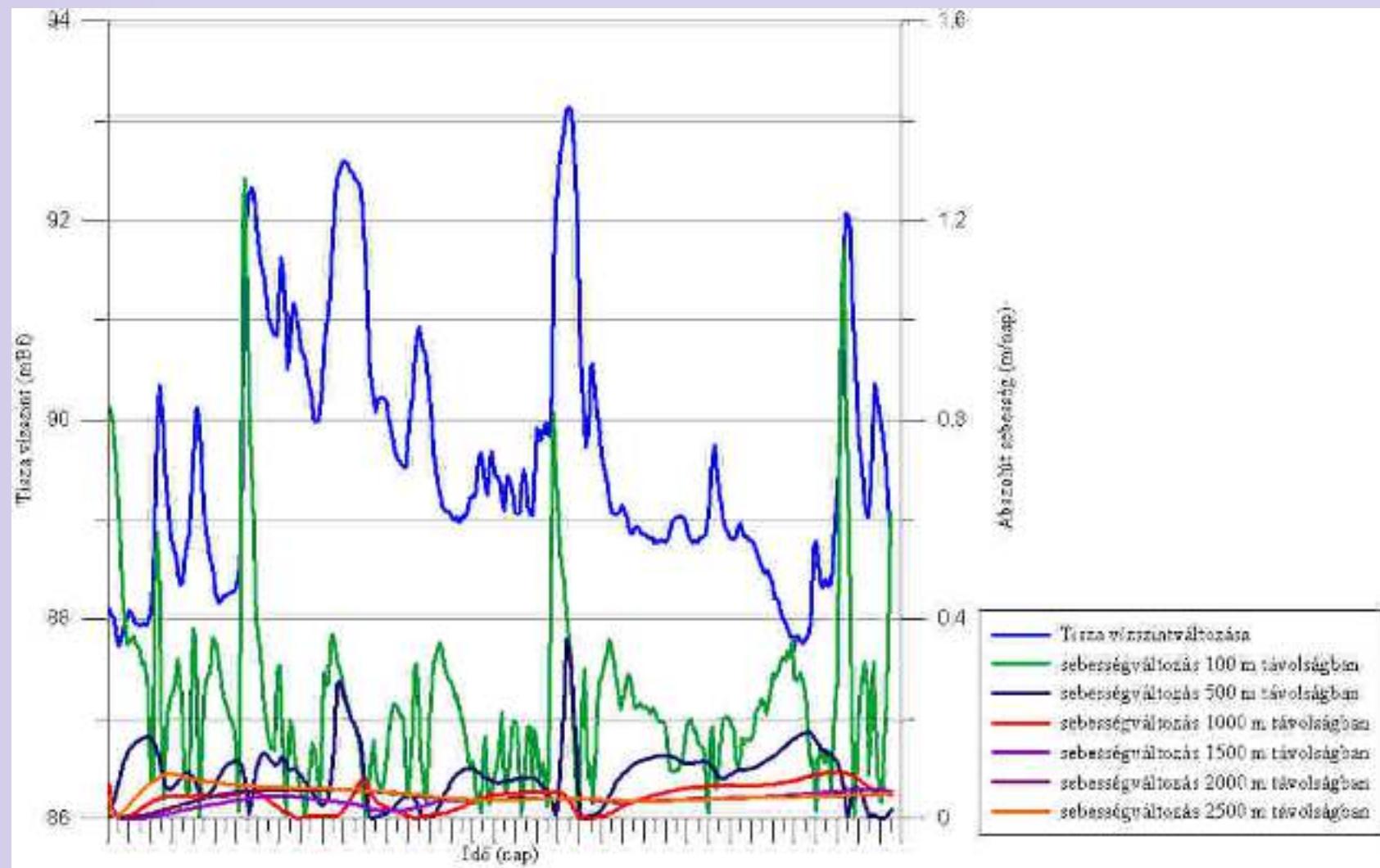
**wet year**



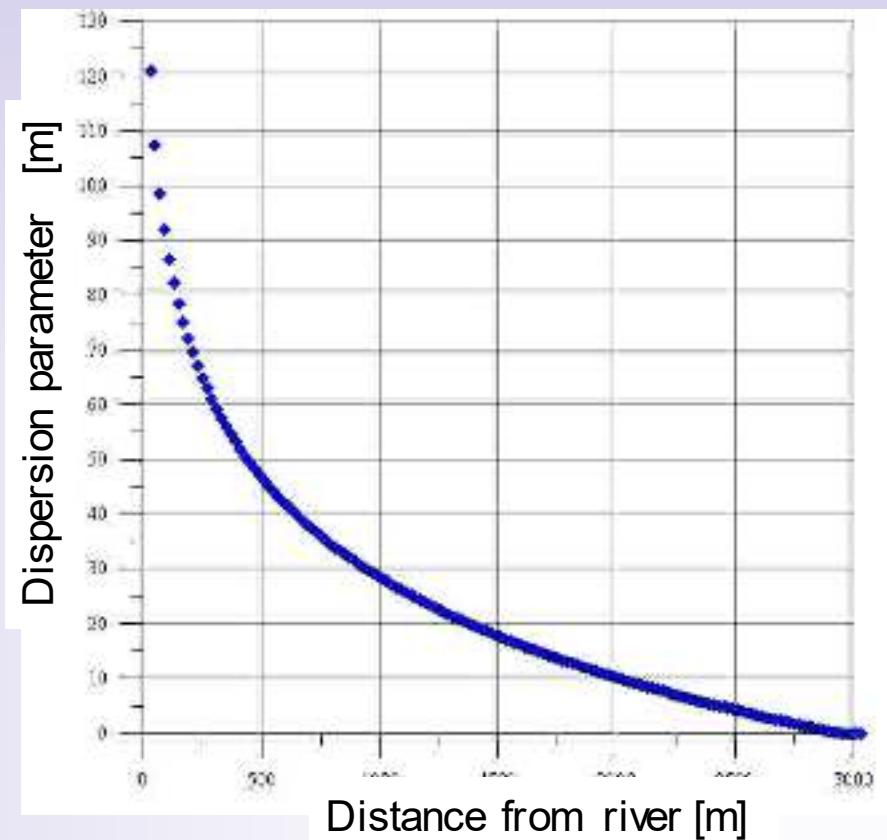
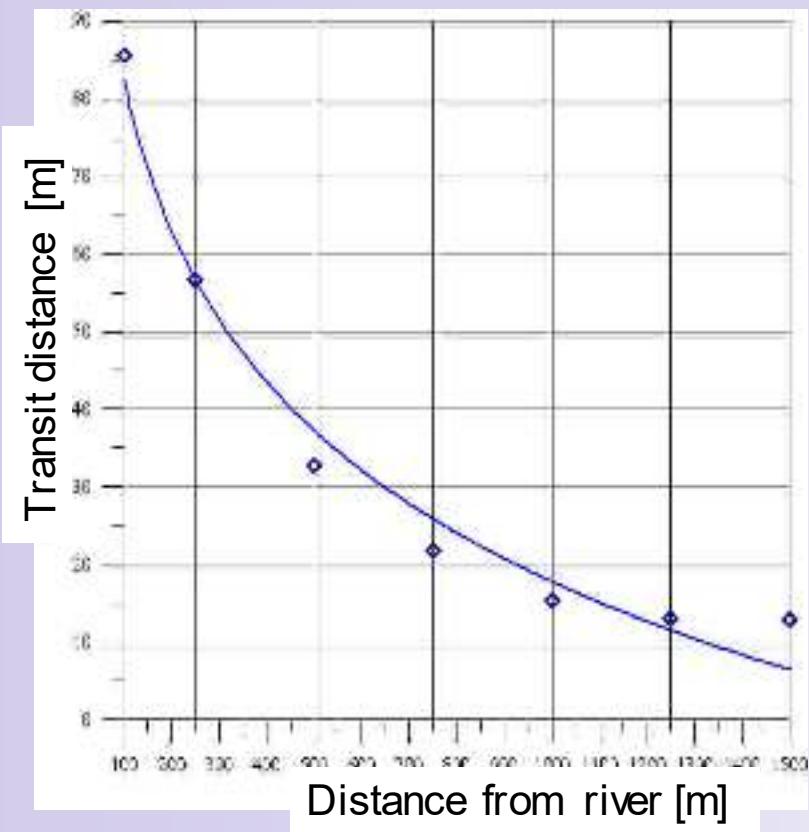
## Dynamics of GW – SW interactions



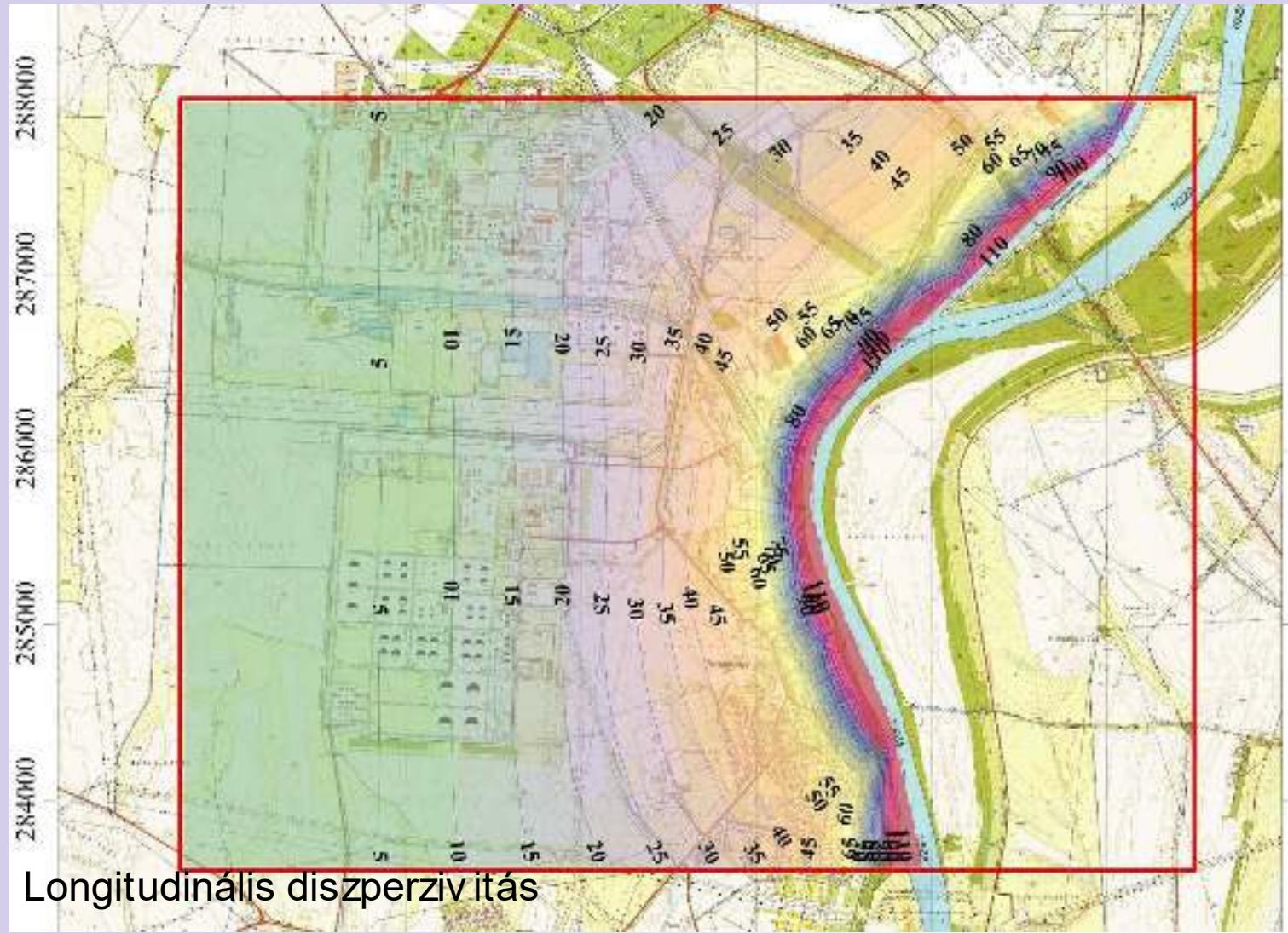
# Seepage velocity characteristics



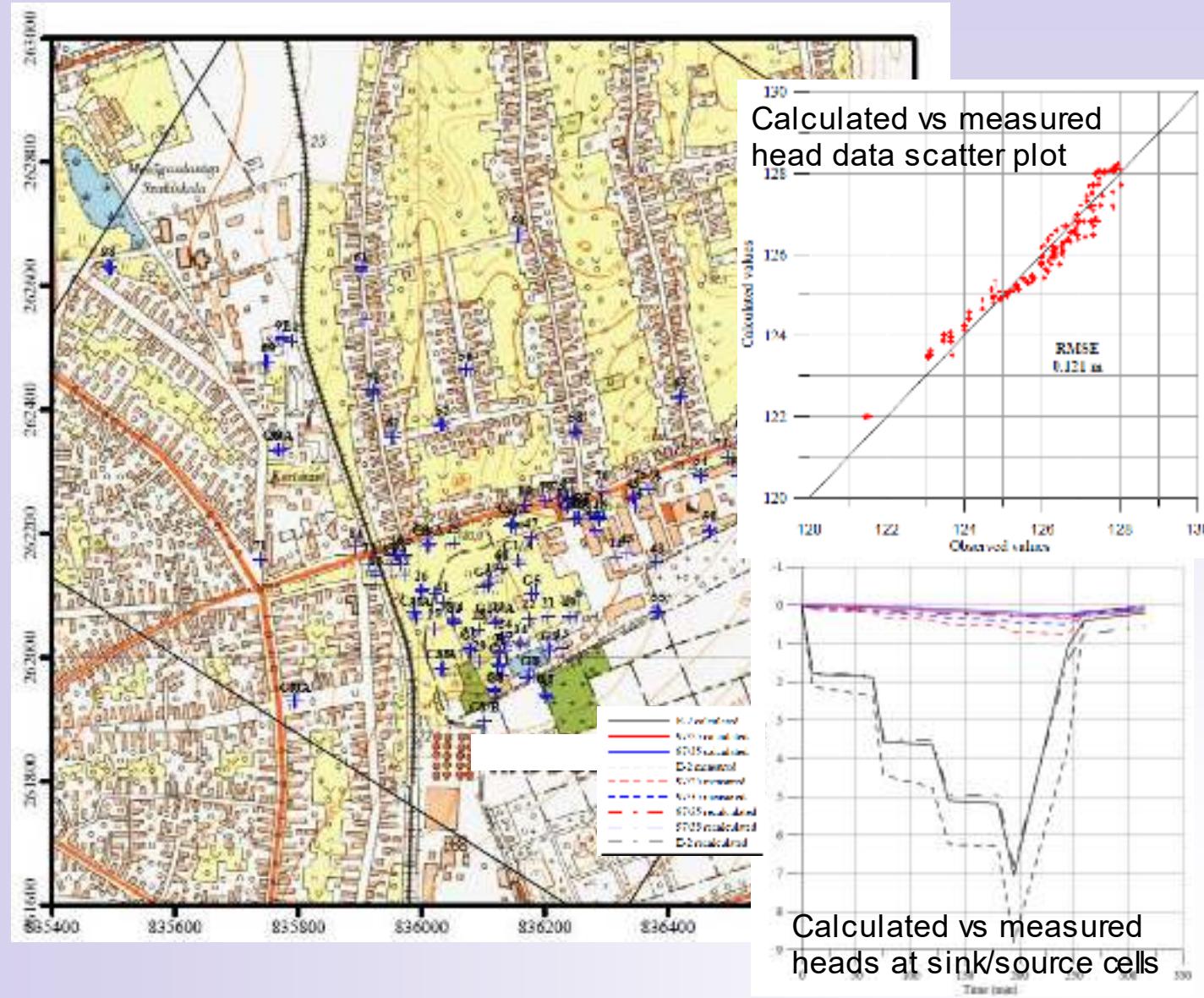
## Dispersion and transit distance vs. distance from river



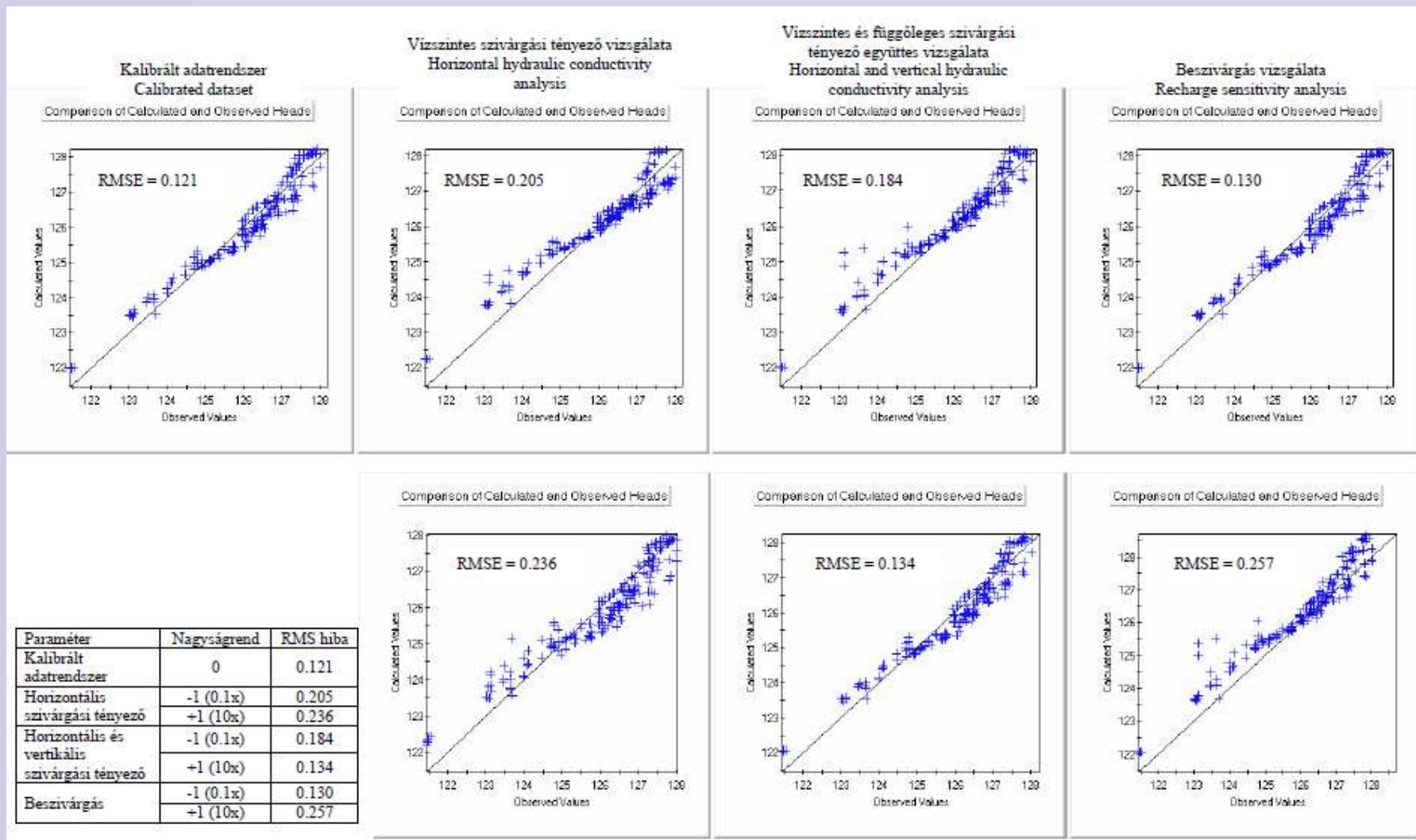
# Hydrodynamic dispersivity [m] distribution



# Use of calibration points



# Input data sensitivity analysis





**Whether modeling or real life, never give up easily!"**

(Wen-Hsing Chiang, creator of PMWIN)

Thanks for  
Your attention!

