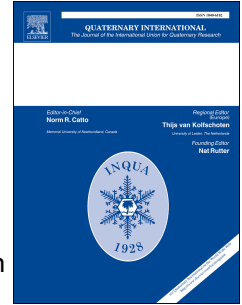


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Geophysical methods applied to Quaternary studies in glacial environments: Rio valdez outcrop, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

Claudia B. Prezzi, María J. Orgeira, Andrea M.J. Coronato, Diego R.A. Quiroga, Juan F. Ponce, Pablo A. Núñez Demarco, Pedro Palermo



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6 GEOPHYSICAL METHODS APPLIED TO QUATERNARY STUDIES IN GLACIAL
7 ENVIRONMENTS: RIO VALDEZ OUTCROP, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA

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11 Claudia B. Prezzi¹, María J. Orgeira¹, Andrea M. J. Coronato², Diego R. A. Quiroga³, Juan
12 F. Ponce³, Pablo A. Núñez Demarco⁴, Pedro Palermo⁵

13

14

15

16

17 1 CONICET – Universidad de Buenos Aires. IGeBA, Dpto. de Cs. Geológicas, Fac. de Cs.
18 Exactas y Naturales. Ciudad Universitaria, Pabellón 2, CABA, C1428EGA, Argentina.

19 prezzi@gl.fcen.uba.ar

20 2 CONICET -CADIC. B. Houssay 200, (9410) Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

21 ICPA-UNTDF. Walanika 250, (9410) Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

22 3 CONICET -CADIC. B. Houssay 200, (9410) Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

23 4 CONICET. IGeBA, Dpto. de Cs. Geológicas, Fac. de Cs. Exactas y Naturales. Ciudad
24 Universitaria, Pabellón 2, CABA, C1428EGA, Argentina.

25 5 CONICET. CIFICIEN. Facultad de Cs. Exactas, Universidad del Centro de la Provincia
26 de Bs. As. Pinto 399, Tandil, Prov. de Bs. As., CP B7000GHG, Argentina.

27 ABSTRACT

28 In the Río Valdez mouth, located in the southeastern coast of Fagnano lake, Tierra del
29 Fuego, an outcrop of 7 m thick lacustrine sediments was identified. Taking into account
30 geomorphological and sedimentological surveys, such outcrop was interpreted as a
31 rhythmic glacio-lacustrine deposit, formed in a frontal morainic complex during the
32 Pleistocene. Ground magnetic and resistivity surveys were carried out, trying to determine
33 the thickness and areal extension of these lacustrine sediments. A maximum E-W extension
34 of ~ 220 m and a minimum NNW-SSE one of ~ 180 m were determined. A minimum
35 thickness of ~ 20 m was estimated. Taking into account this thickness and an assumed
36 average sedimentation rate, the natural dam that promoted the paleolake and their related
37 lacustrine sediments could have existed previously to MIS 2, when the Last Glacial
38 Maximum took place in the region. The applied geophysical methods proved to be a
39 powerful tool for the investigation of palaeo-lake deposits.

40

41 Keywords: magnetic and resistivity surveys, palaeo-lake, rhythmites, MIS4, southernmost
42 South America

43

44 INTRODUCTION

45 Fagnano lake valley, located in the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego center, is one of
46 the most important glacial landform areas in southernmost South America. Extensive
47 glaciated surfaces and a large ice volume contained by a glaciers network originating from
48 the Cordillera Darwin covered the region during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), ca. 25
49 ka (Coronato et al. 2009, Waldman et al. 2010, Esteban et al. 2014). This large
50 paleoglaciers landscape preserves paleoclimatic information from the southern extreme of

51 the continent, being extremely important to gain deeper insight into its paleogeographic and
52 paleoenvironmental evolution. The mapping and analysis of glacial deposits and landforms
53 constitute an important tool to understand and reconstruct glacial events (e.g. Coronato et
54 al. 2002, 2009). In this connection, geophysical surveys can help to determine the
55 thicknesses and areal extension of deposits originated by paleoglacier systems, contributing
56 to a better knowledge of its development. Fagnano lake area has been investigated by
57 different authors (e.g. Lippai et al. 2004, Lodolo et al. 2007, Peroni et al. 2007, 2008, 2011,
58 Waldmann et al. 2008, Esteban et al. 2011, 2014, González Guillot et al. 2012), who used
59 distinct geophysical methods.

60 Particularly, close to the mouth of Río Valdez, at the southern coast of Fagnano
61 lake ($54^{\circ} 35' S$; $67^{\circ} 20' W$) beside a main road (Fig. 1), a 7-8 m thick deposit of lacustrine
62 sediments crops out. It develops at 62 m a.s.l. and 25 m above the lake shore. It forms a
63 plain placed in between a morainic complex. Based on geomorphological and
64 sedimentological characteristics, the studied outcrop is interpreted as a glacio-lacustrine
65 plain formed by rhythmites deposited among moraines. This ice-marginal paleo-lake would
66 have been originated in a contact zone among paleo-Fagnano and tributary paleoglaciers
67 flowing from the Lucio López Ranges (Coronato et al. 2009). The presence of dropstones
68 suggests that this deposit is an ice-contact lake.

69 The objective of this paper is to reveal the volume and thickness of the
70 sedimentary deposits that conform the glacio-lacustrine plain located close to Río Valdez
71 mouth, which were described in an alongside road outcrop. The reconstruction of the size
72 and shape of this paleo-lake can help to the interpretation of glacial paleogeography in
73 central Tierra del Fuego. To accomplish this objective, ground magnetic and resistivity
74 surveys were carried out. It is important to mention that previously published geophysical

75 studies (e.g. Lippai et al. 2004, Lodolo et al. 2007, Peroni et al. 2007, 2008, 2011,
76 Waldmann et al. 2008, Esteban et al. 2011, 2014, González Guillot et al. 2012) do not
77 include Río Valdez area and/or do not have enough resolution.

78

79 GEOLOGIC SETTING

80 Although there are not bare rock outcrops in the studied area, the presence of
81 metasedimentary rocks of Beauvoir Formation is inferred. They would surround the widely
82 spread Quaternary glacial deposits (Olivero et al. 2007). The Beauvoir Formation is
83 composed by marine meta-sedimentary rocks as black slates, marls and tuffs (Capaccioni et
84 al. 2013) of Early Cretaceous age. Most of the beds are massive, but there are some
85 rhythmites composed by very fine to fine sandstones and mudstones (Olivero and
86 Martinioni 2001). The above mentioned meta-pelites of Beauvoir Fm were intruded by
87 back-arc plutonic rocks, representative of the Fuegian Potassium Magmatism. These
88 plutonic rocks outcrop few kilometers to the northeast, at Cerro Jeujepen (González Guillot
89 and Acevedo, 2009). They correspond to an igneous body mainly composed by
90 hornblendites, pyroxenites, gabbros, diorites and monzonites (González Guillot and
91 Acevedo 2009, González Guillot et al. 2012). According to Tassone et al. (2005), the large
92 igneous body would reach depths of up to 8 km.

93 During the late Pleistocene a glacier originating from the Cordillera Darwin
94 expanded eastwards through the Magallanes-Fagnano depression, now occupied by the
95 Fagnano lake (26 m a.s.l.). The outlet glacier, flowing eastwards from the Darwin
96 Cordillera, was fed by more than fifty tributary glaciers. An alpine-type landscape,
97 including erosional landforms, developed in the western part of the present Fagnano lake.
98 On the other hand, a piedmont-type landscape, including lateral moraines, glacio-fluvial

99 and glacio-lacustrine terraces, developed in the eastern region. The external front of this
100 paleoglacier reached a maximum advance of 35-40 km to the northeast of its present-day
101 easternmost head (Caldenius 1932). Such maximum advance is only poorly recognizable by
102 the remnants of eroded moraines (Coronato et al. 2009). On the contrary, lateral and basal
103 moraines, kames, knobs and kettles and glaciofluvial plains are quite well distributed and
104 preserved, allowing the interpretation of glacier recessional phases (Coronato et al. 2002,
105 2009). This glacial landscape represents the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) event and its
106 first recessional phase, ca. 25 ka and 18 ka BP, respectively, during the Marine Isotope
107 Stage (MIS) 2 (Coronato et al. 2002, 2009, Rabassa et al. 2011, Rutter et al. 2012). To the
108 south, Cerro Jeujepen blocked the flow of tributary glaciers flowing from the Lucio López
109 Range and forced the junction with the Fagnano paleo-glacier at Río Valdez area. There,
110 basal moraines extend up to 2.5 km from the lake shore with elevations of 120 m a.s.l. and
111 continue beside the lake coast, up to its eastern head. They are composed by till underlaid
112 by glacio-deltaic deposits of Middle Pleistocene age (Bujalesky et al. 1997). Fossil peat
113 contained in the lower units of till yielded ^{14}C dates of $31,000 \pm 510 - 48,200 \pm 3300$ years
114 BP (Coronato et al. 2009), indicating that the ice covered this region before the LGM.
115 These dating assays were made at the NSF Arizona AMS Facility, Arizona University
116 (Coronato et al. 2009). A terminal morainic complex formed by arched hills was identified
117 close to the Fagnano lake coast, surrounding the Río Valdez mouth and the therein glacio-
118 lacustrine studied deposit. Since the bathymetry of this part of the lake shows shallow
119 depths, it was interpreted that the moraine ridges continue under the lake, pointing to the
120 occurrence of a frontal position during a recessional stage (Waldmann et al. 2010). Basal
121 moraines separate the lake shore from the interior kames, glacio-fluvial and glacio-
122 lacustrine plains, which were originated by the smaller, recessional, tributary glaciers.

123 Based upon the dip and strike of the sandy beds at the base of Cerro Jeujepen, Coronato et
124 al. (2002) interpreted them as meltwater stream deposits coming from the tributary
125 paleoglaciers during its recession. Radiocarbon dates from basal peats located in the
126 surroundings show that most of the region was free of ice by 12,300 years BP. This zone
127 was one of the most extensive glacially covered areas of Tierra del Fuego Island, at the
128 southernmost of South America (Rabassa et al. 2011).

129 The studied outcrop is composed by 7 m of laminated silty-clay sediments with
130 low content of laminated sands, overlaid in erosive boundary by 4.25 m of chaotic gravels
131 in a silty matrix (Fig. 2a) corresponding to till. Each pair of rhythmites show sets of 2 cm
132 thick dark clay and 0.5 cm thick light silts (Fig. 2b). Convolute laminations are only present
133 at 2.75-3 m from the base.

134

135 METHODOLOGY

136 As mentioned above, geophysical studies including regional magnetic maps have
137 been previously published (e.g. Peroni et al. 2007, 2008, 2011, González Guillot et al.
138 2012), but they do not include Río Valdez area and/or do not have enough resolution.

139 Magnetic anomalies arise from both an induced magnetization component and a
140 remanent magnetization component. This is due to the Earth's magnetic field interacting
141 with the magnetic susceptibility of the geologic body, and to the intensity and direction of
142 the palaeomagnetic remanence of such body, respectively.

143 The total magnetic field was observed at 1380 magnetic stations, with a
144 Geometrics 856 proton magnetometer. The spacing between stations along profiles was
145 approximately 3 m. Three or more observations were taken at each station, and the
146 corresponding values were averaged. Accurate position of each station was determined by

147 GPS. At regular time intervals (every hour), a base station located in the surveyed area
148 was revisited in order to obtain control on the diurnal variation in the Earth's magnetic
149 field. Then the corresponding IGRF (International Geomagnetic Reference Field) value was
150 subtracted.

151 A grid of the calculated anomaly was produced applying "minimum curvature", a
152 geostatistical gridding method. A grid cell size of approximately 3 m x 3 m was used.
153 3D Euler deconvolution was applied to magnetic anomalies in order to provide preliminary
154 information of the depth distribution of the punctual sources. This method is based on
155 Euler's homogeneity equation (Reid et al. 1990, Reid et al. 2003, Salem and Smith 2005).
156 In order to solve Euler's equation, horizontal and vertical gradients of potential field data
157 are required, which were calculated in the frequency domain (Gunn 1975). For the study
158 area, we calculated Euler source points with $SI = 1$ and window sizes of 35 and 70 m using
159 the software Oasis Montaj (Geosoft Inc.). The SI value was chosen, among the possible
160 ones, considering that it corresponds to the 3D geometric shape that can better represent the
161 studied glacio-lacustrine deposit. The window sizes used correspond to about half the
162 anomalies width. Magnetic data were also analyzed to determine the depth to the top of the
163 magnetic source layer by power density spectra methods developed by Spector and
164 Grant (1970) and improved by Blakely (1996), Okubo et al. (1985) and Tanaka et al.
165 (1999). Since we are attempting to determine only the top of the magnetic layer, there are
166 no differences if the magnetic source is homogeneous or layered (Ravat et al. 2007). We
167 applied a semi-automatic self-developed program to perform the analysis (Núñez Demarco
168 et al. 2017).

169 Tilt derivatives of the upward continued reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies
170 were also calculated with the aim of facilitating the location of contacts between different

171 geological units. Pole reduction transforms the magnetic field to a fictitious magnetic pole,
172 centering the magnetic anomalies on the causing bodies. Upward continuation of the
173 reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies up to 10 m was carried out in order to reduce the
174 very short-wavelength data noise, which would be amplified by the derivatives calculation.

175 3D susceptibility models were developed in order to explore the nature of the
176 bodies responsible for the detected magnetic anomalies. The magnetic susceptibility of Río
177 Valdez lacustrine sediments was determined by De Bernardi et al. (2013), it varies between
178 10 and 28×10^{-5} SI, showing an average value of $\sim 14.1 \times 10^{-5}$ SI. We collected 368
179 paleomagnetic oriented samples from Río Valdez glacio-lacustrine outcrop. Natural
180 remanent magnetization (NRM) intensities, declinations and inclinations were measured
181 with a Minispin (Molspin Ltd.) rotative magnetometer. Average intensity, declination and
182 inclination of NRM were calculated, obtaining values of 5.97 mA/m, 11° and -56.5° ,
183 respectively, which were used in our 3D model. The corresponding Koenisberger ratio was
184 calculated (Table 1). Regarding the till layer, several authors published different values of
185 magnetic susceptibility for till deposits (e.g. 703×10^{-5} to 2388×10^{-5} SI (Parker Gay Jr.
186 2004); 24×10^{-5} to 113×10^{-5} SI (Vonder Haar and Hilton Johnson 1973), etc.).
187 Particularly, Parker Gay Jr. (2004) presented and discussed examples that cover a wide
188 range of possible magnetic anomaly types generated by different shapes and strikes of
189 magnetic glacial till sheets, highlighting the fact that till frequently has high magnetic
190 susceptibility values. An average magnetic susceptibility of 400×10^{-5} SI were used to
191 model the till layer covering the rhythmites. In order to attain a good fit between measured
192 and modeled anomalies, rock bodies to the east, west and beneath the glacial deposits were
193 introduced in the model, with magnetizations dominated by reverse NRM (Table 1). These
194 bodies would correspond to the lower Cretaceous Beauvoir Formation (Martinioni et al.

2013), which outcrops to the east of the studied area in Cerro Jeujepen. As it was previously mentioned, these outcrops of Beauvoir Formation were intruded by the Jeujepen monzonite, which was paleomagnetically studied by Peroni et al. (2011) and Peroni (2012). These authors carried out magnetic susceptibility measurements for the Jeujepen monzonite, obtaining values ranging between 0.01 and 0.09 SI. In the case of Beauvoir Formation, magnetic susceptibility values ranged between 9.1×10^{-5} and 45×10^{-5} SI, with an average value of 30×10^{-5} SI (Peroni et al. 2011, Peroni 2012), which was the value used in our model. Unfortunately, there are not paleomagnetic data available for Beauvoir Formation. Therefore, we used a reverse NRM direction for Beauvoir Formation (Table 1), coincident with the lower Cretaceous reference direction for the studied area calculated from the Ponta Grossa Dike Swarm paleomagnetic pole (Solano et al. 2015). The modeling software IGMAS was used (Götze 1978, Götze and Lahmeyer 1988). IGMAS essentially uses triangulated polyhedrons to approximate areas of constant density and/or susceptibility within the Earth's crust and mantle. The numerical algorithms were developed by Götze (1984) and permit the calculation of gravity field and its gradients as well as magnetic field components and components of remnant and induced magnetic fields in one program step. The software package IGMAS eases the 3D interpretation of gravity and magnetic data bases. It uses an interoperable 3D Geoinformation System (IOGIS) and its functions (e.g. data queries, interoperability, visualization and interdisciplinary interpretations in an object-oriented data environment) to integrate other geophysical models, information, and data from both geophysics and geology (Schmidt and Götze 1999, Breunig et al. 2000). The initial geometries of the 3D modeled bodies are predefined by the user on a series of parallel vertical cross-sections. The automated triangulation of model surfaces between the parallel vertical cross-sections, allows the construction of complicated model geometries.

219 The optimal fit between observed and calculated anomalies is achieved during forward
220 modeling by iterative geometry changes introduced by the user, according to the
221 constraining information incorporated in the IOGIS. Following, the user manually modifies
222 the geometry of the different bodies composing the 3D model, in view of the additional
223 geological and geophysical information integrated in the model. The final model should
224 minimize the differences between observed and calculated anomalies (i.e. residual
225 anomalies). Residual anomalies should have lower amplitude than the estimated error in the
226 observed anomaly and should show a tight concentration around zero with low standard
227 deviation.

228 Resistivity surveys aim to determine the resistivity distribution in the subsurface
229 by making measurements along the ground surface. It is based on measuring the voltage
230 between a pair of electrodes caused by direct current injection between another pair of
231 electrodes. There are many different electrode array configurations available, but all
232 configurations are aimed at gathering data that can be used to estimate lateral and vertical
233 variations in ground resistivity values. Resistivity surveys can be used to map geologic
234 variations, including lithology (e.g., clay versus gravel), presence of ground water, fracture
235 zones, etc. It was not possible to carry out electrical resistivity tomographies because the
236 studied zone is covered by a very dense forest, which hindered the application of this
237 technique. Instead, five vertical electrical soundings (VES) were carried out in the study
238 area using a digital resistivity meter GEOMETER MPX-400 (Ponti Electronics) and a
239 Schlumberger electrode array. The position of each one of the VES points was determined
240 using GPS. The potential electrodes separation was of 3 m and the maximum current
241 electrode separation was of 80 m. The five VES were projected along a NE-SW trending
242 profile. An inverse 2D model of resistivity distribution along the profile was numerically

243 obtained in the form of a simple rectangular cell model using the software RES2DINV of
244 Geotomo (Loke 1996-2002, Loke 2001). This program allows an estimation of the cells
245 resistivity that adjusts the quantities measured at surface, within certain discrepancy.
246 During the inversion routine the initial model parameters are modified and improved by
247 solving a least-squares equation (Lines and Treitel 1984). The discrepancy between the
248 calculated values of apparent resistivity and those inferred from field data are expressed
249 through the root mean square (RMS). Finally, a contour diagram showing the resistivity
250 distribution of the modeled profile is obtained.

251

252 RESULTS

253 A 3D forward magnetic model was developed in order to investigate the
254 geometry of the glacio-lacustrine sediments.

255 The magnetic anomalies (Fig. 3) show maximum values (of approximately -88
256 to -120 nT) at the centre of the surveyed area ($\sim X$: 607280-607440 m (UTM zone 19S)).
257 Such maximum values define an elongated zone trending NNE-SSW. These maximum
258 values are flanked by minimum ones to the E and W ($\sim X$: 607440-607480 m and $\sim X$:
259 607220-607280 m, respectively, (UTM zone 19S)), reaching values of -138 to -200 nT
260 (Fig. 3).

261 In Figure 4 we present the magnetic anomalies together with the corresponding
262 Euler solutions considering a SI of 1 and window sizes of 35 and 70 m. It can be observed
263 that most of the solutions are located below the elongated magnetic maxima, at average
264 depths ranging between approximately 3–7 m (Fig. 4). In connection, to the E and W of the
265 magnetic maxima, Euler solutions are concentrated below the high gradient transition zones
266 to the magnetic minima, at average depths ranging between approximately 11–20 m (Fig.

267 4). However, it should be noticed that Euler source points are mathematical fictions and do
268 not point to real geological point masses. Consequently, it should be taken into account that
269 Euler calculations could not actually portray real distributions of magnetic material. We
270 also calculated the depth to the top of the magnetic layer for 35 x 35 m square windows
271 with an overlap of 33.25 m (95%), using 2D power density spectra methods. We found that
272 for the studied region, the depth to the top of the magnetic layer varied between 11 and 22
273 m (Fig. 5).

274 The tilt derivative and the horizontal derivative of the tilt derivative of the upward
275 continued reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies, allowed to determine the location of the
276 contacts of the glacial deposits (Fig. 6a and 6b). In the case of the tilt derivative, the
277 contacts are located below the zero contour line (Fig. 6a) (Verduzco et al. 2004). On the
278 other hand, the maximum values of the horizontal derivative of the tilt derivative would
279 delineate the contacts (Fig. 6b) (Verduzco et al. 2004).

280 Figure 7 displays the location of the five vertical electrical soundings (VES)
281 carried out in the study area. These five VES were integrated to produce a NE-SW 2D
282 cross-section (Fig. 7). The corresponding measured and calculated apparent resistivity
283 pseudosections and the resulting resistivity inverse model can be seen in Figure 8. From
284 this model, the existence of a layer with very high resistivities, ranging between ~ 300 and
285 3000 ohm.m, can be identified to the top of the cross-section with a thickness of ~ 5-9 m.
286 Below this layer, a very low resistivity zone, with resistivity values ranging between ~50
287 and 200 ohm.m and extending down to at least 20 m depth, is observed (Fig. 8).

288 In the 3D forward magnetic model an initial thickness of approximately 5 m and
289 an average magnetic susceptibility of 4×10^{-3} SI were used to model the till layer covering
290 the rhythmites (Table 1). Such initial thickness is in accordance with the thickness

291 measured in the outcrop. The glacio-lacustrine deposits underlying the till were modeled
292 using the susceptibility and measured NRM parameters shown in Table 1. With the aim of
293 reducing the ambiguity and the uncertainty inherent to the magnetic method, certain aspects
294 of the susceptibility structure during the forward modeling were fixed. Thereby, the
295 minimum thickness, magnetic susceptibility and NRM parameters assigned to the till and
296 rhythmites bodies were predetermined and were not changed. In order to attain a good fit
297 between measured and modeled anomalies, rock bodies to the east, west and beneath the
298 glacial deposits were introduced in the model, with magnetizations dominated by reverse
299 NRMs (Table 1). Our model is composed of 10 parallel E-W sections extending down to 50
300 m. Figure 9 shows five of such sections, displaying measured and calculated anomalies and
301 the corresponding subsurface susceptibility structure. The forward modeled 3D
302 susceptibility structure thoroughly reproduces the measured magnetic field. The residual
303 magnetic anomaly depicts the differences between measured and modeled anomalies (Fig.
304 10). Only less than ~5% of the study area presents residual anomalies greater than ± 5 nT
305 (Fig. 10). These anomalies are of very short wave length and not systematically distributed
306 across the map. Residual anomaly values are tightly concentrated around 0 nT, with a
307 standard deviation of 3.84 nT and a correlation coefficient of 0.97. These results suggest
308 that our model satisfactorily represents the magnetic susceptibility and NRM parameters
309 distribution in the studied area. A 3D view of the measured magnetic anomaly and the
310 modeled 3D structure is showed in Figure 11.

311

312 DISCUSSION

313 The applied geophysical methods are a powerful tool that allowed the estimation
314 of the till and glacio-lacustrine sediments thicknesses and their areal extension in
315 comparison with their surficial morphology.

316 The magnetic maxima would coincide with the presence of the glacio-lacustrine
317 deposits. The high gradient transition zones to the magnetic minima to the E and W would
318 indicate the contacts depicting the extension of such deposits. Most of Euler solutions are
319 located below the elongated magnetic maxima, at average depths ranging between
320 approximately 3–7 m (Fig. 4). These depths of Euler solutions would be in agreement with
321 the average thickness of around 4 m documented for the till layer covering the glacio-
322 lacustrine sediments in Río Valdez outcrop (Fig. 2a). Euler solutions are also concentrated
323 below the high gradient transition zones at average depths ranging between approximately
324 11–20 m (Fig. 4). Spectral methods results agree notably well with the Euler solutions.

325 In order to attain a good fit between measured and modeled anomalies, rock
326 bodies to the east, west and beneath the glacial deposits were introduced in the model, with
327 magnetizations dominated by reverse NRM (Table 1). These bodies would correspond to
328 the lower Cretaceous Beauvoir Formation (Martinioni et al. 2013), which outcrops to the
329 east of the studied area in Cerro Jeujepen. We used a value of magnetic susceptibility of $3 \times$
330 10^{-4} SI (Peroni et al. 2011, Peroni 2012) for Beauvoir Formation. Considering the magnetic
331 susceptibility of the glacio-lacustrine deposits and the parameters used to model Beauvoir
332 Formation (Table 1), the depth to the top of the magnetic layer obtained from spectral
333 methods (Fig. 5) would coincide with the base of the glacio-lacustrine deposits and the top
334 of Beauvoir Formation. From the 3D magnetic model, isopach maps of the till and
335 rhythmites deposits and an isochoric map of the base of the rhythmites were obtained. The
336 thicknesses were compared with the contacts determined from the tilt derivatives (Fig. 12a

337 and b). It can be observed that there is a good correlation between thicknesses less than 2-5
338 m and the 0 and maximum values of the tilt derivative and the horizontal derivative of the
339 tilt derivative, respectively (Figs. 6b, 12a and b). Particularly, in the case of the horizontal
340 derivative of the tilt derivative, maximum values in the center of the studied area coincide
341 with the maximum till thickness, which rapidly decreases to the east and west (Figs. 6a and
342 12a). Furthermore, the till isopach map (Fig. 12a) and the isochoric map of the base of the
343 rhythmites (Fig. 12c) agree notably well with Euler solutions depths (4-7 m for till, 9-20 m
344 for rhythmites) and the depth to the base of the rhythmites calculated applying power
345 density spectra methods (maximum depth of 21-22m) (Fig. 5). These facts suggest that our
346 3D magnetic model is a robust characterization of the subsurface distribution of the glacial
347 sedimentary units.

348 The location of the glacial deposits contacts, determined from the tilt derivatives
349 of the magnetic anomalies, 3D magnetic modelling and Euler deconvolution, indicates their
350 extension. Such deposits would have a maximum E-W extension of ~ 220 m and a
351 minimum NNW-SSE extension of 180 m. The maximum NNW-SSE extension could not
352 be determined because to the south of the surveyed area there are buildings, fences, pipes,
353 etc., that would introduce considerable noise in the magnetic measurements. The till sheet
354 would have an average thickness of approximately 5-6 m, reaching maximum values of 10-
355 11 m to the south of the studied area.

356 In the case of the resistivity inverse model, the high resistivity layer would
357 correspond to the till deposit that covers the glacio-lacustrine sediments, which, in turn,
358 would be depicted by the low resistivity zone. The till thickness deduced from the inverse
359 resistivity modeling coincides with the depths obtained through Euler deconvolution and
360 power density spectra methods of the magnetic anomalies. A minimum thickness of

361 approximately 11- 15 m is estimated for the glacio-lacustrine sediments, in agreement with
362 Euler deconvolution and power density spectra methods. It is important to highlight that it
363 was not possible to reach the necessary investigation depths to estimate the real thickness of
364 the rhythmites because the surveyed zone is covered by a dense forest, which hindered
365 attaining larger distances between current electrodes. However, Euler deconvolution,
366 spectral methods and 3D modelling of the magnetic anomalies provided coincident results,
367 suggesting an average thickness of the glacio-lacustrine deposits of approximately 20 m,
368 with maximum values of 22-23 m in the center of the studied area.

369 Unfortunately, there is no information about glacial sedimentation rates during the
370 Pleistocene in Tierra del Fuego that could help to constrain the age of this deposit.

371 Sedimentation rates of Potrok Aike lake (51°58' S- 70°22' O) can be used to make a rough
372 estimation of how long Río Valdez lake system was operative, assuming a continuous
373 sedimentation process of rhythmites and taking into account that Potrok Aike was not an
374 ice-marginal lake during Pleistocene. From the obtained thickness of 20 meters and
375 assuming an average sedimentation rate ranging between 0.37 and 8.5 mm/year, similar to
376 that of Potrok Aike lake (Kliem et al. 2013), it is possible to estimate the lapse involved
377 during the deposition of the studied glacio-lacustrine deposits. Considering that Río Valdez
378 sediments are rhythmites, we used the minimum sedimentation rate determined for Potrok
379 Aike lake of 0.37 mm/year, estimating that these deposits could represent a maximum
380 deposition lapse of 54,054 years. This estimation is in accordance with the fossil peat ages
381 obtained in the surrounding tills by Bujalesky et al. (1997) and Coronato et al. (2009).
382 Fossil peat contained in the lower basal till deposits in the area by Coronato et al. (2009)
383 yielded ^{14}C dates of $31,000 \pm 510 - 48,200 \pm 3300$ years BP. These dating assays were
384 made at the NSF Arizona AMS Facility, Arizona University (Coronato et al. 2009). This

385 data indicate that a glacial advance took place in the area prior to the Last Glacial
386 Maximum (ca. 25,000–23,000 cal. years BP). Then, our hypothesis is consistent with
387 previous findings in the area, which indicate that glaciers were present before MIS 2.

388 We propose that our results would suggest that the natural dam that promoted the
389 paleolake and their related lacustrine sediments could have been active probably ca. 57,000
390 yrs BP, approximately near the boundary between MIS 3 and 4 (sensu Lisiecki and Raymo
391 2005). In order to further constrain the above mentioned hypothesis, absolute dates for Río
392 Valdez deposits would be necessary.

393

394 CONCLUSIONS

395 A maximum E-W and a minimum NNW-SSE extension of Río Valdez glacial
396 deposits of approximately 220 m and 180 m, respectively, were determined, increasing the
397 surficial dimensions obtained by field and mapping surveys.

398 An average thickness of 20 m was estimated for the glacio-lacustrine deposits,
399 while the overlying till sheet average thickness would be of 5-6 m.

400 From the geophysically obtained thickness, and assuming an average
401 sedimentation rate of 0.37 mm/year (similar to that of Potrok Aike lake), we estimate that
402 these deposits could represent a maximum deposition lapse of 54,054 years. This
403 estimation is consistent with previous findings in the area, which indicate that glaciers were
404 present before MIS 2.

405 We propose that our results would suggest that the natural dam that promoted the
406 paleolake and their related lacustrine sediments could have been active probably ca. 57,000
407 yrs BP, approximately near the boundary between MIS 3 and 4.

408 These results reveal information not possible to obtain from the exposure outcrop
409 and help to reconstruct palaeo-glaciological conditions in a glacial junction area. By the
410 other side, they will help to calculate deposition rates once absolute dates are available.

411 This study demonstrates the usefulness of geophysical methods applied to
412 Quaternary studies.

413

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556

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558

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562 by Editor-in-Chief Professor van Kolschoten are also very appreciated.

563

564 FIGURE CAPTIONS

565

566 Figure 1: Satellite images showing the location of the studied zone. White dots: magnetic
567 stations. A labelled black rectangle: geophysically surveyed area.

568

569 Figure 2: a) Outcrop of the studied glacial deposits at Río Valdez mouth. A brown
570 yellowish till sheet, with a thickness of 4-5 m, covers the 7 m thick gray rhythmites. b)
571 Lamination of the glacio-lacustrine rhythmic deposits.

572

573 Figure 3: Magnetic anomaly detected in the studied area. Black dots: magnetic stations.
574 Location of surveyed area is shown in Figure 1 (A labelled black rectangle).

575

576 Figure 4: a) Euler solutions laid over the magnetic anomaly, calculated using a $SI=1$ and a
577 window size of 35 m. b) Euler solutions laid over the magnetic anomaly, calculated using a
578 $SI=1$ and a window size of 70 m. Location of surveyed area is shown in Figure 1 (A
579 labelled black rectangle).

580

581 Figure 5: Depth to the top of the magnetic layer (i.e. depth to the base of the glacio-
582 lacustrine deposits outcropping in Río Valdez) obtained through power density spectra
583 methods, using 35x35m square windows with an overlap of 95%. Location of surveyed
584 area is shown in Figure 1 (A labelled black rectangle).

585

586 Figure 6: a) Tilt derivative of the upward continued reduced to the pole magnetic
587 anomalies, showing the location of the contacts of the glacial deposits through the 0
588 contour lines. Black lines: 0 contour lines. b) Horizontal derivative of the tilt derivative of
589 the upward continued reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies, showing the location of the
590 contacts of the glacial deposits through its maximum values. Black lines: maximum values
591 contour lines. Location of surveyed area is shown in Figure 1 (A labelled black rectangle).

592

593 Figure 7: Magnetic anomalies detected in the study area showing the location of the five
594 VES carried out. White numbers: location of each VES. Black arrow: cross-section along
595 which the VESs were integrated. Location of surveyed area is shown in Figure 1 (A
596 labelled black rectangle).

597

598 Figure 8: a) Top: measured apparent resistivity pseudosection. Middle: calculated apparent
599 resistivity pseudosection. Bottom: inverse resistivity model section. Black arrows: location
600 of each VES. b) Vertical exaggerated inverse resistivity model section.

601

602 Figure 9: Parallel E-W vertical sections composing our 3D forward magnetic model of the
603 study area. Continuous green line: measured magnetic anomaly, Dashed green line:
604 modeled magnetic anomaly.

605

606 Figure 10: Residual magnetic anomaly of the studied area. Black lines: contour lines.

607

608 Figure 11: 3D view of the magnetic model of the study zone, showing measured magnetic
609 anomaly.

610

611 Figure 12: a) Isopach map of the till deposits overlaid by the Euler solutions calculated
612 using a $SI=1$ and a window size of 70 m. Orange line: 0 contour line of the tilt derivative of
613 the upward continued reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies. b) Isopach map of the
614 glacio-lacustrine rhythmic deposits. Orange line: 0 contour line of the tilt derivative of the
615 upward continued reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies. c) Isochoric map of the base of
616 the glacio-lacustrine rhythmic deposits overlaid by the Euler solutions calculated using a

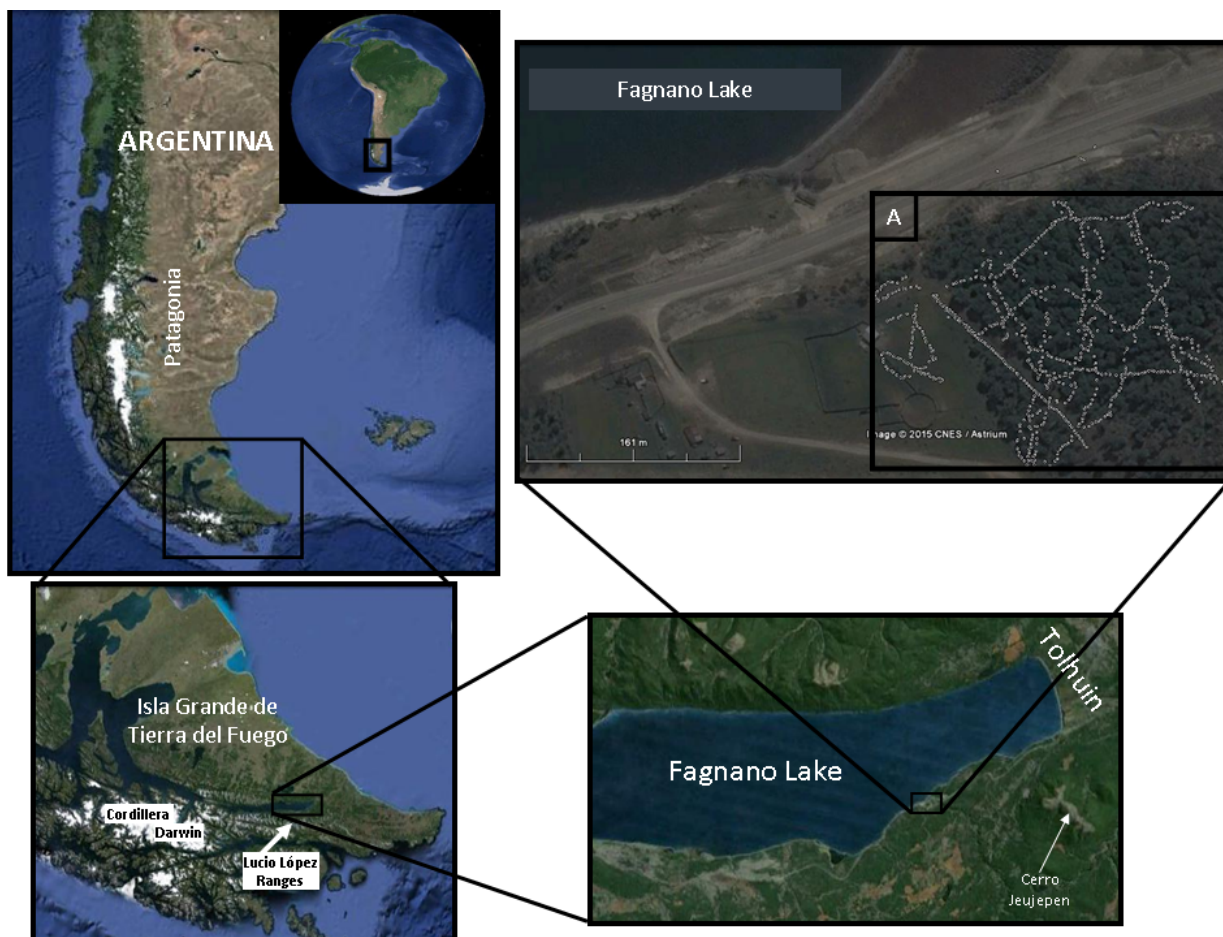
617 SI=1 and a window size of 70 m. Orange line: 0 contour line of the tilt derivative of the
618 upward continued reduced to the pole magnetic anomalies. Location of surveyed area is
619 shown in Figure 1 (A labelled black rectangle).

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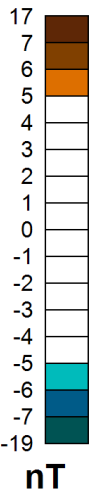
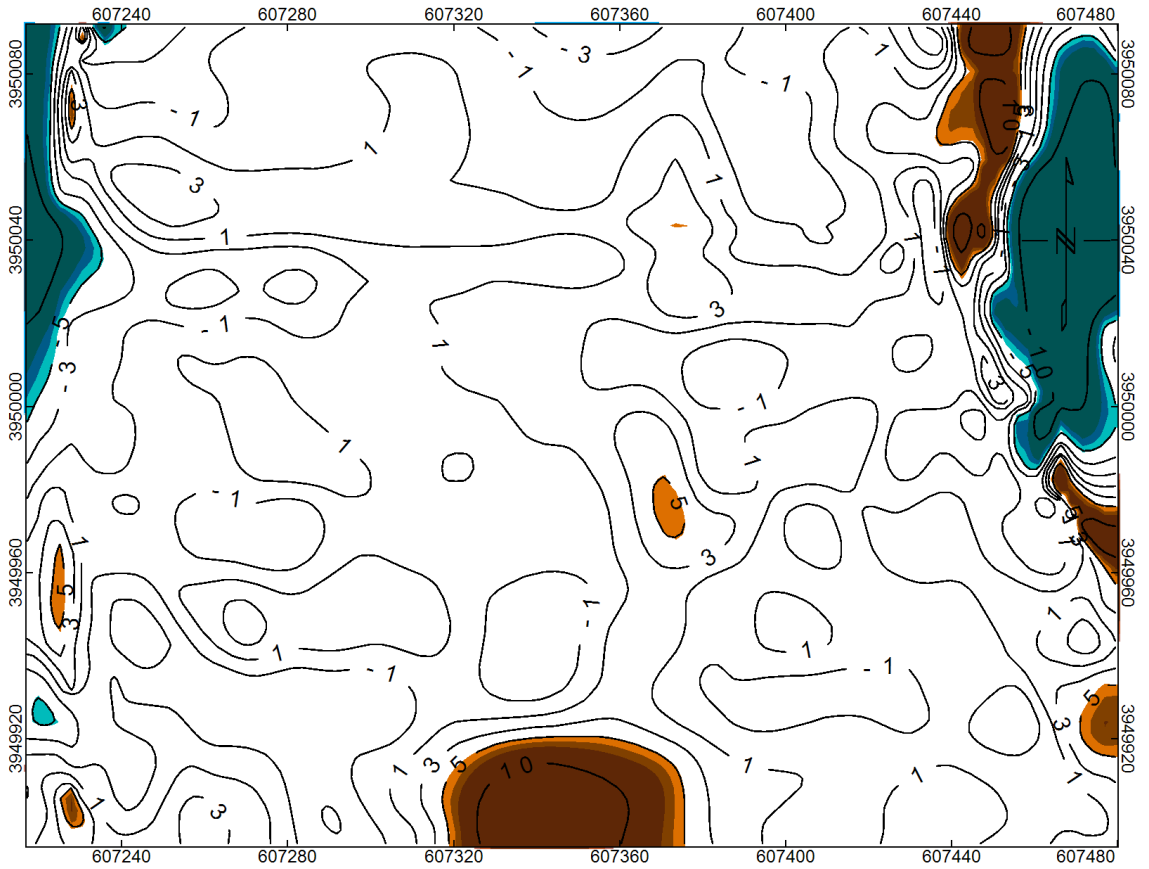
621 Table 1: Declination and inclination of the natural remnant magnetization, magnetic
622 susceptibility and Koenisberger ratio of the different geologic units considered in the 3D
623 forward magnetic model.

Bodies	Natural Remanent Magnetization		Susceptibility	Köenisberger
	Declination (°)	Inclination (°)	SI	Ratio
Till sheet	0	0	0.004	0
Glacio-lacustrine deposits	11	-56.5	0.000141	3.13
Beauvoir Formation east	183	71	0.0003	20
Beauvoir Formation west	183	71	0.0003	1
Beauvoir Formation beneath	183	71	0.0003	20

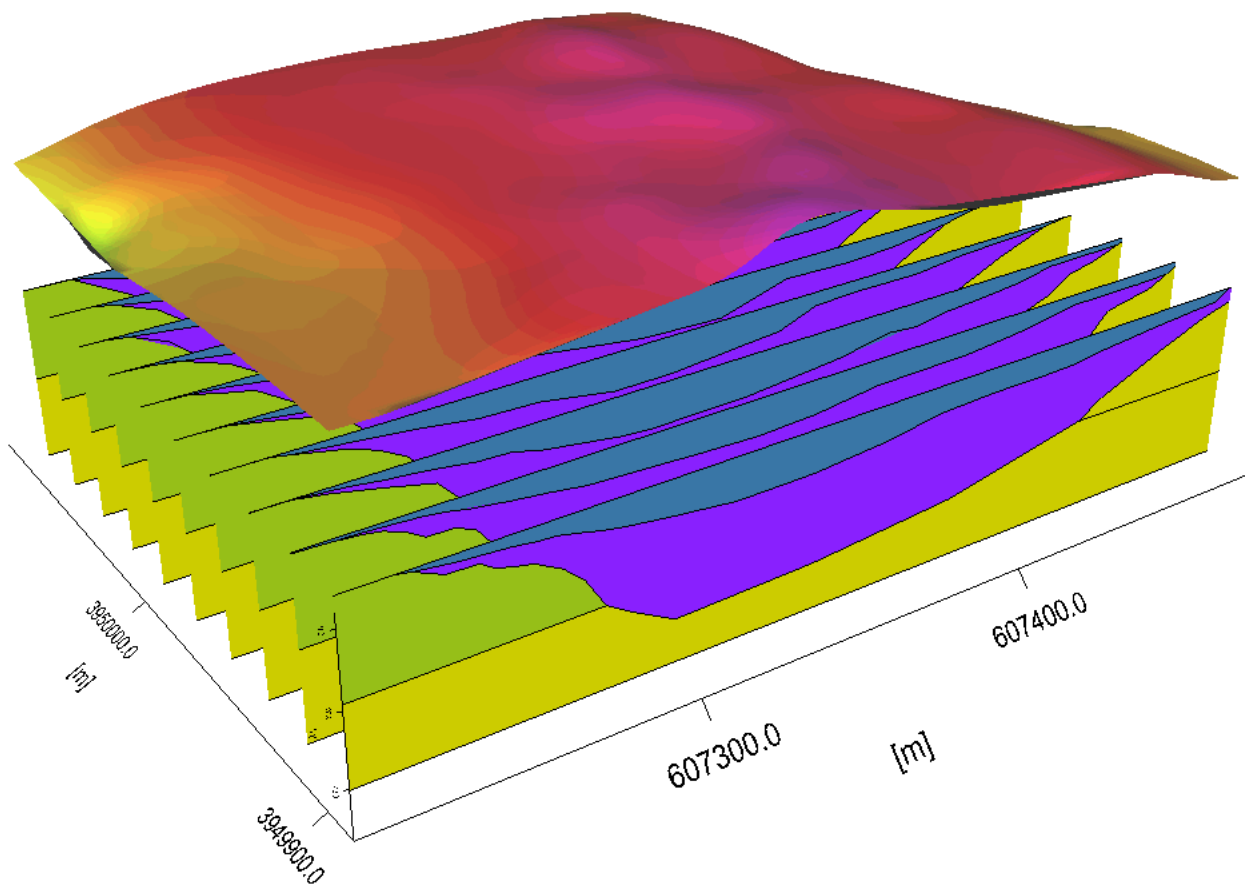
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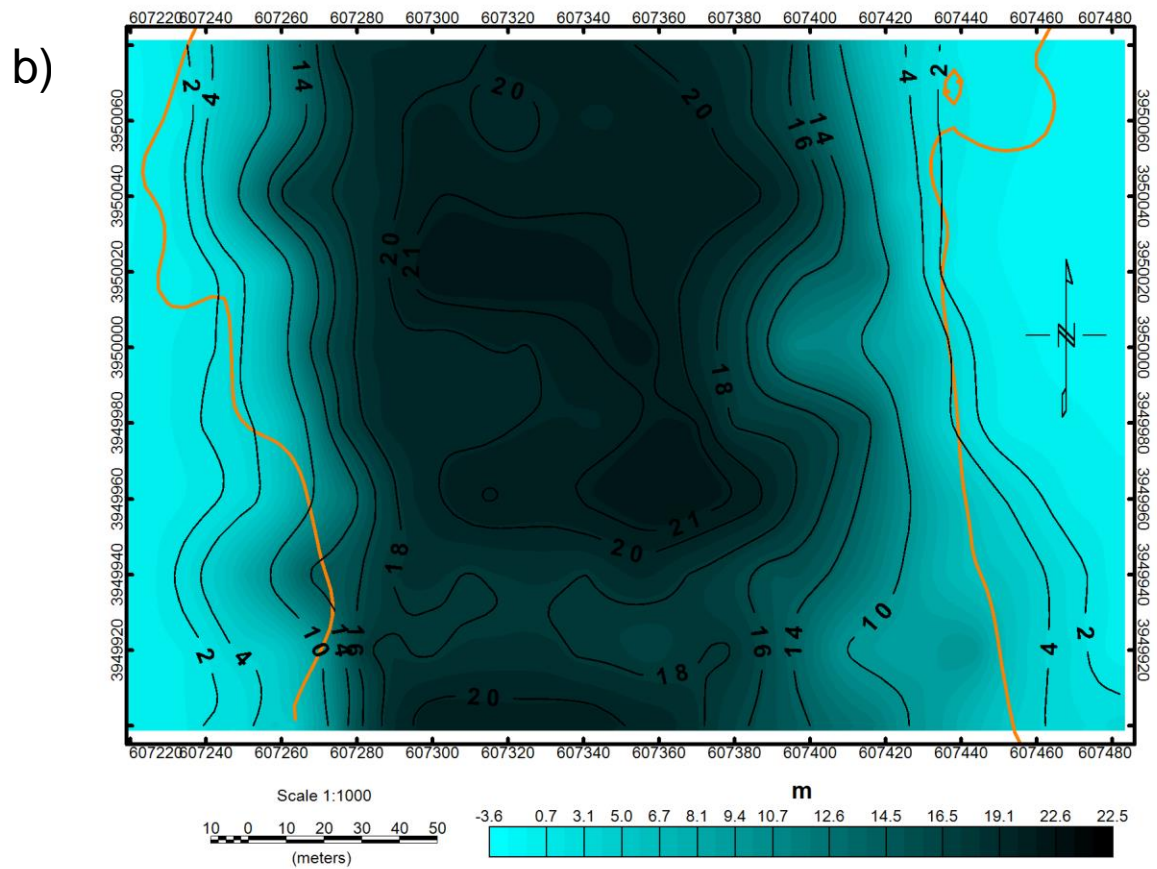
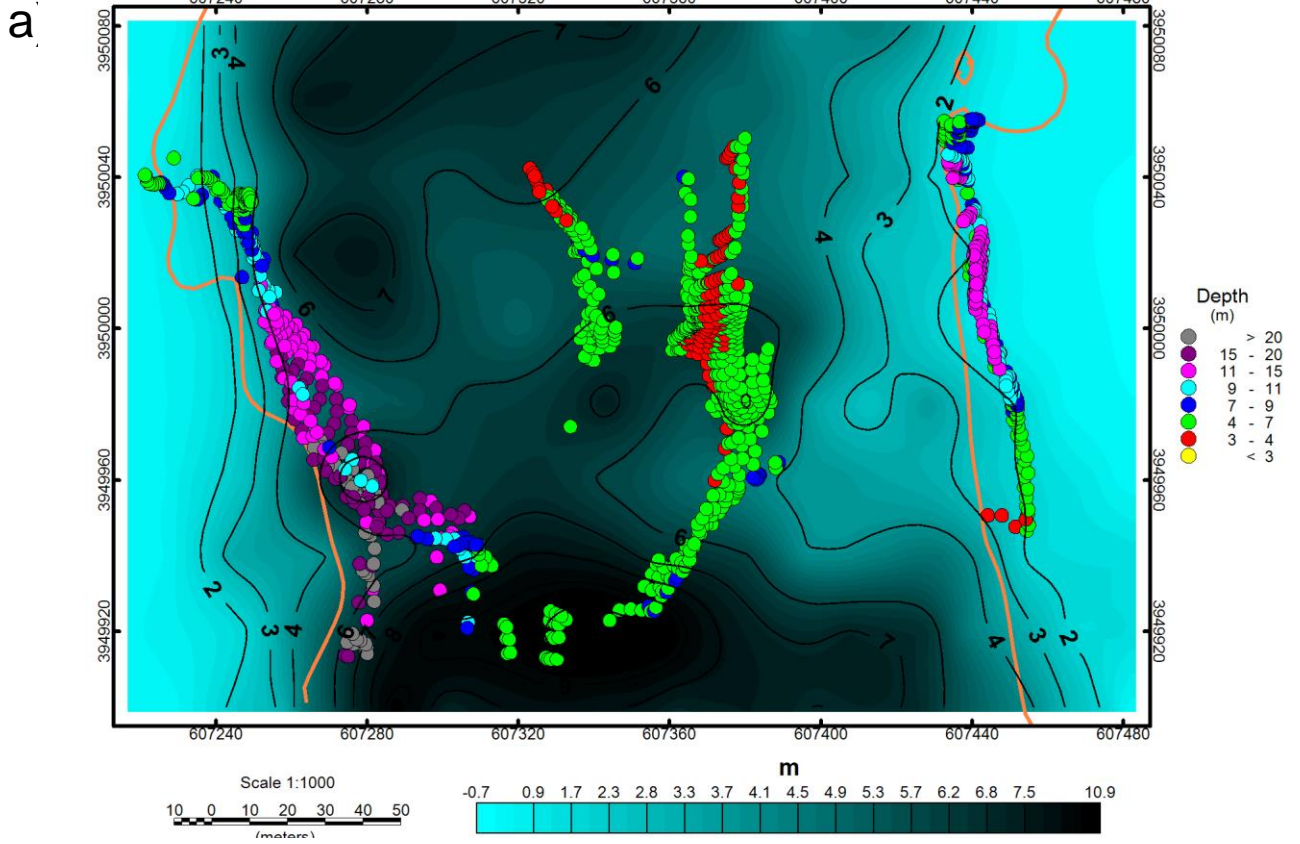


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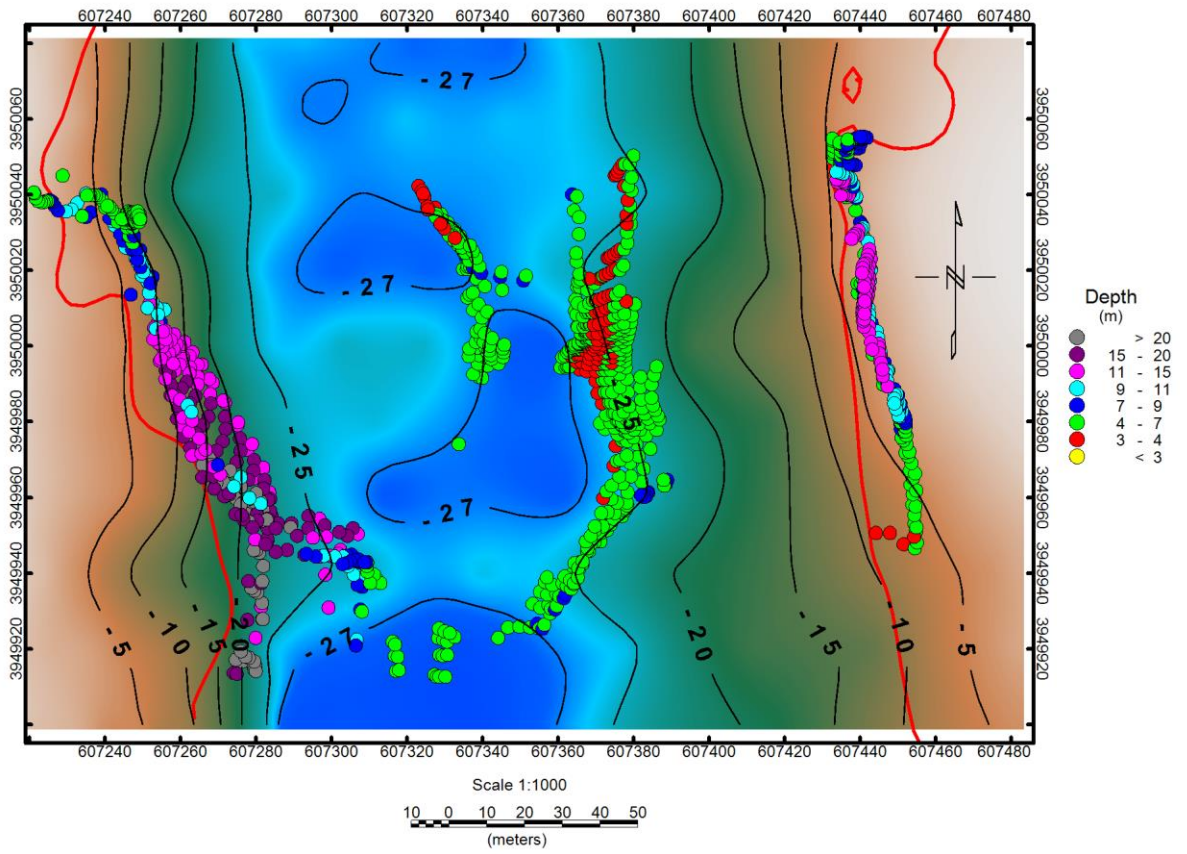


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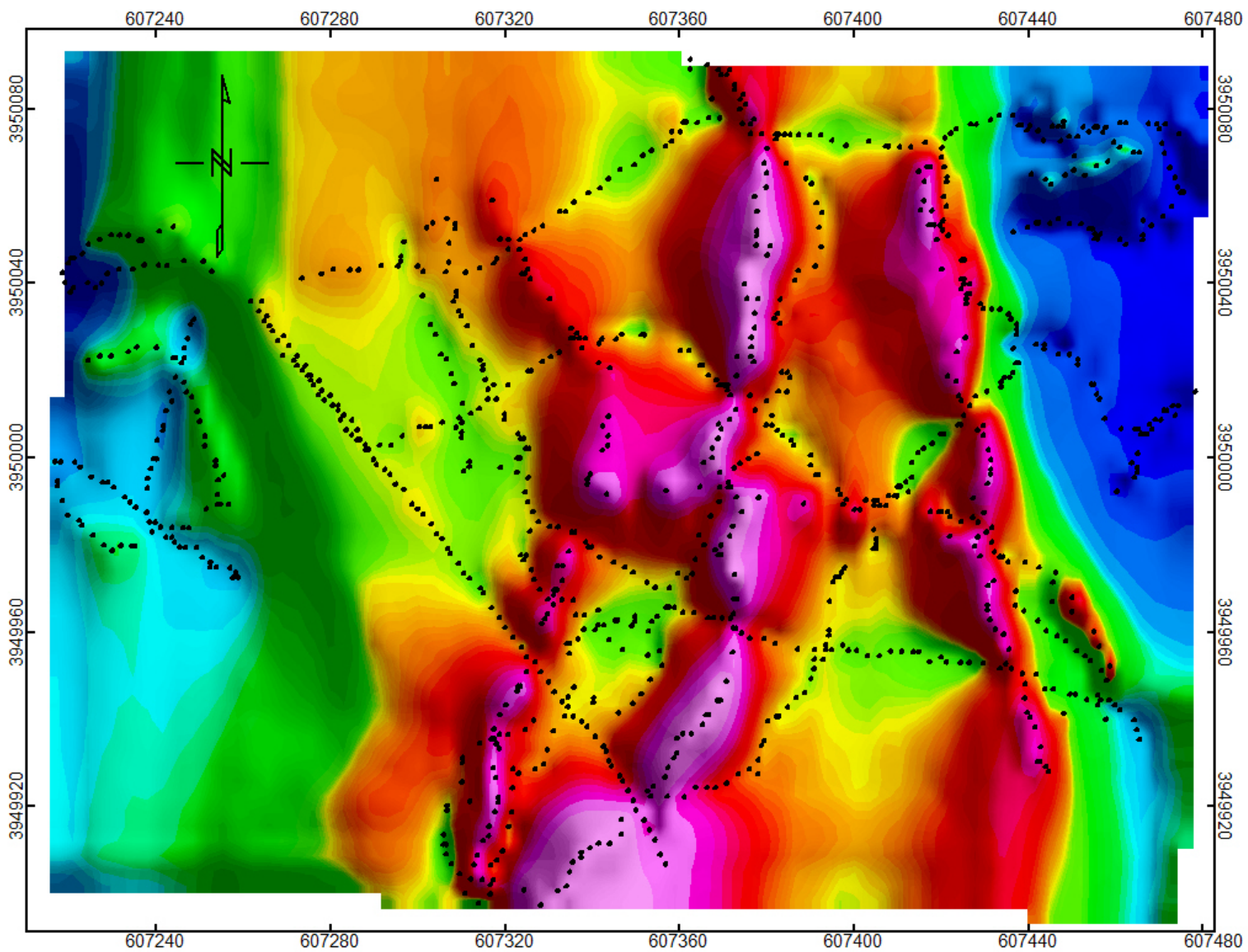


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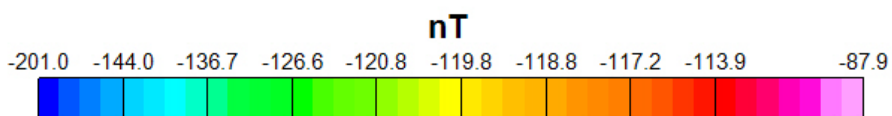


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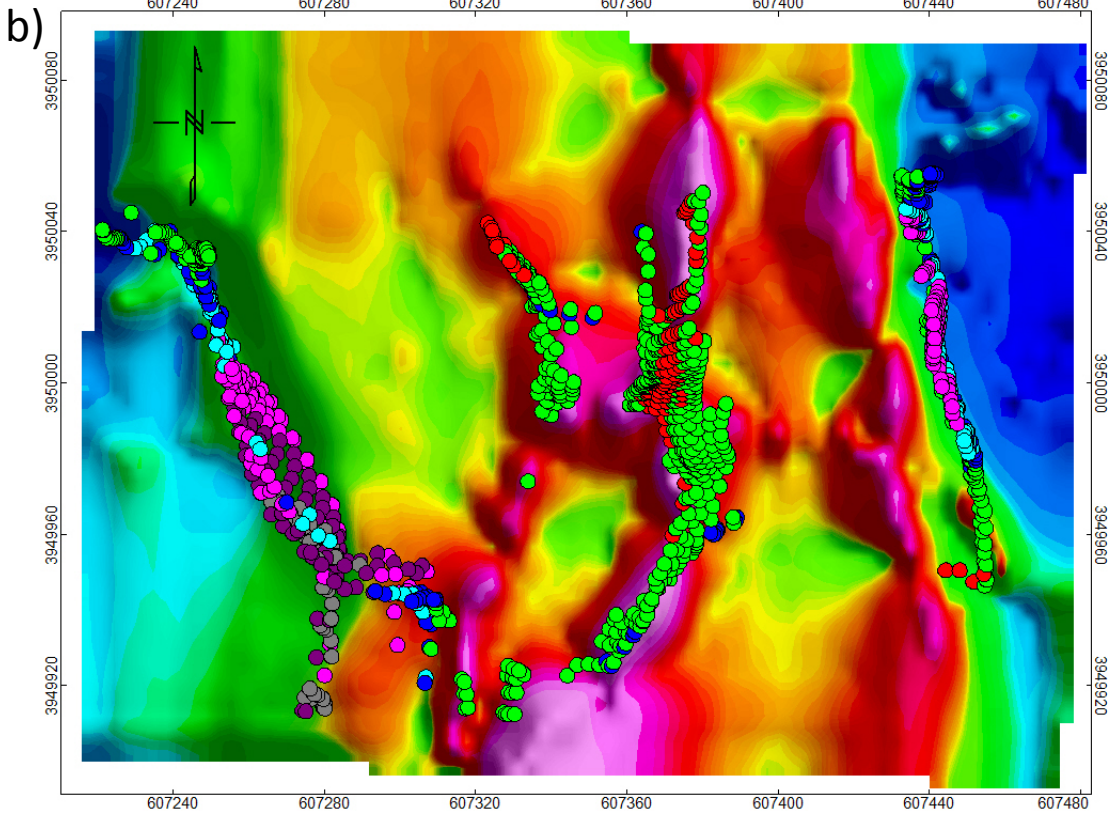
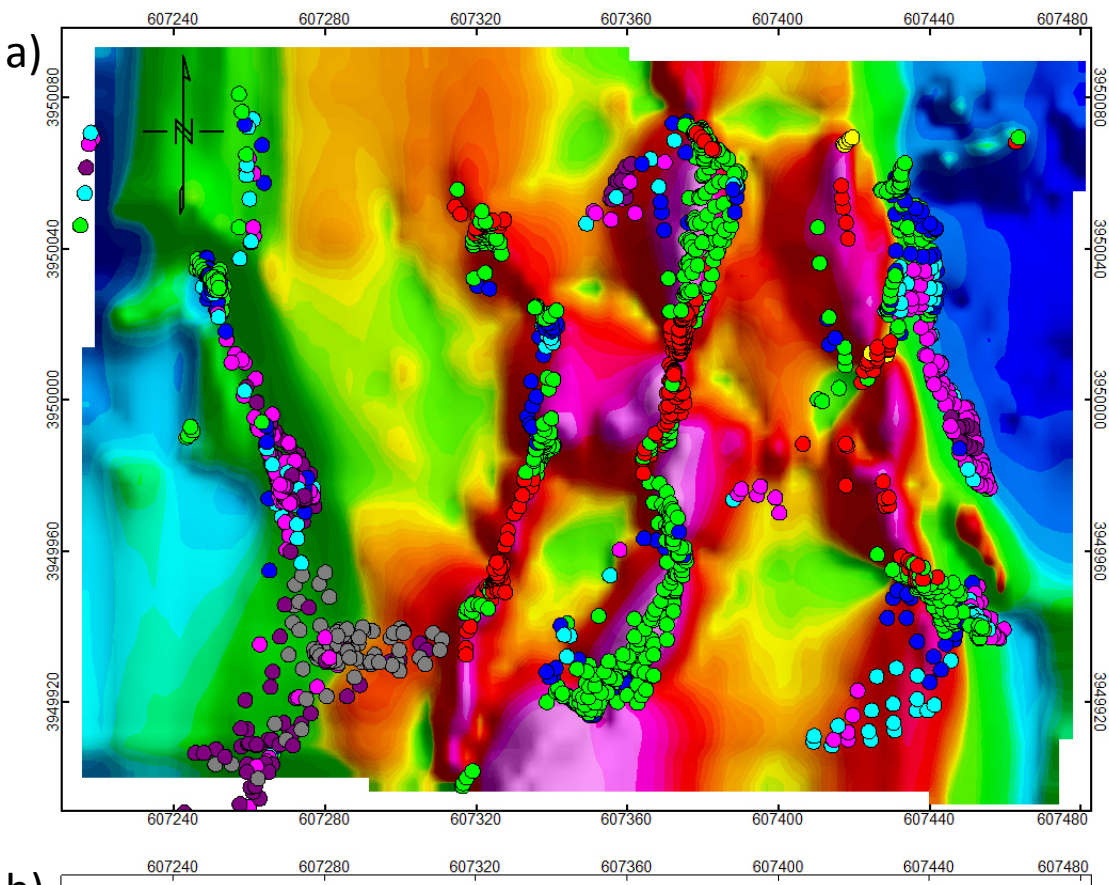




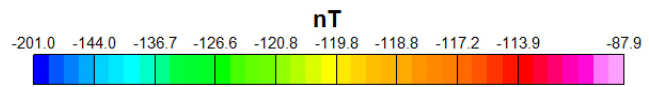
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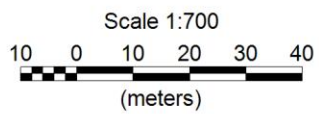
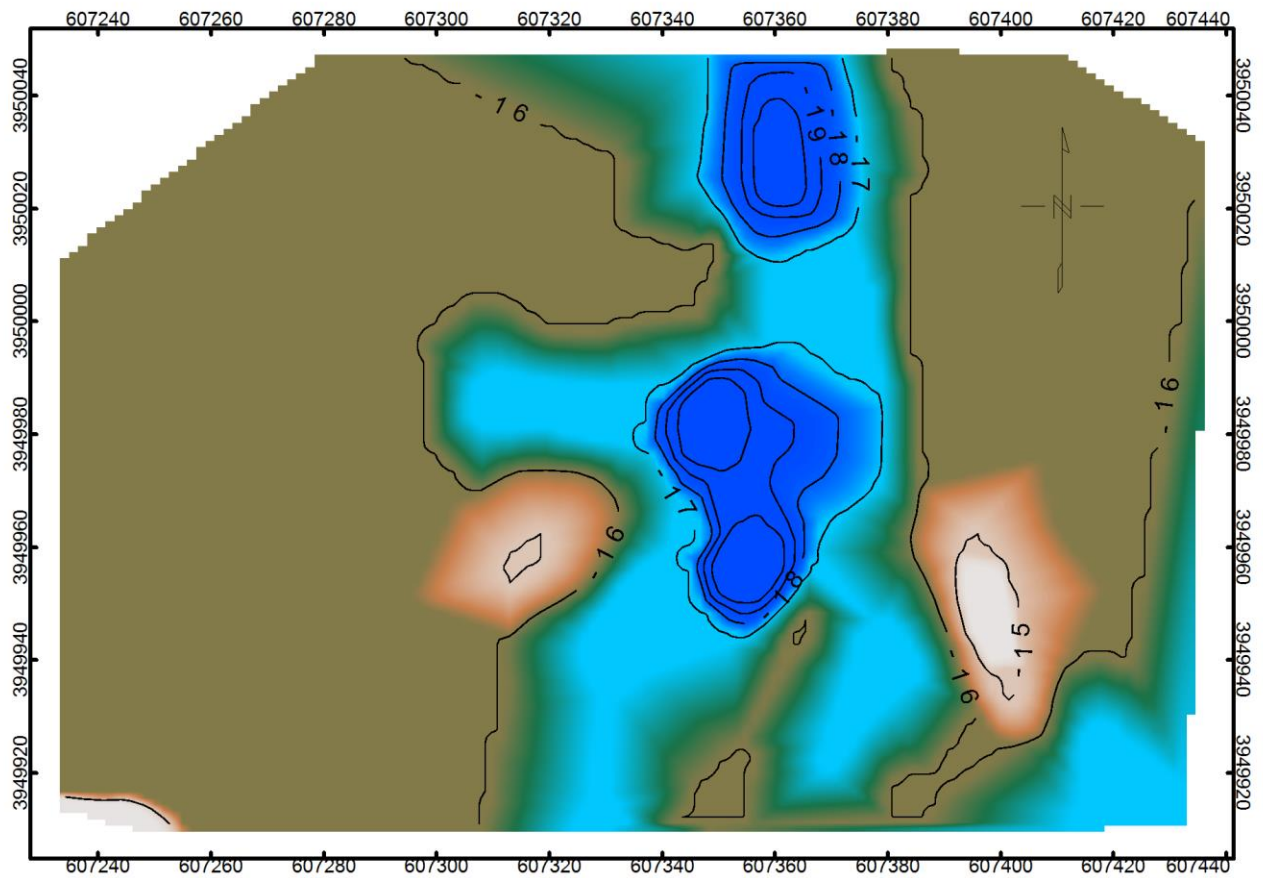


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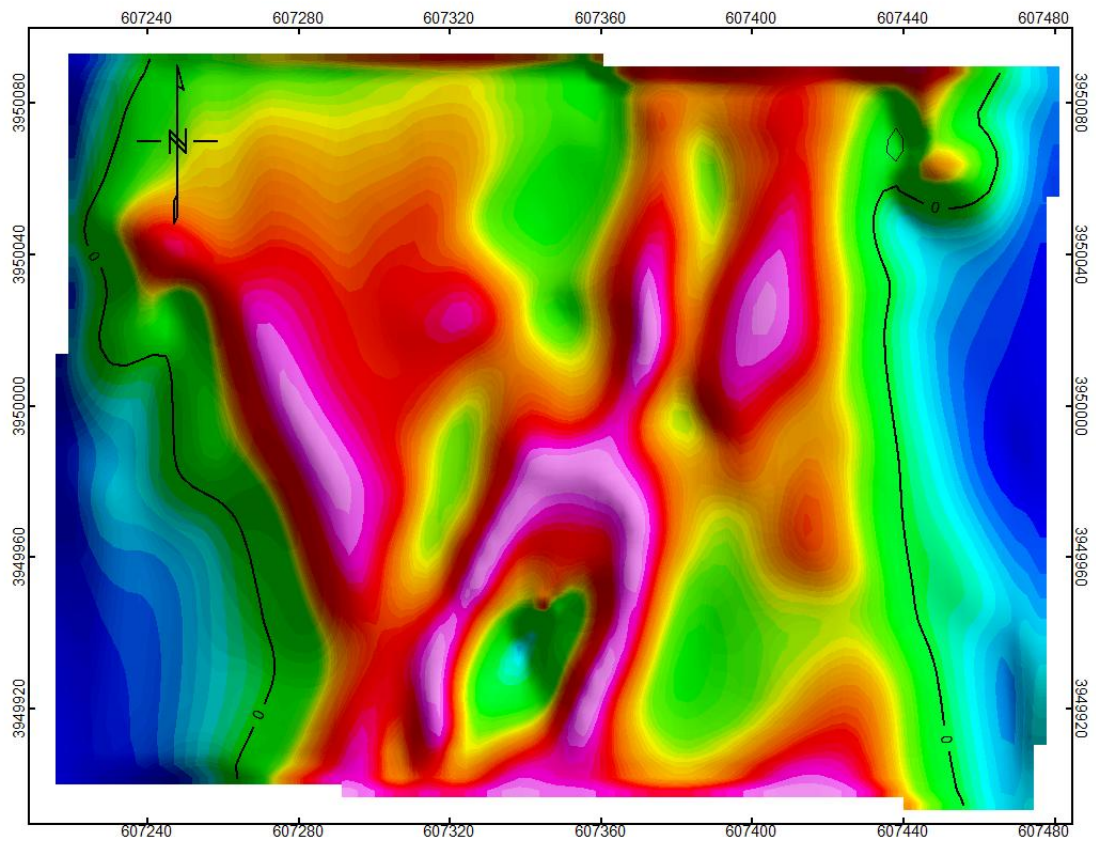


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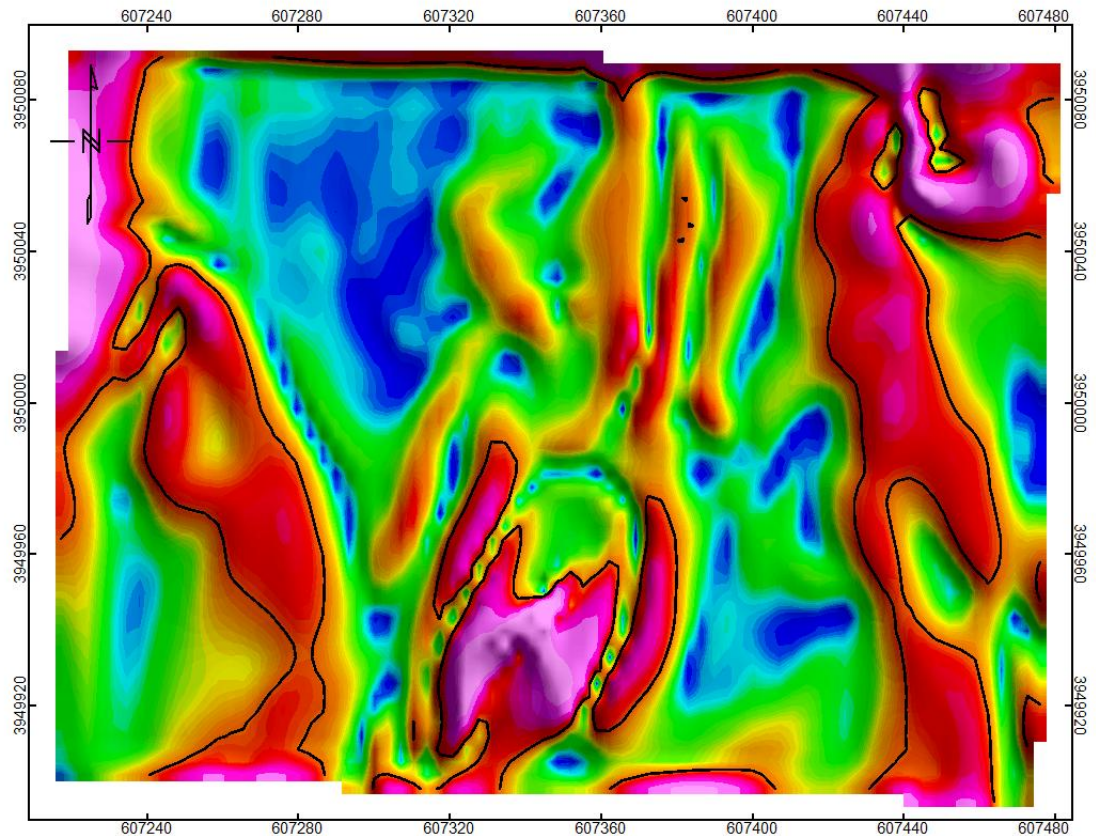




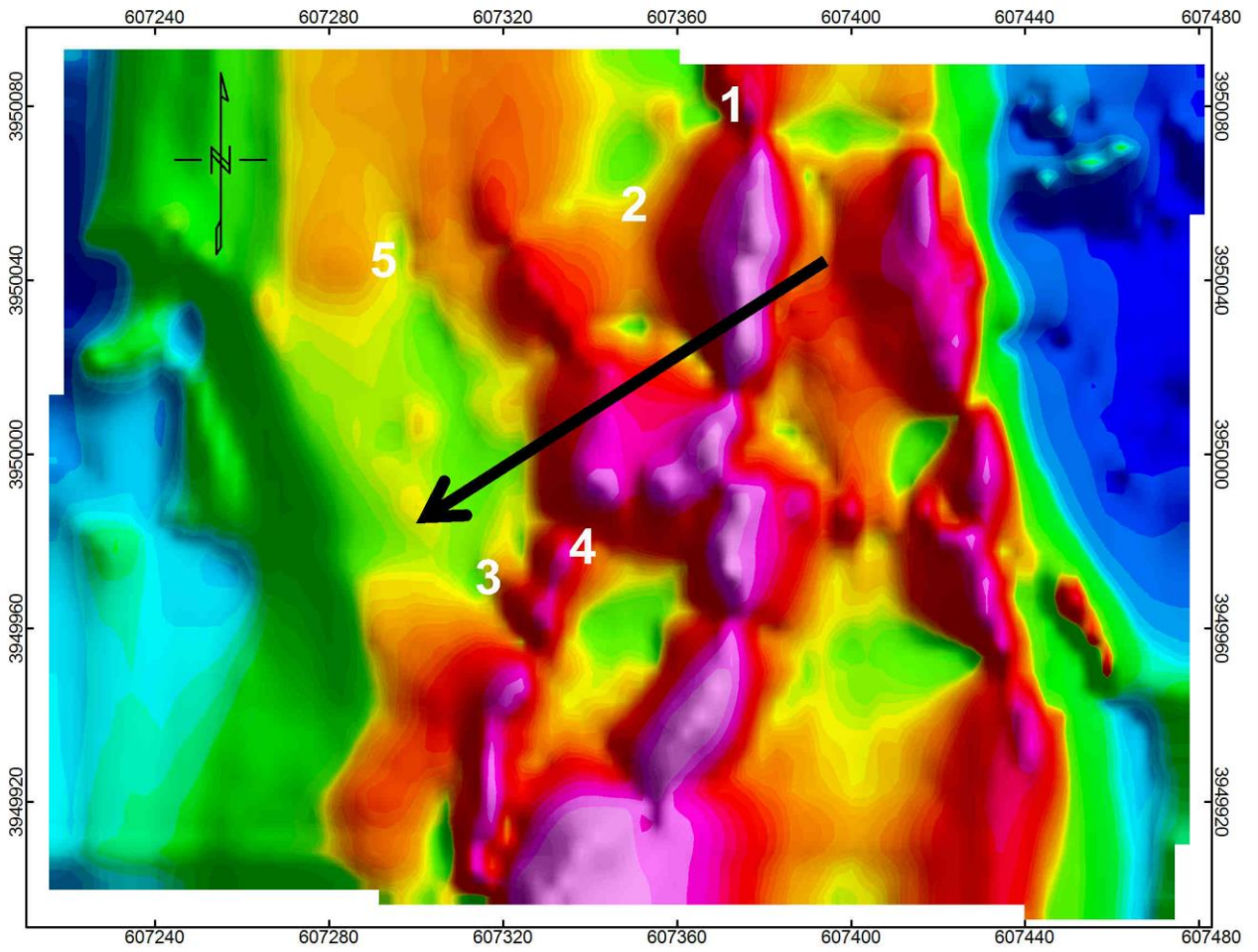
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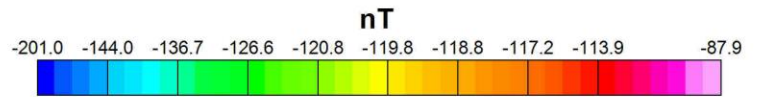
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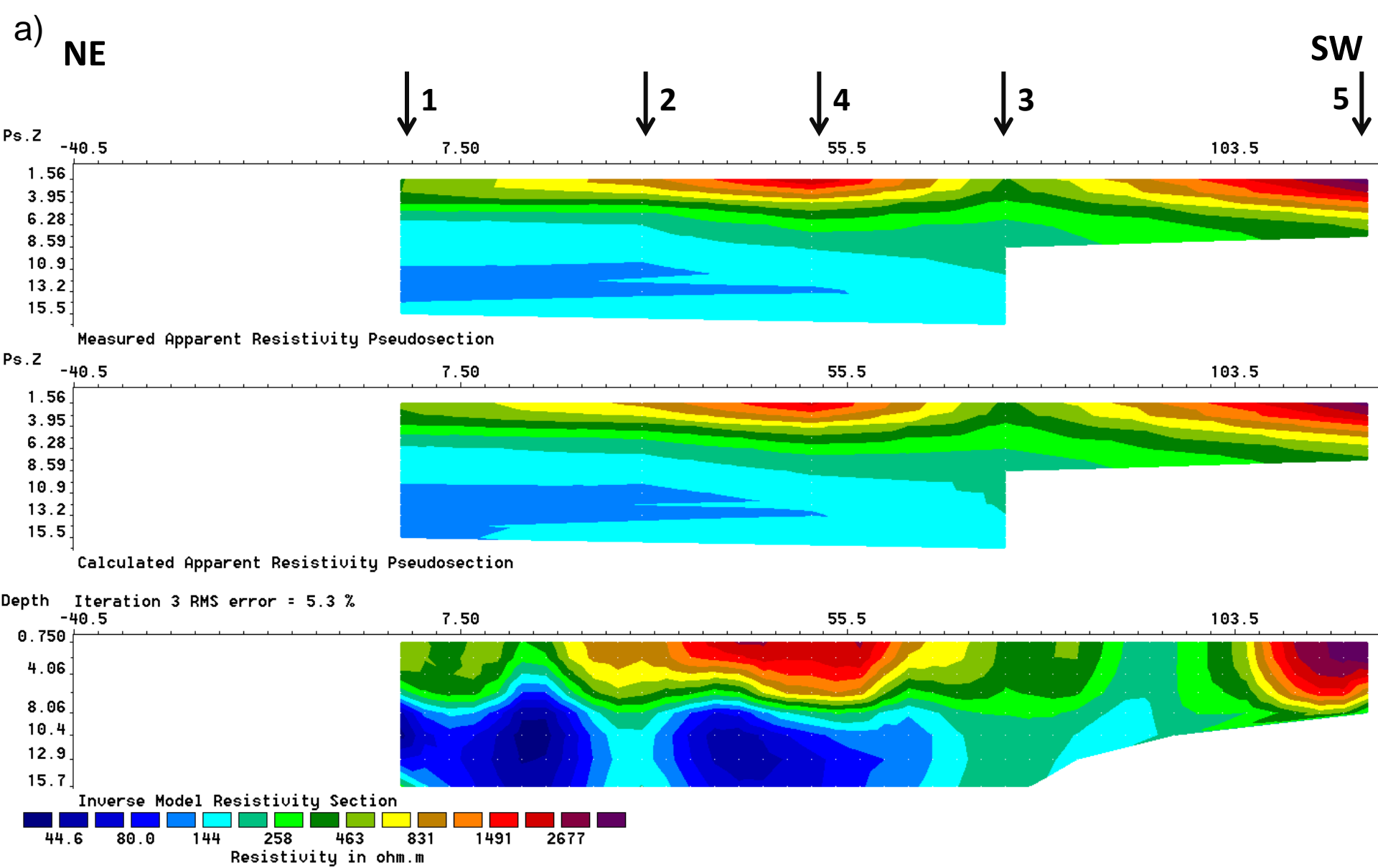


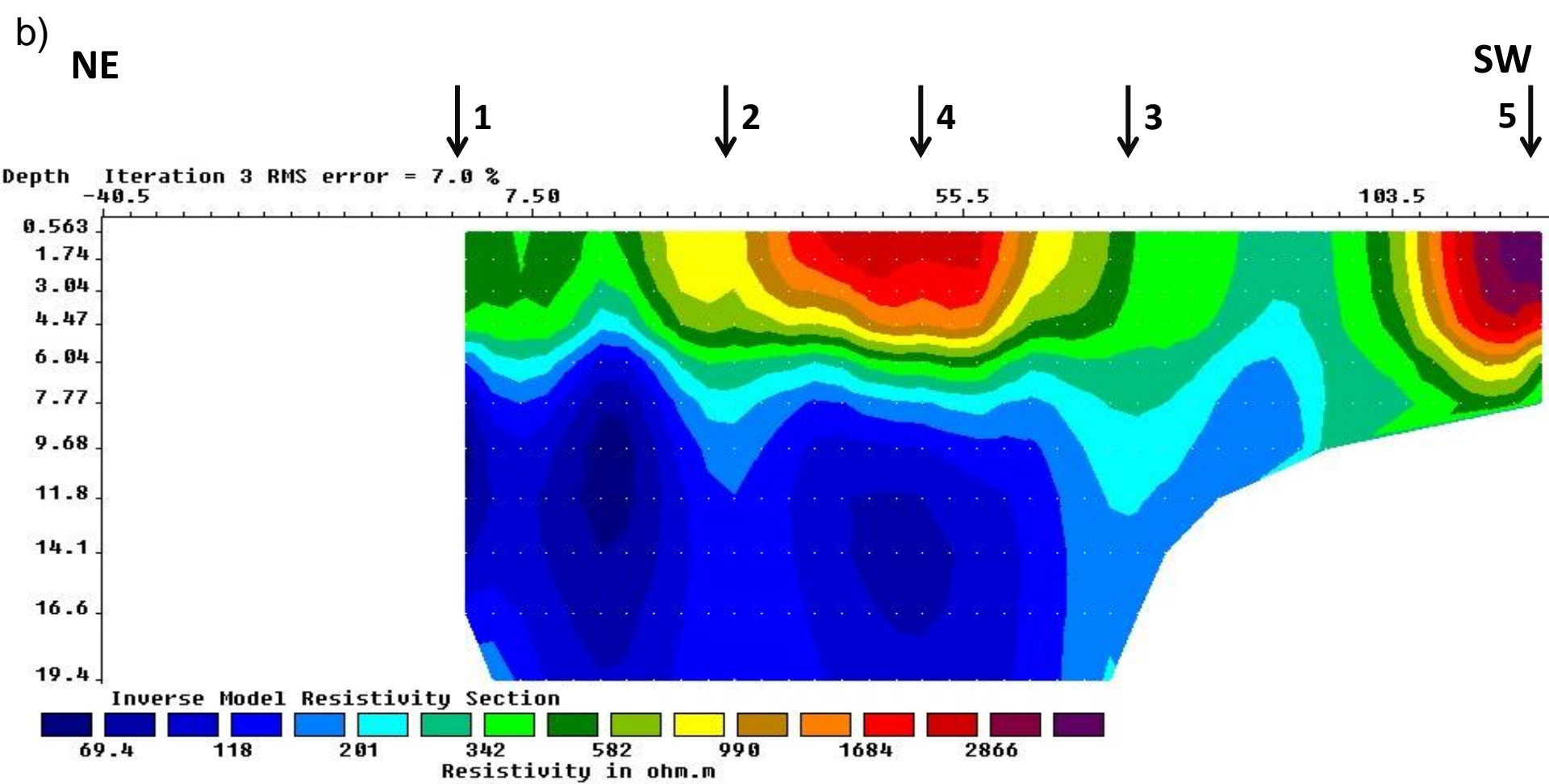
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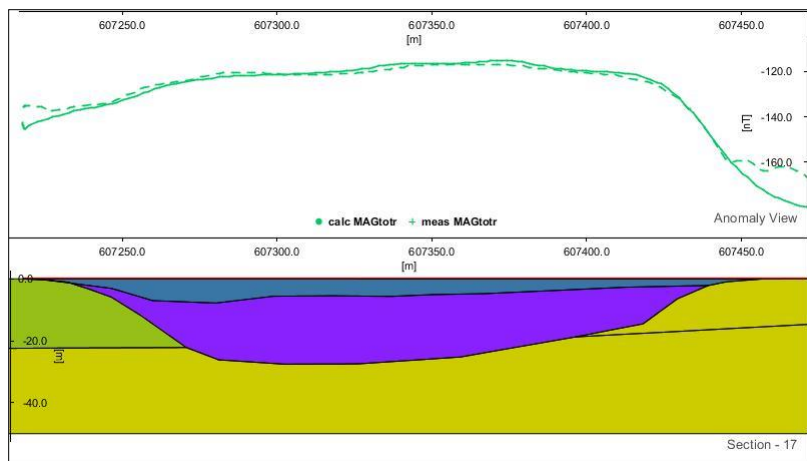
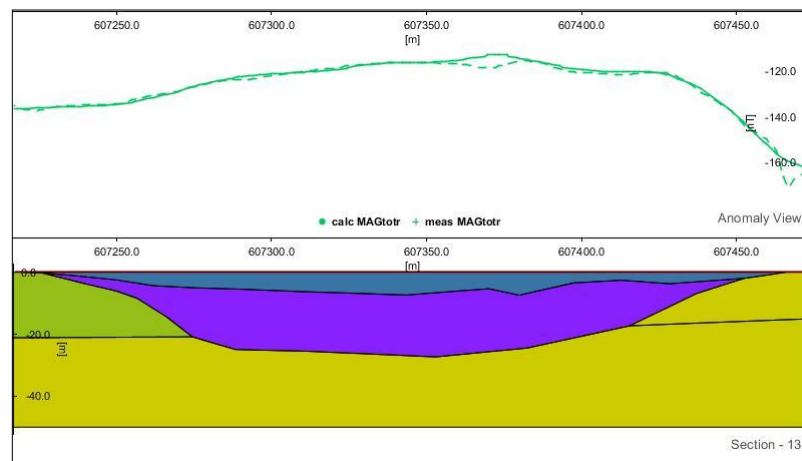
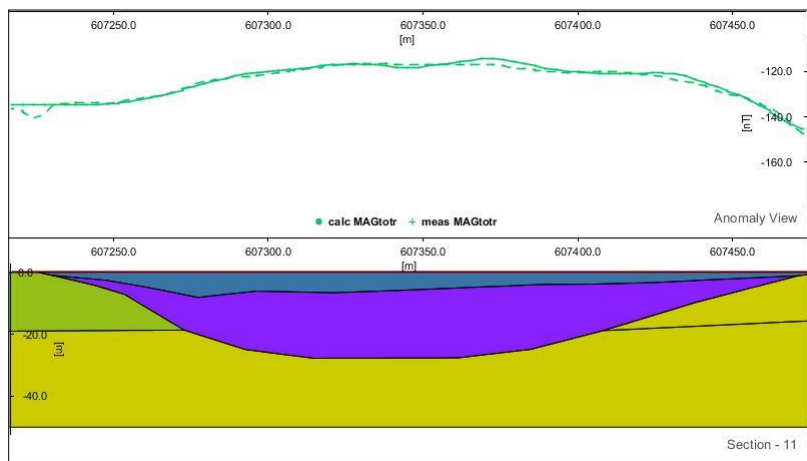
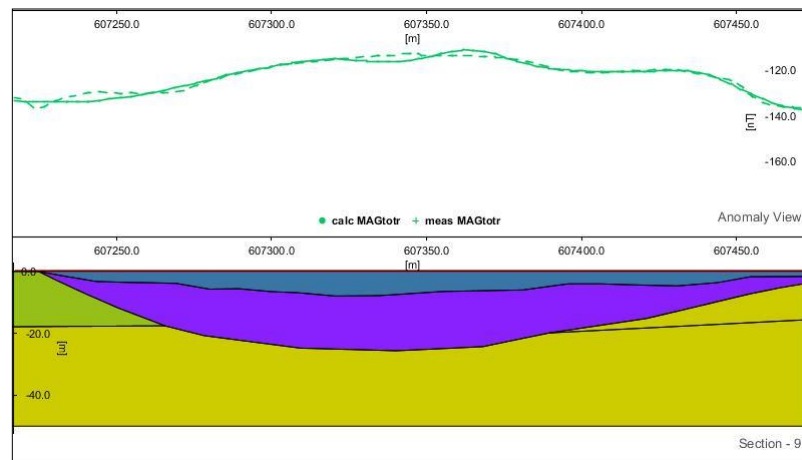
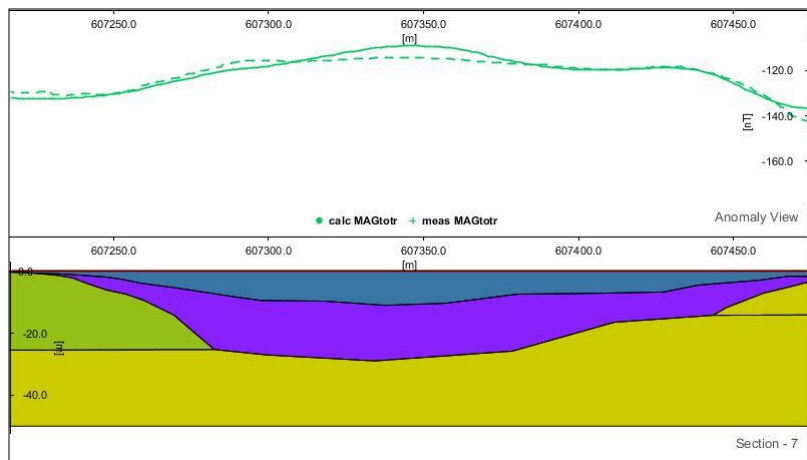


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- Till
- Glacio-lacustrine deposits
- Beauvoir Formation

We wish to confirm that there are no known conflicts of interest associated with this publication and there has been no significant financial support for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

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