



**The hydrogeological information in cross-borehole complex conductivity data from an unconsolidated conglomeratic sedimentary aquifer**

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9 2 **The hydrogeological information in cross-borehole complex conductivity data**  
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11 3 **from an unconsolidated conglomeratic sedimentary aquifer**  
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23 8 Right Running Head: Cross-borehole complex conductivity  
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## 17 ABSTRACT

18 Accurate estimation of the hydrological properties of near-surface aquifers is important since  
19 these properties strongly influence groundwater flow and solute transport. Laboratory-based  
20 investigations have indicated that induced polarization (IP) properties of porous media may be  
21 linked, through either semi-empirical or fully mechanistic models, to hydrological properties,  
22 including hydraulic conductivity. There is, therefore, a need for field assessments of the value of  
23 IP measurements in providing insights into the hydrological properties of aquifers. A cross-  
24 borehole IP survey was carried out at the Boise Hydrogeophysical Research Site (BHRS), an  
25 unconsolidated fluvial aquifer which has previously been well studied with a variety of  
26 geophysical and hydrogeological techniques. High quality IP measurements were inverted, with  
27 careful consideration of the data error structure, to provide a 3-D distribution of complex  
28 electrical conductivity values. The inverted distribution was further simplified using *k*-means  
29 cluster analysis to divide the inverted volume into discrete zones with horizontal layering.  
30 Identified layers based on complex electrical conductivity inversions are in broad agreement with  
31 stratigraphic units identified in previous studies at the site. Although mostly subtle variations in  
32 the phase angle are recovered through inversion of field data, greater contrasts in the IP data are  
33 evident at some unit boundaries. However, in coarse grained aquifers, such as the BHRS, the  
34 discrimination of mildly contrasting lithologic units and associated changes in hydraulic  
35 conductivity of one or two orders of magnitude are unlikely to be achieved through field IP  
36 surveys. Despite the difficulty of differentiating subtle differences between all units, overall  
37 estimates of hydraulic conductivity purely from our field IP data are typically within an order of  
38 magnitude of independently-measured values.

## 40 INTRODUCTION

41  
42 Three-dimensional (3-D) high-resolution information on shallow subsurface structure is needed  
43 to improve understanding of groundwater flow, vadose zone moisture dynamics and solute  
44 transport. Such structural information can improve conceptual models required to develop  
45 realistic flow and transport simulations. Geophysical imaging has been extensively employed for  
46 this purpose, driven by technological developments that permit faster and less expensive  
47 acquisition of 3-D datasets (e.g. Griffiths and Turnbull, 1985; Loke et al., 2013; Stummer et al.,  
48 2002). Beyond structural information, it may be possible to estimate hydraulic properties (e.g.,  
49 porosity ( $\emptyset$ ), or ultimately hydraulic conductivity ( $K$ )) if reliable petrophysical relations can be  
50 applied to geophysical images. In particular, the determination of  $K$  distributions from  
51 geophysical images has been extensively pursued, although experience suggests that achieving  
52 this goal requires information from more than a single type of geophysical measurement (e.g.  
53 Doetsch et al., 2012; Jardani et al., 2013).

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55 Electrical methods hold significant promise because of established physical links to  
56 hydrogeological parameters (e.g.,  $\emptyset$ , pore size distribution, grain size distribution and surface  
57 area) which influence  $K$  (e.g. Revil and Florsch, 2010; Slater and Lesmes, 2002b). Furthermore,  
58 electrical measurements can be acquired over a wide range of scales and with different methods,  
59 electrode types and configurations. The DC resistivity imaging method has been widely applied  
60 (e.g. Bentley and Gharibi, 2004; Cassiani et al., 2006; Jardani et al., 2013) but is limited in that  
61 quantitative hydrogeological information is challenging to extract from a single type of  
62 geophysical measurement, even with generally available basic supporting information such as

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6 63 rock or sediment type (e.g., sand or sand with silt or clay). The complex conductivity (or  
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9 64 induced polarization) method holds promise for improving quantification of hydrogeological  
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11 65 properties as information on both the interconnected pore volume (e.g.  $\emptyset$ , tortuosity) and  
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13 66 mineral-fluid interfacial area (e.g. surface area to pore volume ( $S_{por}$ ), effective grain size) can in  
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15 67 principle be derived from the complex electrical measurements (Börner et al., 1996; Slater and  
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17 68 Lesmes, 2002a; Weller et al., 2013). Recent advances have been made (e.g. Revil and Florsch,  
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19 69 2010; Slater and Lesmes, 2002b; Weller et al., 2015) in understanding the link between complex  
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21 70 conductivity and hydraulic conductivity – mainly through empirical or semi-empirical models,  
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23 71 for example assuming Kozeny-Carman and Archie petrophysics (Archie, 1942; Charbeneau,  
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25 72 1999). However, although inversion tools are now well established for field application, few  
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27 73 studies have attempted to assess the potential of complex conductivity imaging for deriving  
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29 74 hydrogeological information (but see, for example, Hördt et al., 2009; Attwa and Günther, 2013).  
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31 75 Furthermore, previous field studies have considered a wide range of hydrologic parameter  
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33 76 variation i.e. several orders of magnitude change in  $K$  (Hördt et al., 2007; Kemna et al., 2004;  
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35 77 Slater and Glaser, 2003), but in some field settings more subtle contrasts in hydrogeophysical  
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37 78 properties significantly influence the overall system behavior (Sudicky, 1986).  
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46 80 Few, if any, field-scale complex conductivity studies have had strong independent datasets on  
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48 81 electrical and hydrologic parameters of the system required for evaluating the information  
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50 82 obtainable from the complex conductivity inversion. Here, we report on complex conductivity  
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52 83 imaging from a local-scale study (15-20 m in all three directions) performed to advance our  
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54 84 understanding of the hydrogeological information (qualitative, semi-quantitative and  
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56 85 quantitative) that can be obtained from IP. We take advantage of an exceptionally well-studied  
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6 86 natural unconsolidated sedimentary aquifer where results from previous borehole and borehole-  
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9 87 to-borehole geophysical surveys allow us to assess the performance of the complex conductivity  
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11 88 imaging. Where such borehole arrays are available in unconsolidated aquifers, the spatial  
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13 89 characterization of hydraulic conductivity can be estimated by slug tests (e.g. Barrash and  
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15 90 Cardiff, 2013; Brauchler et al., 2010; Cardiff et al., 2011; Diem et al., 2010), pumping tests (e.g.  
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17 91 Barrash et al., 2006; Cardiff et al., 2009), and by 3-D hydraulic tomography (Cardiff et al., 2012;  
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19 92 2013).

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24 94 The aim of this work is to evaluate the variation in complex electrical conductivity derived from  
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26 95 inversion of field data where high resolution characterization of hydrogeological properties  
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28 96 already exists. Specifically, we aim to: (1) assess the contrast in complex conductivity that  
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30 97 results from the variability in physical properties; (2) determine the link (if any) between  
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32 98 complex conductivity variability and known hydrostratigraphy; (3) assess the relative value of  
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34 99 DC conductivity versus complex conductivity for independent delineation of lithological units;  
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36 100 and (4) offer evidence-based insight into the potential value of field-scale complex conductivity  
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38 101 for direct quantitative estimation of key hydrogeophysical properties in similar settings. Slater et  
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40 102 al. (2014) describe high accuracy laboratory spectral induced polarization (SIP) measurements  
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42 103 on samples extracted from the study site of this work showing differences in the complex  
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44 104 conductivity magnitude associated with grain size variations. However, subtle variations in the  
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46 105 polarization relaxation time distributions between units could not be correlated with unit physical  
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48 106 properties. We therefore restrict our analysis to inversion of the complex conductivity only, and  
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50 107 do not consider more elaborate inversion methods recently developed to analyze the spectral  
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52 108 characteristics of the polarization response time domain data (e.g., Fiandaca et al., 2013).  
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6 109 ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES  
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11 111 Complex electrical conductivity ( $\sigma^*$ ) quantifies the ability of a porous medium to transport and  
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13 112 store charge. It is usually determined from measurements of the conductivity magnitude ( $|\sigma|$ ) and  
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15 113 phase shift ( $\varphi$ ) of a porous material relative to a reference resistor. The real ( $\sigma'$ ) and imaginary  
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17 114 ( $\sigma''$ ) components of  $\sigma^*$  represent electromigration (transport of charge under the influence of an  
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19 115 electric field) and polarization (reversible storage of charge under the influence of an electric  
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21 116 field) mechanisms respectively. The measured phase shift,  $\varphi$ , is related to the real and imaginary  
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23 117 parts of  $\sigma^*$  according to:  
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$$\varphi = \tan^{-1}(\sigma'' / \sigma'). \quad (1)$$
  
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31 119 Most models for the complex electrical conductivity of a porous material at low frequencies (e.g.  
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33 120 less than 100 Hz) are based on charge transfer via a parallel addition of two mechanisms  
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35 121 representing (1) an electrolytic contribution via conduction only, without any polarization,  
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37 122 through the interconnected pore space ( $\sigma_{el}$ ), and (2) a mineral surface contribution via both  
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39 123 conduction and polarization within the electrical double layer (EDL) formed at the interfaces of  
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41 124 the interconnected pore surface ( $\sigma_{surf}^*$ ) (e.g. Vinegar and Waxman, 1984) such that  $\sigma^* = \sigma_{el} +$   
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43 125  $\sigma_{surf}^*$ . As the electrolyte is essentially unpolarizable at low frequencies, electrolytic conduction  
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45 126 is a purely real term so the imaginary component of the overall complex conductivity is derived  
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47 127 solely from the mineral surface polarization. The complex surface conductivity associated with  
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49 128 the EDL originates from both the fixed surface charges (the Stern layer) and the diffuse layer of  
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51 129 charges that exchange with the electrolyte. Based on this parallel conduction model,  
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$$\sigma' = \sigma_{el} + \sigma'_{surf}, \quad (2)$$

$$\sigma'' = \sigma''_{surf}, \quad (3)$$

and for low phase angles, where  $\sigma'' \ll \sigma'$ , and  $\tan^{-1}(\sigma''/\sigma') \cong \sigma''/\sigma'$ ,

$$\varphi \cong \frac{\sigma''_{surf}}{\sigma_{el} + \sigma'_{surf}} \quad (\varphi < 100 \text{ mrad}). \quad (4)$$

Whereas  $\sigma''$  represents a direct measure of the polarization of the interconnected pore surface,  $\varphi$  represents the ratio of this polarization to the combined conduction mechanisms within the sample.

The dependence of  $\sigma''$  on the pore-normalized internal surface area ( $S_{por}$ ) (e.g., Börner, 1992; Weller et al., 2013) and grain size (e.g. Revil and Skold, 2011; Vaudelet et al., 2012) has encouraged many efforts to utilize complex conductivity measurements to predict  $K$  (Revil and Florsch, 2010; Slater and Lesmes, 2002b). Furthermore, the dependence of  $\sigma''$  on  $\sigma_w$  is relatively weak. Weller and Slater (2012) report measurements on 67 sandstone and unconsolidated samples where  $\sigma'' \propto \sigma_w^b$  ( $0.18 < b < 0.55$ , with the dimensionless exponent  $b$  having a mean value of 0.34). Consequently,  $\sigma''$  is generally considered an excellent indicator of lithologic variability due to (1) its primary dependence on  $S_{por}$  and grain size, and (2) its weak dependence on pore fluid conductivity and saturation relative to real conductivity (when dominated by  $\sigma_{el}$ ).

## 148 HYDROGEOPHYSICAL SETTING

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6 150 The Boise Hydrogeophysical Research Site (BHRS) was established in recognition of the need  
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8 151 for improved methods for characterization of permeability distributions in heterogeneous  
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10 152 aquifers (Barrash et al., 1999; Clement et al., 1999). The site is situated on a gravel bar beside  
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12 153 the Boise River approximately 12 km upstream from downtown Boise, Idaho.  
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18 155 The unconsolidated sediments of the unconfined aquifer at the BHRS have a thickness of  
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20 156 approximately 20 m, and lie above low-permeability red clay (Barrash and Clemo, 2002). A  
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22 157 combined drilling and core recovery technique was applied during 1997 and 1998 to construct 18  
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24 158 wells at the BHRS. All wells are screened throughout the unconfined sand and cobble aquifer.  
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27 159 The central area of the wellfield is comprised of 13 boreholes (Barrash et al., 1999) with a  
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29 160 central borehole (A1) surrounded by an inner ring of six boreholes, designated B1 – B6, about 3-  
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31 161 4 m from A1 [Figure 1]. A second ring of six boreholes, designated C1 – C6, is positioned about  
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33 162 7-10 m from A1, with boreholes in the inner and second rings offset by an angle of  
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35 163 approximately 30°. Five additional peripheral boreholes, designated X1 – X5, are positioned  
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37 164 around the central area.  
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43 166 INSERT FIGURE 1 NEAR HERE  
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48 168 Barrash and Clemo (2002) investigated the subsurface at the BHRS with a neutron logging  
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50 169 survey; example  $\emptyset$  profiles derived from this analysis are shown in Figure 2. Barrash and Clemo  
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52 170 (2002) applied a hierarchical geostatistical approach to the porosity data which supported the  
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54 171 recognition of five stratigraphic units (numbered 1 – 5 in depositional sequence order) and  
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56 172 recognition of variability and smaller-scale facies within some units. In this stratigraphy, Units 1  
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6 173 – 4 are dominated by cobbles, and Unit 5 is a sand channel, which is thickest close to the river,  
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9 174 thins away from the river, and pinches out in the center of the wellfield. Of the cobble-  
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11 175 dominated units, Units 1 and 3 are very similar and have relatively low  $\emptyset$  and variance, while  
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13 176 Units 2 and 4 have higher  $\emptyset$  and variance (Barrash and Clemo, 2002). This porosity stratigraphy  
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15 177 is supported by lithologic stratigraphy based on core (Barrash and Reboulet, 2004).  
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INSERT FIGURE 2 NEAR HERE

181 A number of geophysical surveys have been previously carried out at the site. Tronicke et al.  
182 (2004) gathered a set of GPR measurements from the BHRS, with the transmitter and receiver  
183 deployed in C5 and C6, and noted that values of  $\emptyset$  derived from an inversion of the GPR data  
184 differed in detail from the layered stratigraphy identified by Barrash and Clemo (2002), but a  
185 cluster analysis of the inverted GPR data identified clusters with similar values of velocity and  
186 attenuation, broadly corresponding to areas with contrasting  $\emptyset$  values. Further crosshole GPR  
187 analysis was conducted by Ernst et al. (2007) and Irving et al. (2007). Dafflon et al. (2011b)  
188 inverted multiple intersecting high-resolution crosshole GPR profiles at the BHRS, and obtained  
189 a 3-D distribution of  $\emptyset$  values which are in broad agreement with the results of the geostatistical  
190 study by Barrash and Clemo (2002).

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192 The original five unit stratigraphy was extended following the capacitive probe conductivity  
193 (CC) well logging outlined in Mwenifumbo et al. (2009). These CC results revealed contrasting  
194 electrical properties in one of the cobble units, Unit 2, which led to a new classification of Units  
195 2A and 2B (with the upper unit, 2B, having lower electrical conductivity than the lower unit,

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6 196 2A). Figure 3 shows the stratigraphy in well C4 for example. Some of the unit boundaries, in  
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9 197 particular those defining Unit 4, are clearly visible in the porosity log, whereas for others the  
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11 198 contrast is more subtle. This is further demonstrated by the capacitive probe resistivity (CR) log  
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13 199 for well C4, in which the lower boundaries of Units 2A and 2B are also clearly visible.  
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18 201 INSERT FIGURE 3 NEAR HERE  
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22 203 In a laboratory study of electrical and hydrologic properties of core samples from the BHRS,  
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24 204 Slater et al. (2014) investigated links between sediment grain size distributions and  $K$ , and  
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26 205 demonstrated the importance of analyzing only the matrix sediment within the cobble  
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29 206 framework (i.e., excluding the cobble fraction). They found that, typical of many unconsolidated  
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31 207 sediments, the variation in the relaxation time distribution (.001-1000 Hz) between different  
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33 208 units was small. No relationship between the relaxation time distribution (frequency response)  
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35 209 and pore geometrical properties was observed. Instead, the sediments approximated a constant  
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37 210 phase angle behavior from 0.001-10 Hz. However, Slater et al. (2014) did find a relationship  
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39 211 between imaginary conductivity (polarization strength) and grain diameter that was subsequently  
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41 212 used to test predictions of hydraulic conductivity at this site. They noted that for BHRS  
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43 213 sediments,  $d_{60(\text{matrix})}$ , the grain size for which 60% of a sample of the matrix is smaller, appeared  
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45 214 to be a representative grain size for the prediction of  $K$  from Kozeny Carman type models,  
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48 215 although they emphasized that no single grain size has been shown to be representative for all  
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50 216 aquifer materials. Figure 3 includes the profile of particle size for well C4, shown as  $d_{60(\text{matrix})}$ ,  
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52 217 obtained from grain size analysis of the sediment cores, after exclusion of cobbles. Subtle  
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6 218 changes in  $d_{60[\text{matrix}]}$  are discernable at the boundaries between Units 2A and 2B, between Units  
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8 219 2B and 3, and between Units 3 and 4.  
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13 221 A high resolution distribution of the six stratigraphic layers in the central region of the BHRS  
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15 222 was developed following Barrash and Clemo (2002) and Mwenifumbo et al. (2009) to provide a  
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17 223 'ground-truth,' primarily of porosity distributions but also of electrical parameters, against which  
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19 224 results of other geophysical surveys can be compared. The distribution is based on a kriged  
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21 225 geostatistical model that includes all stratigraphic unit contact elevations in the wells. The model  
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23 226 adopts a stationary random field with exponential covariance function with sill  $1 \text{ m}^2$  and  
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25 227 horizontal correlation length 10 m. The contact between Units 4 and 5 showed drift, which was  
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27 228 accounted for in the model. Figure 4 shows an example realization from this approach.  
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34 230 INSERT FIGURE 4 NEAR HERE  
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39 232 Hydraulic Conductivity from Multi-Level Slug Tests  
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43 233 Recent work by Barrash and Cardiff (2013) using high-resolution data from multi-level slug tests  
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45 234 has investigated variation of hydraulic conductivity,  $K$ , within the BHRS. Details of the slug-test  
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47 235 procedures, data quality assessment, and analysis are given in Malama et al. (2011), Cardiff et al.  
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49 236 (2011) and Barrash and Cardiff (2013). Figure 5 shows example  $K$  profiles from a number of  
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51 237 wells within the central wellfield.  
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9 241 Slug tests were run (e.g. Butler, 1998) at two or three different slug heights per zone with highly  
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11 242 repeatable results (differences between  $K$  from such repeated tests are generally <20% with the  
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13 243 occasional poor-quality test excluded from averaging for a given zone) . Values of  $K$  identified  
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15 244 from the slug tests were corroborated with independent hydraulic tomography results (Cardiff et  
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17 245 al., 2013) and clearly show that, although  $K$  is not positively correlated with  $\emptyset$  or geophysical  
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19 246 parameters for all stratigraphic units,  $K$ -facies can be identified with multivariate statistical  
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21 247 analysis within the established  $\emptyset$ -CC stratigraphy (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013). This, along with  
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23 248  $K$ -facies boundaries commonly terminating at  $\emptyset$ -CC unit contacts, supports the interpretation  
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25 249 that  $K$  structure is based on sedimentary origins (as are  $\emptyset$  and lithology). One of the  $K$ -facies has  
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27 250 the highest  $K$  of all and is generally coincident with Unit 2B, which has the lowest CC of all.  
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29 251 Although  $K$ -facies within Units 1-2B tend to have a positive association of  $K$  with  $\emptyset$ ,  $K$ -facies  
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31 252 within Units 3-4 tend to have a negative association of  $K$  with  $\emptyset$  (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013).  
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35 254 Examination of grain size distribution parameters (including cobble size and percent of the  
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37 255 sample,  $d_{10}$  and sorting for the whole sample and for the matrix alone) indicate that multiple  
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39 256 combinations of these parameters with  $\emptyset$  may be associated with similar values of  $K$ , but there  
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41 257 are tendencies for certain combinations to occur within particular types of  $K$ -facies (Barrash and  
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43 258 Cardiff, 2013). CC and  $\emptyset$  were positively correlated at lower values of  $K$ , but negatively  
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45 259 correlated at higher values of  $K$ . Some negative correlation between CC and the degree of  
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47 260 sorting was also observed. The distribution of  $K$  in these conglomeratic sediments shows a more  
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49 261 complex relationship with geophysical properties than in sand-dominated unconsolidated  
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6 262 aquifers where Kozeny-Carman and Archie petrophysics may be more consistently applicable  
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8 263 (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013).  
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13 265 Heterogeneity in  $K$  is not great at the BHRS (slightly more than two orders of magnitude for  
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15 266 most of the aquifer). The variance of  $\ln K$  is 0.49, more than three times the  $\ln K$  variance at the  
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17 267 well-studied aquifer of Cape Cod (Wolf et al., 1991), and less than twice that of the aquifer at  
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20 268 Borden (Woodbury and Sudicky, 1991). Nevertheless, tracer behavior at the BHRS (Dafflon et  
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22 269 al., 2011a; Johnson et al., 2007; Nelson, 2007) is clearly not representative of a homogeneous or  
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24 270 simple layered medium in  $K$  (or  $\emptyset$ ).  
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## 31 272 METHODS

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36 274 Our investigation was designed to collect high-resolution complex electrical data with a low and  
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38 275 known error structure, suitable for analysis using existing 3-D inversion tools, to provide  
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40 276 distributed values of complex electrical parameters for direct comparison with existing  
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42 277 stratigraphic models of the BHRS and, where practical, to allow relationships between electrical  
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45 278 and hydrologic parameters to be investigated. In the following sections we describe the  
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47 279 geophysical measurements, discuss error analysis, summarize the inversion and introduce the  
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49 280 statistics used to understand the inversion results.  
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6 282 *Complex Resistivity Measurements*  
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10 283 In June 2010 a crosshole complex resistivity survey was conducted at the BHRS. Here we report  
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12 284 on analysis of data from wells A1, C2, C3, C4 and C5 (Figure 1). Two electrode arrays, each  
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14 285 with 24 stainless steel mesh electrodes spaced 0.61 m apart, were used for measurements  
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16 286 between pairs of boreholes in this group of five wells. Well A1 was common to all borehole  
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18 287 pairs, and thus the measurement set comprises pairs: A1-C2; A1-C3; A1-C4; A1-C5. This  
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20 288 arrangement eliminated the need to remove and relocate one of the electrode arrays whilst still  
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22 289 maintaining 3-D coverage over the well cluster.  
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28 291 As each well is fully screened, electrical contact with the formation is achievable beneath the  
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30 292 water table. The top electrode in each well was sited at 846.87 masl (meters above sea level),  
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32 293 equivalent to 2.67 m depth at A1. Recognizing the potential impact of current channeling  
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34 294 through the water column in the well (e.g. Nimmer et al., 2008), insulating spacers were installed  
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36 295 between electrodes to reduce these effects.  
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42 297 Preliminary field and modeling trials were conducted to determine suitable measurement  
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44 298 configurations to meet resolution and data quality objectives. Following these trials, a dipole-  
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46 299 dipole arrangement was selected using a 'skip 5' protocol (dipole spacing of 6 electrodes), with  
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48 300 forward and reciprocal measurements to allow the error structure to be estimated (Slater et al.,  
49  
50 301 2000) with a current and potential dipole spacing of 3.66 m. For each borehole pair, 922 direct  
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52 302 measurements (and the associated reciprocal configuration) were collected using an Iris Syscal  
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54 303 Pro instrument (Iris Instruments, Orleans, France). Each measurement set (i.e. one borehole  
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56 304 pair) took approximately 110 minutes to collect. Time domain induced polarization (IP)  
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6 305 measurements were computed based on a total of 20 windows sampled using a current waveform  
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8 306 with 1s on time, 1s off time, 0.12 s delay time, and individual window length of 0.04 s (total  
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10 307 window length of 0.8 s). The 0.12s delay time removes any effect of the instrument's low-pass  
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12 308 filter (as reported by Fiandaca et al.,2012) (Iris Instruments, pers. comm., 2015).  
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18 310 The IP measurements provide a transfer resistance magnitude (or apparent  
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20 311 resistivity/conductivity) and an integral chargeability,  $M$ . Following Mwakanyamale et al.  
21  
22 312 (2012), who used the same instrument settings, we related the complex conductance phase shift  
23  
24 313 ( $\varphi$ ) at the current cycle frequency (0.25 Hz) to  $M$  through the relationship  $\varphi \approx 1.3 M$ , where  $\varphi$  is  
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26 314 in mrad, and  $M$  is in mV/V. We note that, following the analysis of Kemna et al. (1997), the  
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28 315 equivalent scaling factor is 1.5 rather than 1.3 at a corresponding 0.025 Hz current injection  
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30 316 frequency.  
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### 37 318 *Error Analysis*

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41 319 Quantification of errors is essential for data inversion to ensure: (1) that individual measurements  
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43 320 can be appropriately weighted; and (2) that appropriate convergence of the inversion process can  
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45 321 be determined. Reciprocal errors, in both resistance magnitude and phase angle, were computed  
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47 322 for each dipole configuration and were used to highlight anomalously high errors in both  
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49 323 magnitude and phase angle. We adopted error thresholds of 10% and 5 mrad, for magnitude and  
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51 324 phase angle respectively (i.e. all data with errors above these thresholds were removed prior to  
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53 325 inversion). The computed measurement errors are unsuitable for individual weighting of  
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55 326 measurements since they only represent one sample of error for a given configuration. By  
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6 327 grouping measurements (ranked by magnitude or phase angle) into ‘bins’ we can examine trends  
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8 328 in errors to allow the development of a simple representative error model. Köestel et al. (2008)  
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10 329 used this approach for DC resistivity measurements; Flores Orozco et al. (2012) and  
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12 330 Mwakanyamale et al. (2012) extended the method for complex conductivity measurements. We  
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14 331 established clear relationships (see Figure 6) between the reciprocal error of both magnitude ( $\varepsilon_R$ )  
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16 332 and phase angle ( $\varepsilon_\varphi$ ), and the resistance magnitude ( $R$ ):  
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23 334  $|\varepsilon_R| \text{ (in Ohms)} = 0.0147 |R|^{0.92}; \quad |\varepsilon_\varphi| \text{ (in mrad)} = 1.637 - 0.291 \ln(|R|) . \quad (5)$   
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27 336 INSERT FIGURE 6 NEAR HERE  
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32 338 The (almost) linear relationship between  $\log_{10}|\varepsilon_R|$  and  $\log_{10}|R|$  is a commonly observed error  
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34 339 structure (e.g. LaBrecque et al., 1996). In contrast, the reduction in phase angle error,  $|\varepsilon_\varphi|$ , with  
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36 340 increasing  $|R|$  highlights the impact of signal strength on the resolution of the IP effect. Measured  
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38 341 phase angles were in the range 0 to 15 mrad. As is normal practice (e.g. Slater and Binley,  
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40 342 2006), we assume a Gaussian distribution of errors in our inversion process; Figure 7 shows  
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42 343 some departure from this model and a slight positive bias.  
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48 345 INSERT FIGURE 7 NEAR HERE  
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6 347 *Inversion of Complex Conductivity Measurements*  
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10 348 The apparent complex resistance magnitude and phase measurements were inverted to provide 3-  
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12 349 D distributions of complex conductivity, expressed in terms of magnitude and phase, using the  
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14 350 program *cR3t* (developed by A. Binley at Lancaster University). *cR3t* solves the forward  
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16 351 problem using a finite element approximation adopting linear six-node triangular prism elements  
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18 352 or four-node tetrahedral elements. A finite element mesh containing 483,448 triangular prism  
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20 353 elements and 246,078 nodes was created to model the potential field within the zone of study.  
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22 354 The model region extends 130 m laterally (in both directions) and 80 m in depth to account for  
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24 355 'infinite' boundary conditions using progressively coarser discretization with increasing distance  
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26 356 from the well field. Discretization within the well field zone was approximately 0.4 m (lateral)  
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28 357 and 0.2 m (vertical), i.e. three elements per electrode spacing in the vertical.  
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35 359 Although (four node) tetrahedral elements are computationally more efficient for solving the  
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37 360 forward problem, we adopted triangular prism elements for this study because: (1) the electrode  
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39 361 positions in the vertical were identical for each well, thus making mesh generation relatively  
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41 362 straightforward; and (2) grouping of elements to form parameter blocks is more easily achieved  
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43 363 with such a mesh. The latter enhances computational efficiency significantly. For the inverse  
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45 364 solution we discretized the region into 42,364 parameter blocks aligned to the forward modeling  
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47 365 mesh boundary, with resolution reduced by a factor of exactly 4 in the vertical direction and by  
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49 366 approximately 3 for the planar triangulation, as optimized by the mesh generator program.  
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55 368 The 3-D complex conductivity inversion algorithm used is a 3-D extension of the 2-D algorithm  
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57 369 described by Binley and Kemna (2005), and follows the Gauss-Newton method, incorporating an  
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6 370 iterative refinement of the regularization parameter ( $\alpha$ ), that minimizes an objective function ( $\Psi$ )  
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8 371 composed of a data misfit term and a model stabilization term,

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$$\Psi = \|\mathbf{W}_d (\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{m}))\|^2 + \alpha \|\mathbf{W}_m \mathbf{m}\|^2, \quad (6)$$
  
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18 375 where  $\mathbf{W}_d$  is a data weighting matrix associated with individual errors for each measurement,  $\mathbf{d}$   
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20 376 and  $\mathbf{f}$  are vectors describing the measured data and forward solution for model vector  $\mathbf{m}$   
21  
22 377 respectively, and  $\mathbf{W}_m$  is a smoothness constraint representing the model weighting matrix which  
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24 378 is structured to allow anisotropic smoothing. For the inversions here we adopted a 50:1  
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26 379 horizontal:vertical anisotropic smoothing in order to account for the observed horizontal  
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28 380 correlation in stratigraphic unit boundaries (e.g. Figure 4); Attwa and Günther (2013) adopted a  
29  
30 381 similar anisotropic smoothing in their inversion of 2D complex conductivity data. For our  
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32 382 inversions: data,  $\mathbf{d}$ , is expressed as an impedance magnitude and phase angle; model vector,  $\mathbf{m}$ , is  
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34 383 expressed as a complex conductivity magnitude (log value) and phase angle. The log  
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36 384 transformation constrains the inversion to positive solutions.  
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44 386 Convergence of the iterative scheme is assumed when the mean of the data misfit component of  
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46 387 equation 6 (averaged over the number of measurements) is unity. Given that the formulation  
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48 388 expressed in terms of complex conductivity will bias the solution to satisfactory fitting of the  
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50 389 magnitude values, as in Kemna (2000), we adopt a ‘final phase improvement’ scheme, allowing  
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52 390 refinement of the parameter phase angles in the final stages of the inversion whilst maintaining  
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54 391 the magnitude values determined from the convergence of the first stage of the process.  
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6 393 *Cluster Analysis*  
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10 394 In order to assess the value of complex resistivity in differentiating hydrogeological units,  
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12 395 despite variation of electrical parameters within each unit, we employed the *k*-means cluster  
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14 396 analysis method (MacQueen, 1967), a non-hierarchical partitioning technique which has been  
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17 397 successfully used in environmental (e.g. Tronicke et al., 2004; Van Arkel and Kaleita, 2014) and  
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19 398 geophysical (e.g. Di Giuseppe et al., 2014) studies. The *k*-means method requires user selection  
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21 399 of the number of groups, or clusters, into which a data set should be classified. Each parameter  
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23 400 may also be emphasized or suppressed in its contribution to the identification of structure within  
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26 401 the dataset by the chosen method of standardization and by application of a weighting factor (e.g.  
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28 402 Gnanadesikan et al., 1995). For a full description of the *k*-means algorithm, see for example,  
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30 403 Hartigan and Wong (1979) and Gan et al. (2007).  
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35 404 RESULTS  
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38 405 *Smoothness Constrained Inverted Models*  
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42 406 Figure 8 shows the results of the inversion of complex resistivity data. A contrast of only one  
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44 407 order of magnitude in real conductivity is apparent; this variation is dominated by the difference  
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46 408 between cobble dominated units (Units 1 – 4) and the sand unit (Unit 5), the latter showing  
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49 409 higher real conductivity which is consistent with the observed high  $\phi$  of these sediments (Figure  
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51 410 3). The capacitive probe resistivity logs reported in Mwenifumbo et al. (2009) show similar  
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53 411 weak contrast, in their case between 0.5 mS/m and 3 mS/m (-3.3 to -2.5 range in  $\log_{10}\sigma'$ ,  
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55 412 expressed in S/m). More subtle variation in real conductivity exists throughout the cobble  
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58 413 dominated units, although a distinct contrast is seen at approximately 838 masl and 844 masl (at  
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6 414 C5 in Figure 8a, for example). By comparing Figure 8a with Figures 3 and 4 these appear to  
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8 415 coincide with the bases of Units 2B and 4, respectively.  
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13 417 INSERT FIGURE 8 NEAR HERE  
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18 419 Some lateral variation in real conductivity is seen within the study region, the most notable being  
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20 420 the thinning out of the upper conductive zone in the image towards wells C2 and C3 (Figure 8a).

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22 421 Given that we associate this feature with the sand unit (Unit 5), this thinning out is consistent

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24 422 with observed contacts at wells (as illustrated in Figure 4, see also Barrash and Clemo (2002)).

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26 423 Other lateral variation of note is the greater vertical contrast in conductivity (in the lower third of

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29 424 the real and imaginary conductivity images in Figures 8b and 8c between wells C4 and C5.

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31 425 However, this cannot be explained by the contrast in  $\emptyset$  because these contrasts are all similar at

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33 426 about 835 masl in wells C3 and C2 also (Figure 2).  
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38 428 Generally weak variation in computed phase angle exists (Figure 8c), although contrasts are

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40 429 clearly visible. Figure 9 shows the distribution of normalized misfit for the measurements, i.e.

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42 430 the difference between measured and modeled phase angle relative to the assumed error (from

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44 431 equation 5). Such a distribution should ideally be Gaussian with a zero mean and unit variance.

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46 432 The modeled phase angles are typically around 2 to 4 mrad, which is consistent with those

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48 433 observed from complex conductivity measurements on reconstituted samples from the site

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50 434 (Slater et al., 2014). A low phase angle appears to be associated with the sand unit (Unit 5). The

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52 435 relatively weak variation in phase angle will be due in part to the subtle contrast in sediment

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54 436 properties but also due to the weaker signal to noise ratio of measured phase angle in comparison  
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6 437 to resistance magnitude, despite great care in data acquisition and rigorous treatment of phase  
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8 438 angle data errors (Figures 6 and 7). However it is the imaginary conductivity that uniquely  
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10 439 resolves polarization and, despite the weak variation in phase angle, this property helps  
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12 440 emphasize contrasts within the study region (Figure 8b). In particular, the lower third of the  
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14 441 imaged region shows distinctly greater polarization than the upper section. Note also the very  
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16 442 low polarization associated with the sand unit near boreholes C4 and C5.  
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22 444 INSERT FIGURE 9 NEAR HERE  
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27 446 Barrash and Clemo (2002) used the porosity logs (e.g., Figure 2) to develop probability density  
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29 447 functions for unit-specific  $\phi$  across the wellfield. Their analysis reveals contrasts in the  
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31 448 distributions, for example greater variance of  $\phi$  in Units 2 and 4, in comparison to Units 1 and 3  
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33 449 (Figure 5 in Barrash and Clemo,2002)). Here we could apply the same analysis using image  
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35 450 voxel values at well locations. However, these would be limited to areas of higher imaging  
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37 451 resolution and thus would be somewhat biased. Instead we use one of the unit boundary  
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39 452 realizations (Figure 4) to delineate the complex resistivity image and thus allow the formation of  
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41 453 unit-specific complex resistivity distributions. Figure 10 shows these distributions, expressed in  
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43 454 terms of real conductivity and phase angle, for Units 2A, 2B, 3, 4 and 5. Examining the real  
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45 455 conductivity, we see a smaller variance in Unit 3 compared to Units 4 and 5, as in Barrash and  
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47 456 Clemo (2002). We also note that Units 2A and 2B combined (equivalent to Unit 2 in Barrash  
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49 457 and Clemo, 2002) also have larger variance than Unit 3. However, interestingly, given the newer  
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51 458 Unit 2 subdivision, Units 2B and Unit 3 are relatively indistinguishable in terms of real  
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53 459 conductivity distributions although a subtly lower mean conductivity is apparent for Unit 2B  
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6 460 when compared to Unit 3, which is consistent with the capacitive probe conductivity logs of  
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8 461 Mwenifumbo et al. (2009) noted earlier. The phase angle distributions also show contrasts across  
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10 462 some units (e.g. Units 3 and 4), and again with close similarity between Unit 2B and Unit 3.  
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15 464 INSERT FIGURE 10 NEAR HERE  
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20 466 The above comparison assumes that each computed electrical parameter value within the image  
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22 467 is equally resolvable, however, we note that variations in spatial sensitivity are inherent in any  
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24 468 electrical imaging method. Nevertheless, given the relatively horizontal stratigraphy inferred  
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26 469 from the analysis of unit contacts (e.g. Figure 4), any bias in the distributions (due to greater  
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28 470 smoothing between electrode locations, for example) is likely to be reasonably equal across all  
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31 471 units.  
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### 35 36 37 473 *Cluster Analysis* 38 39

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41 474 The inversion results were projected from the irregular mesh used in the inversion to orthogonal  
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43 475 grids (80 x 40 x 60 elements) with a resolution selected as a compromise between computational  
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45 476 complexity and excessive smoothing. Only the inverted results within the volume bounded by  
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47 477 the electrode arrays were used. Five parameter values at each voxel were standardized by unit-  
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50 478 normalizing to a value between 0 and 1, representing the maximum and minimum values for  
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52 479 each parameter. The parameters consisted of the x, y and z spatial coordinates together with two  
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54 480 parameters representing complex conductivity expressed either as phase angle and the logarithm  
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56 481 of magnitude, or as the logarithms of both the imaginary and real components. Cluster analysis  
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6 482 was carried out using either five or six clusters; these values were chosen because application of  
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8 483 multiple analyses with identical values for all other parameters showed greatest consistency with  
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10 484 five clusters, slightly reduced consistency with six clusters, and poor consistency with four or  
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12 485 seven clusters. Furthermore, analyses with five or six clusters allowed comparisons to be made  
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14 486 with previous interpretations of BHRS stratigraphy based on  $\emptyset$ , lithology, and CC (Barrash and  
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16 487 Clemo, 2002; Barrash and Reboulet, 2004; Mwenifumbo et al., 2009). Each identified cluster  
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18 488 could include any non-zero proportion of the total number of voxels in the grid, and could have  
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20 489 irregular and discontinuous boundaries.  
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27 491 For selected cluster analyses, using five or six clusters, the nonparametric Kolmogorov-Smirnov  
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29 492 test (Conover, 1999) was applied to determine whether the 3-D distribution of  $\sigma'$  within each  
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31 493 identified cluster differs significantly from the distribution within every other cluster, and this  
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33 494 was repeated to test for significantly different distributions of  $\sigma''$ . In all cases, the null  
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35 495 hypothesis that the distributions do not differ can be rejected ( $p < 10^{-4}$ ).  
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41 497 Figure 11 shows three-dimensional representations of our five-cluster analysis using DC  
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43 498 conductivity only (Figure 11a), and using both DC conductivity and IP data (Figure 11b). Only  
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45 499 subtle differences are noticeable, highlighting that the lithologic boundary differentiation is most  
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47 500 strongly influenced by the DC conductivity. Example cluster analysis results are shown in  
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49 501 Figures 12 and 13 for extracted profiles at well locations C4 and B4, respectively. Well B4 (for  
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51 502 location see Figure 1) was selected as an example between the electrode array locations (where  
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53 503 resolution of the electrical imaging is weaker). Figures 12 and 13 show the results for five- and  
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55 504 six-unit cluster analysis, together with the previously defined unit boundaries. In both examples,  
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6 505 clusters K3 and K4 for the five-cluster model closely represent clusters K3 to K5 in the six-  
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9 506 cluster model, revealing that this interval is the zone of weakest contrast. The six-cluster model,  
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11 507 in both cases, shows close similarity to the unit boundaries (shown as units U1 to U5 in Figures  
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13 508 12 and 13). Although the boundaries do not match perfectly, features such as the thinning of  
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15 509 Unit 4 from well B4 to C4 are clearly visible. The boundary between Unit 2B and 3, although  
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17 510 subtle in terms of real conductivity, is well resolved in both cases, supporting the earlier  
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19 511 comments about differences in electrical conductivity between these two units. A distinct  
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21 512 contrast in imaginary conductivity is seen at the Unit 2A-Unit 2B boundary in both cases.  
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## 38 518 DISCUSSION

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43 520 In this study we have inverted cross-borehole time-domain measurements of complex electrical  
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45 521 conductivity, but our results show a very close correspondence between the real and imaginary  
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47 522 components of the 3-D distributed values of complex conductivity (Figure 8). We note, however,  
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49 523 that the equipment required to record time-domain complex electrical measurements requires  
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51 524 little additional time to deploy (relative to a frequency-domain spectral IP survey), over an  
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53 525 equivalent DC survey.  
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527 *K Information*

528 The aquifer at the BHRS site has fairly low heterogeneity in  $K$ , with a range of  $6.4 \times 10^{-5} - 1.6 \times$   
529  $10^{-2} \text{ ms}^{-1}$  (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013) and a lack of strong overall correlation between  $K$  and  $\emptyset$   
530 (Cardiff et al., 2011). Indeed the  $K$  distribution has both positive and negative associations with  
531  $\emptyset$  in lower and upper portions of the stratigraphy, respectively (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013;  
532 Cardiff et al., 2013) indicating that only in portions of the coarse unconsolidated sediments at the  
533 BHRS is  $K$  more strongly influenced by overall  $\emptyset$  than by the surface area and tortuosity of the  
534 pore channels (which control  $S_{por}$ ). We suggest that the additional information in the imaginary  
535 component of IP measurements is more likely to be correlated to  $S_{por}$  in consolidated materials  
536 such as sandstones in which the surface area of pores and channels can vary almost  
537 independently of  $\emptyset$ . The lack of variability in field scale  $\sigma''$  limits the estimation of subtle spatial  
538 variation of  $S_{por}$ , and hence  $K$ , using the relationships developed by, for example, Börner and  
539 Schön (1991), Börner et al. (1996), Slater and Lesmes (2002b) and Weller et al. (2010).  
540 However, in order to investigate IP-derived estimates of hydraulic conductivity we draw upon  
541 the recent relationship empirically derived by Weller et al. (2015) from a dataset of 22  
542 unconsolidated laboratory samples. They propose the link between permeability,  $k$  (in  $\text{m}^2$ ) and  
543 complex electrical conductivity (equation 24 in Weller et al., 2015) as:

$$k = \frac{3.47 \times 10^{-16} \sigma^{1.11}}{\sigma''^{2.41}}, \quad (7)$$

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6 546 assuming a fluid conductivity  $\sigma_w=100\text{mS/m}$ . Fluid electrical conductivity at the site is typically  
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8 547 20mS/m, however, the two electrical parameters in equation 7 are easily scaled to reflect this  
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10 548 (see for example, Weller et al., 2015).  
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15 550 Figure 14 shows example profiles of hydraulic conductivity computed using equation 7, using  
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17 551 complex conductivity values from the inverse model (Figure 8). The profiles in Figure 14 show  
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19 552 multi-level slug test estimates of hydraulic conductivity for comparison. From the profiles in  
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21 553 Figure 14, the difference between values from the hydrogeological and geophysical  
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23 554 measurements is typically within an order of magnitude. The correspondence is closer in the  
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25 555 lower portion of the stratigraphy where  $K$  and porosity are related, although in the upper units of  
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27 556 B3 and B4 the low polarization results in a much higher estimate of  $K$  - where  $K$  and porosity  
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29 557 are poorly related (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013). The differentiation of subtle changes in hydraulic  
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31 558 conductivity is, however, more challenging. Figure 14 shows similar locations of some smaller-  
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33 559 scale features (lenses) in each well but with variable polarity in slug data vs  $K$  estimates from  
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35 560 equation 7 because in-situ measurements reflect non-uniform dependence of slug  $K$  on porosity,  
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37 561 grain size distribution, shape and packing (detailed in Barrash and Cardiff, 2013).  
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45 563 INSERT FIGURE 14 NEAR HERE  
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50 565 Slater et al. (2014) found that relationships between  $\sigma'$ , effective grain size (best represented by  
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52 566 the grain diameter for which 60% of the sample is finer) and  $K$  could be identified from  
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54 567 controlled laboratory-scale measurements on 12 samples spanning the five units originally  
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56 568 identified at the BHRS (Barrash and Clemo, 2002; Barrash and Reboulet, 2004). In these  
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6 569 reconstituted samples,  $K$  only varied by about a factor of 3 and thus the full range of  $K$  at the site  
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8 was not captured. The ability to identify electrical-hydraulic relationships over such a narrow  
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10 571 range of  $K$  would on its own appear to encourage field-scale IP measurements for mapping  
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12 572 hydrogeological structures in such settings. Findings from this field study tend to support this  
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14 573 conclusion, however, contrasts in field-based estimates from inversion may be more difficult to  
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16 574 determine, despite considerable efforts to minimize noise and careful estimation of the error  
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18 575 structure within the measurements.  
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### 25 577 *Units and Multi-scale Structure*

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29 578 Our attempts to use the geophysical data for the identification of hydrogeological units has  
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31 579 revealed only marginal additional information within  $\sigma''$  beyond that within  $\sigma'$  at the BHRS.  
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33 580 We note the ability of the  $k$ -means cluster analysis method to simplify the 3-D distribution of  $\sigma'$ ,  
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35 581 by identifying a predetermined number of regions approximated as horizontal layers.  
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37 582 Application of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test has shown that the empirical distribution of  $\sigma'$   
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39 583 values in each of the identified layers is significantly different from that of every other layer,  
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41 584 confirming that the layered structures identified through cluster analysis relate to geophysical  
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43 585 differences, despite the relatively high emphasis given to the vertical dimension in both the  
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45 586 inversion and clustering procedures. Vertical 1-D samples through the simplified layered  
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47 587 structure identified by the cluster analysis, such as at the positions of boreholes B4 and C4  
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49 588 (Figures 12-13), show good correlation between the layer boundaries and the boundaries  
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51 589 between the stratigraphic units. The delineation of the Unit 2A/Unit 2B boundary is noticeably  
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53 590 emphasized by the  $\sigma''$  profile (see Figures 12-13). Results of the cluster analysis of the 3-D  
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6 591 inversion of  $\sigma'$  measurements are broadly supportive of the multi-scale heterogeneity affecting  
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8 592 hydraulic, lithologic, and geophysical parameters which has been demonstrated in the  
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10 593 sedimentary structure of the site (Barrash and Clemo, 2002; Barrash and Reboulet, 2004), and  
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12 594 recognition of two types of electrical-porosity (and dielectric-porosity) behavior evident in the  
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14 595 subdivision of Unit 2 into Units 2A and 2B (Mwenifumbo et al. 2009; Ernst et al., 2007; Irving  
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16 596 et al., 2007; Dafflon et al., 2011b) . Observation of  $\emptyset$  and CC logs and analysis of correlation  
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18 597 between  $\emptyset$  and CC, show strong correlation at the stratigraphic unit scale but highly variable  
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20 598 weak to strong correlation at the sub-unit scale (Figure 14 here and Barrash and Cardiff, 2013).  
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27 600 The strong influence of the magnitude of complex conductivity on the imaginary conductivity  
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29 601 appears to mask much of the apparent variation in IP when viewed in terms of phase angle.  
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31 602 However, we note that, for example, Units 3 and 2B appear to show similar real conductivity, but  
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33 603 differ noticeably in phase angle (Figure 10). We have focused our analysis and interpretation  
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35 604 here using  $\sigma'$  and  $\sigma''$  as measures of conduction and polarization, however, future studies may  
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37 605 seek to establish grounds for incorporating the phase angle as a means of discriminating  
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39 606 hydrogeological units.  
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#### 45 46 608 *Frequency-related IP Properties* 47 48 49

50 609 Our complex electrical measurements were recorded in the time domain, with a fixed step  
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52 610 duration, converted to equivalent frequency-domain measurements recorded at a single  
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54 611 frequency (in this case 0.25 Hz). The phase components of the complex electrical resistance  
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56 612 values which were used in the inversion were derived from a simple relationship between phase  
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6 613 and normalized chargeability. Although the validity of this relationship has been demonstrated  
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8 614 in several studies (e.g. Kemna et al., 1997; Mwakanyamale et al., 2012), we speculate that lower  
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10 615 correlation between the magnitude and phase components might be observed if complex  
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12 616 electrical measurements were directly recorded in the frequency domain as done in the  
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14 617 laboratory. Other studies have investigated frequency-domain measurements of induced  
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16 618 polarization in porous materials recorded over a broad spectrum of frequencies, with attempts to  
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18 619 link a frequency-related property of induced polarization to physical properties of the material.  
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24 621 An overview of this spectral induced polarization (SIP) approach in near-surface investigations  
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26 622 has been provided by Kemna et al. (2012), and identification of mechanistic relationships  
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28 623 between physical properties which control hydraulic conductivity and SIP parameters continues  
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30 624 to be an active and promising area of research (Florsch et al., 2012; Revil et al., 2015). However,  
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32 625 as previously noted, this site is characterized by sediments that show very small differences in  
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34 626 frequency-related properties between the units, suggesting that SIP studies will show the same  
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36 627 limitations as IP methods at  $\emptyset$  dominated sites with low heterogeneity in hydraulic characteristics  
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38 628 of interest. We also note recent efforts to analyze time series of time-domain IP data in an  
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40 629 attempt to remove superposition of charging cycles (Fiandaca et al., 2013). Such approaches,  
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42 630 although currently limited to 2-D analysis and specific polarization models, may offer greater  
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44 631 ability to resolve more subtle contrasts in complex conductivity, especially where there is  
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46 632 evidence for additional (i.e., not K-C) petrophysics that is not dominated by  $\emptyset$  (e.g., Barrash and  
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48 633 Cardiff, 2013; Morin, 2006).  
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6 636 CONCLUSIONS  
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10 638 Our study has demonstrated that the field-scale IP approach may be suitable for providing  
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12 639 estimates of hydraulic conductivity in coarse grained aquifers but somewhat limited for the  
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15 640 resolution of small-scale (e.g., lenses vs layers, Figure 14) contrasts in hydraulic conductivity  
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17 641 variation. Despite the acquisition of high quality complex electrical measurements, and careful  
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19 642 handling in the inversion procedure of the estimated data errors, it is clear that low contrast in  $K$   
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21 643 at the BHRS resulted in relatively low structural resolution based on the distribution of induced  
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23 644 polarization parameters.  
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29 646 Although our investigation was unsuccessful in providing a clear description of the distribution  
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31 647 of  $K$  in the central region of the BHRS, a site with (a) low to moderate  $K$  heterogeneity typical of  
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33 648 many high-energy coarse unconsolidated aquifers, and (b) multiple relations between  $K$  and  $\phi$ ,  
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35 649 we have shown that the purely conductive component of our complex measurements has  
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37 650 provided supporting evidence for a stratigraphic structure including low-contrast features  
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39 651 identified in previous investigations – even though the energy storage component has provided  
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41 652 limited additional information at this site. We have shown the value of  $k$ -means cluster analysis  
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43 653 in simplifying and identifying structure from complicated parameter distributions.  
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50 655 Our results have highlighted the potential danger of interpreting IP images from similar  
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52 656 environments independently of other data. In many highly permeable aquifer systems, a level of  
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54 657 heterogeneity of hydraulic properties that can influence flow and solute transport may be  
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56 658 extremely subtle from an electrical geophysics perspective. Obtaining high quality IP  
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6 659 measurements is not straightforward and the signal-to-noise in polarization measurements may  
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8 660 limit its use in noisy and/or poorly controlled settings. However, where significant contrasts in  
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10 661 sediment properties are expected, we believe that IP has significant potential, e.g. in  
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12 662 identification of hydrogeologic boundaries, perhaps at multiple scales.  
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17 664 Finally, we note that our analysis has employed a commonly used smoothness-based inversion  
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19 665 for our geophysical data. We adopted this as a means of evaluating the value of IP using widely  
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21 666 acceptable procedures. However, one may envisage greater resolution of IP contrasts at sites,  
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23 667 such as the BHRS, where other *a priori* information is used to constrain the inversion. We  
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25 668 expect to see greater awareness and application of this approach in future studies.  
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44 676 earlier version of the manuscript.  
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## 888 LIST OF FIGURES

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890 Figure 1. Layout of central wellfield at the BHRS. Solid symbols show location of electrode  
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892 Figure 2. Example porosity profiles from central wellfield borehole logs.

893 Figure 3. Profiles at borehole C4; (a) unit boundaries; (b) porosity; (c)  $d_{60}$  for the matrix only  
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896 Figure 4. Example unit boundary realization based on a geostatistical model of unit contacts.

897 Figure 5. Example hydraulic conductivity profiles derived from multi-level slug tests [based on  
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905 Figure 10. Variation in real conductivity magnitude (left column) and phase angle (right  
906 column) for image values in Figure 8, delineated into units following the stratigraphy in Figure  
907 4.

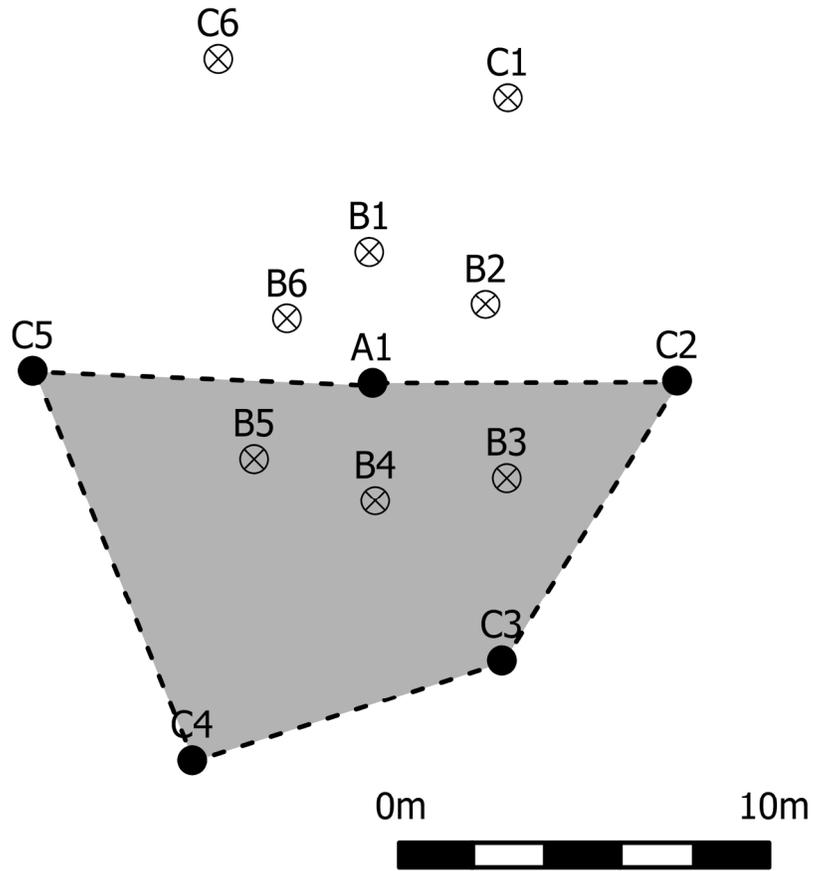
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6 908 Figure 11. Results of five-cluster analysis showing (a) clusters based on real conductivity and  
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11 910 Figure 12. Cluster analysis results for well C4: (a) real conductivity profile from inversion; (b)  
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15 912 (d) cluster boundaries from six-cluster analysis; (e) unit boundaries (Barrash and Clemo, 2002;  
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17 913 Mwenifumbo et al, 2009).

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21 914 Figure 13. Cluster analysis results for well B4: (a) real conductivity profile from inversion; (b)  
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23 915 imaginary conductivity profile from inversion; (c) cluster boundaries from five-cluster analysis;  
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25 916 (d) cluster boundaries from six-cluster analysis; (e) unit boundaries (Barrash and Clemo, 2002;  
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27 917 Mwenifumbo et al, 2009).

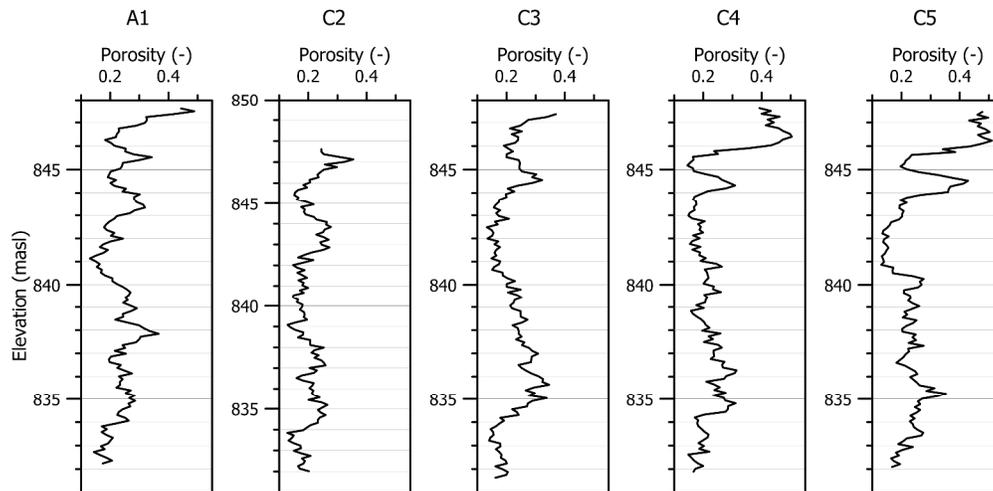
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31 918 Figure 14. Example profiles of hydraulic conductivity. Black line - values computed using  
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33 919 equation 7 using complex conductivity values. Grey line - values from multi-level slug test data  
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35 920 in Barrash and Cardiff (2013). Note closer correspondence in the lower portion of the  
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37 921 stratigraphy where K and porosity are more related in the Kozeny-Carman sense (Barrash and  
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Layout of central wellfield at the BHRS. Solid symbols show location of electrode arrays. Shaded zone indicates area of investigation in this study.  
169x170mm (300 x 300 DPI)

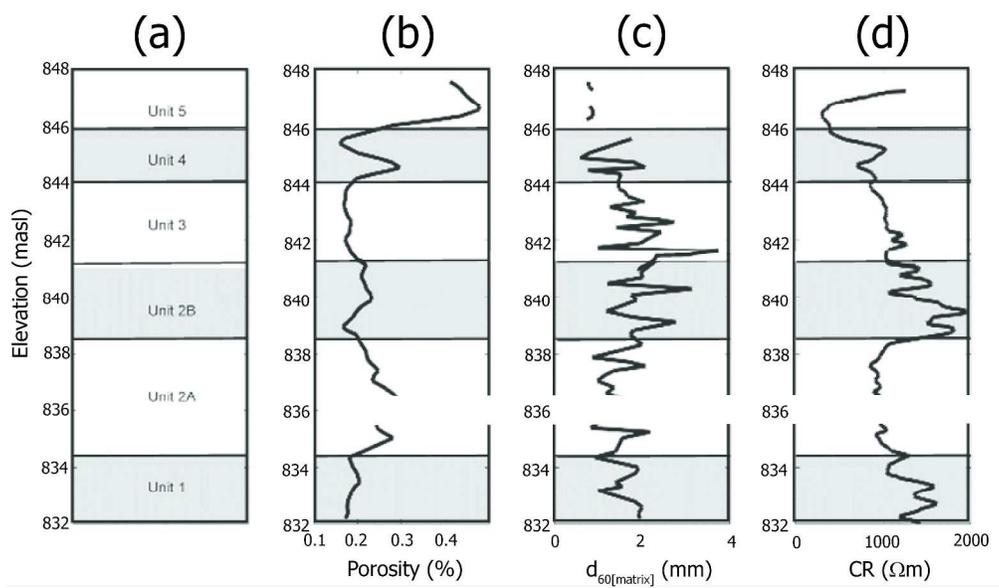
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Example porosity profiles from central wellfield borehole logs.  
379x186mm (300 x 300 DPI)

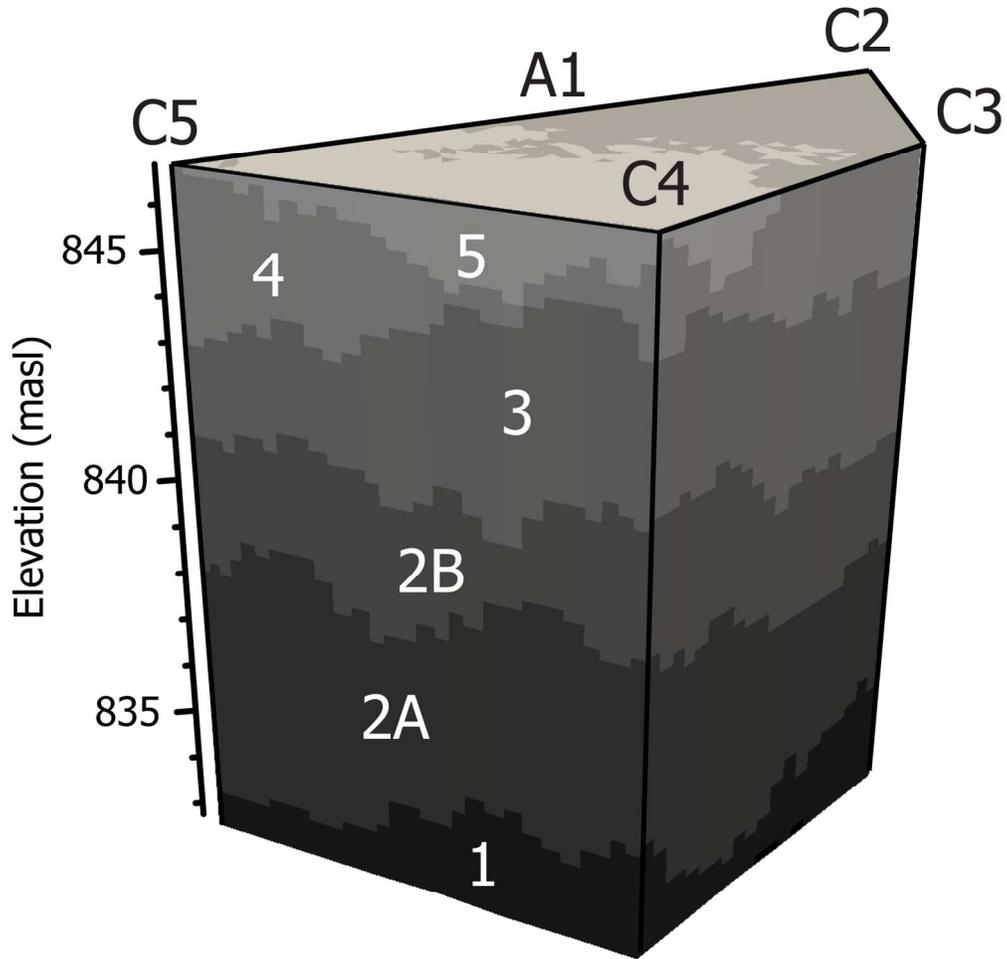
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Profiles at borehole C4; (a) unit boundaries; (b) porosity; (c) d60 for the matrix only (d<sub>60</sub>[matrix]); (d) capacitive probe resistivity. Sources: Barrash and Clemo (2002); Reboulet and Barrash (2003); Mwenifumbo et al. (2009); Barrash and Cardiff (2013). 301x175mm (300 x 300 DPI)

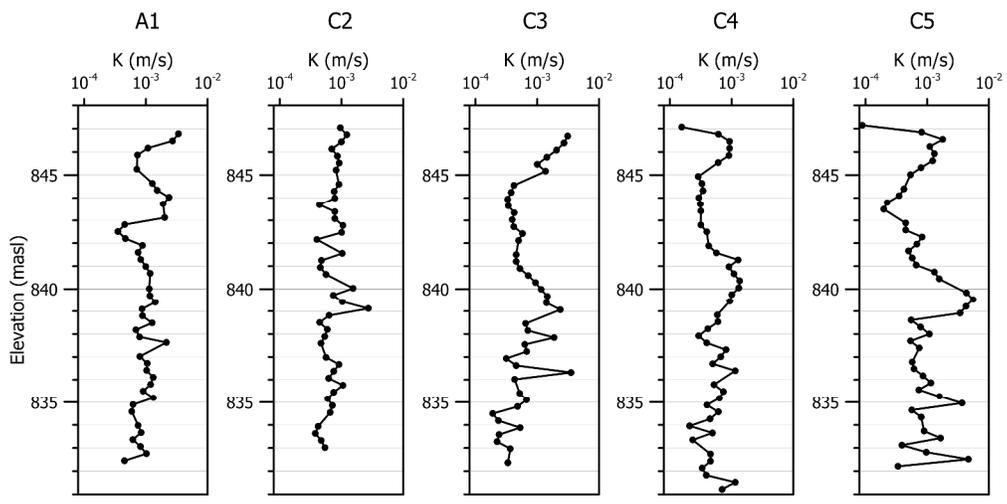
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Example unit boundary realization based on a geostatistical model of unit contacts.  
210x223mm (200 x 200 DPI)

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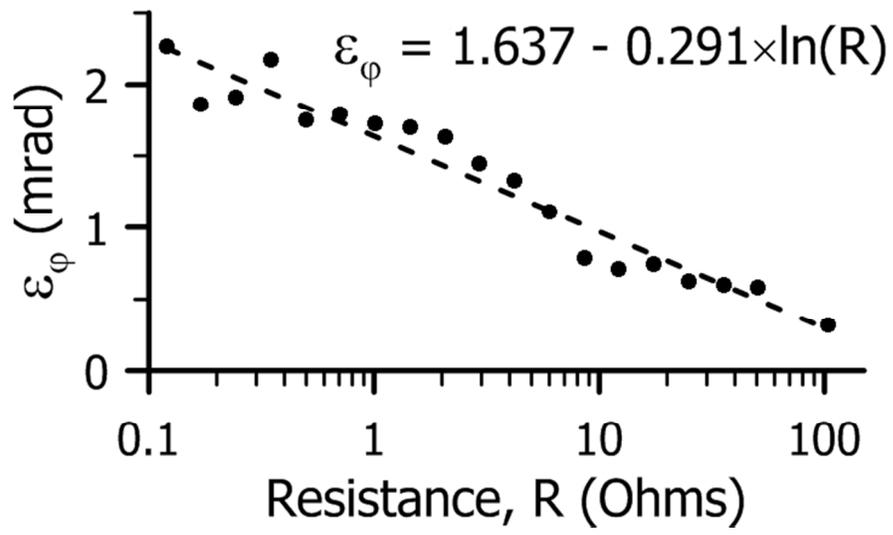
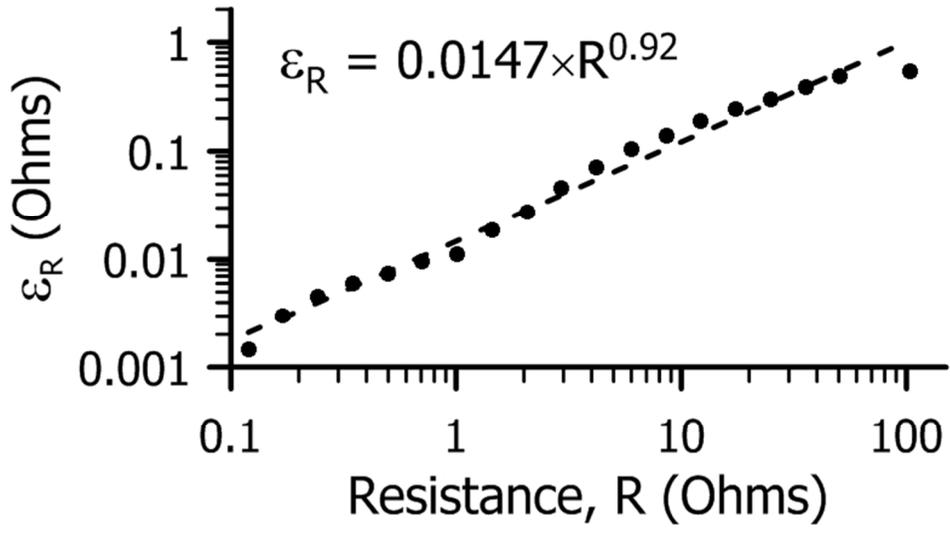
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Example hydraulic conductivity profiles derived from multi-level slug tests [based on data in Barrash and Cardiff (2013)]  
384x188mm (300 x 300 DPI)

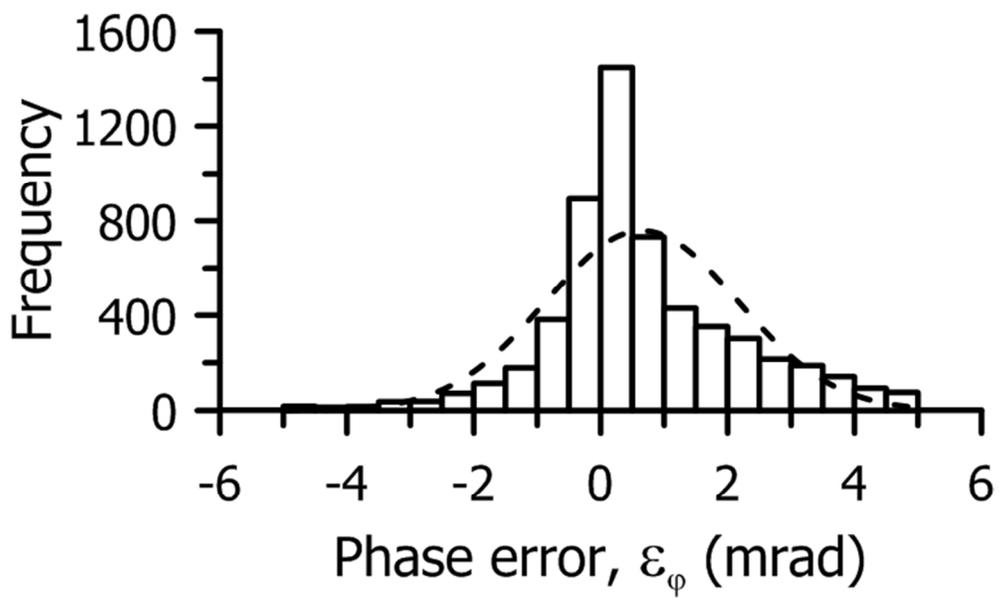
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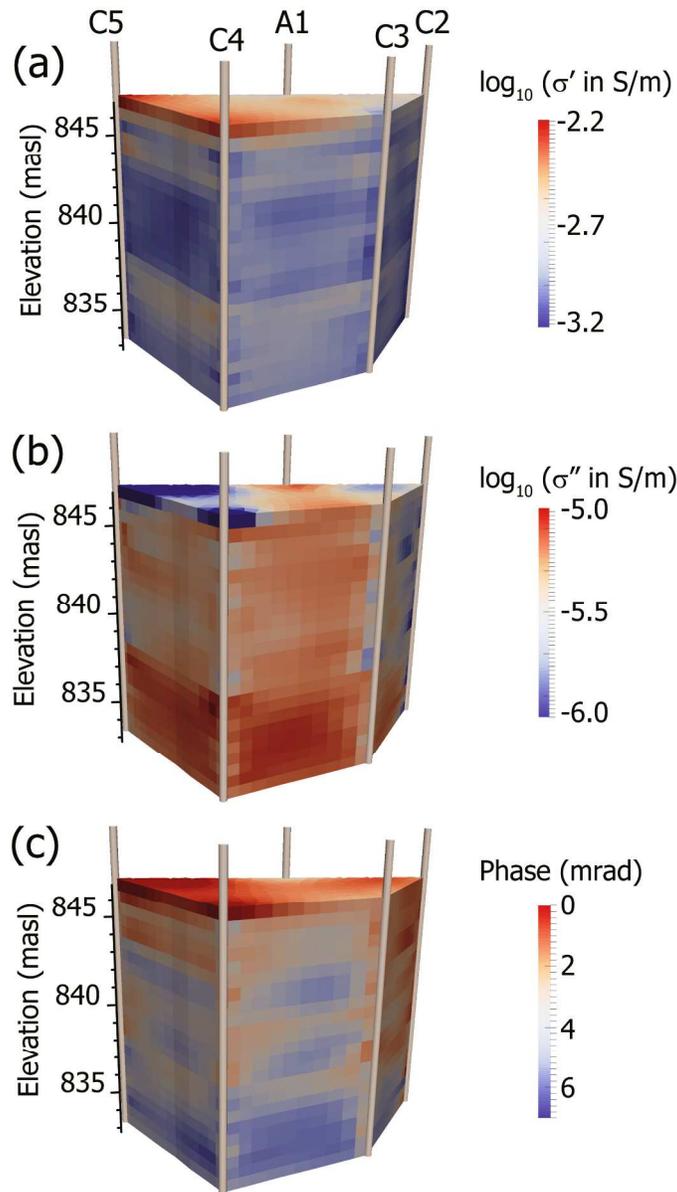
Error relationships for complex resistivity data.  
139x160mm (150 x 150 DPI)

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Distribution of phase angle reciprocity errors. Dashed line shows Gaussian distribution for same sample mean and standard deviation as observed distribution.  
130x81mm (150 x 150 DPI)

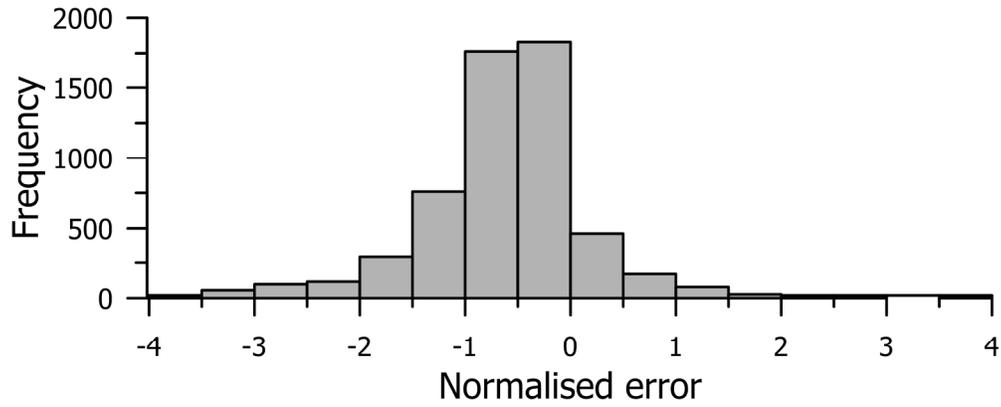
Review



Complex resistivity inversion. (a) real conductivity; (b) imaginary conductivity; (c) phase angle.  
 137x245mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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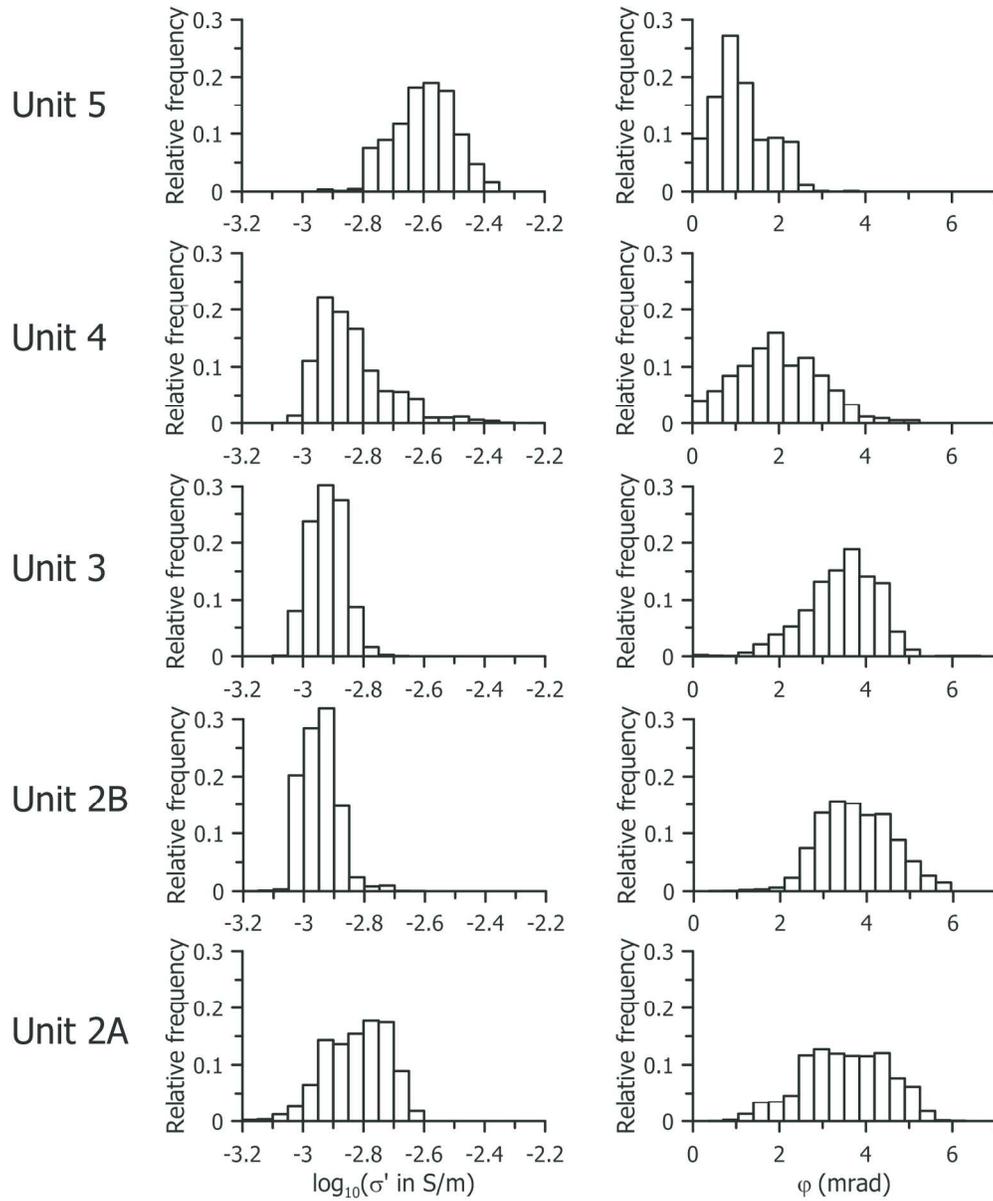
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Distribution of normalized phase misfit for all measurements.  
177x81mm (300 x 300 DPI)

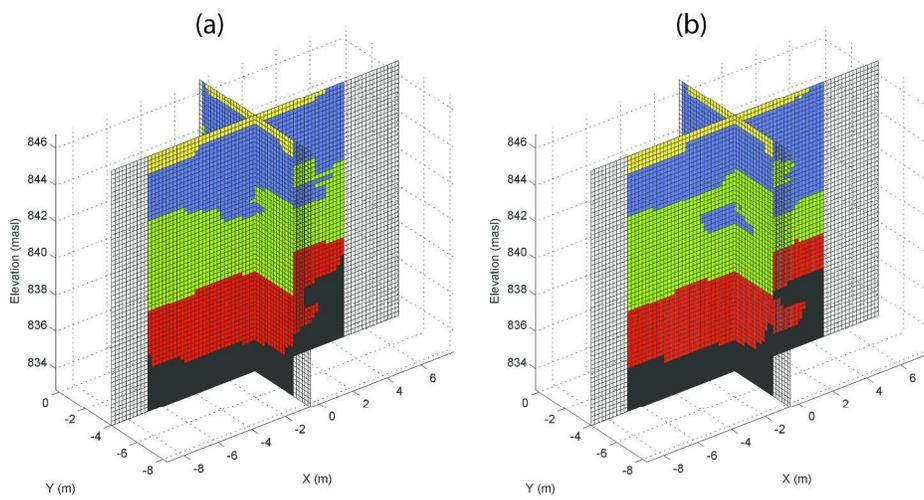
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Variation in real conductivity magnitude (left column) and phase angle (right column) for image values in Figure 8, delineated into units following the stratigraphy in Figure 4.  
173x209mm (300 x 300 DPI)

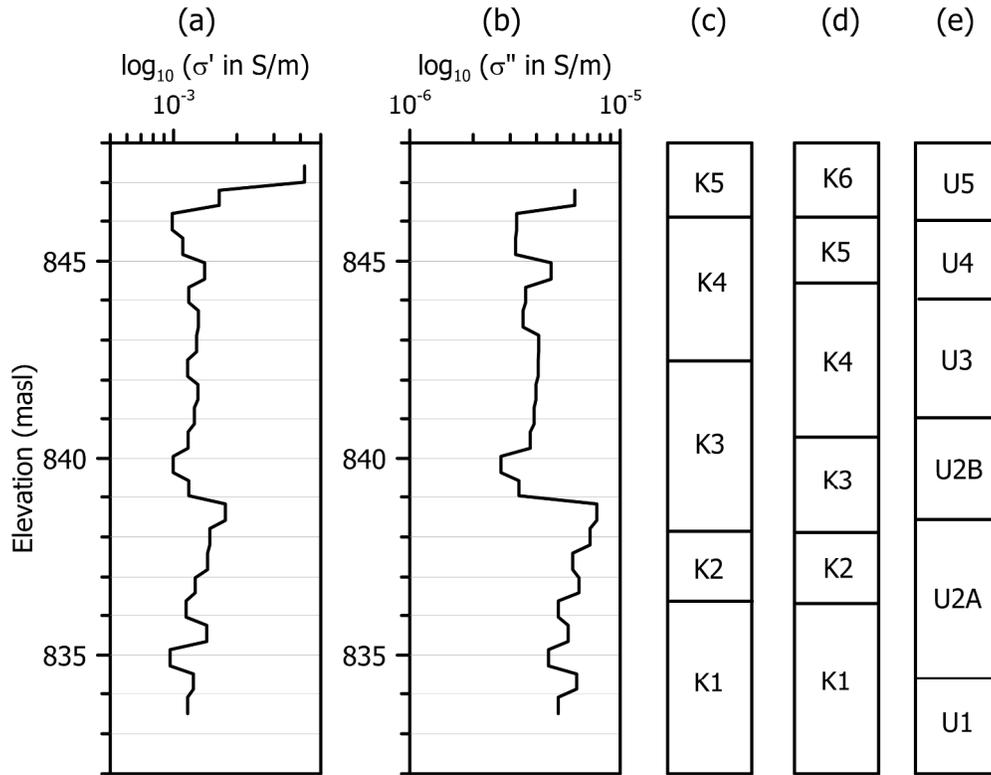
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Results of five-cluster analysis showing (a) clusters based on real conductivity and (b) clusters based on real and imaginary conductivity.  
293x152mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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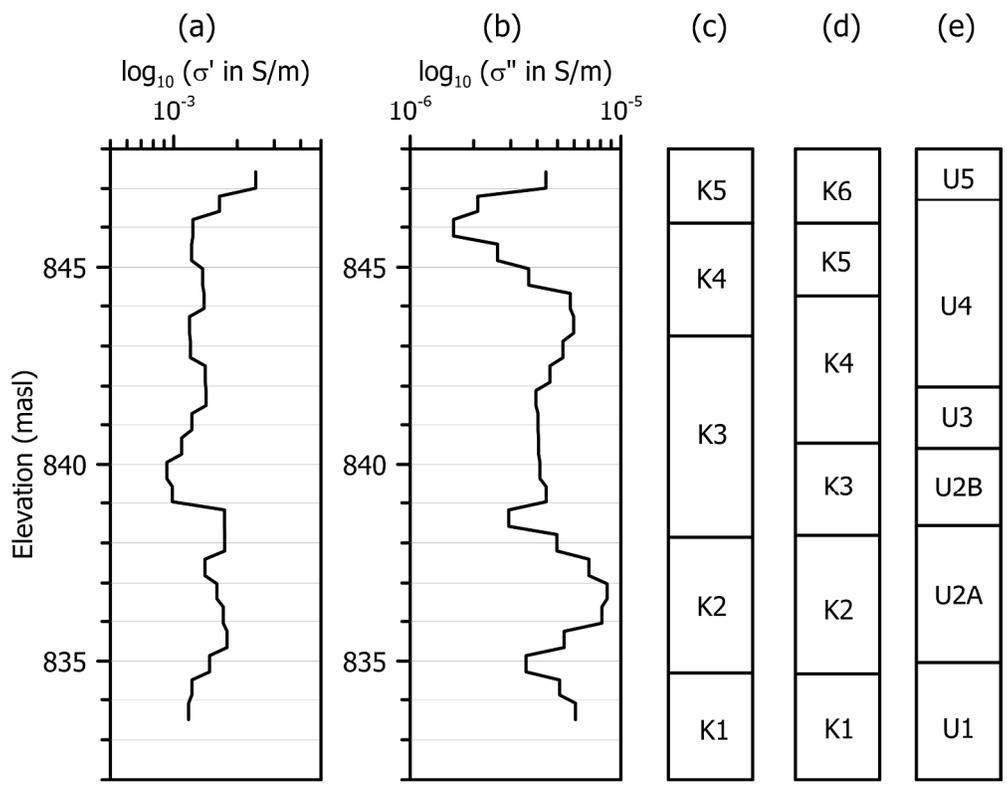
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Cluster analysis results for well C4: (a) real conductivity profile from inversion; (b) imaginary conductivity profile from inversion; (c) cluster boundaries from five-cluster analysis; (d) cluster boundaries from six-cluster analysis; (e) unit boundaries (Barrash and Clemo, 2002; Mwenifumbo et al, 2009).  
236x184mm (300 x 300 DPI)

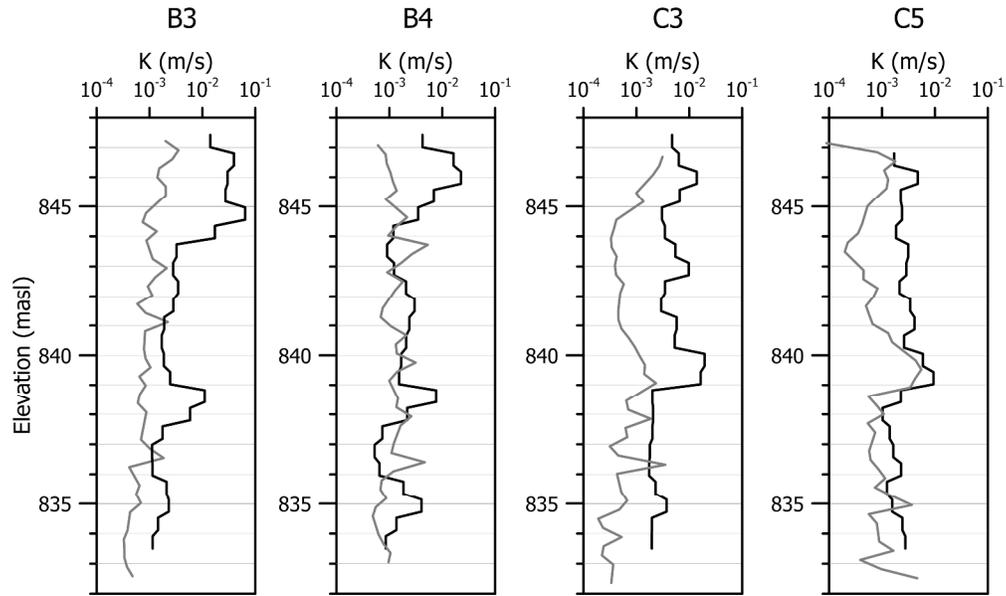
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Cluster analysis results for well B4: (a) real conductivity profile from inversion; (b) imaginary conductivity profile from inversion; (c) cluster boundaries from five-cluster analysis; (d) cluster boundaries from six-cluster analysis; (e) unit boundaries (Barrash and Clemo, 2002; Mwenifumbo et al, 2009).  
 236x184mm (300 x 300 DPI)

view



Example profiles of hydraulic conductivity. Black line - values computed using equation 7 using complex conductivity values. Grey line - values from multi-level slug test data in Barrash and Cardiff (2013). Note closer correspondence in the lower portion of the stratigraphy where K and porosity are more related in the Kozeny-Carman sense (Barrash and Cardiff, 2013).  
 313x187mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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