

# Building large-scale 3D coastal groundwater models with iMOD-WQ and global datasets

Daniel Zamrsky<sup>1</sup>, Gualbert H.P. Oude Essink<sup>2,1</sup>,  
Jude King<sup>2</sup>, Wahdan Achmad Syaehuddin<sup>3</sup>,  
Mitchel Kwint<sup>4</sup>, Marc F.P. Bierkens<sup>1,2</sup>



Utrecht University

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Deltares



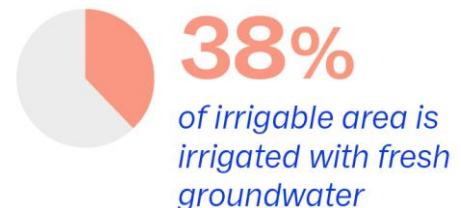
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UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

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THE HAGUE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
APPLIED SCIENCES

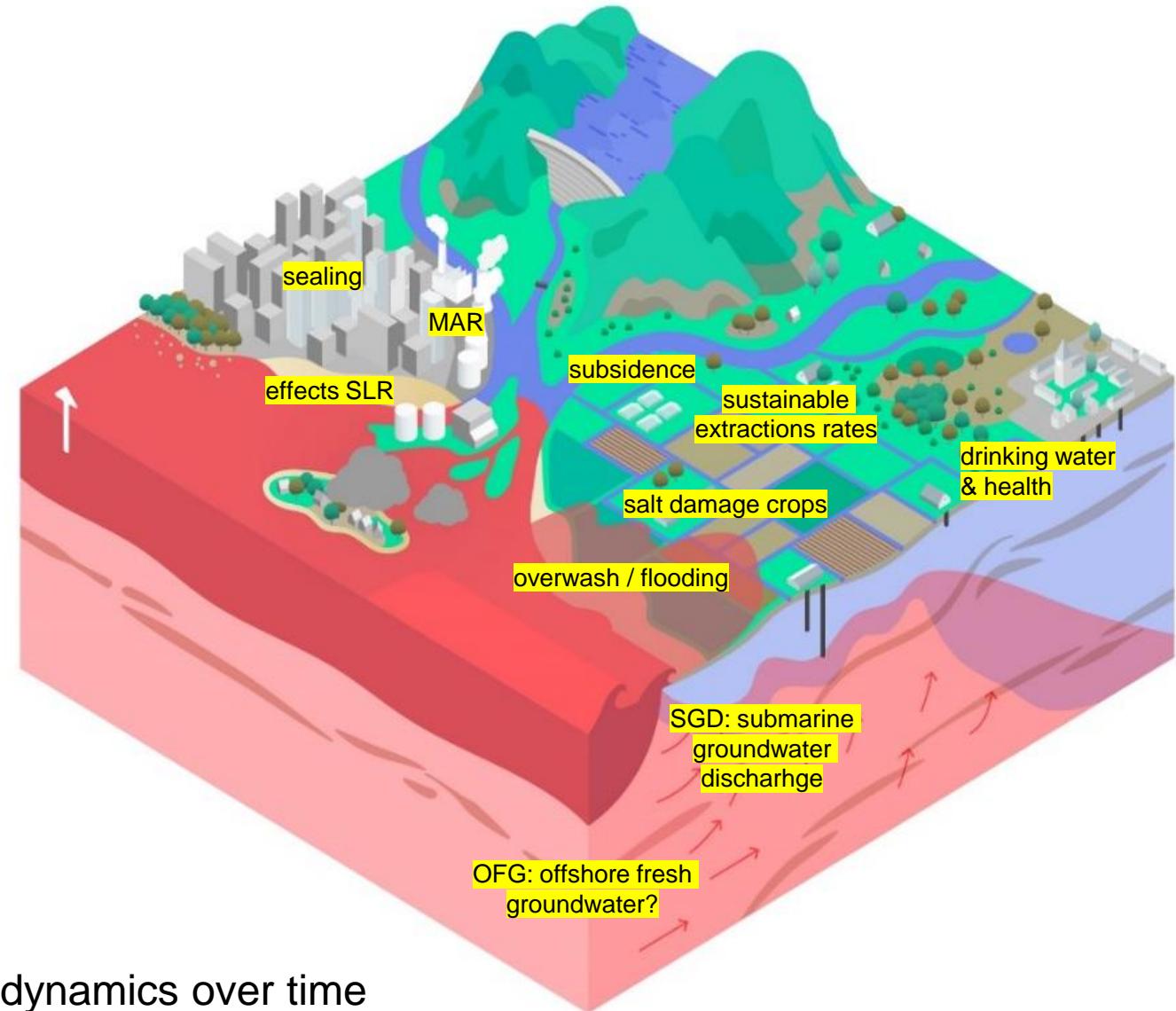
# Why this coastal groundwater model initiative?

- Coastal fresh groundwater is **main water resource** for ~50% of the world population in the coastal zone
- Groundwater is important for **drinking water, agriculture, industry**, as well as **ecosystems & river baseflows**
- **Right now**, fresh groundwater resources are threatened by **excessive pumping**, and **reduced replenishments**
- Projected climate change impacts, inducing **sea-level rise**, will worsen this situation
- We need quantified **storylines** on fresh groundwater availability under stress in **data-poor** coastal zones
- These storylines should be **linked to droughts, land subsidence, flooding, (human) health and biodiversity**



# Applications, components and insights large-scale coastal groundwater model

- Components:
  - groundwater quantity
  - groundwater salinity
  - subsidence (into 2024)
  - heat transport (later, >2024)
  - groundwater quality (later, >>2024)



- Insights:
  - into (supra) - regional coastal groundwater dynamics over time
  - into understanding current and future state of transboundary fresh groundwater resources
  - into identifying potential hotspots for fresh groundwater shortages

# Characteristics large-scale coastal groundwater models LCGMs(1km<sup>2</sup> scale)

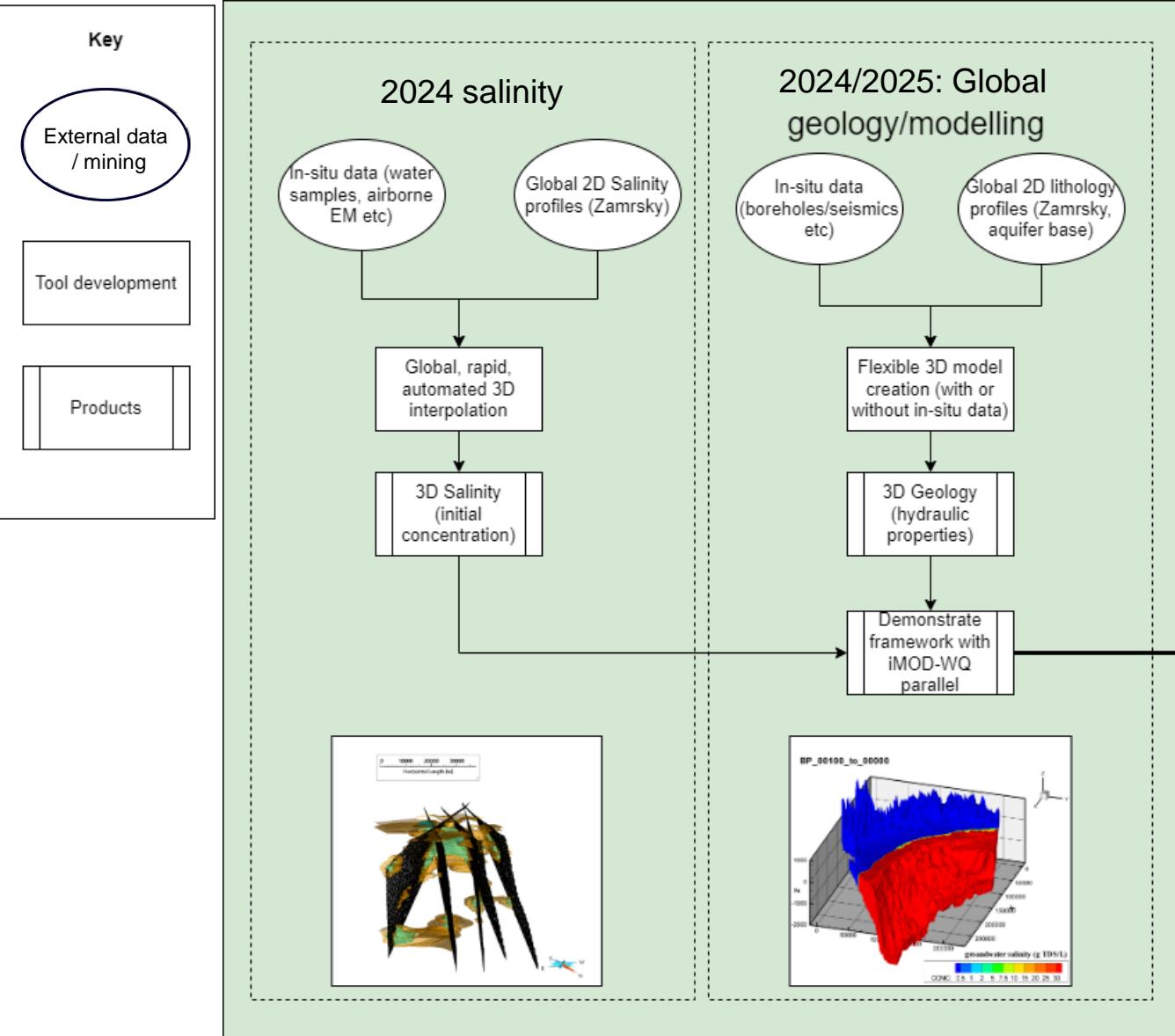
1. Models can cover areas >> **10.000 km<sup>2</sup>**
2. Typically **cell sizes** of **1\*1km<sup>2</sup>**
3. **Multiple model layers** (to properly represent groundwater salinity and subsidence)
4. Our LCGM building tool use **open-source tools like Python**
5. **Global datasets** are used, providing 1<sup>st</sup>-order approximations of groundwater conditions  
in data scarce regions
6. **High-performance computing** opens up new possibilities
7. **Parallelization of SEAWAT** (iMOD-WQ): important breakthrough in speeding up variable-density groundwater flow and salt transport modeling
8. **Simulation** groundwater salinity dynamics over **full glacial-interglacial cycle** (e.g. 125 ka).

# Characteristics large-scale coastal groundwater models LCGMs(1km<sup>2</sup> scale)

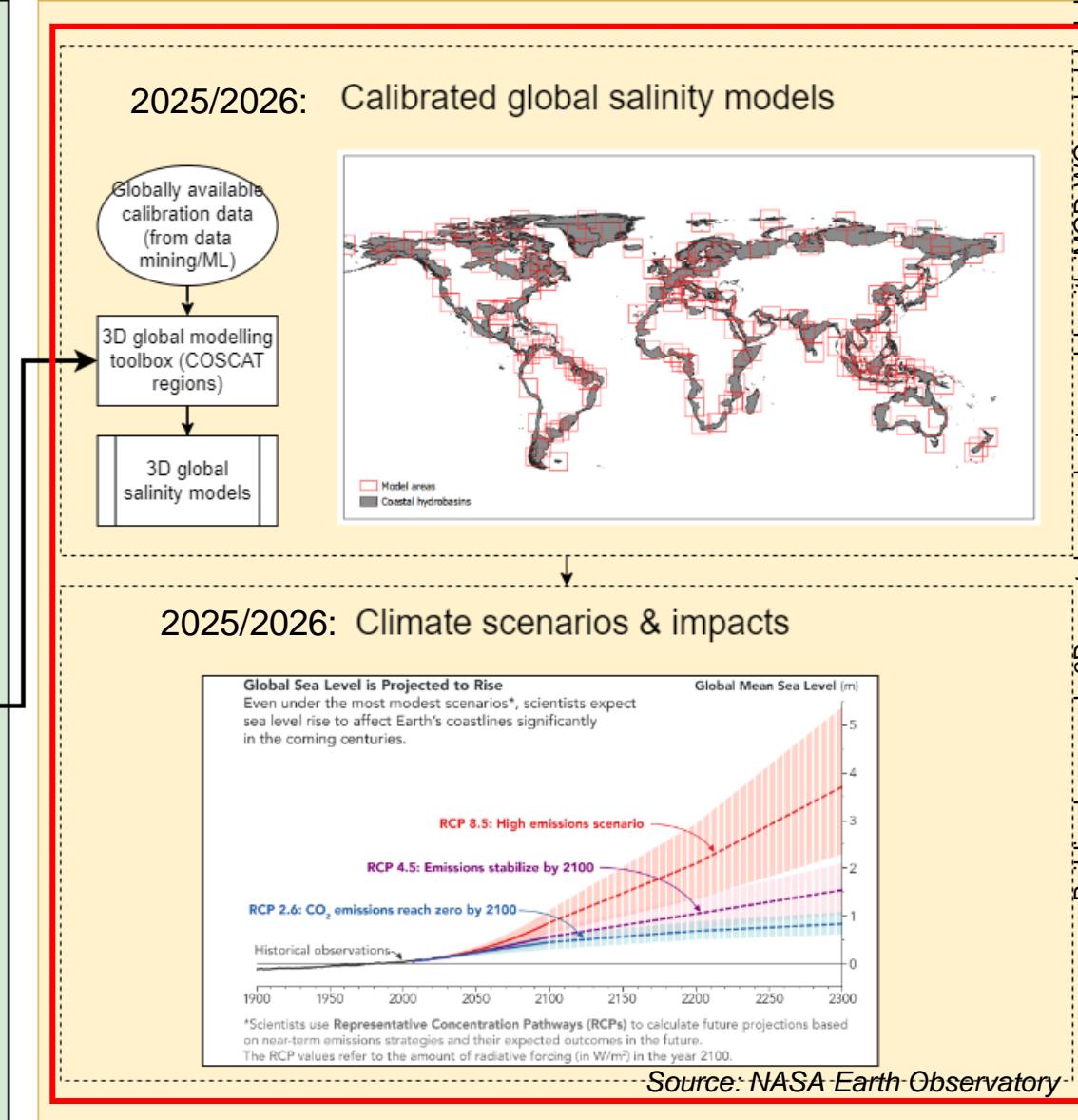
9. **HydroBASINS global-watershed-boundaries** dataset are used to delineate the boundaries
10. **Offshore continental shelves** are also covered (manually outlined and added to the selected HydroBASINS).
11. **Top elevation** derived from a **global DEM dataset (GEBCO)**
12. **Bottom elevation** estimated by:
  - a. the bottom of the unconsolidated sediment formations
  - b. sedimentary rock formations (limited to siliciclastic lithology)
13. When **local hydrogeological input data** is available (e.g. borelogs, groundwater salinity, extractions), tools like **GEMPY** are used to **improve the LCGMs**

# Planning large-scale coastal groundwater model building tool

## Phase 1: Tool development, demonstration

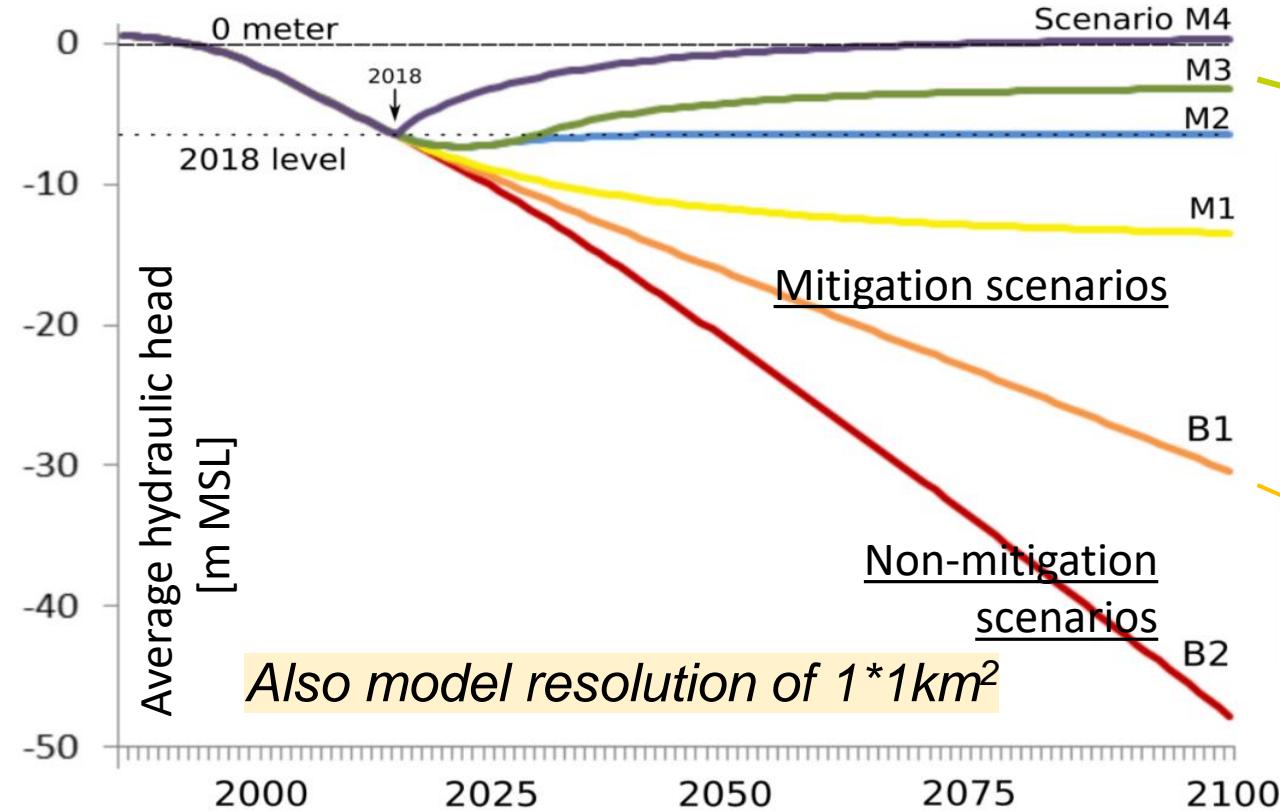


## Phase 2: Global modelling and scenarios

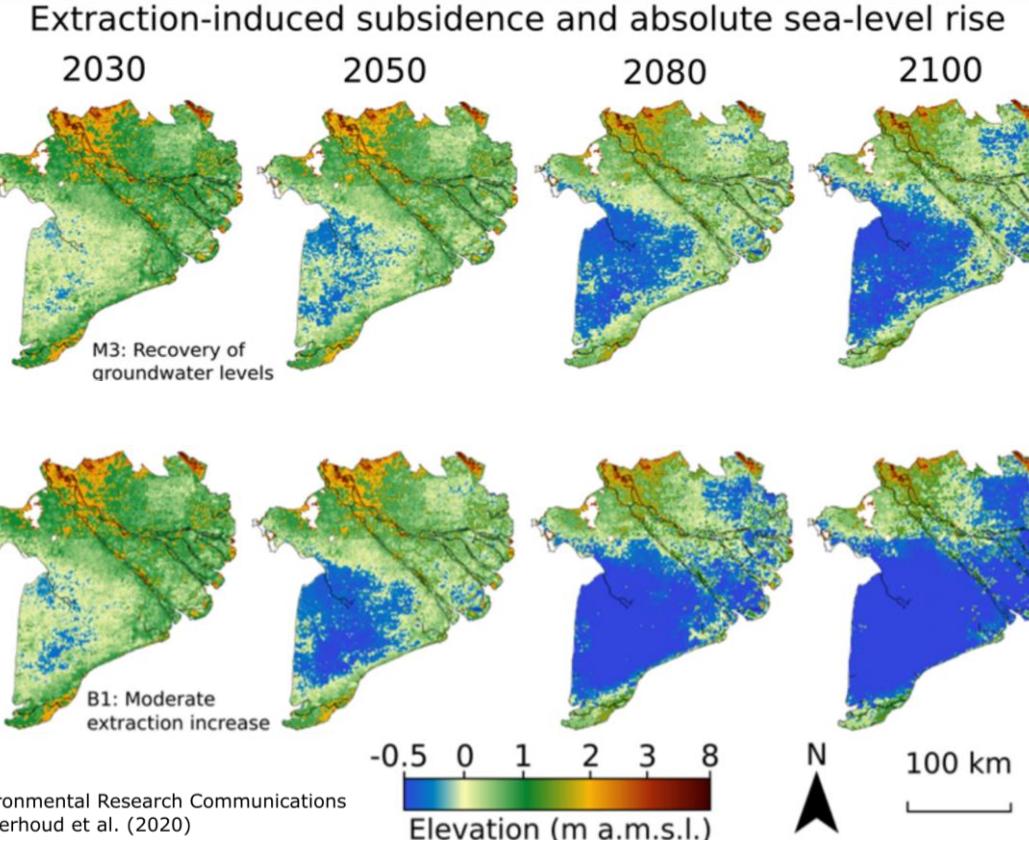


# Example storyline: Pathways to demonstrate the future Mekong delta: linking groundwater extraction → subsidence → increased flood risk

Scenarios of future groundwater extraction pathways



Future elevation of the delta



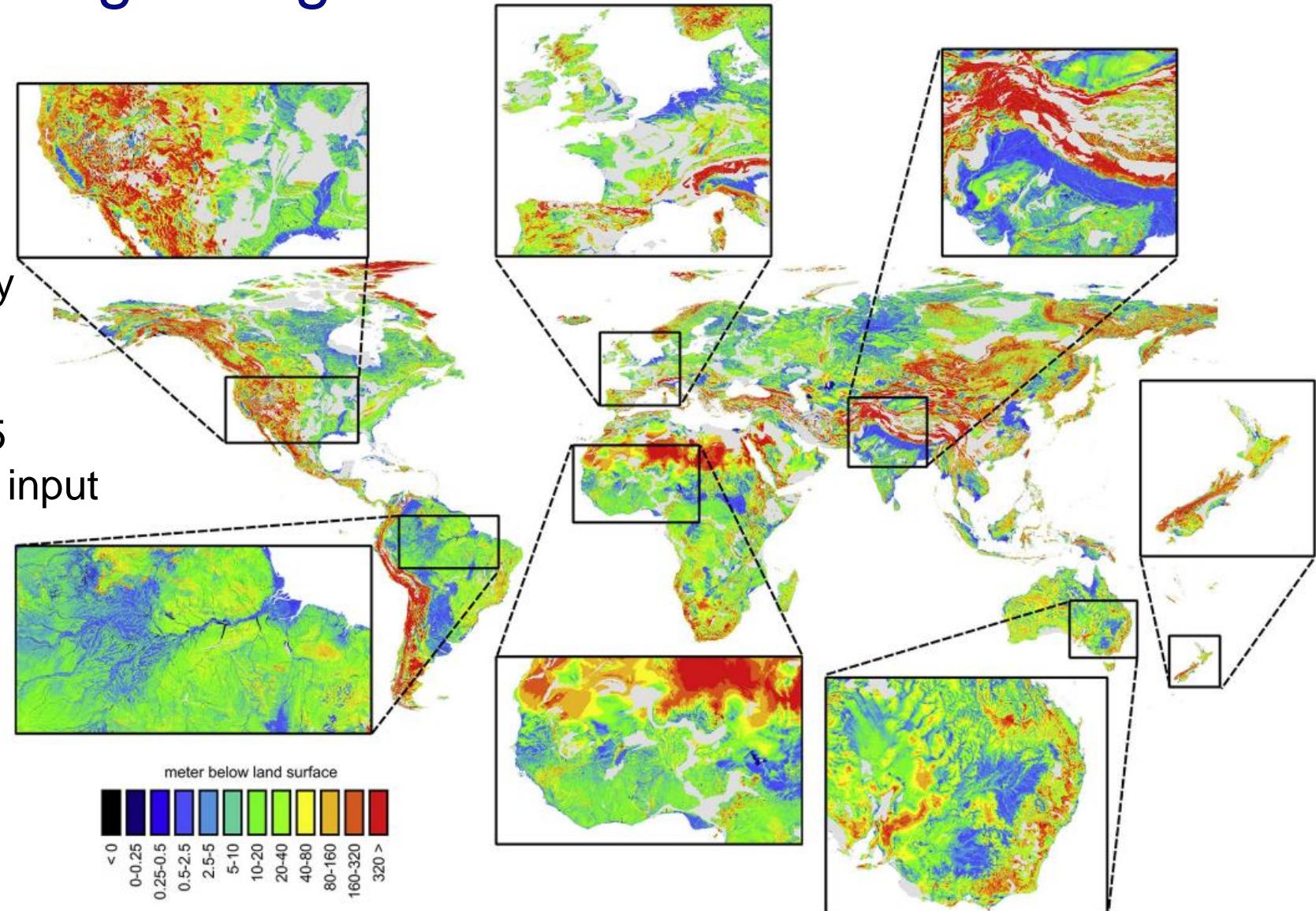
Environmental Research Communications  
Minderhoud et al. (2020)

Among others based of this research, 'Decree 167' has been implemented in Vietnam in the **Law of Water Resources**: develop and implement zoning plans to **restrict groundwater overexploitation**

# Example 1: 1\*1km<sup>2</sup> global groundwater model

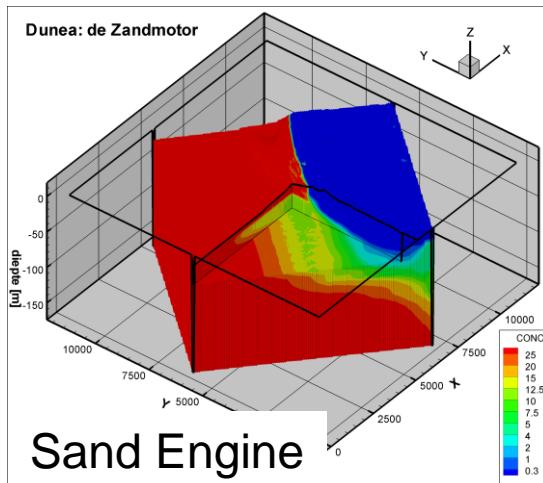
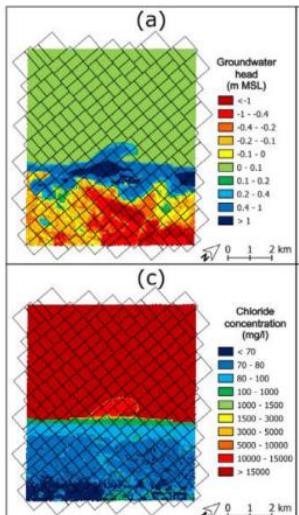
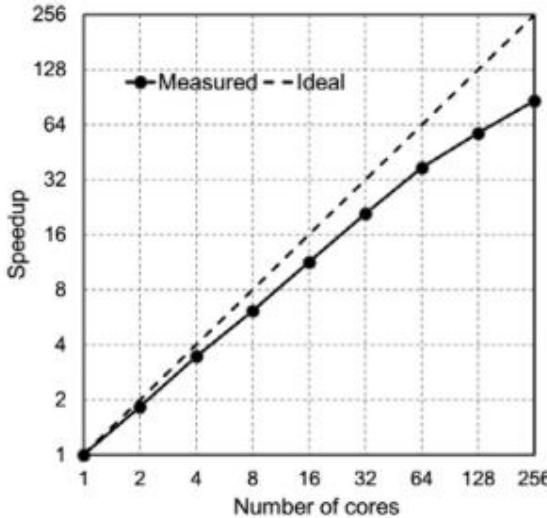
## Components:

- quantitative groundwater only
- 278 million active cells
- two model layers
- simulating period 1958–2015
- daily time steps and monthly input
- 12 nodes, 384 cores
- Snellius supercomputer
- maximum 16 hr simu time!



# Example 2: parallel computing plus smart model parameters

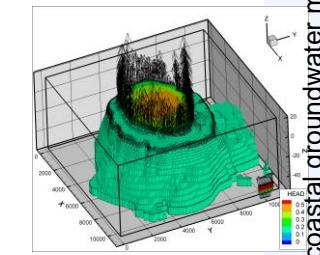
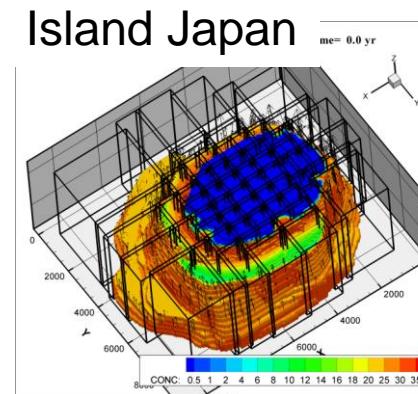
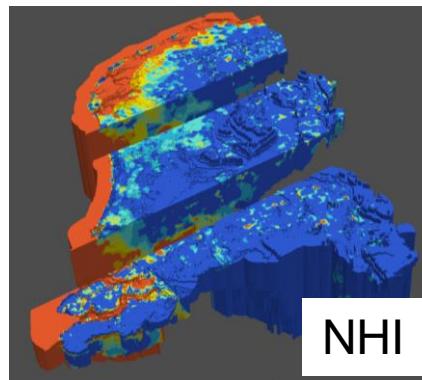
- Split into (tens of) partitions, leading to a significant reduction in computation time
- Speed-ups of at least 10 up to 100 times, depending on cores, solver iterations and data exchange efficiencies



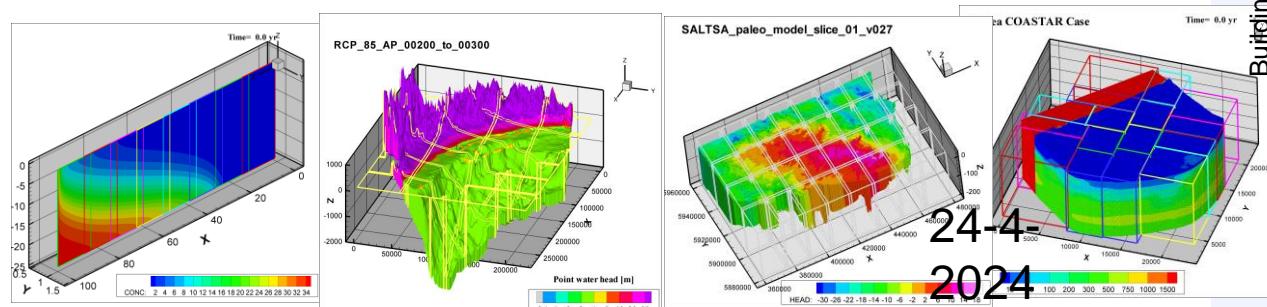
Sand Engine

Three examples:

1. Sand Engine: from 1hr 47min 55sec  $\rightarrow$  2min 40sec: **40\***
2. NHI fresh-salt: from  $\sim$ 30 days to  $\sim$ 2days: **15\***
3. Island Japan: from 5d0h36m to 5m59s: **1209\***



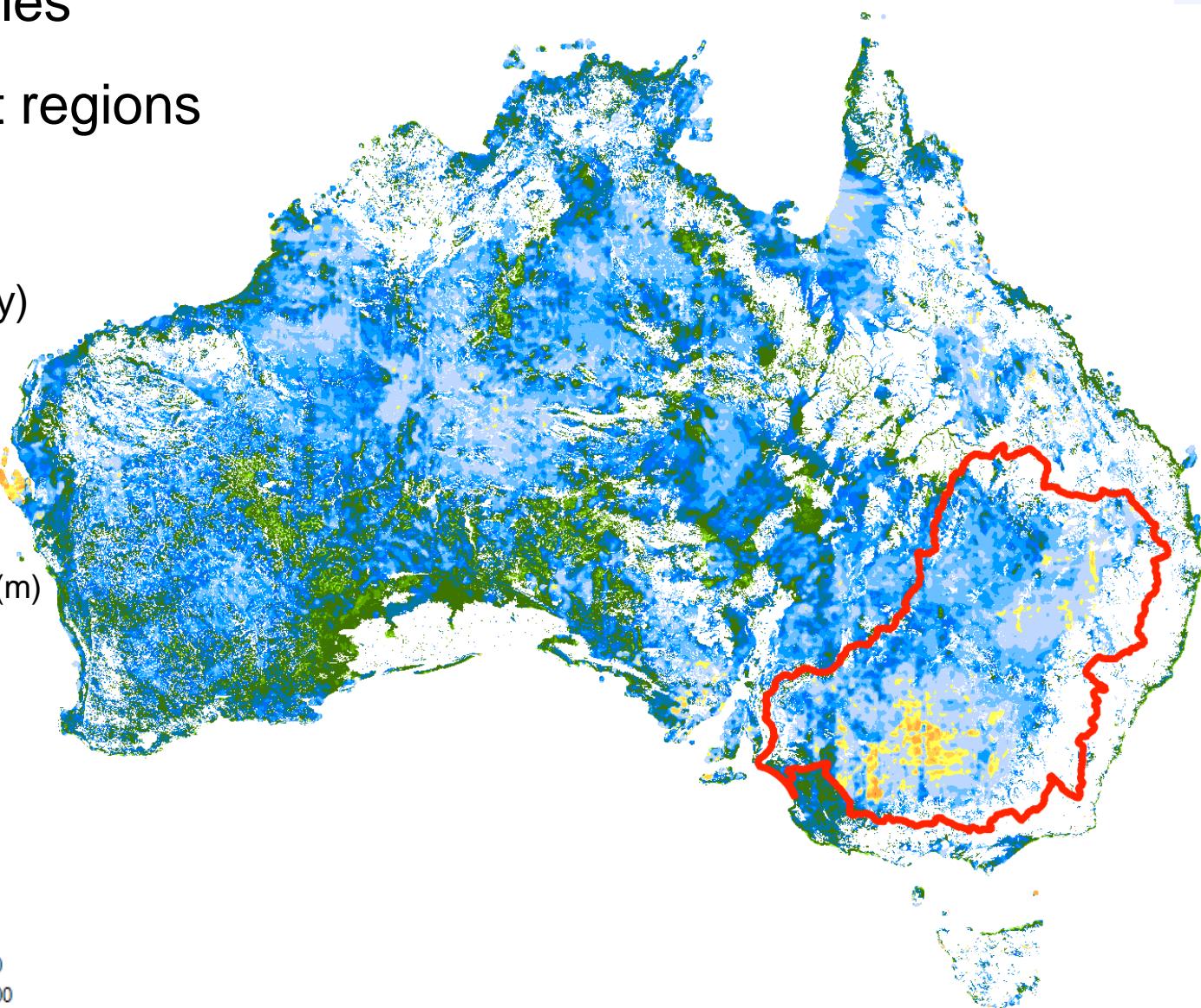
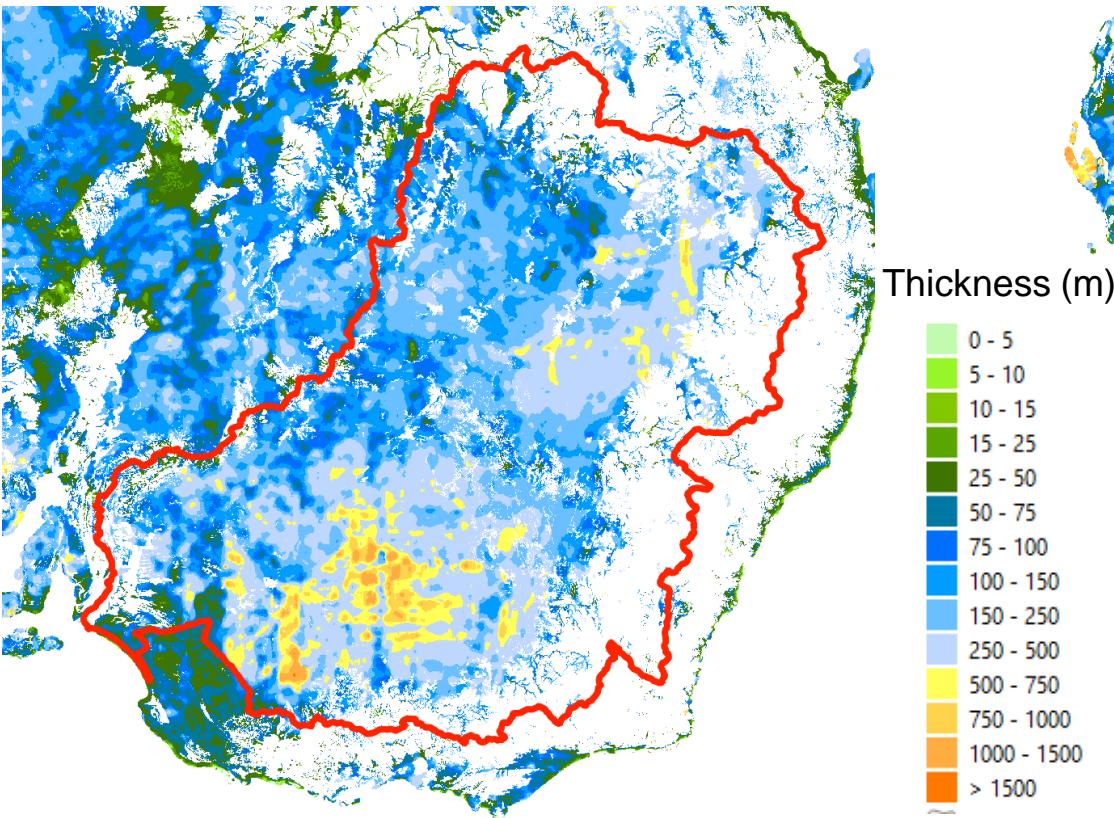
Verkaik, J. et al., 2021. Adv. Water Resources



# Example 3: Improving geology, focus sediment thickness

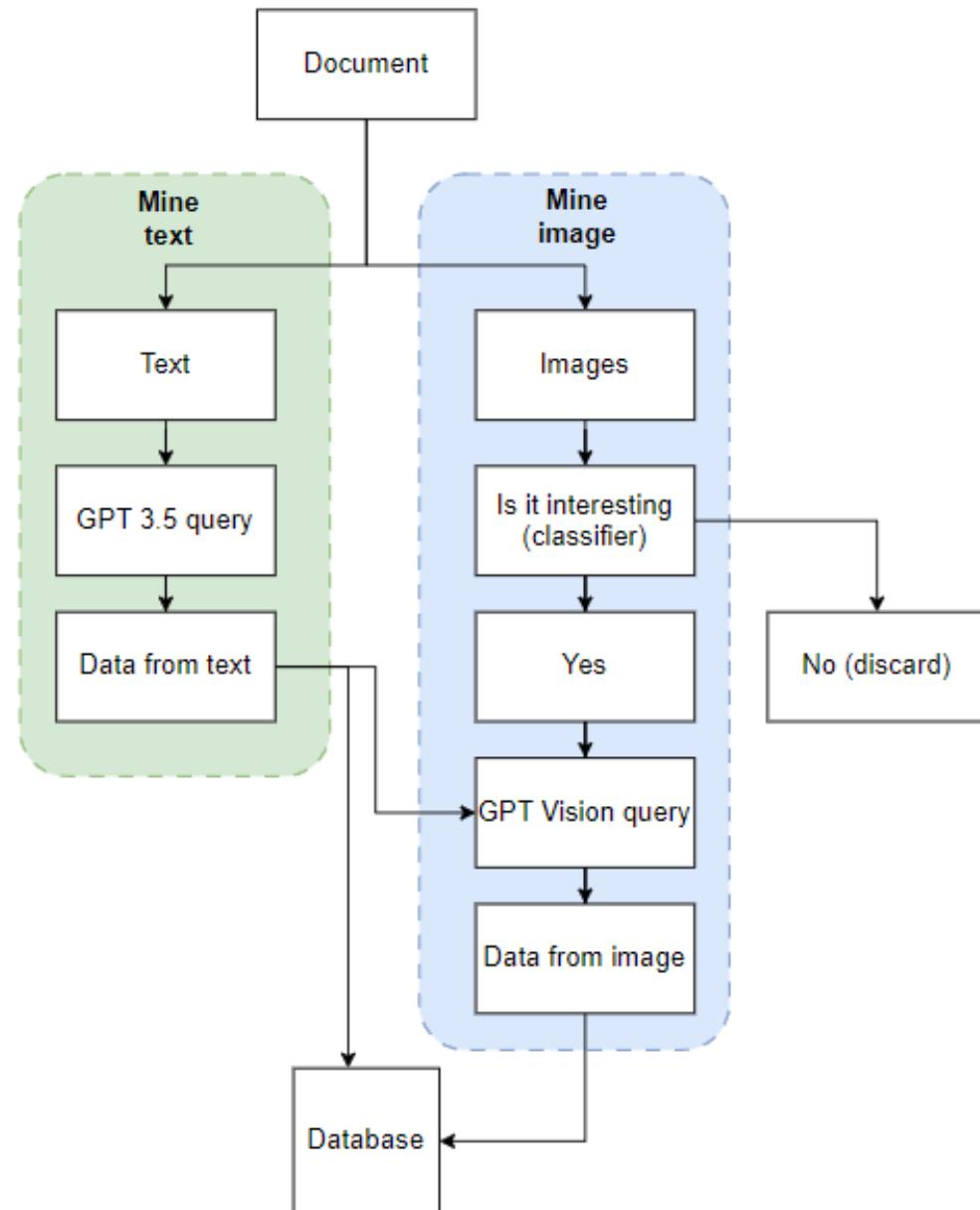
- we validated with ~40.000 boreholes
- decent results in deeper sediment regions
- example Australia

(for more information: check with Daniel Zamrsky)



# Example 4: Data mining hydrogeology

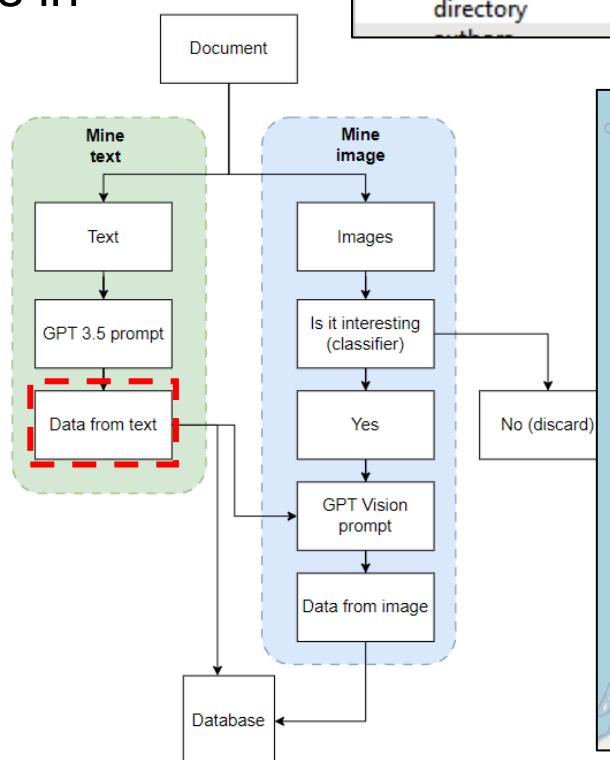
- Global models need data for **hydrogeological properties, validation, calibration**, etc.
- **Without enough data**, models and their **projections are highly uncertain** / people do not trust them.
- Recently available Python APIs for Large Language Models (LLMs), e.g., Open AI GPT3.5/GPT4 Vision).
- Architecture designed with FAIR practices in mind
- Short scripts, adaptable to different LLMs
- Exciting opportunities to apply these methods



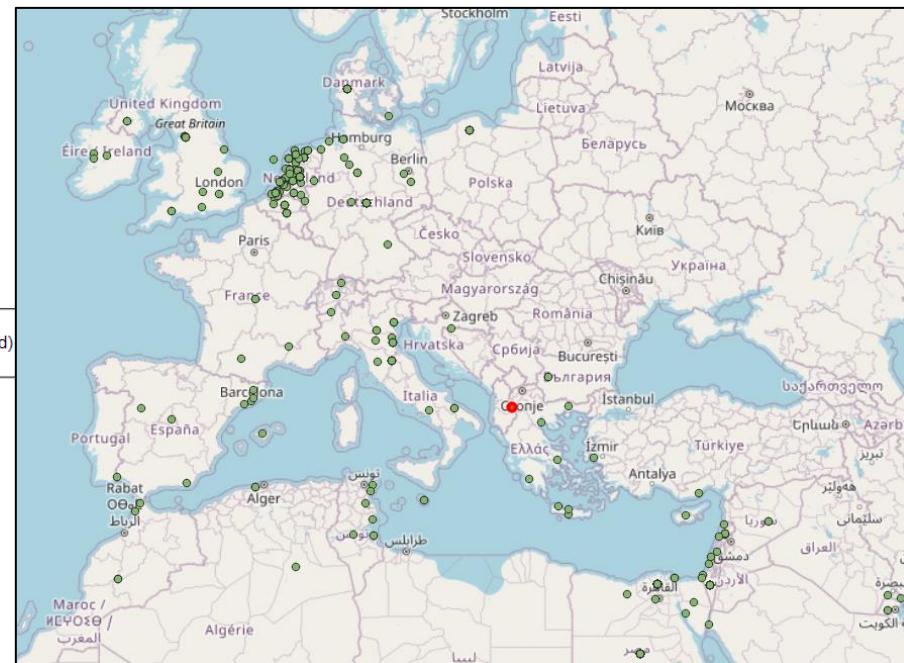
# Example 4: Data mining hydrogeology

## Structured data from text

- LLM response is processed using a parser and added to a structured database
- Bing maps API turns place names in coordinates
- Here: result from mining ~2000 documents
- Five orders faster & cheaper



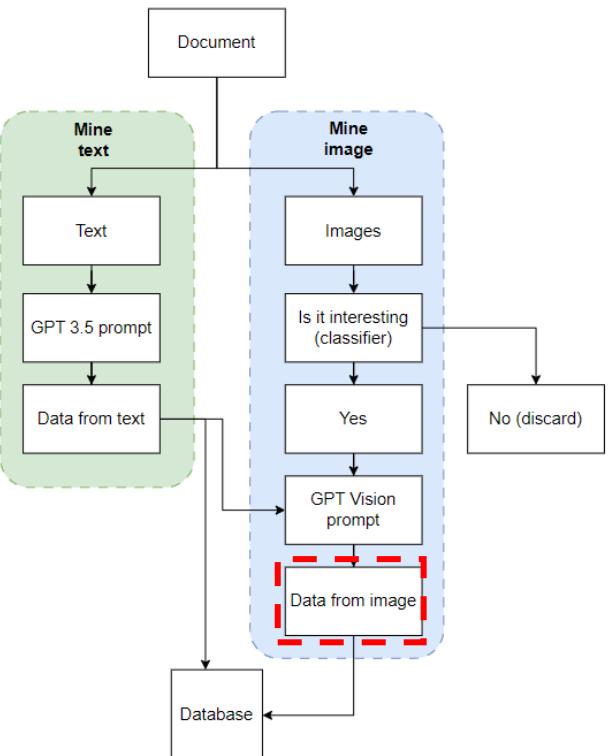
Data_Mine_V1	
title	Borehole logging and seismic data from Lake Ohrid (North...
field_1	1
(Derived)	Borehole logging and seismic data from Lake Ohrid (North...
(Actions)	
title	Borehole logging and seismic data from Lake Ohrid (North...
year	2022
country	North Macedonia/Albania
region	Lake Ohrid
url	<a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2021.107295">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2021.107295</a>
keywords	['age-depth modelling', 'downhole methods', 'seismic inte...']
data_links	[]
Y_country	41,13994598000000
X_country	20,06507682999999
Y_region	41,06011580999999
X_region	20,73127556000000
directory	C:\Users\king_je\Projects\Text_Mining\pdfs\1-s2.0-S02773...
...	NULL



# Example 4: Data mining hydrogeology

## Structured data from images

- Uses multimodal capabilities (**GPT4 Vision**)
- Quantitative data needs careful structuring
- It can format and also reject incomplete or poorly structured data



Example parsed JSON output from LLM for one borehole interval

```
{  
    "top_m": 0.0,  
    "bot_m": 3.0,  
    "litho_main": "TOPSOIL",  
    "litho_description": "TOPSOIL GRAVEL, rare boulders",  
    "x_coordinate": 1661007,  
    "y_coordinate": 5315067,  
    "ground_level": 27.0,  
    "grid_reference": "NZTM"  
},
```

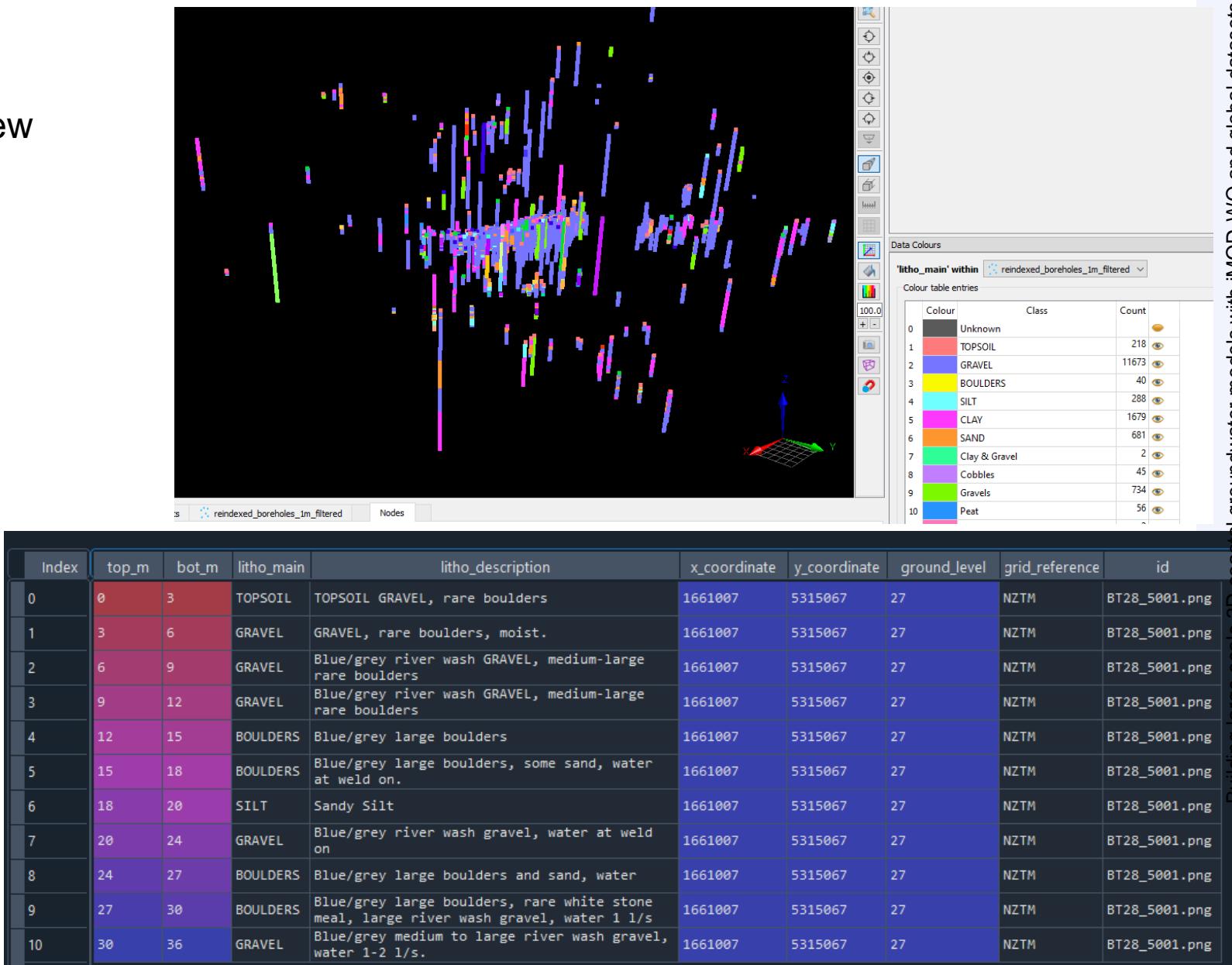
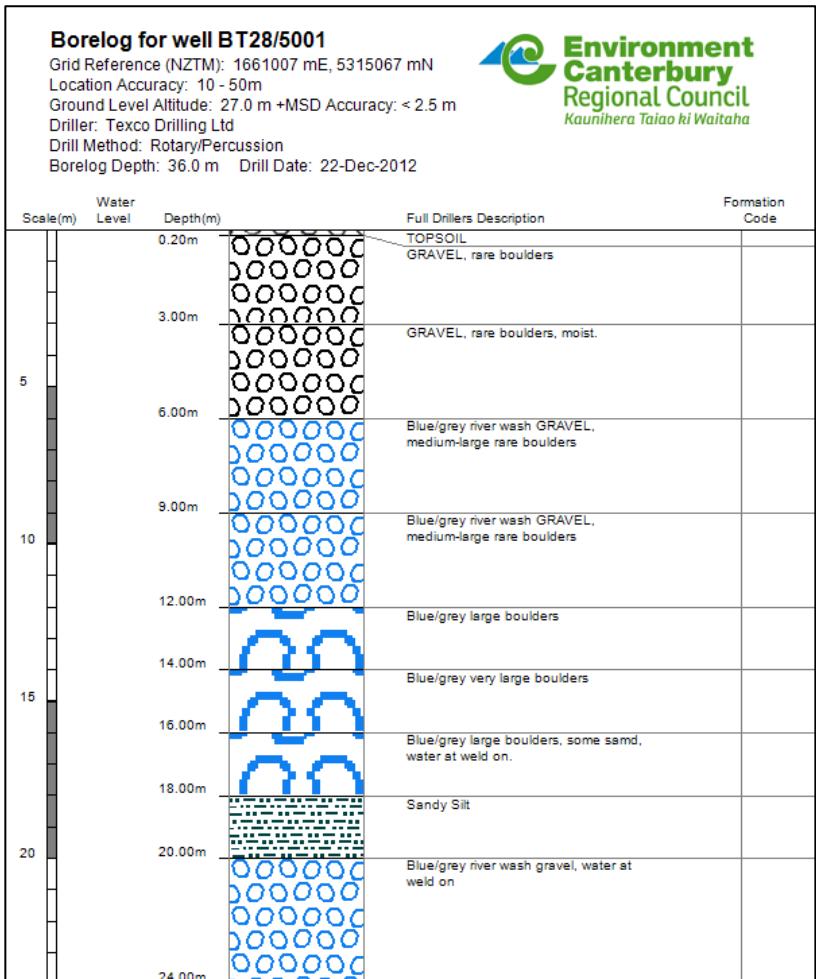
Parsed output added to database

df	top_m	bot_m	litho_main	...	ground_level	grid_reference	id
0	0.0	3.0	TOPSOIL	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
1	3.0	6.0	GRAVEL	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
2	6.0	9.0	GRAVEL	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
3	9.0	12.0	GRAVEL	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
4	12.0	15.0	BOULDERS	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
5	15.0	18.0	BOULDERS	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
6	18.0	20.0	SILT	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
7	20.0	24.0	GRAVEL	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
8	24.0	27.0	BOULDERS	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
9	27.0	30.0	BOULDERS	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png
10	30.0	36.0	GRAVEL	...	27.0	NZTM	BT28_5001.png

# Example 4: Data mining hydrogeology

## Structured data from images

Tested on ~500 borehole images from New Zealand, provided by Utrecht University



# Example 4: Data mining hydrogeology

## Structured data from images

Handles handwritten logs (mostly), also in other languages

FORMATION LOG SHEET			
Date drilled:	26-5-1985	Date logged:	26-5-1985 - 21-5-1985
Geologist:	EDE	Project:	GPM
Latitude:	70° 26.665' S	Location:	345 m off 20° 48' S / 70.77° E
Longitude:	70° 44.513' E	Hole number:	T100 C = WWS3503
From	To	Rock Type	Description
0	2 m	Soil / carbonated	
2	11 m	Grey, dark white sand	coarse - fine (silty) sandy; poor sorting subangular - rounded fragments poorly consolidated (possibly some volcanic cement).
11	22	yellow/brown Sand	to whitish-greyish brown fine-coarse sized; subangular- rounded poorly consolidated; Quartz is coated Iron oxide?
22	29	Silicified (lahar)	in white sandy matrix; consolidated bioclastic fragments up to pebble size (Ø up to 10-15 cm); some laminae
29	102	Oxidised, weathered basalt	white weathered & fine subangular; general grey fragments white bands: Calcite (HCl: foam) x red brown bands: Limonite? Iron oxide Nb 5 cm Quartz band smaller to occur elsewhere
102	125	less weathered chlorite schist	more bluish grey in colour
125	126	"fresh" chlorite schist (Eoh)	Schistosity; Silky gloss; porphyro. up to 30% (Gt) pyrite, calcite (from with HCl) Quartz etc. w/ graphite in some places.



top_m	bot_m	litho_main	litho_description
0	2	Soil/Organic	Coarse-fine (silty) sands, poor sorting
2	11	Grey silt with some sand	Subangular to rounded fragments, poorly consolidated (possibly some volcanic glass)
11	22	Yellow/brown Sand	Coarse to fine grain brown, ferroan coated,...
22	29	Silicified (Lahar)	White sandy matrix (poorly sorted, bimodal)...
29	102	Oxidised weathered basalt	Some scoriacity, general clay fragments, wh...
102	125	Basalt	Fresh basalt, small to medium olivine phenocrysts, black glassy groundmass
125	126	Frank chlorite schist	Epidote, calcite (HCl), quartz, schistosity, silty, (possibly up to 30 (Gt))

# Example 4: Data mining hydrogeology

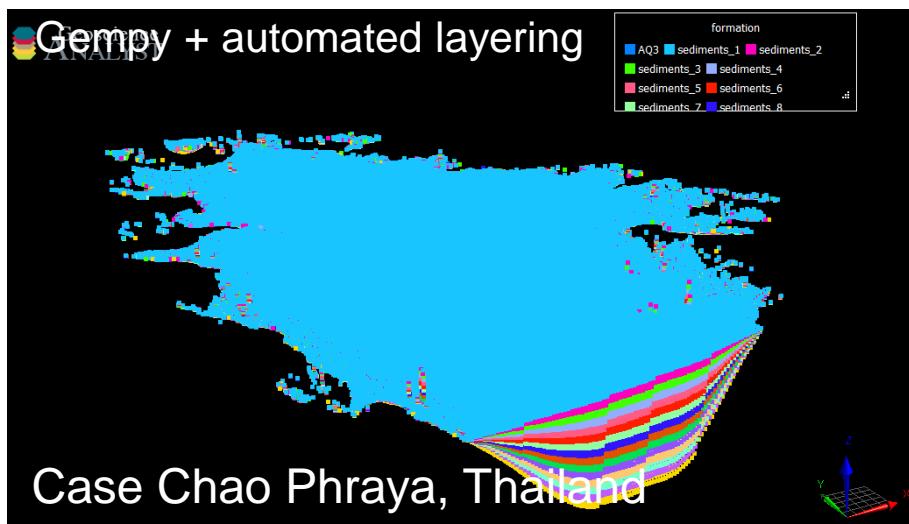
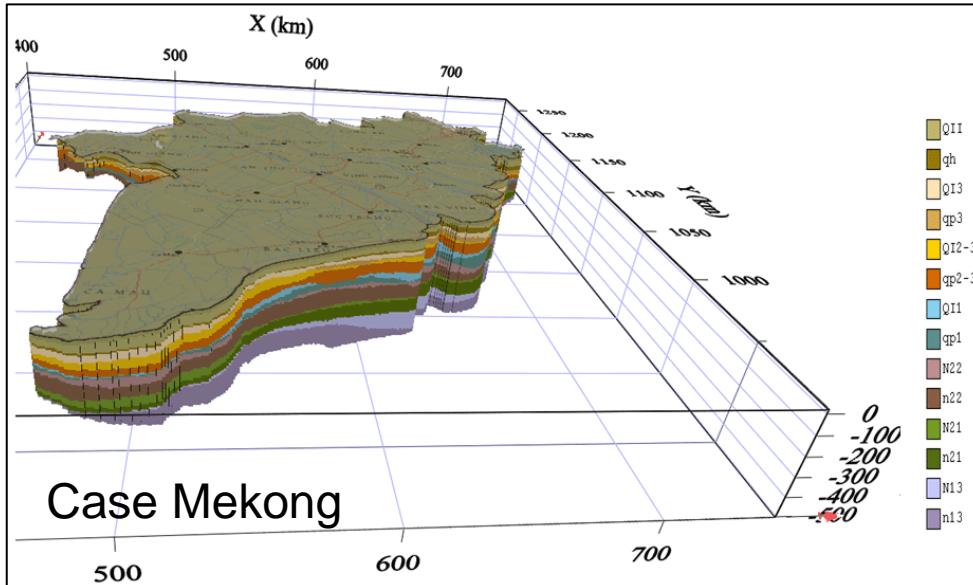
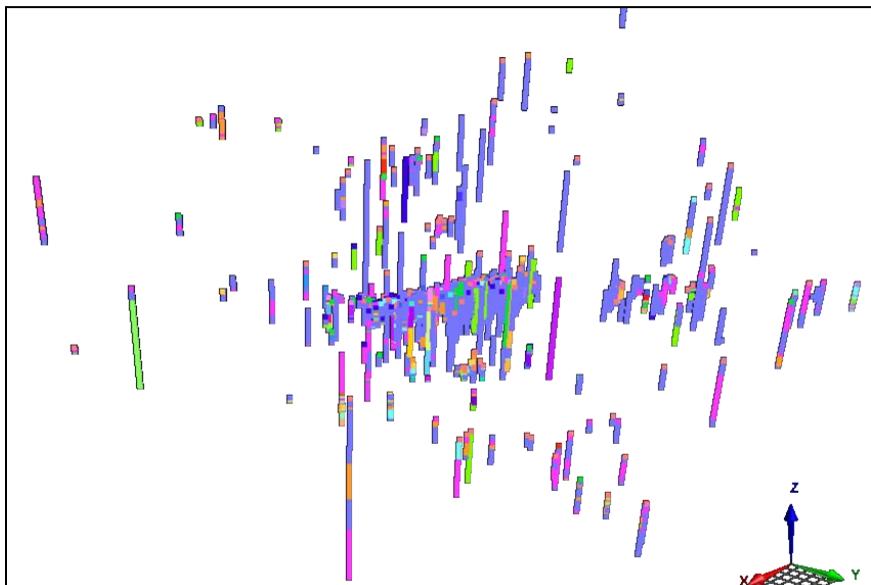


## Using the data to construct large-scale hydrogeological models

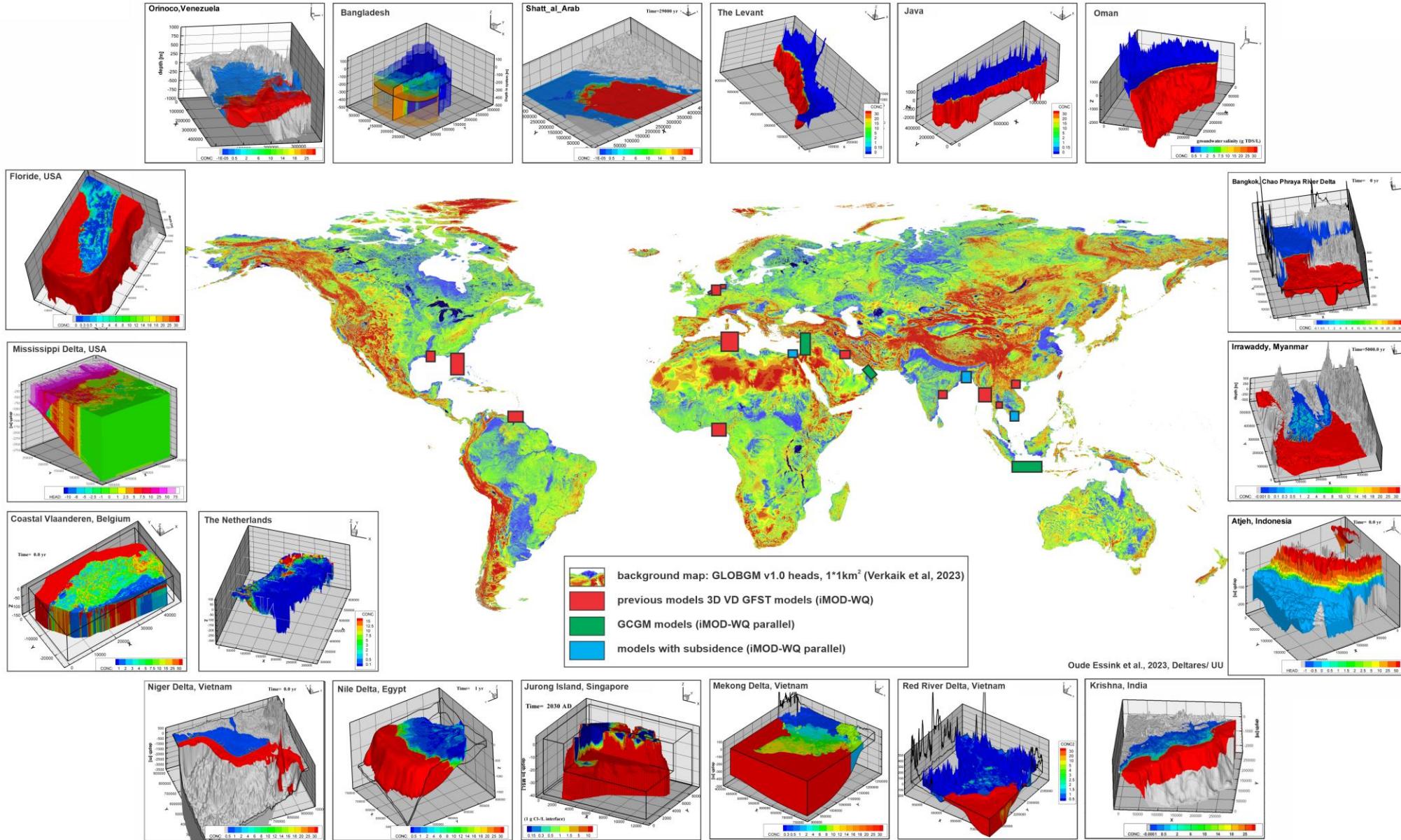
Models can (mainly) parameterised in two ways with data-mining:

1. Hydrogeological properties
2. Initial salinity distributions

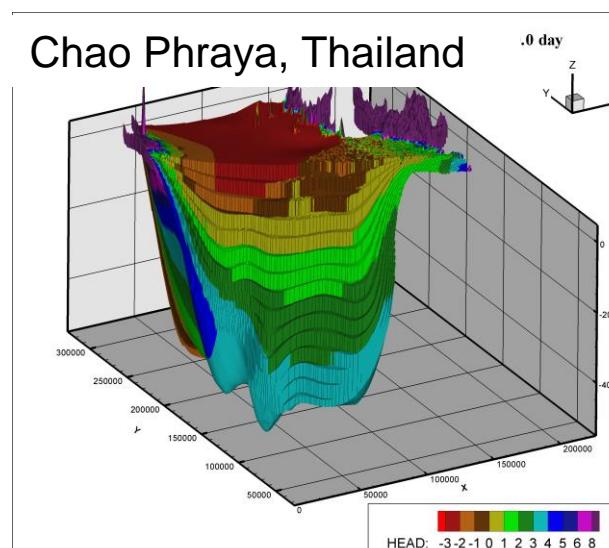
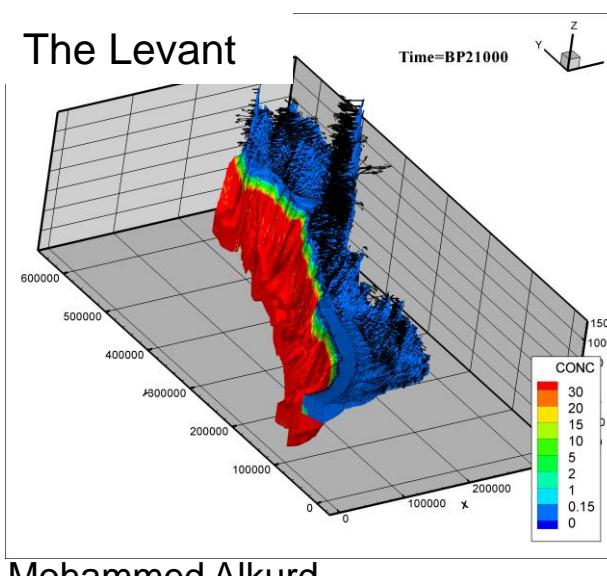
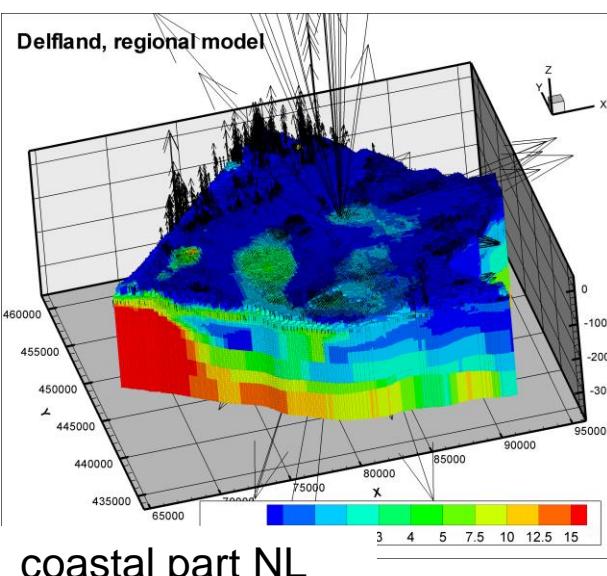
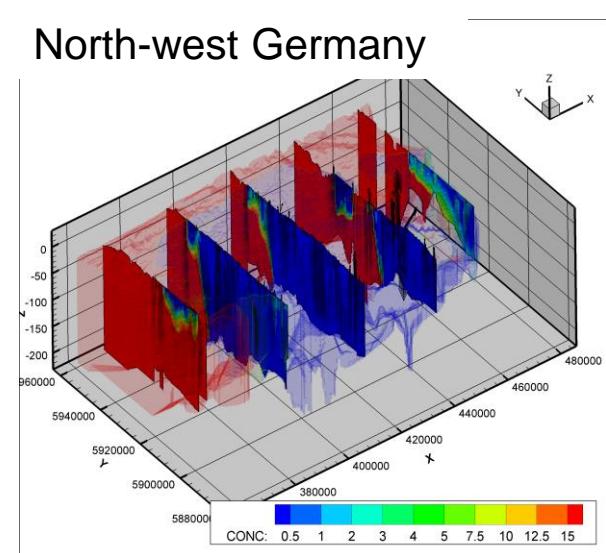
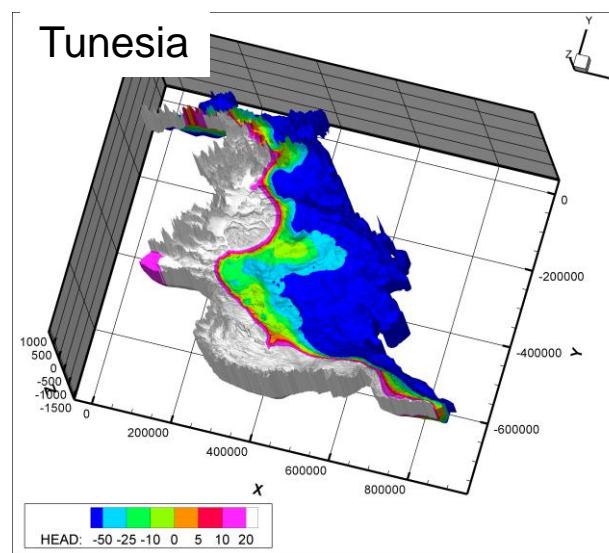
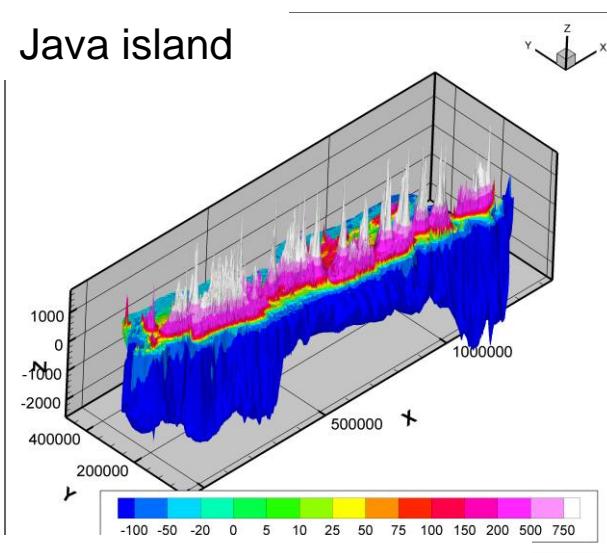
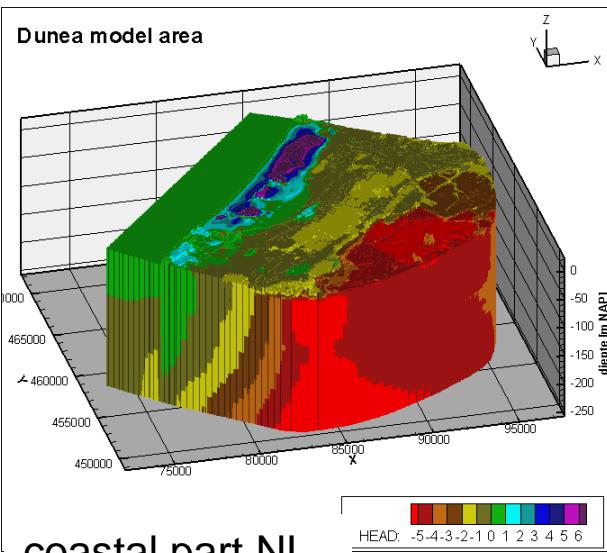
Demonstration of 3D interpolation for hydrogeological properties

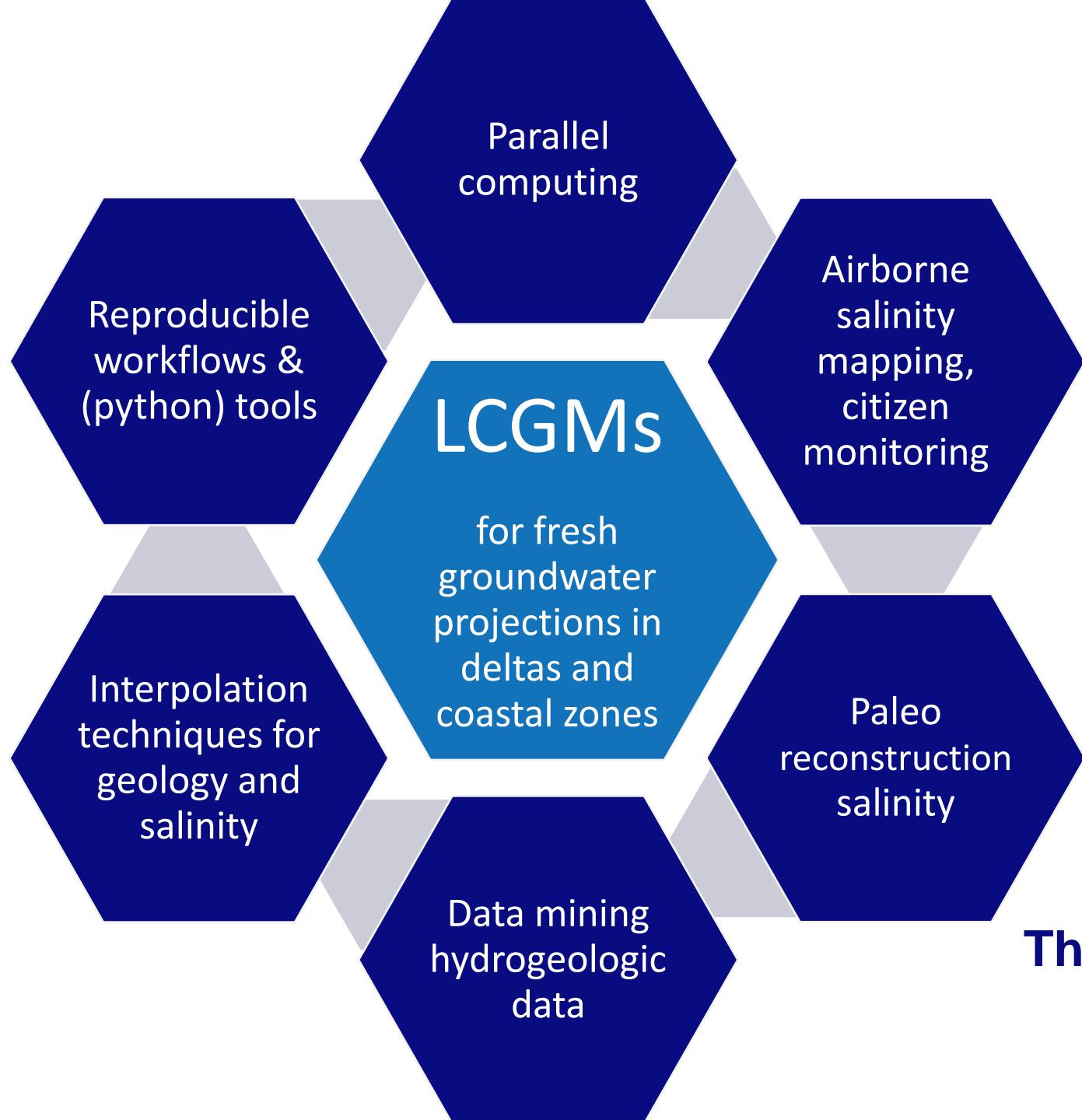


# Example 5: some 1\*1km<sup>2</sup> large-scale groundwater models



# Example 5: some 1\*1km<sup>2</sup> large-scale groundwater models





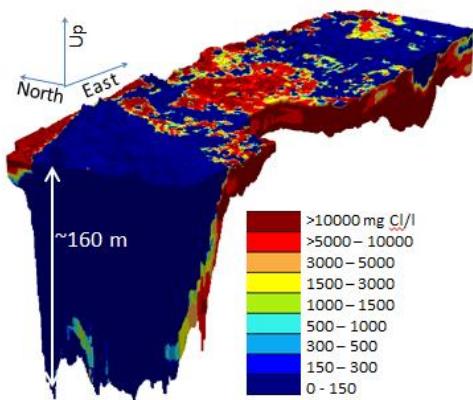
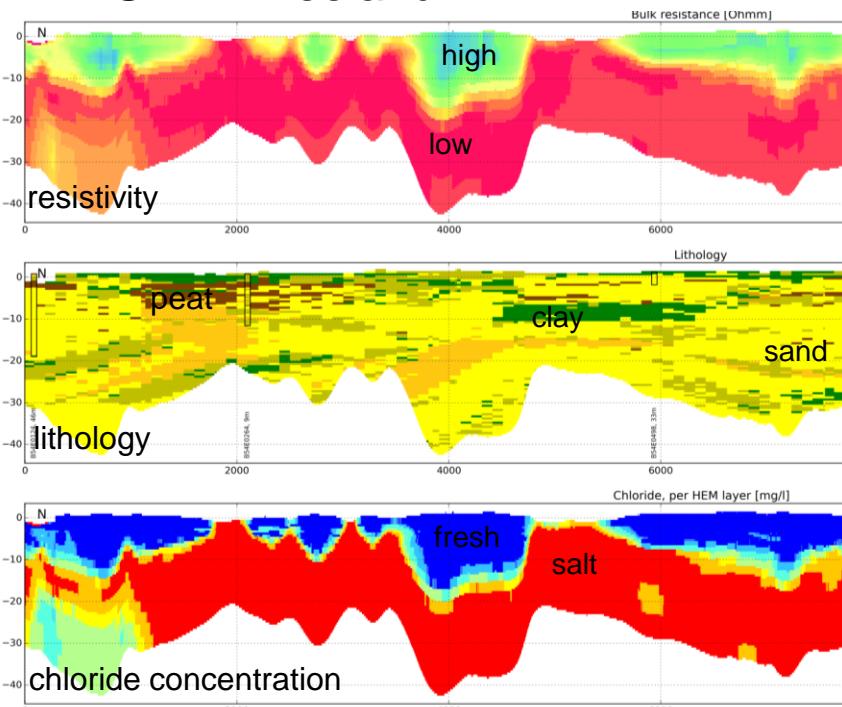
**Thank for your attention  
Questions?**



# Airborne groundwater salinity mapping



FRESHEM Zeeland



## Method:

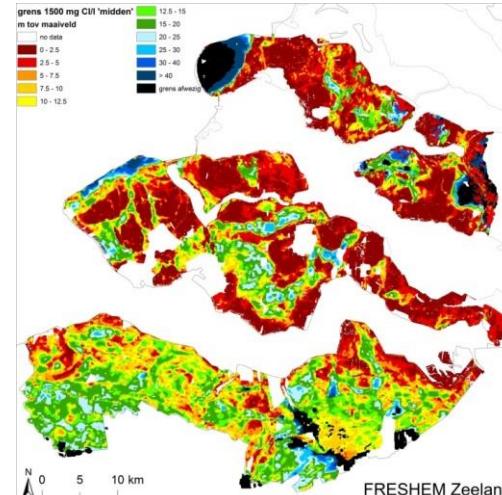
Combination helicopter measurements with knowledge about subsurface and processes in fresh-saline groundwater, and geostatistical mapping via (multiple) indicator kriging.

## Results:

- Mapping of 3D groundwater salinity and clay layers

## Applications:

- strategic fresh groundwater users & policy makers
- support ASR (COASTAR) in coastal zone
- identify brackish water potential
- improve groundwater models & monitoring



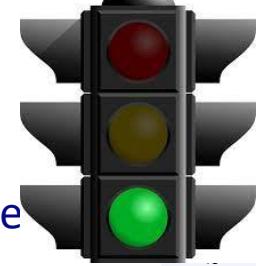
## International:

- Project in Flanders, Belgium
- Pilot Mekong, Vietnam

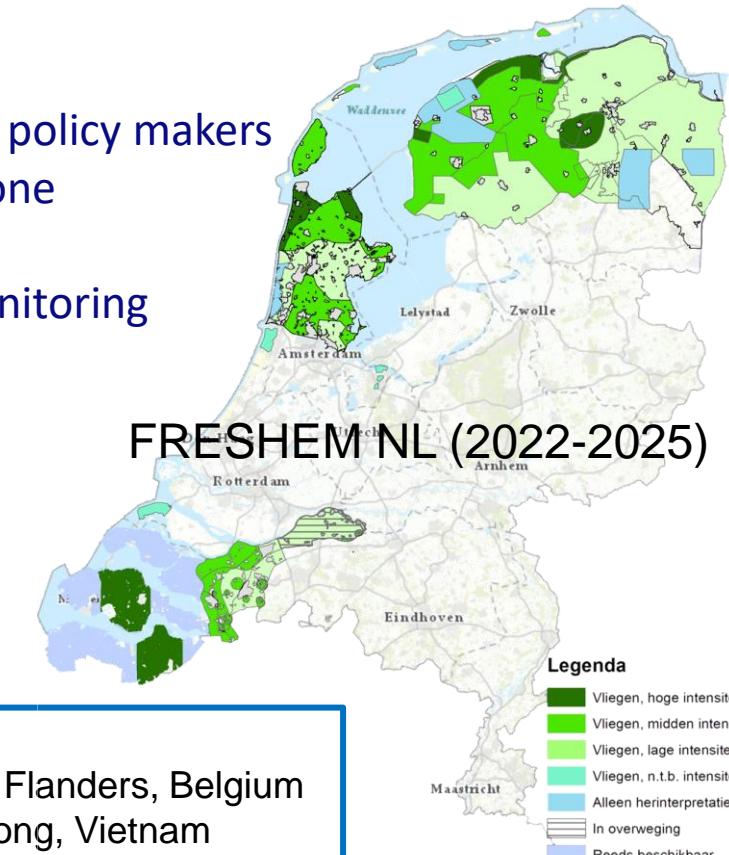
Deltres

TNO innovation  
for life

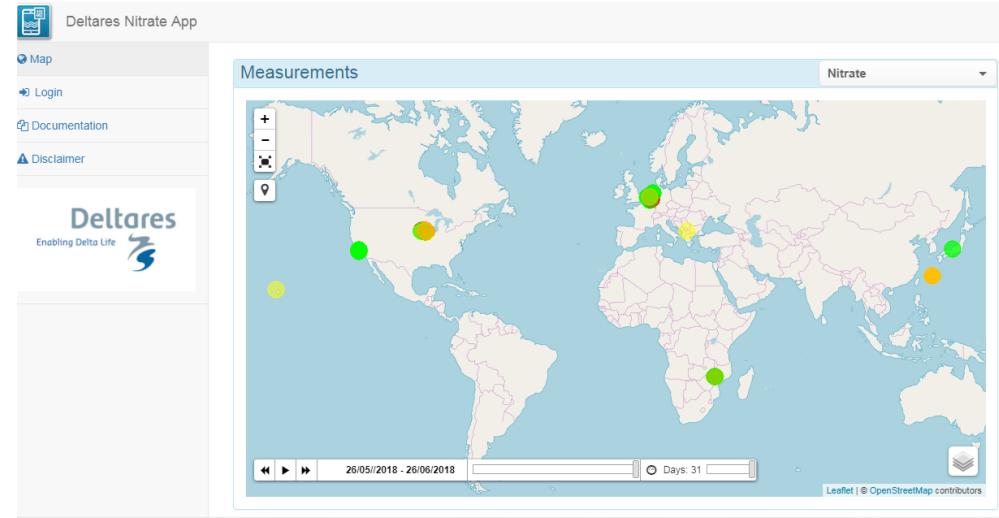
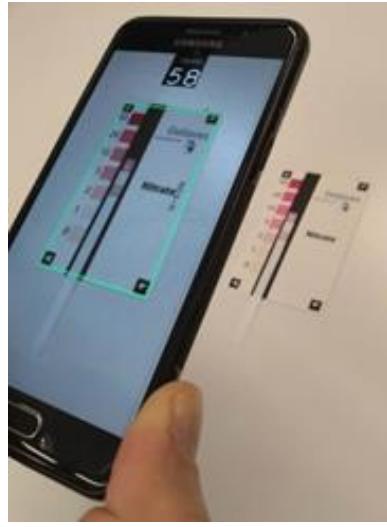
BGR



Building large-scale 3D coastal groundwater models with iMOD-WQ and glo...

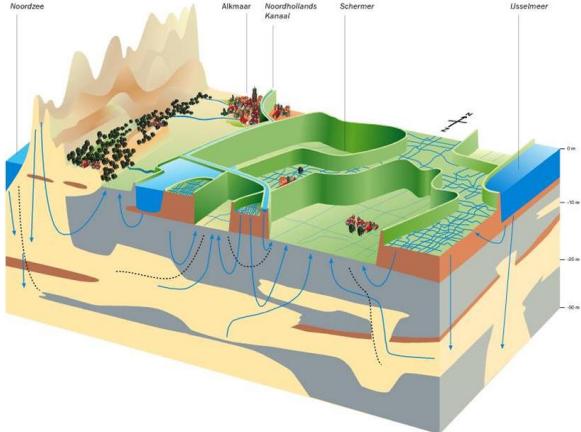
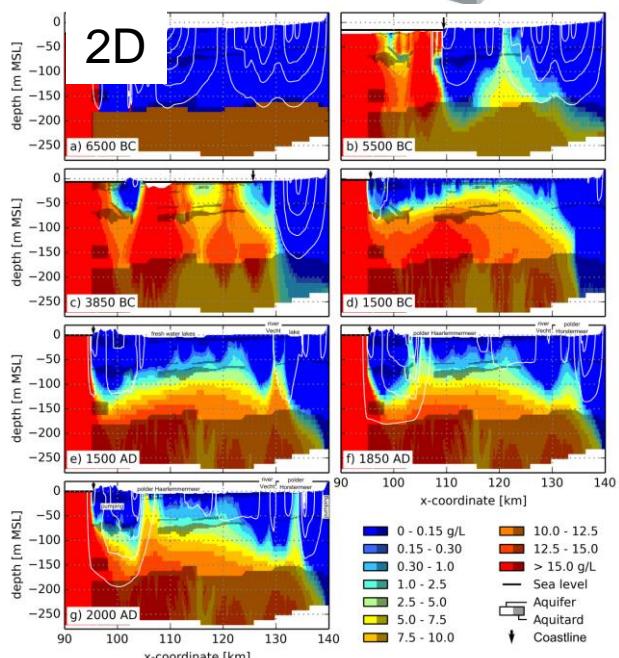
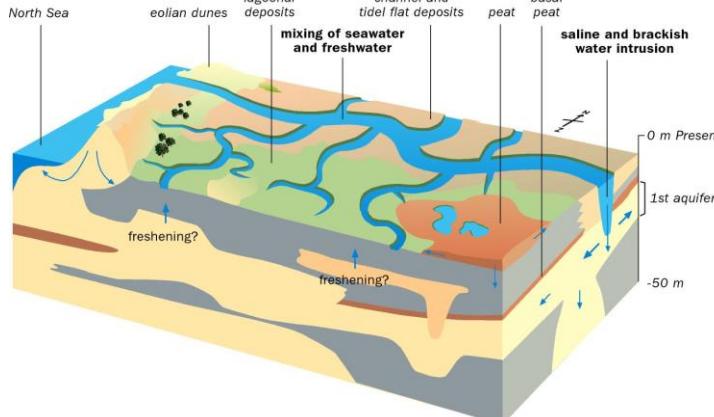


# Citizen science, using simple devices and webportals

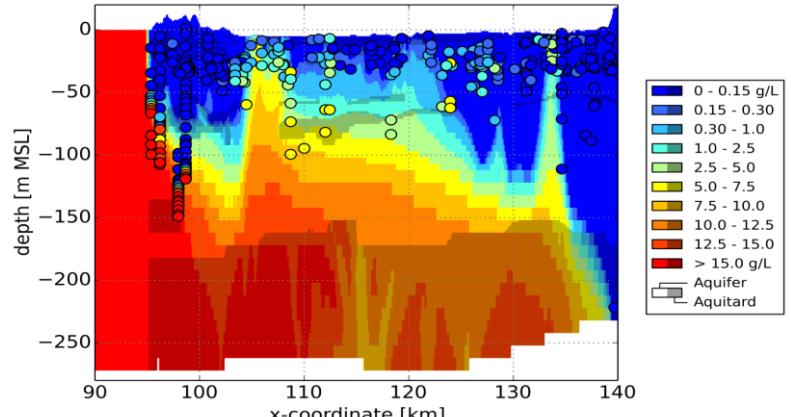


# Paleo-reconstructions groundwater salinity

To simulate reconstructions of past hydrological conditions in (data-poor) areas, improving understanding of present groundwater salinity.



Compare with data

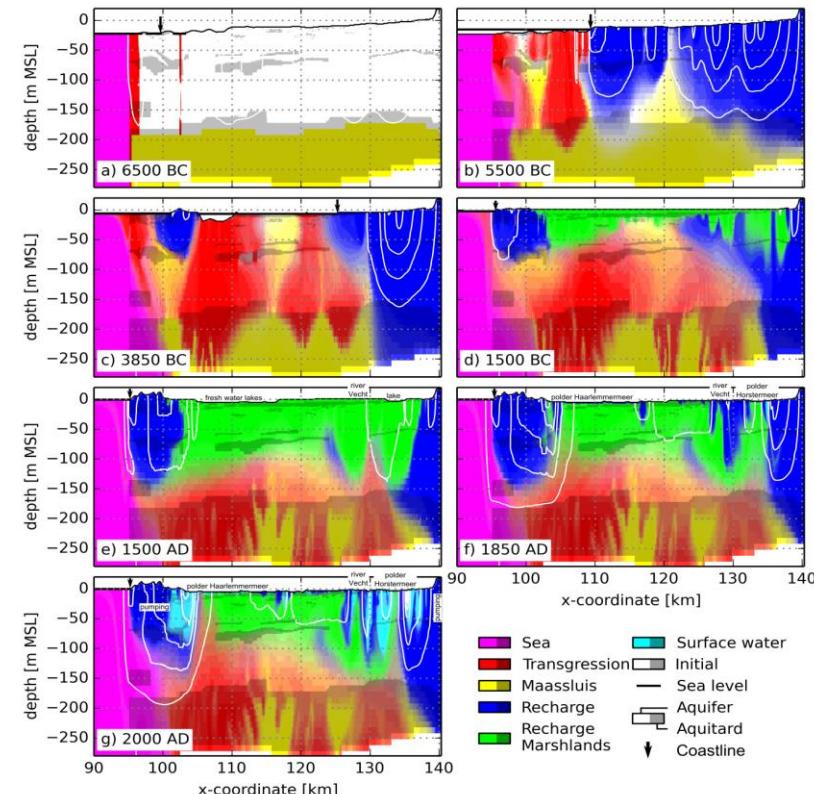


Delsman et al., 2014, HESS



2D → 3D

Origin of groundwater resources

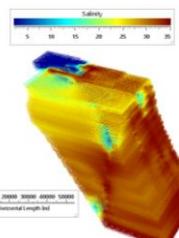
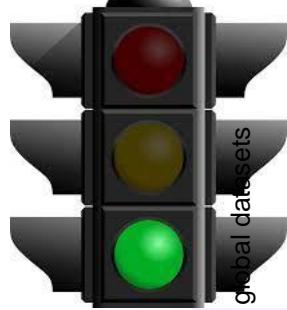


Building large-scale 3D coastal groundwater models with iMOD-WQ and

# Why now?

High-resolution global coastal groundwater salinity models are now possible:

1. **Parallel groundwater salinity modelling** (iMOD-WQ / SEAWAT).
2. **Fast Airborne EM groundwater salinity mapping in 3D**, (e.g., FRESHM), citizen science data collection at high TRL.
3. **Paleo reconstructions of past hydrological conditions in data-poor areas**, (possible due to parallel computer), resulting in improved understanding of present groundwater salinity.
4. **More open hydrogeologic data available** (advanced **text mining**, open-source **webportals**).
5. **Advanced techniques for rapid 3D interpolation** of coastal geology and groundwater salinity, and hydrogeological model parameters.
6. **Fully scripted reproducible modelling workflows, clipping & refining** (e.g., iMOD-Python), aiding regular updating and stakeholder trust in model results.
7. **And: groundwater community initiatives**, like Groundwater Model Portal (GroMoPo) (e.g. poster EGU23-12340)



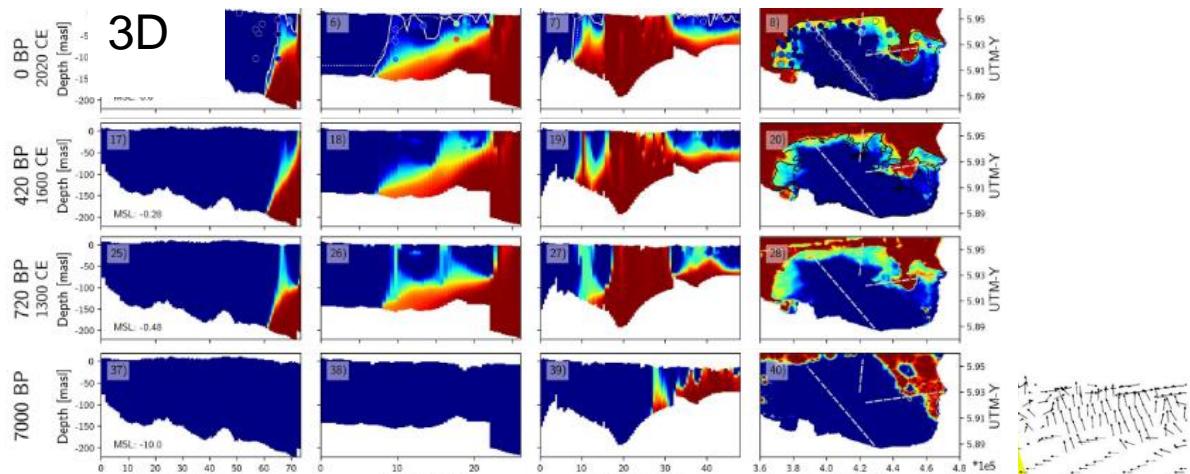
Building large-scale 3D coastal groundwater models with iMOD-WQ and global datasets

# Paleo-reconstructions groundwater salinity

Parallel computer power is utilized to simulate 3D reconstructions of past hydrological conditions in (data-poor areas), improving understanding of present groundwater salinity.



## Northwest Germany

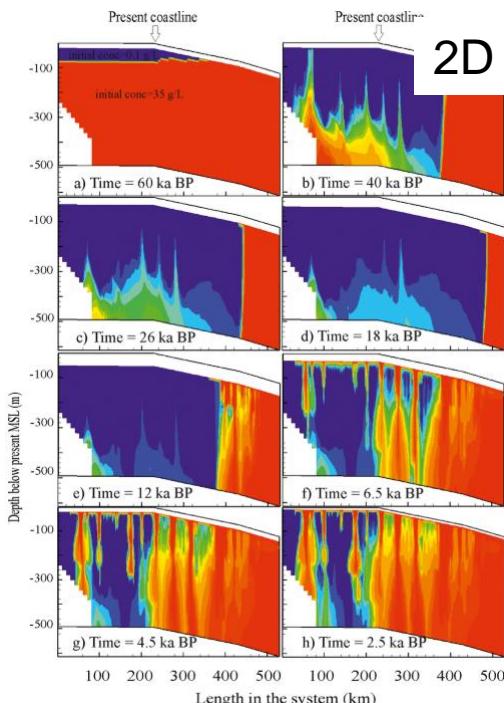


Seibert et al., 2023 WRR

## Origin of sources and ~age dating

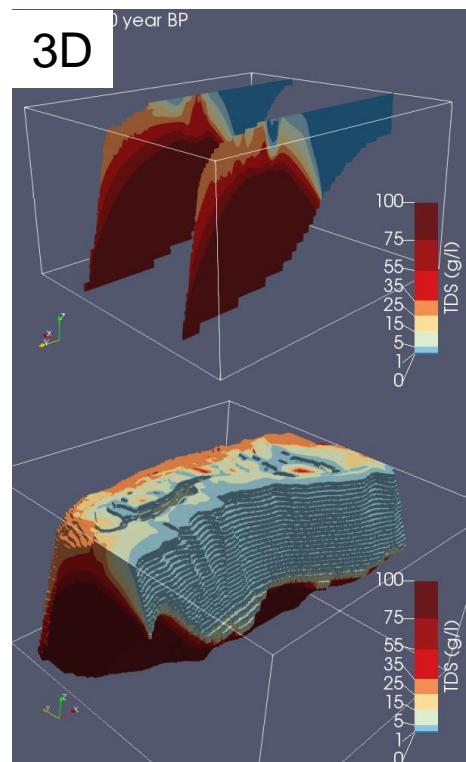


## Mekong delta

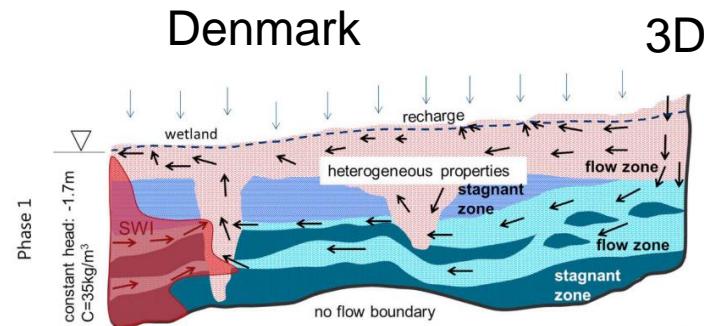


Hung et al., 2019 JoH, RS

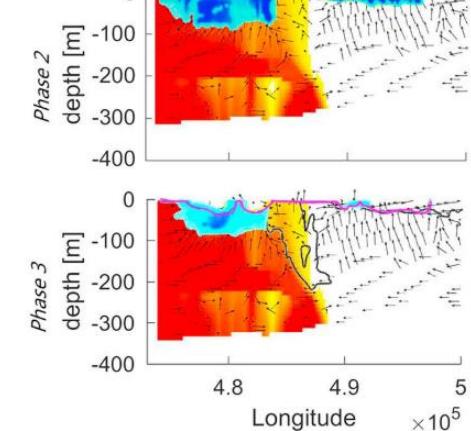
## Nile delta



Van Engelen et al., 2019. HESS



Meyer, et al., 2019

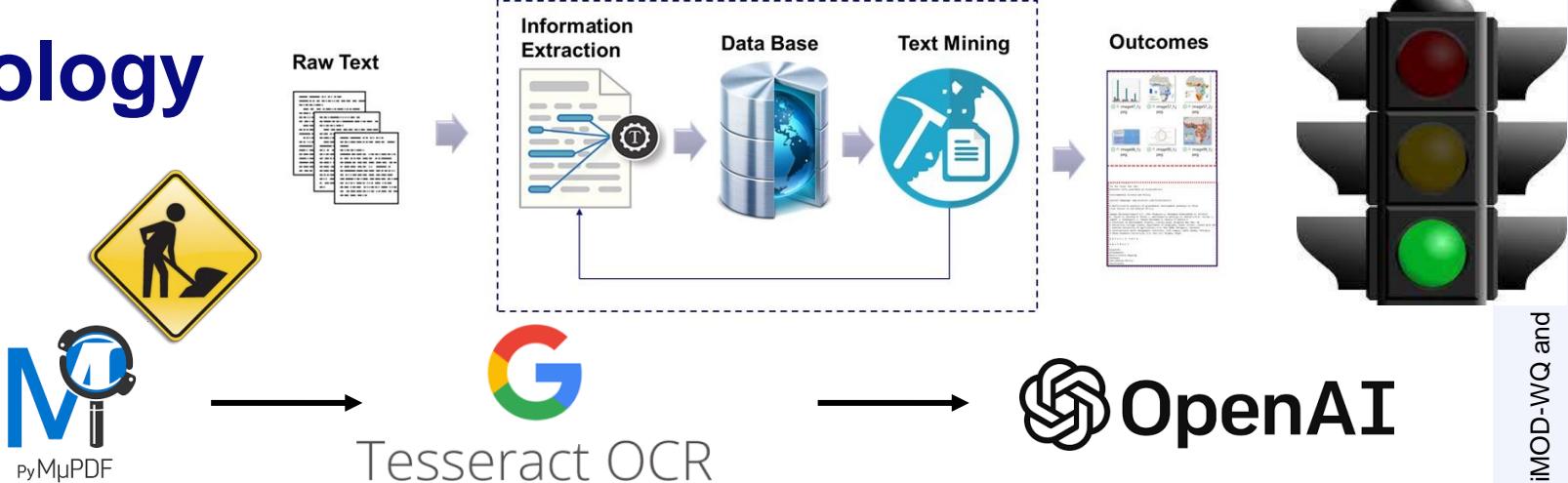


Building large-scale 3D coastal groundwater models with iMOD-WQ and

# Data mining hydrogeology

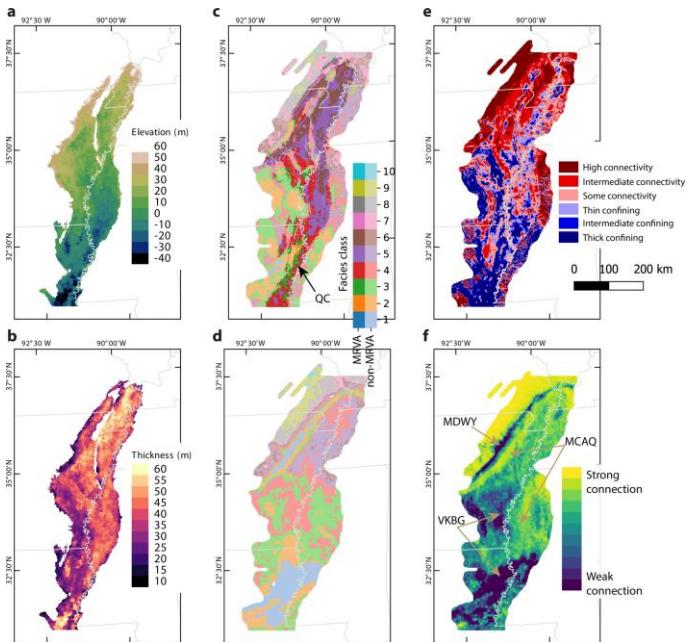
Extracting information from images.

Automated in Python using Tesseract  
and OpenAI API tools



Tesseract OCR → OpenAI

Input image



Output text (Tesseract)

```
Text editor - 21
35°00' N
32°30' N
92°30' W 90°00'W 92°30'W 90° 00'W 92°30'W 90° 00'W
37°30' N
37°30'N
37°30'N
35°00' N
35°00'N
35°00'N
HB High connectivity
|| Intermediate connectivity
|| Some connectivity
I) thin confining
|| Intermediate confining
|| Thick confining
32°30' N
32°30'N
32°30'N
00 200 km
```

Extracted data (OpenAI)

User: "If there are coordinates in the text, extract them as minimum and maximum coordinate pairs:

System: "Example output: X: 100, 100.  
Y: 100, 100"

```
Text editor - 21
Minimum coordinate pair: 32°30'N, 90°00'W
Maximum coordinate pair: 37°30'N, 92°30'W
Image: 2021_Airborne geophysical surveys of the lower Mississi_6.png
```

# Data mining hydrogeology

Extracting information text.

Automated in Python using OpenAI API

**Input text**

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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Advances in Water Resources

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/advwatres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/advwatres)

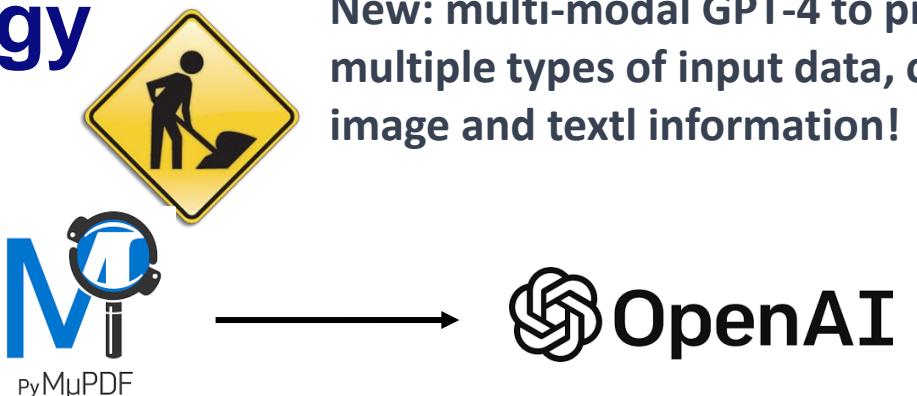
Check for updates

Joint estimation of groundwater salinity and hydrogeological parameters using variable-density groundwater flow, salt transport modelling and airborne electromagnetic surveys

Jude King <sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Tobias Mulder <sup>a</sup>, Gualbert Oude Essink <sup>a,b</sup>, Marc.F.P. Bierkens <sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Utrecht University, Department of Physical Geography, Utrecht, the Netherlands

ELSEVIER



New: multi-modal GPT-4 to process multiple types of input data, combining image and textl information!



## Extracted data (OpenAI)

User: "Extract model parameters from the text in tabular format:"

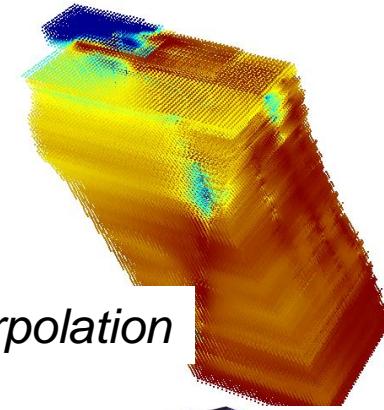
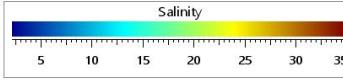
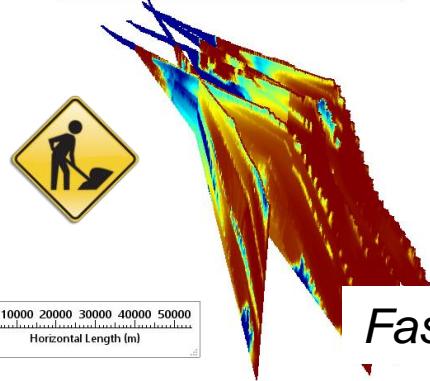
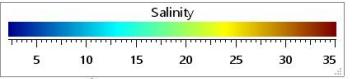
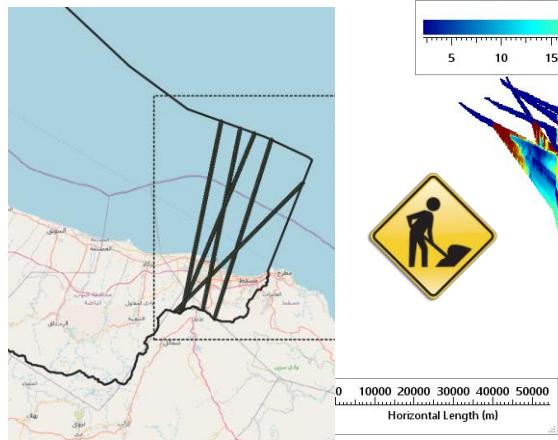
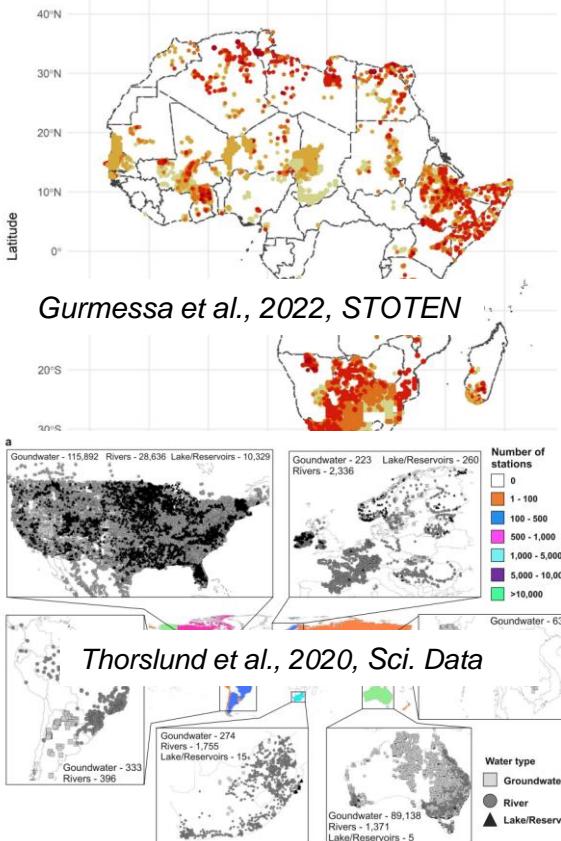
System: "Example: X,Y,Z,1,2,3"

Initial Estimate	Actual Value	Predicted Value (difference actual)
---	---	---
Kh Aquifer (m/day)	1   10   10.63291 (0.63291)	
Kv Aquitard (m/day)	0.3   3   3.312433 (0.312433)	
Kh Aquitard (m/day)	0.001   0.01   0.011838 (0.001838)	
Kv Aquitard (m/day)	0.0005   0.005   0.005831 (0.000831)	
Porosity	0.1   0.35   0.386181 (0.036181)	

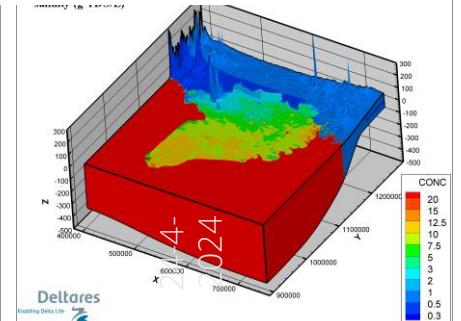
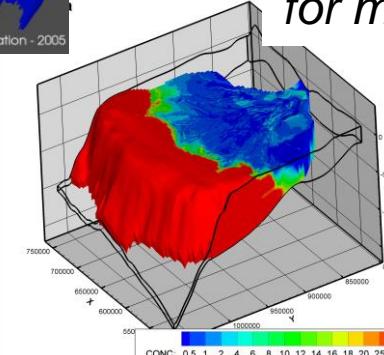
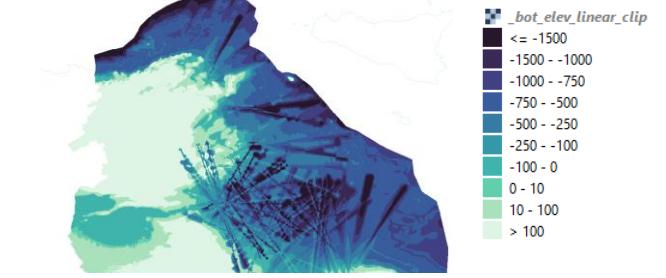
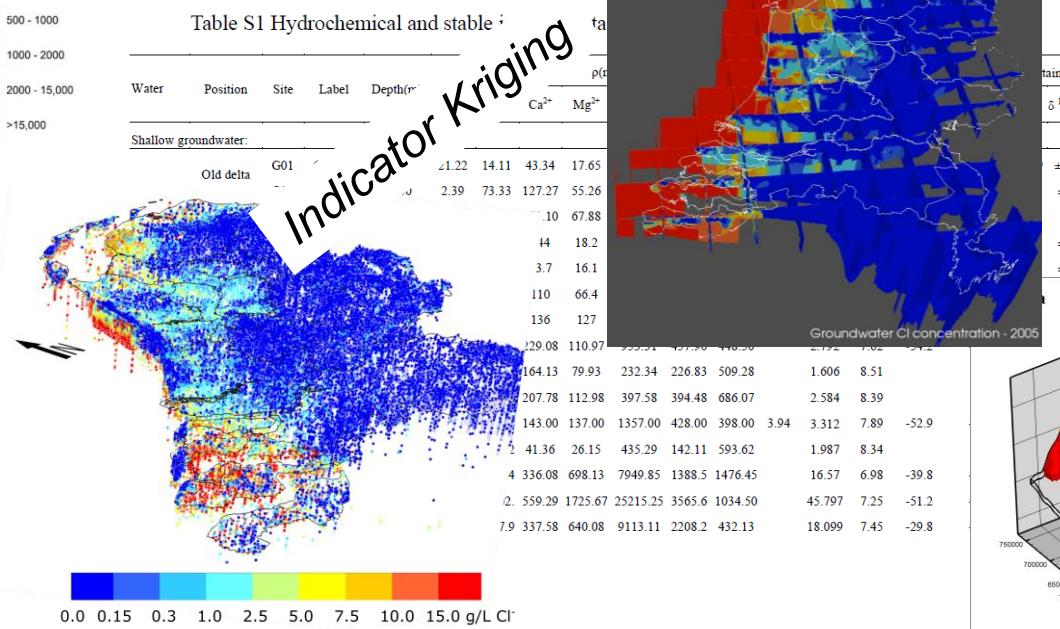
Kh Aquifer | Horizontal hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer | 10 (m/day)  
Kh Aquitard | Horizontal hydraulic conductivity of the aquitard | 0.01 (m/day)  
Kh/Kv | Anisotropy | 3.3 (aquifer) 2 (aquitard)  
Porosity | Porosity | 35 (%)  
Recharge winter | Recharge in winter, higher values denote ASR areas | 0.003 m/day (ASR areas), 0.0015 m/day (other areas)  
Recharge summer | Recharge in summer, negative value denotes evaporation | -0.0005 m/day  
Well Extraction winter | Groundwater extraction in winter | 0 m3/day per model cell  
Well Extraction summer | Groundwater extraction in summer | -0.625 m3/day per model

# Combining techniques for 3D groundwater salinity

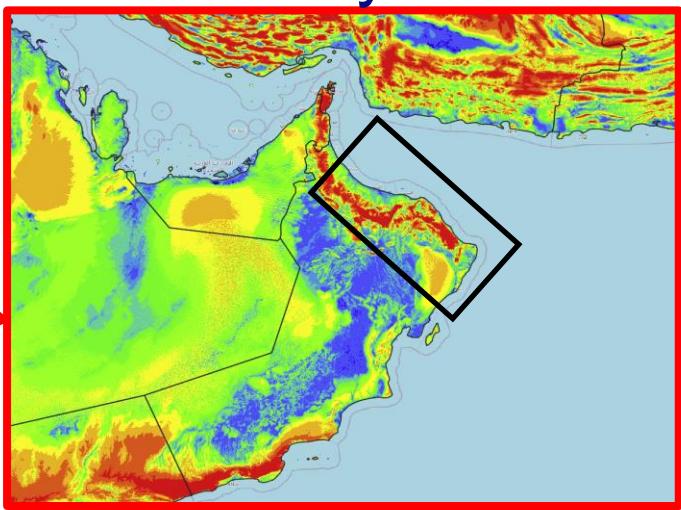
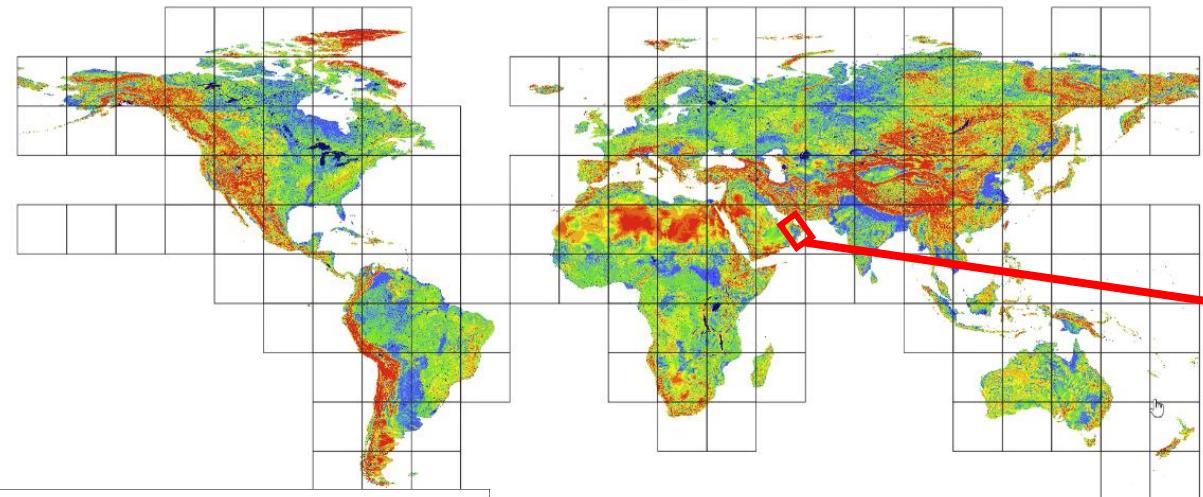
- Airborne EM surveys
- Text mining for pdfs and webportals
- Rapid, automated interpolations
- Paleo reconstructions modelling
- (Citizen science salinity monitoring)



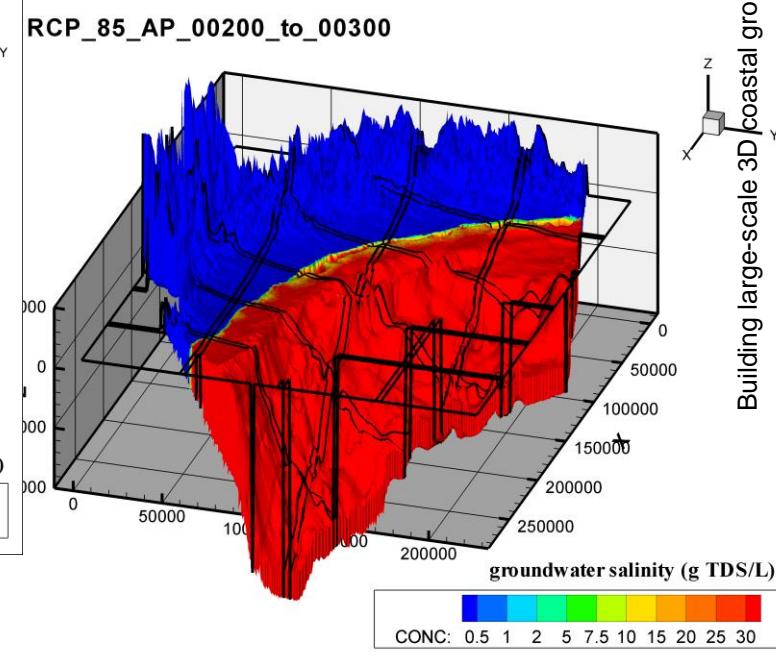
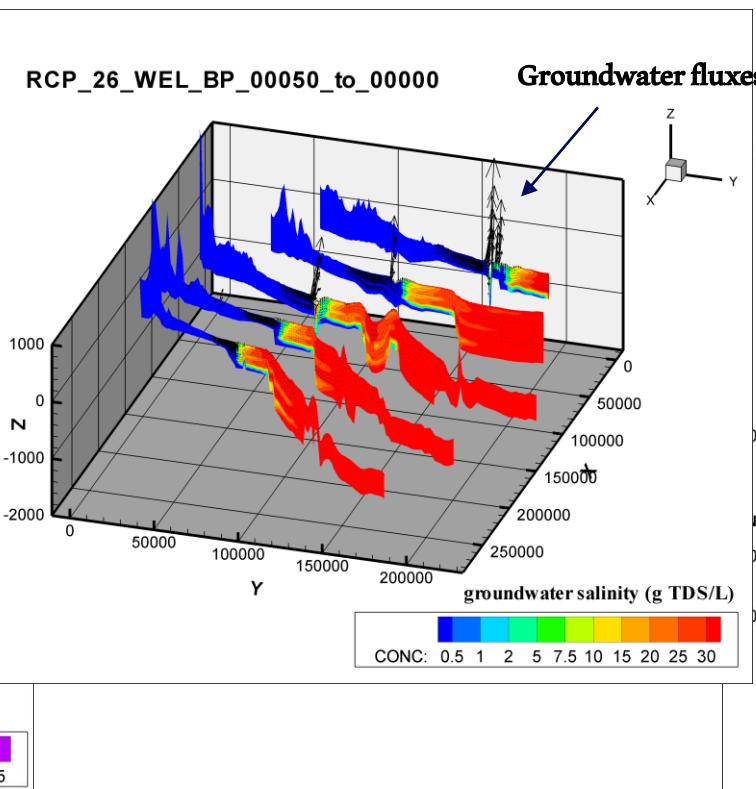
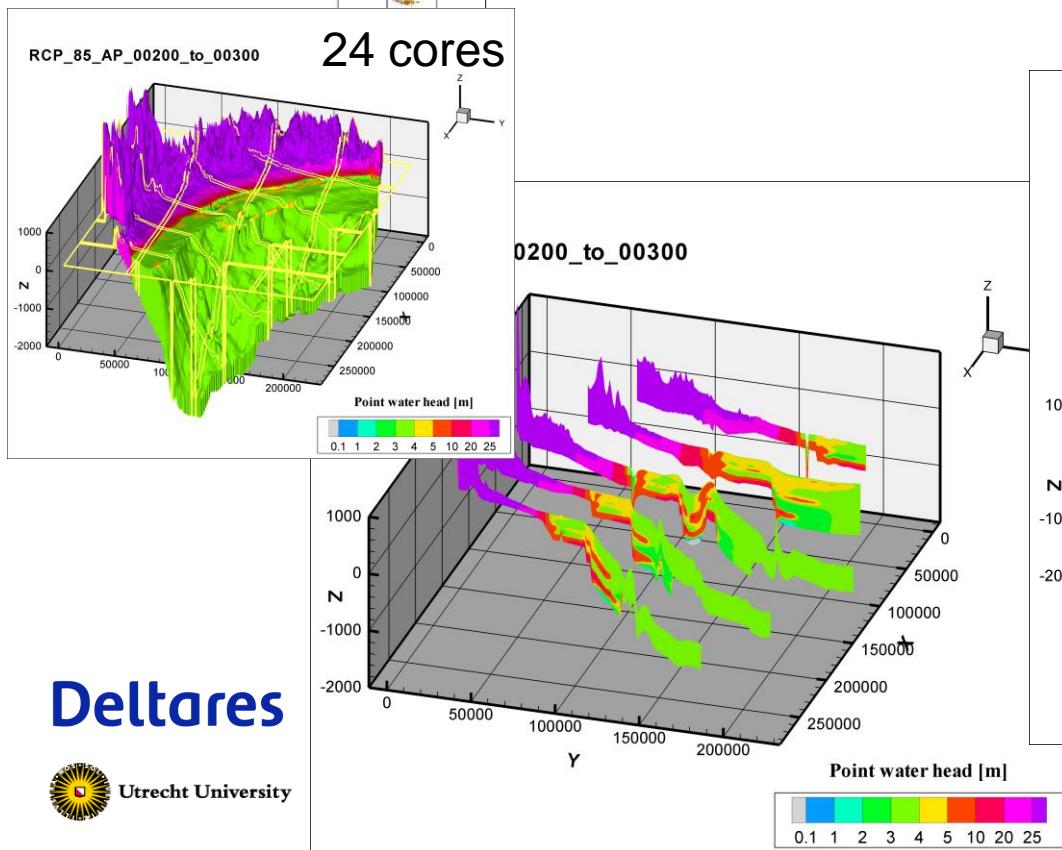
*Fast interpolation*



# Test 1 Making a regional 3D groundwater salinity model

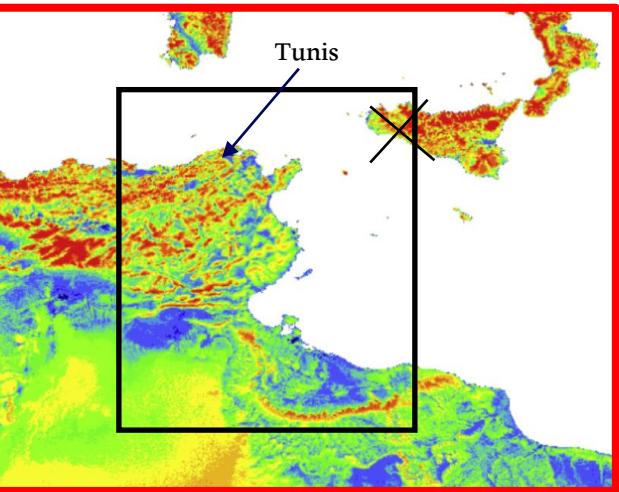
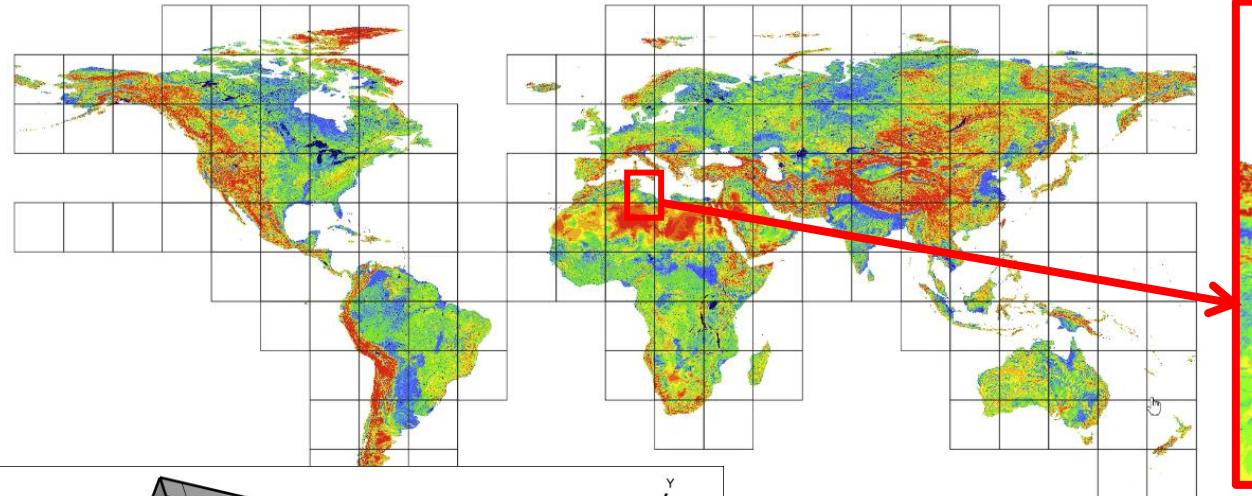


- Oman case
- 223\*274\*12 cells of 1\*1km<sup>2</sup>;
- Simulating groundwater salinity paleo-reconstruction (120kyrs) and 300 yrs into the future including extractions (using PCR-GLOBWB).
- Computation time: < 1day parallel on only 24 cores; using supercomputer Snellius, but even on a laptop it is doable

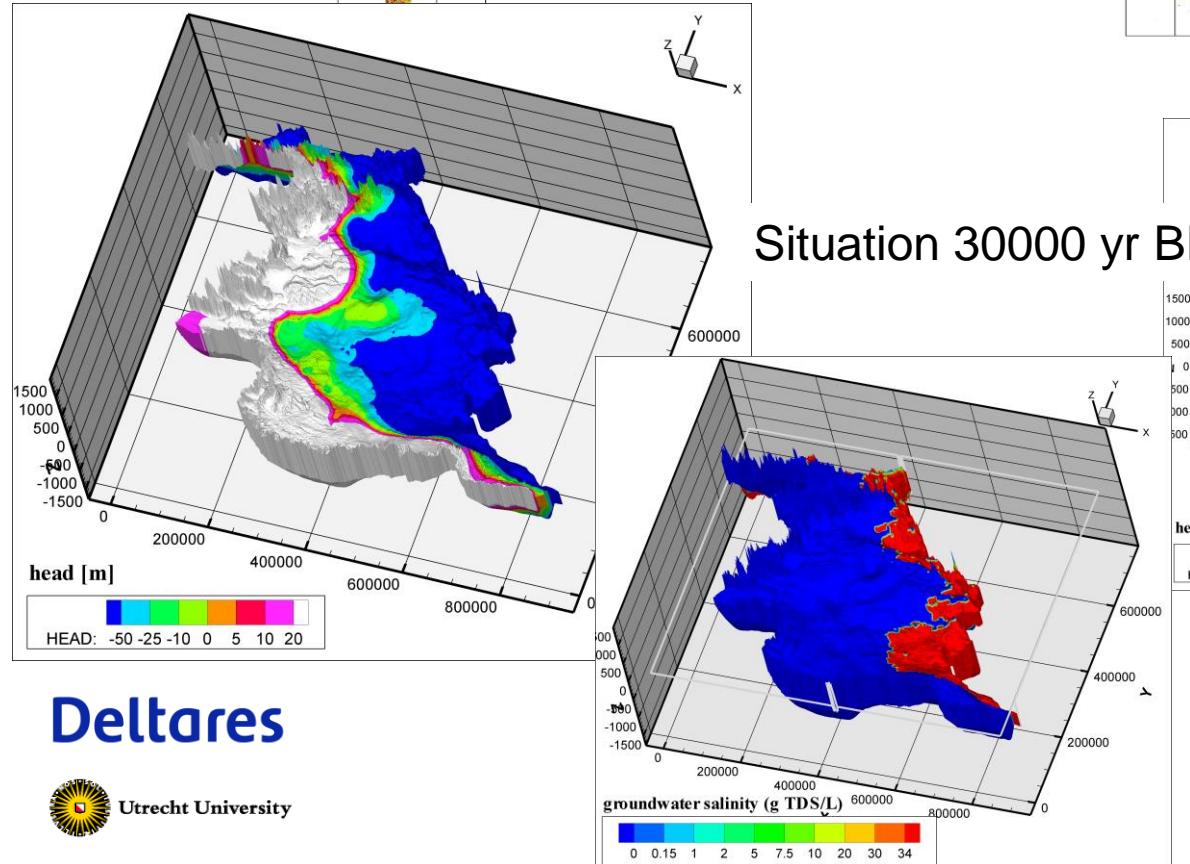


Building large-scale 3D coastal groundwater models with IMOD-WQ and global datasets

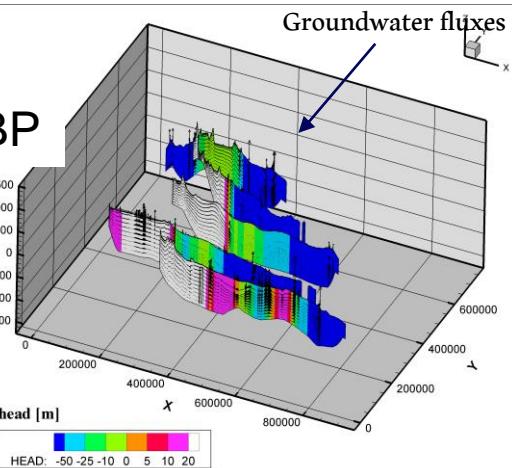
# Test 2 Making a regional 3D groundwater salinity model



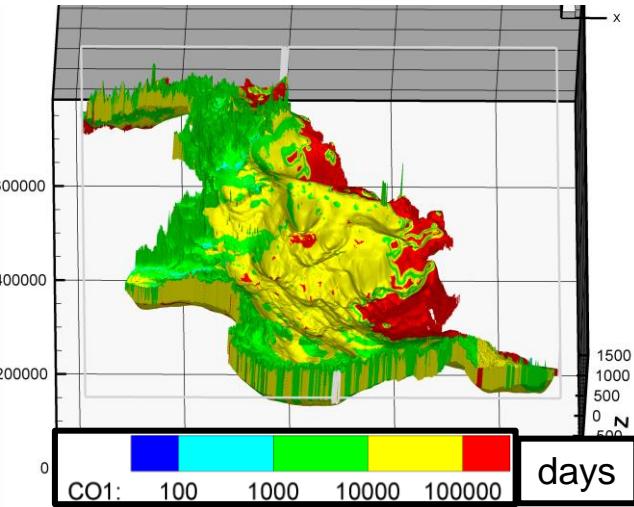
- Tunisia-Lybia case
- 907\*747\*12 cells of 1\*1km<sup>2</sup>
- Simulating groundwater salinity paleo-reconstruction
- For now 30-20kyrs BP.
- Testing parallel on 62-128 cores; using supercomputer Snellius



Situation 30000 yr BP



Automated STEPSIZE analysis!



- Advection,

$$\Delta t \leq \frac{R}{|v_x|/\Delta x + |v_y|/\Delta y + |v_z|/\Delta z}$$

Deltares

# Thank for you attention

## Questions?

**Gualbert Oude Essink, Daniel Zamrsky, Marc Bierkens**

[gualbert.oudeessink@deltares.nl](mailto:gualbert.oudeessink@deltares.nl)

pdf on wiki [freshsalt.deltares.nl](https://freshsalt.deltares.nl)

More information:

Parallel SEAWAT, imod-python and 3D viewer:

- <https://oss.deltares.nl/web/imod/about-imod5>
  - Verkaik, J. et al., 2021. Distributed memory parallel computing of three-dimensional variable-density groundwater flow and salt transport. *Adv. Water Resour.* 154, 103976. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advwatres.2021.103976>
  - [https://deltares.github.io/iMOD-Documentation/python\\_index.html](https://deltares.github.io/iMOD-Documentation/python_index.html)  iMOD Python
  - [https://deltares.github.io/iMOD-Documentation/viewer\\_index.html](https://deltares.github.io/iMOD-Documentation/viewer_index.html)  iMOD Viewer

Reproducibility and transparency, Gitlab

- <https://gitlab.com/deltares/imod/nhi-fresh-salt>
- Delsman, J.R. et al 2023. Reproducible construction of a high-resolution national variable-density groundwater salinity model for the Netherlands. *Environ. Model. Softw.* 105683. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsoft.2023.105683>
- 3D Paleo-reconstruction groundwater salinity and iMOD-WQ
  - Seibert, S.L. et al., 2023. Paleo-hydrogeological modeling to understand present-day groundwater salinities in a low-lying coastal groundwater system (Northwestern Germany). *Water Resour. Res.* <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1029/2022WR033151>
  - Van Engelen, J., Verkaik, J., King, J., Nofal, E.R., Bierkens, M.F.P., Oude Essink, G.H.P., 2019. A three-dimensional palaeohydrogeological reconstruction of the groundwater salinity distribution in the Nile Delta Aquifer. *Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci.* 23, 5175–5198. <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2019-151>

**EGU23-7607  
HS8.2.6**

A study on the suitability and quantitative potential of aquifer storage and recovery and brackish water extraction in Dutch coastal areas.

Illa America - van den Heuvel et al

**EGU23-15557  
HS8.2.6**

Monitoring & simulation groundwater salinity due to extractions in a coastal aquifer

Thijs Hendrikx et al

**EGU23-17249  
HS8.2.6**

Effects surface water boundary condition scaling on modelled groundwater salinity and salt fluxes

Ignacio Farias et al

**EGU23-2859  
HS8.2.6**

Assessing impact of climate change and anthropogenic factors on future salinization; a case in Northwestern Germany)

Stephan L. Seibert et al

**EGU23-1844  
Henry Darcy  
Medal Lecture**

**Global Water Resources and the Limits to Groundwater Use**

Marc Bierkens

And PICO Zamrskly et al.: **EGU23-11444 HS8.2.6**



**Deltares**

# Orange issues

- Calibration, validation, verification.
- Text mining: IPR of articles.
- Interferences with local hydrogeological communities, some same regional scale.



# Developments into LCGM version 1.0

Early 2023 -----> Early 2024 -----> Late 2024

