Estimation of Permeability with Seismic "I really did mean to say permeability not porosity"

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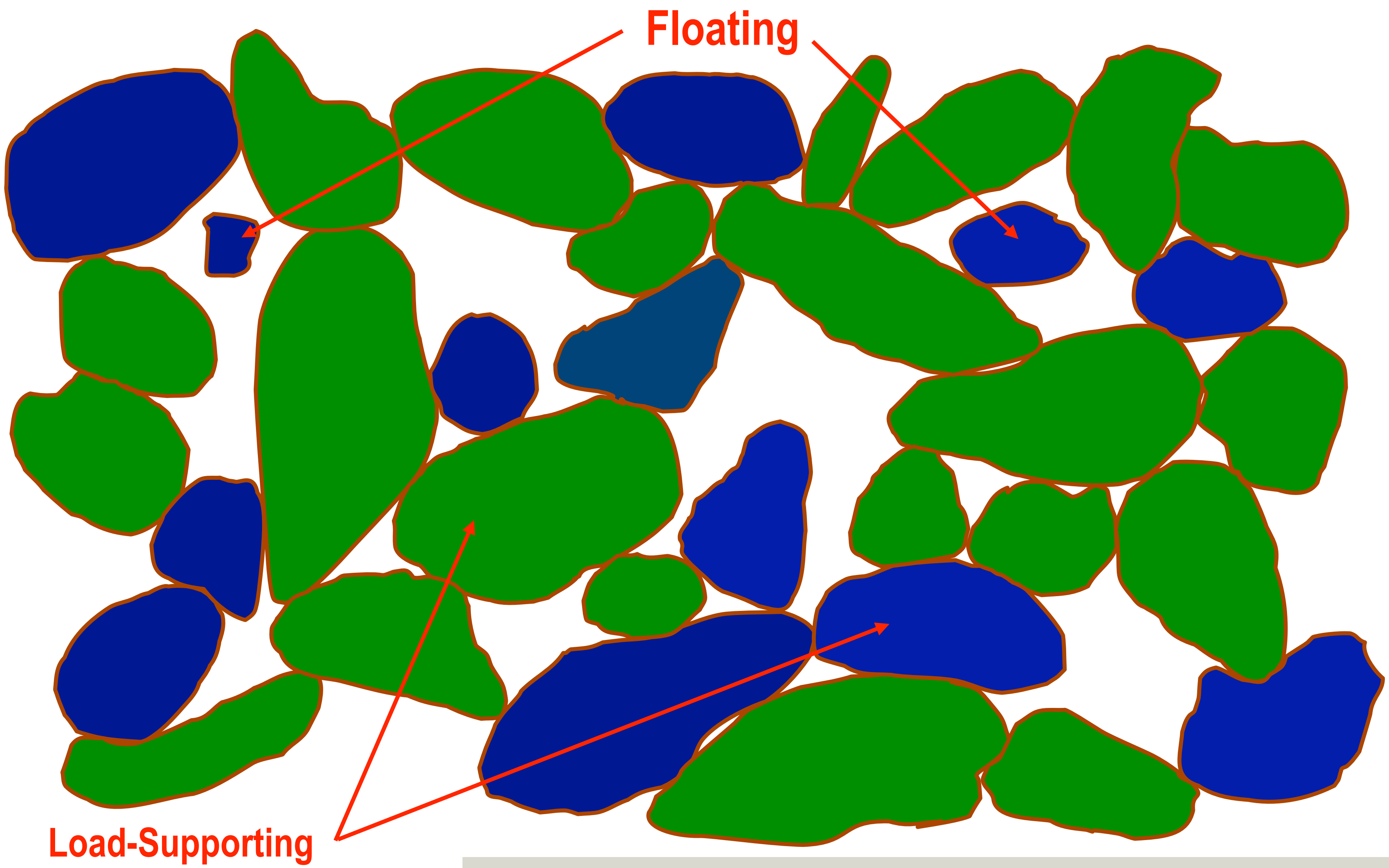
"Three Sisters" -- aboriginal womans' place for doing business, near BHPB Yandi iron ore mine

Outline

- rock physics model
- supporting measurements (log and core)
- numerical rock assembly model
- model based seismic inversion & practical detectability
- conclusions

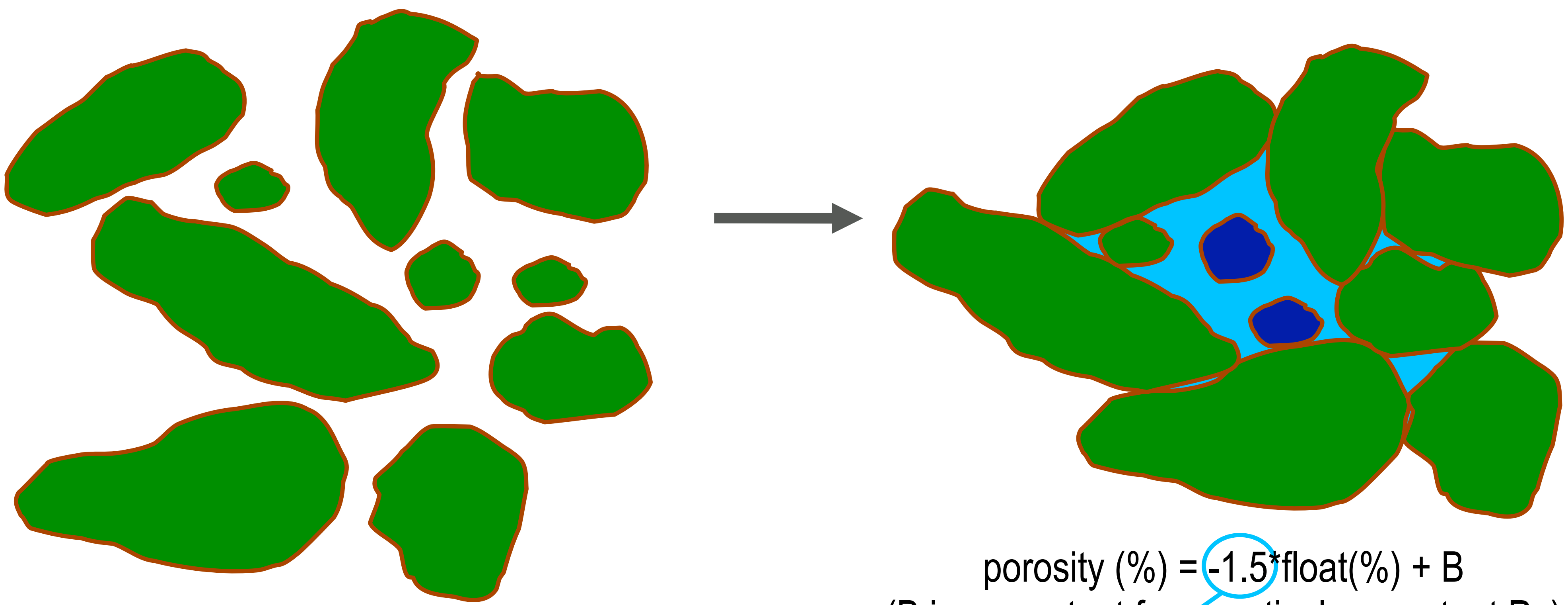
Floating grain model - the link of deposition physics to grain scale properties, permeability



Abundance of potential floating grains in the system is due to two factors
- overall abundance of silt/mud-sized particles (related to nature of clastic input and system-scale proximal vs distal position)
- local variation due to depositional processes (e.g. rapid fallout vs traction)

Capture ratio is another key concept

At a constant Effective Stress - For every 3 small grains, 1 becomes part of matrix and 2 will float



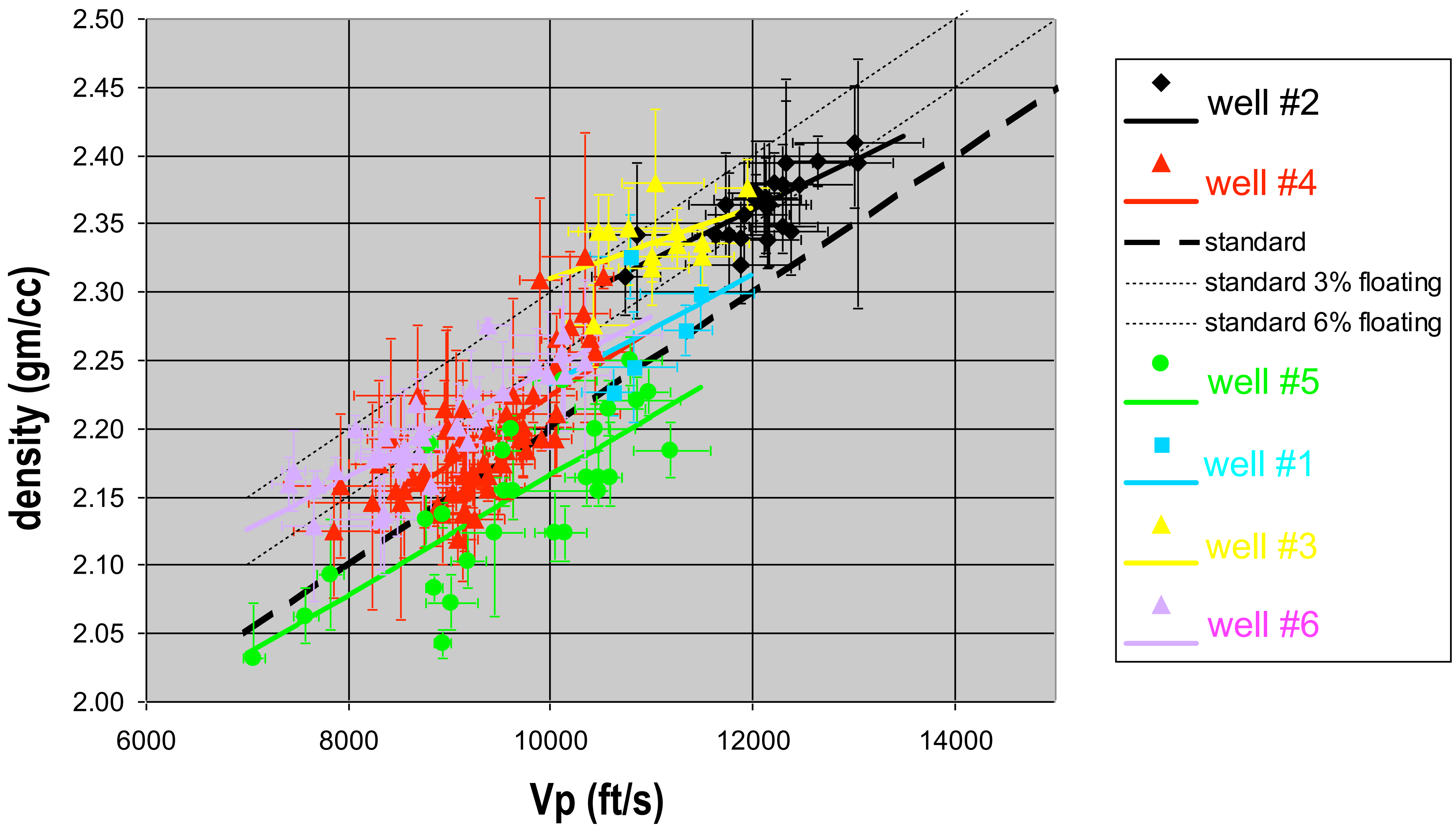
Bimodal grain sizes (big and small)

porosity (%) = -1.5*float(%) + B
(B is a constant for a particular constant Pe)

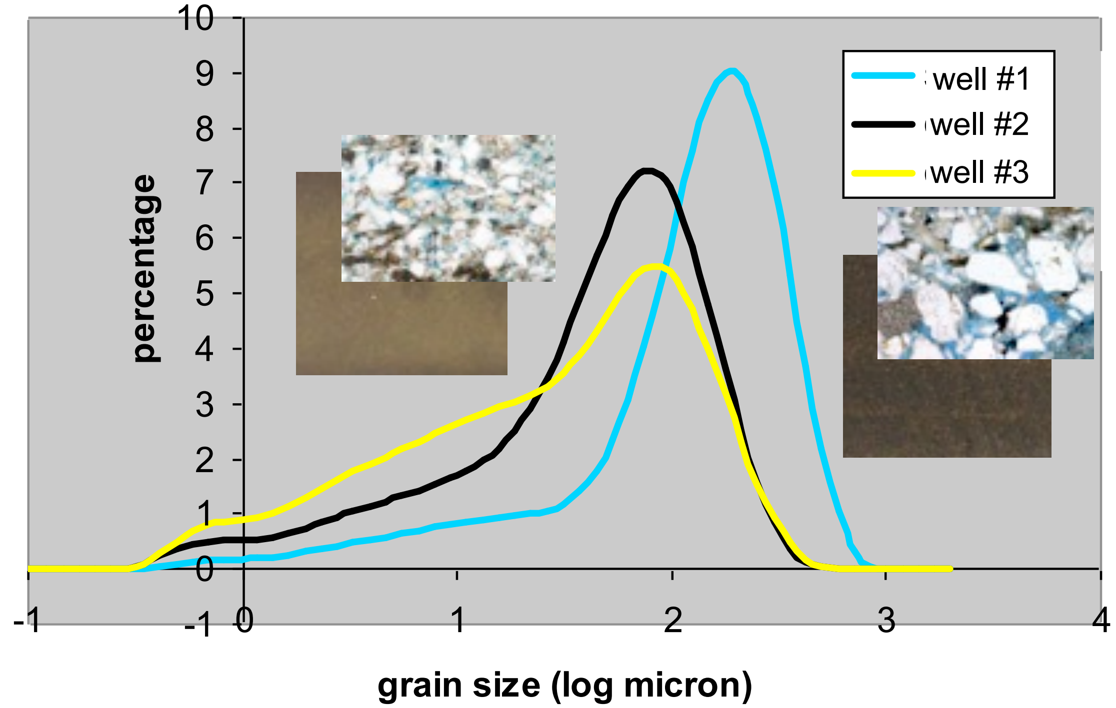
Capture Ratio = 1 – (1/1.5) = 33%
ie 1/3 of small grains are captured in to the load bearing matrix of the rock. The capture ratio will depend on the geometries of the original grains.

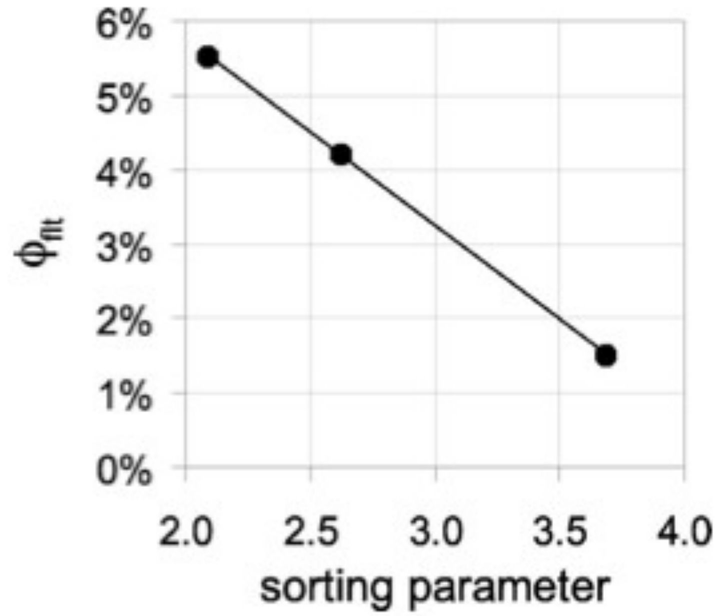
porosity in % = -1.54 * float in % - 88% * (1 – exp(- Pe / 800 psi)) + 110% +- 0.2%

Petrophysical evidence for the floating grain model



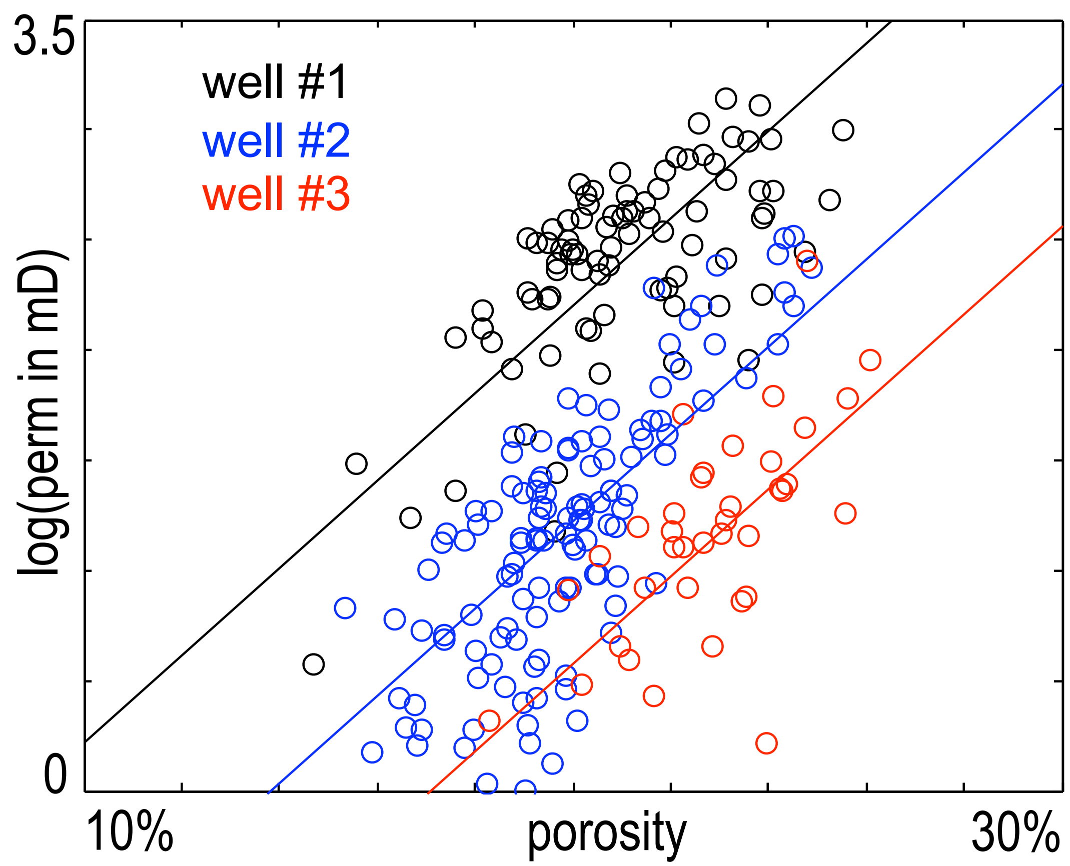
Relationship between size distribution and floating grain fraction

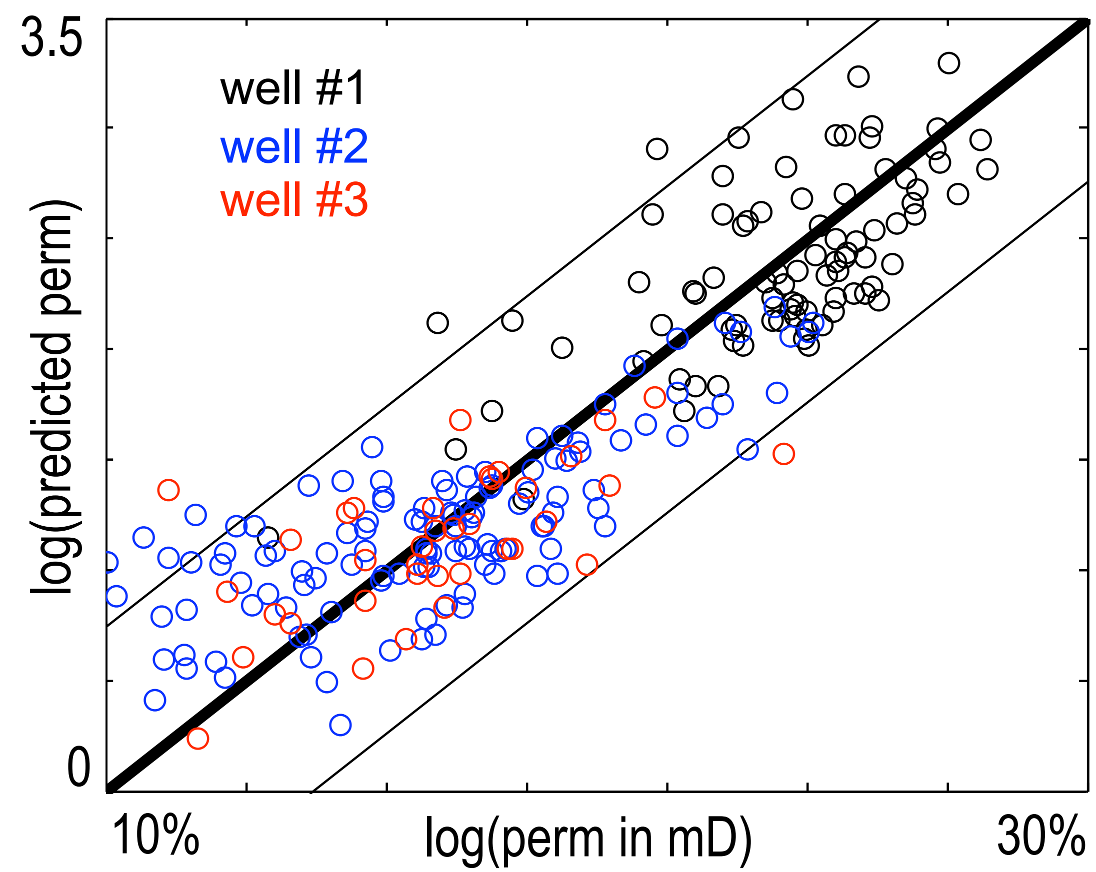




	mean	stddev	%floating
well #1	2.03	0.55	0%
well #2	1.58	0.60	3%
well #3	1.42	0.68	5%

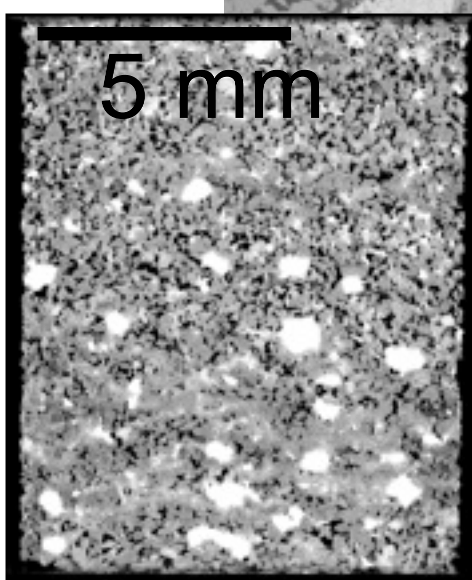
Good regression found between the permeability, porosity, and floating grains



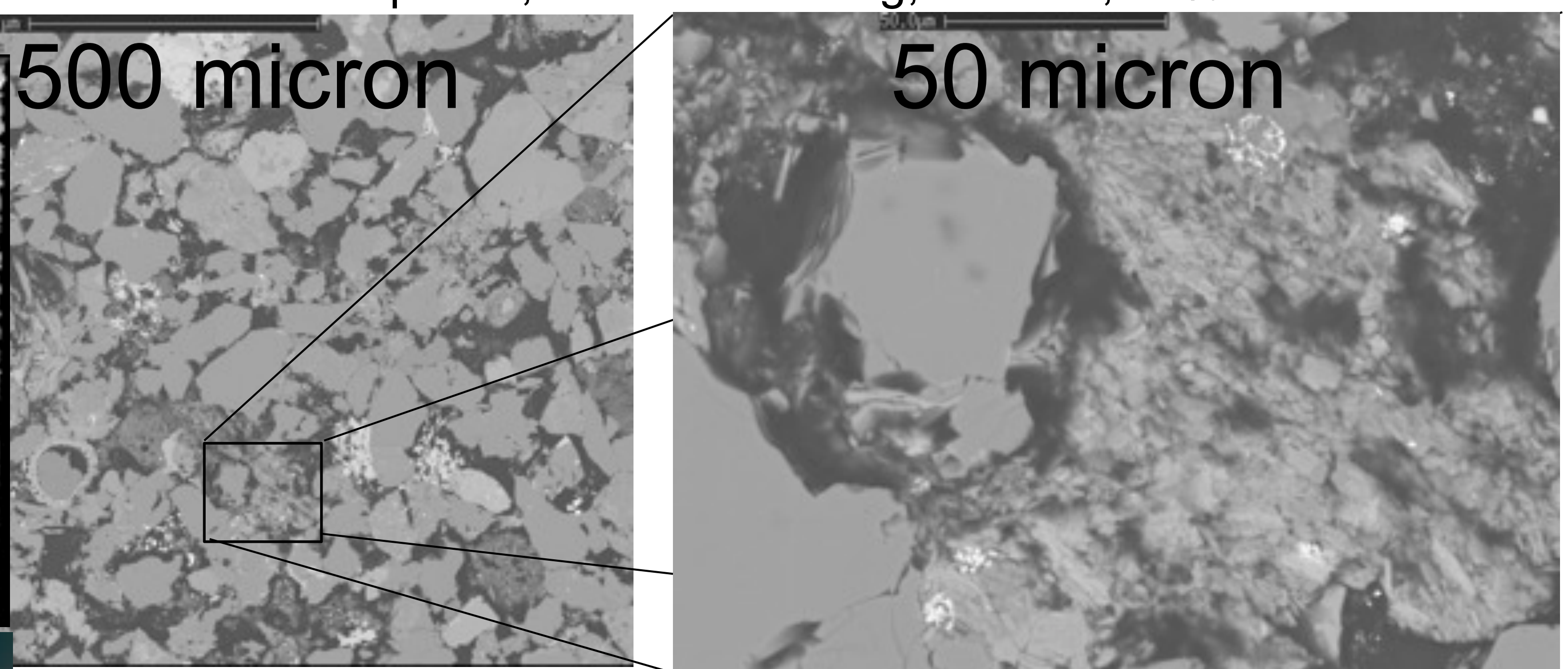


log(perm in mD) = 0.198 * porosity in % - 0.325 * floating in % - 1.76 + - 0.37
x / 2.3

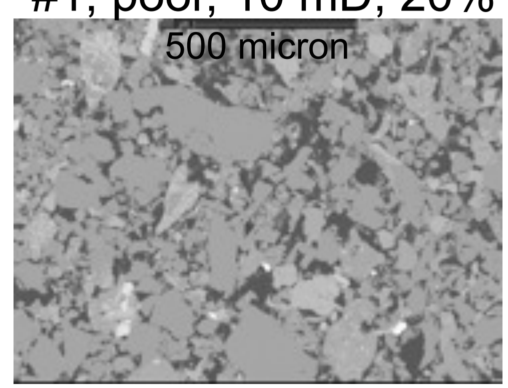
Floating grains seen in CAT scan and SEM of well #2



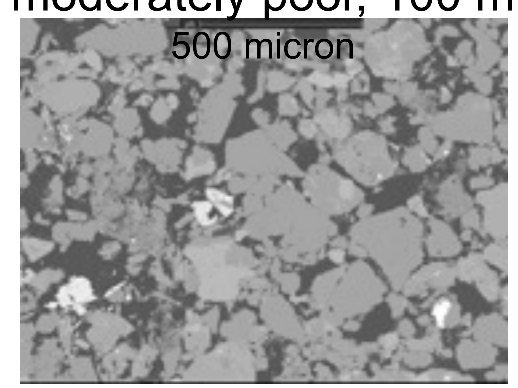
sample #3, moderate sorting, 300 mD, 24%



#1, poor, 10 mD, 20%



#2, moderately poor, 100 mD, 22%



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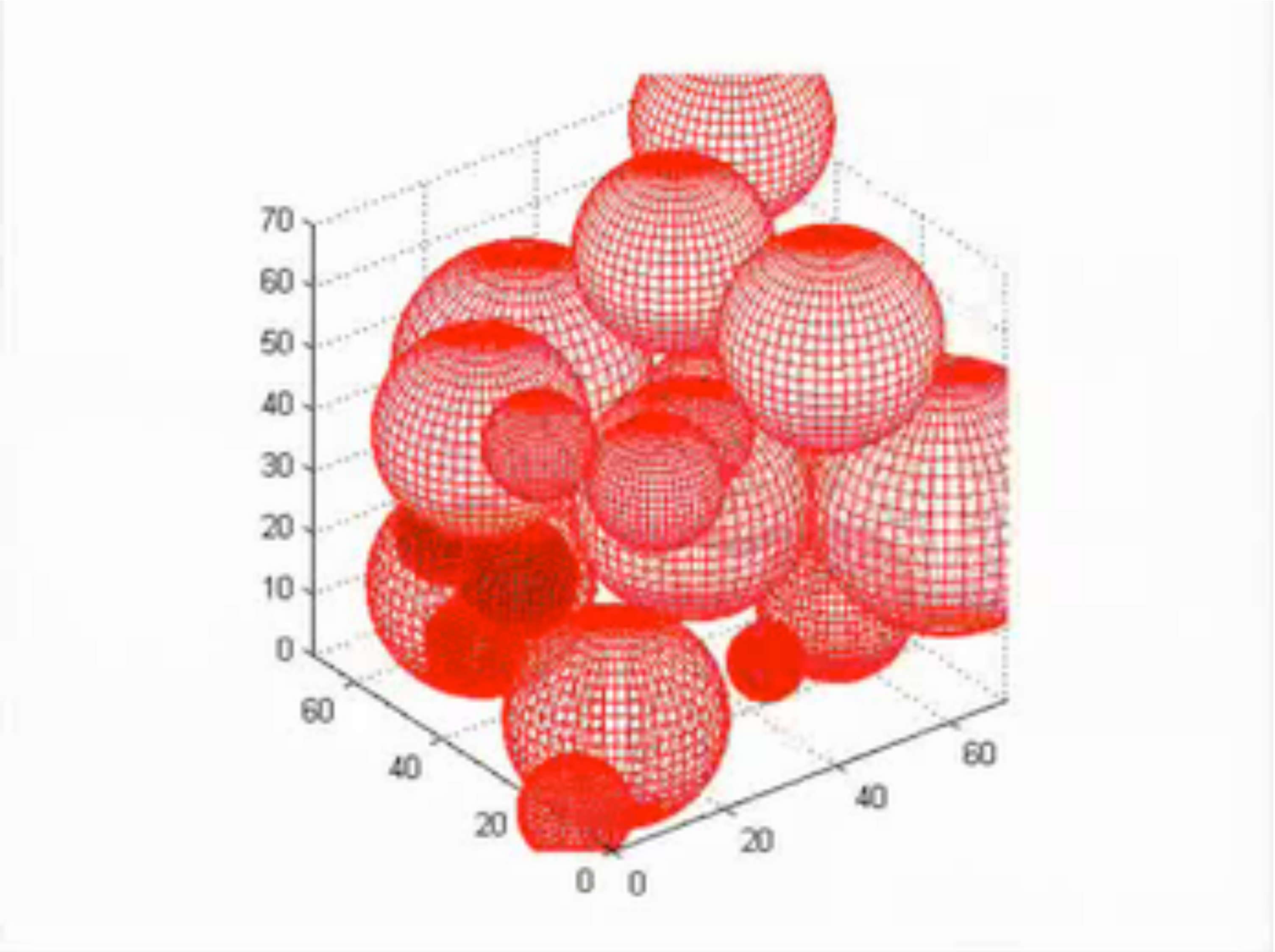
Numerical rocks give important understanding of floating grain model

- Create sphere packings (two size) representative of unconsolidated sediment through “cooperative rearrangement” algorithm
- Quantify the number of loose grains in packings
- Understand capture fraction



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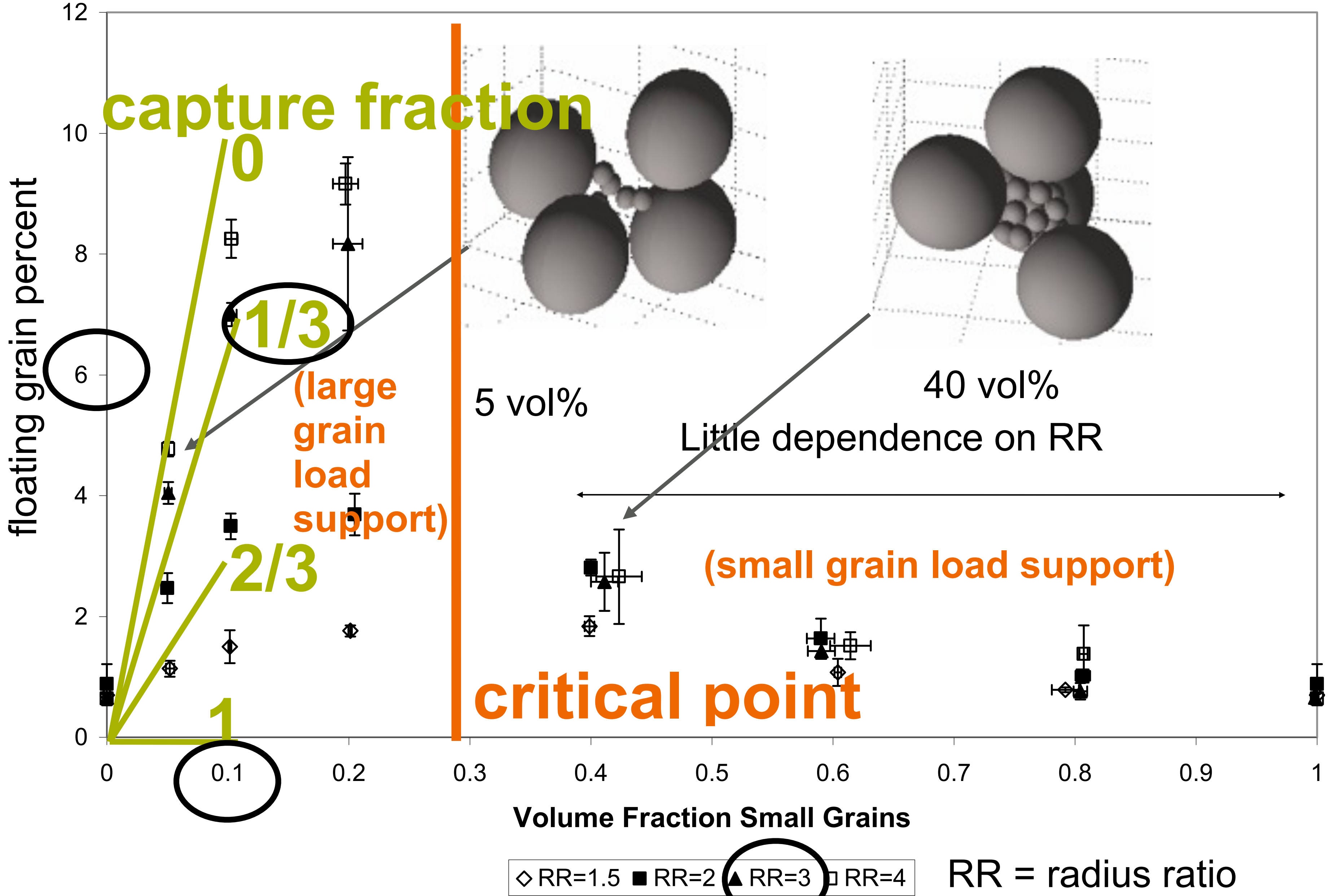
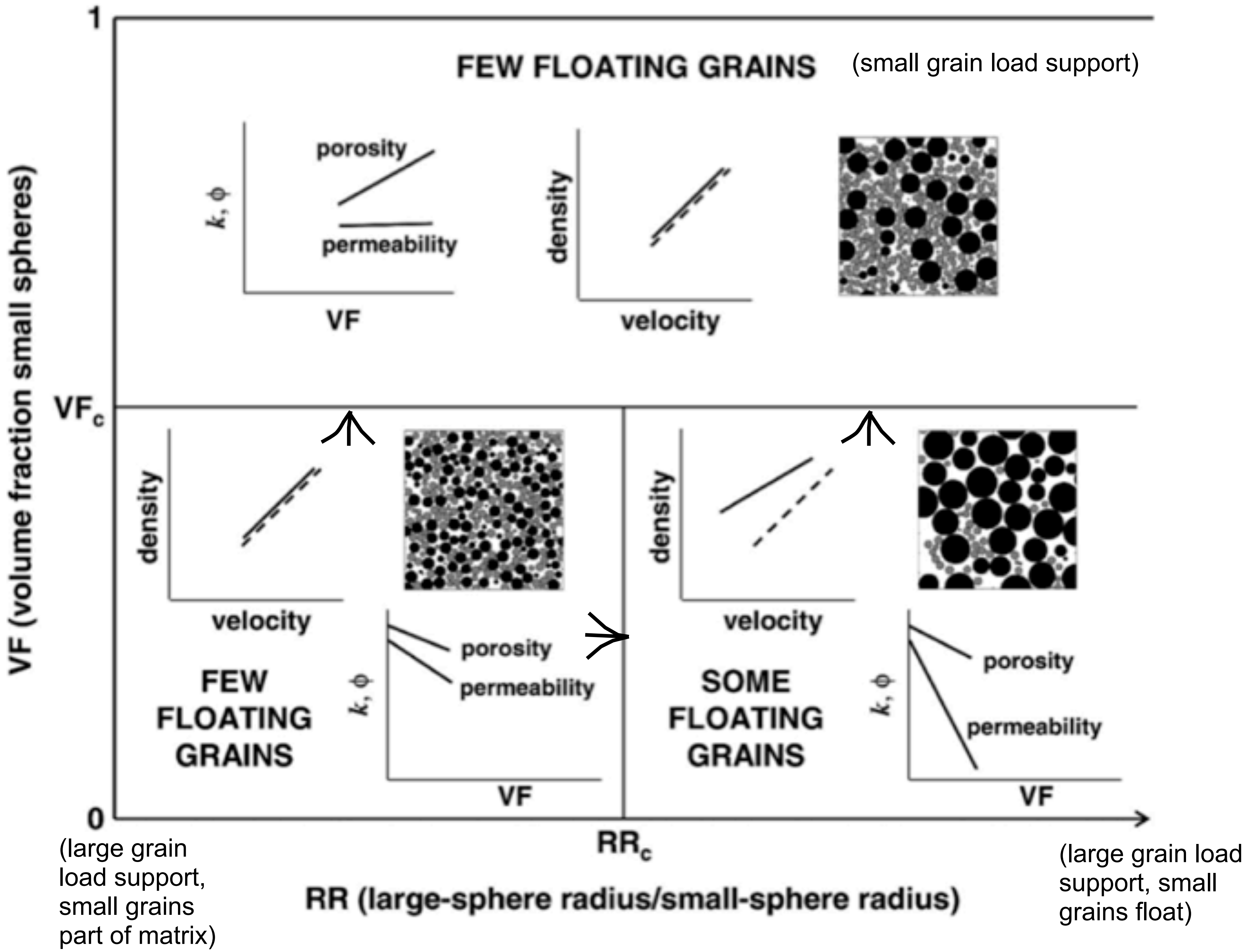
Floating grain fraction & capture ratio demonstrated

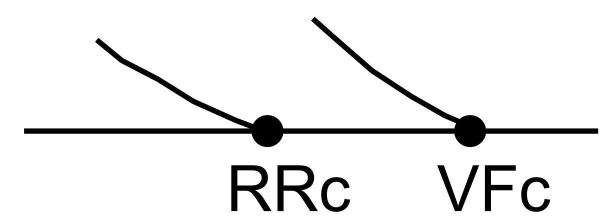


"Thermodynamics of random packing", Physics Today (June 2007)

Phase diagram for random packing of binary mixture of spheres



note: volume fraction dominates over radius ratio critical point



$Rc \approx 4$

$VFc \approx 0.45$

"Statistical mechanics of dense granular media", Coniglio et al., J. Cond. Matter **17**, S2557 (2005).

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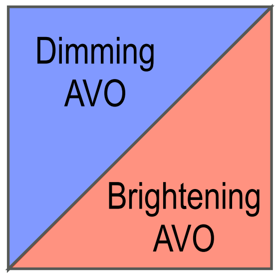
Guide to AVO interpretation

Increasing NG
0% to 100%

Brine to Oil



Decreasing Float
6% to 0%
Increasing perm
1 mD to 1000 mD

Decreasing
Effective Stress
1000 psi

Implementation of floating grain model in DELIVERY

$$v_p^2(\phi_{flt},\lambda) = \frac{K_g}{\rho_g(1-\phi)+\rho_f\phi}\left(\frac{3(1-\nu)}{(1+\nu)}(1-(\phi+\phi_{flt})/\phi_0)^\lambda + \frac{(1-(1-(\phi+\phi_{flt})/\phi_0)^\lambda)^2}{\phi(K_g/K_f-1)+1-(1-(\phi+\phi_{flt})/\phi_0)^\lambda}\right)$$

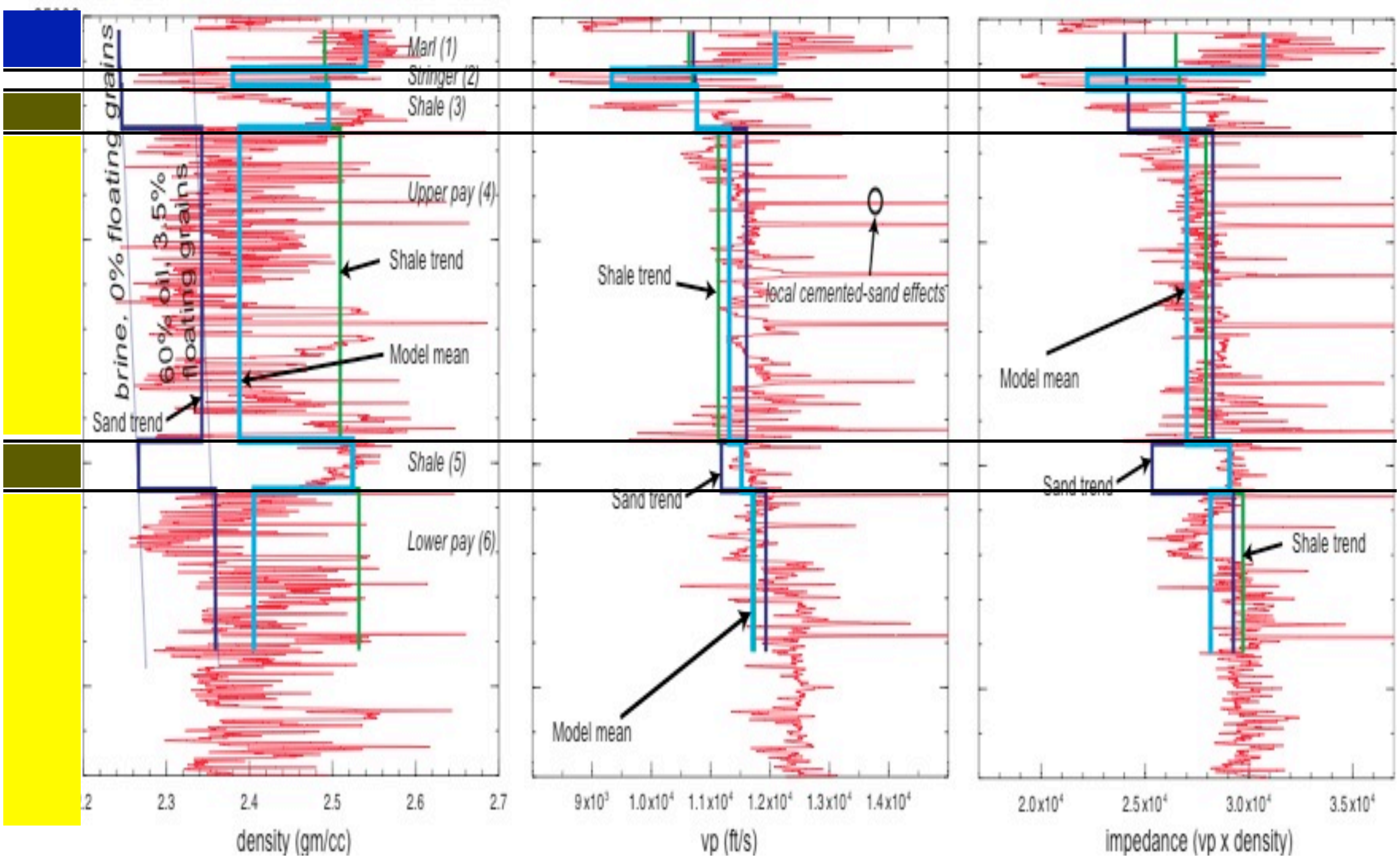
- $\phi = A_\phi + B_\phi\, v_p + C_\phi \phi_{flt} + \varepsilon_\phi$
  - *(from numerical inversion of above, using clusters)*
- $v_p = A_p + B_p d + C_p\, LFIV + D_p\, \phi_{flt} + \varepsilon_p$
  - *(inverted from this regression, direct from log data and clusters)*

    $\phi = A' + B'd + C'\phi_{flt} + \varepsilon_\phi$, *with* $d \leftarrow (1-\exp(-\sigma_{eff}/P_0))$

    $C = -1/(1-f_c)$, f_c *is 'capture fraction'*
- $V_s = A_s + B_s\, v_p + \varepsilon_s$

  - *direct from log data*

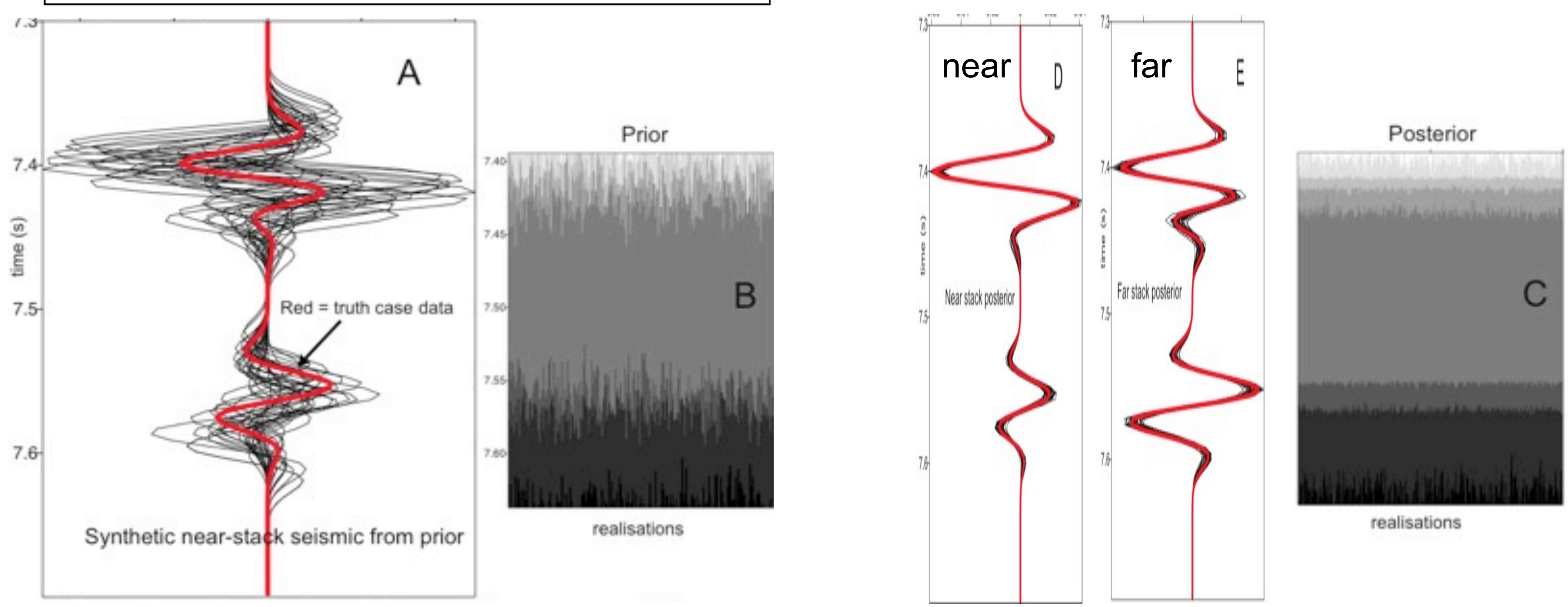
Layer based model derived from blocking for well #2



Multiple stack inversion Bayesian inversion is used

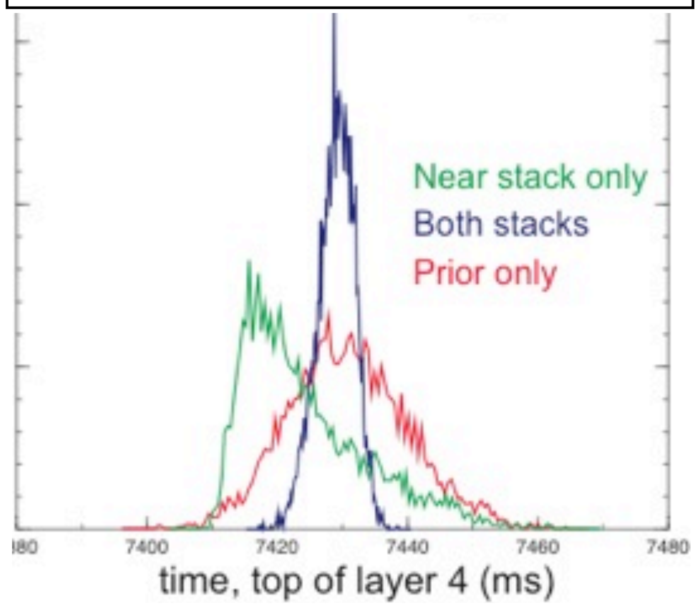
before inversion, ignore seismic

after inversion, honour seismic to within noise level

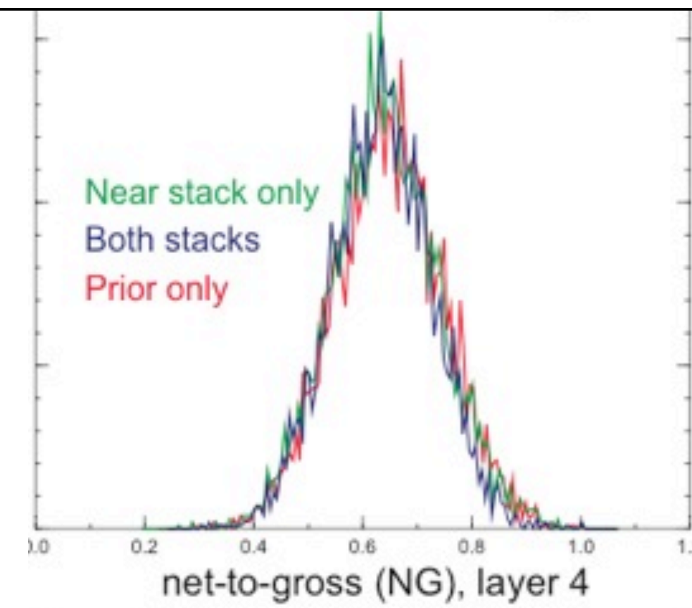


Floating grain fraction and porosity are determined by seismic

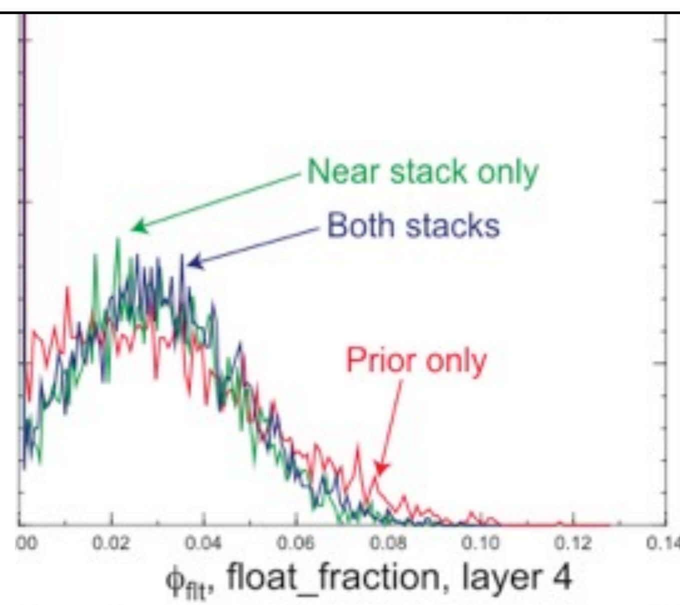
time of layer boundary - seismic determines

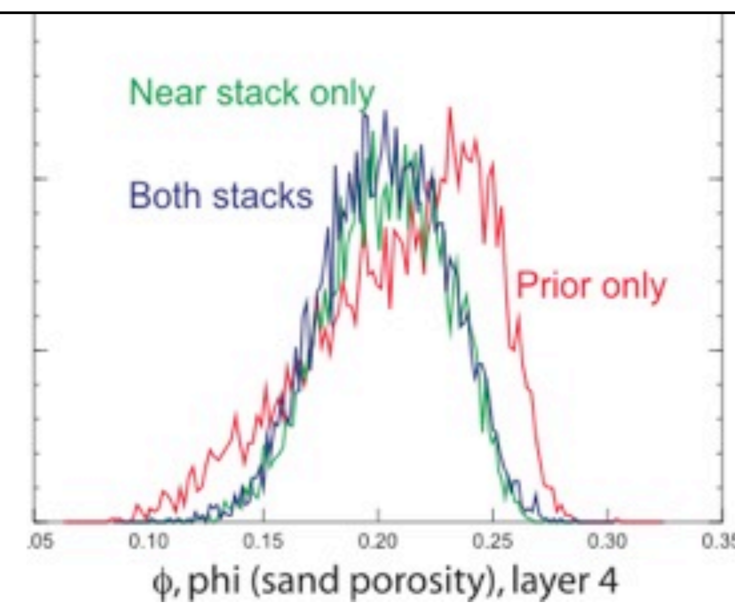


N/G - seismic does not determine



float fraction & porosity - seismic determines ==> permeability





Conclusions

- floating grain model:
  - explains well log measurements
  - relates seismic to the sorting and the permeability
  - strong link between the microscopic picture and the mesoscopic effective media model
- support given by:
  - standard core measurements (laser grain size, permeability)
  - acoustical core measurements
  - CAT scan & SEM of core
  - numerical rock assembly modelling showing critical behaviour
- practical application shown to be feasible
  - deployed in stochastic model based inversion
  - applied to case of deepwater turbidite
  - porosity and floating grain percentage determined by seismic, **therefore permeability**

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"A model for variation of velocity versus density trends in porous sedimentary rocks", Demartini & Glinsky, J. Appl. Phys. **100**, 014910 (2006).
"Critical grain-size parameters for predicting framework and floating grains in sediments", Bryant et al., J. Sedimentary Research **79**, 817 (2009).
"Detection of reservoir quality using Bayesian seismic inversion", Gunning & Glinsky, Geophysics **72**, R37 (2007).

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