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ASEG Inversion Workshop:
Examples of 3D Potential Field inversions –
Low Latitudes and Remanence

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Introduction



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- Remanence (and Porphyries)
- Alumbre Porphyry Project, Peru
- Geosoft MVI / IRI Inversion
- Regional Mafic Belt, Australia
- Conclusion

Magnetic Remanence - Causes



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■ Mineralogy/Lithology

- Fine grained magnetite ($<20\mu\text{m}$) eg rapidly chilled basalt, oxidised mafic intrusions (titanomagnetite)
- Monoclinic pyrrhotite

■ Alteration

- Skarn
- Hornfelsing
- Or any processes resulting in above

■ Magnetisation History

- Systems that develop during long periods of consistent geomagnetic polarity much more likely to exhibit remanence-influenced signatures
- Cretaceous Normal Superchron ~ 118 Ma to 83 Ma
- Permo-Carboniferous (Kiaman) Reverse Superchron ~ 315 Ma to 260 Ma

Implications for Porphyry Exploration



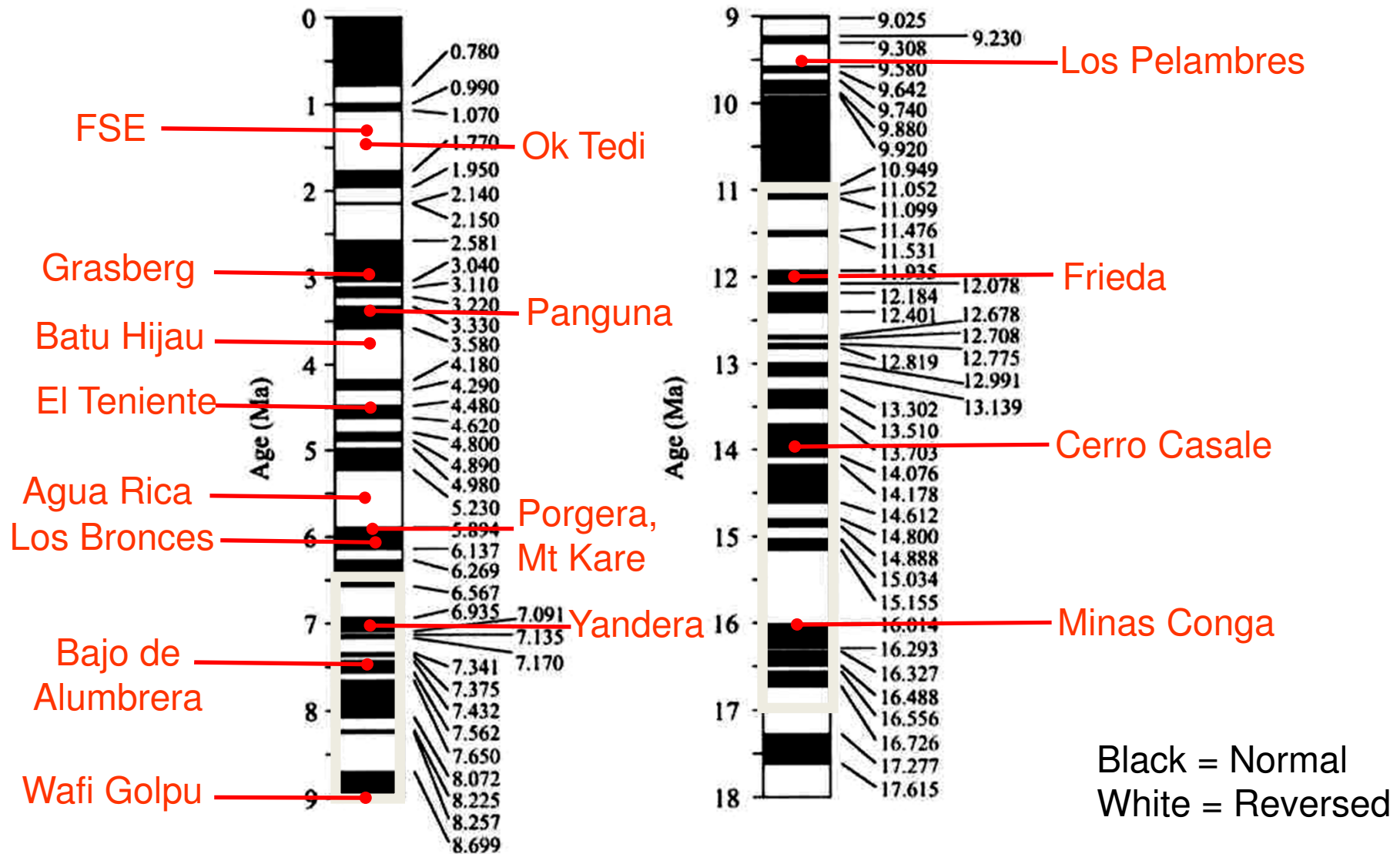
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- Most porphyry system magnetite is coarse-grained, therefore remanence < induced
- During age of mineralisation, earth's field direction was changing and multiphase intrusions/thermal events would be overprinted after each event cancelling out any likely effects of remanence
- **No known world class porphyry deposit with dominant remanent effects**
- Only likely source of remanence features in younger terrains are oxidised mafic intrusions and skarns
- Co-magmatic mafic events likely with world class porphyry districts

Implications for Porphyry Exploration



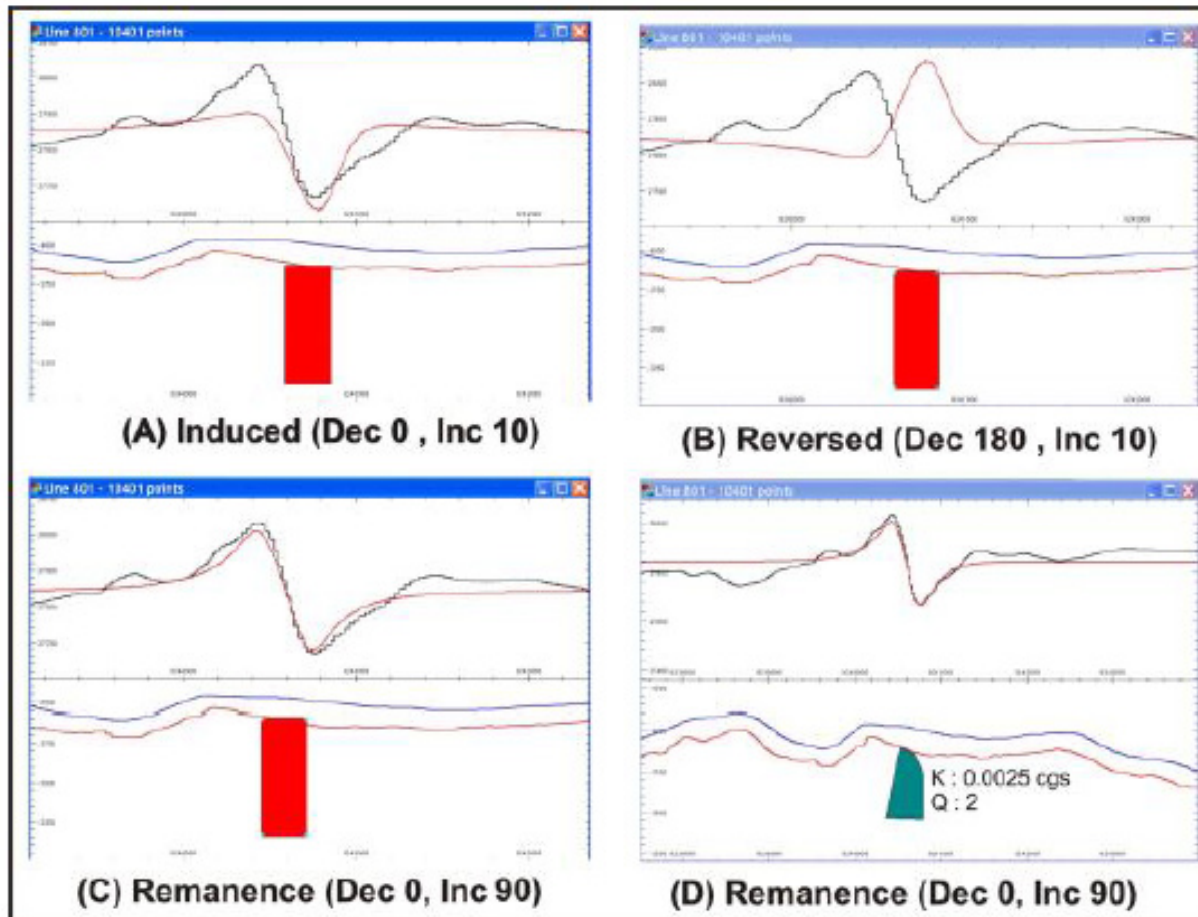
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Implications for Porphyry Exploration



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After Hoschke (2013)

- Hosche (2013) showed that porphyry a prospect in South America has significant remanence
- A number of magnetic targets in the surrounding area are thought to have been missed because remanence was not considered
- After trialling new modelling inversion methods (such as MVI) better fits with geology/ susceptibility were being obtained when drilling for porphyries especially at low latitudes

Alumbre Project – Peru Deposits



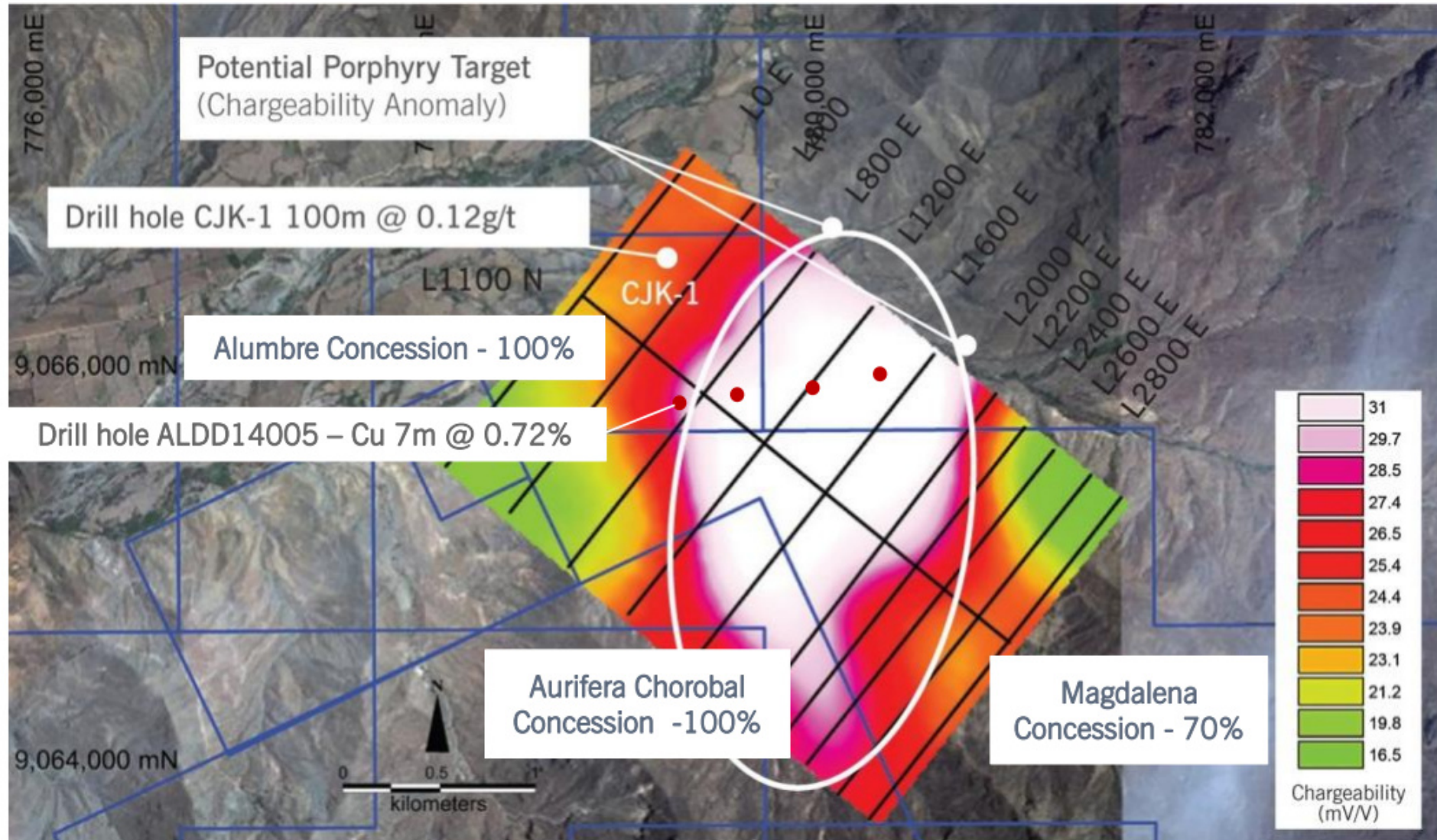
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Alumbre Project – Induced Polarisation



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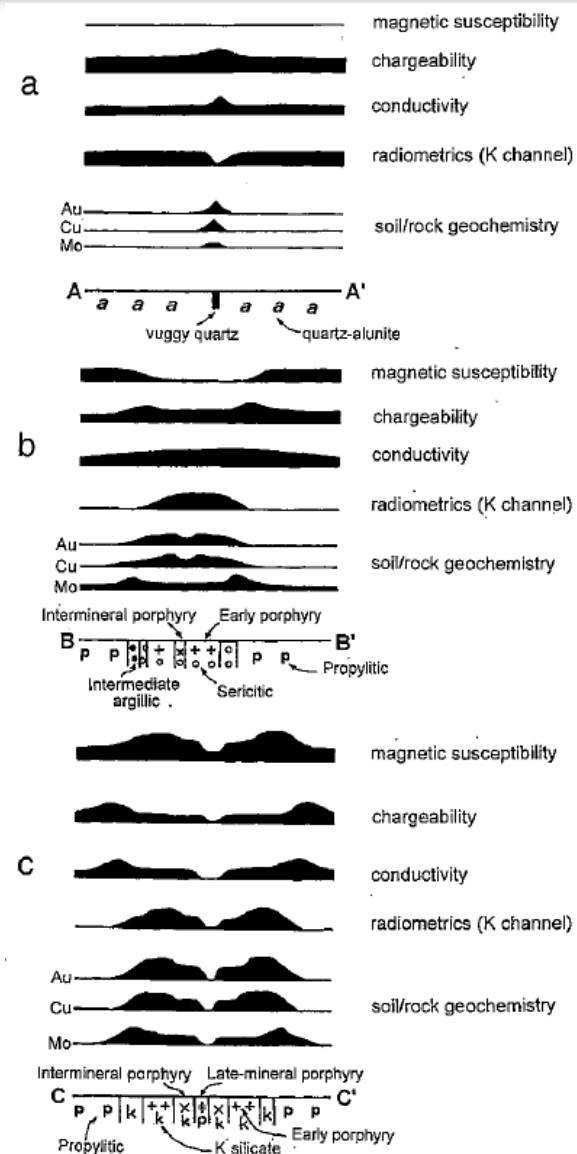
Geophysics Chargeability Results at 400m depth



Au Rich Porphyry Geophysics



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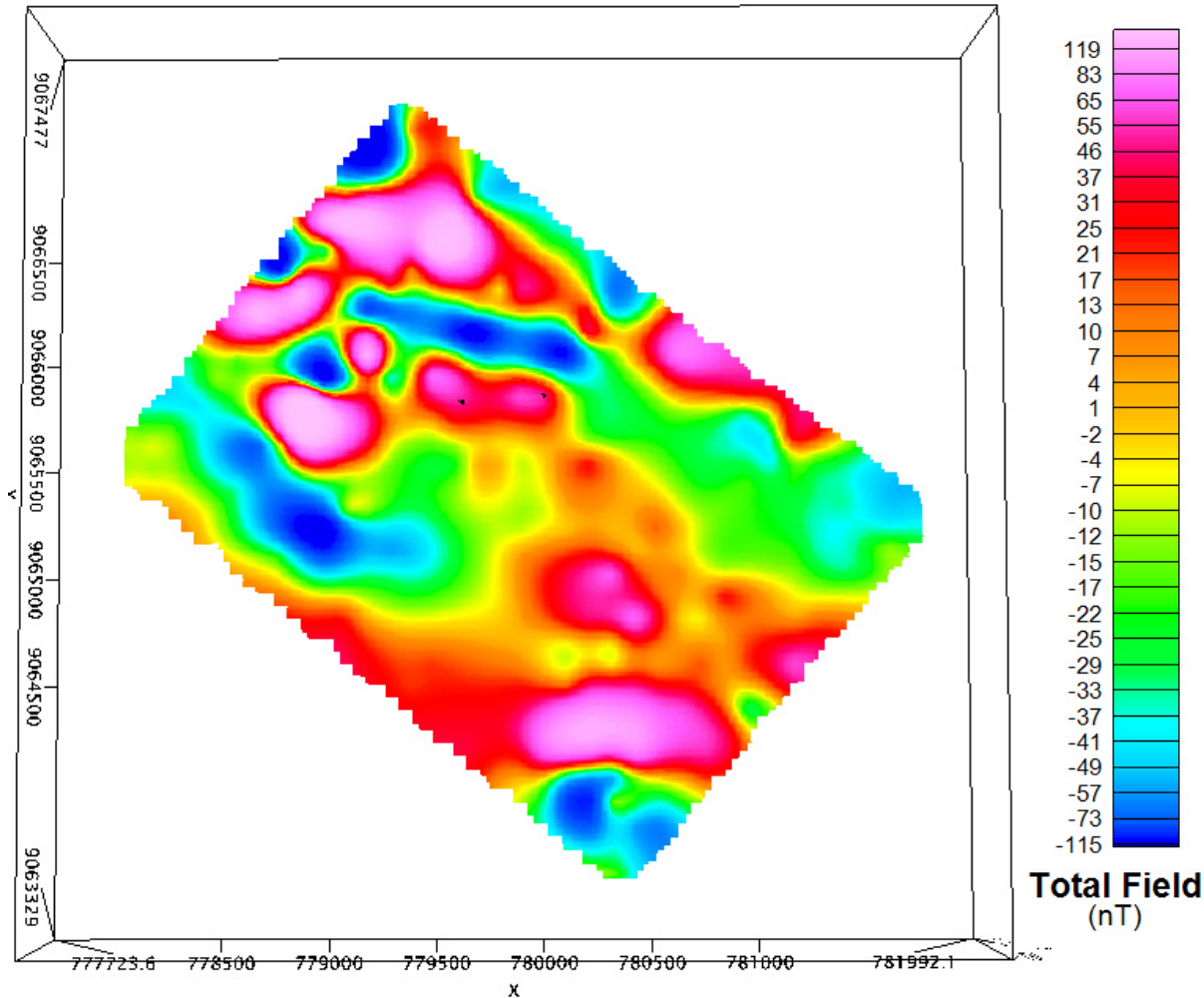


After Sillitoe (2000)

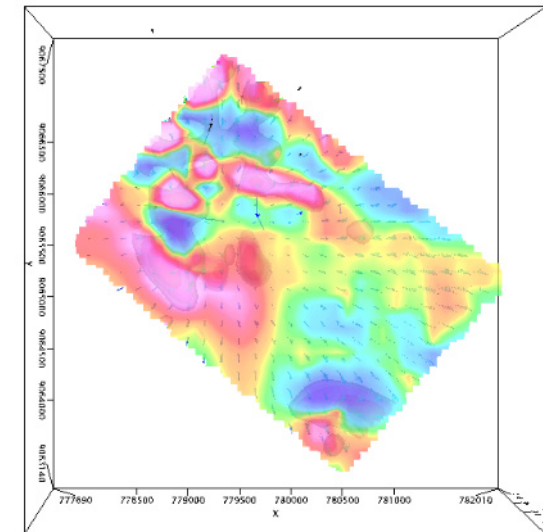
Alumbre Project - Ground Magnetics



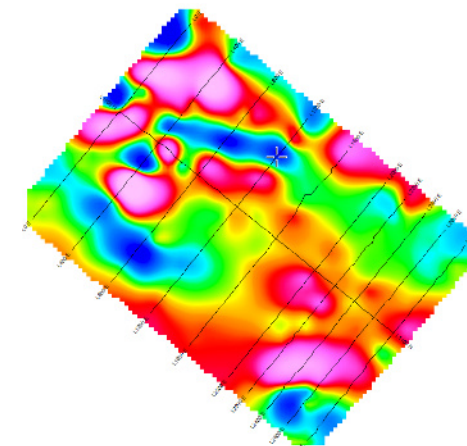
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Residual Magnetics – Total field data used for magnetic inversion from ground data



Residual Magnetics – RTP (amplitude correction 70 applied)



Residual Magnetics – TF (400m line spacing in NW and 200m in SE)



Magnetic Vector Inversion Modelling



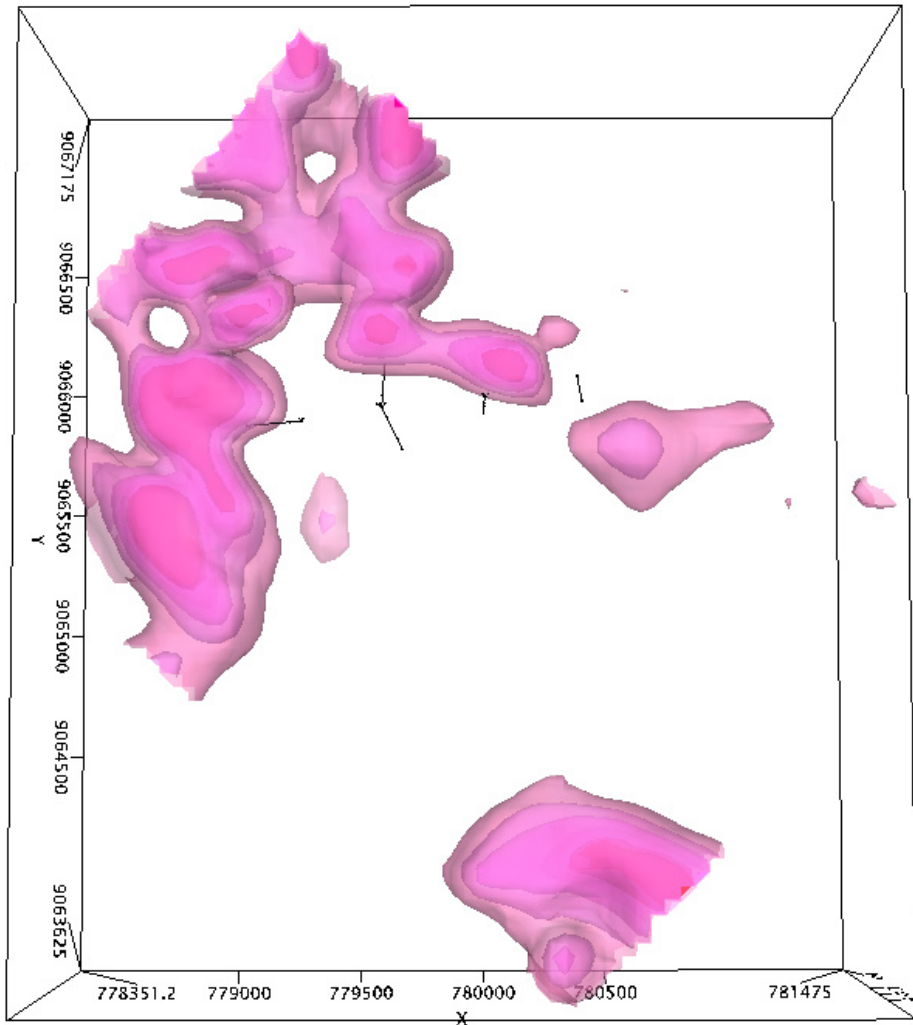
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- Detailed magnetic modelling using Magnetic Vector Inversion (Ellis, 2012)
- MVI directly models the vector of magnetization based only on anomalous TMI data
- The method allows the modelling optimization process the freedom to orient the direction of magnetization to best fit the observed data
- Allows the interpreter to model features that may contain combination of remanent magnetization, demagnetization or anisotropic magnetic minerals
- MVI allows modelling of the different orientation of the magnetic field caused by porphyry intrusion at Alumbre
- Typical MVI modelling using 50 x 50 x 25m voxel, on 200m/400m ground magnetic data (single tie line)

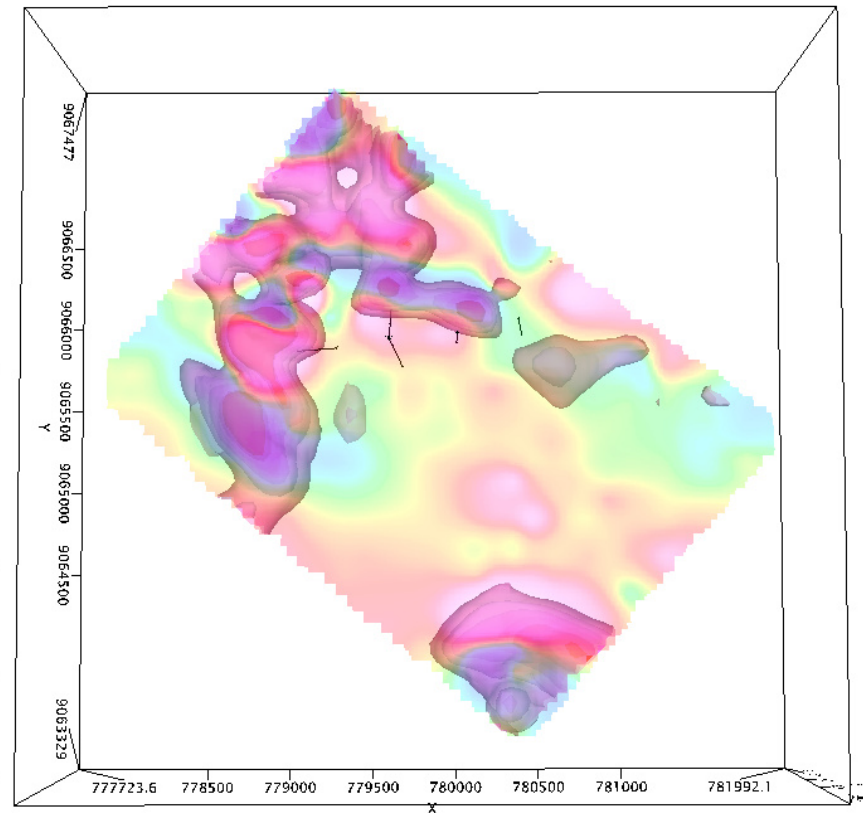
Alumbre Project – Magnetic Vector Inversion



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Magnetics (pink) – Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink.



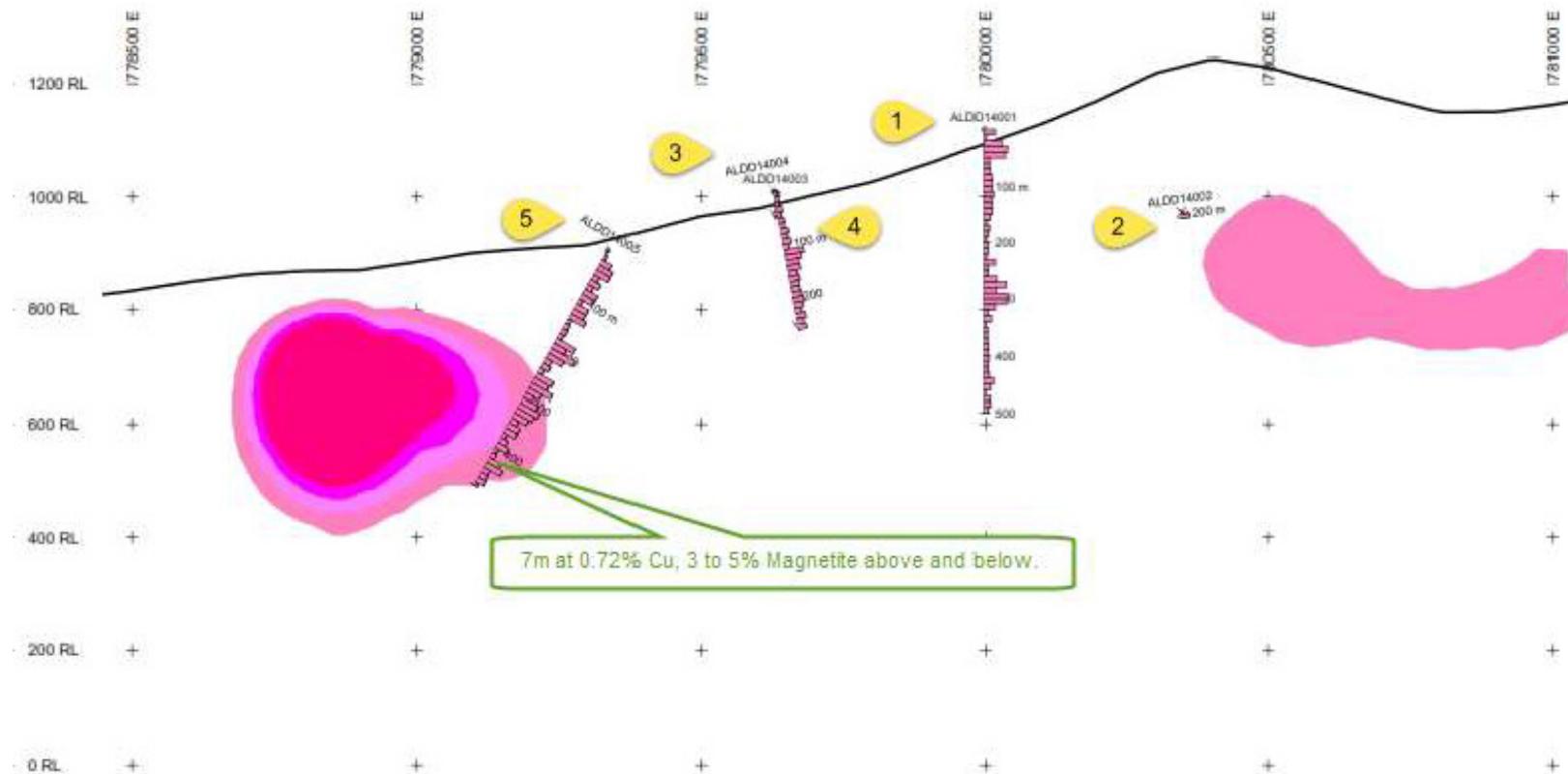
Total field magnetics with $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ isosurface from the 3D MVI inversion in grey underneath.

Alumbre Project – Susceptibility Sections



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Section 9065750N



Magnetics (pink) – Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink. Centre $+15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in red, equivalent to +0.5% magnetite.

Alumbre Project - Geological Model



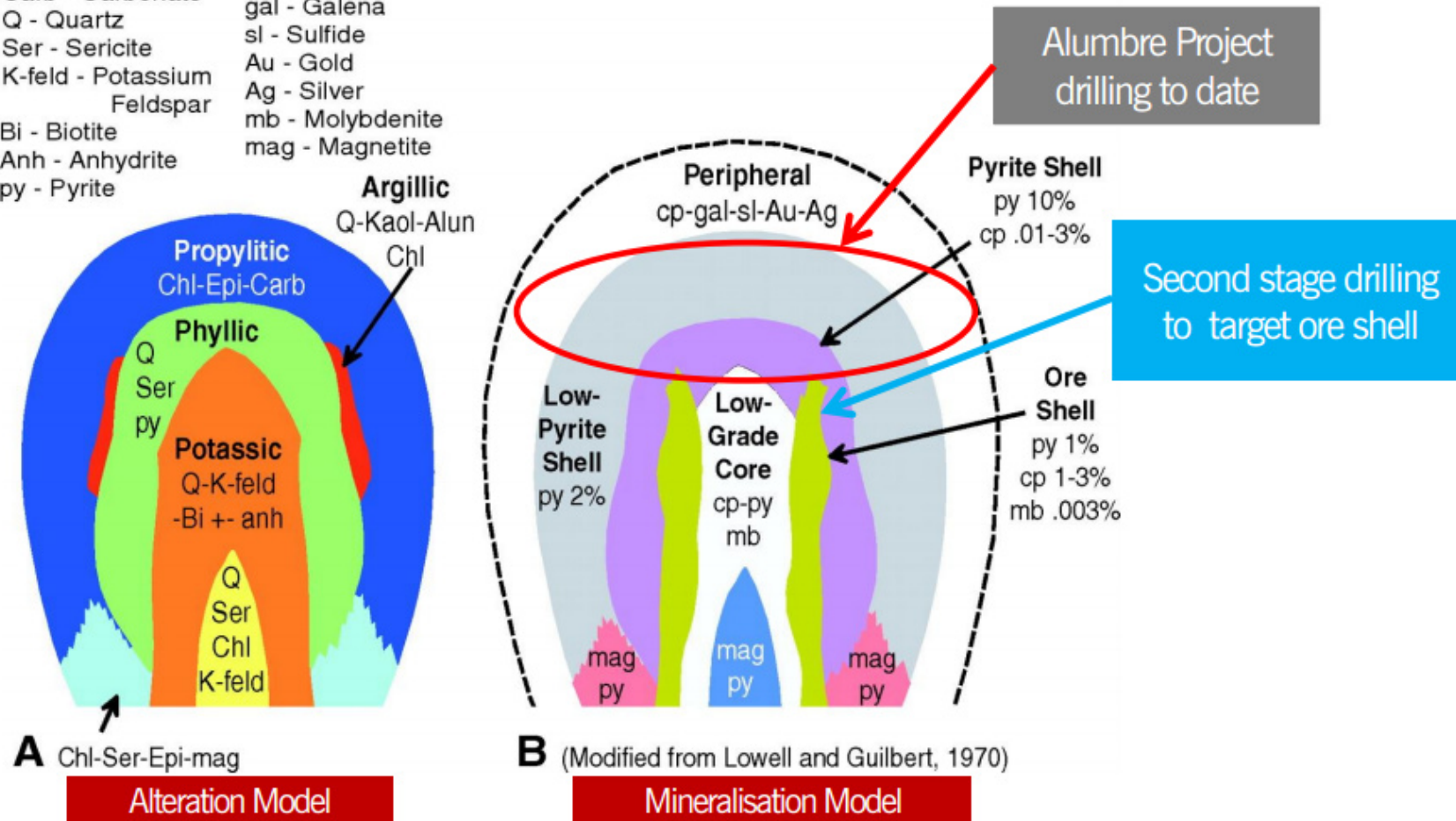
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Explanation:

Chl - Chlorite
Epi - Epidote
Carb - Carbonate
Q - Quartz
Ser - Sericite
K-feld - Potassium Feldspar
Bi - Biotite
Anh - Anhydrite
py - Pyrite

Kaol - Kaolinite
Alun - Alunite
cp - Copper
gal - Galena
sl - Sulfide
Au - Gold
Ag - Silver
mb - Molybdenite
mag - Magnetite

Hydrothermal Alteration Zones, Minerals, and Ores in a Porphyry Copper Deposit

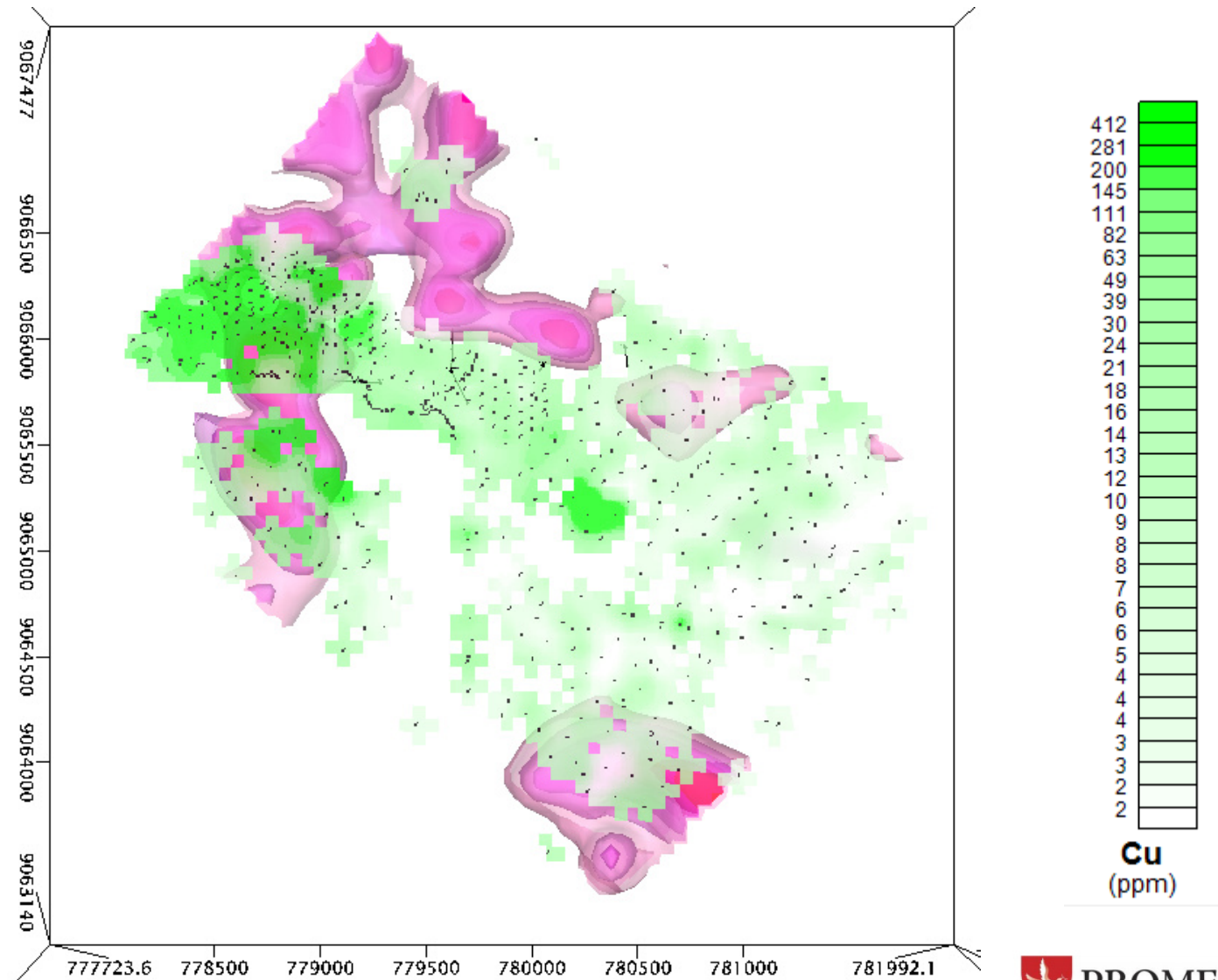


Section View - Illustrated deposit model of a porphyry copper deposit (modified* from Lowell and Guilbert, 1970).** * Geosphere May 2006 vol. 2 no. 3 161-186 **Lowell, J.D., and Guilbert, J.M., 1970, Lateral and vertical alteration-mineralization zoning in porphyry ore deposits: Economic Geology, v. 65, n. 373-408

Alumbre Project - Modelling / Copper



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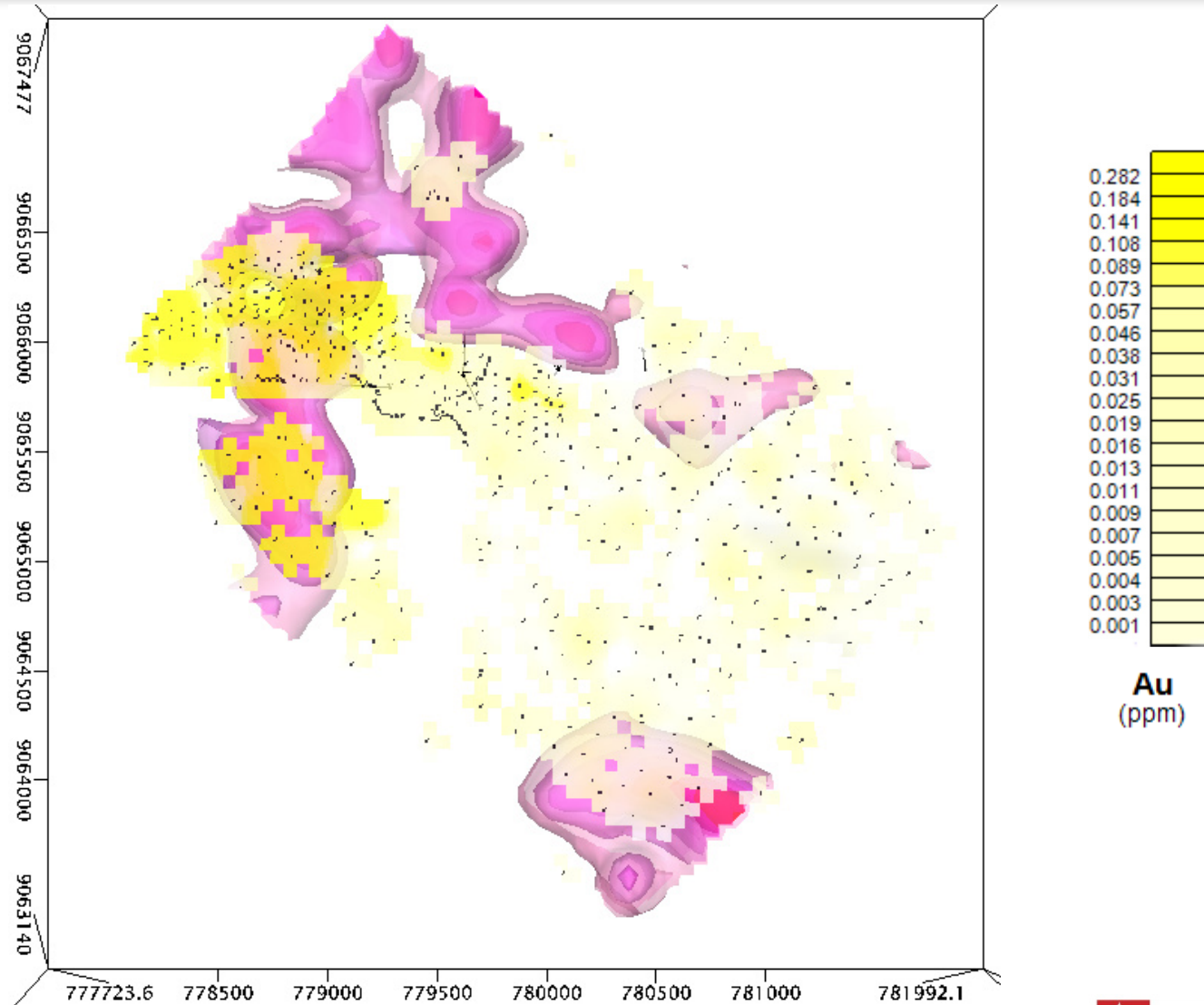


Magnetics (pink)
– Isosurfaces of susceptibility, +10 x 10⁻³ SI* in pink. Centre +15 x 10⁻³ SI* in red, equivalent to +0.5% magnetite.

Alumbre Project - Modelling / Gold



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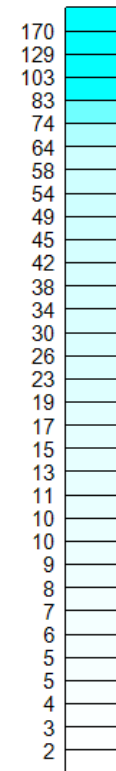
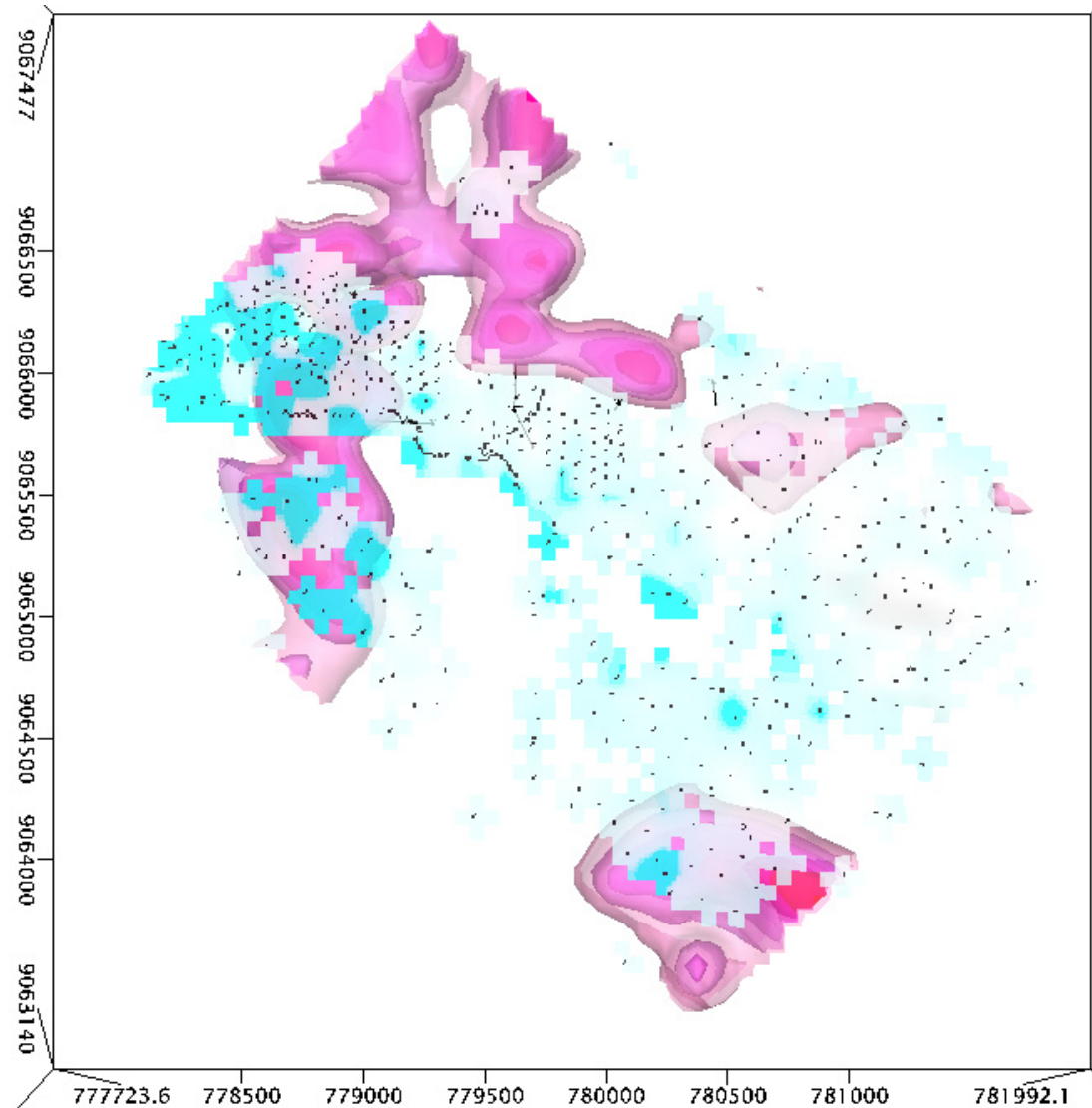
Magnetics (pink)
– Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink. Centre $+15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in red, equivalent to $+0.5\%$ magnetite.

Alumbre Project - Modelling / Zinc



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Magnetics (pink)
– Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink. Centre $+15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in red, equivalent to $+0.5\%$ magnetite.



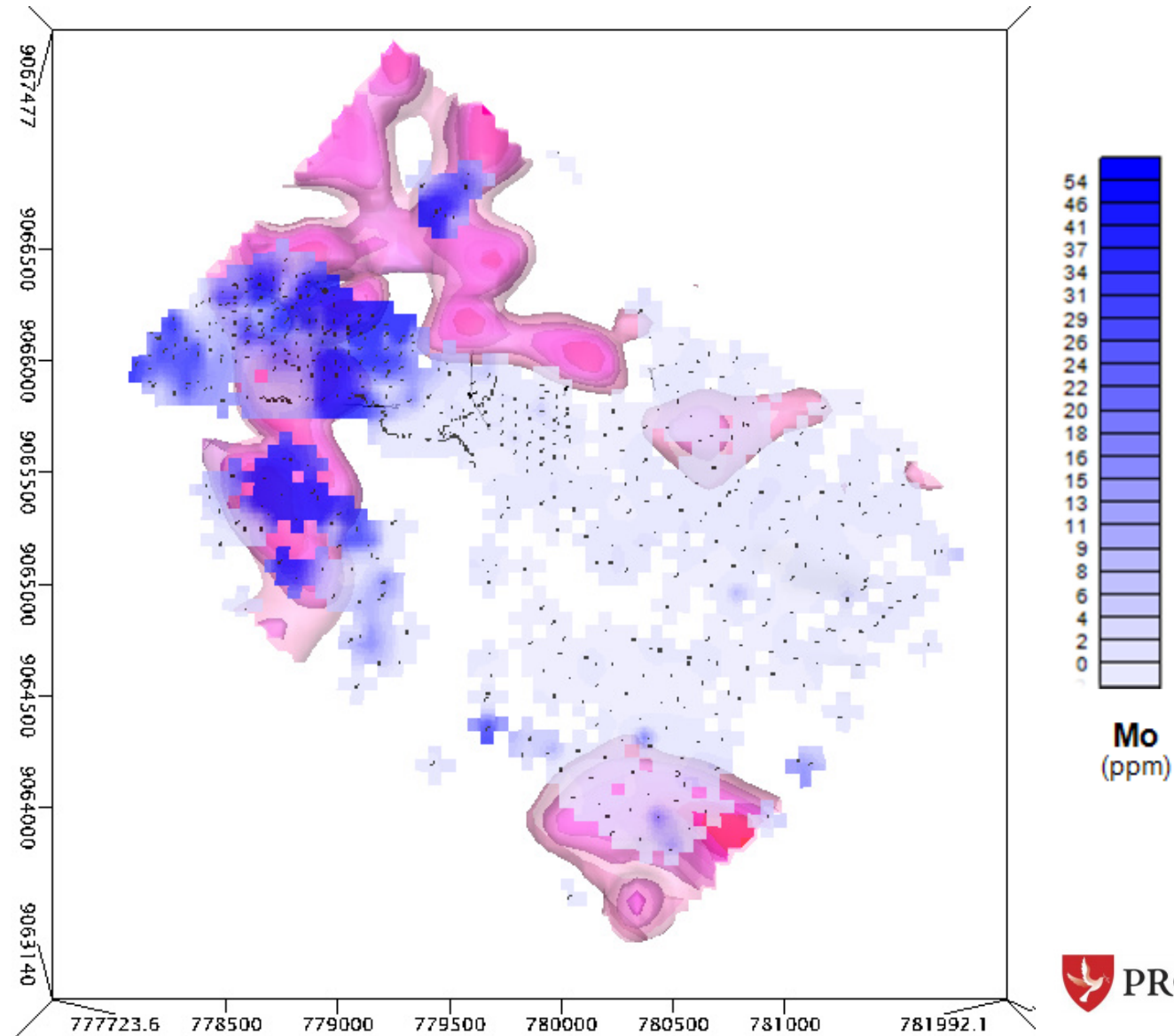
Zn
(ppm)



Alumbre Project - Modelling / Mo



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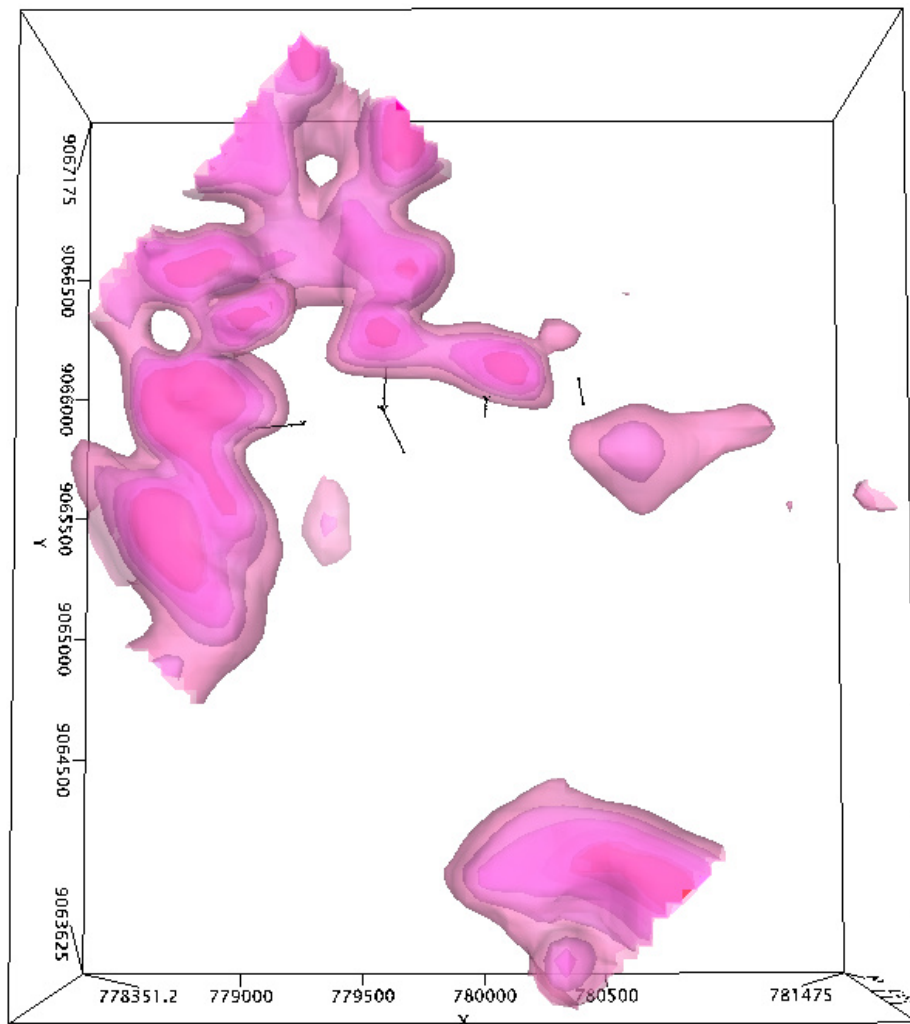


Magnetics (pink)
– Isosurfaces of susceptibility, +10 x 10⁻³ SI* in pink. Centre +15 x 10⁻³ SI* in red, equivalent to +0.5% magnetite.

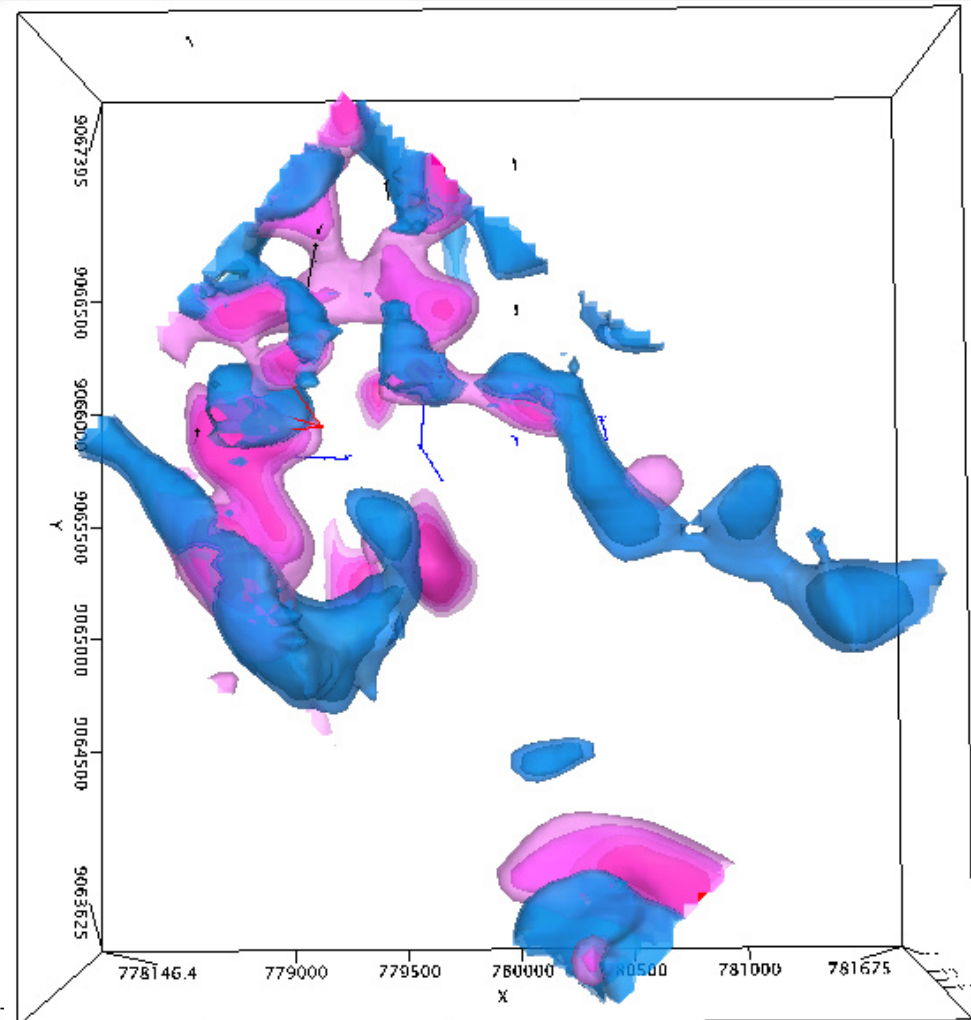
Alumbre Project - Magnetic Inversion



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Magnetics (pink) – Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink.



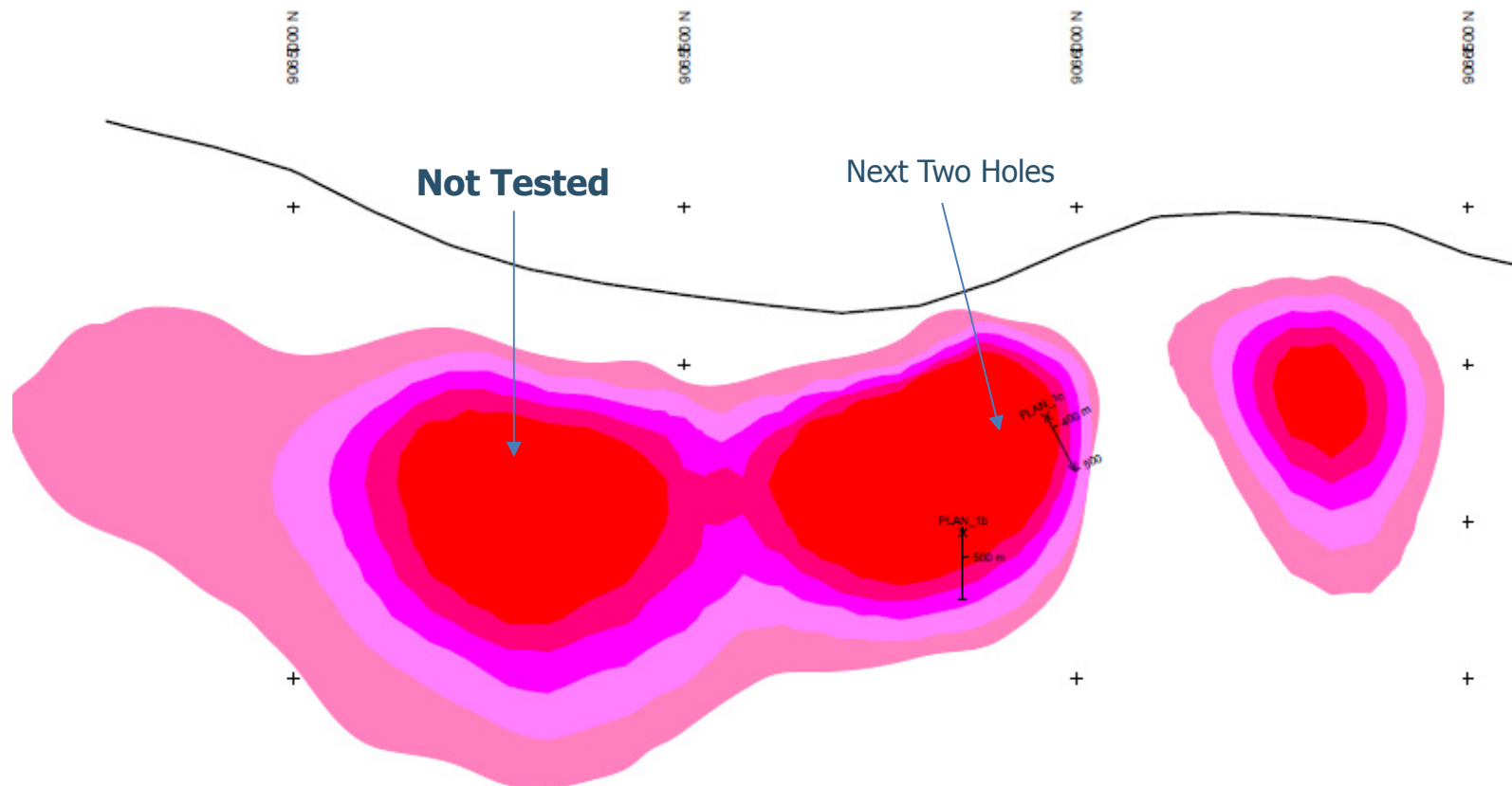
Modelled magnetics with $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ isosurface from the 3D MVI inversion in pink and IRI standard inversion in blue.

Promesa – Alumbre Sections



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Section 778900E

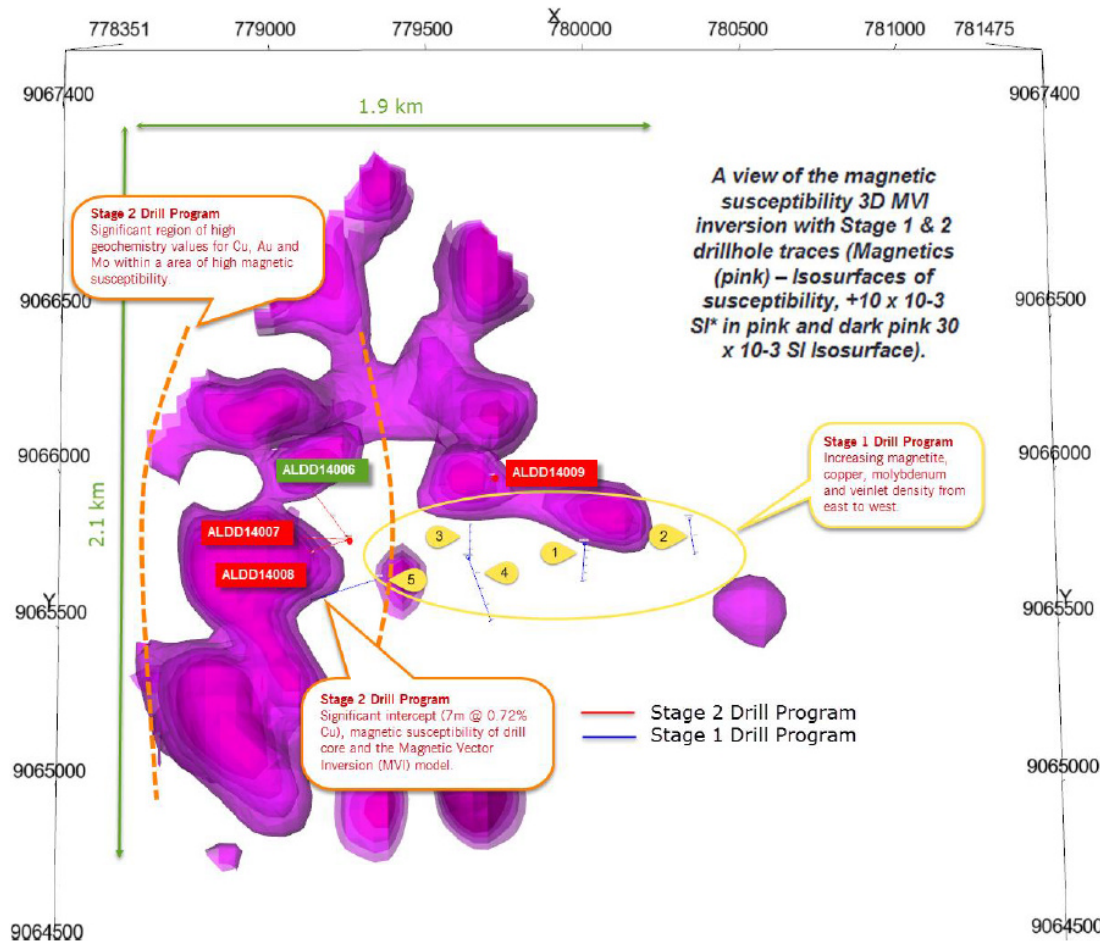


Magnetics (pink) – Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink. Centre $+15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in red, equivalent to +0.5% magnetite.

Alumbre Project - Drilling



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“The first drill hole, ALDD14006 has progressed to 303m with chalcopyrite and magnetite observed and increasing with depth” 28/9/14

Magnetics (pink) – Isosurfaces of susceptibility, $+10 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in pink. Centre $+15 \times 10^{-3} \text{ SI}^*$ in red, equivalent to +0.5% magnetite.

Conclusions



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- Recent advances in 3D inversion methods have led to the availability of techniques that look to address more complicated geological/ geophysical problems and challenge conventional thinking.
- After trialling new modelling inversion methods (such as MVI) better fits with geology/ susceptibility were being obtained when drilling for porphyries especially at low latitudes
- In addition, at a regional scale, geological features that appear to be normally magnetised may in fact have a remanent component.
- Alternative modelling techniques should be trailed and **all** data considered before planning follow-up exploration.



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