

Hydrogeological conceptual model of a crystalline thermo-mineral carbo-gaseous aquifer driven by a weathering profile and tectonic fractures

M. Alazard^{1, 2}, B. Dewandel³, P. Lachassagne², V. Bailly-Comte³, R. Couëffe³, S. Grataloup³, B. Ladouche³, S. Lanini³, J-C. Maréchal³, R. Wyns³

¹ Geotop, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

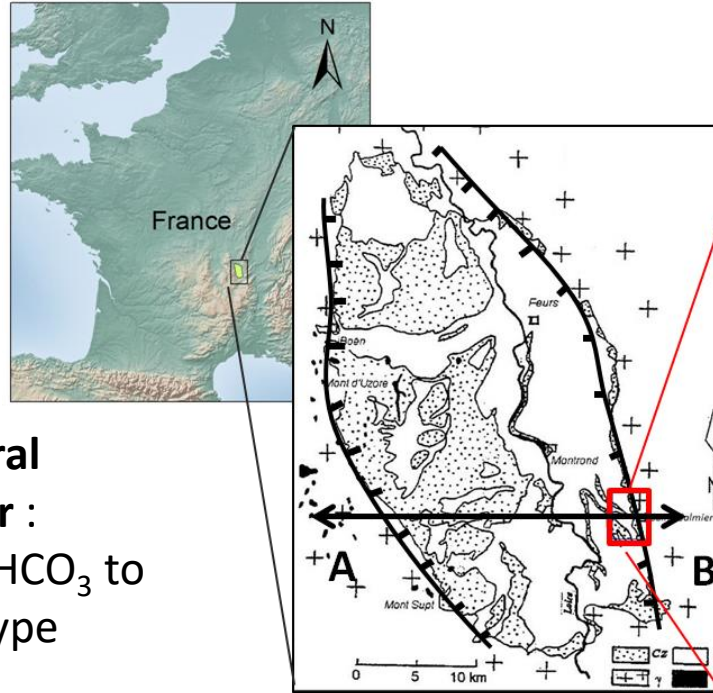
² Water Institute by Evian, France

³ BRGM, France

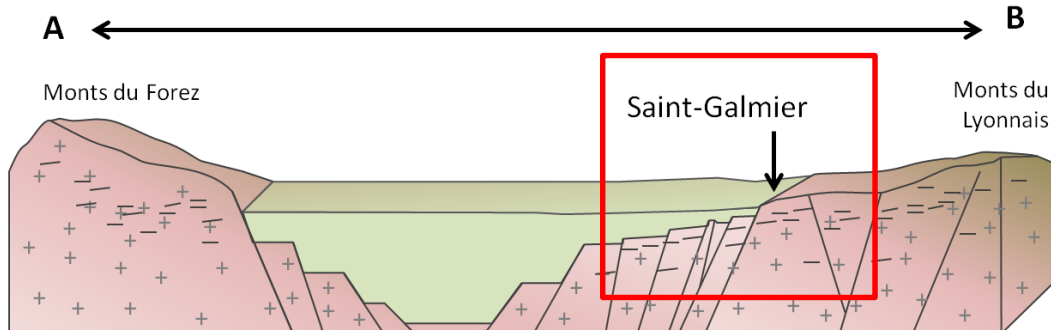
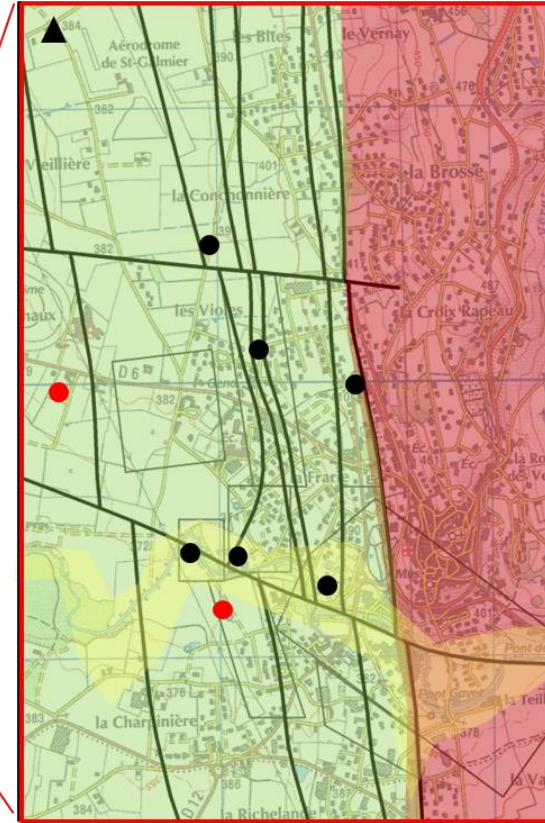
Badoit® aquifer system

Saint-Galmier,
France

Badoit® Natural Mineral Water :
Sparkling Ca-HCO_3 to
 Ca-Na-HCO_3 type



Forez plain: Perialpine graben



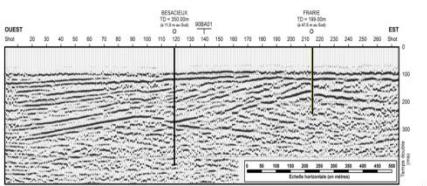
Geology:

- Granite
- Sedimentary deposits (Cenozoic) up to 700m
- Numerous tectonic faults*

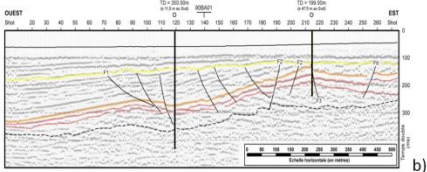
Geological data

- Seismic profiles (6),
- Outcrops (27 sites),
- Boreholes (254),
- Bibliographical data

→ Geological and Structural models

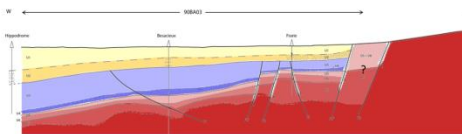


a)



b)

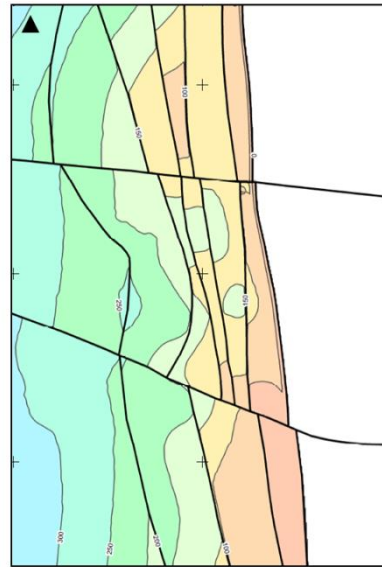
— Topography
 — Bottom of the post-rift series
 — Bottom of the synrift series
 — Bottom of the saprolite
 — Bottom of the laminated layer
 — Bottom of the upper part of the fissured layer



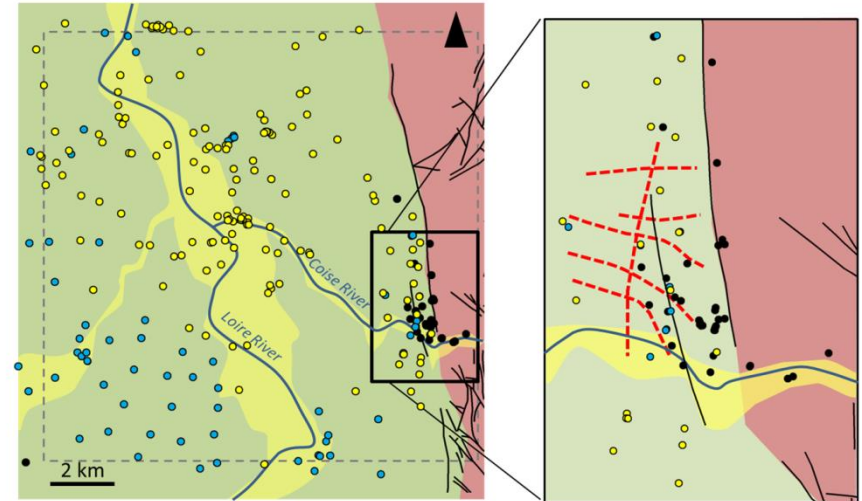
c)

U1 Clayed post-rift U2 Sandy post-rift U3 Clayed synrift U4 Sandy synrift US Saprolite US Laminated layer US Fissured layer Unweathered granite

Seismic profiles interpretation



Structural model



- Granite
- Cenozoic sedimentary deposits (under Quaternary cover)
- Alluvium
- Main faults
- River
- Boreholes reaching the post-rift Cenozoic deposits
- Boreholes reaching the syn-rift Cenozoic deposits
- Boreholes reaching the granite substratum
- Seismic profiles

- Evidence of an old poly-phased weathering profile
- Thickness >100 m (most fractured zone : 100-125 m)
- Its geometrical structure: shift by N-S fault resulting from graben
- Two phases sediments filling = post and syn-rift

Hydrogeological data

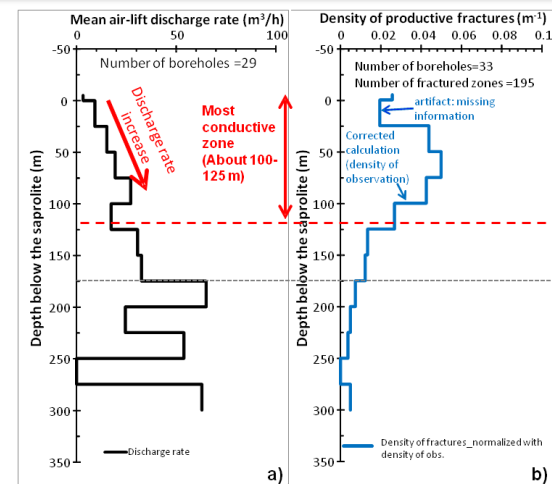
Air-lift data:

→ most conductive fractured zone until 100-125m depth

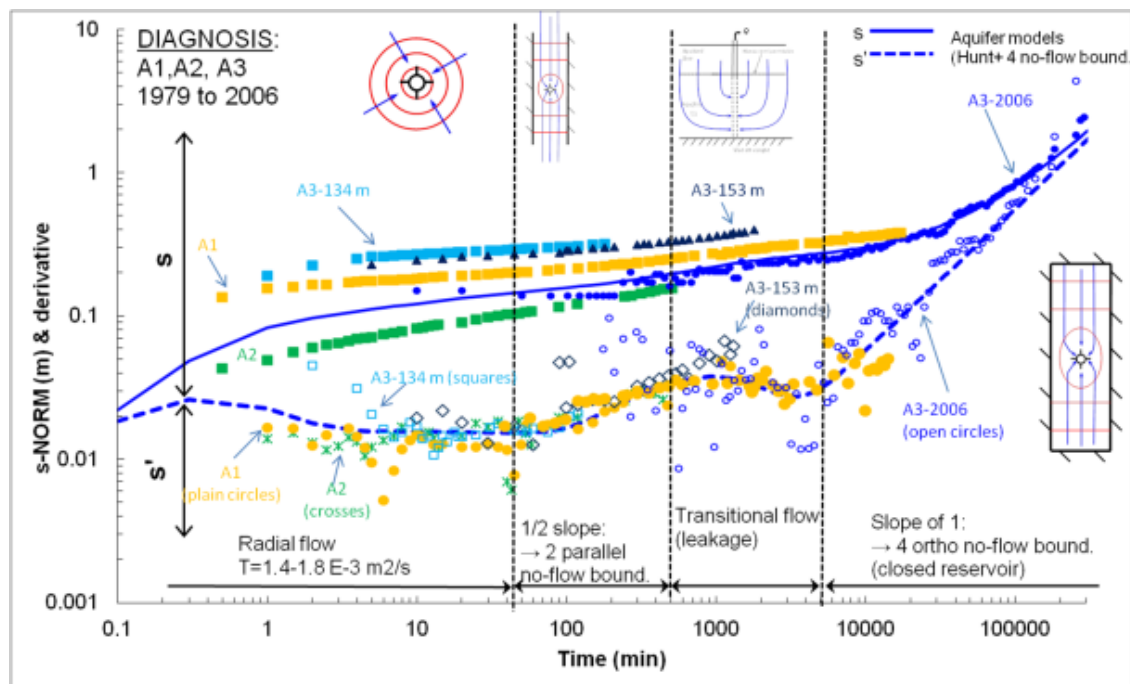
Pumping tests:

→ Hydraulic properties of sedimentary deposits and granite aquifers

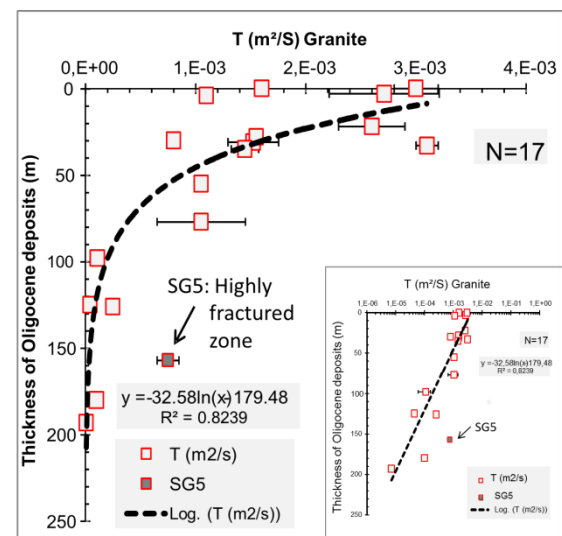
→ aquifer compartments' boundaries



Air-lift data interpretation



Modelling of pumping tests

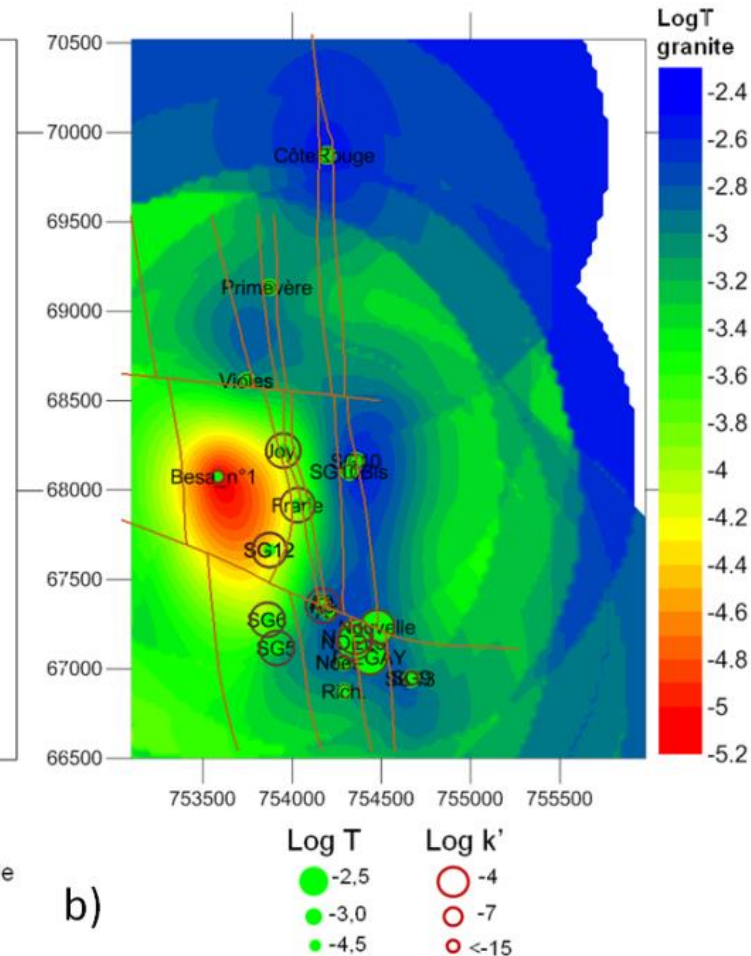
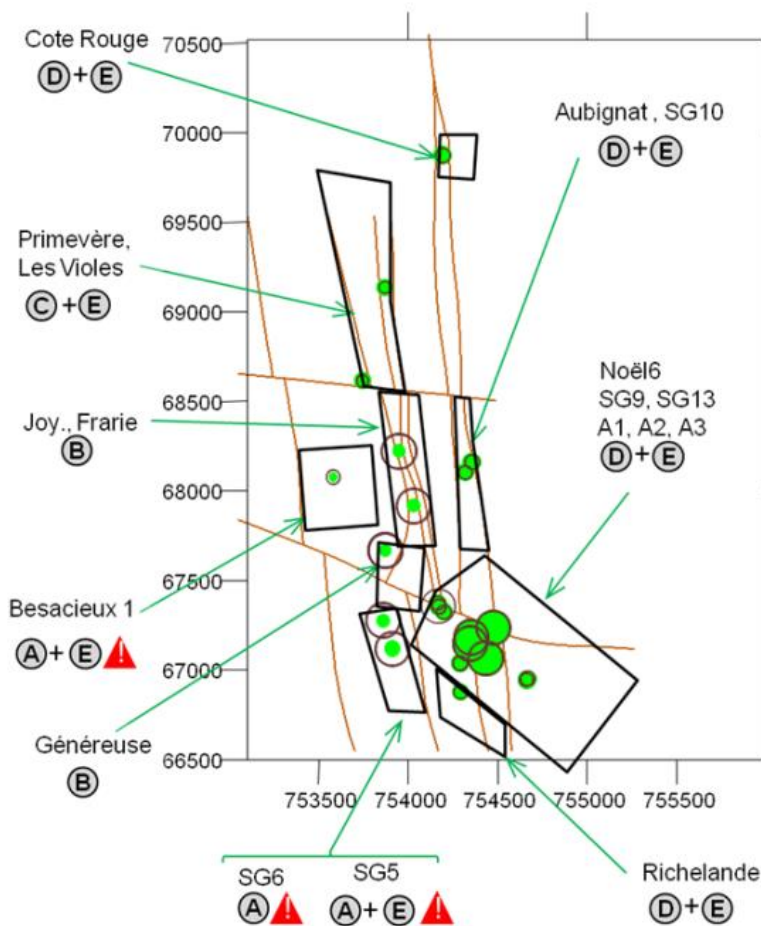
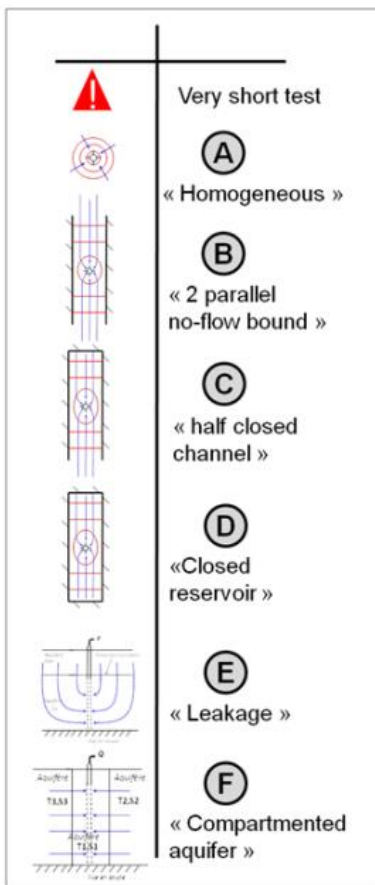


Transmissivity (granite)

Hydrogeological data

→ Hydraulic properties of granite aquifers (multi-layered aquifers –Oligocene, sapolite, fissured granite)

→ Compartments' boundaries (closed reservoirs)



a)

b)

Chemical data

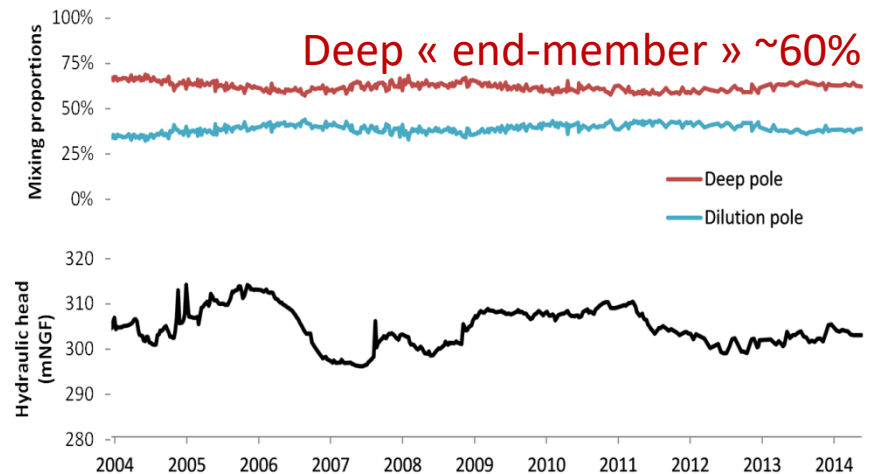
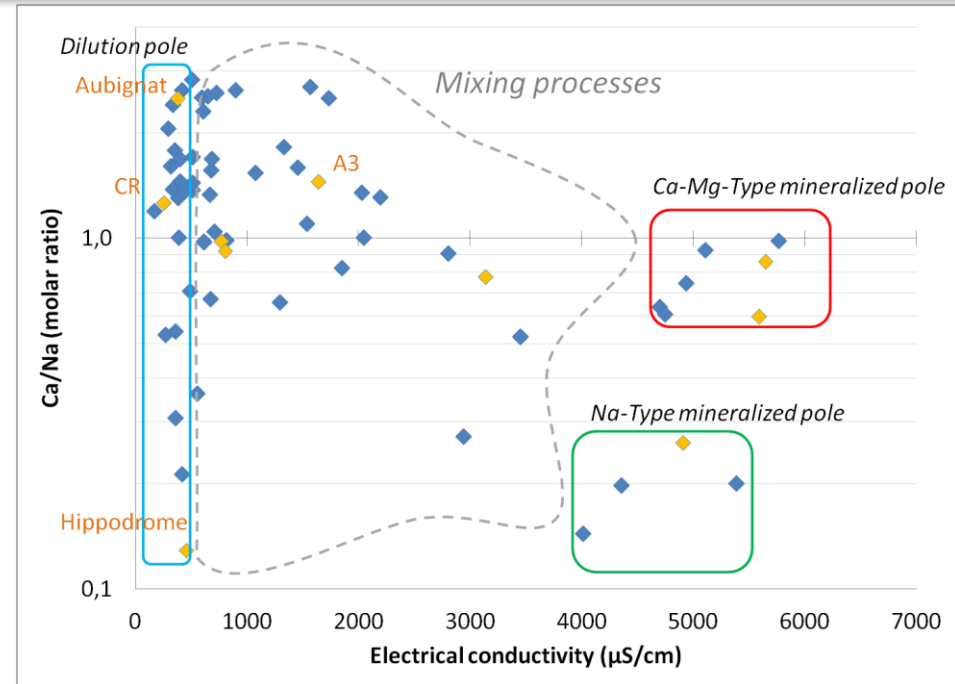
- No clear relationships between aquifer lithology and major ions content
- Use of chemical indicators:
 - the content of Ca^{2+} vs. Na^+ for sparkling water
- End Member Mixing Analysis
(Christophersen and Hooper, 1992)

Assumptions:

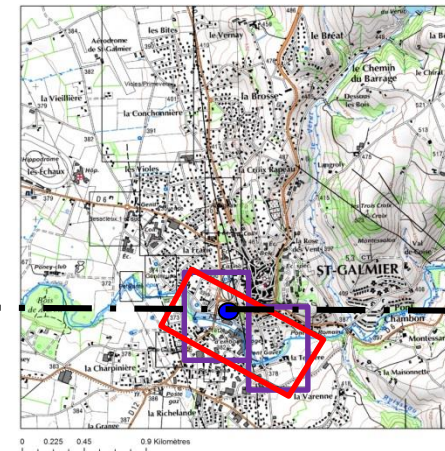
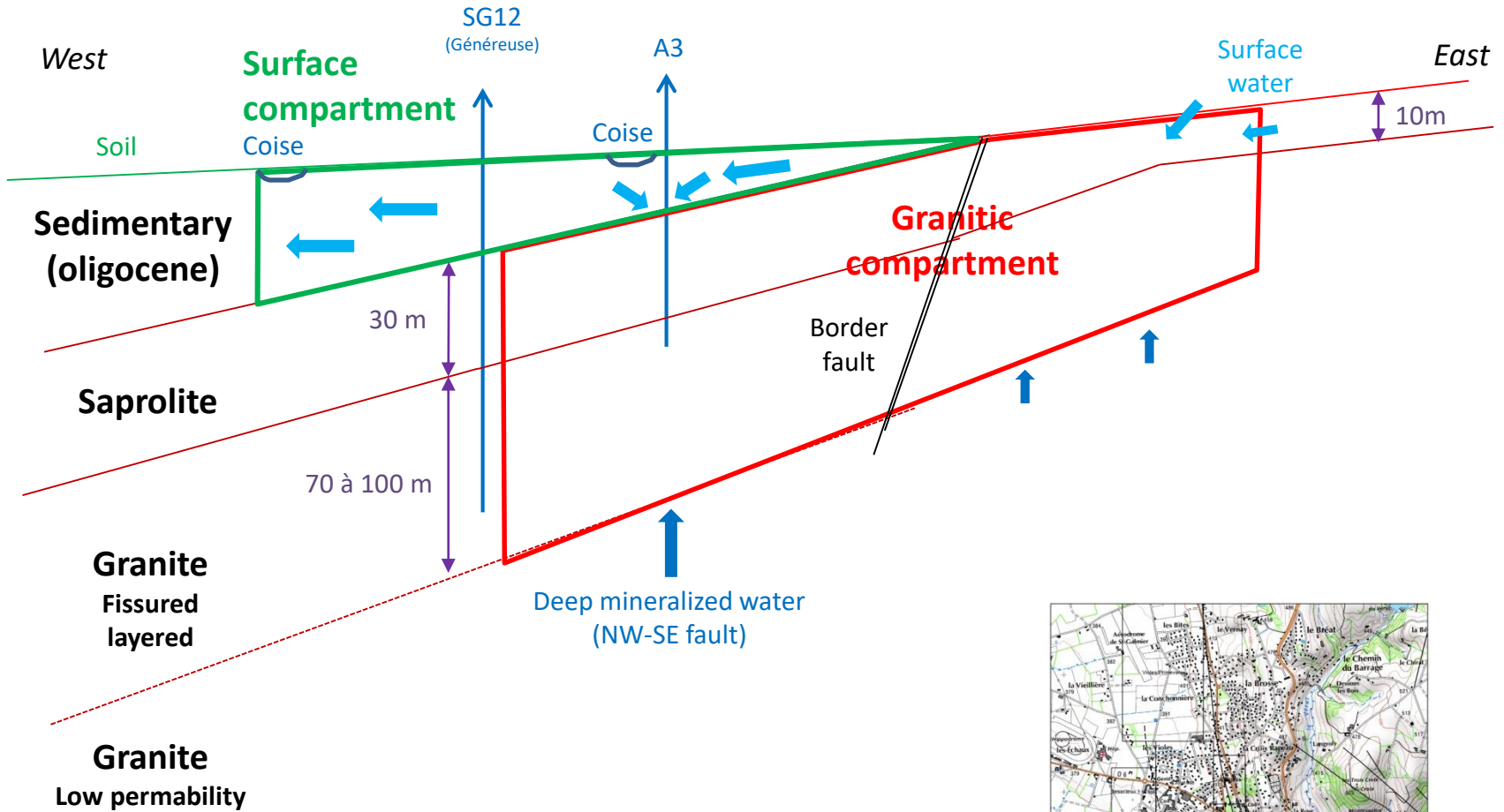
Major ions = conservative tracers (...)

Limitations

End-Members are “relative” but are considered as “absolute” End-Members, even if they originates from mixing



Conceptual model



Deterministic hydrogeological model construction

- **MARTHE_7.4© BRGM finite differences code**

- **Geometry and meshing**

4 aquifer layers: Sedimentary deposits, saprolite and granite

50*50 m mesh

- **Hydrodynamic properties**

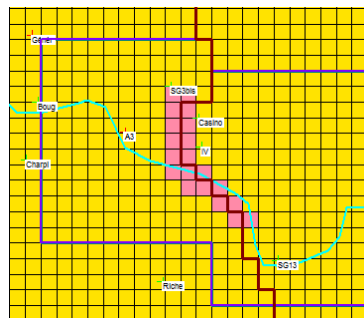
Permeabilities given by pumping test analysis.

- **Boundary conditions**

Head is set to DEM-1.5m for the West boundary of the Oligocene layer

Recharge is imposed on outcrops (Saprolite + Oligocene)

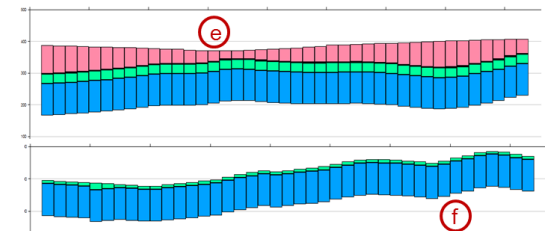
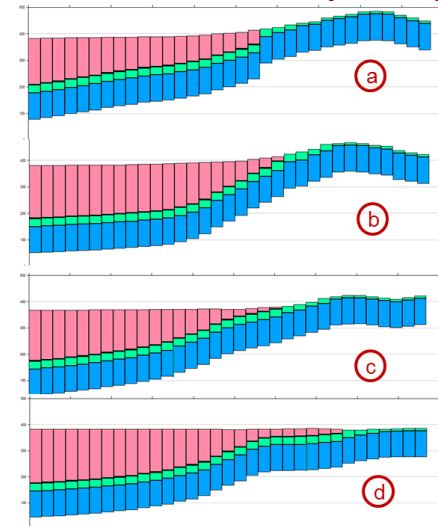
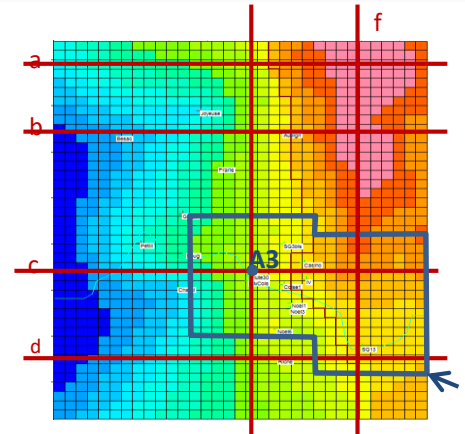
Deep mineralized water : imposed flux distributed over 20 meshes



1&2 Oligocene & wall

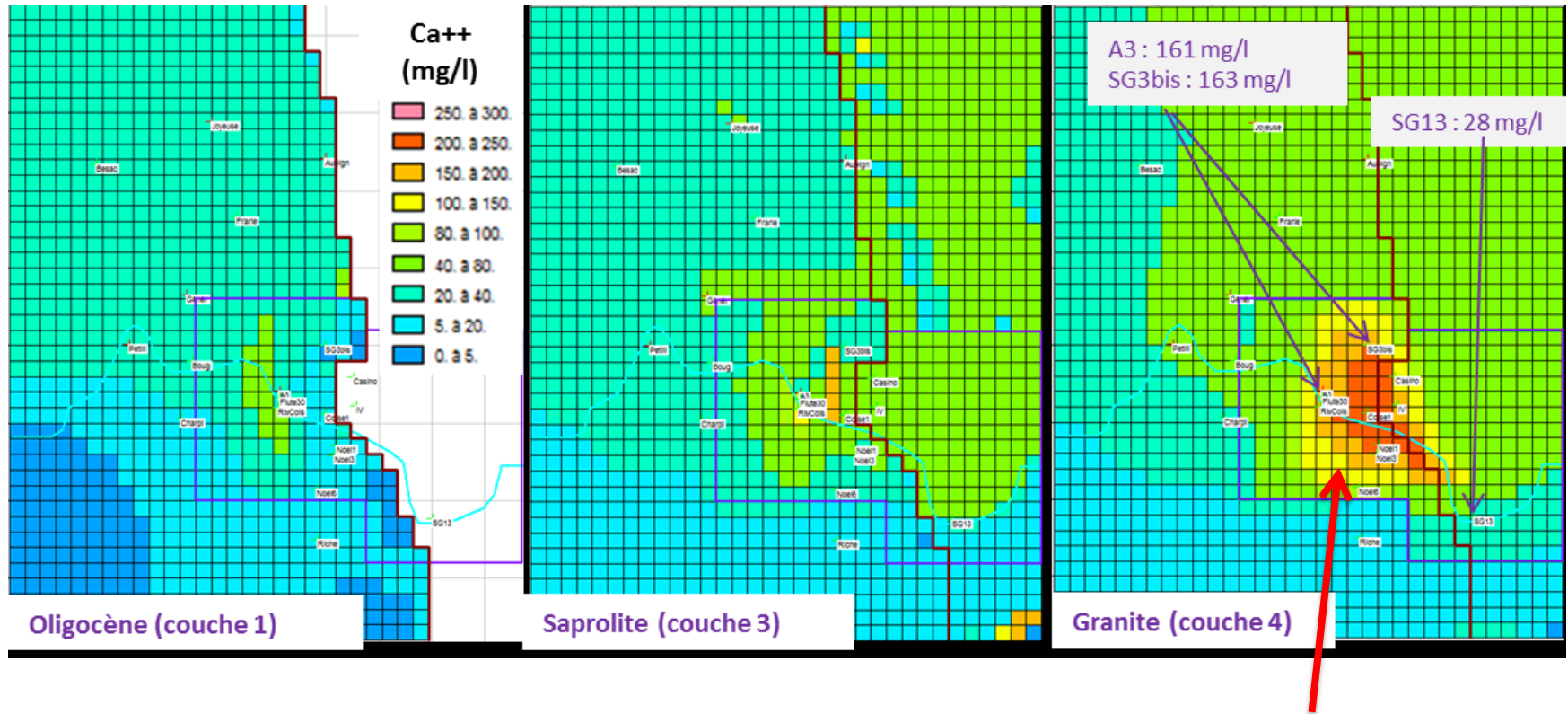
3 Saprolite

4 Granite



Model calibration and validation (steady state)

- Validation: piezometric levels and chemistry

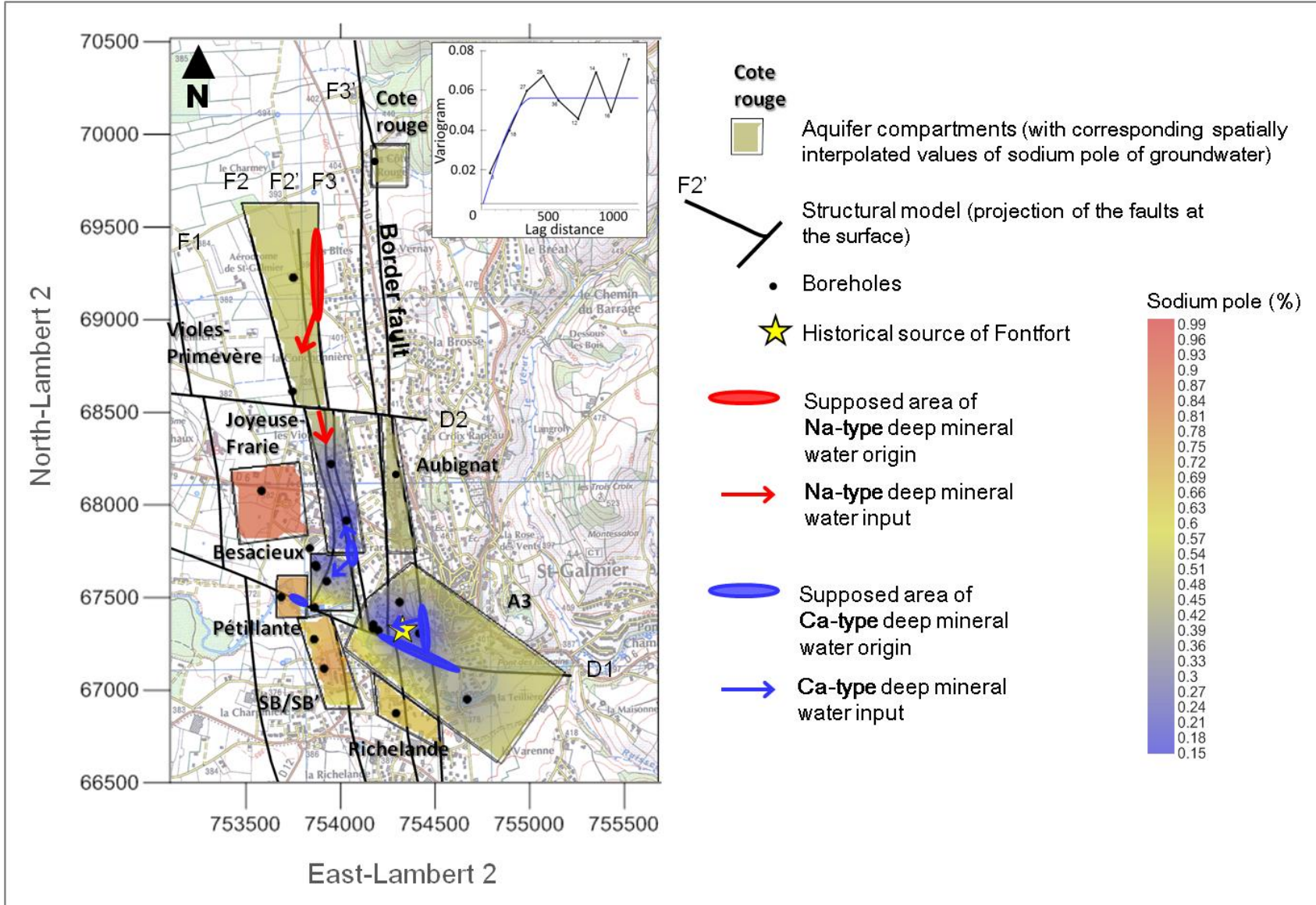


Reconstitution of the mineralized water plume

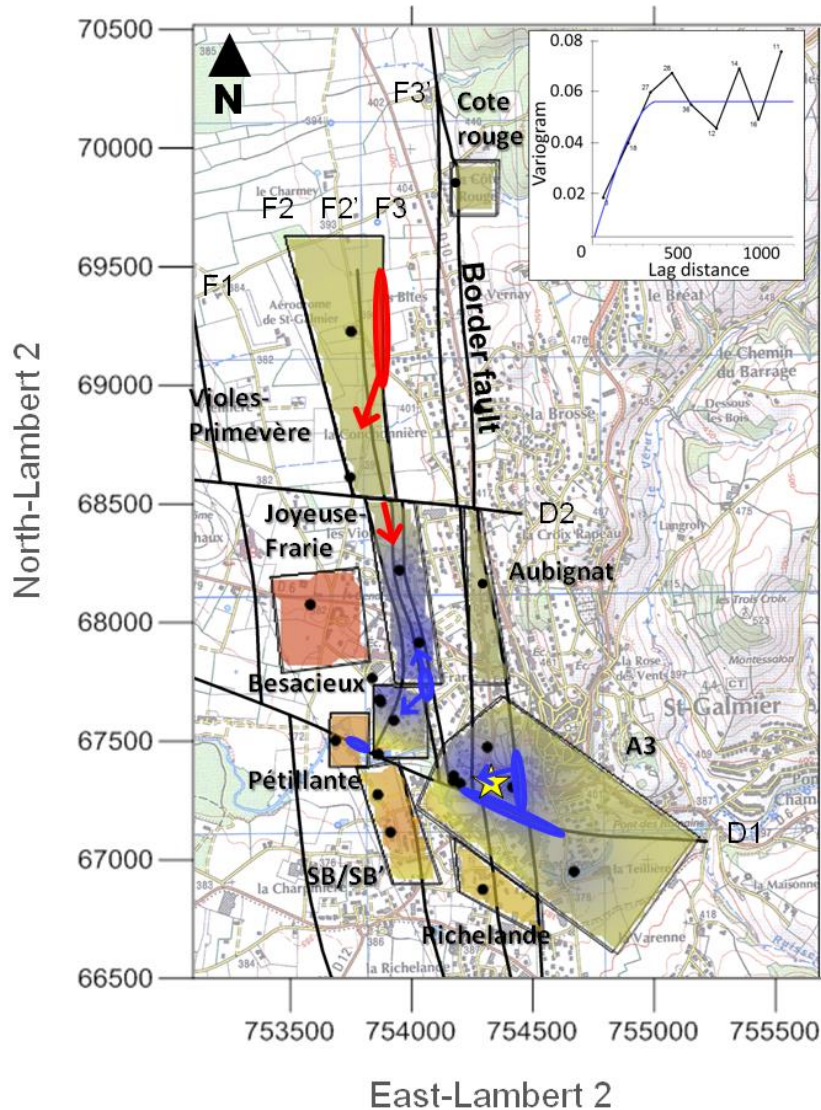
→ Validation of the conceptual model !!!

Conceptual model

- Identification of mixing
- Identification and location of deep fractures providing Ca-type and Na-type mineralized waters



Conclusion



- **Multidisciplinary approach** to understand a complex thermo-mineral hydrosystem
- The **weathered fissured layer** of the granite aquifer plays a major hydrodynamic role
- Various **roles of faults: impervious boundaries** (limits of the aquifer compartments) and **low permeable zone** (uprising of deep mineralized water and gas)
- **Identification and location** of deep fractures providing Ca and Na-types mineralized waters

Complete study submitted

B. Dewandel, M. Alazard, P. Lachassagne, V. Bailly-Comte, R. Couëffé, S. Grataloup, B. Ladouche, S. Lanini, J-C. Maréchal, R. Wyns.

Respective roles of the weathering profile and the tectonic fractures in the structure and functioning of a crystalline thermo-mineral CO₂-rich aquifer

Thank you