

Supporting critical well delivery decisions by utilising Machine Learning (ML) to aid interpretation of wellsite XRF data

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Agenda

01 Study Objective

02 Chemostrat Machine Learning (ML) project

03 What makes a successful ML project?

04 Q&A

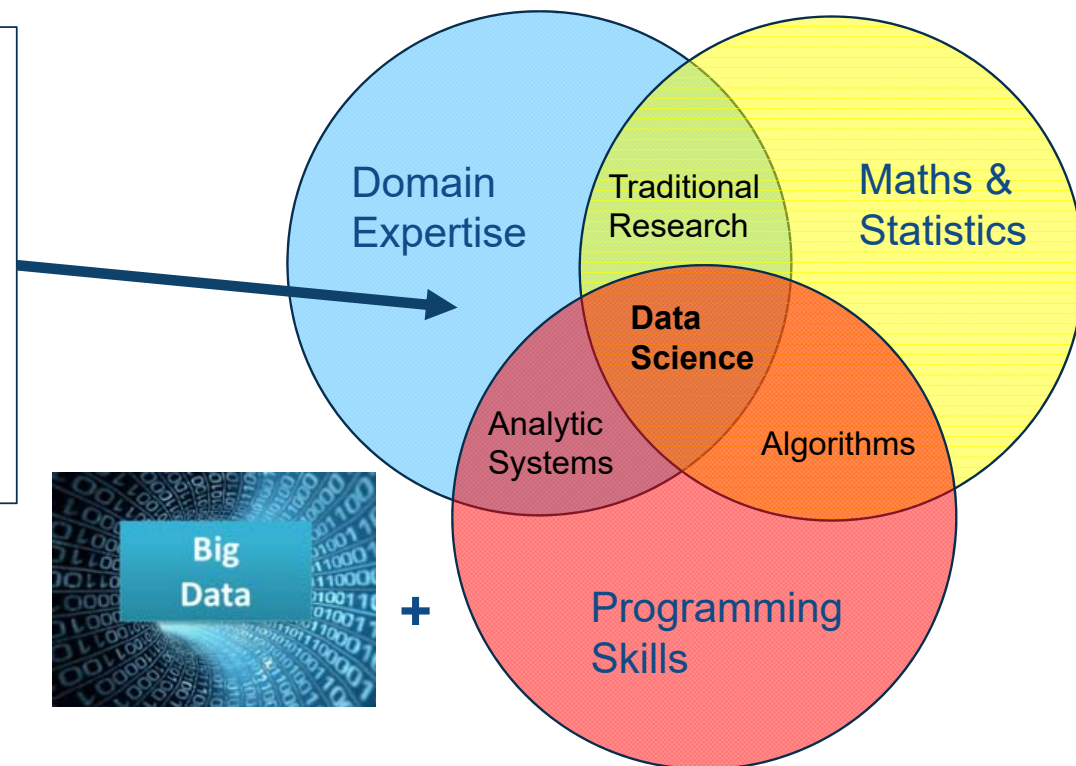
Overview:

This presentation is given from the perspective of a subsurface geoscience / engineering worker...

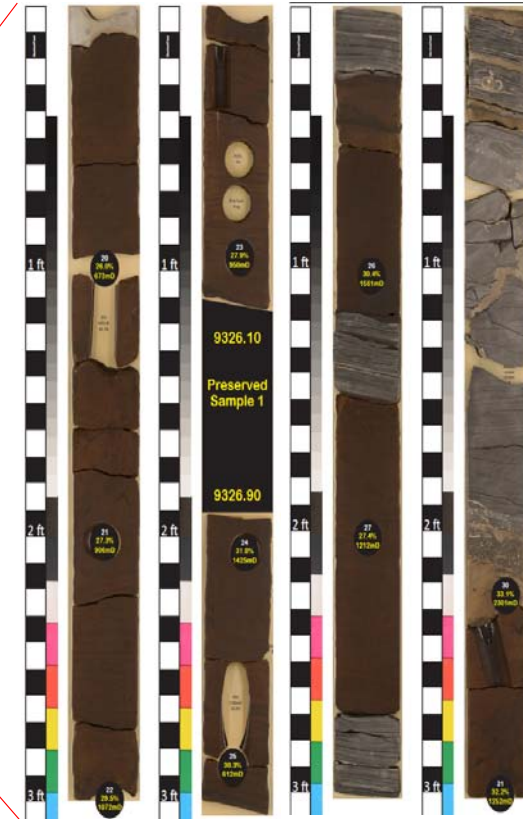
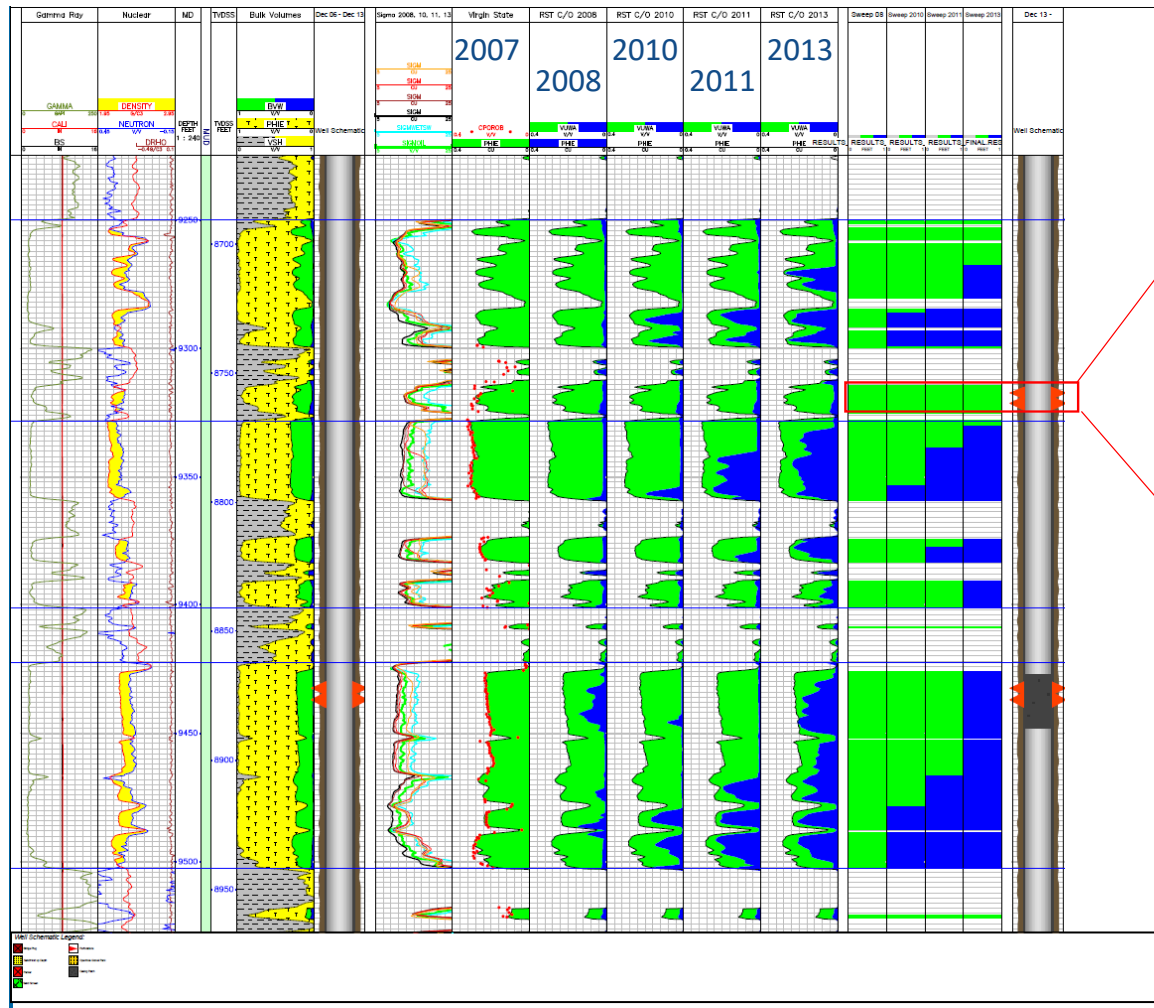
... with some domain expertise and statistical knowledge

... with more limited practise in machine learning

... hoping to develop some ideas for success in this area



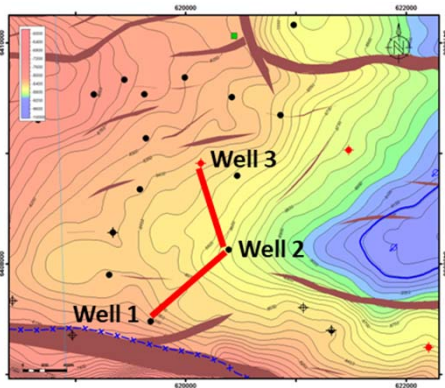
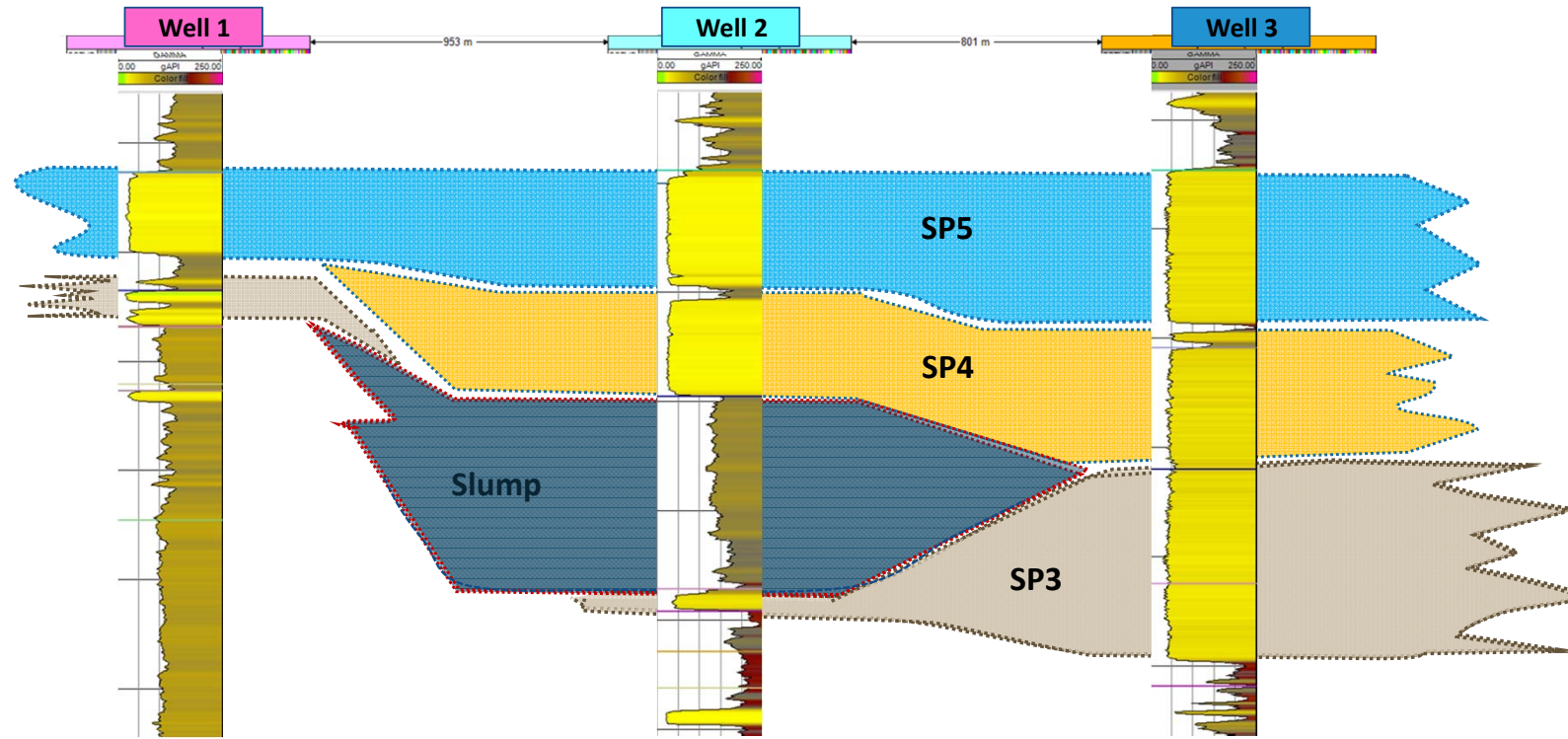
Field development challenge - locating the remaining oil



Water sweep is variable in different zones. Optimising future production relies on identifying specific zones with remaining oil potential, and then understanding the distribution of these zones.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

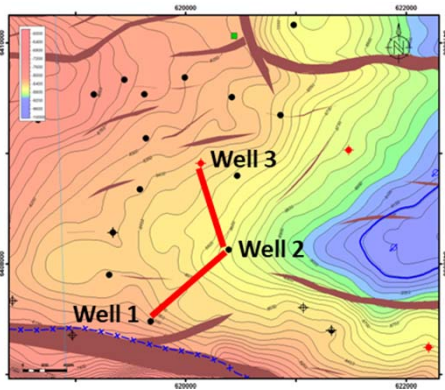
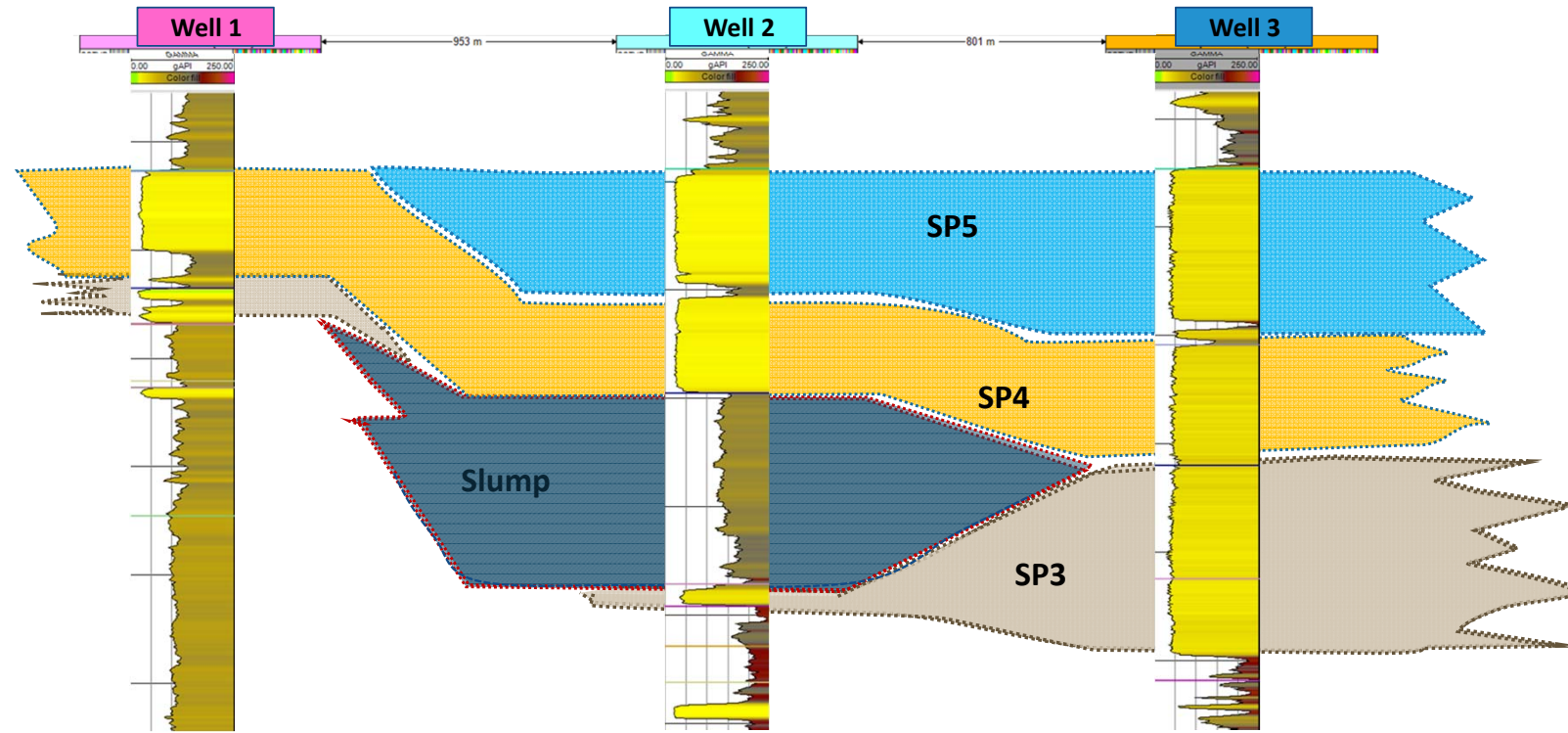
Correlation #1



It is very difficult to accurately identify sandstone zones using log data.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

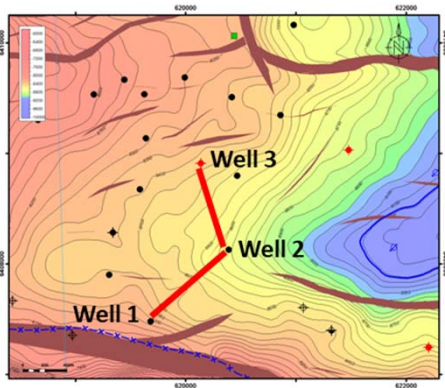
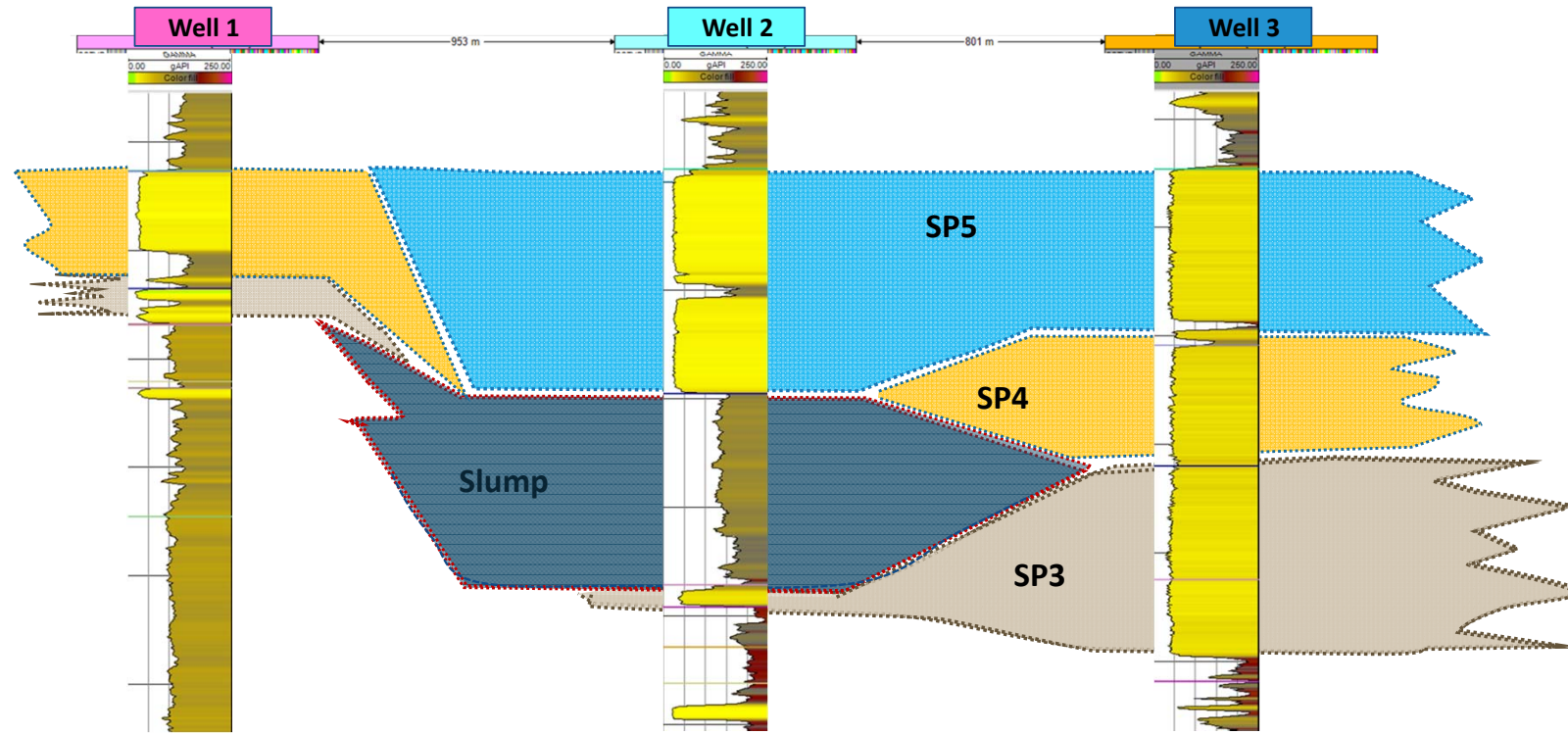
Correlation #2



It is very difficult to accurately identify sandstone zones using log data.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

Correlation #3

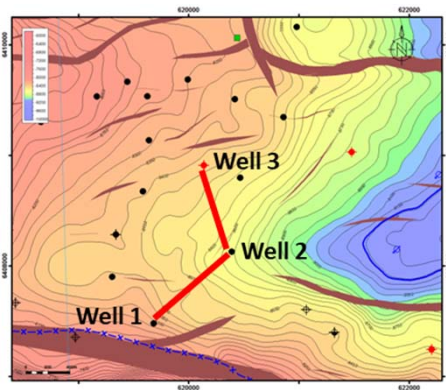
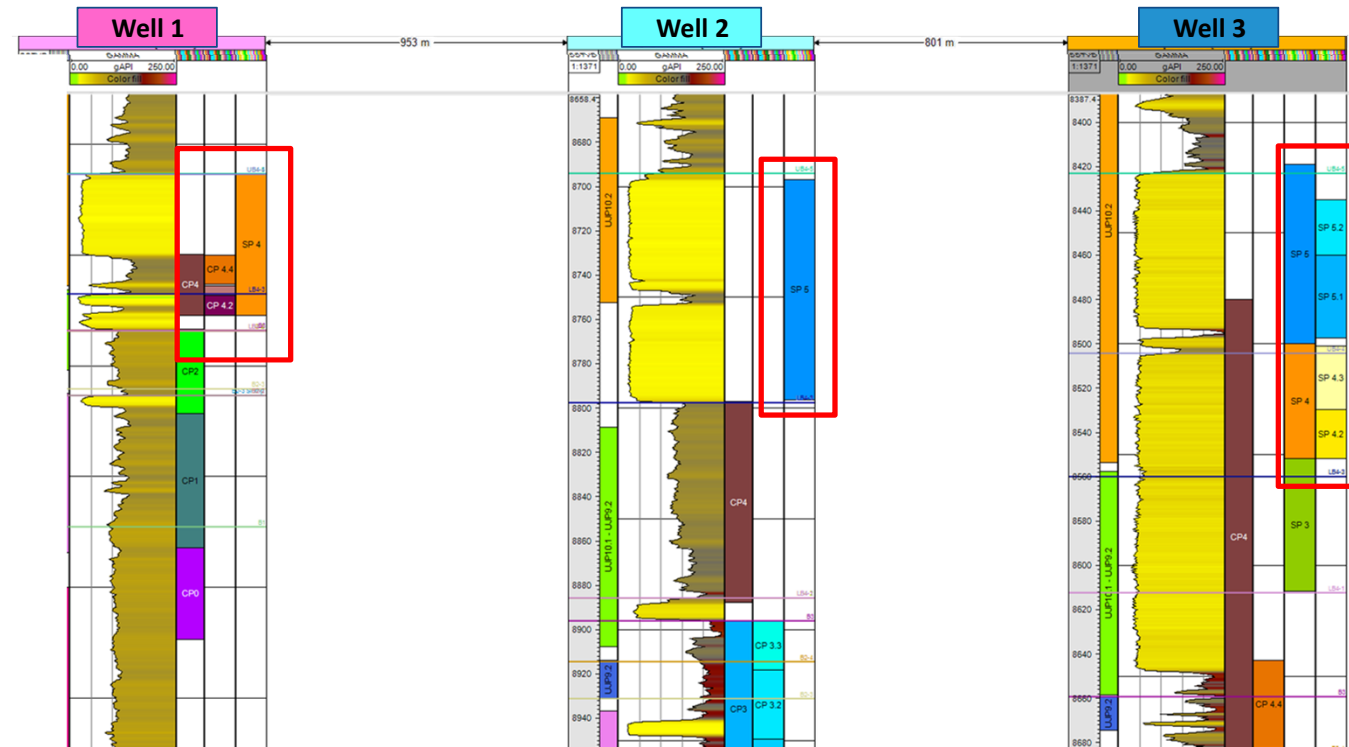


It is very difficult to accurately identify sandstone zones using log data.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

Chemostratigraphy is a technique that characterises rock successions using inorganic geochemical data.

Unique clay packages and sand packages can be identified to inform correlation work

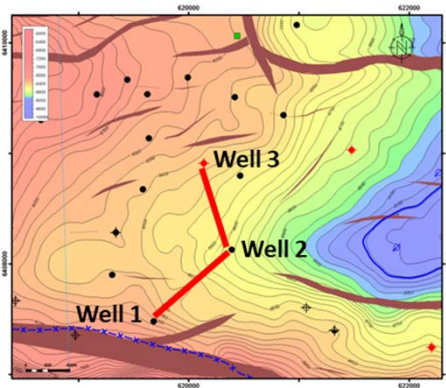
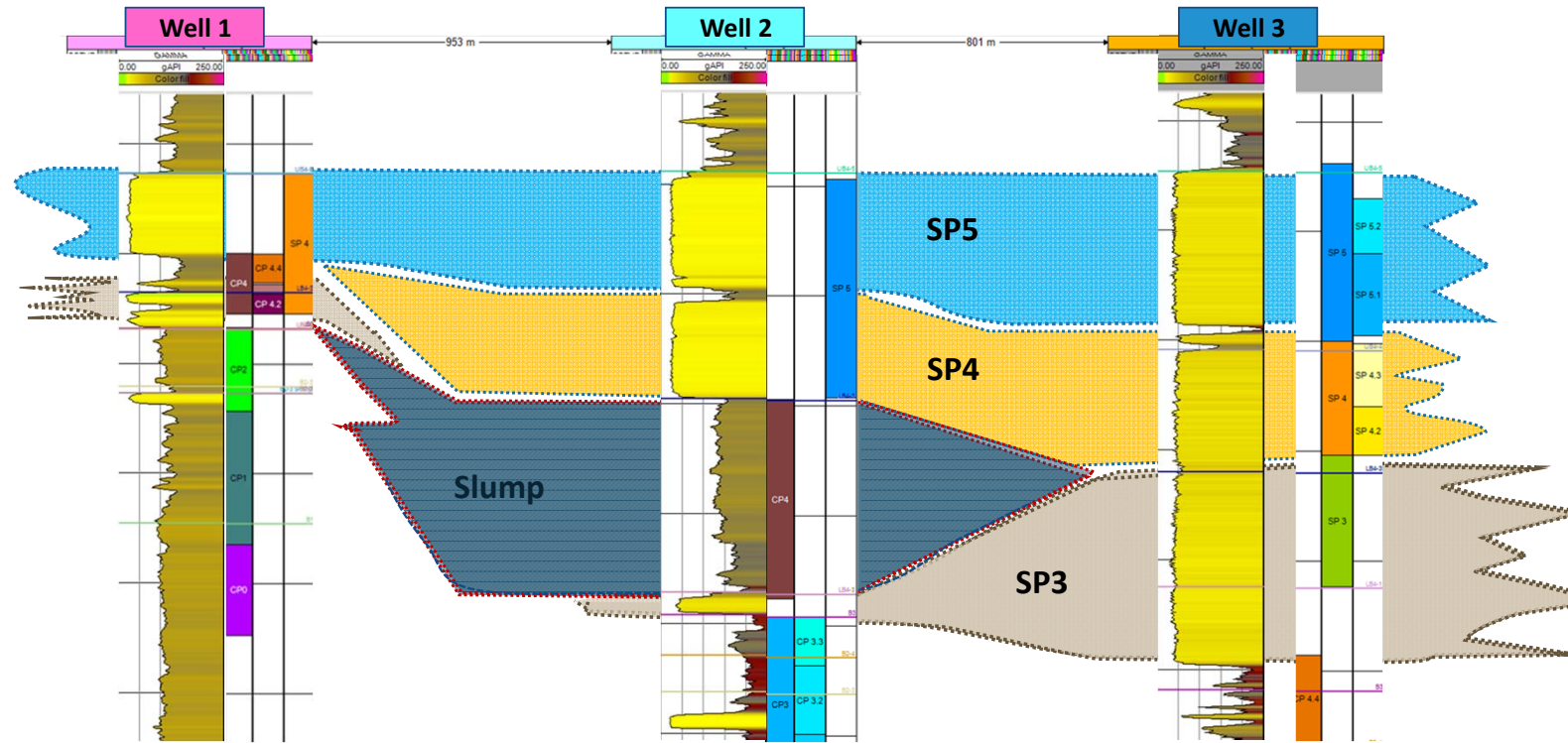


Chemostratigraphy provides critical information to support correlation work.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

Correlation #1

Not supported by
Chemostratigraphy

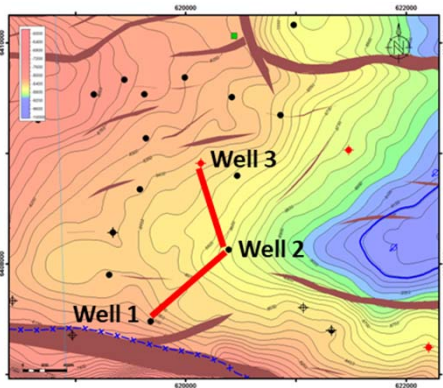
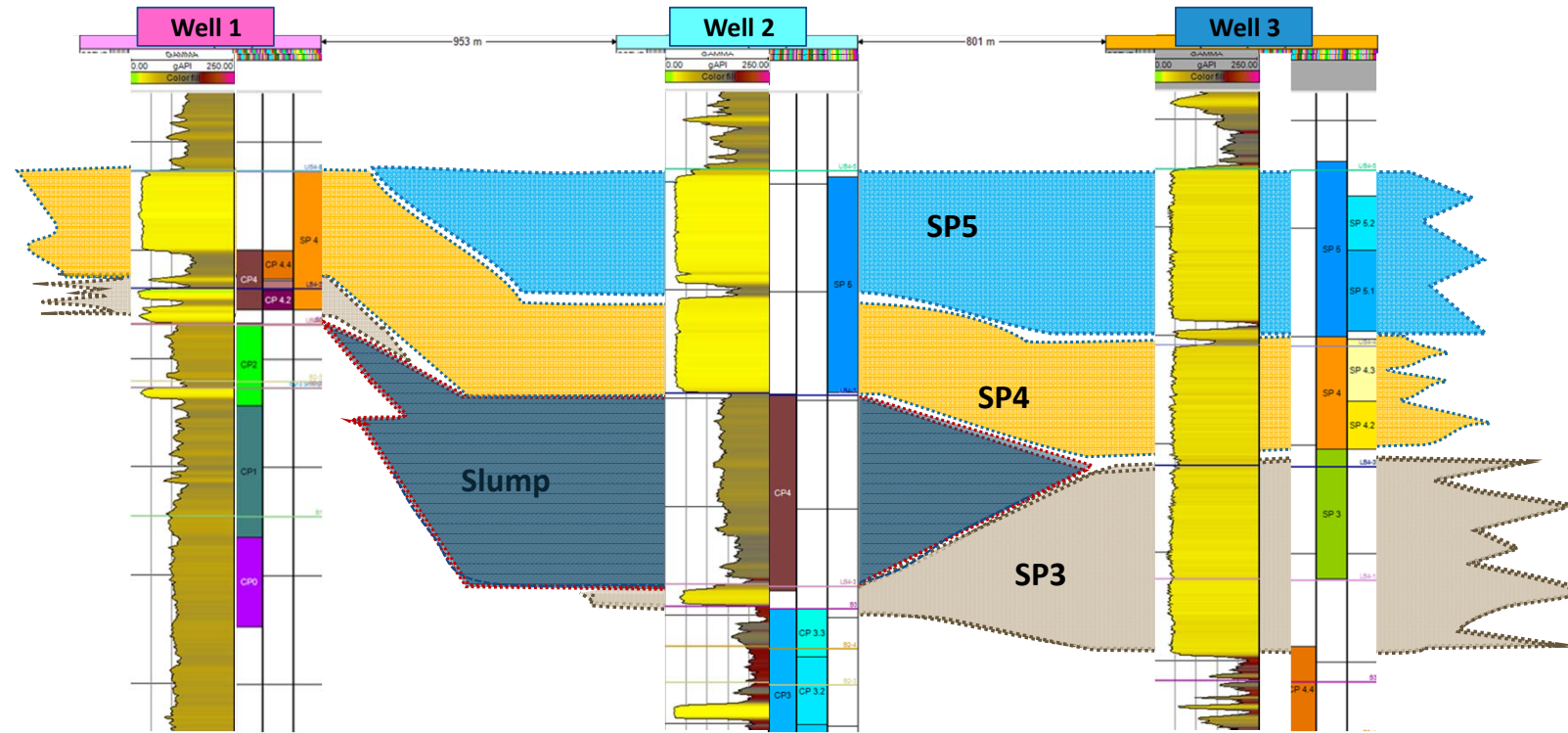


Chemostratigraphy provides critical information to support correlation work.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

Correlation #2

Not supported by
Chemostratigraphy

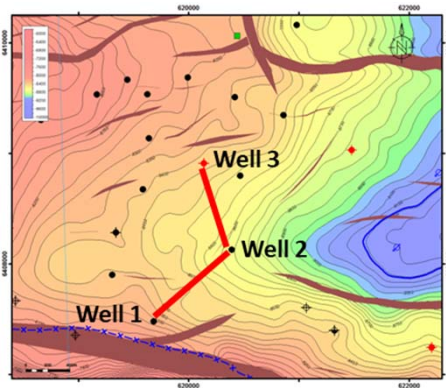
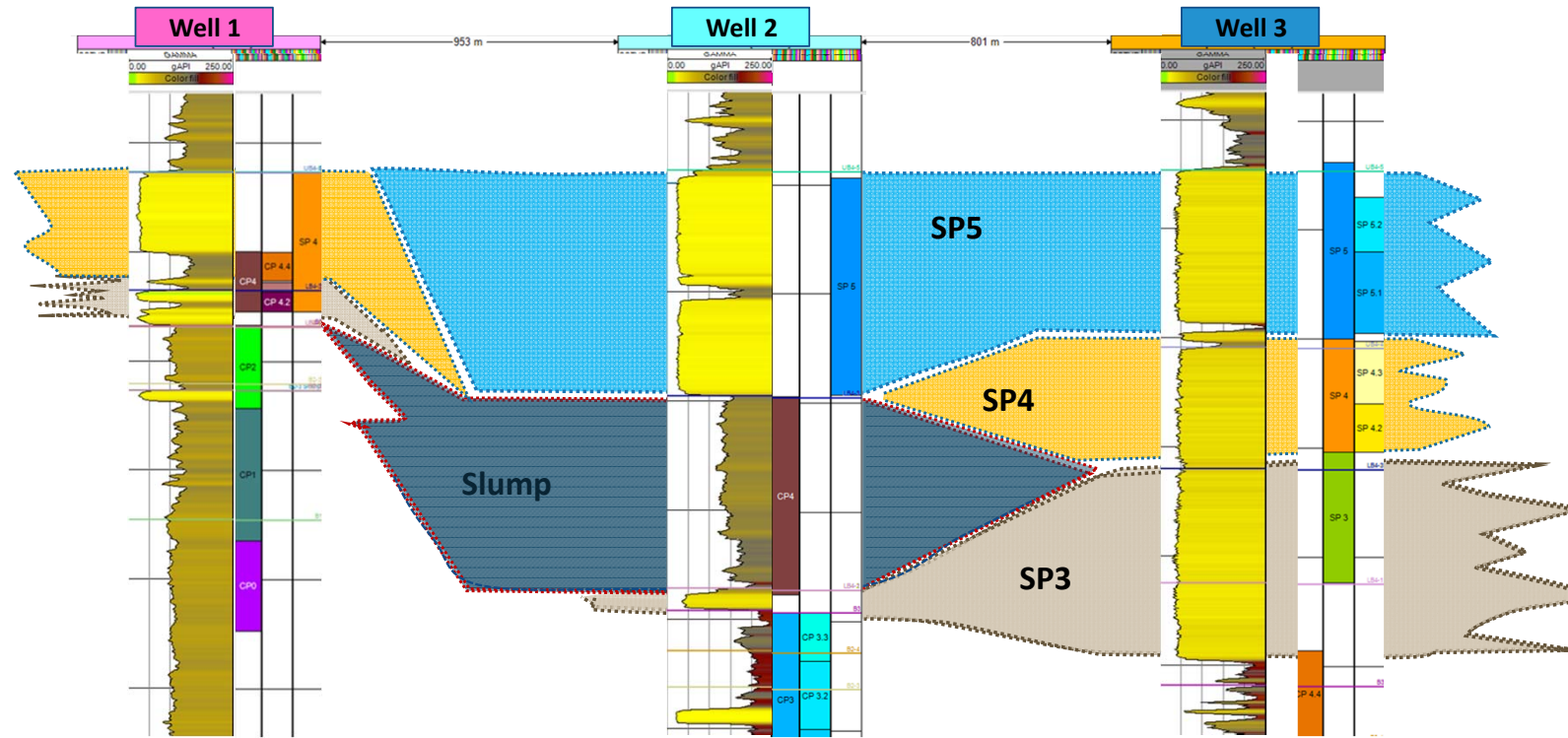


Chemostratigraphy provides critical information to support correlation work.

Submarine turbidite geological correlation challenge

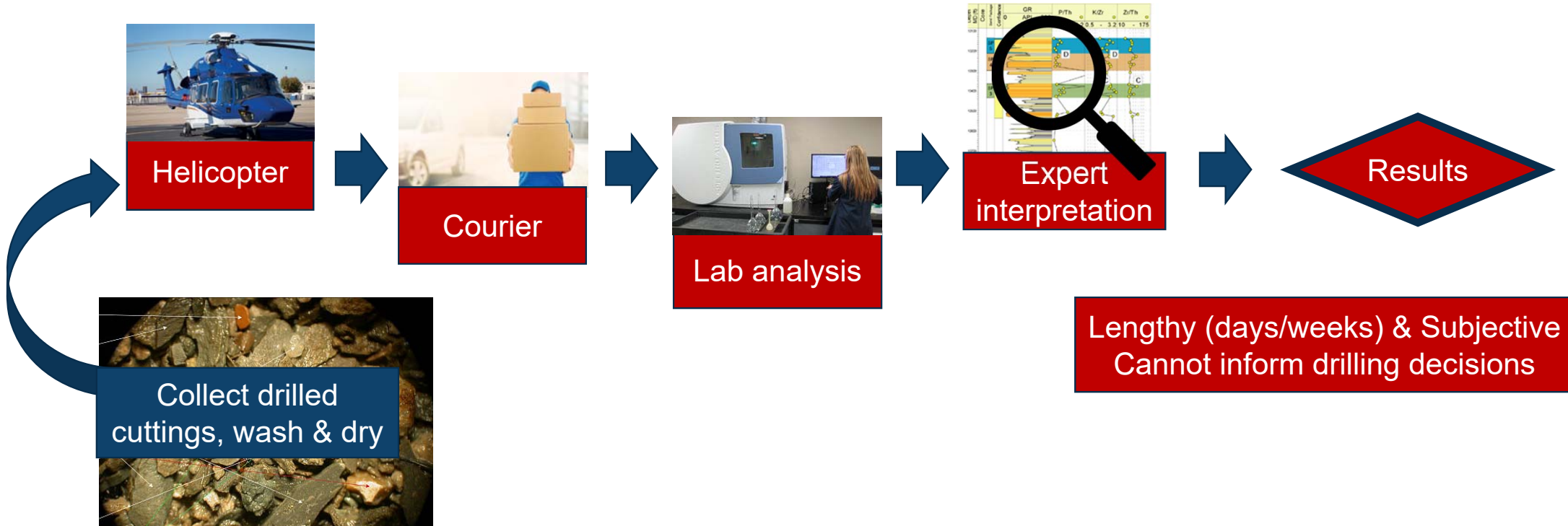
Correlation #3

Supported by
Chemostratigraphy

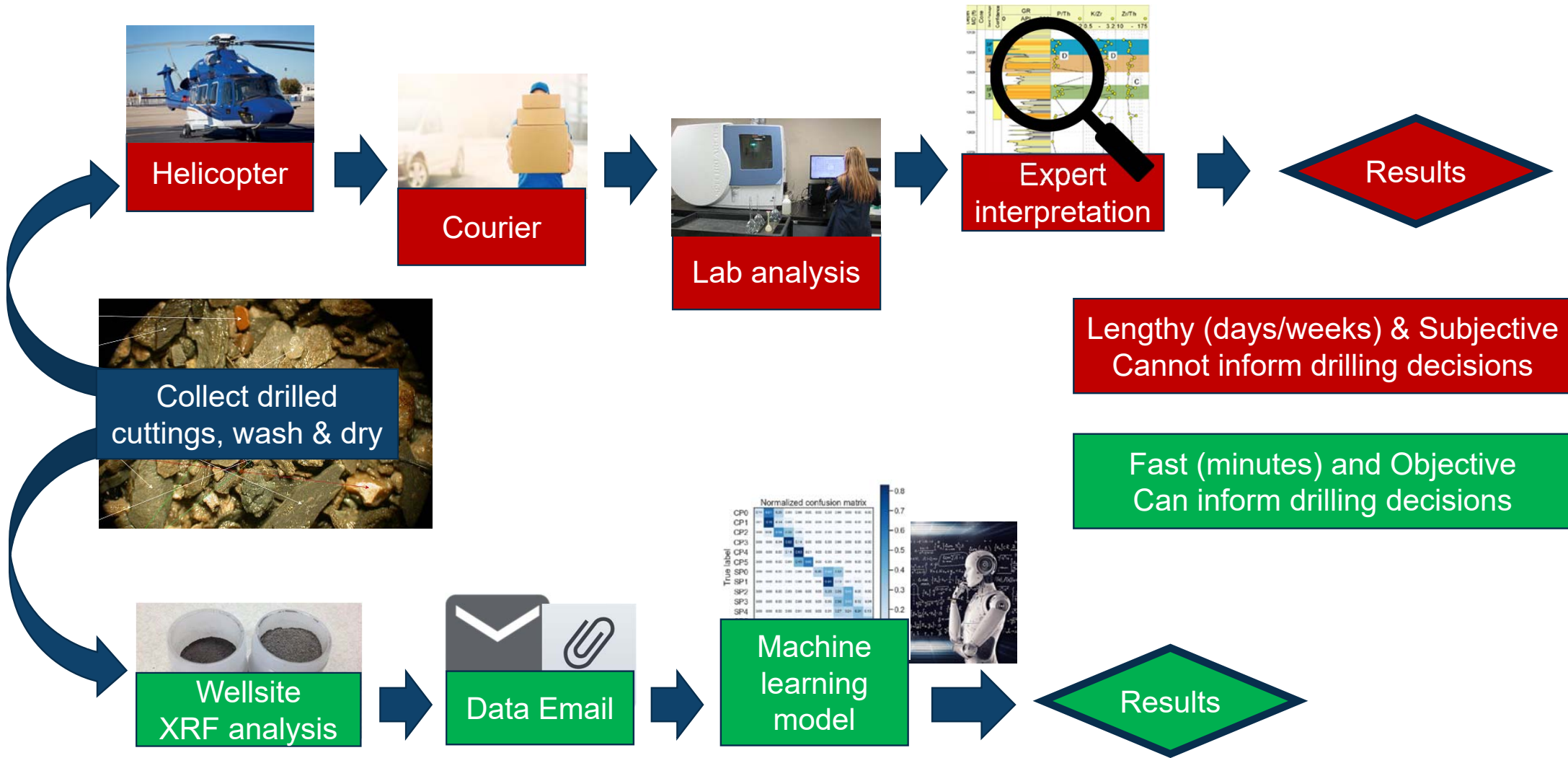


Chemostratigraphy provides critical information to support correlation work.

Historical Chemostrat Interpretation method



Chemostrat Machine Learning Objective



Manual interpretation versus machine learning workflow.

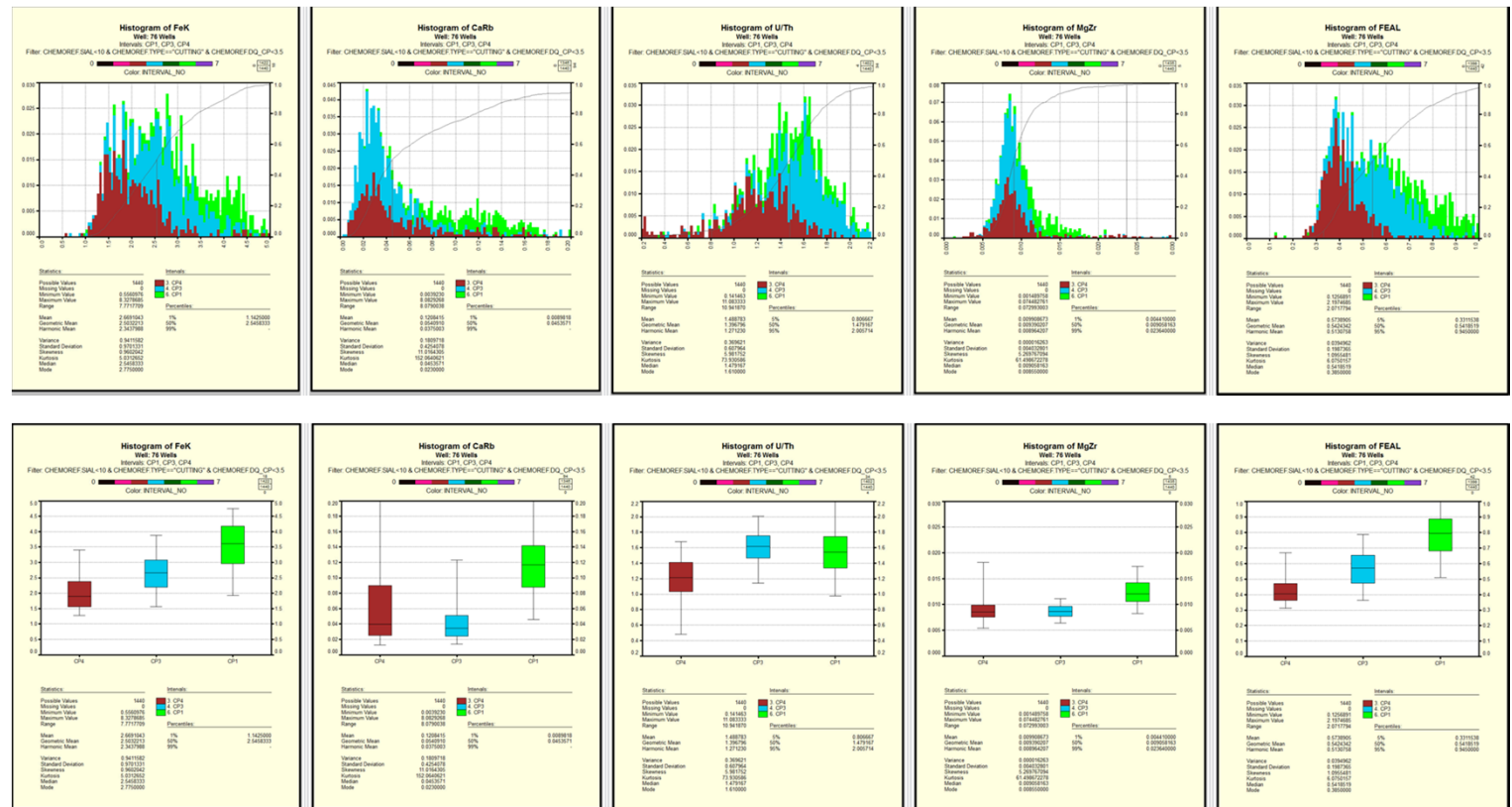
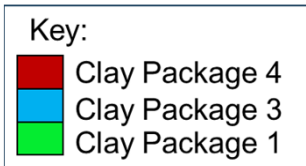
The Chemostrat Project - feasibility

Before starting it is recommended to analyse the dataset to establish if any trends are apparent that can support a machine learning approach... Is there a concept to support the predictive capability of the dataset?

Frequency histograms and box plots that show the various elemental ratios (Fe/K, Ca/RB, U/Th, Mg/Zr, Fe/Al) filtered by Clay Package.

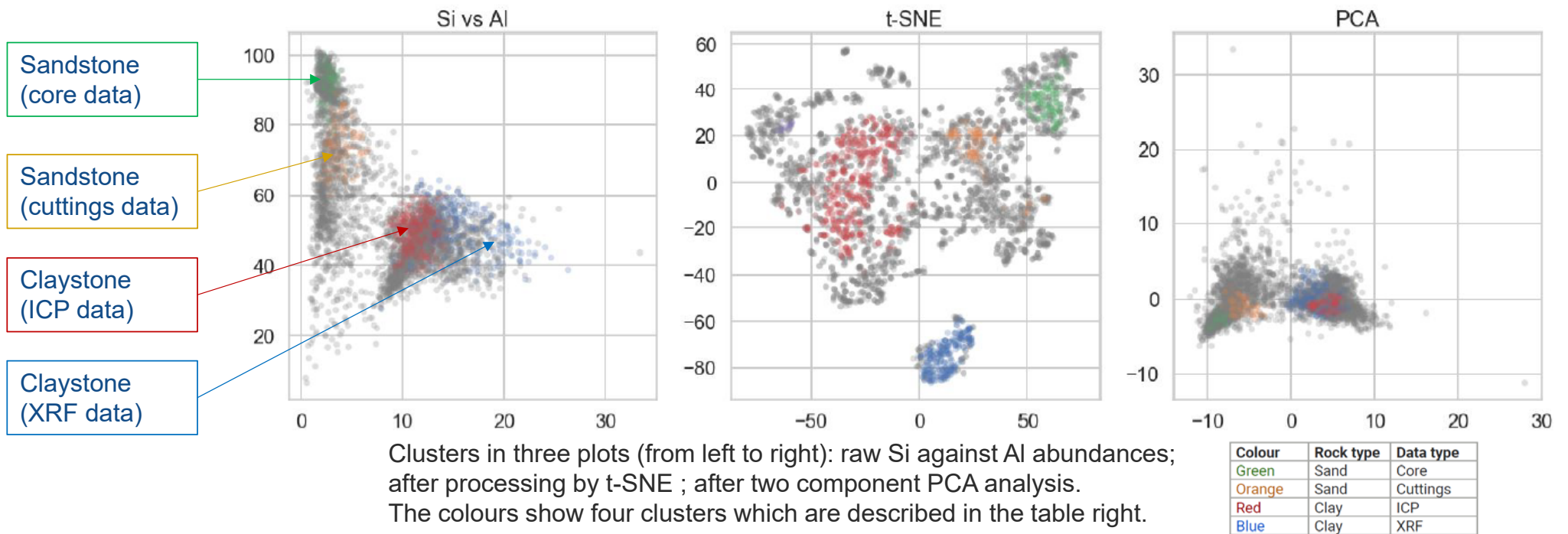
This analysis demonstrates variation in the range of elemental abundance for each clay packages.

There is enough overlap in each of these ranges to preclude use of simple cut-offs to discriminate clay packages, but clearly enough difference (not total overlap) to suggest machine learning might work.



The Chemostrat Project – data challenges

Some obvious data challenges were uncovered by initial clustering of the data. Clustering revealed differences in the datasets that was related to the type of data, rather than the underlying geology.

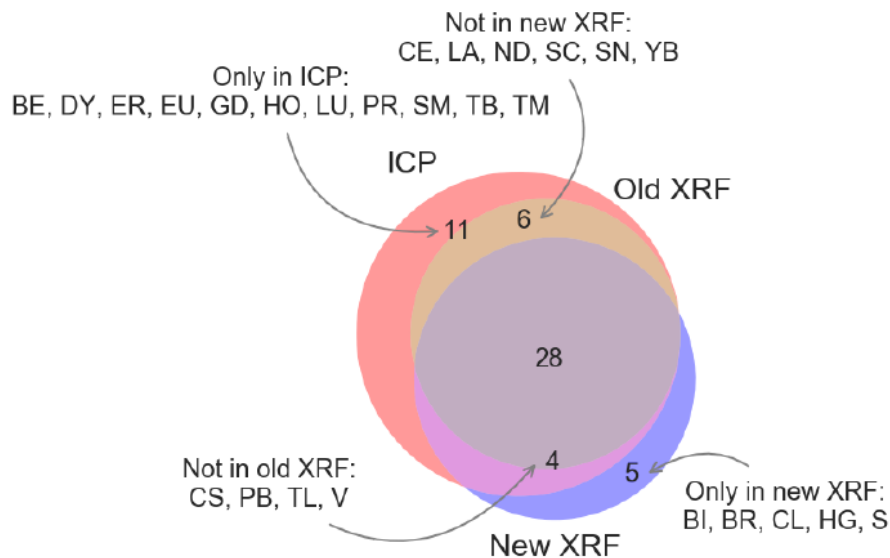


Cuttings and core datasets appear quite different. Cuttings data are of lower quality, but the data is more readily available and the only data type available offshore.

The Chemostrat Project – data challenges

The vast majority of the Chemostrat dataset was acquired using ICP (Inductively Coupled Plasma). The project objective required making zonal predictions using XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence). We didn't anticipate the difference in the data sets or how much this would be an issue...

Issue (i) - ICP and XRF measure different elements...

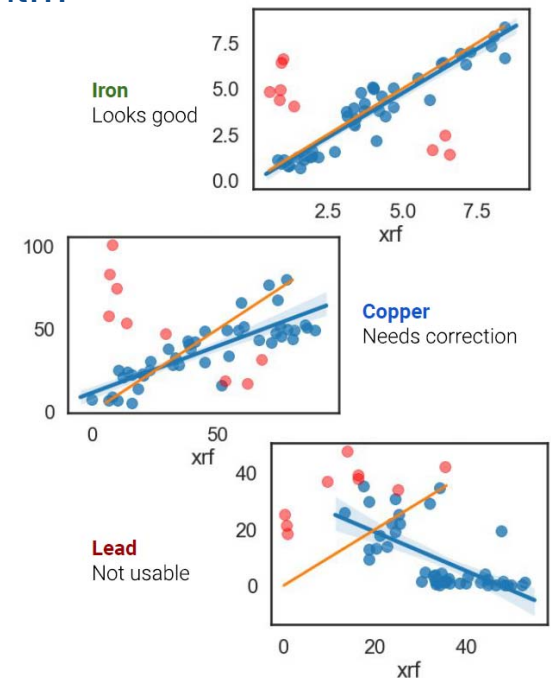


Issue (ii) - ICP and XRF measurement of the same element is different...

Plots of XRF against ICP for 3 elements (Fe, Cu, Pb). Best fit line should follow ideal line.

Thin sands excluded. Elements fit into three categories:

Iron looks good; Can use in ML
Copper, looks okay; Correct the data. Use in ML
Lead looks bad; Cannot use in ML



The Chemostrat Project – data challenges

Dataset:

~3,000 rows (samples)

~50 columns (data per sample)



Filter for useful data;
remove difficult elements
remove core data



Divide into labelled groups;
claystone (5)
sand packages (6)



The dataset becomes small quite quickly.

ML needs > 50 data points for each label. Some sandstone packages had fewer than this.

Subsurface datasets are not as large as you may expect, for ML purposes

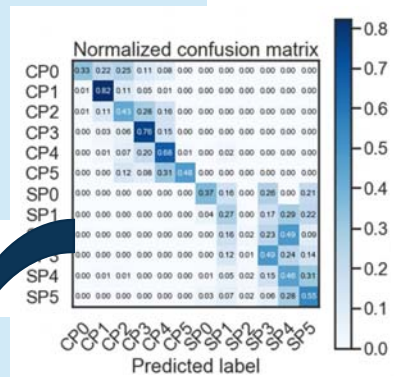
The machine learning results

We successfully created a model to predict clay and sand packages from ICP data. This validated the historical interpretation – I.e. it was repeatable, and provided a quantitative confidence score. Clay packages show reasonable discrimination
Sand shows less discrimination

Post processing applied to output probabilities from XRF and ICP models :

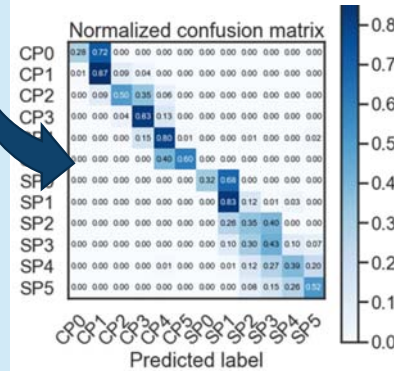
- SP4 above SP2
- SP3 in CP4
- No sand below CP0

Creates more meaningful geological output, helpful in sands



59%
Overall Accuracy

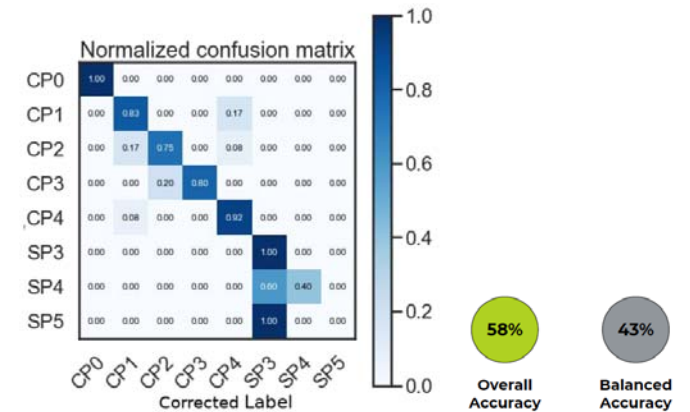
47%
Balanced Accuracy



67%
Overall Accuracy

56%
Balanced Accuracy

We successfully created a model to train on ICP data with only elements with good similarity in both ICP & XRF, including correcting XRF to make it more like ICP



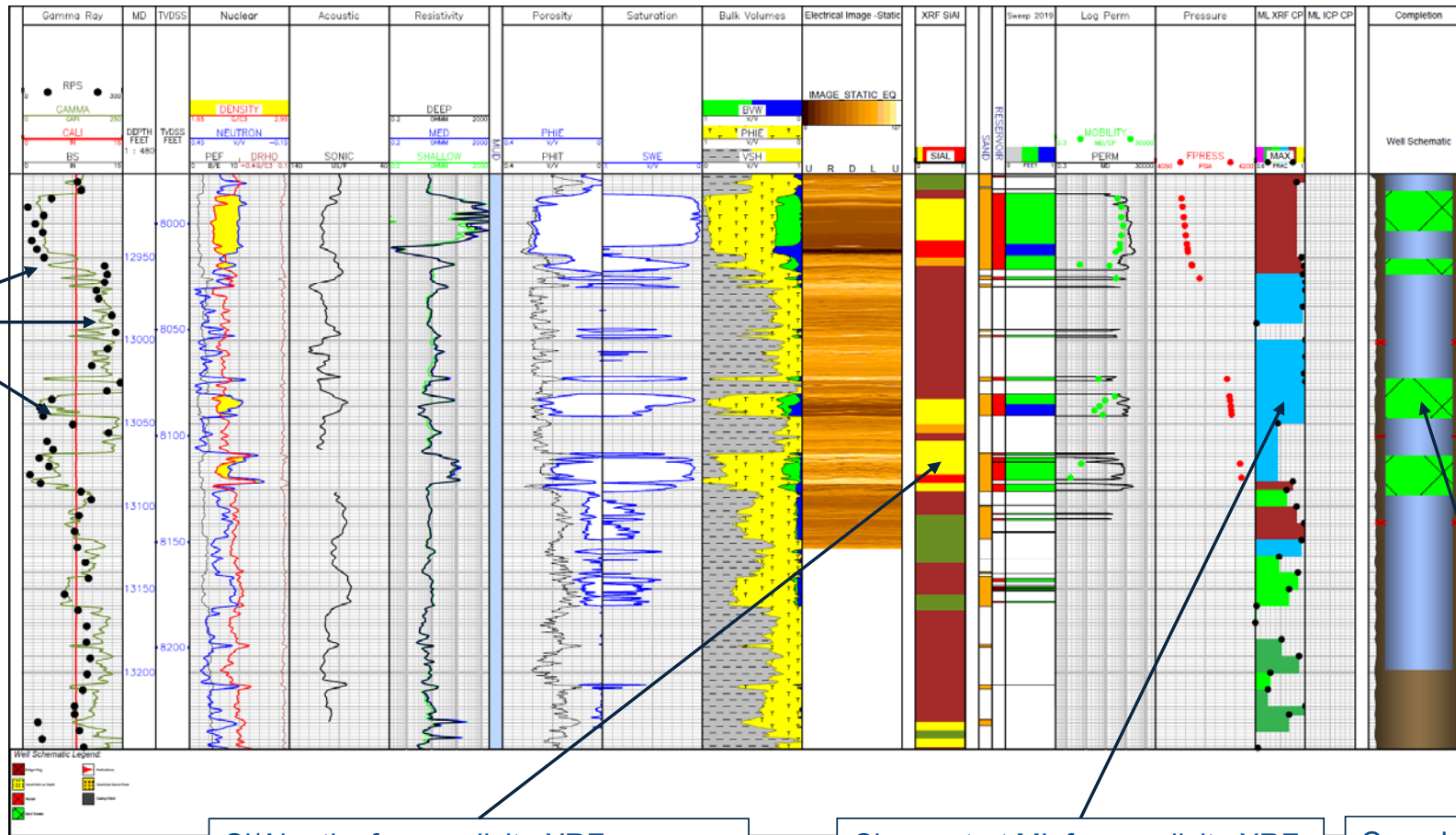
58%
Overall Accuracy

43%
Balanced Accuracy

The XRF Chemostrat model was deployed with wellsite XRF for several wells in the Buzzard infill drilling campaign, to support completion decisions. This expanded the XRF dataset.

The additional information from Chemostrat ML...

Synthetic GR from well site XRF analysis of cuttings



Sand screen
Packer

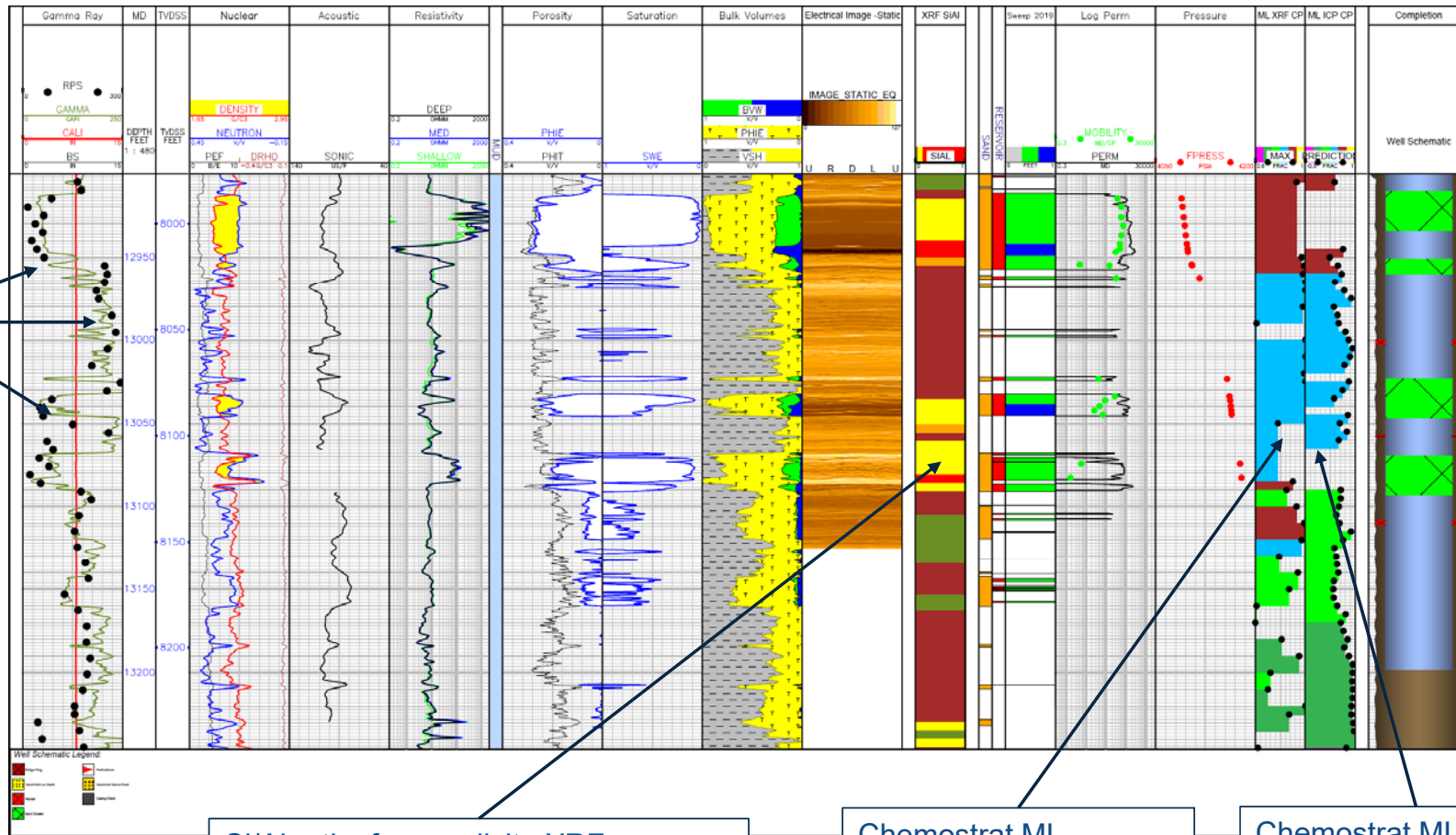
Si/Al ratio, from wellsite XRF, provides indication of reservoir quality

Chemostrat ML from wellsite XRF clay package prediction supports correlation

Completion choices made with confidence

The additional information from Chemostrat ML...

Synthetic GR from well site XRF analysis of cuttings

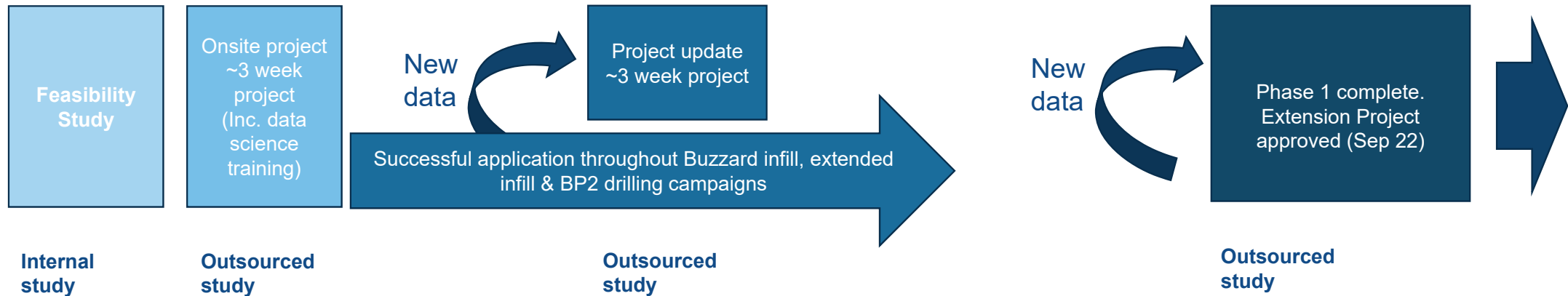


Si/Al ratio, from wellsite XRF, provides indication of reservoir quality

Chemostrat ML from wellsite XRF

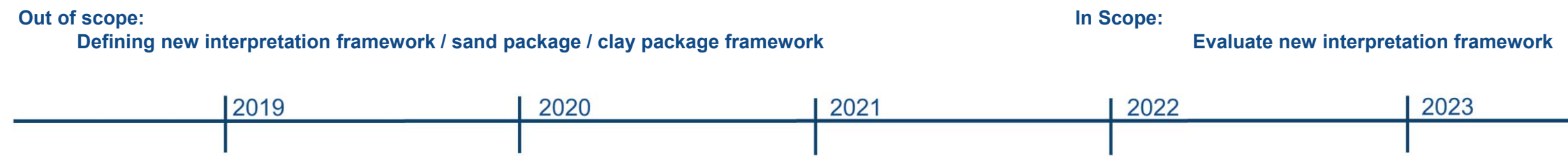
Chemostrat ML from ICP (lab analysis)

The continued Chemostrat ML journey...




Study objectives:

(i) Feasibility	(ii) Reproduce labels. Validation of 20 years of manual interpretation (iii) Early operational deployment	(iii) Retrain model on expanded dataset. Operational improvement	(iv) Improve dataset, fill gaps / issues, improve labels (interpretation)
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Some thoughts on the attributes of a successful ML project

- ❑ **Value –**
 - Confidence in getting a return in the effort / investment, learnings or expected improvements in understanding the question
- ❑ **Feasibility**
 - A strong concept for predictive capability. Physical relationships.
 - Something that already works. E.g. automation of a manual system.
 - Something that you can see in a simple plot, but maybe with some overlap.
- ❑ **A simple and highly specific objective. An actual ML question...**
 - Is this A or B (or C...)? *Classification (discreet classes)*
 - Is this weird? *Anomaly detection*
 - How much – or – how many? *Regression (continuous values)*
 - How is this organised? *Clustering, dimensionality reduction*
- ❑ **A sound basis for expecting an improvement with ML**
 - Improved speed of interpretation? Efficiency
 - Include more data than an expert interpretation can handle?
 - Remove subjectivity? Quantify uncertainty?
- ❑ **Confidence that the dataset supports a ML approach,**
 - Is it big enough, is it of sufficient quality?
- ❑ **A good combination of Expertise in ML & Subject Knowledge**
- ❑ **A clear view to how the project will be sustained, given success**

- 
- ✓ *Is there value?*
 - ✓ *Is it feasible?*
 - ✓ *Is it specific?*
 - ✓ *Does it sound too good to be true?*
 - ✓ *Will ML be better than the current approach?*
 - ✓ *Is the dataset good enough?*
 - ✓ *Do you have the expertise?*
 - ✓ *How sustainable is it?*

Conclusions

- ❑ **Machine Learning has been successfully applied to solve a subsurface challenge.**
- ❑ **Some benefits include:**
 - Increased speed of interpretation
 - Increased quality of interpretation
 - Removal of subjectivity
 - Quantification of uncertainty
 - Deeper understanding of the dataset, and potential issues with it
 - Deeper understanding of the subsurface challenge
- ❑ **The likelihood of delivering a successful machine learning / data science project can be enhanced by following some of the ideas developed here.**

Thanks

The authors wish to thank the Buzzard Co-Venture partnership for permission to publish this presentation...



A photograph of an industrial facility at night, illuminated by warm yellow lights. The scene features a complex network of pipes, walkways, and large storage tanks. A prominent tall distillation column stands in the center. The background is a dark blue sky. A semi-transparent white grid overlay covers the middle portion of the image, with the text 'THANK YOU' centered on it.

THANK YOU