Future of UXO Geophysics.

Dr Stephen Billings SAGEEP April 2025





Detection

Classification

Localization

(DCL)



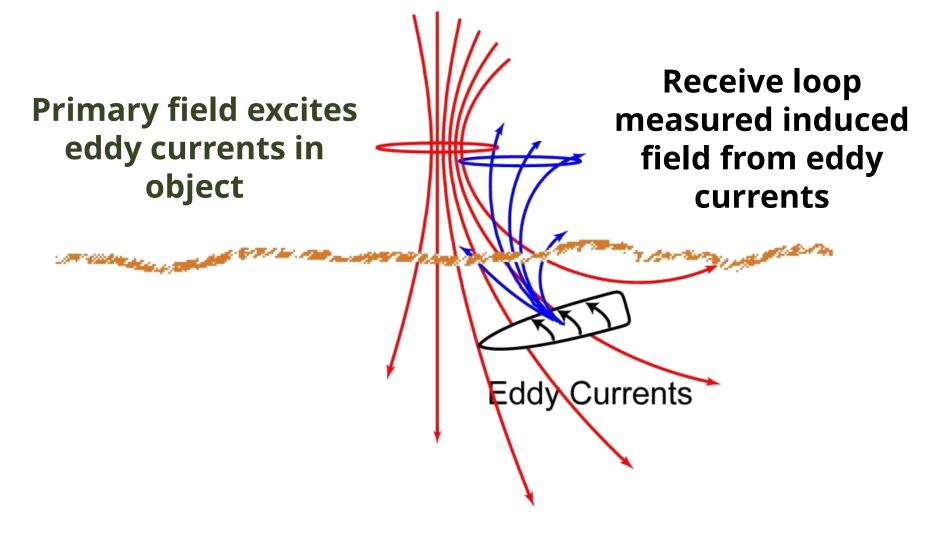


Not focussing on marine sensing





Electromagnetic Induction







Typical System 2001











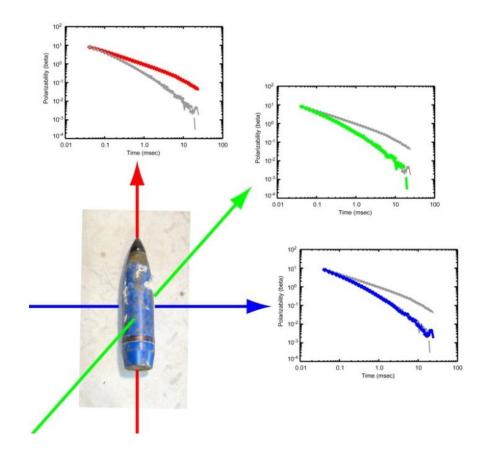




Detection Classification Localization

Directly on-top Offset

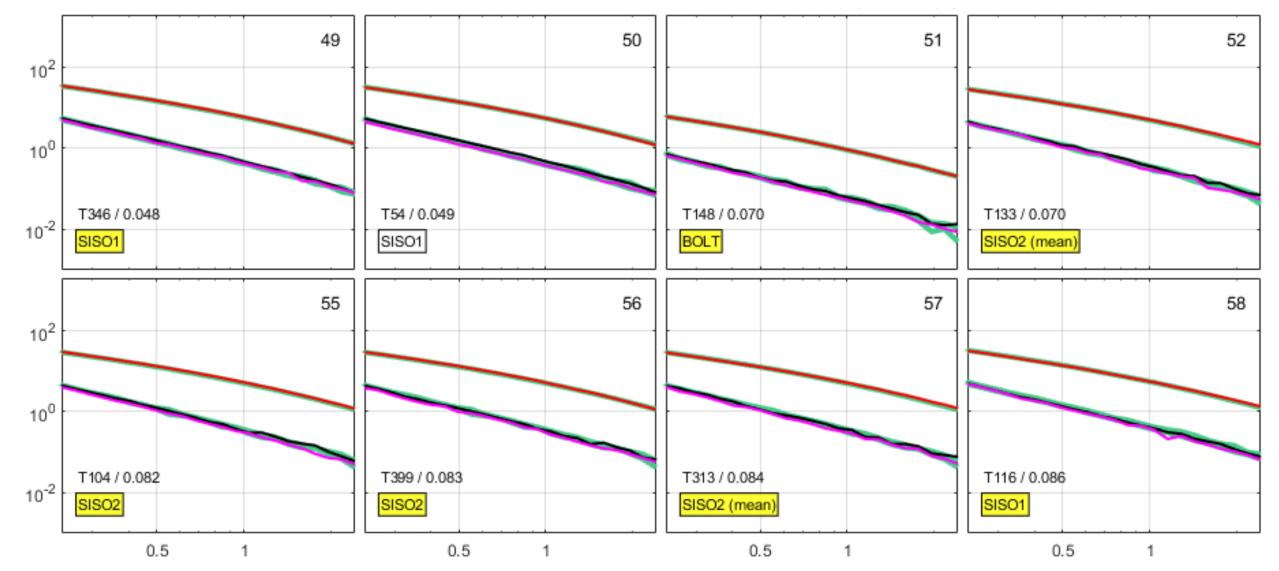
Polarizabilities







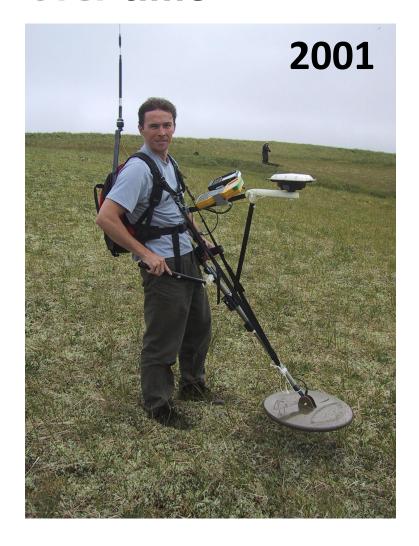
Advanced Geophysical Classification (AGC)







Change over time



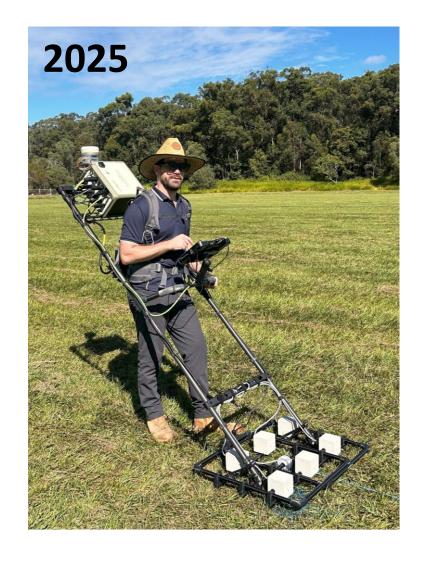
DCL specific

Smaller faster electronics

Better algorithms

Computational resources

Improved auxiliary sensors



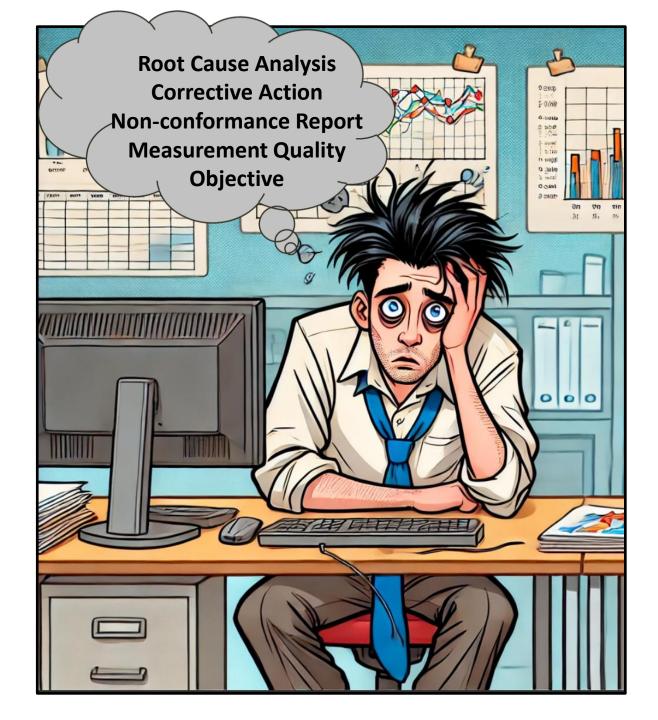
Future of UXO Geophysics

AGC works and is used extensively on US MMRP projects

Is any further technical development required?







Is this the future of UXO Geophysics?

Remaining Challenges

Survey efficiency

Magnetic soils

Processing efficiency

Complex sites

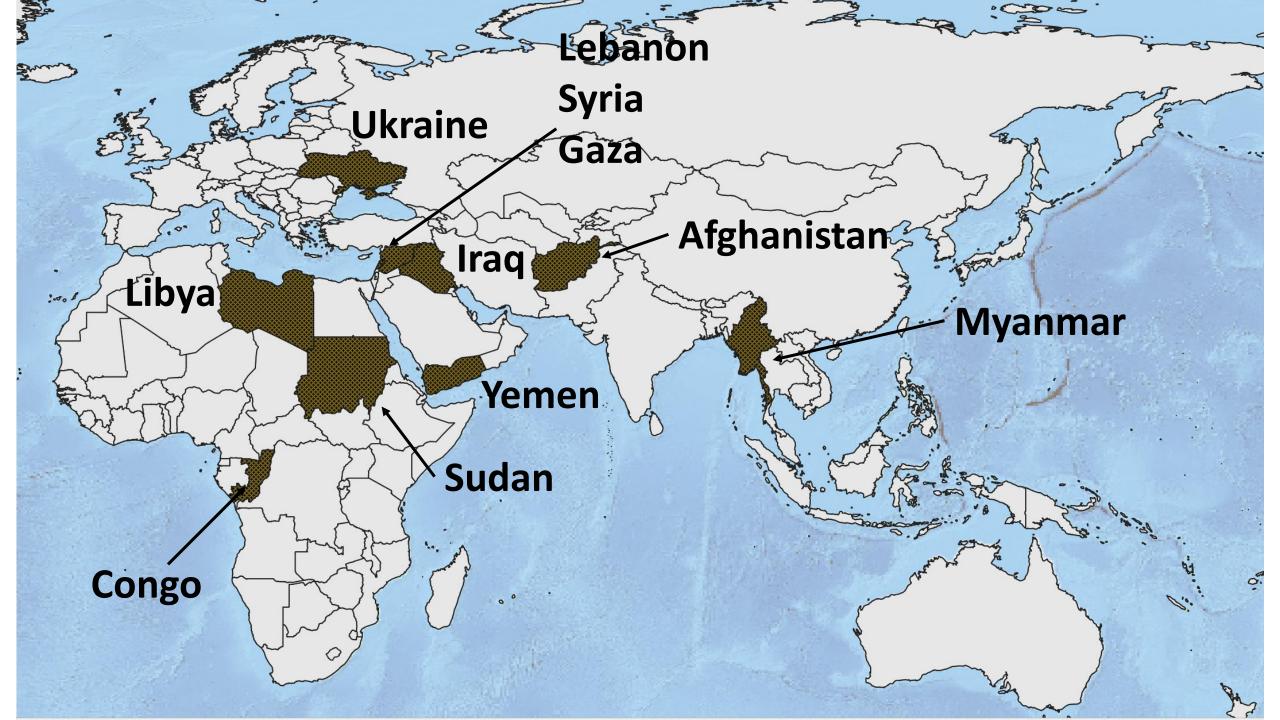
Processing complexity

Detect deeper ordnance







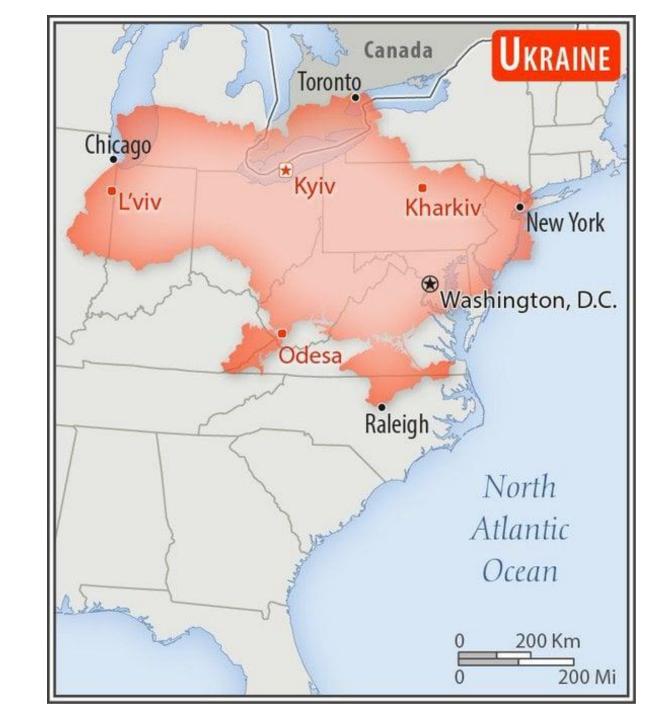


UXO A world-wide problem

29% of Ukrainian territory potentially contaminated

That's 43 million acres!

Current AGC survey rates: 0.5 to 10 acres per day



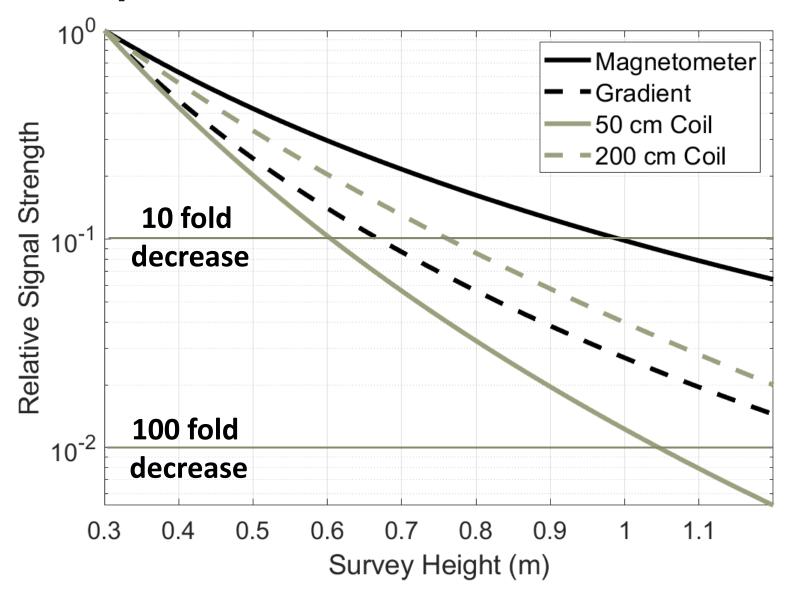
Drones The solution to the efficiency problem?





Detection

30 cm burial depth







Ground-based Future form factors?

What about other potential autonomous form factors?



Complexity Machine learning for DCL?

AGC is complex

Requires skilled geophysicists

Are there enough skilled personnel in countries around the world?

Machine learning Challenges

Environmental variability

Diverse types of UXO

Unexpected novelties

Regulatory acceptance

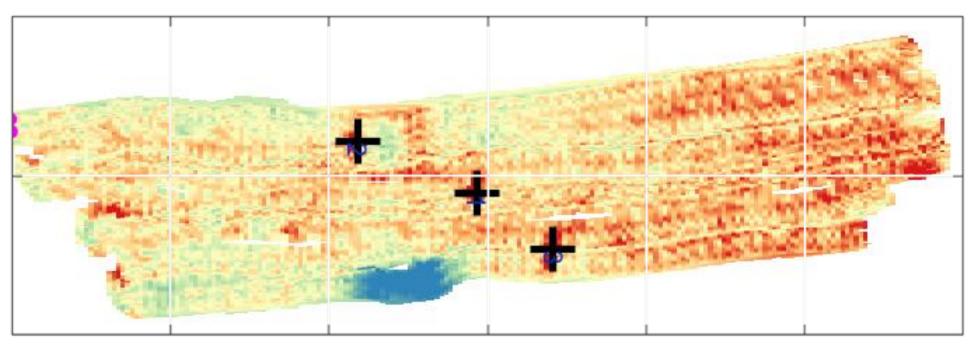
Efficiency Al Agents

Why sit at the computer and interact when you can prompt?

Observe directory X and when a file appears uncompress it and import all survey events in BTField project Y under Site Z. Process the data using workflow P1. Check FT and IVS surveys and update QC report document A. Export production data to QGIS project B and update the coverage history and maps for site C. Email a summary of results to me

Magnetic geology Still a challenging problem

Three small ISOs



411.4

364.5

317.6

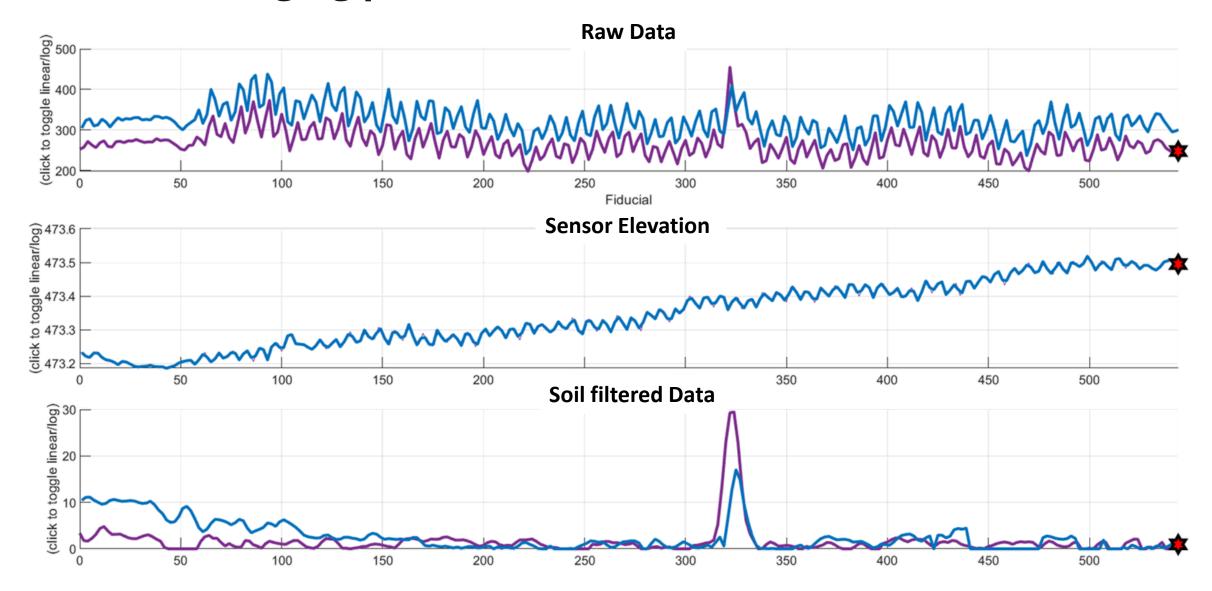
270.7

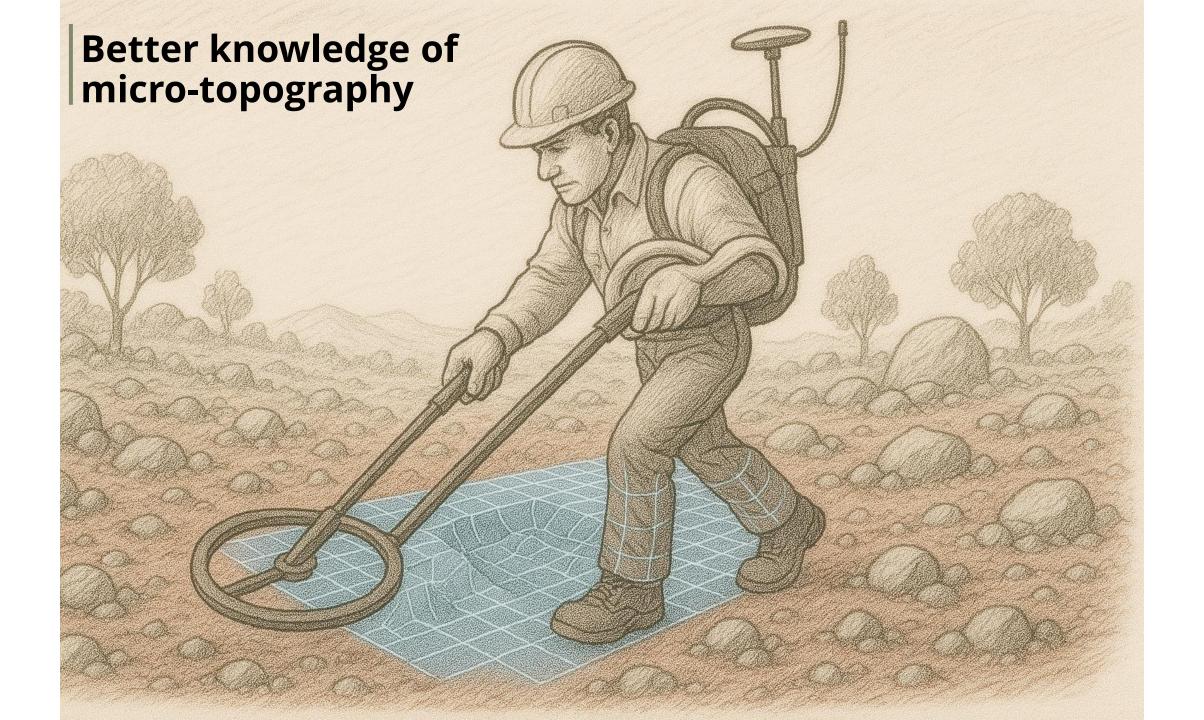
223.8

176.8

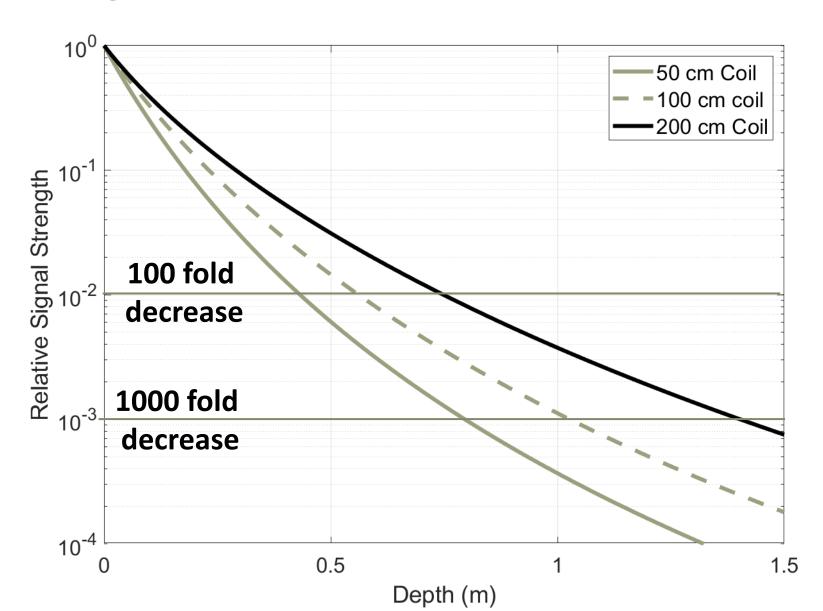
129.9

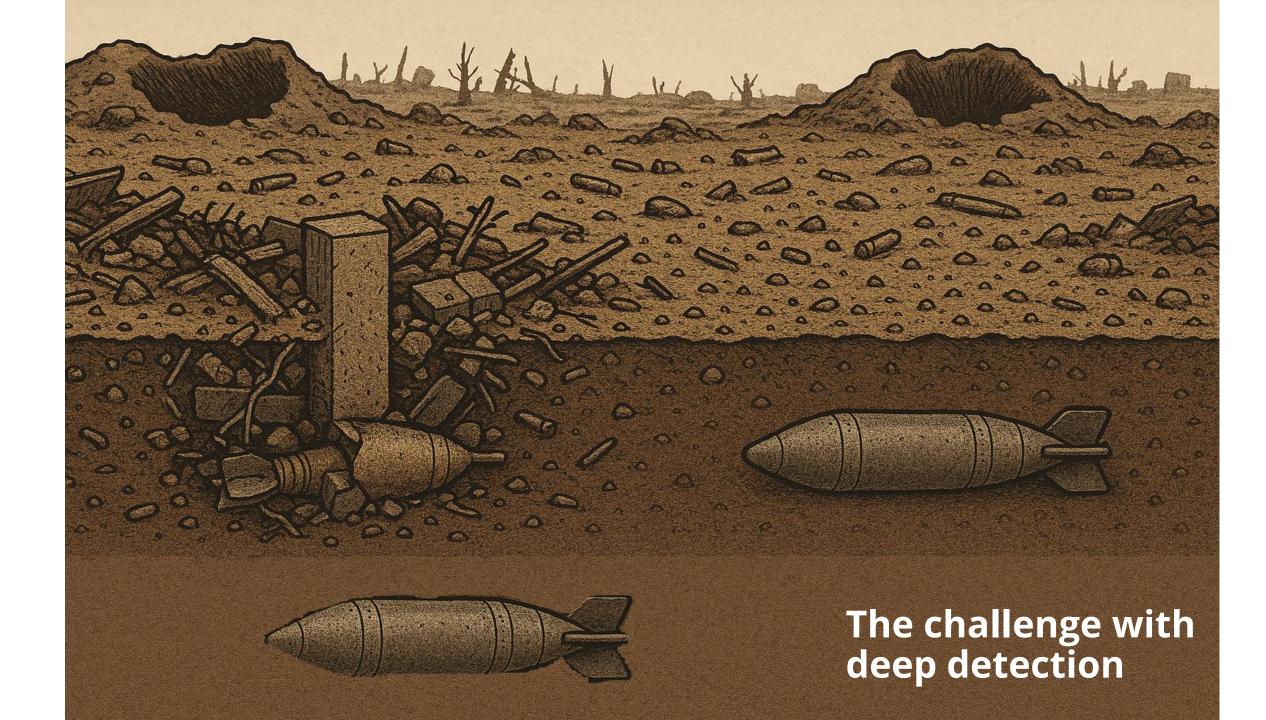
Magnetic geology Still a challenging problem

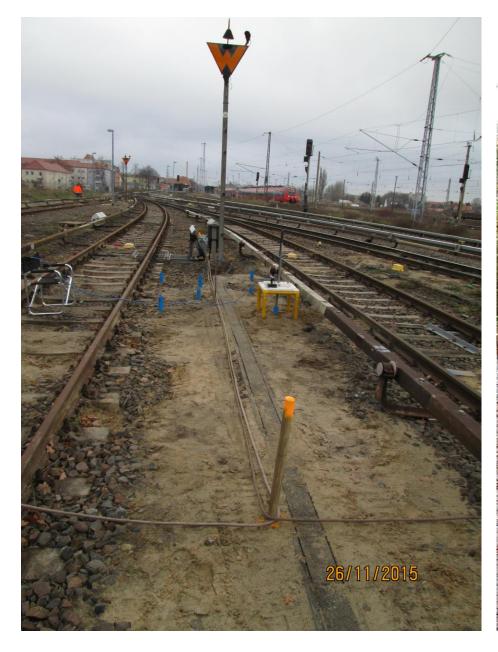




Detection Depth challenge





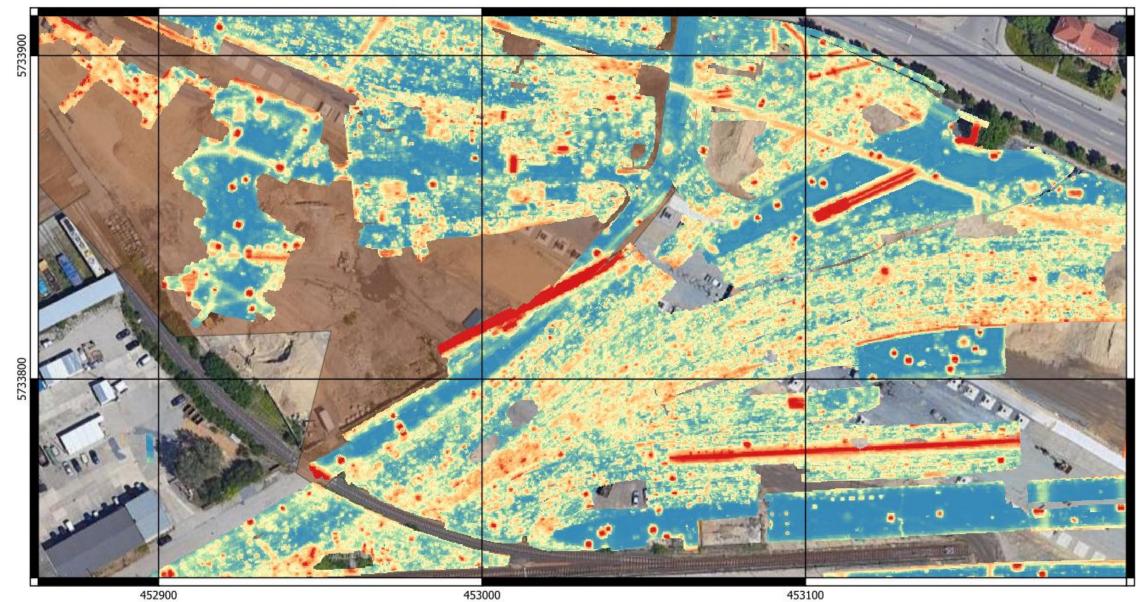




Complex sites Significant clutter challenge

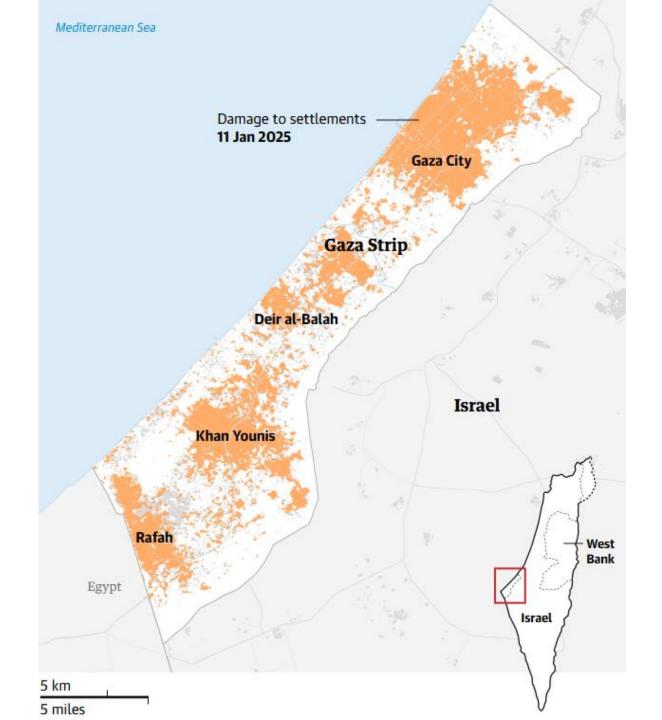


Complex sites Significant clutter challenge

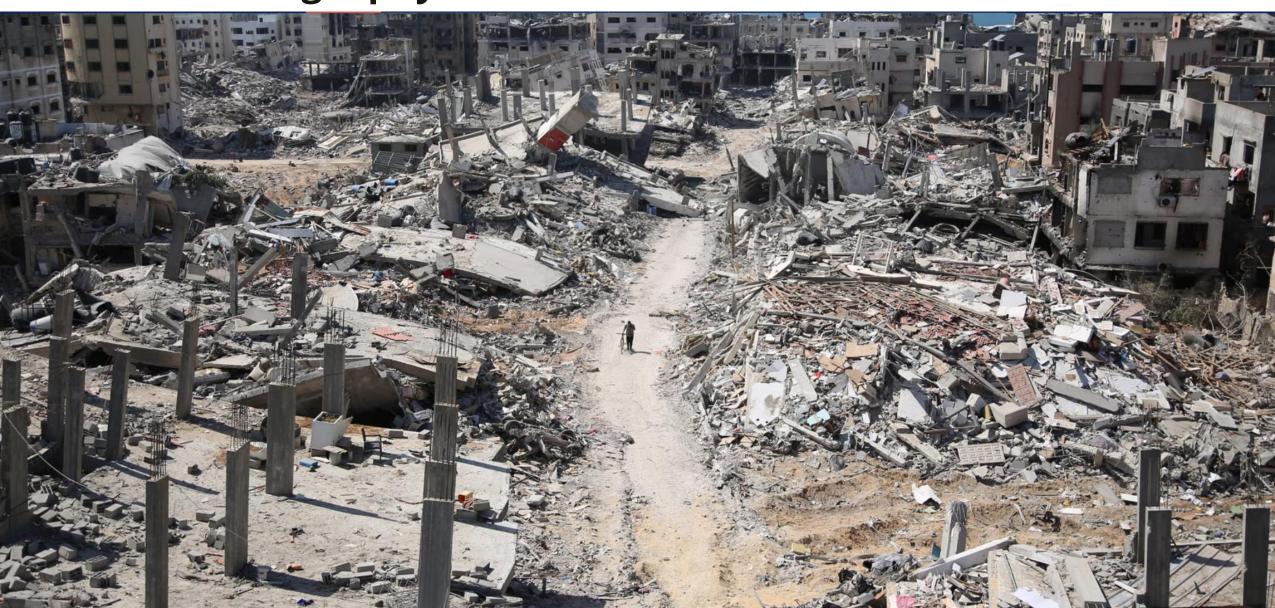


Complex sites How can geophysics help?

In Gaza 60% of buildings destroyed or damaged



Complex sites What role for geophysics?



Future Improvements

Computer resources

Al aided decisions

Autonomous survey

Al aided processing

Auxiliary sensors

Improved algorithms



