

# TECHNOLOGY FOR COMMERCIAL SALT DEPOSITS MAPPING BY 3D GRAVITY, WELL LOG AND SEISMIC DATA INVERSION



**DEPROIL**  
DETAILED OIL & GAS PROSPECTING

# SALT PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE

## ➤ SALT RESERVES – SODIUM CHLORIDE\*

Fore-Carpathian Basin  
**337 million tons**

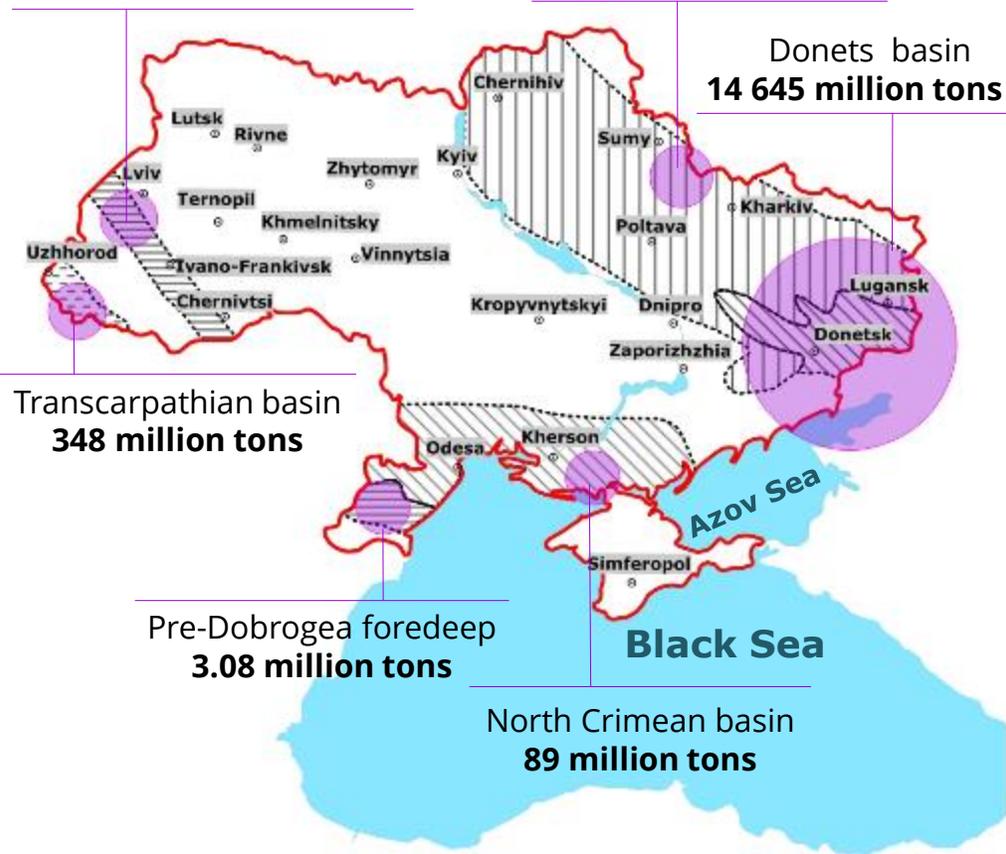
Dnieper-Donets basin  
**826 million tons**

Donets basin  
**14 645 million tons**

Transcarpathian basin  
**348 million tons**

Pre-Dobrogea foredeep  
**3.08 million tons**

North Crimean basin  
**89 million tons**



## ➤ SALT PRODUCTION

In 2020-2021, Ukraine produced **2 M tons** of rock salt, making it the 21st largest salt producer in the world and 9th in Europe.

## ➤ OPERATING SALT MINES

### Artemsil (Soledar) salt mine:

Location – Donets basin

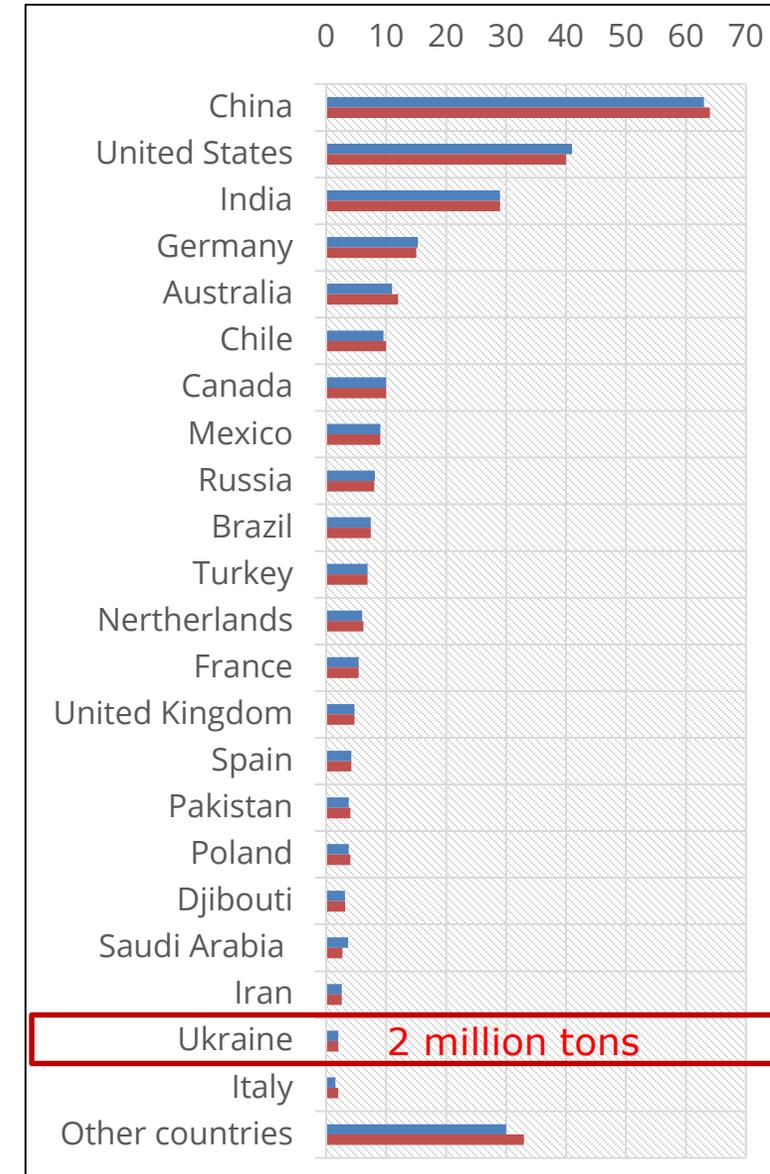
Reserves – 5 000 M tons

Production – 90-95% of total salt production in Ukraine

\* Geography of Mineral Resources in Ukraine. M. Syvyi, I. Paranko, Ye.Ivanov. 2013

\*\* <https://www.statista.com/global-production-output-of-salt>

Major countries in salt production worldwide (in 1,000 000 (M) metric tons)\*\*



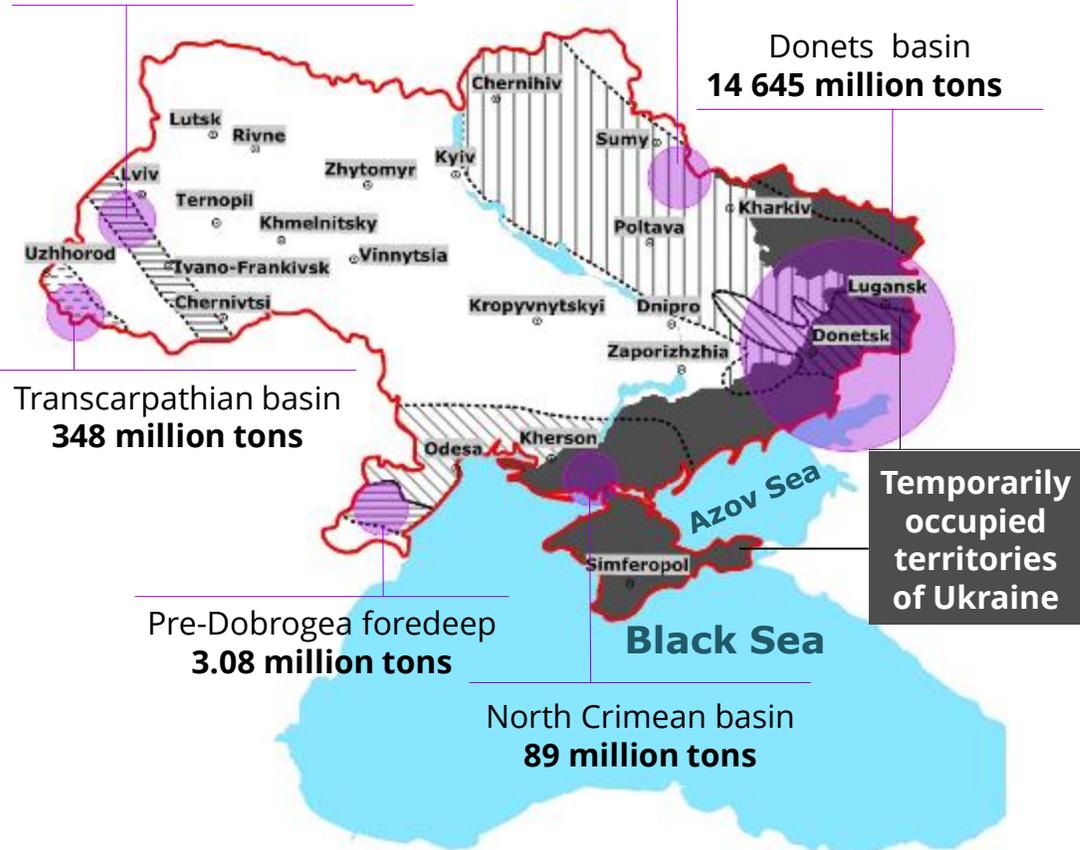
# SALT PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE

## ➤ SALT RESERVES – SODIUM CHLORIDE

Fore-Carpathian Basin  
**337 million tons**

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**826 million tons**

Donets basin  
**14 645 million tons**



### Europe's largest salt producer Artemsil shut down due to fighting in Donbass

26.05.2022, 15:21:25

Now in Ukraine and some European countries began a shortage of salt, this product has risen significantly.



# SALT PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE

## ➤ SALT RESERVES – POTASSIUM SALTS

Fore-Carpathian Basin  
**384 million tons\***



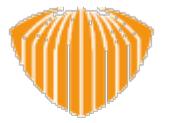
## ➤ SALT PRODUCTION

Due to obsolete production technologies and significant environmental pollutions, potassium salt has not been produced in Ukraine since 2007.

## ➤ MEASURES TO RESUME PRODUCTION

- Exploration activities in order to define areas with favorable mining and geological conditions;
- Recalculation of potassium salt reserves (current reserves estimation is dated by 1948-1960)

\* Mineral resources of Ukraine. Annual addition. State Geological Fund of Ukraine. 2018



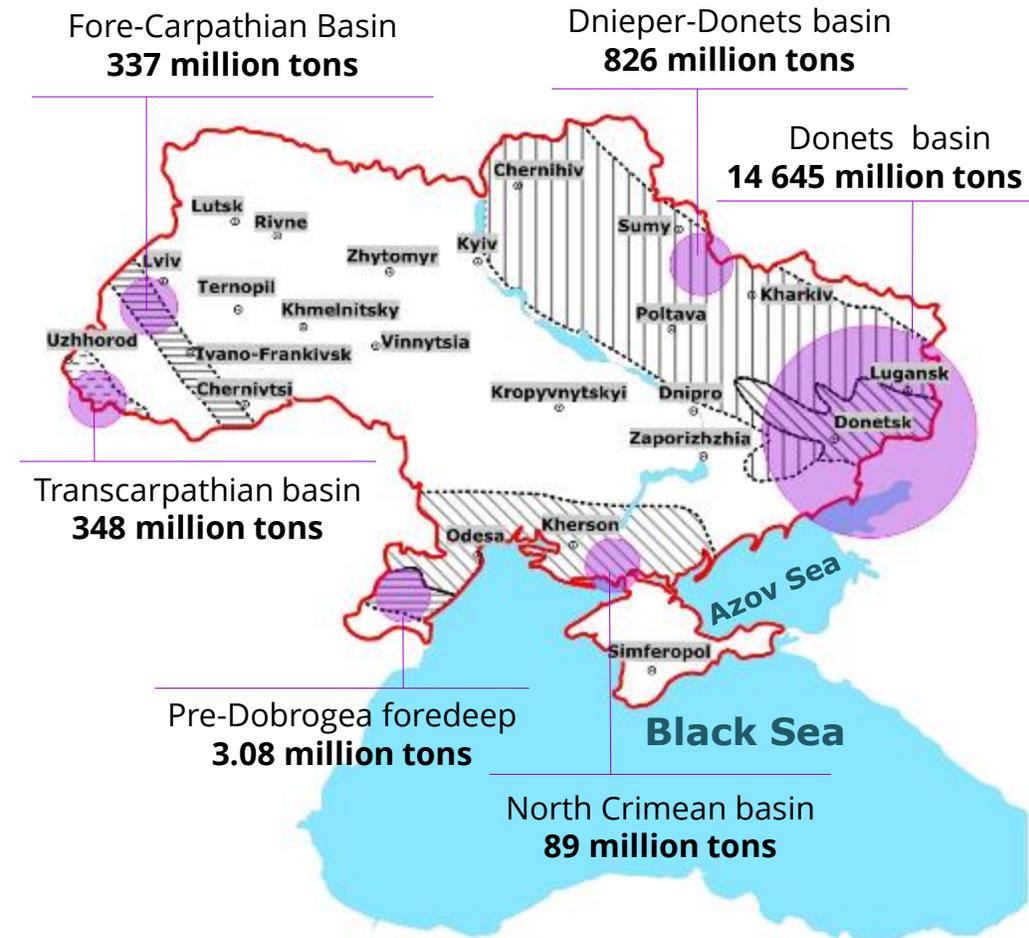
# CHALLENGES OF SALT PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE

## CHALLENGES

- “Artemsil” shutdown in Eastern Ukraine due to mines’ and infrastructure damage caused by missile attack
- Providing Ukrainian households and industry with domestic salt
- To start salt production in Western Ukraine in short terms

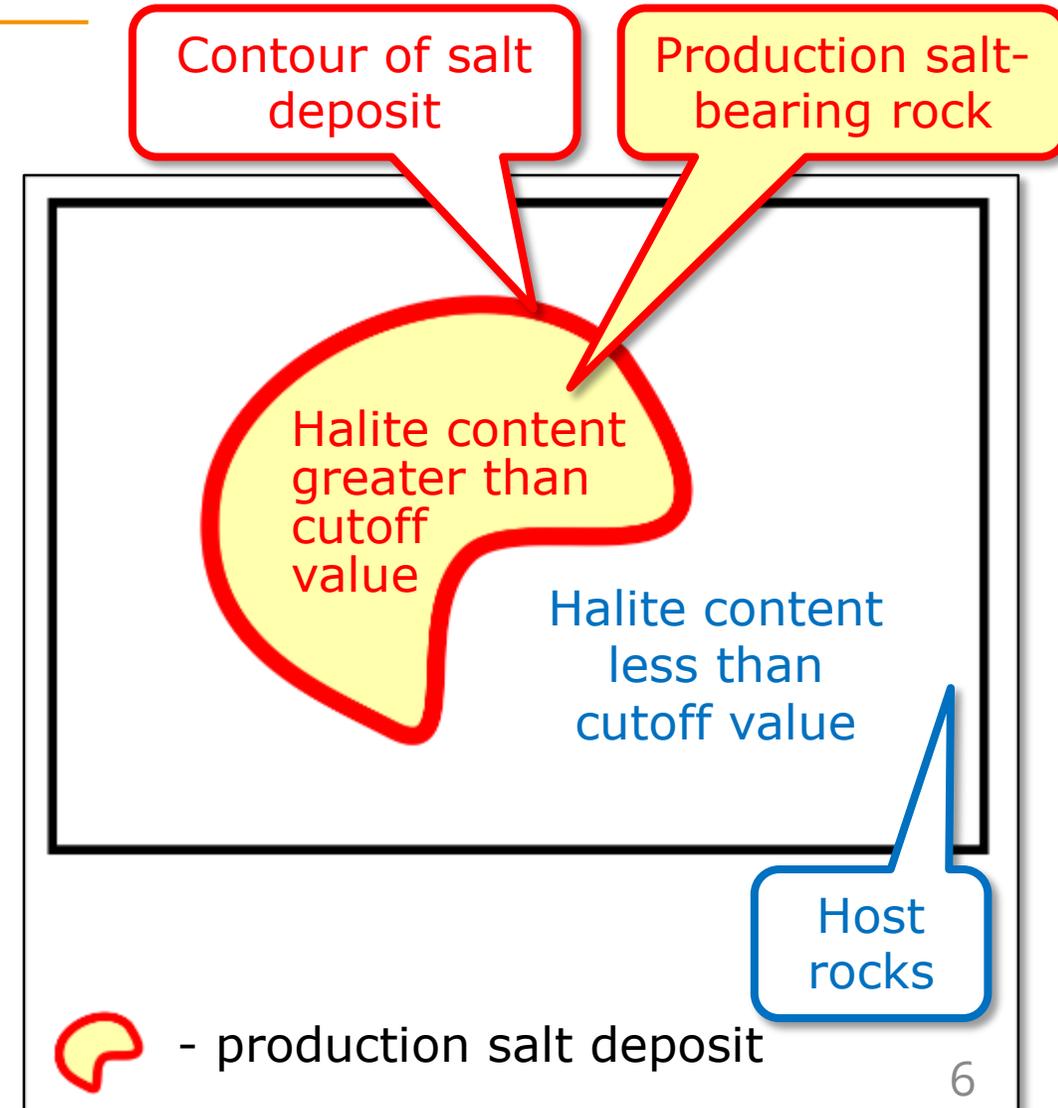
## WAYS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES

- To restore salt production in old salt deposits (if possible)  
To map new commercial salt deposits and to start salt production from these deposits



# PRODUCTION SALT-BEARING ROCK AND PRODUCTION SALT DEPOSIT

- **PRODUCTION SALT-BEARING ROCK** – an isolated subsurface body of rock having halite content greater than the cutoff value (>90%)
- **CONTOUR OF THE PRODUCTION SALT-BEARING ROCK** is mapped as a closed contour, which includes all salt-bearing rocks
- **PRODUCTION SALT DEPOSIT** – closed set in 3D space, which includes production salt-bearing rocks and is associated with the contour of the production salt-bearing rock



# DENSITY OF PRODUCTION SALT-BEARING ROCK FOR MAPPING OF PRODUCTION SALT DEPOSITS

➤ **DENSITY OF THE ROCKS** is the most sensitive physical properties of the salt deposits rocks which depends on halite content

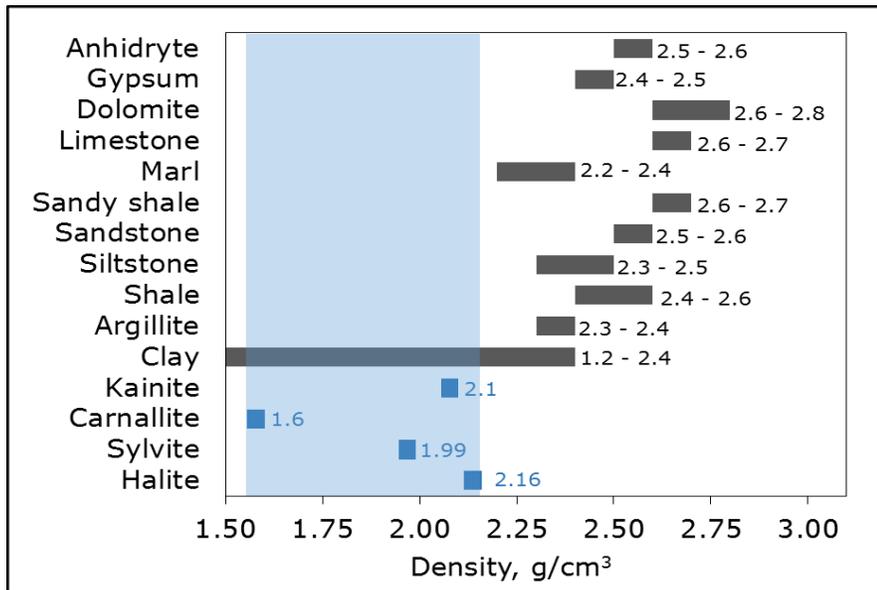
➤ **Salt rock density:**

$$\sigma = K_{h.c.} * \delta_{salt} + (1 - K_{h.c.}) * \delta_{h.r.}$$

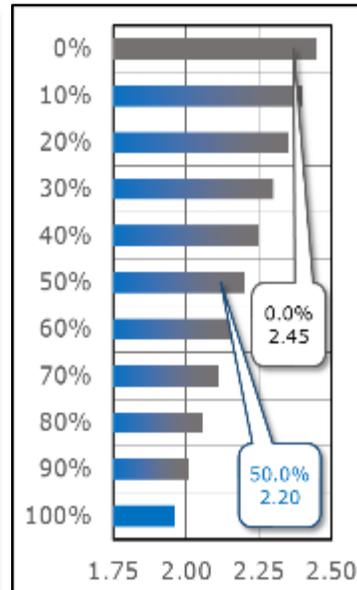
$K_{h.c.}$  – halite content,

$\delta_{salt}, \delta_{h.r.}$  – density of halite minerals and host rocks

Halite minerals and host rocks most common density\*



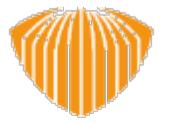
Density of Salt-bearing rock



Halite minerals and host rocks density

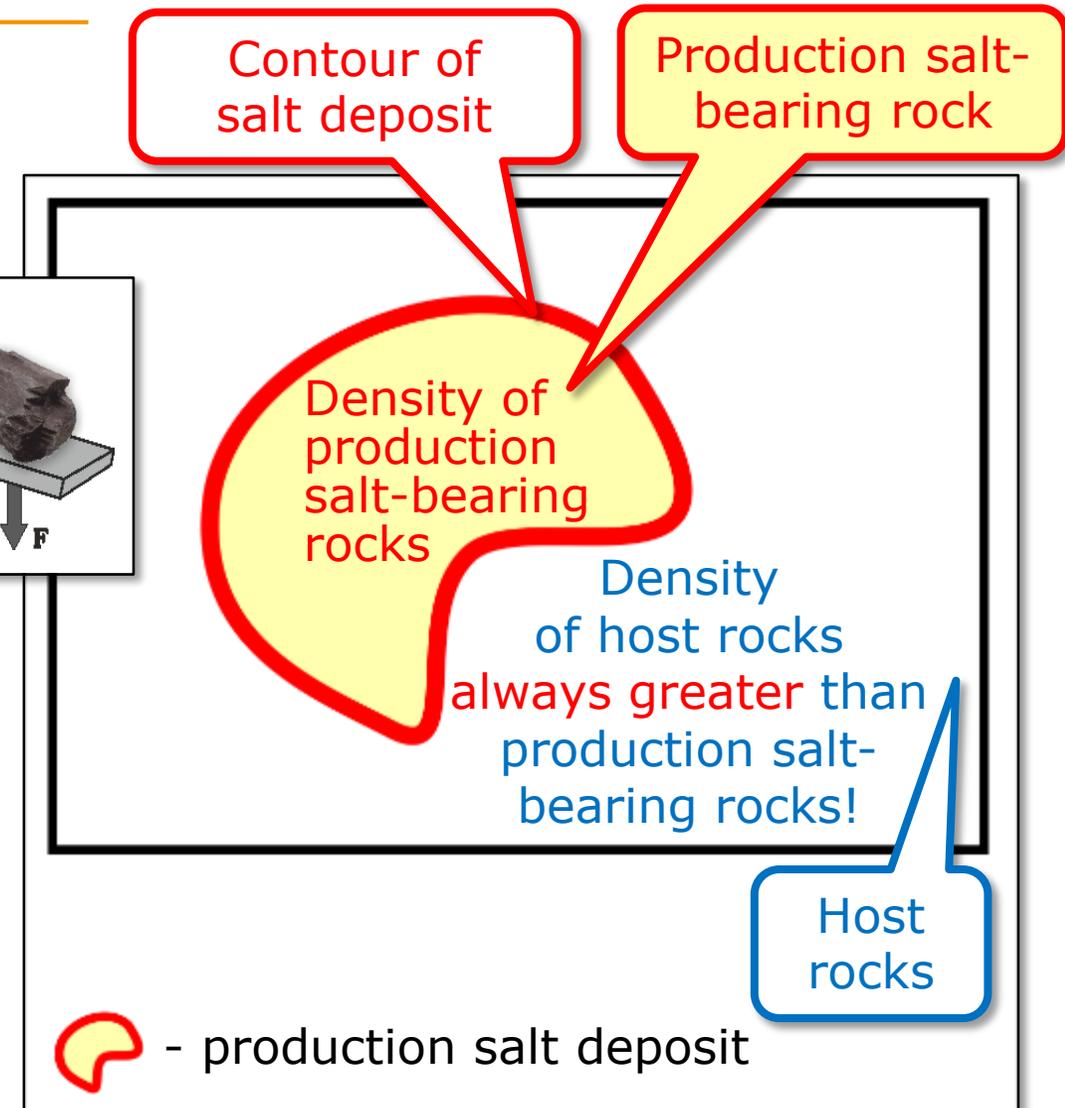
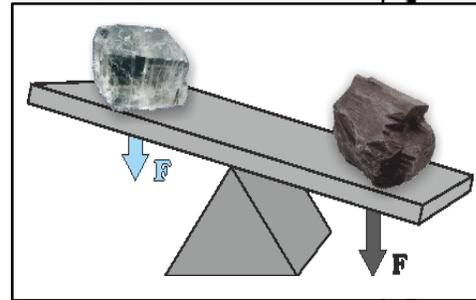
Mineral Rock type	Range, g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Most common range, g/cm <sup>3</sup>
<b>Halide minerals</b>		
Halite	–	2.16
Sylvite	–	1.99
Carnallite	–	1.60
Kainite	–	2.10
<b>Average</b>		<b>1.96</b>
<b>Sedimentary rocks</b>		
Clay	1.2 – 2.4	–
Argillite	1.7 – 2.9	2.3 – 2.4
Shale	2.3 – 3.0	2.4 – 2.6
Sand	1.3 – 2.0	1.5 – 1.7
Siltstone	1.8 – 2.8	2.3 – 2.5
Sandstone	2.0 – 2.9	2.5 – 2.6
Sandy shale	2.3 – 3.0	2.6 – 2.7
Marl	1.5 – 2.8	2.2 – 2.4
Limestone	1.8 – 2.9	2.6 – 2.7
Dolomite	1.9 – 3.0	2.6 – 2.8
Gypsum	2.1 – 2.5	2.4 – 2.5
Anhydrite	2.4 – 2.9	2.5 – 2.6
<b>Average</b>		<b>2.45</b>

\* Dortman, 1976



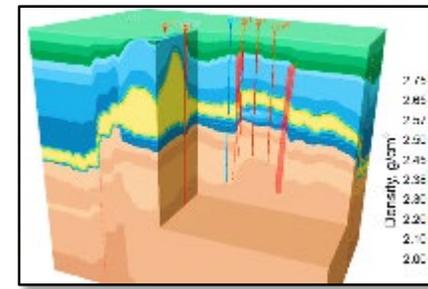
# DENSITY OF PRODUCTION SALT-BEARING ROCK FOR MAPPING OF PRODUCTION SALT DEPOSITS

- **DENSITY OF THE ROCKS** is the most sensitive physical property of the salt deposit rocks which depends on halite content
- **DENSITY OF THE PRODUCTION SALT-BEARING ROCK** is **ALWAYS LESS** than the density of the host rocks
- **CONTOUR OF THE PRODUCTION SALT DEPOSIT** is mapped as a closed contour, which includes the rocks with the lower densities than on the contour
- **GRAVIMETRY** is the only geophysical method that gives the possibility to study the density of production salt-bearing rocks



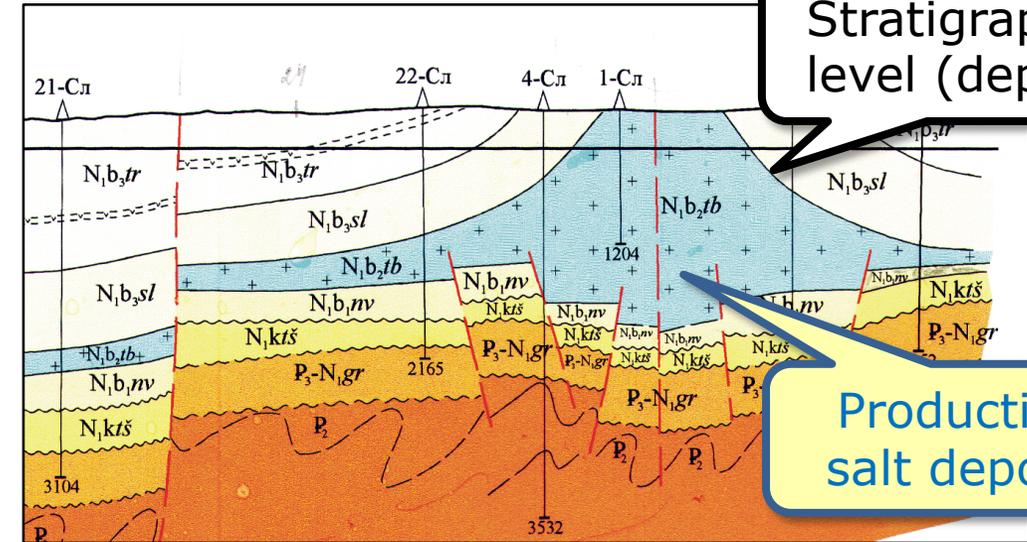


# REVOLUTIONARY SOLUTIONS FOR SALT EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION



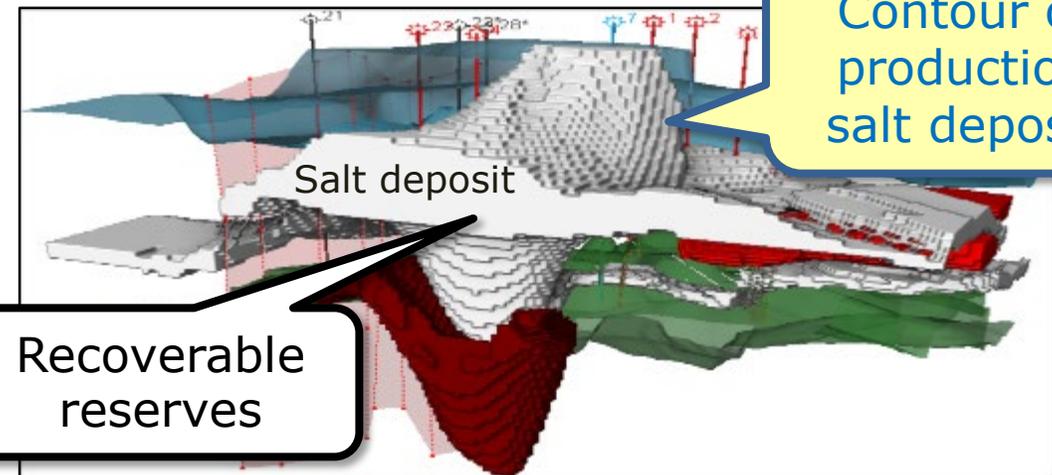
## DEPROIL LTD DEVELOPED:

- **REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGY** for mapping commercial salt deposits of different morphology and origin
- **REVOLUTIONARY MATHEMATICAL THEORY** for the construction of geologically consistent subsurface models of density based on 3D gravity data inversion with well and seismic acquisitions
- **REVOLUTIONARY** in-house software **GCIS (Geophysical Complex Interpretation System)** for support of the TECHNOLOGY



Stratigraphic level (depth)

Production salt deposit



Contour of production salt deposit

Recoverable reserves



## 30 YEARS OF RESEARCH

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- 1974 – Own mathematical theory of «Critical Approach to Solve an Incorrect Inverse Geophysical Problem for the Complex 3D Models of Geological Media»
- 1989 – Active model of quantitative joint 2D inversion of gravimetric and seismic data
- 2003 – Mapping the contours of geological body based on 3D model of rock density
- 2004 – Passive model of quantitative joint 3D inversion of gravimetric and well data
- 2010 – Starting field gravimetric observations, 2011 – starting field magnetometric observations
- 2016 – Commercial mineral reserves estimation by Monte-Carlo simulation
- 2017 – 3D model of the spatial density of commercial mineral reserves
- 2018 – Estimation of total commercial reserves on the base of 3D models of the spatial density of commercial mineral reserves and its control by Monte-Carlo simulation
- 2020 – Estimation of the initial production rates for new extraction wells



# INVERSE PROBLEM – SCHEME OF PASSIVE SOLUTION

$$\begin{cases} A(\xi(\mathbf{x})) = y(s), \xi(\mathbf{x}) \in M \subset D(A) \subset X, y(s) \in Im(A) \subset U \\ J(\xi(\mathbf{x})) \rightarrow \min, \mu(\xi(\mathbf{x})) = \|y(s) - A(\xi(\mathbf{x}))\| \end{cases}$$

where:  $\xi(\mathbf{x})$  – properties of the 3D model – rock density or depth to the geological horizon

$\xi(\mathbf{x}) \in X$  – metric space of the model;

$y(s) \in U$  – observed geophysical field with error  $\varepsilon$ ;

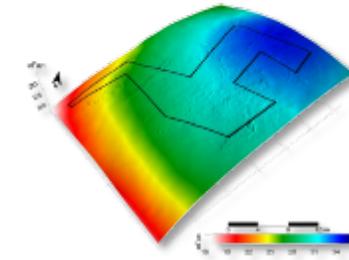
$U$  – metric space of geophysical fields;

$A(\cdot): X \rightarrow U$  – operator which connects properties of the model  $\xi(\mathbf{x})$  with geophysical field  $y(s)$  – non-linear in case of a structural problem and linear in case of modelling inhomogeneous distribution of properties;  
 $D(A)$  – set of operator determination  $A(\cdot)$  – open half-space in space  $X$ , wide enough to approximate real geological models;

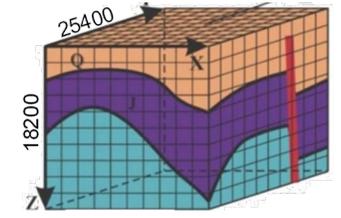
$Im(A)$  – set of the operator  $A$  values in space  $Y$ , wide enough to approximate observed geophysical fields  
 $M$  – set of geologically meaningful models of the subsurface;

$J(\cdot): X \rightarrow R$  – convex functional which provides choosing the best geologically meaningful model;

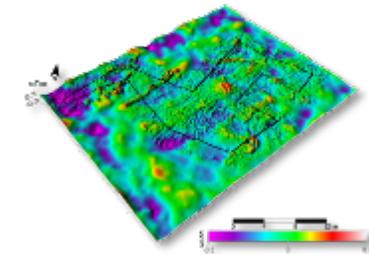
$\xi_I(\mathbf{x}), \xi_F(\mathbf{x})$  – Initial and Final models.



Gravity –  $y(s)$



Initial model –  $\xi_I(\mathbf{x})$

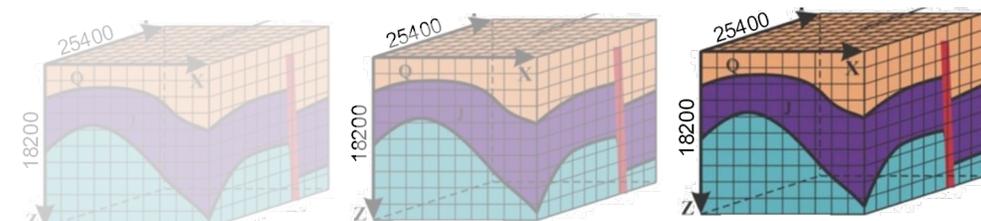


Gravity misfit (Error  $\mu(\xi_F(\mathbf{x}))$ )

**Choosing geologically-consistent model**



**Equivalent models ( $\mu < \varepsilon$  and  $\tau < \delta$ )**



Dummy model

Geologically consistent

# INVERSE PROBLEM – SCHEME OF ACTIVE SOLUTION

$$\begin{cases} A(\xi(\mathbf{x})) = y(\mathbf{s}), \xi(\mathbf{x}) \in M \subset D(A) \subset X, y(\mathbf{s}) \in Im(A) \subset Y \\ B(\eta(\mathbf{x})) = u(\mathbf{s}), \eta(\mathbf{x}) \in N \subset D(B) \subset X, u(\mathbf{s}) \in Im(B) \subset U \\ J(\xi(\mathbf{x}) - \eta(\mathbf{x})) \rightarrow \min, \mu = \|y(\mathbf{s}) - A(\xi(\mathbf{x}))\|, \tau = \|u(\mathbf{s}) - B(\eta(\mathbf{x}))\| \end{cases}$$

where:  $\xi(\mathbf{x}), \eta(\mathbf{x})$  – properties of the 3D model – rock density or depth to the geological horizon;

$\xi(\mathbf{x}), \eta(\mathbf{x}) \in X$  – metric sgeophysical field with error  $\varepsilon$  and  $\delta$ ;

$y(\mathbf{s}) \in Y, u(\mathbf{s}) \in U$  – metric sppace of the model;

$y(\mathbf{s}), u(\mathbf{s})$  – observed ace of geophysical fields;

$A(\cdot): X \rightarrow Y, B(\cdot): X \rightarrow U$  – operator which connects properties of the models  $(\xi(\mathbf{x}), \eta(\mathbf{x}))(\mathbf{x})$  with geophysical fields  $(y(\mathbf{s}), u(\mathbf{s}))$ ;

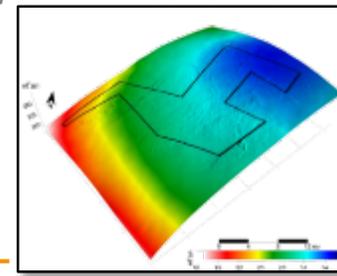
$D(A), D(B)$  – sets of operators determinations  $A(\cdot), B(\cdot)$  – open half-space in space  $X$ , wide enough to approximate real geological models;

$Im(A), Im(B)$  – sets of operators  $A$  and  $B$ , wide enough to approximate observed geophysical fields;

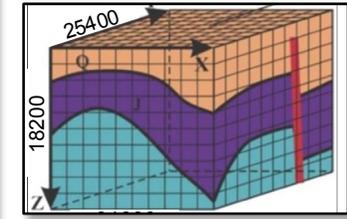
$M, N$  – sets of geologically meaningful models of the environment

$J(\cdot): X \rightarrow R$  – convex functional which effects  $X$  and provides choosing the best geologically meaningful model;

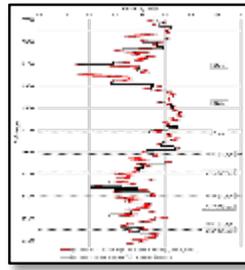
$\xi_I(\mathbf{x}), \xi_F(\mathbf{x}), \eta_F(\mathbf{x})$  – Initial and Final models.



Gravity –  $y(\mathbf{s})$



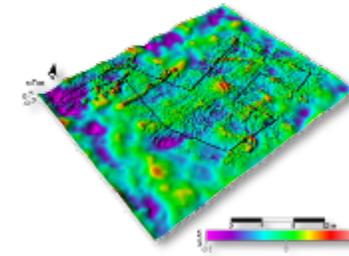
Initial model –  $\xi_I(\mathbf{x})$



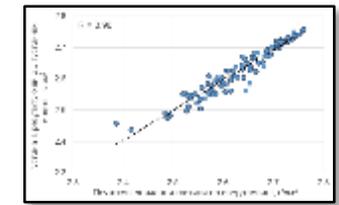
Well log data –  $u(\mathbf{s})$



**Active inverse problem**



Gravity misfit (Errors  $\mu(\xi_F(\mathbf{x}))$  and  $\tau(\eta_F(\mathbf{x}))$ )



Well

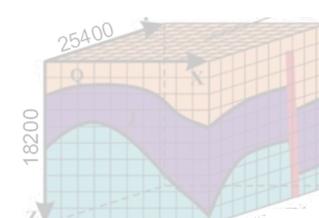
**Choosing geologically-consistent model**



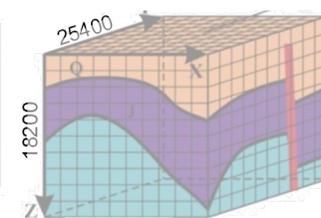
**$J(\xi_F(\mathbf{x}) - \eta_F(\mathbf{x})) \Rightarrow \min$**



**Equivalent models ( $\mu < \varepsilon$  and  $\tau < \delta$ )**



Dummy model

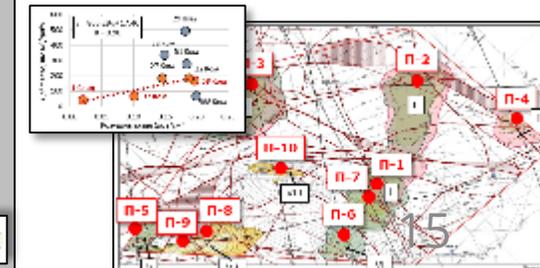
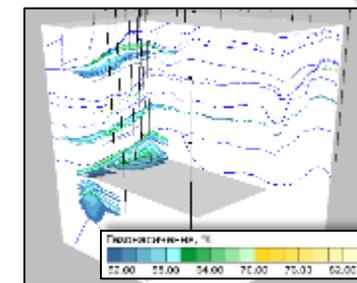
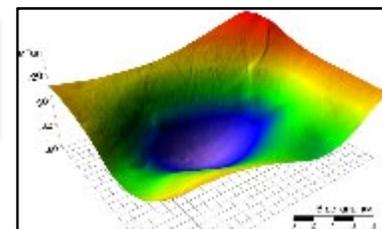
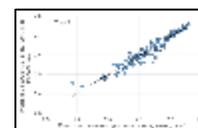
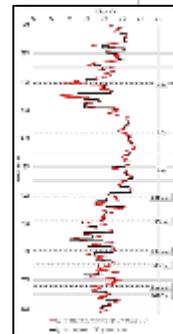
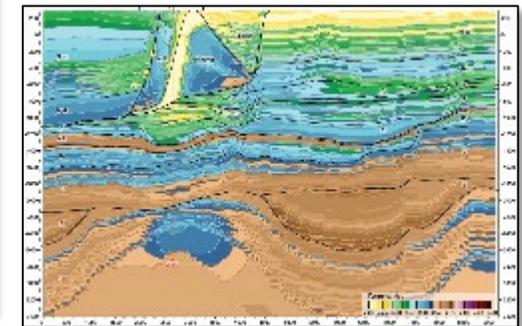
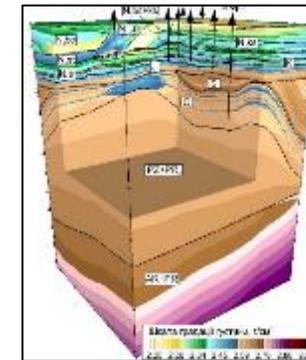
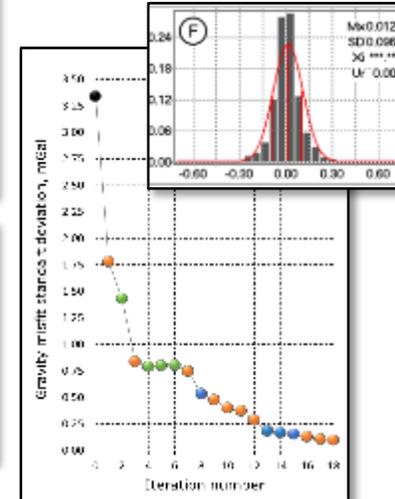
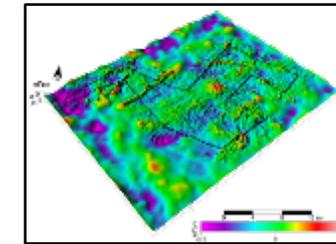
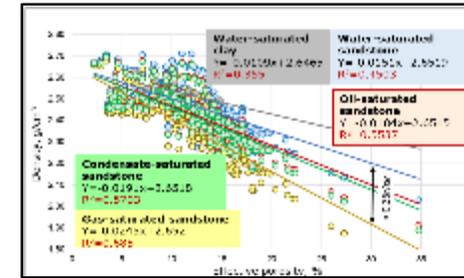
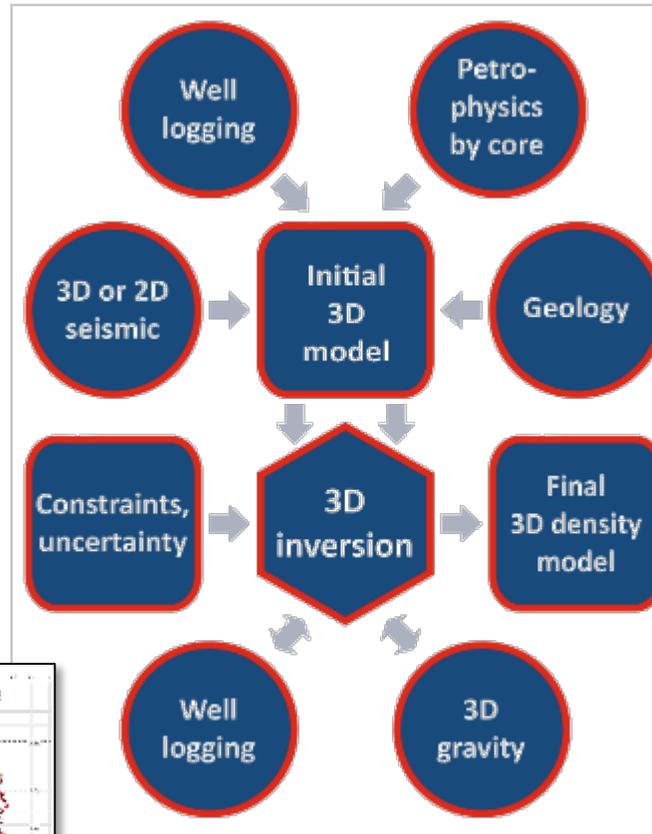
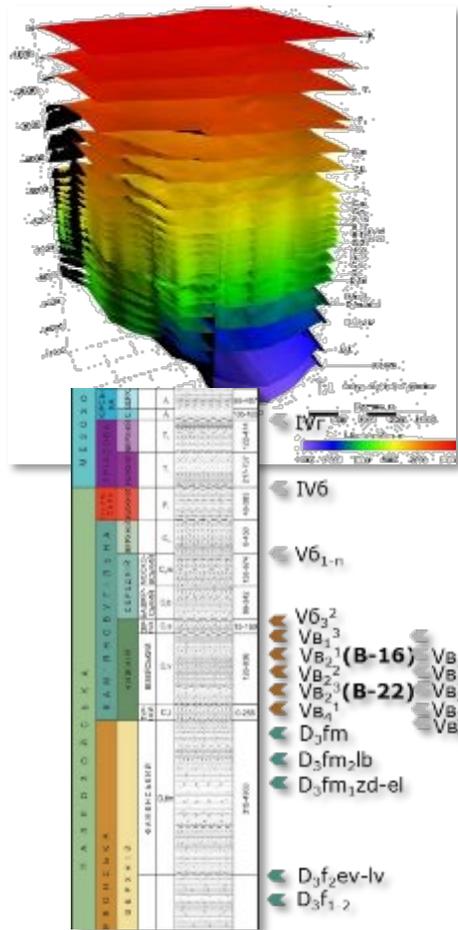


Geologically consistent

# THE ALGORITHM OF 3D GRAVITY INVERSION



**DEPROIL**  
DETAILED OIL & GAS PROSPECTING





# TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

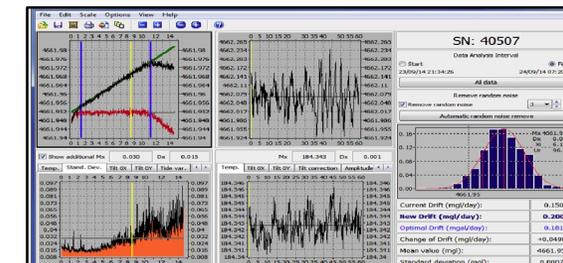
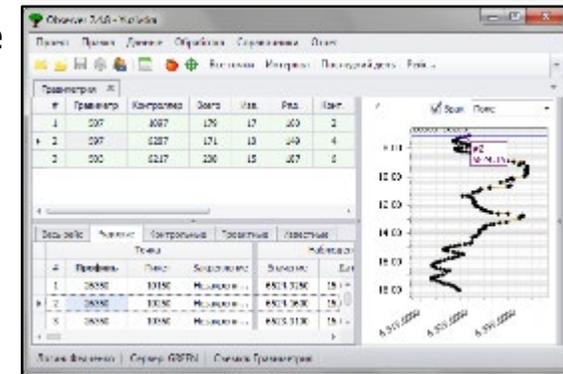
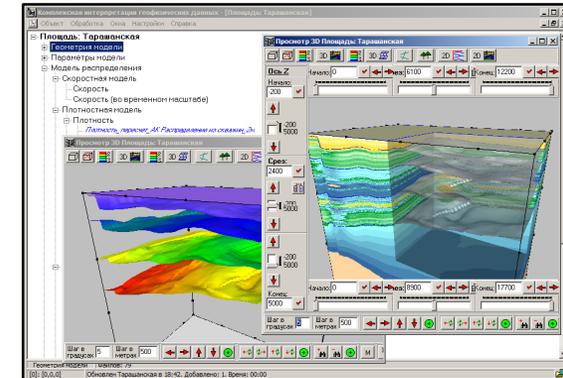
## GRAVITY AND MAGNETIC SURVEY EQUIPMENT

- SCINTREX CG-5 (Canada) – 6 units of digital gravimeters
- GEOMETRICS G-859SX Mining Mag (USA) – 4 units of digital cesium magnetometers
- GEOMETRICS G-856AX Memory-Mag (USA) – proton magnetometer (base-station)
- Gravity field observation error – **<6.5  $\mu$ Gal**
- Magnetic field observation error - **<0.8 nT**
- Trimble GPS R-10, R-8, 5700 – 10 units GNSS
- Computer cluster with 342 cores



## PROPRIETARY SOFTWARES

- GCIS** – automated computer system, aimed at creating, storing and defining optimal density properties of 1D, 2D, 3D models
- OBSERVER** – Client-server software aimed at operative storing and processing of gravimetric and magneto-metric data and real-time quality control
- GRAVITYDRIFT** – software aimed at control and setting to optimal parameters of SCINTREX CG-5 gravimeters



# CASE STUDY FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH, UKRAINE

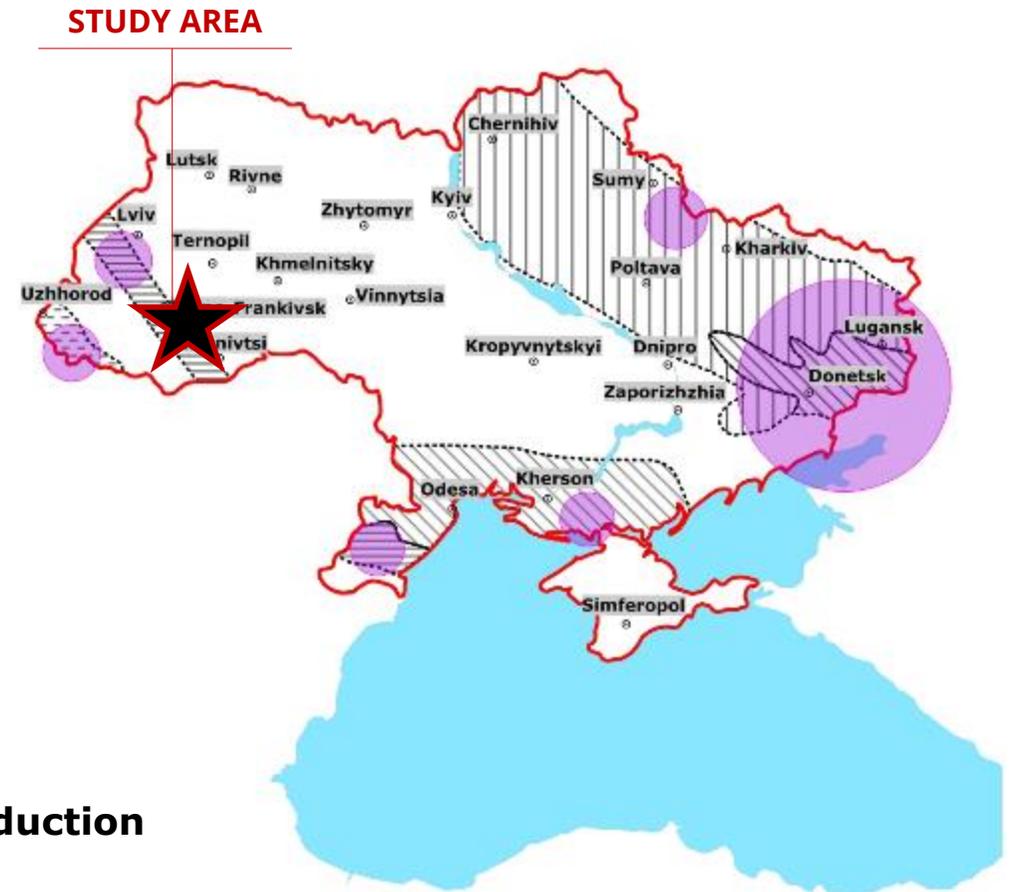
New Halite Deposit!

Total halite reserves: **3.25** - **3.81** - **4.77** billion tons

Cost of reserves depending on halite content for **rock salt production**

(56\$ per ton\*) - **182** - **214** - **267** billion \$,

for **vacuum and open pan salt** production (220\$ per ton\*) - **715** - **839** - **1050** billion \$



# CASE STUDY

## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

The study was performed in 2021-2022 as a part of hydrocarbon exploration project

### Study area:

- Location – Fore-Carpathian Through
- Size – 80.99 km<sup>2</sup> (8.9 x 9.1 km)
- Depth to the basement (AR-PR) ≈ 7 km

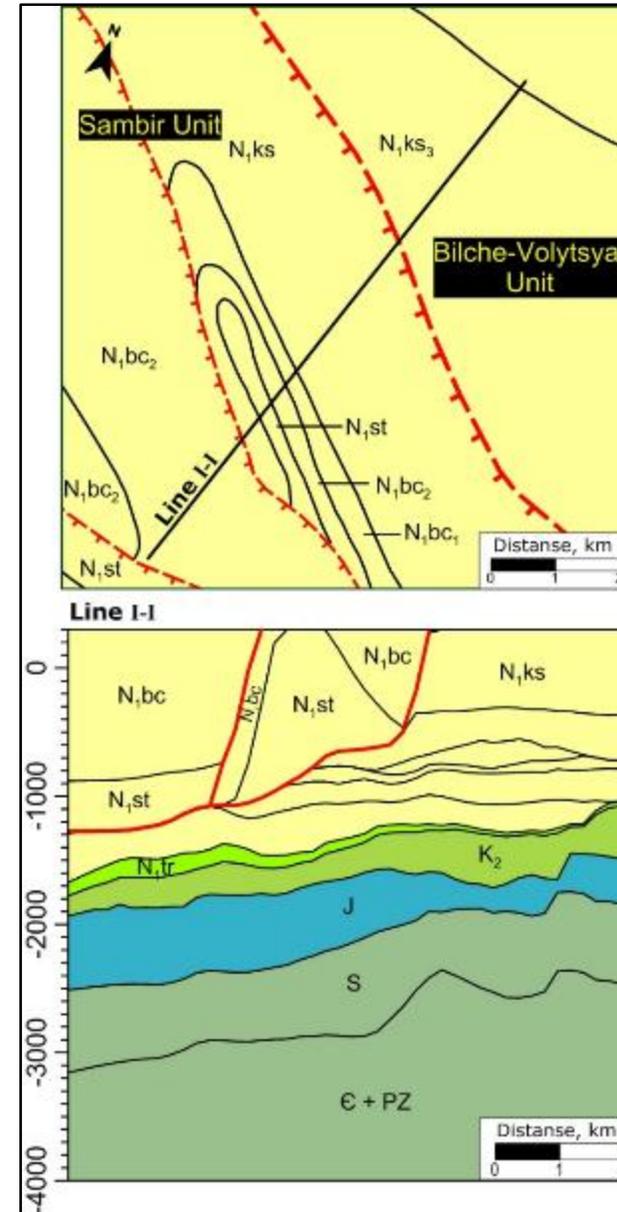
### Survey performed:

- High-accuracy gravity survey (1:10 000) by digital gravimeters Scintrex CG-5 (Canada).  
Error ± 6.5 µkGal
- High-accuracy magnetic survey (1:10 000) by cesium magnetometers Geometries G-859 (USA).  
Error ± 0.71 nTl

### Study objectives:

- Commercial gas-bearing pools mapping

Geological sketch map  
(by V.Glushko, 1968)



- Salt rock

Era	Period	Epoch	Stage	Suite	Index
CENOZOIC	NEOGENE	MIOCENE	Sarmat	Dashava	N <sub>ds</sub>
			THRUST	Baden	Kosiv
Tyras	N <sub>tr</sub>				
Bogorodchany	N <sub>bg</sub>				
MESOZOIC	CRETACEOUS	Upper	Santonian - Campanian		K <sub>2</sub>
			Cognacian		
			Turonian		
			Cenomanian		
MESOZOIC	JURASSIC	Upper	Titonian		J <sub>tt</sub>
			Kimmeridgian		J <sub>km</sub>
			Oxfordian		J <sub>o</sub>
PALEOZOIC	SILURIAN	Lower - Upper			S <sub>2</sub>
			CAMBRIAN	Lower - Upper	
PR	Vend				
	Rifean				Rf

# CASE STUDY

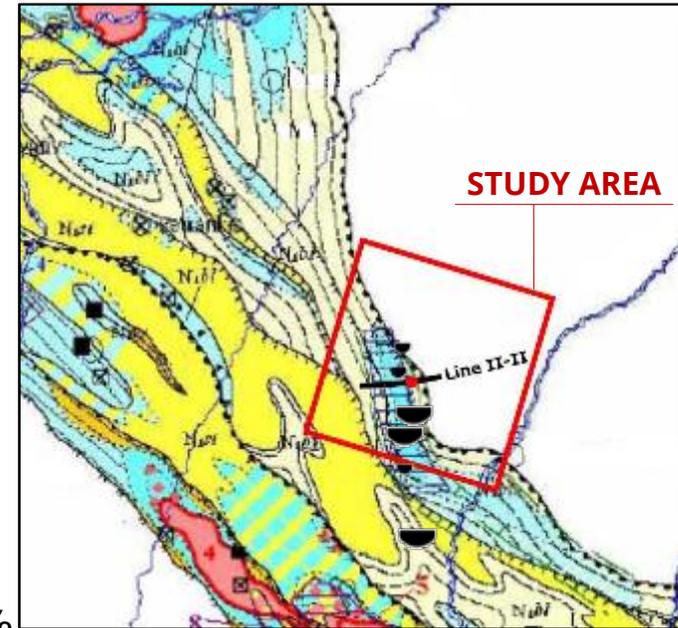
## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

### 👉 Salt deposits:

- Study area belongs to one of the most prospective parts of Fore-Carpathian Salt-Bearing Basin
- Rock salt batches are encountered in **Balytska Suite** ( $N_{1bc}$ ) of Neogene with maximum thickness **500 m** (Chapowski, 2009)
- Average NaCl content changed from 70.7% to 95.46%

### 👉 Well #1:

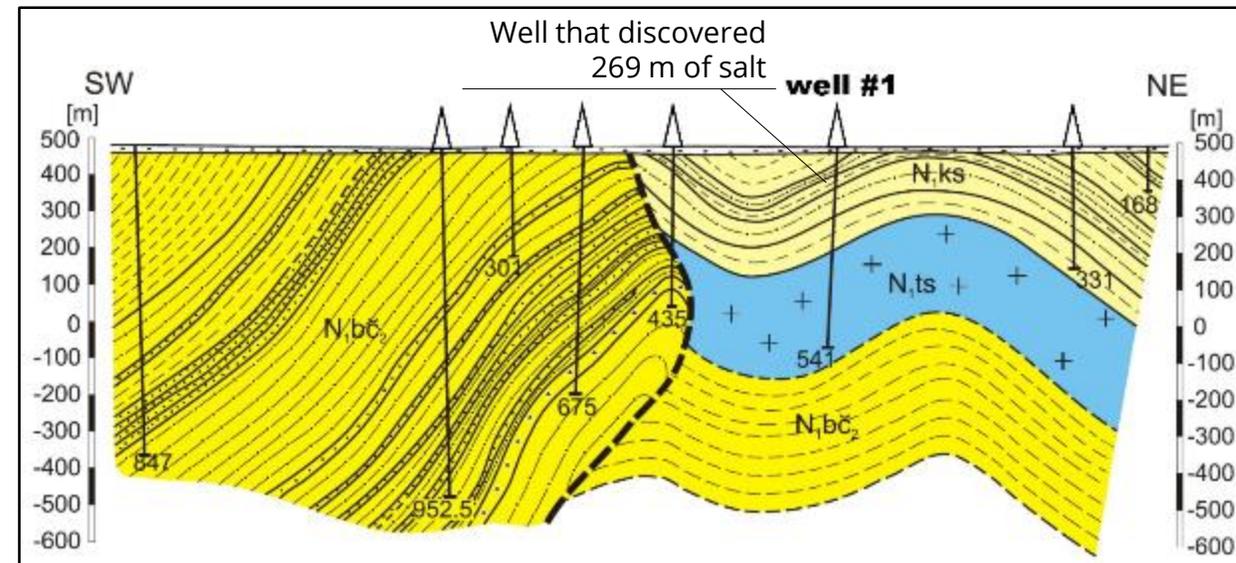
- The well was drilled as a part of exploration project for potassium salt
- It revealed **269 m of salt** (the maximum thickness within the study area) with average **NaCl content of 76.3%**
- Considering the angle of syncline limb dipping (**30°**) true thickness of revealed saline formation might be **232 m**
- Drilling rig malfunction at **541 m**, the salt bed bottom was not reached and thickness of salt bed is unknown



Distribution scheme of Lower Miocene salt-bearing sediments and regularities in salt location within Fore-Carpathian salt-bearing basin (by V.O. Vashchenko, 2007)

-  - salt-bearing formation with halite rock beds
-  - sodium salt deposits

Geological cross-section along line II-II by well drilling results (by Stupnitskiy et al., 1978)



# CASE STUDY

## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

### Model dimensions:

- Lateral 8.9 x 9.1 km
- Depth 12 km

### Input data:

- 3D seismic cube
- 2D legacy seismic data
- High precision gravity data
- Well logs
- Petrophysics by core

### Initial density of rock properties

- Generalized core data
- Sonic log
- Lithology and saturation by well log interpretation

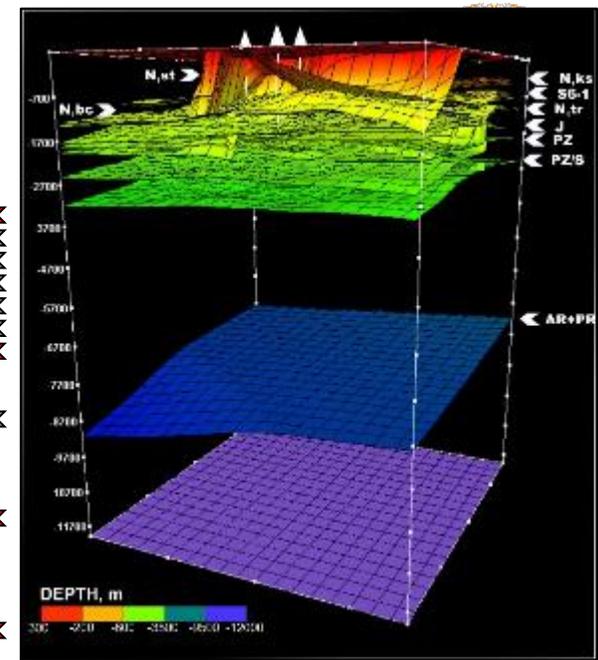
### 3D structural model

- 15 structural surfaces:
- 6 basic stratigraphic surfaces: N<sub>1</sub>st (W), N<sub>1</sub>st (E), N<sub>1</sub>tr, J, PZ, AR+PR,
- 3 intermediate stratigraphic surfaces: N<sub>1</sub>bc, N<sub>1</sub>ks, K<sub>2</sub>
- 6 intermediate seismic surfaces within Kosiv suite of Neogene (N<sub>1</sub>ks) and Paleozoic: S-6, S-5, S-3, S-2-2, S-1, PZ-S

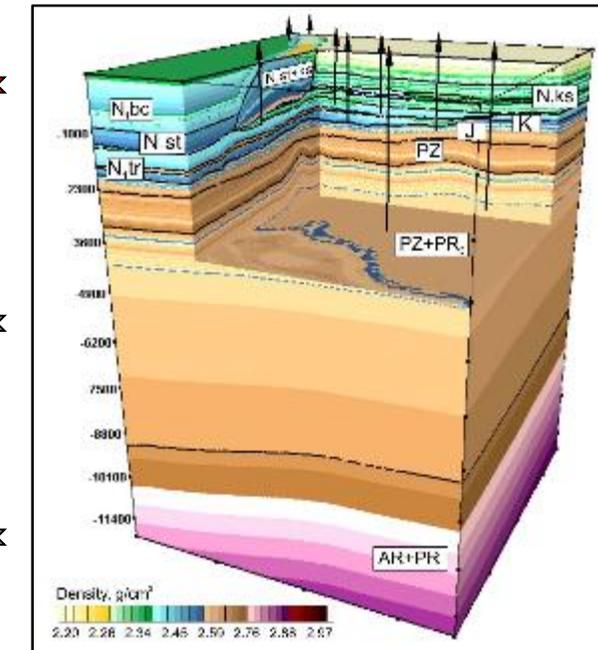
### 3D property model

- Parallelepiped as elementary cell, 100 m x 100 m x 5 m in size
- Voxel model consisting of 19.9 million of cells

Era	Period	Epoch	Stage	Suite	Index			
CENOZOIC	NEOGENE	MIOCENE	Sarmat	Dashava	N <sub>1</sub> ds			
				Baden	Kosiv	N <sub>1</sub> ks		
					Tyras	N <sub>1</sub> tr		
					Bogorodichany	N <sub>1</sub> bg		
				Carpathian	N <sub>1</sub> k			
			THRUST	Baluc	N <sub>1</sub> bc			
				Stebnyk	N <sub>1</sub> st			
				MESOZOIC	CRETACEOUS	Santonian - Campanian	Senonian	K <sub>2</sub>
						Cognacian		
						Turonian		
JURASSIC	Upper	Titonian	J <sub>1</sub> tt					
		Kimmeridgian	J <sub>1</sub> km					
		Oxfordian	J <sub>1</sub> o					
PALEOZOIC	SILURIAN	Lower - Upper			S <sub>1-6</sub>			
			CAMBRIAN	Lower - Upper			Є <sub>1-2</sub>	
PR	Vend					V		
	Rifan				Rf			



Initial 3D density model



# CASE STUDY

## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

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### Algorithm for rocks density calculation by well log data

- Acoustic log data quality control and calibration
- Determining of the clay and sand content by the Larionov equation (1969).
- Determining of the density of rocks based on the velocity data by acoustic log and modified Gardner's equation
- Calibration of Gardner's coefficients to match mean values of density by well logging with density by core data analysis for each lithological and stratigraphical group of sediments

### Modified Gardner's equation for rock density:

$$\sigma = (K_c * a_c + K_{sand} * a_{sand} + K_{cl} * a_{cl} +$$

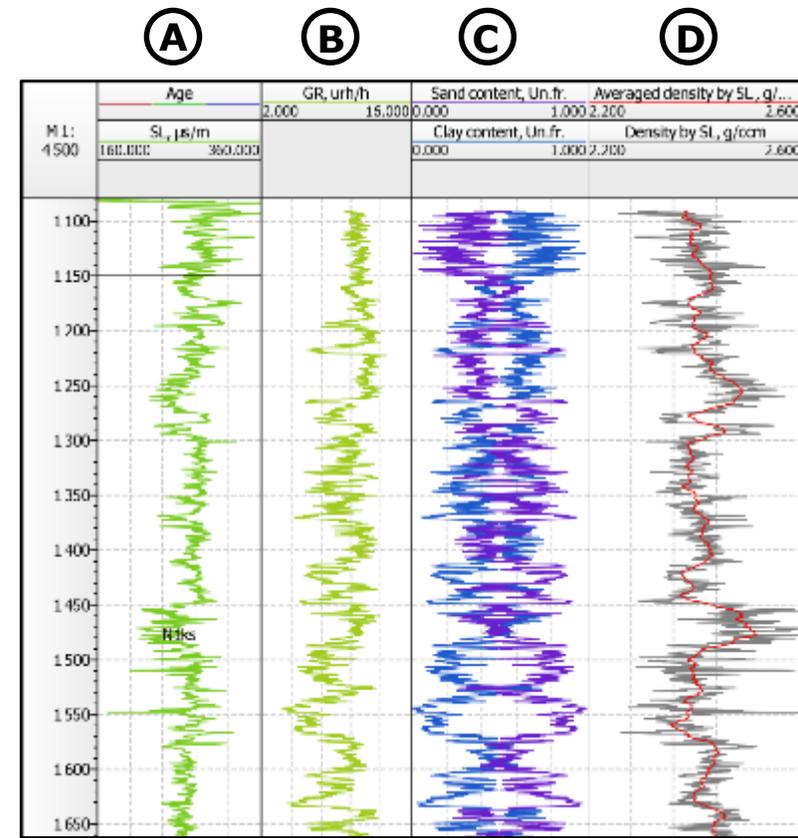
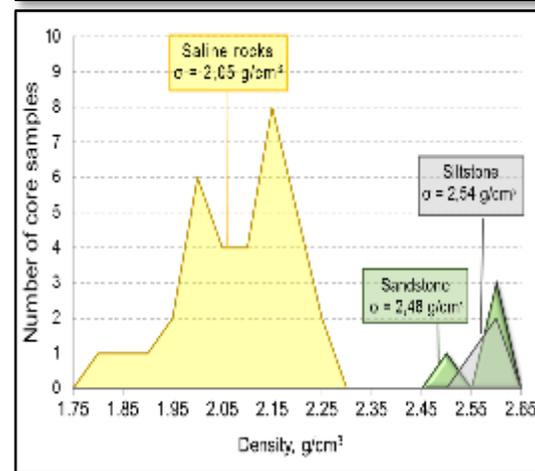
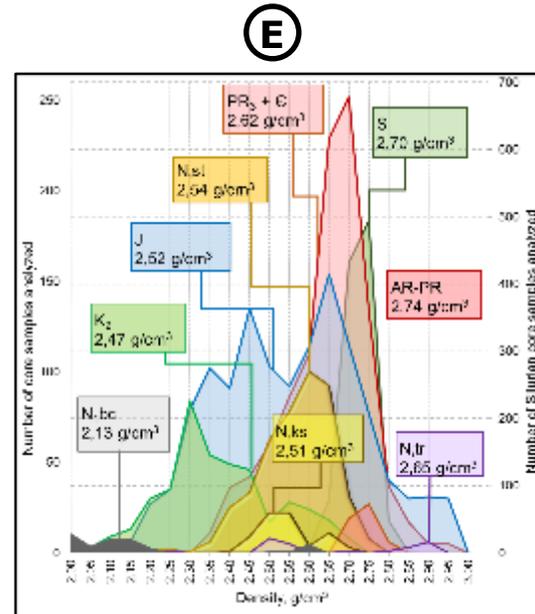
\* Modified Gardner equation for evaluation of rock density basing on velocity data for Dnipro-Donets depression O. Petrovskyy, T. Petrovska, A. Borozdina (DEPROIL), M. Firman (UKRGAVYDOBUVANNIA (Poltava)), I. Gafych, I. Solodkyy (DTEK Oil & Gas) 18th International Conference on Geoinformatics - Theoretical and Applied Aspects | 13-16 May 2019 | Kyiv, Ukraine

# CASE STUDY

## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

### Algorithm for rocks density calculation by well log data

- Acoustic log data quality control and calibration (A)
- Determining of the clay and sand content (C) using gamma log data (B) by the Larionov equation (1969)
- Determining of the density of rocks based on the velocity data by acoustic log and modified Gardner's equation (D)
- Calibration of Gardner's indexes (F) to match mean values of density by well logging with density by core data analysis (E) for each lithological and stratigraphical group of sediments



Lithology	Before calibration*		After calibration	
	a	b	a	b
Stebnyk thrust sediments				
Clay	0.3118	0.2515	0.3500	0.2515
Sandstone	0.2309	0.2826	0.3300	0.2380
Salt and saline rocks	0.0022	0.8128	0.2947	0.235557
Other sediments				
Clay	0.3118	0.2515	0.3118	0.2515
Sandstone	0.2309	0.2826	0.2309	0.2826
Carbonates	0.1593	0.3234	0.1593	0.3234
Gypsum and anhydrite	0.7038	0.1634	0.7038	0.1634

# CASE STUDY

## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

### Key steps of the 3D gravity inversion applied:

**(A)** - Creating an initial 3D model of density consistent with all available well log, seismic and geological data set.

**SD = 3.340 mGal**

**(B)** - Determine the surface of Paleozoic formation by applying 3D non-linear gravity inversion.

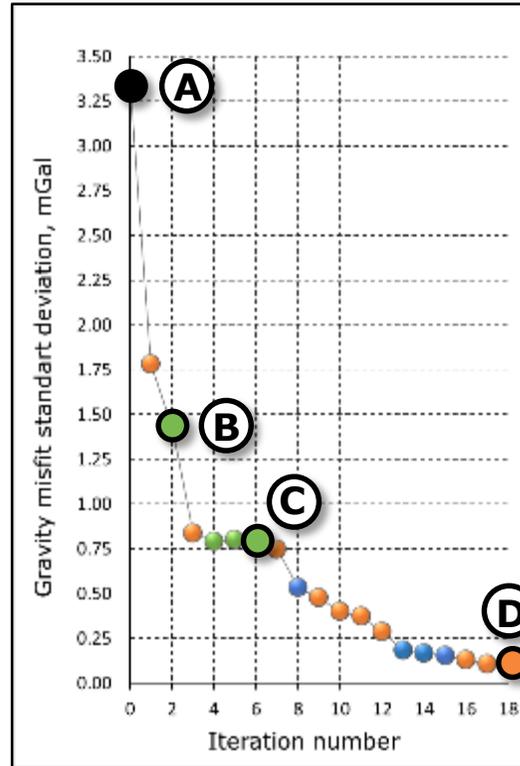
**SD = 1.430 mGal**

**(C)** - Determine the shape of salt body within fold in Stebnyk sediments by applying 3D linear gravity inversion.

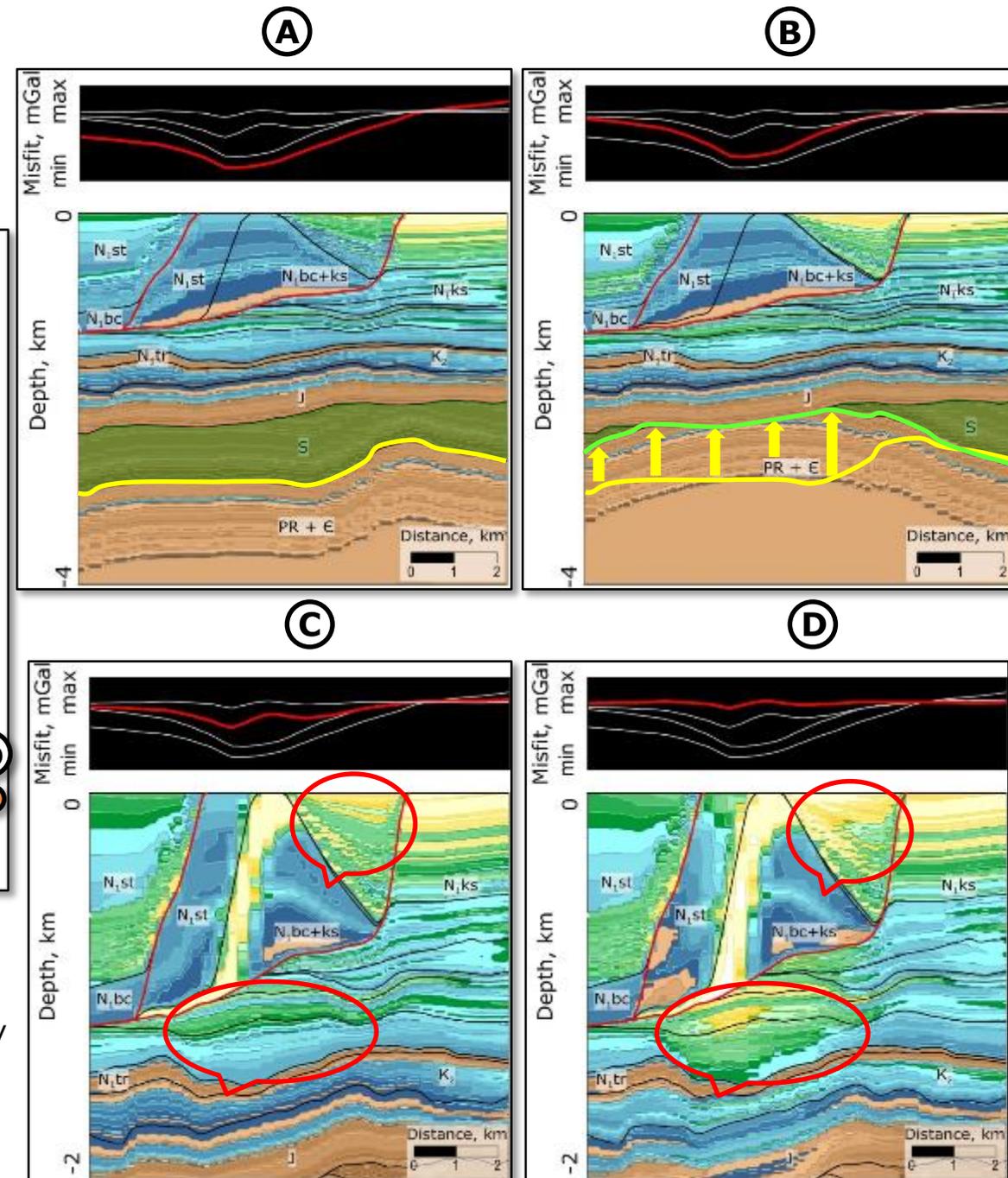
**SD = 0.800 mGal**

**(D)** - Determine the density inhomogeneous of the rock by applying active 3D+1D linear gravity inversion.

**SD = 0.096 mGal**



- - 3D non-linear gravity inversion
- - 3D passive linear gravity inversion
- - 3D active linear gravity inversion



# CASE STUDY

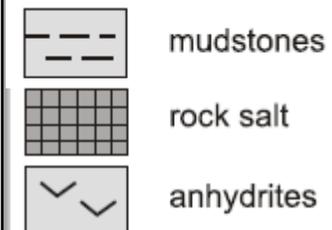
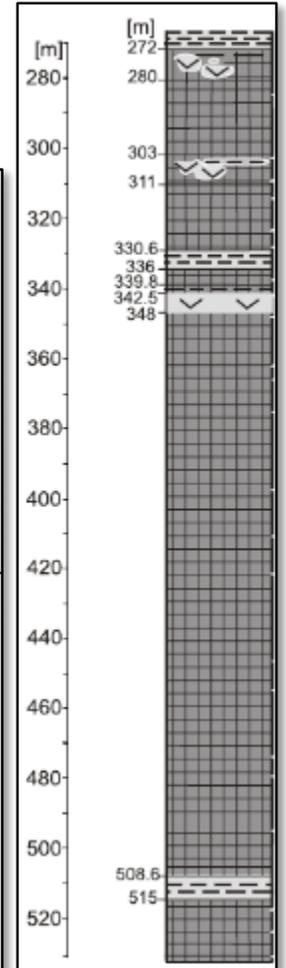
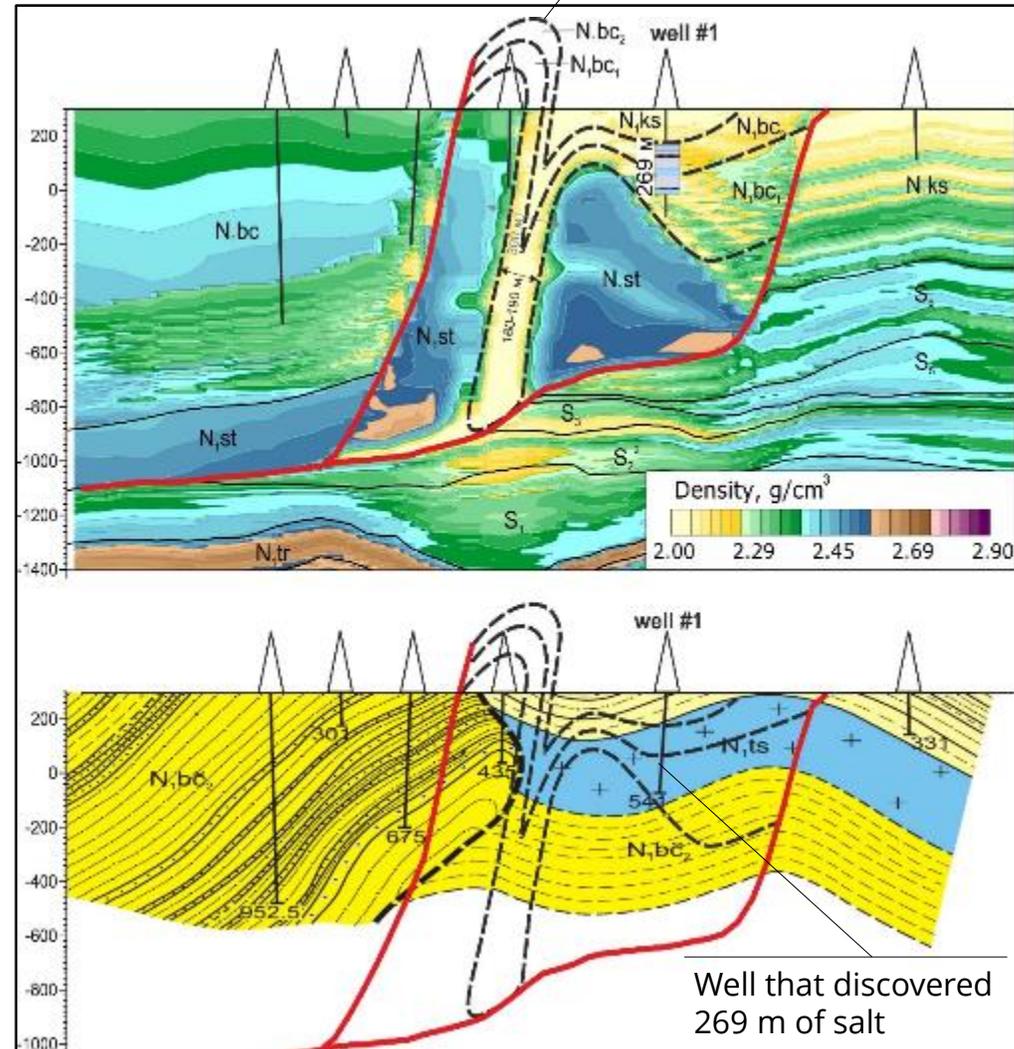
## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

Lithological profile  
of the well #1  
(by R.Galamay, 2014)

### Interpretation model of salt by the results of 3D gravity modelling

- The salt body was delineated by the contour that includes rocks with density values varying in a range from 2.05 to 2.27 g/cm<sup>3</sup> that corresponds to salt-bearing formation with <35% of clayey content
- True thickness of mapped salt-bearing formation is **160 – 190 m**
- The model does not contradict with well data collected while exploration project for potassium salt (boreholes shown on the cross sections were note involved into gravity inversion) and explains significant variability of salt thickness in neighboring boreholes

Dotted line - conceptual geological model of anticline folds the Sambir thrust



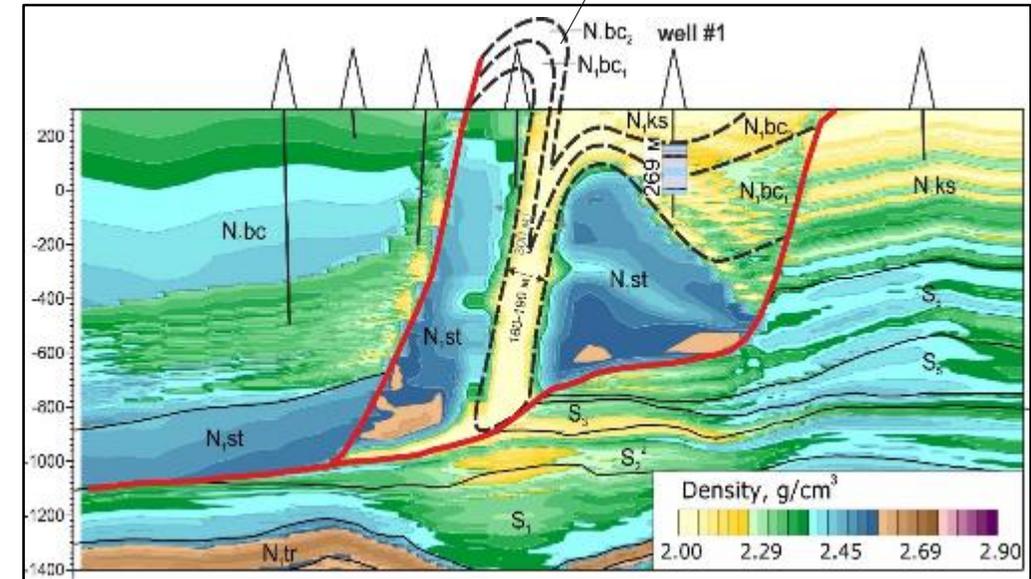
# CASE STUDY

## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

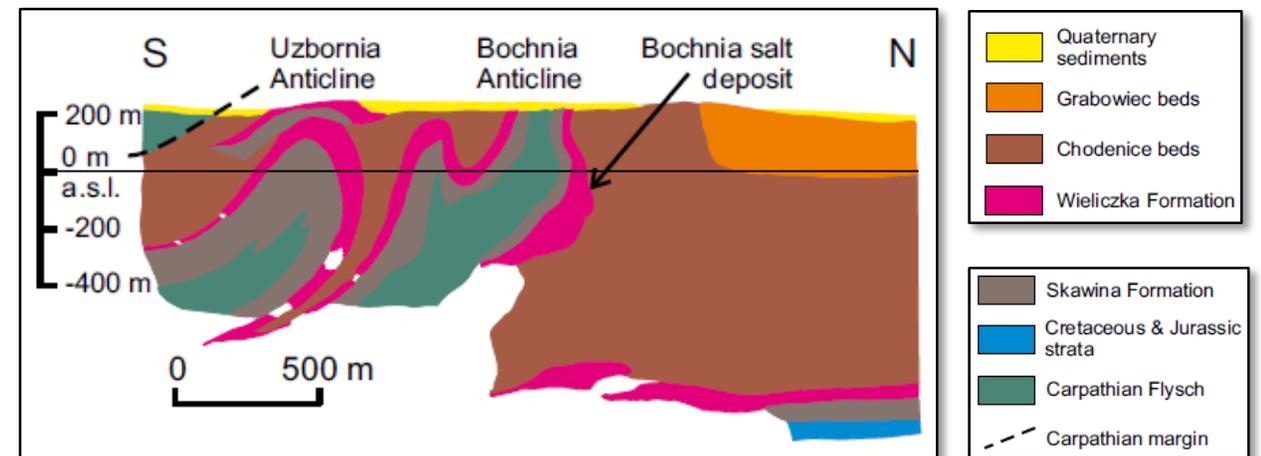
### ➤ The Badenian salt deposits in the Carpathian Foredeep in the southern part of Poland

- Most of the deposits are intensively folded and imbricated in front of the Carpathian nappes.
- Deposits of the salt-bearing formation occur at a depth from 50 to 800 m.
- The salt layers are from several to several hundred (via tectonic duplication) meters thick and include a considerable admixture of clay and anhydrite.

Dotted line - conceptual geological model of anticline folds the Sambir thrust



Geological cross-section of the Bochnia salt deposit (cited from J.Wiewiórka, 2008, by Poborski, 1952 Garlicki, 2008)



# CASE STUDY

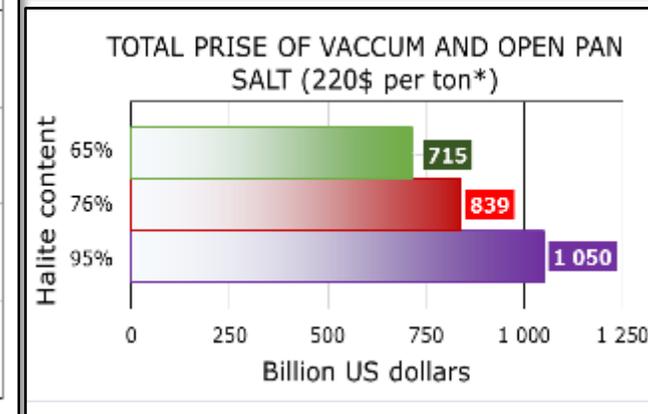
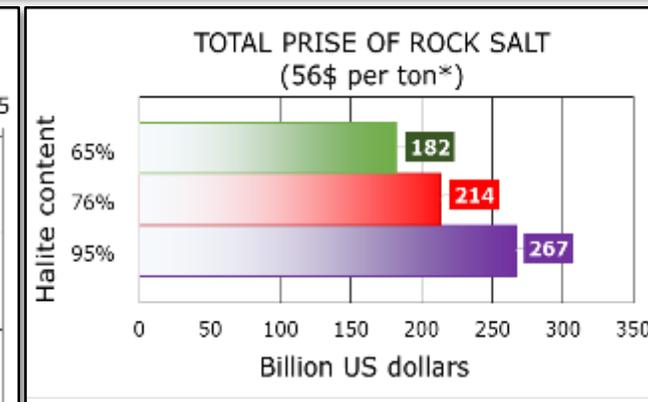
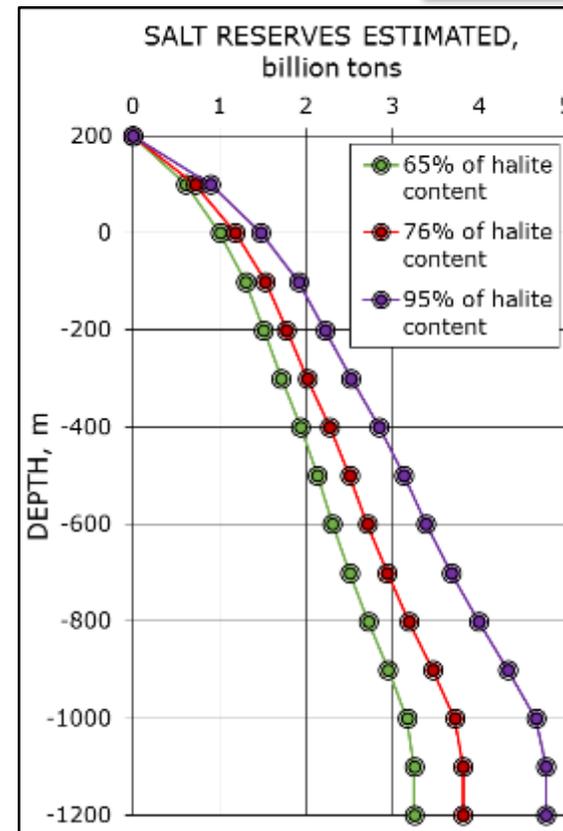
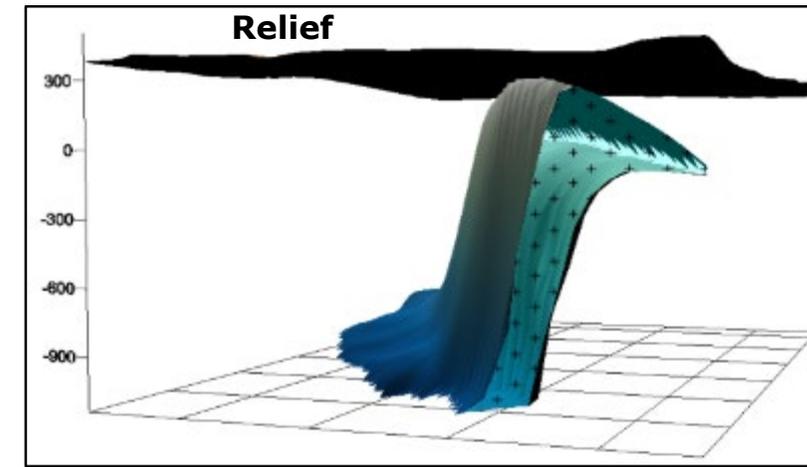
## FORE-CARPATHIAN THROUGH

### Dependence of salt reserves on maximum production depth

- The salt body was delineated by the contour that includes rocks with density values varying in a range from 2.05 to 2.27 g/cm<sup>3</sup>
- Minimum absolute depth to the salt top: +297 m
- Maximum absolute depth to the salt top: -1137.5 m
- Planar area: 9 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total volume of the production salt-bearing rock – 2.44 km<sup>3</sup>
- Total salt reserves: **3.25** - **3.81** - **4.77** billion tons
- Cost of reserves depending on halite content for **rock salt** (56\$ per ton\*) – **182** - **214** - **267** billion \$,
- for **vacuum and open pan salt** (220\$ per ton\*) – **715** - **839** - **1050** billion \$

\* <https://www.statista.com/statistics/916733/us-salt-prices-by-type/>

3D shape of the salt-bearing formation





**STUDY AREA**



# CASE STUDY DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN, UKRAINE

# CASE STUDY

## DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN

The study was performed in 2019 as a part of hydrocarbon exploration program on 2 old hydrocarbon fields being in the final stage of development

### 👉 Study area:

- Size – 548 sq. km (25.5 x 21.5 km)
- Depth to basement (AR-PR)  $\approx$  20 km

### 👉 Survey performed:

- high-accuracy gravity survey (1:10 000) by digital gravimeters Scintrex CG-5 (Canada)  
Error  $\pm$  5.7  $\mu$ kGal
- high-accuracy magnetic survey (1:10 000) by cesium magnetometers Geometries G-859 (USA)  
Error  $\pm$  1.25 nTl

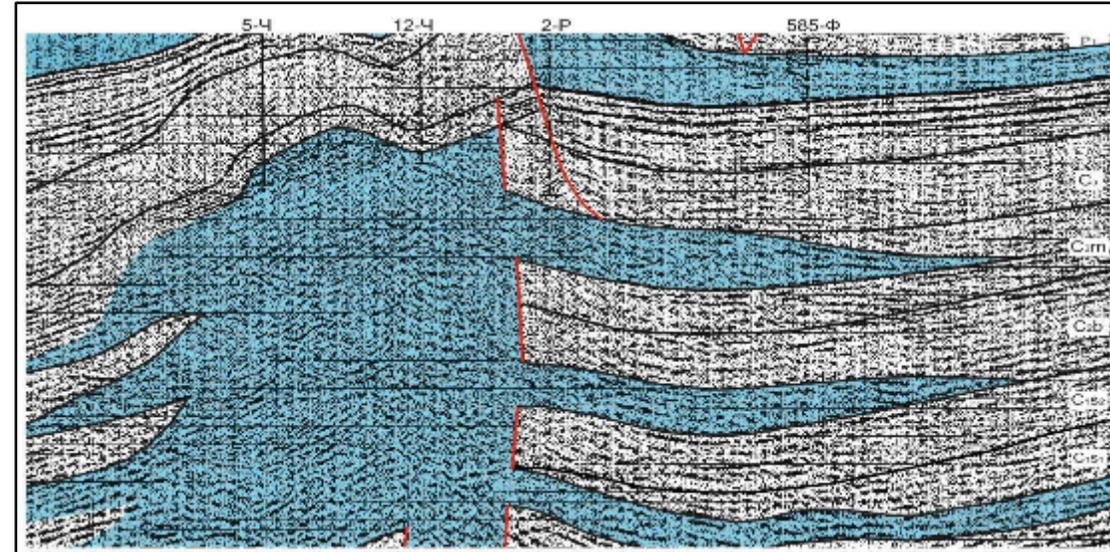
### 👉 Study objectives:

- Commercial gas-bearing pools mapping

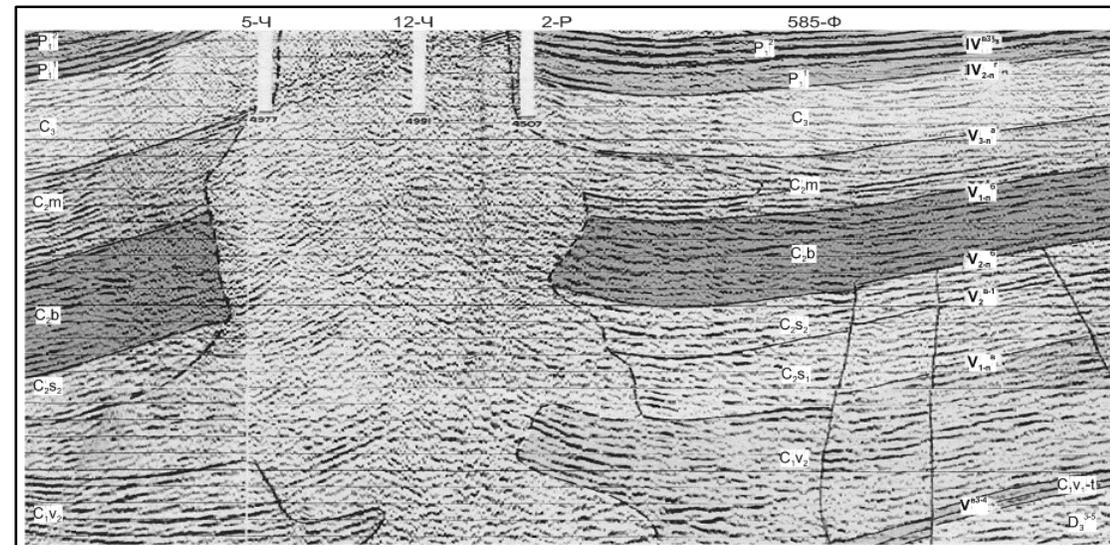
### 👉 Salt deposits:

- Salt diapir in central part of the study area breaches over 10 km of Carboniferous-Permian sequence. The top of the salt (by borehole data) is -150 m below sea level

Interpretation models of salt diapir



by Larin S., UkrDGRI



by SE Ukrgeofizyka

# CASE STUDY

## DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN

### Model dimensions

- Lateral – 25.5 x 21.5 km
- Depth – 25 km

### Input data

- 2D legacy seismic data
- High precision gravity data
- Well logs
- Petrophysics by core

### Initial density properties

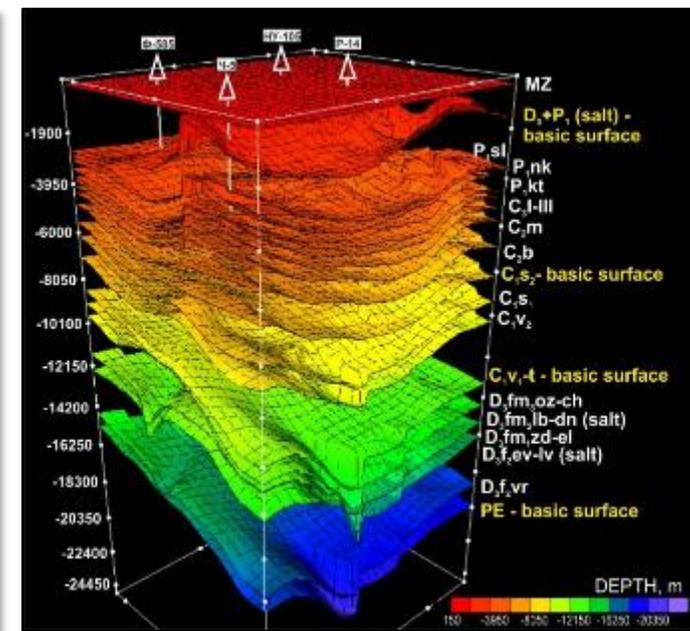
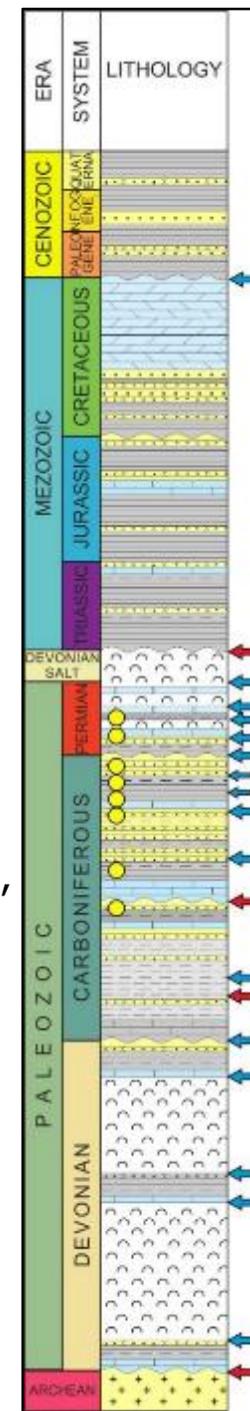
- Generalized core data
- Sonic log
- Lithology and saturation by well log interpretation

### 3D structural model

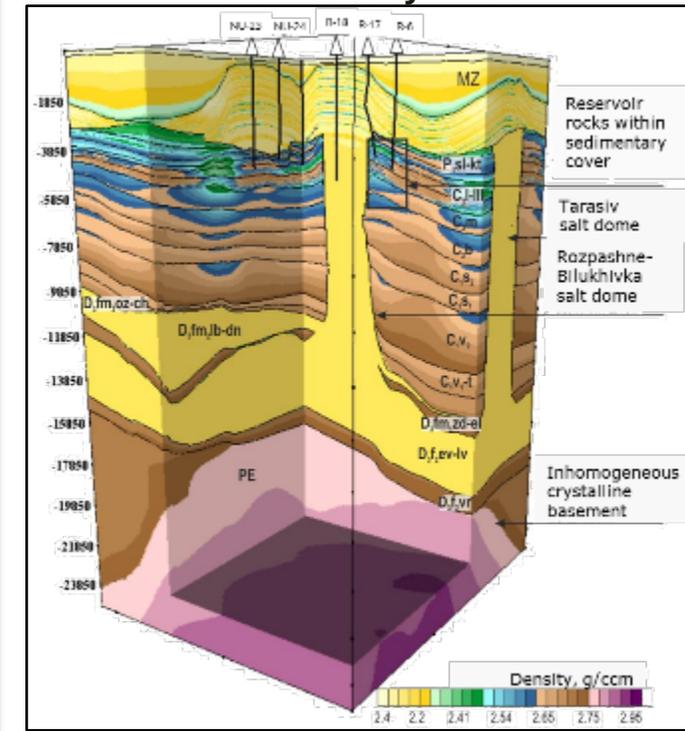
- **20** structural surfaces based on 2D seismic data and well tops:
- **4** basic stratigraphic surfaces: PE, C1t-v1, C1s2, D3+P1(salt)
- **16** intermediate stratigraphic surfaces: D<sub>3</sub>f<sub>2</sub>vr, D<sub>3</sub>f<sub>2</sub>ev-lv (salt), D<sub>3</sub>fm1zd-el, D<sub>3</sub>fm<sub>2</sub>lb-dn (salt), D<sub>3</sub>fm<sub>3</sub>oz-ch, C<sub>1</sub>v<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>s<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>b, C<sub>2</sub>m, C<sub>3</sub>-III, C<sub>3</sub>-II, C<sub>3</sub>-I, P<sub>1</sub>kt, P<sub>1</sub>nk, P<sub>1</sub>sl+km, MZ

### 3D property model

- Parallelepiped as elementary cell, 100 m x 100 m x 20 m
- Voxel model consisting of 68.9 million of cells



Final 3D density model

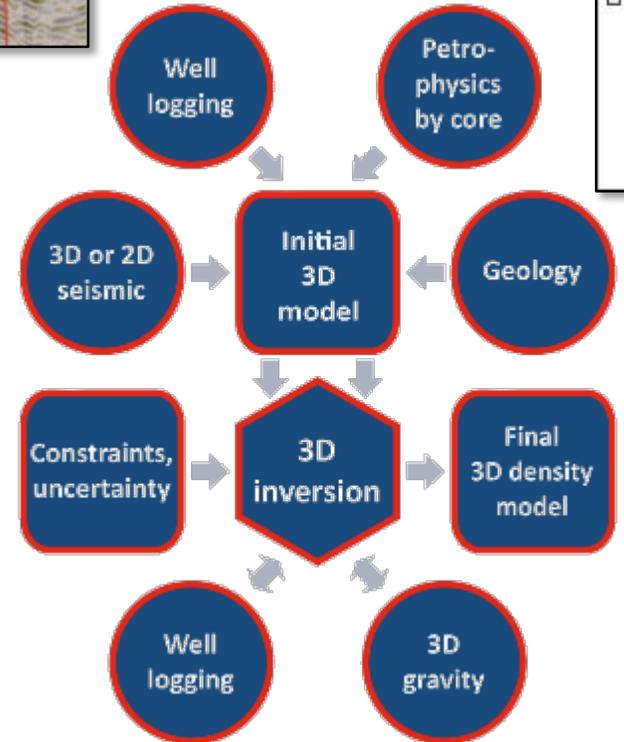
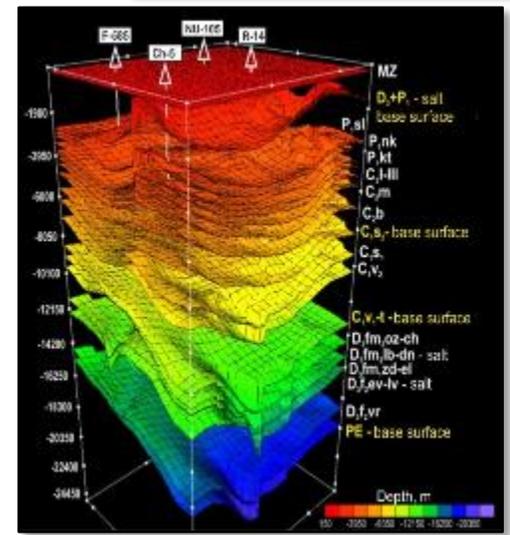
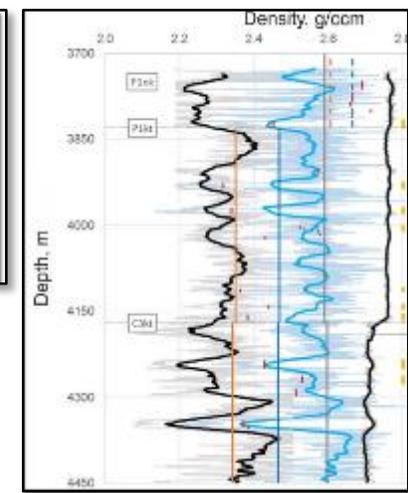
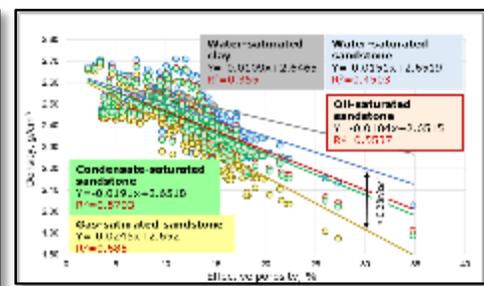
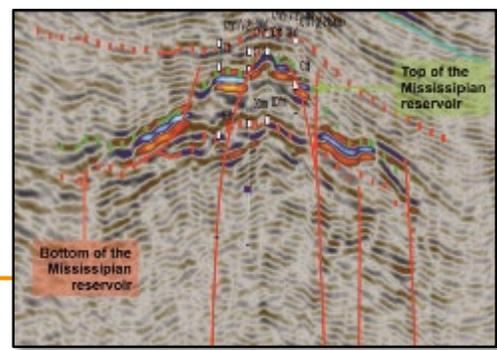


# CASE STUDY DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN

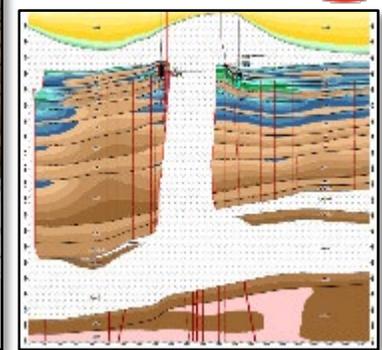
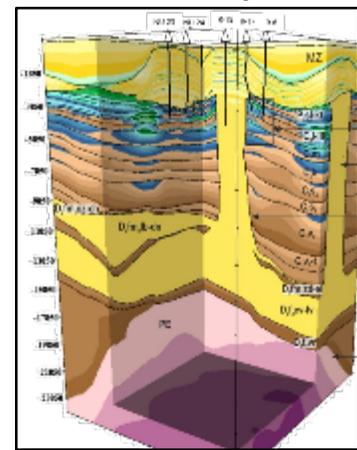
## ➤ In order to solve geological tasks exploration activities involved:

- Comprehensive analysis and generalization of all available geophysical data set.
- Creation of 3D density model based on the joint inversion of gravity, well log, seismic, well production and additional geological data.\*
- Final 3D structural model and 3D model of rock density were used to determine the shape of salt body, to trace new tectonic elements around the salt dome and to predict distribution of known and new gas-bearing reservoirs.

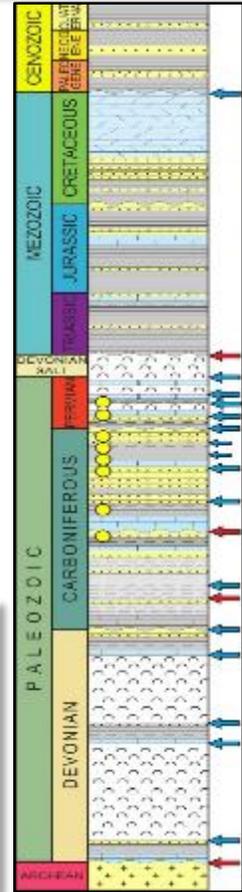
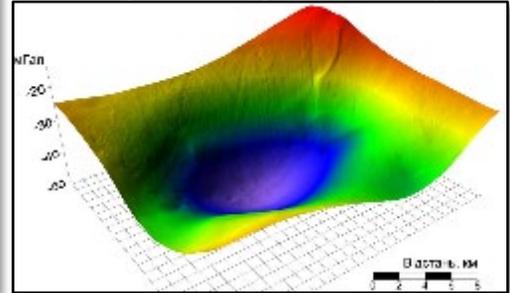
\* Petrovskyy, 2005



Final 3D density model



Complete Bouguer anomaly



# CASE STUDY

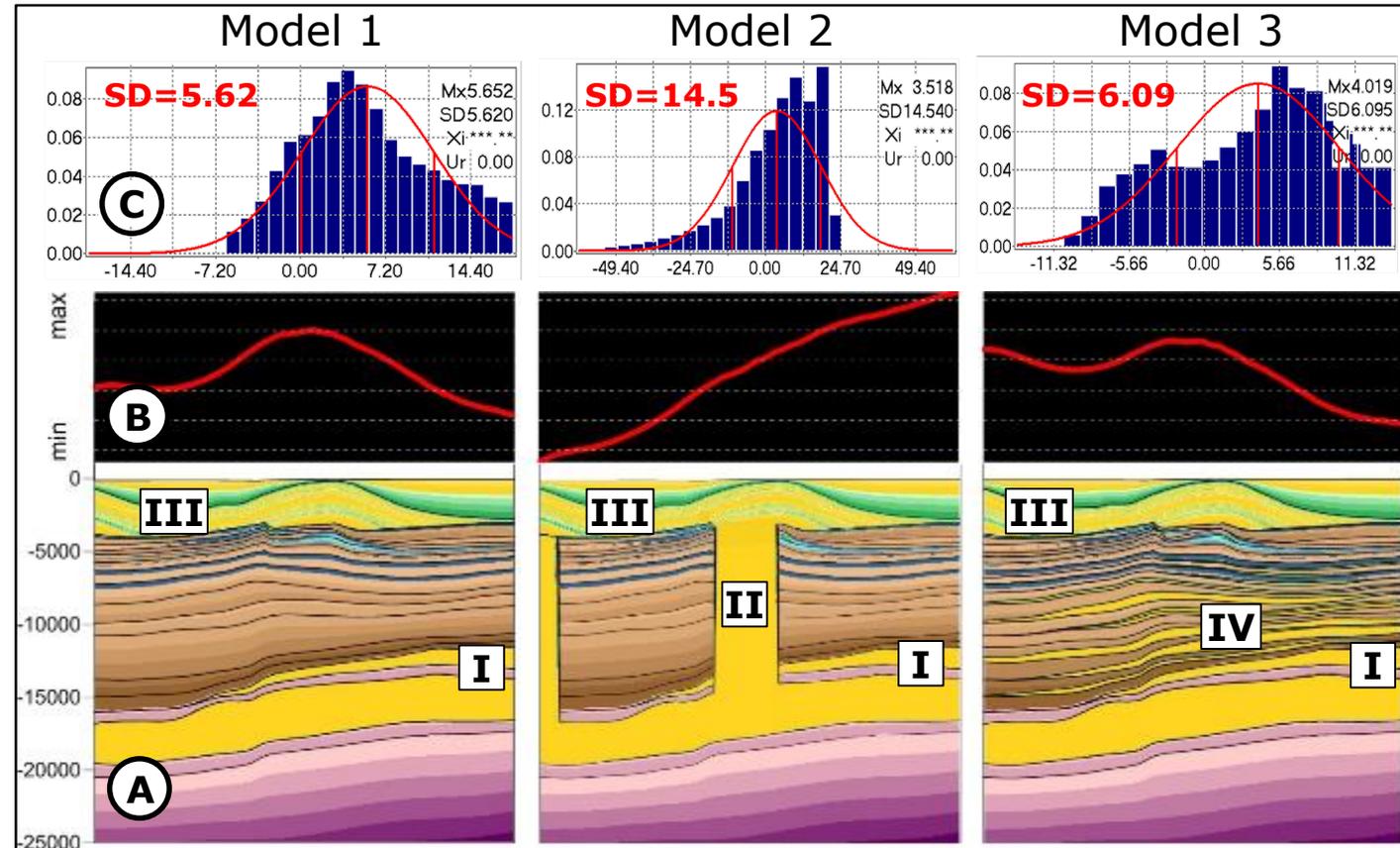
## DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN

### Geologically consistent initial 3D models of rock density gravity verification for different cases of initial salt body shapes

- Due to significant uncertainties of salt mapping by seismic, **three** different models were considered as a basic model for further 3D gravity inversion

### Base elements of the salt body shape

- I** – Autochthonous salt layers in the Frasnian and Famennian formations of the Upper Devonian
- II** - Salt stem breaching Carboniferous-Permian overburden
- III** – Allochthonous salt sheet in Lower Permian formations
- IV** - Salt wings in the Middle and Lower Carboniferous formations



**A** – 3D model of rocks density cross-section

**B** – Observed and calculated gravity fields misfit

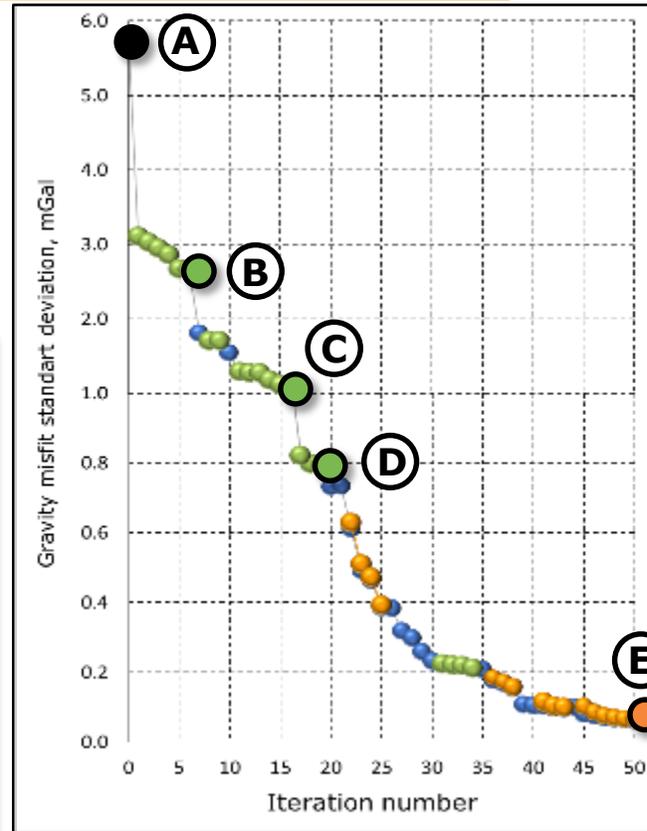
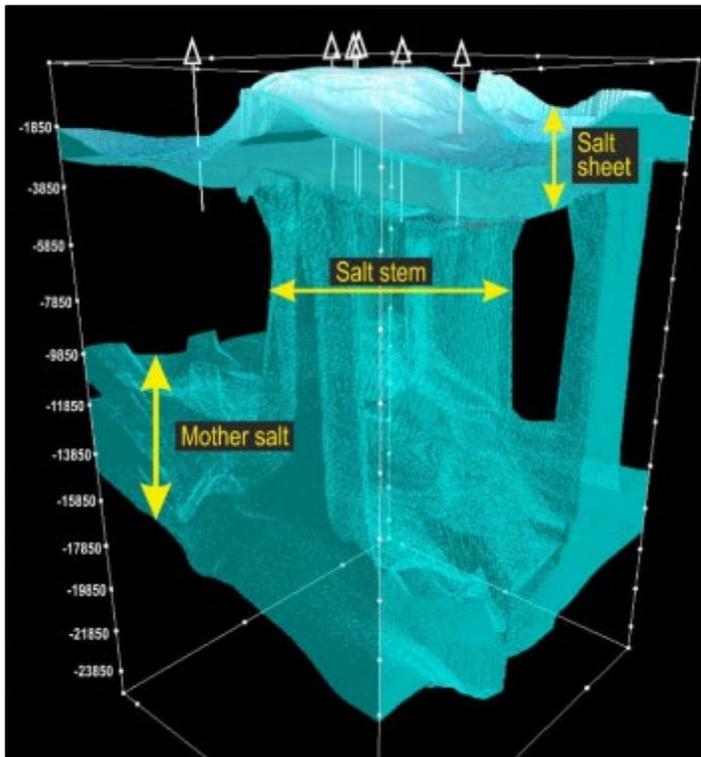
**C** – Gravity misfit histogram and standard deviation (**SD**) for normal distribution of a random variable (**red line**)

# CASE STUDY

## DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN

➔ **Determining the salt body shape by applying 3D non-linear gravity inversion**

3D shape of salt body



- - 3D non-linear gravity inversion
- - 3D passive linear gravity inversion
- - 3D active linear gravity inversion

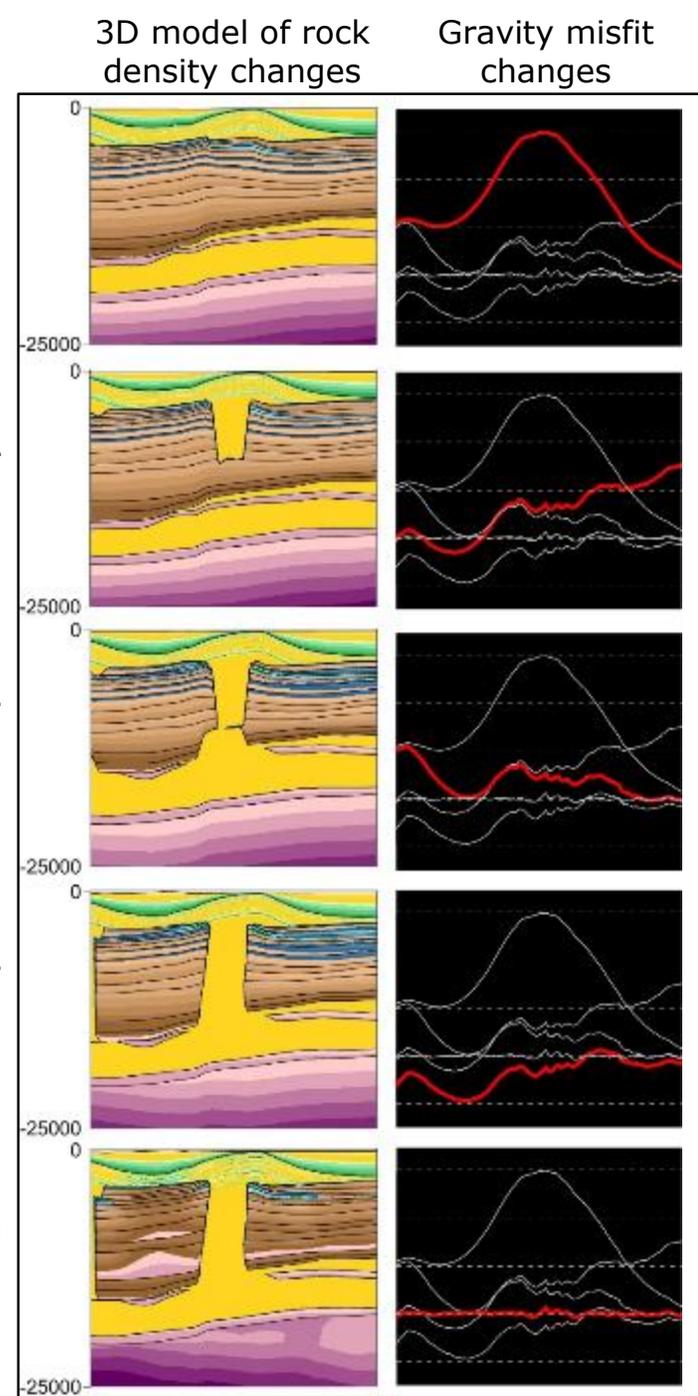
**(A)**  
Initial model  
without salt dom  
SD - 5.620 mGal

**(B)**  
Model after  
Iteration 6  
SD - 2.660 mGal

**(C)**  
Model after  
Iteration 16  
SD - 1.050 mGal

**(D)**  
Model after  
Iteration 19  
SD - 0.790 mGal

**(E)**  
Final model  
after Iteration 52  
with salt dom  
SD - 0.065 mGal

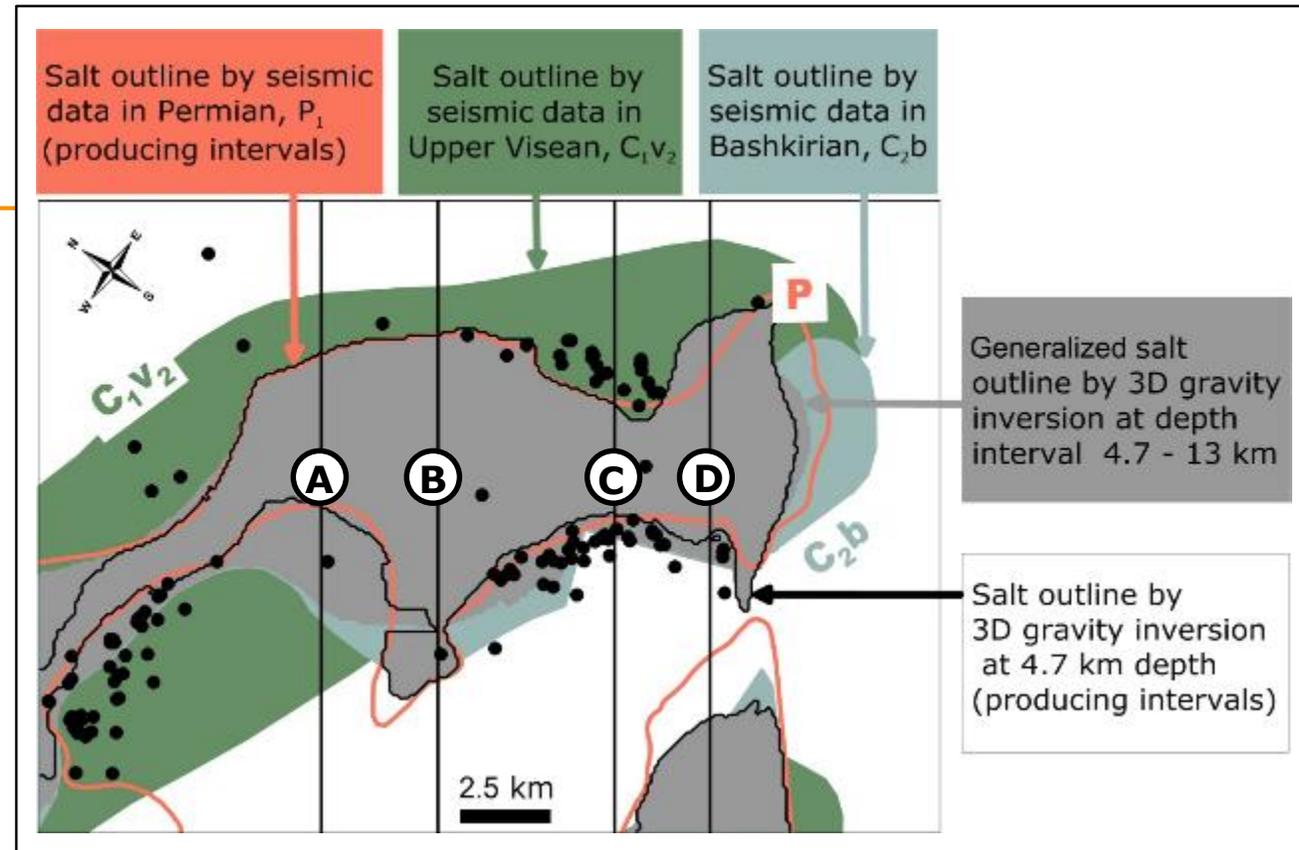


# CASE STUDY

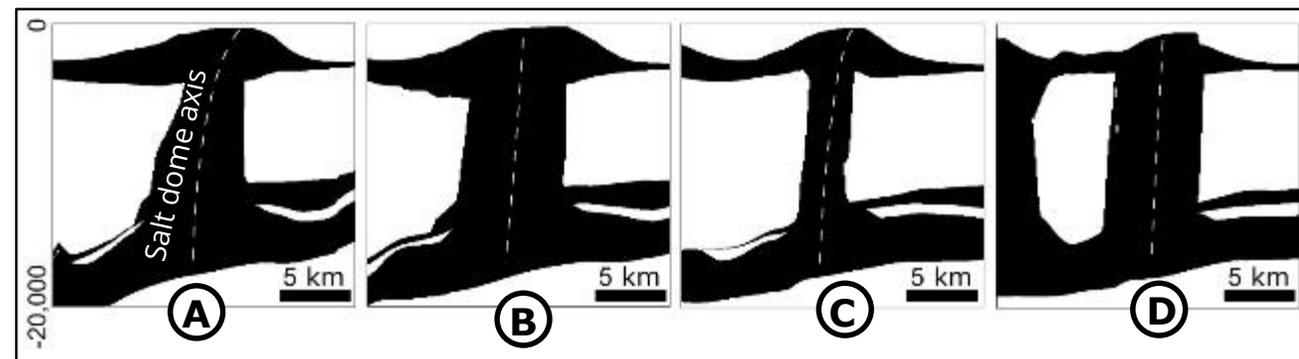
## DNIEPER-DONETS BASIN

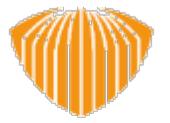
### Comparison of the final 3D model of rock density with previous 2D seismic data interpretation

- Compare to the seismic data size of the salt dome:
- For the Visean strata is smaller
- For Permian and Upper Carboniferous is similar but there are two location where it is larger
- The axis of salt dome is inclined towards the Northern flank of Dnieper-Donets depression
- Southwestern wall of the salt dome is more gently sloped, northeastern wall is sub-vertical (with negative angle)



Ⓐ – cross-sections





# CASE STUDY TRANSCARPATHIAN BASIN, UKRAINE



# CASE STUDY

## TRANSCARPATHIAN THROUGH

The study was performed in 2010 as a part of hydrocarbon re-exploration project within two operating gas fields

### Study area:

- Location – Transcarpathian Through
- Size – 144 km<sup>2</sup> (14.4 x 10 km)
- Depth to the basement ≈ 7 km

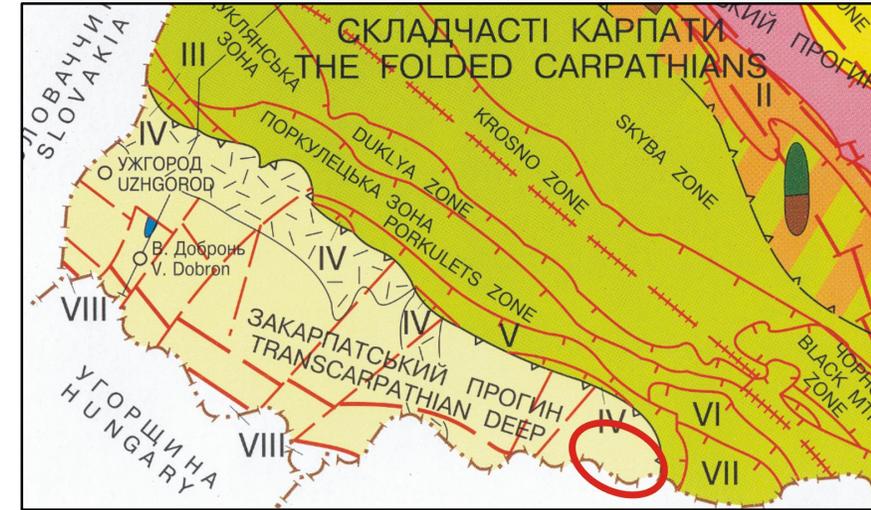
### Study objectives:

- Commercial gas-bearing pools mapping

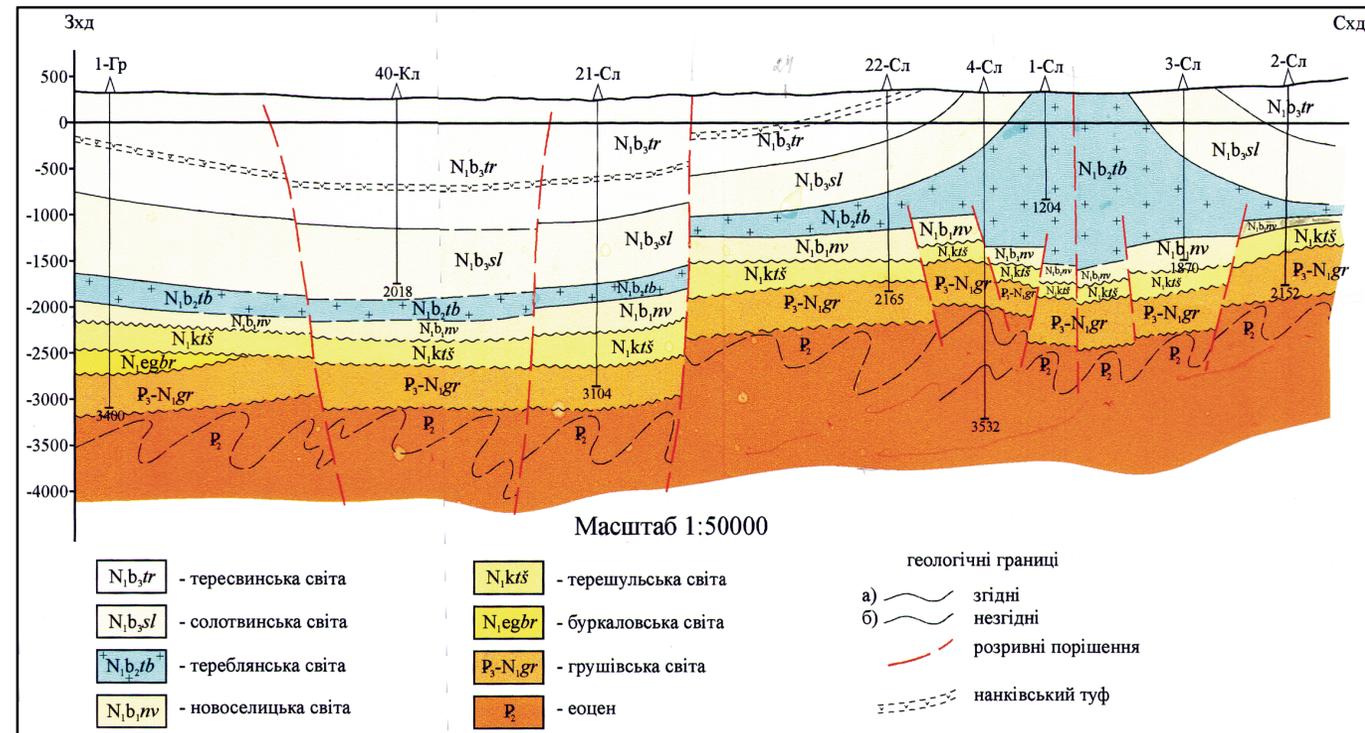
### Salt:

- Tereblja Formation salt pierces Neogene clastic sequence and outcrops to the west from the field. Due to alternation with clastics rocks on the top and bottom of salty sequence the last is not imaged on the seismic data.

Tectonic scheme of Carpathian region



Geological cross-section by P. Lozyniak, Yu. Malevych, 2005



# CASE STUDY

## TRANSCARPATHIAN THROUGH

### ➤ Model dimensions

- Lateral 14.4 x 10 km
- Depth 7 km

### ➤ Input data

- 2D legacy seismic
- Complete Bouguer gravity (1:50 000)
- Well logs
- Petrophysics by core

### ➤ Initial density properties

- Generalized core data
- Sonic log
- Lithology and saturation by well log interpretation

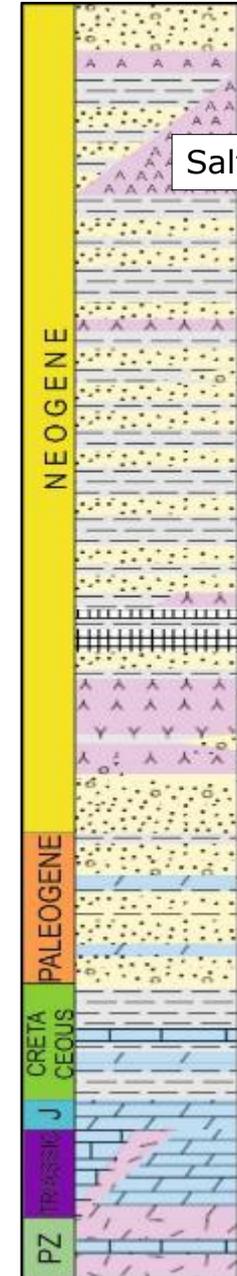
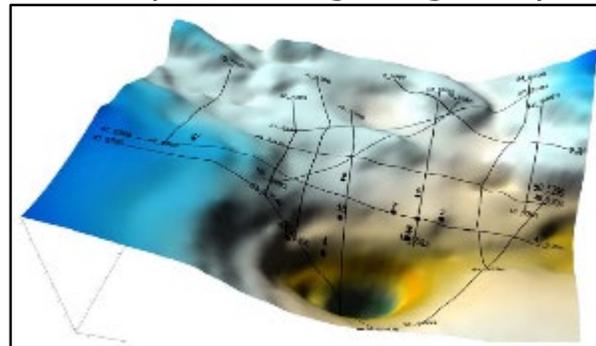
### ➤ Structural model

- 7 structural surfaces featuring the structure of Neogene and Paleogene formations

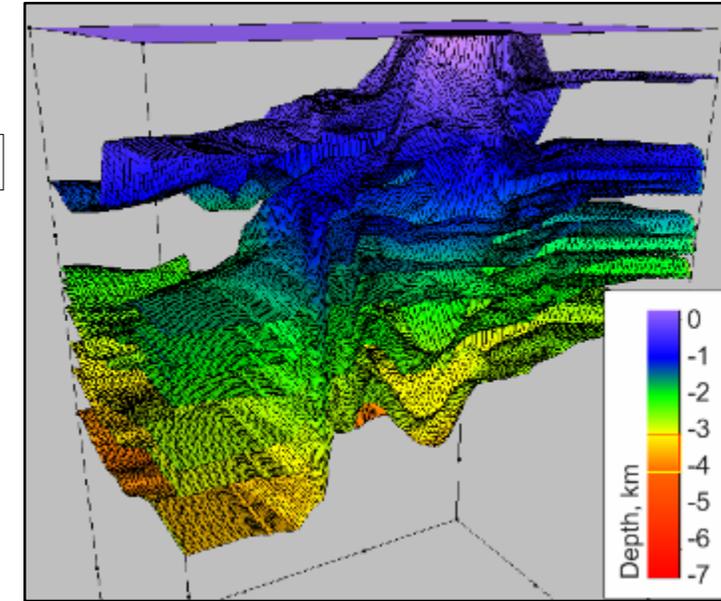
### ➤ Property model

- Parallelepiped as elementary cell, 100 m x 100 m x 50 m in size
- Voxel model consisting of 2 million of cells

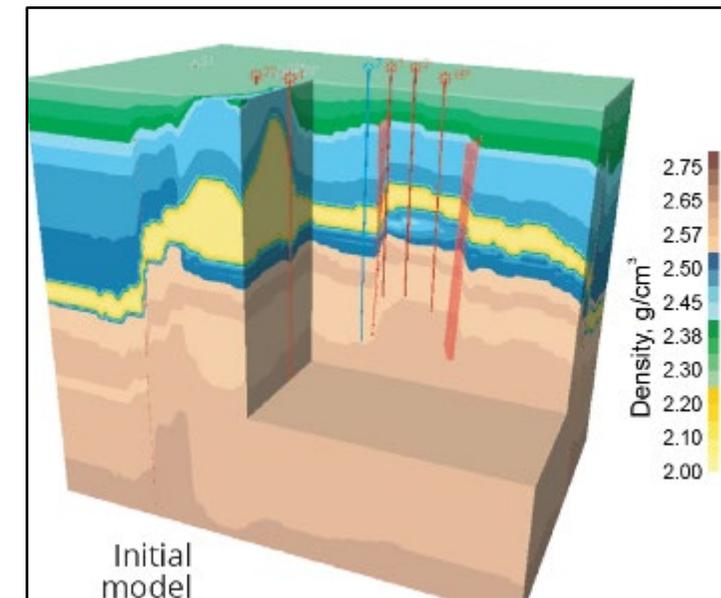
Complete Bouguer gravity



Initial 3D structural model



Initial 3D model of rock density



# CASE STUDY

## TRANSCARPATHIAN THROUGH

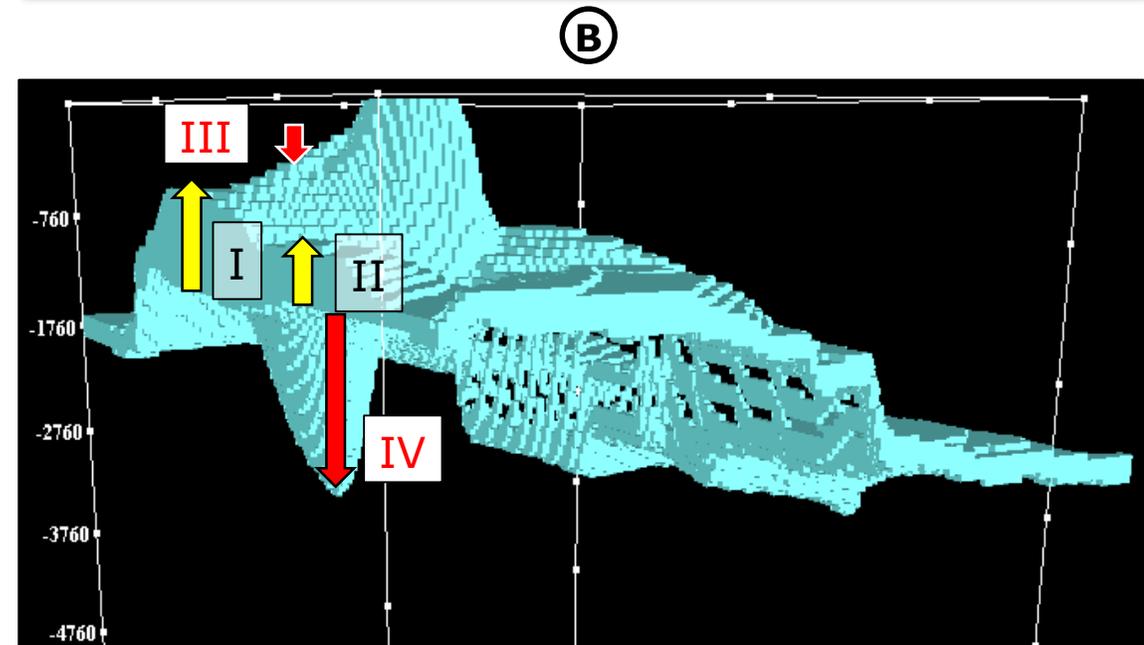
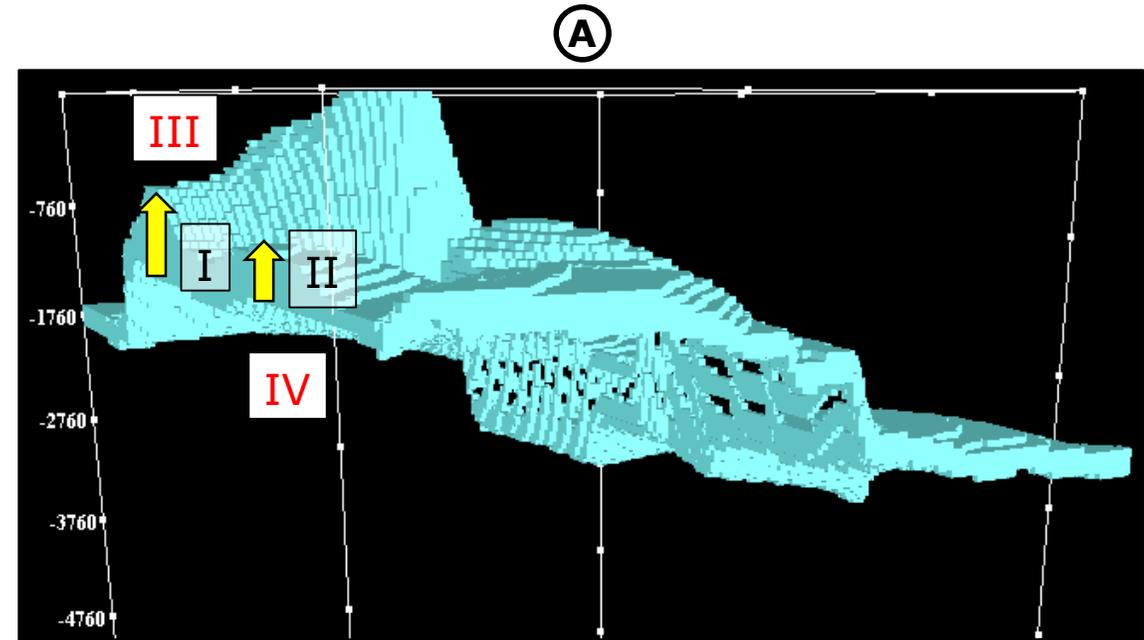
### 👉 Salt body shape by input data - (A)

Data used to create the initial 3D structural model of the salt body:

- 2D geological cross-sections
- Salt outcropping contour
- Salt body contour at absolute depth level of 0 m
- Stratigraphic well tops from 3 boreholes

### 👉 Salt body shape by 3D gravity inversion - (B)

- Significant increase of salt-bearing deposit thickness (I and II)
- Salt bottom reaches -2680 m depth which is 1420 m deeper than in the initial 3D structural model before applying 3D non-linear gravity inversion (IV)

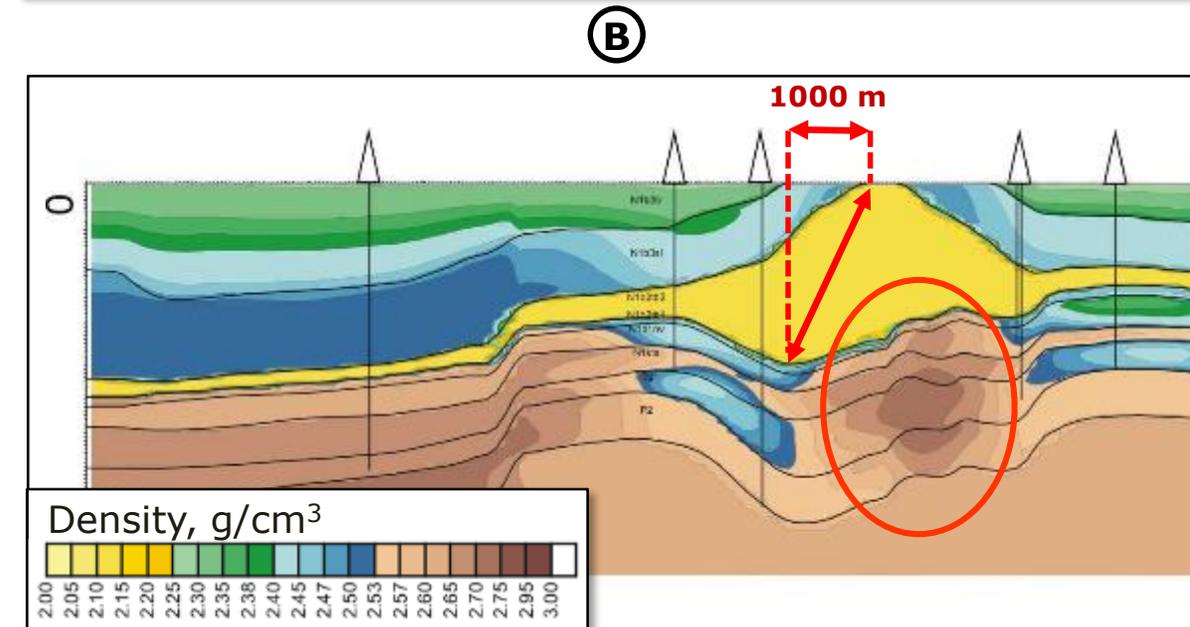
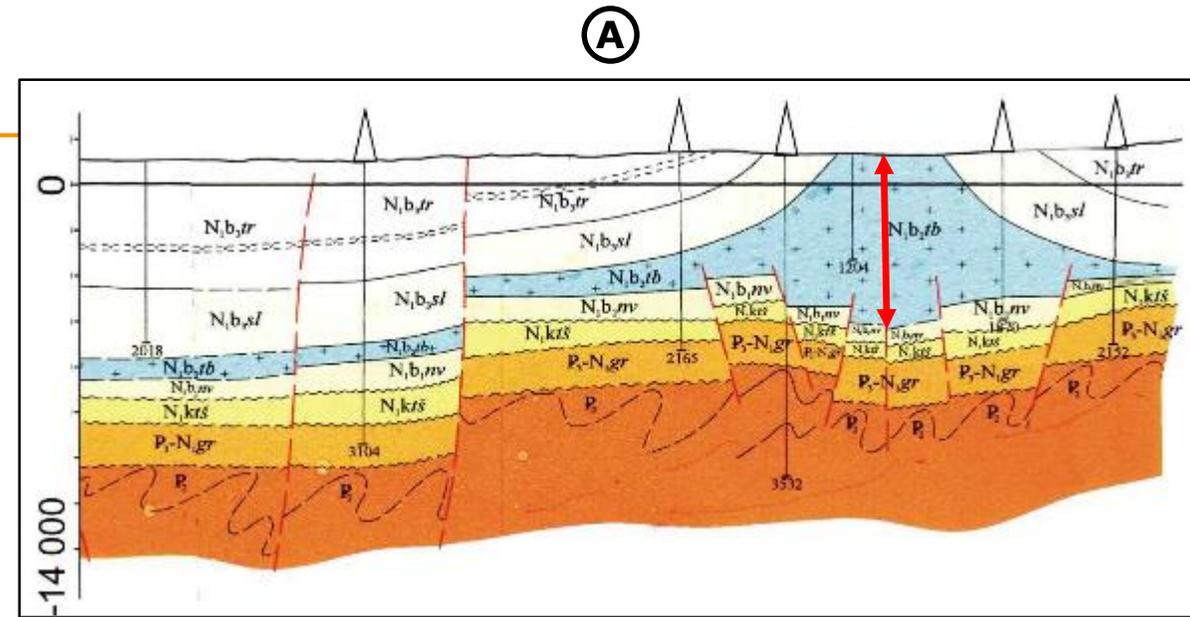


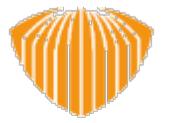
# CASE STUDY

## TRANSCARPATHIAN THROUGH

### Conclusion by 3D gravity inversion results

- Unlike the initial geological structure (A), 3D gravity inversion results showed that the horizontal projection of the most deeply buried (>2 km) part of the salt body does not match the position of the salt outcrop. There is more than 1000 m lateral shift to the west of structure – read arrow (B)
- An uplifted block of high density rocks has been mapped under the salt-bearing deposit below its outcropping. Apparently, vertical movements of the block caused redistribution of salt and its outcrop placement
- The value of rock density inside mapped block indicates its intrusive origin. This confirmed by the well drilling result. Intrusive vein formations have been opened by the well



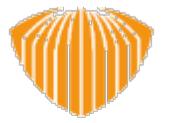


## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### CONCLUSIONS

- The technology for commercial salt deposits mapping by 3D gravity, well log and seismic data inversion has been developed and implemented for exploration with geological success rate over **85%**.
- **New large deposit of table salt** has been mapped in the territory of Ukraine. Estimated salt reserves – **4.77 billion tons**. Cost of the reserves with total current price for vacuum and open pan salt production is **1050 billion \$**.



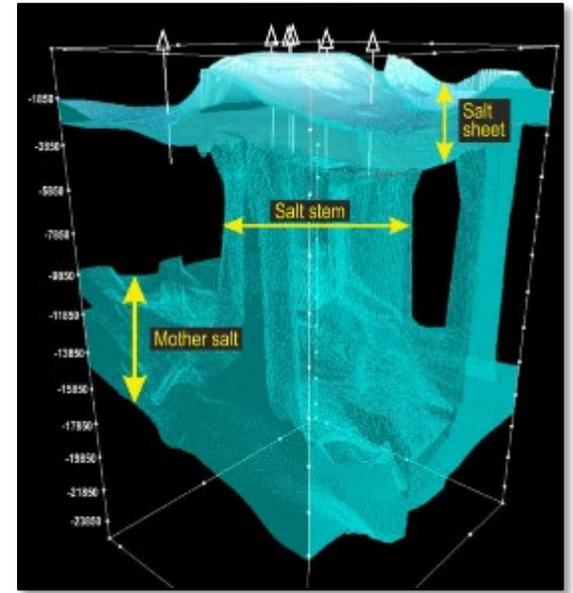


## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### PROPOSALS

- To **found a joint venture** for salt production from discovered deposit in Western Ukraine
- To **apply** the «Technology for commercial salt deposits mapping by 3D gravity, well log and seismic data inversion» for **re-exploration** of known commercial salt deposits within the licenses owned by the venture
- To **apply** the «Technology for commercial salt deposits mapping by 3D gravity, well log and seismic data inversion» in order to **discover** new commercial salt deposits within the licenses owned by the venture and new prospective areas in Europe and worldwide





# TECHNOLOGY FOR COMMERCIAL SALT DEPOSITS MAPPING BY 3D GRAVITY, WELL LOG AND SEISMIC DATA INVERSION

