A new repository of electrical resistivity tomography and ground penetrating radar data from summer 2022 near Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard

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Abstract.

We present the geophysical data set acquired in the summer of 2022 close to Ny-Ålesund (Western Svalbard, Brøggerhalvøya peninsula - Norway) as part of the project ICEtoFLUX. The aim of the investigation is to characterize the role of groundwater flow in correspondence of the active layer as well as through and/or below the permafrost. The data set is composed of Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys, which are well-known geophysical techniques for the characterization of glacial and hydrological processes and features. 18 ERT profiles and 10 GPR lines were acquired, for a total surveyed length of 9.3 km. The data have been organized in a consistent repository that includes both raw and processed (filtered) data. Some representative examples of 2D models of the subsurface are provided, that is, 2D sections of electrical resistivity (from ERT) and 2D radargrams (from GPR). These examples can support the identification of the active layer, the occurrence of spatial variation of soil conditions at depth, and the presence of groundwater flow through the permafrost. The resistivity models revealed deep resistive structures, probably related to the heterogeneous permafrost, which are often interrupted by electrically conductive regions, that may relate to aquifers and/or faults. To a large extent, the data set can provide new insight into the hydrological dynamics and polar and climate changes studies on the Ny-Ålesund area. The data set is of major relevance because there is little geophysical data published about the Ny-Ålesund area. Moreover, these geophysical data can foster multidisciplinary scientific collaborations in the fields of hydrology, glaciology, climate, geology, geomorphology, etc. The geophysical data are provided in a free repository and can be accessed at the repository under data doi (Pace et al., 2023, https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10260056).

1 Introduction

35   The Earth's interior and its physical properties are imaged by quantitative methods. Geophysical measurements on the Earth's surface can reveal how the subsurface physical properties vary in space, and possibly in time.

   The Svalbard Archipelago (High Arctic Norway, see Fig. 1a) is believed to be a representative typical Arctic critical environment (Dallmann, 2015). The location of the Svalbard Archipelago is ideal for observing the Arctic environment in general, from the perspectives of glaciology, geology, biodiversity, and impact of climate change (Gevers et al., 2023).

40   Climate change heavily affects the Arctic hydrologic dynamics, generating significant environmental modifications and potentially leading to the climatic feedback and warming amplification (Wadhams, 2017).

   Ny-Ålesund is the northernmost settlement in the world (79° North), located in western Spitsbergen in the Svalbard Archipelago (see Fig. 1b). It serves as a scientific hub for the international research community and its logistical support (Paglia, 2020). Ny-Ålesund represents an outstanding natural lab for any topics of scientific research in the Arctic, being

45   situated in the Kongsfjorden fjord, where glaciers, rivers, coast, sea, atmosphere, animals, plants and their interaction can be monitored (Gevers et al., 2023; Pedersen et al., 2022). From a geophysical point of view, the Svalbard Archipelago is interesting because of the presence of permafrost with seasonal active layer, springs, aquifers, sea water and old coal mines. Spatial heterogeneity in geophysical properties is expected due to the local lithology and structural framework as well as the geomorphologic features linked to the past movement of the glaciers (Orvin, 1934; Dallmann, 2015).

50   Ny-Ålesund is also an ideal place for hydrogeological studies, because 3 km away from the settlement there is the Bayelva River catchment, where the entire water cycle from the glaciers to the sea can be studied within an area of a few squared kilometers (see Fig.1). Applied geophysics can be of great help to unravel the complexity of the water cycle and to improve knowledge about groundwater flow by means of non-destructive measurements from the surface (Hauck and Kneisel, 2008), 2008). In formerly glacierized watersheds, hydrologic processes are evolving, with new storage mechanisms and distribution

55   of water resources, such as more persistent rivers and developed groundwater systems. Over the past years, investigations on the Arctic freshwater increased but wide knowledge about processes that govern water flow dynamics in High Arctic basins is still quite limited (Svendsen et al., 2002).

   Geophysical techniques, such as Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), passive and active seismic methods (Kula et al., 2018), and electromagnetic induction (EMI) methods (Kasprzak, 2020; Hill, 2020),

60   have been used to survey Arctic areas all around the world, for example to detect heterogeneity in the permafrost, to monitor glacial and periglacial processes or to understand the role of ice in the hydrology (Hauck and Kneisel, 2008; Rossi et al., 2022). EMI methods have been adopted in the Svalbard Archipelago to characterize geology (Beka et al., 2015, 2017b; Beka, 2016), possible geothermal applications (Beka et al., 2016) and CO_2 storage (Beka et al., 2017a). This paper focuses on the ERT and the GPR methods for the reasons explained below.

65   The ERT method has been successfully adopted in the Arctic environment because of its effectiveness in imaging the variation in the electrical resistivity values of aquifers, permafrost, and active layer, both in the first meters of subsoil and at

depth, depending on the chosen electrode spacing. They can be easily distinguished by the different resistivity values: high for the permafrost and low for the water-saturated soil. The GPR method is largely adopted for glaciological studies because the radar signal travels easily and with little attenuation in pure ice, reaching hundreds of meters in ideal conditions.

70   Moreover, given that the traveling time and impedance of the GPR signal are based on the dielectric permittivity of the material, the GPR method can clearly distinguish frozen and non-frozen conditions, because ice and water have different values of dielectric permittivity.

Several goals have been achieved by investigating the permafrost by means of GPR and ERT (or their combination) to monitor its temporal variations (Westermann et al., 2010), its physical properties (Schwamborn et al., 2005), the properties

75   of the patterned ground typical of permafrost areas (Park et al., 2023), its water content coupled with Time Domain Reflectometry (Lee et al., 2018), its impacts to quarry activities (Koster and Kruse, 2016), and landslide phenomena (Kuschel et al., 2019).

The surroundings of Ny-Ålesund have been previously investigated by means of ERT surveys for glacier and landslide monitoring and GPR surveys for glaciological studies. The Research in Svalbard Portal provides the list of the past and

80   present projects carried out around Ny-Ålesund and adopting geophysical techniques. A non-exhaustive list is composed of the projects PRISM, SEISMOGLAC and CalvingSEIS, GRAVITE, among the others. Other non-geophysical studies involving the surroundings of Ny-Ålesund included borehole investigations, geotechnical surveys, numerical modeling and other complementary measurements of the soil or groundwater. The Bayelva catchment has been largely investigated from a glaciological standpoint (Boike et al., 2018), but there are sporadic studies on its freshwater (Doveri et al., 2019; Repp, 1988;

85   Haldorsen and Heim, 1999; Killingtveit et al., 2003).

However, even though numerous studies about Ny-Ålesund adopted ERT or GPR techniques, most of them did not focus on the characterization of the permafrost, that was mainly investigated by boreholes. In addition, no research has been found that provided spatially extensive information about the permafrost distribution all over the Ny-Ålesund area, at both scales of the active layer and deep aquifers.

90   The ICEtoFLUX (I2F) project has been funded by the Italian Plan for Research in the Arctic and stands for HydrologIcal changes in ArctiC Environments and water-driven biogeochemical FLUXes (https://www.icetoflux.eu/). I2F focuses on the hydrologic dynamics and related effects in the Bayelva River catchment, from its glacial and periglacial systems down to the Kongsfjorden fjord sector affected by the river. Experimental activities on hydrology, geo- and environmental chemistry, microbiology and geophysics, and numerical modelling, all concerning water cycle components, were planned and carried

95   out to quantify hydrologic processes and related biotic-abiotic transports. Four piezometers were drilled and monitored in the frame of the I2F project to be used as benchmark for the geophysical study.

We carried out an integrated geophysical survey in the proglacial zone of the glaciers Vestre and Austre Brøggerbreen close to the Ny-Ålesund settlement (Fig. 1c). The geophysical techniques adopted were ERT and GPR due to their well-established advantages in the Arctic environment, and Magnetotelluric (MT) for its high investigation depth (from hundreds

100   of meters to tens of kilometers). The objective of the geophysical survey relies on the study of the presence and role of

groundwater flow in correspondence of the active layer as well as through and below the permafrost. A specific target is represented by the possible groundwater flow at the basis or through the permafrost and the circulation at a depth where the ground is supposed to be permanently frozen. This study is also aimed to support the multidisciplinary study about the interactions between superficial water, groundwater circulating in the active layer and deep aquifer.

105 This paper presents the collection of geophysical data acquired in summer 2022 as part of the I2F project. The aim of the geophysical survey was to investigate the presence and role of groundwater flow across the active layer and through and beneath the permafrost. The objective of this paper is to make available the data set to the scientific community and hence foster advances, interpretations and collaborations with and among the stakeholders. The data here presented are intended to provide a major contribution to research because there have been few studies that have published geophysical data from the

110 Ny-Ålesund area so far.

This paper begins by introducing the study area where the geophysical data were acquired. Then, it describes the geophysical survey, the acquisition configurations, and the challenges encountered in the remote Arctic environment. Another section is concerned with the raw data set and the processed data after quality control. Some representative geophysical models are presented. Then, the organization of the repository and of the data files are carefully described. Finally, some hints for

115 discussion, interpretation and avenues for future research conclude the paper.

2 Study area

The study area is located on the South-Western coast of the Kongsfjorden at 78°55' northern latitude in correspondence of Ny-Ålesund. The Ny-Ålesund settlement is a polar scientific outpost on the Brøggerhalvøya peninsula that is surrounded by tundra and glaciers (Brøggerbreen and Lovénbreen) on one side and faces the Kongsfjorden Fjord on the other side. Mt.

120 Zeppelin stands out in the area (see Fig. 1c).

The history of this Arctic region is necessarily tied together with the geoscientific exploration by pioneers driven by the thirst for knowledge or by the urge to run the (black) gold rush being this land rich in coal deposits (Dallmann, 2015). The geology of this has been accurately investigated since the beginning of the 20th century with a particular focus on the coal ore deposits that were exploited until 1962 (Hoel, 1925; Orvin, 1934).

125 The Svalbard Islands are located on the north-western corner of the Eurasian plate (Horota et al., 2023). The outcropping rocks in the Archipelago represent a natural geological archive of the Earth' evolution since its early history, from Archean to recent times. Major tectonic events affected the bedrock of Svalbard Islands including the Caledonian orogeny, which resulted in the deformation of the Pre-Devonian metamorphic and sedimentary basement. Svalbard's sedimentary succession from Devonian to Paleogene is nearly complete and comprises a wide range of lithologies (conglomerates, sandstones,

130 shales, carbonates, and evaporites). The main rock types are dated from Carboniferous and Permian (limestones and dolomites) to Tertiary sandstones (Fig. 2). Widespread moraines deposits occur in the study area.

The area hosted the northernmost productive coal field in the world. The coal-seams are of Tertiary age, Paleocene or Eocene (Hoel, 1925). The strata briefly consist of sandstones, with subordinate layers of conglomerates, shales, and coal. The coal-seams are concentrated in the lower and upper parts of the Triassic sedimentary sequence (Orvin, 1934). In the lower coal horizon, the most important seams are (from down to top) the Ester, Sofie and Advokat seams. The Agnes-Otelie, Josefine, and Ragnhild seams are on the upper horizon.

The mining exploration period (the first half of 20th century) left a heritage of information about the subsurface of Ny-Ålesund. Several pits and boreholes were drilled into the frozen soil, to reach the coal seams. The pits were from 5 to 20 m deep, while the boreholes were up to 100 m deep. Relative information, stratigraphy and geological sections, mainly reported shales, sandstones, and coal, are accurately described in the appendix tables in Orvin (1934). These boreholes pointed out widespread permafrost conditions but were not intended to carefully assess the permafrost extension and spatial variability which are hence not possible to be inferred.

Recent studies on the permafrost temporal variability have been performed by pits and borehole temperature monitoring. A comprehensive review of the permafrost monitoring activities near Ny-Ålesund can be found in the SESS report 2018 (Orr et al., 2019). An extensive 20-year borehole data set near the Bayelva river has been published by Boike et al. (2018) and highlights the recent climate variability in Ny-Ålesund.

Near the old mine area, southeast of Ny-Ålesund, between the fjord and the mountain of the Vestre Lovénbreen glacier, recent changes in a complex sub-permafrost hydrological network have been studied (Haldorsen et al., 1996). During the mining period the Tvillingvatnet Lake, in the west side of the mining area, was reported to receive influx water from a sub-permafrost aquifer. During winter, the lake was not frozen, and the miners discovered nearby a confined aquifer. The sub-permafrost aquifer was fed by glacier waters, probably the nearby Austre Brøggerbreen, which extended closer to the lake than today (see Fig. 1c). Nowadays, the Tvillingvatnet Lake freezes during winter thus suggesting that the sub-permafrost influx has apparently stopped or greatly reduced. The chemical analyses on the water of the lake showed that it now probably comes from a supra-permafrost aquifer coming from the hillside of the Vestre Lovénbreen mountain (Haldorsen et al., 2002). A similar fate has happened to the Ester Spring, located in the mine area (see Fig. 1c). This spring is reported since the mining period (around 1930) and was characterized by a continuous water flux of multiple liters per second during winter and constant chemical properties during the year. The spring water was supposed to come from the Vestre Lovénbreen glacier, which infiltrates into a moulin and are heated underground due to the geothermal heat, making it possible to warm the permafrost and exit from the Ester Spring (Booij et al., 1998; Van der Ploeg, 2002). However, the flux has decreased across the last decades and then stopped in 2007.

According to the literature studying this site, the changes observed in the Ester Spring are linked to the global warming effects on the Vestre Lovénbreen glacier (Haldorsen et al., 2011, 2010; Haldorsen and Heim, 1999). Due to the warming temperatures and thinning of the glacier, it has lost part of its insulation effect against the cold winter (Pälli et al., 2003). Therefore, the geothermal heat flux is no more able to keep the glacier base at the pressure-temperature melting point, and the water and heat transfer from the moulin to the Ester Spring could have stopped for this reason (Putkonen, 1998).

Supporting this hypothesis, an amount of water larger the past is observed to melt and drain to the tongue of the glacier through superficial streams, while in the past the melting at the tongue was minimal.

All the abovementioned publications, while being particularly delved into the specific aspects of the permafrost processes, rely on a few deep boreholes or focuses on specific areas in the surroundings of Ny-Ålesund. Therefore, at this stage it is still not possible to depict a comprehensive overview of the spatial variability of permafrost in the study area, especially at significant depth.

In this context, the proposed shallow and deep geophysical investigations (ERT and GPR), that ensure different resolution scales, can fill the gap of knowledge regarding the spatial variability of the permafrost, potentially uncovering features that have not been discovered so far.

The four piezometers (P1, P2, P3, P4) drilled as part of the I2F project (see the "Piezometer Area" in Fig. 1c) were placed in a dominantly mineral soil in order to continuously monitor the water level, temperature and electrical conductivity of water, and to sample water for analyzing chemical and isotopic features. High density polyethylene pipes (with a diameter of 63 cm and a length of 3 m) were inserted in predrilled holes down to 200 cm into the soil. Each tube is screened by 3 mm slits in the lower 200 cm to allow water to enter the tube. Once piezometers were installed, caps were placed on top, again preventing outside material from entering the tube. The gravel (2-5 cm of diameter) collected locally to avoid external effects on the chemical features of the water was placed between the tube and the soil to fill the space around the tube and creating a pre-filter respect to the screened part. The piezometer metadata and data sets are available under request from the Italian Arctic data Center webpage (https://metadata.iadc.cnr.it/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search;jsessionid=D5D17204B9DE391F0E3A72C26CE9AC6F#/metadata/5e0ba64e-71a7-4949-8752-9fb57b38b4fa) and the I2F webpage (https://www.icetoflux.eu/data/). Meteorological and climatic data (air temperature and precipitation) can be downloaded from the Ny-Ålesund weather station (SN99910, https://seklima.met.no).

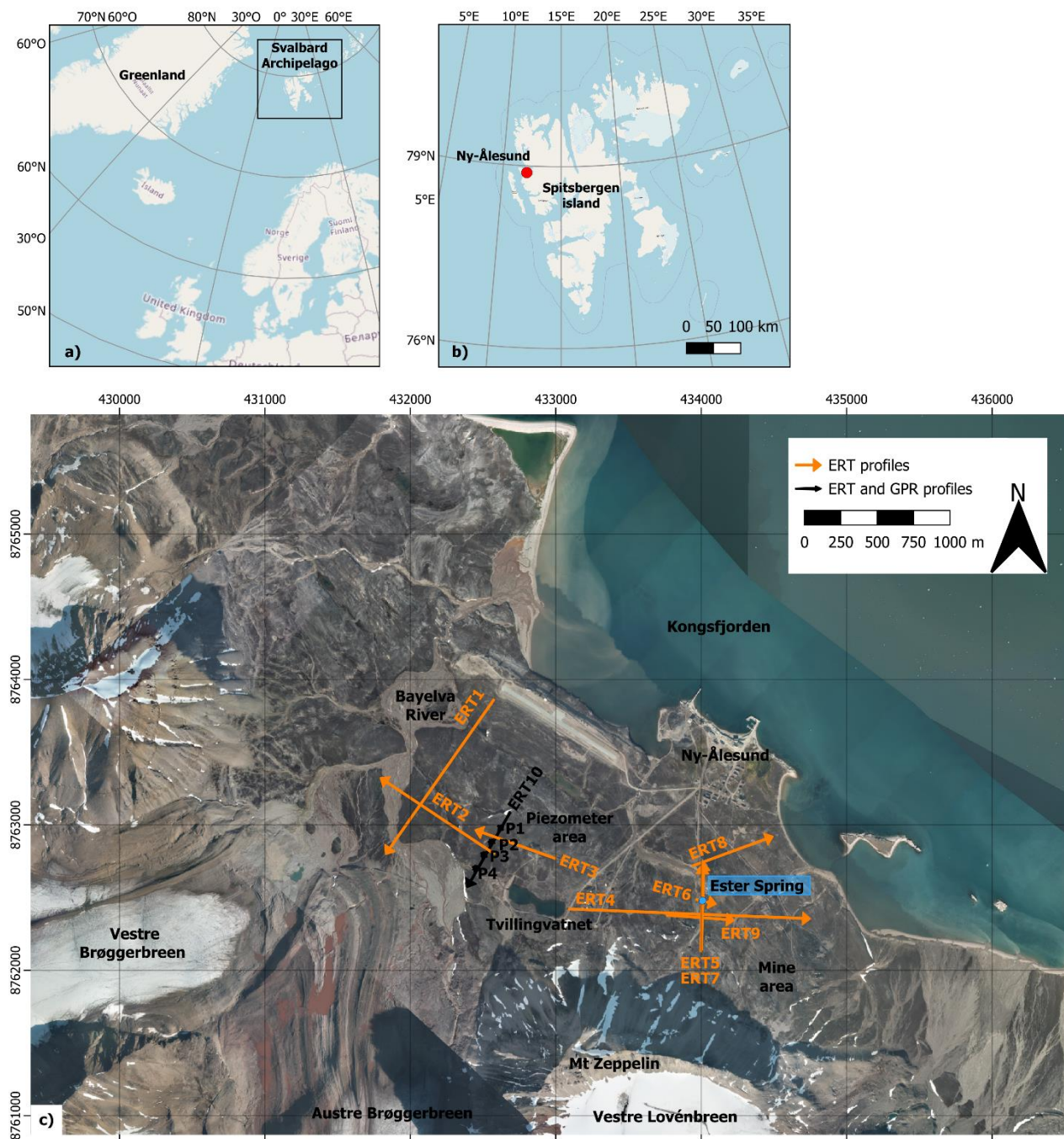



Figure 1: a) location of the Svalbard Archipelago; b) location of Ny-Ålesund on Spitsbergen, western Svalbard; c) a general overview of the area investigated by the ICEtoFLUX project. The Ny-Ålesund settlement is close to the catchment of the Bayelva River. The orange lines represent the ERT profiles (from ERT1 to ERT10 and P1-P4). The black lines represent the profiles where both ERT and GPR were acquired. The coordinate system is WGS84-UTM33N. The satellite picture in background was exported from the WebGIS tool by ©Norwegian Polar Institute (https://geokart.npolar.no/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=Svalbardkartet

). **Some of the acquisitions overlap fully or partially: two surveys were performed in July-August 2022 and in August-September 2022, to possibly find some variations over time.**

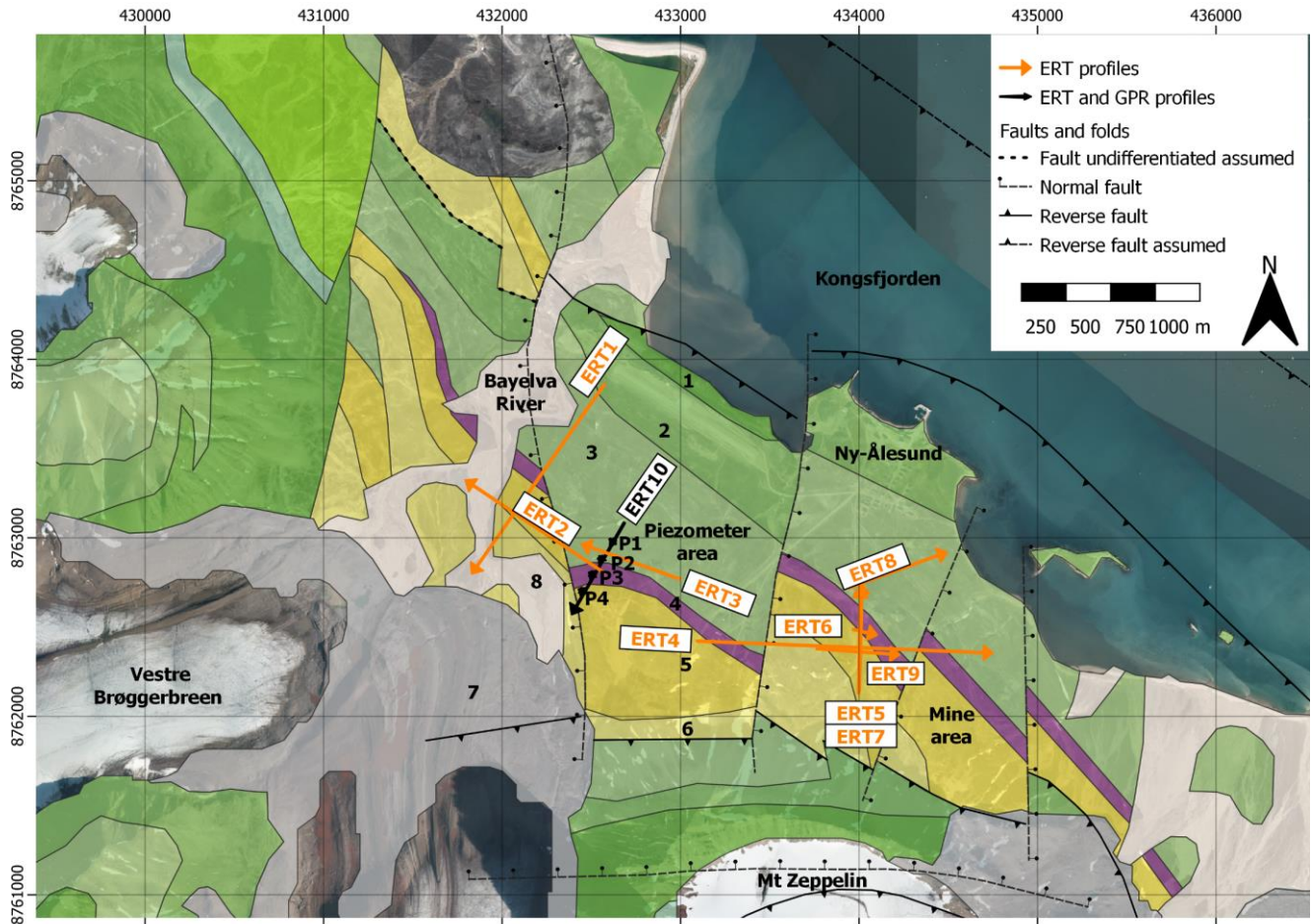



Figure 2: Geological map (data from NPI, WMS geological map at 1:250.000): 1) Carbonate rocks of Wordiekammen Formation (Moscovian-Sakmarian)); 2) Carbonate rocks of Gipshuken Formation (Sakmarian - Artinskian); 3) Chert, shale, sandstone and limestone of Kapp Starostin Formation (late Artinskian - Late Permian); 4) Shale, siltstone, sandstone of Vardebukta Formation (Induan); 5) Sandstone, shale, coal of Kongsfjorden Formation (paleocene ?); 6) Sandstone, shale, conglomerate of Brøggerbreen Formation (Paleocene?); 7) Moraine (Holocene); 8) Glacio-fluvial deposits (Holocene); NF) Normal fault; RF) Reverse fault. The coordinate system is WGS84-UTM33N. The geological map was exported from the WebGIS tool by ©Norwegian Polar Institute (https://geokart.npolar.no/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=Svalbardkartet).

3 The geophysical survey

3.1 ERT and GPR methods

ERT is an active geophysical technique that involves the injection of current into the subsoil, and the measurement of the consequent voltage distribution at the surface. The current is injected in a dipole of electrodes, called transmitter or source, while the voltage is measured at one or multiple dipoles, called receiver(s). The measured voltage is influenced by the

current flowing in the subsoil, which is, in turn, dependent on rock types, porosity, water saturation, salinity and temperature, weathering, metallic content, and clay content. The transmitter and the receivers can be placed in several relative positions or configurations. Different configurations are sensitive to different patterns of resistivity distribution. In the Ny-Ålesund survey, mainly three configurations were employed: Wenner (WE), Wenner-Schlumberger (WS) and Dipole-Dipole (DD). While WE and WS are sensitive to the vertical layering of the subsoil, DD is sensitive to lateral resistivity contrasts (Martorana et al., 2017). The distance between the electrodes affects the depth of investigation of a measurement, the vertical penetration of the injected current, the lateral resolution of the data and the field logistic. The more the electrode spacing, the more the depth of investigation and the less the data resolution in the near surface (Oldenburg and Li, 1999). We chose the electrode spacings of 1 and 2 m to characterize the active layer, and of 10 m to characterize the permafrost or deep aquifers at the expense of high resolution in the near surface.

GPR is a non-invasive methodology that detects electromagnetic (EM) impedance contrasts in a medium. It is based on the analysis of the reflections of electromagnetic waves transmitted into the ground depending on the frequency of the electromagnetic waves and the electrical characteristics of the potential targets and surrounding soil (electrical permittivity and conductivity). The use of different antennas and frequencies enables the imaging of subsoil at different penetration depths: the lower the frequency the larger the penetration. Therefore, the operating frequency is always a trade-off between resolution and penetration depth. In our survey, GPR was planned to retrieve high-resolution information at a relatively shallow depth. Two different antennas were adopted with different frequencies: 400 MHz and 40 MHz. The emitted signal at the high frequency (400 MHz) allows detailed information up to four meters of depth to be obtained, that is enough to image the expected interface between the active layer and the permafrost. The 40-MHz signal was planned to reach 10-20 m of depth (Jol, 2009).

3.2 MT method

The MT method is a natural-source electromagnetic method that measures the Earth's response to the low-frequency EM waves coming from the magnetosphere and ionosphere. The measurement of the electrical and magnetic fields allows determining the electrical resistivity of the Earth at depths ranging from some meters to hundreds of kilometers (Chave et al., 2012). The acquisition of MT data is performed with no transmitters since the signal has a natural origin. Two components (horizontal and perpendicular) of the electric and magnetic fields are measured on the ground surface. The electric field is measured by means of two pairs of dipoles (grounded non-polarizable electrodes), being usually the direction of one pair parallel to the magnetic North (x-direction for MT convention). The magnetic field components are usually measured by means of two horizontally buried magnetometers (induction coils). An additional magnetometer can be deployed to measure the vertical component of the magnetic field.

The Audio-MT method (AMT) refers to the measurements of MT signals in the frequency range from 10^5 to 10 Hz. AMT is devoted to the shallow characterization of geoelectrical structures. The broadband MT method refers to measurements of both low and high frequencies usually in the range of 10^3 to 10^{-4} Hz with deeper investigation depths than AMT.

Two different systems were adopted for Audio-MT and broadband MT acquisitions. The Audio-MT equipment was composed of the Geometrics StrataGem system, two G100K magnetometers and four steel electrodes. The Broad-Band MT equipment was tailored by Zonge International Inc. and consisted of one ZEN receiver (high-resolution, multi-channel 32-bit receivers) which record broadband time-series from 10^3 to 10^{-4} Hz, three magnetometers (type ANT/4) and six non-polarizable electrodes (Pb-PbCl) devoted to geophysical resistivity measurements.

The MT and AMT surveys were planned to be carried out during the I2F project because they have different resolution and depth of investigation with respect to ERT and GPR. MT and AMT were deemed to be ideal for the deep characterization of permafrost and sub-permafrost aquifers since they are more sensitive than ERT and GPR to electrically conductive formations and have a larger depth of investigation than ERT and GPR. Moreover, the MT and AMT methods were supposed to overcome the possible difficulties of the ERT method related to the injection of a direct current into a highly resistive subsoil. There are several MT and AMT applications that study the ice sheet and glacial dynamics in the polar regions (Hill, 2020), both Arctic (Beka, 2016; Beka et al., 2015, 2016, 2017a, b) and Antarctic regions (Wannamaker et al., 1996, 2017).

The MT and AMT surveys were planned in the Bayelva and mine areas, but every attempt of acquisition had no success. The planned MT and AMT surveys had to be stopped after the acquisition of 5 soundings due to an unexpected high level of anthropic electromagnetic noise. The first MT acquisition was scheduled with three different sampling rates for a total of 2.5 hours. The estimated impedances ranged in the frequency band from 0.01 to 1280 Hz but were affected by noise. Then, four AMT soundings were acquired, but again the data were corrupted by noise. The AMT time series were processed by using different window lengths and filtering stages in three frequency bands resulting in impedance estimates in the frequency range from 15.8 Hz to 63 kHz.

The MT data would have been useful for the deep characterization of the permafrost and potential sub-permafrost aquifer. However, the MT and AMT data processing performed after the first acquisition revealed a wide-band and energetic noise source whose presence prevented the possibility of acquiring good-quality MT data. This was completely unexpected because Ny-Ålesund is a radio silent and geographically remote settlement, where wireless equipment is not allowed to ensure a high signal-to-noise ratio for the data measured. Even though any equipment emitting radio signals is avoided and several scientific instruments take advantage of the radio silence, a few exceptions are permitted for safety, operational and scientific reasons. The equipment transmitting and receiving radio frequencies in Ny-Ålesund is supposed to be authorized and listed in the "NySMAC frequency list" (https://nyalesundresearch.no). Although the listed equipment operates in the frequency range from kHz to GHz, it directly or indirectly affected the quality of our acquired MT signals in the frequency bands > 1 Hz. As an example, this low quality can be appreciated from Fig. 3, where the power spectra are dominated by a 50-Hz noise and its harmonics. The signal in Fig. 3 was analyzed in Matlab® Signal Processing Toolbox. The presence of this kind of noise resulted in the impossibility of obtaining reliable MT estimates.

Note that in Fig. 3 the time series of the magnetic components are not deconvolved for the instrumental response.

The MT and AMT surveys were shut down and the data were not included in the repository published along with this work due to the impossibility to process and interpret them. However, our experiment can be of help for future geophysical expeditions in Ny-Ålesund.

280 **Figure 3: Time series (top panel) and power spectra (bottom panel) related to the Electric (E_x and E_y) and Magnetic (H_x and H_y) field components sampled at 4096 Hz. E_x is plotted in ochre, E_y in purple, H_x in green and H_y in cyan. The components were measured in the (magnetic) N-S and E-W directions. The signal was analyzed in Matlab® Signal Processing Toolbox.**

3.3 Data acquisition

Three different sectors around Ny-Ålesund were surveyed (Fig. 2): i) the Bayelva catchment on the west, ii) the piezometer
285 area close to the Amundsen-Nobile climate change tower (CCT), and iii) the mine area on the east (close to the Ester Spring).

The geophysical survey had to be planned to overcome some specific logistic difficulties owing to the study area placed in a remote polar region and to the long duration of the survey, split into two different campaigns during the thaw season. First, the whole equipment (14 boxes with a total weight of around 450 kg) had to be shipped two months before the survey and
290 returned back three months after the survey ended. Second, the whole crew had to obey the health and safety protocols, required, respectively, to be hosted in the Italian Arctic Station and to carry out field operations in a region where polar bears may approach humans. Globally, field logistics and fieldwork conditions were largely affected by the isolation and asperity of the study area. For example, most of the survey sectors were not directly accessible from the road and hiking with the equipment was necessary. Moreover, since safety was of primary concern, operators had to work nearby to monitor the
295 presence of wildlife (polar bears) in the surroundings, thus extending the time required for the surveys.

The ERT survey was divided into two campaigns between July and September 2022. The instrument was the georesistivimeter Syscal Pro (Iris instruments). The receiver was multichannel with a maximum of 10 measurements at a time and a maximum number of 48 electrodes for each acquisition. Standard stain steel electrodes were used. The configurations of the acquisition were DD (both in direct and reverse configurations), WS and WE. The acquisition was usually moved forward by using the roll-along technique. The acquisition settings of the instruments were an injection time of 500 ms and a number of minimum 3 up to 6 stacks. The accepted error percentage on the stacks was 2%. A total length of 7.87 km was acquired along 18 profiles (Fig. 1c and Table 1). The electrode spacing was 10 m for 9 profiles (deep ERTs), 1 m for 8 profiles and 2 m for the remaining one (shallow ERTs). The details about the acquired ERT profiles are schematized in Table 1. Soil conditions were generally fair in terms of electrical contact resistance, allowing to easily achieve contact resistance values lower than 10 KΩ. This was not surprising because the thaw season is generally the best season for ERT data quality because the contact resistances are expected to be low (Herring et al., 2023). Not favorable conditions were encountered in areas where stones and gravels covered the ground surface, such as in the Bayelva catchment and in the mine area. The bentonite was used there to improve the ground-electrode contact if necessary.

For some of the profiles (ERT7, 8, 9,10 and ERT_P1, P2, P3, P4), the contact resistance values were stored together with the WS geoelectrical data to enhance a posteriori control of the data quality and monitoring of the measuring conditions. The contact resistance was stored only for the WS acquisitions due to the negative influence that this procedure has on the multichannel acquisition (i.e., the DD acquisition) in terms of time consumption.

Table 1: Data acquisition parameters and array configuration for ERT profiles. The coordinate system is WGS84-UTM33N.

Name	Length (m)	Spacing (m)	Arrays	Roll Along	East – 1st electrode	North – 1st electrode	East – last electrode	North – last electrode
ERT1	1310	10	DD, WS	7	432575	8763862	431830	8762798
ERT2	950	10	DD, WS	4	432577	8762801	431794	8763323
ERT3	590	10	DD, WS	1	432997	8762768	432446	8762965
ERT4	1670	10	DD, WS	10	433091	8762422	434750	8762355
ERT5	590	10	DD, WS	1	433998	8762128	434009	8762718
ERT6	142	2	DD, WS	2	433965	8762488	434102	8762456
ERT7	590	10	WE, WS, DD	1	433997	8762124	434012	8762710
ERT8	590	10	WE, WS, DD	1	433936	8762703	434483	8762899
ERT9	470	10	WE, WS, DD	0	433763	8762384	434227	8762341
ERT10	590	10	WE, WS, DD	1	432674	8763075	432383	8762567
ERT_P1_Ort	47	1	WS	0	432602	8762986	432637	8762962
ERT_P1_Par	47	1	WS	0	432625	8762993	432602	8762952
ERT_P2_Ort	47	1	WS	0	432536	8762881	432580	8762871

ERT_P2_Par	47	1	WS	0	432563	8762896	432542	8762854
ERT_P3_Ort	47	1	WS	0	432486	8762800	432526	8762775
ERT_P3_Par	47	1	WS	0	432516	8762806	432491	8762767
ERT_P4_Ort	47	1	WS	0	432429	8762708	432470	8762683
ERT_P4_Par	47	1	WS	0	432460	8762715	432437	8762675

The two 10m-spacing profiles in the Bayelva catchment (ERT1 and ERT2) are perpendicular and very close to the Bayelva
315 River, that is crossed at the end of the two ERTs toward the glaciers. In the area of the piezometers, there are two
perpendicular 10m-spacing profiles (ERT3 and ERT10) and 8 short profiles (1m-spacing) that cross the four piezometers
(P1, P2, P3, P4) in parallel and orthogonally. Then, the mine area is crossed by the longest line ERT4 (1.67 km), which
partially overlaps ERT9. Three profiles cross the Ester Spring (ERT5, ERT6, ERT7) and a profile is directed towards the sea
(ERT8). ERT7 and ERT5 are partially coincident because they were measured during two different campaigns, in July and
320 September 2022, respectively. The same applies to ERT9 and ERT4, respectively. The ERT6 was acquired with 2m-spacing.
The GPR survey was carried out in the piezometer area, as shown in Fig. 2. The cumulative surveyed length is about 1400
meters along 10 GPR lines. Each line has been measured in a direct and reverse sense for a total surveyed length of 2800
meters. The 400 MHz antenna was used to measure GPR radargrams along the 8 shallow ERT profiles centered in the four
piezometers (P1, P2, P3, P4) and along the ERT10 line crossing all the piezometers. The antenna at 40 MHz was adopted for
325 a line in correspondence of the ERT10. The details about the acquired GPR profiles are schematized in Table 2.
The GPR data were acquired with the GSSI SIR-3000 GPR System coupled with two different antennae working at the
frequencies of 40 MHz (SUBECHO AB Sweden air-coupled antenna) and 400 MHz (GSSI ground-coupled antenna). The
adopted recording time window is set to 120 ns for the acquisition performed with the 400 MHz antenna and 1200 ns for the
data acquired with the 40 MHz antenna. Data acquired were discretized by 512 time-samples. Since the acquisitions were
330 carried out without a survey wheel, the data were acquired in time domain and several marks were placed every 5 meters in
order to assign the right coordinates to each recorded trace.
The surface investigated close to the piezometer area was regular and the few ground irregularities encountered did not affect
the quality of the acquired data always ensuring a proper surface contact for the ground coupled antenna. The use of the 400
MHz antenna was limited to transect line where it was possible to guarantee and adequate contact between the ground and
335 the antenna avoiding unwanted "jumps" of the antenna itself. This limitation was not affecting the use of the 40 MHz
antenna which performs well even in absence of direct contact with the ground.

Table 2: Data acquisition parameters for GPR profiles.

Name	Length (m)	Frequency (MHz)	East – starting profile	North – starting profile	East – ending profile	North – ending profile
GPR_P1_Ort	50	400	432602	8762986	432638	8762960
GPR_P1_Par	50	400	432625	8762993	432600	8762950

GPR_P2_Ort	50	400	432536	8762881	432583	8762870
GPR_P2_Par	50	400	432563	8762896	432539	8762851
GPR_P3_Ort	50	400	432486	8762800	432529	8762773
GPR_P3_Par	50	400	432516	8762806	432489	8762764
GPR_P4_Ort	30	400	432429	8762708	432455	8762692
GPR_P4_Par	28	400	432460	8762715	432446	8762690
GPR_Long_40MHz	590	40	432674	8763075	432383	8762567
GPR_Long_400MHz	445	400	432447	8762693	432642	8763023

4 The data set

4.1 Raw data and quality control

340 As standard, each ERT data acquisition was preceded by the check of the contact resistance between the electrodes and the ground. This operation ("RS check") was directly performed by the instrument. As an additional quality control (QC), specific electrodes (occupying a known position along the geoelectrical lines) were unplugged before starting the contact resistance check in order to verify the correct number addresses of the electrodes. When one of the unplugged electrodes was involved in the RS check, the georesistivimeter stopped the check operation as long as the electrodes were correctly plugged.

345 For some of the profiles (ERT7, 8, 9,10 and ERT_P1, P2, P3, P4), the contact resistance values were stored together with the WS geoelectrical data to enhance a posteriori control of the data quality and monitoring of the measuring conditions.

At the end of each ERT survey, an in-field evaluation of the collected data quality was performed. Data were downloaded from the georesistivimeter and visualized as pseudosections of apparent resistivity (Fig. 4-top). The regularity of the data distribution in relation to the measuring conditions (Fig. 4-bottom) was used to drive decision-making on the necessity of

350 repeating data acquisition or change the investigation strategy.

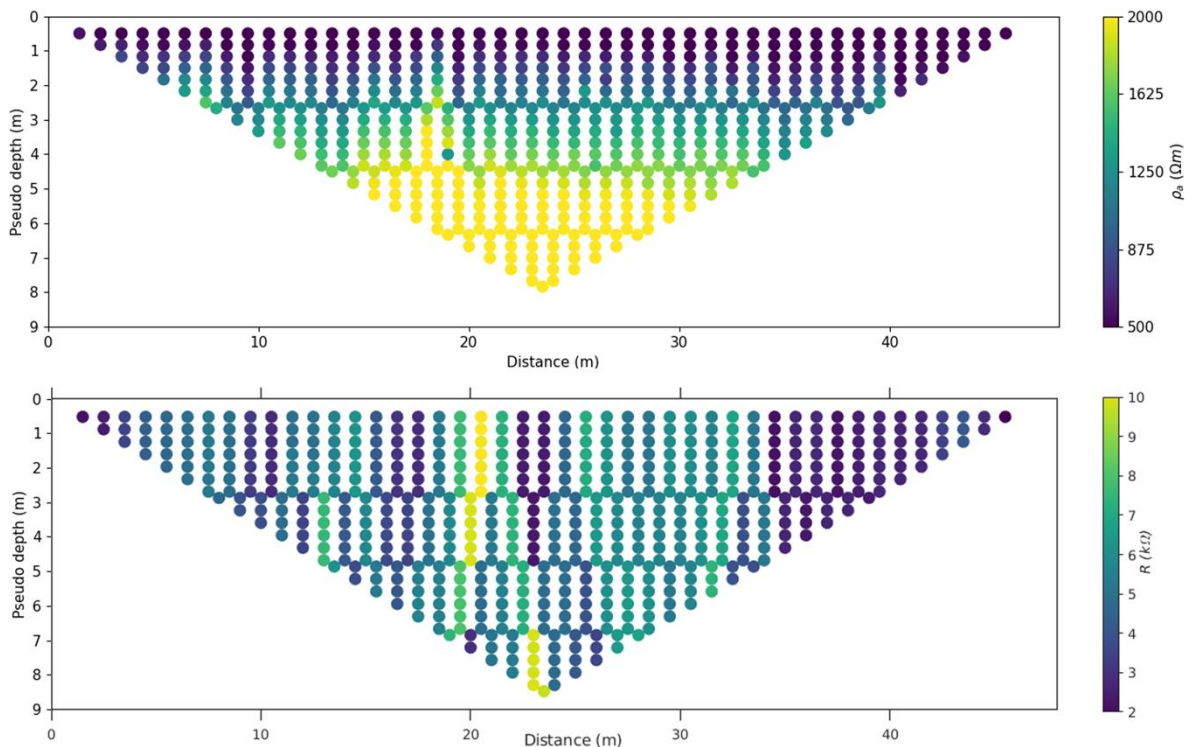
Noisy data in the geoelectrical measurements can be due to soil conditions, complex subsoil structures or instrumental failure. Soil conditions can negatively affect the ERT data if the ground-electrode electrical contact is not ideal. This condition is common in those areas where stones and gravels cover the ground surface, such as in the Bayelva catchment and in the mine area. Bentonite was used to improve the ground-electrode contact when necessary.

355 The QC on the field for the GPR data was aimed to verify the proper functioning of the GPR acquisition system (control unit + antennas) and the correct settings of the acquisition parameters (time window, sampling rate, gain, trace increment, etc.). The QC was preliminarily done, during the data acquisition process, directly on the GPR acquisition system monitor. Subsequently, a more thorough verification was performed in the lab after the acquisition, resulting in the elaboration of preliminary 2D radargrams.

 4.2 Processed data

The ERT data were pre-processed by using the software Prosys-III (Iris instruments). The filtering procedure of ERT data was based on the verification of some general criteria. For each geoelectrical profile the preprocessing consisted of discarding the following data:

- electrodes with anomalous values of contact resistance ("RS check"), when available,
365 - negative resistivity values,
- isolated extremely high or low resistivity values (i.e., outliers).

An example of ERT data with the pseudosections of apparent resistivity and contact resistance measured along the ERT_P1_Par with a WS configuration is depicted in Fig. 4. The ERT_P1_Par profile is centered at the piezometer P1 and is parallel to ERT10. This profile was chosen as representative since GPR data were acquired at the same location (see section 5.2). The whole set of pseudosections measured along each ERT is presented in the repository (see Section 6 for details). 370 The apparent resistivity pseudosection (Fig. 4-top) is characterized by relatively smooth variations and no outlier data as expected considering the good contact resistances (Fig. 4-bottom). The filtered ERT data were then ready to be inverted to create 2D geoelectrical models of the subsoil (see Section 5.1).

375 **Figure 4: Example of experimental pseudosection of the ERT_P1_Par profile. The acquisition configuration is WS: top) spatial distribution of the measured apparent resistivity (ρ_a) values (in Ωm); bottom) contact resistance values (in kΩ) recorded for each current electrodes pair involved in the data acquisition sequence.**

The GPR data were processed with Reflexw software (Sandmeier, 2021), according to the following processing steps:

- The distance between each trace was set in order to match, every 5 meters, the geolocation of the marker, with the "marker interpol." processing step.

- A time-zero correction was performed, with the "move startime" processing step, by manually selecting, as time zero, the value in nanoseconds correspondent to the beginning of the transmitted impulse.

- A background removal filter was applied over the whole profile, subtracting the average trace from each trace.

- A subtract-mean, or "dewow" filter was used with a time window of 2 ns and 8 ns for 400 MHz and 40 MHz data respectively, to remove possible instrumental voltage shift in the data.

- A manually selected gain function, based on subjective choice and experience, was applied to contrast the effects of signal attenuation and geometric dispersion.

- A bandpass filter removed the frequencies under about 150 MHz and above about 550 MHz for 400 MHZ data and between 20 and 100 MHz for 40 MHz data

- Only for the 40 MHz data, an automatic control gain (AGC) with a time window of 100 ns was applied in order to better detect deeper reflectors.

The data processing chain is shown in Fig. 5.

For visualization, all the GPR data were topographically corrected by using the topographic surface retrieved from a recent Digital Elevation Model with 5 meters of resolution, published by the Norwegian Polar Data Centre and available as basemap data "Svalbard digital elevation models" at https://geodata.npolar.no (©Norwegian Polar Institute, 2014). Each radargram was normalized to its amplitude mean value.

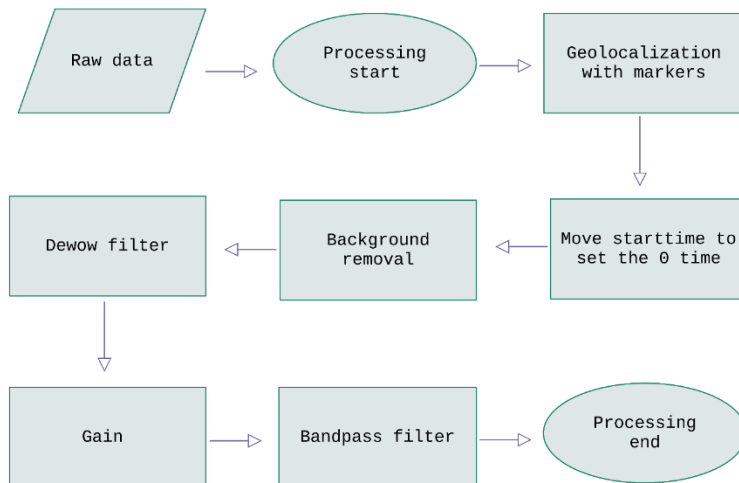



Figure 5: GPR processing flow adopted for the GPR lines of the ICEtoFLUX project.

5 Representative results

5.1 ERT inversion method

The ERT data pre-processing and filtering of the outliers is followed by the geophysical inversion of the acquired data. The inversion aims at finding the best resistivity distribution of an earth model which explains the data within a certain error threshold.

The 2D ERT inversion was performed by using the open-source package ResIPy (Blanchy et al., 2020). ResIPy can be used for geoelectrical data (direct-current and induced polarization measurements) and provides several tools such as high-level filtering, error modelling, inversion/forward modelling and post-processing. It can be accessed from a Python application programming interface (API) or a standalone graphical user interface (GUI). Further information about ResIPy and other software for electrical resistivity modelling can be found in Doyoro et al. (2022) and Loke et al. (2013).

In the inversion process, the same subsoil discretization was adopted in terms of cell growing factor, characteristic length, and background resistivity. The boundary depth was 80 m for the ERT lines with 10 m of spacing between electrodes. The cell growth factor was 0.7. The characteristic length was kept as the ResIPy default to ensure two nodes between two consecutive electrodes. The topography was included. The inversion type was a regularized inversion with linear filtering and normal regularization. The same inversion settings were adopted for all the quadrupole configurations (WE, WS, DD). The only exception was for the measurement errors given to the inversion. For the WE and WS data sets, the data error was set to 2%, in agreement with the largest observed staking errors. For the DD data sets, an ad hoc error model (linear or power law) was calculated from reciprocal error distribution and used in the inversion procedure.

The number of iterations was between 2 (for short profiles) and 10 (e.g., for the longest ERT4), and they were computed in few seconds. The final root-mean-square errors (RMSEs) ranged between 1 (the minimum threshold to end the inversion) and 2.18 (for ERT4, which had high errors).

5.2 ERT models

The inversion result for the ERT_P1_Par (WS configuration, 1 m of spacing) is presented in Fig. 6. The resistivity model shows a gradual increase in resistivity with depth. At shallow depth, up to 2 m of depth b.g.l., the resistivity range is 100 – 500 Ωm, while from 2 m of depth down to the bottom of the model the resistivity rises to 1000 Ωm and even up to 8000 Ωm, which can be theoretically correlated with permafrost. The interpretation of the resistivity model goes beyond the scope of this paper and needs multidisciplinary insights, given that the resistivity of the frozen rock might be site-specific. To the best of the authors' knowledge there is no direct measurement of electric resistivity in the investigated area, except for few and old superficial electric-conductivity sensors installed up to 1 meter of depth in the Bayelva basin (KODAMA et al., 1995; Boike et al., 2018; Son and Lee, 2022).

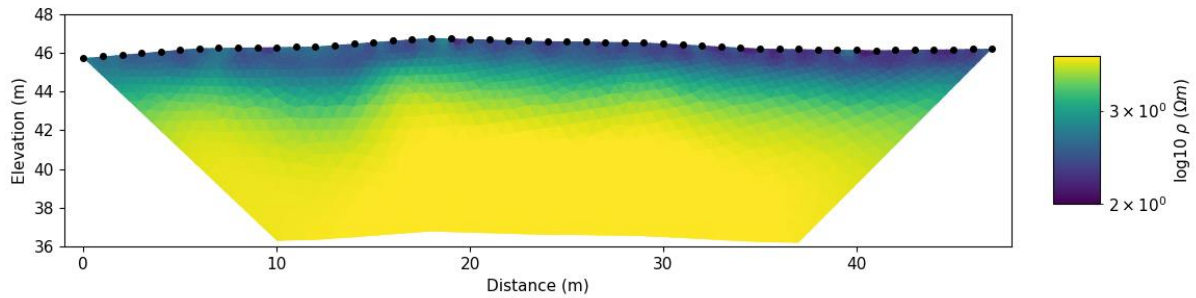



Figure 6: Resistivity model obtained from the inversion of ERT_P1_Par. The acquisition configuration is WS. The minimum and maximum boundaries of the color bar are 100 and 3000 Ωm, respectively.

Another representative example of results is ERT9, since it was acquired with 10 m of electrode spacing and with different quadrupole configurations (DD, WS, WE).

The inversion results for the ERT9 are presented in Fig. 7. The general picture presented by the three models is basically the same, but the DD (Fig. 7-top), having a higher lateral sensitivity and data coverage, offers a more resolved picture of the underlying electrical structure. Among the three models, the less informative one seems the WE (Fig. 7-bottom), which is highly resembling the WS model (Fig. 7-center), but with low resolution in terms of spatial data coverage and array characteristics.

440

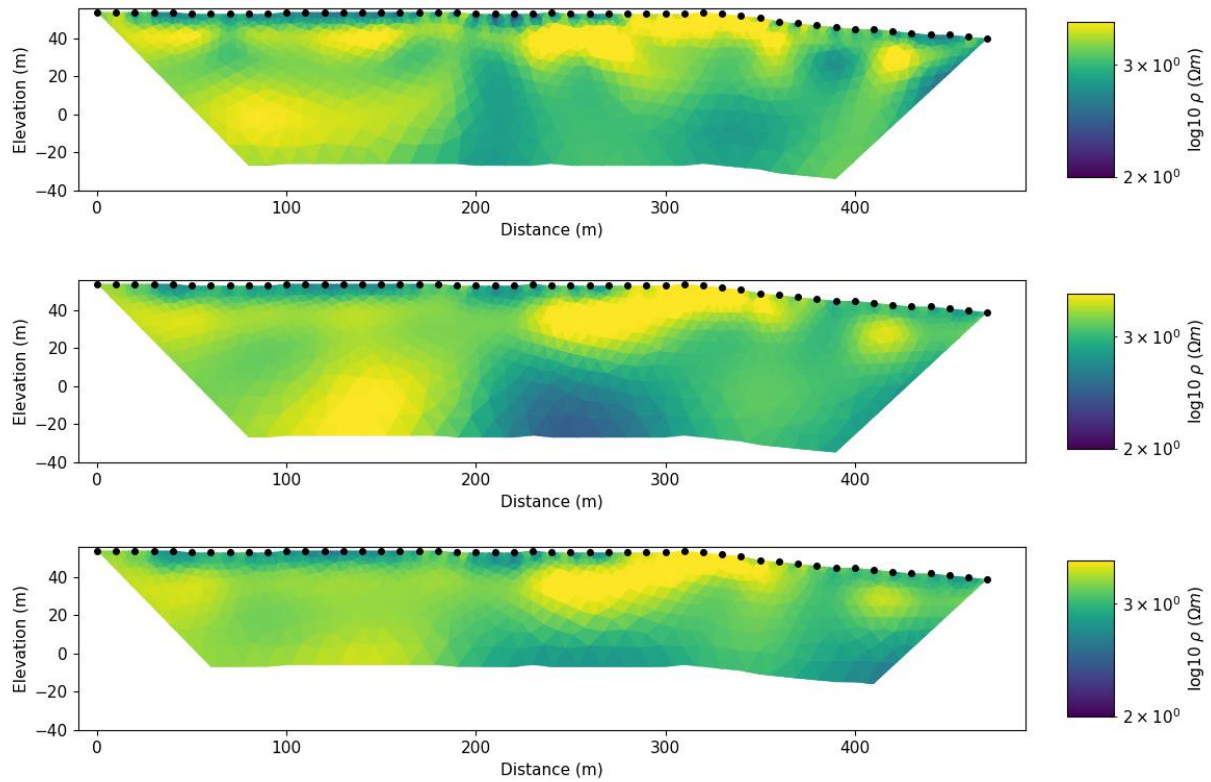



Figure 7: Resistivity model obtained from the inversion of ERT9. Different acquisition configurations: top) DD; center) WS; bottom) WE. The minimum and maximum boundaries of the color bar are 100 and 3000 Ωm, respectively.

445   The reliability of the inversion results is hence derived not only from the similarity of the three geoelectrical models of Fig. 7 but also from the pseudosections of the contact resistance (stored with the WS data), as shown in Fig. 8-top, and of the percentage reciprocal error (derived by measurements in DD direct and reverse configuration), as shown Fig. 8-bottom.

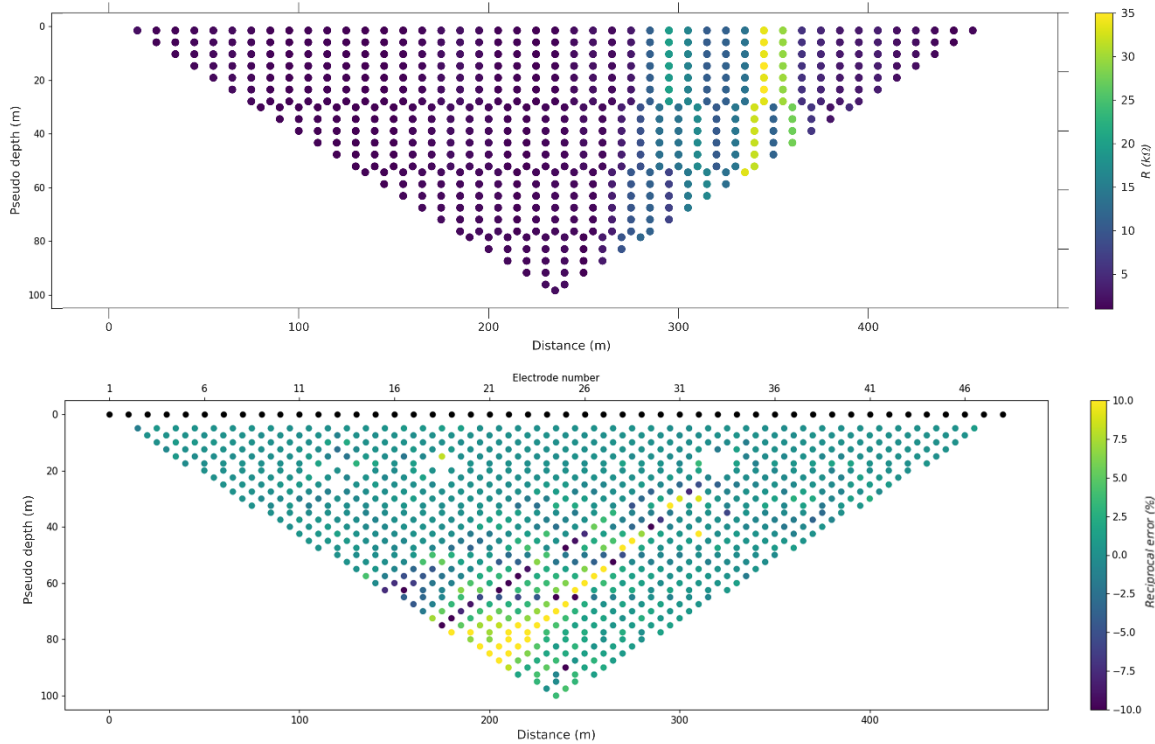
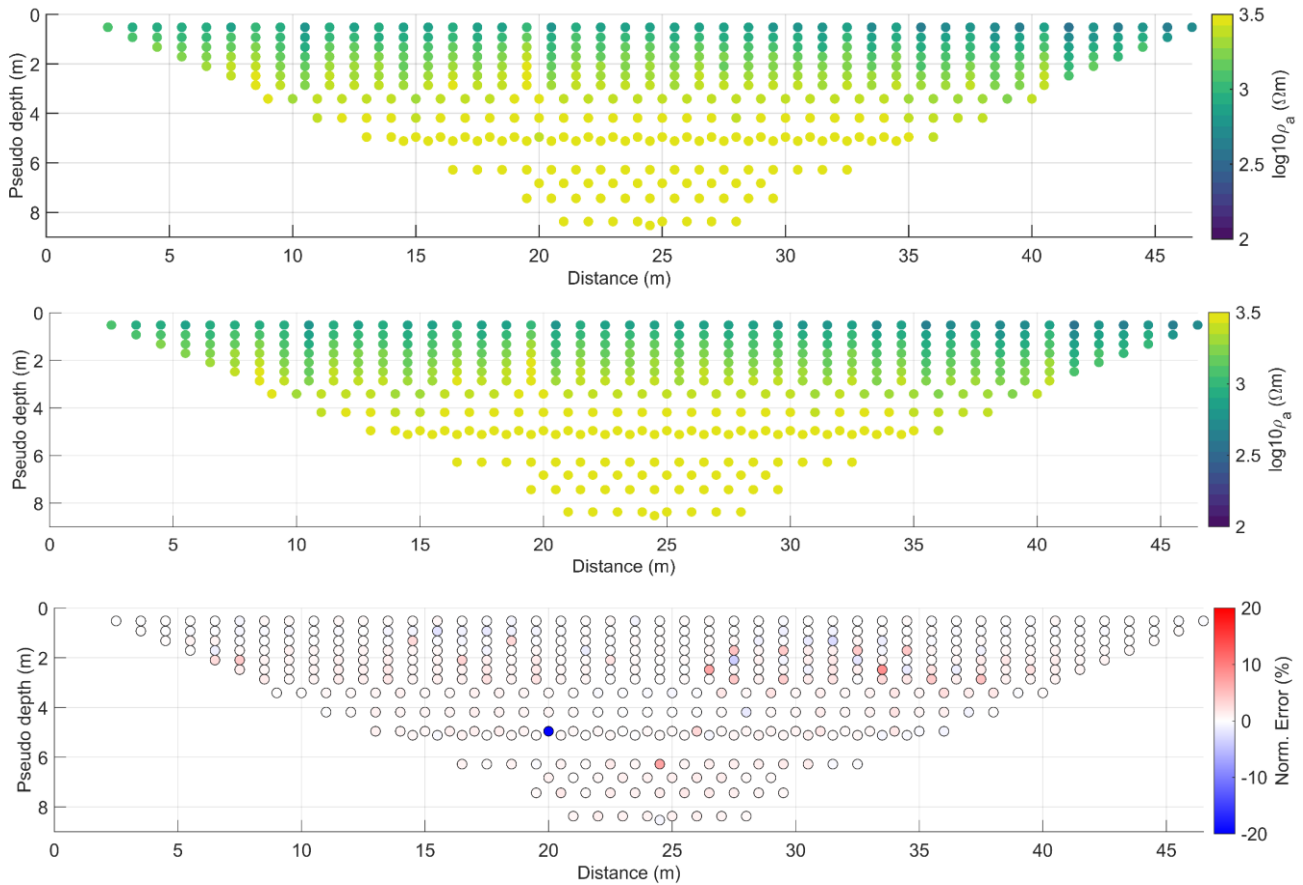



Figure 8: Pseudosections of ERT9 for: top) contact resistances stored during the WS acquisition; bottom) percentage reciprocal errors derived from the DD acquisitions performed in direct and reverse configurations.

The post-processing analysis of the inversion results was carried out in Matlab® environment, where we imported the ResIPy output (that is, the file "f001_err.dat") to plot the spatial distribution of apparent resistivity (observed and calculated) and the errors. The Matlab script to generate this kind of figure is provided in the repository for reproducibility, in the folder "***ERT/Example results***", under the name "*Post_processing_Matlab.pdf*".

Fig. 9 shows an example of post-processing for ERT_P1_Par (WS configuration). There is no topography in this kind of representation since the vertical axis is a pseudo-depth. The three panels illustrate the pseudosections of measured data (top), computed apparent resistivities (center) and the misfit between them (bottom). The pseudo-depth was calculated following Edwards (1977) that is the same approach adopted in ResIPy (Fig. 4). The computed response is the apparent resistivity values that one would obtain performing a measuring operation on a subsoil in which the resistivity is distributed exactly as in the calculated resistivity model as in Fig. 6. The lower the misfit between the observed and calculated data, the more the reliability of the inversion results.

465 **Figure 9: Post-processing analysis of the ResIPy inversion result for ERT_P1_Par, WS configuration: top) observed data (ρa); center) calculated response (ρa); bottom) misfit between them, calculated as normalized error in percentage.**

5.3 GPR result

Fig. 10 shows GPR_P1_Par, a representative GPR line that is parallel to ERT_P1_Par and acquired with the 400 MHz antenna. The radargram is acquired close to piezometer P1 and shows unequivocally the presence of a reflective layer placed
470 in a time window ranging between 50 and 55 ns. In order to convert the data from the time domain to the spatial domain it is necessary to determine the propagation speed of the radar waves in the investigated levels. This is mainly related to the physical–electrical characteristics of the investigated medium. In particular, in a low-loss material, it is inversely proportional to the square root of the dielectric constant (ε_r) and is estimated or calculated through various possibilities of signal analysis or with experimental calibration tests. From the analysis and fitting of the hyperbolae characterizing the
475 radargrams (Rønning, 2023), generated by punctual elements present in the subsoil (i.e., stones), it was possible to determine that the velocity value can be assumed equal to 0.10 mns-1. This assumption is also validated by the comparison of the most reflective layer detected by the GPR data with the most interesting electrical anomalies detected by ERT at a similar depth. Further efforts are required to constrain the interpretation with the direct data that will be collected in the close piezometer.

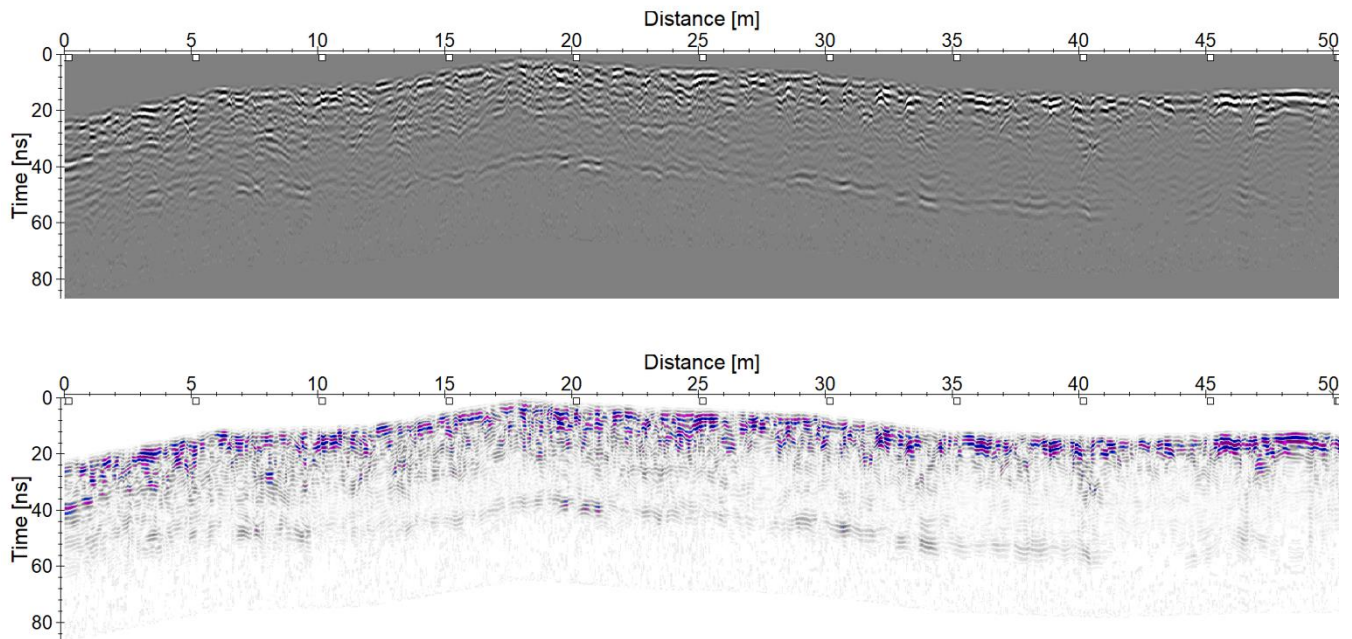



Figure 10: Example of a processed 2D radargram for GPR_P1_Par, which is parallel to ERT_P1_Par and was acquired with the 400 MHz antenna. The radargram is shown in two different color scales.

Fig. 11 shows the results obtained with the 40 MHz antenna. The radargram was acquired with an antenna that does not require ground contact. Although the recorded signal is noisier than that acquired with the 400 MHz antenna and the resolution is not comparable to that provided by the 400 MHz antenna, some reflective layers can be detected in the upper 300 ns. After such time, the presence of attenuation phenomena seems not to provide the possibility of identifying hydro-geological features. However, some discontinuities seem to characterize the radargram in particular at the distance of 450 meter from the starting point of the radargram.

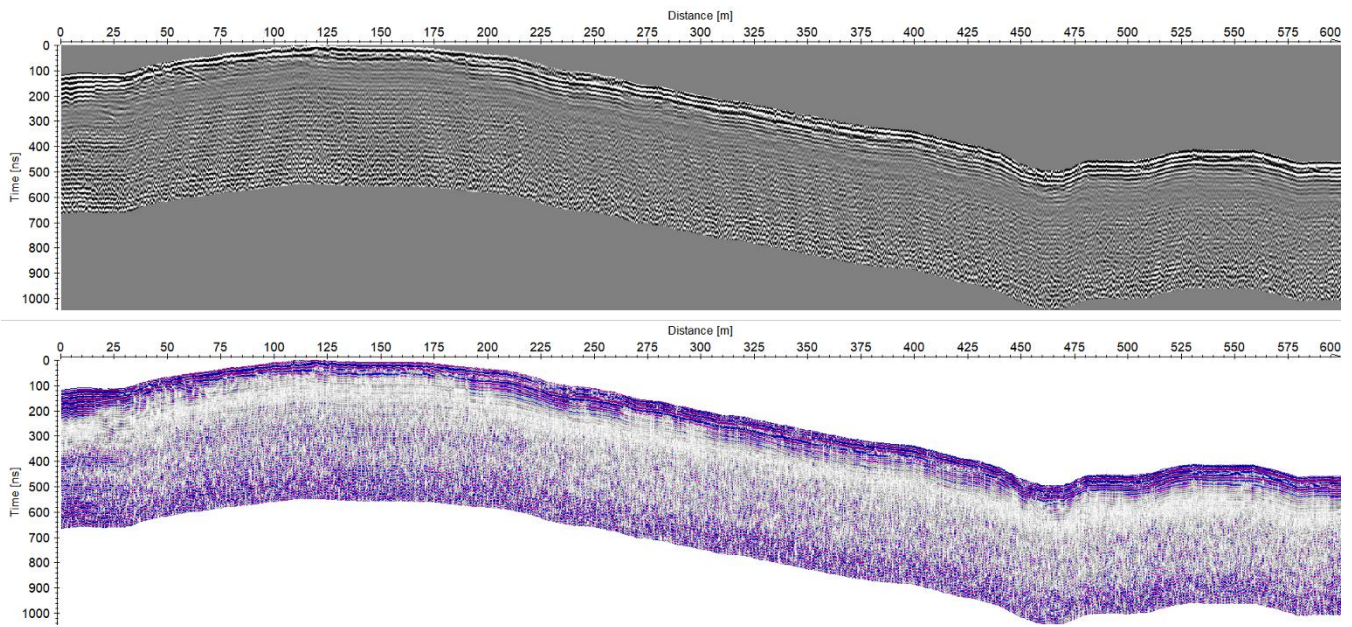



Figure 11: Example of a processed 2D radargram for GPR_long_40 MHz radargram. The radargram is shown in two different color scales.

6 Database publication of data and results

This section is mainly dedicated to the readers interested to download and reuse the data. The aim is to provide raw and processed data in formats that are friendly for geophysical software, in order to allow geoscientists to visualize them best, and reprocess them. We also provide the two representative inversion models shown in Figs. 6 and 7 as ready-to-use profiles of electrical resistivity of the subsoil, for scientists interested to directly use the results for multidisciplinary studies, e.g., to produce geologic or hydrogeologic models, and for comparison of different inversion schemes. The coupled data sets of ERT and GPR data along the 9 coincident profiles can also be used to test different joint inversion schemes.

6.1 Repository organization

The repository is organized in two main folders, as shown in Fig. 12: ***ERT*** and ***GPR*** (the folder names are highlighted in bold italic).

The subfolder ***Data*** in ***ERT*** contains 18 subfolders, one for each deep ERTs (from ***ERT1*** to ***ERT10***), and each shallow ERTs close to the four piezometers (from ***ERT_P1_Par/Ort*** to ***ERT_P4_Par/Ort***). With regards to the latter, the notations "Ort" and "Par" refer to orthogonal and parallel directions with respect to the ERT10 that crosses the piezometers, respectively. Schematic information about the ERT profiles is shown in Table 1. The scheme of the folder organization is depicted in Fig. 12.

Each of the 18 ERT profile folders contains the following subfolders:

- **_1_Raw_data_**: it contains .bin files, as saved by the Syscal Pro georesistivimeter. The .bin files contain the elevation information for each electrode and its relative position in the line. The files do not include the geographical East and North coordinates of the electrodes.

510
- **_2_Filtered_data_inversion_input_**: it contains a .Dat file which is the classical input format for performing the inversion in RES2DINV software, also readable by ResIPy. This folder contains the ResIPy project file (.resipy) with embedded the electrode coordinates, the topography, the mesh created for the inversion, the inversion settings and result. The folder stores a .png image of the pseudosection of the apparent resistivity. For **_DD_** surveys, the evaluation of the reciprocal error was calculated, that is, the difference between resistivity measurements performed

515
on the same quadrupole, but with transmitter and receiver electrodes switched. For **_DD_** surveys there are hence supplementary files: a .csv file ("ErrorData.csv") storing the calculated errors, a .Dat file ("#_rec_err.Dat") that allows the ResIPy inversion to be performed by accounting the reciprocal errors, two figures (.png) that show the resistance error plot and the spatial distribution of the reciprocal errors.

- **_3_Topography_**: it contains a .csv file with columns representing the electrode number, East, North and altitude, in

520
Coordinate Reference System (CRS) WGS84, projection UTM, zone 33N (EPSG 32633). The East and North coordinates were collected during geophysical acquisition thanks to GPS measurements. We considered inadequate the accuracy of the altitude measurements by GPS, so the surface topography was retrieved from a 5-m digital elevation model (DEM) of the area openly provided by the Norwegian Polar Institute (©Norwegian Polar Institute, 2014, https://geodata.npolar.no/).

525   Each subfolder is organized according to the **Q**_uadrupole configuration_, that is, in **WS** (Wenner - Schlumberger), **DD** (Dipole - Dipole) and, if measured, **WE** (Wenner).

The repository stores some representative results of ERT 2D inversion for the two profiles shown in the Section 5.1 (i.e., ERT_P1_Par and ERT9). Their location in the repository is in folder **_Example results_** in **_ERT_**, where for each profile there is a folder **_Inversion_model_** (see Fig. 12). It contains, for each **Q**_uadrupole configuration_, the result of the inversion, that is,

530   the sections of electrical resistivity of the subsoil. This folder appears for the lines shown in Figs. 6 and 7 (i.e., ERT_P1_Par and ERT9). The 2D resistivity models are provided as .png images for fast visualization (e.g., "Model.png", "Misfit.png", "NormErrors.png"), and .vtk files to allow further visualization processing in software like Paraview (Hansen and Johnson, 2005). Other relevant files in this folder are the "3plot.tif" file, which shows pseudosections of the measured and computed apparent resistivity and their difference (as in Fig. 9), and the mesh files .geo and .msh, readable by Gmsh software

535   (Geuzaine and Remacle, 2009). The remaining files (e.g., "electrodes.dat", "protocol.dat", "R2.out") are automatically generated and saved by ResIPy and have the same name of the corresponding files saved by the freeware package R2 (Binley, 2023), whose manual is free to access.

The **_Data_** folder in **_GPR_** folder contains 10 subfolders (**_Profile Name_** in Fig. 12) for each transect, 8 of which are coincident with the 8 shallow ERTs described above, and the other two are on the same path of ERT10 (i.e., **_GPR_Long_40MHz_** and

540   **_GPR_Long_400MHz_**). The eight short GPR profiles were measured with a 400 MHz antenna and centered in the four I2F

piezometers. Schematic information about the GPR profiles is shown in Table 2. Each folder of GPR profiles contains four files (see Fig. 12):

- the original file of raw data in .DZT (Radan) format;
- the file of raw data in SEGY format (.SGY);
- the marker file (.MAR) that stores the number of the trace (first column) and the distance along the profile (second column).
- the text file (.txt) for the topography, which contains the distance along the profile (first column), a second column of zeros and the corresponding elevation (third column).

Two examples of processed data are provided for profile GPR_P1_Par (Fig. 10) and profile GPR_Long_40MHz (Fig. 11), inside folder *Example result* in **GPR**. The data were processed according to the workflow explained in Fig. 5 and saved in Reflex-w format and in SEGY format. The files following the Reflex-w format are named "GPR_P1_Par_processed.04(T-R)" and "GPR_Long_40MHZ_processed.01(T-R)", while the remaining files are "GPR_P1_Par_processed.SGY" and "GPR_ Long_40MHZ_processed.SGY". The processed files in Reflex-w and SEGY format have topographic correction. The image file is provided for fast visualization.

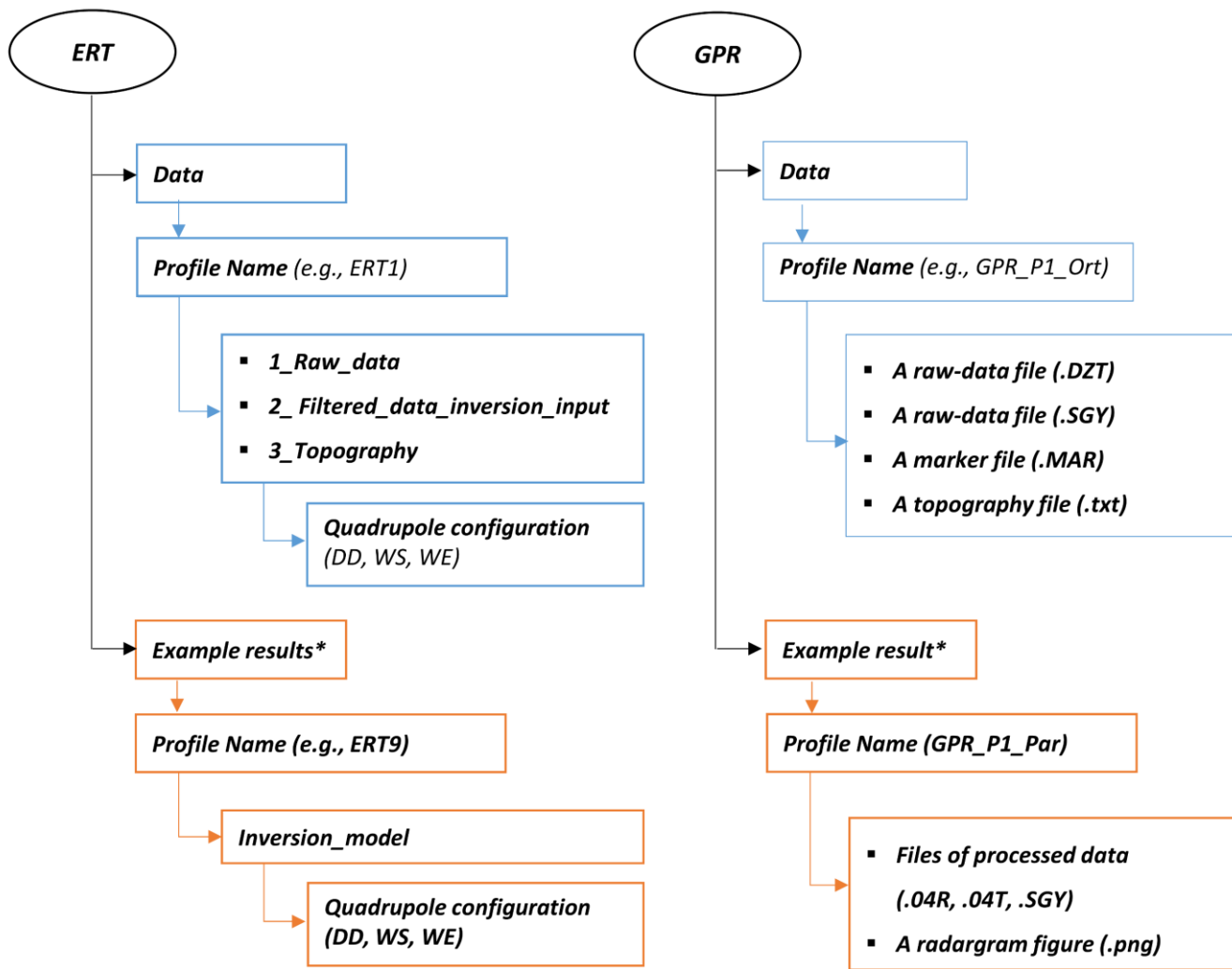



Figure 12: the workflow of the repository of ERT and GPR data acquired in Ny-Ålesund.

6.2 Specifications of data file

In this section, the main file types used for sharing the ERT and GPR data are described.

6.2.1. ERT

560 The apparent resistivity values are given in a text file with .DAT extension, according to the RES2DINV format (Loke, 2004). The data can be edited using any general-purpose text editor to check and manually modify the data file. The data are arranged in an ASCII delimited manner where a comma or blank space or LF/CR is used to separate different numerical data

items. The data format used here is a general array format, to include non-conventional arrays of any configuration. The data file is organized in three different slots: the headers, the apparent resistivity section, and the topographical section. The headers include the flag of the configuration array, the number of apparent resistivity data and other information on the transect. The data are organized in nine columns: the x and z coordinates of the four electrodes for each sequence and the column of apparent resistivity (in Ωm). Additional information and details about how the data files are structured are reported in the RES2DINV Manual and Loke's Course Notes. A description of the different array types is given in the free tutorial notes on electrical imaging (Loke, 2004). The topography data are below the section with the apparent resistivity values, separated by them by some specific flags. The first item is a flag to indicate whether the file contains topography data. If there is no topography data, its value is 0. We entered 1 or 2 to indicate that topographical data is present. In most transects, the distances of the points are taken along the ground surface; in this case, the value of 2 for the topography data flag is considered. This is followed by the number of topographical data points. At the end, some 0 flags are included.

6.2.2 GPR

The GPR data are available in SEG-Y (Hagelund and Levin, 2017) after being converted from the original files in proprietary RADAN format (with extension .DZT). The SEG-Y is an open standard format developed by the Society of Exploration Geophysicists in 1975, nevertheless, it remains the preferred preservation file format for GPR data. The files have been post-processed according to the workflow provided in Section 4 and then converted to SEG-Y format. The conversion and post-processing were performed using Reflexw Software (Sandmeier, 2021). The conversion was performed following these settings: exporting format SEGY-DOS, scaling factor for coordinates equal to 1, and checking the output parameters "segy_ibm_format" and "ps timeincr". This SEG-Y format provides a file with IBM 32-bit floating-point numbers. We tested the files with Reflexw and GPR-Viewer to validate them before the distribution.

7 Discussion

We presented a new set of geophysical data from the remote site of Ny-Ålesund in High Arctic environment. The multi-method geophysical survey was designed to image the subsurface at different scales and resolutions. A comprehensive and integrated interpretation of the presented data set is beyond the scope of this paper but some thought for food can be proposed to stimulate future discussions and applications among the scientific community active in polar studies as well as in climate changes studies.

A significant variability was observed in the measured ERT and GPR data. This implied various degrees of heterogeneity in the distribution of the imaged physical parameters, both electrical resistivity and dielectric permittivity. To explain this heterogeneity, several factors should be considered by the users and modelers of the data set. As is widely known, the electrical resistivity of the subsurface is usually controlled by lithology, the occurrence of liquid phase (that rules electrolytic

conduction) and the amount of clay (that enhances surface conduction). The peculiar conditions of the study area strongly affected the geophysical response. The occurrence of ice in the permafrost and intermittently in the active layer plays a
595   relevant role in increasing the bulk resistivity of the subsurface. The data set can be modelled and interpreted in terms of percentage of ice content at depth, thus solving the challenge of a distinction between different solid and fluid phases involved in the system under investigation.

Moreover, given that Ny-Ålesund is a former coal mining town, the occurrence of various coal seams as well as the past anthropic activity should be considered (Orvin, 1934). A dense and tangled mining tunnelling system which supposedly
600   develops from the surface down to several tens of meters could play an important role in the distribution of electrical resistivity in the mine area at the foot of Mt. Zeppelin.

In the whole study area, the interpretation of the geophysical data (and models) in terms of liquid phase of the ground should consider different origin, evolution, physico-chemical properties and hence different values of the electrical resistivity of the aqueous solutions.

605   The presented data set can be used for several scientific purposes. First, the ERT data can support studies on the interplay between groundwater and permafrost, thus improving knowledge about possible deep circulation of water supra, intra and sub-permafrost. Second, the integrated ERT and GPR data can offer the opportunity to identify both the interface between active layer and permafrost at very high latitudes and even the continuity of the permafrost in terms of ice percentage. The time series of various parameters directly measured in the four piezometers will be delivered as outcomes of the project that
610   funded this research (I2F project). Therefore, various schemes of joint and/or petrophysical inversion could be tested in the future by using these data.

The geological data of the study area are available from the literature and could be useful to interpret the data set and geophysical models. The different sectors of the study area have different coverage of geological data. Poor coverage of direct borehole data is available in the Bayelva catchment so that it was challenging to reliably interpret the data measured in
615   this sector (ERT1 and ERT2). A few geological data about the piezometer area are available in the literature. In addition to the aforementioned I2F piezometers, some borehole data are available from Orvin (1934) and few geological data can be accessed for borehole "DBNyÅlesund" (Orr et al., 2019; https://sios-svalbard.org/node/648; http://gtnpdatabase.org/boreholes/view/1837/).

The mine area presents a completely different situation because decades of coal mining exploitation produced a great amount
620   of direct data from a dense network of tunnels, boreholes and pits in a number of mines. To the knowledge of the authors, these data of the mine area are neither organized nor available, except for few information reported in Orvin (1934).

8 Data availability

Data described in this manuscript can be accessed at the repository under data doi: https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10260056 (Pace et al., 2023).

625 ## 9 Conclusions

This paper set out to share the data set of a geophysical survey, performed in the summer of 2022 in the Svalbard Archipelago, near the Ny-Ålesund village. The survey was undertaken to provide new insight into the hydrogeological characterization of the area.

We described the acquisition settings of ERT and GPR data in such an extreme environment, that of remote High Arctic
630 tundra. The details of all the acquired profiles were listed. Then, the methods adopted for quality control and processing were illustrated. Some representative examples of processed data and inversion results were shown in this manuscript, and together with the whole data set, were organized to be shared in a public repository.

The data set has been carefully uploaded to the repository using a common and standard geophysical format for an easy-to-use processing with commercial and not commercial software. All the transects are completed with the topographical
635 information and have been tested by checking their integrity and functionality. The repository is available under data doi (Pace et al.,2023, https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10260056).

The public availability of this repository is of major relevance because to the authors' knowledge no data set of near-surface geophysical acquisitions, such as the one presented here, has been published, even though Ny-Ålesund represents the northernmost popular scientific center in the High Arctic.
640 The data were collected for 2D interpretation, but an attempt of pseudo-3D data processing could be possible, especially in the piezometer area. In this area, we also shared the data set of GPR data that could be useful for data integration or joint inversion. This would be a fruitful area for future work.

Our data set could offer a good opportunity for geophysicists to develop new methodologies for interpreting geophysical data in the Arctic environment and for geoscientists, involved in studying the region, to corroborate their assumptions about
645 the geological and hydrogeological settings of the area.

Future work will investigate the interpretation of the geophysical models by means of hydrogeological and geological information and in collaboration with other partners of the I2F project.

The data set is shared with the scientific community for all the possible purposes. Future users are kindly asked to cite the present paper when using the data set.

650 ## Glossary

DD: Dipole-Dipole Array configuration for ERT data

ERT: Electrical Resistivity Tomography

GPR: Ground Penetrating Radar

GPS: Global Positioning System

655 I2F: ICEtoFLUX project

MT: Magnetotelluric method

UTM: Universal Transverse Mercator

WS: Wenner-Schlumberger Array configuration for ERT data

WE: Wenner Array configuration for ERT data

660 **Author contribution**

Data curation: FP, AV, AG, GR, AS, LC;

data acquisition and fieldwork: FP, AV, AG, GR, AS, LC, IB;

methodology and modeling: FP, AV, AG, GR, AS, LC;

software: FP, AV, AG, GR, AS, LC;

665 supervision: AG, AS, MD;

visualization: FP, AV, GR, AS, LC;

writing – original draft: FP, AV, AG, GR, AS, LC;

writing – review & editing: all.

Competing interests

670 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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