

275 m high Yusufeli arch dam

Digital ground model - data handling and applications



Photos by Limak

Yusufeli dam

2013: DSI awarded design & built contract to a Turkish consortium, lead by LIMAK, with iC consultants acting as geotechnical consultant.

July 2018: completion of dam foundation excavation.

February 2022: completion of dam concreting & grouting.

November 2022: start of impounding.

End 2023: completion of impounding.



Yusufeli arch dam - digital ground model

Up to 480 m high cut slopes, stabilized by ~ 6 500 prestressed anchors, top-down excavation accessed via network of tunnels including spiral galleries.

2.2 billion m³ reservoir volume.

Rough terrain with very steep and high valley flanks

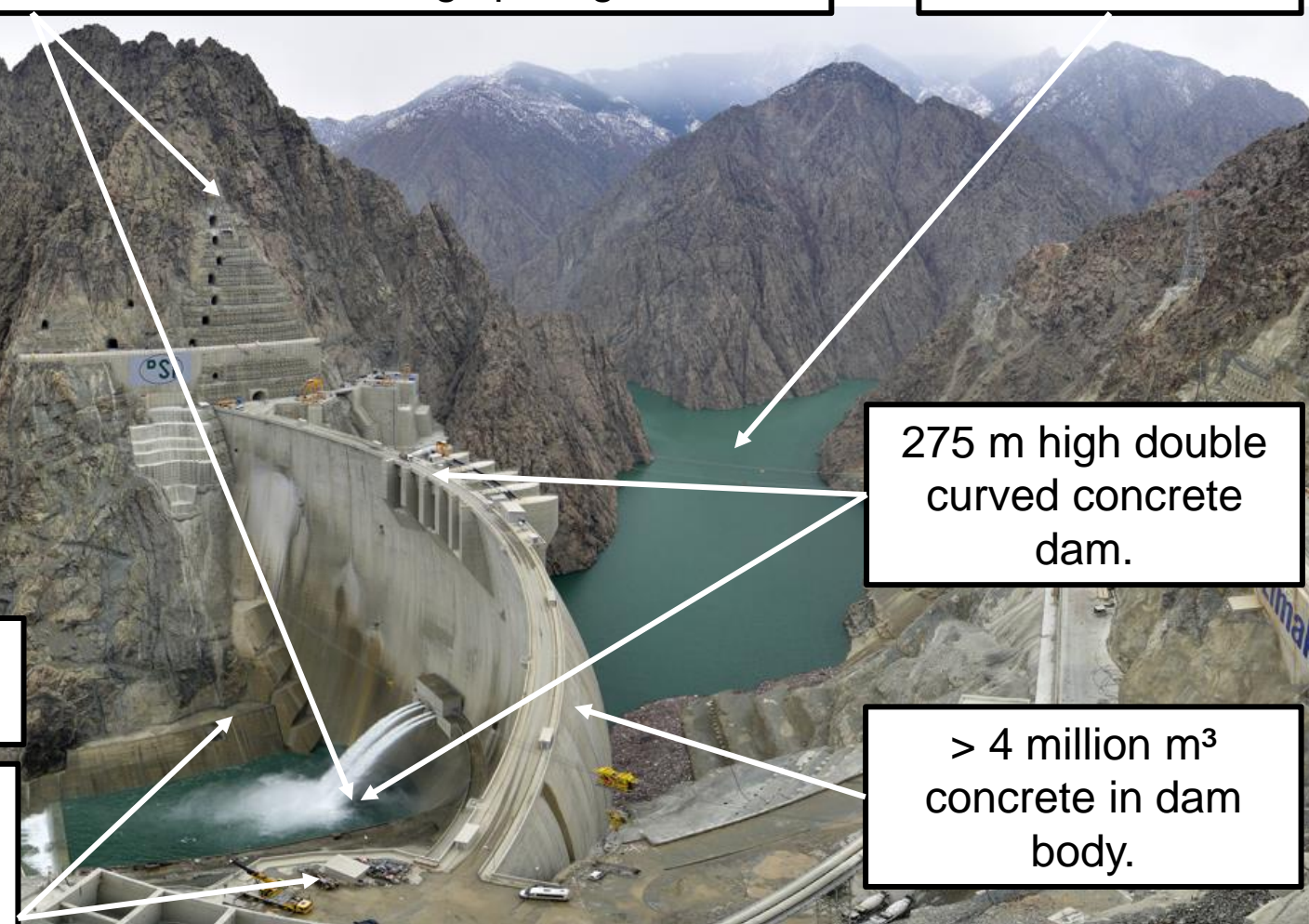
558 MW underground powerhouse.

275 m high double curved concrete dam.

Deformation properties at some areas of the foundation less favorable than expected

> 4 million m³ concrete in dam body.

Extensive consolidation grouting required:
> 8 500 m³ cement grout in approximately 12 000 grout holes with an accumulated length of 216 000 m.



Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Site activities											
diversion tunnel	started 2012										
access roads and tunnels	including drainage and grouting galleries				including spillway tunnels						
caverns and shafts											
cut slope excavation	access roads	above crest									
dam foundation excavation											
dam + abutment concrete											
grouting			grouting test panels			curtain, consolidation and "relaxed-rock mass-grouting"					
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Geological input data											
field mapping	especially left valley flank										
boreholes and in situ testing	including pre-tender data						verification survey				
tunnel documentation											
slope documentation			above crest	dam footprint							
refraction seismic			from surface and galleries								
displacement monitoring			natural- and cut slopes, including InSAR								
grouting records											
Model applications											
geological + geotechnical understanding and concept											
dam foundation model						post grout model					
grouting concept							optimisation				
slope design (iC)							spillway				
tunnel and cavern design							spillway				
verification and optimisation											
Project coordination	guiding and coordinating the design and construction processes										

Data handling

No mature digital work space at project start (2013)

- Existing information in PDF formats, simple terrain models, 2D CAD drawings
 - Site investigation data received in paper, PDF and contractor's native excel formats
 - Classical field mapping and tunnel documentation etc. with pencil and paper
 - Project-specific classification systems developed during construction
 - No database solutions and specifications
- Successive development of custom system for data handling and storage, using:
- Excel templates suitable for interpretation and analysis
 - Custom scripts (e.g. software R) for extraction from native formats, processing and analysis
 - Export and storage of complex csv files corresponding to Leapfrog's internal database
 - Complex model hosted on Seequent's Central platform

Data handling: Digitalization and model import

Original records from SI contractor



Interpretation and processing



Preparation of key-content for model import, analysis and reporting

YUSUFELI BARAJI BARAJI TEMELI 444 KOTU - ENJEKSYON KUYULARININ DURUMU

Kuyu Adı	Azim	Delgi Başlama Tarihi	Delgi Bitiş Tarihi	Derinlik (m)	Eğim açısı (°)	Delgi Konsolidasyon Eriş. Tarihi	Kademeli Kuyularına Göre Konsolidasyon Erişimliği Altı Miksan (E.)						Toplam Tm	Notlar		
							0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30			30-34	
Kuy1238P		03.08.2018	03.08.2018	34,00	90	Karotusuz	04.08.2018	1176,00	82,00	12,00	7,00	12,00	18,00	3320,00	Primer-İkonder Kuyular	
Kuy1454P		03.08.2018	03.08.2018	34,00	90	Karotusuz	04.08.2018	3330,00	192,00	81,00	8,00	10,00	10,00	8,00	3549,00	delgi biten
Kuy1239P		03.08.2018	04.08.2018	34,00	90	Karotusuz	04.08.2018	192,00	193,00	16,00	16,00	17,00	17,00	11,00	462,00	delgi devam eden
Kuy1630P		03.08.2018	04.08.2018	34,00	90	Karotusuz	05.08.2018	8,00	782,00	993,00	5,00	31,00	6,00	11,00	1777,00	enayeten yapılan
Kuy1830P		04.08.2018	05.08.2018	34,00	90	Karotusuz	05.08.2018	55,00	51,00	2204,00	112,00	52,00	31,00	17,00	2526,00	

FACE LOG SHEET FOR WORKSIDE

GEOLOGY MAP OF TUNNEL FACE

546 LB 2 Vs MASW (kaymak (-2 m dışı ayrılık dışındaki))

Dispersion curve: 50.dat

Phase Velocity (m/Sec)

Frequency (Hz)

Phase Velocity (m/s)

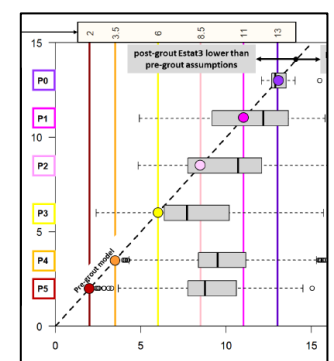
Dispersion curve: 50.dat

DISCONTINUITIES

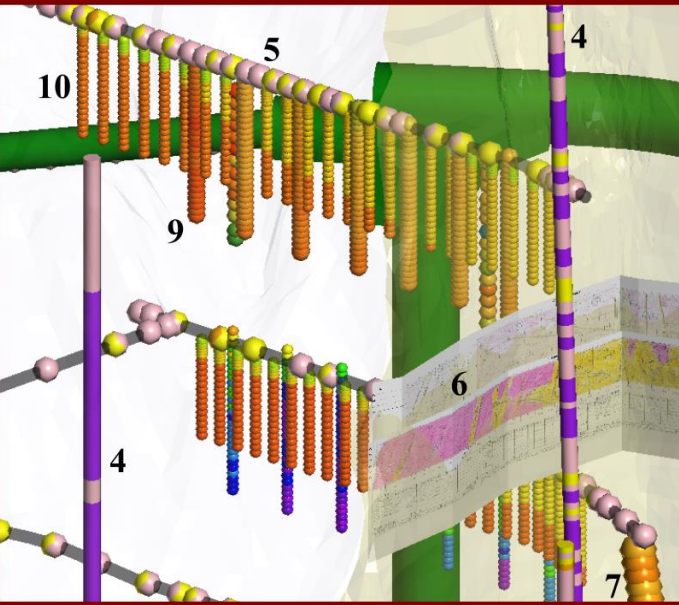
Type	Azim	Roughness/Shape	Springing	Permittivity	Hilling	Thickness
P1	30-60	2-10	2-10	0,1	0,1	0,1
P2	30-60	2-6	2-10	0,1	0,1	0,1
P3	30-60	2-6	2-10	0,1	0,1	0,1
P4	30-60	2-6	2-10	0,1	0,1	0,1
P5	30-60	2-6	2-10	0,1	0,1	0,1



Sp (m)	ch	depth (m)	Vp (m/s)	Vs (m/s)	x (m)	y (m)	z (m)	Vs (m/s)	Vp (m/s)	Vp/Vs	t	gamma (kN/m3)	G_dyn (GPa)	E_dyn (GPa)	Estat3 (GPa)	t
6612	LB	3,00	0,25	1500	600	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	600	1500	2,50	0,405	18,64	0,68	1,92	0,64
6612	LB	3,00	0,50	1500	600	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	600	1500	2,50	0,405	18,64	0,68	1,92	0,64
6612	LB	3,00	1,00	2613	1188	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	1188	2613	2,20	0,370	20,82	2,99	8,20	2,73
6612	LB	3,00	1,25	2613	1188	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	1188	2613	2,20	0,370	20,82	2,99	8,20	2,73
6612	LB	3,00	1,50	2613	1188	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	1188	2613	2,20	0,370	20,82	2,99	8,20	2,73
6612	LB	3,00	2,00	2613	1188	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	1188	2613	2,20	0,370	20,82	2,99	8,20	2,73
6612	LB	3,00	2,50	2613	1188	47009,288	4520713,549	609,750	1188	2613	2,20	0,370	20,82	2,99	8,20	2,73
6612	LB	3,00	3,00	3253	1626	47009,288	4520713,549	607,000	1626	3253	2,00	0,333	22,08	5,95	15,87	5,29
6612	LB	3,00	4,00	3253	1626	47009,288	4520713,549	606,000	1626	3253	2,00	0,333	22,08	5,95	15,87	5,29
6612	LB	3,00	5,00	3253	1626	47009,288	4520713,549	605,000	1626	3253	2,00	0,333	22,08	5,95	15,87	5,29
6612	LB	3,00	6,00	3253	1626	47009,288	4520713,549	604,000	1626	3253	2,00	0,333	22,08	5,95	15,87	5,29
6612	LB	3,00	7,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	603,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	8,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	602,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	9,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	601,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	10,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	600,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	11,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	599,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	12,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	598,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	13,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	597,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	14,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	596,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	15,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	595,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42
6612	LB	3,00	16,00	4530	2384	47009,288	4520713,549	594,000	2384	4530	1,90	0,308	24,58	14,24	37,27	12,42



Model content
 1 underground facilities
 2 terrain models and excavation (transparent)
 3 tunnel axis (>20km / 130 adits, galleries and tunnels for construction and operation)



Factual data in digital model (excluding grouting and verification survey)
 4 borehole logs (ca. 16,300m / 280 holes)
 5 geological tunnel and shaft documentation (>2250 face logs)
 6 geological slope documentation (ca. 200,000m² / >1000 A4 logging sheets)
 7 dilatometer tests (>500 tests)
 8 plateload test (44 tests)
 9 crosshole seismic survey (> 30 profiles)
 10 refraction seismic profiles (>60 profiles)

Factual data in Leapfrog model:

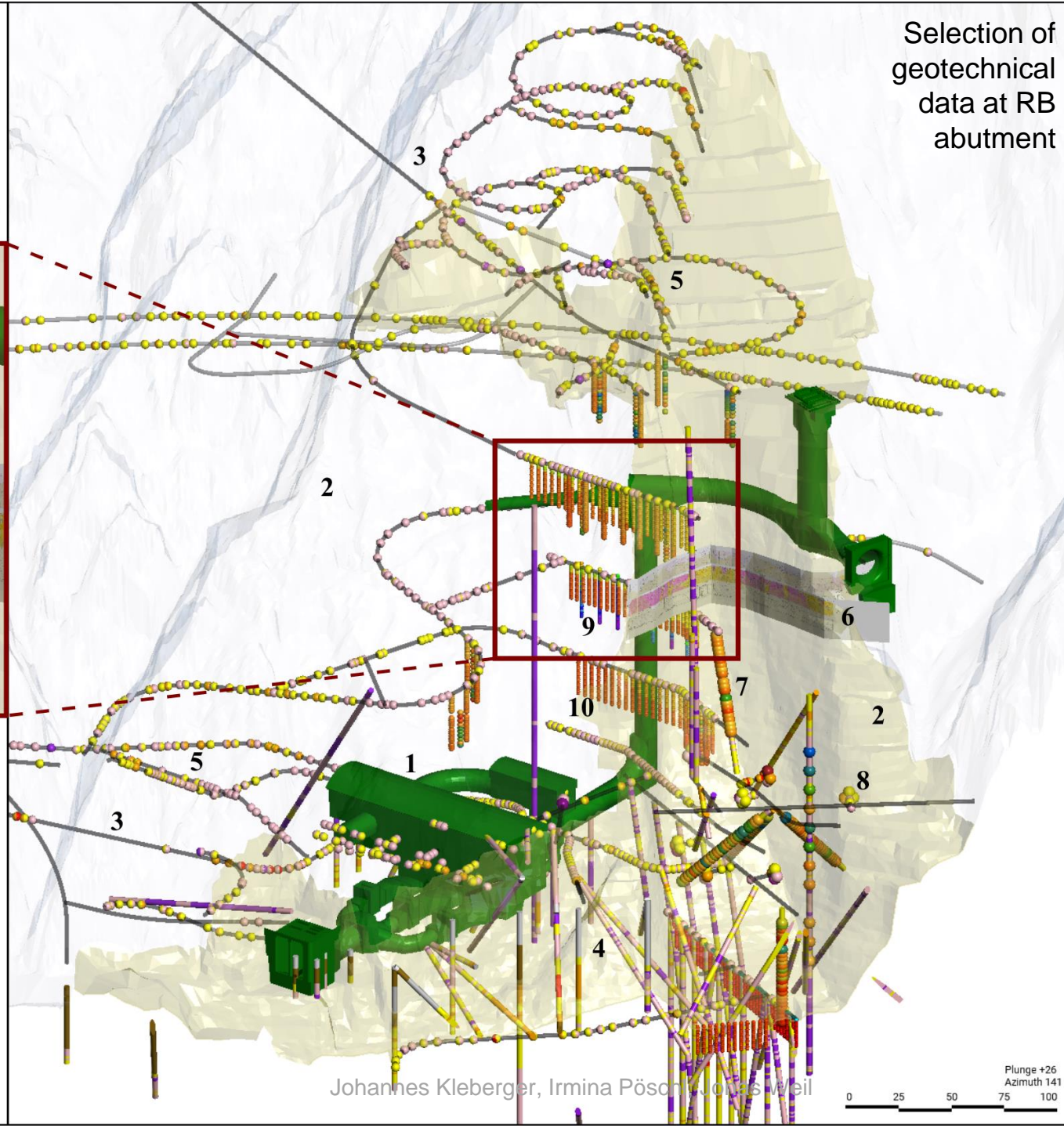
Data-driven:

- Borehole data
- Points
- Block models
- GIS data

Visual:

- Polylines
- References maps and sections

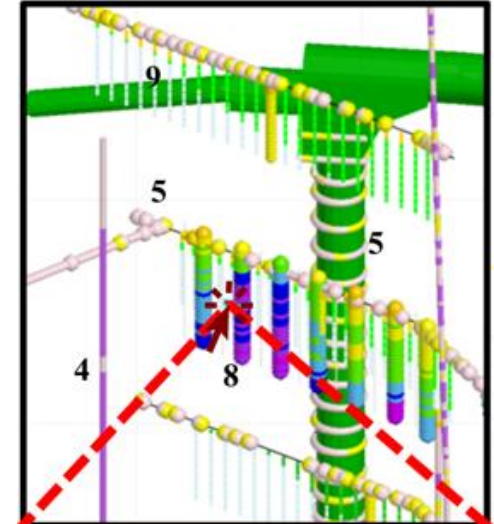
Selection of geotechnical data at RB abutment



Factual data in Leapfrog model - data-driven:

Leapfrog “Boreholes” were used for classical borehole information, but also for other data that could be displayed along “alignments”, such as

- Tunnel alignments:
 - Face logging data
 - Discontinuity data
 - Seismic velocities
 - In situ testing (e.g. plate-load tests in galleries)
 - Water inflow
- Seismic profiles
- Scan line mapping
- Monitoring devices
 - installed equipment (e.g. extensometers, inclinometers)
 - Measured deformation rates
- Displacement paths
 - Including time-dependent information



Estat3_SeisCrossHole_1810	
Location	470332.849997, 4520319.5, 600.599999237
id	339
column	S18_RGD-5_2-3
Vs	2277.00
Vp	5832.00
Vp_Vs	2.56
poisson	0.41
gamma	27.14
G_dyn	14.34
E_dyn	40.45
Estat3	13.48

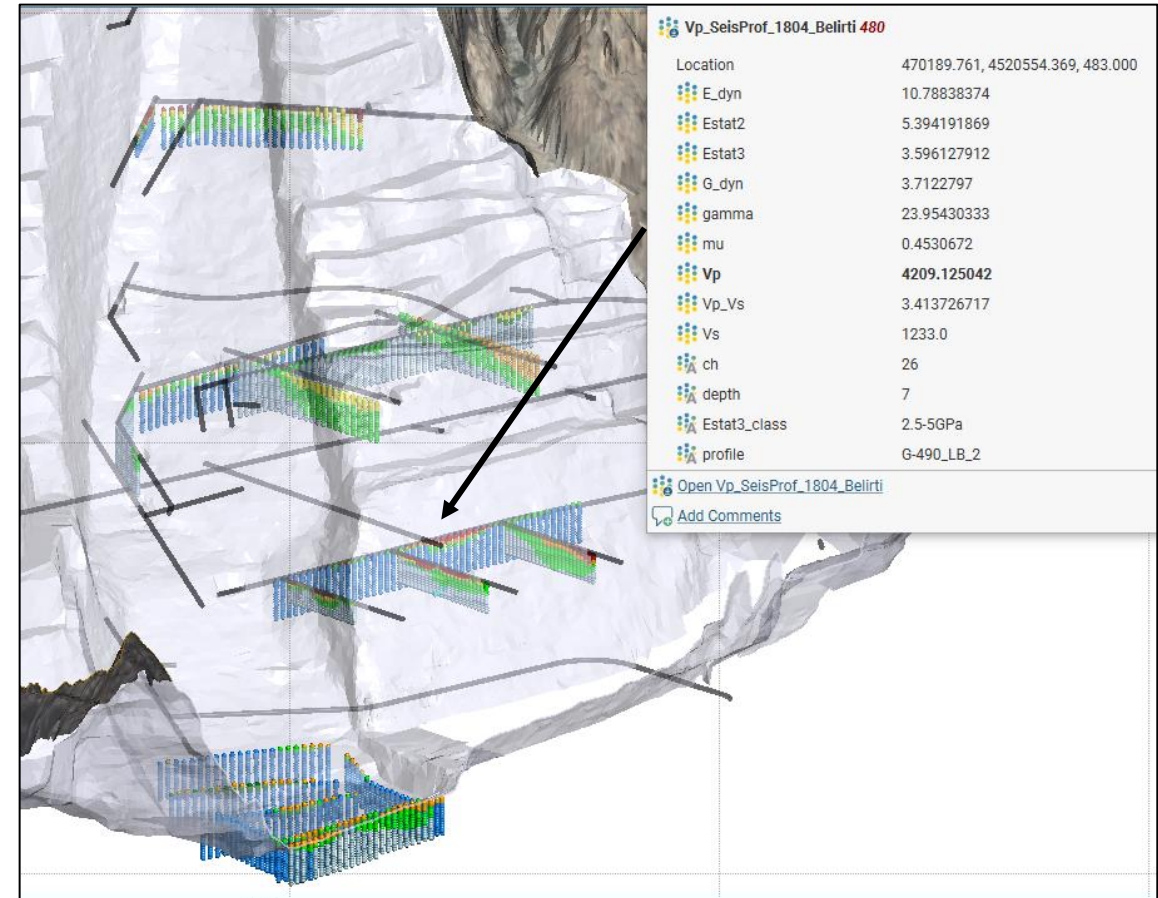
Factual data in Leapfrog model - data-driven:

Many other observations and measurements were imported as points with xyz-coordinates,

- Grids with results from seismic surveys
- Field observations
- Monitoring devices (e.g. load cells from pre-stressed anchors)
- Displacements measurements e.g. from InSAR
- Relevant design structures / information

Applications:

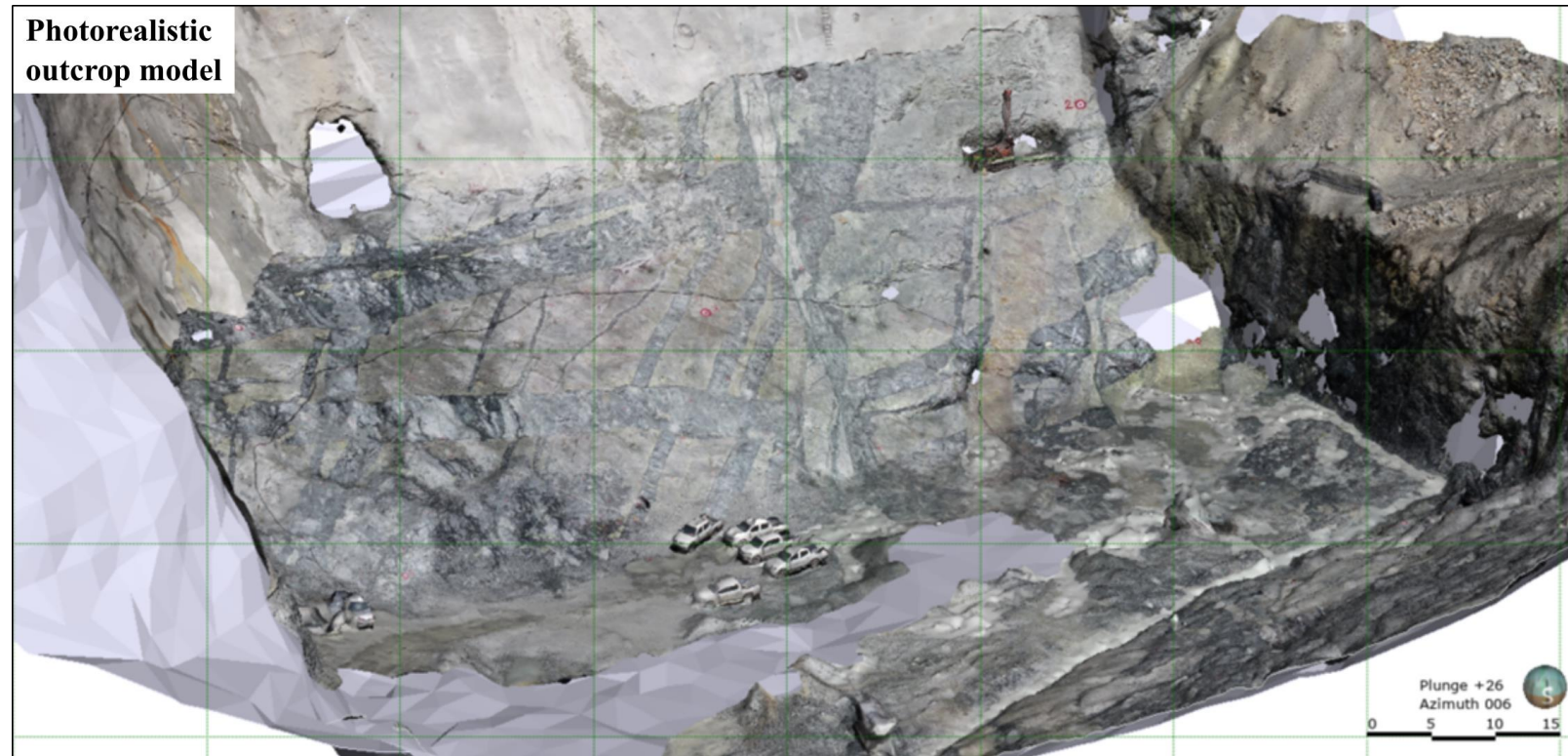
- Query information in model during “manual analysis”
- Interpretation and interpolation of numerical values



Factual data in Leapfrog model – visual only

Information that was implemented in the form of images, maps and drawings:

- Classical orthophotos, maps and technical layouts
- Textured 3D meshes from e.g. photogrammetry
- Interpretation from geophysical surveys
- Geological documentation drawings
 - Tunnels
 - Cut slopes
- Interpreted sections for local geotechnical analysis

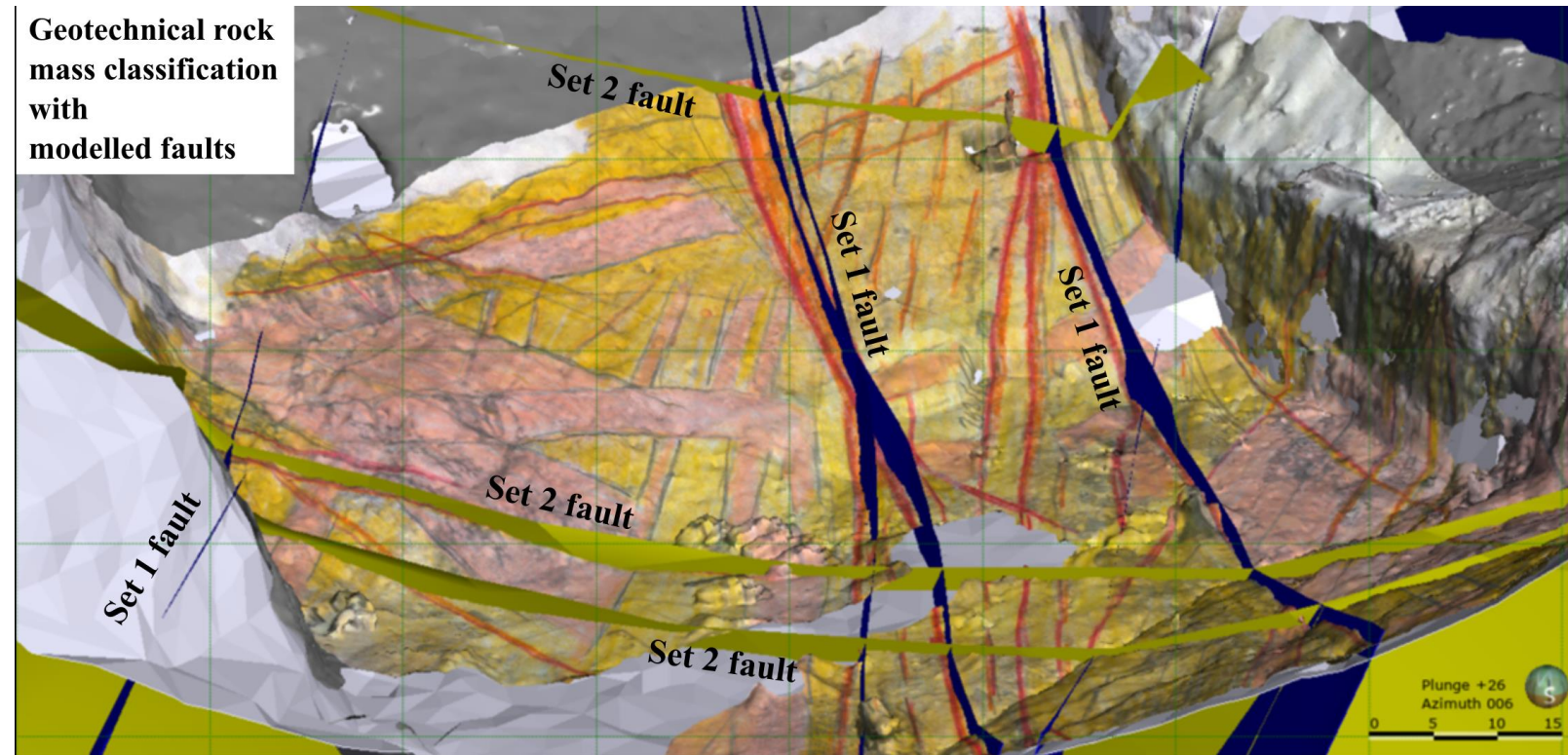


Photorealistic terrain model of excavation base at a dam site...

Factual data in Leapfrog model – visual only

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 - Cut slopes
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... used as the basis for geological documentation and 3D-modelling of faults and rock mass types

Yusufeli Dam, Turkey



Yusufeli arch dam - digital ground model

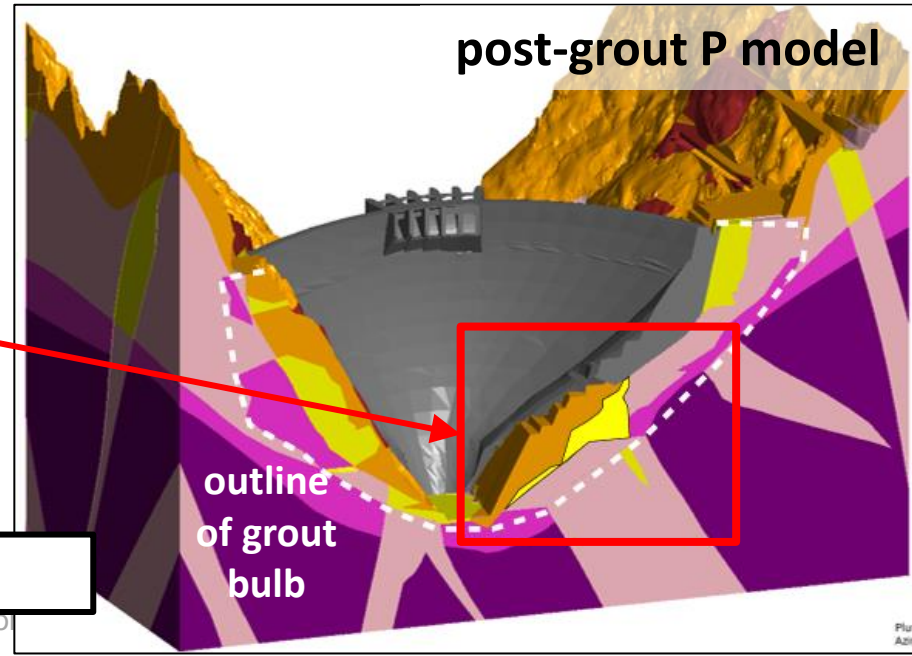
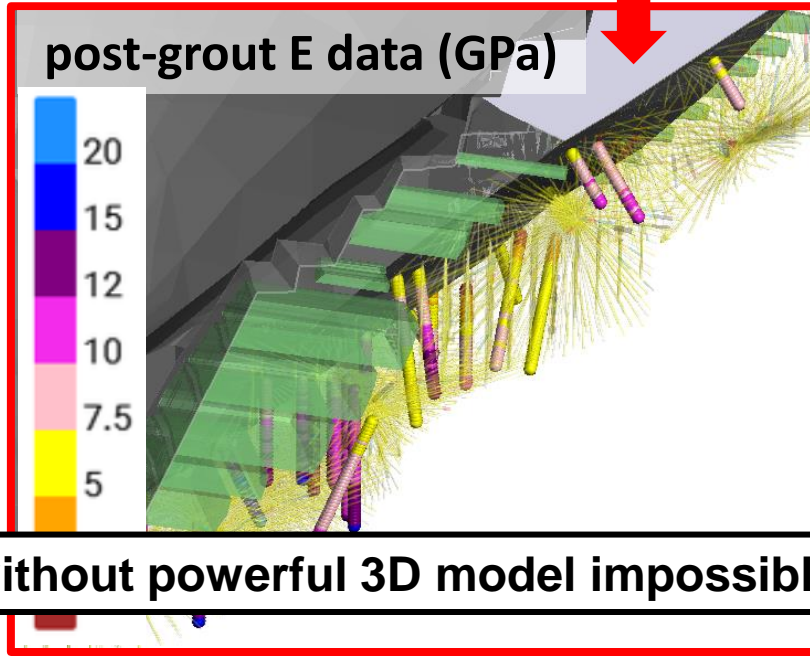
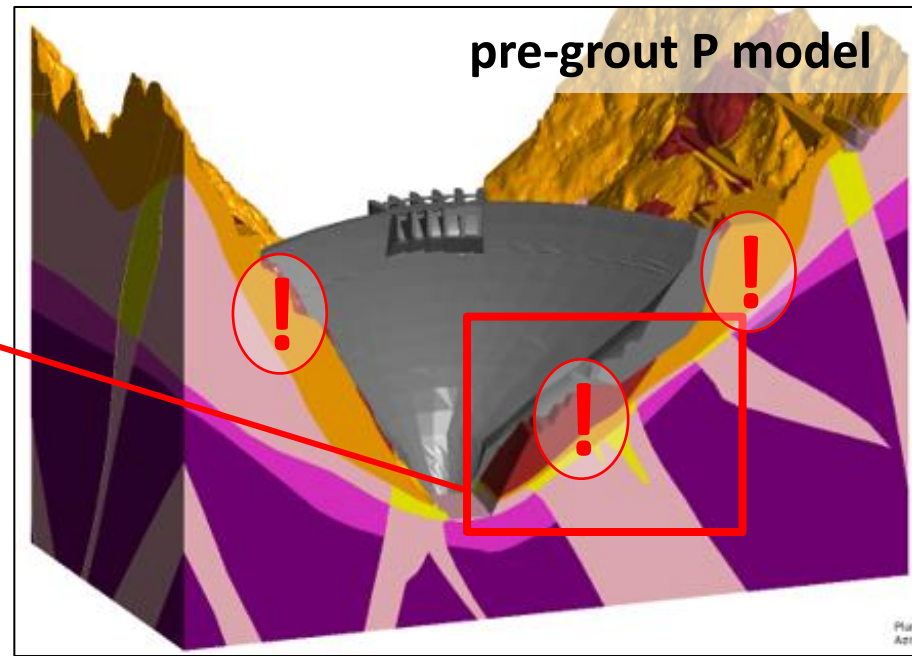
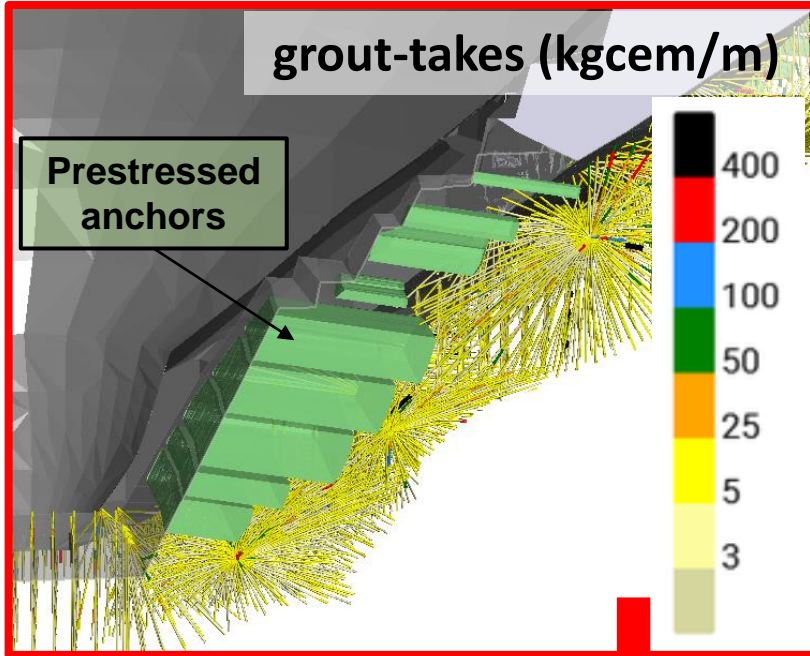
Unsuitable rock mass at dam foundation = complication of next project phase



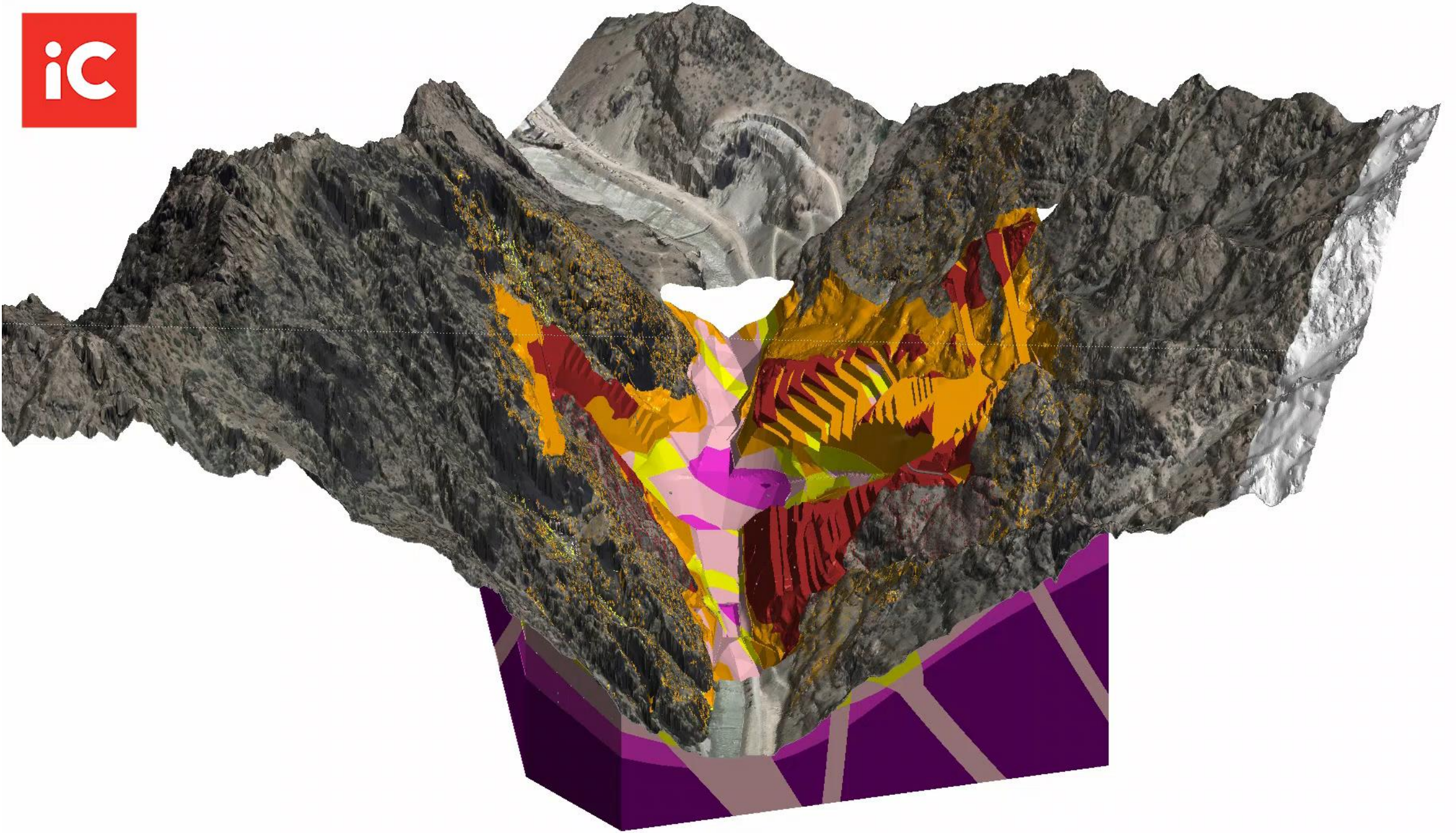
Significant improvement of foundation rock by grouting required

Improvement to be verified by large coverage pre- & post-grout testing

Before impounding: dam design to be verified by calculations based on post-grout model

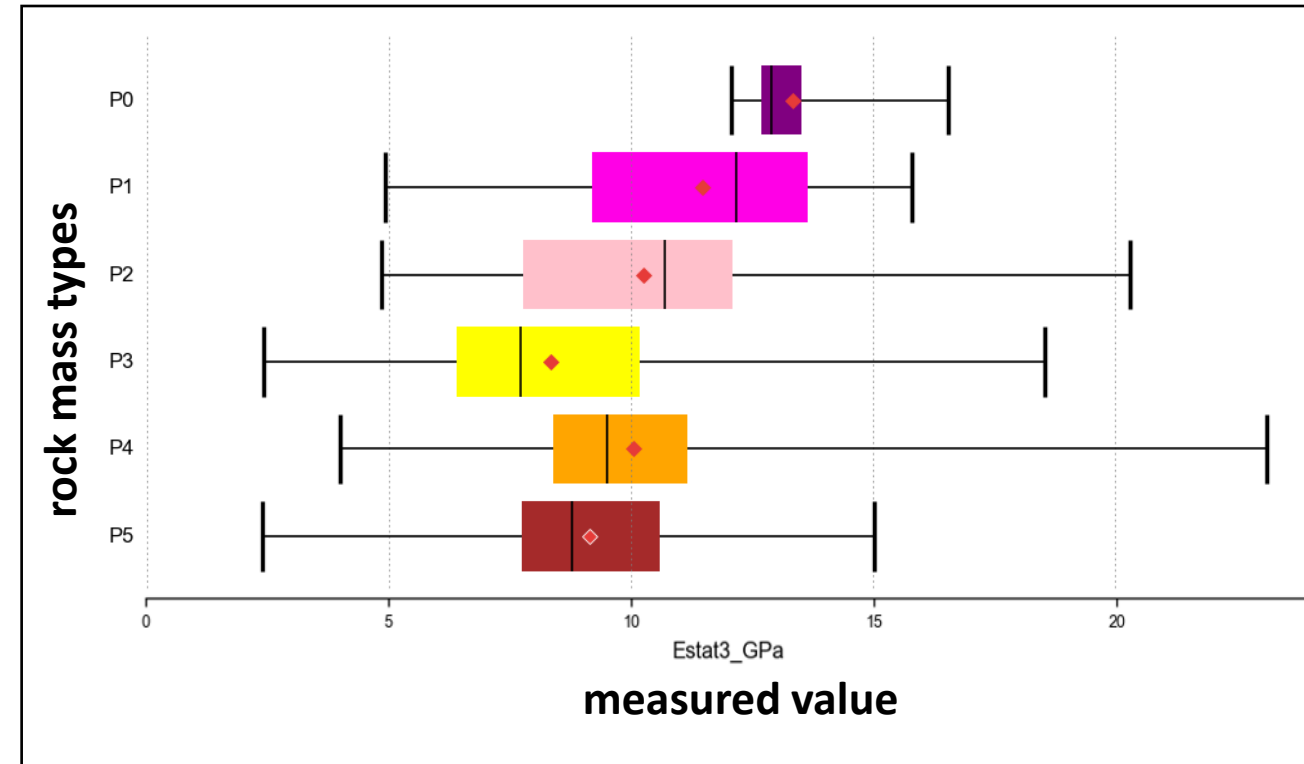
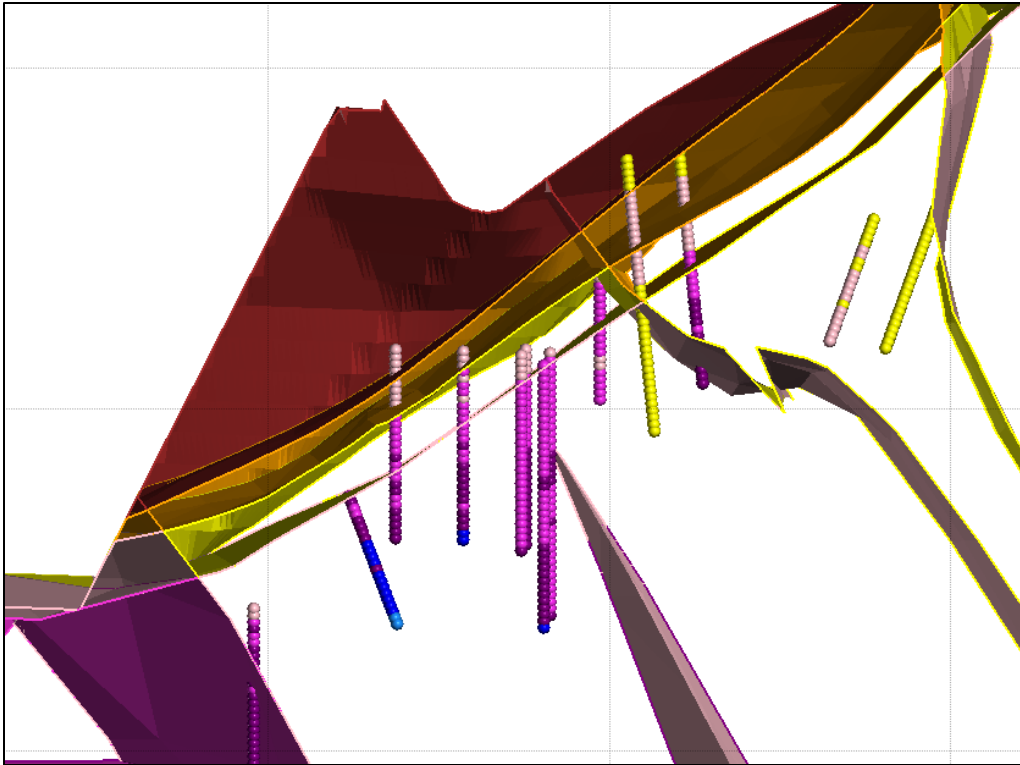


Timely execution without powerful 3D model impossible



Analysis of test results vs. rock mass model

Test results are grouped according to their position in the post-grout geotechnical model



Thank you for your attention!

Details on digital modeling approach and rock mass classification schema:

[ICOLD 2019: Innovative 3D ground models for complex hydropower projects](#)

[ISRM congress 2023: 275 m high Yusufeli arch dam – Geotechnical modelling during construction](#)

Presentation at  **RMCC2024** October in Oslo



J. Kleberger



I. Pöschl



J. Weil

