



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



# VVAZ analysis in Altamont- Bluebell Field

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# Objective

- To identify density and direction of fractures for new drilling opportunities and for effective development of reservoirs.

URTeC(Adams et. al., 2014)

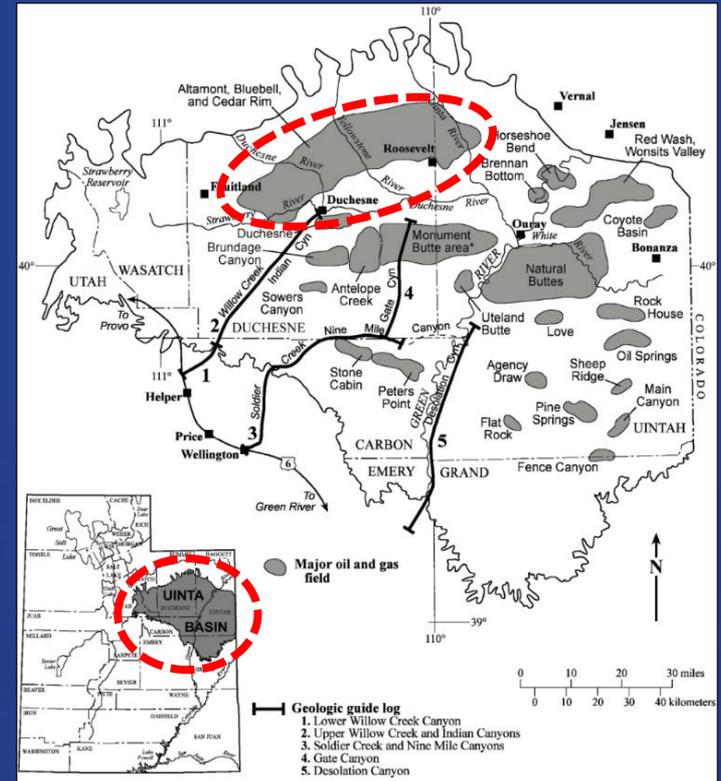
# Outline

- **Introduction**
  - Altamont-Bluebell field
- **VVAZ and interval VVAZ analysis:**
  - Offset VSPs
  - 3D surface seismic
- **Conclusions**

# Uinta Basin & Altamont-Bluebell Field

- Northeastern Utah
- Northern-central part of the basin.
- Lake bounded by:
  - North: Uinta mountains making steep north flank.
  - South: gentle slope
- Accumulative production (2014):  
336 MMBO, 588 BCFG, and 701 MMBW

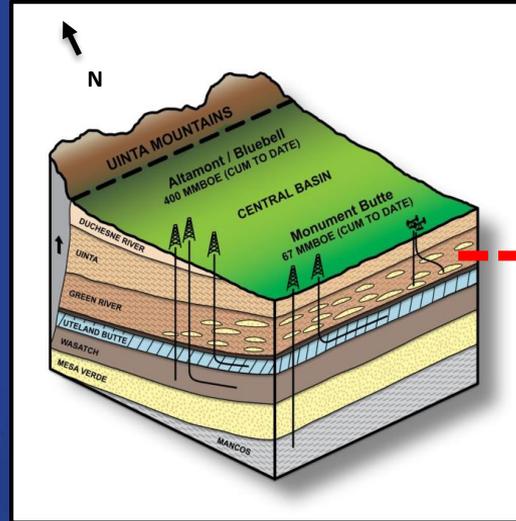
Source: Morgan et. al., 2003



# Stratigraphy and targets

3 main targets are:

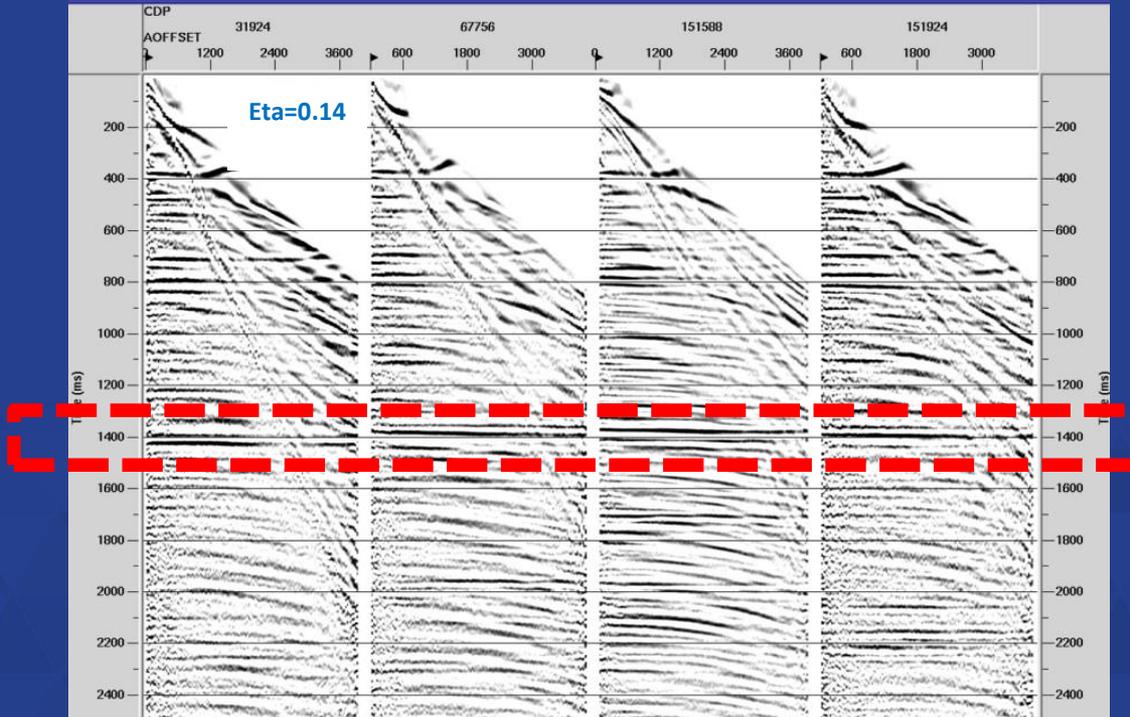
1. Upper Green River
2. Lower Green River (Uteland Butte and Castle Peak)
3. Wasatch/ Colton



Source: Newfield Report

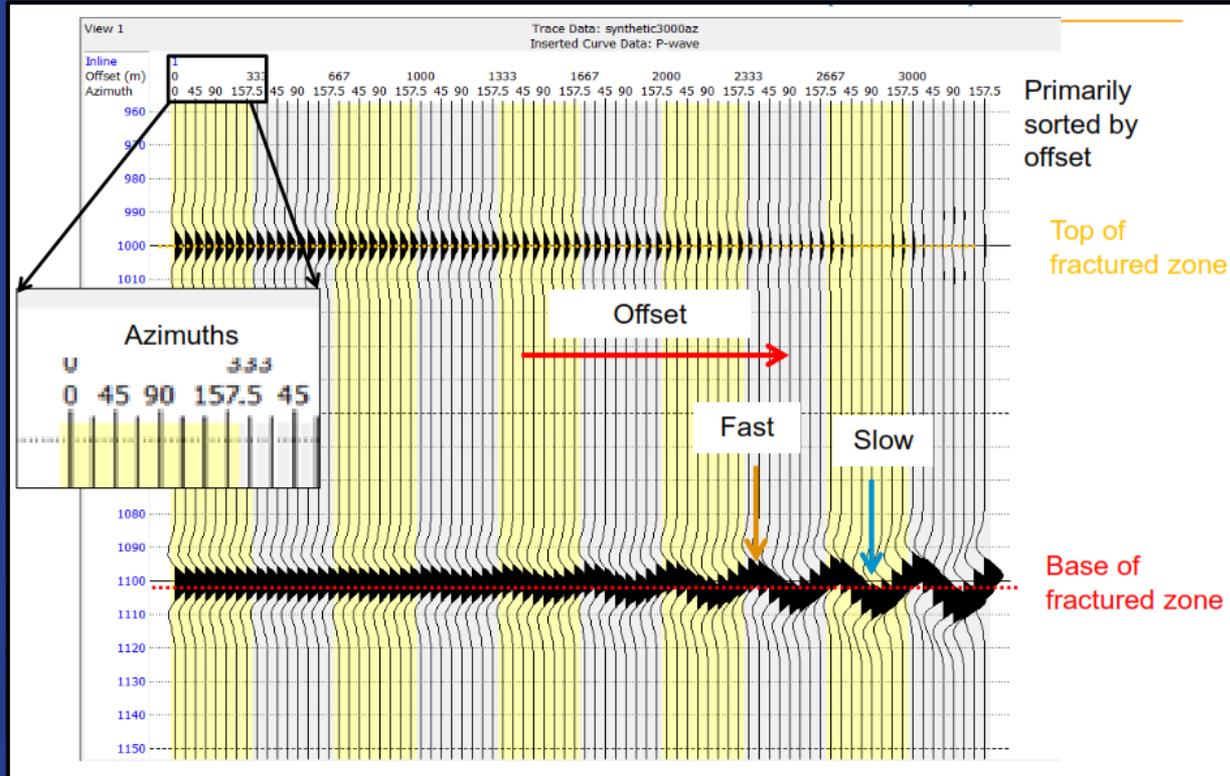
Source: Wooster Geologist Blog

# Horizontal fractures (VTI)



Source: Sensor Geophysical

# Vertical fractures (HTI)



# Elliptical NMO (Grechka and Tsvankin, 1998)

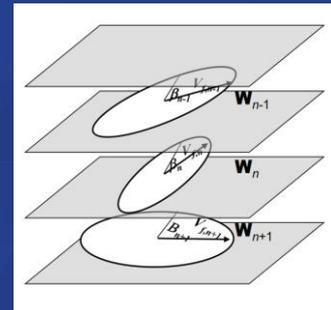
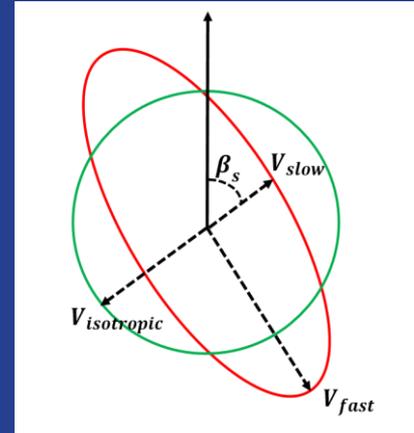
$$T^2 = T_0^2 + \frac{x^2}{V_{NMO}^2(\phi)}$$

$$\frac{1}{V_{NMO}^2(\phi)} = \frac{1}{V_{slow}^2} \cos^2(\phi - \beta_s) + \frac{1}{V_{fast}^2} \sin^2(\alpha - \beta_s)$$

$$T^2 = T_0^2 + x^2 \cos^2(\phi) W_{11} + 2x \cos(\phi) \sin(\phi) W_{12} + x^2 \sin^2(\phi) W_{22}$$

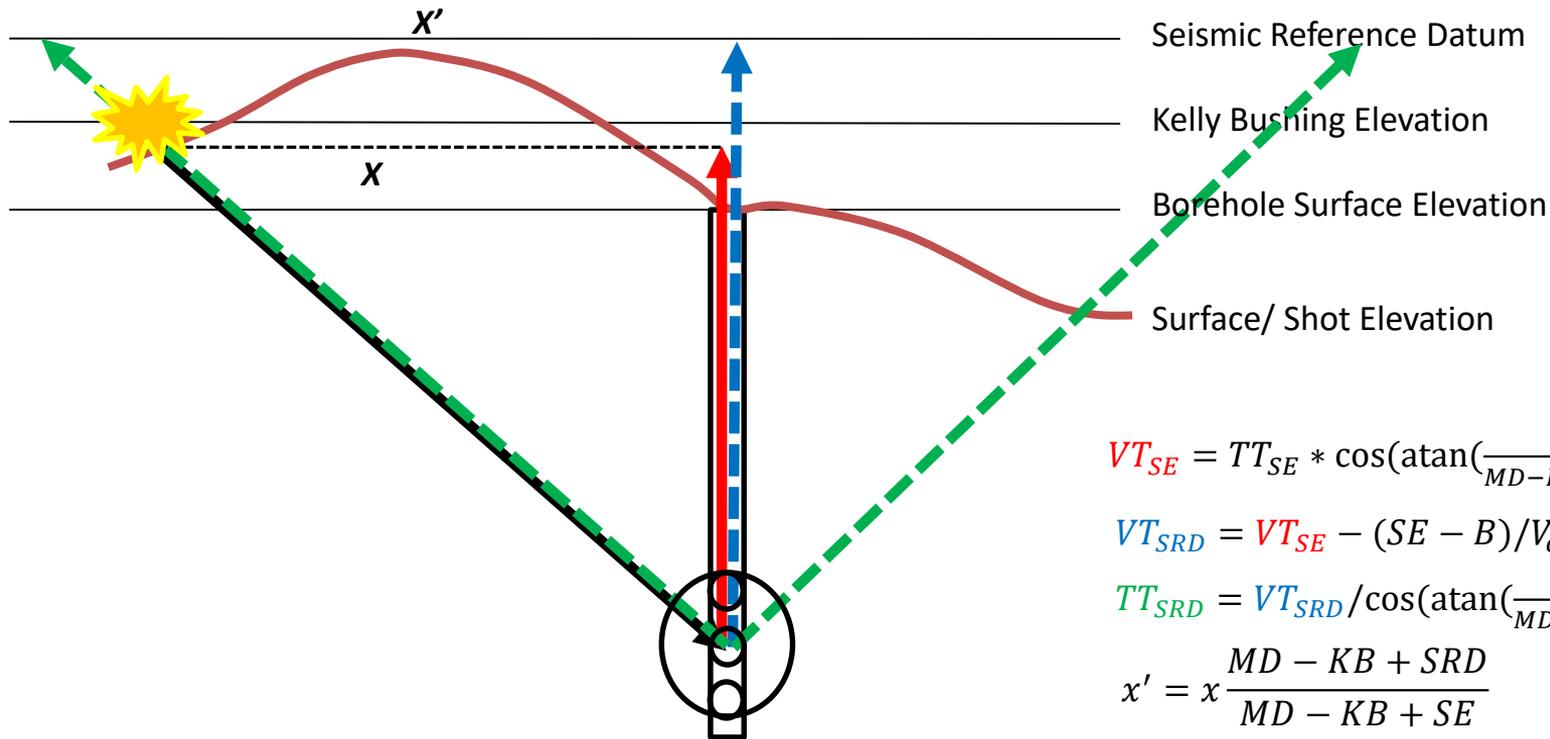
*solve for  $T_0$  and  $W_{ij}$  which yields  $V_{fast}$ ,  $V_{slow}$ , and  $B_s$*

$$W^{-1}_l = \frac{T_0(l)W^{-1}(l) - T_0(l-1)W^{-1}(l-1)}{T_0(l) - T_0(l-1)}$$



Source: Hampson-Russell RroAZ notes

# VVAZ workflow for offset VSPs



$$VT_{SE} = TT_{SE} * \cos(\text{atan}(\frac{x}{MD - KB + SE}))$$

$$VT_{SRD} = VT_{SE} - (SE - B)/V_{avg} + (SRD - B)/V_R$$

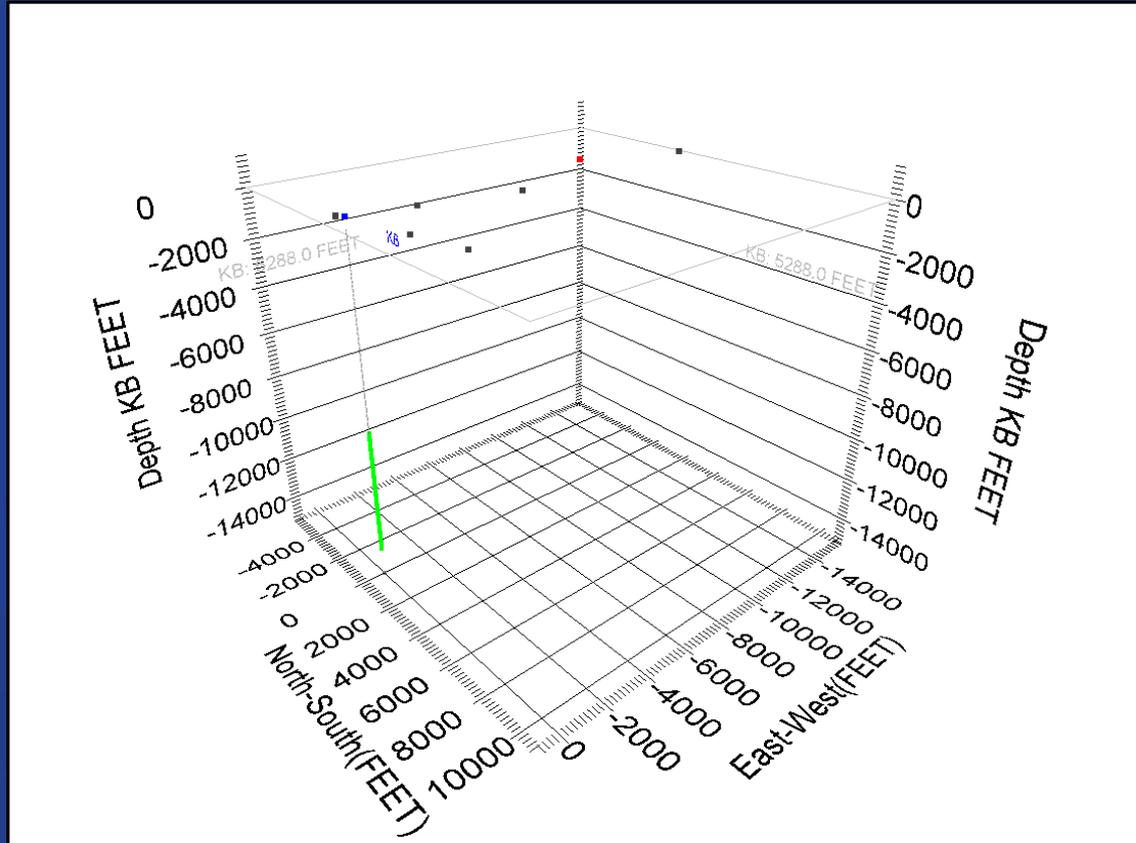
$$TT_{SRD} = VT_{SRD} / \cos(\text{atan}(\frac{x}{MD - KB + SE}))$$

$$x' = x \frac{MD - KB + SRD}{MD - KB + SE}$$

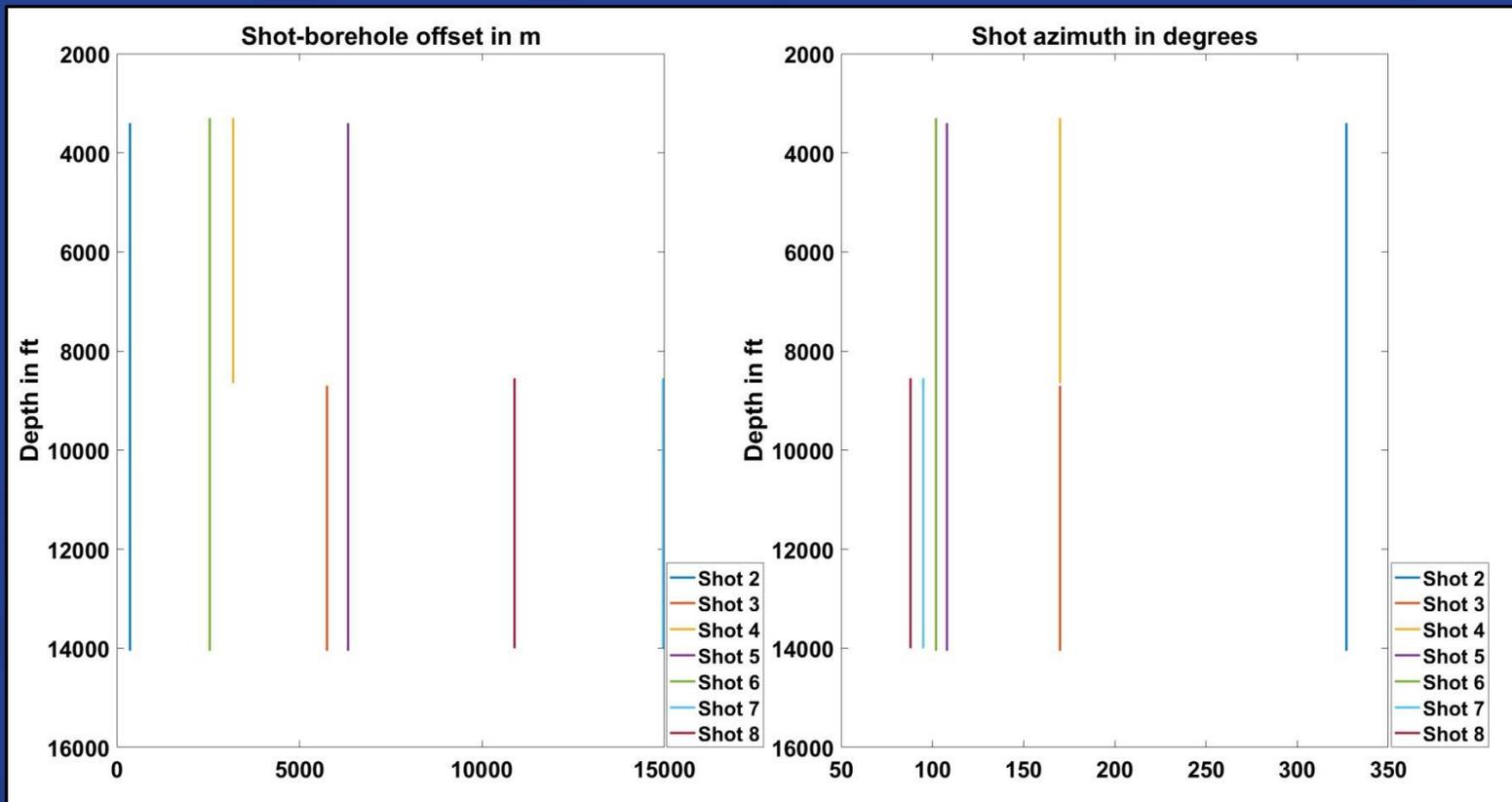
# Offset VSPs acquisition

- 7 VSP Shots: 1 near offset and 6 offset VSPs
- Source: single vertical Vibroseis (4-96 Hz linear sweep)
- Receiver: 2-level tool of 3-C geophone, every 50'
- Shot-borehole offset: 360', 1089', 1495', 2543', 3148', 5755', and 6332'.

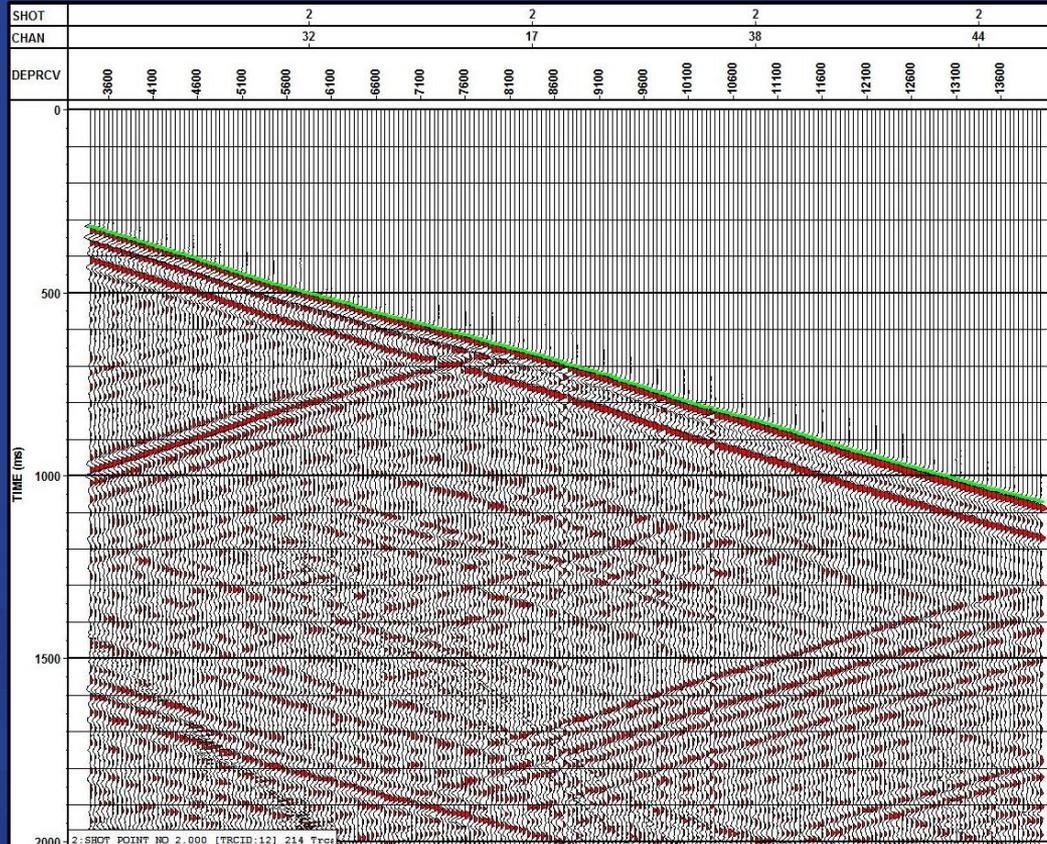
# Location of Offset VSPs



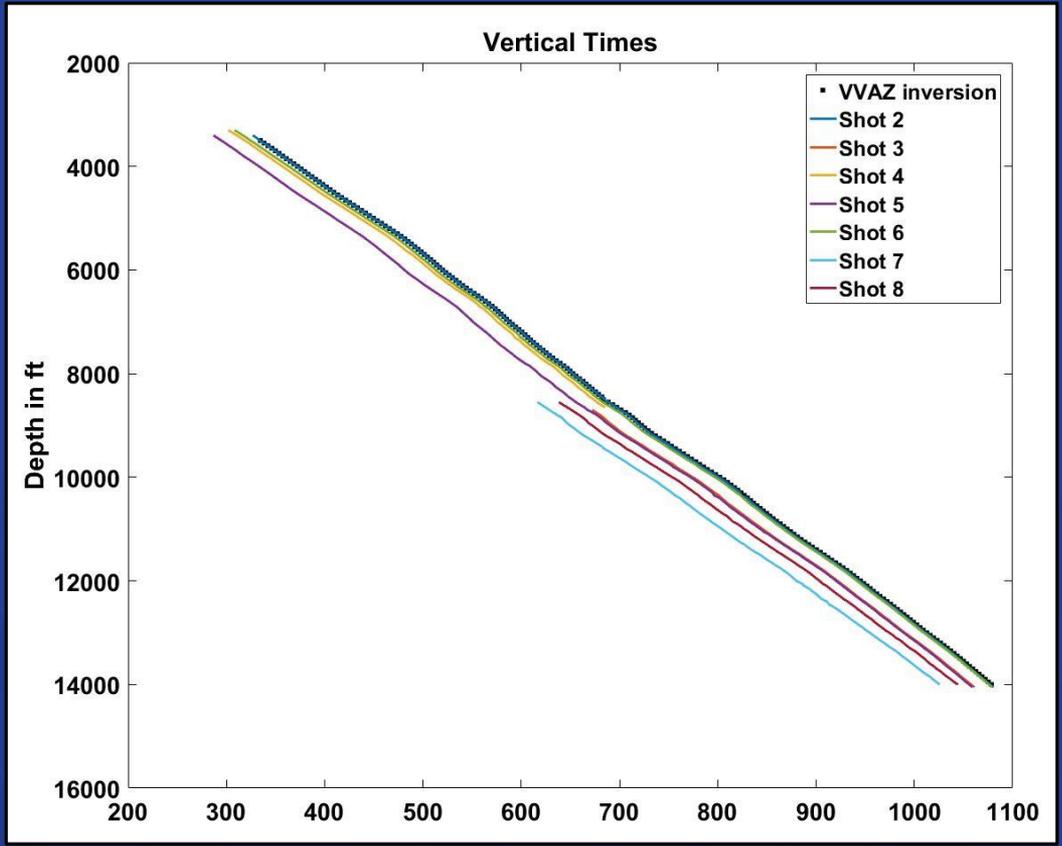
# VSPs: offset & azimuth



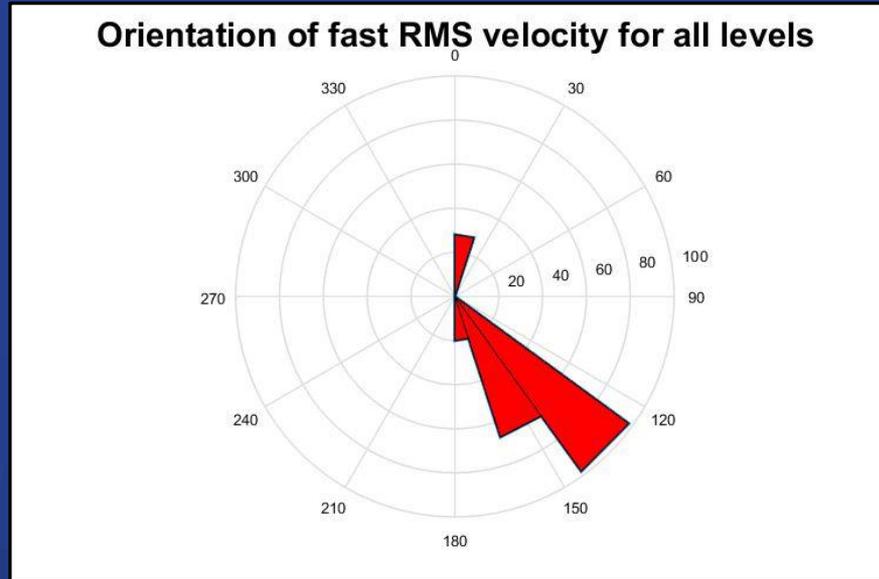
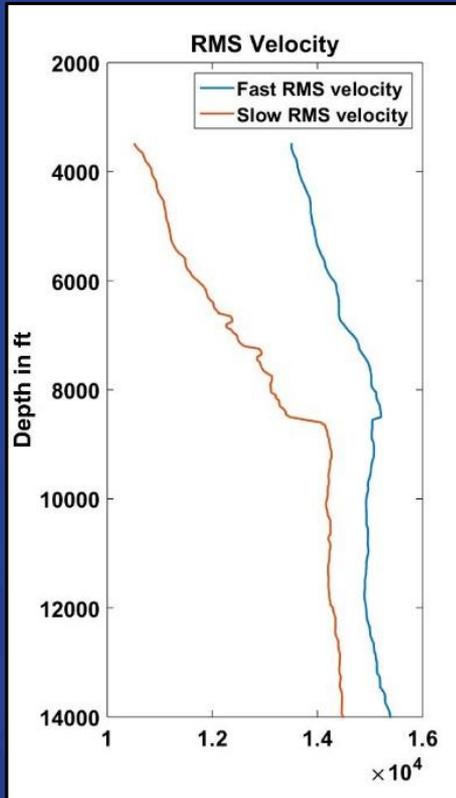
# First P-wave arrival times



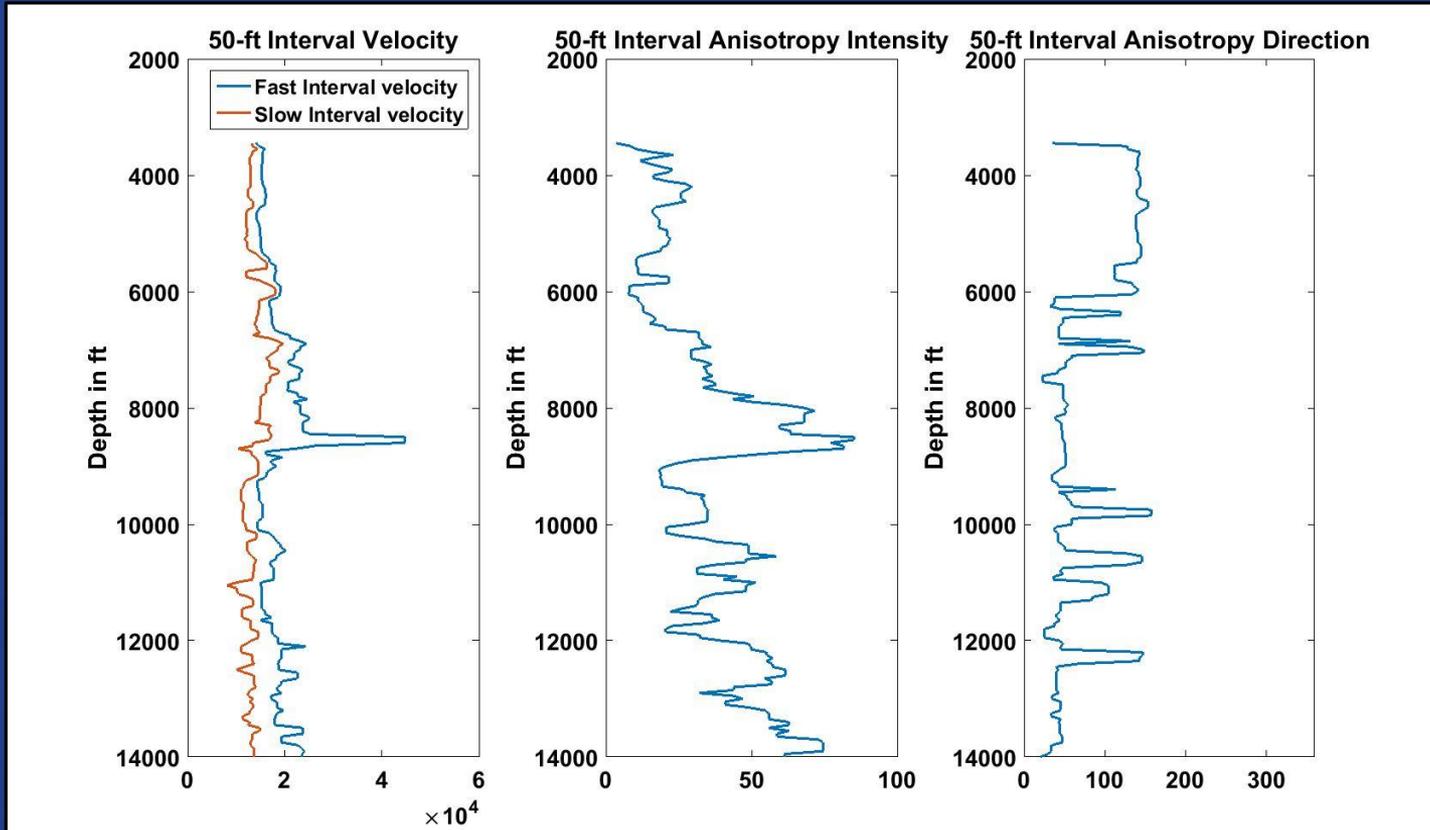
# Vertical times: inverted vs calculated



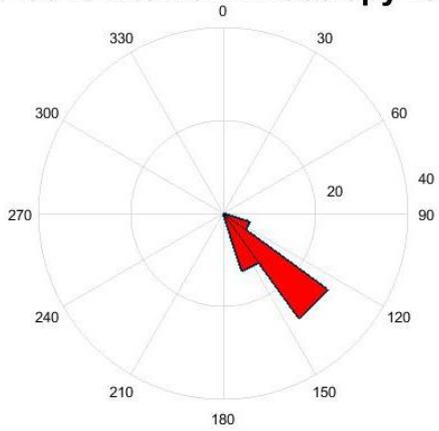
# VRMS & anisotropy direction



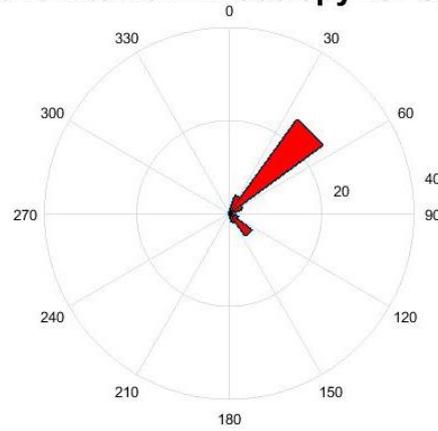
# 50'- Interval VVAZ



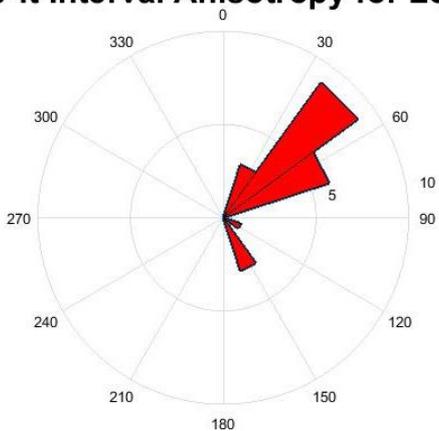
**Orientation of 50-ft Interval Anisotropy for Overburden**



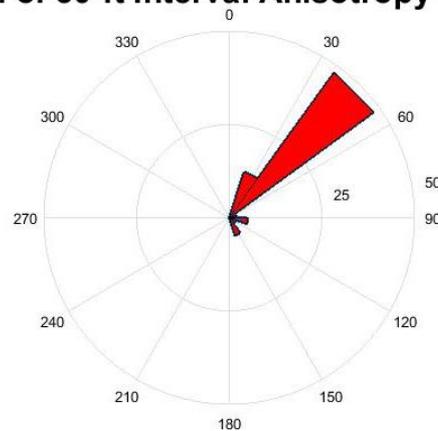
**Orientation of 50-ft Interval Anisotropy for Upper Green River**



**Orientation of 50-ft Interval Anisotropy for Lower Green River**



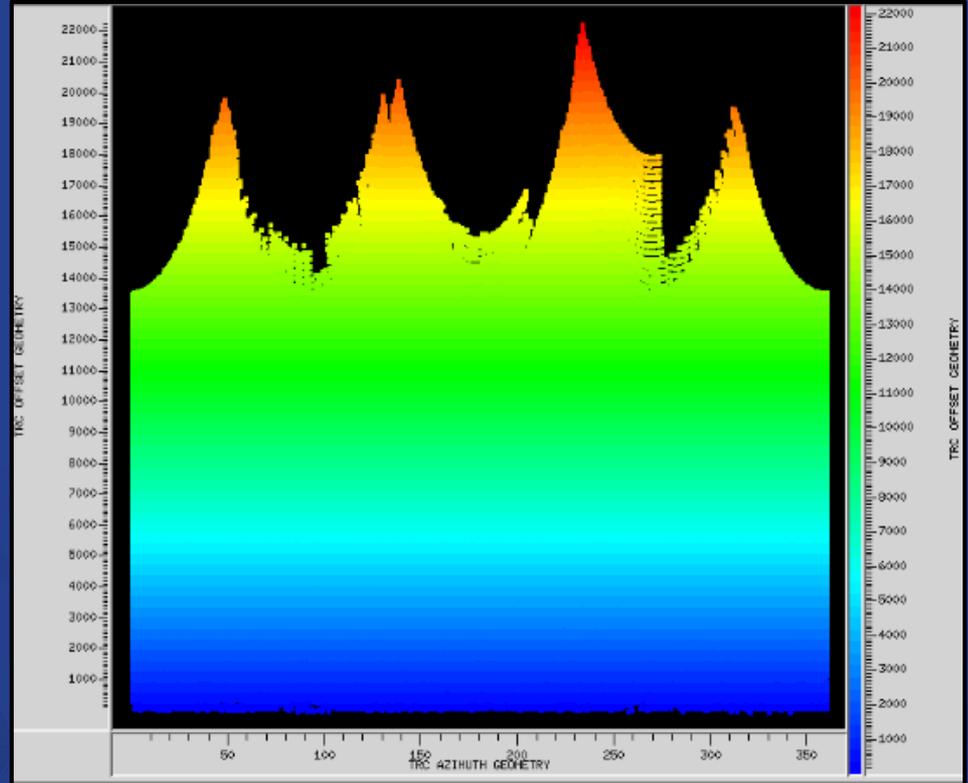
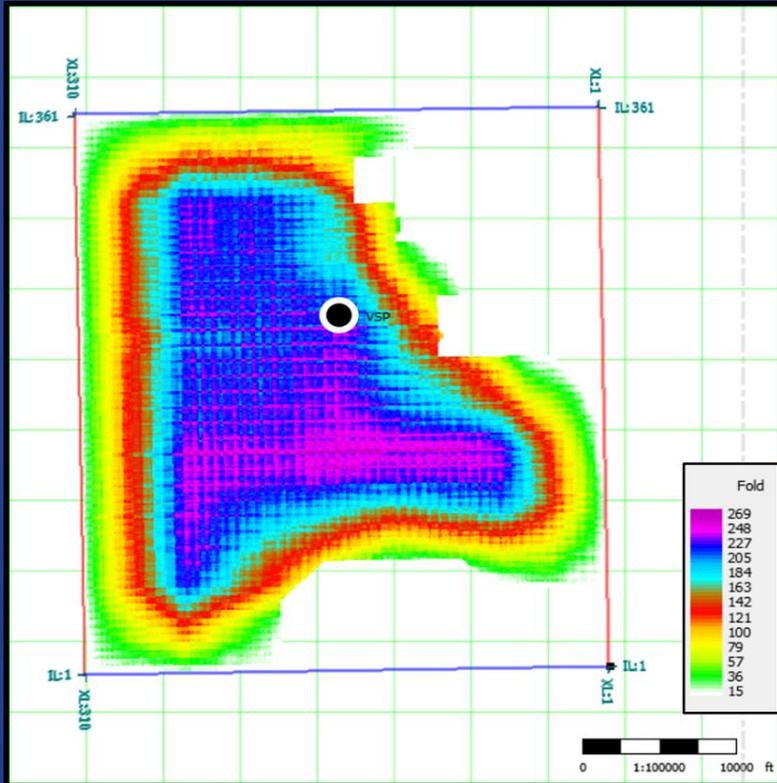
**Orientation of 50-ft Interval Anisotropy for Wastach**



# 3D seismic data acquisition

- Acquisition data & area: 2010 & 35 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Source: 2 vibes/shot (4-96 Hz linear sweep)
- Receiver: 6-geophone array/channel
- Source interval: 220'                      Receiver interval: 220'
- Source line spacing: 660'                      Source line orientation: N-S
- Receiver line spacing: 1100'                      Receiver line orientation: E-W
- Bin size: 110'x110'                      Nominal fold: 240

# Fold & azimuth distribution



# Data processing

Geometry

Refraction Statics Correction

Amplitude Recovery

Noise attenuation

Surface-cons amp & decon

NMO & Velocity @ 1x1 mi

NMO & Velocity @ .5x.5 mi

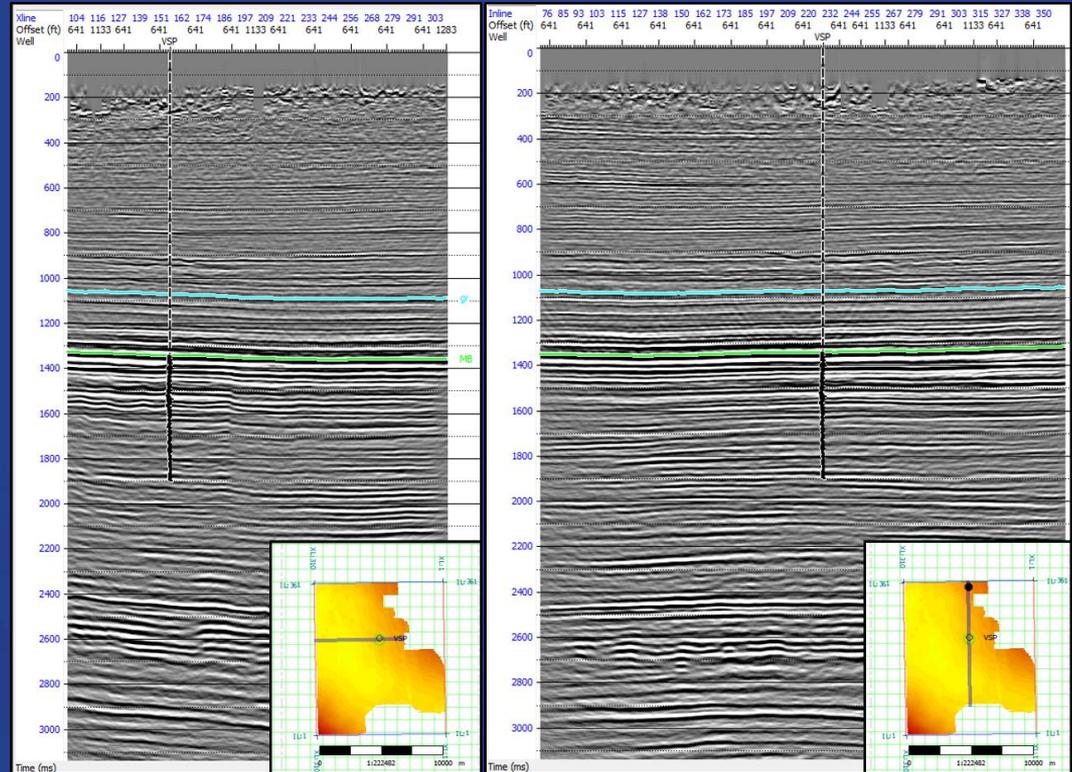
3D COV Binning

Migration Velocity Analysis

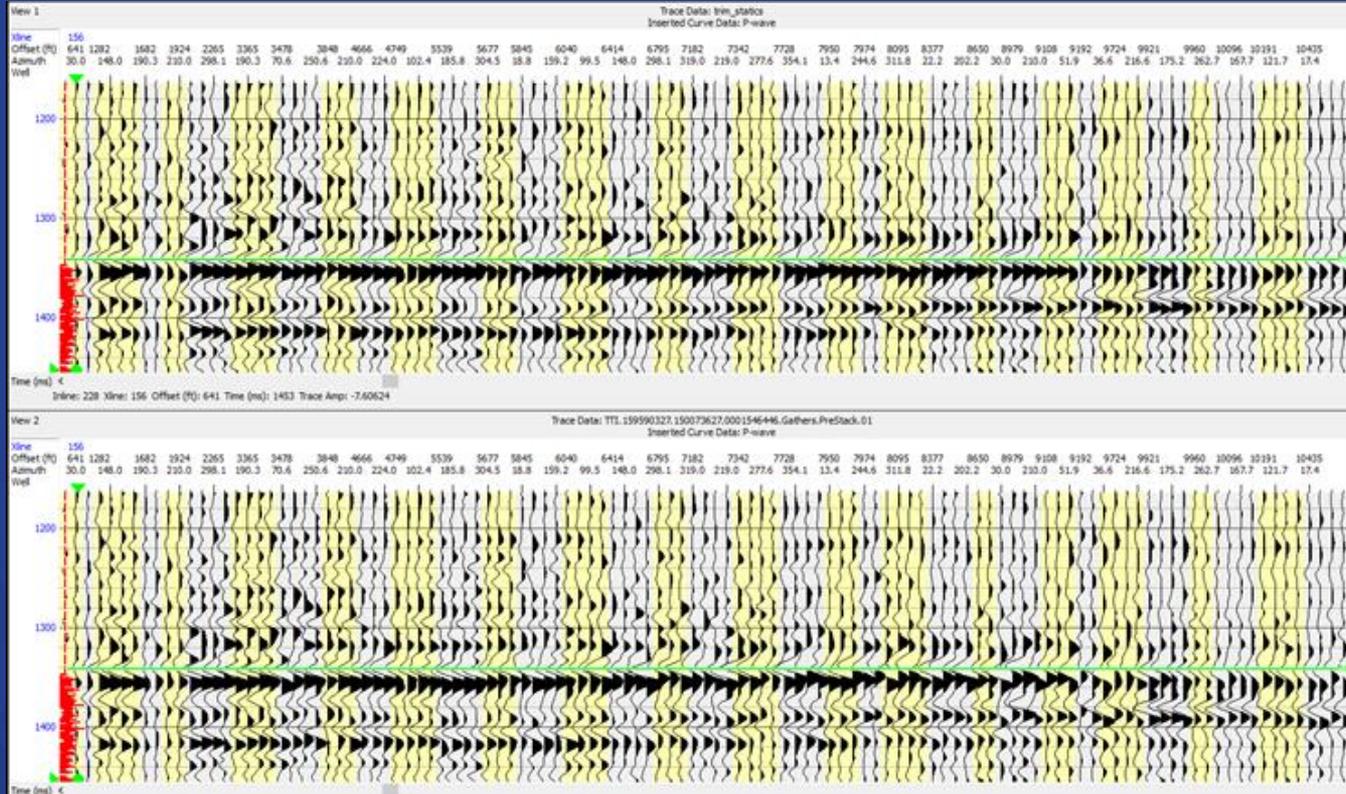
3D PSTM

# CDP stacks: Inline & Xline

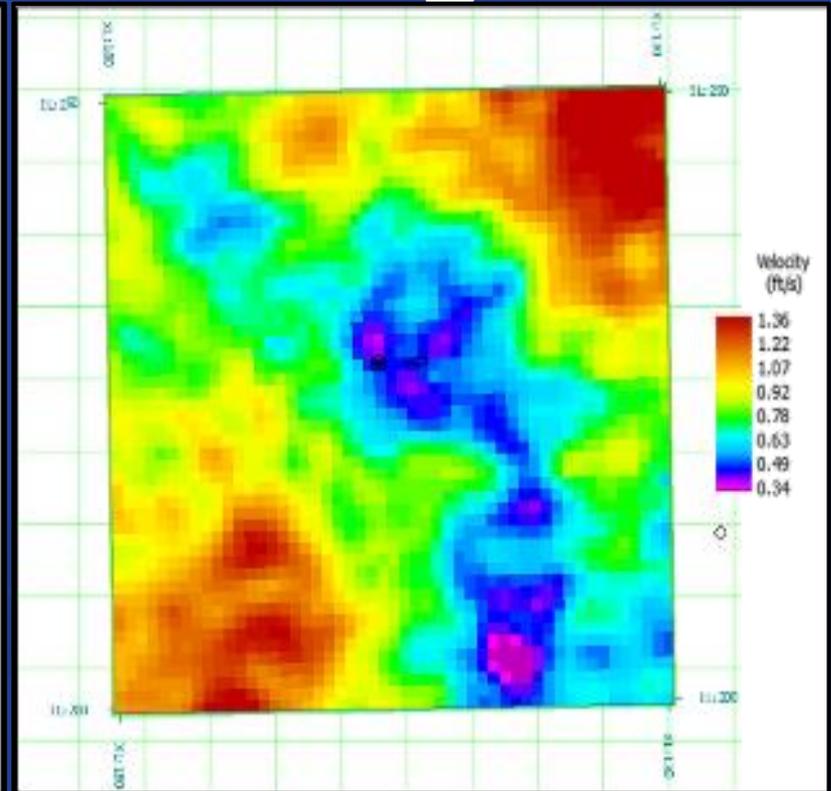
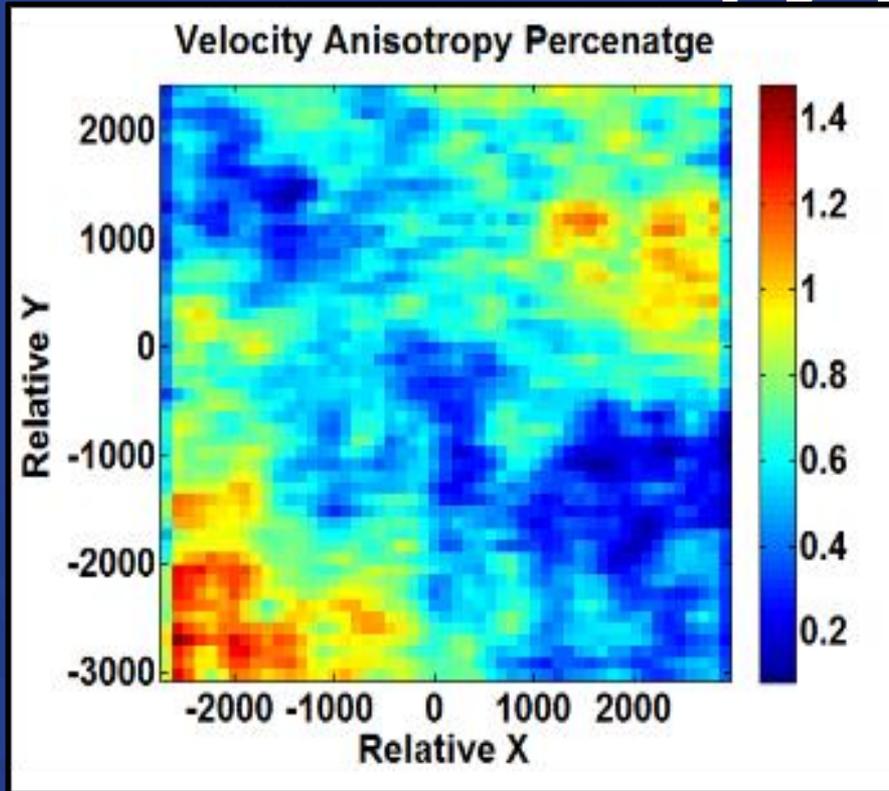
- CDP Stack:  
Inline (left) and  
crossline (right).  
VSP borehole is  
indicated in the  
middle and basemap  
Two horizons are  
indicated Upper  
Green River (blue)  
and Mahogany bench  
(green)



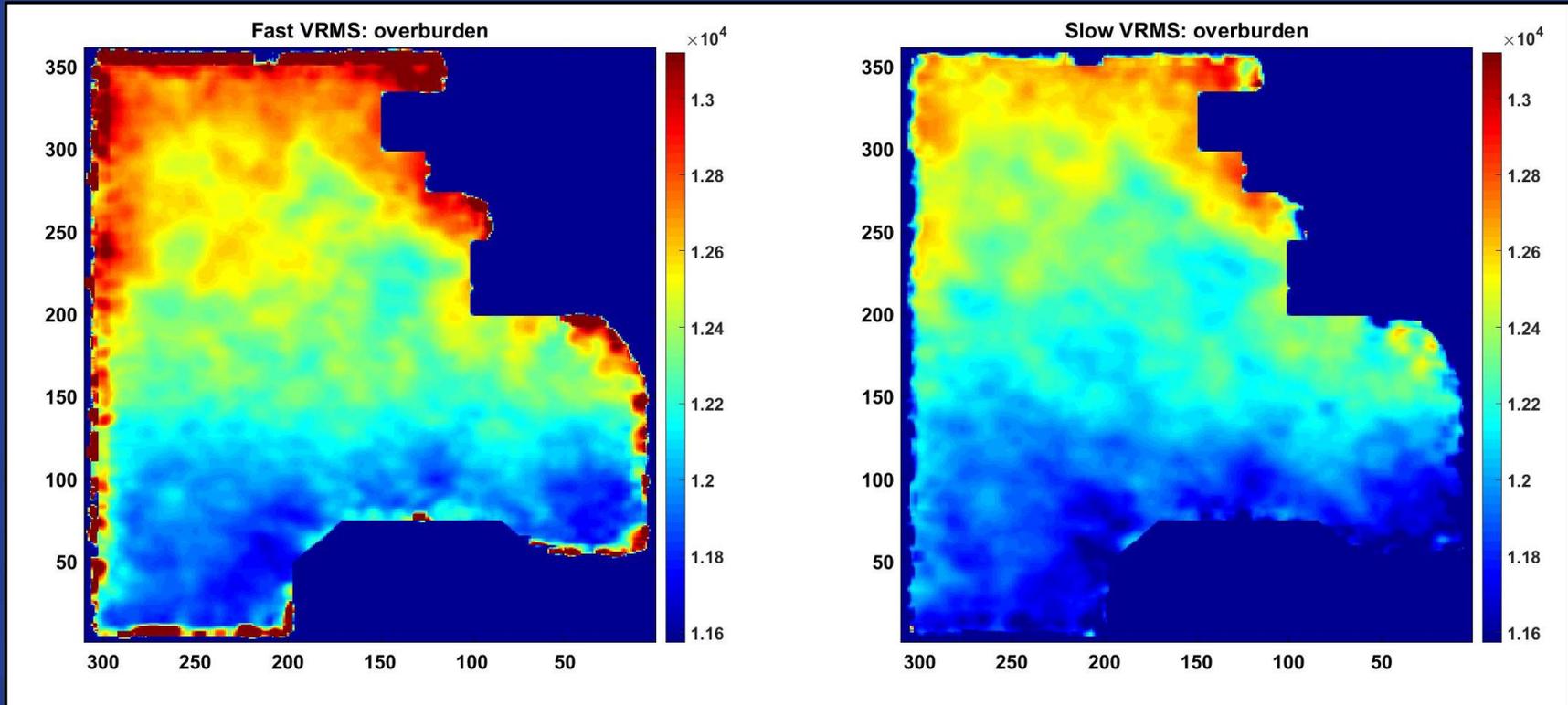
# After & before application of azimuthal residuals



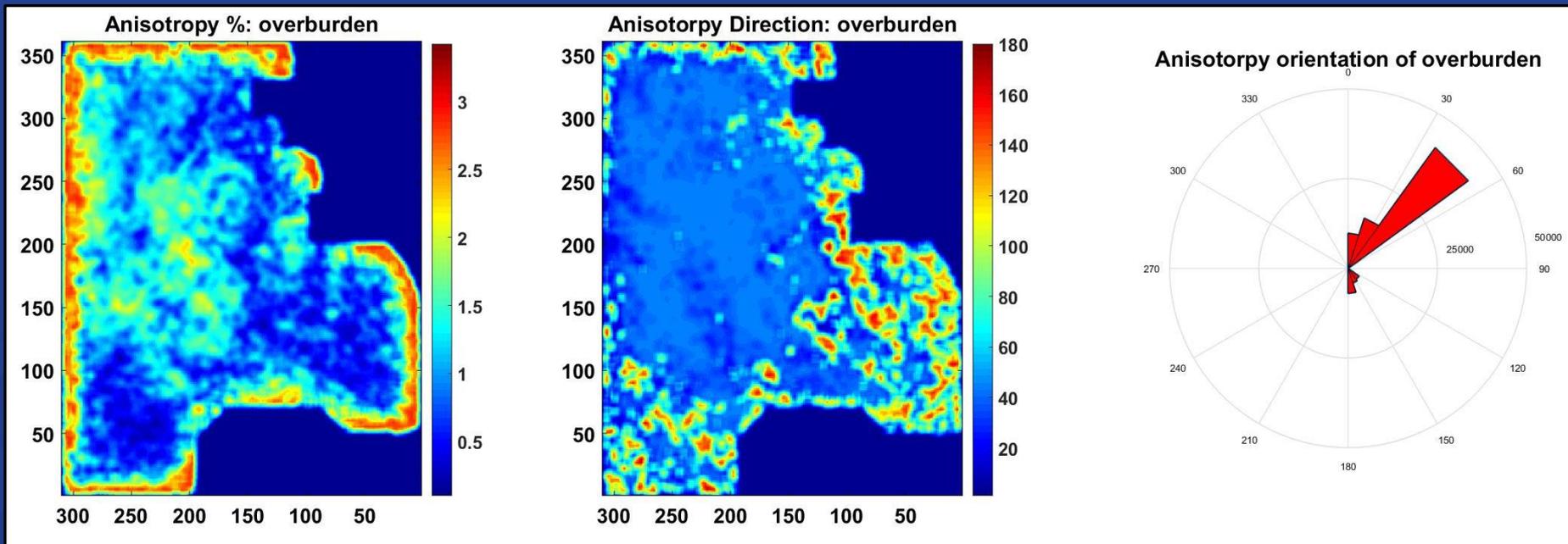
# HRS comparison: anisotropy percentage



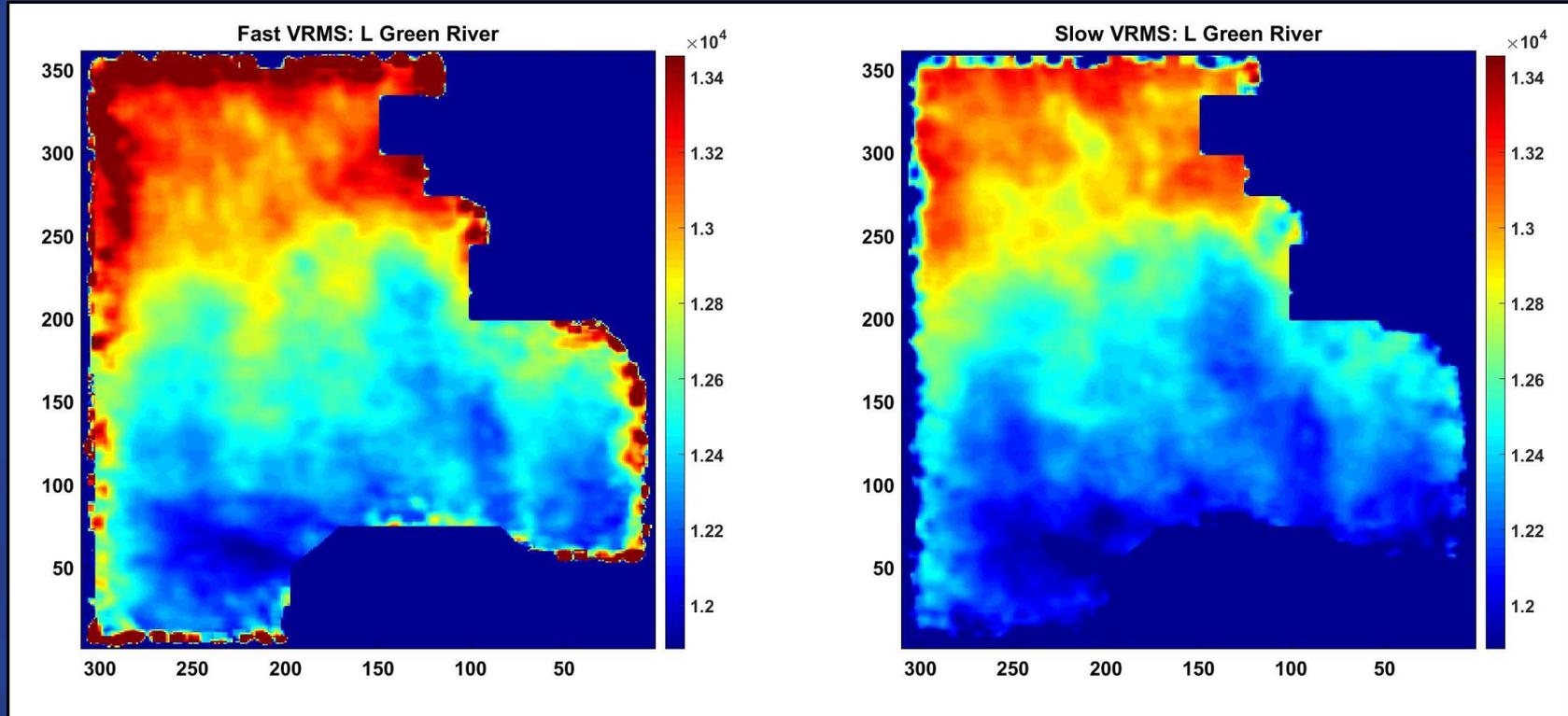
# Fast & slow VRMS: overburden



# Anisotropy intensity & direction: overburden

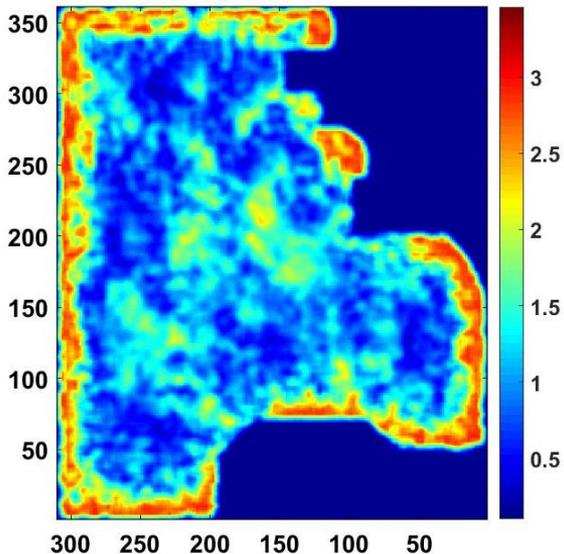


# Fast & slow VRMS: Base of Upper Green River

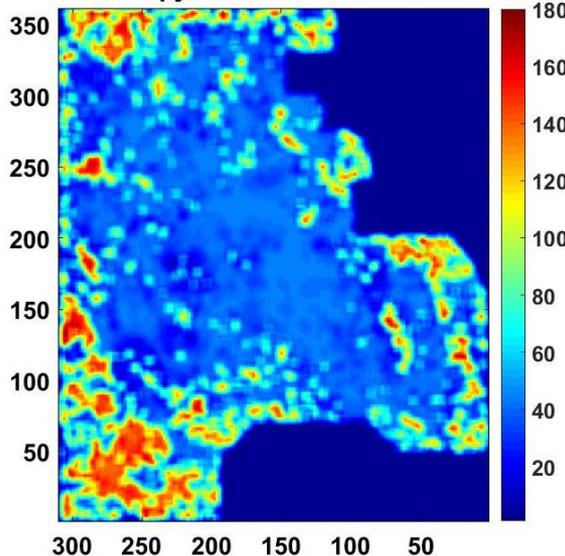


# Anisotropy intensity & direction: Base of Upper Green River

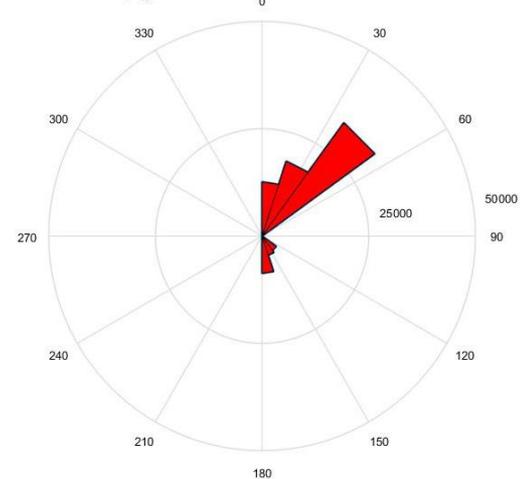
Anisotropy %: L Green River



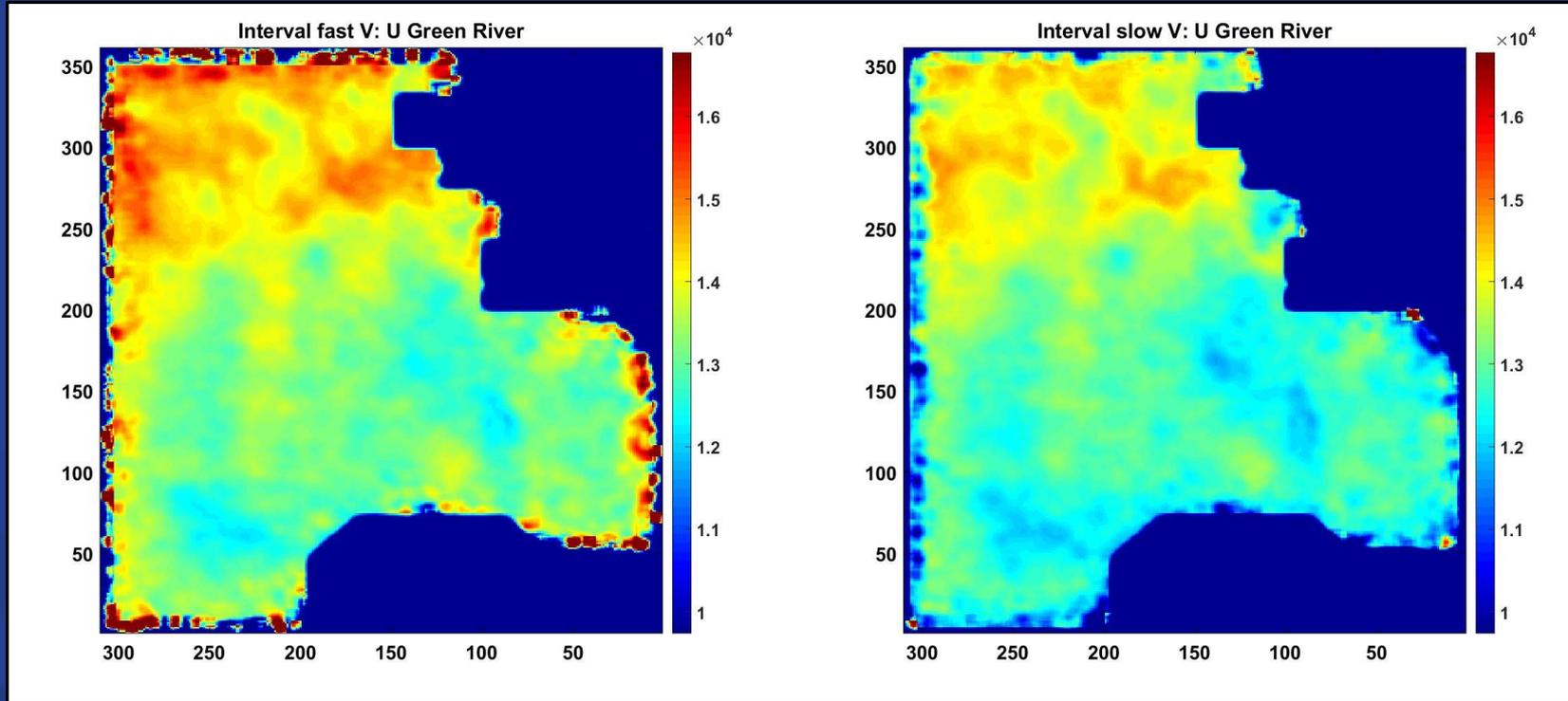
Anisotropy Direction: L Green River



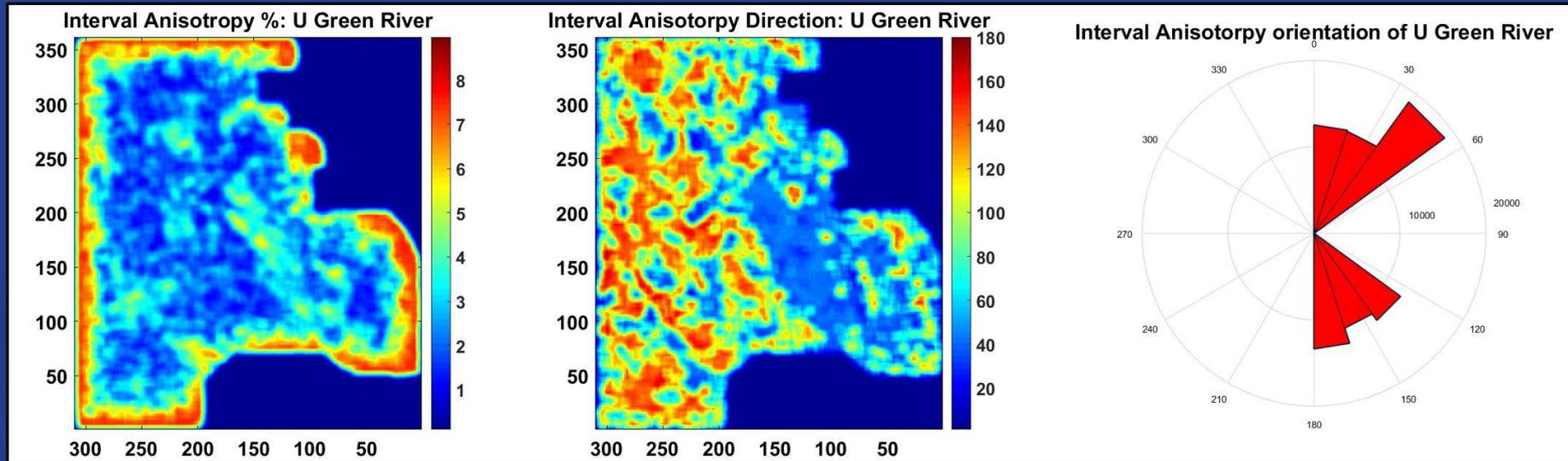
Anisotropy orientation of L Green River



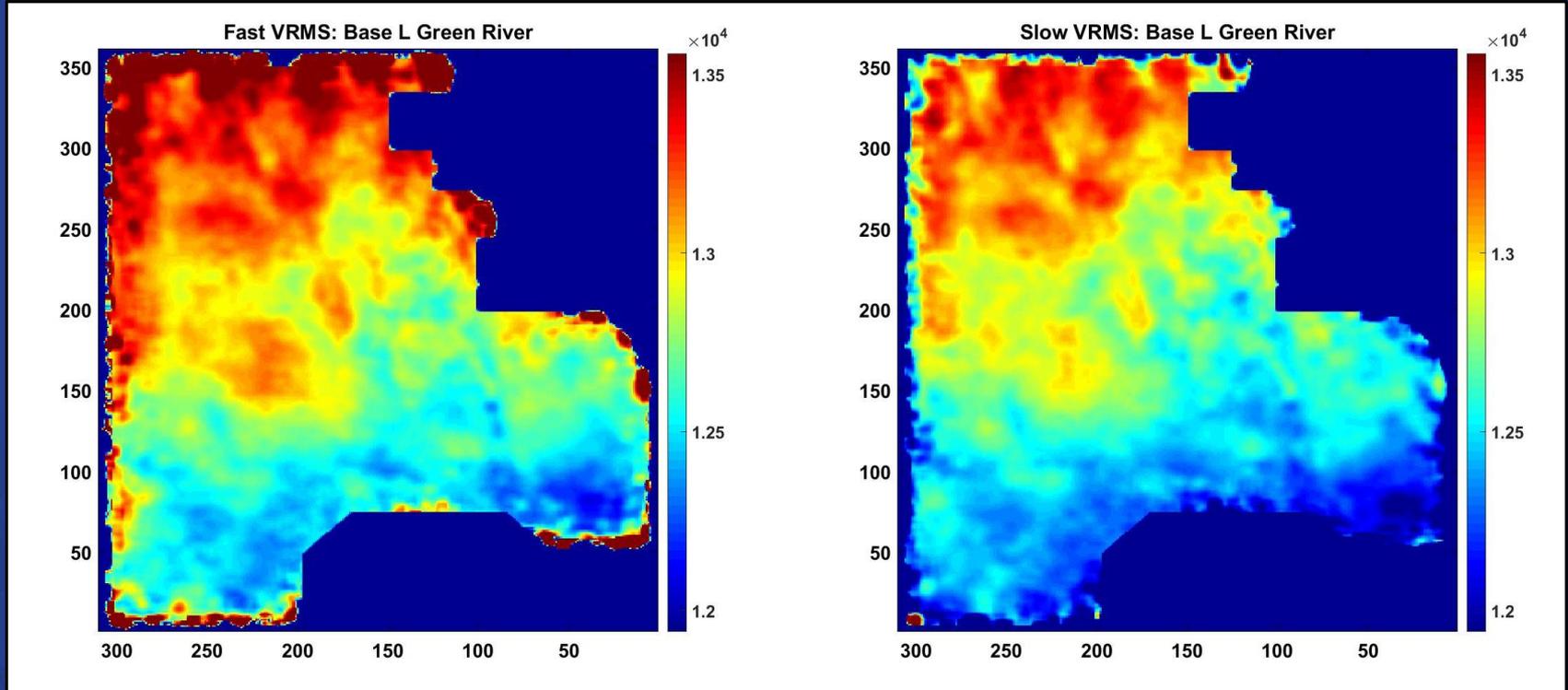
# Interval fast & slow velocity: Upper Green River



# Interval anisotropy intensity & direction: Upper Green River

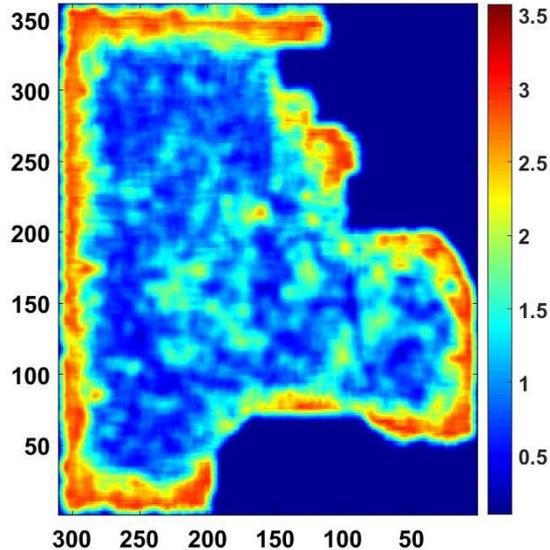


# Fast & slow VRMS: Base of Lower Green River

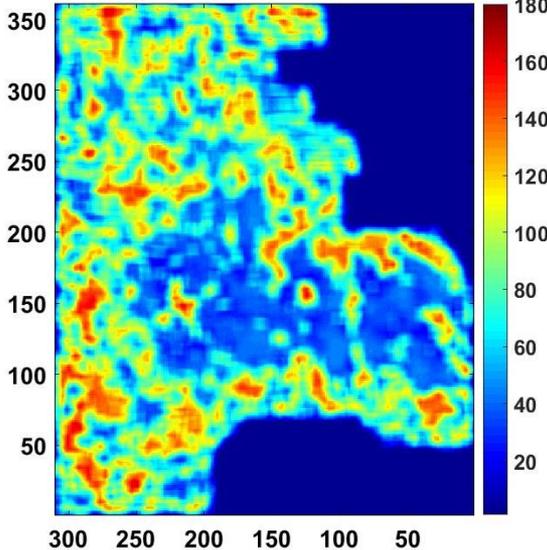


# Anisotropy intensity & direction: Base of Lower Green River

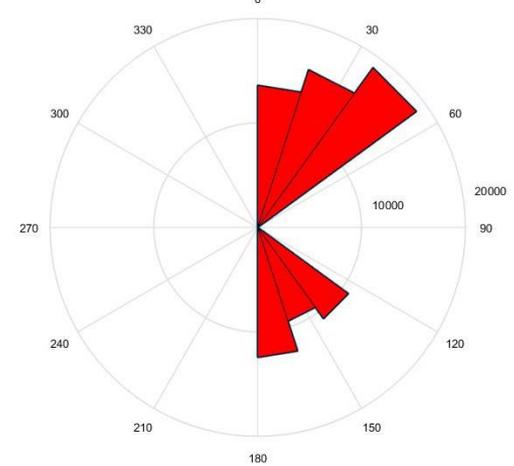
Anisotropy %: Base L Green River



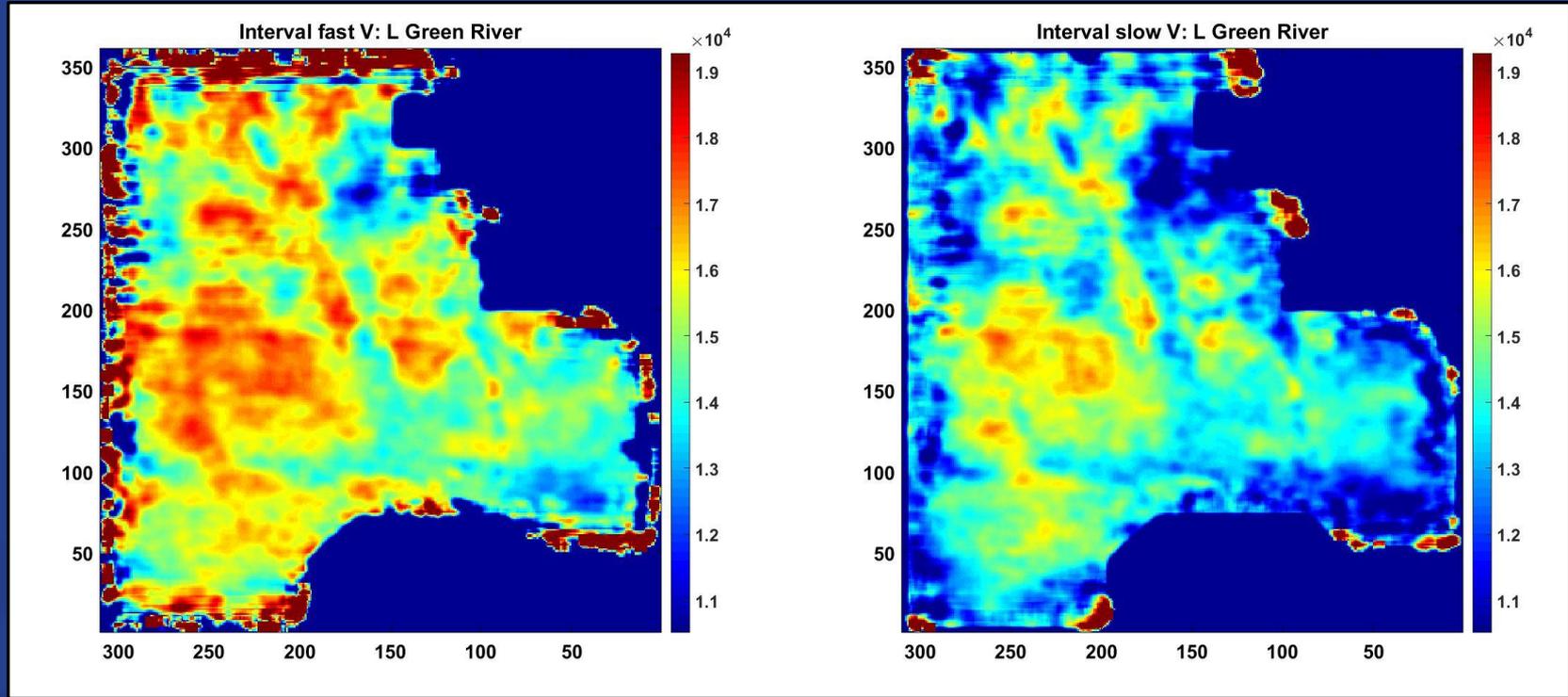
Anisotropy Direction: Base L Green River



Anisotropy orientation of Base L Green River

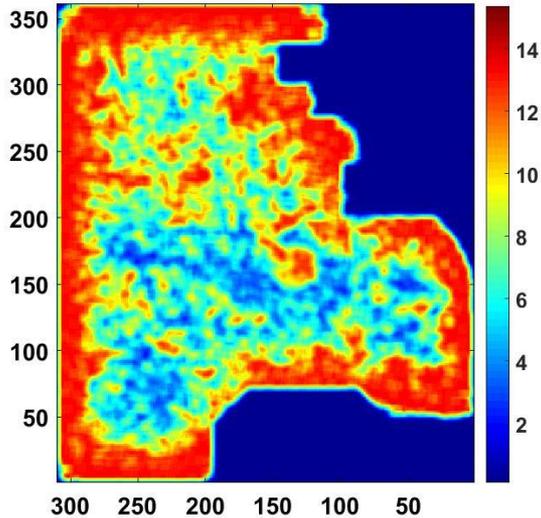


# Interval fast & slow velocity: Lower Green River

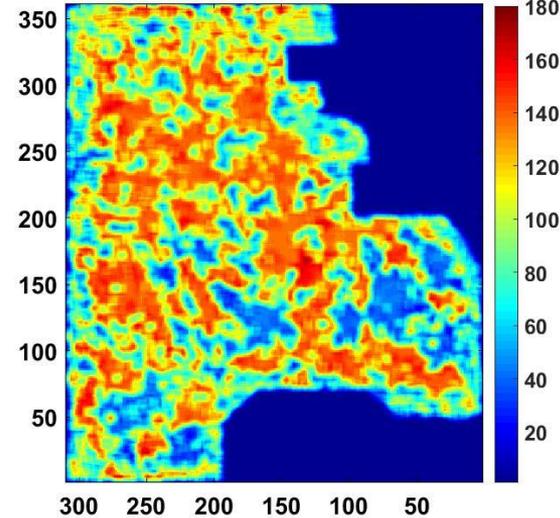


# Interval anisotropy intensity & direction: Lower Green River

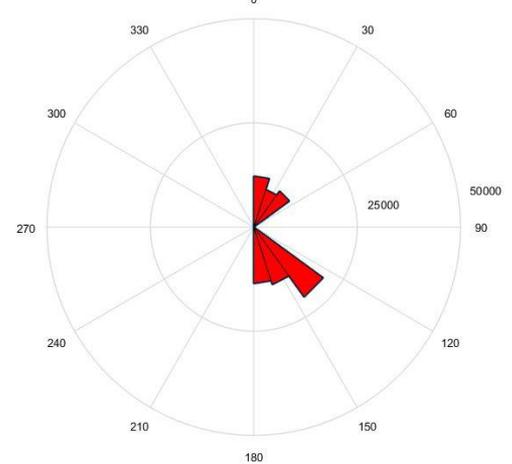
Interval Anisotropy %: L Green River



Interval Anisotropy Direction: L Green River



Interval Anisotropy orientation of L Green River



# Conclusions

- A VVAZ method was used to measure anisotropy percentage and orientation in Altamont-Bluebell field
- Interval anisotropy is estimated to avoid overburden effects
- A VVAZ workflow was developed for offset VSPs
- VVAZ is hugely affected by overburden as evident by offset VSPs

# Acknowledgements

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- **NSERC for the grant CRDPJ 379744-08**
- **Devon Energy for permission to use the data and publish the results**
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