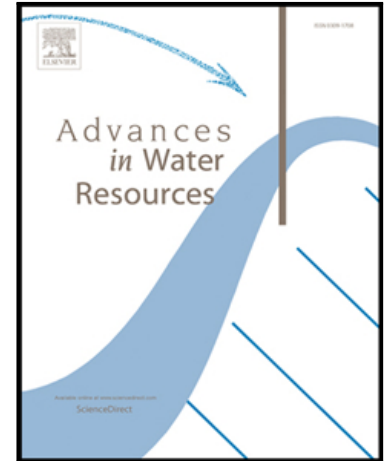


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Impact of small-scale saline tracer heterogeneity on electrical resistivity monitoring in fully and partially saturated porous media: insights from geoelectrical milli-fluidic experiments

Damien Jougnot, Joaquín Jiménez-Martínez, Raphaël Legendre, Tanguy Le Borgne, Yves Méheust, Niklas Linde

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Impact of small-scale saline tracer heterogeneity on
electrical resistivity monitoring in fully and partially
saturated porous media: insights from geoelectrical
milli-fluidic experiments

Damien Jougnot¹

*Sorbonne Universités, UPMC Université Paris 06, CNRS, EPHE, UMR 7619 METIS,
Paris, France.*

Joaquín Jiménez-Martínez

*Department Water Resources and Drinking Water, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic
Science and Technology, EAWAG, Dübendorf, Switzerland.*

*Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, ETH Zurich, Zurich,
Switzerland.*

Raphaël Legendre, Tanguy Le Borgne and Yves Méheust

Géosciences Rennes (UMR CNRS 6118), University of Rennes 1, Rennes, France.

Niklas Linde

*Applied and Environmental Geophysics Group, Institute of Earth Sciences, University of
Lausanne, Switzerland.*

Abstract

Time-lapse electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) is a geophysical method widely used to remotely monitor the migration of electrically-conductive tracers and contaminant plumes in the subsurface. Interpretations of time-lapse ERT inversion results are generally based on the assumption of a homogeneous solute concentration below the resolution limits of the tomogram depicting inferred electrical conductivity variations. We suggest that ignoring small-scale solute concentration variability (i.e., at the sub-resolution scale) is a major reason for the often-observed apparent loss of solute mass in ERT tracer studies. To demonstrate this, we developed a geoelectrical milli-fluidic setup where the bulk

¹Corresponding author: damien.jougnot@upmc.fr

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