



Short guide for electromagnetic conductivity mapping and tomography



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Short guide for electromagnetic conductivity mapping and tomography

Chapter 1 General features, depth range and resolution

The most important advantage of electromagnetic conductivity meters is fast contactless mapping of apparent conductivity and inphase with possibility of EM inversion (section imaging) if several layers are measured together.

While talking about true conductivity meters it is necessary to take care especially of their three crucial properties:

- short & long term stability of readings (negligible temperature drift, no need of frequent recalibration)
- correct absolute calibration of apparent conductivity
- defined depth range.

Stability of reading is determined by design quality of electronics and mechanical parts of the device. Correct calibration depends on the quality (structure homogeneity) and proper conductivity level of calibrating places. Depth range is determined by the distance of magnetic dipoles (distance between coil centers of transmitter and receiver).

Keeping the above mentioned instrument features we can obtain quick and useful results that match very well with DC resistivity methods (maps, slices and sections from 2D and 3D tomography). EM measurement could be easily performed on dry or frozen ground as the method is contactless.



The pictures below show normalized sensitivity function for all CMD instruments. (The depth means depth under the probe.) For instance CMD 4 in high depth range is the most sensitive for object 1.3 m under the probe. Effective depth (where 75% of cumulative sensitivity is achieved) is 6 m.

Sensitivity functions for high and low depth range:











There are two basic ways how to provide requested measuring depth range – by the choice of dipole distance (distances) or by the change of the orientation of dipoles (from vertical to horizontal direction). The first one is more convenient especially if EM inversion is calculated from multilayered measurement. The second one (leading approximately to half depth range) is auxiliary but useful for fast judgment of structure when only one single depth probe is available.

Resolution and depth range are closely related. Increasing depth range decreases resolution and vice versa. Resolution can be significantly improved by EM inversion which improves depth and size imaging of objects in slices and sections as well.

Inphase quantity

The second parameter which is measured simultaneously with apparent conductivity is inphase. It is defined as relative quantity in ppt (part per thousand) of primary magnetic field and is closely related to magnetic susceptibility of measured material. The inphase can especially serve for indication of artificial metal objects like cables, pipes, reinforced concrete, tanks etc. Thus the inphase map can help to distinguish artificial structures from natural geology seen in apparent conductivity map.



EM inversion

EM inversion serves for data processing at multilayer measurement. Although the EM inversion never gives so detailed and accurate results as DC resistivity processing its useful contribution is obvious for many cases of investigation. Together with apparent conductivity and resistivity maps from individual depths EM inversion brings quick and complex view on the studied structure.

There are two typical ways of EM inversion – with sudden or fluent change of conductivity/resistivity in calculated inverse model. The up-to-date choice of commercially available EM inversion software for shallow depth range conductivity meters is really not wide.

For CMD data processing there are three ways of inversion:

- by CMD-Explorer system (for 2 layered model structure with sudden conductivity/resistivity change) 1D inversion is made either directly in field during measurement (control unit shows upper layer conductivity, bottom layer conductivity and depth of their border) or as post processing by CMD PC software with output of section for Surfer.
- by IX1D from Interpex (especially suitable for structures with sudden conductivity change) 1D inversion in conductivity section can be processed either automatically or manually (with starting model and individual spot processing).
- by Res2Dinv and Res3Dinv from Geotomo (convenient for structures with fluent resistivity change).



2D and 3D inversions with output of resistivity sections and slices use transformed EM data exported from CMD PC software.

For the possibility of effective EM inversion a measurement with CMD-Explorer or CMD-Mini Explorer is recommended.

The choice of the data processing method is a crucial point of good geophysical interpretation. There is no major general purpose processing method for EM data. For proper decision we recommend to take in consideration the preliminary idea of investigated structure and the goal of survey with the respect to your familiarity with interpretation software.

For basic tasks primary apparent conductivity/resistivity maps are quite sufficient. For advanced user there is a number of ways of data processing (including EM inversion) shown in Chapter 2.



Multidepth measurement - wish and reality regarding use of different frequencies

It would be really great to obtain correct conductivity maps from many different depths using broad band antennas with stable transmitter to receiver distance and various frequencies of EM field. Unfortunately, physics does not support such a possibility:

For correct conductivity measurement we have to remain at low induction numbers. Thus the effective depth range is determined by dipole center distance. The choice of frequency (in a limited range) can serve only for tuning of the shape of the calibration curve and for cancellation of EM interferences.

We will find two basic effects of multifrequency measurement with constant dipole center distance:

- The frequency is changing from hundreds of Hz to 100 kHz approximately so the device remains usually at low induction number. We will find the depth range determined by the distance of magnetic dipoles and conductivity maps mostly show no frequency depending differences. Influence of broadband antennas decrease sensitivity and stability of measuring system.
- The frequency change is bigger (e.g. to 1 MHz). The measuring device is usually crossing the transient zone of induction numbers with ambiguous response and declining calibration curve with the depth range influenced by conductivity and by frequency at the same time. Measured results cannot be correctly calibrated in conductivity and consequently used for EM inversion.

Following pictures from the same testing area illustrate how the resistivity map changes if we change the frequency only and if we change the dipole distance. The accompanying DC resistivity section shows detailed structure on the same place.



Apparent resistivity maps **GF Instruments**, stro. measured with CMD-1, CMD-2 and CMD-4 probes

The map from CMD-1 shows generally higher resistivity being influenced mostly by upper resistive layer (see DC section). The maps from CMD-2 and CMD-4 show proportionally lower resistivities due to the more and more significant contribution of the clayey layer at approx. 5 m depth.







Choice of the probe

Eight standard probes are offered covering all typical tasks of shallow EM survey,

CMD-Explorer with simultaneous 6.7 m, 4.2 m, 2.2 m full depth ranges is designed for investigation of layered structures in the frame of geological, geotechnical, prospecting and other tasks. Rich current graphical output (with in-situ inversion) and support of consequent data processing (mapping, sections and inversion) make Explorer ideal for fast and complex EM survey.

CMD-Mini Explorer with simultaneous 0.5 m, 1.0 m, 1.8 m full depth ranges is designed for investigation of very shallow layered structures in the frame of agriculture, forestry, archaeology, road inspection and other tasks. Rich current graphical output (with insitu inversion) and support of consequent data processing (mapping, sections and inversion) make Mini Explorer ideal for fast and complex EM survey.

CMD-DUO two men operated with variable 15/30/60 m full depth range (dipole distance of 10/20/40 m) is useful for distinguishing of deeper situated geological structures as bedrock, weathered zones, cavities and fissures.

CMD-4/6 with variable 6/9 m full depth range allows measurement with the same or extended depth range as classic CMD-4 in the frame of its typical applications.

CMD-4 with 6 m full depth range and typical use in geological and environmental survey can be used for many connected tasks like mapping of raw material deposits, watered zones,



localization of waste dumps, buried tanks and other hidden objects.

CMD-2 with 3 m full depth range and typical use in engineering survey can serve for cable and pipe localization as well as for general assessment of construction site (e.g. detailed investigation of basement positions – clayey, sandy, rocky parts).

CMD-1 with 1.5 m full depth range is typically used in archaeology and agriculture.

This probe carried mostly near the ground surface allows detailed distinguishing of buried objects (vertically orientated zones, e.g. basement of walls, rock outcrops) and conductivity assessment of upper thin layers.

CMD-Tiny with 0.7 m full depth range allows the highest resolution of shallow situated objects in the frame of monitoring of artificial structures (roads, buildings, historical sites) as well as soil quality evaluation in agriculture and forestry.

Special probes with up to 10 m dipole distance and with up to 6 simultaneous receivers are available on request.

CMD-Mini Explorer 6L with simultaneous 0.3 m, 0.5 m, 0.8 m, 1.1 m, 1.6 m, 2.3 m full depth ranges is designed for high resolution investigation of shallow layered structures in the frame of agriculture, forestry, archaeology, criminology, road inspection and civil engineering.



Chapter 2 Examples of multidepth investigation

This chapter shows typical examples from measurement with CMD-Explorer and CMD-MiniExplorer (including 6L). CMD software for PC provides data transformation and export for commonly spread geophysical processing programs for imaging and inversion (Surfer, IX1D, Res2Dinv and Res3Dinv).

Each following part bringing results from a chosen locality begins with reference DC resistivity section measured with ARES instrument that allows a comparison with individual ways of imaging and inversion of EM measurement.



GF Testing Site

The structure is typical with pinching of sandy layer above clayey background.

All available kinds of imaging and inversion are explained here and shown consequently:

- Apparent Resistivity Maps show basic outputs from all three depth graded EM systems of CMD-Explorer.
- Resistivity Slices from EM Inversion by CMD-Explorer show depth graded resistivity maps based on 1D inversion of measured data.
- 2D EM Inversion by CMD-Explorer shows measured apparent resistivity section and inverse model resistivity section based on 1D inversion.
- EM Inversion by IX1D shows conductivity section by Interpex software.
- 2D Imaging and Inversion by Res2Dinv shows measured apparent resistivity section and inverse model resistivity section by Geotomo software.
- 3D Imaging and Inversion by Res3Dinv shows depth graded resistivity slices and resistivity sections along/across measured lines (YZ/XY directions) by Geotomo software.





GF Testing Site Apparent Resistivity Maps

Measured with CMD-Explorer

Imaging by Surfer









GF Testing Site EM Inversion by IX1D

Conductivity section measured with CMD-Explorer

Imaging and inversion by IX1D













Pinching of Loess Layer

The structure is typical with pinching of loess layer above rocky background.

Chosen kinds of imaging and inversion related to geological structures are shown:

- Apparent Resistivity Maps
- Apparent Resistivity Section
- Conductivity Section from EM inversion by IX1D
- Resistivity Section from 2D inversion by Res2Dinv













Farming and Woodland Area

Measured area across agricultural land and wood allows studying both geological background (CMD-Explorer) and detailed upper very shallow soil structures (CMD-MiniExplorer).

Chosen useful kinds of imaging and inversion are shown.

Geological structures:

- Apparent Resistivity Maps (confirm well sharp slope of contact with diabase background and sandy loam layer in upper part)
- Resistivity Slices and YZ Sections from 3D Imaging and Inversion by Res3Dinv

Shallow soil structures:

- Apparent Resistivity Maps (with top soil in upper part)
- Apparent Resistivity Section
- Conductivity Section from EM inversion by IX1D
- Resistivity Section with 2D imaging and inversion by Res2Dinv
- Resistivity Slices from 3D inversion by Res3Dinv

















Measured with CMD-Mini Explorer

EM Inversion by IX1D









Metal Pipeline Detection

Measurement was performed above metal pipeline. The goal of the measurement was to determine position and depth of the pipe.

The most effective ways of imaging are shown:

- Inphase maps from all three EM systems of CMD-MiniExplorer (with the biggest contrast at 1 m depth)
- Resistivity Section with 2D imaging and inversion by Res2Dinv (confirms 1 m depth of the pipe)







Survey of the Settlement of the Bell Beaker Culture

Measurement was performed at the locality with surface archaeological findings to determine the area and depth of cultural layers.

Following pictures show:

- Six depth graded apparent resistivity maps made by CMD-MiniExplorer 6L
- Central inverse model resistivity section (measured with CMD-MiniExplorer 6L along line 20 with inversion by Res2Dinv) accompanied with reference inverse model resistivity section measured with ARES II with inversion by Res2Dinv (confirms the bottom line of cultural layers at the depth of about -1 m).







Chapter 3 Examples of typical applications

Engineering survey, road and railway building

- judgment of bedrock
- detection of cellars, cables, pipes
- assessment of mechanical properties of rocks

Dams and dikes (flood protection)

- localization of watered zones and landslides
- mapping of impacts
- beaver holes detection

Water management

- water source survey and protection
- monitoring of waste water leakage

Geological mapping

- raw material prospecting
- geological survey
- cavities detection

Agriculture

- soil quality monitoring
- fertilizer and watering management

Archaeology

- detection of remains of walls, cellars, vaults
- detailed survey of historical sites (graves, settlements)
- localization of underground corridors



Environmental

- mapping of pollution plumes
- survey of illegal waste dumps
- monitoring of leakages from agricultural and industrial plants

Military and police

- pioneer work
- UXO survey
- detection of graves and hidden objects

Comment:

Instruments CM-031, CM-032 and CM-138 are older versions of up-to-date CMD-4, CMD-2 and CMD-1 probes.



Mapping slope deformation



A road was fatally destroyed by active landslide as a consequence of heavy rain. Detailed monitoring of the slope was performed before road reconstruction to detect instable zones.

The position of extremely risky watered zone is seen on the picture. Water accumulation below the road (damaged dewatering system) and consequent permanently watered sediments activate continuous landslide. The probable directions of outflow show the possibility of activation of the mass of old landslides.



Monitoring of road body ''



This survey shows the possibility of fast monitoring of road body quality accompanied with information about geological structure of bedrock.

Two maps were obtained using probes with different depth ranges. The first map (CM-032) shows irregular structure of construction materials - sand and gravel (high resistive) with different width and thickness. The second map (CM-031) shows rather homogenous clayey bedrock.

Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-032

Contour map of apparent resistivity



Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031

Contour map of apparent resistivity





Mapping road stability

Continuing road destruction was studied using two measurements with different depth ranges.

Obtained maps show that the clayey zone (as the main reason of landslide) is situated rather in deeper part of road basement. Both maps show increased moisture below the damaged place. Its measure increases with the depth.

Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-032



Contour map of apparent resistivity

Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031

Contour map of apparent resistivity





Buried metal pipeline detection

The metal pipeline was detected at about 1 m depth. Its position is indicated with very strong and narrow anomaly - increased values of inphase.



Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CMD 2



Dike investigation



Searching for cavities in the fishpond dike. The fishpond dike was partially destroyed during the flood. The survey was performed to detect its weak places.

The low resistivity indicates larger destructed zones (voids) filled with water and mud.

Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-032

Contour map of apparent resistivity



Determination of the penetration of sodium sulphate from a mud pit

The mud pit is filled during the mining technology process wih the solution containing sodium sulphate. The conductivity measurement was done to monitor the tightness of the dam and the efficiency of the dewatering ditches along the dam. One part of the long area under the dam was chosen for the survey.

The measure of the contamination is obvious from the apparent conductivity map. The measure of underground water pollution with sodium sulphate decreases homogenously with the distance from the dewatering ditch.

The inphase map copies the conductivity map on the great part of the measured area showing that no burried metallic objects are present. The bottom part of the inphase map is influenced by the dewatering ditch and the concrete pavement reinforcement.



Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031



Archae Detailed mapping of foundations of abolished Sa vault situated on the former cemetery. Two maps from various depths allow distinguish The CM-138 map shows rather detailed structure as shape of basements and position of peripheral Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031 Contour map of apparent resistivity 	ology Generation of the chapel . Instruments, and the verify roman in the second parts and shape of the chapel. In the rear surface while the position of the vault as well walls are seen in CM-031 map.	Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-138 Contour map of apparent resistivity	-30 -20 -10 0 m with metallic cross inside 愛 Old vault bundation lines 臣1, 臣2 Indications of the peripheral walls
	Archae Detailed mapping of foundations of abolished Sar vault situated on the former cemetery. Two maps from various depths allow distinguishi The CM-138 map shows rather detailed structure as shape of basements and position of peripheral	Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031 Contour map of apparent resistivity 30 20 20 20 20 15 20 15 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	-30 -20 -10 0 m





Environmental protection

The studied area was inside a uranium mining field. During the mining process a technologic difficulty occured and the sulphuric acid leaked out from a plastic pipe near to one of boreholes. The determination of the pollution plume was needed to allow sanation works in the area.

The direction and the measure of the propagation of the acid flow are indicated with higher values of apparent conductivity.

Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031 Contour map of apparent conductivity





Environmental protection

A complex monitoring in the frame of ground water protection in close vicinity of a pig farm was done. The goal was to detect leakage from a liquid manure tank.

The decreased resistivity indicates the zone with contamination. These extremely low values of resistivity are typical for the high contamination with organic substances.

Measured with electromagnetic conductivity meter CM-031



Contour map of apparent resistivity



Mapping of buried waste dump

Higher values of conductivity indicate the area formed with homogenous clay sediments. High variability and low values of conductivity are typical for the inhomogeneous landfill (without organic material). The inphase map shows a lot of metallic objects in landfill (increased inphase).



