

## Cascades and Aleutians – Ranking

Project Officer: Eric Hass

Total Project Funding: \$343,262

May 11, 2015

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**ATLAS Geosciences Inc**

Track Name: HRC

**Objective** - Quantifiably rank the geothermal potential of each of the young volcanic centers in Cascades and Aleutians

- **Challenges/barriers** – Lack of geothermal development in US Arcs
- **Impact** – Identify most promising prospects for development
- **Innovative Aspect** - Systematically and regionally assessing the underlying physiochemical favorability for geothermal production
  - Multiple data types (geologic, geophysical, geochemical, volcanologic)
  - Comparison with power-producing Arc systems world-wide
- **Solving GTO Goals** - Accelerate near-term geothermal development by identifying the systems most likely to be productive
  - lead to refinements in our understanding of the conditions necessary for geothermal systems to form and what size they are likely to attain
- **Phases II and III** of this project would use the ranking of this Phase I work to select systems requiring more detailed work (including drilling) to better explore geothermal potential of selected volcanic centers

- Systematic and regional assessment of the underlying physiochemical favorability for geothermal production
- Interpret geothermal potential in the context of play fairway analysis
  - Key hierarchal tiers (component characteristics) assembled in a statistical framework
  - Quantify geothermal potential and optimize future exploration through the definition of “play fairways”
  - Focus future exploration efforts in underdeveloped area of the US: Cascade and Aleutian Arcs

# Accomplishments – Data Gathering

Online Library Resources	Digital Data Sets
AVO & CVO	Nevada Geodetic Laboratory
GeoRef	NGDS
Geothermics	Smithsonian
GRC	Laske, 2014 -Crustal Thickness
IGA	
OSTI	

Original Planned Milestone/ Technical Accomplishment	Actual Milestone/Technical Accomplishment	Date Completed
<b>Background Data Evaluation</b>	Documentation of selection & use of relevant data types	12/31/14
<b>Preliminary Data Compilation</b>	Tables of Arcs, Data Types, Power Plants	12/31/14

## Local Datasets

	Volcanic Centers			
	World Arcs	Aleutian	Cascades	Data Categories
Geochemistry	65	63	37	30
Geothermometry	65	63	37	32
Surface Expressions	53	22	35	5
Structural Setting	72	59	37	12
Power Plants	84	0	0	6
Eruption Freq/Comp	624	63	37	20
Vent Types	6	49	23	10
Power Density	41	--	--	1
General (name, loc.)	633	63	37	10

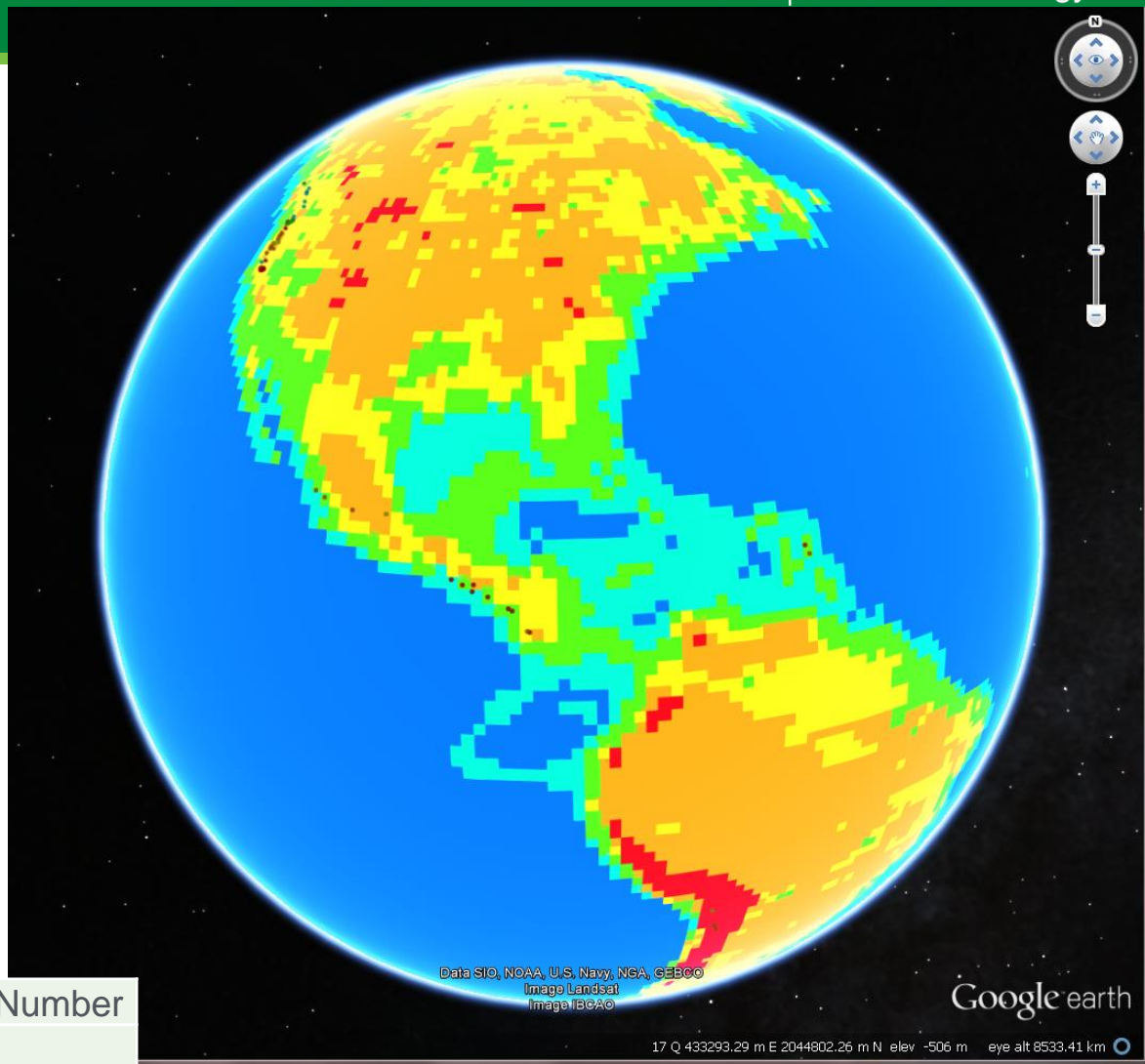
**As of 3/31/15**

# Regional Parameters

- arc volcanic center database
- arc power plant database
- world strain rate model
- volcanic center database
- world crustal thickness
- tectonic setting characterization

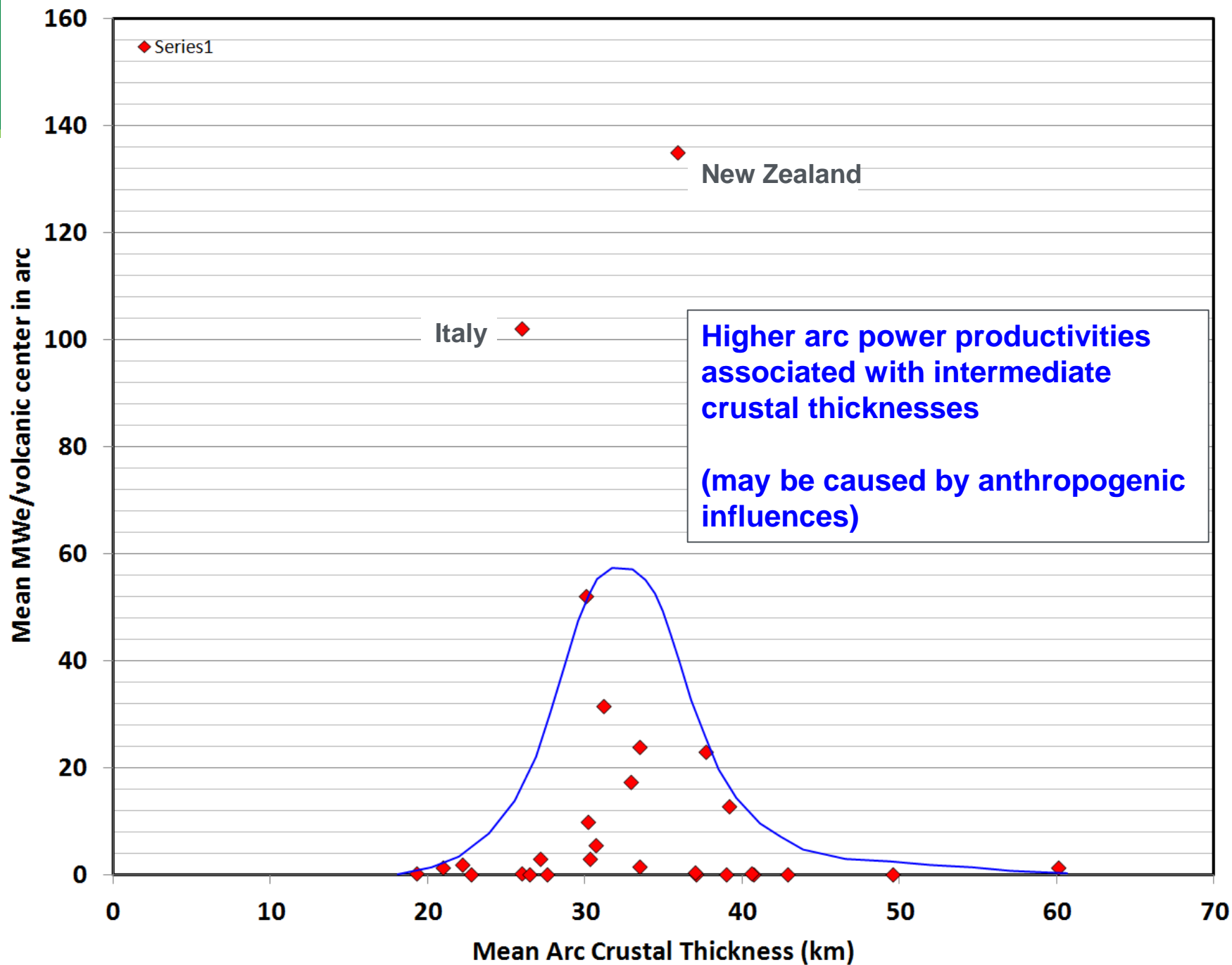
## New world-wide crustal thickness model (August, 2014)

All data entries linked by common Volcano Number  
160 Unique data fields per record (VC)



Laske, G., Masters., G., Ma, Z. and Pasyanos, M., Update on CRUST1.0 - A 1-degree Global Model of Earth's Crust, Geophys. Res. Abstracts, 15, Abstract EGU2013-2658, 2013. (made available Aug. 2014).



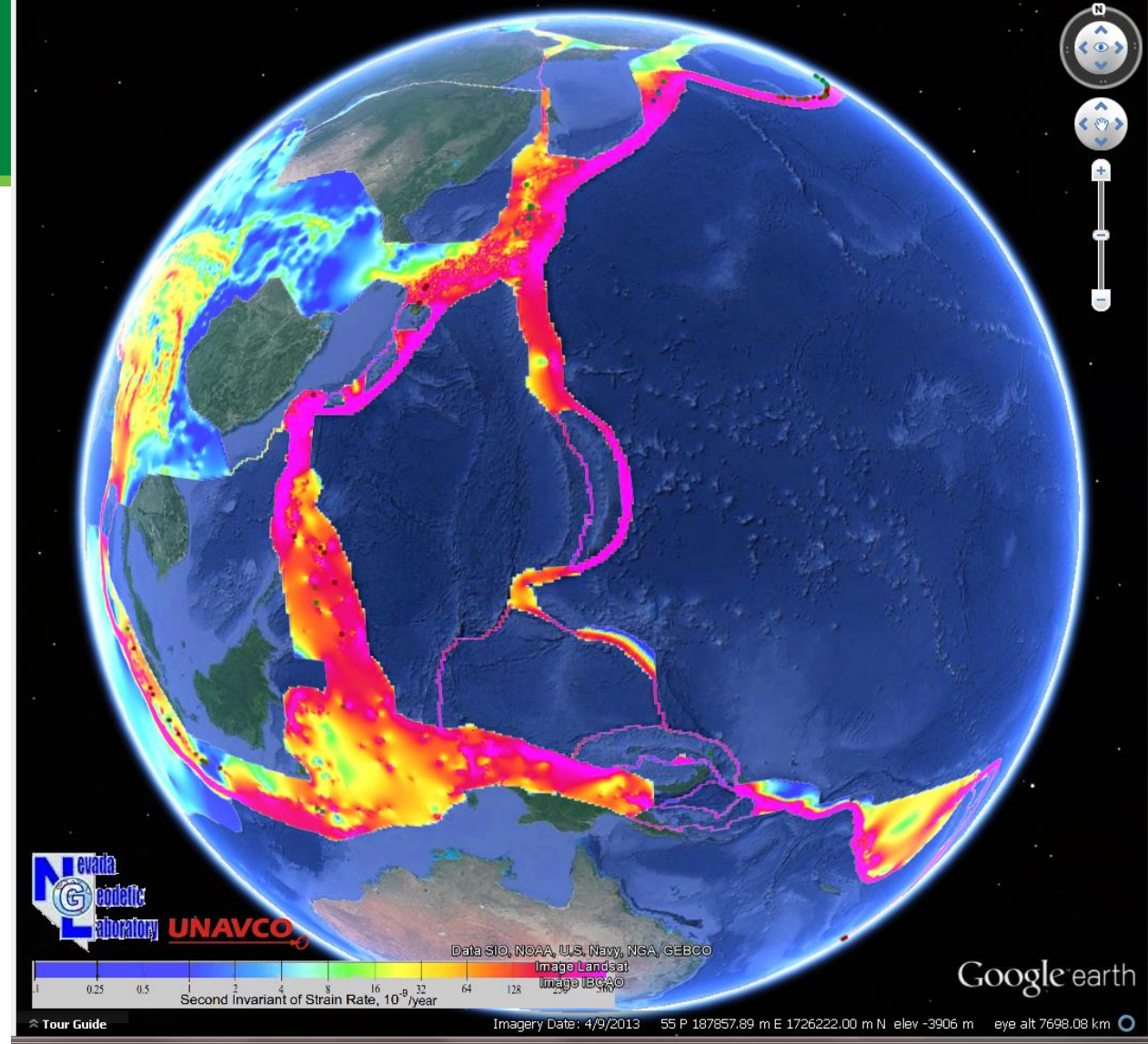


# Accomplishments

## New Global Plate Motion and Strain Rate Model (GSRM v2.1) available Oct., 2014

### Key Points:

- A data set of 22,500 horizontal geodetic velocities compiled
- Geodetic plate motions for 36 plates estimated
- A new velocity gradient tensor field for plate boundary zones modeled



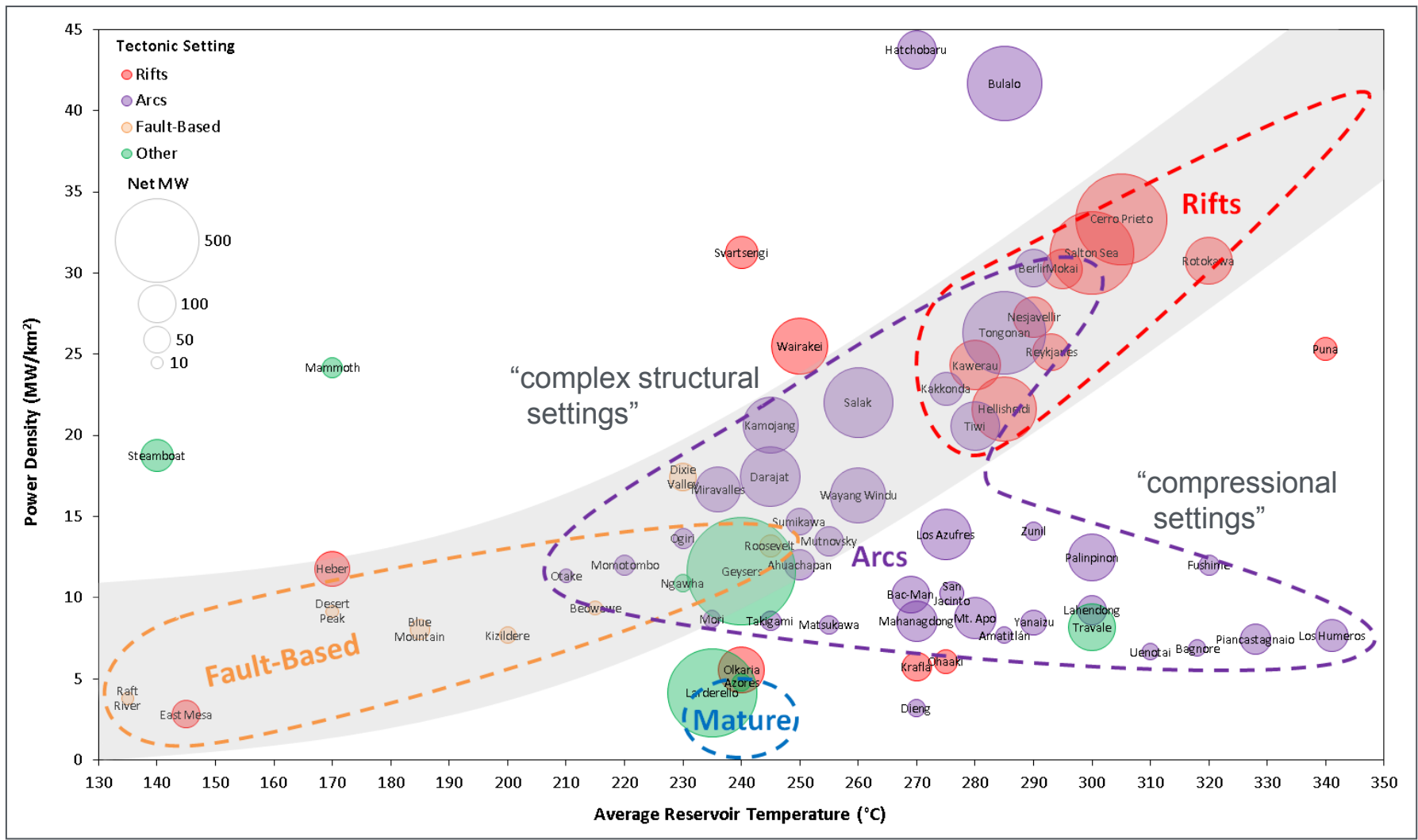
Kreemer, C., Blewitt, G., and Klein, E.C., 2014, A geodetic plate motion and global strain rate model: *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, v. 15, p. 3849-3889.



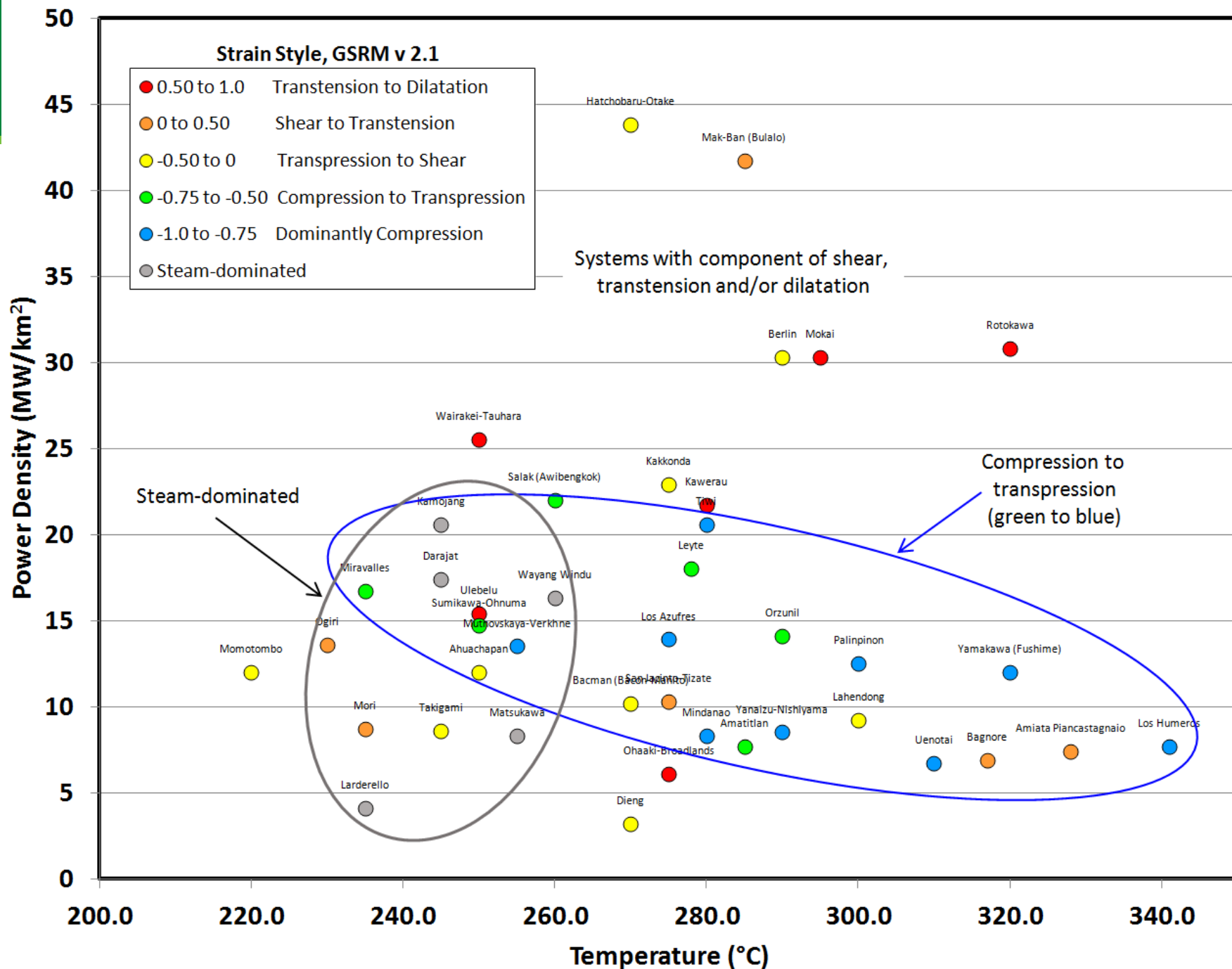
# World compilation of productive geothermal field power densities

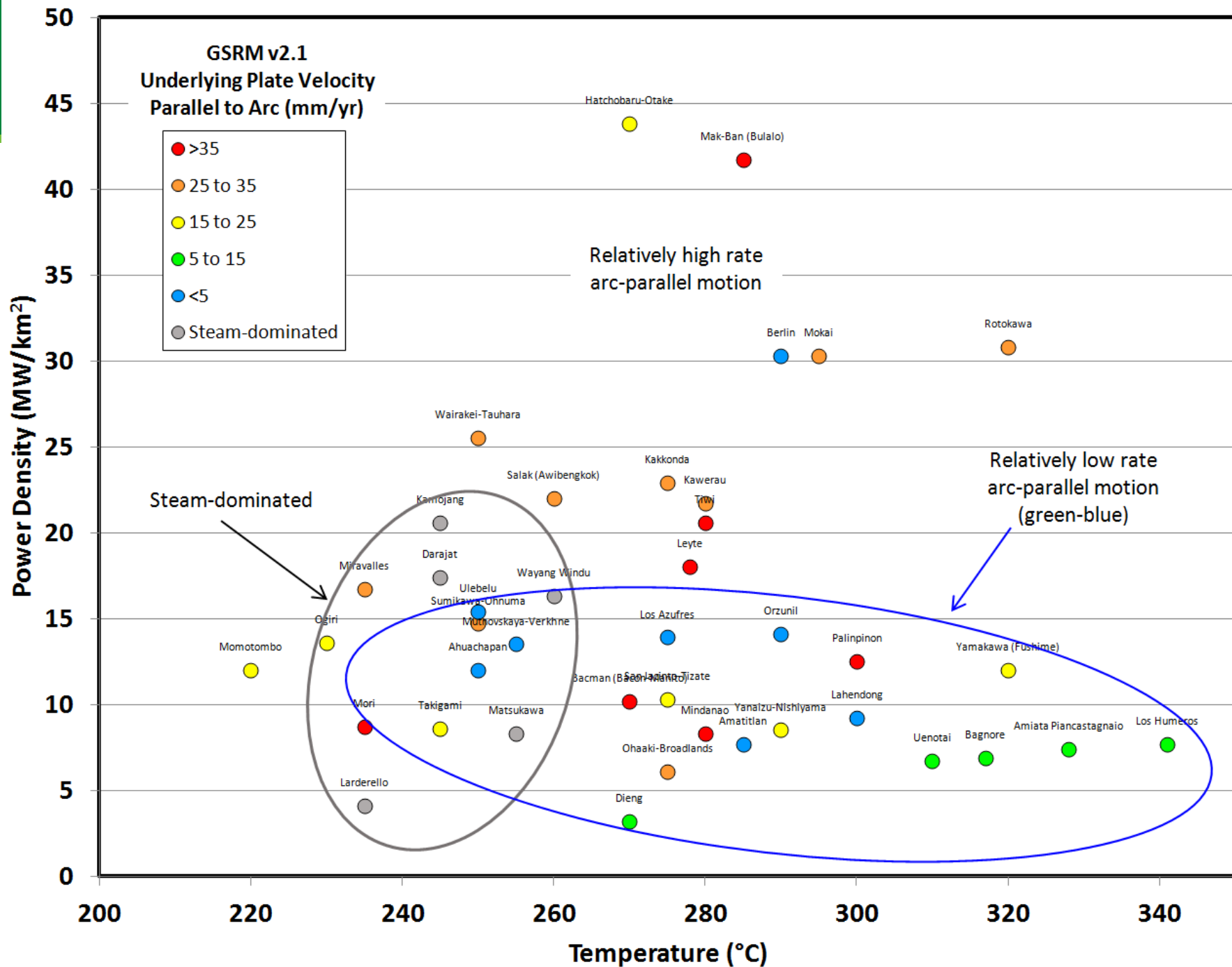
Max Wilmarth and James Stimac, published April, 2015

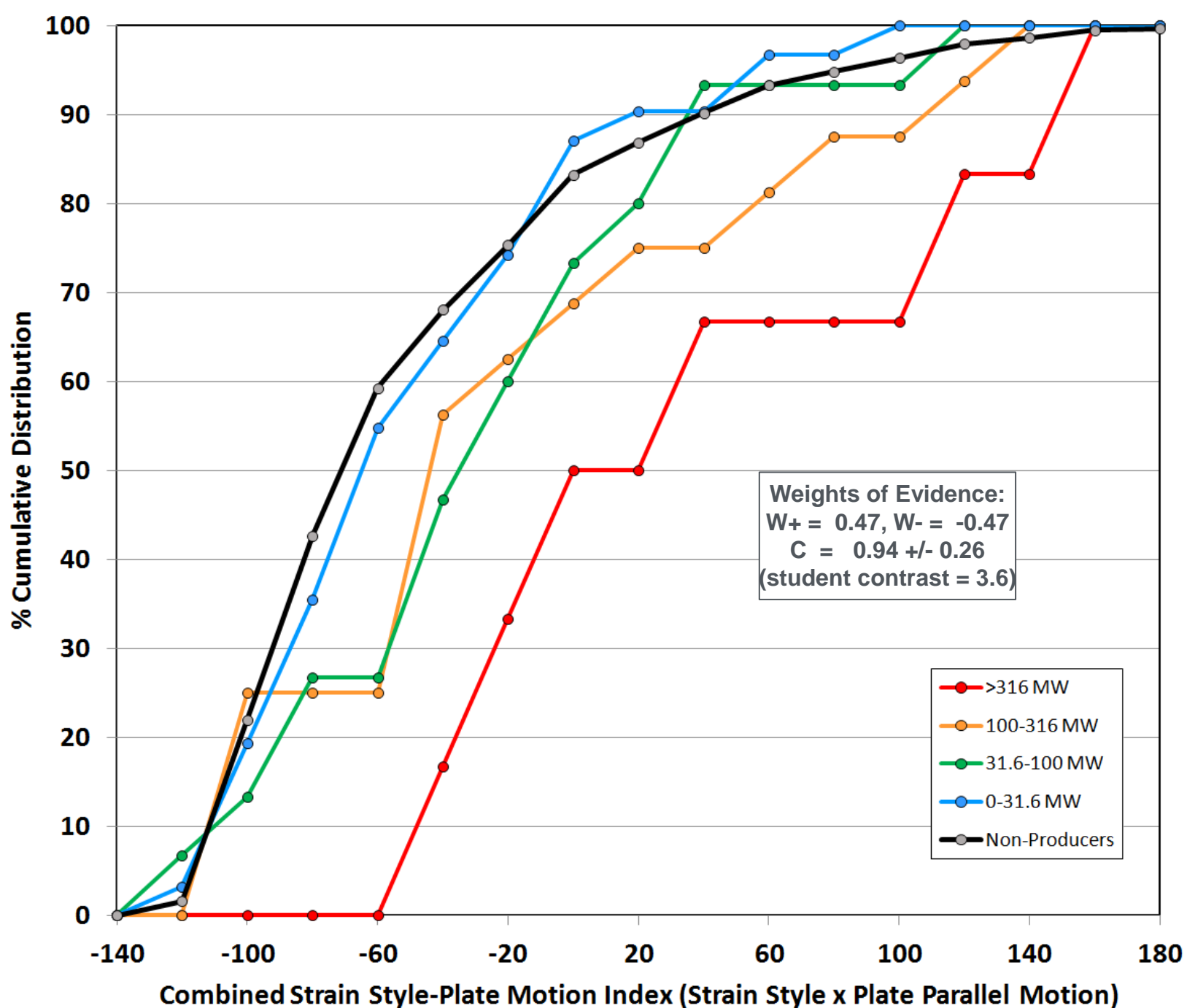
Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



Wilmarth, M. and Stimac, J., 2015, Power density in geothermal fields: World Geothermal Congress 19-15 Apr 2015.



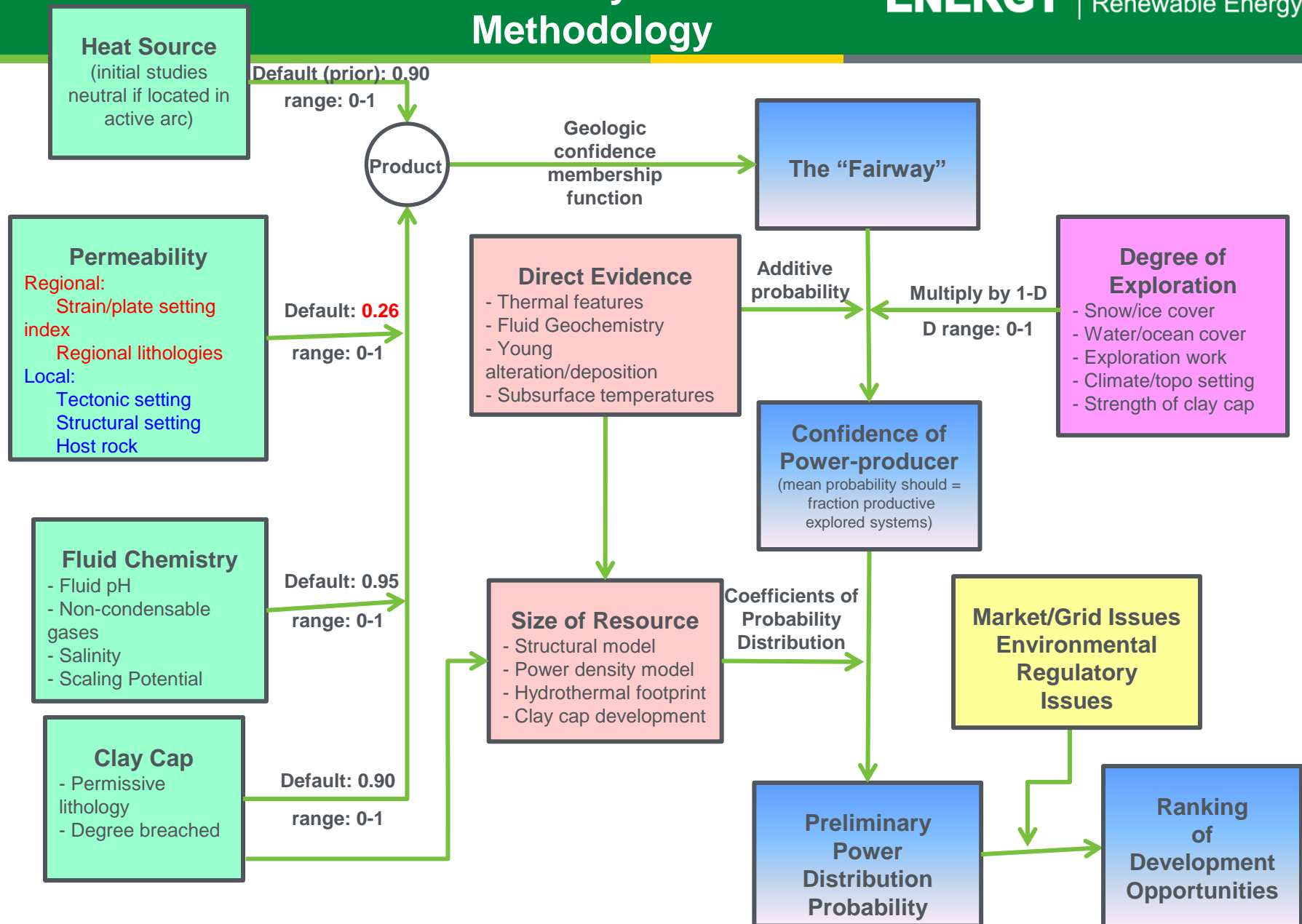




- **Structure:** Synthesis of volcanic arc structural settings is clarifying regional differences in geothermal potential
- **Strain:** Positive relationship between crustal deformation style (extension and shear) and power density and size of geothermal resources is being demonstrated
- **Clay Caps:** Cap integrity and its relationship to the magnitude of geothermal resources is being demonstrated
- **Volcanism:** Recentness of eruption, composition and style of eruption, trench-arc gap, depth to subducting plate, etc. being compiled and evaluated for information predictive for geothermal potential
- **Permeability/Lithology:** Lithologic diversity produces rheological contrasts which can enhance fracturing and fluid flow, and relatively young rocks have had fewer opportunities for burial-related compaction and reduction in primary porosity and permeability
- **Geochemistry:** Facilitating predictions of reservoir temperatures in underexplored portions of the Cascade and Aleutian arcs
- **Surface Manifestations:** Springs, fumaroles, sinters, travertines – qualitative indicators of elevated temperatures



# Flow Chart Preliminary Model Methodology



# Fairway Model

working in equivalent P-space

ciency &  
Energy

## Tectonic Setting

### Regional

- 1.0 Transtension
- 0.8 Extension
- 0.2 Transpression
- 0.1 Compression
- 0.0 Unknown

### Local

- 0.8 Strike-slip transtension
- 0.5 Strike-slip transpression

Rescaled to equivalent  
P-space with 0.25 max

## World Strain Style

-

## Plate Motion Index

W+ +0.47 Index > -55

W- -0.47 Index < -55

Rescaled to  
equivalent  
P-space with 0.11, 0

## Structural Setting

- 1.0 Accommodation Zone
- 1.0 Displacement Transfer
- 1.0 Pull Apart
- 0.6 Numerous Normal Faults
- 0.6 Step-over
- 0.5 Fault Termination
- 0.5 Fault Intersection
- 0.2 Caldera Ring Faults
- 0.2 Normal Faults
- 0.1 Gravity-driven Normal Faults
- 0.0 Restraining Bend
- 0.0 Unknown
- X.X\* Multiple Structural Settings  
(\*X.X = variable)

Rescaled to equivalent  
P-space with 0.20 max

Fluid Chemistry  
Model  
0.95

Heat Model  
0.9

Clay Cap  
Model  
0.9

Fuzzy  
Algebraic  
Sum

Combined  
Permeability  
Model

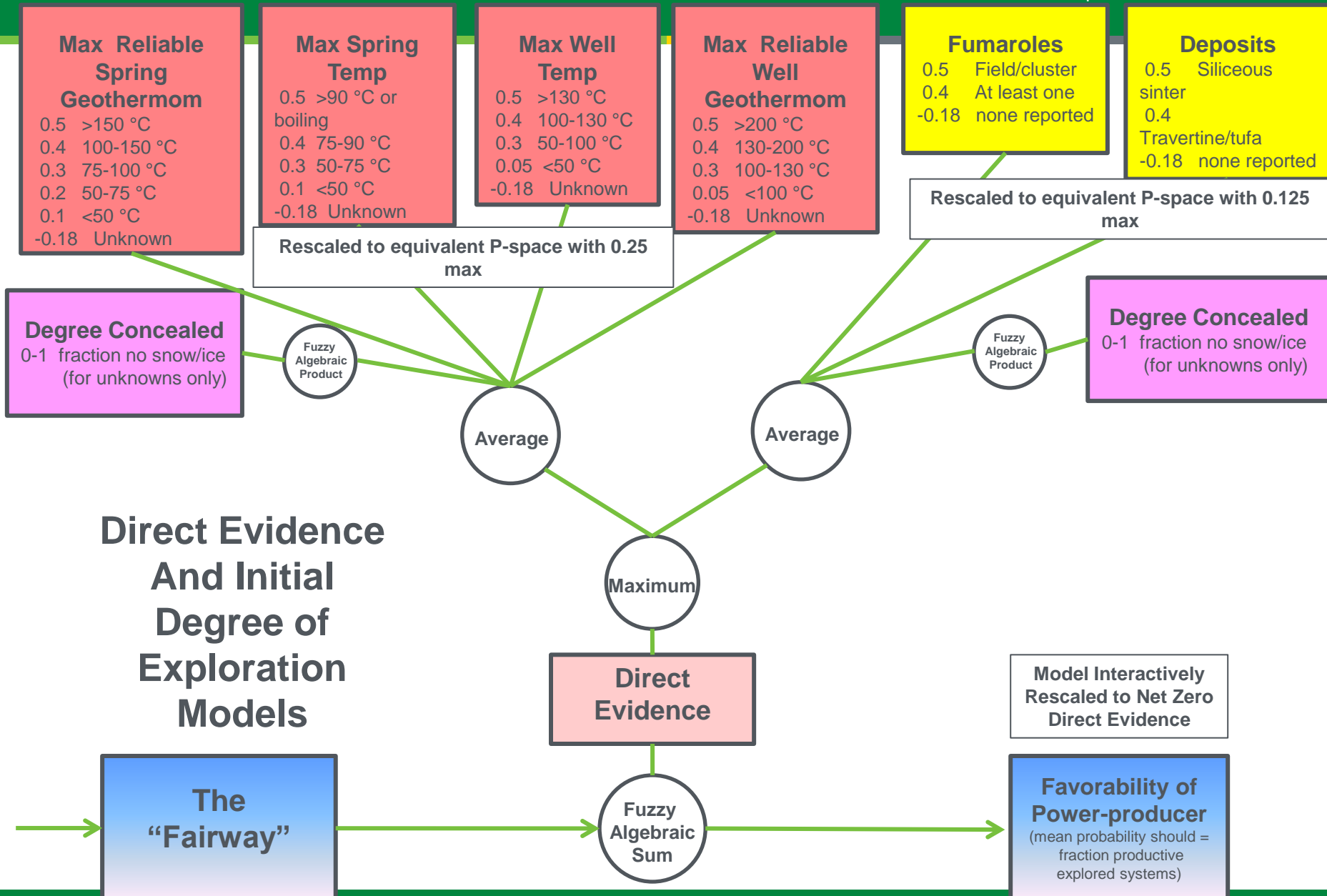
Fuzzy  
Algebraic  
Product

Model Interactively  
Rescaled to Generate  
Mean Fairway  
P-value of 0.2  
(to account for degree  
of exploration)

The  
“Fairway”

# Temperatures/Geothermometry

# Surface Features



# Accomplishments – Challenges

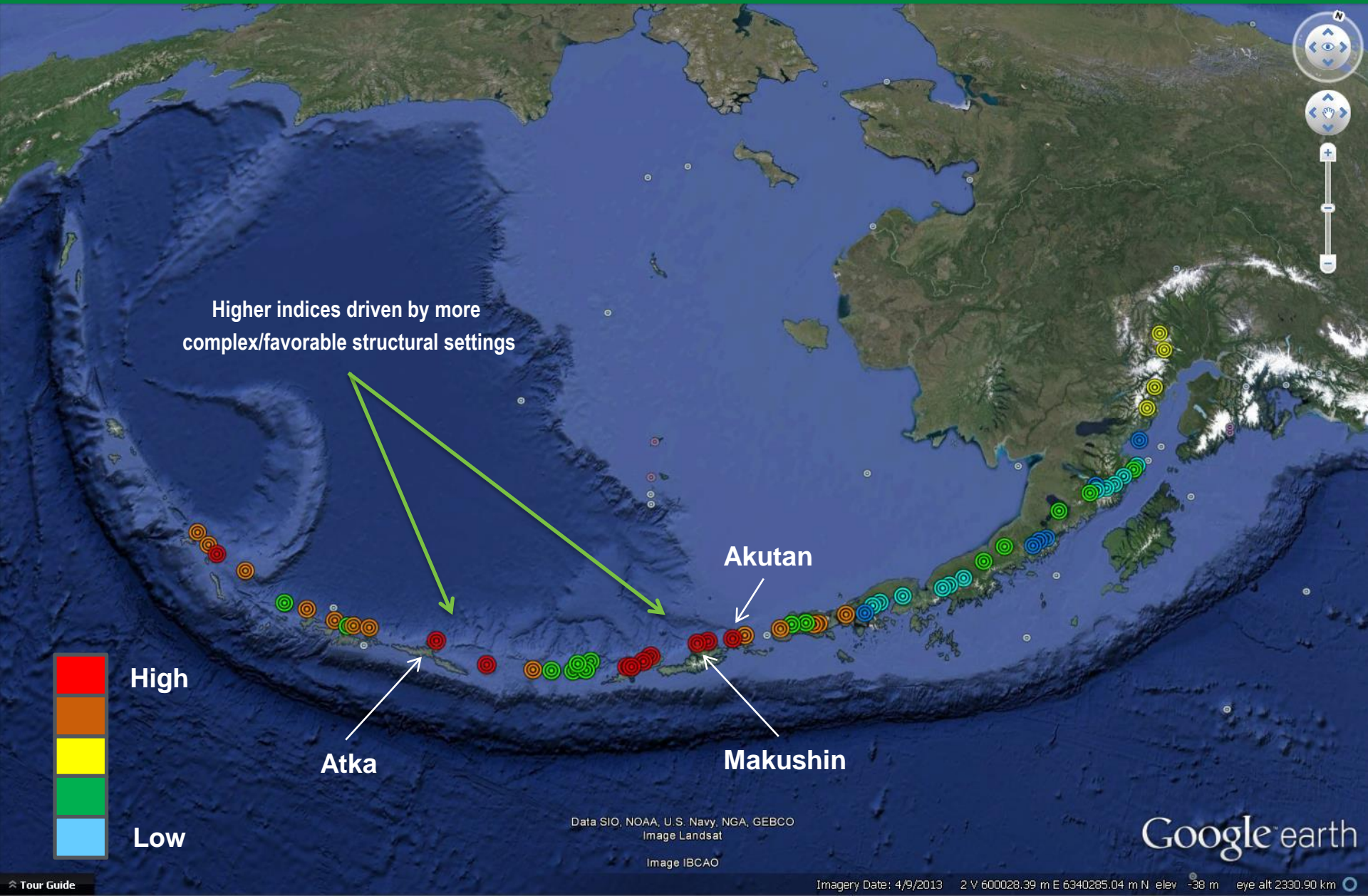
- The greatest **Challenges** faced by the project are
  - The large amount of data search and compilation required,
  - The incomplete and uneven nature of data availability for individual arc volcanic centers.
- **Resolutions:**
  - Data search and compilation has progressively focused on the most relevant and complete data types
  - The number of volcanic centers for which detailed data is solicited outside the Cascade/Aleutian arcs has been focused from nearly 600 to the roughly 80 centers with demonstrated economic potential (Power Production).
  - Degree of exploration factor is used partly to account for uneven data distribution/availability

Original Planned Milestone/ Technical Accomplishment	Actual Milestone/Technical Accomplishment	Date Completed
<b>Preliminary</b> Modeling	VC Ranking, weighted favorability maps	3/30/15
Go/No Go	Verified Feasibility of Methodology	3/30/15

# Aleutian Arc Preliminary Fairway Model

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# Aleutian Arc Preliminary Favorability Model

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Relative weighting changes (updates) when  
direct evidence (geothermometry, well data,  
and surface features) are considered



Atka

Akutan

Makushin

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat  
Image IBCAO

Google earth



# Cascade Arc Preliminary Fairway Model

Higher indices in southern Cascades generated by:

- 1) tectonic setting,
- 2) structural setting, and,
- 3) strain/plate motion index.

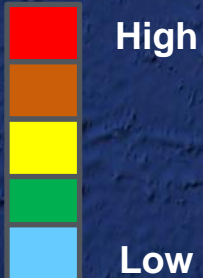
In general, southern Cascades characterized by more transtensional to extensional environment relative to northern Cascades.

Mt. Meager

Mt. Hood

Medicine Lake

Mt. Lassen

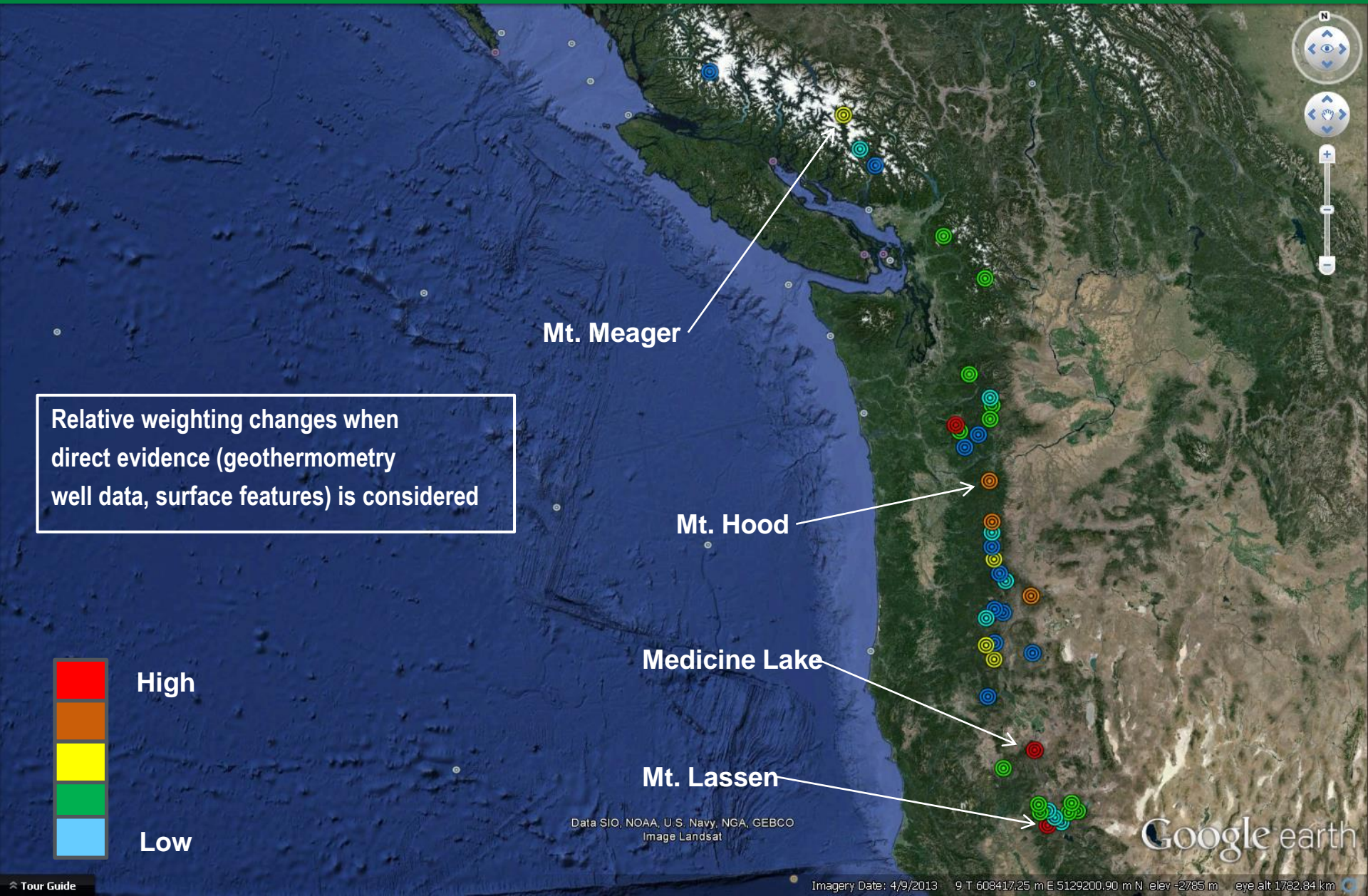


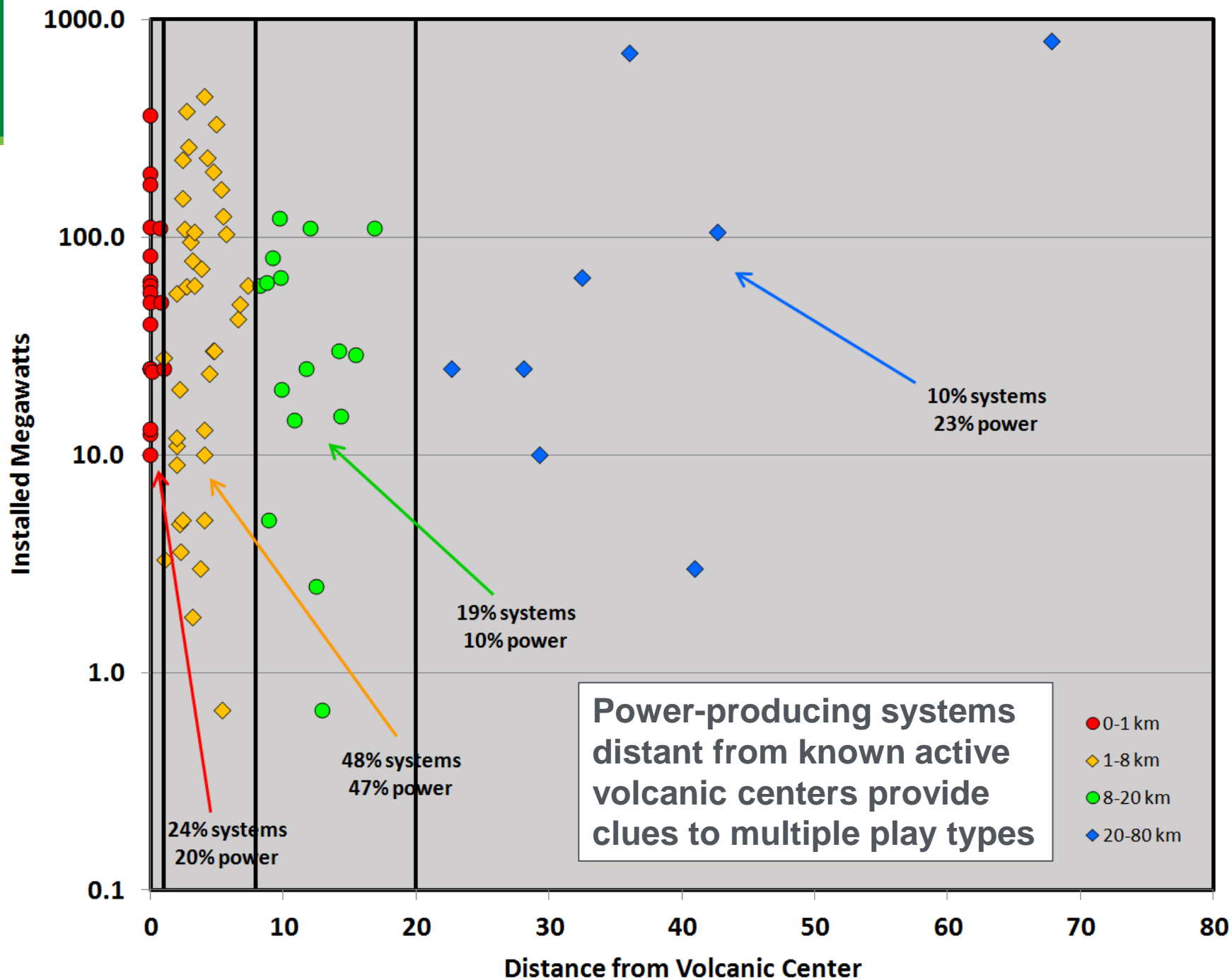
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image Landsat

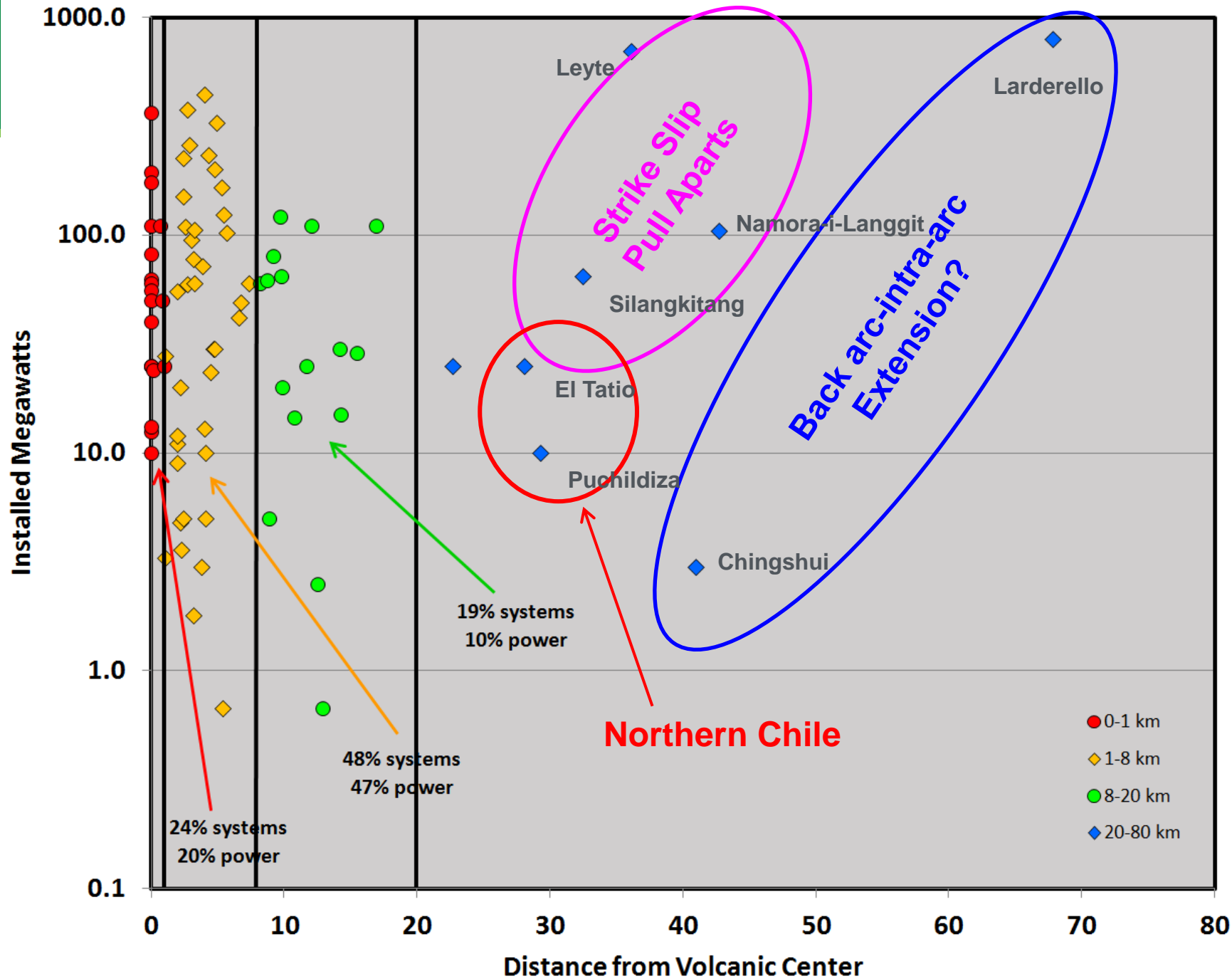
Google earth



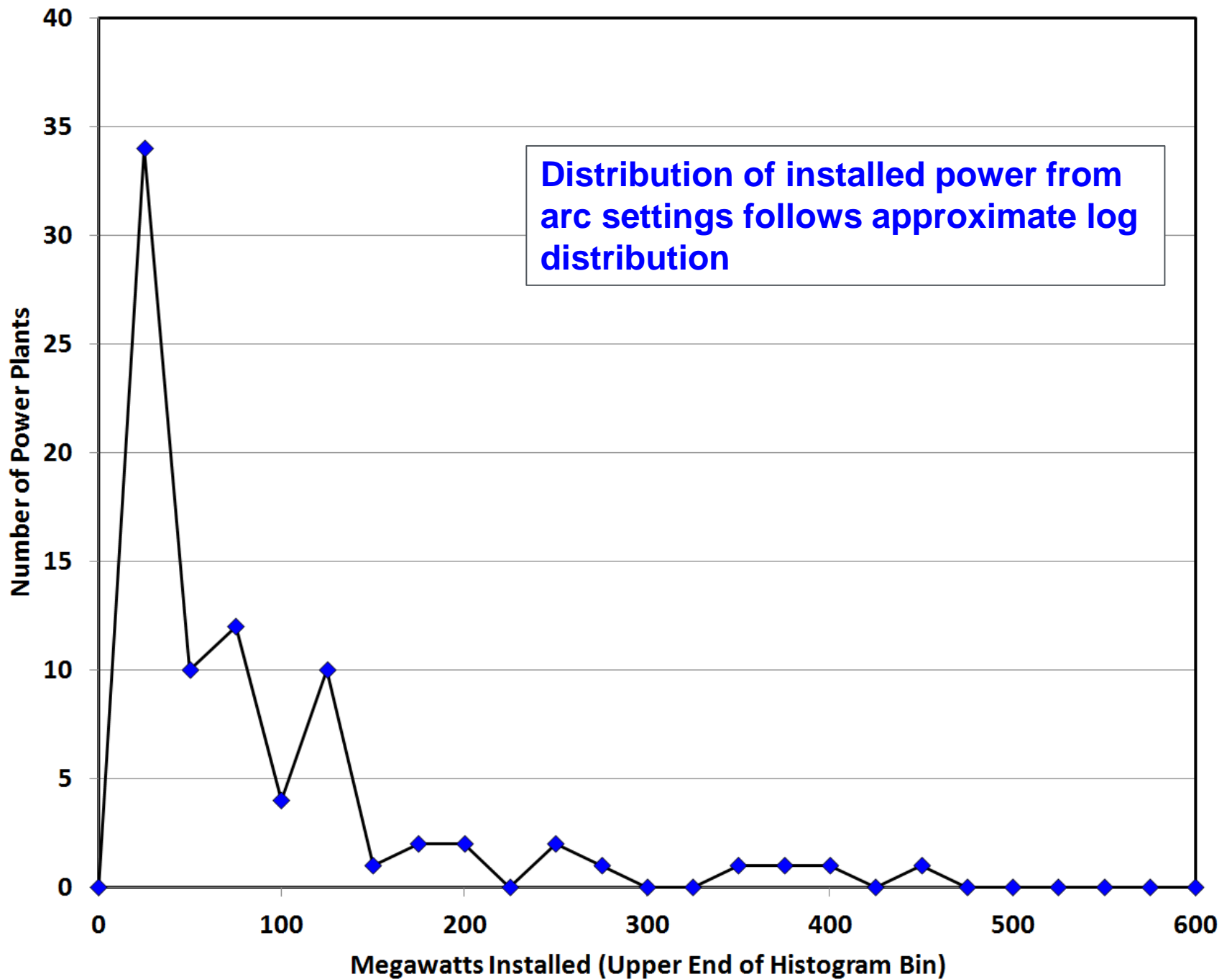
# Cascade Arc Preliminary Favorability Model

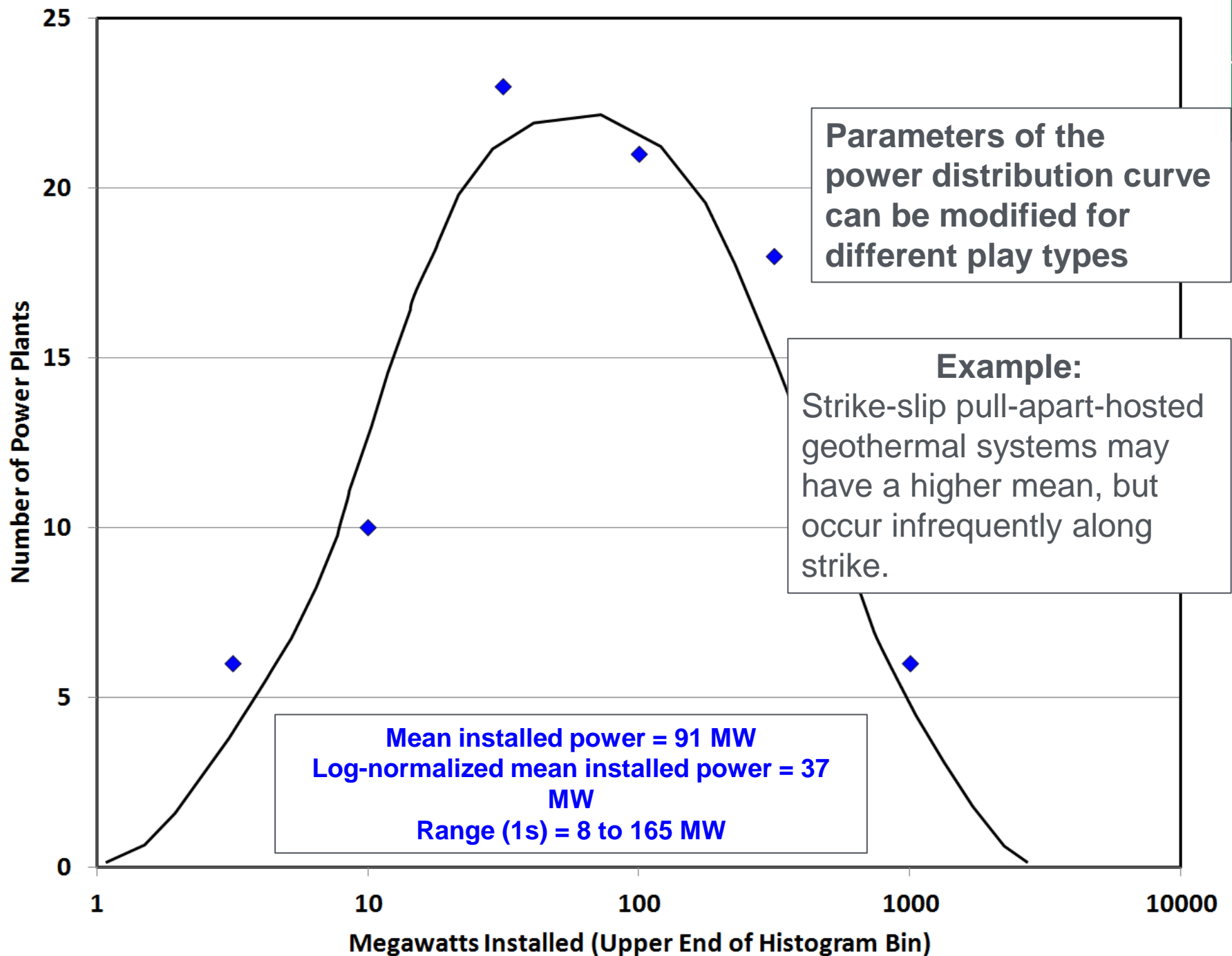












## Measures of Certainty (errors of estimate)

- 1) Lack of data from non-producing geothermal systems complicates calculation of quantitative weights and errors
- 2) Exceptions are data for crustal strain, plate motion, and crustal thickness
  - Weights of evidence with estimate of error calculated for strain index
  - However, world strain model is still in infancy, and errors on a volcano by volcano basis will be higher
- 3) Much regional exploration data used herein has relatively high uncertainties
- 4) Quality indices and corresponding estimates of uncertainty being developed for geochemical data
- 5) Comprehensive evaluation of detailed databases can be used to constrain uncertainties, but much of these data are not publically available
- 6) Expert guidance will be used to help constrain probabilities and estimates of certainty

- Detailed evaluation of preliminary modeling results
- Final data compilation
- Assessment of weighting factors and relevant data ranges
- Adjustment of model parameters
- Final modeling
- Maps, tables and report preparation
- Presentation of results (GRC)

Milestone or Go/No-Go	Status & Expected Compl. Date
Final Stage Data Compilation	Initiated; Complete 6/30/15
Final Model; Generation of Predictive Indices	Planned: 10/31/15
Ranking of Volcanoes; Reporting; Commercialization	Planned: 10/31/15

- **On Schedule; 80% of data gathering complete**
- **Structure:** A synthesis of volcanic arc tectonic and structural settings is clarifying and documenting regional differences in geothermal potential
- **Strain:** Analyses of newly available world crustal motion and strain rate data yield predictive information supporting, and helping to quantify, a relationship between extension, shear, and geothermal potential
- **Predictive Maps:** Structure & strain data are beginning to define geothermal “fairways” in the Cascade and Aleutian Arcs characterized by more complex structural settings and more favorable extension/transtension tectonics
- **Clay Caps:** Cap integrity and its relationship to the magnitude of geothermal resources is being demonstrated
- **Permeability/Lithology:** Lithologic diversity produces rheological contrasts that can enhance fracturing and fluid flow, and relatively young rocks have had fewer opportunities for burial-related compaction and reduction in primary porosity and permeability
- **Surface Manifestations & Geochemistry:** As anticipated, fumaroles, sinters, and fluid geothermometry are qualitative indicators of elevated temperatures





