



# **Exploring Karst with Robots**

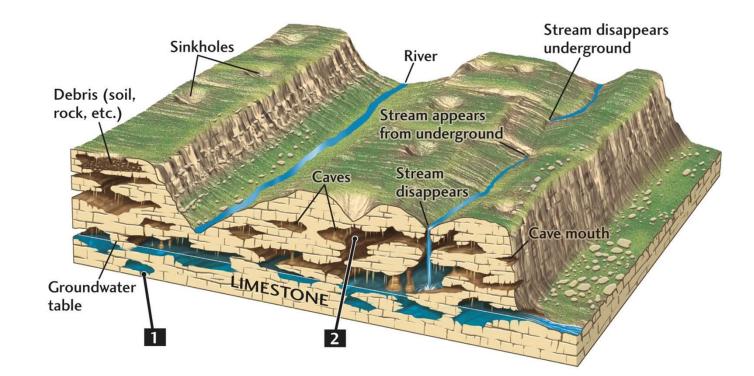
**Exploration Robotics for Confined, Unstructured Subaquatic Environment** 

FARO, 26-27 November 2024, LIX, Polytechnique, Palaiseau

lionel.Lapierre@ensta-Bretagne.fr

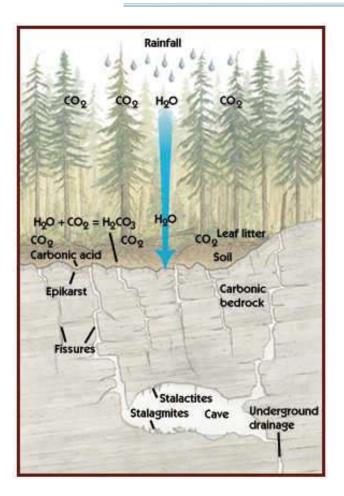
### KARST : DEFINITION

• A topography formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks such as limestone, dolomite, and gypsum,

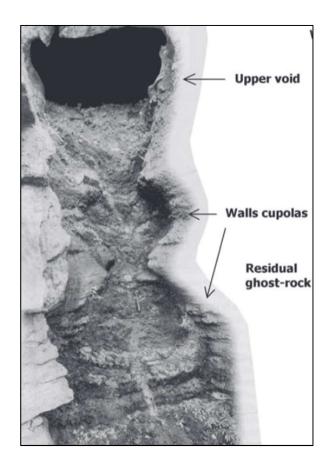


• Characterized by **underground drainage hydrosystems** with sinkholes and caves.

### KARSTOGENESIS

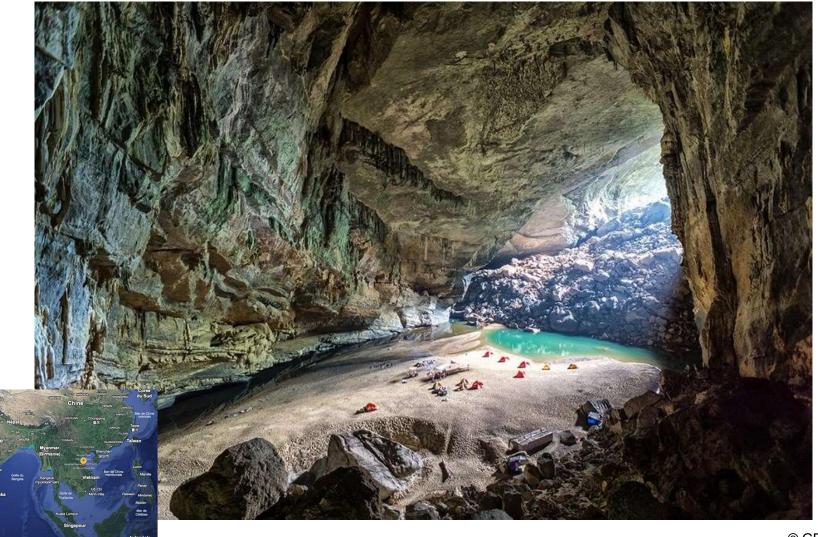


 $CO_2 + H_2O \leftrightarrow H_2CO_3 \leftrightarrow H^+ + HCO_3^ CaCO_3 + CO_2 + H_2O \leftrightarrow Ca^+ + 2 HCO_3^-$ 



Speleogenesis by phantomization (ghost-rock models)

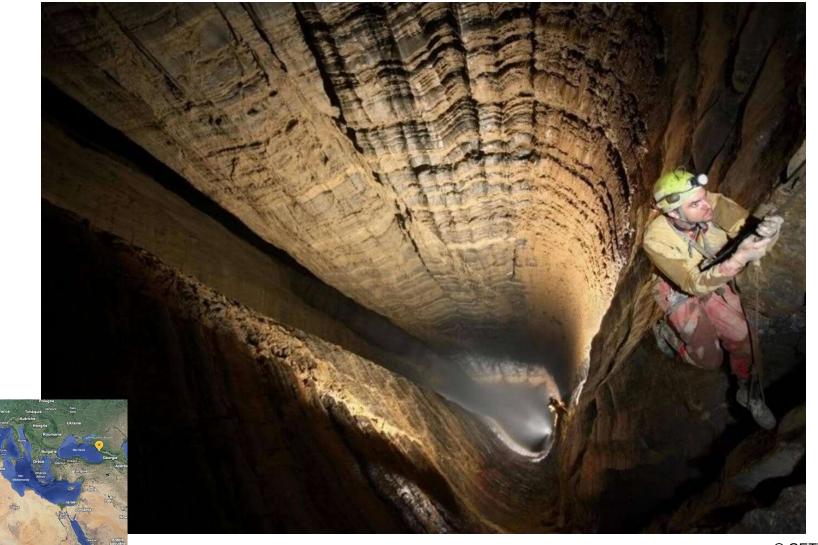
• The Largest (known) cave : Son Doong, Vietnam (2010)



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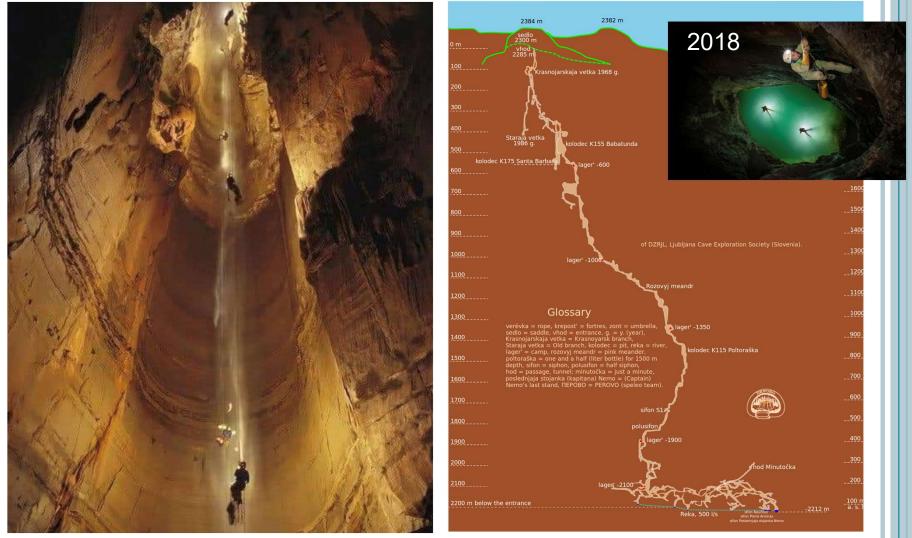


• The Deepest (known) cave : Veryovkina Cave, Abkhazia, 2209 m (2024



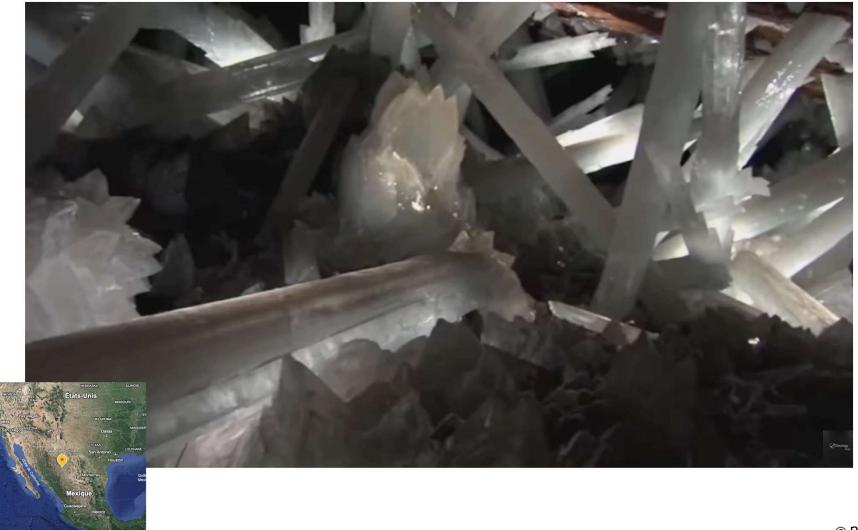
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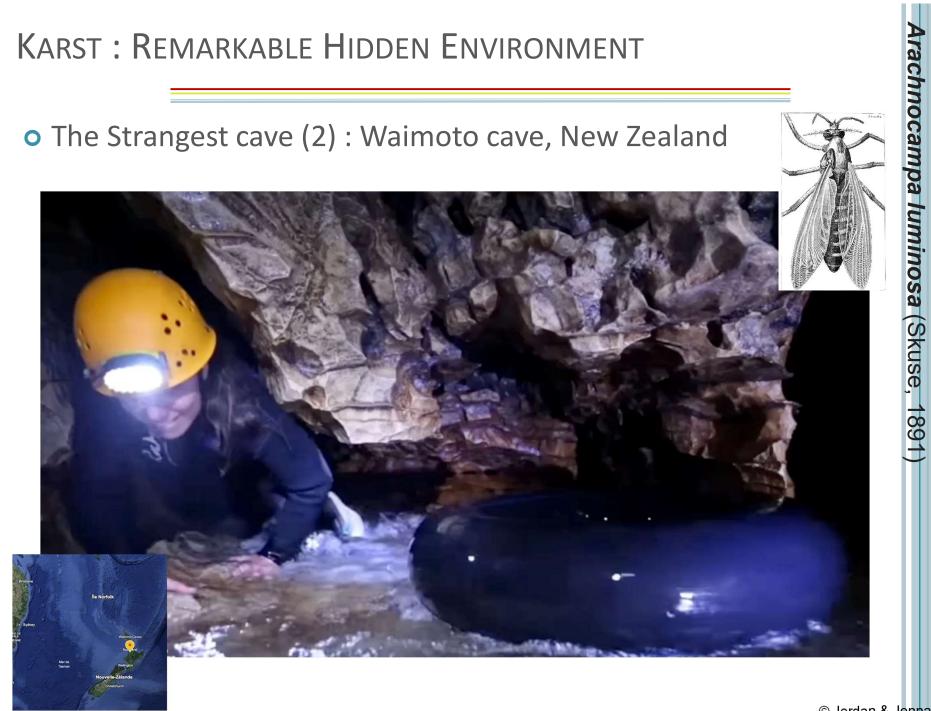
### • The Deepest (known) cave : Veryovkina Cave, Abkhazia



© Julia Ferra

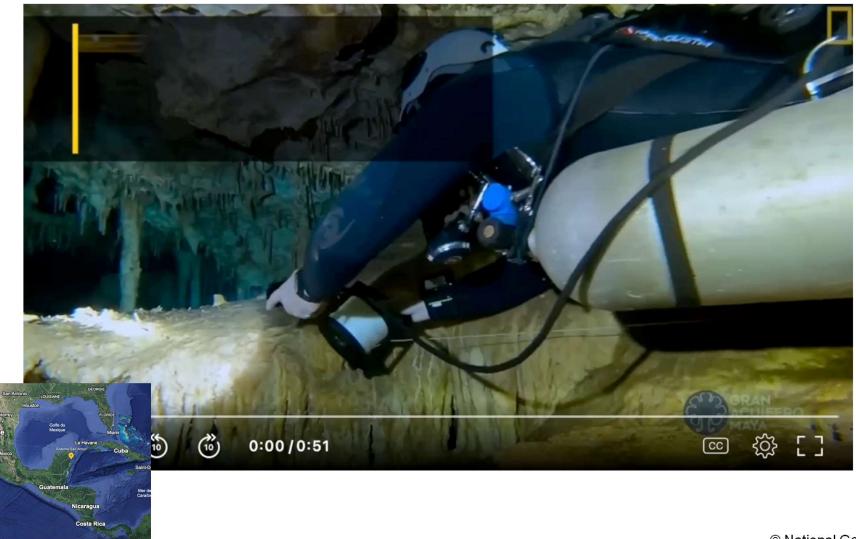
### • The Strangest cave (1) : Cueva de los cristales, Mexico (2000)





© Jordan & Jenna

### • The Longest Underwater cave (1) : Sistema Sac Actun, Mexico



© National Geographic

• The Deepest cave diving: F. Swierczynski, Font Estramar, France

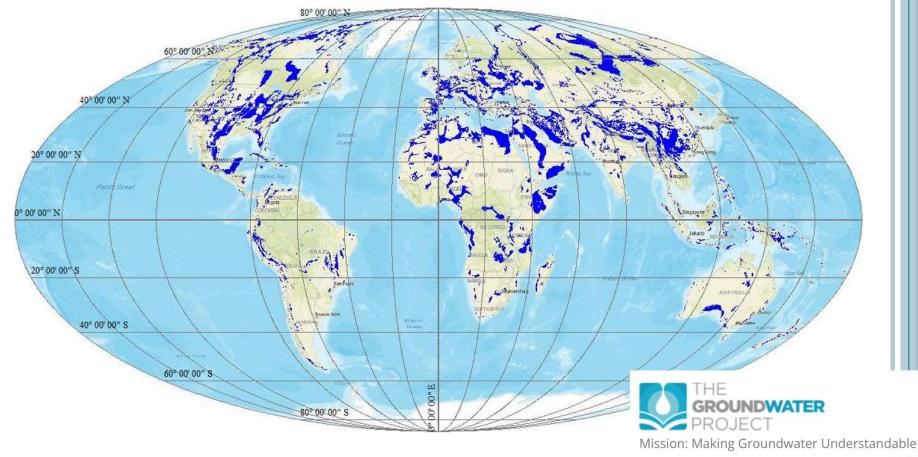


### KARST : GROUNDWATER RESERVOIR

Eclairage : Cédrik Bancarel Dominique Françoise Photo.: Frank Vasseur

### **G**ROUNDWATER IN KARST **S**ETTINGS

• With carbonate bedrock forming about 15% of Earth's ice-free surface, more than 25% of the world's population either lives on, or obtains its water from, karst aquifers



# GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

• Key facts

C O

- Four billion people almost two thirds of the world's population experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year.
- Over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate.
- Half of the world's population could be living in areas facing water scarcity by as early as 2025.
- Some 700 million people could be displaced by intense water scarcity by 2030.
- By 2040, roughly 1 in 4 children worldwide will be living in areas of extremely high water stress.



# Why is Groundwater Critical to Solving the Global Water Crisis?

The global water crisis is in fact a groundwater crisis because groundwater makes up 99% of all liquid fresh water and in times of drought, groundwater is the only freshwater available in many regions. Yet much of the educational material needed to solve the crisis exists behind expensive paywalls and global university programs are at present inadequate to address the issue.



### **GLOBAL WATER CRISIS**

#### PLANETA D

ENVIRAGENDARE - HED OF EXPERTUR: - GUE MURVE A. - DESURING OF SUPERAL - BLOCK - DUDADES SUPERMILES

#### La crisis del agua: no solo falta inversión, también necesitamos nuevas políticas

Dos próximas cumbres mundiales pueden ayudar a empezar a responder a los desafíos hídricos: la COP27 en Egipto en noviembre de este año y la cumbre del Agua de ONU en Nueva York en marzo de 2023



EL PAÍS

#### UNESCO Report : Global water crisis is threatening world peace and prompting calls for change About 2.2 billion people live

About 2.2 billion people live without access to safely managed drinking water Emergenza idrica: 1,4 milioni di persone muoiono ogni anno nel mondo

di Vito de Ceglia



I rischi legati all'acqua aumenteranno a ogni incremento di grado del riscaldamento globale. Secondo Bcg e Wwf settore pubblico e privato, istituzioni finanziarie e Ong devono agire con un piano condiviso e dare priorità a soluzioni nature-based

#### FOTOGRAFIA







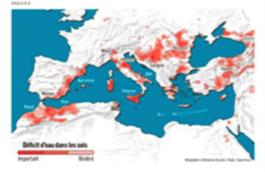


Orovile Lake, California, USA. 2011 vs 2014

# ---- Le Monde

#### UNE SÉCHERESSE CRITIQUE S'INSTALLE DANS LE BASSIN MÉDITERRANÉEN

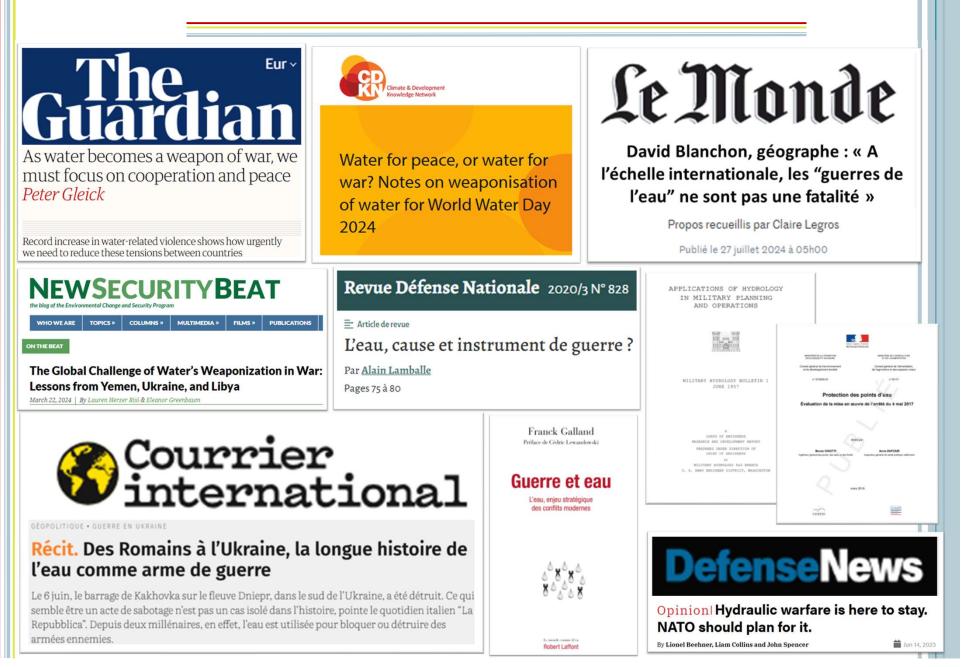
Dans toute la règion, le déficit de précipitations devient peu la norme
Les effets sur l'agriculture et l'alimentation en eau potable sont rapides et important

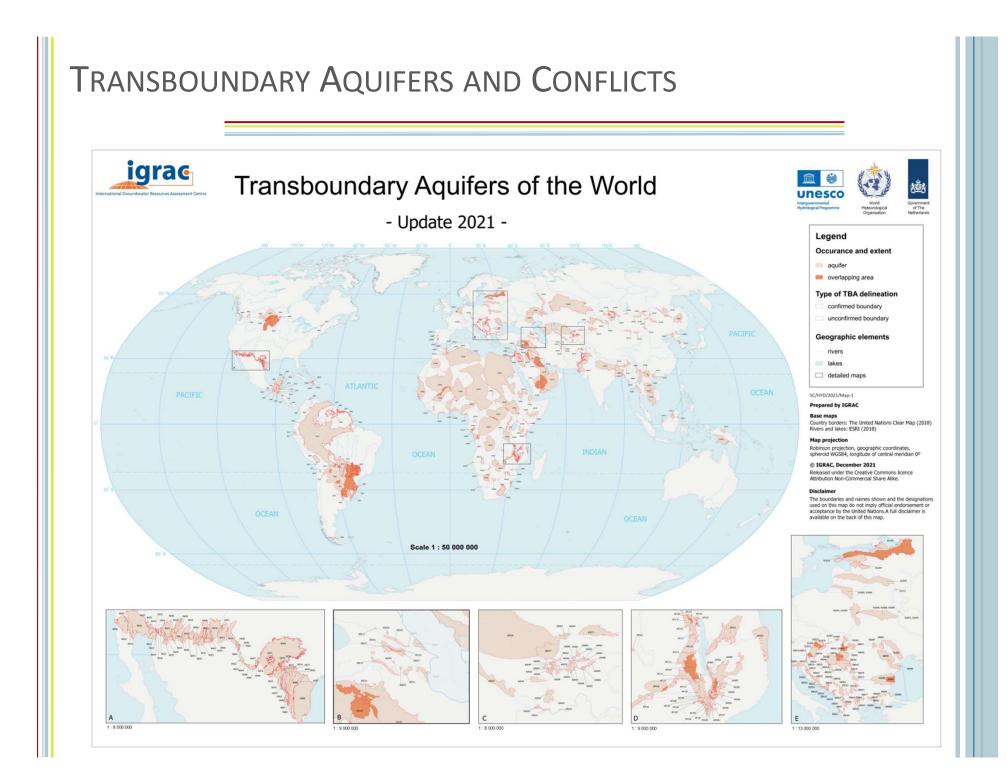


### Drought Touches a Quarter of Humanity, U.N. Says, Disrupting Lives Globally Ehe New York Times

The crisis, worsened partly by climate change, has been accompanied by soaring food prices and could have consequences for hunger, elections and migration worldwide.

### WATER AS A WAR WEAPON





# WATER CONFLICTS

### PACIFIC INSTITUTE

#### THE WORLD'S WATER Information on the World's Freshwater Resources

- "Trigger:" Water as a trigger or root cause of conflict, or underlying cause of ongoing tension that is contributing to conflict, where there is a dispute over the control of water or water systems, or where economic or physical access to water, or scarcity of water, triggers violence.
- "Weapon:" Water as a weapon of conflict, where water resources, or water systems themselves, are used as a tool or weapon in a violent conflict.
- "Casualty:" Water resources or water systems as a casualty of conflict, where water resources, or water systems, are intentional or incidental casualties or targets of violence.

### The water war between the US

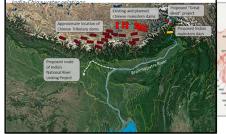
#### and Mexico

By Devika Rao, Published on D6/27/2024 • THE WEEK The U.S. and Mexico are experiencing another border dispute, and this one is about water. The conflict stems from an 80-year-old treaty where the countries agreed to share water from the Colorado River and the Rio Grande. However, because water is in more demand but scarcer than ever, sharing has not been going to plan.

#### Sharing the Rio Grande The Rio Conchos is the most important tributary of the Rio Grande. Under a 1944 treaty, Mexico provides water to the U.S. from the Conchos and other tributaries. In recent years Mexico has fallen subind on its offentioner in the second seco , sparking c Ft-Worthg 9 The U.S. and Mexico both store water at the Falcon and Am der cities and rrigation districts in both Luis L. León dam MEXICO

#### The Water Wars : India, China and the Brahmaputra

What the hydrology and geop Brahmaputra River mean fo





Water disputes in the Mekong basin By Hervé Amiot, Publishedon 11/28/2013 • Updated on 05/11/2020 The Mekong is south-east Asia's longest river (around 4 900km). From its

(unnan before passing through five south-east Asian countries (Myanmar

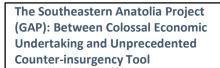
Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam), Nearly half of the river is in China where it is known as the Lancang. For the 70 million people who live in the

Mekong basin, the river is a vital source of food and water, as well as an

mportant transport route. Increasingly, it is being used to generate hydroelectricity. Human activity threatens the river's fauna and flora, and

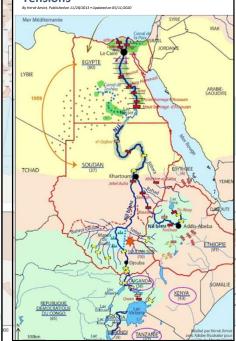
competition for natural resources is intensifying.

source in Tibet, it flows southwards through the Chinese province of





#### The Nile: A Driver of Economic **Development and Geopolitical** Tensions



#### Water: Cause or Pretext for Conflicts? The Example of the **Tigris and Euphrates**

The Tigris and Euphrates form the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia, where Neolithic civilization emerged in the 9th millennium BCE. Today, however, the waters of these rivers are less associated with prosperity and more with conflicts. Population growth requires ever-increasing withdrawals from the two rivers to support the agricultural and hydroelectric sectors

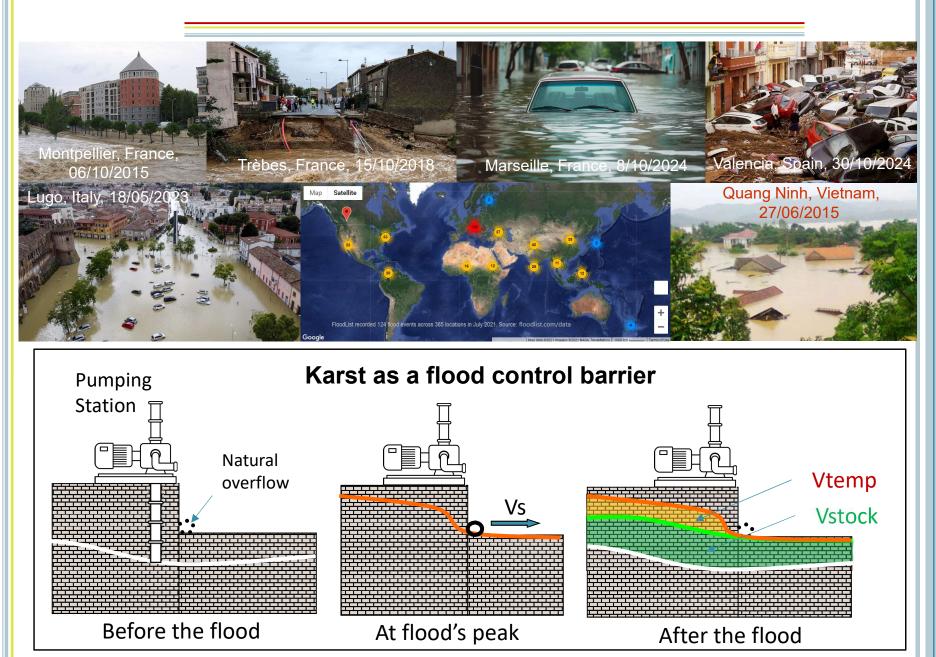


Water and Conflicts in the Jordan Basin

While the Jordan Basin is not as large as those of the Tigris-Euphrates or the Nile, it is nevertheless the site of perhaps more frequent and intense conflicts. Originating in Lebanon, the Jordan River separates Israel from neighboring Arab states, Syria and lordan



### ROLE OF KARST IN FLASH FLOODS



### KARST : GROUNDWATER RESERVOIR

Pedro Balordi and Guenter Essig, Gourneyras, France, July 2015

### KARST EXPLORATION : CONSTRAINTS

• Exploration of Confined, Unstructured, Subaquatic Environment

• GPS denied -> Undergound GPS : Dirac System © Syera



### KARST EXPLORATION : CONSTRAINTS

• Exploration of Confined, Unstructured, Subaquatic Environment

- No GPS -> Undergound GPS : **Dirac System** © Syera
- Cable / No cable ?



# KARST EXPLORATION : TRADITIONAL / UNCONVENTIONAL TOOLS

• Exploration of Confined, Unstructured, Subaquatic Environment

- No GPS -> Undergound GPS : **Dirac System** © Syera
- Cable / No cable ?
- Vision or Acoustic ?

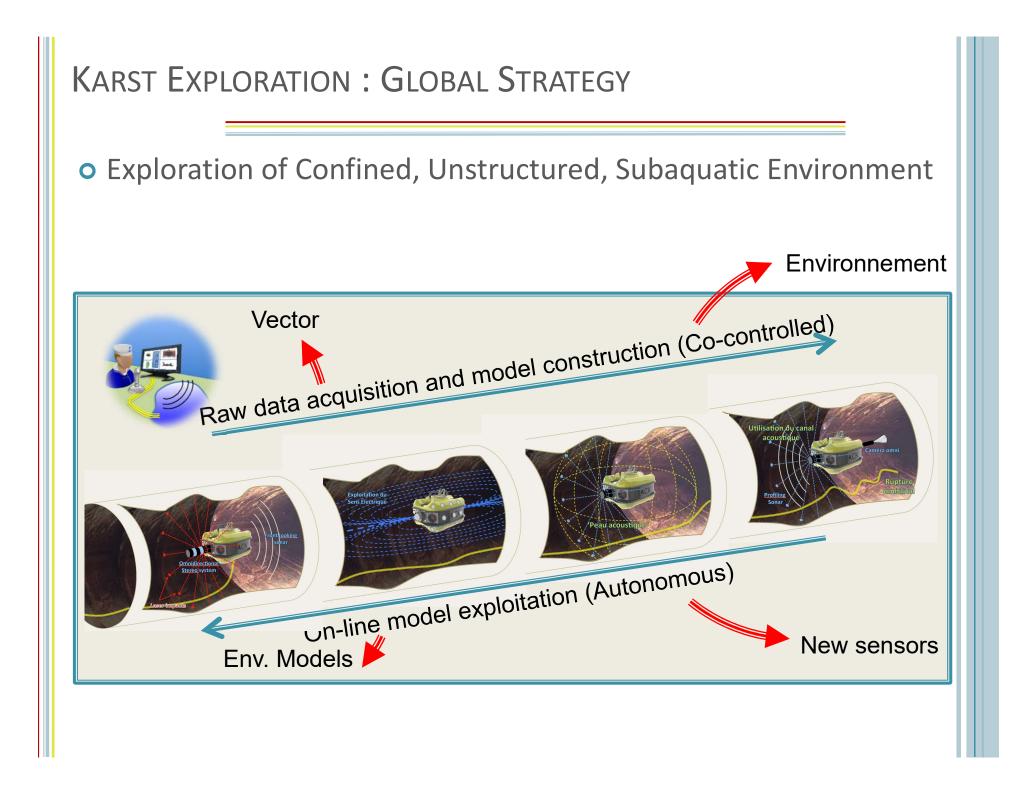


# KARST EXPLORATION : TRADITIONAL / UNCONVENTIONAL TOOLS

• Exploration of Confined, Unstructured, Subaquatic Environment

- No GPS -> Undergound GPS : Dirac System © Syera
- Cable / No cable ?
- Vision or Acoustic ?
- Environmental disturbances and complexity





## KARST EXPLORATION : THE ROBOTIC CHALLENGES

### Unconventional Sensors

- Acoustic Skin
- Active Umbilical
- Electric Sense
- Acc. Interf. patterns as inv. landmarks o Actuation

#### **Navigation** 0

- Global Navigation System / Mag. Pos.
- No distinction btw nav. sensors / payload Anguilliform Locomotion
- Acoustic / visual SLAM
- Vacancy Evidence Grids
- Clustering and Saliency Data Analysis
- Guidance 0
  - Autonomous Centring
  - Autonomous Targeting
  - Env. Models on-line building / exploit°

#### Models 0

- Multi-modality & Scalability
- **Uncertainty Consideration**

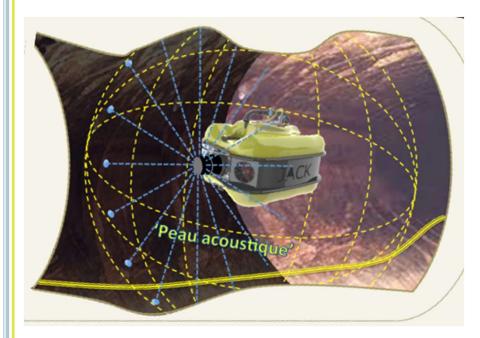
### **o** Control

- Robustness
- Co-control,
- Open-loop stability
- - Reactive redundant A.S.
  - Variable Geometry A.S.

  - Mission Management
    - Management of sensors (acc. jamming)
    - Adaptive Autonomy
    - GoP & Interval approach
  - Technology
    - Active Truncanner, NRJ opt.
    - Magnetic Positionning
  - **o** Economic
    - Evangelization of a Blue Ocean

# KARST EXPLORATION : UNCONVENTIONAL SENSORS

• Acoustic Skin

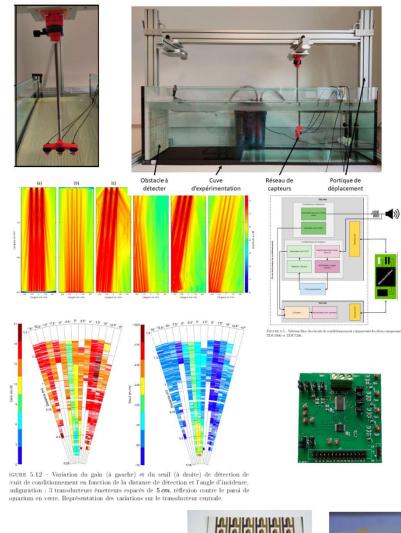




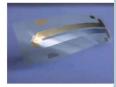


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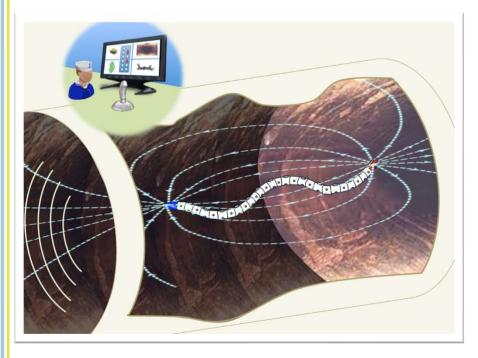
### KARST EXPLORATION : UNCONVENTIONAL SENSORS • Active Umbilical Wireless Communication/localisation with Burst signal Générateur Câble Récepteur Active Umbilical Oscilloscope Câble Générateur Station de base Câble ∆T = Tb - Ti - Délai $D = c x \Delta T$ Délai FIXE & Connu Retou Détection of Stationnary waves in single wire Profil d'enveloppe : Source St-Antoine Toulon Carrière 208 400 Siphon 1 Siphon 2 4,902 m 4,386 m

2 -10 - 20

3 min 5

### **KARST EXPLORATION : UNCONVENTIONAL SENSORS**

### **o** Electric Sense







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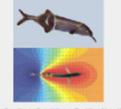
#### Underwater reflex navigation in confined environment based on electric sense

Fold/ric Boyer, Vincent Lebastard, Christine Chevallereas, and Noll Servagent

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

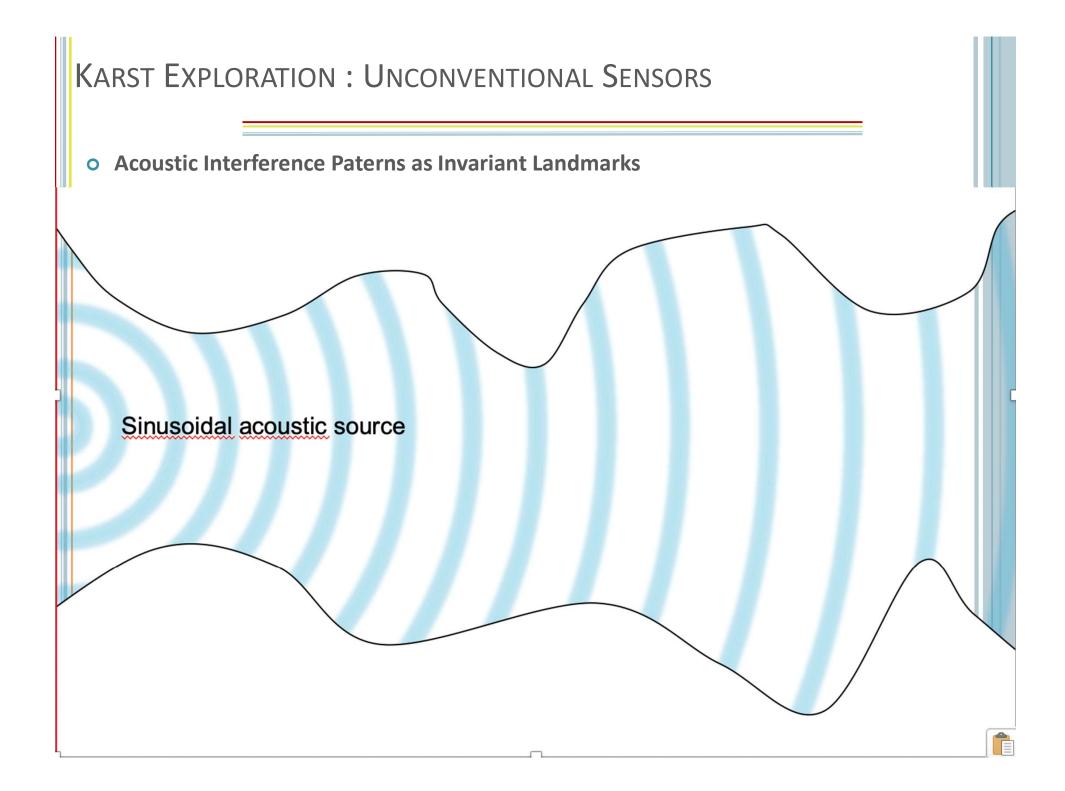
In spite of its high potential interest for applications such which have evolved independently on both the African and robust manaer with respect to the scene complexity. South-American continents, the electric sense was discovered by Lissman in the 50s [1]. The African Esh Gaultonemus Petersii pictused in figure 1 is a typical electric fish. It polarizes its body with respect to an electric organ of discharge (EOD) located at the base of its kell. This polarization which is of sheri dautice, generates a dipolar shaped electric field around the fish which is clistorical by the objects present in its surroundings. Then, thanks to the many electro-receptors distributed along its body, the fish "racasenes" the distortions of the electric field and processes with its brain an image of its surroundings [2]. Named "electrolocation", this sensorial ability has been extensionly studied by nearo-ethologists who shown that electric fish can recognize objects shape, meaner distances, sizes as well as the electric properties of materials [16]. In nature, electric fish can easily maxignic in the dark or turbid waters of confined antiractured environments such as the roots of the trees of fixeded tropical forests which are their Fig. 1. New Yor dor lines (14) (rep) The Advance Maraysian and natural hobitat. Electric sense is well adapted to this niche, in particular, because of its oracidirectional character that makes

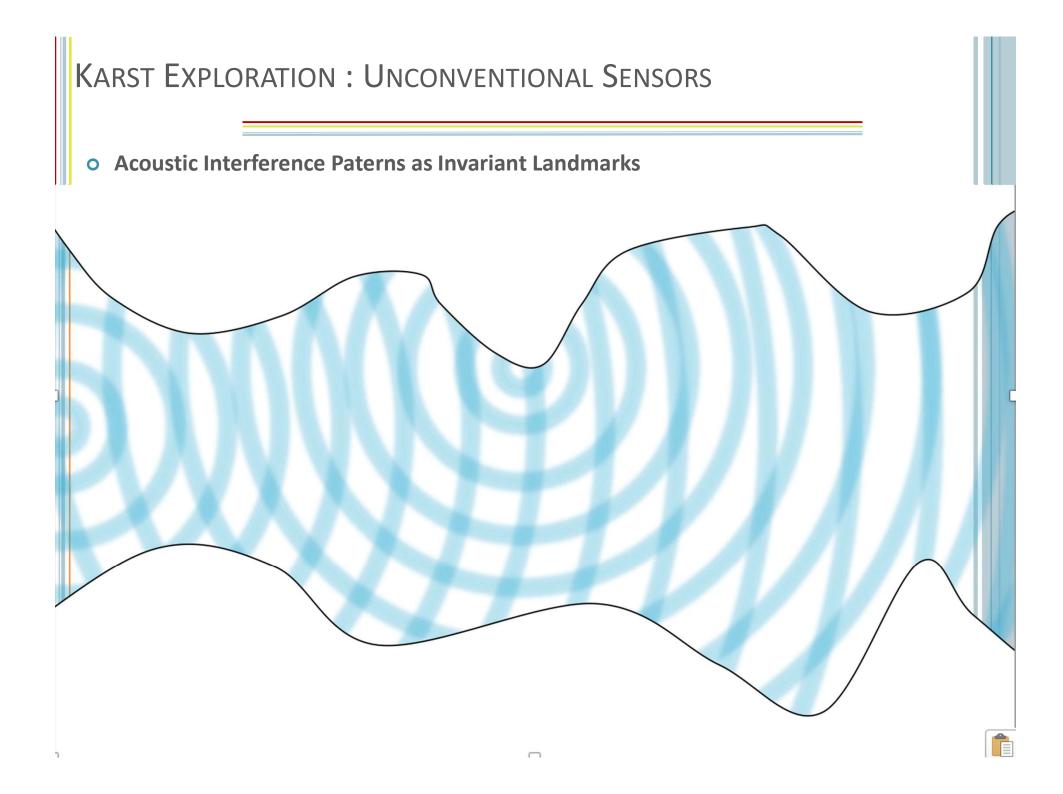
Abinat-This article shows how a new sensor impired by understanding and initiating fais sense with technology would Advant—This a tritic sizes is a new maner impleted dotte in its outed is used a key implete its content environ-ments. Exploiting the manyhology of the summe, the physics environment of the content interactions, as well as tabling implete them to the state of the contense at a state of the state of the state of the contense at a state of the state of the contense at a state of the state of the contense at a state of the state of the contense at a state of the state of the state of the contense at a state of the stat was imposed. In Angels [10], another technological solution is proposed for the electric sense. This senser is embedded Padez Form--Underwater meligidine, active-reming, detric mann, andanilment, kloskopization, abstack avaidance, activitati justestaik. The body Each electrode can be polorized with protestaik. The electric field distortions are then measured through the vector I of the currents flowing across the electrodes. We turn this measurement mode U-I, the first letter standing for the emission (here, a vector of voltage U), the second, for as deep seus exploration or rescae missions in catastrophic – the reception there a vector of currents  $D_i$  to distinguish it conditions underwater assigntion in continued mentactured on – from the U - U mode of [13], [14]. In this article we address viscements and tarbid woters where vision is tasticos remains the problem of the underwater electro-cavigation in continena challenge in robotics. In the same conditions, echolocotion environments using this senser. The proposed approach is by some is problematic because the multiple small particles inspired by the observation of electric fiels in nature. It exploits as well as the numerous obstacks cause diffraction and the interactions of the sensor body with the electric field defer interfering reflections of the signal. In fact, notize has already mations produced by the objects in its surrounding. It amounts discovered as original sense well adapted to this situation: the to a set of reactive control loops whose parametrization allows electric sense. Developed by several handroits of this species one to achieve relevant behaviors for underwater-cobotics in a

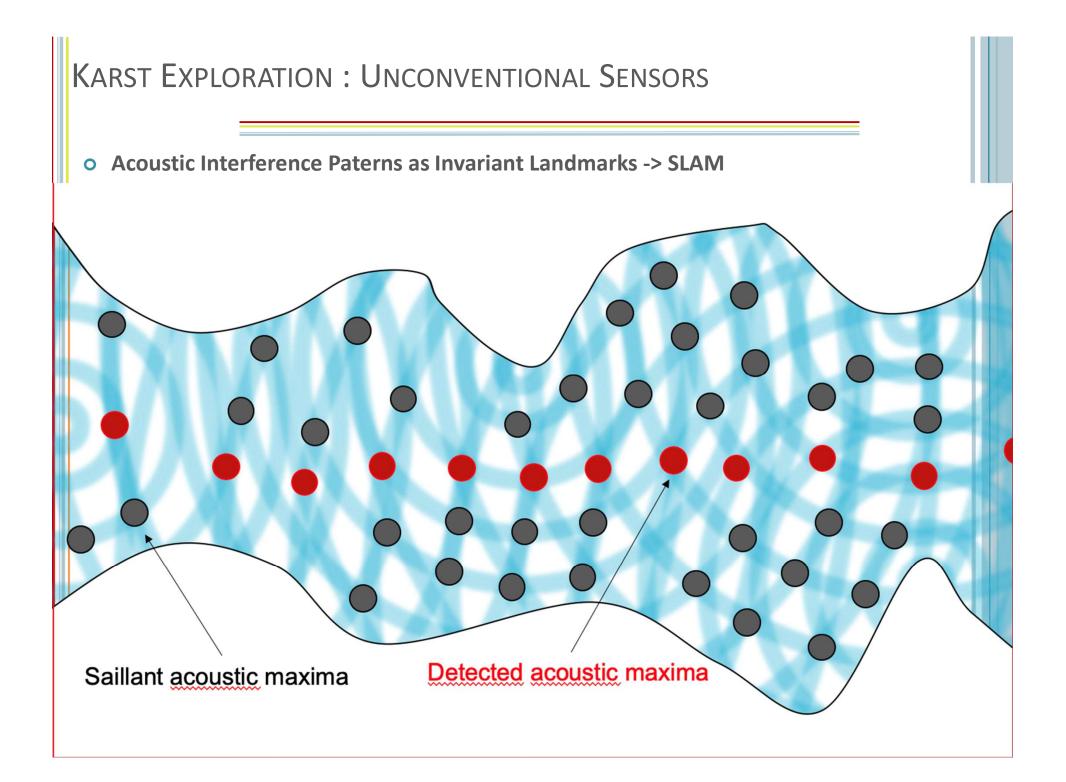


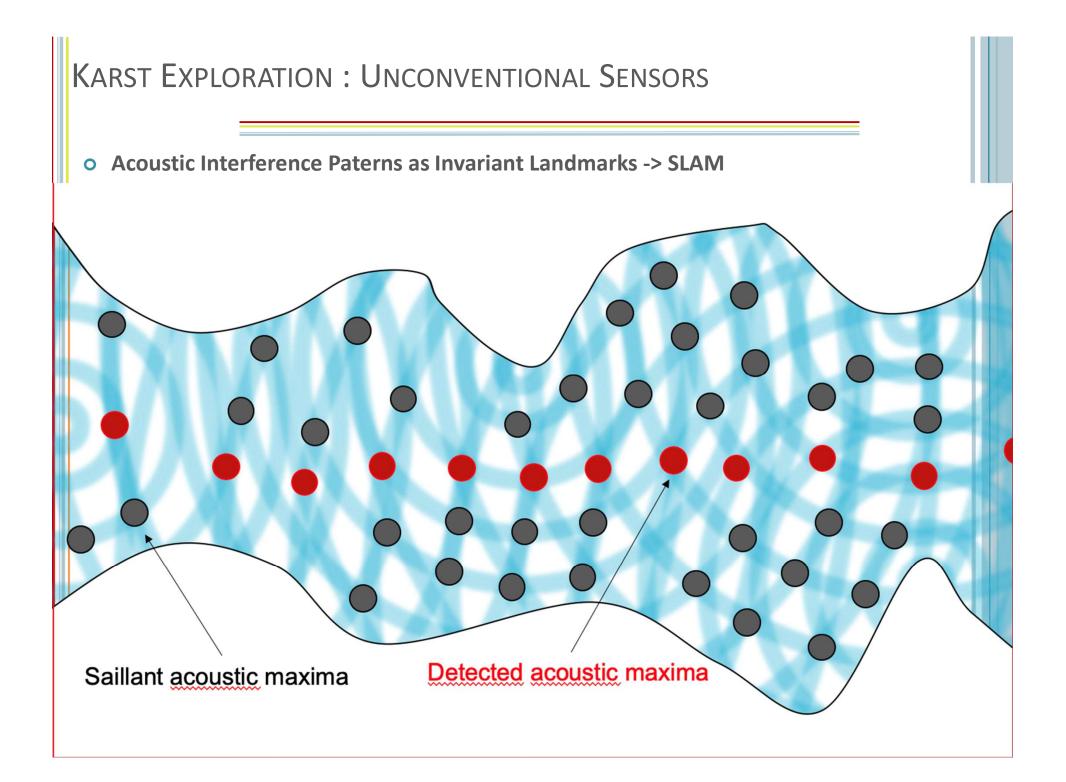
scientii, domonto Tap view of the fish houst abornic fishil

It a sense naturally salted to the obstacle avoidance. Thus, The article is structured as follows. First we will briefly





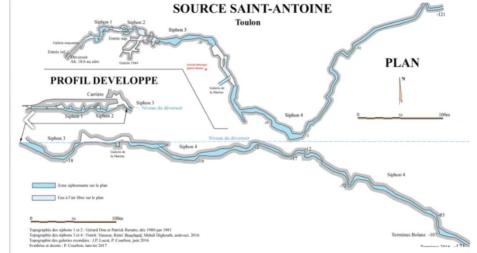


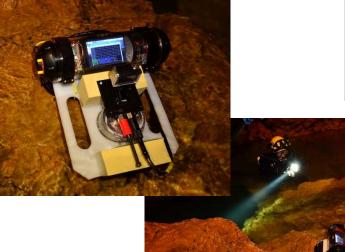


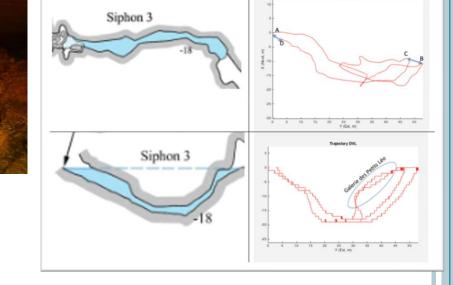
### KARST EXPLORATION : NAVIGATION

### o Global Navigation System

- IMU (SBG Ellipse D)
- DVL (Nortek 1000)
- Pressure Sensor (Blue Robotics)



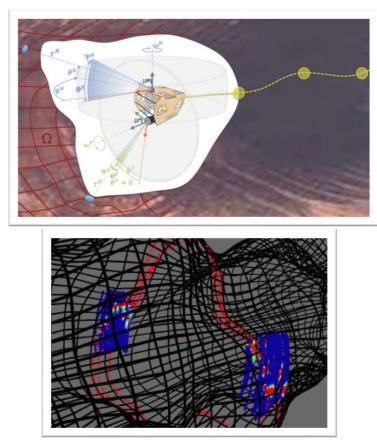


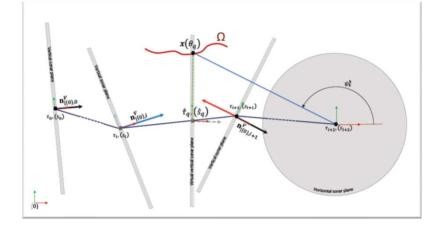


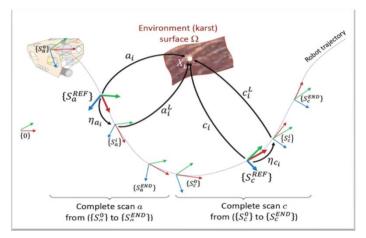
### KARST EXPLORATION : NAVIGATION

### • Acoustic SLAM

- Vertical / Horizontal Scans Fusion
- Scan Matching (point to point and point to plane)
- Graph SLAM and loop closure detection



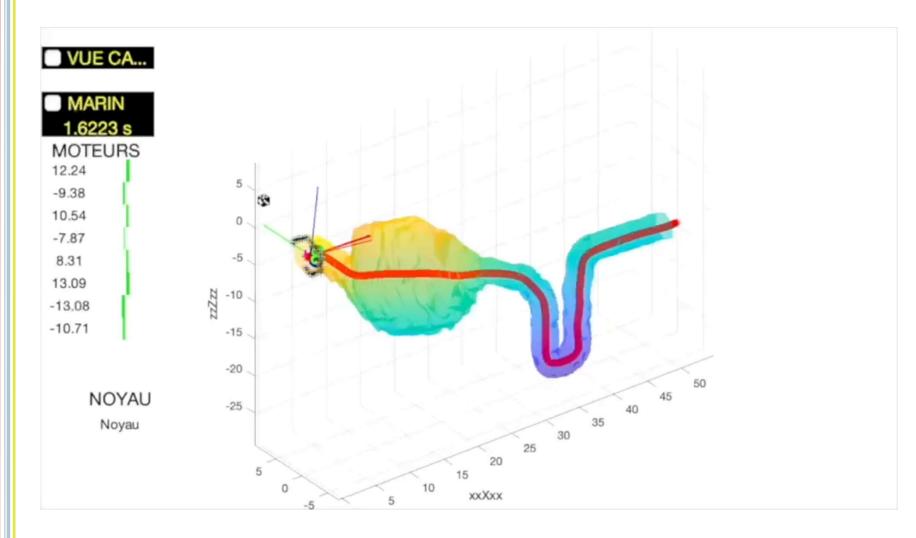




[J-22] Yohan Breux, Lionel Lapierre. 'Elevation Angle Estimations of Wide-Beam Acoustic Sonar Measurements for Autonomous Underwater Karst Exploration', Sensors, MDPI, 2020, 20 (14), pp.4028, https://doi.org/10.3390/s20144028

### KARST EXPLORATION : NAVIGATION

### • Acoustic SLAM, with helicoidal constraints



# KARST EXPLORATION : NAVIGATION

**o** Clustering and Saliency Data Analysis

$$f(t^{\circ}, Cond, V_{10}, C_s, d(\alpha))$$
?

which maximizes SALS(f(s)) over S,  $s \in S$ 

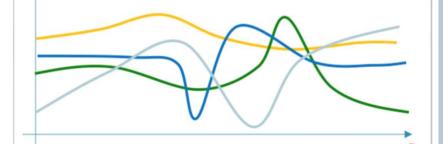
5

Sampling

acoust!

Helicoliai

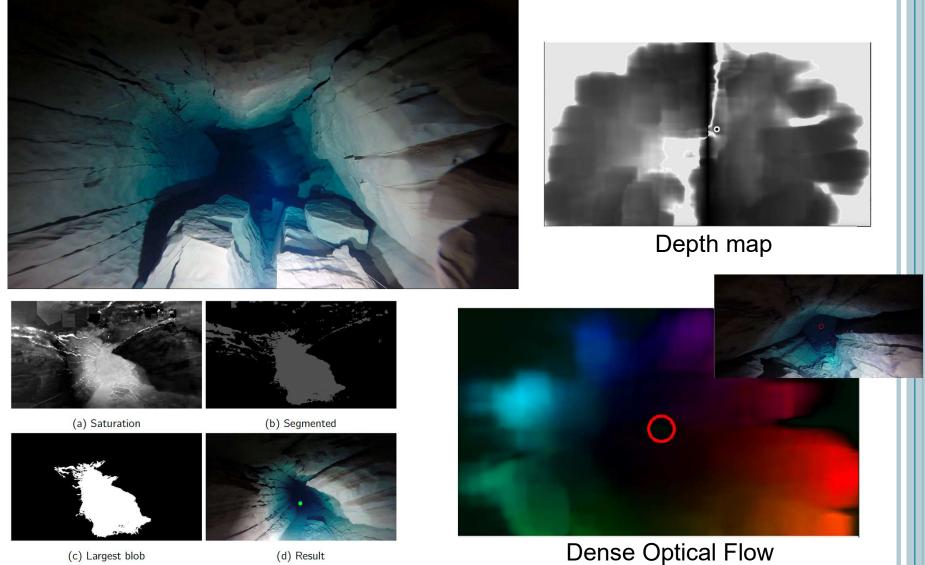
<sup>↑</sup> t, Cond, V<sub>10</sub>, C<sub>s</sub>



Robot trajectory : X(s)

# KARST EXPLORATION : GUIDANCE

• Visual Analysis : Centering, Advancement Vector, SLAM, 3D reconstruction

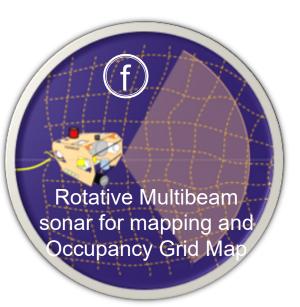


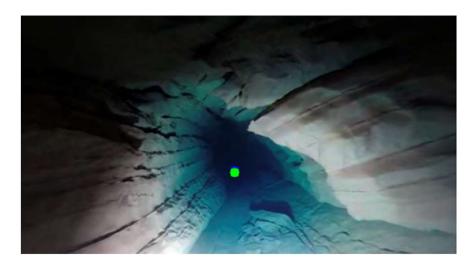
(c) Largest blob

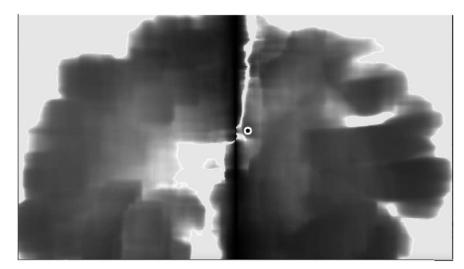
(d) Result

# KARST EXPLORATION : GUIDANCE

• Vacancy Evidence Grid

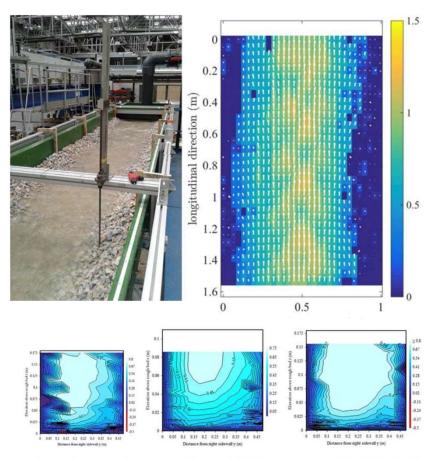


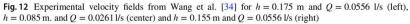


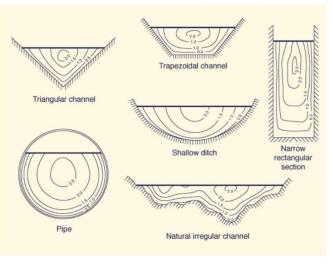


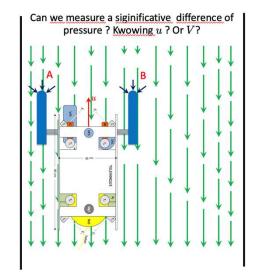
# KARST EXPLORATION : GUIDANCE







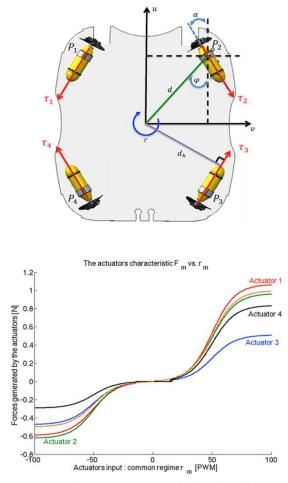






# KARST EXPLORATION : CONTROL

• Open-Loop Stability



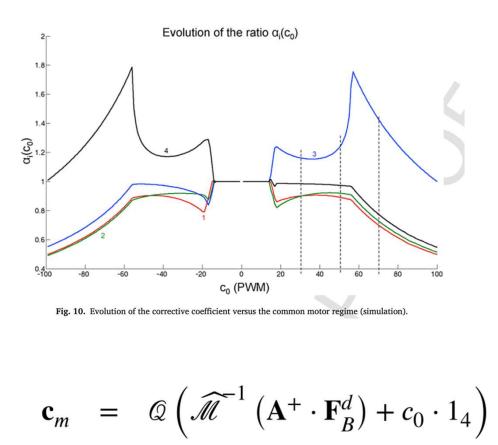
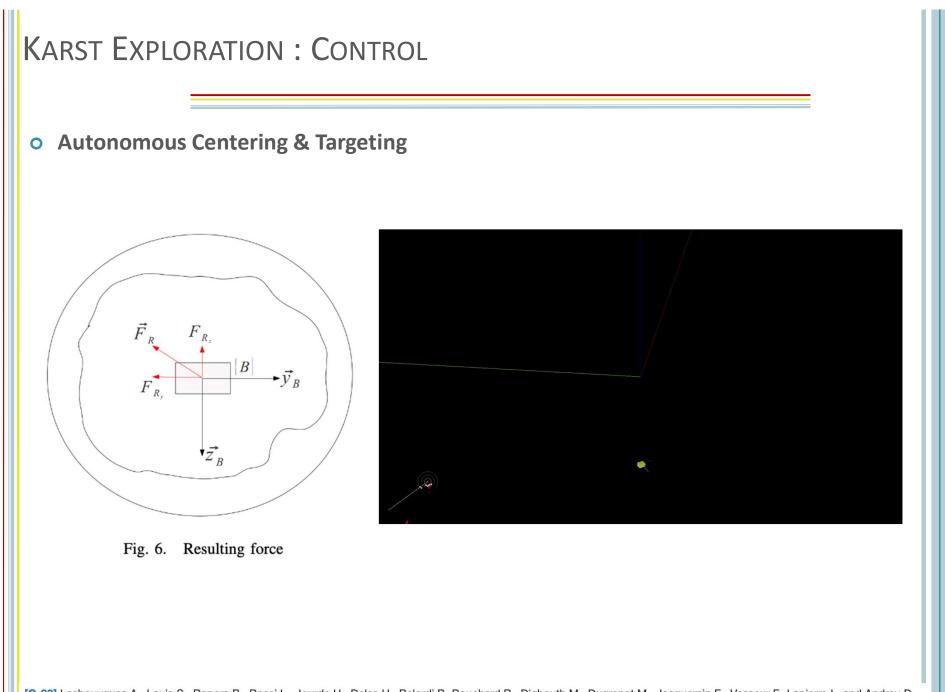


Fig. 6. Illustration of the actuators' characteristics disparity (simulation).

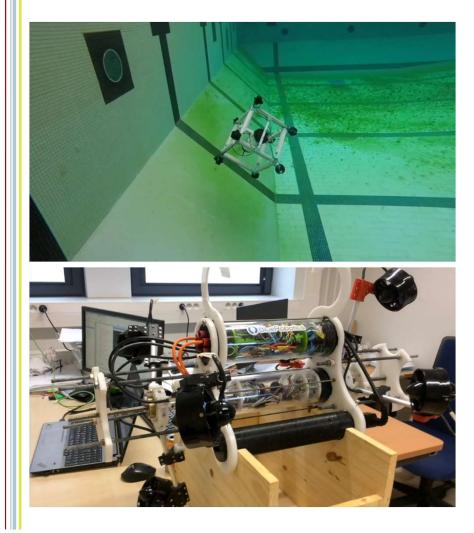
[J-20] Ropars B., Lapierre L., Lasbouygues A., Andreu D and Zapata R. 'Redundant Actuation System of an Underwater Vehicle', in the Elsevier Journal of Ocean Engineering, Volume 151, March 2018, pp. 276-289, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oceaneng.2017.12.025

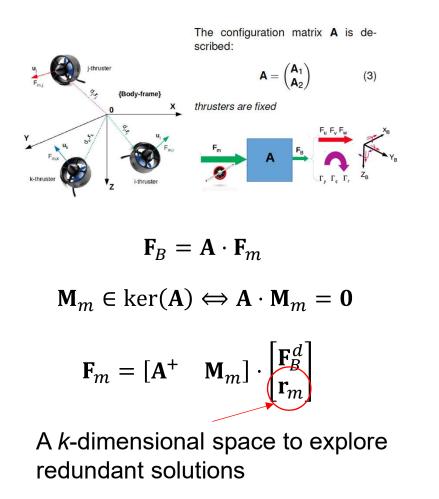


[C-39] Lasbouygues A., Louis S., Ropars B., Rossi L., Jourde H., Delas H., Balordi P., Bouchard R., Dighouth M., Dugrenot M., Jacquemin E., Vasseur F., Lapierre L. and Andreu D., 'Robotic mapping of a karst aquifer', IFAC World Congress 2017, demonstration paper.

# KARST EXPLORATION : ACTUATION

**o** Reactive redundant Allocation System and Variable Actuation Geometry





[J-30] Dang, T.; Lapierre, L.; Zapata, R.; Ropars, B. 'Energy-Efficient Configuration and Control Allocation for a Dynamically Reconfigurable Underwater Robot', Sensors 2023, 23(12), 5439; https://doi.org/10.3390/s23125439.

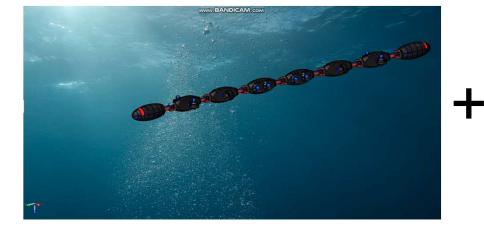
# KARST EXPLORATION : ACTUATION

• Anguilliform Locomotion & Underwater Swimming Manipulator



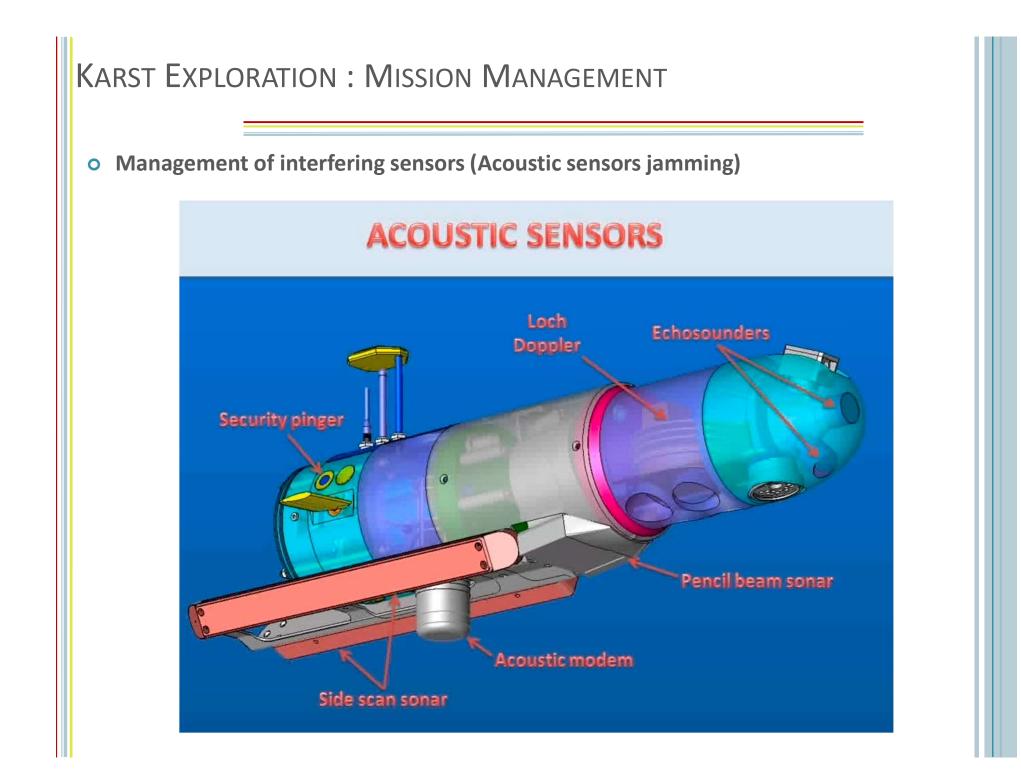


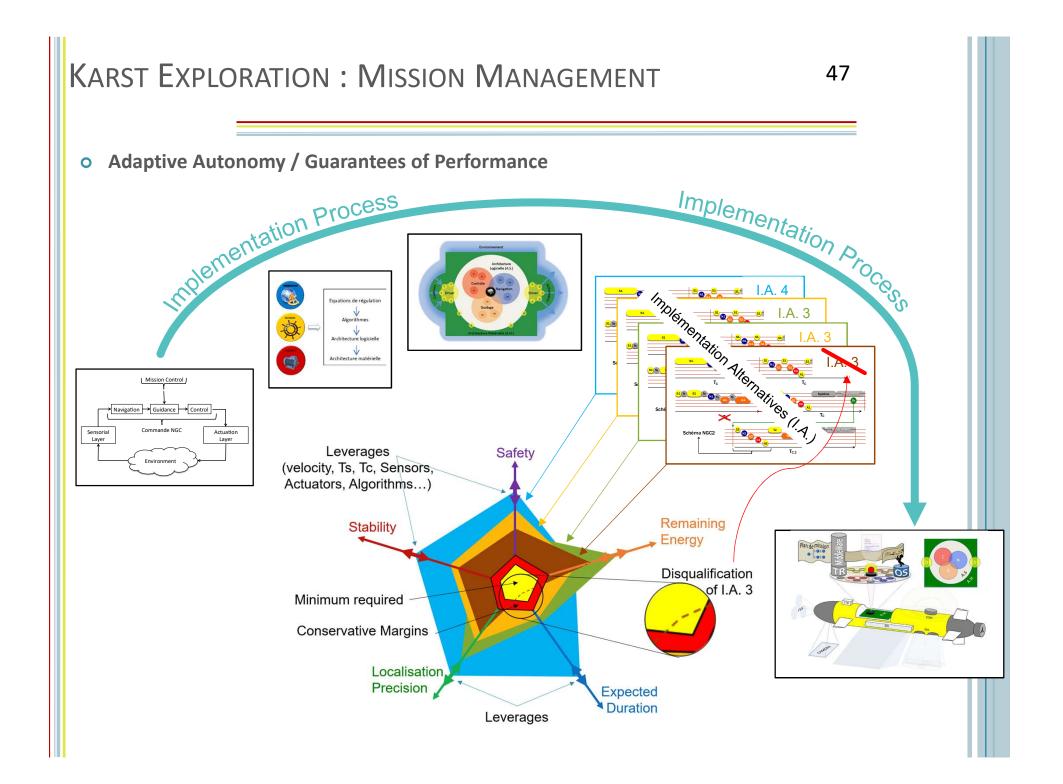
# ANR ElectroKarst

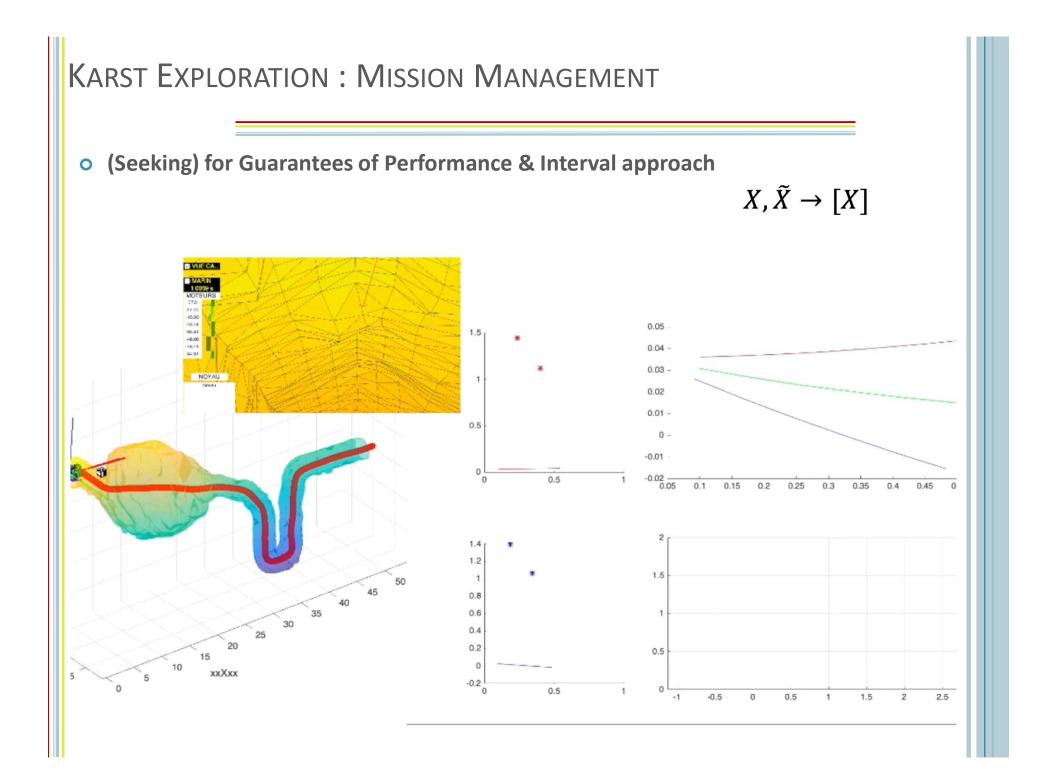


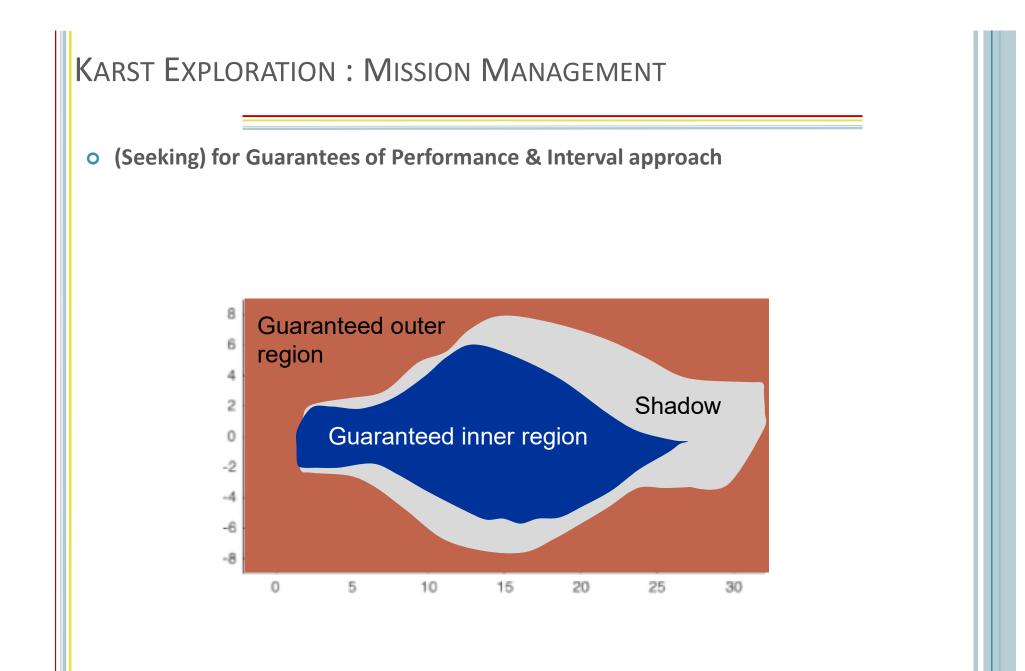


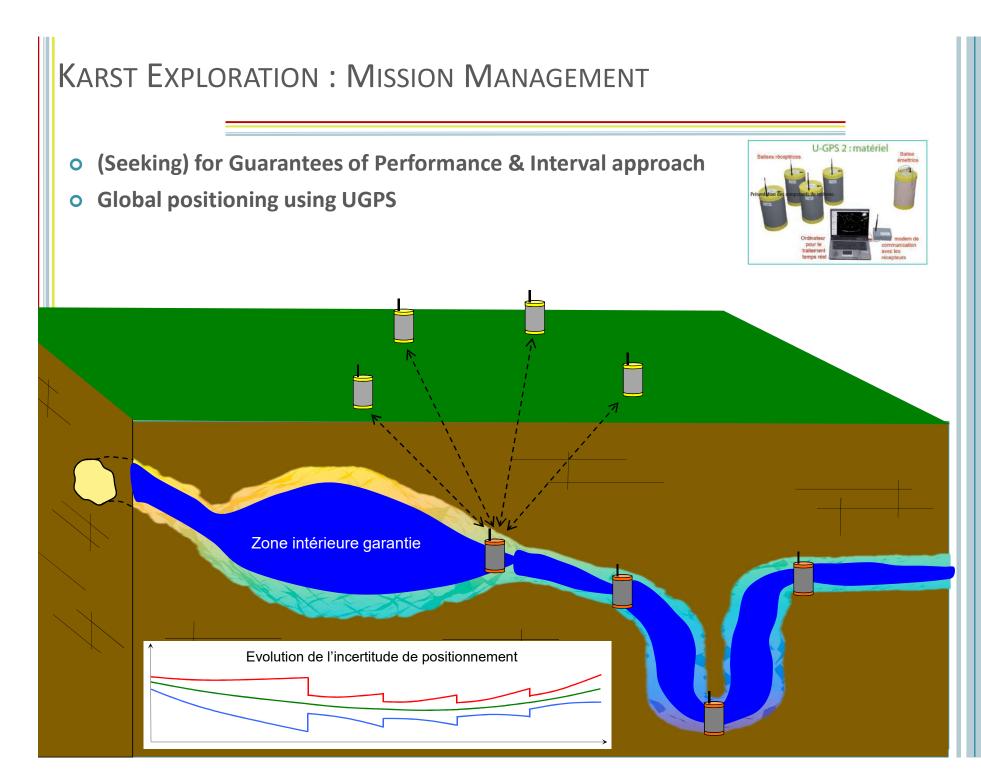
SLAM ?







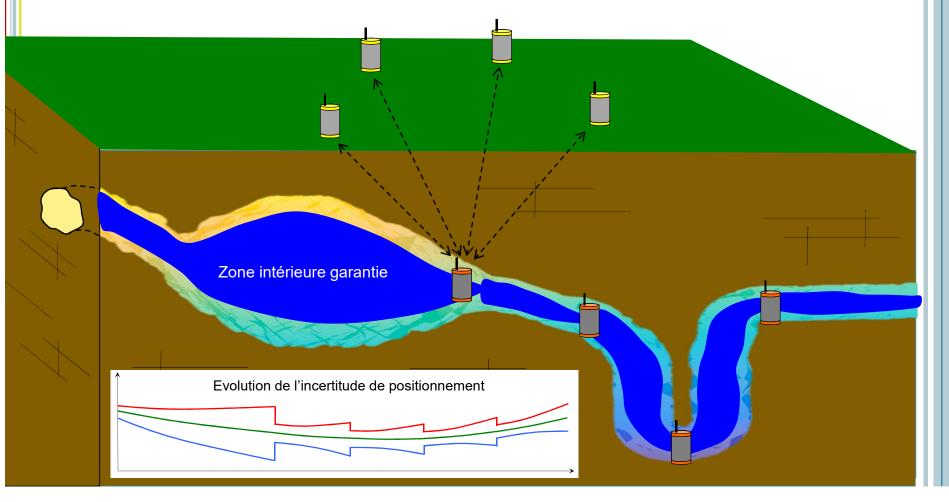




# KARST EXPLORATION : MISSION MANAGEMENT

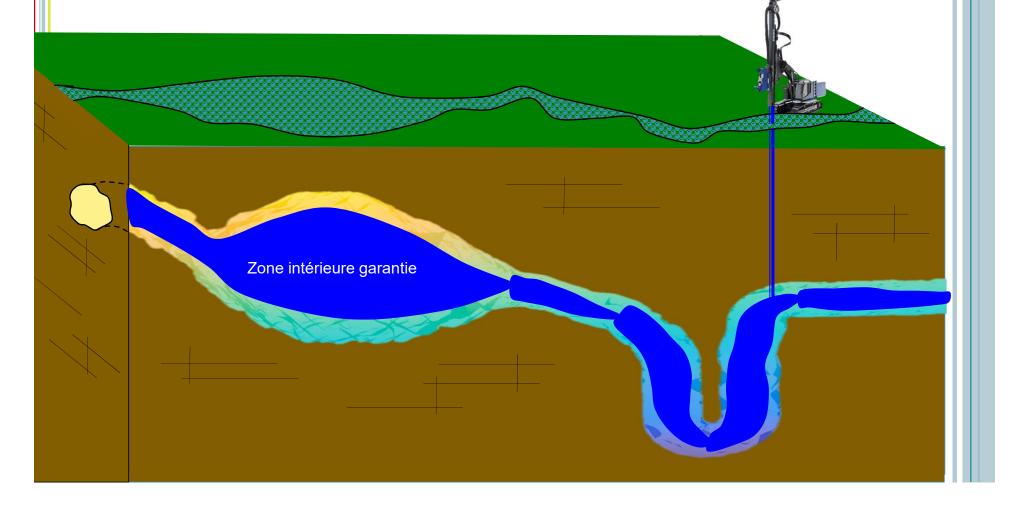
- **o** (Seeking) for Guarantees of Performance & Interval approach
- Global positioning using UGPS
- Application to hydraulic drilling





# THE RKE INITIATIVE : FORCES AT WORK (LIRMM, ENSTA)

- Cartographie garantie, analyse par intervalles
- Recalage par UG-GPS (ISSKA, localisation magnétique)
- Application au forage hydraulique



# KARST EXPLORATION : TERRAIN RESULTS

o Ulysse

Co-contrôle Réactif

Exploitation de la Redondance d'actionnement

Commande Orientée Modèles d'Environnement

Commande S-NGC-A



Polyvalence et Robotique

Autonomie Adaptative

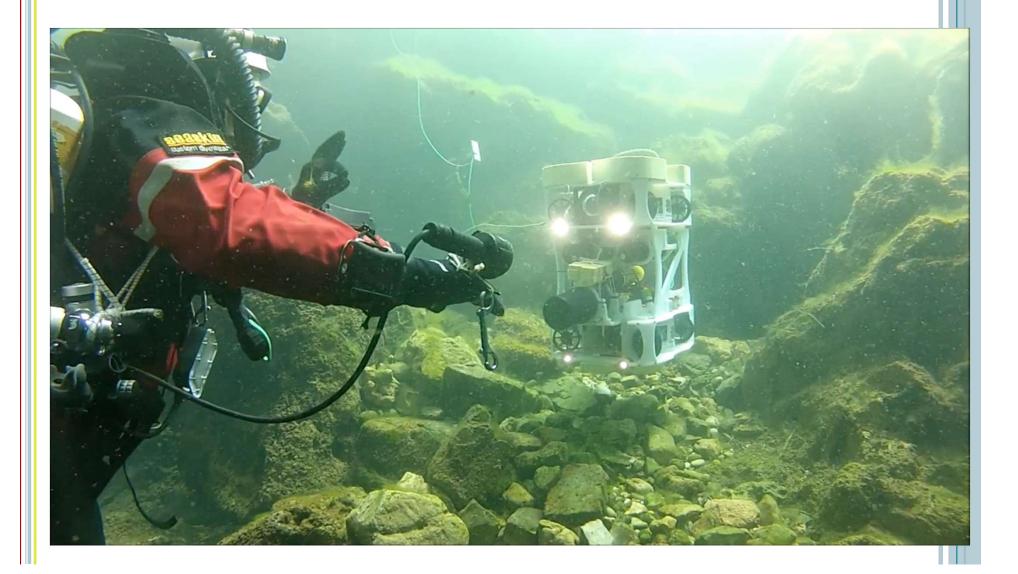
Garanties de Service

Garanties de Performance

Décomposition Atomique de la Commande Gestion des Commutations de Modes

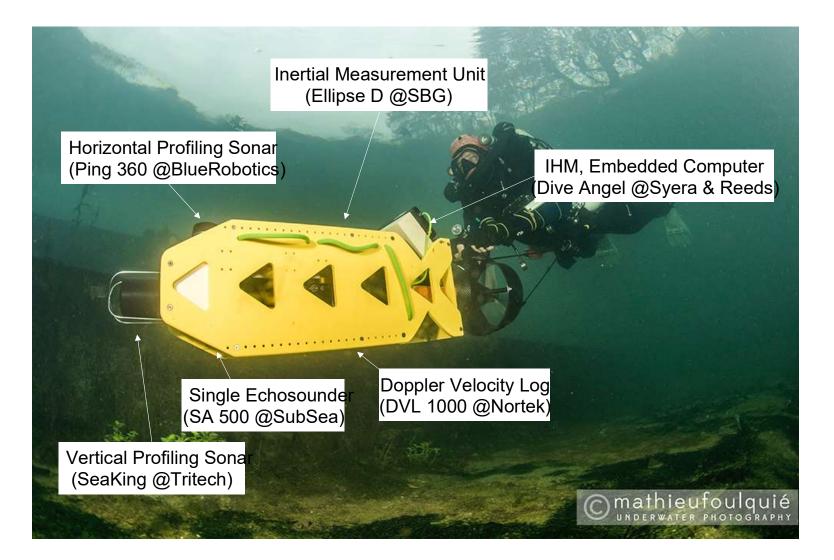
# KARST EXPLORATION : TERRAIN RESULTS

## • Ulysse, Gourneyras, France



# KARST EXPLORATION : TERRAIN RESULTS

• NavScoot 2



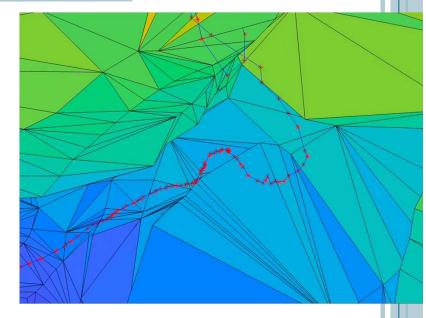
# TERRAIN RESULTS: FONTAINE DE NÎMES, 8/03/2023



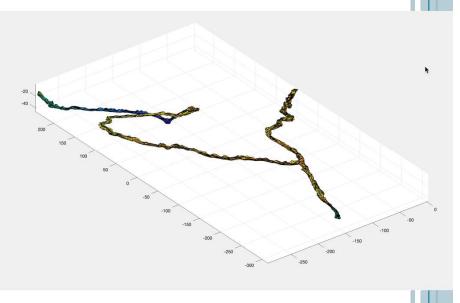
**PLONGEURS** Frank VASSEUR Mathieu FOULQUIE Doriane MORATE Damien VIGNOLE Denis PAILLO

**Eq. TECHNIQUE** Lionel LAPIERRE Hervé JOURDE Pierre FISCHER Benoit ROPARS Mohammed ALIOUACHE

> MAIRIE DE NIMES Guillaume PLA

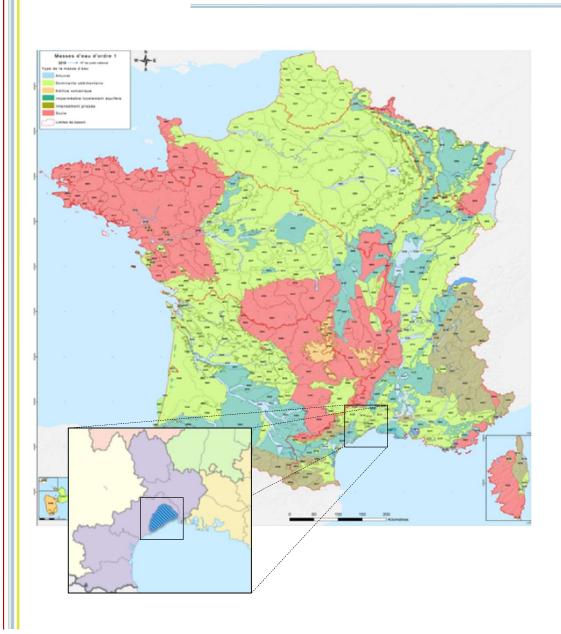


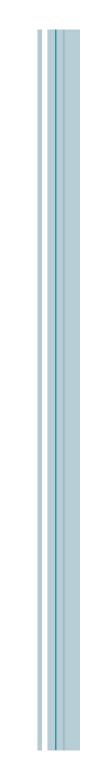


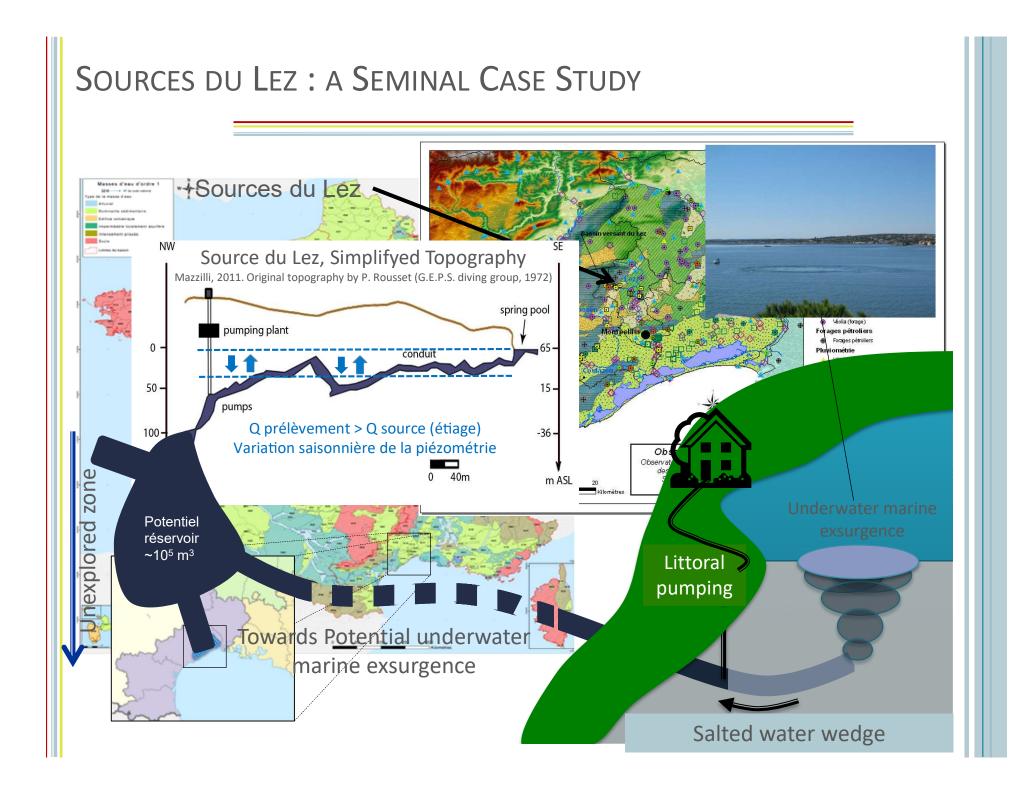


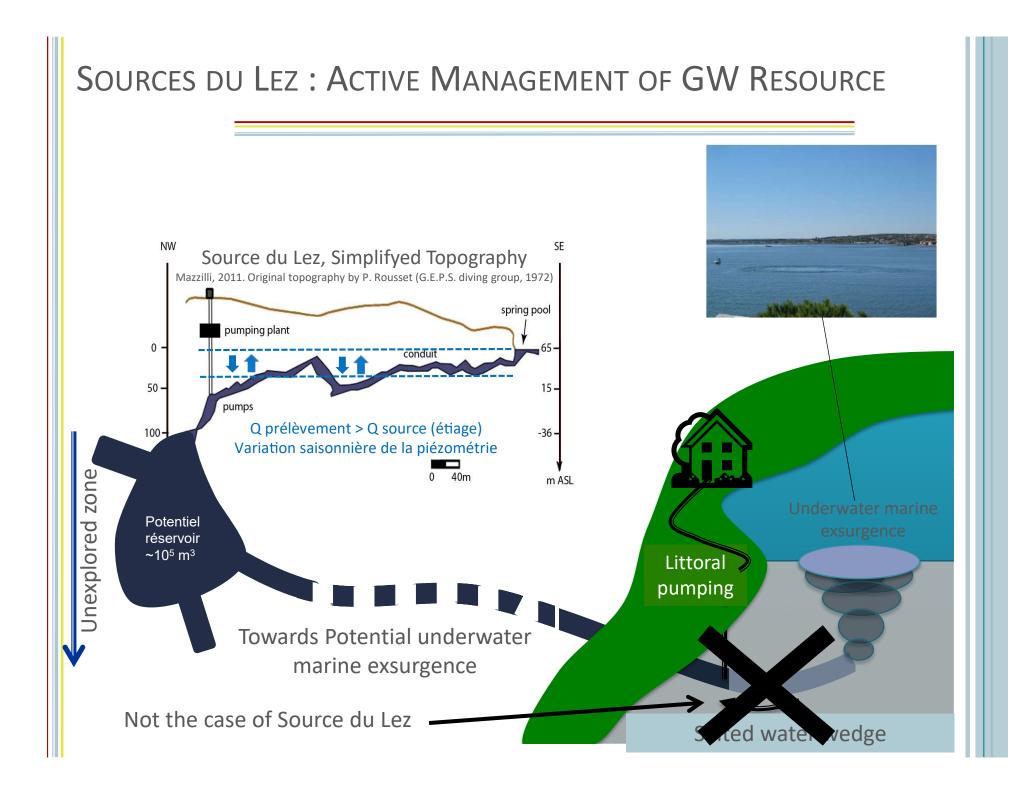
### TERRAIN RESULTS: FONTAINE DE SAUVE, 24/05/2023 **PLONGEURS** Frank VASSEUR Doriane MORATA Dominique VIGNOLE Eq. TECHNIQUE Benoit ROPARS CHERCHES DANS LE LANGUEDOC MÉDITERRANÉE 0 -0.0 -100 -200 -300 -400 €P<sup>d</sup> ·13 · Ð -500 -600 NO GROTTE DE LA PAULERIE -700 -100 0 -300 -200

# TERRAIN RESULTS: SOURCE DU LEZ, 15/03/2023







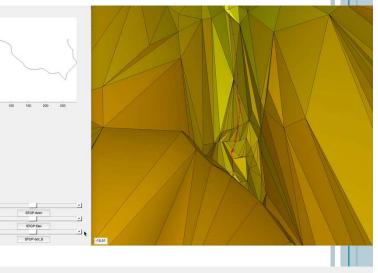


# TERRAIN RESULTS: SOURCE DU LEZ, 15/03/2023

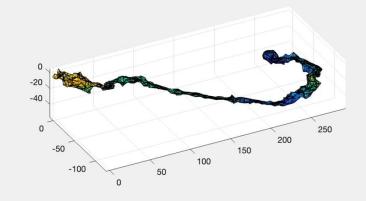


PLONGEURS Frank VASSEUR Mathieu FOULQUIE Doriane MORATA Dominique VIGNOLE Denis PAILLO

**Eq. TECHNIQUE** Lionel LAPIERRE Hervé JOURDE Benoit ROPARS Mohammed ALIOUACHE





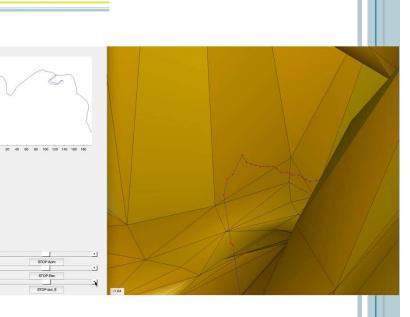


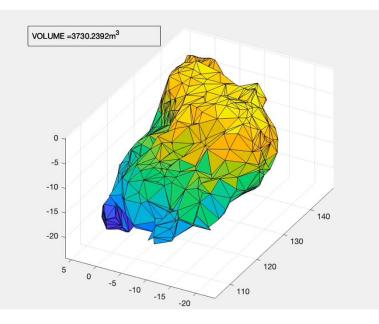
# TERRAIN RESULTS: FONTANILLES, 15/03/2023

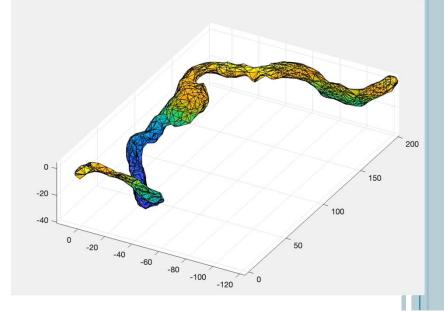


PLONGEURS Frank VASSEUR Mathieu FOULQUIE Doriane MORATA Dominique VIGNOLE Denis PAILLO

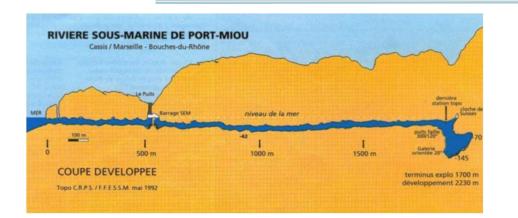
> Eq. TECHNIQUE Benoit ROPARS







# A VENIR : PORT MIOU, UN SITE PILOTE











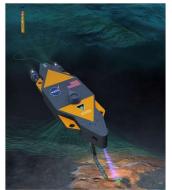




# BILL STONE AND THE SUNFISH

Once through the tunnel, SUNFISH was set free to autonomously explore and map this complex 3D environment.





### ORIGINS

Built for extraterrestrial ocean exploration.

Aerospace in collaboration with NASA for future exploratory mission to the Jovian moon, Europa. The AUV was designed to explore an ocean hidden beneath more than 15 km of ice and autonomously gather data from the alien planet.





# **Exploring Karst with Robots**

**Exploration Robotics for Confined, Unstructured Subaquatic Environment** 

> FARO, 26-27 novembre 2024, LIX, Polytechnique, Palaiseau

> > lionel.Lapierre@ensta-Bretagne.fr