



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE



#shareEGU20



• UNESCO Chair on the Prevention and
• Sustainable Management of Geo-Hydrological Hazards,
• University of Florence, Italy

Landslides and Geophysics: a review
of the advantages and limitations on
the basis of the last twelve years
open access international literature

Morelli S., Pazzi V., Fanti R.

Common research questions

- How large are the boundaries?
- How deep is the slip surfaces?
- Which are the constituent materials ?
- How are the material inhomogeneities distributed and which are their properties?
- Which are the deformation processes?
- Are there “precursor” before the trigger time?



Literature review of the
employed geophysical methods
to answer these questions

This presentation is based on the results published in:

Hindawi

International Journal of Geophysics

Volume 2019, Article ID 2983087, 27 pages

<https://doi.org/10.1155/2019/2983087>

Review Article

A Review of the Advantages and Limitations of Geophysical Investigations in Landslide Studies

Veronica Pazzi , Stefano Morelli , and Riccardo Fanti

Department of Earth Sciences, University of Firenze, Via G. La Pira 4, 50121 Firenze, Italy

Correspondence should be addressed to Veronica Pazzi; veronica.pazzi@unifi.it

- Analysis carried out based on a “material landslide approach” (rock and soil) according to the recent landslide classification (Hungry et al. 2014, doi: [10.1007/s10346-013-0436-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10346-013-0436-y))
- Analysis of the geophysical community efforts in overcoming the geophysical technique limitations (five drawbacks) highlighted by Jongmans & Garambois 2007 (doi: [10.2113/gssgfbull.178.2.101](https://doi.org/10.2113/gssgfbull.178.2.101))
- Papers after 2007 (about 120) from open access peer-reviewed journals, (no proceedings of International conferences)

Hungr et al. 2014

Review Article

Landslides (2014) 11:167–194
DOI 10.1007/s10346-013-0436-y

Received: 22 April 2013

Accepted: 23 September 2013

Published online: 30 November 2013

© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2013

Oldrich Hungr · Serge Leroueil · Luciano Picarelli

The Varnes classification of landslide types, an update

- Modify the definition of landslide-forming materials, to provide compatibility with accepted geotechnical and geological terminology of rocks and soils
- 32 landslide types
- Each landslide types is backed by a formal definition to facilitate backward compatibility and the possible translation to other languages
- Complex landslides are not included as a separate category type

Jongmans & Garambois 2007

RESEARCH ARTICLE | MARCH 01, 2007

Geophysical investigation of landslides : a review

Denis Jongmans; Stéphane Garambois

Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France (2007) 178 (2): 101-112.

<https://doi.org/10.2113/gssgfbull.178.2.101>

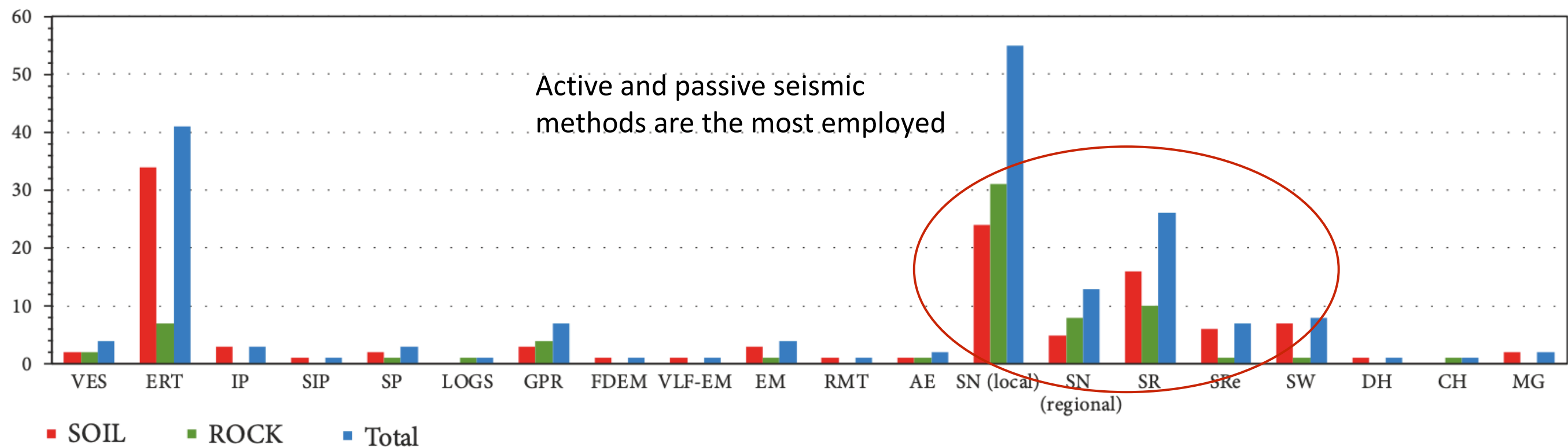
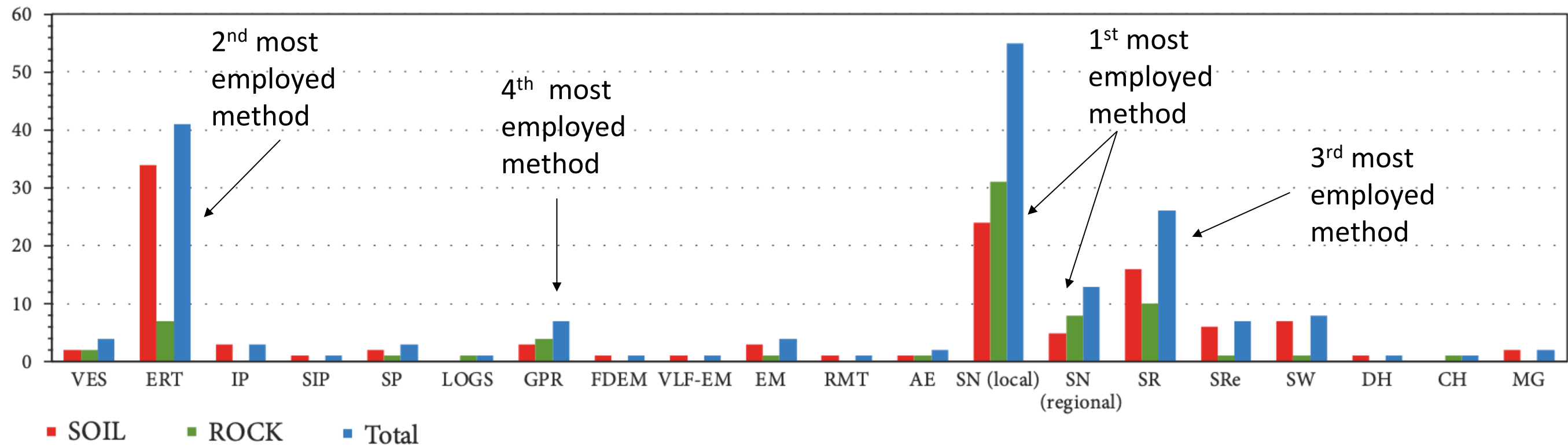
- Papers after 1990
- From peer-reviewed journals (written by “scientists”)
- Limited numbers of proceedings of International conferences (written by both “scientists” and “engineers”)
- Main goals: improve the exchange of expertise between geophysicists, geologists, geomorphologists and geotechnical engineers

Jongmans & Garambois 2007

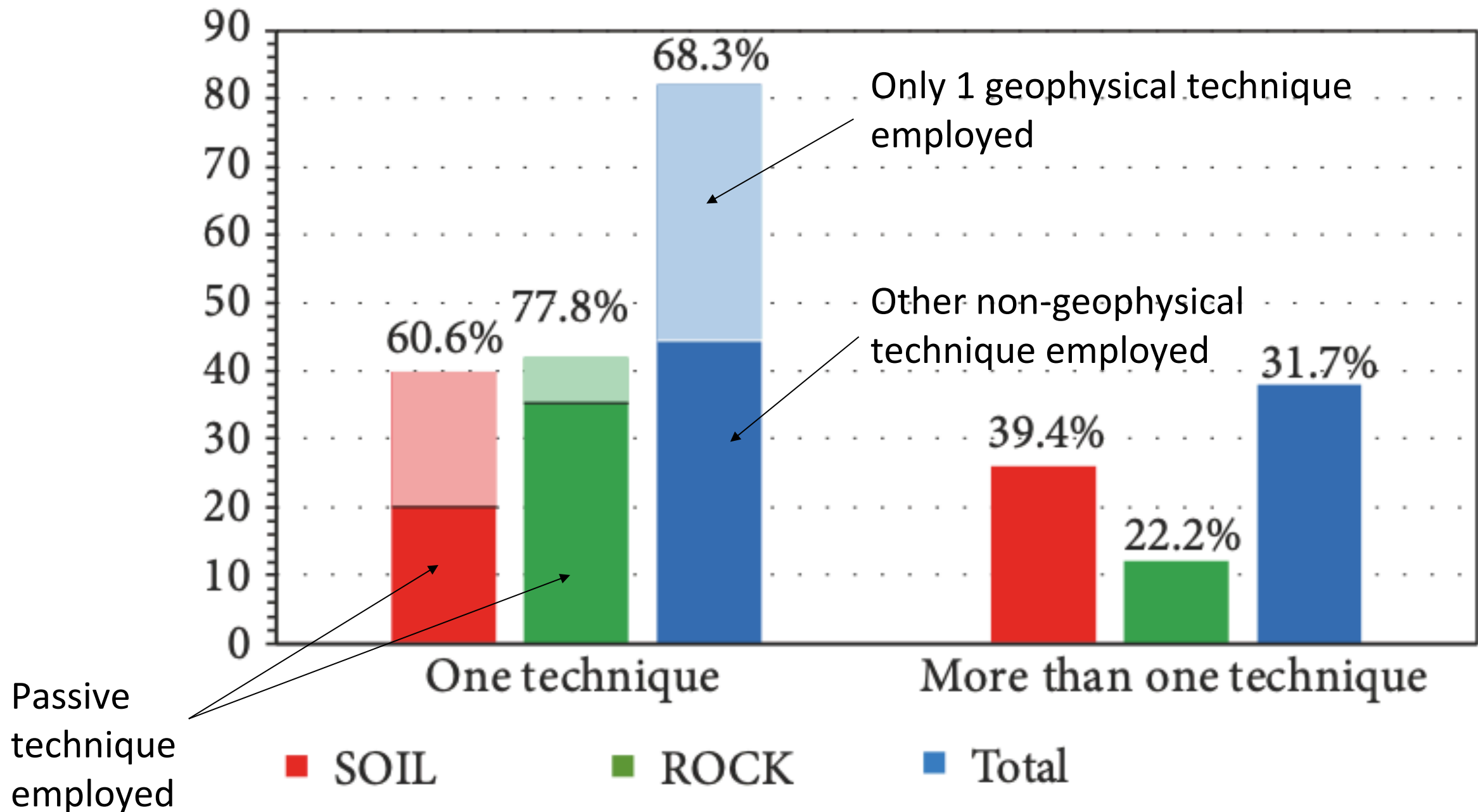
- Drawback1: Geophysicists have to make an effort in the presentation of the results
- Drawback2: The resolution and the penetration depth of each method are not systematically discussed in an understandable way
- Drawback3: The geological interpretation of geophysical data should be more clearly and critically explained
- Drawback4: The challenge for geophysicists is to convince geologists and engineers that 3D and 4D geophysical imaging techniques can be valuable tools for investigating and monitoring landslides
- Drawback5: Efforts should also be made towards obtaining quantitative information from geophysics in terms of geotechnical parameters and hydrological properties

Movement	# of landslide	Landslide	# of landslide
Fall	41	<i>Rock/ice fall</i>	40
Topple	5	<i>Rock block topple</i>	5
		Rock flexural topple	/
Slide	18	Rock rotational slide	1
		<i>Rock planar slide</i>	2
		<i>Rock wedge slide</i>	1
		Rock compound slide	3
		<i>Rock irregular slide</i>	1
Spread	1	Rock slope spread	1
Flow	6	<i>Rock/ice avalanche</i>	6
Slope Deformation	4	Mountain slope deformation	3
		Rock slope deformation	1
Fall	/	<i>Boulder/debris/silt fall</i>	/
Topple	/	<i>Gravel/sand/silt topple</i>	/
Slide	28	Clay/silt rotational slide	6
		Clay/silt planar slide	8
		<i>Gravel/sand/debris slide</i>	1
		<i>Clay/silt compound slide</i>	2
Spread	/	<i>Sand/silt liquefaction spread</i>	/
		<i>Sensitive clay spread</i>	/
Flow	41	Sand/silt/debris dry flow	/
		<i>Sand/silt/debris flowslide</i>	/
		<i>Sensitive clay flowslide</i>	5
		<i>Debris flow</i>	9
		<i>Mud flow</i>	5
		Debris flood	/
		<i>Debris avalanche</i>	/
Earthflow	22		
Peat flow	/		
Slope Deformation	6	Soil slope deformation	6
		Soil creep	/
		Solifluction	/

Main geophysical methods

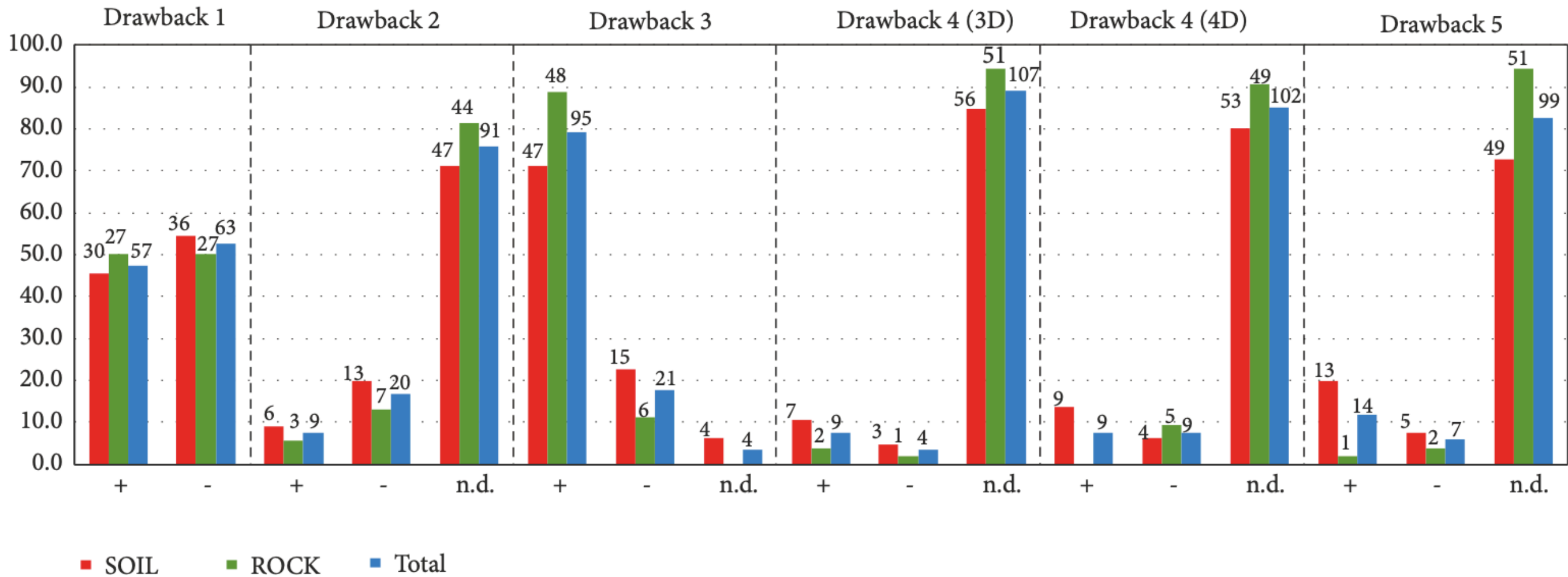


Employed techniques



Efforts made by authors

results presentation resolution and depth discussion geological interpretation 3D and 4D imaging is a valuable tools quantitative information



- + Wide discussion/coloured and-or 3D figures
- Few discussion/BW figures/raw data
- n.d. Absence of discussion/absence of figures