



**Università di Trieste**  
**LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN GEOSCIENZE**  
**Curriculum Geofisico**  
**Curriculum Geologico Ambientale**

**Anno accademico 2022 – 2023**

**Geologia Marina**

Parte II

**Modulo 2.3**

**Metodi diretti: Sondaggi superficiali ed  
analisi dei sedimenti**

Relatore

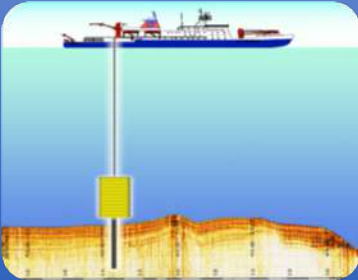
**Dr. Renata G. Lucchi**

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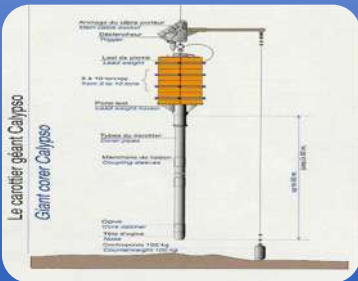
**OGS**

# BOTTOM SAMPLING SYSTEMS



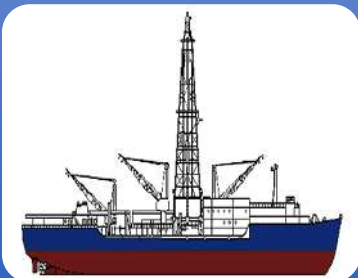
## Gravity corer

- classic gravity corer (Emery and Dietz, 1941; Hvorslev and Stetson, 1946)
- box corer
- kastenlot corer
- multi-corer



## Piston corer

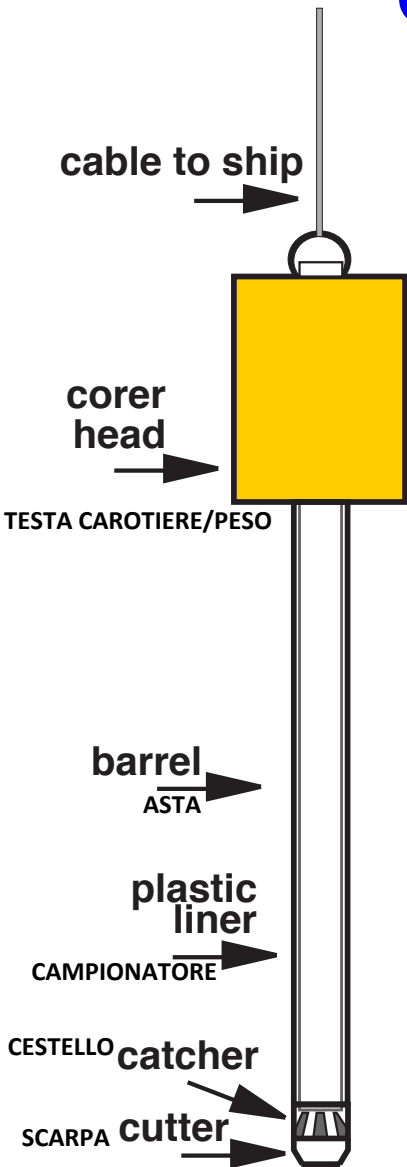
- classic piston corer (Kullenberg, 1947; 1955)
- long piston corer
  - Calypso piston corer (e.g. R/V Marion Dufresne, G.O. Sars)
  - Jumbo piston corer (e.g. R/V Araon)



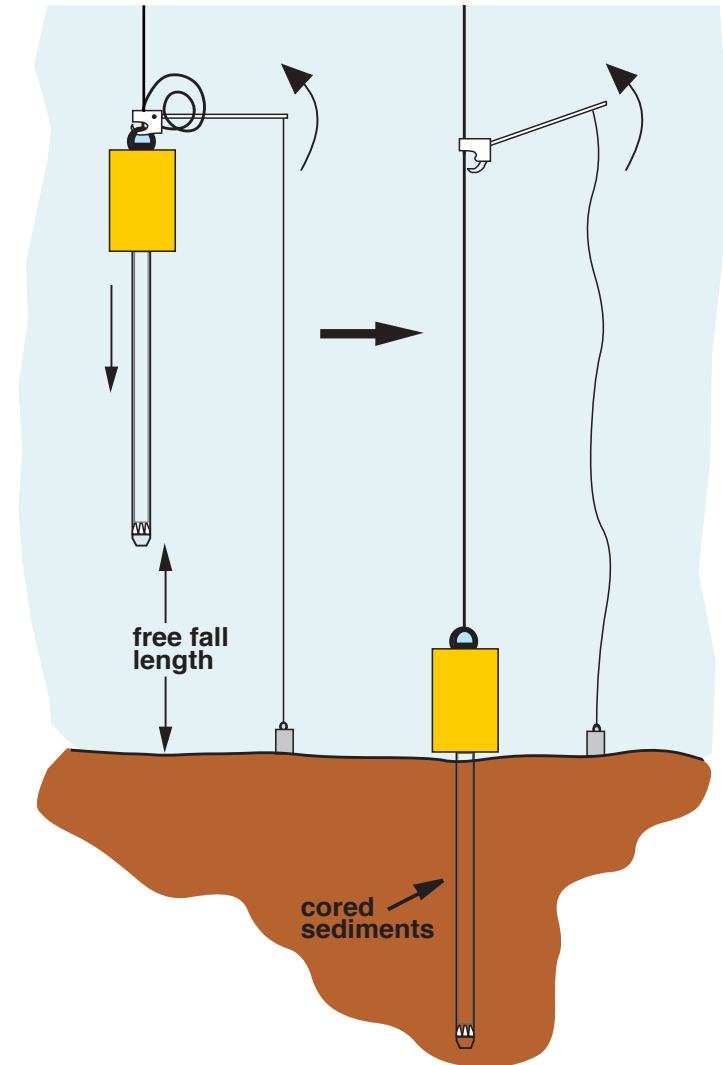
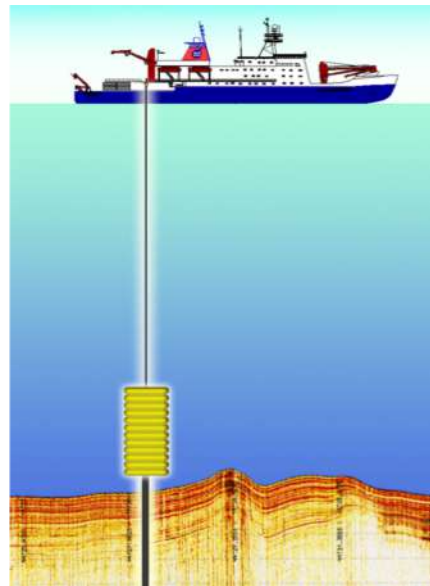
## Drilling systems

- ocean floor drilling systems (e.g. IODP-drilling vessels & semi-automated MeBo system)
- Deployed semi-automated drill system: MeBo

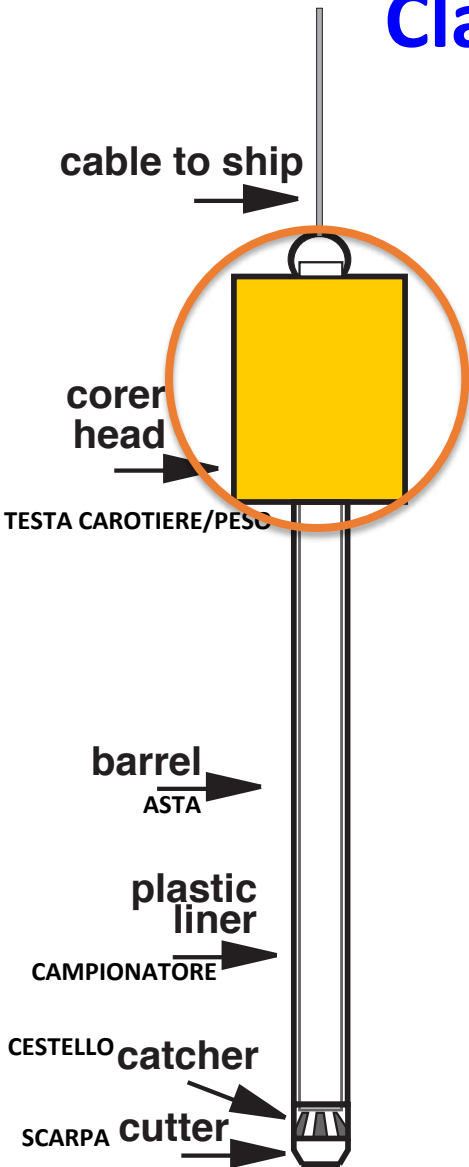
# Classic gravity core system (Emery and Dietz, 1941)



It is the simplest coring device in which the weight of the coring equipment is used to force the barrel into the sea bottom. This system can work with or without a triggering system (sistema di sgancio)

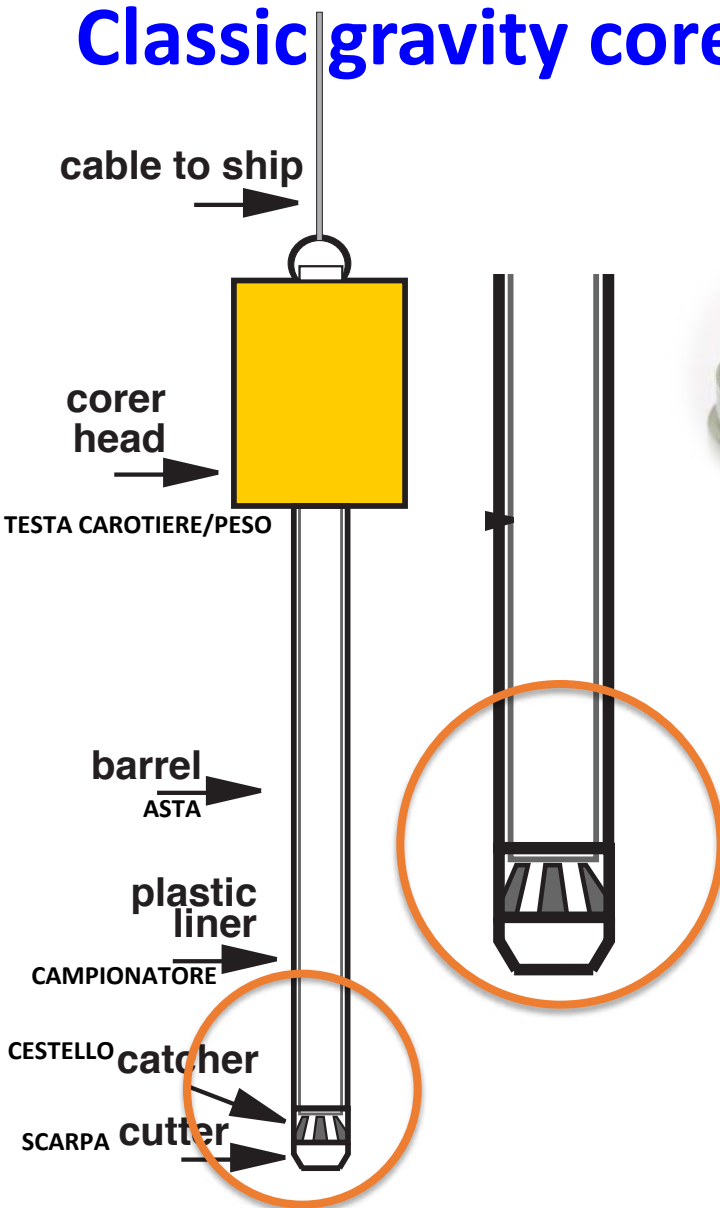


# Classic gravity core system: corer head



weight 600-800 kg  
6000 kg

# Classic gravity core system: core catcher and cutter



core catcher  
(cestello)



core cutter  
(scarpa)

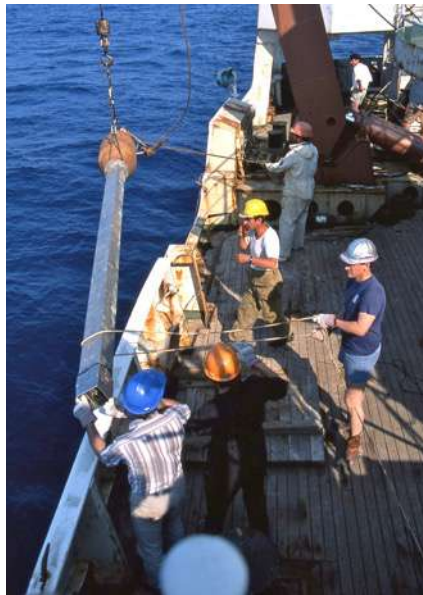


core cutter  
and catcher

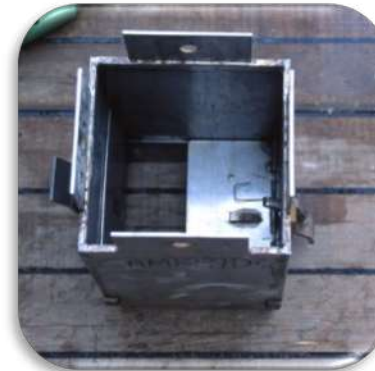


# Additional gravity core systems: **Kastenlot corer**

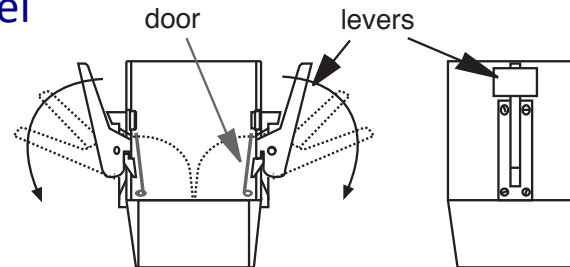
The kastenlot (kastens) corer was originally designed by Kögler (1963) it was improved and modified by Zangger and McCave (1990). The barrel, of variable lengths, is square in section (15x15 cm) and it contains a **base plate** that can be raised to reveal a new cleaned core surface



Square section  
of barrel



Core cutter and catcher



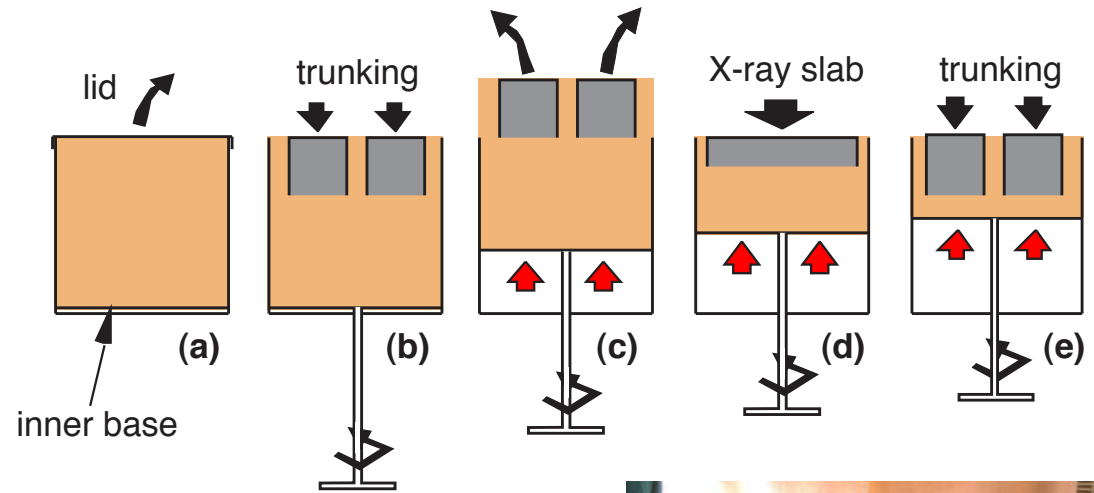
Head of  
kastens  
corer



The core catcher has a **shutter-like closure** consisting of two square doors held under tension and blocked in a retracted position by two levers located on the outside. During the corer pullout, the pressure of the surrounding sediments pushes down the two levers closing the doors.

- (a) removal of the barrel lid to reveal the core surface;
- (b) two PVC trunkings are pushed into the sediments
- (c) the inner base is moved upward to expose the trunkings that are cut at the base and removed from the main core using a cheese wire;
- (d) sampling with x-ray slabs, and a further set of trunkings (e). Each time the sediments are lifted upward and withdrawn with a cheese wire

## Sampling of Kastens cores





# Additional gravity core systems: **BOX-corer**

Designed for minimum disturbance of the sediment surface, ideal for coarse/stiff sea floor sediments, it allows the recovery of bottom waters.



lateral surface



coral sampling

sampling of  
glacigenic  
sediments



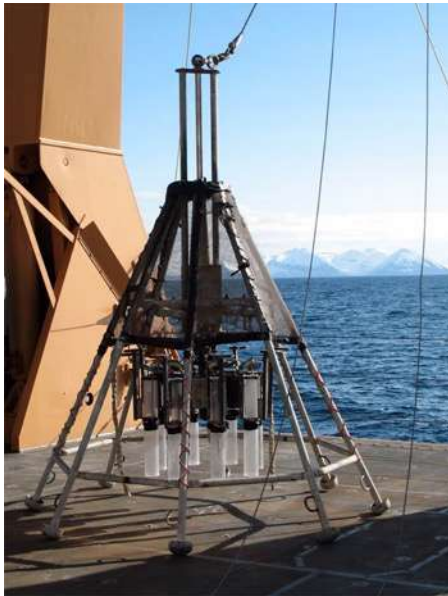
Box core sampling



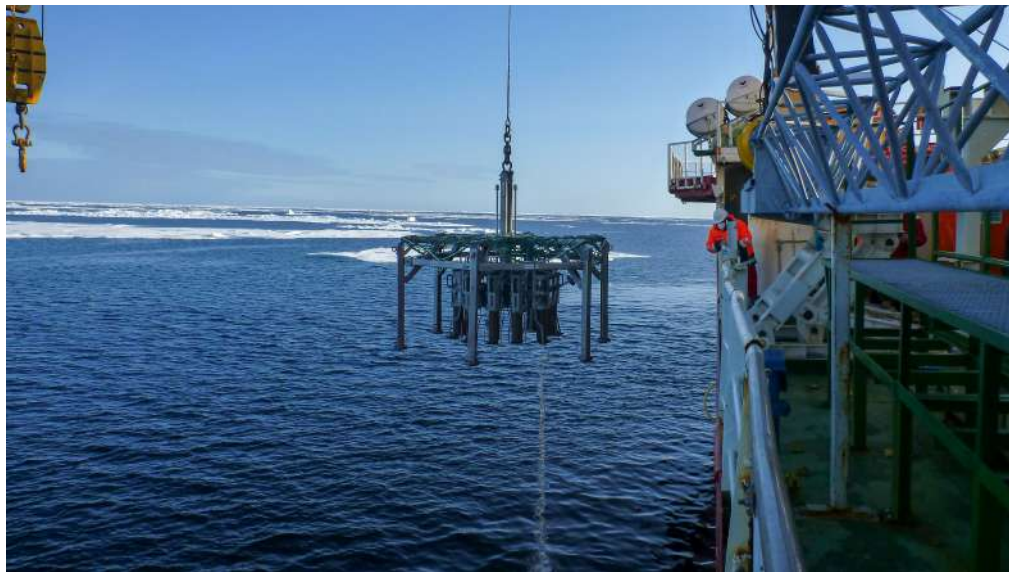


# Additional gravity core systems: **Multi-corer**

Especially designed for the sampling of sea bottom sediments-water interface, it permits to recover low disturbance sediment. Ideal for geochemical and biological sediment and water analysis.

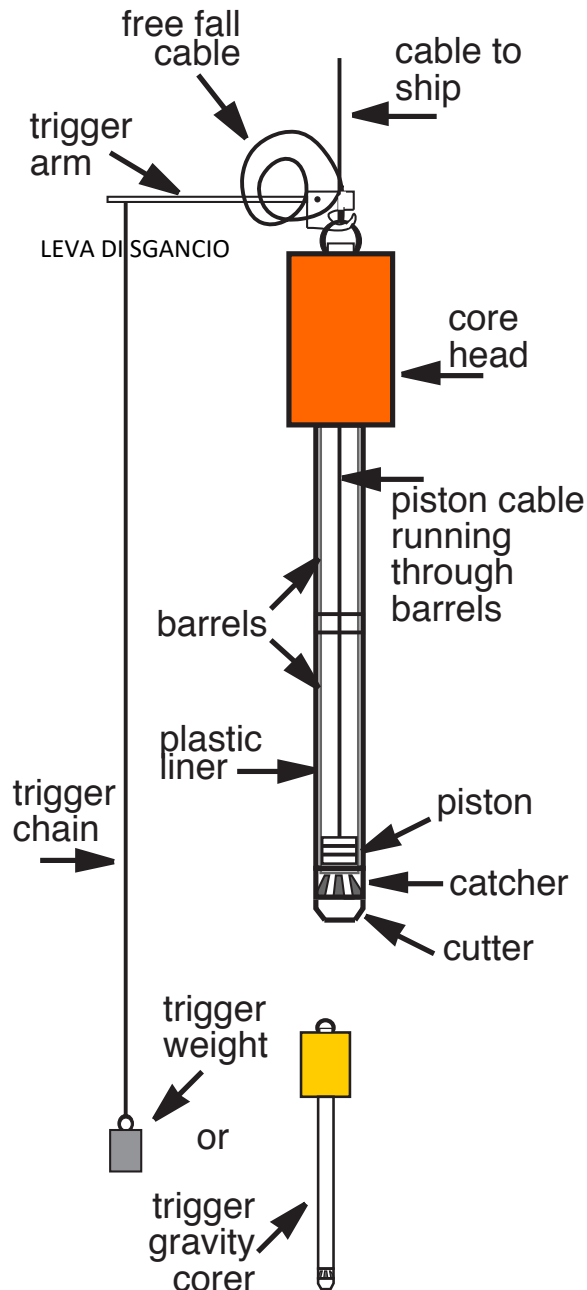






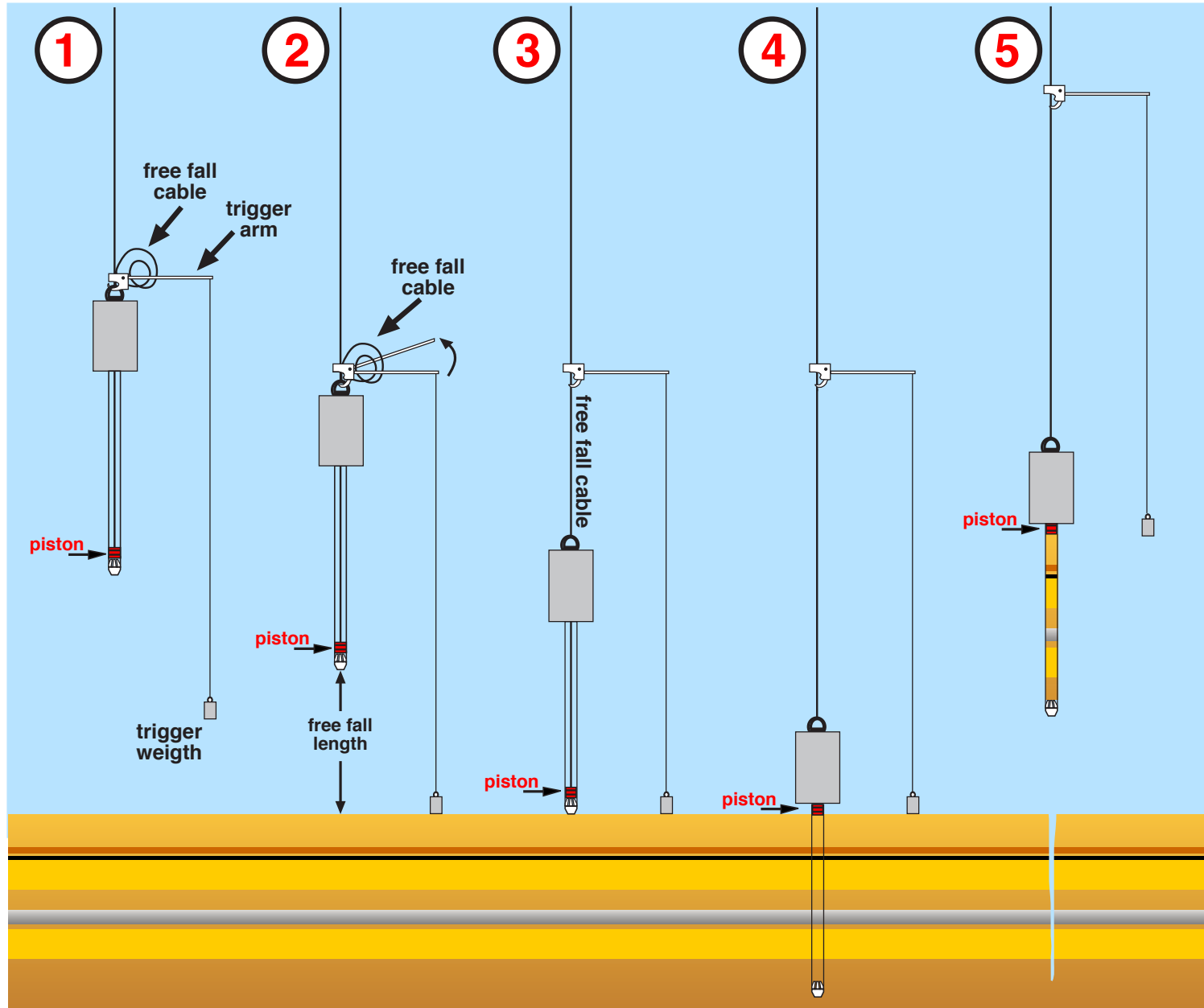
# Kullenberg piston corer system

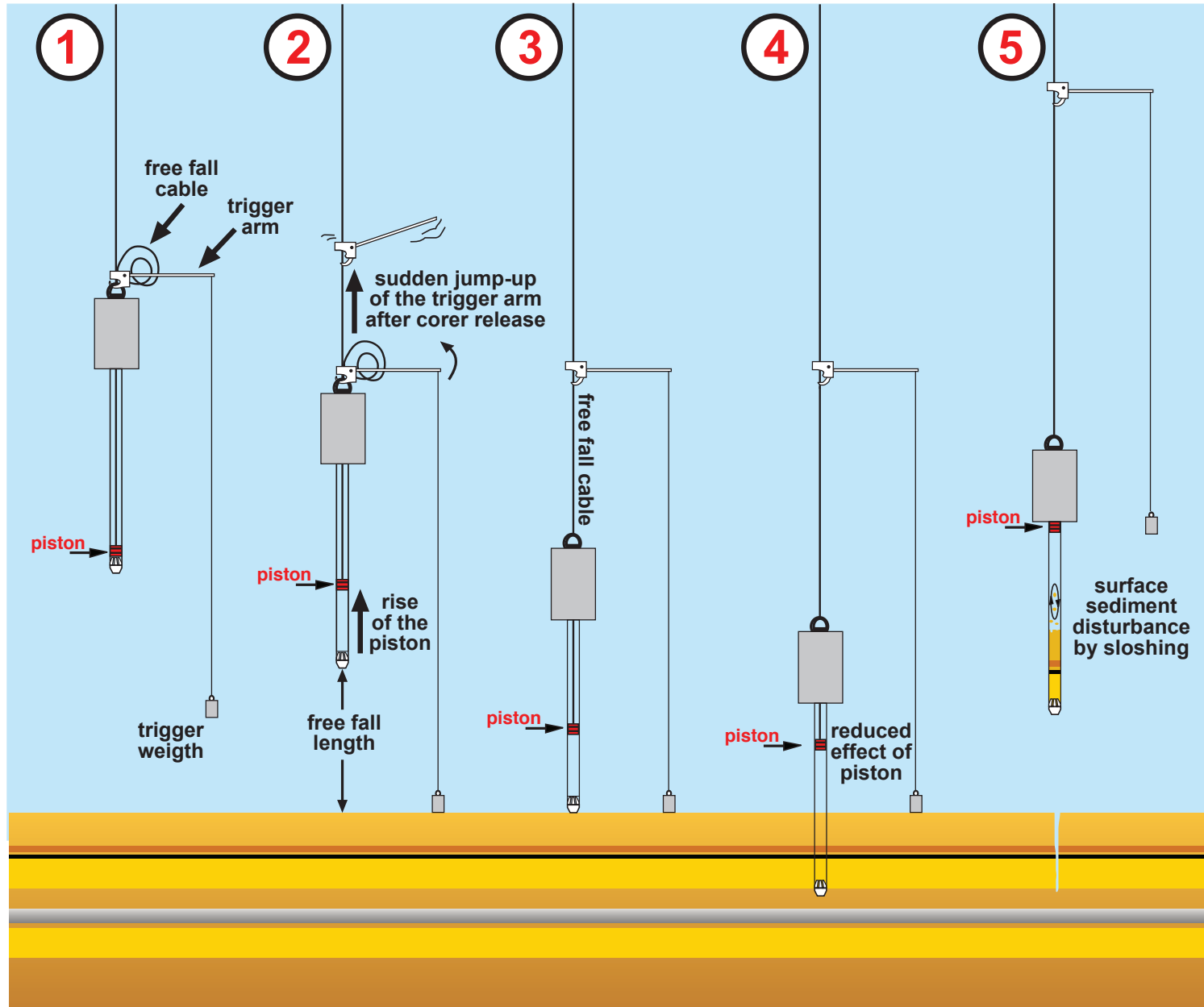
Standard assemblage for piston coring. The core barrel penetration is maximised by the action of a piston located in the lower barrel (or into the lower plastic liner if present) that helps to overcome the friction between sediments and the coring tube by generating Vacuum behind the cutter. The sediment cores obtained are less compacted and distorted than gravity cores. This system is always used coupled with a trigger mechanism.

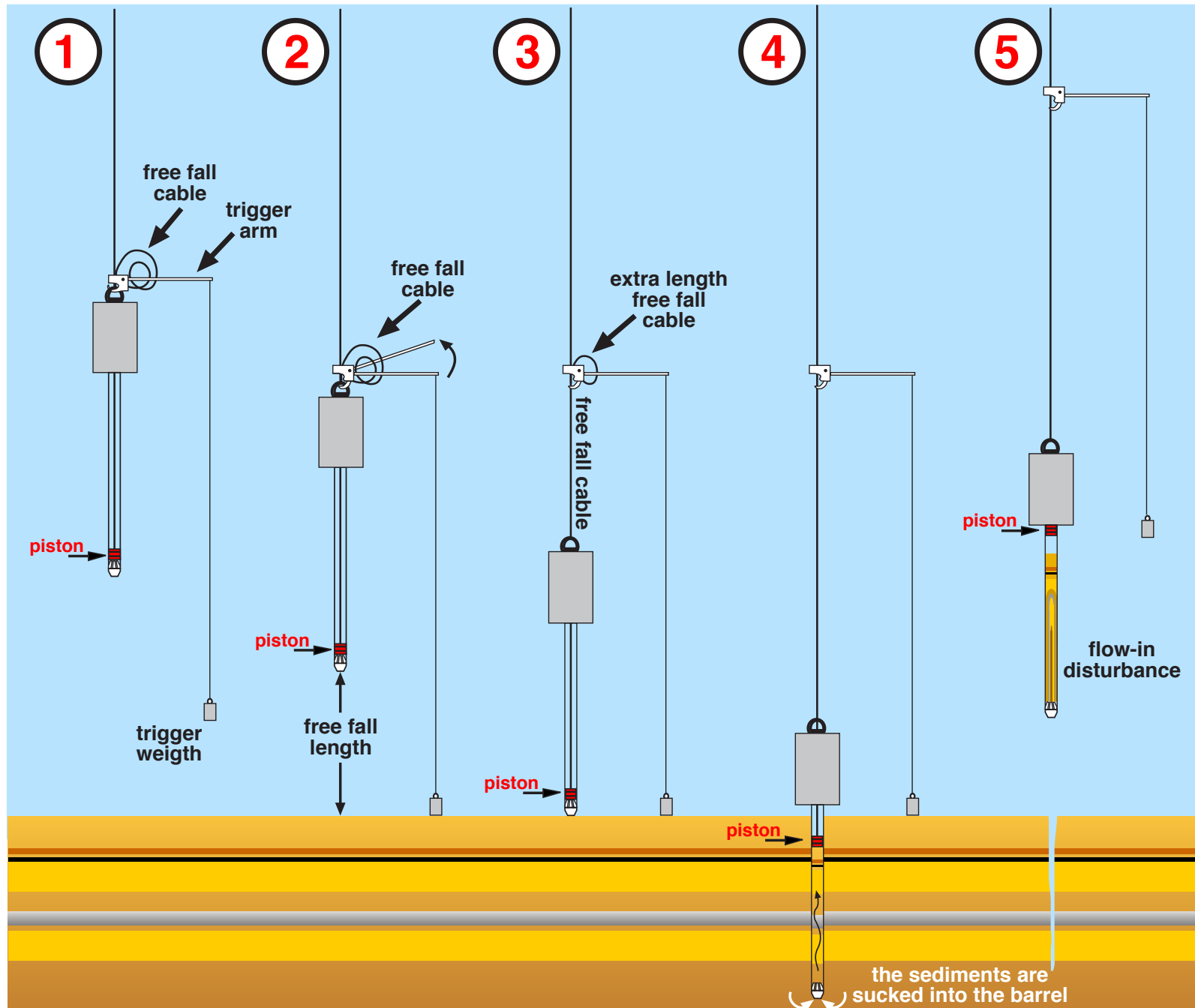


Specifications	Kullenberg piston corer	Long piston corer
headweight	600 kg	6000 kg
barrel length	6 m	13 m
barrel inner diameter	65 mm	140 mm
barrel thickness	5 mm	5 mm
plastic liner outer diameter	63 mm	113 mm
plastic liner thickness	3 mm	5 mm
maximum cable length	5000 m	10000 m
cable diameter	12 mm	30 mm
freefall	4-5 m	1.5 m



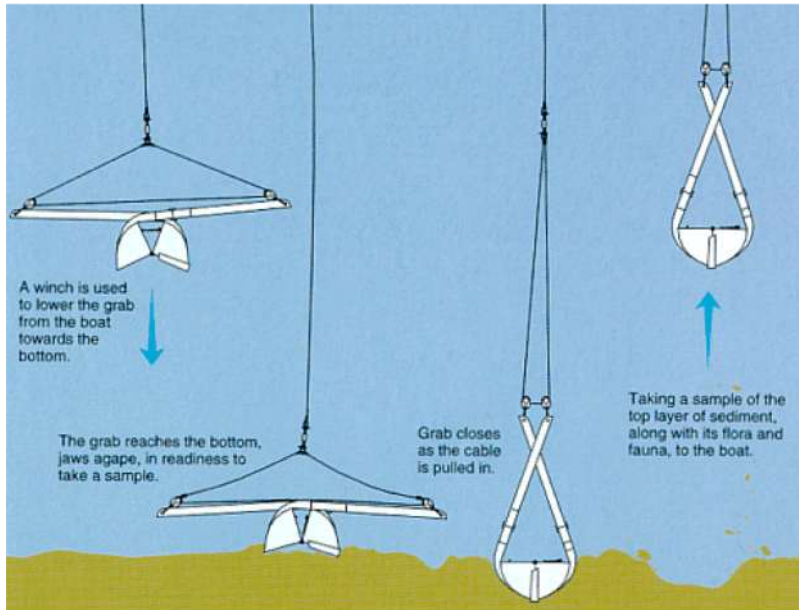




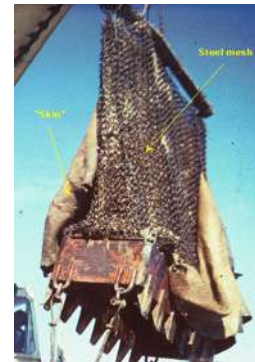
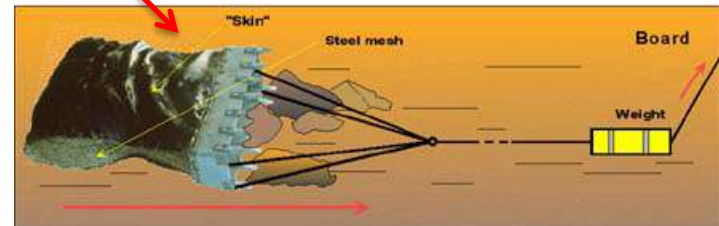
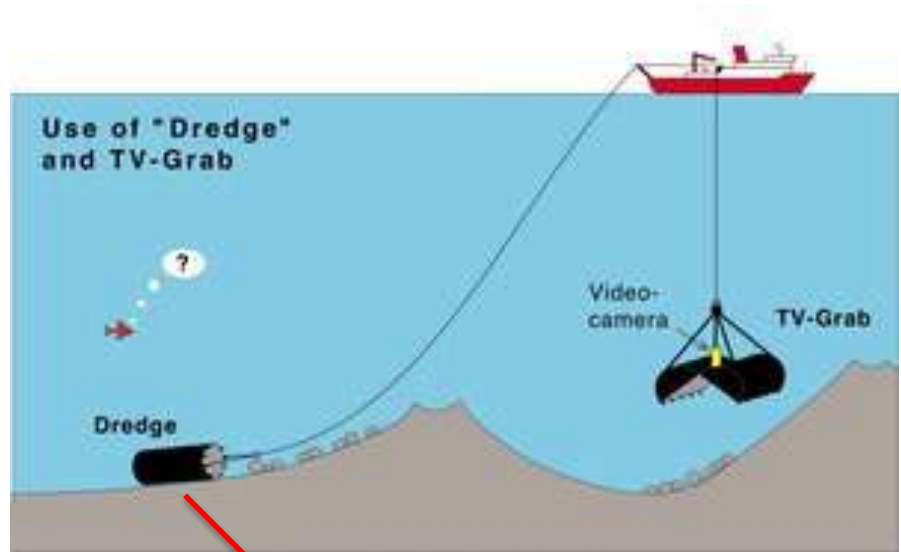




# Grab (benna)



# Dredge (draga)







Fotos: Volker Diekamp, Marum



CORE ON  
DECK!





## CUT INTO SECTIONS

The plastic liner is extracted from the barrel and cut into sections 1-1.5 m-long





# SECTIONS' LABELING

The sections are numbered consecutively from bottom to top of the core or *vice versa* depending on the total length of the core.

**Short cores** are numbered consecutively from top to bottom.

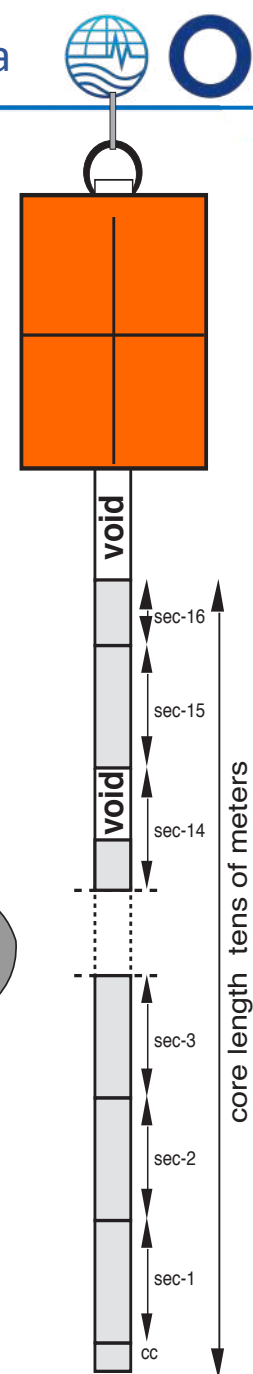
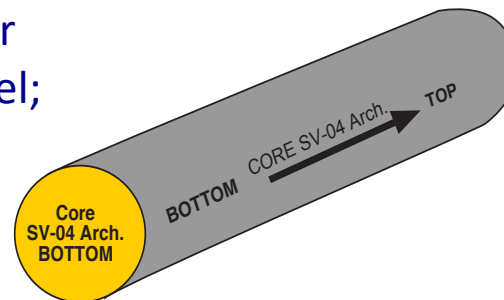
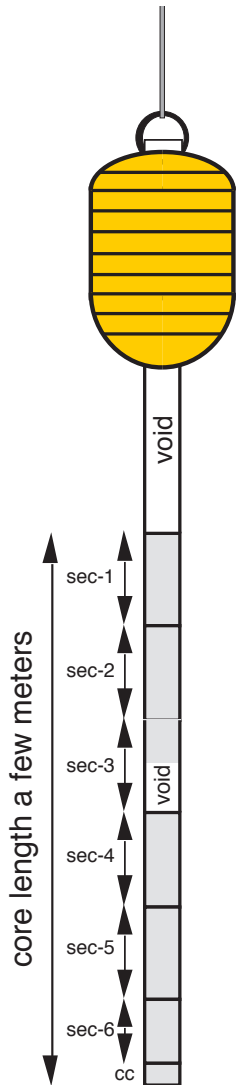
**Long cores** are numbered consecutively on removal from the barrel from bottom to top of core.

Each section is labeled with a code indicating

- » name of the project and/or
- » name of the research vessel;
- » core number;
- » section number
- » stratigraphic orientation

(top-bottom, arrow)

**!!!! The arrow ALWAYS indicates the TOP !!!!!**



# CORE OPENING AND SEDIMENTS ANALYSIS

The plastic liner of each section is cut longitudinally. The plastic liner is cut by means of an electric saw/microvibro saw, while the sediments are cut using a “cheese wire”.

The two splitted half-sections are labeled as **working section** and **archive section** and will undergone a different analytical process:

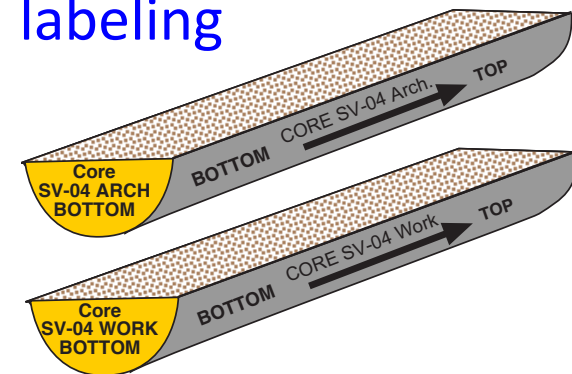
**ARCHIVE SECTIONS:** not destructive analyses

- X-radiographs
- multi-sensor core logger
- XRF core-scan
- photographs

**WORKING SECTIONS:** visual logging and sub-sampling



## Half-sections' labeling



# CORE DESCRIPTION

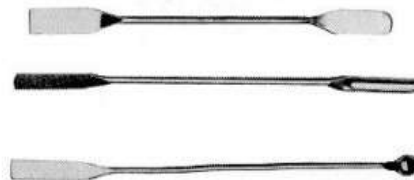




# Visual core description 1<sup>st</sup> step



- **Definition of lithological units** based on:
  - Lithology including composition and texture
  - Color
  - Sedimentary structures (laminations, bioturbations, faults)
  - Boundaries (transitional, sharp not erosive, sharp erosive, irregular)
- **Definition of sediment disturbance**
  - Soupy sediments
  - Bended boundaries at the lateral ends
  - Flow-in (piston cores)
  - Core re-bouncing (repetition of stratigraphic sections) in gravity cores



Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Observer(s) ..... Date .....

samples		SEDIM. STRUCT.	LITHOLOGY (cm from top of section)	texture (cm from top of section)	LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION	COLOUR
core	strat.					
1	1					
2	2					
3	3					
4	4					
5	5					
6	6					
7	7					
8	8					
9	9					
10	10					
11	11					
12	12					
13	13					
14	14					
15	15					
16	16					
17	17					
18	18					
19	19					
20	20					
21	21					

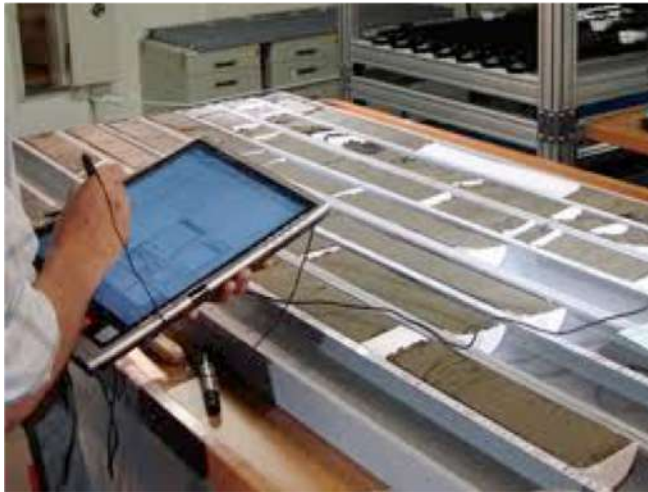
length of section (cm) .....  
total length of core (cm) .....  
remarks:

**LEGEND**

	sharp boundary		piston rich
	gradational boundary		bioturbated
	irregular boundary		shell fragments
	normal and reverse		soupy sediment
	bedding		cross laminations
	bedding		bioturbation
	bedding		slump
	bedding		dark layer
	bedding		fault



# Visual core description FORM



Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Observer(s) ..... Date .....

samples		SEDIM. STRUCT.	LITHOLOGY (cm from top of section)	texture clay silt fine sand medium coarse grains- pebbles	LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION	COLOUR
forams	nanos diatoms s. slides					
			0			
			10			
			20			
			30			
			40			
			50			
			60			
			70			
			80			
			90			
			100			

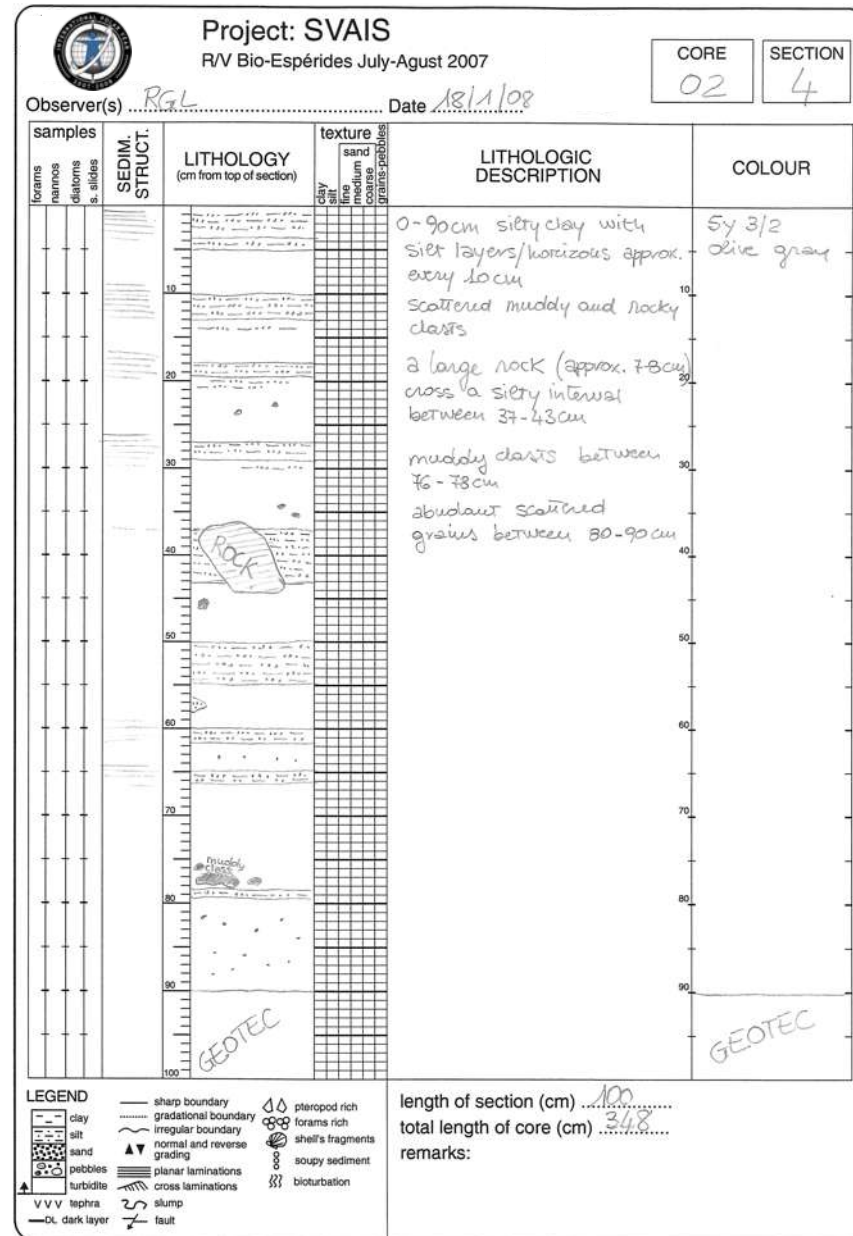
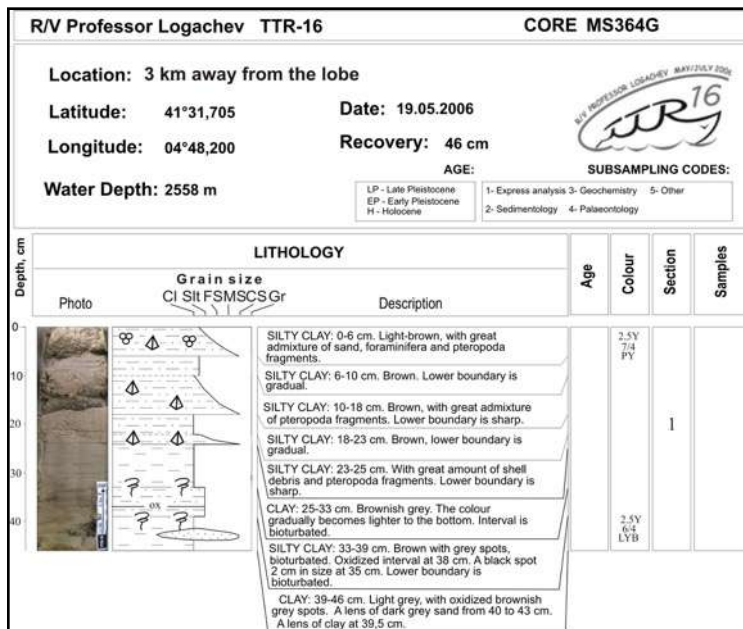
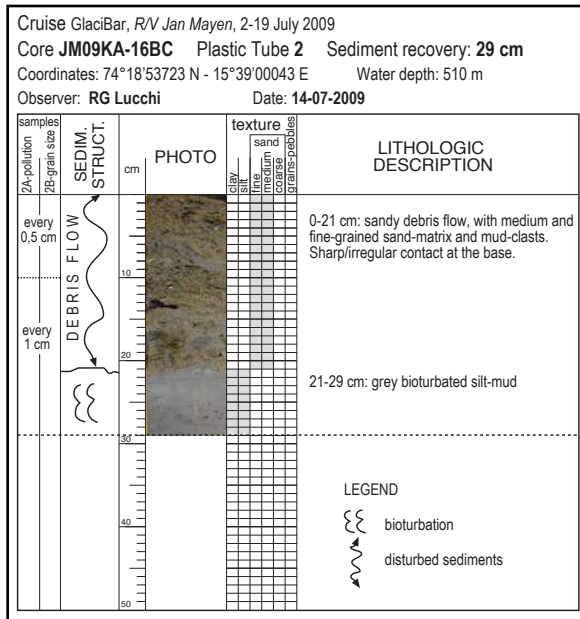
length of section (cm) .....

total length of core (cm) .....

remarks:

**LEGEND**

— sharp boundary	🐚 pteropod rich
..... gradational boundary	🐚 forams rich
..... irregular boundary	🐚 shell's fragments
▲ normal and reverse grading	🐚 soupy sediment
▬ planar laminations	🐚 bioturbation
▬ cross laminations	
▲ turbidite	
V V V tephra	
— dark layer	
— slump	
— fault	





# Visual core description 2<sup>nd</sup> step sediment composition

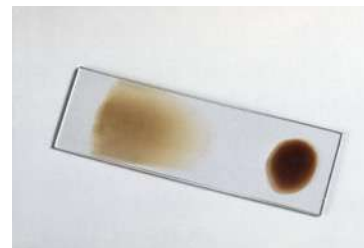
## Mud composition - Smear slides

(view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sDejrpwxD4&feature=youtu.be>)

- A smear slide is a thin layer of unconsolidated sediment embedded on a glass slide for petrographic microscopic examination;
- Smear slides are a useful tool to quickly assess the **compositional content** of clay-silty sediment samples;
- Smear slides are a powerful method for rapidly evaluating tiny quantities of sediment (mineralogy, components, form, size) as the basis for **sediment classification**, and for ascertaining the presence of microfossils.

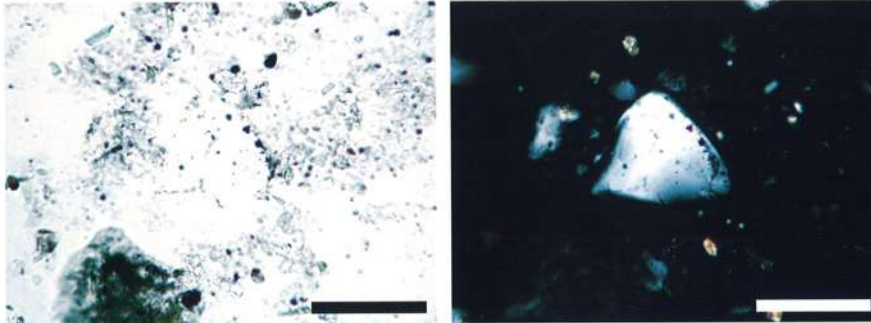


Foto: IODP Exp. 307



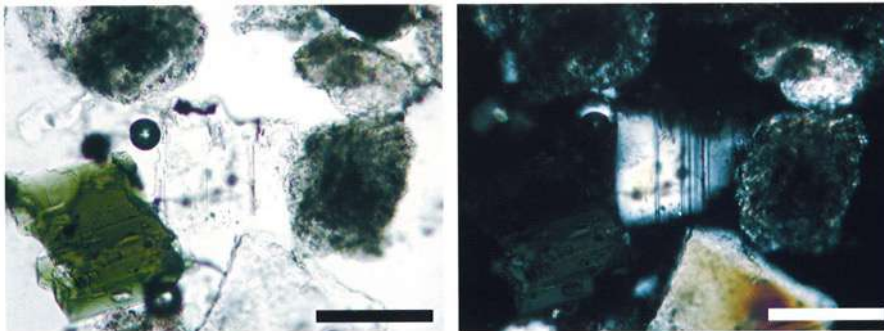


## Quarz

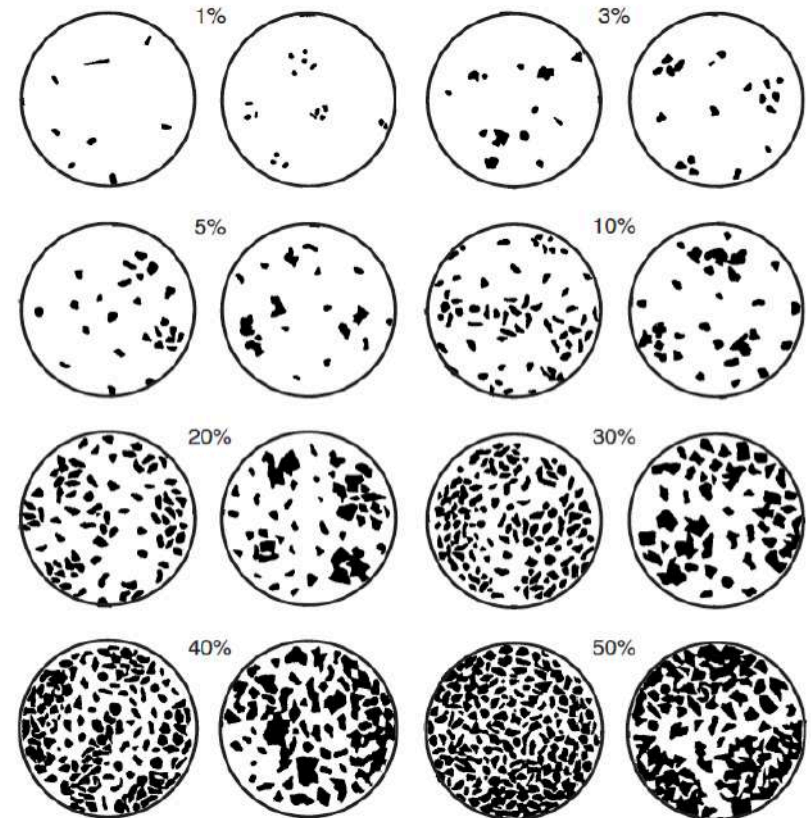


IODP Exp .320

## Plagioclase

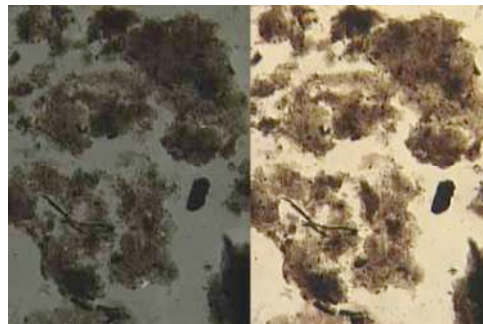


## Composition/Quantification

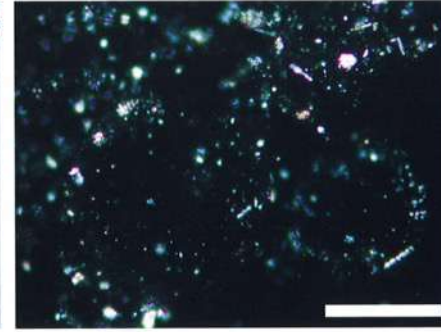
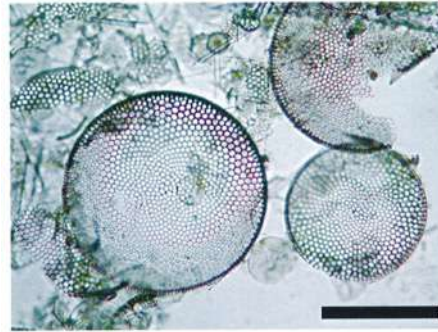


Rothwell R.G., 1988. Minerals and mineraloids in marine sediments. An Optical Identification Guide. Elsevier Science Publishers, 279 pp

## Clay fraction

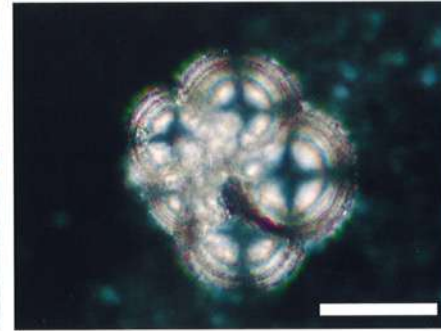


## Diatoms



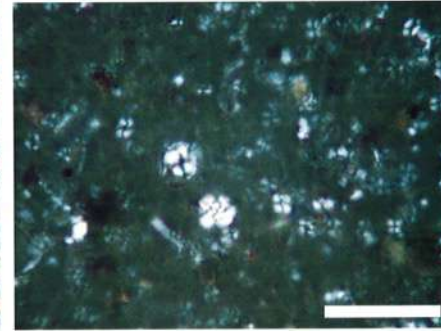
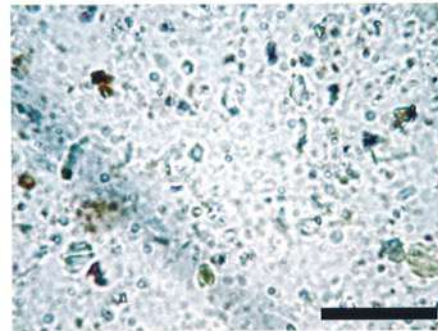
オホーツク海・中心部, 水深 1107m, XP98, PC1, Sec.1, 20cm  
200倍, スケールは横 100 $\mu$ m

## Foraminifera



太平洋・熊野トラフ, 水深 2190m, KT02-1, KK2PC  
400倍, スケールは横 50 $\mu$ m

## Calcareous nannoplankton



東地中海・キプロス沖, ODP Leg160, 967D, 1H, Sec.1, 0-5cm  
1000倍, スケールは横 20 $\mu$ m



## Sand composition

- wet sievings at 63 microns are used to investigate the composition of sediment coarse fraction, the grains form and roundness, in order to define the sediment provenance. The sand fraction is also used for biostratigraphic purposes.

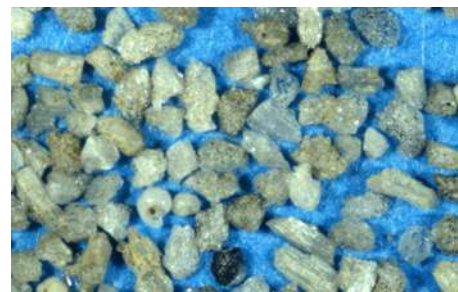
Ice Rafted Debris  
(Antarctica)



Beach sands  
(Menorca-Spain)



Glacigenic  
sediments  
(Arctic)



Tephra  
(volcanic glass)  
(Tyrrhenian)





SEDIMENT SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Project:

lat. N ..... long. E ..... water depth (m) .....  
core ..... section ..... cm ..... cm from core top .....

sediment type ..... lithology .....

colour ..... remarks .....

DESCRIPTION OF RESIDUE

textural characteristics

sorting	very good ..... good ..... moderately ..... poor ..... very poor .....	sphericity	high ..... low .....	angularity	very angular ..... angular ..... sub-angular/rounded ..... rounded ..... well rounded .....
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remarks .....

residue composition

(AA=very abundant; A=abundant; O=occurring; R=rare; RR=very rare)

terrigenous components:  predominant  not predominant

quartz ..... calcite ..... K-feldspar ..... gypsum ..... glauconite .....  
mica ..... pyrite ..... dark minerals ..... volcanic glass ..... micronodules .....  
rock fragments ..... others .....

bioclastic components:  predominant  not predominant

benthic forams	planktonic forams	pteropods	bryozoa
echinoid spines	sponge spicules	ostracods	corals
bivalves	gastropods	corals	algae
radiolarians	diatoms	spores	fish teeth
plant debris	coccoliths	discoasters	organic matter
micrascidites of tunicates	others		

Foraminifera: list of the most characteristic taxa

<i>G. bulloides</i>	<i>G. tenellus</i>	<i>H. siphonifera</i>	<i>G. coriacoenensis</i>
<i>G. trilobus</i>	<i>N. eggeri duttertrei</i>	<i>G. quinqueloba</i>	<i>G. inflata</i>
<i>N. pachyderma</i>	<i>G. ruber</i>	<i>G. scitula</i>	<i>O. universa</i>
<i>G. gomitulus</i>	<i>G. sacculifer</i>	<i>G. glutinata</i>	<i>G. truncatulin. exc.</i>
<i>G. conglobatus</i>	<i>G. quadrilobatus</i>	<i>H. pelagica</i>	<i>G. digit./preadigit.</i>
<i>S. ionica</i>	others		

AGE .....

ZONE .....

FACIES .....

REMARKS .....

SMEAR SLIDES DESCRIPTION

Project:

lat. N ..... long. E ..... water depth (m) .....  
core ..... section ..... cm ..... cm from core top .....

sediment type ..... lithology .....

colour ..... remarks .....

DESCRIPTION OF SMEAR SLIDES

**Calcareous nannofossil:** list of the most characteristic taxa and their abundance  
(AA=very abundant; A=abundant; O=occurring; R=rare; RR=very rare)

<i>E. huxleyi</i>	<i>G. oceanica</i>	<i>G. caribbeanica</i>	<i>small Gephyrocapsa</i>
<i>H. carteri</i>	<i>C. leptoporus</i>	<i>S. pulchra</i>	<i>S. histrica</i>
<i>C. pelagicus</i>	<i>S. recurvata</i>	<i>P. scutellum</i>	<i>O. antillarum</i>
<i>R. clavigera</i>	<i>R. stylifer</i>	<i>S. fossilis</i>	<i>B. bigelowi</i>
<i>U. tenuis</i>	<i>C. jonesii</i>	<i>T. saxea</i>	<i>C. rugosus</i>
<i>C. cristatus</i>	<i>P. multipora</i>	<i>P. lacunosa</i>	<i>C. macintyreii</i>
<i>D. broweri</i>	<i>H. sellii</i>	<i>Discoaster sp.</i>	

others.....

Sediment composition

(AA=very abundant; A=abundant; O=occurring; R=rare; RR=very rare)

terrigenous component:  predominant  not predominant

quartz ..... calcite ..... K-feldspar ..... gypsum ..... glauconite .....  
mica ..... dark minerals ..... pyrite ..... volcanic glass ..... micronodules .....  
dolomite ..... aragonite ..... Fe oxides ..... zeolite ..... plagioclase .....  
rock fragments ..... clay minerals.....  
others .....

bioclastic component:  predominant  not predominant

benthic forams	planktonic forams	pteropods	bryozoa
echinoid spines	sponge spicules	ostracods	corals
bivalves	gastropods	corals	algae
radiolarians	diatoms	spores	fish teeth
plant debris	coccoliths	discoasters	fish remain
shell fragments	silicoflagellates	organic matter	
others			

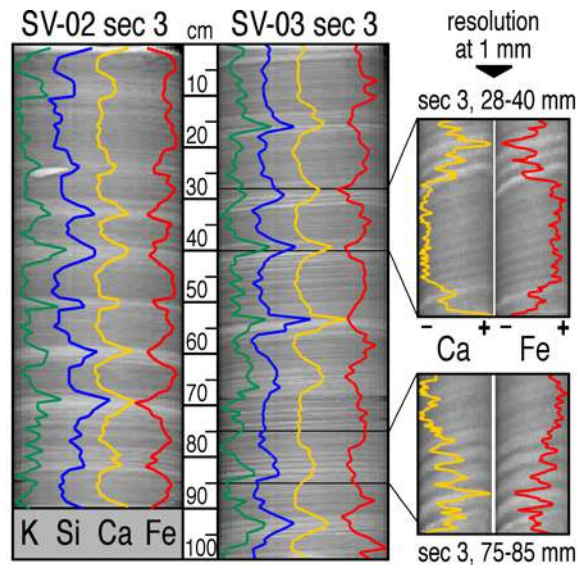
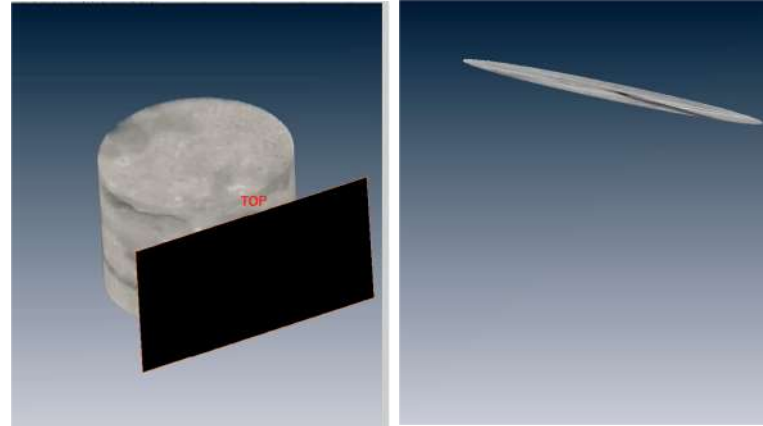
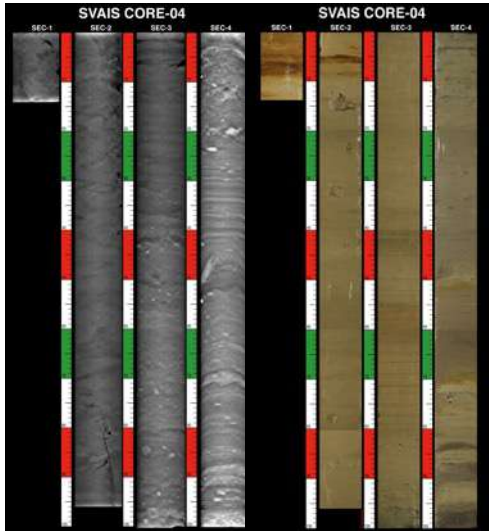
AGE .....

ZONE .....

FACIES .....

REMARKS .....

# SEDIMENT CORE SCAN ANALYSES

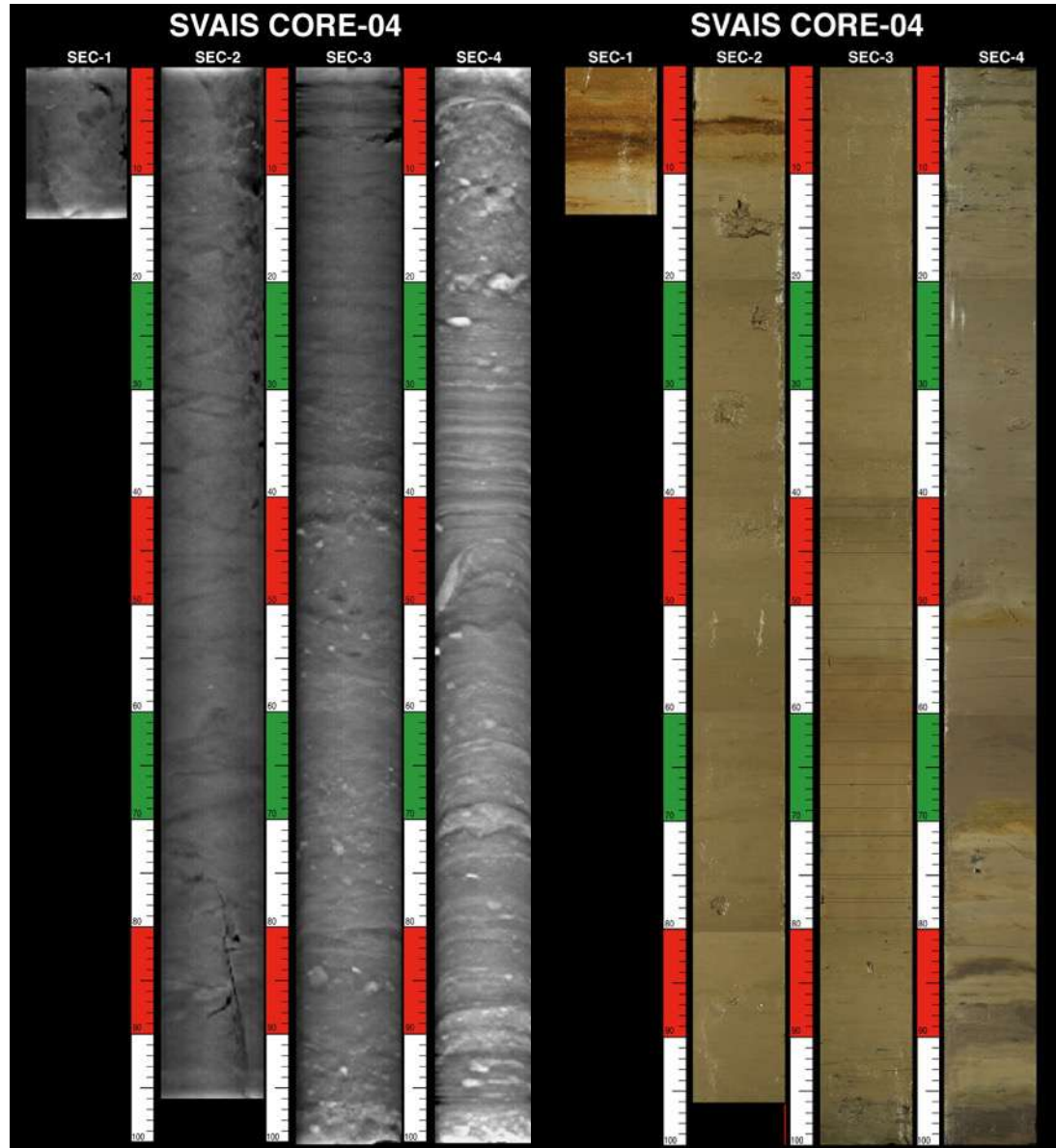


# CORE LOGGING LAB



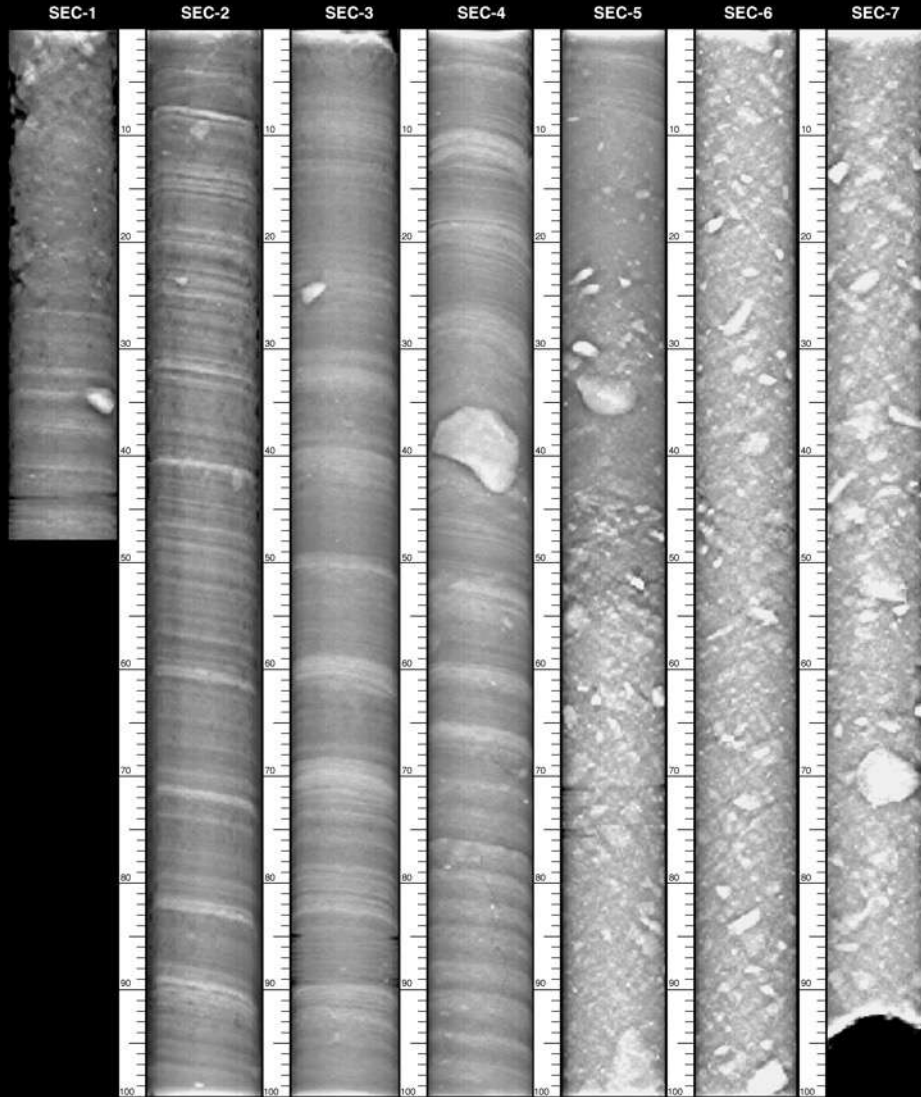


X-RAY

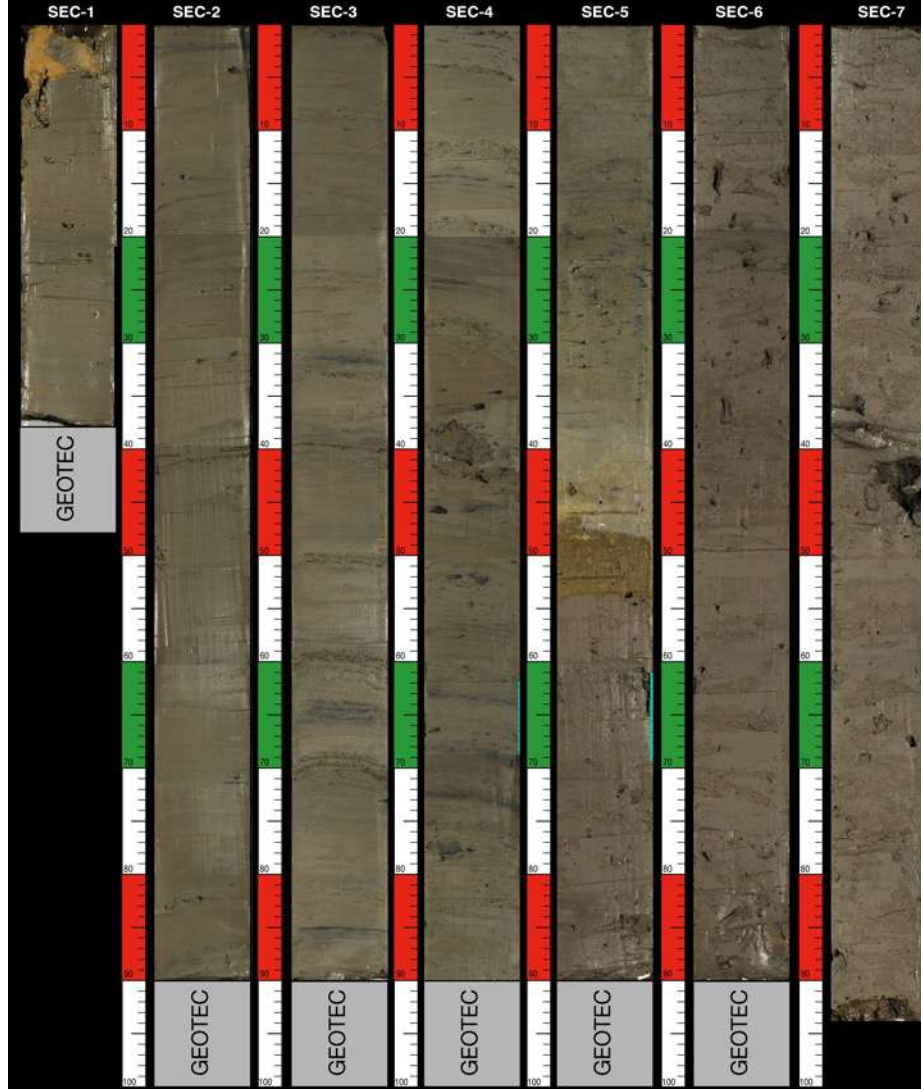


SEDIMENT  
SURFACE

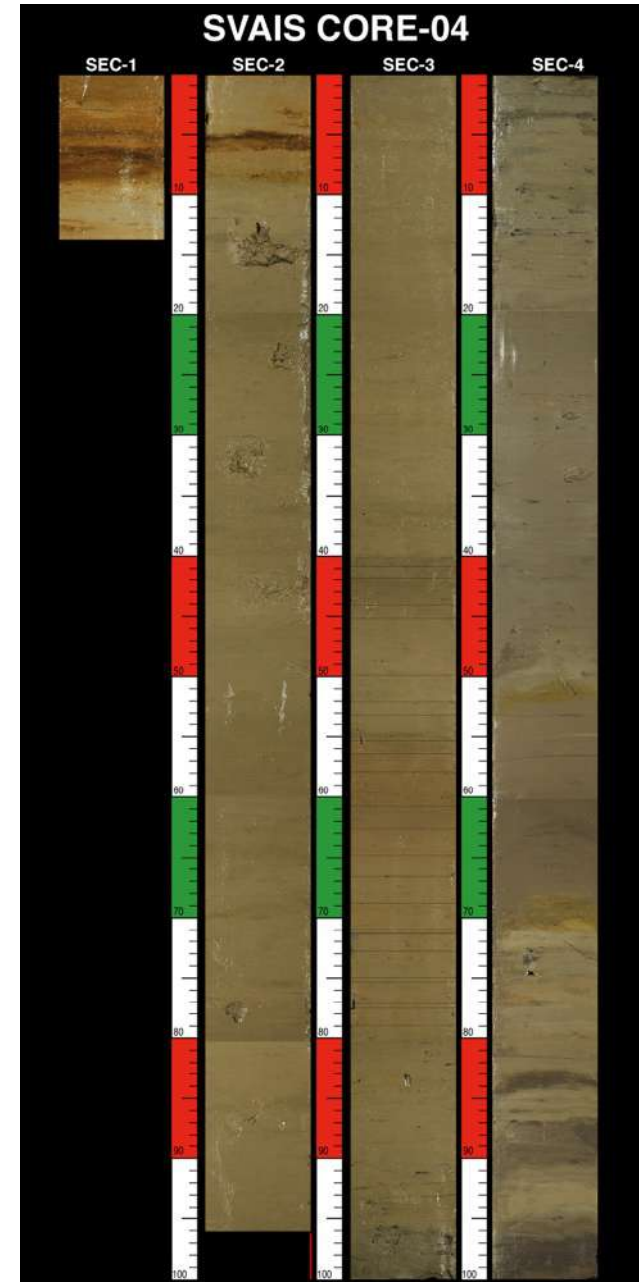
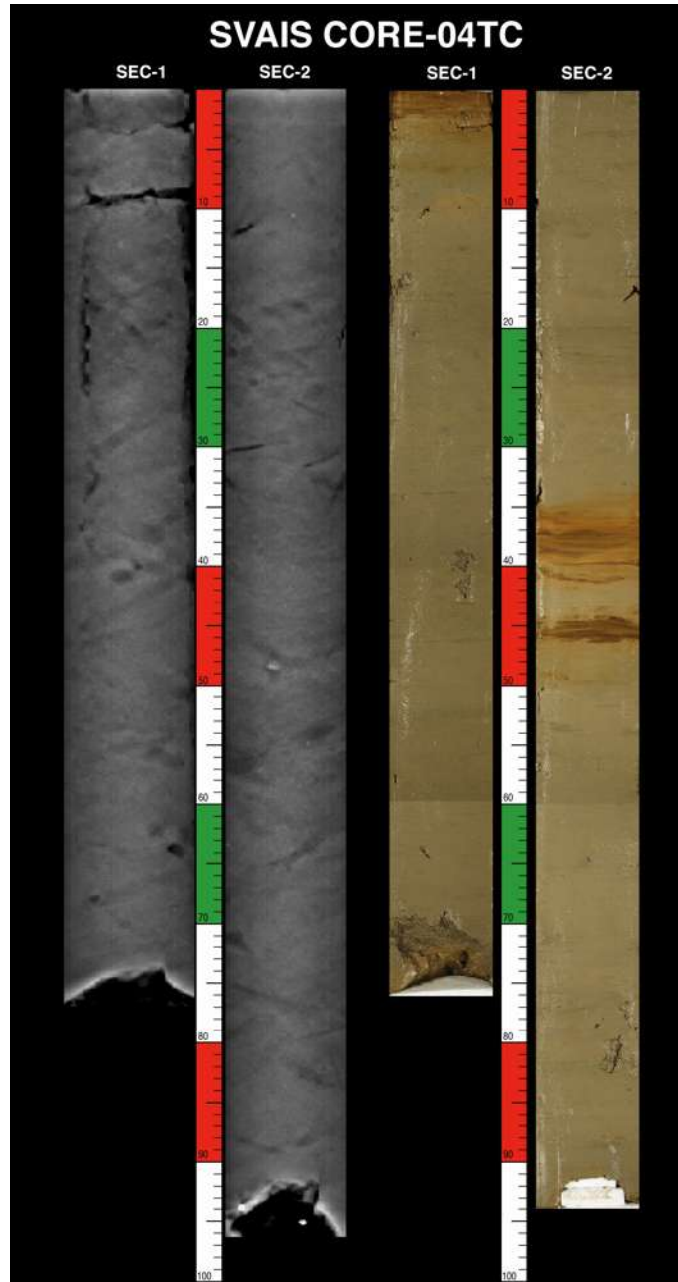
### SVAIS CORE-02 vert.



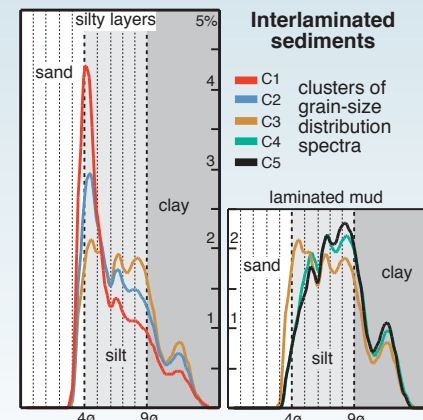
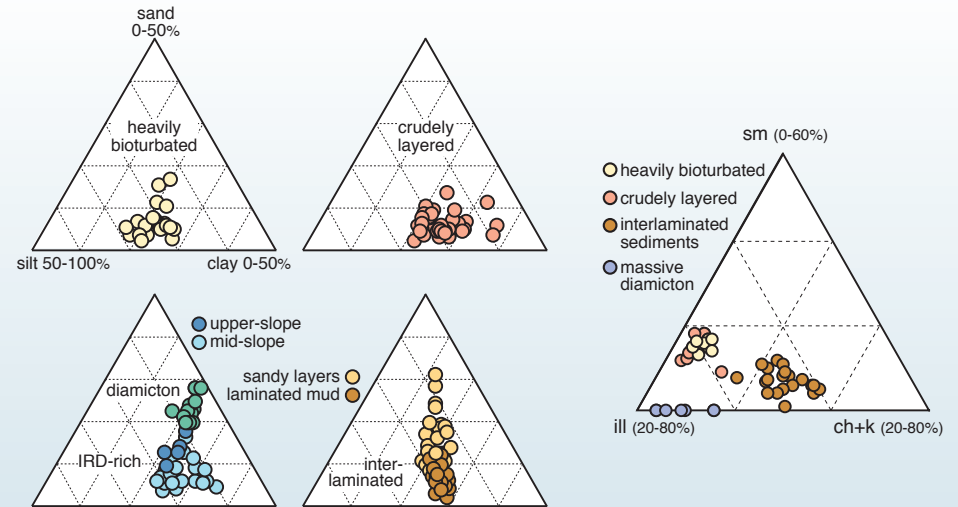
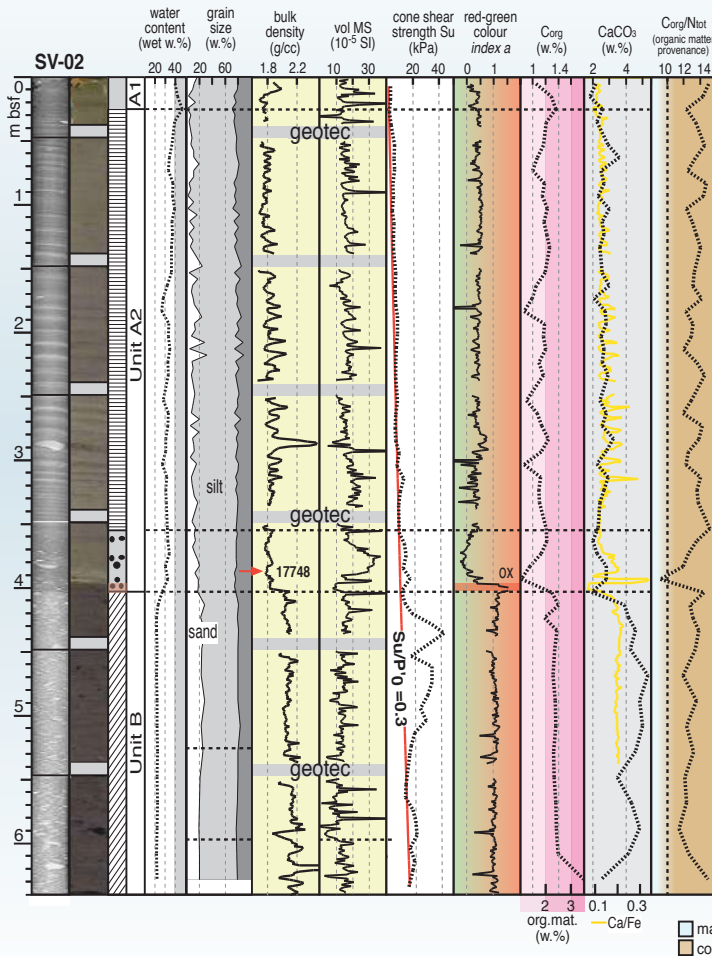
### SVAIS CORE-02



# CORING DISTURBANCE









# CORE REPOSITORY 4°C