

Bio-inspired mining, models, and simulation

S. Henley, H. van Moerkerk, Z. Milosevič, M. Milanov, K. Nikolov, C. Morrish, and M. Howson The future of mining in Europe Tuesday, 14 November 2023

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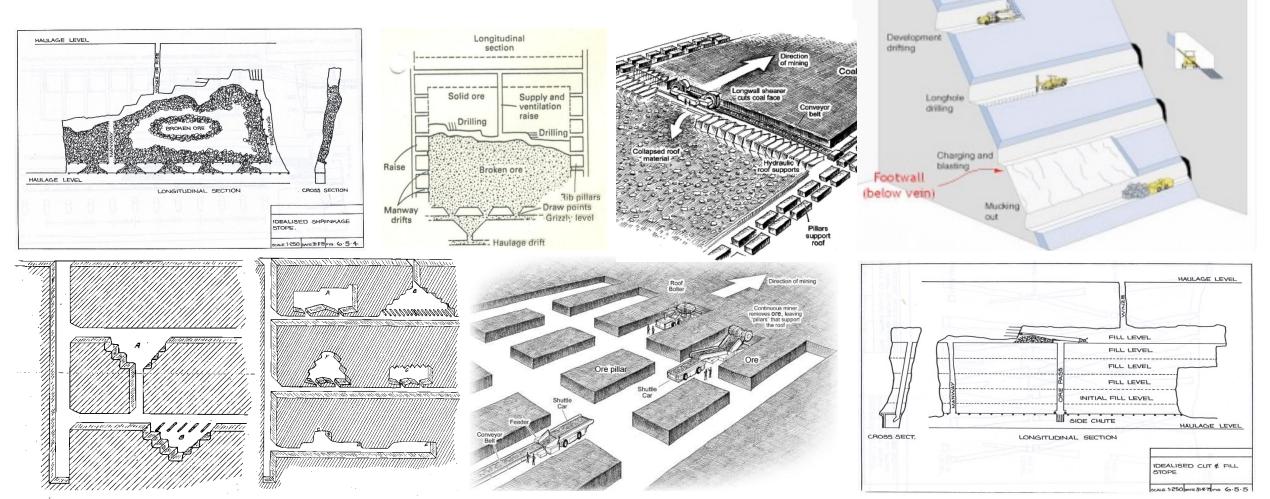




MINE GEOMETRY AND MINING METHODS

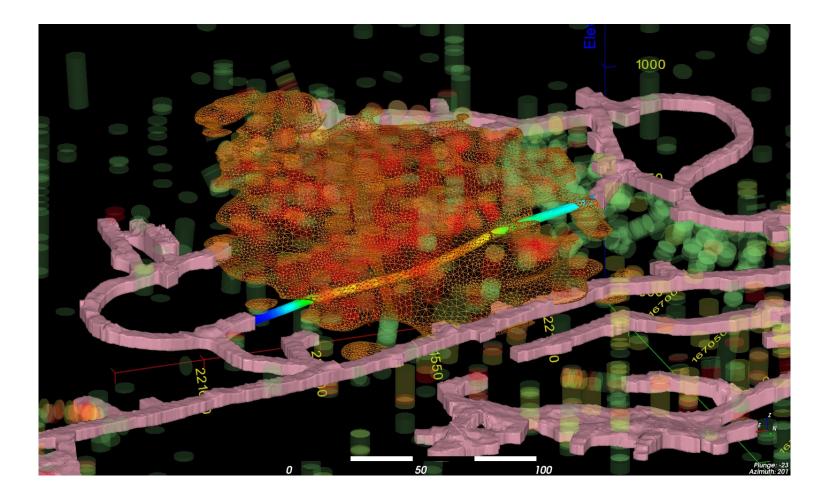
Hanging wall (above vein)

Conventional mine layouts as used in many mines in Europe





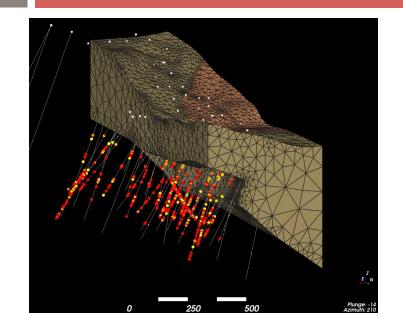
• MVT (Mississippi-Valley Type) Lisheen, Ireland: Main ore-bearing unit modelled in GEOREKA, showing existing workings with simulated 1m diameter tunnel extending the workings





MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN GEOLOGICAL MODELLING

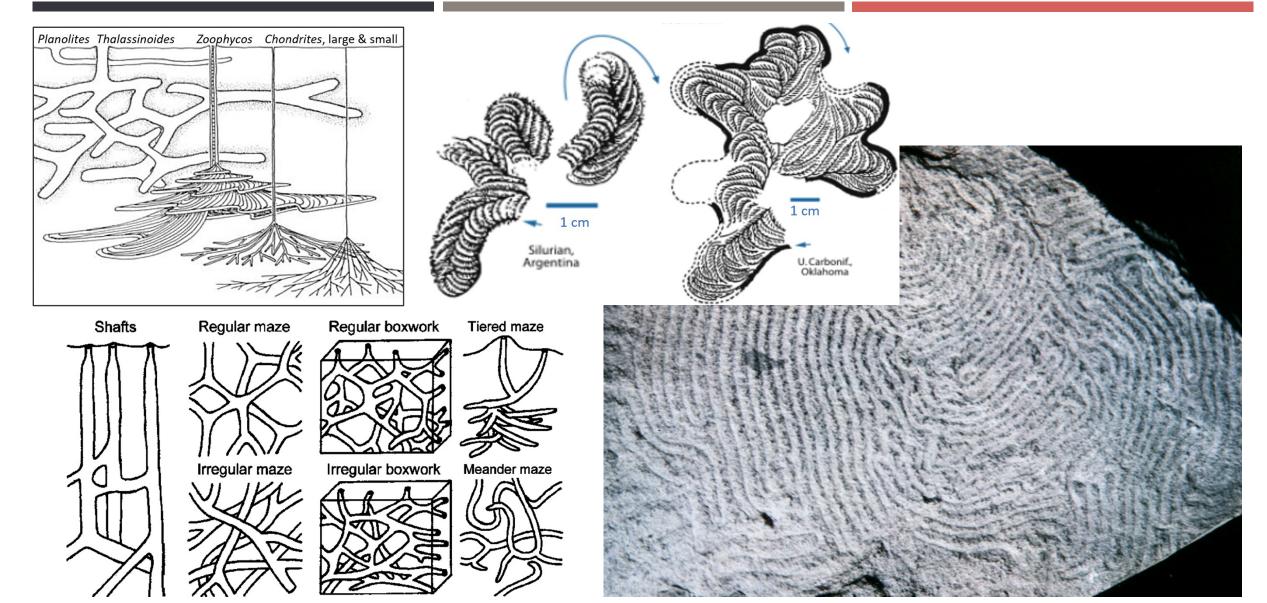
- <u>Machine Learning</u> integration into the modelling process
- <u>Tetrahedral optimization</u> enabling simulations (fluid flow, geotechnical, geophysics) on models
- Introduction of **function based modelling**
 - Domains represented by functions
 - Models created from a ordered list of domain functions
 - Functions can be exported to locally re-create models at any resolution
 - Models with their functions can be exported and loaded onto a robot, without needing a full tetrahedral / triangular model



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	——— Mode	- Model Descriptors			Domain hierarchy						
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		2		Domain label	Parent Domain	Outside Label	Resolution		Function	Function Polarity	
	name	timestamp		Air	Unknown		15		Topo_func		
1		Mon Mar 28		Post Conglom	Unknown				Post Conglom	Post Conglom 0	
2		Mon May 16		West	Unknown				FaultWest_func	FaultWest_func 1	
		Mon May 16		Andesite	Unknown				EastFault_fun	EastFault_fun 0	
4		Tue Oct 25 13:04:		Andesite	West	Conglomerate			And_West_func	And_West_func 0	
			6	Andesite	Unknown	Conglomerate	15		AndCentral_fun	AndCentral_fun 0	



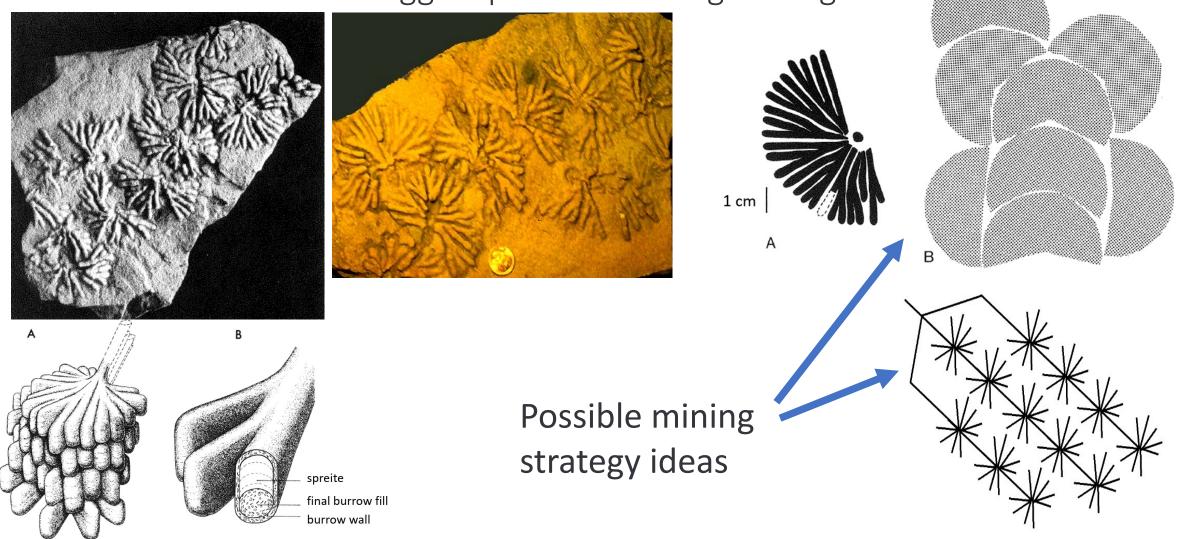
BIO-INSPIRATION FOR MINE LAYOUTS





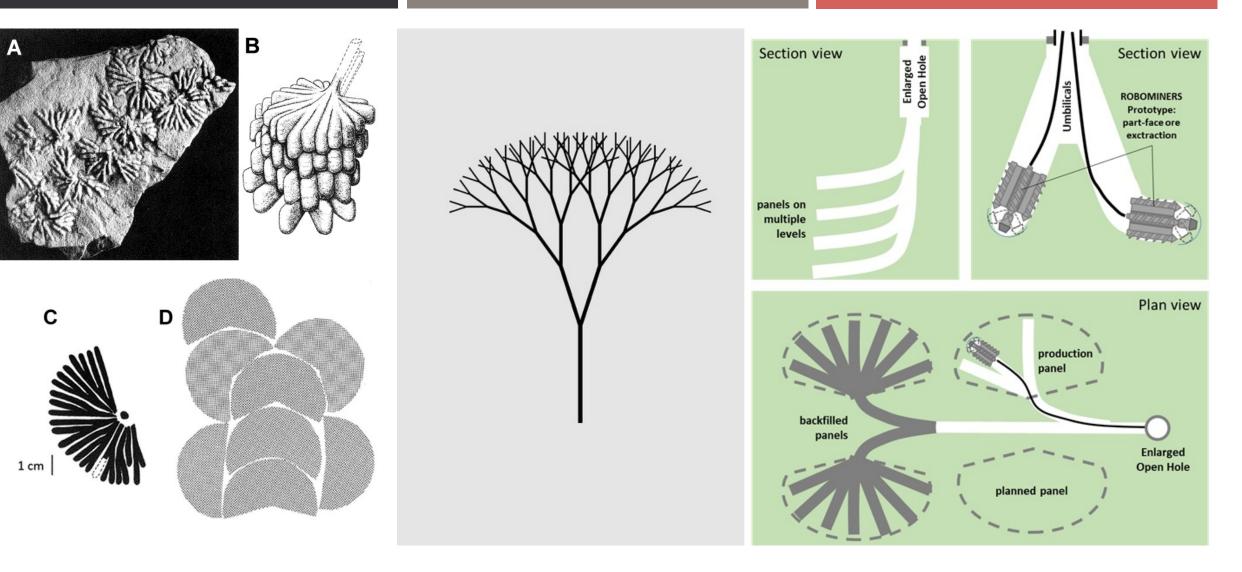
BIO-INSPIRATION FOR MINE LAYOUTS

• How trace fossils can suggest practical mining strategies





FRACTAL TREE MINE LAYOUT

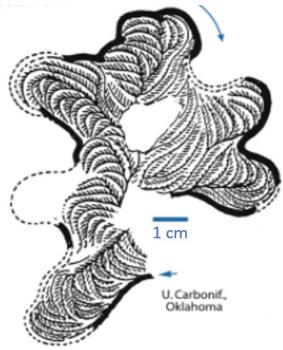


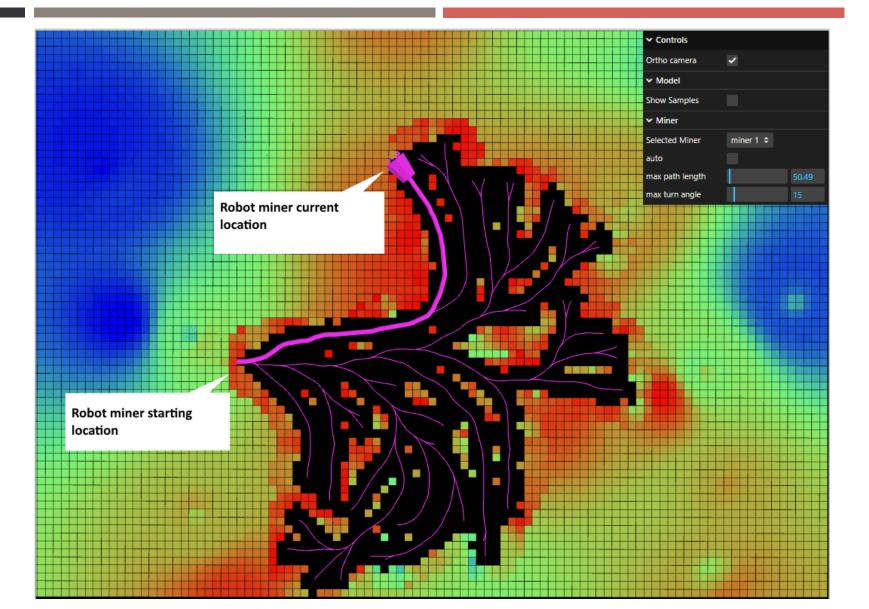


"GREEDY ALGORITHM" ORE-FOLLOWING

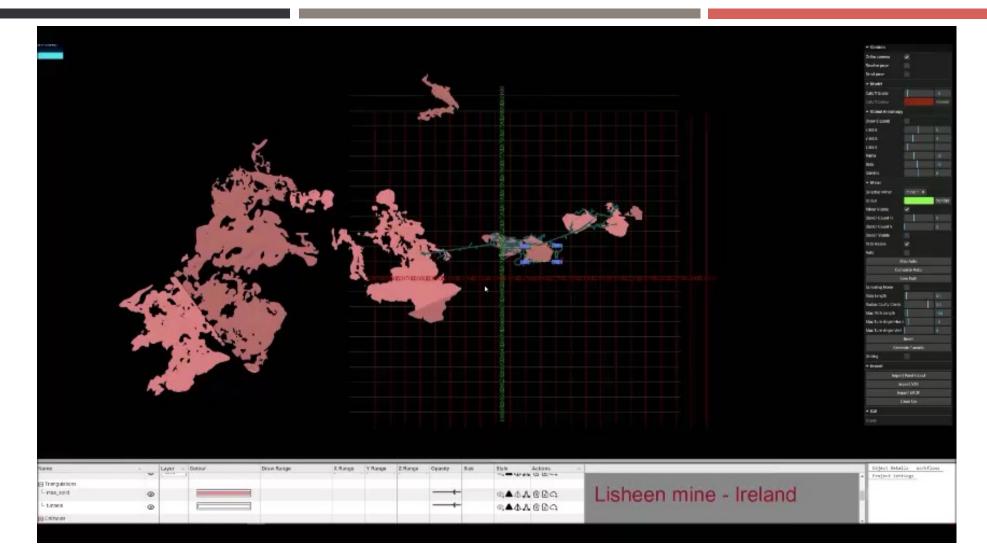
Automated ore following, subject to control parameters –

- Turning radius
- Tether length
- Tunnel dimensions
- Ascent/descent gradients
- etc





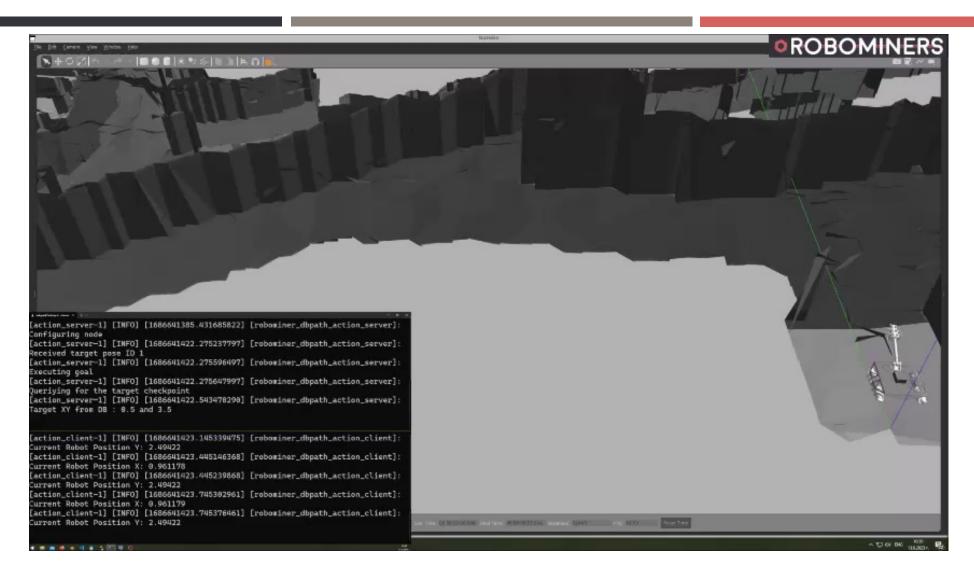
THE "GREEDY ALGORITHM"





ROBOTIC MINER SIMULATION







Thank you

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