

Framework for Risk-based Pillar Design In Underground Mines

Project leader

Catrin Edelbro, ITASCA

Partners

KTH, LKAB, Boliden, Zinkgruvan

Project duration

2023-11-06 – 2025-10-31



Goals of the project

Define a framework for risk-based pillar design

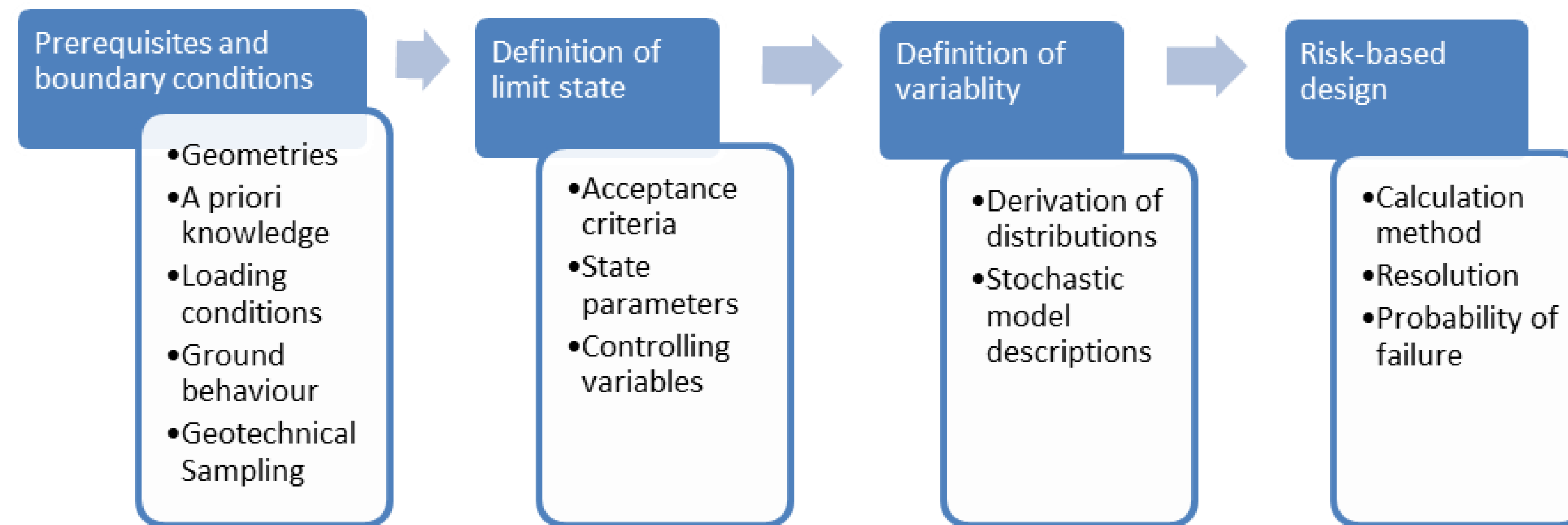
- Framework structure
- Verification and validation
- Application and development potential



The Framework

The framework explains the steps needed to be performed in order to advance the analysis

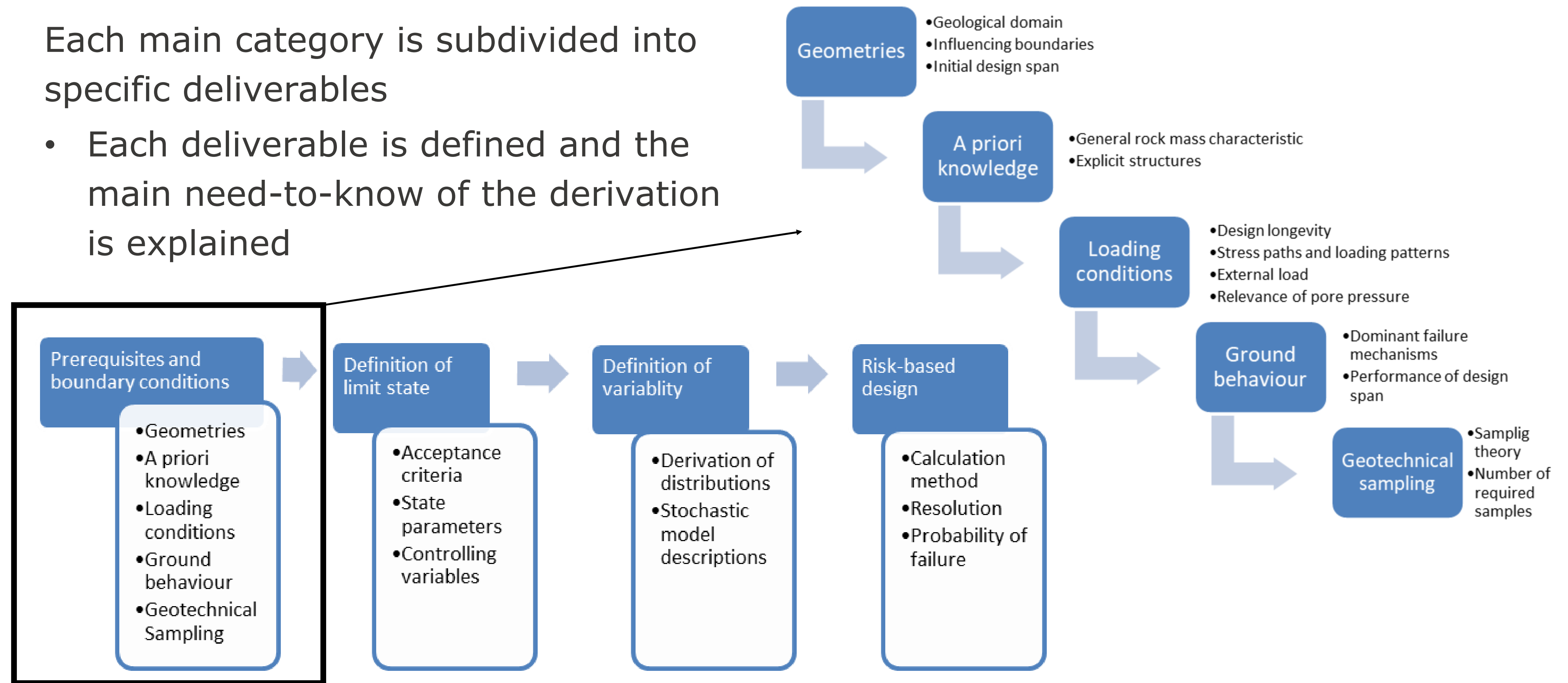
- Deliverables from each block becomes input to the next
- Final product is a pillar design PoF



The Framework

Each main category is subdivided into specific deliverables

- Each deliverable is defined and the main need-to-know of the derivation is explained

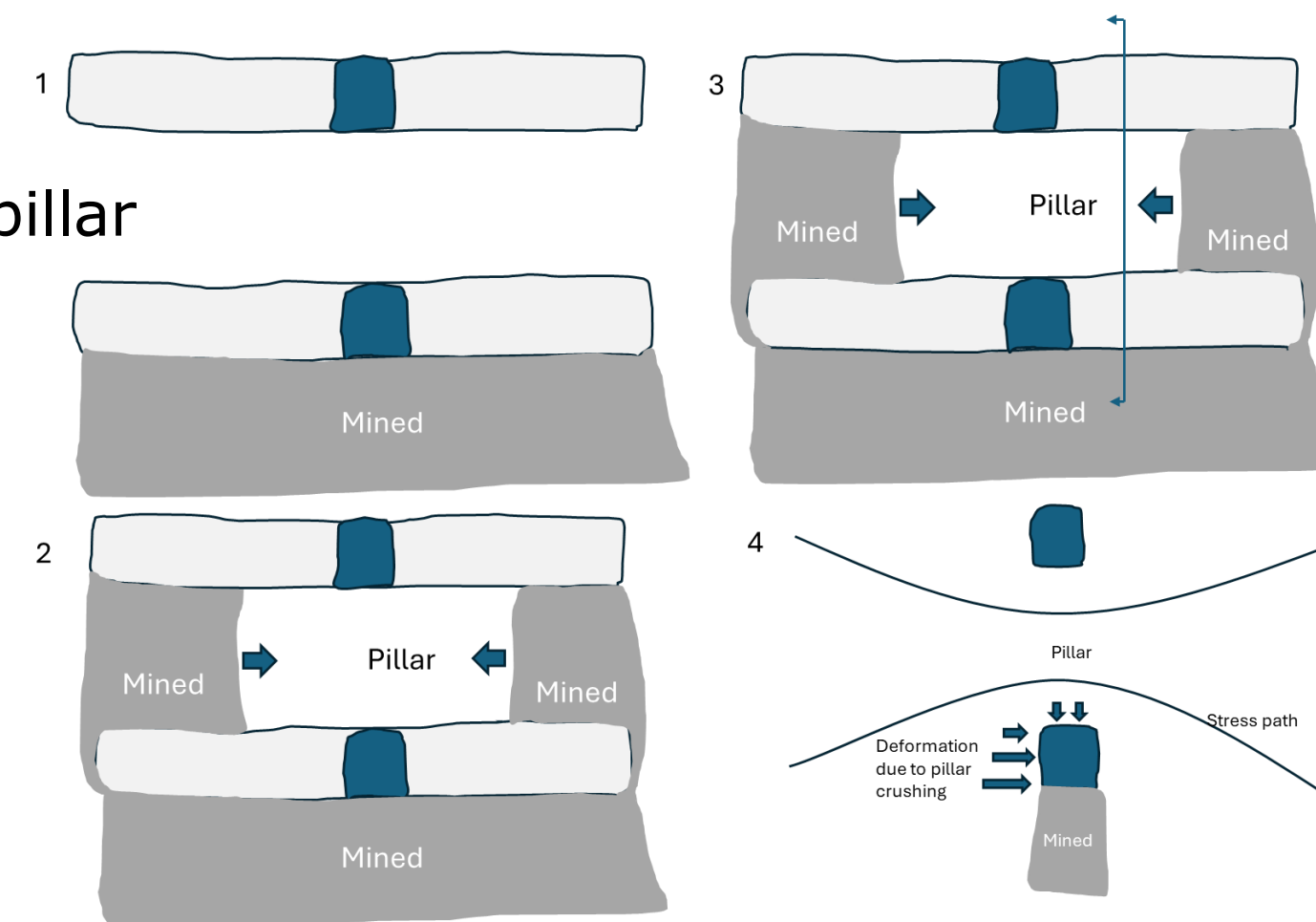


Verification and validation

Proof-of-concept verification

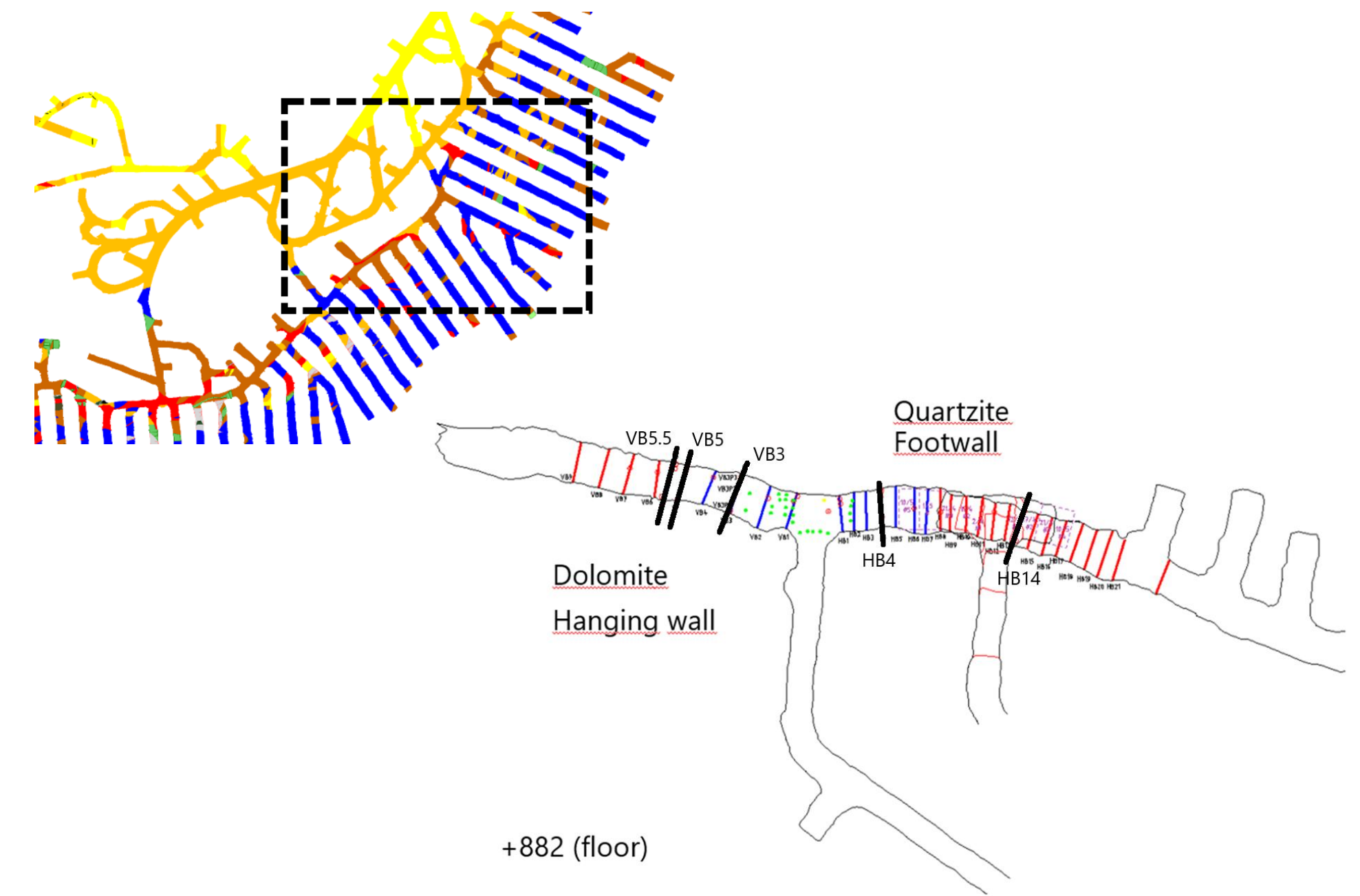
- Idealized cases with known boundary and input and thus predictable output

- Rill/Avoca pillar
- Sill pillar
- SLC cross-cut pillar



Mine case application validation

- LKAB Malmberget
- Boliden Garpenberg



Application and development potential

- Means of quantitatively comparing designs and layouts
- Potential for optimization from a risk-cost perspective
- Robust for directly observable limit state (e.g. deformation limits)
- Less robust for indirect limit state (stress-strength ratio, "damage")



Main take-aways

- Output is never better than input
 - Geotechnical sampling and definition of variability are key action blocks
 - Definition of limit state is the most important 'engineering work'
-
- Probabilistic analysis is the largest hurdle for application
 - Perceived as time consuming and complicated
 - Low industry adoption
-
- The need to define risk-acceptance thresholds remain
 - What PoF is OK?



Mining innovation for a sustainable future