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The apparent depth is simply the apparent thickness of the overlying resistive layer. The apparent depth (or thickness) parameter will be positive when the upper layer is more resistive than the underlying material, in which case the apparent depth may be quite close to the true depth.

The apparent depth will be negative when the upper layer is more conductive than the underlying material, and will be zero when a homogeneous half space exists. The apparent depth parameter must be interpreted cautiously because it will contain any errors which may exist in the measured altitude of the EM bird (e.g., as caused by a dense tree cover). The inputs to the resistivity algorithm are the inphase and quadrature components of the coplanar coil-pair. The outputs are the apparent resistivity of the conductive half space (the source) and the sensor-source distance. The flying height is not an input variable, and the output resistivity and sensor-source distance are independent of the flying height. The apparent depth, discussed above, is simply the sensor-source distance minus the measured altitude or flying height. Consequently, errors in the measured altitude will affect the apparent depth parameter but not the apparent resistivity parameter.