

First-arrival signals



Fig. 11.5 WWSSN-SP vertical-component records of GRSN stations for the same event as in Fig. 11.4. While the P-wave amplitudes vary significantly within the network, the first-motion polarity remains the same.

Travel times

- Ray paths and phases
- Seismic tomography

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First-arrival signals



- Travel times
- Ray paths and phases
- Seismic tomography

Earth velocity models?



- Only travel times
- Ray paths and phases
- Seismic tomography

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Seismogram hierarchy

Source signal scale

 Frequency content for the analysis

 Converted phase scale

 Heterogeneity content

 Total sampling scale

 Total volume investigation

Translucid Earth



u(x,t) = A(x) S(t - T(x)) $u(x,\omega) = A(x) S(\omega) e^{i\omega T(x)}$

Travel-time T(x) and Amplitude A(x)



Diffracting medium:

Wavefront preserved

lost wavefront coherence!

 $\omega T(x)$ is sometimes called the phase

Receiver

T(x)

- ✤ Wavefront: T(x)=T₀
- Normal to wavefront: slowness vector
 p=gradient of T with
 |p|=1/v

where v is the local velocity

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Ray parameter property

The conservation of p at an interface is the Snell-Descartes law ...



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Spherical Earth



$$ON = r_2 sini_2 = r_1 sini'_1$$
$$\frac{sini'_1}{v_2} = \frac{sini_1}{v_1}$$

$$\frac{r_1 \sin i_1}{v_1} = \frac{r_2 \sin i_2}{v_2}$$
$$p = \frac{r \sin i}{v}$$

The ray parameter has another definition while it is still preserved at spherical interfaces.

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Triplication & shadow zone



and retrograde branch

SEISMICZONG (and a retrograde branch)

Shadow zone in the Earth



Abrupt decrease of velocity at the CMB (2900 km)

(Oldham, 1906, Gutenberg, 1912)

Phase identification?

Distance $\Delta = 45^{\circ}$



Identify phases ?



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Identify phases ?

Draw the SS phase?



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Picking time?

Onset time for first-arrival phases?



Picking time ? Deciphering the waveform



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Low-pass or band-pass signals

Plot start time: 1999 10 16 9:47 26.160 Filt: 0.000 0.100



Plot start time: 1999 10 16 9:47 24.638

Filt: 3,000 8,000



Profile 70.5 m Geophone distance 1.5 m Shot 57 m

Water ponds below parking !







(From Williams et al, USGS)

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Eikonal equation

Two simple interpretations of wavefront evolution

Orthogonal trajectories are rays in an isotropic medium



Direction ? : abs or square

The orientation of the wavefront could not be guessed from the local information on a specific wavefront



 $Grad(T) = \nabla_{x} T$ orthogonal to wavefront

$$c(x) = \frac{\Delta L}{\Delta T} \to \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta L} = \frac{1}{c(x)} \to \nabla_x T(x) = \frac{1}{c(x)}$$

$$(\nabla_x T(x))^2 = \frac{1}{c^2(x)}$$

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Ray equation



Various non-linear ray equations

Particule stepping

$$\frac{d\vec{q}(\xi)}{d\xi} = \vec{p}$$
$$\frac{d\vec{p}(\xi)}{d\xi} = \frac{1}{c(\vec{q})} \nabla \frac{1}{c(\vec{q})}$$
$$\frac{dT(\xi)}{d\xi} = \frac{1}{c^2(\vec{q})}$$

$$dT = \frac{1}{c(\vec{q})}ds = \frac{1}{c(\vec{q})^2}d\xi$$

under the condition of the eikonal $p^2 = 1/c^2(\vec{q})$

ODE to be solved by numerical integration ?



How to reconstruct the velocity?

Forward problem (easy)

if we know the velocity structure, we can compute travel times and horizontal distances (as well as amplitudes)

Inverse problem (difficult) (***

From measured travel times (or horizontal distances for a given ray), could we deduce the velocity structure. This is the travel-time tomography or seismic tomography.

More difficult is the diffraction tomography which uses the waveform or the amplitude of the signal.

Earth reference velocity model

- Harrold Jeffreys and Keith Bullen (1940), (J-B) Remarkable accuracy for teleseismic travel times (below 1%)!
- Herrin et al. (1968), with well located earthquakes.
- Dziewonski and Anderson (1981), Preliminary Reference Earth Model (PREM)
- Kennett and Engdahl (1991), most accurate radially symmetric model (iasp91)
- (2000), The first 3-D reference model with travel times?



Seismic tomography

- Tomography: a very general problem medical, oceanography, atmosphere
- Very difficult problem when considering travel times.
 - Direct relation between times and velocity profile: only tractable for 1D structure ...
- Difficult problem when considering delayed travel times.
 - Perturbation techniques can be used which requires an initial medium as the starting guess.

What is inside ?

How do you know what is inside?

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Tomography from travel times



Local propagation







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Medical imaging



Emission of seismic waves, travel times related to velocity, velocity reconstruction

Geophysical imaging

X scan: X ray emission, absorption related to density, density reconstruction



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First-arrival times: non-unicity of the reconstruction

A first-arrival travel time curve is compatible with an infinite set of structures



. . .

Velocity field v(z) or slowness u(z)

Ray equations are simpler

 $q(\xi), p(\xi)$?

The horizontal component of the slowness vector is constant: ray tracing is performed in a plan defined by the initial horizontal slowness. We can eliminate y by a simple rotation ...

$$\frac{dp_x}{d\xi} = 0; \frac{dp_y}{d\xi} = 0; \frac{dp_z}{d\xi} = u(z)\frac{du(z)}{dz}$$

$$\frac{dq_x}{dq_z} = \frac{p_x}{p_z} = \frac{p_x}{\pm \sqrt{u^2(z) - {P_X}^2}}$$

 p_x , the ray parameter p, is cte

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$$\frac{dp_x}{d\xi} = 0; \frac{dp_z}{d\xi} = u(z) \frac{du(z)}{dz}$$

$$q_{x}(z_{1}, p_{x1}) = q_{x}(z_{0}, p_{x0}) + \int_{z_{0}}^{z_{1}} \frac{p_{x}}{\sqrt{u^{2}(z) - p_{x}^{2}}} dz$$

for a downgoing ray

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Herglotz-Wiechert-(Bateman) law for velocity profile v(z)

$$v_a(r_{max}) = \frac{d\Delta}{dt} = \frac{1}{p}$$

From the tangent at the curve $t(\Delta)$; we can estimate the apparent velocity v_a which is just the velocity at the bottom point of the ray, but we do not know this point ...

To get this depth, we need to estimate the apparent velocity for all points from the source to the distance Δ_1 .

$$z(\Delta_1) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\Delta_1} \arg ch \frac{v_a(\Delta_1)}{v_a(\Delta)} d\Delta$$

Abel problem (1826)

This is valid only for continuous curve and for an increase of velocity. If so, we have a direct relation between depth and velocity

$$\frac{z(\Delta_1)}{v_a(\Delta_1)} \Rightarrow z(v) \Rightarrow v(z)$$

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HWB inverse law for v(r)

$$\ln(\frac{R}{r(\Delta_1)}) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\Delta_1} \arg ch \frac{p}{\xi_1} d\Delta$$

slope
$$\xi_1 = \frac{dt}{d\Delta} \lambda_1 = \frac{r}{v_a(\Delta_1)}$$

$$\frac{r(\Delta_1)}{v_a(\Delta_1)} \Rightarrow r(v) \Rightarrow v(r)$$

Layered structureRadial structure

Spherical Earth



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Summary for layered medium

- We may reconstruct an interface at a given depth when considering all waves.
- From first-arrival times, we may build an infinity number of solutions ... (direct and head waves only).
- Jump in the velocity profile when a low velocity zone.



Starting model from the HWB method

An initial model has been reconstructed (simple v(z)/v(r))
The HWB law does not allow the introduction of prior information ...

F. Press in 1968 has prefered an exhaustive exploration of all velocity profiles (5 millions at that time). The quality of the profile is simply assessed through a misfit function evaluation as the square sum of observed times ans computed times. The design of the misfit function could introduce other features we may consider such as density and observed inertial moments and so on.

• Full model exploration: grid method, Monte Carlo method, simulated annealing, genetic algorithm, ant path ...

Radial model: not enough!





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Simpler case: small perturbation

- Initial structure of velocity
- Small variation of velocity or slowness
- Linear approach





Global seismic tomography

- Velocity variations at 200 km: correlation with superficial structure
- Velocity variations at 1325 km: correlation with geoid

Document W. Spakman



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Delayed travel-time tomography

$$t(source, receiver) = \int_{source}^{receiver} u(x, y, z) dl$$

Finding the slowness u(x) from t(s,r) is a difficult problem: only techniques for one variable !

Consider small perturbations $\delta u(x, y, z)$ from a slowness field $u_0(x, y, z)$



Model description

The model of velocity perturbation (or slowness δu(x, y, z)) could be described in a regular mesh with values at each node δu_{i,j,k}. We may define the interpolation function (shape function) for the estimation of slowness perturbation everywhere.
A simple shape function h_{i,j,k} could be 1 at

(i,j,k) and 0 everywhere else.

$$\delta u(x, y, z) = \sum_{cube} \delta u_{i,j,k} h_{i,j,k}$$

Linear system

$$\delta u(x, y, z) = \sum_{cube} \delta u_{i,j,k} h_{i,j,k} \quad \text{Slowness perturbation description}$$

$$\delta t(src, rec) = \int_{src_0}^{rec_0} dl \sum_{cube} \delta u_{i,j,k} h_{i,j,k}$$
Discretisation of the medium fats the ray
Sensitivity matrice is a sparse matrice
$$\delta t(src, rec) = \sum_{cube} \delta u_{i,j,k} \int_{src_0}^{rec_0} dl h_{i,j,k}$$

$$\delta t(src, rec) = \sum_{cube} \delta u_{i,j,k} \frac{\partial t}{\partial u}$$

Matrice of sensitivity or of partial derivatives

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Joint hypo-velocity inversion

$$\delta t(src, rec) = \sum_{cube} \frac{\partial t}{\partial u} \delta u_{i,j,k} + \overrightarrow{p_s} \cdot \overrightarrow{\delta x_s} + \mathbf{1} \cdot \delta t_{0s}$$

											<i>ou</i> _{1,1,1}	
δt_1		∃dt/du	0	∂t/∂u		p_{xs}	p_{ys}	p_{zs}		ן1	$\delta u_{2,1,1}$	
δt_2		0	∂t/∂u	0		p_{ys}	p_{ys}	p _{zs}	•••	1	ou _{3,1,1}	
δt_3		0	0	0	•••	p_{ys}	p_{ys}	p_{zs}		1		
:	=	:		: :	•••			:	÷	:	i Sr	=
δt_{N-2}		дt/ди	0	∂t/∂u	•••	0	0	0		0	$\delta \chi$	
δt_{N-1}		0	∂t/∂u	∂t/∂u	•••	0	0	0	•••	0	δy_S	
δt_N		0	0	∂t/∂u	•••	0	0	0	•••	0	:	
											δt_{os}	

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The Corinth Rift

- One of the most active intercontinental extension zone
- What is the basic mechanism?
- How this mechanism could be compatible with physical features
- (fracture, fluids, static equilibrium ???)



Field experiment in 1991 and in 2001



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1D velocity reconstruction HWB method or random sampling



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Velocity structure Horizontal cross-sections



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Velocity structure



Vertical sections

Psa

Gulf

He

X=28 km 30 20 50 40 60 B1 Py-Ma He Ai **B2** Gulf Tri. X=39 km 20 30 50 40 60 C2 Psaromita Gulf X=49 km 30 20 40 50 60 X (KM) 3.2 velocity (km/s) 2.8 3.6 4.0

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Ratio Vp/Vs: a proxy for fluids?

Few attributs can be deduced from Vp and Vs reconstructions in order to identify features related to specific mechanisms

- Ratio Vp/Vs connected to fluid saturation
- Product Vp*Vs connected to porosity
- This may lead to select the second mechanism of opening the continental margin ...



Where are converted phases?

Similar to receiver function technique in connection with migration method



Phase analysis

Amplitude versus offset (AVO)

Receiver function method

Beamforming

Seismic energy between P and S phases?



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Alps tomography

In the last five decades, the deep structure of the Alps has been probed by every geophysical method applicable, and the resulting amoint of data is unmatched for any other oregen (Kissling, 1993)

- Bouguer anomaly
- Active seismic profiles (refraction, reflection, wide-angle reflection)
- Passive seismic experiments



Tirs à l'explosif dans le lac Nègre (Mercantour)

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FIGURE L11

Tirs à l'explosif du Lac Nègre pour sismique réfraction (1 à 25 T, 1958)







Map of isobaths of the lvrea surface (7.4 km/s reflector at 10 km depth at least)

Reflection Seismics (ECORS-CROP)



EXTERNAL DOMAIN INTERNAL DOMAIN SOUTH-ALPINE DOMAIN Canavese Line External Mola Ophiolite Suture nal Cryst sub-alpine N Penninic Fron GRAN PARADISO RELIEDONN VANCIS SESIA **IVREA ZONE** PO PLAIN rystallin asozoic and and ophi 20Km 20Km EUROPEAN PLATE APULIAN PL Figure 2. Simplified geologic cross section along ECORS-CROP geophysical traverse (after P. Vialon, in ECORS-CROP, 1986) External Crystalline Massifs ernal Crystalline Ophiolite Suture Canavese Line Penninic Front BELLEDONNE GRAN PARADISC VANOIS IVREA ZON PO PLAIN SESLA

Figure 3. Vertical seismic-reflection profile of ECORS-CROP traverse through western Alps. a: Coherency-filtered stacked seismic section. Coherency is measured in moving window of 15 traces for slopes ranging from 0 to 0.25 s/km and displayed if larger than constant threshold. White stripes correspond to zones dominated by strong coherent noise where coherency has not been displayed (Marthelot, 1990). b: Line drawing of most prominent reflectors (Damotte et al., 1990). See text for explanation of numbered reflectors.

Localisation et résultats du profil de sismique réflexion verticale ECORS-CROP (Nicolas et al., 1990)

Wide-angle seismic profile

b) Sismique réflexion grand-angle



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Gravimetry-seismics



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Different interpretations





FiG. 6. – Deux schémas interprétatifs possibles du profil sismique migré ECORS CROP Alpes dans lesquels le chevauchement du massif cristallin externe de Belledonne est lié à un écaillage crustal profond et externe. A. – Dans ce premier modèle (E.D., S.F., S.O. et M.T.) voi la collision alpine induit un système d'écailles lithosphériques en procharriages vers le nord-ouest, l'écaille du corps d'Ivréa inférieur est reliée au Chevauchement pennique frontal et l'écaille du corps d'Ivréa principal au front des unités à métamorphismes HP de Vanoise.

à métamorphismes HP de Vancese. B. -- Danis ce second modèle (G.M., F.T. et P.V.) où des charriages en retour reprennent tardivement les procharriages du domaine pennique, le rorps d'Ivréa principal détaché, flotte en arrière et au-dessus du corps d'Ivréa inférieur. Ce dernier est surmonté de croûte sud alpine (en place ou substituée). 1 : couvertures sédimentaires et métasdélimentaires; 2 : croîte continentale supérieure européenne ou croûte européenne indifférenciée; 3 : croîte lin-férieure linée; 4 : croûte continentale sud-alpine; 5 : manteau; C.G. : col de la Galise; C.I.I. : corps d'Ivréa inférieure; C.L.P. : corps d'Ivréa inférieure; C.P. : corps d'Ivréa inférieure; C.L.P. : corps d'Ivréa inférieure; C.L. : ligne du Canavese; r.e. : rameau externe de Belledonne; r.i. : rameau interne de Belledonne; V.L. : cailles de Viu-Locana.



FIG. 8. - Alternative schema for the ECORS-CROP traverse implying in (a) a crustal accretionary wedging by thick-skinned imbrication of upper and lower crust, followed in (b) by mantle indentation and back thrusting, and in (c) by west-oriented thrust. Same decoration as in figure 7 [Roure et al., this volume].

(Nicolas et al., 1990)



Joint hypo-velocity inversion

- Réseau sismologique temporaire de 67 stations + 59 stations permanentes, en France et Italie
- 550 séismes locaux
- ~15 000 temps d'arrivée (P+S)
- Grille: au mieux 5 km x 5 km x 5 km au centre du réseau



Localisation des séismes utilisés pour la tomographie crustale, en carte et en coupe



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Vp maps at # depths



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Recent interpretation







Fig. 6 Models of the gravity effect calculated for the interpretative cross-section. Three models with different rock density values are presented. The model showing the best fits between the observed and the modeled anomaly is presented in the enlarged picture. The studied geotransect (rod line) is located on the Bingner gravity map of Masson et al. (1999). The black line represents the gravity predict adapt the geotransect.



Fig. 4 Interpretative crustal-scale cross-section of the south-western Alps. (a) Cross-section showing the high seismic resolution area with the localization of earthquake hypocentres (black circles) with respect to the main geological and tectonic boundaries. (b) Cross-section with the main geological units and kinematics indicators, the upper part of the Apulian mantle (arrow A) acts as an indenter and the lower part (arrow B) transfers the compression onto the external are (European foreland).

(Lardeaux et al., 2006)

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Brianconnais Moho?

(Thouvenot et al, 2007)





WORKFLOW of FATT

- Selection of an enough fine grid
- Selection of the a priori model information
- Selection of an initial model
- FMM and BRT for 2PT-RT
- Time and derivatives estimation
- LSQR inversion
- Update the model
- Uncertainty analysis
- Geodynamic or geotechnical interpretation

THANK YOU !

Many figures have come from other people: could they forgive me if I have not mentionned their names.

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Other methods of exploration

- Grid search
- Monte-Carlo (ponctual or continuous)
- Genetic algorithm
- Simulated annealing and co
- Tabou method
- Natural Neighboring method



Different informations



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