

Intrinsic Q_p seismic attenuation from the rise time of microearthquakes: a local scale application at Rio-Antirrio, Western Greece

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Received May 2009, revision accepted March 2010

ABSTRACT

We determine the attenuation structure of a three-dimensional medium based on first pulse-width measurements from microearthquake data. Ninety-five microearthquakes from a seventy stations local network were considered in this study. Measurements of the first half cycle of the wave, the so-called rise time τ were carried out on high quality velocity seismograms and inverted to estimate the P-waves intrinsic quality factor Q_p . The results of this investigation indicate that first pulse width data from a local microearthquake network permit retrieval with sufficient accuracy of the heterogeneous Q_p structure. The inferred attenuation variability corresponds to the known geological formations in the region.

Key words: Intrinsic quality factor.

INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in seismological instrumentation, methodologies and inversion algorithms have revealed the potential of applying passive seismic monitoring in the hydrocarbon industry as well. Most of the up-to-date passive applications have been devoted to reservoir monitoring projects, fracture location and orientation. Even though the 3D tomographic velocity inversion in general has been in use for more than 25 years (Thurber 1983) for regional geotectonic investigations, its application to a local scale with possible application in hydrocarbon exploration and engineering projects is relatively recent (Vesnaver *et al.* 2000; Durham 2003; Kapotas, Tselentis and Martakis 2003; Vesnaver *et al.* 2003; Martakis, Kapotas and Tselentis 2006; Tselentis *et al.* 2007).

One of the geophysical parameters that correlate best to the physical state of the rocks and the fluid percentage is the intrinsic quality factor Q_p of compressional body waves (Bourbie, Coussy and Zinszner 1987). As an exploration tool,

attenuation effects have only recently attracted attention (e.g., Hedlin, Mewhort and Margrave 2001). Q_p can prove useful in two ways; as a mean of correcting seismic data to enhance resolution of conventional imaging techniques and as a direct hydrocarbon or geothermal indicator.

Several investigations in geothermal areas (Zucca, Hutchings and Kasameyer 1994; Sanders and Nixon 1995; Sanders *et al.* 1995; Wu and Lees 1996; Zollo and De Lorenzo 2001) have shown that the imaging of the quality factor Q is a useful tool to define location and extension of magma bodies in volcanic areas and to detail the fluid contribution through fracture systems. Usually, a high degree of cracking or high effective porosity (Zucca *et al.* 1994; Sanders *et al.* 1995) and the presence of water/gas in the fractures lower Q_p values.

The primary mechanisms causing energy loss of seismic waves as they propagate through the earth, are spherical divergence, scattering and intrinsic attenuation. The first mechanism is frequency independent and a correction is commonly applied to seismic data. Scattering is the result of multiples that lag primary seismic energy and tend to cause partial cancellation of primary seismic energy, it is frequency dependent and difficult to separate from intrinsic attenuation. The

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latter is the effect of energy loss due to friction and appears to dominate scattering attenuation.

Intrinsic attenuation occurs in porous rocks when motion of the rock and the fluid in the pores becomes uncoupled. The rock becomes anelastic as energy is lost due to fluid friction (Pride *et al.* 2003). If the pore space is completely filled with fluid, the fluid has less mobility than if there is some gas saturation and it is expected that attenuation is higher in a partially fluid saturated rock (Winkler and Nur 1982). Theoretically, a subsurface reservoir full of hydrocarbons will tend to be acoustically 'softer' than a porous rock filled only with water (Kumar, Batzle and Hofmann 2003).

Until now, most attempts to extract attenuation at a local scale have been restricted to active seismic data recorded at the surface (Evans and Zucca 1988; Clawson, Smith and Benz 1989). This approach encounters significant difficulties because the amplitude spectrum of the seismic record contains the imprint of the amplitude spectrum of the earth's reflectivity as well as the amplitude spectrum of the seismic wavelet. In the present investigation we will attempt to extract seismic attenuation values from data obtained from a local high-density microearthquake network.

Several methods have been developed to compute intrinsic attenuation and have been applied mostly in a regional scale (Ho-Liu, Kanamori and Clayton 1988; Sekiguchi *et al.* 1996; Sarker and Abers 1998; Rietbrock 2001). Most of these methods are applied to the frequency domain and are very dependent on source and instrument properties.

Pulse width methods do not require precise measuring of pulse amplitudes or taking into account the instrument response. Unlike spectral methods, the pulse width methods only require a very short part of the first arriving signal, which is relatively free of other interfering waveforms (reflections, scattering or multiple travelpaths).

The early experimental bases of this method have been given in analyses of waveforms from both earthquakes (Okada 1970; O'Neill and Healy 1973), point-like sources (Gladwin and Stacey 1974; Stacey *et al.* 1975; Wright and Hoy 1981) and theoretical studies (Kjartansson 1979). More recently, Wu and Lees (1996) showed that the theoretical relationships on which the method is based remain valid if we consider a heterogeneous anelastic structure.

The method based on the inversion of the rise times is expected to give the most reliable estimates of the intrinsic attenuation (Liu *et al.* 1994). In fact, since only a very limited portion of the seismogram is used, the effects of multiple waves generated in thin layers around the recording site are usually minimized (De Lorenzo *et al.* 2006).

The availability of a high quality set of 3-component digital recordings, obtained from a dense 70-station, microearthquake network at Rio-Antirrio (Western Greece) allow to investigate the attenuation state of this region by performing a tomographic inversion of Q_p employing the pulse width method.

RISE TIME AS A MEASURE OF Q

The pulse rise time is defined as the amplitude of the first arriving pulse divided by the steepest rising slope. The rise time, defined on displacement records, is approximately the pulse width on velocity seismograms (Zucca *et al.* 1994), which is defined as the time difference from onset of initial arrival to initial peak for displacement seismograms, or equivalently, from onset to first zero crossing for velocity records. Since, for short pulse widths, the error introduced by mispicking can be large, we use the time between the intercept of the linear extrapolations of the rising slope at half peak (Fig. 1), to the time axis and the first zero crossing (Zucca *et al.* 1994).

A mathematical model for realistic pulse broadening in an inhomogeneous medium has been suggested by Gladwin and Stacey (1974) and Stacey *et al.* (1975). They showed experimentally that the rise times of acoustic signals propagating linearly in elastic media with frequency-independent quality quotient for P waves Q_p is described by the equation:

$$\tau = \tau_0 + C \int_{ray} \frac{ds}{V_p Q_p} = \tau_0 + C \int_{ray} \frac{dt}{Q_p}, \quad (1)$$

where τ is the pulse rise time, τ_0 is the original pulse rise time at the source, V_p is the P-wave velocity, C is a constant, ds is an arc segment along the raypath and dt is the incremental travelttime.

For a medium with constant V_p and $Q_p = Q$, equation (1) can be written in the following linear form:

$$\tau = \tau_0 + \frac{CT}{Q}. \quad (2)$$

The ratio T/Q is usually referred to as t^* in the literature. The constant C was experimentally determined for ultrasonic acoustic pulses to be equal to 0.5 (Gladwin and Stacey 1974), whereas a theoretical demonstration, based on impulsive displacement source, was given by Kjartansson (1979).

Other investigations (Blair and Spathis 1982; Liu 1988; Wu and Lees 1996; Tselentis 1998) have shown that C depends on the shape of the source time function. For the case of small events a C value of 0.5, corresponding to an impulsive displacement function, is commonly used (De Lorenzo

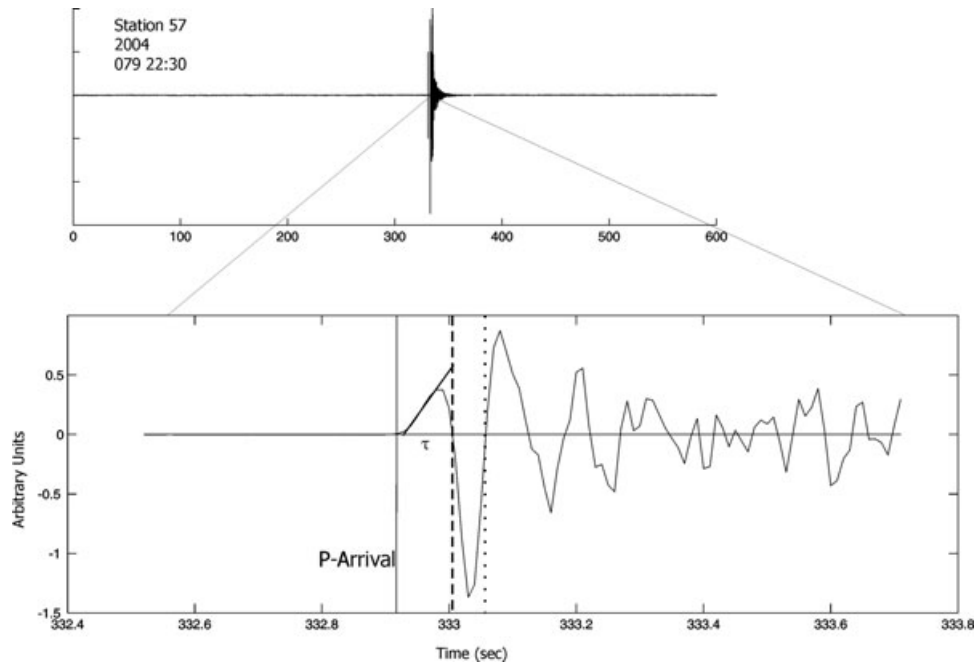


Figure 1 Measurements of rise time and pulse width broadening for a single event. The starting of the pulse (solid line), the end of the rise time (dashed line) and the pulse width (dotted line) are shown.

et al. 2004). This is due to the fact that first arrival velocity pulses for microearthquakes appear closest in shape to Gaussian derivative pulses that correspond to Gaussian function displacements.

Obviously, the most limiting assumption of this method is that it neglects the directivity effect of the seismic radiation generated by a finite dimensional seismic source (Zollo and De Lorenzo 2001; Tselentis *et al.* 2009). The directionality of the source will have a limited effect as long as it only affects the amplitude of the signal and not the spectral content. Because of this, events of greater magnitude have been better avoided when using this method. In order to limit this effect, relatively small earthquakes were selected and the use of the stronger events was avoided.

DATA

The selected area for the local tomographic Q_p inversion is located around the Rio-Antirrio Strait (Fig. 2). A microearthquake network, consisting of 70 Earthdata PR24 recording stations supplemented with LandTech LT- S100 three-component velocity sensors, was deployed during a three month seismic experiment in the autumn of 2004. We attempted to deploy the network over a grid with an average spacing between nodes of 500 m (Fig. 2). Station coordinates

were established by differential GPS measurements with a horizontal accuracy of ± 2 m and a vertical accuracy of ± 1 m. Time sampling was 200 samples per second. The estimated time picking accuracy was between 0.010–0.025 s in the noisy records for P-waves.

Because of the generally higher amplitude of the vertical component of the first motion, the P-wave rise times were measured on this component. Errors in picking first arrival times do not affect measurements for pulse widths, if the correct initial pulse widths are selected. Systematic measurement errors in pulse width may be absorbed either into the constant C or into source pulse width τ_0 (Wu and Lees 1996; Tselentis 1998).

Site effects are often recognized as the cause of secondary arrivals after the first P-wave motion (Fig. 3). These arrivals are attributed to the presence of thin layers below the recording site, resulting in the trapping of the wavefield causing multiple reflections. In most cases, multipath effects produce a discontinuity in the observed P-pulse shape (e.g., Deichmann 1999; Courboux, Deichmann and Gariel 1999). In order to avoid these effects in our work, we have discarded the recorded P-wave pulses with a clear discontinuity during the first period of P-motion.

We have also discarded all data for which the P signal-to-noise ratio was lower than 10 and considered only the

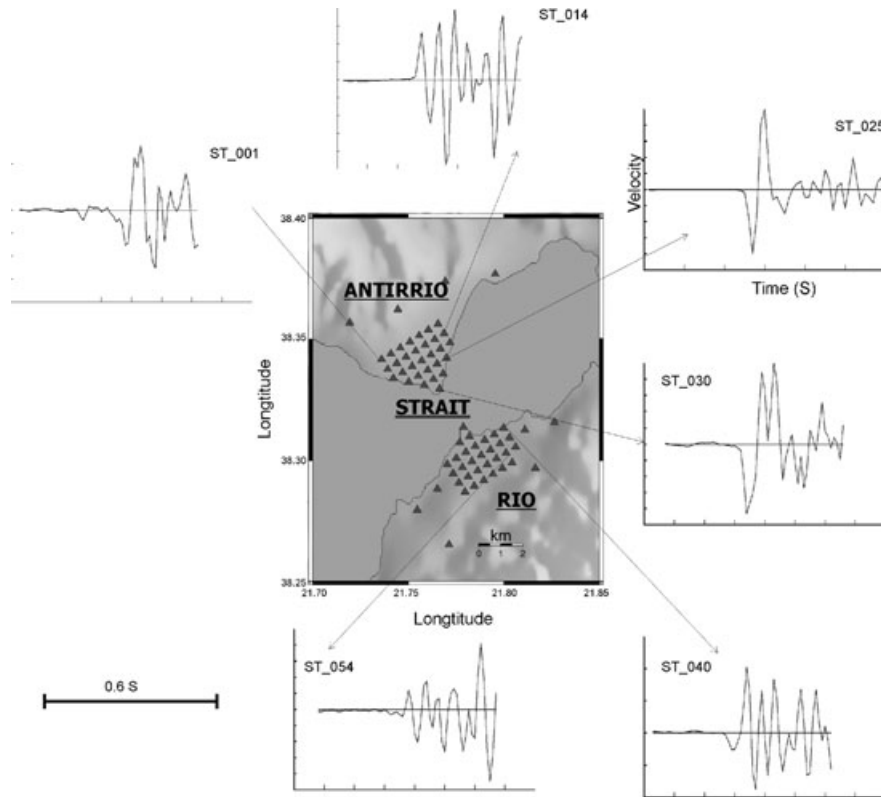


Figure 2 Microearthquake network. Triangles depict the location of the seismographs. We also present some representative seismograms of an earthquake as recorded by 6 stations. The rise time variation is obvious.

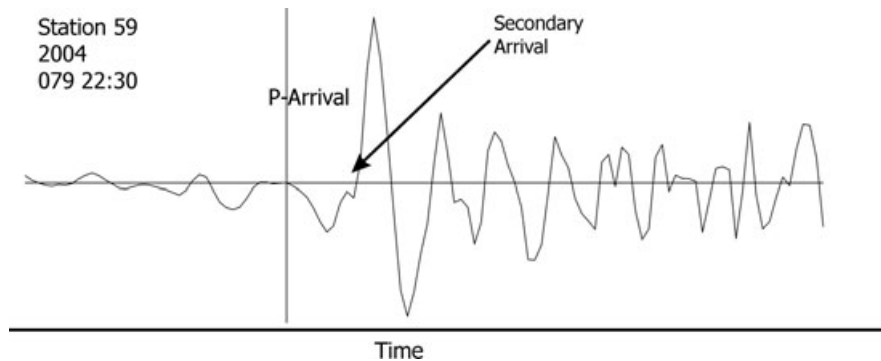


Figure 3 Example of a multipath effect that can introduce significant error in picking the correct rise time.

waveforms on which the P-wave onset was clearly readable. Taking all the above factors into consideration we selected a subset of 95 from the 220 initially recorded events to be used for the present attenuation investigation (Fig. 4).

Figure 5 shows that the rise time increases with the hypocentral distance as the slope of the least squares fitting line is different from zero at 0.0028 s/km and the data have a correlation coefficient of ~ 0.4 . This suggests that in the case of

this data set the pulse width can be considered a valid model for estimating Q .

Since the methodology used does not utilize amplitude information we did not perform the deconvolution for the instrument response. Furthermore, an additional check can be done by representing the histograms of the observed rise times and the reduced rise times (Figs 6a,b). Figure 6(a) shows that the majority of observed rise time values lie between

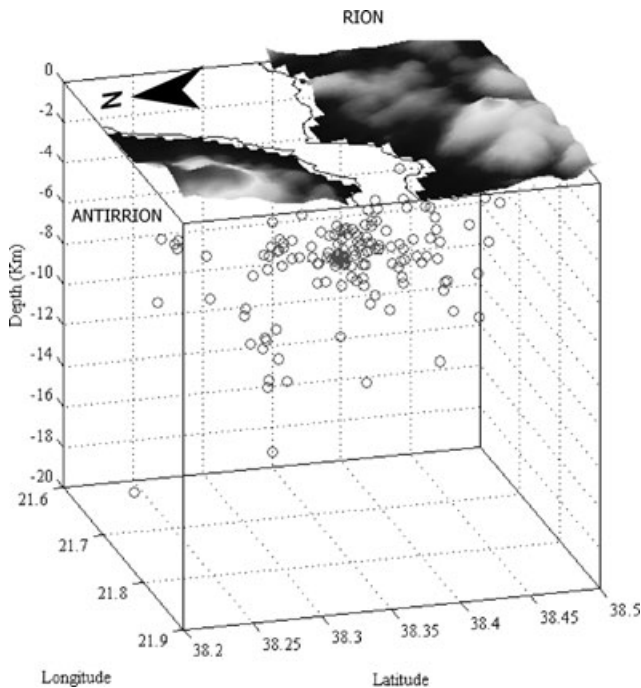


Figure 4 A 3D view of the microearthquake hypocenters, selected for rise time measurements.

0.02–0.08 s, which compared to an average frequency content ranging from 3–40 Hz, a frequency band where the response of the used seismometers is flat and cannot distort the duration and shape of the observed signals.

INVERSION APPROACH

First, we estimate the initial rise time of each event. As each event has a different initial rise time τ_0 there will be one τ_0 per event. Then we pick, if possible, the rise time τ for each recorded waveform. We plot for each event the value of the rise times against the P-wave arrival traveltimes. A straight line is fitted on the data points using the least squares method. The point where the line will intersect with the rise time axis (equation (2)) is the value of τ_0 that will be used for that event. An example of this procedure is presented in Fig. 7.

Next from equation (1), we can write:

$$\tau - \tau_0 = C \int_{ray} \frac{1}{Q_p V_p} ds. \quad (3)$$

The term $\tau - \tau_0$ is the reduced rise time (also called corrected rise time) and represents the rise time with the effects of the initial pulse at the source removed.

As seen from equation (3), it is important to have an accurate P-wave velocity model $V_p(x, y, z)$ (Q_p is the target parameter). The non-linear tomographic analysis of the P-wave arrival times provides a 3D P-wave velocity model as well as the raypaths from each event's hypocenter to the recording stations. Details of the velocity structure of the region from tomographic analysis is presented in Tselentis *et al.* (2007) and the picked arrival traveltimes measured for the velocity tomography will also be used in this investigation.

In a similar process to velocity tomography, equation (3) is parametrized in discrete blocks, within which the attenuation

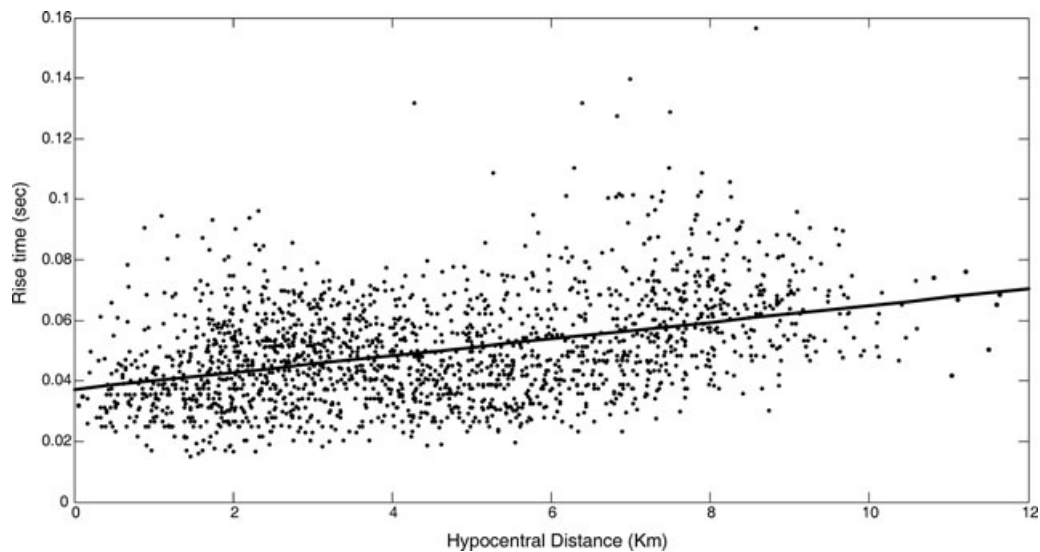


Figure 5 Diagram of hypocentral distance versus the rise times. Using least squares, a line is fitted to the data. The slope is at 0.0028 s/km and the data have a correlation coefficient of ~ 0.4 .

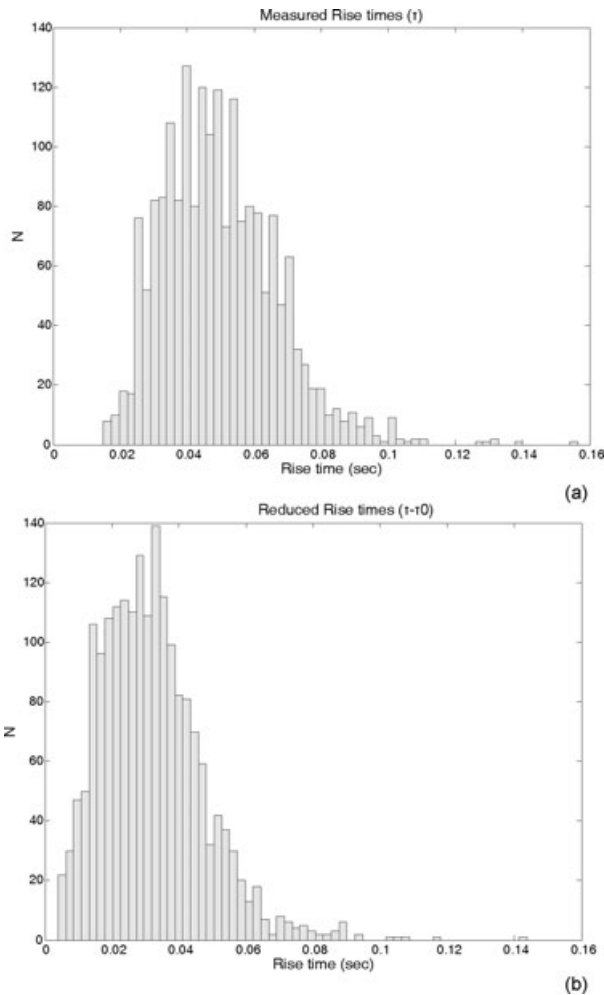


Figure 6 Histogram of the distribution of a) measured (τ) and b) reduced ($\tau - \tau_0$) rise times.

is assumed constant (Lees and Lindley 1994). The block dimensions should be selected so that there is no sacrifice in the resolution and the area of interest is sufficiently covered by raypaths.

The linear inversion is accomplished by minimization of the reduced ($\tau - \tau_0$) rise time residuals in an iterative procedure that includes the solution of the forward and inverse problem at each step. The linearized inversion can be written in matrix notation as (Thurber 1983):

$$\Delta \mathbf{m}^{\text{est}} = \mathbf{G}^{-1} \Delta \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{R} \Delta \mathbf{m}^{\text{true}}, \quad (4)$$

where \mathbf{G} is the Jacobian matrix that contains all the partial derivatives of the reduced rise times from earthquake hypocentres to the recording seismograph, \mathbf{m}^{est} is the model estimate, \mathbf{m}^{true} is the real model and \mathbf{R} is the model resolution matrix.

The perturbation of the model parameters $\Delta \mathbf{m}$ expresses the disturbances of the data $\Delta \mathbf{d}$, in this case the reduced rise times:

$$\Delta \mathbf{d} \approx \mathbf{G} \Delta \mathbf{m}. \quad (5)$$

In practice, the problem of passive tomography is usually underdetermined or mixed determined. For this reason, matrix equation (4) is solved using the damped least-squares method, which can be expressed as:

$$\Delta \mathbf{m} = (\mathbf{G}^T \mathbf{G} + \varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{G}^T \Delta \mathbf{d}, \quad (6)$$

where ε^2 is the damping factor and \mathbf{I} is the identity matrix. The presence of the damping factor in the inversion process is a way to avoid singular or near-singular values in the inversion matrix. Its value must be selected, taking in mind, that too small values may produce solutions with low rms error but they produce high oscillations in the values of the adjacent cells in the model, on the other hand, higher values mean that the result remains very close to the original model as the parameter perturbations remain small.

The resolution matrix can be written using equations (4), (5) and (6) and replacing \mathbf{G} with its fundamental decomposition as:

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{V} \left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{\Lambda^2 + \varepsilon^2 \mathbf{I}} \right) \mathbf{V}^T, \quad (7)$$

where \mathbf{V} is a matrix whose columns are coupled-parameter-space eigenvectors, Λ is the matrix of non-zero eigenvalues and \mathbf{I} is the identity matrix. The full-resolution matrix offers important information about the quality of the inversion results. Each row of \mathbf{R} describes the dependence of the solution for one model parameter on the other model parameters. The resolution diagonal elements of the resolution matrix \mathbf{R} , is commonly used to assess solution quality. The larger the resolution diagonal elements are for the model parameters, the more independent are the solutions. This, in combination with the ray hit count and the derivative weighted sum, can be used to assess the solution (Tselentis *et al.* 2007). The resolution matrix can also be used to calculate the spread (Dell'aversana *et al.* 2003), in order to check the quality of the tomography results.

A checkerboard attenuation model can be used to perform synthetic modelling and inversion in order to have a better assessment of the ability of the geometry of the network and the sources to resolve the target.

GEOLOGY

The study area covers the Rio-Antirrio strait (Fig. 8), which is located in the northern part of the Peloponnesus. The

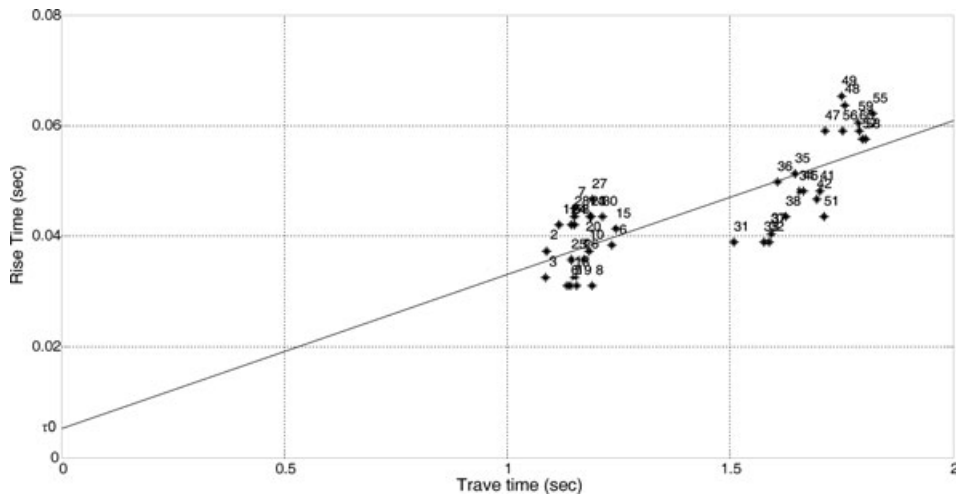


Figure 7 Rise time estimates at various stations (numbers) versus travelttime. A least-squares fit line is used to estimate τ_0 . For this event $\tau_0 = 0.0053$ sec with a slope of 19.19° .

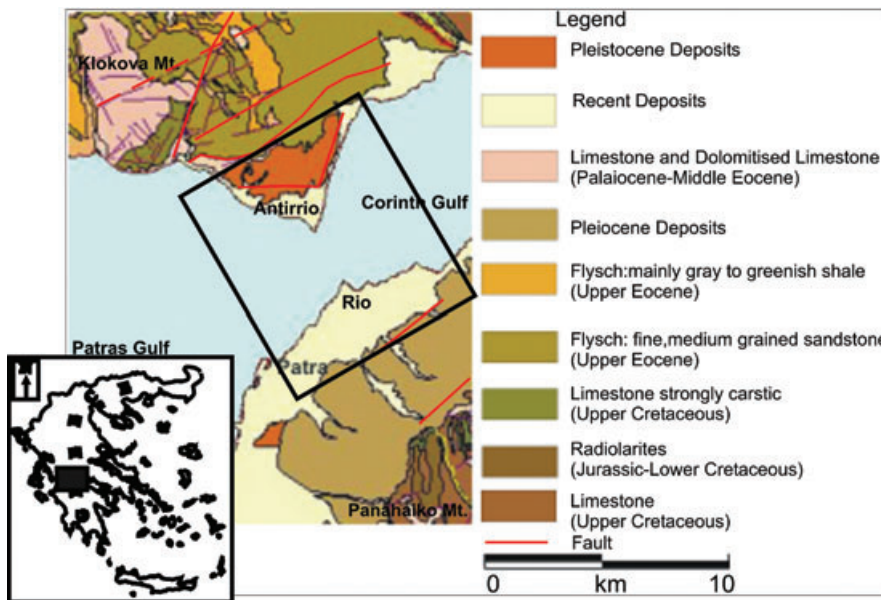


Figure 8 Geology of Rio-Antirrio Strait region.

Corinth and Patras rifts are linked by transfer faults in the Rio-Antirrio Strait (Doutsos and Poulimenos 1992). After the Middle Miocene, the whole north-west Peloponnesus area was uplifted and extended. During this extension, three asymmetric grabens were formed: the Corinth, Rio-Antirrio and Patras grabens.

The asymmetry of the grabens is largely induced by north-dipping master faults, which trend parallel to the coastline of the North Peloponnesus (Doutsos and Poulimenos 1992). In the Quaternary, rifting propagated westward until it reached

the Rio-Antirrio graben, the Rio graben, formed by movement of pre-existing northeast-southwest trending faults, reactivated in the Pliocene (Doutsos, Kontopoulos and Ferentinos 1985). Changes in predominant stress directions at this time led to the Rio graben acting as a transfer zone between the existing Patras and Corinth grabens (Tselentis and Makropoulos 1986; Doutsos, Kontopoulos and Poulimenos 1988).

The three-dimensional tomographic velocity inversion in this area has been extensively studied by Tselentis *et al.* (2007). The primary structural features are the following.

The low velocity top geological layers correspond to Quaternary and Neogene sedimentary formations. The thickness of these formations in the target area is approximately 500–600 m. These are expected to have smaller Q_p values. The Alpine Basement is characterized by limestone with $V_p >$

5.2 km/s and V_p/V_s values of 1.8. These outcrops, in the north-western part of the study area, where the limestone Klokova Mountain is located and also in the southern part towards the Panahaikon Mountain flysch formations are present in the northern and northeastern part of the study.

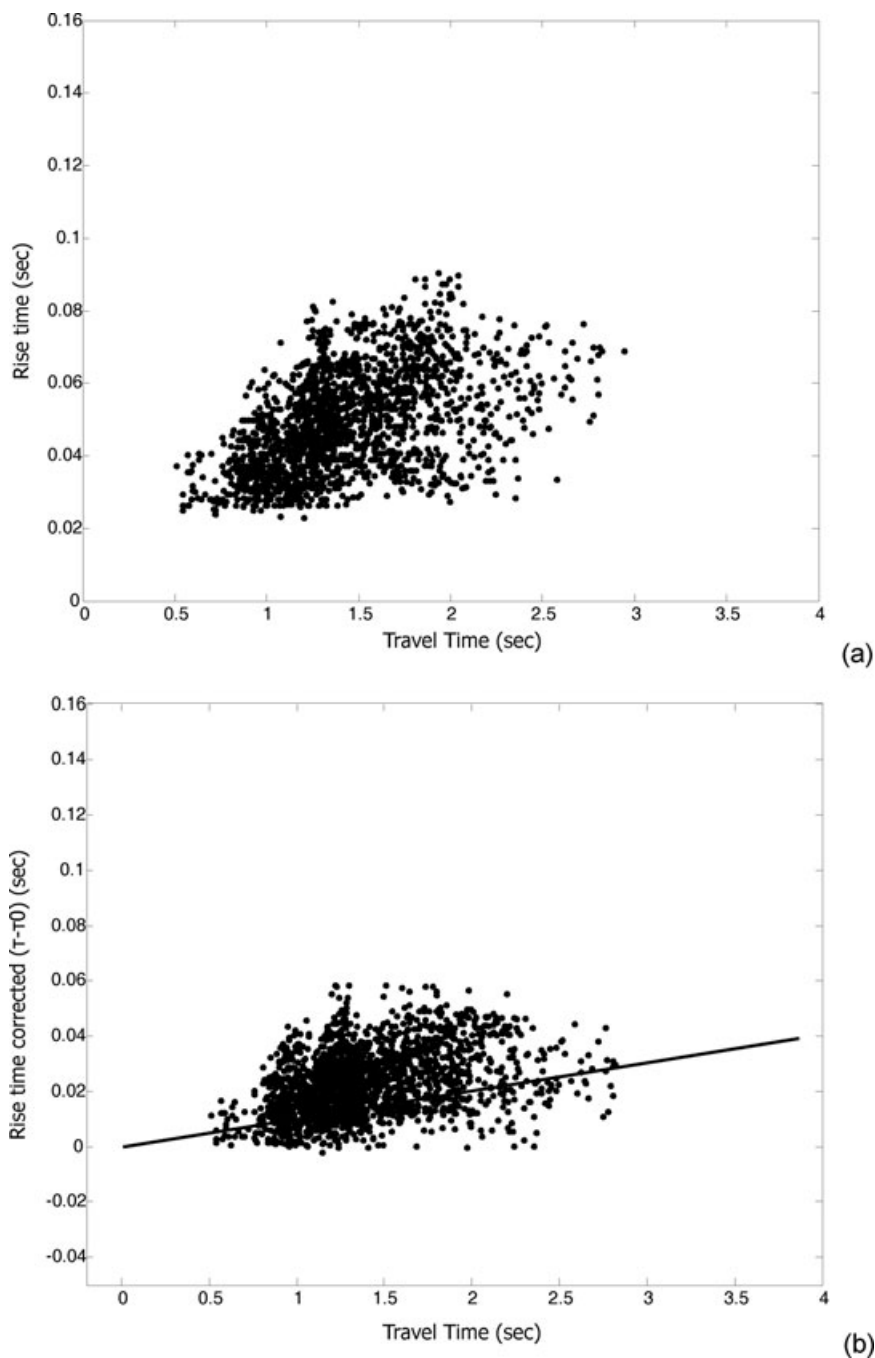


Figure 9 Scatter plot of pulse width versus traveltime. a) Raw τ measured versus traveltime. b) Corrected, $\tau - \tau_0$ versus traveltime. Outliers are removed from the plots. The slope of the straight line fit provides an initial indicative average of Q_0 .

RESULTS

Figure 7 shows the estimation of the initial source rise time (τ_0). The rise times of an event are fitted with a straight line using the least squares algorithm. The intercept rise time of the line is an estimate of the τ_0 value. The downside of this approach is that some of the events that do not have enough rise times picked will have to be discarded. In this investigation, events with less than four, or in some cases, five picks were ignored in the inversion procedure. Another method that could be used would be to employ the Simplex downhill algorithm in order to jointly estimate τ_0 and the average Q_p from minimizing equation (3) as described in De Lorenzo *et al.* (2006). But in this case this approach did not work well for all events. A reason for this might be the limited range of P-wave traveltimes that were measured due to the network geometry.

Figure 6(a) depicts a histogram of all the observed pulse widths in the present investigation that range from 0.02–0.08 s with a mean around 0.05 s. Figure 6(b) shows the corresponding histogram for the reduced values ($\tau - \tau_0$) spanning a narrower range, with the majority of values between 0.01–0.065 s with mean value around 0.025 s.

The corrected data plotted against traveltime (Fig. 9b) show a decrease in standard deviation when compared with the uncorrected data (Fig. 9a). This indicates that the original

variance contains effects of irregularities of both initial pulse width and attenuation structure (Wu and Lees 1996). The obvious outliers have been removed from the data set.

In order to start the inversion procedure an estimate of the Q_p must be made and an initial model constructed that will allow calculating the initial rise time residuals. As we are not interested in τ_0 , a plot of all the measured rise times versus the traveltime, as well as a plot of all the corrected rise times versus the traveltime (Figs 9a,b) is used to obtain a crude estimate of an average Q_p/C . The average Q_p/C from 95 events (1452 traces) yields a Q_p/C of about 102.8. The large variance of the linear fitting implies a deviation of Q_p from homogeneous Q .

These initial estimates of the Q_p/C are used for constructing a homogeneous synthetic initial Q_0 model that will include the area of interest. This model uses a grid of evenly spaced nodes with dimensions of 1 km \times 1 km \times 1 km. In order to improve the initial model for inversion, further trials and testing were conducted using a range of initial homogeneous models and doing forward modelling. The model with the lowest rms was estimated to be the one with a $Q_0 \sim 100$ ($Q_0/C \sim 200$). Also these values are generally in better agreement with previous results, estimated from other seismological observations in the broader area (Tselentis 1998). The best fitting homogeneous model with the smallest rms is used as the initial model in the next steps of the inversion. Figure 10 depicts the calculated

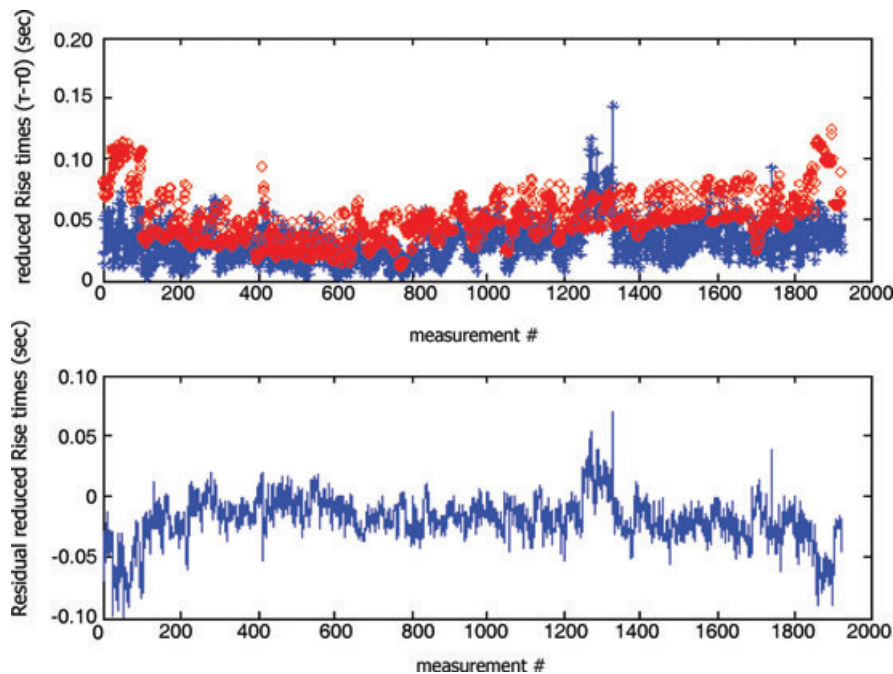


Figure 10 Results of forward modelling for the best fitting homogeneous initial model a) the measured rise time values (blue stars) plotted over the calculated values (red circles) and b) the residual rise times Δd in equation (6).

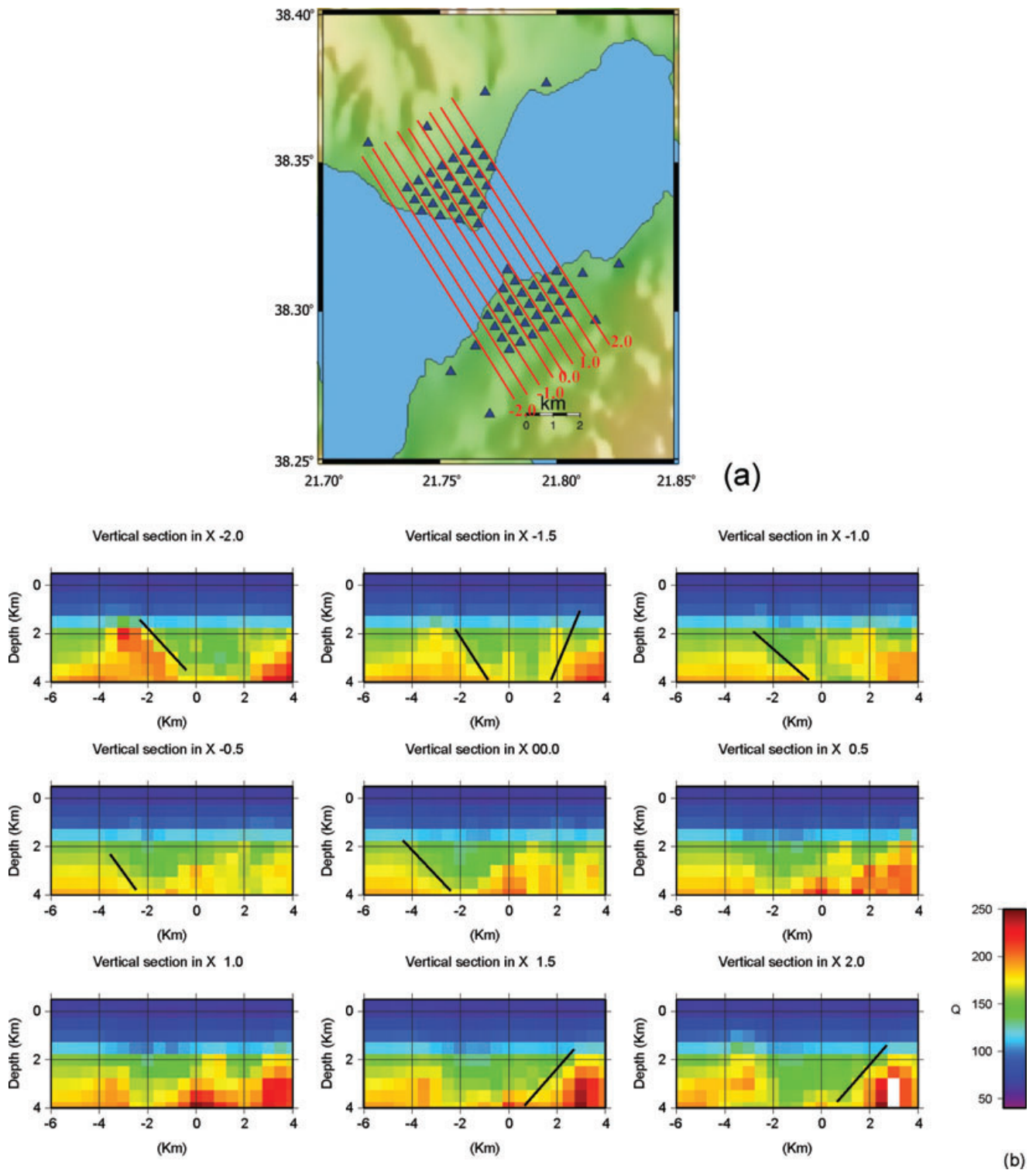


Figure 11 Results of the Q_p inversion including a) profiles along which the vertical cross-sections were derived, b) vertical cross-sections and c) horizontal cross-sections at various depths.

synthetic corrected rise times against the measured ones, as well as the initial residual reduced rise times (Δd in equation (6)).

The estimation of the Jacobian matrix (G) is based on a previously calculated 3D velocity model of the area, which was derived from passive seismic traveltime tomography of the same data set (Tselentis *et al.* 2007). As the number of the measured rise times is smaller than the selected traveltimes, the attenuation model was coarser than the velocity one. For this, the velocity field is resampled according to the new grid parameters of the attenuation model. Also using the rays traced, the term $G_{i,j} = \frac{1}{v_{pi}} ds_{i,j}$ is calculated for every block i of the model and every ray j .

Finally, the damping value ε was chosen, based on the trade-off between model variance and data variance (Eberhart-Phillips 1986). For a range of damping values, single iteration test inversions were conducted. Examining data variance against model variance, the damping value (25) that achieved

a considerable reduction of data variance with only a modest increase in model variance was selected. Next, we calculated the Q_p model of the investigated volume of the area using equation (6).

Figure 11(a,b) depicts several 2D cross-sections across the Rio Antirrio strait cut out from the inverted 3D Q_p model. These have an almost southeast-northwest direction. Figure 11(c) shows plan views of the 3D Q_p model at various fixed depths ranging from 0–4 km. The data are interpolated over a $0.5 \text{ km} \times 0.5 \text{ km} \times 0.5 \text{ km}$ grid.

In order to assess the results a checkerboard test synthetic modelling and inversion was conducted. The checkerboard was constructed taking a homogenous model with $Q_p = 100$ and dimensions $1 \text{ km} \times 1 \text{ km} \times 1 \text{ km}$ and superposing a $\pm 10\%$ attenuation perturbation. Also as the regularization used in the inversion does not favour the reconstruction of sharp attenuation contrasts between the blocks, one model block with average attenuation was interjected between

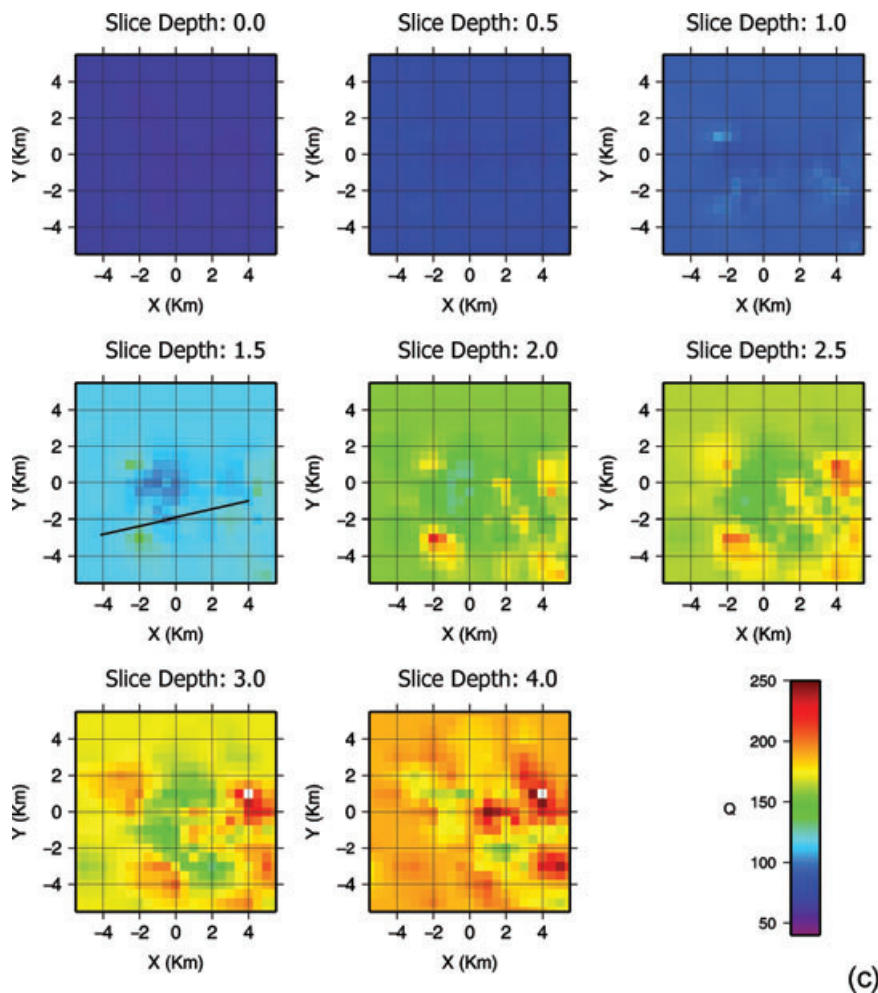


Figure 11 Continued.

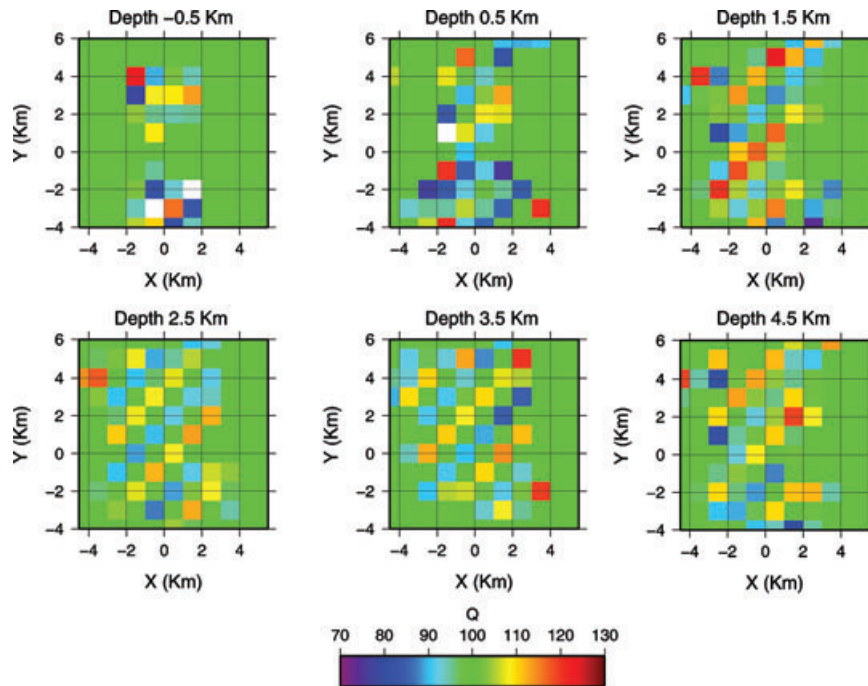


Figure 12 The results of the Q_p checkerboard test inversion.

these blocks. The checkerboard was used in order to construct the traveltimes. In the reconstruction, the original 1D attenuation model was used as starting model for the inversion. The sources and hypocenters were the same as in the actual implementation. Depth slices of the inverted volume of the checkerboard test can be seen in Fig. 12. From the synthetic test we can see that the best resolved areas are in the centre of the volume from 0.5–1 km depth and up to 4 km. In higher depths the coverage is not as good and was not used. The hit count calculated in the better resolved areas was above 200, the derivative weighted sum above 800 and the resolution diagonal elements are above ~ 0.3 (Fig. 13).

The results appear to be in agreement with existing geological information as well as with the velocity tomograms (V_p and V_p/V_s) according to Tselentis *et al.* (2007). The top part of the model is characterized by lower Q_p values. At the Rio site the low Q_p values represent Pliocene and Recent deposits. In other parts this corresponds to Quaternary and Neogene formations. The thickness of these formations in the target area is approximately 500–600 m. These are also the areas with low V_p in the velocity model. Shallow drilling that reaches to 100 m below the sea-bottom also indicates the presence of Quaternary formations, i.e., sand and gravel, clay, silt. The sediments towards Rio appear to be thicker than those of Antirrio.

In larger depths, the Q_p values are increasing and this characterizes sites where bedrock outcrops or underlies the layer of the sediments. In the northwestern part of the study area, high values represent the limestone Klokova Mountain (Fig. 8). The high Q_p in the northern and northeastern part of the study area represent the flysch formations of the Pindos zone. In the southern part of the study area, these values indicate the foot of the Panahaikon Mountain where limestone and radiolarites crop out.

The Rio graben and the Antirrio fault zone at the northern part of the network are prominent features of the area. The major active faults of the study area are an indication of the important role of active tectonics in the attenuation model of the upper crust. Faults in Antirrio disrupt the bedrock formations forming a small depression in the area. The faults at the Rio site define the southern boundary of the basin. The cross-sections (Fig. 11a) across the Rio-Antirrio axis show that at both Rio and Antirrio, low Q anomalies correspond to thick sediments that lie in the depressions formed by the major faults.

CONCLUSIONS

Data processing of passive seismic tomography data should not be limited to P-wave arrival picking and evaluation of the tomographic velocity of a prospective region. It can

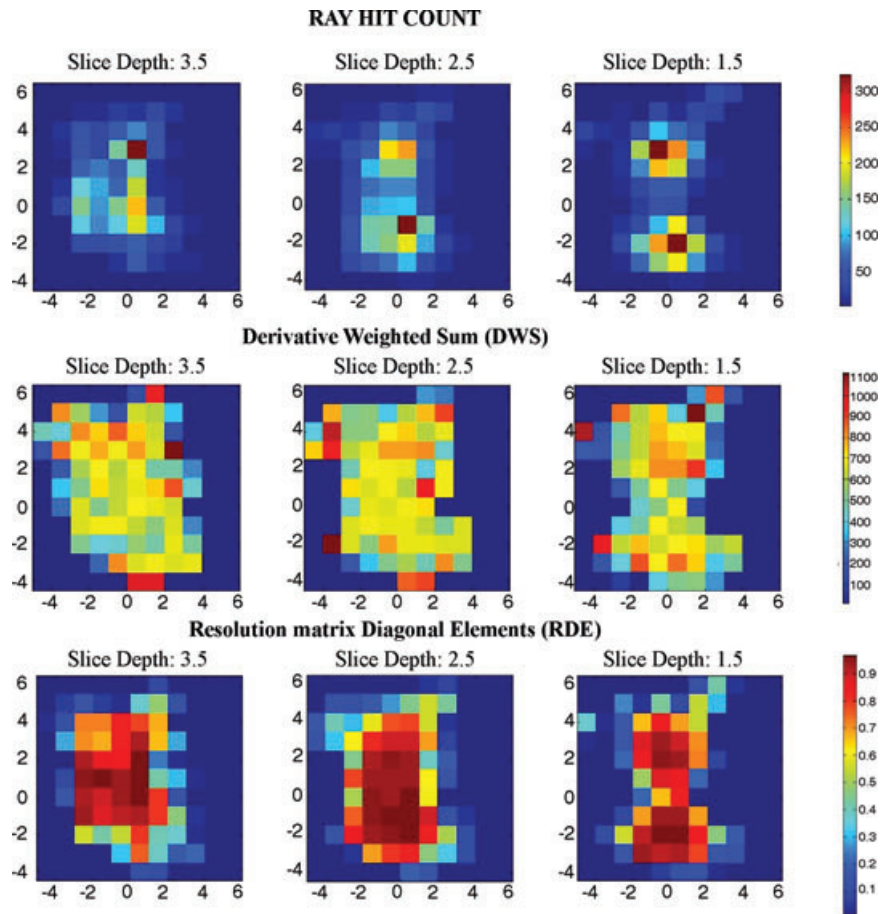


Figure 13 Results for ray hits count, the derivative weighted sums and the resolution diagonal elements for selected depths. The higher values indicate the better resolved areas.

be extended to use additional information from the recorded seismic signals and estimate the attenuation characteristics of the medium.

In this study, a method that is based on the inversion of rise times measured on a passive seismic tomography data set and the assumption that pulse width broadening is linearly related to Q^{-1} , has been modified and applied on real data. Using a prior velocity model derived from passive seismic tomography, a 3D attenuation model of the Rio Antirrio straits area is derived. The average Q in the area is in the order of <90 – 100 for the upper sedimentary formations and increases at greater depths.

The attenuation information provided by the inversion of rise times can be a way to extend the information acquired from a passive seismic network and provide insight into complex relationships in both passive seismic tomography data

sets and the structural and lithological interpretation of data from active seismic surveys.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Aldo Vesnaver for constructive discussions during the EAGE Passive Seismic Workshop in Cyprus. The contribution of Tim Sokos and Anna Serpetsidaki is kindly acknowledged. We would also like to acknowledge two anonymous reviewers who helped to greatly improve the present paper.

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