

1 **Structure and anisotropy of the crust in the Cyclades, Greece, using receiver**
2 **functions constrained by in situ rock textural data**

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14
15 **Abstract**

16
17 Seismic anisotropy data are often used to resolve rock textures and deformation in the
18 crust based on compilations of rock properties that may not be representative of the local
19 geology. In this paper, we use teleseismic receiver functions jointly with in situ rock
20 property data to constrain the seismic structure and anisotropy of the crust in the
21 Cyclades, Greece, located in the back arc region of the Hellenic subduction zone. The
22 receiver function data indicate that the Moho is relatively flat at 25 km depth toward the
23 south and deepens to 33 km in the north, consistent with previous studies, and reveal an
24 intra-crustal discontinuity at depth varying from 3 to 11 km, mostly observed in the
25 south-central Aegean. Harmonic decomposition of the receiver functions further indicates
26 the presence of both shallow and deep crustal anisotropy related to crustal structures. We
27 model synthetic receiver functions based on constraints from in situ rock properties that
28 we measured using the electron-backscatter diffraction technique. Our results indicate
29 that the shallow upper crustal layer is characterized by metapelites with ~5% anisotropy,
30 underlain by a 20 km thick and possibly anisotropic layer of high-pressure rocks
31 comprising blueschist and eclogite and/or restitic crust resulting from magmatism. This
32 study demonstrates the importance of rock textural data in the interpretation of seismic
33 velocity profiles.

34

35 **Introduction**

36

37 Seismic anisotropy, the variations of seismic wave propagation with direction, is a
38 powerful tool to study the alignment of minerals in the crust and mantle resulting from
39 large-scale, coherent deformation caused by tectonic processes (e.g., Jolivet et al., 2009;
40 Porter et al., 2011; Endrun et al., 2011). In the upper mantle, seismic anisotropy is
41 generally interpreted as arising from past or current tectonic processes leading to flow-
42 induced crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) of dry olivine (e.g., Nicolas and
43 Christensen, 1987; Ben Ismaïl and Mainprice, 1998; Jung and Karato, 2001). In the crust,
44 seismic anisotropy can reflect pervasive, fluid-filled cracks or the CPO of anisotropic
45 minerals such as micas. Until recently, the majority of published work on CPO was done
46 using a small number of minerals, in particular olivine, quartz and calcite (Prior et al.,
47 2011), for which we have now a good understanding of their respective CPO
48 development. However, real rocks are rarely monomineralic, and both the modeling of
49 CPO evolution based on these minerals and its relation to observed in situ seismic
50 properties, obtained from seismic waves sampling large volumes of rocks (e.g., crust
51 and/or upper mantle), are problematic. Recent developments in using CPOs to constrain
52 anisotropic seismic properties consider the contribution of all mineral phases in a rock
53 sample and the distribution of rocks in a volume sampled by seismic waves. This
54 approach has been made accessible through the development of the electron backscatter
55 diffraction (EBSD) technique, which measures both single mineral orientation and their
56 distribution in rock samples, and allows the construction of the full elastic tensor for any
57 given rock. This technique now allows a more direct comparison of in situ rock properties
58 to interpret results of seismic anisotropy from observed seismic data.

59

60 Coincident with the development in measuring and modeling CPOs using the EBSD
61 technique, seismic investigations using the teleseismic receiver function method are
62 enabling the study of intra-crustal layering at a scale of 1 to 10 km. Notable examples
63 include the heterogeneous and anisotropic structure of the Himalaya-Tibet collisional
64 orogeny (Nábělek et al., 2009), as well as the crustal structure around continental strike-
65 slip fault systems (e.g., Porter et al., 2011; Audet, 2015). These studies provide direct

66 constraints on the geological and tectonic history of any given area. It has been shown by
67 a few studies (e.g., McDounough and Fountain, 1988; Kern et al., 1993) that laboratory
68 measurements of seismic velocity and anisotropy in rock samples can help interpreting
69 seismic field data; however, no receiver function study to date has used in situ rock
70 seismic properties to interpret or constrain the recovered seismic velocity model.

71

72 In a recent paper, Cossette et al. (2015) used textural data from rock samples collected
73 along an exposed crustal-scale detachment zone (the West Cycladic Detachment System,
74 Grasemann et al., 2012) in the Cycladic islands of the Aegean region to study the in situ
75 seismic properties of representative lithotypes. Mineral CPOs were measured using the
76 EBSD technique to derive seismic anisotropy that can then be used to define anisotropic
77 seismic velocity profiles in the region. The aim of this current study is to resolve the
78 structure and anisotropy of the crust in the Cyclades using a combination of seismic data
79 and in situ rock properties from Cossette et al. (2015). We use teleseismic receiver
80 function data from an array of stations in the Aegean Sea to obtain a velocity model of
81 the crust. Receiver functions are first processed using the harmonic decomposition
82 method (Bianchi et al., 2010; Agostinetti et al., 2011; Audet, 2015) to visualize the lateral
83 and vertical continuity of crustal structure and anisotropy across the array. We then
84 calculate synthetic receiver functions based on seismic anisotropy data from Cossette et
85 al. (2015) to reproduce first-order observations that emerge from the receiver functions
86 and harmonic components, and discuss these results in the context of the tectonic
87 evolution of the Aegean region. Our results give insight into the presence of a
88 discontinuity in the upper crust as well as anisotropy layering from the surface to the
89 Moho, and thus suggest a dominant lithologic control on crustal seismic anisotropy in the
90 Aegean region.

91

92 **Background and setting**

93

94 The Cyclades form an archipelago in the center of the Aegean Sea (**Fig. 1**), currently the
95 back-arc region of the Hellenic subduction zone resulting from the convergence of the
96 African and Eurasian plates. The tectonic history of this region is characterised by the

97 NNE-sense of displacement of the African oceanic lithosphere subducting beneath the
98 Aegean lithosphere. The retreating African slab has caused back-arc extension that
99 commenced in the Oligocene and formed the Aegean basin (Gautier and Brun, 1994).
100 The Cyclades were developed during syn- to post-orogenic extension, as Eocene
101 exhumation revealed high-pressure (HP) rocks from deep portions of the collisional zone,
102 and Oligocene-Miocene unroofing was the result of metamorphic core complex
103 formation (MCC; e.g., Lister et al., 1984). Complex kinematics describe the relative
104 motion of the Aegean micro-plate relative to Eurasia: during the middle Miocene, it
105 underwent clockwise rotation in the western Aegean and counter-clockwise rotation in
106 the eastern, whereas the central Aegean behaved as a coherent block (Kissel and Laj,
107 1988; Walcott and White, 1998). A uniform NNE-SSW stretching lineation is recorded
108 across the Aegean MCCs when restored to pre-Miocene rotation (Morris and Anderson,
109 1996). The Cycladic islands expose the Attic–Cycladic Crystalline Complex, which
110 classically comprises three geologic units (Bonneau, 1984, and references therein). The
111 lowermost unit is the Paleozoic paragneiss and orthogneiss Cycladic Basement intruded
112 by Triassic granitoids, which is overlain by the Cycladic Blueschist Unit, a
113 polymetamorphic Carboniferous–Permian to latest Cretaceous passive-margin sequence
114 (e.g., Dürr et al., 1978; Blake et al., 1981). Boudins of the blueschist and eclogite
115 assemblages that formed during the Hellenic orogeny are now exposed on Syros and
116 Sifnos islands. The Upper Unit forms various klippen across the Aegean islands with
117 relics of ophiolites, granitoids, Cretaceous metamorphic rocks and unmetamorphosed
118 carbonates (e.g., Reinecke et al., 1982; Altherr et al., 1994; Katzir et al., 1996; Trotet et
119 al., 2001; Skarpelis et al., 2008).

120

121 Deformation structures at the microscopic scale such as crystal shape preferred
122 orientations or CPO may give rise to larger scale seismic anisotropy that can be detected
123 using seismological methods. Seismic anisotropy of the crust and mantle in the Aegean
124 has been studied in the last decade using a variety of techniques that have produced a
125 wealth of data. Hatzfeld et al. (2001) studied the shear-wave anisotropy of the upper
126 mantle using the splitting of SKS phases and found that there is significant anisotropy in
127 the north Aegean Sea with a fast axis that aligns with current strain indicators obtained

128 from GPS measurements, as opposed to fossil strain recorded by surface geological
129 fabric. Evangelidis et al. (2011) complemented this study with separate computation
130 methods and found good correlations between fast anisotropy directions and pre-Miocene
131 stretching lineations of MCCs. A receiver function study by Li et al. (2003) proposed that
132 the presence of 8% anisotropy in the crust could explain the polarity reversal observed on
133 the transverse component at the seismograph station on Santorini island. Surface-wave
134 dispersion measurements (Endrun et al., 2008) suggested spatial variations of radial
135 shear-wave anisotropy (horizontally-polarized S-waves faster than vertically-polarized S-
136 waves) in the Aegean, indicating 4-8% anisotropy in the lower crust. Moreover, layered
137 azimuthal anisotropy has been documented in the upper mantle and the crust (Endrun et
138 al., 2011) by Rayleigh-wave analysis. More specifically, Endrun et al. (2011) suggested
139 that the lower crust in the Cyclades is characterised by 3.5% azimuthal anisotropy, due to
140 an anisotropic fabric corresponding to the direction of Miocene crustal extension. In
141 summary, seismic anisotropy studies of the Aegean consistently show that the
142 lithospheric mantle is characterized by horizontal fast axis aligning with the current
143 extension in the north Aegean, whereas the crust is characterized by fast horizontal axis
144 aligning with Miocene extension in the south. Most of these studies, however, rely on
145 depth-integrated measurements (e.g., SKS splitting, surface-wave dispersion) and cannot
146 resolve anisotropic layering within the crust, or more complex models of seismic
147 anisotropy (e.g., dipping axis of hexagonal symmetry).

148

149 Alongside these seismic studies, a textural investigation was conducted by Cossette et al.
150 (2015) describing seismic anisotropy in exhumed rocks along a crustal-scale detachment
151 in the Cyclades. They reported an average of 9.8% and 7.2% of P-wave and S-wave
152 anisotropy, respectively, in upper crustal rocks, and higher values of 20.3% and 12.4%,
153 respectively, in the blueschist assemblages of lower crustal rocks. Their results were well
154 approximated by anisotropy with a slow subvertical axis of hexagonal symmetry (50° to
155 85° for most samples), which is consistent with strong radial anisotropy and weaker
156 azimuthal anisotropy, with the maximum P-wave velocities also corresponding to the
157 direction of Miocene extension.

158

159 **Methods**

160

161 *Receiver functions*

162 Receiver functions are calculated for 21 stations in the Aegean, from continental Greece
163 (Athens) to several islands north of Crete (**Fig. 1a**). Two permanent broadband stations of
164 the Geofon (GE) network provided data from 2007 and 2008 to 2014, and the 19 other
165 temporary broadband stations of the EGELADOS (Z3) temporary network provided data
166 from 2005 to 2007. We specifically selected these 21 stations because we have previously
167 reported in situ rock textural data representative of the Cycladic region only (Cossette al.,
168 2015).

169

170 A first set of receiver functions was calculated from teleseismic P-waves, using
171 earthquake events with a magnitude $M > 5.6$ occurring at an epicentral distance between
172 30° and 90° from each station. For the two stations of the GE network (SANT and APE),
173 the dataset was complemented with receiver functions calculated from PP-waves, using
174 events with a magnitude $M > 6$ and epicentral distances between 60° and 130° . The event
175 distribution for the permanent station APE and the temporary station SERI is shown in
176 **Figure 1b** and **c**. Waveform data were extracted 120 s before and after the arrival time of
177 the direct P-wave. Seismograms with signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) lower than 5 dB on the
178 vertical component in the 0.05-1 Hz frequency band were discarded. The horizontal
179 component data were first rotated into radial and transverse components. The vertical and
180 horizontal components were then decomposed into up-going P (compressional), SV
181 (shear radial) and SH (shear transverse) wave modes following Kennett (1991) and
182 Bostock (1998), and using P-wave velocity (V_p) of 6 km/s and S-wave velocity (V_s) of
183 3.5 km/s, to partially remove the effect of the free surface and isolate the direct P-wave
184 onto a single component of motion. Individual single-event seismograms were then
185 processed to produce receiver functions by deconvolving the P component of motion
186 from both SV and SH components. Deconvolution is performed in the frequency domain
187 using a Wiener filter that takes into account pre-event noise on both vertical and
188 horizontal components to correct for tilting effects (Audet, 2010). Following
189 deconvolution, we further discarded anomalous large amplitude and oscillatory data using

190 a root-mean-square criterion. The final receiver functions were filtered between 0.1 and
191 0.5 Hz and stacked into back-azimuth and slowness bins of 10° and 0.002 s/km,
192 respectively.

193

194 Receiver functions represent P-to-S converted signals generated from discontinuities in
195 seismic velocity. If the crust were uniform and isotropic with a flat Moho, the receiver
196 functions would show no variation in SV amplitude with back-azimuth, and no energy
197 would be converted onto the SH component. Wherever the receiver functions do display
198 SV amplitude variations with back-azimuth and signal on the SH component, they imply
199 structural heterogeneity (e.g., dipping discontinuity), elastic anisotropy, or both (Cassidy,
200 1992; Levin and Park, 1997; Savage, 1998; Frederiksen and Bostock, 2000; Audet,
201 2015). The receiver functions sample anisotropy or structural heterogeneity differently
202 based on the azimuth and incidence angle of the ray path. However, for simple models of
203 heterogeneity (dipping interface) and hexagonal anisotropy with a 45° dipping fast or
204 slow axis of symmetry, we expect to see a 360° periodicity in amplitude with back-
205 azimuth, and a 90° shift between SV and SH amplitudes (Bianchi et al., 2010; Audet,
206 2015). For anisotropy models involving near-horizontal axis of hexagonal symmetry the
207 patterns are characterized by 180° periodicity, whereas models with near-vertical axis of
208 symmetry produce little variations in back-azimuth due to the near-vertical ray paths of
209 teleseismic P-waves. For intermediate cases of anisotropy with hexagonal symmetry or
210 models with lower elastic symmetry (e.g., orthorhombic), the patterns can be much more
211 complex.

212

213 **Figures 2a** and **c** show the receiver functions for stations APE and SANT, on Naxos and
214 Santorini islands, respectively. Both stations have a back-azimuth coverage that allows
215 direct visualization of radial amplitude variations with back-azimuth. In particular, we
216 observe differences in the arrival time of an early positive arrival (≤ 1 s) at station APE;
217 between 225° and 325° of back-azimuth, this signal arrives at ~ 0.5 s, whereas between
218 325° and 160° it arrives at ~ 1 s (dashed line in **Fig. 2a**). The transverse component
219 displays polarity reversals at ~ 0.5 s around 140° and 320° of back-azimuth (black arrows
220 in **Fig. 2a**). The radial component at station SANT also shows variations in arrival times,

221 for example between 50° and 180° of back-azimuth, where we observe a positive arrival
222 delayed from ~ 3.5 to ~ 4.5 s (dashed line in **Fig. 2c**). There is significant energy on the
223 transverse component as well, with several polarity reversals visible at a back-azimuth of
224 120° (black arrow in **Fig. 2c**). These observations strongly suggest the presence of
225 structural heterogeneity and/or elastic anisotropy in the crust.

226

227 *P-wave ray angles*

228 Stereonets showing the distribution of P-ray angles at Moho depth (~ 30 km) were
229 determined in order to see if the receiver functions could resolve the anisotropy in the
230 crust, assuming a P-wave velocity model of the crust estimated from textural data of
231 representative in situ rocks (Cossette et al., 2015). In this case the crust would be
232 characterized by a vertical slow axis of hexagonal symmetry, such that potential
233 horizontal rays would travel at the fast velocity but data with near-vertical rays will
234 sample the slow velocities. Using the ray parameter and the back-azimuth of the
235 teleseismic P-waves used in calculating receiver functions, the corresponding trend and
236 plunge of the rays were calculated and plotted for each station (**Fig. 3**). The P-ray points
237 are concentrated in the center of the stereonet where P-wave velocity is low, with plunges
238 around 60° (incidence angles of $\sim 30^\circ$), and would not sample the full directional
239 variability (or anisotropy) in P-wave velocity of the crust. Therefore, the receiver
240 functions would necessarily resolve a seismic anisotropy lower than the total anisotropy.

241

242 *Migration*

243 Post-processing of receiver functions was performed in order to extract the information
244 on structure and anisotropy of the crust. The receiver functions were first migrated from
245 time to depth using a one-dimensional velocity model (**Table 1**) based on the studies of
246 Bruestle et al. (2012) Makris and et al. (2013) in the Aegean region and on the calculated
247 seismic velocities obtained from Cycladic rocks (Cossette et al., 2015). Since the
248 Cyclades are relatively free of sediments (Makris et al., 2013), P-wave velocities at the
249 surface correspond to those of metamorphic rocks characterised by high values (~ 6 km/s),
250 and the Moho is located at approximately 30 km depth (e.g., Bruestle et al., 2012; Makris
251 et al., 2013). The P-to-S velocity ratio (V_p/V_s) varies from an upper bound of 1.69 (schist

252 + marble + quartzite) and a lower bound of 1.71 (schist + marble + quartzite + blueschist)
 253 in the upper crustal section (Cossette et al., 2015) and increases to higher values in the
 254 lower crust and mantle (1.74-1.75). We interpolate the Vs and Vp values at an interval of
 255 1 km, and employ the equation of Dueker and Sheehan (1997) to migrate receiver
 256 functions over a depth range of 0 to 100 km.

257

258 *Harmonic decomposition*

259 We jointly analyse the migrated SV and SH receiver functions by decomposing them into
 260 back-azimuth harmonics following the method described in Bianchi et al. (2010) and
 261 modified by Audet (2015). The harmonic terms are given by:

$$\begin{pmatrix} S_{V_1}(z) \\ \vdots \\ S_{V_N}(z) \\ S_{H_1}(z) \\ \vdots \\ S_{H_N}(z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cos(\phi_1 - \alpha) & \sin(\phi_1 - \alpha) & \cos(2(\phi_1 - \alpha)) & \sin(2(\phi_1 - \alpha)) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & \cos(\phi_N - \alpha) & \sin(\phi_N - \alpha) & \cos(2(\phi_N - \alpha)) & \sin(2(\phi_N - \alpha)) \\ 0 & \cos(\phi_1 - \alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}) & \sin(\phi_1 - \alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}) & \cos(2(\phi_1 - \alpha) + \frac{\pi}{4}) & \sin(2(\phi_1 - \alpha) + \frac{\pi}{4}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cos(\phi_N - \alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}) & \sin(\phi_N - \alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}) & \cos(2(\phi_N - \alpha) + \frac{\pi}{4}) & \sin(2(\phi_N - \alpha) + \frac{\pi}{4}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A(z) \\ B_{\parallel}(z) \\ B_{\perp}(z) \\ C_{\parallel}(z) \\ C_{\perp}(z) \end{pmatrix}$$

262

(1)

263 where the parameter α is described in the following paragraph. In this equation, the sets
 264 of SV and SH amplitudes are expressed as sums of $\cos(k\varphi)$ and $\sin(k\varphi)$, where k is the
 265 harmonic degree (here k is 0, 1, or 2) and φ is the back-azimuth, at each depth increment.
 266 The resulting five harmonic terms (1 for $k=0$, 2 each for $k=1$ and $k=2$) thus represent the
 267 back-azimuth variations in the amplitude of SV and SH resolved onto each harmonic
 268 degree as a function of depth. The first term A represents the amplitude of the SV signal
 269 that does not vary with back-azimuth ($k=0$); it therefore represents signal originating from
 270 background velocity contrasts onto which anisotropy or heterogeneity is superimposed.
 271 The two terms B correspond to one periodicity with back-azimuth ($k=1$) for two
 272 orthogonal orientations (B_{\parallel} and B_{\perp}), and indicate the presence of either a dipping
 273 interface or an anisotropic layer with a plunging symmetry axis (Bianchi et al., 2010;
 274 Agostinetti et al., 2011; Audet, 2015). The two terms C correspond to two cycles with
 275 back-azimuth ($k=2$) and indicate anisotropy with a horizontal symmetry axis (Levin and
 276 Park, 1997; Shiomi and Park, 2008), or azimuthal anisotropy.

277

278 In this coordinate system the $k=1$ harmonics ($B_{||}$ and B_{\perp}) would represent signal
279 decomposed into N-S and W-E orientations (Bianchi et al., 2010). Audet (2015)
280 introduced an azimuth α that represents a rotation of the coordinate system defined anti-
281 clockwise from north, for which a particular harmonic component has maximum energy
282 (variance) over a given depth range. Here we search for the value of α that minimizes
283 the energy on the second component (i.e., where the variance is minimal on $B_{||}$). This
284 azimuth corresponds either to the strike of a dipping interface or to the horizontal
285 orientation of the fast axis of symmetry of an anisotropic medium. The depth range over
286 which the orientation α was determined is from 0 to 30 km depth, roughly corresponding
287 to the Moho. This procedure limits our ability to characterize intra-crustal variations in
288 the orientation of anisotropy, and the recovered azimuth therefore represents the
289 orientation of the dominant source of anisotropy in the crust.

290

291 Figure 4 illustrates the relation between SV and SH amplitudes, the harmonic component
292 and α for a model characterized by a shallow anisotropic layer with a dipping slow axis
293 of hexagonal symmetry. Similar arguments can be used to deduce the relation obtained
294 for other models involving hexagonal anisotropy or dipping interfaces (see also Porter et
295 al., 2011).

296

297 **Figures 2b** and **d** show the harmonic decomposition for stations APE and SANT. The
298 terms A ($k=0$) correspond to the migrated SV components stacked over all back-azimuths
299 (**Fig. 2a** and **c**), and show the velocity contrasts that do not vary with back-azimuth. On
300 the other components, stronger amplitudes correspond to a preferred orientation (α in this
301 case). For station APE, there is very little energy on the C terms, which allows us to
302 discard the presence of anisotropy with horizontal symmetry axis. The energy was
303 minimised on $B_{||}$ (with an obtained orientation α of 80°), thus the signal is dominantly
304 projected onto B_{\perp} . On Santorini (SANT), the C terms contain less energy compared to
305 the A and B terms, again indicating a dipping interface or anisotropy with a plunging axis
306 of wave propagation. Although the variance was minimised on $B_{||}$ (with an estimated α of
307 11°), there is still significant energy on this component, and a single trend of symmetry

308 axis for the entire depth range could not be found. Although the harmonic terms for
309 SANT are ambiguous compared with those for station APE, these results suggest the
310 presence of a dipping layer and/or anisotropy with a plunging axis instead of anisotropy
311 with a horizontal axis.

312

313 **Results**

314

315 *Receiver functions*

316 **Figure 5** shows the radial component receiver functions stacked over all back-azimuths
317 in the time domain and migrated to depth in order to visualize the main features of the
318 data. The positive arrival at ~ 3 s corresponds to the downward increase in velocity at the
319 crust-mantle interface, which varies between 22.5 to 33 km depth across the array (bold
320 dashed line in **Fig. 5**). Although not shown here, a second positive pulse with similar
321 amplitude is found between 10 and 11 s, followed by a negative arrival at 12-13 s, which
322 correspond to the free-surface reverberations. At ~ 1 s, a set of positive arrivals can be
323 detected, corresponding to a downward increase in velocity at a depth of approximately 3
324 to 11.5 km (thin red dashed line in **Fig. 5**). There seems to be an additional negative
325 arrival at ~ 4.5 s, corresponding to a downward decrease in velocity at depths of 40-50 km
326 (thin blue dashed line in **Fig. 5**). The double positive-negative pulses between ~ 3 to 4.5 s
327 may indicate a ~ 10 km high-velocity mantle lid (shaded area in **Fig. 5**) immediately
328 below the Moho, sandwiched between the low velocity crust and underlain by normal
329 velocity mantle. In this paper we focus on results for the crust and ignore deeper
330 structure.

331

332 *Harmonics*

333 **Figure 6** shows the corresponding variations in the five harmonic components, sorted by
334 station location from north to south. The A term ($k=0$) shows two interfaces with positive
335 velocity contrasts (**Fig. 6a**) identical to the stacks of radial components of the migrated
336 receiver functions (**Fig. 5b**). The shallower discontinuity (thin dashed line in **Fig. 5a**),
337 clearer in the southern part of the profile, appears almost continuously and is found at
338 depths of 3 to 11.5 km. The second discontinuity (Moho; bold dashed line in **Fig. 5a**) is

339 found at depths varying from 22.5 to 33 km. This discontinuity is better defined under the
340 southern stations (i.e., south-central Aegean), from KEAI to SANT, where it is relatively
341 horizontal (average depth of 25.5 km). Beneath the northern stations, the discontinuity is
342 not as clear and seems to be located a little deeper with a reduced velocity contrast. The
343 uncertainty in the depth estimates of the interfaces varies between 2 to 5 km due to the
344 width of receiver function peaks and the uncertainty in the background one-dimensional
345 velocity model used in the migration.

346

347 **Figure 6b** and **c** show the $B_{||}$ and B_{\perp} components, respectively, that reflect periodicities
348 of 360° in back-azimuth. Since we minimise the energy on the $B_{||}$ component in order to
349 find α , we find insignificant energy on this component, indicating that the anisotropy is
350 coherent within the crustal column. The B_{\perp} harmonics show features (shaded areas in
351 **Fig. 6c**) that suggest the presence of either dipping interfaces or anisotropic layers that
352 are sub-horizontal in the central and southern parts of the profile and appear to be
353 deepening toward the north. Positive amplitudes are found at a depth of ~ 50 km toward
354 the north and gently rise up and flatten out at depths of ~ 32 km (shaded area in red). Just
355 above, we find negative amplitudes with the same shape arriving at depths of ~ 38 km in
356 the north, rising up and flattening to depths of ~ 18 km in the central part (shaded area in
357 blue). These amplitudes produce a polarity reversal, best seen in the south-central
358 Aegean, occurring at the same depth as the second discontinuity (bold dashed line in **Fig.**
359 **6c**) on the A component (i.e., at 25.5 km depth). Positive amplitudes are also observed at
360 shallow depths, around 5-12 km (thin dashed line in **Fig. 6c**).

361

362 The harmonics with $k=2$ (**Fig. 5d, e**) do not contain significant energy and are
363 comparatively noisy. It is interesting to note, however, that the C_{\perp} component yields
364 similar patterns as in the B_{\perp} component, with positive and negative arrivals that are
365 deeper in the north and shallower in the central and southern parts (blue and red shaded
366 areas in **Fig. 6e**).

367

368 Interestingly, the azimuths α for which the energy is minimised on the B_{\parallel} component do
369 not give any consistent orientation (Fig. 6) – rather, they sample orientations between 0°
370 and 180° .

371

372 **Modeling**

373

374 The harmonic terms are useful in the visualization of lateral and depth variations in
375 directional properties but provide limited insight into the source of the anisotropy. We
376 therefore attempt to constrain the velocity structure and anisotropy of the crust and
377 mantle by simulating receiver function data. Although we cannot rule out the presence of
378 dipping interfaces based on the results from the previous sections, we focus here on
379 modeling receiver function data using elastic anisotropy for two main reasons. First, if the
380 signal on the B_{\perp} harmonics were due to dipping interfaces, we would expect the azimuth
381 α to be consistent with the general deepening of the main crustal discontinuities (e.g., **Fig**
382 **6a**), which is not the case. Second, there is strong evidence for elastic anisotropy in the
383 crust and mantle from previous seismic studies (e.g., Li et al., 2003; Endrun et al., 2008;
384 Endrun et al., 2011) and from in situ rock textural data (Cossette et al., 2015).
385 Unfortunately the bias introduced from neglecting the effect of dipping interfaces is
386 difficult to estimate, and would require further work.

387

388 We generate synthetic receiver functions by modeling plane wave propagation through a
389 stack of homogeneous, anisotropic layers using the reflectivity technique of Kennett
390 (1983) and Thomson (1996). Each layer is defined by its thickness, density and P- and S-
391 wave velocities. Anisotropy is modeled as hexagonal symmetry with either a fast or slow
392 axis of symmetry, and is parameterized by the percent anisotropy and the trend and
393 plunge of the symmetry axis. Parameters used in one-dimensional velocity models are
394 based on seismic properties constrained by in situ rock properties described by Cossette
395 et al. (2015) and structural information (e.g., depth to discontinuities) constrained by the
396 receiver function data. Synthetic receiver functions are calculated at the same back-
397 azimuth and slowness range as the observed data. Each set of synthetic receiver functions
398 is further processed using the harmonic decomposition to compare with the observed

399 harmonic terms. The objective of the modeling is to reproduce the calculated receiver
400 functions using anisotropy information from textural data. We calculate the root-mean-
401 square of the residuals (**Table 2**) between the calculated and synthetic receiver functions
402 over the first 5 s in order to quantitatively evaluate the fit to receiver function data. We
403 also show how adding anisotropy to the velocity models improves the fit with respect to
404 an isotropic model. We perform synthetic modeling of receiver functions at station APE
405 because it has a good back-azimuth coverage and high signal-to-noise ratio, with clear
406 polarity reversals that suggest the presence of anisotropy. The consistency of the
407 harmonic terms (**Fig. 6**) suggests that any model that reproduces the data for station APE
408 can be confidently extended to other stations in the network, with minor adjustments
409 (e.g., depth to crustal interfaces).

410

411 Station APE yields two positive arrivals on the radial component stacks, at depths of ~ 7
412 km and ~ 27 km (horizontal red lines in **Fig. 2b**). In order to reproduce these two
413 discontinuities, we tested several models taking into consideration the geology of the
414 Aegean, in order to create two velocity jumps at 7 and 27 km. The lithology of the region
415 comprises blueschist and eclogite rocks from the Cycladic Blueschist unit, which are
416 characterised by faster seismic velocities than the metapelites and marbles and thus
417 appropriate for a velocity increase at 7 km. The tectonic extension that led to the
418 formation of the metamorphic domes in the Aegean only exhumed a small part of these
419 HP rocks. It is likely that we find the same lithotypes at shallow depth, discretely
420 overlying the Cycladic basement composed of schists and orthogneiss (Andriessen et al.,
421 1987). At 27 km depth we expect to reach the Aegean lithospheric mantle and therefore
422 assign mantle values below this interface. Below we present 6 models (**Table 2, Fig. 7**)
423 and describe briefly how the synthetic receiver functions were affected by the variation of
424 specific parameters.

425

426 Model 1 (**Fig. 7a**) is the most simple and is based on the observation of a polarity reversal
427 at 140° and 320° on the transverse component of station APE. In the first layer we use a
428 slow axis of symmetry, as found in most minerals in the upper crust with a hexagonal
429 symmetry approximation (e.g., Lloyd et al., 2009; Erdman et al., 2013), trending 320°

430 with a plunge of 60° and no more than 10% anisotropy (Cossette et al., 2015). The
431 lithology corresponds to metapelites with seismic velocities calculated from EBSD data
432 (**Table 2**). The second layer has an average of blueschist and eclogite seismic velocities
433 (Bezacier et al., 2010; Cossette et al., 2015), and this layer is isotropic for simplicity.
434 Synthetic receiver functions for this model show positive arrivals at ~ 1 and ~ 3 s, similar
435 to calculated receiver functions at station APE (**Fig. 2a**). The amplitude at 1 s is smaller
436 than the one at 3 s, consistent with the observations. On the transverse component of the
437 synthetic receiver functions, the polarity reversals are reproduced at 1 s and at back-
438 azimuths of 140° and 320° (black arrows in **Fig. 7a**), compared with ~ 0.5 s for the
439 observed data. The general pattern, in particular the negative amplitudes from 2-5 s,
440 between 0° and 140° back-azimuth (dashed box in **Fig. 7a**), also matches the calculated
441 receiver functions. The harmonic decomposition shows that the high velocity layers are
442 located at 7 km and 25 km. There is no energy on $B_{||}$ ($\alpha = 88^\circ$) and B_{\perp} has a positive
443 pulse at ~ 8 km depth, as in the observed data.

444

445 Model 2 (**Fig. 7b**) has the same parameters as Model 1, except for a trend of symmetry
446 axis that is now 140° . The resulting receiver functions show the same radial stack as in
447 Model 1, although the variations in SV amplitude with back-azimuth are different. There
448 is a good match between the synthetic and calculated receiver functions for the positive
449 amplitudes at 0.5-1 s, between 75° and 300° back-azimuth. However, between 300° and
450 75° back-azimuth, the synthetic receiver functions yield earlier arrival times (black
451 dashed line in **Fig. 7b**). The transverse components show a pattern that does not
452 correspond to the observed one. Even though the polarity reversals occur at the right
453 back-azimuths (black arrows in **Fig. 7b**), they are of opposite sign. The harmonic
454 decomposition allows us to find an azimuth α of 82° when energy is minimised on $B_{||}$,
455 very similar to the α of 80° at station APE. Although α is very similar, the least square
456 values are higher compared to Model 1 and indicate a poorer fit.

457

458 In Model 3 we explored the effect of changing the azimuth of the symmetry axis. We
459 found that increasing the azimuth to 350° yields a better fit to the radial component, but a
460 worse fit to the transverse component. Furthermore, a quite different orientation α of 67°

461 is obtained. When decreasing the azimuth to 310° , the fit to the SV component is much
462 worse, whereas the SH component fit decreases only slightly. We found that an azimuth
463 of 330° was the best estimate (**Fig. 7c**), with an orientation α of 81° , very similar to the α
464 at station APE.

465

466 Varying the anisotropy in the upper crust, in Model 4 (**Fig. 7d**), allowed us to find that
467 the fit to the SV and SH components rapidly decreases with higher values of anisotropy.
468 The best fit was obtained with an anisotropy of 5%; values lower than 5% also lead to a
469 poorer fit.

470

471 Model 5 considers anisotropy in the second layer. Since the seismic anisotropy of
472 eclogite is well approximated with hexagonal symmetry with a slow axis and is very
473 weak (1-4%, Bezacier et al., 2010; Worthington et al., 2013), we first modeled slow
474 anisotropy of 1-3% in the second layer, which gave a poor match between calculated and
475 synthetic receiver functions. On the other hand, we obtained better results when modeling
476 an anisotropy of $<5\%$ with a fast axis of symmetry (**Fig. 7e**). The transverse component
477 shows more obvious negative amplitudes between 0° and 100° back-azimuth, at 1.5-2 s
478 (dashed box in **Fig. 7e**), similar to what is found at station APE. Moreover, the fit was
479 better with an azimuth of 320° instead of 330° for the fast axis of symmetry. The
480 harmonic decomposition for this model yields an orientation α of 85° , and the B \perp term
481 now displays a double polarity as found at station APE.

482

483 We made other observations that are not compiled in the table, but are summarised here.
484 Adding a 1 km-thick layer of higher velocity (i.e., 6.5 km/s) at the surface with the same
485 anisotropy (5%) as in the metapelites increases the fit of the SV component with little
486 effect on the SH component. It allows creating the negative amplitudes (dashed circle in
487 **Fig. 7f**) observed at 0-0.5 s on the APE receiver functions and 0-2 km depth on the APE
488 harmonic decomposition (dashed circle in **Fig. 2b**). Using more gentle plunges for the
489 symmetry axis creates a worse match. Steeper plunges attenuate the effect of anisotropy
490 and obliterate the patterns on the transverse component. A thin layer of high anisotropy
491 (10%, which could correspond to very anisotropic blueschist assemblage) just above the

492 20 km thick layer notably increases the fit of the SV component, and only slightly
493 decreases the fit of the SH component. Model 6 (**Fig. 7f**) is an attempt for a more
494 complex model accounting for these observations and comprising many parameters. It
495 includes a thin layer of high velocity at the surface, 6 km of anisotropic metapelites, 1 km
496 of high anisotropy (with densities and velocities corresponding to blueschist) and 19 km
497 of dense material with a fast axis of symmetry for the anisotropy. This creates the best fit
498 for the radial component while maintaining an acceptable fit to the transverse component
499 relative to the other models.

500

501 **Discussion**

502

503 Our results are summarized in Figure 8. The radial component stacks of the receiver
504 functions and the A harmonic terms all point to a discontinuity at 22.5-33 km depth,
505 characterised by a sharp downward velocity increase that likely corresponds to the Moho,
506 with the south-central Aegean showing a relatively flat Moho with an average depth of
507 25.5 km. Similar Moho depths of 25-29 km have been documented in the northern and
508 central Aegean (Bohnhoff et al., 2001; Tiberi et al., 2001; Li et al., 2003; Tirel et al.,
509 2004; Sodoudi et al., 2006, 2013; Makris et al., 2013). Low crustal thicknesses are likely
510 caused by back-arc extension associated with elevated sub-crustal temperatures. These
511 results are consistent with the thermal isostasy model of Hyndman and Currie (2011) that
512 relates low crustal thickness in back-arc regions to uniformly high elevation in modern
513 Cordilleras that is supported by a hot, buoyant mantle. This model predicts a crustal
514 thickness of ~27 km in back-arcs where the elevation is at sea level (compared to ~38 km
515 in a stable craton at the same elevation), indicating that the mantle beneath the Aegean
516 Sea may be on average 250°C hotter compared to mantle temperatures beneath cratons,
517 from the surface down to ~200 km depth. Moreover, we find the thinnest crust (22.5 km)
518 for the islands of Ios and Naxos, which are high temperature domes. Andros, which only
519 experienced moderate heating during the Eocene (Jolivet and Brun, 2008), has a higher
520 crustal thickness of 29 km and stations AT01, AT03 and AT04, on the continent, also
521 have thicker crusts varying between 27 and 32 km (Figure 8).

522

523 The harmonics with an order $k=1$ (in particular, B_{\perp}) give insights into the depth and
524 lateral variations in the anisotropic structure, and show a deepening of a double-polarity
525 pulse from south to north. These signals seem to mirror the ones of the A harmonics,
526 where the Moho appears to be deeper in the north as well, and where it overlaps the
527 double polarity observed on the B_{\perp} component. The origin of the deepening double-
528 polarity layer to ~ 50 km depth on the B_{\perp} component is ambiguous and may represent a
529 north-dipping low-velocity zone or a dipping layer of anisotropic material. However the
530 Hellenic slab is >75 km deep in the southernmost portion of the array, with greater depths
531 toward the north (Li et al., 2003; Sodoudi et al., 2006), thus the double-polarity pulses
532 cannot be directly linked with the subducting crust of the African lithosphere. Moreover,
533 the Aegean Moho is documented to be relatively flat in the Aegean back-arc basin (e.g.,
534 Tirel et al., 2004) and the estimated azimuths α are not consistently oriented with the
535 strike of a single dipping interface. Li et al. (2003) reported that at station SANT, an
536 unlikely dip of 40° of the crust-mantle interface would be needed to resolve the variation
537 in arrival times at the Moho, thus favouring the hypothesis of elastic anisotropy. This
538 suggests the presence of an anisotropic layer rather than a dipping interface, although we
539 cannot rule out the occurrence of dipping layers with our data. Mineral anisotropy is
540 strongly expected due to the presence of pervasive stretching lineations related to ductile
541 flow in the weakened lower crust during the exhumation of metamorphic core complexes
542 in the Cyclades (Jolivet et al., 2013). At the observed depth of the polarity reversal,
543 however, anisotropy would most likely be related to flow in the mantle lithosphere,
544 oriented parallel to the current strain field of extension (Endrun et al., 2011).

545

546 The azimuths α obtained from the minimization of variance on the B_{\parallel} component
547 represent either the strike of a dipping interface or the orientation of the fast axis of
548 symmetry in anisotropic materials with hexagonal symmetry. Our data yield azimuths
549 ranging between 0° and 360° , suggesting that the trend of the anisotropy is not coherent
550 across the array of stations. However, the apparent scatter may be expected for a sub-
551 vertical axis with very steep plunges, where the trend of the anisotropy axis is more
552 difficult to resolve, indicating that the symmetry axis is dominantly vertical. This is
553 consistent with the study by Cossette et al. (2015), where a slow sub-vertical axis of P-

554 wave velocity was the best approximation for the observed seismic anisotropy. The trend
555 of the slow symmetry axis is obtained by adding 90° to the estimated azimuth α . The
556 harmonic decomposition performed here also corroborates the result of a sub-vertical
557 axis, since a horizontal axis of symmetry would be mostly observed on the C component.
558 Finally, the energy still present on the $B_{||}$ component at some stations after minimizing
559 the variance on this component suggests that there are likely different anisotropic layers
560 with slightly different trends of symmetry axis at various levels within the crust.

561

562 We note that the seismic velocity models are not unique as several models could fit the
563 calculated data almost equally well. These models can become quite complex when
564 defining several layers with many parameters, thus we preferred to focus on the simplest
565 ones. Our models require a thick layer of ~ 20 km of almost constant and high velocity in
566 order to create two velocity jumps similar to the ones observed at station APE. There is
567 evidence that the Cycladic Basement unit experienced HP metamorphism, later than the
568 HP metamorphic episode of the Cycladic Blueschist Unit (Ring et al., 2001 and
569 references therein), which could explain the presence of dense and high-velocity material
570 beneath the upper crust. Moreover, due to the significant crustal thinning and extension
571 (700 km, Jolivet and Brun, 2008), the Cyclades experienced Miocene magmatism (e.g.,
572 Serifos, Naxos, Tinos, Mykonos islands) and we speculate that partial melting probably
573 resulted in a restitic lower crust, which would have higher seismic velocities since it
574 would be depleted in low-temperature (i.e., lower velocity) minerals like muscovite,
575 potassium feldspar and quartz. However not all stations in the Cyclades require this thick
576 layer of high-velocity material, as shown by the downward velocity decrease around 1.5-
577 2 s (~ 15 km depth) at station ANAF, for example.

578

579 In the central Aegean mantle lithosphere, seismic anisotropy has been found to be small
580 (Endrun et al., 2011), consistent with this region having undergone little deformation in
581 the last 20 Myr. Our data point to the same result, where the best (and simplest) models
582 comprise only 5% of anisotropy in the upper crust (Figure 8). This is also consistent with
583 steep incident P-rays sampling only low values of anisotropy (**Fig. 7a**). It appears that
584 $<5\%$ anisotropy with a fast axis of symmetry is needed in the 20 km thick lower crustal

585 layer in order to reproduce the double polarity on the B_{\perp} (Figure 8). This is rather
586 unexpected, since most minerals in the upper to lower crust are well approximated by
587 hexagonal anisotropy with slow axis of symmetry. It has nonetheless been found in other
588 receiver function studies that lower crust anisotropy was best reproduced with fast axis
589 symmetry (e.g., Sherrington et al., 2004; Tian et al., 2008).

590

591 The fact that we find slow and fast symmetry axes of anisotropy suggests that the
592 meaning of the orientation α is ambiguous. Although the synthetic models find an
593 azimuth α very similar to the 80° obtained at station APE, it cannot represent the
594 orientation of both slow and fast axes at the same time, since they are shifted by 90° . A
595 test was conducted for station APE using a depth range of 7 km (corresponding to the
596 metapelite layer thickness) for the calculation of α in the harmonic decomposition. The
597 orientation obtained is 102° , which means that a slow axis of symmetry would be
598 oriented at 192° for the upper crust characterised by metapelites. This is consistent with
599 the NE-SW orientation of Miocene extension, and also with the maximum velocity and
600 anisotropy orientations calculated from EBSD data for the same rocks (Cossette et al.,
601 2015; Figure 8). It also likely explains why α varies so much across the array of stations,
602 since it depends on the proportion of anisotropy between lower and upper layers. It
603 further reinforces the notion of complex anisotropy layering in the crust as demonstrated
604 by Endrun et al. (2011). Our study shows that layering occurs at the kilometer scale.

605

606 Numerous assumptions need to be made in numerical modeling of receiver function data.
607 In these synthetic models, the anisotropy is assumed to follow a pure ellipsoid, with
608 similar percent P and S anisotropy (Porter et al., 2011). However, as calculated from
609 EBSD measurements (e.g., Lloyd et al., 2009; Bezacier et al., 2010; Bascou et al., 2001;
610 Dempsey et al., 2011; Cossette et al., 2015), very few lithotypes show pure ellipticity for
611 P- and S-waves. Blueschist, for example, has an average P-wave and S-wave anisotropy
612 of 20.3% and 14.5%, respectively. Moreover, the anisotropy in the crust is far from being
613 homogeneously distributed on a vertical profile, with layers possessing differences in
614 anisotropy as high as 20% at the km scale, depending on the orientation of the upcoming
615 P-wave (Cossette et al., 2015). There are also probably large sources of error due to the

616 strong dependence of the receiver functions on the V_p/V_s ratio, which varies strongly
617 with the orientation of incoming P-waves (Cossette et al., 2015). From the resolved ray
618 points of the P-waves and V_p/V_s plots of Cycladic rocks, we observe that the seismic
619 rays are likely to sample the lowest values of V_p/V_s (**Fig. 7b**). Reducing the V_p/V_s ratio
620 to 1.6-1.65 in the first 20 km of the velocity model would affect the migration results, and
621 would lower the depth of the Moho by about 2 km. In the case of station APE, using this
622 V_p/V_s ratio yields a more accurate Moho depth of 27 km. This demonstrates the
623 importance of using in situ rock seismic properties oriented in the field. In fact, it is
624 shown here that upcoming P-waves will resolve very heterogeneous values of anisotropy
625 and V_p/V_s ratio. The good match between the calculated and synthetic receiver functions
626 thus provides constraints on the source of seismic anisotropy in relation with in situ rock
627 textural data, and the modeled seismic profiles confirm that we can use teleseismic
628 receiver functions to map lateral variations in crustal structure and fabric.

629

630 **Conclusion**

631

632 We employed teleseismic receiver functions in the Cyclades, Greece, to constrain the
633 layered structure and anisotropy in the crust. A Moho depth of 22.5 to 33 km with an
634 average of 25.5 km in the south-central Aegean is found, as well as a sharp downward
635 velocity increase at 3-11 km depth. The crust is thinner beneath the high-temperature
636 domes of Naxos and Ios, and is thicker close to the continent. Back-azimuth harmonic
637 decomposition points to intra-crustal anisotropy best approximated with a plunging axis
638 of symmetry. We use two discontinuities observed at depths of 7 and 27 km at station
639 APE to create synthetic models that include seismic properties of rocks calculated from
640 EBSD data. Our models indicate that the upper crust is characterised by ~5% anisotropy
641 with a slow axis of symmetry, with velocities corresponding to metapelites. Below the
642 upper crust, a ~20 km-thick layer of dense material with high seismic velocities is needed
643 to reproduce the observed data. Anisotropic layering is indicated both by the synthetic
644 modeling and the harmonic decomposition, with this second layer possibly possessing
645 5% of anisotropy as well. Our study stresses the importance of considering in situ rock

646 textural data for seismic velocity profile interpretation, which can help map lateral
647 variations in crustal structure.

648

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650

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907 **Figures**

908

909 **Figure 1.** A: Map of the Aegean region showing seismic station locations of the GE and
910 Z3 networks and the West and North Cycladic Detachment Systems (WCDS and NCDS).
911 B and C: Events distribution showing the data used in this study for the permanent station
912 APE and the temporary station SERI.

913

914 **Figure 2.** Receiver functions and harmonic decomposition for station APE on Naxos (A
915 and B) and station SANT on Santorini (C and D). The azimuth α is the orientation
916 obtained when the variance is minimised on $B_{||}$. Dashed lines in A and C show the
917 variation in arrival time for two positive velocity contrasts. Vertical red lines in A and C
918 (horizontal red lines in B and D) indicate the average arrival time (depth) for the Moho.
919 Black arrows indicate polarity reversals at 140° and 320° in A, and at 120° in C. Dashed
920 circle in B refers to description in the text.

921

922 **Figure 3.** P-wave ray angle distribution at station APE superimposed on A: P-wave
923 velocity (in km/s) and B: V_p/V_s ratio of metapelites in the Cyclades. The maximum and
924 minimum velocities resolved by the P-rays are ~ 6.1 and ~ 5.9 km/s, respectively, giving a
925 P-wave anisotropy of $\sim 3.3\%$. Seismic figures are from Cossette et al. (2015) and
926 represent data for one sample of the West Cycladic Detachment System

927

928 **Figure 4.** A: Diagram representing an anisotropic layer in the crust with two different
929 orientations (models 1 and 2) and with incoming P-waves from E-W and from N-S. The
930 orientation of $B_{||}$ and B_{\perp} is also shown. In these models the S-wave velocity of the
931 underlying isotropic medium is higher than the fast velocity of the anisotropic medium.
932 B: Diagrams showing the fabric in the anisotropic layer, with its slow axis of symmetry
933 and the orientation of the azimuth α and the back-azimuth φ for models 1 and 2. C: Plots
934 of the SV and SH amplitudes of Ps conversions at depth h as a function of back-azimuth.
935 Black and white dots correspond to the N-S and E-W orientation of φ , respectively, in B.
936 For angle differences of $\pm 90^\circ$ between φ and α , $B_{||}$ is minimised / B_{\perp} is maximised
937 (squared amplitude). For angle differences of 0° or 180° between φ and α , $B_{||}$ is
938 maximised / B_{\perp} is minimised.

939

940 **Figure 5.** Receiver functions for the 21 selected seismic stations of the Cyclades in
941 function of A: time and B: depth. Dashed lines correspond to downward increase (red)
942 and decrease (blue) in velocity. Shaded area corresponds to a possible high-velocity
943 mantle lid below the Moho.

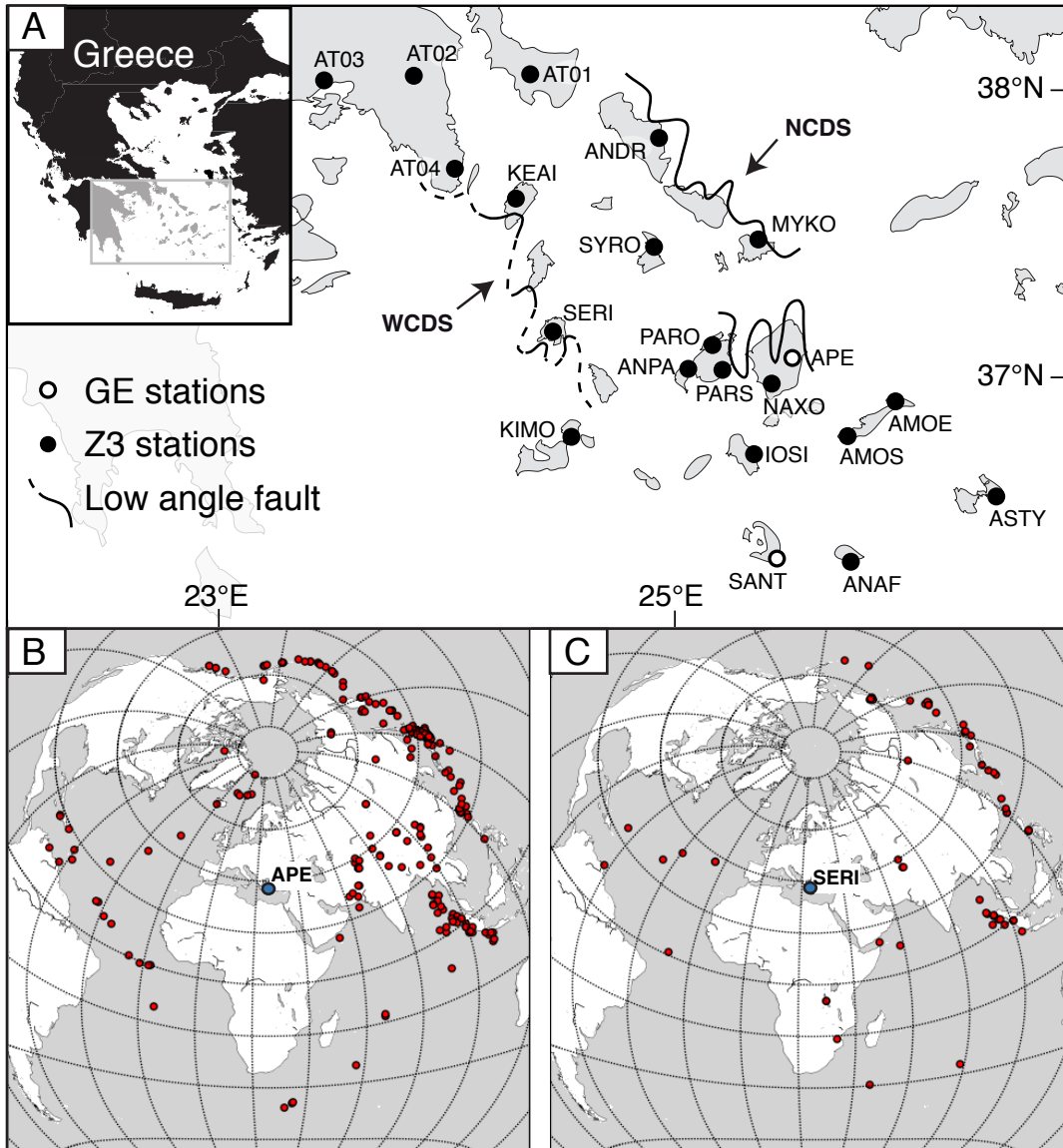
944

945 **Figure 6.** Harmonic decomposition for the 21 selected seismic stations in the Cyclades.
946 A, C-E: harmonic components A , $B_{||}$, B_{\perp} , $C_{||}$ and C_{\perp} . Dashed lines on the term A
947 harmonics correspond to positive velocity contrasts. Shaded areas and dashed lines on the
948 harmonic terms B_{\perp} and C_{\perp} highlight visible trends. We note that the Moho lies in the
949 middle of a polarity reversal on the term B_{\perp} , best seen in the south-central Aegean. The
950 azimuths α obtained over the 0-30 km depth range when the variance is minimal on $B_{||}$
951 are given in B and above each trace in C.

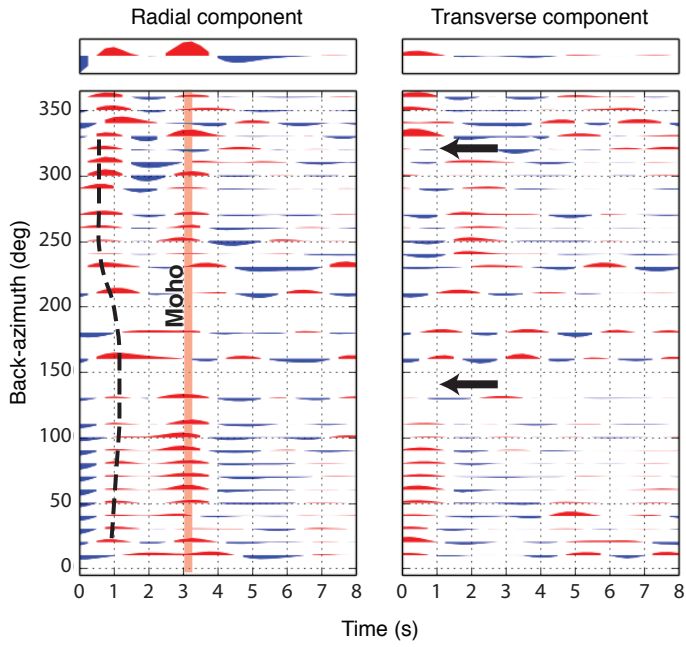
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953 **Figure 7.** A-F: Synthetic receiver functions (left) and harmonic decompositon (right) for
954 models 1 to 6. In each radial component stack, the vertical red line shows the average
955 arrival time of the first positive amplitudes. The black dashed line in each radial
956 component stack traces the variation in arrival time for the first positive amplitudes
957 according to back-azimuth. Black arrows in the transverse component stacks point to
958 polarity reversals. Dashed boxes and circle in A, E and F refer to descriptions in the text.
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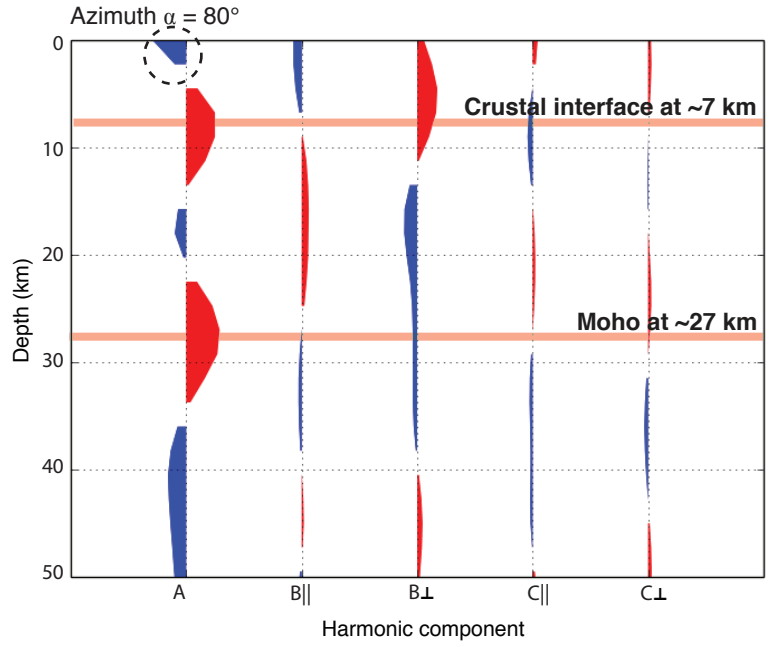
960 **Figure 8.** Summary figure showing the Cyclades from the West with the crustal interface
961 and the Moho as determined from the receiver functions. Second panel from the top
962 shows the upper crust layer, with stretching lineations as observed in the field (e.g. Jolivet
963 et al., 2013; Cossette et al., 2015) and the best model of anisotropy calculated with the
964 synthetic receiver functions. Bottom figure shows the lower crust layer with the flow
965 directions obtained from Rayleigh waves (Endrun et al., 2011) and the best model of
966 anisotropy.



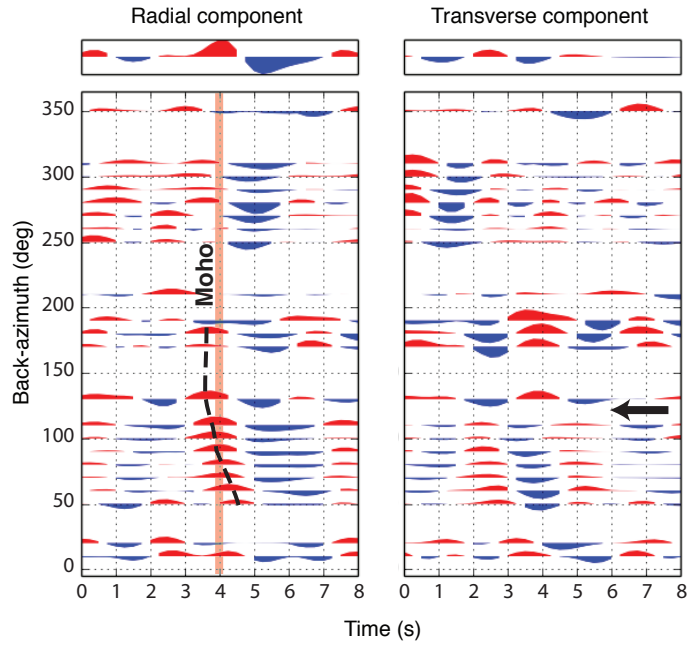
A. Station APE



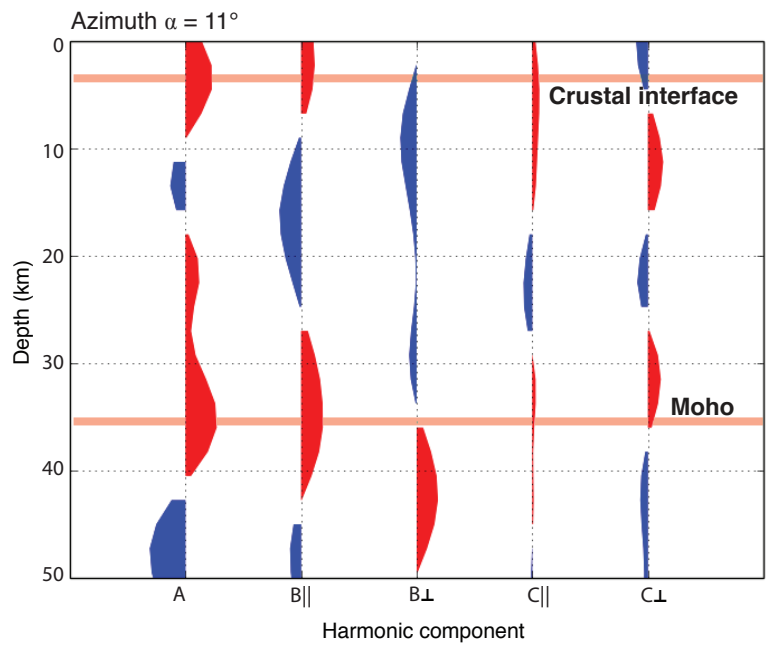
B. Station APE



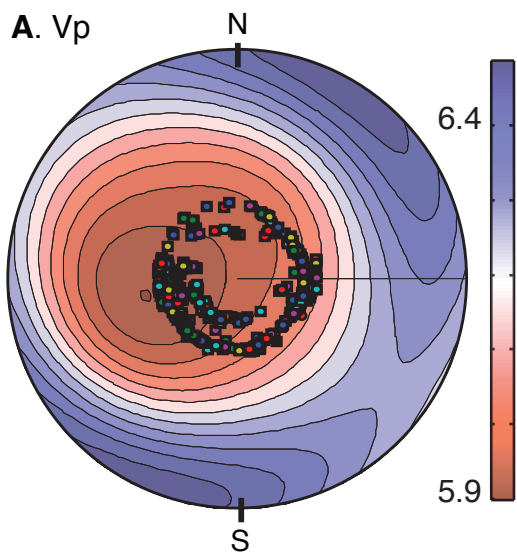
C. Station SANT



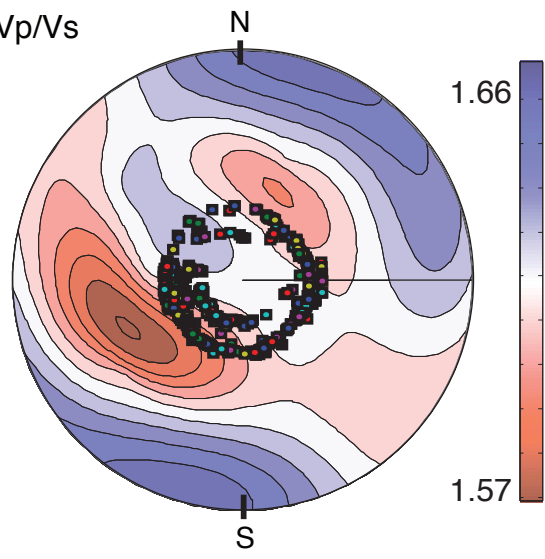
D. Station SANT

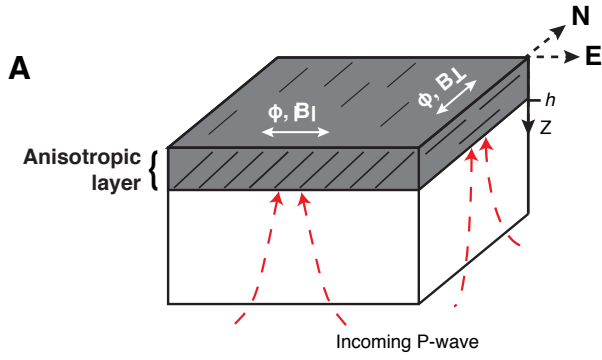
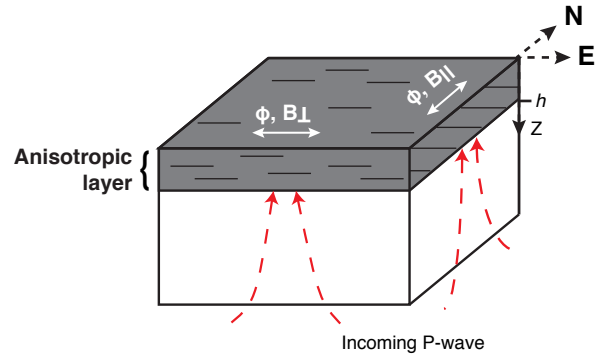
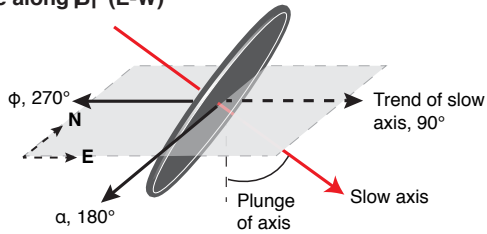
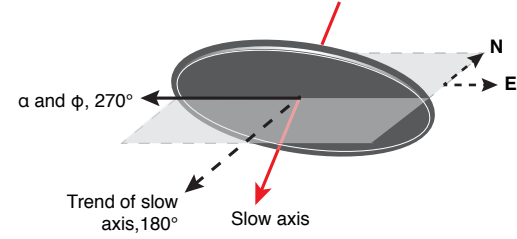
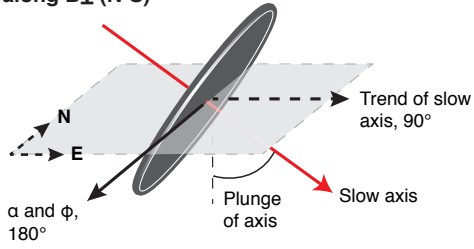
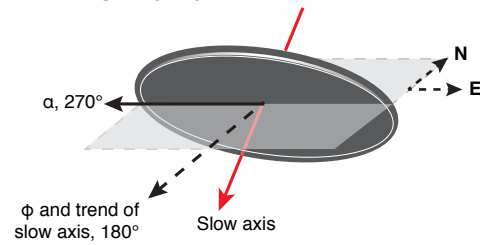
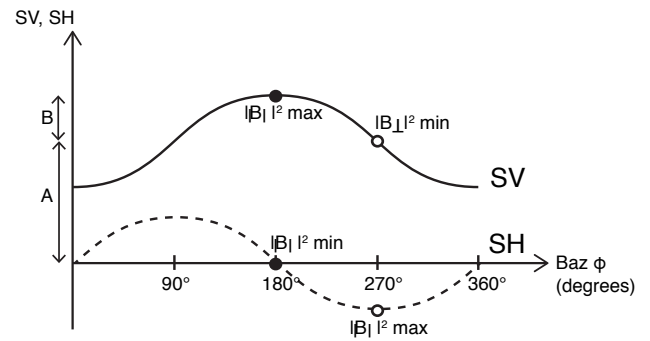
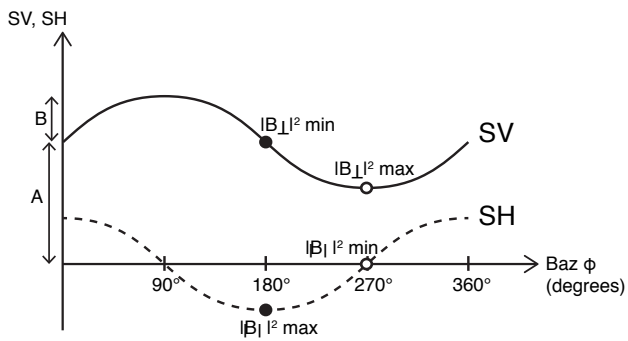


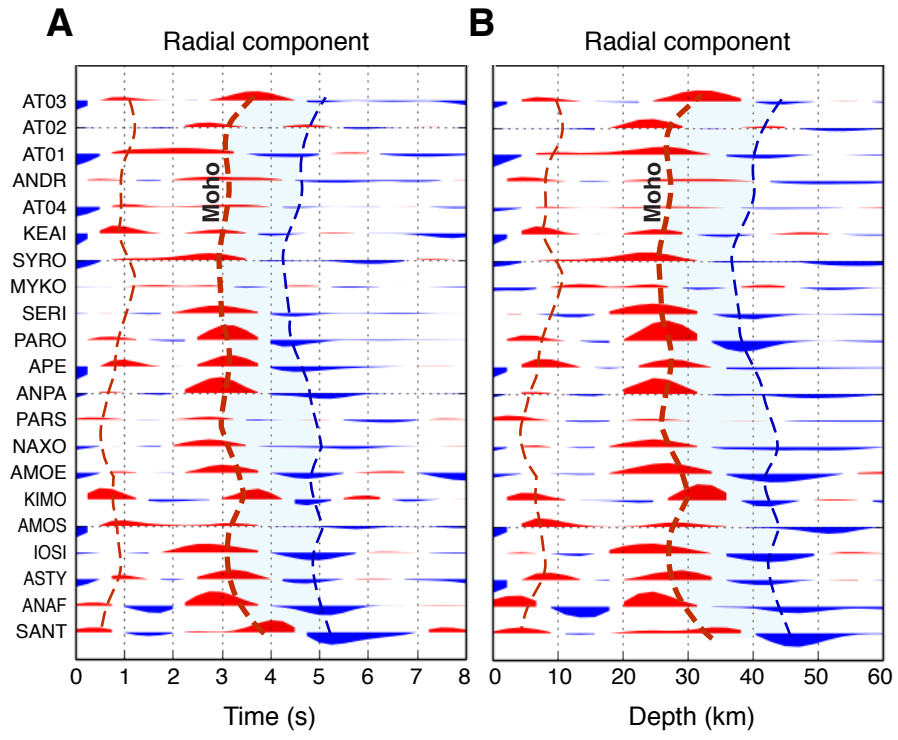
A. V_p

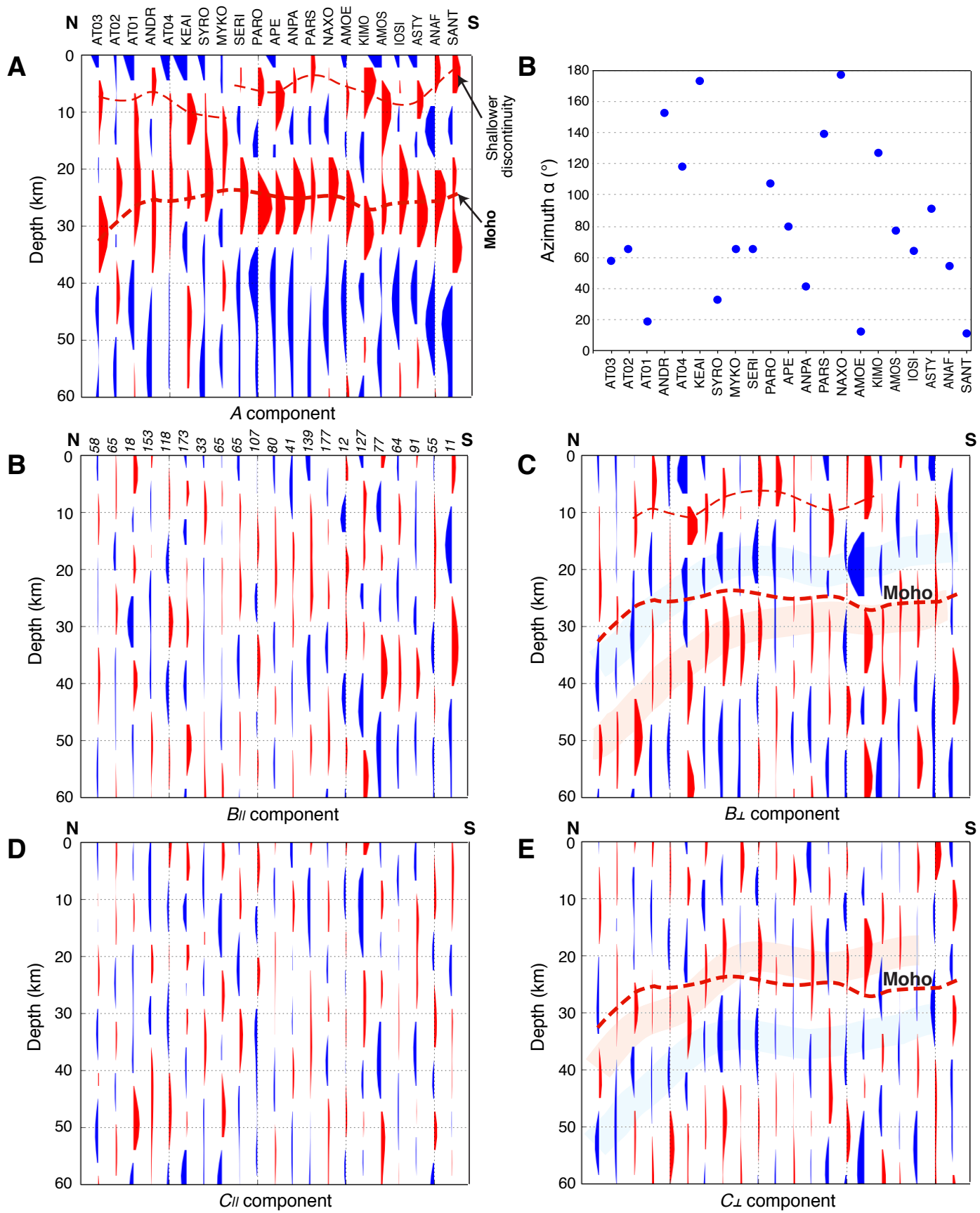


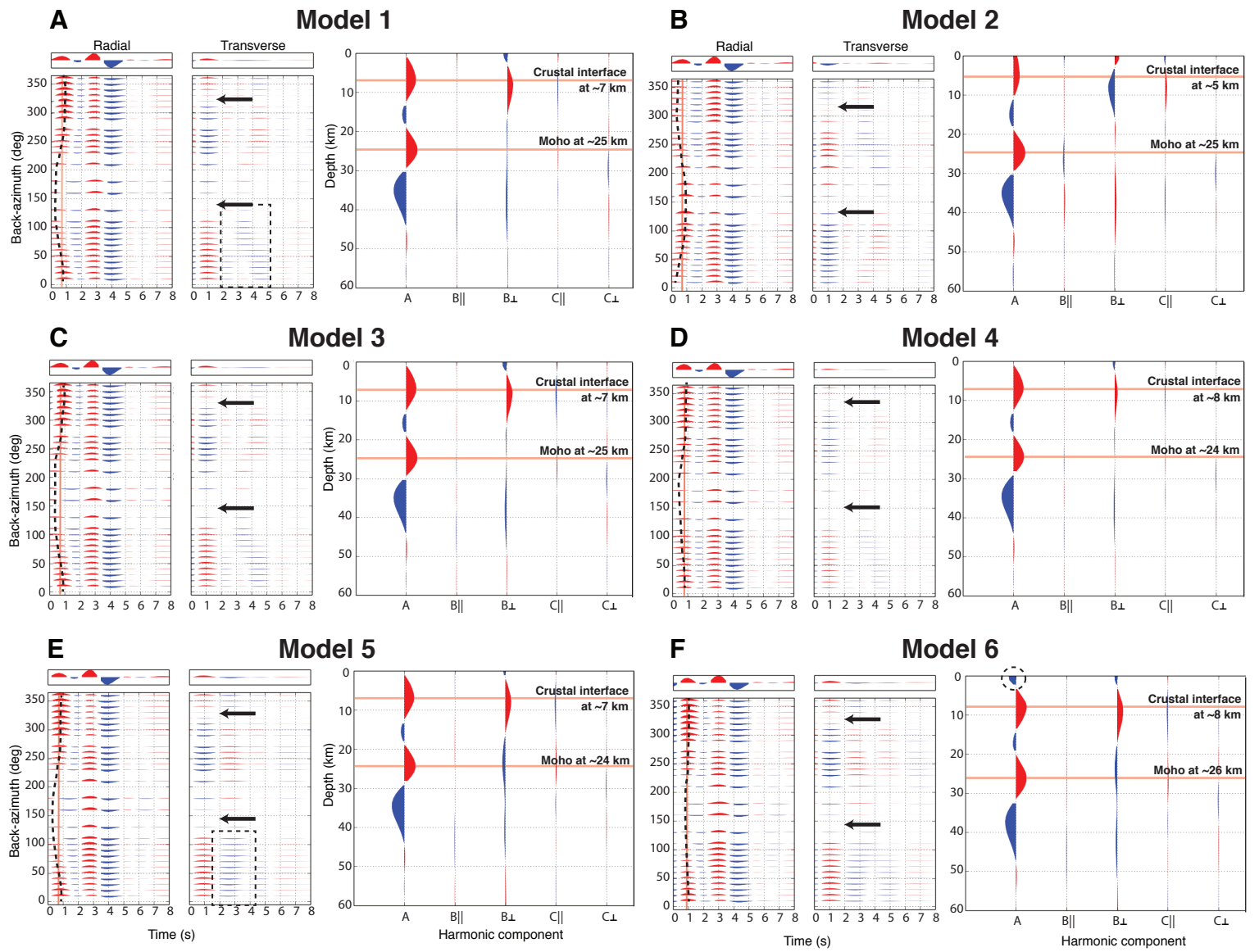
B. V_p/V_s

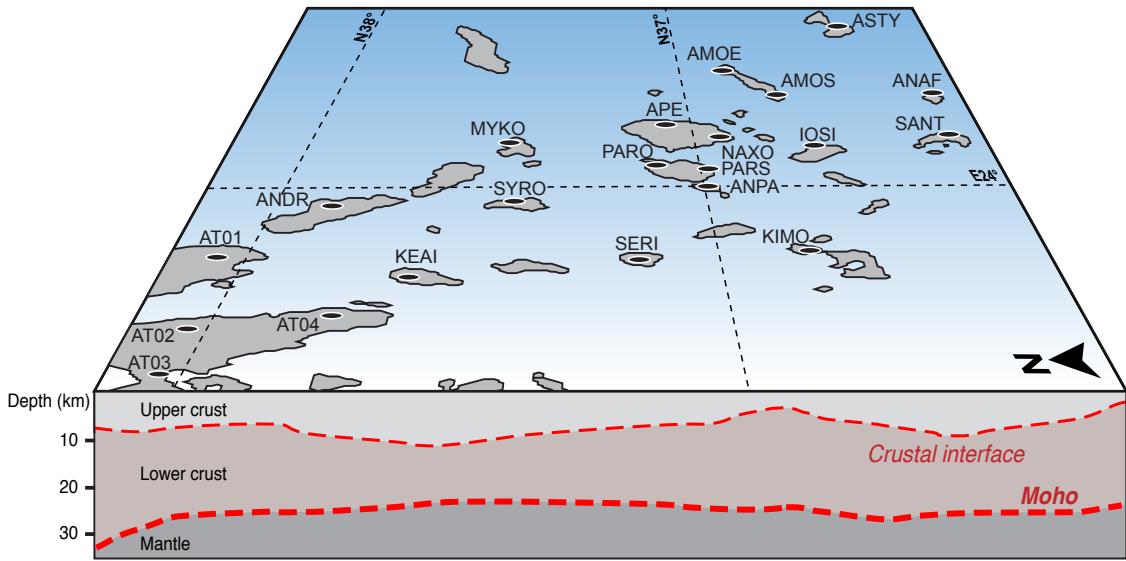


Model 1**Model 2****B** P-wave along β_1 (E-W)P-wave along β_1 (E-W)P-wave along β_1 (N-S)P-wave along β_1 (N-S)**C**

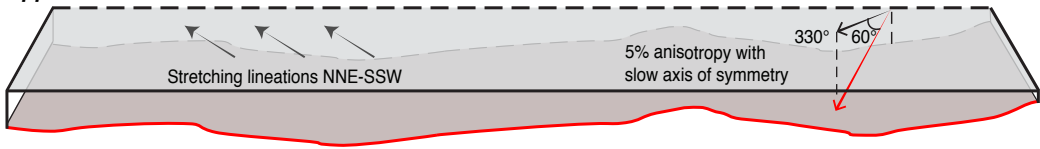








Upper crust



Lower crust

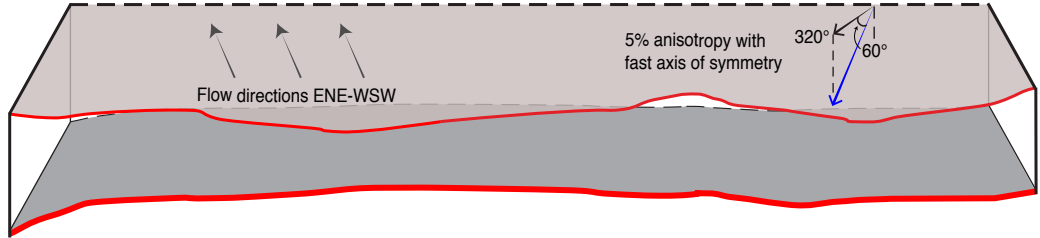


Table 1. Velocity model for the migration to depth (modified from Bruestle, 2012 and Makris et al., 2013)

Depth (km)	Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	Vp/Vs
0	6	3.55	1.69
2	6.5	3.82	1.70
26	6.6	3.86	1.71
30	7.5	4.31	1.74
37	7.8	4.48	1.74
47	7.86	4.49	1.75
60	7.92	4.52	1.75
85	8.13	4.64	1.75
125	8.42	4.81	1.75
175	8.43	4.82	1.75
225	8.43	4.82	1.75

Vp values from 0 to 26 km depth are from Makris et al. (2013)

Vp values from 47 to 225 km depth are from Bruestle et al. (2012)

Vs and Vp/Vs values from 0 to 26 km depth are from Cossette et al. (2015)

Table 2. Synthetic model parameters for station APE

Model	Layer thickness (km)	Density (kg/m³)	Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	% Anisotropy	Symmetry axis
1	7	2820	6.21	3.70	10	slow
	20	3250	7.50	4.40	-	-
	60	3240	7.80	4.45	-	-
2	7	2820	6.21	3.70	10	slow
	20	3250	7.50	4.40	-	-
	60	3240	7.80	4.45	-	-
3	7	2820	6.21	3.70	10	slow
	20	3250	7.50	4.40	-	-
	60	3240	7.80	4.45	-	-
4	7	2820	6.21	3.70	5	slow
	20	3250	7.50	4.40	0	-
	60	3240	7.80	4.45	0	-
5	7	2820	6.21	3.70	5	slow
	20	3250	7.50	4.40	5	fast
	60	3240	7.80	4.45	0	-
6	1	3000	7.00	3.00	5	slow
	6	2820	6.21	3.70	5	slow
	1	3050	7.00	4.00	10	slow
	19	3250	7.50	4.40	5	fast
	60	3240	7.80	4.45	0	-

Trend/plunge (deg)	Azimuth α (deg)	RMS misfit SV	RMS misfit SH	Total RMS misfit	% Increase in total RMS misfit
320/60 -	88	9.496E-08	5.530E-08	1.099E-07	1
140/60 -	82	9.543E-08	6.440E-08	1.151E-07	6
330/60 -	81	9.370E-08	5.582E-08	1.091E-07	0
330/60 -	81	9.309E-08	5.358E-08	1.074E-07	-2
330/60 320/60 -	85	9.273E-08	5.133E-08	1.060E-07	-3
330/60 330/60 330/60 320/60 -	85	7.120E-08	5.489E-08	8.990E-08	-18