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1 Hydration of marginal basins and compositional
2 variations within the continental lithospheric mantle
3 inferred from a new global model of shear and
4 compressional velocity.

Andrea Tesoniero¹, Ludwig Auer², Lapo Boschi^{3,4}, and Fabio Cammarano¹

Corresponding author: Andrea Tesoniero, Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 10, 1350, Copenhagen, Denmark (andrea.tesoniero@ign.ku.dk)

¹Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

²Institut für Geophysik, Eidgenössisch Technische Hochschule, Zürich, Switzerland

³Sorbonne Universités, UPMC Univ Paris 06, Institut des Sciences de la Terre Paris (iSTeP), Paris, France

⁴CNRS, Institut des Sciences de la Terre Paris (iSTeP), Paris, France

5 **Abstract.** We present a new global model of shear- and compressional
6 wave speeds for the entire mantle, partly based on the dataset employed for
7 the shear-velocity model *savani* [Auer et al., 2014]. We invert Rayleigh and
8 Love surface waves up to the sixth overtone in combination with major P
9 and S body wave phases. Mineral-physics data on the isotropic $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$
10 ratio are taken into account in the form of a regularization constraint. The
11 relationship between V_P and V_S that we observe in the top 300 km of the
12 mantle has important thermo-chemical implications. Back-arc basins in the
13 Western Pacific are characterized by large V_P/V_S and not extremely high V_S
14 at ~ 150 km depth, consistently with presence of water. Most pronounced
15 anomalies are located in the Sea of Japan, in the back-arc region of the Philip-
16 pine Sea and in the South China Sea. Our results indicate the effectiveness
17 of slab-related processes to hydrate the mantle and suggest an important role
18 of Pacific plate subduction also for the evolution of the South China Sea. We
19 detect lateral variations in composition within the continental lithospheric
20 mantle. Regions that have been subjected to rifting, collisions and flood basalt
21 events are underlain by relatively large V_P/V_S ratio compared to undeformed
22 Precambrian regions, consistently with a lower degree of chemical depletion.
23 Compositional variations are also observed in deep lithosphere. At ~ 200 km
24 depth, mantle beneath Australia and African cratons has comparable pos-
25 itive V_S anomalies with other continental regions, but V_P is $\sim 1\%$ higher.

1. Introduction

26 The thermal and chemical structure of the mantle defines its physical properties (i.e.,
27 seismic velocities and density) and governs the dynamical evolution of the Earth. Global
28 seismic tomography is a powerful tool to study the deep structure of our planet, but the
29 interpretation of resulting images remains challenging. The intrinsic limitation in what
30 can be resolved by seismic data, on one hand, and trade-off between temperature and
31 compositional effects, on the other, hamper our current knowledge of the Earth's interior.
32 A combined interpretation of data that are sensitive to different physical parameters can
33 help to improve our current understanding of the thermo-chemical mantle structure.

34 In order to evaluate the relative contribution of temperature (T) and composition (C)
35 in determining the mantle physical properties, especially at long wavelengths and in the
36 deep mantle, joint V_P and V_S inversions have been carried out [e.g., *Robertson and Wood-*
37 *house*, 1996; *Su and Dziewonski*, 1997; *Kennett et al.*, 1998; *Masters et al.*, 2000; *Saltzer*
38 *et al.*, 2001]. A major finding has been an anticorrelation between bulk-sound velocity
39 and shear-wave velocity, which has been interpreted by several authors [e.g., *Trampert*
40 *et al.*, 2004; *Della Mora et al.*, 2011] as an evidence of chemical anomalies in the lower
41 mantle, although other studies [e.g., *Schuberth et al.*, 2012; *Davies et al.*, 2012] claim that
42 thermal anomalies can equally well reconcile seismic and geodynamical observations.

43 For the upper mantle, the uneven sampling between P and S structure and the lack of
44 ray coverage make more problematic a joint interpretation of V_P and V_S structure at a
45 global scale. In addition, the effects due to variations in chemical compositions of the up-
46 per mantle are secondary to temperature effects [*Cammarano et al.*, 2003; *Afonso et al.*,

2010]. Consequently, it is difficult to detect chemical anomalies by only using seismic data.

Geodynamical observations, such as dynamic topography, tectonic-plate motions and gravity anomalies, provide independent constraints on density (and viscosity) structure and thus help to separate the thermal and chemical anomalies in the Earth's mantle [e.g., Forte and Perry, 2000; Deschamps et al., 2002; Perry et al., 2003; Forte et al., 2010; Simmons et al., 2010]. For the upper mantle, these studies confirm the chemical depletion of continental lithosphere and shed a light on possible lateral variations, however resolution is governed by seismic observations.

In general, the interpretation of different geophysical observations relies on knowledge of rocks properties at high pressure and temperature. Most of the knowledge comes from experimental and theoretical mineral physics which studies the elastic and anelastic properties of the Earth's forming materials. Heterogeneity ratios, which relate V_S and V_P variations (i.e. $R_{S/P} = \delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$), density to shear-wave velocity variations ($R_{\rho/S} = \delta \ln \rho / \delta \ln V_S$) and bulk-sound velocity variations to shear-wave velocity variations ($R_{\phi/S} = \delta \ln \phi / \delta \ln V_S$) have been proposed as diagnostic parameters to separate thermal from compositional anomalies [Karato, 1993; Forte and Perry, 2000; Forte and Mitrovica, 2001; Perry et al., 2003; Karato and Karki, 2001; Cammarano et al., 2003; Forte et al., 2010; Afonso et al., 2010].

In this paper, we invert a large seismic dataset to obtain a combined $V_P - V_S$ anisotropic model of the whole mantle. Our model, *SPani*, is an extension of the anisotropic shear-velocity model *savani* [Auer et al., 2014], with the important difference that we also consider datasets sensitive to P -wave structure. Specifically, in addition to the dataset

70 already used for *savani*, which consists of Rayleigh and Love surface waves up to the
71 sixth overtone measured between periods of 25 to 250s as well as major S -wave phases,
72 we also invert major P -wave phases. A relationship between isotropic V_S and V_P based
73 on mineral physics [Cammarrano *et al.*, 2003, 2011; Karato and Karki, 2001] is used as
74 an a-priori constraint in the inversion. The isotropic part of our model, and thus V_P/V_S
75 ratios, are not significantly affected by the radial anisotropy structure. We tested that
76 the interpretation of our results does not change even in the case of a purely isotropic
77 inversion.

78 Although our model extends across the entire mantle, we focus here on a thorough in-
79 terpretation of the upper mantle structure and leave a more detailed discussion of lower
80 mantle features for future work. In spite of the small sensitivity of Rayleigh waves to V_P ,
81 we anticipate that the combination of V_S and V_P in the same model, together with the
82 a-priori mineralogical constraint, provides additional constraints on upper mantle struc-
83 ture, and allows us to identify compositional anomalies in both oceanic and continental
84 regions. Since Auer *et al.* [2014] elaborated extensively about the variations in shear-wave
85 radial anisotropy and our results do not differ significantly from their work, we do not
86 provide a detailed discussion of the anisotropic component of *SPani*. Some of the aspects
87 of the upper mantle radial anisotropy are however presented here.

2. Theoretical background and Data set

88 We treat the problem of finding the model coefficients that describe the 3D Earth struc-
89 ture in a ray-theory, Jeffreys-Wentzel-Kramers-Brillouin (JWKB) approximation [Wang
90 and Dahlen, 1994] and accounting for the effects of lateral variations in the crust as in
91 Boschi and Ekström [2002]. The theoretical formulation is the same presented in Auer

92 *et al.* [2014] and it will not be repeated here. We describe, however, the specific theoretical
 93 aspects related to the inclusion of V_P sensitive Rayleigh waves and P -body waves.

2.1. Surface-wave theory

94 Under the assumption that the Earth constituent material has hexagonal symmetry
 95 [*Babuška and Cara*, 1991], in the ray-theory approximation we relate the Love model
 96 coefficient A, C, F, L and N [*Love*, 1927] to measurements of phase velocity delay. We
 97 convert the Love coefficients into $V_{SV}, V_{SH}, V_{PV}, V_{PH}$, to whom they are related, and we
 98 formulate the problem to jointly invert the perturbations for both P - and S - components,
 99 while we neglect the effects of density perturbation ρ .

100 Rayleigh waves are mostly sensitive to shear-velocity perturbations [e.g., *Su and Dziewon-*
 101 *ski*, 1997; *Ritsema et al.*, 2004]. As a consequence, several authors adopted an approach
 102 which ignores the sensitivity of fundamental mode Rayleigh waves and overtones to P -
 103 velocity and uses an empirical scaling relationship between V_S and V_P [e.g., *Gung et al.*,
 104 2003; *Panning and Romanowicz*, 2006; *Ritsema et al.*, 2011]. Therefore, resulting V_P
 105 models will essentially be scaled versions of the associated V_S model. However, the sen-
 106 sitivity to the V_P upper mantle structure of Rayleigh waves is not entirely negligible, as
 107 we show in Figure 1, and it is potentially relevant in defining the upper mantle physical
 108 state. In this paper, we explicitly take into account the different sensitivity of Rayleigh
 109 waves to V_S and V_P .

2.2. Body-wave theory

110 We relate the travelttime perturbation of each body-wave phase to the 3D Earth per-
 111 turbation (i.e. $\delta \ln V_{SV}, \delta \ln V_{SH}, \delta \ln V_{PV}, \delta \ln V_{PH}$). Most arrival times of P -waves in our

112 dataset are teleseismic (i.e. epicentral distance of $\sim 25^\circ$ and larger) and the ray trajec-
113 tories are nearly vertical in the upper mantle, while curving and reaching their bottoming
114 point in the lower mantle (at a depth which is a function of the epicentral distance).
115 P -wave traveltimes provide a good coverage and crossing ray-paths in the lower mantle,
116 where they have been used to produce global models of 3D seismic structure [Dziewon-
117 *ski*, 1984; *Shearer et al.*, 1988; *van der Hilst et al.*, 1997; *Grand et al.*, 1997; *Boschi and*
118 *Dziewonski*, 2000]. In the upper mantle, the coverage is slightly poorer, and even where
119 the coverage is good, models uniquely based on direct P -wave traveltimes have poor ver-
120 tical resolution. The effects are twofold: (i) the lateral P -wave heterogeneity structure
121 could be averaged out in regions where there is little or none ray coverage, (ii) in regions
122 with good coverage, the P -wave velocity structure tends to be smeared out in the vertical
123 direction. The vertical smearing can be mitigate with a combination of vertical damping
124 and data weighting of phases sensitive at different depths, which is what we employ in
125 this study.

2.3. Data set

126 We combine in this study what could possibly be the largest dataset of seismic phases
127 ever used in a global joint seismic tomography. We extend the database of S -body-wave
128 phases, surface waves and overtones used by *Auer et al.* [2014] with ~ 804000 P -arrival
129 times of which more than 600000 are direct minor arc P -phases from *Antolik et al.* [2003].
130 This database consists of summary rays defined on a $2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ grid and ranging between
131 an epicentral distance of 25° to 100° . Multiple bouncing P -phases are from *Ritsema and*
132 *van Heijst* [2002].

133 A list of all the seismic data used in this study is given in Table 1 and Table 2. We

134 give only details of the P -phases. We refer to *Auer et al.* [2014] for a more detailed
135 description of the employed S -wave phases. We reiterate that P -phases can only resolve
136 upper mantle structure in the proximity of sources and receivers [*Antolik et al.*, 2003].
137 Due to uneven global coverage of both sources and receivers, the northern hemisphere
138 can be better resolved than the southern one. The resolution drastically improves in
139 the lower mantle, but data coverage remains an issue. For example, in order to increase
140 resolution at the core-mantle boundary (CMB), it is appropriate to include phases which
141 are reflected at (PcP) or crossing (PKP) the CMB [*Boschi and Dziewonski*, 2000]. In
142 this study, we have discarded these phases, since they proved to yield instabilities in the
143 inversion, most likely related to the high uncertainties to which these data are associated
144 with. Multiple bouncing phases such as PP have a strong sensitivity at the bottom of the
145 transition zone and below it, down to 1000-1500 km. Sensitivity to V_S structure gradually
146 becomes dominant in the deeper portion of the mantle (below 1500 km). We rely on the
147 P -sensitivity of Rayleigh surface waves and overtones (compilations by *Ekström* [2011]
148 and *Visser et al.* [2008], respectively) to better resolve the V_P structure in the upper
149 mantle.

2.4. Parameterization

150 The ability to recover the 3D structure of the Earth's interior depends on several fac-
151 tors. Data coverage is probably the most important, but the choices of the reference
152 model, regularization scheme and model parameterization also play a crucial role [*Boschi*
153 *and Dziewonski*, 1999].

154 Authors have employed different parameterization schemes and basis functions in which
155 they describe their models. Popular choices include global functions like spherical harmon-

156 ics [e.g., *Ritsema et al.*, 2011] or local ones, like cubic splines [e.g., *Nettles and Dziewonski*,
157 2008], spherical sections (i.e. voxels/blocks) [e.g., *Houser et al.*, 2008] or tetrahedra [e.g.,
158 *Montelli et al.*, 2004]. Local basis functions provide a better flexibility when dealing with
159 uneven distribution of sources and receivers, which, as denoted earlier, is a problem in-
160 herent to any global tomography study. For example, *Auer et al.* [2014] have employed
161 an automatic resampling strategy, which adapts grid density to local ray coverage. This
162 approach is computationally very efficient, but still very expensive if a resolution compa-
163 rable to that of *Auer et al.* [2014] is to be achieved. In fact, the number of free parameters
164 is roughly doubled by introducing V_P heterogeneity. The problem of defining an adequate
165 parameterization is further complicated by the differences between V_P and V_S coverage.
166 We thus prefer to adopt a regular grid parameterization of $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ and 28 layers of in-
167 creasing inter-distance thickness, equivalent to the base grid used by *Auer et al.* [2014].
168 A regular $5^\circ \times 5^\circ$ grid corresponds almost to a degree-40 spherical-harmonic parameter-
169 ization and is comparable to the resolution of the previously published joint P and S
170 tomography models.

2.5. On the relationship between V_S and V_P

171 A number of authors have included a priori relationships between V_S and V_P , based on
172 mineral physics, in joint tomographic inversions of S and P data [*Masters et al.*, 1982;
173 *Ritzwoller et al.*, 1988; *Su and Dziewonski*, 1997; *Masters et al.*, 2000; *Antolik et al.*,
174 2003; *Houser et al.*, 2008]. Assuming that lateral heterogeneity in the Earth has purely
175 thermal (i.e., not chemical) origin, one can predict a relationship between V_S and V_P
176 heterogeneity based on mineral physics [e.g., *Cammarano et al.*, 2003; *Karato and Karki*,
177 2001]. $R_{S/P}$ for a reference mantle adiabat (with a potential temperature at 1300°C) is

178 ~ 1.7 throughout the mantle. This value, however, is largely affected by anelastic effects
179 in the upper mantle and thus strongly varies with temperature. For example, at 150 km
180 depth, and for same composition, $R_{S/P}$ is ~ 1.5 in cold regions (mantle adiabat with a
181 potential temperature at 1000°C) and ~ 2.2 in hot regions (1600°C adiabat) [*Cammarano*
182 *et al.*, 2003]. Effects of anelasticity are less important in the lower mantle. $R_{S/P}$ tends to
183 increase as moving deeper from a reference value of 1.7 (for 1300°C mantle adiabat) at
184 700 km down to ~ 2.1 at the base of the mantle (our computations agree with *Karato and*
185 *Karki* [2001] measurements). Although no direct constraints exist, T -dependent anelas-
186 ticity should again become an important factor closer to the CMB, as T approaches the
187 solidus. Compositional variations and phase transitions significantly complicate the pat-
188 tern, also introducing non-linear trends with depth.

189 We propose here a simple depth-dependent scaling scheme based on estimated values from
190 average mantle composition (pyrolite) and a thermal structure given by a 60 m. y. old
191 oceanic lithosphere down to ~ 110 km and a 1300°C mantle adiabat below this depth
192 [*Cammarano et al.*, 2011]. Our $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$ slightly increases in the top 150 km (from
193 1.6 to 1.7) and then stays almost constant down to 660 km. It linearly increases in the
194 lower mantle again, reaching a value around 2.1 towards the CMB. We relax the value at
195 the bottom 300 km depths in view of the role of phase-transitions and of the possibility
196 of strong chemical anomalies.

197 Our a-priori constraint is intentionally chosen as simple as possible and is laterally uniform.
198 This choice is motivated by intrinsic limitations in our approach and on interpretation of
199 seismic data in general. One limitation is related to the very nature of seismic tomography,
200 which is based on perturbation theory. All variations are relative to a reference starting

201 model, in our case PREM [*Dziewonski and Anderson, 1981*]. In addition, the amplitude
 202 of lateral variations also depends on regularization schemes, as previously discussed. The
 203 determination of absolute velocities is important to obtain a reliable interpretation of
 204 upper mantle structure, where temperature-dependent anelastic effects can be large [e.g.,
 205 *Karato, 1993; Cammarano et al., 2003*]. The second limitation resides in the poor knowl-
 206 edge of compositional effects on the relationship between V_P and V_S . For instance, in the
 207 upper mantle, and for dry compositions, the effect of composition on seismic velocity has
 208 been observed to be relatively small compared to that of temperature [*Cammarano et al.,*
 209 *2003; Afonso et al., 2010*]. However, several residual uncertainties remain, particularly on
 210 the role of fluids.

211 In our inversions, we use a specific value of $R_{S/P}$ at each depth and we accurately test
 212 how the applied constraint affects the obtained model and the data fit. We also obtain
 213 a model in which we did not apply any scaling relationship between V_S and V_P . The
 214 analysis of the V_P structure of this test-model will clarify the need of adding an a-priori
 215 constraint to make sure that the outcome of the inversion has a physical meaning.

2.6. Regularization and weighting

216 Our *joint* inversion of P - and S -sensitive data is implemented by solving:

$$\begin{pmatrix} w_R \mathbf{A}_{SV}^R & 0 & w_R \mathbf{A}_{PV}^R & w_R \mathbf{A}_{PH}^R \\ 0 & w_L \mathbf{A}_{SH}^L & 0 & 0 \\ w_S \mathbf{A}_{SV}^S & w_S \mathbf{A}_{SH}^S & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & w_P \mathbf{A}_{PV}^P & w_P \mathbf{A}_{PH}^P \\ \lambda \mathbf{D} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \mathbf{D} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \mathbf{D} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \mathbf{D} \\ \gamma \mathbf{I} & 0 & -\gamma R_{S/P} \mathbf{I} & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma \mathbf{I} & 0 & -\gamma R_{S/P} \mathbf{I} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{SV} \\ \mathbf{x}_{SH} \\ \mathbf{x}_{PV} \\ \mathbf{x}_{PH} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} w_R \mathbf{d}^R \\ w_L \mathbf{d}^L \\ w_S \mathbf{d}^S \\ w_P \mathbf{d}^P \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

217 The entries of submatrices \mathbf{A}_{SV}^R , \mathbf{A}_{PH}^R , etc. in eq. (1) are the partial derivatives linking
 218 the model parameters \mathbf{x}_{SV} , \mathbf{x}_{PH} etc. to the data \mathbf{d}^R etc. Each type of datum (R , L , S , P
 219 for Rayleigh, Love, S and P waves, respectively) can be sensitive to a different combination
 220 of parameters (SV for vertically polarized shear velocity V_{SV} , etc.). The coefficients w_R ,
 221 w_L , etc. denote the different weighting factors. The terms $\lambda \mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{x} = 0$ represent our
 222 regularization constraint. A common practice is to choose the operator \mathbf{D} to force the
 223 solution to be smooth (roughness damping) [*Boschi and Dziewonski*, 1999, 2000; *Masters*
 224 *et al.*, 2000; *Kustowski et al.*, 2008; *Houser et al.*, 2008]. Other regularization schemes
 225 which tend to minimize the difference between the input and the output model (norm
 226 damping) could be applied as sole regularization term [*Bijwaard et al.*, 1998; *Clevede et al.*,
 227 2000; *Montelli et al.*, 2004; *Ritsema et al.*, 2004; *Montelli et al.*, 2006] or in combination
 228 with the roughness term [*Boschi and Ekström*, 2002; *Nettles and Dziewonski*, 2008]. Here
 229 we follow the approach of *Boschi and Dziewonski* [1999] and limit the regularization
 230 to the roughness term only: we thus require our solution to be smooth by minimizing
 231 the differences in the model parameters between adjacent blocks. The coefficients λ are
 232 a measure of the weight applied to the regularization terms. By exploring the effect of
 233 different values of λ , we can quantify the impact of the roughness damping on the solution
 234 model (discussed in section 3.1).

235 The two bottom rows appended to the matrix expression (1) represent our mineralogical
 236 constraint expressed in the matrix linear form. These terms force the ratio of the inverted
 237 model parameters $\delta \ln V_{SV} / \delta \ln V_{PV}$ and $\delta \ln V_{SH} / \delta \ln V_{PH}$ to be equal to the mineralogically
 238 inferred heterogeneity ratios $R_{S/P}$ presented in section 2.5 and take the form

$$\gamma \frac{\delta \ln V_{SV}}{\delta \ln V_{PV}} = \gamma \frac{\delta \ln V_{SH}}{\delta \ln V_{PH}} = \gamma R_{S/P} \quad (2)$$

with a weighting coefficient γ . Therefore, our way of applying mineralogical-based scaling between physical parameters is akin to how we implement the roughness damping in the inversion. The application of regularization schemes in any inverse problem reduces the variance of all the subsets and attenuates the obtained amplitude [Li and Romanowicz, 1996; Mégnin and Romanowicz, 2000]. We solve the linearized inverse problem by means of a tailored parallel tomography solver based on the *PETSc* library, which allows us to solve the system using different algorithms. We did not notice any difference between solutions obtained using a parallel implementation of the *LSQR* algorithm [Paige and Saunders, 1982] or the *GMRES* method [Saad and Schultz, 1986]. We present the result in terms of model quality by the analysis of the variance reduction (VR) using the relationship

$$VR = 1 - \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n (A_{ij} \cdot x_j) - d_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^m d_i^2} \quad (3)$$

We alternatively calculate variance reduction (i) for the whole data set (cumulative variance reduction), in which case \mathbf{A} in eq. (3) coincides with the matrix at the left-hand side of eq. (1) minus the rows corresponding to regularization (i.e., $\lambda=0$, $\gamma=0$), or (ii) for any subset of the data (grouped variance reduction), in which case \mathbf{A} is just the portion of matrix associated with a certain type of data, e.g. $\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{A}_{SV}^R, \mathbf{A}_{PV}^R, \mathbf{A}_{PH}^R)$ for Rayleigh waves. m denotes the number of observations in the subset in question, while n is the number of free parameters, independent of data type.

3. Model result

257 We present the seismic characteristics of two inverted models. The first represents
 258 our preferred joint tomographic model (called $SPani$), the other (called $SPani_{test}$) is a
 259 model obtained by selecting $\gamma = 0$ in eq. (1), i.e. without imposing any scaling
 260 relationship between V_S and V_P .

261 We will focus our discussion and interpretation to the isotropic part of our model. We
 262 obtain the Voigt average isotropic P and S velocity from our inverted values [e.g., *Panning*
 263 *and Romanowicz, 2006*]:

$$V_P^2 = \frac{V_{PV}^2 + 4V_{PH}^2}{5} \quad (4)$$

$$V_S^2 = \frac{2V_{SV}^2 + V_{SH}^2}{3} \quad (5)$$

3.1. Data fit and model selection

264 In this study, we opt for the following approach to select our favorite models. (i) We
 265 invert our seismic data set using a wide range of weights for the roughness damping pa-
 266 rameter λ in eq. (1), and without any further constraint on scaling V_S and V_P variations;
 267 (ii) We select our best-fit model, $SPani_{test}$ on the basis of an L-curve analysis [*Hansen,*
 268 *1992*], (Figure 3) a tool to identify models providing a fair balance between model rough-
 269 ness and data fit; (iii) We run a second set of inversions in which we keep the roughness
 270 damping fixed, while changing the weight associated with the scaling ratio $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$.
 271 In one case, we set the weight associated with the scaling term to an extremely high value.
 272 This way, we obtain a V_P model that is perfectly scaled to the V_S model. Such a model fits
 273 the data well (see Figure 3) and it gives us confidence that our reference mineral physics

274 constraint is not unrealistic. However, the variance reduction for some subset of data,
 275 namely Rayleigh wave overtones, is negative (Figure 4).

276 Relaxing the mineral physics constraints on $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$, we are able to obtain a model
 277 ($SPani$) that has an improved grouped variance reduction (Figure 4). We will later dis-
 278 cuss where and in which way the V_P component of our model differs structurally from the
 279 V_S part and draw implications on thermo-chemical structure. A checkerboard resolution
 280 test for $SPani$ is shown in Supporting Information.

3.2. V_P and V_S Isotropic structure - role of a-priori constraint in the inversion

281 Most of the differences between $SPani$ and $SPani_{test}$ are associated with the V_P com-
 282 ponent of the joint inverted models. The upper mantle V_P structure of $SPani_{test}$ beneath
 283 oceanic regions (Figure 5) is largely uncorrelated with the well-known V_S structure, which
 284 is in agreement, to a first order, with the thermal structure of oceanic lithosphere. This
 285 result clearly shows the averaging effect of seismic anomalies in the oceanic regions, where
 286 the ray coverage is the poorest. Most of the negative V_P anomalies in $SPani_{test}$ are not
 287 symmetric with respect of the mid oceanic ridges as they are in the V_S model. In addition,
 288 $SPani_{test}$ is characterized by a very strong vertical smearing of structures at the top of
 289 the upper mantle into the transition zone. Note, for example, that some of the cratonic
 290 roots in $SPani_{test}$ (e.g., Australia) reach 450 km depth. The V_S component of model
 291 $SPani_{test}$ resembles very closely the V_S component of our preferred model $SPani$.

292 In $SPani$ (Figure 6 and 7), the a-priori constraint on the relationship between V_S and V_P
 293 is able to eliminate the discrepancy in sub-oceanic lithosphere and to reduce the vertical
 294 smearing in V_P structure. At the same time, the data fit is very good (Figure 4).

295 The amplitude of the anomalies are in the order of 5-6% for V_S and 3-4% for V_P models

296 in the upper mantle and decrease to $\sim 1-2\%$, for both V_S and V_P , in the transition zone
 297 and in the lower mantle.

298 The shear-wave radial anisotropy part of our models closely resembles *savani* and is al-
 299 most identical to *model A* in *Auer et al.* [2014], a model with the same parameterization
 300 we use. Here, we also invert for compressional-wave anisotropy ($\varphi = V_{PV}^2/V_{PH}^2$), but
 301 data resolution does not provide a reliable constraint on φ . Most of the anomalies in
 302 $\xi = V_{SH}^2/V_{SV}^2$ have been already presented in *Auer et al.* [2014] and are not discussed
 303 here.

304 Since most of our interpretation relies on our isotropic V_P and V_S models, we also run a
 305 test where we did not model lateral variations in ξ and/or φ . Although lateral variations
 306 in ξ appear required by the data, a purely isotropic model will be only slightly affected,
 307 not varying the qualitative aspects of our results in terms of V_P/V_S ratio.

4. Model analysis and comparison with other models

308 In this section, we aim to identify the common features of our joint $V_P - V_S$ tomographic
 309 model *SPani* and to quantify the similarities between *SPani* and previously published joint
 310 shear-wave and compressional-wave velocity models. We select 3 recent $V_P - V_S$ tomo-
 311 graphic models (*PRI-P05 PRI-S05* [*Montelli et al.*, 2004, 2006], *hmsl06* [*Houser et al.*,
 312 2008] and *GyPSuM* [*Simmons et al.*, 2010]). The models are obtained by three different
 313 groups and are based on different datasets, parameterization and regularization schemes.
 314 We perform a spectral analysis by decomposing the models in spherical harmonics expan-
 315 sions, and we thus compare the models at same spatial wavelength. In order to quantify
 316 similarities between the V_S and V_P components of each model, we also measure $V_P - V_S$
 317 correlations between each model.

4.1. Comparison with other $V_P - V_S$ global models

318 *GyPSuM* [Simmons et al., 2010] is obtained by a joint inversion of P and S body-wave
 319 traveltimes and geodynamical observations, such as free air gravity anomalies, dynamic
 320 topography and divergence of the tectonic plates. Including geodynamical observations
 321 should provide additional constraints on density, and thus on composition. The model is
 322 radially parameterized in 22 layers and blocks of 275×275 km in lateral size i.e. roughly
 323 $2.5^\circ \times 2.5^\circ$ degrees.

324 *hmsl06* [Houser et al., 2008] is based on a joint inversion of P - and S -traveltimes and
 325 surface-wave fundamental modes. The model is laterally parametrized in blocks of $4^\circ \times 4^\circ$
 326 and 18 vertical layers. The scaling relationship $\delta \ln V_S = 1.7 \delta \ln V_P$ is applied above 660
 327 km depth. No scaling relationship is used below this depth.

328 Finally, models *PRI-P05* and *PRI-S05* [Montelli et al., 2004, 2006] are obtained by sep-
 329 arately inverting P and S body waves arrival times. They are based on finite frequency
 330 kernels and parameterized in mesh of tetrahedra with irregular node spacing.

331 The comparison of *GyPSuM*, *hmsl06* and *PRI* models with *SPani* are shown in Figure
 332 8 for the compressional wave speed component. The overall structural pattern of the V_S
 333 models follows that of the compressional ones and the comparison of V_S structure is thus
 334 only reported in the supporting information.

335 All models have been resampled in spherical-harmonics up to 32 degrees. At 150 km
 336 depth, all models show the well known ocean-continent dichotomy. The Princeton model,
 337 which does neither include surface wave data nor involve mineralogical scaling constraints,
 338 is the only one characterized by little structural resolution in the upper mantle, on a global
 339 scale. At 350 km depth, the anomalies due to continental lithosphere are not present any-

340 more, except for *GyPSuM* (Figure 9). In *SPani* and *hmsl06*, we start to see an anomaly
 341 that can be associated with the subduction of the Pacific plate. Model *PRI-P05* seems to
 342 comprise structures that look like a downward continuation of shallower heterogeneities.
 343 The low-velocity anomalies are associated with the South Pacific ridge, the 90E ridge and
 344 the East African rift valley. Long wavelength structures start tapering out in the transi-
 345 tion zone between 450 km and 650 km. *hmsl06* and *GyPSuM* are more similar to *SPani* in
 346 the transition zone as they all exhibit positive velocity anomalies along the circum-pacific
 347 ring of fire, while *PRI-P05* is still characterized by channel-like structures. At a depth of
 348 1300 km (Figure 8), all the models consistently image a high-velocity anomaly, which has
 349 been associated with the subducted Farallon and Thetian plates [e.g., *van der Hilst et al.*,
 350 1997]. The large degree-2 structure at the CMB is well imaged in all models. The smaller
 351 Perm anomaly [*Lekić et al.*, 2012], instead, can only be seen in *SPani* and *GyPSuM*. The
 352 V_S models show, overall, similar structure of V_P models.

4.2. Correlation between V_P and V_S structure

353 We compute the Pearson correlation coefficient (PCC) between the V_P and V_S com-
 354 ponent of *SPani*, *GyPSuM*, *hmsl06* and *PRI*, by considering the original models and
 355 smoothed versions, resampled at different spatial wavelengths: i.e. up to harmonic degree
 356 8, 12, 24 and 32 (Figure 9). The models show the highest $V_P - V_S$ correlation at long
 357 wavelengths [*Becker and Boschi*, 2002]. Seismic models that include surface-wave data
 358 (i.e., *SPani* and *hmsl06*) are characterized by a particularly high correlation in the top
 359 part of the mantle. *SPani* V_P and V_S correlate up to 90% in the first 300-350 km for
 360 all harmonics expansions (Figure 9). This is most likely due to the resolution supplied
 361 by surface waves and overtones, and possibly to the imposed relationship between the V_S

362 and V_P model. Similarly to *SPani*, *hmsl06* has a very high-value correlation coefficient,
363 (95%) in the upper mantle.

364 The correlation coefficient between V_P and V_S in *SPani* significantly decreases in the
365 transition zone, where the seismic structure is also less well resolved. This is not the
366 case for *hmsl06*, which maintains a very high $V_P - V_S$ correlation ($\sim 90\%$) down to the
367 bottom of the transition zone (Figure 9). The difference between V_P and V_S structure for
368 *hmsl06* starts to become relevant only below 650 km depth, where the scaling relation-
369 ship between $\delta \ln V_S$ and $\delta \ln V_P$ is no longer imposed. *GyPSum* also shows an overall high
370 correlation ($\sim 90\%$) throughout the upper mantle, but it is characterized by a peculiar
371 alternating trend and almost no differences in the correlation coefficient at the different
372 spherical-harmonics expansions (Figure 9). The coupling between geophysical and geody-
373 namical observations, which also requires a viscosity profile, can be a possible cause for
374 the observed behavior. Finally, the Princeton models show a pattern similar to *hmsl06*,
375 and are also characterized by high correlation in the upper mantle. *PRI-P05* and *PRI-S05*
376 are based on separate inversions and, more importantly, include only body waves data.
377 The *PRI* models also show larger variations between correlations referring to models re-
378 sampled at different spatial wavelengths (Figure 9).

379 In the lower mantle, the correlation between the different models is overall smaller than
380 in the upper mantle. The correlation coefficient reaches minimum values $\sim 55\%$ for *PRI*
381 and *hmsl06*, but the values goes up to 65-70% when only the long wavelength components
382 of these models are considered. After a minimum in the transition zone, the correlation
383 associated with *SPani* grows again to $\sim 70\%$. *GyPSum* reaches an overall higher correla-
384 tion than the other models (with a minimum of 80% at ~ 2000 km depth). Interestingly,

385 the depth in which the models reach their maximum $V_P - V_S$ correlation is variable. *SPani*
 386 has a maximum value at 2500 km, in agreement with a weak relationship imposed between
 387 V_P and V_S near the CMB and with the absence of CMB sensitive phases. Also *hmsl06*
 388 peaks at same depth, while *PRI* and *GyPSum* have their best $V_P - V_S$ correlation close
 389 to the CMB.

390 In summary, the proposed $V_P - V_S$ joint models show the highest correlation in the upper
 391 mantle and, more importantly, different models are characterized by different correlation-
 392 depth patterns, which seem to depend on the employed data sets and regularization
 393 schemes.

5. Structural variations between V_P and V_S and V_P/V_S ratio

394 The combination of V_P and V_S sensitive data in a joint inversion allows us to investigate
 395 the differences between the V_S and V_P parts of the model by means of the V_P/V_S ratio.
 396 Because of the uncertainties related to the absolute velocities, the interpretation of the
 397 amplitude of the V_P/V_S ratio can be misleading [e.g., *Afonso et al.*, 2010]. Nevertheless,
 398 relative lateral variations in V_P/V_S ratio are very valuable for interpretation and are shown
 399 in Figure 10 for four upper mantle depths.

400 The structural pattern depicted in these maps follows that of Figures 6 and 7, but with
 401 some important additions. In the top 200 km the most striking feature is the dichotomy
 402 oceans-continentals, with oceans showing high values in the V_P/V_S ratio and low values in
 403 continental regions. A peculiar anomaly is localized in the Western Pacific margin, where
 404 the highest V_P/V_S values are recorded (Figure 10). It is important to note that the V_P/V_S
 405 ratio in this area is higher than what we observe at the mid-ocean ridges, where the lowest
 406 velocities are found (see for example relative V_S variations at 150 km depth in Figure 7).

407 We have carried out extensive synthetic tests to ensure that the isotropic V_P/V_S ratio is
408 not contaminated by the anisotropic component of our model. One of such tests consists
409 in allowing only isotropic variations, and gave a model with very similar V_P/V_S ratios.
410 Moreover, the anomaly is already present at long wavelength (for example in a version
411 of the model resampled up to spherical harmonics degree 18, in Supporting Information).
412 We conclude that the Western Pacific anomaly is a robust feature of our joint tomographic
413 inversion.

414 Below ~ 250 km, the distribution in V_P/V_S ratio becomes less heterogeneous and most
415 of the ocean-continent dichotomy starts to disappear. Nevertheless, it is still possible
416 to observe low V_P/V_S ratios beneath the North-America craton and the Baltic shield.
417 Anomalies related to subducting slabs become dominant below 250 km depth. It is pos-
418 sible to observe, for example, the signature of the subducting slab in the Western Pacific
419 at a depth of ~ 350 km.

6. Discussion and interpretation

420 Any decorrelation between V_S and V_P structure may be indicative of a possible compo-
421 sitional effect. In addition, V_P/V_S ratio can be also a useful factor for thermo-chemical
422 interpretation. Estimated V_P/V_S values based on mineral physics seem to suggest a weak
423 sensitivity to changes in dry composition [*Cammarano et al.*, 2003; *Afonso et al.*, 2010],
424 particularly in relation with the larger compositional effect on the density- V_S heterogene-
425 ity ratio. Several questions remain about the role of fluids and melts in determining the
426 V_P/V_S ratio. The ratio between V_P and V_S has been used as an indicator of compositional
427 heterogeneity in the continental crust and lithospheric mantle [*Lee*, 2003; *Niu et al.*, 2004;
428 *Chou et al.*, 2009]. The effects of adding water on seismic velocities at high pressure is not

429 yet well quantified, but the qualitative aspects suggest an increase in the V_P/V_S ratio. A
 430 water-rich region can be characterized by a strong reduction in V_S and a less strong effect
 431 on V_P (mostly due to anelastic effects and/or induced partial melt [Karato, 2004]), there-
 432 fore increasing the V_P/V_S ratio compared to dry regions [e.g., Dinc *et al.*, 2011; Kamiya
 433 and Kobayashi, 2000].

434 Even in the case of a perfectly known compositional effect on V_P/V_S ratio, we should
 435 recap the limitation of any tomographic seismic model in recovering absolute velocities,
 436 and thus in determining V_P/V_S ratios. Assuming only thermal lateral variations, colder
 437 regions should be characterized by higher seismic velocities and the scaling between V_S
 438 and V_P should roughly follow our mineral physics based relationship. The opposite is
 439 true for regions that are relatively hot, although partial melt or temperature-dependent
 440 anelastic effects determine a sensible deviation of the V_P/V_S ratio toward higher values.
 441 In our inversion, we apply the same $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$ at a given depth. If the scaling between
 442 V_P and V_S exactly follows our a-priori educated guess, we expect a linear trend with a
 443 decrease in V_P/V_S ratio in low-velocity regions and an increase in relatively faster regions.
 444 Note that this effect, also observed in our model (Figure 10), is mostly due to the re-
 445 lation between V_P/V_S ratio and absolute velocities. For example, at $V_P = 8 \text{ km/s}$ and
 446 $V_S = 4.444 \text{ km/s}$ (i.e. $V_P/V_S = 1.8$) (values roughly corresponding to reference velocities
 447 at 150 km), the V_P/V_S ratio will range between 1.66 and 1.95 for a $\pm 3\%$ V_P variation, if
 448 $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P = 1.7$.

449 In Figure 11, we show the relative percent variations of *SPani* V_P structure from a per-
 450 fectly scaled V_P structure the top 350 km of the mantle. The perfectly scaled V_P structure
 451 has been estimated on the basis of the used used $\delta \ln V_S / \delta \ln V_P$.

6.1. Evidence of hydration of Asian marginal basins

452 At 150 km depth, the obtained V_P (and thus V_P/V_S ratio) is almost 2% higher than
453 expected in a very large area, which includes the Philippine Sea, the South China Sea and
454 the Sea of Japan. A close up of the regions together with surface features from the plate
455 boundary model *PB2002* [*Bird, 2003*] is shown in Figure 12.

456 This anomalous area is located in a very complicated tectonic region, surrounded by sub-
457 ducting slabs, and in correspondence of two main tectonic plates, i.e. the Philippine Sea
458 plate and the Sunda plate. Several smaller plates, mostly limited by convergent margins,
459 are also involved . We notice the presence of robust, large-scale anomalies.

460 All the anomalies are located in back-arc basins that experienced an extension due to roll
461 back of subducting slabs. The Philippine Sea anomaly is centered, at 100 km depth, in the
462 largest back-arc basin in the world (the Parece-Vela basin) and does not extend westward
463 beyond the remnant arc, the Kyushu-Palau Ridge (Figure 12, panel a). At larger depth,
464 the core of this anomaly is observed at the south border of the Philippine Sea, entering
465 the Caroline Plate (Figure 12, panel 150 km and 200 km). A second anomaly is elongated
466 and located in the Sea of Japan. The anomaly tapers out at ~ 200 km depth (Figure
467 12, panel c). The third anomaly is located in the South China Sea and becomes stronger
468 between 150 and 200 km (Figure 12). All the anomalies fade away beneath 250 km depth.
469 The Philippine Sea anomaly is associated with back-arc spreading due to rapid retreating
470 of the Mariana subduction in a period between ~ 35 Ma to ~ 15 Ma [e.g., *Sdrolias et al.,*
471 *2004*]. A rapid retreating regime is consistent with strong weakening of the overriding
472 plate by both fluids and melts [*Baitsch-Ghirardello et al., 2014*]. The evolution of the two
473 other back-arc basins is more controversial. The Himalayan continental collision could

474 have been an important role in the formation and evolution of the South China Sea [e.g.
475 *Tapponnier et al.*, 1982]. To some extent, even the Japan Sea may have been affected
476 [e.g., *Jolivet et al.*, 1994]. The formation of these two basins is contemporaneous to the
477 Parece-Vela Basin, suggesting that subduction of western Pacific also played a role. For
478 example, *Fournier et al.* [2004] proposed that the South China Sea is a back-arc basin
479 having an axisymmetric spreading that is governed by the large-scale strike slip shear
480 zones driven by the collision of the India Plate with the Eurasian continent. A similar
481 structural control from tectonic lineaments due to the Himalaya collision has been pro-
482 posed by *Jolivet et al.* [1994] also for the Sea of Japan.

483 The detection of similar anomalies in the three regions confirms the importance of subduc-
484 tion related processes in determining the evolution of Asian marginal basins. The zones
485 marked by positive anomalies (red) correspond to places where our model requires V_P to
486 be as much as 2% higher than the expected value, whereas the shear velocity remains
487 low. The existence of such a strong anomaly suggests that the water released by the
488 subducting slabs is not easily outgassed, but remains in the mantle, affecting its physical
489 properties. We thus conclude that the presence of water is responsible for the detected
490 seismic signature. The effectiveness of subduction-related processes in modifying the phys-
491 ical properties of plate surrounded by active convergent margins, such as the Philippine
492 and Sunda plates, has important geodynamical implications [e.g., *Faccenna et al.*, 2004;
493 *van Keken*, 2003; *Le Voci et al.*, 2014]. For example, dehydration in the slab, mostly
494 active in the top 200 km [*Schmidt and Poli*, 1998] can alter the rheological properties of
495 the back-arc region and small-scale convection can be facilitated [*Le Voci et al.*, 2014].

6.2. Variations in chemical depletion of the continental lithosphere

496 Large parts of continental regions have remained largely undeformed for more than 2.5
497 billion years. Petrological and geophysical constraints [e.g., *Jordan, 1975, 1978; Forte*
498 *and Perry, 2000*] indicate that the continental lithosphere, i.e. the rigid outer layer that
499 includes the crust (~ 30 km) and the uppermost mantle, is thick, cold and is chemically
500 distinct (strongly melt-depleted in composition) compared to the oceanic lithosphere. The
501 chemical buoyancy is able to balance the thermal effects on density, thus reconciling the
502 observation of seismically fast (cold) lithosphere and the absence of geoid and gravity
503 anomalies beneath old continental regions.

504 The basic concept of the thermo-chemical layer underlying old continental regions (named
505 tectosphere by *Jordan [1975]*) is well accepted and confirmed by many studies, but several
506 open questions remain on the exact compositional nature of the lithosphere, on its depth
507 extent and on the lateral variations both in composition than in (thermal) lithosphere-
508 asthenosphere-boundary [*Gung et al., 2003; Artemieva, 2006; Griffin et al., 2009; Yuan*
509 *et al., 2011*]. For example, the average composition of Archean lithospheric mantle, as
510 inferred by petrological studies, is not consistent with geophysical observations and sug-
511 gests that the deeper part of the lithospheric mantle is less depleted due to metasomatic
512 processes [*Griffin et al., 2009*].

513 In general, seismic studies of reflected and converted phases [e.g., *Rychert et al., 2005;*
514 *Fischer et al., 2010*], long-range seismic profiles [e.g., *Thybo and Perchuć, 1997*] and high-
515 resolution tomography [e.g., *Yuan et al., 2011; Porritt et al., 2014*] indicate a large degree
516 of lateral and vertical variability within the continental lithosphere.

517 The combination of P - and S -wave sensitive data into a joint $V_P - V_S$ inversion allows

518 us to improve horizontal resolution compared to global V_S models in well-sampled con-
519 tinental regions. Unfortunately, most of the continents remain poorly covered, but our
520 model has some interesting features that deserve further discussion.

521 In general, $SPani$ is characterized by low V_S and V_P/V_S values corresponding to old con-
522 tinental regions (Figure 13 and Figure 10 for V_P/V_S) down to a depth of ~ 250 km. At
523 ~ 150 km depth, the extension of low V_S covers most of the shield and platform areas
524 around the globe. At 250 km depth (Figure 13, left-bottom panel), our model still shows
525 strong anomalies, mostly in correspondence of Archean and Proterozoic regions: East
526 European craton, North American craton, central Australia, African cratonic blocks and
527 Antarctica (the latter only shown in Figure 10). The results are in substantial agreement
528 with previously published tomography models. Note that the low V_P/V_S are mostly due
529 to the high V_S and, as discussed earlier, are not well constrained by tomography.

530 It is useful to analyze the decorrelation between the V_P and V_S components of our model
531 (Figure 13, right panels). At 150 km depth, the V_S model does not allow to identify any
532 lateral variation under extremely large continental regions. However, the V_P component
533 of our model shows distinct structural variations.

534 In the East European craton, the lithospheric mantle below the oldest part of the Baltic
535 Shield, i.e the Kola-Karenian cratons, is well separated from the Russian platform to the
536 East (Figure 13, right panels). The positive anomaly is in agreement with the hypothesis
537 of a more fertile Russian platform, probably owing to metasomatic processes [*Artemieva,*
538 2003]. The anomaly extends at least down to 250 km, also in agreement with the large
539 values of lithospheric thickness inferred from independent studies [e.g., *Artemieva and*
540 *Mooney, 2001*]. At 150 km depth, a distinct anomaly corresponding to Sveco-Norwegian

541 craton ($\sim 1.0 - 1.3$ G.a., [Artemieva, 2003]) also emerges.

542 The Central Australia and African cratonic blocks are characterized by low V_S down to
543 ~ 250 km, but they lose any anomalous structural variation between V_P and V_S below
544 ~ 200 km (Figure 13). Again, this result can be associated with large compositional
545 variations between continents, probably due to a variable degree of metasomatism in the
546 deeper part of the continental lithosphere.

547 The Siberian craton anomaly is not a strong feature in our model, consistently with what
548 observed in previous global models. In spite of poor seismic coverage in Siberia, we note
549 that the V_S anomaly at ~ 200 km depth is located in the western part of the craton, an
550 area interested by extensive basalts outcrops (place of the Siberian traps, a large igneous
551 province formed ~ 250 M.a. ago) and tectonically separated from the eastern part of the
552 Siberian craton [e.g., Rosen *et al.*, 1994], while the anomalously low V_P/V_S ratio is shifted
553 toward east (Figure 13). The difference can be explained by compositional variations,
554 with a relatively more depleted average composition beneath the eastern blocks of the
555 Siberian craton.

556 Finally, beneath the North America craton, we also observe distinct structural variations
557 (Figure 13) that extend down to ~ 250 km depth. In correspondence of the Trans-
558 Hudsonian Suture Zone, we observe a relatively high V_P/V_S ratio. A similar lineament,
559 which includes the Keweenaw Rift in the South part, but also part of the Superior
560 craton is observed along 90W meridian. While the anomaly related to Trans-Hudson
561 collision can be explained by compositional variations, the interpretation of the second
562 anomaly is more problematic. According to our model, the south part of the lithospheric
563 mantle below the Superior craton is, on average, chemically different from the rest of the

564 craton. We note that the more fertile region of Superior includes large igneous provinces
565 (Animikie and MacKenzie dykes).

7. Conclusions

566 We derive a new joint $V_P - V_S$ tomographic model by inverting a large dataset of surface
567 waves and overtones phase delay measurements as well as traveltime delay of major P -
568 and S - body wave phases. Our model resolves structural anomalies in the ratio between
569 V_P and V_S that have important implications for the thermo-chemical structure of the up-
570 per mantle.

571 Marginal basins in the Western Pacific are characterized by the highest V_P/V_S ratio world-
572 wide and, at the same time, by not extremely low $\delta \ln V_S$. This feature suggests that
573 hydration due to slab dynamics was an important governing factor in the course of their
574 evolution. The similarity of the anomalies beneath the intra-oceanic back-arc basin of
575 the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea indicates that the Pacific plate subduction
576 played an important role also in the evolution of the South China Sea. The effectiveness
577 of slab-related processes to hydrate large portions of mantle can have strong implications
578 on plate dynamics at a global scale and it gives a new insight on the net flux of water
579 in the Earth's interior. Within continental regions, the analysis of our model suggests
580 the presence of large-scale compositional variations. Regions interested by past rifting,
581 collisions and outcropping of large igneous provinces are generally more enriched than
582 undeformed Precambrian areas. This result is in agreement with enhanced metasomatic
583 processes in those regions. Metasomatic processes can be also responsible for the disap-
584 pearance of chemical heterogeneity below ~ 200 km in deep (~ 300 km, according to our
585 model) continental lithospheric mantle in Africa and Australia.

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Table 1. Surface wave phases used in this study

Author	Phase and dominant period	Number of measurements
<i>[Ekström, 2011]</i>	R0 25-250s	1022706
	L0 25-250s	342261
<i>[Visser et al., 2008]</i>	R1 35-172s	396432
	R2 35-149s	364140
	R3 35-87s	253143
	R4 35-61s	159448
	R5 35-56s	114037
	R6 35-50s	71652
	L1 35-176s	331168
	L2 35-115s	250315
	L3 35-78s	154160
	L4 35-62s	81592
L5 35-56s	42756	

Table 2. Body wave phases used in this study

Author	Phase	Number of measurements
<i>[Antolik et al., 2003]</i>	P	621892
	pPP	12054
	pP	20780
<i>[Ritsema and van Heijst, 2002]</i>	PP	167144
	PPP	15060
	$pPPP$	2089
	S	144696
<i>[Ritsema et al., 2011]</i>	SKS	31971
	$SKKS$	8727
	ScS	8475
	$ScSScS$	13505
	$ScSScSScS$	7983

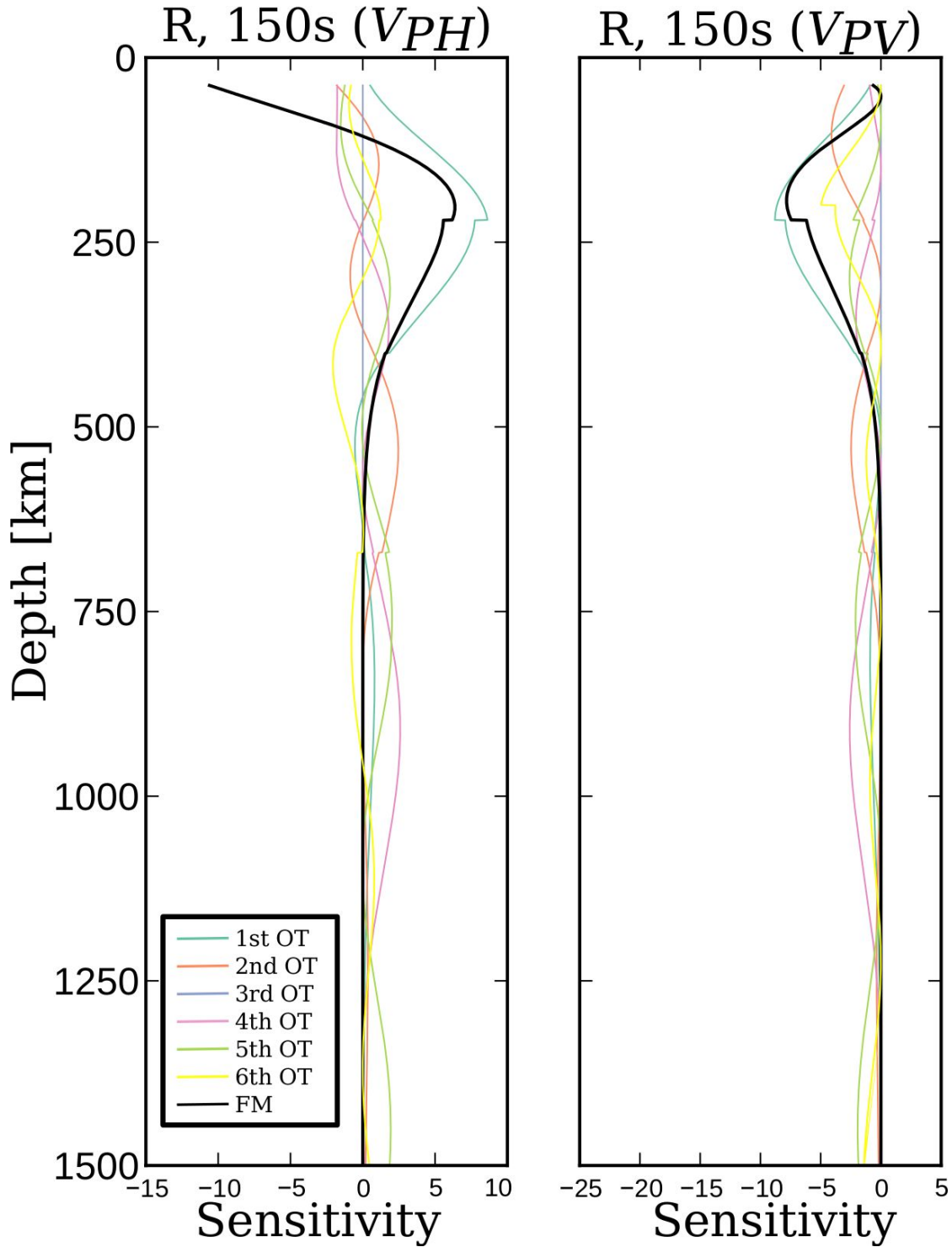


Figure 1. Depth sensitivity kernels to horizontal (V_{PH}) and vertical (V_{PV}) compressional wave velocity structure for a 150s period Rayleigh wave. The fundamental mode is drawn in black and higher overtones are shown in color. Love waves are completely insensitive to compressional wave velocity.

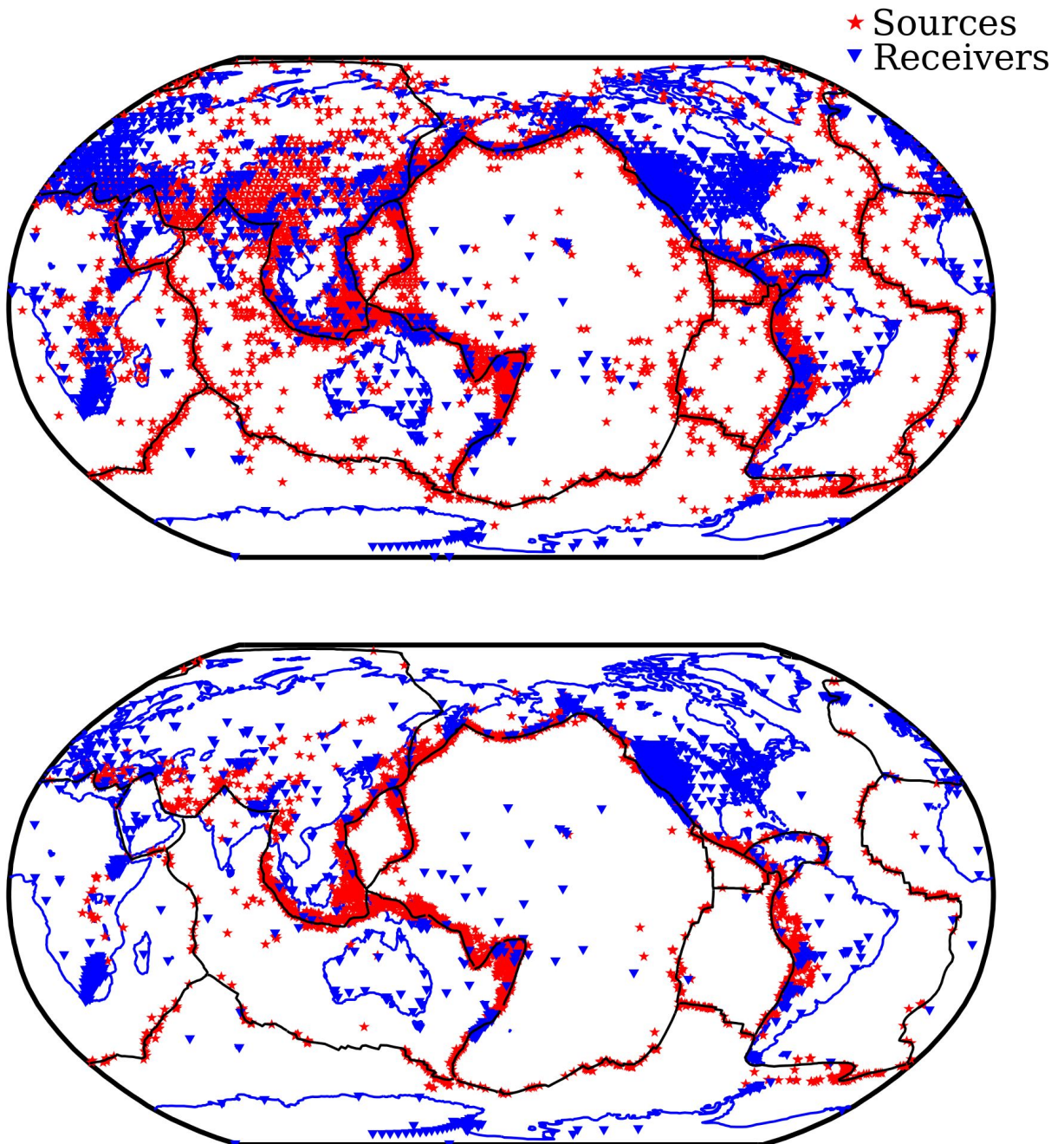


Figure 2. Distribution of sources (red) and receivers (green) used in this study for P (top) and S (bottom) body wave phases.

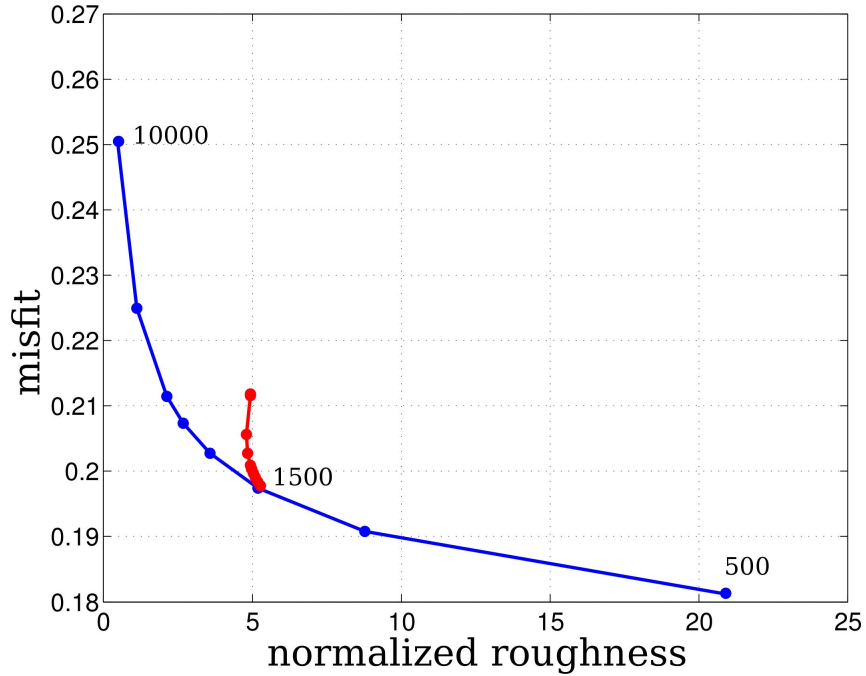


Figure 3. L-curve (blue) showing the performed analysis to select the most appropriate weight of the roughness parameter. The numbers within the plot indicate two end-member tested values and the value we select (1500) for our model $SPani_{test}$. The same analysis, repeated by only changing the weight of mineral physics scaling relationship between V_S and V_P , is shown in red.

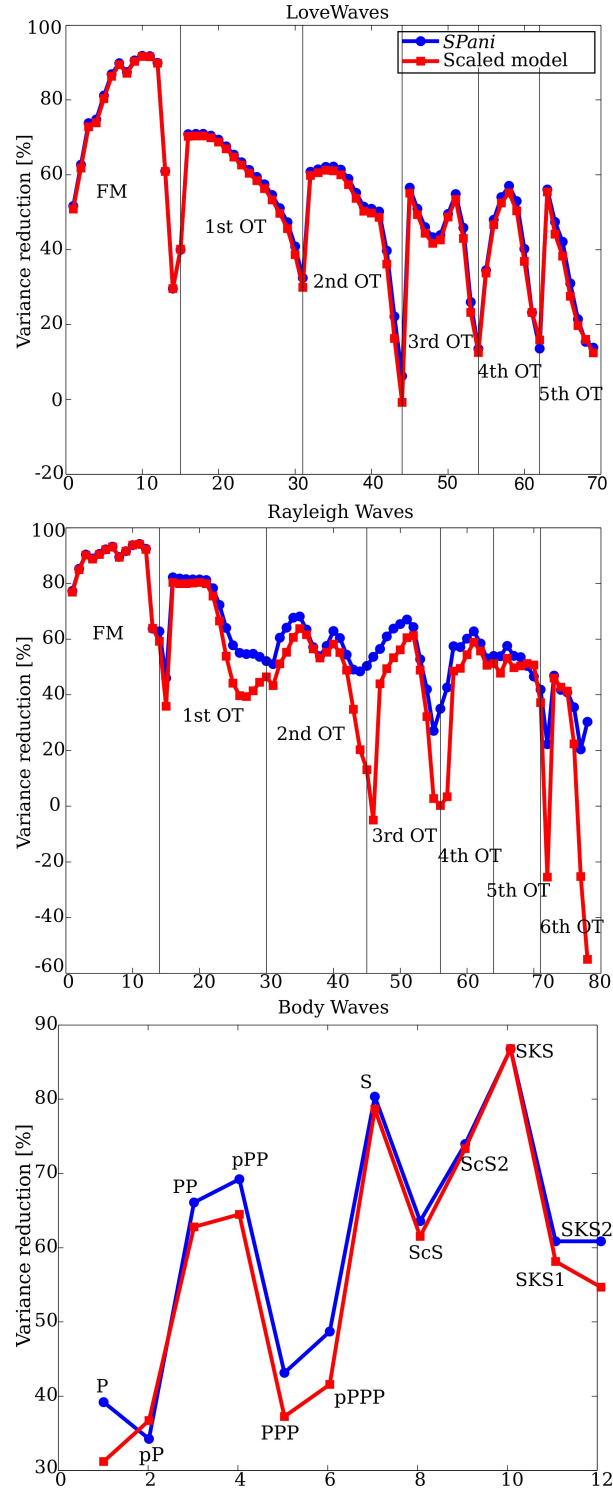


Figure 4. Variance reduction for all the subset of data: Love waves (top), Rayleigh waves (middle) and body waves (bottom). Variance reduction of our final model $SPani$ is in blue, variance reduction of a model whose V_P component is perfectly scaled to its V_S component is shown in red.

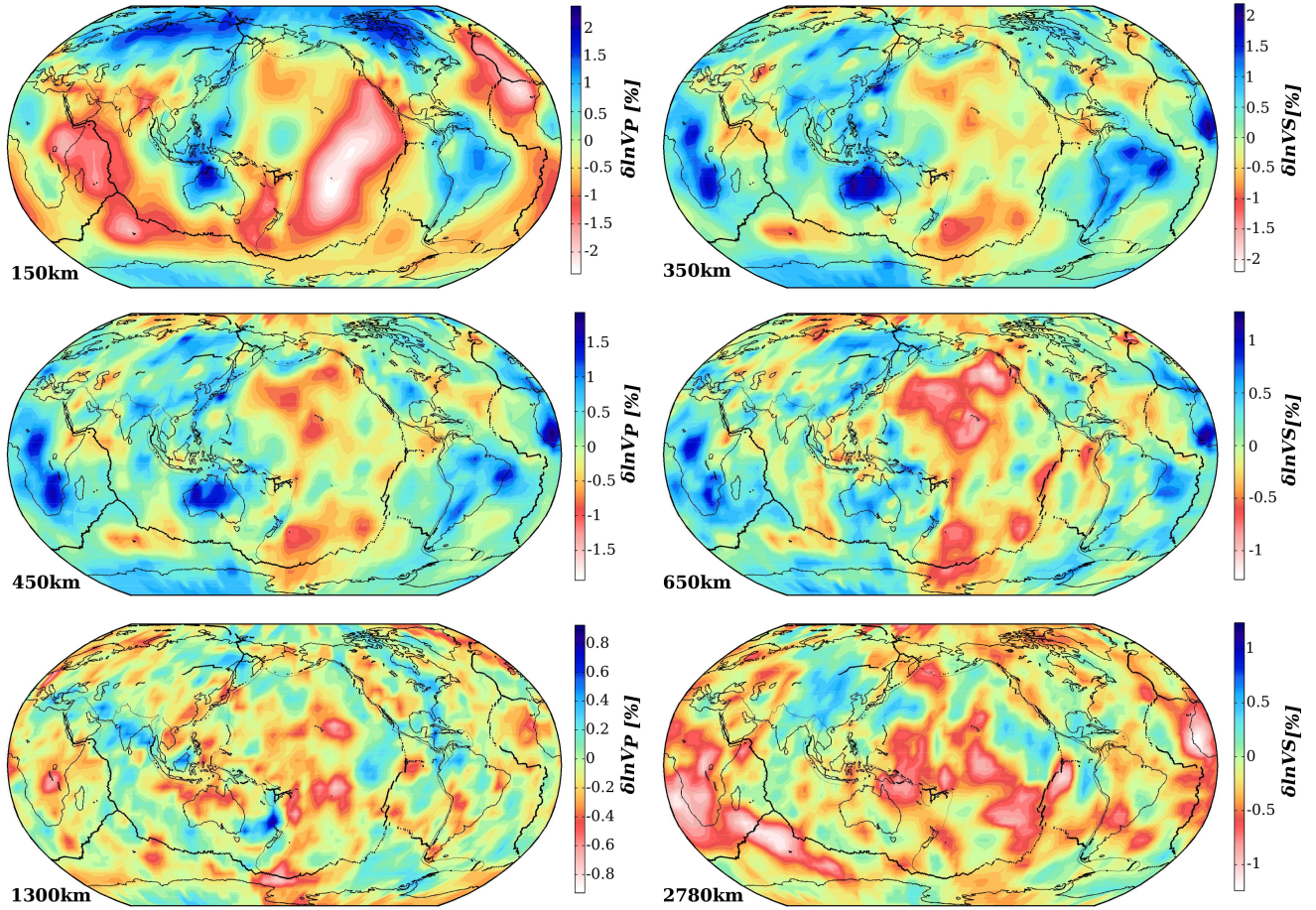


Figure 5. Isotropic V_P relative variations in percent at different depths for $SPani_{test}$. V_S structure is very similar to our preferred model $SPani$.

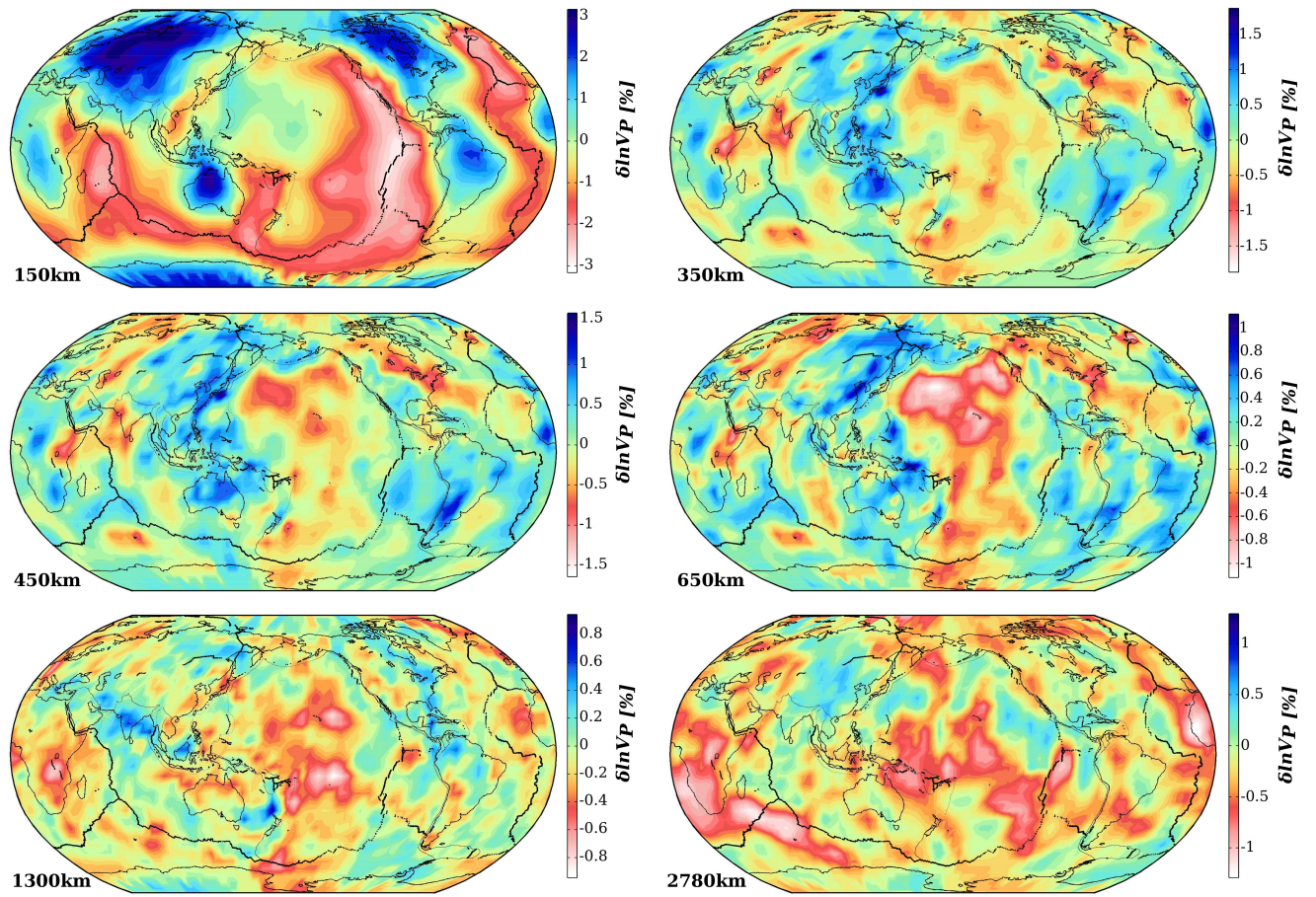


Figure 6. Isotropic V_P relative variations at different depths for our preferred model *SPani*.

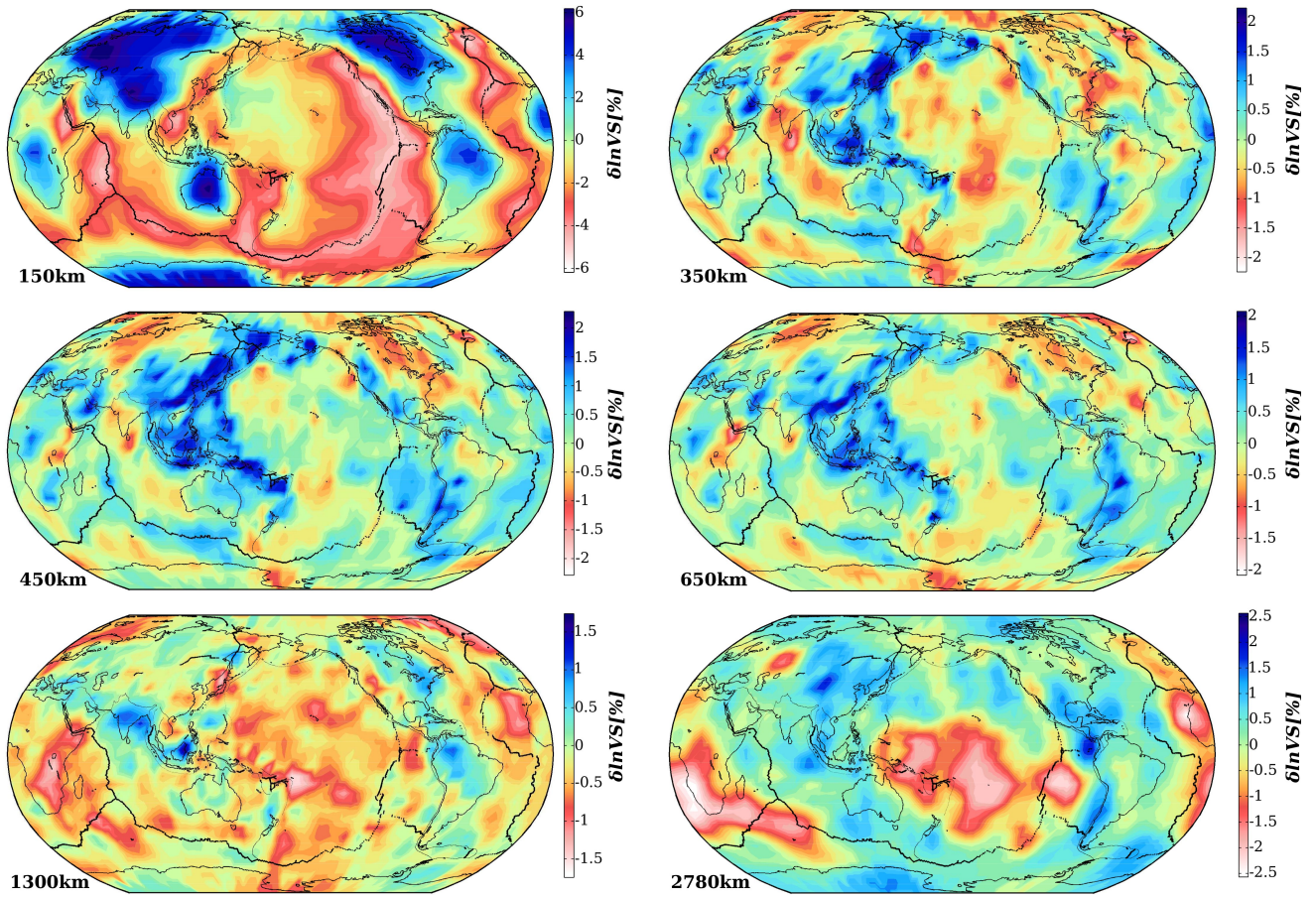


Figure 7. Isotropic V_S relative variation at different depths for our preferred model *SPani*.

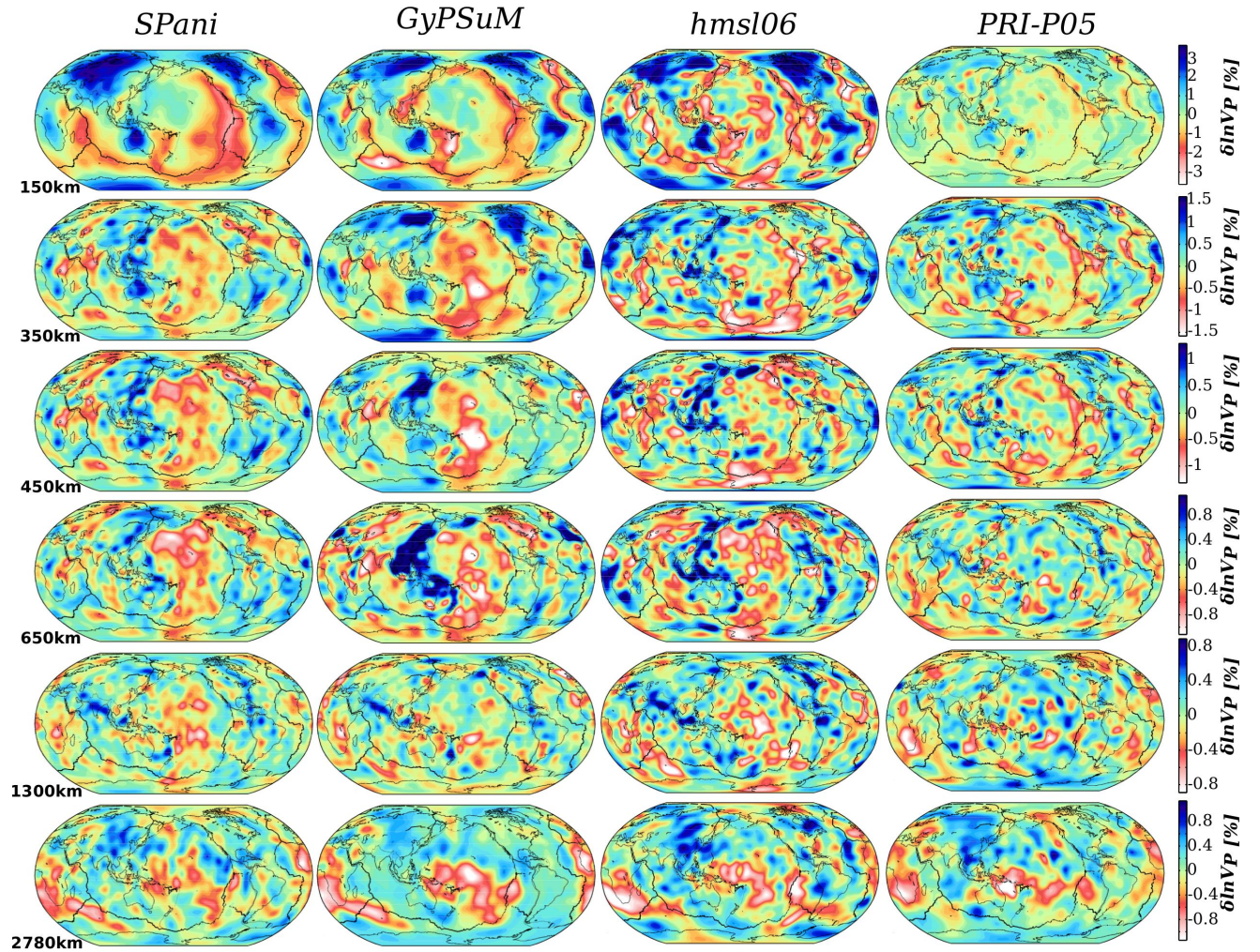


Figure 8. Isotropic V_P relative variations in percent at different depths for four global tomographic models *SPani*, *GyPSuM* [Simmons et al., 2010], *hmsl06* [Houser et al., 2008] and *PRI-P05* [Montelli et al., 2004]. Models are resampled in spherical harmonics from degree 1 to 32.

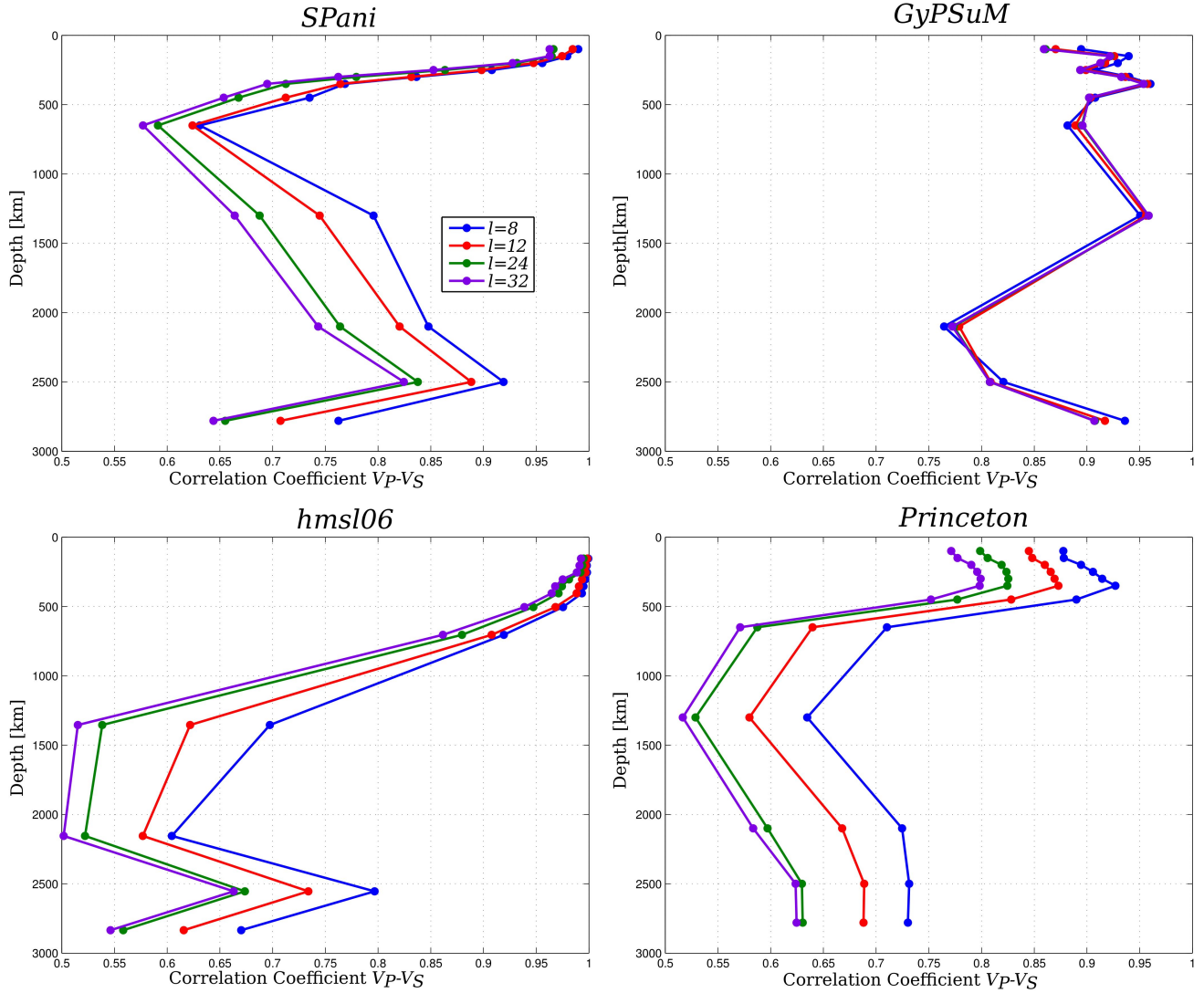


Figure 9. Pearson correlation coefficient between the V_P and the V_S component of the analyzed models as a function of depth.

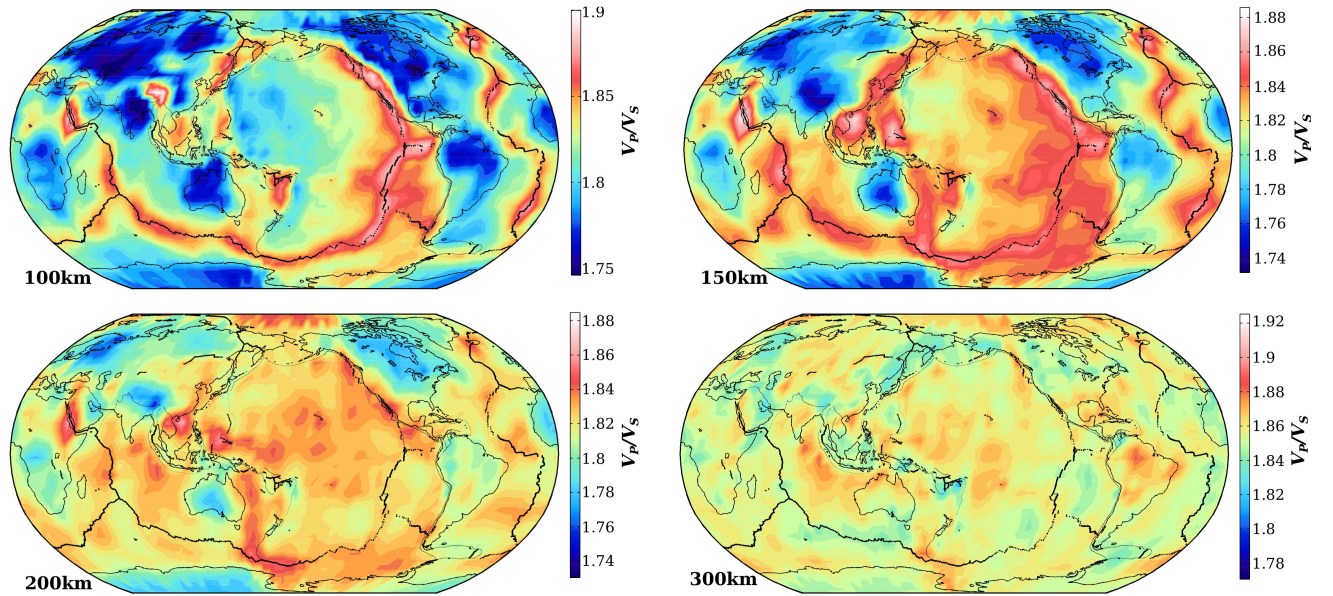


Figure 10. V_P/V_S ratio of $SPani$ at four selected upper mantle depths. Mid oceanic ridges and sub-continental regions show high and low values, respectively, in the top part of the upper mantle. Comparable, and even slightly higher, V_P/V_S ratio to mid-oceanic ridges are observed in the Western Pacific between 150 km and 200 km depth.

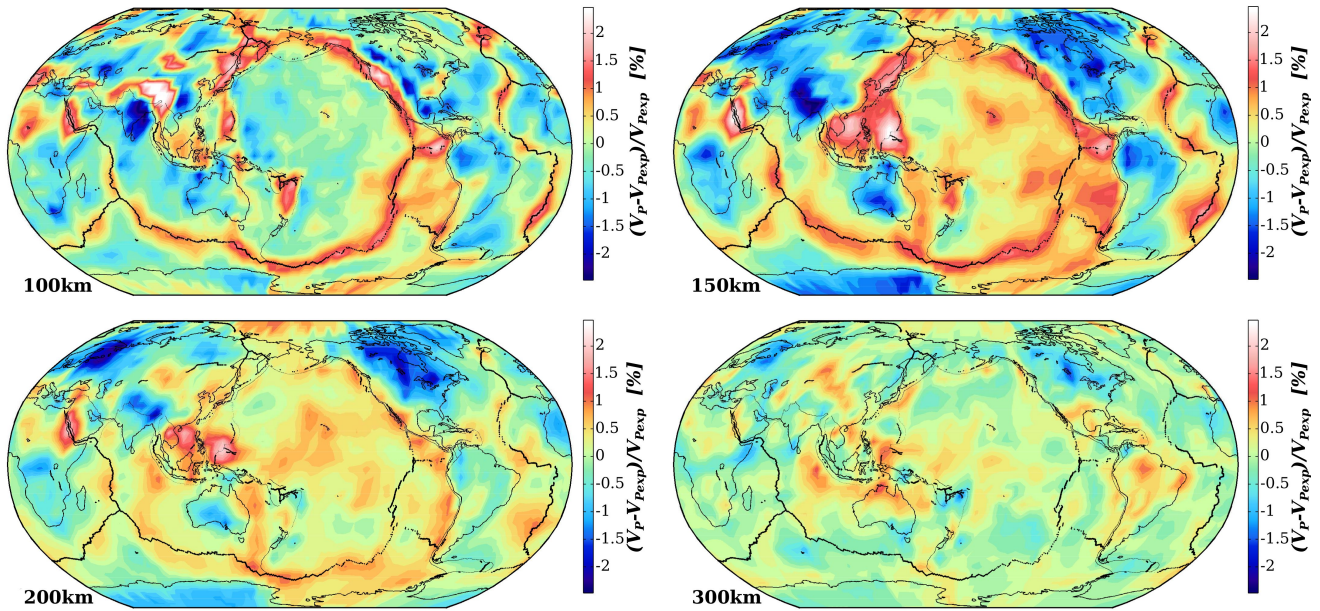


Figure 11. Percentage difference between V_P (and V_P/V_S ratio) of $SPani$ and the expected V_P (and V_P/V_S) ratio if our scaling between V_P and V_S is rigorously applied. Note the strong positive anomalies in the tectonic plates along the Western Pacific margin and negative anomalies in continental regions.

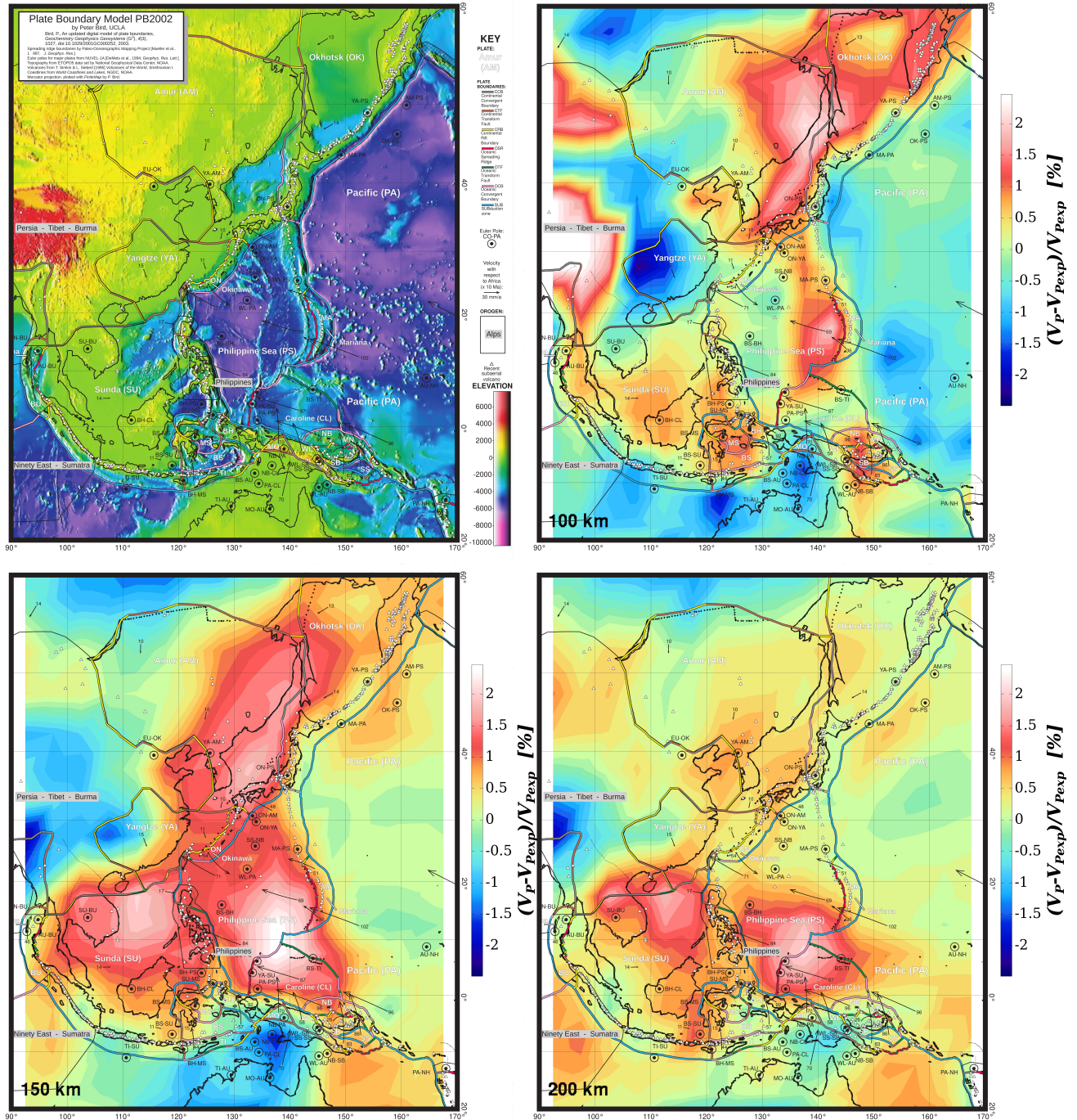


Figure 12. Detail of the V_P/V_S anomaly in the Western Pacific at 100 km (top right), 150 km (bottom left), and 200 km depth (bottom right). On top-left panel, plate boundary model PB2002 *Bird* [2003] and topography is shown as reference.

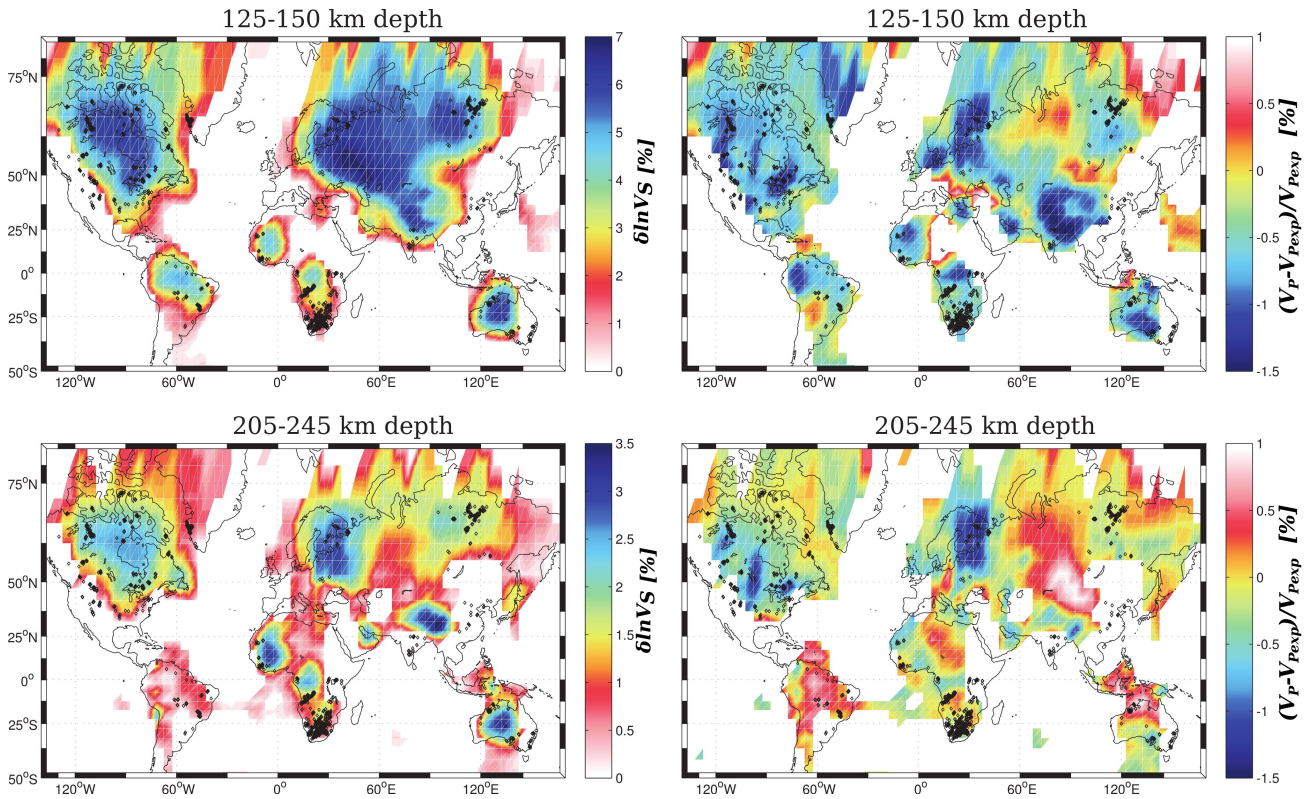


Figure 13. $SPani V_S$ (left panels) and $V_P - V_{Pexp}$ anomalies (right panels) in regions that have faster than average V_S at ~ 135 km and ~ 220 km depth. Kimberlite from Consorem database [Faure, 2006] are also shown. South hemisphere region is not shown in this map.