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Building a three dimensional model of the active Plio-Quaternary basin of Argostoli (Cephalonia Island, Greece): An integrated geophysical and geological approach

Edward Marc Cushing^{a,[*](#page-1-1)}, Fabri[c](#page-1-0)e Hollender^{[b,](#page-1-0)c}, Denis Moiriat^a, Cédric Guyonnet-Benaize^b, Nikolaos Theo[d](#page-1-2)oulidis^d, Edwige Pons-Bran[c](#page-1-0)hu^e, Sophie Sépulcre^f, Pierre-Yves Bard^c, Cécile Cornou^c, Aline Dechamp⁸, Armand Mariscal^{[c,](#page-1-0)i}, Zafeiria Roumelioti^h

- ^c *ISTerre, Université Grenoble-Alpes, CNRS, IRD, IFSTTAR, Grenoble, France*
- d *ITSAK, Thessaloniki, Greece*
- ^e *LSCE/IPSL, CEA-CNRS-UVSQ, Université Paris-Saclay, France*

f*GEOPS, Université Paris-Saclay, France*

g *CEA, DIF, Bruyères le Chatel, France*

hAristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece

i *IGE, Université Grenoble, CNRS, IRD, Grenoble, France.*

ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

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This work is a multidisciplinary approach from geological and geophysical surveys to build a 3D geological model of Argostoli Basin (Cephalonia Island, Greece) aiming to be used for computational 3D simulation of seismic motion. Cephalonia Island is located at the north-western end of the Aegean subduction frontal thrust that is linked to the dextral Cephalonia Transform Fault (west of Cephalonia) where the seismic hazard is high in terms of earthquake frequency and magnitude. The Plio-Quaternary Koutavos-Argostoli basin site was selected within the French Research Agency PIA SINAPS@ project (www.institut-seism.fr/projets/sinaps/ - last accessed on November 25th 2019) to host a vertical accelerometer array. The long-term goal is to validate three-dimensional nonlinear numerical simulation codes to assess the site-specific amplification and nonlinearity. Herein the geological and geophysical surveys carried out from 2011 to 2017 are presented and in particular the complementary investigations that led to the identification of the main stratigraphic units and their structures. In addition, coral debris sampled from the vertical array deep borehole cores were used for 230 Th/ 234 U measurements, which confirmed the Pleistocene age ofthe Koutavos basin. The characterization of the three-dimensional structure of the stratigraphic units was achieved by coupling geological cross-sections (i.e., depth geometry) and geophysical surveys based of surface wave analysis.

1. Introduction

The sedimentary basin of Argostoli [\(Fig.](#page-2-0) 1) of Cephalonia Island in western Greece represents a site of special scientific interest for studying site effects and the nonlinear behavior of soil during an earthquake considering its geological structure and the high seismicity rate. This island was particularly affected by an $M_W = 7.3$ earthquake in 1953 that caused a seismic uplift of its southern par up to one meter. In 2014, a sequence of earthquakes caused very high PGA (maximum ever recorded in Greece, in Lixouri town up to 0.77 g). The Argostoli

basin comprises lagoonal Quaternary sediments that overlies the infilling of an active Plio-Quaternary syncline. The active tectonics is highlighted by intense folding and faulting of the Plio-Quaternary series on the peninsula west of Argostoli and its extension toward the southeast.

This basin has been studied since the 1990's with the installation of a first vertical accelerometer network (Ionianet) by the National Technical University of Athens [\(Protopapa](#page-22-0) et al., 1998). In 2011-2012, a set of seismic measurements were carried out in the framework of experiments of the Network of European Research Infrastructures for

* Corresponding author.

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a *IRSN, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France*

b *CEA, DEN, Saint-Paul-les-Durance, France*

E-mail address: edward.cushing@irsn.fr (E.M. Cushing).

Fig. 1. Left: Geodynamic map of the broader southeastem Mediterranean. Right: Geology and and prevailing seismotectonic features of the Cephalonia and Ithaca Islands (synthesis based on maps of Sorel [\(1989\)](#page-22-1), [Underhill](#page-22-2) (1989), Stiros et al. [\(1994\)](#page-22-3), [Lagios](#page-21-0) et al., 2012, Lekkas [\(1996\),](#page-21-1) also from the 2014 post seismic geodetic data [\(Boncori](#page-21-2) et al., 2015; [Ganas](#page-21-3) et al., 2015) and of data from our geological survey). IT, Ionian Thrust (thrust over lower Pliocene or older series of the Pre-Apulian zone - black arrow in the key); KAF, Kontogourata-Agon Fault; ArF, Argostoli fault (encompassing at this scale same parallel tending faults: White Rock and Minies faults - not drawn); LT, Livadi Thrust; CTFZ, Cephalonia Transform Fault Zone. Map modified from [Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., (2018a).

Earthquake Risk Assessment and Mitigation (NERA project FP7 n° 262,330). In 2013, based on initial observation, a first survey was conducted to collect geological and geophysical data in the framework of the ANR PIA SINAPS@ project of the French Research Agency (ANR) [\(Berge-Thierry](#page-20-0) et al., 2017, [Berge-Thierry](#page-20-1) et al., 2019, [Theodoulidis](#page-22-5) et al., [2018b,](#page-22-5) <https://www.institut-seism.fr/en/projects/sinaps/>). At the beginning of 2014, a seismic sequence including two events of magnitude of about $M_W = 6$ was observed ([Theodoulidis](#page-22-6) et al., 2016) and a 'post-seismic' campaign for additional measurements followed closely ([Perron](#page-21-4) et al., 2018). After June 2015, four boreholes were drilled in the Koutavos area, and several accelerometers were installed on surface as well as at different depths establishing the vertical array ARGONET (ARGOstoli NETwork; <http://argonet-kefalonia.org>) and producing high quality datasets [\(Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., 2018a). All these records already led to several works focused on rotation wavefield analysis (Sbaa et al., [2017](#page-22-7)) or spatial coherency analysis ([Svay](#page-22-8) et al., [2017;](#page-22-8) [Imtiaz](#page-21-5) et al., 2018), among others.

In order to construct a geological model aiming to perform numerical simulation to study site effects, a fine geological characterization of this basin was necessary. The geometries of different geological units have remained poorly detailed at the basin scale yet. In this way, this work presents the results of characterization of this basin based on geological and geophysical surveys carried out from 2011 to 2017. The geological surveys are based on geological mapping the new boreholes in the Koutavos. The geophysical surveys are based on vibration measurements for horizontal-to-vertical spectral ratio (HVSR) analysis as

well surface-wave dispersion analysis (SWDA). All these results lead to draw of a revised geological map of the Argostoli basin and to build the 3D basin structure which could be used in the future numerical analysis.

First we present the geodynamical context of the research area, and then we present the previous geological and structural knowledge of the Argostoli basin. Next, we detail new geological information gathered from both reconnaissance and boreholes surveys and new dating information. The third part is devoted to the description and the analysis of the results of the geophysical surveys based on SWDA and HVSR techniques. We finally present the used methodology to build a 3 dimensional model from the combination and cross-check of the previous geological and geophysical information.

1.1. Geodynamics framework

Western Greece is one of the main active tectonics areas of the Mediterranean region, with the highest seismic activity in Europe. Cephalonia Island is located in the western part of the fold-and-thrust belt of the Hellenic Foreland [\(Fig.](#page-2-0) 1) ([Hatzfeld et al.,](#page-21-6) 1989; [Sorel,](#page-22-1) 1989; [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989). In this region, the lithology is mainly Alpine Triassic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic sedimentary deposits (e.g., [Aubouin,](#page-20-2) 1959; Aubouin and [Dercourt,](#page-20-3) 1962). The Cephalonia area is located at the boundary of the Eurasian/ African plates, which is characterized by a convergence rate of up to 35 mm/yr (e.g., [Reilinger](#page-22-9) et al., 2006). In this area, this convergence arises from the northwestern end of the Aegean subduction frontal thrust, which is almost flat and is located at about 10 to 12 km in depth under the Pre-Apulian continental basement ([Clément](#page-21-7) et al., 2000; [Sachpazi](#page-22-10) et al., 2000). This basement pushes on the accretionary prism of the Mediterranean ridge [\(Nielsen](#page-21-8) Dit [Christensen,](#page-21-8) 2003). The frontal thrust outcrops at the southwestern edge of the Mediterranean ridge, > 200 km south of Zante (Zakinthos) Island. To the north, the Aegean Arc terminates at the dextral Cephalonia Transform Fault (CTF), which is located along the west coast of Lefkas (Lefkada) and Cephalonia Islands (e.g., [Cushing,](#page-21-9) 1985; [Scordilis](#page-22-11) et al., [1985](#page-22-11)), with a dextral slip that was estimated at 17 mm/yr by [Pérouse](#page-21-10) (2013). This major strike-slip fault has the role of a transition zone between the African subducting plate and the continental Apulian microplate (Le [Pichon](#page-21-11) et al., 1995; [Louvari](#page-21-12) et al., 1999; [Sachpazi](#page-22-10) et al., [2000;](#page-22-10) Nielsen Dit [Christensen,](#page-21-8) 2003; [Pérouse,](#page-21-10) 2013; [Pérouse](#page-21-13) et al., [2017\)](#page-21-13).

Due to the dimensions of the CTF and the other overriding thrusts ([Stiros](#page-22-3) et al., 1994; [Basili](#page-20-4) et al., 2013; DISS [Working](#page-21-14) Group, 2015) linked to the Aegean subduction and to the high convergence rate, the seismic hazard is high in terms of earthquake re-occurrence and magnitude. This is why major earthquakes can and have occurred with the most destructive recent one being the 1953, $M_W = 7.2$ earthquake. The co-seismic movement associated with this event provoked an uplift of about 0.5 to 1.0 m of a large part of Cephalonia Island [\(Stiros](#page-22-3) et al., [1994\)](#page-22-3). Another paleoseismic event previously uplifted the southern part of the island by about 0.6 m, as deduced from an analysis of the uplifted notches ([Stiros](#page-22-3) et al., 1994). > 20 earthquakes with magnitudes from 6.0 to 7.2 have caused damage in the surrounding areas since the 17th century ([Papathanassiou](#page-21-15) et al., 2017; [Theodoulidis et](#page-22-6) al., [2016\)](#page-22-6). The more recent earthquakes (i.e., since 1983) have mainly been located on the CTF or on secondary associated faults, such as those of: January 17, 1983 ($M_W = 7.2$), on the southern segment of the CTF; August 14, 2003 ($M_W = 6.2$) in Lefkas; January 26, 2014 ($M_W = 6.1$) and February 3, 2014 ($M_W = 6.0$) in Lixouri (e.g. [Papathanassiou](#page-21-16) et al., [2016\)](#page-21-16); and November 17, 2015 ($M_W = 6.4$) in Lefkas. Seismic and geodetic monitoring and InSAR imagery have contributed to the more accurate delineation of the faults [\(Boncori](#page-21-2) et al., 2015; [Briole](#page-21-17) et al., [2015;](#page-21-17) [Avallone](#page-20-5) et al., 2017; [Saltogianni](#page-22-12) et al., 2018). In particular, a N-^S trending strike slip fault is inferred from the analysis of geodetic data gathered after the 2014 earthquakes in Cephalonia ([Boncori](#page-21-2) et al., [2015;](#page-21-2) [Ganas](#page-21-3) et al., 2015), see [Fig.](#page-2-0) 1. Complementary information regarding structural data (e.g., the presence of normal faults in western Paliki) was provided by Nielsen Dit [Christensen](#page-21-8) (2003), [Pérouse](#page-21-10) (2013) and [Hunter](#page-21-18) (2013). These faults represent an en-echelon belt that is aligned against the CTF from Lefkas to the southernmost banks offshore of the Paliki peninsula [\(Fig.](#page-2-0) 1). This framework can be interpreted as a bulging extension along the transcurrent and compressive major faults. Moreover, marine seismic reflection profiles performed in the Livadi Gulf and to the south of Paliki underline the intense deformation to the east of the Lixouri shoreline (i.e., both N-S folding and normal faults) [\(Hunter,](#page-21-18) 2013).

1.2. State of knowledge about the Geology of the Argostoli area

The regional geology of the Cephalonia Island have extensively been studied and mapped (e.g. British [Petroleum](#page-21-19) Co., 1971; [Sorel,](#page-22-13) 1976; Institute of Geology and Mineral [Exploration](#page-21-20) IGME, 1985; [Sorel,](#page-22-1) 1989; [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989; [Stiros](#page-22-3) et al., 1994; [Lekkas,](#page-21-1) 1996; [Hunter,](#page-21-18) 2013). In the Argostoli cape area, the authors have particularly pointed out the importance of the Plio-Quaternary deformation (folds, faulting and uplifted markers such as marine terraces) of the western part of the Argostoli area (Argostoli peninsula) including both the Argostoli basin and Minies anticline.

The series of the Argostoli-Minies anticline (relief that constitutes the Argostoli peninsula) and the Argostoli syncline (depression located in the gulf of Argostoli and southward in the Koutavos lagoon and the Kokolata plain) can be described as presented in [Fig.](#page-4-0) 2 where the indicated nomenclature will be used afterward in this paper: i.e., Cretaceous, C; Eocene, E; Miocene to Lower Pliocene, M-P, Pliocene, P[a, b]; Pleistocene, *Pt-[a, b, c, d, s, m,* k]; and Holocene, *H:*

At the bottom of the series, the entire outcropping Cretaceous unit (C) for Cephalonia has been estimated to be approximately 1700 m thick (British [Petroleum](#page-21-19) Co. Ltd, 1971; Sorel, [1976,](#page-22-13) 1989) and characterized by a Lower Cretaceous (Barremian to Albian) unit defined by well-bedded and yellowish dolomitic limestone, and an Aptian to Maastrichtian Cretaceous unit made of biodetritic to sub-recifal limestone with rudists. Locally, near White Rock Faults, this limestone is strongly tectonically brecciated [\(Sorel,](#page-22-1) 1989; [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989). In the Minies anticline area, there are Eocene- to Paleocene-bedded porcellaineous limestone outcrops (E, in [Fig.](#page-4-0) 2).

Above the Cretaceous and Paleocene-Eocene limestone, there are local outcrops of a conformable series of Miocene to lower Pliocene detritic series such as, calcareous marls, gray clays, and blue marls in narrow synclines that can be dated for the more recent formation by the presence of *G. margaritae* planktonic foraminifera (observed at Liakas Cape and Lixouri). A first unconformity is determined in western Cephalonia by the presence of *Globorotalia puncticulata* in unconformable clayey grainstones over sandy clay encompassing *G. margaritae* planktonic foraminifera (observed at Liakkas Cape and Lixouri - [Sorel,](#page-22-1) [1989\)](#page-22-1). This first deformation episode occurred in the lower Pliocene (between 4 and 3 Ma - Sorel et al., [1992](#page-22-14)).

From the end of lower Pliocene (-4 Ma) to Calabrian, the series correspond to unconformable breccias and calcareous sandstone de-scribed by [Underhill](#page-22-2) (1989) as a delta fan sequence (Pa) , which is followed by thick blue marl formations (*Pb*) and ends with sandy marls and gravel (*Pt-a*) then Calabrian calcareous sandstone delta fans (*Pt-b*). In the Argostoli cape area, this sequence is strongly folded and faulted by a second episode of deformation that is estimated to be post Calabrian and precede middle Pleistocene continental breccias slopes and is proposed by Sorel et al. [\(1992\)](#page-22-14) to occur during a period between 1.0 and 0.7 Ma. The middle Pleistocene unit is represented by strongly cemented slope breccias *(Pt-c)* previously called 'Mindelian' ([Sorel,](#page-22-1) [1989;](#page-22-1) [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989). These breccias are overlaid by screes *(Pt-s)* (previously called 'Rissian') that are laterally connected to the uplifted terrace constituted by beach rock (*Pt-m*) previoulsly called 'Paleo-Milazian'). These raised beaches are uplifted up to 100 m above sea level in the southern part of the investigated area north of the Minies Village (Sorel,1989). These Upper Pleistocene to Present *(Pt-d)* cover (few meters) lies over the isthmus of the Lardhigos cape [\(Fig.](#page-4-0) 2);

In the Argostoli-Koutavos area, the Plio-Pleistocene series is not detailed by authors and is always divided in two units (generally Plio-Pleistocene and more recent): Mio-Pliocene blue-gray marls series and alluvium is mapped by BP (1971), lower Pliocene to Pleistocene series have been mapped (BP co., [1971](#page-21-19)), Pliocene and Holocene (IGME, 1985), Plio-Pleistocene and Riss to present ([Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989), Plio-Calabrian clastic formation and recent alluvium and interglacial Middle Pleistocene deposits ([Lekkas,](#page-21-1) 1996). The more recent unit in the Argostoli basin is the Holocene and artificial deposits (i.e., \sim 2 m of manmade infill - [\(Hadler,](#page-21-21) 2013)) in the Koutavos Park area. They include ^a succession of thin distinct tsunamigenic layers with ages that have been determined by radiocarbon dating to about 6000 BP for the oldest event [\(Hadler,](#page-21-21) 2013) at about 7 m below present sea level (b.s.l.).

On the structural point of view, the axis of the Argostoli sedimentary basin strikes NW-SE. It is located on the eastern flank of the westverging Argostoli-Minies anticline ([Fig.](#page-2-0) 1). The Argostoli-Minies anticline is faulted at least by two main east-dipping reverse faults: the White Rock Fault and the Argostoli Fault ([Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989) [\(Fig.](#page-4-0) 2). It is not clear if the Minies Fault described by Sorel [\(1989\)](#page-22-1) corresponds to the White rock fault or is another structure. The deformation associated with these faults is locally intense, with brecciated and dolomitized limestone. On the footwall of the White Rock fault several minor reverse bedding plane slip faults with western dip cut the Pleistocene screes *(Pt-s)* and terrace *(Pt-m)* [\(Sorel,](#page-22-13) 1976, 1989) were identified near

Fig. 2. Geological map from previous works (mainly from Sorel, [1976,1989;](#page-22-13) [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989). Detailed information about the Plio-Pleistocene series ofthe Argostoli basin was not then available. A Lithostratigraphic log (not to scale) of the Argostoli-Minies Anticline is presented at the right. This log is constructed from the geological description provided by the above mentioned authors. The correspondence with the nomenclature used in this article is reported on the right column. The 'West' column describes the units that have been defined for the Argostoli-Minies anticline while the 'East' column displays the units that can be observed in the Argostoli-Koutavos basin.

the Lardhigos cape and more to the south up to the Airport area.

We remark that on the eastern side of the Argostoli basin, [\(Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989) proposed that the Aenos thrust (*AeT* see in [Figs.](#page-2-0) 1, 2) lies at the base of the hillslopes at the foothills of Aenos Mountain and has been active after the late Piacienzian by Underhill. This local topography was, however, not interpreted as having a tectonic origin, but as the result of paleo-cliffs along the shore of the Pliocene Sea ([Sorel,](#page-22-13) [1976;](#page-22-13) Sorel et al., [1992](#page-22-14)).

2. New information based on geological surveys

2.1. Geological mapping

2.1.1. Complementary stratigraphy of the Argostoli basin

One notes that the previous geological studies have not distinguished any subdivision in the lower Pliocene to lower-middle Pleistocene series of the Argostoli basin (i.e. east of Minies Anticline). During this geological survey of the area, we identified 3 main units that could be linked with the described units in the western flank of the Argostoli-Minies anticline. This new subdivision in the lower Pliocene to lower-middle Pleistocene series constitutes the main change regarding previous geological mappings. The description below concerns the series that outcrops in the Argostoli-Koutavos basin:

• The basal unit is coarse, much consolidated (calcareous breccias), and has a dip of about 30° to the ENE. On the slope located south of the town of Argostoli, three hectometric ledges reveal the presence of softer sediments (clayey sands) interbedded in the harder sandstone levels that could correspond to an alternation of coarse and thinner sediments in the delta fan series. We link this unit with the *Pa* unit of the western flank of the anticlinal. On this eastern flank, the basal contact of the *Pa* unit with the Cretaceous limestones is an

erosional and angular unconformity. Toward the east, this unit doesn't outcrop in the center of the Argostoli basin and this thickness is likely reduced in this direction which was confirmed by the geophysical surveys (see paragraph 3);

- Lying over this first unit, ^a series of alternations of sands and sandstone dipping toward the East along the eastern Argostoli anticlinal flank (well exposed in some southern quarters of the town of Argostoli). Toward the south, this unit is more flat and coarser with gravel and breccias indicating lithological variation as described by Sorel [\(1989\)](#page-22-1). We correlate this unit with the Piacenzian clay series belonging to west flank of the Minies anticline *(Pb* unit); The geological mapping allows to assert that the thickness of Unit *Pb*like the *Pa*unit decreases toward the East until it disappears under the upper series *(Pt-k)* identified hereafter;
- The Quaternary unit described by Sorel and [Underhill](#page-22-2) (1989) as 'Wurmian to present deposits' outcrops in the center of the Argostoli basin and forms lowlands around the Koutavos area. Some outcrops such as clay quarry, west of Koutavos Park, show yellowish to reddish sandy clays. This unit is defined as the *Pt-k* unit (Pleistocene of Koutavos Park);

In addition of the Plio-Pleistocene to proposed stratigraphy, we distinguished the Holocene deposits that are located only in the vicinity of the Koutavos Park. This *H* unit is composed of lagoonal sediments overlain by backfill ([Hadler,](#page-21-21) 2013; [Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., 2018a).

2.1.2. Complementary structural information

During our field survey, we completed dip measurements and outcrop observations. We mostly confirmed the structural framework of the western part of the Minies anticline. We kept the Minies fault trace from Sorel because it is underlined by the dolomitized breccias. In this area, our mapping does not much differ from the previous ones

proposed by the Sorel [\(1976\)](#page-22-13) and [Underhill](#page-22-2) (1989).

On the eastern part of the Argostoli basin, we did not find any evidence of the Aenos thrust with our mapping. The landscape is much smoothed and the post Piacenzian age of thrusting proposed by [Underhill](#page-22-2) (1989) is questionable. However, if this structure had been active, it would have been during the lower Pliocene compressive event. However we kept this presumed fault on our map (see [Fig.](#page-4-0) 2) because it can explain the absence of Eocene levels on the hanging wall while they outcrop in the footwall (the Minies Anticline).

To end, we notice that the placing of Krani Hill right over Koutavos lagoon is difficult to explain, and might have resulted from a rock slide that started from a crown scarp located uphill up to 160 a.s.l. This hypothesis is sustained by the fact that the dip distribution on the hill is extremely scattered. It is not clear if this hypothetical 'olistolith' is covered by the Quaternary infilling of Koutavos lagoon or partly overlaps the Quaternary, a fact that would explain the significant flow of the spring located at the water pump by Koutavos Park).

Following this field study, investigations were performed such as reinterpretation of pre-existing water boreholes, and acquisition of geophysical measurements (i.e., ambient vibration arrays, HVSR profiles). In June 2015, four boreholes were drilled in the Koutavos area, and several accelerometers were installed on surface and at different depths. The deepest borehole was cored to perform geological descriptions and characterization. Moreover, X-ray analysis and dating were performed on the collected samples from this borehole; results of these investigations are detailed below.

2.2. Results from new boreholes in the Koutavos park

Four boreholes were drilled in 2015 to install a permanent vertical accelerometer network in Koutavos park, to the southeast of Argostoli (green square symbol in the zoom of the [Fig.](#page-7-0) 5). ARGONET consists of a vertical seismic array and a nearby (i.e., 440 m away) free-field station on bedrock [\(Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., 2018a).

A detailed study was conducted at the ARGONET site, in Koutavos Park, close to the town of Argostoli (see [Fig.](#page-7-0) 5). As a first step, several boreholes were drilled at the site: two deep boreholes; one cored borehole at 84.5 m (B1); one destructive borehole at 83.4 m (B2 also called BK0 in the cross sections descriptions) where a probe was installed; and three destructive boreholes at 40.1 m (B3), 15.5 m (B4) and 5.6 m (B5) in depth, very close to the first one (B2). The boreholes were drilled into the Plio-Quaternary units, and the deep borehole almost reached the Cretaceous limestone. A SPT was performed in B1. Two cross-hole and two down-hole measurements were also conducted: cross-hole (CH1) (between B2 and B3) and CH2 (between B3 and B4); and down-hole (DH1) in B2 and DH2 in B3. All these results are reported in ([Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., 2018a). The lithology description in Borehole B1 is shown in [Fig.](#page-6-0) 3 as well as various indexes of the depositional environment of different units which are described below from bottom to top:

- Unit *C,* which corresponds to Cretaceous limestone fragments that were collected at the bottom of borehole B1. These suggested that this unit might be reached a few meters below the bottom of the borehole, probably around 90 m below the surface, according to geophysical investigations (see [Section](#page-8-0) 3).
- Unit *Pa,* is probably lacking or very thin because of the aforementioned Cretaceous fragments found in the *Pb* formation at the bottom of the borehole.
- Unit *Pb,* which is represented by a stiff material with marly sandy limestone and claystone from 68.2 m to the bottom (84.5 m) of borehole B1. This unit is also observed in two pre-existing boreholes that had been drilled about 1.5 km to the NW of Koutavos, close to the 'De Bosset' bridge [\(Fig.](#page-4-0) 2; see [Rovithis](#page-22-15) et al., 2014).
- Unit *Pt-k,* which is the 'soft' clays and sands. The detailed lithology here is presented in the description of the Koutavos borehole. This

unit shows three distinct lithological main sets of clays from the top to the bottom: 28 m of red-brown clays with sand; 21 m of alternations of red-brown clays with marls and silts; and 10 m of grayblue marls with organic matter and fossils (i.e., corals, gastropods, oysters). Some corals and shells were collected during the drilling, and they were characterized by X-ray diffraction and dated by the Useries method (see [Section](#page-5-0) 2.3).

Unit *H*, Holocene deposits are composed of about 6 m of lagoonal sediments, clayey silty sands to silty clays overlain by 2 m of backfill (clays and silty sands incorporating locally artificial deposits as rubbles).

The comprehensive description of the geotechnical parameters collected in these boreholes is presented in [Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., 2018a paper.

2.3. Coral dating and sediment mineralogy

To date, the Koutavos basin has been assumed to belong to the Quaternary era ([Protopapa](#page-22-0) et al., 1998; [Sorel,](#page-22-13) 1976; [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989) without any dating to confirm this assumption. The cored borehole described in the previous section provided the opportunity to perform absolute dating, as fossils corals were found during the drilling.

Three samples (coded #6959, #6960, #7105) of fragment branches of corals that were coated in clay that filled all of the interstices and voids of the corallites, including the septa interstices, were collected from the core of borehole B1 at the base of the Pt-k lithostratigraphic unit ([Fig.](#page-6-1) 4a), at 60.15 m and 63.00 m in depth. These corals may be *Lophelia pertusa* or Claedocora caespitosa that are common in Mediterranean Sea. In samples #6959 and #6960, the clay fraction was removed using a brush, followed by ultra-pure water washing. For sample #7105, an additional step using abrasion with a micro diamond saw was used. X-ray diffraction analysis was performed on the bulk sediment to determine the overall mineralogy, on the $< 2 \mu$ m fraction for the clay composition, and on the cleaned and poorly cleaned coral fragments.

The bulk sediment had a mineral composition that was typical of shallow marine environments, as a mixture of calcite, clay, evaporite, and detrital components. The clay composition was 71% to 74% smectite, 17% to 18% illite, 6% to 8% chlorite, and 2% to 4% kaolinite. This clay composition is typical of temperate climates, such as the Cephalonia climate in the present time. However, the presence of gypsum in the bulk sediment and corals implies some periods of aridity with a slight decrease in the sea level, which may have resulted in some evaporite deposits.

In order to select pristine samples suitable for dating, the mineralogical composition of the coral samples was estimated following the method detailed by [Sepulcre](#page-22-16) et al. (2009). The constitutive minerals of samples #6959 and #6960 were, in order of abundance: aragonite, quartz, calcite, vermiculite, muscovite, and gypsum. Sample #7105 was 100% aragonite. For the U-series analysis, the detailed U—Th separation and purification protocol can be found in ([Pons-Branchu](#page-22-17) et al., 2014). [Table](#page-7-1) ¹ gives the U, Th, isotopic ratios, and ages. The U content showed little variation (from 2.64 \pm 0.01 to 2.75 \pm 0.004 ppm), while ²³²Th and ²³⁰Th/²³²Th showed larger variations (from 33.7 \pm 0.3 to 348.1 \pm 1.2 ppb, and 25.8 \pm 0.1 to 245.6 \pm 1.8, respectively). The δ^{234} U were close for the three samples, although slightly higher for the purest (100% aragonite) sample (#7105). The ages were corrected for initial 230 Th, assuming an initial 230 Th/ 232 Th activity ratio of 7 \pm 50%, and taking into account the decay of this initial ²³⁰Th with time. The corrected ages were not very different from the uncorrected ages, and were 411.8 \pm 46.17 ka for the 'clean' sample (#7105), 539.93 \pm 101.03 ka for the sample with remaining clay (#6960). Sample #6959 that was very rich in clay content had an apparent age out of the 230Th/234U dating limits.

Diagenesis is ^a major issue for the dating of fossil corals, as it can

Fig. 3. Koutavos borehole (B1) with facies description, environments, and Standard Penetration Test (SPT) measurements and Vs values.

cause U and/or Th loss and/or gain (open system behavior), which will result in biased ²³⁰Th/²³⁴U ages (e.g., [\(Pons-Branchu](#page-22-18) et al., 2005). Moreover, these effects are time dependent, and the probability of the opening of a system increases with time [\(Villemant](#page-22-19) and Feuillet, 2003). The identification of diagenetic processes is mainly based on examination of the alteration in the initial coral mineralogy, with identification of calcite in aragonitic species and the high 232 Th, which indicates alteration or contamination. On the contrary, a fossil coral analysis with a $\delta^{234}U_0$ value within the range of present-day seawater \pm 20% is assumed to have remained in closed system ([Andersen](#page-20-6)

Fig. 4. Preserved coral debris collected for dating. (a) Coral debris extracted from borehole B1 (core sample between 59.7 m and 63.9 m in depth). (b) Transverse section of the core, showing coral polyps. (c) All of the collected coral debris for dating, with weight examples and size scale.

Table ¹

Core age, corrected ages for the detrital fraction.

 8^{234} Um = ({²³⁴U/²³⁸U}measured/{²³⁴U/²³⁸U}equilibrium - 1) × 1000, with ²³⁴U/²³⁸Uequilibrium = 54.89 × 10-6 (molar ratio, [Cheng](#page-21-22) et al., 2013). $\delta^{234}U_0$ is $\delta^{234}U$ at the initial time (using the $^{230}Th/^{234}U$ ages).

Fig. 5. Location of SWDA measurements during both 2013 and 2017 campaigns (Ambient Vibration Arrays, HVSR and MASW). HVSR were performed along the ³ profiles (PR01 to PR03). The Profile 04 starts from a 'rock site' to Koutavos ARGONET borehole and De Bosset Bridge. The 4 profiles are used in [Section](#page-12-0) 4.2 to construct geological sections. Six AVA were performed: Array ¹ (rock site), Array 2 (Pliocene site), Array 3 (west of Koutavos), Array 4 (center of Koutavos), Array 5 (ARGONET) and Array 6 (Large array). MASW measurements were located within the arrays and additional measurements were performed on rock sites. Location of the permanent ARGONET sensor array (vertical array + free-field station on bedrock) is also indicated.

et al., [2008](#page-20-6)). Accordingly, these Cephalonia corals reached the two classical criteria for age validity (i.e., aragonitic structure, $\delta^{234}U_0$ compatible with modern sea water uranium isotopic composition \pm 20%o). The data from sample #7105 represents the most confident age (i.e., better clay removal before analysis and 100% aragonite).

Regarding dating and mineralogy, the fossil corals (see [Fig.](#page-6-1) 4b and c) certainly corresponded to a high-stand and warm period. Looking at the marine isotopic stages deduced from the records of $\delta^{18}O$ and sea level curves [\(Lisiecki](#page-21-23) and Raymo, 2005), these fossils might have been contemporaneous with the MIS 11 high stand (-420 ka) , based on the possible age range given by samples #7105 (with greater confidence) and #6960, and that the clay composition around the corals was typical of a temperate climate. In this way, the limit between *Pb* andPt-k would match with the stratigraphic limit between the Calabrian and the Ionian, and would correspond to the unconformity that followed the major deformation episode in the pre-Apulian domain that formed the Minies anticline. Considering the dating of the coral cored at 63 m in depth, the consequence is that the Argostoli/ Koutavos syncline is still active and has led to the Koutavos marsh subsidence. Thus, considering for regular subsidence and that the 420 ka high stand is equivalent to the present sea level ([Bowen,](#page-21-24) 2010), and that the occurrence of evaporites and of corals are associated to a shallow water depth, this implies that the mean local subsidence rate in Koutavos is about 0.15 mm/ yr or more. One note that this subsidence rate is the same magnitude order that one could be determined on the raised beaches located North of Mines Village (see [Section](#page-3-0) 1.2).

3. New information from the geophysical surveys

To obtain new information about the geometry of the Argostoli basin and to measure shear wave velocity (V_S) , required in 3D models, two geophysical surveys were carried out in September 2013 and October 2017. These surveys involved single-station ambient vibration measurements for horizontal-to-vertical spectral ratio (HVSR) analysis ([Nakamura,](#page-21-25) 1989; SESAME [team,](#page-22-20) 2004; Bard et al., [2010\)](#page-20-7), as well surface-wave dispersion analysis (SWDA) technique (Foti et al., [2018\)](#page-21-26).

The SWDA includes the measuring of the phase velocity of the surface waves (Rayleigh and/or Love waves) as a function of the frequency, to determine the dispersion curves. These dispersion curves are then converted into V_s profiles using an inversion algorithm. To obtain a dispersion curve over a satisfactory band width (i.e., to derive a V_S profile with sufficient resolution and investigation depth), two acquisition methods were used. For high frequencies (i.e., short wavelengths, and hence shallow investigation depths), we used the 'multichannel analysis of surface wave' (MASW) measurements in which geophones are placed along a line and surface waves are generated by hitting the ground with (for example) a sledge hammer. For lower frequencies (i.e., larger wavelengths, and hence deeper investigation depths), we used the ambient vibration array (AVA) technique, with sensors placed in consecutive circles of increasing apertures, plus one sensor in the center. In this case, we estimate the phase velocity of the surface waves that are contained within the ambient vibration wavefield. The 2D feature of the array allowed the identification of the propagation direction of the surface wave trains, which is mandatory to estimate velocities. The SWDA acquisitions were carried out in six areas ([Fig.](#page-7-0) 5: Array 1+ Array 6, to characterize the bedrock velocity profile; and Arrays ¹ to 4 along PR01 profile, to characterize the velocities within the Argostoli basin). All of the individual sensor recordings from the SWDA were also processed as single-station HVSR measurements. The HVSR and SWDA measurement locations are shown on the map of the [Fig.](#page-7-0) 5 and are specified in the Appendix- [Table](#page-18-0) A.1.

Basically, the HVSR method consists of computing the Fourier spectra of ambient vibration recordings, and plotting the ratio of the horizontal to vertical spectra. This analysis is done over many time windows, and a mean is computed to provide the final HVSR curve. This curve often shows one peak, which is an indication of the presence

of a contrast within the V_s velocity profile below the measuring point. The frequency of this peak, denoted as f_0 , indicates the fundamental resonance frequency of the soil column, and it is mainly conditioned by the depth (h) of the velocity contrast and the value of V_S between the surface and the velocity contrast $(f_0 = V_s/4 h)$ in the simplified case of a single homogeneous layer overlying an homogeneous half-space). The *f⁰* value can therefore provide indirect information about the depth of geological interfaces. The HVSR analyses were carried out along three profiles (see [Fig.](#page-7-0) 5: PR01, PR02, PR03), which were roughly perpendicular to the syncline axis, and at a few complementary points corresponding to key locations for our integrated interpretation (e.g., locations of available borehole information).

3.1. Surface wave dispersion analysis

Six areas were investigated by Ambient Vibration Arrays named as Array ¹ (rock site), Array 2 (Pliocene site), Array 3 (west of Koutavos), Array 4 (center of Koutavos), Array 5 (ARGONET) and Array 6 (Large array) (see [Fig.](#page-7-0) 5). Each acquisition involved 15 sensors for AVA measurements (Güralp CMG6TD broadband seismometers with integrated digitizer. This number of sensors allowed the use of doublecircle geometry (one sensor in the center; $2 \times$ seven sensors equally spaced around two circles). The azimuth of the sensors for the larger circle was shifted by \sim 26° (360°/14) with respect to the azimuth of the sensors for the smaller circle, to optimize the azimuthal coverage of the whole array. A radius ratio of 3.0 was chosen for the increase between the two consecutive array radii. For consecutive acquisitions, the inner/ smaller circle was moved to form the next larger circle. The whole data acquisition for each array last about few hours. This kind of geometry has also been used in several other characterization surveys [\(Hollender](#page-21-27) et al., [2018](#page-21-27)). The MASW measurements were performed within the Arrays ¹ to 5 and on two rock site locations (see [Fig.](#page-7-0) 5).

For Array ¹ (rock), three sets of layouts were used, with increasing paired radii of: 5 m and 15 m; 15 m and 45 m and 45 m and 135 m. The site was selected to the south-east of the Argostoli syncline, on an outcropping area of karstified Cretaceous limestone (C) with a relatively flat topography and low layer dip. This site was also chosen for the 'dense velocimeter array' of the Sinaps@ post-seismic survey ([Imtiaz](#page-21-5) et al., 2018; [Perron](#page-21-4) et al., 2018; Svay et al., [2017\)](#page-22-8).

For the 'Large array', a single layout was used, with paired radii of 230 m and 700 m. This array was deployed within the Argostoli syncline, where the Holocene and Pleistocene formations were outcropping, to take advantage of a wide flat area. However, considering the reduced thickness of the overlying formations and the very large array aperture, the objective of this acquisition is the evaluation of the velocity in the Cretaceous limestone (*C*) bedrock at large depth. The dispersion curves deduced from this array can be combined with those of Array ¹ (rock) to obtain the reference velocity profile within the bedrock down to a large depth.

For Array 2 (Pliocene), four sets of layouts were used, with increasing paired radii of: 5 m and 15 m; 15 m and 45 m; 45 m and 135 m and 135 m and 405 m. This array was deployed to the west of Koutavos Park where the Pliocene stiff formation (Pb) is outcropping. This array was designed to determine the reference velocity profile within the *Pb* formation.

For Array 3 (west of Koutavos), three sets of layouts were used: 7 m and 20 m; 20 m and 60 m and 60 m and 180 m. This array was deployed to the west of Koutavos Park, where the Pleistocene formation *(Pt-k)* is outcropping. The location of this array was chosen so as to better constrain the velocity profile where the 'double peak' HVSR response can occur.

For Array 4 (center of Koutavos), three sets of layouts were used: 5 m and 15 m; 15 m and 45 m and 45 m and 135 m. This array was deployed within Koutavos Park.

Finally, Array 5 (ARGONET) was deployed using the ARGONET accelerometric station as the center. Three sets of layouts were used:

Fig. 6. Results of the surface wave dispersion analysis survey processing. (a-e) Measured dispersion curves and associated standard deviation (blue) and forwardmodeled dispersion curves (black) for all of the arrays. (f-j) Derived shear-wave velocity profiles: simplified model (black); 'acceptable' inverted profiles (gray, thin solid lines); reference soft soil velocity profile (corresponding to the best solution for array 5) for comparison of those obtained for arrays 3 and 4 (gray, thick dashed line). (j) Other sources of V_S data obtained at the ARGONET site: cross-holes (green points), down-holes (red points) and seismic interferometry (blue lines). (f-j) Columns on the right of these velocity profile plots show the depth range of the three reference velocity profiles used (SoS, soft soil; StS, stiff soil; R, rock). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

9 m and 27 m; 27 m and 80 m and 80 m and 240 m. This array was also located within Koutavos Park, where the Holocene formation (H) is outcropping, and it provided the reference velocity profile for the *H + Pt-k* formations.

SWDA analysis included the application of: (1) the frequency-wavenumber (FK) [\(Neidell](#page-21-28) and Taner, 1971; [McMechan](#page-21-29) and Yedlin, 1981; Douze and [Laster,](#page-21-30) 1979); and (2) the modified spatial autocorrelation (MSPAC) ([Bettig](#page-20-8) et al., 2001; Köhler et al., 2007) methods for the AVA

datasets and the FK method for the MASW data. More details about the processing can be found in [Hollender](#page-21-27) et al. (2018). Only the vertical component was analyzed, i.e., focusing on Rayleigh waves. The dispersion curves that corresponded to the fundamental mode of the Rayleigh wave obtained for each array are shown i[nFigs.](#page-9-0) 6a to [6](#page-9-0)e. The results from Array ¹ and the Large array are shown on the same plot ([Fig.](#page-9-0) 6a). Array $1 +$ Large array allows a dispersion curve to be obtained from 0.5 to 30 Hz; Array 2, from ¹ to 40 Hz [\(Fig.](#page-9-0) 6b); Array 3,

from 2.5 Hz to 35 Hz [\(Fig.](#page-9-0) 6c); Array 4, from 2.5 to 40 Hz [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6d); and Array 5, from 1.5 to 30 Hz ([Fig.](#page-9-0) 6e).

The inversions were performed with the inversion tool of the Geopsy software package, which uses a global search approach with a neighborhood algorithm [\(Wathelet,](#page-22-21) 2008). Previously derived broadband dispersion curves that corresponded to the Rayleigh wave fundamental mode were inverted to V_S profiles. The f_0 values determined by HVSR were also used in a joint inversion for Array 2 to Array 5. We used the 'acceptable misfit' approach (Lomax and [Snieder,](#page-21-32) 1995; [Souriau](#page-22-22) et al., 2011), which led to a set of equivalent V_S profiles that explained the dispersion estimates within their uncertainty bounds. In such a case, the search algorithm did not try to find the best misfit V_s profile, but rather a large number of V_s profiles that explained the data equally well. These obtained profiles are shown on [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6f, g and j, as light gray lines.

Within the objective of producing simplified velocity models in the perspective of performing the first 3D numerical simulations of ground motions, we propose simple V_S 'laws' as a function of depth. These simplified velocity profiles do not aim to represent a real description of the properties of the area: the description of lateral heterogeneities and uncertainty assessments are not addressed here. However, we aimed to propose models that were compatible with the available information, as the dispersion curves and HVSR f_0 values, as well as the borehole geological descriptions, cross-hole and down-hole measurements performed for the ARGONET boreholes, and the V_S values obtained by seismic interferometry using seismological data recorded by the ARGONET vertical array.

The velocity profile proposed for the bedrock is assumed to be applicable to both Cretaceous limestone (C) and Pliocene sandstone and breccia *(Pa)* because of their apparent mechanical strength. This model is based on the dispersion curves obtained by the 'Rock' and 'Large' arrays (R [rock] reference velocity profile), and it can be expressed as:

$$
V_S(h) = \begin{cases} 11.7h + 650, \ 0 \le h \le 30 \\ 4.7h + 858, \ 30 < h \le 400 \\ 0.8h + 2430, \ 400 < h \le 1000 \\ 3230, \ h > 1000 \end{cases} \tag{1}
$$

where V_s is the shear-wave velocity (expressed in m/s) and h is the depth below the ground surface (expressed in m). The value of 3230 m/ ^s below the depth of 1000 m allows this velocity model to be joined to that proposed by [Haslinger](#page-21-33) et al. (1999) for greater depths. In [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6f, this model (black line) is compared to the 'acceptable profiles' derived from the empirical dispersion curves inversion [\(Fig.](#page-9-0) 6f, light gray lines). The forward-modeled dispersion curves computed with this velocity model are also compared to the empirical ones in [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6a.

The velocity profile proposed for the Pliocene sands and sandstone formations *(Pb)* (StS [stiff soil] reference velocity profile) can be expressed as:

$$
V_S(h) = 1.5h + 650\tag{2}
$$

This relation is only suitable down to the bottom of the *Pb* formation. Beneath this, the relation of the R model (eq. [1]) should be used. [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6g compares this hybrid (StS and R) model with the 'acceptable profiles' obtained from Array 2. Here the contact between *Pb* and the underlying $Pa + C$ formations is located at 115 m in depth. Below this depth, the bedrock velocity model was used. The forward-modeled dispersion curve is compared to the empirical ones presented on the [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6.

As for the determination of a velocity model within the formation of Koutavos Park (i.e., *Pt-k,* H), several sources of information are available. The first information source is the dispersion curve obtained from Array 5 (ARGONET - centered array). The second source of information is the cross-hole and down-hole measurements performed within the ARGONET boreholes before the installation of the accelerometers. Cross-hole (resp. down-hole) measurements are available within the 2 m to 40 m (resp. 3 m to 78 m) depth interval (colored points in

[Fig.](#page-9-0) 6j). Additionally, based on the use of the ARGONET events database (386 events for July 2015 up to April 2017; [Theodoulidis](#page-22-4) et al., [2018a](#page-22-4)) it was possible to evaluate the mean V_S within the intervals defined by the locations of consecutive sensors using a seismic interferometry approach (for more details on the methodology, see methodology sections of, e.g., [Chandra](#page-21-34) et al. (2015) and [Guéguen](#page-21-35) (2016). For the 0 m to 5.6 m, 5.6 m to 15.5 m, 15.5 m to 40.1 m, and 40.1 m to 83.4 m intervals, the corresponding values obtained were 174 ± 19 m/s, 217 ± 12 m/s; 363 ± 14 m/s, and 574 ± 21 m/s, respectively. Considering the interferometry data as the reference, in the present study, the cross-hole measurements overestimate the velocities by 5% to 10%, whereas the down-hole measurements underestimate them by 10% to 15%. These différences between the two invasive geophysical methods have the same order of magnitude to those given by [Garofalo](#page-21-36) et al. (2016) for other sites within the framework of the InterPacific project. The available lithological log made on the basis of the analysis of the geological cores also helped to identify the exact position of the *Pt-k/Pb* limit at 69 m in depth. The simplified model within the formations $(Pt-K + H)$ (SoS [soft soil] reference velocity profile) is fully compatible with the interferometry velocity values and is compatible with the cross-hole and down-hole measurements (taking into account their respective bias), and can be expressed as:

$$
V_S(h) = V_S(h) = \begin{cases} 250, & 0 \le h \le 2\\ 9.2h + 122, & 2 < h \le 26\\ 4.5h + 242, & h > 26 \end{cases} \tag{3}
$$

This model is illustrated in [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6j, where the *Pt-k/Pb* limit is fixed at the depth of 69 m and the *Pb/C* interface is assumed to be at 90 m in depth (the velocity profile between 69 m and 90 m in depth is, hence, deduced from eq. [2] and below 90 m in depth from eq. [1]). The forward-modeled dispersion curve derived from the use of the hybrid model of [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6j is compared to the empirical one in [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6e.

The velocity profiles derived from Array 3 and Array 4 are shown in [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6h and i, respectively. The corresponding forward-modeled dispersion curves are compared to the empirical ones in [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6c and d. For Array 3, the limit between the *Pt-k* and *Pb* formations (resp. between the Pband *Pa+C* formations) was at 10 m (resp. 70 m). For Array 4, the limit between the *Pt-k* and *Pb* formations (resp. between the *Pb* and $Pa + C$ formations) was at 58 m (resp. 69 m). Note that the optimal velocity profile within the $Pt-k$ (or $H + Pt-k$) formation did not fit the SoS reference velocity profile perfectly, although the differences remained relatively small. This is shown in [Fig.](#page-9-0) 6h and i where the optimal velocity profiles obtained are presented in black, whereas the reference SoS profile (as defined at ARGONET location and expressed in eq. [3]) is plotted as gray dashed line.

The StS (resp. SoS) reference velocity profiles derived from the SWDA results were also used to deduce the upper and lower bounds for the depth of the Pb/Pa (resp. $H + Pt-k/Pb$) limit. Using the HVSR f_0 values at the array centers and the *f⁰* values from all other HVSR measurements, the corresponding limits of the upper and lower bounds were deduced and then used for building the Argostoli basin crosssection. The complementary values of f_0 away from those of the crosssections (e.g., all available measurements on each AVA) were also used to complete the interface depth to constrain the interpolation in the 3D model (see [Section](#page-10-0) 3.2).

3.2. HVSR analysis and interpretation

The HVSR processing was performed using the Geopsy software ([Wathelet,](#page-22-21) 2008) following a standard procedure (SESAME [team,](#page-22-20) 2004) that was designed for HVSR ratio curve computation in different azimuths. The significant polarization of most of the HVSR points showed a preferential direction of about N140E, which corresponds to the axis of the syncline.

A first analysis of the HVSRs aimed to sort them in terms of curve

Fig. 7. Top: Identification of the six typologies of the HVSR curves. Center: Correspondence with the outcropping geological formations. Bottom: First-order qualitative and unscaled representation of the possible depths o picked, the points were plotted as if they had an infinite *fo.* The horizontal axis follows profile PR01, using point PR01-03 as origin (left-most point).

typologies. Several groups were defined ([Fig.](#page-11-0) 7):

- Type 1: relatively broad, but still with a clear peak, with relatively small amplitude (< 3) ;
- Type 2: narrow and very clear peak, with relatively large amplitude $(> 5):$
- Type 1-2: intermediate typology between Type ¹ and Type 2;
- Type DP (Double Peak): points showing two relatively clear peaks
- with the lower frequency peak usually from Type 1; - Type B: unclear and very broad 'bump' (no identifiable f_0), but with an amplitude that can be > 2 ;
- Type R: almost flat HVSR response, and usually assumed to be a 'rock site';
- Type U: a few points that cannot be associated to one of the former types, and hence that are qualified as 'undefined'.

The fundamental frequency (f_0) values were extracted from the HVSR curves of Types 1, 2, 1-2, DP, and U when a peak allowed frequency identification. The second identifiable frequency (f_1) values were extracted from HVSR curves of Type DP. All of these frequency identifications were performed, as mentioned earlier, using the HSVR curves computed for azimuth 140°.The DP feature is interpreted for structural interpretation in the further [Section](#page-12-1) 4.1 and compared to theoretical computing in [Fig.](#page-11-1) 8.

4. Steps to build the geological model and discussions

This study provides a general methodological interest through the implemented multidisciplinary coupling, which integrates geological mapping, geotechnical borehole characterization, dating and

Fig. 8. Double peak of the HVSR measurements at point A3-R230-5, compared to the theoretical Rayleigh wave ellipticity and the theoretical 1D SH transfer function for a shear-wave velocity profile consistent with the geology and other geophysical information (e.g., shallow interface between soft Quaternary and stiff Pliocene, deeper interface between stiff Pliocene and rock).

geophysical measurements based on the analysis of the surface wave dispersion. It allows to precise and control the 3D geometry and engineering features of sedimentary basin prone to site effects. Generally, the characterization of basins is based on microzonation leading to fundamental frequencies mapping, often based on single station broad band of ambient vibration measurements (e.g. in Slovenia: [Gosar,](#page-21-37) 2007; Mississipi basin: [Bodin](#page-20-9) et al., 2001, Guo et al., [2014](#page-21-38), Guo and [Aydin,](#page-21-39) [2016\)](#page-21-39). This has been performed using the Nakamura method ([Nakamura,](#page-21-25) 1989). HVSR curves are generally used to estimate the fundamental resonance frequency (f_0) of basins (see e.g. [Bard](#page-20-7) et al., [2010;](#page-20-7) [Perron](#page-21-4) et al., 2018). Further on, coupling ambient vibration and sometime, geological context (geological log and/or geotechnical characteristics of soft layer for example) were more recently performed, thanks to the availability of dispersion curves processing inversion approaches (e.g. [Wathelet,](#page-22-21) 2008). Even if the interpretation of ^a given measurement and often 'locally' performed in 1D, the multiplication of measurements over an area could lead to 2D to 3D information (cross section or volumes) encompassing V_S profiles from surface to bedrock. The approach is often mainly based on a geophysical-geotechnical approach, using class of soils (e.g. EC8 soil classes, [EUROCODE8,](#page-21-40) 1998), providing vertical velocity profiles or V_{530} for engineering purpose (eg. [Borges](#page-21-41) et al., 2016 in portugal). Some few studies also address more specifically the geological context based on geological maps or cross section (e.g. [Akyol](#page-20-10) et al., 2013 in Turkey). Some others combine geotechnical investigations ([Gouveia](#page-21-42) et al., 2016 in Portugal, [Saroli](#page-22-23) et al., [2020\)](#page-22-23) or other geophysical methods (active or passive) such as electrical resistivity tomography [\(Gosar,](#page-21-37) 2007 in Slovenia; [Sauret](#page-22-24) et al., [2015](#page-22-24) in Burkina Faso;), gravimetry (e.g. [Ozalaybey](#page-21-43) et al., 2011 in Turkey; [Martorana](#page-21-44) et al., 2018 in Sicilia) or and seismic investigation such as reflexion/ refraction HR investigations (e.g. Gosar et Lenart, 2010 in Slovenia). More comprehensive studies aiming to construct 3D geological/ geotechnical/ geophysical model have been developed (e.g. [Manakou et](#page-21-45) al., 2010 for the Mygdonian basin in Northern Greece; [Eker](#page-21-46) et al., [2015](#page-21-46), [Pamuk](#page-21-47) et al., 2018 in Turkey; [Podesta et](#page-22-25) al., 2019 in Chile).

In this paper, we propose a combined geological/ geotechnical/ geophysical process. The complementarity of these methods is not limited to the aggregation of data of different nature to provide a single final interpretation, once the different measurement surveys have been carried out independently. Indeed, at each step one discipline helps the other to design its experimental plans and interpret its results. In more details, the geological work allowed to locate properly the HVSR geophysical profiles. The analysis of the typology resonance peaks helped in drawing the outlines of the geological map. The geophysical results make it possible to better quantify the thicknesses of the different geological layers (and also to give quantified information on the V_s) to help in the elaboration of the four cross sections. From, each crosssection a set of control points was determined for each interface (i.e., x, y, z; where ^z is the elevation - or depth - with respect to sea level). The 3D geological model was then built combining interface limits of each cross-section and the complementary information (e.g., depth deduced from punctual HVSR measurements, borehole data, interface topographic position, formation limits on the geological maps). The next sections present and discuss this approach.

4.1. Contribution of the HVSR interpretation to the construction of the geological model

To interpret the HVSR typologies and to be able to link the *f⁰* interpretation to a specific geological contrast, a first comparison with the available geological information was performed along profile PR01. [Fig.](#page-11-0) 7 shows a schematic drawing of this preliminary analysis, where the different types of HVSR curves, as well as quantities $1/f_0$ and $1/f_1$ for the DP typology, are plotted (first-order qualitative and unscaled representation of possible depths of contrasts causing the HVSR peaks). When no frequency was picked, the points at the bottom part of [Fig.](#page-11-0) 7 were plotted as if they had an infinite *f⁰* (Types R, B). At first glance, when considering the f_0 value variation along the profile, a possible basin effect can be identified in the east part of the profile, between points PR01-13 and PR01-23. A second basin may also be suggested in the west part, between points PR01-06 and PR01-12. Making the assumption of two separated basins, the sharp transition between points PR01-12 and PR01-13 suggests a fault-like transition, although this assumption is not supported by geological observations. The most likely and geologically consistent interpretation involves the existence of a single basin, with two nested velocity contrasts.

Based on the comparisons between the HVSR typologies and the geological cross-section, we suggest that the contrast that produced the peak for Type 1 points is associated to the $Pb/Pa + C$ contact. The hypothesis that the Type ¹ peak might be due to the *Pa/C* contact was also addressed, but the outcropping observations do not support this hypothesis, as the *Pa* lithology clearly appears as a 'rock' formation (as for the *C* lithology), whereas the *Pb* lithology appears as a 'stiff soil' formation. We hence suggest that the *Pb/Pa* velocity contrast is higher than the possible *Pa/C* contrast, and hence it is more prone to produce ^a peak in the HVSR measurements. Similarly, we suggest that the peak for the Type 1-2 and Type 2 typologies is due to the *Pt-k/Pb* contrast (or more generally, the contrast between the $Pt-k + H$ as a whole and the underlying formations, i.e., either *Pb, Pa* or C, depending on the HVSR location).

The double peak typology (Type DP) was observed only within a small area. To test if this double peak feature is caused by the presence of two velocity contrasts (i.e., $H + Pt-k/Pb$, $Pb/Pa + C$), we performed 1D numerical simulations using realistic velocity profiles deduced from the SWDA (see below), that were coherent with the geological information. On the one hand, we computed the theoretical shear-wave transfer function; on the other hand, we computed the Rayleigh wave ellipticity. Both of these phenomena may explain the origin of the HVSR peaks. The results of one of these simulation tests are shown in [Fig.](#page-11-1) 8 and are compared to a measured HVSR curve (recorded at point A3- R230-5, see [Table](#page-18-0) A.1). This test confirms that the double peak is probably due to the presence of two contrasts. Sensitivity tests showed that the double peak can be observed as long as the $H + Pt-k/Pb$ interface remains relatively shallow $(< 10 \text{ m}$). As soon as this depth increases, the first, lower frequency, peak (associated to the *Pb/Pa + C* contact) disappears and/or is absorbed by the second, higher frequency, peak associated to the $H + Pt$ -k/ Pb contact. This may explain why the area where the double peak is observed is relatively narrow.

This discussion leads to the following conclusions in terms of the use of HVSR typologies for geological interpretation. Type R' is associated to the *C* lithological formation (Cretaceous limestones); Type B is associated to *Pa* (Upper Pliocene sandstone and breccia); Type 1' is associated to *Pb* (Upper Pliocene sands and sandstone); Type 1-2' and Type 2' are associated to the $H + Pt$ -k as a whole; Type DP is associated to a $H + Pt$ -k outcropping, but with shallow contact between $H + Pt$ -k and *Pb*. Finally, Type 2 HVSRs often exhibit very large amplitude peaks $($ > 8), mainly within the eastern part of the basin. This could be explained by the fact that $H + Pt$ -k is in direct contact with the *C* formation, which maximizes the velocity contrast, and hence the HVSR amplitude. These interpreted suggestions provide valuable support for optimization of the updated geological map. [Kassaras](#page-21-48) et al. (2017) report seven double peaks in the northern continuity along the Koutavos and Argostoli bay shore. These points are located on the extension of the narrow band of double peaks highlighted in our study.

4.2. Two-dimensional geological cross-sections and geological map of the Argostoli basin

From the geological characterization and dating (see [Section](#page-4-1) 2) and previous works [\(Sorel,](#page-22-13) 1976; [Underhill,](#page-22-2) 1989), we propose on the [Fig.](#page-13-0) 9 a spatial distribution (laterally evolving from Minies -West- to Koutavos area -East-) of the different stratigraphic units from the Cretaceous bedrock to the Quaternary deposits. More specifically, the new subdivision defined in [Section](#page-4-1) 2 in the in the lower Pliocene to lowermiddle Pleistocene series (*Pa, Pb* and *Pt-k* units) is used here.

This spatial distribution of the stratigraphic boundaries and a detailed mapping allowed updating the geological map the Argostoli area proposed in previous works [\(Fig.](#page-14-0) 10). Moreover, the fairly good

Fig. 9. Minies, Argostoli, and Koutavos lithostratigraphic logs (not to scale). Geological ages are provided to the left of each log, alongwith the nomenclature adopted throughout the text.

agreement between HVSR typologies and geologic limits (e.g. doublepeak typologies located near the outcropping limit between the *Pa* and the *Pt-k* units or the transition between Type ¹ and Type B typologies as the signature between Paand Pbunits) gives a good confidence about these limits.

Then, we constructed four geological cross-sections ([Fig.](#page-15-0) 11), to highlight the 2D variations of the lithostratigraphic units above the bedrock (i.e., the Upper Cretaceous unit), from the Eocene unit to the Middle Pleistocene and Quaternary units. Three geological cross-sections were constructed perpendicular to the axis of the depocenter of the present-day Argostoli basin. An additional geological cross-section was constructed by cutting perpendicularly the three previous crosssections, approximately above the main depocenter of the basin.

All of the geological cross-sections were constrained by the lithostratigraphic limits of the updated geological map [\(Fig.](#page-14-0) 10), the dip measurements, and the depths of the lithostratigraphic limits interpreted from some of the 17 water borehole logs that were available in the Argostoli area. However, all of these water boreholes are not reliable because their loggings were not done for geological purpose. Only those having stratigraphic limits coherent with the local geology knowledge based on field observation were taken into account. Complementary boreholes located near the De Bosset Bridge were also used [\(Rovithis](#page-22-15) et al., 2014). Additional depths of the lithostratigraphic limits were obtained by the joint interpretation of f_0 values provided by HVSR and velocity profiles provided by SWDA allowing converting f_0 into depth of velocity contrasts. These cross-sections are described in the following:

i.*Cross-section PR01:* This cross-section is 5.3 km long and crosses through the Argostoli basin with a SW-NE orientation (see [Figs.](#page-7-0) 5

[and](#page-7-0) 9). PR01 cuts through the Plio-Calabrian syncline located west of Lardhigos Cape, Saint Gerasismos Cave, the Airport road, and the main road of Argostoli. It comprises the Argostoli anticline and the Argostoli basin, faulted by the reverse White-Rock Fault; Minies Fault and Argostoli Fault. In the Koutavos area, PR01 is constrained by the borehole BK0. In the Argostoli basin, the depth of the Upper Cretaceous bedrock ranges from 100 m a.s.l. (above sea level) to 200 m b.s.l. (below sea level).

- ii. *Cross-section PR02:* This cross-section is 5 km long and is oriented SW-NE. It crosses through the Argostoli basin with a SW-NE orientation (see [Figs.](#page-7-0) 5 and 9). PR02 cuts through the Airport road and the main road of Argostoli. PR02 is constrained by four boreholes near Koutavos Park: B17, B20, B13 and B09. Along this cross-section, the depth of the Upper Cretaceous bedrock is around 50 m b.s.l. east of the main road, in the axis prolongation of Koutavos Park, and nearly 120 m b.s.l. west of the main road, and south of the city of Argostoli.
- iii. *Cross-section PR03:* This cross-section is oriented SW-NE and is located in the southern part of the Argostoli basin. It is 6.5 km long, and crosses through the Argostoli basin with a SW-NE orientation (see [Figs.](#page-7-0) 5 and 9). PR03 also cuts through the Airport road and the main road of Argostoli. Along PR03 there are five water boreholes: B06, B11, B08, B04 and B10. Only B06, B11 and B10 are coherent with observed local geology and are, thus, drawn on [Fig.](#page-15-0) 11. In this part of the Argostoli basin, the depth of the Upper Cretaceous bedrock reaches 90 m b.s.l.
- iv. *Cross-section PR04:* This cross-section is oriented NW-SE and follows the axis of the Argostoli basin passing through its depocenter. It is 4.5 km long, and it crosses the entire Argostoli basin (see [Figs.](#page-7-0) ⁵ [and](#page-7-0) 9), from the Koutavos Park area to the southeastern part of the

^I ^I [Pa] Pliocène (sandstones-breccias-olistolithes) *MiF - Minies fault*

I [M] Mio-Pliocene (marls and grey clays) **IE** [E] Eocene-Paleocene (Limestones) **I [C] Upper Cretaceous (Limestones)**

Fig. 10. Updated geological map of the Argostoli area with the spatial distribution of the HVSR typology (explained in the text, [Section](#page-10-0) 3.2) and the locations of boreholes and geological and geophysical surveys (either pre-existing or conducted within the frame of this work).

Fig. 11. Geological cross-sections of the Argostoli basin.

basin. PR04 is constrained by the three previous cross-sections, PR01, PR02, and PR03, and by some boreholes: two in Koutavos Park (BK0, WB01), and the WB13 south of Koutavos Park. Along this profile, the depth of the Upper Cretaceous bedrock ranges from 20 m a.s.l. to 90 m b.s.l.

The construction of these four cross-sections based on the geological survey and geophysical interpretation leads to an image of the three sets of Plio-Pleistocene layers that become thinner moving away from the hanging wall of the Argostoli-Minies reverse fault. This geometry can be interpreted as the result of the eastward displacement of the depocenter due to a continuous process of deposition along the growing anticline. This can also be explained by lateral variation of the facies across the Argostoli Gulf, as was proposed by Sorel [\(1989,](#page-22-1) 1976). Consideration of the dating of the coral debris sustains the continuous activity of the Argostoli syncline hypothesis (see [Section](#page-5-1) 2.2). The retrodeformation sketch proposed in [Fig.](#page-16-0) 12 provides an understanding of the structural relationships between each sedimentary set: first, an extensional period occurred from the Miocene to Lower Pliocene. That was characterized by normal faulting that affecting the Pre-Apulian series. In the lower Pliocene, a first shortening provoked the inversion along the previous normal faults. This period coincided with the inclusion of the Pre-Apulian continental crust in the Aegean Arc. This period ended with an erosion phase associated with marine transgression. From Middle Pliocene to Lower Quaternary, a quiet period with subsidence and detrital deposits ended with the Calabrian regression. A Second and strong inversion enhanced the folded structure and faults.

4.3. Three-dimensional geological model of the Argostoli basin

All of the available geological and geophysical data were compiled using the Geographic Information System software ArcGis 10.2.1 for Desktop (ESRI). This data was used as constraints for the surface interpolation which was performed using the Tool 'Topo to Raster' coming with the Spatial Analyst extension of ArcGis GIS and using the default parameters. Input control points used come from: (1) borehole interpretation, cross-sections (spatially referenced interface points extracted from line-drawings); (2) digitized points with altimetry information of the geological map contours of each unit; and (3) estimated depths deduced from the HVSR surveys and the complementary f_0 values from the SWDA f_0 arrays measurements. These control points are represented as dots on the maps in [Fig.](#page-17-0) 13. The Basin model is focused on the Argostoli Basin located on the eastern rim of The Argostoli Anticline. Thus, the Mio-Pliocene interface west of the Argostoli Fault has not been taken in account and the so called 'Top of the Cretaceous surface' is actually only the topographic surface on the western flank of the Argostoli anticline.

[Fig.](#page-17-0) 13 presents the 3D geological model of the Argostoli basin, showing the depth geometry and spatial distribution of the three lithostratigraphic interfaces as the top of the Cretaceous unit, the base of the *Pb* unit, and the base of the *Pt-k* unit [\(Fig.](#page-17-0) 13a). The raster has $10 \text{ m} \times 10 \text{ m}$ resolution, and the pixel value represents the altitude above (or below - as negative values when the interface is below mean sea level). From the above-mentioned raster, three more raster datasets were constructed by determining the arithmetic differences between

Fig. 12. Retro-tectonic sketch ofthe Argostoli anticline/ syncline since the Extensional period (Miocene to Lower Pliocene). (a) Normal faulting that affected the Pre-Apulian series. (b) First shortening that provoked inversion along the previous normal faults. This period coincided with the inclusion ofthe Pre-Apulian continental crust in the Aegean Arc. This period ended with an erosion phase associated with marine transgression - following stage (c) From Middle Pliocene to Lower Quaternary, quiet period with subsidence and detrital deposits that ended with the Calabrian regression (delta fans). (d) Second and strong inversion that enhanced the folded structure and faults. This sketch is an adaptation of those from Sorel [\(1989\)](#page-22-1) and [Underhill](#page-22-2) (1989). Reference surfaces S1 and S2 correspond to the end of the sedimentation (Lower Pliocene), and to the Lower-Middle Pliocene erosional surface, respectively. Hatched areas illustrate the dolomitized and strongly brecciated areas along the main faults (i.e., Argostoli, Minies, White Rock). The inset shows the position of the cross section A-B which is close to the HVSR profile 01([Figs.](#page-7-0) 5 and 10).

the previous datasets, to obtain the thickness image of each unit (i.e., [Fig.](#page-17-0) 13b, thicknesses of *Pa*, *Pb*, $H + Pt-k$). A 3D sketch of the three interfaces is presented in [Fig.](#page-17-0) 13c.

In this model, the top of the Cretaceous bedrock forms the base surface and controls the sharp variations in the thickness of the Pleistocene sedimentary cover [\(Fig.](#page-17-0) 13a). The surface reveals an incised valley, with a steep slope on the western flank, and a more progressive slope on the eastern flank, which highlights the asymmetrical shape of the valley. The elevation of the top Cretaceous surface ranges from -180 m to -200 m with respect to sea level (w.r.s.l.), from the deepest part of the surface, south of the city of Argostoli, to the western flank of the basin, close to the Airport road. The thickness map of the *Pa*unit ([Fig.](#page-17-0) 13a, left) highlights the spatial distribution of the Lower Pliocene *Pa*unit deposits above the Cretaceous bedrock. The Argostoli basin has a Paunit thickness that ranges from 0 m to 190 m. The main depocenter line strikes NNW-SSE, and is located close to the western flank of the valley, along the present-day Airport road. This map shows that the *Pa*sediments are located throughout the entire Argostoli basin, and are bounded to the south by a structural high, of the Upper Cretaceous age. To the north, the interpolation has been cut due to a lack of data.

[Fig.](#page-17-0) 13a (middle) shows the present-day altitude of the base surface of the Pbunit, of the Pliocene (Piacenzian) age. The surface morphology of the *Pb*unit reveals an incised valley, with both eastern and western flanks showing progressive slope, which highlights the symmetrical

shape of the valley at this step in the history of the basin. The altitude of the surface base of the Pbunit ranges from -100 m to -120 m w.r.s.l., from the deepest part of the surface, south of the city of Argostoli to the south of the basin, close to the village of Kokolata (see [Fig.](#page-4-0) 2). The deepest zone [\(Fig.](#page-17-0) 13a, middle, in blue color) is about -80 w.r.s.l. on average. The thickness map of the Pbunit in [Fig.](#page-17-0) 13b (middle) highlights the spatial distribution of the Pliocene *Pb*unit deposits above the *Pa*unit deposits. The main depot center line strikes NNW-SSE, and is located close to the western flank of the valley, as for the *Pa*unit. The maps in [Fig.](#page-17-0) 13 also show that the Pbsediments are located in the entire Argostoli basin, and that they disappear to the south. There are no *Pb*deposits in the southeastern part of the Koutavos area. To the north, the interpolation has been cut due to a lack of data.

The variations in the thickness of the *Pt-k* unit show a narrow valley with a steep slope on the eastern flank and a more progressive slope on the western flank. The altitude of the base surface of the *Pt-k* unit ranges from -80 m to -40 m w.r.s.l. The *Pt-k* sediments body strikes NNW-SSE, and is located close to the eastern flank of the valley. These maps show that the *Pt-k* sediments are mainly located around two main depocenters [\(Fig.](#page-17-0) 13).

It needs to be kept in mind that the resolution of these maps remains coarse for altimetric positions of interfaces and for thicknesses with regard to the numerous interpretations and interpolations carried out. However, this first dataset could be useful for further computation of

Fig. 13. Three-dimensional model of the Argostoli Plio-Quatemary basin. (a) Isohypses with respect to the sea level of the three interfaces: top of the Cretaceous limestone; base of*Pb* (Piacenzian); and *Pt-k* (Middle Pleistocene of the Koutavos area). Control points (mapped outcrops, line drawing of interfaces on cross-sections and inferred depths from HVSR analysis) are also shown. (b) Thicknesses (in m) deduced from isohypses geometry *(Pa, Pb, Pt-k* thickness). (c) Three-dimensional representation of the three interfaces from different azimuths.

3D site effects [\(Touhami](#page-22-26) et al., 2019). Moreover, this mapping and the cross-sections and geophysical and borehole data will be useful for further studies of the effects of complex surface geology on ground motion.

5. Conclusions

To facilitate studies on site-specific amplification and non-linear behavior of soil in the framework of seismic hazard assessment for nuclear infrastructure installation, the Koutavos site in Cephalonia was chosen as a test site to validate 3D simulation algorithms. The selection of the site was done considering both the geological structure as well as the high seismicity rate of the area based on various geo-information. The aim of this present study specifically, was to improve the overall geological knowledge of the area and to build a 3D structural model of the Plio-Quaternary basin of the Argostoli-Koutavos area.

- 1) Several geological investigations and geophysical measurements were performed in the study area. Dating performed on coral debris coming from the Koutavos Borehole confirms the Pleistocene age of the Koutavos basin.
- 2) The geophysical surveys involved single-station ambient vibration measurements for horizontal-to-vertical spectral ratio analyses (HVSR) as well as passive ambient vibration array (AVA) complemented by active MASW measurements for surface wave

dispersion analysis (SWDA). The analysis of the HVSRs led to the identification of several HVSR curve typologies. The HVSR measurements confirmed that the most likely and geologically consistent interpretation includes the presence of a single basin. Complementary to these data, six areas were investigated by SWDA, to measure the V_s in the bedrock and along a cross-section perpendicular to the basin axis. Three reference velocity models were finally proposed one for the bedrock (Cretaceous limestone and Pliocene sandstone and breccias) one for the Pliocene (sands and sandstone formations) and one for the Pleistocene/Holocene (soft clays and sands, lagoonal sediments layer).

3) Four geological cross-sections were constructed considering each fundamental resonance frequency (f_0) value on profiles and the velocity contrasts previously defined. These data were used as constraints for surfaces interpolation and finally to build the 3D geological model.

The methodology proposed in this work could be applied to similar basin environments not only of high but of moderate-to-low seismicity areas worldwide, considering and adopting local peculiarities. It is well known that in earthquake engineering all geological and geophysical parameters estimated in this study play a fundamental role in the generation and propagation of the seismic waves since local ground motion amplification is primarily controlled by geometric complexities in the bedrock morphology and seismic velocity contrasts of

sedimentary layers.

The results of this study can be considered as the first step toward a scenario-based seismic hazard analysis and its associated risk for population and infrastructure. In fact, the lessons to be learnt from 3D seismic wave modeling by computing ground motion intensity measures (PGA, PGV, Response Spectral Values, Duration etc.) will be extremely useful for engineering purposes. Such usefulness will not be restricted to the specific investigated basin but would be extended to similar cases through proper correlation of basin geological/geophysical factors with calculated intensity measures for various earthquake scenarios. Furthermore, such studies followed by proper simplification could in turn contribute to seismic code provisions toward risk mitigation.

Finally, the location of the investigated Argostoli basin is of high earthquake engineering importance, being a near-fault zone (CTFZ) 'laboratory' subjected in the recent past to significant tectonic movements and near-field high level ground motion intensity, with a potential to excite ground motion non-linearity and liquefaction phenomena. The seismic instrumentation deployed during the last ten years in the basin and its vicinity (NERA and SINAPS@ projects) as well as the existing and continuously operating since 2015 ARGONET vertical array, are providing high quality data. Due to limited worldwide of similar near-fault seismic observatories the contribution of this study to earthquake engineering and risk reduction becomes indisputable.

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Déclaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix A

Table A.1

Measured points of HVSR (HVSR profile measures, AVA measures and few complementary points). This list is ordered by profile or network. Locations (geographic - WGS), Resonance frequencies interpretation and Peak typology are reported as explained in the text.

(continued on nextpage)

Table A.1 (*continued*)

(continued on nextpage)

Table A.1 (*continued*)

Appendix B. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version, at [doi:](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chemgeo.2016.07.006)https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enggeo.2019.105441. These data include the Google map of the most important areas described in this article.

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