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Laboratory measurements of coseismic fields: towards a validation of Pride's theory

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1 Introduction

As discussed in previous chapters, seismoelectric phenomenon was first theoretically described in 1944 [Frenkel, 2005]. More recently, in his reference paper, Pride [1994] developed the whole set of governing equations in a saturated medium. These equations couple the Biot theory for seismic propagation in porous medium [Biot, 1956a,b] and Maxwell's equations for electromagnetism, via fluid and charge transport equations using a volume averaging approach. Pride's full seismoelectric analytical formulation has been largely used in recent years for numerical computations [Garambois and Dietrich, 2002; Guan and Hu, 2008; Zyserman et al., 2010; Santos et al., 2012; Zyserman et al., 2012; Warden et al., 2013; Zyserman et al., 2015] in order to discuss potential applications of seismoelectrics as a geophysical probing method. In the last decade, seismoelectric phenomena were also discussed by considering electrokinetic couplings as a function of the charge density [Revil and Jardani, 2010; Revil and Mahardika, 2013; Jougnot et al., 2013; Revil et al., 2013].

The two main effects generated by electrokinetic coupling are i) coseismic field accompanying the seismic propagation and ii) electromagnetic disturbances generated at depth when seismic waves are crossing an interface. The seismoelectric interface conversion is often perceived as a promising tool for reservoir characterization since it is expected to combine both electrical and mechanical sensitivities [Garambois and Dietrich, 2002; Haines et al., 2007; Dupuis et al., 2007]. The coseismic part is therefore considered as a strong disturbance to be removed for enhancing the interface response [Warden et al., 2012]. However, coseismic phenomenon may also be perceived as a direct observation of fluid motions occurring with seismic propagation. Indeed, these relative fluid displacements are involved in attenuation and dispersion of seismic waves as discussed in

31 the original Biot theory and in many more recent poroelastic studies [*Pride and Berryman,*
 32 2003a,b; *Müller and Gurevich, 2004; Müller et al., 2010*]. The quantitative interpretation
 33 of this coseismic contribution would be therefore a powerful and original approach for
 34 testing many of these poroelastic issues. In this paper, we aim to show this quantitative
 35 interpretation to be within reach, the first step being the validation of *Pride's* theory.

36 When seismic waves are travelling in a porous medium, the coseismic seismoelec-
 37 tric field \mathbf{E} is expected to be coupled to all propagation modes. As predicted by *Biot*
 38 [1956a,b] body waves are travelling as fast P_f , slow P_s and S waves. The \mathbf{E} field can
 39 therefore be written as a function of seismic displacements by using the Helmholtz de-
 40 composition [*Hu et al., 2000*]:

$$\mathbf{E} = \beta_{P_f} A_{P_f} \nabla \Phi_{P_f} + \beta_{P_s} A_{P_s} \nabla \Phi_{P_s} + \beta_S A_S \nabla \times \Gamma_S \quad (1)$$

41 where A_i and β_i ($i = P_f, P_s$ or S) are the amplitudes and seismoelectric couplings of each
 42 mode. Φ_{P_i} are the potential functions of P waves (that are pure divergence) and Γ_S is the
 43 potential vector of S waves (that is pure curl). Hence, the contributions of P waves are
 44 vanishing in seismomagnetic field that is obtained by the fundamental Maxwell equation:

$$\mathbf{H} = -\frac{i}{\omega\mu} \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{i}{\omega\mu} \beta_S A_S \nabla \times \nabla \times \Gamma_S \quad (2)$$

45 where ω is the pulsation of the seismic wave whose time dependence is supposed to be
 46 $e^{-i\omega t}$, and μ is the magnetic permeability of the porous medium ($\mu \simeq \mu_0 = 4\pi 10^{-7} \text{ V.s.A}^{-1} .m^{-1}$
 47 in non-metallic rocks). Indeed, equation (2) shows the seismomagnetic field to be gener-
 48 ated by S waves when all body waves are supposed to contribute to the seismoelectric
 49 field. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of S waves in seismoelectric field must be discussed
 50 relatively to the contribution of P waves, the simplest way to address this issue being the
 51 transfer function approach as proposed by *Pride and Haartsen* [1996]. Considering both
 52 fast and slow P waves, the seismoelectric field can be written as a function of local accel-
 53 erations $\ddot{\mathbf{U}}_i$ following [*Garambois and Dietrich, 2001; Bordes et al., 2015*]:

$$\mathbf{E}(\omega) = \psi_{P_f}(\omega) \ddot{\mathbf{U}}_{P_f}(\omega) + \psi_{P_s}(\omega) \ddot{\mathbf{U}}_{P_s}(\omega) + \psi_S(\omega) \ddot{\mathbf{U}}_S(\omega) \quad (3)$$

54 where ψ_{P_i} and ψ_S are respectively the complex dynamic transfer functions for P (fast or
 55 slow) and S waves defined by:

$$\psi_{P_i}(\omega) = \frac{i}{\omega} \frac{\tilde{\rho}(\omega)L(\omega)}{\tilde{\epsilon}(\omega)} \frac{Hs_{P_i}^2(\omega) - \rho}{Cs_{P_i}^2(\omega) - \rho_f} \quad (4)$$

56 and

$$\psi_S(\omega) = \frac{i}{\omega} \mu \tilde{\rho}(\omega) L(\omega) \frac{G}{\rho_f} \frac{s_S^2(\omega) - \rho/G}{s_S^2(\omega) - \mu \tilde{\varepsilon}(\omega)}. \quad (5)$$

57 In equations (4) and (5), $\rho = \phi \rho_f + (1 - \phi) \rho_s$ is the total density of the porous
58 medium composed of fluid and solid phases whose respective densities are ρ_f and ρ_s .
59 G is the shear modulus of the frame, $H = K_U + \frac{4}{3}G$ is the P wave modulus, K_U is the
60 undrained bulk modulus (known as "Gassman's modulus" as well), and $C = BK_U$ derives
61 from the Skempton's coefficient B that can be deduced from the porosity ϕ and from fluid
62 and solid bulk moduli K_f and K_s [Barriere et al., 2012]. The slownesses s_{P1} (P waves)
63 and s_S (S waves), including both Biot's and electrokinetic losses, will be given in equa-
64 tions (14). *Pride and Haartsen* [1996] used the following formulations of the effective
65 electrical permittivity:

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}(\omega) = \varepsilon(\omega) + \frac{i}{\omega} \sigma(\omega) - \tilde{\rho}(\omega) L^2(\omega) \quad (6)$$

66 and of the effective density of the fluid in relative motion

$$\tilde{\rho} = \frac{i}{\omega} \frac{\eta_f}{k(\omega)}, \quad (7)$$

67 where η_f is the dynamic viscosity of the fluid. In this formulation, the effect of Biot's
68 losses is carried by the dynamic permeability [Johnson et al., 1987]:

$$k(\omega) = k_0 \left[\left(1 - i \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} \frac{4}{m_p} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - i \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} \right]^{-1}, \quad (8)$$

69 where k_0 is the intrinsic permeability of the medium and m_p is a pore space term. The
70 Biot pulsation ω_c or frequency f_c defines the limit between low and high frequency do-
71 mains for which energy dissipation is respectively due to viscous or inertial flows:

$$\omega_c = 2\pi f_c = \frac{\eta_f}{F \rho_f k_0}. \quad (9)$$

72 where F is the formation factor and ρ_f is the fluid density. The frequency dependent elec-
73 trokinetic coupling $L(\omega)$ in equations (4), (5) and (6) is defined as:

$$L(\omega) = L_0 \left[1 - i \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} \frac{m_p}{4} \left(1 - 2 \frac{\tilde{d}}{\Lambda} \right)^2 \left(1 - i^{3/2} \frac{\tilde{d}}{\delta} \right)^2 \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \simeq L_0 \left[1 - i \frac{\omega}{\omega_c} \frac{m_p}{4} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (10)$$

74 In this equation, $\Lambda = \sqrt{m_p k_0 F}$ is a pore-shape parameter, $\delta = \sqrt{\eta_f / \omega \rho_f}$ is the skin depth
75 and $\tilde{d} = 10^{-6} \delta \sqrt{\omega / 2\pi C}$ is the thickness of the double layer [Pride, 1994]. We notice
76 that neglecting both terms in parentheses of equation (10) gives a more handy expression
77 of L and represents a very tiny error (less than few percents). Eventually, L_0 is the low

78 frequency coupling that can be defined as:

$$L_0 = -\frac{C_{ek}\sigma_f}{F} \left(1 - \frac{2\tilde{d}}{\Lambda}\right) \simeq -\frac{C_{ek}\sigma_f}{F}. \quad (11)$$

79 where F is the formation factor from Archie's law and σ_f is the fluid's conductivity. The
80 C_{ek} coefficient is often called the electrokinetic coefficient. It characterizes the linear rela-
81 tion between the potential gradient ΔV and the pressure gradient ΔP involved in a steady
82 state fluid circulation ($C_{ek} = \Delta V/\Delta P$). This coefficient may be expressed as a function of
83 the volumetric charge density and the hydraulic conductivity [Bolève *et al.*, 2007] but this
84 dependence to hydraulic properties may be debated [Jouniaux and Zyserman, 2015]. For
85 laminar flows, it can also be expressed by the Helmholtz-Smoluchowski equation [Over-
86 beek, 1952] on the condition that the surface conductivity can be neglected:

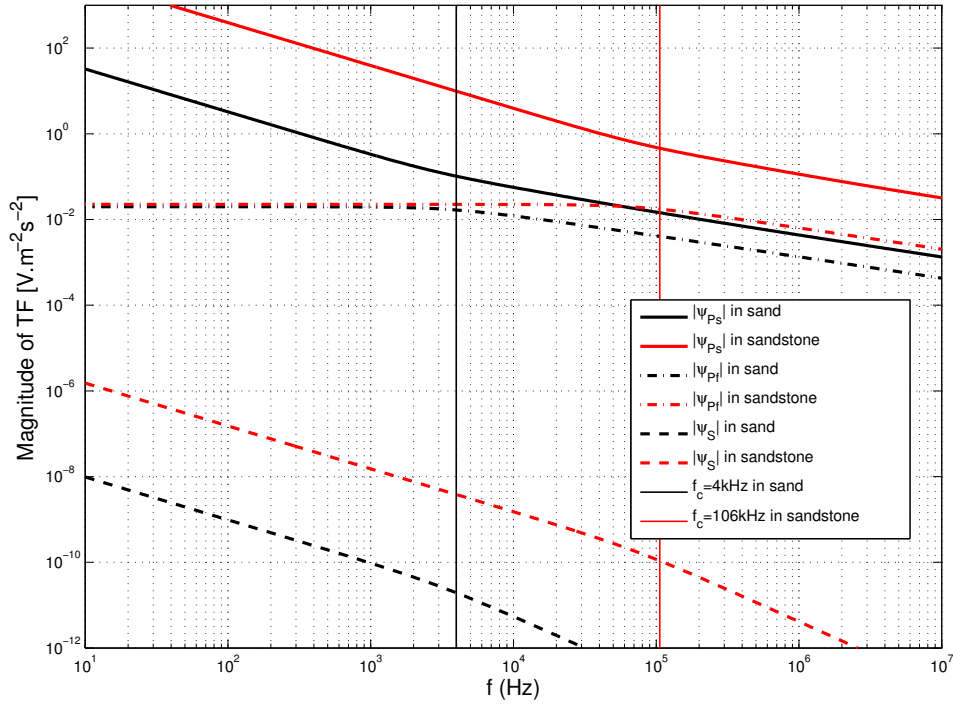
$$C_{ek} = \frac{\epsilon_f \zeta}{\eta_f \sigma_f} \quad (12)$$

87 where ζ is the zeta potential itself depending on pH, mineral and fluid composition [Jou-
88 niaux and Zyserman, 2016]. By compiling numerous streaming potential studies in sand
89 and sandstones, Jouniaux and Ishido [2012] proposed the simple empirical relation $C_{ek} =$
90 $-1.2 \times 10^{-8} \sigma_f^{-1}$ directly linking the electrokinetic coefficient to the fluid conductivity in
91 the $\sigma_f = [10^{-3} - 10^1]$ S/m range.

92 Eventually, the slownesses of longitudinal P and transverse S waves are given by
93 *Pride and Haartsen* [1996] for plane waves:

$$\begin{aligned} s_P(\omega) &= \left[\frac{1}{2} \gamma(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\gamma(\omega)^2 - \frac{4\tilde{\rho}(\omega)\rho}{MH - C^2} \left(\frac{\rho_t}{\rho} + \frac{\tilde{\rho}(\omega)L(\omega)^2}{\tilde{\epsilon}(\omega)} \right)} \right]^{1/2}, \\ s_S(\omega) &= \left[\frac{1}{2} \frac{\rho_t}{G} + \frac{1}{2} \mu \tilde{\epsilon}(\omega) \left(1 + \frac{\tilde{\rho}(\omega)L(\omega)^2}{\tilde{\epsilon}(\omega)} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\left[\frac{\rho_t}{G} - \mu \tilde{\epsilon}(\omega) \left(1 + \frac{\tilde{\rho}(\omega)L(\omega)^2}{\tilde{\epsilon}(\omega)} \right) \right]^2 - 4\mu \frac{\rho_f^2 L(\omega)^2}{G}} \right]^{1/2} \quad (13) \\ \text{with } \gamma(\omega) &= \frac{\rho M + \tilde{\rho}(\omega)H \left(1 + \tilde{\rho}(\omega)L(\omega)^2/\tilde{\epsilon}(\omega) \right) - 2\rho_f C}{HM - C^2}. \end{aligned}$$

97 From this set of equations and the parameters of table (1) we get the magnitudes
98 of the seismoelectric transfer functions of P_i ($i = f$ for fast P and $i = s$ for slow P)
99 and S waves in quartz sand and sandstone (figure 1). In all ψ_{Pi} and ψ_S curves, the low
100 and high frequency limits are pretty obvious: each curve tends to a different asymptote
101 appart of the Biot frequency. We particularly notice the low frequency limit of ψ_{Pi} tend-
102 ing to a non-dynamic (linear) transfer function, as expected by *Garambois and Dietrich*



94 **Figure 1.** Magnitudes of dynamic transfer functions of slow P (ψ_{Ps}), fast P (ψ_{Pf}) and S waves (ψ_S) com-
 95 puted for water filled quartz sand (black curves) and sandstone (red curves), and respective Biot's frequencies
 96 f_c .

103 [2001]. The magnitude ψ_S is very low compared to that of ψ_{Pi} , and it seems very difficult
 104 to observe the seismoelectric field associated to the propagation of shear wave. This is a
 105 very interesting point since, as discussed above, the contribution of P waves is negligi-
 106 ble in seismomagnetic field: it theoretically seems that measuring both seismoelectric and
 107 seismomagnetic fields would be an original way for separating P and S waves in a mixed
 108 seismic propagation. We also notice the ψ_{Ps} transfer function to be very large compared
 109 to ψ_{Pf} . The Biot slow wave is therefore expected to be enhanced in seismoelectric fields,
 110 especially in the diffusive regime [Garambois and Dietrich, 2013]. Indeed, measuring the
 111 seismoelectric transfer functions would be an original and promising way to experience
 112 the Biot slow wave, that is still poorly observed and understood [Garambois and Dietrich,
 113 2013].

114 In the purpose of providing original observations for these fundamental poroelastic-
 115 ity issues, we aim to validate the Pride theory by performing laboratory experiments under
 116 controlled conditions. In section 2, we discuss some issues or questions that might be en-

123 **Table 1.** Parameters used for the computation of seismoelectric transfer functions of figure 1 in quartz sand
 124 and sandstone.

Parameter	Notation	Unit	Value
			Waterfilled sand / sandstone
Porosity	ϕ		0.4 / 0.15
Formation factor	F		4 / 15
Intrinsic permeability	k_0	$m.s^{-2}$	$10^{-11} / 10^{-13}$
Bulk modulus of the solid	K_s	GPa	0.02 / 1
Bulk modulus of the fluid	K_f	GPa	0.02 / 1
Bulk modulus of the frame	K_{fr}	GPa	0.02 / 1
Shear modulus of the frame	G	GPa	0.012 / 0.6
Density of the solid (quartz)	ρ_s	$kg.m^{-3}$	2650
Density of the fluid (water)	ρ_f	$kg.m^{-3}$	1000
Electrical conductivity of the fluid	σ_f	$S.m^{-1}$	10^{-3}
Viscosity of the fluid	η_f	$Pa.s$	10^{-3}
Electrokinetic coefficient	C_{ek}	$V.Pa^{-1}$	-2×10^{-5}
Pore space coefficient	m_p		6

117 countered when designing seismoelectric experiments. We show afterwards some results
 118 based on experiments we performed during the last decade. In section 3, we come back
 119 on the seismoelectric and seismomagnetic measurements we realized in a low noise labo-
 120 ratory [Bordes *et al.*, 2006, 2008]. Eventually, in section 4, we evoke the results obtained
 121 by Bordes *et al.* [2015] and Holzhauser *et al.* [2016] in order to quantitatively validate the
 122 transfer function approach, for various fluid's conductivities and water saturations.

125 2 Designing seismoelectric experiments

126 The quantitative study of seismoelectric transfer functions needs carefully designed
 127 experiments including simultaneous seismic and seismoelectric measurements. A well-
 128 designed experiment is intended to be a downscaled analog of field surveys, and/or to
 129 involve the same dissipation processes as in real conditions. When dealing with Pride's
 130 theory, the key parameter will be the vicinity of the Biot frequency. For this purpose, a
 131 compromise has to be sought by balancing frequency and petrophysical properties: the

132 nominal frequency has to be as close to/far from the Biot frequency as in field survey. In
 133 section 2.1, we show that the choice of sandbox experiments in the kiloHertz range is a
 134 comfortable compromise, by comparing the f/f_c ratio for various possible experiments.
 135 Quantitative measurements require the acquisition system to be carefully designed (sec-
 136 tion 2.2), seismic sensors to be well calibrated, the coupling with the porous sample to be
 137 the best as possible, and the electrodes and dipole length to be carefully chosen. Thus, we
 138 aim to check in section 2.3 the linearity of seismoelectric amplitude versus source energy.
 139 The choice of metallic electrodes, is discussed in section 2.4 and the reconstruction of
 140 dipoles using measurements referred to a common electrode (reference electrode) is dis-
 141 cussed in section 2.5. Eventually we show the linearity of potential gradient to be unsatis-
 142 fied for large dipoles and we make some suggestions on the best dipole length in section
 143 2.6.

144 **2.1 On the choice of sandbox experiments**

145 When dealing with Pride’s formulation, that is based on Biot’s theory, the choice of
 146 the frequency range must be balanced against petrophysical properties involved in the Biot
 147 frequency f_c (see equation 9). Indeed, depending on the frequency f , relative fluid/solid
 148 motions may be controlled by viscous ($f/f_c < 1$) or inertial ($f/f_c > 1$) forces. The seis-
 149 moelectric transfer functions are expected to reach their maximum magnitude in the vis-
 150 cous domain (low frequencies) and to drop at highest frequencies (see figure 1). In terms
 151 of seismoelectric transfer functions, field surveys at seismic frequencies might be ideal
 152 conditions provided that electrokinetic and signal-to-noise ratios are high enough.

153 Working at ultrasonic frequencies does not seem be the simplest way to experiment
 154 on seismoelectric phenomena. On the one hand because they stand in the inertial domain
 155 for which transfer functions are dropping, on the second hand because seismic waves are
 156 strongly damped due to combined scattering and attenuation. Nevertheless it is possible to
 157 work on such frequencies (higher than $20kHz$), for example in sandstone, by dealing with
 158 small samples [Zhu *et al.*, 2000]. In this case, the f/f_c ratio would stand around $10^1 -$
 159 10^2 (see table 2) and the observations might be a nice analog of borehole measurements
 160 performed in the same frequency range.

161 Nevertheless, the f/f_c ratio for field studies at seismic frequencies stands around
 162 10^{-3} (viscous domain) and upscaling the results from acoustic measurements to field sur-

171 **Table 2.** Comparison of key parameters in field and laboratory seismoelectric studies. Computation of the
 172 Biot frequency was performed for waterfilled sandstone and sand whose properties are given in table 1.

	Field surveys waterfilled sandstone	Ultrasonic waterfilled sandstone	Sandbox $S_w=0.5$	Sandbox $S_w=1$
Frequency				
f (Hz)	50	10^6	1000	1000
Biot's frequency				
f_c (Hz)	1.6×10^4	1.6×10^4	800	4000
f/f_c	3.14×10^{-3}	63	1.26	2.51×10^{-1}

163 veys may be difficult. It is more recommended to use lower frequencies(1 – 10 kHz), *i.e.*
 164 closer to the Biot frequency. For this purpose, sandbox experiments have the advantage
 165 to use lower f/f_c values. Mechanical seismic sources may be driven by compressed air
 166 or weight drop, and are particularly well suited for emitting frequencies in the kiloHertz
 167 range. They generate higher energy than piezoelectric transducers with limited electro-
 168 magnetic disturbances. Moreover, many shapes of sandbox experiments can be envisaged
 169 (depending on which propagation mode is required), and instrumentation is easy to install
 170 (seismic receivers, electrodes, saturation probes....) with satisfying mechanical coupling.

173 2.2 Solving impedance issues for electric measurements

174 When dealing with quantitative measurements of electrical potentials, the acquisition
 175 system must be carefully chosen and follow basic precautions. Indeed, its input impedance
 176 R_{in} must be very high compared to the impedance between the electrodes R_{dip} . The
 177 later can be easily measured for various length of dipoles: in the case the assumption
 178 $R_{dip} \ll R_{in}$ would be verified, the quantitative measurement of ΔV may be envisaged
 179 safely. In the opposite case, the equivalent resistance would be $R^{-1} = R_{dip}^{-1} + R_{in}^{-1}$ and
 180 the acquisition system would act as a tension divider. It would therefore be necessary to
 181 correct the measurement ΔV_m in order to obtain the real potential difference ΔV by:

$$\Delta V = \Delta V_m \frac{R_{dip} + R_{in}}{R_{in}} \quad (14)$$

182 Nevertheless, when dealing with various fluid conductivities and/or saturations, changes
 183 in R_{dip} may be very strong and the correction may become unrealistic. Thus, the best
 184 solution would be to increase the input impedance until 0.1 to 1 $G\Omega$ by custom-made
 185 preamplifiers that may also include gain or digital filtering [*Bordes et al.*, 2015] .

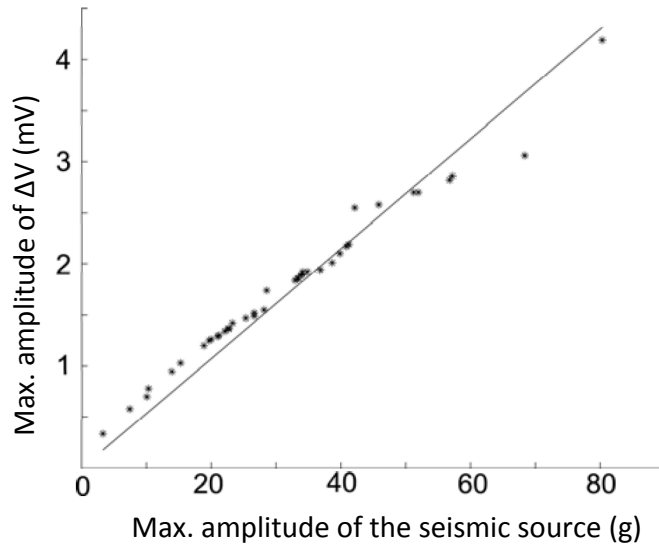
186 **2.3 Checking the linearity of the coseismic effect for variable source magnitude**

187 As shown in section 1, the conversion from seismic to electric energy follows a dy-
 188 namic transfer function dropping with frequency (figure 1). A seismic source which wave-
 189 form would be reproducible is therefore expected to be converted into a seismoelectric
 190 field which waveform should be reproducible as well. Eventually, changes in source's
 191 magnitude is expected to involve the same changes in seismoelectric amplitudes with a
 192 linear relation. This assumption is very important when stacking or normalizing process-
 193 ing are used, especially when dealing with mechanical sources that are less reproducible
 194 than piezoelectric sources. When designing the experiment *Bordes et al.* [2006, 2008],
 195 checked the maximum amplitudes recorded on a dipole for various source magnitudes,
 196 all other parameters being constant. As expected, the potential difference increases quasi-
 197 linearly with the source magnitude (figure 2). Thus, it makes sense normalizing seismic
 198 and seismoelectric records by the source magnitude. This normalization, that is possible
 199 only by systematically recording the source signal, allows a quantitative interpretation of
 200 amplitudes, even when changes in source magnitudes cannot be avoided.

203 **2.4 Unpolarizable electrodes versus metallic electrodes**

204 The question, whether or not non-polarising electrodes are needed in seismoelec-
 205 tric measurements, is often discussed. Metallic electrodes are generally not admitted for
 206 spontaneous potential surveys since they may be affected by biases due to polarisation ef-
 207 fects. Indeed, these effects can be particularly strong at very low frequency when metallic
 208 electrodes are kept in a surrounding electrolyte for a very long time. Nevertheless, seis-
 209 moelectrics consist in measuring transient potential gradients on very short times (typi-
 210 cally few milliseconds) and polarisation issues cannot be addressed with the same point of
 211 view.

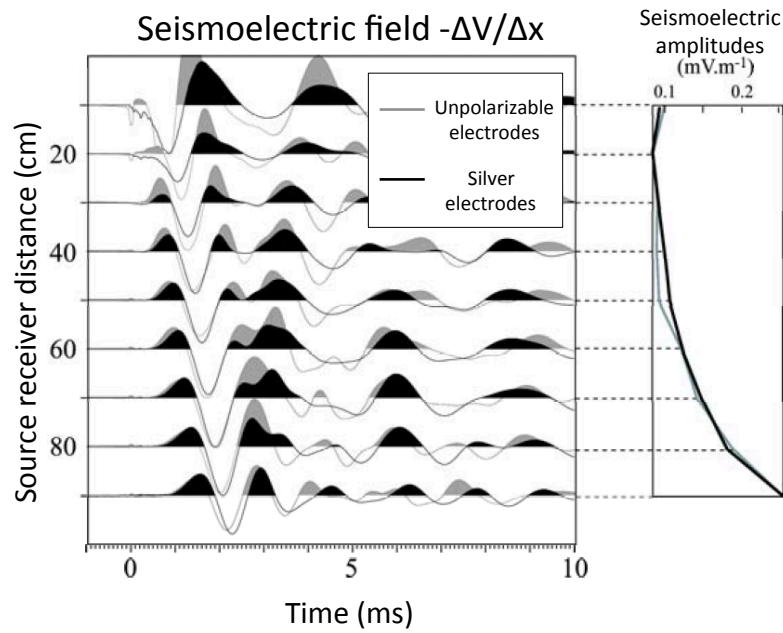
212 In field and laboratory seismoelectric studies, both electrode systems are used, as-
 213 suming the polarisation effect to be poor. This issue has been addressed at field scale by



201 **Figure 2.** Checking the linearity of the coseismic effect in Fontainebleau sand for variable source magni-
 202 tude (pneumatic device) [adapted from *Bordes, 2005*]

214 *Beamish* [1999] who used electrodes of three types: 1) stainless-steel (standard) elec-
 215 trodes, 2) lead rods, 3) non-polarizing Cu/CuSO₄ electrodes. He concluded that the re-
 216 ceived voltages appear largely independent of electrode type as long as the ground con-
 217 tact resistance was no issue. Hence he would advocate for porous-pot electrodes only in
 218 arid environments, or advice to water the metal rods. Many other field studies used sim-
 219 ple metallic electrodes on the surface or in boreholes [*Butler et al., 1996; Mikhailov et al.,*
 220 *2000; Garambois and Dietrich, 2001; Haines et al., 2007; Strahser et al., 2007; Dupuis and*
 221 *Butler, 2006; Dupuis et al., 2007*]. Many laboratory studies were performed with metal-
 222 lic electrodes as well: [*Chen and Mu, 2005; Zhu et al., 1999, 2000; Zhu and Toksöz, 2005;*
 223 *Dukhin et al., 2010; Bordes et al., 2015*]. Some authors used Ag/AgCl non-polarising elec-
 224 trodes in the laboratory [*Block and Harris, 2006; Bordes et al., 2006, 2008; Schakel et al.,*
 225 *2011; Smeulders et al., 2014*] but did not discuss their absolute necessity, except *Zhu and*
 226 *Toksöz* [2013] who measured streaming potential and seismoelectric conversion on the
 227 same experiment.

230 *Beamish's* conclusions were confirmed by *Bordes* [2005] by comparing seismoelec-
 231 tric waveforms obtained by Ag/AgCl and silver electrodes. The datasets shown in figure
 232 3 were obtained in two distinct experiments. The experimental apparatus was a vertical



228 **Figure 3.** Comparison of seismoelectric signals obtained by unpolarizable and silver electrodes [adapted
 229 from *Bordes, 2005*]

233 column of quartz sand, filled of water from the lower extremity [*Bordes et al., 2006*].
 234 The main drawback of this apparatus is the fluid accumulation at the bottom of the col-
 235 umn with a possible saturation gradient along the sample. This effect may be particularly
 236 strong in the upper part of the column. In the following, we therefore focus the compari-
 237 son between both types of electrodes on offsets larger than 40cm .

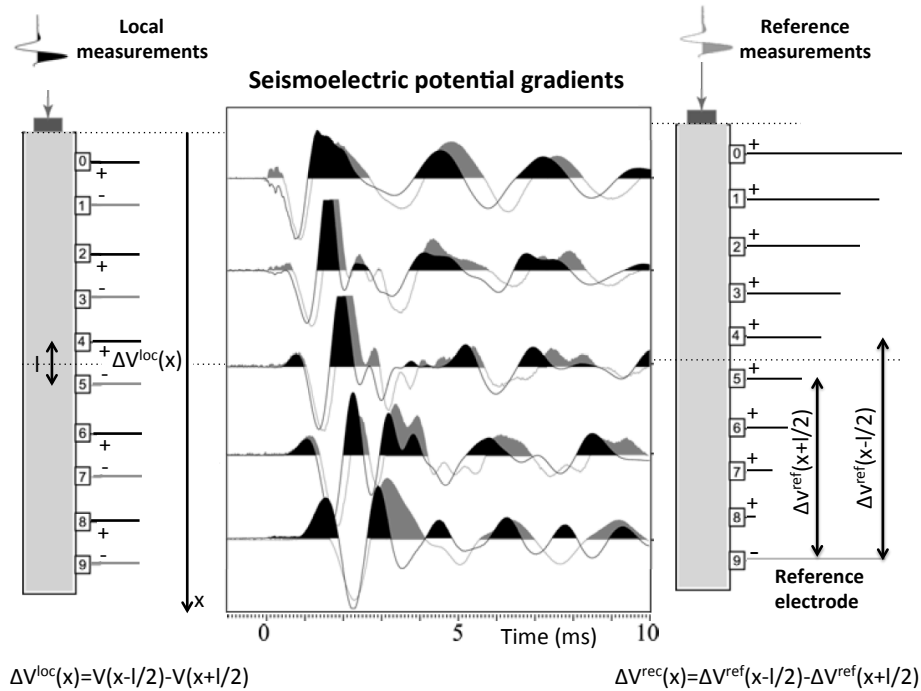
238 In this experiment, potential gradients were measured by referring to a common
 239 electrode located 95cm from the source, and the seismoelectric field was calculated as
 240 the ratio of potential gradient and dipole length ($E = -\Delta V/\Delta x$). All the signals shown in
 241 this figure were normalized by the trace maximum (for a clearer view of waveforms) and
 242 by the source amplitude (for correcting the source non-reproducibility). The maximum
 243 of the seismoelectric amplitudes is shown in the right part for a quantitative comparison.
 244 The saturation gradient along the column might explain the increase of seismoelectric am-
 245 plitudes. Eventually the comparison of these datasets shows both signals to be very close
 246 in amplitude and waveform, the strong differences observed in later parts being probably
 247 due to a lack of reproducibility of the mechanical source. We conclude from this test both

248 non-polarising and metallic electrodes to be well suited for seismoelectric measurements,
 249 as initially suggested by *Beamish* [1999].

250 **2.5 Local measurement versus dipole reconstruction**

251 In field measurements, the seismoelectric acquisition consists of dipoles arrays, each
 252 dipole being composed of two electrodes located on either side of a seismic sensor. The
 253 dipole length l is chosen in order to provide the best signal to noise ratio, as large dipoles
 254 are tending to favour both seismoelectric signals and electrical ambient noise. In this case,
 255 the local potential gradient measured by electrodes located at the offset x is:

$$\Delta V^{loc}(x) = \left[V\left(x - \frac{l}{2}\right) - V\left(x + \frac{l}{2}\right) \right] \quad (15)$$



256 **Figure 4.** Comparison of local SE measurements with their reconstructed waveform using a reference elec-
 257 trode [adapted from *Bordes*, 2005]

258 The main drawback of the local measurement is that datasets cannot be rearranged
 259 for testing other dipole geometries, since dipoles are completely independent from each
 260 others. A possible alternative is the measurement by referring to a common electrode.
 261 Hence, locating the electrodes every distance l , the potential gradient at offset x measured

262 by the reconstructed dipole of length l would be:

$$\Delta V^{\text{rec}}(x) = \left[V\left(x - \frac{l}{2}\right) - V(\text{ref}) \right] - \left[V\left(x + \frac{l}{2}\right) - V(\text{ref}) \right] \equiv \Delta V^{\text{loc}}(x). \quad (16)$$

263 Indeed, the reconstructed and local dipoles are expected to provide the same signal, which
 264 can be easily checked by operating both acquisitions, as shown in figure 4. This simple
 265 test shows both acquisition systems to be consistent, even if some discrepancies are ob-
 266 served in the later part of the signal. This test confirms the reference electrode system to
 267 be an interesting alternative to the local measurement.

268 From the initial reference measurement, it is afterwards possible to provide many
 269 datasets corresponding to other electrode configurations, for example with various dipole
 270 length ($l, 2l, 3l\dots$). Another disadvantage of the local dipoles is that many more electrodes
 271 have to be set up. It is therefore possible to process many more traces by using the re-
 272 constructed dipoles, for the same experimental setup, that is a very interesting point for
 273 understanding the various wavefronts travelling in the sample.

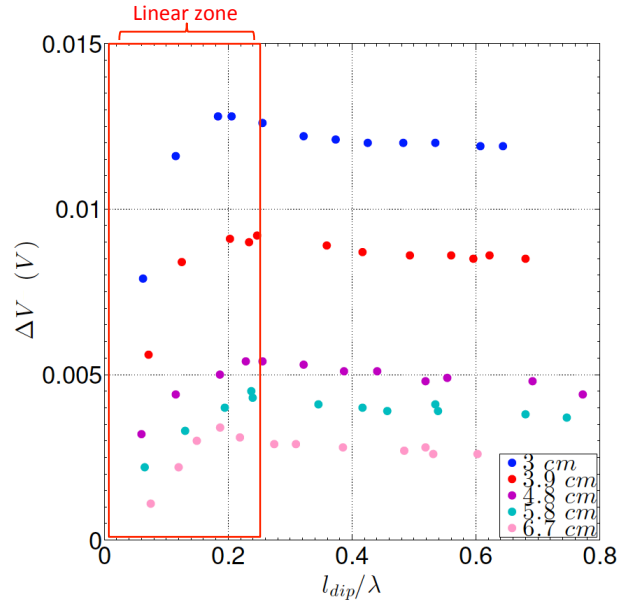
274 **2.6 On the best electrode configuration**

275 The effect of dipole geometry on the measurement of seismoelectric fields has been
 276 a pending issue ever since this phenomenon regained attention in the 90's. Various au-
 277 thors *Beamish* [1999]; *Strahser et al.* [2007] investigated, at a given point, the influence of
 278 the spacial distribution of electrodes on the estimate of electric field amplitudes. Indeed,
 279 estimating the local electric field by using its definition $\mathbf{E} = -\nabla V$ assumes the potential
 280 gradients to be measured between two points sufficiently close. In this case, isopotential
 281 curves are expected to be almost parallel between electrodes, *i.e.* the variations of poten-
 282 tial are gradual and almost linear (null divergence). If this assumption is completed, the
 283 local amplitude of the electric field

$$E_x = -\Delta V / \Delta x \quad (17)$$

284 should not depend on the selected dipole-length, and the $\Delta V = f(l_{dip})$ curve should be
 285 linear ($\Delta x = l_{dip}$).

288 When dealing with seismoelectric fields, the shape of isopotential curves is com-
 289 pletely driven by the original seismic wave and its characteristic wavelength λ . At a given
 290 time, signal reaching electrodes of dipoles larger than a quarter wavelength might be out
 291 of phase: the isopotential curves within the dipoles might be ungradual (bumps and holes)



286 **Figure 5.** Checking the validity of seismoelectric field reconstruction from potential difference measure-
 287 ments [adapted from *Holzhauser et al.*, 2016]

292 and the $E_x = -\Delta V/\Delta x$ relation might be not adapted. This statement can be checked by
 293 using reconstructed dipoles of various lengths as proposed by *Holzhauser et al.* [2016]. In
 294 this experiment, seismoelectric potential gradients at various offsets were recorded by a
 295 dense electrodes array, allowing many different dipole-length l_{dip} . In figure 5, the max-
 296 imum amplitudes of the first arrival ΔV are displayed as a function of l_{dip}/λ ratio and
 297 clearly show the linear relation to be obtained only for dipole smaller than a quarter wave-
 298 length (even a fifth for some traces). Eventually, *Holzhauser et al.* [2016] concluded that
 299 the smaller the dipole length is, the better the measurement of the electric field will be, as
 300 long as the signal to noise ratio remains sensible.

301 **3 Measuring the seismomagnetic field**

302 Whether seismoelectric measurements were performed in the laboratory or in the
 303 field, the measurement of the seismomagnetic field was rarely addressed [*Zhu and Toksöz,*
 304 2005; *Bordes et al.*, 2006, 2008]. As shown in section 1, P waves are pure divergence and
 305 the corresponding seismoelectric field has no magnetic counterpart. The seismomagnetic
 306 field \mathbf{B} is then expected to be coupled to the sole S waves, whose seismoelectric couplings

are very low (figure 1). Indeed, \mathbf{B} is expected to be of very weak magnitude and the measurement seems possible only under very low electromagnetic magnetic noise.

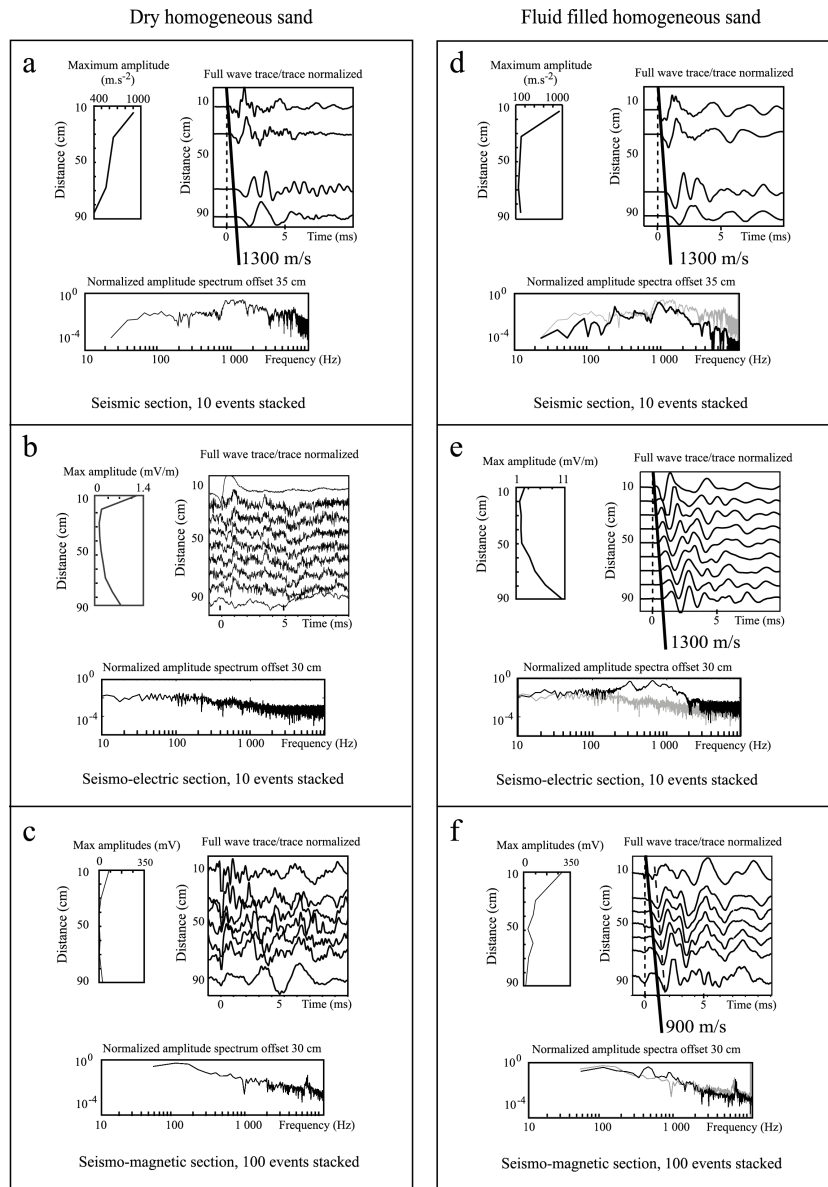
The *Bordes et al.* [2006, 2008] experiments were therefore performed in a low noise underground laboratory (LSBB, Rustrel France) whose noise level was measured by *Gaffet et al.* [2003] to be lower than $2 fT/\sqrt{Hz}$ above 10 Hz. The experimental apparatus was made of a porous sample, a seismic source, electric dipoles, two homemade fluxgate magnetometers and accelerometers located within the ultrashielded chamber. All electronic devices were located outside the chamber for avoiding electromagnetic disturbances from the instruments. Seismic and seismoelectric measurements were simultaneously performed in a common experiment whereas seismomagnetic field was recorded in a dedicated experiment. The experimental apparatus was carefully designed for avoiding any vibrations of sensors or metallic elements. Reproducibility was also ensured by using a controlled setup procedure, including sand packing and water filling.

These experiments eventually showed both seismoelectric and seismomagnetic field to be measurable in this very favorable environment (figure 6). Their electrokinetic origin was confirmed by checking that no coherent arrival was recorded in dry sand. In "fluid filled" sand, the first arrival of seismic and seismoelectric fields have the apparent velocity of a P wave [*Bordes et al.*, 2006] in a partially saturated compacted sand (≈ 1300 m/s). As for the seismomagnetic field, its apparent velocity is consistent with S waves propagating in the same medium (≈ 900 m/s). This experiment was an interesting step in the validation of Pride's theory since it confirms the existence of a measurable seismomagnetic field, most likely with an S wave apparent velocity. Nevertheless, measuring the 3 components of all fields would be a valuable improvement, since it would enable the evaluation of wave polarisation and would therefore confirm the identification of P and S waves.

4 Quantitative validation of Pride's transfer functions

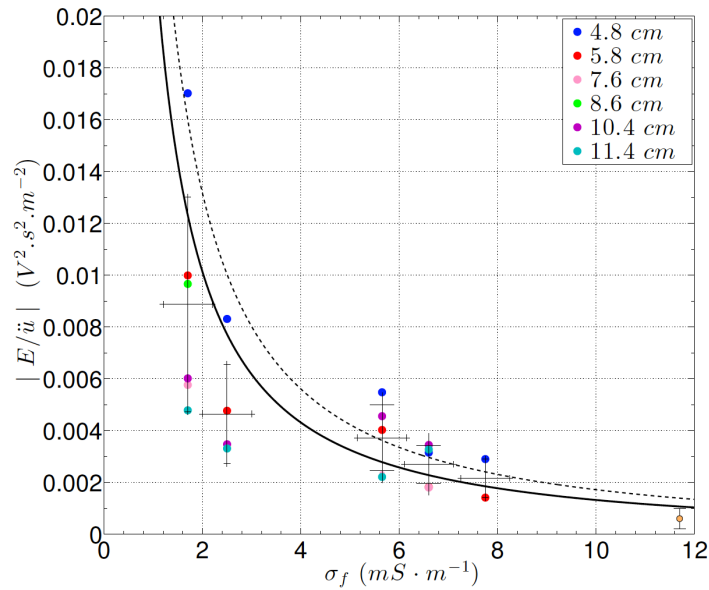
4.1 Checking the effect of fluid's conductivity

Fluid conductivity is the most adjustable parameter in laboratory experiments: its change demands no great operation but to equilibrate the medium towards the wanted conductivity value by continuous water circulation. As early as the 70's, *Parkhomenko and Gaskarov* [1971] noted in their conclusions that "as the degree of mineralization of the solution saturating the rock increases, the magnitude of the E-effect is reduced approxi-



320 **Figure 6.** Seismic, seismoelectric and seismo-magnetic signals recorded along a cylindrical sample in dry
 321 and fluid filled sand [adapted from *Bordes, 2005*]

340 mately exponentially". This effect was afterwards brought to light in the low-frequency
 341 approximation of the coseismic transfer function given by *Garambois and Dietrich [2001]*.
 342 Within the last decade, further similar studies have been conducted either on sand and
 343 glass beads [*Block and Harris, 2006*] or on Berea sandstone [*Zhu and Toksöz, 2013*] for
 344 frequencies reaching some tens of kilohertz.



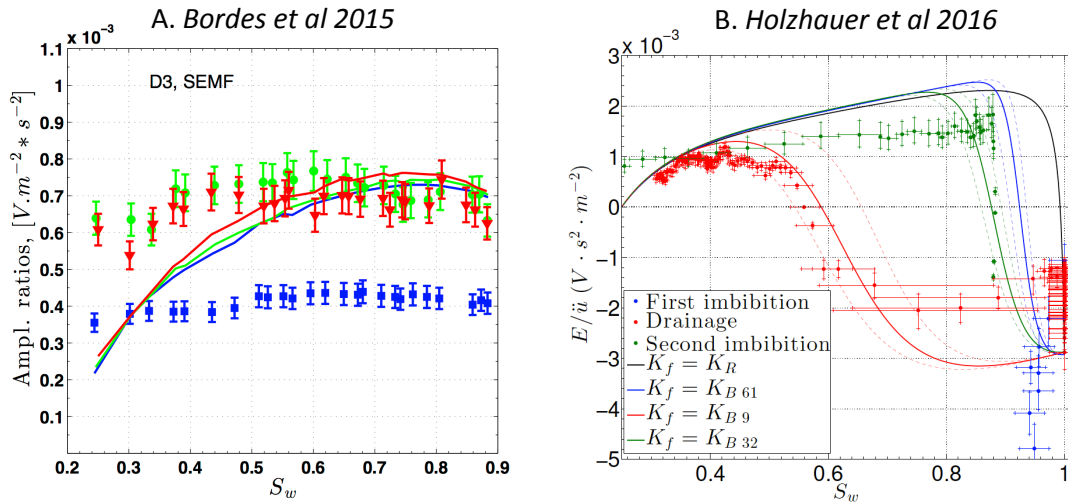
345 **Figure 7.** Seismoelectric transfer function as a function of fluid's conductivity measured in a sandbox ex-
 346 periment [adapted from *Holzhauser et al.*, 2016]. Theoretical curves at 0.5 kHz (dashed line) and 2 kHz (solid
 347 line) were obtained using the dynamic formulation of ψ_{pf} including the *Jackson* [2010] model for saturation
 348 dependence of the electrokinetic coefficient.

349 Investigation of the transfer function dependence on fluid conductivity was also con-
 350 ducted by *Holzhauser et al.* [2016] for the quantitative validation of Pride's transfer func-
 351 tions (figure 7). In this experiment, the fluid conductivity was controlled by progressive
 352 addition of NaCl salts to eventually cover fluid conductivities ranging from $2.5 \text{ mS} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$
 353 to $10 \text{ mS} \cdot \text{m}^{-1}$. As σ_f increases, the seismoelectric amplitude drastically decreases (al-
 354 most by one order of magnitude) when seismic amplitude remains mostly invariant, and
 355 the $|E/\ddot{u}|$ is therefore damping very fast. Eventually, experimental observations are consis-
 356 tent with theoretical predictions, both in order of magnitude and conductivity dependence
 357 of seismoelectric transfer functions.

358 **4.2 Effect of water saturation in sands and dynamic compatibility phenomenon**

359 Although the dependence of seismoelectromagnetic signals on fluid parameters (fluid's
 360 conductivity, pH, viscosity) were numerically and/or experimentally addressed, the impact
 361 of partial saturation has been rarely studied. However, full saturation is often not achieved
 362 in reservoirs, since they generally contain at least a few percents of gas or oil, strongly

363 influencing mechanical [Bachrach and Nur, 1998; Bachrach et al., 1998; Rubino and Hol-
 364 liger, 2012] as well as electrical [Archie et al., 1942] and electrokinetic [Guichet et al.,
 365 2003; Revil et al., 2007; Jackson, 2010; Allegre et al., 2010; Jougnot et al., 2012; Allè-
 366 gre et al., 2012, 2015] properties of the medium. Field investigations were performed by
 367 Strahser et al. [2011] who measured both the seismoelectric coupling and the electrical
 368 impedance between electrodes and suggested that the water content should modify seis-
 369 moelectromagnetic couplings. In the laboratory, Parkhomenko et al. [1964] measured the
 370 seismoelectric potential during water imbibition of dried rocks. Their results showed a de-
 371 pendence of the seismoelectric effect on water content, but they did not measure seismic
 372 displacements nor acceleration assuming that it should not vary with a reproducible seis-
 373 mic source. However it is admitted that seismic amplitudes should depend on water satu-
 374 ration due to specific dissipation phenomena Carcione [2007]; Masson and Pride [2007];
 375 Rubino and Holliger [2012]. Indeed, the dependence of seismoelectric coupling should
 376 always be addressed in term of transfer function, accounting for seismic amplitudes varia-
 377 tions, as discussed in section 1.



378 **Figure 8.** Theoretical and experimental seismoelectric transfer function as a function of fluid saturation for
 379 various offsets [A. adapted from Bordes et al., 2015] and for different imbibition/drainage cycles [B. adapted
 380 from Holzhauer et al., 2016]. In experiment A, theoretical curves are computed by using a systematic estima-
 381 tion of the dominant frequency (blue: offset=20cm, red: offset=30cm and green: offset=40cm). In experiment
 382 B, theoretical curves were obtained by a joint least-square inversion of velocities and seismoelectric transfer
 383 functions in order to estimate the best exponent in Brie's model. The best fit (bold lines) is surrounded by the
 384 curves obtained for a 10% misfit.

385 The effect of water saturation on seismoelectric transfer functions was studied in
386 sandbox experiments by *Bordes et al.* [2015] and *Holzhauser et al.* [2016]. The goal was to
387 compare laboratory data with theoretical predictions from *Pride* [1994] theory, extended
388 to partial saturation by an effective fluid model as proposed in *Warden et al.* [2013]. The
389 *Bordes et al.* [2015] experiment (A) focused on the $S_w = [0.3 - 0.9]$ range for various
390 offsets, when *Holzhauser et al.* [2016] (experiment B) succeeded in reaching the full saturation
391 (figure 8). These studies showed that the transfer functions behave as a plateau in the
392 $S_w = [0.3 - 0.9]$ range as long as the fluid distribution remains homogeneous (all experi-
393 ments from A and first imbibition from B). The seismoelectric transfer function at shortest
394 offset was clearly lower than those measured at further ones in experiment A. This ob-
395 servation was not fully understood, but near-field effects were suspected. Eventually, the
396 *Pride* theory extended to partial saturation succeeded in predicting the order of magnitude
397 of the transfer functions.

398 By investigating the full saturation case, *Holzhauser et al.* [2016] obtained an origi-
399 nal observation: the sign of the transfer function was changing at a specific saturation S^*
400 related to the fluid distribution. This phenomenon can be recovered in theoretical transfer
401 functions by accounting for fluid heterogeneities *via* *Brie's* formulation for the effective
402 bulk modulus of the fluid [*Brie et al.*, 1995]. Hence, S^* is expected to be lower for an het-
403 erogeneous fluid (*i.e.* laid out in patches) than for an homogeneous one (fine mixture of
404 gas and water). Actually, the water was sucked out very rapidly during the drainage exper-
405 iment and the formation of patches is very likely.

406 The S^* saturation corresponds to the peculiar state of "dynamic compatibility" pre-
407 dicted by *Biot* [1956a]. In his original paper, *Biot* evoked: "A remarkable property is the
408 possible existence of a wave such that no relative motion occurs between fluid and solid".
409 This condition is obtained when an equilibrium between elastic and dynamic constants
410 is achieved. As suggested by *Hu et al.* [2009] this condition can be observed at a criti-
411 cal porosity, but it can be reached at a critical saturation as well. Eventually, under the
412 dynamic compatibility condition, neither attenuation nor seismoelectric field may be ob-
413 served since both solid and fluid are moving in-phase. The polarity change in seismoelec-
414 tric transfer functions obtained by *Holzhauser et al.* [2016] is therefore an original observa-
415 tion of this poorly experienced phenomenon.

5 Conclusion

In the last decade, the potential of seismoelectrics for the geophysical characterization of porous media has been proven by the spectacular development of numerical, field and laboratory studies in literature. The coseismic part of the seismoelectric field is often considered to be devoid of interest since it comes with the seismic field. Nevertheless, this phenomenon carries the signature of relative fluid motion within the pores that is involved in attenuation and dispersion of the seismic waves. A quantitative study of these seismoelectric fields may actually provide a powerful tool for experiencing various phenomena described by poroelastic theories. We would advise the transfer function approach as the best way to study the coseismic coupling since it neutralizes the effect of any changes in seismic amplitudes when monitoring any parameter variations.

This quantitative interpretation requires well designed experiments including calibrated seismic measurements and electric dipole which length and location must be carefully chosen. The choice of the frequency f must be balanced against the Biot frequency f_c in order to get a f/f_c ratio close to that of field studies. We showed the sandbox experiments in the kiloHertz range to be a reasonable analog of field studies at seismic frequencies. We would recommend to measure the potential difference by referring to a common reference electrode located as far as possible from the source: this method provides large datasets that can be rearranged for various dipole length. Metallic electrodes may be used, and the best dipole length seems to be smaller than a fifth wavelength for ensuring the fundamental relation $E = -\Delta V/\Delta x$ to be relevant.

In light of these recommendations, we performed a series of laboratory experiments in order to test some of Pride's expectations. For instance, by comparing seismomagnetic and seismoelectric fields in a sand column, we confirmed their respective coupling to S and fast P waves. We also showed the magnitude of theoretical transfer functions obtained from Pride's theory to be consistent with laboratory measurements, even under variable fluid conductivity and water saturation. We were also able to observe the "dynamic compatibility" predicted by Biot, this peculiar state in which both solid and fluid phases are moving in-phase.

All these experiments confirmed the coseismic part of seismoelectric fields to provide an interesting and powerful tool for investigating the effect of pore fluid on the seismic propagation in porous media. Many other studies might be considered. For exam-

448 ple, the study of patchy saturation might show a particular effect on seismoelectric phe-
 449 nomenon combining both coseismic and interface conversions at patches boundaries [*Joug-*
 450 *not et al.*, 2013]. Experiments focussing on very short offsets might also provide original
 451 observations of the diffusive part of the Biot slow wave [*Garambois and Dietrich*, 2013].
 452 In future experiments, special efforts will have to be deployed for obtaining dynamical
 453 transfer functions, ideally on a large range of frequencies. Eventually, the recent devel-
 454 opment of various codes for the computation of the seismoelectric effect should provide
 455 great opportunities for improving the interpretation of both laboratory and field data.

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