

# Magnetotelluric Response Function Analysis

Anna Martí. 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021



UNIVERSITAT DE  
BARCELONA

# MOTIVATION

## Basic steps in the Magnetotelluric (MT) Method:

- Data acquisition
- Time series processing → response functions
- Modelling, inversion
- Interpretation

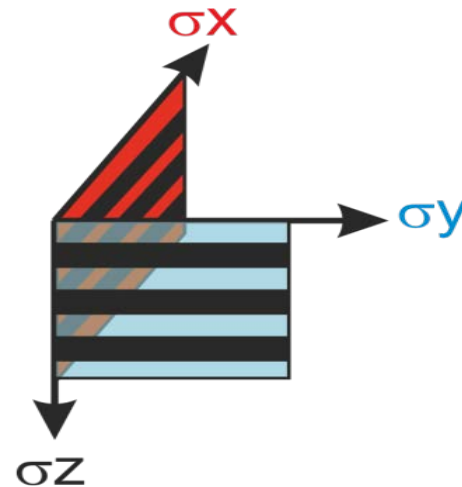
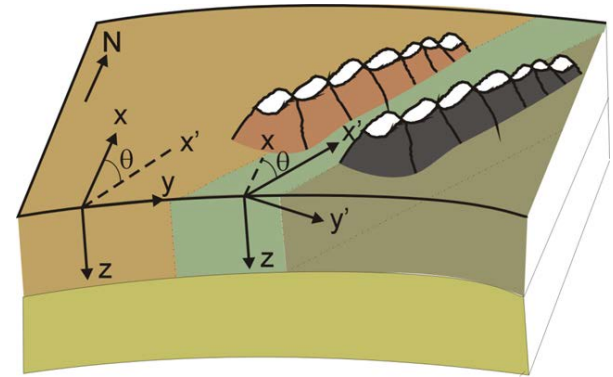
# MOTIVATION

## Basic steps in the Magnetotelluric (MT) Method:

- Data acquisition
- Time series processing → response functions
- Response function analysis
- Modelling, inversion
- Interpretation

## Importance of response function analysis:

- to know the dimensionality of the structures before modelling/inverting data
- to correct data from static shift, distortion, and rotate to strike direction
- to identify hints of anisotropy

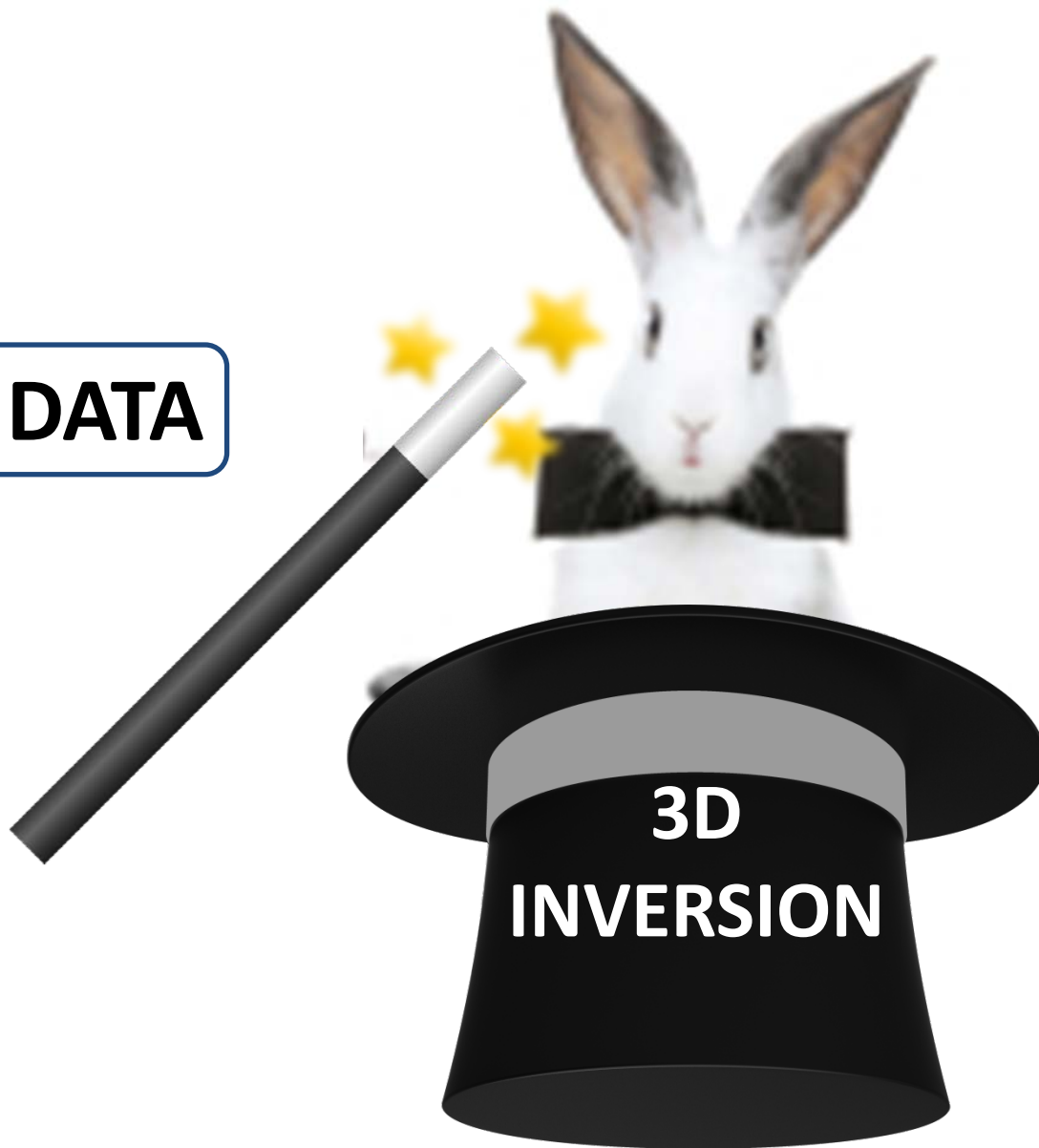


## Ignoring this step might led to wrong models

- Ledo et al. (2002); Ledo (2005): limitations of 3D data modelled as 2D
- Miensopust and Jones (2011): artifacts due to anisotropic data modelled as isotropic

We might think that 3D inversion solves everything ...

**MT DATA**



## Instead ...

- Information from data analysis can be used as constraints for 3D models: preferred orientations, distorting bodies ...

# About this EMinar:

I will focus on the analysis of MT responses, based on my experience:

- 1) Explain what information about dimensionality and galvanic distortion is in the impedance tensor and tipper.
- 2) Describe methods and tools to analyse it. WAL invariants (WALDIM), Phase Tensor, G&B (Strike code)
- 3) Extend this analysis to anisotropic structures



# Contents:

- **MT responses, dimensionality and distortion**
- **Dimensionality analysis methods**
- **Decomposition methods**
- **Extension to an anisotropic earth**

# Contents:

- **MT responses, dimensionality and distortion**
- Dimensionality analysis methods
- Decomposition methods
- Extension to an anisotropic earth

# MT responses

$\mathbf{E}(t), \mathbf{H}(t) \rightarrow$  cross spectra  $\rightarrow$  **MT transfer functions (freq. domain)**

Impedance Tensor  $\underline{Z}$  (Ohms)  
(complex components)

$$\begin{pmatrix} E_x(\omega) \\ E_y(\omega) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} H_x(\omega) \\ H_y(\omega) \end{pmatrix}$$

Magnetotelluric tensor  $\underline{M}$  (m/s): relates  $\mathbf{E}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ :  $\underline{Z} = \mu_0 \underline{M}$

$$\rho_{ij}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\mu_0 \omega} |Z_{ij}(\omega)|^2 \quad (\Omega \cdot m)$$

Apparent Resistivity and Phase:

$$\varphi_{ij}(\omega) = \arctan\left(\text{Im}(Z_{ij}(\omega)) / \text{Re}(Z_{ij}(\omega))\right)$$

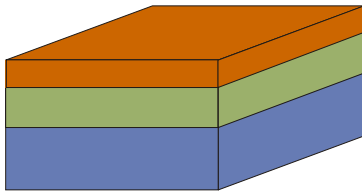
Tipper vector  $\mathbf{T}$   
(complex components)

$$H_z(\omega) = (T_x(\omega), T_y(\omega)) \begin{pmatrix} H_x(\omega) \\ H_y(\omega) \end{pmatrix}$$

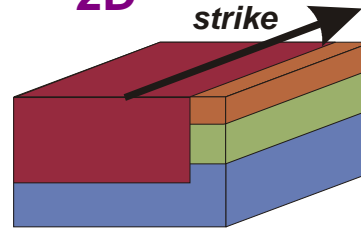
# Geoelectrical Dimensionality

Earth MT dimensionality types (for isotropic conductivity):

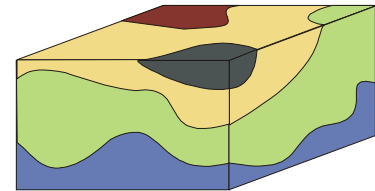
1D



2D



3D



$$\underline{\underline{Z}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{xy} \\ -Z_{xy} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{T} = (0, 0)$$

$$\underline{\underline{Z}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{TE} \\ Z_{TM} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{T} = (0, T_y)$$

$$\underline{\underline{Z}} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{T} = (T_x, T_y)$$

## 2D cases not measured along the principal directions:

$$\underline{\underline{Z}} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{T} = (T_x, T_y)$$

$$\underline{\underline{Z}}' = R_\theta \underline{\underline{Z}} R_\theta^T \quad \vec{T}' = R_\theta \vec{T}$$

where  $R_\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$

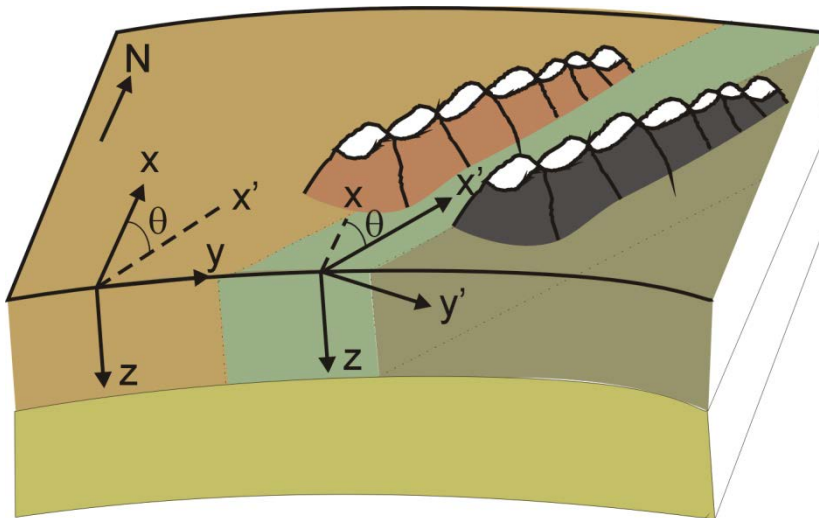
$x$  = measurement direction

$x'$  = strike direction

$\theta$  = strike angle

$$\underline{\underline{Z}}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{x'y'} \\ Z_{y'x'} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & Z_{TE} \\ Z_{TM} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{T} = (0, T_{y'})$$



# Galvanic distortion:

**Distortion:** caused by shallow and local (3D) bodies  $\ll$  target of interest

- Induction effects (in MT  $\sigma \gg \omega\epsilon$ ), decay rapidly with period and can be ignored.
- Galvanic effects (important in MT): accumulation of charges at the surface of the local bodies → anomalous electric field  $\mathbf{E}_a$ .

$$\vec{E}' = \vec{E}_R + \vec{E}_A \approx C\vec{E}_R$$

$$\vec{E}' = C(\underline{Z}_R \vec{H}_R) = \underline{Z}_{meas} \vec{H}_R$$

## Mathematical representation:

C: Matrix of real components:

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} C_{xx} & C_{xy} \\ C_{yx} & C_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

Groom and Bailey (1989):

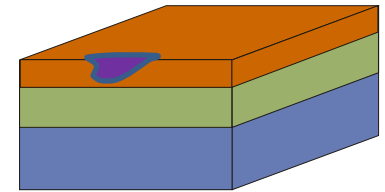
$C = g \cdot T \cdot S \cdot A$  (site gain, Twist, Shear, Anisotropy)

$$C = g \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -t \\ t & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s \\ s & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1+a & 0 \\ 0 & 1-a \end{pmatrix}$$

If the regional structure is 1D:

$$Z_{meas} = C \cdot Z_{meas} = \begin{pmatrix} -C_{xy}Z_{xy} & C_{xx}Z_{xy} \\ -C_{yy}Z_{xy} & C_{yx}Z_{xy} \end{pmatrix}$$

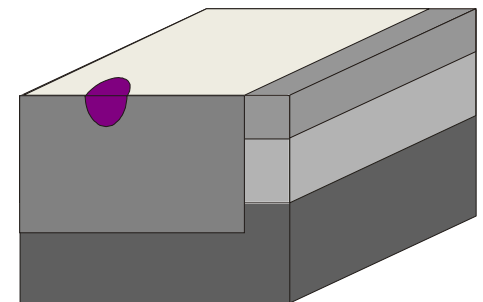
3D/1D



If the regional structure is 2D:

$$Z_{meas} = C \cdot Z_{2D} = \begin{pmatrix} C_{xy}Z_{yx} & C_{xx}Z_{xy} \\ C_{yy}Z_{yx} & C_{yx}Z_{xy} \end{pmatrix}$$

Case 3D/2D



If not measured along strike direction:

$$Z_{meas} = R_{\theta} \cdot C \cdot Z_{2D} \cdot R_{\theta}^T$$



## 3D/1D and 3D/2D:

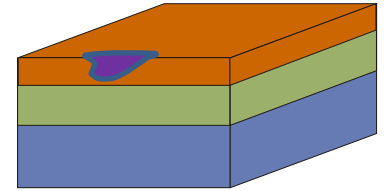
matrix C affects regional tensor components amplitudes (but not phases):

g and A are undeterminable: **Static Shift**

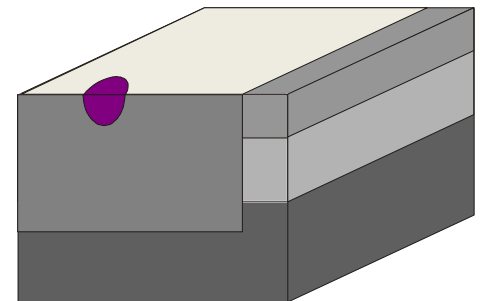
2D cases with equal phases in TE and TM:

3D/2D is undistinguishable from 3D/1D

3D/1D



Case 3D/2D



## Static shift correction:

### MT data alone:

E.g. Ledo et al. 2002. Use  $T$  and  $Z$  relationships

### Additional information:

TDEM data. E.g. Pellerin & Hohhmann, 1990; Pace et al. (under revision)

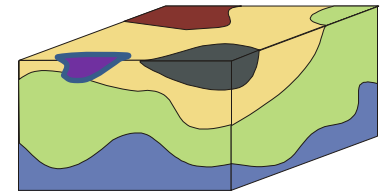
**Static shift as part of the inversion process:** E.g. Avdeeva et al. 2015 (inverts for the full distortion)

## 3D/3D:

Undistinguishable from general 3D

$$Z_{meas} = C \cdot Z_{3D} = \begin{pmatrix} C_{xx} & C_{xy} \\ C_{yx} & C_{yy} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

3D or 3D/3D









# The answer is not directly evident

- Rotations and distortion modify the regional geoelectrical responses
  - Data errors affect the data
  - Geological structures do not exactly fit to the ideal 1D, 2D, 3D cases
- In general, all the measured tensors will look like:

$$\underline{Z}_{meas} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yz} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$

But we can unveil the regional dimensionality by using dimensionality and decomposition analysis methods:

### Dimensionality Analysis:

- Type of dimensionality
- $\theta$  (if 2D or 3D/2D)
- Galvanic Distortion parameters  
(if 3D/1D or 3D/2D)

### Decomposition

- Assume a specific regional structure
- Identify and quantify distortion (and strike direction if 2D)
- Retrieval of  $Z_R$



# Contents:

- **MT responses, dimensionality and distortion**
- **Dimensionality analysis methods**
- Decomposition methods
- Extension to an anisotropic earth

# Dimensionality analysis:

Based on the study of:

- the relationships between impedance tensor components and derived parameters (such as rotational invariants)

Tipper: not explicitly included, but is crucial to solve ambiguities in strike direction and to identify current concentrations or hints for anisotropy

- Based on rotational invariants:  
WALDIM dimensionality analysis

- Based on the phase: Phase Tensor

## Rotational Invariants of the Impedance tensor:

7 real independent rotational invariants (Szarka, Menvielle, 1997):

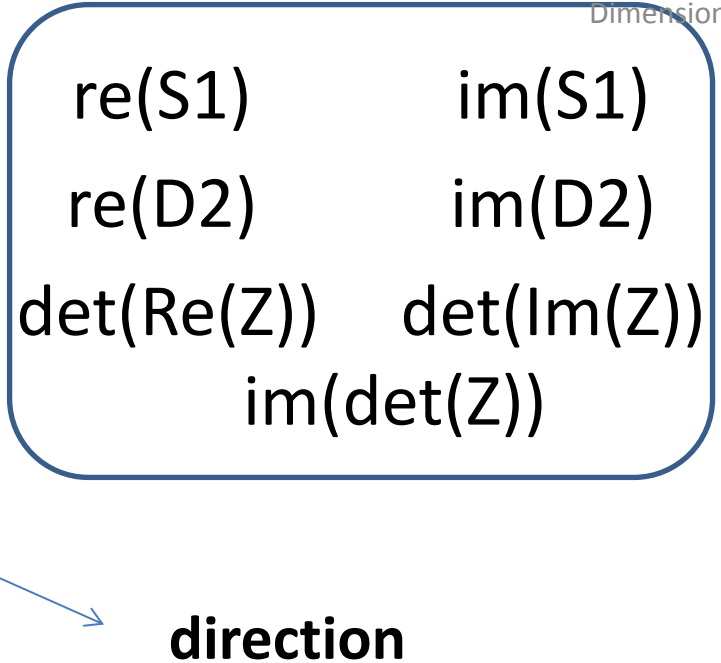
Trace:  $\mathbf{S1} = \mathbf{Zxx} + \mathbf{Zyy}$  (2)  $\begin{bmatrix} \text{re}Z_{xx} & \text{re}Z_{xy} \\ \text{re}Z_{yz} & \text{re}Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{bmatrix} \text{im}Z_{xx} & \text{im}Z_{xy} \\ \text{im}Z_{yz} & \text{im}Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$

Diff. non diagonals:  $\mathbf{D2} = \mathbf{Zxy} - \mathbf{Zyx}$  (2)  $\begin{bmatrix} \text{re}Z_{xx} & \text{re}Z_{xy} \\ \text{re}Z_{yz} & \text{re}Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$   $\begin{bmatrix} \text{im}Z_{xx} & \text{im}Z_{xy} \\ \text{im}Z_{yz} & \text{im}Z_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$

Determinant:  $\det(\mathbf{Re}(\mathbf{Z})), \det(\mathbf{Im}(\mathbf{Z})), \text{Im}(\det(\mathbf{Z})) \rightarrow \rho_{det}, \varphi_{det}$

$$\begin{vmatrix} \text{re}Z_{xx} & \text{re}Z_{xy} \\ \text{re}Z_{yz} & \text{re}Z_{yy} \end{vmatrix} \quad \begin{vmatrix} \text{im}Z_{xx} & \text{im}Z_{xy} \\ \text{im}Z_{yz} & \text{im}Z_{yy} \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{im} \begin{vmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yz} & Z_{yy} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\underline{Z}_{meas} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yz} & Z_{yy} \end{pmatrix}$$



re(S1)      im(S1)  
 re(D2)      im(D2)  
 det(Re(Z))    det(Im(Z))  
 im(det(Z))

**direction**

**8 components of  $Z \leftrightarrow 7$  invariants + 1 direction**

Different sets of invariants can be constructed from combinations of these ones and establish dimensionality criteria

# Dimensionality criteria based on different sets of invariants:

Swift, 1967

Berdichevski and Dmitriev, 1976

**Bahr, 1988, 1991**

Lilley, 1993, 1998a, 1998b

Szarka and Menvielle, 1997

**Weaver et al., 2000**

**Martí et al., 2005**

Lilley and Weaver, 2010

# WAL Invariants (Weaver et al., 2000)

$$\underline{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 + \xi_3 & \xi_2 + \xi_4 \\ \xi_2 - \xi_4 & \xi_1 - \xi_3 \end{pmatrix} + i \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 + \eta_3 & \eta_2 + \eta_4 \\ \eta_2 - \eta_4 & \eta_1 - \eta_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \underline{M} = \underline{Z} / \mu_0$$

$$I_1 = (\xi_1^2 + \xi_4^2)^{1/2} \quad (\text{m/s}) \quad I_2 = (\eta_1^2 + \eta_4^2)^{1/2} \quad (\text{m/s})$$

$$I_3 = \frac{(\xi_2^2 + \xi_3^2)^{1/2}}{I_1}$$

$$I_4 = \frac{(\eta_2^2 + \eta_3^2)^{1/2}}{I_2}$$

$$I_5 = \frac{\xi_4 \eta_1 + \xi_1 \eta_4}{I_1 I_2}$$

$$I_6 = \frac{\xi_4 \eta_1 - \xi_1 \eta_4}{I_1 I_2} = d_{41}$$

$$I_7 = (d_{41} - d_{23}) / Q$$

**Dependent invariant:**

$$Q = \left[ (d_{12} - d_{34})^2 + (d_{13} + d_{24})^2 \right]^{1/2} \quad \left( d_{ij} = \frac{\xi_i \eta_j - \xi_j \eta_i}{I_1 I_2} \right)$$

$\rho_{1D}, \varphi_{1D}$

$I_3$  to  $I_7$  are dimensionless  
and normalised

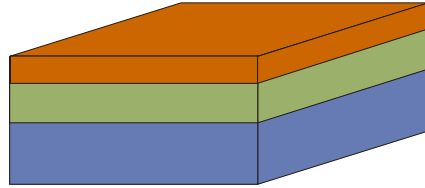
their vanishing corresponds  
to a particular property of  
the tensor

# WAL dimensionality criteria

1D

$$I_3 - I_6 = 0$$

$$I_7 = 0 \text{ or } Q = 0$$

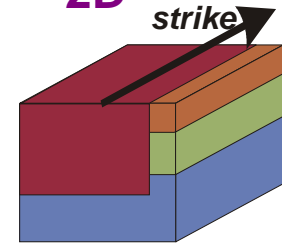


2D

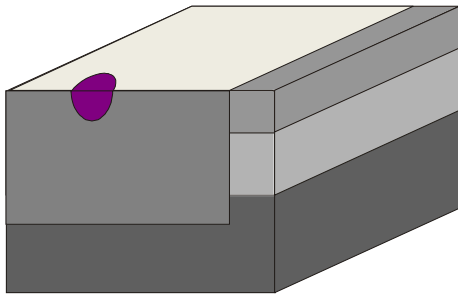
$$I_3 \text{ or } I_4 \neq 0$$

$$I_5, I_6 = 0$$

$$I_7 = 0 \text{ or } Q = 0$$



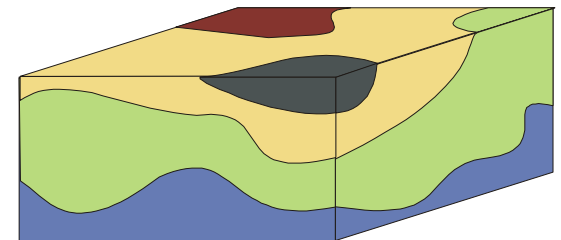
Cases 3D/1D or 3D/2D



$$I_3 \text{ or } I_4 \neq 0$$

Different combinations of  $I_5 - I_7$  and  $Q$

3D



$$I_7 \neq 0$$



# WAL dimensionality criteria: what parameters can we determine

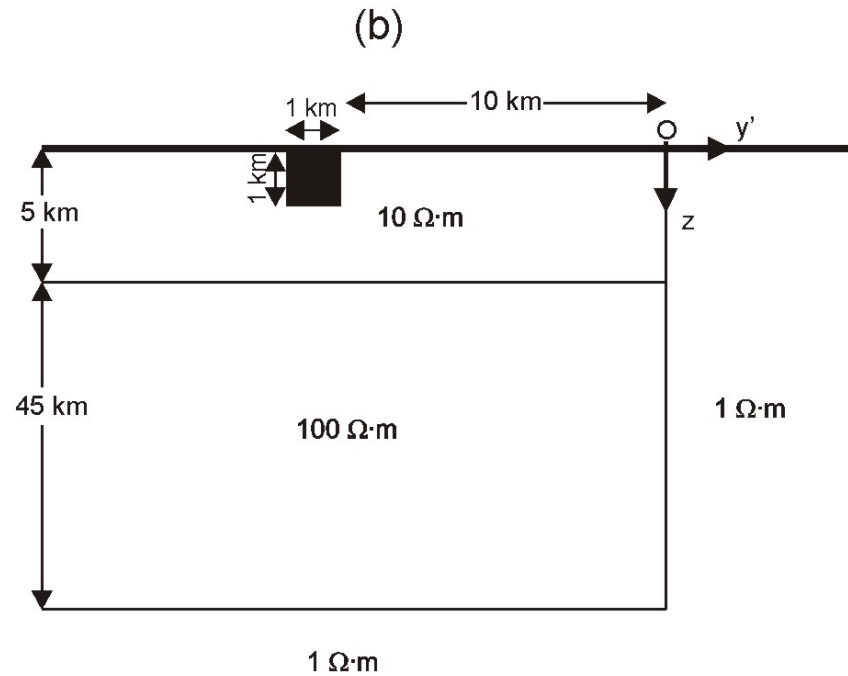
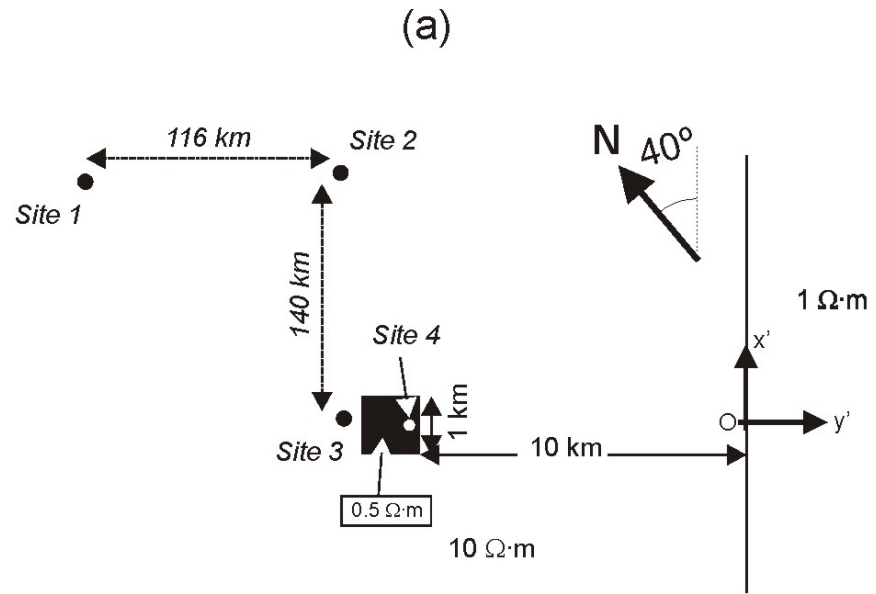
$$1D : \rho_{app,1D}, \varphi_{app,1D}$$

$$2D : \theta_{2D} = \theta_1(\text{"real"}) = \theta_2(\text{"imag"})$$

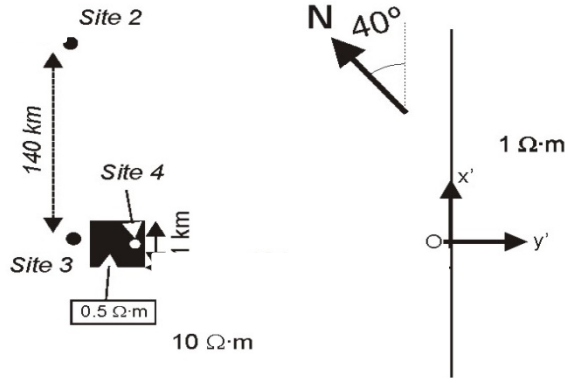
$$3D / 2D : \theta_3 \quad ; \varphi_{twist} ; \varphi_{shear}$$

# Synthetic example

(Weaver et al., 2000)



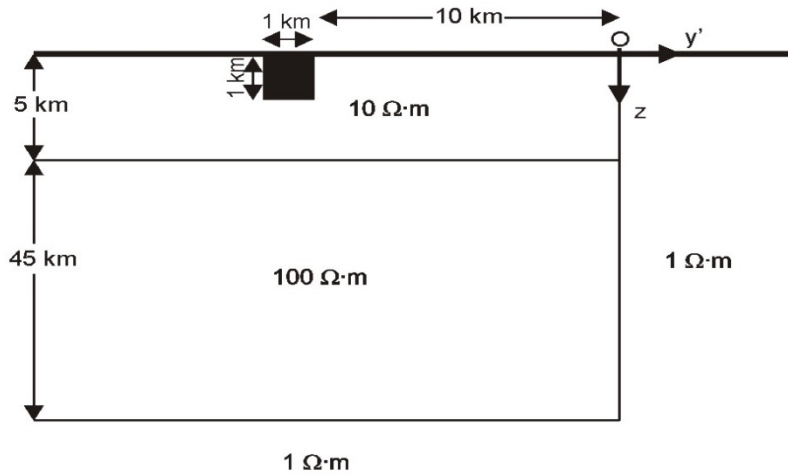
(a)



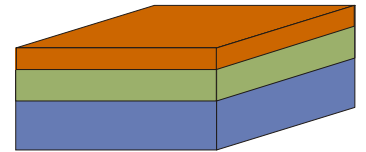
Site 1, 100 s

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} -2.28 - i 2.94 & 1070 + i 576 \\ -1070 - i 575 & 2.28 + i 2.94 \end{pmatrix}$$

(b)



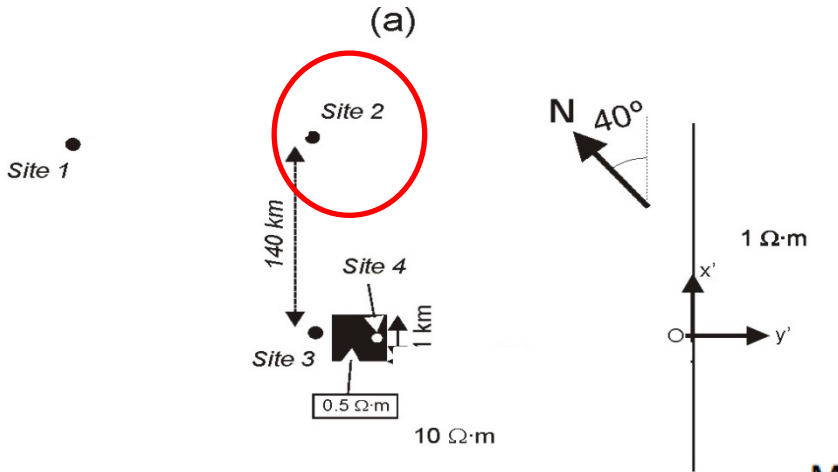
1D



$$I_3 - I_6 = 0$$

$$I_7 = 0 \text{ or } Q = 0$$

$$\rho_{1D} = 29.5 \text{ ohm} \cdot \text{m}, \varphi_{1D} = 28^\circ$$

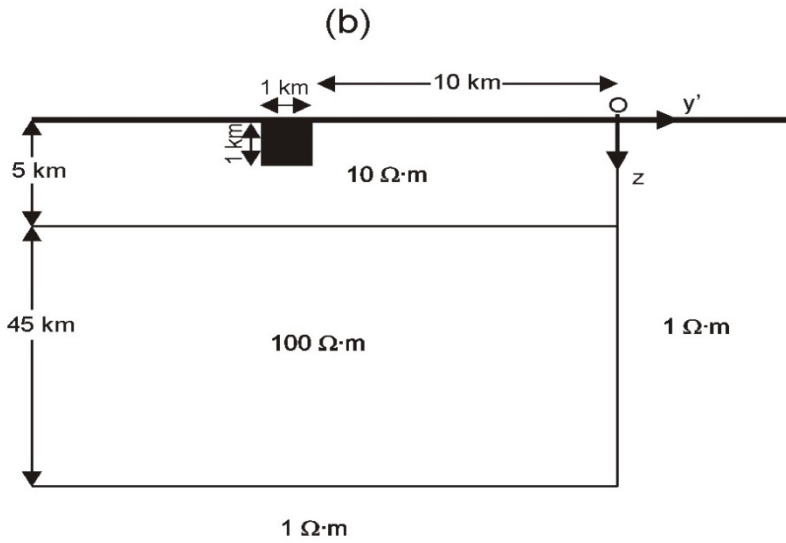


Site 2, 1000 s

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 39.7 + i76.9 & 118 + i240 \\ -132 - i267 & -39.7 - i76.9 \end{pmatrix}$$

Site 2, 100 s

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 228 - i54.2 & 812 + i619 \\ -892 - i600 & -228 + i54.2 \end{pmatrix}$$

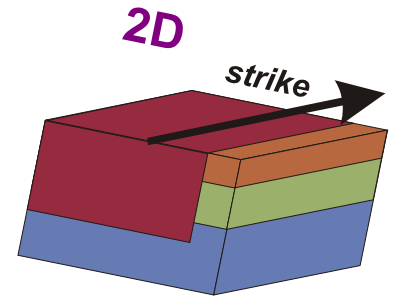


$$I_3 \text{ or } I_4 \neq 0$$

$$I_5, I_6 = 0$$

$$I_7 = 0 \text{ or } Q = 0$$

$$\theta_1 = \theta_2 = 40^\circ$$



Site 3, 1000 s

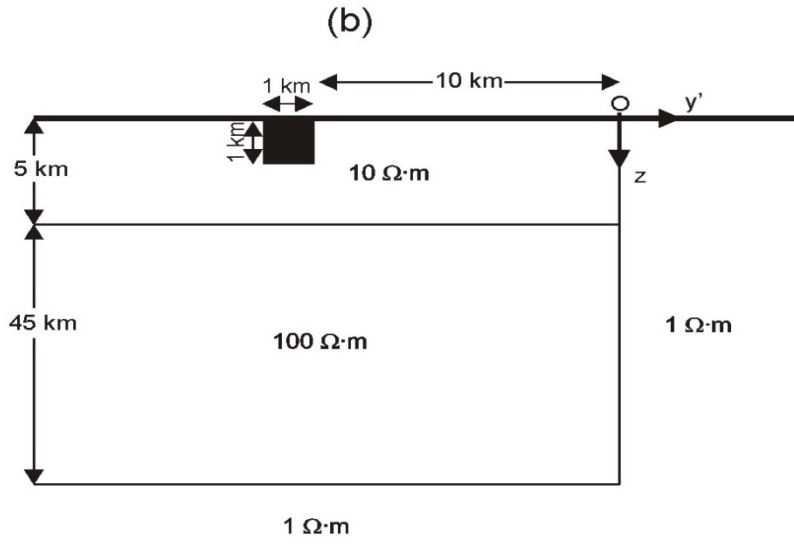
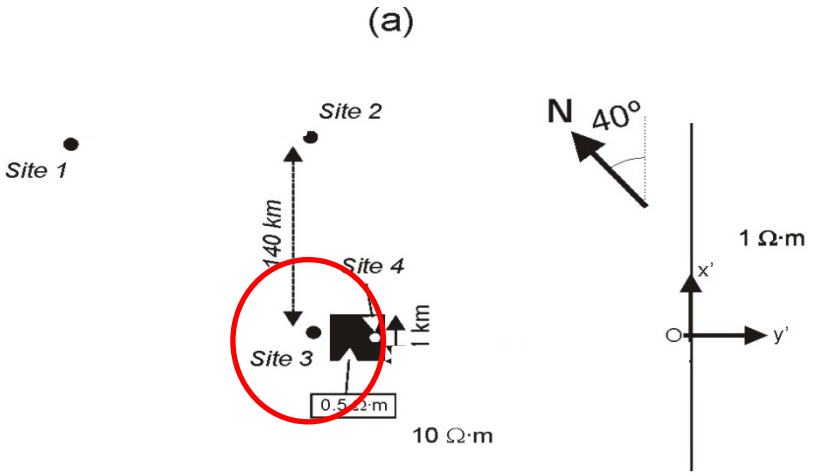
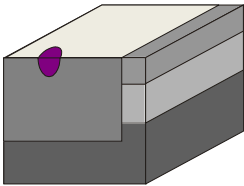
$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 68.9 + i131 & 174 + i353 \\ -86.5 - i178 & -34.7 - i64.9 \end{pmatrix}$$

TE and TM same phases

$$I_3 - I_6 \neq 0$$

$$Q = 0$$

3D/1D2D



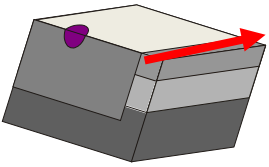
Site 3, 100 s

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 392 - i39.9 & 1190 + i863 \\ -588 - i390 & -200 - i4.24 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I_3 - I_6 \neq 0$$

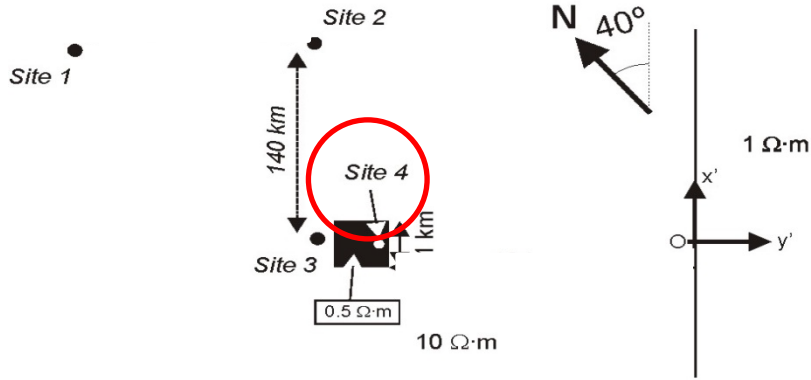
$$I_7 = 0$$

3D/2D



$$\theta_3 = 40^\circ, \varphi_{twist} = -0.1^\circ, \varphi_{shear} = -20^\circ$$

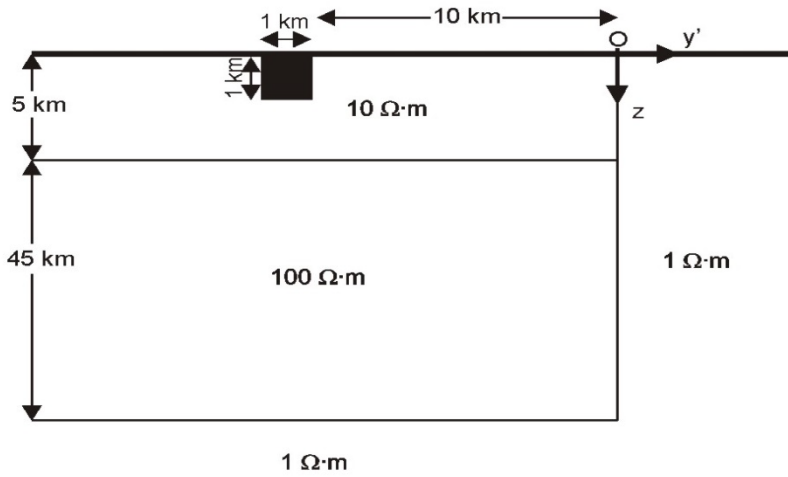
(a)



Site 4, 1 s

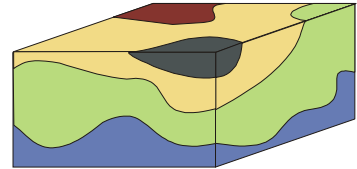
$$M = \begin{pmatrix} -3420 - i1550 & 3800 + i4220 \\ -6700 - i5010 & 1750 + i942 \end{pmatrix}$$

(b)



$$I_7 \neq 0$$

3D



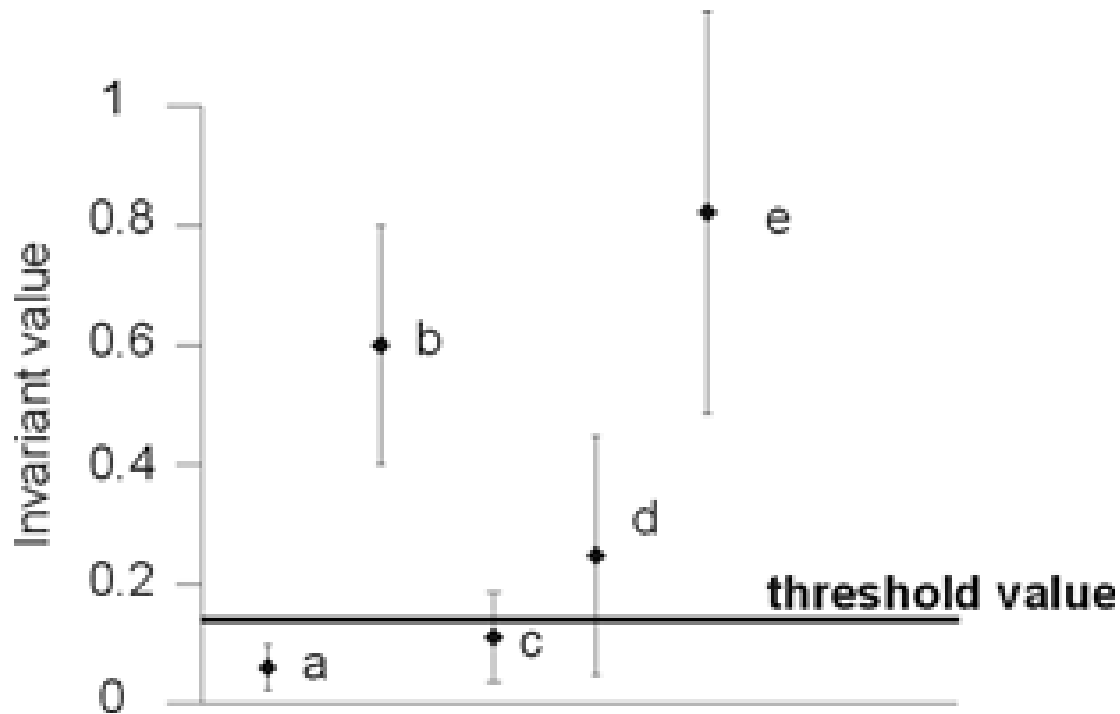
# WAL analysis for real data

- impedance errors propagate to invariants
- geological structures  $\neq$  ideal models described

**→ invariant values never vanish**



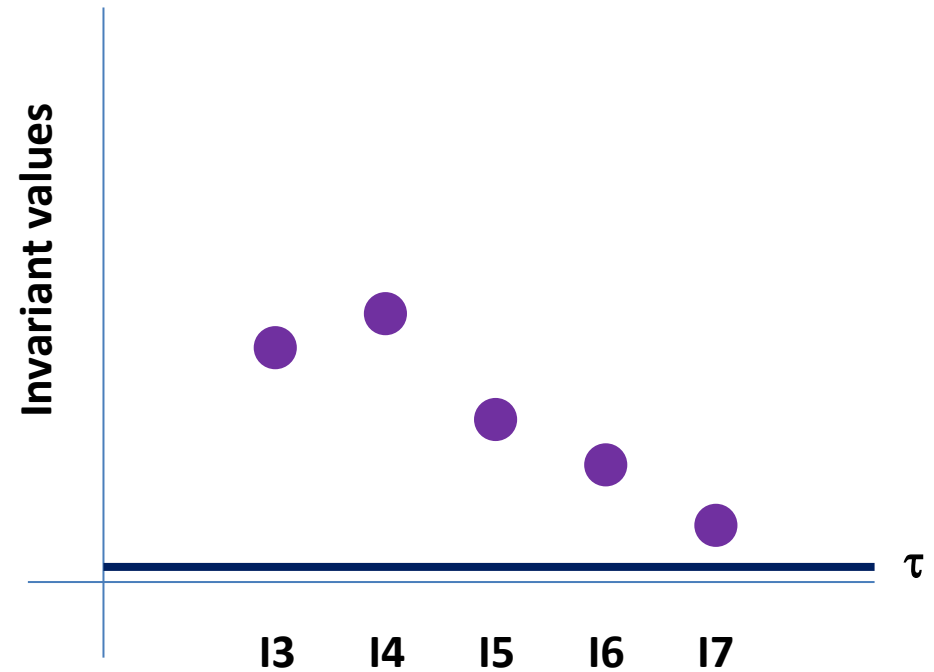
## Error estimation of the invariants and related parameters (strike, distortion):





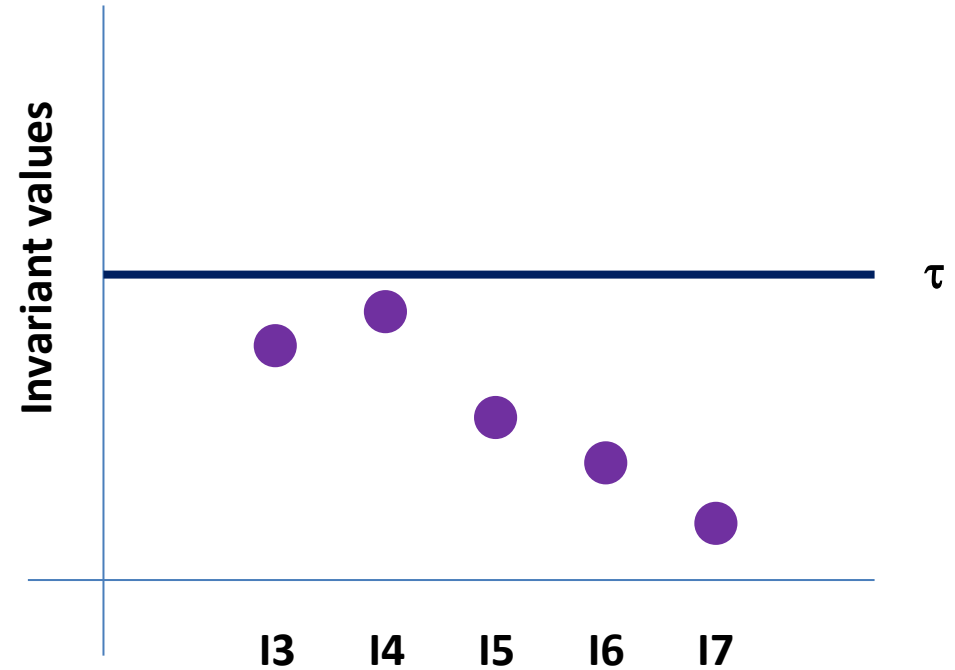
Threshold values ( $\tau$ ) ?

$\tau$  too low: everything  
tends to be 3D



Threshold values ( $\tau$ ) ?

$\tau$  too high: everything  
tends to be 1D

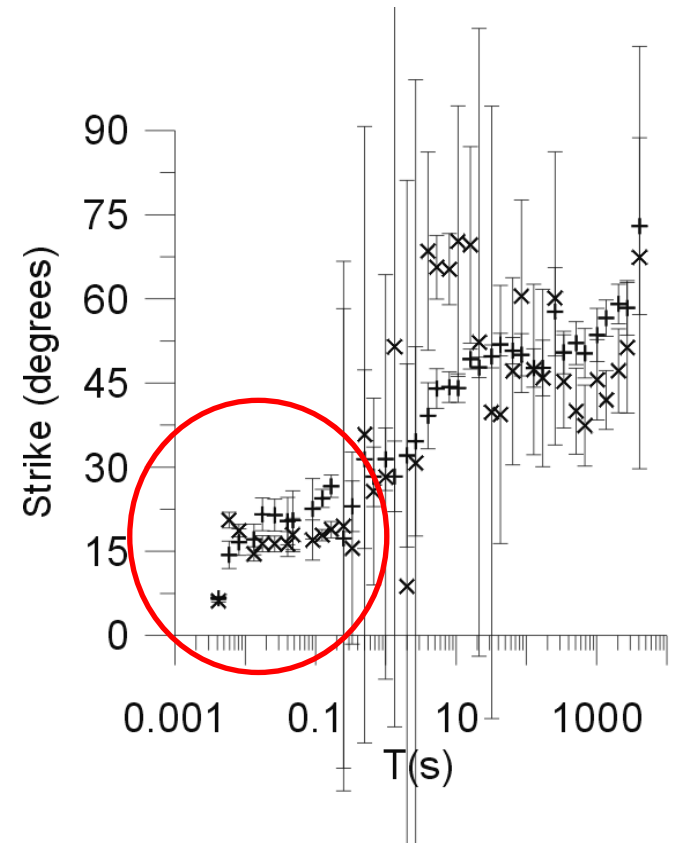


**Choice of  $\tau$ :**

Dimensionality must be consistent with the determination of strike and distortion angles

**Example:**

**If 2D:  $\theta_1 \sim \theta_2$  with small errors**



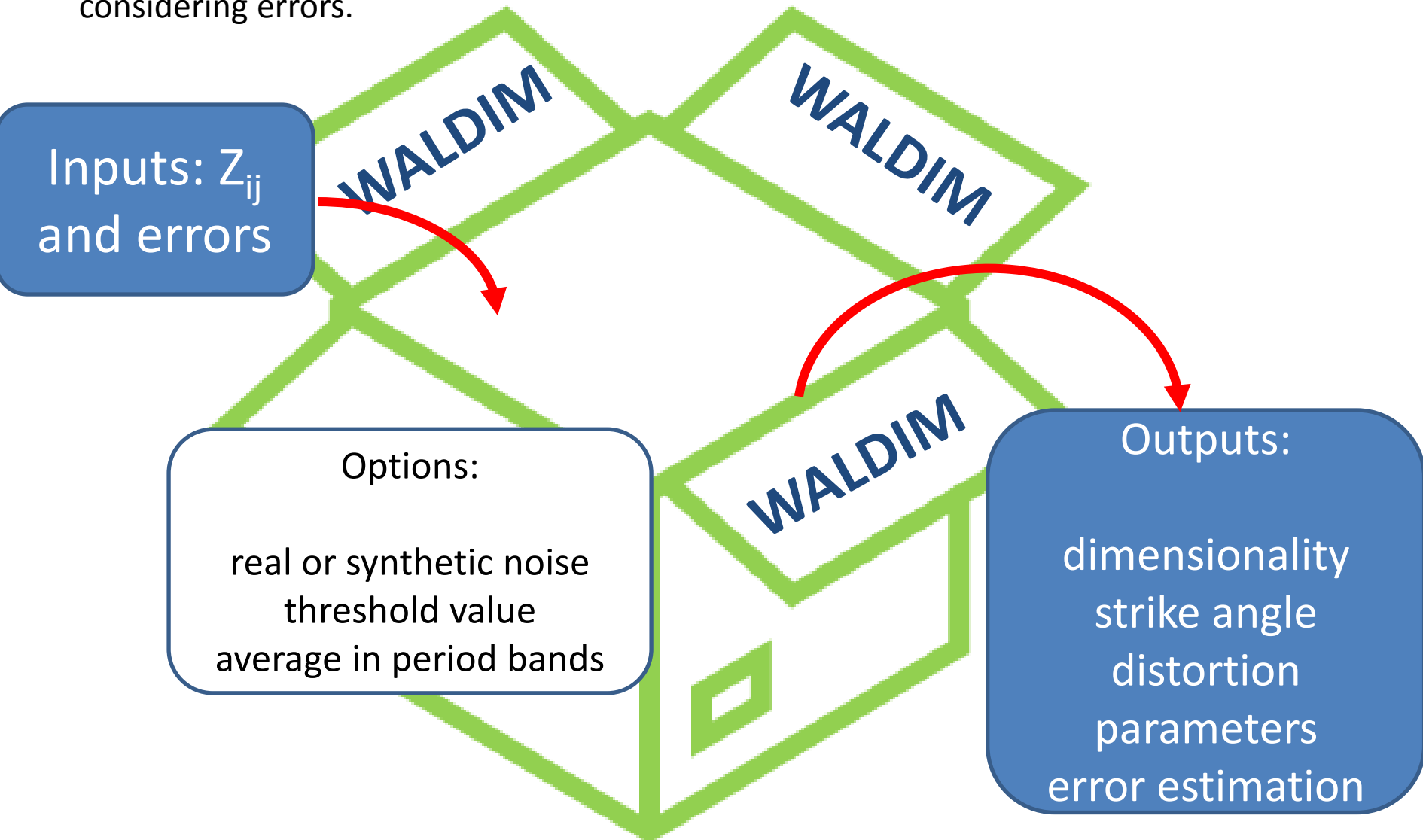
- + Strike from real part ( $\theta_1$ )
- x Strike from imaginary part ( $\theta_2$ )

**→  $\tau = 0.1 - 0.2$  for data with up to 30 % error**

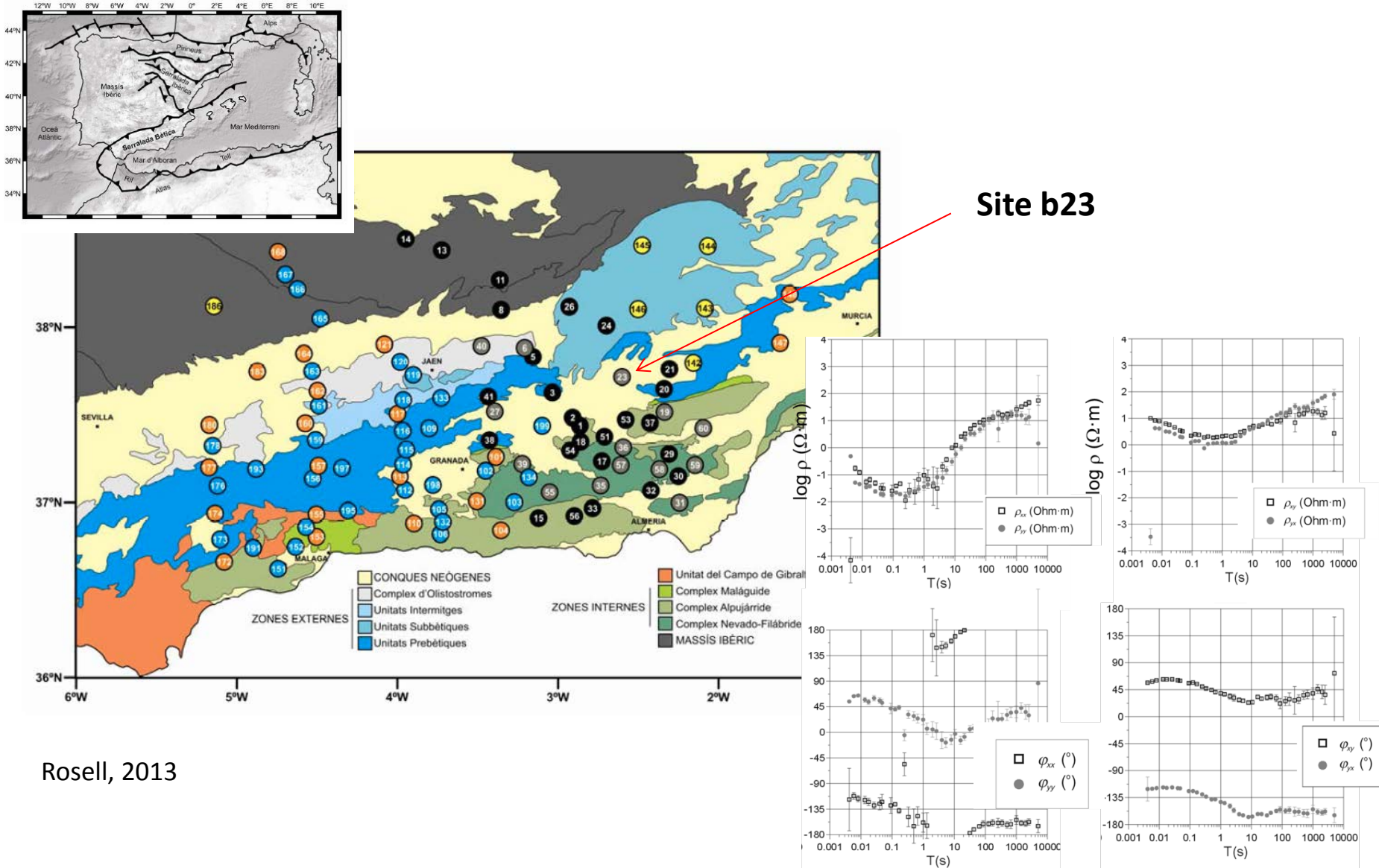
# WALDIM Code

(Martí et al., 2009. Computers and Geosciences)

Dimensionality analysis of raw or synthetic data using WAL criteria, considering errors.



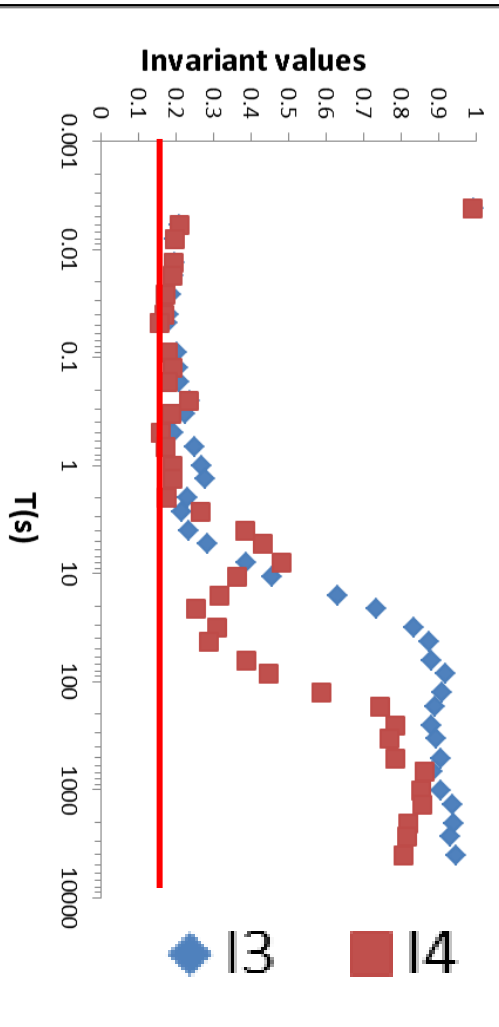
# Example with real data: The Betics dataset



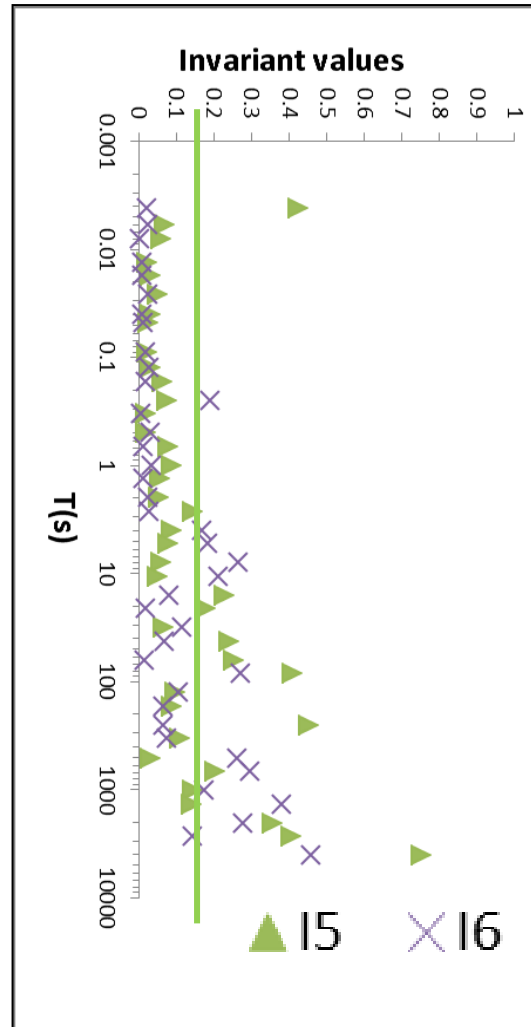
Rosell, 2013

# Site b23

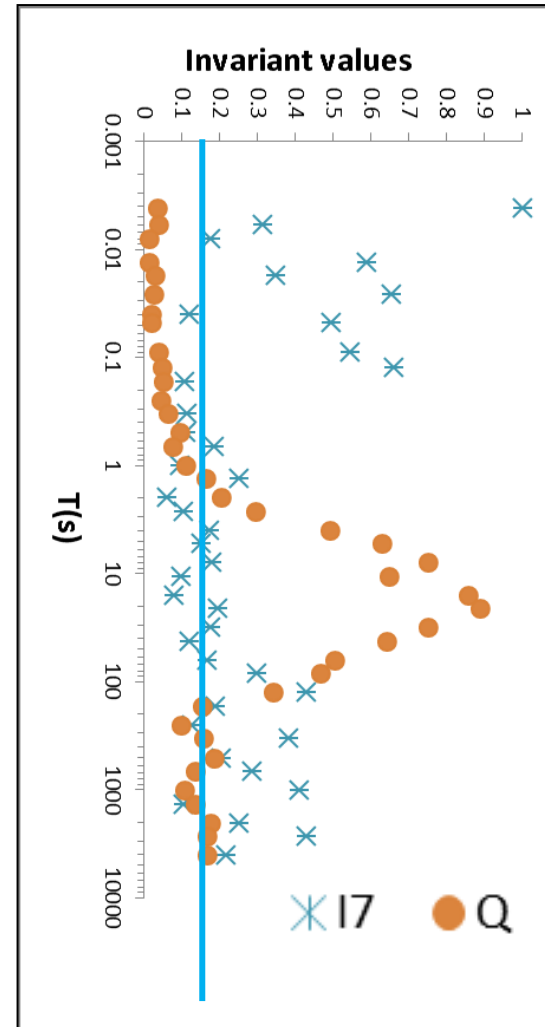
I3, I4



I5, I6



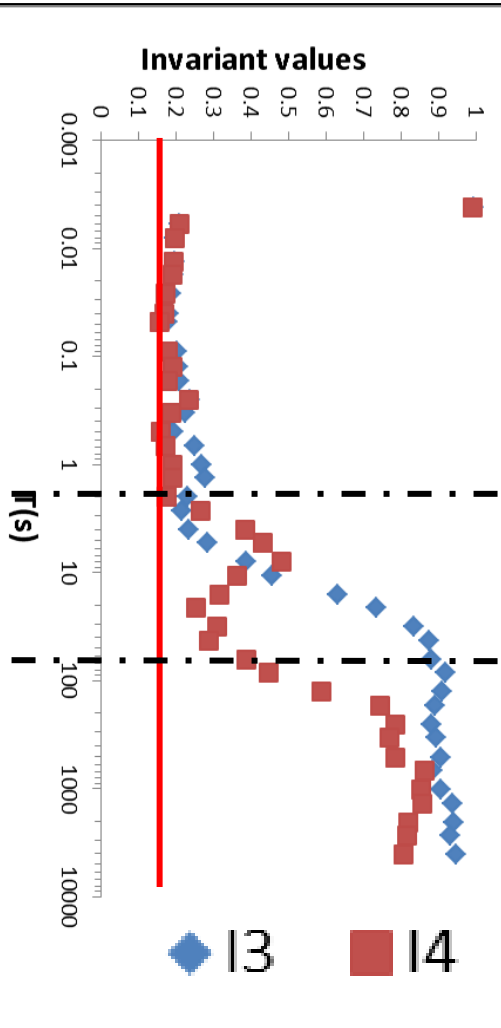
I7, Q



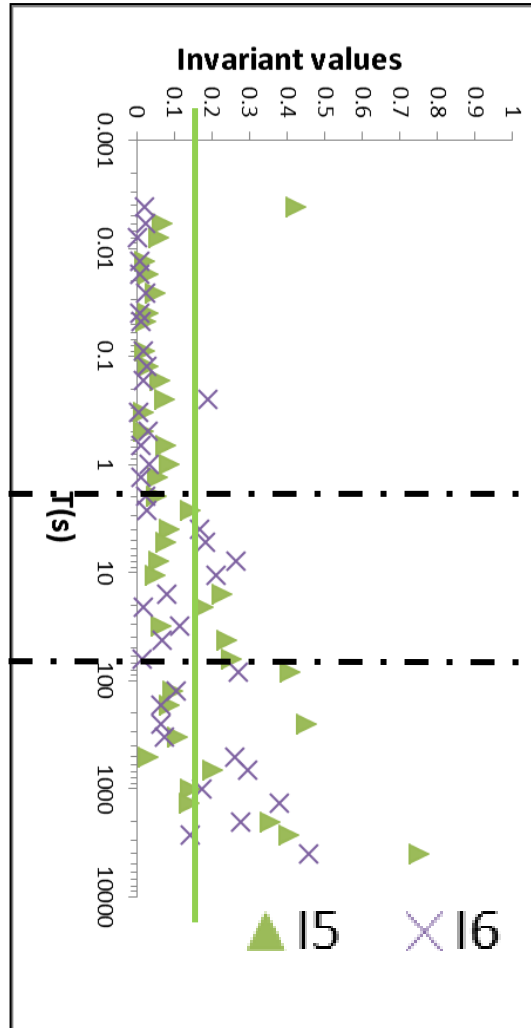
→  $\tau = 0.1 - 0.2$  for data with up to 30 % error

# Site b23

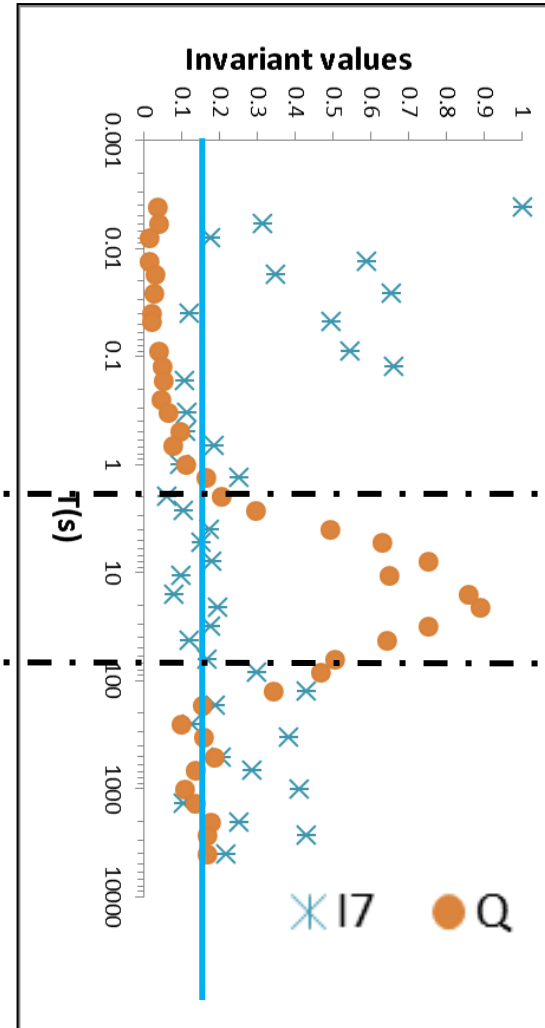
I3, I4



I5, I6



I7, Q



2D

3D/2D  
and 3D

3D

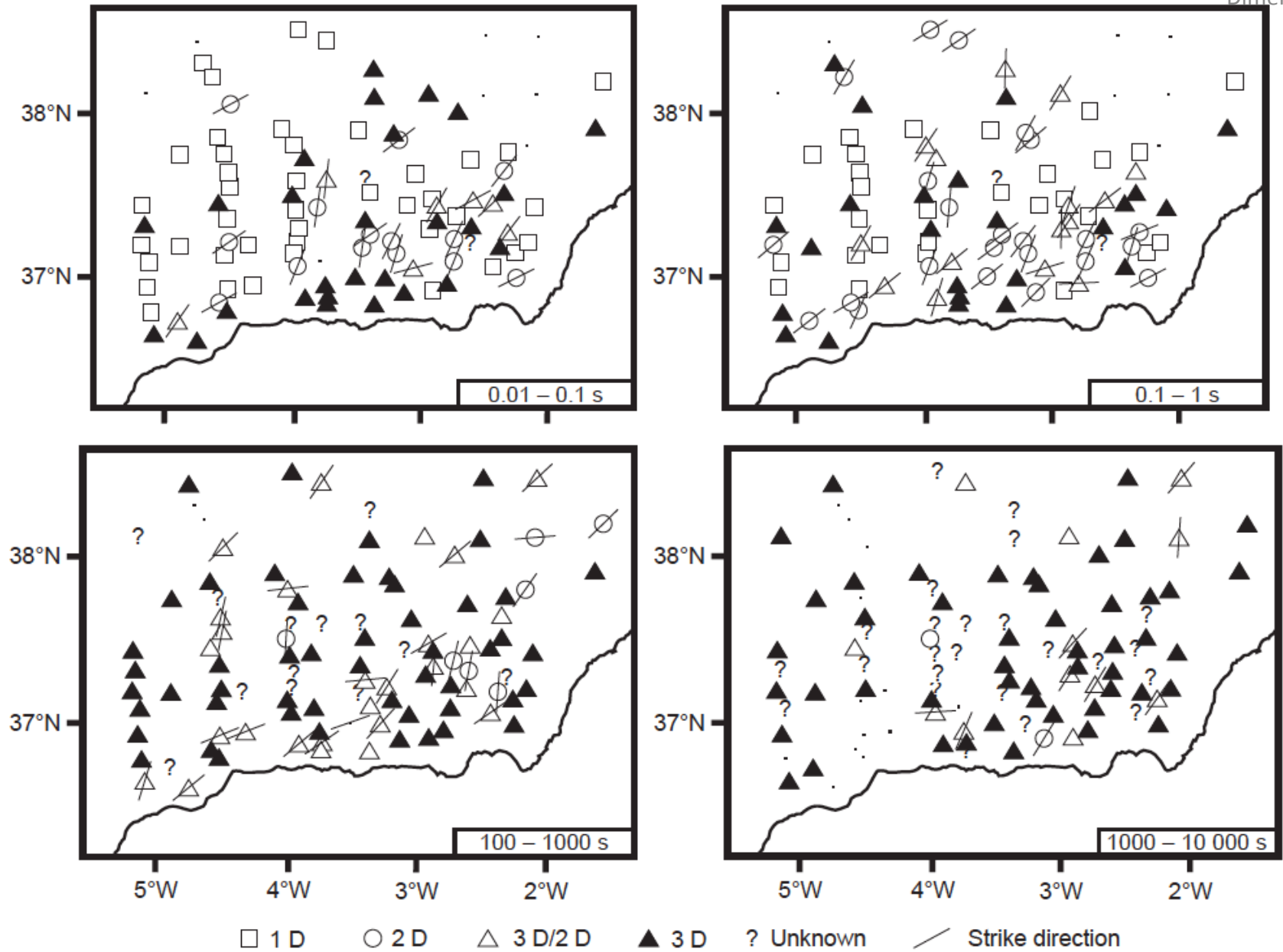
## Limitations:

- No statistical framework

## But:

- dimensionality results can be grouped into bands
- dimensionality maps provide information on regions with preferred orientations or with more or less complexity





# The Phase tensor

Caldwell et al. (2004)

Real tensor: product of the inverse of the real part of  $\underline{Z}$  ( $X$ ) with the imaginary part of  $\underline{Z}$  ( $Y$ ):

$$\Phi = X^{-1} Y$$

This tensor is unaffected by any galvanic distortion ( $C$ ) regardless of the nature of  $Z$ :

$$\Phi' = (C X_R)^{-1} (C Y_R) = X_R^{-1} C^{-1} C Y_R = X_R^{-1} Y_R = \Phi$$

The phase tensor can be decomposed in the form:

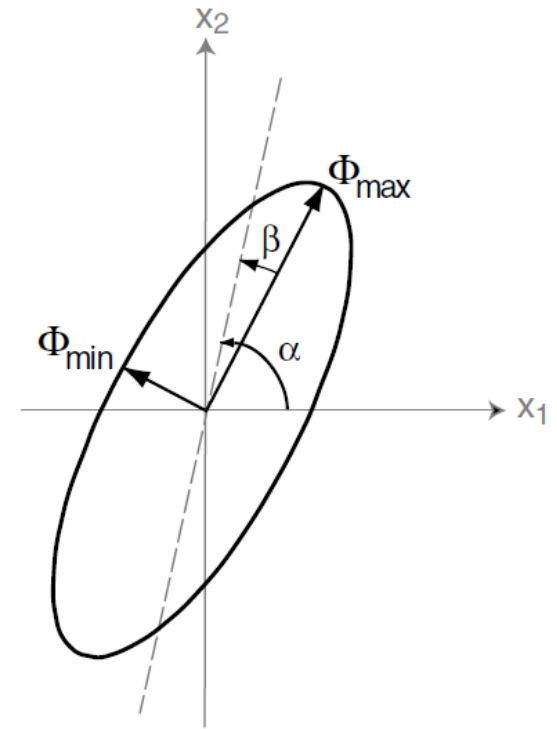
$$\Phi = \mathbf{R}^T(\alpha - \beta) \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_{\max} & 0 \\ 0 & \Phi_{\min} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{R}(\alpha + \beta),$$

In 1D:  $\Phi_{\max} = \Phi_{\min}$

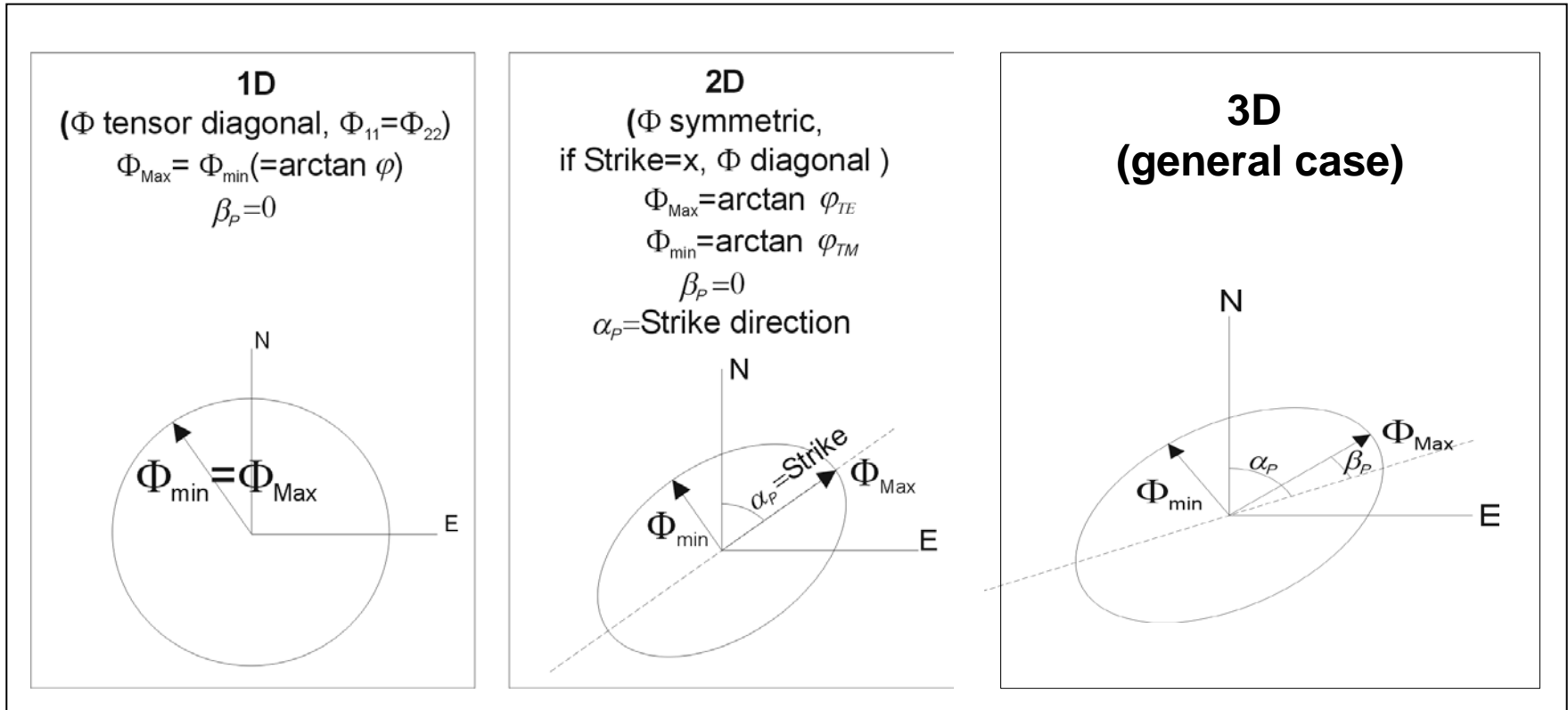
(but in 2D with equal phases as well)

In 2D:  $\beta = 0$  and  $\alpha = \text{strike direction}$

In 3D:  $\beta \neq 0$



# Phase tensor representation

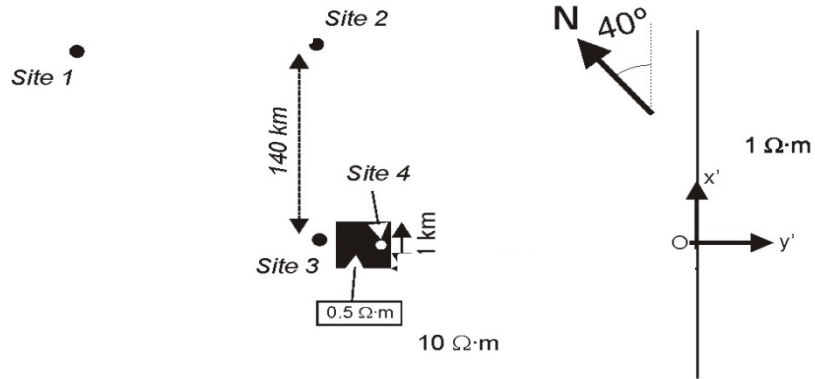


Caldwell et al., 2004

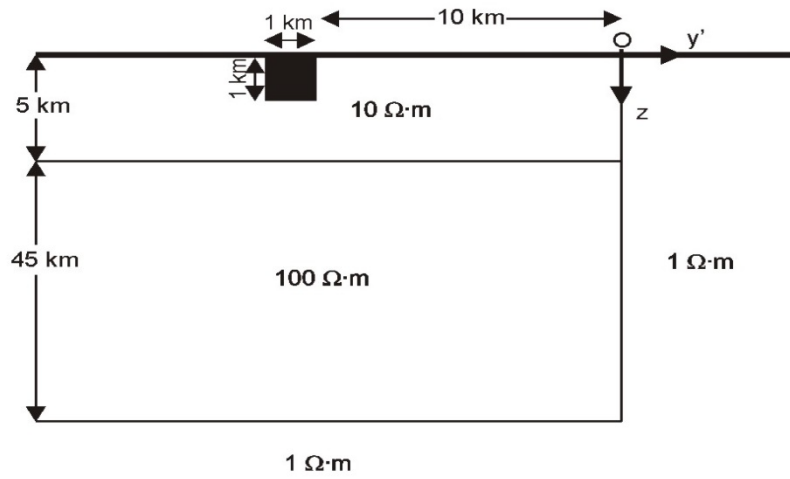
Moorkamp, 2007; Weaver et al., 2006

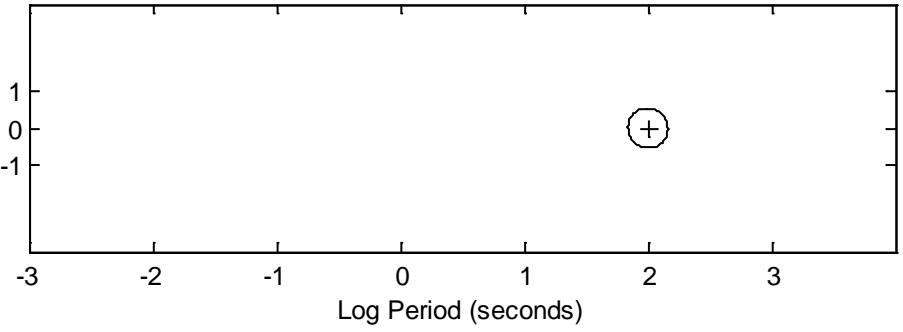
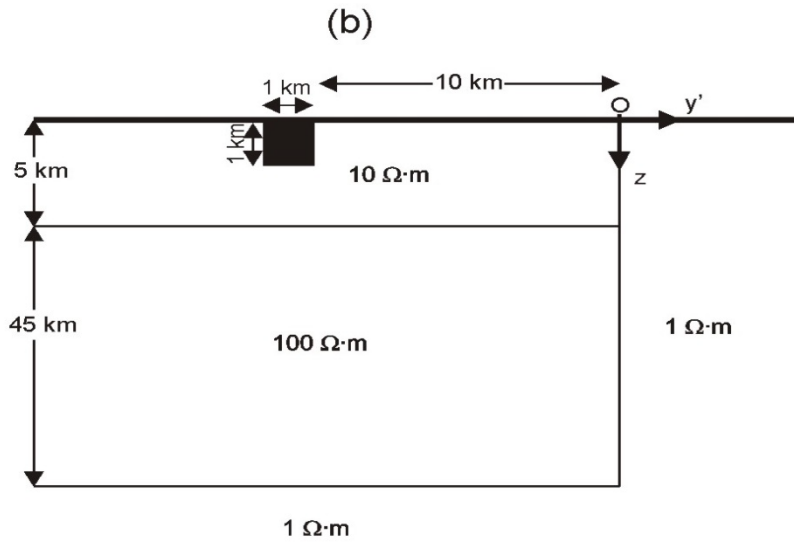
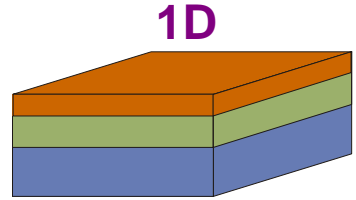
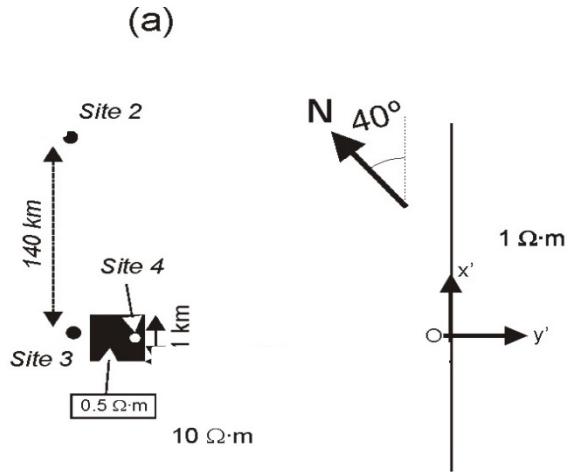
Booker, 2013: Review of the phase tensor

(a)

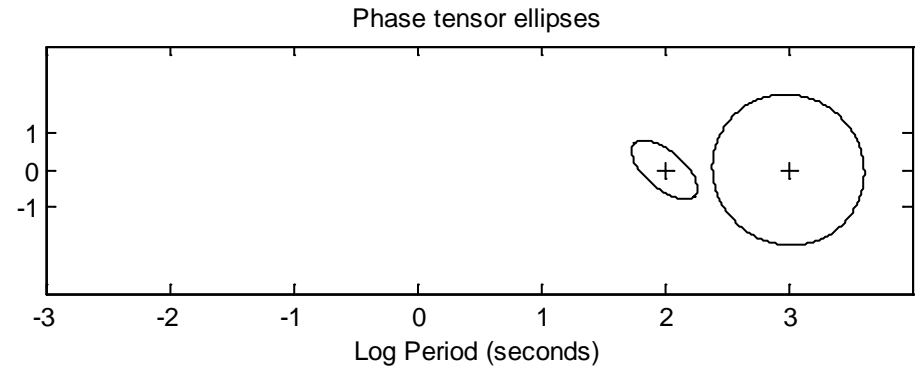
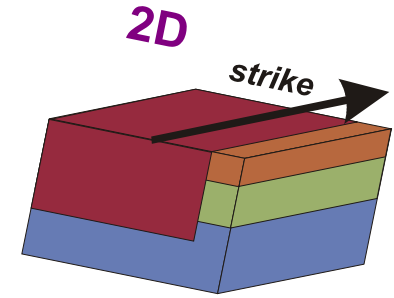
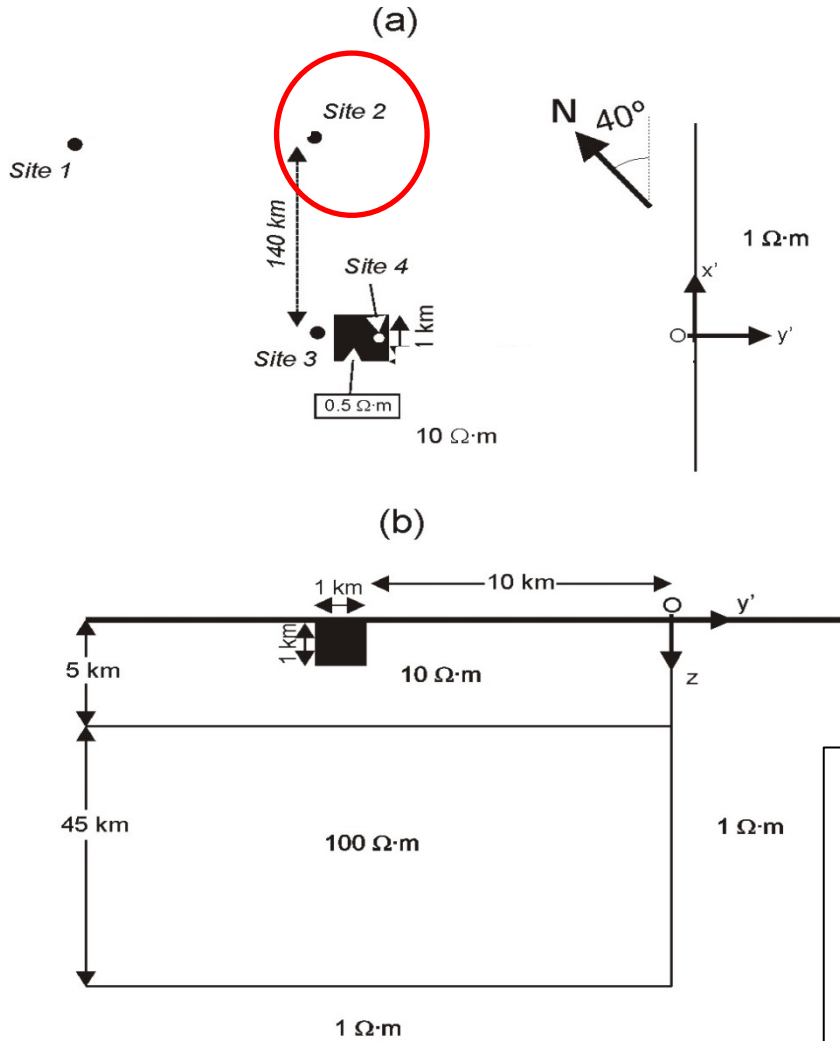


(b)





$\Phi_{\max} = \Phi_{\min}$   
 $(\alpha = 32^\circ); \beta = 0 \rightarrow 1D$

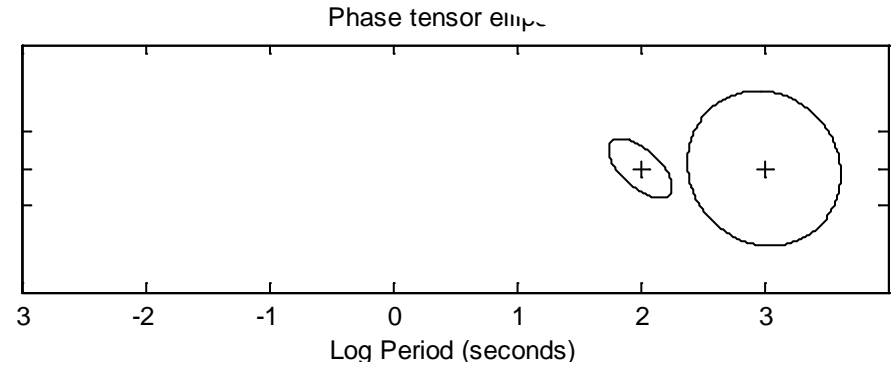
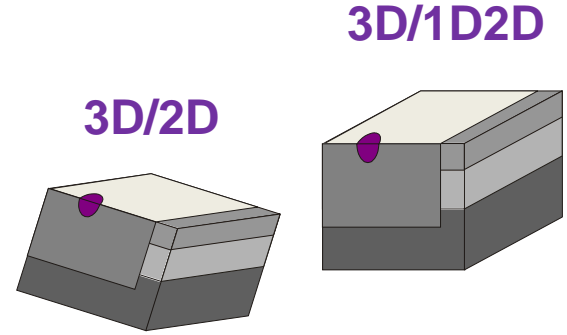
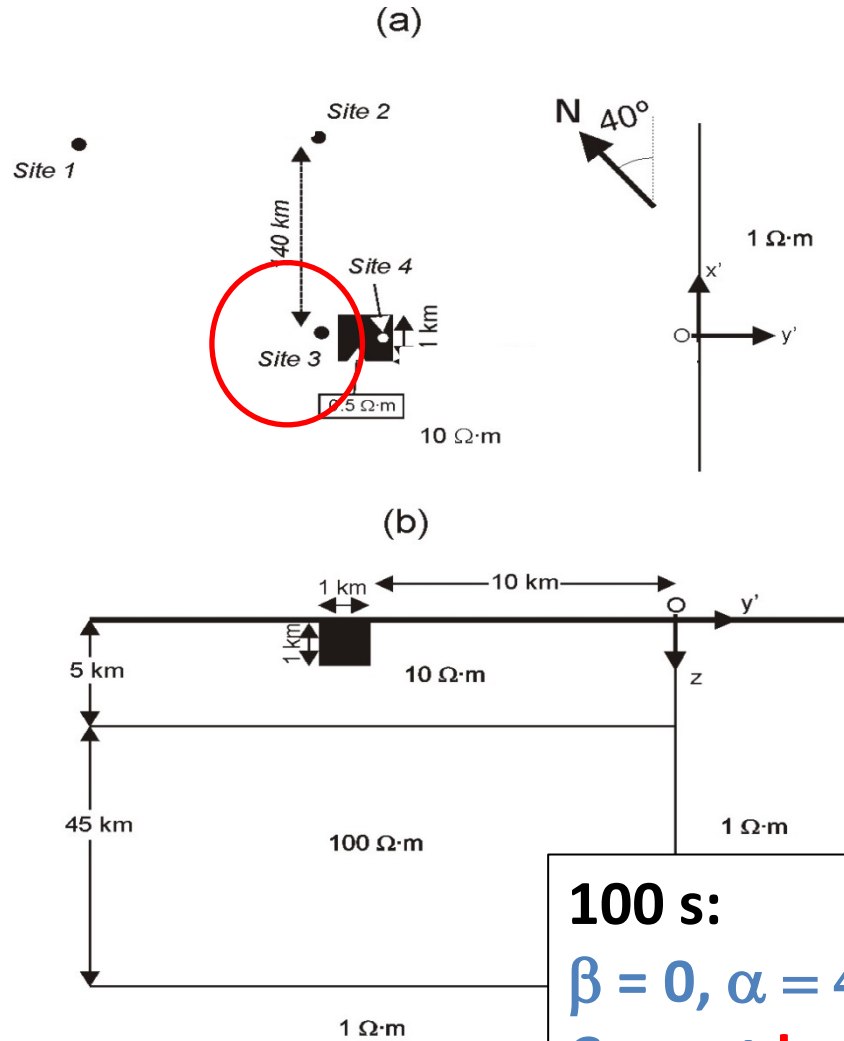


**100 s:**

$\beta = 0$  ,  $\alpha = 40^\circ = \text{strike} \rightarrow 2D$

**1000 s:**  $\Phi_{\max} \sim \Phi_{\min}$

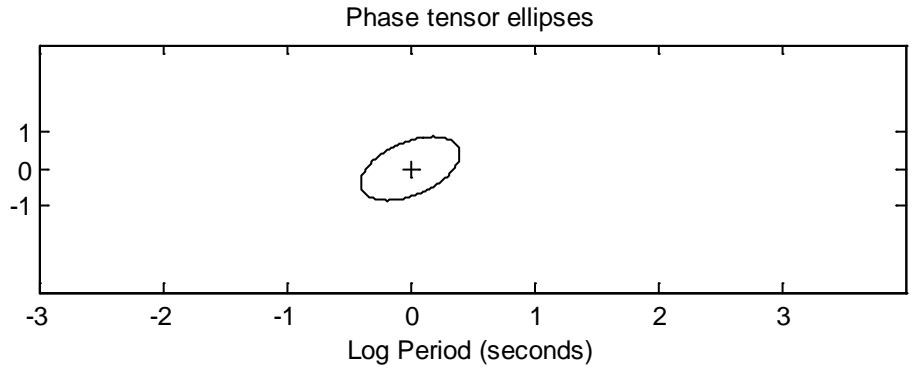
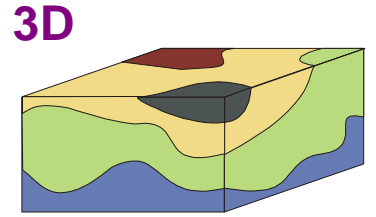
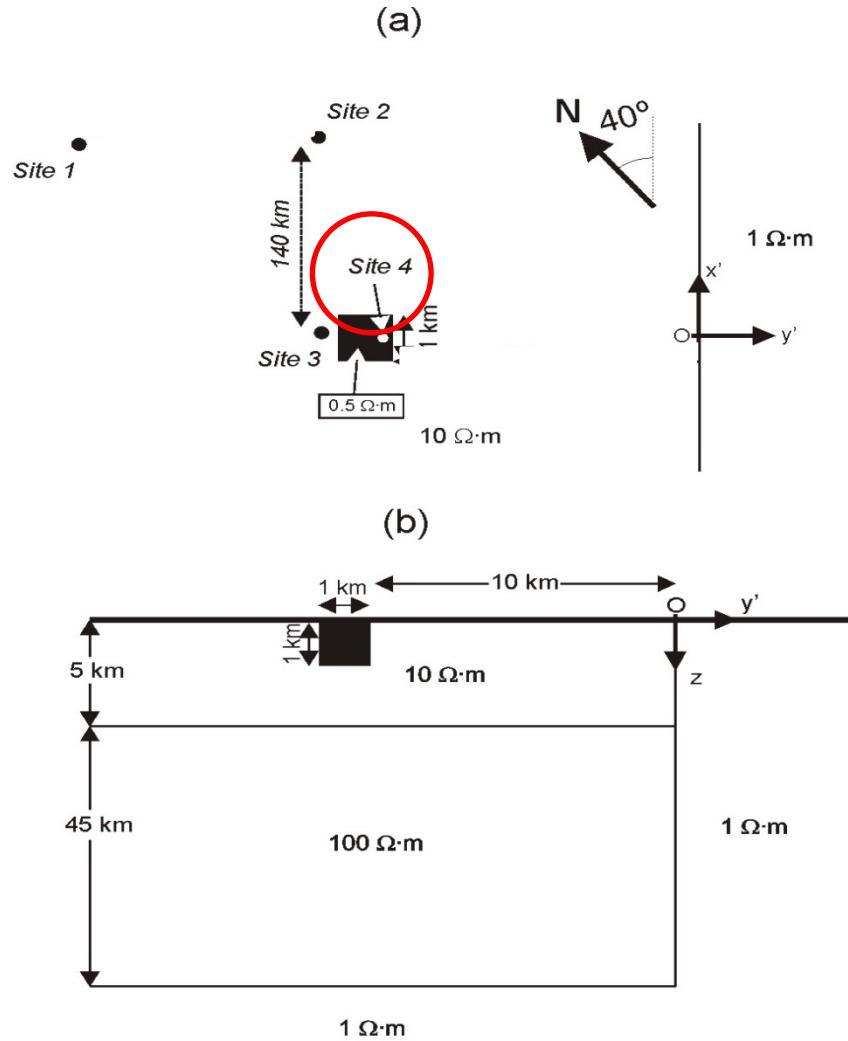
$\beta = 0$  ,  $\alpha = 40 = \text{strike} \rightarrow 2D$  BUT  
**GRAPHICALLY IT LOOKS LIKE 1D**  
 because TE and TM phases are equal



**100 s:**  
 $\beta = 0, \alpha = 42^\circ = \text{strike} \rightarrow 2D$   
**Correct but no info about distortion**

**1000 s:**  $\Phi_{\max} \sim \Phi_{\min}, \beta = 0 \rightarrow 1D$ . **Equal phases. No info about distortion**



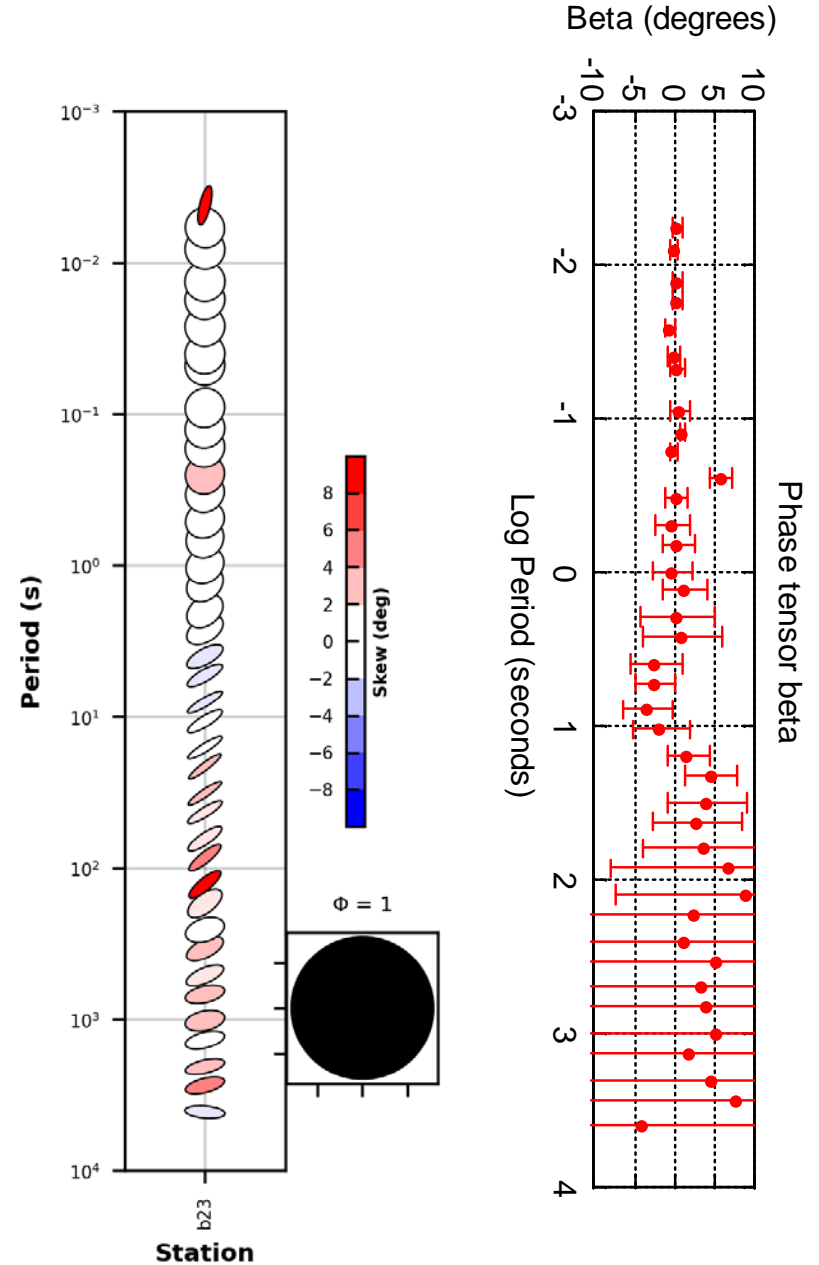


**1 s:**  
 $\beta = -2^\circ$ ,  $\alpha = -25^\circ = \text{strike ?}$

**BE CAREFUL WITH  $\beta$  THRESHOLD !!!**

# Site b23

Period bands	WAL analysis
T < 0.01 s	2D $\theta = 20^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}$
0.01 s - 0.1 s	
0.1 s - 1 s	
1 s - 10 s	3D/2D $\theta = 57^{\circ} \pm 9^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 2^{\circ} \pm 0.5^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -9^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$
10 s - 100 s	3D/2D $\theta = 59^{\circ} \pm 3^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 3^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -16^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$
100 s - 1000 s	3D
T > 1000 s	3D



# Contents:

- **MT responses, dimensionality and distortion**
- **Dimensionality analysis methods**
- **Decomposition methods**
- **Extension to an anisotropic earth**

# Decomposition methods:

Historical perspective:

Chave and Jones (2012), Chapter 6, and references therein

3D/1D: Larsen (1977)

Based on Groom and Bailey (G&B, 1989):

**3D/2D: McNeice and Jones (2001): Strike code**

3D/3D: Ledo et al. (1998); Garcia and Jones (2002)

# 3D/2D G&B decomposition:

$$Z_{meas} = R_{\theta} \cdot C \cdot Z_{2D} \cdot R_{\theta}^T$$

$Z_{meas}$ : 8 known parameters

Strike,  $g$ ,  $t$ ,  $s$ ,  $a$ ,  $Z_{xyre}$ ,  $Z_{xyim}$ ,  $Z_{yxre}$ ,  $Z_{yxim}$ : **9 unknowns**

$g \cdot A$  = scale factor: static shift :  $Z_{2D}' = g \cdot A \cdot Z_{2D}$

Strike,  $t$ ,  $e$ ,  $Z_{xyre}$ ,  $Z_{xyim}$ ,  $Z_{yxre}$ ,  $Z_{yxim}$ : **7 unknowns**

**For a single frequency the problem will be solved by fitting 8 data to 7 parameter model**

# Strike code

McNeice and Jones (2001):

- G&B decomposition of the MT tensor data supported by statistical methods: fitting data to a 3D/2D model
- Can be performed for single sites, single frequencies or grouping sites / frequencies
- It allows to fix or not the model parameters (e.g. Strike, distortion)

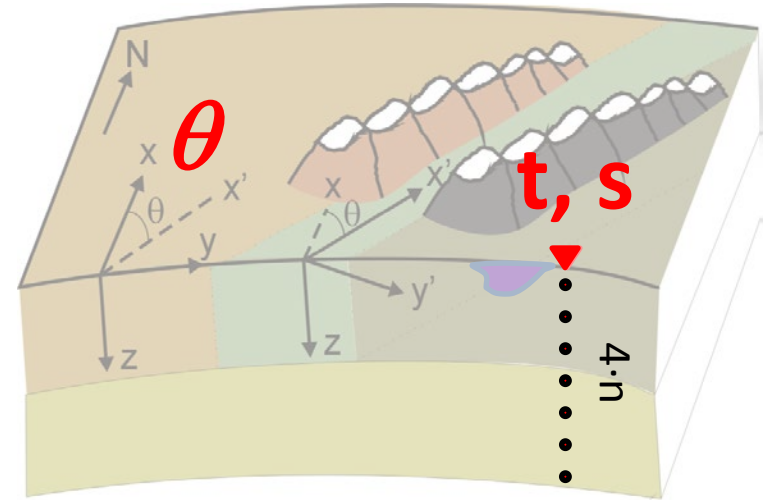
# Multisite – multifrequency:

1 site, n freq: fitting 7  
parameter model to  $8n$  data  $\rightarrow$

same  $\theta$ ,  $t$  and  $s$

$Z_{2D}$  ( $4 \cdot n$ )

$8n$  data and  $3+4n$  unknowns



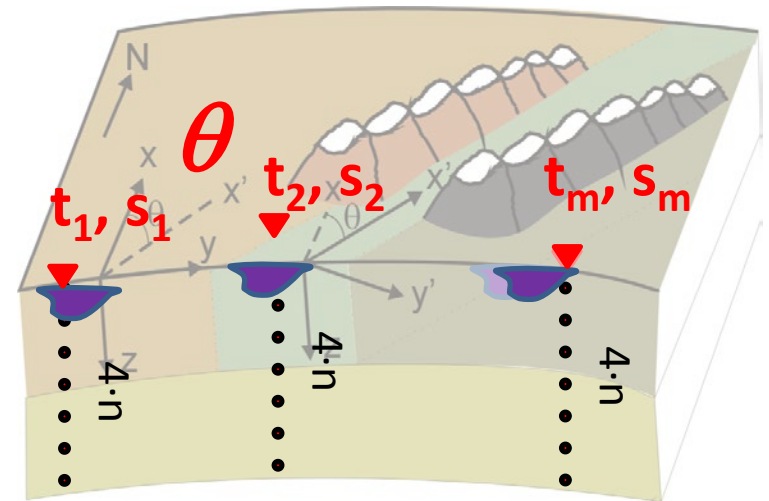
$m$  sites,  $n$  freq: fitting 7 parameter model to  
 $8n$  data  $\rightarrow$

same  $\theta$

different  $t$  and  $s$  at each site ( $2 \cdot m$ )

$Z_{2D}$  ( $4 \cdot n$ )

$8 \cdot n \cdot m$  data and  $1 + 2 \cdot m + 4 \cdot m \cdot n$  unknowns



- Tool to investigate if a dataset or a subset can be decomposed as 2D in views of 2D modelling or to obtain apriori information for a 3D.
- Cannot be used as a black box, it is recommended to perform it in steps to fully understand the dataset.
- It is very important to quantify the rms or the misfit: **how well does my data fit the 3D/2D model assumption?**



# Site b23

Period bands	WAL analysis	Strike analysis			
		1) All parameters free - analysis per bands	2) All parameters free - all periods	3) Two period bands: a) Non distortion b <sub>1</sub> ) Free – one band b <sub>2</sub> ) Free – two bands	
T < 0.01 s	2D $\theta = 20^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}$	$\theta = 2^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = -1.5^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = 9^{\circ}$	$\theta = 60^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 0^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -11^{\circ}$	a)  $\theta = 18^{\circ}$	
0.01 s - 0.1 s		$\theta = 50^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 0^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -9^{\circ}$			
0.1 s - 1 s		$\theta = 60^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = -1^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -11^{\circ}$			
1 s - 10 s	3D/2D $\theta = 57^{\circ} \pm 9^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 2^{\circ} \pm 0.5^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -9^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$	$\theta = 59^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = -0.5^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -10^{\circ}$		b <sub>1</sub> )	b <sub>2</sub> )
10 s - 100 s	3D/2D $\theta = 59^{\circ} \pm 3^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 3^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -16^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}$	$\theta = 55^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = -0.5^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -9^{\circ}$		$\theta = 57^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 0^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -10^{\circ}$	$\theta = 57^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 0^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = -10^{\circ}$
100 s - 1000 s	3D	$\theta = -17^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 15^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = 39^{\circ}$			
T > 1000 s	3D	$\theta = -13^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 12.5^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = 40^{\circ}$			$\theta = -13^{\circ}$ $\varphi_t = 12^{\circ}$ $\varphi_e = 39^{\circ}$

 : Large misfits

# Contents:

- **MT responses, dimensionality and distortion**
- **Dimensionality analysis methods**
- **Decomposition methods**
- **Extension to an anisotropic earth**

# Anisotropy

**Electrical anisotropy:** Property of a medium/material in which its electrical conductivity depends upon orientation.

$$\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yx} & \sigma_{yy} & \sigma_{yz} \\ \sigma_{zx} & \sigma_{zy} & \sigma_{zz} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\alpha_S, \alpha_D, \alpha_L]{\text{Diagonalization}} \sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma'_{xx} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma'_{yy} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \sigma'_{zz} \end{bmatrix}$$

-symmetric

-positive-definite

# How does anisotropy affect the magnetotelluric responses?

1D:

$$\underline{Z}_{1D-anis} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{xx} & Z_{xy} \\ Z_{yx} & -Z_{xx} \end{bmatrix}$$

Not necessarily diagonalizable

$$\vec{T} = 0$$

All sites the same responses

3D:

General solution

2D:

Decoupled eqs:

$$\underline{Z}_{2D-anis} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & f(\sigma_{xx}) \\ g(\sigma_{yy}, \sigma_{zz}) & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{T}_{2D-anis} = (0, h(\sigma_{xx}))$$

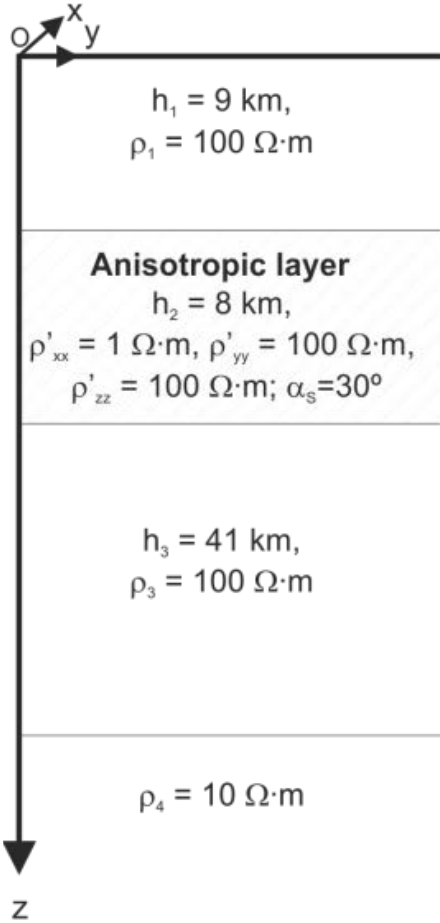
TE and TM sense different conductivity components

Same pattern should repeat along structural strike direction

Coupled eqs:

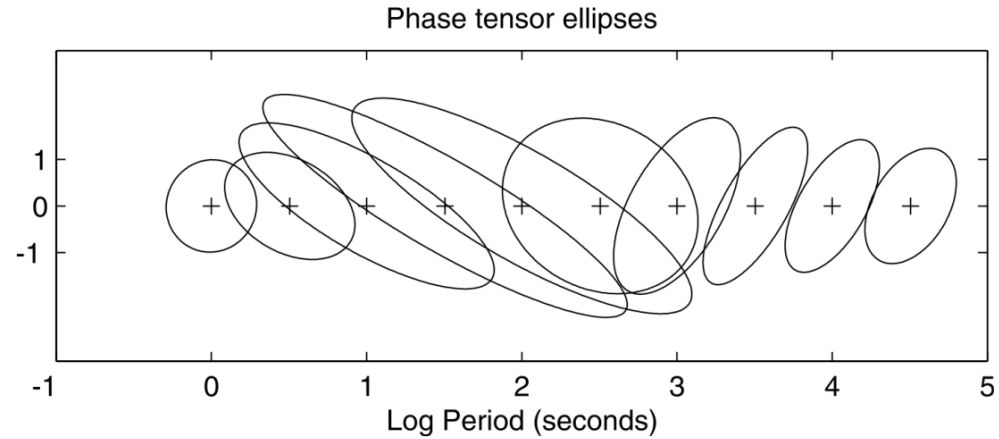
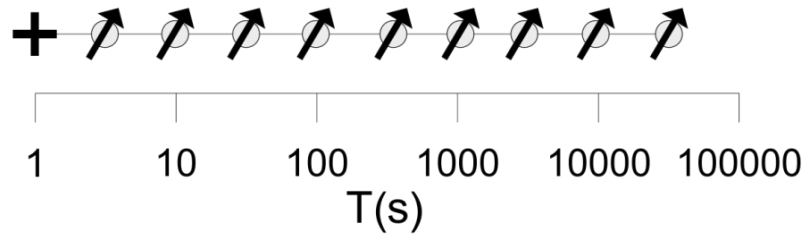
Apparently 3D

# One anisotropic layer:



WAL dimensionality

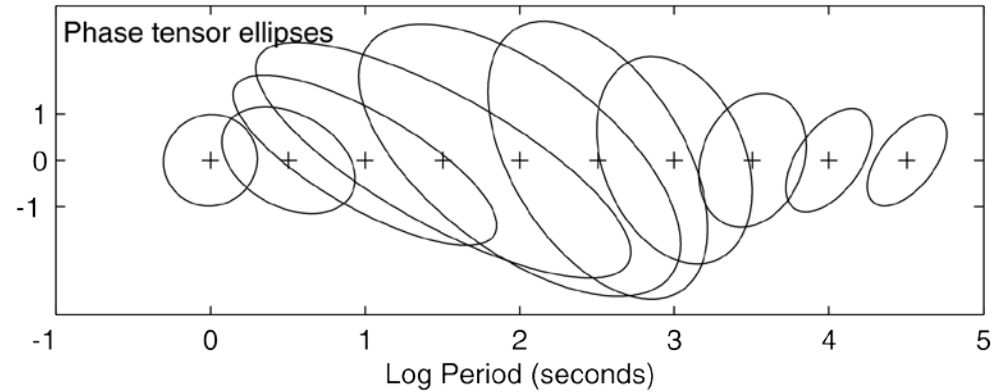
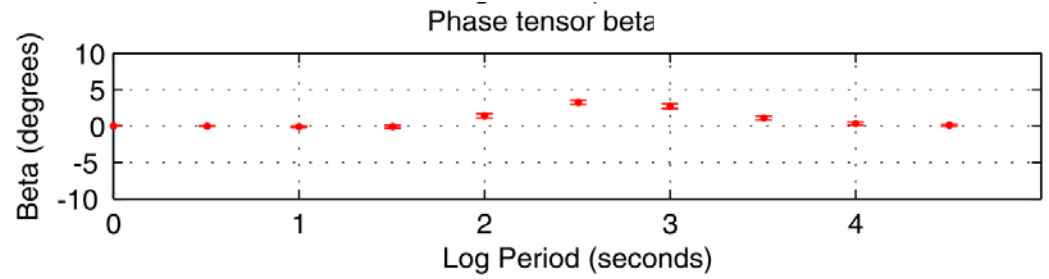
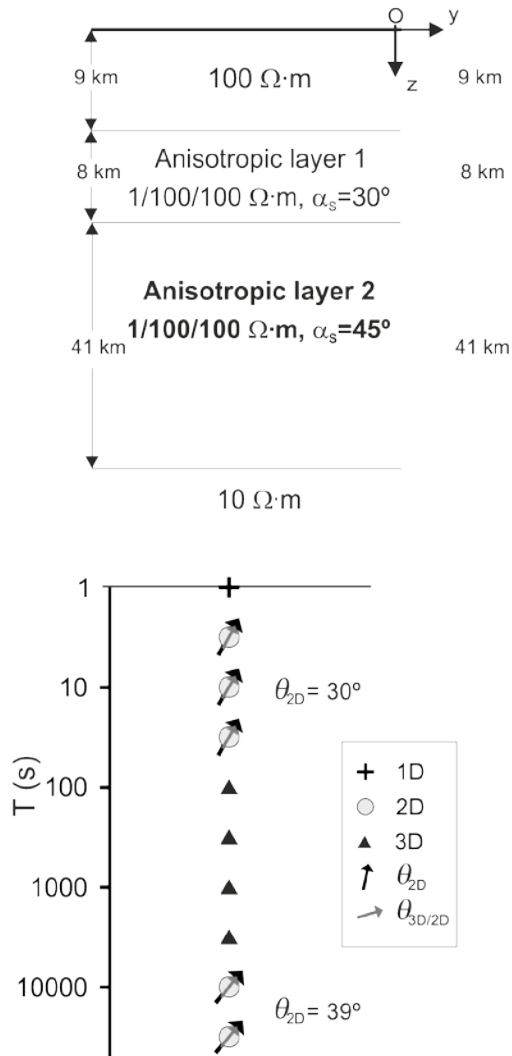
- + 1D
- ↗ 2D (and strike direction)



$$\vec{T} = 0$$

Same responses for all sites

# Two anisotropic layers:



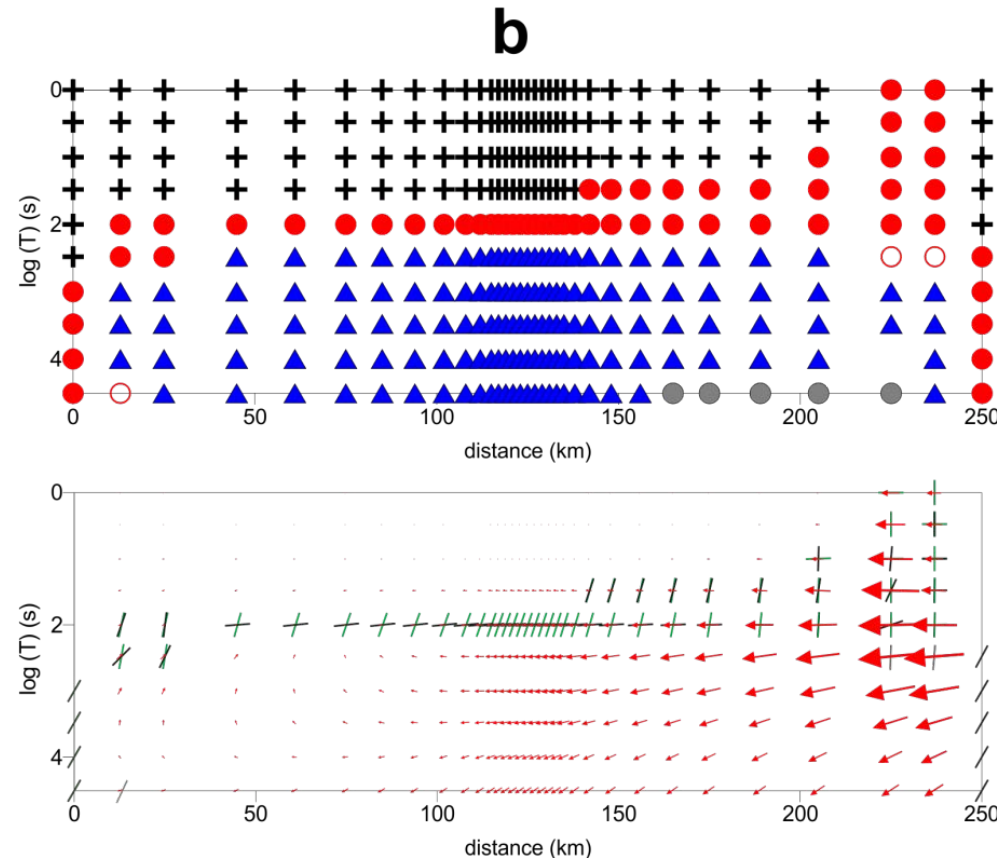
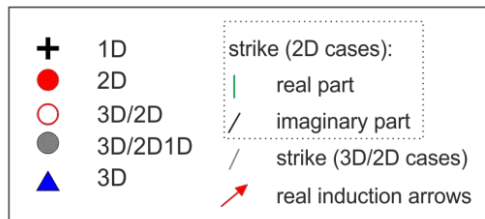
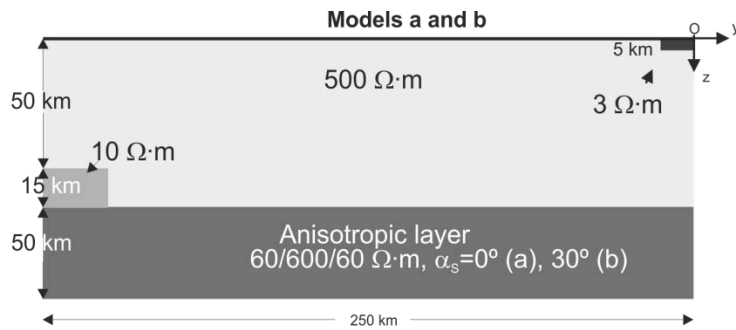
$$\vec{T} = 0$$

Same responses for all sites

## 2D model with an anisotropic layer

Azimuthal anisotropy ( $30^\circ$ ):

- 2D cases with different strike directions from real and imaginary parts.
- Some induction arrows non perpendicular to strike directions
- 3D cases



**Heise et al. (2006):** Anisotropy and phase splits in magnetotellurics

**Martí et al. (2010):** WALDIM criteria extended to anisotropic structures

**Jones (2012):** 3D/1Danis decomposition scheme

**See Martí (2014) for an extended review**



# Summing up ...

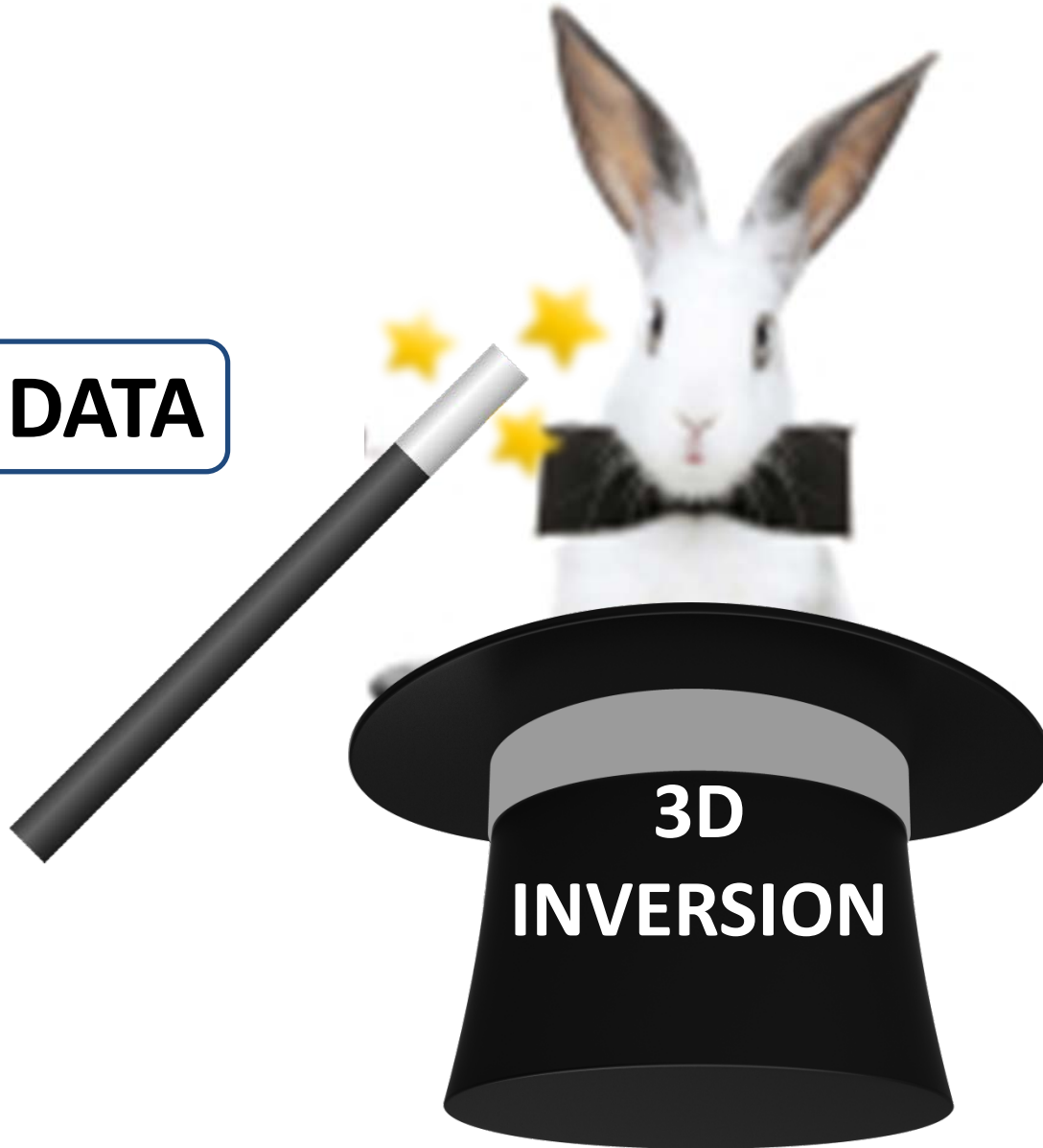
MT response analysis is a powerful tool to assess the data dimensionality and have a first glance at the structures below before modelling.

Here we have reviewed some of the most used tools: Strike, WALDIM and phase tensor. All valid and complementary if taken with caution.

Error data must be included in the analysis

So ... if we don't want to get this ...

**MT DATA**



**MT DATA**

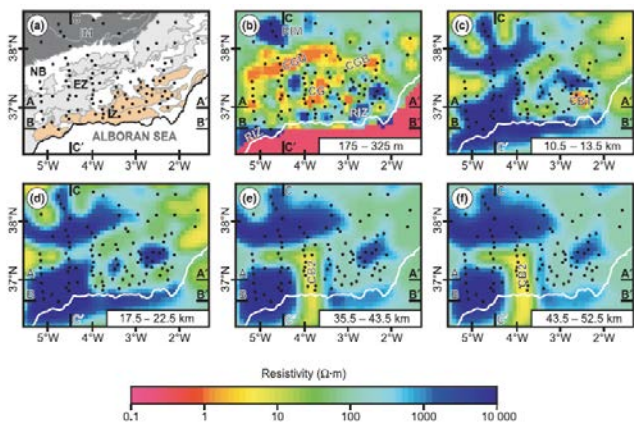
```
graph TD; A[MT DATA] --> B[RESPONSE ANALYSIS and CORRECTIONS/ ROTATIONS]; B --> C[CHOOSE INVERSION STRATEGY + A PRIORI INFORMATION]; C --> D(1D, 2D, 3D modelling /inversion);
```

The diagram illustrates a four-step process for magnetotelluric (MT) data analysis. It begins with 'MT DATA' in a rounded rectangle, which leads to 'RESPONSE ANALYSIS and CORRECTIONS/ ROTATIONS' in a larger rounded rectangle. This step then leads to 'CHOOSE INVERSION STRATEGY + A PRIORI INFORMATION' in another rounded rectangle. Finally, an arrow points from this step to an oval containing '1D, 2D, 3D modelling /inversion'.

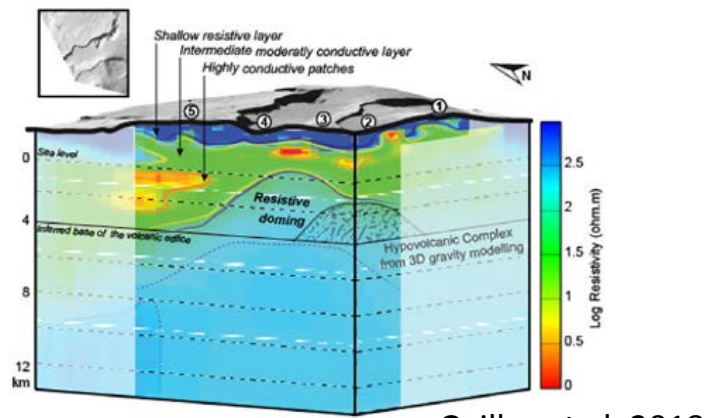
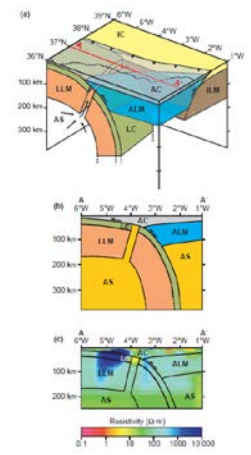
**RESPONSE  
ANALYSIS and  
CORRECTIONS/  
ROTATIONS**

**CHOOSE INVERSION  
STRATEGY  
+ A PRIORI INFORMATION**

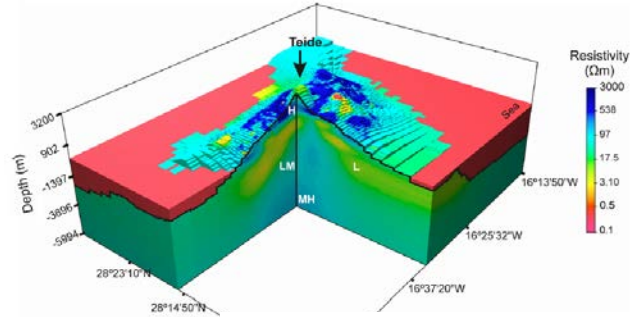
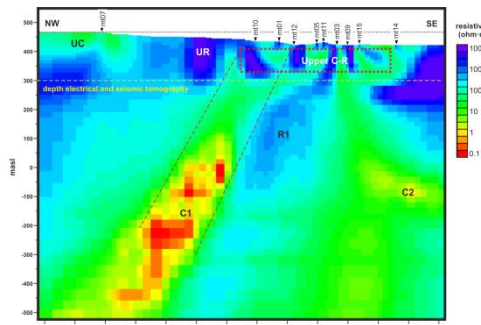
**1D, 2D, 3D  
modelling  
/inversion**



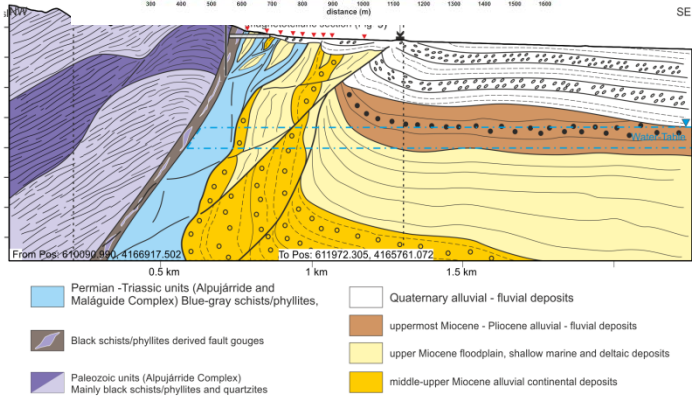
Rosell et al. 2011



Gailler et al. 2018



Piña-Varas et al. 2014



Martí et al. 2020

**1D, 2D, 3D  
modelling  
/inversion**

# Thanks for your attention !!!!

## Special thanks to:

**Alan, Kate, Max and Stephan** for inviting me to present this EMinar and particularly Alan for providing material from his course.

My colleagues from UB who helped me improve this eminar:  
**Pilar, Àlex, Juanjo, Perla and Gemma**



## References (1):

- Avdeeva, Anna & Moorkamp, M. & Avdeev, Dmitry & Jegen, M. & Miensopust, Marion. (2015). Three-dimensional inversion of magnetotelluric impedance tensor data and full distortion matrix. *Geophysical Journal International*. 202. 10.1093/gji/ggv144.
- Bahr, K., 1988. Interpretation of the magnetotelluric impedance tensor: regional induction and local telluric distortion, *J. Geophys.*, **62**, 119-127.
- Bahr, K., 1991. Geological noise in magnetotelluric data: a classification of distortion types, *Phys. Earth planet. Inter.*, **66**, 24-38.
- Berdichevsky, M.N. and Dmitriev, V.I., 1976. Basic principles of interpretation of magnetotelluric curves, in *Geoelectric and Geothermal Studies*, pp. 165-221, ed. Á. Adam, *KAPG Geophysical Monograph*, Akademiai Kiado, Budapest.
- Booker, J.R. The Magnetotelluric Phase Tensor: A Critical Review. *Surv Geophys* 35, 7–40 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10712-013-9234-2>
- Caldwell, T.G., Bibby, H.M. and Brown, C., 2004. The Magnetotelluric Phase Tensor, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **158**, 457-469.
- Chave, A.D. and A.G. Jones (Editors) (2012) *The Magnetotelluric Method: Theory and Practice*. Cambridge University Press, ISBN: 9780521819275
- Gailler, L.S., Martí, A., Lénat, J.F. (2018). Complex structure of Piton de la Fournaise and its underlying lithosphere revealed by magnetotelluric 3D inversion. *Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research*, 356, 200-210. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jvolgeores.2018.03.006>
- Garcia, X. and A.G. Jones, 2002. Decomposition of three-dimensional magnetotelluric data, In: *Three-Dimensional Electromagnetics*, edited by M.S. Zhdanov and P.E. Wannamaker, publ. by Elsevier, *Methods in Geochemistry and Geophysics* (ISBN 0 444 50429 X), 35, 235-250.
- Groom, R.W. and Bailey, R.C., 1989. Decomposition of the magnetotelluric impedance tensor in the presence of local three-dimensional galvanic distortion, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **94**, 1913-1925. totelluric data using the rotational invariants of the magnetotelluric tensor. *Comput Geosci* 35:2295-2303. doi:10.1016/j.cageo.2009.03.004.

## References (2):

- Heise, W.; Caldwell, T.; Bibby, H. & Brown, C. (2006). Anisotropy and phase splits in magnetotellurics. *Physics of The Earth and Planetary Interiors - PHYS EARTH PLANET INTERIORS*, 158, 107-121. 10.1016/j.pepi.2006.03.021.
- Jones, A. (2012). Distortion decomposition of the magnetotelluric impedance tensors from a one-dimensional anisotropic Earth. *Geophysical Journal International*, 189, 268-284. 10.1111/j.1365-246X.2012.05362.x.
- Larsen, J., 1977. Removal of local surface conductivity effects from low frequency mantle response curves, *Geodynamica Acta*, **12**, 183-186.
- Ledo, J.J., Queralt, P. and Pous, J., 1998. Effects of galvanic distortion on magnetotelluric data over a three dimensional structure, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **132**, 295-301.
- Ledo, J., Gabàs, A. and Marcuello, A., 2002a. Static shift levelling using geomagnetic transfer functions. *Earth Planets Space*, **54**, 493-398.
- Ledo, J., Queralt, P., Martí, A. and Jones, A.G., 2002b. Two-dimensional interpretation of three-dimensional magnetotelluric data: an example of limitations and resolution, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **150**, 127-139.
- Ledo, J., 2005. 2-D versus 3-D magnetotelluric data interpretation, *Surveys in Geophysics*, **26**, 671-806.
- Lilley, F.E.M., 1993: Magnetotelluric analysis using Mohr circles, *Geophysics*, **58**, 1498-1506.
- Lilley, F.E.M., 1998a: Magnetotelluric tensor decomposition: 1. Theory for a basic procedure, *Geophysics*, **63**, 1884-1897.
- Lilley, F.E.M., 1998b: Magnetotelluric tensor decomposition: 2. Examples of a basic procedure, *Geophysics*, **63**, 1898-1907.
- Martí, A., Queralt, P., Jones, A.G. and Ledo, J., 2005. Improving Bahr's invariant parameters using the WAL approach, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **163**, 38-41.
- Martí, A. (2006) A magnetotelluric investigation of geoelectrical dimensionality and study of the Central Betic crustal structure. Dissertation, Univ Barcelona.
- Martí A, Queralt P, Ledo J (2009) WALDIM: A code for the dimensionality analysis of magnetotelluric data using the rotational invariants of the magnetotelluric tensor. *Comput Geosci* 35:2295-2303. doi:10.1016/j.cageo.2009.03.004.

## References (3):

- Martí A, Queralt P, Ledo J, Farquharson C (2010) Dimensionality imprint of electrical anisotropy in magnetotelluric responses. *Phys Earth Planet Int* 182:139-151. doi:10.1016/j.pepi.2010.07.007
- Martí, A. (2014) The Role of Electrical Anisotropy in Magnetotelluric Responses: From Modelling and Dimensionality Analysis to Inversion and Interpretation. *Surveys in Geophysics* Volume: 35 Issue 1. ISSN: 0169-3298
- Martí, A., Queralt, P., Marcuello, A. et al. Magnetotelluric characterization of the Alhama de Murcia Fault (Eastern Betics, Spain) and study of magnetotelluric interstation impedance inversion. *Earth Planets Space* 72, 16 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40623-020-1143-2>
- McNeice, G and Jones, A.G., 2001. Multisite, multifrequency tensor decomposition of magnetotelluric data, *Geophysics*, **66**, 158-173.
- Miensopust MP, Jones AG (2011) Artefacts of isotropic inversion applied to magnetotelluric data from an anisotropic Earth. *Geophys J Int* 187:677-689. doi:10.1111/j.1365-246X.2011.05157.x
- Moorkamp, M. (2007), Comment on ‘The magnetotelluric phase tensor’ by T. Grant Caldwell, Hugh M. Bibby and Colin Brown. *Geophysical Journal International*, 171: 565-566. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-246X.2007.03490.x>
- Pedersen, L.B. and Engels, M., 2005. Routine 2D inversion of magnetotelluric data using the determinant of the impedance tensor, *Geophysics*, 70, G33-G41.
- Pek J, Verner, T (1997) Finite-difference modelling of magnetotelluric fields in two-dimensional anisotropic media. *Geophys J Int* 128:505-521. doi:10.1111/j.1365-246X.1997.tb05314.x
- Pellerin, L., Hohmann, G.W., 1990, Transient electromagnetic inversion : a remedy for magnetotelluric static shifts, *Geophysics*, 55, 1242 - 1250.
- Piña-Varas, P., Ledo, J., Queralt, P. et al. 3-D Magnetotelluric Exploration of Tenerife Geothermal System (Canary Islands, Spain). *Surv Geophys* 35, 1045–1064 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10712-014-9280-4>
- Rosell, O., Martí, A., Marcuello, À., Ledo, J., Queralt, P., Roca, E., Campanyà, J. (2011). Deep electrical resistivity structure of the northern Gibraltar Arc (western Mediterranean): evidence of lithospheric slab break-off, *Terra Nova*, 23, 179-186. doi:10.1111/j.1365-3121.2011.00996.x.
- Rosell O (2013) Application of the magnetotelluric method in complex geological systems. Dissertation. Univ Barcelona



## References (4):

- Swift, C.M., 1967. Magnetotelluric investigation of an electrical conductivity anomaly in the southwestern United States, *PhD thesis*, Department of Geology and Geophysics, MIT, Cambridge, MA (reprinted in *Magnetotelluric Methods*, pp. 156-166, ed. Vozoff, K., Geophys. Reprint Ser. No. 5. 1988, SEG, Tulsa, OK).
- Szarka, L. and Menvielle, M., 1997. Analysis of rotational invariants of the magnetotelluric impedance tensor, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **129**,133-142.
- Weaver, J.T., Agarwal, A.K. and Lilley, F.E.M., 2000. Characterisation of the magnetotelluric tensor in terms of its invariants, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **141**, 321-336.
- Weaver, J.T., A.K. Agarwal, and F.E.M. Lilley, 2006. The relationship between the magnetotelluric tensor invariants and the phase tensor of Caldwell, Bibby, and Brown, *Explor. Geophys.*, **37**, 261-267.