Corso di Laurea in Fisica - UNITS

ISTITUZIONI DI FISICA PER IL SISTEMA TERRA

SEISMIC RAYS

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Heterogeneities

.. What happens if we have heterogeneities ?

Depending on the kind of reflection part or all of the signal is reflected or transmitted.

- What happens at a free surface?
- Can a P wave be converted in an S wave or vice versa?
- How big are the amplitudes of the reflected waves?

Boundary Conditions

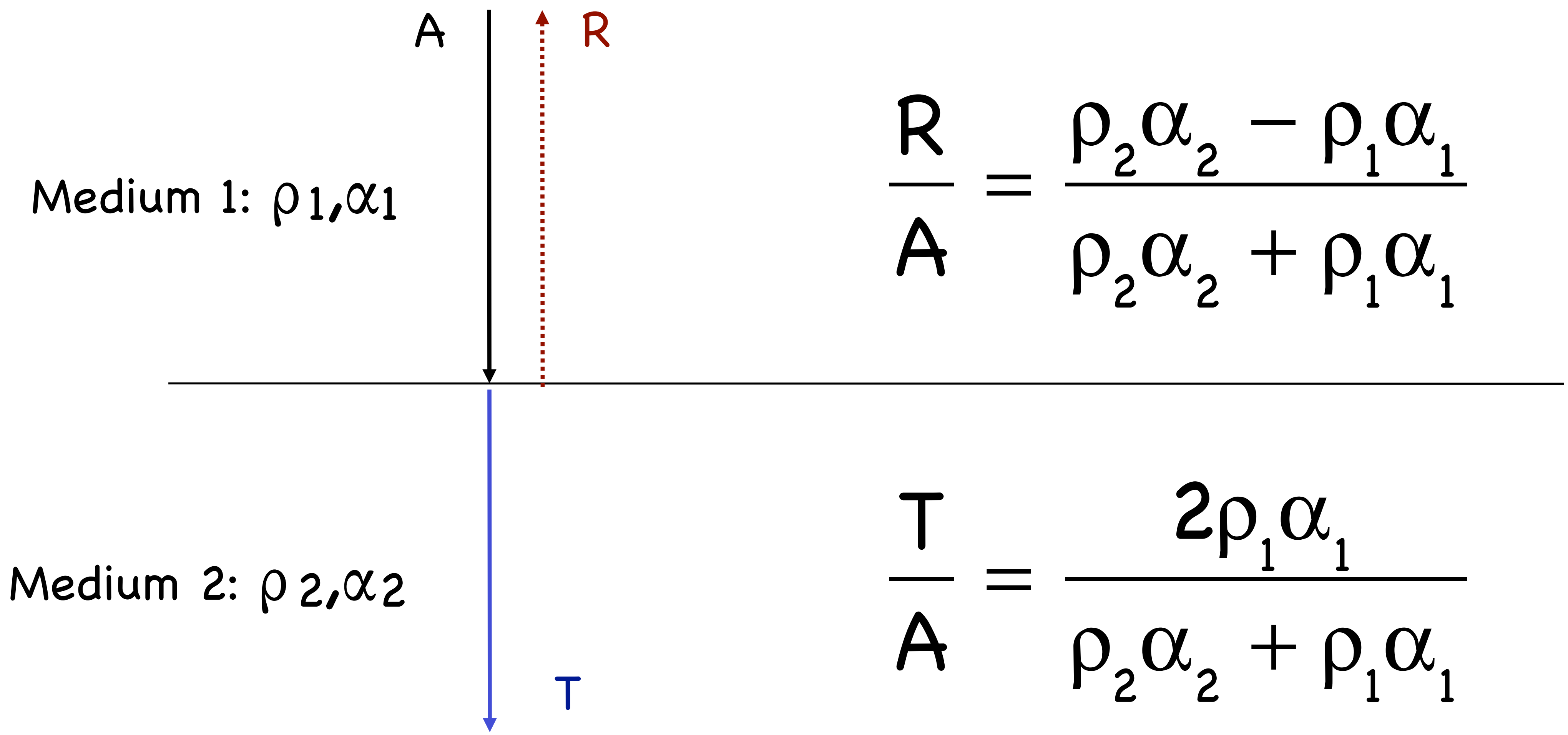
What happens when the material parameters change at a discontinuity interface?

Continuity of displacement and traction fields is required

Kinematic (displacement continuity) gives **Snell's law**,
but how much is reflected, how much transmitted?

Reflection & Transmission coefficients

Let's take the most simple example: P-waves with **normal** incidence on a material interface. Dynamic conditions give:



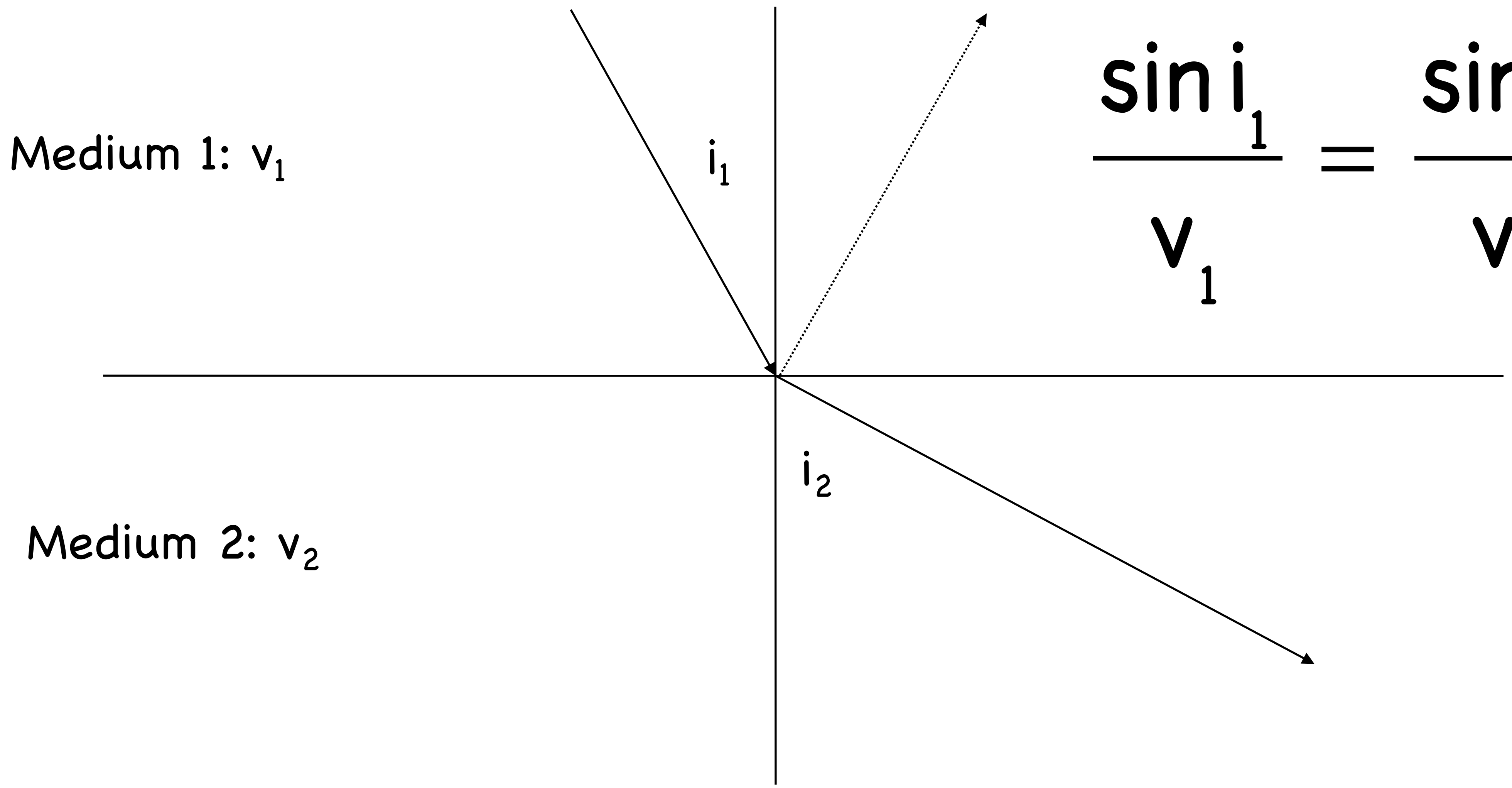
$$\frac{R}{A} = \frac{\rho_2\alpha_2 - \rho_1\alpha_1}{\rho_2\alpha_2 + \rho_1\alpha_1}$$

$$\frac{T}{A} = \frac{2\rho_1\alpha_1}{\rho_2\alpha_2 + \rho_1\alpha_1}$$

At oblique angles conversions from S-P, P-S have to be considered.

Reflection & Transmission-Snell's Law

What happens at a plane material discontinuity?

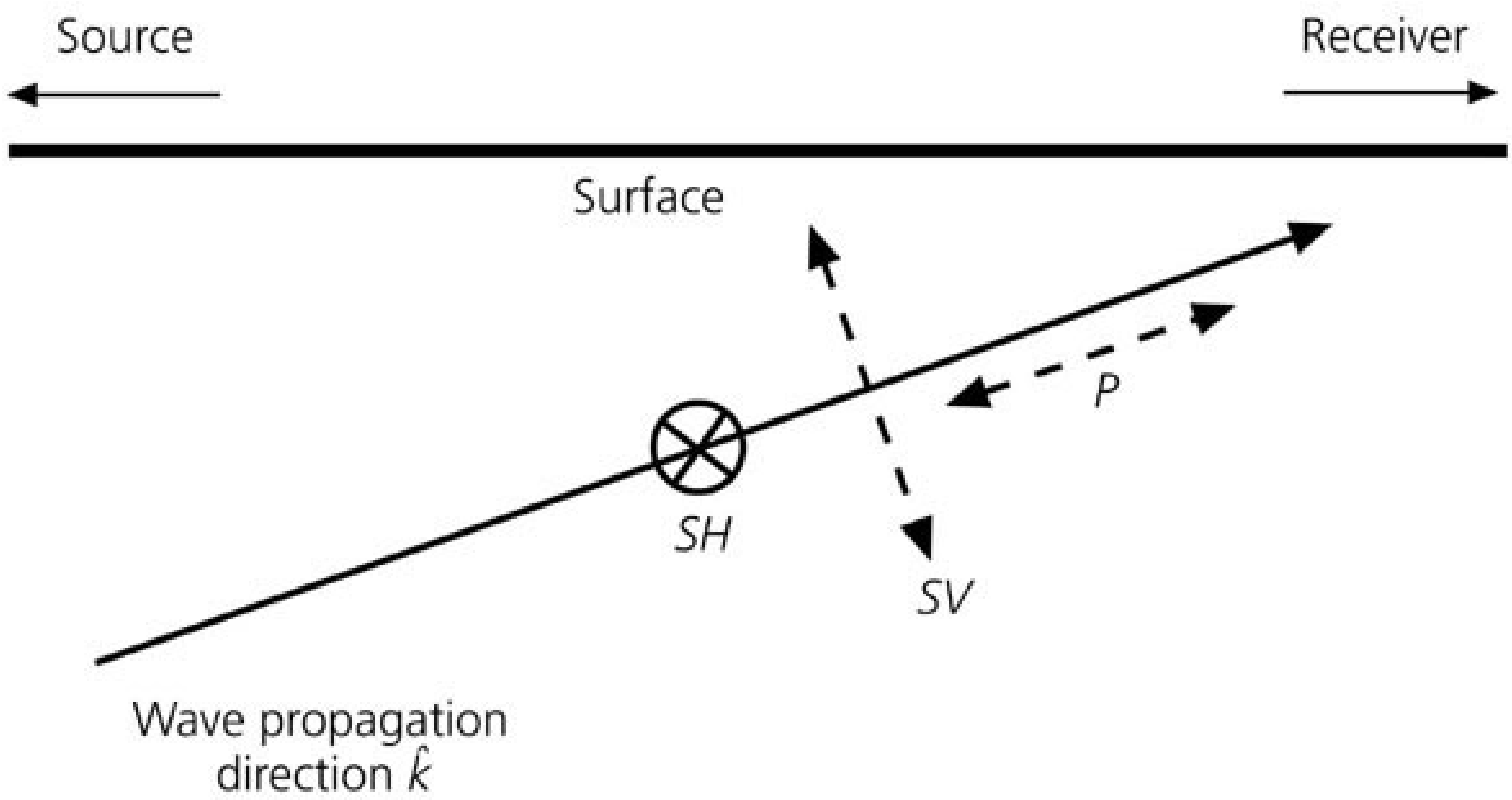


$$\frac{\sin i_1}{v_1} = \frac{\sin i_2}{v_2}$$

A special case is the **free surface** condition, where the surface tractions are zero.

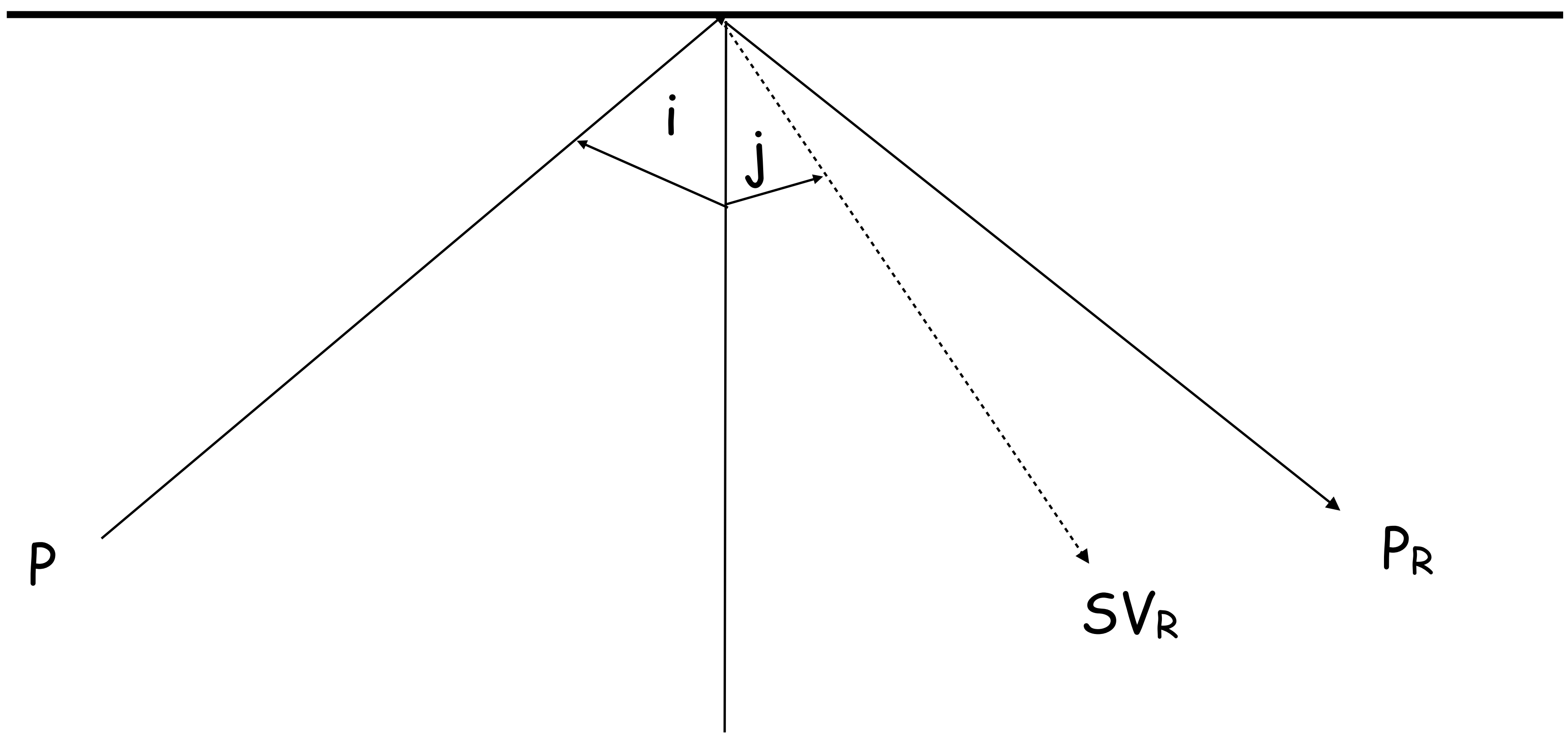
Free surface: P-SV-SH

Figure 2.4-4: Displacements for *P*, *SV*, and *SH*.



Case 1: Reflections at a free surface

A P wave is incident at the free surface ...



In general (also for an S incident wave) the reflected amplitudes can be described by the **scattering matrix** S

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} P_u P_d & S_u P_d \\ P_u S_d & S_u S_d \end{pmatrix}$$

Free surface: apparent velocity

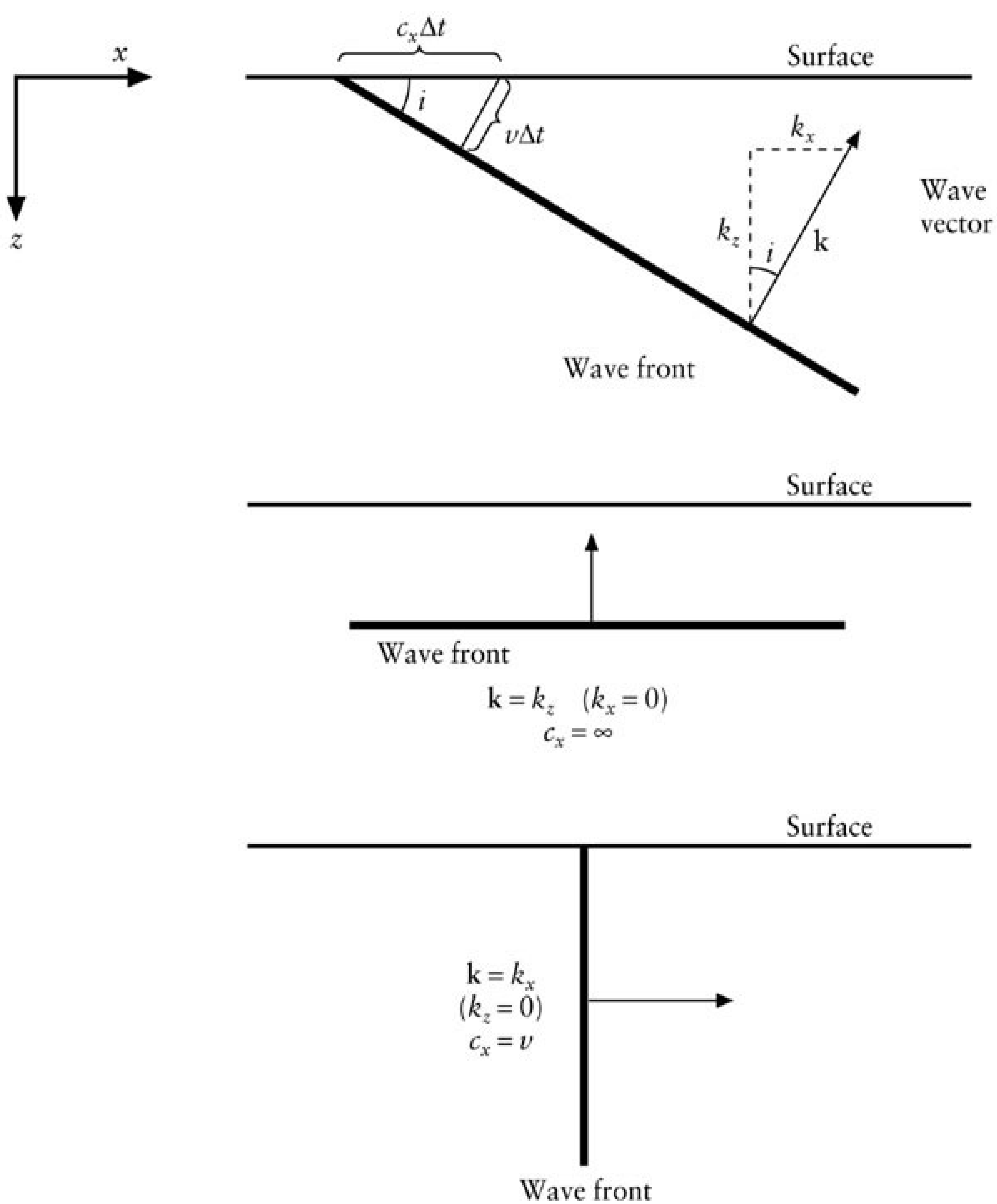
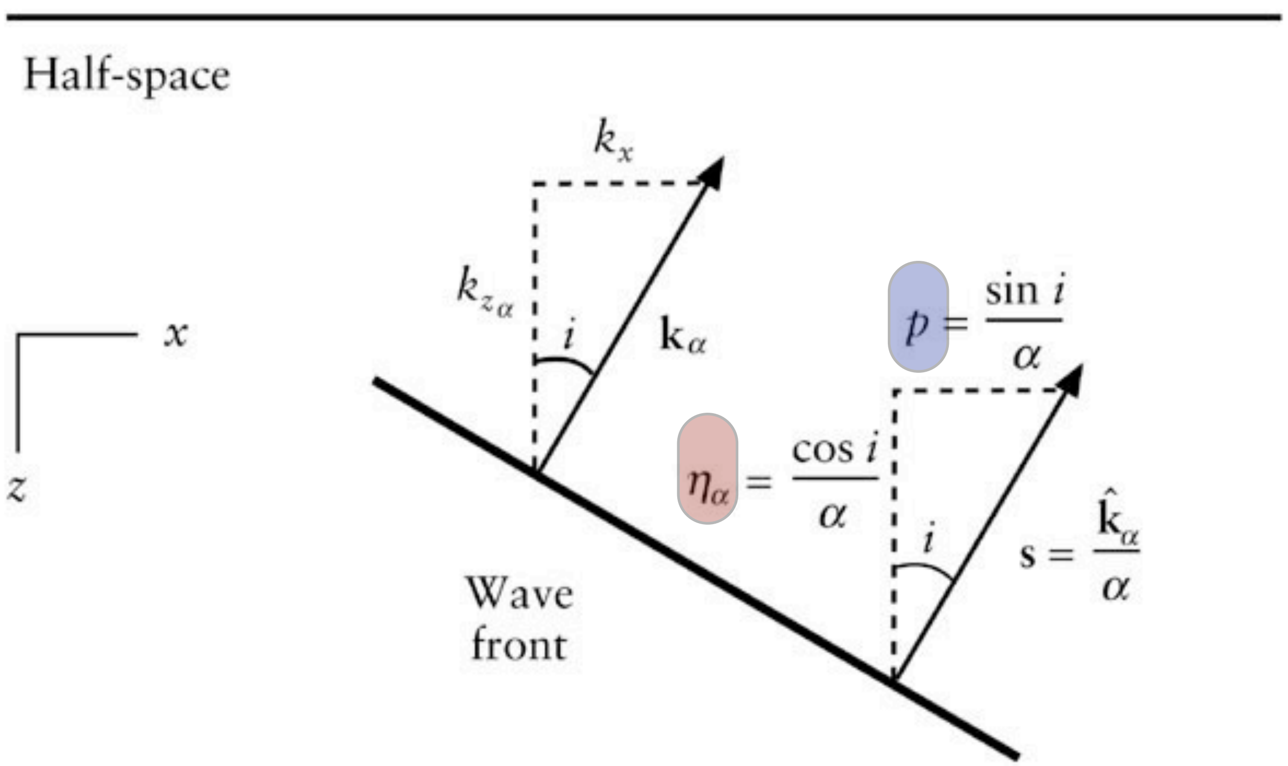


Figure 2.5-9: Definition of the slowness vector.



$$\Phi = A_0 e^{i(k_j x_j - \omega t)} =$$

$$= A_0 e^{i\omega(px - \eta z - t)} =$$

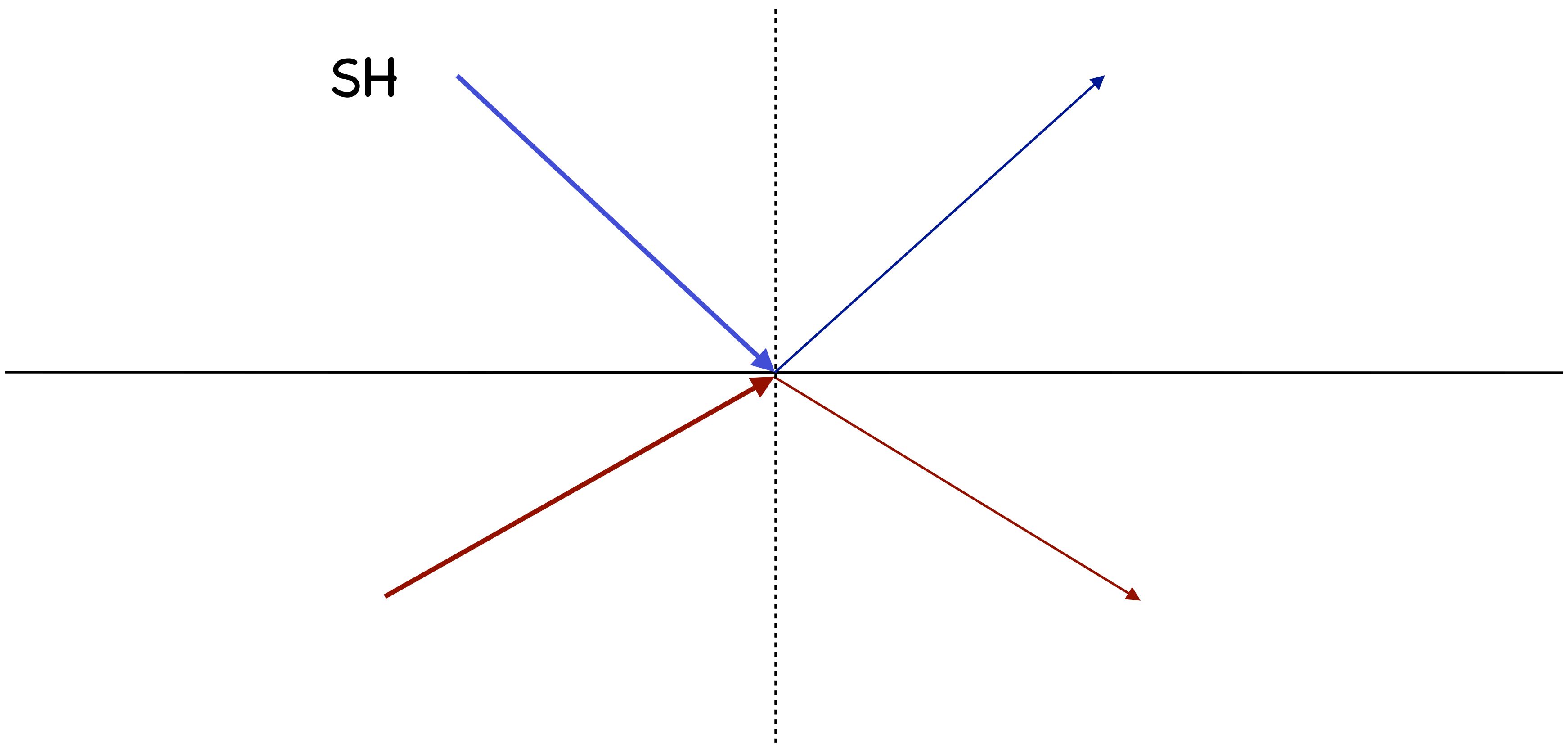
$$= A_0 e^{i\frac{\omega}{\alpha}(a_j x_j - \alpha t)} =$$

$$= A_0 e^{i(k_x x - k_x r_\alpha z - \omega t)}$$

$$k_x = \omega p; k_z = \omega\eta = \omega \frac{\sqrt{1 - \sin^2 i}}{\alpha} = \omega p \sqrt{\left(\frac{c_x}{\alpha}\right)^2 - 1} = \omega p r_\alpha$$

Case 2: SH waves

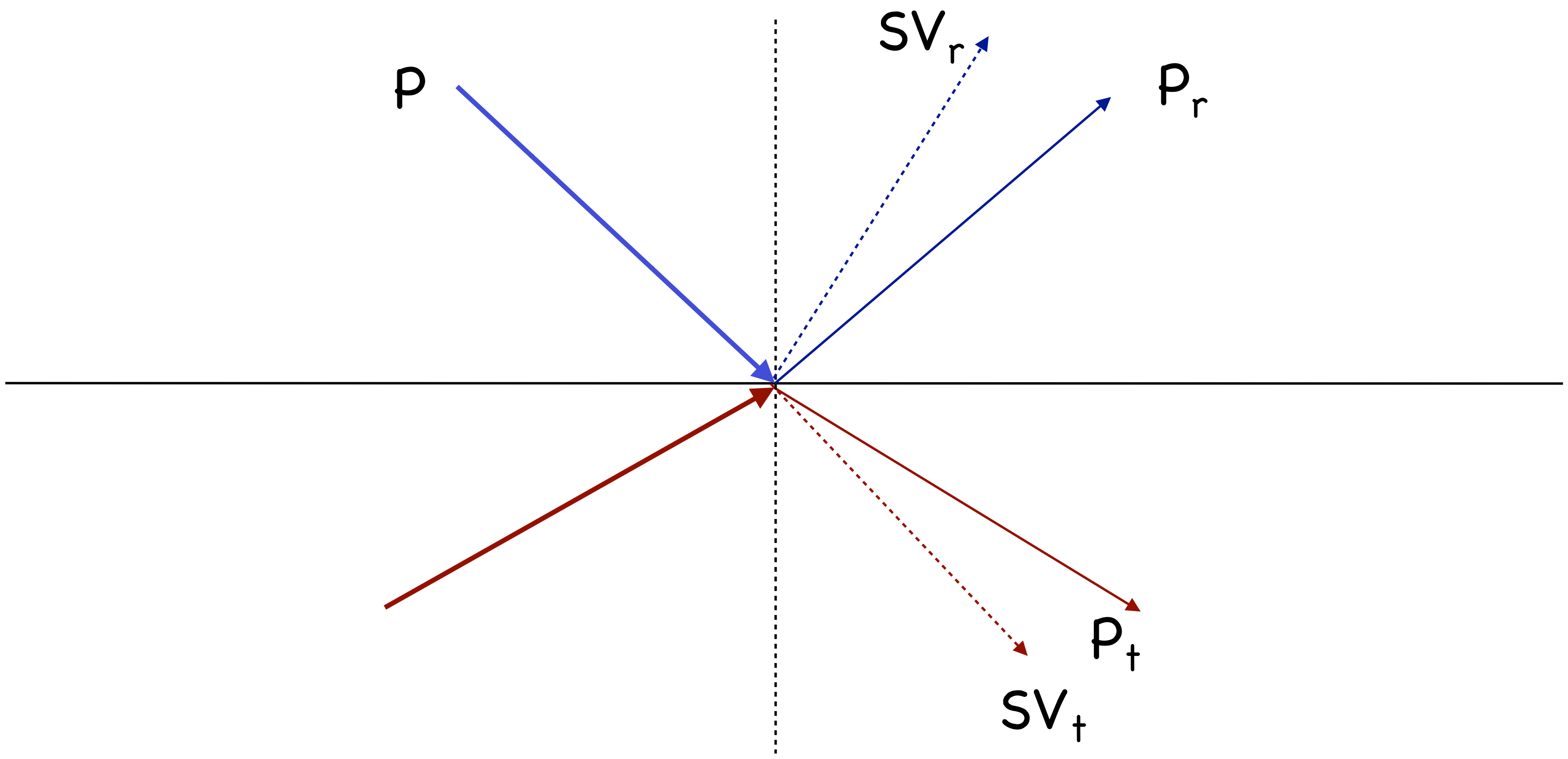
For layered media SH waves are completely decoupled from P and SV waves



There is no conversion:
only SH waves are reflected or transmitted
In general we can write a scattering matrix:

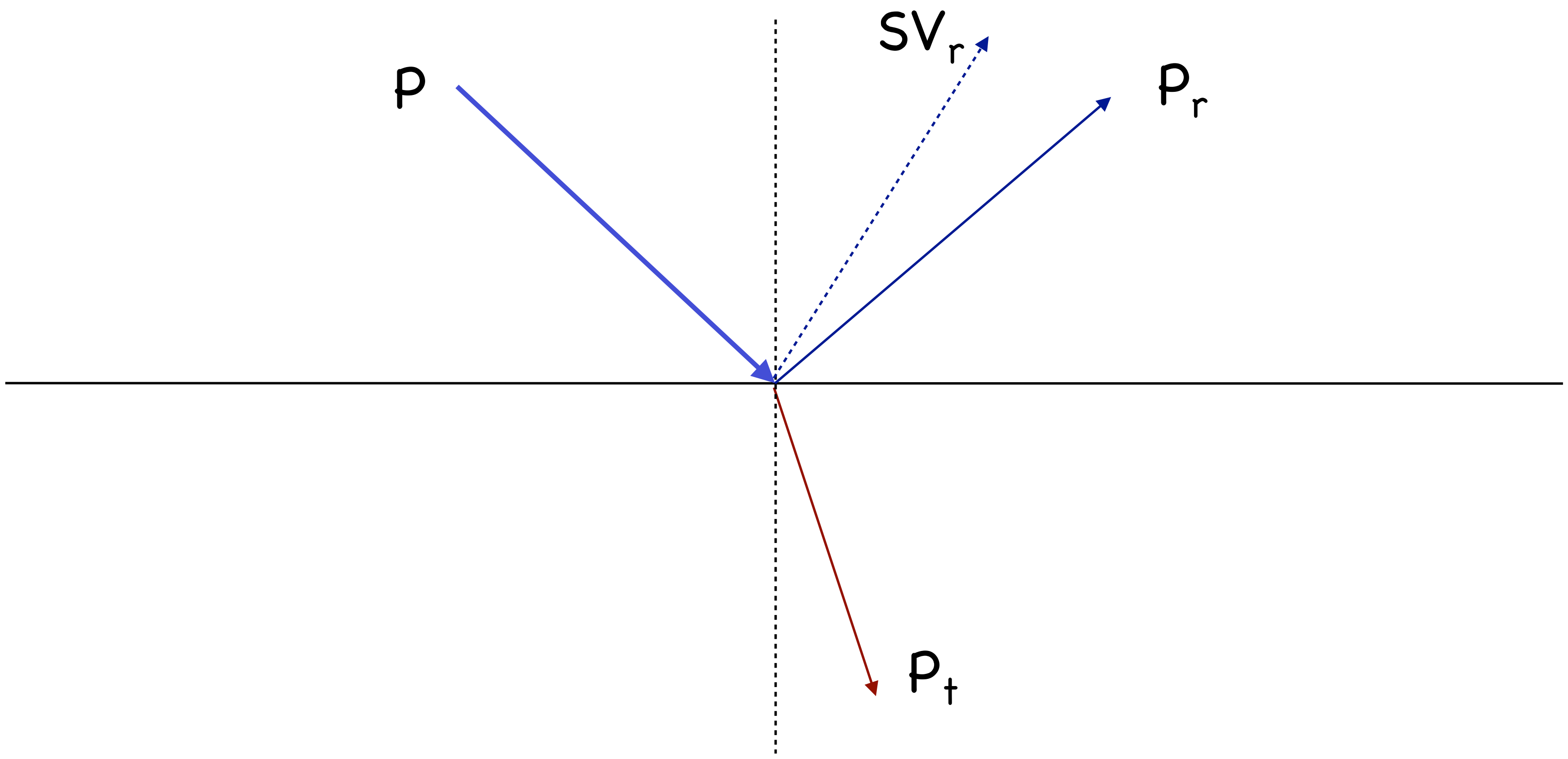
$$S = \begin{pmatrix} S_u S_u & S_u S_d \\ S_d S_u & S_d S_d \end{pmatrix}$$

Case 3: Solid-solid interface



To account for all possible reflections and transmissions we need 16 coefficients, described by a 4x4 scattering matrix.

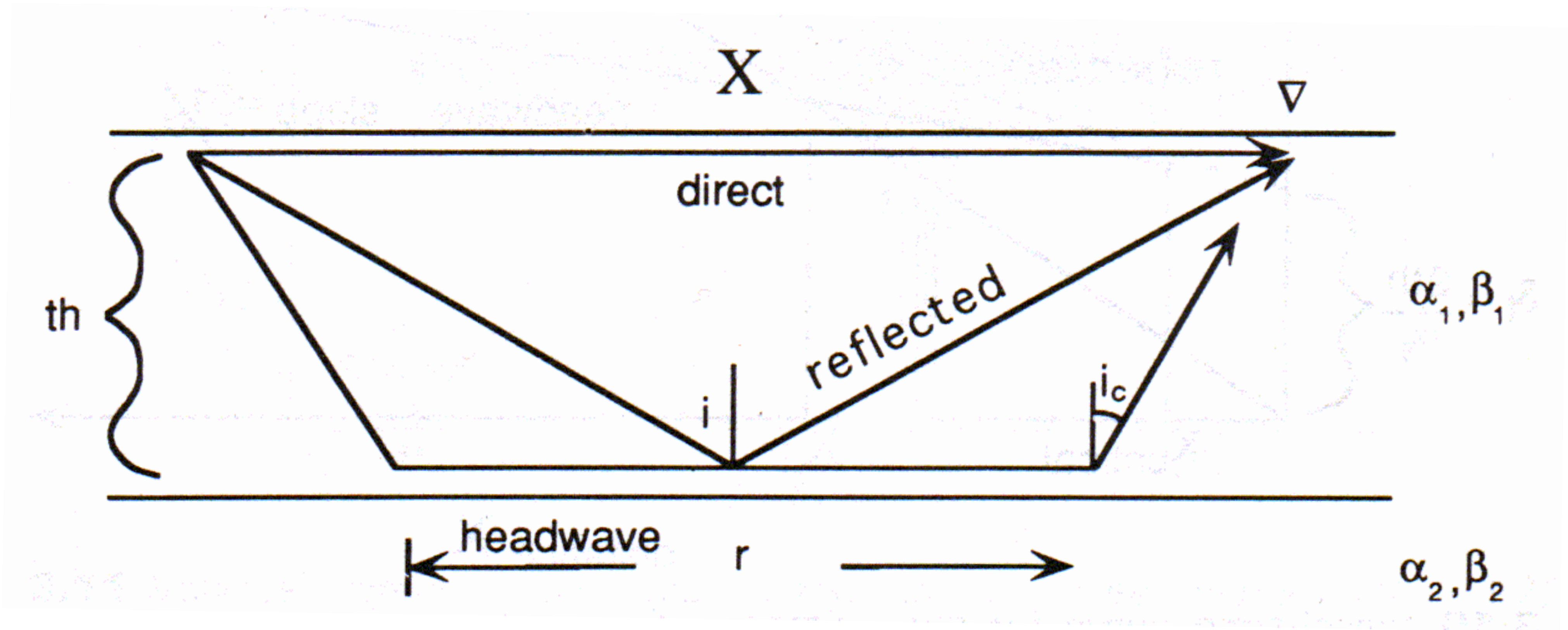
Case 4: Solid-Fluid interface



At a solid-fluid interface there is no conversion to SV in the lower medium.

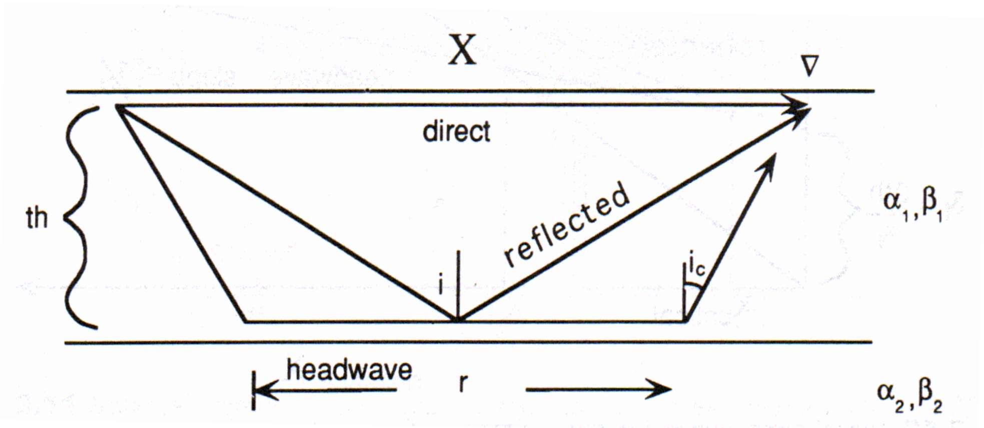
Rays in flat layered Media

Much information can be learned by analysing recorded seismic signals in terms of layered structured (e.g. crust and Moho).
We need to be able to predict the arrival times of reflected and refracted signals ...



Travel Times in Layered Media

Let us calculate the arrival times for reflected and refracted waves as a function of layer depth, h, and velocities α_i, i denoting the i-th layer:



We find that the travel time for the reflection is:

$$T_{refl} = \frac{2h}{\alpha_1 \cos i} = \frac{2\sqrt{h^2 + X^2/4}}{\alpha_1}$$

And for the the refraction:

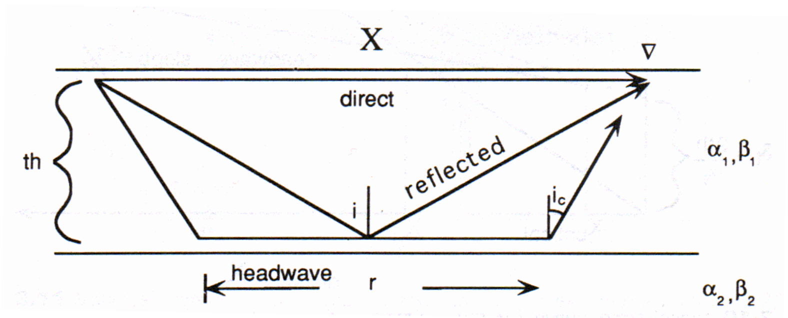
$$T_{refr} = \frac{2h}{\alpha_1 \cos i_c} + \frac{r}{\alpha_2}$$

$$r = X - 2h \tan i_c$$

where i_c is the critical angle:

$$\frac{\sin(i_1)}{\alpha_1} = \frac{\sin(r_2)}{\alpha_2} \Rightarrow i_c = \arcsin\left(\frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_2}\right)$$

Travel Times in Layered Media



Thus the refracted wave arrival is

$$T_{refr} = \frac{2h}{\alpha_1 \cos i_c} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2}\left(X - \frac{2h\alpha_1}{\alpha_2 \cos i_c}\right)$$

where we have made use of Snell's Law.

$$\frac{1}{\alpha_2} = \frac{\sin i_c}{\alpha_1} = p$$

We can rewrite this using

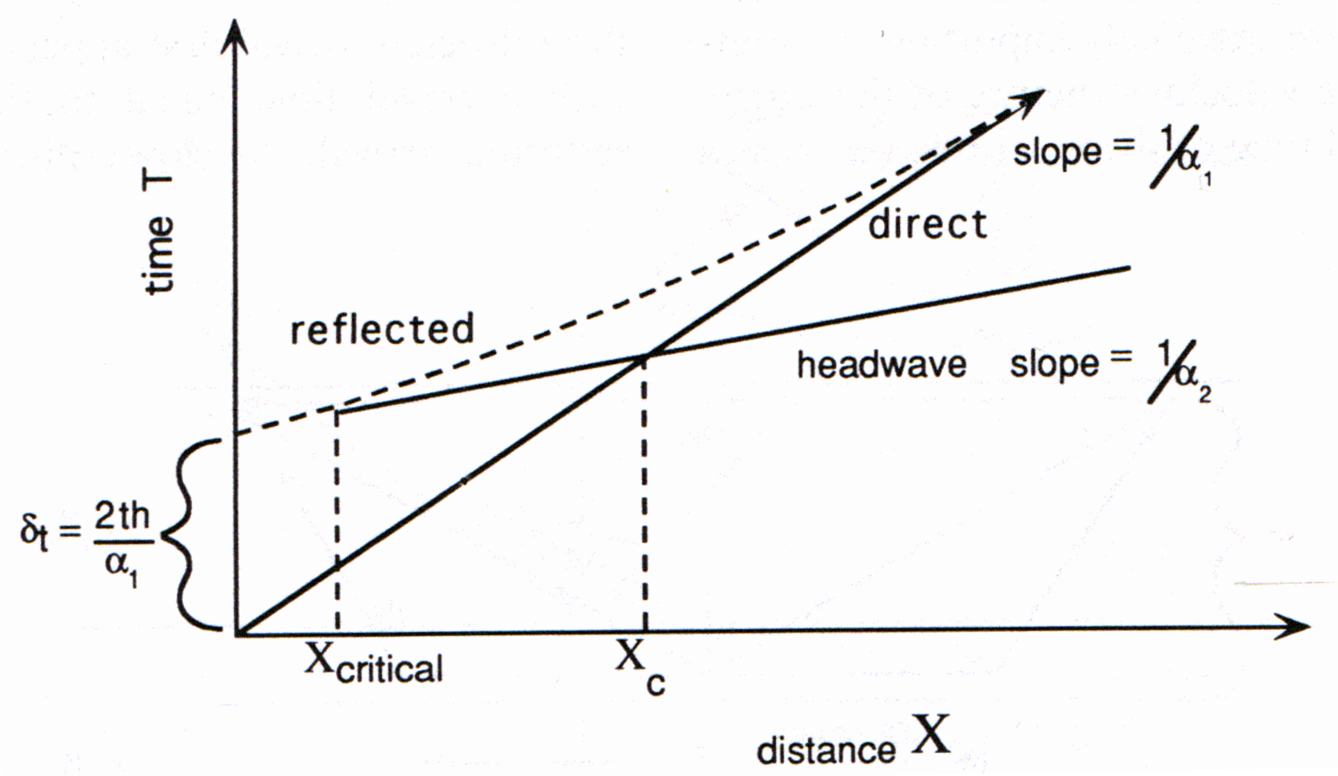
$$\cos i_c = (1 - \sin^2 i_c)^{1/2} = (1 - p^2\alpha_1^2)^{1/2} = \alpha_1\left(\frac{1}{\alpha_1^2} - p^2\right)^{1/2} = \alpha_1 \eta_1$$

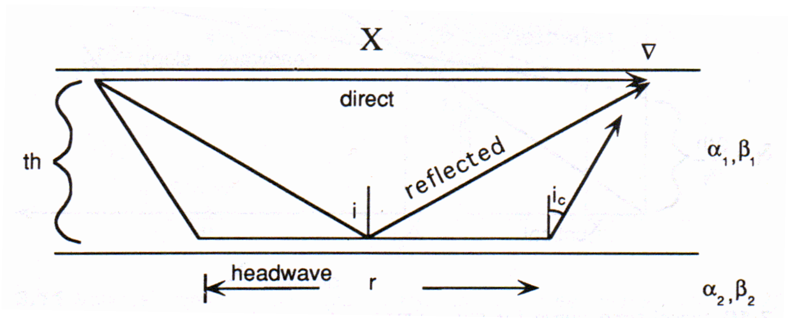
to obtain

$$T_{refr} = Xp + 2h\eta_1$$

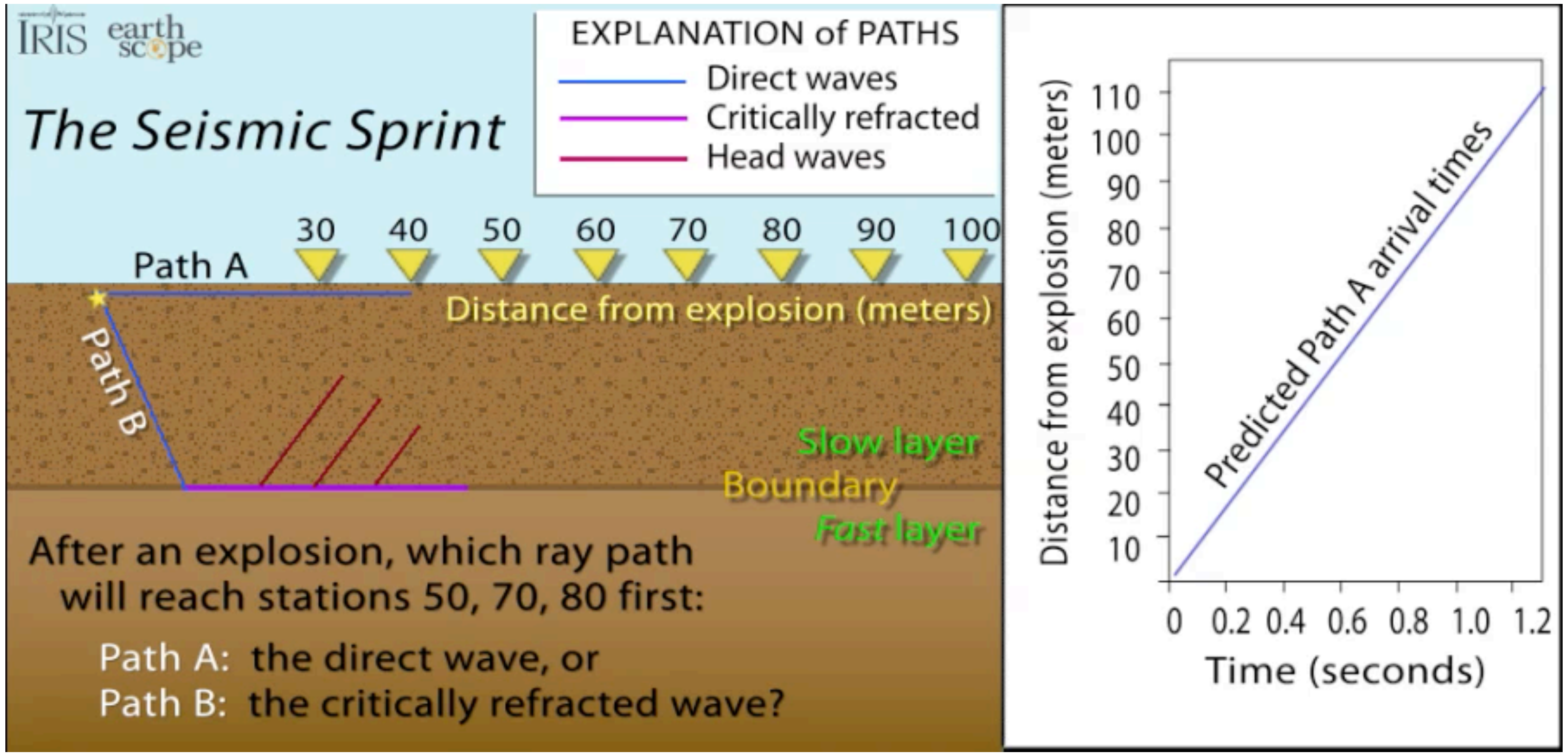
Which is very useful as we have separated the result into a vertical and horizontal term.

Travel time curves





What can we determine if we have recorded the following travel time curves?



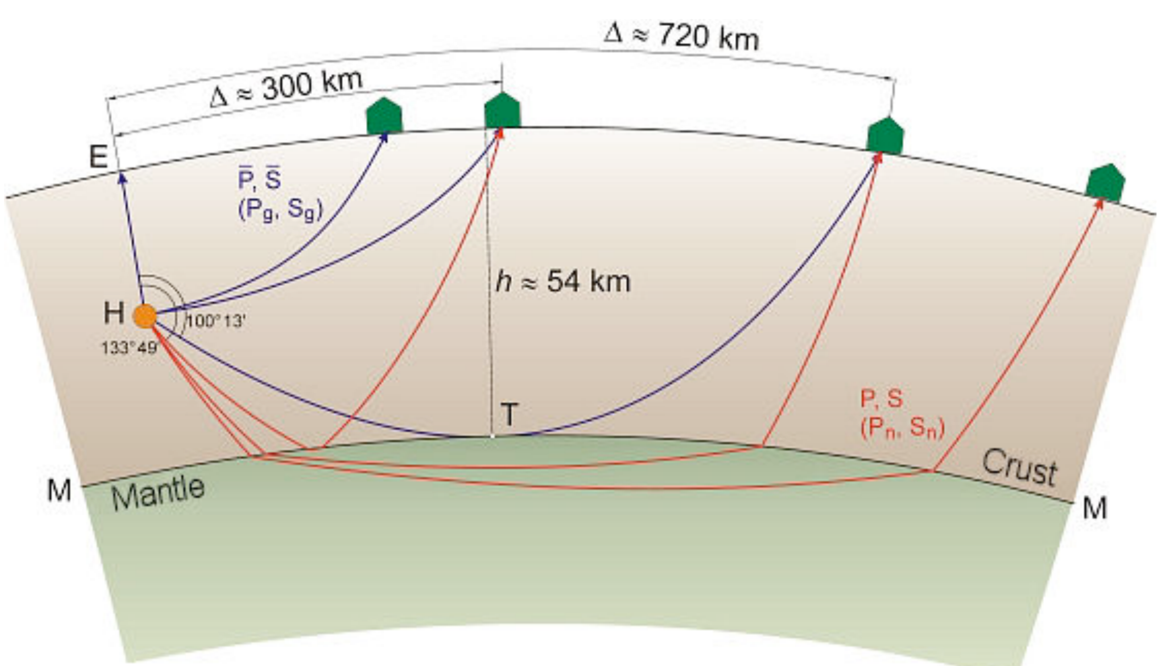
http://www.iris.edu/hq/programs/education_and_outreach/animations/13

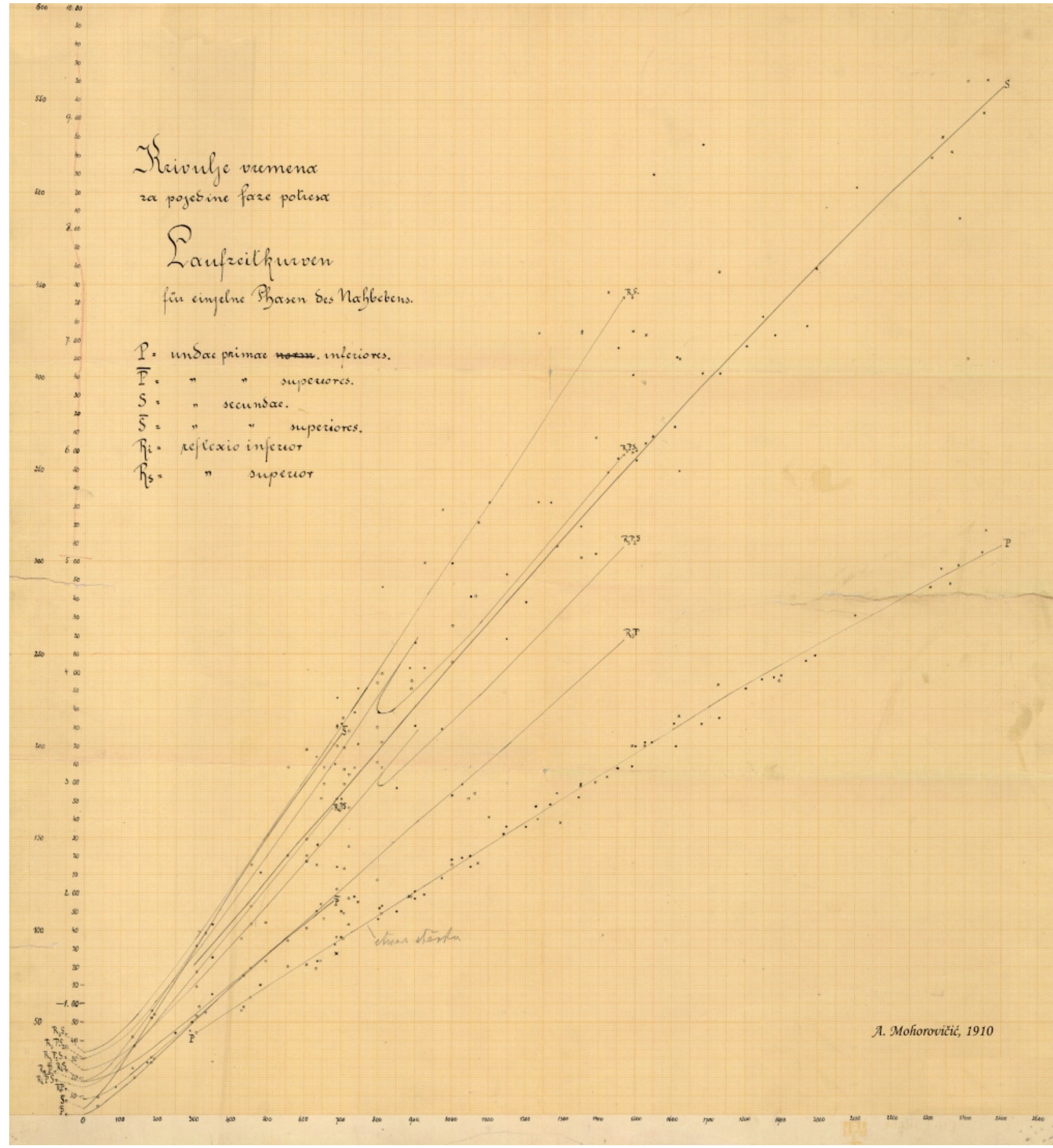
http://home.chpc.utah.edu/~thorne/animations.html

Earth's crust

Andrija MOHOROVIČIĆ

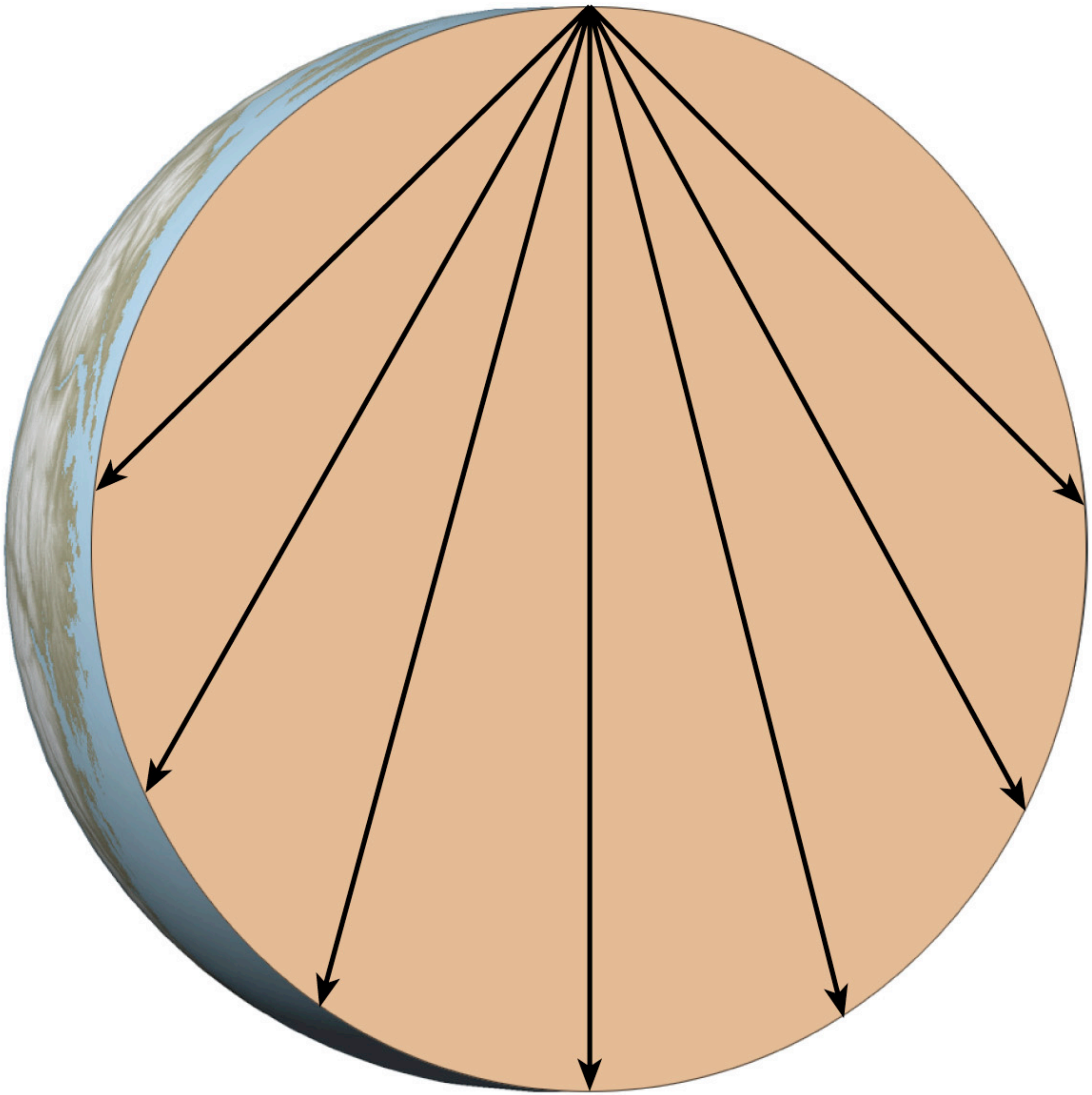
Godišnje izvješće zagrebačkog meteorološkog opservatorija za godinu 1909. Godina IX, dio IV. - polovina 1. Potres od 8. X. 1909



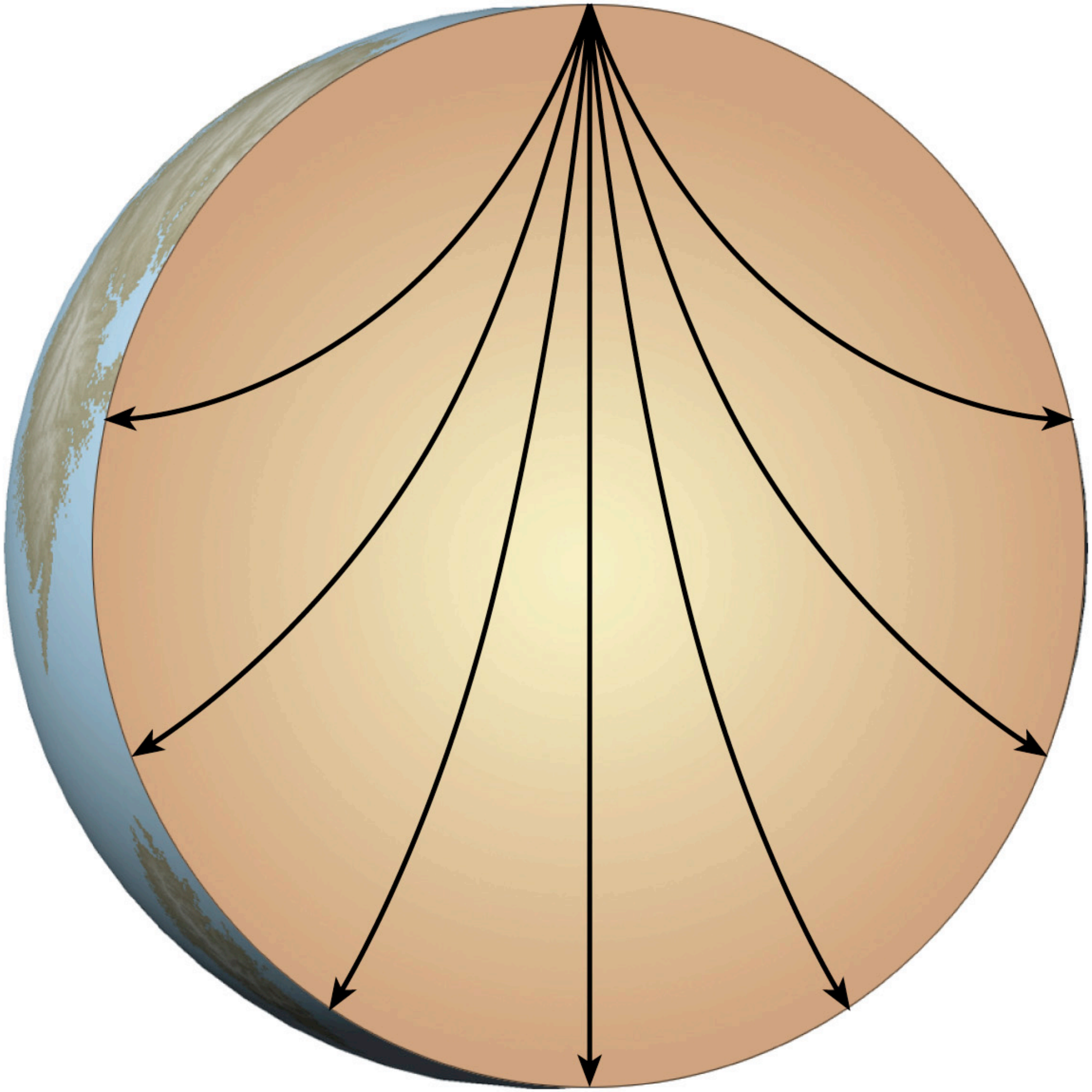


http://www.gfz.hr/sobe-en/discontinuity.htm

Rays in homogeneous sphere



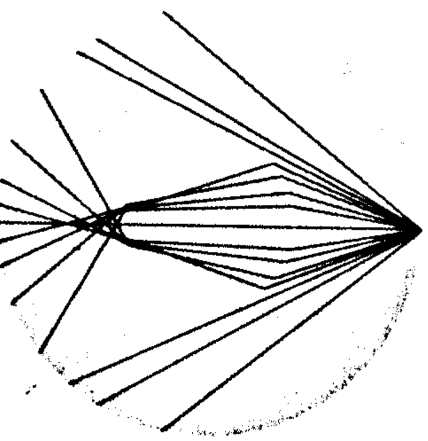
Sphere with increasing velocity...



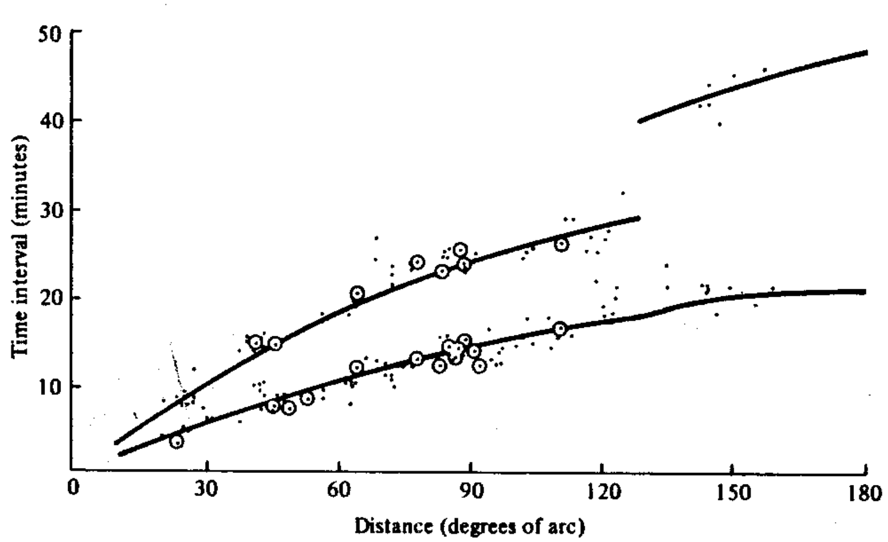
Earth's core

Richard Dixon Oldham

The Constitution of the Earth as revealed by earthquakes, Quart. J. Geological Soc. Lond., 62, 456-475, 1906



Paths of seismic waves through the Earth assuming a core of radius 0.4*R*, in which the speed is 3 km/sec, while the speed outside it is 6 km/sec. [From Oldham, 1906.]

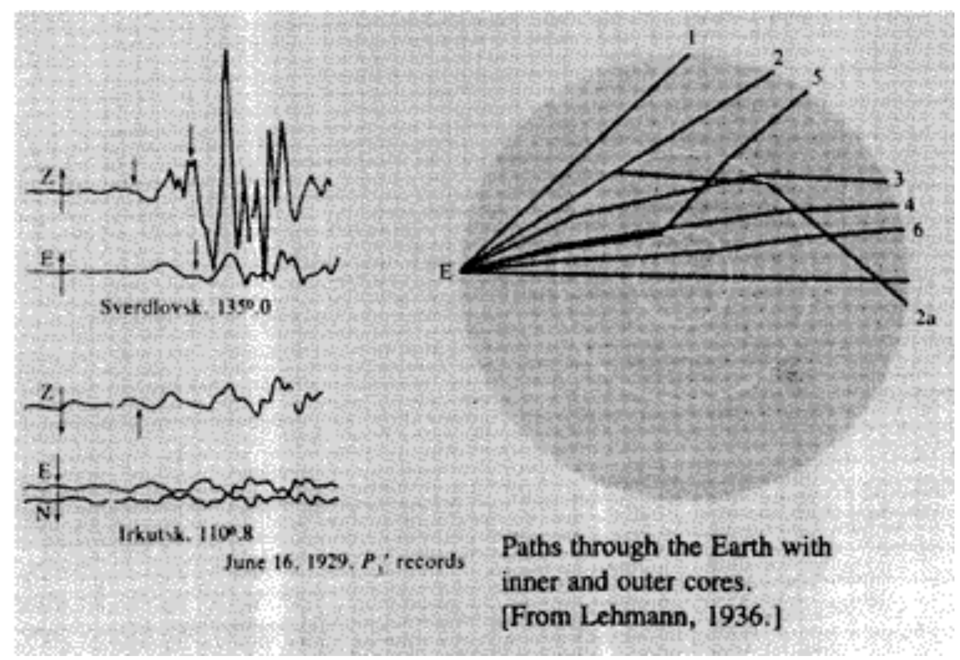


Time curves of first and second phases of preliminary tremors. The marks surrounded by circles are averages. [From Oldham, 1906.]

Beno Gutenberg

1914 Über Erdbebenwellen VIIA. Nachr. Ges. Wiss. Göttingen Math. Physik. Kl, 166.

who calculated depth of the core as 2900km or 0.545R



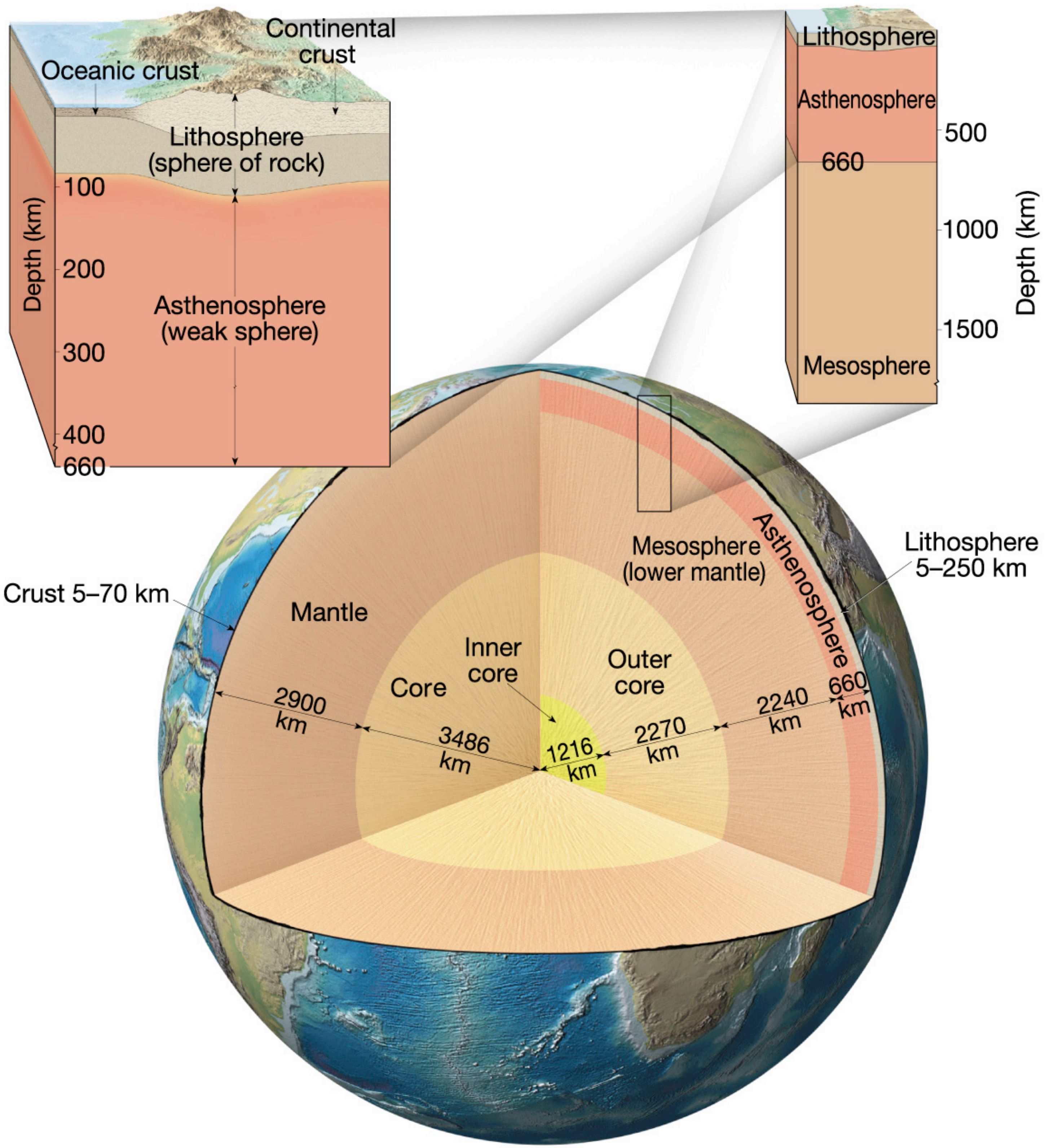
Paths through the Earth with inner and outer cores. [From Lehmann, 1936.]

Inge Lehmann

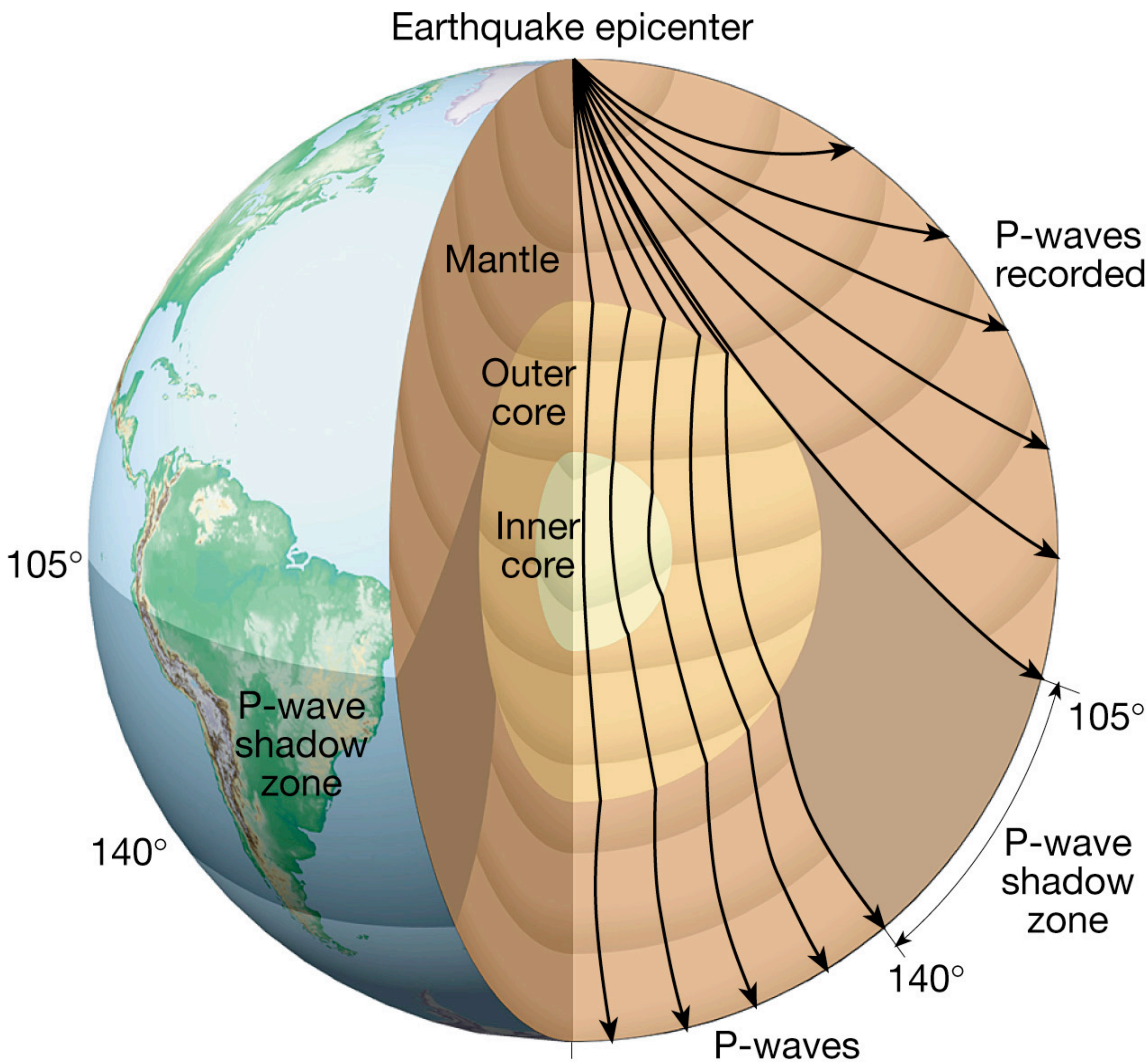
Bureau Central Seismologique International, Series A, Travaux Scientifiques, 14, 88, 1936.

who discovered of the earth's inner core.

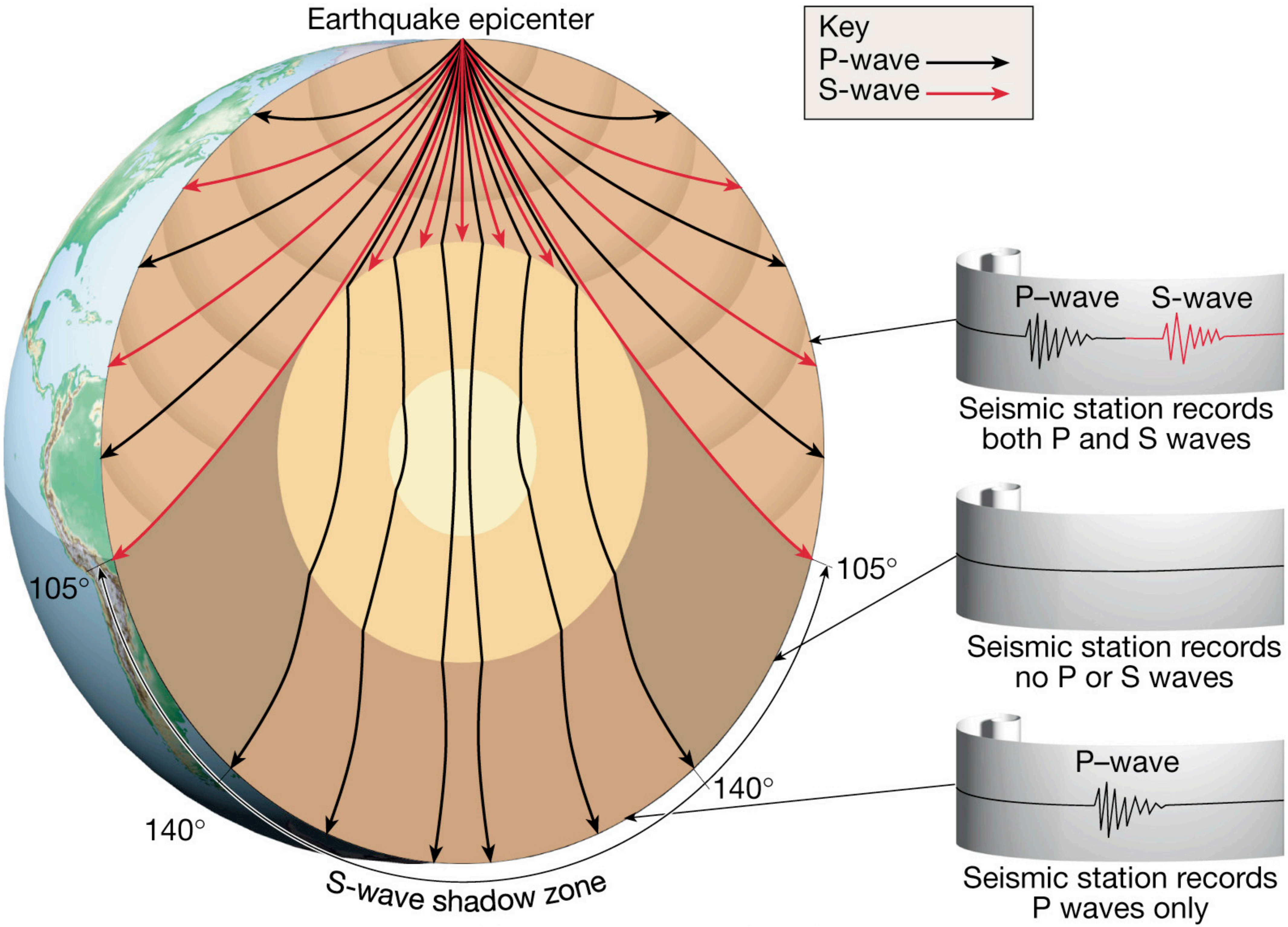
Earth layered structure



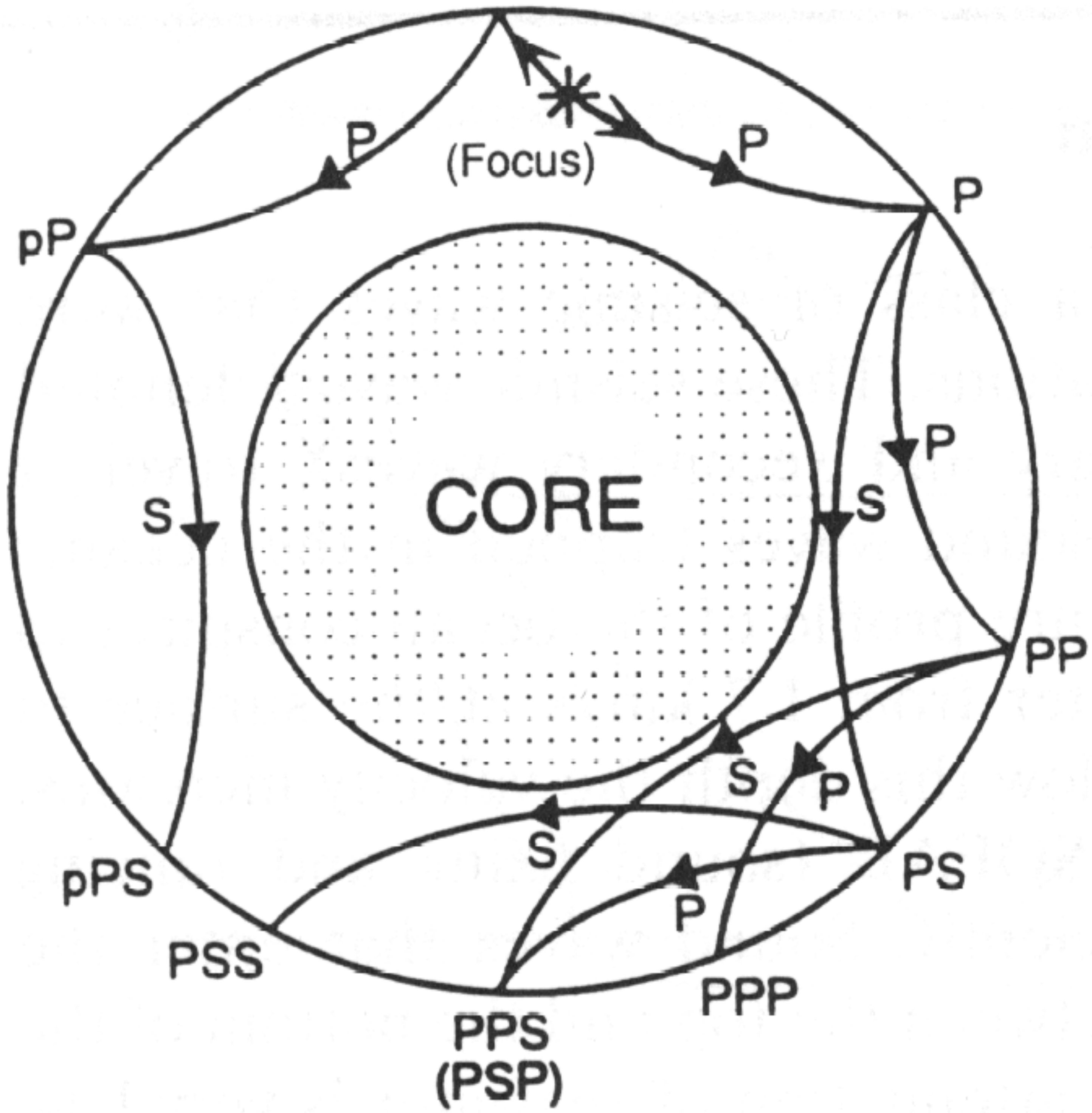
Ray Paths in the Earth (1)



Ray Paths in the Earth (2)

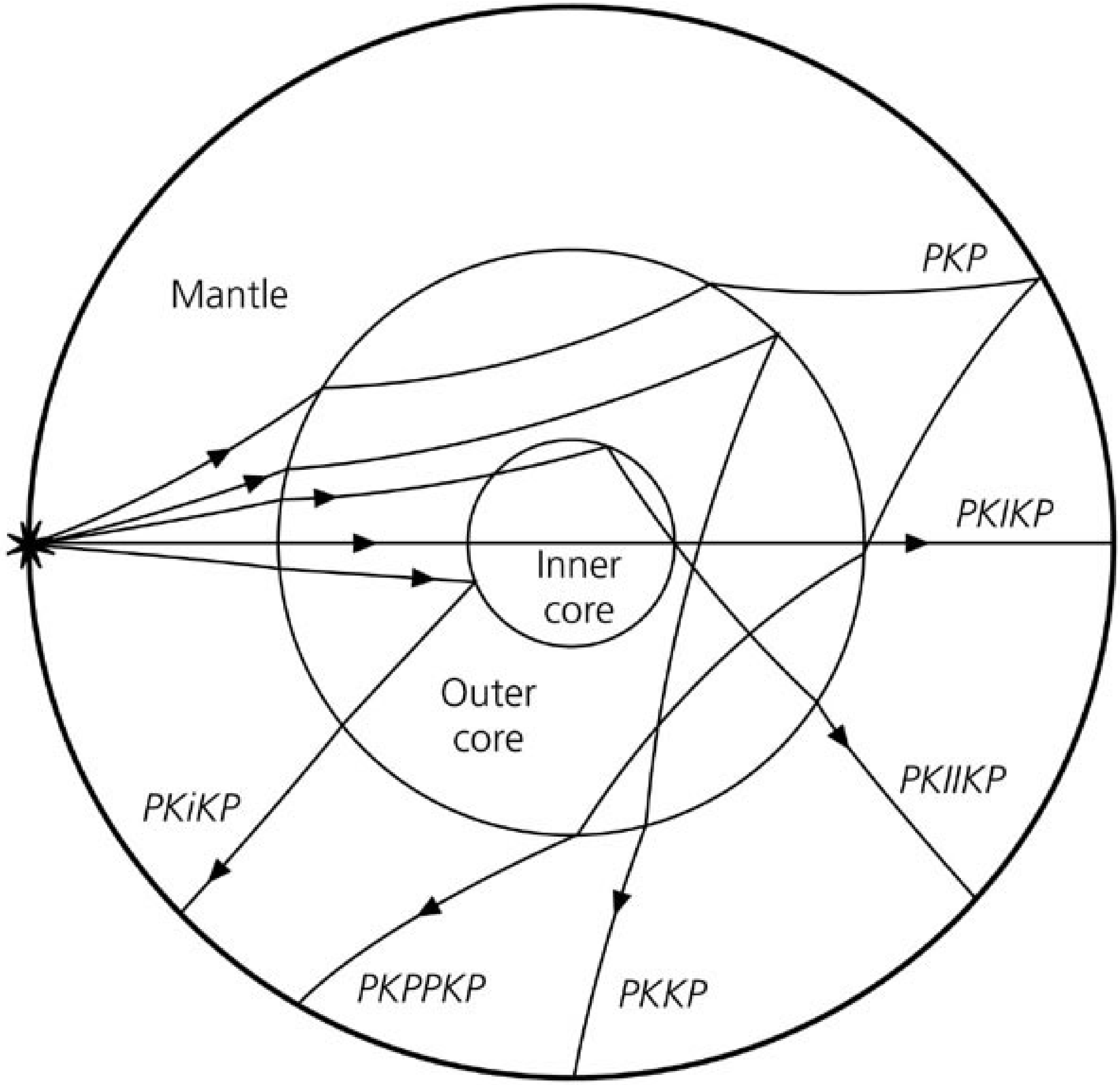


Ray Paths in the Earth (3)



Ray Paths in the Earth (4)

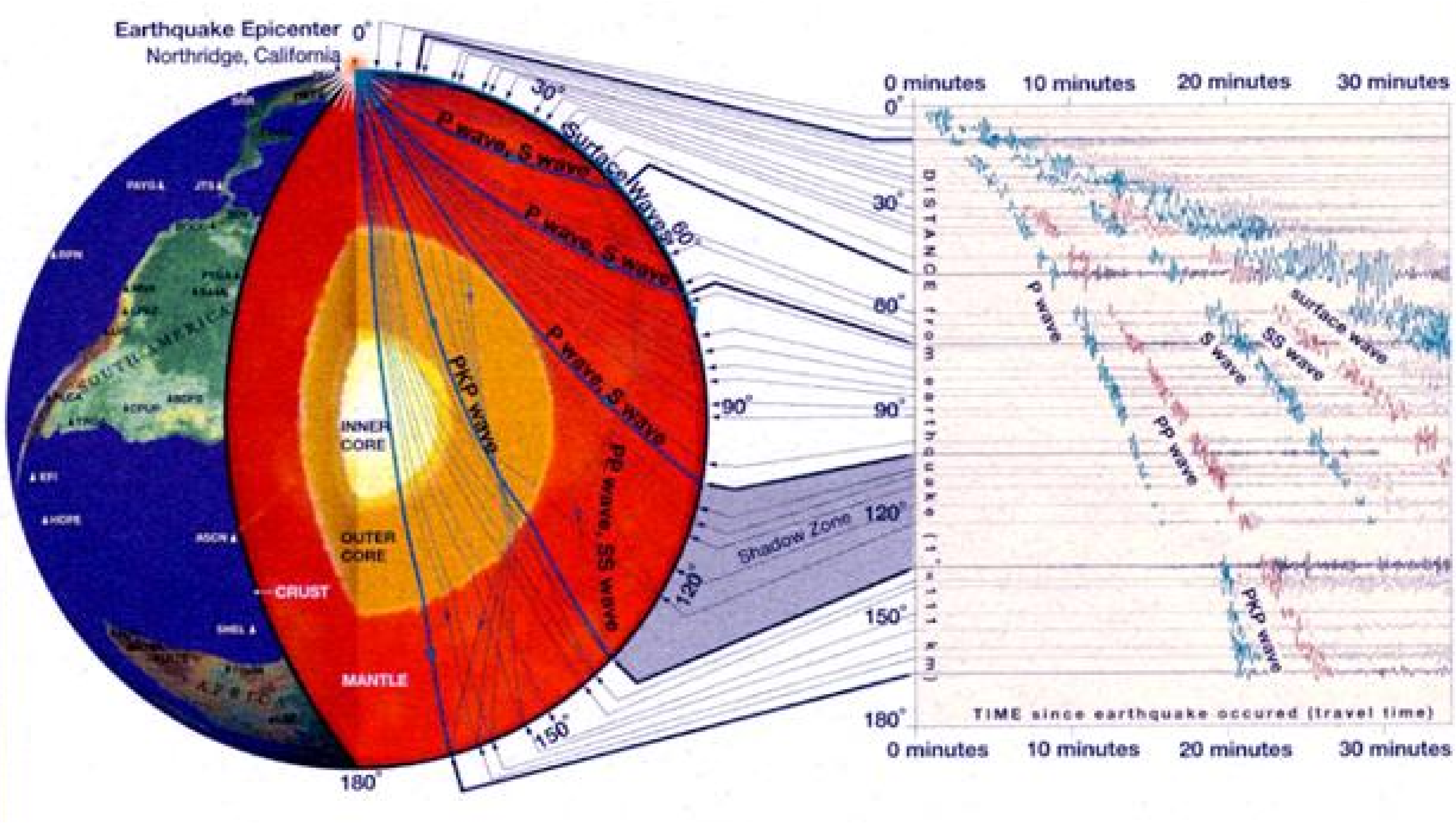
Figure 3.5-10: Ray paths for additional core phases.



Ray Paths in the Earth - Names

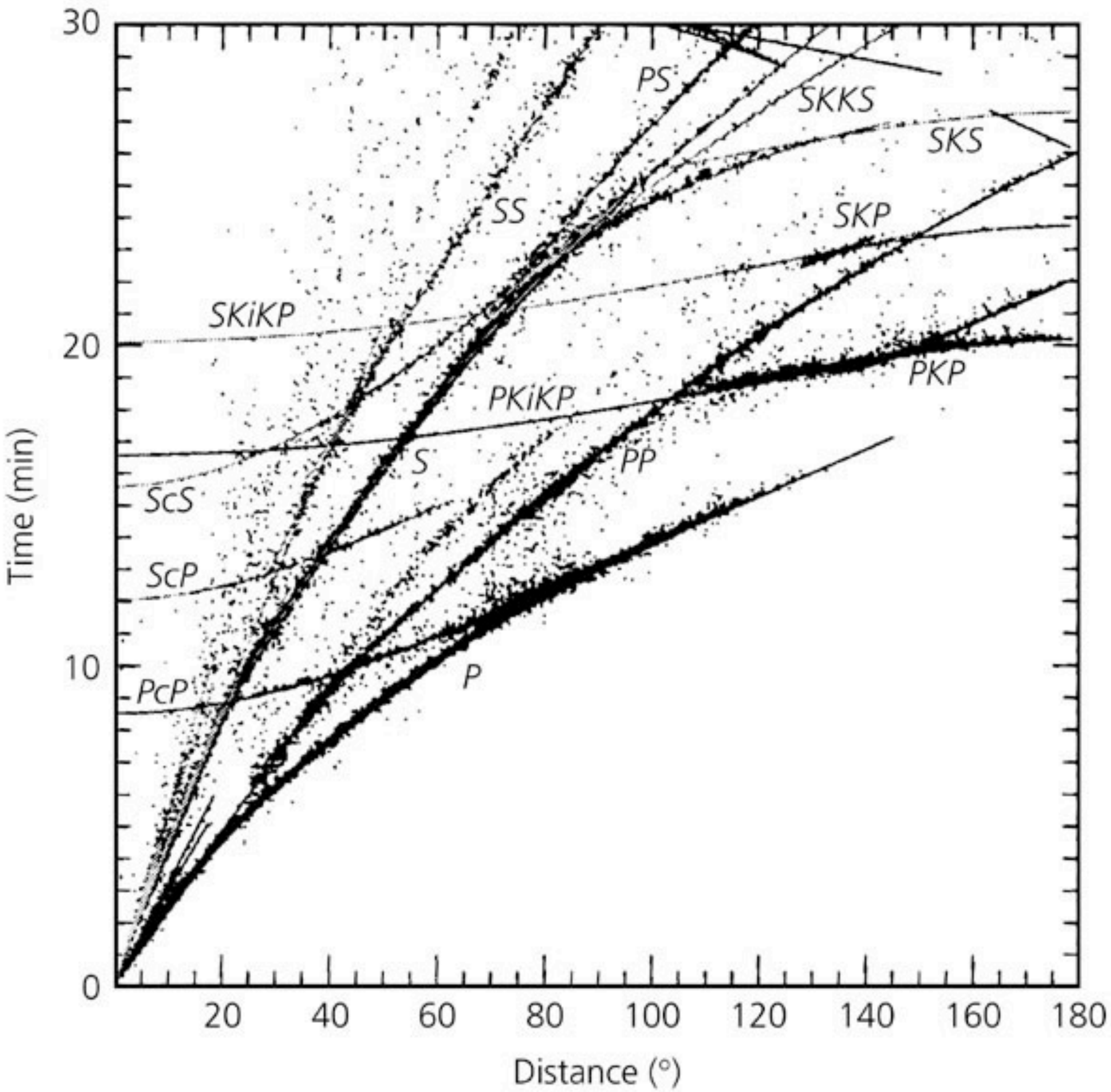
P	P waves
S	S waves
small p	depth phases (P)
small s	depth phases (S)
c	Reflection from CMB
K	wave inside core
i	Reflection from Inner core boundary
I	wave through inner core

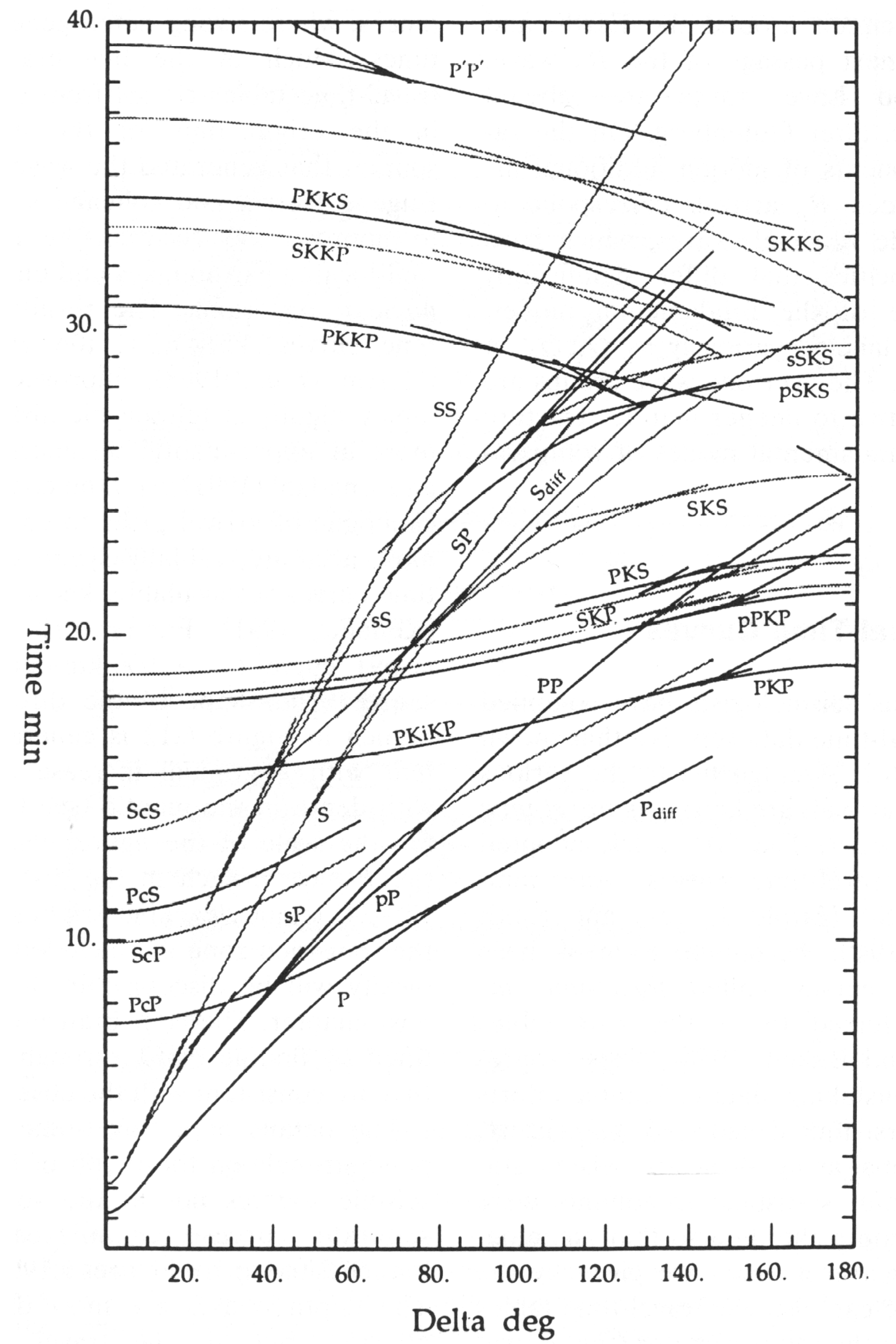
Travel times in the real Earth



Travel times in the Earth

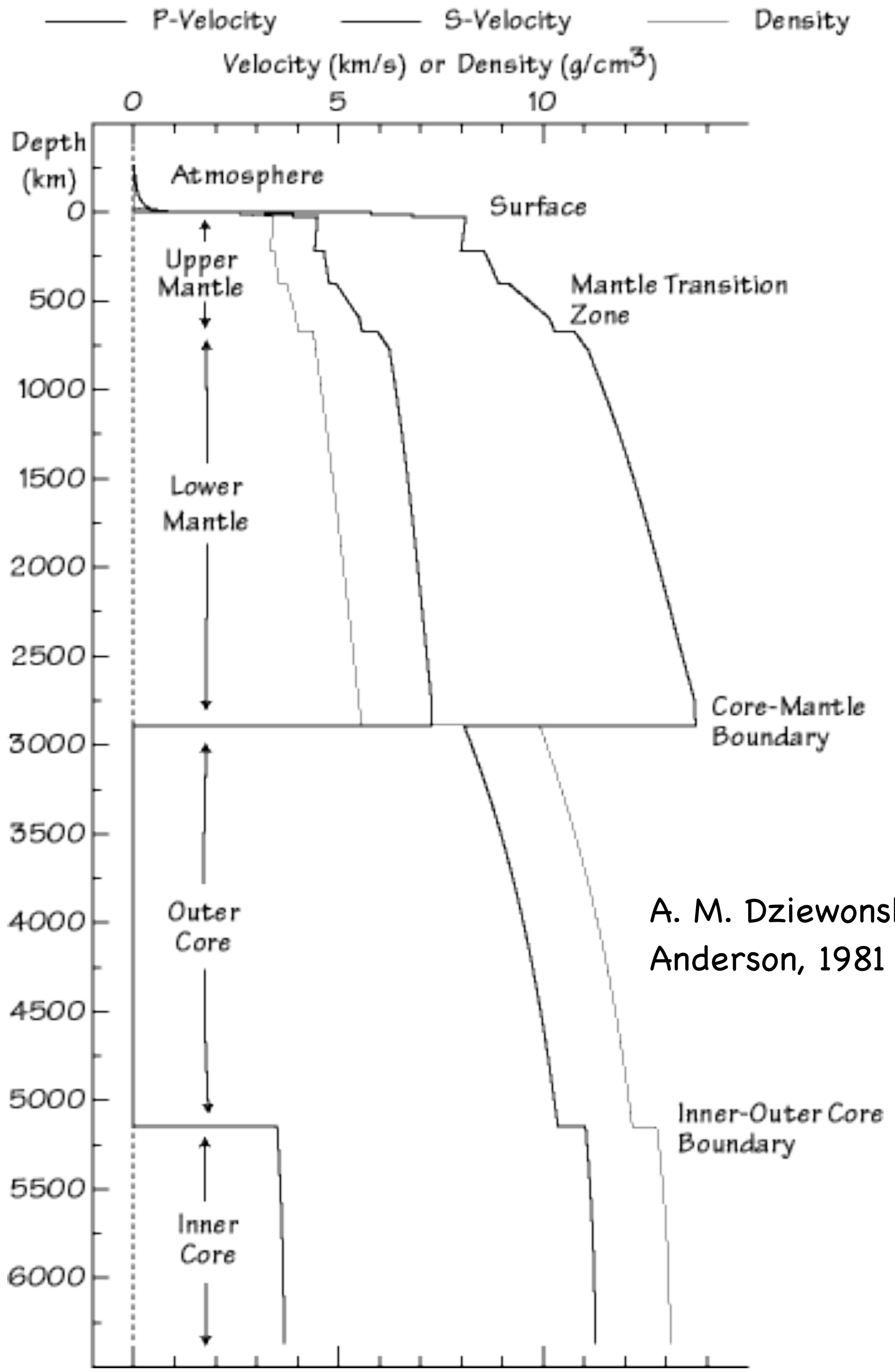
Figure 3.5-3: Travel time data and curves for the IASP91 model.





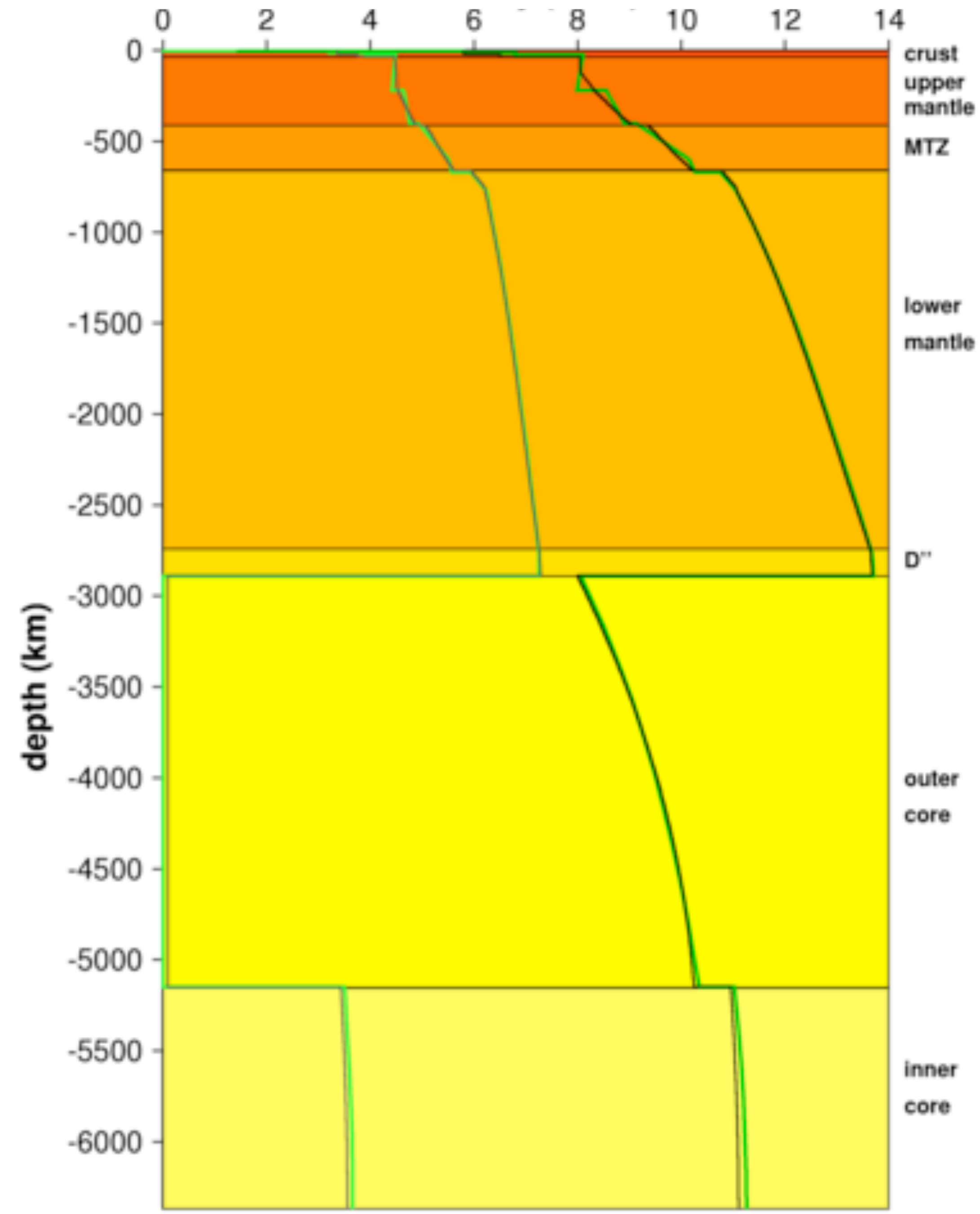
Kennett, B. L. N., and E. R. Engdahl (1991). Traveltimes for global earthquake location and phase identification. Geophysical Journal International 122, 429–465.

Spherically symmetric models



A. M. Dziewonski & D. L. Anderson, 1981

Velocity and density variations within Earth based on seismic observations. The main regions of Earth and important boundaries are labeled. This model was developed in the early 1980's and is called **PREM** for Preliminary Earth Reference Model.



Model **PREM** giving S and P wave velocities (light and dark green lines) in the earth's interior in comparison with the younger **IASP91** model (thin grey and black lines)

http://www.iris.edu/ds/products/emc-referencemodels/