

# Course of Geodynamics

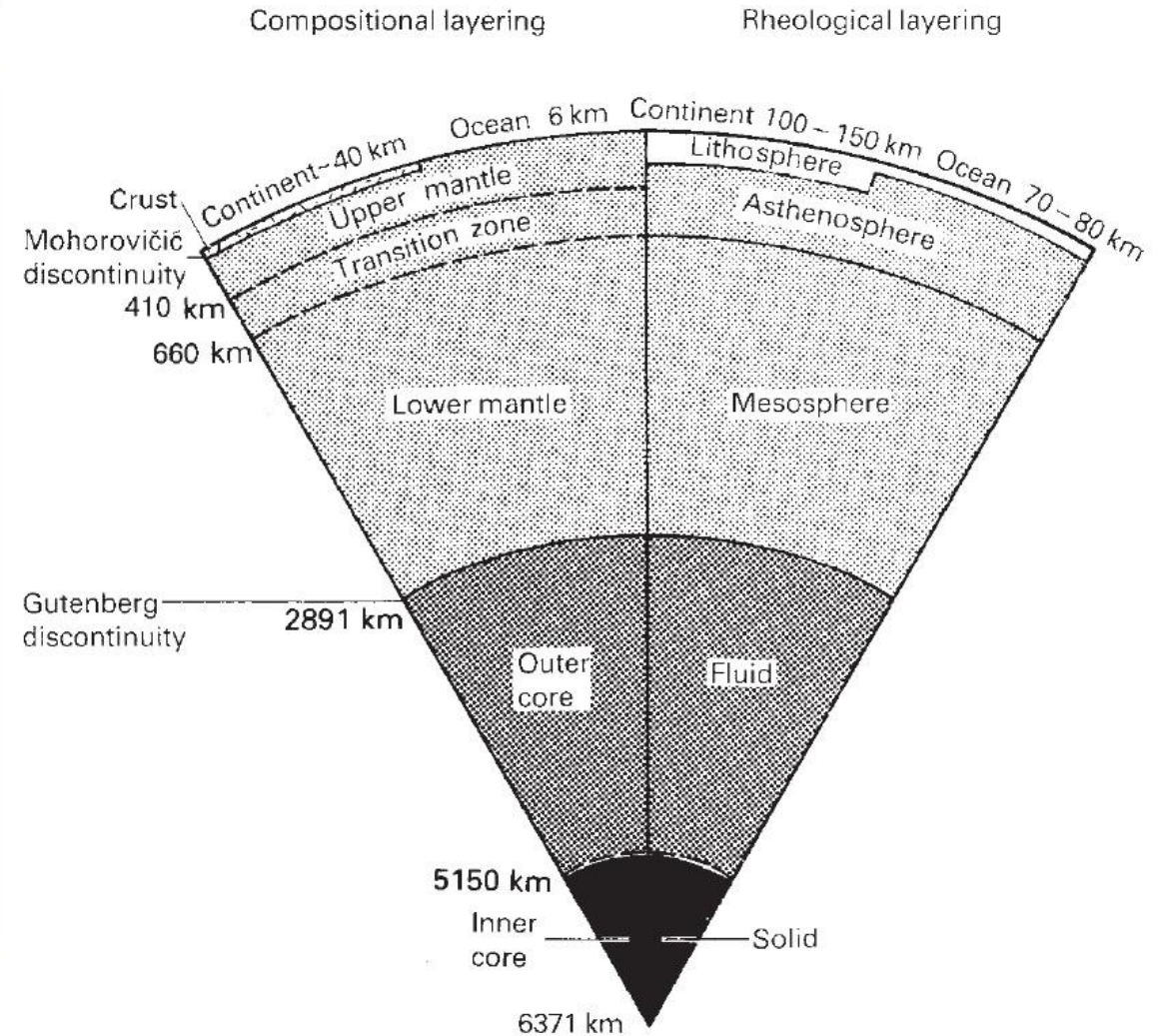
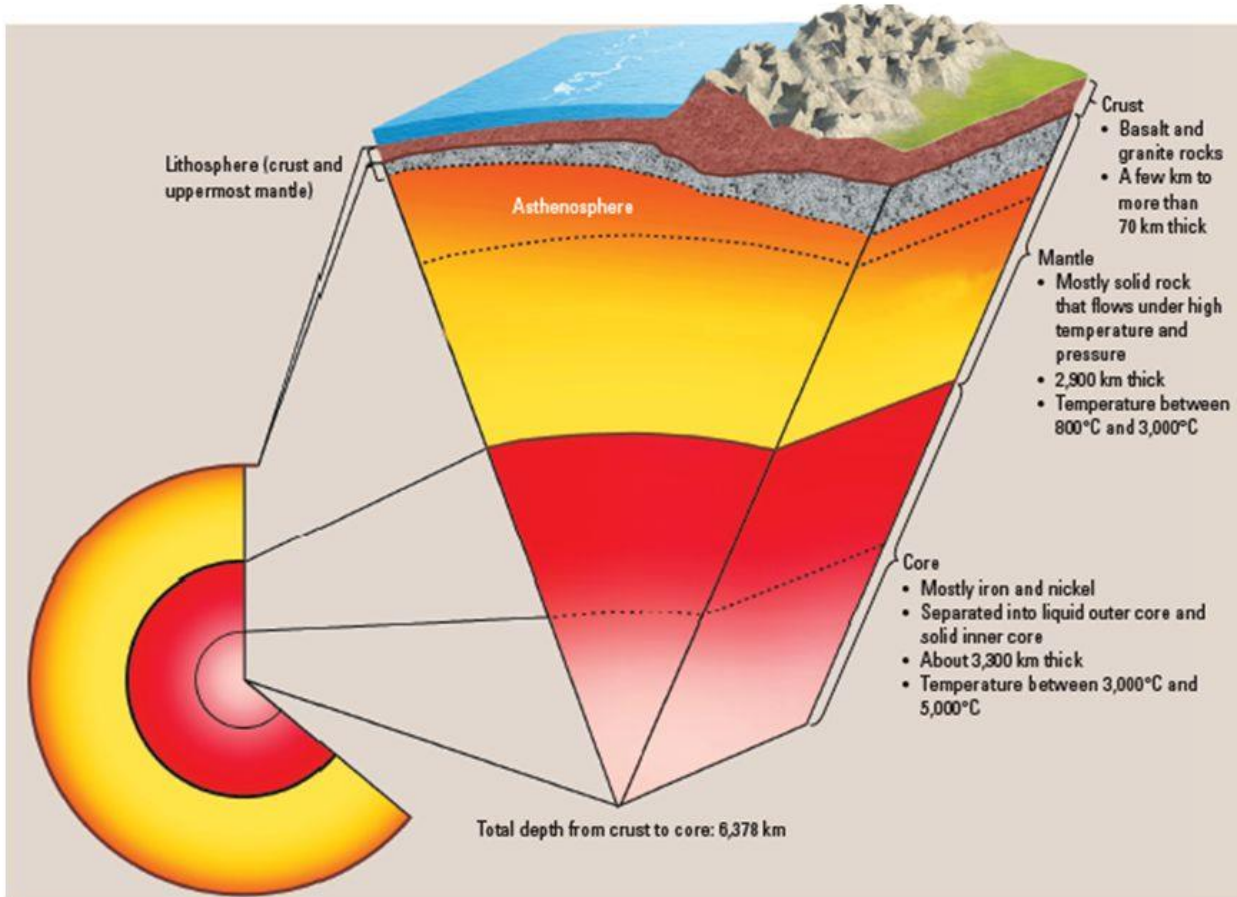
**Dr. Magdala Tesauro**

## **Course Outline:**

- 1. Thermo-physical structure of the continental and oceanic crust**
2. Thermo-physical structure of the continental lithosphere
3. Thermo-physical structure of the oceanic lithosphere and oceanic ridges
4. Rheology and mechanics of the lithosphere
5. Plate tectonics and boundary forces
6. Hot spots, plumes, and convection
7. Subduction zones systems
8. Orogens formation and evolution
9. Sedimentary basins formation and evolution

# Earth's Structure

## What is the internal structure of the earth?



# Mantle Structure

- At least 90% of the **mantle** by mass can be represented in terms of the oxides FeO, MgO, and SiO<sub>2</sub>, and a further 5–10% is made up of CaO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and Na<sub>2</sub>O. These oxides form minerals, such as olivine (~50 % or more), pyroxenes (~30%), and garnet (15% or less).
- The two major velocity discontinuities at 410 km and 660 km, marking the top and bottom of the **mantle transition zone**, are due to phase of the olivine into spinel and perovskite, respectively.
- The other components of mantle peridotite, pyroxene, and garnet, also undergo phase changes in this depth range but they are gradual and do not produce discontinuities in the variation of seismic velocity with depth.
- The low velocity zone (**asthenosphere**) is characterized by low seismic velocities, high seismic attenuation, and a high electrical conductivity, likely due to the presence of molten material. (~ 1% or less).

*Phase transformations of olivine that are thought to define the upper mantle transition zone (after Helffrich & Wood, 2001).*

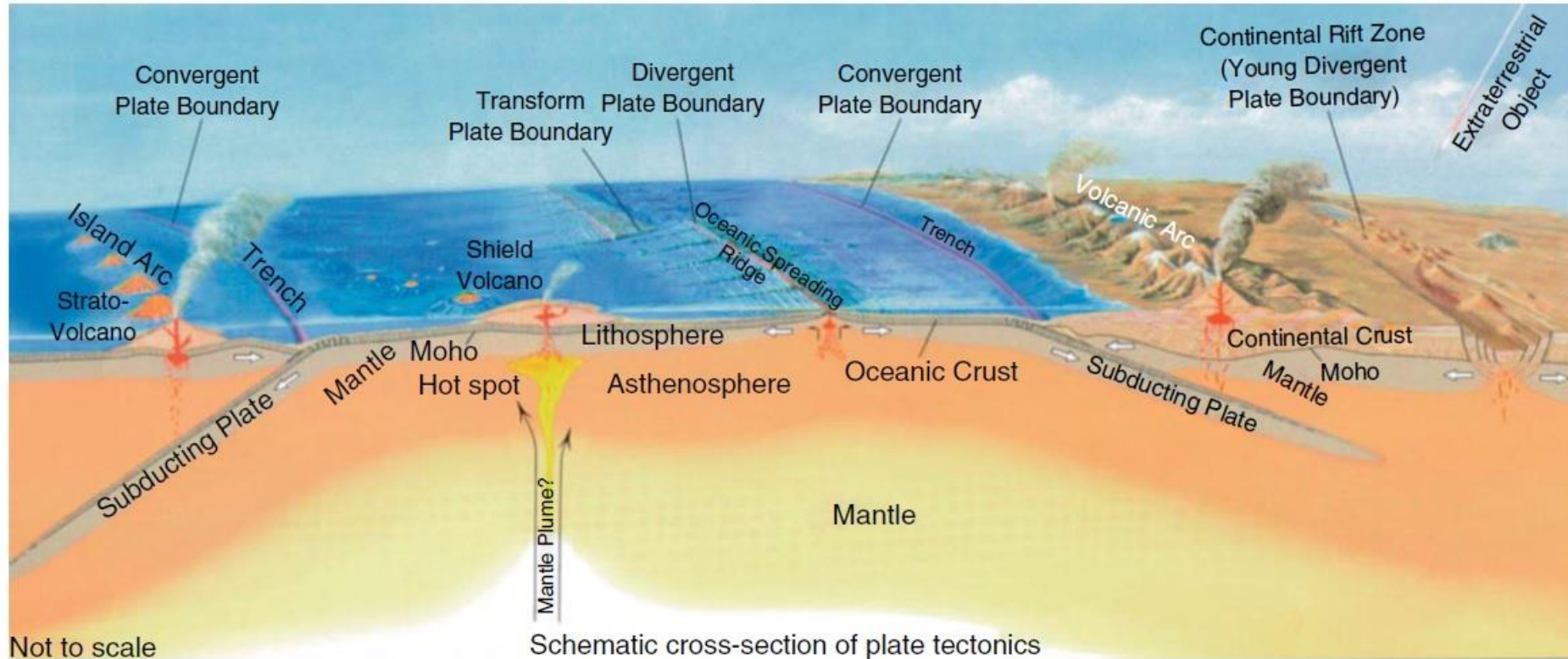
<b>Depth</b>	<b>Pressure</b>	
410 km	13–14 GPa	(Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> = (Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> Olivine      Wadsleyite (β-spinel structure)
520 km	18 GPa	(Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> = (Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> Wadsleyite      Ringwoodite (γ-spinel structure)
660 km	23 GPa	(Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> = (Mg,Fe)SiO <sub>3</sub> + (Mg,Fe)O Ringwoodite      Perovskite      Magnesiowüstite

# Mantle and Core Structure

- The **lower mantle** represents approximately 70% of the mass of the solid Earth and almost 50% of the mass of the entire Earth. It is assumed relatively homogeneous in its mineralogy, having mostly a perovskite structure, but the penetration of subducted oceanic lithosphere through the 660 km discontinuity may make it compositionally heterogeneous.
- The lowest 200–300 km of the mantle, Layer D'' is characterized by a change in seismic velocity, it is very heterogeneous, suggesting that the liquid iron of the core reacts with mantle silicates in Layer D'', with the production of metallic alloys and nonmetallic silicates from perovskite.
- The **outer core**, at a depth of 2891–5150 km, does not transmit *S* waves and thus must be fluid. The convective motions responsible for the geomagnetic field involve velocities of  $\sim 10^4$  m yr<sup>-1</sup>, five orders of magnitude larger than convection in the mantle.
- The **inner core** is solid, indeed both *S* and *P*-waves propagate within it and the amplitude of a phase reflected off the inner core also suggests that it must have a finite rigidity.
- This iron–nickel mixture provides a composition for the outer core, while the inner core has a seismic velocity and density consistent with a composition of pure iron.
- Other light elements present in the outer core, which include silicon, sulfur, oxygen, and potassium.

# Physical properties of the crust and mantle lithosphere

## *Why do we want to study them?*



- Modulate the rate at which heat is released to the Earth's surface
- Regulate mantle convection
- Determine the location of earthquakes and volcanoes
- Define the rules for plate tectonic processes

# Seismological techniques to explore the crust

## Active-source data (utilize man-made sources):

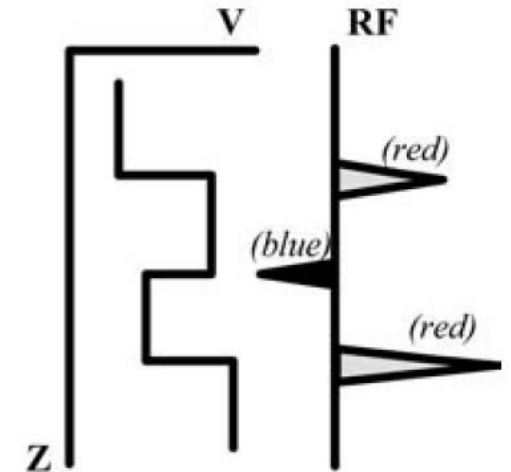
- Seismic refraction: reliable information about the distribution of seismic velocities within the crust and Moho depth.
- Seismic reflection: detailed structural image of the crust (resolution=50 m), allows correlation of the reflectivity patterns (due to composition, metamorphic layering, fault zones and lenses of partial melt) with distinct geologic settings, but weak constraints on deep crustal velocities.

## Passive-source data (derived from naturally occurring seismicity):

- Seismic tomography: Local and distant (teleseismic) earthquake data can be used to determine crustal and mantle structure, by examining the arrival times of many criss-crossing paths between the earthquakes and seismometers.
- Surface waves: They are generated by the earthquakes. Vertical resolution of the obtained  $V_s$  models is generally lower if compared to a  $V_p$  tomography. However, the coverage is higher and more homogeneous.

Receiver functions (RF): It is based on the analysis of converted  $P$  and  $S$  phases at seismic discontinuities beneath seismic stations.

- The amplitudes of the arrivals in RF depend on the incidence angle of the impinging wave and on the velocity contrast across the seismic converter.
- The RF method does not determine absolute velocity, but it is particularly suitable for detecting sharp layer boundaries, such as Moho depth, corresponding to a positive polarity of the converted phase ( $P$ -wave receiver functions) and lithosphere-asthenosphere boundary, corresponding to a negative polarity of the converted phase ( $S$ -wave receiver functions).



## Other geophysical techniques to explore the crust

- Gravity anomalies: reveal rock density variations, with the amplitude of the anomaly proportional to the density contrast and thickness of the anomalous body. Short-wavelength (<250 km) gravity anomalies are usually correlated with crustal structures, while long wavelength (<1000km) gravity anomalies are correlated with lateral variations of mantle densities.
- Aeromagnetics: rocks commonly retain magnetism that originates from the time of their formation. The remnant magnetization of a mineral is fixed in the direction of the Earth's magnetic field when the mineral is cooled below the Curie temperature (about 580 °C) and removed when heated above this temperature. An example is given by a series of magnetic stripes, originating from the mid-ocean ridge.
- Geoelectrical measurements: At intermediate depths, conductivity depends on water content and composition (particularly graphite and sulfide content). At great depths, where temperatures rise to at least 500 °C, conductivity is mainly a function of electron and ion mobility. The magneto-telluric method relies on measurements of five separate components of the time-varying electromagnetic field at the surface of the Earth.
- Heat flow data: The highest heat flow values are found at mid-ocean ridges and within geothermal zones and active volcanoes. Heat flow data reflect radiogenic heat production in the crust and heat transferred from the convecting mantle.
- Borehole data: provide direct sampling of the composition of the upper crust, as well as measurements of *in situ* seismic velocities, density, temperature, state of stress, rock porosity, and the fluid pressure to depths of 3-5 km.

# How old is the Earth?

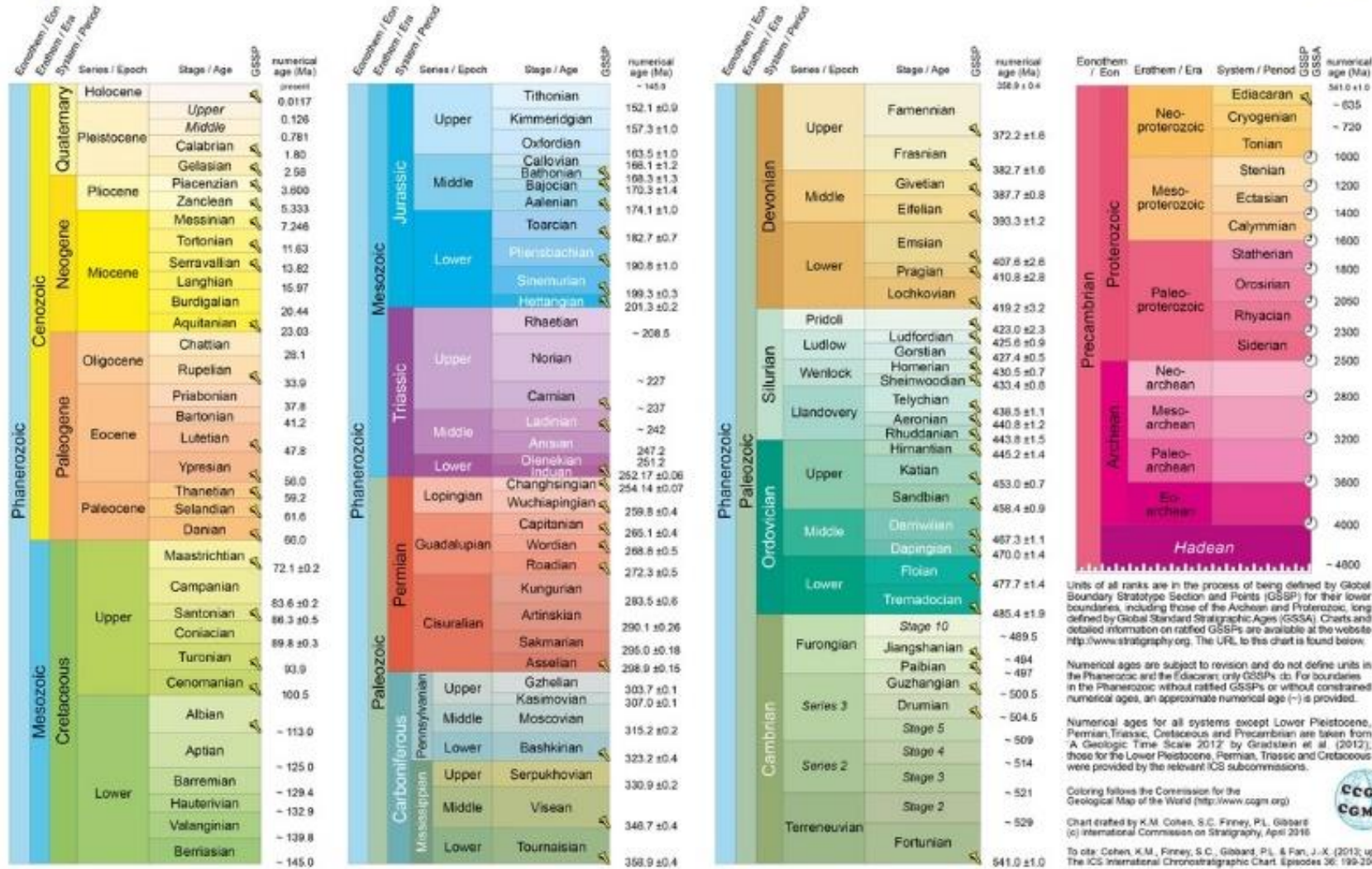


## INTERNATIONAL CHRONOSTRATIGRAPHIC CHART

www.stratigraphy.org

International Commission on Stratigraphy

v 2016/04



Units of all ranks are in the process of being defined by Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Points (GSSP) for their lower boundaries, including those of the Archean and Proterozoic, long defined by Global Standard Stratigraphic Ages (GSSA). Charts and detailed information on ratified GSSPs are available at the website <http://www.stratigraphy.org>. The URL to this chart is found below.

Numerical ages are subject to revision and do not define units in the Phanerozoic and the Ediacaran; only GSSPs do. For boundaries in the Phanerozoic without ratified GSSPs or without constrained numerical ages, an approximate numerical age (-) is provided.

Numerical ages for all systems except Lower Pleistocene, Permian, Triassic, Cretaceous and Precambrian are taken from 'A Geologic Time Scale 2012' by Gradstein et al. (2012); those for the Lower Pleistocene, Permian, Triassic and Cretaceous were provided by the relevant ICS sub-commissions.

Coloring follows the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (<http://www.ccgw.org>)

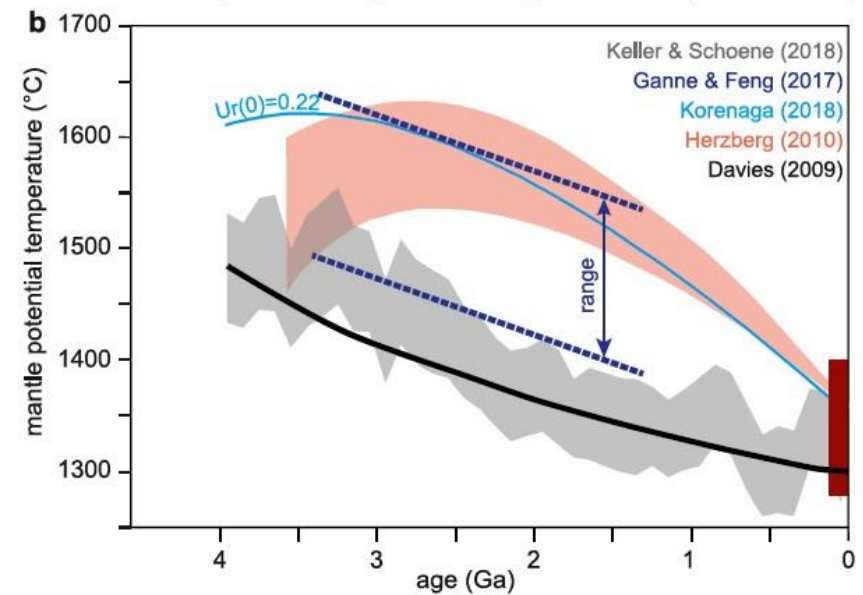
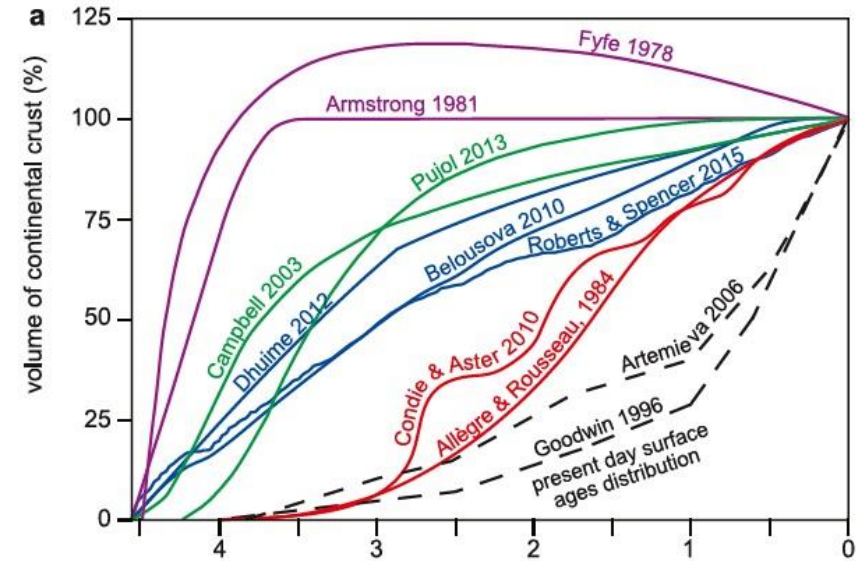
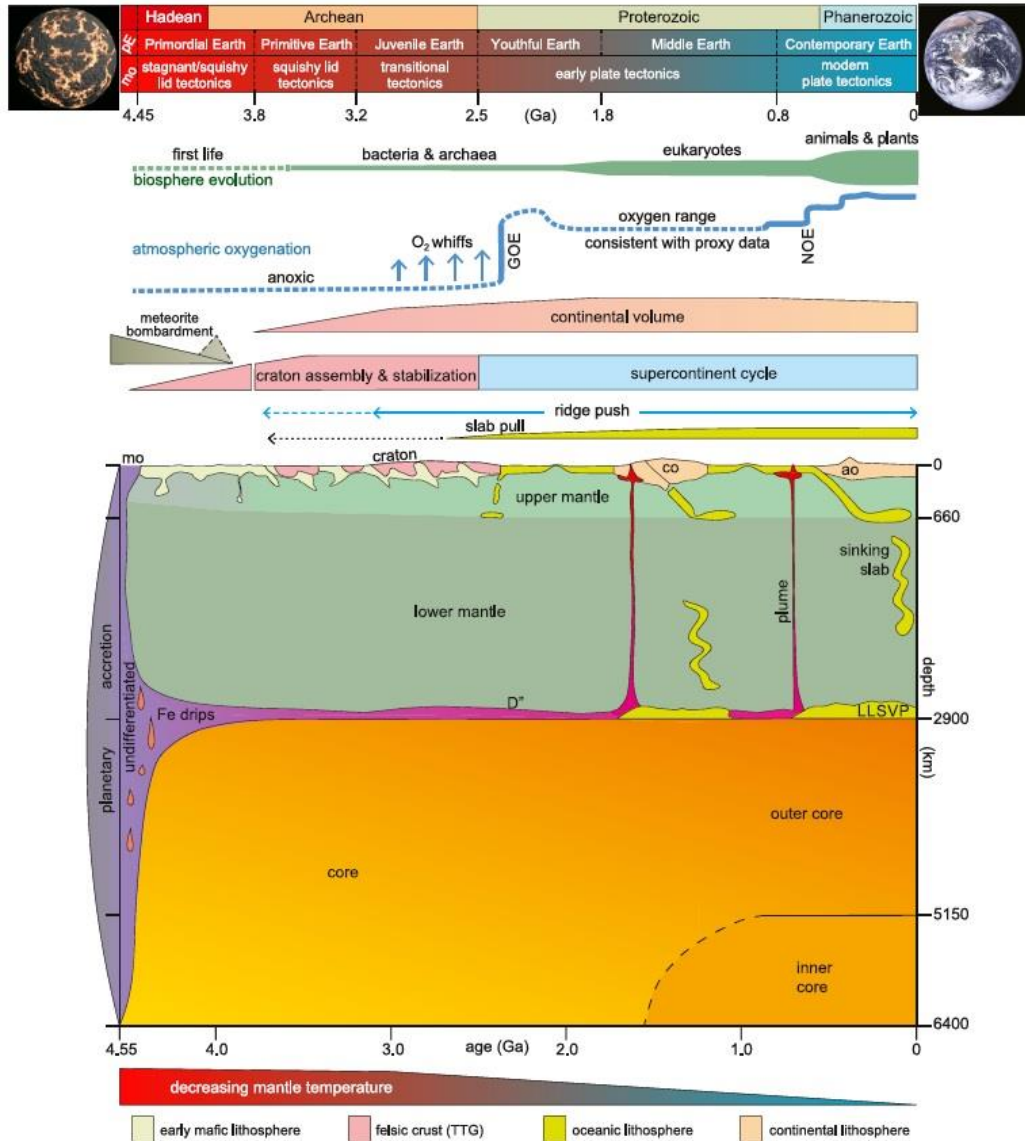
Chart drafted by K.M. Cohen, S.C. Finney, P.L. Gibbard (c) International Commission on Stratigraphy, April 2016

To cite: Cohen, K.M., Finney, S.C., Gibbard, P.L. & Fan, J.-X. (2016), updated! The ICS International Chronostratigraphic Chart. Episodes 39: 199-204.

URL: <http://www.stratigraphy.org/ICSChart/ChronostratChart2016-04.pdf>



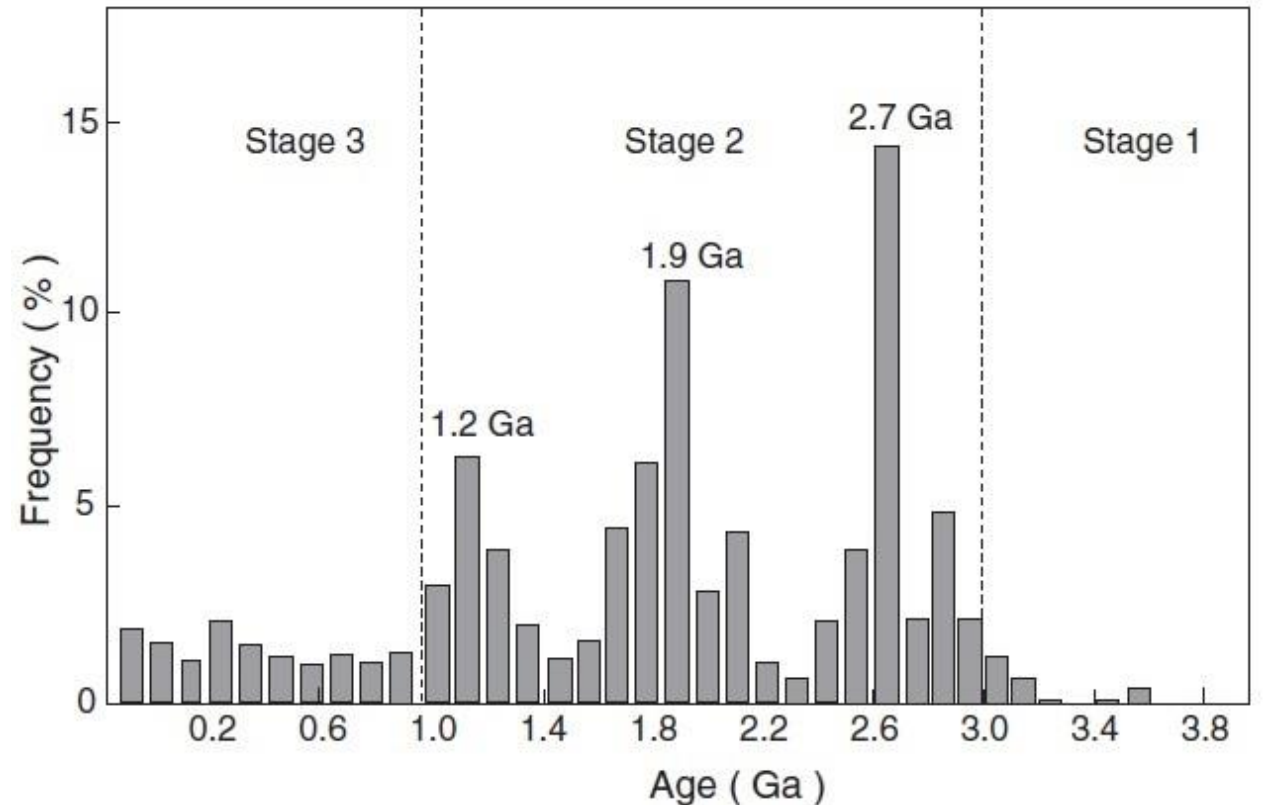
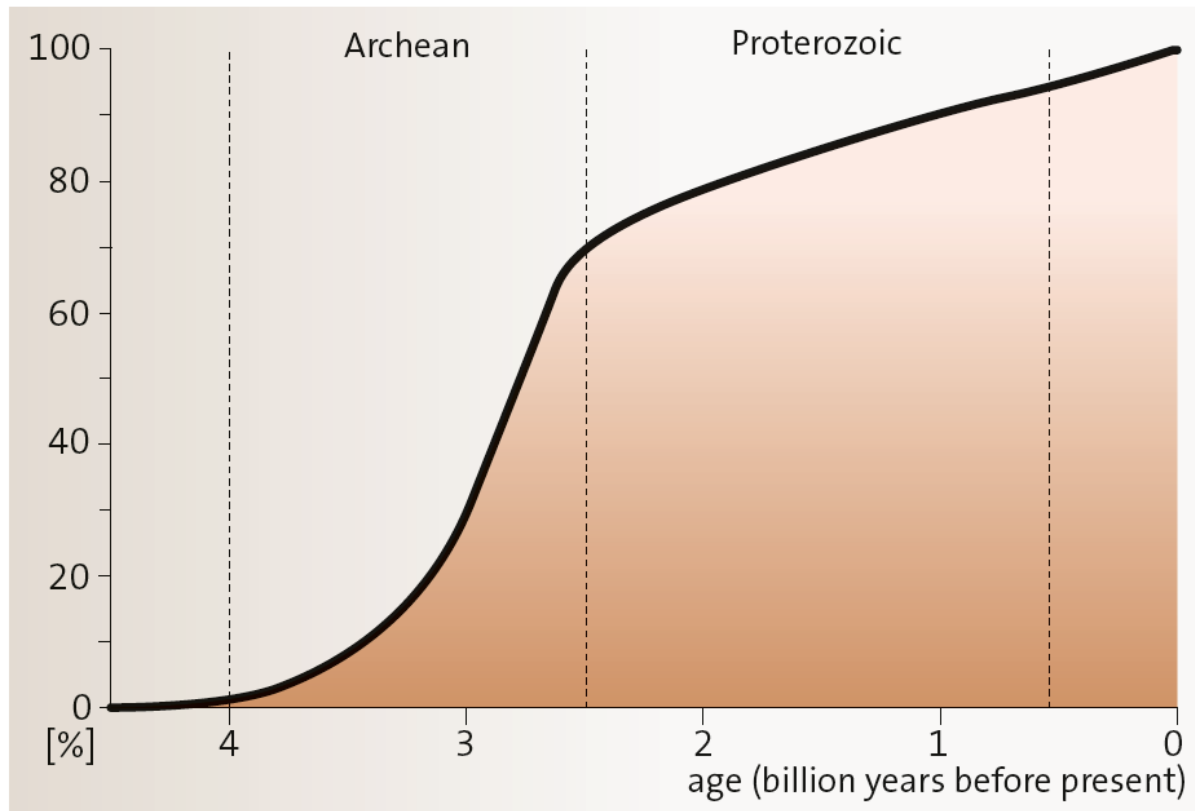
# Secular Evolution of Earth



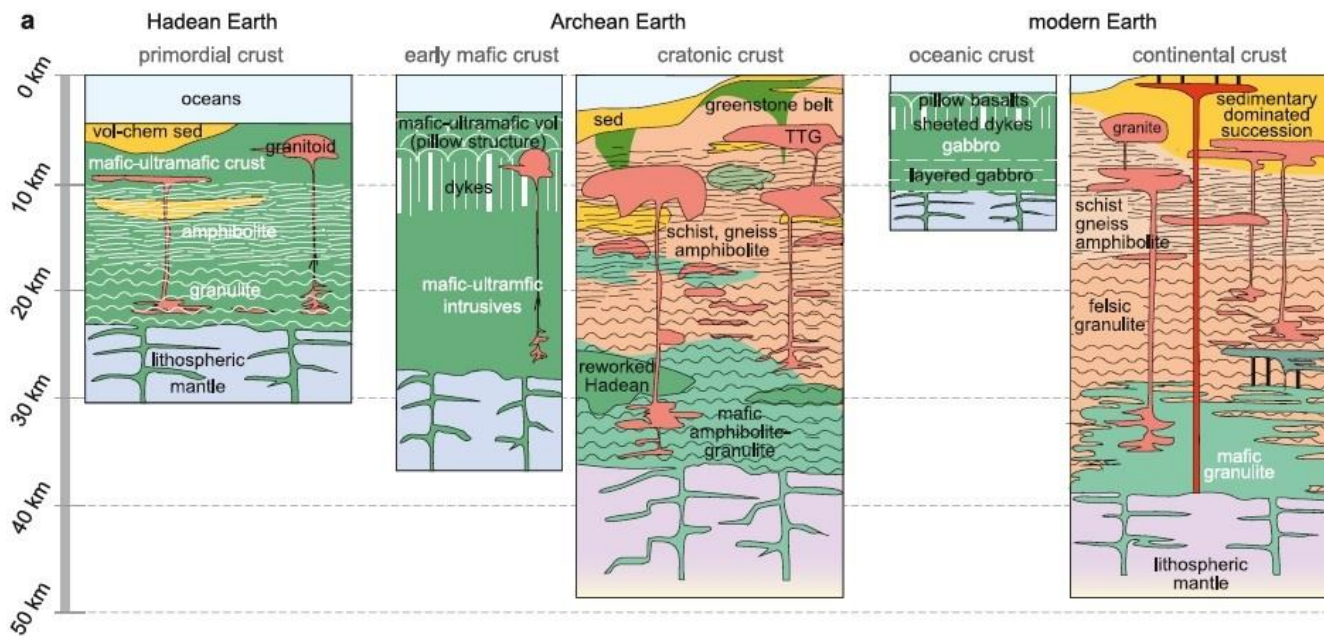
ao, accretionary orogen; co, collisional orogen; **GOE**, great oxidation event; **LLSVP**, large low-shear velocity provinces; **NOE**, Neoproterozoic oxidation event; **pE**, Proto-Earth; **mo**, magma ocean.

# Crustal Growth

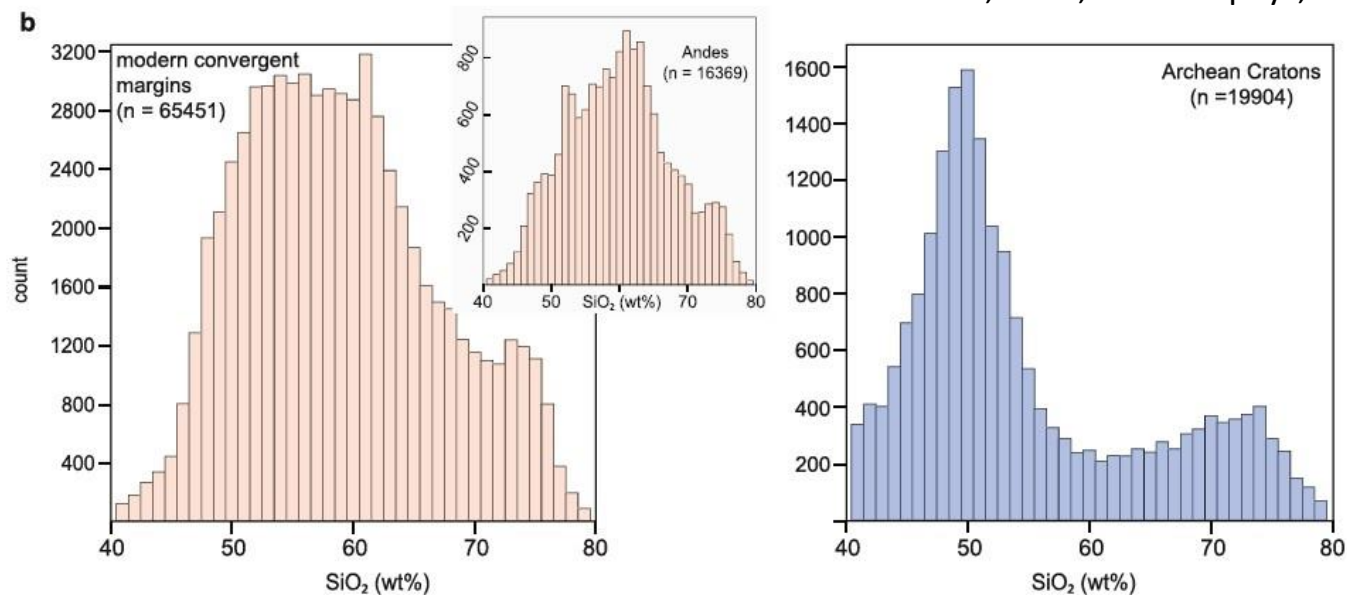
- Enormous crustal growth occurred in the second half of the Archean era (before only small, unstable continents), between 3.2 and 2.5 Gyr. This is due to the considerably more efficient production of rocks constituting continental crust above subduction zones since ca. 3.2 Gyr.
- Measurements of Nb/Th and Nb/U ratios could define the net production rate of continental crust since 3.8 Gyr (the different ratios potentially provide information on the extent of the chemical depletion and the amount of continental crust that was present on Earth at different times).
- These results and on those of isotopic age determinations suggest that crust production was episodic with rapid net growth at 2.7, 1.9, and 1.2 Gyr (with pulses of  $\leq 100$  Myr) and slower growth afterwards.
- Previous studies suggested that: 39% of the continental crust formed in the Archean, 31% in the Early Proterozoic, 12% in the Middle–Late Proterozoic, and 18% in the Phanerozoic.



# Crustal Evolution



Cawood et al., 2022, Rev. Geophys, 60



# Composition of the continental crust

Comparison of the upper, middle, lower and total continental crust compositions

<i>Element</i>	<i>Upper crust</i>	<i>Middle crust</i>	<i>Lower crust</i>	<i>Total crust</i>
SiO <sub>2</sub>	66.6	63.5	53.4	60.6
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.64	0.69	0.82	0.72
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	15.4	15.0	16.9	15.9
FeO <sub>T</sub>	5.04	6.02	8.57	6.71
MnO	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
MgO	2.48	3.59	7.24	4.66
CaO	3.59	5.25	9.59	6.41
Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.27	3.39	2.65	3.07
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.80	2.30	0.61	1.81
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.15	0.15	0.10	0.13
Total	100.05	100.00	100.00	100.12
Mg#	46.7	51.5	60.1	55.3

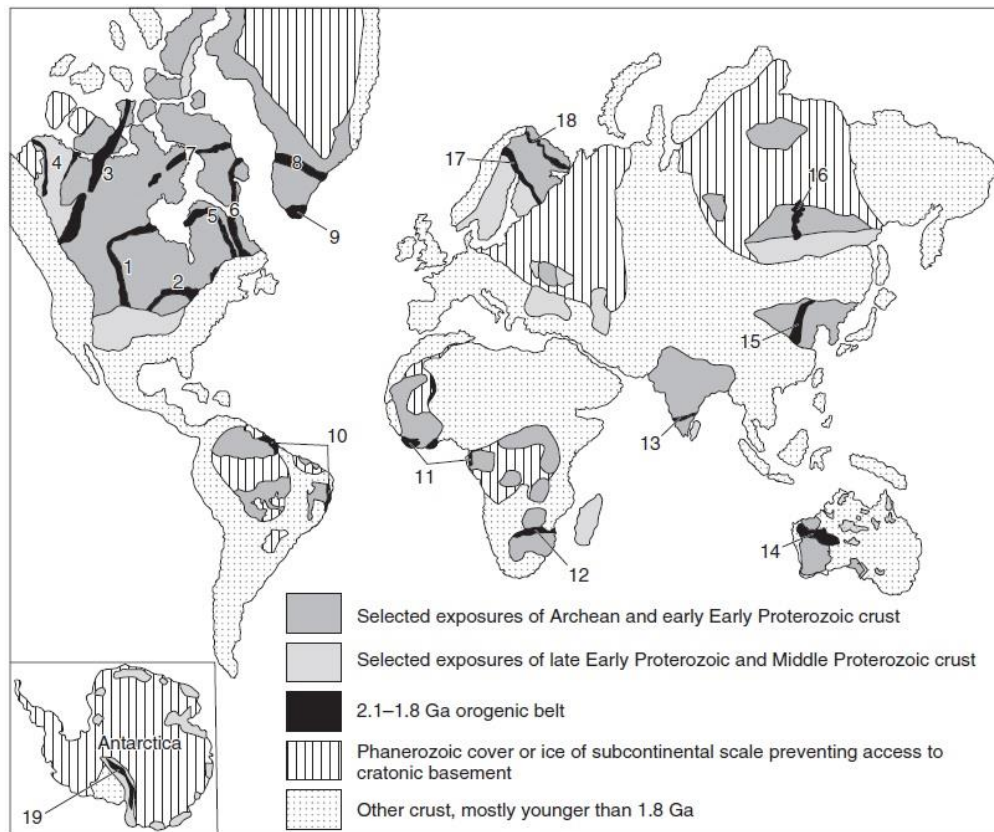
FeO<sub>T</sub> = Total Fe as FeO

Mg# = (Mg / (Mg + Fe)) x 100

# Crustal Types

## A progressive change in the bulk composition of the crust through time has been observed:

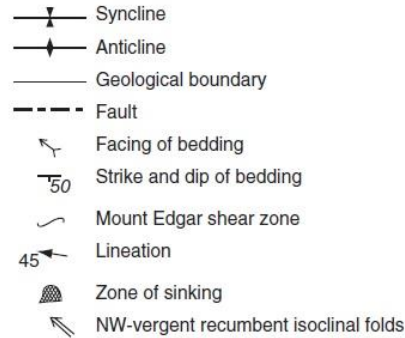
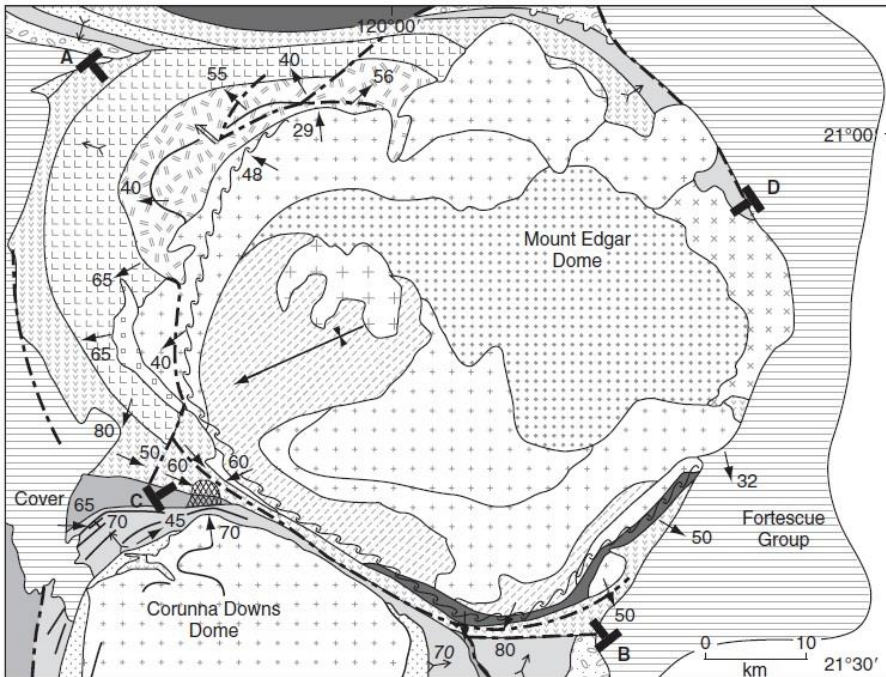
- During the Early Archean, basaltic rocks were most abundant, later, the partial melting of these rocks produced large volumes of tonalites-granitoids suite (granite-greenstone belts).
- By 3.2 Gyr granites first appeared in the geologic record and were produced in large quantities after 2.6 Gyr.
- This compositional trend from basalt to tonalite to granite is attributed to an increase in the importance of subduction and crustal recycling during the transition from Late Archean to Early Proterozoic times.
- The appearance and preservation of thick sequences of sedimentary rock (e.g., evaporites and red beds deposits) has been interpreted to reflect the stabilization of Precambrian continental crust during Proterozoic times.



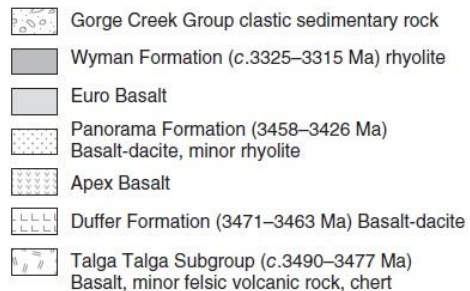
**Orogens labeled as follows:** 1, Trans-Hudson; 2, Penokean; 3, Taltson-Thelon; 4, Wopmay; 5, Cape Smith–New Quebec; 6, Torngat; 7, Foxe; 8, Nagssugtoqidian; 9, Makkovikian–Ketildian; 10, Transamazonian; 11, Eburnian; 12, Limpopo; 13, Moyar; 14, Capricorn; 15, Trans-North China; 16, Central Aldan; 17, Svecofennian; 18, Kola-Karelian; 19, Transantarctic.

# Precambrian Crust: Granite-greenstone belts

## Eastern Pilbara Craton (Western Australia)



### Greenstones



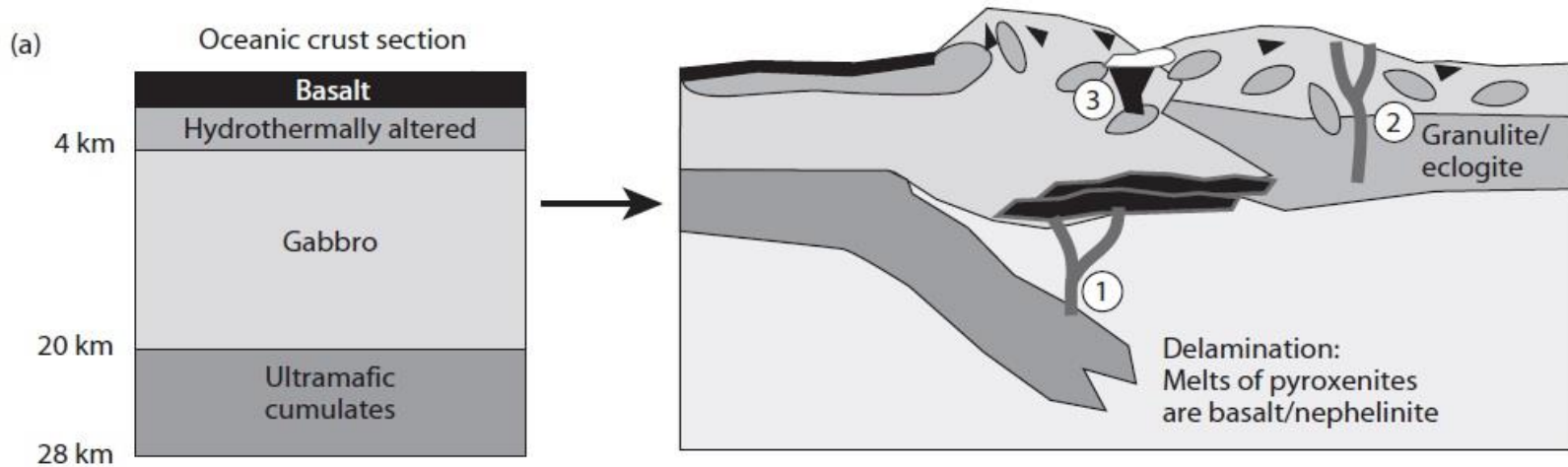
### Granitic rocks



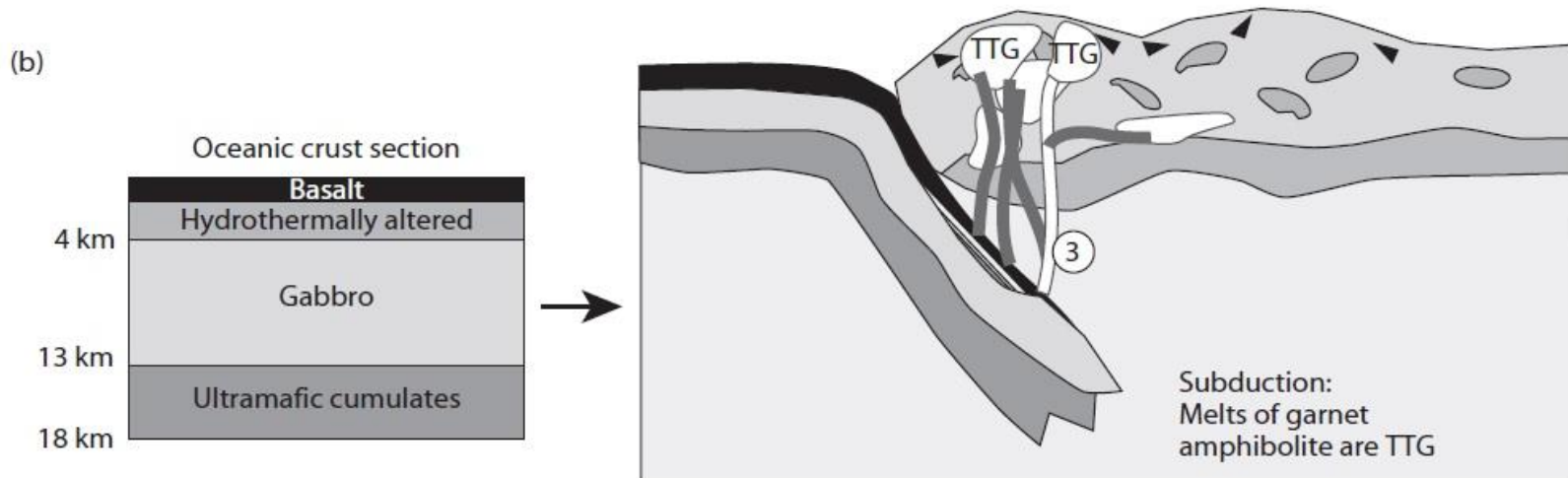
- The greenstones consist of metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks that exhibit a low pressure (200–500 MPa), low temperature (350–500°C) regional metamorphism of the greenschist facies (tholeiitic and komatiitic lavas, felsic volcanic rocks, clastic sediments, gneisses, and amphibolite/granulite rocks).
- The granitoids that intrude the greenstones and high-grade gneisses form a compositionally distinctive group known as *tonalite-trondhjemite-granodiorite*, or *TTG*, suites.
- The greenstones often consist of domes contains remnants of 3.50–3.43 Gyr TTG suite granitoids that are intruded by younger (3.33–2.83 Gyr) more potassic igneous suites (e.g., Eastern Pilbara Craton).
- The domes display compositional zonation and variable degrees of deformation, with the youngest bodies located in the cores of the domes and older, more deformed granitoids at the margins (reflecting the emplacement of many magmatic intrusions).
- The formation of the greenstones of Eastern Pilbara Craton were affected by one or more periods of horizontal contraction (Early Archean collision and terrane accretion) and extension, leading to the emplacement of the granitoid domes.

# Archean Crustal evolution

- (a) Oceanic crust was too thick to be subducted as a unit, and so its lowermost parts (pyroxenites) delaminated and melted, favoring the formation of basaltic melts.
- (b) As the oceanic crust cooled and became thinner (in the Late Archean) the entire crust could subduct, amphibolite was introduced into subduction zones and led to the widespread formation of the TTG suites.



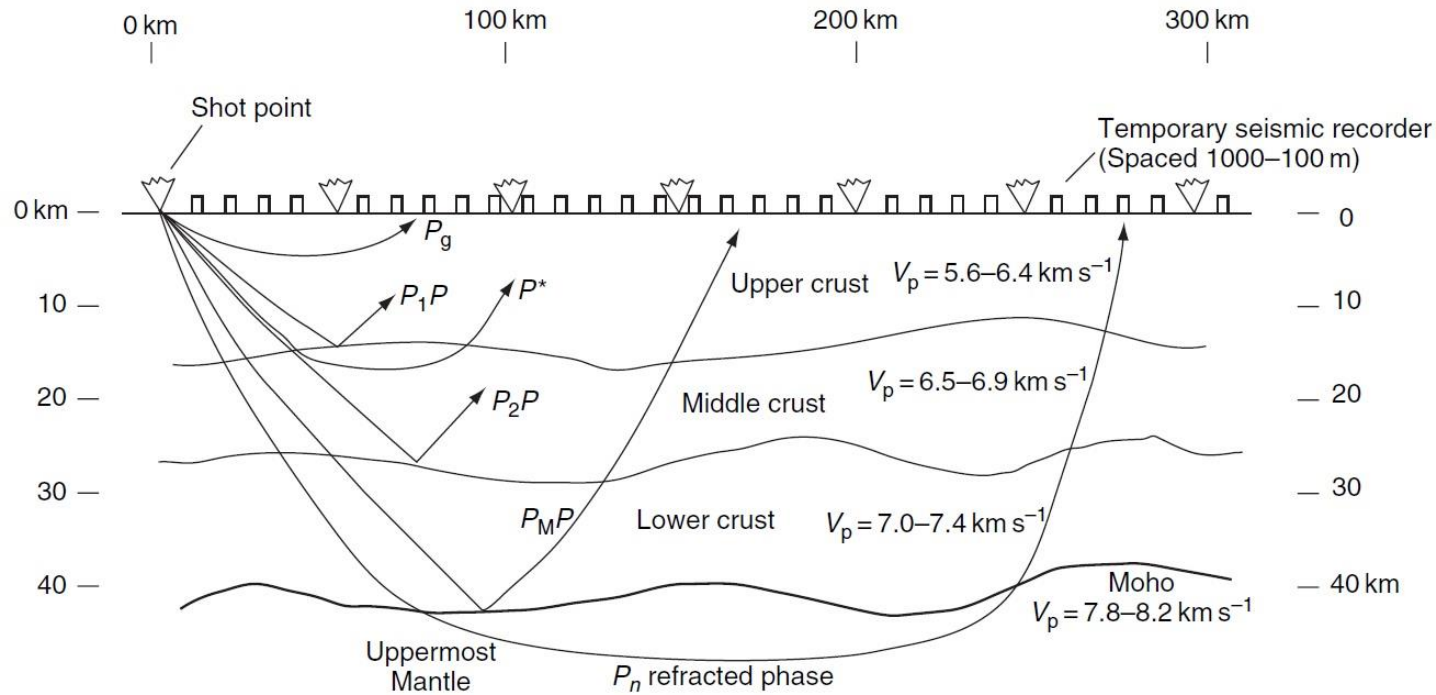
*(1). Local melting of lower crust (2) and garnet amphibolite (3) may also occur to produce small volumes of felsic magma.*



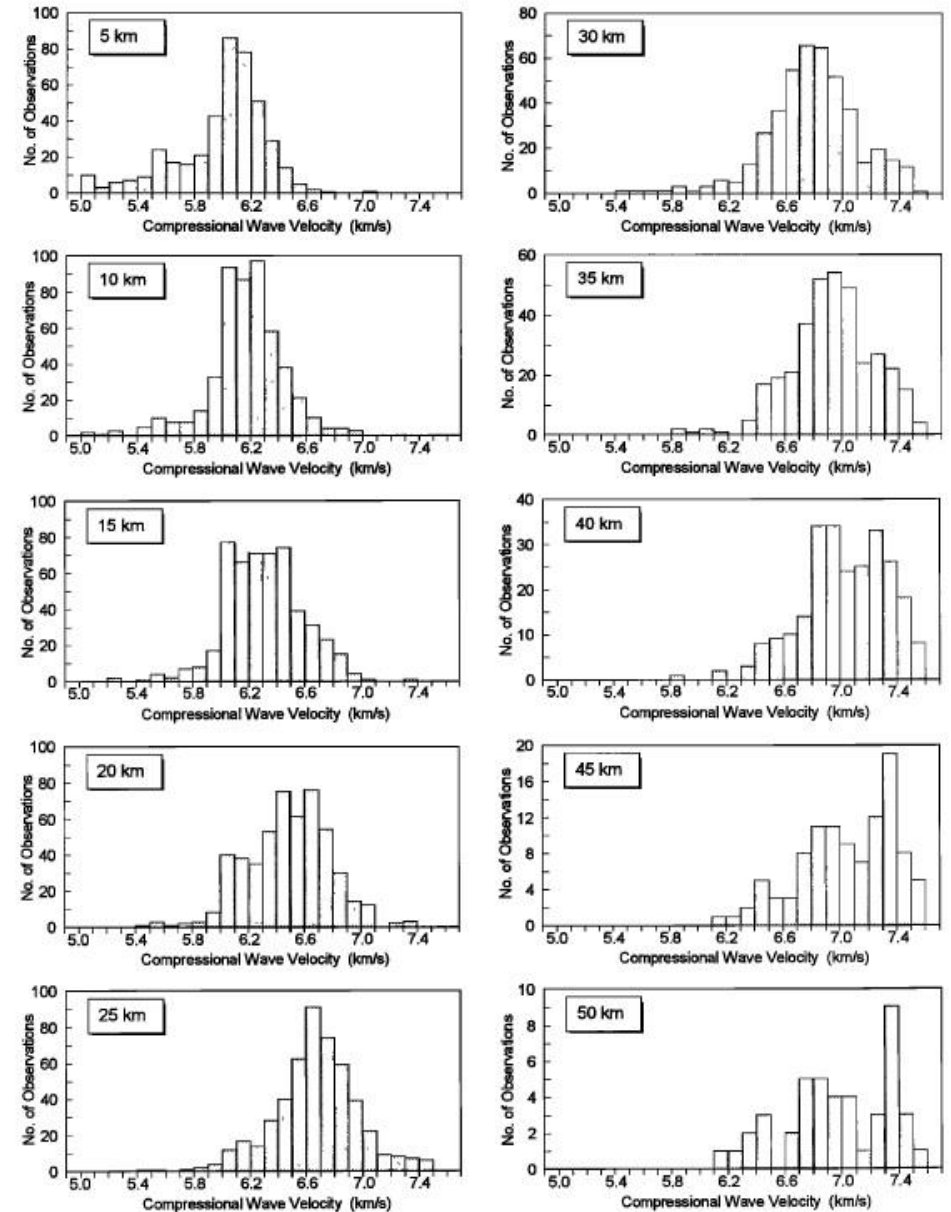
# Crustal seismic velocities

- Mineralogical composition
- Confining pressure (from depth of burial)
- Temperature (from heat flow data)
- Anisotropy
- Pore fluid pressure

## Velocity vs Depth

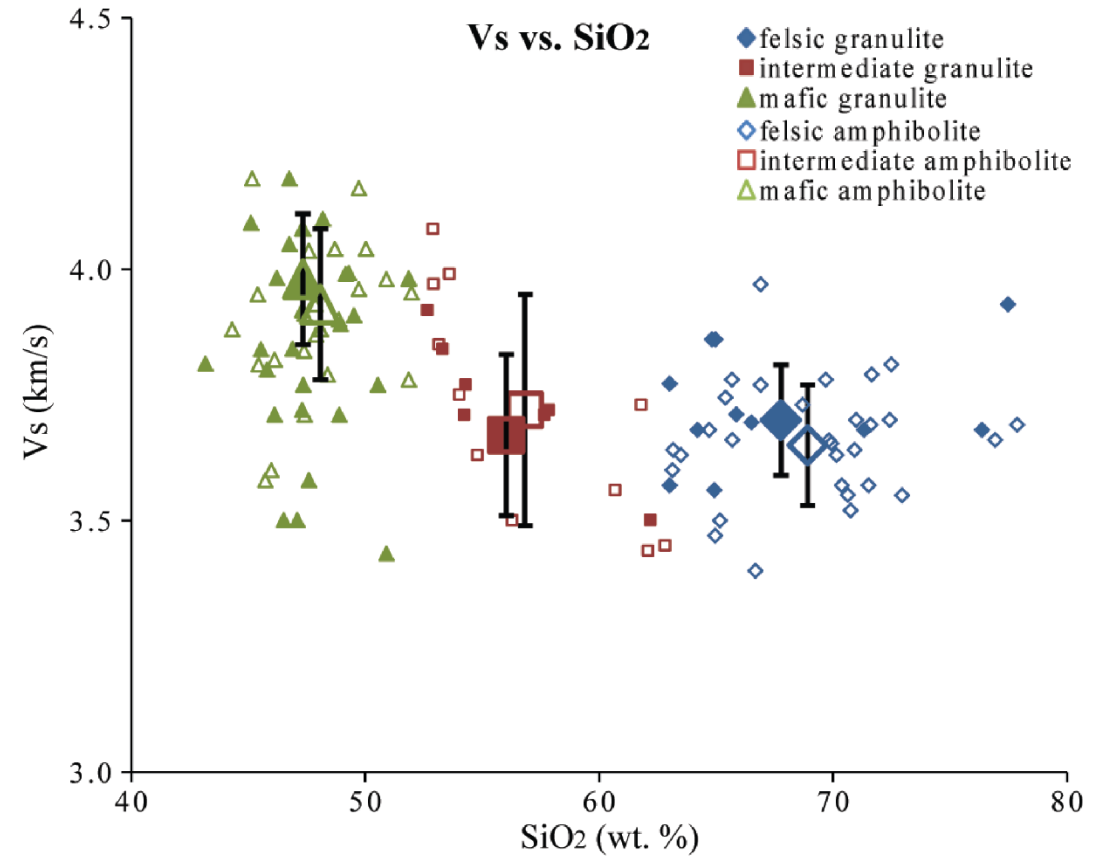
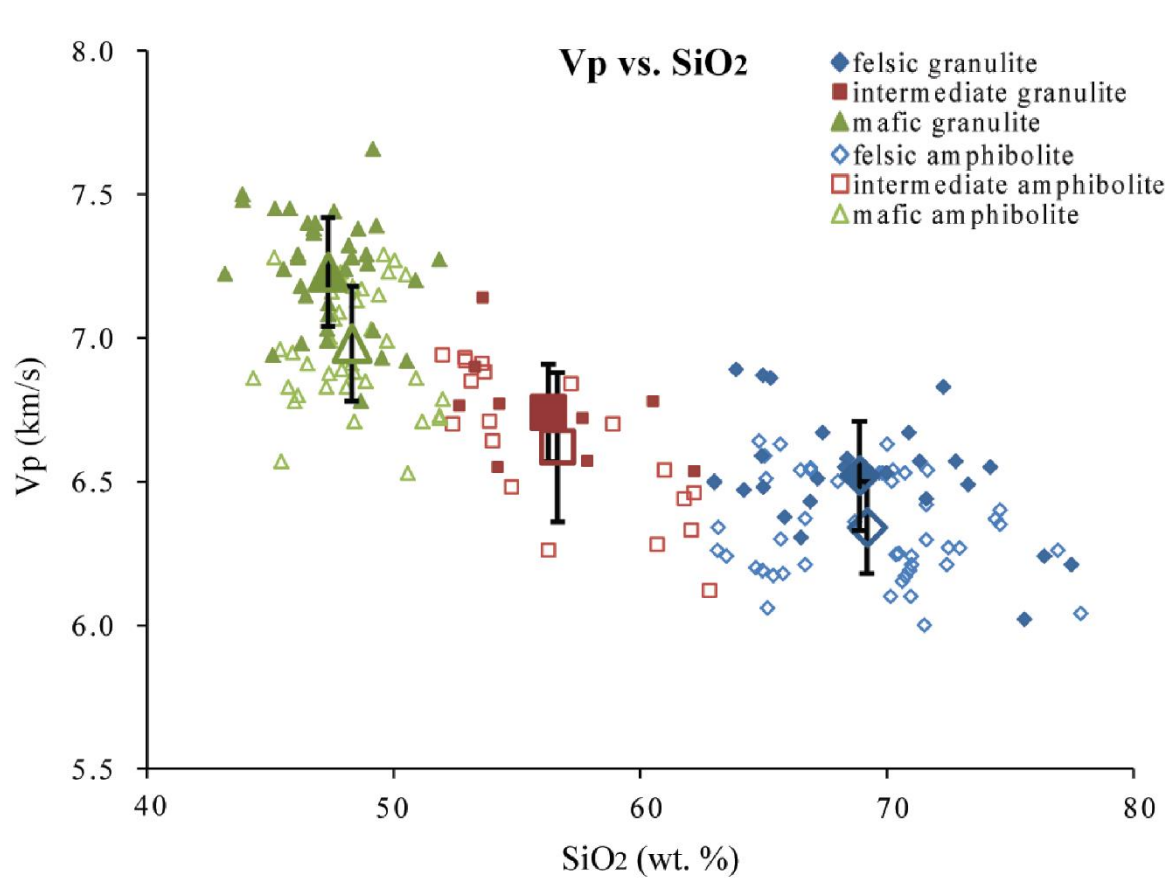


Christensen and Mooney, 1995, JGR, 100





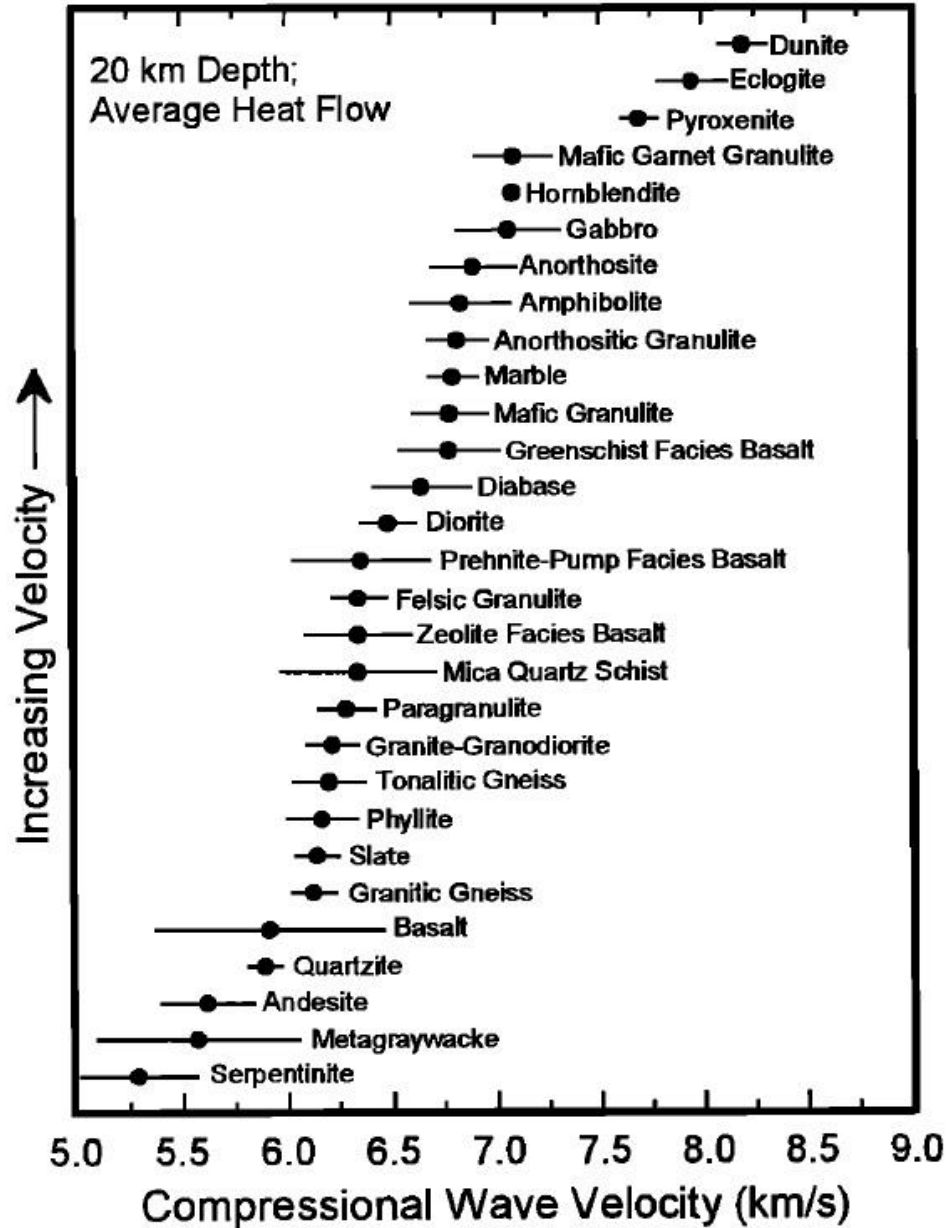
# *P*-wave and *S*-wave velocity correlates with bulk composition



Ultrasonic velocities at 0.6 GPa, room T

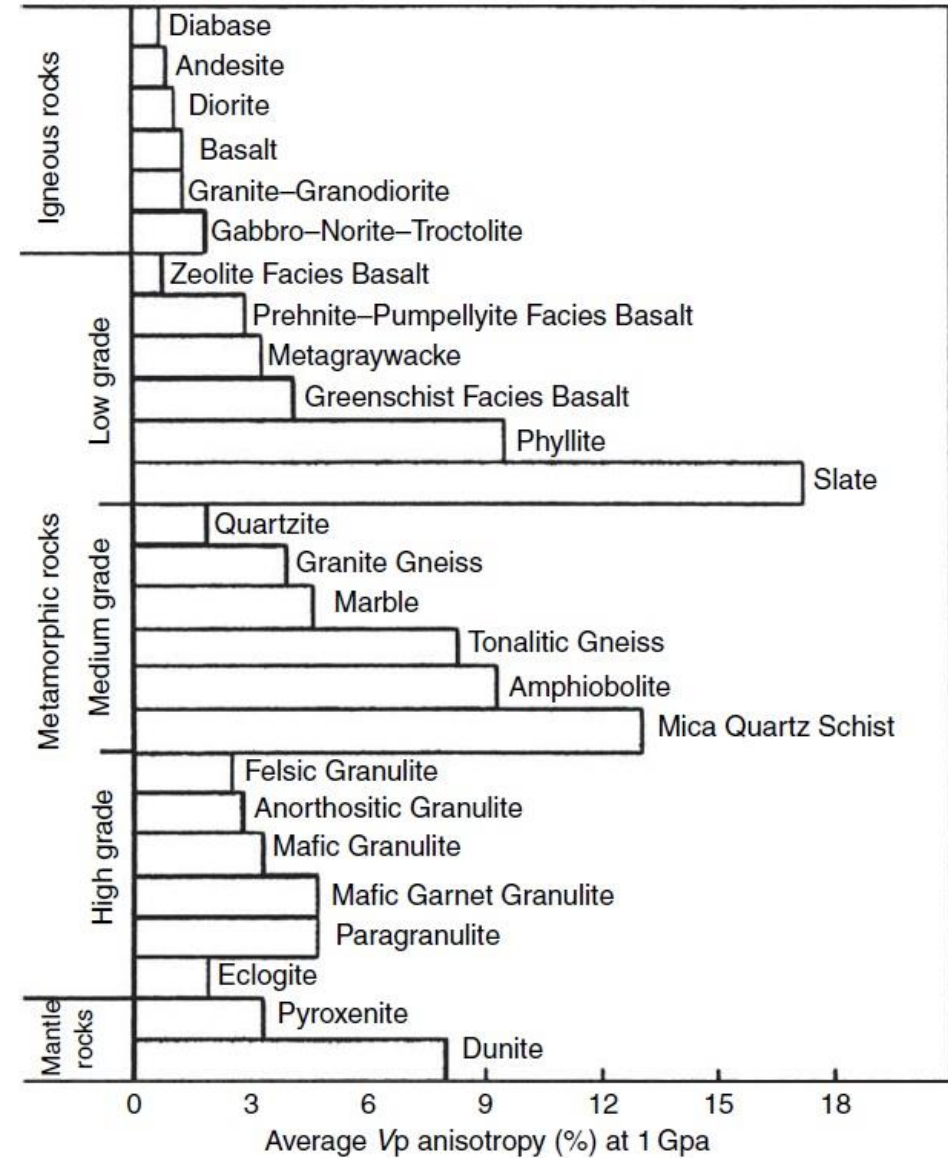
*Huang et al., 2013*

# Rocks' P-wave velocity

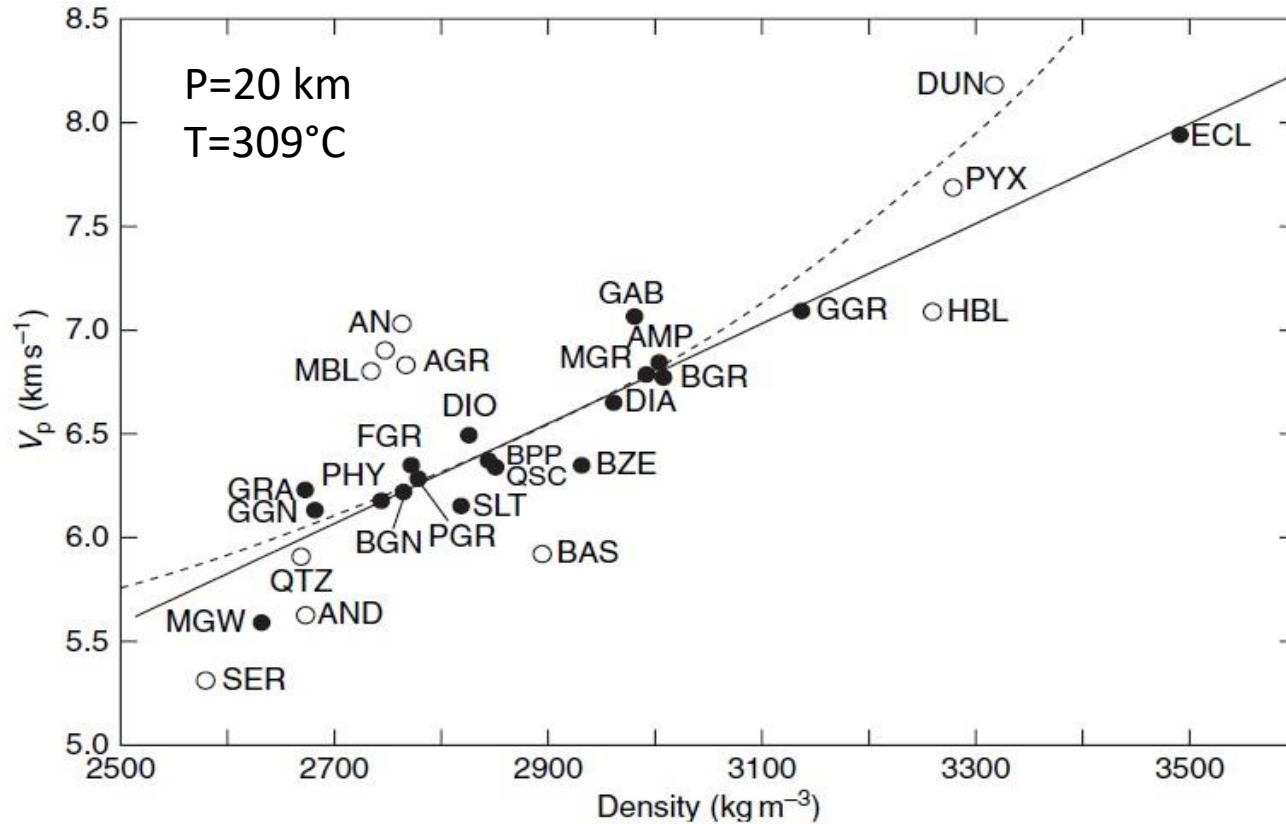


# Average Anisotropy 100x (Vmax-Vmin)/Vavg

Elastic waves show a directional dependence in wave speed in many minerals



# Velocity vs Density



Rock abbreviations are as follows: **AGR**, anorthositic granulite; **AMP**, amphibolite; **AND**, andesite; **BAS**, basalt; **BGN**, biotite (tondite) gneiss; **BGR**, greenschist facies basalt; **BPP**, prehnite–pumpellyite facies basalt; **BZE**, Zeolite facies basalt; **DIA**, diabase; **DIO**, dionite; **DUN**, Dunite; **ECL**, mafic eclogite; **FGR**, felsic granulite; **GAB**, gabbro–norite–troctolite; **GGN**, granite gneiss; **GGR**, mafic garnet granulite; **GRA**, granite–granodiorite; **HBL**, hornblendite; **MBL**, calcite marble; **MGR**, mafic granulite; **MGW**, metagraywacke; **PGR**, paragrulite; **PHY**, phyllite; **PYX**, Pyroxenite; **QCC**, mica quartz schist; **QTZ**, quartzite; **SER**, serpentinite; **SLT**, slate.

Linear Velocity-Density Regression Line Parameters

Depth, km	$\rho = a + bV_p$				$V_p = a + b\rho$			
	$a$ , $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$b$ , $\text{kg m}^{-3}/\text{km s}^{-1}$	$S(\rho, V_p)$ , $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$r^2$ , %	$a$ , $\text{km s}^{-1}$	$b$ , $\text{km s}^{-1}/\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$S(V_p, \rho)$ , $\text{km s}^{-1}$	$r^2$ , %
<i>All Rocks</i>								
10	989.3	289.1	116.3	75	-0.924	0.00259	0.348	75
20	947.3	296.6	113.3	76	-0.836	0.00256	0.333	76
30	946.6	299.7	112.5	76	-0.802	0.00252	0.326	76
40	964.5	300.5	113.3	75	-0.764	0.00249	0.326	75
50	1078.3	299.0	120.3	71	-0.775	0.00238	0.339	71
<i>All Rocks Except Volcanic Rocks and Monomineralic Rocks</i>								
10	540.6	360.1	70.2	88	-0.566	0.00245	0.183	88
20	444.1	375.4	62.8	91	-0.454	0.00241	0.159	91
30	381.2	388.0	57.8	92	-0.377	0.00237	0.143	92
40	333.4	398.8	53.8	93	-0.318	0.00232	0.130	93
50	257.1	431.4	49.1	94	-0.192	0.00218	0.110	94

Nonlinear Velocity-Density Regression Line Parameters

Depth, km	$\rho = a + bV_p$				$V_p^{-1} = a + b\rho^3$			
	$a$ , $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$b$ , $\text{kg m}^{-3}/\text{km s}^{-1}$	$S(\rho, V_p)$ , $\text{kg m}^{-3}$	$r^2$ , %	$a$ , $\text{km/s}^{-1}$	$b$	$S(V_p, \rho)$ , $\text{km s}^{-1}$	$r^2$ , %
10	4929	-13294	69.30	87	0.2124	$-2.4315 \times 10^{-12}$	0.19	91
20	5055	-14094	62.20	90	0.2110	$-2.3691 \times 10^{-12}$	0.17	92
30	5141	-14539	57.36	91	0.2115	$-2.3387 \times 10^{-12}$	0.15	93
40	5212	-14863	53.63	92	0.2123	$-2.3155 \times 10^{-12}$	0.14	94
50	5281	-15174	50.51	93	0.2130	$-2.2884 \times 10^{-12}$	0.13	95

$V_p$  is compressional wave velocity;  $\rho$ , density;  $S(\rho, V_p)$ , standard error of estimate of  $\rho$  on  $V_p$ ;  $S(V_p, \rho)$ , standard error of estimate of  $V_p$  on  $\rho$ ;  $r^2$ , coefficient of determination.

# Vp/Vs and Poisson's ratio ( $\sigma=0.23-0.32$ )

Poisson's ratio ( $\nu$  or  $\sigma$ ) is the ratio of transverse strain to corresponding axial strain on a material (rock) stressed along one axis

Table 1. Compressional ( $V_p$ ) and Shear ( $V_s$ ) Wave Velocity Ratios and Poisson's Ratios for Rock-Forming Minerals

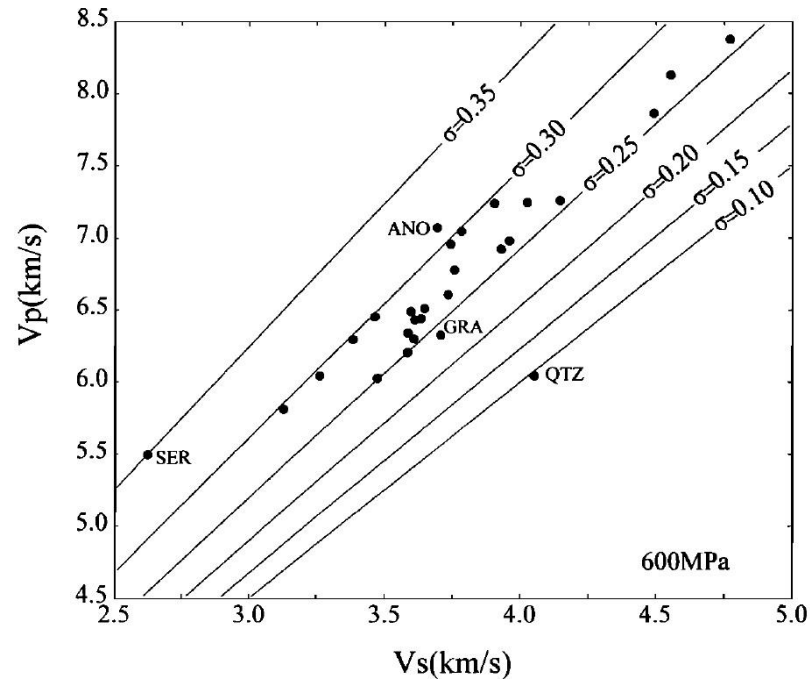
Mineral	Symmetry <sup>a</sup>	Density, (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	$V_p/V_s$					Poisson's Ratio					Reference
			R	HS*	VRH	HS*	V	R	HS*	VRH	HS*	V	
Framework silicates													
Feldspars													
Microcline <sup>b</sup>	T	2561	1.856	1.857	1.838	1.844	1.822	0.296	0.296	0.290	0.292	0.285	Ryzhova and Alexandrov [1965]
Plagioclase(An <sub>6</sub> )	T	2610	1.819	1.819	1.817	1.819	1.816	0.283	0.284	0.283	0.283	0.282	Ryzhova [1964]
Plagioclase(An <sub>24</sub> )	T	2640	1.840	1.835	1.832	1.831	1.823	0.291	0.289	0.288	0.288	0.285	Ryzhova [1964]
Plagioclase(An <sub>30</sub> )	T	2640	1.841	1.835	1.830	1.830	1.820	0.291	0.289	0.287	0.287	0.284	Ryzhova [1964]
Plagioclase(An <sub>53</sub> )	T	2680	1.875	1.863	1.858	1.856	1.842	0.301	0.298	0.296	0.295	0.291	Ryzhova [1964]
Plagioclase(An <sub>56</sub> )	T	2690	1.872	1.859	1.853	1.851	1.836	0.300	0.296	0.295	0.294	0.289	Ryzhova [1964]
Quartz	TR	2649	1.498	1.482	1.477	1.475	1.458	0.098	0.082	0.077	0.074	0.056	McSkimin et al. [1965]
Natrolite	O	2250	1.737	1.733	1.733	1.731	1.728	0.252	0.250	0.250	0.249	0.248	Ryzhova et al. [1966]
Sheet silicates													
Muscovite	M	2844	1.760	1.740	1.729	1.721	1.704	0.261	0.253	0.249	0.245	0.237	Vaughan and Guggenheim [1986]
Biotite	M	3050	2.155	1.948	1.831	1.719	1.656	0.363	0.321	0.288	0.244	0.213	Alexandrov and Ryzhova [1961a]
Phlogopite	M	2810	2.177	1.988	1.872	1.769	1.696	0.366	0.331	0.300	0.265	0.234	Alexandrov and Ryzhova [1961a]
Chain silicates													
Amphibole													
Hornblende	M	3120	1.835	1.832	1.831	1.831	1.828	0.289	0.288	0.287	0.288	0.286	Alexandrov and Ryzhova [1961b]
Pyroxenes													
Enstatite	O	3272	1.648	1.648	1.648	1.648	1.649	0.208	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.209	Duffy and Vaughan [1988]
Bronzite	O	3380	1.739	1.737	1.737	1.737	1.735	0.253	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.251	Ryzhova et al. [1966]
Orthoferrosilite	O	4002	1.807	1.810	1.809	1.810	1.812	0.279	0.280	0.280	0.281	0.281	Bass and Weidner [1984]
Diopside	M	3270	1.745	1.755	1.756	1.760	1.767	0.255	0.260	0.260	0.262	0.264	Levien et al. [1979]
Jadeite	M	3400	1.743	1.739	1.738	1.737	1.732	0.255	0.253	0.252	0.252	0.250	Kandelin and Weidner [1988a]
Hedenbergite	M	3640	1.804	1.809	1.810	1.811	1.815	0.278	0.280	0.280	0.281	0.282	Kandelin and Weidner [1988b]
Augite	M	3320	1.717	1.727	1.727	1.731	1.737	0.243	0.248	0.248	0.249	0.252	Alexandrov et al. [1964]
Diallage	M	3300	1.650	1.649	1.648	1.648	1.646	0.210	0.209	0.209	0.209	0.208	Alexandrov et al. [1964]
Aegirine-augite	M	3420	1.850	1.869	1.869	1.876	1.886	0.294	0.299	0.299	0.302	0.305	Alexandrov et al. [1964]
Aegirine	M	3500	1.801	1.800	1.799	1.799	1.797	0.277	0.277	0.276	0.276	0.276	Alexandrov et al. [1964]
Orthosilicates and ring silicates													
Olivine group													
Forsterite	O	3224	1.712	1.710	1.710	1.709	1.708	0.241	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.239	Kumazawa and Anderson [1969]
Olivine(Fe <sub>93</sub> )	O	3311	1.725	1.724	1.724	1.724	1.722	0.247	0.247	0.246	0.246	0.246	Kumazawa and Anderson [1969]
Fayalite(Fe <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> )	O	4400	2.029	2.014	2.011	2.007	1.994	0.340	0.336	0.336	0.335	0.332	Sumino [1979]
Garnet group													
Spessartite-almandine	C	4249	1.784	1.784	1.784	1.784	1.784	0.271	0.271	0.271	0.271	0.271	Wang and Simmons [1974]
Almandine	C	4160	1.792	1.792	1.792	1.792	1.792	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	Soga [1967]
Grossularite	C	3617	1.725	1.725	1.725	1.725	1.724	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.247	Halleck [1973]
Staurolite	M	3369	1.606	1.618	1.627	1.628	1.646	0.183	0.191	0.196	0.197	0.208	Alexandrov and Ryzhova [1961c]
Sillimanite	O	3241	1.791	1.784	1.783	1.781	1.776	0.273	0.271	0.271	0.270	0.268	Vaughan and Weidner [1978]
Andalusite	O	3145	1.718	1.723	1.723	1.724	1.728	0.244	0.246	0.246	0.247	0.248	Vaughan and Weidner [1978]
Epidote	M	3400	1.778	1.755	1.752	1.746	1.728	0.269	0.260	0.258	0.256	0.248	Ryzhova et al. [1966]
Beryl	H	2680	1.756	1.750	1.750	1.749	1.745	0.260	0.258	0.258	0.257	0.255	Hearmon [1956]
Tourmaline	TR	3050	1.659	1.659	1.657	1.658	1.656	0.215	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.213	Hearmon [1956]
Nonsilicates													
Chromite	C	4450	1.813	1.809	1.809	1.808	1.804	0.281	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.278	Hearmon [1956]
Magnetite	C	5180	1.763	1.761	1.761	1.761	1.760	0.263	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.262	Alexandrov and Ryzhova [1961c]
Pyrite	C	5013	1.582	1.574	1.572	1.555	1.583	0.167	0.162	0.160	0.147	0.168	Alexandrov and Ryzhova [1961d]
Calcite	TR	2712	2.027	1.972	1.944	1.931	1.874	0.339	0.327	0.320	0.317	0.301	Peselnick and Robie [1963]
Aragonite	O	2930	1.598	1.595	1.597	1.594	1.595	0.178	0.176	0.177	0.176	0.176	Hearmon [1956]

R is Reuss average; HS\*, Hashin Shtrikman lower bound; VRH, Voigt Reuss Hill average; HS\*, Hashin Shtrikman upper bound; V, Voigt average.  
<sup>a</sup> Cubic(C), hexagonal(H), trigonal(TR), orthorhombic(O), monoclinic(M), triclinic(T).

Christensen, 1996, JGR, 101

$$\langle M \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (M^{\text{voigt}} + M^{\text{reuss}}) \quad M^{\text{voigt}} = \sum \lambda_i M_i; \quad M^{\text{reuss}} = \left( \sum \frac{\lambda_i}{M_i} \right)^{-1}$$

$\lambda_i$ =volumetric proportion of mineral  $i$ ,  $M$ =elastic parameter



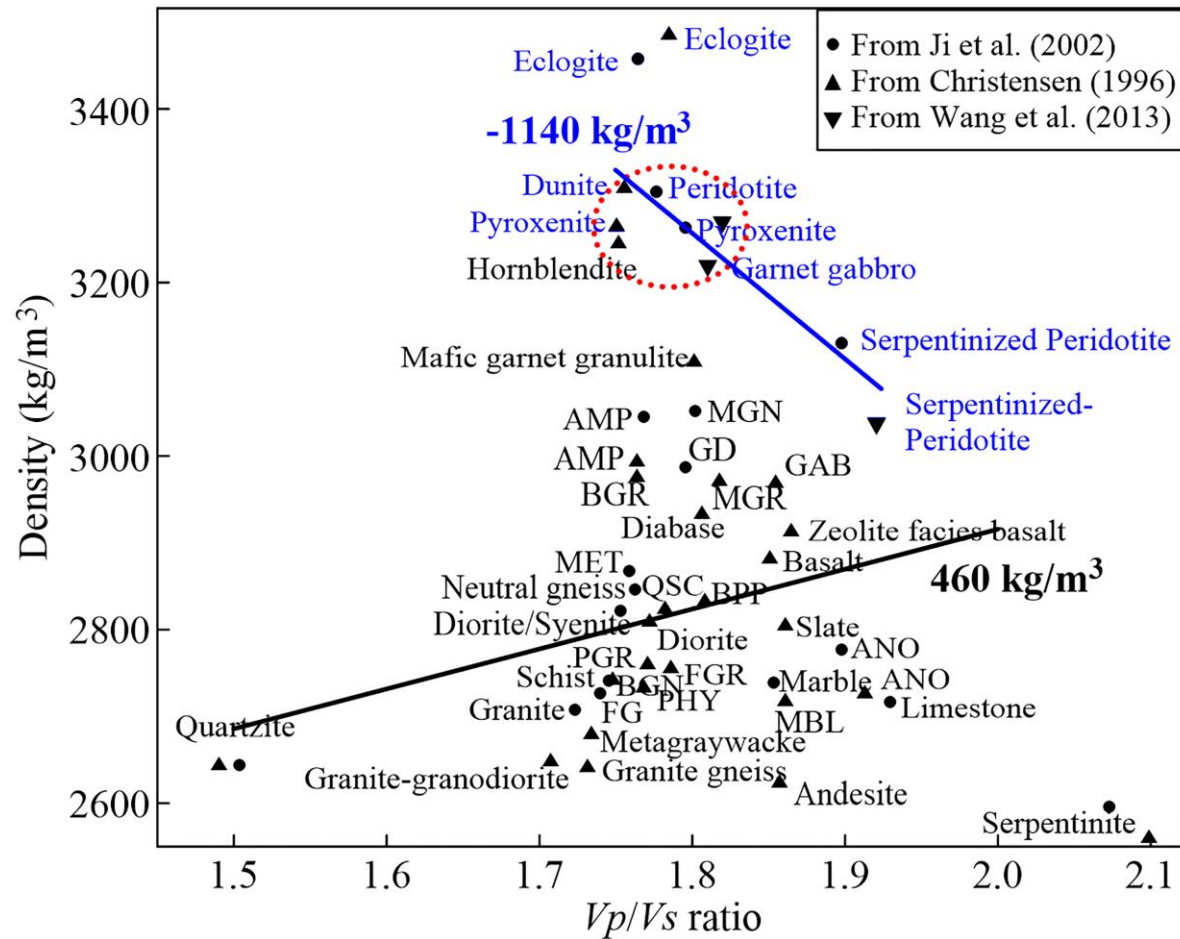
$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{(V_p/V_s)^2 - 1} \right]$$

Four lithologies (serpentinite (SER), anorthosite (ANO), granite-granodiorite (GRA), and quartzite (QTZ)) fall outside the area bounded by Poisson's ratios between 0.25 and 0.30.

Average Crustal Velocities ( $V_p$ ,  $V_s$ ), Velocity Ratios ( $V_p/V_s$ ), and Poisson's Ratios ( $\sigma$ )

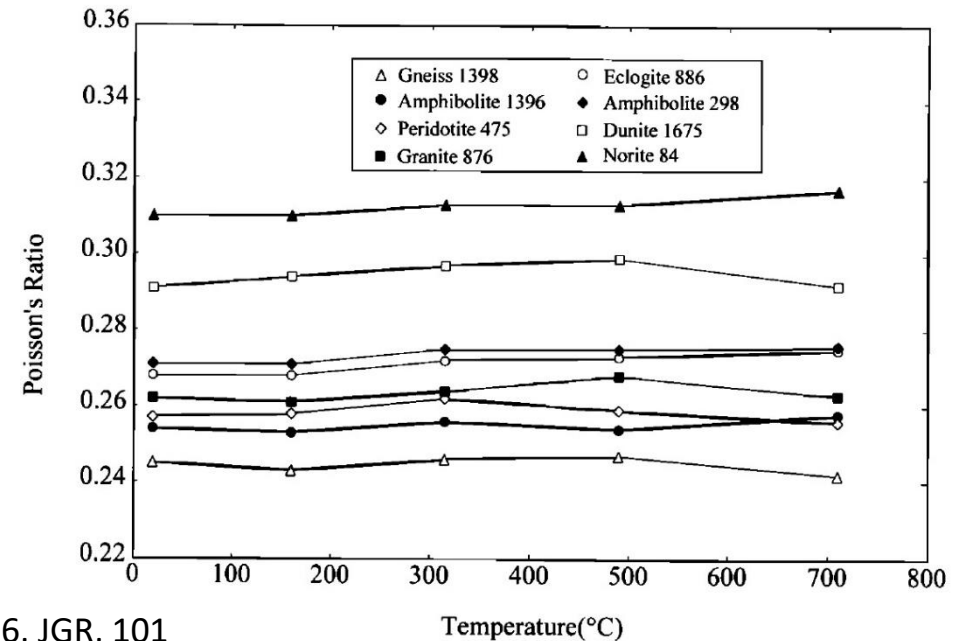
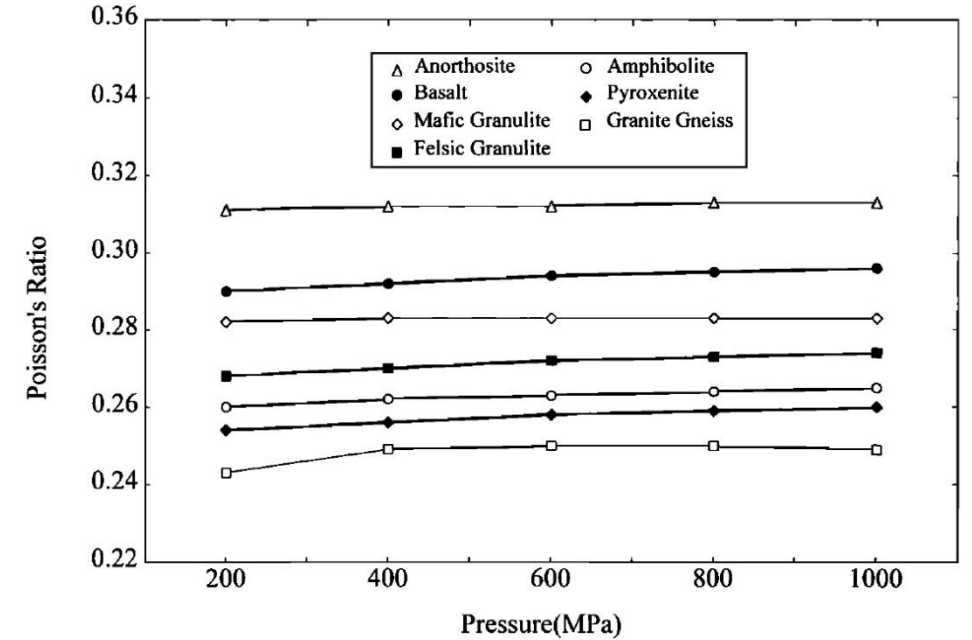
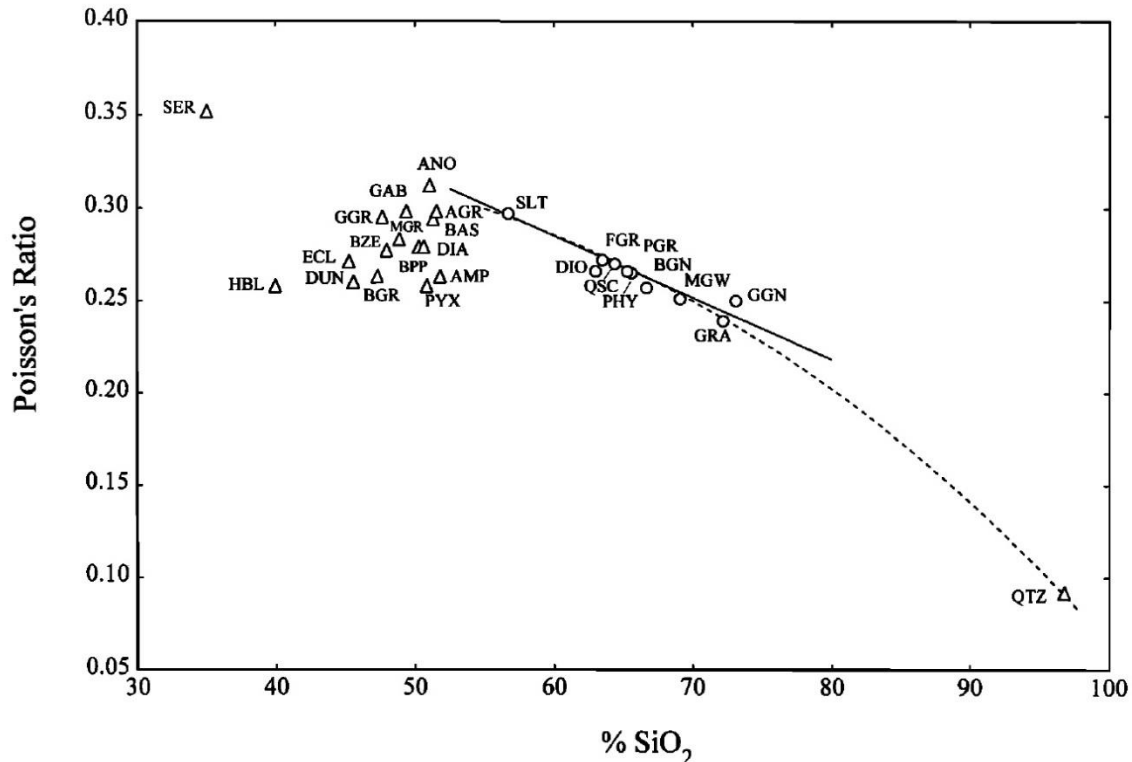
Crustal Type	$V_p$ , km s <sup>-1</sup>	$V_s$ , km s <sup>-1</sup>	$V_p/V_s$	$\sigma$	Reference
Oceanic crust, Samail Ophiolite, Oman	6.464	3.440	1.879	0.302	Christensen and Smewing [1981]
Oceanic crust, Bay of Islands Ophiolite, Newfoundland	6.608	3.494	1.891	0.306	Christensen and Salisbury [1982]
Arc crust, Kohistan, Pakistan	6.691	3.780	1.770	0.266	Miller and Christensen [1994]
Average continental crust	6.454	3.650	1.768	0.265	Christensen and Mooney [1995]

# Vp/Vs and Density



- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| AMP - Amphibolite                         | GD - Gabbro/diabase        |
| ANO - Anorthosite                         | MBL - Calcite marble       |
| BGN - Biotite (tonalite) gneiss           | MET - Metasedimentary      |
| BGR - Greenschist facies basalt           | MGN - Mafic gneisses       |
| BPP - Prehnite-pumpellyite- facies basalt | MGR - Mafic granulite      |
| FG - Felsic Gneiss                        | PHY - Phyllite, phyllonite |
| FGR - Felsic granulite                    | PGR - Paragranulite        |
| GAB - Gabbro-norite-troctolite            | QSC - Mica quartz schist   |

# Poisson's ratio dependance ( $\text{SiO}_2$ , $P$ , $T$ )

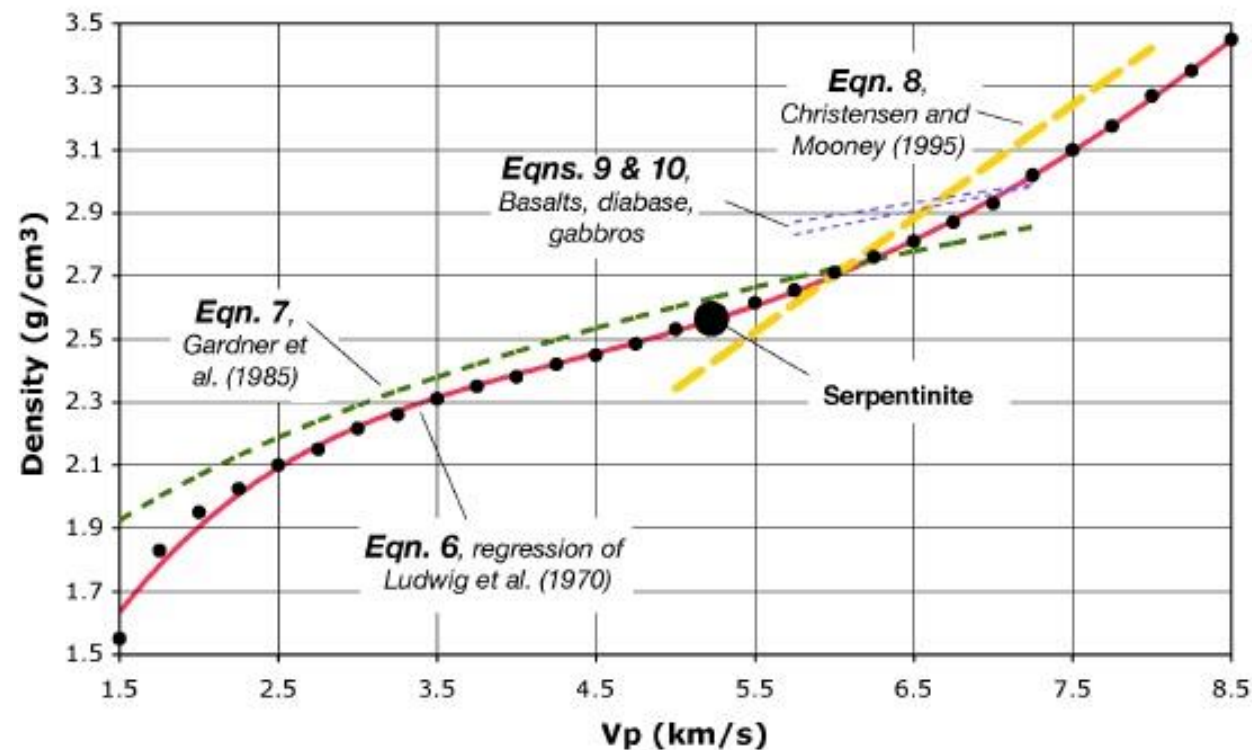
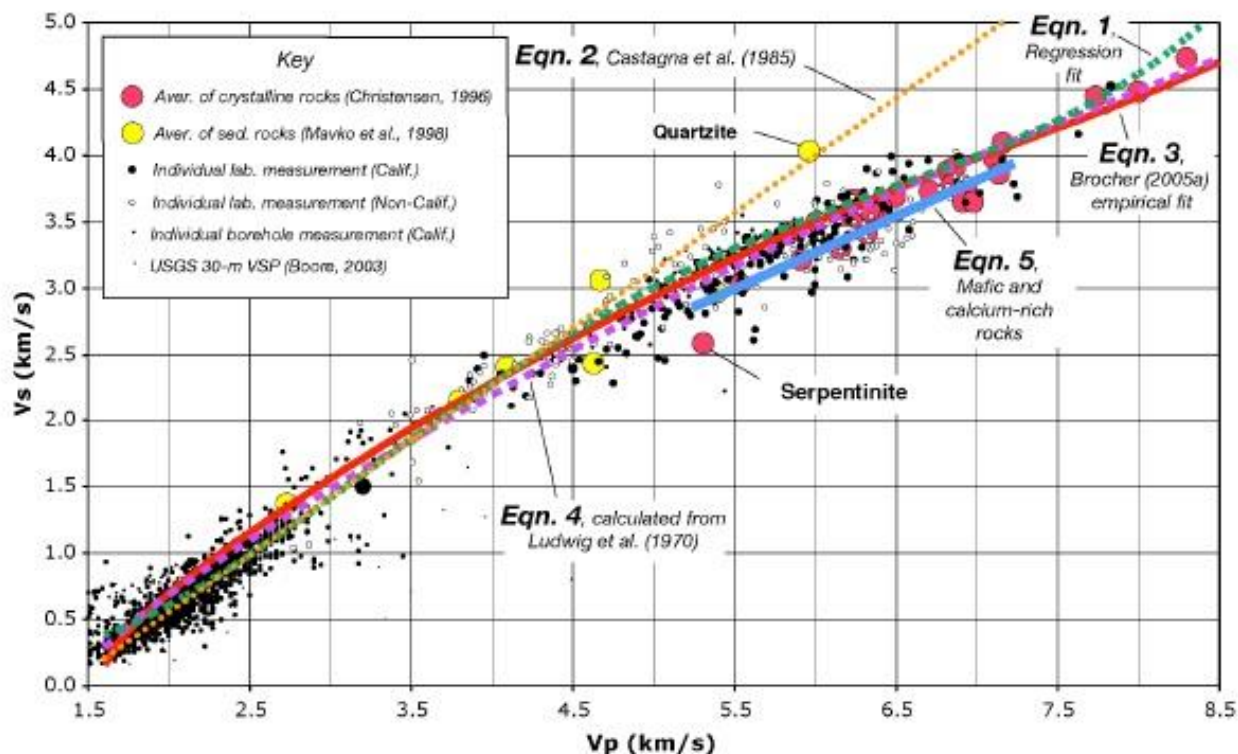


- Rocks with  $\text{SiO}_2$  contents between 55% and 75% show a linear decrease in Poisson's ratio with increasing weight percent  $\text{SiO}_2$ .

Rock abbreviations are as follows: **AGR**, anorthositic granulite; **AMP**, amphibolite; **AND**, andesite; **ANO**, Anorthosite; **BAS**, basalt; **BGN**, biotite (tondite) gneiss; **BGR**, greenschist facies basalt; **BPP**, prehnite–pumpellyite facies basalt; **BZE**, Zeolite facies basalt; **DIA**, diabase; **DIO**, dionite; **DUN**, Dunite; **ECL**, mafic eclogite; **FGR**, felsic granulite; **GAB**, gabbro–norite–troctolite; **GGN**, granite gneiss; **GGR**, mafic garnet granulite; **GRA**, granite–granodiorite; **HBL**, hornblendite; **MBL**, calcite marble; **MGR**, mafic granulite; **MGW**, metagraywacke; **PGR**, paragrulite; **PHY**, phyllite; **PYX**, Pyroxenite; **QCC**, mica quartz schist; **QTZ**, quartzite; **SER**, serpentinite; **SLT**, slate. Christensen (1996).

# Other empirical relations

Brocher et al., 2005



$$[\text{eqn. 6}] \rho \text{ (g/cm}^3\text{)} = 1.6612V_p - 0.4721V_p^2 + 0.0671V_p^3 - 0.0043V_p^4 + 0.000106V_p^5$$

$$[\text{eqn. 1}] V_s \text{ (km/s)} = 0.7858 - 1.2344V_p + 0.7949V_p^2 - 0.1238V_p^3 + 0.0064V_p^4$$

$$[\text{eqn. 3}] \sigma = 0.8835 - 0.315V_p + 0.0491V_p^2 - 0.0024V_p^3$$

$$[\text{eqn. 4}] \sigma = 0.769 - 0.226V_p + 0.0316V_p^2 - 0.0014V_p^3$$

$$[\text{eqn. 5}] V_s \text{ (km/s)} = 2.88 + 0.52(V_p - 5.25)$$

$$[\text{eqn. 7}] \rho \text{ (g/cm}^3\text{)} = 1.74V_p^{0.25}$$

$$[\text{eqn. 8}] \rho \text{ (g/cm}^3\text{)} = 0.541 + 0.3601V_p$$

$$[\text{eqn. 9}] \rho \text{ (g/cm}^3\text{)} = 2.4372 + 0.0761V_p$$

$$[\text{eqn. 10}] \rho \text{ (g/cm}^3\text{)} = 2.2428 + 0.1052V_p$$

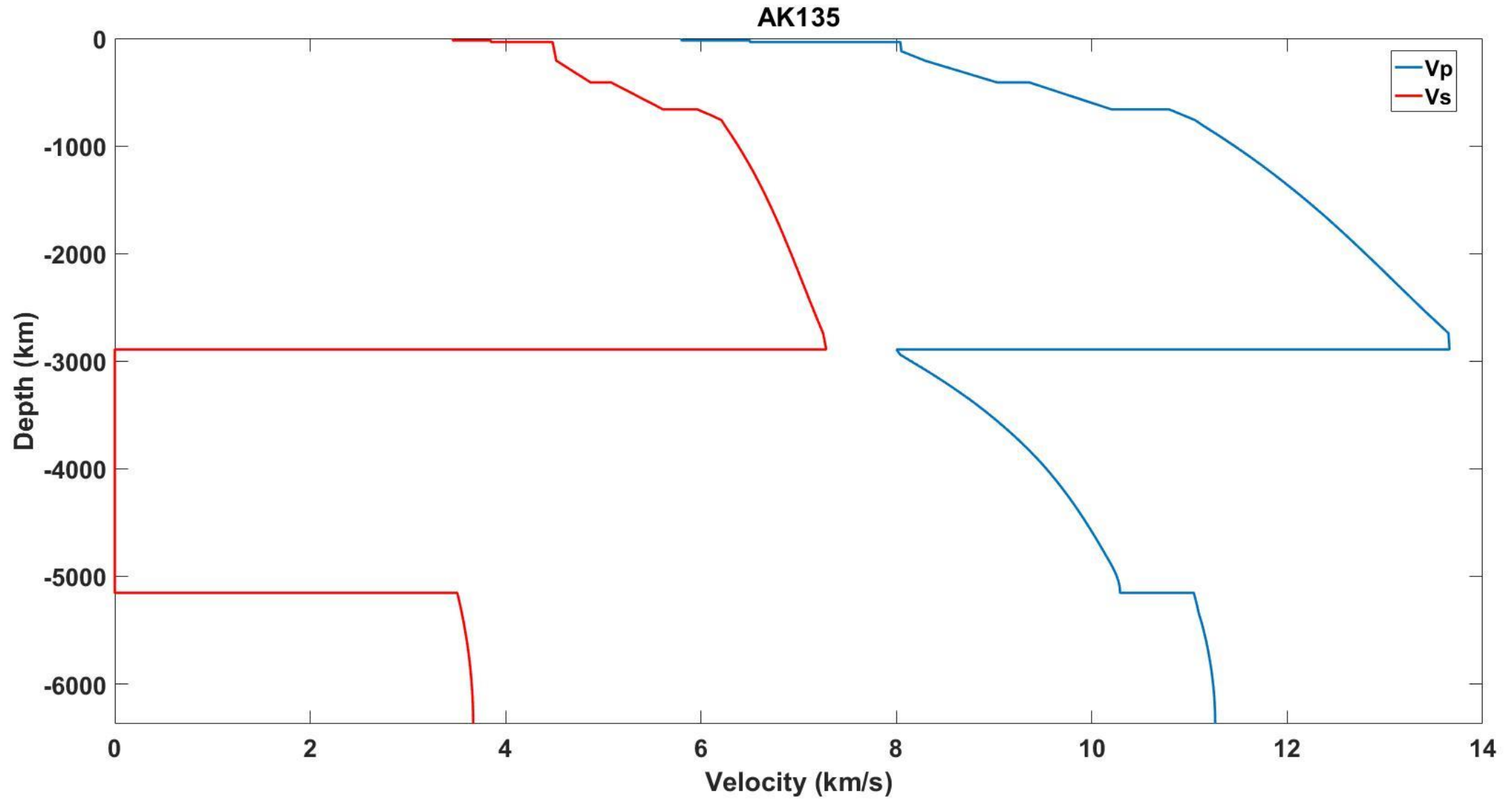
# Rocks' Density vs *T* and *P*

Densities and Compressional Wave Velocities as Functions of Temperature and Depth

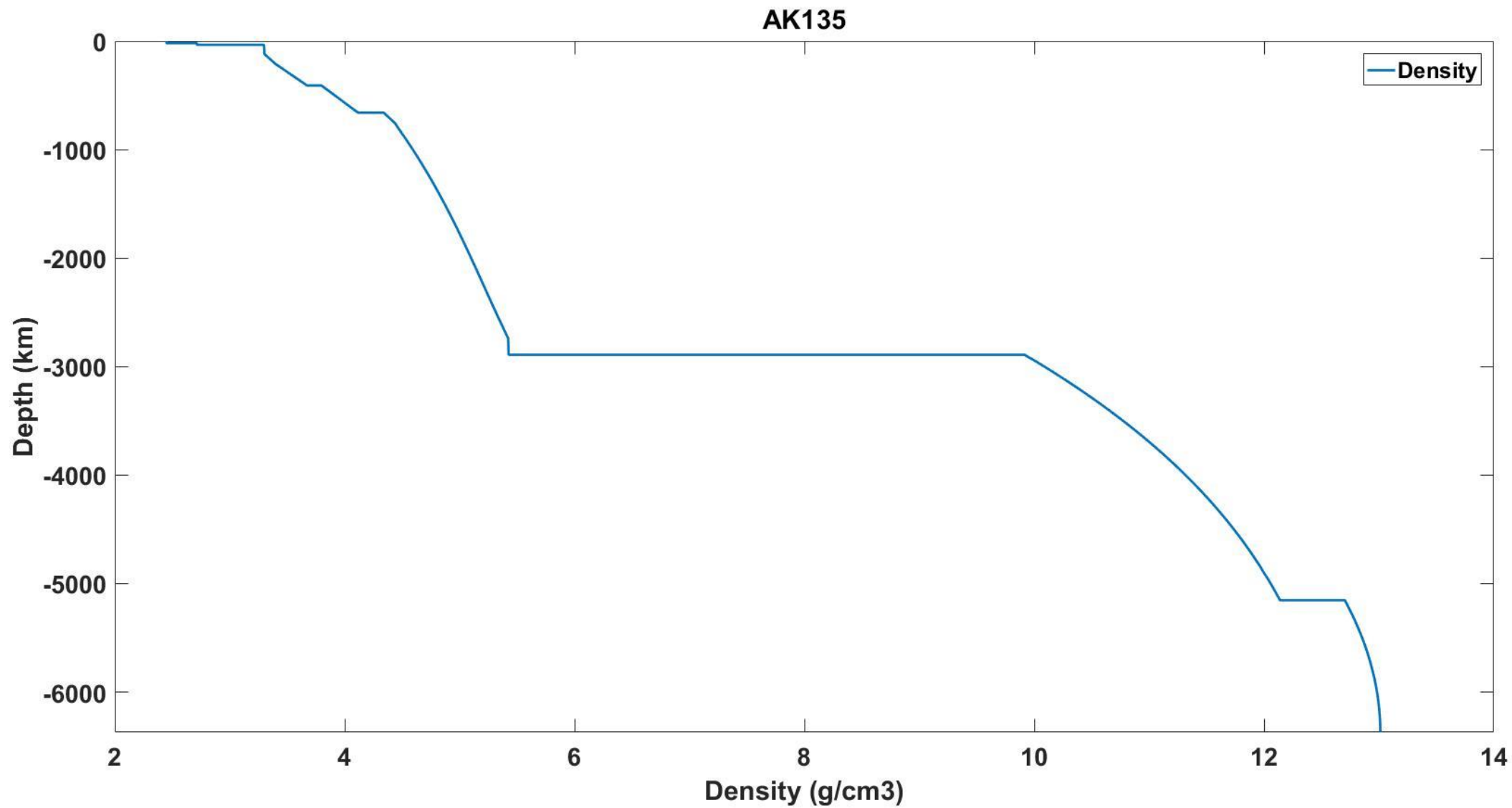
Name	5 km					10 km					15 km					20 km					25 km						
	$\rho_s$	Room	Low	Avg	High	$\rho_s$	Room	Low	Avg	High	$\rho_s$	Room	Low	Avg	High	$\rho_s$	Room	Low	Avg	High	$\rho_s$	Room	Low	Avg	High		
Rocks (R)	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	20°C	64°C	84°C	138°C	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	20°C	116°C	157°C	263°C	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	20°C	160°C	225°C	381°C	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	20°C	200°C	309°C	501°C	kg/m <sup>3</sup>	20°C	247°C	389°C	645°C		
<b>Andesite (AND)</b>																											
S=30	Avg	2627	5.429	5.393	5.381	5.351	2630	5.627	5.561	5.538	5.477	2633	5.731	5.640	5.603	5.514	2635	5.800	5.686	5.623	5.514	2638	5.851	5.710	5.629	5.483	
R=10	S.D.	71	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	70	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.239	70	0.227	0.227	0.227	0.227	70	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.224	69	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.224	
<b>Basalt (BAS)</b>																											
S=415	Avg	2878	5.877	5.852	5.845	5.823	2883	5.954	5.908	5.892	5.851	2889	6.003	5.940	5.915	5.854	2894	6.039	5.961	5.918	5.843	2899	6.067	5.971	5.915	5.815	
R=149	S.D.	144	0.547	0.547	0.547	0.547	144	0.543	0.543	0.543	0.543	144	0.542	0.542	0.542	0.542	144	0.541	0.541	0.541	0.541	144	0.540	0.540	0.540	0.540	
<b>Diabase (DIA)</b>																											
S=54	Avg	2946	6.673	6.648	6.640	6.619	2952	6.719	6.674	6.658	6.617	2957	6.747	6.685	6.659	6.599	2962	6.765	6.687	6.645	6.570	2967	6.779	6.683	6.628	6.528	
R=18	S.D.	85	0.253	0.253	0.253	0.253	85	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	85	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.239	85	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	85	0.232	0.232	0.232	0.232	
<b>Granite-Granodiorite (GRA)</b>																											
S=134	Avg	2654	6.215	6.179	6.182	6.161	2661	6.287	6.221	6.226	6.184	2667	6.321	6.230	6.234	6.173	2673	6.344	6.230	6.224	6.149	2679	6.361	6.220	6.209	6.110	
R=52	S.D.	24	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	24	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	24	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	24	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	24	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	
<b>Diorite (DIO)</b>																											
S=24	Avg	2810	6.443	6.418	6.410	6.389	2815	6.528	6.483	6.467	6.426	2820	6.575	6.513	6.487	6.427	2825	6.608	6.530	6.487	6.412	2831	6.633	6.536	6.481	6.381	
R=8	S.D.	85	0.167	0.167	0.167	0.167	85	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	85	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	85	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	85	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	
<b>Gabbro-Norite-Troctolite (GAB)</b>																											
S=187	Avg	2966	7.096	7.060	7.048	7.018	2971	7.187	7.101	7.078	7.017	2975	7.210	7.118	7.081	6.992	2981	7.240	7.126	7.063	6.954	2985	7.262	7.122	7.041	6.895	
R=69	S.D.	71	0.246	0.246	0.246	0.246	70	0.247	0.247	0.247	0.247	70	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	69	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	68	0.251	0.251	0.251	0.251	
<b>Metagraywacke (MGW)</b>																											
S=87	Avg	2615	5.369	5.344	5.336	5.315	2621	5.522	5.477	5.461	5.420	2627	5.624	5.561	5.536	5.475	2632	5.701	5.623	5.580	5.505	2638	5.764	5.668	5.613	5.513	
R=29	S.D.	112	0.615	0.615	0.615	0.615	112	0.564	0.564	0.564	0.564	112	0.519	0.519	0.519	0.519	112	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.479	112	0.443	0.443	0.443	0.443	
<b>Slate (SLT)</b>																											
S=30	Avg	2801	6.098	6.073	6.065	6.044	2807	6.172	6.127	6.111	6.070	2813	6.227	6.164	6.139	6.078	2818	6.268	6.190	6.148	6.073	2824	6.302	6.206	6.151	6.051	
R=10	S.D.	28	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	28	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	28	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	28	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	28	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	
<b>Phyllite (PHY)</b>																											
S=144	Avg	2728	6.105	6.080	6.073	6.052	2734	6.210	6.164	6.148	6.107	2740	6.260	6.197	6.172	6.111	2745	6.292	6.214	6.171	6.096	2751	6.316	6.220	6.165	6.065	
R=48	S.D.	58	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.258	58	0.206	0.206	0.206	0.206	58	0.183	0.183	0.183	0.183	58	0.168	0.168	0.168	0.168	58	0.158	0.158	0.158	0.158	
<b>Zeolite Facies Basalt (BZE)</b>																											
S=57	Avg	2916	6.277	6.253	6.245	6.224	2922	6.368	6.323	6.307	6.266	2927	6.425	6.363	6.337	6.277	2932	6.465	6.387	6.344	6.269	2937	6.495	6.399	6.344	6.244	
R=19	S.D.	81	0.269	0.269	0.269	0.269	81	0.261	0.261	0.261	0.261	81	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.257	81	0.254	0.254	0.254	0.254	81	0.252	0.252	0.252	0.252	



# Earth Velocity

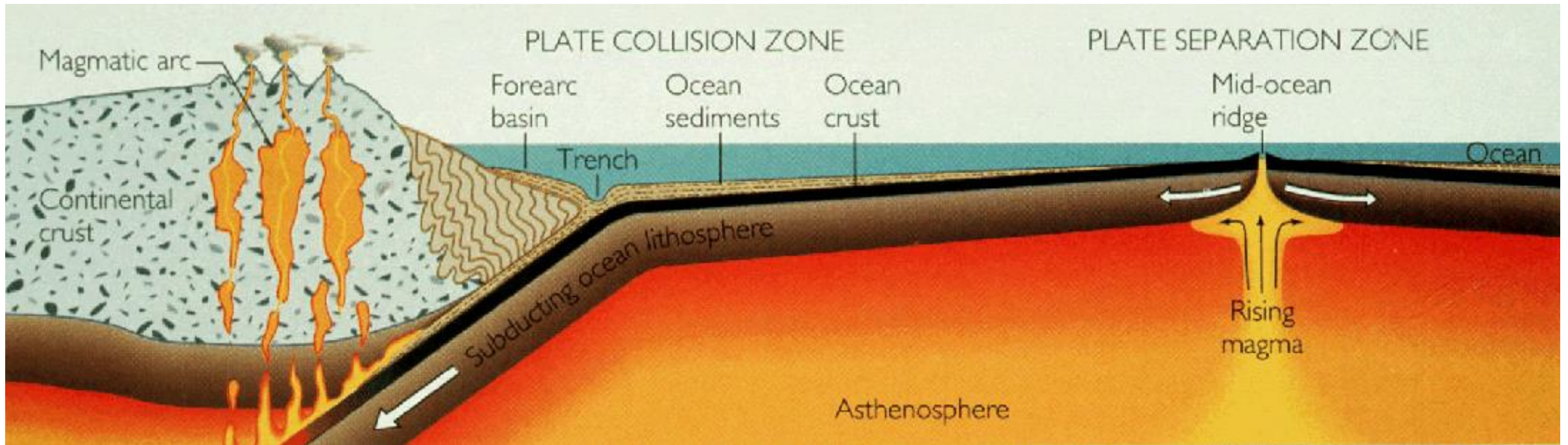


# Earth Density



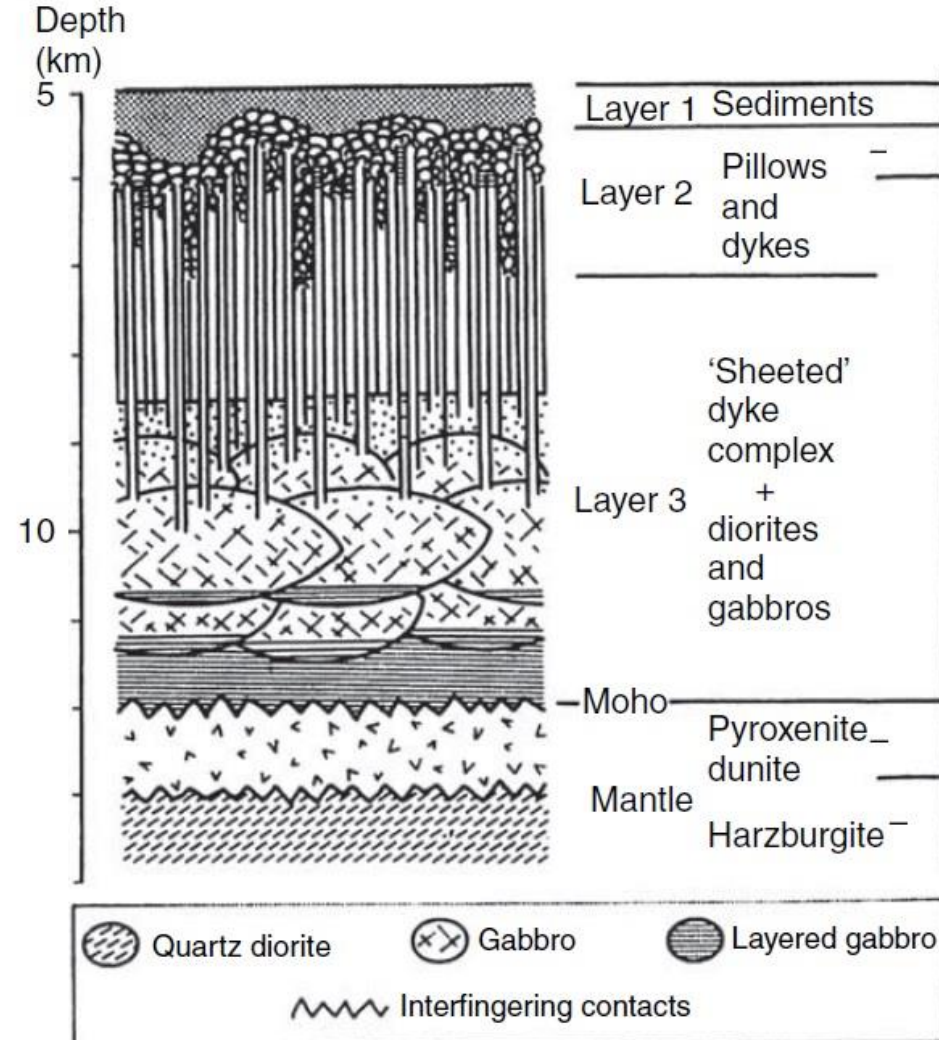
## Oceanic and continental crust

- Oceanic and continental lithosphere differ fundamentally in terms of geometry, composition, and thermal structure

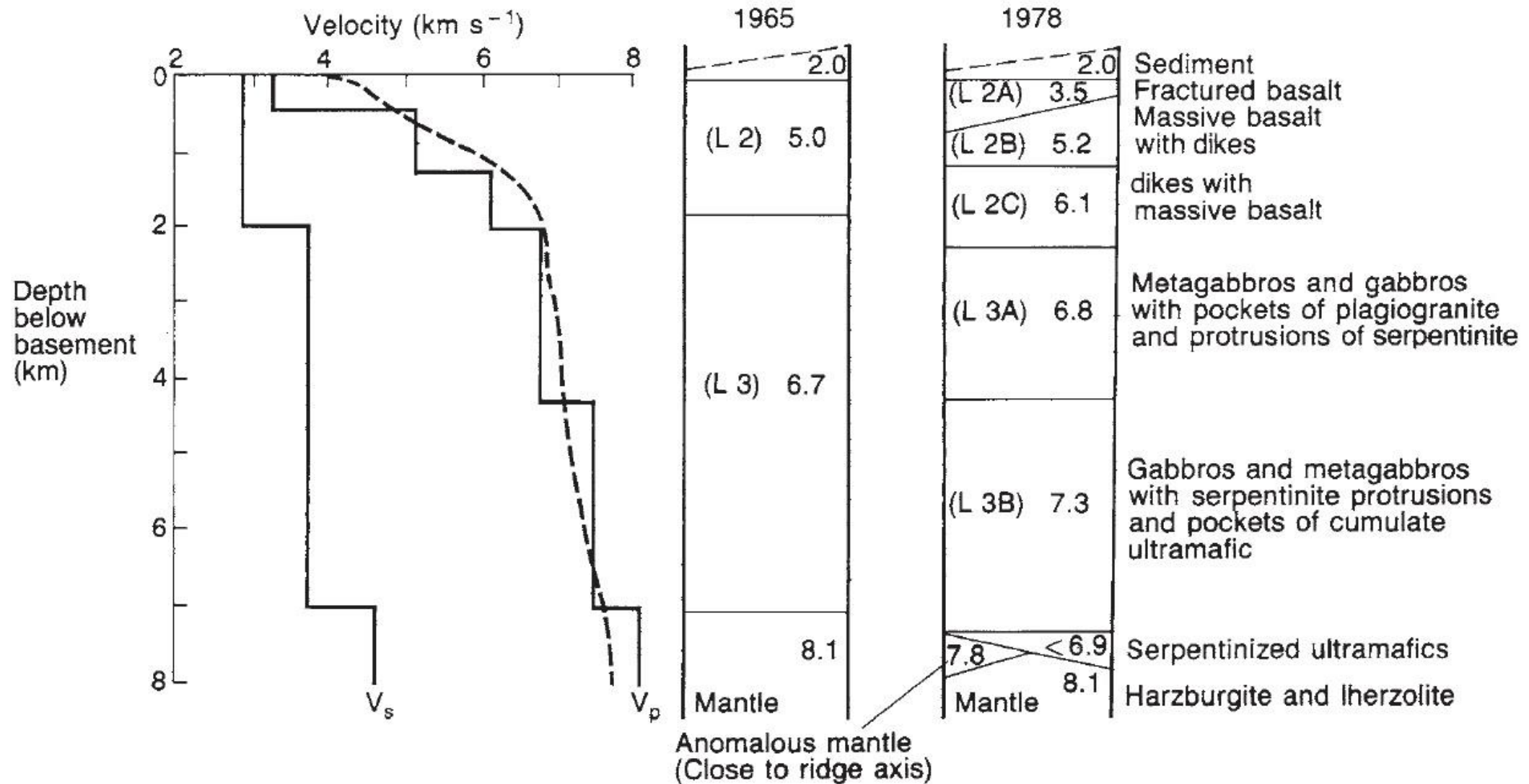


# Compositional Model of Oceanic Crust

- (1) 0.5 km of soft sediments (layer 1), P-wave velocity 2.0 km/s
- (2) a 1–3-km-thick upper layer (layer 2) P-wave velocity 2.5–6.4 km/s
- (3) 4–5-km thick lower crustal layer (layer 3), with a velocity of 6.5–7.3 km/s.



# Compositional Model of Oceanic Crust



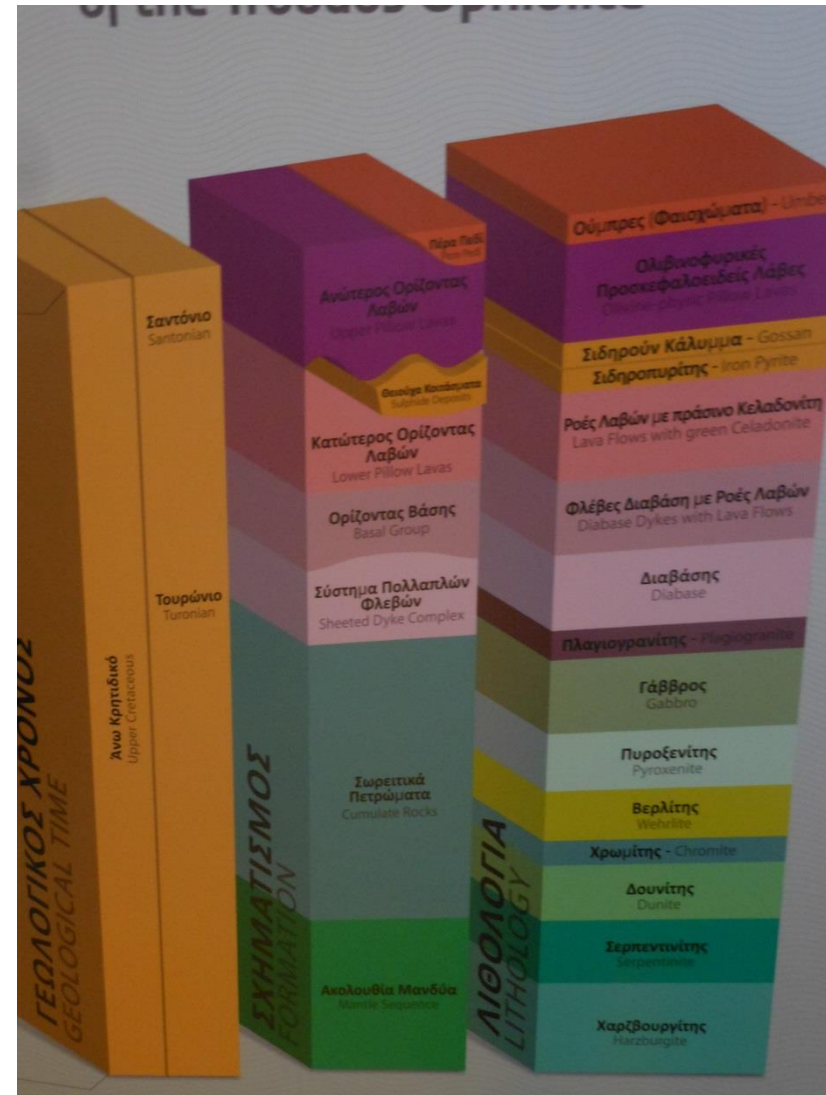
# Ophiolites

Ophiolites usually occur in collisional orogens and their association of deep-sea sediments, basalts, gabbros, and ultramafic rocks suggests that they originated as oceanic lithosphere.

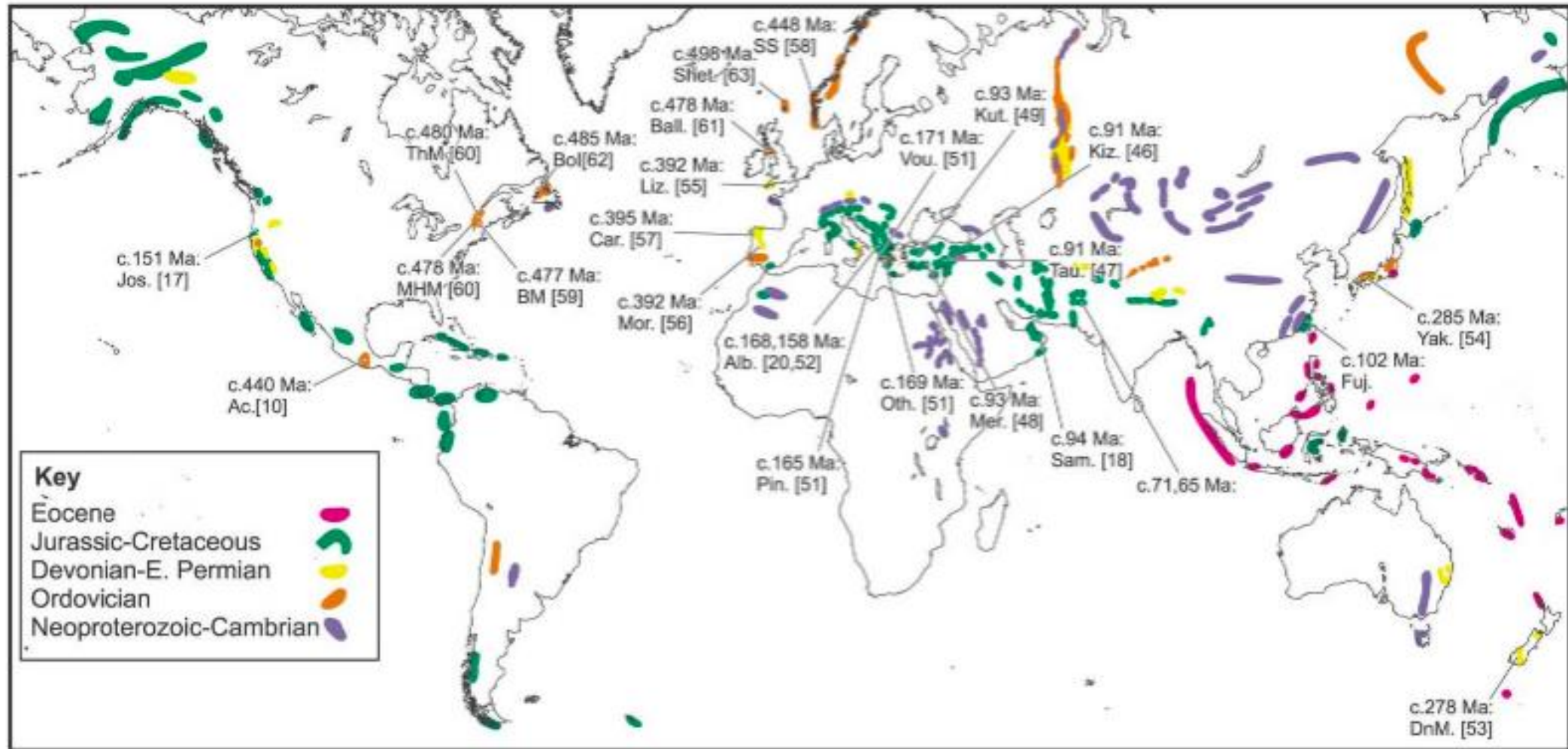
*Correlation of ophiolite stratigraphy with the oceanic lithosphere*

*Stratigraphy of the Troodos (Cyprus) ophiolite*

<b>Complete ophiolite sequence</b>	<b>Oceanic correlation</b>
Sediments	Layer 1
Mafic volcanics, commonly pillowed, merging into Mafic sheeted dike complex	} Layer 2
High level intrusives Trondhjemites Gabbros	
Layered cumulates Olivine gabbros Pyroxenites Peridotites	} — Moho —
Harzburgite, commonly serpentized ± Iherzolite, dunite, chromitite	
	Upper mantle

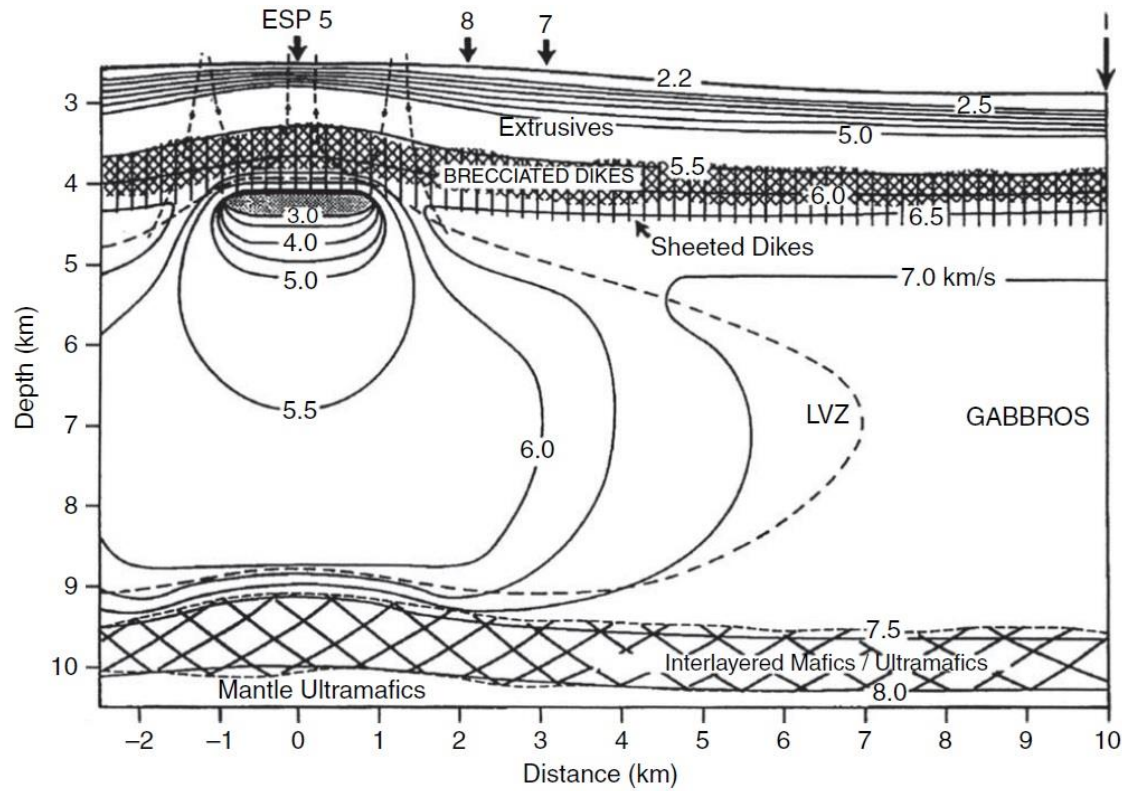


# Global Ophiolite Distribution by Age

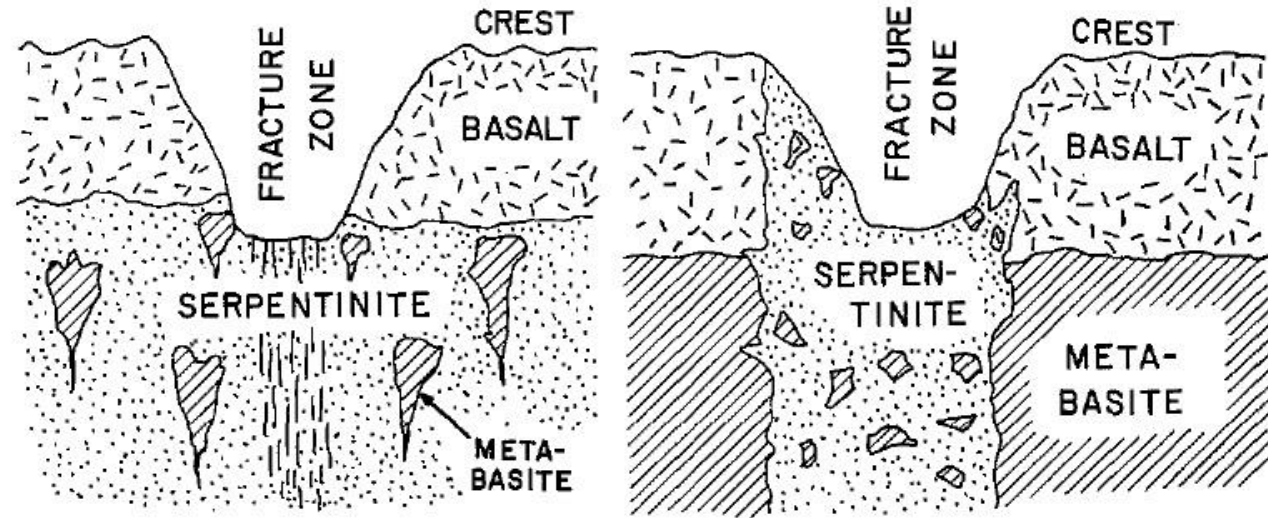


# Oceanic Ridge

Fast-spreading ridges (spreading rate = 8–16 cm/yr)  
Intermediate (spreading rate = 4–8 cm/yr)



slow-spreading ridges (spreading rate = 1–4 cm/yr)



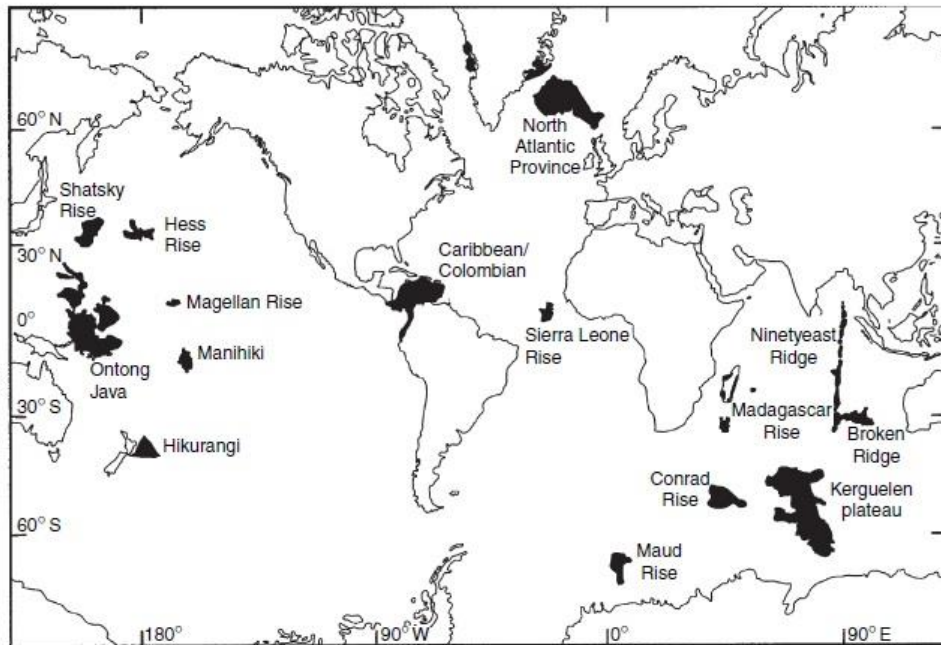


# Anomalous Oceanic Crust

## Oceanic Plateaux

Large volumes of magma emplaced in a short time (2-3 Myr)

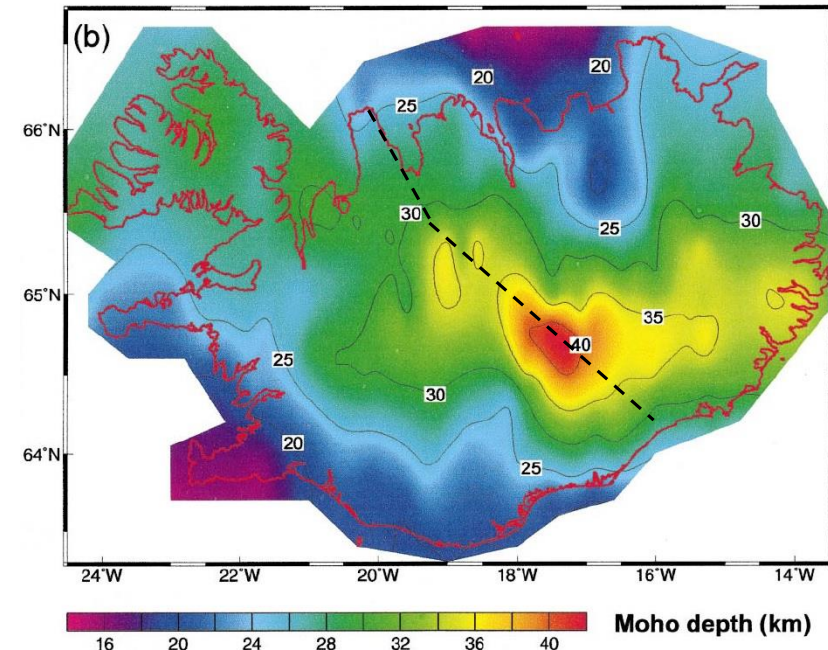
Anomalous crustal structure: large thickness and high seismic velocities (7.1 km/s)



(b)

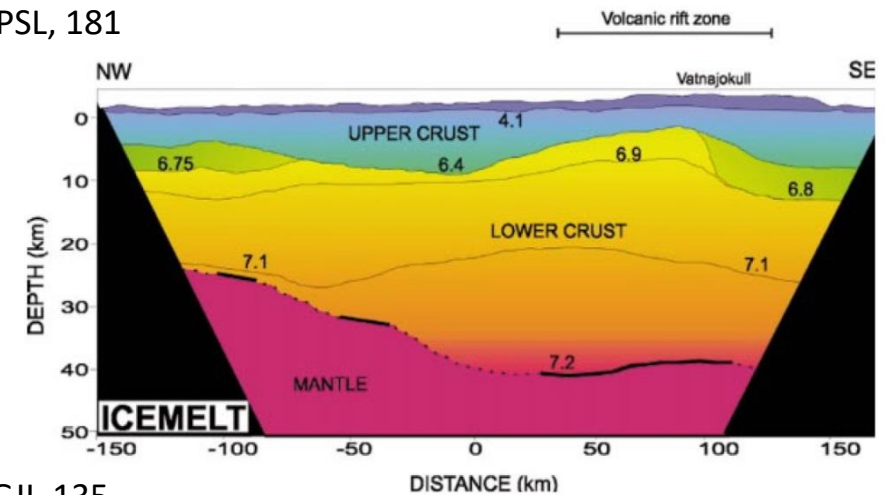
Oceanic plateau	Mean age (Ma)	Area ( $10^6 \text{ km}^2$ )	Thickness range (km)	Volume ( $10^6 \text{ km}^3$ )
Hikurangi	early-mid Cretaceous	0.7	10–15	2.7
Shatsky Rise	147	0.2	10–28	2.5
Magellan Rise	145	0.5	10	1.8
Manihiki	123	0.8	>20	8.8
Ontong Java	121(90)	1.9	15–32	44.4
Hess Rise	99	0.8	>15	9.1
Caribbean	88	1.1	8–20	4.4
South Kerguelen	110	1.0	–22	6.0
Central Kerguelen/Broken Ridge	86	1.0	19–21	9.1
Sierra Leone Rise	–73	0.9	>10	2.5
Maud Rise	–>73	0.2	>10	1.2

## Iceland



Darbyshire, 2000, EPSL, 181

Mooney, 2007

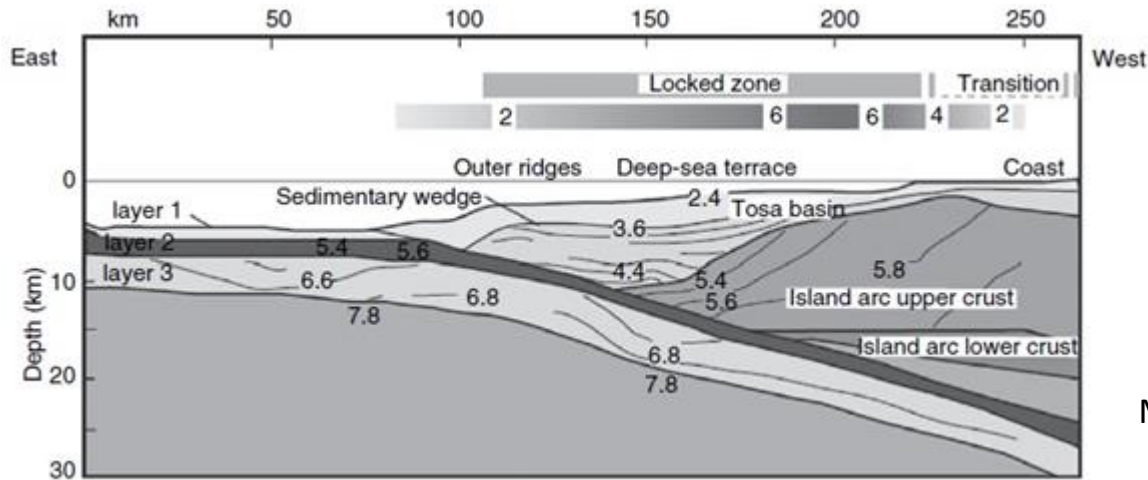


Darbyshire, 1998, GJI, 135

# Anomalous Oceanic Crust

## Ocean trench and subduction zone

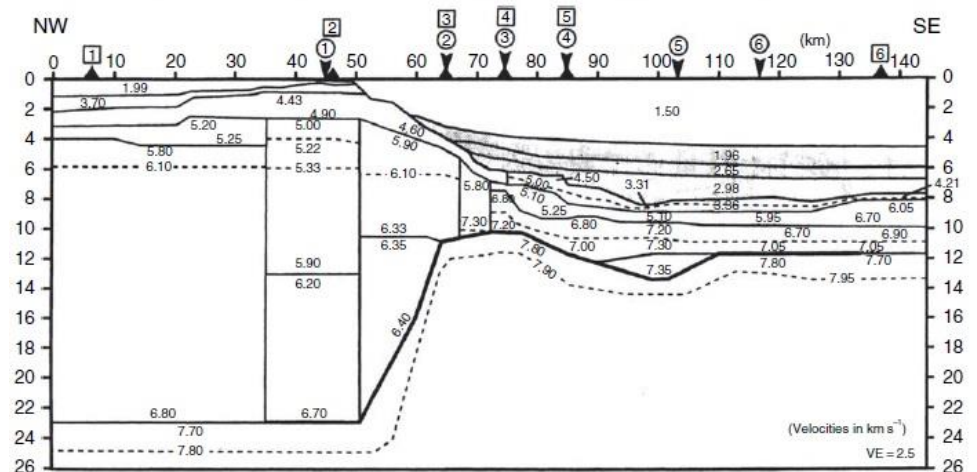
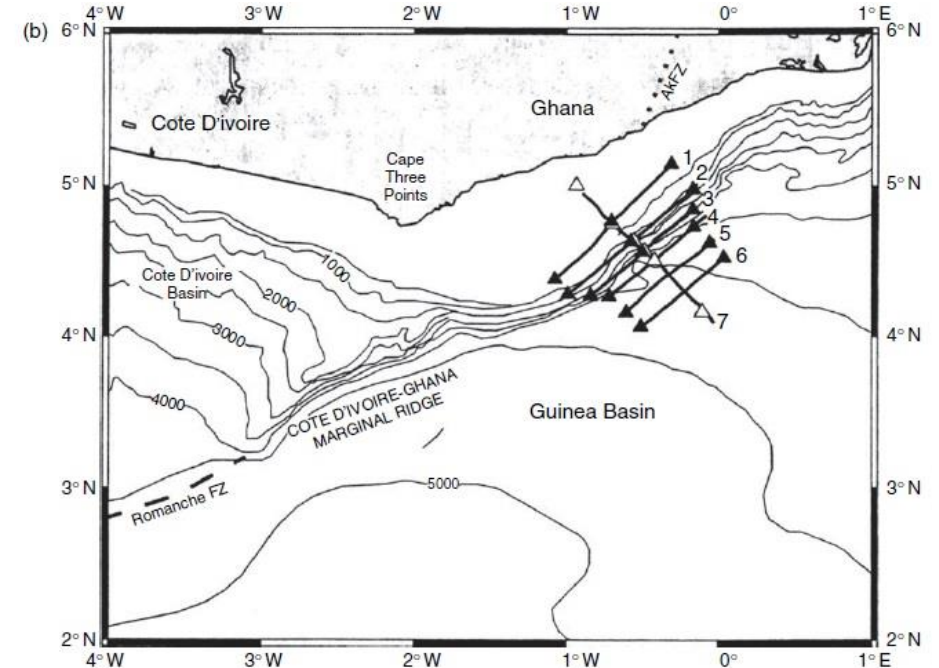
### Crustal model across Nankai Trough (Japan)



Mooney, 2007

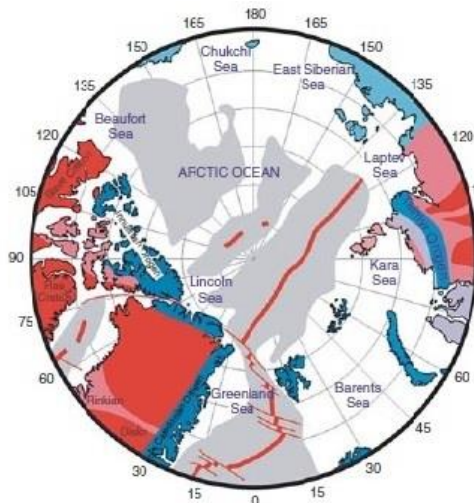
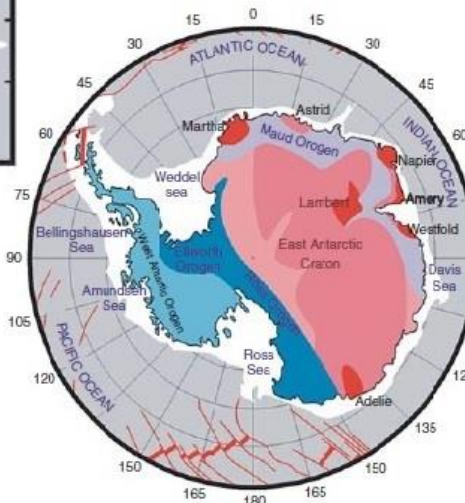
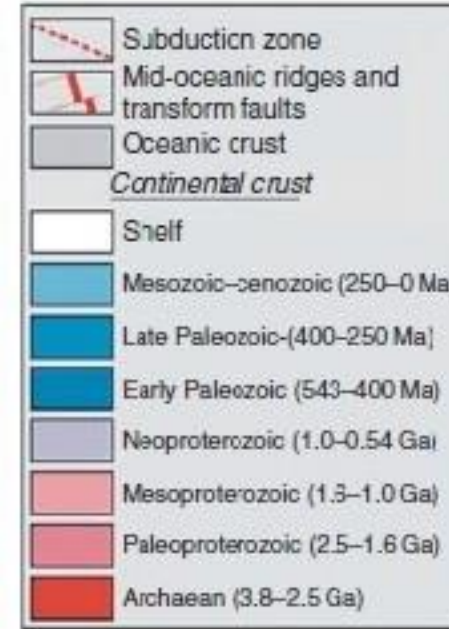
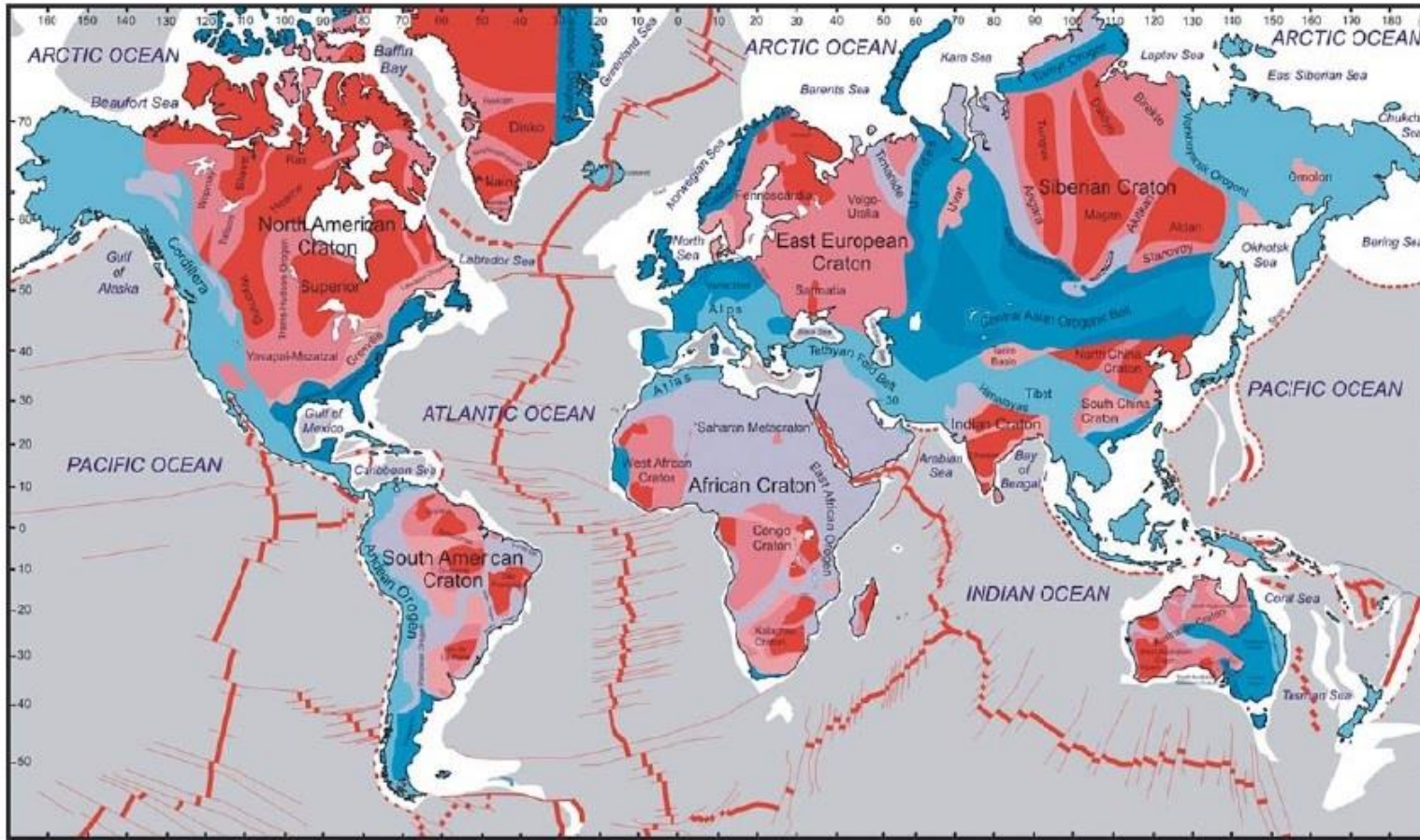
## Oceanic–continent transition zone

### (Ghana, West Africa)

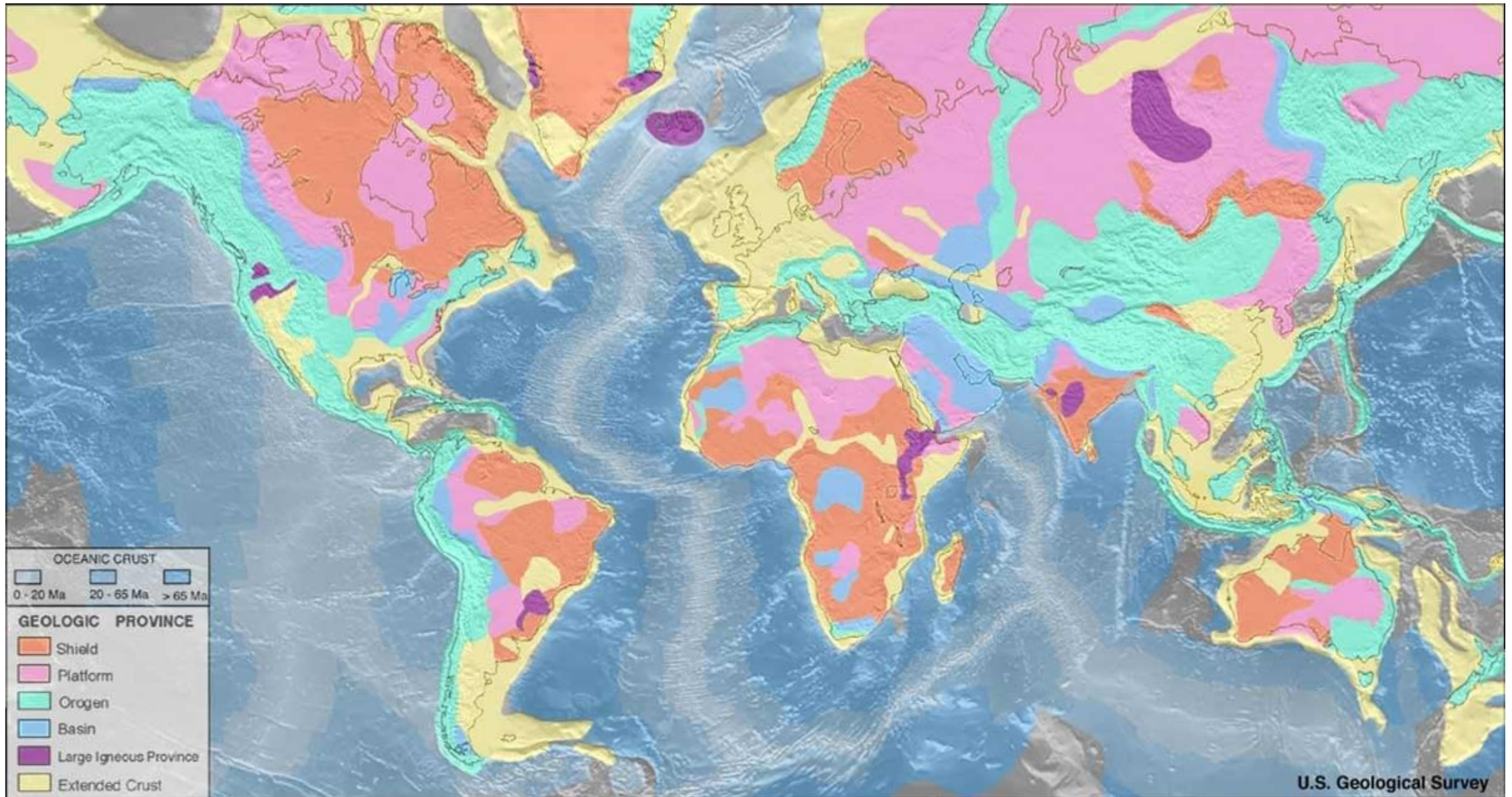


- The crustal structure in typical subduction-zone includes a prominent low-seismic-velocity sedimentary wedge and the higher velocity igneous crust of the island arc.
- The passive margin between continental and oceanic lithosphere is sometimes characterized by a sharp drop in elevation and 20–30 km of crustal thinning over horizontal distances less than 30km.

# Basement age of continental crust

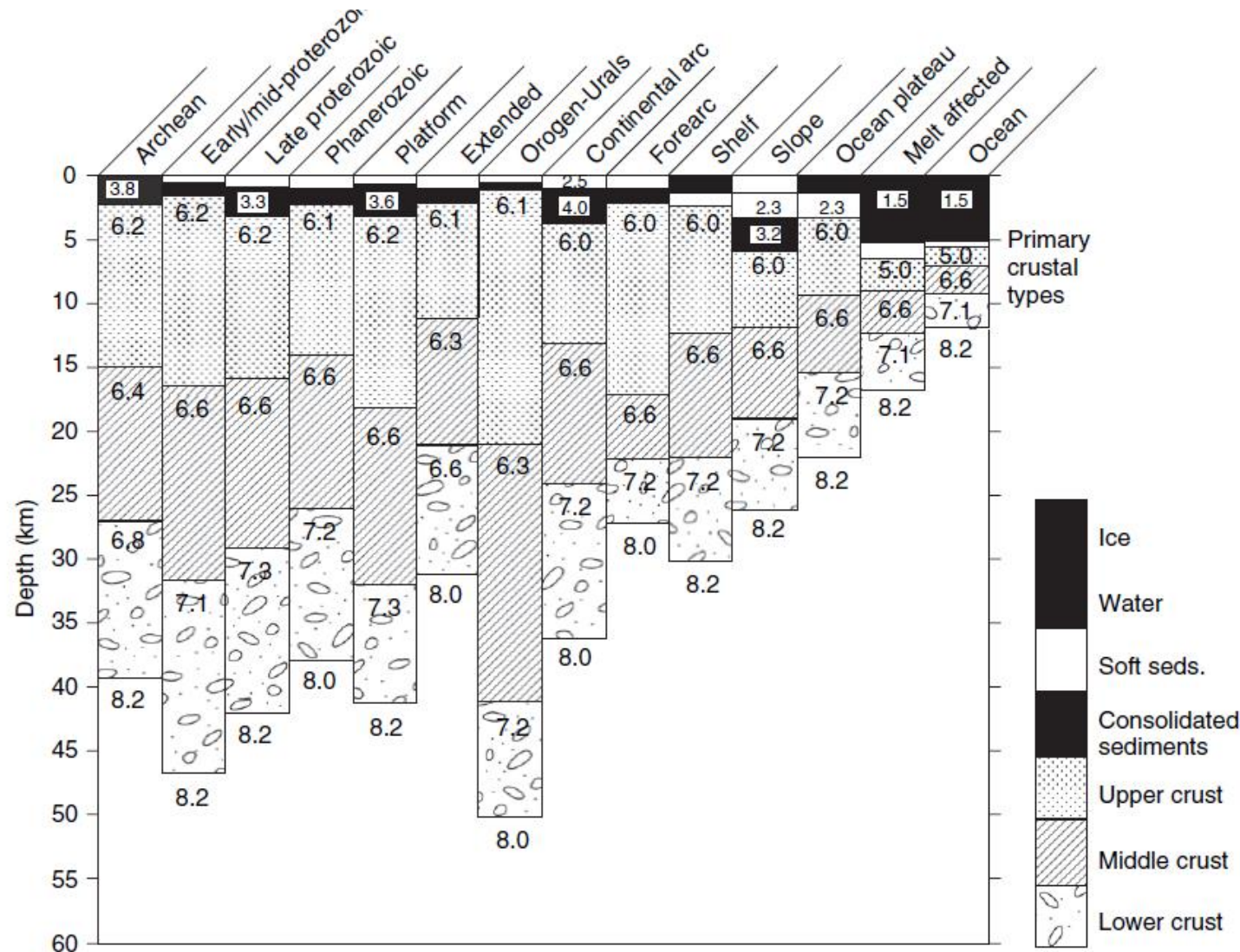


# Continental crustal type



# Continental and Oceanic crustal type

The Earth's crust constitutes about 0.7% of the total mass of the crust–mantle system



## Proportion of continental crustal types:

- 69% shield and platform (cratons)
- 15% old and young orogens
- 9% extended crust
- 6% magmatic arc
- 1% rift

## Continental crust (weighted average values):

Thickness = 41 km (SD=6.2 km)  
 $V_p = 6.45 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (SD=0.21 km/s)

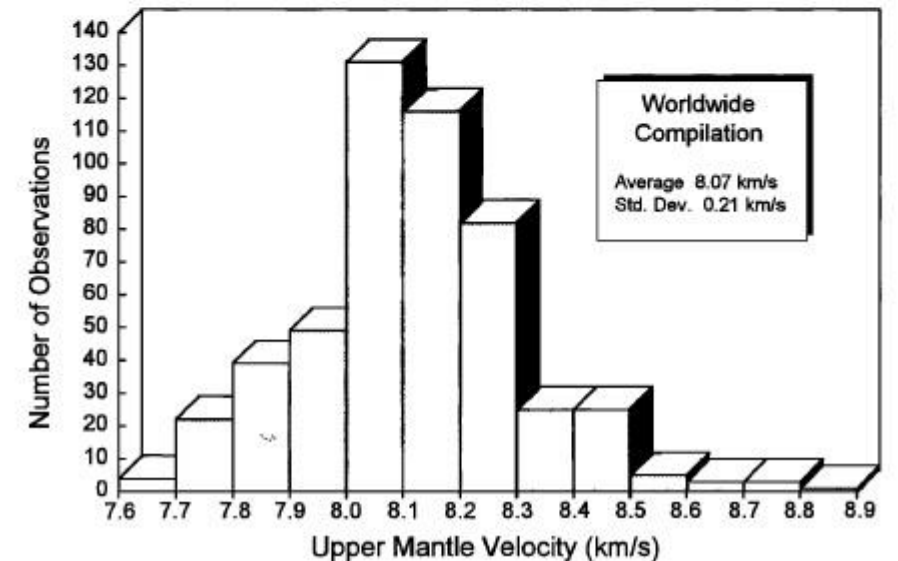
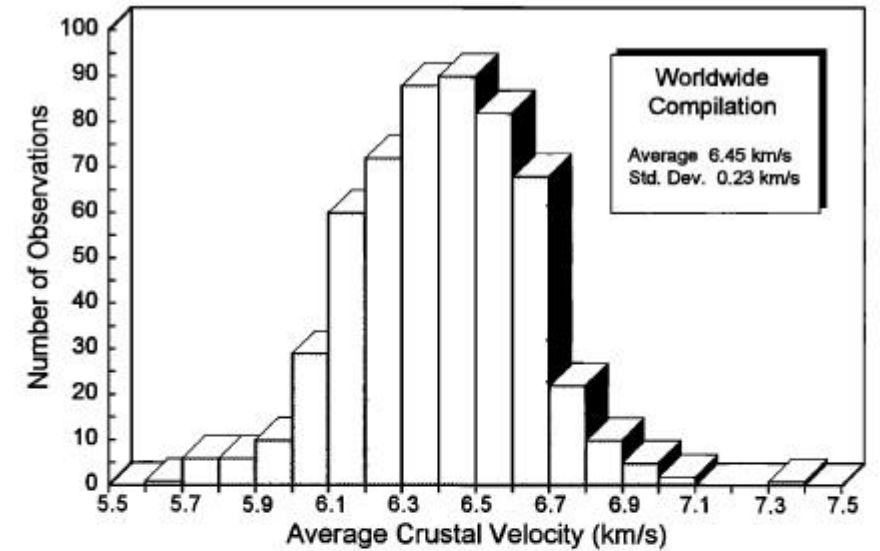
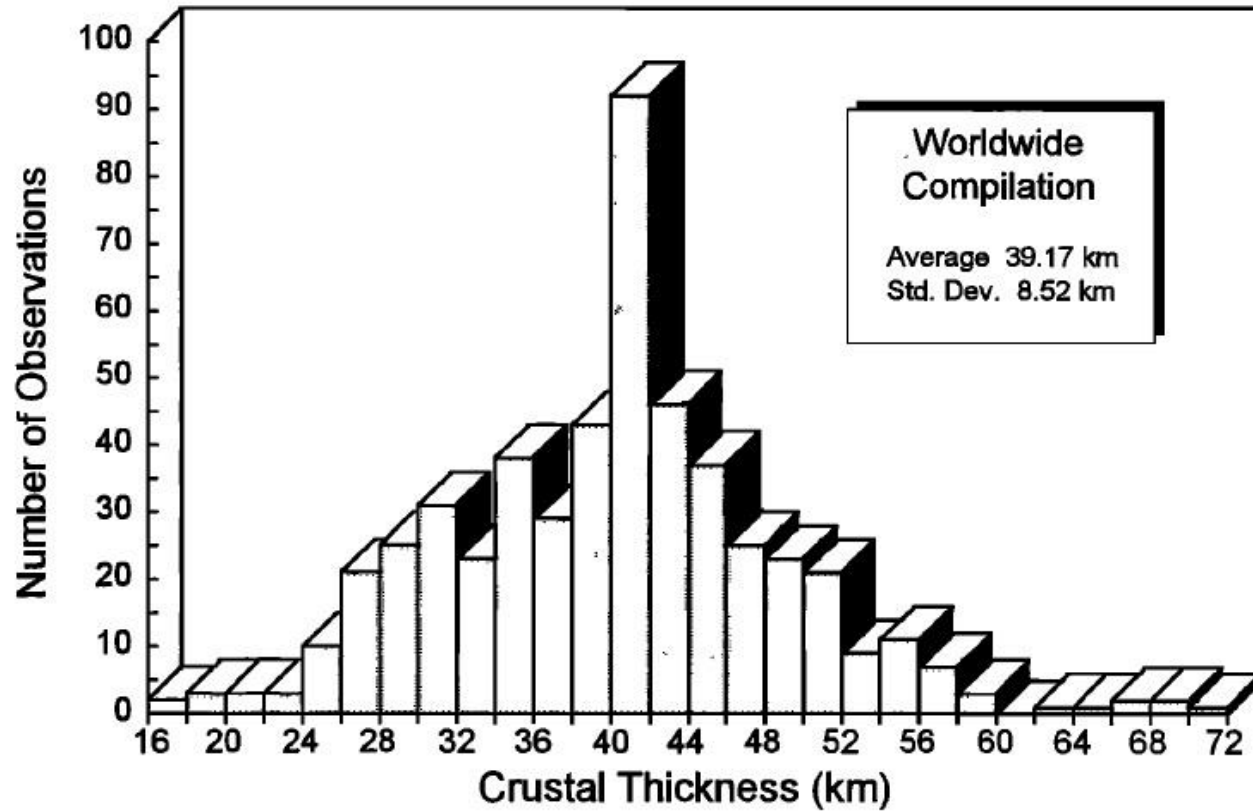
## Oceanic crust (average values):

Thickness = 7 km,  $\rho = 3 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ , Age  $\leq 200 \text{ My}$

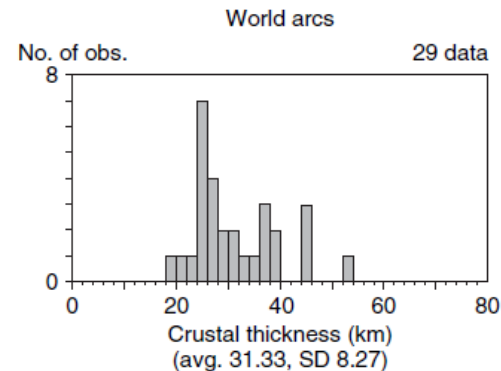
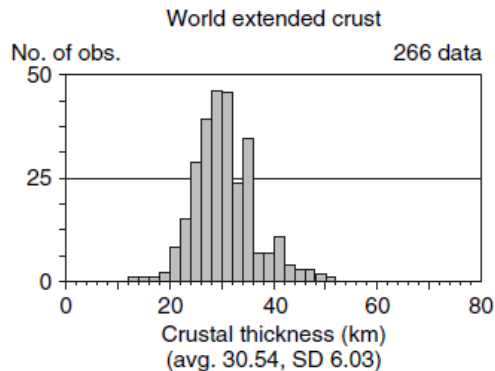
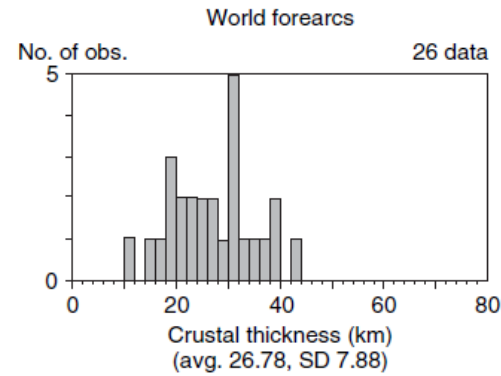
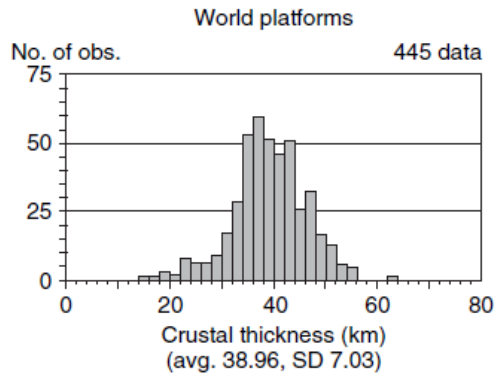
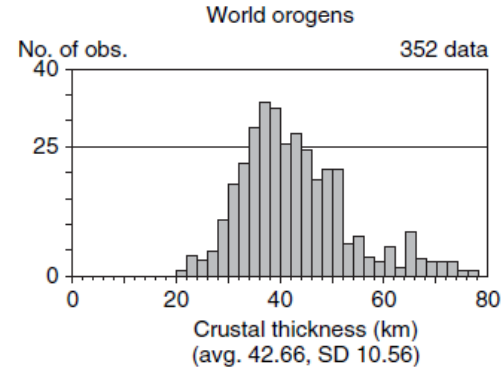
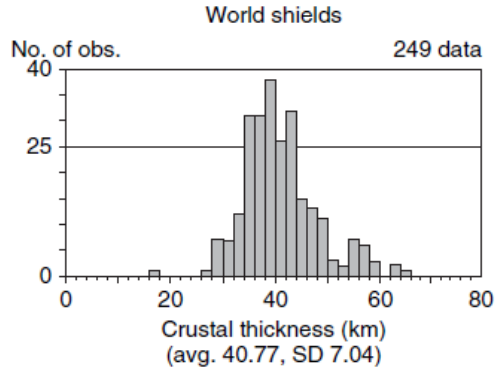
(Mooney et al., 1998)

## Continental crust (average values):

Thickness = 39 km (range between 20 km and 80 km, 95% between 22 km and 56 km),  $V_p=6.45$  km/s,  $\rho=2.84$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>, Age =1500 My



# Crustal thickness distribution (6 tectonic provinces)



**Table 3. Velocities and Crustal Thickness for Tectonic Provinces and Average Continental Crust**

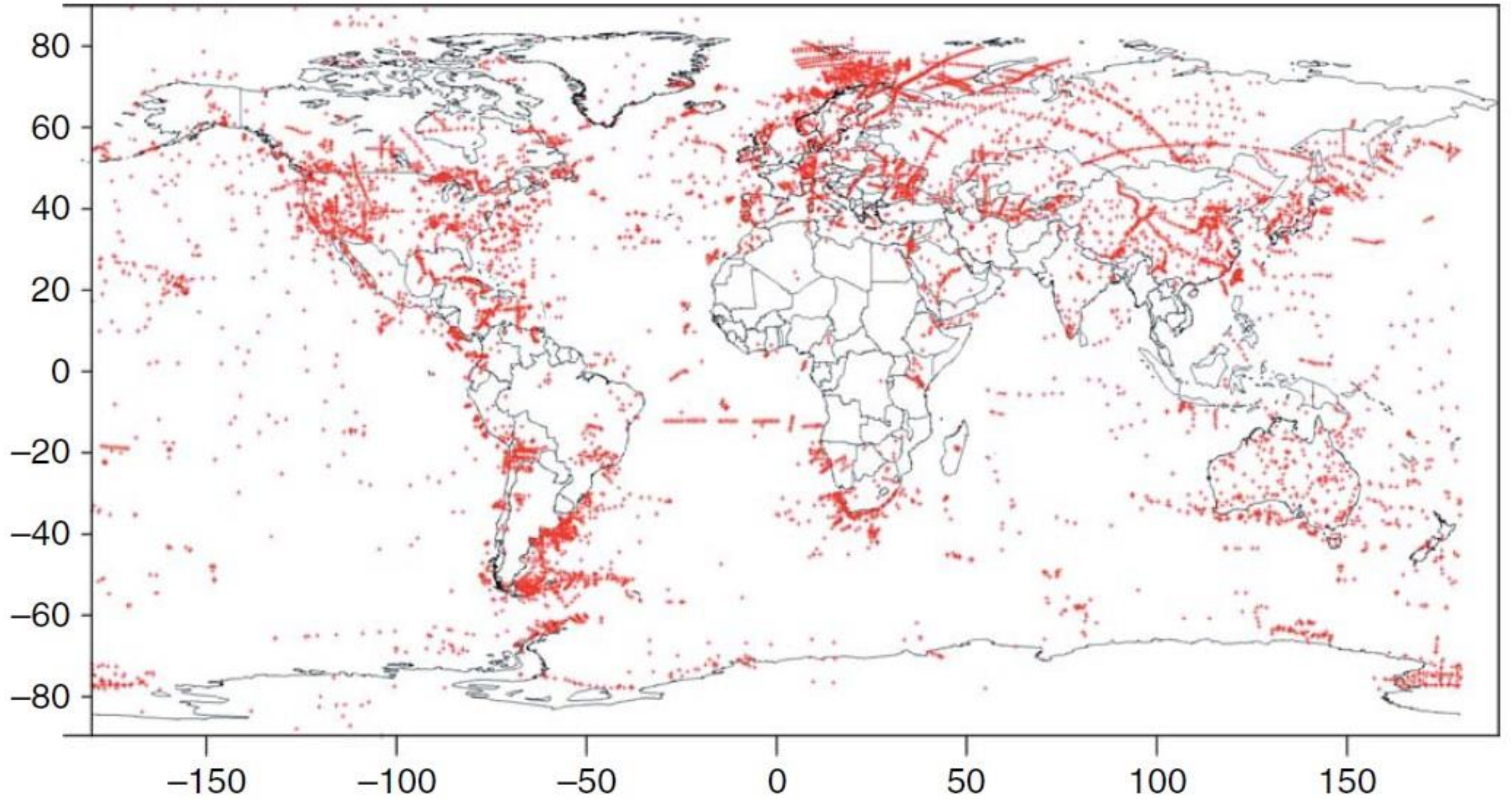
Crustal Property	Orogens	Shields and Platforms	Continental Arcs	Rifts	Extended Crust	Average* Crust
$V_p$ at 5 km	$5.69 \pm 0.67$	$5.68 \pm 0.81$	$5.80 \pm 0.34$	$5.64 \pm 0.64$	$5.59 \pm 0.88$	$5.95 \pm 0.73^\dagger$
$V_p$ at 10 km	$6.06 \pm 0.39$	$6.10 \pm 0.40$	$6.17 \pm 0.34$	$6.05 \pm 0.18$	$6.02 \pm 0.45$	$6.21 \pm 0.27^\dagger$
$V_p$ at 15 km	$6.22 \pm 0.32$	$6.32 \pm 0.26$	$6.38 \pm 0.33$	$6.29 \pm 0.19$	$6.31 \pm 0.32$	$6.31 \pm 0.27$
$V_p$ at 20 km	$6.38 \pm 0.34$	$6.48 \pm 0.26$	$6.55 \pm 0.28$	$6.51 \pm 0.23$	$6.53 \pm 0.34$	$6.47 \pm 0.28$
$V_p$ at 25 km	$6.53 \pm 0.39$	$6.65 \pm 0.27$	$6.69 \pm 0.28$	$6.72 \pm 0.35$	$6.69 \pm 0.30$	$6.64 \pm 0.29$
$V_p$ at 30 km	$6.68 \pm 0.43$	$6.80 \pm 0.27$	$6.84 \pm 0.30$	$6.94 \pm 0.37$	$6.89 \pm 0.40$	$6.78 \pm 0.30$
$V_p$ at 35 km	$6.81 \pm 0.40$	$6.96 \pm 0.30$	$6.99 \pm 0.29$	$7.12 \pm 0.33$	$6.93 \pm 0.46$	$6.93 \pm 0.32$
$V_p$ at 40 km	$6.92 \pm 0.44$	$7.11 \pm 0.33$	$7.14 \pm 0.25$	$7.12 \pm 0.30$	—	$7.02 \pm 0.32$
$V_p$ at 45 km	$6.96 \pm 0.43$	$7.22 \pm 0.39$	—	—	—	$7.09 \pm 0.35$
$V_p$ at 50 km	$6.99 \pm 0.52$	—	—	—	—	$7.14 \pm 0.38$
Crustal thickness	$46.3 \pm 9.5$	$41.5 \pm 5.8$	$38.7 \pm 9.6$	$36.2 \pm 7.9$	$30.5 \pm 5.3$	$41.0 \pm 6.2$
Average crustal velocity	$6.39 \pm 0.25$	$6.42 \pm 0.20$	$6.44 \pm 0.25$	$6.36 \pm 0.23$	$6.21 \pm 0.22$	$6.45 \pm 0.21^\dagger$
$P_n$ velocity	$8.01 \pm 0.22$	$8.13 \pm 0.19$	$7.95 \pm 0.23$	$7.93 \pm 0.15$	$8.02 \pm 0.19$	$8.09 \pm 0.20$

Velocities in km/s and thickness in km.

\*Weighted average (69% shields and platforms, 15% orogens, 9% extended crust, 6% continental arcs, 1% rifts).

†Sedimentary sections have been removed from upper 10 km.

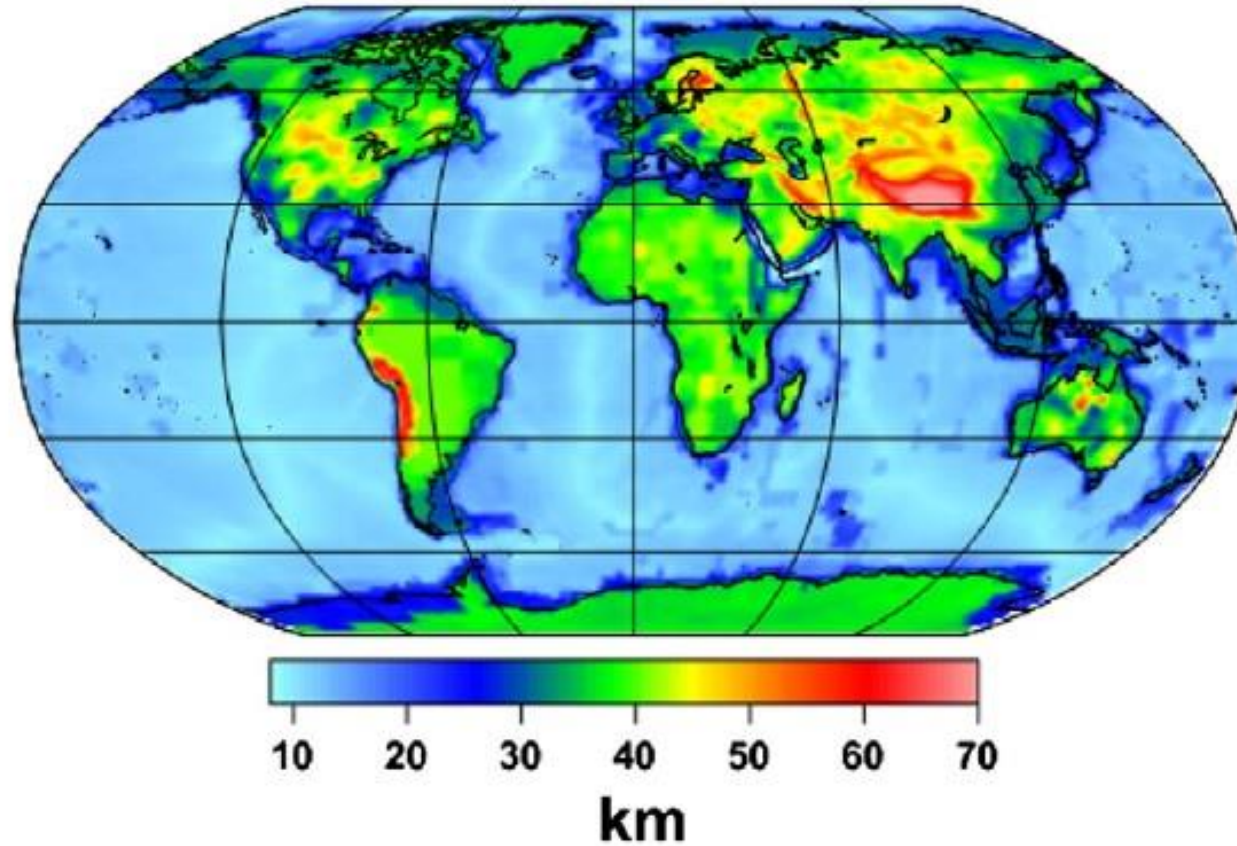
## Seismic-depth measurements (1920-present)





## Moho depth

A compositional boundary formed during chemical differentiation within the lithosphere



Tesauro et al., 2012, Global and Planetary Change, 90-91

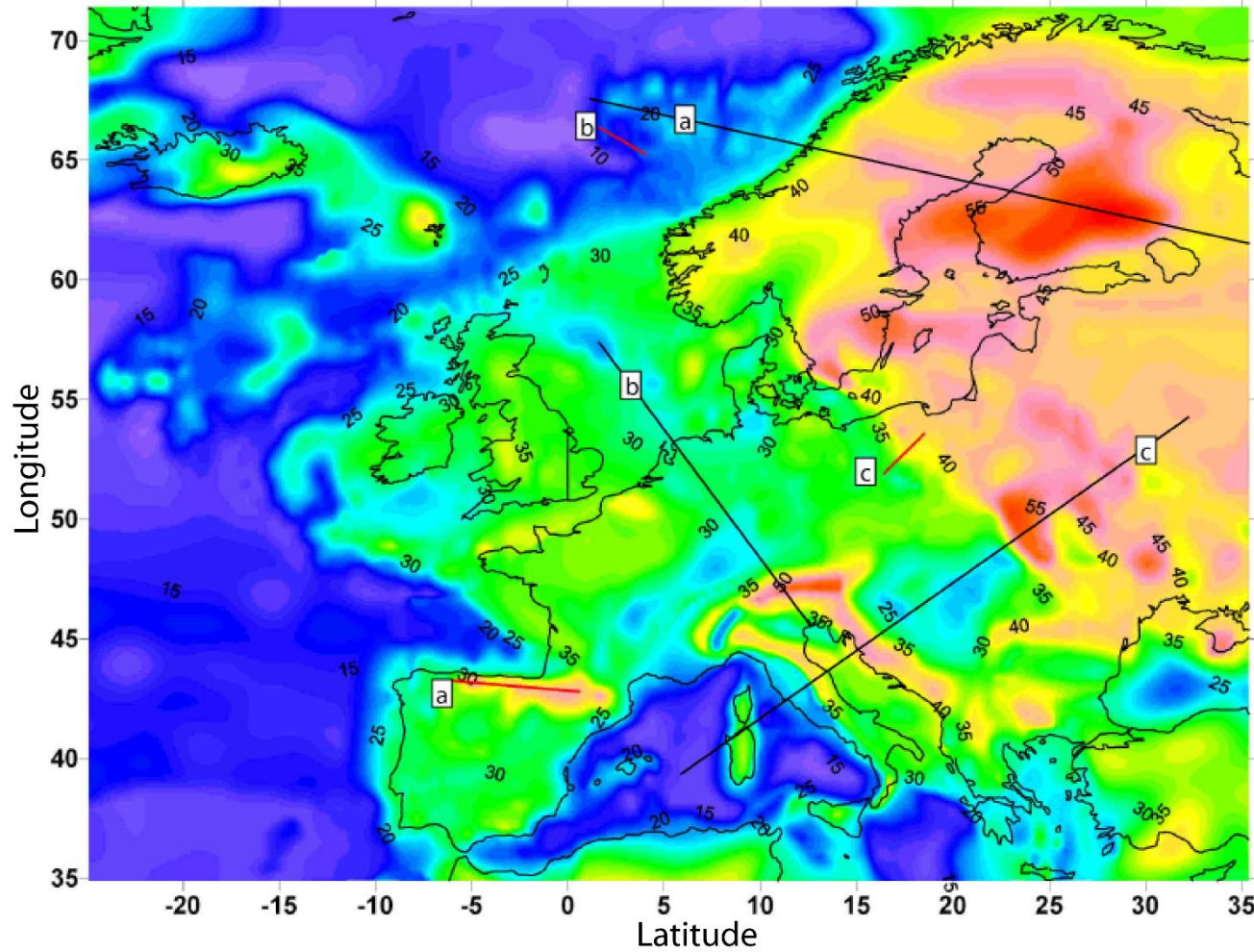
## Other Models

CRUST 1.0: <http://igppweb.ucsd.edu/~gabi/crust1.html> (Laske et al., 2013)

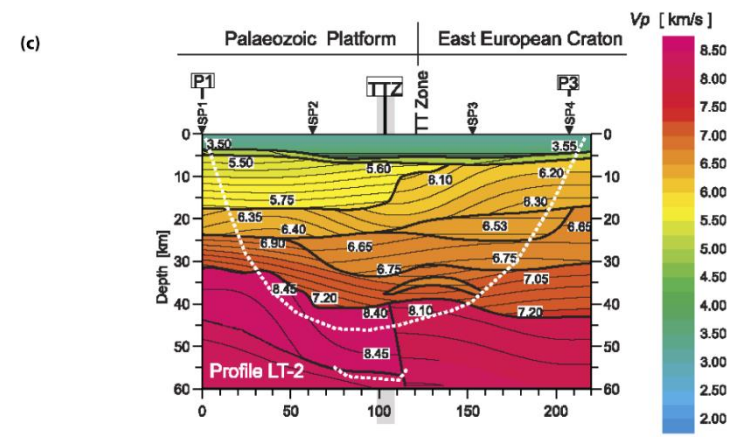
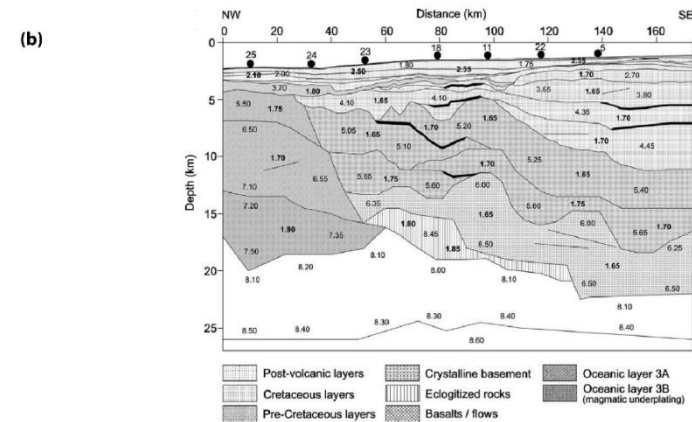
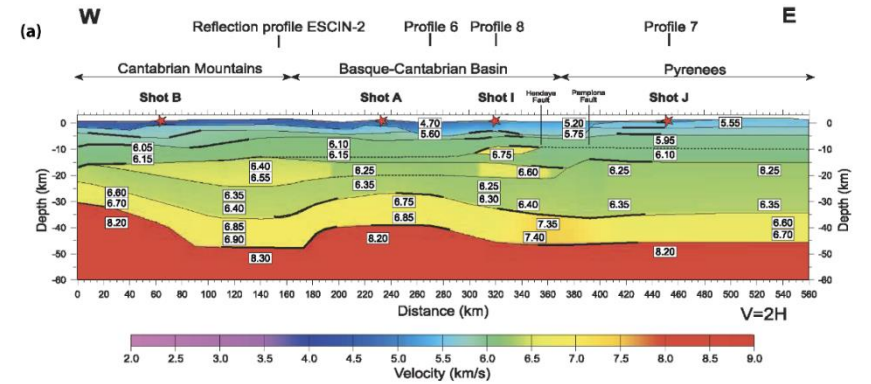
# Case Study: Europe

## Moho depth

EuCrust07 (Tesauro et al., 2008, GRL)



## Crustal sections (a, b, c)

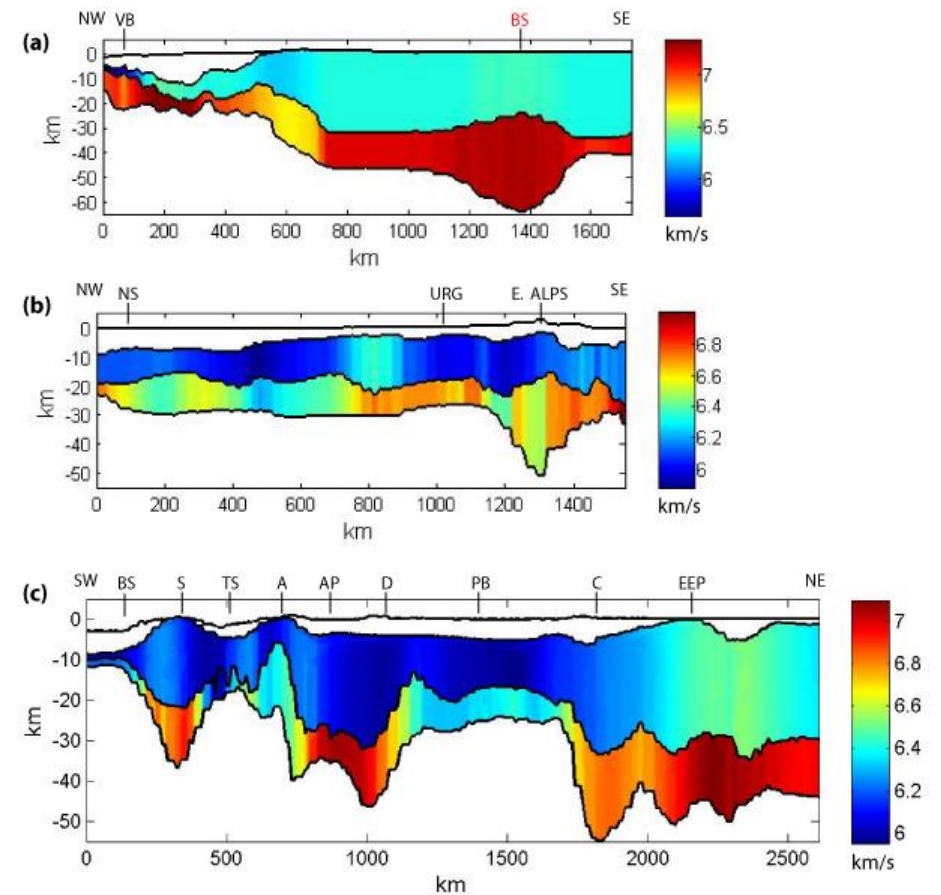
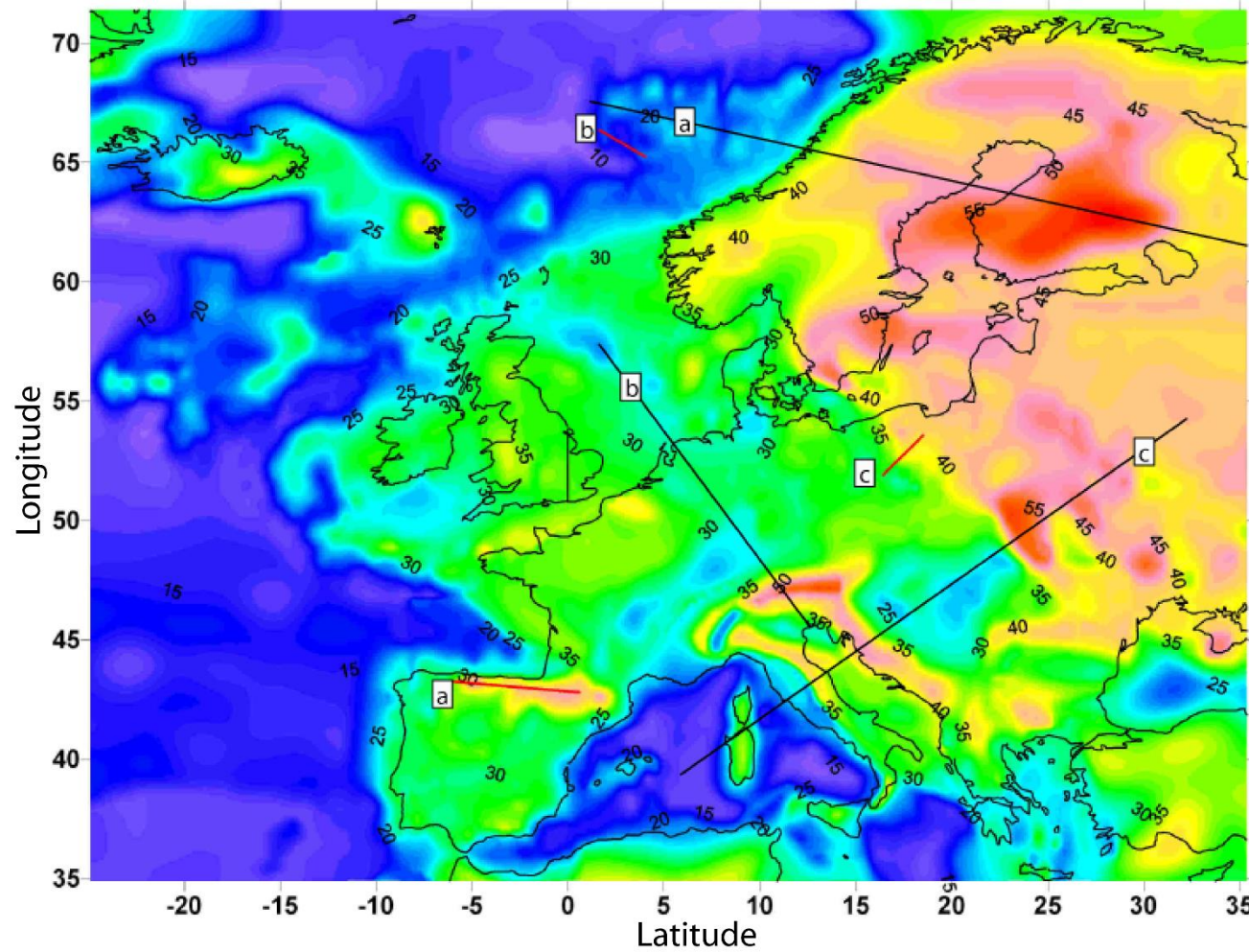


# Case Study: Europe

## Crustal sections (a, b, c)

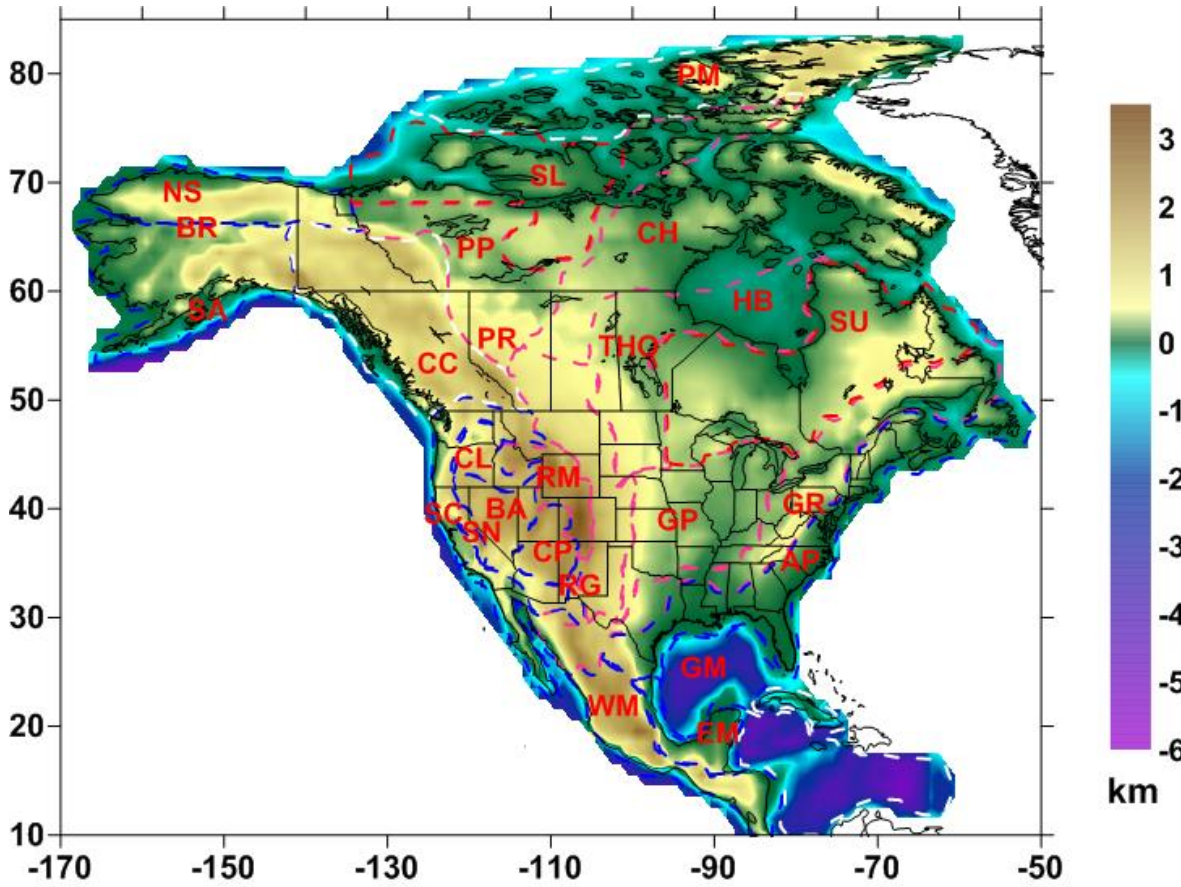
### Moho depth

EuCrust07 (Tesauro et al., 2008, GRL)



# Case Study: North American continent

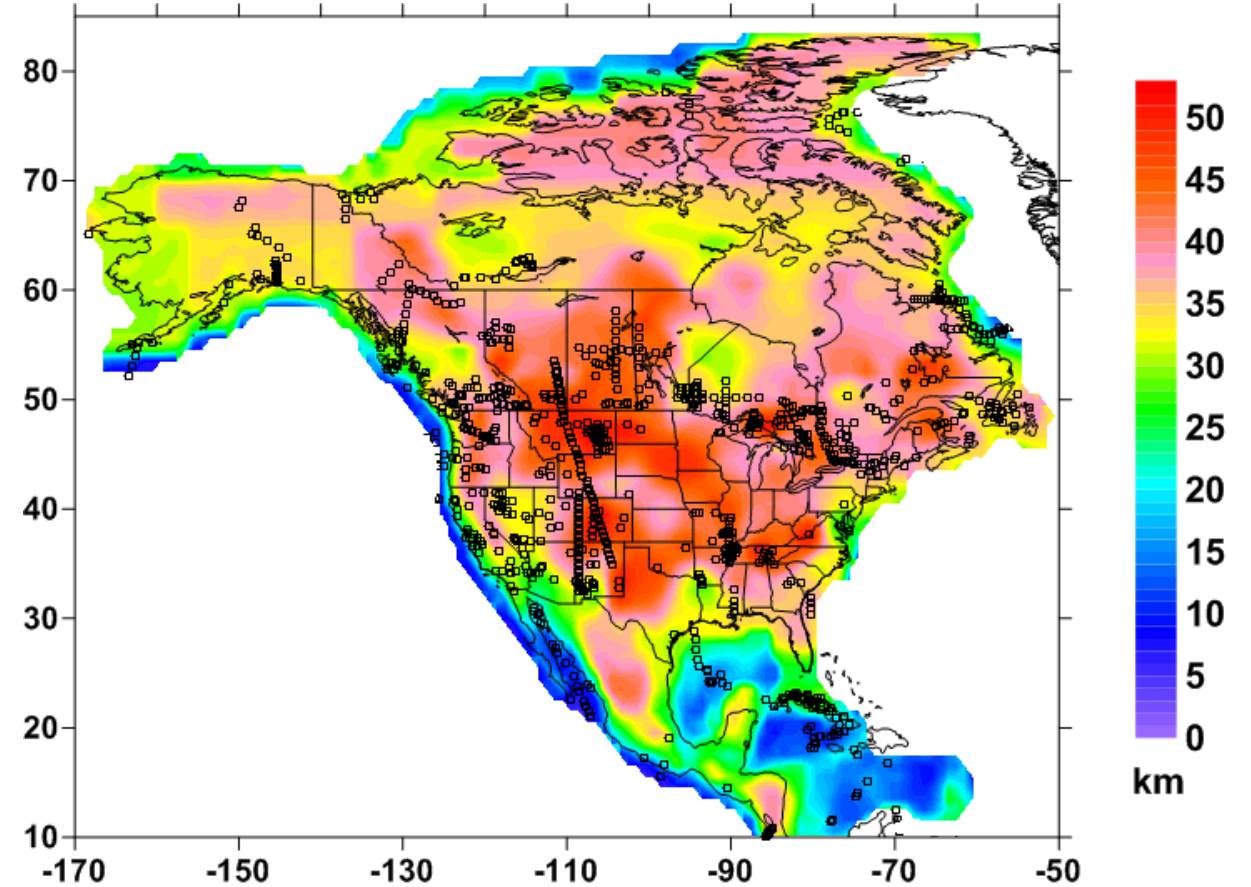
## 1. Depiction of the contours NA geological provinces



Topography, ETOPO2  
(NOAA, 2010)

----- Archean  
- · - · - Proterozoic  
- - - - - Phanerozoic

## 2. Selection and analysis of the seismic data



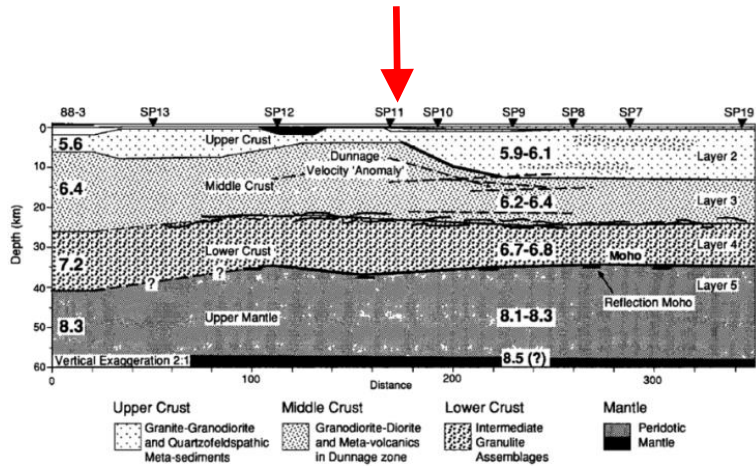
Crystalline crustal thickness  
(Tesauro et al., 2014, Tectonophysics, 631)

AP, Appalachians; BA, Basin and Range; BR, Brooks Range; CC, Canadian Cordillera; CH, Churchill craton; CP, Colorado Plateau; CL, Columbia Plateau; EM, Eastern Mexico; GM, Gulf of Mexico; GP, Great Plain; GR, Grenville; HB, Hudson Basin; NS, North Slope; PM, Polar margin; PP, Paleoproterozoic platform; PR, Peace River arch; RG, Rio Grande rift; RM, Rocky Mountains; SA, Southern Alaska; SC, Southern Cordillera; SL, Slave craton; SN, Sierra Nevada; SR, Snake River Plain; SU, Superior craton; THO, Trans-Hudson Orogen; WB, Williston Basin; WM, Western Mexico.

# Case Study: North American continent

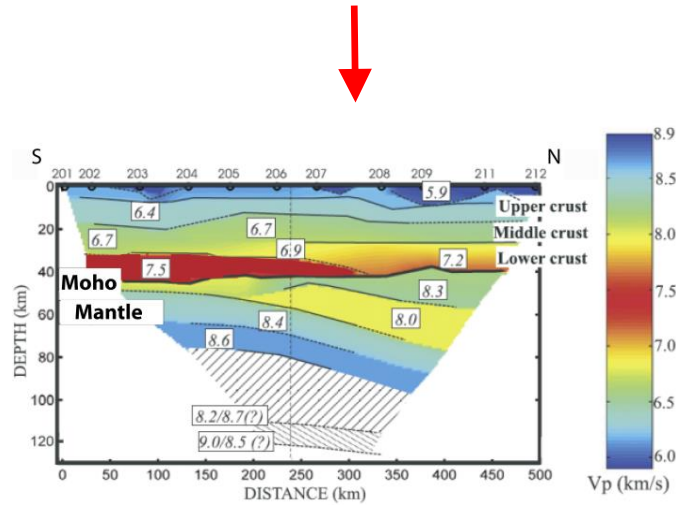
## 2. Selection and analysis of the seismic data

Crystalline Crust usually composed of three layers

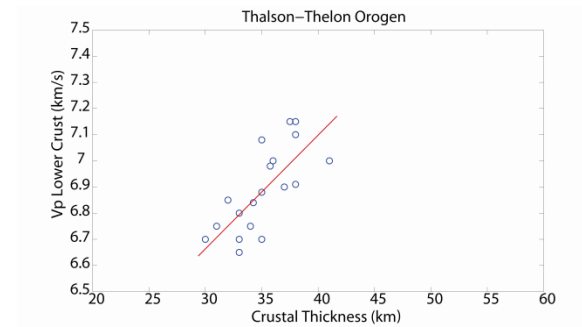
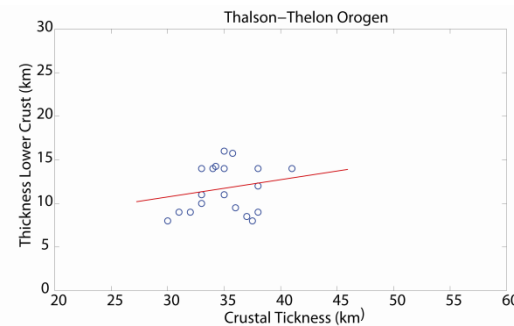
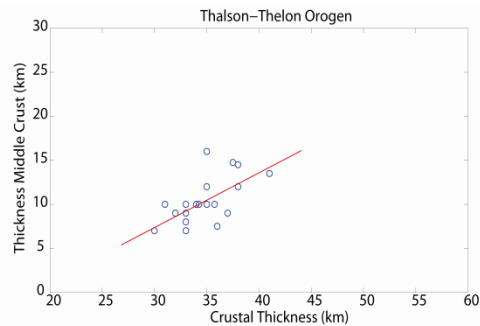
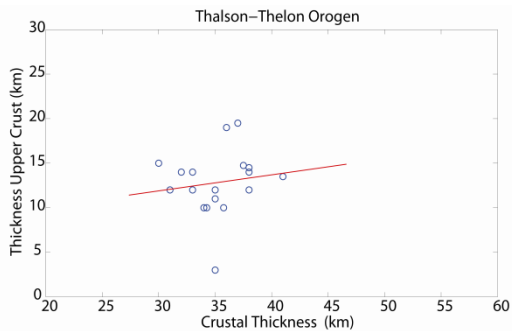
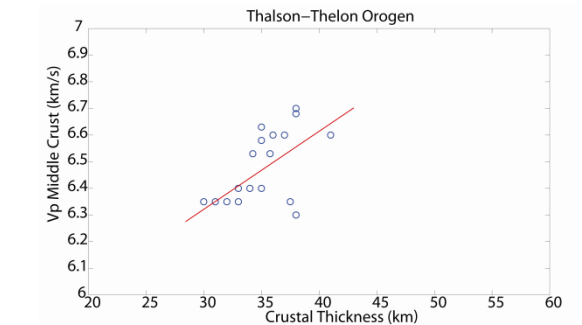
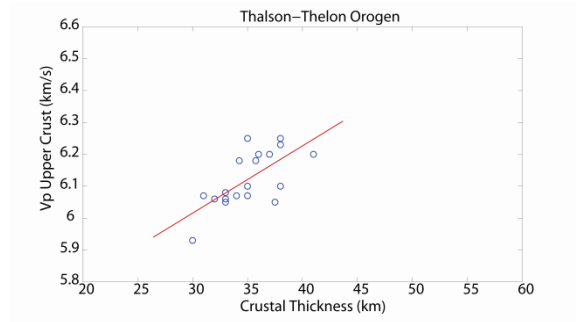


Hughes and Hall (1994)

...or more



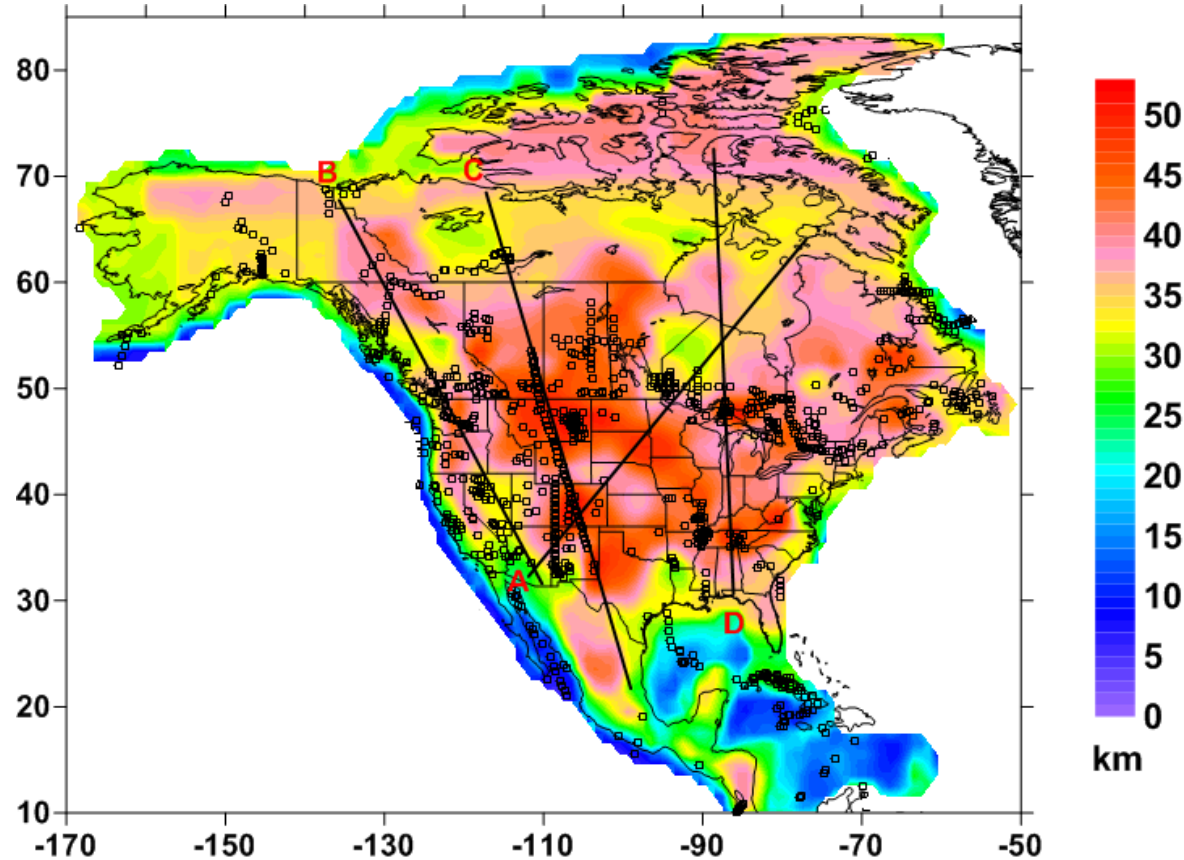
Musacchio et al. (2004)



Positive correlation of velocity and thickness of the three layers with the thickness of the crystalline crust (Tesauro et al., 2014, Tectonophysics, 631)

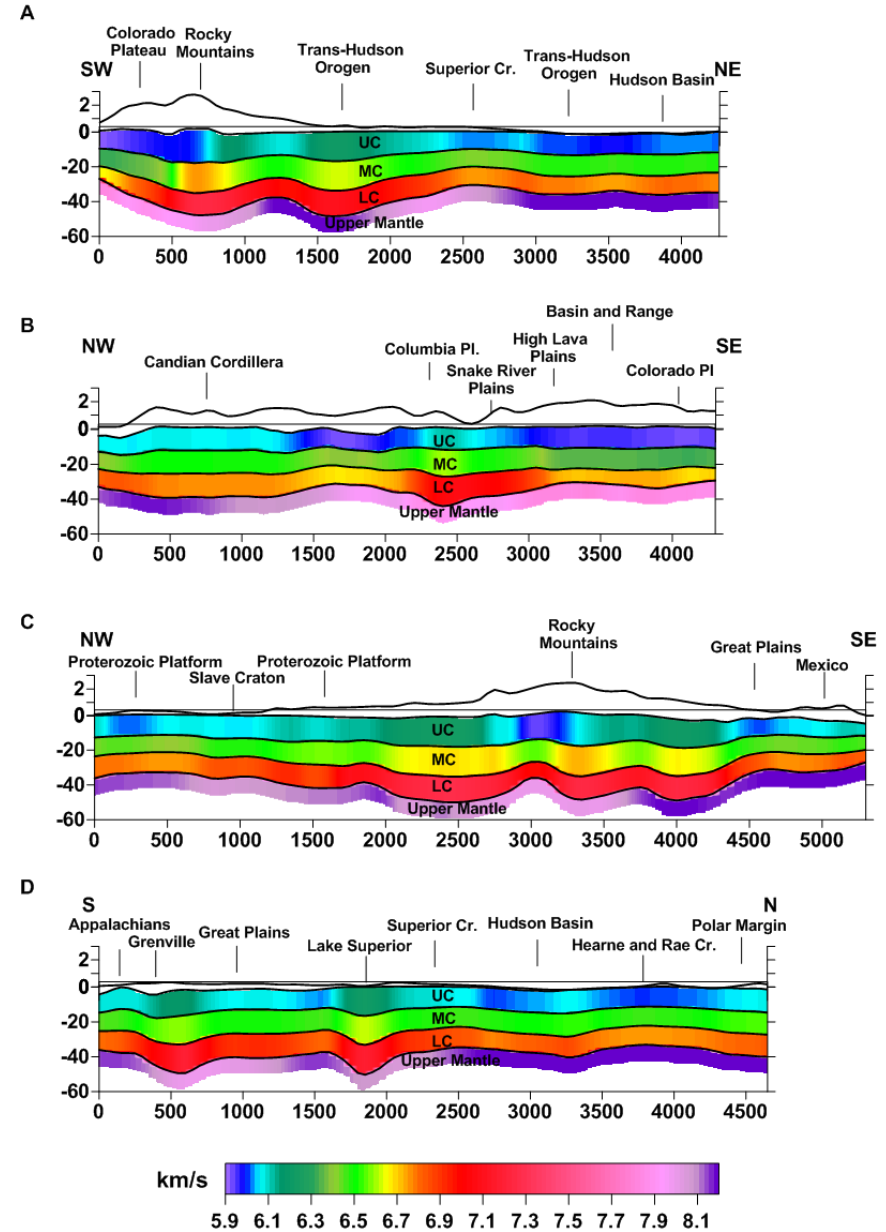
# Case Study: North American continent

## Crystalline crustal thickness



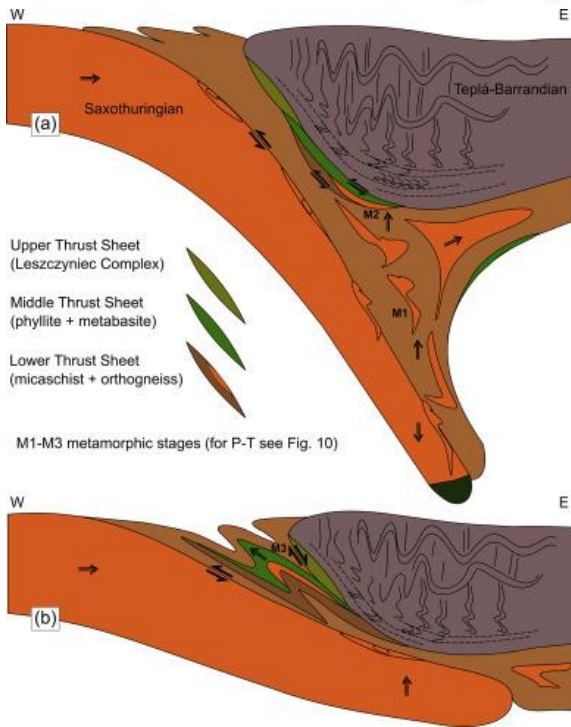
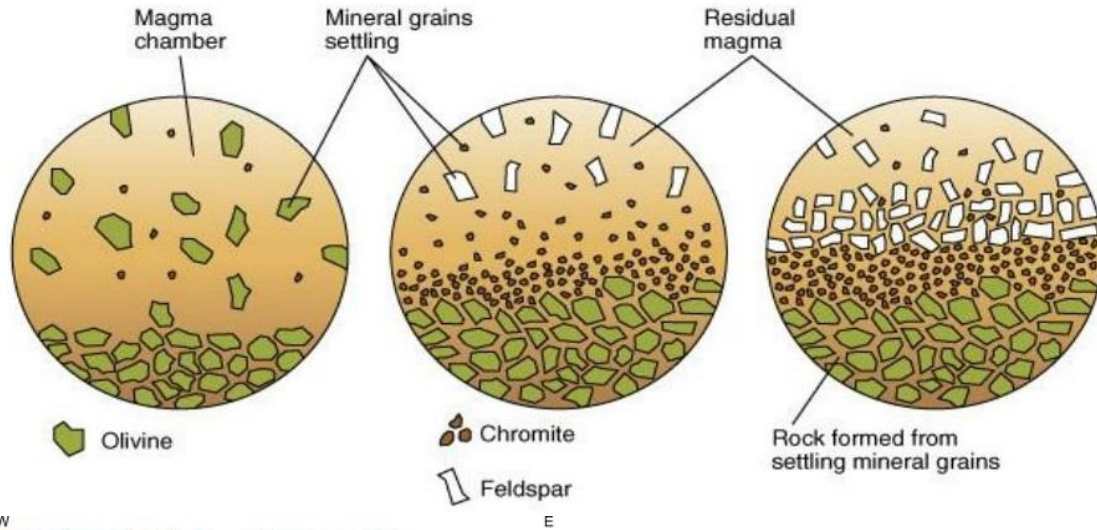
Tesauro et al., 2014, Tectonophysics, 631

## Crustal sections



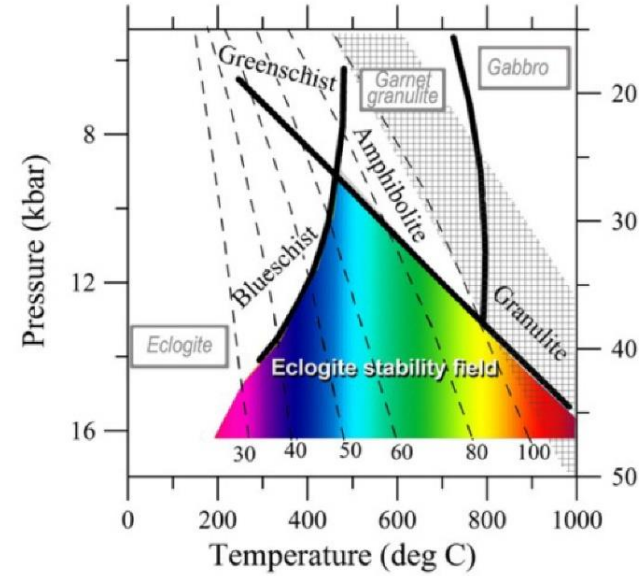
# Origin of the lower crust high velocity layer (7x layer)

## 1. Magmatic Differentiation



## 3. Mechanical underplating

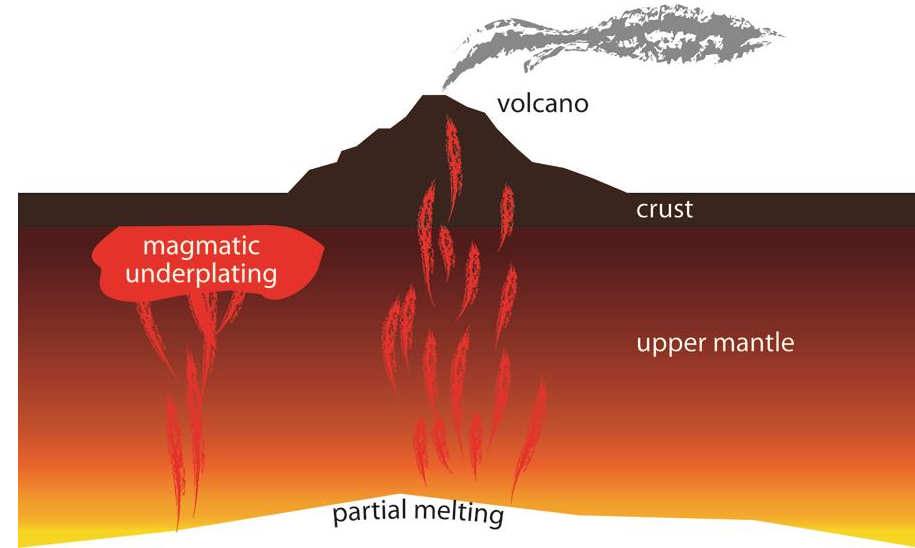
## Eclogite stability field



## 2. Eclogite formation

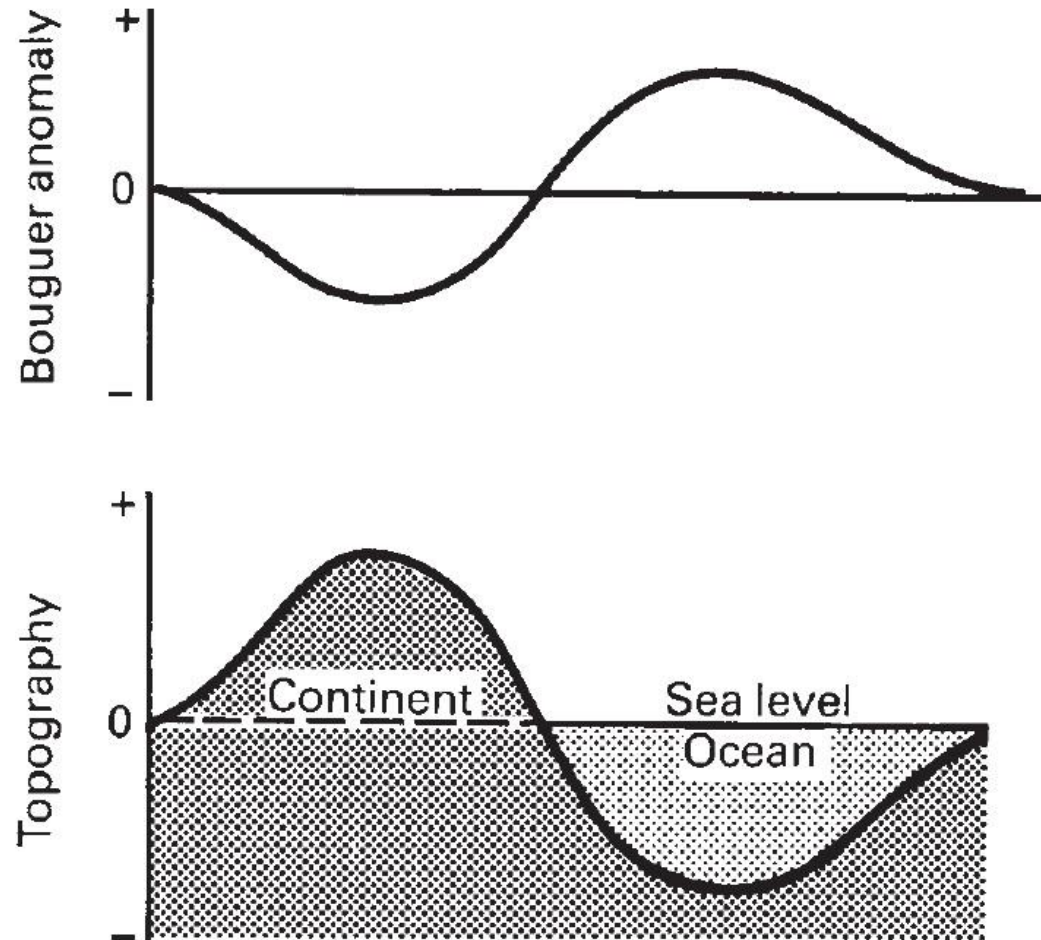
**Eclogite:**  
Omphacite/Giadeite (CPX) + Garnet

## 4. Magmatic underplating



# Isostasy

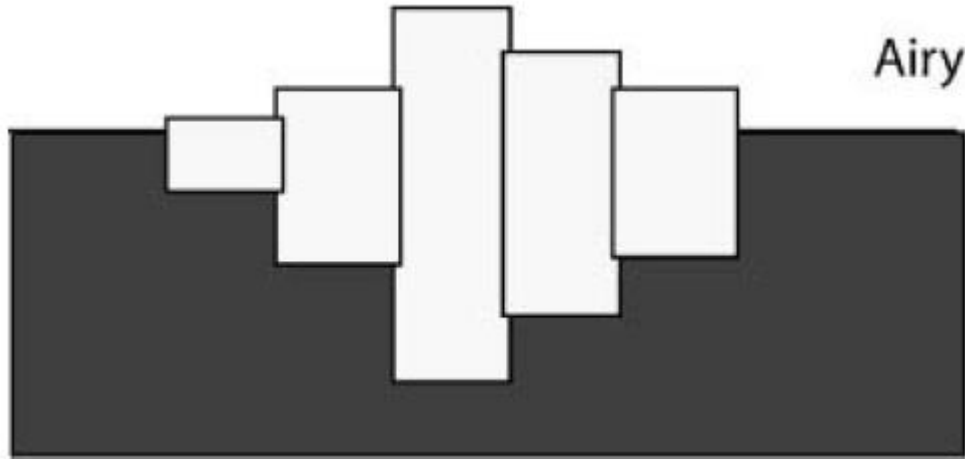
The crustal heterogeneity in terms of thickness and density produces variation in the Earth's gravitational field over broad regions: Bouguer anomalies are generally negative over elevated continental areas (deficit of mass) and positive over ocean basins (excess of mass).



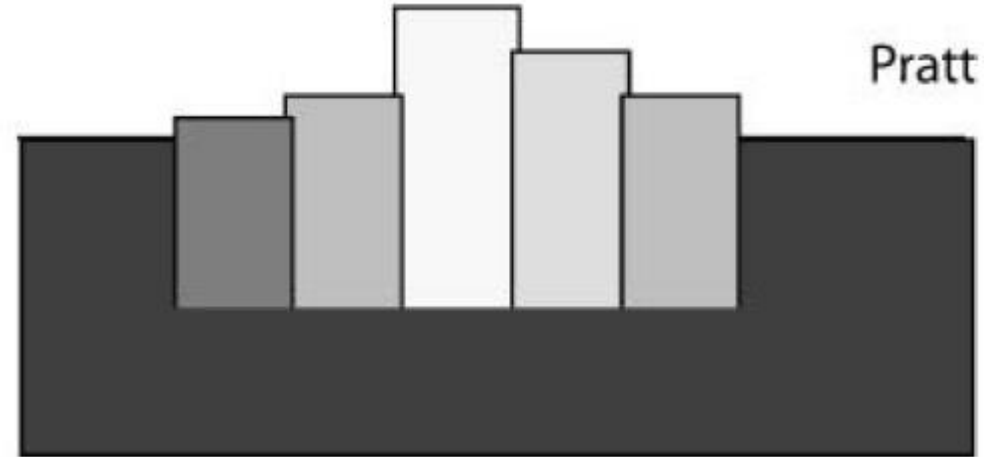


# Isostasy

## Isostatic compensation depth



**Airy:** Crustal density is roughly equal, compensation is due to crustal roots (high topography compensated by thick crustal roots, low topography compensated by thin crustal roots).



**Pratt:** Continental crust extends to a common depth, while the density is variable (high topography compensated by low density and low topography compensated by high density).

**Gravimetric data show that many orogens are not in isostatic equilibrium, but their topography is dynamically supported**

# Airy Isostasy

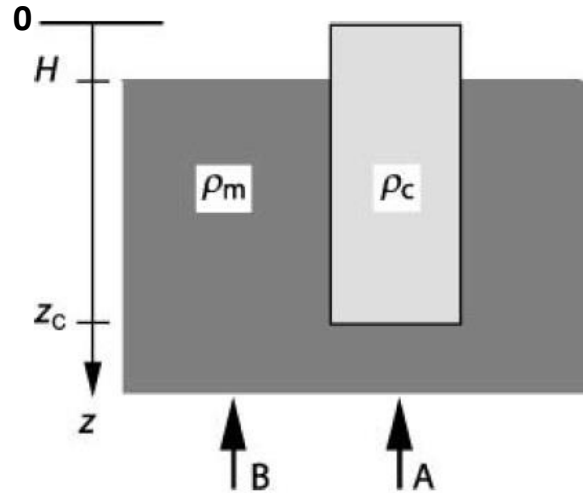
- **Airy isostatic model:** all vertical profiles through the lithosphere may be considered independently of each other (shear stress are neglected). It is applicable only for features extended for few hundred km (hydrostatic isostasy).
- There is a depth (**isostatic compensation depth**) at which the vertical stresses of all vertical profiles are equal:

$$\sigma_{zz}^A|_{z=z_K} = \sigma_{zz}^B|_{z=z_K}$$

Downward force exerted by an entire vertical column:

$$\int_0^{z_K} \rho_A(z) g dz = \int_0^{z_K} \rho_B(z) g dz$$

Example:



$$\rho_c g z \Big|_0^{z_c} = g \int_0^{H_{\text{mat}}} \rho_{\text{air}} dz + g \int_{H_{\text{mat}}}^{z_c} \rho_m dz$$

Since  $\rho_{\text{air}}$  is negligible

$$\rho_c z_c = \rho_m z_c - \rho_m H_{\text{mat}}$$

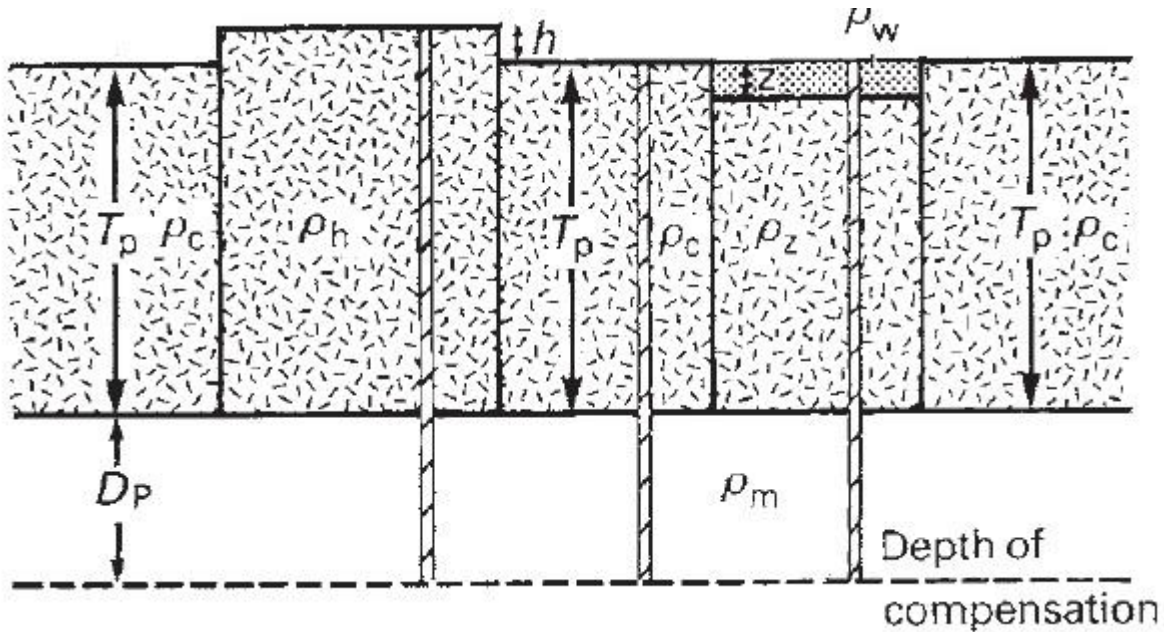
$$H = H_{\text{mat}} = z_c \left( \frac{\rho_m - \rho_c}{\rho_m} \right)$$

If  $\rho_c = 0$ ,  $H = z_c$

If  $\rho_c = \rho_m$ ,  $H = 0$

# Pratt Isostasy

According to Pratt's hypothesis, mountain ranges would be underlain by relatively low density material and ocean basins by relatively high density material:



Equating the weights of columns beneath a mountain range and a region of zero elevation we obtain:

$$g(T_p + h)\rho_h = gT_p\rho_c \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_h = \frac{T_p\rho_c}{(T_p + h)}$$

For oceanic basins:

$$\rho_z = \frac{(T_p\rho_c - z\rho_w)}{(T_p - z)}$$

# References

## Main Readings

### Books:

- Frisch, Meschede, Blakey, 2011, Early Precambrian plate tectonics, (Chapter 10), Plate Tectonics.
- Kearey, Klepeis, and Vine, 2015, The Interior of the Earth (Chapter 2), Global Tectonics.
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### Articles:

- Cawood et al., 2022. Reviews of Geophysics, 60, e2022RG000789. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022RG000789>.
- Christensen and Mooney, 1995. Seismic velocity structure and composition of the continental crust: A global view, JGR, 100, B7.
- Tesauro et al., 2008. EuCRUST-07: A new reference model for the European crust, GRL, Vol. 35.
- Tesauro et al., 2014. NACr14: A 3D model for the crustal structure of the North American Continent Tectonophysics, 631, 65-86.

### Further Readings:

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- Darbyshire, et al., 1998, Crustal structure above the Iceland mantle plume imaged by the ICEMELT refraction profile, GJI, 135, 1131-1149.
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- Rudnick and Gao, 2003, Composition of the continental Crust, Treatise on Geochemistry, vol. 3, pp. 1–64.
- Zhang et al., 2020, Crustal Composition and Moho Variations of the Central and Eastern United States: Improving Resolution and Geologic Interpretation of EarthScope USArray Seismic Images Using Gravity. JGR, 125, e2019JB018537.