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Wave-equation Q_s Inversion of Skeletonized Surface Waves

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SUMMARY

We present a skeletonized inversion method that inverts surface-wave data for the Q_s quality factor. Similar to the inversion of dispersion curves for the S-wave velocity model, the complicated surface-wave arrivals are skeletonized as simpler data, namely the amplitude spectra of the windowed Rayleigh-wave arrivals. The optimal Q_s model is the one that minimizes the difference in the peak frequencies of the predicted and observed Rayleigh wave arrivals using a gradient-based wave-equation optimization method. Solutions to the viscoelastic wave-equation are used to compute the predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals and the misfit gradient at every iteration. This procedure, denoted as wave-equation Q_s inversion (WQ_s), does not require the assumption of a layered model and tends to have fast and robust convergence compared to full waveform inversion (FWI). Numerical examples with synthetic and field data demonstrate that the WQ_s method can accurately invert for a smoothed approximation to the subsurface Q_s distribution as long as the V_s model is known with sufficient accuracy.

Key words: Surface waves, attenuation, Skeletonized Q_s inversion.

1 INTRODUCTION

Surface waves play an important role in the characterization of the near surface for earthquake, engineering and environmental studies. Inverting and imaging surface waves can be an effective means for characterizing the subsurface at different scales (Dasgupta & Clark 1998;

Xia *et al.* 1999; Lin *et al.* 2008; Boiero *et al.* 2013; Li & Hanafy 2016), and can be important for site response and seismic hazard studies. Since the surface waves are sensitive to the near-surface elastic properties, estimation of the surface-wave velocity V_s and quality factor Q_s are of significant interest in exploration and earthquake seismology (Strobbia *et al.* 2011).

The near-surface S-wave velocity model is usually estimated from the dispersion curves of the recorded surface-wave arrivals (Park *et al.* 1998). However, in a real dissipative media, the propagation of the surface waves is strongly influenced by elastic damping in the near-surface that results in increasing amplitude loss and attenuation of high frequencies with distance travelled. As a result, the dispersion curves are also sensitive to the near-surface Q_s variations. He *et al.* (2015) showed that the phase velocity of the fundamental mode of the Rayleigh waves increases with decreasing values of Q_s and the phase velocity increases with increasing values of the Poisson's ratio. Thus, inverting dispersion curves for the S-wave velocity without taking into consideration the effect of Q_s can lead to erroneous estimates of the near-surface S-velocity distribution. Groos *et al.* (2014) showed that the S-wave velocity tomograms obtained from elastic full waveform inversion (FWI) of Rayleigh waves have lower resolution when compared to the tomograms obtained by viscoelastic FWI when the near-surface is strongly anelastic. The increased resolution in S-wave tomograms obtained by taking into account the effect of Q_s can be useful in delineating near-surface faults or local anomalies (Pinson *et al.* 2008).

The conventional method for Q_s estimation is based on the linear relationship between the Rayleigh-wave attenuation coefficients, the quality factors Q_p and Q_s and the P- and S-wave velocities (Anderson *et al.* 1965). This relationship is valid for a layered medium and is given by

$$\alpha_R(f) = \frac{\pi f}{C_R^2(f)} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n P_i(f) Q_{p_i}^{-1} + \sum_{i=1}^n S_i(f) Q_{s_i}^{-1} \right], \quad (1)$$

where

$$P_i(f) = V_{p_i} \frac{\partial C_R(f)}{\partial V_{p_i}}, \text{ and } S_i(f) = V_{s_i} \frac{\partial C_R(f)}{\partial V_{s_i}}. \quad (2)$$

Here $\alpha_R(f)$ is the Rayleigh waves attenuation coefficient for the frequency f , V_{p_i} and V_{s_i} are the P- and S-wave velocities, respectively, in the i th layer, C_R is the Rayleigh-wave phase-velocity and n is the number of layers in the model. Xia *et al.* (2002), Xia (2014) and Ivanov *et al.* (2014) proposed different methods for estimating Q_p and Q_s based on this empirical relationship. Boiero *et al.* (2013) used a least-squares type approach and equation 1 to iteratively update the values of both Q_p and Q_s . However, all these approaches are based on a layered-medium assumption and do not take into account strong lateral gradients in V_s model.

Other approaches for estimating Q_s are based on the spectral-ratio method where the logarithmic amplitude ratios are plotted against the arrival-time difference recorded at any two receivers for a specified frequency. The slope of the regression line then gives an estimate of the Q_s model for each frequency (Jeng *et al.* 1999; Li *et al.* 2016). An inverse Q-filtering type approach can then be used to compensate for the amplitude loss in the data-domain. Parolai *et al.* (2010) estimated the average Q_s down to any depth level by using surface seismic

data to deconvolve the wavefield recorded in boreholes by vertical-array accelerometers. Their approach is based on the assumption that the impedance contrasts in the layers between the surface and the investigated depth range are small and the deconvolved wavefield is dominated by vertically propagating S-waves.

In viscoacoustic media, a Q_p model can be estimated using wave-equation tomographic techniques. As an example, Quan and Harris (1997) computed the centroid-frequency shifts between the predicted and observed traces, and then smeared the shifts along raypaths to update the Q model. This approach used ray tracing so it assumes a high-frequency approximation of the data. Alternative approaches include using full-waveform inversion (FWI), in which the Q model is found that minimizes the difference between the observed and calculated traces (Bai & Yingst 2013; Bai *et al.* 2014; Wang & Zhang 2014). Similar to other FWI methods, this approach is prone to getting stuck in local minima.

To avoid the layered medium assumption as well the local minimum problems associated with FWI of surface-wave traces, we present a novel wave-equation method that inverts skeletonized surface waves for the quality factor Q_s . In our method denoted as WQ_s , the skeletonized data are the frequency shifts of the surface-wave's spectral peaks as they propagate to greater distances. The Q_s method is similar to the wave-equation Q_p inversion developed by Dutta and Schuster (2016), except it inverts for Q_s from surface waves rather than Q_p from body-wave arrivals. Here, the observed and predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals are skeletonized to a simple representation in the form of peak frequencies in their amplitude spectra. The Q_s model is found that minimizes the squared differences between the predicted and observed peak-frequency shifts associated with the Rayleigh wave arrivals. For this method, the isotropic viscoelastic wave equation based on the standard linear solid model (Robertsson *et al.* 1994) is used to generate the predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals. The adjoint viscoelastic wave-equation is then used to backpropagate the residual traces that are obtained by weighting the observed Rayleigh-wave arrivals with their corresponding frequency shifts. The gradient $\gamma(\mathbf{x})$ for WQ_s is derived using the implicit function theorem (Luo & Schuster 1991a; Luo & Schuster 1991b) and the adjoint-state method (Plessix 2006), and $\gamma(\mathbf{x})$ can be interpreted as the zero-lag cross-correlation between the forward propagated source wavefield and the weighted backprojected residual wavefield. The proposed approach has no layered-medium assumption and can handle complex near-surface heterogeneities. The near-surface Q_s distribution can be inverted by using recordings only at the surface and there is no requirement for having receivers at different depth levels, which is often a necessity for deconvolution-based Q_s estimation approaches (Xia *et al.* 2002).

This paper is organized into four sections. After the introduction, the second section describes the theory of skeletonized surface-wave Q_s inversion. Numerical results for synthetic and field data from a 2D near-surface survey conducted in the Qademah region of Saudi Arabia are then presented in the third section. The discussions and conclusions are in the last section.

2 THEORY OF WAVE-EQUATION Q_s SKELETONIZED INVERSION

The theory of WQ_s is derived in a manner that is similar to that for wave-equation travelttime inversion (WT) (Luo & Schuster 1991a) and surface-wave dispersion inversion (WD) (Li *et al.* 2017). These steps include: (1) define a frequency-shift misfit function, (2) define a connective function (Luo & Schuster 1991b) that connects the frequency-shift residual of the Rayleigh-wave arrivals in the observed and predicted seismogram spectra, and (3) derive the gradient of the misfit function with respect to Q_s using the isotropic viscoelastic wave equation and the connective function.

In our analysis, we assume that the wave propagation honors the 2D isotropic viscoelastic equations of motion based on the standard linear solid (SLS) mechanism (Blanch *et al.* 1995)

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial \sigma_{xx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{xz}}{\partial z}, \\
\rho \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial \sigma_{zx}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial \sigma_{zz}}{\partial z}, \\
\frac{\partial \sigma_{xx}}{\partial t} &= \pi \frac{\tau_\epsilon^p}{\tau_\sigma} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right) - 2\mu \frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} + r_{xx} + S_{xx}, \\
\frac{\partial \sigma_{zz}}{\partial t} &= \pi \frac{\tau_\epsilon^p}{\tau_\sigma} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \right) - 2\mu \frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + r_{zz} + S_{zz}, \\
\frac{\partial \sigma_{xz}}{\partial t} &= \mu \frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} \left(\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) + r_{xz}, \\
\frac{\partial r_{xx}}{\partial t} &= -\frac{1}{\tau_\sigma} (r_{xx} + \pi (\frac{\tau_\epsilon^p}{\tau_\sigma} - 1) (\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}) - 2\mu (\frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} - 1) \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}), \\
\frac{\partial r_{zz}}{\partial t} &= -\frac{1}{\tau_\sigma} (r_{zz} + \pi (\frac{\tau_\epsilon^p}{\tau_\sigma} - 1) (\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z}) - 2\mu (\frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} - 1) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}), \\
\frac{\partial r_{xz}}{\partial t} &= -\frac{1}{\tau_\sigma} (r_{xz} + \mu (\frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} - 1) (\frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x})).
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Here, u and w are the horizontal- and vertical-particle-velocity components, σ_{ij} denotes the ij -th component of the symmetric stress tensor, r_{ij} is the memory variable, τ_ϵ^p and τ_ϵ^s are the strain relaxation times for the P and SV waves, and τ_σ is the stress relaxation time for both the P and SV waves. S_{xx} and S_{zz} denote the source wavelets for the special case of an explosive source. The variable $\pi = \lambda + 2\mu$ is related to the Lamé parameters λ and μ whereas the stress and strain relaxation times are related to the quality factors Q_p and Q_s as (Carcione 2001)

$$\begin{aligned}
\tau_\sigma &= \frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{Q_p^2}} - \frac{1}{Q_p}}{\omega}, \\
\tau_\epsilon^s &= \frac{1 + \omega Q_s \tau_\sigma}{\omega Q_s - \omega^2 \tau_\sigma}, \\
\tau_\epsilon^p &= \frac{1}{\omega^2 \tau_\sigma}.
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Here, the stress and strain relaxation parameters, τ_ϵ^p and τ_ϵ^s , are related to the quality factor Q_s , and the reference angular frequency is ω (Robertsson *et al.* 1994). Equation 3 is solved for a point source at each shot point by an O(2,4) time-space staggered grid finite-difference algorithm. In order to generate surface waves, an explicit free-surface boundary condition is implemented by using the mirroring technique

proposed by Levander (1988). Blanch et al. (1995) suggested the use of the τ -method to reduce the number of SLS variables and therefore, reduce the calculation time and the memory requirements.

It is possible to approximate a frequency independent seismic quality factor in a limited frequency range. We define the frequency-independent parameter η :

$$\eta = \frac{\tau_\epsilon^s}{\tau_\sigma} - 1 = \frac{1 + (\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{Q_p^2}} - \frac{1}{Q_p})^2}{(\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{Q_p^2}} - \frac{1}{Q_p})[Q_s - (\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{Q_p^2}} - \frac{1}{Q_p})]}. \quad (5)$$

For realistic geologic models, the Q_p varies from 20 to 200, so that $\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{Q_p^2}} - \frac{1}{Q_p}$ is almost equal to 1. Thus, for the parametrization in WQ_s , η is used because it is quite sensitive to small changes in Q_s . The relaxation ratio η is inverted at each iteration and the updates in η are then mapped to Q_s using the relations given in equation 4.

2.1 Misfit Function

We denote the Rayleigh-wave arrivals that are extracted from the recorded data as $D_{f_g^{obs}}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs}$ for a vertical-component point source at \mathbf{x}_s and a vertical-component receiver at \mathbf{x}_g (the black curve in Figure 1a). The predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals for the same source-receiver pair are denoted by $D_{f_g^{pred}}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)$ (the red curve in Figure 1a). The peak frequency of the observed and predicted spectra are denoted as f_g^{obs} and f_g^{pred} , respectively. Here, $f_g^{pred} = f$ and $f_g^{obs} = f - f_1$, where f is the peak frequency of the event and f_1 is the shift between the peak frequencies of the predicted and the observed traces. A comparison between the windowed observed and predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals for a given Q_s model is shown in Figure 1b. The amplitude spectra of these arrivals are plotted in Figure 1c, where it is evident that the observed spectrum has a lower peak frequency than the predicted spectrum. The peak frequencies in these spectra are denoted as the skeletonized surface-wave data.

The goal of WQ_s is to find the attenuation model $Q_s = F(\eta(\mathbf{x}))^{-1}$ so that $f_g^{pred} \approx f_g^{obs}$ for all the traces. In our case, we use the frequency-shift residual $\Delta f = f_g^{pred} - f_g^{obs}$ to form the skeletonized misfit function:

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \sum_g \sum_s \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s)^2. \quad (6)$$

The gradient $\gamma(\mathbf{x})$ is given by

$$\gamma(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} = \sum_g \sum_s \frac{\partial \Delta f}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s). \quad (7)$$

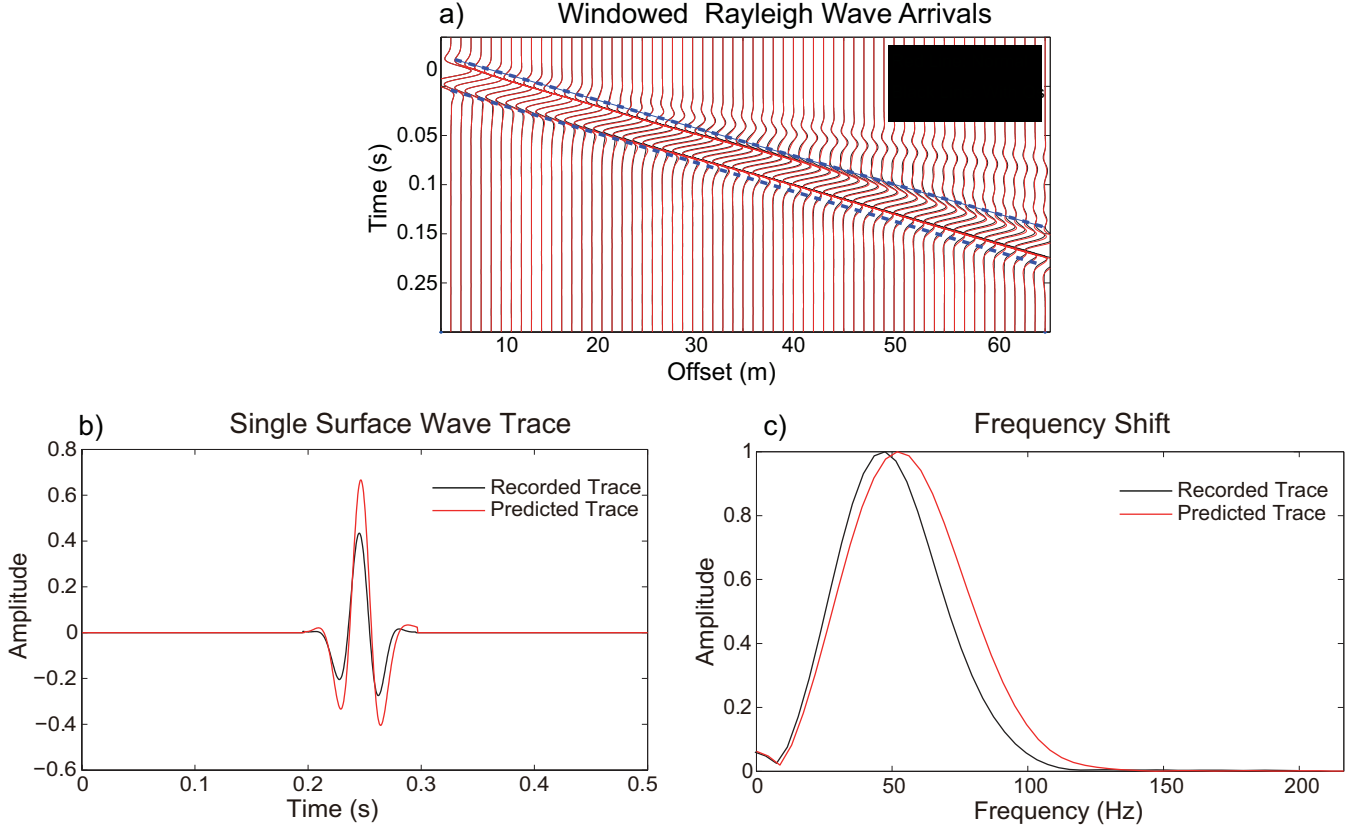


Figure 1. (a) A common shot gather (CSG) comparing the Rayleigh-wave arrivals with and without Q_s . The blue dashed line shows the window used to extract these arrivals for WQ_s , (b) comparison between a predicted and an observed surface-wave arrival, and (c) comparison between their frequency spectra.

2.2 Connective Function

To find an analytic expression for the Fréchet derivative $\frac{\partial \Delta f}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})}$ in equation 7, we define the connective function $\Phi(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)$ that connects the change in peak frequency of an arrival with the observed and the predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals in Figure 1b as (Dutta & Schuster 2016)

$$\Phi_{f_1}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) = \int D_f(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) D_{f-f_1}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt. \quad (8)$$

We seek the optimal Q_s model that minimizes the peak-frequency shift between an observed and a predicted traces. For an accurate background Q_s model, the predicted and the observed arrivals will have the same peak frequency. So, we define $f_1 = \Delta f$ to be the frequency shift associated with the actual background Q_s model. If $\Delta f = 0$, it indicates that the correct background Q_s model has been found and the transmission surface-wave arrivals in the predicted and observed traces have the same peak frequencies. The derivative of Φ_{f_1} with respect to f_1 should be zero at the frequency-shift value $f_1 = \Delta f$, i.e.,

$$\dot{\Phi}_{\Delta f}(\Delta f, \eta(\mathbf{x})) = \left[\frac{\partial \Phi_{f_1}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)}{\partial f_1} \right]_{f_1=\Delta f} = \int D_f(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \dot{D}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt = 0, \quad (9)$$

where $\dot{D}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} = [\partial D_{f-f_1}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} / \partial f_1]_{f_1=\Delta f}$. Note that $\Delta f = 0$ if the predicted Q_s model is the actual Q_s model.

Equation 9 is the connective function (Luo & Schuster 1991a; Luo & Schuster 1991b) that connects the skeletonized data, i.e., the frequency-

shift residuals of the Rayleigh-wave arrivals, with the particle-velocity seismograms. Such a connective function is required because there is no wave equation that relates the skeletonized data to a single type of model parameter (Dutta & Schuster 2016).

Using the implicit function theorem and the connective function in equation 9, the Fréchet derivative with respect to the relaxation ratio $\eta(\mathbf{x})$ can be expressed as

$$\frac{\partial \Delta f}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} = - \frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} / \frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \Delta f}, \quad (10)$$

where the numerator on the right-hand side is given by

$$\frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}_{\Delta f}}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} = \int \frac{\partial D_f(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} \dot{D}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt, \quad (11)$$

and the denominator by

$$\frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}_{\Delta f}}{\partial \Delta f} = \int D_f(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{D}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt = K_2. \quad (12)$$

Using equation 10, the gradient in equation 7 can be written as

$$\gamma(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} = - \sum_g \sum_s \frac{\frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})}}{\frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \Delta f}} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s). \quad (13)$$

Then, we use the adjoint-state method to derive the Fréchet derivative shown in Appendix A. Combining equations 11-13, the gradient for WQ_s can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma(\mathbf{x}) &= - \sum_s \sum_g \frac{1}{K_2} \frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} \Delta f \\ &= - \sum_s \int (2\mu \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \hat{\sigma}_{xx} + 2\mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \hat{\sigma}_{zz} - (\mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \mu \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}) \hat{\sigma}_{xz} - 2\mu E \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \hat{r}_{xx} - 2\mu E \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \hat{r}_{zz} + \mu E (\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}) \hat{r}_{xz}) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Here $(\hat{u}, \hat{w}, \hat{\sigma}_{xx}, \hat{\sigma}_{zz}, \hat{\sigma}_{xz}, \hat{r}_{xx}, \hat{r}_{zz}, \hat{r}_{xz})$ are the adjoint-state variables of $(u, w, \sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{zz}, \sigma_{xz}, r_{xx}, r_{zz}, r_{xz})$ derived in Appendix A and E is defined in equation A.3. The gradient in equation 14 can be interpreted as a zero-lag crosscorrelation between the source-wavefield terms u, w and the backpropagated residual wavefields $\hat{\sigma}_{xx}, \hat{\sigma}_{zz}, \hat{\sigma}_{xz}, \hat{r}_{xx}, \hat{r}_{zz}$ and \hat{r}_{xz} . The residual wavefields are computed by backpropagating the residual traces using the adjoint viscoelastic wave equation in equation A.9. The residual traces are obtained by weighting the observed Rayleigh-wave arrivals with their corresponding frequency shifts.

3 WORK FLOW FOR WQ_s INVERSION

The following steps describe the workflow for numerically implementing WQ_s using a steepest descent method (Nocedal & Wright 1999):

- (i) Window the Rayleigh-wave arrivals in the data.
- (ii) Apply a Fourier transform to the observed and the predicted Rayleigh-wave arrivals to get their amplitude spectra.
- (iii) From the amplitude spectra of the traces, estimate the peak-frequencies or the centroid-frequencies and form the misfit function.

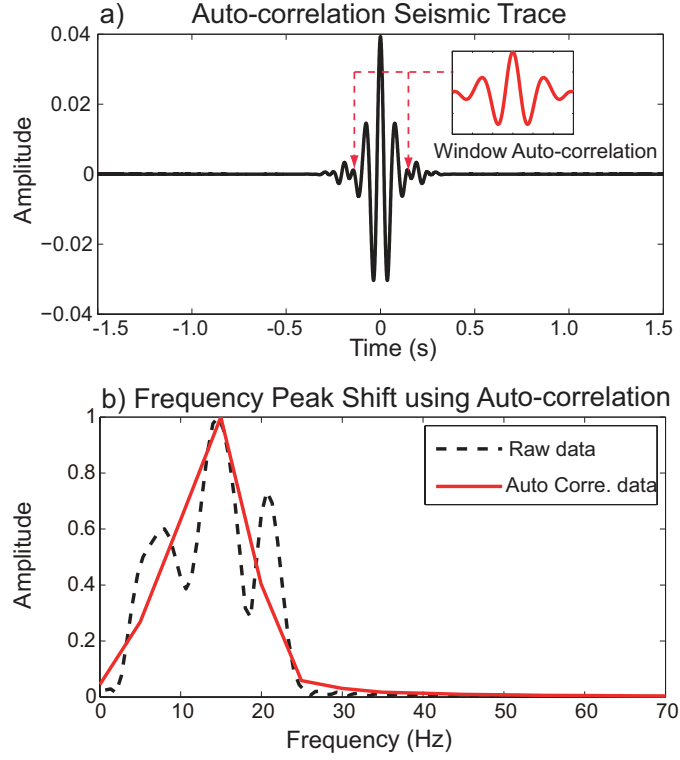


Figure 2. (a) Auto-correlated seismic trace, and (b) the peak-frequency estimated from (a) by windowing the trace around the zero-time lag.

For real data, since the peak-frequency is very sensitive to noise, Gamar *et al.* (2015) used an auto-correlated trace windowed about the zero-time lag to pick the peak frequency. This increases the robustness of the peak-frequency estimation. Figure 2a shows an auto-correlated observed trace where the amplitude spectrum, shown in Figure 2b, is computed only for the part of the signal around the maximum peak of the auto-correlation function. This minimizes the side lobes in the amplitude spectrum, and allows for a more accurate estimate of the peak frequency.

(iv) Compute the residual trace as $\Delta D_f(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) = \frac{1}{K2} \dot{D}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} \Delta f$, which is then backward propagated using equation A.9.

(v) Use equation 14 to compute the gradient $\gamma(\mathbf{x})$.

(vi) Estimate the step-length α using any backtracking line-search method and update the η model using the iterative steepest descent method.

$$\eta^{(k+1)} = \eta^{(k)} - \alpha \sum_g \overbrace{\Delta f \frac{\partial \Delta f}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})}}^{\gamma(\mathbf{x})=gradient}, \quad (15)$$

where α is the step-length at the k -th iteration. The update for the relaxation ratio η is then mapped to Q_s using equation 4. A more efficient algorithm is to use a preconditioned conjugate gradient method.

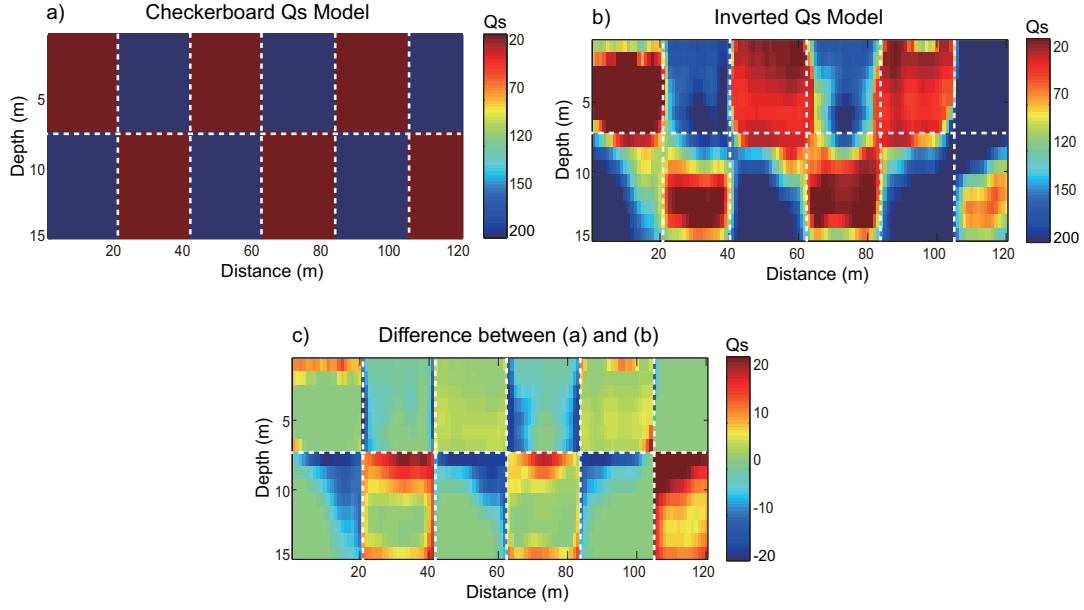


Figure 3. (a) True checkerboard Q_s model, (b) the Q_s tomogram computed by WQ_s and (c) the difference between the true and inverted Q_s models.

4 NUMERICAL TESTS

The effectiveness of the WQ_s method is now demonstrated with synthetic and field data examples. The synthetic examples are for two models with strong attenuation: (1) a checkerboard Q_s model to assess the resolution of the method, and (2) a complex near-surface model where there are shallow Q_s anomalies. We also compare the accuracy of the WQ_s tomogram with that computed by full waveform inversion. The field data example is on a seismic data set collected near the Qademah fault, which is 40 km north of the KAUST campus. In the synthetic examples, the observed data are generated by a 2D staggered-grid solution of the viscoelastic wave equation in equation 3. The P-wave velocity is estimated from the S-wave velocity using the empirical relationship $V_p = \sqrt{3} V_s$. In all the numerical examples, the starting Q_s tomogram is taken to be homogeneous with $Q_s = 1000$.

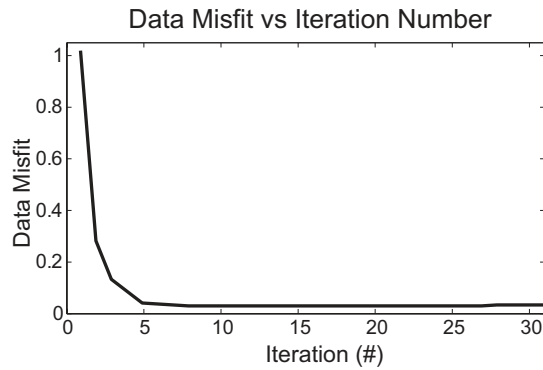


Figure 4. Normalized misfit plotted against iteration number for the WQ_s method applied to the checkerboard data. The Y-axis represents the normalized frequency-shift data residual.

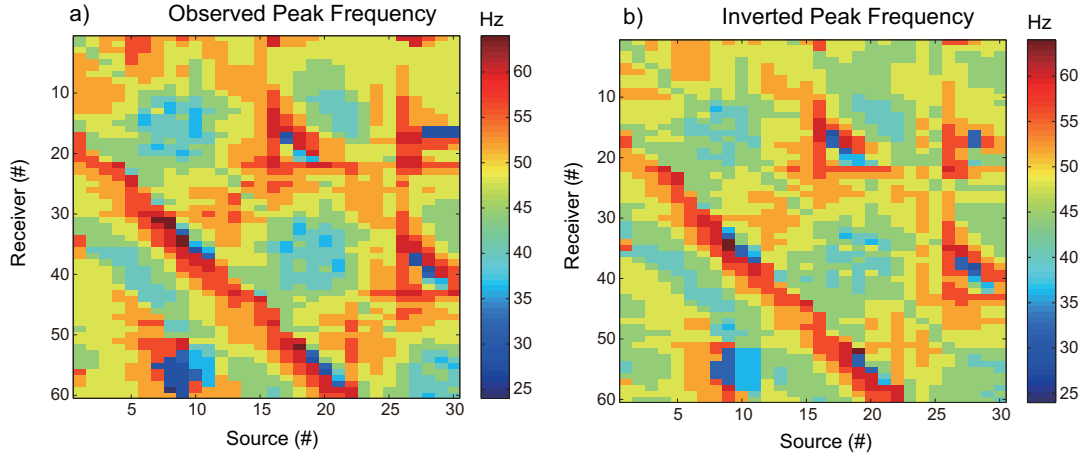


Figure 5. The peak-frequencies for different source-receiver pairs in the (a) observed and (b) predicted data after WQ_s .

4.1 Checkerboard Model

Viscoelastic shot gathers are computed for the checkerboard Q_s model, shown in Figure 3a, to assess the resolution capabilities of the WQ_s method. The background S-wave velocity is 800 m/s. To construct the checkerboard perturbations, low- Q_s anomalies are embedded within the model, where the Q_s model values are changed by 20 and 200. A 40-Hz Ricker wavelet is used as the source function to generate the observed data. The grid spacing and time sampling intervals for the 2D viscoelastic finite-difference algorithm are 1 m and 0.03 ms, respectively. The checkerboard model has 6 rectangles where each of the anomalies has an area of $20 \times 7.5 \text{ m}^2$. There are 30 vertical-component shot gathers with 60 receivers located every 2 m on the surface.

The inverted Q_s tomogram is shown in Figure 3b where the white dashed lines depict the Q_s interfaces. This tomogram indicates that the WQ_s method is able to estimate the Q_s anomalies with acceptable accuracy, where the resolution decreases with depth and at the edges of the tomogram (Figure 3c) because of the absence of strong surface-wave wavepaths at the edges and at deeper depths. The normalized data misfit values are plotted against iteration number in Figure 4 and the observed and final predicted traces after WQ_s inversion are shown in Figure 5. These results show that the WQ_s method is characterized by robust convergence and acceptable accuracy for the checkerboard model.

4.2 Complex Velocity Model

We now compare the performance of WQ_s against that of FWI for the complex near-surface V_s and Q_s models shown in Figure 6. A smooth version of the true S-wave velocity model, shown in Figure 6c, is used as the background velocity model for WQ_s and FWI. The grid spacing and time sampling intervals for the 2D viscoelastic finite-difference algorithm are 1 m and 0.025 ms, respectively, and the center frequency

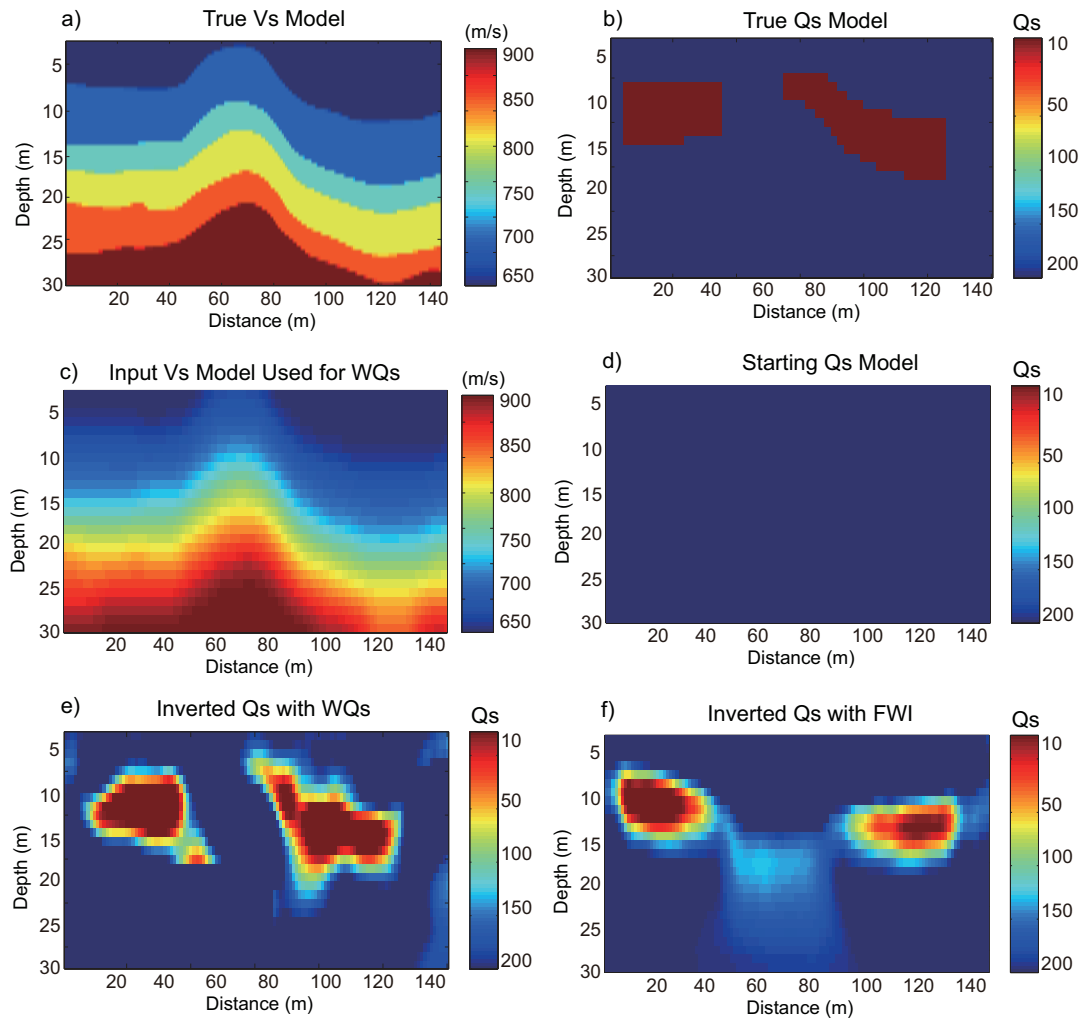


Figure 6. (a) True velocity and (b) Q_s models used for generating the observed data, (c) background V_s model used for WQ_s inversion, (d) starting Q_s model, (e) the Q_s tomogram computed by WQ_s and (f) the Q_s tomogram computed by FWI.

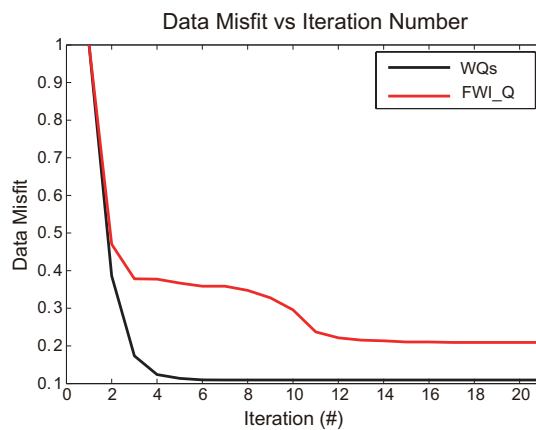


Figure 7. Data misfit plotted against iteration number for the WQ_s and FWI methods applied to data associated with the Figure 6a and 6b models. The Y-axis represents the normalized frequency-shift residual.

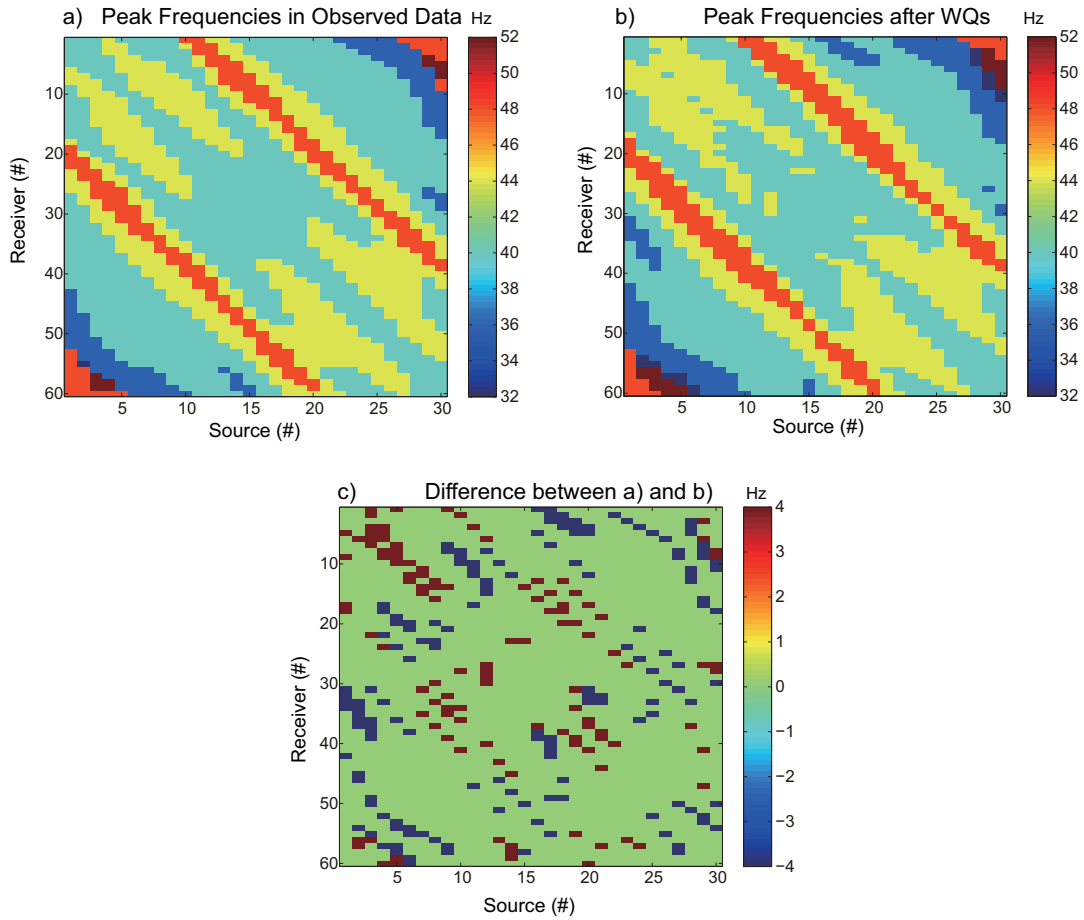


Figure 8. The peak-frequencies for different source-receiver pairs in (a) the observed data, (b) the predicted data after WQ_s , and (c) their differences.

of the source wavelet is 35 Hz. The observed data are generated by 40 shots evenly distributed on the surface and the data are recorded by 70 receivers every 2 m on the surface. The initial Q_s model is a homogeneous half space (Figure 6d).

The Q_s tomograms from the WQ_s and FWI methods after 21 iterations are shown in Figures 6e and 6f, respectively. It is obvious that the WQ_s tomogram is more accurate than the FWI tomogram for the same number of iterations. In addition, Figure 7 shows that after 21 iterations, the normalized WQ_s residual (black line) is less than the FWI waveform residual (red line). Figure 8 reveals that the predicted peak frequencies are very close to the actual ones for many source-receiver pairs.

4.3 Field Data Example

The WQ_s method is now tested on a near-surface field data set recorded over the Qademah fault. Here, the location of the field experiment is shown in Figure 9 and the red dashed line denotes the Qademah fault aligned along the north-south direction. The blue solid line is the survey line where 60 receivers are located at 10 m intervals with 60 shots positioned at 10 m intervals. Before the WQ_s inversion, the following processing steps are applied to the data:

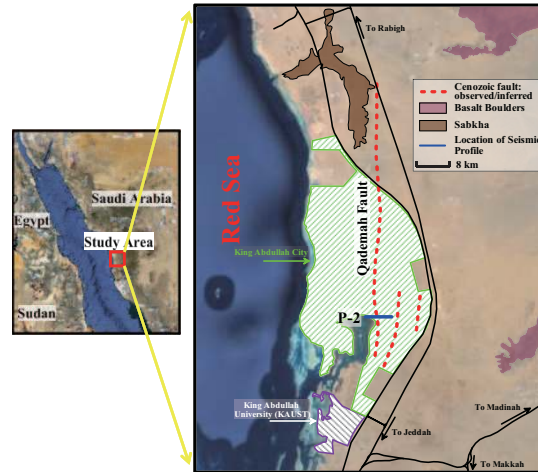


Figure 9. The seismic survey line across the Qadimah fault.

- A 5-20 Hz bandpass filter is applied to the data to remove noise.
- The body-wave arrivals are muted and only the Rayleigh-wave arrivals are kept in the input shot gathers.
- The recorded data are corrected from 3D to 2D format by scaling the amplitudes by \sqrt{t} to approximate geometrical spreading. A phase correction is applied to the traces by multiplying the spectrum of the observed seismogram with the filter $\sqrt{i/\omega}$ (Zhou *et al.* 1995).
- The data are Wiener filtered to transform the original wavelet to a Ricker wavelet with a 10 Hz peak-frequency. This bandwidth is based on the frequency content of the data where most of the signal is concentrated between 5-20 Hz. The surface waves are windowed for each observed and predicted shot gather.

A final processed CSG at the source location $X=0$ m is shown in Figure 10. The first-arrival traveltimes are picked in all the CSGs and inverted using ray-based traveltime tomography to obtain the P-wave velocity model shown in Figure 11a. The S-wave tomogram is shown in Figure 11b, which is obtained using the surface-wave dispersion inversion method of Li and Schuster (2016). These velocity models are used as the background velocity models for WQ_s . For WQ_s , the starting Q_s model is taken to be homogeneous with $Q_s = 1000$ and the inverted Q_s tomogram is shown in Figure 12a. There is reasonable geological agreement between the S-wave velocity and the Q_s tomograms

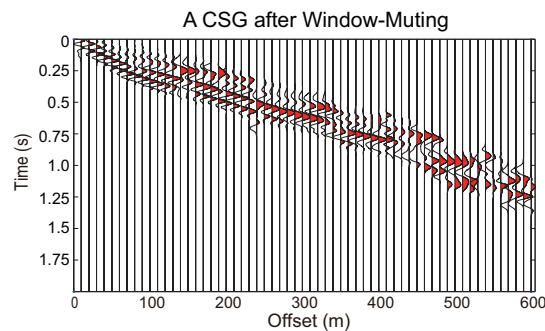


Figure 10. A common shot gather recorded by the Qadimah field experiment after applying all the processing steps.

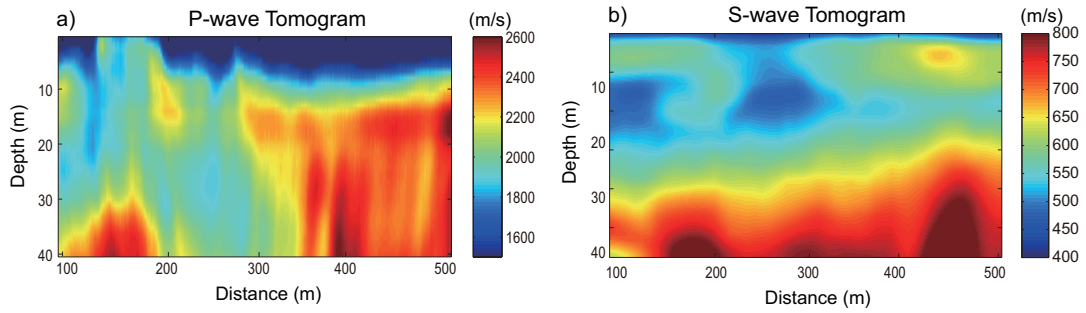


Figure 11. (a) P-wave tomogram with ray tracing tomography and (b) S-wave velocity tomogram by wave equation dispersion inversion (Li *et al.* 2017).

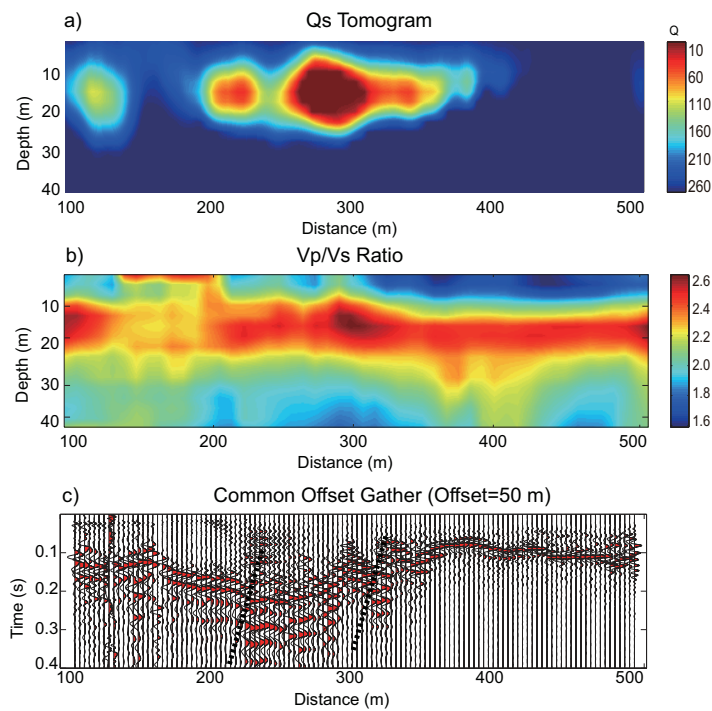


Figure 12. (a) WQ_s tomogram, (b) ratio (V_p/V_s) computed from a) and b), and (c) common offset gather (offset=50 m) profile after data processing.

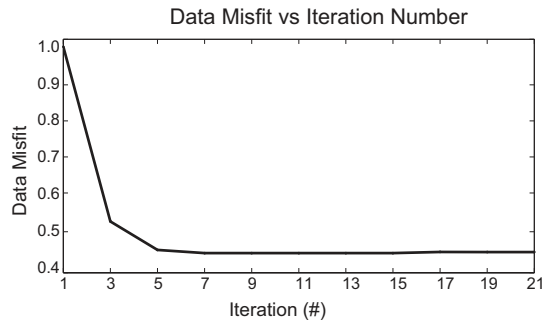


Figure 13. Data misfit values plotted against iteration number for the WQ_s method. The Y-axis represents the normalized frequency-shift data residual.

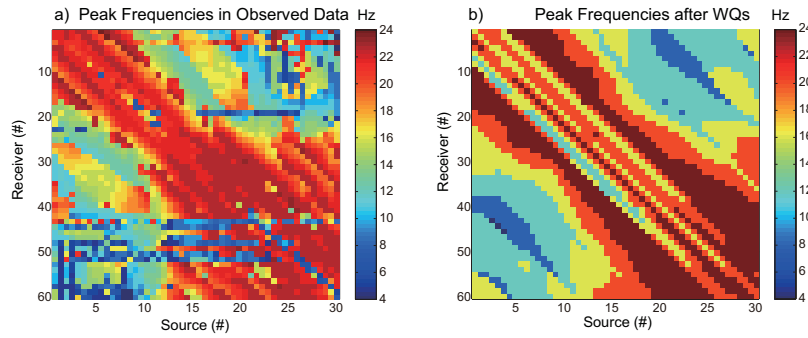


Figure 14. The peak frequencies for different source-receiver pairs for the a) observed and b) inverted data.

(Figure 11b and Figure 12a). The high attenuation regions in the Q_s tomogram (low Q_s values) correspond to the low S-wave velocity regions (De Meersman 2013; Zhu & Harris 2015). Previous work by Zhang *et al.* (2015) demonstrated that areas with high V_p/V_s ratios tend to have low Q values (or high attenuation) while the variation of Q_p and Q_s is the same. We calculate the V_p/V_s ratio using the tomograms in Figure 11 and the ratio is shown in Figure 12b. It can be seen from this figure that areas with high V_p/V_s ratio have low Q_s values, as seen in Figure 12a.

As a final check, the inverted Q_s tomogram is compared to a common offset gather (COG) profile (Hanafy *et al.* 2015). Figure 12c shows a COG profile using the processed data for an offset of 50 m. The black dashed line in this figure shows the location of the fault which is between 250-300 m. The locations of the Q_s anomalies in the WQ_s tomogram and the low-velocity area in the S-wave tomogram are consistent with the location of the fault, as indicated in the COG profile. Figure 13 shows that the data misfit is reduced by 45% after 17 iterations, and there is reasonable agreement between the peak frequencies of the observed and the predicted traces as shown in Figures 14a and 14b.

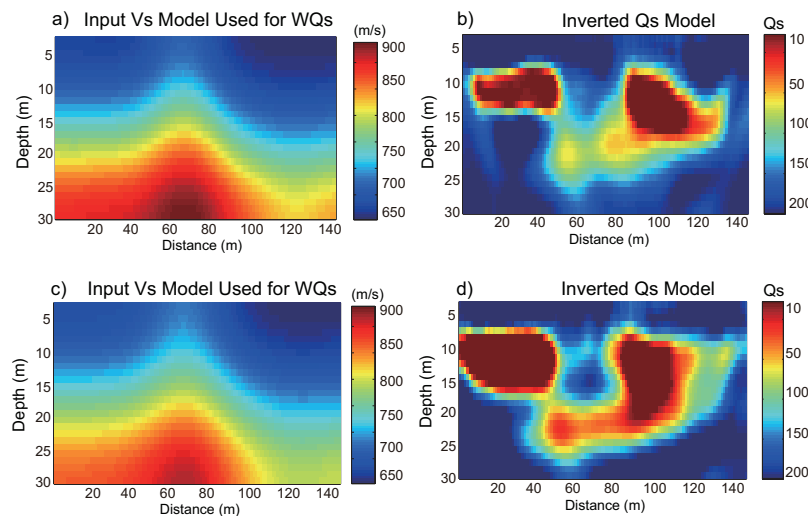


Figure 15. WQ_s tomograms using different background velocity models. (a) and (c) are 20 % and 40 % smoothed versions of the true velocity model. (b) and (d) are the corresponding WQ_s tomograms.

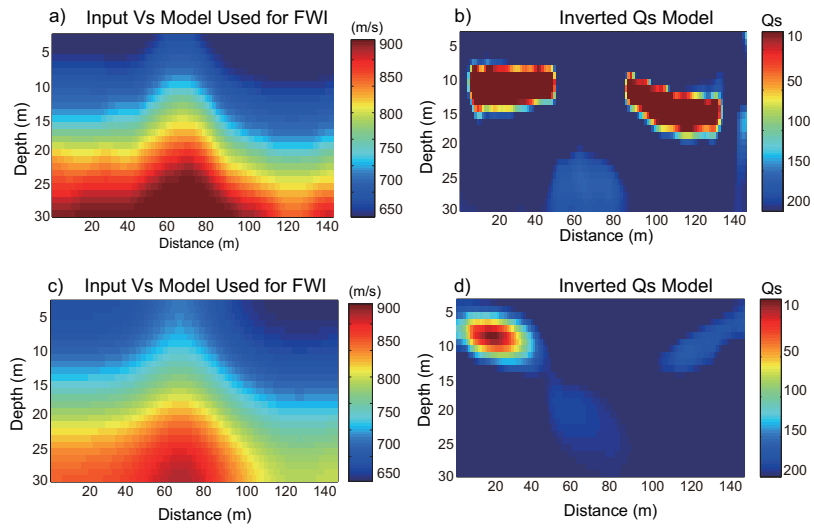


Figure 16. The Q_s tomograms obtained from FWI using different background velocity models, (a) and (c) are the starting velocity models obtained by smoothing the actual velocity model by a filter that is 10% and 40 % the size of the model, respectively., (b) and (d) are the corresponding Q_s tomograms.

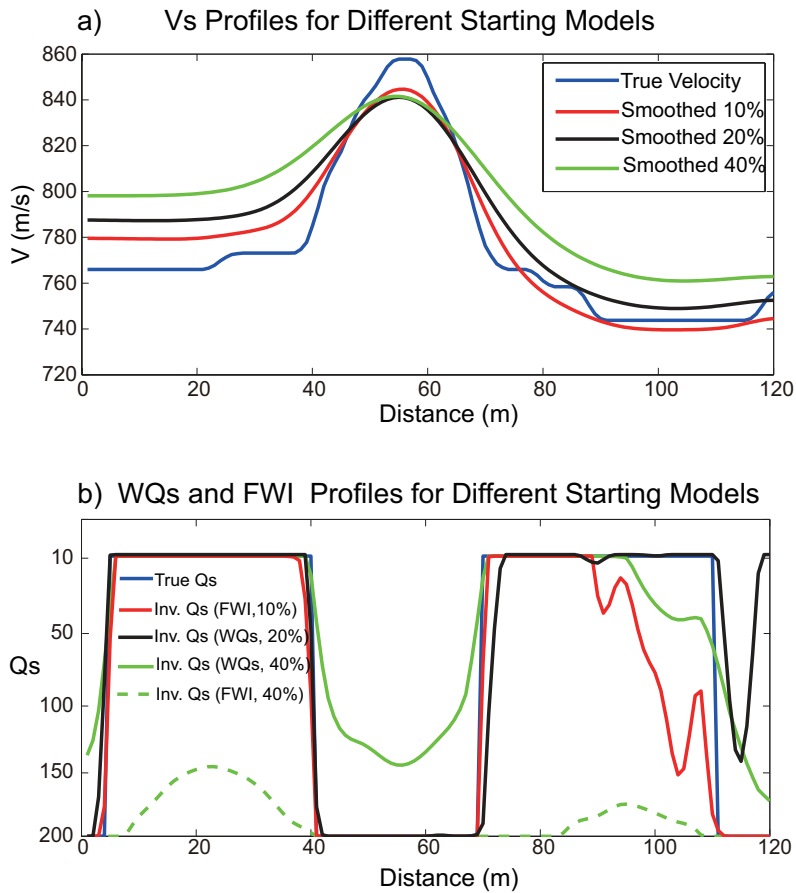


Figure 17. (a) Different background velocity models and (b) the corresponding WQ_s and FWI horizontal profiles at the depth of 15 m.

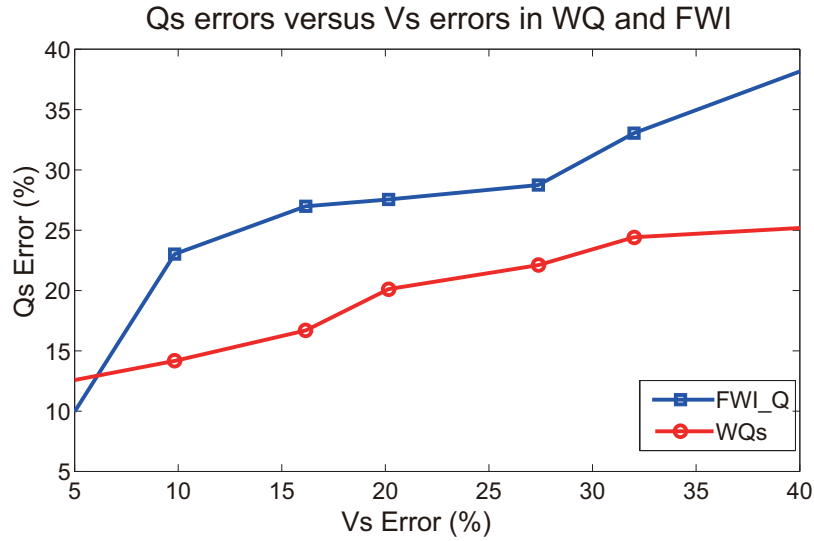


Figure 18. Q_s global errors versus V_s global errors for WQ and FWI.

5 DISCUSSION

Both synthetic and field-data examples demonstrate that the WQ_s method can be used to invert for smoothed approximations to the Q_s models. According to the discussion in Dutta and Schuster (2016), the reliability of any Q tomogram is dependent on the accuracy of the background velocity model (Liao & McMechan 1995; Kamei & Pratt 2008; Virieux & Operto 2009). If the background velocity has significant errors, it will lead to large inaccuracies in the inverted Q_s tomogram. To analyze this problem, we use the smoothed background velocity to increase the error between the input background velocity model and the true velocity model in Figure 6a. The different smoothed velocity models (20% and 40%) are shown in Figures 15a and 15c. The errors in the WQ_s tomograms in Figures 15b and 15d increase when the errors in the input background velocity model increase. However, the shape and position of the low Q_s anomalies are located with reasonable accuracy in the tomograms.

We also use the smoothed input velocity model to evaluate the sensitivity of the FWI method to different starting velocity models. The different background velocity models are shown in Figures 16a and 16c. If the background velocity model is only smoothed by 10% (Figure 16a), the FWI method provides a reasonably accurate Q_s tomogram. However, if the smoothing scale is 40%, the FWI method produces a Q_s tomogram that has unacceptable inaccuracies. It is evident from these tomograms that the WQ_s approach should be preferred over FWI because the WQ_s tomogram is less sensitive to errors in the velocity model as shown in Figures 17 and 18.

In all of our examples, we use the single SLS mechanism for the time-domain viscoelastic wave equation. However, to obtain a constant Q response over a large frequency bandwidth, it is recommended to use at least 3 SLS mechanisms (Emmerich & Korn 1987; Zhu *et al.* 2013). The theory of wave-equation Q_s inversion using Rayleigh waves, as proposed in this paper, will hold true, irrespective of the type of

SLS mechanism. However, the derivation of the gradient and the adjoint equations needs to be modified according to the particular damping model.

6 CONCLUSIONS

We presented a skeletonized surface-wave wave-equation Q_s inversion method, where the Q_s model is found that minimizes the sum of the squared difference $\sum_i \Delta f_i^2$ in the peak frequencies of the observed and the predicted surface-wave arrivals. The gradient for WQ_s is derived using the implicit function theorem and is numerically obtained by a zero-lag cross-correlation between the forward propagated viscoelastic source wavefield and the weighted backprojected residuals. Here, the weight is proportional to Δf_i at the i th trace. This method does not require a simplifying layered-medium assumption. The limitation of WQ_s , however, is a loss of Q_s resolution compared to methods that invert for all the amplitudes in the surface-wave arrivals. Another limitation is that, similar to all Q_s inversion methods, it requires an accurate estimation of the V_s model. Therefore, future research should explore the value of simultaneously (or jointly) inverting for both the V_s and Q_s models.

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APPENDIX A: VISCOELASTIC GRADIENT FOR η

The gradient for the WQ_s method is now derived (Schuster 2017). In matrix vector notation, equation 3 can be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix}
 -\rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} & 0 & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 0 & -\rho \frac{\partial}{\partial t} & 0 & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \pi C \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & (\pi C - 2\mu\eta) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 (\pi C - 2\mu\eta) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \pi C \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\
 \mu\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \mu\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\
 \pi F \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & (\pi F - 2\mu H) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + E & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 (\pi F - 2\mu H) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \pi F \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + E & 0 & 0 \\
 \mu H \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \mu H \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + E & 0
 \end{pmatrix}
 \begin{pmatrix}
 u \\
 w \\
 \sigma_{xx} \\
 \sigma_{zz} \\
 \sigma_{xz} \\
 r_{xx} \\
 r_{zz} \\
 r_{xz}
 \end{pmatrix}
 =
 \begin{pmatrix}
 f_{xx} \\
 f_{zz} \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0 \\
 0
 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

or in a more compact form

$$\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{m})\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m}) = \mathbf{F}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where

$$C = \frac{\tau_\epsilon^P}{\tau_\sigma}; \quad \eta = \frac{\tau_\epsilon^S}{\tau_\sigma}; \quad E = \frac{-1}{\tau_\sigma}; \quad F = E\left(\frac{\tau_\epsilon^P}{\tau_\sigma} - 1\right); \quad H = E(\eta - 1). \quad (\text{A.3})$$

The perturbation of the state variable \mathbf{w} with respect to to the model variable \mathbf{m} is given by $\frac{\partial \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m})}{\partial \mathbf{m}}$ and can be obtained from

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{m})\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m}) &= \mathbf{F}, \\
 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{m})}{\partial \mathbf{m}}\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m}) + \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{m})\frac{\partial \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m})}{\partial \mathbf{m}} &= \mathbf{0}, \\
 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m})}{\partial \mathbf{m}} &= -\mathbf{A}^{-1}(\mathbf{m})\frac{\partial \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{m})}{\partial \mathbf{m}}\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{m}). \quad (\text{A.4})
 \end{aligned}$$

The connective function in equation 9 can also be written as

$$\dot{\Phi}_{\Delta f} = \langle \mathbf{A}_r \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s), \dot{\mathbf{w}}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} \rangle. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Here $\langle \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$ represents the inner product between the vectors \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} and \mathbf{A}_r is a sampling operator that samples the wavefield at the receiver locations while the adjoint of it, \mathbf{A}_r^* , sprays the recorded data from the receiver coordinates to the model coordinates. \mathbf{w}_f denotes the predicted event for a given background Q_s model recorded at the receiver location \mathbf{x}_g due to a source excited at time $t = 0$ and at location \mathbf{x}_s while $\mathbf{w}_{f-\Delta f}^{obs}$ denotes the same event in the observed data.

From equation 6, the misfit function for WQ_s is given by

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \sum_g \sum_s \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s)^2, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

and the gradient can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial \eta} &= \sum_s \sum_g \frac{\frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})}}{\frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \Delta f}} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s), \\
&= - \sum_s \sum_g \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}} \frac{\partial \dot{\Phi}}{\partial \eta(\mathbf{x})} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s), \\
&= \sum_s \sum_g \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \langle \mathbf{A}_r \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s), \dot{\mathbf{w}}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} \rangle \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s), \text{ (using equation A.5)} \\
&= \sum_s \sum_g \langle \mathbf{A}_r \frac{\partial \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s)}{\partial \eta}, \dot{\mathbf{w}}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s) \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}} \rangle, \\
&= - \sum_s \sum_g \langle \mathbf{A}_r \mathbf{A}^{-1} \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \eta} \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s), \dot{\mathbf{w}}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s) \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}} \rangle, \text{ (using equation A.4)} \\
&= - \sum_s \langle \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \eta} \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s), (\mathbf{A}^{-1})^* \sum_g (\mathbf{A}_r^* \dot{\mathbf{w}}_{f-\Delta f}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} \Delta f(\mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_s) \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}}) \rangle, \\
&= - \sum_s \langle \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \eta} \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s), \mathbf{w}^*(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \rangle. \tag{A.7}
\end{aligned}$$

Here,

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} K_1 \\ K_2 \\ K_3 \\ K_4 \\ K_5 \\ K_6 \\ K_7 \\ K_8 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \int u(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{u}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int w(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{w}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int \sigma_{xx}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{\sigma}_{xx}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int \sigma_{zz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{\sigma}_{zz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int \sigma_{xz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{\sigma}_{xz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int r_{xx}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{r}_{xx}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int r_{zz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{r}_{zz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \\ \int r_{xz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \ddot{r}_{xz}(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs} dt \end{pmatrix}, \tag{A.8}$$

and $\mathbf{w}^* = (\hat{u}, \hat{w}, \hat{\sigma}_{xx}, \hat{\sigma}_{zz}, \hat{\sigma}_{xz}, \hat{r}_{xx}, \hat{r}_{zz}, \hat{r}_{xz})$ is the adjoint-state variable of $\mathbf{w} = (u, w, \sigma_{xx}, \sigma_{zz}, \sigma_{xz}, r_{xx}, r_{zz}, r_{xz})$ which is calculated by a finite-difference solution for the adjoint-state equations of the viscoelastic wave equation. For Rayleigh waves, since the recorded data are vertical-component particle-velocity traces $w(\mathbf{x}_g, t; \mathbf{x}_s)^{obs}$, the adjoint viscoelastic equation can be derived from the forward-modeling equation A.1. The adjoint of $f(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ is $-\frac{\partial[f(x)]}{\partial x}$. In this case, finite support implies zero boundary conditions at infinity (Schuster 2017), so

and using equations A.4 and A.11, we can write the gradient as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial \eta} &= - \sum_s \left\langle \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial \eta} \mathbf{w}_f(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s), \mathbf{w}^*(\mathbf{x}, t; \mathbf{x}_s) \right\rangle \\
&= - \sum_s \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2\mu E \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -2\mu E \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mu E \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \mu E \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ w \\ \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{zz} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ r_{xx} \\ r_{zz} \\ r_{xz} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \hat{u} \\ \hat{w} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{xx} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{zz} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{xz} \\ \hat{r}_{xx} \\ \hat{r}_{zz} \\ \hat{r}_{xz} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \\
&= - \sum_s \int (2\mu \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \hat{\sigma}_{xx} + 2\mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \hat{\sigma}_{zz} - (\mu \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} + \mu \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}) \hat{\sigma}_{xz} - 2\mu E \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \hat{r}_{xx} - 2\mu E \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \hat{r}_{zz} + \mu E (\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z}) \hat{r}_{xz}) dt. \quad (\text{A.12})
\end{aligned}$$

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