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Mantle dynamics in the Mediterranean



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THE MEDITERRANEAN TECTONICS PUZZLE



We will revise tectonic, geodetic, seismic data and model to show that the complexity of deformation may be explained by a relatively simple pattern of mantle convection

AFRICA, ARABIA AND INDIA KINEMATICS



Müller et al., 2008; Torsvik et al., 2008

.....a slow convergence



Leigh Royden

















THE MEDITERRANEAN MANTLE STRUCTURE



Piromallo and Morelli, 2003

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-1 0 1 P velocity variation (%)

an almost restricted upper mantle ...

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SEISMIC ANISOTROPY



EW (west) to NE-SW (east) trending pattern in backarc region (i.e., not correlated with plate convergence) normal to the subduction zones

SEISMICITY



Seismicity color-coded by hypocentral depth (ISC catologue, magnitude range >4).



orange vectors: Interpolated GPS velocities, gray vectors: MORVEL (de Mets et al., 2010) plate velocities, Kostrov summed Harvard/gCMT moment tensor solutions (depth < 75 km)



THE MEDITERRANEAN PUZZLE



What does drive microplates (i.e., Anatolia) ? Which are the forces at work in the Mediterranean ? Which is the dominant style of mantle convection ?

MODELLING THE MEDITERRANEAN MANTLE DYNAMICS



THE SLAB ROLLBACK and FLEXURAL MODEL



Malinverno and Ryan (1986)

Royden (1993)





Wortel and Spakman (2000)

BACK-ARC EXTENSION





more than 800 km of back-arc extension;three pulses of spreading.



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MANTLE CIRCULATION DURING RETREAT OF A NARROW SLAB (LABORATORY MODELS)

Poloidal Flow

Toroidal Flow



Funiciello et al., 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006

MANTLE CIRCULATION DURING RETREAT OF A NARROW SLAB (NUMERICAL MODELS)



Claudia Piromallo



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top view

Piromallo et. al, 2006

DISRUPTION OF THE TYRRHENIAN SLAB





collision, backarc extension and slab disruption

Magni et al., 2014

DOUBLE SUBDUCTION BENEATH ADRIA



....due to overpressure beneath the slabs

Kiraly et al., 2017

DOUBLE SUBDUCTION AND SLAB WINDOW



Kiraly et al., 2018

SLAB WINDOW AND ADRIA DEFORMATION



D'Agostino et al., 1998

...the formation of the arcs and motion of Adria emerges spontaneously in a asymmetric (slab windoww) opposite subducting system

Kiraly et al., 2018

Mediterranean-type subduction zone



Thosrten W.Becker

Modelling mantle flow at regionally high resolution

assuming:

Incompressible, laminar (Stokes) flow, surface and core free slip, CitcomS (*Zhong et al., 2000*), layered viscosity structure, Newtonian or not, Ivv, low viscosity zone at boundary

and for density anomalies: we assume simple scaling of velocity anomalies from S and P wave tomography to density, i.e. no chemical anomalies besides continental keels which are assumed neutrally buoyant



Self-consistent predictions include:

- Surface deformation:
- (micro)plate motions
 - compare with geodesy
- dynamic topography
 - compare with residual topography
- Mantle anisotropy:
 - compare with SKS

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SURFACE DEFORMATION





I° TEST: (MICRO)PLATE MOTION



II° TEST : DYNAMIC TOPOGRAPHY Topography= Dynamic topography + Isostatic topography



RESIDUAL TOPOGRAPHY



Faccenna and Becker, 201; Boschi et al., 2010

DYNAMIC TOPOGRAPHY





-10° -5° 0° 5° 10° 15° 20° 25° 30° 35° 40° 45

Dynamic Topography



Faccenna and Becker, 2014; Boschi et al., 2010

Massif Central : baby plume



-2 -1 0 1 2







Residual: 500 m Uplift of 250 m last 2 Ma





Valerio Olivetti

Olivetti et al., 2016

Iberian chain



Valentina Scotti

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UPLIFT:

- 530 meters
- average 0.6 mm/yr
- From Middle Pliocene

Scotti et al., 2015; Giachetta et al., 2015

Apennines

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contribution of subduction/mantle dynamics on the Apennines topography

e.g., Royden, 1993; Buiter et al.,1998; Wortel and Spakman, 2000; Gvirtzman and Nur, 2001; D'Agostino et al., 2001; Shaw and Pysklywec, 2010; Carminati and Doglioni, 2012

RESIDUAL TOPOGRAPHY VS. GEOL. ESTIMATES



Geological information over residual topography calculated from the free air gravity anomaly (scaled and filtered as in Craig et al., 2011)

III° TEST: MANTLE ANISOTROPY LARGE SCALE TOMOGRAPHY (SMEAN)



LARGE SCALE TOMOGRAPHY (SMEAN) AND SUBDUCTION ZONES



Back-arc basin: good fit with return flow related to the retreating slab

IV TEST: MEDITERRANEAN VOLCANISM



Anorogenic volcanoes plot on low velocity anomalies Orogenic volcanoes plot on high velocity anomalies

MANTLE FLOW PATTERN



Large scale return flow: upwelling beneath Iberia and Anatolia due to downwelling in Central Mediterranean (Tyrrhenian and Aegean).

REMARKS

- Subduction/slab pull dominated system localized in the Central Mediterranean
- flow restricted in the shallow upper mantle -horizontal and vertical surface deformation
- Return flow with upwelling beneath Anatolia, souther France and Iberia
- Small-scale toroidal flow at slab edges

Open questions

- Lateral connection with Arabia (probable) and Atlantic (?)
- Better definition of crustal deformation
- Better definition of dynamic contribution to topo with field studies









<u>is talk is also at : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEy1pybi3oI</u>

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ry short list of references from our group on Mediterranean subduction and convection

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