

The characteristics of seafloor electromagnetic observations and corresponding electrical conductivity imaging in the western Pacific



Passive (natural) sources

magnetosphere



 Imagine to sprice

Chanapa Tantibanchachai, 2020

B Magnetic Field





The **MT response** (**Z**) describes the linear relationship between horizontal components of the **B** and **E** variations. It implies the underground **electrical features**.

 $Z = \frac{E}{B}$

Resistivity is sensitive to water, carbon, partial melt, etc.

Induced Electric Field





• EM waves attenuate with depth

Skin depth (δ)

 $\delta \cong 500\sqrt{\rho T}$ apparent resistivity period

The electromagnetic waves will attenuate with depth. It usually be described as skin depth effect. That is, the longer periods we use, the deeper structure could be seen.



Z(T) is a complex number, so we usually present it as the combinations of apparent resistivity $\rho_{ij}(T)$ and impedance phase $\phi_{ij}(T)$.



The **MT response, Z(T)**, can be presented as the combinations of \rightarrow (a) **apparent resistivity**, $\rho_{ij}(T) \&$ 視電阻率 (b) **impedance phase**, $\phi_{ij}(T)$ 阻抗相位



Z in terms of

(a) apparent resistivity, $\rho_{ij}(T)$ 視電阻率

(shows average resistivity of the half-space)

 $\mathbf{Z}(T) = \frac{\mathbf{E}(T)}{\mathbf{B}(T)}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{E}_{x}(T) \\ \mathbf{E}_{y}(T) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{xx}(T) & \mathbf{Z}_{xy}(T) \\ Z_{yx}(T) & Z_{yy}(T) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_{x}(T) \\ \mathbf{B}_{y}(T) \end{bmatrix}$$

(b) impedance phase , $\phi_{ij}(T)$ 阻抗相位

(E is advanced ϕ degrees to the B)

coherence between

E_{observed} & E_{predicted}

 $(\mathbf{E}_{\text{predicted}} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{Z})$

Z(T) is a matrix, which has 4 elements. We only focus on red and blue one, which shows on these figures. In figure c, the higher coherence means well data quality.

Objectives and Data

Scientific Goal

Electromagnetic exploration is used to image the electrical structures and can help us discuss back-arc basin mantle dynamics (e.g.: what are the geological consequences of slab falling and stagnating at mantle transition zone?)

Pacific plate is subducting beneath Philippine sea plate, but it stopped at mantle transition zone (MTZ). Therefore, we use MT data to explore electrical structures beneath this region.



Objectives and Data

Scientific Goal

Electromagnetic exploration is used to image the electrical structures and can help us discuss back-arc basin mantle dynamics (e.g.: what are the geological consequences of slab falling and stagnating at mantle transition zone?)

Ocean bottom electromagnetometer (OBEM)



Ocean bottom electromagnetometer (OBEM) recorded 3 components magnetic data and 2 components electric data on the seafloor.

Characteristics of Electromagnetic Field Data Recorded by OBEM

The spectrogram of the observed magnetic fields shows clear variations due to geomagnetic storms (high Ap-index).



We can see Ap-index is high while there is a magnetic storm. Also, there are large variations in the magnetic time-series data. At the same time, strong (showing in red) energy appears in spectrogram.

Characteristics of Electromagnetic Field Data Recorded by OBEM

- The spectrogram of the observed magnetic fields shows clear variations due to geomagnetic storms (high Ap-index).
- Provide the observed magnetic and electrical fields show clear variations caused by solar quiet daily variation, and its higher harmonics.

Left panel shows the magnetic and electrical time series data. Right panel shows the power spectrum. As you can see the peaks, where are marked in orange. These features are caused by solar quiet daily variation, and its higher harmonics.



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Differences between B_{land} & B_{OBEM}



Power Spectral Density 10⁵ Period [sec]

Amplitude:

Magnetic field recorded in **OBEM** is weaker than on-land station (< 10^4 s) because of skin depth effect column for water $(\sim 5000 \text{ m depth}).$

Skin depth δ

$$\delta \cong 500 \sqrt{\rho T} (unit:m)$$

 $\rho_{seawater} = 0.3 \ \Omega m$

$$T \text{ at } 200 \ s \ \rightarrow \ \delta \cong 4000 \ m$$

T at
$$10^4 s \rightarrow \delta \cong 27000 m$$

(27000 >> OBEM's depth)

We can also use skin depth to illustrate it. The 200 s signal will attenuate a lot at 4000 m depth. However, it need deeper depth for longer periods to have same attenuation.

So the shorter period, the weaker amplitude we can see on OBEM.







Differences between Bland & BOBEM



Transfer function can be used to quantify the amplitude differences. It showed the OBEM's amplitude is 0.1 times smaller than land station data at 100 s period. It's about 0.5 times smaller at 10,000 s.

Amplitude:

 Magnetic field recorded in OBEM is weaker than on-land station (< 10⁴ s) because of skin depth effect for water column (~5000 m depth).

Transfer function (TF):

Quantize the relationship of horizontal magnetic field between ${\bf B}$ and ${\bf B}_{land}$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_{land}\mathbf{TF} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$$

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Differences between B_{land} & B_{OBEM}



Instrument noise:

The magnetic data reocrded at OBEM and land stations will record their own noises.

$$B = B_{ideal} + \varepsilon \quad \text{noise}$$
$$B_{land} = B_{ideal} + \varepsilon_{land}$$
$$KAK \text{ as a remote reference}$$

 The noises (ε) often lead to estimate of MT response (Ζ) being biased if only one station data is analyzed.

Here, we use the KAK as a **remote reference** station to reduce the effect of site-dependent noises.

Z Obtained by Remote Reference Methods



(Error bars indicate 95% confidence limits)

2-stage bounded influence method

Z Obtained for Longer Recovered Data by Remote Reference Methods

CERT.

For those sites with longer recovery data, we are able to obtain **Z** up to period $\sim 2 \times 10^5$ s.





(Error bars indicate 95% confidence limits)

14

Results: Obtained Z for OBEM Deployed on PH & PA Plates

We calculated the period-dependent MT responses for **all 21 sites** using 1-year long OBEM data.

- All sites show $\rho(T)$ have similar **primary features with a decreasing trend** with an increasing period.
- The tendency is **greater** for the sites on the **Pacific plate**.



Results: Obtained Z for OBEM Deployed on PH & PA Plates

Forward modeling is used to investigate the electrical structure beneath the study region

- We find this modeling needs a high resistivity layer in the uppermost mantle.
- The **high resistive layer** is thicker beneath the Pacific plate.



Summary and Key Points

- **1** $\rho(T)$ from all 21 sites show similar primary features with a decreasing trend with an increasing period. The tendency is greater for the sites on the Pacific plate.
- Prom the forward modeling, the observed features might indicate that the Pacific plate is thicker, older, and colder.
- 3 In the future, we will use these $\mathbf{Z}(T)$ to do 1-D and then 3-D inversion to image the electrical structures and discuss back-arc basin mantle dynamics.



(2)**Forward Modeling** Log apparent resistivity (p) $[\Omega m]$ 100 150 [km] 20 Depth Impedance phase (ϕ) [degree] 250 300 350 100 km 🔳 🛯 67 km 33 kn 102 104 105 10³ 10^1 10^2 10^3 10^4

Period [s]



Resistivity [\com]