3-D Seismic Delineation of the North Anatolian Fault System Shear Zone in the Western Half of Marmara Basin, Türkiye

Ö. Yilmaz, Z. Özer, D. T. Beşevli, J. E. L. Wu, C. Özsoy, S. Sevinç, K. B. Bakioglu, M. B. Ercengiz, Ö. K. Şahin, B. Dadak, T. Hastürk, Ö. Yapar, H. Dalabasmaz, N. Ö. Sipahioglu, C. Demirci, R. Ö. Temel, M. F. Akalın, and M. S. B. Sadioglu







Barka, A. A. and Kadinsky-Cade, K. (1988). Strike-slip fault geometry in Turkey and its influence on earthquake activity. *Tectonics*, (7) 3, 663–684.





Okay, A. I., Demirbağ, E., Kurt, H., Okay, N. and Kuşçu, İ. (1999). An active, deep marine strike-slip basin along the North Anatolian Fault in Turkey. *Tectonics*, (**18**) 1, 129-147.



Figure 2 of paper 65 Armijo, R., Meyer, B., Hubert, A. & Barka, A. (1999), Westward propagation of the North Anatolian fault into the northern Aegean: Timing and kinematics. *Geology*, (27) 3; 267–270.





Figure 2 of paper 36 Okay, A. I., Kaşlılar-Özcan, A., İmren, C., Boztepe-Güney, A., Demirbağ, E. & Kuşçu, I. (2000), Active faults and evolving strike-slip basins in the Marmara Sea, northwest Turkey: a multichannel seismic reflection study. *Tectonophysics*, **321**, 189-218.



Okay, A. I., Kaşlılar-Özcan, A., İmren, C., Boztepe-Güney, A., Demirbağ, E. and Kuşçu, I. (2000). Active faults and evolving strike-slip basins in the Marmara Sea, northwest Turkey: a multichannel seismic reflection study. *Tectonophysics*, **321**, 189-218.



2001 80 km İmren et al. (2001)

Imren, C., Le Pichon, X., Rangin, C., Demirbağ, E., Ecevitoğlu, B. and Görür, N. (2001). The North Anatolian Fault within the Sea of Marmara: a new evaluation based on multichannel seismic and multi-beam data. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.* **186**, 143-158.



Le Pichon, X., Şengör, A.M.C., Demirbağ, E., Rangin, C., Imren, C., Armijo, R., Görür, N. and Çağatay, N., Mercier de Lepinay, B., Meyer, B., Saatcilar, R. and Tok, B. (2001). The active main Marmara fault. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, **192**, 595–616.

(Le Pichon et al., 2001)



Le Pichon, X., Şengör, A.M.C., Demirbağ, E., Rangin, C., Imren, C., Armijo, R., Görür, N. and Çağatay, N., Mercier de Lepinay, B., Meyer, B., Saatcilar, R. and Tok, B. (2001). The active main Marmara fault. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, **192**, 595–616.



Figure 1 of paper 62 Armijo, R., Meyer, B., Navarro, S., King, G. & Barka, A. (2002), Asymmetric slip partitioning in the Sea of Marmara pull-apart: a clue to propagation processes of the North Anatolian Fault. *Terra Nova*, 14 (2), 80–86.



Armijo, R., Meyer, B., Navarro, S., King, G. and Barka, A. (2002), Asymmetric slip partitioning in the Sea of Marmara pullapart: a clue to propagation processes of the North Anatolian Fault. *Terra Nova*, 14 (2), 80–86.



Armijo, R., Meyer, B., Navarro, S., King, G. and Barka, A. (2002), Asymmetric slip partitioning in the Sea of Marmara pull-apart: a clue to propagation processes of the North Anatolian Fault. *Terra Nova*, 14 (2), 80–86.





(Armijo et al., 2002)



Gökaşan, E., Ustaömer, T., Gazioglu, C, Yucel, Z. Y., Ozturk, K., Tur, H., Ecevitoglu, B. and Tok, B. (2003). Morphotectonic evolution of the Marmara Sea inferred from multi-beam bathymetric and seismic data. *Geo-Mar. Lett.* (23) 1, 19-33.



interpretation of the Marmara region, NW Turkey, from aeromagnetic, seismic, and gravity data. *Tectonophysics*, 367, 41-99.



Ateş, A., Kayıran, T. and Sincer, I. (2003). Structural interpretation of the Marmara region, NW Turkey, from aeromagnetic, seismic, and gravity data. *Tectonophysics*, 367, 41-99.



Figure 3 of paper 02 Bécel, A., Laigle, M., de Voogd, B., Hirn, A., Taymaz, T., Galvé, A., Shimamura, H., Murai, Y., Lépine, J-C., Sapin, M., & Özalaybey, S. (2009), Moho, crustal architecture and deep deformation under the North Marmara Trough, from the SEISMARMARA Leg 1 offshore–onshore reflection–refraction survey. *Tectonophysics*, 467, 1–21.



Figure 8 of paper 69 Yilmaz, Y., Gökaşan, E., & Erbay, A. Y. (2010), Morphotectonic development of the Marmara Region. *Tectonophysics*, 488, 51-70.



Figure 5 of paper 26 Şengör, A. M. C., Grall, C., Imren, C., Le Pichon, X., Görür, N., Henry, P., Karabulut, H. & Siyako, M. (2014), The geometry of the North Anatolian transform fault in the Sea of Marmara and its temporal evolution: implications for the development of intracontinental transform faults. *Can. J. Earth Sci.* 51:222–242, dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjes-2013-016.



Le Pichon, X., Şengör, A.M.C., Demirbağ, E., Rangin, C., Imren, C., Armijo, R., Görür, N. and Çağatay, N., Mercier de Lepinay, B., Meyer, B., Saatcilar, R. and Tok, B. (2001). The active main Marmara fault. *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, **192**, 595–616.

(Le Pichon et al., 2001)



2-D seismic surveys during the period 1976-2014



discontinuity volume: inline 2128 and time slice 1740 ms







(Yilmaz, 2001)





Example of a negative flower structure from an extensional duplex on a dextral strike-slip fault from the Andaman Sea between India and Malay peninsula. (Twiss and Moores, 2007)



Example of a positive flower structure from a contractional duplex on a sinistral strike-slip fault in the Ardmore Basin, Oklahoma.

(Twiss and Moores, 2007)

wrench tectonism



(Data from offshore Indonesia courtesy Clyde Petroleum; Yılmaz, 2001)

2-D CMP stack



(Yilmaz, 2001)
2-D poststack time migration



🍹 (Yilmaz, 2001)

3-D prestack time migration

	and the second se			Station of the second s	and the second se
			الأربين الأرجاز عنيه معتقدين		
	And the second s				
	a support				
	and the second second	Street -	A COLORINA		
		10 Part 10	and the second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second		
	5. M. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S.				
		and the second			
				1. Contraction	Company and and
the second second			15-115-20		and the second
		Sec. Sec.		L	
	and the second			te Martine	
					and the second
	Section and the second section of the second second second second second second second second second second se		A STANFAC		7
		the state of the s		Contraction of	
	a la casa an	10 m		State	Significant &
The second	The second second		and the second second		

(Yilmaz, 2001)

2-D CMP stack



(Yilmaz, 2001)

2-D poststack time migration



🍹 (Yilmaz, 2001)

3-D prestack time migration

	An an an an an an an an an an an an an an			Station of the second s	and the second se
			الأربين الأرجاز عنيه معتقدين		
	And the second s				
	and shifts to				
	and the second second	Street -	A COLORINA		
		10 Part 10	and the second second second second second second second second second second second second second second second		
		and the second			
				1. Contraction	Company and and
the second second			15-115-20		and the second
		Sec. Sec.		L	
	and the second			te Martine	
					and the second
	Section and the second section of the second second second second second second second second second second se		A STANFAC		
		the state of the s		Contraction of	
	a la casa an	10 m		State	Significant &
The second	The second second		and the second second		

(Yilmaz, 2001)



Numerical modeling of brittle continental crust with different thickness *T*

The separation between the shear strands increases with increasing thickness of the brittle crust.

(Jiao et al., 2021)

























































sandbox modeling of releasing stepovers in basement strike-slip faults that lead to the formation of pull-apart basins 30-degree releasing stepover



Scaled sandbox modeling of restraining stepovers in basement strike-slip faults that lead to the formation of pop-up structures No sedimentation 30-deg underlapping restraining stepover


transtensional pull-apart basin formed by the basement strike-slip fault pair A and B



(Dooley and Schreurs, 2012)

Basement Fault Geometry



(McClay and Bonora, 2001)



A pair of sinistral strike-slip basement fault segments along the EAFZ with contractional stepover that gave rise to the formation of Bingöl pop-up structure



for East Anatolian fault zone using planar fault source models. Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, 107(5), pp.2353-2366.

A pair of dextral strike-slip basement fault segments along the NAFZ with extensional stepover that gave rise to the formation of Niksar Basin



A pair of dextral strike-slip basement fault segments along the NAFZ with extensional stepover that gave rise to the formation of Mudurnu Basin



Emre, Ö., Duman, T.Y., Özalp, S., Şaroğlu, F., Olgun, Ş., Elmacı, H. and Çan, T., 2018. Active fault database of Turkey. Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering, 16(8), pp.3229-3275.

(Courtesy Nuretdin Kaymakçı, 2025)



Structural template for a transtensional basin

Structural template for a pop-up structure

Structural template for a pull-apart basin

















A pair of dextral strike-slip basement fault segments along the NAFZ with extensional

stepover that gave rise to the formation of Mudurnu Basin

Emre, Ö., Duman, T.Y., Özalp, S., Şaroğlu, F., Olgun, Ş., Elmacı, H. and Çan, T., 2018. Active fault database of Turkey. Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering, 16(8), pp.3229-3275.

(Courtesy Nuretdin Kaymakçı, 2025)

A pair of dextral strike-slip basement fault segments along the NAFZ with extensional stepover that gave rise to the formation of Niksar Basin



Fault segmentation that gave rise to the formation of Mudurnu Basin (left) and Niksar Basin (right)



a. Riedel shear array rotates and arrests as rupture barrier approached



Time



3-D forward gravity modeling suggesting that significant crustal heterogeneities may have influenced the basement fault segmentation below the Sea of Marmara

(Gholamrezaie et al., 2019)



P-to-S converted arrival times and receiver-function analysis of selected earthquake seismograms to create a map of 3-D crustal thickness variation in Marmara Basin (Jenkins et al., 2020)



— Moho depth isolines (km)

3-D gravity inversion to estimate the Moho depth

(Kende et al., 2017)









(Dooley, 2008)













non-linear full-waveform tomography indicating crustal heterogeneities associated with strong lateral and vertical velocity variations down to Moho depth, characteristic of highly deformed and distributed crustal features along the NAFS with its branches

(Çubuk-Sabuncu et al., 2017)











I wish to conclude this presentation with a few words to the young generation of geophysicists.

Always honor what the real data tell you and discard the earth model and the underlying theory that is not consistent with the observed data.

In this regard, Nature is your best critic, but is also kind and affectionate to you.

Geology is your problem and physics is your solution. As a geophysicist, you can both define the problem and solve it.

And Let Reason be Your Faith.