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Mountain building and the style of mantle convection beneath convergent margin

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Mantle convection models



convection models properly simulate the motion of oceanic plates....

convection beneath the continent is more uncertain...





Karlstrom et al., 2008

....because of the slow motion and of lithosphere heterogeneity



What does sustain mountain building? What is the role of the mantle ?

Journey on the Tethyan belt



Style of deformation and mountain bulding is related to the scale of mantle convection



a record of long- term accrection of crustal blocks with different scale orogenic belt



arrows: GPS motion (compiled from various sources)

deformation spreads over continents

Adria, Arabia and India kinematics



....a protracted continental collision

Forces at work during collision



condition to sustain orogen : 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 5

where 5 is ~ 8-9 X 10¹² N/m (*Gosh et al., 2006; Husson et al., 2010*)



I) Slab Pull



Capitanio et al., 2010

It fits the velocity reduction collision but not the protracted velocity after collision

Slab pull likely reduced by break-off



Geodetic and coseismic deformation



White sticks: major extensional axes, Black sticks: compressive Axes (*Ghosh et al., 2006*)

II) Ridge push

- Ridge push ain't doing it
- Need additional N-S compressive (India driving) force from the mantle (~2.5 10¹² N/m)



Suggested force systems for the continued convergence

- Ridge push: too small (e.g. Ghosh et al., 2006)
- Slab pull: too small or none (slab break-off) (e.g. Copley et al. 2010; Capitanio et al., 2010)
- Plume push: too time-dependent speedup, too small (e.g. Gurnis and Torsvik, 1994; van Hinsbergen et al., 2010; Cande & Stegman, 2011)
- Large scale mantle flow ? may drag the plates (Alvarez, 1990)

Mantle circulation modeling

- Incompressible, laminar (Stokes) flow
- Boundary conditions: surface and core free slip
- Solve with CitcomS (Zhong et al., 2000; Tan et al. 2006), with modifications as in Faccenna & Becker (2010)
- Rheology:
 - Layered viscosity structure, with lateral viscosity variations, Newtonian
 - Plate boundaries are weak (low viscosity) zones
- Density anomalies:
 - Simple scaling of velocity anomalies from S and P wave tomography, no chemical anomalies besides continental keels which are assumed neutrally buoyant
 - Density anomaly prescribed along Wadati-Benioff zone

Global mantle flow with regionally high resolution

- Self-consistent predictions include:
 - Plate and microplate motions
 - Compare with geodesy
 - dynamic deflection of surface
 - Compare with residual topography
 - Mantle Anysotropy
 - compare with sks

Contribution of mantle flow beneath the Tethyan belt



Reilinger and Mcklusky, 2011

The Mediterranean



What's drive microplates? Fast motion of Anatolia? What does generate plateaux and mesetas?

Upper Mantle flow





Plate coupling



Alpine collision drive Adria correctly!

Prediction for anisotropy from tomography + subduzion zones



30 60 90

Euromean tomography (Boschi et al., '11)



Boschi, Becker and Faccenna (2010)



Summary

Small scale convection in the Mediterranean :

-rapid intermittent pulse tectonic,
back arc basin and the formation of narrow arcs;
-Sharp topographic feature
-microplate motions (i.e. Adria, Anatolia)



Zoom out over the entire Tethyan belt



Reference tomography



Becker and Boschi (2003)

The resolution jump





Becker & Faccenna (2011)

Best-fit Eurasia fixed reference frame







Summary

- Role of density distribution
 - Slab effect insufficient to drive India motion, but leads to slab suction
 as seen in geodesy
 - Active upwelling component associated with African plume/Carlsberg ridge main driver of India motion



• Can not fit SE escape motion, perhaps due to decoupling and/or driving by GPE (not included) (e.g. Clark et al., 2005; Sol et al., 2007)

Zooming out: The Tehyan and the Cordillera...



Deep root of The Andes and The Himalayas And the Indo-Atlantic box



Concluding Remarks

- High resolution seismic data reveals multiscale style of convection
- A whole mantle convection cell exists between Africa and India with a strong, plume-associated upwelling component sustains the Tethyan collision
- Similar setting can hold for the Africa-South America system and the Cordillera
- Mountain building episodes in geological record can be used to identify episodes of vigorous whole mantle convection



Mountain bulding and mantle convection

slab pull - orogeny



Slab pull orogeny (Mediterranean) Small scale upper mantle convection Trench rollback and small crustal Thicknening

slab suction - orogeny



Slab suction orogeny (Himalaya-Tibet; Cordillera). Whole upper mantle convection Trench fixed/advancing, Crustal Thicknening

Inspired by Conrad and Lithgow Bertelloni (2002)
slab pull vs. slabpull + mantle drag



Results from global mantle flow model with high regional resolution

Faccenna et al. (2013)



Circles: Hypocenters, color coded by depth (Engdahl et al., 1998; 2010)

crustal seismicity over a diffuse plate boundary



Boundary conditions



MIT 08 model (Li et al., 2008) assuming velocity dependent on temperature



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The Mediterranean Mantle structure





Piromallo and Morelli, 2003

Zooming out: The Tehyan and the Cordillera...





Small scale convection embedded within large-scale toroidal mantle wind from the SE

No plate motion



mantle drives Anatolia

the Mediterranean backarc basin





- + uplifting region- subsiding region

The Mediterranean tectonics



No plate motion



How mantle drives Anatolia and Adria

Plate coupling at collision zone (Alps and Bitlis)



Better Adria fit!

Swave model (Boschi et al., 2009, 2010)



Crustal structure



Dynamic topography

MIT07 tomography (Li et al.08)

Euromean tomography (Boschi et al., '11)



Residual topography

Eurocrust (Tesauro et al., 07)

Euromoho



The Mediterranean convection

- Vigorous flow restricted in the shallow upper mantle
- Downwelling in the Central Mediterranean (attraction zone)
- Return flow with upwelling beneath Anatolia, souther France and Iberia
- Lateral connection with Arabia and Atlantic



Topography= Dynamic topography + Isostatic topography



loss of slab pull after lithosphere and slab break-off after continent arrival *India* Arabia









Large scale tomography (Smean)



Large scale tomography (Smean) and subduzion zones. Alps coupled.



smean_a+RUM, no Alps (carib.22.16)







. . .



Key role of mantle flowing from Arabia towards the Hellenic trench



Best fit



regional correlation with GPS

angular misfit of "fast splitting axes" [°]



geodesy

anisotropy



0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7







Fig. 2. Age of the initial volcanic activity versus distance along the hot belt.











Summary



Mantle flows from Afar upwelling to Hellenic downwelling dragging Arabia towards the collisional zone and Anatolia towards the Hellenic subduction zone.



0 - 615 km, v_{RMS} = 1.6 cm/yr




CD

SR

MG

NA

MP



Lithospheric viscosity relative to upper mantle reference



0.25



When the system started ?



Absolute Trench position (Muller et al., 2008) with respect to deep high velocity anomaly (Smean) gives

The origin of the Andes





Onset of whole mantle convection And the rise of the Andes



Scale of orogenic belts





- Plume head arrival does lead to temporary increases in plate speeds
- Plume might weaken coupling to drag on plate from asthenosphere

III) Plume push



multiscale convection model



Mountain belt is generated and sustained by deep mantle flow

The style of mantle convection is particularly relevant to understand the growth of continental Crust



<u>>ology.um.maine.edu</u>

deep root of mountain building: Himalaya – Africa- Andes connection



(A) Compositionally distinct, dense piles



(B) Highest temperatures



(C) Dense piles and temperatures



(D) Shear velocity heterogeneity





Figure 4. A close-up of the thermochemically dense pile beneath the Pacific Ocean in Figure 3A. (A) A cross-section from the surface to the core-mantle boundary (CMB) displays temperature variations, with the yellow line denoting the boundary of the chemically distinct material in the pile. We identify the thermochemical anomaly as the large low-shear velocity province (LLSVP). Part of the CMB surface is shown in front of the cross-section, along with an isotemperature contour (at 0.98, as in Fig. 3). (B) The same cross-section, but only the pile, with a more expanded color scale (colors span T = 0.7 to 1.0). Convective motions are indicated by the arrows. The hottest zones may invoke partial melt of LLSVP material, either at the CMB (denoted as an ultra-low velocity zone [ULVZ] in the figure), or in some isolated locations farther up within the LLSVP.



II) Ridge push

- Ridge push ain't doing it
- Need additional N-S compressive (India

Geodetic and coseismic deformation driving) force from the mantle (~2.5 10¹² N/m)



White sticks: major extensional axes, Black sticks: compressive Axes (*Ghosh et al., 2006*)









Global mantle flow with regionally high resolution

Self-consistent predictions include:

- plate and microplate motions
 - Compare with plate motion models and geodesy
- dynamic deflection of surface

0.3

Compare with isostatically corrected crustal models

temperature (non-dim

Can we reconstruct the pattern of mantle convection ? What is the role —if any- of deep mantle processes in shaping surface deformation ?



Faccenna et al. (2013) submitted to Rev. of Geophys.

Results

- Plate motion interactions play minor role
- Role of density distribution
 - Slab effect insufficient to drive India motion, but leads to slab suction as seen in geodesy
 - Active upwelling component associated with African plume/Carlsberg ridge main driver of India motion
- Can fit explain most present-day plate motions and dynamic topography by conveyor belt
- Can not fit SE escape motion, perhaps due to decoupling and/or driving by GPE (not included)

(e.g. Clark et al., 2005; Flesch et al., 2005; Sol et al., 2007)

onclusions

- Global mantle circulation models can be used to probe intraplate deformation and plate motions with high region realism
- A whole mantle convection cell exists between India with strong upwelling, plume-associated component
- This conveyor belt sustains the Tethyan collision and Ar
- In region of high resolution seismic data, a multiscale st convection appears



Mantle dynamic in the Mediterranean



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