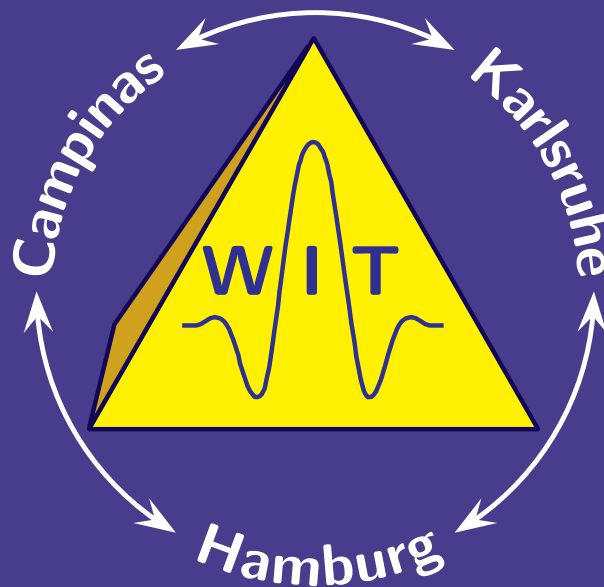


Wave Inversion Technology Consortium



Wave Inversion Technology
established 1996 in Karlsruhe, Germany

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University of Hamburg*

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Preface

In this 23rd Annual WIT Report, we share with you eleven papers that represent our latest research in Imaging, Full Waveform Inversion, and Other Topics, such as, e.g., Deep Learning. The finalisation of the report fell right into the outbreak of the Corona pandemic in Central Europe and all travel came to a break down. Lots of changes in our daily routines affected our lives including the way we communicate and teach. The summer semester will be an online semester and we all, students and professors alike, have to get used to it. The direct exchange with students is a substantial component in our previous ways to transfer knowledge and to supervise thesis work. Whereas seminars, lectures and exercises do not suffer too much by these changes, the important practical parts of our study programs, i.e., field and lab work, came to a complete stall. Students relying on field and lab work in their theses and programs were facing severe consequences since delays in finishing their programs are very likely. Students, who just finished their studies may face a much more complicated job hunt than prior to the pandemic. Because of the reduced energy demand, uncertainties on the health of the hydrocarbon business may influence the availability of open positions.

What has not changed is our enthusiasm for seismics and science but we have to exercise it differently and we are still learning. Because of the good experience with online meetings and webinars I do expect less travel in the future but I can hardly believe that the annual meetings of the big societies like SEG or EAGE will entirely transfer to virtual for the coming years. For 2020 though, it is most likely the preferred and only way to have a meeting at all but we will miss the personal exchange, networking and interaction which plays such a major role in these conventions. The results presented in this report summarise the 2019 WIT research and thus were obtained by normal means. The new normal is still under construction.

In addition to the papers in this report and contributions to conferences and workshops, we are pleased to announce that five WIT researchers have completed their Ph.D. research. You can find links to the theses by Dr. Alexander Bauer, Dr. Alexandre William Camargo, Dr. Laura Gassner, Dr. Martina Glöckner, and Dr. Pavel Znak on the WIT webpage.

Not only was 2019 a successful year for us in general, but also in particular for WIT alumni Dr. Benjamin Schwarz and WIT director Dr. Dirk Gajewski. Benjamin Schwarz was awarded this year's DGG (Deutsche Geophysikalische Gesellschaft) Zoeppritz Medal. The medal, which recognises outstanding contributions of a young scientist, was presented to Benjamin during the DGG's 79th Annual Meeting.



Furthermore, Dirk Gajewski received an award for his service as 2019 SEG (Society of Exploration Geophysicists) Honorary Lecturer Europe. The topic of his lecture, which he presented in more than

twenty locations throughout Europe, was "Wavefront attributes – A tool for processing, imaging, and model building." The award was presented to Dirk during the 89th Annual Meeting of the SEG in San Antonio, Texas, USA by SEG president Robert Stewart.



While WIT researchers have also, just like in any year in the past up until now, presented their results on conferences and workshops, science and communication in particular will undergo, as already discussed, a significant change in the future due to the Sars-Cov2 pandemic.

Despite the uncertain future of the world at large, we will make sure that WIT scientists will continue to perform research on the highest level and follow our mission to provide the most accurate and efficient seismic modelling, imaging, and inversion using elastic and acoustic methods. Your continuous sponsorship is especially appreciated in these times: On behalf of the WIT research teams, researchers, and students, we thank you whole-heartedly for your support.

Hamburg, March 2020
Dirk Gajewski

Summary: WIT report 2019

IMAGING

Albano et al. derive several alternative expressions for the true-amplitude imaging conditions in reverse-time migration (RTM). They demonstrate by means of numerical examples using the Marmousi and Sigsbee2A data that the quality of the migrated image strongly depends on the version chosen for implementation. The best results are achieved with a version that combines second derivatives of the source wavefield with the Laplacian operator.

Assis et al. review the background equations of the Joint Migration Inversion (JMI) in their continuous form, evaluate JMI methodology using the multiparameter Gauss–Newton method to estimate simultaneously image and slowness updates, and compare the results to those of the conventionally used steepest-descent method. The results show that their JMI implementation can provide a good depth migrated image and a satisfying initial velocity model for a subsequent Full Waveform Inversion.

Assis and Schleicher propose to take advantage of the structural information available in the image by means of a simple Tikhonov type regularization applied to the tomography part of joint migration inversion (JMI). Tests with two synthetic data sets indicate the effectiveness of the proposed regularization. The methodology developed here is readily applicable to any seismic tomography at practically no additional cost if a migrated image is available.

Bedendo et al. discuss several practical aspects of implementing time migration velocity analysis by double path-integral migration, ranging from the parametrization of the weight function to the stabilization of the division and the selection of only meaningful velocities. By means of tests on a wide range of velocity models, they find a robust implementation of the method.

Machado et al. test and compare three iterative approaches for depth migration velocity analysis (MVA) by image-wave propagation in common-image gathers. The first implementation is a global update, aiming at updating the whole model in each iteration, whereas the second one is a layer-stripping procedure, updating the model one layer at a time, from top to bottom. The third implementation is a mixture of both the first and second approaches. It uses the result of the first iteration from the global update to guide the later iterations of the layer-stripping experiment. The layer-stripping approach provides a much better result than the global update and also provides a better result than the one given by the mixture of both techniques. Since MVA by image continuation in CIGs is a rather inexpensive procedure which starts at no a-priori knowledge of the medium, it can be used to build initial models for more sophisticated inversion techniques.

FULL WAVEFORM INVERSION

Athanasopoulos and Bohlen show through a numerical study the influence of shallow anomalies on the recorded seismic wavefield when surface waves dominate the waveform. Through this study the impact of cross-talk between the elastic parameters is examined and insights are given for the proper application of multiparameter inversion schemes, such as full-waveform inversion.

Gao et al. give a short introduction to multiparameter FWI. Synthetic reconstruction tests allow to

investigate the crosstalk between parameters and show that attenuation must be considered during the inversion. Both synthetic and field data cases prove the reliability of multiparameter FWI.

OTHER TOPICS

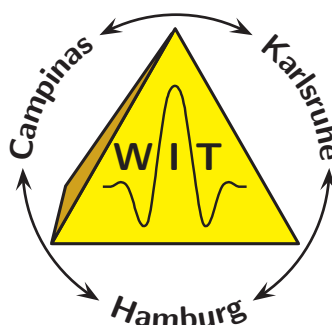
Bauer et al. introduce a modified implementation of wavefront tomography, which enforces the focusing of diffracted wavefronts in depth, thus allowing to obtain depth velocity models for zero-offset or passive-seismic data without the need for curvature information.

Dell et al. presented an approach for characterizing diffraction attributes. They also showed how to correlate diffraction and reflection attribute using a deep neural network.

Magalhaes et al. compares two iterative schemes for the Marchenko integral equation in one dimension. Both schemes can successfully recover the kinematics, albeit the dynamics can have an incorrect scale depending on the difference between the velocity at the injected source and the focusing point. One scheme is faster than the other but is more susceptible to noises and can retrieve only the full redatumed Green's function while the other is less noisy and separates the Green's function in its one-way components.

Walda, Dell, and Gajewski present an automatic way to extract valuable subsurface information from any kind of migrated data. In one case, they extract seismic attributes from the migrated data and cluster them using a deep convolutional autoencoder as preconditioner. This leads to an unsupervised interpretation of geometrical features like faults. In the second case they cluster seismic data directly, using a deep convolutional autoencoder as preconditioner again. In this case they train on the time migrated F3 block data from offshore Netherlands and apply the method to the recently opened depth migrated data of the Volve reservoir. The autoencoder preconditioner is fixed, which demonstrates the stability and generalizability of the approach. The clustering identifies an anomaly in the area of the former reservoir.

The Wave Inversion Technology (WIT) Consortium



Wave Inversion Technology established 1996 in Karlsruhe, Germany

The Wave Inversion Technology Consortium (WIT) was established in 1996 and is organized by the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Hamburg. It consists of three integrated working groups, one at the University of Hamburg and two at other universities, being the Mathematical Geophysics Group at Campinas University (UNICAMP), Brazil, and the Geophysical Institute of the Karlsruhe University. In 2007, NORSAR joined WIT as research affiliate, and in 2010, Fraunhofer ITWM joined WIT, also as research affiliate.

The WIT Consortium offers the following services to its sponsors:

- a.) research as described below;
- b.) deliverables;
- c.) technology transfer and training.

The ultimate goal of the WIT Consortium is a most accurate and efficient target-oriented seismic modelling, imaging, and inversion using elastic and acoustic methods. Within this scientific context it is our aim to educate the next generations of exploration geophysicists.

Exploration and reservoir seismics aims at the delineation of geological structures that constrain and confine reservoirs. It involves true-amplitude imaging and the extrapolation of the coarse structural features of logs into space. The goals on seismic resolution are constantly increasing which requires a complementary use of kinematic and wave equation based techniques in the processing work flow. At WIT we use a cascaded system of kinematic and full wave form model building and imaging techniques. Since our data and inversions are never perfect it is the challenge to find those techniques which produce the best images for erroneous velocities and faulty wave forms.

WIT RESEARCH TOPICS

The WIT consortium has the following main research directions with the goal to establish the most accurate and efficient seismic modeling, imaging, and inversion using elastic and acoustic methods. Since 3 years machine learning techniques are applied in processing, imaging, model building and interpretation. This research topic is very likely to gain more and more weight in the research of the WIT research team. Some of the topics are studied by more than one team, applying different approaches. The WIT research is divided into five subgroups:

Processing and Imaging

Wavefront attributes as derived from multi-parameter processing and play a key role in the WIT research and represent the backbone of many research topics.

- deep learning techniques for 5-D interpolation, regularization and de-noising
- interpretation and attribute analyses by unsupervised machine learning
- machine learning in processing, imaging and model building
- event tagging using deterministic and machine learning approach
- estimation of CO wavefield attributes from ZO attributes
- amplitude-friendly multi-parameter processing
- wavefield decomposition using wavefield attributes and adaptive subtraction
- pre-stack diffraction/reflection separation by machine learning
- improved coherence measures (MUSIC, cross-correlation, analytical trace, etc.)
- data-driven isotropic and anisotropic time migration
- construction of Common Reflection Point (CRP) gathers
- beam migration
- image wave re-migration

Velocity Model Building

Many of our model building approaches also exploit wavefront attributes, where the tomographic approach may be applied in the data domain or in the image domain.

- Velocity model building by diffraction/reflection focusing
- passive seismic data velocity model building with wavefront attributes
- wavefront attribute-based time to depth conversion
- focusing approach in wavefront tomography
- uncertainty estimates derived from focusing analysis
- anisotropic wavefront tomography
- focusing tomography of Common Reflection Point gathers
- full waveform inversion (see also below)

Full Waveform Inversion

Research on Full Waveform Inversion (FWI) is moving toward applications on marine and land seismic data and to non destructive material testing. The methodological developments include

- multi-parameter reconstruction of seismic velocities, attenuation and anisotropy
- 3D visco-elastic FWI of multi-component shallow seismic wavefields
- Higher order optimization using quasi Newton and full Newton methods

Modeling and Reverse Time Migration

In modeling and RTM we use FD, FE, and pseudo spectral approaches. Optimization of the computational effort is highest on the agenda.

- FE elastic wavefield modeling
- computational optimization of FD and spectral method approaches for acoustic, elastic, and anisotropic media, including benchmarking
- improved one-way wave equations
- reflection impedance description of reflection coefficients
- tuning effects in AVO and AVA

Passive Seismics

Passive seismic moveout is equivalent to moveout of diffraction events, which enables a unified workflow for processing and imaging of active and passive seismic data.

- passive seismic data enhancement and regularization with wavefront attributes
- source time estimation and velocity inversion
- imaging with natural Green's functions
- simultaneous location and velocity model building
- joint wavefront tomography and passive seismic imaging
- source signature extraction
- localization uncertainties from focusing analysis
- real time processing methodology for passive seismic data

WIT STEERING COMMITTEES**Internal Steering Committee**

Name	WIT team
Thomas Bohlen	Karlsruhe
Norman Ettrich	ITWM
Dirk Gajewski	Hamburg
Thomas Hertweck	Karlsruhe
Tina Kaschwich	NORSAR
Jörg Schleicher	Campinas
Martin Tygel	Campinas
Claudia Vanelle	Hamburg

External Steering Committee

Name	Sponsor
Dan Grygier	Landmark Graphics Corporation
Henning Trappe	TEEC

WIT research personnel

Bessam Alubeyid received his Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering at Al-Baath University (Syria) in 2012. Subsequently, he worked at Hayan Petroleum Company as process engineer. Currently, he is a student enrolled in the Master's program in Geophysics at KIT, working on his Master's thesis. His thesis deals with 3D simulation of seismic wave propagation in a tunnel model for EPB-tunnel boring machines with processing of synthetic and field data.

Nikolaos Athanasopoulos, M.Sc. (IDEA LEAGUE Joint Master in Applied Geophysics, 2015), started his Ph.D. studies at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in 2015. He is working in the field of Full Waveform Inversion (FWI). His research focus is the elastic FWI of shallow seismic surface waves and its application in field data. He is member of the EAGE.

Alexander Bauer received his B.Sc. (2012), his M.Sc. (2014) and his Ph.D. (2019) in Geophysics from the University of Hamburg. His research interests focus on analyzing and imaging the diffracted wavefield and exploiting it for depth-velocity-model building. He is a member of DGG, EAGE and SEG.

Ricardo Biloti received his B.Sc.(1995), M.Sc. (1998) as well as Ph.D. (2001) in Applied Mathematics from the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. He worked at Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), Brazil, as an Adjoint Professor, at the Department of Mathematics, from May 2002 to September 2005, when he joined Unicamp as an Assistant Professor. He has been a collaborator of the Campinas Group since his Ph.D. His research areas are multiparametric imaging methods, like CRS for instance. He has been working on estimating kinematic traveltime attributes and on inverting them to construct velocity models. He is also interested in Numerical Analysis, Numerical Linear Algebra, and Fractals. He is a member of SBMAC (Brazilian Society of Applied Mathematics), SIAM and SEG.

Thomas Bohlen received a Diploma of Geophysics (1994) and a Ph.D. (1998) from the University of Kiel, Germany. From 2006 to 2009 he was Professor of Geophysics at the Institute of Geophysics at the Technical University Freiberg where he was the head of the seismics and seismology working groups. Since 2009, he has been Professor of Geophysics at the Geophysical Institute of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. He is the head of the applied geophysics group. His research interests and experience include: seismic modelling, full waveform inversion, surface wave inversion and tomography, reflection seismic imaging. He is a member of SEG, EAGE, and DGG.

Oliver Bölt received his B.Sc. in Geophysics/Oceanography in Hamburg in 2020. In his B.Sc. thesis, he investigated the determination of common reflection point trajectories. For his masters programme, he continues his work on this topic.

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Dirk Gajewski holds the chair of Applied Seismics at the University of Hamburg. Until 2006 he worked at the same institution as associate professor. He received a diploma in geophysics in 1981 from Clausthal Technical University and a Ph.D from Karlsruhe University in 1987. After his Ph.D, he spent two years at Stanford University and at the Center for Computational Seismology at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab in Berkeley, California. From 1990 until 1992, he worked as an assistant professor at Clausthal Technical University. His research interests include high-frequency asymptotic, seismic modeling, and processing of seismic data from isotropic and anisotropic media. Together with Ivan Psencík, he developed the ANRAY program package. He is a member of AGU, DGG, EAGE, and SEG, and served as Associate Editor for Geophysical Prospecting (section anisotropy). Since 2009 he is a member of the research committee of the EAGE. Besides his activities in WIT he is vice director of the Centre for Marine and Climate Research.

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Håvar Gjølset is Research Manager of Seismic Modelling at NORSAR in Kjeller, near Oslo. He also holds an adjunct position of Professor of Geophysics at the Department of Earth Science, University of Bergen. In 1977 he joined NORSAR and started building up research activities within the field of seismic modelling, which to-day include both R&D projects and services and software products for the petroleum industry. Key topics are ray tracing, seismic tomography, and time lapse seismic modelling. He is a member of SEG and OSEG.

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Daniel Macedo received a B.Sc. (2004) in Physics and an M.Sc. (2010) in Geosciences from University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. Since 2010 he has been a Ph.D. student in Petroleum Science and Engineering at UNICAMP. His research interests include wave phenomena, seismic imaging and inversion methods, particularly full waveform inversion, and scattering theory. He is a member of SEG, EAGE and SBGf.

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