

Résumé

Cold subducting slabs imaged by seismic tomography exhibit various morphologies in the deep mantle, revealing a variety of slab deformation histories in the transition zone and the lower mantle. On the other hand, the thermal structures of slabs is considered as a key parameter for deep-focus earthquakes in subduction zones (e.g. the 1994 Bolivia Mw 8.3 earthquake at 647 km depth), since proposed mechanisms such as dehydration reactions or shear instabilities are controlled by temperature.

Using numerical models of subduction dynamics through time, we propose in this study to (i) characterize the deep thermal structures of subducted slabs and (ii) investigate how an instantaneous thermal structure is inherited from the cumulative past history of slab sinking and deformation.

We will build upon previous diagnostics, e.g. the "shallow" thermal parameter (age x velocity – Kirby et al., 1996) and the kinematic ratio quantifying slab folding (comparison of surface vs. sinking velocities – Cerpa et al., 2022).

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Mots-Clés: subduction, structure thermique, dynamique