

Answer to comments (RC2)

16/07/2021

Line 364:

Reviewer: “The values are not distinctly high!! Are these based on the anomalies and measured susceptibility/densities on the outcrops? It seems they are rather smooth and follow the anomaly maps.”

Answer: Yes, these values were taken from field outcrops when available. They were otherwise selected to pose a greater challenge to the inversion. See lines 356-360 (original in black, added text in blue): “In addition to the modification of the structural model, we make adjustments on the original density values derived from field petrophysical measurements by reducing the differences between the density contrasts of different rock units. **Doing so, we** increase the interpretation ambiguity of inversion results and decrease the differentiability of the different rock units. The same procedure is applied to magnetic susceptibility to make accurate imaging using inversion ~~problem~~ more challenging.”

Figure 3. Thank you for pointing this out. The values in Figure 2 are indeed low: these values correspond to another model we tested. It was a mistake to show them here. We have corrected this error and changed the Figure accordingly.

Line 503:

Reviewer: “Do you suggest any specific approach? how important is the role of these parameters?”

Answer: In this work, we have opted for an empirical approach using the L-curve principle. There exist methods to automate the process (see, for instance, Farquharson and Oldenburg (2004), who compare two methods capable of automatically determining the regularisation parameter). We have not used any of them simply because their implementation lies beyond the scope of this work.

The range of values we tested were selected on purpose to be too large for the upper limit and too small for the lower limit. In other cases, we might recommend to sample the parameters in the range of values that can be estimated by simple calculations.

Given the number of regularisation parameters that can be involved when using several regularisation terms, the approach we follow here can be time consuming or computationally expensive for large datasets. We recommend using an automatic approach in such cases.

The regularisation parameters are important as they might also be used as a way to reflect the confidence one has in the hypotheses underlying the utilisation of a specific regularisation term. For instance, the value of the weight applied to the cross-gradient regularisation term may reflect the geologists’ confidence in the necessity to enforce structural similarity between models. The same reasoning may also be applied to scenario testing.

In the specific examples we show, in most cases, a small change in their values (e.g.,

multiplication by 1.5) may not alter the inversion results dramatically. Such values still need to be selected with care as altering the regularisation parameter by an order of magnitude or more will affect inversion results significantly.

Figure 17:

Reviewer: “A figure with data fit for each model is good to present”

Answer: all inversions have the same data misfit (or very nearly so). The datafit for all inversions is shown below in Figure A 1.

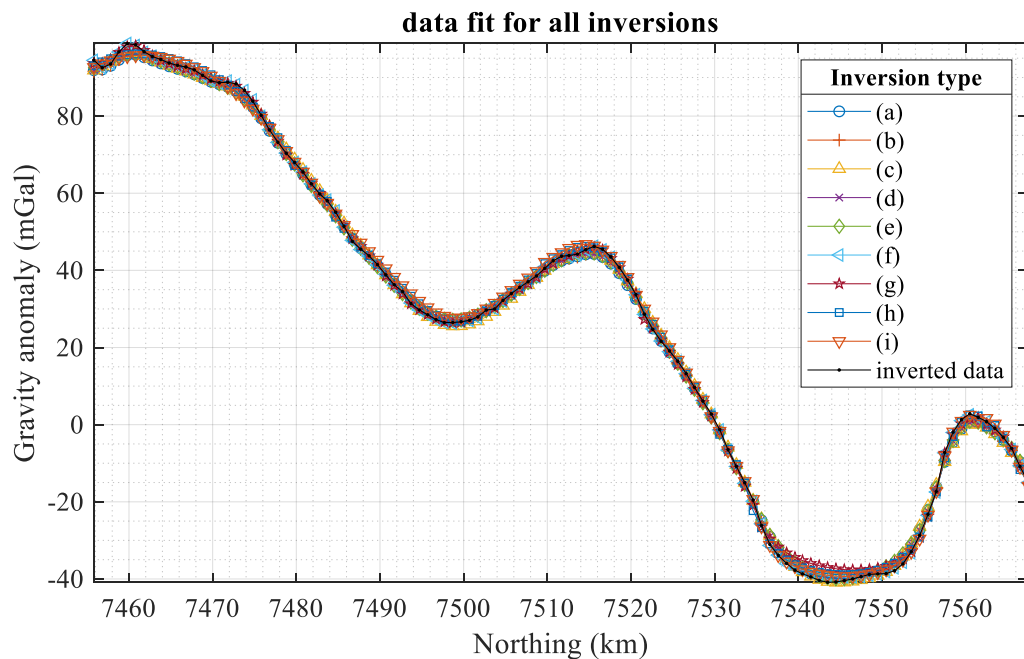


Figure A 1. Datafit for all inversions shown in Figure 17.

We mention this in the updated version the manuscript but we prefer not to add the Figure in the manuscript to avoid lengthening it. We have added the following in line 698: “We remind that all models shown here produce a similar data misfit Θ_a^{obj} accordingly with equation 19”.

Line 713: Reviewer: “Do you mean this the expert input to speculate after having gained some experience?”

Answer: Yes, we mean that while one can place a certain degree of confidence in the ranking we propose, it remains somehow speculative. We have tested the different inversions on a specific structural model, with selected petrophysical values, using geological prior information reflecting average uncertainty in the field geological orientation data. We have not sampled the different case scenarios that can be encountered in other studies, such as oil and gas exploration, hydrology, deep crustal studies, etc. For this reason, we treat our interpretation of results in terms of ranking of the regularisation parameters with care to avoid an over-generalisation of what we infer.

References:

Farquharson, C. G., and D. W. Oldenburg, 2004, A comparison of automatic techniques for estimating the regularization parameter in non-linear inverse problems: *Geophysical Journal International*, **156**, 411–425.