

1Detailed seismic imaging of Merapi volcano, Indonesia, from local 2earthquake travel-time tomography

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31 A B S T R A C T

32 Mt. Merapi, located in central Java, Indonesia, is one of the most active volcanoes
33 in the world. It has been subjected to numerous studies using a variety of
34 methods, including tomographic imaging, in an attempt to understand the
35 structure and dynamics of its magmatic plumbing system. Results of previous
36 seismic tomographic studies that include Mt. Merapi poorly constrain the location
37 of its underlying magma source due to limited data coverage. In order to
38 comprehensively understand the internal structure and magmatism of Mt. Merapi,
39 a project called DOMERAPI was conducted, in which 53 broadband seismic
40 stations were deployed around Mt. Merapi and its neighbourhood for
41 approximately 18 months, from October 2013 to April 2015. In this study, we
42 compare Vp, Vs, and Vp/Vs tomograms constructed using data obtained from
43 local (DOMERAPI) and regional seismic networks with those obtained without
44 DOMERAPI data. We demonstrate that the data from the DOMERAPI seismic
45 network are crucial for resolving key features beneath the volcano, such as high
46 Vp/Vs ratios beneath the Merapi summit at ~5 km and ~15 km depths, which we
47 interpret as shallow and intermediate magma bodies, respectively. Furthermore,
48 west-east vertical sections across Mt. Merapi, and a “dormant” (less active)

49volcano, Mt. Merbabu, exhibit high V_p/V_s and low V_p/V_s ratios, respectively,
50directly beneath their summits. This observation likely reflects the presence (for
51Mt. Merapi) and absence (for Mt. Merbabu) of shallow magma bodies near the
52surface.

53

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56Merapi

57Merbabu

58Tomography

59

601. Introduction

61 The origin of Mt. Merapi, located in the central part of Java in the eastern
62Sunda arc of Indonesia, can be traced back to the subduction of the Indo-
63Australian plate beneath the Eurasian plate (Widiyantoro et al., 2011;
64Widiyantoro and van der Hilst, 1996). This volcano is one of the most active
65stratovolcanoes in the world, with an eruption frequency of between two to six
66years. For example, eruptions occurred in 1984, 1986, 1992, and 1994
67(Ratdomopurbo and Poupinet, 2000). Very large eruptions tend to occur with a
68frequency of between 50 to 100 years (Lühr et al., 2013; Suroño et al., 2012).
69Eruptions of the Merapi volcano are usually dominated by pyroclastic flows
70caused by the collapse of the lava dome (Hidayati et al., 2008). However, a large

71 eruption in 2010 exhibited a number of features that had not previously been
72 observed in past eruptions. For instance, the initial eruption was explosive with a
73 rating of ~ 4 (Komorowski et al., 2013; Suroño et al., 2012) on the Volcanic
74 Explosivity Index (VEI), reflecting the sizable volume of ejecta that was
75 liberated. The frequency and size of eruptions that characterize Mt Merapi has
76 attracted a range of researchers from different disciplines to study the ongoing
77 activity at and below the summit of this unique volcano.

78 The results of the 2004 MERapi AMphibious EXperiment (MERAMEX)
79 project were successful in explaining the relationship between the volcanic arc
80 and the subduction zone in central Java. For instance, P- and S-wave velocity
81 anomalies appear to depict the migration pathway of fluid or molten rocks from
82 the partial melting zone at depth toward the surface beneath the volcanic arc
83 (Haberland et al., 2014; Koulakov et al., 2007; Wagner et al., 2007). The results
84 of these studies have been updated using additional data from the Indonesian
85 Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency (BMKG) catalogue
86 (Rohadi et al., 2013). However, even this more recent investigation has not been
87 able to image the magma reservoirs beneath Merapi in any detail due to a lack of
88 seismic data coverage. More localized studies using volcano-tectonic earthquake
89 data show that volcanic events occur down to depths of ~ 5 km below the summit
90 of Mt. Merapi (Budi-Santoso et al., 2013; Hidayati et al., 2008; Ratdomopurbo
91 and Poupinet, 2000), which means that seismic velocity structure at depths $> \sim 5$
92 km cannot be determined using these shallow events.

93 The DOMERAPI project, which involved the deployment of 53 broadband
94 seismic stations around Mt. Merapi between 2013 and 2015, was carried out in

95part to image magma bodies beneath the volcano in unprecedented detail.
96Widiyantoro et al. (2018) used relocated events from the DOMERAPI and
97BMKG networks (Ramdhan et al., 2017) to investigate the magma plumbing
98system beneath Merapi. In this study, we have carried out seismic tomography
99using the DOMERAPI data combined with data recorded by other seismic
100networks, including the BMKG network, the MERAMEX network and the
101Indonesian Institute for Research and Development of Geological Disaster
102Technology (BPPTKG) network. Our results clearly demonstrate that the
103inclusion of the DOMERAPI data significantly improves the imaging of possible
104magma bodies.

105

1062. Data and methodology

1072.1. Data

108 In this study, we have combined data from the DOMERAPI, BMKG,
109MERAMEX, and BPPTKG seismic networks to maximize the data coverage
110around the Merapi area. We used the BMKG and BPPTKG data from the same
111recording period as the DOMERAPI project period, i.e. from October 2013 to
112April 2015. In the case of MERAMEX, data were collected from May to
113September 2004. Fig. 1 shows the distribution of the four seismic networks used
114in this study.

115 In total, 942 events were extracted from the four seismic networks; 464
116earthquakes were recorded by the DOMERAPI and BMKG seismographic
117stations in the same period, 260 of which were also recorded by the BPPTKG
118stations. The total number of earthquakes recorded by the MERAMEX stations

119 was 282. The remaining 196 events were taken from the BMKG catalog beyond
120 the DOMERAPI recording period in order to minimize the azimuthal gap in the
121 hypocenter determination process. All earthquakes were relocated prior to
122 tomographic inversion. The total number of earthquakes that were successfully
123 relocated is 794, with the remaining 148 discarded due to poor data fit. A detailed
124 analysis of event locations from the DOMERAPI and BMKG networks is
125 available in Ramdhan et al. (2017).

126 The earthquake data used for tomography are restricted to the longitude and
127 latitude ranges 108° - 112° E and 6° - 11° S, respectively (Fig. 2). For this region, we
128 end up with a total of 767 relocated events that were recorded by 254
129 seismographic stations (53 from DOMERAPI, 17 BMKG, 167 MERAMEX, and
130 17 BPPTKG seismometers). Each earthquake used for tomographic inversion is
131 recorded by at least six seismographic stations. Fig. 2 shows the distribution of
132 epicenters, seismometers, and the inversion grid (which is used to define
133 variations in velocity structure) employed in this study (see Figs. S1 and S2 in the
134 Supplementary Materials for the distribution of hypocenters and ray paths).

135

136 2.2. Methodology

137 For this study, hypocenters were located using the Geiger method (Geiger,
138 1912), as implemented in the Hypoellipse program (Lahr, 1999). This technique
139 was successfully applied to map earthquake distribution along several faults in
140 western Java by Supendi et al. (2018). For a reference velocity model (see Table
141), we adopted the 1-D P-wave velocity model of Koulakov et al. (2007) and used
142 a V_p/V_s ratio of 1.73 taken from Ramdhan et al. (2017). The hypocenter

143relocation technique employed in this study is the double-difference method
144(Waldhauser, 2001; Waldhauser and Ellsworth, 2000). Previously, this method
145was also successfully applied to relocate earthquakes from the BMKG catalog in
146several other regions in Indonesia (Cahyaningrum et al., 2015; Ramdhan and
147Nugraha, 2013; Sabtaji and Nugraha, 2015; Utama et al., 2015). To conduct the
148travel-time tomography, we used the SIMULPS12 codes (Eberhart-Phillips, 1993;
149Evans et al., 1994), which have been widely used to image subsurface structure in
150many parts of the world. For instance, they were used in the study of Nugraha and
151Mori, 2006, who clearly detected the subducted slab beneath the Shikoku and
152Bungo channels in Japan. Furthermore, these codes were also used by Nugraha et
153al., 2015, who managed to clearly detect a subducting slab beneath the Bali,
154Lombok, and Sumbawa Islands in the eastern Sunda arc. SIMULPS12 was also
155successfully applied to delineate structure beneath several Indonesian volcanoes,
156including Mt. Lokon in Sulawesi by Firmansyah et al. (2015) and Mt. Guntur in
157western Java by Nugraha et al. (2013). Inversions were performed for V_p and
158 V_p/V_s ratio simultaneously. Determination of V_p/V_s ratio via direct inversion of
159S-P arrival time differences is more reliable compared to separately inverting for
160 V_s and then dividing V_p by V_s , because in general the quality of S data is not as
161good as the quality of P data (Eberhart-Phillips, 1993). Moreover, V_p and V_p/V_s
162tomograms are very useful for interpreting not only structural features, but also
163the physical properties of rocks. The computation of the 3-D seismic velocity
164structure beneath Mt. Merapi and its surrounding areas used a relatively small grid
165spacing of 10 km in the horizontal direction and 5 km in the vertical direction
166down to 35 km depth. For greater depths, where the data coverage is more sparse,

167we used a coarser grid spacing (Table 2). For selecting optimal damping values
168we constructed trade-off curves showing model variance versus data variance, as
169displayed in Fig. 3.

170

1713. Tomographic imaging results

172 In this section, we present our final Vp, Vs, and Vp/Vs tomograms along
173with resolution test results. We also demonstrate that the inclusion of the
174DOMERAPI data set produces significant improvements in the recovery of
175detailed structure beneath Mt. Merapi.

176

1773.1. Resolution tests

178 Resolution tests were conducted to understand which structural features can
179be resolved by the data. In this study, we employed conventional checkerboard
180tests. Positive and negative perturbations of $\pm 10\%$ relative to the 1-D reference
181velocity model were used as inputs in the tests. If the inversion results show that
182one grid/block has the same anomaly (positive or negative) as the input model,
183even with a reduction in amplitude due to the implementation of damping, we
184consider that block to be resolved by the data. We can then interpret those parts of
185the model that are considered to be resolved by this approach, while keeping in
186mind the limitations of the checkerboard test in assessing the resolution of
187tomograms (Lévêque et al., 1993, Rawlinson and Spakman, 2016). Here, we
188emphasize the improved resolution due to the incorporation of the DOMERAPI
189data.

190

1913.2. *V_p, V_s, and V_p/V_s tomograms*

192 To recover the seismic velocity structure beneath the Merapi volcano and its
193 surroundings, we used a total of 29,937 (20,185 P and 9,752 S) ray paths from
194 local events. V_p anomalies are stated in percent (perturbations) relative to the 1-D
195 initial velocity model used in the inversion, whereas V_p/V_s ratios are in absolute
196 values. The V_p/V_s ratio is directly proportional to Poisson's ratio, which is
197 sensitive to temperature and the presence of fluid. The presence of magma or
198 molten material is typically characterised by a high V_p/V_s ratio (see e.g.
199 Nakajima et al., 2001). Regions of the model that will be discussed are only those
200 with good resolution based on the checkerboard test results.

201 The pattern of anomalies that characterise the V_p and V_p/V_s models may
202 well be different because the V_p/V_s model strongly depends on V_s , which is a
203 more sensitive indicator of fluids compared to V_p . Therefore, we present not only
204 V_p and V_p/V_s models, but also the V_s model. In the following, west-east vertical
205 sections across Mt. Merbabu and Mt. Merapi are presented in order to directly
206 compare the internal structures of these two volcanoes. In Fig. 4 (a-c), we display
207 A-A' vertical sections through V_p , V_s , and V_p/V_s models from joint inversions
208 using the DOMERAPI, MERAMEX, BMKG, and BPPTKG data. We also show
209 similar cross sections, but derived by excluding the DOMERAPI data (Fig. 4 d-f).
210 The differences between these sections are plotted with a more restricted
211 perturbation scale to highlight the improvement due to the inclusion of
212 DOMERAPI data (Fig. 4 g-i). The results of checkerboard tests for the associated
213 cross sections are presented in Fig. 5. Here, we also demonstrate the improved
214 checkerboard recovery owing to the inclusion of the DOMERAPI data, which are

215 quite pronounced for the region beneath Merapi. A similar presentation of
216 tomograms is given in Fig. 6 for west-east (B-B') vertical sections across Merapi
217 from the Vp, Vs, and Vp/Vs models. The corresponding checkerboard resolution
218 test results are displayed in Fig. 7. Map views are also presented in Figs. 8 and 9,
219 i.e. horizontal slices at 5 km depth through the Vp, Vs, and Vp/Vs models along
220 with the corresponding checkerboard resolution test results. Horizontal slices
221 across a range of depths are also presented in Figs. S3 and S4. The results of
222 resolution tests in which Gaussian noise is added to the synthetic data are shown
223 in Figs. S5 and S6. In what follows, we discuss and interpret these tomograms,
224 with a focus on the possible existence of magma bodies beneath the Merapi
225 volcano.

226

227 **4. Discussion**

228 In this section, we concentrate our discussion on the internal structures of Mt.
229 Merbabu and Mt. Merapi, which represent “dormant” and active volcanoes,
230 respectively. We also discuss the significant improvement in the resulting
231 tomographic images owing to the incorporation of the DOMERAPI data.

232

233 *4.1. Mt. Merbabu vs Mt. Merapi*

234 The west-east (A-A') vertical sections through Vp, Vs, and Vp/Vs models
235 shown in Fig. 4 depict the internal structure of Mt. Merbabu. A low Vp/Vs ratio is
236 observed from the summit to depths of ~20 to ~25 km below mean sea level
237 (MSL), a region which the checkerboard test results suggest is well resolved (Fig.
238 5). The low Vp/Vs ratio directly beneath the summit down to a depth of ~5 km is

239 associated with high Vp and higher Vs. On the other hand, the low Vp/Vs ratio at
240 greater depths is due to very low Vp and low Vs (cf. Widiyantoro et al., 2018).
241 These anomalies are unlikely to be related to the presence of fluids or melts,
242 which is consistent with the fact that Mt. Merbabu is not currently active, with the
243 last known activity being a moderate eruption that occurred in 1797 (van
244 Hinloopen Labberton, 1921). This last eruption was rated 2 on the VEI (cf. VEI
245 ~4 for the Merapi eruption of 2010 ; Komorowski et al., 2013; Surono et al.,
246 2012).

247 Fig. 6 also displays west-east vertical sections through the Vp, Vs, and Vp/Vs
248 models, but across Mt. Merapi (B-B'). In contrast to Fig. 4, we evidently have a
249 high Vp/Vs ratio beneath the summit down to a depth of ~5 km below MSL,
250 which is due to low Vp and very low Vs. In addition, we also observe a very high
251 Vp/Vs ratio at a depth of ~15 km that is associated with high Vp and low Vs
252 anomalies. The results of the checkerboard tests displayed in Fig. 7 indicate that
253 in general, structures beneath Merapi are well resolved down to a depth of ~25
254 km, particularly when the DOMERAPI data are included. We interpret the high
255 Vp/Vs ratio as being related to the presence of fluids or melts, while the deeper
256 high Vp/Vs ratio is interpreted as an intermediate magma reservoir, as suggested
257 by Costa et al., 2013 based on petrological studies.

258 The internal structures of Mt. Merbabu and Mt. Merapi are much more
259 clearly imaged when the DOMERAPI data are included, as illustrated by the
260 difference between models derived with and without this data set. The most
261 intriguing features are the shallow and intermediate high Vp/Vs ratios beneath
262 Merapi that are constrained by the DOMERAPI data (Fig. 6 i). These structural

263 features are well resolved (see Fig. 7 f). We interpret these two anomalies as
264 shallow and intermediate magma bodies that underlie Merapi. Costa et al. (2013)
265 also suggest the existence of an even deeper reservoir, at approximately the depth
266 of the Moho. However, the presence or absence of such a deep reservoir cannot be
267 determined by the data set used in this study, which do not constrain the
268 lowermost crust or uppermost mantle

269 The 5 km depth slices through the V_p , V_s , and V_p/V_s tomograms depict two
270 distinct features: (i) low V_p and V_s anomalies in the neighbourhood of the Merapi
271 and Merbabu complex, and (ii) a high V_p/V_s ratio below Merapi, but not beneath
272 Merbabu. The first observation, in particular the strong low velocity zone east of
273 Merapi and Merbabu, is in good agreement with the important finding by
274 Koulakov et al., 2007 of a very low V_p and V_s anomaly beneath central Java,
275 called the Merapi-Lawu Anomaly. The second observation of the high and low
276 V_p/V_s ratios beneath Merapi and Merbabu, respectively, is likely related to
277 Merapi being an active volcano and Merbabu being “dormant”.

278

279 4.2. Improved resolution due to the inclusion of DOMERAPI data

280 In Figs. 4-9, we demonstrate the important contribution of the DOMERAPI
281 seismic network in improving the resolution of V_p and V_p/V_s models, especially
282 underneath Mt. Merapi. Compared with a number of previous studies which used
283 travel-time tomography (e.g. Wagner et al. 2007; Koulakov et al. 2007; Rohadi et
284 al. 2013; Haberland et al. 2014), the inclusion of the DOMERAPI data illuminates
285 the magma system below the Merapi volcano in much more detail. From the
286 checkerboard test results, it is clearly seen that the seismic resolution beneath

287Merapi and its surroundings is greatly enhanced, especially in the crust (< 25 km);
288see Figs. 5 and 7. For the sake of completeness, we also include slices from
289deeper regions of the models and their associated resolution tests in Figs. S7 and
290S8.

291

2925. Concluding Remarks

293 The additional data set from the DOMERAPI seismic network has
294significantly increased seismic ray coverage and hence the resolution of structural
295features beneath the Merapi volcano, especially for depths above 25 km. The
296incorporation of this new data set has permitted us to observe several important
297structural features in unprecedented detail, therefore allowing us to produce a
298more reliable interpretation. In particular, we detected the presence of shallow and
299intermediate magma bodies as indicated by high V_p/V_s ratios beneath Mt.
300Merapi. In contrast to Mt. Merapi, however, the internal structure of Mt. Merbabu
301is dominated by high velocity anomalies and a low V_p/V_s ratio, confirming that
302Merbabu is much less active than Merapi.

303 In future studies, we will conduct Q_p and Q_s tomographic investigations
304using the same data set; this will complement our current results because Q is
305more sensitive to temperature and the presence of fluids compared to seismic
306velocities. Moreover, seismic velocity and attenuation ($1/Q$) anomalies can be
307more reliably interpreted in terms of temperature variations by making use of
308constraints from laboratory studies of rock properties at different temperatures and
309pressures.

310

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325

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467**Table 1**

468Reference 1-D P- and S-wave velocity models. The Vp model is taken from

469Koulakov et al. (2007).

470

Depth (km)	Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)
-3	4.30	2.49
3	4.90	2.83
8	5.70	3.29
16	6.90	3.99
24	7.10	4.10
77	7.80	4.51
120	8.05	4.65
165	8.17	4.72

210	8.30	4.80
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478 Table 2

479 Three-dimensional grid spacing used in the tomographic inversions. The center of
 480 the model is at 110.45°E and 7.54°S.

481

Grid direction	Grid distances from the center of the model (km)
x	-500 -350 -160 -120 -80 -50 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 50 80 120 200 500
y	-600 -450 -80 -50 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 50 80 250 400
z	-200 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 50 80 110 150 200 590 700

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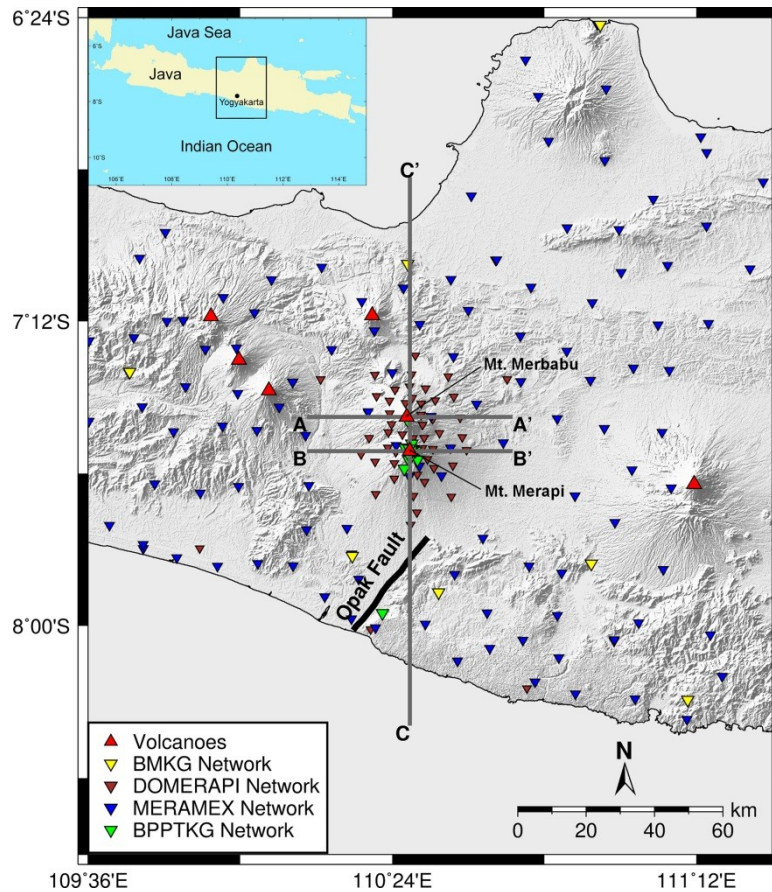
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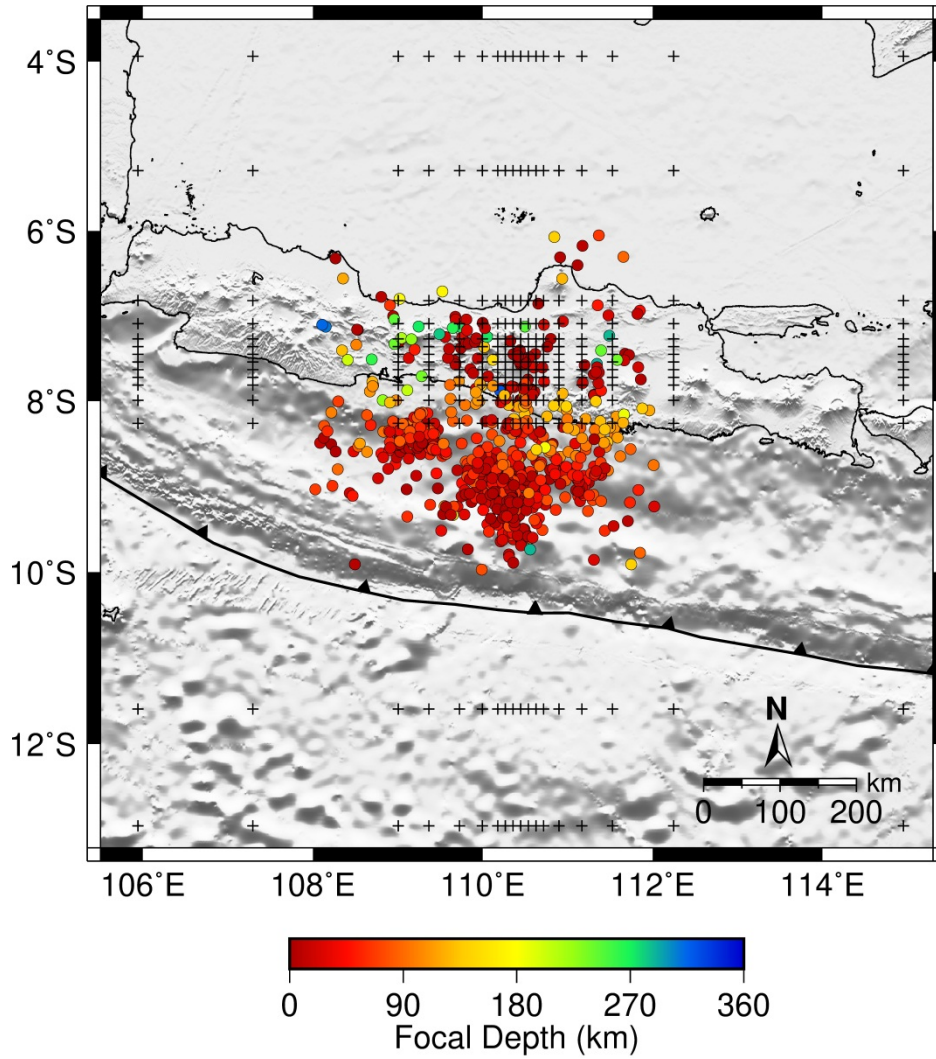
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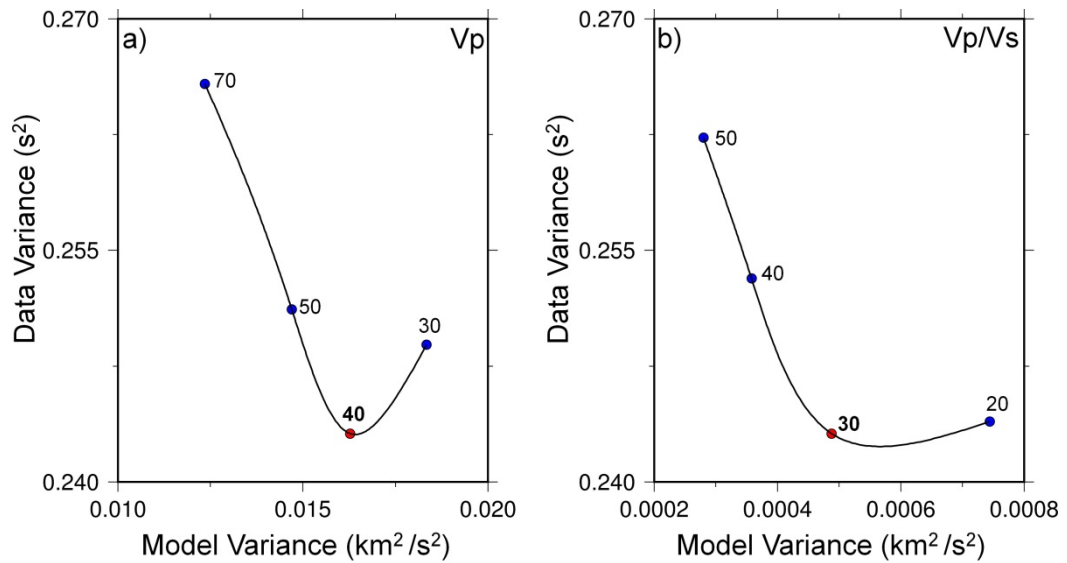


488

489**Fig. 1.** Map of the study region and the distribution of seismographic stations of
 490the DOMERAPI, MERAMEX, BPPTKG and BMKG networks. Red triangles to
 491the north of the Opak fault depict the locations of the Merapi and Merbabu
 492volcanoes. See the legend in the inset for the definition of symbols used on the
 493map. Lines A-A' and B-B' depict the locations of vertical sections shown in Figs.
 494– 7, and Line C-C' depicts the location of deep vertical sections shown in Figs.
 495S7 and S8.

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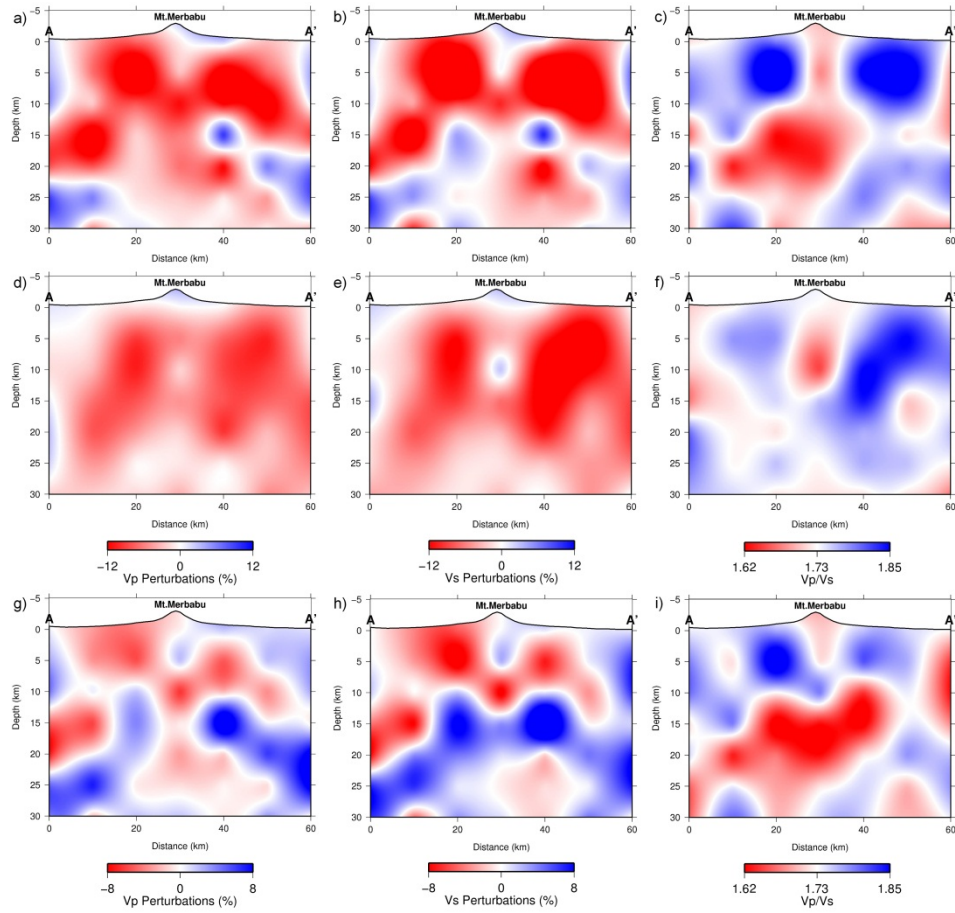




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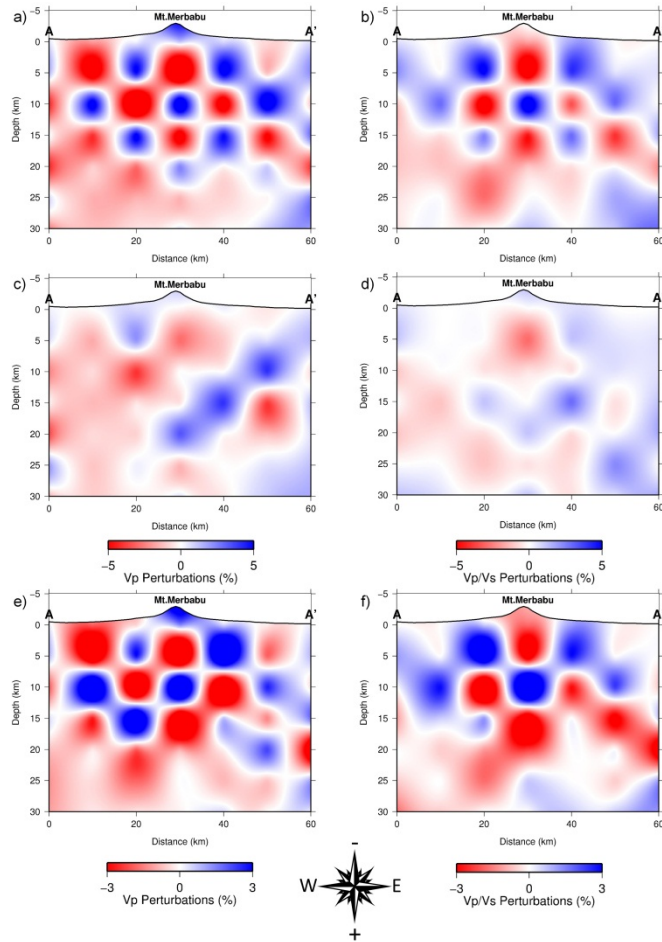
503 **Fig. 3.** Trade-off curves showing model variance versus data variance, which is
 504 used for selecting optimal damping values. a) Damping values of 40 for Vp, and
 505 b) 30 for Vp/Vs (red dots), with a station damping value of 10, are selected for the
 506 inversions. The model and data variance are computed after one iteration for the
 507 indicated damping values. Note that when the damping values are too small
 508 (rightmost points), the velocity tends to oscillate from one grid point to the next,
 509 and strong velocity anomalies are introduced without significant reductions in
 510 data variance (Eberhart-Phillips, 1986; see also Widiyantoro et al., 2018).

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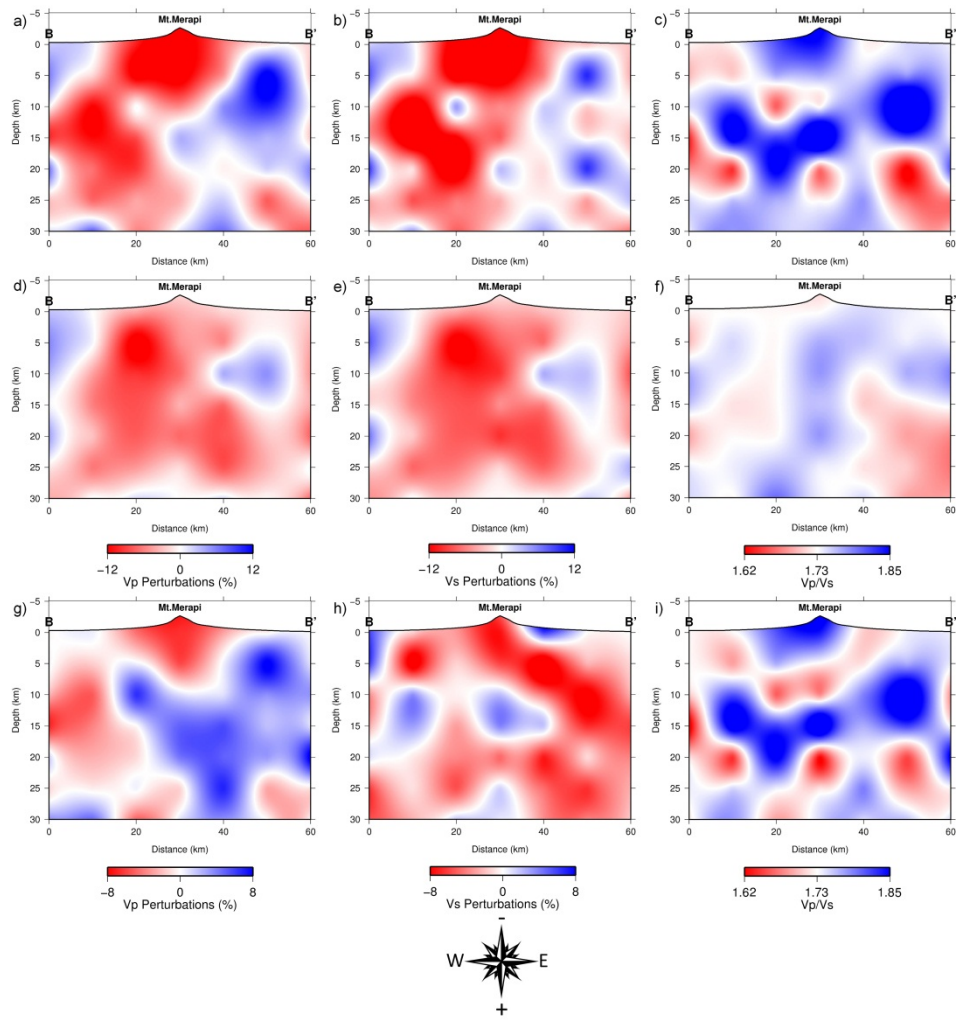
513 **Fig. 4.** West-east (A-A') vertical sections across Mt. Merbabu through a) Vp, b)
 514 Vs, and c) Vp/Vs models from joint inversions using the full data set (from
 515 DOMERAPI, MERAMEX, BMKG, and BPPTKG); d-f) similar to a-c, but
 516 without the DOMERAPI data; and g-i) the difference between a-c and d-f plotted
 517 with a more restricted perturbation scale ($\pm 8\%$) to illustrate the improvement due
 518 to the inclusion of DOMERAPI data. Note that depth = 0 km depicts MSL.



519

520**Fig. 5.** Results of the checkerboard test for vertical sections A-A'. a) Vp and b)
 521Vp/Vs from joint inversions using the full data set; c-d) similar to a-b, but without
 522the DOMERAPI data; e-f) the difference between a and c, and b and d,
 523respectively. Note that the checkerboard recovery of Vs is similar to the one for
 524Vp/Vs.

525

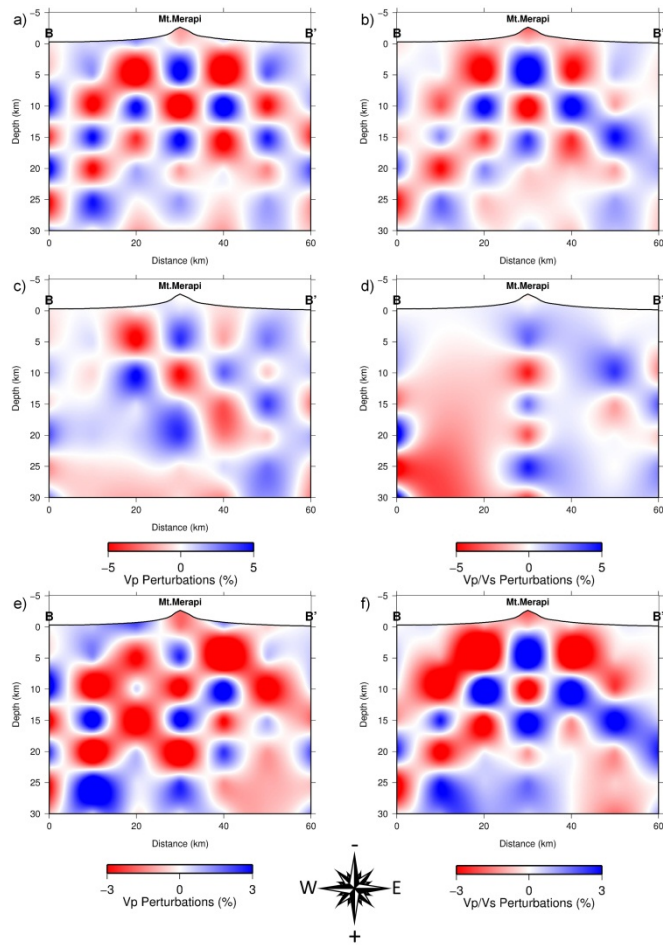


526

527 **Fig. 6.** Same as Fig. 4, except for west-east (B-B') vertical sections across Mt.

528 Merapi.

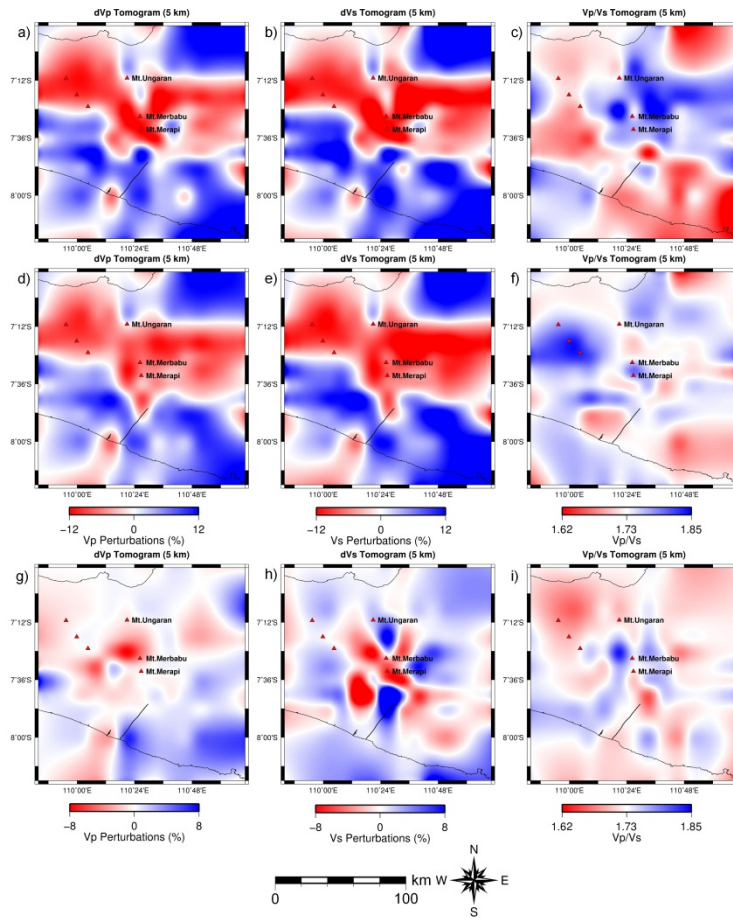
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531 **Fig. 7.** Same as Fig. 5, except for B-B' vertical sections across Mt. Merapi.

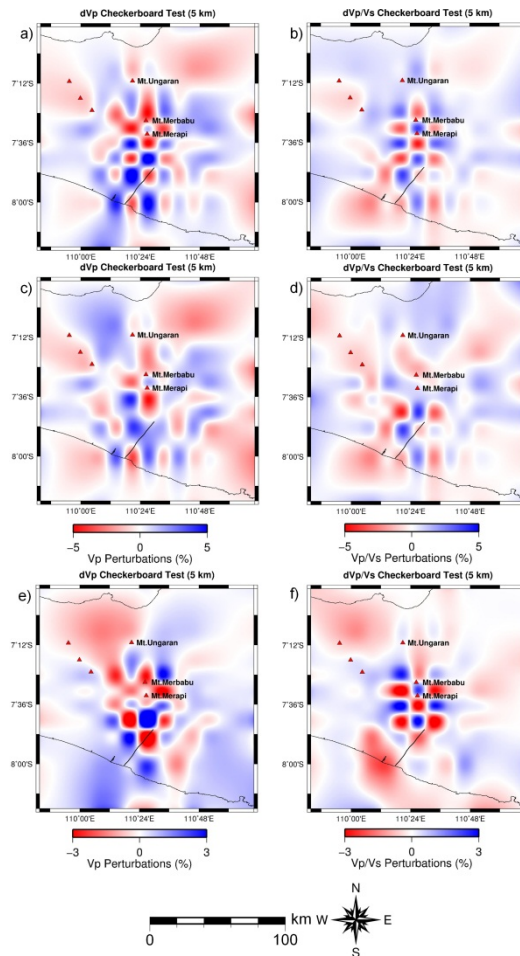
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533

534 **Fig. 8.** Horizontal slices at 5 km depth below MSL through a) Vp, b) Vs, and c)
 535 Vp/Vs models from joint inversions using the full data set; d-f) similar to a-c, but
 536 without the DOMERAPI data; g-i) the difference between a-c and d-f plotted with
 537 a more restricted perturbation scale ($\pm 8\%$) to demonstrate the improvement due to
 538 the inclusion of DOMERAPI data.

539



540

541 **Fig. 9.** Results of the checkerboard test for horizontal slices at 5 km depth. a) V_p
 542 and b) V_p/V_s from joint inversions using the full data set; c-d) similar to a-b, but
 543 without the DOMERAPI data; e-f) the difference between a and c, and b and d,
 544 respectively. Note that the checkerboard recovery of V_s is similar to the one for
 545 V_p/V_s .

546