

Article

# Crystallographic and Seismic Anisotropies of Calcite at Different Depths: A Study Using Quantitative Texture Analysis by Neutron Diffraction

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**Abstract:** Eight samples of limestones and marbles were studied by neutron diffraction to collect quantitative texture (i.e., crystallographic preferred orientations or CPO) of calcite deforming at different depths in the crust. We studied the different Texture patterns developed in shear zones at different depth and their influence on seismic anisotropies. Samples were collected in the French and Italian Alps, Apennines, and Paleozoic Sardinian basement. They are characterized by isotropic to highly anisotropic (e.g., mylonite shear zone) fabrics. Mylonite limestones occur as shear zone horizons within the Cenozoic Southern Domain in Alpine thrust-and-fold belts (Italy), the Briançonnais domain of the Western Alps (Italy-France border), the Sardinian Paleozoic back-thrusts, or in the Austroalpine intermediate units. The analyzed marbles were collected in the Carrara Marble, in the Austroalpine Units in the Central (Mortirolo) and Western Alps (Valpelline). The temperature and depth of development of fabrics vary from <100 °C, to 800 °C and depth from <10 km to about 30 km, corresponding from upper to lower crust conditions. Quantitative Texture Analysis shows different types of patterns for calcite: random to strongly textured. Textured types may be further separated in orthorhombic and monoclinic (Types A and B), based on the angle defined with the mesoscopic fabrics. Seismic anisotropies were calculated by homogenizing the single-crystal elastic tensor, using the Orientation Distribution Function calculated by Quantitative Texture Analysis. The resulting P- and S-wave anisotropies show a wide variability due to the textural types, temperature and pressure conditions, and dip of the shear planes.

**Keywords:** calcite; seismic anisotropy; texture; CPO; thrust; shear zone; neutron diffraction; crust

## 1. Introduction

The quantification of the seismic response of rocks is a fundamental task in understanding Earth's structure, from the core to the surface [1]. The large-scale seismic experiments, now with high-resolution arrays, is the most used approach to image the Earth and to resolve the distribution of natural resources in-depth, e.g., water, ore minerals, and oil & gas [2,3]. However, the interpretation of seismic images strongly relies on the knowledge of the seismic response of the anisotropic aggregates of minerals composing the rocks, which in turn is intimately related to the textures of rocks [4], as well as on their extrinsic shape preferred features [5]. In the last two decades, a great effort has been made to quantify the seismic response of natural aggregates, chiefly by using the 2-Dimensional approach of the EBSD (Electron Back Scattered Diffraction) to reconstruct the Orientation Distribution Function

(e.g., [6–8]). Carbonate rocks occur at the Earth’s surface and upper crust levels, as sedimentary cover, but can be found within the intermediate and lower crust, as marbles. Within the upper crust, the tectonic deformation often localizes within carbonate rocks, producing thrust-folds systems [9,10]. Though less diffuse within the metamorphic basements, carbonate rocks are known to be equally crucial at depth because they likely represent weak horizons, often separating tectonometamorphic units [11,12]. For these reasons, the knowledge of the texture and seismic response of carbonate rocks is essential to interpret seismic anisotropy at various depth within the crust [13]. Several works have been dedicated to studying the behavior of calcite single crystal, limestones, and marbles at different temperatures and pressures [14–19]. A general scheme of the expected textures has been developed, combining natural and numerical data (see [20] and references therein), but data are still needed. Moreover, virtually no work has been dedicated to combining the neutron diffraction textural data with the prediction of seismic velocities through the homogenization of the elastic tensor [21,22].

With this contribution, we aim at producing new data related to the textures of carbonate rocks. In particular, we aim at relating different pressure, temperature, and shear geometry conditions of deformation with the type of texture developed. We also aim at investigating the control of texture types on the seismic anisotropies. The presented study will hence provide a reference to interpret measured seismic anisotropy in the continental crust [23], where carbonate rocks might be also involved in accommodating shearing along mylonitic horizons.

For this aim, we selected carbonate rocks characterized by fabrics developed at different temperature and pressure conditions and different strain geometries, from pure to simple shear, representing some of the large number of possible combinations in naturally deformed rocks. The samples have been collected mainly in the Alpine system and display a various degree of planar fabrics, developed at different depths within the crust. In this contribution, we will produce new texture data to be included in the general scheme of texture development. Moreover, we will calculate the component of the seismic anisotropies due to the texture by homogenizing the stiffness tensor using the Orientation Distribution Function obtained with the Quantitative Texture Analysis. Finally, we will investigate the influence of the orientation of the foliation plane on the seismic anisotropy [24] at different depth in the crust and with different textures.

## 2. Samples Description and Geological Setting

Samples were collected in the French and Italian Alps, Apennines, and Paleozoic basement (Figure 1). Different locations (Figure 1) were chosen to sample carbonate rocks from different crustal levels, from upper/intermediate crust limestones to lower crust high-temperature marbles (Table 1).

**Table 1.** List of samples labels with Alpine geological domain, crustal position with depth in km, temperature in °C and shear geometry. Labels are the same as used in Figures and text. See text for references on P, T and shear geometry. **Upper crust** for depth < 10 km at T < 300 °C, **intermediate crust** for depth between 10 and 20 km and T between 300 and 400 °C, and **lower crust** for depth > 20 km and T > 400 °C.

Label	Domain	Crustal Position	Temperature	Shear Geometry
01BAS	Helvetic-Dauphinoise	upper (<3 km)	<100 °C	no shear
02SOD	Southalpine	upper (<5–7 km)	≈200 °C	simple shear
03SA1	Sardinia Basement	intermediate (12–15 km)	≈350 °C	pure shear
04STE	Austroalpine	intermediate (15–20 km)	300–350 °C	simple shear
05CC2	Briançonnaise	intermediate (<15 km)	300–350 °C	pure/simple shear
06P1	Apuane Metamorphic Complex	lower (25–30 km)	400–500 °C	no shear
08VP3	Austroalpine	lower (>18–20 km)	700–800 °C	pure/simple shear
09MA1	Austroalpine	lower (20–24 km)	600–750 °C	simple/pure shear



**Figure 1.** Location and crustal position of the studied samples, see text for explanation.

According to Figure 1, upper-crust samples were collected in the Southalpine domain, Sardinia and Helvetic-Dauphinoise (e.g., Triassic and Jurassic limestones). All samples preserve at macroscopic scale their primary features; intermediate crust samples were collected in the Briançonnais domain and in the Central Austroalpine domain, where Mesozoic sediments were involved in the Alpine tectonics at relatively upper levels. However, they still preserve their stratigraphic relations with the surrounding rocks, as sedimentary strata or laminations. The last group of samples, collected in the Carrara metamorphic complex, and in the Western-Central Austroalpine domain, are metamorphic marbles. In this last group, no sedimentary features are preserved.

- The BAS sample is a light gray crystalline limestone, fine-grained, homogeneous, and free of any planar fabrics at the macroscopic scale, both primary or secondary, as fractures or joints. It is Jurassic in age and it belongs to the External thrust-belt French Subalpine system [25,26]; it is part of the so-called Calcaires “tithoniques” [27]. It was sampled close to Grenoble (France), La Bastille, the southernmost part of the Chartreuse massive. According to the tectonic reconstruction and the local geologic map [27,28], the thrust system developed a km-scale anticline, associated with brittle faults and fracture systems. The BAS sample has been collected within this anticline but far from the brittle system. The fold and thrust system occurred at <3 km depth, at temperature <100 °C.
- The SOD sample was collected in the Southalpine domain. The sample is part of the Triassic cover, which crops along the entire Southalpine domain. The general interpretation infers the thrust and fold system to convergent tectonics active during the formation of the Alpine system (Figures 1 and 2). It was collected within the meter-scale mylonitic horizons associated with a meter to tens of meters asymmetric folds [29]. According to these authors, the thrust horizons

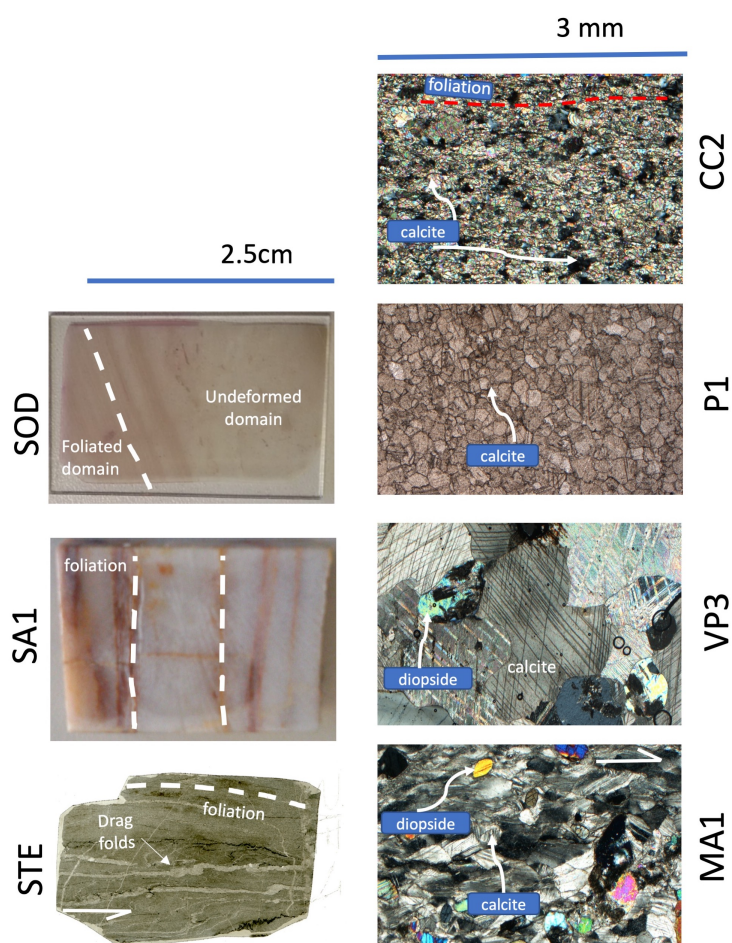
occurred at relatively upper depth, not exceeding 5–7 km, corresponding to a maximum of 200 °C. The studied sample shows an abrupt change in fabric from undeformed to highly strained domains (Figure 2), often associated with grain-size reduction, pressure-solution, and plastic deformation in carbonate grains, testified by mechanical twinning. These meso- and microstructures support temperatures as high as 200 °C [30,31]. The kinematics of these thrust horizons have been reconstructed based on stratigraphic and structural constraints, being characterized by strong simple shear components also testified by classical shear indicators, as cm- to mm-scale drag folds and porphyroclasts geometries [32].

- SA1 sample was collected in the Sardinia basement. It is part of the Ceroidi Limestone (Gonnesa Fm.), pre-Ordovician protolith of the External Zone. This metasedimentary cover has been deeply involved in the Paleozoic-Variscan tectonics [33]. During the Variscan tectonic activity, green-schists metamorphic conditions were attained [34], locally associated with high strain shear horizons, from meters to tens of meters thick [35,36]. The SA1 sample was collected in one of these high strain horizons, made by meta-carbonate limestone. The Variscan deformation developed as pervasive folding systems. However, the SA1 sample was collected far from folds and within the domain where the mylonitic foliation is well visible at the macroscopic scale (Figure 2). As qualitative estimates for pressure and temperature, the intermediate limit can be put following the metamorphic evolution of the inner part of the belt, as described by Elter et al. [37]. Consequently, a limit of 350 °C and 4–5 kbar, corresponding to roughly 12–15 km depth can be used to constrain the development of the fabric on this horizon. Moreover, mesoscopically no asymmetric shear sense indicators have been recognized, supporting the microstructural and textural observations [35], which suggested a pure shear strain.
- STE sample was collected in the Central Alps, within the intermediate Austroalpine domain [38]. Here the Mesozoic sedimentary cover was involved in the Alpine tectonics, occurring as thick-skinned thrusting of cover and its pre-alpine basement [39]. Thrusting localized along high strain horizons within cover and basement [40]. The temperature conditions of this event were estimated at  $T = 300\text{--}350$  °C at depth = 15–20 km [41,42]. We collected a sample within the mylonite horizons in the Mesozoic cover, namely the Fraele Fm. It is characterized by a strongly developed mylonite fabric, associated with a meter- to tens of meter folds. A strong transposition of the lithostratigraphic features has been recorded along this horizon [43]. A simple shear component has been described for this deformation based on meso- and microstructural analysis [41]. Sample scale features, as mm-sized drag faults (Figure 2), support the simple shear component.
- CC sample was collected in the Western Alps, in the sub-Briançonnais domain. It consists of Jurassic limestone strongly deformed during Alpine thrusting of the external part of the chain [44]. According to [45,46] the External Briançonnais units equilibrated at a pressure not exceeding 5 kbar, corresponding to depths <15 km, and  $T = 300\text{--}350$  °C. Moreover, overall simple shear kinematics is constrained by map- to micro-scale indicators, extensively described in the area [47–49]; however, the studied sample does not show clear microstructures that could be uniquely related to a simple shear geometry (Figure 2).
- P1 was collected in the well-known Carrara marbles quarries. They consist of the Mesozoic cover of the Autochthon of the Tuscan Units metamorphosed during the Alpine evolution [50,51]. Km- to meter-scale folding systems have been mapped, and several kinematics reconstructions have been proposed [52] suggesting large scale shear, related to the thrusting of the deep units, resulted in meso- and micro-scale simple shear fabrics (e.g., [20,53]). However, large scale strain partitioning also occurred, allowing a large volume of marbles to escape the development of planar or linear fabrics [54]. In fact, the studied sample is characterized by isotropic equigranular texture of recrystallized calcite (Figure 2), suggesting a static recrystallization process associated with grain-boundary migration both leading to grain size increase [32]. Within the Alpi Apuane



Metamorphic Complex the estimated conditions of metamorphism point to  $T = 400\text{--}500\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 8–10 kbar [50,55,56], corresponding to 25–30 km depth.

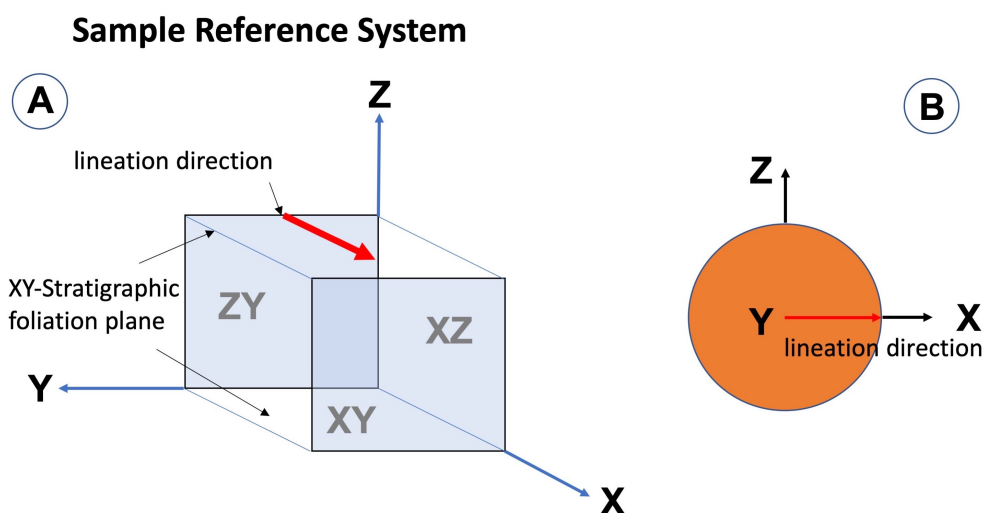
- VP3 and MA1 were both collected in the Austroalpine domain of the Alps [44]. The Austroalpine domain is interpreted as fragments of the pre-alpine continental crust involved in the Alpine subduction-collision system. The collected samples are marbles whose metamorphism has produced during high-temperature Permian–Triassic extension [57]. VP3 was collected in the Valpelline Series, Austroalpine of the Western Alps [58,59], while MA1 was collected in the Languard-Campo, Austroalpine domain of the Central Alps [60]. They are characterized by 0.5–1.5 mm (VP3) to <0.5 mm (MA1) grain-size and strong planar fabric, marked by the shape preferred orientation of calcite and local diopside and quartz (Figure 2). They display diffuse mechanical twinning and undulose extinction, both suggesting grain-scale plastic deformation [32]. Shear indicators are not univocal, MA1 often shows asymmetrical bending of calcite tails around porphyroblast suggesting a component of simple shear, but pure shear cannot be ruled out. Similarly, VP3 displays a less tendency to develop asymmetric microstructures, point to a greater contribution of pure shear. Metamorphic conditions have been quantitatively determined for both samples, VP3 developed at  $T = 700\text{--}800\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $P > 6$  kbar, corresponding to >18 km depth, while MA1 fabric was estimated to form at  $T = 600\text{--}750\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $P = 6.5\text{--}7.5$  kbar, corresponding to 20–24 km depth [58,60].



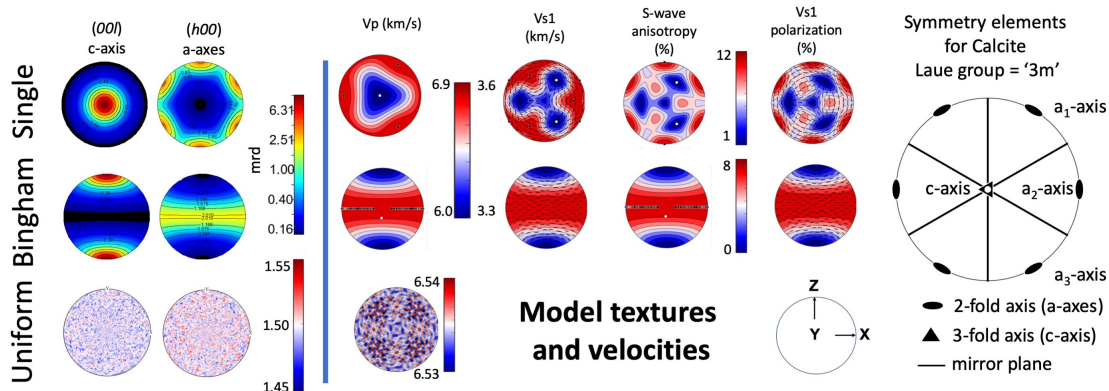
**Figure 2.** Images of selected samples showing main fabric features as layering or foliation. Scale is indicated. The long side of the image 2.5 cm for STE, SA1, and SOD; long side of the image is 3.0 mm for MA1, VP3, P1, and CC2. MA1, VP3, and CC2 images with crossed polarizers. P1 image with plane polarizers.

### 3. Sample Reference System and Methods

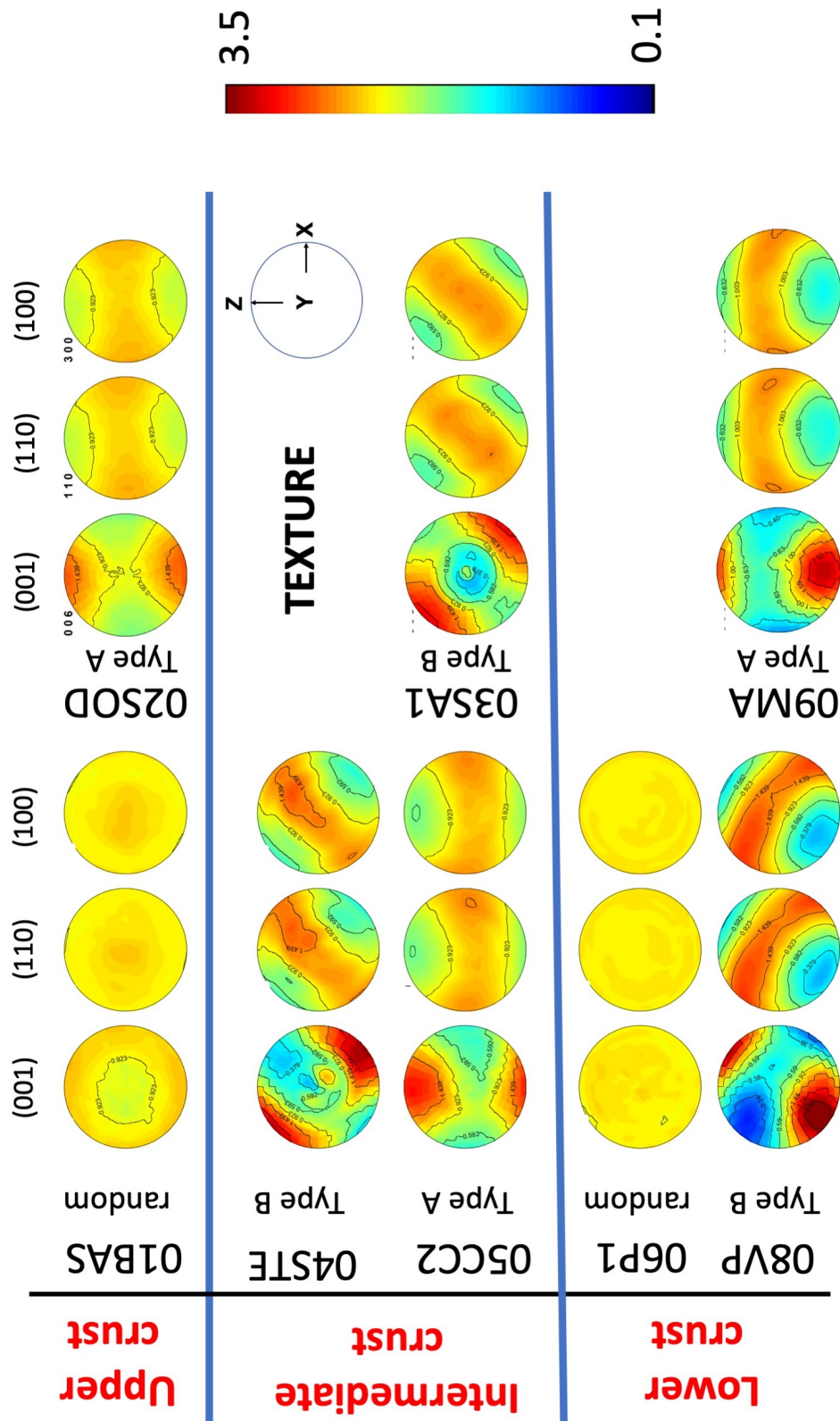
The samples were cut in cubes of  $\approx 1$  cm edge (Figure 3); the three axes of the cube correspond to the orthonormal reference of the sample. In this orthogonal sample reference system, the plane XY corresponds to the stratification or shear plane, while X direction is taken parallel to the flow direction or lineation if it exists (Figure 3). The references in Figure 3b are used in all the Pole figures (Figures 4–6). Pole figures display pole densities in multiples of a uniform distribution (mud).



**Figure 3.** Sample reference system and pole figure representation. (A) sample reference system showing a simplified cubic sample with respect to the orthogonal reference. X, Y, and Z axes are shown (B); Pole figure reference representation with X, Y, and Z axes.

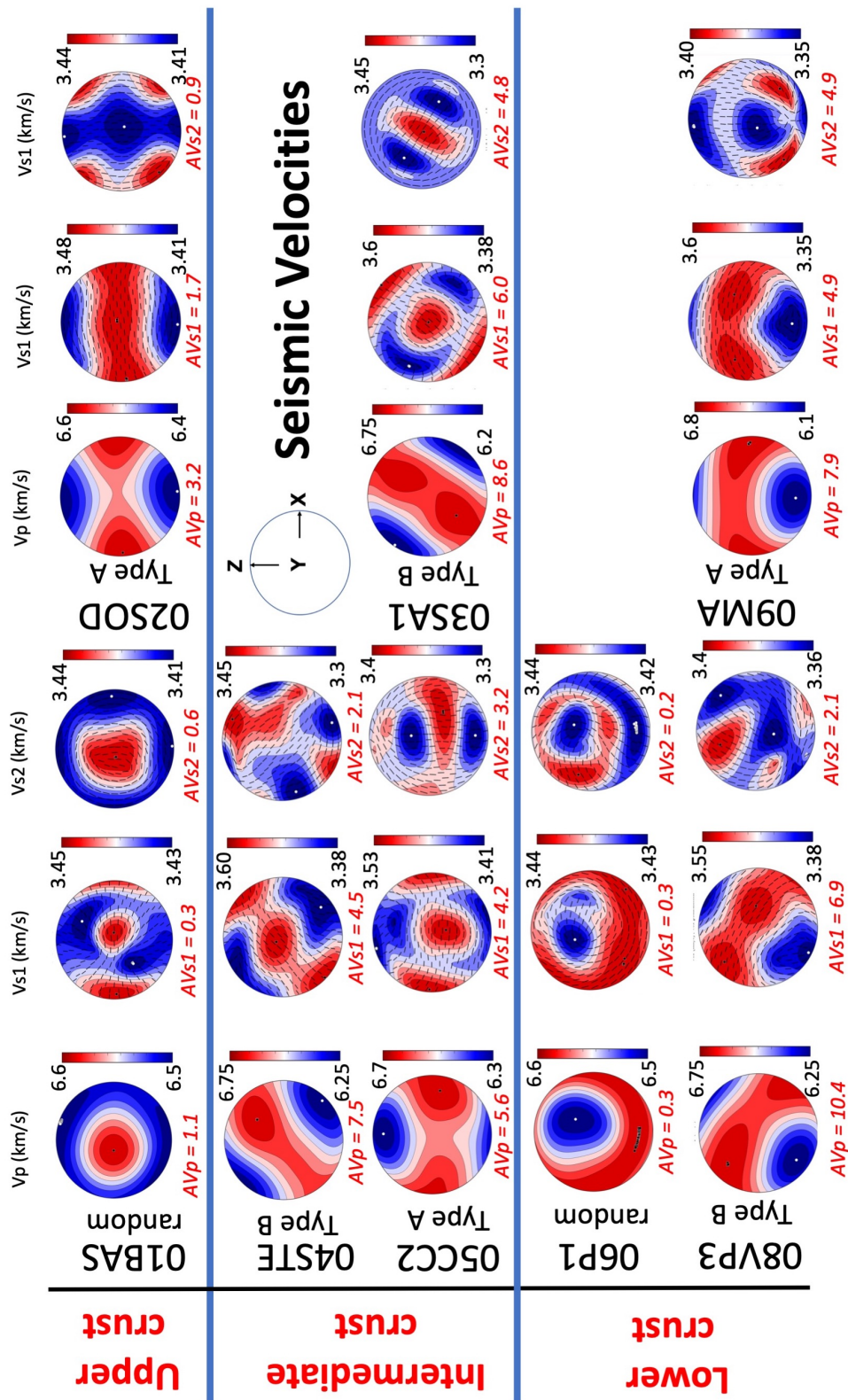


**Figure 4.** Pole figures for model textures and seismic velocities for single crystal-like, uniform, and bingham textured samples. Symmetry elements are shown for calcite crystal



**Figure 5.** Texture of the studied sample. Pole figures represent density contours of poles to plane (001), (110), (100), in multiple of uniform distribution (mud). Axes reference as in Figure 3b.





**Figure 6.** Vp(km/s), Vs1 (km/s), and Vs2 (km/s) seismic waves velocities for the studied samples. Anisotropy for Vp (AVp), Vs1 (AVs1), Vs2 (AVs2) are calculated as  $A = 200 \cdot (\max V - \min V) / (\max V + \min V)$ . For AVp V = Vp, for AVs1 V = Vs1, for AVs2 V = Vs2.



We used the non-disruptive method of the Quantitative Texture Analysis (QTA) by neutron diffraction. This method allows the evaluation of the Texture (also called Crystallographic Preferred Orientation, CPO) of the samples. It has been successfully applied to various types of rocks and synthetic materials: monomineralic quartzites [61], marbles [20], limestones [62], dunitite [63], or glaucophanite [64], in poly-phasic rocks, as amphibolite [65,66], quartz-feldspatic mylonitic orthogneisses and gabbros [67,68], subaqueous lavas [69] or sandstones [70]. This procedure uses the high penetration and high flux of neutrons available at the nuclear reactor at the Institute Laue-Langevin (Grenoble, France) allowing the measurement of samples with volumes of approximately 1 cm<sup>3</sup> in one to eight hours [71]. Here, we present the results from the D1B, D19, and D20 diffractometers (<http://www.ill.eu>). The raw data have been analyzed using the software package MAUD (Materials Analysis Using Diffraction [72]): diffracted intensities are used to calculate the Orientation Distribution Function (ODF [73]), from which the representative lattice planes are extracted and represented as Pole Figures (PF). PFs were represented showing the reference axes from the Sample Reference System (X, Y, Z in Figure 3). The coverage of the three-dimensional sample space has been acquired differently at the three beamlines (D1B, D19, and D19), due to their technical specifications. Briefly, D1B works at  $\lambda = 2.52 \text{ \AA}$ , equipped with a position-sensitive detector, covering a  $2\theta$  range of  $128^\circ$ ; D19 is equipped with a very large ( $120^\circ \times 30^\circ$ ) 2-dimensional position-sensitive detector, and works best in the wavelength range 0.8 to 2.4  $\text{\AA}$ ; D20 offers wavelength range 1.4 to 2.1  $\text{\AA}$  and the position sensitive detector covers  $153.6^\circ$ . The respective angular settings are reported in Table 2. The ODF was calculated using the E-WIMV approach [73]. The reliability of the refinement is shown by the refinement parameters reported in Table 3. Calcite lattice parameters used for the refinements are  $a = 4.9849 \text{ \AA}$   $c = 17.0479 \text{ \AA}$ .  $2\theta$  offset, sample position, and background parameters were also refined.

**Table 2.** ILL instrument, setup, and DOI. Acquisition time (s) refers to a single phi-chi position.

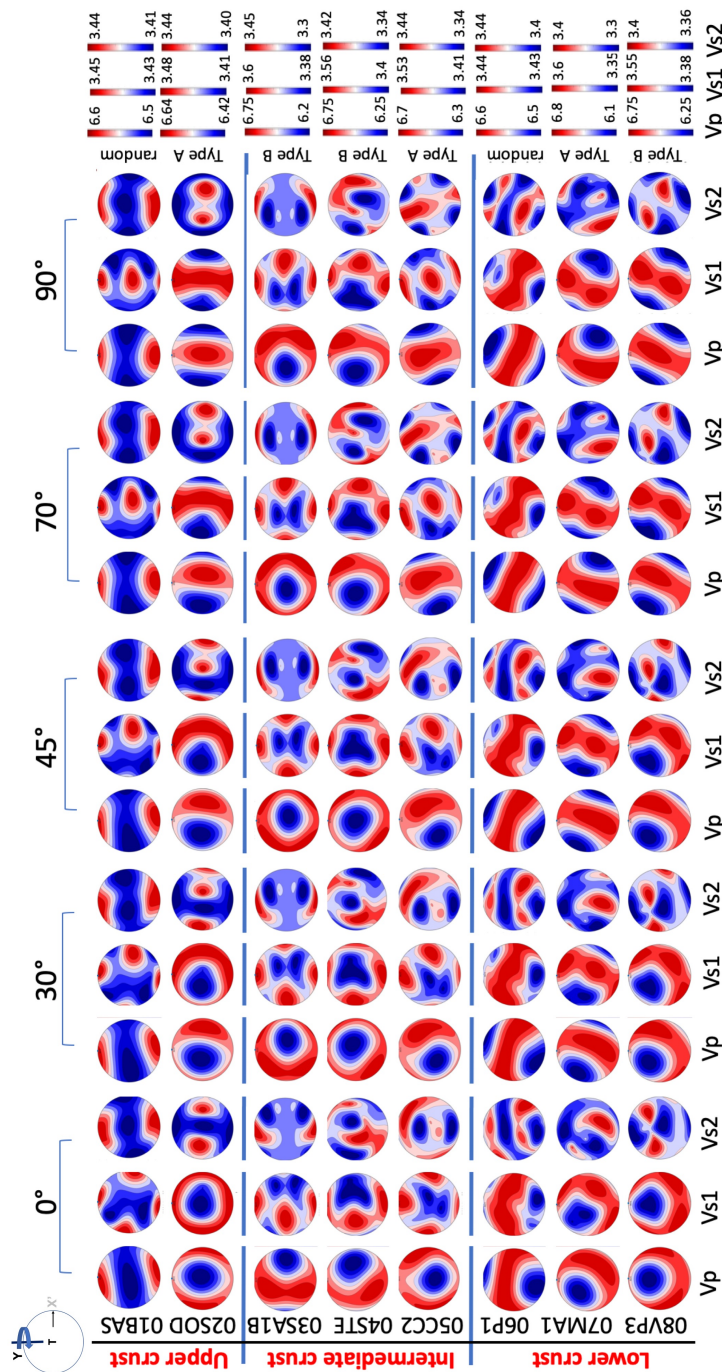
Sample	Instrument	Year	$\omega^\circ$	$\phi^\circ$	$\chi^\circ$	Acquisition Time (s)	DOI <a href="http://doi.ill.fr/10.5291/ILL-DATA">http://doi.ill.fr/10.5291/ILL-DATA</a>
01BAS	D1B	2016	10	0–355	0–90	20	1-02-201 [74]
02SOD	D1B	2016	10	0–355	0–90	20	1-02-201 [74]
03SA1	D19	2014	10	0–355	0–90	10	5-11-397 [75]
04STE	D1B	2016	10	0–355	0–90	20	1-02-163 [76]
05CC2	D1B	2016	10	0–355	0–90	20	1-02-201 [74]
06P1	D1B	2014	10	0–355	0–90	20	1-02-163 [76]
08VP3	D20	2005	10	0–355	0–90	40	no DOI
09MA1	D20	2005	10	0–355	0–90	40	no DOI

**Table 3.** Quantitative texture refinement parameters.

Sample	Rb Ref	Rexp Ref	Rw Rwimv	Rb Ewimv	F <sup>2</sup> —Texture Index
01BAS	7.31	7.56	3.76	4.46	1.04
02SOD	24.6	5.93	2.9	4.0	1.10
03SA1	27.19	25.62	24.11	24.43	1.732
04STE	19.6	6.24	9.53	9.59	1.6
05CC	9.22	3.96	4.11	4.57	1.26
06P1	15.79	6.28	4.85	5.95	1.005
08VP3	31.01	4.05	10.44	11.02	2.17
09MA1	22.83	4.98	12.91	15.73	1.18

The seismic properties were obtained using petrofabric data, as extensively explained by [7]. Here we calculated the sample seismic properties by averaging the single-crystal elastic tensor [77] weighted by the ODF, as obtained by quantitative texture analysis by neutron diffraction. In practice, the ODF calculated using the Maud procedure was used to homogenize the single-crystal tensor in Maud. Results for ODF refinements are reported in Table 3. Although various averaging procedures can be

adopted [78], we used the arithmetic mean of Hill [79]. The resulting homogenized tensors (Table 4) were used in MTEX Matlab Toolbox [80] to compute and plot seismic properties [81] shown in Figure 6. The same averaged tensors have been then used to calculate the seismic anisotropies at different dip angles of the foliation plane, simply rotating the tensors and changing the plane of projection for the pole Figure in Figure 7. Pole Figures in Figure 7 are plotted in a way that only the Y-axis remains constant and the observer is looking down from the Earth’s surface having the macroscopic foliation plane rotating with respect to the Y-axis.



**Figure 7.** Pole figures representing the P- and S- (S1 and S2) seismic velocities for calcite at different depths and dipping angles to the main macroscopic fabric plane (e.g., shear plane or stratification). X’ corresponds to the horizontal component of the X fabric axis while T corresponds to the normal to the horizontal surface.

**Table 4.** Homogenized elastic tensors for the studied samples—[GPa]—density = 2.712 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

<b>Single Crystal</b>					
124.80639	54.72449	51.150898	0	−3.4680943	0
-	124.80639	51.150898	0	3.4680943	0
-	-	100.81746	0	0	0
-	-	-	30.698822	0	3.4680943
-	-	-	-	30.698822	0
-	-	-	-	-	35.04095
<b>Model Bingham</b>					
127.50047	51.043633	55.929905	0	0	0
-	96.653496	51.04301	0	0	0
-	-	127.4964	0	0	0
-	-	-	30.140978	0	0
-	-	-	-	35.78422	0
-	-	-	-	-	30.141603
<b>01BAS</b>					
115.48373	51.741405	52.193005	0.0137869865	−0.15203768	−0.057538427
-	115.00182	52.065735	−0.015753072	−0.070318885	−0.06224491
-	-	117.33802	0.003552162	−0.22920334	0.008067851
-	-	-	32.058846	0.005816382	−0.07812717
-	-	-	-	32.197884	0.013756884
-	-	-	-	-	31.695593
<b>02SOD</b>					
119.29561	51.75047	52.70474	0.09108701	−0.13749328	0.24086875
-	112.01606	51.493103	0.1646471	−0.030619144	0.2721084
-	-	116.93503	0.13448612	−0.15284155	0.118958846
-	-	-	31.385612	0.13175486	−0.03567471
-	-	-	-	32.75555	0.09919309
-	-	-	-	-	31.68194
<b>03SA1</b>					
108.98519	51.129845	53.54879	−0.22707361	0.09098859	4.010708
-	115.68208	54.011932	−0.42028734	0.19944625	4.040168
-	-	120.24887	−0.4792106	0.6209795	1.0868437
-	-	-	34.00615	1.3028204	0.21294828
-	-	-	-	33.391453	−0.24855585
-	-	-	-	-	30.711746

**04STE**

114.62599	51.28098	52.65128	0.40403882	-0.24915834	4.076245
-	113.24674	52.87957	1.7690595	0.1510593	2.9629822
-	-	120.20226	1.3745261	-0.33024174	1.3390523
-	-	-	32.772617	1.5227332	0.12351844
-	-	-	-	32.543037	0.45559624
-	-	-	-	-	31.0105

**05CC2**

120.331055	52.018433	53.357944	-0.5572579	0.46192774	-0.14939365
-	109.84183	51.32877	-2.052971	0.22327025	-0.38076687
-	-	117.142975	-0.3637613	0.20798893	0.034985803
-	-	-	31.15168	0.02339253	0.23576291
-	-	-	-	33.43074	-0.6357612
-	-	-	-	-	31.877514

**06P1**

116.18255	52.0272	51.979866	-0.04868714	-0.03236508	-0.011777747
-	116.03572	51.9618	-0.16846395	-0.021853263	-0.021358635
-	51.9618	115.6278	-0.067962535	-0.08895395	-0.020873472
-	-	-	31.94424	-0.021930851	-0.02458574
-	-	-	-	31.965382	-0.053988267
-	-	-	-	-	32.021183

**07P2**

117.62099	51.808167	52.04327	0.26321256	0.320841	0.538134
-	115.71749	51.596924	0.7797489	0.24568443	0.40074456
-	-	115.65552	0.5507176	0.31947044	0.02256278
-	-	-	31.551678	0.03927036	0.26017663
-	-	-	-	32.037464	0.29400057
-	-	-	-	-	31.800737

**08VP3**

117.58365	52.024033	53.17902	0.9461038	1.649634	-5.2456484
-	111.576004	52.19252	3.4886246	0.64441526	-4.231288
-	-	119.872314	3.4239075	1.0557145	-1.510464
-	-	-	31.833376	-1.7366006	0.750887
-	-	-	-	32.96562	1.1209756
-	-	-	-	-	31.585485

**09MA1**

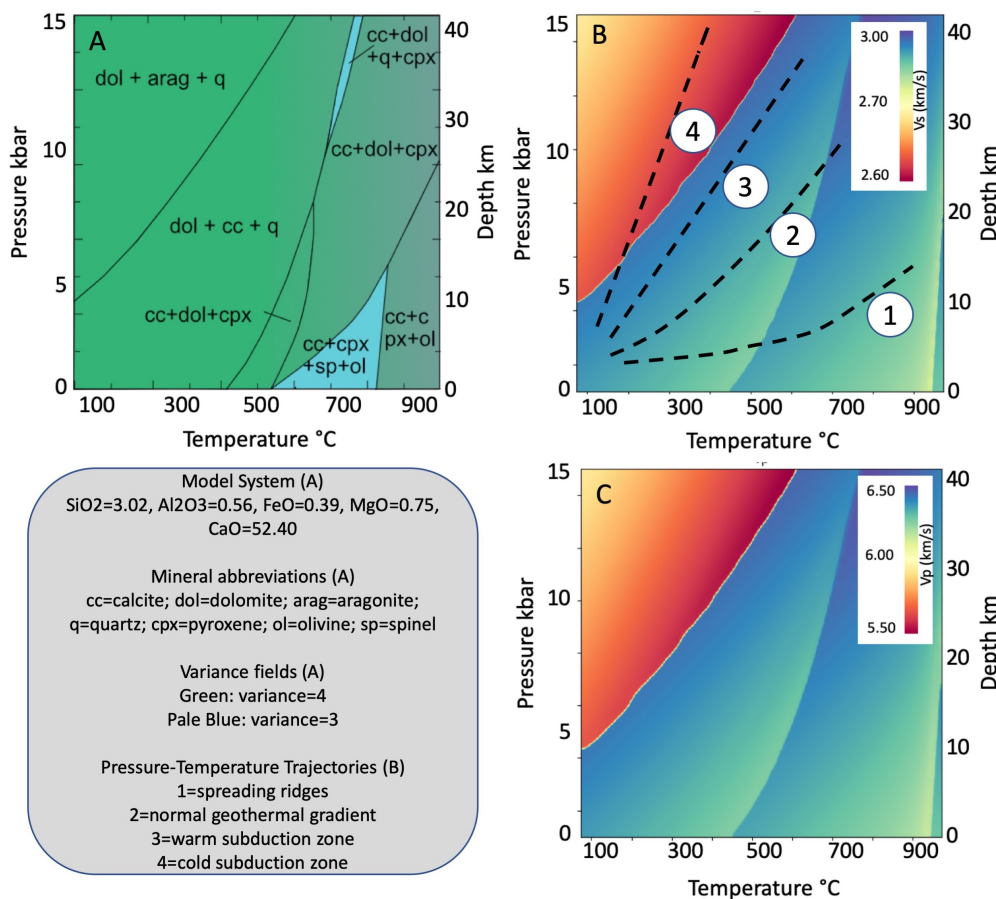
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123.13773	51.935154	53.12128	1.066385	0.72052747	−0.34793347
-	108.63644	51.16951	3.118211	0.10843302	−0.30422294
-	-	117.85145	3.0853832	0.26028427	0.001484112
-	-	-	30.831026	−0.014819718	0.1207543
-	-	-	-	33.11233	1.2279662
-	-	-	-	-	31.690102

As a general consideration, this approach to computing seismic velocities generally produces higher values when compared to natural samples. The most likely reason for this is that other important factors, intrinsic and extrinsic, controlling seismic velocities, and anisotropies are not included in the calculation. These factors are fluid pressure, crack density and their orientation, porosity, grain boundary geometry, and their shape preferred orientation [5,53,82,83].

A thermodynamic approach [66,84] was also used to calculate the seismic properties of a modeled carbonate rock at different pressure and temperature conditions, roughly corresponding to the estimate conditions of texture development of the studied samples. We used the PerpleX software package (version 6.8.6 [85]) to compute the seismic parameters as dependent on the thermodynamic function  $G$  (molar Gibbs free energy), which is minimized to establish phases, amounts, and compositions stable as a function of pressure and temperature. The software requires a chemical composition of the system as input. Software and data used for the calculation of phase relations and seismic velocities are available at <http://www.perplex.ethz.ch>. The graphical outputs were obtained using pyWerami source [86]. The calculated seismic properties correspond to those of a polycrystal rock with no preferred orientations. An averaged composition of carbonate rocks has been used as the model chemical system [87]. The model system composition (in wt %) is:  $\text{SiO}_2 = 3.02$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 = 0.56$ ,  $\text{FeO} = 0.39$ ,  $\text{MgO} = 0.75$ ,  $\text{CaO} = 52.40$ . In the computation  $\text{CO}_2$  is considered saturated and, as solid solutions were chosen Do(HP) dolomite-ankerite solution, M(HP) for the magnesite-siderite solution, and Cpx(HP) clinopyroxene [88] and [PerpleX datafile repository](http://www.perplex.ethz.ch/datafiles/). Holland and Powell (1998) [88] and successive update [89] (datafile hp62ver at <http://www.perplex.ethz.ch/datafiles/>) was used as a thermodynamic database. A typical output (Figure 8A) consists of pressure and temperature grid (in this calculation,  $P = 1\text{--}15$  kbar and  $T = 100\text{--}1000$  °C) where the stable phases and assemblages are shown (i.e., pseudosection). Using the application Werami, which is part of the PerpleX package [85], specific properties were investigated in the P-T space and plotted in Figure 8B,C. Namely, we investigated the variations of modes, density,  $V_p$  and  $V_s$  of all phases within the investigated P-T ranges. Input data for PerpleX calculation may be found as Supplementary Materials.



**Figure 8.** (A) Pseudosection calculated using *Perple\_X* thermodynamic packages [85]. (B)  $V_s$  (km/s) seismic waves contour diagram. (C)  $V_p$  (km/s) seismic waves contour diagram. Geothermal gradients in B after Cloos (1993) [90].

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Textures

Figure 4 reports the calculated PFs for a single crystal-like of calcite, an aggregate of equigranular randomly-disposed crystals, and an aggregate of equigranular grains, by a statistical Fisher–Bingham distribution.

They show the contributions to Texture expected by the crystallographic symmetry only or by textures: (i) single crystal distribution is characterized by a strong c-axis maximum and a three-fold axes distribution in the plane normal to the c-axis; (ii) oppositely, a random or uniform distribution of equigranular aggregate will reduce or obliterate the crystal symmetry anisotropy, producing a random statistical distribution, in any directions of the 3d space; (iii) lastly, an imposed (e.g., tectonic stress) distribution, here represented as the Fisher–Bingham distribution [91], will produce strong maxima that follow neither the crystal symmetry and nor a random distribution.

Figure 5 reports the pole Figures representing the lattice planes (001), (110), (100) texture measured for the studied samples. Calcite texture are commonly expressed showing c- and a-axes distributions (e.g., (001) and (100)) and m-planes (110) since these orientations better describe the deformation mechanisms active during plastic deformation at lattice scale and are commonly reported in the literature. Table 3 reports the R factors and  $F^2$  factor, commonly used in texture analysis to assess the quality of ODF refinement. In general, the samples show different texture distributions and densities but they can be divided into 2 principal types: a random distribution (01BAS, 06P1); c-axis textured distribution (02SOD, 03SA1, 04STE, 05CC2, 08VP, 09MA). The c-axis textured distribution may be

further divided into orthorhombic (02SOD, 05CC2, 09MA) and monoclinic symmetry (03SA1, 04STE, 05VP) types. The orthorhombic type (A) is characterized by the parallelism between the (001) poles and the Z direction. On the other hand, the monoclinic type (B) shows an angle between the (001) poles cluster and the Z-direction. Symmetrically, the (100) poles, which generally display a girdle distribution, may lay orthogonal to the Z direction or with an angle, generally 30 to 45°.  $F^2$  values (Table 3) may be used as the overall index to assess the randomness of the texture [92,93]. As expected for poorly textured samples, 01BAS, 06P1 have  $F^2$  close to 1  $\text{mrd}^2$ , even though 01BAS displays a minimum amount of preferred orientation. 02SOD, 04STE, 05CC2, and 09MA are characterized by well-developed textures, though the  $F^2$  index is relatively low, being between 1.10 and 1.26  $\text{mrd}^2$ . Higher  $F^2$  values are shown by 03SA1 and 09MA.

#### 4.2. Seismic Velocities

Figure 6 reports the calculated seismic velocities. Namely, P-wave  $V_p$  (km/s), S-wave anisotropy and  $V_{s1}$  and  $V_2$  polarization. Their distributions closely resemble the main texture feature (Figure 5). In fact, since the c-axis direction is the slowest  $V_p$  in the single crystal setting, and the a-axes directions are close to fastest (Figure 3), the general feature that shows up is that the pole to (001) distribution correspond to the slowest directions in the  $V_p$  plots. So, the prediction of the slowest direction in carbonate rocks is relatively straightforward since it is influenced by the c-axis distribution. In contrast, S-wave anisotropies are more complex to predict since they result from a combination of textures (Figure 5). Specifically, 02SOD, 06P1, 08VP, and 09MA display a girdle distribution of the poles to (100) and (110), which correspond to a pronounced direction of fastest propagation. Conversely, 01BAS, 03SA1, and 05CC2 are characterized by single or multiple clusters for S-wave anisotropies, giving a more complex pattern of polarization. 04STE displays a mixed distribution, where a weak fastest S-wave girdle links the two clusters.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Texture Types Evolution with Temperature, Pressure, Shear Geometry, and Strain

Texture data reported in Figure 5 fall into the types of calcite texture most commonly described for natural rocks [94] and reported in experimental results [16,17,95,96]. In particular, we separated two types: random, where no or a little preferred orientation is found, and textured, characterized by a strong c-axis maximum and a-axes girdle distribution. Textured types have been further separated in Type A and Type B, to emphasize the relations between Texture and shear plane, as described for pure shear (i.e., orthorhombic geometry, Type A) and simple shear (i.e., monoclinic geometry, Type B) [20,94,97]. Type A and B have been used to infer the deformation regime and the sense of shear (e.g., [98–101]). However, Pieri et al. (2001) [102] demonstrated the risk of simplifying those textural relations with deformational regimes. In fact, the most common calcite deformation mechanisms may allow, even at low temperature, a quick transition from monoclinic to orthorhombic symmetries, even under a simple shear regime and at low strain (>2). Similar observations have been made on naturally deformed marbles [103]. Accordingly, the studied samples also show that discriminating between high temperature (HT) and low temperature (LT) textures is not an easy task. For example, 02SOD, 05CC2, and 09MA1 samples, though their textures developed respectively at  $\approx 200$  °C, 300–350 °C, and 600–750 °C (Table 1), they all display a similar orthorhombic symmetry; specularly, 04STE, 03SA1, 08VP share the same texture but developed at different temperatures, 300–350 °C,  $\approx 350$  °C, and 700–800 °C (Table 1). Literature data, between 100 and 400 °C at increasing shear strain, suggest a general evolution from Type A texture, generally far from the shear zone core, to Type B textures and, more often, the coexistence of Type A and B [82]. Type A seems to become dominant at very high shear strain values and very high pressures [16,104]. At low temperature (<300 °C) and low pressure (<3 kbar), as in carbonate fault gouges or thrust systems, Type B is generally favorite [105–107] while A and B types start to compete where temperature, pressure, and shear strain all overcome certain

thresholds. These threshold values are hard to quantify; most likely pressure should exceed 3–4 kbar and shear strain 1–2 [13,16,82,97,104,107]. Similar competing textures were also described for dolomite deforming between 240–300 °C under simple shear geometry [108]. Besides, the recent experimental work of Schuster et al. (2019) [16] shows that very high shear strains (>80) tend to stabilize Type A texture that replaces early A or B types. This experimental work also strongly supports the findings by Ebert et al. (2007) [104] that constrained similar evolution from field observations. In particular, Ebert et al. (2007) [104] showed evolving random to Type A and B textures as temperature and shear strain increase. Ebert et al. (2007) [104] also showed textures similar to those of 04STE and 03SA1 samples where the angle between the c-axis maximum and the Z-axis is much higher than typically described.

Similar considerations may be done on metamorphic marbles produced at intermediate temperature ( $\approx 400$ – $600$  °C) and pressures related to subduction-collisional tectonics ( $\approx 10$ – $20$  kbar). In particular, the large literature available on the Carrara Marble allows us to constrain textural types with shear strain geometry and grain size. Large (1–2 mm) to intermediate (0.1–0.5 mm) grain size marbles, characterized by granoblastic textures may show random texture [53,109] as well as Type A [52]. The first most likely due to static annealing or larger scale strain-partitioning and the second associated with grain boundaries migration and subgrain rotation dynamic recrystallization processes [32]. In marbles showing shape preferred orientations and microscopic foliation, the Type A is better developed [20] suggesting a high shear strain condition. Experimental work on the Carrara marbles under torsion [110], ranging between 500 and 700 °C and shear strain from 0 up to 50, support the observations [111] that Type A easily stabilizes at high strain conditions replacing Type B, no matter if coaxial and non-coaxial. Again, this process seems to be more likely occurring at high temperatures (>500 °C) [111]. Barnhoorn et al. (2004) [110] also showed that at low temperature ( $\approx 500$  °C) random texture may replace Type B textures increasing shear strain. Other intermediate temperature marbles (400–500 °C), from elsewhere (e.g., [11,103,112,113]) support this shift from B to A types texture. However, no shear strain constraints are available to include these observations in the above scheme. Higher temperature (>600 °C) marbles, similar to samples 08VP3 and 09MA1, naturally [22] or experimentally [14,110] deformed do not show a strong shift from B to A type texture. These observations may be taken to support the idea that shear strain most likely controls the textural type, more than temperature. However, more observations are needed to build a valid general scheme. More observations are also needed to produce a solid scheme to relate deformation mechanisms with the observed textures. The texture observed in these samples does not uniquely relate to specific deformation mechanisms. Type A and B textures are present in samples where intra-crystalline slip mechanisms are relevant, as 08VP3 and 09MA1. On the other hand, where twinning is present, together with grain size reduction deformation mechanism (02SOD, 04STE, 05CC2), both Type A and Type B may develop [101]. Moreover, the combination of sub-grain rotation mechanisms, known to be important at similar conditions [16], and grain-boundary migration may have contributed to the observed random texture in P1.

## 5.2. Seismic Anisotropy

Seismic velocities and anisotropy of carbonate rocks in the studied samples change with texture types (Figure 6). Vp velocities vary from a minimum of 6.1 km/s to a maximum of 6.8 km/s; AVp anisotropy varies between 0.3 and 10.4 (Figure 6). Vs varies from 3.3 and 3.6 km/s, while Vs1 anisotropy varies between 0.3 and 6.8. The direction of maximum Vp varies from parallel to X direction of the fabrics (05CC2, 02SOD, 09MA), corresponding to Type A texture, to more than 45° in the XZ plane (04STE, 03SA1, 06P1, 08VP3), for Type B texture. Vp displays a general girdle distribution that roughly describes a plane of max Vp. Max Vp plane changes its orientation even within the same group of Vp max direction. Vp max in Type B samples has an angle with X direction that varies between 20 to 50°. More interestingly, the Vp maximum frequently dips about 20–30° away from the circumference (XZ plane). Similarly, the Vp max girdle plane dips between 20 to 50° from the plane of shear. Besides,

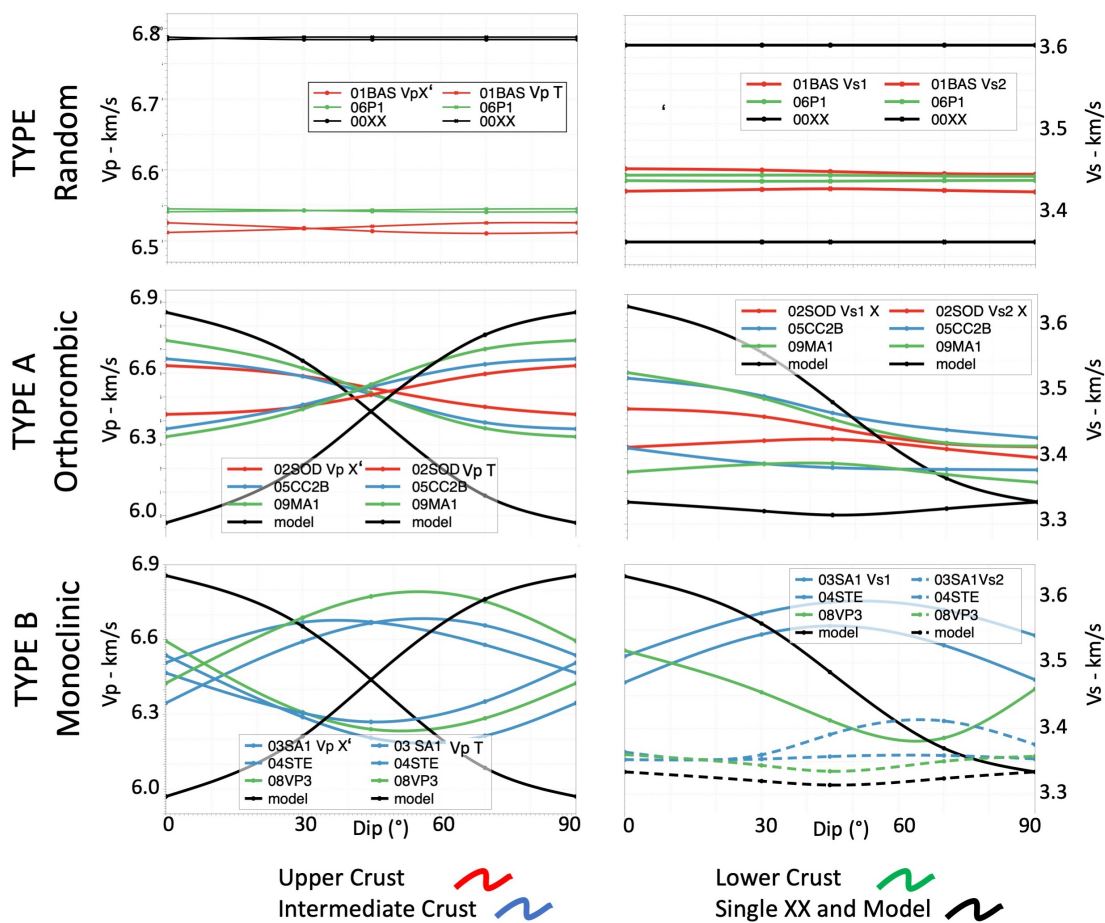


Vs velocities frequently show a double to triple maxima distributions. A large literature is available for sedimentary rocks, though the large majority is dedicated to shales and sandstones (see complete review [7]). Similar Vp and Vs values have been measured and calculated for calcite [13,22,82,114,115] at different temperature and depth conditions. Vp velocities most frequently show a girdle distribution of maxima variably dipping to the plane of shear, recalling Type A and Type B distributions. In general, the Vp and Vs velocities overlap with those calculated for our samples, a part for those samples from very shallow depth (<1000 m) [114,115] where only after reducing porosity and increasing cementation the Vp values go from low (<5 km/s) to higher values, more similar to those here measured and calculated (>6 km/s). These observations support the general idea that carbonate rocks anisotropy also contributes to the overall anisotropy of the crust [7,22,82], at any depths. To further investigate the nature of these anisotropies we calculate the seismic isotropic component by the thermodynamic modeling described in chapter 3. The thermodynamic modeled seismic velocities, Vp and Vs (Figure 8), describe a range of Vp wave velocities from  $\approx$  6.0 km/s to 6.5 km/s. Vs velocities vary from 2.6 to 3.0 km/s. The P–T plots in Figure 8B,C are characterized by three main parts where Vp and Vs vary progressively as a function of the changing mineral assemblages and mode proportion, as described in the pseudosection of Figure 8A. The three sectors are characterized by (i) the presence of aragonite instead of calcite a high pressure and low temperature; (ii) the association of calcite and dolomite at an intermediate temperature and pressure from low to high; (iii) the stabilization of clinopyroxene at high temperature, for low to high pressures. In general, Vp and Vs wave velocities decrease moving toward higher temperatures and increase moving toward higher pressures. According to the pressure and temperature constraints for the studied samples (Table 1) we are below the aragonite phase transition and the Vp should vary from 6.0 to 6.5 km/s, and Vs from 2.8 to 3.0 km/s. The calculated values from texture analysis [68,84] as well as those reported in the literature, differ by about 10% from these calculated values. These values are generally closer to measured seismic velocities taken orthogonal to the maximum shear direction (i.e., lineation) [53] or in the more isotropic samples or very shallow sample, dominated by low porosity (<10%) [115]. Consequently, these Vp and Vs can be used as a reference for the isotropic component of carbonate rocks, to investigate the amount of anisotropy to be expected when observing real seismic data for similar rock composition. In general, the analyzed samples show an increase of seismic velocities due only to textural anisotropies that can be about 0.2 to 0.8 km/s for Vp and 0.3 to 0.6 Vs. These results show that seismic properties (e.g., velocities and anisotropies) even for a single rock type (e.g., carbonate rocks) may strongly change in the crust, as a function of temperature, pressure, and shear strain, as a result of texture types that strongly control seismic propagation. Similar considerations have been proposed for other rock compositions. In these rock types, specific mineral phases showed preferred orientations that produced relevant deviations from the isotropic component of the seismic properties (e.g., [7,13,23,84]). This evidence suggests that at depth there is important overlapping between different rock types in term of their seismic properties, such that unambiguous determination of geological information from natural seismic data imply a combined use of many parameters [116]. In addition, it is clear that also the orientation of the macroscopic fabric, shear foliation, lineation, or any fabric associated with texture in rock-forming minerals play an important role in defining seismic anisotropies [24,84].

To further investigate the relevance of the orientation of the shear plane at different depth in the crust, we used the approach of Ko and Jung (2015) [24] by rotating the shear flow plane around the Y-axis. In Figure 7 the results are shown by changing the plane of view, from XZ, used in Figures 3–6, to XY. Figure 7 shows the progressive variations of the seismic properties by changing the dip angle from 0 to 90° (0, 30, 45, 70, and 90). From the resulting rotated tensors, the components of Vp, Vs1, and Vs2 were read parallel to the horizontal component of the X direction (X' in Figure 7), as well as parallel to the normal to the Earth's surface (T in Figure 7). Random textures are characterized by a constant Vp and Vs2 maxima parallel to the Y direction and the lowest direction being within the X'T plane (Figure 9). The lowest velocity is always recorded parallel to the vertical T direction, at any dip. A relevant deviation is found for the Vs1 where the highest velocities parallel to T are recorded at dip > 45°, while

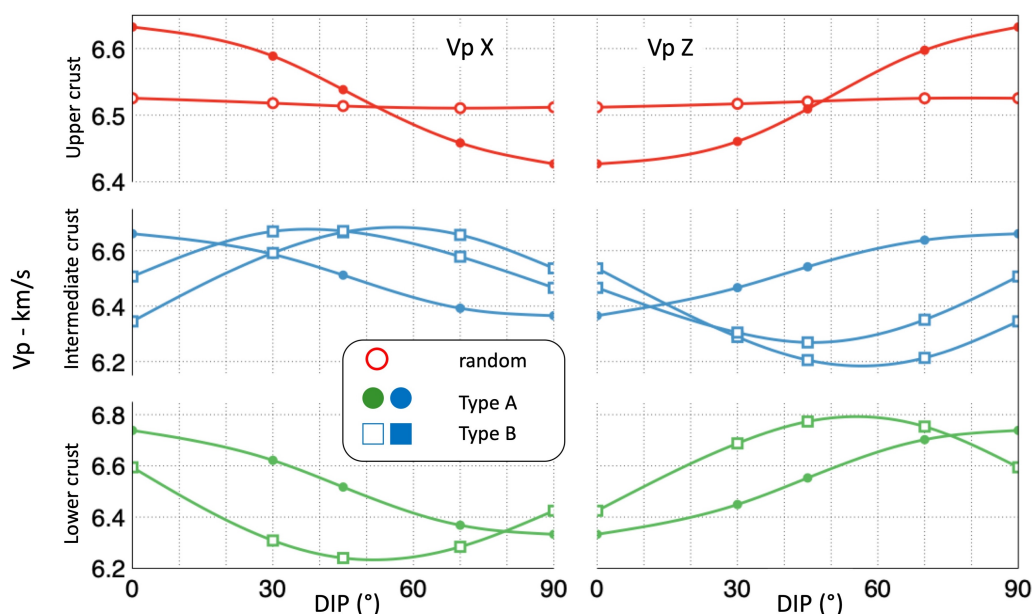
parallel  $X'$  at dip  $< 45^\circ$  (Figure 9). Type A shows relatively similar features for samples at different depths, with a general trend with the  $X'$  component of  $V_p$  which decreases for steep dipping shear zones, while the T component increases, becoming the fastest at depth  $> 30\text{--}45^\circ$ . The  $V_{s1}$  component generally decreases for the three samples at different depths, but it is steeper for the lower crust sample (e.g., 08MA1). On the other hand,  $V_{s2}$  components show that the intermediate crust sample 05CC2 has a different trend compared to the other samples. Type B has more diversification than Type A,  $V_p$  parallel to T may vary from slowest to fastest, independently by the dip. 08VP3 and 06P1 show the fastest values parallel to T at dip  $> 30^\circ$ .  $V_{s1}$  and  $V_{s2}$  fastest are more commonly found at Y for 03SA1 and 04STE intermediate crust samples, while in 06P1  $V_{s1}$  fastest velocities describe a girdle close to the  $X'T$  plane at any dip and in 08VP3 sample become closer to T at dip  $> 45^\circ$ .  $V_{s2}$  velocities  $V_{s2}$  fastest velocities are in the direction of Y for 03SA1 at any dip while they are highly variable for the sample 04STE. Girdles with maxima characterize  $V_{s2}$  in 06P1 and 08VP3, producing highly heterogeneous distributions at different dips.

In the Type B distribution, the lower crust sample 09VP3 displays an opposite trend to the intermediate crust samples 03SA1 and 04STE. In particular, while for the intermediate crust samples the horizontal  $V_p$  and  $V_{s1}$  values increase from 0 to  $45\text{--}50^\circ$  and then decrease approaching vertical dipping, the lower crustal sample 08VP3 starts decreasing and then, at about  $60^\circ$  dip, increases. These heterogeneities also occur for vertical  $V_p$  and  $V_{s2}$  components. The  $V_p$  vertical component closely mirrors the  $V_p$  horizontal, while the  $V_{s2}$  components are less sensitive to the dip variation, being in a smaller interval, generally  $< 0.1$  km/s (Figure 9).

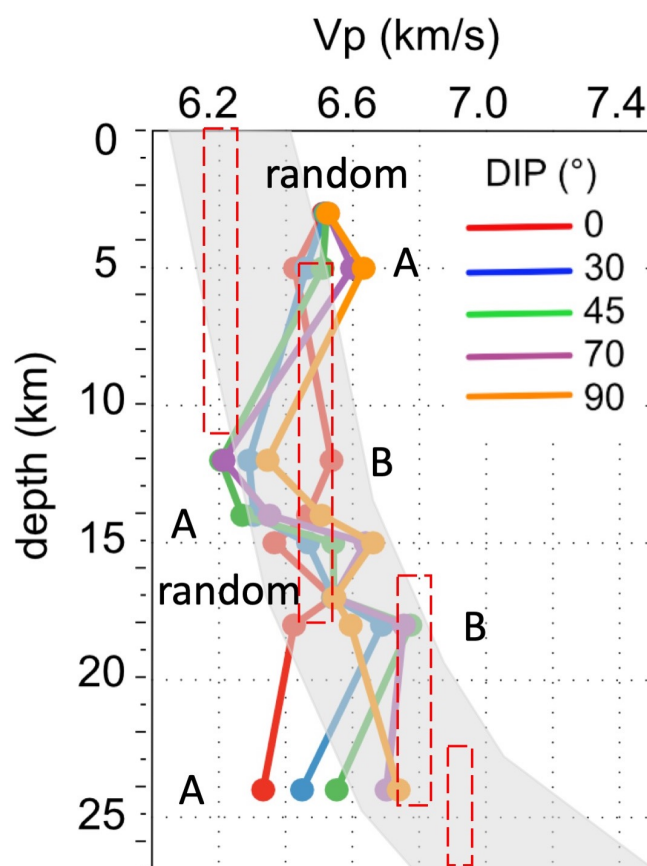


**Figure 9.**  $V_p$  components propagating horizontally ( $X'$  component) and vertically (T component)— $V_{s1}$  and  $V_{s2}$  horizontal components. See text for explanation.

Figure 10 represents the Vp velocities at different depths, at varying dip. From 0 to 15° dipping of the shear planes, as those generally developed along the flat part of thrust systems [9], the Type A textures produce higher Vp velocities propagating horizontally, parallel to X' component (Figure 7) and slower parallel to the normal to the topographic surface (T component in Figure 7). This setting does not change with depth, while the fastest Vp velocities are recorded at depth (i.e., lower crust). This pattern is reversed at different dip angles: upper crust at 50°, intermediate crust between 20 and 30°, and the lower crust at 80°. At intermediate crust conditions, this flip may correspond to the evolution of the thrust system from flats to ramps. The change of dip corresponds to a substantial increase of Vp velocities parallel to X', from 6.4 to 6.7 km/s. At the same depths, it corresponds to a decrease parallel to T for rocks having a Type B texture pattern. Oppositely, at depth, both Type A and B produce an overall decrease of horizontally propagating velocities, from 6.8 to 6.3 km/s and from 6.6 to 6.2 km/s, respectively. Type B reaches its minimum at 50° and then increases slowly approaching vertical dipo. In general, steep dipping shear zones, as those in transtensional or transpressional systems (e.g., positive and negative flower structures), will produce slower or at maximum equal Vp velocities propagating horizontally (X') than shear zone within the same system but with lower dipping angles (Figure 10). Figure 11 represents the evolution of Vp seismic velocities (vertical component T) with depth at changing dip angles. Figure 11 also reports the predicted P-wave velocities in the continental crust as modeled by Lloyd et al. (2011) [23] for “rock recipes”. Vertical red boxes correspond to Vp ranges for middle to lower crust proposed by Rudnick and Fountain (1995) [117]. Two aspects arise from this image. Firstly, carbonate rock may overlap with average rock types or “recipes” at various depth in the continental crust. Large discrepancies to these overlapping may arise by the dipping of the shear planes. At similar depths, Vp velocities may differ of about 0.3–0.5 km/s, only due to different dipping. Secondly, a specific pattern is reproduced by Type A texture, at any depth. The type A texture shows that it is characterized by an increase of Vp velocities as the dipping angle increases. This pattern is reproduced at the three different depths our samples represent. Moreover, Types B displays more variability in the way seismic velocities change with the dipping of the shear plane.



**Figure 10.** Vp crustal section. upper crust = red, intermediate crust = blue, lower crust = green. Texture types: random = hollow circle; A = circle; B = square.



**Figure 11.** P-wave velocity propagating vertically (T component of Figure 7) crustal profile based on the data presented in this work for carbonate rocks at different depth and dip angle of the shear plane. Greys correspond to the predicted P-wave velocities in the continental crust as modeled by Lloyd et al. (2011) [23]. Vertical red boxes correspond to Vp ranges for middle to lower crust Rudnick & Fountain (1995) [117]. Random, A and B texture Types described in the text.

## 6. Conclusions

- Eight samples of limestones and marbles were studied by neutron diffraction. We collected Texture of naturally deformed calcite at different depths in the crust, from upper to lower crust.
- Different Texture patterns were recognized, from random to strongly textured (Type B); the latter, with orthorhombic (Type A) or monoclinic (Type B) symmetries. Seismic anisotropies were calculated using the Orientation Distribution Function to homogenize the elastic tensor of calcite.
- A wide variability of seismic anisotropies arise from the various textural types, crustal positions, and dipping of the shear planes.
- These results may be valuably used to guess geometry of shear zones at upper to depth for carbonate rocks or at deeper crustal levels where thick carbonatic horizons are involved localizing deformation (Figure 11).
- This work suggests that at depth, even for carbonate rocks, there is an important overlapping between different rock types in term of their seismic properties (Figure 11); unambiguous determination of geological information from natural seismic must consider the orientation of the macroscopic fabric, shear foliation, lineation, or any fabric associated with texture playing a role in developing seismic anisotropies [24,84].
- More work still needs to be done to include other parameters influencing seismic anisotropies, intrinsic and extrinsic, to build a database of natural rocks properties [5–7,13,23].



- Lastly, texture types may produce unique seismic velocities pattern. For example, Type A (Figure 11) produces a unique pattern at any depth, characterized by an increase of  $V_p$  velocities (e.g., 6.3 to 6.8 at 20–25 km depth) as the dipping angle increases. Future studies may show if these singular patterns might be used to better constrain the interpretation of seismic profiles.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at <http://www.mdpi.com/2075-163X/10/1/26/s1>.

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