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2	Evidence of magma activation beneath the Lunayyir basaltic field (Saudi
3	Arabia) from attenuation tomography
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5	Ivan Koulakov <sup>1,2</sup> (ivan.science@gmail.com, corresponding author),
6	Sami El Khrepy <sup>3,4</sup> (k_sami11@yahoo.com),
7	Nassir Al-Arifi <sup>3</sup> (nalarifi@ksu.edu.sa),
8	Ilya Sychev <sup>1</sup> (ilya.sychev@gmail.com)
9	Pavel Kuznetsov <sup>1</sup> (kuznecov.p.u@gmail.com)
10	
11	1. Trofimuk Institute of Petroleum Geology and Geophysics SB RAS, Prospekt Koptyuga, 3,
12	630090, Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, ,
13	2. Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia, Pirogova 2, 630090, Novosibirsk,
14	Russia
15	3. King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, P.O. Box 2455, Riyadh 11451, Saudi
16	Arabia.
17	4. National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, NRIAG, 11421, Helwan,
18	Egypt.
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### 26 Evidence of magma activation beneath the Lunayyir basaltic field (Saudi

# 27 Arabia) from attenuation tomography

28 Ivan Koulakov, Sami El Khrepy, Nassir Al-Arifi, Ilya Sychev, and Pavel Kuznetsov

29

30 Abstract

31 We present a seismic attenuation model for the crust beneath the Cenozoic basaltic field of 32 Lunayyir (western Saudi Arabia), where a strong seismic swarm occurred in 2009. The tomography inversion uses the envelope shape of the S-wave seismograms from over 300 strong 33 34 events (M>3.5). The resulting attenuation structures appear to be consistent with the distribution 35 of seismic velocities. The obtained 3D attenuation model distinguishes the low-attenuation zones 36 down to 5 km depth corresponding to the rigid basaltic cover. At greater depths, we detect a 37 high-attenuation anomaly coinciding with the main seismicity cluster. We propose that this zone 38 corresponds to the upper part of the conduit area ascending from deeper magma sources. 39 According to the distributions of local events, fluids and melts from this conduit appear to reach 40 a depth of  $\sim 2$  km, but were not able to reach the surface and cause the eruption in 2009. 41 42 Key words: Seismic Attenuation, Harrat Lunayyir, Seismicity Swarm, Saudi Arabia, Magma 43 Conduit 44 45 1. Introduction. 46 The western part of the Arabian Peninsula is characterized by a wide distribution of Cenozoic basaltic fields (harrats). Some of these fields are still active and present a real eruption 47 potential. During the human history time there were several records of eruptions occurred within 48 49 the harrats of Saudi Arabia and Yemen (e.g., *Camp et al.*, 1987). The harrats are located close to 50 the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula, and their appearance is thought to be linked to the 51 rifting of the Red Sea (e.g., *Cochran, Martinez*, 1988). However, the role that the opening of the

52 Red Sea played in the origination of Lunayyir and other harrats appears to be rather complex.

53 Unlike the southern Red Sea segment, which has a clear ocean-type spreading, the extension of 54 the northern segment appears to result from the stretching of the continental crust at a rate of  $\sim 10$ 55 mm/year (Cochran, Karner, 2007). According to regional tomography studies (e.g., Chang et al., 56 2011), no low-velocity anomalies, which could be associated with hot areas, have been observed 57 beneath the Red Sea. Instead, negative seismic anomalies align beneath the western part of the 58 Arabian plate exactly where the volcanic fields are located. These observations may give 59 arguments for the passive character of rifting in the Northern Red Sea. However the lithosphere 60 extension may cause the asthenosphere upwelling beneath the coastal areas that is responsible for 61 the volcanic activity.

Lunavyir is one of the youngest harrats in Saudi Arabia (less than 1 Ma, *Pallister et al.* 62 2010), and it is small relative to other Cenozoic basaltic fields in the Arabian Peninsula. In 63 Lunayyir, recent basalts cover an area that is over 3500 km<sup>2</sup> in size (Figure 1b). The last eruption 64 65 in this area occurred approximately 1000 years ago (*Camp et al.*, 1987); however, elevated groundwater temperatures and the existence of fumaroles indicate that strong thermal activities 66 67 still occur in this zone (e.g., *Al-Dayel*, 1988). This volcanic field is considered a probable 68 candidate for the next eruption. Before 2009, weak to moderate seismicity mostly associated 69 with tectonic crustal displacements in the Red Sea and Gulf of Agaba was observed in this area 70 (e.g., *El-Isa and Al-Shanti*, 1989; *Al-Amri*, 1995). In April-July 2009, a strong swarm of over 71 30,000 earthquakes reaching a magnitude of 5.4 occurred in the Lunavvir area. Most of these 72 events were confined to have been oriented along a NNW-SSE line that was approximately 20 73 km long in the northern part of the Harrat (Figure 1b). This seismicity included both high- and 74 low-frequency events (*Pallister et al.*, 2010) that might indicate the potential volcanic nature of 75 this swarm. This hypothesis was supported by models based on InSAR and geodetic data 76 developed by *Baer and Hamiel*, (2010) who proposed a vertical dyke intrusion.

77 Questions relating to the origin of this swarm and the possible continuation of these processes lead to vital discussions in the scientific community. Studying the deep structure 78 79 beneath the Lunayyir area can greatly help with understanding these problems. The spatial and 80 temporal distributions of the seismicity and earthquake mechanisms were carefully studied by 81 Zobin et al., (2013). They compared the main seismic activity features to several volcanoes 82 around the world and concluded that a further volcanic awaking was not plausible for the 83 Lunayyir area. However, most other authors studying different aspects of this problem have 84 suggested future volcanic intrusions were likely. In particular, the recent seismic tomography 85 study by Hansen et al. (2013) discovered a high P-velocity body that was interpreted as an area 86 with repeated magmatic intrusions. This result was obtained based on the accurate, double-87 difference location of over 5000 seismic events and the tomographic inversion of P-wave arrival 88 times from local earthquakes. At the same time, the local earthquake tomography suffered a 89 trade-off between the velocity structure and the source parameters, which should be 90 simultaneously determined during the inversion. With highly concentrated source locations, such 91 as those found beneath the Lunayyir area, the velocity around the seismicity cluster might appear 92 to be poorly resolved because of trade-offs among the seismic velocity, origin time and event 93 depth. When only P-data are used, the situation worsens. Therefore, we propose that the results 94 of *Hansen et al.* (2013) should be carefully tested in independent studies using different methods. 95 In this study, we present attenuation tomography results for the same area studied by 96 Hansen et al. (2013). The advantage of attenuation tomography over the velocity local 97 earthquake tomography is that it addresses the linearized inverse problem, which affects neither 98 the source localization nor the ray paths and requires only one inversion iteration. For slightly 99 mislocated sources, the location of the retrieved attenuation patterns can be slightly biased; 100 however, this effect generally appears minor during interpretation. In addition, the attenuation 101 parameters are more sensitive to the fracture distribution and liquid phase content (fluids and 102 melts), which seem to be important for determining the origin of the Lunayyir activation.

103 Seismic tomography is a powerful tool for studying magmatic sources beneath volcanic 104 areas (see, for example, overviews in Lees, 2007 and Koulakov, 2013, which present several 105 successful examples of tomography studies of volcanoes). Attenuation tomography has been 106 successfully used in many studies of crustal and mantle structures. Regional attenuation 107 structures in the mantle beneath the Arabian plate surrounding the studied region were 108 investigated together with Pn and Sn velocities by *Al-Damegh et al.*, (2004). They found a 109 presence of a large mantle anomaly beneath western Arabia which is interpreted as zone of 110 thinner lithosphere and hot asthenosphere. The attenuation tomography was used for studying 111 crustal structures beneath volcanoes in different regions using active source data, such as in case 112 of Medicine Lake in California Evans and Zucca (1988), and passive source data, including 113 Loma Prieta (Lees and Lindley, 1994), Etna (Martínez-Arévalo et al., 2005), Central Andes 114 (Shurr et al., 2003, Koulakov et al., 2006), and Kilauea (Hansen et al., 2004). In case of dormant 115 volcanoes, these studies generally identified lower attenuation zones beneath volcanoes, whereas 116 in cases of active volcanoes, they found contrasted patterns of higher attenuation. Most of these 117 studies used a technique based on retrieving t\* by analyzing waveforms around P-wave arrivals. 118 The t\* values of the S-waves at different frequencies were used in some studies, such as the 119 tomographic inversion of the North-Anatolian fault (*Koulakov et al.*, 2010). A similar approach 120 was used in the present study; however, instead of using t\*, we estimated the attenuation 121 parameter by analyzing the envelope shape of the S-wave signal, as proposed in the classic work 122 by Aki and Chouet (1975). In this study, we provide the seismic attenuation distribution beneath 123 the Lunayyir area, which helps us understand the origin of recent seismic activities.

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#### 2. Data and Algorithms

126 After the beginning of the seismic crisis in April 2009, a seismic network was installed in 127 the Lunayyir area by the King Abdulaziz City of Science and Technology (KACST), King Saud 128 University (KSU), and the Saudi Geological Survey (SGS). Data for over 5700 events using 129 autopicked P-arrival times were used by Hansen et al. (2013). In this study, we manually re-130 analyzed the same waveform data. We selected 1879 strong events with the magnitudes above 131 3.2 and identified 8904 P- and 10579 S-phases for most of these events at the available stations, 132 which enabled the robust locating of the sources. It is interesting there were slightly more S-133 phases than P-phases, which can be explained by the clearer and stronger S-wave signal. These 134 data were used to run a simultaneous tomographic inversion for P- and S-velocities and source 135 locations based on the iterative LOTOS algorithms (Koulakov, 2009). The results of the velocity 136 inversion are described in details in (*Koulakov et al.*, 2014). The resulting velocity model, which is presented in Figure 2, is used in this study as the background model for the attenuation 137 138 tomography.

139 After performing the source locations, we analyzed the seismograms of every source-140 receiver pair to estimate the attenuation parameters of each ray. We used the basic attenuation 141 estimation principles proposed in the classic work of Aki and Chouet (1975). The physical 142 background of the method is schematically illustrated in Figure 3. We are studying the intrinsic 143 attenuation, which is responsible for conversion of a part of the seismic energy into the heat and 144 leads to the decrease of the amplitude of seismic signal on the seismogram. However direct 145 deriving the attenuation values from measurement of the amplitude of seismic signal is an 146 ambiguous task, because the amplitude may be also affected by a variety of different factors, 147 such as source characteristics, geometrical spreading, focusing/defocusing, scattering, reflections 148 etc. Studying the properties of seismic signal following the main wave arrival (seismic coda) 149 provides more information on the medium intrinsic attenuation. For example, striking a piece of 150 metal with low attenuation yields a sound that is affected by the existence of numerous skaters 151 and reflectors that can be heard for a rather long time (long flat coda). Alternatively, sound from 152 a highly attenuated wooden balk would be much shorter (short coda). When studying the earth 153 structures, it is presumed that the medium contains a large amount of scatters which are more or 154 less uniformly distributed throughout the space (hatches in Figure 3). In this case, besides the

155 direct wave there are infinite number of secondary scattering waves which compose the coda.

156 The properties of the coda depend on the properties of the medium in which the main and

scattered waves propagate. In case of highly attenuated medium (e.g., corresponding to station B
in Figure 3) more energy of the seismic waves will be converted into the heat and this causes
stronger decay of the envelop amplitude compared to the direct wave. For the low-attenuation

160 medium (case of station A) the coda decrement is longer. *Aki and Chouet* (1975) approximated

161 the envelope for seismic code after the arrival of the main wave using an exponential dependence:

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$$A(f,t) = t^{-\beta} A_0 \exp(\frac{-\pi f t}{Q(f)})$$
 (1)

163 where *t* is travel time,  $A_0$  is the signal amplitude in the source area, *f* is its frequency, and 164 Q(f) is a quality factor (inverse of the attenuation). Figure 4A shows a real seismogram 165 corresponding to the horizontal component filtered at 3 Hz. The envelope of the waveform is 166 shown in Figure 4B. Applying a logarithmic transformation and then smoothing (central moving 167 average in a 2-s interval) provides the curve shown in Figure 4C, which can be approximated 168 using a straight line directly associated to the attenuation:

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$$\ln(A(f,t)) + \beta \ln(t) = \ln(A_0) - \frac{-\pi ft}{Q(f)}$$
 (2)

170 The effect of geometrical spreading can be easily estimated using existing seismic ray 171 parameters in the existing velocity model. Thus, the slope of the fit line shown in Figure 4C is proportional to the attenuation value, 1/Q. For example, a gentle slope (long code) indicates a 172 173 high-quality factor and low attenuation. To avoid small numbers in the output from the 174 tomography inversion, we use the inverse of the attenuation multiplied by 1000. Because of the 175 uncertainty in  $A_0$ , we cannot obtain an absolute value for the quality factor. Therefore, we use 176 the average estimated values as a reference for the quality factor. We computed the relative 177 positive and negative deviations in the quality factor for the inversion with respect to the 178 reference value.

179 In the analysis of seismograms, we consider a 10-s lapse window starting at 1 s after the 180 arrival of the S-phase. This is different of a common way for computing the slope of the Q-coda 181 which is usually based on the two travel times of the S-wave as a starting point (e.g., Aki, 1980, 182 *Rautian and Khalturin*, 1979). We could not use the traditional definition of coda because for 183 most events the signal was not very strong. After the moment of two S-travel times, the low 184 signal/noise ratio made the determinations of the coda characteristics very unstable. The delay of 185 1 s seems to us optimal to start the lapse window as corresponding to the maximum amplitude of 186 the direct waves. Just after the first arrival, the shape of the seismogram is dependent on the 187 source properties and usually not reaches the maximum immediately. In our experience, the best 188 exponential approximation for the coda decrement can be obtained for the window starting close 189 to the moment of maximum of the direct wave. Comparing the amplitudes of direct and 190 secondary waves seems to be more stable than the analysis of only secondary waves, which are 191 strongly affected by many different factors (such as distribution of scatters). We made several 192 attempts of using other criteria for defining the start of the lapse times (such as two S-times) but 193 obtained unstable solutions which were inconsistent for different frequencies. In this sense, here 194 we implement not commonly used estimate for slope of the O-coda, but the measurement of how 195 large is the S-wave packet compared to the coda waves (see for a wide discussion about this 196 topic in Sato and Fehler, (1998) and Gusev and Abubakirov, (1999)). In other word, this Q-coda 197 parameter matches more to the measure of the S-wave envelope broadening than directly to the 198 estimation of the attenuation parameter along the ray path.

The data were independently processed across narrow-band-filtered seismograms with six different frequencies: 0.75, 1.50, 3, 6, 12 and 24 Hz. The processing results were carefully visually inspected for each ray. As a result, many data were rejected for not providing a clear linear approximation; only 4326 values had a sufficiently high quality for the inversion.
The attenuation tomographic inversion algorithm was generally identical to the first

204 iteration step of the LOTOS code (*Koulakov*, 2009), which was initially designed for travel time

205 passive source tomography. In our case, the source locations were obtained at a previous step of 206 velocity tomography and remained unchanged when computing the attenuation. The rays were 207 constructed using a bending ray tracer in the previously constructed 3D S-velocity model based 208 on the travel time tomography (same as shown in Figure 2). Note that the velocity model may 209 affect the locations of sources. However, we performed the attenuation reconstructions using 210 different velocity models and found that changes in the velocity model have minor effect upon 211 the computed attenuation models. An example of the attenuation model derived based on the 1D 212 velocity distribution is shown in Figure 5. It can be seen that the locations of sources is slightly 213 different of those in the main model (Figure 6), which is based on the best 3D velocity model, 214 but the configuration of the main attenuation patterns looks similar in these two cases. In this 215 sense, the attenuation results appear to be not strongly dependent on the reference velocity 216 models.

217 The ray coverage was used to construct a parameterization grid with nodes distributed 218 according to the data density. The horizontal grid spacing was 2 km; in the vertical direction, the 219 distances between nodes depended on the ray coverage and were not smaller than 0.5 km. 220 Between the nodes, the velocity was linearly interpolated. To reduce the grid dependency of the 221 results, we performed the inversion for four grids with different basic orientations and then 222 average the computed models and then compute the average model based on the uniform mesh. The first derivative matrix,  $A_{ii}$ , represents the numerically computed effect of unit variation in 223 224 the *i*-th node upon the cumulative attenuation of the *j*-th ray for rays traced in the 3D model. 225 This matrix was inverted using the LSQR algorithm (*Paige and Saunders*, 1982). This algorithm 226 uses only non-zero matrix elements and performs the iterative line-by-line proceeding of the 227 matrix. This allows solving large linear equation systems using modest computing resources. 228 The solution stability was controlled using an additional matrix block to damp the difference 229 between neighboring nodes, which allows for the smoothing of the model.

230 The model resolution was checked using the synthetic tests presented in Figure 7. In the 231 map view, the synthetic model has four positive and negative anomalies 6×6 km in size that 232 change signs at a depth of 6 km. The inversion provides a fair reconstruction of the general 233 locations of these anomalies; however, their outside contours look deformed, and there is some 234 leakage of anomalies to the initially homogeneous areas. Such distortions should be accounted 235 for when interpreting the observed data inversion results. Notably, the attenuation tomography 236 provides a much more stable reconstruction than expected when using travel time data from 237 passive sources.

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### **3.** Discussion of the results.

240 A comparison of the results obtained using three different frequencies is presented in 241 Figure 8. It can be seen that for the shallower section the results at different frequencies appear 242 to be fairly similar: in the central part we observe low-attenuation anomaly surrounded by 243 prominent high attenuation patterns. For the deeper section, the difference appears to be more 244 important. It might be partly due to different sensitivity of attenuation parameters at different 245 frequencies. It should also be noted, that based on the visual analysis of data, the quality of 246 attenuation retrieval at 3Hz was much higher than in the cases of other frequencies. That is why, 247 the model corresponding to 3 Hz frequency was selected as the main result of this study.

Figure 6 shows the resulting attenuation distributions in the vertical and horizontal sections based on data filtered at 3 Hz. For reference, the basaltic flow limits are shown in the horizontal sections. The most reliable results were obtained in the northern part of the study area; the anomalies in the southernmost parts should be interpreted prudently. This result can be

252 compared with seismic velocities obtained earlier. It is hard to make the comparison with the P-

velocity model computed by Hansen et al., (2013) because they only presented absolute

velocities in parallel vertical S-N sections located close to each other. In section 2, which

roughly correspond to these profiles, our model demonstrates a transition from low attenuation to

the north to high attenuation to the south. This seems to be consistent with high- and low-velocity anomalies in the Hansen et al. (2013) model. Much clearer correspondence is observed with the velocity model by Koulakov et al., (2014) which is presented in Figure 2. Especially good fit with the attenuation is achieved for the Vp/Vs ratio which is most sensitive to the distributions of fluids and melts. The areas of higher Vp/Vs ratio generally match to the areas of high attenuation and vice versa. The consistency of these models confirms the robustness of the derived seismic models.

263 The attenuation patterns appear to match with the some geological units. For the 2-kmdeep shallow section, the northern boundary of the basaltic field corresponds to the transition 264 265 between high and low attenuations. Areas with low attenuation (high quality factors) correspond 266 to rigid igneous rocks in the harrat, whereas "red" high-attenuation areas contain softer 267 sediments. Although the high attenuation areas to the east and south of the study area are less 268 robustly resolved, they also tend to be located near the boundary of or outside the basaltic field. 269 In the 10-km-deep section, the basaltic field boundary transitions remain unchanged from 270 the shallow section. However, the brightest feature at this depth was a prominent, high-271 attenuation anomaly that coincides with the seismicity distribution. Note that the elongated "tale" 272 of this anomaly expanded to the SE direction possibly caused by radial smearing which may 273 disturb the model, as seen in the synthetic tests (Figure 7). We see that the upper limit of this 274 high-attenuation anomaly is approximately at 6 km depth for both vertical sections. The 275 synthetic tests using the checkerboard models have a sign transition at the same depth, which 276 indicates that these depth estimates are reliable. In the WE section, the seismicity in the narrow 277 cluster is mostly located within this anomaly; however, a portion of it expands into the upper 278 low-attenuation area. In the NS section, the earthquake distribution is more scattered; however, 279 the lower limit of the seismicity cluster clearly dips southward. In the northern part, most of 280 events occur above 7 km in depth, while the events observed in the southern part occur at depths

of 20 km and below. This section shows the general fit for the lower limit of the seismicityclusters with high attenuation.

283 We propose that the local high-attenuation anomaly beneath the central part of the study 284 area may represent a conduit zone that can bring fluids and melts from deeper sources. The 285 seismicity during the Lunayyir crisis in 2009 may have been triggered by ascending fluids and/or 286 melts reaching the bottom of the rigid, uppermost layer of the solid basaltic rocks. The presence 287 of some seismicity in this low-attenuation layer above the transition boundary indicates that the 288 pressure in the conduit zone produced cracks in the upper layer but was insufficient to fracture 289 the layer to the surface. It can be seen that the seismicity stopped at an approximate depth of 2 290 km. It may be speculated that the rigid cover prevented a new eruption in the Harrat Lunavvir. 291 However, the facts all indicate the magma sources are still active and that these sources may find 292 a weaker part of the crust in the future to create a conduit to the surface.

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**4.** Conclusions

We constructed a 3D model of the seismic attenuation distribution in the crust beneath the Harrat Lunayyir. Although less attenuation data were used compared to the travel time data used by *Hansen et al.* (2013), we achieved a sufficient resolution thanks to the absence of typical trade-offs between the source and model parameters existing for passive source travel time tomography.

The derived model clearly links to the observed geological features and allows the interpretation for the recent seismicity crisis in the Harrat Lunayyir. In the shallow layers, we identified the contrast between the low-attenuation layer within the basalt field and the highattenuation zones in the surrounding the sedimentary basins. Below 6 km, we found a prominent high-attenuation zone that perfectly confines the narrow seismicity cluster observed in 2009. We propose that this high-attenuation pattern represents the upper portion of a conduit bringing fluids and/or melts from deep sources. Based on the derived attenuation model and seismicity

distribution analyses, we conclude that this conduit most likely reached the depth of 6 km
corresponding to the bottom of a rigid layer which is composed of basalts erupted during
previous eruptions. The elevated pressure caused by the conduit process might create cracks
within the rigid layer; however, it was insufficient to fracture fully to the surface. In this sense,
this basaltic lid saved the area from a new eruption that may occur if the conduit discovers a
weaker part of the crust to ascend.

The accumulated seismic records contain significant information on the seismic properties of this activated area, and they are still not fully analyzed. Deriving the S-velocity model and assessing the Vp/Vs distribution will be particularly important and is the next step of our study.

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## 401 Figure captions:

- 402 Figure 1. Study region in the framework of regional tectonics and data distribution. A.
- 403 Topographic map of the Arabian Peninsula. The dotted line indicates the boundary between
- 404 the Arabian Shield and the Arabian Platform. The reddish spots mark the Cenozoic basalic
- 405 fields (harrats) with their activity ages. The black rectangle is the location of the Harrat

- 406 Lunayyir. B. Zoom in of the study area. The triangles show the seismic stations, and the407 yellow dots mark the event locations used in this study.
- 408 Figure 2. Velocity model (P-, S-anomalies and Vp/Vs ratio) and local source hypocenters (black

409 dots) from Koulakov et al. (2014) in two vertical sections with the same locations as shown

- 410 in Figure 7. This model and source coordinates were used to construct the rays for the
- 411 attenuation tomography in this study.
- 412 Figure 3. Schematic representation of the basic principle used for the attenuation inversion in this413 study. Hatches are the scatters which are roughly uniformly distributed within the study
- 414 area. Red and blue indicate zones of high and low attenuation, respectively. Star is a source;
- triangles are the receivers; black lines are the direct and scattered rays between source and
- 416 receivers. Above: schematic seismograms recorded at stations A and B corresponding to
- 417 low and high attenuation areas. Dotted lines are the envelopes of the seismograms. Lines
- 418 indicated with S and S+1s mark the arrival time of the S-wave and 1 second later point.
- 419 Figure 4. Workflow for the data analysis. A. Initial seismogram is narrow-band filtered at 3 Hz.
- 420 The red lines indicate the analyzed time interval. B. An envelope of absolute deviations in
- 421 the seismogram. C. Logarithmic transformation of the envelope. The red line indicates the
- 422 linear approximation with the best fit. The slope of this line was then converted into the
- 423 quality factor.
- 424 Figure 5. Attenuation distributions and source locations in vertical sections based on the 1D

425 velocity model. This model can be compared with the main model in Figure 6 derived in

426 the 3D model. Locations of the profiles are shown in Figure 6.

- 427 Figure 6. Resulting 3D distribution of the attenuation in four horizontal and two vertical sections.
- 428 The dots indicate seismic events near the sections. The triangles are the seismic stations.
- 429 The black line is the boundary of the basaltic field.
- 430 Figure 7. Results of synthetic modeling for the attenuation tomography. Black lines indicate the
- 431 limits of the synthetic anomalies. At 6 km depth, the anomalies change the sign. Triangles

- 432 indicate the seismic stations. The contour of the basalt fields is given by brown line for the433 reference.
- 434 Figure 8. Comparison of the inversion results obtained for the data corresponding to three
- 435 frequencies: 1.5, 3 and 6 Hz. The results are presented for 2 km and 10 km depth. The
- 436 triangles are the seismic stations. The black line is the boundary of the basaltic field.
- 437



Figure 1. Study region in the framework of regional tectonics and data distribution. A. Topographic map of the Arabian Peninsula. The dotted line indicates the boundary between the Arabian Shield and the Arabian Platform. The reddish spots mark the Cenozoic basalic fields (harrats) with their activity ages. The black rectangle is the location of the Harrat Lunayyir. B. Zoom in of the study area. The triangles show the seismic stations, and the yellow dots mark the event locations used in this study.



Figure 2. Velocity model (P-, S-anomalies and Vp/Vs ratio) and local source hypocenters (black dots) from Koulakov et al. (2014) in two vertical sections with the same locations as shown in Figure 7. This model and source coordinates were used to construct the rays for the attenuation tomography in this study.



Figure 3. Schematic representation of the basic principle used for the attenuation inversion in this study. Hatches are the scatters which are roughly uniformly distributed within the study area. Red and blue indicate zones of high and low attenuation, respectively. Star is a source; triangles are the receivers; black lines are the direct and scattered rays between source and receivers. Above: schematic seismograms recorded at stations A and B corresponding to low and high attenuation areas. Dotted lines are the envelopes of the seismograms. Lines indicated with S and S+1s mark the arrival time of the S-wave and 1 second later point.



Figure 4. Workflow for the data analysis. A. Initial seismogram is narrow-band filtered at 3 Hz. The red lines indicate the analyzed time interval. B. An envelope of absolute deviations in the seismogram. C. Logarithmic transformation of the envelope. The red line indicates the linear approximation with the best fit. The slope of this line was then converted into the quality factor.



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