A SEISMIC STUDY OF THE PLATE BOUNDARY ENVIRONMENT OF SOUTHEAST TURKEY AND NORTHWEST SYRIA

By crustal thickness. Results of this study suggest that plate-boundary fault triple junctions are

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ABSTRACT

The area of intersection of the African, Anatolian, and Arabian plates in southeastern Turkey is an active area of research. Due to the complexity of the convergence and intersection of the three plates many questions concerning the region still remain. This report concerns a data set from this complex area built of both existing and new data that include regional fault-plane solutions, structural maps, topographic maps, event-depth cross sections, and moho depths.

This study involves the systematic application of the results of analysis of this data set to the region in order to better constrain and assess knowledge of faults, topographic structures, and crustal thickness. Results of this study suggest that plate-boundary fault triple junctions are inherently unstable, diffuse, and complex, and therefore are unable to be uniquely located. This study identifies an actively extruding wedge within the Anatolian plate whose kinematic nature closely resembles that of Anatolia itself. This study also identifies the Iskenderun block as a large promontory of the African Plate which is being torn off to produce a plate fragment roughly the size of Delaware. The northern convergence of Africa and the northern convergence of Anatolia are determined to both play a role in the kinematics of the Iskenderun block.

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