



Earthquake-induced deformation of Earth dam by SAR Interferometry

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Earthquake-induced deformation estimation of earth dam by multitemporal SAR interferometry: the Mornos Dam case (Central Greece)

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with millimeter precision. In the previous years, in order to study the structural deformation of Mornos dam four survey campaigns from 2002–2004 were carried out (Gikas et al., 2005). In this paper the study of the surface deformation, occurring in the region of the Mornos dam and the dam itself which is based on the application of Differential Radar Interferometry and SVD (Singular Value Decomposition) methodologies are presented. Our study is focused on the period of 1992–2000 and 2003–2010, exploiting AMI/ERS-1 & 2 and ASAR/ENVISAT, ascending and descending acquisitions. The availability of these ascending/descending data set allows us to discriminate the vertical and East–West displacement components as well. The importance of the Mornos dam, being the provider of reservoir of potable water to the greater metropolitan area of Athens, supporting 4.5 million people daily along with the fact that it is located in a seismically active area was the motivation of the current study.

2 The test site

2.1 Geological setting

Mornos river with a total length of 77 km, crosses the central mainland Greece. The sources are located on the southern slopes of Oiti, descending towards the south draining the basin located between Giona, Vardousion and Lidoriki and flows into the limits of the Gulf of Corinth and Patras, west of Nafpaktos.

The artificial lake of Mornos (Fig. 1), 7 km west of Lidoriki was built to meet the ever growing needs for water supply of Athens. The total surface of the lake, which is the average level, is about 15.5 km² making it the ninth largest artificial lake in Greece.

The main geological formations of the area belong to the External Hellenides, namely the Parnassos-Giona, Vardousia and Pindos geotectonic units. The area in which the dam was constructed consists exclusively of flysch, formation of Pindos unity.

The right (north) dam's abutment is characterized by low-grade formations due to intense tectonism. In the left (south) abutment, dominated by sandstones (flysch sand-

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rupture or significant surface deformation based on field work was observed (Briole et al., 2008).

3.4 The December 2008 Amfiklia earthquake

On the 13 December 2008, 08:27 GMT, an earthquake measuring $5.1 M_w$ occurred at about 10 km SE of the town of Lamia in central Greece (Fig. 4a), close to the small town of Amfiklia and 40 km NE of Mornos Lake. Despite its moderate magnitude the earthquake caused minor damage (mostly cracks and plaster falls) in Amfiklia and nearby villages. Limited landslides were also observed and as a consequence traffic in one country road was interrupted for a few hours. Epicenters of this small sequence are gathered on top of the south facing slope of the topographic high to the north of Amfiklia. Known large faults have been mapped to the north and dip to the north. In this frame, the 2008 sequence appears to be related to a small, antithetic to the known large faults, structure that bounds the Gravia–Amfiklia depression to the north (Ganas and Papoulia, 2000; Roberts and Ganas, 2000).

3.5 The January 2010 Efpalion earthquake

On 18 January 2010, 15:56 UTC, an $5.1 M_w$ (National Observatory of Athens; NOA) earthquake occurred near the town of Efpalion (western Gulf of Corinth, Greece) (Fig. 4a), about 10 km to the east of Nafpaktos, along the north coast of the Gulf and 20 km SSW of Mornos Dam. Another strong event occurred on 22 January 2010, 00:46 UTC with $5.1 M_w$ (NOA) approximately 3 km to the NE of the first event. The two largest events were accompanied by a sequence of aftershocks which lasted almost six months. Both $M5+$ shocks exhibited normal faulting along \sim E–W trending planes. The first event ruptured a blind, north-dipping fault, accommodating north–south extension of the Western Gulf of Corinth. The dip direction of the second event is rather unclear, although a south dip plane is weakly imaged in the post-22 January 2010 aftershock distribution (Sokos et al., 2010b).

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4 SAR data used and interferometric processing

At the present work archived data from AMI (Active Microwave Instrument) and ASAR (Advanced Synthetic Aperture Radar) active sensors mounted on ERS-1 & 2 and ENVISAT satellites operated by European Space Agency (ESA) were exploited for the interferometric analysis.

A total number of 128 Single Look Complex (SLC) acquisitions of mode I2 (incidence angle $\sim 23^\circ$), with VV polarization operating in C-band, covering an area of 100 km by 100 km were used. Among them, for the period 1992–2000, a number of 20 ascending and 40 descending acquisitions were acquired by AMI active sensor. Moreover, for the period of 2003–2010, a number of 29 ascending and 39 descending acquisitions were acquired from ASAR active sensor. High accuracy orbital data from DELFT Institute (NL) for Earth-Oriented Space Research (DEOS) (Scharoo and Visser, 1998) were obtained for ERS-1 & 2 satellites. Moreover, high accuracy orbital data from Doppler Orbitography and Radio-positioning Integrated by Satellite (DORIS) instrument were obtained for ENVISAT satellite. The topographic phase was simulated based on SRTM V3 DEM of approximate 90 m spatial resolution.

In order to relate the pattern of the deformation with possible sources of deformations, seismological data for the period 1992–2010 for the Mornos region and the wider area, which are available from the website of European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) and the Institute of Geodynamics, National Observatory of Athens (NOA) as well as data of the water level of the Mornos artificial Lake given by the Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP SA) were used.

In the present study we have applied the DInSAR technique, which is based on exploiting the phase difference (interferogram) between pairs of SAR observations acquired at different time slots; this allow us to extract information of the displacements projected to the radar Line Of Sight (Gabriel et al., 1989; Massonnet et al., 1993). Particularly, the Small Baseline Subset methodology (Berardino et al., 2002) that relies on an appropriate combination of the DInSAR interferograms by using subsequently

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acquired SAR data, was used. Moreover, to reveal the deformation history, Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) method was also applied (Berardino et al., 2002; Usai, 2002). The SVD method connects independent subsets of SAR acquisitions separated by large spatial baselines, thus increasing the number of data used for the analysis of the area of interest (Manzo et al., 2005). Gamma processing software was used for processing and manipulating SAR data (Wegmuller et al., 1998) ran at Linux operated system.

Two separate processing procedures were carried out for AMI and ASAR datasets. All the interferometric pairs were multilooked by a factor of 1 in range and 5 in azimuth direction. The data set was co-registered to a single master scene, obtaining co-registration accuracies for the slaves less than 0.06 pixels in range and 0.2 pixels in azimuth. A subset of the full image frame was selected, by cropping the co-registered scenes to the Area of Interest (AOI).

The topographic component was removed to produce the differential interferograms (referred as interferograms hereafter). The interferometric pairs are characterized by small spatial and temporal baselines in order to limit the noise components usually referred to as decorrelation phenomena (Zebker and Villasenor, 1992). For the period of AMI acquisitions (1992–2000), spatial perpendicular baselines up to 300 m and temporal baselines up to 3 years for the ascending as well as up to 250 m and up to 2 years for the descending track were selected to form a sufficient network. For the period of ASAR acquisitions (2003–2010), spatial perpendicular baselines up to 300 m and temporal baselines up to 3 years for the ascending as well as up to 300 m and up to 2 years for the descending track were selected (Fig. 5). Particularly, 41 AMI interferograms were produced from the ascending and 134 from the descending track. Moreover, 71 ASAR interferograms were produced from the ascending and 171 from the descending track. The interferograms were further analyzed and filtered using adaptive filters (Goldstein and Werner, 1998).

The interferograms were unwrapped using the minimum cost-flow algorithm (Constatini, 1998). The threshold for the average coherence was set to 0.3. The reference point

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was carefully selected in order to avoid biases which can lead to shifts in the deformation patterns. It was located on stable ground 7 km East–Northeast of the dam area, in Lidoriki village, near LIDO permanent GPS station from Corinth Rift Laboratory network – CRL (<http://crlab.eu>). The velocity of LIDO for east, north and up components is 11.3, 0.3 and -0.3 mm yr^{-1} respectively (<http://ngpros.space.noa.gr>). The estimation of the temporal evolution of the deformation is calculated by using a weighted least-squares algorithm that minimizes the sum of squared weighted residual phases.

5 Interferometric results and temporal comparison with relevant seismic events

The final products were projected to Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection and superimposed over the shaded relief.

Due to the fact that the sensor incidence angle is $\sim 23^\circ$ and the LOS vector is more sensitive to vertical displacement when we refer to uplifting/subsidence in single track solutions, we make the assumption that the direction of deformation is vertical. Moreover, negative velocities do not necessarily represent subsidence, but possibly slower rates towards the satellite respecting the reference point.

5.1 Temporal ground deformation for period 1992–2000, during AMI acquisitions

The deformation maps of ascending (Fig. 6a) and descending (Fig. 6b) tracks as well as the time series deformation measurements for specific points on the dam are presented herein.

In Fig. 6a it is indicated that generally the relative velocities towards and away from the satellite along the LOS, varied between maximum values of $+10$ and -10 mm yr^{-1} , respectively. Particularly, an area along the lake shore “A” across from Lidoriki village was uplifting 5 mm yr^{-1} while higher to the mountain Vardousia a subsidence of 2 mm yr^{-1} was measured. Moreover, there is an area at the Giona Mountain “B” that

was subsiding up to 8 mm yr^{-1} and perhaps it is due to landslide phenomena. Focusing on the dam the left – North abutment seem stable with a slight uplift towards the dam in the range of 2 mm yr^{-1} , while the right – South abutment and the upstream side of the dam were considered stable.

In Fig. 6b the relative velocities towards and away from the satellite along the LOS varied between maximum values of $+12$ and -12 mm yr^{-1} , respectively. Particularly an area along the foothills of Giona Mountain “A” remains stable but at higher altitudes an uplift of about 3 to 5 mm yr^{-1} is observed. Moreover there is an area “B” at the Vardousia Mountain subsiding 4 to 6 mm yr^{-1} . Focusing on the area of the dam, both the abutments are characterised as stable with a small subsidence of 1 mm yr^{-1} while the downstream side of the dam is subsiding 7 mm yr^{-1} .

Time series analysis diagrams by means of SVD for specific point targets (Fig. 7) on the downstream side of the dam were plotted (Fig. 8). We selected the downstream side because of the orientation (westward) and the more coherence pixel and this is because when the satellite travels in a descending orbit, views a target area looking westward (in right-looking mode).

In Fig. 8, the deformation pattern of all points is similar. However, the deformation rate is directly related to the level of the artificial lake. During specific time periods, where the level of the artificial lake is increasing, either because of rainfall or due to the water drained from Evinos dam, the (Mornos) dam was subsiding, while during periods where the level of the lake is reduced, the dam was uplifting. However, during the period from 3 June 1995 to 17 September 1995 (indicated by black circle) the dam was expected to remain stable due to the constant level of the lake but instead it presented a deformation of -3 cm overall. This effect was probably due to the strong Aigion earthquake ($6.2 M_w$) occurred on 15 June 1995 and may affected locally the response of the dam. The correlation between the level of the artificial lake and the deformation in the dam is about 0.66 .

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and ENVISAT ASAR scenes in order to observe the surface deformation of the Mornos dam as well as the behavior of the dam in relation to possible sources of deformation such as seismic events and artificial lake level. Our results show that SAR interferometry allows mapping of very local displacements at the dam as well as displacements on a regional scale around the reservoir. Specifically the maximum variation of the deformation of dam for the period 1993–2000 are about 7 cm while for the period 2003–2010 are about 4 cm. As regards the deformation in the dam the behavior of the dam is affected mainly by the water level and secondary by specific seismic events. As far as the correlation between water level and deformation in the dam is concerned, in the AMI/ERS (1993–2000) period the correlation is 0.66 while in the ASAR/ENVISAT (2003–2010) period is 0.29. This difference is due to the fact that in the period 2003–2010 there were more seismic events which affected the correlation than the previous period. No differential deformation of the dam itself was observed, capable to raise the level of concern.

The new very high resolution SAR sensors as RADARSAT-2, Cosmo-SkyMed but mainly TERRASAR-X and Sentinel-1A (because of more opportunities for data provision to the scientific community), with different incidence angles than the usual I2 mode of $\sim 23^\circ$ of AMI/ERS and ASAR/ENVISAT need to be used in order to assess better the deformation. Geodetic GPS measurements can be applied to validate and calibrate the results.

Acknowledgements. The authors would like to thank European Space Agency (ESA) for the AMI/ERS and ASAR/ENVISAT data through cat-1 6287 and Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company (EYDAP SA) for the water level of the Mornos artificial lake data.

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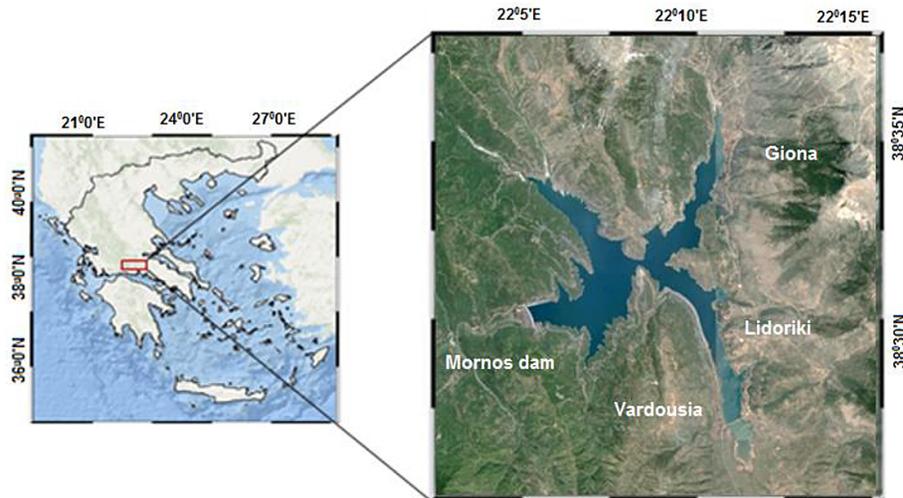


Figure 1. Location map of the study area.

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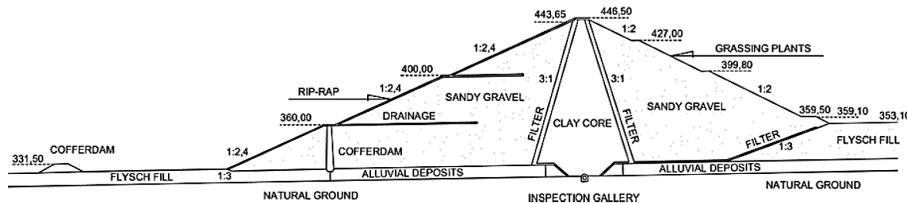


Figure 2. Cross section of Mornos Dam (Gikas et al., 2008).

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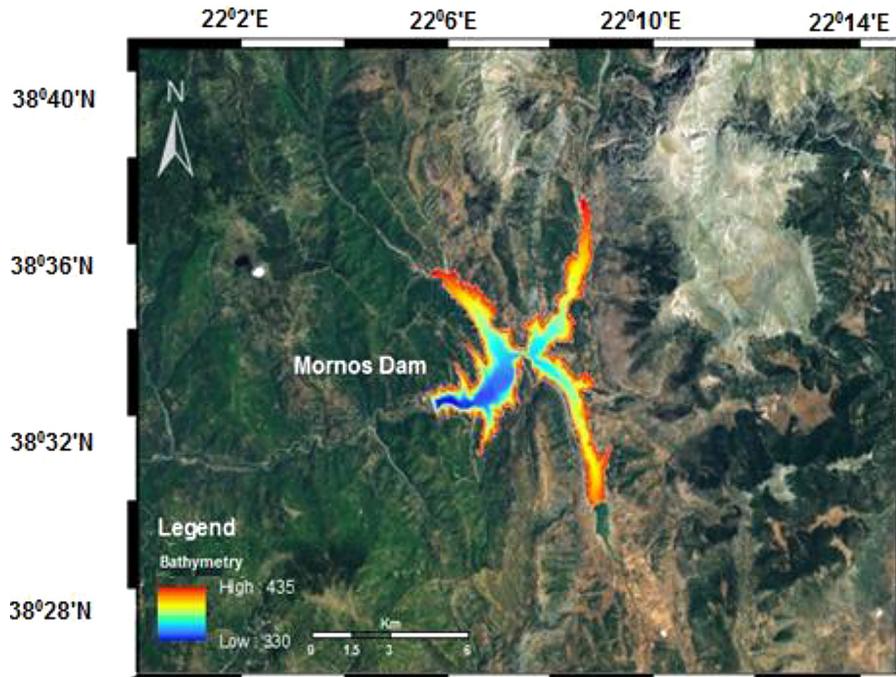
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**Figure 3.** Location area and bathymetry of Mornos reservoir.[Title Page](#)[Abstract](#)[Introduction](#)[Conclusions](#)[References](#)[Tables](#)[Figures](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[◀](#)[▶](#)[Back](#)[Close](#)[Full Screen / Esc](#)[Printer-friendly Version](#)[Interactive Discussion](#)

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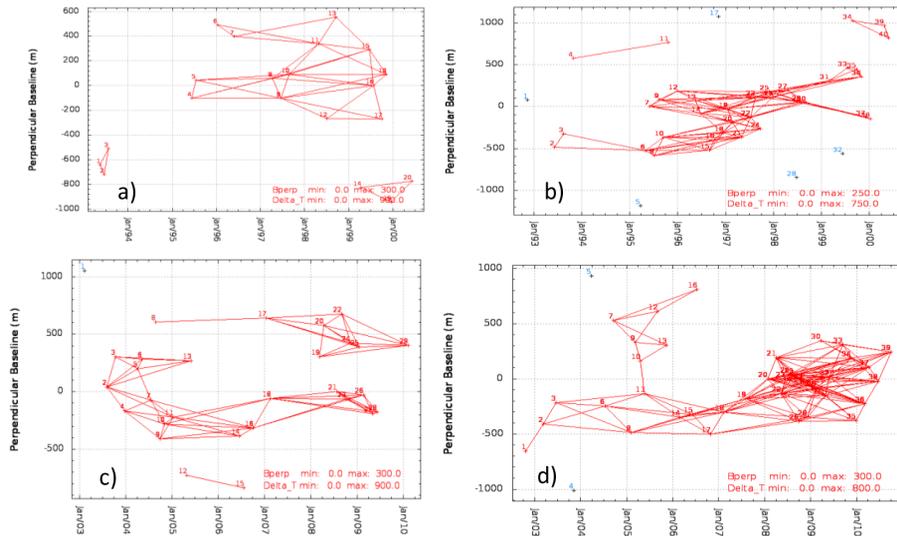


Figure 5. ERS scenes (Upper) and ENVISAT scenes (Down) networks. **(a)**, **(b)** Relate to the AMI ascending and descending dataset respectively and **(c)**, **(d)** relate to the ASAR ascending and descending dataset.

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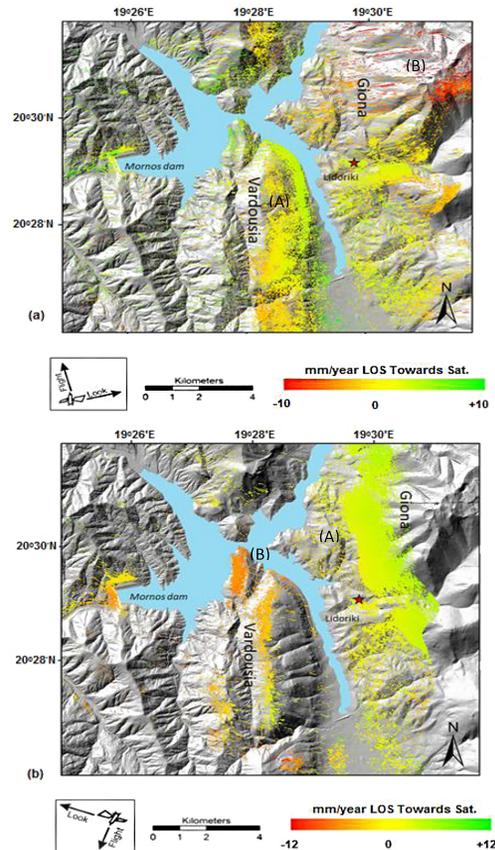


Figure 6. (a) SVD/SBAS LOS deformation rates from the period 1992–2000 (sensor AMI/ERS-1&2, ascending track). (b) SVD/SBAS LOS deformation rates from the period 1992–2000 (sensor AMI/ERS-1&2, descending track). The location of the reference point is shown with red star. Positive values represent deformation towards the satellite.

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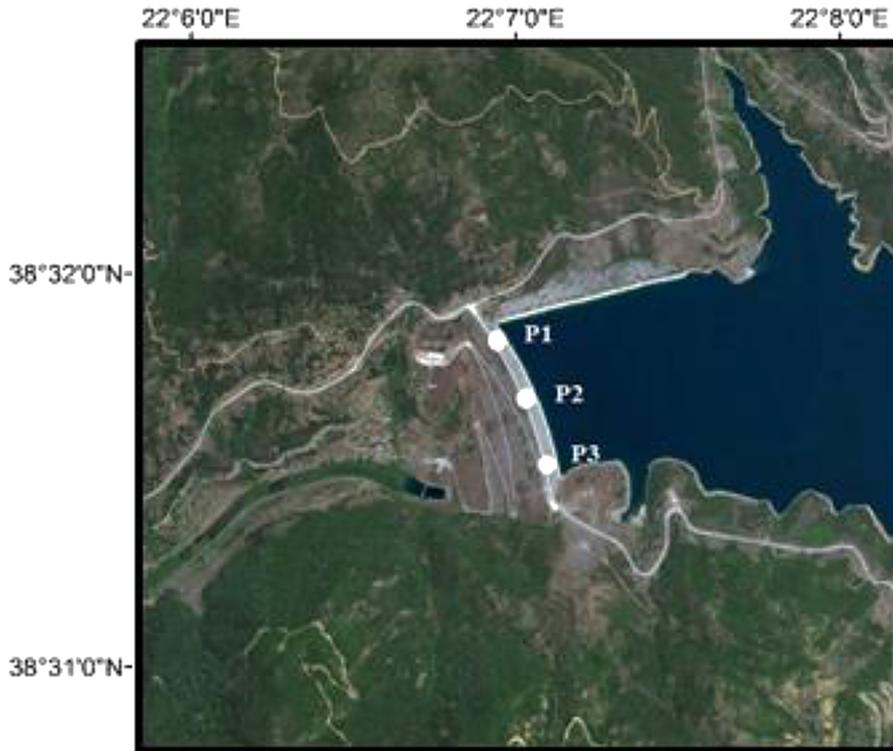



Figure 7. Selected point targets on the downstream side of the dam.

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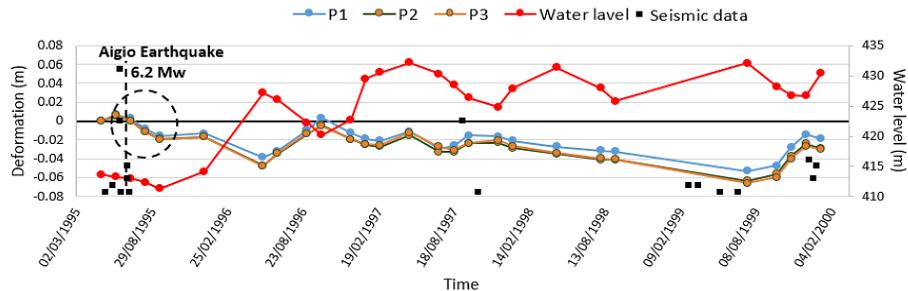


Figure 8. Correlation of time series deformation (1992–2000), level of artificial lake and seismic data for selected point targets on the Mornos dam.

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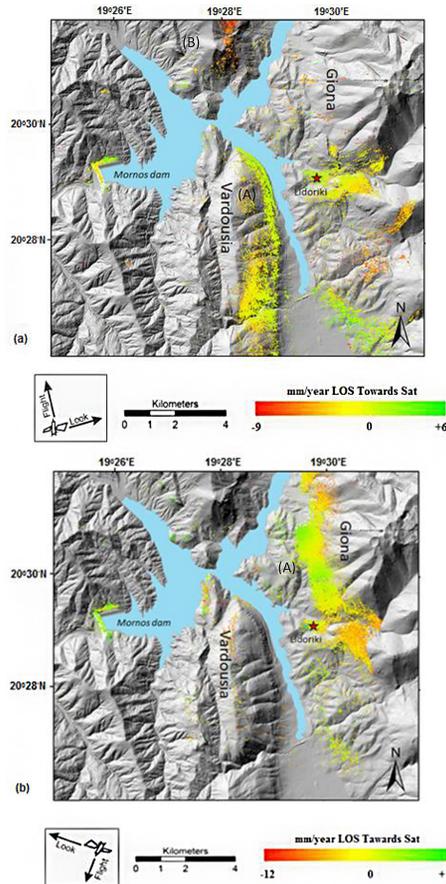


Figure 9. (a) SVD/SBAS LOS deformation rates from the period 2003–2010 (sensor ASAR/ENVISAT, ascending track). (b) SVD/SBAS LOS deformation rates from the period 2003–2010 (sensor ASAR/ENVISAT, descending track). The location of the reference point is shown with red star.

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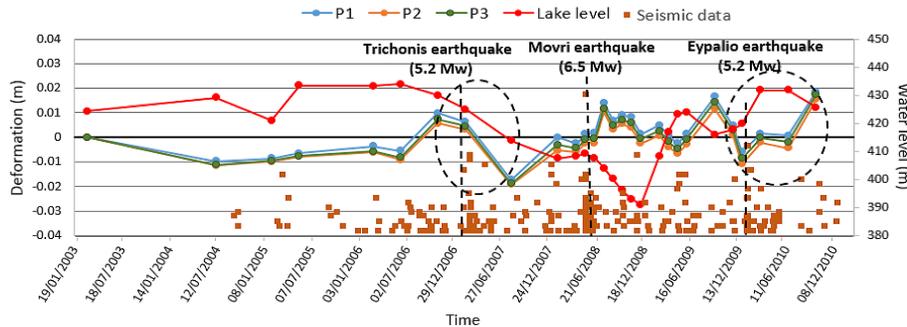


Figure 10. Correlation of time series deformation, level of artificial lake and seismic data at point targets on the Mornos dam.

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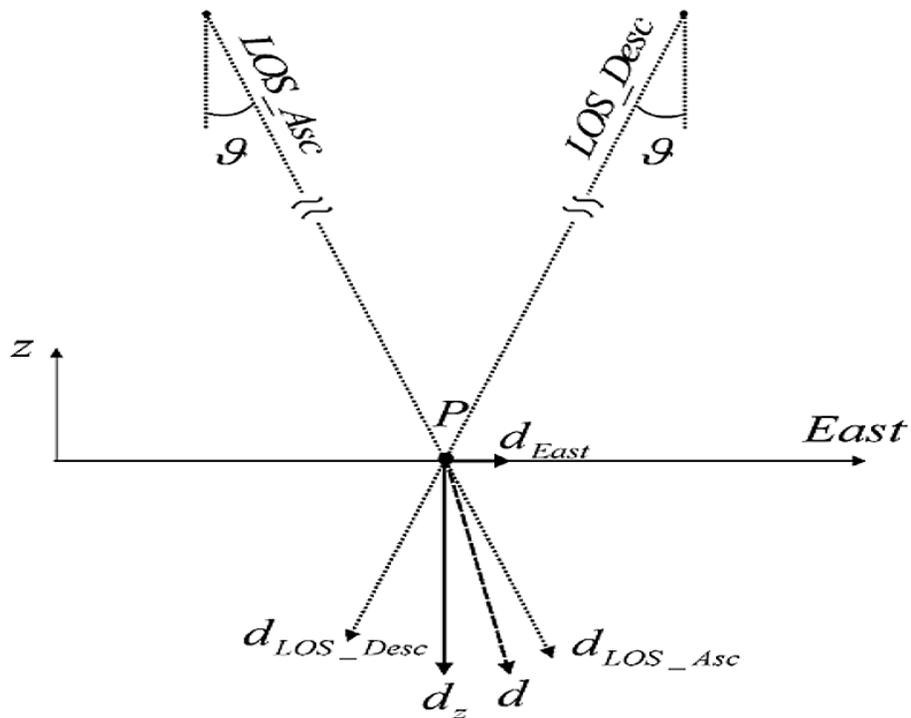


Figure 11. SAR geometry in the East-z plane with the displacement vector d (dashed line), its LOS projections d_{LOS_Asc} and d_{LOS_Desc} (dotted line) and the east-west and vertical deformation components d_{East} and d_z (continuous line) highlighted, respectively. A simplified ascending and descending radar geometry is considered here, wherein we assume parallel satellite tracks, orthogonal to the East-z plane (Manzo et al., 2005).

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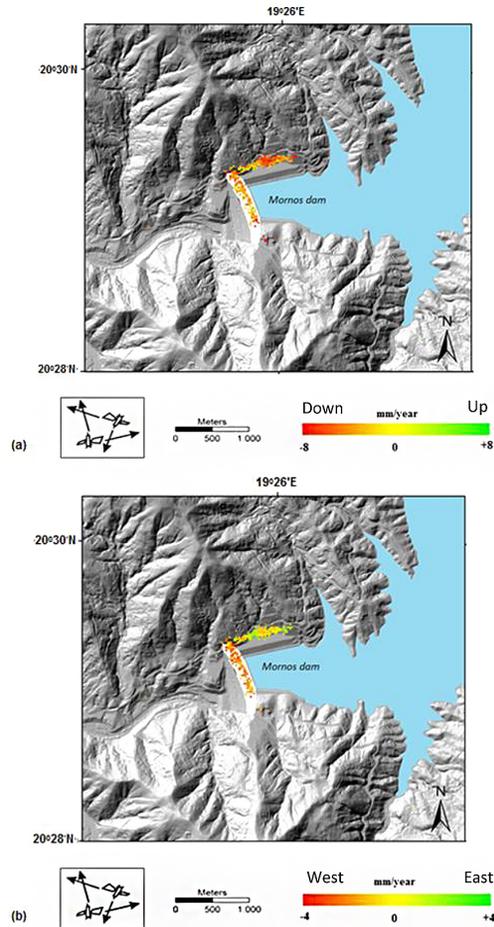


Figure 12. (a) SVD/SBAS UP component deformation rates from the period 2003–2010 (satellite ENVISAT). (b) SVD/SBAS EAST component deformation rates from the period 2003–2010 (satellite ENVISAT).

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