



Interbed demultiple using Marchenko redatuming on 3D field data of the Santos basin

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Abstract

We apply Marchenko redatuming using an adaptive double-focusing method to 3D field data of the Santos basin, Brazil. This method was already successfully applied to 2D field data and we now study the acquisition geometry and preprocessing requirements in 3D. We start from 3D synthetic data modeled on a dense grid of co-located sources and receivers and decimate down to a realistic NAZ streamer acquisition. The synthetic tests show that the sail line spacing and the missing outer cables are the acquisition parameters with the strongest effect on Marchenko redatuming. We can interpolate for the sail line spacing and the near offsets, but the missing outer cables are unfortunately a limitation of the acquisition. After applying the proposed interpolation to 3D field data, interbed multiples are successfully predicted and subtracted from the target area, resulting in a significant improvement in the geological interpretation. Naturally, the pre-processing requirements and challenges strongly depend on the acquisition geometry and the geology of the area under investigation (e.g. water depth, shape of the overburden, maximum dip). Hence, these tests only give a general idea about the limitations of 3D Marchenko redatuming.

Introduction

The presence of interbed multiples in seismic reflection data is a long-standing problem in Geophysics. First reports date back to 1948, when Sloat (1948) gave a detailed description of this phenomenon. Since then, many methods have been proposed. From methods that transform the data to another domain in which primaries and multiples separate (e.g. Hampson (1986), Foster and Mosher (1992)), to more specialized methods that convolve and correlate the data with itself to reconstruct interbed multiples from the primary reflections (e.g. Weglein *et al.* (1997), Jakubowicz (1998)). The Marchenko method belongs to the convolution and correlation-type methods, but stands out due to its straight-forward and data-driven approach. Using the reflection response and a smooth velocity model, we can retrieve primaries and all orders of interbed multiples at any desired depth level (Broggini *et al.* (2012); Wapenaar *et al.* (2013)). The overlying layers do not need to be resolved first, and it is also not necessary to identify multiple generators.

In a previous paper (Staring *et al.* (2018)), we reported on the successful application of Marchenko redatuming to 2D field data of the Santos basin. A clear prediction and removal of interbed multiples could be observed, which significantly improved the geological interpretation in the target area. Naturally, the next step is testing multiple prediction and removal on 3D field data. In order to successfully apply Marchenko redatuming to 3D field data, the acquisition and preprocessing requirements have to be clear. Tests on 2D synthetic data and field data have shown that a reflection response without direct wave, ghosts, surface-related multiple, source signature and noise is needed as input for Marchenko redatuming. In addition, a dense grid of sources and receivers is required. However, we have not yet considered the 3D aspects and the limitations of conventional streamer data. Streamer data misses the negative offsets, the near offsets and usually has a limited crossline aperture. Therefore, we wish to test these effects on 3D synthetic data before starting with the field data application.

Since the 2D field data application of Marchenko redatuming to the Santos basin was successful, we continue using data from this region. It is often used to test multiple prediction and subtraction methods (Griffiths *et al.* (2011), Pereira *et al.* (2018), Krueger *et al.* (2018)), since it has a highly reflective salt structure that generates strong interbed multiples (Cypriano *et al.* (2015)). These multiples interfere with the primaries of the pre-salt reservoir, thereby causing artefacts in its image. The interbed multiples can be clearly distinguished from the primaries, such that the performance of the multiple prediction and removal methods can be accurately evaluated.

Marchenko redatuming by adaptive double-focusing

Double-focusing is a two-step process (Figure 1). The first step uses the single-focusing Marchenko method to create virtual receivers at the redatuming level. The Marchenko method retrieves so-called focusing functions. When injecting these functions into the medium, they focus at the desired focal point and act either as a virtual receiver that measures a Green's function or as a virtual source that emits a Green's function (Wapenaar *et al.* (2013)). These Green's functions contain all primaries and all orders of interbed multiples. The retrieval of the upgoing Green's function \hat{G}^- and the downgoing focusing function \hat{f}^+ can be written as a series (van der Neut *et al.* (2015b)):

$$\hat{G}^-(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}_S, t) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \hat{G}_i^-(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}_S, t) = \Psi \mathcal{R} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \Omega^i \hat{f}_0^+(\mathbf{x}_S, \mathbf{x}_F, t) \quad (1)$$

and

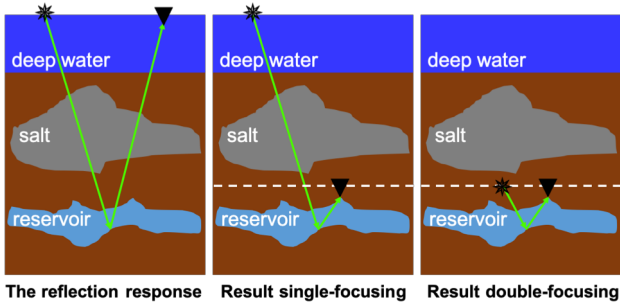


Figure 1 – Illustration of left) the reflection response, middle) single-focusing, and right) double-focusing.

$$\hat{f}^+(x_S, x'_F, t) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \hat{f}_j^+(x_S, x'_F, t) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \Omega^j \hat{f}_0^+(x_S, x'_F, t) \quad (2)$$

Here \hat{G}_i^- and \hat{f}_j^+ denote individual updates of the upgoing Green's function and the downgoing focusing function. x_S and x_F represent a grid of sources at the acquisition surface and a grid of focal points (virtual receivers) at the redatuming level respectively. The direct downgoing focusing function \hat{f}_0^+ is used to initiate the retrieval of both the upgoing Green's function and the downgoing focusing function. We model this wavefield in a smooth velocity model using an Eikonal solver. The \wedge symbol represents a band-limitation, which we obtain by convolving the modeled direct wave \hat{f}_0^+ with a zero-phase wavelet covering the frequency content of the data. The symbol $\Omega = \theta R^* \theta R$ indicates a series of operations. First, it convolves the reflection response R with the direct downgoing focusing function \hat{f}_0^+ . Next, time-window θ is applied. This window separates the focusing function and the Green's function in time, using the causality assumption that the focusing function focuses before it acts as either a virtual source or a virtual receiver. Applying the window θ results in the focusing function, whereas the window $\Psi = I - \theta$ results in the Green's function. After the windowing step, the result is correlated with the reflection response. After that, it is windowed again. Depending on the number of iterations (i and j), operator Ω is applied multiple times, thus convolving and correlating the data with itself to construct the interbed multiples.

The reflection response is receiver-redatumed after single-focusing. Next, we convolve the downgoing focusing function at virtual sources with the upgoing Green's function at virtual receivers (Wapenaar *et al.* (2016), van der Neut *et al.* (2018)):

$$\hat{G}^{-+}(x_F, x'_F, t) = \int_{\partial \mathbb{D}_0} \hat{G}^-(x_F, x_S, t) * \hat{f}^+(x_S, x'_F, t) d^2 x_S. \quad (3)$$

This operation results in downwards radiating virtual sources and virtual receivers that measure the upgoing wavefields. x_F and x'_F are grids of virtual sources and receivers at the redatuming level. The integral over the acquisition surface $\partial \mathbb{D}_0$ allows us to parallelize the double-focusing method over pairs of focal points, which is especially useful when handling large volumes of 3D field data.

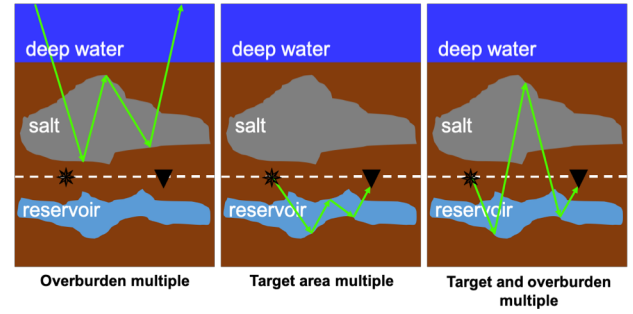


Figure 2 – Illustration of different types of interbed multiples left) multiple generated in the overburden, middle) multiple generated in the target area, and right) multiple generated by interactions between the target and the overburden.

Figure 2 shows examples of different types of interbed multiples. Interbed multiples generated in the overburden are not part of the redatumed response. We redatumed in the physical medium, so interactions between the target zone and the overburden remain. In our case, these remaining interactions arrive significantly later than the primaries of the target area and do not cause artefacts in the image. However, this could be a problem in other geological settings. Also, we do not remove interbed multiples generated in the target area.

When studying the series in equations 1 and 2, a useful property can be observed. The first estimates of both wavefields, \hat{G}_0^- and \hat{f}_0^+ , contain primaries and all orders of interbed multiples. Updates of these terms ($\hat{G}_1^-, \hat{G}_2^-, \hat{G}_3^-$, etc. and \hat{f}_1^+, \hat{f}_2^+ and \hat{f}_3^+ , etc.) contain predictions of interbed multiples. The first updates, \hat{G}_1^- and \hat{f}_1^+ , contain the predictions of first-order interbed multiples with incorrect amplitudes. Next updates correct for the amplitudes of the first-order multiples and predict higher-order multiples. The geological setting of the Santos basin has 3 main multiple generators: the water bottom, the top of salt and the bottom of salt. Looking at this geometry (see Figure 3), it will mainly be the first-order interbed multiples that create artefacts in the target area. Therefore, we will only need the first updates \hat{G}_1^- and \hat{f}_1^+ to predict these multiples. When inserting the series of equations 1 and 2 into equation 3, while only keeping the initial estimates and the

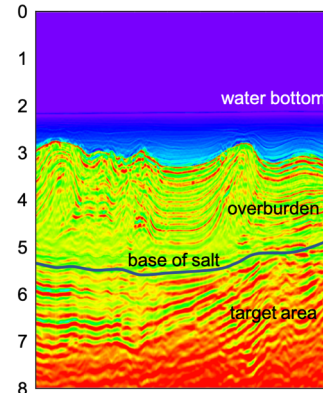


Figure 3 – 2D slice of the Santos basin velocity model.

first updates, we obtain the following series for double-focusing:

$$\begin{aligned} & \hat{G}^{-+}(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}'_F, t) = \\ & \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{\partial\mathbb{D}_0} \hat{G}_i^{-}(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}_S, t) * \hat{f}_j^{+}(\mathbf{x}_S, \mathbf{x}'_F, t) d^2 \mathbf{x}_S \\ & \approx \int_{\partial\mathbb{D}_0} \hat{G}_0^{-}(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}_S, t) * \hat{f}_0^{+}(\mathbf{x}_S, \mathbf{x}'_F, t) d^2 \mathbf{x}_S \quad (4) \\ & + \int_{\partial\mathbb{D}_0} \hat{G}_1^{-}(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}_S, t) * \hat{f}_0^{+}(\mathbf{x}_S, \mathbf{x}'_F, t) d^2 \mathbf{x}_S \\ & + \int_{\partial\mathbb{D}_0} \hat{G}_0^{-}(\mathbf{x}_F, \mathbf{x}_S, t) * \hat{f}_1^{+}(\mathbf{x}_S, \mathbf{x}'_F, t) d^2 \mathbf{x}_S. \end{aligned}$$

Here the first term of the approximation, $\hat{G}_0^{-} \hat{f}_0^{+}$, contains the redatumed response that has both primaries and interbed multiples. The second term $\hat{G}_1^{-} \hat{f}_0^{+}$ has first-order source-side interbed predictions with opposite polarity, while the third term $\hat{G}_0^{-} \hat{f}_1^{+}$ contains first-order receiver-side multiples with opposite polarity. We have left out the fourth term $\hat{G}_1^{-} \hat{f}_1^{+}$ that contains first-order source-and-receiver side interbed predictions. In our case, this term did not contain any new events. However, note that the approximation in equation 4 can be extended to also include higher-order terms depending on the needs of the dataset. We use an adaptive filter in the curvelet domain (e.g., Wu and Hung (2015)) to compensate for the missing amplitude updates that would otherwise be provided by higher-order terms.

3D synthetic tests

We performed a series of 3D synthetic tests to determine the correct preprocessing of the 3D field data. To model our synthetics, we used the result of an acoustic inversion of the field data, such that the contrasts realistically represent the geology of the Santos basin. We start with a sail line spacing of 75 m, having inline offsets ranging from 0 to 10 km and a crossline aperture of 1800 m. Using the adaptive double-focusing method, we redatum to a 25 m by 37.5 m grid of focal points above the base of salt. Figure 4 shows the result. On the left is the RTM image of the reflection response, zoomed in at the target area. Interbed multiples clearly cause artefacts in the image. The middle image shows an RTM image of $\hat{G}_0^{-} \hat{f}_0^{+}$, the first term of adaptive double-focusing. This term is the redatumed response that contains both primaries and interbed multiples. Note that this image is constructed from redatumed data, while the left image is constructed from data at the acquisition surface. Nevertheless, the two images should be comparable. The result of adaptive double-focusing is on the right in Figure 4, displaying a successful multiple prediction and removal according to equation 4. Note the white dashes and arrows, they indicate locations where multiple removal is visible. Below the inline images are depth slices at 5900 m depth. The red arrows and half-circles indicate the multiples that are being removed. This result is promising and proves that our 3D implementation works on a dense acquisition geometry, but it is not a guarantee that it will work on more sparsely sampled data.

Therefore, we decimated the acquisition geometry to observe the effect on our method. Figure 5 shows the RTM images of the adaptive double-focusing result for different sail line spacing's. Decimating from 75 m sail line spacing to 150 m sail line spacing does not have a visible effect, but deterioration is clearly visible when using a sail line spacing of 300 m and 450 m. Artefacts due to multiples are visible in the image of the target where the adaptive double-focusing method suffers to construct and subtract the interbed multiples. Thus, we conclude that the field data should be interpolated to a sail line spacing of 150 m for the adaptive double-focusing method to be successful in our geological setting. Note that the tests in Figure 5 will be different in another setting. This is merely to illustrate our process of testing to determine the correct preprocessing for the field data. Preprocessing requirements and challenges strongly depend on the acquisition geometry and the geology of the area under investigation (e.g. water depth, shape of the overburden, maximum dip).

Additional tests (that are not shown in this paper) evaluate the effect of removing the negative offsets, the near offsets (0-250 m), the far offsets (6250-10000 m) and the outer cables (decrease crossline aperture from 1800 m to 900 m). These tests show that the negative offsets can be reconstructed using source-receiver reciprocity (Wapenaar *et al.* (2004)). The near offsets surprisingly do not pose a significant problem, which can possibly be explained by the fact that we have a very deep target area (see Figure 3). Although the effect is not strong, we will interpolate for the near offsets on the field data. The removal of the far offsets also did not cause a significant difference. This is a promising result, since we cannot interpolate for this parameter. Lastly, the removal of the outer cables had a significant effect, although a fair amount of primaries and multiples could still be constructed. From these tests, we conclude that source-receiver reciprocity should be applied to our 3D field data, in addition to near offset interpolation and sail line interpolation. The outer cables are unfortunately a limitation of the acquisition that we cannot interpolate for. These conclusions only pertain to this specific dataset, and cannot be applied to other datasets. However, a general conclusion is that the 3D adaptive Marchenko method appears to be quite robust, which is promising for the field data application.

As a final synthetic test, we model synthetic data using the field data geometry, where the acquisition consisted of 6 streamers with 150 cable spacing and 450 m sail line spacing. The cable length is 6000 m, with offsets from 250 m to 6250 m. The inline shot and receiver spacing is 50 m. The aperture in the crossline direction is 900 m. We interpolate according to the conclusions of our decimation tests. Figure 6 shows the result of predicting and adaptively subtracting the interbed multiples according to equation 4. The result shows the correct prediction and removal of the interbed multiples compared to the redatumed response in the middle. However, note that the RTM image of the reflection response is different from the RTM image of $\hat{G}_0^{-} \hat{f}_0^{+}$. These images should be comparable, but they are not. The difference appears to be due to the coarse sampling and the finite aperture, since the images in Figure 4 are much more comparable. We interpolated the data

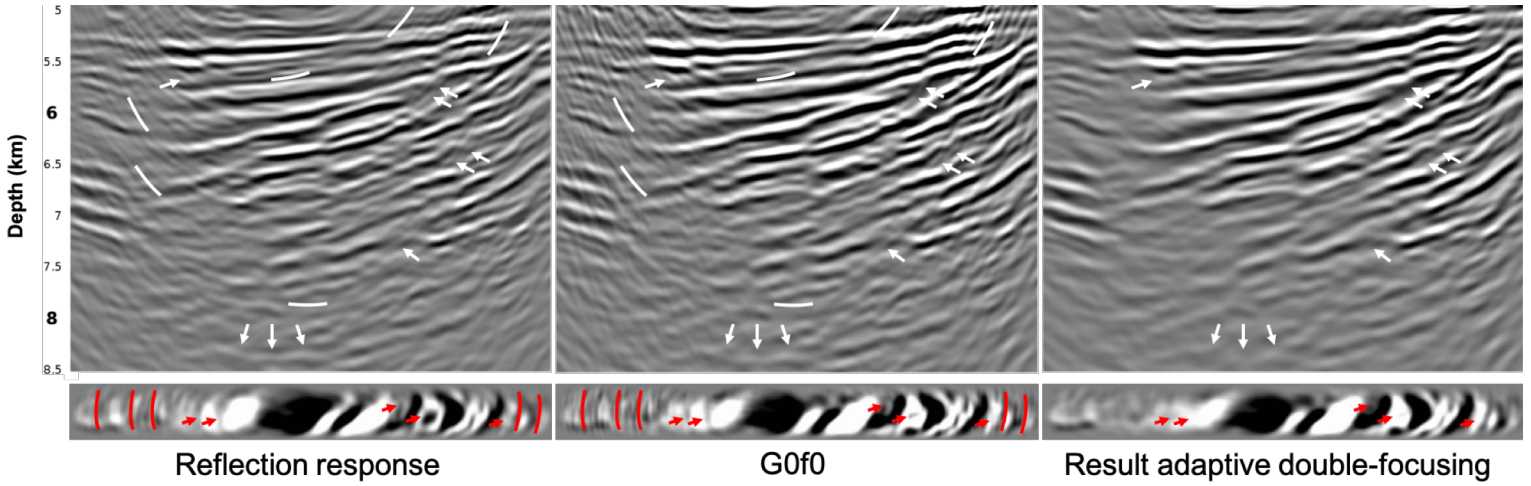


Figure 4 – RTM images of the result from the adaptive double-focusing method on 3D synthetic data with a dense acquisition geometry. The depth slices were taken at 5900 m depth. Left) RTM image of the reflection response, zoomed in at the target area. Middle) RTM image of $\hat{G}_0^- \hat{f}_0^+$, the redatumed response containing both primaries and interbed multiples. This term is comparable to the RTM of the reflection response. Right) the result of adaptive double-focusing after adaptively subtracting the multiple predictions.

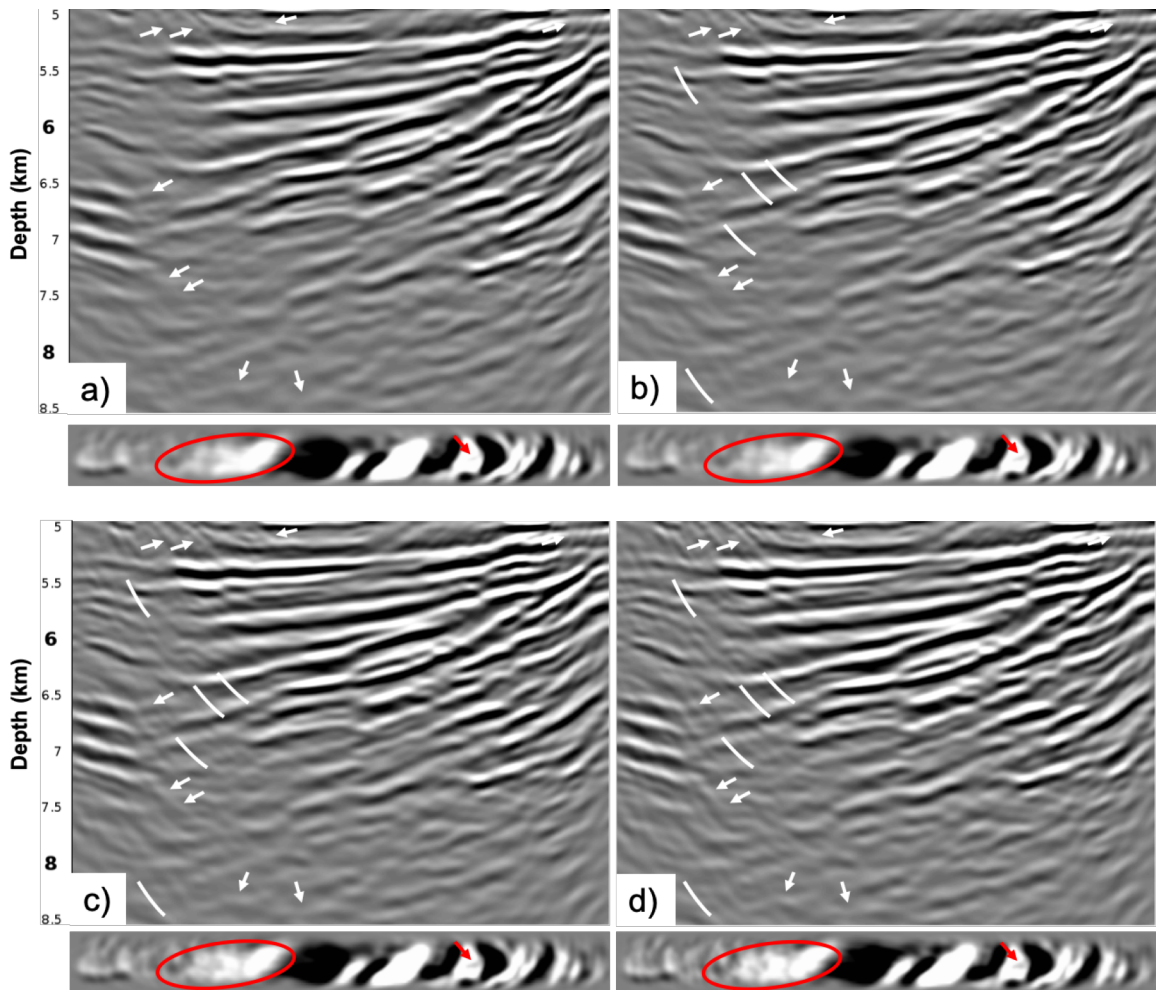


Figure 5 – RTM images of tests with different sail line spacing. All images are the result of the adaptive double-focusing method, thus after multiple prediction and subtraction. The depth slices were taken at 5900 m depth. a) 75 m sail line spacing, b) 150 m sail line spacing, c) 300 m sail line spacing, and d) 450 m sail line spacing.

and back-propagated it with a convolution in equation 1, instead of using a finite-difference method (which the RTM method applies to the reflection response at the acquisition surface). When the data is finely sampled and has sufficient aperture, back-propagation with a convolution should be equivalent to back-propagation using a finite-difference method, as shown in Figure 4. However, the equivalence is lost when the data is sparsely sampled, as we see in Figure 6. Therefore, we will have to put much care in the interpolation for the field data.

3D field data

Finally, we continue with the field data application. Preprocessing included designature and deghosting. Also, we removed surface-related multiples, the evanescent wavefield and noise. Shot and receiver positions were regularized and interpolation for the near offsets and the sail line spacing was applied. In addition, we reconstructed the missing negative offsets using source-receiver reciprocity.

Figure 7 shows the result of applying the adaptive double-focusing method to 3D field data. A significant improvement is visible in the image. The method does well at constructing both the primaries and the interbed multiples, and also seems to be able to subtract the predictions without significant damage to the primaries. Similar to Figure 6, we observe a difference between the RTM image of the reflection response and the RTM image of the redatumed response. A difference in illumination on the right side of the image (see the white arrows) indicates this most clearly. However, this difference is far less pronounced than in Figure 6, which indicates that the interpolation for the sail line spacing and the near offsets has been sufficient to perform a convolution for back-propagation.

Conclusion

We successfully applied the adaptive double-focusing method on 3D field data of the Santos basin. Decimation tests on realistic synthetic data show that the method is most sensitive to the sail line spacing and the missing outer cables. The missing negative offsets can be reconstructed using source-receiver reciprocity. Surprisingly, the removal of the near and the far offsets had little effect on the result. Based on these results, we performed source-receiver reciprocity to reconstruct the negative offsets and interpolation for the near offsets and the sail line spacing to 3D synthetic data modeled on a field data geometry. The adaptive double-focusing method predicted and subtracted interbed multiples, but a difference between the RTM image of the reflection response at the acquisition surface and the RTM image of the redatumed response indicates that the interpolation was insufficient. The data needs to be finely sampled and have sufficient aperture to make back-propagation with a convolution comparable to finite-difference modeling. Therefore, much care has to be put into interpolation for the field data application.

We performed interpolation for the near offsets and the sail line spacing with much care, and the result shows that the difference between the RTM image of the reflection response and the RTM image of the redatumed response is indeed less. The adaptive double-focusing method

correctly predicted and subtracted the interbed multiples, resulting in an improvement in the geological interpretation.

We remark that these results are only valid for our particular dataset. These tests should be repeated for different geological settings, where other parameters might play a role depending on the depth of the target area and the geological dip in the crossline direction. These results are very promising and indicate a robustness of the adaptive double-focusing method for sparse acquisition geometries when interpolation is carried out sufficiently.

Due to the fact that the RTM image of the reflection response and the RTM image of the redatumed response are not completely comparable, it is difficult to quality check our method. In addition, we can only perform a quality check after migration and not in the redatumed domain. Therefore, we propose to look into other Marchenko-type methods that allow for an easier quality check. For example, van der Neut and Wapenaar (2016) propose an adaptive overburden elimination method that does not require redatuming, such that the predicted interbed multiples can be subtracted directly from the reflection response. In addition, Meles et al. (2016) propose a method that only predicts primaries, thereby terminating the need for multiple prediction and removal.

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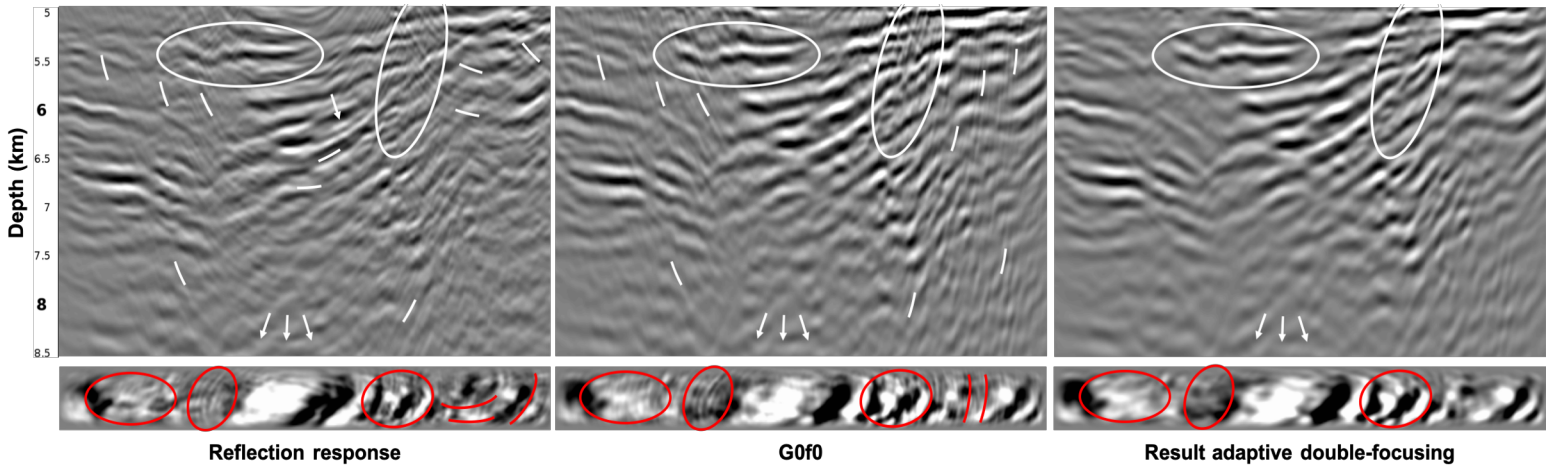


Figure 6 – RTM images of the result from the adaptive double-focusing method on 3D synthetic data modeled on a field data geometry. Interpolation for the near offsets and the sail line spacing was applied. The depth slices were taken at 5900 m depth. Left) RTM image of the reflection response, zoomed in at the target area. Middle) RTM image of $\hat{G}_0^- \hat{f}_0^+$, the redatumed response containing both primaries and interbed multiples. This term is comparable to the RTM of the reflection response. Right) the result of adaptive double-focusing after adaptively subtracting the multiple predictions.

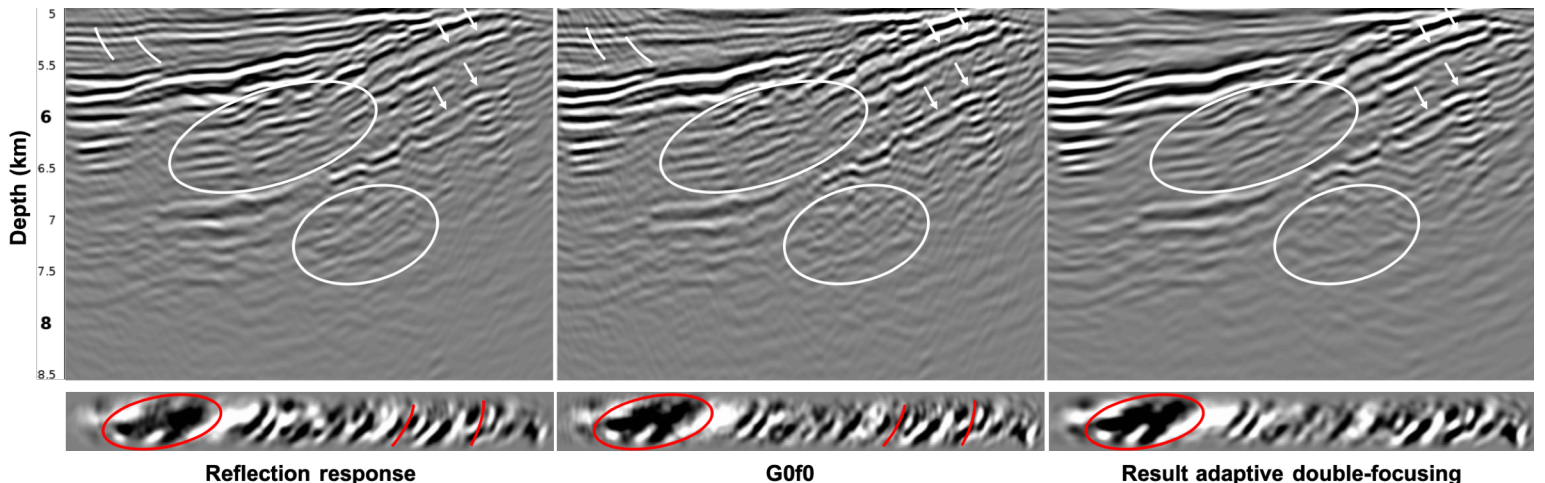


Figure 7 – RTM images of the result from the adaptive double-focusing method on 3D field data. Interpolation for the near offsets and the sail line spacing was applied. The depth slices were taken at 5900 m depth. Left) RTM image of the reflection response, zoomed in at the target area. Middle) RTM image of $\hat{G}_0^- \hat{f}_0^+$, the redatumed response containing both primaries and interbed multiples. This term is comparable to the RTM image of the reflection response. Right) the result of adaptive double-focusing after adaptively subtracting the multiple predictions.