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1 **Title page**

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4 **Vertical Seismic Profiling using a daisy-chained deployment of fibre optic cables in four wells**
5 **simultaneously – Case study at the Ketzin CO₂ storage site**

6

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17 **Abstract:** The geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is considered as one of the measures to
18 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate global warming. Operators of storage sites are
19 required to demonstrate safe containment and stable behaviour of the storage complex which is
20 achieved by geophysical and geochemical monitoring, combined with reservoir simulations. For site
21 characterization, as well as for imaging the CO₂ plume in the reservoir complex and detecting
22 potential leakage, surface and surface-borehole time-lapse seismic monitoring surveys are the most
23 wide-spread and established tools. At the Ketzin pilot site for CO₂ storage, permanently installed
24 fibre optic cables, initially deployed for Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS), were used as seismic
25 receiver arrays, demonstrating their ability to provide high-resolution images of the storage
26 formation. A VSP experiment was acquired using 23 source point locations and the daisy-chained
27 deployment of a fibre optic cable in four wells as a receiver array. The data were used to generate a
28 3D VSP cube, complementing the large scale 3D surface seismic measurements by a high resolution
29 image of the reservoir close to the injection well. Stacking long vibro-sweeps at each source location,
30 resulted in VSP shot gathers characterized by a signal-to-noise ratio similar to gathers acquired using
31 geophones. A detailed data analysis shows strong dependency of data quality on borehole conditions
32 with significantly better signal-to-noise ratio in regions with good coupling conditions.

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35 **Keywords: Acquisition, Borehole geophysics, Monitoring.**

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201 Figure captions:

202 **Figure 1: Left: Location of the Ketzin CO₂ storage site. Right: Slices through the depth**
203 **converted 3D surface seismic cube, showing main reflectors of the anticlinal structure in**
204 **Ketzin. The CO₂ distribution in the reservoir (Stuttgart Formation) is based on the**
205 **normalized amplitude difference between the 3D surface seismic repeat 2012 and the baseline**
206 **2005 (Ivandic *et al.* 2015).**

207 **Figure 2: Schematic illustration of casing, cementation (grey colour) and installation of the**
208 **daisy-chained fibre-optic cable in the annulus outside the 5-1/2" production casing (except for**
209 **Ktzi203, which has a 3-1/2" casing). The DAS readout unit was connected to a single-mode**
210 **fibre.**

211 **Figure 3: Areal view of the storage site with an overlay showing the approximate lateral**
212 **distribution of CO₂ in the reservoir in 2012 (Ivandic *et al.* 2015, Götz *et al.* 2015). The loci of**
213 **the reflection points are determined by 3D ray tracing (Chapter 3) and shown as black lines.**
214 **The layers of the Ketzin anticline dip at about 15° in NNE-SSW direction (Förster *et al.***
215 **2006), which is the reason why the locations of the reflections points are centred north (up-**
216 **dip) of the wells within a ~100 m radius of the wells.**

217 **Figure 4: Top: True vertical depth of the channels. Bottom: Correlated and stacked data**
218 **(exemplary source point 7, 31 sweeps). The 5900 channels are recorded along the daisy-**
219 **chained fibre optical cable (Figure 2), comprising cable sections along the surface as well as**
220 **downward and upward sections within the wells. The blue polygons illustrate the windows**
221 **used for the signal-to-noise ratio calculation (Chapter 5).**

222 **Figure 5: Illustration of 3D depth migration with the software VSProwess. Based on a structural**
223 **model (Bergmann *et al.* 2014, Huang *et al.* 2015) and a velocity model (lower left image), the**
224 **loci of the reflection points are calculated by 3D ray tracing (right image). The top left image**
225 **is a top view, showing the source points (blue dots), the wells (green dots) and the loci of the**
226 **calculated reflection points. The blue layer marks the depth of the top of the Stuttgart**
227 **Formation (the reservoir).**

228 **Figure 6: Completion of the wells Ktzi200 – Ktzi203 with corresponding zero-offset VSP**
229 **wavefields. The cementation of the wells (grey colour) and the installation of the fibre optical**
230 **cable (red lines) are shown.**

231 **Figure 7: Evolution of the signal-to-noise ratios, when stacking the correlated data. Different**
232 **vibrator drive levels are indicated by solid lines (high drive) and dashed-dotted lines (low**
233 **drive). On the right hand side of the upper and lower row, the measured improvement of the**
234 **signal-to-noise ratio is compared to the theoretical improvement with \sqrt{n} .**

235 **Figure 8: Comparison of zero-offset VSP data (exemplarily for Ktzi203 and shot point 6) for 1**
236 **sweep (left), a stack of 5 sweeps (middle) and a stack of 29 sweeps (right).**

237 **Figure 9: Comparison between the vertical component of borehole geophones (velocity,**
238 **VIBSIST source) and the DAS recordings (strain rate, Vibroseis source). Left: Well**
239 **completion of well Ktzi202 with the locations of 3C geophones (black dots) and the fibre-**
240 **optical cable (red line). The optical fibre is installed behind the production casing. Cemented**
241 **intervals are indicated by grey sections in the well diagram. Middle: Wiggle plot of the**
242 **seismic traces. Right: Comparison of amplitude spectrum and signal-to-noise ratios for the**
243 **depth interval 450 m – 700 m. Modified after Reinsch *et al.* 2015.**

244 **Figure 10: Comparison of bandpass filtered DAS-VSP cube (10-20-80-100 Hz) and the depth**
245 **converted 3D surface seismic cube (Ivandic *et al.* 2015). For reasons of good visibility, the**
246 **DAS-VSP slices are shown 12 m in front of the 3D surface seismic cube.**

247 **Figure 11: Comparison of 3D surface seismic, bandpass filtered DAS-VSP and raw DAS-VSP.**
248 **Left: Top view on the seismic amplitudes extracted from the top of the Stuttgart Formation**
249 **for the 3D seismic and DAS-VSP. The black shaded areas indicate the DAS-VSP reflection**
250 **loci. Red line shows location of sections (right). Right: Cross sections extracted between the**
251 **wells Ktzi201 and Ktzi202. The wells Ktzi201, Ktzi203 and Ktzi202 are indicated by the black**
252 **lines and the impedance log for the well Ktzi201 is inserted (blue line).**

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255 Vertical Seismic Profiling using a daisy-chained
256 deployment of fibre optic cables in four wells
257 simultaneously – Case study at the Ketzin CO₂ storage
258 site

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264 **Abstract:** The geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is considered as one of the measures to
265 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate global warming. Operators of storage sites are
266 required to demonstrate safe containment and stable behaviour of the storage complex which is
267 achieved by geophysical and geochemical monitoring, combined with reservoir simulations. For site
268 characterization, as well as for imaging the CO₂ plume in the reservoir complex and detecting
269 potential leakage, surface and surface-borehole time-lapse seismic monitoring surveys are the most
270 wide-spread and established tools. At the Ketzin pilot site for CO₂ storage, permanently installed
271 fibre optic cables, initially deployed for Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS), were used as seismic
272 receiver arrays, demonstrating their ability to provide high-resolution images of the storage
273 formation. A VSP experiment was acquired using 23 source point locations and the daisy-chained
274 deployment of a fibre optic cable in four wells as a receiver array. The data were used to generate a
275 3D VSP cube, complementing the large scale 3D surface seismic measurements by a high resolution
276 image of the reservoir close to the injection well. Stacking long vibro-sweeps at each source location,
277 resulted in VSP shot gathers characterized by a signal-to-noise ratio similar to gathers acquired using
278 geophones. A detailed data analysis shows strong dependency of data quality on borehole conditions
279 with significantly better signal-to-noise ratio in regions with good coupling conditions.

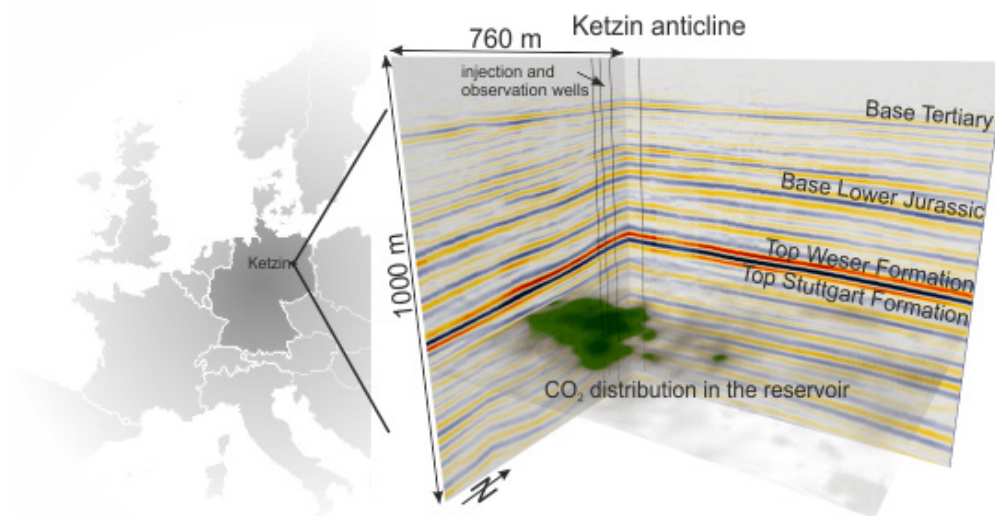
280 **Keywords: Acquisition, Borehole geophysics, Monitoring.**

281 1 Introduction

282 CCS, the capture and geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂), is discussed as one of several
283 methods to reduce CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere and thus to keep global warming below the 2°C
284 level (IPCC 2005). For increasing general acceptance of long-term storage of CO₂ in geological
285 formations, and for advancing in storage operation and monitoring technologies, several sites for

286 geological CO₂ storage, from pilot scale to industrial scale, have been studied during the past
287 decades. Among these sites are, for example, Frio and Cranfield (USA, e.g. Hovorka *et al.* 2006,
288 Hovorka, Meckel and Treviño 2013), In Salah (Algeria, e.g. Ringrose *et al.* 2013), Ketzin (Germany, e.g.
289 Martens *et al.* 2013), Nagaoka, (Japan, e.g. Kikuta *et al.* 2005), Otway (Australia, e.g. Underschultz *et*
290 *al.* 2011), Sleipner and Snøhvit (Norway, e.g. Chadwick *et al.* 2010, Hansen *et al.* 2011) and Weyburn
291 (Canada, e.g. Whittaker *et al.* 2011). Seismic measurements are crucial components of the
292 characterization and monitoring programmes at these sites. Apart from conventional 2D and 3D
293 surface seismic acquisition, particularly for the long-term monitoring of a CO₂ storage complex,
294 permanently installed solutions are considered a useful contribution. Buried geophone and
295 hydrophone arrays, but also fibre optic cables have been deployed at selected sites.

296 The Ketzin pilot site, located about 25 km west of Berlin, is the first on-shore geological CO₂ storage
297 site in Europe. Within 5 years of injection (June 2008 – August 2013), 67 ktons of CO₂ were injected
298 into a saline sandstone aquifer at 630 – 650 m depth below ground level (upper part of the Triassic
299 Stuttgart Formation, Figure 1). Since August 2013, the site has been in the post-injection phase with
300 continued monitoring activities. The site was abandoned by the end of 2017.



301
302 **Figure 12: Left: Location of the Ketzin CO₂ storage site. Right: Slices through the depth**
303 **converted 3D surface seismic cube, showing main reflectors of the anticlinal structure in**
304 **Ketzin. The CO₂ distribution in the reservoir (Stuttgart Formation) is based on the**
305 **normalized amplitude difference between the 3D surface seismic repeat 2012 and the baseline**
306 **2005 (Ivandic *et al.* 2015).**

307 A comprehensive baseline characterization and monitoring program has been carried out since 2004,
308 covering all life cycle phases of the storage site from development, injection to post closure (Giese *et*
309 *al.* 2009, Martens *et al.* 2014, Martens *et al.* 2015). Borehole and surface geophysical monitoring
310 comprises Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT), pulsed neutron-gamma logging, and seismic
311 measurements, providing time-lapse images of the CO₂ distribution in the reservoir (Figure 1), as well

312 as saturation and mass estimations (e.g. Baumann, Henninges and De Lucia 2014, Bergmann *et al.*
313 2014, Schmidt-Hattenberger *et al.* 2014, Ivandic *et al.* 2015, Lüth *et al.* 2015).

314 Surface seismic monitoring comprises a baseline survey in 2005 followed by three repeats in 2009
315 (22 ktons of CO₂ injected, Ivanova *et al.* 2012), 2012 (Figure 1, 61 ktons of CO₂ injected, Ivandic *et al.*
316 2015), and 2015 (two years after injection closure). Besides the 3D seismic, 2D (pseudo 3D) seismic
317 (Ivandic *et al.* 2012), Moving Source Profiling (MSP, downhole acquisition of dense shot profiles on
318 the surface using sparse downhole receivers, Yang *et al.* 2010), offset and zero-offset VSP (Götz 2014,
319 Götz *et al.* 2014) and crosshole seismic surveys (Zhang *et al.* 2012) were acquired.

320 The CO₂ distribution in the reservoir, based on the normalized amplitude difference between the 3D
321 surface seismic repeat in 2012 and the baseline 2005 is shown in Figure 1. The Stuttgart formation
322 originates from fluvial processes, for which reason the reservoir is lithologically heterogeneous
323 (Förster *et al.* 2006). Horizontally and vertically heterogeneous permeability caused an irregular
324 pattern of the CO₂ plume and its westward propagation, contrary to the expected propagation
325 towards the top of the anticline in the northern direction.

326 As part of the monitoring program, the injection well and three observation wells at the Ketzin site
327 were completed with various permanently installed downhole sensors for the continuous borehole
328 monitoring of CO₂ injection (Prevedel *et al.* 2009). Four wells reaching through the reservoir were
329 equipped with fibre-optic cables in the annulus outside the production casing. Along the optical
330 fibres, continuous temperature measurements were performed using the Distributed Temperature
331 Sensing (DTS) technique, based on optical Raman scattering (Henninges *et al.* 2011). Not only
332 temperature, but also strain influences the signal of the backscattered light. When using an optical
333 fibre as distributed acoustic sensor, the strain on the fibre, induced by the seismic wavefield or other
334 acoustic disturbances, is recorded with high spatial and temporal resolution. In the literature, the
335 technology is referred to as Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) or Distributed Vibration Sensing (DVS)
336 (e.g., Hartog, Kotov and Liokumovich 2013). A simpler version of this technique is used for detecting
337 strain from non-seismic sources, such as, e.g., for continuous monitoring of pipelines, roads or
338 borders and, increasingly during the last decade, for production monitoring from within the wellbore
339 (Molenaar *et al.* 2011, Hill 2013).

340 Recording seismic data using DAS instead of geophones has advantages especially for borehole
341 seismic measurements like Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP). In wells with pre-existing optical cables
342 (e.g. for Distributed Temperature Sensing, DTS), on-demand or time-lapse DAS-VSPs can be acquired
343 without well intervention (Mateeva *et al.* 2014). The fibre optical cable covers the entire well at
344 once; unlike in geophone recordings, it is not necessary to move the tool string and repeat the shot

345 (Mateeva *et al.* 2014). Fibre presence makes it feasible to interrogate several wells at the same time,
346 with full vertical coverage. It is also possible to retrofit wells with fibre optical cables by deploying
347 them along tubing, pumping them inside a control line (Mateeva *et al.* 2014) or to use wireline cables
348 (Frignet and Hartog 2014, Hartog *et al.* 2014). Some points have to be taken into account when
349 recording DAS-VSP data. The signal-to-noise ratio of DAS data is lower than that of geophones with
350 current interrogator units. This can be overcome by investing in more source effort and in the future
351 by improvements in cable design and interrogator units (Mateeva *et al.* 2014). With an optical fibre,
352 one component representing the strain between two points within the fibre is measured. Therefore,
353 the angular dependence is stronger than that of a 3C geophone (Kuvshinov, 2015). Due to
354 uncertainties during the deployment of the fibre in a well, the DAS channels along the cable need to
355 be assigned to an exact depth with respect to geology or well completion. Calibration points, such as
356 the well head or well bottom can be used for this and are typically enough for short wells. For longer
357 or more complicated wells, fibre distribution along the completion may not be uniform, necessitating
358 additional calibration points or different calibration methods (e.g., Mateeva and Zwartjes, 2017).

359 Various DAS-VSP field tests have been published, especially CO₂ storage pilot sites provided the
360 opportunity to test this new technology for geophysical reservoir monitoring, for example in
361 Citronelle (Daley *et al.* 2013), Hontomin (Humphries, Vidal and de Dios 2015), Ketzin (Daley *et al.*
362 2013), Otway (Daley *et al.* 2013), Quest (Mestayer *et al.* 2011, Mateeva *et al.* 2014) and Rouse
363 (Barberan *et al.* 2012). Along with publications from Frignet and Hartog (2014), Hartog *et al.* (2014),
364 Madsen *et al.* (2013) or Parker, Shatalin and Farhadiroushan (2014) these case studies represent a
365 wide range of different source types, source-receiver geometries and cable deployments (wireline,
366 on tubing, behind casing).

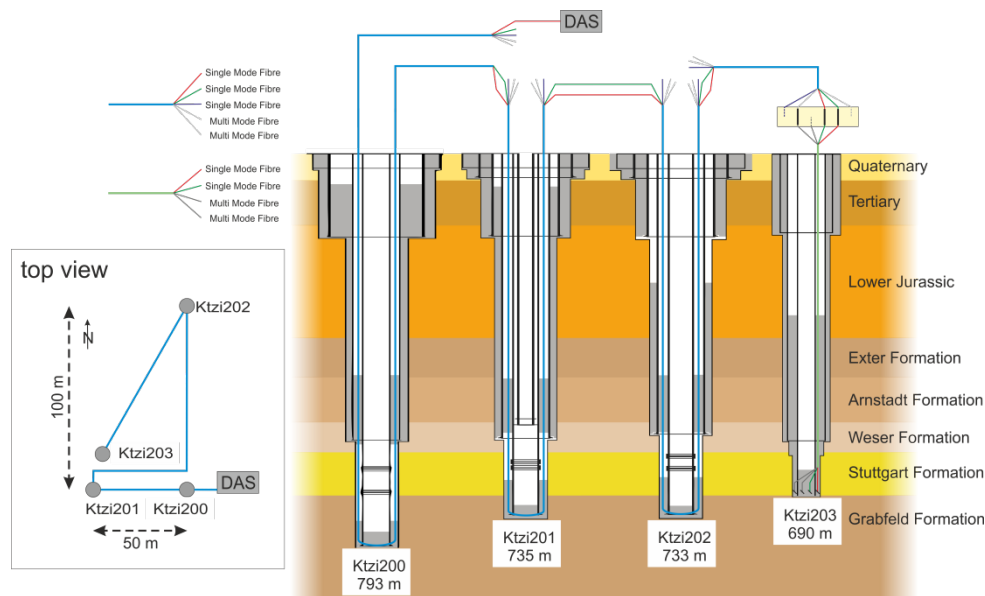
367 This paper presents a successful DAS-VSP field test performed at the Ketzin pilot site for CO₂ storage.
368 23 VSP source points were recorded simultaneously in four wells and a depth migrated 3D DAS-VSP
369 cube was built. The DAS-VSP cube complements the 3D surface seismic by providing a focused high
370 resolution image of the reservoir complex below the injection site.

371

372 **2 DAS-VSP experiment at the Ketzin site**

373 At the Ketzin test site, four deep wells were drilled through the storage formation about 650 m depth
374 to final depths between 690 m and 790 m (Figure 2, Figure 3 blue dots). The designation of the
375 injection well (CO₂ Ktzi201/2007) and the three observation wells (CO₂ Ktzi200/2007,
376 CO₂ Ktzi202/2007, CO₂ Ktzi203/2012) will be abbreviated with Ktzi200 – Ktzi203 hereafter. All wells

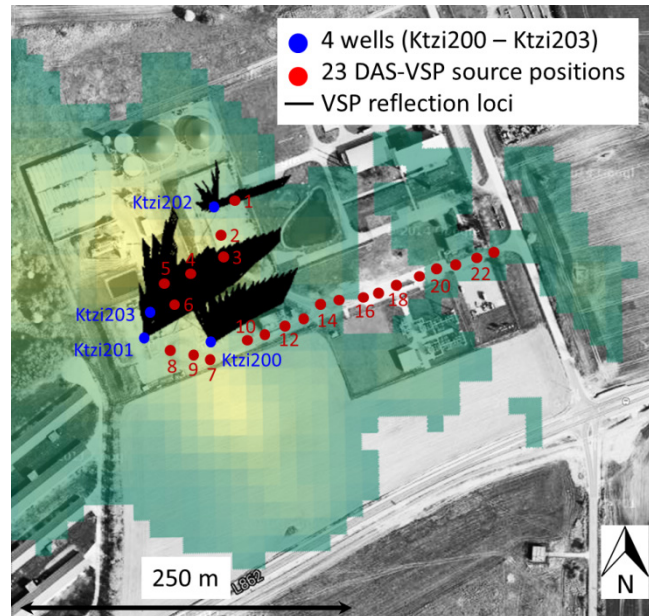
377 were equipped with fibre optic cables in the annulus outside the production casing used for
 378 Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS) (Henninges *et al.* 2011). During the installation of the cables,
 379 custom-made casing centralizers were used to clamp the sensor cables to the casing and to protect
 380 them from mechanical damage during the installation (Prevedel *et al.* 2009). These casing
 381 centralizers were attached to every casing pipe at an interval of approximately 12.7 m. Only in
 382 deeper parts of the wells, the fibre-optical cable is cemented within the multiple casings system
 383 (Figure 2). For the DAS-VSP measurement the fibres were spliced together, resulting in a daisy-
 384 chained cable of 5900 m length, including parts on the surface, as well as downward and upward
 385 cable branches in the wells (Figure 2). This set-up allowed for acquisition at relatively low operational
 386 costs as only one interrogator was needed for acquisition in four wells. It should be noted that this
 387 set-up was deployed in relatively shallow wells, resulting in a total cable length which can be handled
 388 by one single interrogator still assuring a high optical sampling rate (10 kHz).



389
 390 **Figure 13: Schematic illustration of casing, cementation (grey colour) and installation of the**
 391 **daisy-chained fibre-optic cable in the annulus outside the 5-1/2" production casing (except for**
 392 **Ktzi203, which has a 3-1/2" casing). The DAS readout unit was connected to a single-mode**
 393 **fibre.**

394 The described infrastructure was used for a first DAS-VSP field test in 2012, which proved that it was
 395 possible to record upgoing DAS-VSP reflections over the whole depth of the wells with an accelerated
 396 weight drop as seismic source (Daley *et al.* 2013). Based on the promising results an extended DAS-
 397 VSP campaign was conducted in May 2013. Seismic waves were generated at 23 source locations,
 398 distributed on the premises close to and in between the wells (Figure 3, red dots), allowing a high-
 399 resolution imaging of the reservoir right below the injection site (Götz *et al.* 2015). The signal was
 400 simultaneously recorded in four wells (Figure 3, blue dots) along the fibre-optic cable of 5900 m
 401 length with a DAS gauge length (distance over which strain rate is measured, e.g. Dean, Cuny and

402 Hartog 2017) of 10 m and a channel spacing of 1 m. The sampling frequency after the conversion
403 into seismic data format was 1 kHz.



404
405 **Figure 14: Areal view of the storage site with an overlay showing the approximate lateral**
406 **distribution of CO₂ in the reservoir in 2012 (Ivandic *et al.* 2015, Götz *et al.* 2015). The loci of**
407 **the reflection points are determined by 3D ray tracing (Chapter 3) and shown as black lines.**
408 **The layers of the Ketzin anticline dip at about 15° in NNE-SSW direction (Förster *et al.***
409 **2006), which is the reason why the locations of the reflections points are centred north (up-**
410 **dip) of the wells within a ~100 m radius of the wells.**

411 The locations of the source points were defined by the infrastructure, especially roads, on the
412 premises of the storage site and were chosen in order to image the subsurface around and between
413 the wells. The seismic vibrator “DMT Vibro-Truck Mertz M12” with a maximum peak force of
414 30,030 lbs (133.6 kN) was used as source. Considering the relatively small dimensions of the DAS-VSP
415 experiment (about 800 m well depth, max. offset 260 m), this rather powerful seismic source was
416 chosen to account for the expected reduced signal-to-noise ratio.

417 For the same reason, the data is vertically stacked, after recording 27 – 32 sweeps per source point.
418 To maintain an acceptable productivity rate, a relatively long sweep length of 50 s (with 0.3 s taper)
419 was chosen. The sweeps were excited as linear up-sweeps with frequencies from 7 – 120 Hz. The
420 listening time was 5 s, the dead time of the DAS interrogator unit (time interval between the end of
421 one recording and the beginning of the next one) was 5 s as well. Long sweeps of the length $n * L$ can
422 be recorded faster than the equivalent of n sweeps of the length L , because the required listening
423 time and dead time of the DAS readout unit has to be counted only once, instead of n times for the
424 other case (Egreteau *et al.* 2009).

425 The time needed to record four wells (5900 channels, 5070 of them within the wells) with 27 – 32
426 sweeps, including the moving of the Vibroseis truck and the checking of the peak particle velocity

427 (PPV measurements) at structures which are sensitive to vibrations, was 45 minutes per source point
428 on average.

429 In order to facilitate the assignment of true depth to DAS channels, several locations along the cable
430 (especially close to the well heads) were calibrated by a tap test (“knocking onto the cable”). This is
431 done by using recorded calibration points close to the well head and the location of the cable
432 turnarounds within the wells. The depth of the cable turnaround was determined during installation
433 relative to the position of the next casing joints. By comparing the depth calibrated VSP to the well
434 completion (Chapter 4) and to geological markers like a 10 – 20 m thick anhydrite layer at the top of
435 the Weser Formation (Figure 1) it is shown that a good assignment to true vertical depth is achieved.

436 The DAS interrogator was attached to a single mode fibre (Figure 2). After processing of the raw
437 opto-electronic signal by Silixa Ltd., the seismic data was delivered as uncorrelated and unstacked
438 SEG Y files, in which the amplitudes are linearly related to the physical quantity “strain rate”.

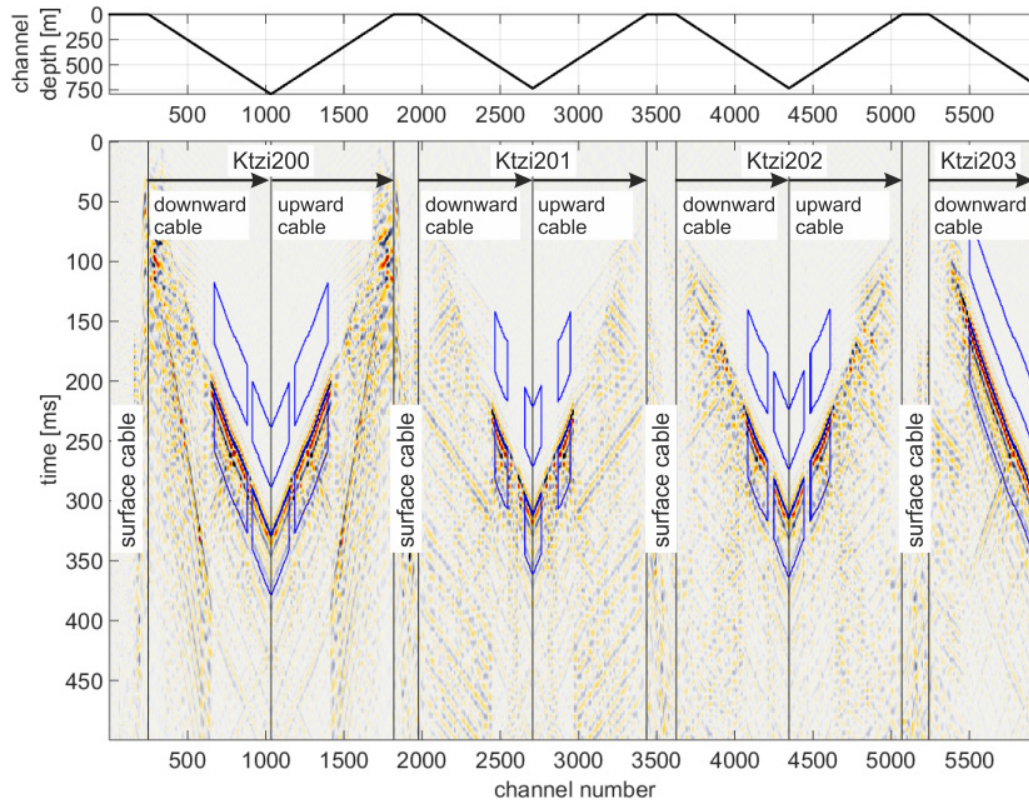
439 **3 Processing and imaging**

440 Processing consists of Vibroseis correlation with the pilot sweep, vertical stacking over repeated
441 sweeps, the assignment of the DAS channels to the true vertical depth (Chapter 2), predictive
442 deconvolution with the ~40 ms long downgoing wavelet for wavelet shaping followed by wavefield
443 separation by median filtering.

444 Standard Vibroseis theory states the far-field particle displacement is proportional to the applied
445 ground force, and the far-field particle velocity is proportional to the time derivative of the ground
446 force (Mewhort, Bezdán and Jones 2002). As a result, when recording the particle velocity with
447 geophones, the time derivative of the ground force is often used for the correlation. Since the DAS
448 technology records the strain rate (not velocity as geophones), we tested different correlation
449 approaches and observed that the same, nearly zero-phase, wavelet is produced for the following
450 combinations: correlation of 1) the strain rate with the pilot sweep (ground force), 2) -1 times the
451 strain rate with the ground force, 3) the strain (time integrated strain rate) and the time-derivative of
452 the ground force. Finally, the pilot sweep was chosen for the correlation.

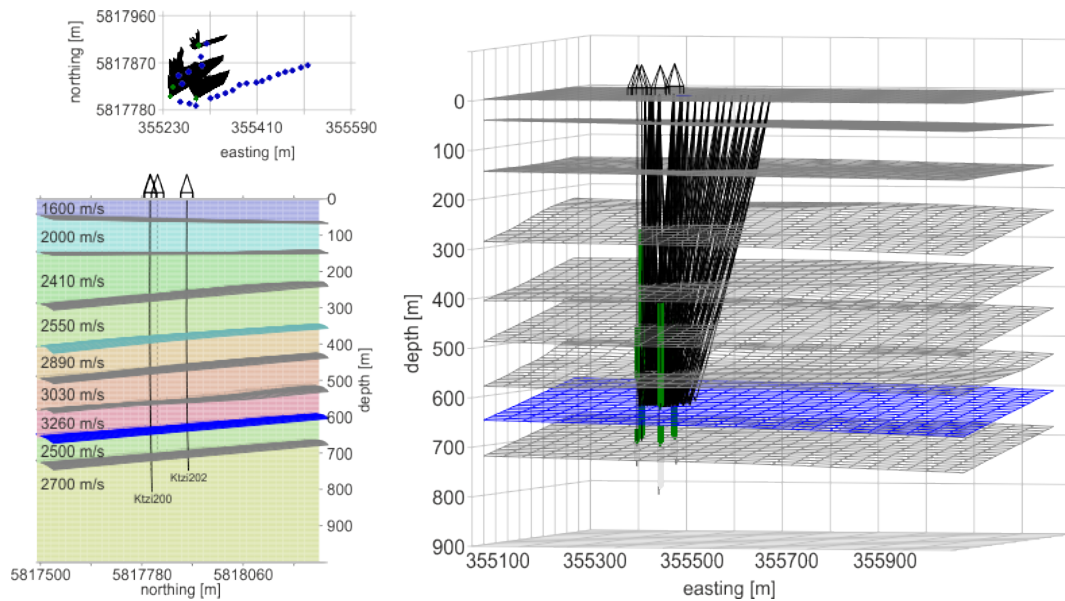
453 The data were correlated before stacking, thereby it was possible to check data quality and sort out
454 disturbed records caused by e.g. the drive-by of heavy tractors on the premises (~3 % of the whole
455 data set). After vertical stacking of the sweeps, the downward and upward cable branches (Figure 4)
456 can be again vertically stacked, leading to about 60 stacks for the wells Ktzi200 to Ktzi202. Before
457 stacking these cable branches, the cross-correlation of downgoing and upgoing trace pairs is
458 calculated and the time-shift between the maximum of the cross-correlation and zero-lag is applied.

459 Generally, for all source locations the signal-to-noise ratio is high (Chapter 5) and direct P-waves as
460 well as reflected P-waves can be identified (Figure 4).



461
462 **Figure 15: Top: True vertical depth of the channels. Bottom: Correlated and stacked data**
463 **(exemplary source point 7, 31 sweeps). The 5900 channels are recorded along the daisy-**
464 **chained fibre optical cable (Figure 2), comprising cable sections along the surface as well as**
465 **downward and upward sections within the wells. The blue polygons illustrate the windows**
466 **used for the signal-to-noise ratio calculation (Chapter 5).**

467 The 3D depth migration of the reflected PP-wavefield was performed using the software VSProwess.
468 The imaging is based on Dillon and Thomson (1984), but uses a 3D ray tracer to determine the
469 location of the migration ellipses (Figure 5). A structural model is built based on the depth migrated
470 3D surface seismic and formation tops within the four Ketzin wells (Bergmann *et al.* 2014, Huang *et*
471 *al.* 2015).



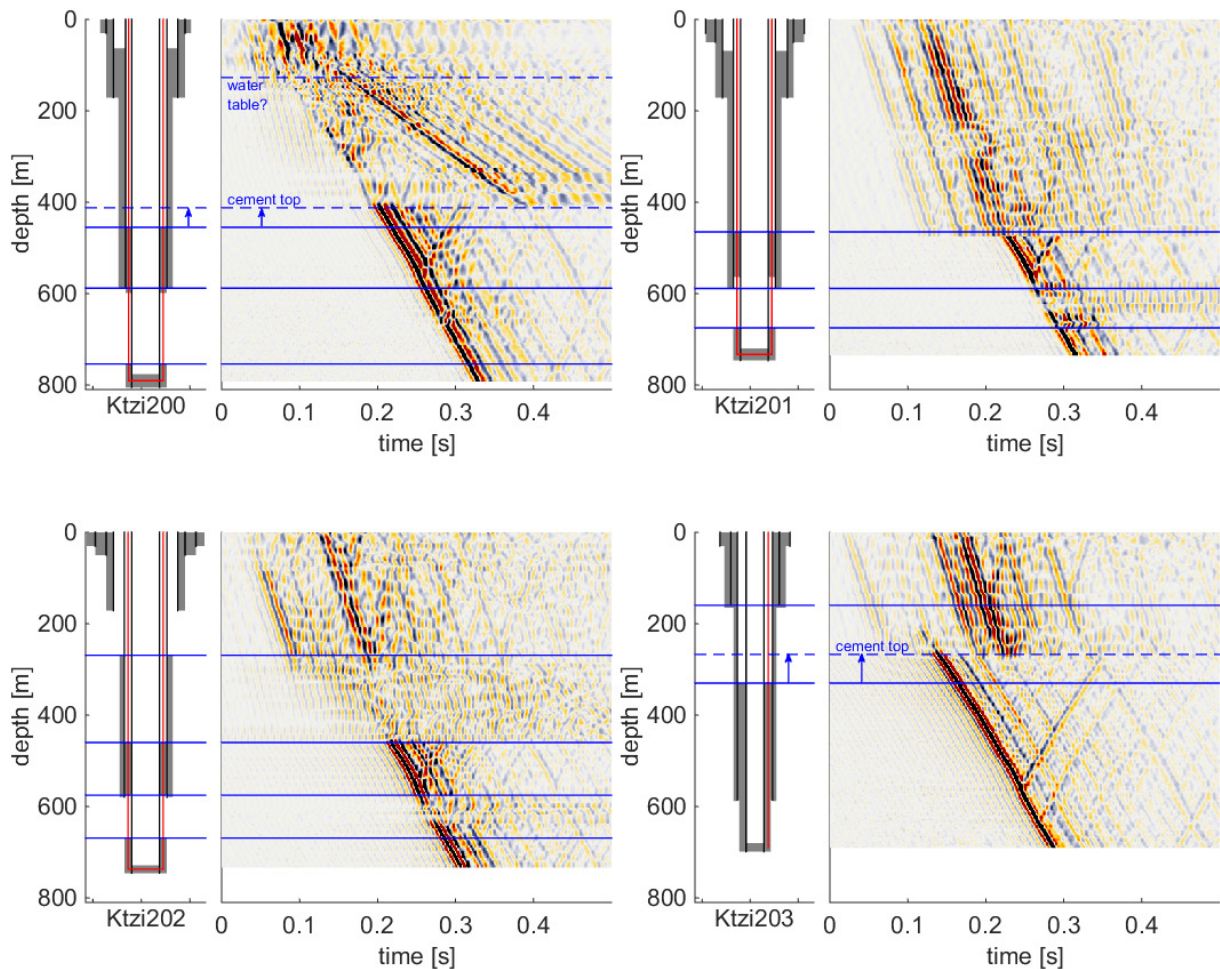
472

473 **Figure 16: Illustration of 3D depth migration with the software VSProwess. Based on a**
 474 **structural model (Bergmann *et al.* 2014, Huang *et al.* 2015) and a velocity model (lower left**
 475 **image), the loci of the reflection points are calculated by 3D ray tracing (right image). The top**
 476 **left image is a top view, showing the source points (blue dots), the wells (green dots) and the**
 477 **loci of the calculated reflection points. The blue layer marks the depth of the top of the**
 478 **Stuttgart Formation (the reservoir).**

479 The P-wave velocities are derived from sonic logs, and calibrated by comparing the picked and
 480 modelled first break travel times. The achieved root mean square error between the picked and
 481 modelled first break travel times is 4 ms (the sampling interval is 1 ms). Considering a mean P-wave
 482 velocity of 2600 m/s and the top of the Stuttgart Formation at 630 m depth (Figure 5, bottom left),
 483 an accuracy of ± 4 ms would lead to an uncertainty in the depth of this reflector of ± 10 m. The
 484 matching could be improved by using a heterogeneous velocity model, taking into account the
 485 variation of velocities within the layers.

486 **4 Influence of casing on the DAS-VSP wavefield**

487 The DAS-VSP data quality is affected by the partially cemented casings of the wells (Figure 6). It is
 488 well recognized that casing and cementing conditions have a strong influence on recorded VSP data
 489 (e.g. Hardage 2000). The most favorable situation is a well-cemented single casing string or an
 490 uncased open borehole. In contrast to this, multiple uncemented casing strings usually prevent
 491 usable VSP data from being recorded.



492

493 **Figure 17: Completion of the wells Ktzi200 – Ktzi203 with corresponding zero-offset VSP**
 494 **wavefields. The cementation of the wells (grey colour) and the installation of the fibre optical**
 495 **cable (red lines) are shown.**

496 In the upper sections of the wells, the DAS-VSP wavefield is dominated by casing waves and tube
 497 waves (multiple casing strings, partly uncemented). In the lower parts of the wells, where the casing
 498 strings are cemented to one another and also to the formation, the identification of direct P-waves is
 499 possible. The signal strength is reduced in depth ranges of uncemented and centralized single casing
 500 strings, but the identification of direct waves is still possible over most of these intervals. This general
 501 character of the recorded VSP data applies to all four wells, and has also been observed during
 502 previous VSP surveys recorded with conventional borehole geophones in the Ktzi202 well (Götz *et al.*
 503 2014), which are described in more detail in Chapter 6 below. In case of the wells Ktzi200 and Ktzi203
 504 (Figure 6, top left and bottom right), the DAS-VSP detects a higher cement top, than determined
 505 according to cement bond logs (Prevedel *et al.* 2014). This can be explained by continued hardening
 506 of the cement after measuring the cement bond logs. In Ktzi200 (Figure 6, top left), downgoing tube
 507 waves can be observed, possibly indicating the water table in the annulus of the casing. The main
 508 wave types which can be observed are casing waves, tube waves and downgoing as well as reflected
 509 P-waves. The influence of the casing is reduced for more distant source points in a way that the data

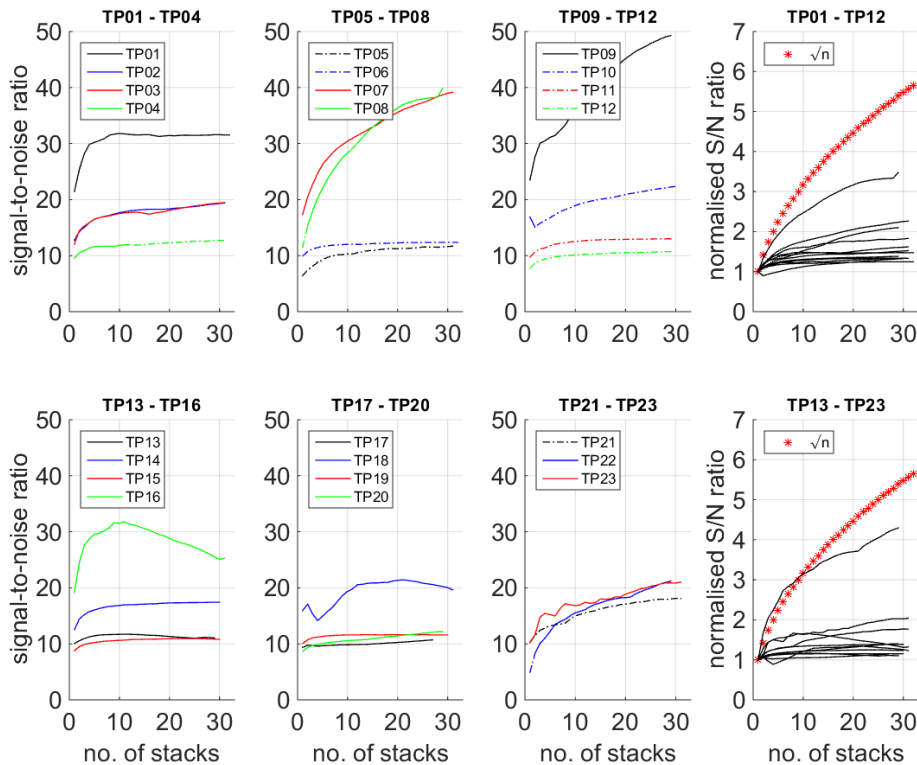
510 in uncemented sections is getting better. Due to cementation of Ktzi203 over a large depth range
 511 (Figure 6, bottom right), the best data quality is achieved for this well.

512 5 Signal-to-noise ratio: how many sweeps per source point?

513 The signal-to-noise ratio is calculated following the method described by Staples, Hobbs and White
 514 (1999) and Yordkayhun *et al.* (2009). For a given trace it is calculated by comparing the root mean
 515 squared (RMS) amplitude within a window above the first break (noise window) to the RMS
 516 amplitude within a window below the first break (signal window). This is described by

$$Q_{S/N} = \frac{S_{RMS}^{t_0+50\text{ ms}}}{N_{RMS}^{t_0-90\text{ ms}}} \quad (1)$$

517 $Q_{S/N}$ is the signal-to-noise ratio; S_{RMS} and N_{RMS} describe the RMS amplitude calculated for signal
 518 and noise windows, respectively. The first break time is t_0 . In the expression above, a 50 ms window
 519 for both noise and signal windows is defined. To carry out the calculation, the first breaks were
 520 picked automatically for traces not affected by casing waves. The signal window starts at the first
 521 break, whereas the noise window has an offset of 40 ms prior to the first breaks (Figure 4, blue
 522 polygons). The signal-to-noise value for the whole shot gather is calculated as the mean value over all
 523 considered traces in the four wells. The evolution of the signal-to-noise ratio, when stacking the
 524 correlated data, is shown in Figure 7.

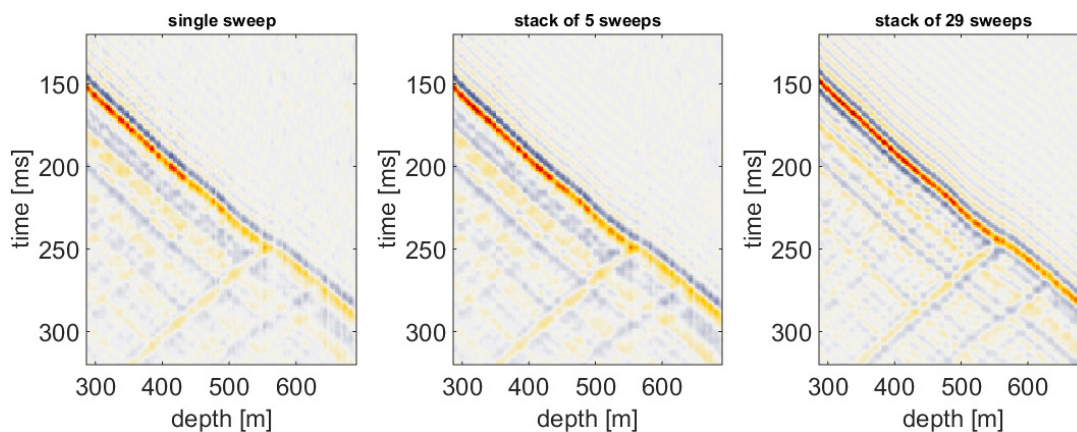


525
 526 **Figure 18: Evolution of the signal-to-noise ratios, when stacking the correlated data. Different**
 527 **vibrator drive levels are indicated by solid lines (high drive) and dashed-dotted lines (low**

528 **drive). On the right hand side of the upper and lower row, the measured improvement of the**
529 **signal-to-noise ratio is compared to the theoretical improvement with \sqrt{n} .**

530 In the vicinity of sensitive structures, like wells or CO₂ tanks, the force of the seismic vibrator was
531 reduced from 80 % of the maximum peak force (high drive) to 40 % of the maximum peak force (low
532 drive). Good signal-to-noise ratios of > 10, are achieved for all source points. In general, the signal-to-
533 noise ratio is lower for the low drive level and it is reduced with the source offset.

534 In Figure 7 (right hand side of the upper and lower row) the measured improvement of the signal-to-
535 noise ratio is compared to the theoretical improvement by the square-root of the number of stacks
536 \sqrt{n} . The measured signal-to-noise ratios do not improve significantly while stacking sweeps, they
537 remain well below \sqrt{n} , for some cases they even decline. This could be caused by coherent noise like
538 correlation noise and the excitation of sweeps on instable concrete slabs, where it is hard to control
539 the sweep leading to non-repeatable source signature. Considering the signal-to-noise ratio alone,
540 recording of 5 sweeps per source point would have been sufficient. But this ratio, which is related to
541 the first breaks, does not account for the dynamic of the seismic wavefield. Especially reflection
542 amplitudes (upgoing P-waves) are improved by stacking all available sweeps (Figure 8). The phase of
543 the wavelet in the first 5 sweeps is not zero-phase, probably due to systematic errors in the early
544 sweeps. This could affect the signal-to-noise ratio for this shot gather and should be examined
545 further.

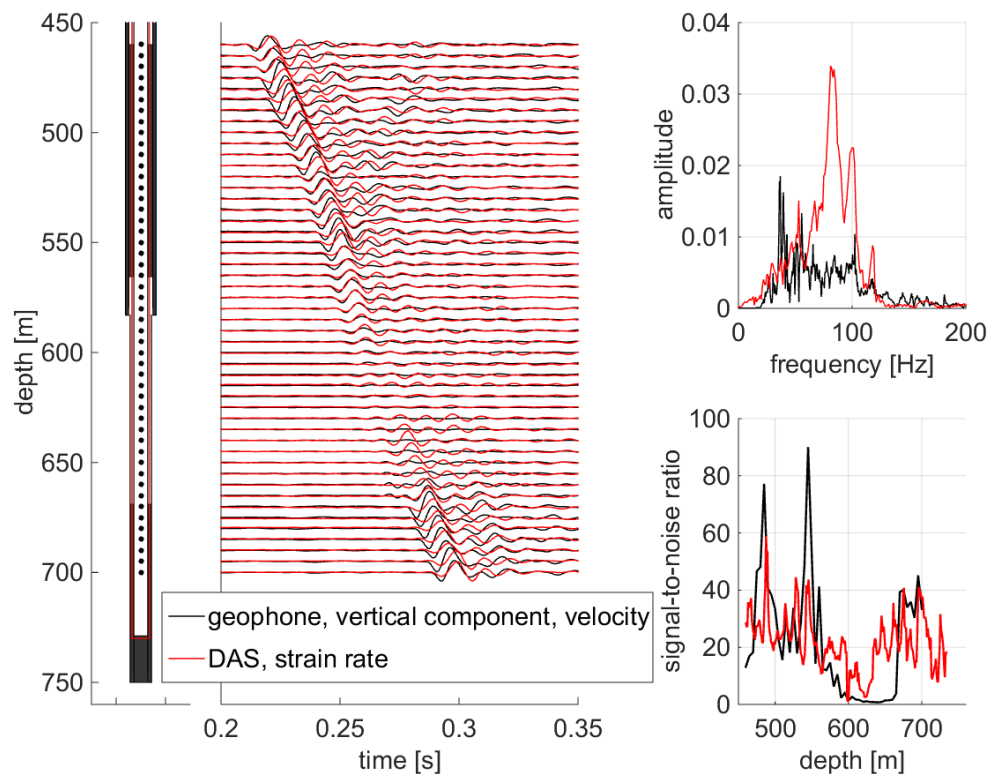


546
547 **Figure 19: Comparison of zero-offset VSP data (exemplarily for Ktzi203 and shot point 6) for 1**
548 **sweep (left), a stack of 5 sweeps (middle) and a stack of 29 sweeps (right).**

549 **6 Zero-offset at the Ktzi202 well – DAS-VSP compared with geophone** 550 **VSP**

551 At the Ketzin CO₂ storage site, seismic downhole measurements were also performed with
552 conventional three component borehole geophones (Daley *et al.* 2013, Götz *et al.* 2014). The zero-
553 offset VSP was recorded with 3C-geophones lowered into the well and clamped inside the casing at

554 80 depth levels, from 325 m to 720 m below ground level (m b.gl.). The vertical distance between the
 555 geophones is 5 m. A stack of 32 sweeps from the zero-offset DAS-VSP in the Ktzi202 well is compared
 556 to data from a conventional zero-offset VSP recorded in the same well. The conventional zero-offset
 557 VSP was recorded in 2011, with a different type of seismic source, the VIBSIST, working according to
 558 the Swept Impact Seismic Technique (SIST, Cosma and Enescu 2001, Yang *et al.* 2010). The VIBSIST
 559 source uses an excavator-mounted hydraulic rock-breaker to produce a rapid series of impacts,
 560 maintaining a monotonic variation of the impact rate. The seismograms are obtained by cross-
 561 correlating the swept impact sequence with a pilot signal recorded at the source. Especially, the zero-
 562 offset VSP in Ketzin is affected by the only partially cemented production casing of the receiver well
 563 (Chapter 4), so the traces are compared for the lower part of the well, only. In Figure 9, the vertical
 564 components of the geophone recordings (physical quantity: velocity) are plotted together with the
 565 corresponding DAS traces (physical quantity: strain rate).



566
 567 **Figure 20: Comparison between the vertical component of borehole geophones (velocity, VIBSIST source) and the DAS recordings (strain rate, Vibroseis source). Left: Well**
 568 **completion of well Ktzi202 with the locations of 3C geophones (black dots) and the fibre-**
 569 **optical cable (red line). The optical fibre is installed behind the production casing. Cemented**
 570 **intervals are indicated by grey sections in the well diagram. Middle: Wiggle plot of the**
 571 **seismic traces. Right: Comparison of amplitude spectrum and signal-to-noise ratios for the**
 572 **depth interval 450 m – 700 m. Modified after Reinsch *et al.* 2015.**
 573

574

575

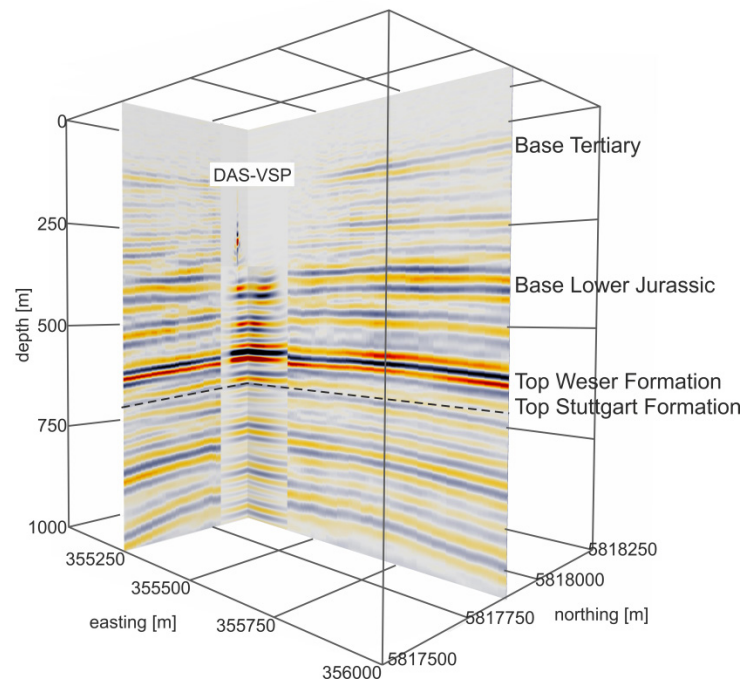
576 The downgoing wavelets for both recording methods differ due to the different source types (VIBSIST
577 vs. Vibroseis) and pre-processing methods (shift-and-stack vs correlation). This is e.g. reflected in the
578 frequency spectra of the measurements. Due to the employed sweep from 7 – 120 Hz, the frequency
579 content of the DAS measurement is higher than that of the geophone recordings (Figure 9, top right).
580 Moreover the different physical quantities measured have to be taken into account. Daley *et al.*
581 (2016) have shown that DAS data can be converted to a geophone-equivalent signal. For the native
582 strain-rate data, a phase shift of 90° to velocity should be present. Nevertheless, some comparative
583 observations can be made. The influence of the cementation of the casing on both data sets is
584 similar. Clear first breaks can be observed only for fully cemented casing sections, e.g. 460 m – 565 m
585 and 670 m – 700 m. The signal fades between 565 m and 670 m depth, where the production casing
586 is not cemented to the formation (this is the reservoir level). Between 605 m and 625 m depth it is
587 not possible to identify any first breaks. At 630 m the first breaks of the DAS traces start to recover,
588 contrary to the geophone traces.

589 Experience has shown that also for uncemented casing strings, which have been in place for
590 sufficient time, a reasonable mechanical coupling or bond between casing and formation is often
591 developed, e.g. Hardage 2000. This is the result from successively filling the annulus with solid
592 material, e.g. settling of concretions or cuttings from the drilling mud, or sloughing of the formation,
593 over time. For the Ktzi202 well, such a process has been inferred to occur from analysis of time-lapse
594 pulsed neutron-gamma logs for an interval with increasing extent from 642 – 636 m depth over
595 successive years between 2008 and 2012 (Baumann, Henniges and De Lucia 2014). Moreover, the
596 brine level increased from 651 m during the geophone VSP recording in 2011 to 634 m before the
597 DAS-VSP survey, both inside the casing and the well annulus (Baumann, Henniges and De Lucia
598 2014). Therefore the higher DAS-VSP signal-to-noise ratio is attributed to a combination of these
599 effects within the lower part of the affected zone.

600 A similar effect can be observed when comparing the signal-to-noise ratio (Figure 9, bottom right).
601 With the DAS technique, the signal-to-noise ratio of conventional geophone recordings can be
602 reached. It should be noted that the good signal-to-noise-ratio of the DAS data was achieved due to a
603 rather powerful source, to the amount of stacking and the long sweeps (Chapter 2). In the depth
604 interval of the uncemented production casing, the DAS data maintain a higher signal-to-noise ratio
605 than the geophone data, probably due to the deployment behind casing. Better comparability
606 between the recordings could have been reached by wavelet matching.

607 **7 DAS-VSP cube**

608 The 3D surface seismic cube is converted from time domain to depth domain by using stacking
 609 velocities derived for the baseline data (Juhlin *et al.* 2007). The depth conversion is tied to sonic logs,
 610 especially using the strong reflection of the anhydrite layer (Top Weser Formation, Figure 1, Figure
 611 10). In Figure 10 the bandpass filtered (10-20-80-100 Hz) DAS-VSP cube is compared to the 3D
 612 surface seismic data.



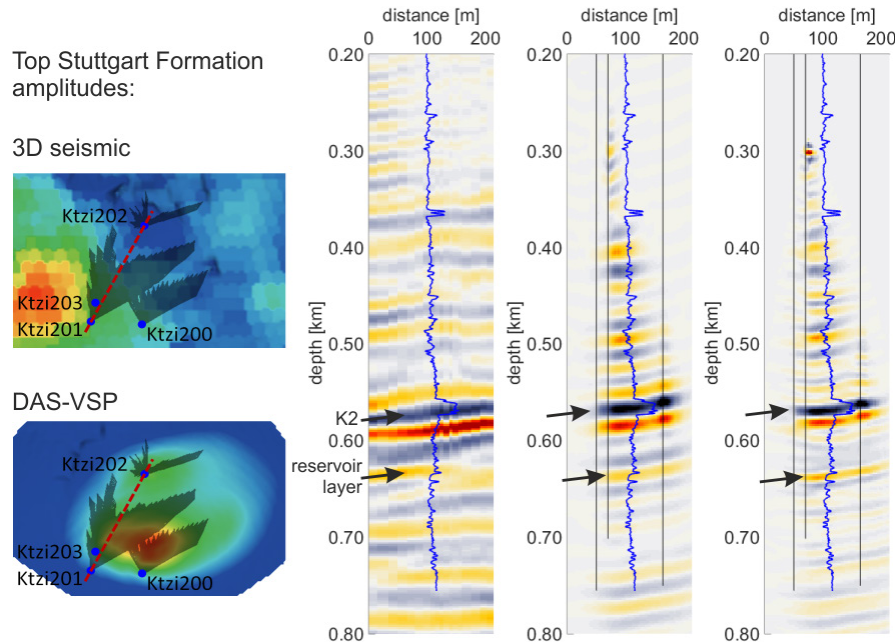
613
 614 **Figure 21: Comparison of bandpass filtered DAS-VSP cube (10-20-80-100 Hz) and the depth**
 615 **converted 3D surface seismic cube (Ivandic *et al.* 2015). For reasons of good visibility, the**
 616 **DAS-VSP slices are shown 12 m in front of the 3D surface seismic cube.**

617 The 3D depth migration of the DAS-VSP data was performed with a relatively simple velocity model
 618 based on sonic logs (Chapter 3). With this velocity model a good tie between the DAS-VSP cube and
 619 the existing surface seismic data was achieved at the Top of the Stuttgart Formation. Especially
 620 below the Stuttgart Formation, where no sonic log velocities and structural information was available
 621 a substantial mismatch between both cubes can be observed. As stated in Chapter 3 the tie could be
 622 improved by using a heterogeneous velocity model, taking into account the variation of velocities
 623 within the layers. It is possible to image the subsurface down to at least 1000 m, which is the same
 624 depth as for the 3D surface seismic (Juhlin *et al.* 2007).

625 Based on well cores, the depth of the top of the Stuttgart Formation is determined by the transition
 626 of the Weser Formation (mudstones) to the Stuttgart Formation (siltstones-sandstones, Förster *et al.*
 627 2010). The distance between the top of the Weser Formation (K2 reflector) and the top of the
 628 Stuttgart Formation (the reservoir), is about 70 m. The reservoir is located at the top of the Stuttgart
 629 Formation in 630 – 650 m depth and consists of sandstones (channel facies rocks) and mudstones
 630 (flood-plain facies rocks, Norden and Frykman 2013). The transition from the Weser Formation to the

631 Stuttgart Formation is rather smooth, from higher to lower impedances, characterised by only a
632 weak, negative reflection signal in the seismic data.

633 Through the injected CO₂, the impedance contrast between the Weser Formation and the reservoir is
634 increased and the reservoir becomes visible in the seismic data, but is still not easy to pick in the 3D
635 surface seismics (Figure 11, left).



636
637 **Figure 22: Comparison of 3D surface seismic, bandpass filtered DAS-VSP and raw DAS-VSP.**
638 **Left: Top view on the seismic amplitudes extracted from the top of the Stuttgart Formation**
639 **for the 3D seismic and DAS-VSP. The black shaded areas indicate the DAS-VSP reflection**
640 **loci. Red line shows location of sections (right). Right: Cross sections extracted between the**
641 **wells Ktzi201 and Ktzi202. The wells Ktzi201, Ktzi203 and Ktzi202 are indicated by the black**
642 **lines and the impedance log for the well Ktzi201 is inserted (blue line).**

643 The reflections from the reservoir can be clearly identified in the DAS-VSP data, firstly because of the
644 smaller distance between the VSP channels and the reservoir and secondly because of the higher
645 frequency content of the data. More details of the structure above the K2 reflector as well as below
646 the reservoir are shown in the DAS-VSP data.

647 The coverage of the VSP data is limited (Figure 11, left) due to the limited offset between the source
648 points and the receiver wells. For instance, the distance between Ktzi201 and Ktzi202 (about 100 m)
649 is not entirely covered, leading to higher amplitudes at the wells and a fading of the amplitudes in
650 between the wells. This can be observed e.g. at the reflections from the anhydrite layer (Figure 11,
651 right) or at the amplitudes extracted at the Top of the Stuttgart Formation (Figure 11, left).

652 **8 Conclusion**

653 The field tests at the Ketzin CO₂ storage site demonstrated that DAS can be used for recording
654 simultaneous multi-well VSP data with a single interrogator unit. As long as the coupling with the
655 formation is present, good signal-to-noise ratios are obtained for all of the source points, downgoing
656 and upgoing waves are observed within every well. It was possible to record simultaneously within
657 four wells, covering the whole length of the wells with a single shot in a very fine depth sampling. It
658 has been shown that DAS-VSP data with complex acquisition geometry can be acquired fast and cost-
659 efficiently. Furthermore, the optical-fibre VSP technique is a permanent acquisition system, and can
660 be used in different periods of the well's life, thus enabling time-lapse VSP analysis for monitoring.
661 Thus, on-demand and time-lapse VSP measurements become operationally feasible with reduced
662 logistical effort compared to conventional wireline acquisition. Permanently deployed fibre optic
663 cables enable time-lapse VSP surveys using pressurized wells, where conventional seismic surveys
664 using wireline equipment are possible only under highly restricted conditions (pressure equipment,
665 short receiver arrays). Extended stacking of sweeps resulted in VSP shot gathers with a signal-to-
666 noise ratio comparable to gathers acquired using conventional geophone deployment. It was
667 possible to build a focused, high resolution depth migrated DAS-VSP cube, to image the structure
668 right below the injection site, though with limited lateral resolution caused by the acquisition
669 geometry. This could be overcome by extending the source point distribution to larger offsets from
670 the wells and by optimized source point locations around the well locations.

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