

LOCAL MAGNITUDE ESTIMATION IN GREECE, BASED ON RECORDINGS OF THE HELLENIC UNIFIED SEISMIC NETWORK (HUSN)

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Abstract

A new relation is proposed for calculation of local magnitudes in Greece. For this purpose, there were used synthetic Wood-Anderson (SWA) recordings of 98 digital broad-band stations operating between 2007 and 2011. These stations are installed at the sites of the seismological networks of: a) the National Observatory of Athens (HL), b) the Department of Geophysics of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (HT), c) the Seismological Laboratory of the University of Athens (HA) and d) the Seismological Laboratory of the University of Patras (HP). All these institutions constitute the recently (2004) established Hellenic Unified Seismic Network (HUSN). These recordings are used to calculate a refined geometrical spreading factor and an anelastic attenuation coefficient, representative for Greece and surrounding area, proper for estimating local magnitudes in this region. Individual station corrections are also calculated in order to further ameliorate magnitude estimation accuracy. Comparison of such calculated local magnitudes with corresponding original moment magnitudes revealed that these two scales are equivalent for a wide range of values ($2.9 \leq M_W \leq 6.4$).

Key words: Synthetic Wood-Anderson records, geometrical spreading, anelastic attenuation.

Περίληψη

Προτείνεται μια νέα σχέση για τον υπολογισμό τοπικών μεγεθών (M_L) στην Ελλάδα. Για το σκοπό αυτό χρησιμοποιούνται συνθετικές καταγραφές Wood-Anderson (SWA) που προέρχονται από 98 ψηφιακούς σεισμολογικούς σταθμούς ευρέος φάσματος και καλύπτουν το χρονικό διάστημα 2007-2011. Οι σεισμολογικοί αυτοί σταθμοί ανήκουν σε τέσσερα σεισμολογικά δίκτυα που ελέγχονται από: α) το Γεωδυναμικό Ινστιτούτο του Εθνικού Αστεροσκοπείου Αθηνών (HL), β) το Εργαστήριο Γεωφυσικής του Αριστοτέλειου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης (HT), γ) το Εργαστήριο Σεισμολογίας του Εθνικού Καποδιστριακού Πανεπιστημίου Αθηνών (HA) και δ) το Εργαστήριο Σεισμολογίας του Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών (HP). Τα δίκτυα αυτά συνιστούν από το 2004 το Ενιαίο Εθνικό Δίκτυο Σεισμογράφων (Ε.Ε.Δ.Σ.). Οι καταγραφές των 98 αυτών σταθμών χρησιμοποιούνται για τον καθορισμό συντελεστών γεωμετρικής διασποράς και ανελαστικής απόσβεσης, αντιπροσωπευτικών για την Ελλάδα και τις γύρω περιοχές, κατάλληλων για τον υπολογισμό τοπικών μεγεθών στις περιοχές αυτές. Υπολογίζονται, επίσης, σταθερές διορθώσεις, που σχετίζονται με τις τοπικές συνθήκες της θέσης κάθε σταθμού, για την περαιτέρω βελτίωση της ακρίβειας στον καθορισμό

του μεγέθους. Τέλος επιχειρείται συσχέτιση του υπολογιζόμενου μεγέθους με αυθεντικά μεγέθη σεισμικής ροπής, η οποία αναδεικνύει ισοδυναμία των δύο αυτών κλιμάκων μεγεθών για ένα ευρύ φάσμα τιμών ($2.9 \leq M_W \leq 6.4$).

Λέξεις κλειδιά: Συνθετικές καταγραφές Wood-Anderson, γεωμετρική διασπορά, ανελαστική απόσβεση.

1. Introduction

This To measure the “size” of earthquakes, Richter (1935) introduced the *local magnitude scale*, M_L , using trace amplitudes of local earthquakes recorded on typical Wood Anderson seismographs with magnification 2,800; natural period 0.8sec; damping 0.8 (Anderson and Wood, 1924, 1925). Recent studies (Uhrhammer and Collins, 1990; Uhrhammer et al., 1996) have showed that the effective magnification of the typical WA seismograph is around 2,080, which means a systematic error in M_L estimations. Other magnitude scales (m_b , m_B , M_S , M_D) which were introduced soon after the definition of M_L did not overcome the limitations introduced by the instruments’ response and the frequency content of the seismic waves. However, the important role of the local magnitude scale in earthquake hazard assessments has been emphasized for years by several workers (Kanamori and Jennings, 1978; Hutton and Boore, 1987; Boore, 1989).

The M_W scale (Kanamori, 1977; Hanks and Kanamori, 1979), solved the problem of confusing plurality and limited applicability of the existing magnitude scales. This scale is reasonably reliable since it is controlled by the fault size and dislocation. The robustness of the M_W estimation is due to the fact that seismic moment estimation is based on spectral amplitudes. On the other hand, M_W does not saturate, since it is directly proportional to the logarithm of seismic moment. As a result M_W exhibits a uniform behavior for all magnitude levels. For these reasons, this magnitude is considered as the most reliable earthquake magnitude, because it accurately describes the size of earthquakes and its relation with other magnitude scales has been also accurately defined (Heaton et al., 1986; Johnston, 1996; Shedlock, 1999; Papazachos et al., 2002, Scordilis, 2006).

The relation between M_L and M_W has been extensively studied by several authors and for different seismotectonic environments (Heaton et al., 1986; Kim et al., 1989; Uhrhammer et al., 1996; Papazachos et al., 1997, 2002; Utsu, 2002; Grünthal and Wahlström, 2003; Brazier et al., 2008). In most of the relative works it is shown that these two magnitude scales are equivalent for a wide range of magnitudes.

In 2002, a working group of IASPEI proposed relations for different scale magnitude estimations. That is, for M_L magnitude they adopted a poly-parametric estimation of distance correction by relations of the form of equation 1 where, A is the 0-peak (in mm) amplitude on a typical WA seismograph (recorded or synthesized), R is the hypocentral distance (in km), n is the geometrical spreading factor, K is the anelastic attenuation coefficient and c_i is a standard correction. This relation was initially proposed by Bakun and Joyner (1984). Especially, for regions with attenuation similar to this of southern California IASPEI proposed the above relation with $n=1.11$ and $K=0.00189$ estimated by Hutton and Boore (1987).

Equation 1 - Formula for for M_L magnitude estimation proposed by IASPEI working group.

$$M_L = \log A + n \cdot \log(R/100) + K(R-100) + c_i.$$

In Greece, a WA seismograph was installed at the seismological station of Athens in 1965. Its records were used for a long time period by HL for regular determinations of local magnitudes in Greece by adopting the calibration function, $-\log A_0 = f(R)$, of Richter (1935, 1958). Kiratzi and Papazachos (1984) used these WA records to define new relations for the estimation of local magnitudes, M_{LG} , in Greece and surrounding areas, valid for epicentral distances $100 < \Delta \leq 1000$ km. They also noticed a possible inconsistency between M_{LG} and M_W . Kiratzi (1984) and Scordilis

(1985) calibrated the recordings of short period instruments of the HT network for defining relations to estimate magnitudes equivalent to M_{LG} for a wide range of epicentral distances. Papazachos et al. (1997) in searching the relations between M_W and other magnitude scales in Greece observed the same inconsistency between the M_{LG} and M_W . This inconsistency has been confirmed (and extensively discussed) by Margaritis and Papazachos (1999) who used strong motion recordings of earthquakes in Greece to estimate typical M_L (M_{LSM}). Papazachos et al. (2002) compared the M_W of 329 earthquakes, which occurred in the broader area of Greece during the period 1959-2001, with magnitude scales that are used in Greece (i.e. M from Wiechert and Mainka, M_L , M_{LSM}) confirming the previous results on M_{LG} .

For the last 5 years, M_L in Greece is estimated by the recordings of the digital broadband stations of HUSN, using the relation proposed by Hutton and Boore (1987) after applying a proper level-correction. However, even though this relationship gives better results than in the past, some inconsistencies with M_W are still noticeable.

The purpose of this work is to estimate new attenuation parameters (and individual station corrections) better adapted to Greece and surrounding areas, which allow more accurate magnitude determination for the earthquakes of this area.

2. The Data

Digital recordings of 98 seismological stations (Figure 1) belonging to the HUSN and operated by its four participants (HL, HT, HP and HA), are used to carry out this study. These recordings correspond to shallow earthquakes (focal depths up to 40km) which occurred in the area bounded by the coordinates 33°N - 43°N , 18°E - 30°E for the time period October of 2007 - end of 2011.

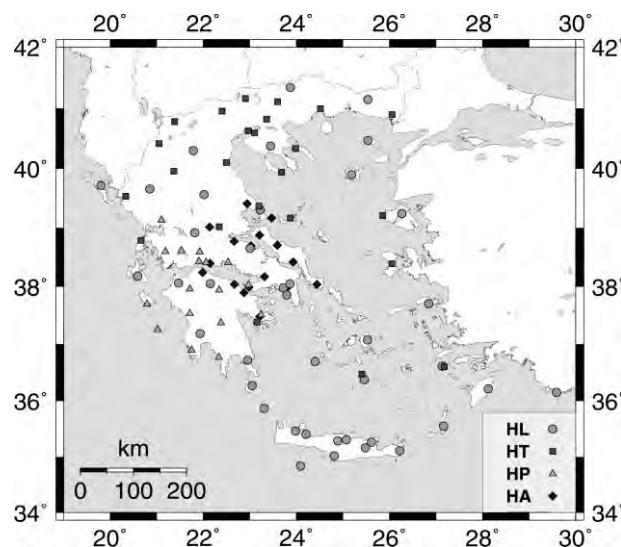


Figure 1 - The 98 stations of the HUSN of which the recordings are used in the present study.

After de-convolving the instrument response of each recording and re-convolving with the WA response, synthetic WA seismograms (SWA) were generated (Kanamori and Jennings, 1978; Bakun *et al.*, 1978; Uhrhammer and Collins, 1990), considering both the instrumentation characteristics of each employed station and the characteristics of the standard WA seismograph ($V=2080$, $T_0=0.8\text{sec}$, critical damping 0.8).

For each station and for each earthquake, maximum trace amplitudes were measured on both N-S and E-W SWA components, where it was feasible. The mean amplitude was used to constitute a single measurement that corresponds to each station and each shock, since M_L was originally de-

defined as a function of the mean maximum trace amplitudes of NS and EW WA components. The finally produced data-base includes a total of 177,234 SWA picks corresponding to 23,354 earthquakes. The epicentral distances of the 98 stations that recorded these earthquakes reach up to 600 km and their magnitudes range from 2.9 to 6.4 (in the M_W scale)..

3. Method and Results

Starting with relation 1 and assuming that the frequency independent geometrical spreading factor, n , and the anelastic attenuation coefficient for the path (frequency dependent), K , should each have

Equation 2 – Calibration function used to fit the available data.

$$M_L - \log A = n \cdot \log(R/100) + K \cdot (R - 100) + c + d_i$$

the same value for the whole area under study, equation 2 was fitted to the data, where, A is the average 0-peak amplitude (in mm) of the two horizontal components of the SWA, R is the hypocentral distance (in km), c is a standard correction and d_i is an additional level correction due to the site conditions of each station, i . In order to define these parameters a reference magnitude was

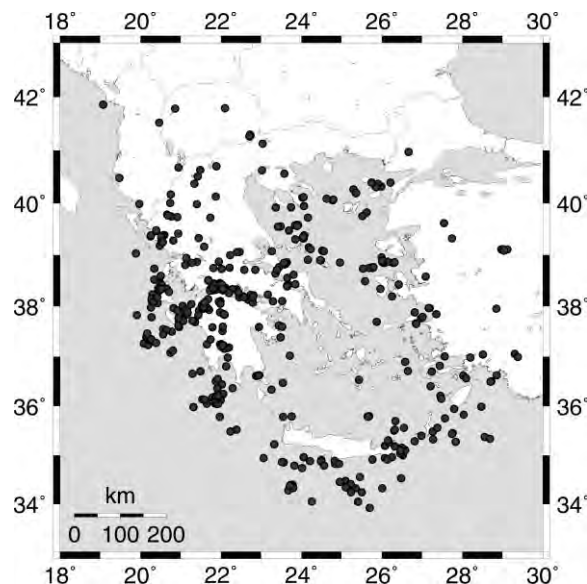


Figure 2 - Epicenters of 453 earthquakes with available M_W used in the present study.

necessary. Considering previous studies which confirmed the consistency (equivalence) between M_L and M_W (i.e. Heaton et al., 1986; Bollinger et al., 1993; Uhrhammer et al., 1996; Utsu, 2002; Brazier et al., 2008) the M_W is chosen as such reference magnitude. Several sources (GCMT, NEIC, EMSC, NOAA, AUTH, UPSL, NKUA) provided M_w values for 453 earthquakes, satisfactorily covering the study area (Figure 2).

The data (moment magnitudes, SWA amplitudes and hypocentral distances) were elaborated with the code MINUIT ver94.1 (James, 1998) which is based on the simplex method of Nelder and Maed (1965) and the variable metric method of Fletcher (1970), in order to fit equation 2. The data sample consists of 5270 data points corresponding to mean SWA records of the 473 earthquakes with available M_W . The derived coefficient-values are $n=1.2614$, $K=0.0031$ and $c=0.9043$ (Figure 3).

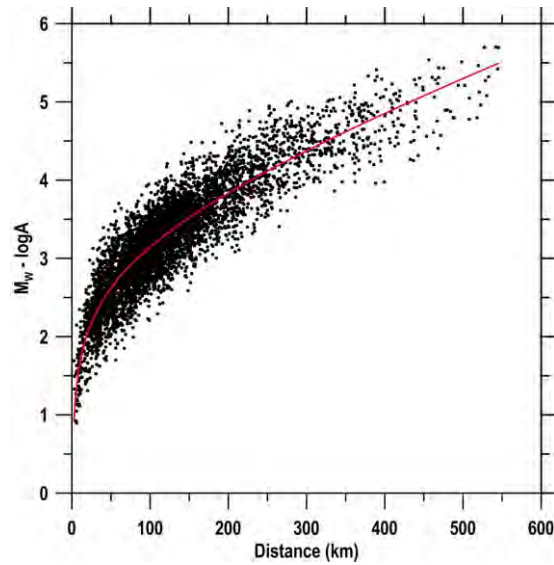


Figure 3 - Calibration function for shallow ($h < 40\text{km}$) earthquakes. The line represents the best fitting the data curve.

Individual differentiations from M_W values have been calculated and used as level-corrections for each station in order to avoid biases related to possible inconsistencies in instruments responses. The procedure has been repeated for defining this way more representative n , K and c values. To further ameliorate the correlation of the estimated magnitude with M_W , individual correction, d_i , was estimated for each station, by keeping the n , K and c values and using each station's data separately. Such corrections are attributed to the local conditions of each station. The results for all 98 available stations are shown on Table 1.

Table 1. Station corrections attributed to local conditions.

Net	Station Code	d_i	Net	Station Code	d_i	Net	Station Code	d_i	Net	Station Code	d_i
HA	ACOR	-0.1791	HP	DID	-0.0418	HL	IACM	-0.4053	HL	KSL	0.1163
HT	AGG	0.0488	HA	DIDY	-0.0081	HL	IDI	0.2022	HL	KYTH	-0.0315
HT	ALN	0.0910	HP	DRO	-0.2160	HT	IGT	0.1432	HL	KZN	0.0296
HP	AMT	-0.2016	HP	DSF	0.0874	HL	IMMV	-0.1219	HA	LAKA	0.0622
HL	ANKY	0.0740	HP	DSL	-0.0285	HL	ITM	0.0998	HL	LAST	0.1948
HP	ANX	-0.1302	HP	DYR	0.1284	HL	JAN	-0.0397	HL	LIA	-0.0255
HT	AOS	0.0740	HP	EFP	-0.0753	HA	KALE	-0.0236	HT	LIT	0.0672
HL	APE	0.1551	HA	EREA	-0.0227	HL	KARP	-0.0557	HT	LKD2	-0.0201
HL	ARG	0.0038	HL	EVR	0.0515	HA	KARY	0.0722	HL	LKR	0.0448
HA	ATAL	0.2638	HT	FNA	-0.0859	HT	KAVA	0.0737	HA	LOUT	0.0922
HL	ATH	-0.0863	HA	FYTO	0.2408	HL	KEK	0.0770	HP	LTK	0.0299
HA	ATHU	0.4175	HT	GRG	-0.0206	HL	KLV	0.2570	HA	MAKR	-0.3116
HA	AXAR	-0.3430	HP	GUR	-0.2064	HT	KNT	0.1258	HL	MHLO	-0.4520
HT	CHOS	-0.0804	HL	GVD	-0.1377	HT	KPRO	0.0368	HA	MRKA	-0.0310
HT	CMBO	-0.3415	HT	HORT	0.2369	HT	KRND	-0.0786	HL	NEO	-0.1274

Net	Station Code	d_i	Net	Station Code	d_i	Net	Station Code	d_i	Net	Station Code	d_i
HT	NEST	0.0261	HL	PTL	0.0252	HA	SKIA	-0.0694	HA	VILL	-0.1367
HT	NIS1	-0.1998	HP	PVO	0.0360	HL	SMG	-0.1667	HL	VLI	0.0213
HL	NISR	-0.0927	HP	PYL	0.1229	HA	SMIA	-0.4173	HL	VLS	0.0842
HL	NPS	0.0451	HL	RDO	0.0863	HL	SMTH	0.0625	HP	VLX	-0.1923
HL	NVR	0.1136	HL	RLS	0.2043	HT	SOH	-0.0077	HL	VLY	-0.0486
HT	OUR	-0.0729	HL	SANT	-0.0699	HT	SRS	0.2114	HT	XOR	-0.0255
HT	PAIG	0.1837	HP	SERG	0.0203	HA	THAL	-0.3020	HL	ZKR	0.1078
HP	PDO	-0.3495	HP	SFD	-0.3116	HT	THE	0.4064	HP	ZKS	-0.3141
HL	PLG	0.2552	HT	SIGR	-0.0494	HL	THL	0.1755			
HL	PRK	-0.2960	HL	SIVA	-0.2834	HL	VAM	-0.0273			

The final graph representing the dependence of $M_w - \log A_0$ upon the hypocentral distance, R , is given in Figure 4. The hypocentral distances are up to ~ 550 km while the parameters best fitting the relation 2 are $n=1.2328$ (geometrical spreading), $K=0.0031$ (anelastic attenuation) and $c=3.1465$, with high correlation ($R=0.9247$). These values can be considered as representative for Greece and surrounding areas since they are based on data of earthquakes with epicenters satisfactorily covering this area. The respective values for the area of southern California (Hutton and Boore, 1987) are $n=1.11$ and $K=0.00189$. Figure 5 shows that the formed calibration function fits well the data of each one of the four contributing networks (HL, HT, HP and HA).

Comparison of these two curves shows (Figure 6) that while the attenuation in Greece is slightly weaker than that of southern California for hypocentral distances up to ~ 100 km, it becomes clearly stronger for distances between 100 and 550 km.

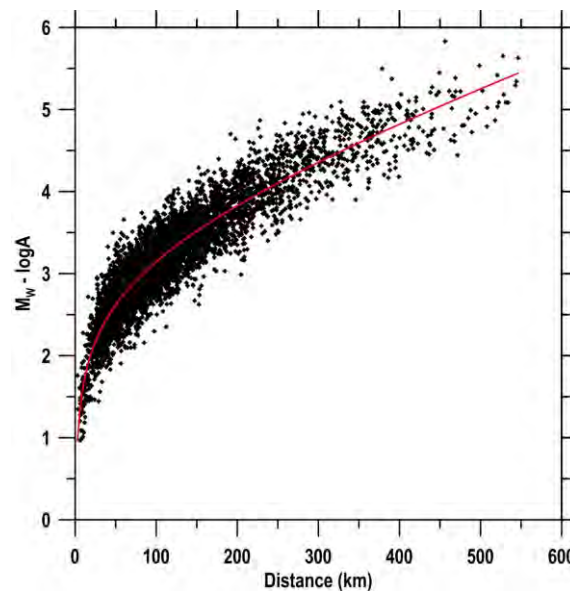


Figure 4- Calibration function for shallow ($h < 40$ km) earthquakes after applying the stations' corrections listed on table 1. The line represents the best fitting the data curve.

A data-set consisting of amplitude readings of recent earthquakes which occurred in the broader Aegean area within the year 2012 was used to check the consistency of M_W with the M_L estimated by the relation proposed in the present study. This data-set is completely independent since it didn't participate in geometrical spreading factor and anelastic attenuation parameter estimation and, therefore, it can be used to test new relation's reliability. Thus, using the values of parameters n , K , c and d_i in relation 2, the average magnitude for each of these events was re-calculated and its consistency with the respective moment magnitude (only earthquakes with at least two reported M_W values were used to strengthen test reliability) was checked (Figure 7a). Despite the small number of the available pairs (77) and the lack of enough M_W /GCMT observations, the regression analysis showed clear linearity expressed by the relation $M_W=M_L+0.04$, with high correlation ($R=0.94$) and low standard deviation ($\sigma=0.18$). Clear equivalence of these two magnitude scales is also revealed by using 192 M_W/M_L pairs concerning earthquakes of the time period 2007-2011 ($M_W=M_L-0.003$, $R=0.96$, $\sigma=0.17$, Figure 7b). This objective test shows clear equivalency between the original M_W and the M_L derived from the relation proposed in the present study, for a wide range of values ($\sim 3.5-6.5$). The high correlation can be attributed to the good quality of readings of digital recordings, to the stable behavior of the digital sensors and to the robustness of the geometrical spreading factor and anelastic attenuation coefficient, defined in the present study.

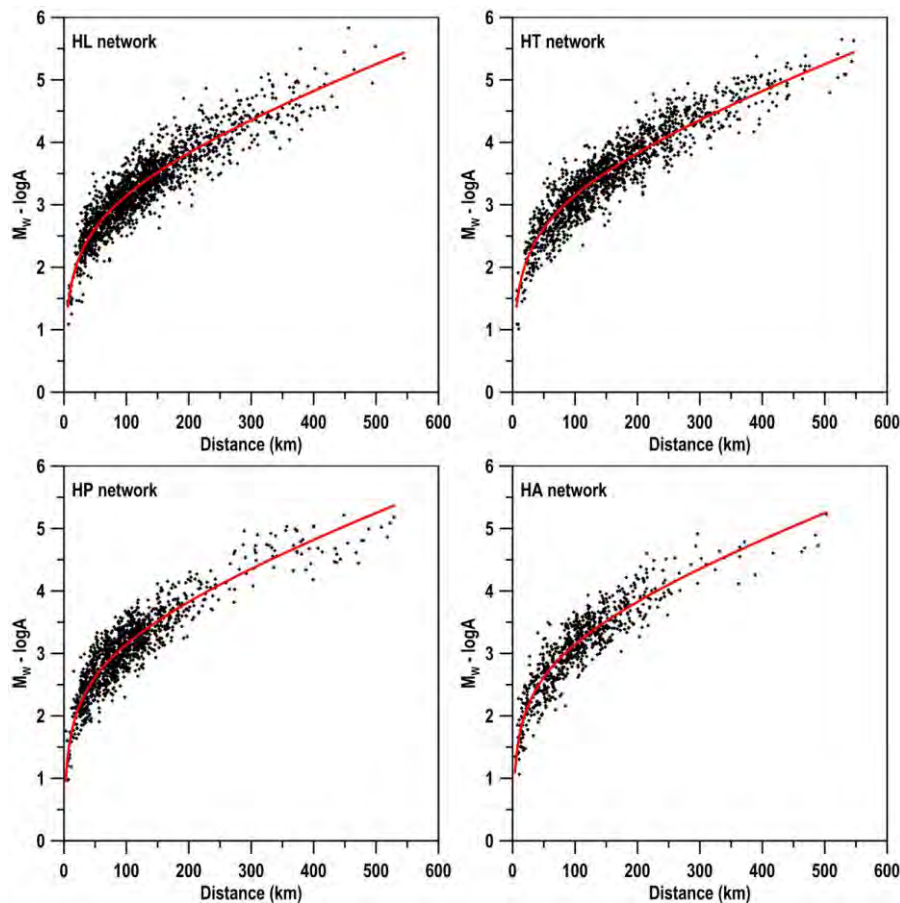


Figure 5 - Plot of $M-\log A$ versus hypocentral distance for the stations of each one of the four participating networks (the lines represent the final calibration function defined in the present work).

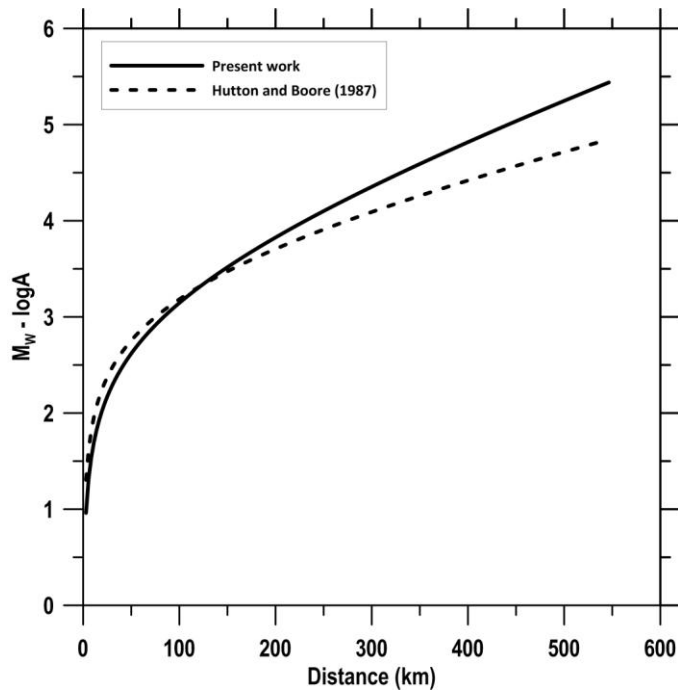


Figure 6 - Comparison of calibration functions for Greece (defined in the present work, solid line) with that (dashed) for southern California (Hutton and Boore, 1987).

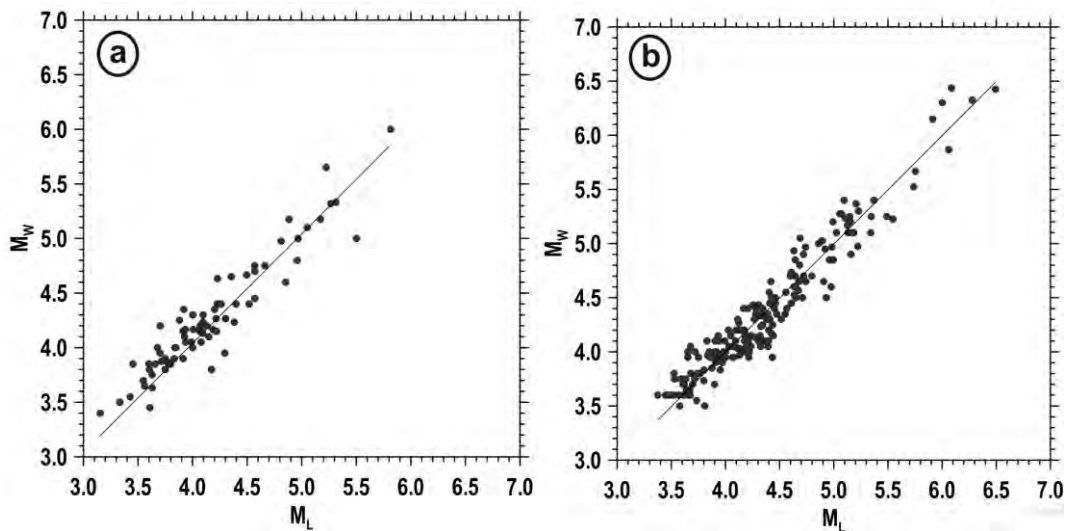


Figure 7 - Comparison between original M_W and M_L estimated by relation 2 of this work for two data-sets: a) independent data-set (2012) used to test new relation's reliability and b) main data-set (2007-2011) used for new geometrical spreading factor and anelastic attenuation parameter estimation. Straight lines represent the lines best fitting the data, in the least-squares' sense.

4. Conclusions

The goal of the present work is to define new reliable attenuation parameters and station-level corrections for local magnitude estimation in Greece based on reliable recordings of digital broad-band instruments of the HUSN. For this reason an adequate amount of high quality data has been used assuring the robustness of the result.

Amplitude readings measured on synthetic Wood-Anderson (SWA) recordings produced by digital broad-band instruments, form our data-tank. Only records that correspond to shallow earthquakes (focal depths up to 40 km) which occurred in Greece and surrounding areas during the time-period October 2007 – December 2011 are considered.

Both geometrical spreading and anelastic attenuation were examined. The finally estimated parameters, $n=1.2328$ for the geometrical spreading factor, $K=0.0031$ for the anelastic attenuation coefficient and $c=3.1465$ for the correction term, were used in order to define leveling correction corresponding to each station (tables 3 and 4). It is obvious that geometrical spreading plays the main role while anelastic attenuation is rather negligible. Comparison of the derived calibration function with that of southern California, defined by Hutton and Boore (1987), shows slightly weaker attenuation in Greece for hypocentral distances up to ~100km, but noticeably stronger for distances between 100 and 550km.

Comparison of the magnitudes, M_L , which are estimated by the relation proposed in this study, with original M_W (Figure 7) for two data-sets, one of recent earthquakes (not used to produce the relation) and a second one with earthquakes occurred during 2007-2011, shows that these two magnitude scales are equivalent with high correlation coefficients ($R=0.94$ and $R=0.96$, respectively), for a wide range of magnitudes.

The proposed relation can be used in the routine analyses for reliable estimation of earthquake magnitudes in Greece. It can be also used to create homogeneous earthquake catalogs with reliable magnitudes accurately estimated and expressed in a common and widely used scale such as the local magnitude scale.

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