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To cite this version:

Florent de Martin, Corinne Lacave, Emmanuel Chaljub, Jean-Daniel Rouiller. Advanced seismic microzoning of the complex sedimentary basin of Martigny (Switzerland) by two-dimensional Aki-Larner method and three-dimensional spectral-element method.. Workshop Numerical Modeling of Earthquake Motions: Waves and Ruptures, Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University Bratislava and Geophysical Institute, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Jul 2015, Bratislava, Slovakia. hal-01142180

HAL Id: hal-01142180

https://hal-brgm.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-01142180

Submitted on 14 Apr 2015

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ADVANCED SEISMIC MICROZONING OF THE COMPLEX SEDIMENTARY BASIN OF MARTIGNY (SWITZERLAND) BY TWO-DIMENSIONAL AKI-LARNER METHOD AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL SPECTRAL-ELEMENT METHOD

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The region of Martigny (Valais, Switzerland) is located at the confluence of two ancient Alpine glaciers: the Rhone and Dranse glaciers. Such a confluence had for consequence the creation of a deep, steep-sided and complex three-dimensional (3D) valley reaching 1 km depth and spreading 3 km wide (at maximum, see Figure 1). The valley is filled with quaternary sediment formations whose shear-wave velocity structure has been determined by geophysical campaigns performed during former projects (e.g., geothermal prospection): the shear-wave velocities range from 250 m/s at the shallowest formation to 1350 m/s at 1 km depth. The underlying seismological bedrock’s shear-wave velocity has been approximated to 3000 m/s. In order to determine elastic response spectra for the future seismic microzoning of the region, the “Centre de Recherche sur l’Environnement Alpin” (CREALP) mandated three institutes to perform two- and three-dimensional advanced numerical seismic wave propagations to quantify the complex basin’s seismic response and its associated uncertainties. This presentation aims at showing: i) the semi-automatic meshing/refining technique developed for arbitrary 3D sedimentary basin surrounded by steep topography, ii) the medium homogenization technique to include arbitrary 2D sediment/bedrock interface in a 3D finite-element mesh and iii) the results obtained by a 2D Aki-Larner method code and two spectral-element method codes (SPECFEM3D and EFISPEC3D).

Figure 1: 3D view of the deep steep-sided basin of the region of Martigny.