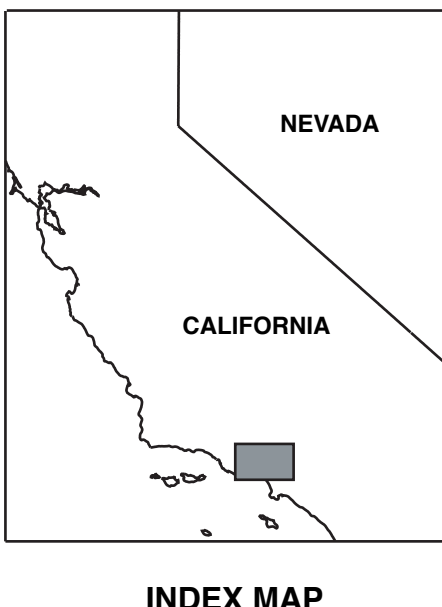


## Aeromagnetic Map with Geology of the Los Angeles 30 x 60 Minute Quadrangle, Southern California

By  
V.E. Langenheim, T.G. Hildenbrand, R.C. Jachens, R.H. Campbell, and R.F. Yerkes

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### EXPLANATION

Aeromagnetic: anomaly contours—Contour interval, 20 nT. Hatchures indicate magnetic low. Contours were computer generated based on a 300-m grid. Blue crosses and dots are magnetization boundaries automatically calculated from grid; cross reflects greater than average magnitude of magnetic potential gradient. Dot reflects less than average magnitude of magnetic potential gradient.

Model profile

Earthquake epicenter marked by focal mechanism

Anomaly caused by anthropogenic source—high amplitude, short-wavelength dipole anomaly coincident with manmade features such as land fills, radio towers, or gravel pits

Reservoir

Fault—dashed where inferred, dotted where concealed; detachment fault denoted by hatchures on hanging wall

Thrust fault—sawtooth on upper plate

Table 1. Surveys used to create aeromagnetic map.

Survey	Year	Flight elevation above ground	Flightline spacing	Flightline direction
Los Angeles (U.S. Geological Survey, 1996)	1994-6	305 m	0.8 km	N/S
Ventura Basin (U.S. Geological Survey, 1980)	1977	305 m	3.2 km	N/S
Offshore Southern California	1961	760 m*	1.6 km	NE/SW
*Flight elevation estimated				

Table 2. Magnetic susceptibilities of rocks in the Los Angeles quadrangle. N, number of samples.

Crystalline rocks	Magnetic susceptibility (10 <sup>-3</sup> cgs units)		N
	Average	Standard deviation	
Verdugo Mountains	0.76±0.64	0.00±2.75	33
San Gabriel Mountains (South of SGF)	0.76±1.02	0.00±3.69	22
San Gabriel Mountains (North of SGF)	1.08±2.07	0.00±7.37	22
Santa Monica Mountains: Slate & plutonic rocks	0.01±0.01	0.00±0.02	16
Sierra Hills Cretaceous rocks	0.15±0.17	0.01±0.61	27
Tertiary volcanic rocks	0.44±0.33	0.01±2.13	19
Tertiary sedimentary rocks	0.03±0.05	0.00±0.20	73
*SGF, south branch of San Gabriel Fault			

An important objective of geologic mapping is to project surficial structures and stratigraphy into the subsurface. Geophysical data and analysis are useful tools for achieving this objective. This aeromagnetic anomaly map provides a three-dimensional perspective to the geologic mapping of the Los Angeles 30 x 60 minute quadrangle. Aeromagnetic maps show the distribution of magnetic rocks, primarily those containing magnetite (Blakely, 1995). In the Los Angeles quadrangle, the magnetic sources are Tertiary and Mesozoic igneous rocks and Precambrian crystalline rocks. Aeromagnetic anomalies mark abrupt spatial contrasts in magnetization that can be attributed to lithologic boundaries, perhaps caused by faulting of these rocks or by intrusive contacts. This aeromagnetic map overlies on geology, with information from wells and other geophysical data, provides constraints on the subsurface geology by allowing us to trace faults beneath surficial cover and estimate fault slip and offset. This map superimposes Langenheim and Jachens (1997) because of its digital form and the added value of overlaying the magnetic data on a geologic base. The geologic base for this map is from Yerkes and Campbell (2005); some of their subunits have been merged into one on this map.

### AEROMAGNETIC DATA

This aeromagnetic map is based on data from three surveys of varying resolution (table 1). Both of the onshore surveys (U.S. Geological Survey, 1980, 1996) were flown at a normal height of 300 m (1,000 ft) above ground along flightlines spaced 0.8 to 1.6 km apart. The data were adjusted to a common magnetic datum and then merged by smooth interpolation across a buffer zone along the survey boundaries. Langenheim and Jachens (1997) published these data as a mosaic (no smoothing between surveys) at a scale of 1:100,000, and that report contains more details on how these data were processed. Most of the quadrangle is covered by the 1994-1996 detailed data (fig. 1). The smooth character of the magnetic field in the northwest and southwest corners of the map (highlighted in the color-shaded versions of the map, figs. 2 and 3) reflects the lower resolution owing to the much wider flightline spacing of the earlier two surveys.

To help delineate trends and gradients in the aeromagnetic data, we calculated magnetization boundaries in the following way. First, to emphasize the edges of shallow magnetic sources, we subtracted a numerically derived regional field from the actual merged data. The regional field was computed by analytically continuing the aeromagnetic data to a surface 500 m higher than that on which the measurements were made, an operation that tends to smooth the data by attenuating short-wavelength anomalies (Blakely, 1995). The resulting residual aeromagnetic field after subtracting the regional field accentuates those anomalies caused by shallow sources (< 1.2 km; fig. 3). Second, the resulting residual aeromagnetic field was mathematically transformed into magnetic potential anomalies (Baranov, 1957); this procedure effectively converts the magnetic field to the equivalent "gravity" field that would be produced if all magnetic material were replaced by proportionately dense material. This procedure assumes that the direction of the rock magnetization is parallel to the present direction of the Earth's magnetic field and does not take into account significant remanent magnetizations that are reversed or rotated relative to today's field. Third, the horizontal gradient of the magnetic potential was calculated everywhere by numerical differentiation. Lastly, locations of the locally steepest horizontal gradient were determined numerically (Blakely and Simpson, 1986). These locations occur approximately over vertical or near-vertical contacts that separate rocks of contrasting magnetic properties and are shown as blue crosses and dots on the map.

### DESCRIPTION OF AEROMAGNETIC ANOMALIES

Many magnetic anomalies of the Los Angeles quadrangle can be explained by magnetization contrasts between the surface geologic units. For example, mountainous areas with outcrops of crystalline basement rocks are generally associated with short-wavelength, high-amplitude anomalies. In contrast to the another anomalies present over thick sedimentary fill in the Los Angeles, San Fernando, and East Ventura Basins. Magnetic anomalies caused by Tertiary volcanic rocks and Precambrian and Mesozoic igneous and metamorphic rocks are prominent in the Verdugo, San Gabriel, and Santa Monica Mountains. The strongest, most areally extensive magnetic anomaly coincides with pre-Cenozoic crystalline basement rocks bounded by the Verdugo Fault on the southwest, by the south branch of the San Gabriel Fault and the Sierra Madre Fault on the northeast, and by the Raymond Fault on the southeast (where basement rocks are under sedimentary cover). The northwest margin of the high coincides with the Whitney Canyon Fault, although the shaded-relief aeromagnetic and residual maps show a subtle magnetic high (on figs. 2 and 3) that continues the trend of the Whitney Canyon Fault, following the southern branch of the San Gabriel Fault (Langenheim and others, 2001). The southwest edge of this high coincides approximately with an inferred fault for the southwest margin of a buried basement edge (Yeats and others, 1994; Yeats and Stitt, 2003). Near the 1971 M 6.7 San Fernando epicenter, residual magnetic data indicate a linear magnetic feature that is aligned with the Sierra Madre Fault and extends 35 km northwest beyond the fault's mapped western terminus. The southern edge of the magnetic basement structure merges into the San Gabriel Fault near the buried basement ridge (arrow on fig. 3). Modeling suggests that the southern edge of the magnetic basement feature dips north about 60 degrees and intersects the hypocenter of the San Fernando earthquake at 15 km (fig. 4; Hildenbrand and others, 2001).

The coherent magnetic highs of the Verdugo Mountains contrast with the more varied magnetic character of the San Gabriel Mountains north of the San Gabriel Fault. This magnetic character reflects the diversity of ages and rock types in the San Gabriel Mountains; these mountains are characterized by high-amplitude, short-wavelength anomalies produced by Precambrian and Mesozoic crystalline basement rocks (fig. 2). The anomalies extend to the northwest a few kilometers northwest of basement exposures before being highly attenuated as a result of the thickening of weakly magnetic Tertiary sedimentary cover of the Soledad Basin.

In the western Santa Monica Mountains, high-amplitude, short-wavelength anomalies coincide with exposures of Miocene volcanic rocks. In the area south of the Simi Hills, these short-wavelength anomalies are superimposed on a broader magnetic high (figs. 2, 3). The gradients flanking this high suggest that its source resides at a depth greater than 2.5 km. This magnetic signature contrasts with the relatively nondescript magnetic field present over the eastern Santa Monica Mountains, where basement rocks consisting of Santa Monica Slate and Mesozoic plutonic rocks are exposed. Magnetic susceptibility measurements show that these basement rocks are at most weakly magnetic (Langenheim and others, 2001; table 2). The character of the field in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains is indistinguishable from that of the Simi Hills and the San Fernando Valley.

The magnetic field over San Fernando Valley is characterized largely by low-amplitude, long-wavelength anomalies that reflect either deeply buried magnetic sources or less magnetic basement rocks underlying San Fernando Valley. However, linear, short-wavelength, generally low-amplitude (<20 nT) positive anomalies are also present (fig. 3) and reflect magnetic source rocks within the basin fill, possibly related to the volcanic rocks in the Tongva Group or to gravels of the Sageba Formation derived from the magnetic crystalline rocks exposed in the San Gabriel Mountains. Cretaceous turbidites of the Chatsworth Formation produce a pair of subtle (20 nT) east-northeast-trending anomalies (a on map and fig. 3) west of the Chatsworth Reservoir Fault in the Simi Hills, and magnetic susceptibility measurements (table 2) confirm that these Cretaceous sedimentary rocks are capable of producing such anomalies. On the other hand, dipolar, short-wavelength anomalies in the valley are generally caused by manmade features. For example, strong anomalies over manmade features (a on map) include those over gravel pits in the San Fernando Valley (at 34° 14' N, long 118° 22' W), and the substation and debris dam along the southern extent of the Santa Monica Mountains (at 34° 7' N, long 118° 22' W).

The magnetic field over the Los Angeles Basin also is marked by anomalies caused by anthropogenic sources (a on map). Prominent anomalies associated with oil fields include the northwest-trending anomaly over the Inglewood field (at 34° 0' N, long 118° 22.5' W), and the east-trending anomaly over the Montebello field (at 34° 1' N, long 118° 7' W; fig. 3). The closely spaced, steeply penetrating well cores present in these oil fields are likely the dominant source of these anomalies, but contributions from other anthropogenic or natural oil fields cannot be ruled out. These short-wavelength anomalies are superimposed on a broad magnetic high (LC on map, fig. 2) that coincides with the La Cienega Block (Wright, 1991). The La Cienega Block is a basement ridge that extends north about 10 degrees and may extend to depths of 15 km (fig. 5). The northwest edge of this anomaly appears to project beneath the Santa Monica Mountains in the foothills of the Santa Monica Fault. An argument of the deep magnetic basement could be the broad magnetic source in the hanging wall of the Santa Monica Fault zone south of the Simi Hills; these relations suggest a possible 35 km or left lateral cumulative offset on the Santa Monica Fault zone, contained to 40 km of offset described by Powell, 1993.

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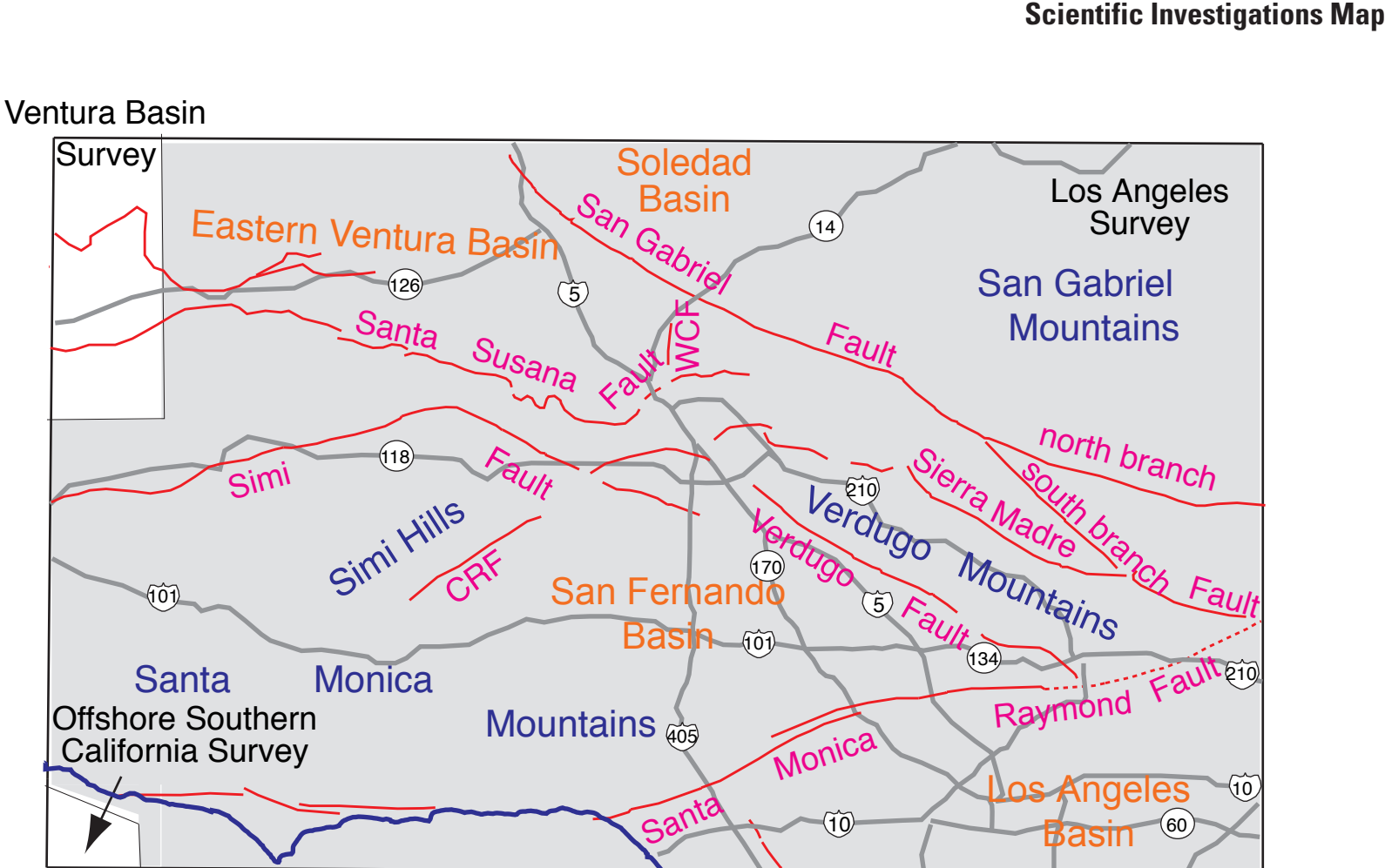


Figure 1. Aeromagnetic survey index map with major faults in (red) and basins. Gray area is covered by 1994-1996 detailed aeromagnetic survey. Dark gray lines are major highways. CRF, Chatsworth Reservoir Fault; WCF, Whitney Canyon Fault.

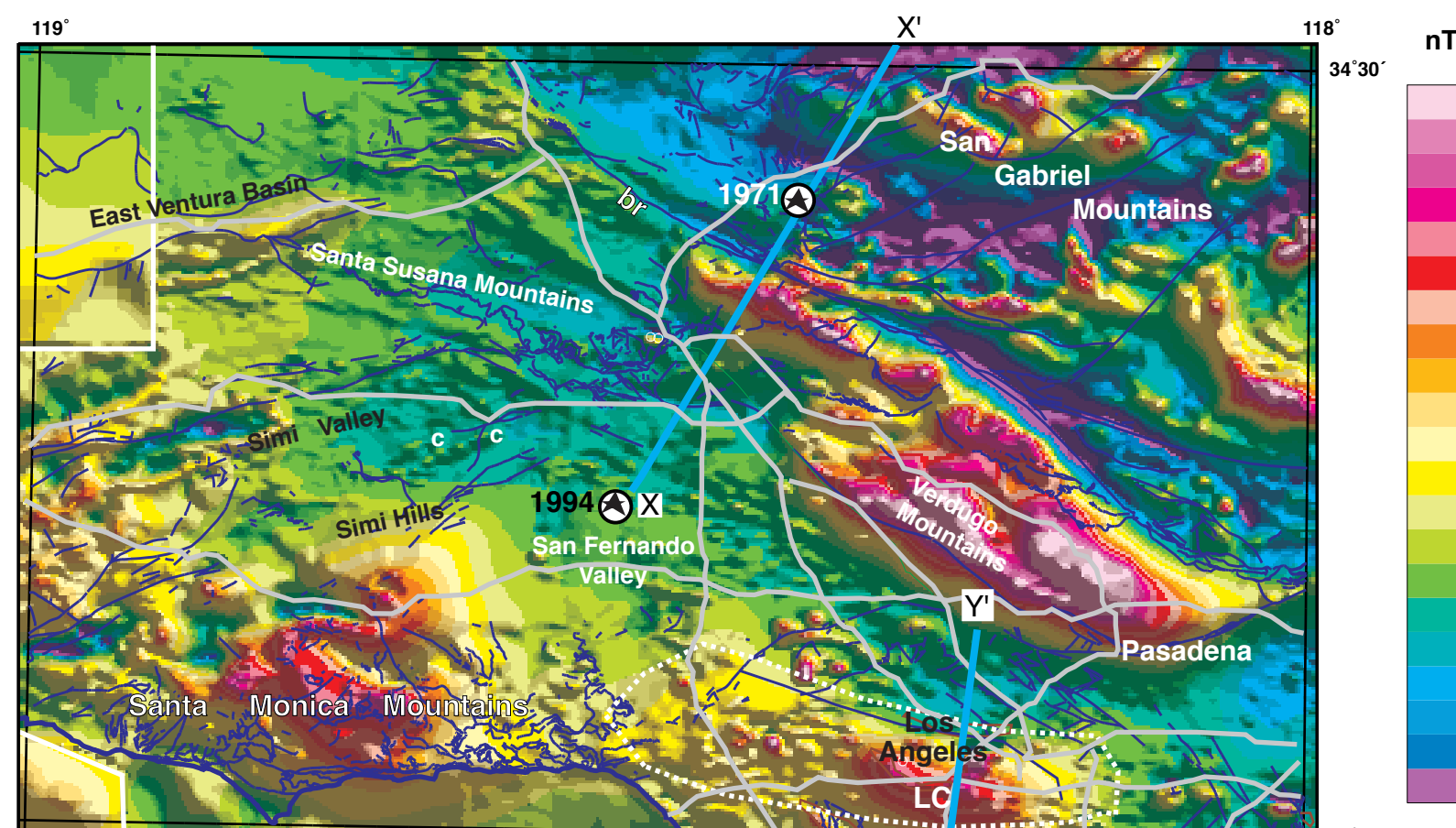


Figure 2. Color-shaded contour aeromagnetic anomaly map of the Los Angeles 30 x 60 minute quadrangle. Color contour interval, 30 nT; illustration is from Y to the northeast, highlighting the northwest-trending features. Gray lines are major highways. White lines mark survey boundaries. Dark blue lines are faults from Yerkes and Campbell (2005). LC refers to La Cienega broad magnetic high approximately outlined by dashed white line. c refers to anomaly caused by Cretaceous sedimentary rocks, b is basement ridge. Blue lines are model profile locations. Stars are 1971 San Fernando and 1994 Northridge earthquake epicenters.

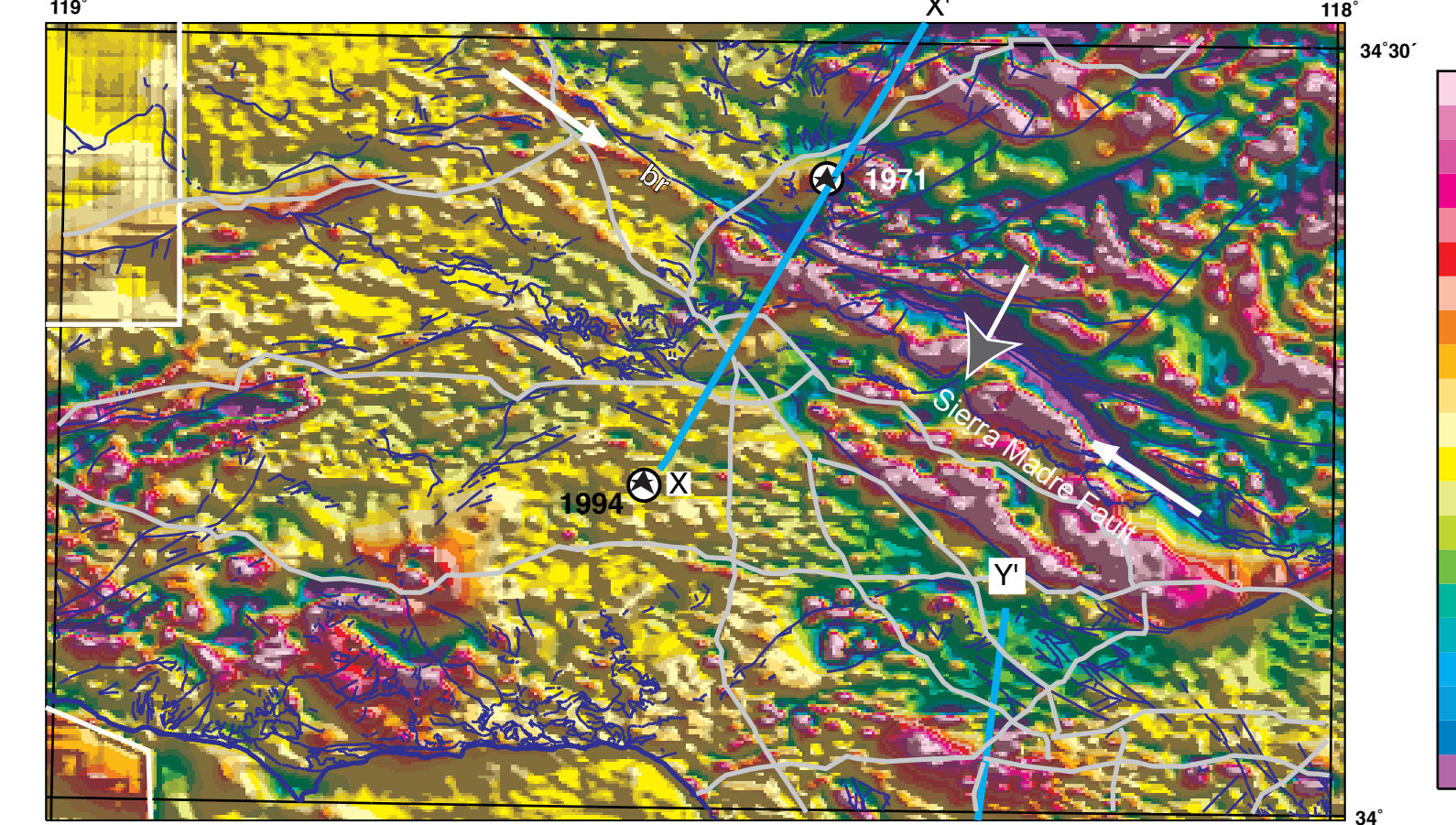


Figure 3. Color-shaded contour residual aeromagnetic map of the Los Angeles 30 x 60 minute quadrangle. Color contour interval, 5 nT. Gray lines are major highways (see fig. 1). White lines mark survey boundaries. Dark blue lines are faults. Blue lines are model profile locations. b is basement ridge. White arrows point to Sierra Madre magnetic anomaly; white-outlined gray arrow points to western mapped terminus of the Sierra Madre Fault. Stars are 1971 San Fernando and 1994 Northridge earthquake epicenters.

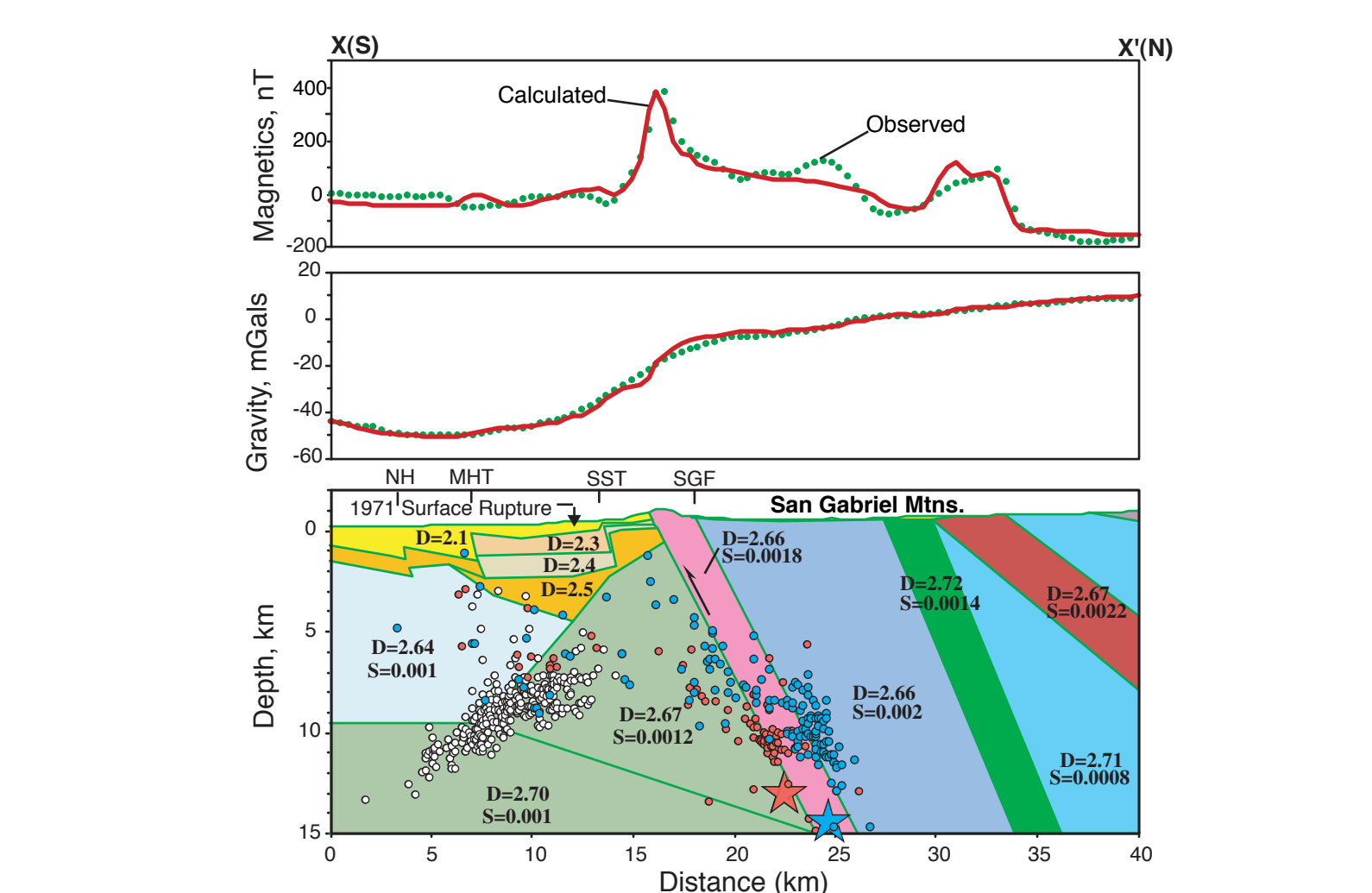


Figure 4. Magnetic and gravity model along profile X-X' that illustrates the geometry of the basement feature aligned with the Sierra Madre Fault. Blocks in model are defined by density (D, in g/cm<sup>3</sup>) and magnetic susceptibility (S, in cgs units). NH, Northridge Hills Fault; MHT, Mission Hills thrust; SST, Santa Susana thrust; SGF, San Gabriel Fault. Star marks hypocenter of 1971 San Fernando mainshock (red from Whitcomb and others, 1973; blue from Fuis and others, 2003). Small red circles, aftershocks of the 1971 mainshock; white circles, aftershocks of the 1994 Northridge mainshock from Mori and others (1995); blue circles, aftershock locations of the 1971 mainshock in Fuis and others (2003).

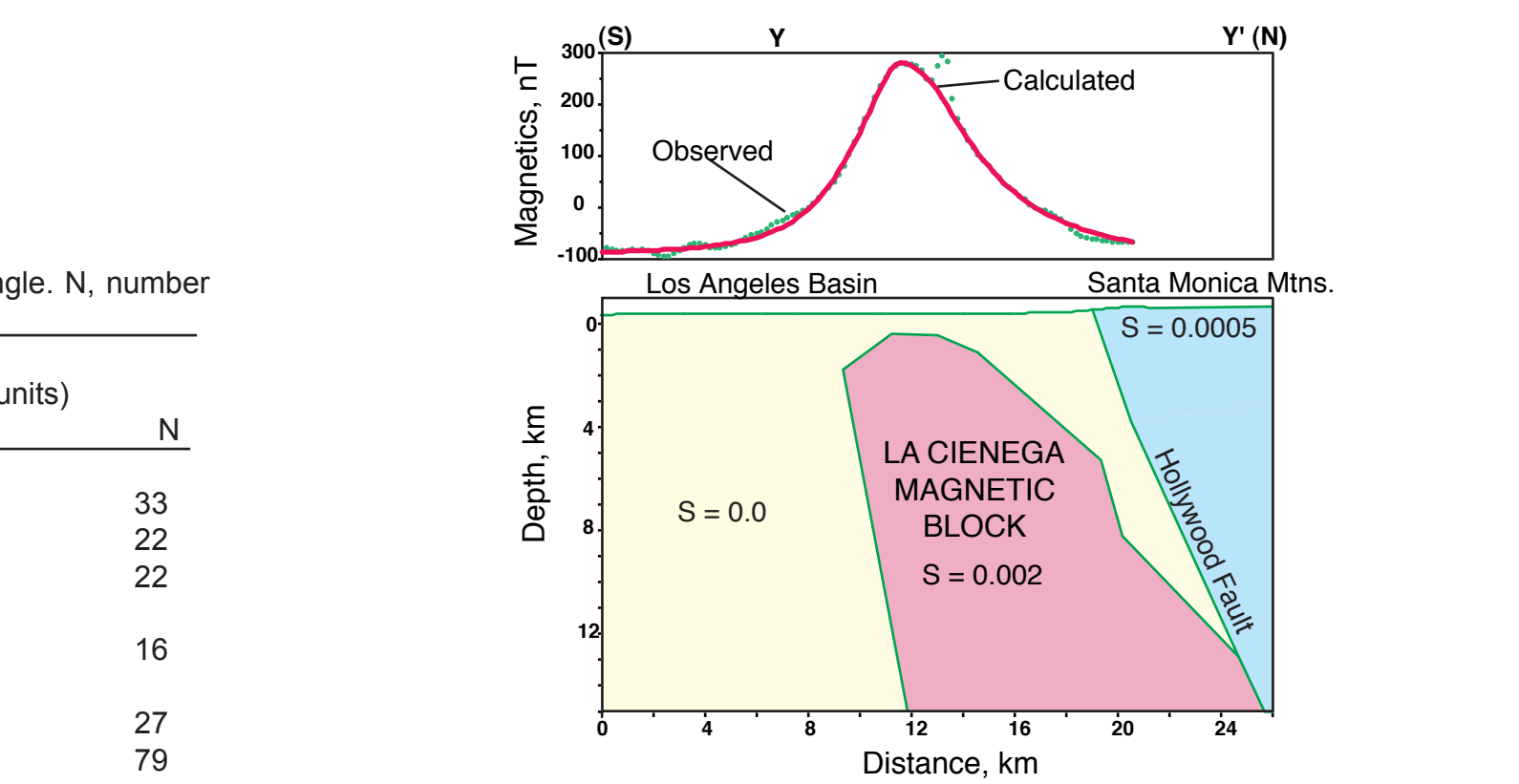


Figure 5. Magnetic model along profile Y-Y' that shows the geometry of the La Cienega magnetic block concealed beneath the Los Angeles Basin sediments. Y marks the southern edge of the 30 x 60 minute quadrangle. S, magnetic susceptibility in cgs units.