

GY403 Structural Geology

Plate Spreading Rate Problem

Given: The perpendicular distance from an active divergent ocean ridge axis to a paleomagnetic reversal boundary was measured to be 150 km. Basalt dredged from the reversal boundary was dated by K-Ar methods to have an eruptive age of 2.0 Ma.

Calculate the half spreading rate of this divergent boundary in cm/yr: