



Fig. 3c. Two parallel two-sided sonographs on the crest of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge near the Azores showing the linear tectonic fabric of the abyssal hills. The sonographs have been digitized, corrected for slant range errors, and merged by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Width of image is approximately 100 km [from *Laughton*, 1981].

spacing of 10 km. Abyssal hills derived from slow to intermediate spreading ridges (~ 40 mm/yr) have an average spacing of 8.2 km. Abyssal hills associated with intermediate-to-fast ridges (~ 100 mm/yr) show an average spacing of 4.4 km, and those from fast spreading ridges (~ 160 mm/yr) are less elevated (50-60 m) and less widely spaced (average spacing of

4.2 km). Overall, the variation in the length of abyssal hill ridges along strike is 10 km to 40-50 km.

In some cases, the basic orthogonal pattern can be modified by several processes. *Acton et al.* [1988] described a complex curved seafloor fabric in the Galapagos rise which they interpreted to be caused by rift propagation and changes in