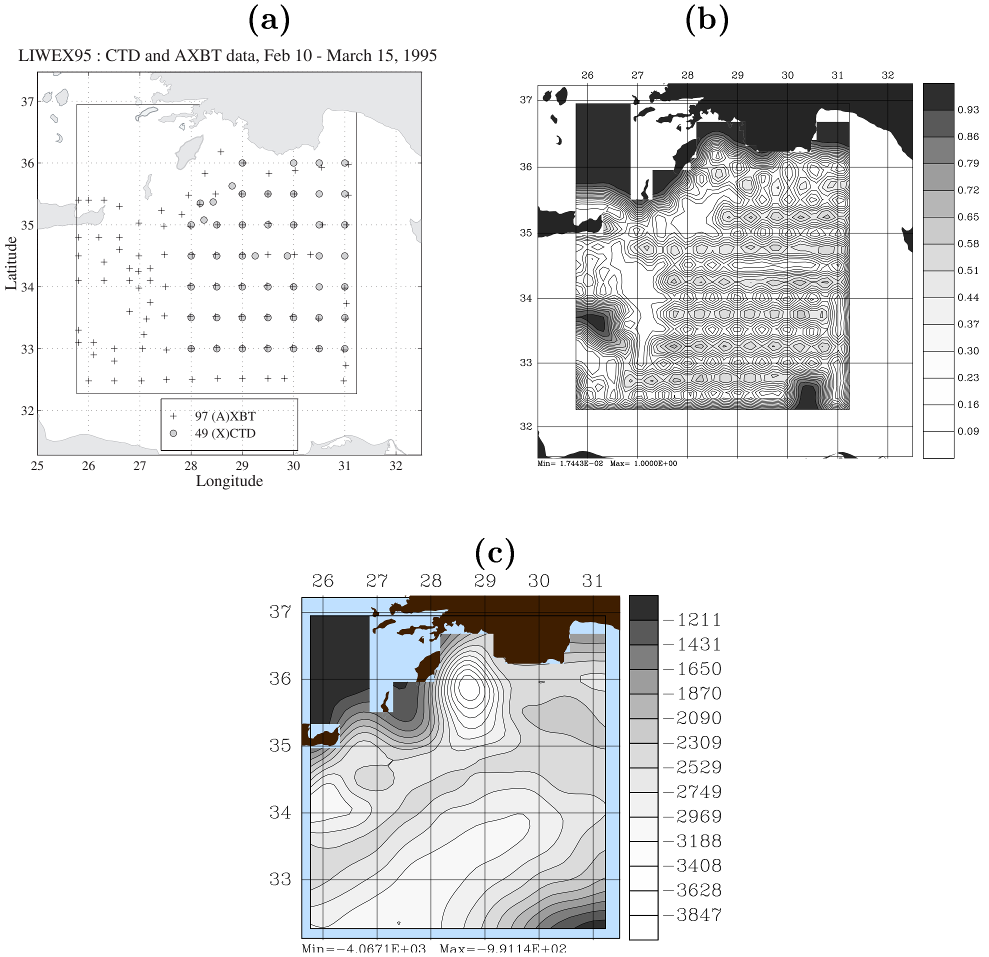

Fig. 4. (a): coordinates of the 146 hydrographic profiles gathered during Feb. 10–March 15. They form $\mathbf{y}^{\mathrm{o}}$ (App. A) in the mappings of Sect. 3. The AXBT data were extended west of 27E (LER97), based on a subjective analysis of the flow field made on board the R/V Meteor and latter confirmed from satellite SST. (b): surface (5 m) *a posteriori* mesoscale error variance for temperature, as estimated by the univariate 2D scheme. Errors are normalized (0–1) and computed using a "Mexican hat" for *a priori* covariance function ($l_a^x = l_a^y = 60$ km and $l_b^x = l_b^y = 30$ km) and an *a priori* error variance of uniform amplitude equal to 1. (c): model bottom topography (m) at tracer grid points.