



Australian  
National  
University

# A Description of the W-phase

## Acknowledgements:

Hiroo Kanamori, Louis Rivera, Zacharie Duputel, Roberto Benavente,  
Michael Potter, Spiro Spiliopoulos

Phil R. Cummins

Research School of Earth Sciences

Australian National University

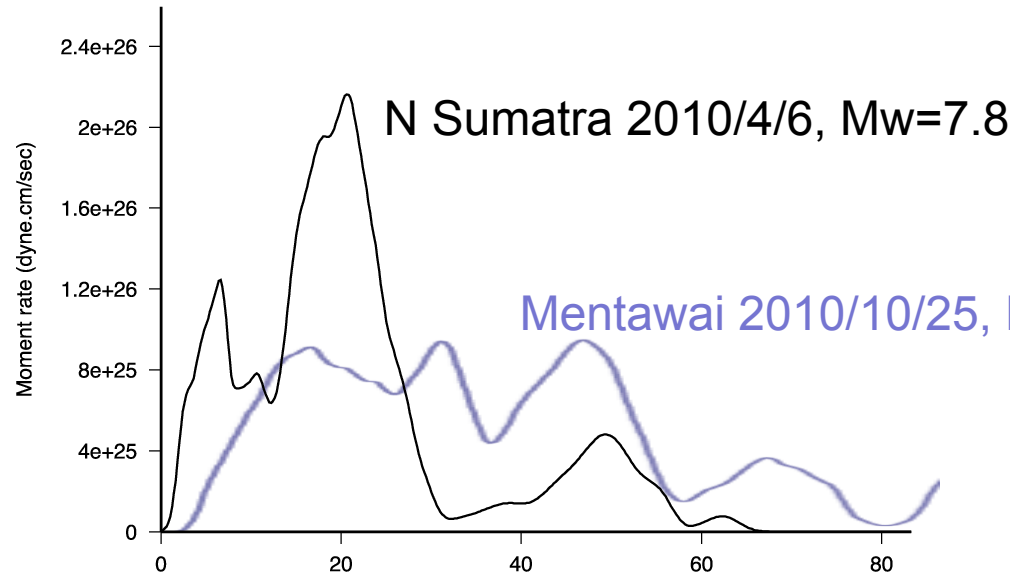


# Motivation: Why is it important to consider yet another method to estimate earthquake magnitude?

- Conventional methods still have difficulty in rapidly identifying 'giant' ( $M_w=9$ ) events.
- This requires us to rely on the perception of strong shaking for near-field tsunami warning, but ...
- Tsunami earthquakes can cause large tsunamis but generate only weak shaking. Long-period seismic (or geodetic?) data are required to rapidly detect such earthquakes.

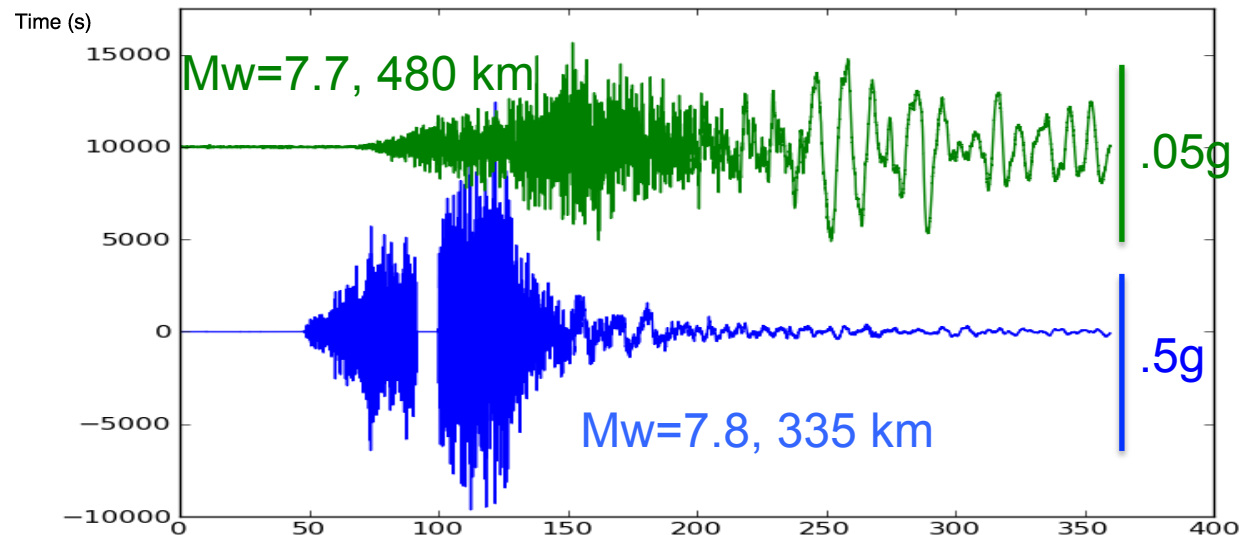


# Tsunami vs. 'Normal' Earthquakes



Comparison of estimated earthquake source time functions (source: NEIC)

Comparison of observed accelerograms



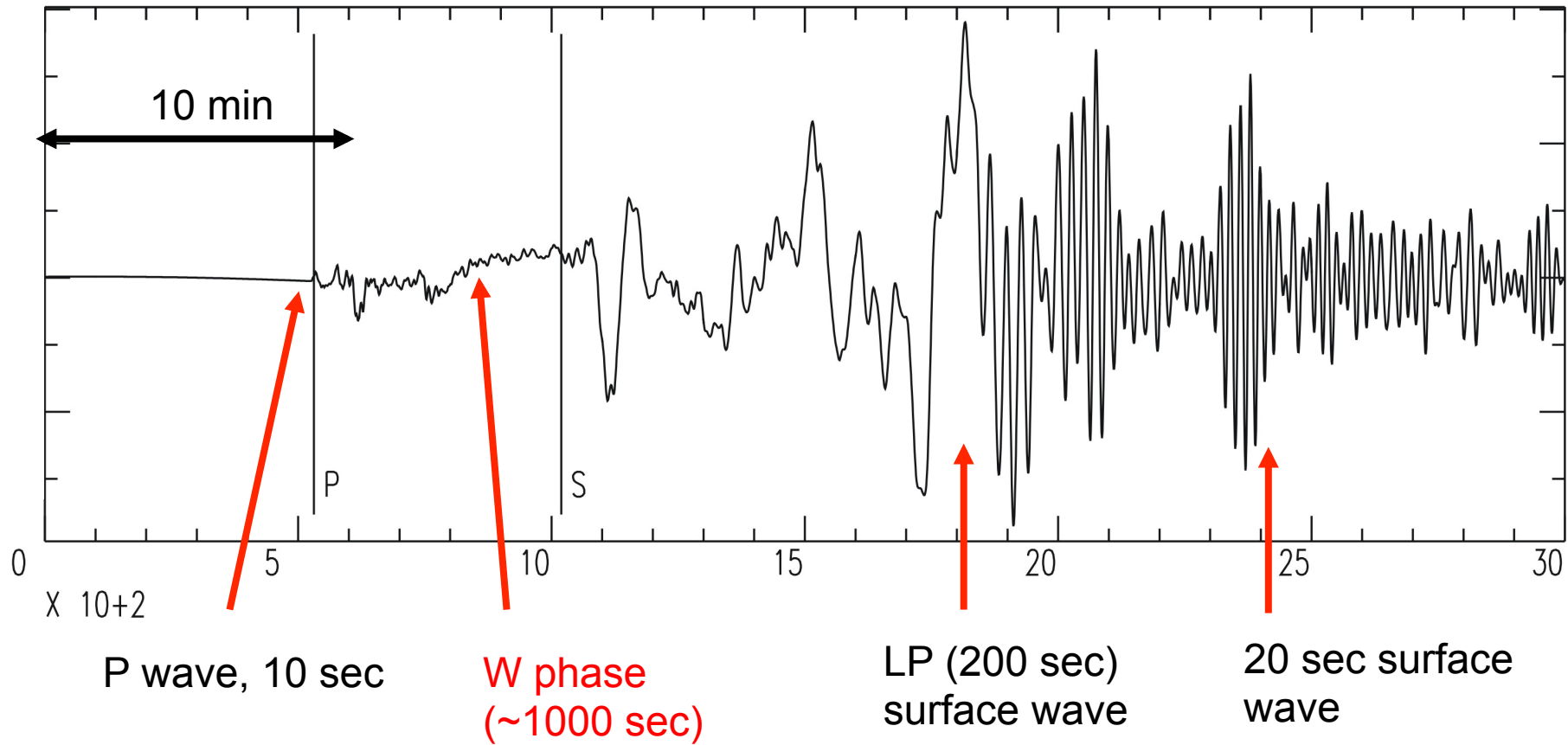


# The 'W Phase'

Earthquake  
Origin Time



W phase? LP (~1000 sec) phase before S



(source: H. Kanamori)

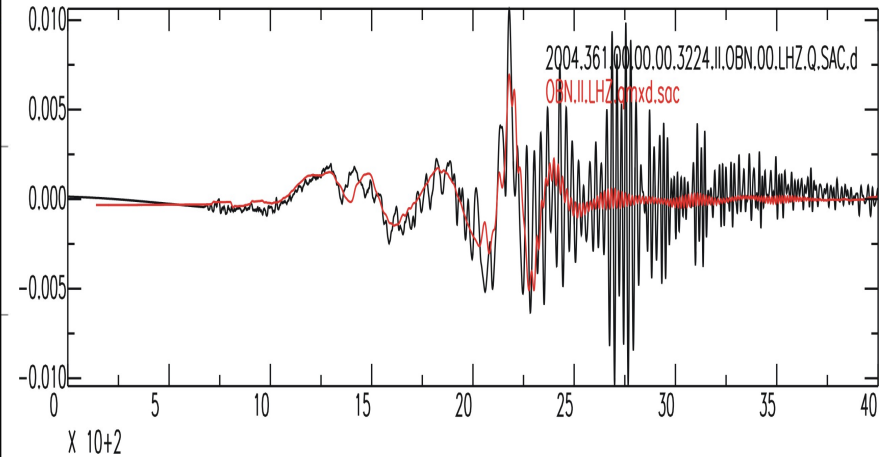
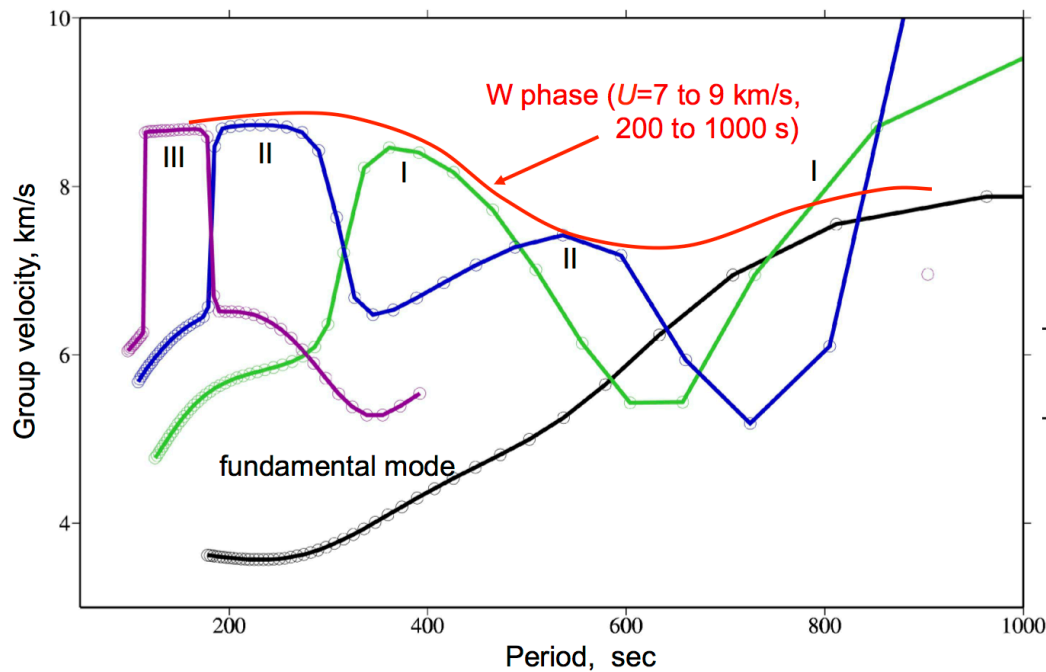


# W-Phase synthesis via Normal Modes

W phase can be synthesized by superposition of normal modes.

$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_{l,m,n} \left[ (\mathbf{M}:\boldsymbol{\varepsilon})_n \mathbf{y}_l^m(\mathbf{r}) \right] \frac{1 - \cos_n \omega_l^m t}{{}_n c_l^m \omega_l^{m2}}$$

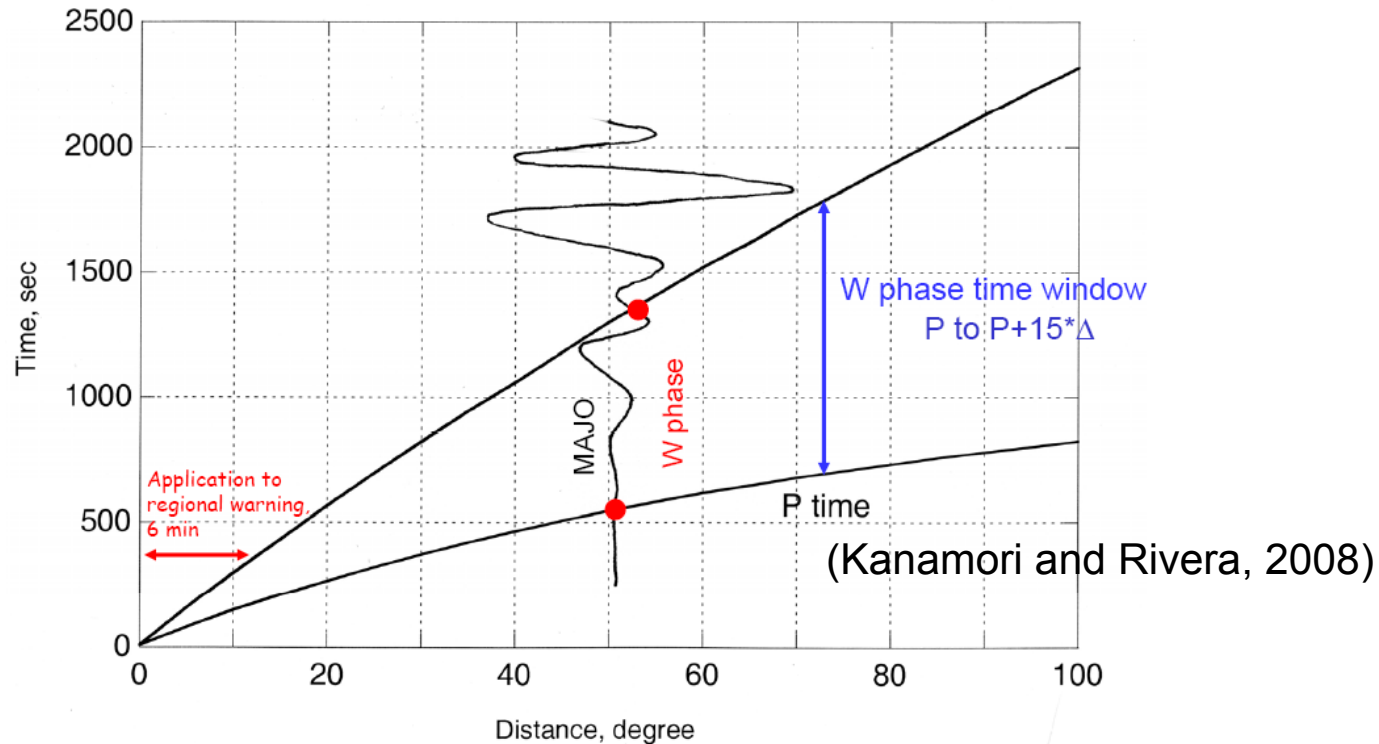
Spheroidal Mode Group Velocities for PREM





# The W-Phase Method

W phase time window



## Features

- Uses long-period (1000-200 s) energy arriving between P and S waves
- Provides rapid estimate of seismic moment tensor – including Mw

## Advantages

- Rapid because it relies on energy arriving prior to S wave
- Less sensitive to clipping because low-amplitude part of waveform is used
- Use of long periods provides unbiased estimate of 'slow' earthquake magnitudes



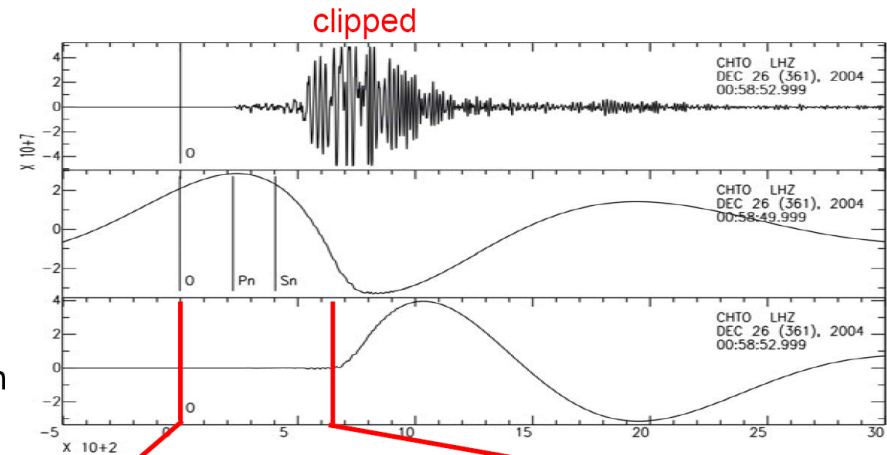
# Time-domain Instrument Removal

Use of the beginning of the record from great earthquakes

Original broad-band record (LHZ)

Displacement,  
freq.-domain deconvolution

Displacement,  
time-domain causal deconvolution

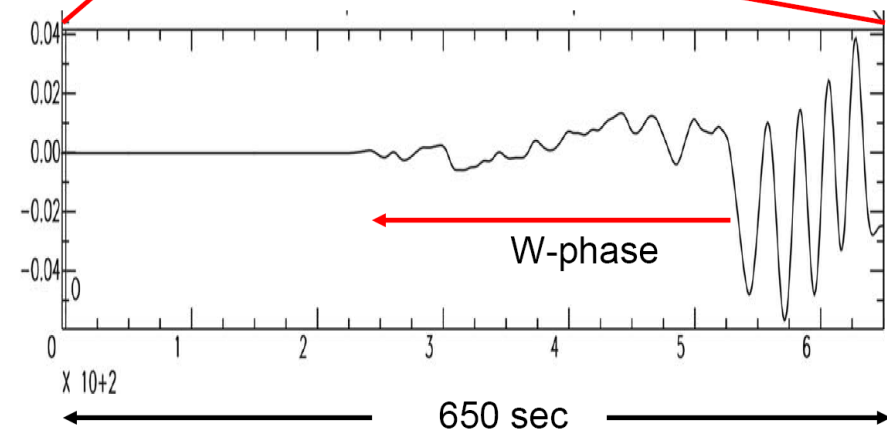


## Advantages

- No need for windowing and FFT
- Avoids clipping of S and Surface waves

## Disadvantage

- Can use up require considerable processing time, especially since long 'start-up' time required



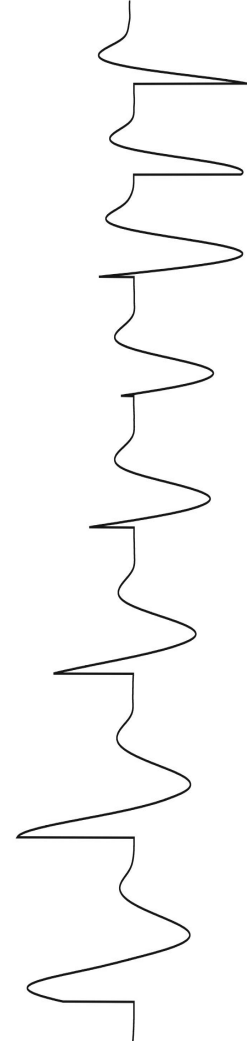
(Kanamori and Rivera, 2008)



# Linear Inversion $u_{wn}(t)$ : W phase station $n$

Concatenated unit source functions

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{w1}^{1,1} & u_{w1}^{2,2} & * & * & * & u_{w1}^{2,3} \\ u_{w2}^{1,1} & u_{w2}^{2,2} & * & * & * & u_{w2}^{2,3} \\ u_{w3}^{1,1} & u_{w3}^{2,2} & * & * & * & u_{w3}^{2,3} \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * & * & * \\ u_{wN}^{1,1} & u_{wN}^{2,2} & * & * & * & u_{wN}^{2,3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} M_{11} \\ M_{22} \\ M_{33} \\ M_{12} \\ M_{13} \\ M_{23} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{w1} \\ u_{w2} \\ u_{w3} \\ * \\ * \\ * \\ * \\ * \\ * \\ u_{wN} \end{pmatrix}$$

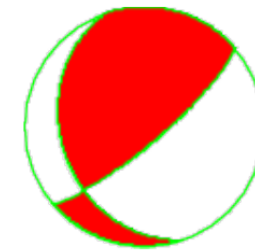
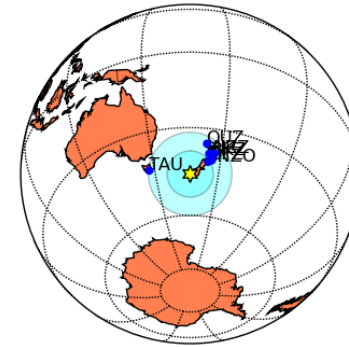
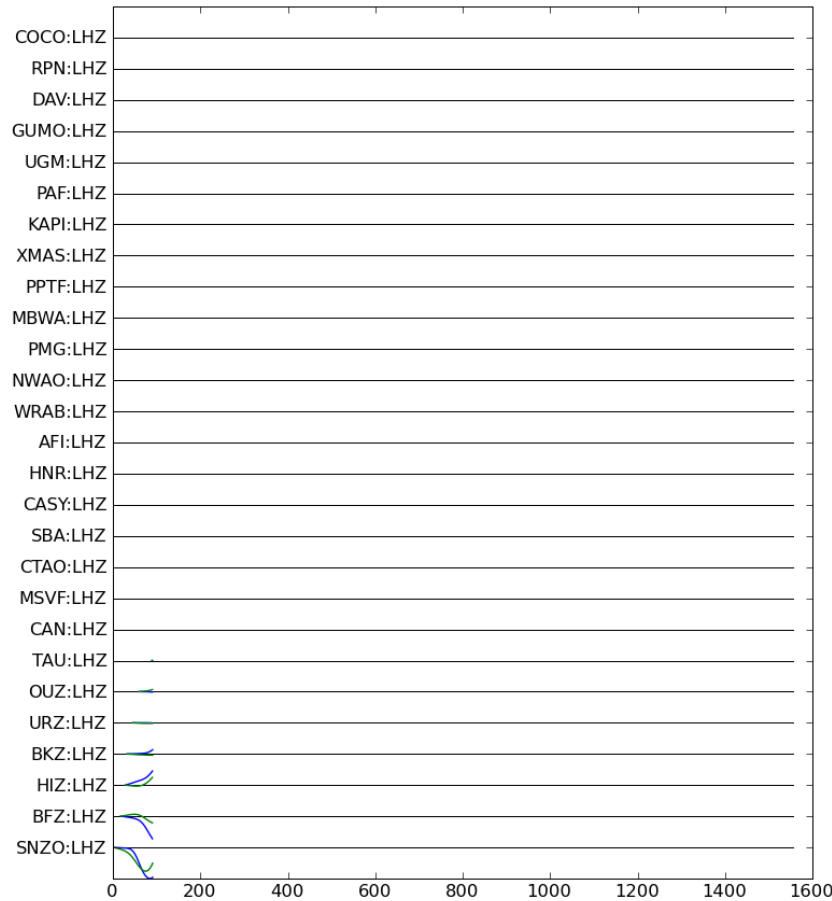


Concatenated W-phase for N stations





# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

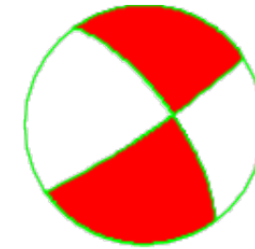
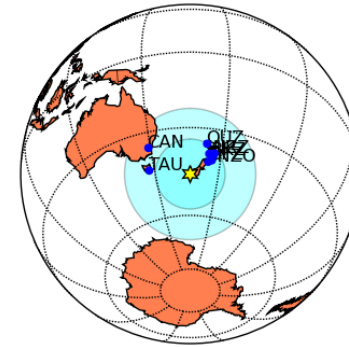
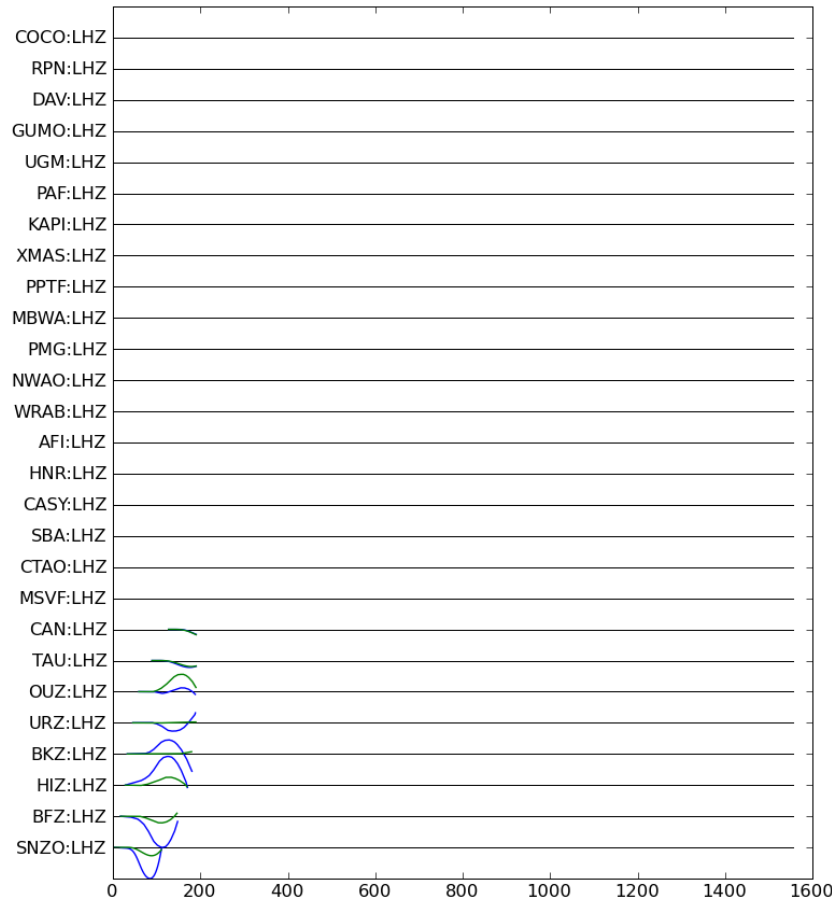


Mw = 8.1

Time = 200 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

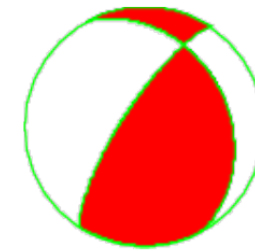
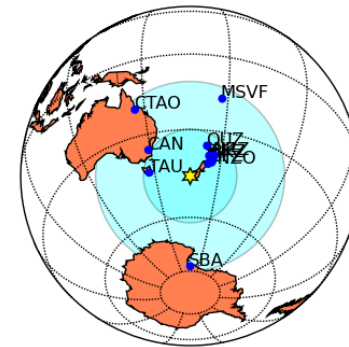
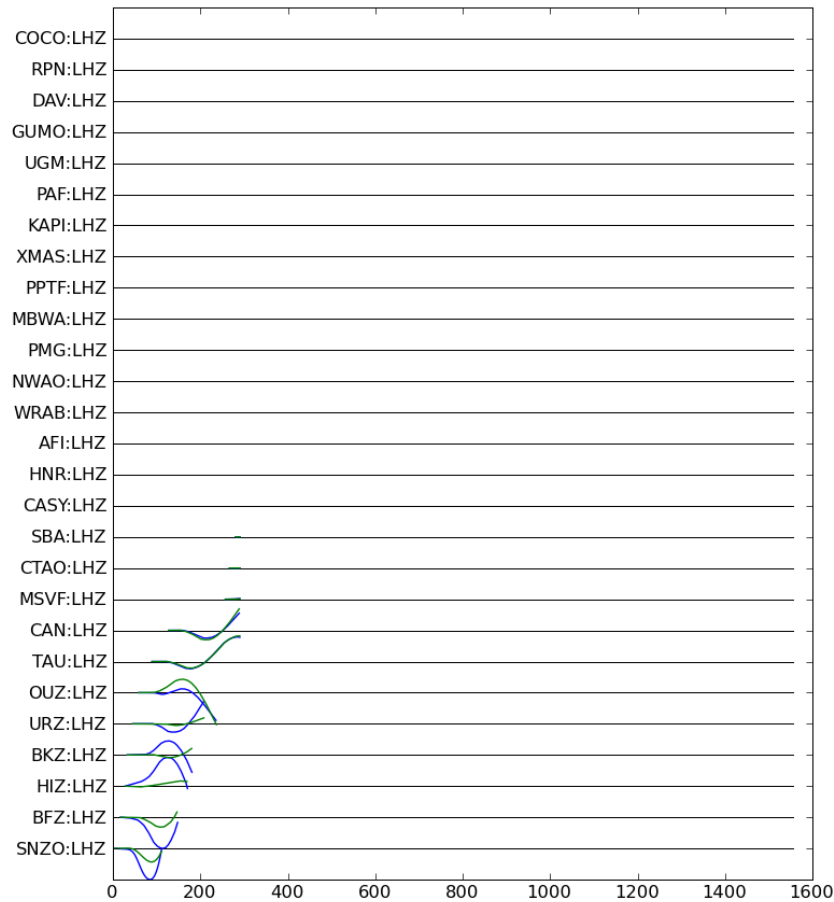


$M_w = 7.7$

Time = 300 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

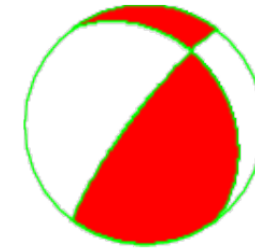
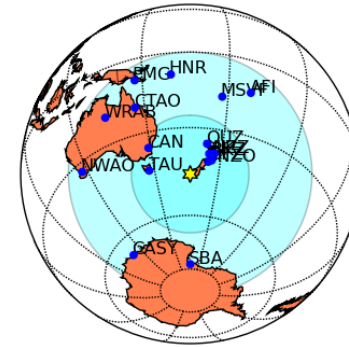
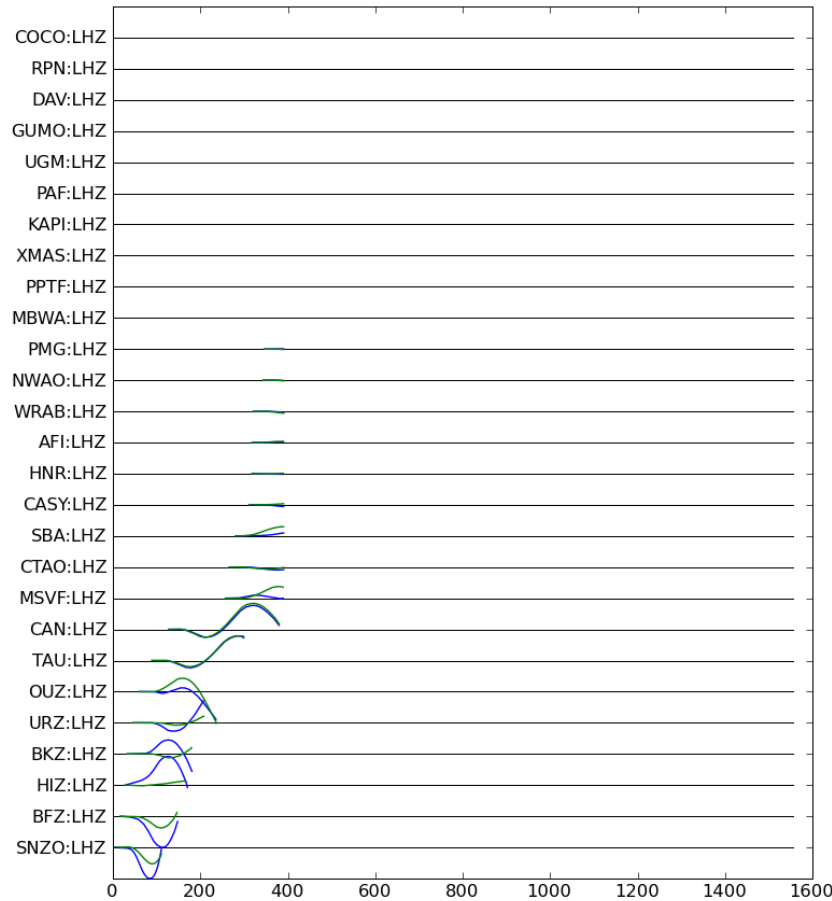


$M_w = 7.7$

Time = 400 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

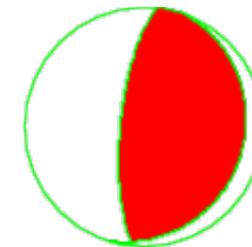
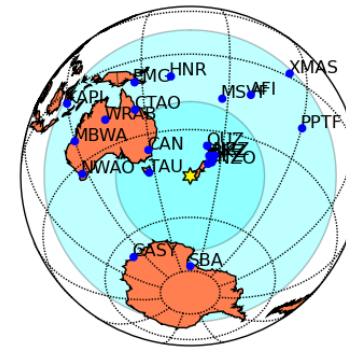
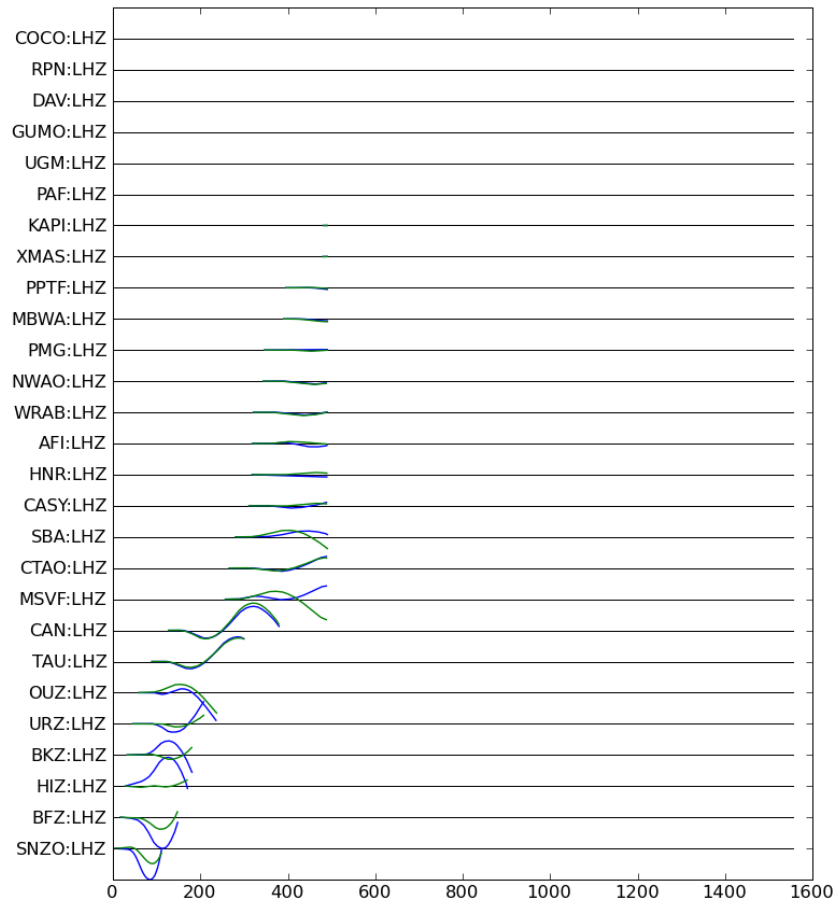


Mw = 7.8

Time = 500 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

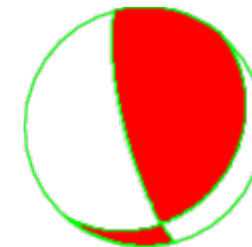
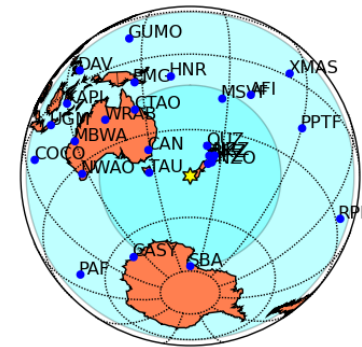
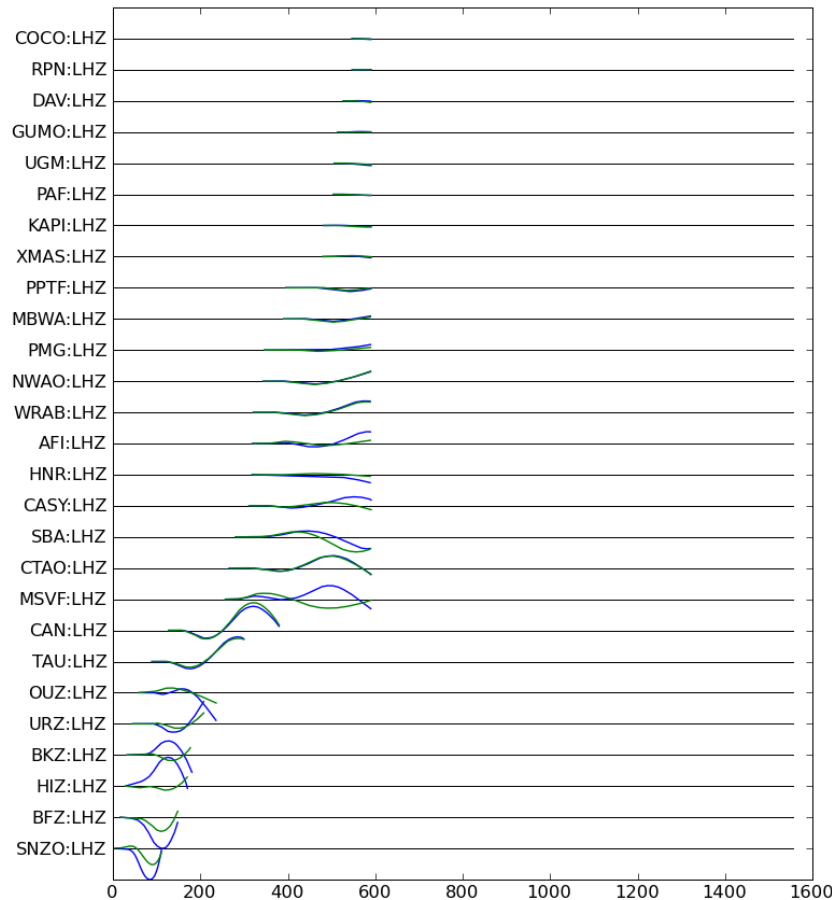


$M_w = 7.7$

Time = 600 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

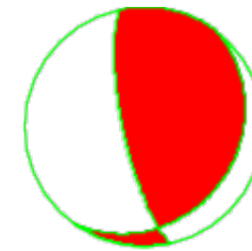
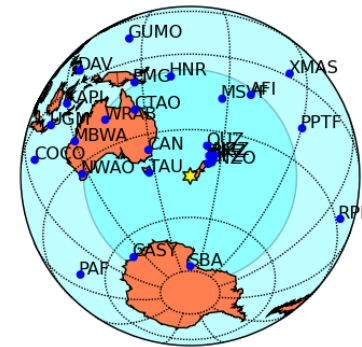
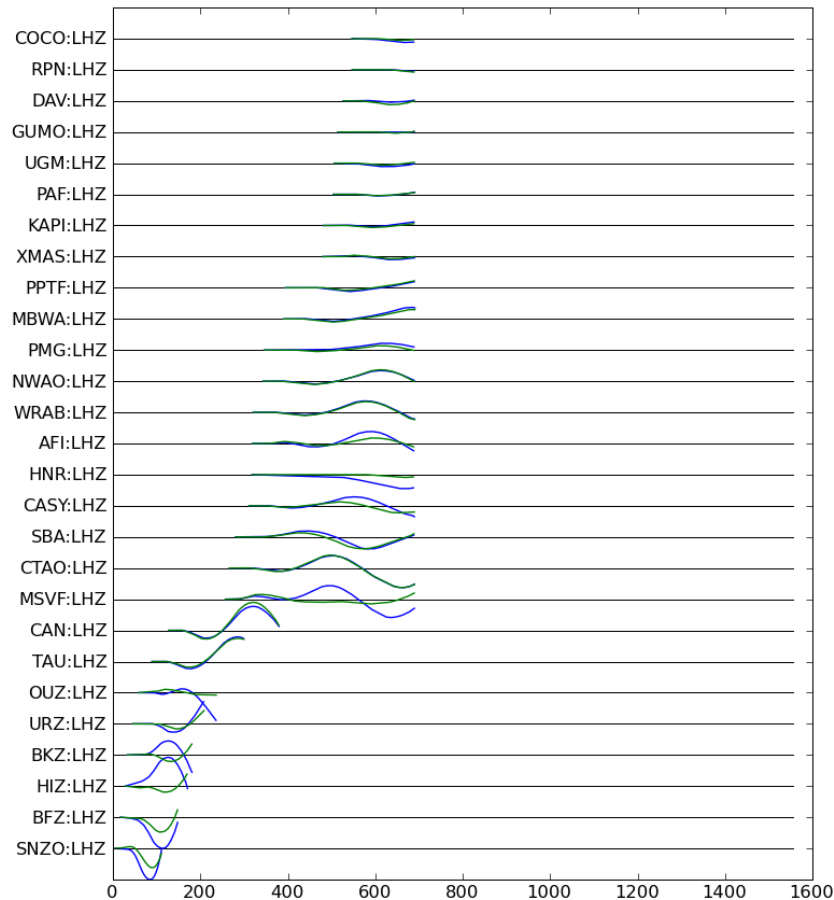


$M_w = 7.8$

Time = 700 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time

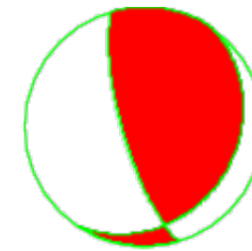
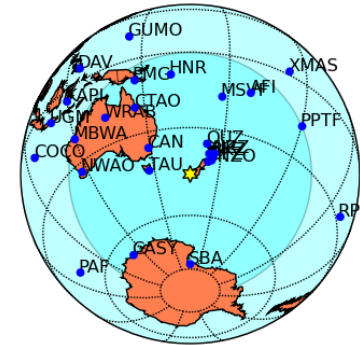
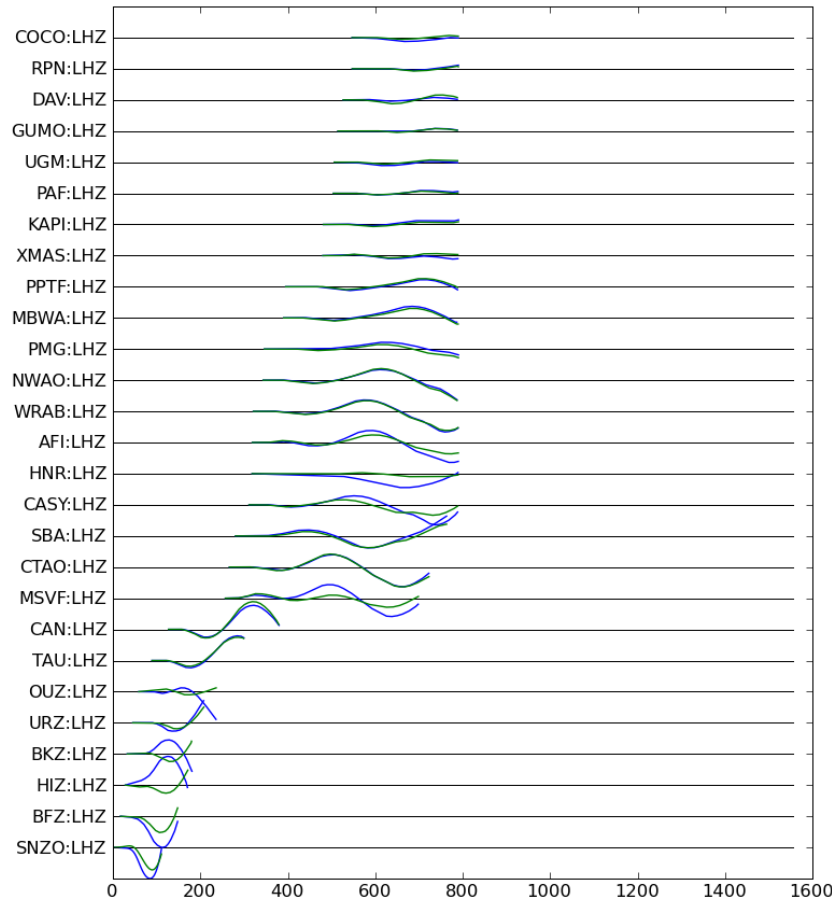


Mw = 7.8

Time = 800 sec



# W-Phase Case Study: 2009 Puysegur earthquake in Simulated Real-time



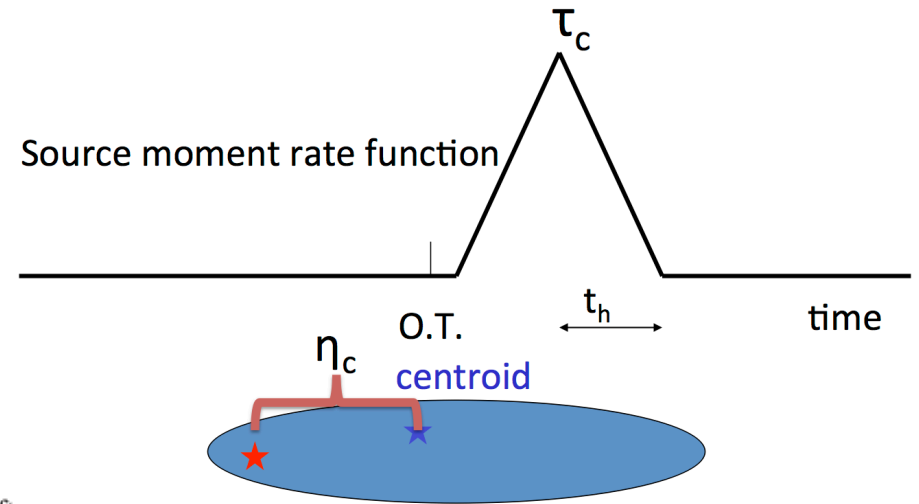
Mw = 7.8

Time = 900 sec



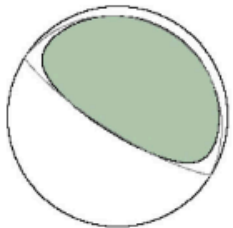


Inversions require the centroid position & time, and half-duration to be specified. Estimates can be based on preliminary magnitude estimates, but the point-source solution is sensitive to errors in these, particularly centroid time.



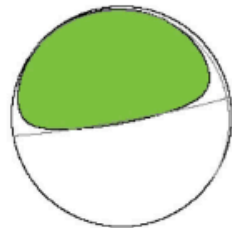
(a) GCMT

$M_w = 7.62$



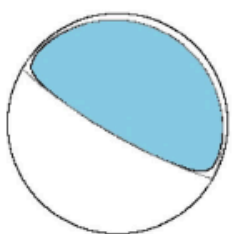
(b) WCMT - PDE

$\tau_c = h_c = f(M_w - w_{prel})$   
 $M_w = 7.67$



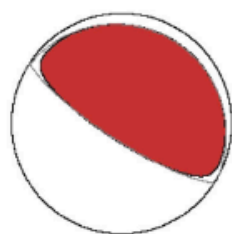
(c) WCMT - PDE

optimum  $\tau_c$  (OL2)  
 $M_w = 7.75$



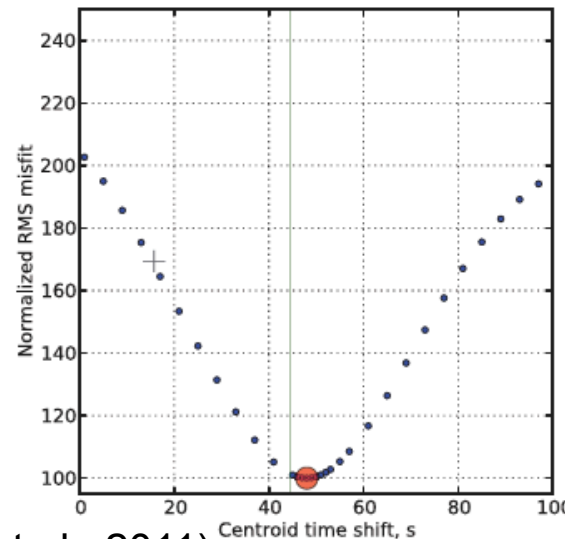
(d) WCMT - OPT

optimum  $\eta_c$  (OL3)  
 $M_w = 7.67$



(e)

- Centroid time shift
- GCMT time delay  $\tau_c$
- + Preliminary  $\tau_c = h_c = f(M_w - w_{prel})$
- optimum  $\tau_c$  value



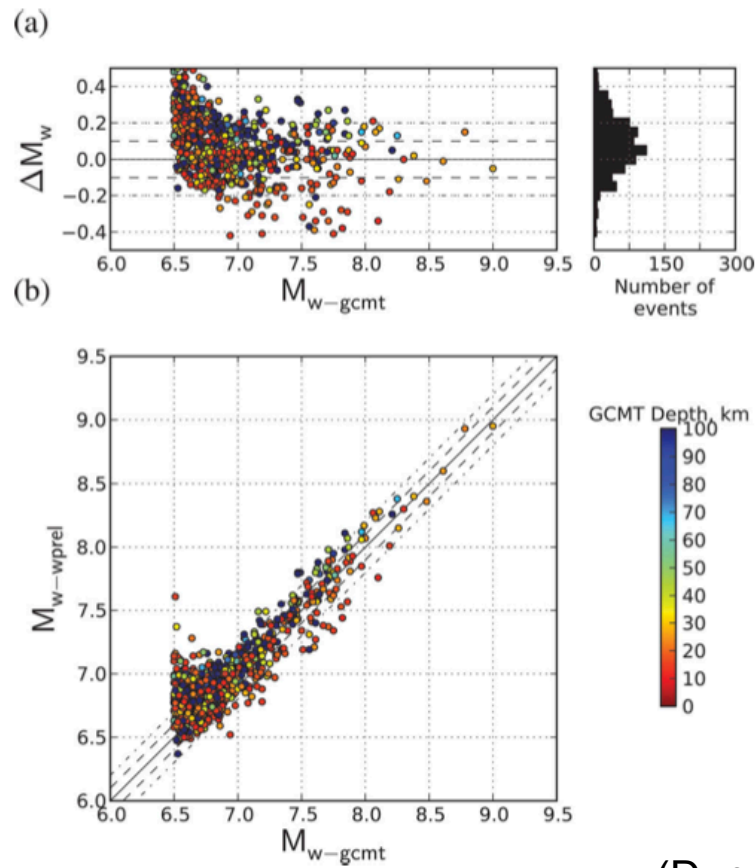
Different levels of solution:

- OL1: Uses Preliminary  $M_w$  for centroid params
- OL2: Optimized centroid delay  $\tau_c$
- OL3: Uses grid search to optimize centroid location

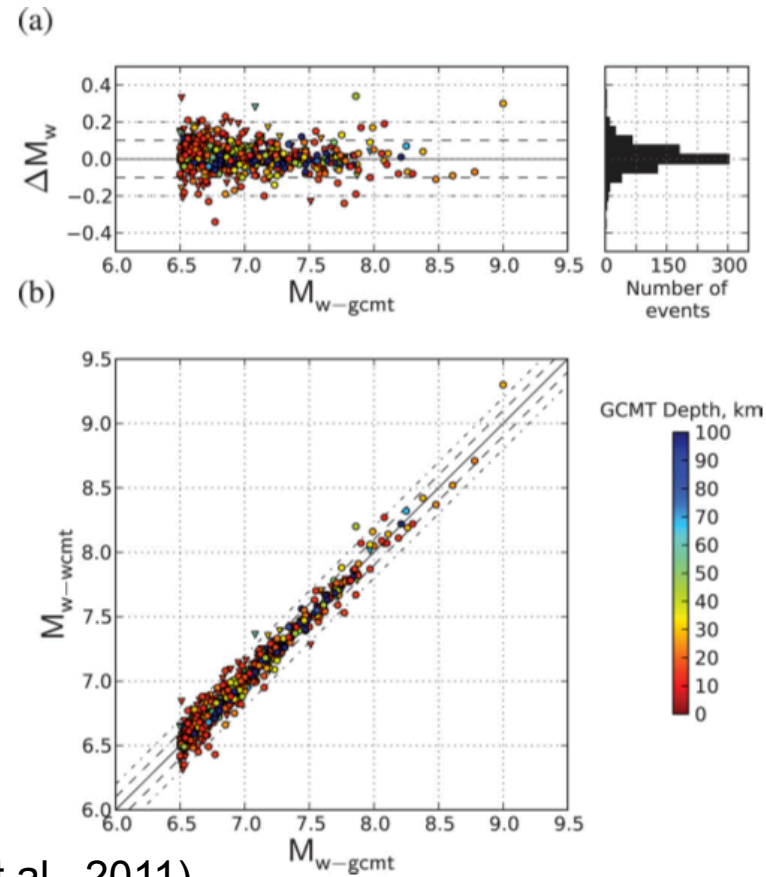
(Duputel et al., 2011)



### Preliminary OL1 Mw Estimate



### Final OL3 Mw Estimate

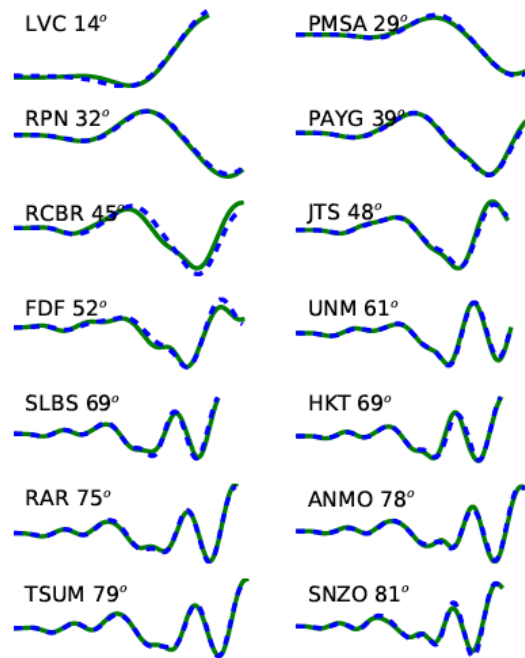


(Duputel et al., 2011)

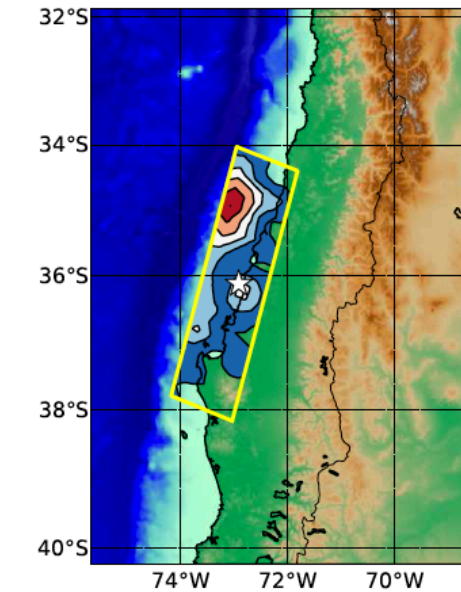


# Finite Fault Inversion Using the W-Phase The 2010 Chile Earthquake

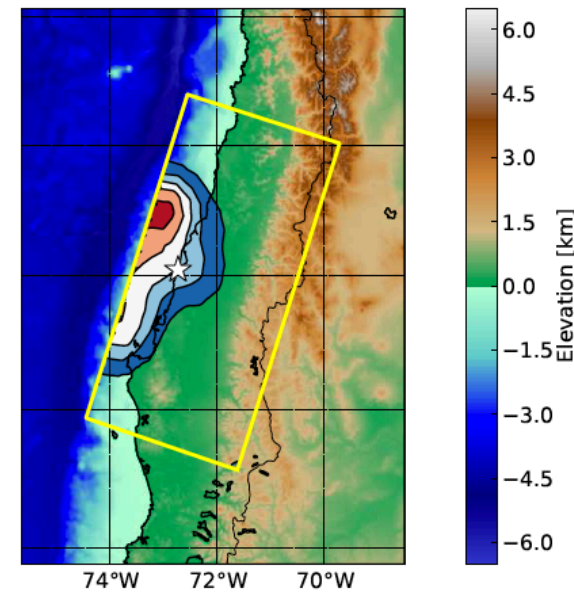
W-phase Waveforms



Body & Surface Wave FFI  
(Lay et al., 2010)



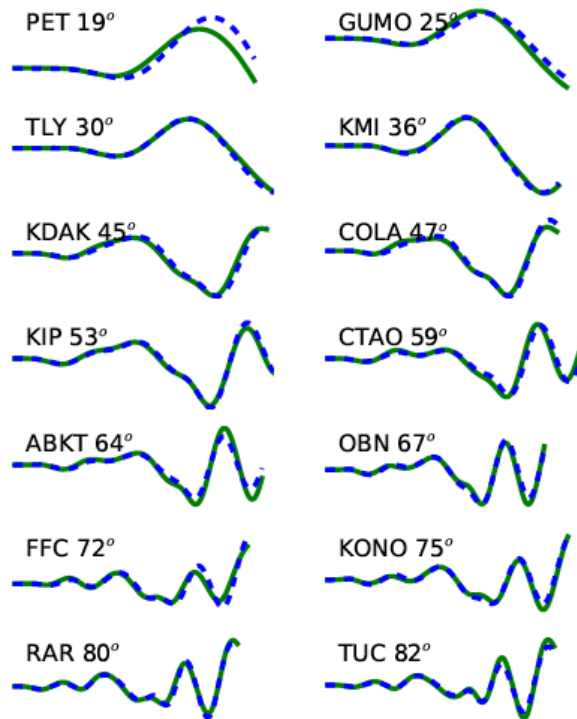
W-phase FFI  
(Benavente & Cummins, 2013)



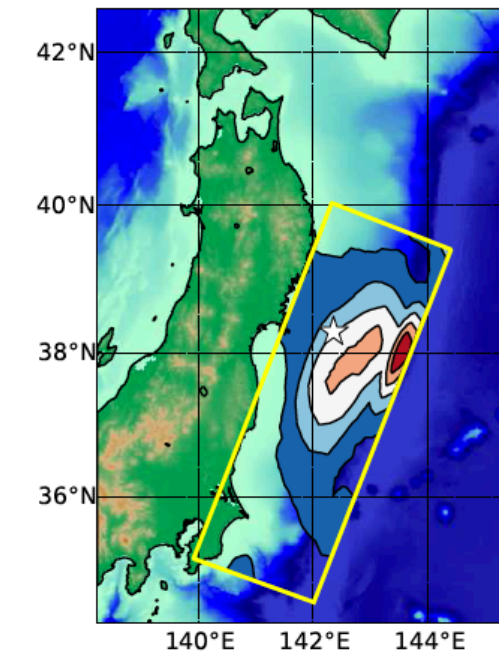


# Finite Fault Inversion Using the W-Phase The 2011 Tohoku Earthquake

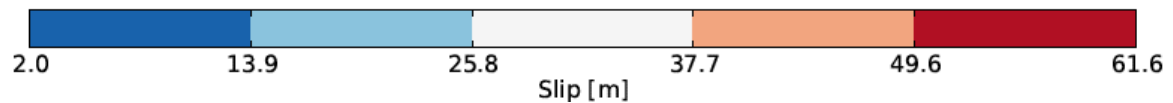
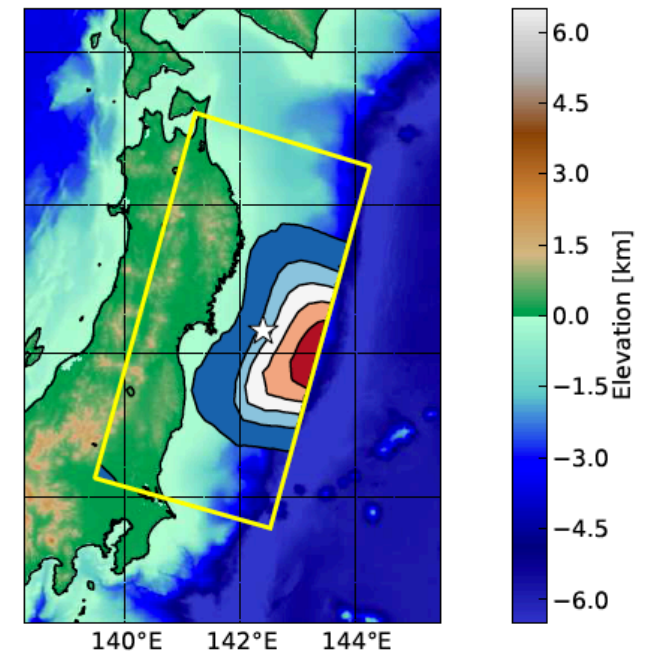
W-phase Waveforms



Body & Surface Wave FFI  
(Koper et al., 2011)



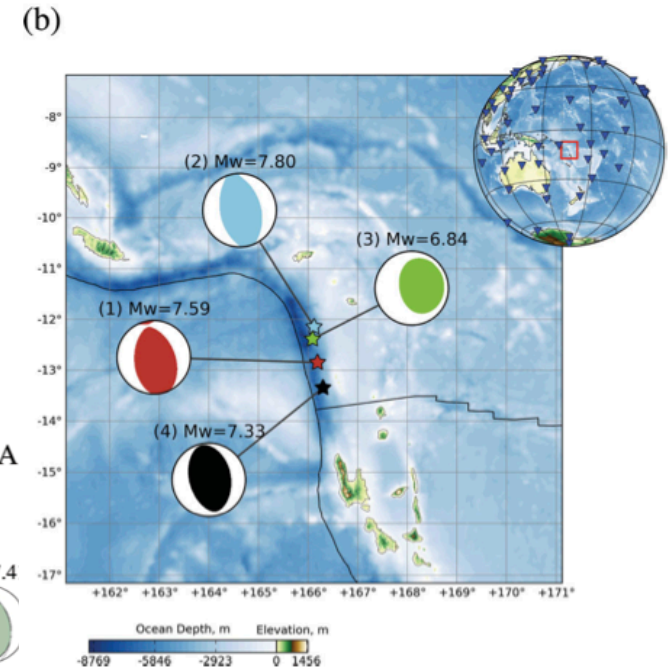
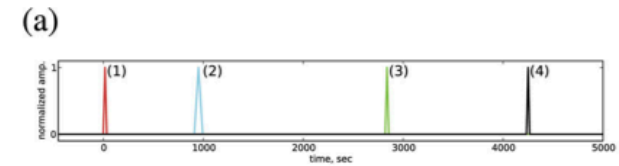
W-phase FFI  
(Benavente & Cummins, 2013)



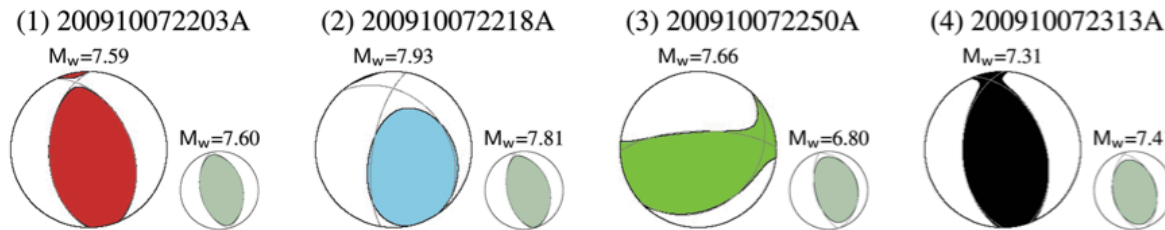


# 'Disturbed' Events

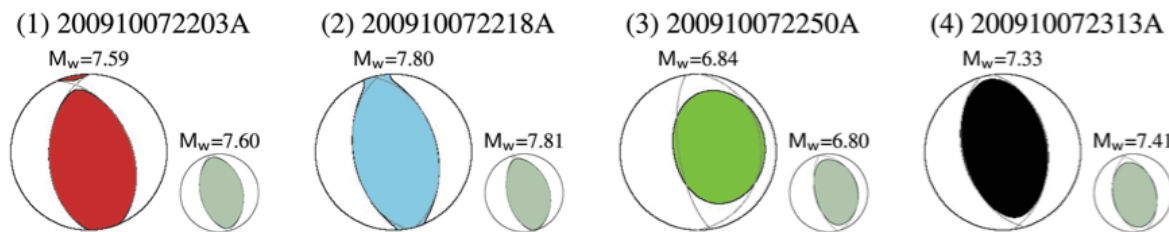
Duputel et al. (2012) showed that a 'stripping' technique can be applied that helps resolve magnitudes & mechanisms for compound ruptures.



(a) Standard W phase algorithm



(b) Modified W phase algorithm for *disturbed events*



(Duputel et al., 2012)





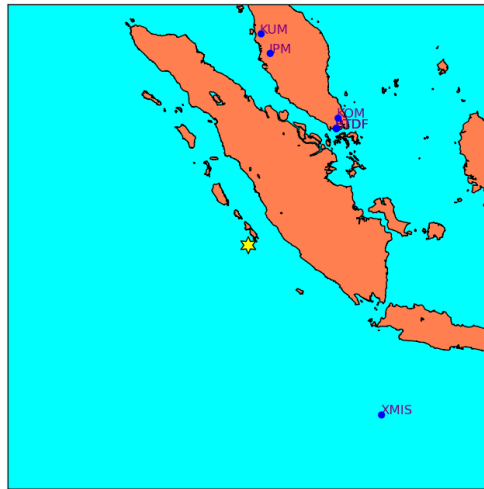
## Conclusions

- W-phase is well-suited to real-time determination of magnitudes & focal mechanisms for large earthquakes
- Real-time, point-source inversion soon to be operational (?) at ATWS
- Extensions of the w-phase technique, for finite faulting and compound events, may be possible in the near future.

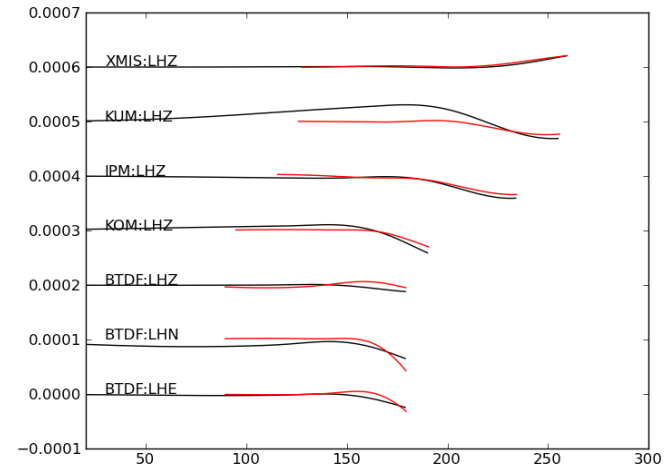


# W-Phase closer to the Source:

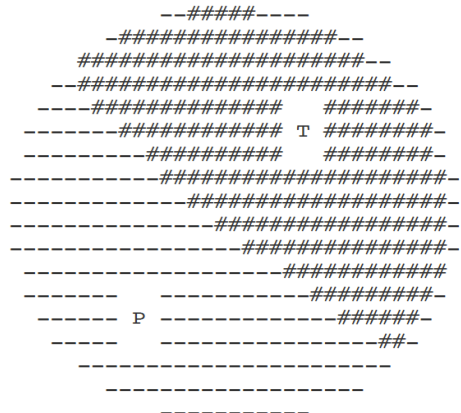
## Analysis of the 2010 Mentawai Tsunami Earthquake



A W-Phase analysis of data available from regional stations within 5 minutes of the earthquake origin time produces a reliable magnitude and focal mechanism estimate.



Global CMT Mw = 7.8  
NP1: STRIKE=319;DIP= 7;SLIP= 98  
NP2: STRIKE=131;DIP=83;SLIP= 89



W-Phase CMT Mw=7.8  
NP1: STRIKE=346.2; DIP=7.7; SLIP=147.2  
NP2: STRIKE=108.8; DIP=85.8; SLIP=83.5

