Automatic Event Location with *Antelope*

November 6, 2013
Antelope User Group Meeting
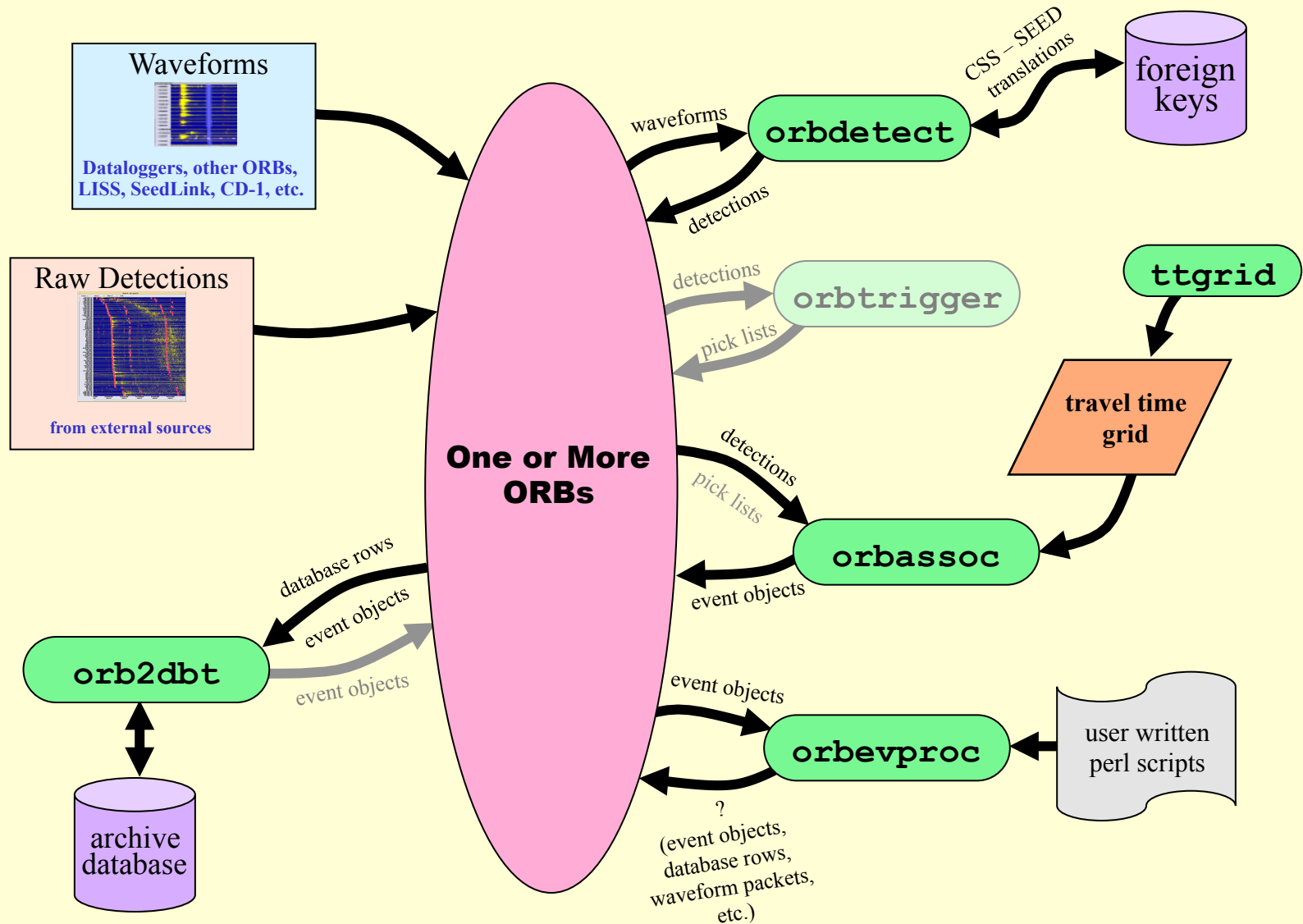Costa Rica

Traditional vs. Automated Event Processing

- Geiger based earthquake location methods
  - We decided to not write another version
  - locsat (UN/CTBTO) and genloc (contributed) included in Antelope distribution
- Automated event location requires a different approach
- There are just a few reliable automated event location algorithms
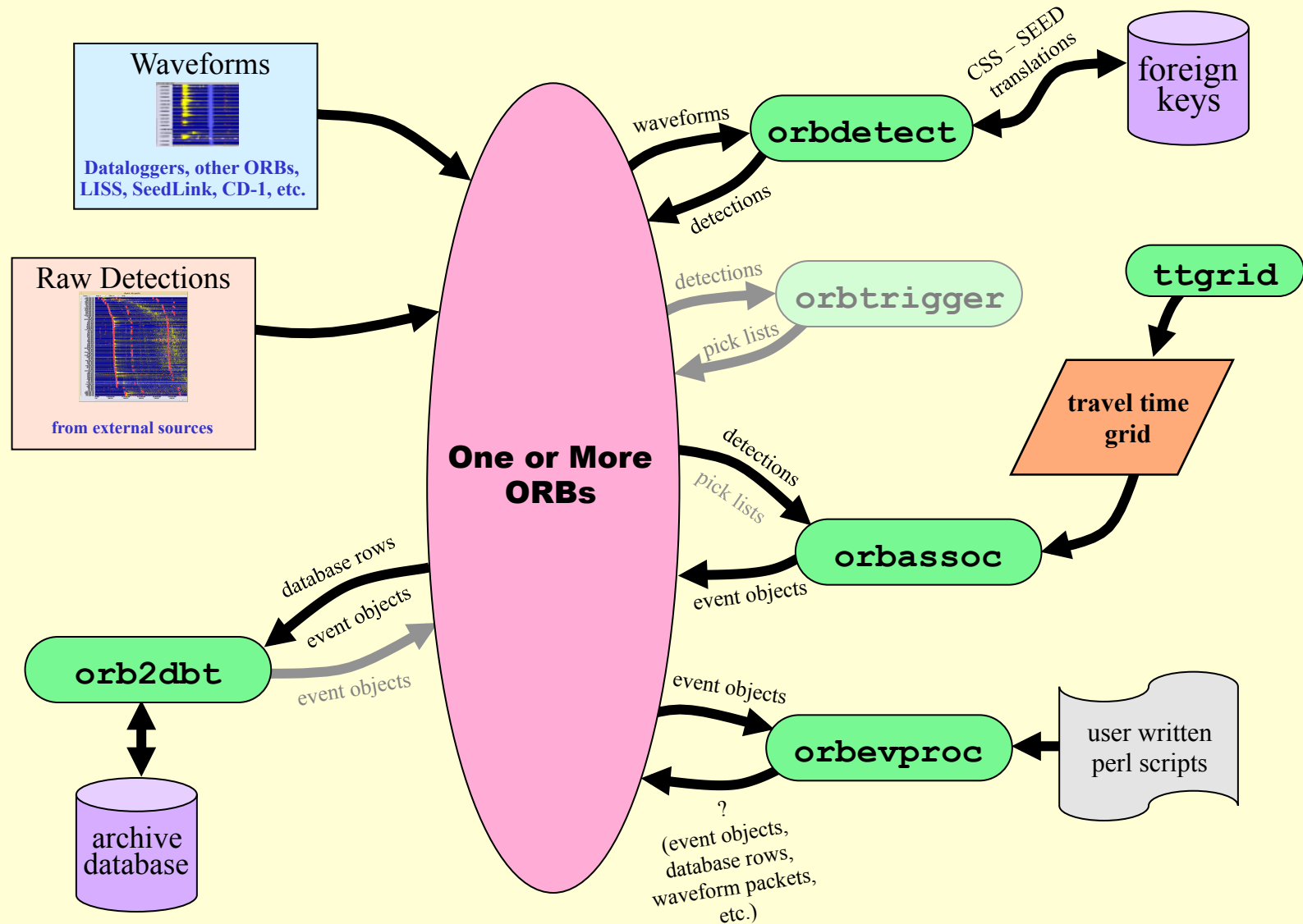- These algorithms are neither generally available nor are they documented

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Antelope Automated Event Processing

Waveforms

**Dataloggers, other ORBs,
LISS, SeedLink, CD-1, etc.**

Raw Detections

from external sources

**One or More
ORBs**

waveforms

orbdetect

detections

*CSS – SEED
translations*

foreign
keys

detections

orbtrigger

pick lists

ttgrid

travel time
grid

detections

pick lists

orbassoc

event objects

database rows

event objects

orb2dbt

event objects

archive
database

event objects

orbevproc

user written
perl scripts

?
(event objects,
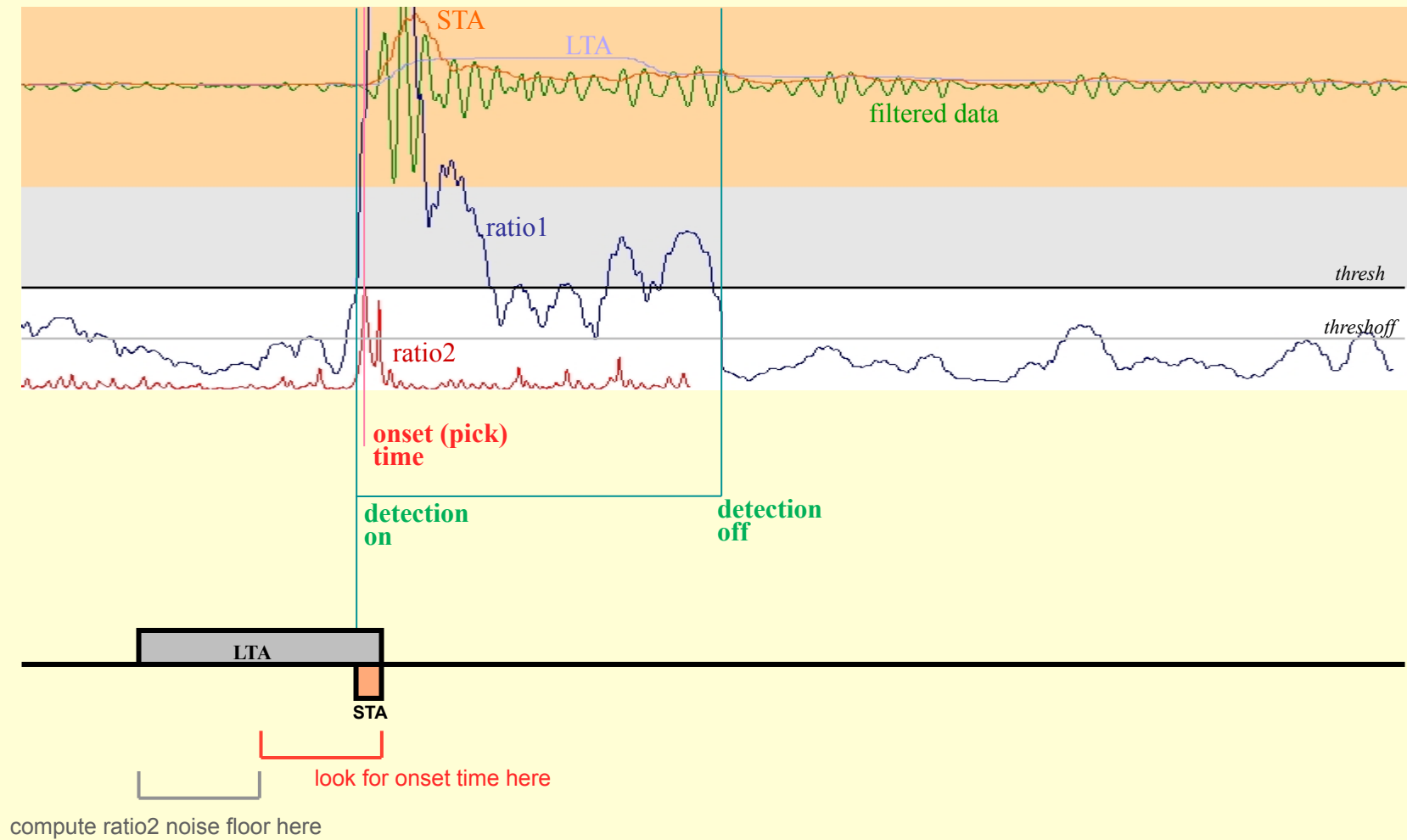database rows,
waveform packets,
etc.)

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Event Processing

1. Waveforms and detections are imported.

2. `orbdetect` produces arrival detections.

3. `orbtrigger` can be run optionally to group detections into event candidate pick lists.

4. `orbassoc` reads detection picks from `orbdetect` and/or pick lists from `orbtrigger` , searches for event associations through a set of travel time grids, and outputs complete event objects for further processing.

5. `orbevproc` can be run for further event-oriented processing such as magnitude estimation.

6. `orb2dbt` populates an archive database with the event processing results. `orb2dbt` can also output more event objects into the ORB for further processing.

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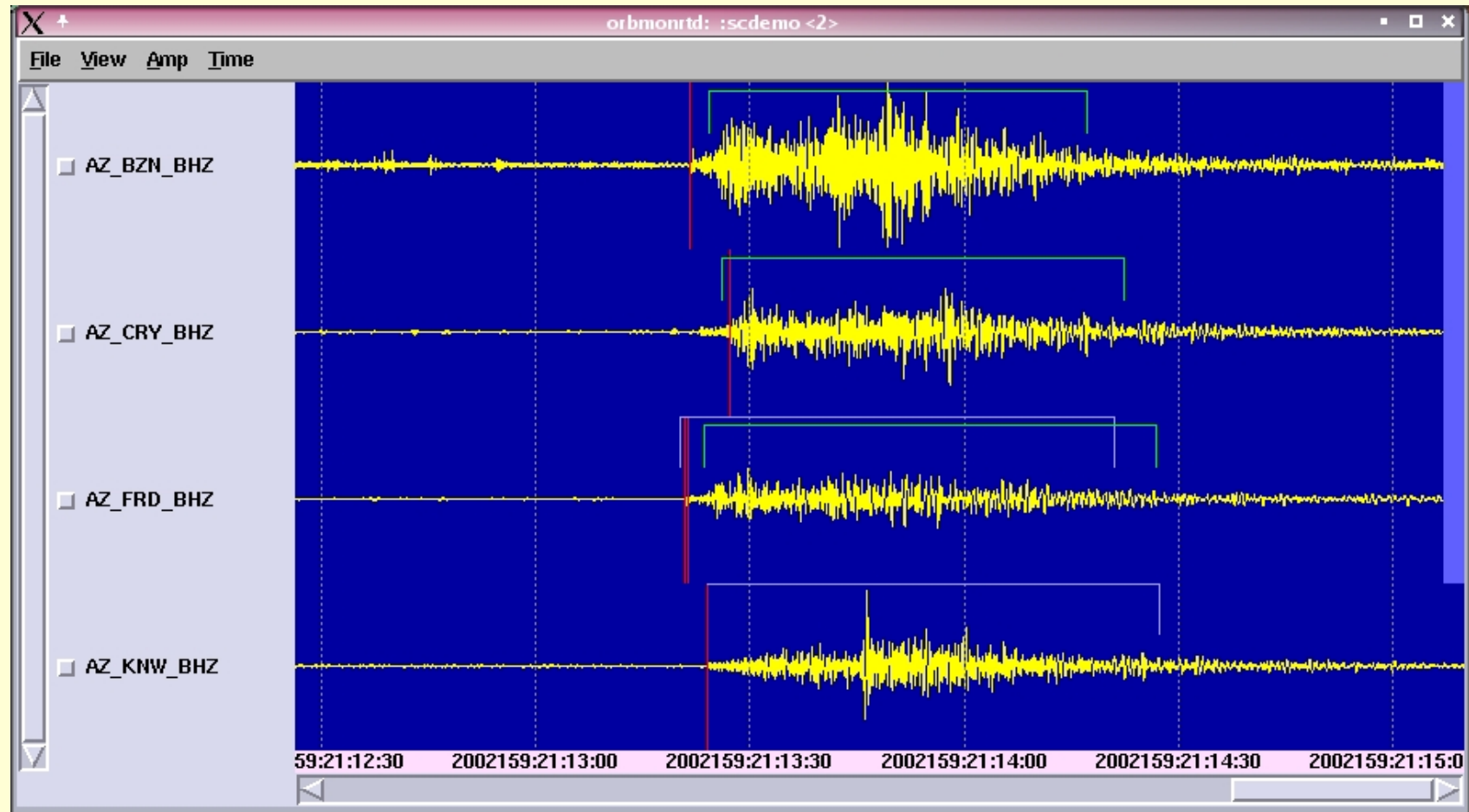
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user written perl scripts

? (event objects, database rows, waveform packets, etc.)

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orbdetect – detection processing

STA

LTA

filtered data

ratio1

thresh

threshoff

ratio2

onset (pick) time

detection on

detection off

LTA

STA

look for onset time here

compute ratio2 noise floor here

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orbdetect – output example

orbdetect – detection glyphs in **orbmonrtd**

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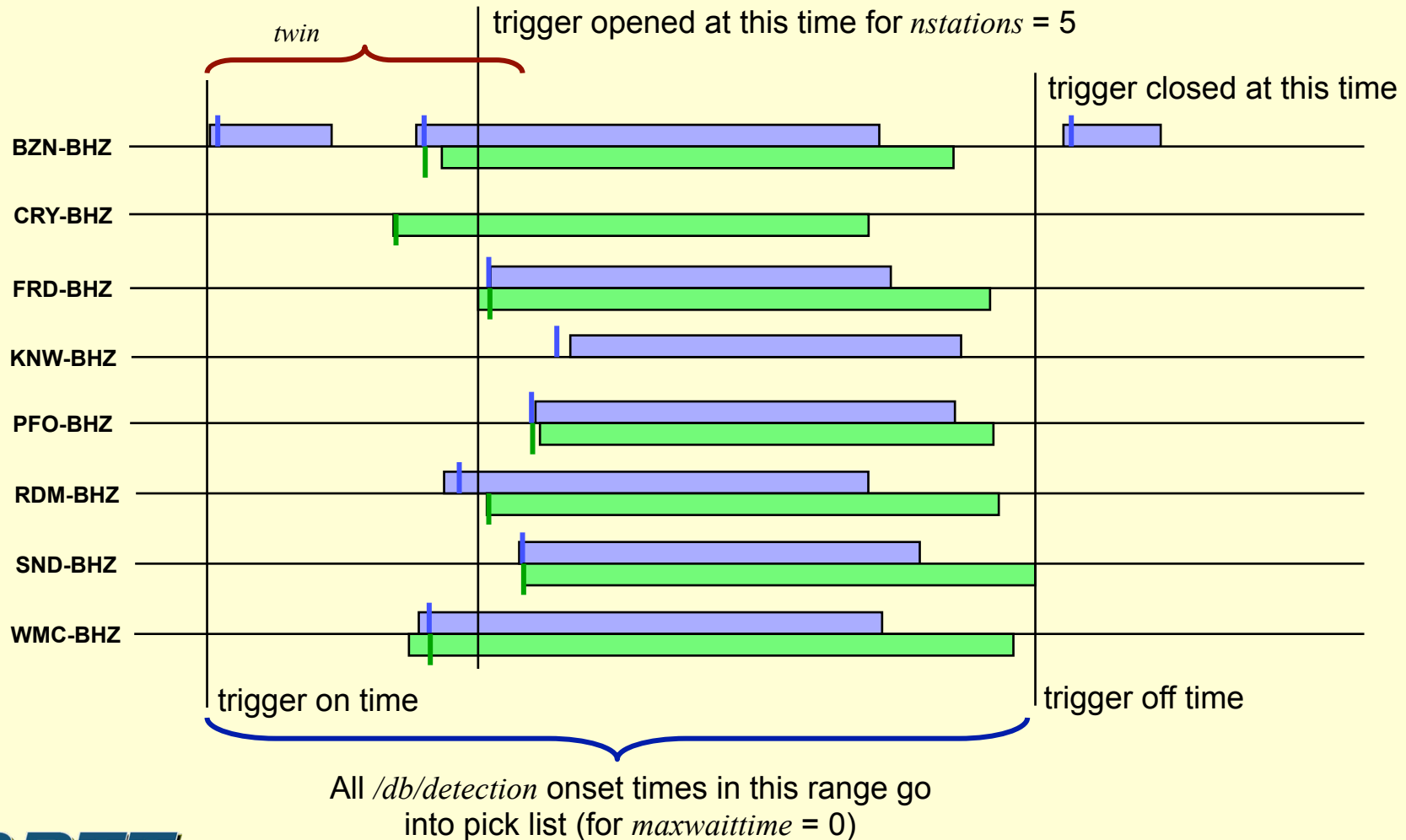
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orbtrigger – network trigger processing
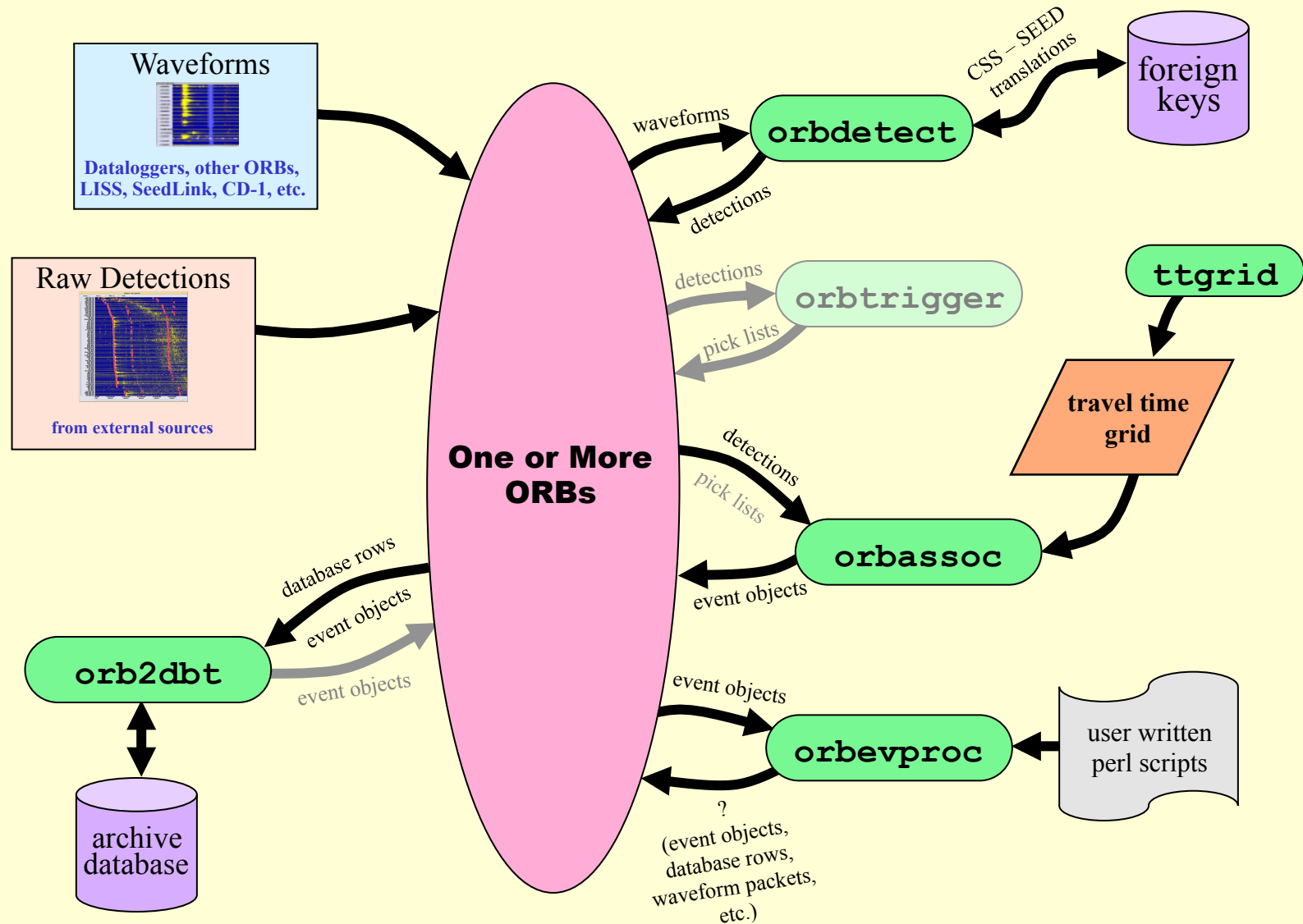
Objective: Scan all **orbtrigger** detection buffers to create/modify a network trigger and output an event pick list when appropriate:

trigger opened at this time for *nstations* = 5

trigger closed at this time

twin

BZN-BHZ

CRY-BHZ

FRD-BHZ

KNW-BHZ

PFO-BHZ

RDM-BHZ

SND-BHZ

WMC-BHZ

trigger on time

trigger off time

All */db/detection* onset times in this range go into pick list (for *maxwaittime* = 0)
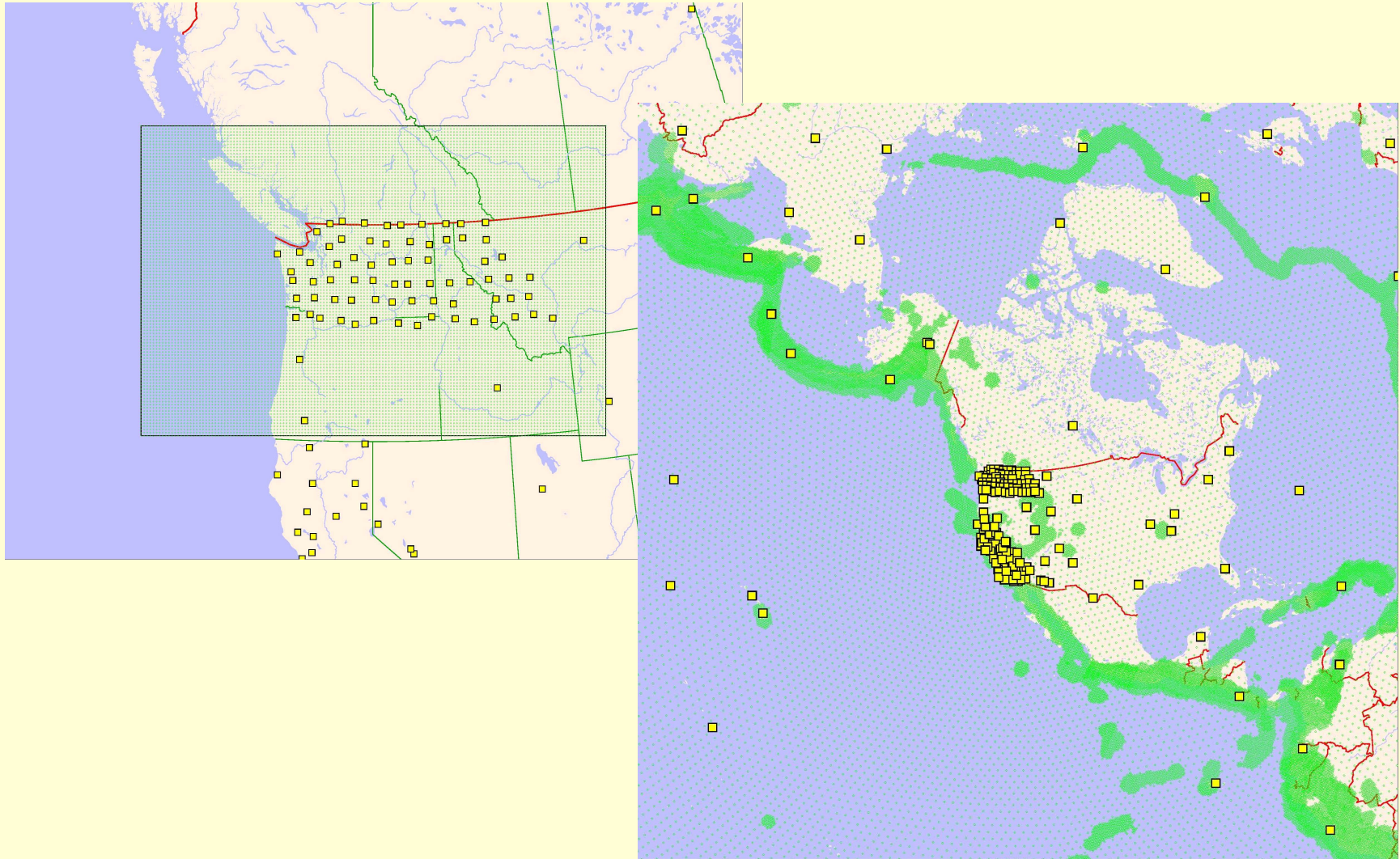
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orbtrigger – output /pf/orbassoc pick list

```
arrivals          &Tbl{
    BAR BHZ Dl 1023647045.63560 68.69000
    BAR BHZ Dt 1023647045.48560 58.50000
    BZN BHZ Dt 1023647049.70000 13.48000
    CRY BHZ Dt 1023647055.30000 18.73000
    DGR BHZ Dl 1023647059.99910 18.19000
    DGR BHZ Dt 1023647054.44910 32.31000
    FRD BHZ Dl 1023647049.02500 10.88000
    FRD BHZ Dt 1023647049.30000 13.22000
    GLA BHZ Dl 1023647037.76060 75.61000
    GLA BHZ Dt 1023647037.81060 119.94000
    JCS BHZ Dl 1023647045.73380 241.03000
    JCS BHZ Dt 1023647047.33380 50.17000
    KNW BHZ Dl 1023647052.12500 8.88000
    LVA2 BHZ Dl 1023647047.42500 30.58000
    LVA2 BHZ Dt 1023647047.40000 24.31000
    MONP BHZ Dl 1023646931.10000 5.12000
    MONP BHZ Dl 1023647043.42500 77.79000
    MONP BHZ Dt 1023647042.70000 102.69000
    PLM BHZ Dl 1023647050.51180 20.99000
    PLM BHZ Dt 1023647054.16180 35.24000
    RDM BHZ Dt 1023647058.02500 16.68000
    SND BHZ Dl 1023647049.95000 16.80000
    SND BHZ Dt 1023647050.10000 6.99000
    SOL BHZ Dt 1023647055.12500 13.14000
    TRO SHZ Dl 1023647048.10000 8.45000
    TRO SHZ Dt 1023647048.00000 12.60000
    WMC BHZ Dt 1023647050.67500 12.71000
}
```

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travel time grid

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orbassoc

event objects

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archive database

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(event objects, database rows, waveform packets, etc.)
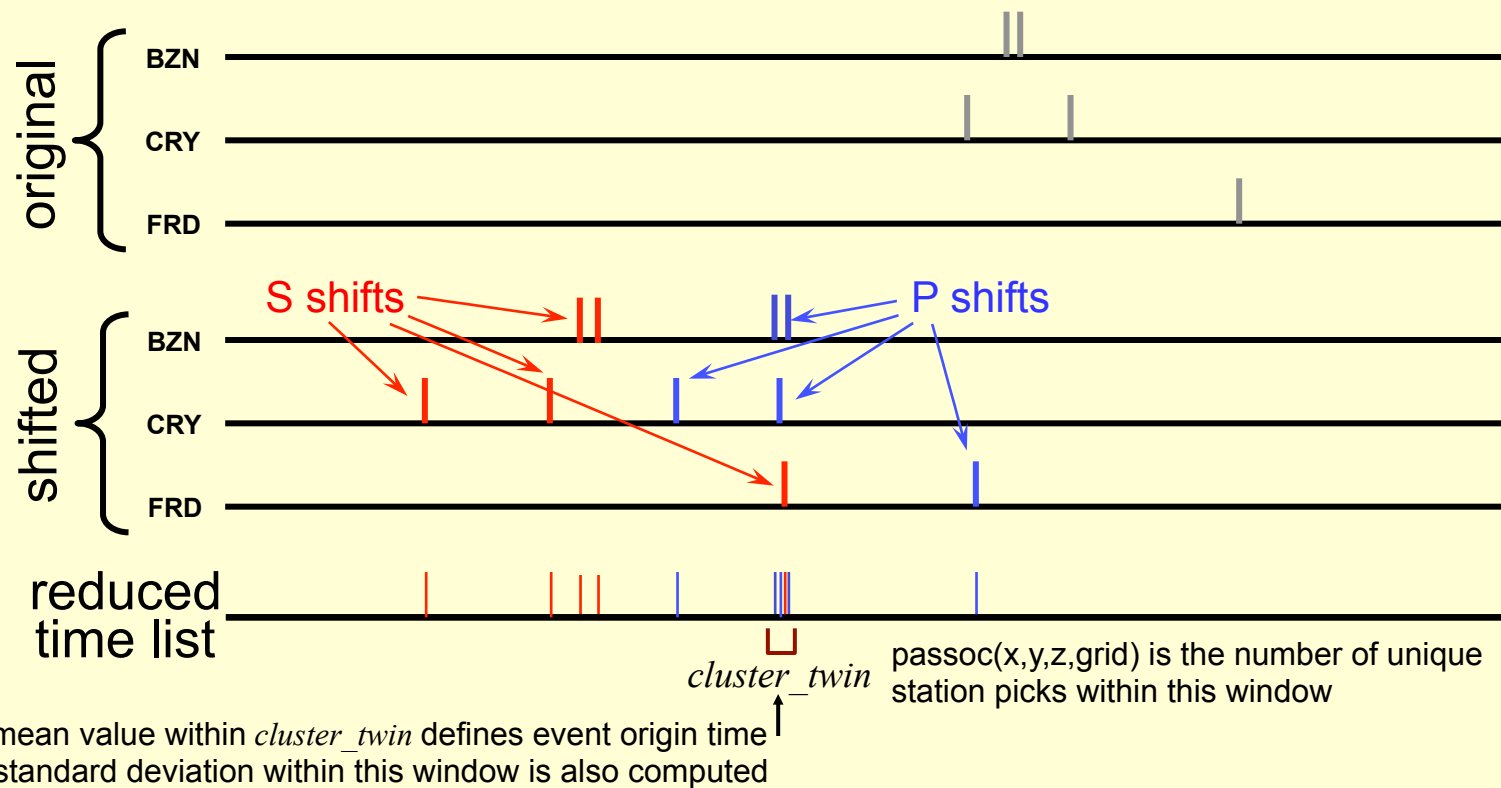
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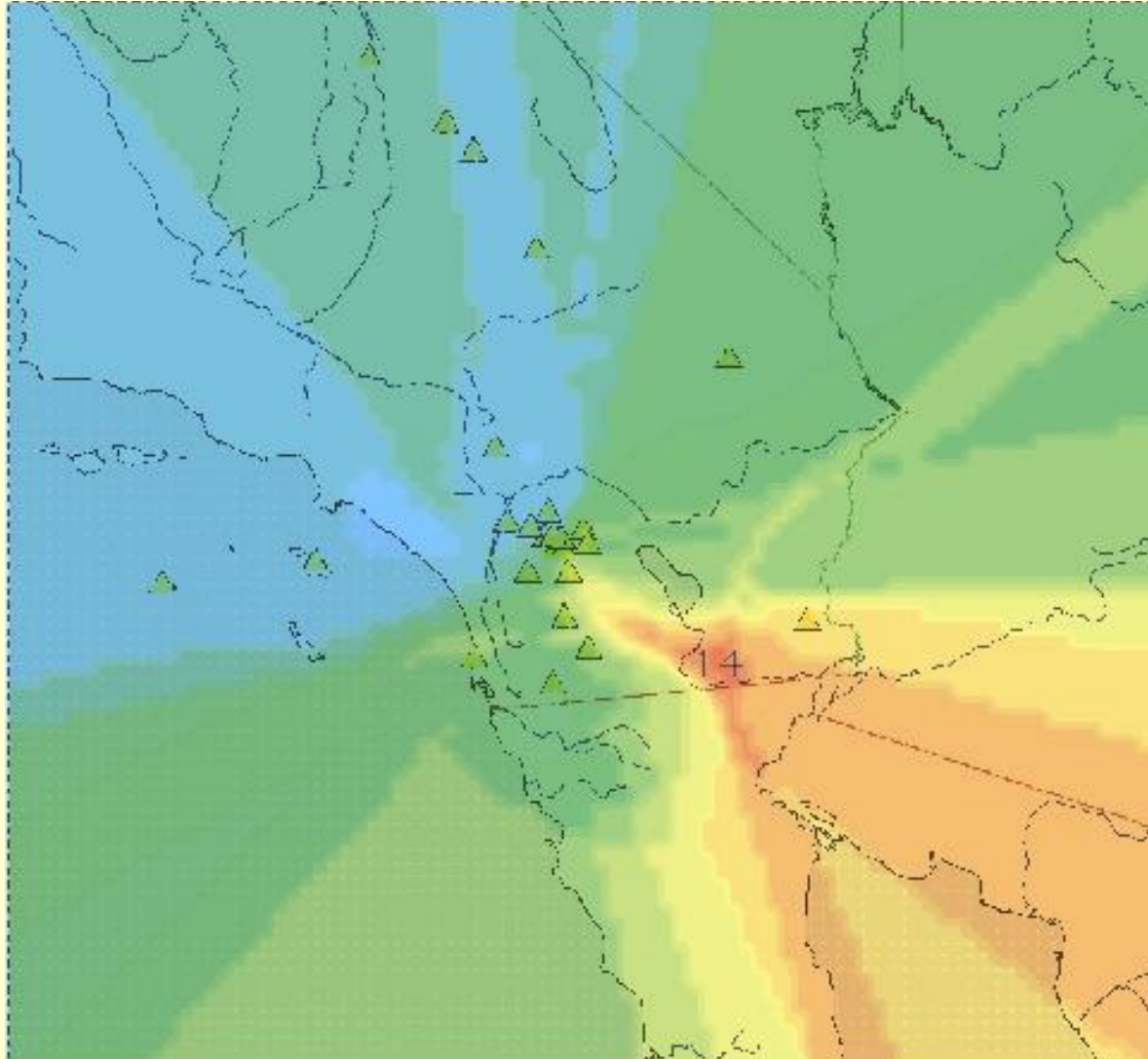# **orbassoc** – travel time grids

orbassoc – passoc processing

For each grid-source location node:

1. All of the times in the pick list are reduced by the phase travel times to an equivalent origin time.

2. These reduced pick times for each travel time phase are put into a reduced time list for subsequent time-clustering analysis:
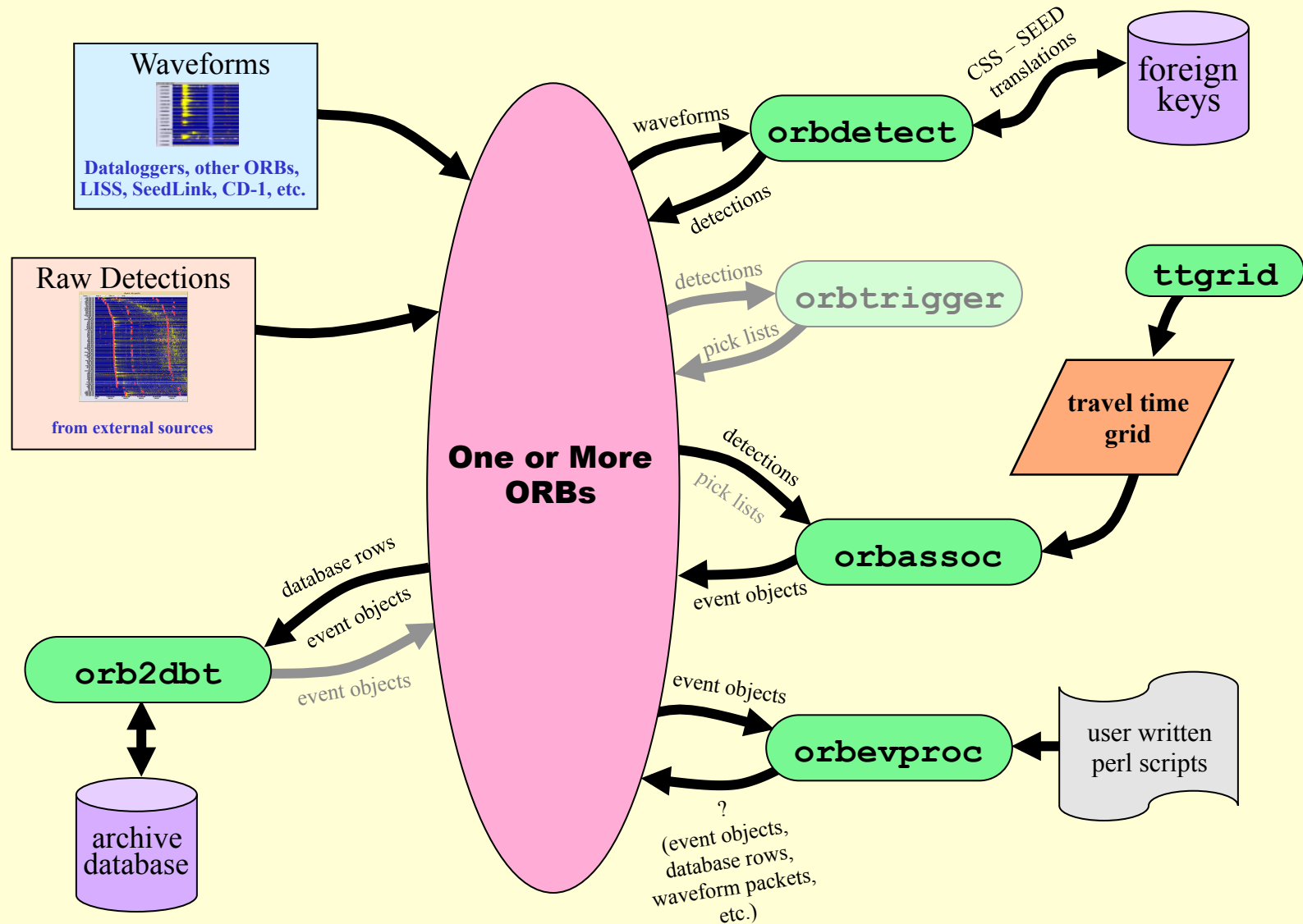
original
BZN
CRY
FRD

S shifts   P shifts

shifted
BZN
CRY
FRD

reduced time list

cluster_twin

passoc(x,y,z,grid) is the number of unique station picks within this window

mean value within *cluster_twin* defines event origin time
a standard deviation within this window is also computed

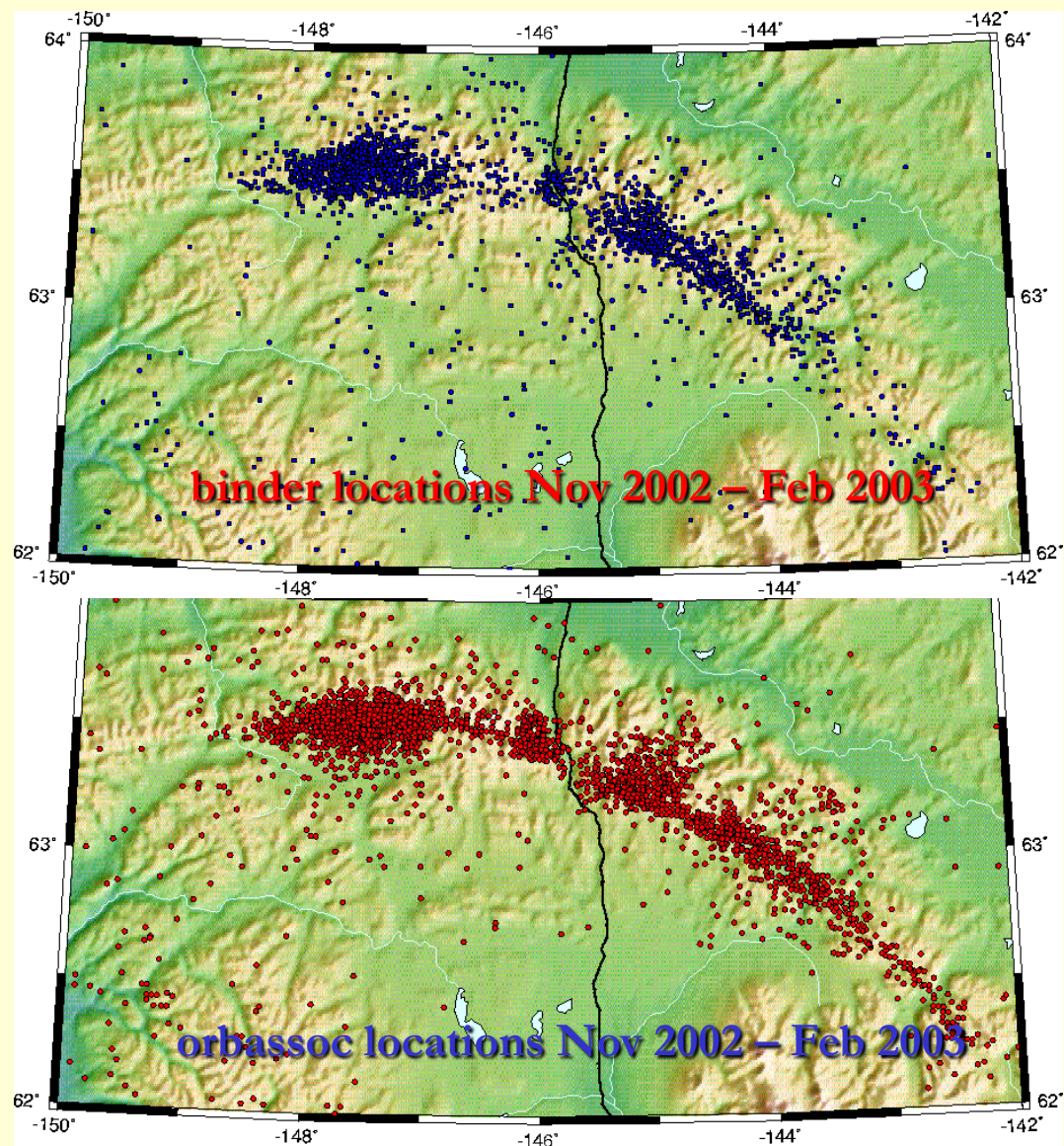**BRTT**

orbassoc – example passoc(x,y,local)

An evaluation of `orbassoc`

- Original edition:
  - Worked well for networks with apertures up to 1000 km
  - Could usually discriminate teleseisms (although locations not necessarily good, especially in depth)
  - Reliable for time-separated, "sufficient size" (~10 or more stations) events with "clean" seismic waveform data
  - Fast
- Problems with original edition:
  - Could not properly handle continental to global scale networks
  - Could not properly handle time-overlapping events (becomes important for large aperture networks)
  - Lots of spurious mis-locations when trying to associate with small numbers of stations (< 6) and especially with "dirty" seismic waveform data
  - S associations usually resulted in lots of spurious mis-locations
  - Final solutions were on a grid with no error estimates
  - Because of downstream database processing, could only use one `orbtrigger`-`orbassoc` processing pair at a time
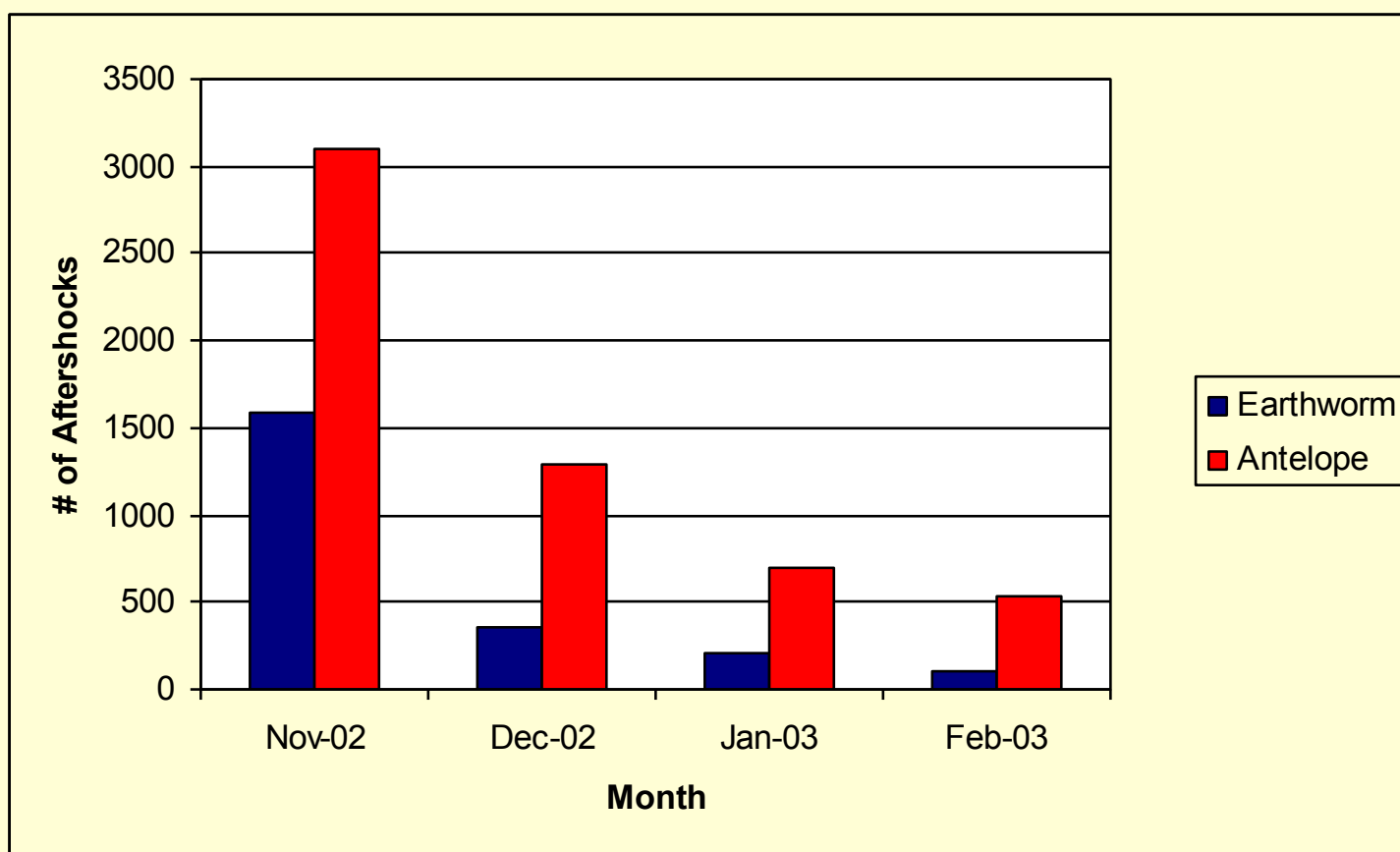 - Required `orbtrigger` – this means only a single hypocenter estimate per event

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binder locations Nov 2002 – Feb 2003

orbassoc locations Nov 2002 – Feb 2003

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Automatic Aftershock Locations

**Comparison of Numbers of Automatic Earthquake Locations**

Automatic Aftershock Locations Compared to Analyzed Locations

orbassoc (red) and binder (blue) locations vs. analyzed (yellow) locations (55 selected events) Nov 18 - 19, 2002
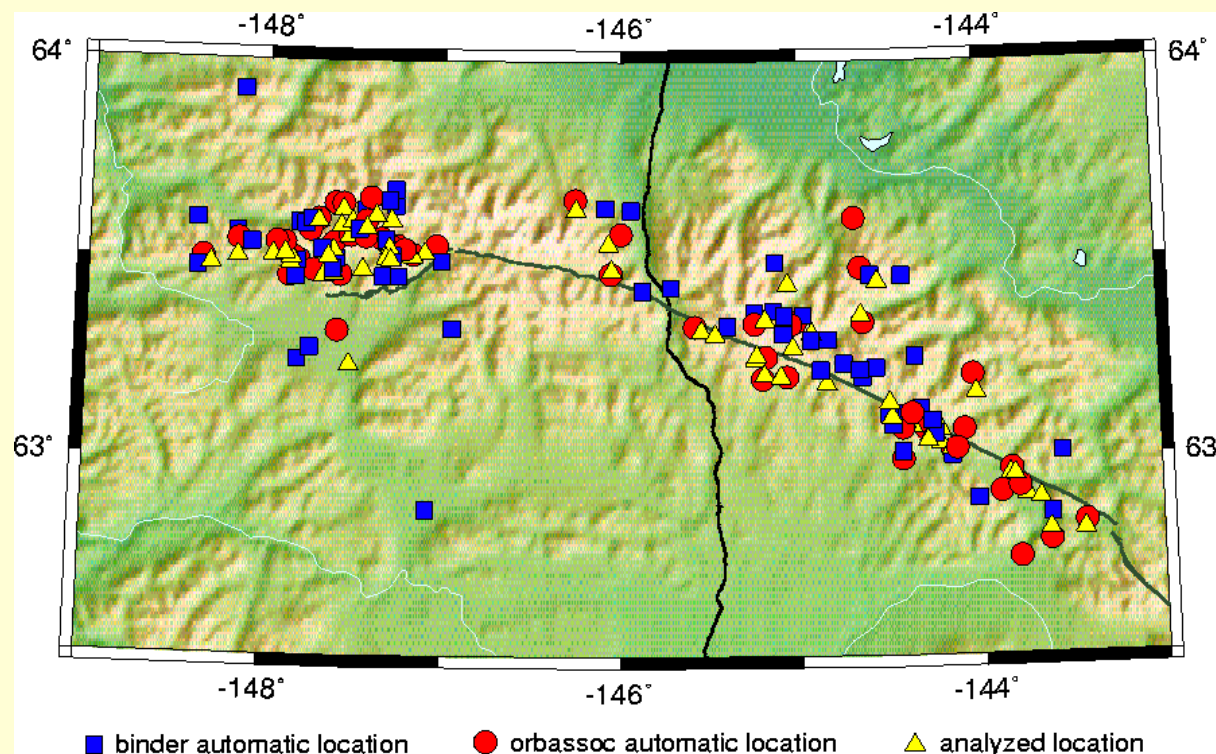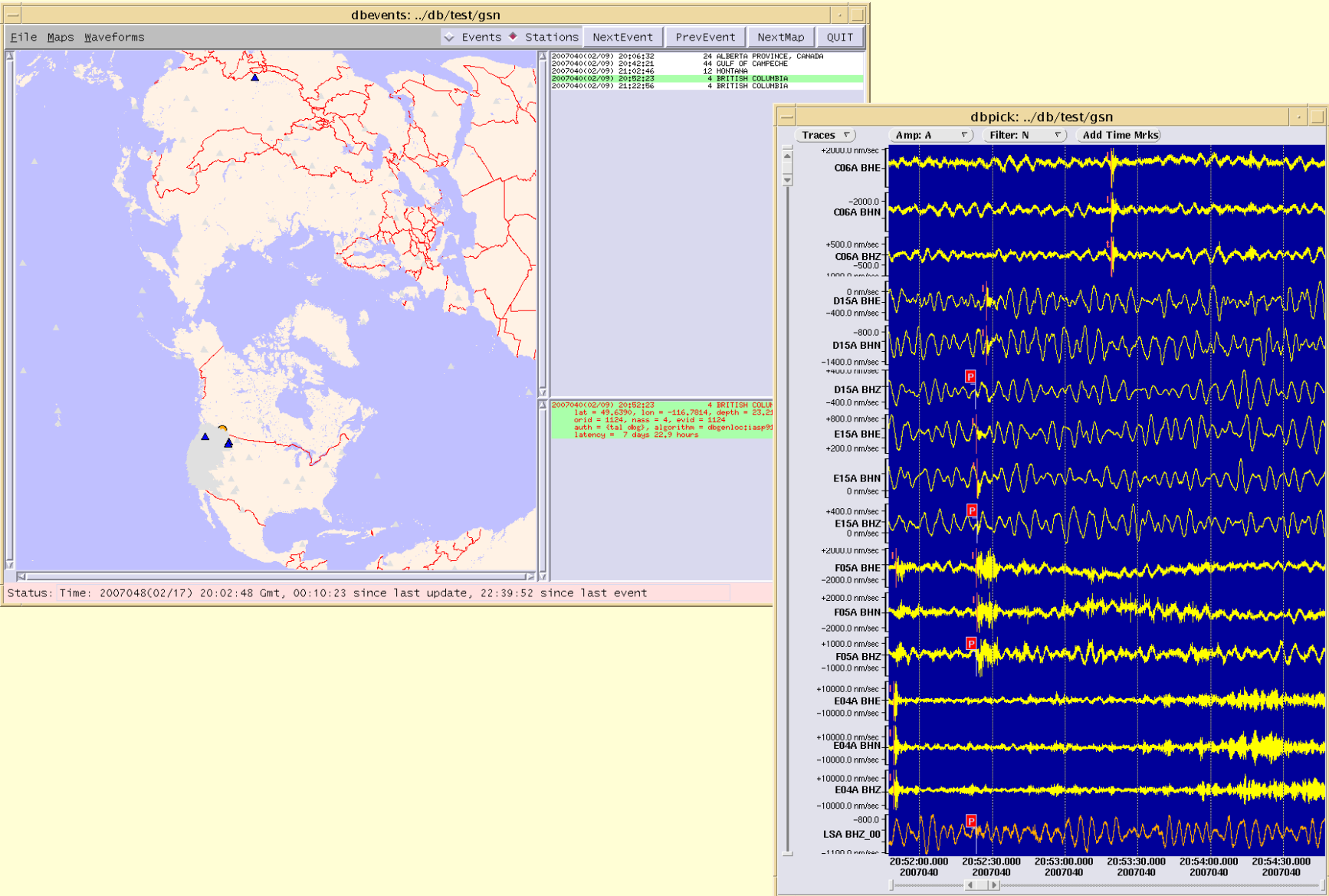

	Average Distance
Earthworm *binder*	13.5 km
Antelope *orbassoc*	4.4 km

■ binder automatic location ● orbassoc automatic location ▲ analyzed location

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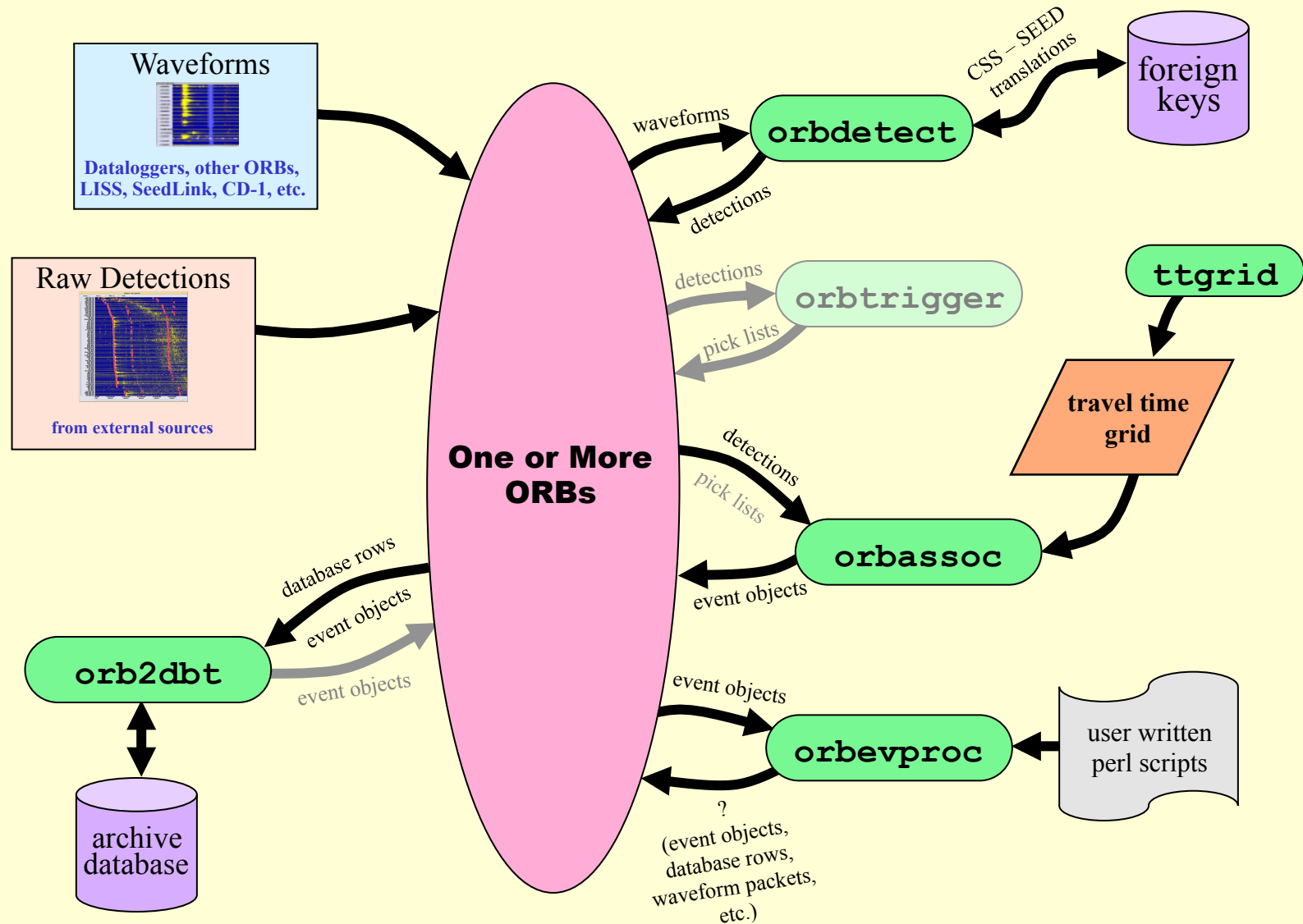
Mis-locations with small numbers of stations
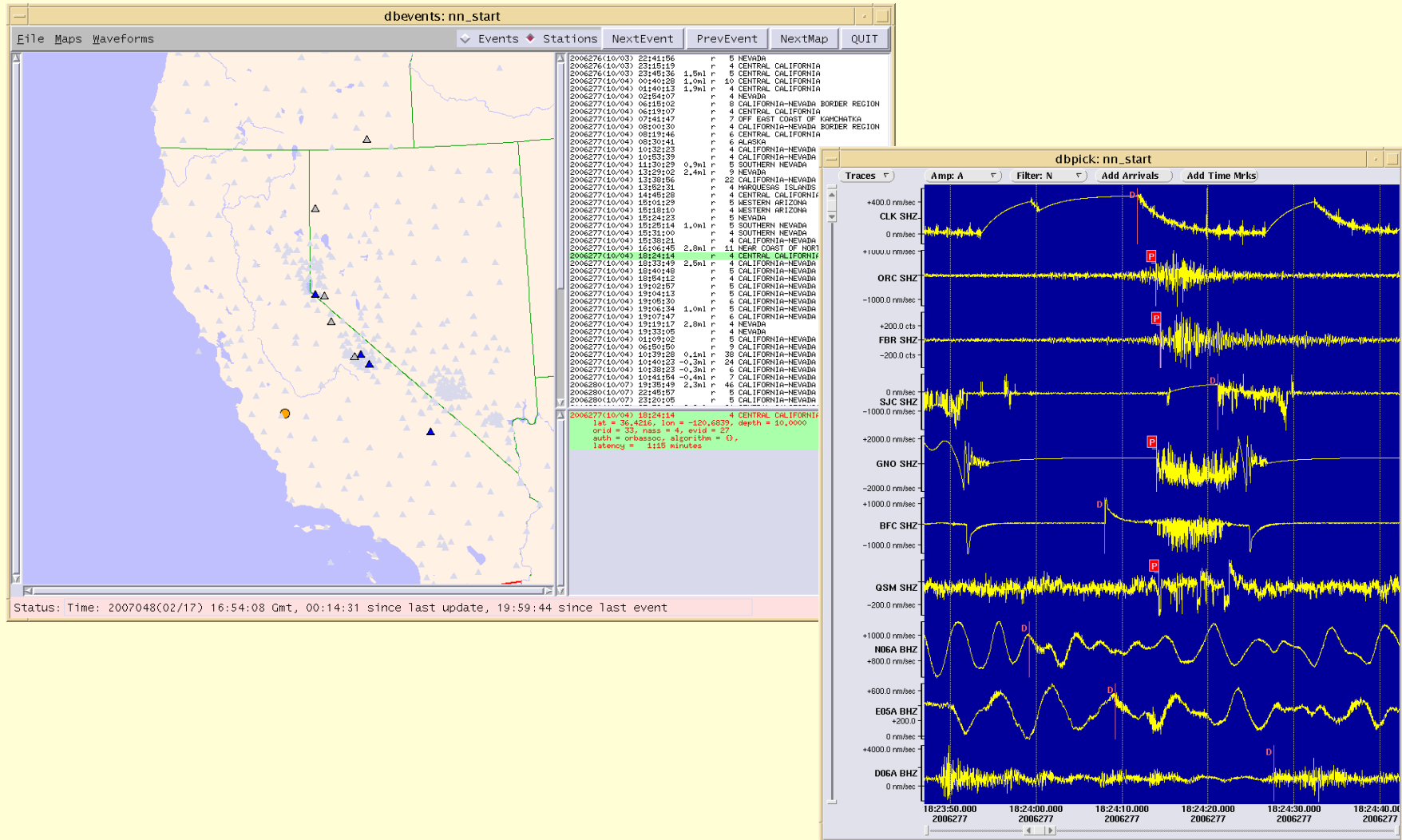
Mis-locations with small numbers of stations

Second edition of **orbassoc**, c. 2002

- Allow multiple **orbtrigger-orbassoc** processes in an attempt to deal with small events with small numbers of associating stations
- Provide a way to subset down regions into subnets to limit the effective source-receiver aperture for small events
- Required doing "smart" origin association in the final archive database so that multiple origins were properly tagged with the same event id and arrivals were not repeated
- **orbassoc** was modified to output encapsulated event ORB "objects", instead of multiple database rows, and **orb2dbt** was modified to implement the "smart" origin association with the archive database
- Major change was actually in **orb2dbt**, not so much **orbassoc**

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archive database

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What is an event ORB "object"?

A complete properly indexed temporary database, containing only one origin and all relevant linked other tables, encapsulated into a single parameter file ORB packet usually with srcname **/pf/ orb2dbt**

What is an event ORB "object"?

- At a minimum there must be a single row of an **origin** table encapsulated into a pf "Literal" string. Event objects with only an origin row are treated by **orb2dbt** as external catalog events to be associated with the existing events in the archive database. These type of event objects are produced by programs like **USGS2orb**.

- In order to promote detections to arrivals for a fully defined origin, such as what we would want to do with **orbassoc** output, the **assoc** and **arrival** tables must also be defined in the event object.

- Additional tables relating to errors and modeling, such as **origerr**, **emodel** and **predarr**, may also be defined, but these are optional.

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orb2dbt "Smart" event association

From event object

From archive database

foreach

preferred **origin**

assoc   assoc   assoc   assoc

arrival   arrival   arrival   arrival

predicted predicted predicted predicted

predicted predicted predicted predicted

arrival   arrival   arrival   arrival

assoc   assoc   assoc   assoc

origin

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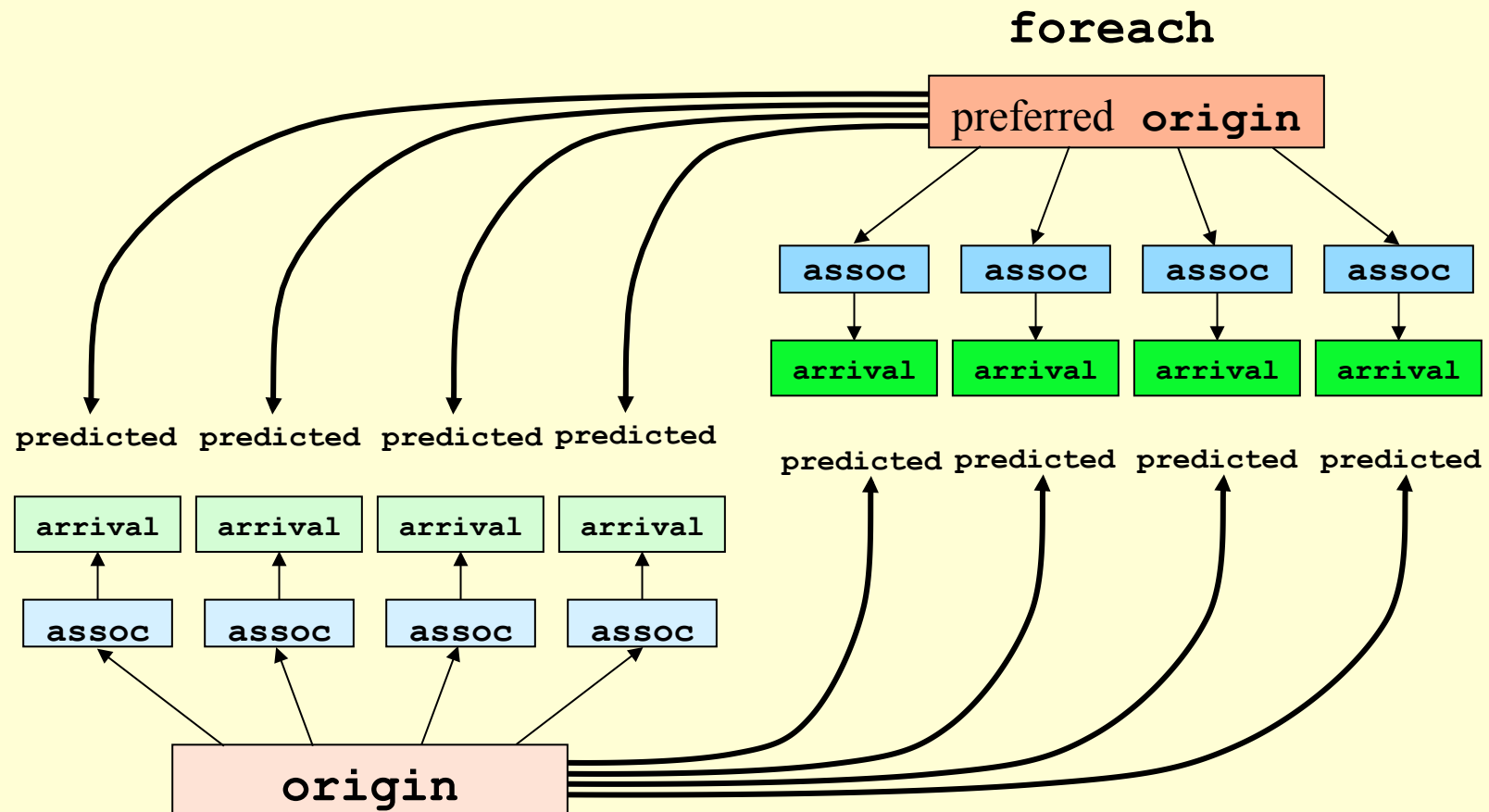
orb2dbt "Smart" event association

- If a new **origin** exactly matches an existing **origin** in the archive database, then the new event is skipped. A "match" is defined as an exact match in **lat**, **lon**, **depth**, **time**, **ndef** and **nass**.
- If a new **origin** associates with a preferred **origin** in the archive database:
  - A new **orid** is obtained from the archive database
  - The **evid** from the associated preferred **origin** is used
  - The new **origin** is compared against the existing preferred **origin** to see if the new **origin** should become the preferred **origin**
- If a new **origin** does not associate with any preferred **origin**s in the archive database:
  - A new **orid** is obtained from the archive database
  - A new **evid** is obtained from the archive database and a new **event** row is added to the archive database
- **arrival** and **assoc** merging:
  - Each **arrival** associated with the new **origin** is checked against existing **arrival**s in the archive database. If the **arrival** is different from any existing **arrival**s, then it is added to the archive database and a new **arid** is generated. If the **arrival** is the same as an existing **arrival** in the archive database, then the **arrival** is not added and the **arid** from the existing **arrival** is used in the new **assoc** entries.
  - The resulting **orid** and **arid** values are filled into the new **assoc** rows.

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orb2dbt "Smart" event association

- An important capability apart from the associator that allows safe merging of complete events from external sources
- Provides a mechanism for merging origins from external catalogs
- Provides a mechanism for safely modifying existing events, e.g. adding further processing information such as magnitudes
- Allows the associator to make multiple estimates of hypocenters from the same event (e.g. early warning, different subnets, etc.)

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Second edition of `orbassoc`, c. 2002

- Multiple `orbtrigger`-`orbassoc` processes provided a way to subset down regions into subnets to limit the effective source-receiver aperture for small events
- "smart" event association in the final archive database worked well for providing a generalized method to merge multiple event estimates
- Problems with second edition:
  - Still needed `orbtrigger` which meant no time-overlapping events and no multiple origin estimates from a single `orbtrigger`-`orbassoc` instance
  - Still could not properly handle large aperture networks
  - Still had problems with very small events and sometime very large events with multiple `orbtrigger`-`orbassoc` instances (split events, orphan events, events near subnet boundaries)
  - Still produced solutions only on the grid with no error estimates (why is this important? It means that the grid must be sized finely enough to insure reasonable accuracy of solution)
  - Still couldn't handle S-arrivals very well

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Third edition of **orbassoc**, c. 2005

- Eliminate **orbtrigger** as a required initial processing step for **orbassoc** (although it still can be used in a compatibility mode and as a means for rapid initiation of processing in **orbassoc**)
- Assimilate a pick list dynamically within **orbassoc** directly from **detection**s and establish rules for processing and culling the pick list
- Implement recursive pick list processing – will find time-overlapping multiple events
- Implement distance and station density weighting in grid search (attempt to deal with small event problem)
- Include new associate-only mode and iterative reprocessing mode for S-arrivals
- Development of new "universal" teleseismic grid based on observed seismicity for handling large aperture networks

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orbassoc pick list processing

/db/detection onset times from **orbdetect**

pick list

```
BAR BHZ Dl 1023647045.63560 68.69000
BAR BHZ Dt 1023647045.48560 58.50000
BZN BHZ Dt 1023647049.70000 13.48000
CRY BHZ Dt 1023647055.30000 18.73000
DGR BHZ Dl 1023647059.99910 18.19000
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SOL BHZ Dt 1023647055.12500 13.14000
TRO SHZ Dl 1023647048.10000 8.45000
TRO SHZ Dt 1023647048.00000 12.60000
WMC BHZ Dt 1023647050.67500 12.71000
…
```

orbassoc

wait for new pick

new pick?

no

yes

cull pick list based on pick ages > process_time_window

yes

n_new_picks > process_ncycle?

no

recursive processing of entire pick list

yes

process_age > process_timeout?

no

/pf/orb2dbt event object for **orb2dbt**

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orbassoc pick list processing

- The internal **orbassoc** pick list is accumulated directly from detection onset times – **orbdetect** can be configured to only produce onset times using the **–onlypicks** command line option flag (don't do this if you plan on using **orbtrigger**) – note that generally picks from every station-channel-filter are put into the list
- The size of the internal **orbassoc** pick list is managed such that the time difference between the oldest and youngest picks stay within the **process_time_window** parameter in **orbassoc.pf** – the moveout for an entire global network can be accommodated by making this time window suitably large (~1200 seconds) - note that this usually results in much larger pick lists than those produce by **orbtrigger**, thereby requiring more CPU time for processing the pick lists
- Each successive pick list processing cycle is completely independent of previous cycles – this means that the same event can be processed many times with multiple hypocenter estimates showing up in the final archive database
- Although it might be desirable to process the internal pick list every time a new pick is received, this is impractical because of the cpu time needed for each processing cycle and the large number of hypocenter estimates for each event that this would produce
- Pick list processing frequency is controlled based on number of new picks received (**process_ncycle** parameter in **orbassoc.pf**) and/or time since the last processing cycle (**process_timeout** parameter in **orbassoc.pf**)

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orbassoc recursive processing

- The new model now is to form dynamic very large pick lists with all stations, channels, and filter versions over large time windows such that a single snapshot of the pick list can encompass global-scale events with hundreds of stations
- This approach absolutely requires recursive processing in order to separate out the multiple events that will usually be contained in such large pick windows – this was one of the principal improvements to **orbassoc** that was necessary to be able to process both continental-global scale events and local-regional scale events at the same time with the same data
- How does this work in **orbassoc**?
  - The standard **orbassoc** grid search is performed on all grids looking for a single solution that produces the most numbers of defining P-arrivals within the specified cluster time window
  - When a solution is found, Additional P-arrivals are identified as being associated but not defining using a time window larger than the cluster time window.
  - For stations with defining or associating P-arrivals, all detections within a time window around the predicted P-arrival are temporarily removed from the pick list
  - The reduced pick list is reprocessed again in the same way until no more solutions are found

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orbassoc recursive pick processing

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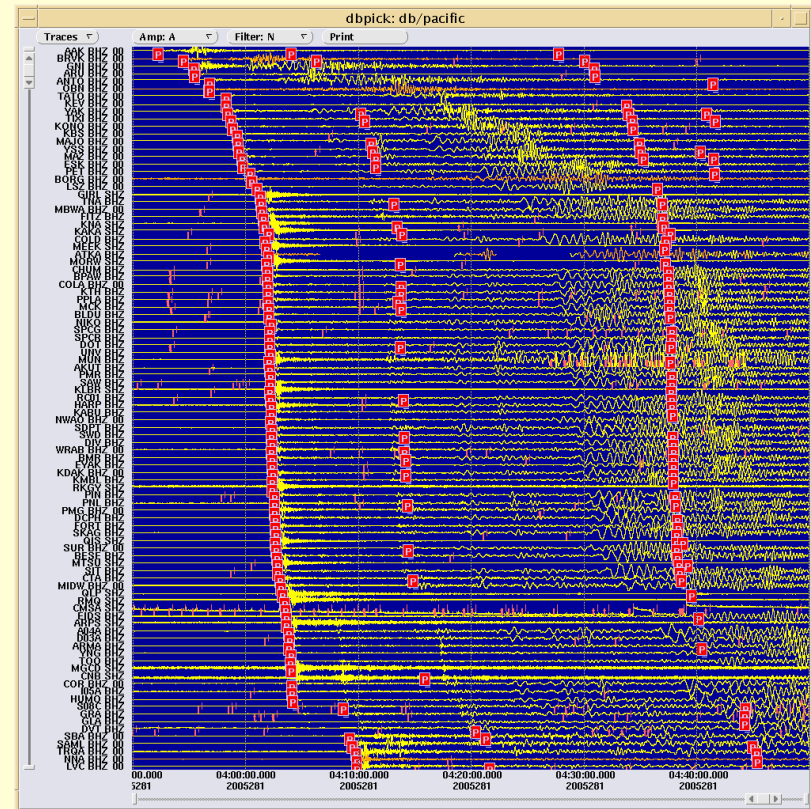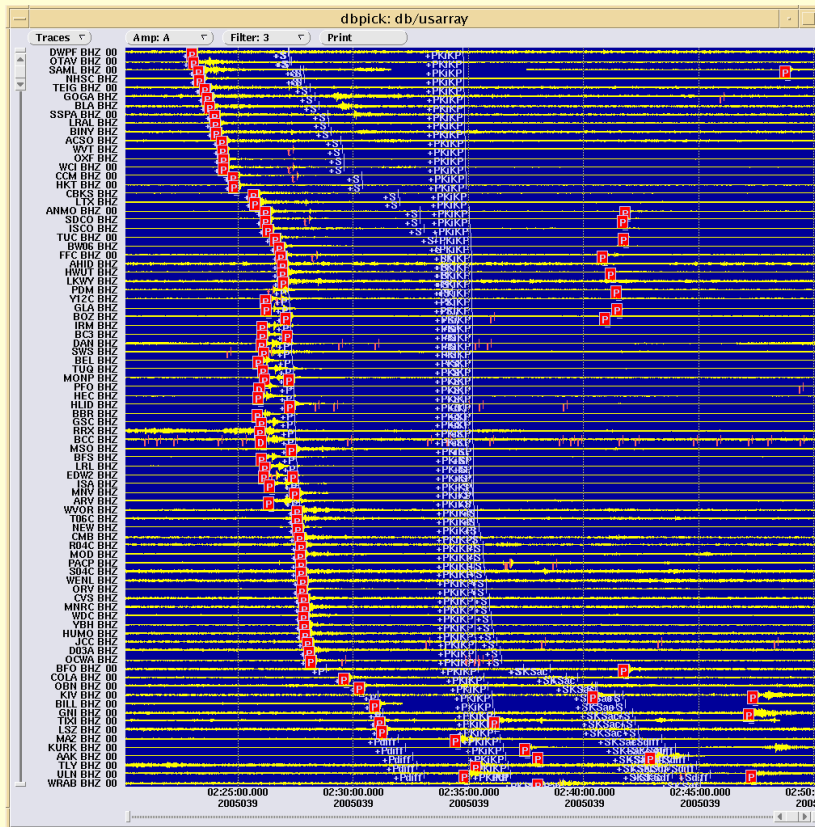
orbassoc universal teleseismic grid

- In order to find events using global distributions of stations it was necessary to develop a travel time grid with a distribution of sources that would work for any distribution of stations.
- Icosahedral-based multi-scale triangular tesselation using USGS PDE events since 1960 to define worldwide seismic zones for grid densification
- Station density weighting was also introduced to minimize the otherwise overpowering effects of high station density within heterogeneous station distributions

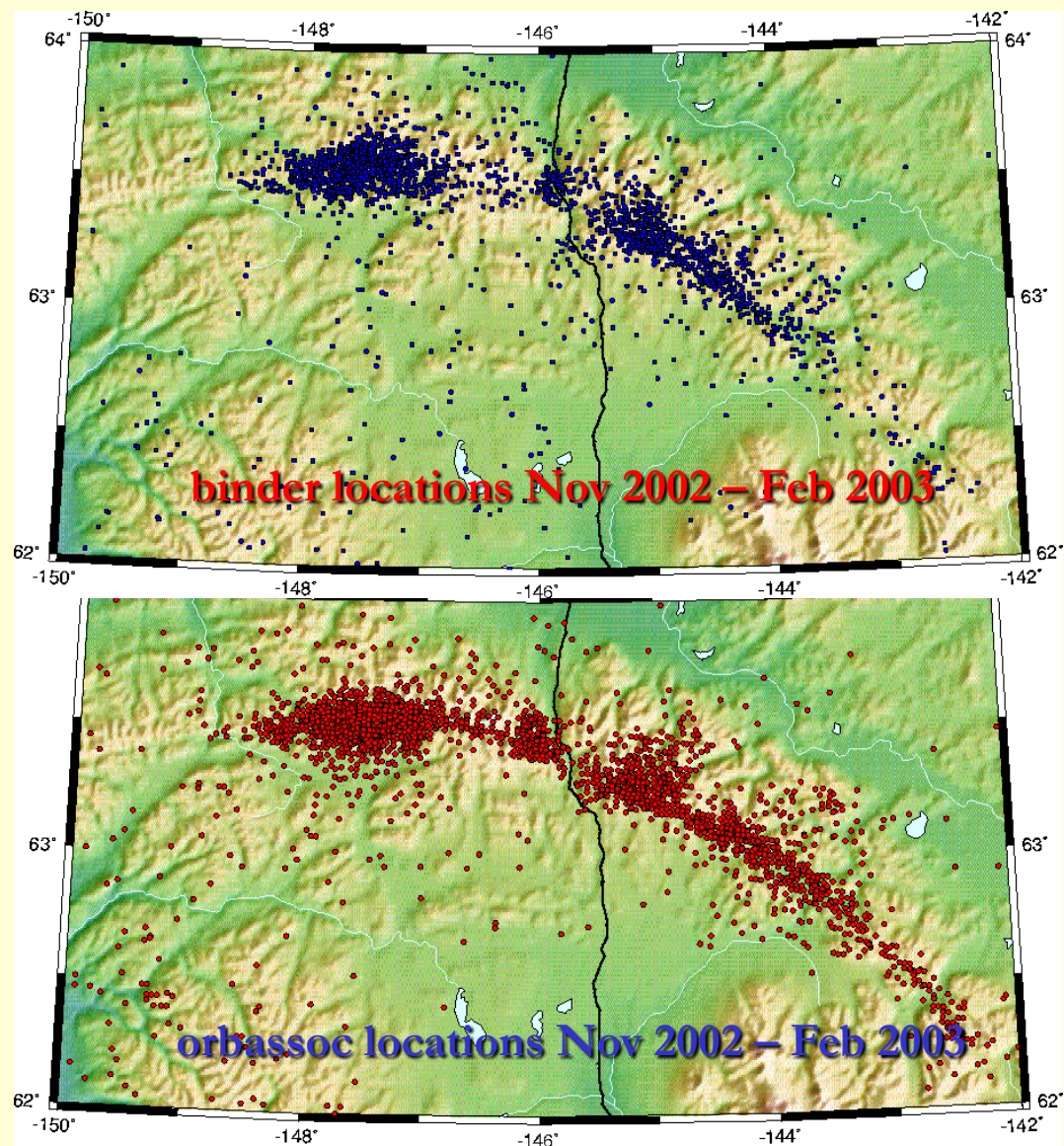**BRTT**
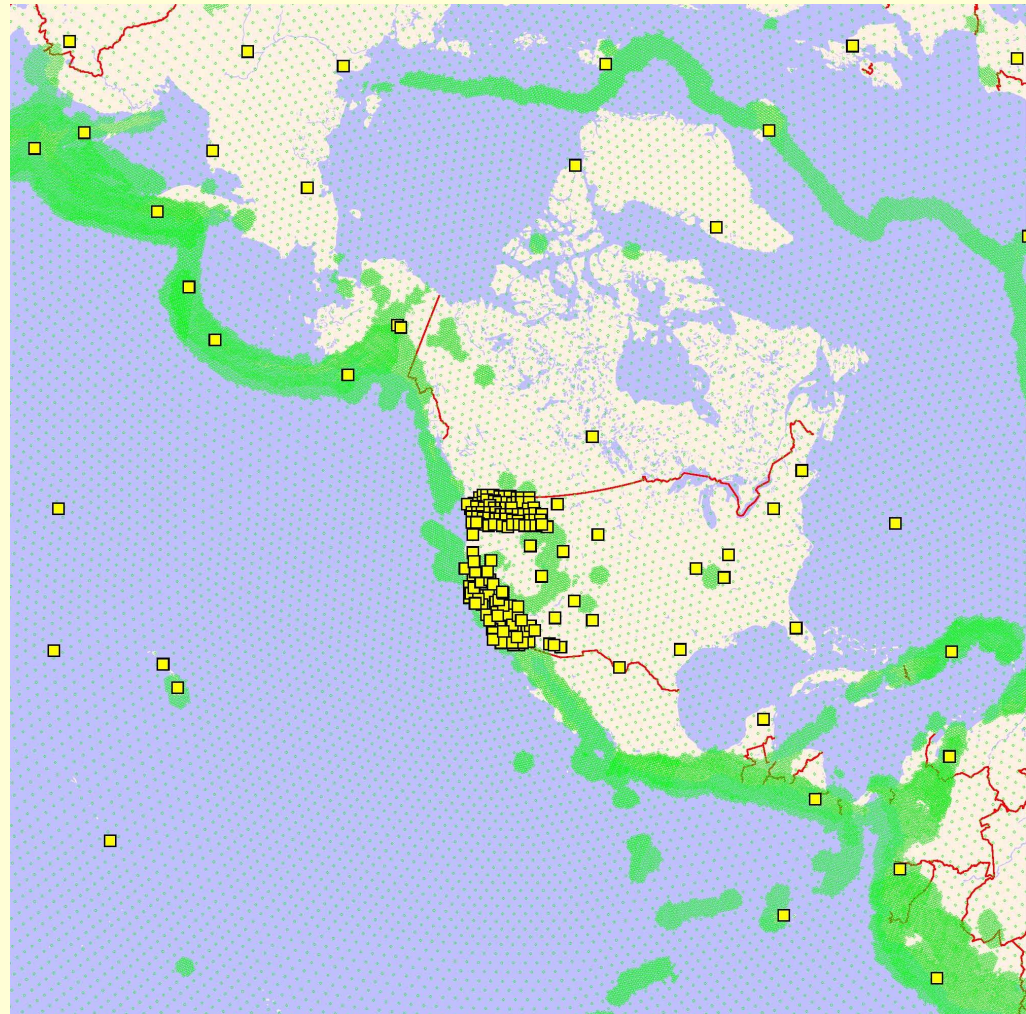
orbassoc S-arrival processing

- In the original edition of **orbassoc**, S-arrivals were associated by throwing the S travel times into the grid search (using the **try_S** parameter in **orbassoc.pf**).
- In practice we found that in most cases, trying to use S arrival times in the initial search resulted in many more mis-locations than improvements in locations.
- In edition 3 of **orbassoc** we tried a different approach:
  - Always use only P-arrival times in the initial grid searches
  - If an event is found, then look for associated S-arrivals in the pick list by searching for picks around the predicted S-arrival times for all stations.
  - Mark associated S-arrivals if the **associate_S** parameter in **orbassoc.pf** has been set to **yes**.
  - If the **reprocess_S** parameter in the **orbassoc.pf** has been set to **yes**, then using only the detections that associated for P and S arrivals, make another pass through the travel time grid search, this time with **try_S** set to **yes** so that the S arrivals would be used as defining arrivals in the final solution.

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orbassoc S-arrival processing

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binder locations Nov 2002 – Feb 2003

orbassoc locations Nov 2002 – Feb 2003
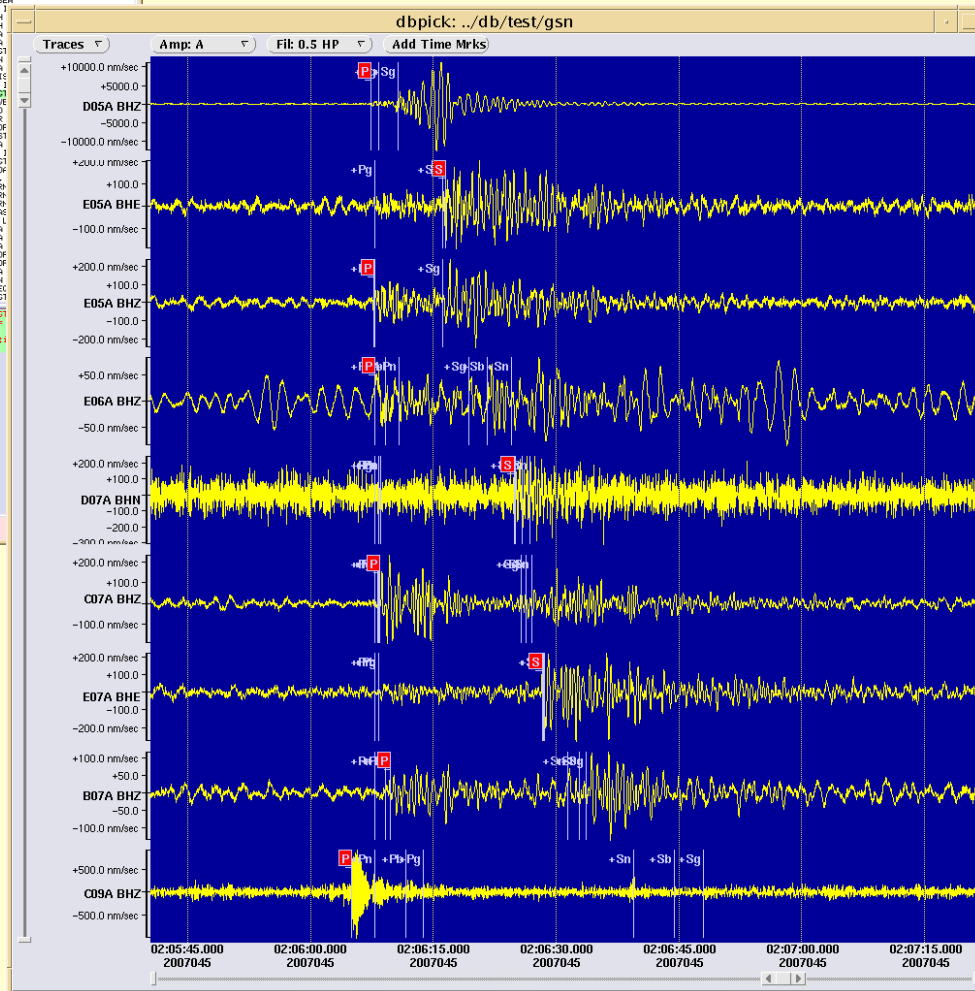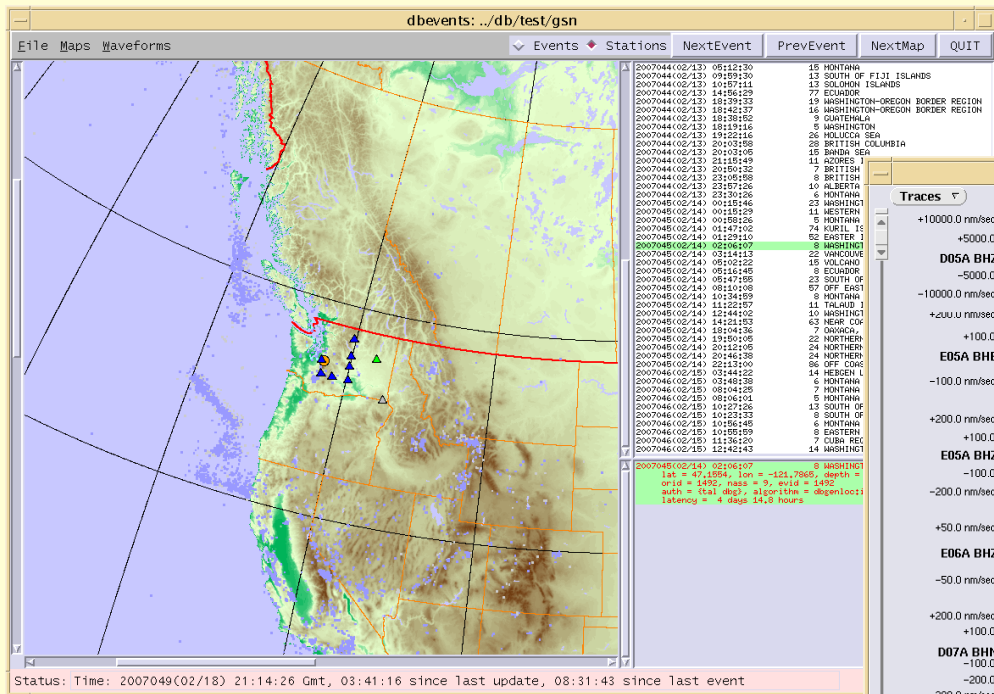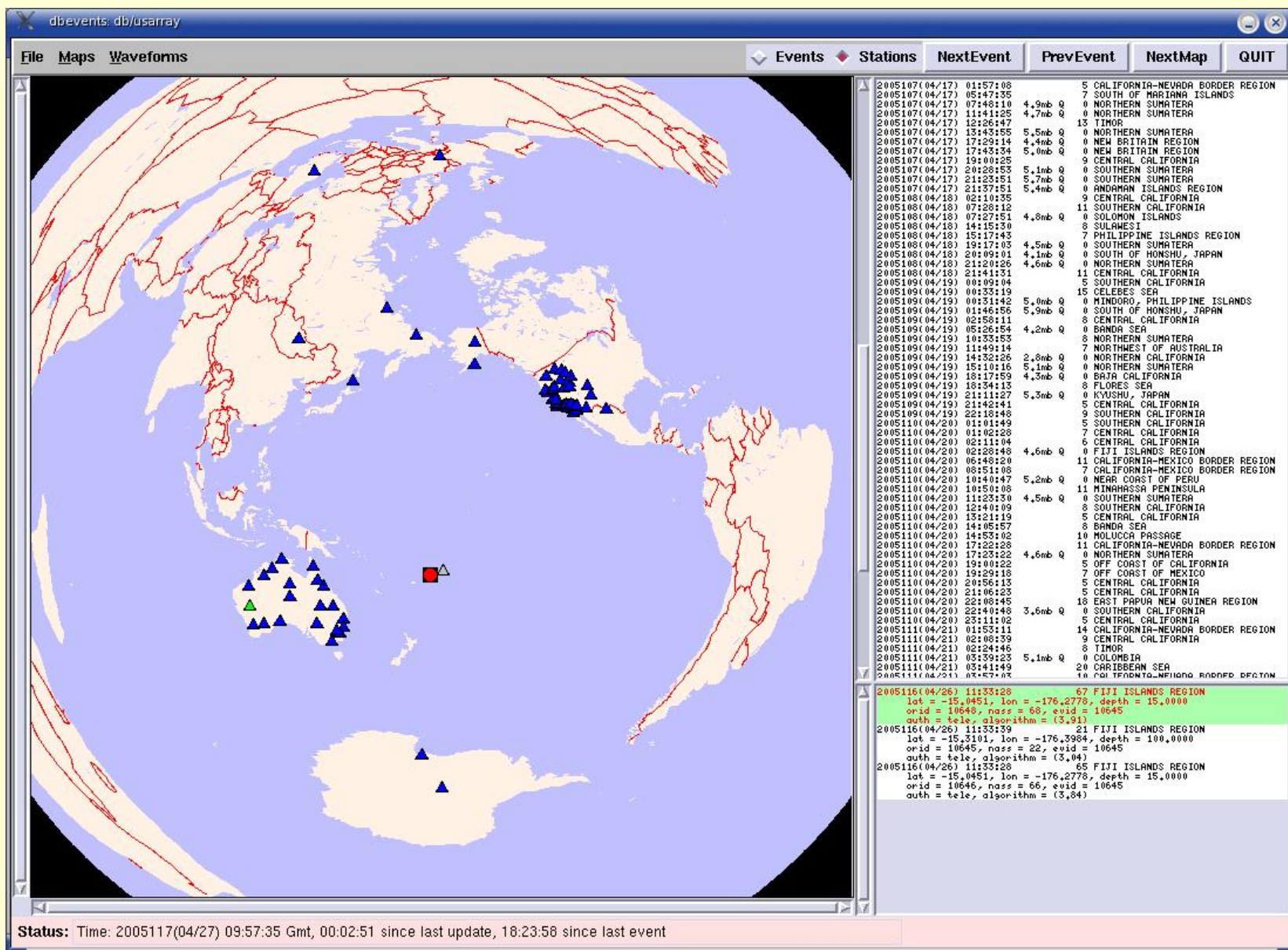
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orbassoc: Denali eq test

- Test setup:
    - Used about 30 hours around time of Denali earthquake on 22:12 03 Nov, 2002
    - Transformed analyst picks into detections and processed these with **dbgrassoc**
    - Started with 29564 arrivals. Analyzed database had 1083 events.
    - Used a local grid with about 5 km spacing and depths down to 200 km. Also used utele grid
    - Enabled S-associations
- Summary of results:
    - **dbgrassoc** produced 1042 events:

```
Time   error md=-0.271, 99%=  4.488, 1%=  -5.599, std= 0.562 sec
Depth  error md=-1.000, 99%= 36.404, 1%= -17.015, std= 5.424 km
Distns error md= 0.585, 99%= 10.281, 1%= -38.047, std= 3.559 km
Distew error md= 0.628, 99%= 29.468, 1%= -22.056, std= 3.643 km
```

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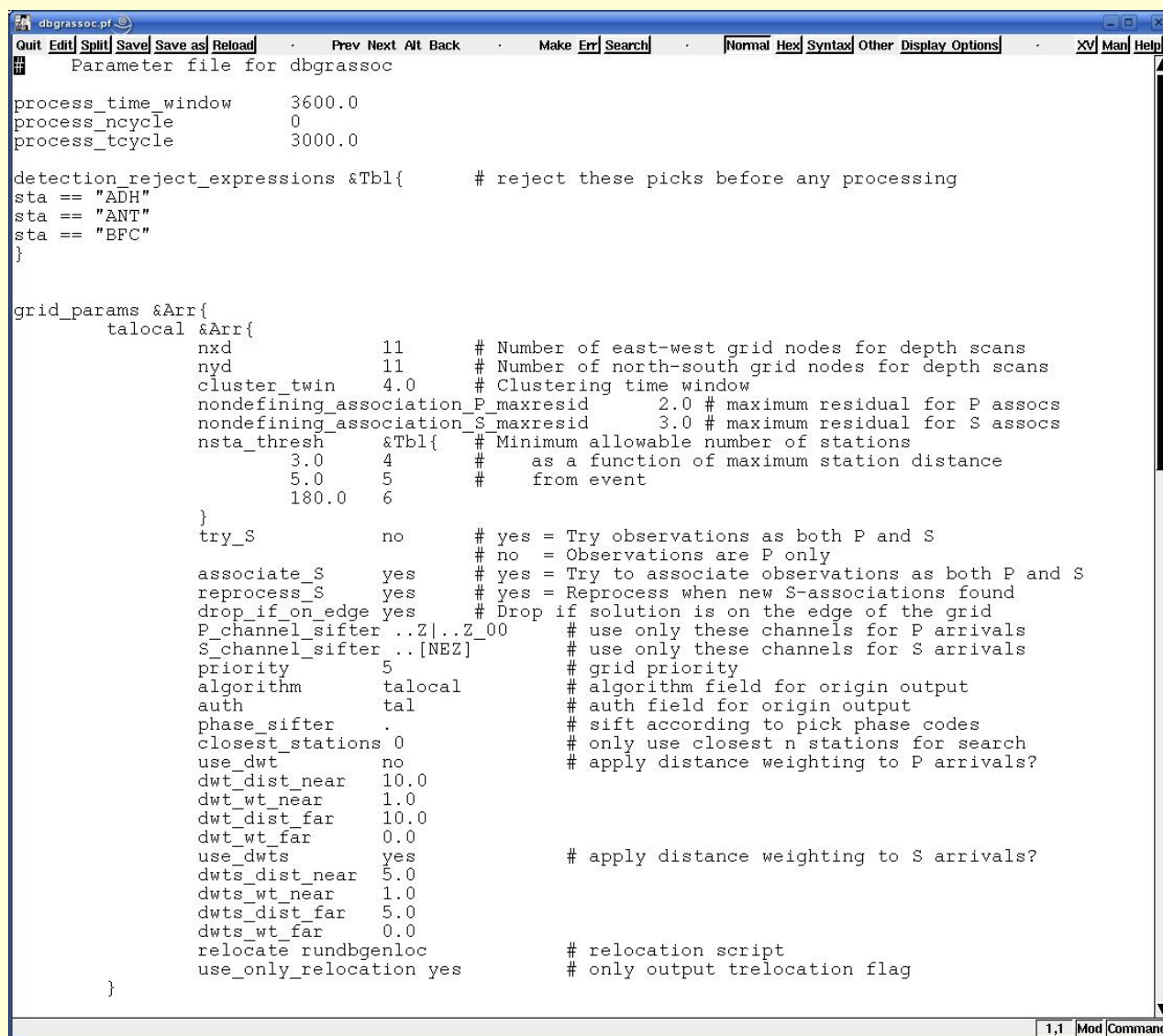November 2013

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Third edition of **orbassoc**, c. 2005

- For the first time we have the capability of processing any data from any mix and distribution of seismic stations from local to global scales
- Processing has been simplified for the user since we throw everything into a single large buffer instead of trying to make lots of processing subnets
- S-arrival processing is now effective
- Problems with third edition:
  - Still had problems with very small events and sometime very large events (split events, orphan events, events near subnet boundaries). Distance weighting proved not to be very effective.
  - Still produced solutions only on the grid with no error estimates (why is this important? It means that the grid must be sized finely enough to insure reasonable accuracy of solution)
  - Performance problems

Fourth edition of **`orbassoc`**, c. 2007

- Mainly focus on refinements to the third edition to deal with mis-locations and split events and to improve performance
  - Reduced mis-locations for small events:
    - Added pick reject expressions to remove noisy stations
    - Introduced **`nsta_thresh`** as a function of maximum event-station distance
    - Introduced separate S arrival distance weighting functions
  - Reduced split events
    - Added separate residual thresholds for P and S arrival associations
  - Improve performance
    - Threading
    - Made it so that picks with zero weights were completely eliminated from the grid searches.
    - Added "closest stations" pick list culling during the grid searches.
    - Added ability to run a traditional location code, such as dbgenloc, automatically after finding a grid solution in order to refine the final location and to obtain traditional error estimates. This allows running with much coarser grids and therefore improves overall performance.

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# Fourth edition of `orbassoc.pf`

```
#       Parameter file for dbgrassoc

process_time_window      3600.0
process_ncycle           0
process_tcycle           3000.0

detection_reject_expressions &Tbl{      # reject these picks before any processing
sta == "ADH"
sta == "ANT"
sta == "BFC"
}


grid_params &Arr{
        talocal &Arr{
                nxd            11       # Number of east-west grid nodes for depth scans
                nyd            11       # Number of north-south grid nodes for depth scans
                cluster_twin   4.0      # Clustering time window
                nondefining_association_P_maxresid     2.0 # maximum residual for P assocs
                nondefining_association_S_maxresid     3.0 # maximum residual for S assocs
                nsta_thresh    &Tbl{    # Minimum allowable number of stations
                        3.0    4        #    as a function of maximum station distance
                        5.0    5        #       from event
                        180.0  6
                }
                try_S            no     # yes = Try observations as both P and S
                                        # no  = Observations are P only
                associate_S     yes     # yes = Try to associate observations as both P and S
                reprocess_S     yes     # yes = Reprocess when new S-associations found
                drop_if_on_edge yes     # Drop if solution is on the edge of the grid
                P_channel_sifter ..Z|..Z_00     # use only these channels for P arrivals
                S_channel_sifter ..[NEZ]        # use only these channels for S arrivals
                priority         5      # grid priority
                algorithm       talocal # algorithm field for origin output
                auth            tal     # auth field for origin output
                phase_sifter    .       # sift according to pick phase codes
                closest_stations 0      # only use closest n stations for search
                use_dwt          no     # apply distance weighting to P arrivals?
                dwt_dist_near   10.0
                dwt_wt_near     1.0
                dwt_dist_far    10.0
                dwt_wt_far      0.0
                use_dwts        yes     # apply distance weighting to S arrivals?
                dwts_dist_near  5.0
                dwts_wt_near    1.0
                dwts_dist_far   5.0
                dwts_wt_far     0.0
                relocate rundbgenloc            # relocation script
                use_only_relocation yes         # only output trelocation flag
        }
```

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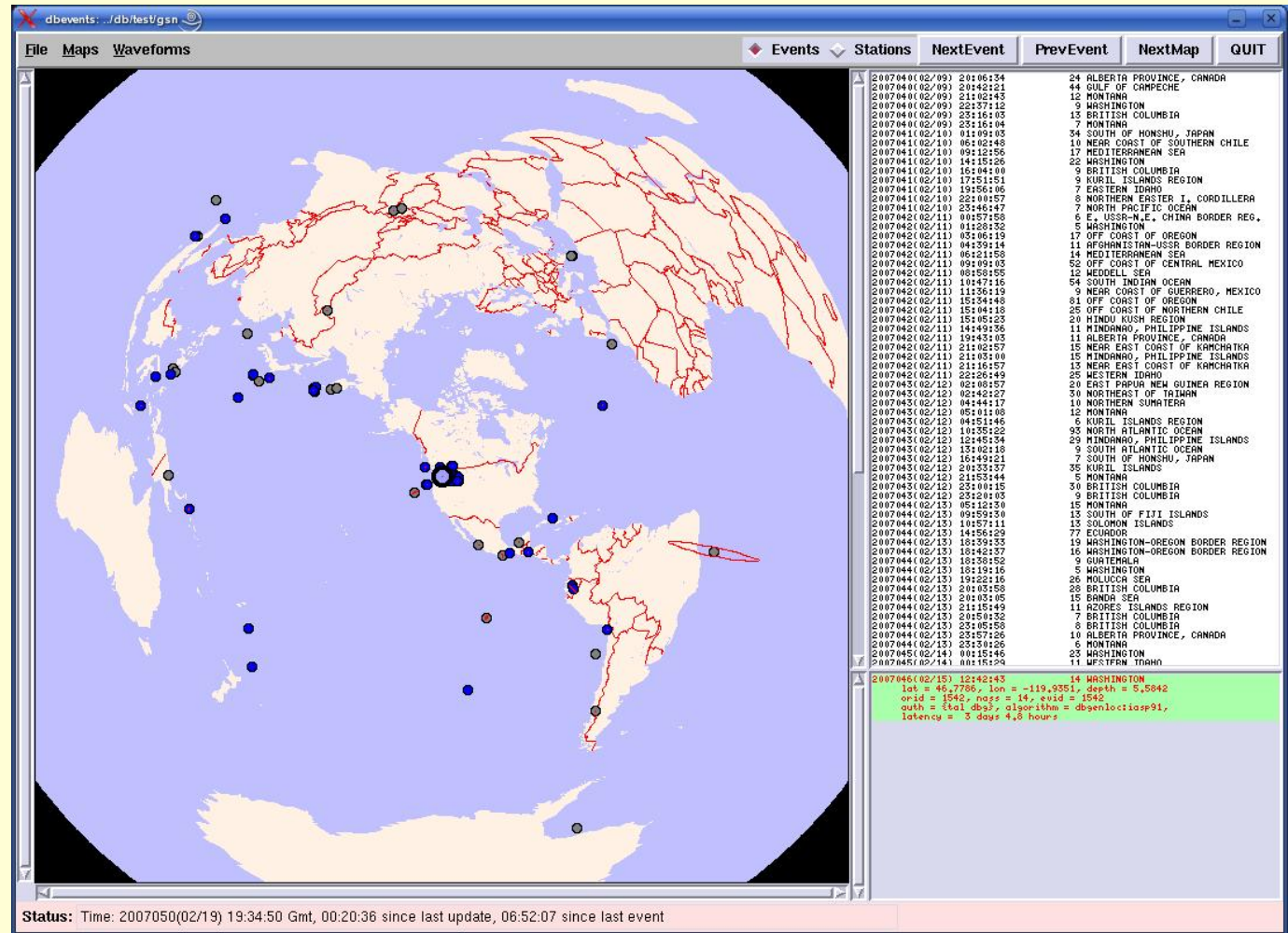November 2013
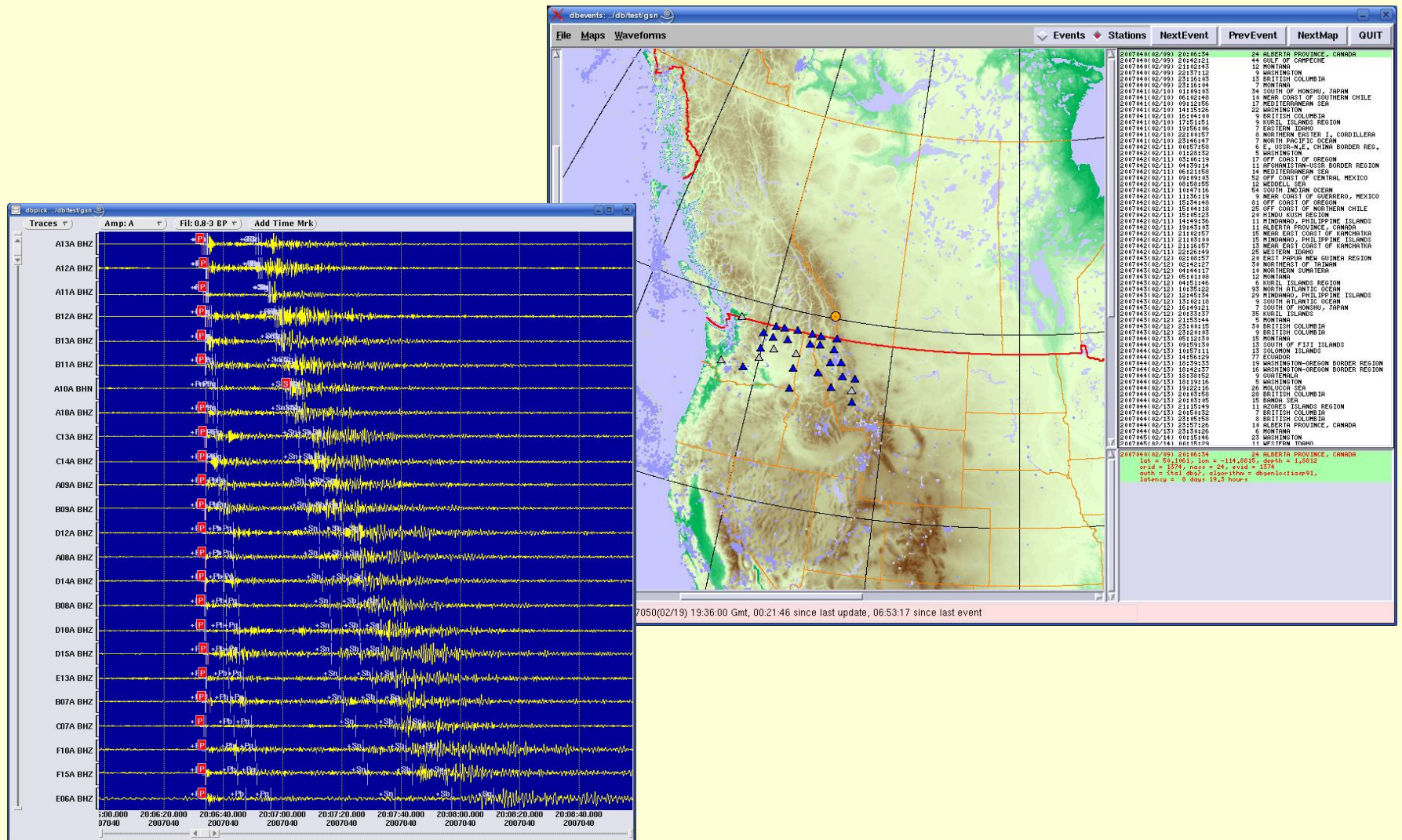
Test using USArray plus GSN data
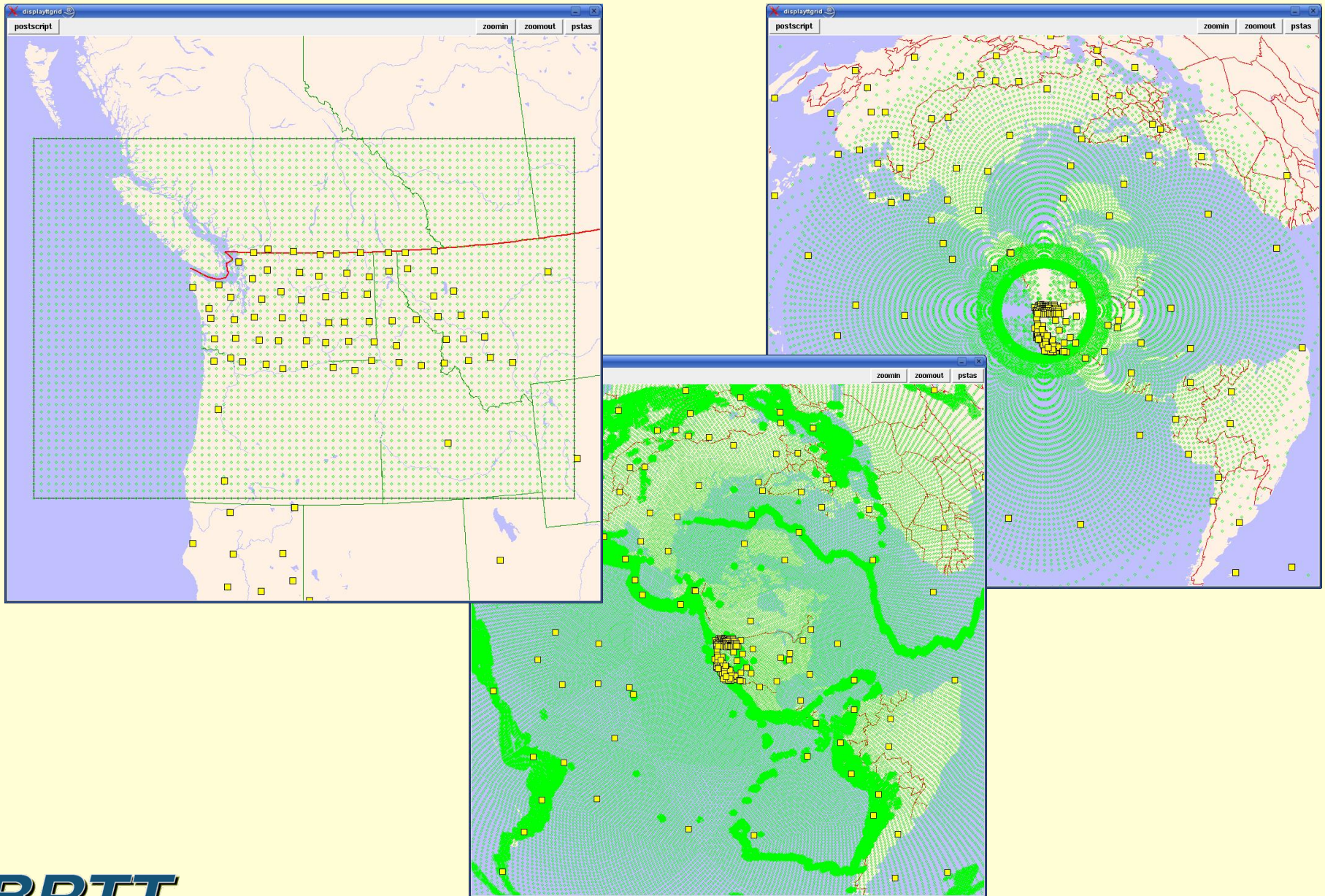
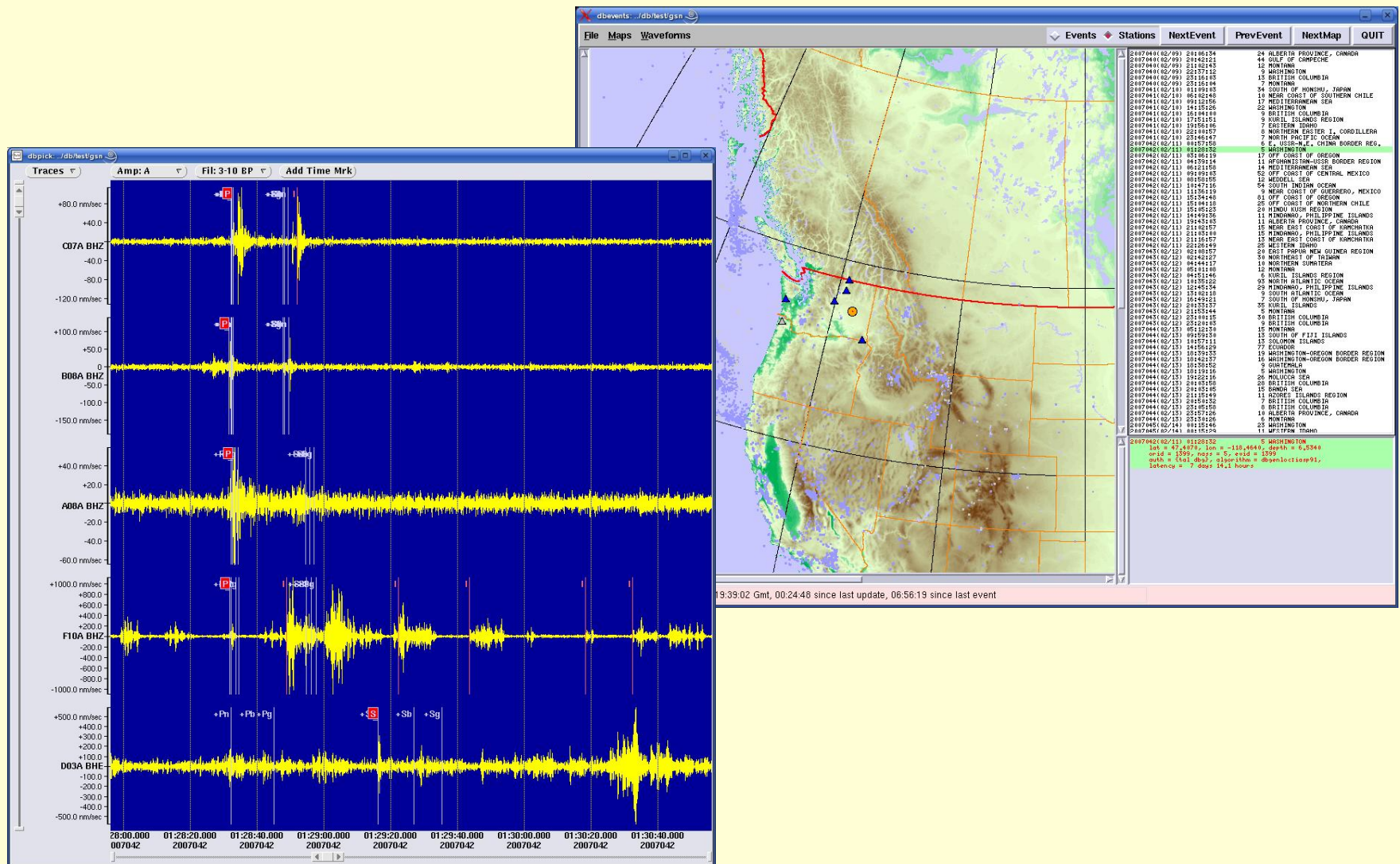**BRTT**

November 2013

Test using USArray plus GSN data

- ~5.5 days of data from 162 stations.
- 31,393 detections
- 92 events
- 141 stations with arrivals
- ~120 minutes to process using **dbgrassoc**

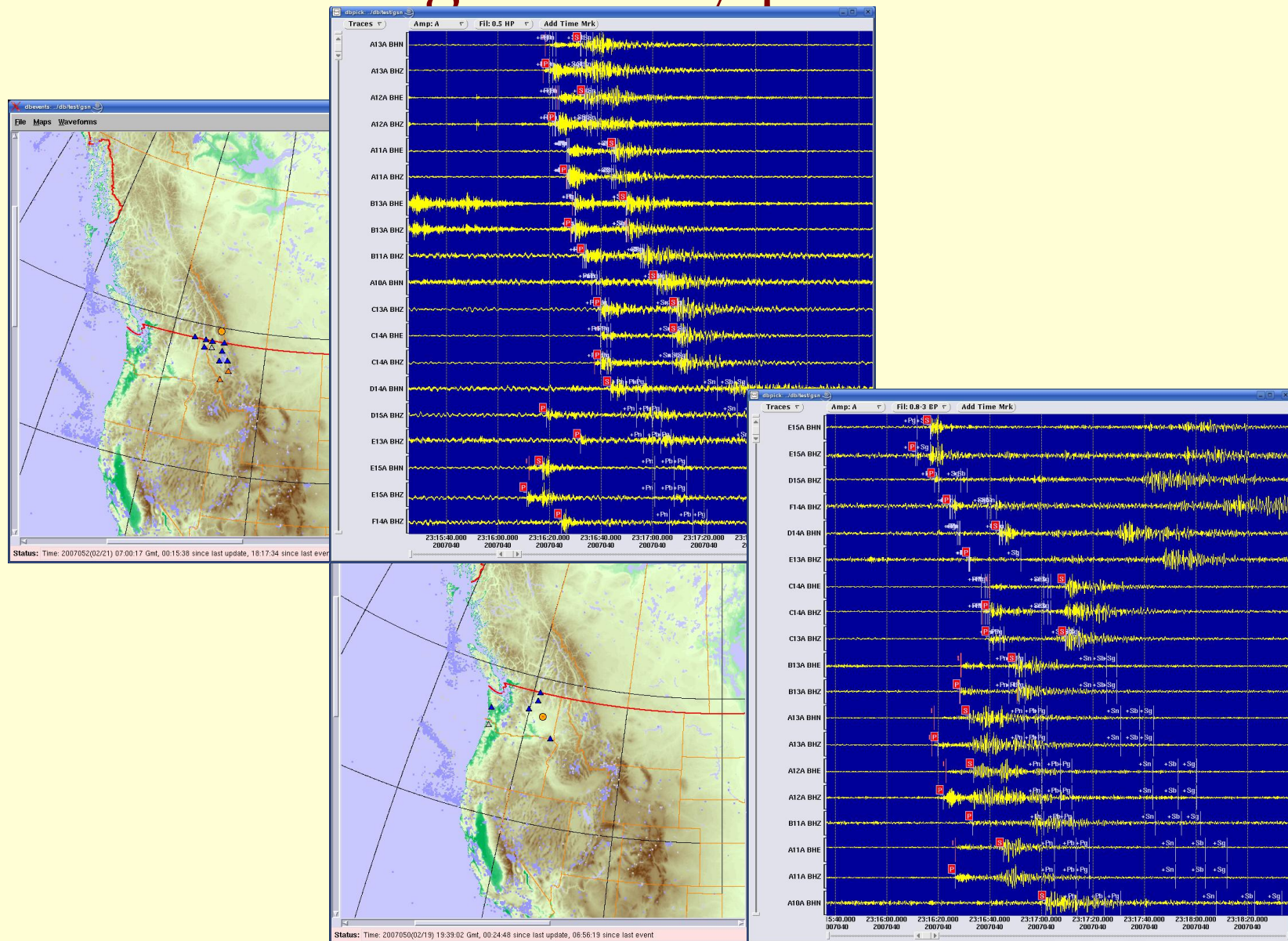**BRTT**

Test using USArray plus GSN data

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Test using USArray plus GSN data

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Test using USArray plus GSN data

Configuration notes

- Preferred approach is to run a single instance of orbassoc with as few grids as possible
- All stations in all grids – "all" stations should include neighboring stations all the way to global scale (GSN)
- Use of utele grids can be computationally expensive – use distance weighting with utele grids to mitigate this
- Continue to use slowness grids for finding teleseisms in local to regional network aperture scales
- Make the local Cartesian grids as coarse as possible and use relocation option to improve the final solutions using a traditional iterative linearized inversion method, such as `dbgenloc`
- Use distance (or closest stations) weighting with zero wieghts to improve performance, especially for utele grids
- Use "sequenced" approach for associating S-arrivals

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