

# Broadband array seismology with fiber-optic DAS

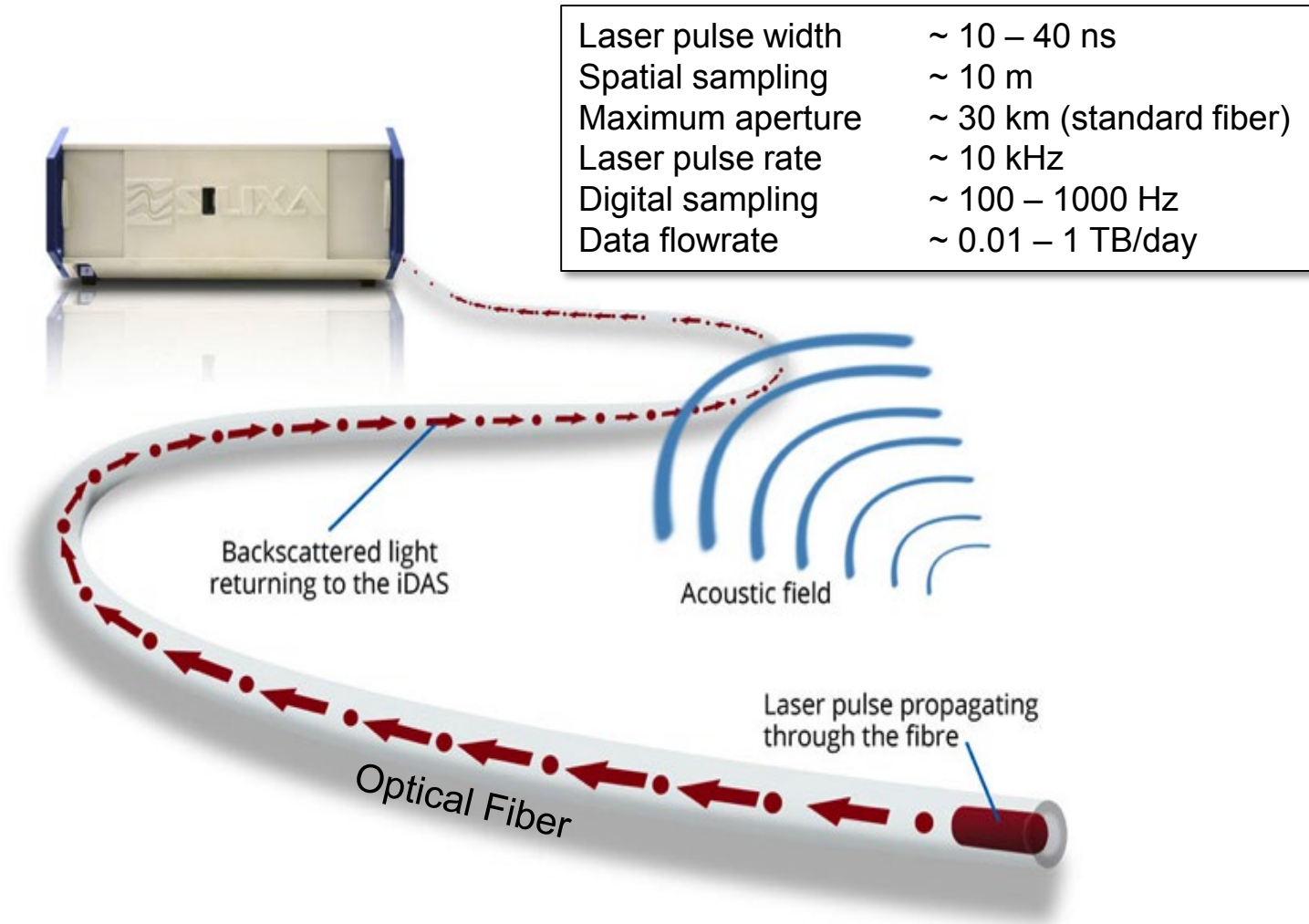
Nate Lindsey, UC Berkeley

COSG 2019 Meeting  
May 9, 2019

# Aims

1. What is Distributed Acoustic Sensing?
2. How do we make DAS measurements?
3. Examples
4. Opportunities for research

# What is DAS?

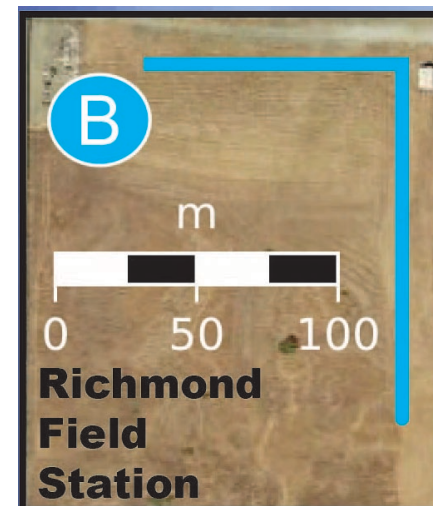
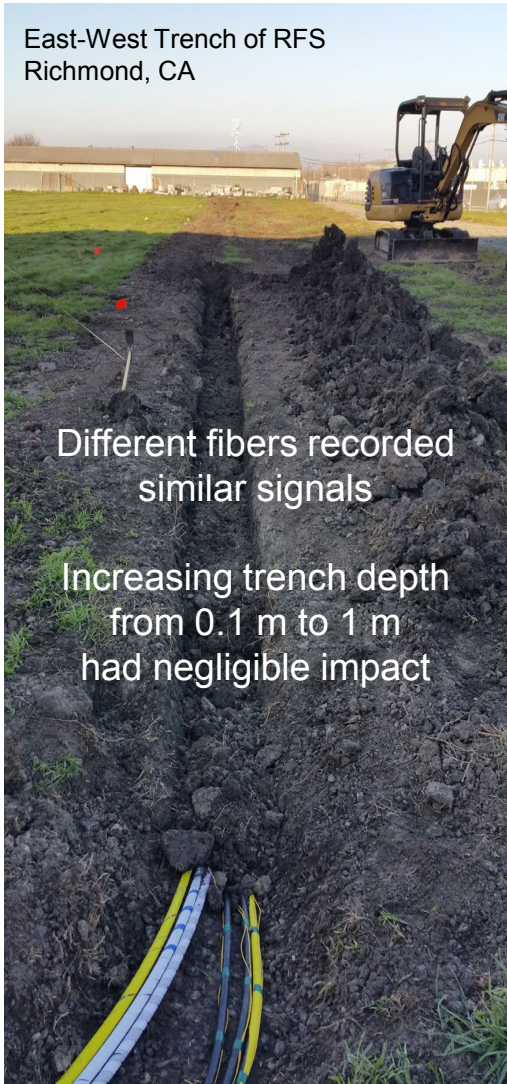


DAS turns a fiber-optic cable into a massive 1C seismic array.  
(of strain-rate sensors)

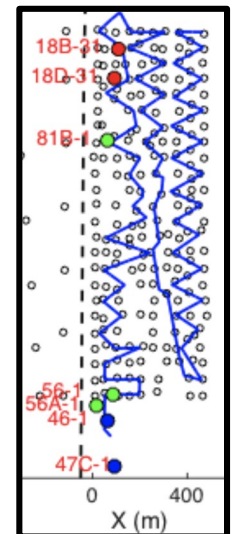


# Making measurements

“Direct burial” of fiber-optic cables requires trenching and splicing.



*Lindsey et al., 2017*

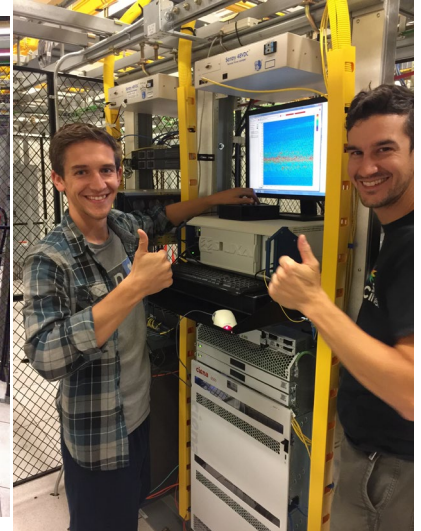


*Wang et al., 2018*

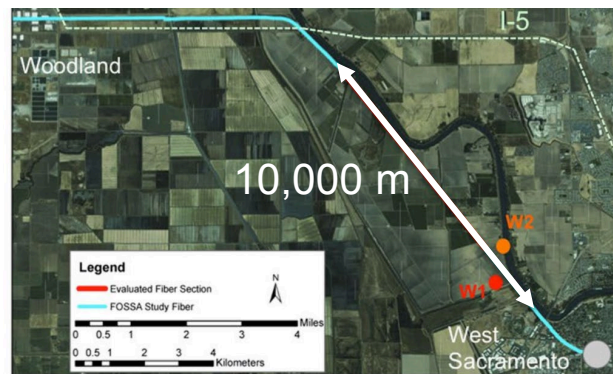


# Making measurements

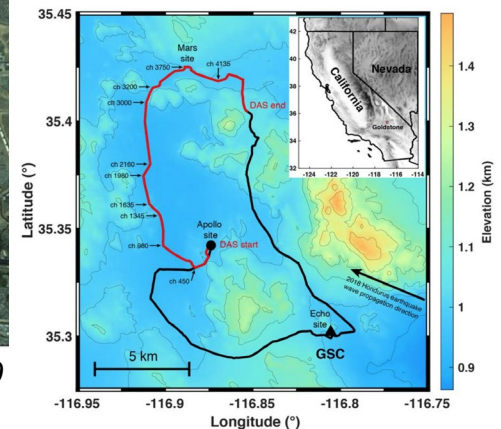
Using existing “dark fiber” in telecommunications cables requires access and leads to uncertainty in geometry and coupling.



Craig Ulrich tap testing  
Sacramento, CA



*Ajo-Franklin et al., 2019*



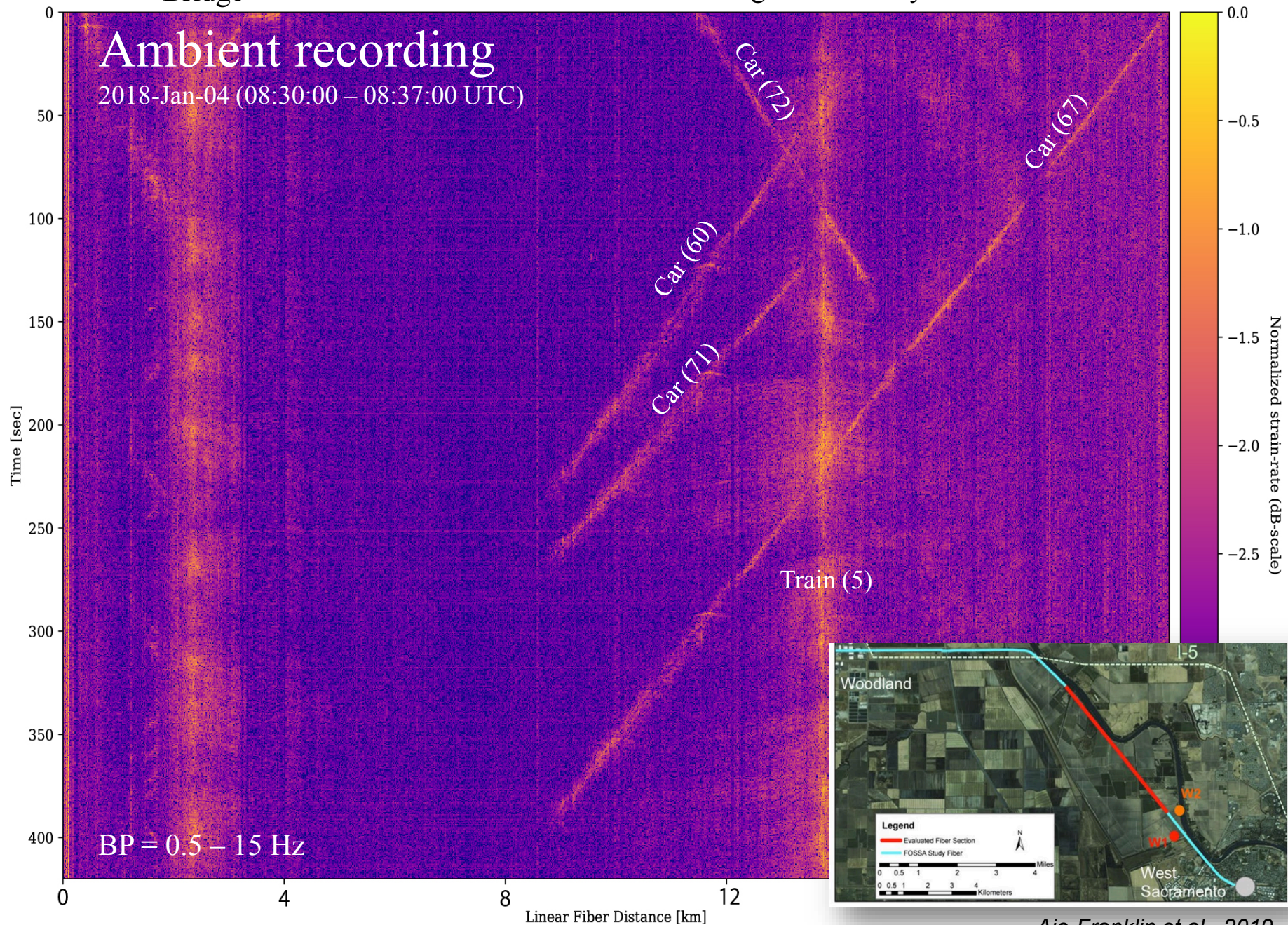
*Yu et al., 2019*



Bridge

>0.5 km from road

Along road/railway





Bridge

>0.5 km from road

Along road/railway

# Ambient recording

2018-Jan-04 (08:30:00 – 08:37:00 UTC)

Time [sec]

0  
50  
100  
150  
200  
250  
300  
350  
400

BP = 0.5 – 15 Hz

Linear Fiber Distance [km]

Car (72)

Car (60)

Car (71)

Train (5)

Car (67)

Car (61)

Car (60)

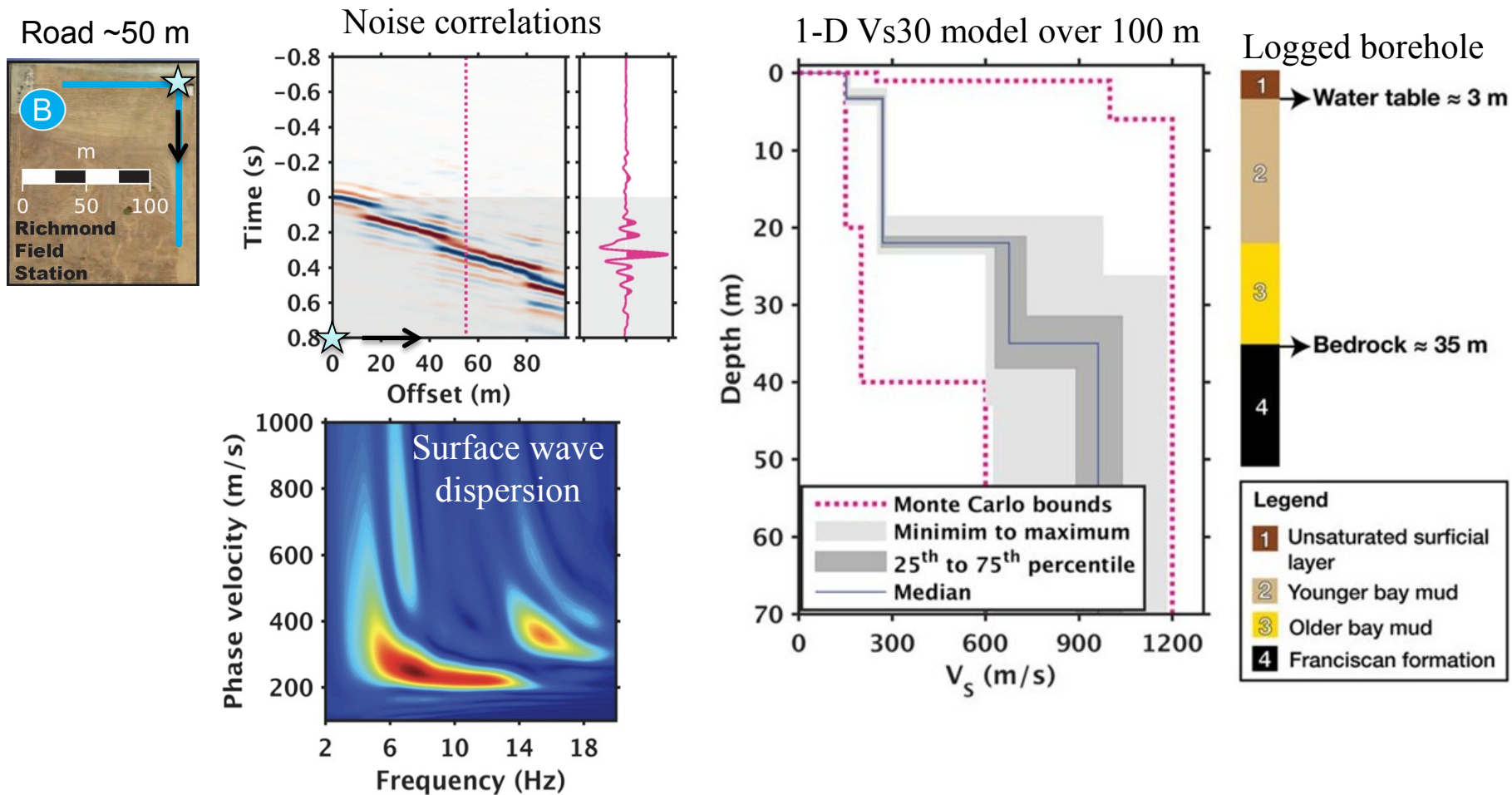
Normalized strain-rate (dB-scale)

0.0  
-0.5  
-1.0  
-1.5  
-2.0  
-2.5  
-3.0  
-3.5  
-4.0



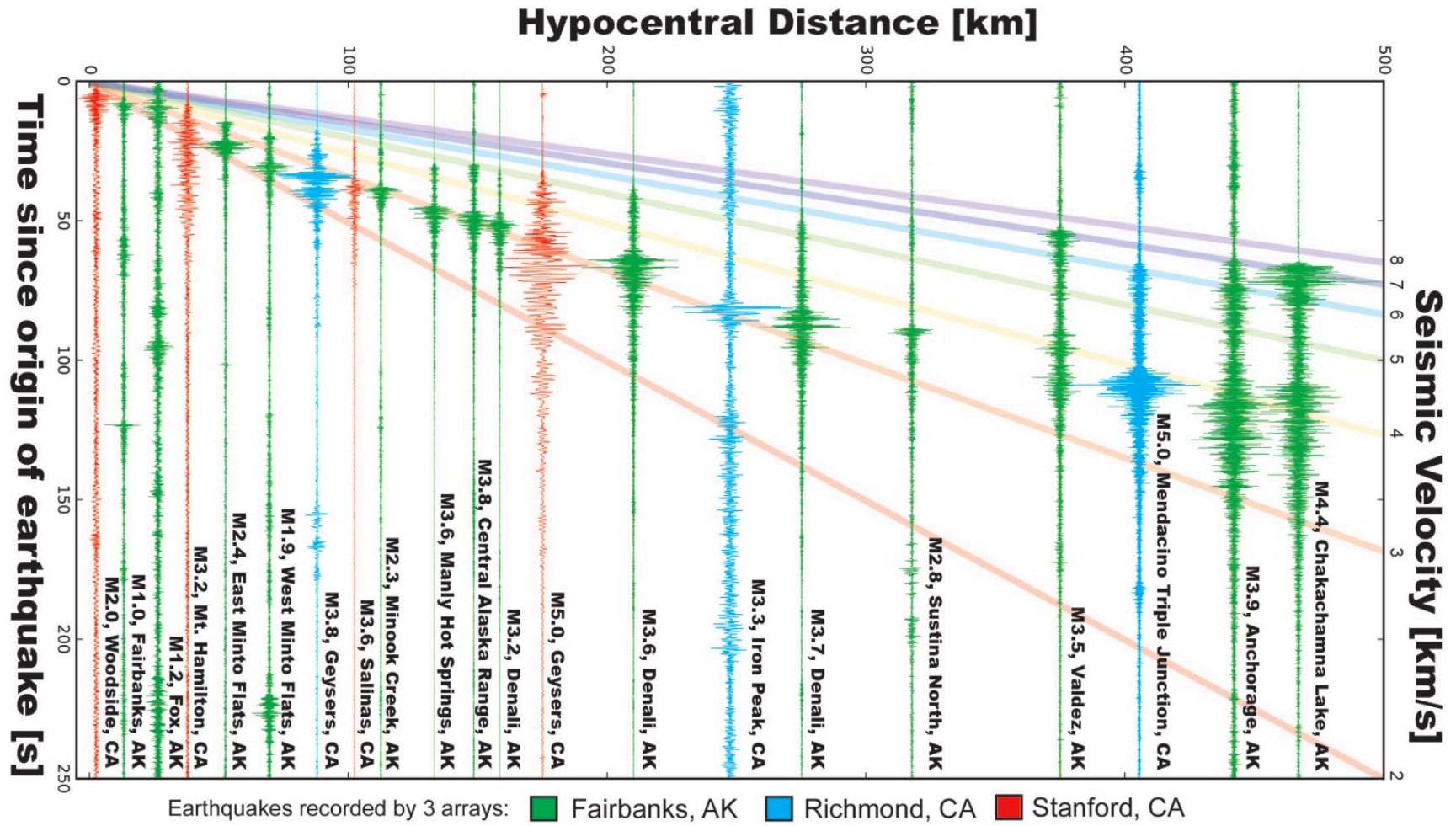
# Examples

## Ambient noise studies with DAS



# Examples

## Earthquake studies with DAS

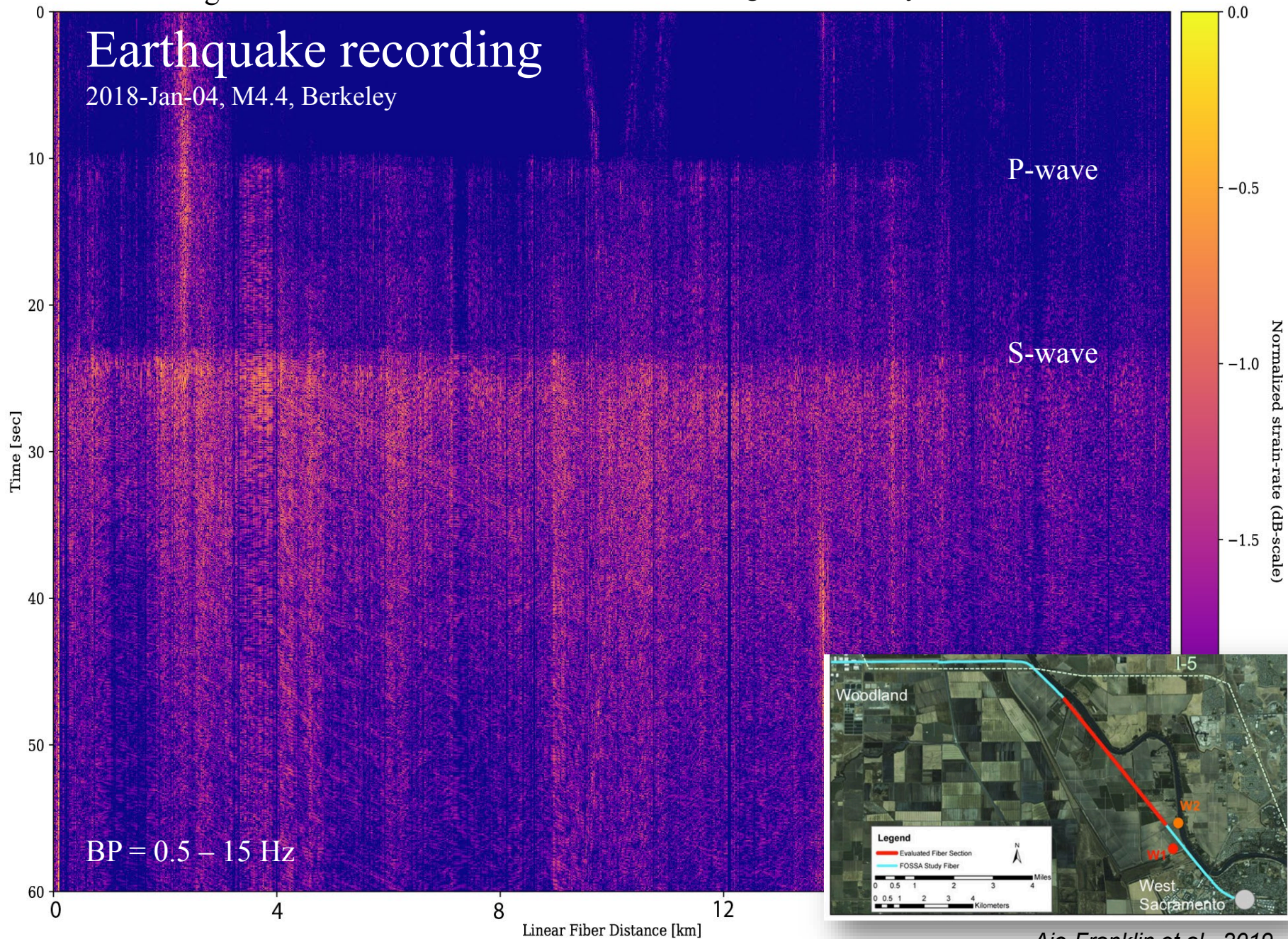




Bridge

>0.5 km from road

Along road/railway





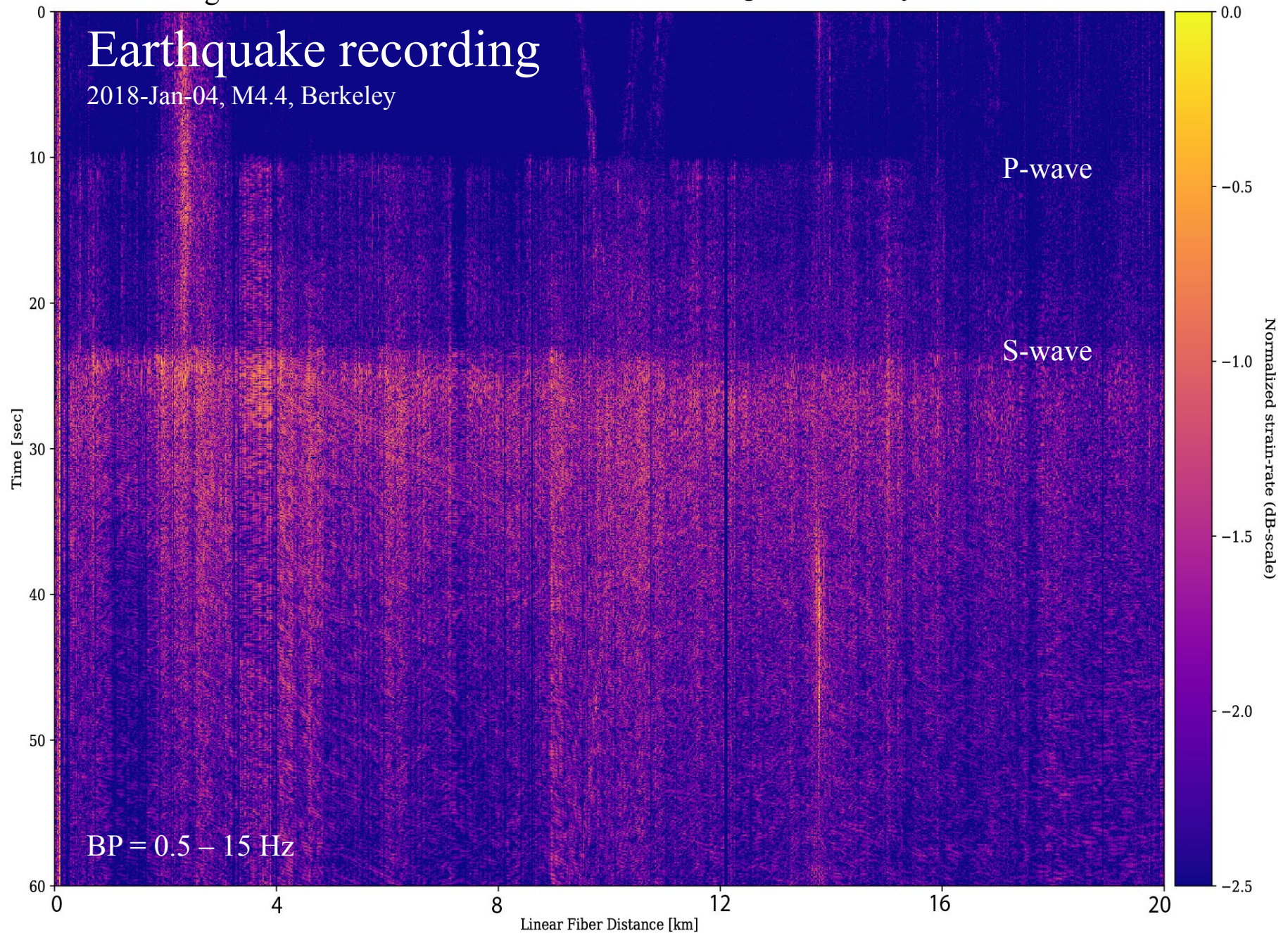
Bridge

>0.5 km from road

Along road/railway

# Earthquake recording

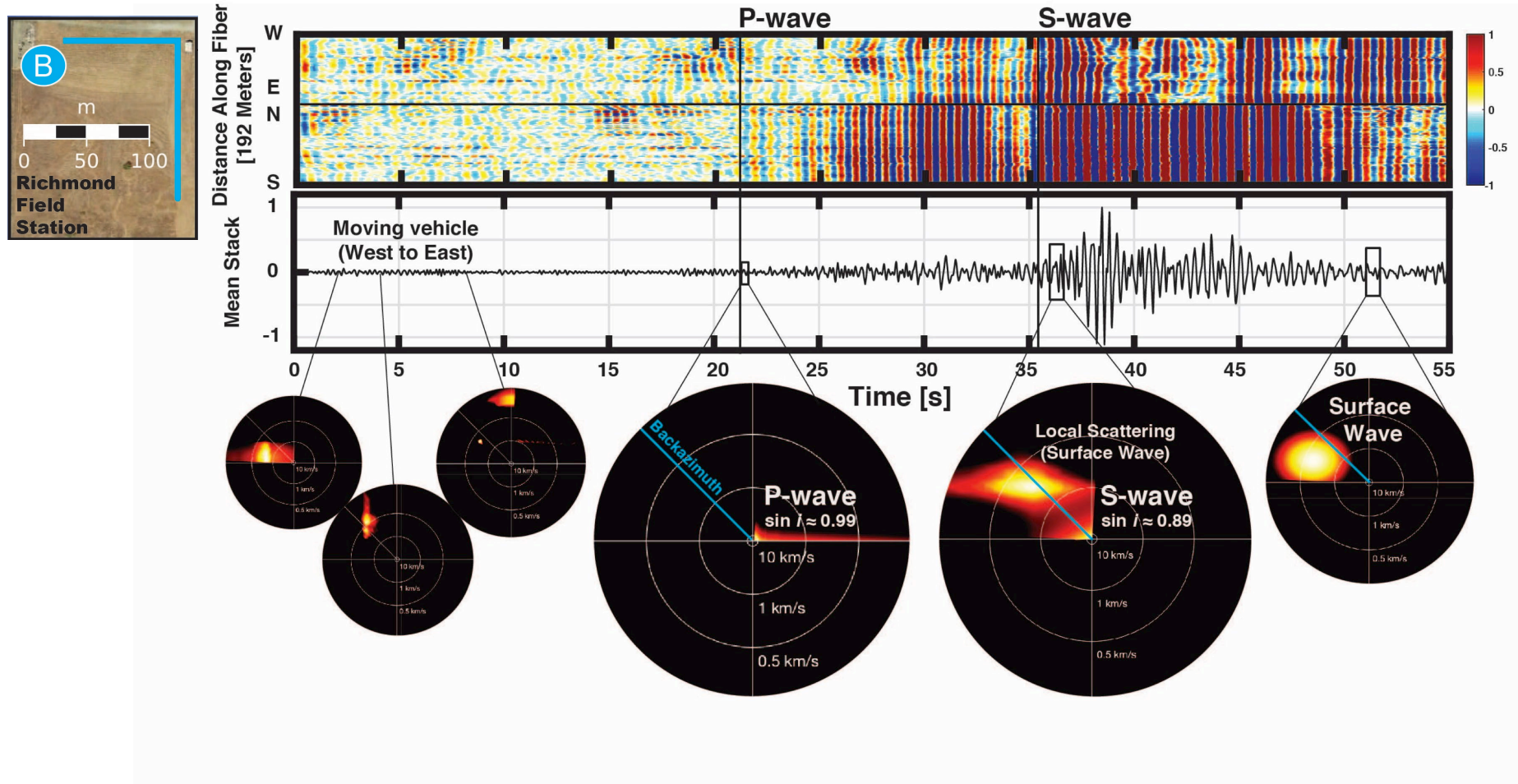
2018-Jan-04, M4.4, Berkeley





# Examples

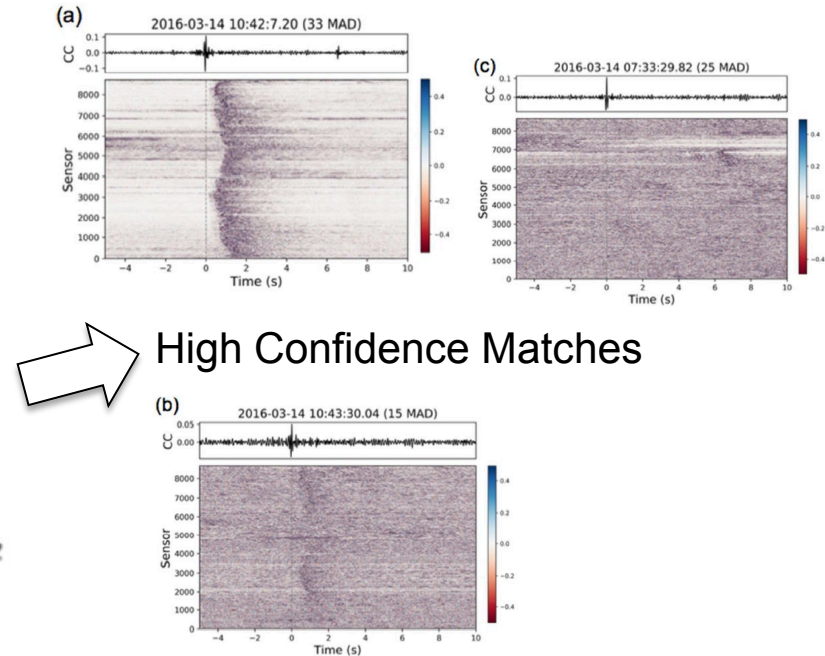
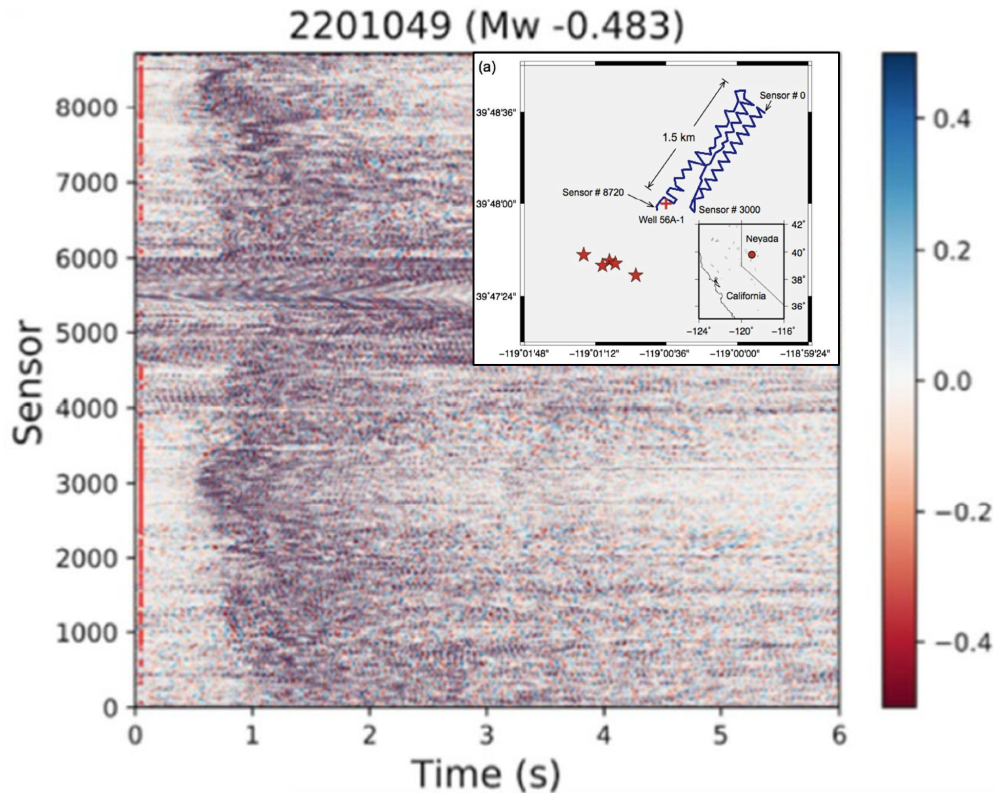
## Array beamforming with DAS



Lindsey et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2018; Li and Zhan, 2018; Jin and Roy, 2018; Jousset et al., 2018; Ajo-Franklin et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2019; Becker et al., 2019

# DAS Examples

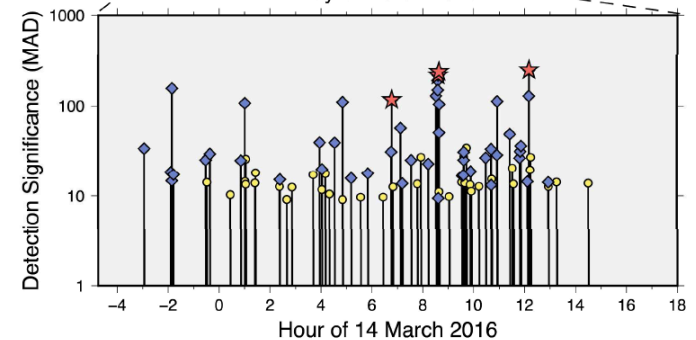
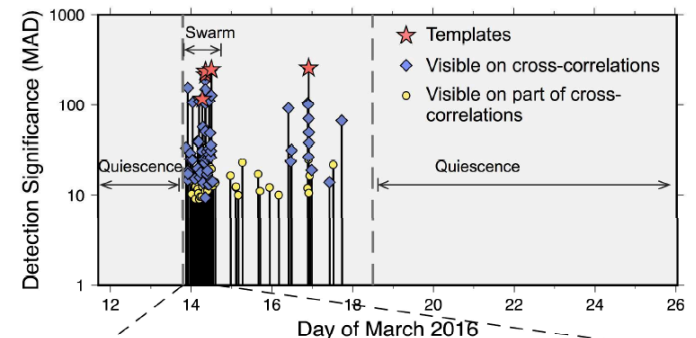
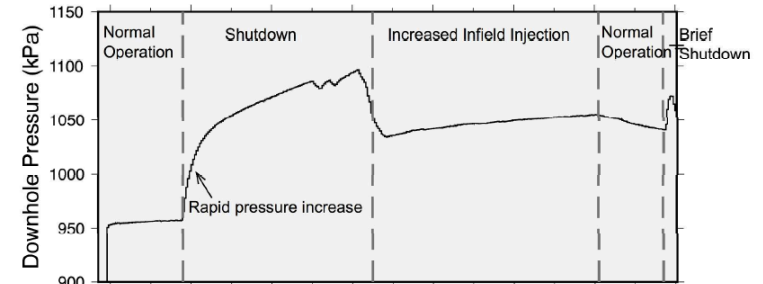
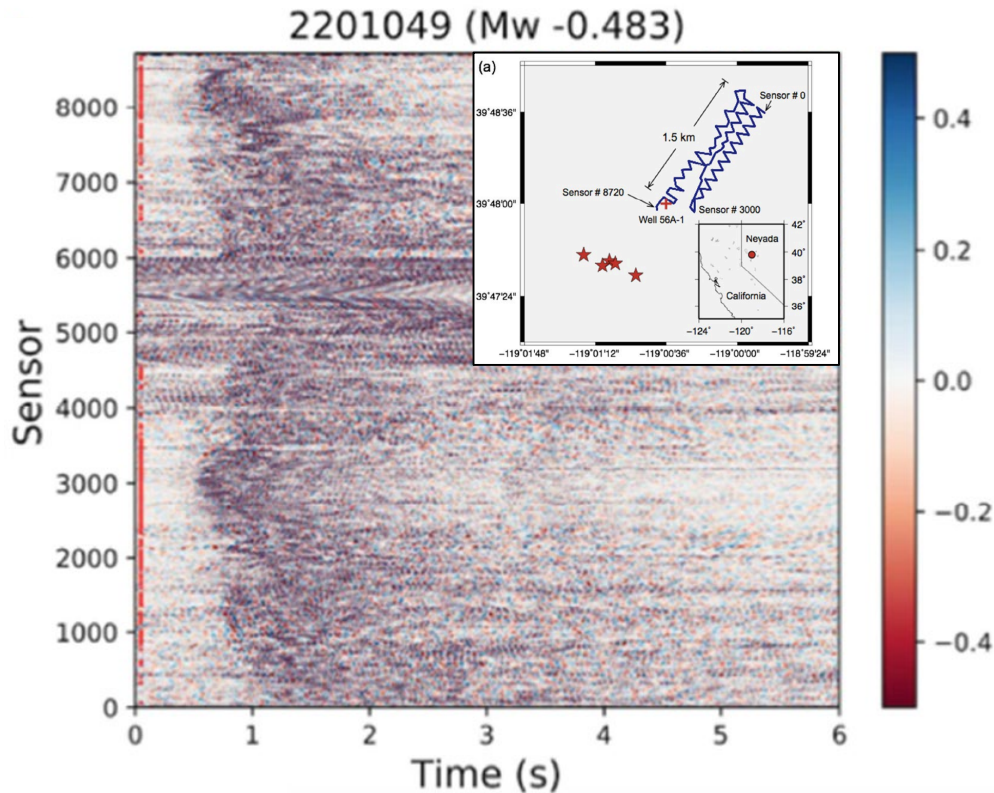
## Template matching with earthquakes at shut-in





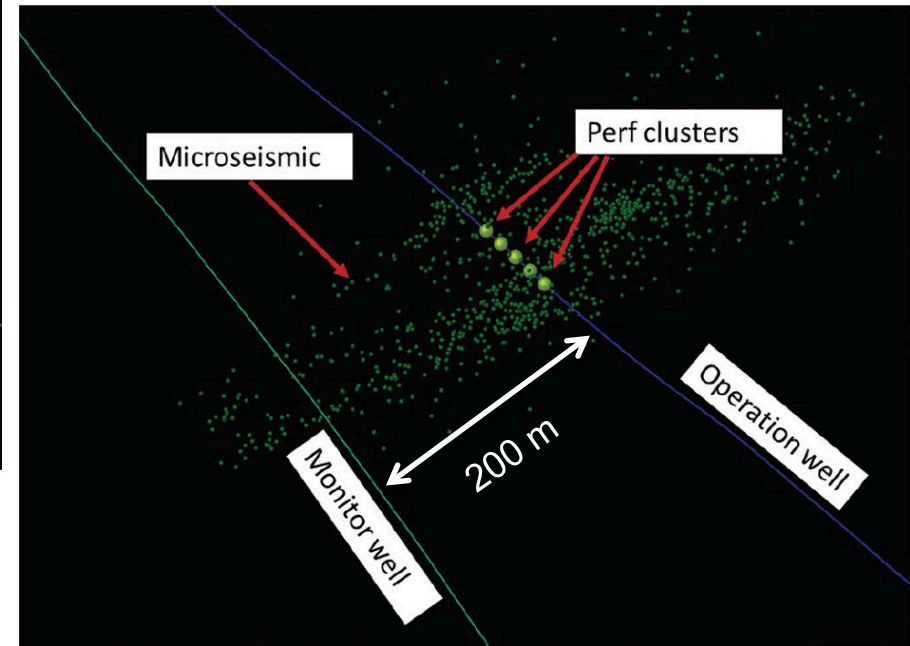
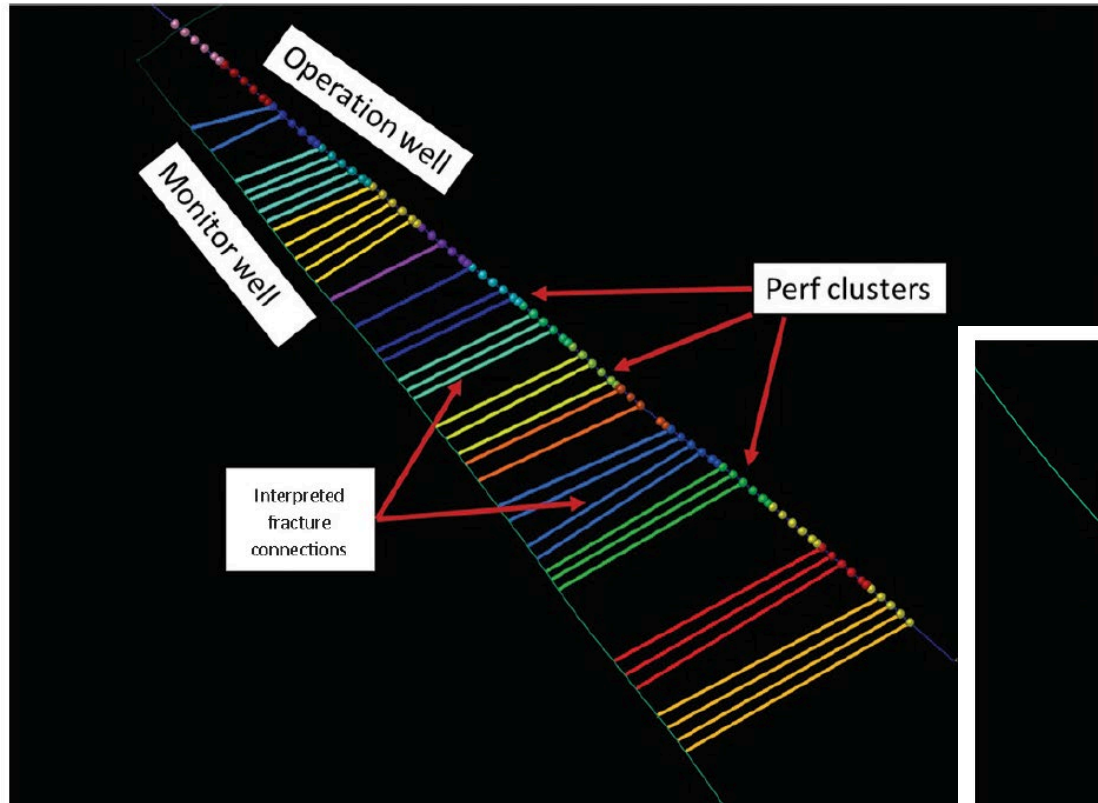
# DAS Examples

## Template matching with earthquakes at shut-in



# DAS Examples

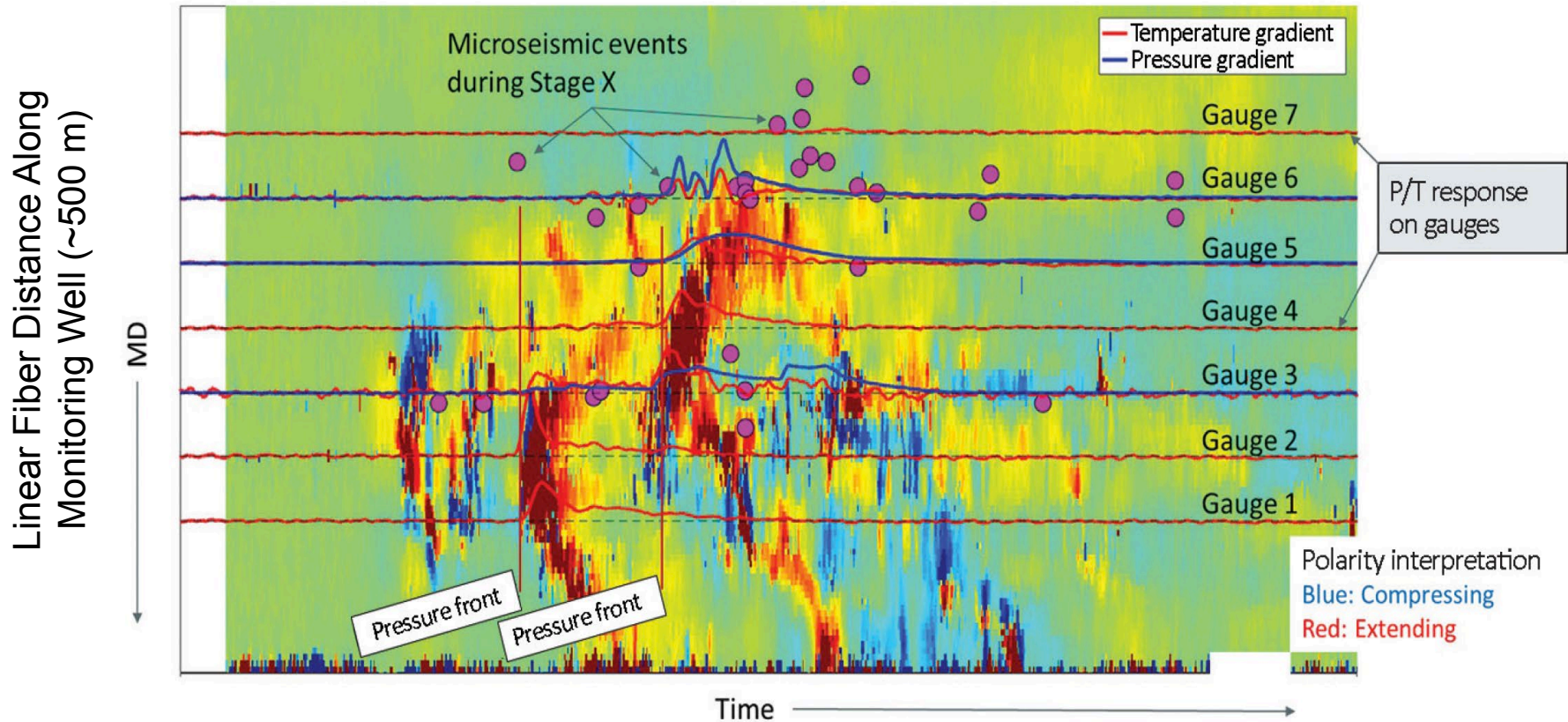
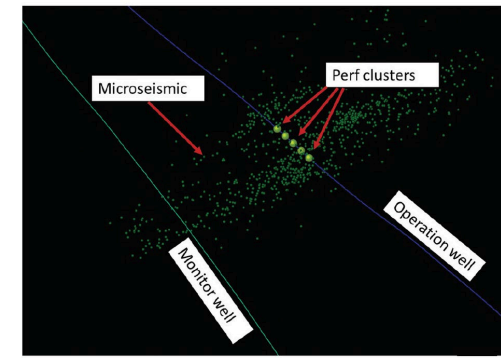
Strain and EQ detection during hydraulic fracturing



Lindsey et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2018; Li and Zhan, 2018; Jin and Roy, 2018; Jousset et al., 2018; Ajo-Franklin et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2019; Becker et al., 2019

# DAS Examples

Strain and EQ detection during hydraulic fracturing



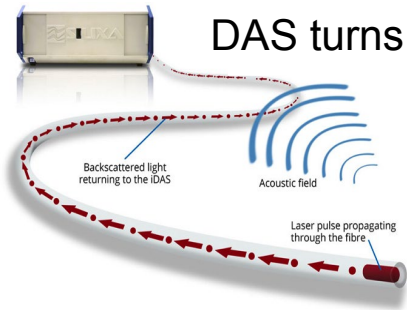
Lindsey et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2018; Li and Zhan, 2018; Jin and Roy, 2018; Jousset et al., 2018; Ajo-Franklin et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2019; Becker et al., 2019



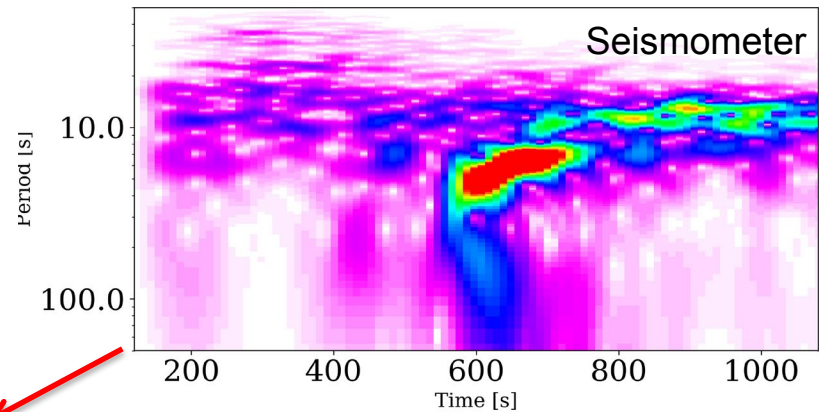
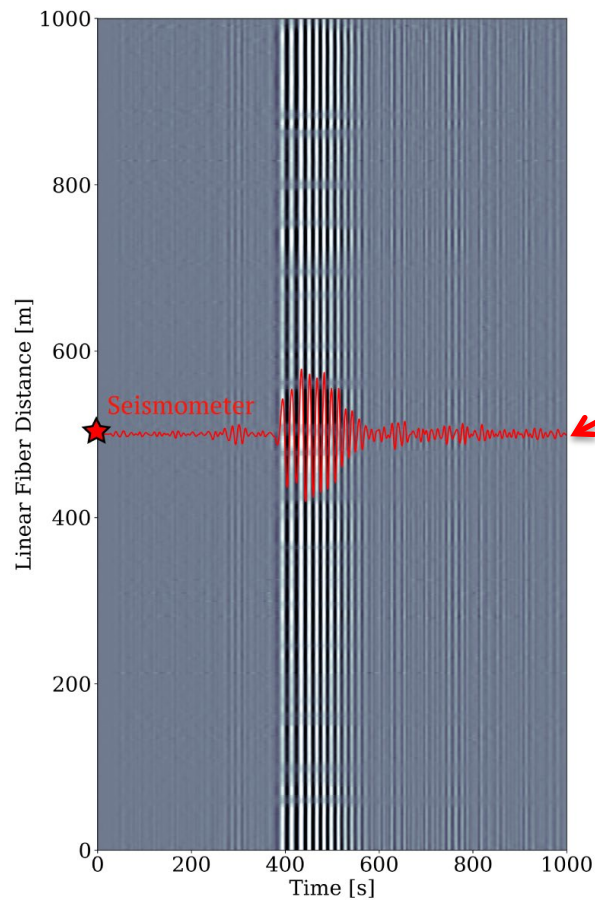
# Opportunities for research

- Arrays of opportunity...bridging network gaps
- Time-lapse decadal (“Large T”) recording
- Urban seismology
- Offshore array seismology
- “Zero latency” offshore earthquake early warning
- Instrumentation (photonics/seismology)

# Summary

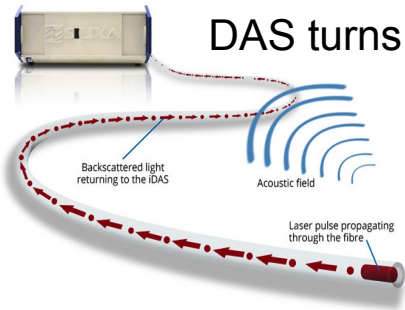


DAS turns a fiber-optic cable into a massive 1C seismic array



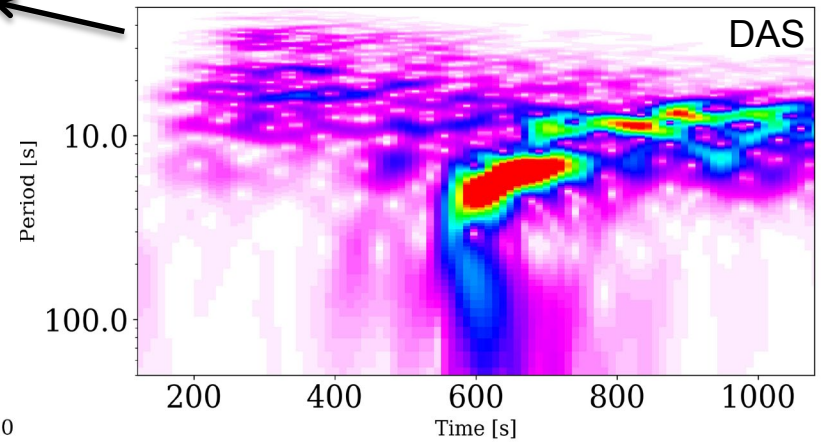
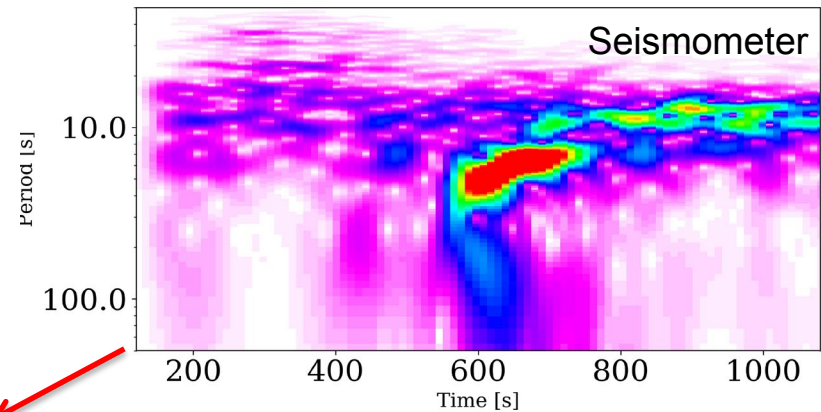
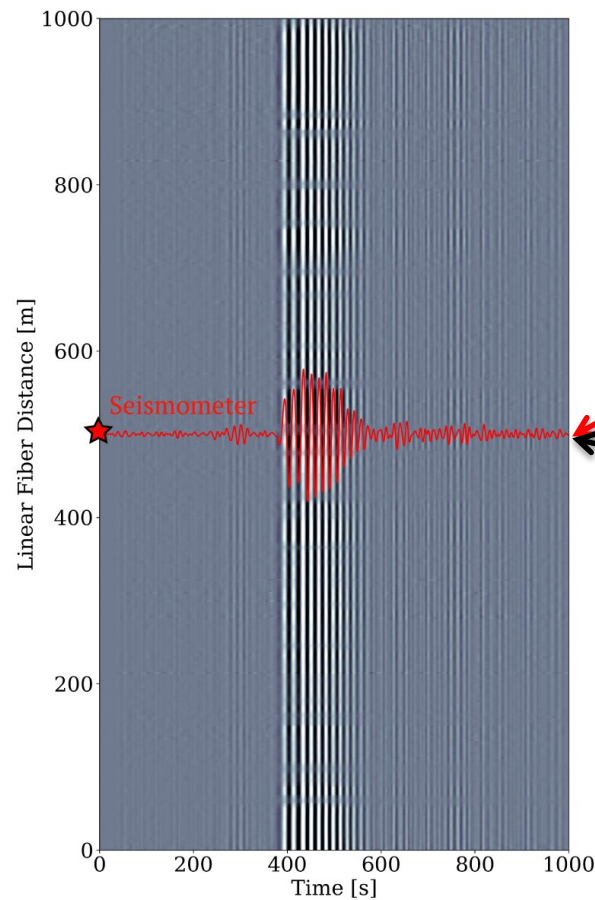


# Summary



DAS turns a fiber-optic cable into a massive 1C seismic array

^  
broadband







Horst Rademacher



Doug Dreger



Chris Tracy



Inder Monga



Nate Lindsey  
(PhD student  
UC Berkeley/LBNL)



Jonathan  
Ajo-Franklin



Tom  
Daley



Barry  
Freifeld



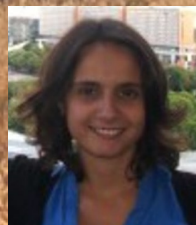
Michelle  
Robertson



Craig  
Ulrich



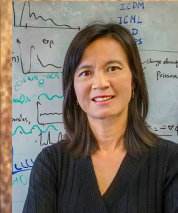
Eileen Martin  
(Assistant Prof. Virginia Tech)



Verónica  
Rodríguez  
Tribaldos



Shan  
Dou



Xiaoye  
(Sherry) Li



Chris  
Tracy



Inder  
Monga



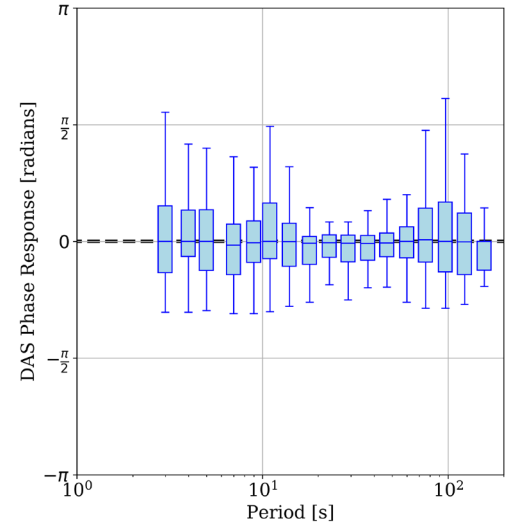
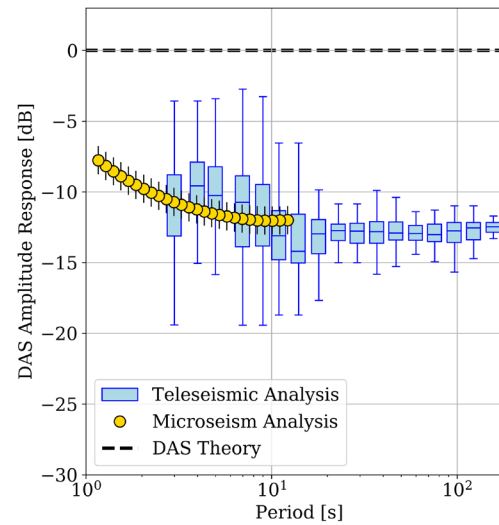
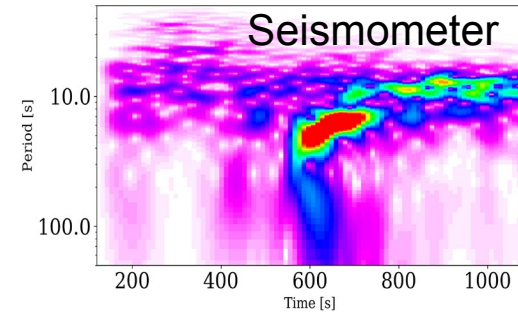
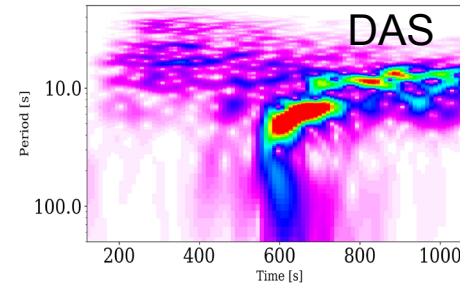
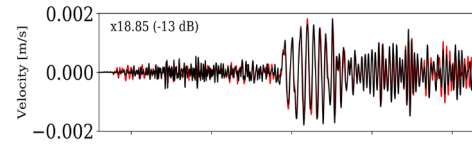
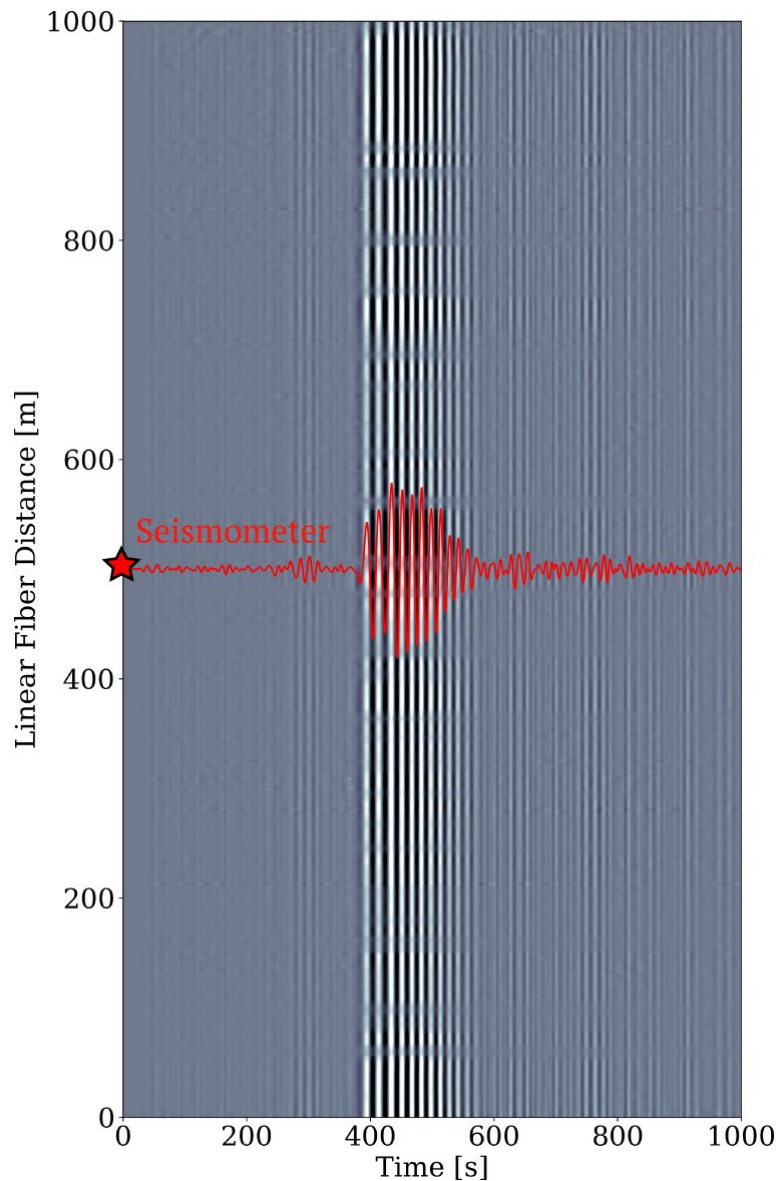
Aleksei Titov  
(PhD student  
Colorado School of Mines)





Supplementary slides

# Towards an instrument response function for DAS





Projected market value in 2025 is \$2B

OptaSense®  
a QinetiQ company

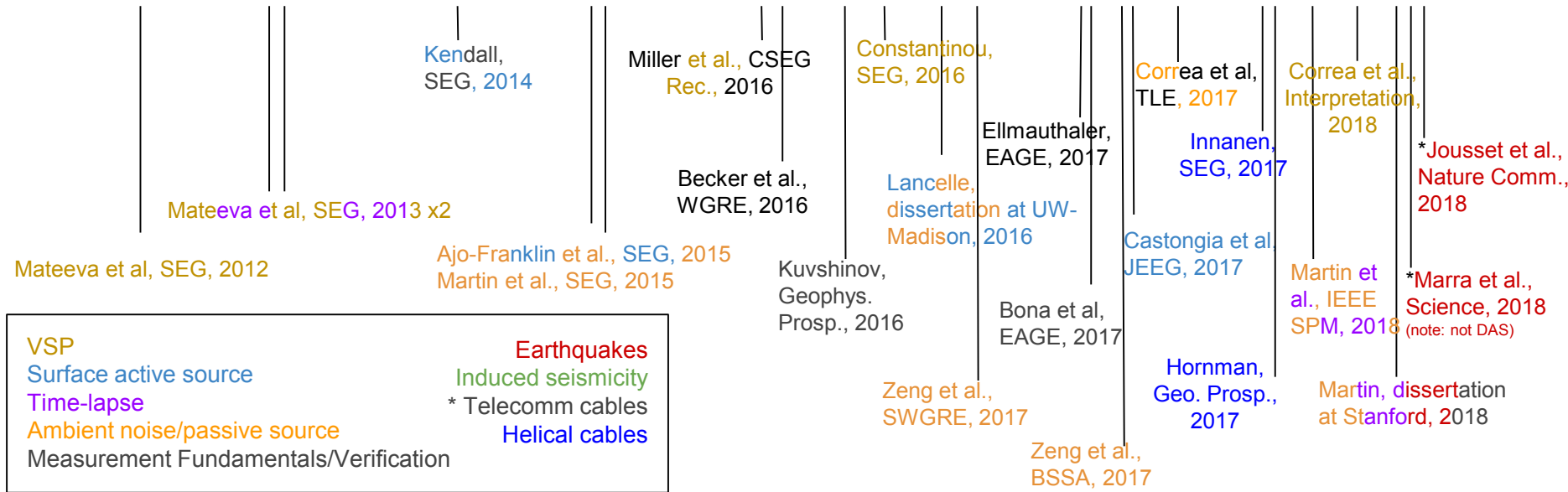
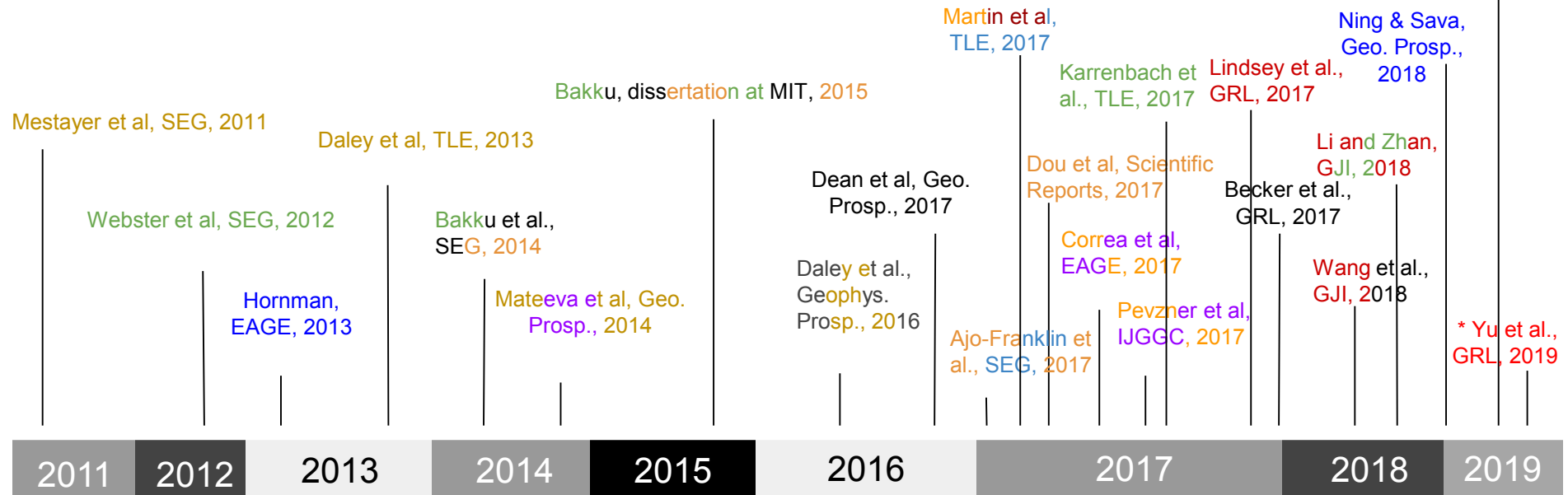


Schlumberger



“Key Players of the Global Distributed Acoustic Sensing Market”, Review Health World (May 2019).

\*Ajo-Franklin et al.,  
Scientific Reports,  
2018



VSP  
Surface active source  
Time-lapse  
Ambient noise/passive source  
Measurement Fundamentals/Verification

Earthquakes  
Induced seismicity  
\* Telecomm cables  
Helical cables



# Many unresolved instrument questions...



Instrument response function?

Self-noise? What is the minimum sensitivity?

Dynamic range? At what amplitude will DAS data saturate or "clip"?

Are  $f > 1$  Hz measurements actually representative of ground motion?

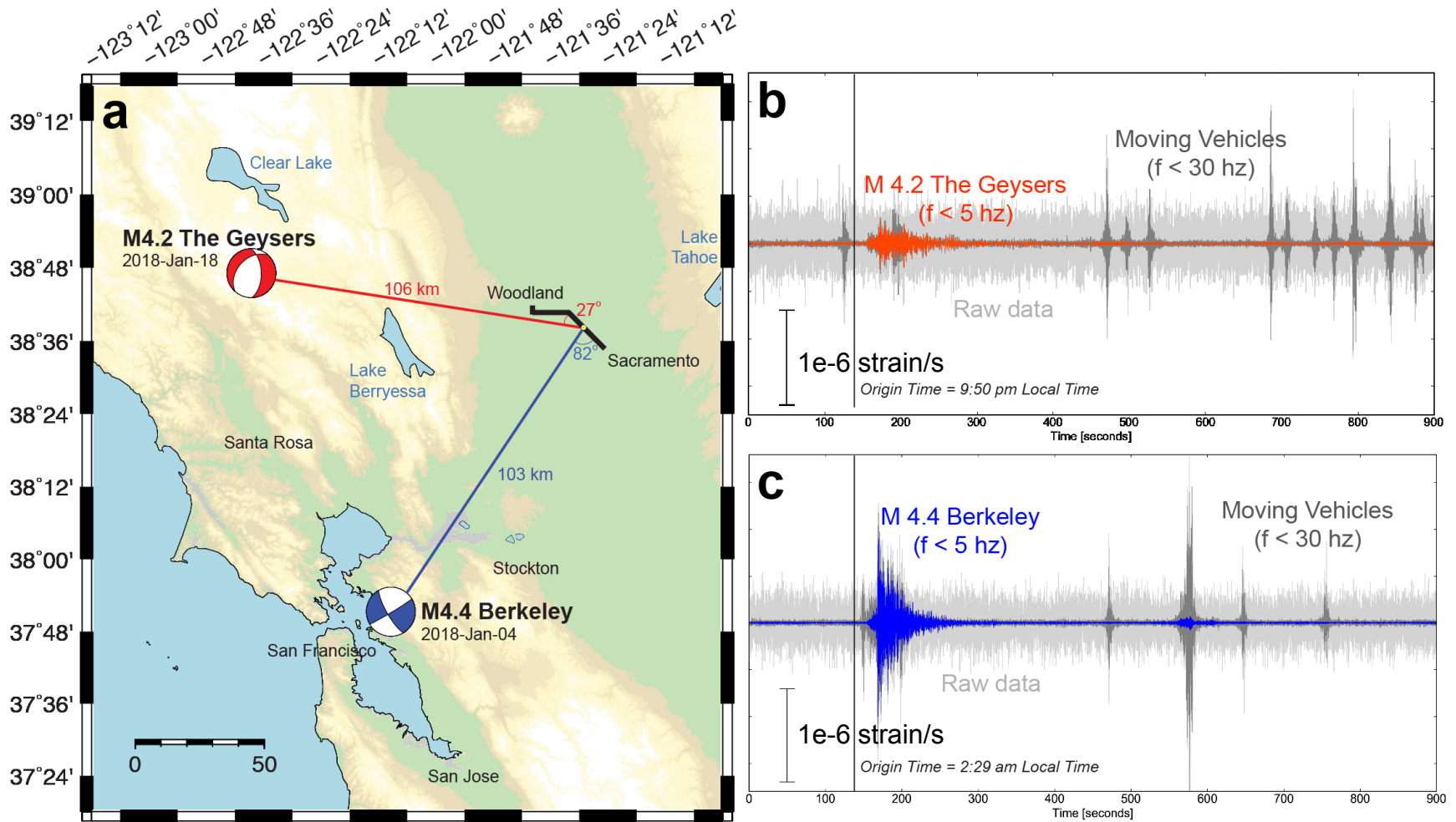
Consequences of recording strain/strain-rate instead of displacement/velocity?

How well do fiber-optic cables couple to the Earth?

How do different install conditions affect DAS response?

Can telecommunications cables be augmented to improve response?

# DAS can record earthquakes

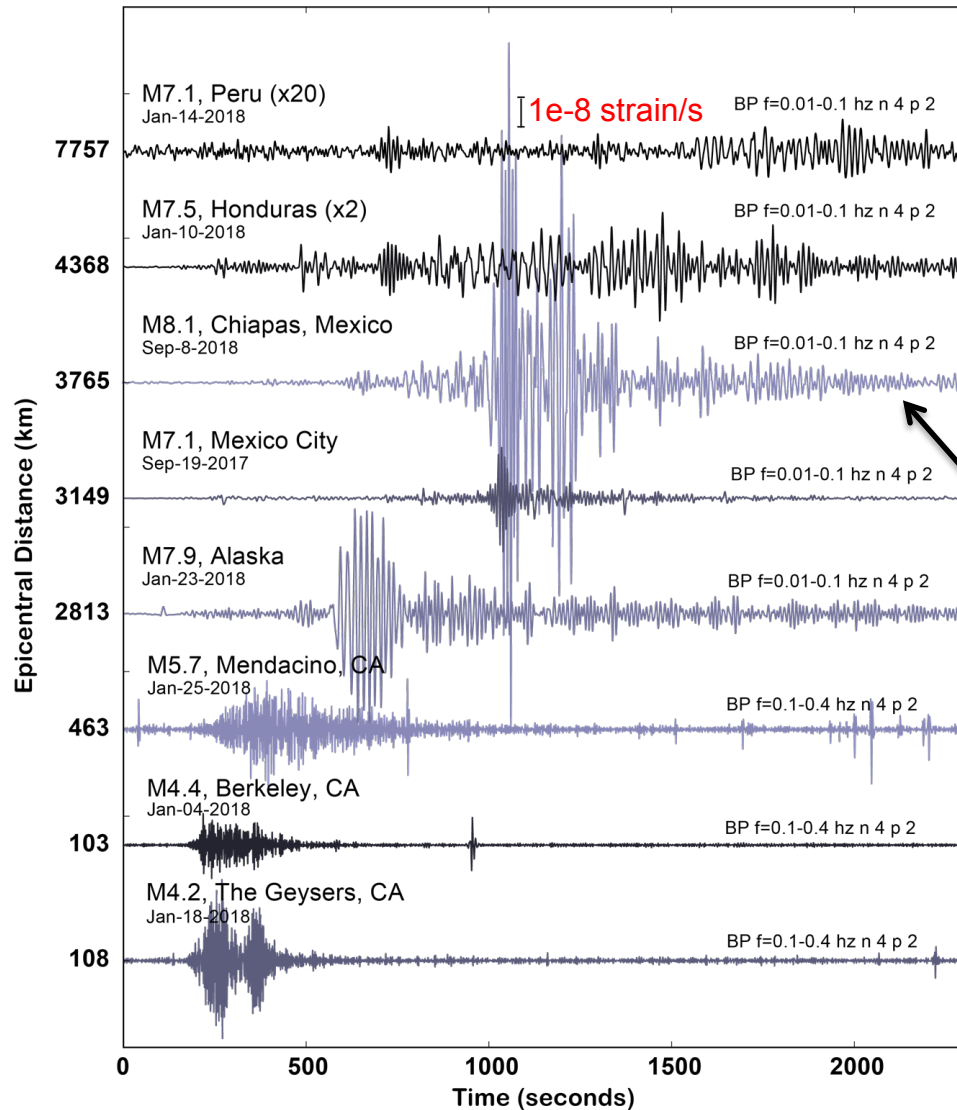


Lindsey et al., 2017 [GRL];  
Ajo-Franklin, Dou, Lindsey et al., 2019 [Nature, Sci Rep]

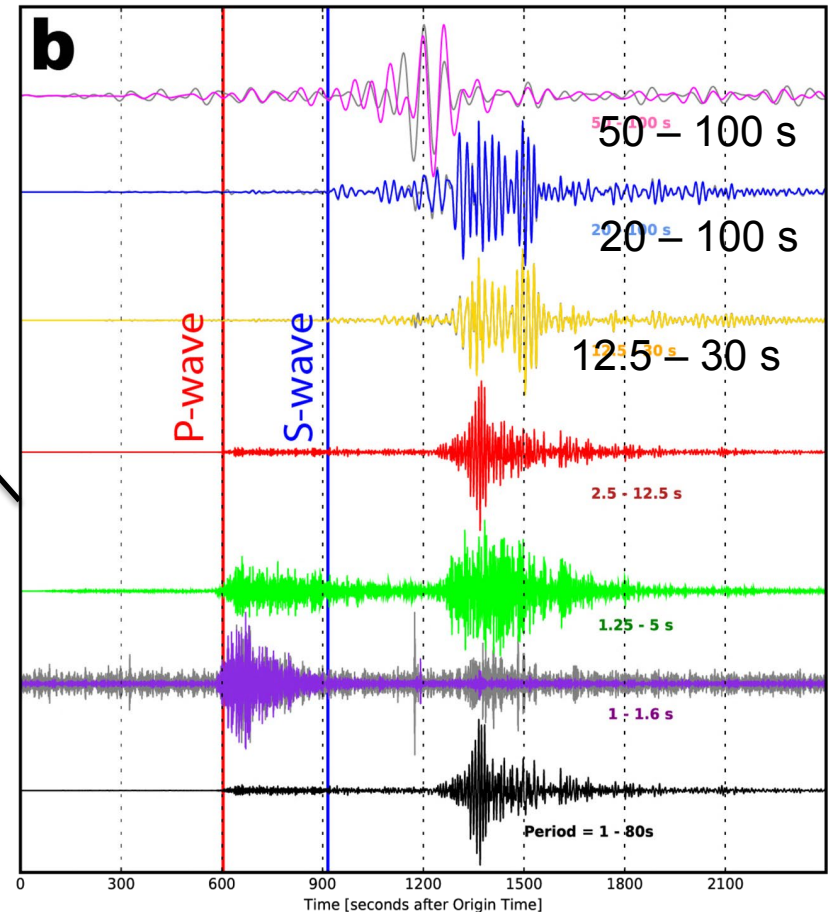


# DAS can record GLOBAL earthquakes

Teleseismic observations at Sacramento

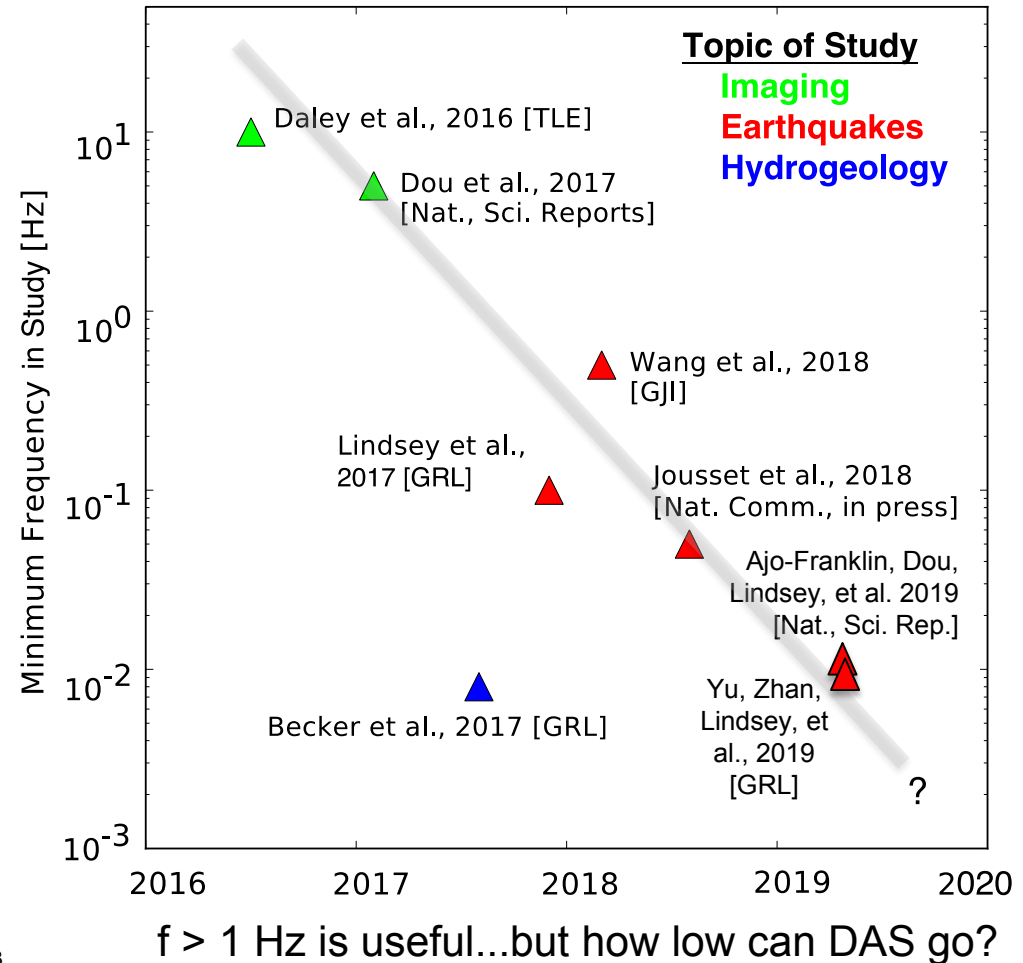
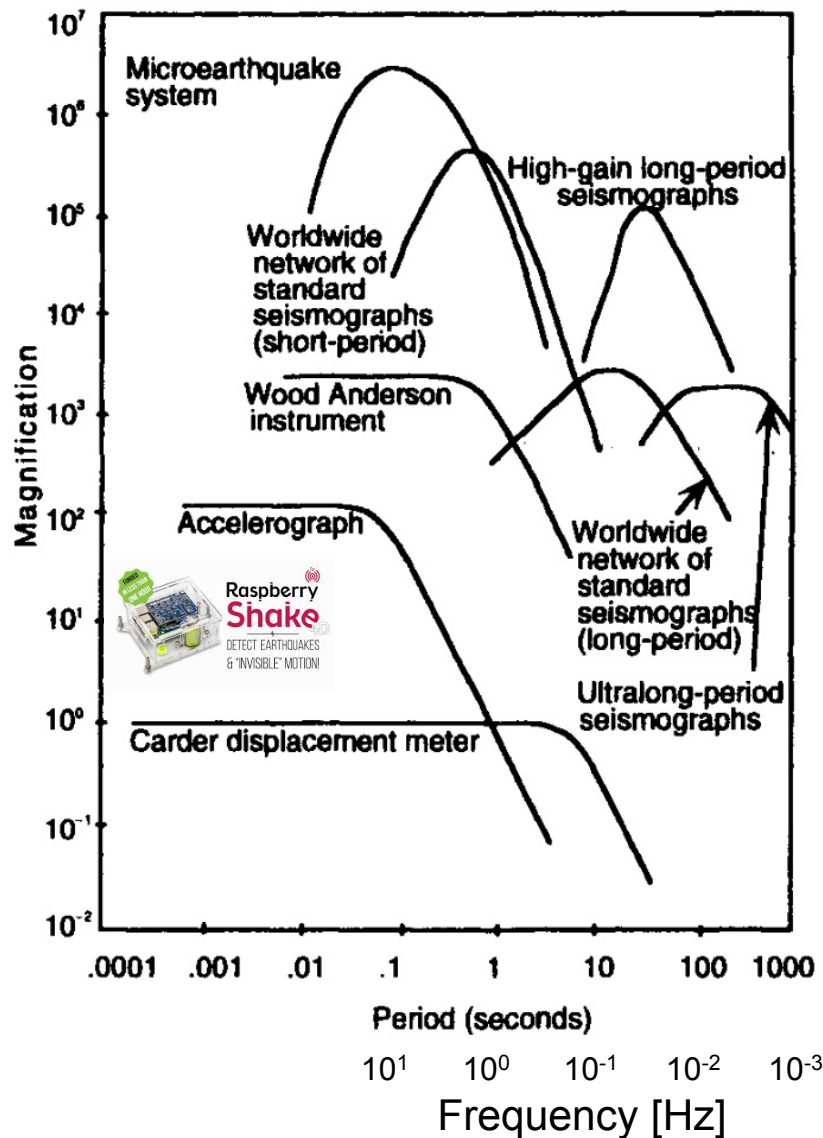


M8.1 Chiapas, Mexico 2018



Ajo-Franklin, Dou, Lindsey et al., 2019 [Nature, Sci Rep]

# What is DAS instrument response?

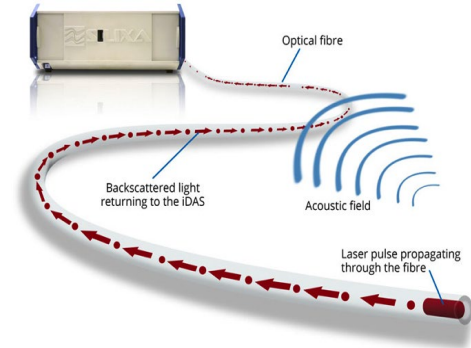




# What is DAS instrument response?

The Silixa iDAS measures

$$\Delta\dot{\Phi} \approx \dot{\epsilon}_{zz} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{u\left(z + \frac{dz}{2}\right) - u\left(z - \frac{dz}{2}\right)}{dz} \right)$$

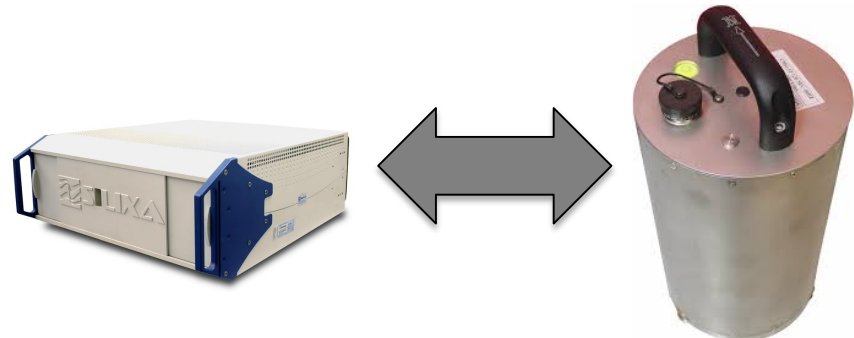


How can we test the hypothesis that  
DAS has a broadband “flat-to-DC” instrument response?

Teleseismic earthquakes generate

$T \sim 2 - 200$  s

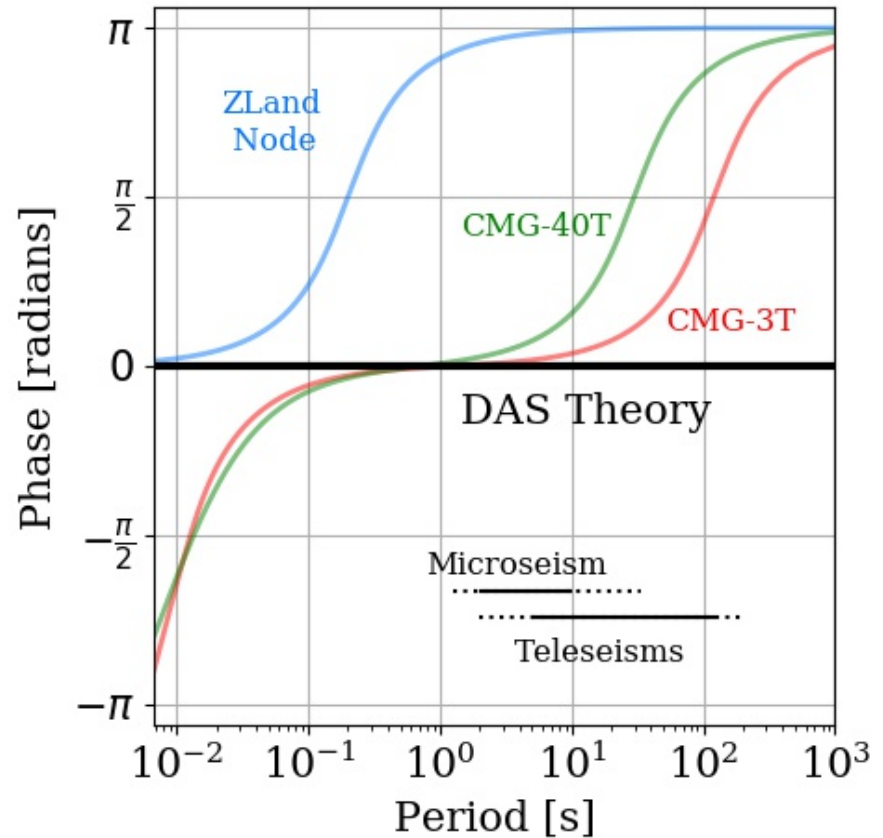
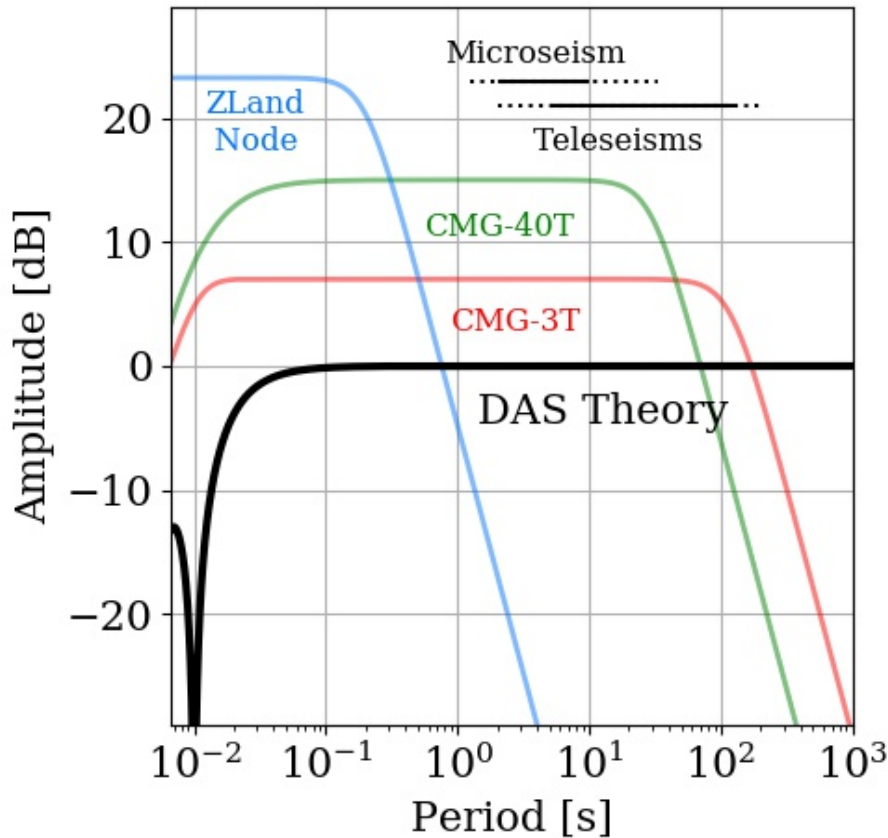
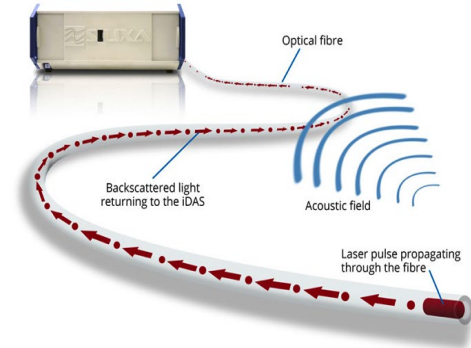
Use a broadband seismometer



# What is DAS instrument response?

The Silixa iDAS measures

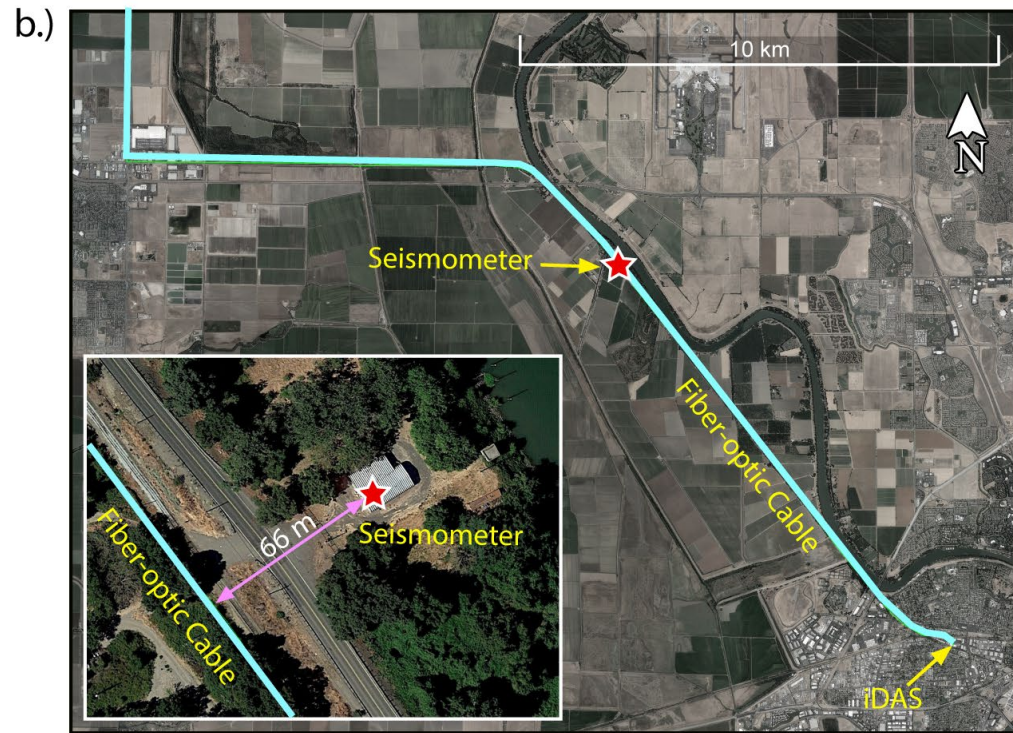
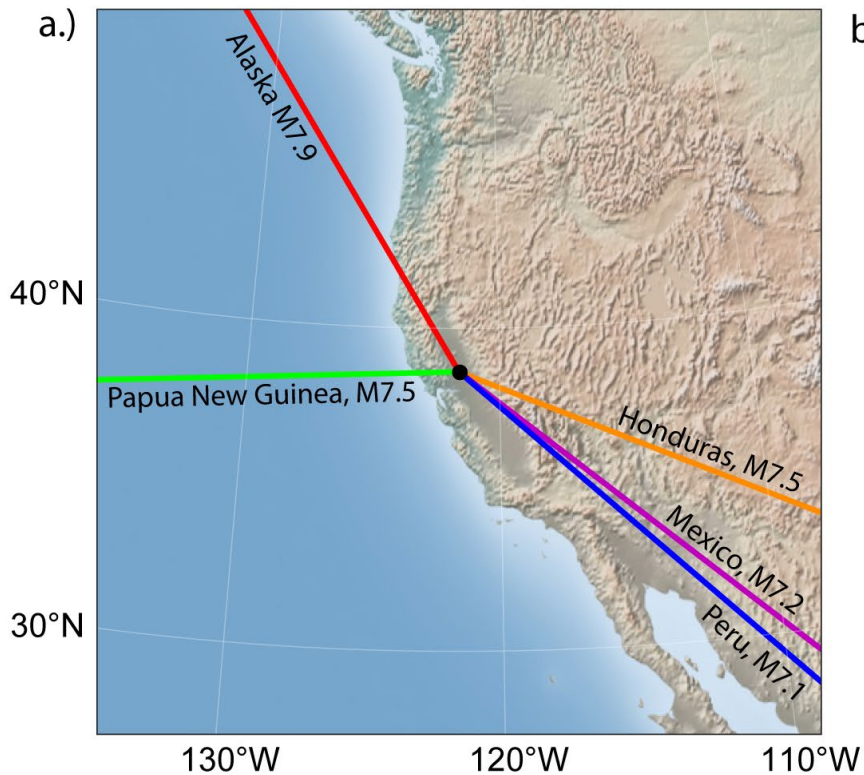
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# Field Experiment

Guralp CMG-3T

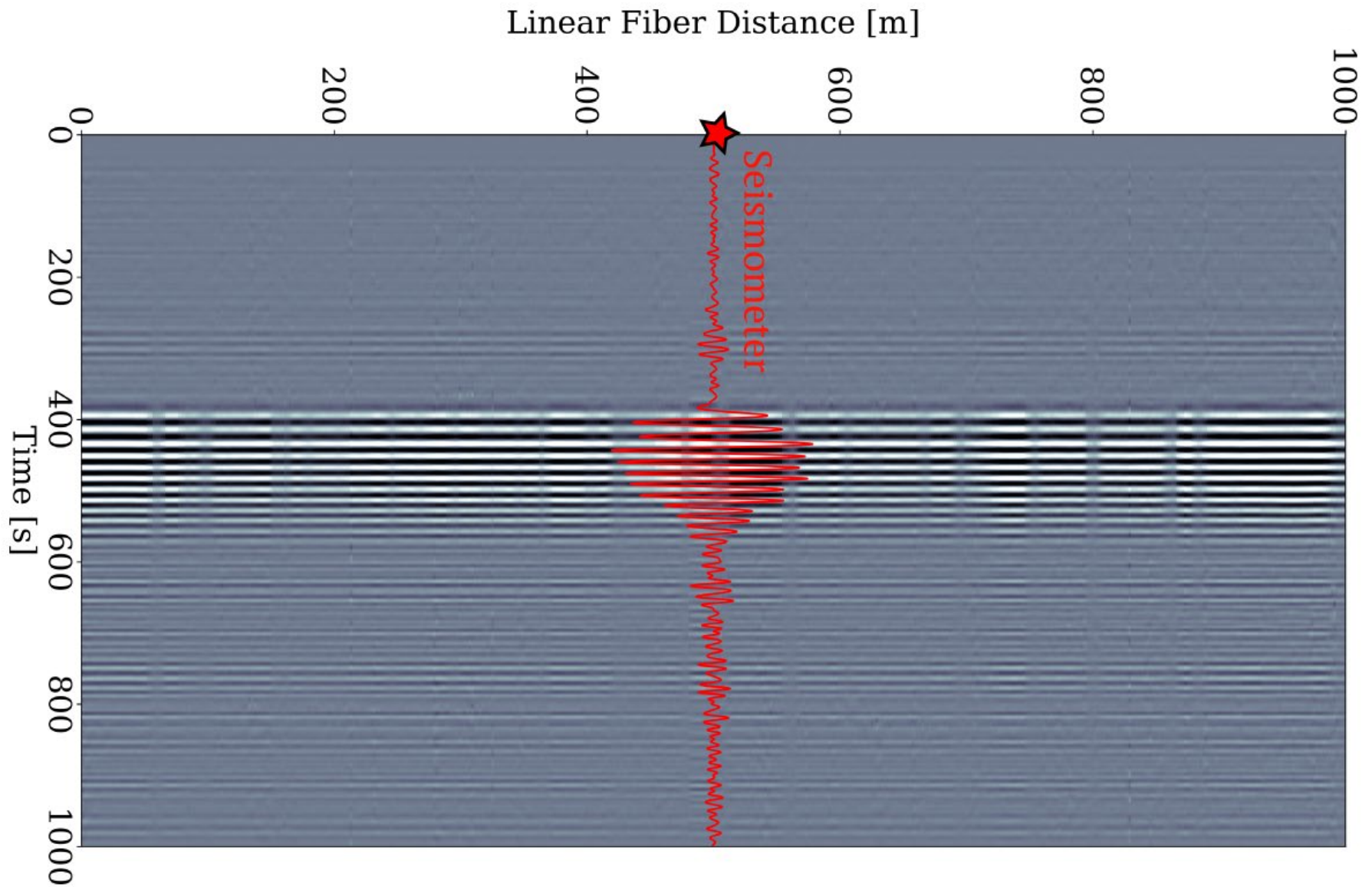


Measure true ground velocity at fiber location using broadband seismometer

# Data

Teleseismic recording

Alaska M7.9  
Jan-23-2018; 2778 km



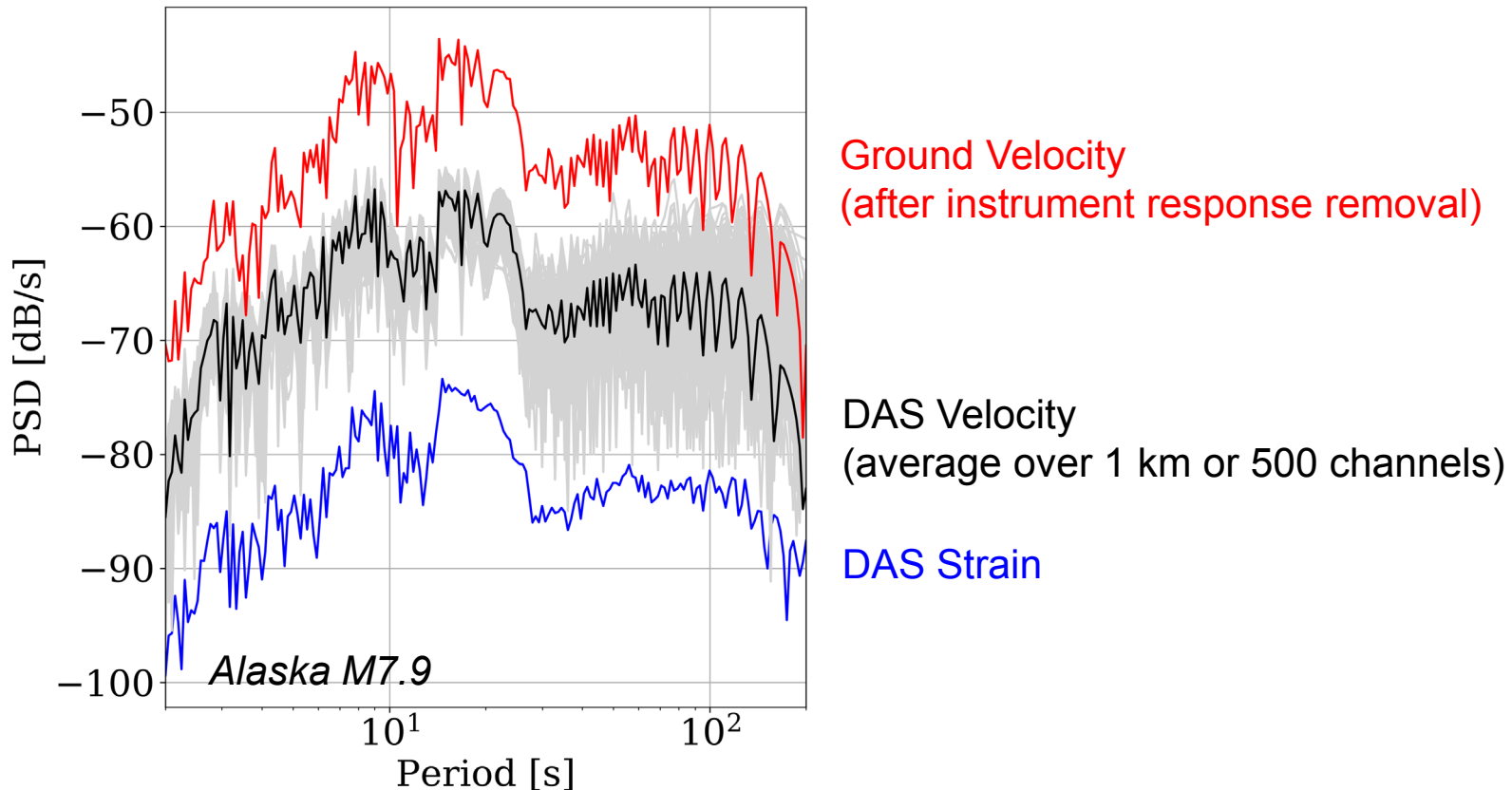


# Data Processing

FK-domain rescale

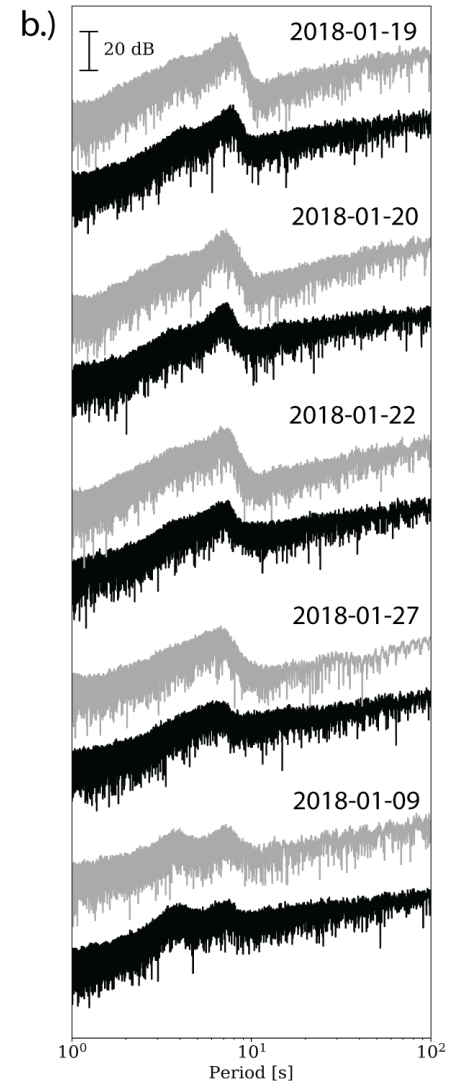
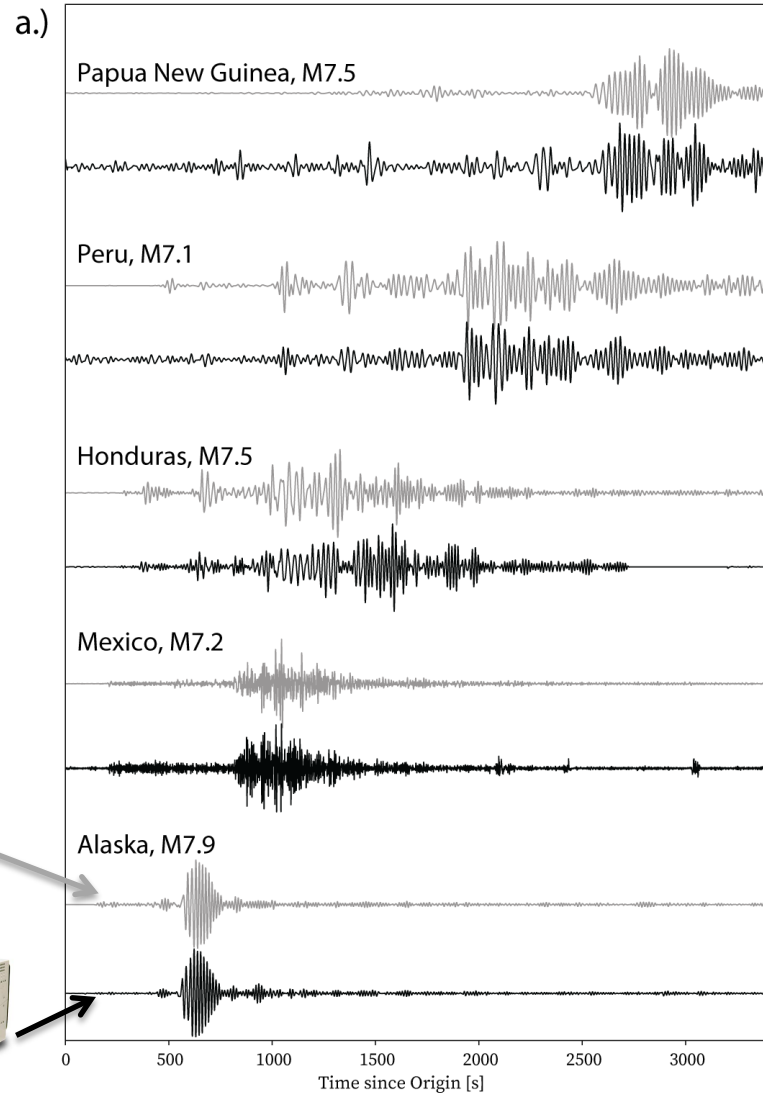
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \left( -\frac{\omega}{k} \right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

*Aki and Richards, (1980)*

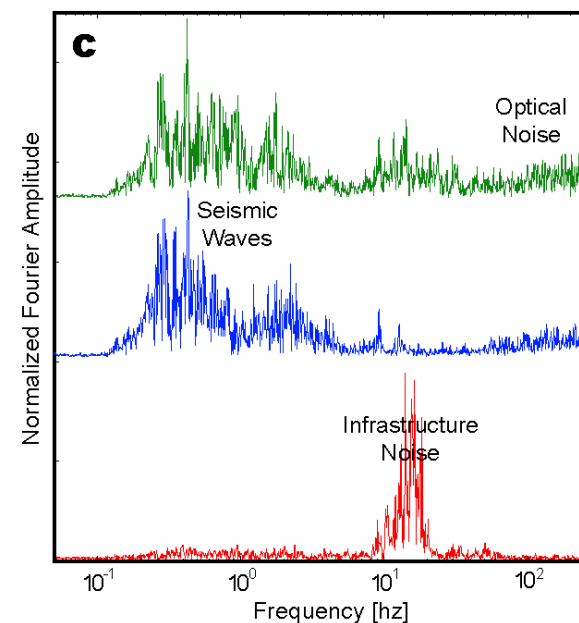
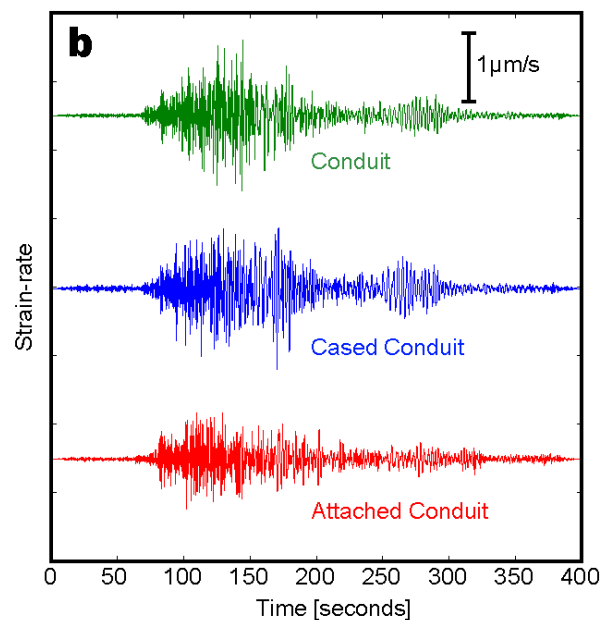
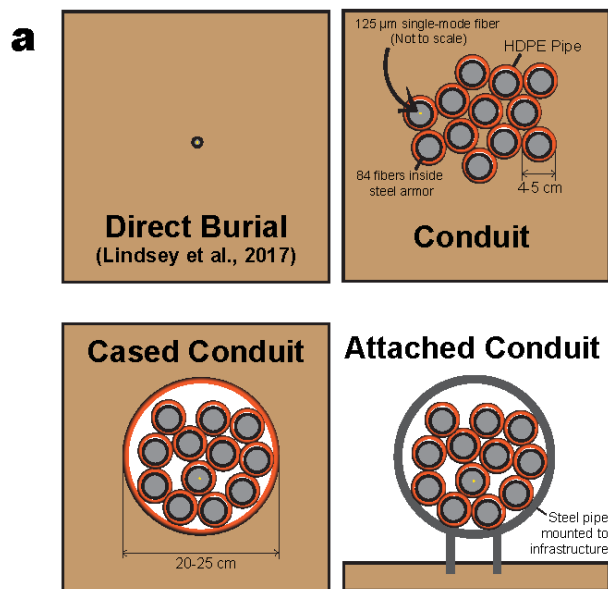


# Data Processing

Teleseismic recording evaluation (we also capture microseism noise)





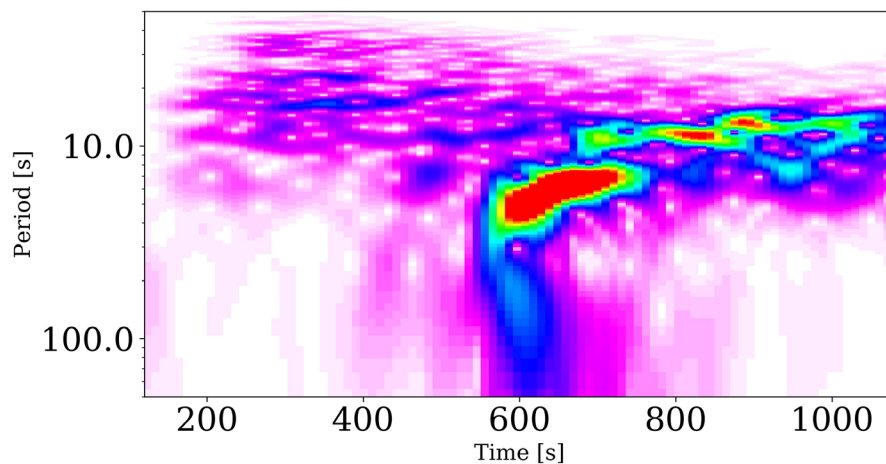
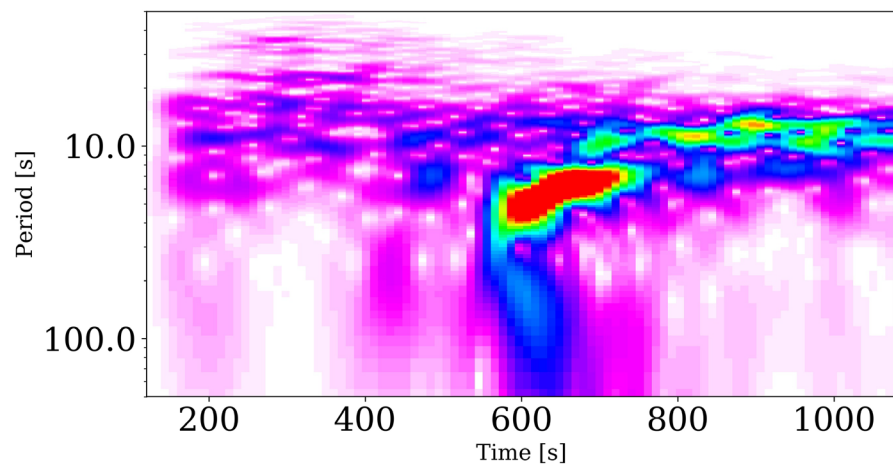
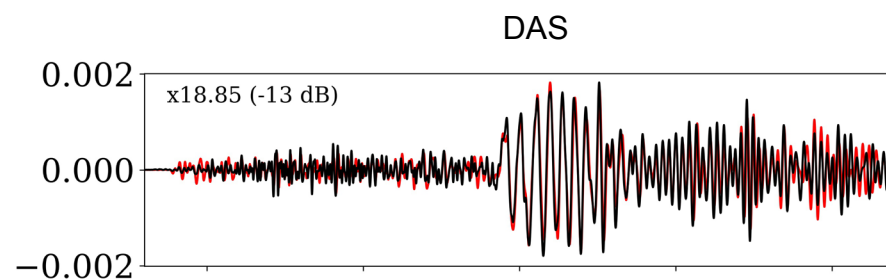
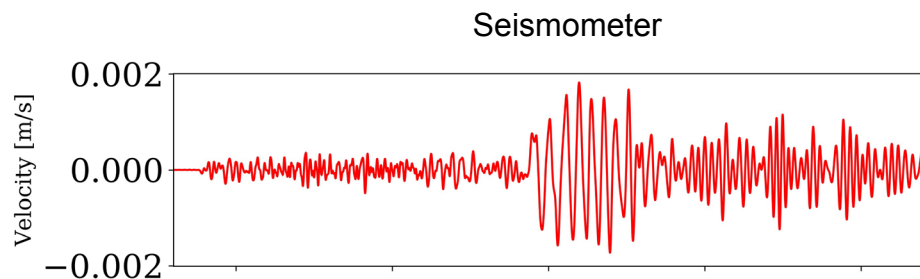


*Ajo-Franklin et al., 2019 (Nat. Sci. Rep)*

# Results

## Recording comparison

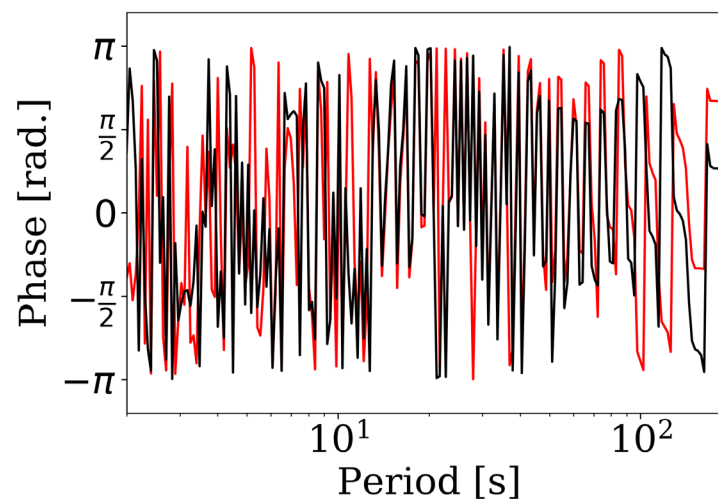
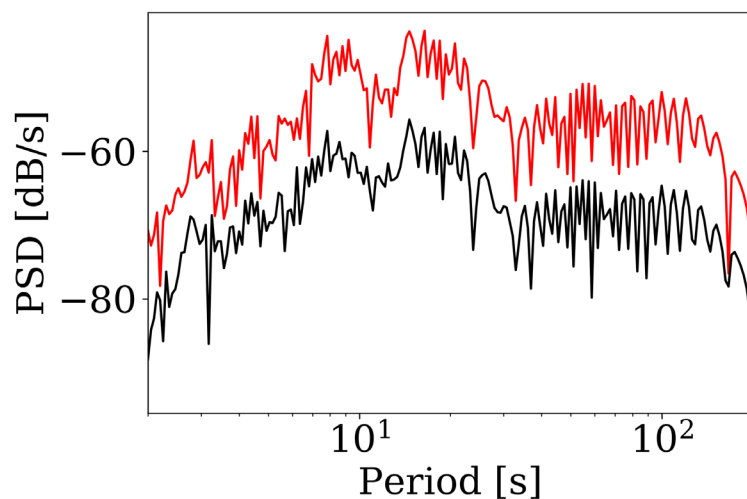
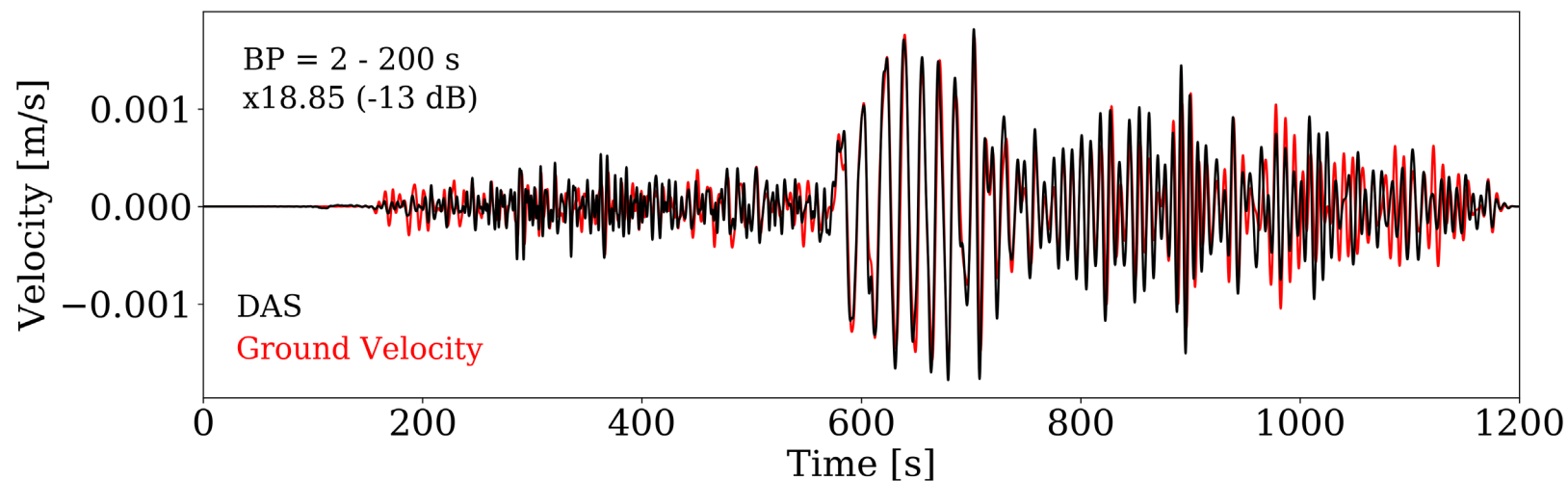
Alaska M7.9  
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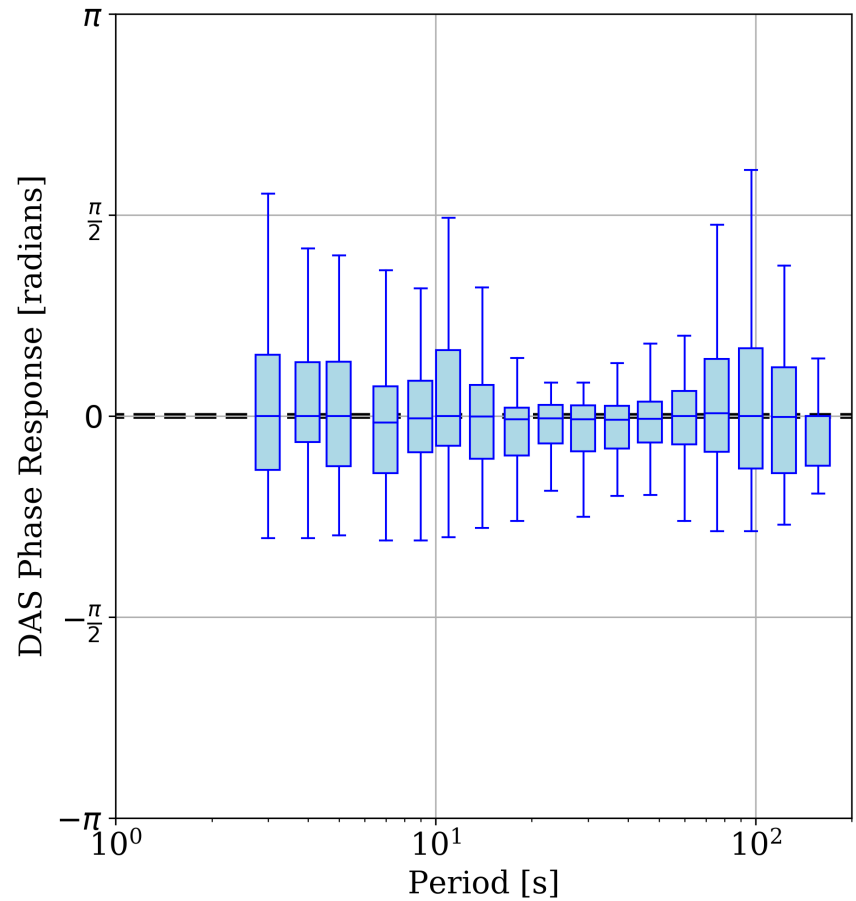
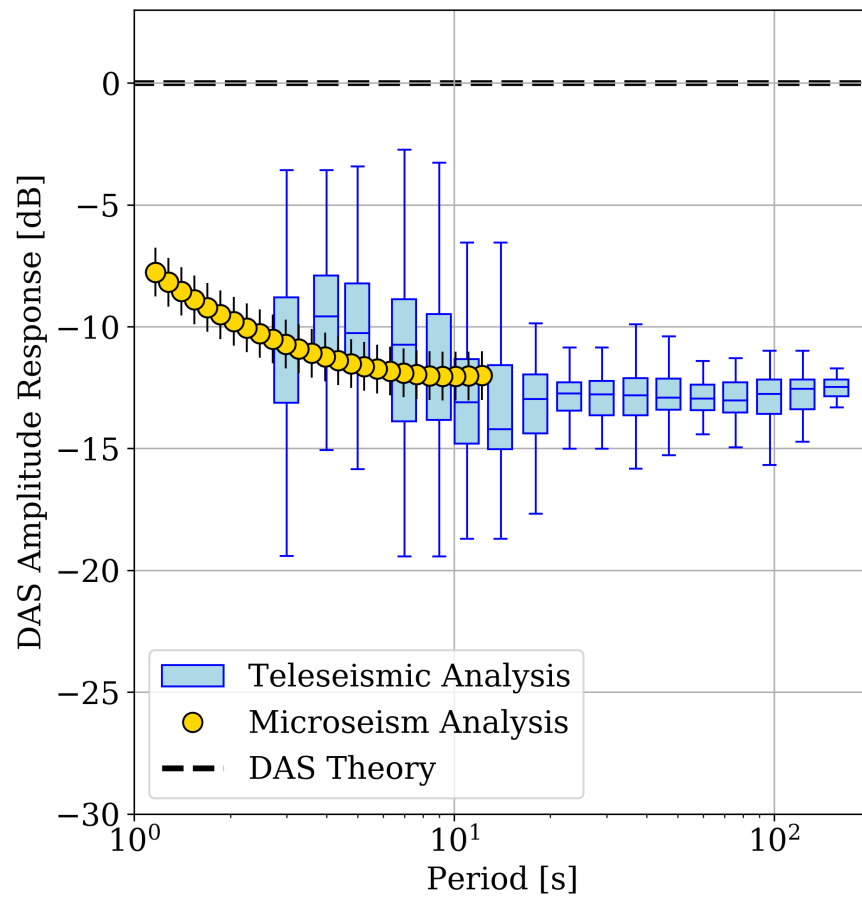
# Results

## Recording comparison



# Results

## DAS instrument response function





# Fiber-optics Beyond Communications

## Concept :

Measure scattering from every point along a continuous fiber

Changes in fiber environment (T, strain, vibration) alter scattering.

## Raman : (DTS)

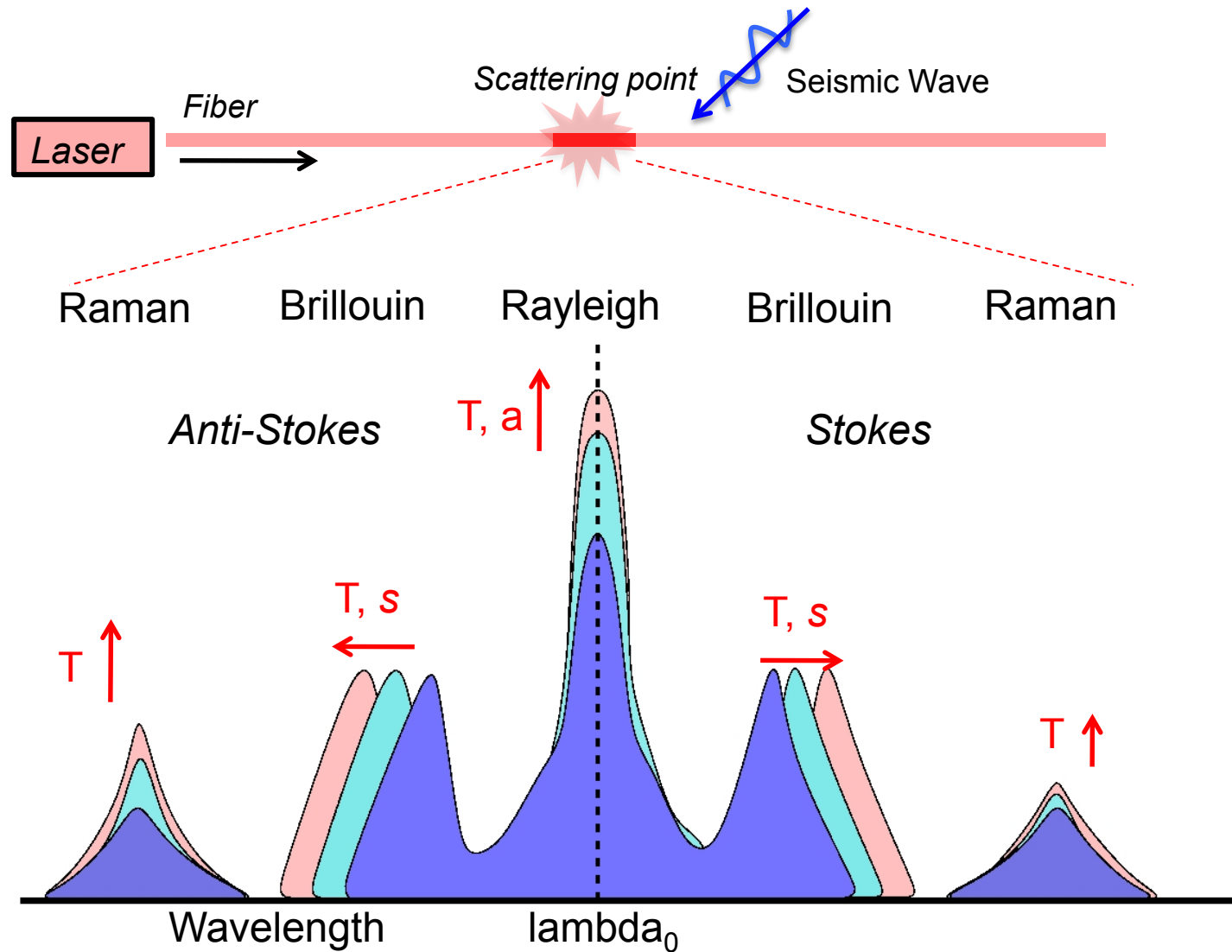
Strong  $T$  dependence

## Brillouin : (DTS,DSS)

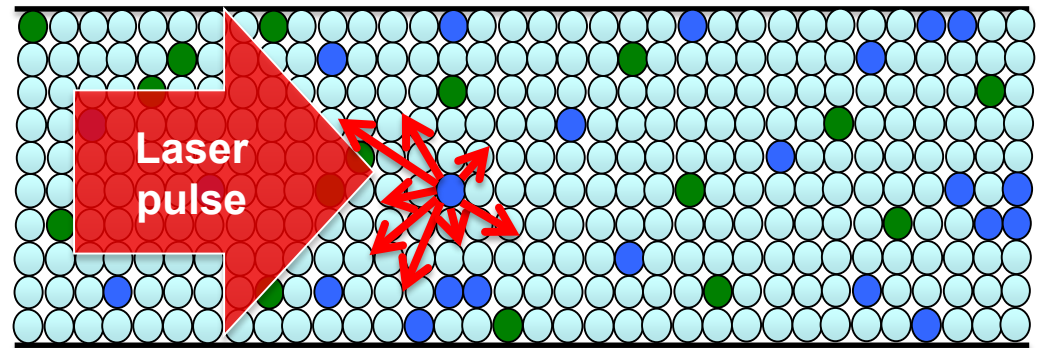
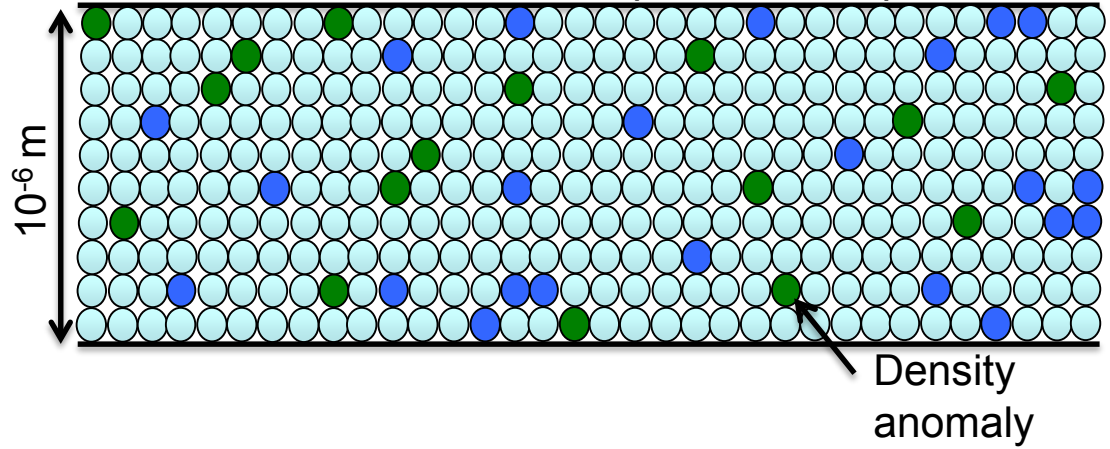
Wavelength shift during strain and  $T$  variation

## Rayleigh : (DAS)

Amplitude variation induced by vibration, also  $T$ .

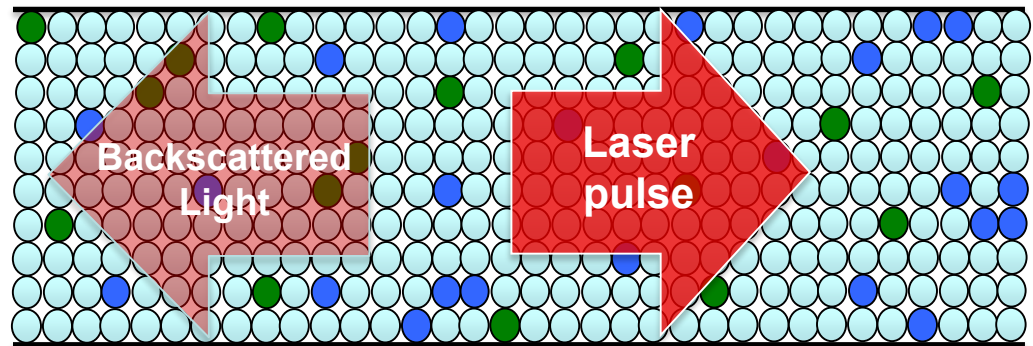


Fiber-optics have imperfections



Rayleigh  
Scattering

Optical Time  
Domain  
Reflectometry  
 $z = v * t / 2$



$z?$



# Where does strain to optical phase come from?

Coherent optical phase:

$$\Phi = \frac{4\pi n_c z}{\lambda}$$

Silixa iDAS measures changes in optical phase:

$$\Delta\Phi = \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial z}\Delta z + \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial n_c}\Delta n_c + \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial \lambda}\Delta \lambda,$$

Seismic timescale      Rayleigh scattering

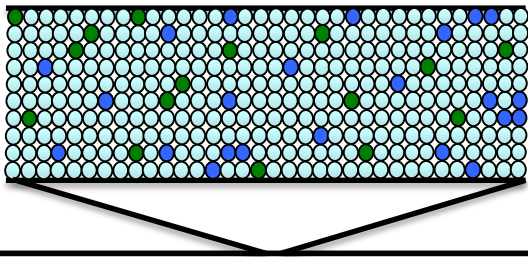
Optical phase change directly proportional to in-line strain:

$$\epsilon_{zz} = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi n_c z_g \psi} \Delta\Phi = \frac{1550 \cdot 10^{-9}[m]}{4\pi \cdot 1.45 \cdot 10[m] \cdot 0.79} \Delta\Phi = (11.6 \cdot 10^{-9}) \Delta\Phi[rad].$$

Strain is the difference of displacement separated by gauge length:

$$\epsilon_{zz} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = \frac{u\left(z + \frac{dz}{2}\right) - u\left(z - \frac{dz}{2}\right)}{dz}$$

# Gauge length



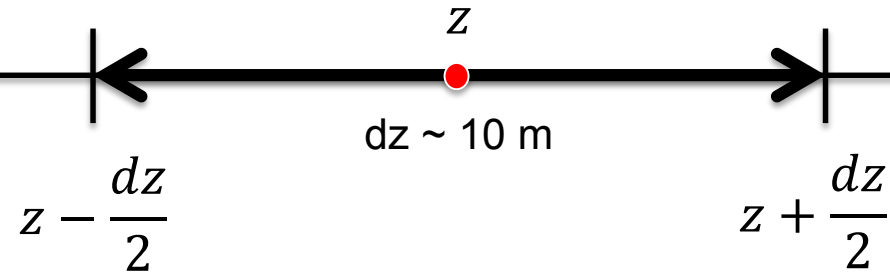
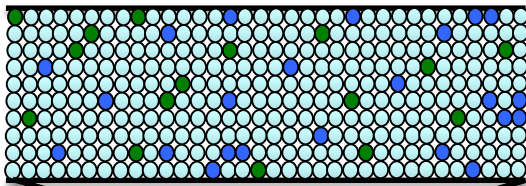
$z$



Optical  
phase  
rate

$$\Delta \dot{\Phi} \approx \underset{\substack{\text{Axial} \\ \text{strain} \\ \text{rate}}}{\epsilon_{zz}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{u \left( z + \frac{dz}{2} \right) - u \left( z - \frac{dz}{2} \right)}{dz} \right)$$

# Gauge length

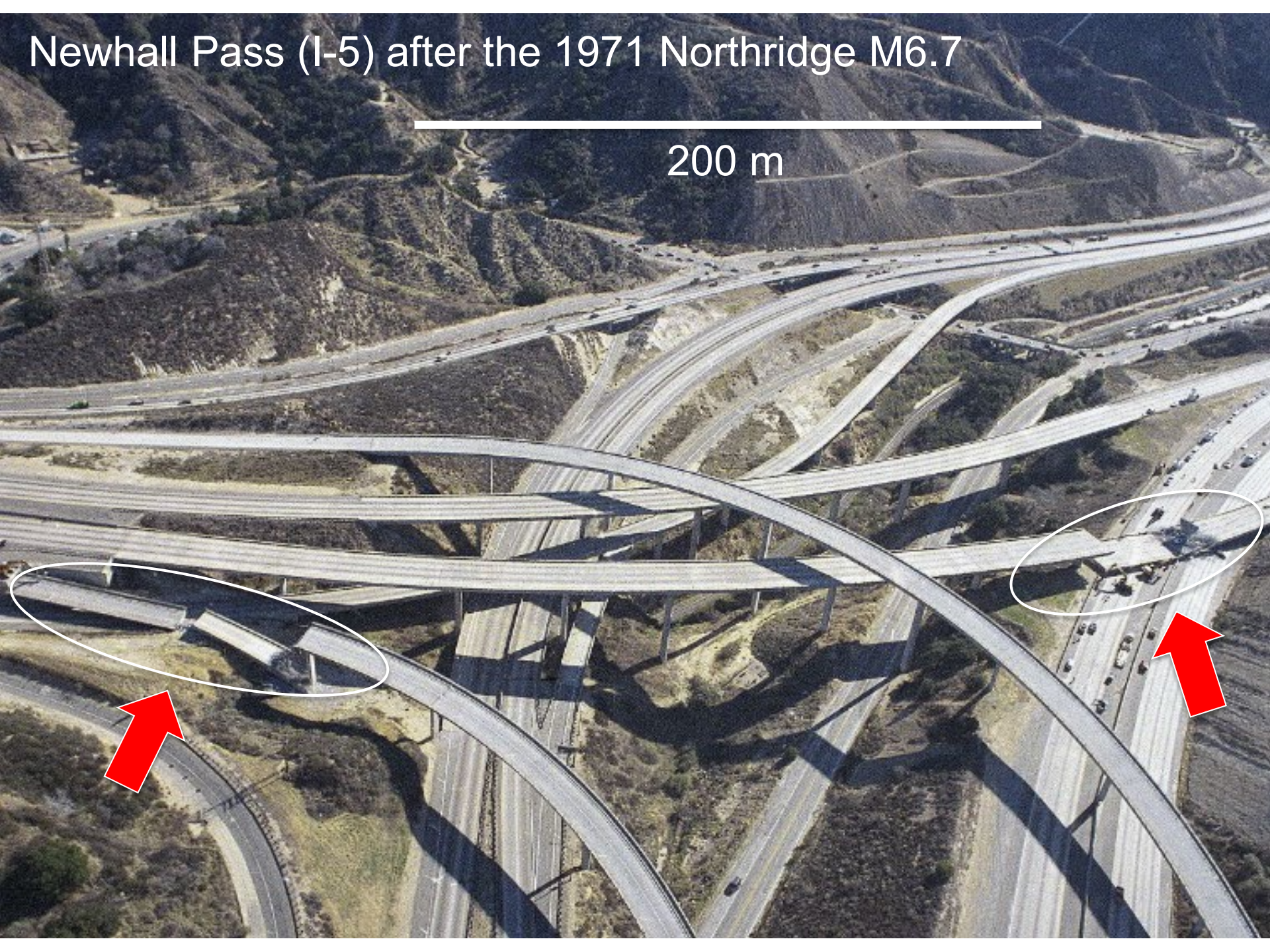


The Silixa iDAS measures  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \frac{u \left( z + \frac{dz}{2} \right) - u \left( z - \frac{dz}{2} \right)}{dz} \right)$  at each channel.

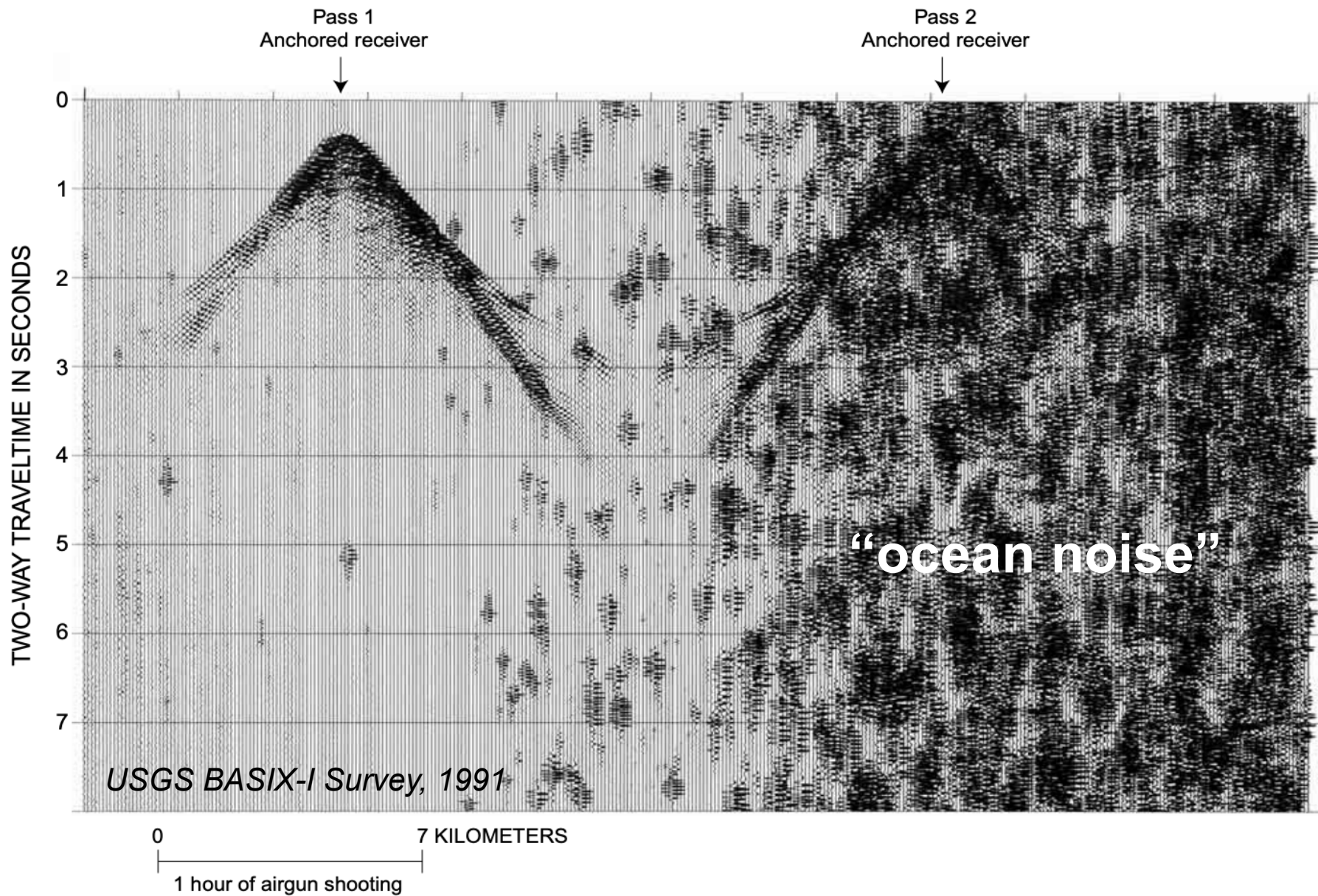


# Newhall Pass (I-5) after the 1971 Northridge M6.7

200 m







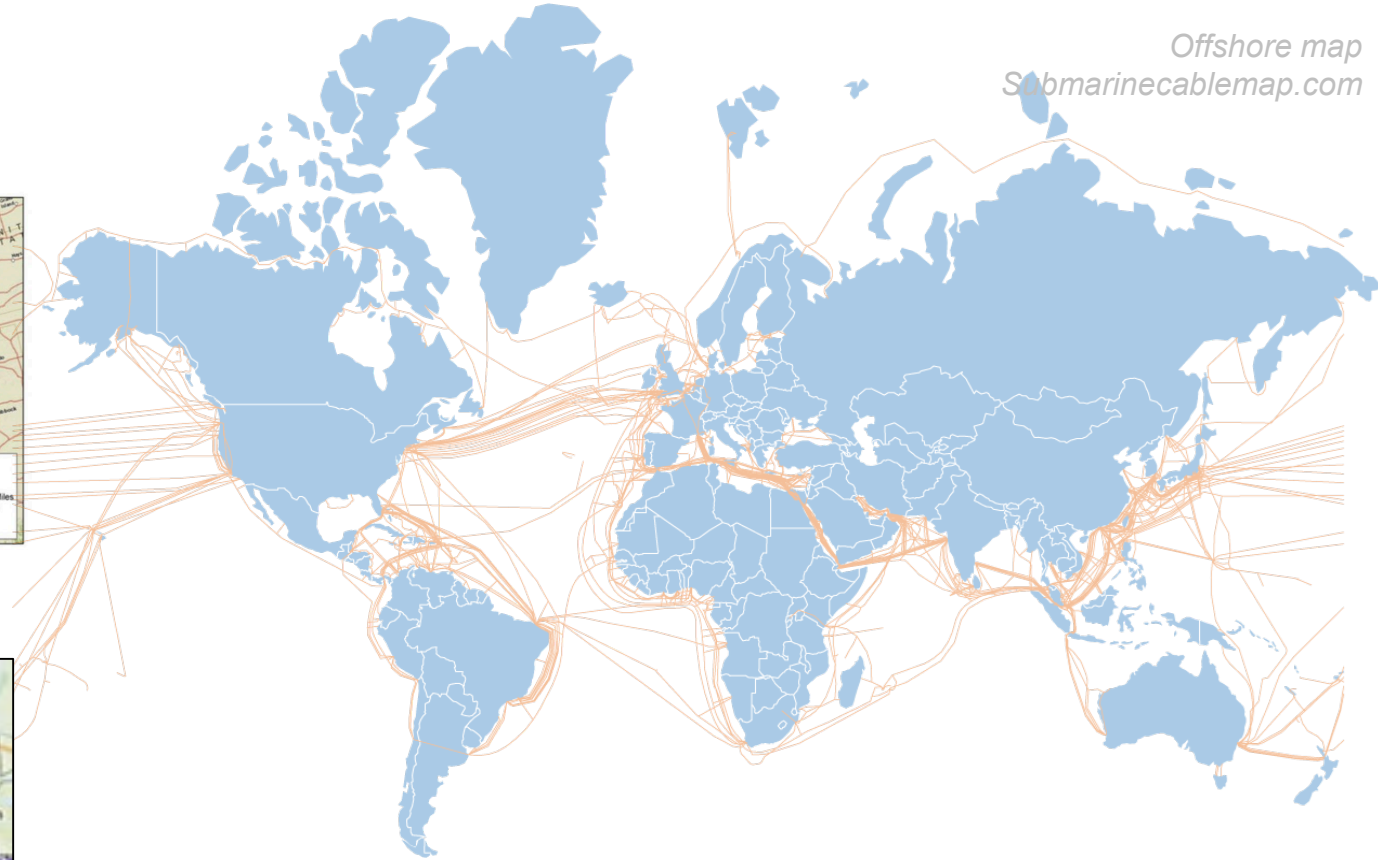
# Fiber-optic cables are everywhere



LBNL ESNet  
Western US Longhaul



Zayo's  
SF Bay Metro  
Dark Fiber



Offshore map  
Submarinecablemap.com

“dark fiber” = unlit telecommunications capacity



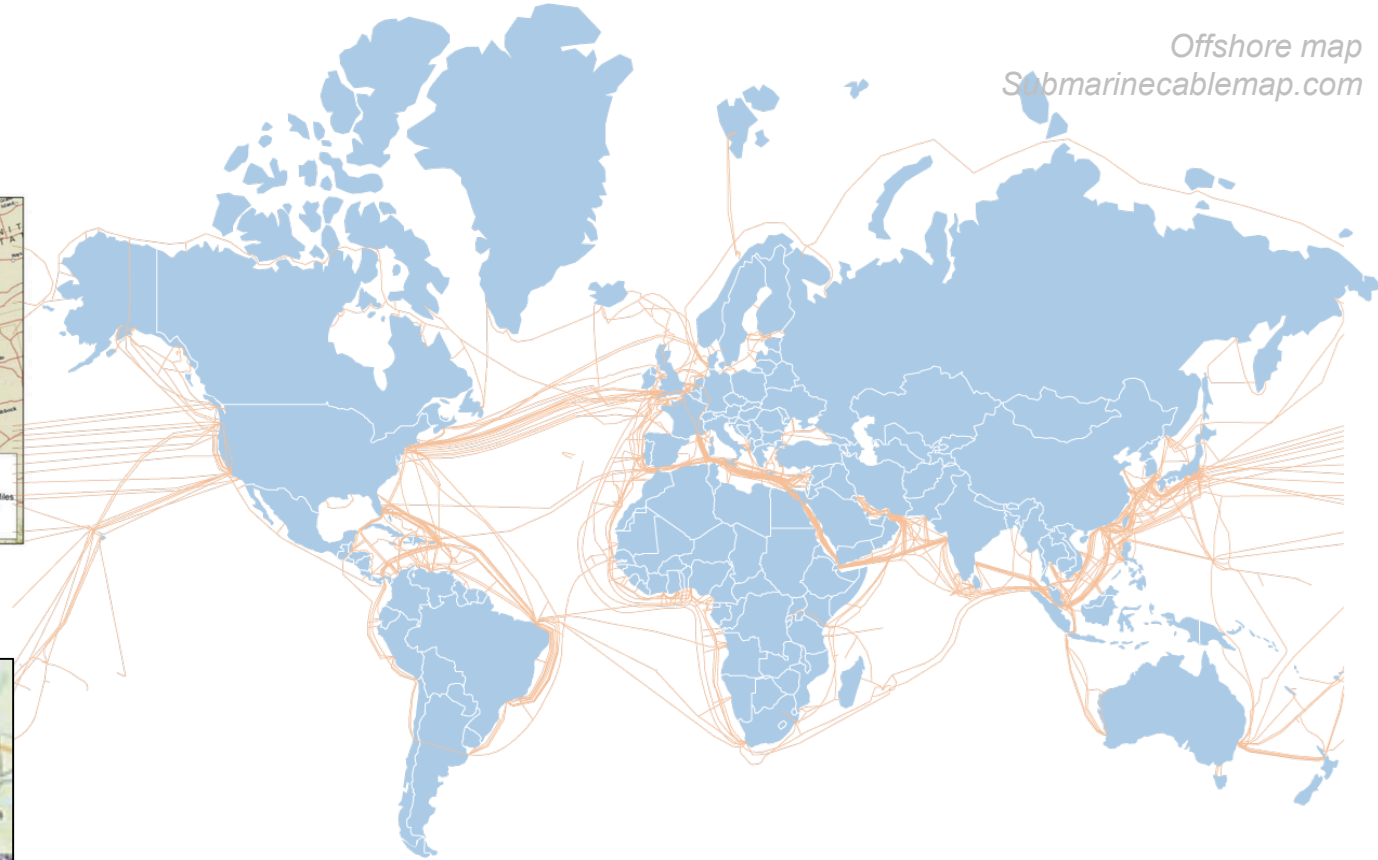
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Where do we really need DAS?

“Field to watershed” scale  
typically spatially-aliased  
difficult to access long term.