

Simulated motions validation and acceptance criteria for ground motion databases

## **The Southern California Validation Experience**

**Ricardo Taborda**



**2024 PEER - LBNL Workshop**  
Simulated Ground Motions for the San Francisco Bay Area  
**January 18-19, 2024**



# The Southern California Validation Experience

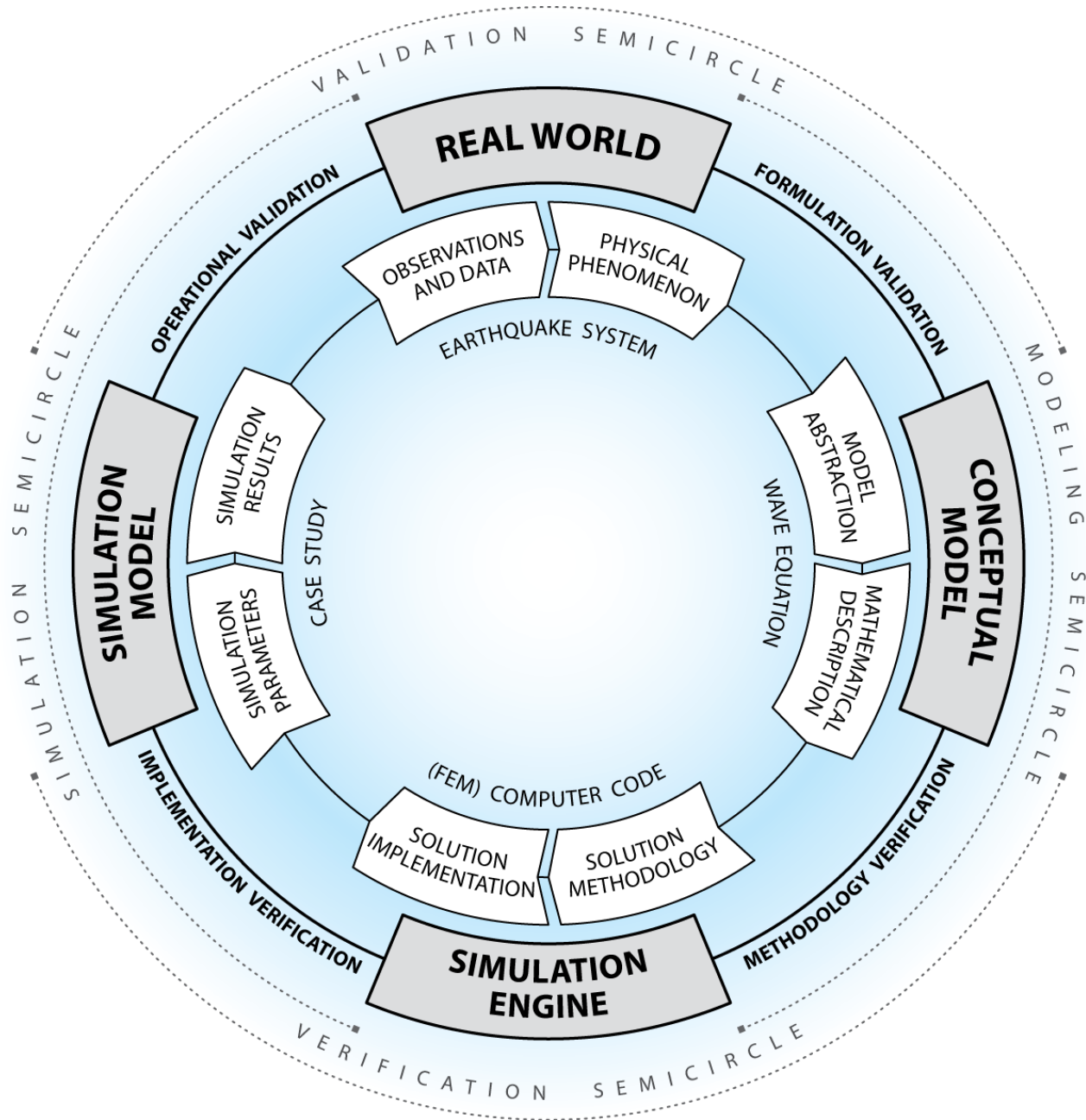
## Event scenario

» TeraShake	Independent	N/A
» ShakeOut	Coordinated	Verification
» Chino Hills	Independent	Validation
» La Habra	Coordinated	Verification and validation
» BBP	Coordinated	Verification and validation
» CyberShake	Coordinated	Validation
» Others		

## Factors

» Modeling scope	Physics
» Minimum velocity	Resolution
» Maximum frequency	Resolution
» Velocity model	Accuracy, resolution, uncertainty
» Source model	Accuracy, resolution, uncertainty
» Attenuation model	Approach, model, uncertainty
» Implementations	Numerical accuracy and computational efficiency

# Verification and **Validation**



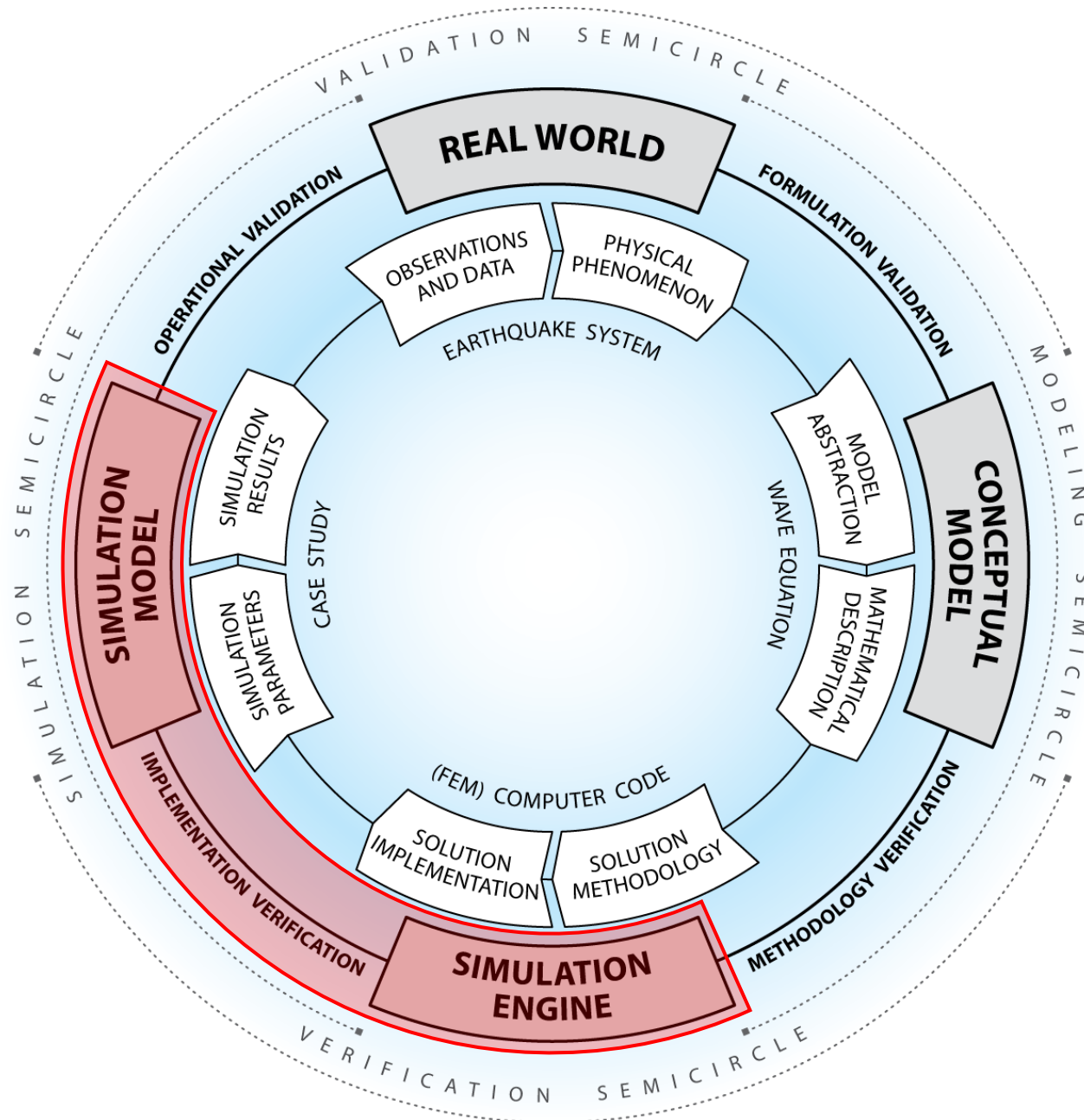


## Operational Validation

- » Level of agreement between synthetics and actual data
- » Comparison of simulations with observations

## Implementation Verification

- » Correctness of the implementation of a simulation scheme
- » Comparison of simulations with exact or alternative solutions

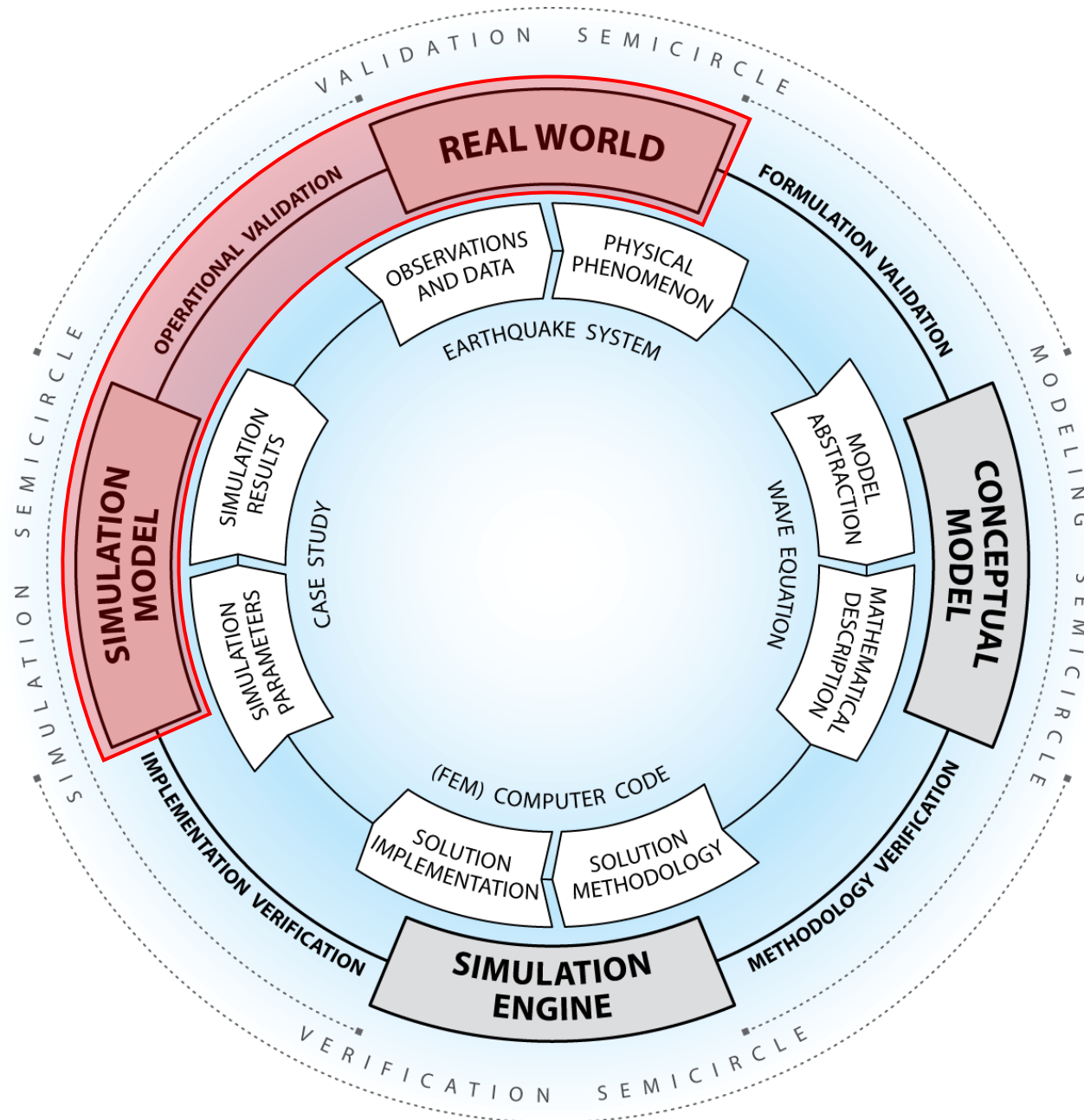


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## Legacy of the ShakeOut **verification** exercise

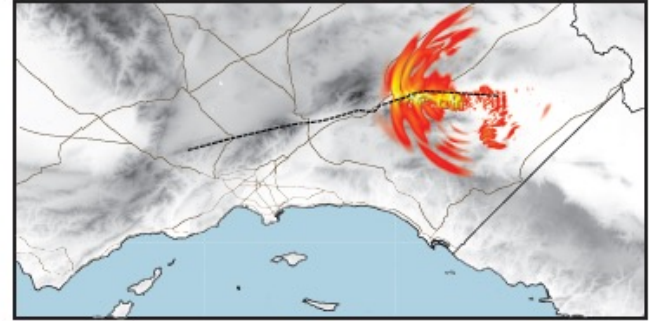
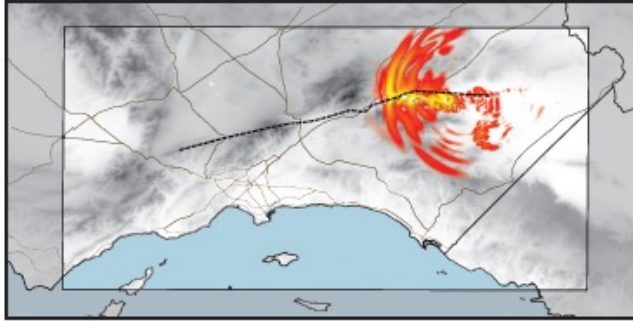
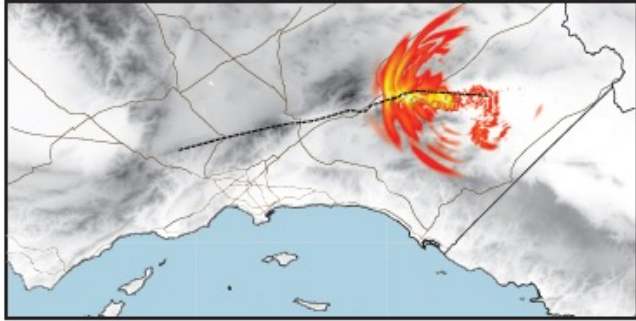
# Qualitative verification

Hercules

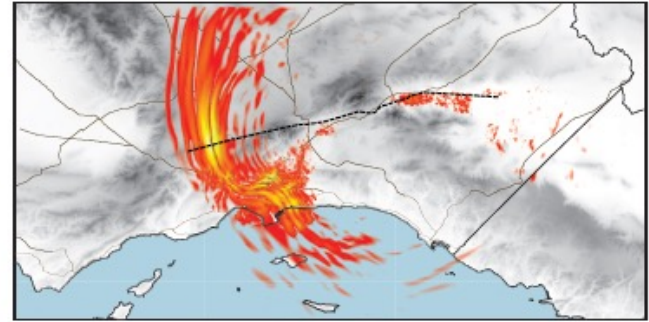
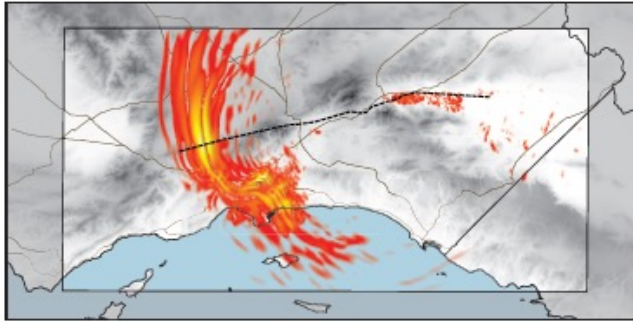
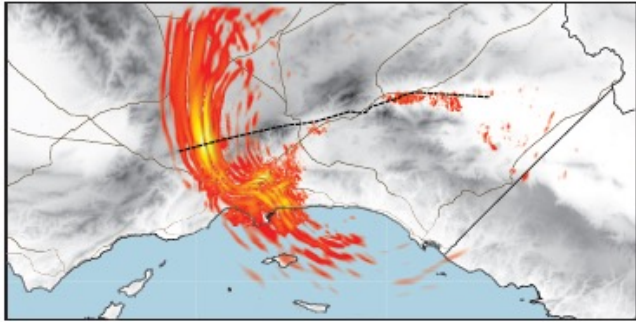
AWP-RWG

AWP-ODC

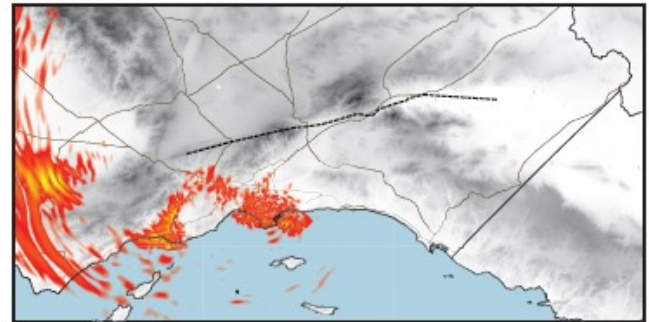
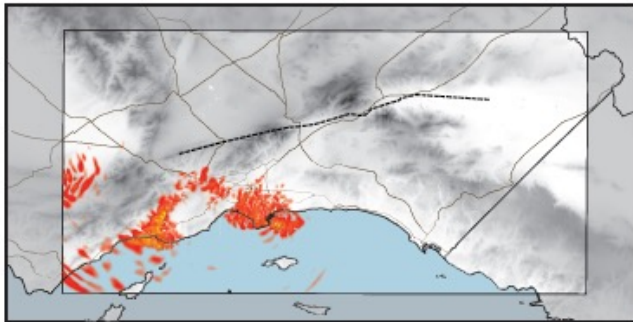
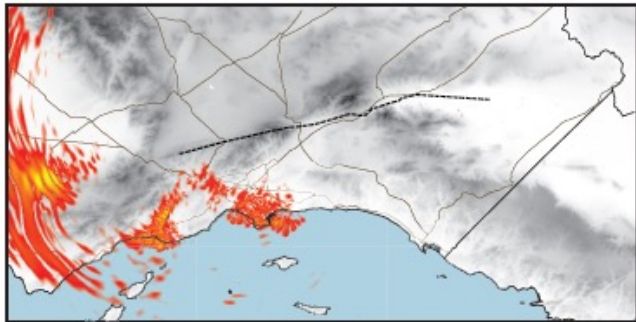
30 s



90 s

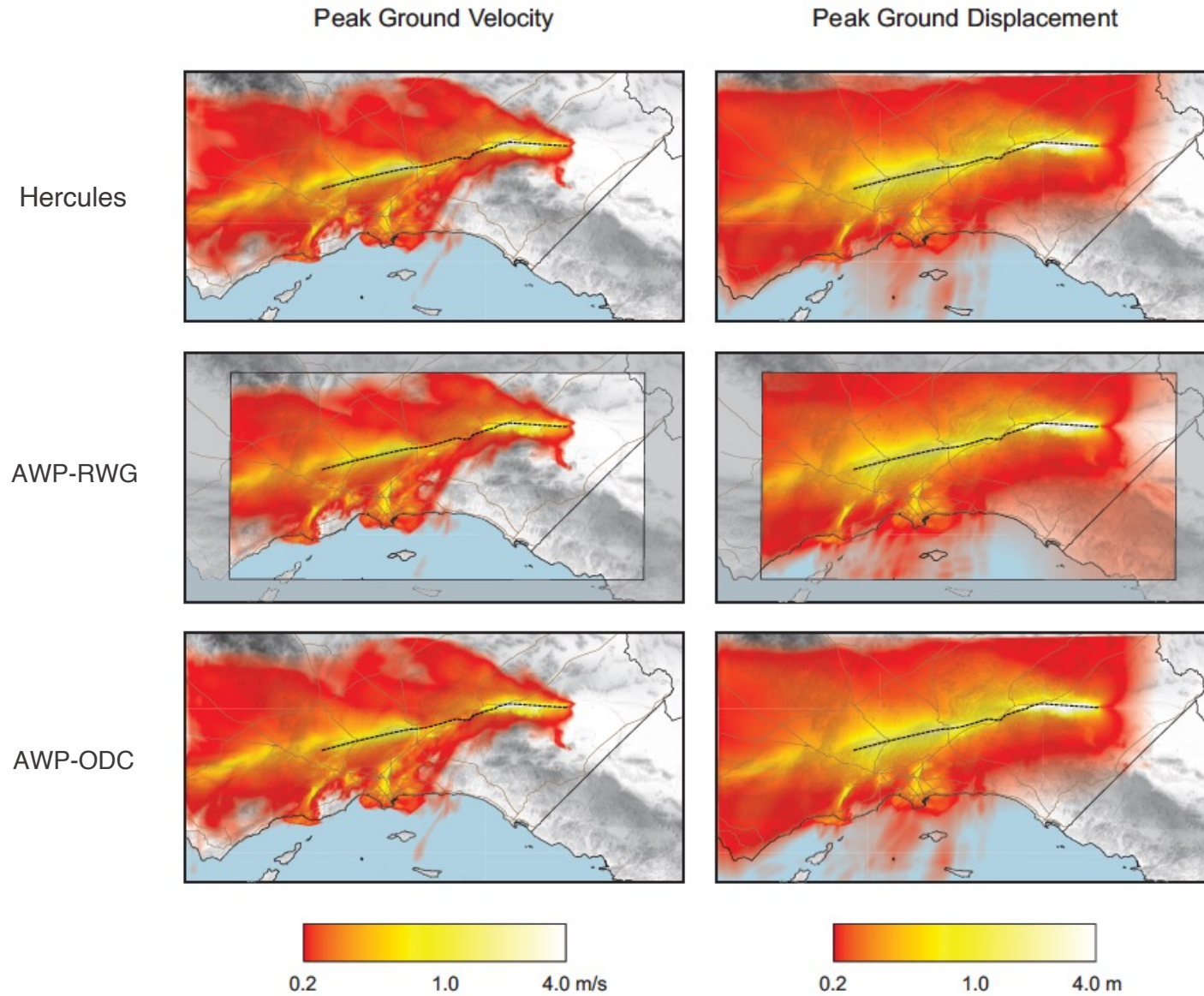


150 s

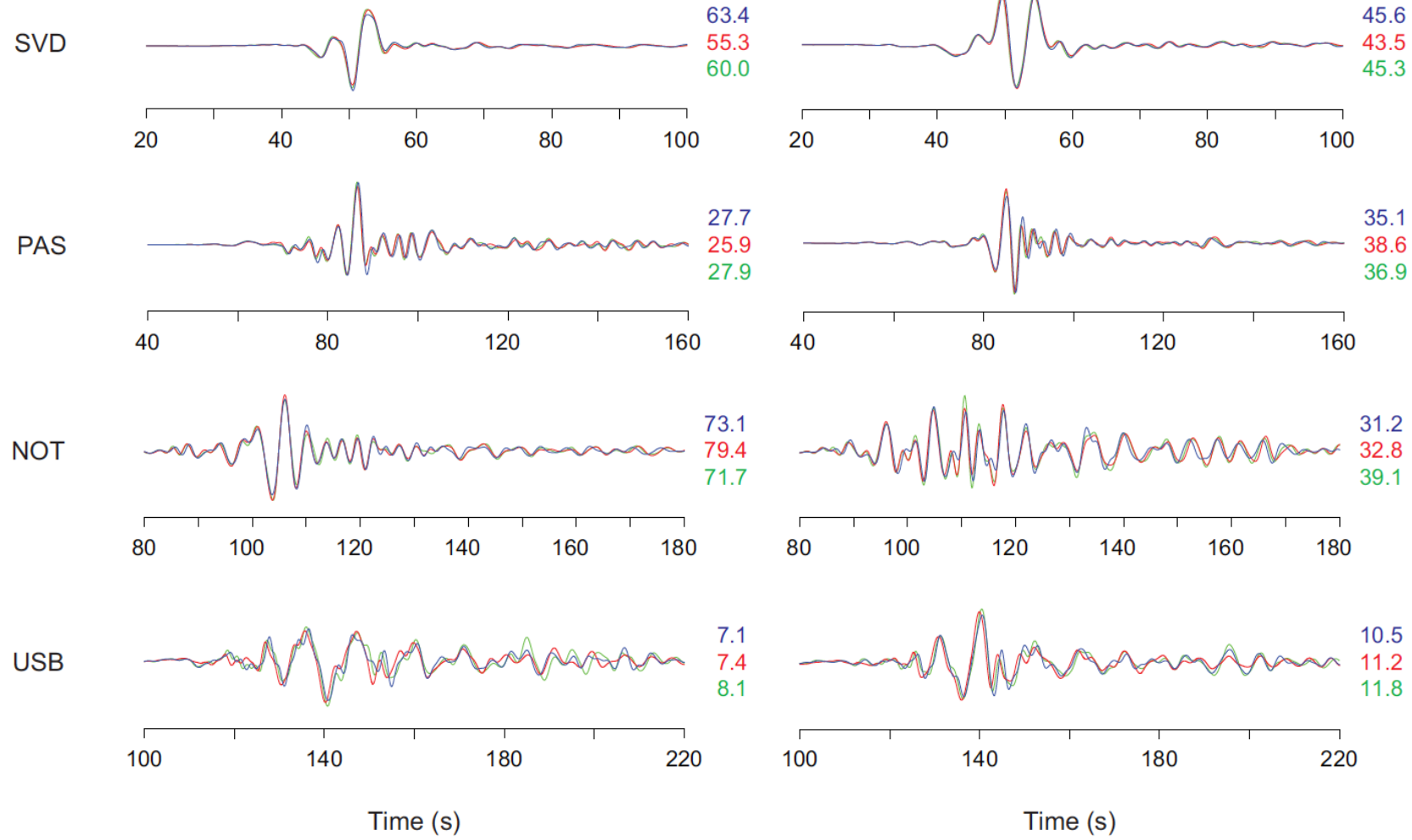




# Qualitative verification



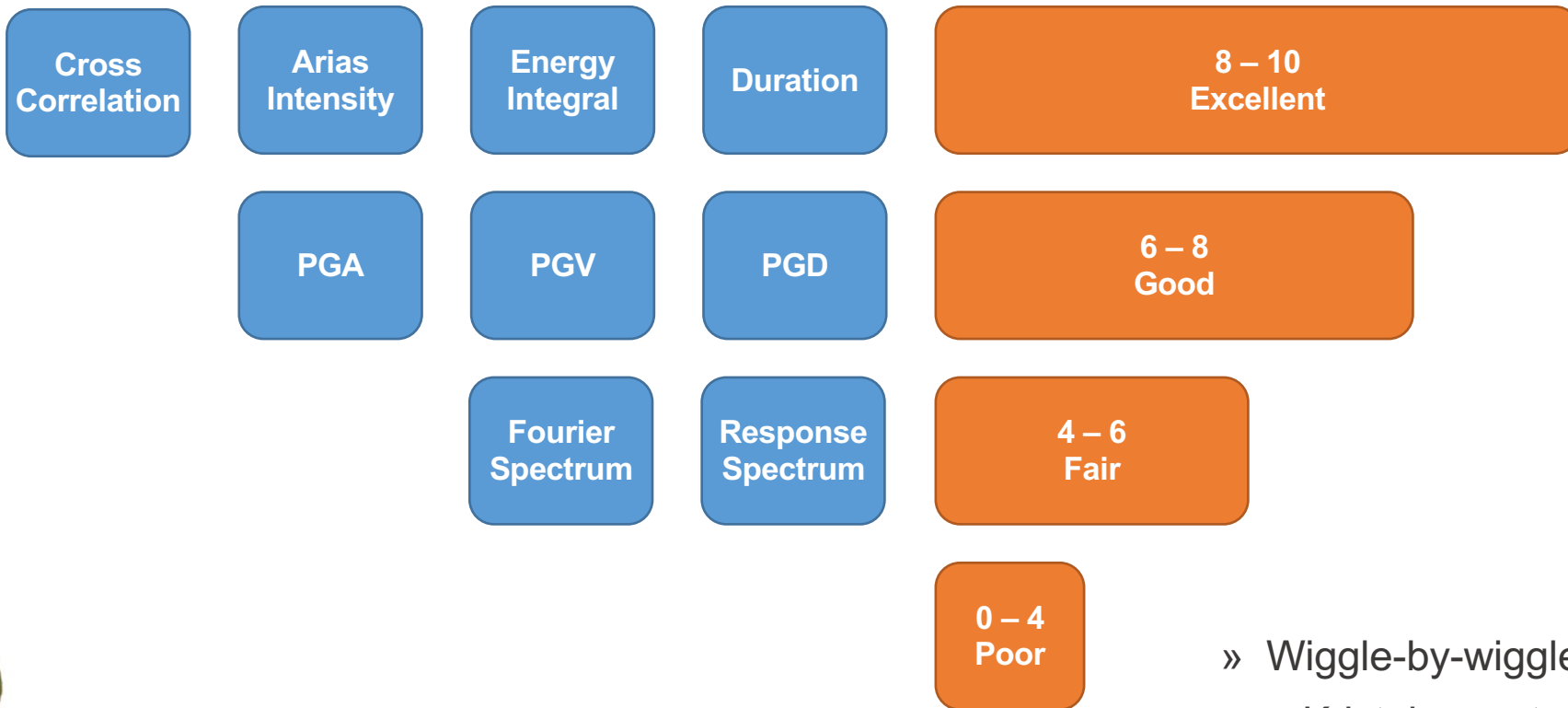
# Qualitative verification



— Hercules — AWP-RWG — AWP-ODS

# Quantitative comparisons

## Goodness-of-fit (GOF) metrics

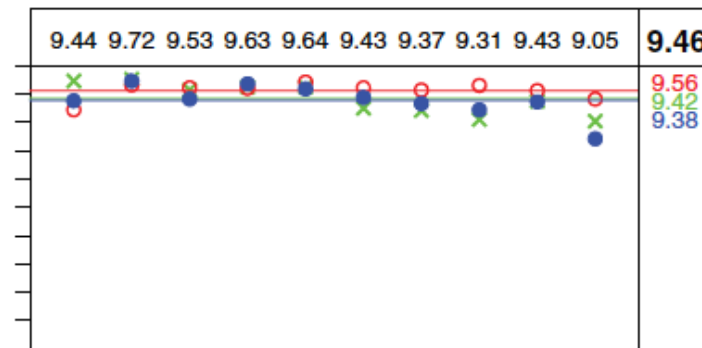
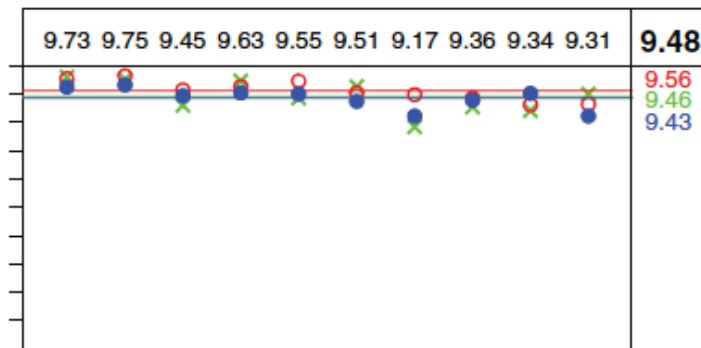
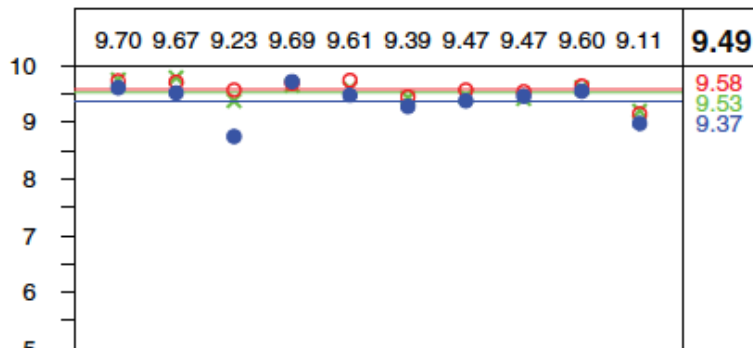


- » Wiggle-by-wiggle
  - › Kristekova et al. (2006, 2008)
- » Signal metrics
  - › Anderson (2004)
- » Others



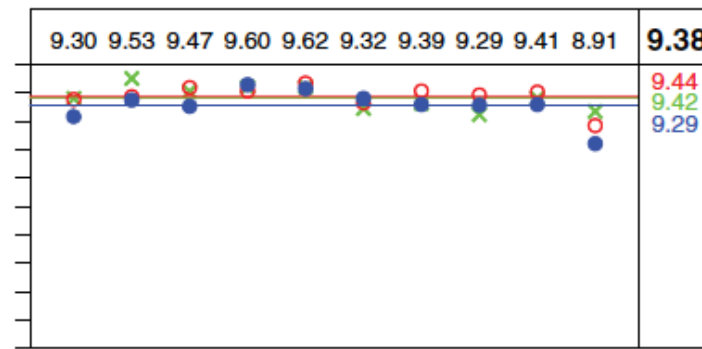
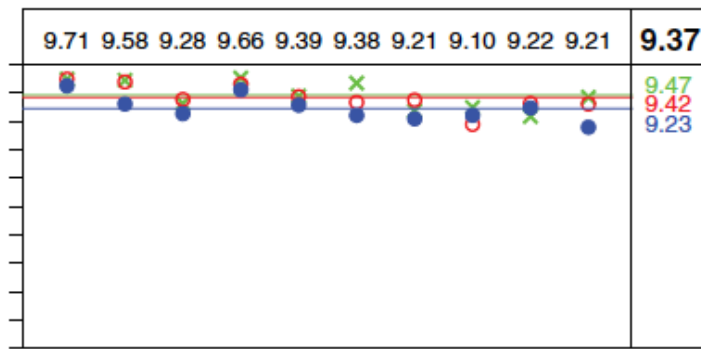
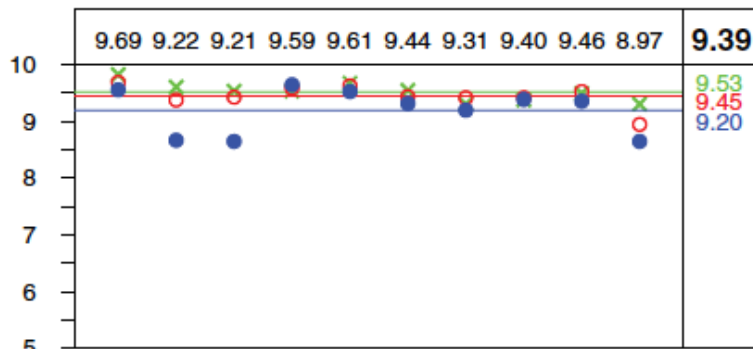
# Quantitative verification

S2  
0-0.5 Hz



Comb. Avg.

S1  
Average



Comb. Avg.

NSS SVD LEV CLT PAS RUS DLA USC NOT USB

NSS SVD LEV CLT PAS RUS DLA USC NOT USB

NSS SVD LEV CLT PAS RUS DLA USC NOT USB

x — SDSU vs. CMU

● — CMU vs. URS

○ — URS vs. SDSU



## Validation

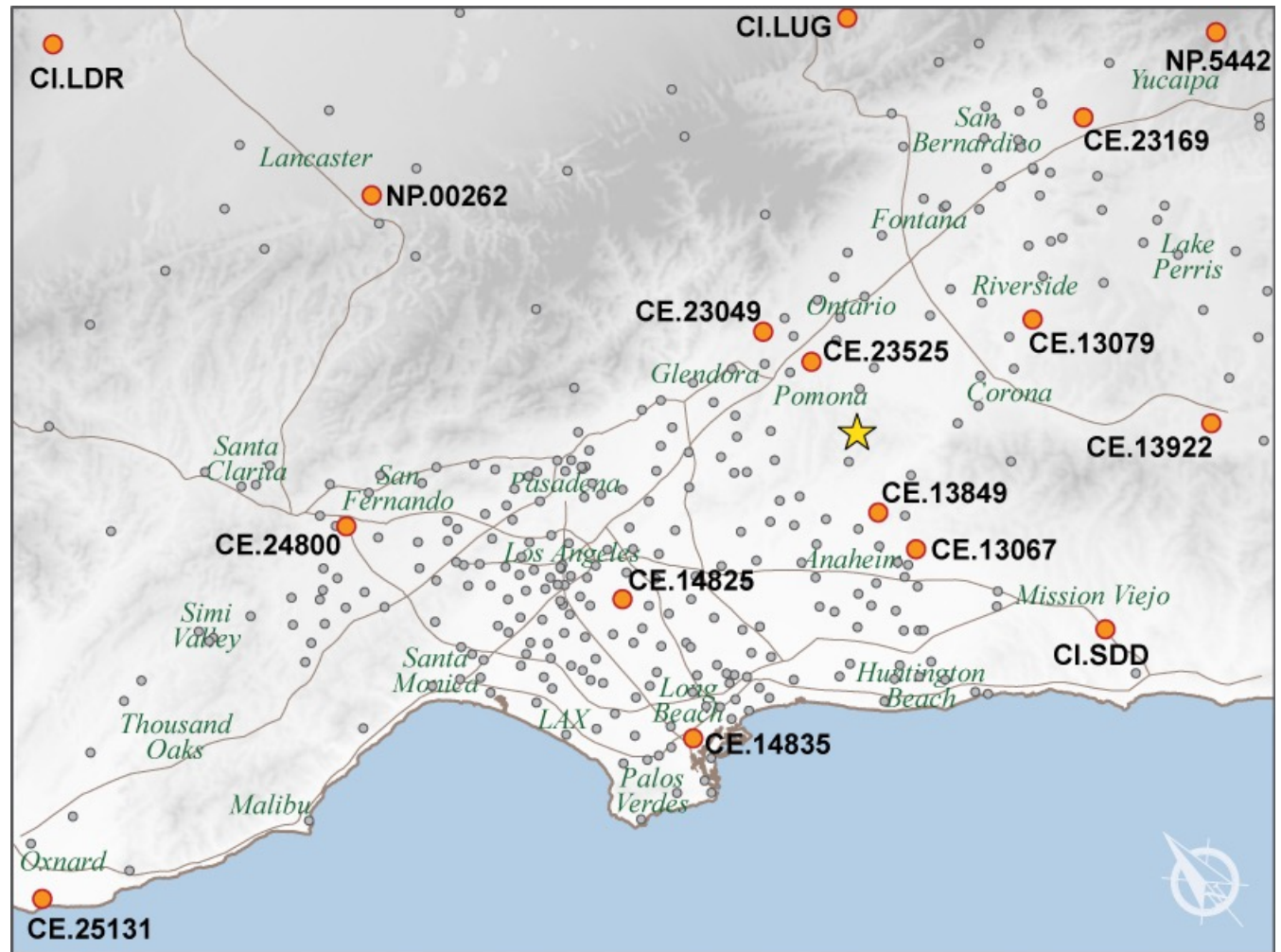
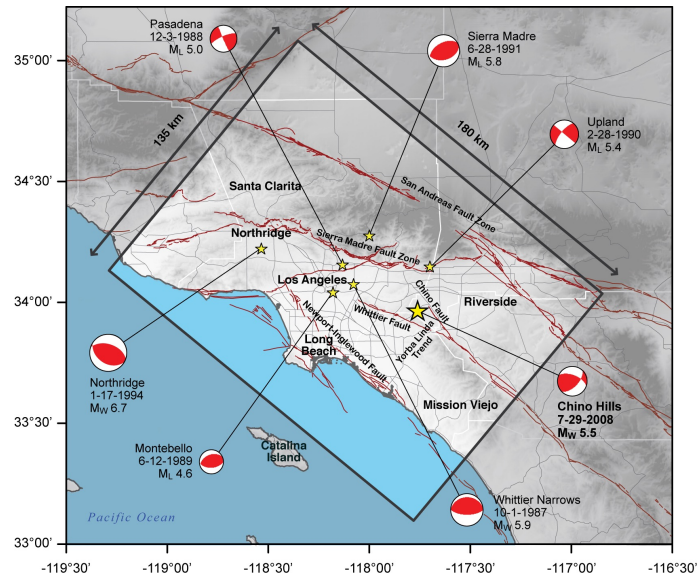
2008 Mw 5.4 Chino Hills earthquake

Taborda and Bielak (BSSA, 2013)

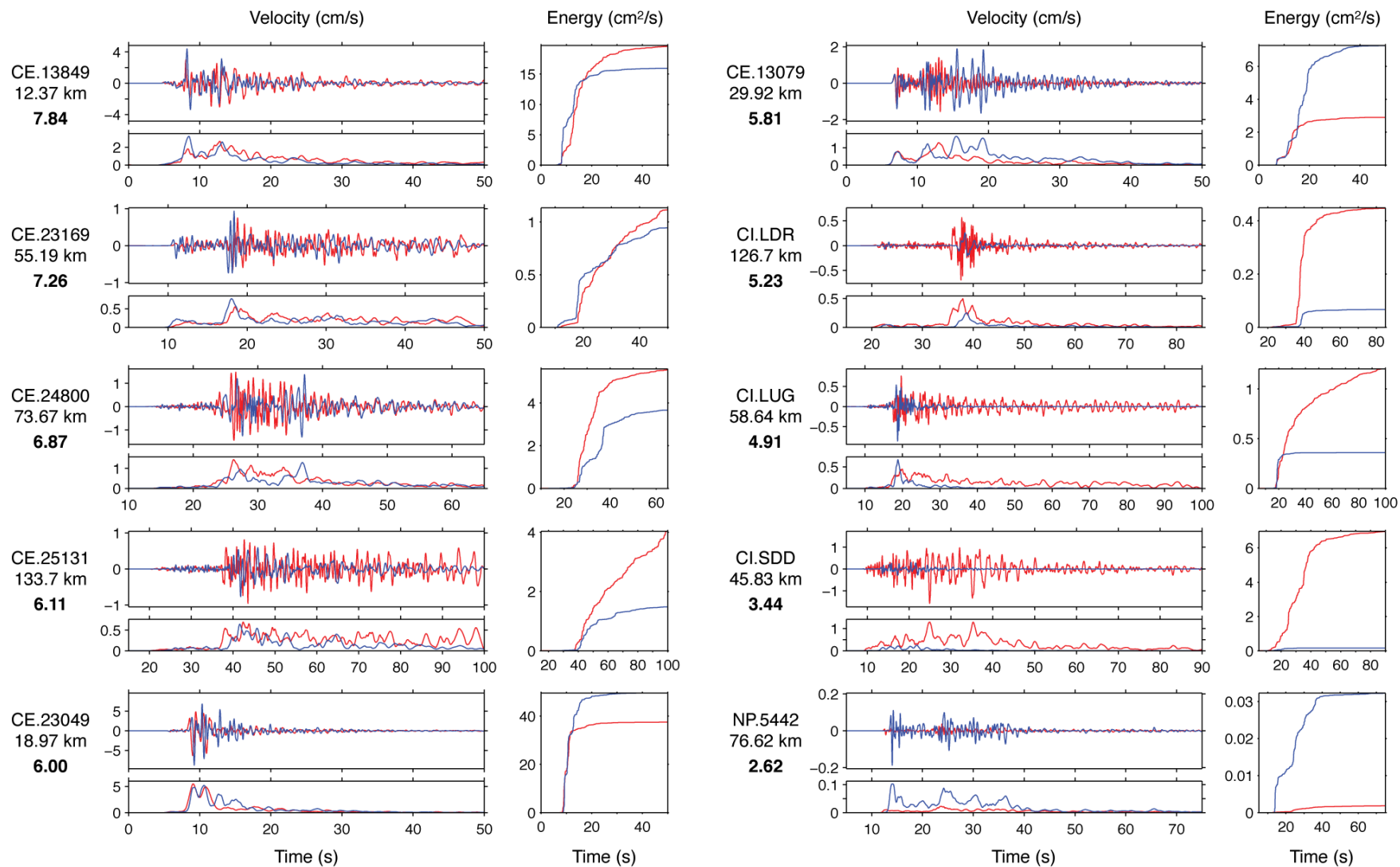
Taborda and Bielak (BSSA, 2014)

# 2008 Mw 5.4 Chino Hills earthquake verification and validation

- » 4 Hz
- » 200 m/s
- » 300+ observations



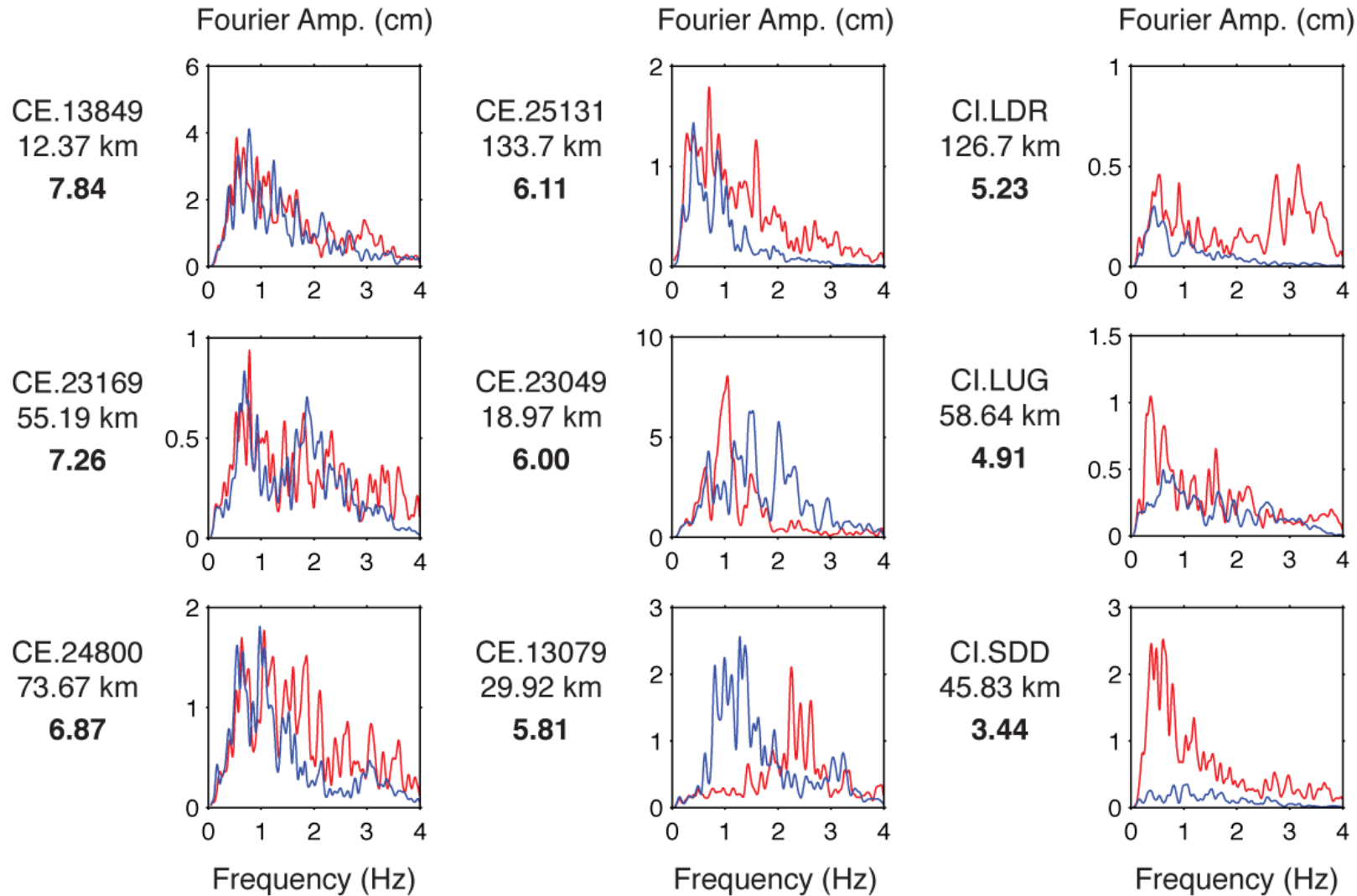
# Validation: time series and energy integral



— Data

— Synthetics

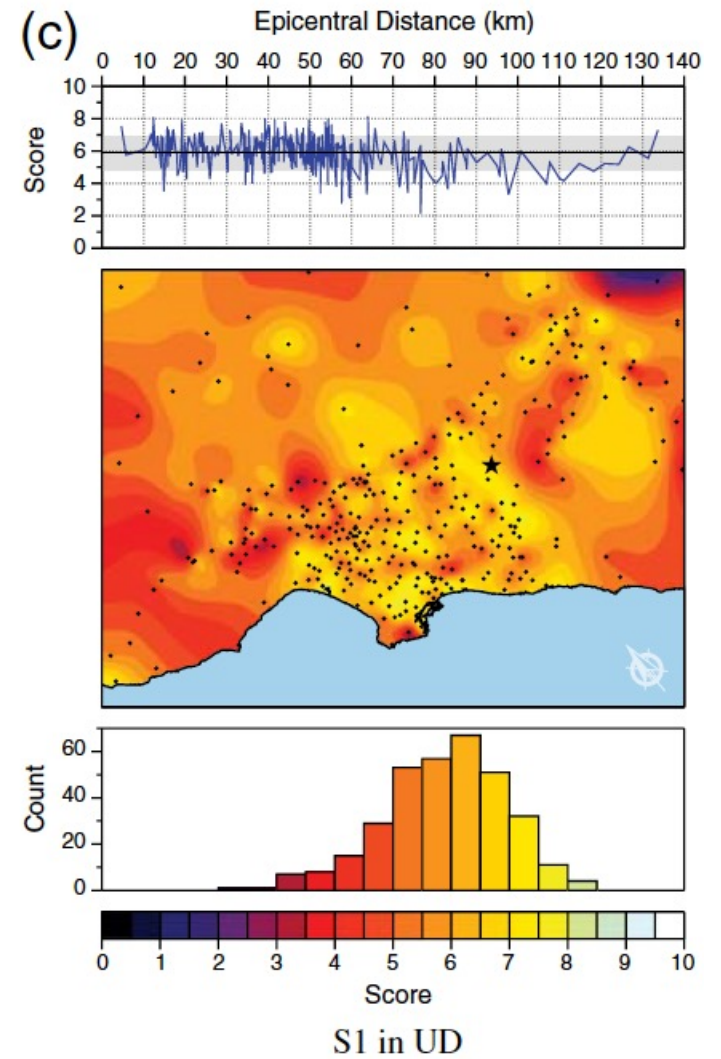
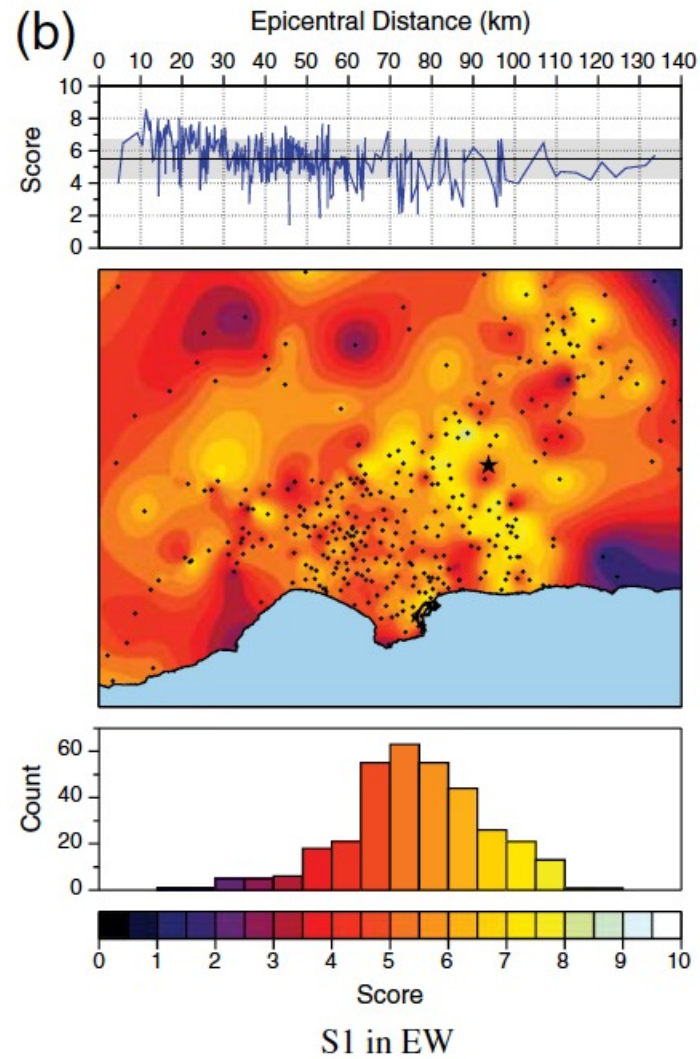
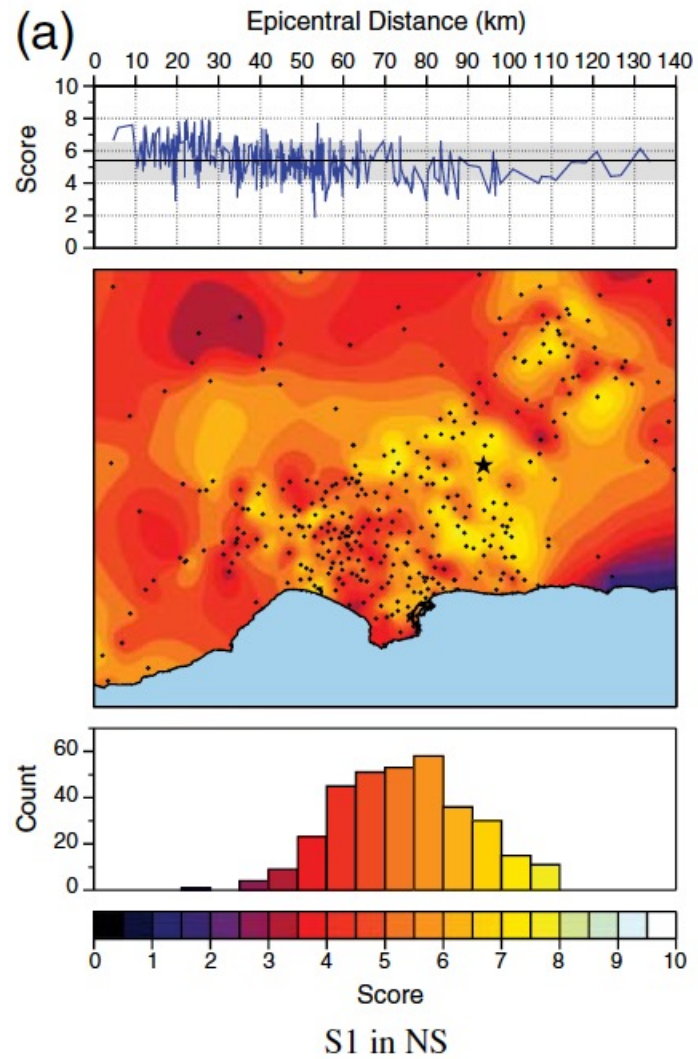
# Validation: Fourier spectra



— Data      — Synthetics

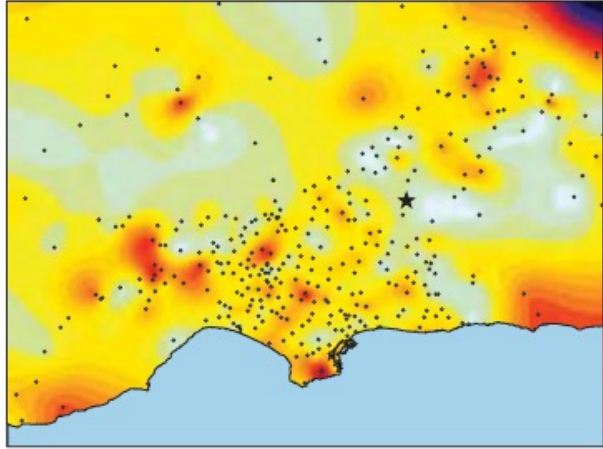


# GOF maps (components of motion)

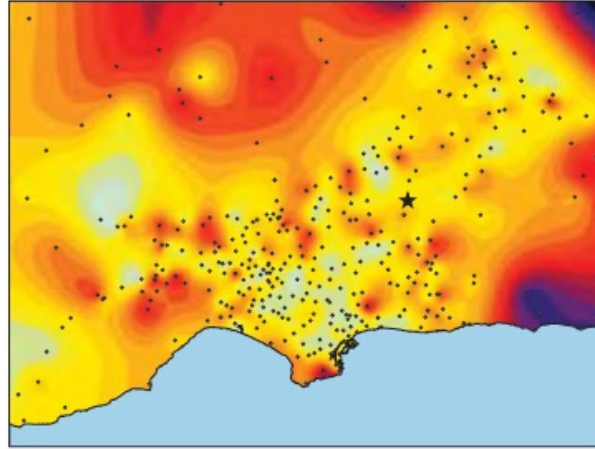


# GOF maps (frequency bands)

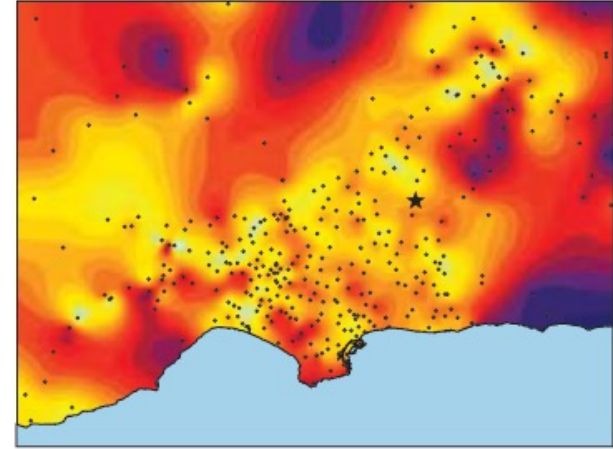
Band 0.1–0.25 Hz (SB<sub>1</sub>)



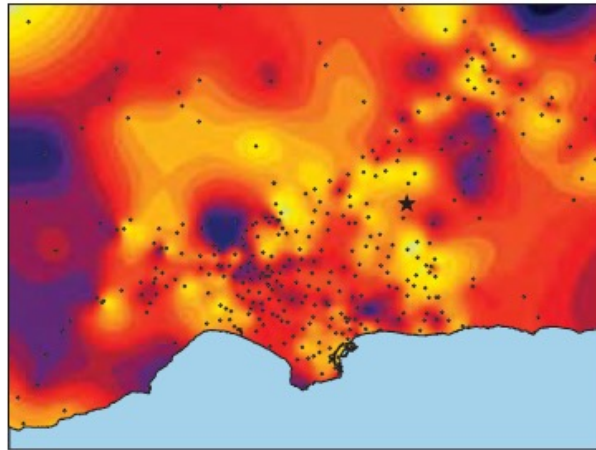
Band 0.25–0.5 Hz (SB<sub>2</sub>)



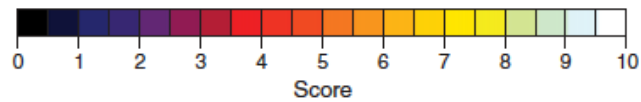
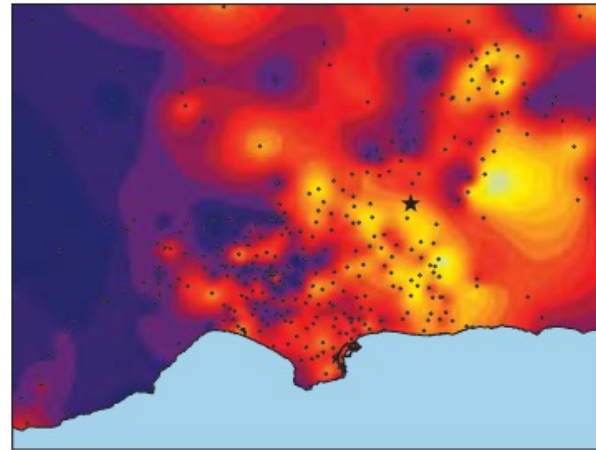
Band 0.5–1 Hz (SB<sub>3</sub>)



Band 0.1–2 Hz (SB<sub>4</sub>)

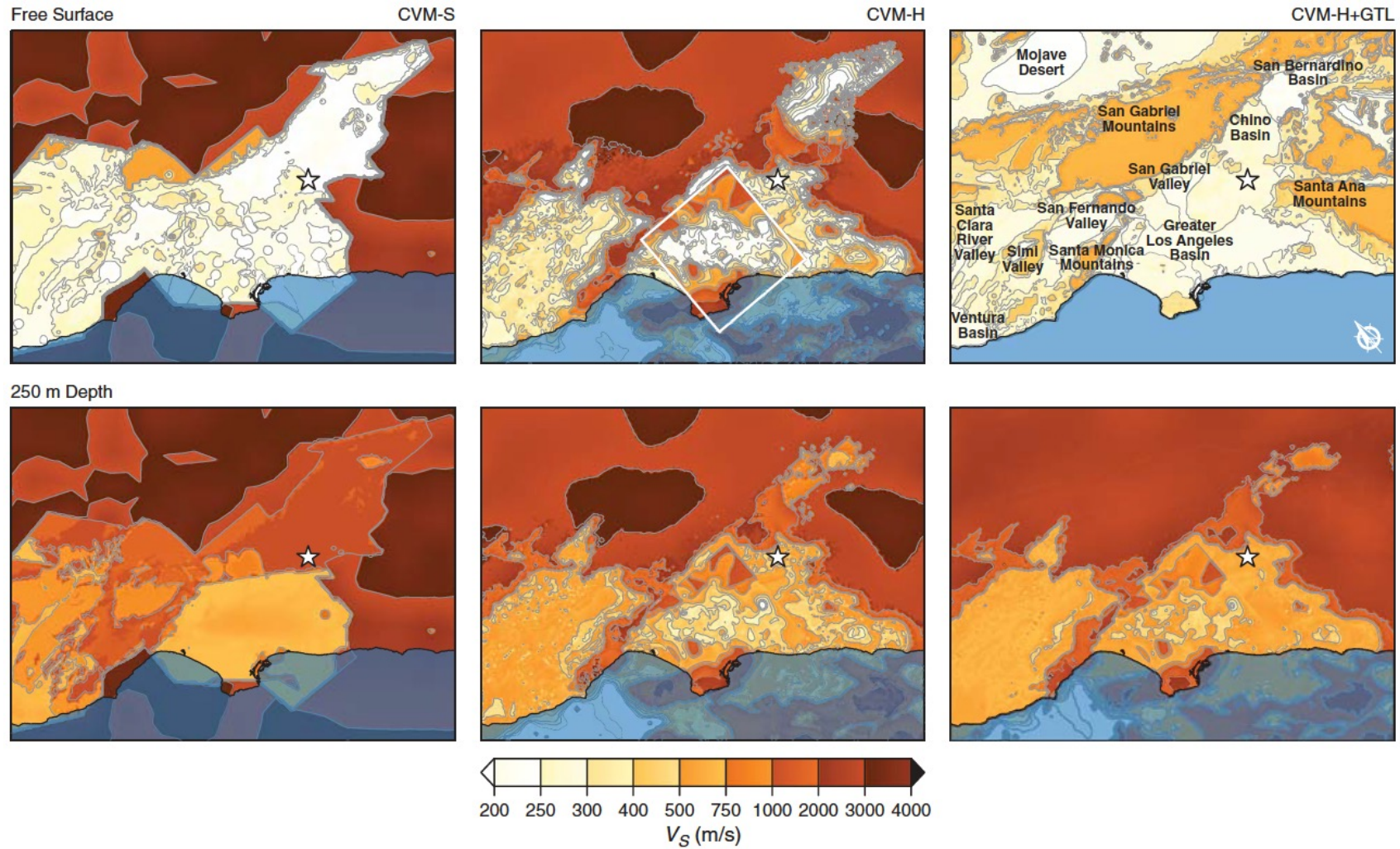


Band 2–4 Hz (SB<sub>5</sub>)

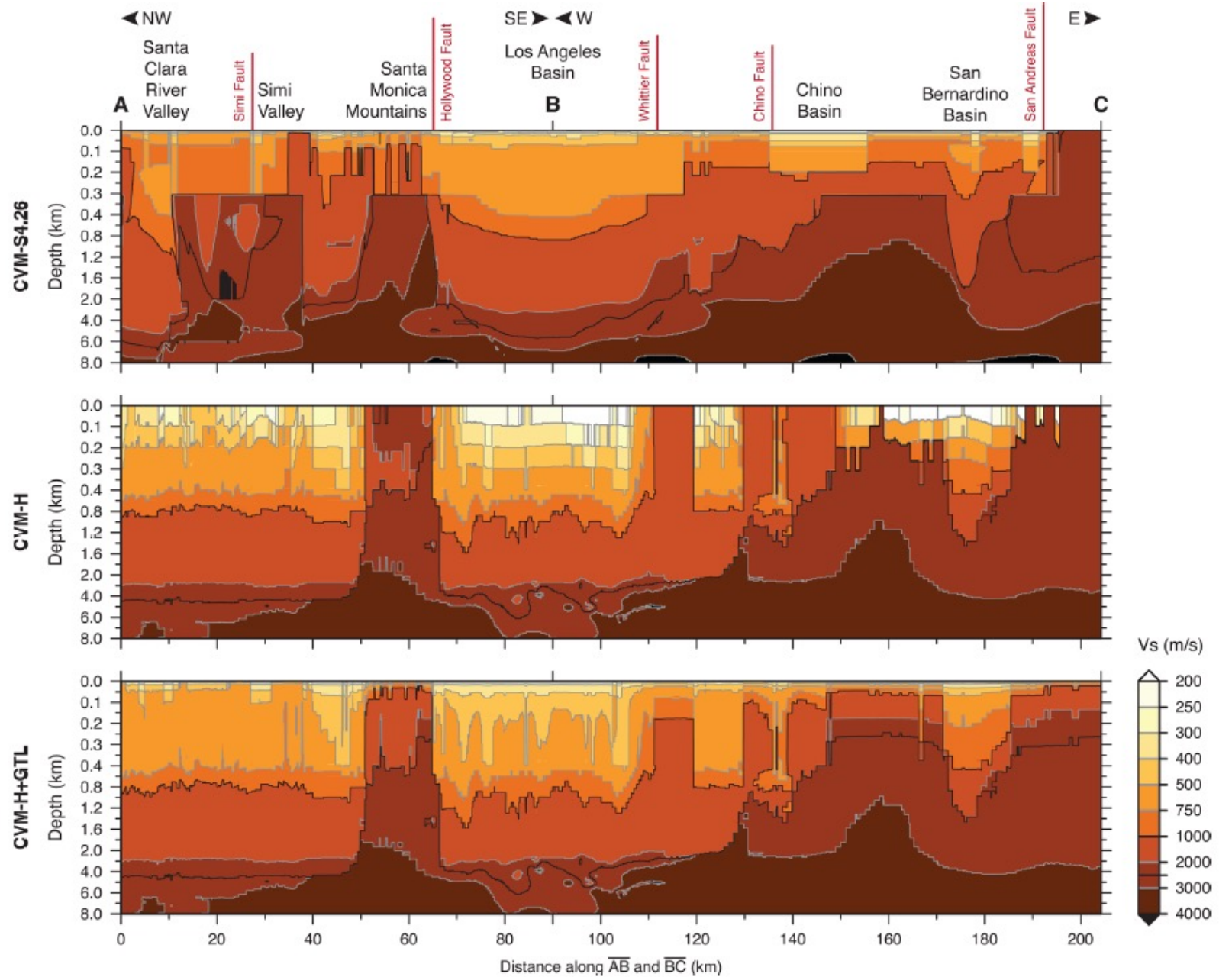




# Influence of seismic velocity models

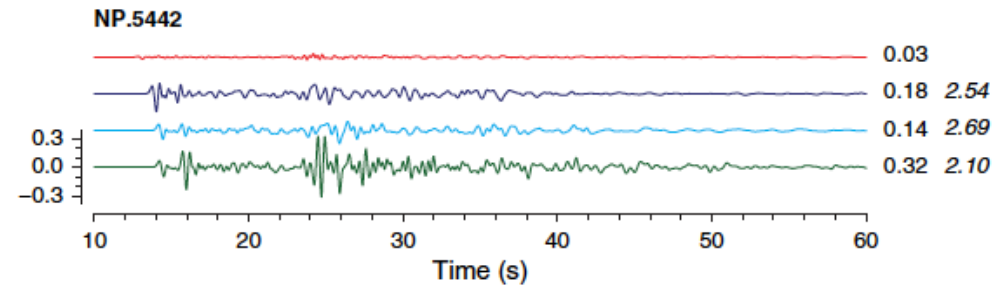
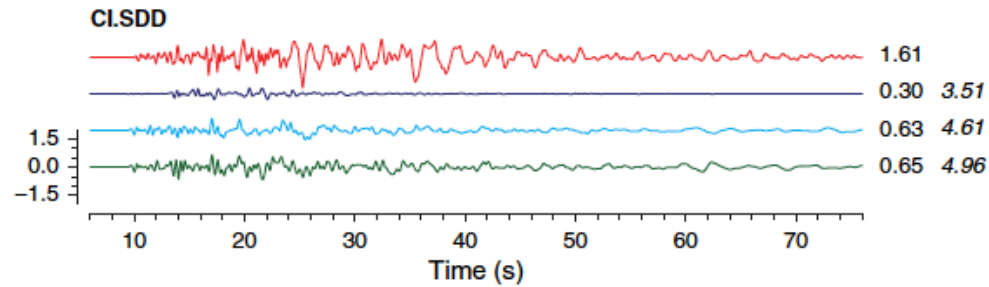
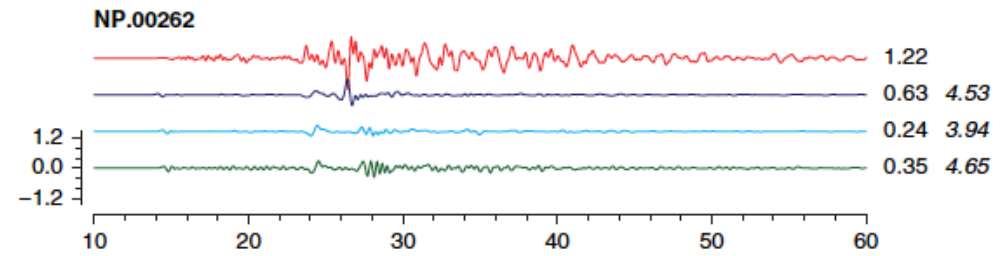
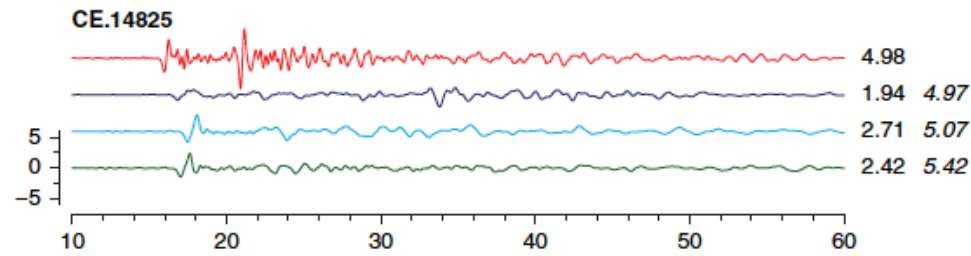
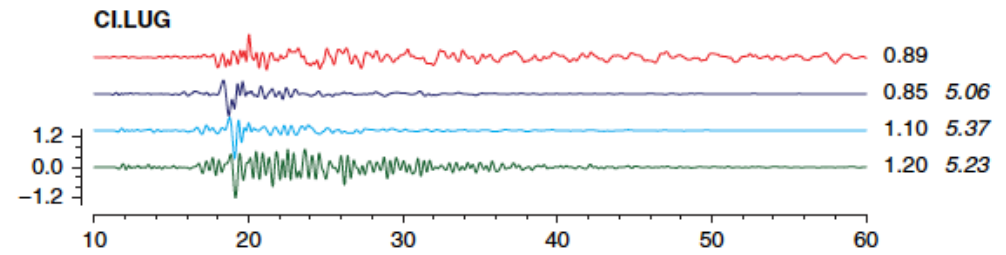
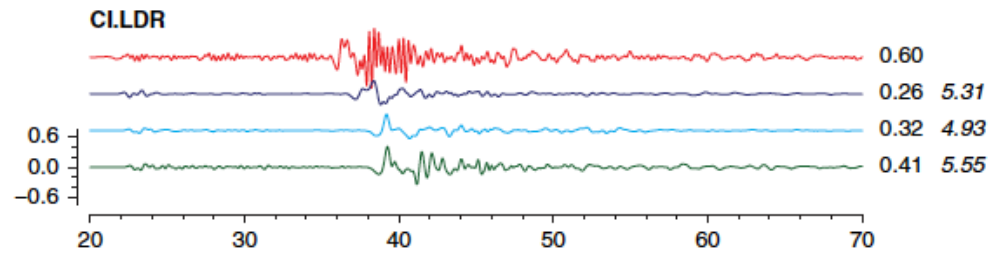
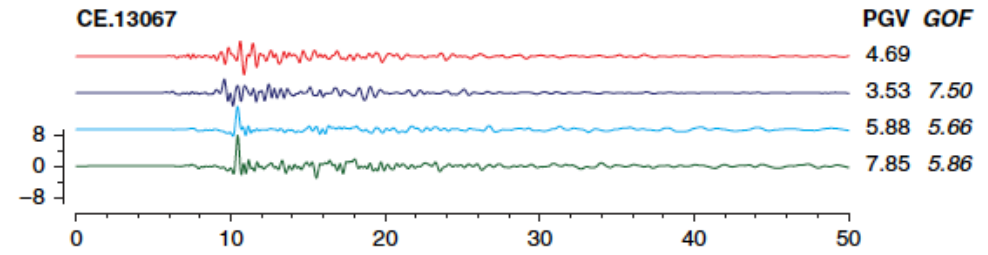
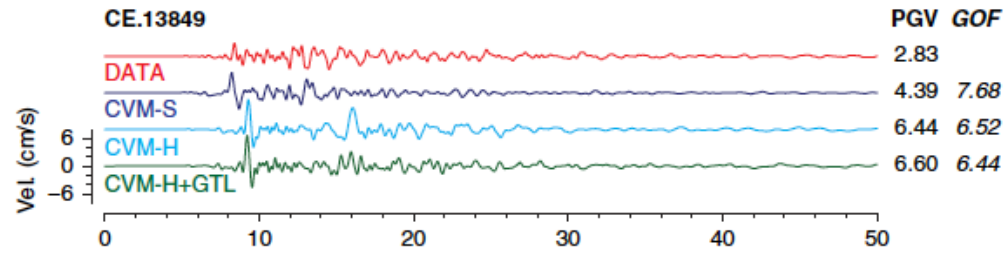


# Influence of seismic velocity models

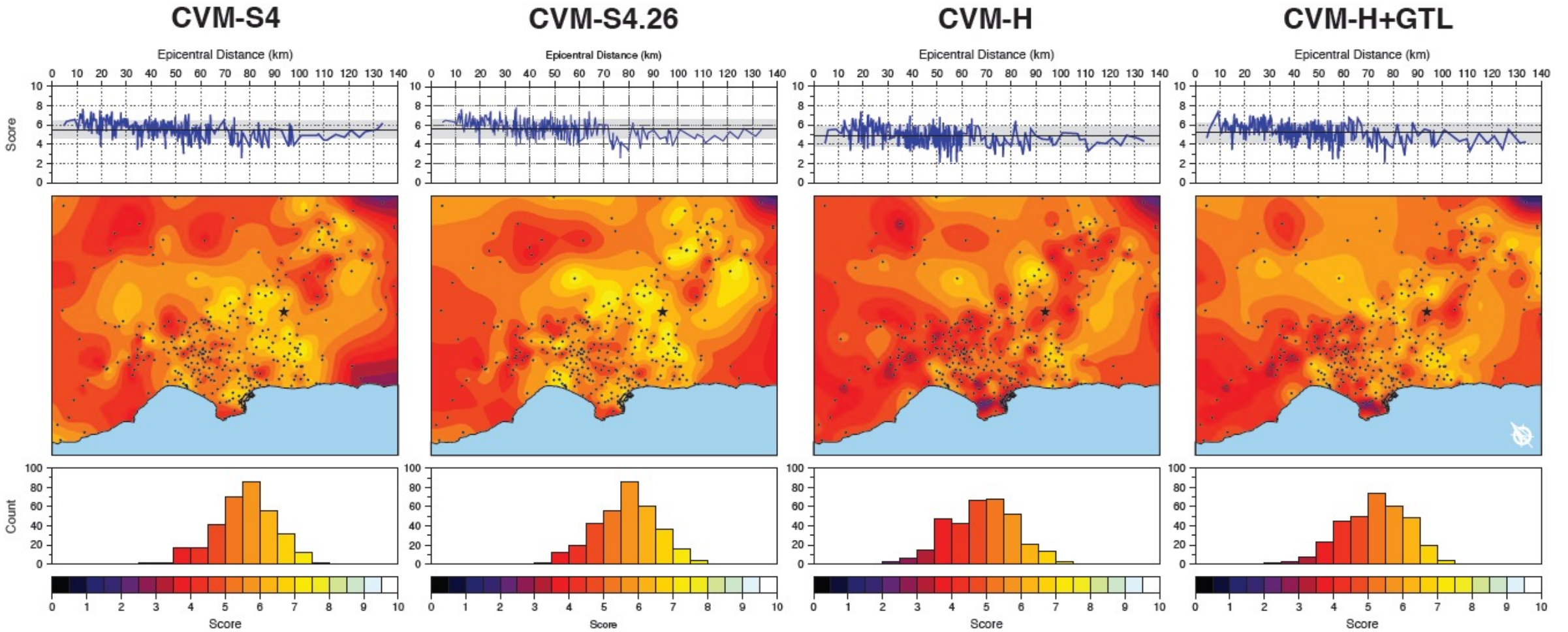




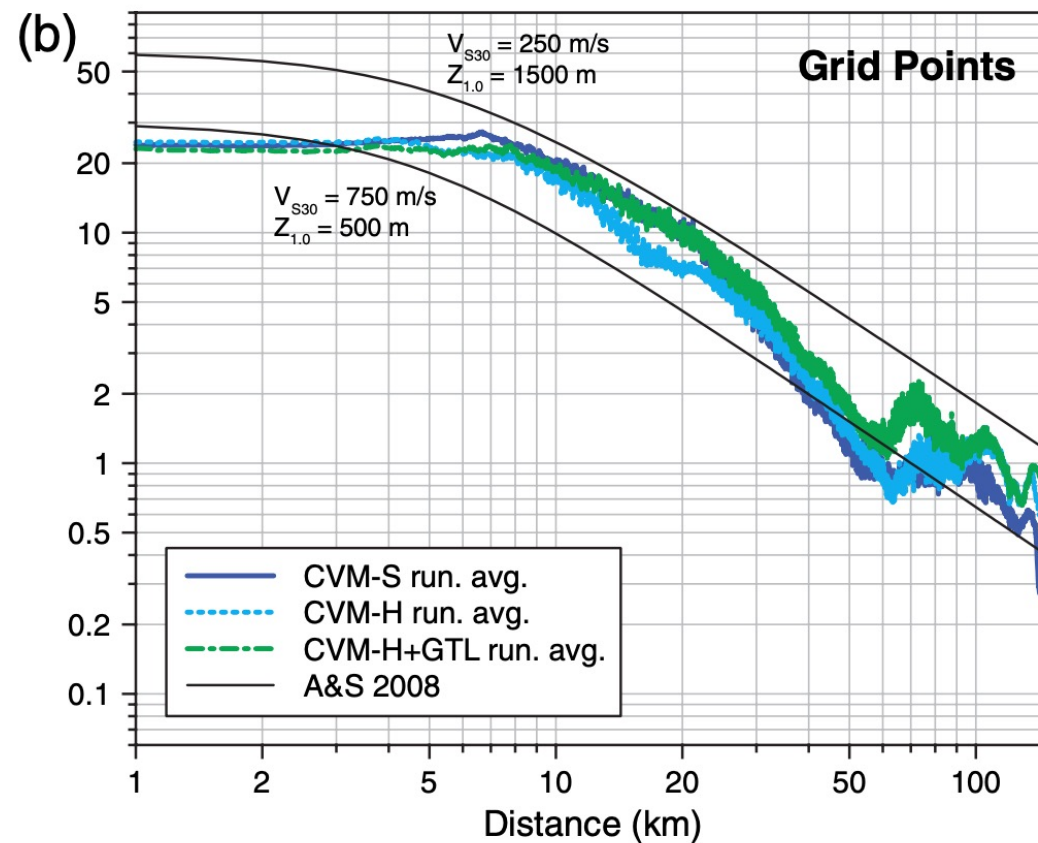
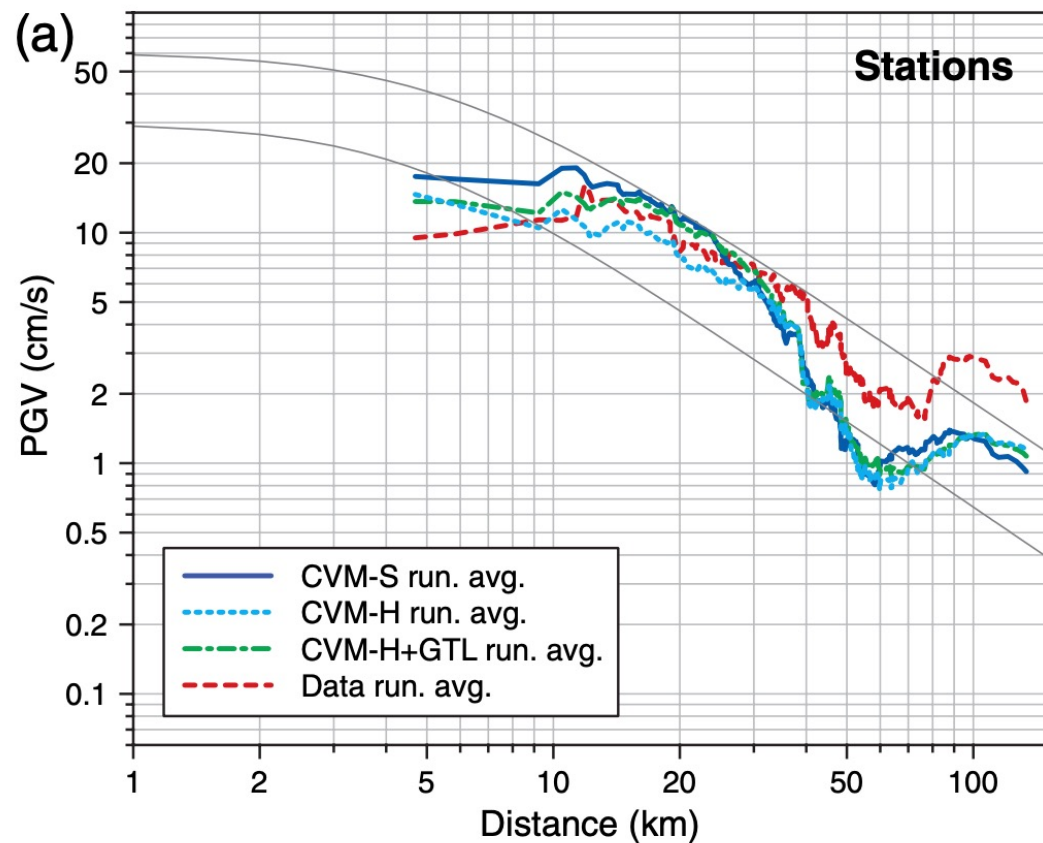
# Influence of seismic velocity models on synthetics

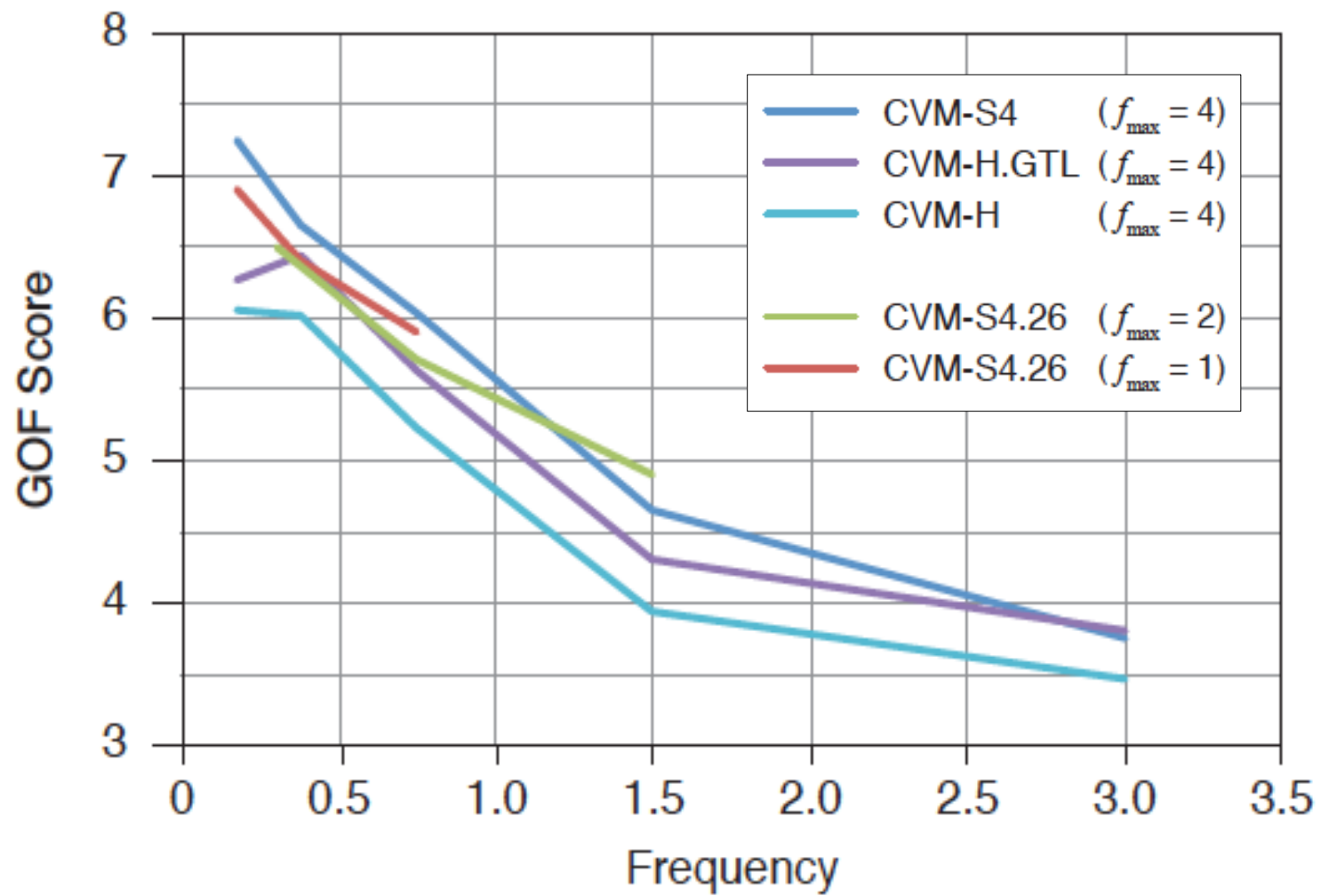


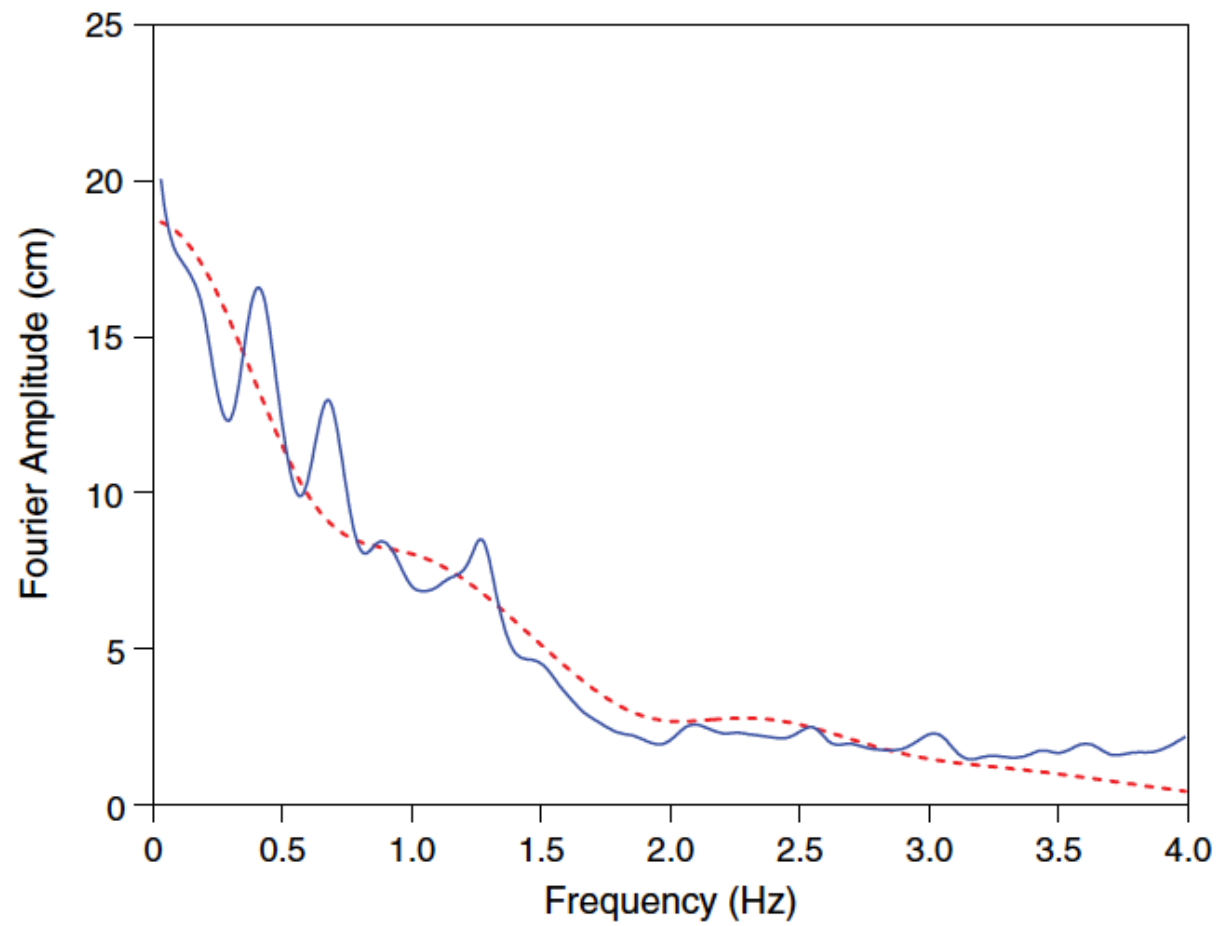
# Influence of seismic velocity models on validation results



# Validation in terms of attenuation







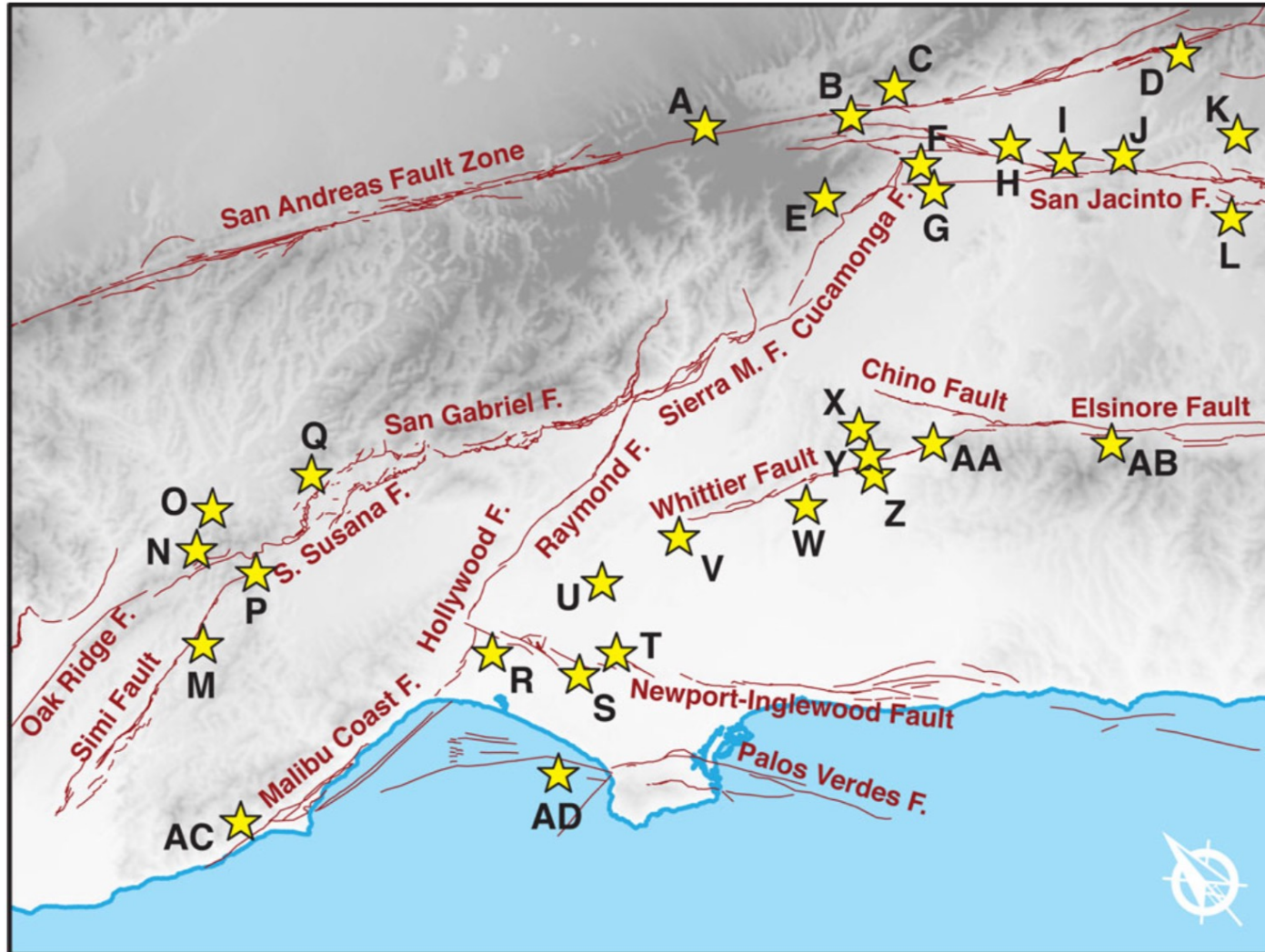
## **Validation**

Multiple events in the greater L.A. region

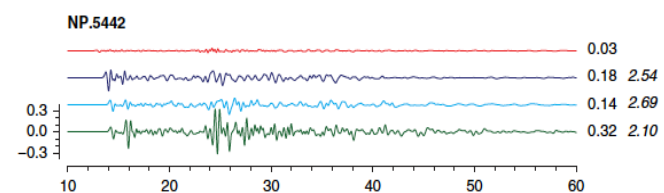
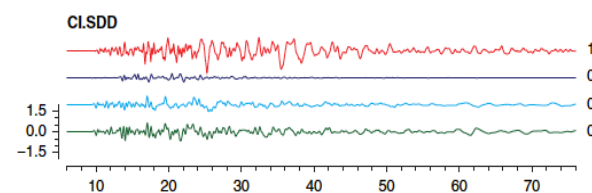
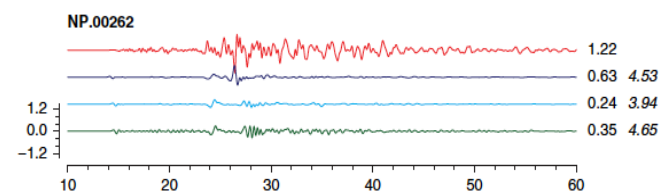
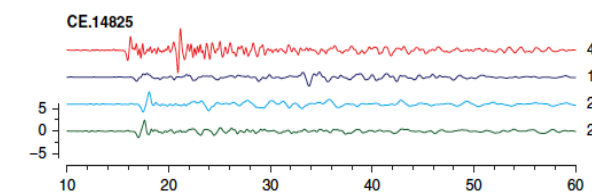
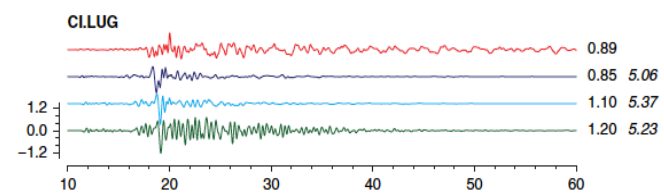
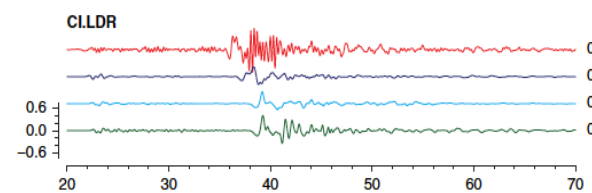
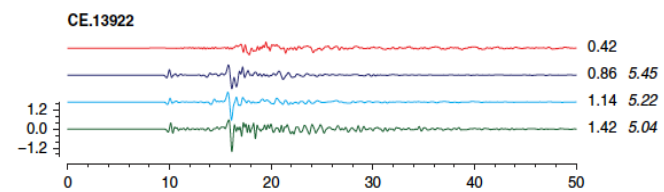
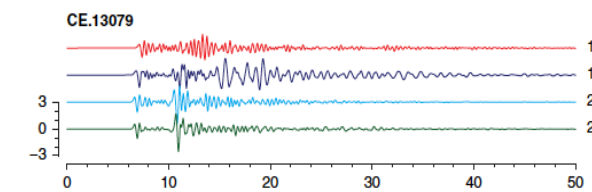
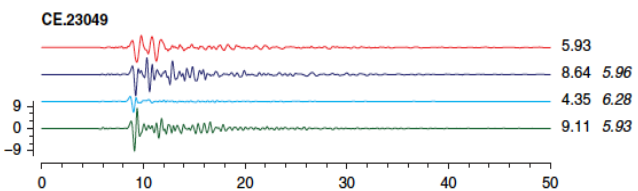
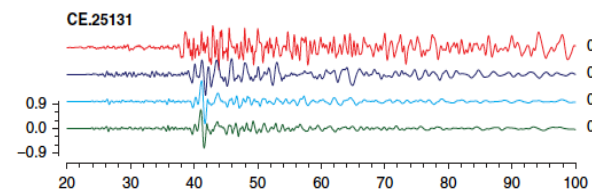
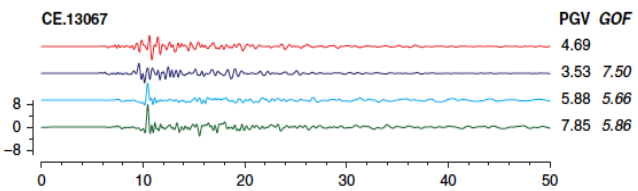
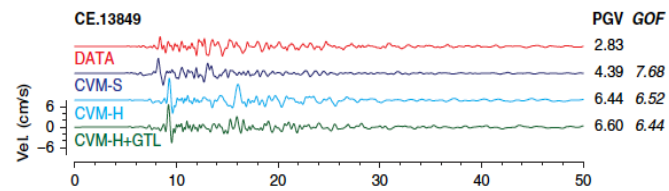
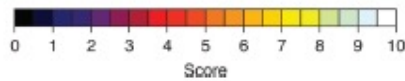
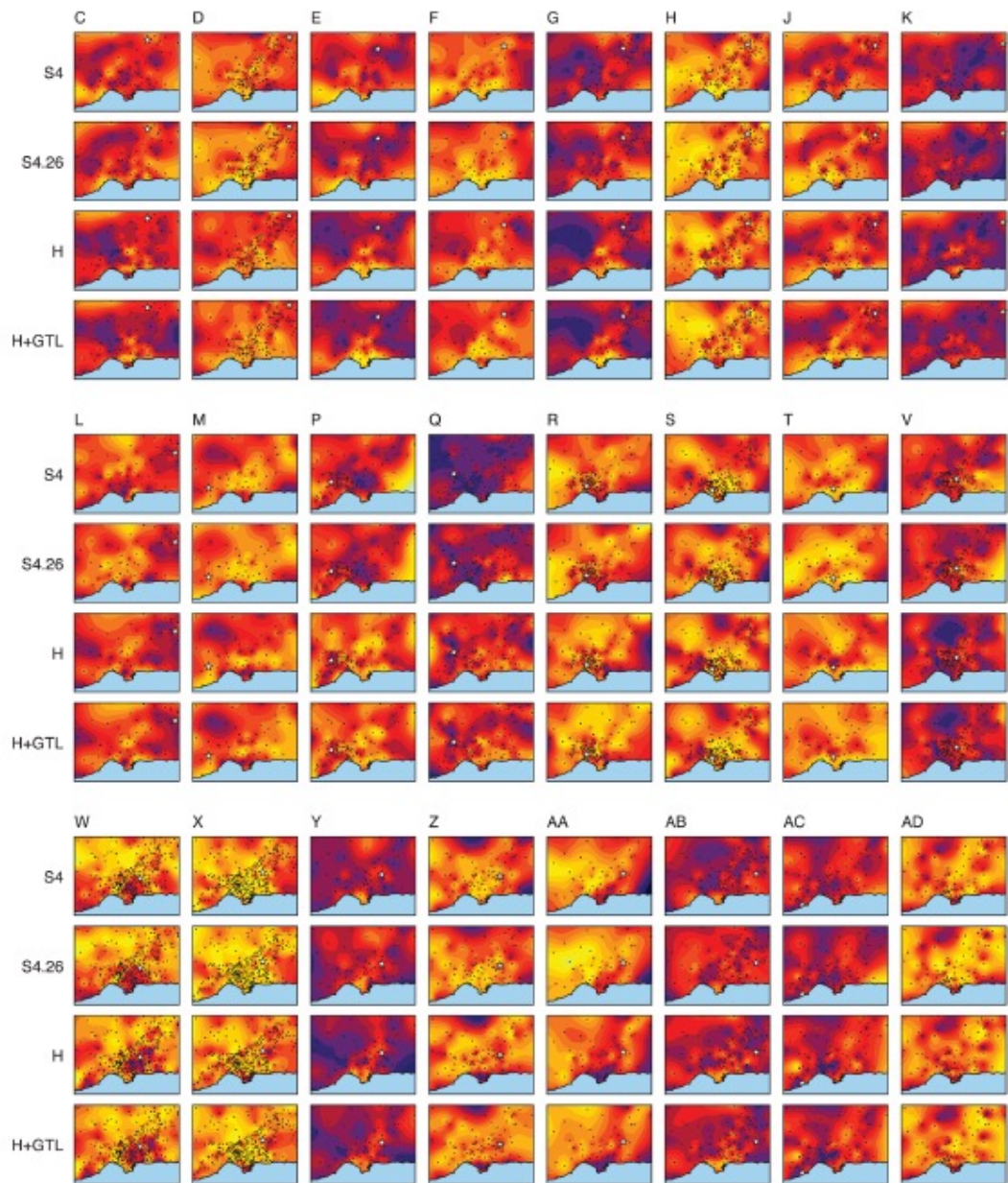


# Multiple events and additional models

(CVM-S4, CVM-S4.26.M01, CVM-H, CVM-H+GTL)



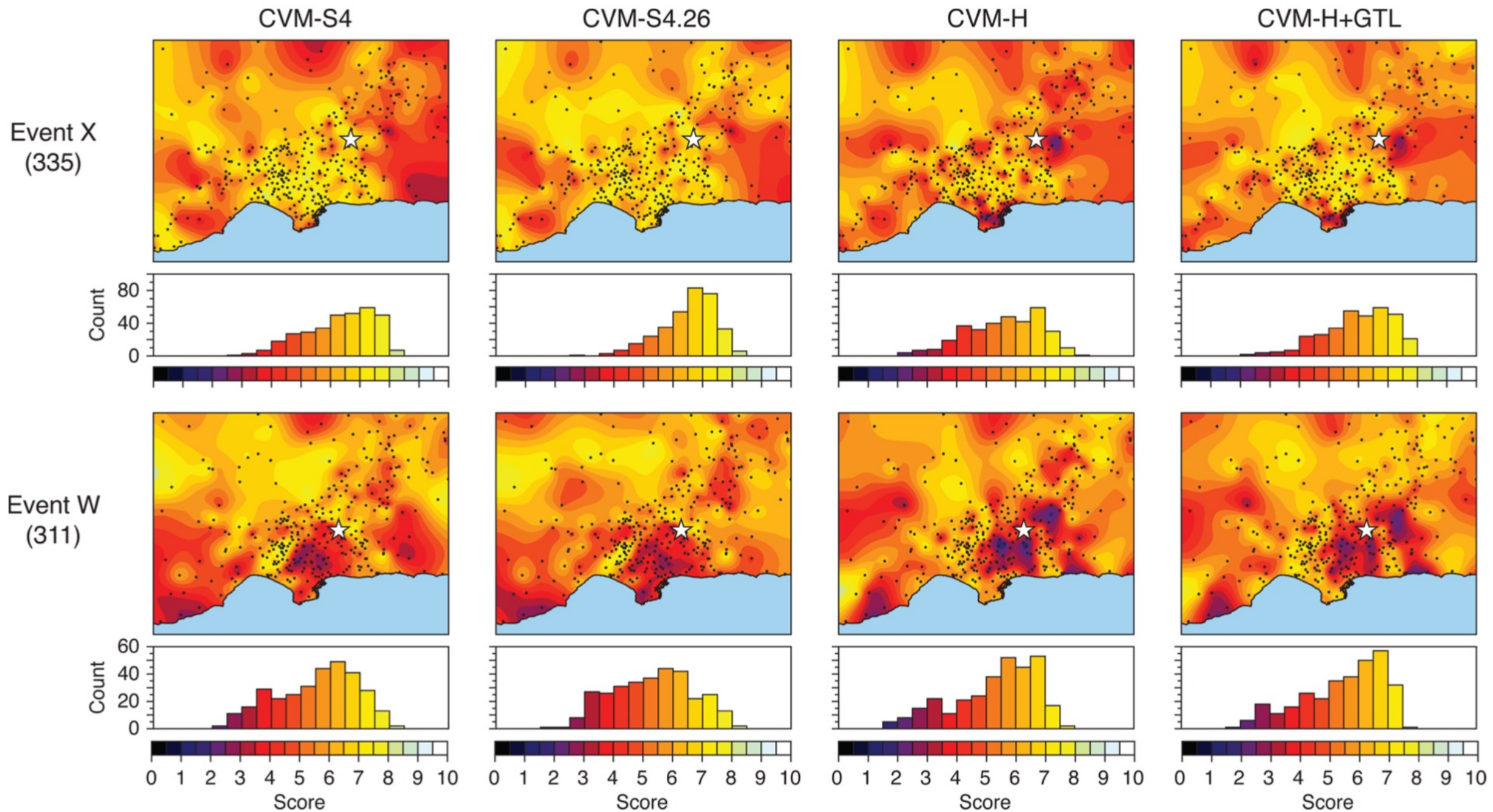
Code	Earthquake name	Mw	Depth (m)	Strike/Dip/Rake	Date (yyy/mm/dd)
A	Wrightwood	4.40	8.99	285/57/86	1998/08/20
B	NW of Devore	3.79	10.91	98/58/68	2001/07/19
C	NNE of Devore	3.72	7.18	344/69/-33	2009/08/01
D	Yucaipa	4.88	11.61	75/59/55	2005/06/16
E	N of Rancho Cucamonga	3.60	4.92	54/69/16	2006/11/04
F	2002 Fontana	3.74	6.54	233/72/-28	2002/07/25
G	2005 Fontana	4.42	4.15	222/88/-25	2005/01/06
H	San Bernardino	4.45	14.22	87/70/28	2009/01/09
I	N of Loma Linda	4.37	15.36	270/90/-6	2000/02/21
J	Redlands	4.10	8.53	33/46/-68	2010/02/13
K	2010 Beaumont	4.28	13.93	234/89/9	2010/01/16
L	2006 Beaumont	3.90	11.53	45/31/-25	2006/07/10
M	Simi Valley	3.59	13.81	234/62/60	2003/10/29
N	WSW of Valencia	3.90	14.21	83/62/57	2002/01/29
O	N of Pico Canyon	3.98	11.53	287/55/54	1999/07/22
P	Chatsworth	4.66	7.58	82/27/51	2007/08/09
Q	Newhall	3.86	3.59	236/58/33	2012/10/28
R	Beverly Hills	4.24	7.90	262/81/4	2001/09/09
S	Inglewood Area	4.70	13.86	243/60/25	2009/05/18
T	NW of Compton	3.98	31.13	116/68/71	2001/10/28
U	Downtown Los Angeles	3.77	9.53	125/49/79	1999/06/29
V	Whittier Narrows	4.44	18.85	282/36/73	2010/03/16
W	La Habra	5.10	5.00	239/70/38	2014/03/29
X	Chino Hills	5.39	14.70	47/51/32	2008/07/29
Y	2002 Yorba Linda	4.75	12.92	34/84/-10	2002/09/03
Z	2009 Yorba Linda	3.98	4.23	208/65/26	2009/04/24
AA	ESE of Yorba Linda	3.64	3.59	56/65/37	2001/04/13
AB	Lake Elsinore	4.73	12.60	65/59/58	2007/09/02
AC	Westlake Village	4.42	14.17	254/73/30	2009/05/02
AD	Hermosa Beach	3.69	11.23	57/41/54	2010/06/07



Time (s)

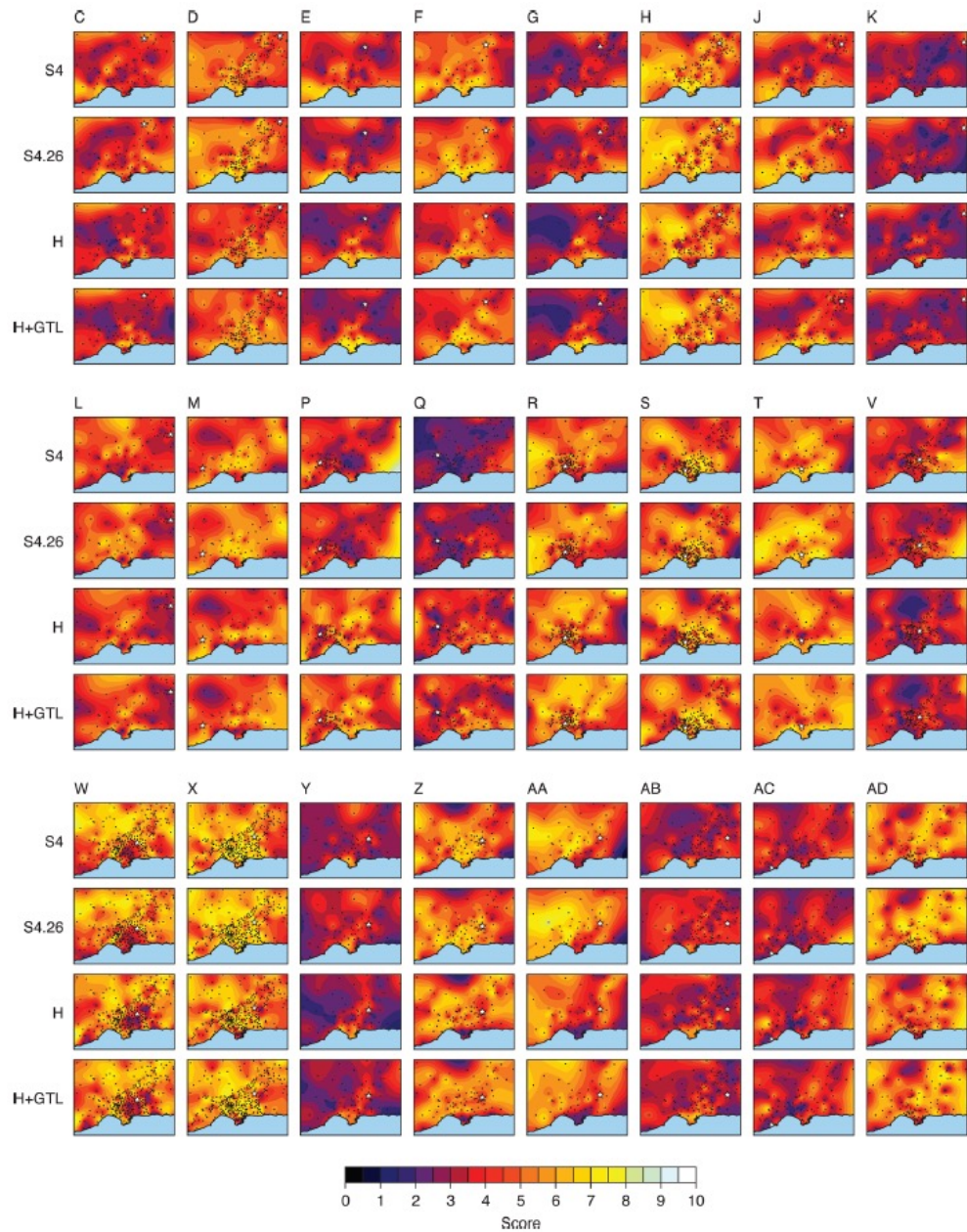
Time (s)



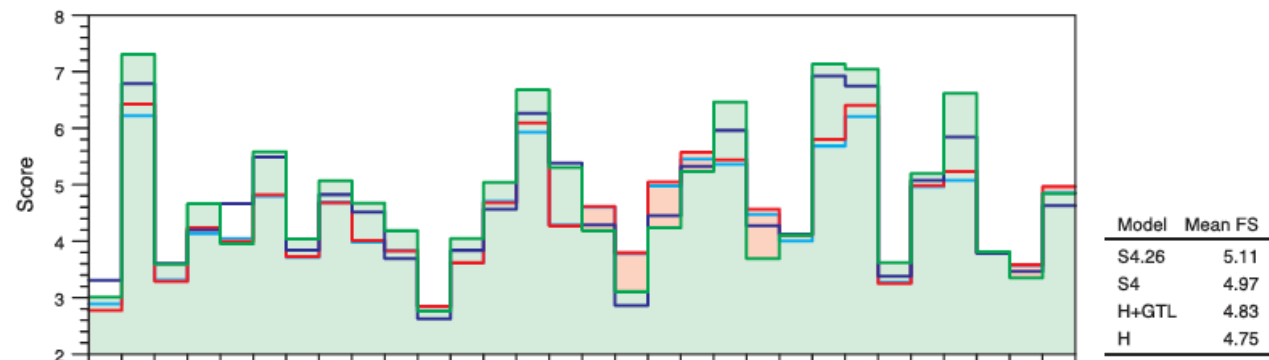




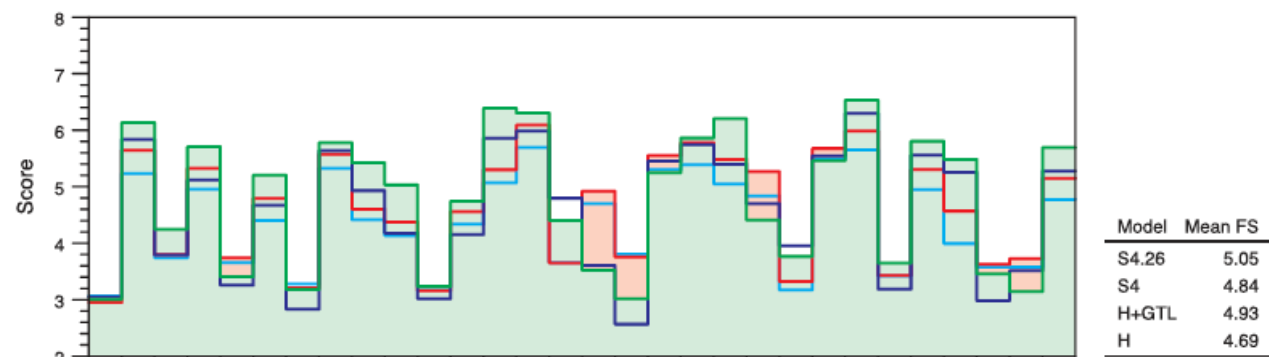




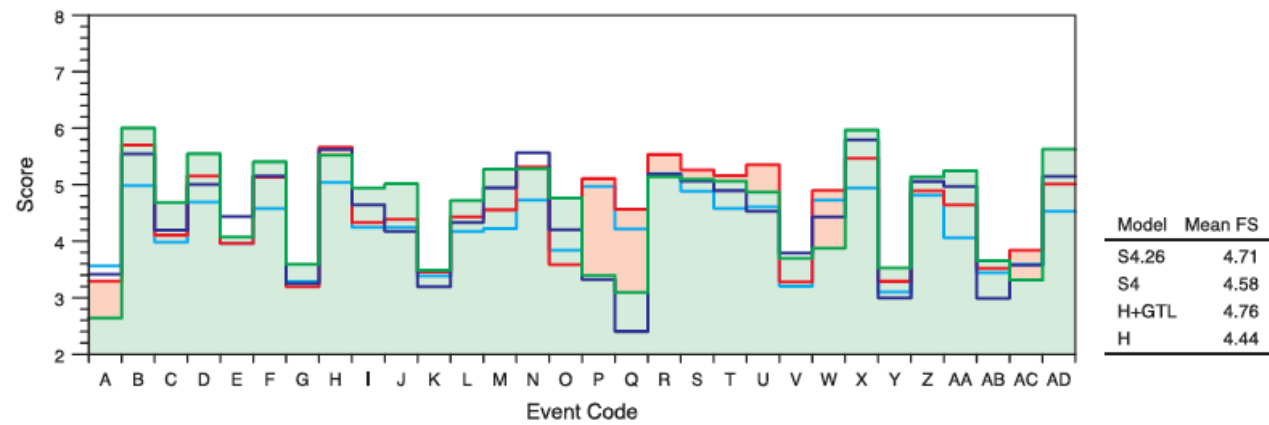
**B1**  
(0.1–0.25 Hz)

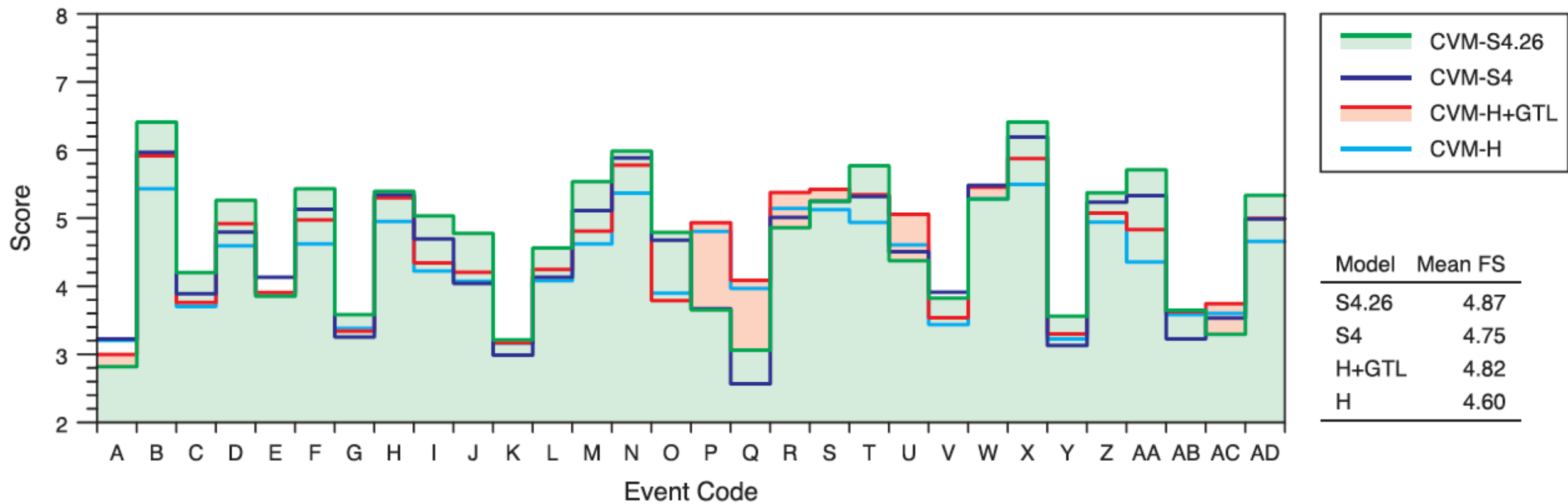


**B2**  
(0.25–0.5 Hz)



**B3**  
(0.5–1 Hz)

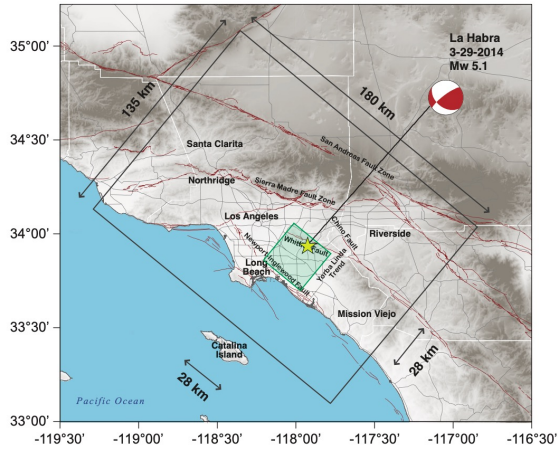




# **Verification and Validation**

2014 Mw 5.1 La Habra earthquake





Name: La Habra  
 Date: 03-29-2014  
 Time: 04:09:42.97  
 Magnitude: Mw 5.1

Longitude: 117.930°  
 Latitude: 33.922°  
 Depth: 5.0 km

Strike/Dip/Rake: 239/70/38  
 (Lee et al., 2014)

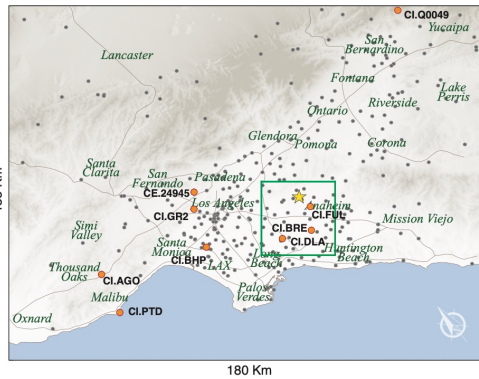
Large Simulation Domain:  
 180 km x 135 km x 61.875 km

Small Simulation Domain  
 (green box):  
 28 km x 28 km x 14 km

Large Domain Bounding Box:  
 -119.288842°, 34.120549°  
 -118.354016°, 35.061096°  
 -116.846030°, 34.025873°  
 -117.780976°, 33.096503°

Rotation Angle: 39.9°

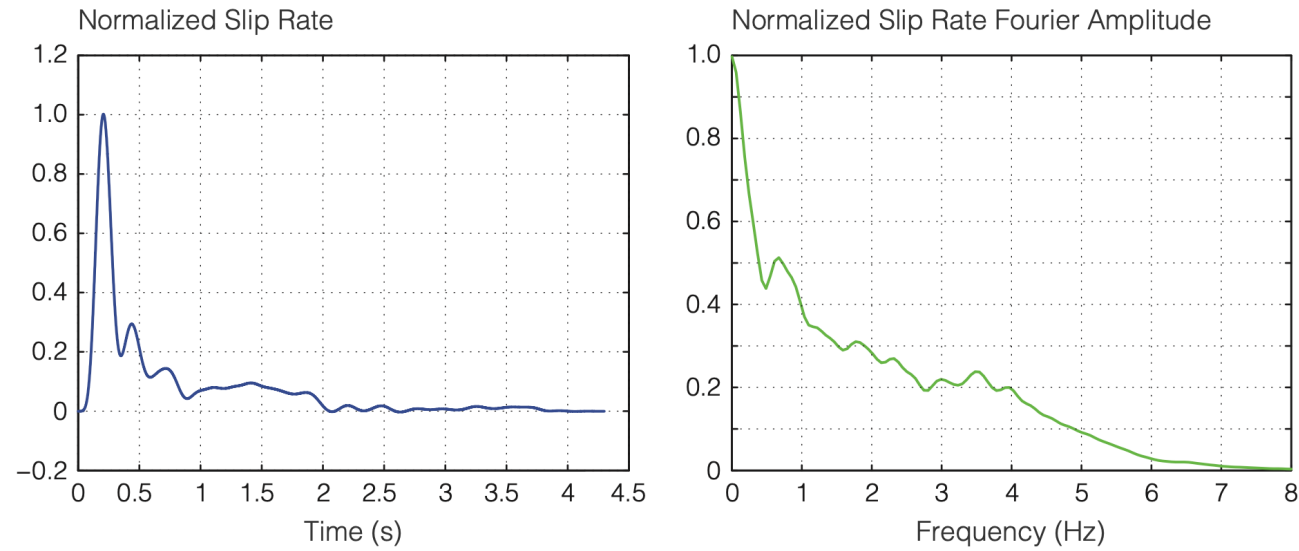
Avail. Records: 350+ stations



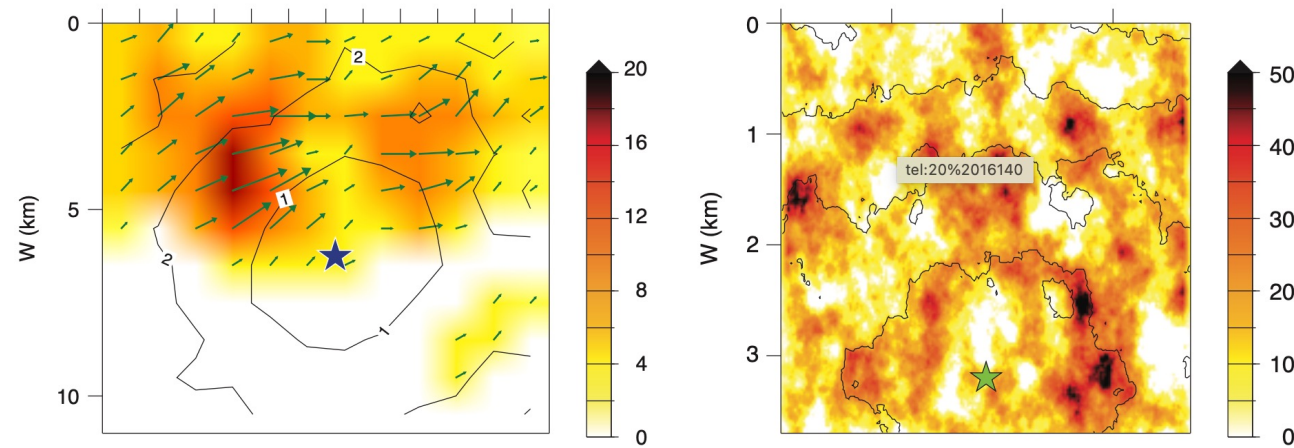
Domain Size	Velocity Model	Attenuation	Source	Code Completion
Large	Halfspace	None (Elastic)	Point Source	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Large	1D Crustal Model	None (Elastic)	Point Source	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Large	1D Crustal Model	Freq. Indep. Q	Point Source	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Large	1D Crustal Model	Freq. Dep. Q	Point Source	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Large	3D Crustal Model	Freq. Indep. Q	Point Source	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Small	3D Crustal Model	Freq. Indep. Q	Point Source	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Small	3D Crustal Model	Freq. Indep. Q	Finite F. (Wei)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Small	3D Crustal Model	Freq. Indep. Q	Finite F. (G&P)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Large	3D Crustal Model	Freq. Indep. Q	Finite Fault	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Large	3D Crustal Model	Freq. Dep. Q	Finite Fault	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

Used in validation

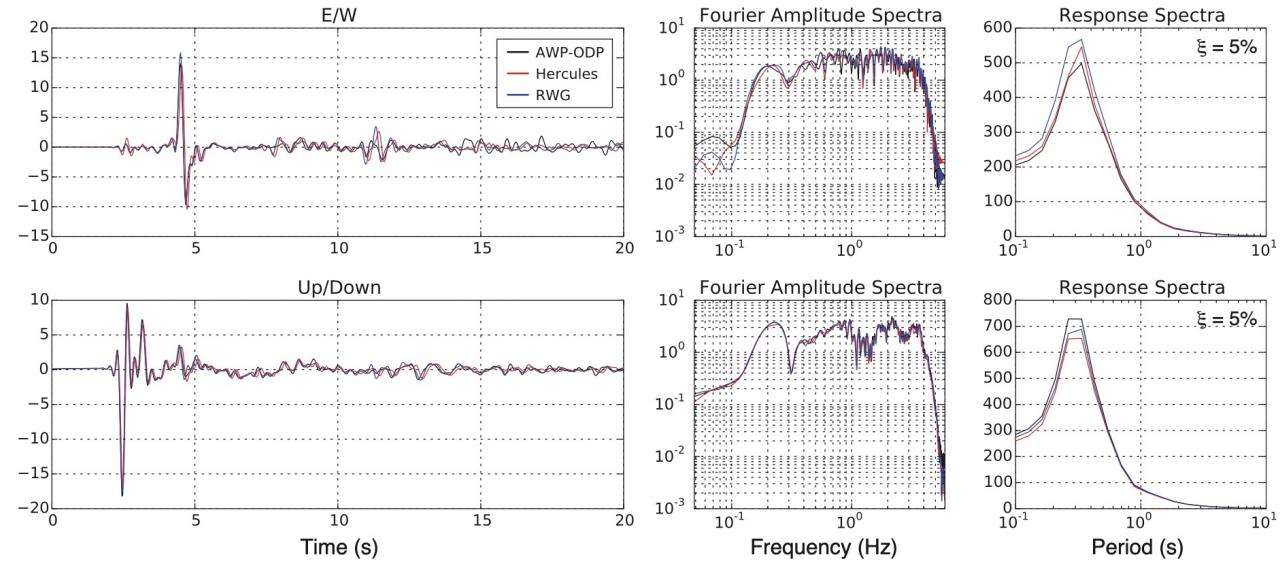
# Point Source Model



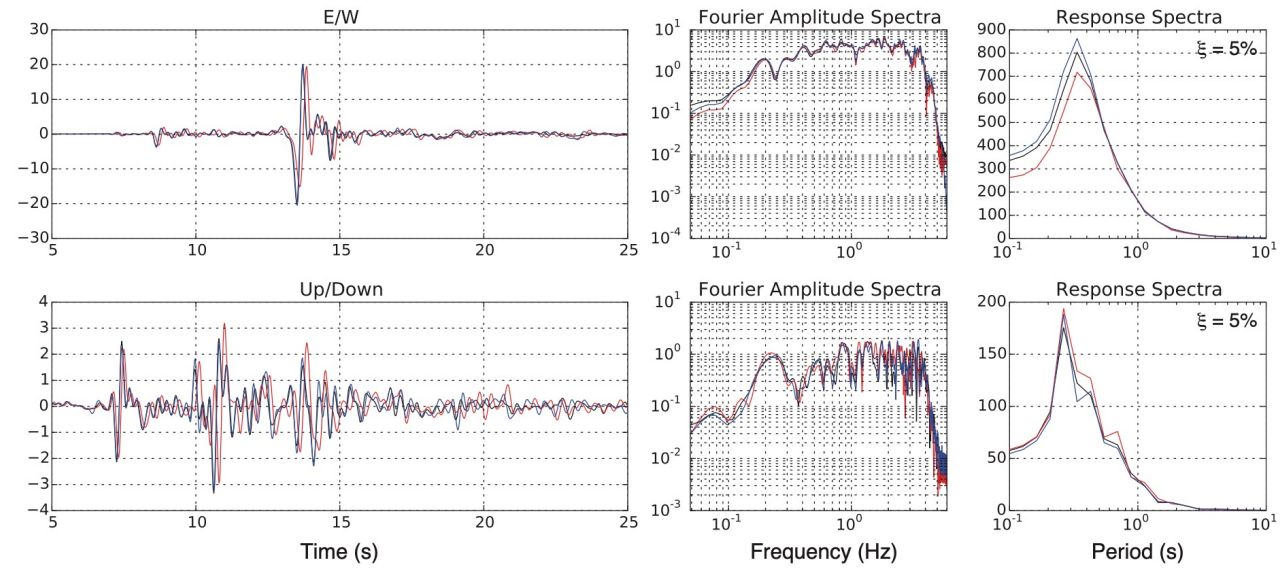
# Finite Fault Models



## Station CI.FUL

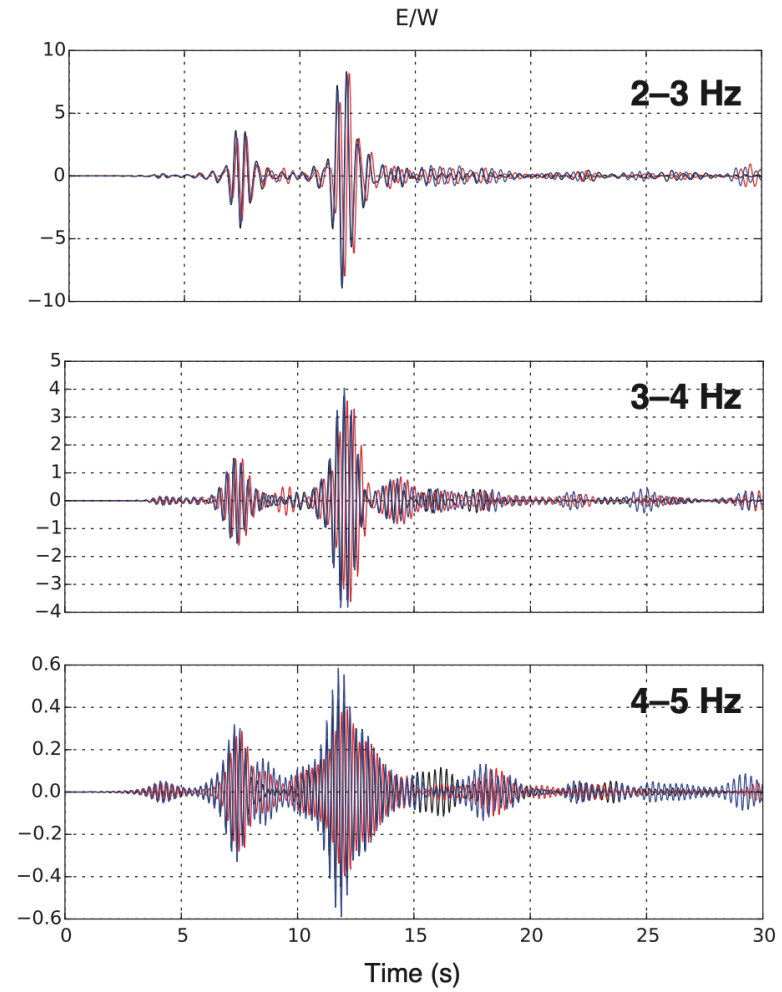
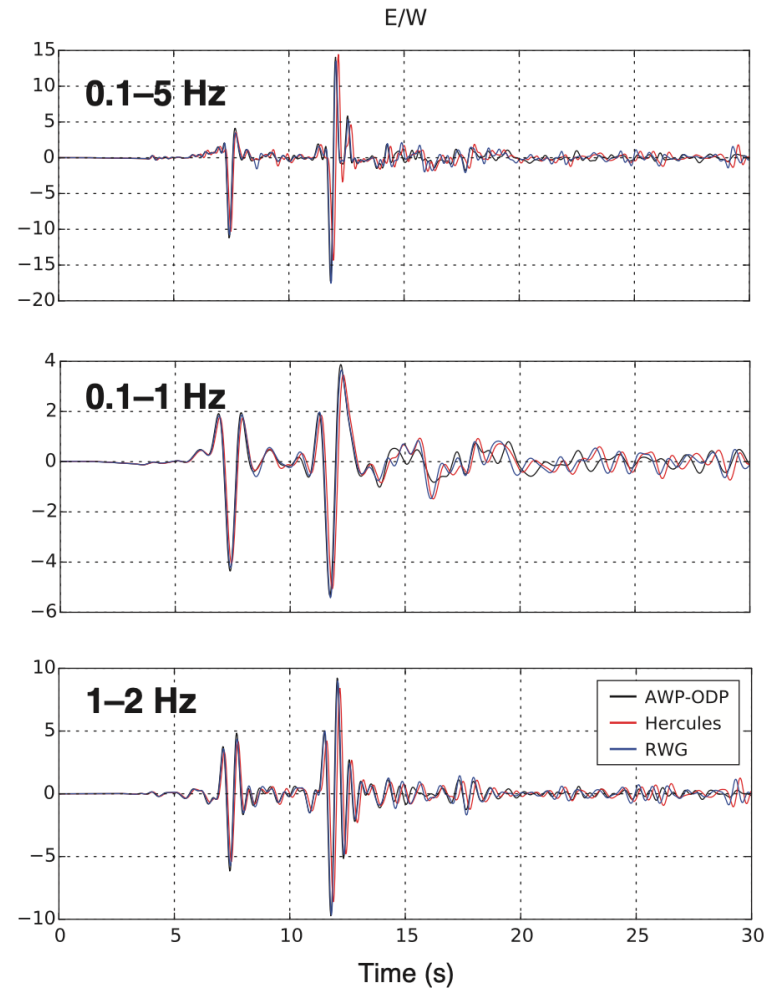


## Station CI.DLA

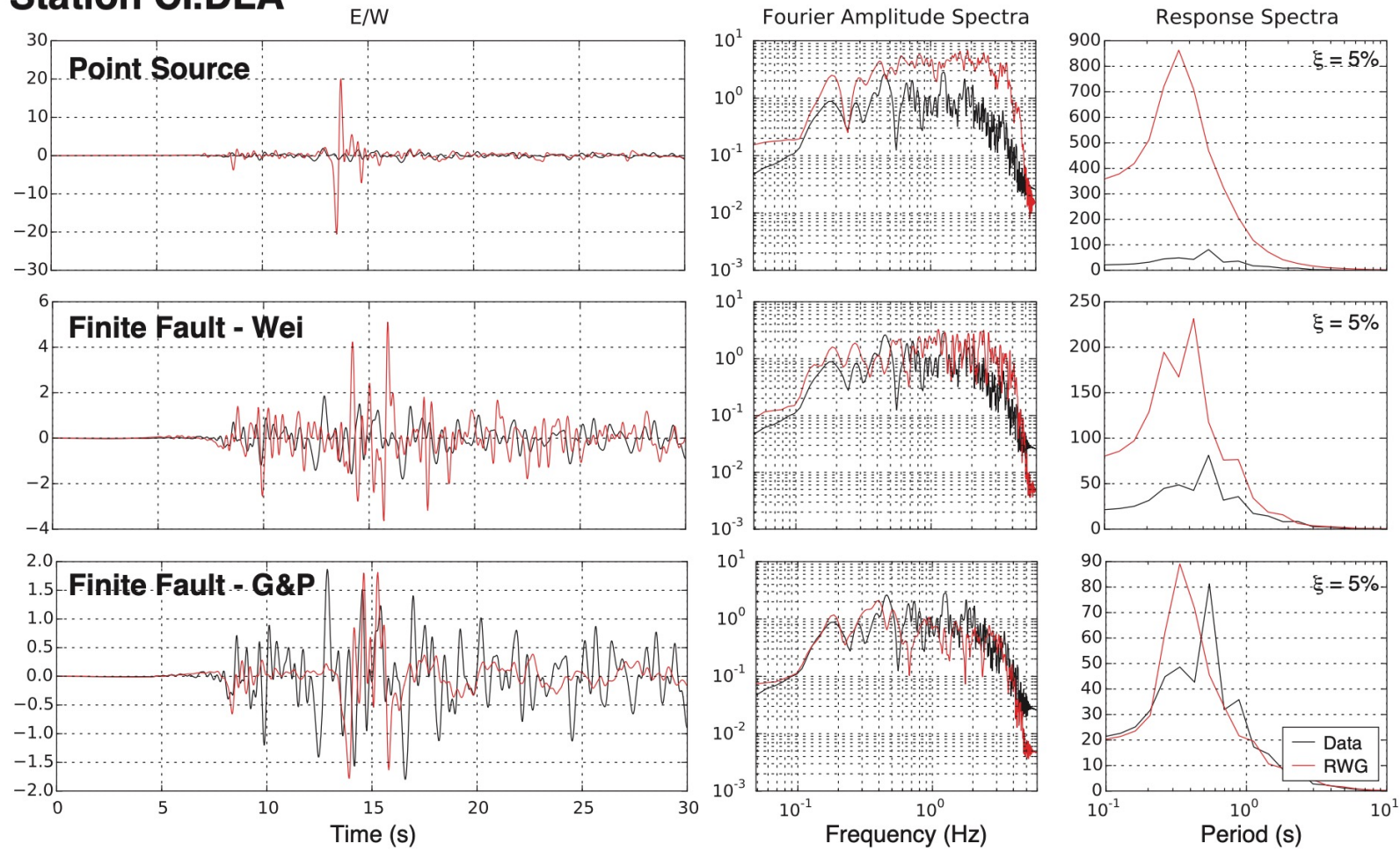




# Station CI.BRE – Filtered



# Station CI.DLA



# Validation

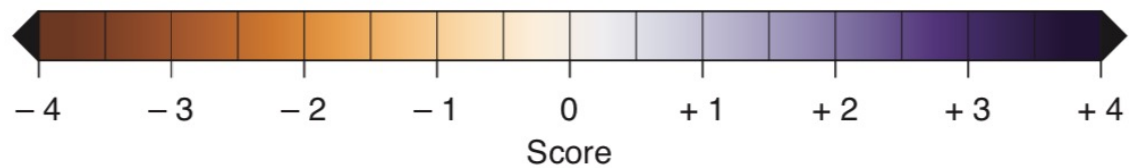
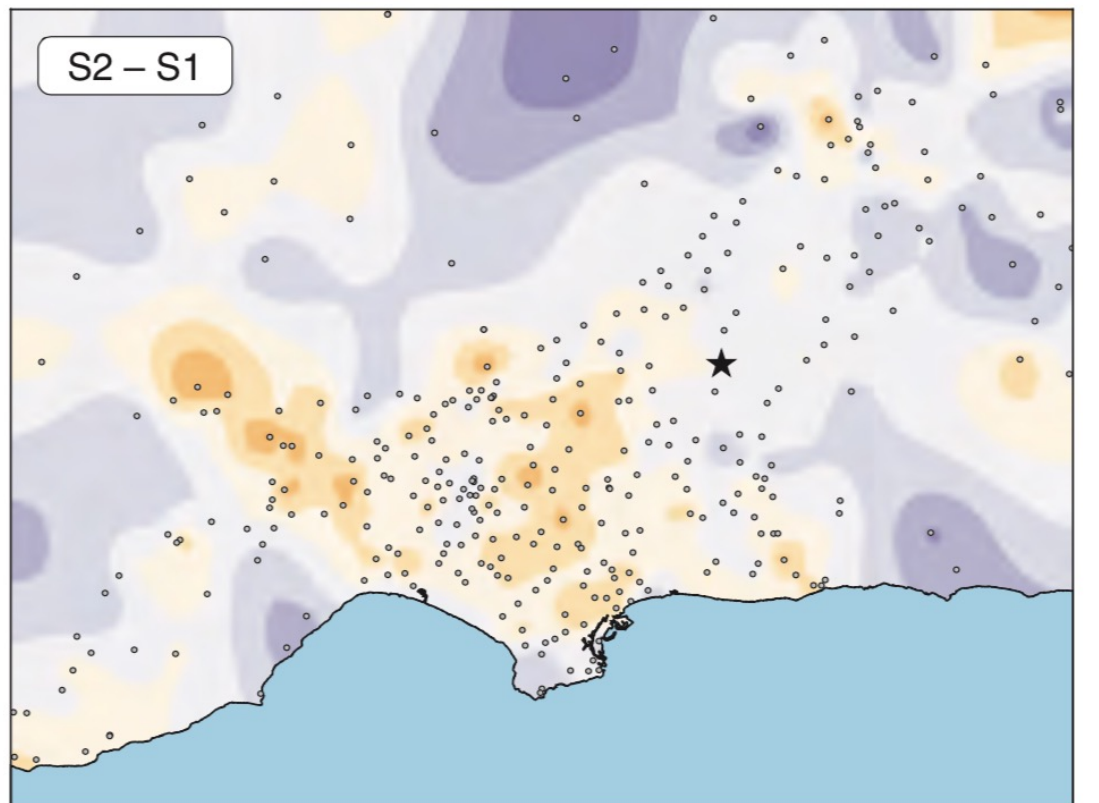
Multiple factors and complexity levels

Sim. ID	CVM-S		$V_{Smin}$		Pts. per wavelength		$\alpha$ in $Q_S = \alpha V_S$		$\lambda$ in $Q(f) = Q_0 f^\lambda$			Source		Magnitude		
	4	4.26	200	500	10	20	50	100	0 (a)	0 (b)	0.8 (b)	Point	Ext.	5.4	5.45	5.5
S1	•			•	•		•		•			•		•		
S2		•		•	•		•		•			•		•		
S3		•		•	•			•	•			•		•		
S4		•	•		•			•	•			•		•		
S5		•	•		•			•	•				•	•		
S6		•	•		•			•		•			•	•		
S7		•	•		•			•			•		•	•		
S8		•		•		•		•		•			•	•		
S9		•		•		•		•			•		•	•		
S10		•		•	•			•	•				•	•		
S11		•		•	•			•		•			•	•		
S12		•		•	•			•		•			•		•	
S13		•		•	•			•		•			•			•

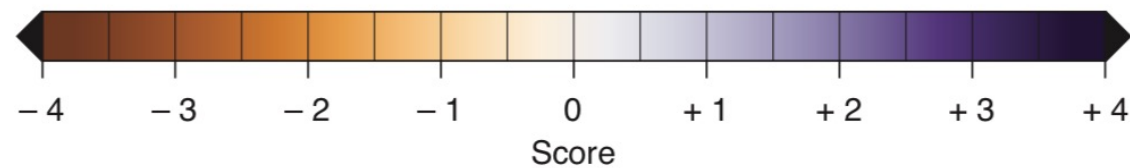
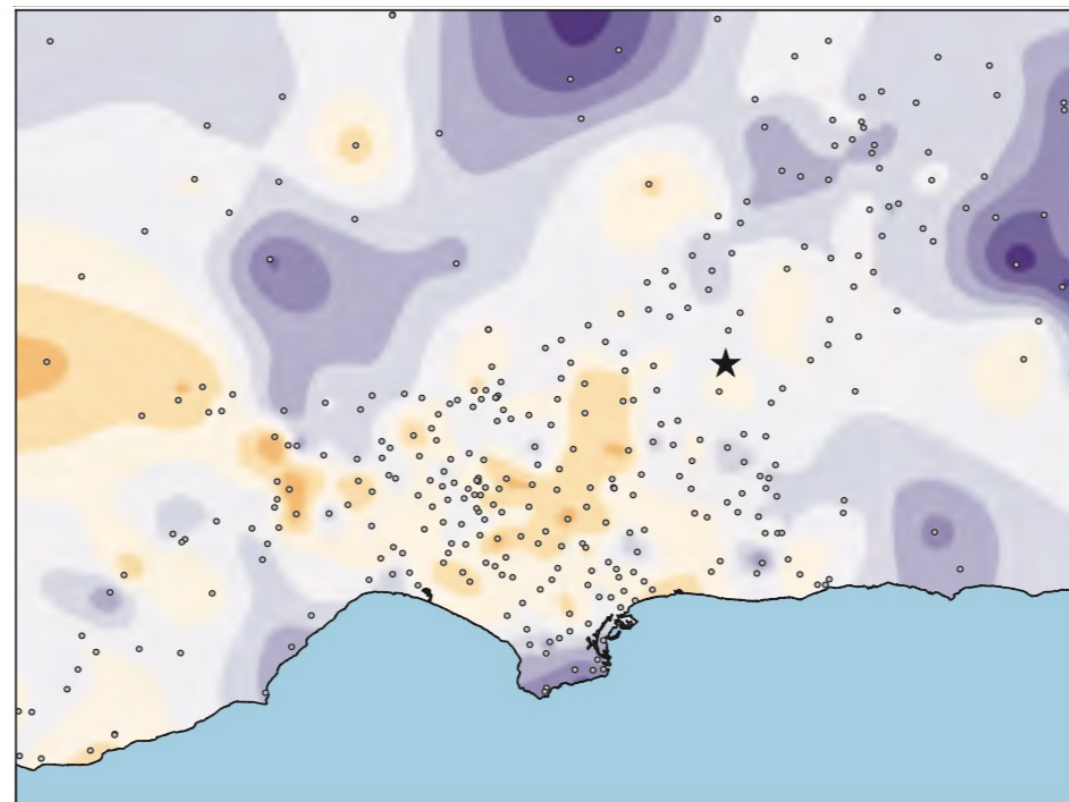
(a) This corresponds to the attenuation model BKT2, which is frequency independent.

(b) This corresponds to the attenuation model BKT3, which can be frequency dependent if  $\lambda \neq 0$ .

CVM-S4.26.M01 vs. CVM-S4 (1@1 Hz CH-PS)

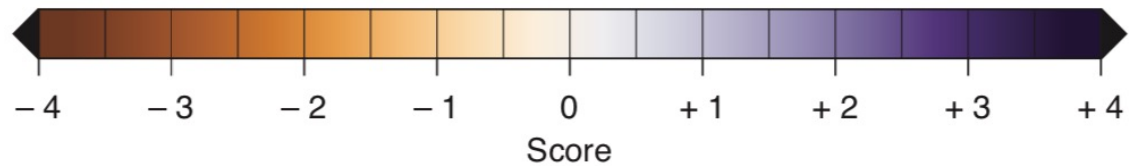
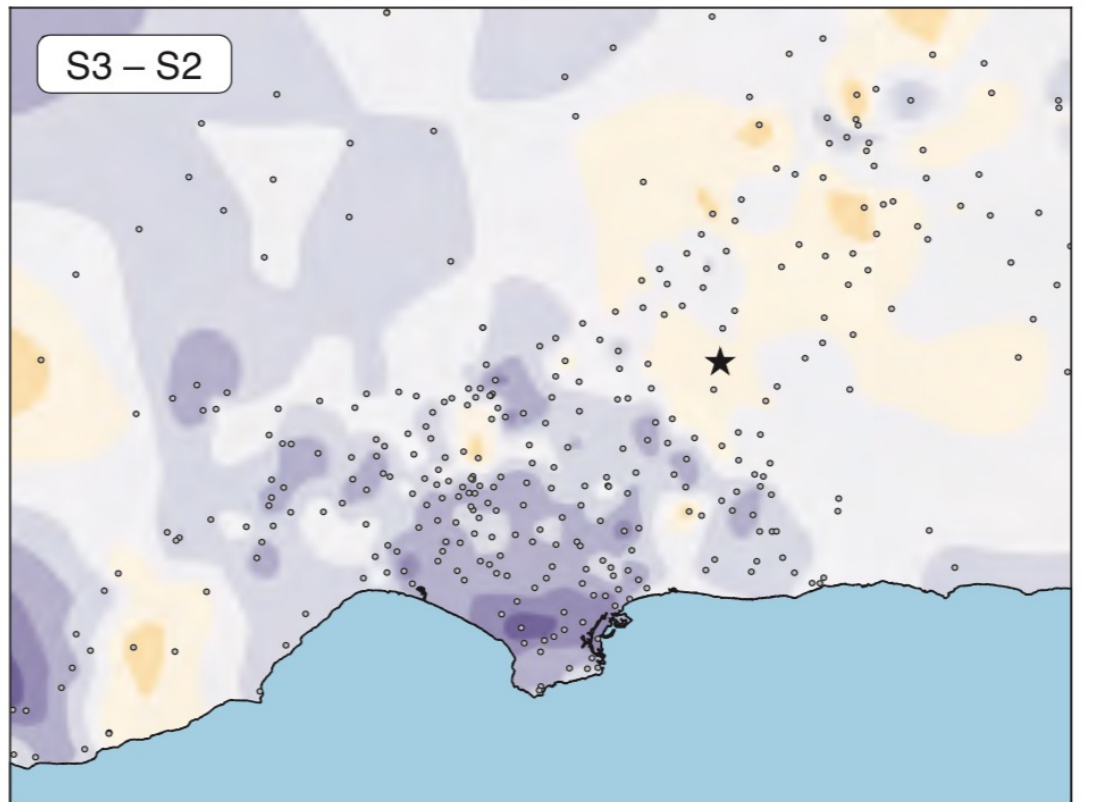


CVM-S4.26.M01 vs. CVM-S4 (1@4 Hz CH-ES)

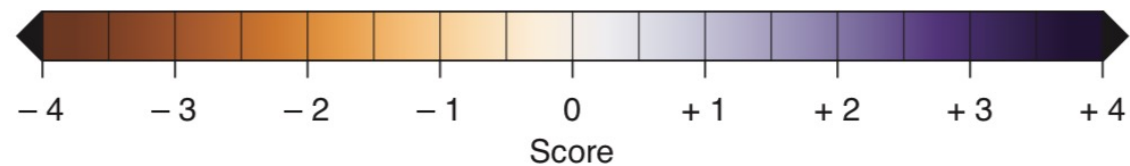
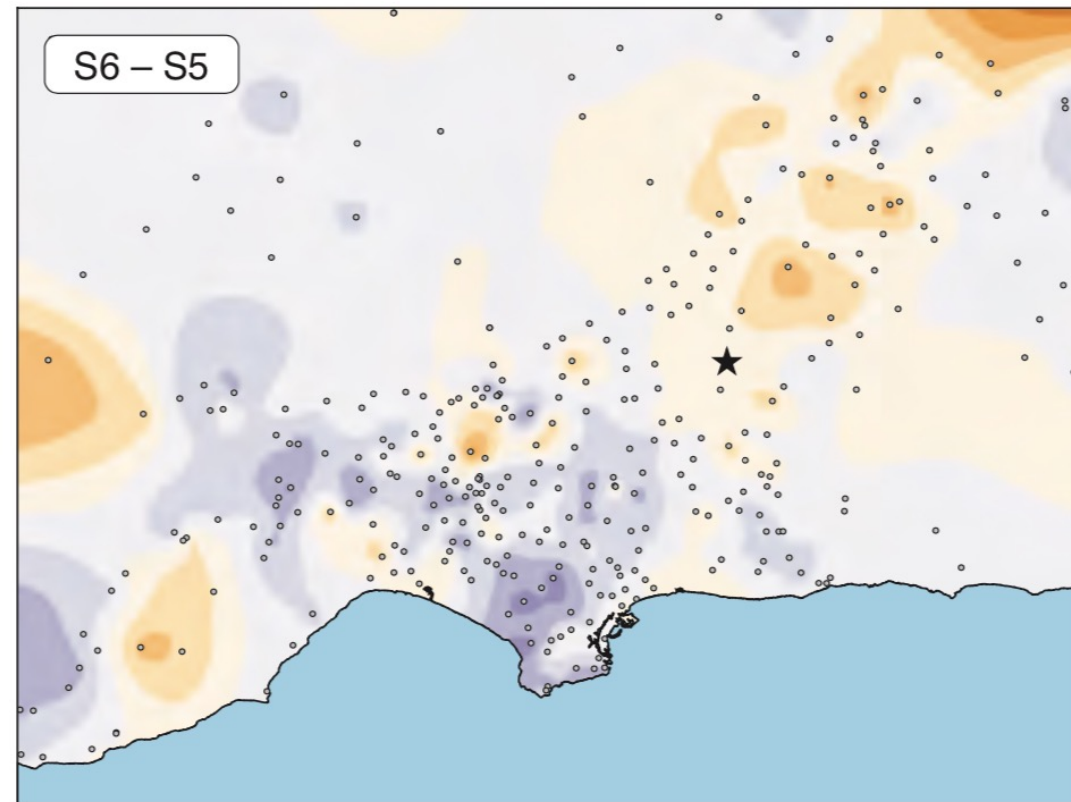




Q as 100Vs vs. 50Vs (at 1 Hz for CH-PS)

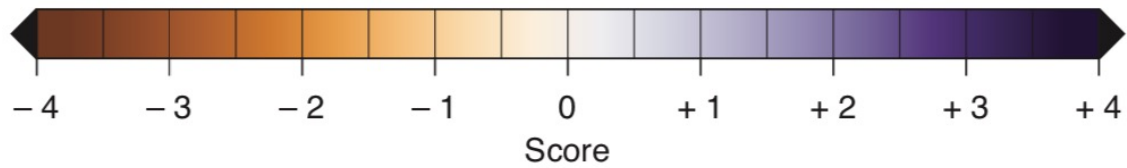
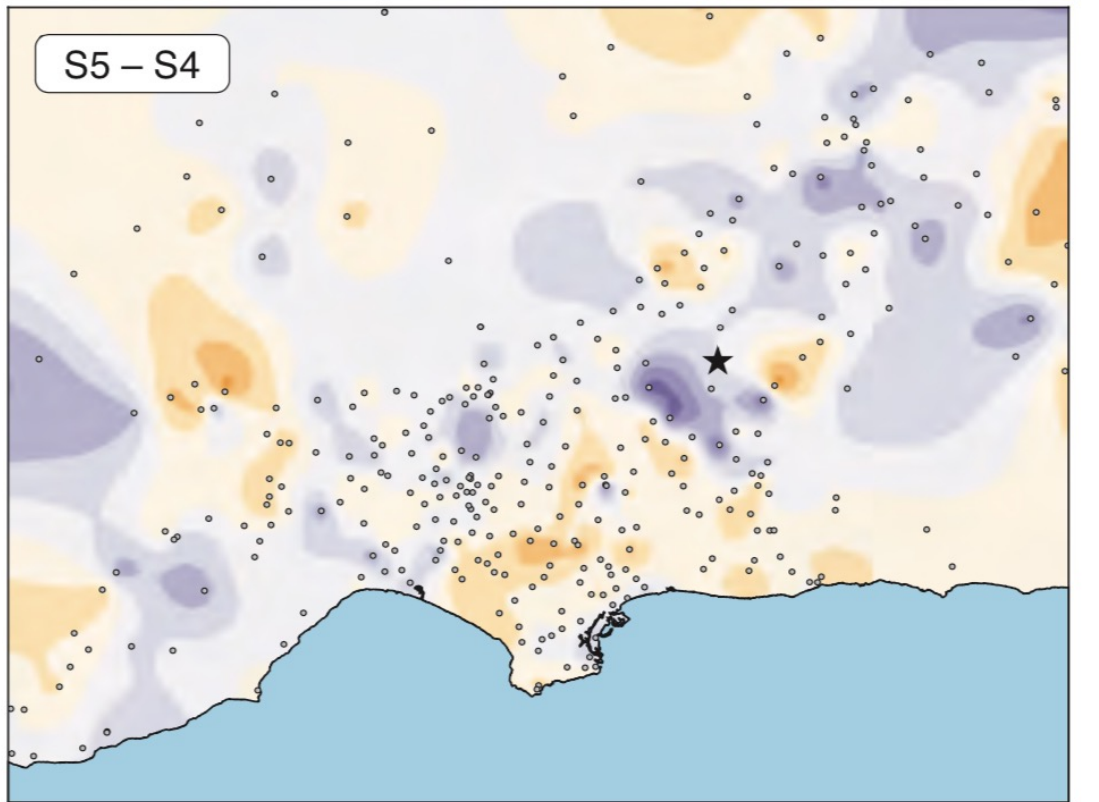


BKT3 vs. BKT2 modeling (at 1 Hz for CH-PS)

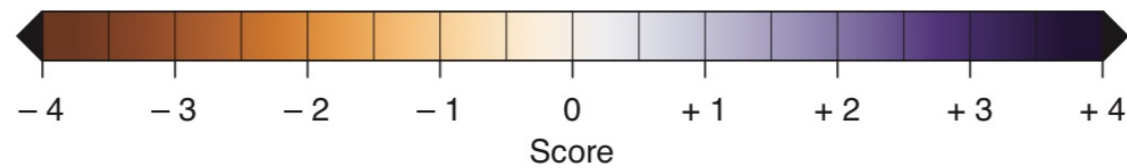
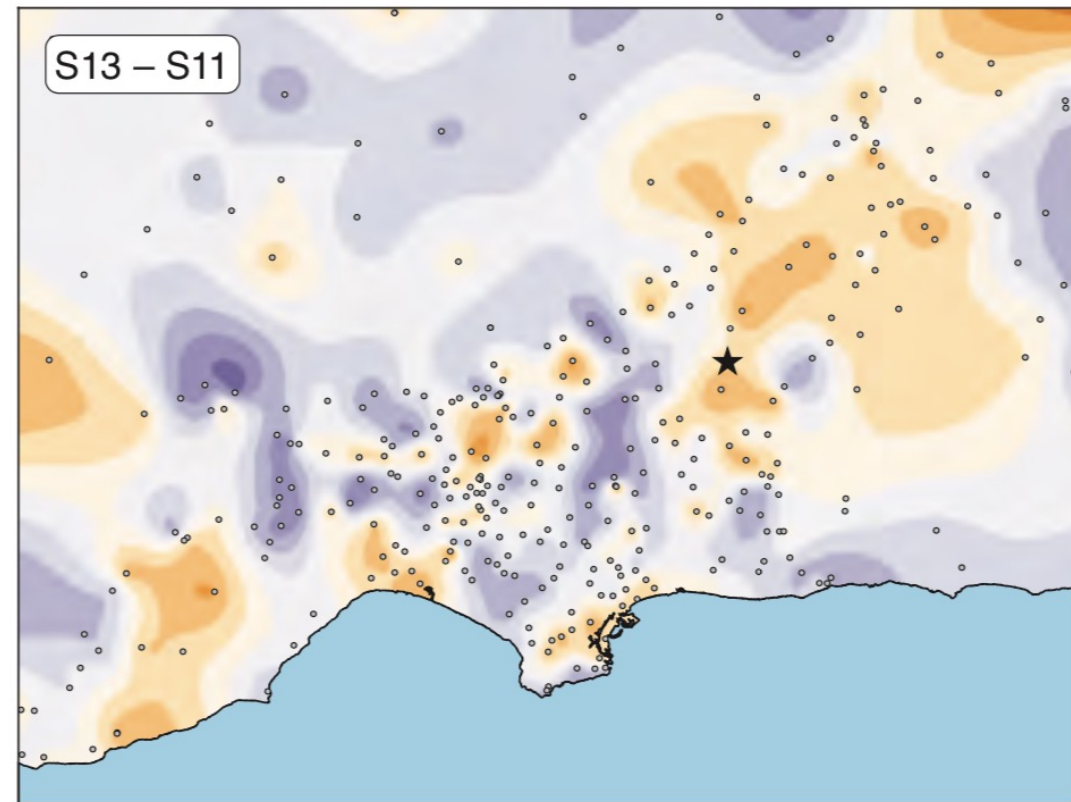




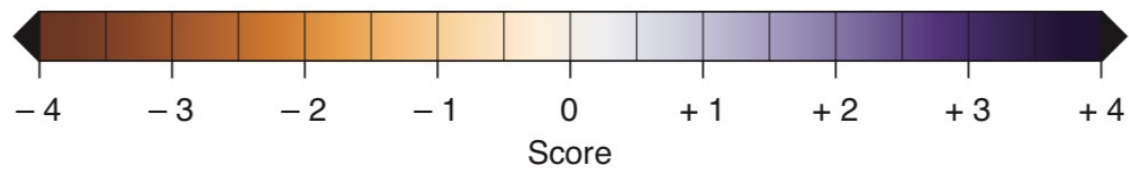
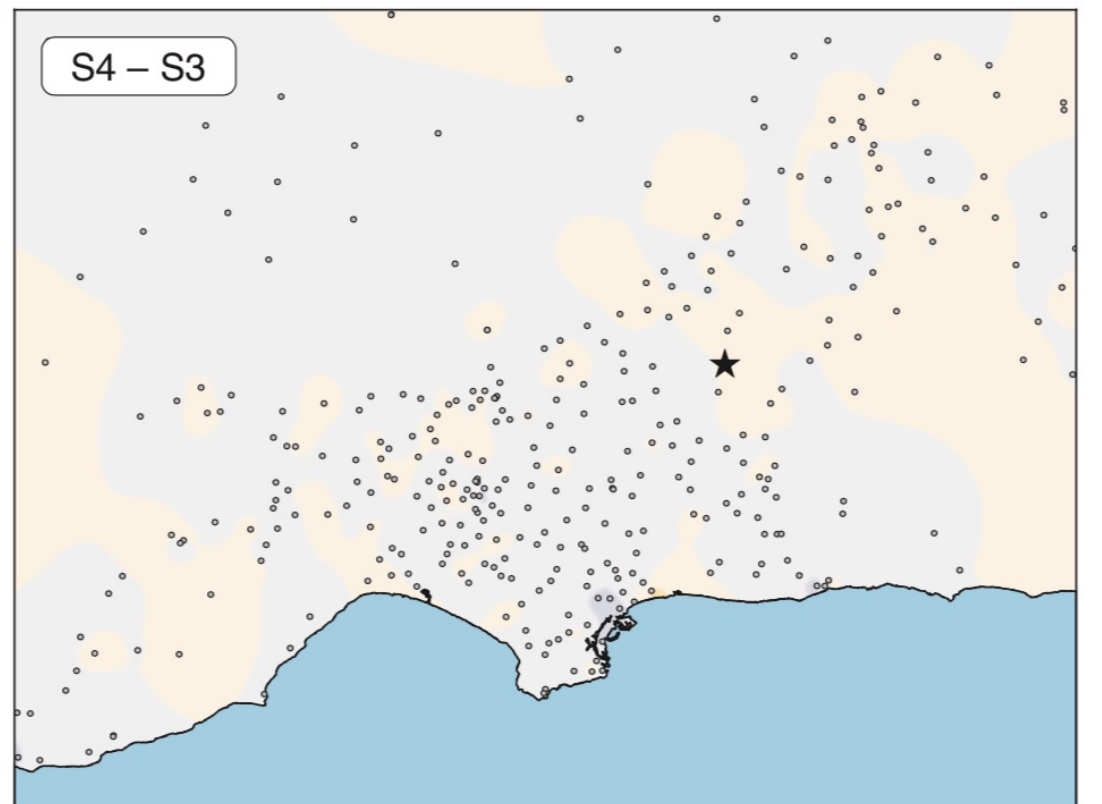
Extended vs. point source (at 1 Hz for CH-PS)



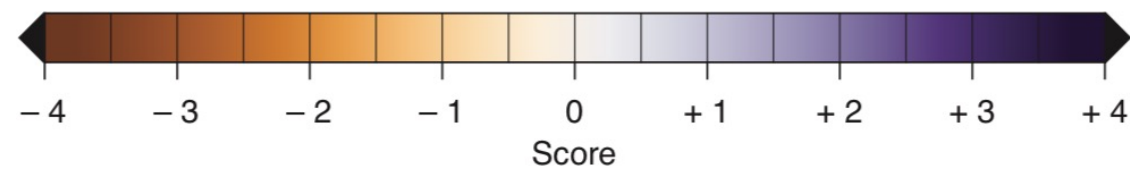
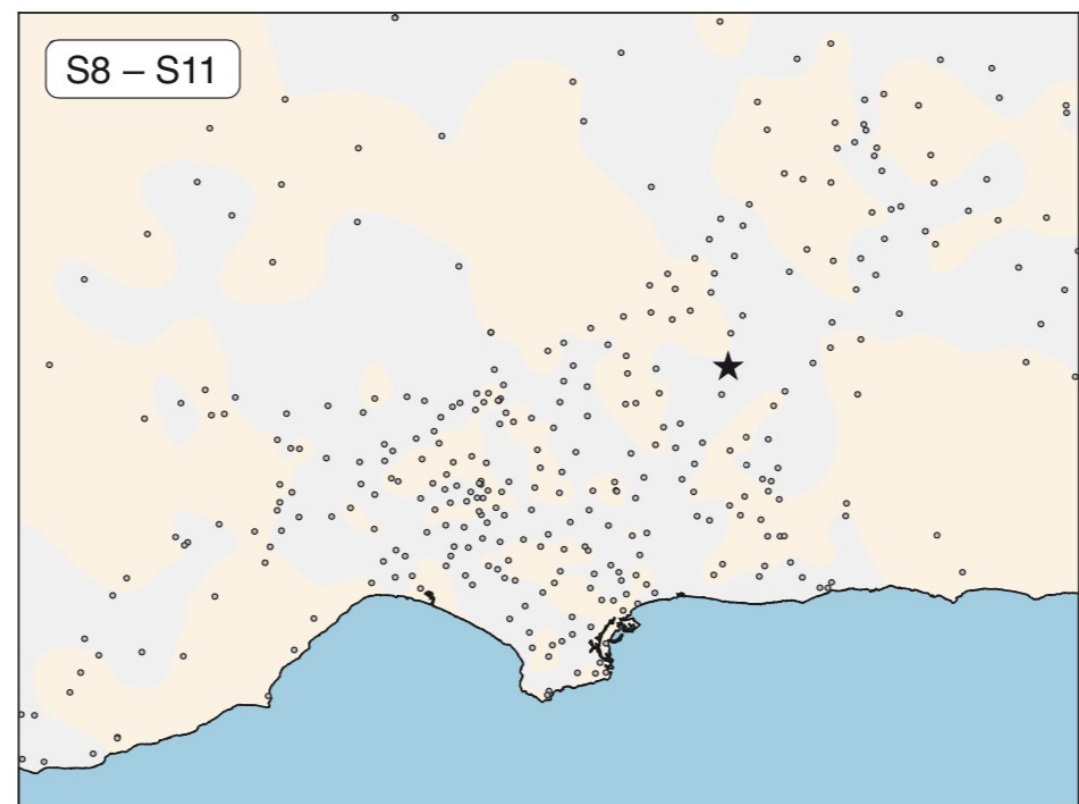
Varying to Mw 5.5 vs. 5.4 (at 1 Hz for CH-PS)



200 m/s vs. 500 m/s (at 1 Hz for CH-PS)



10 PPWL vs. 20 PPWL (at 1 Hz for CH-PS)

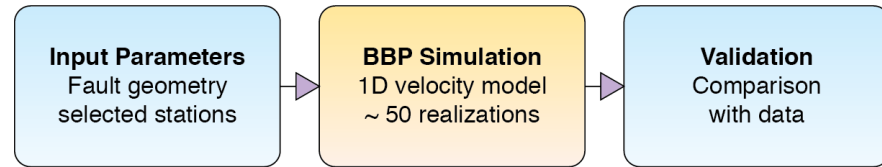


## **Other considerations**

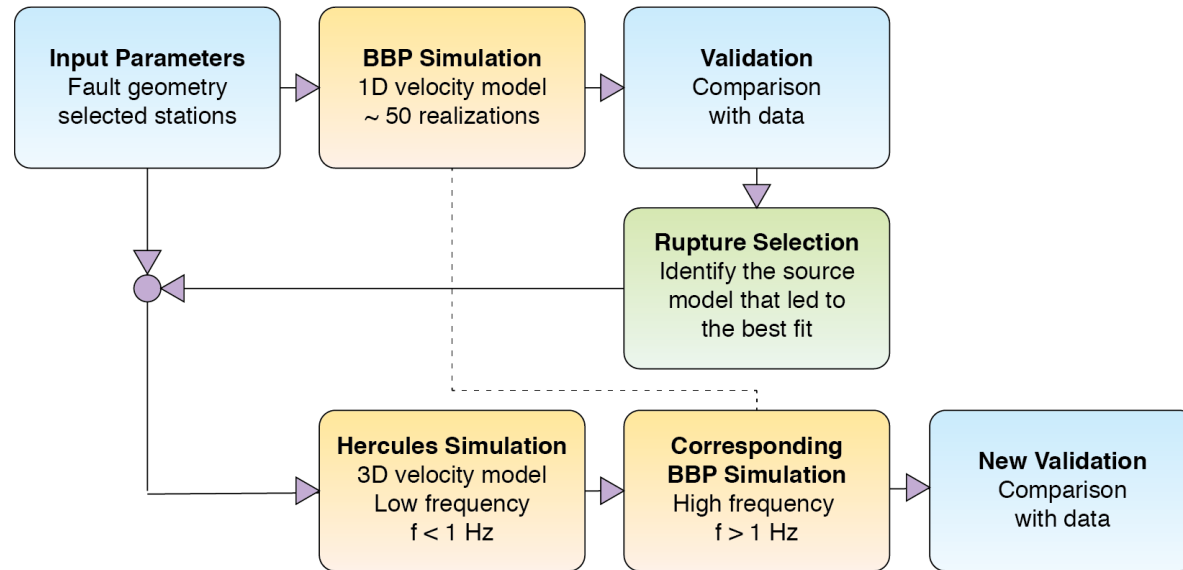
Purpose and intended use, hybrid approaches, metrics  
topography, plasticity and nonlinearity, built Environment, ...

# Integrating 1D BBP and 3D Simulations

## Original Workflow

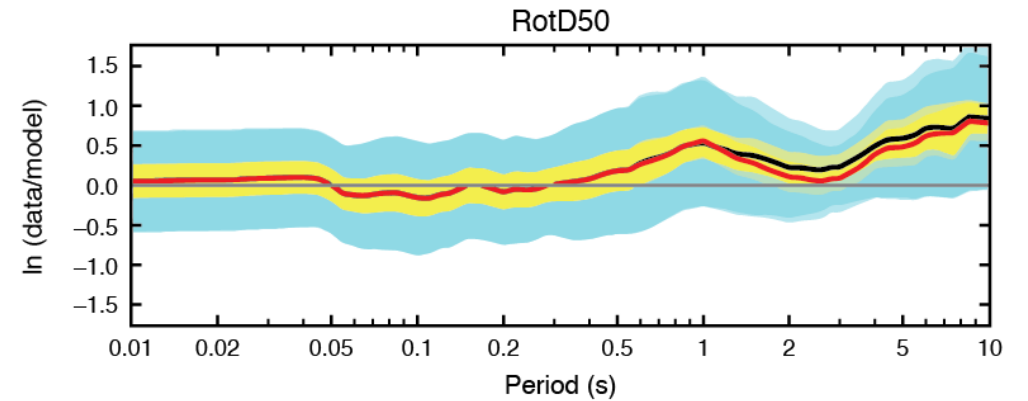


## Modified Workflow



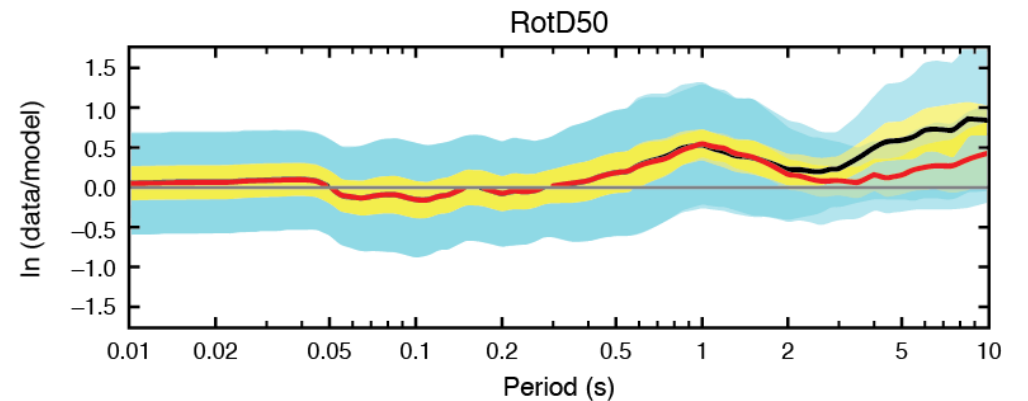
## 1D Models Comparison

— BBP — BBP + Hercules

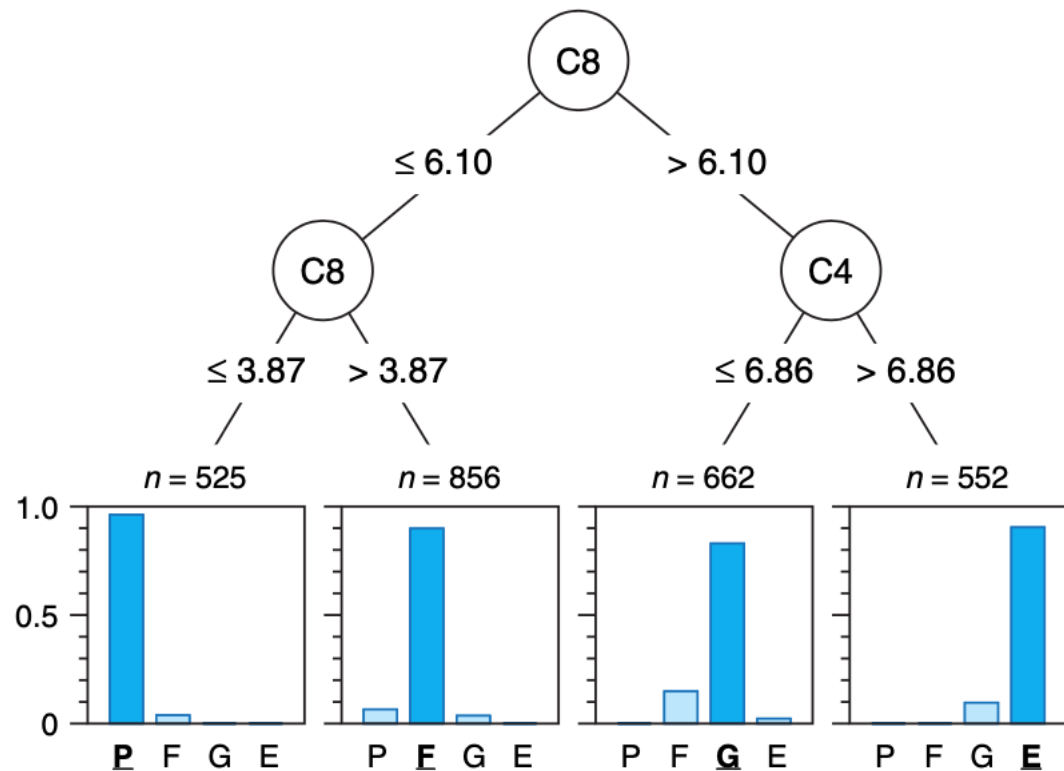
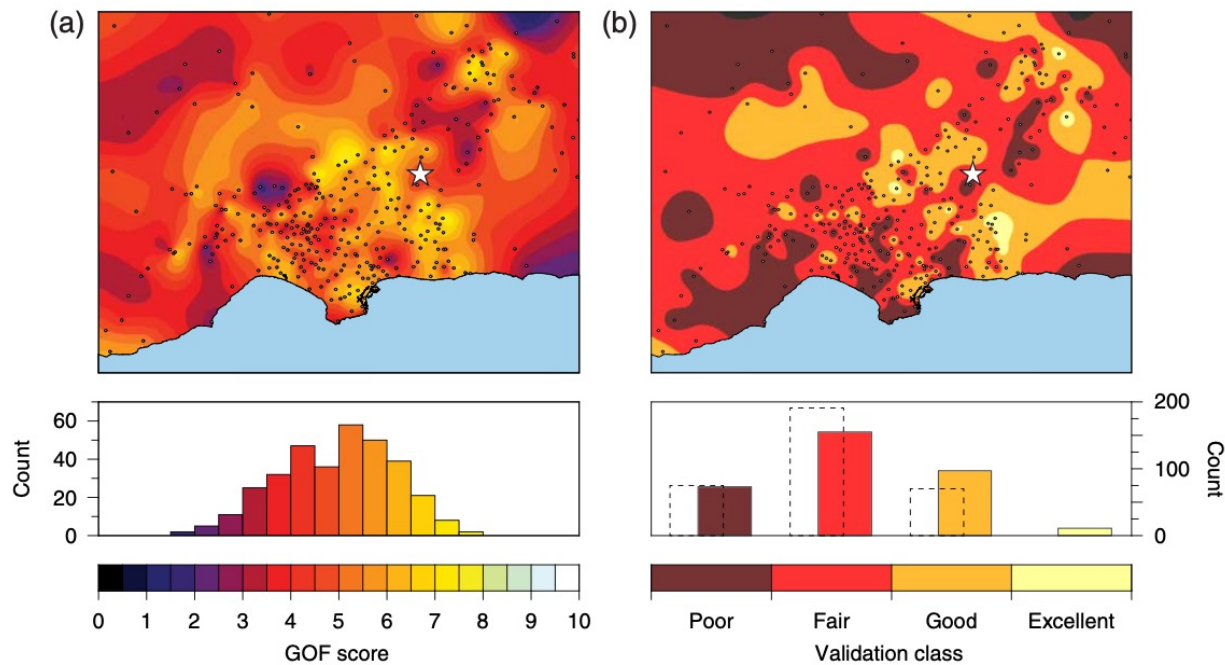


## 3D Improvement

— 1D BBP — BBP + 3D Hercules



# Alternatives to reduce validation post-processing

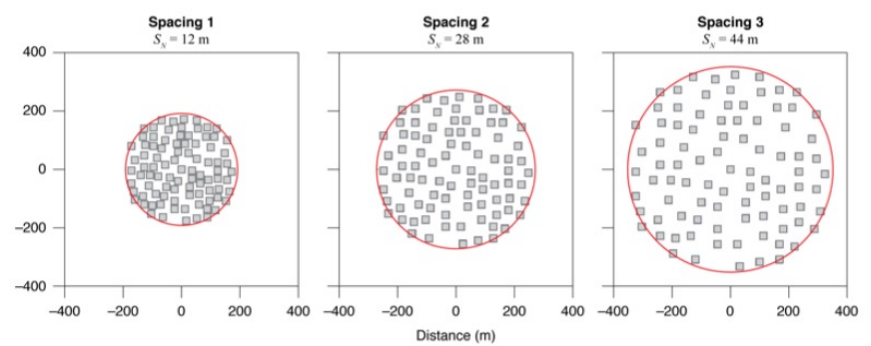
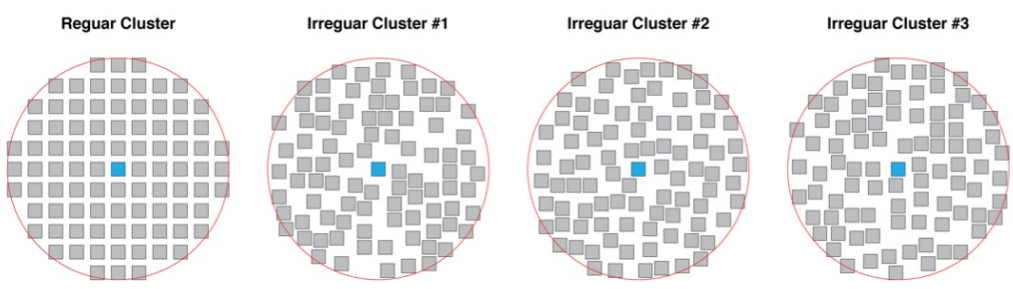
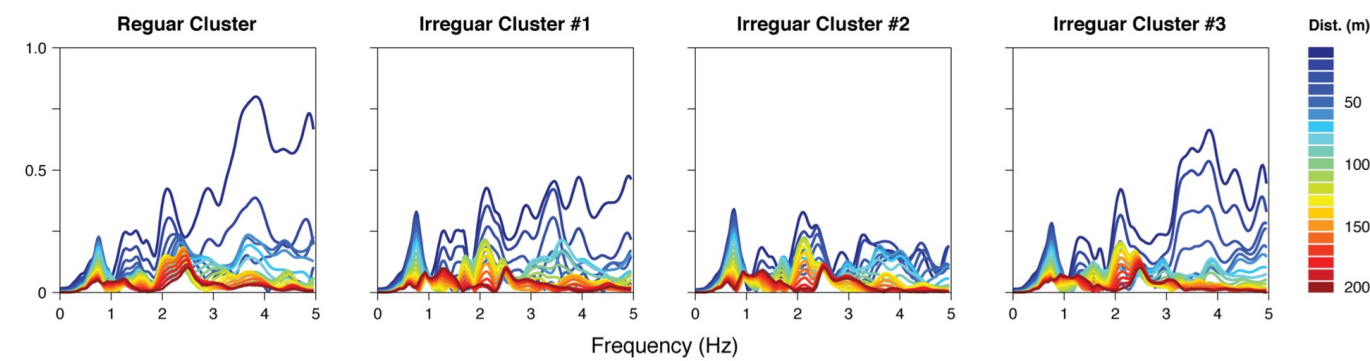
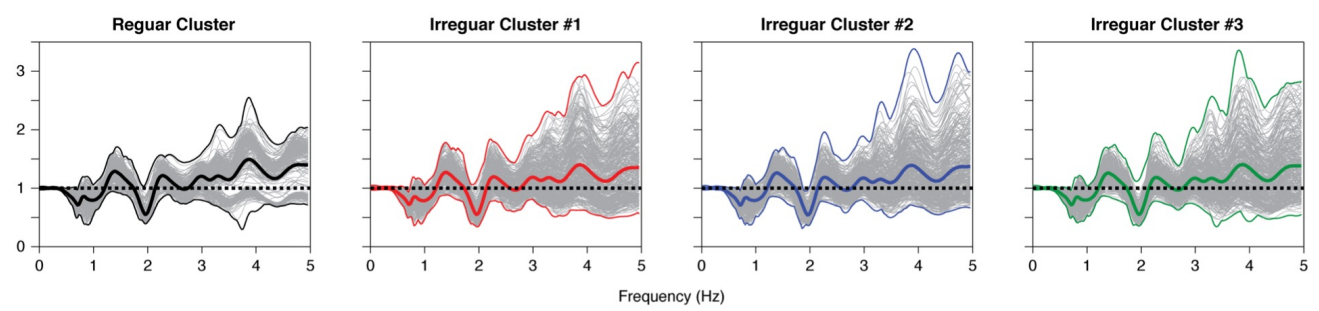
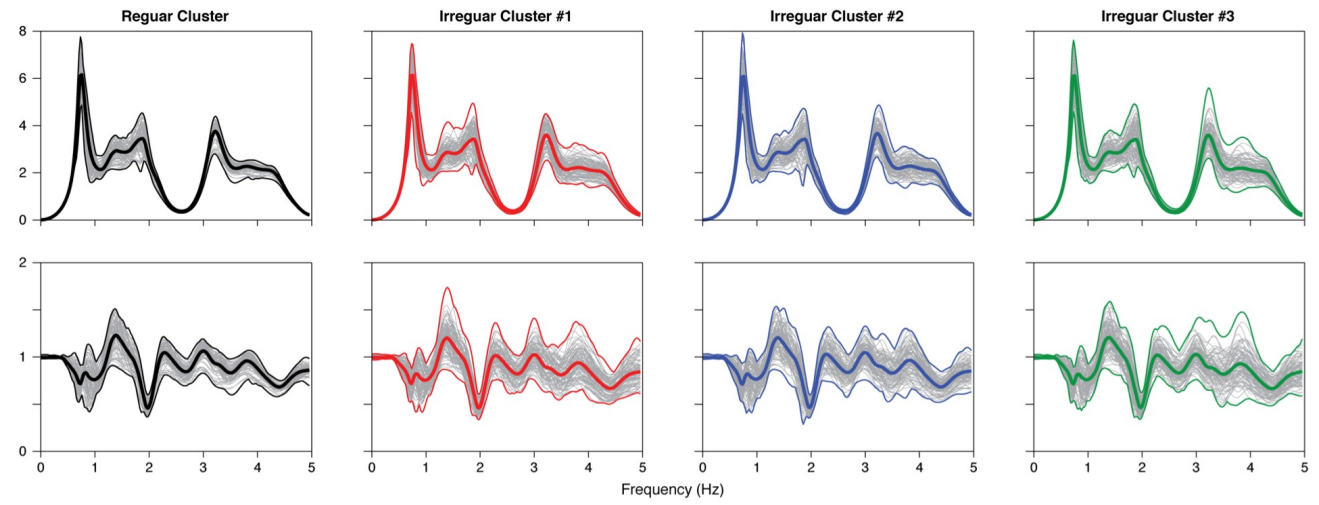
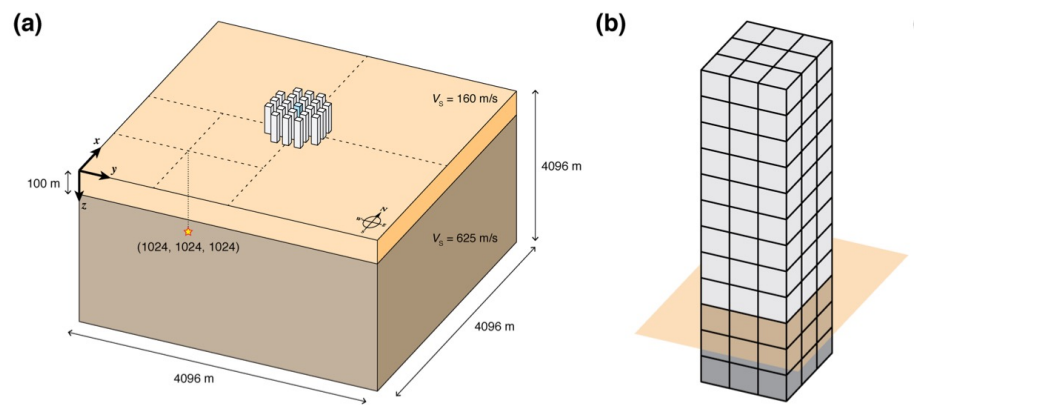


» C8: Response spectra

» C4: Energy



# Attempts to understand effects of urban environments



**In closing...**

- » Velocity model Matters a lot – perhaps the most.
- » Minimum Vs Matters provided the resolution of the model and that of the simulation are worth the computational effort.
- » Numerical resolution Matters a lot for verification, but it may not matter that much for validation
- » Attenuation model Matters significantly, especially for far field analysis and higher frequencies.
- » Source model Matters more than one would think of. Even for small earthquakes. Even at some distance (low vs high frequencies, near vs far field.)
- » Source uncertainty Can make a significant difference.
- » Nonlinear soil Matter a lot. Mostly local. But it may impact regional response to an extent we do not fully understand for now.
- » Topography We know it matters but cannot fully characterize it for synthesis at regional scale just yet.
- » Site-city interaction We do not fully understand yet.

- » Inversions: For better velocity models, thus other information.
- » Energy losses: Anelasticity and nonlinearities of engineering interest.
- » Variability: Anything that increases it matters at higher frequency (e.g., topography).
- » Uncertainty: Simulations / workflows that can carry forward information about uncertainty.
- » Workflows: In the form of automated simulations that can be repeated systematically.



**Thank you**

Simulated motions validation and acceptance criteria for ground motion databases

## **The Southern California Validation Experience**

**Ricardo Taborda**



**2024 PEER - LBNL Workshop**  
Simulated Ground Motions for the San Francisco Bay Area  
**January 18-19, 2024**

