

# ORIGIN OF EARTHQUAKES IN AND AROUND STABLE PLATES

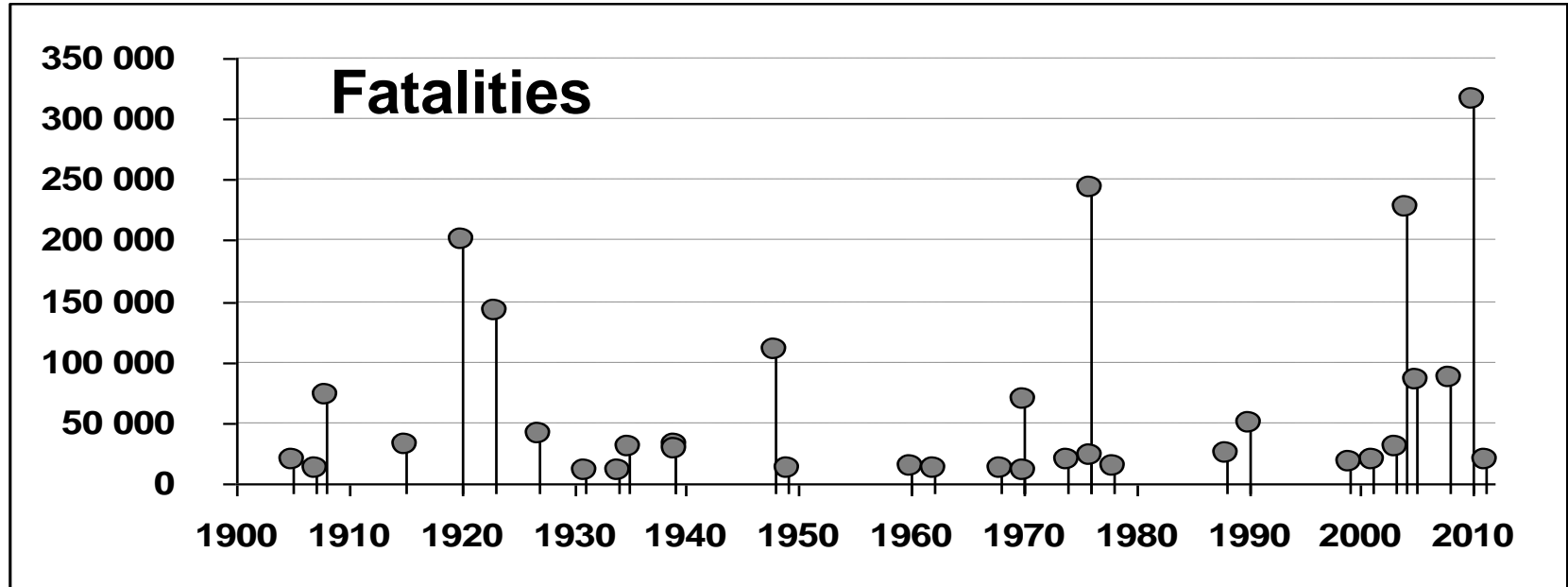
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<http://www.geologie.ens.fr/~vigny>

# IMPACT OF EARTHQUAKES



1. Haiti (2010): 316 000 dead Mw 7.0
2. China (1976): 243 000 dead Mw 7.5
3. Sumatra (2004) :228 000 dead Mw 9.2
4. China (1920): 200 000 dead Mw 7.8
5. Japan (1923): 143 000 dead Mw 7.9

6. Turkey (1948): 110 000 dead Mw 7.3
7. Sichuan (2008): 88 000 dead Mw 7.9
8. Pakistan (2005): 85 000 dead Mw 7.6
9. Messina (1908): 70 000 dead Mw 7.2
- ....
21. Japan (2011): 20 252 dead Mw 9.0

# ECONOMIC IMPACT : GROWING !

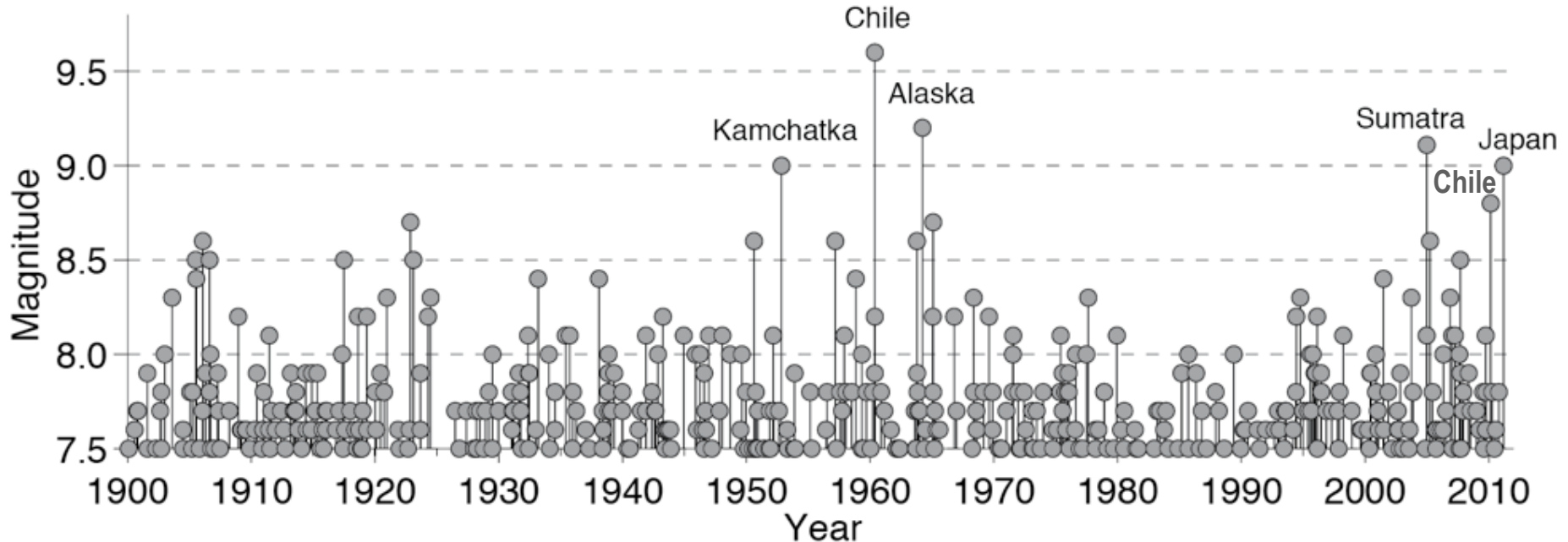
Eq	Mw	Dead	Damage (billions USD)
Valdivia, Chile, 1960	9.5	5 000	~0.5
Sumatra 2004	9.2	300 000	~10
Maule, Chile 2010	8.8	800	15 – 30
Tohoku, Japan 2011	9.0	20 000	> 200





# Q1 : HOW MANY EARTHQUAKES ?

## Large Earthquakes (> Mw 7.5)



**Large ones : every year !**

**Giant ones : 8-10 within 100 years**

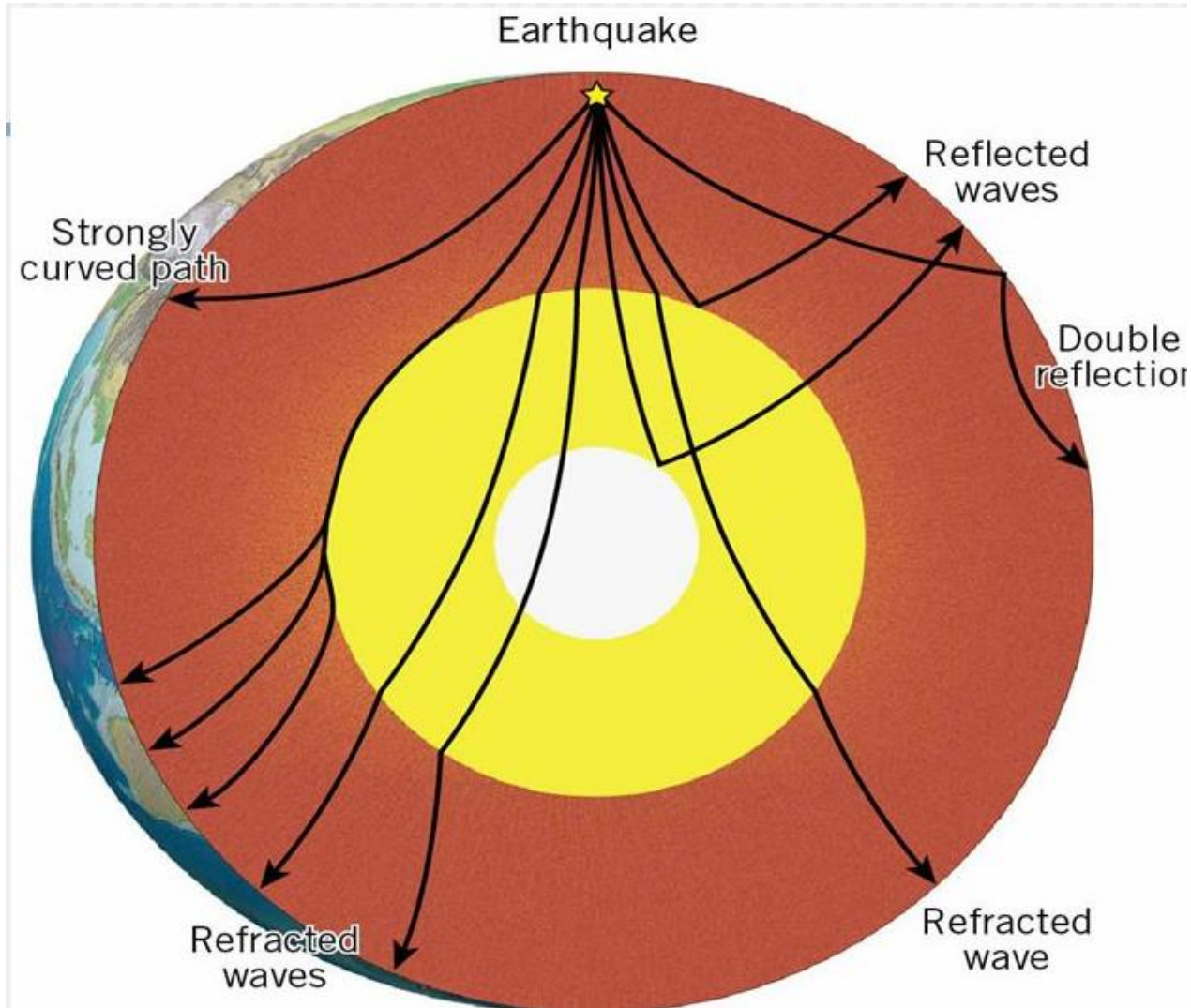
**=> 1 per decade, but irregularly**



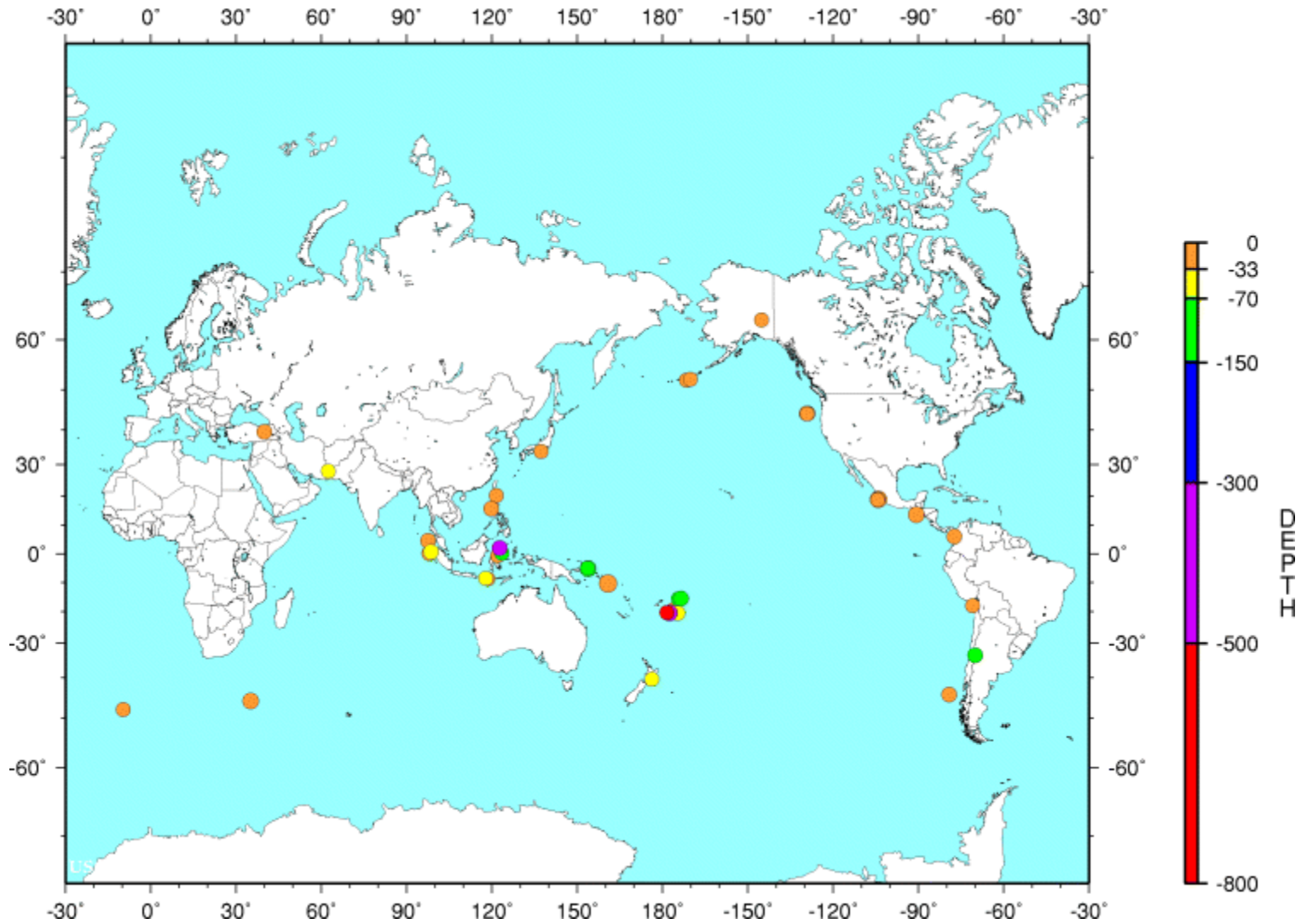
40 years  
quand



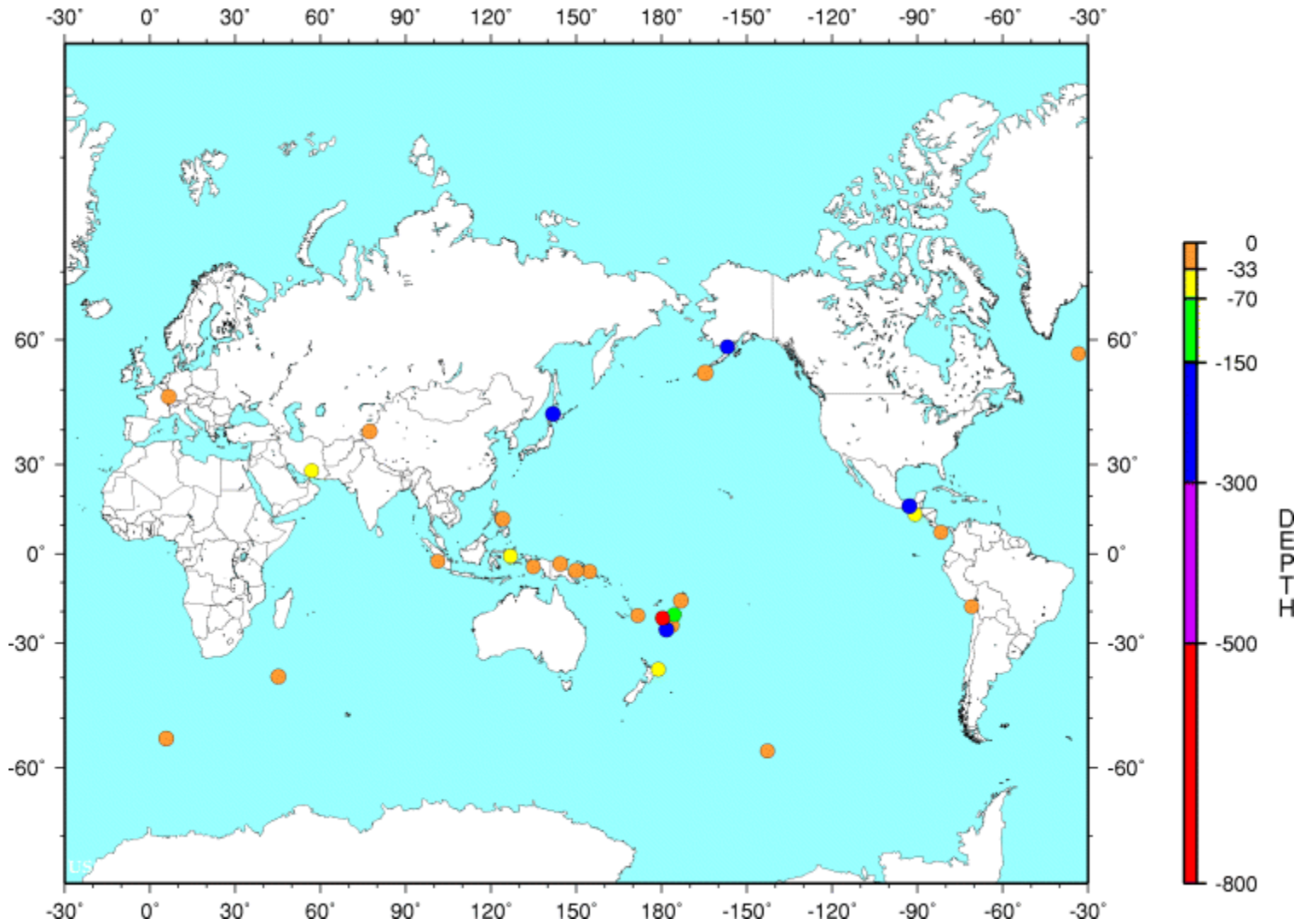
# Earthquakes recorded by the global network of seismographs (> Mw 4.5)



# January 2003 : 40 Eq

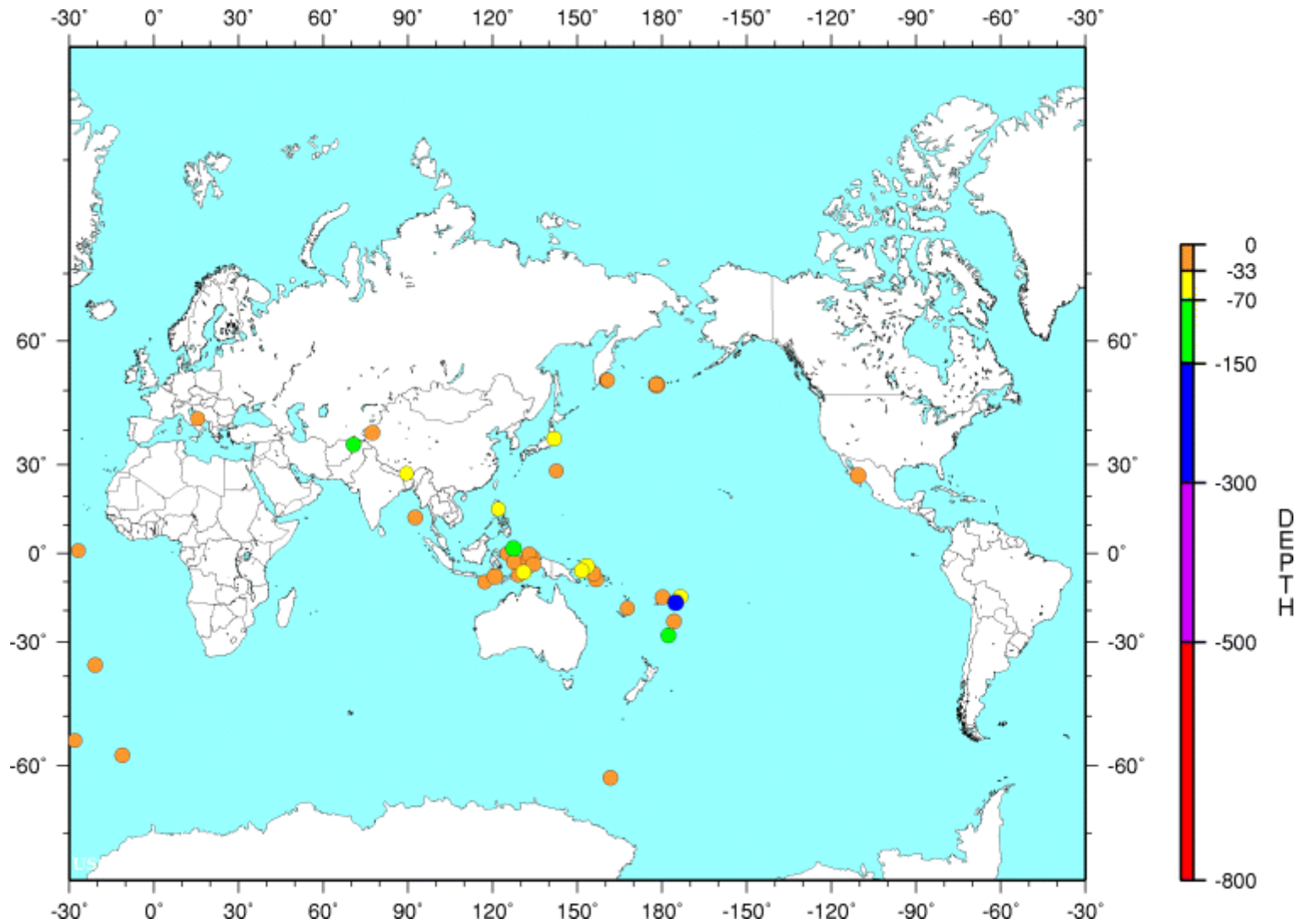


# February 2003 : 29 Eq

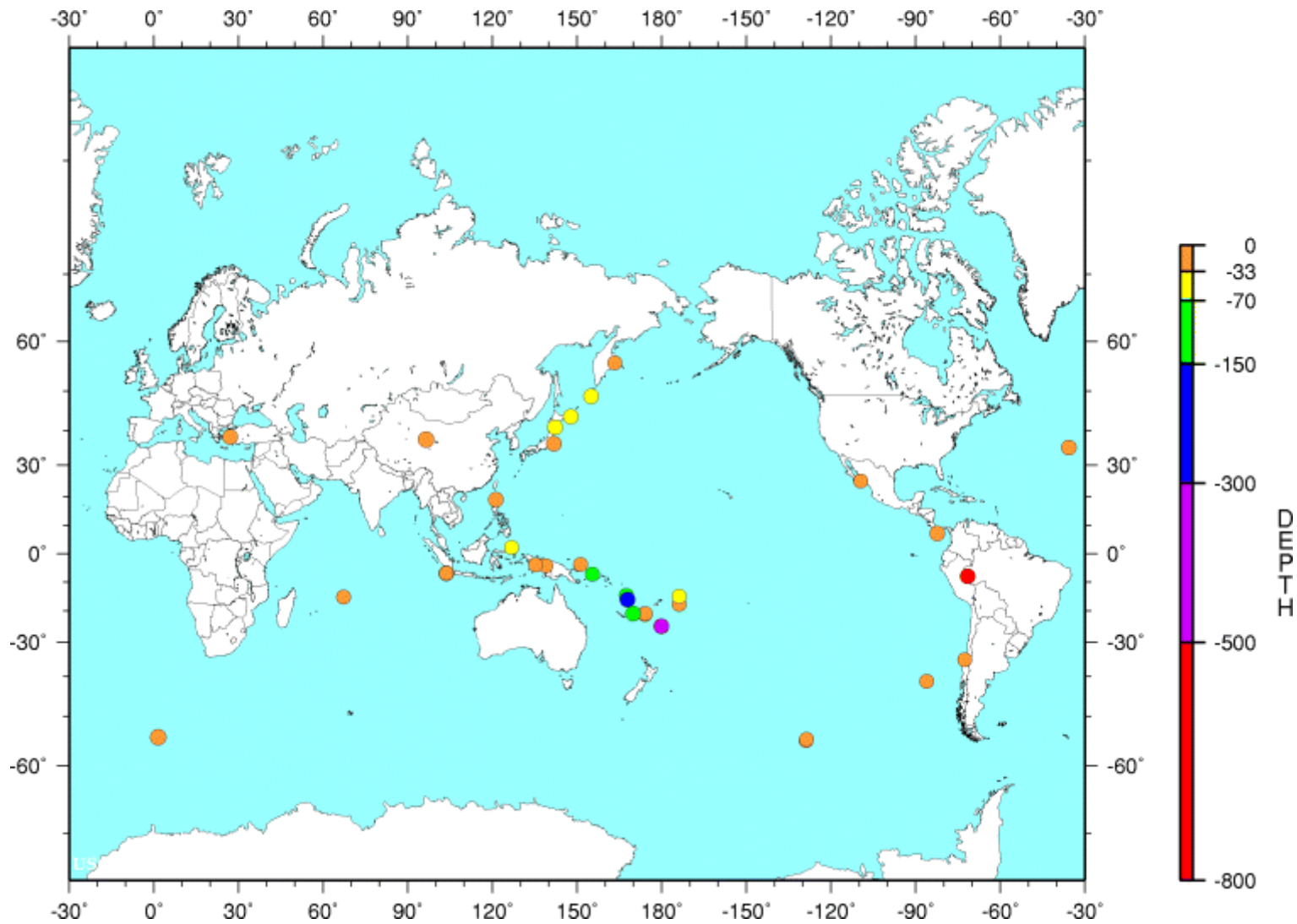




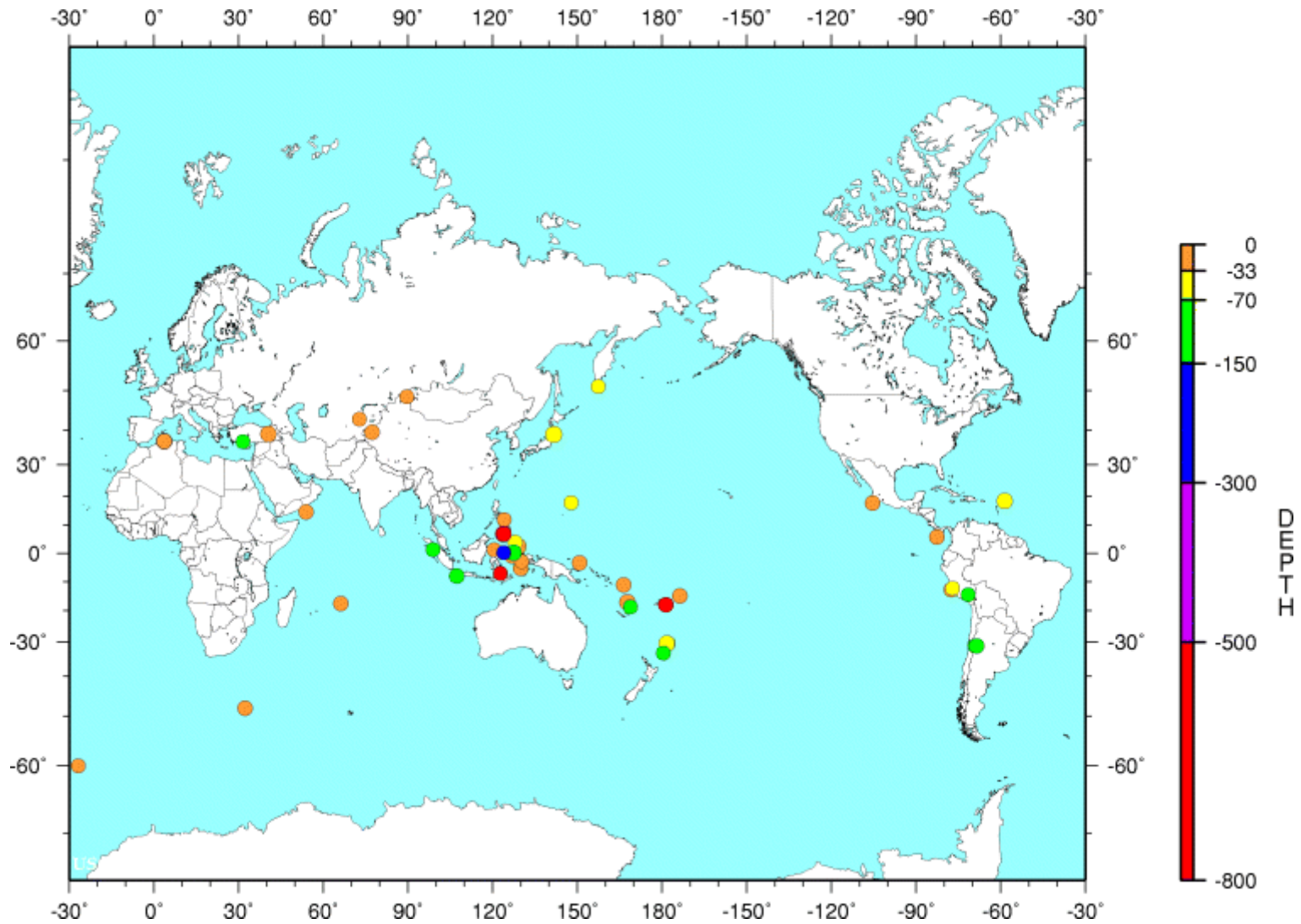
# Mars 2003 : 41 Eq



# April 2003 : 33 Eq



# May 2003 : 46 Eq

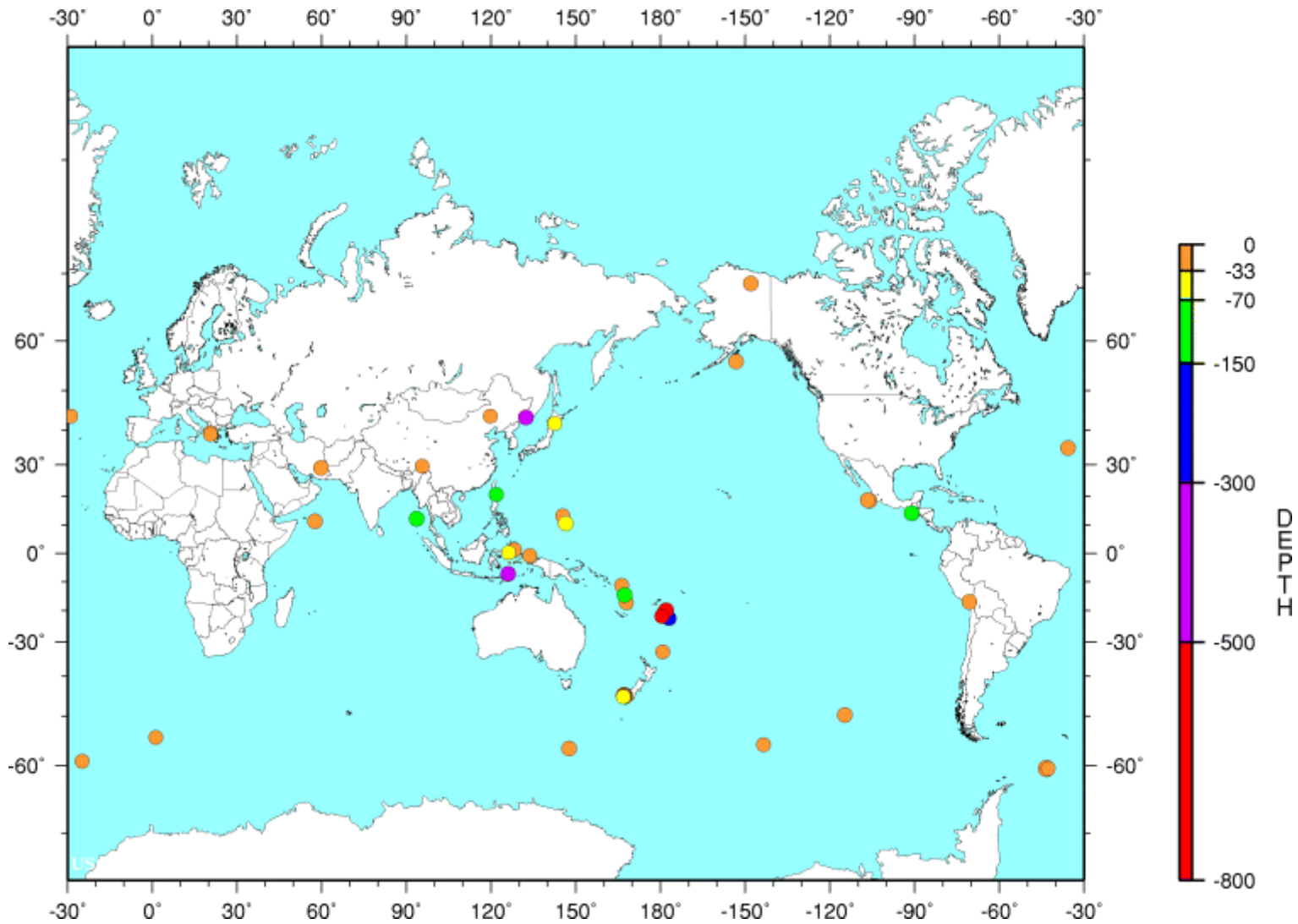








# August 2003 : 47 Eq

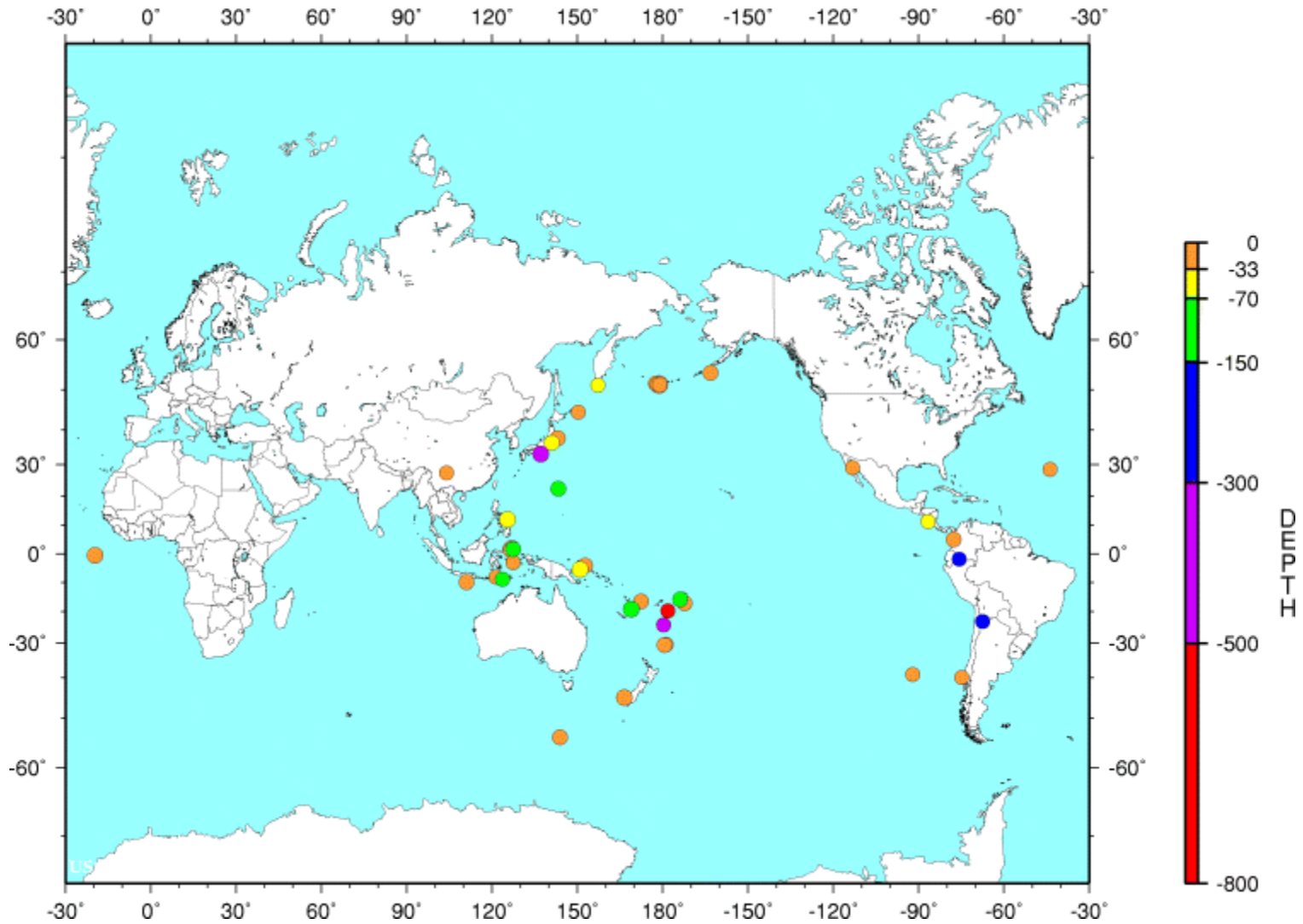








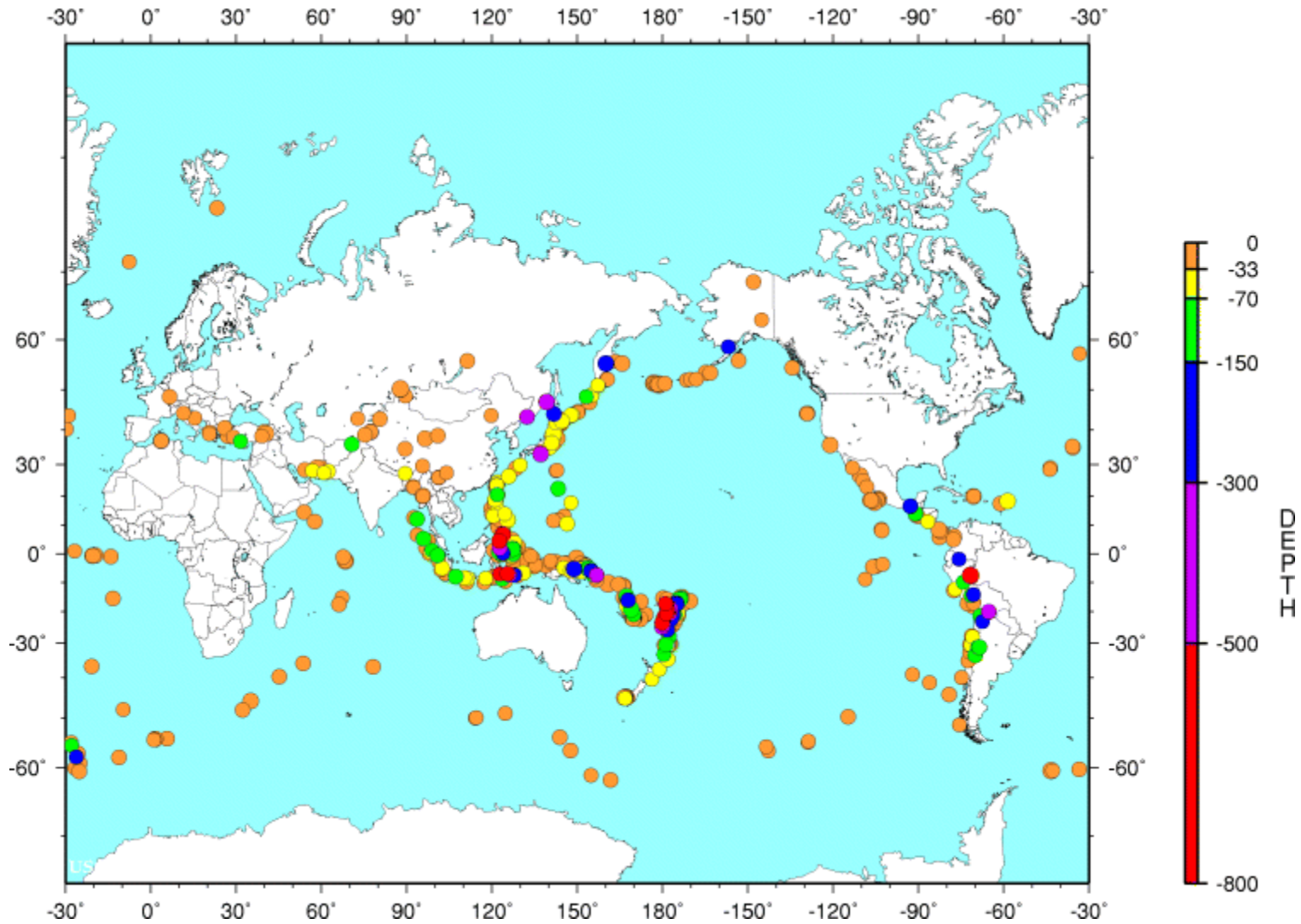
# November 2003 : 43 Eq







# YEAR 2003 : 512 Eq



# Q1 : HOW MANY EARTHQUAKES ?

**ANSWER : it really depends on size !**

**small** (magnitude between 4 and 5) : **1 / hour**

**medium** (magnitude between 5 and 6) : **1 / day**

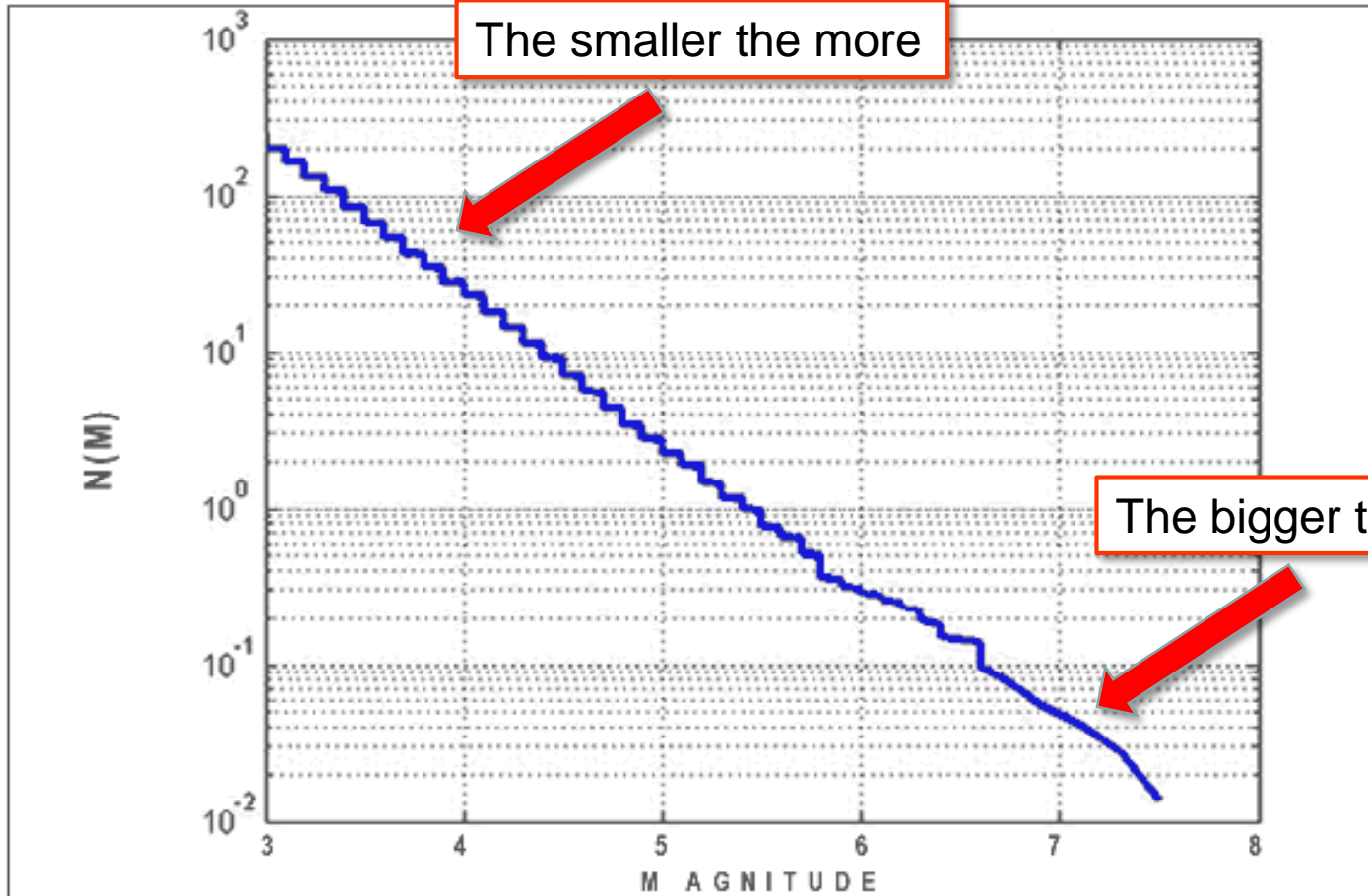
**big** (magnitude between 7 and 8) : **1 / month**

**very big**(magnitude between 8 and 9) : **1 / year**

**giants** (magnitude > 9) : **1 every decade**

# Q1 : HOW MANY EARTHQUAKES ?

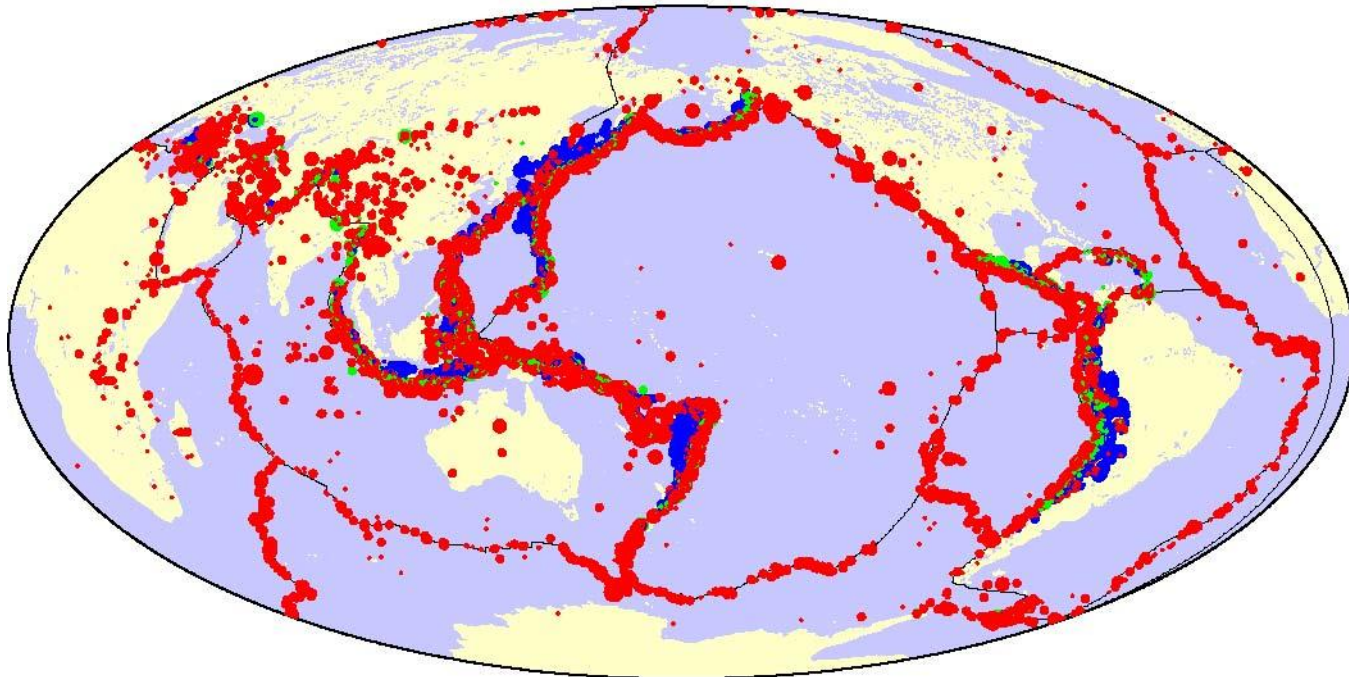
## Gutenberg & Richter law



## Q2 : WHERE DO EARTHQUAKES OCCUR ?

**ANSWER : Not everywhere !**

World sismicity : 30 years – 17 000 events of magnitude larger than 4.5

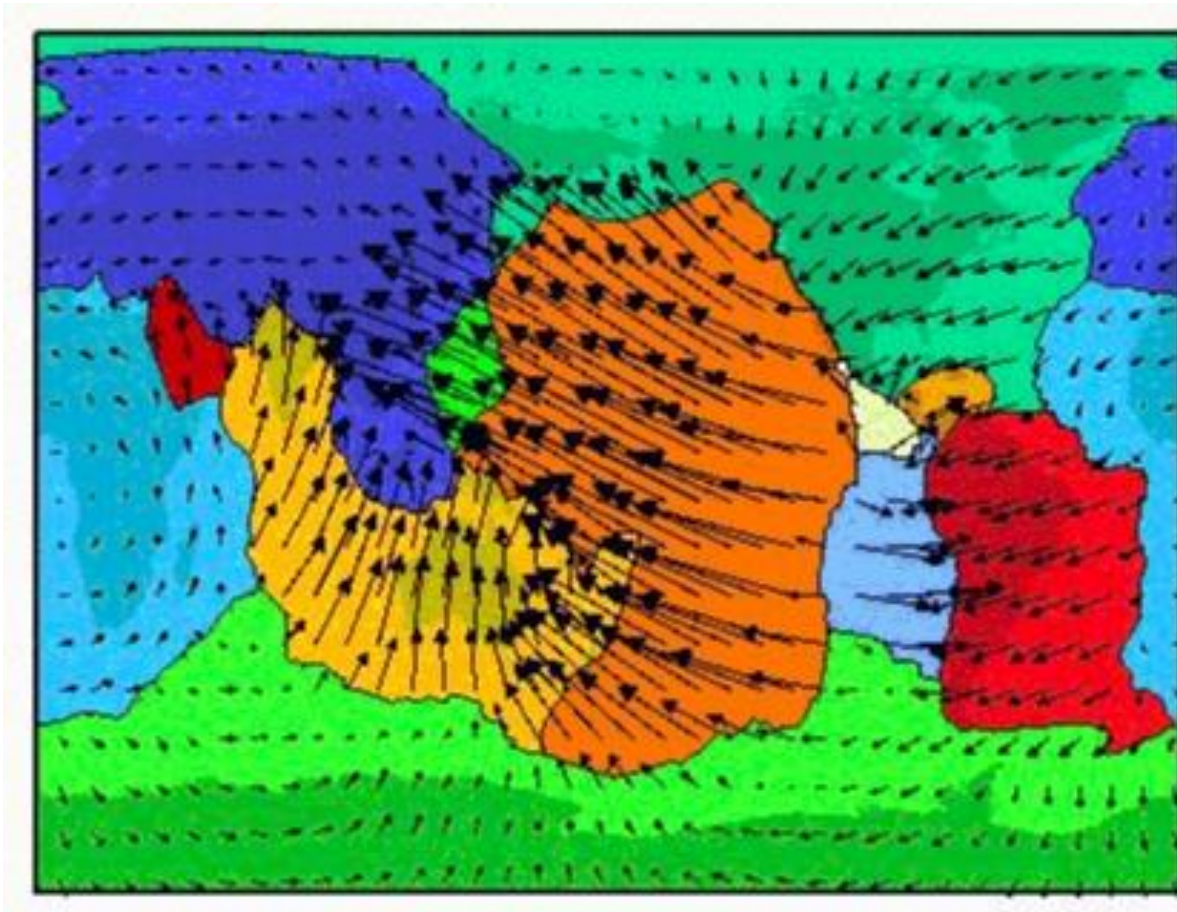


- PETITS : M 4.5 - 5.5
- MOYENS : M 5.5 - 6.5
- GROS : M 6.5 - 7.5
- TRES GROS : M 7.5 - 8.5
- profondeur < 50km
- profondeur 50km - 100km
- profondeur > 100km



### Q3 : WHY DO EARTHQUAKES OCCUR ?

ANSWER : mostly(\*) because of plate tectonics



Pacifique

Eurasie

Amérique du N

Amérique du S

Afrique

Antarctique

Indie-Australie

Nazca

Philippine

Arabie

Caraibes

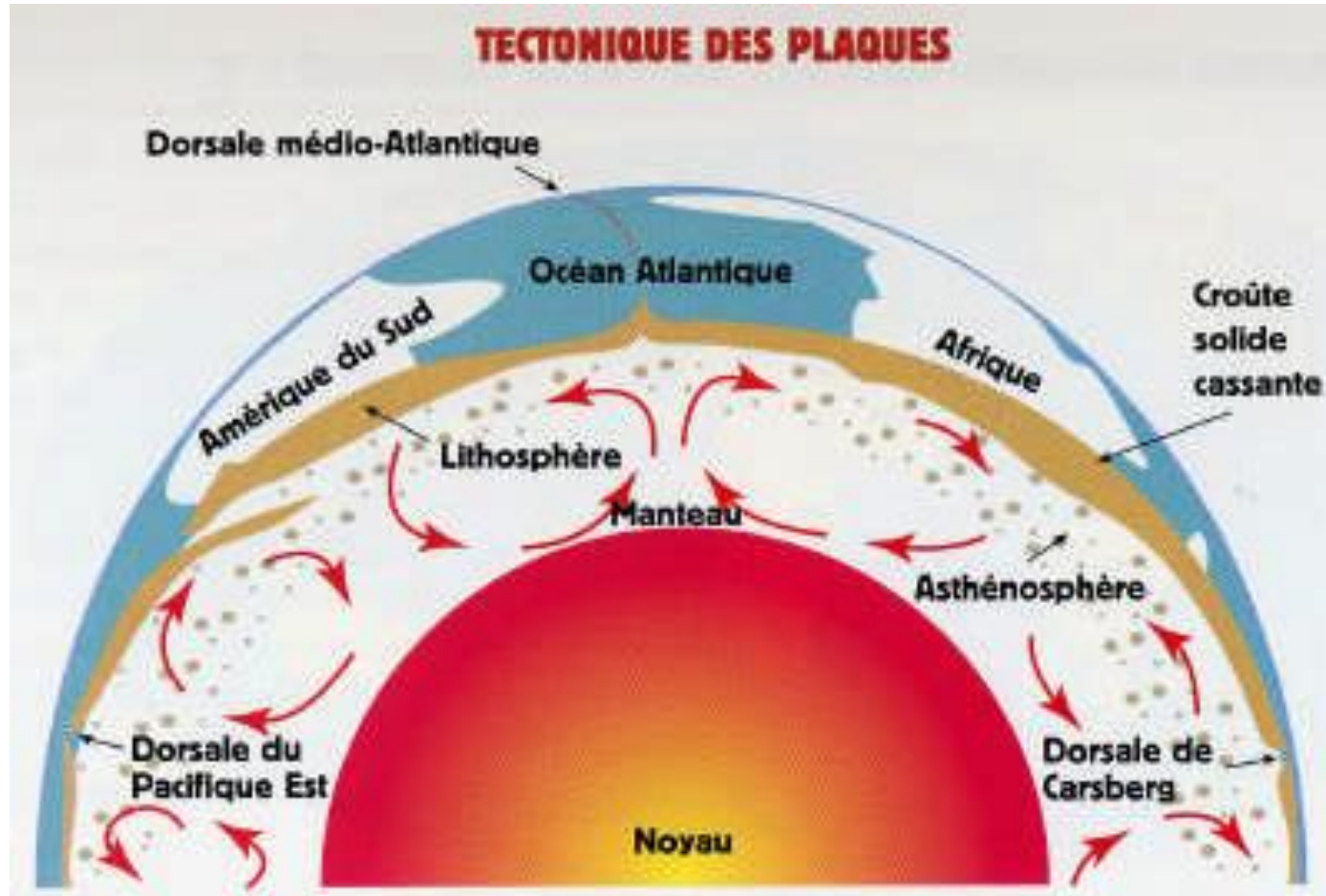
Coco

There are 12 major plates

...and they move ! **Plate tectonics**

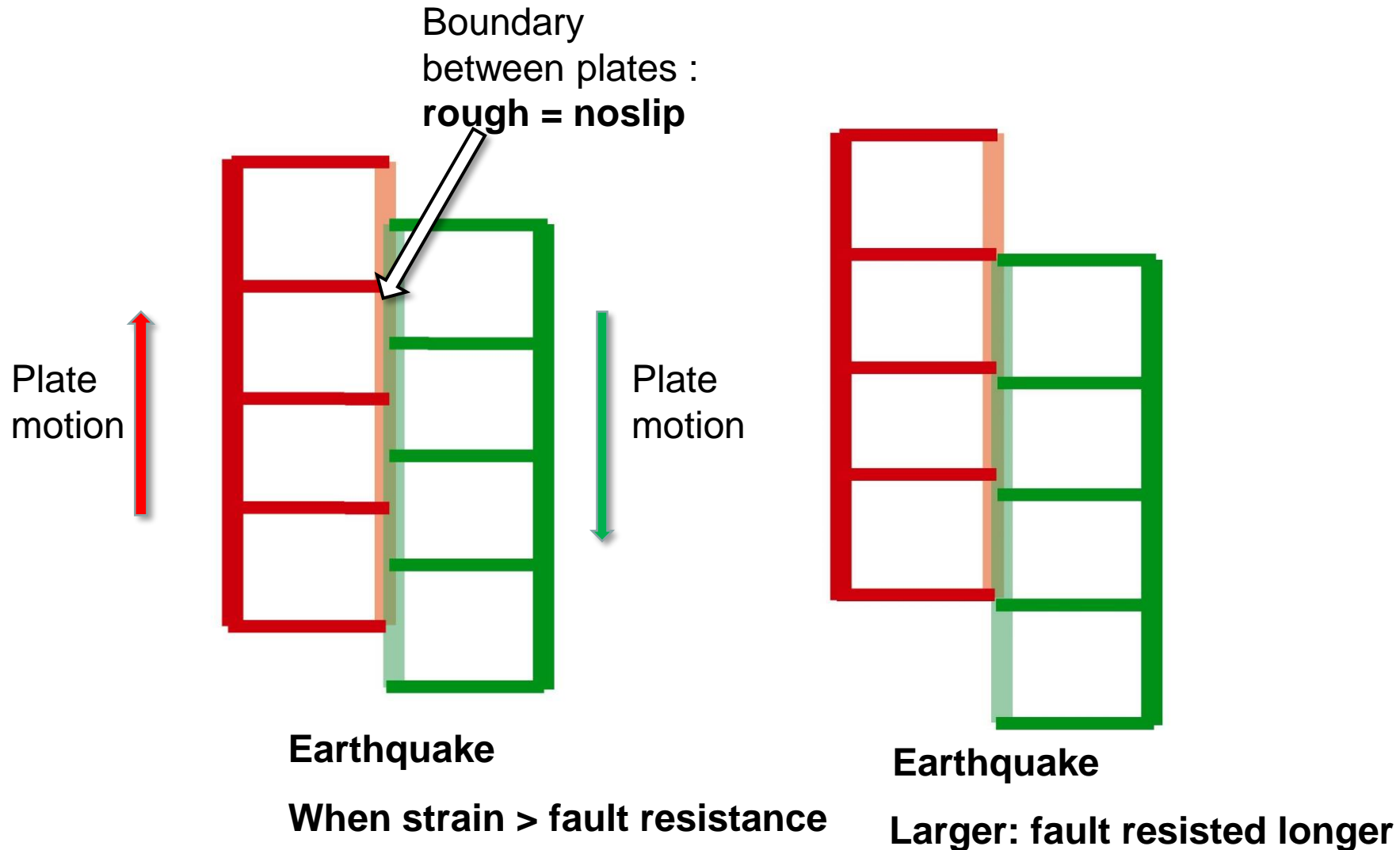
\* Will get back to that later

The engine of plate tectonics is mantle convection  
its fuel is rocks natural radio-activity



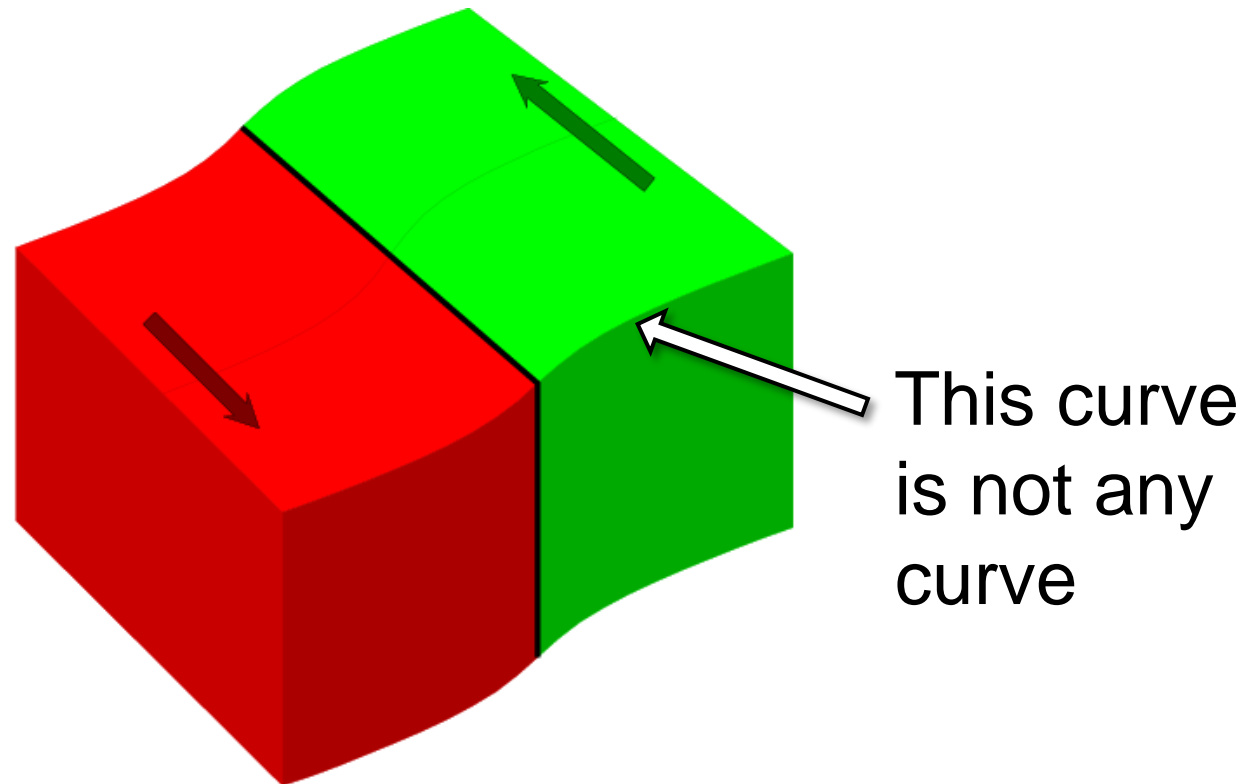
# Q4 : HOW DO EARTHQUAKES OCCUR ?

**Answer : because of friction, It rubs and it brakes !**



## Q5 : ANTICIPATE EARTHQUAKE size ?

**Answer : possible, measure deformation before...**



**Inter-seismic deformation obeys elastic medium formulation**

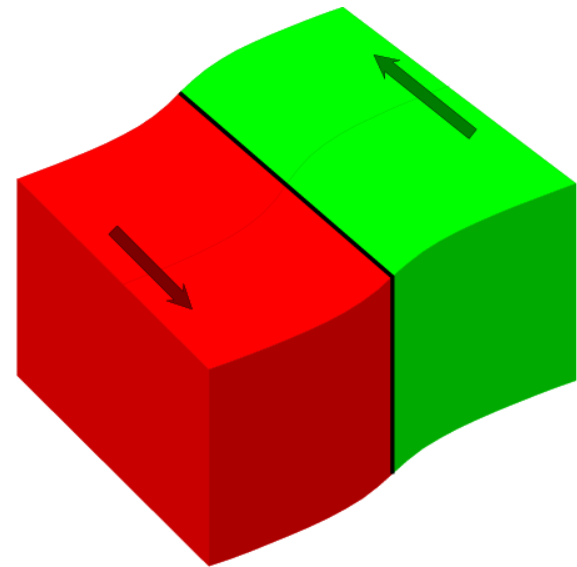
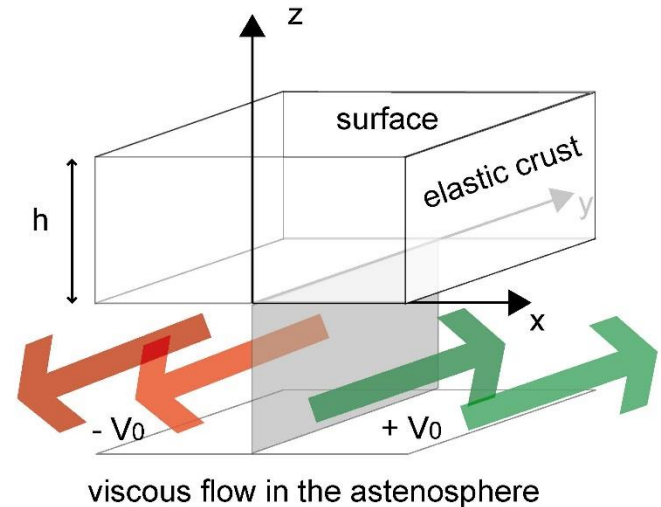


# Mathematical formulation : screw dislocation model

$$U_y = K \arctang (x/z)$$

At the surface ( $z=h$ )

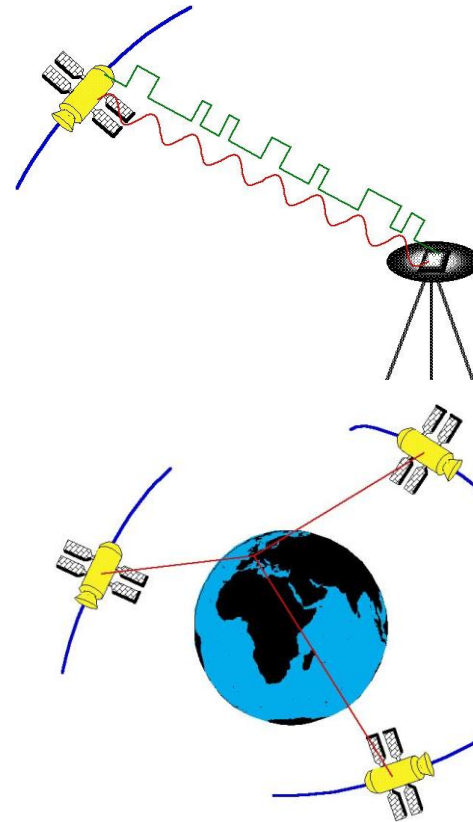
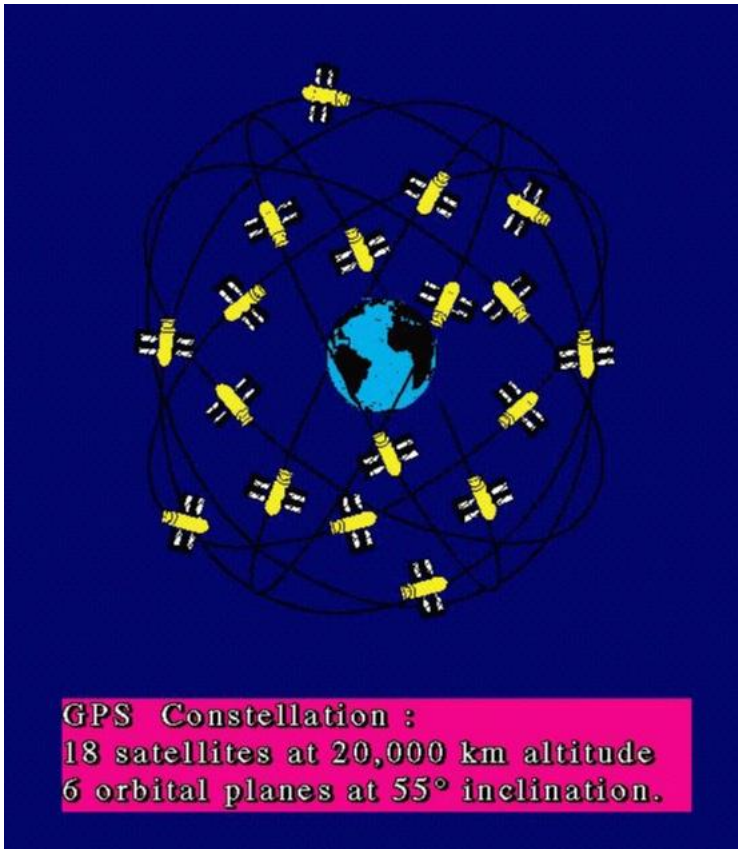
$$U_y = 2 \cdot V_0 / \Pi \arctang (x/h)$$



# Q6 : HOW MEASURE pre earthquake deformation ?

## Answer : Geodesy, now space born : GPS

GPS was created in the 80s' by the US Department of Defense for military purposes. The objective was to be able to get a precise position anywhere, anytime on Earth.



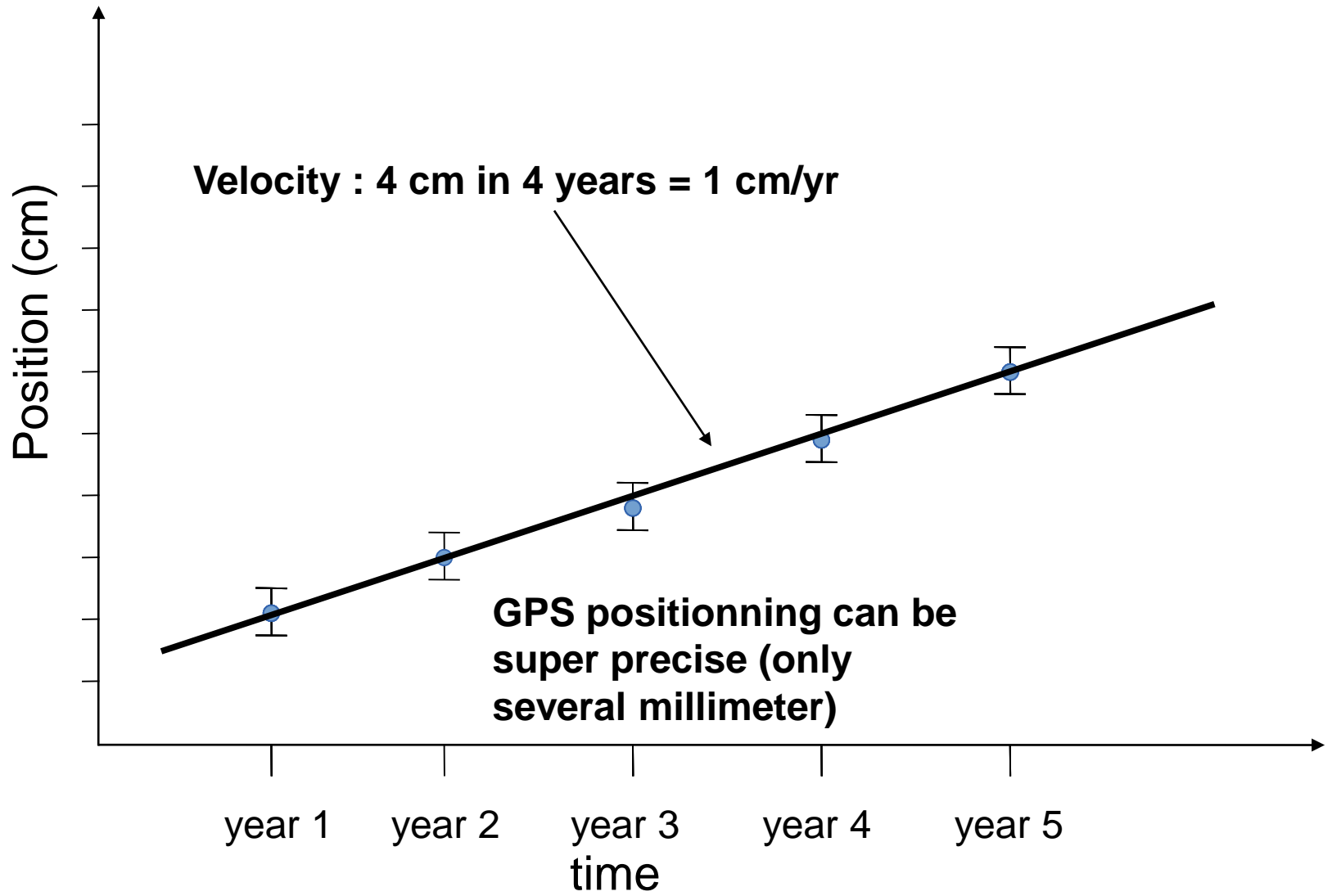
# GPS (Global Positioning System)



GPS antenna on tripod



Geodandic  
marker



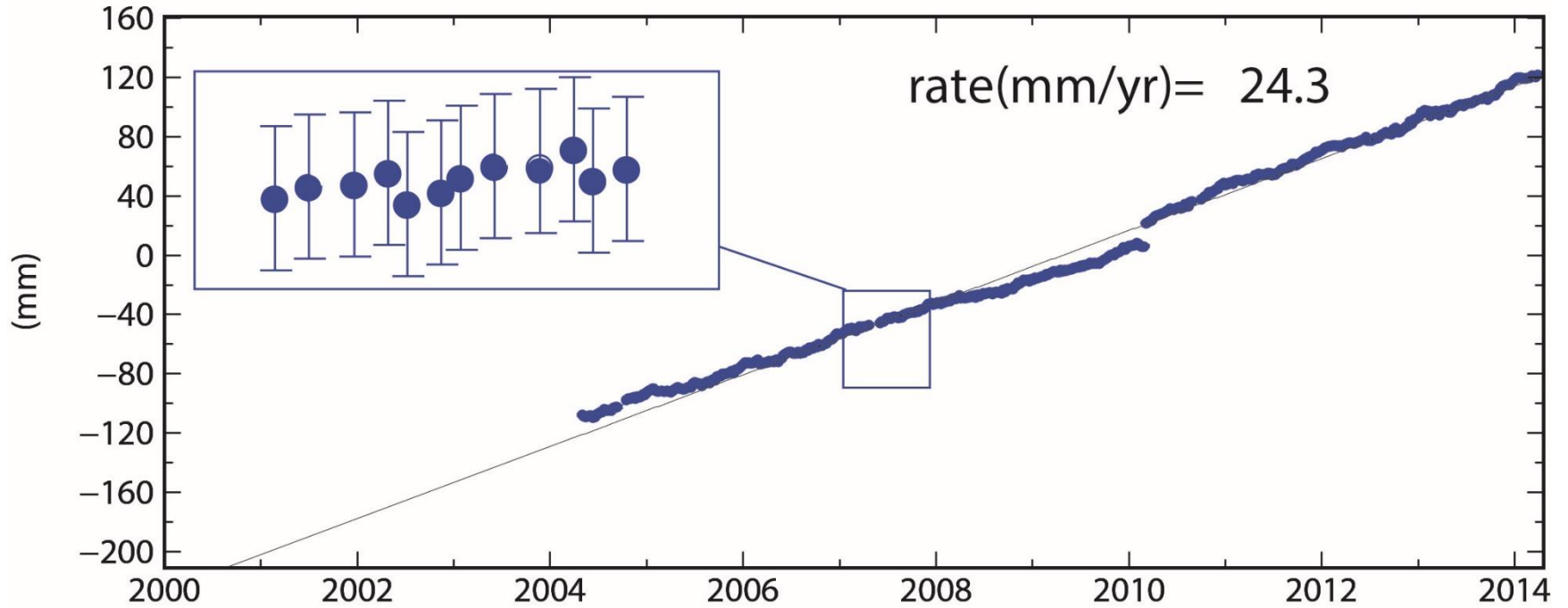


# GPS (Global Positioning System)

## Permanent stations

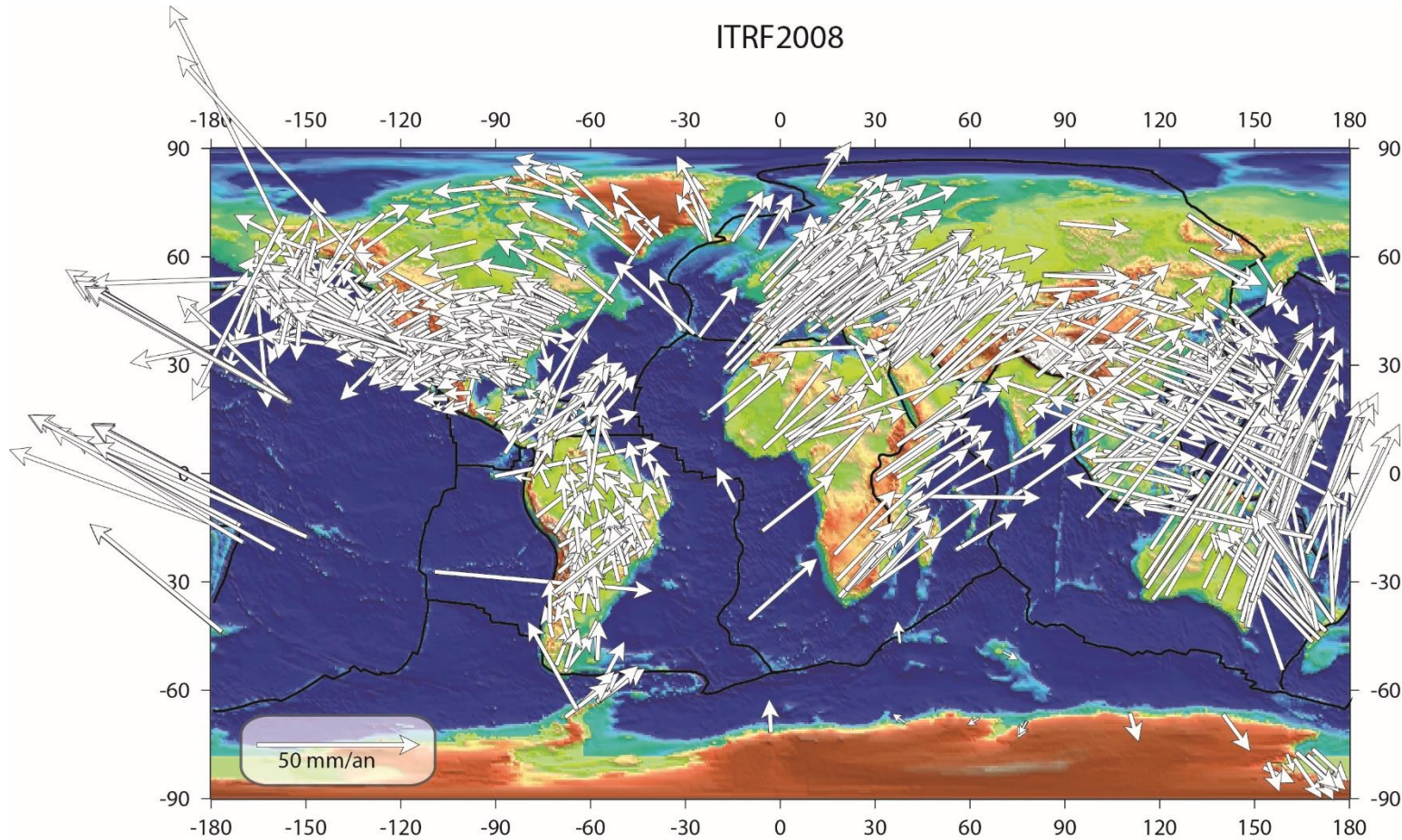


## Continuous GPS (cGPS) : time series



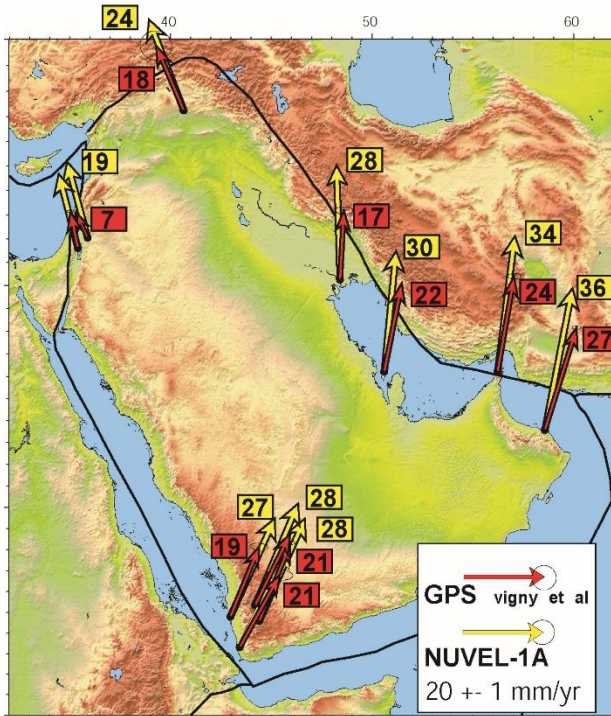


# A spectacular application of GPS: Measurement and quantification of plate tectonics

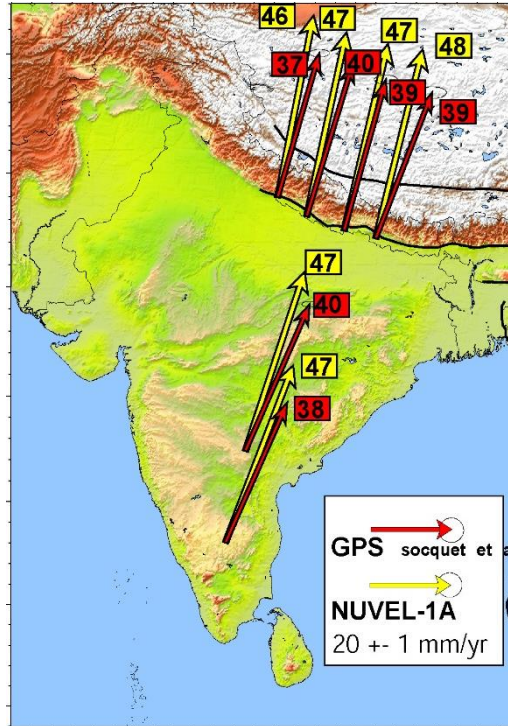


GPS velocities compare well with “geological” velocities: ITRF = Nuvel  
⇒ plate motions are stable : 10 km in 1 Myr = 1 cm/yr

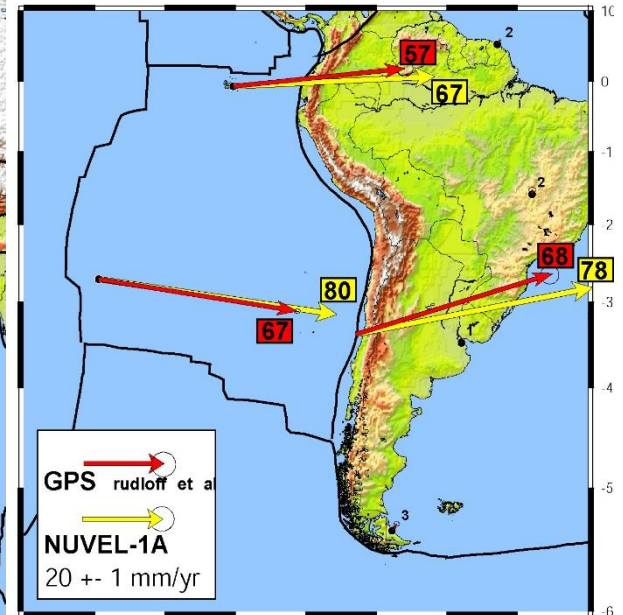
# Confirmation of plate tectonics : direct measurement from space



ARABIA



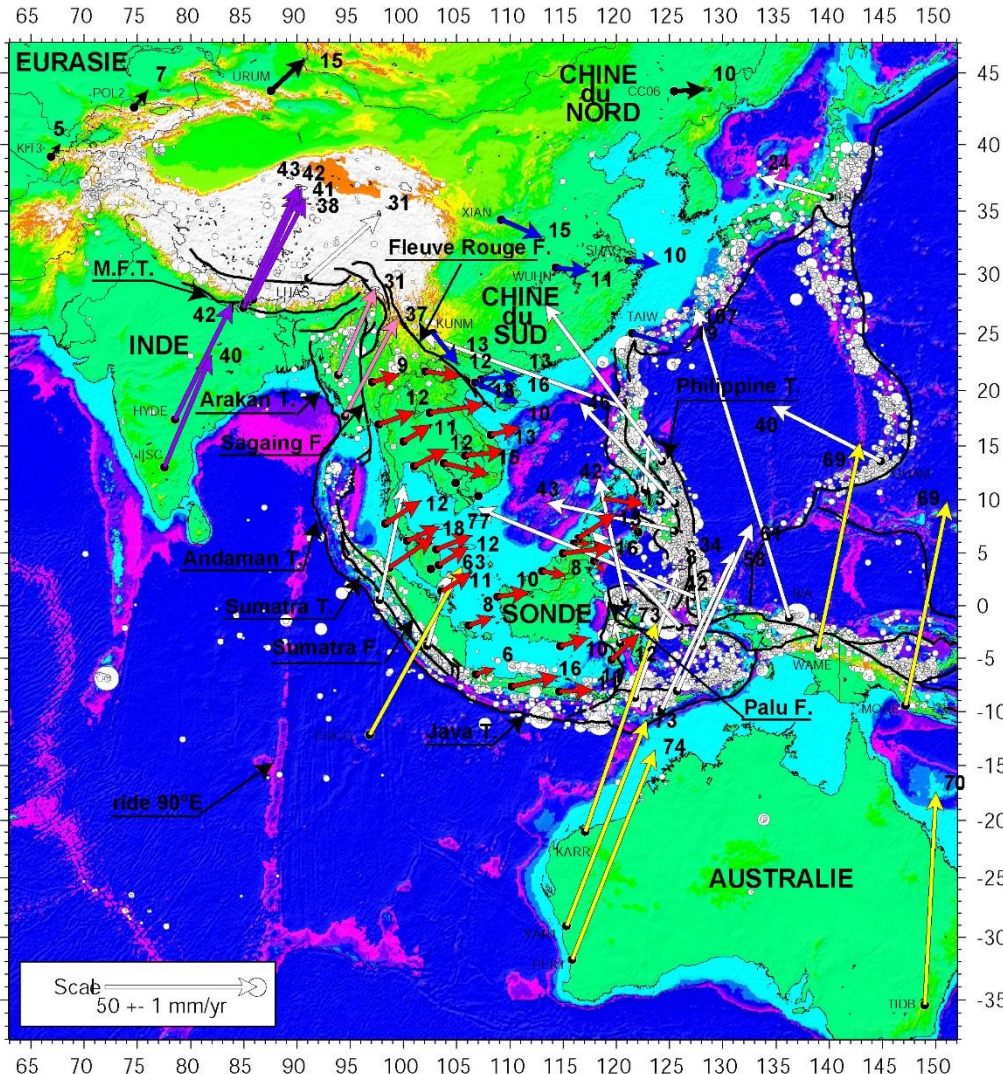
INDIA



SOUTH AMERICA



# Discovery of platelets : Sundaland (1997)



**SUNDA plate:**  
60 GPS sites  
12 years of measurements

independent from Eurasia  
and moves 1 cm/yr Eastward

**INDIA plate:**  
6 GPS sites  
10 years of measurements

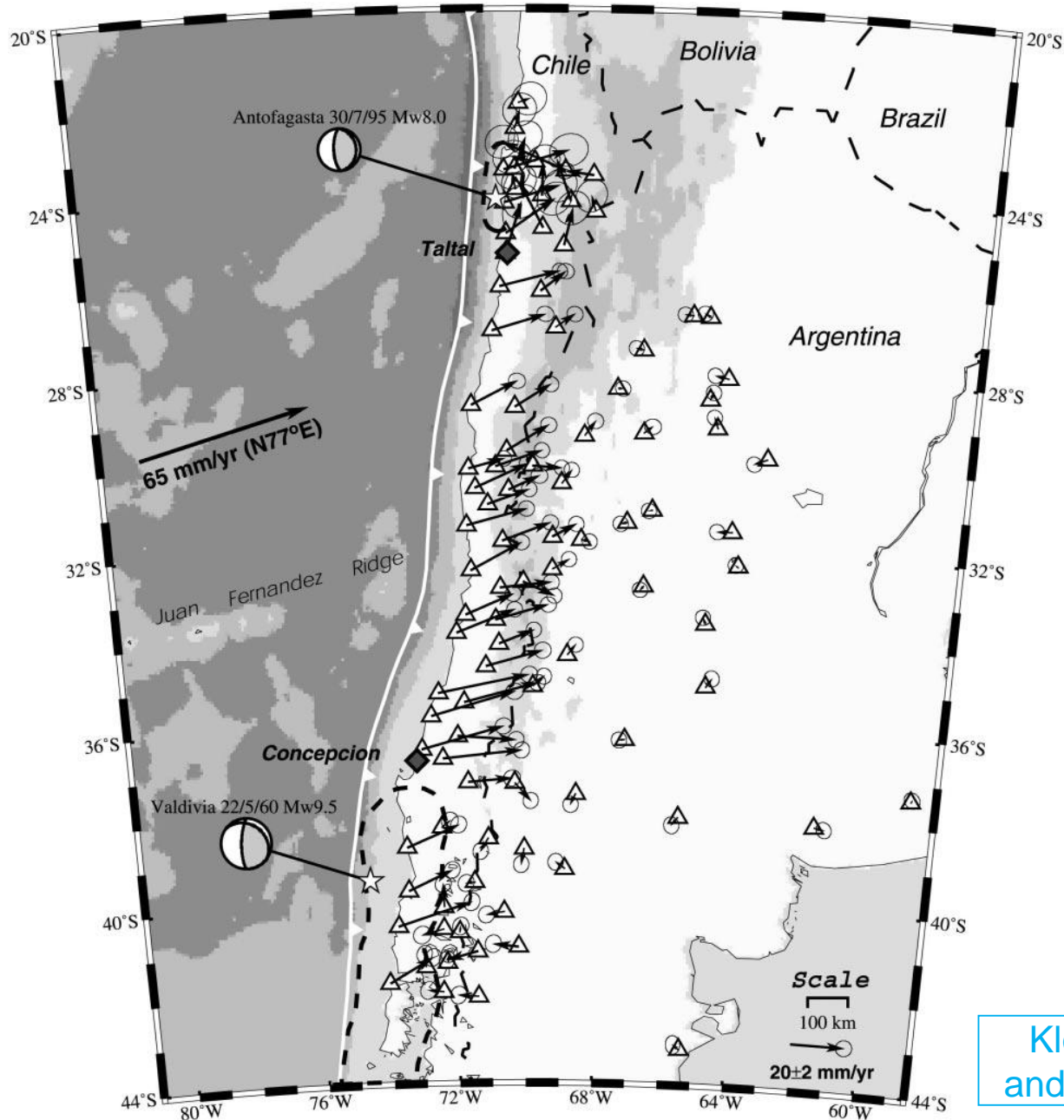
only 4 cm/yr wrt GPS Eurasia  
even less (3.5 cm/yr) wrt Sunda

**BURMA platelet (or sliver):**  
22 GPS sites  
2 years of measurements

Nor India, nor Eurasia, not even  
Sunda

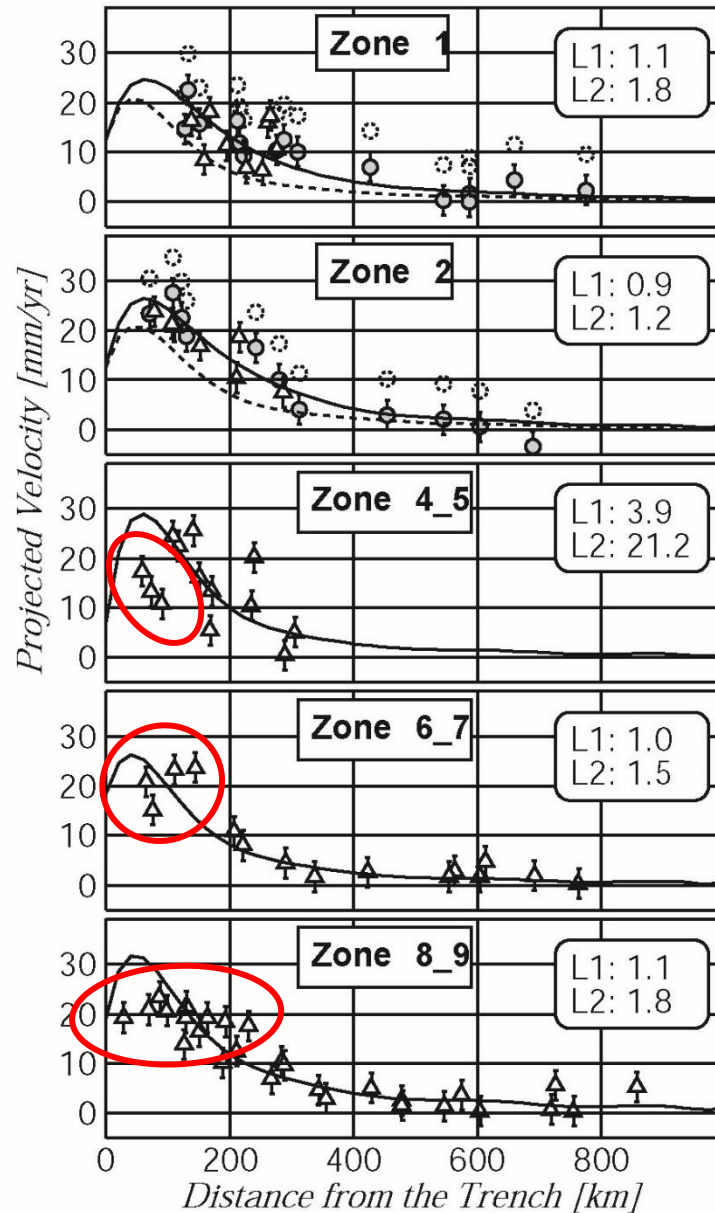
**South China ????**

# SAGA network (GFZ-Potsdam) since ~1990



Klotz, Khazaradze  
and co-authors, 2002

# Klotz, Khazaradze and co-authors



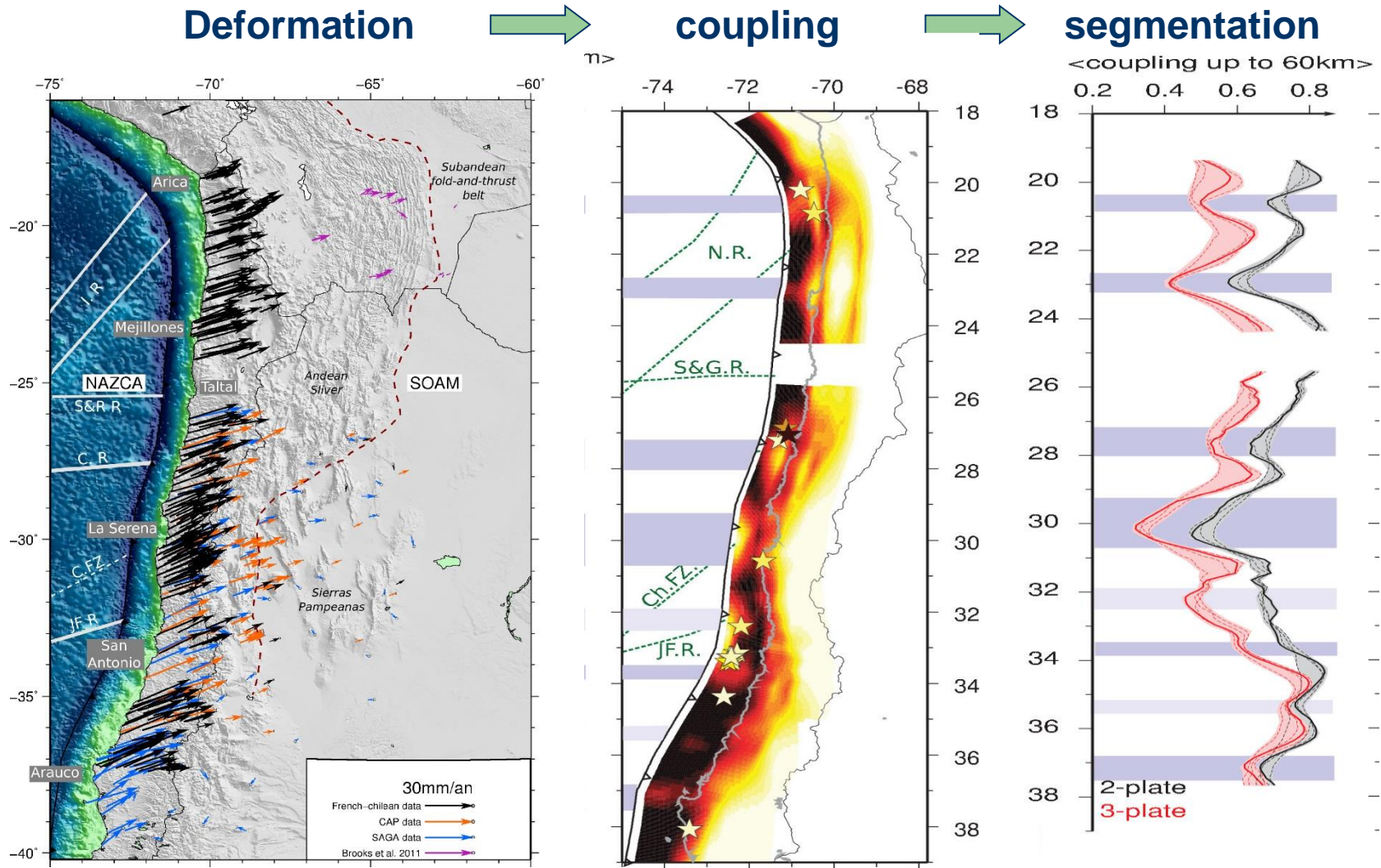
Curves show elastic deformation prediction according to standard model (Full Coupling, ...)

**But .....**



# Intra-plate deformation during inter-seismic loading...

## 25 years of GPS measurements in Chili => coupling maps



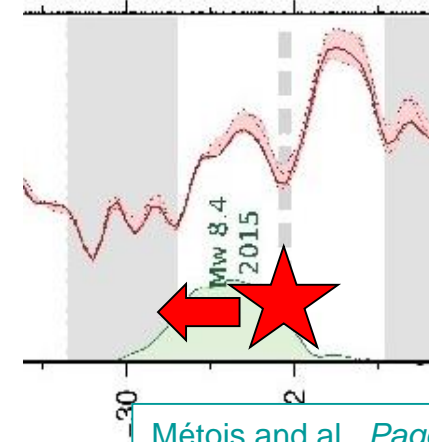
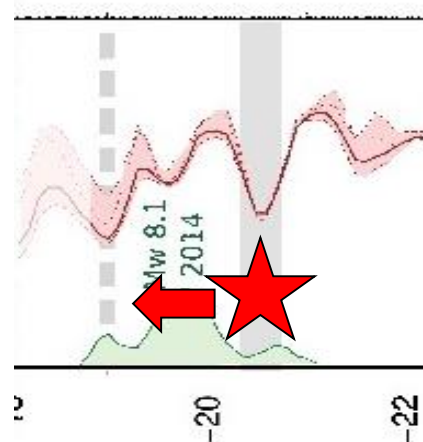
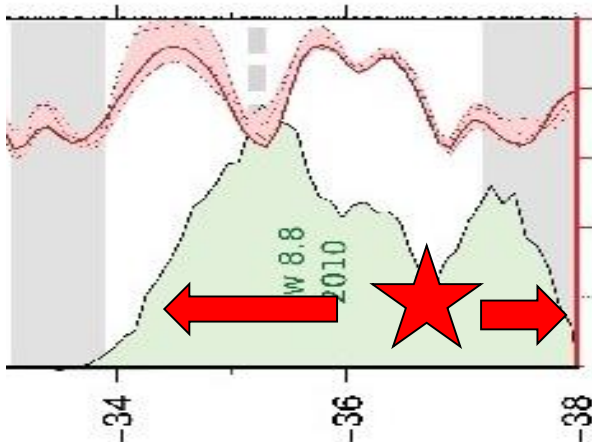
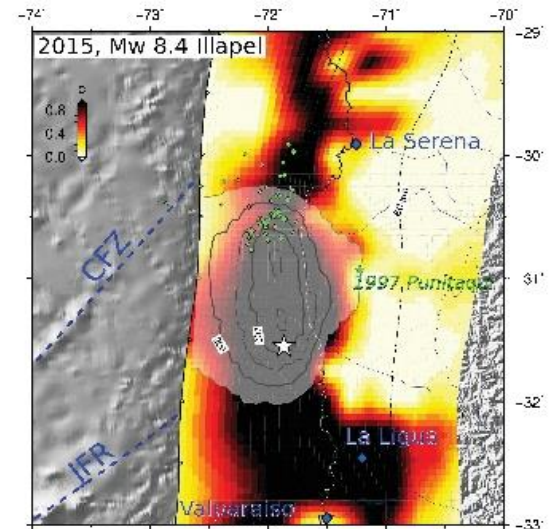
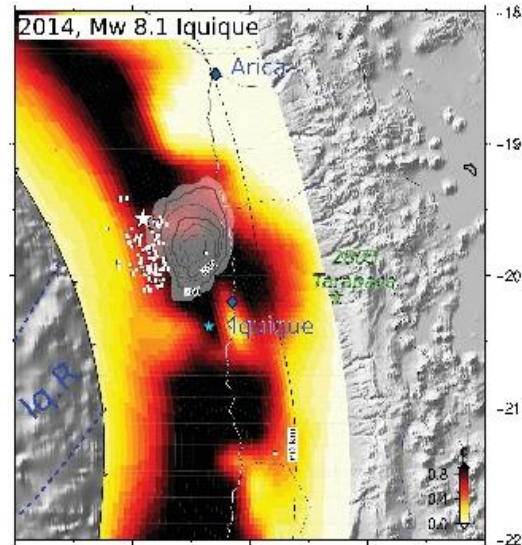
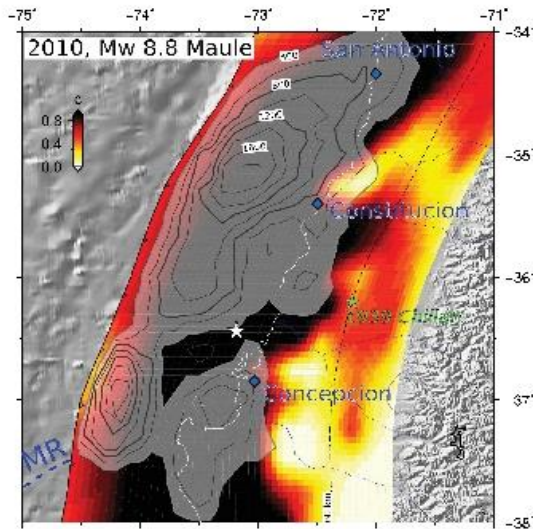
# FINDING1 : Earthquakes occur in high coupling areas

*interesting : epicenters seem located in lower coupling areas....*

## Maule 2010 8.8

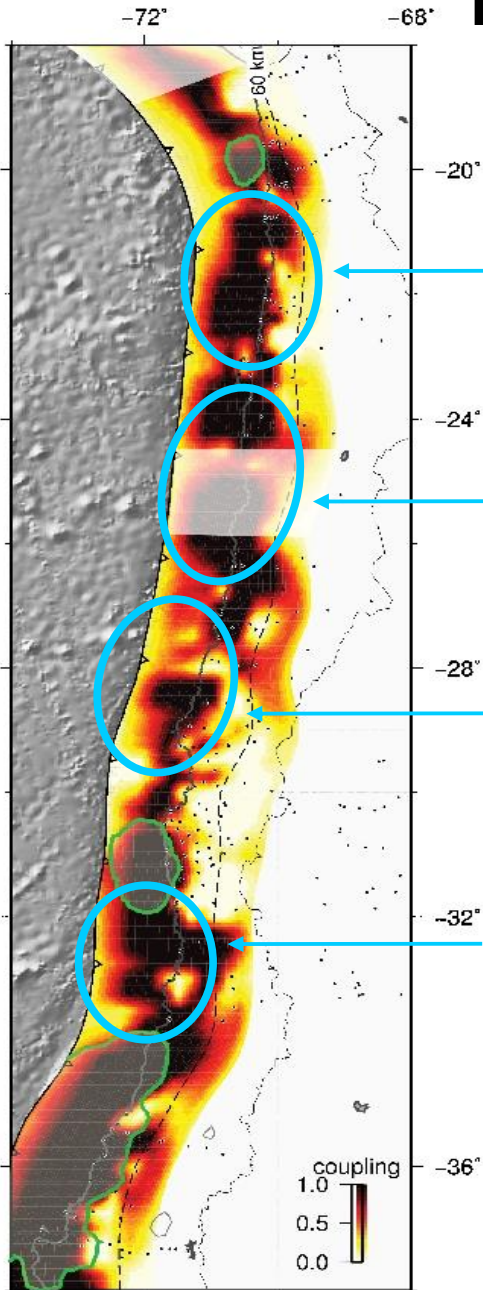
## Iquique 2014 8.1

## Illapel 2015 8.4





# ~~Plausible predictions scenarios~~



## 1877 north Chile Gap :

Coupled but not mature  
 Unlikely to break soon with Mw ~9 (like 1877  
 but could produce *several "smaller  
 magnitude(s)" Mw 8.?*

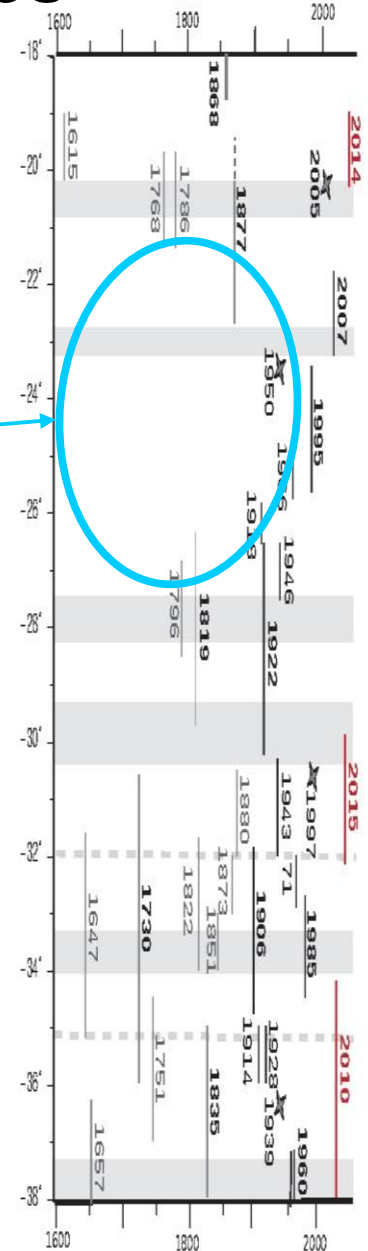
## Taltal ????

## 1922 Copiapo Gap :

Coupled and mature and triggered  
*likely to break soon* with Mw ~8.5 (like 1922)  
 But complex gap (segmented ?)

## 1906 Valparaiso Gap :

Coupled, may be mature but delayed by  
 relax.  
*Unlikely to break soon* with Mw > 8.5 (like  
 1906)

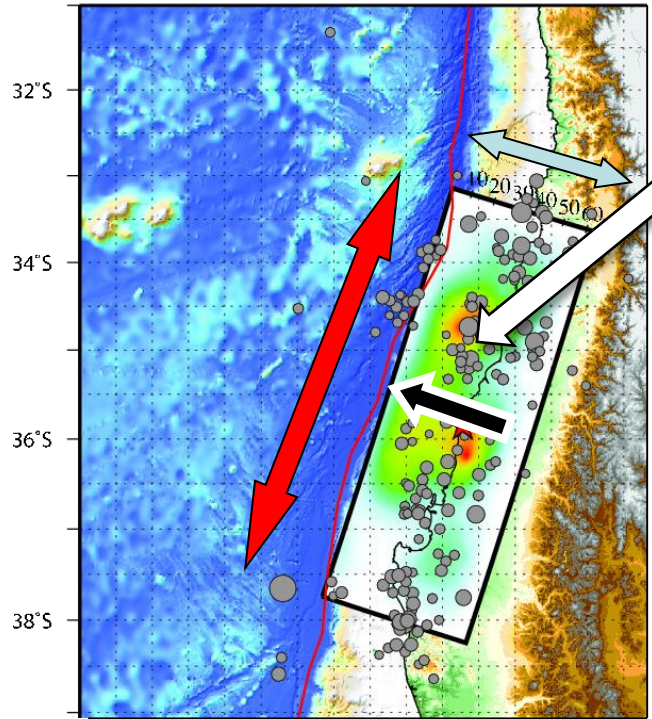


Surprises !!!

Things to learn from....

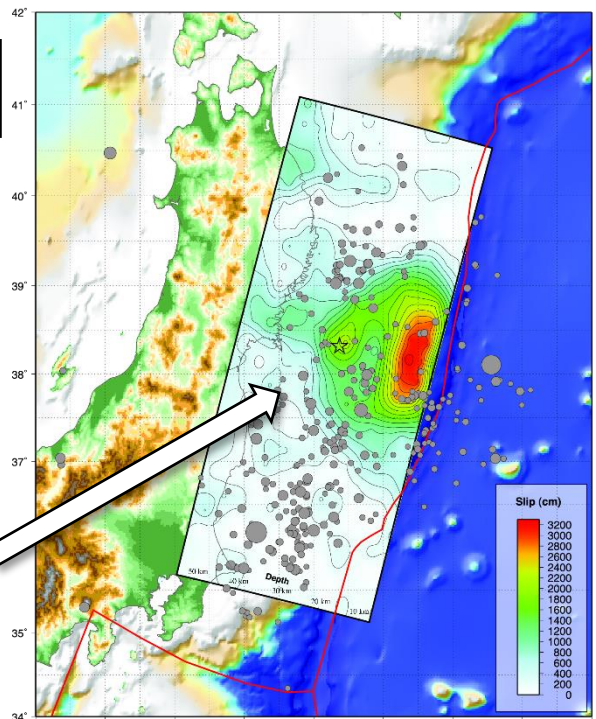
# Earthquake size = surface of asperity x slip

Chile: **450 km** x **150 km** x **9 m** => Mw 8.8 | Japan: **200 km** \* **150 km** \* **25 m** => Mw 9.0



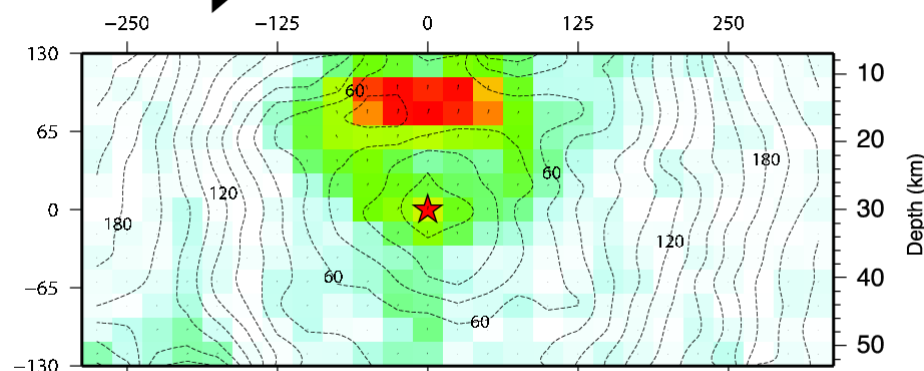
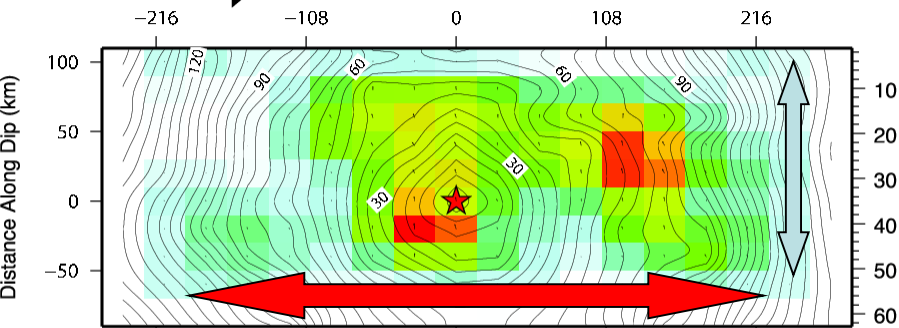
**standard**

**Short  
does  
not  
mean  
small !**



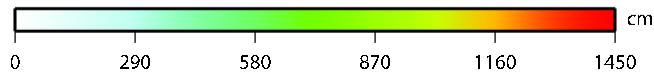
Strike = 17.5  
Distance Along Strike (km)

Strike = 194.4  
Distance Along Strike (km)

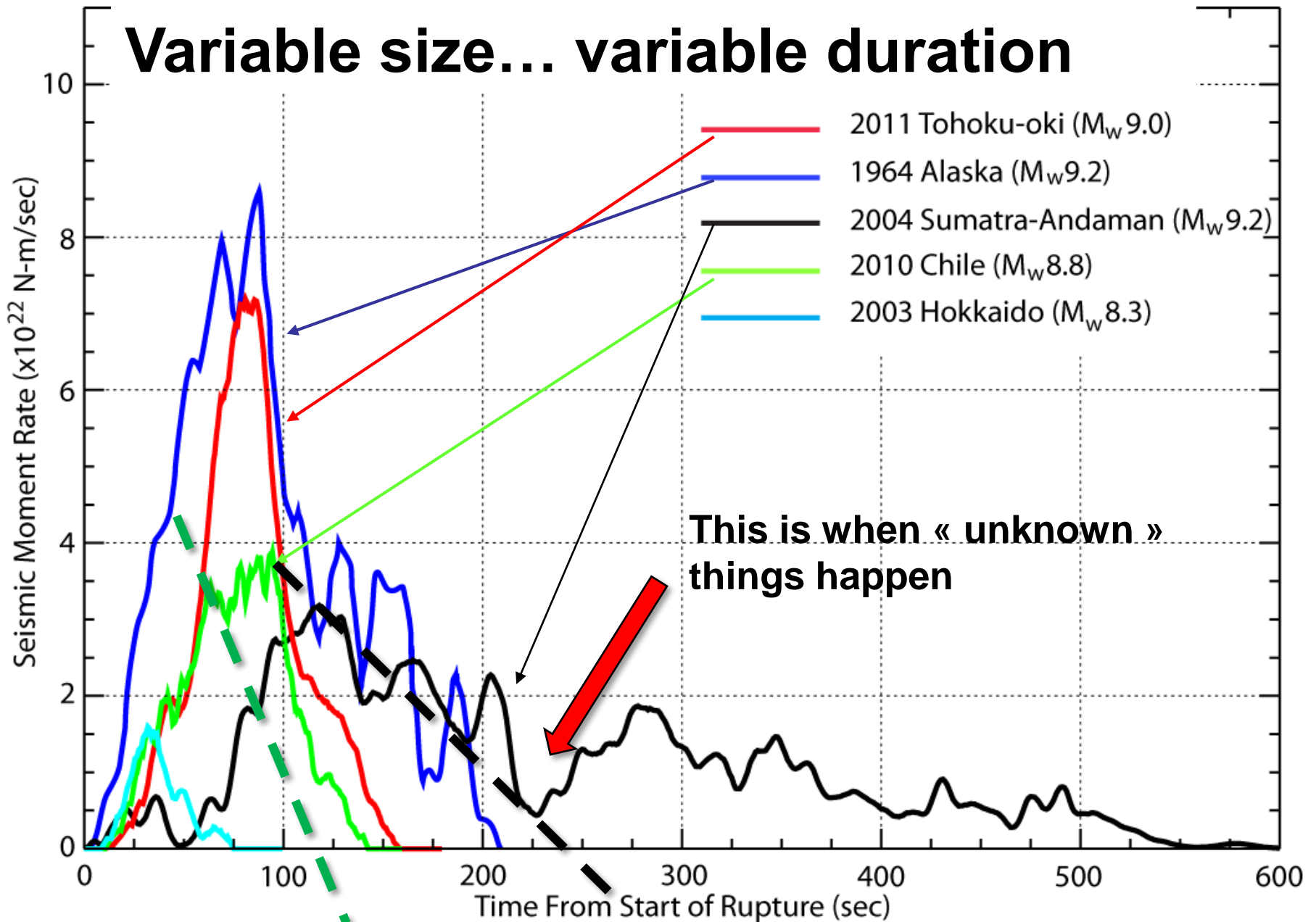


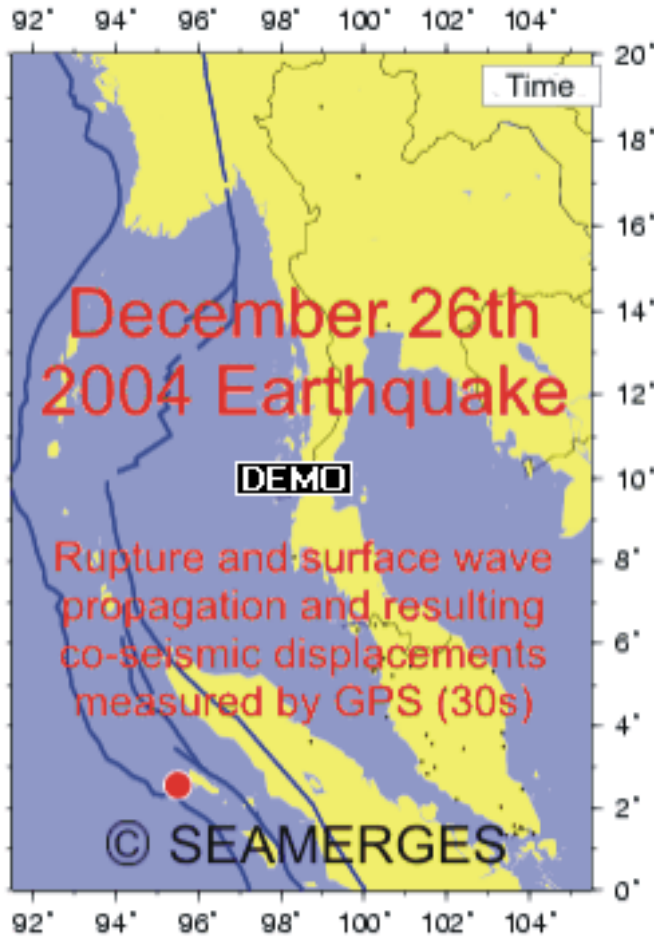
Rupture Front Contours Plotted Every 5s

Rupture Front Contours Plotted Every 15 s



# Variable size... variable duration

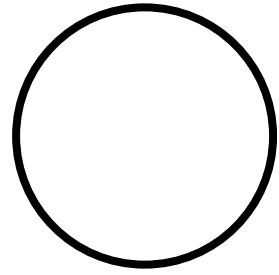




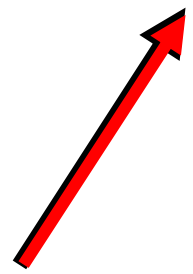
<http://www.deos.tudelft.nl/seamerges>



rupture



Seismic **surface**  
waves propagation  
(3.7 km/s)

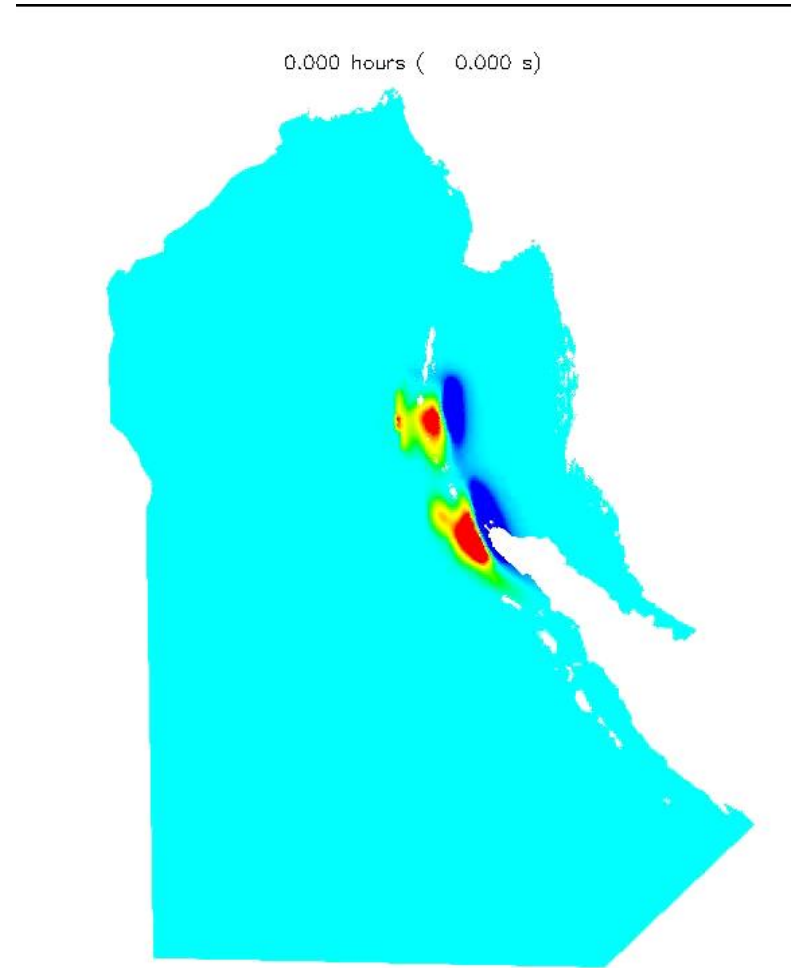
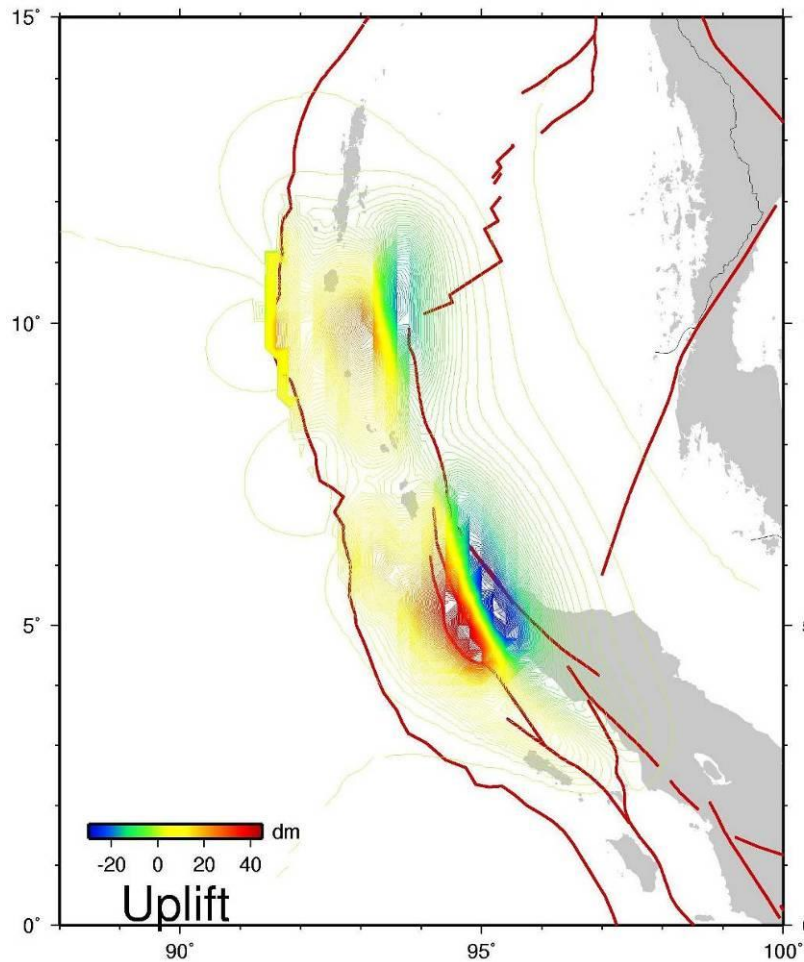


GPS stations  
displacements

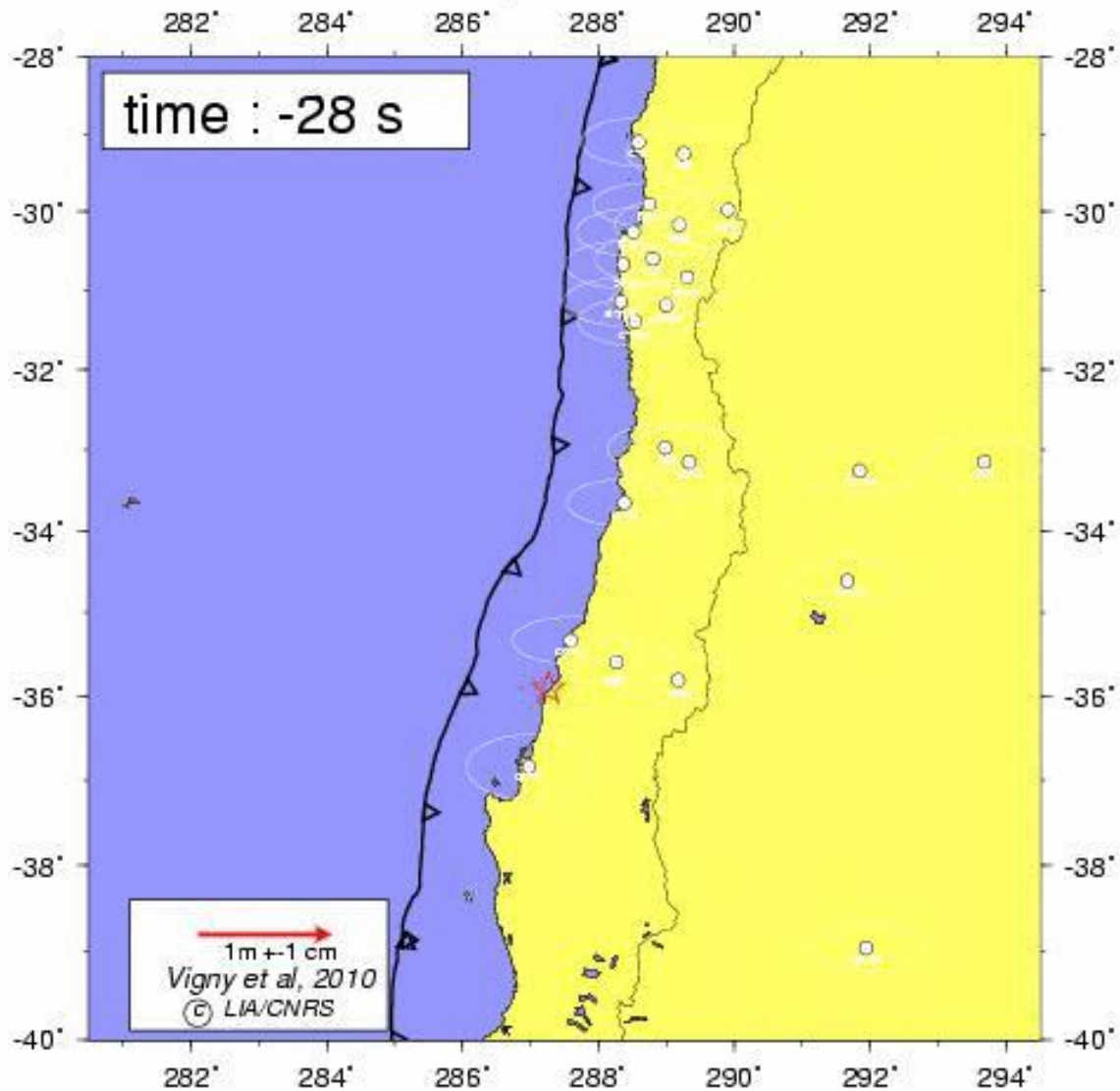
Rupture Propagation:  
3.7 km/s initially (South)  
30s stop ~ 8° lat  
1.8 km/s onward (North)

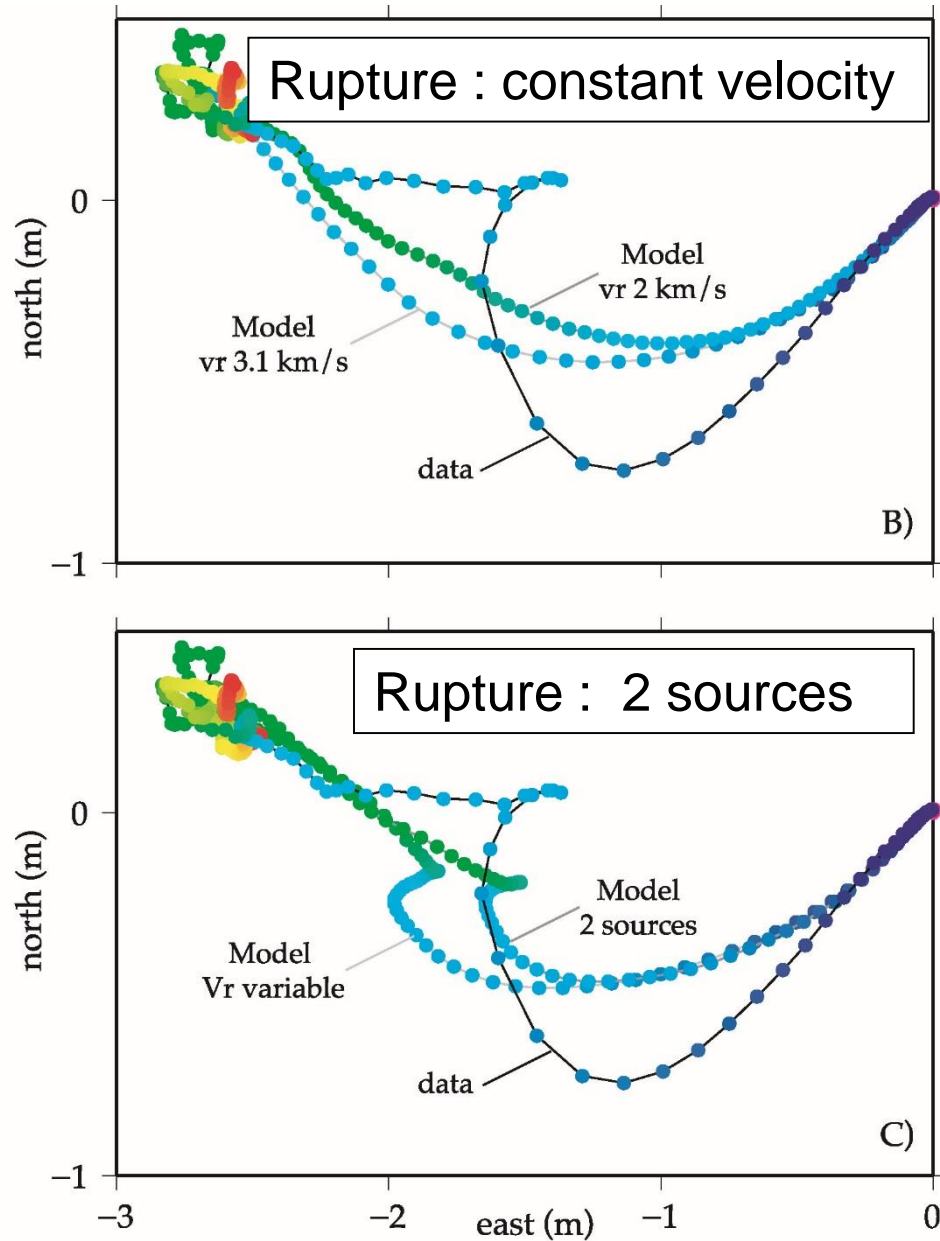
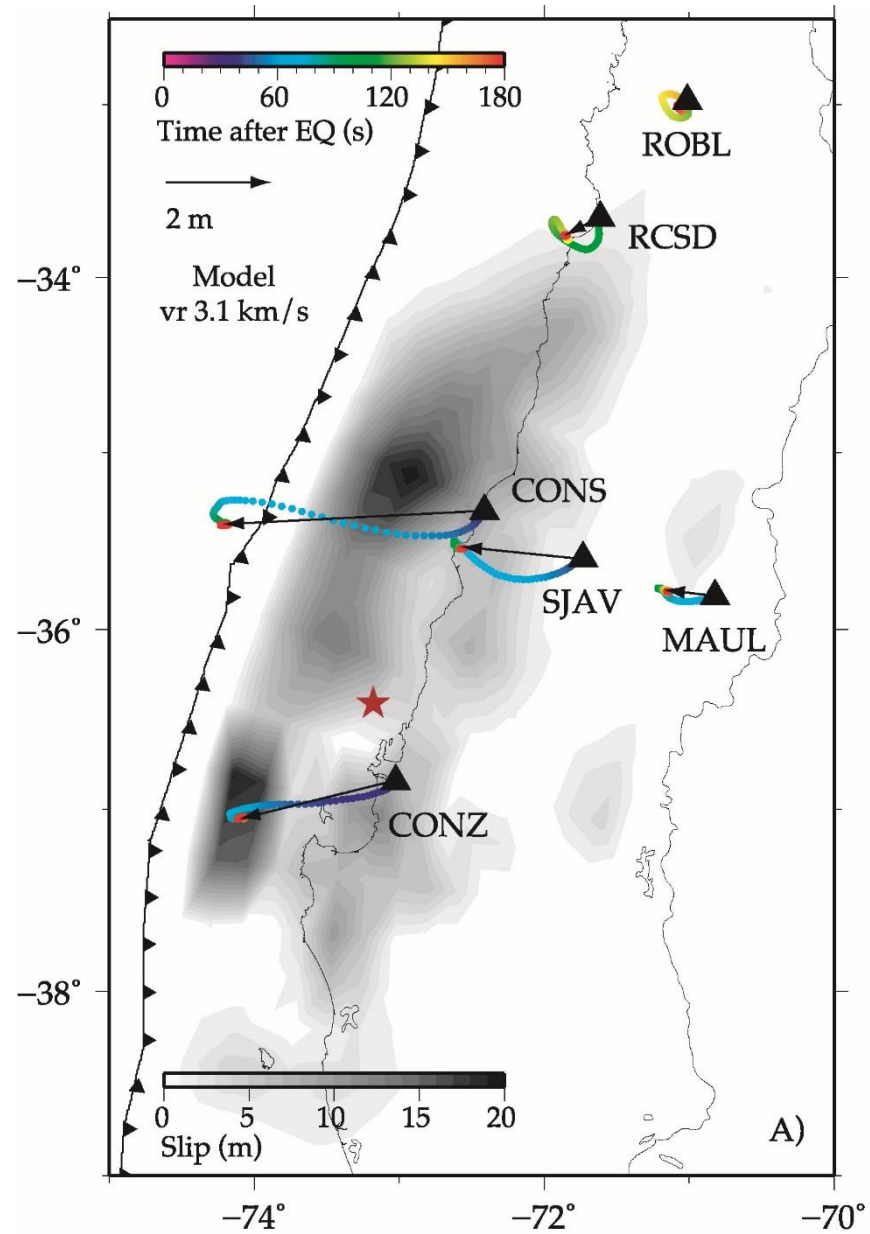


# Underwater ground motion => Tsunami



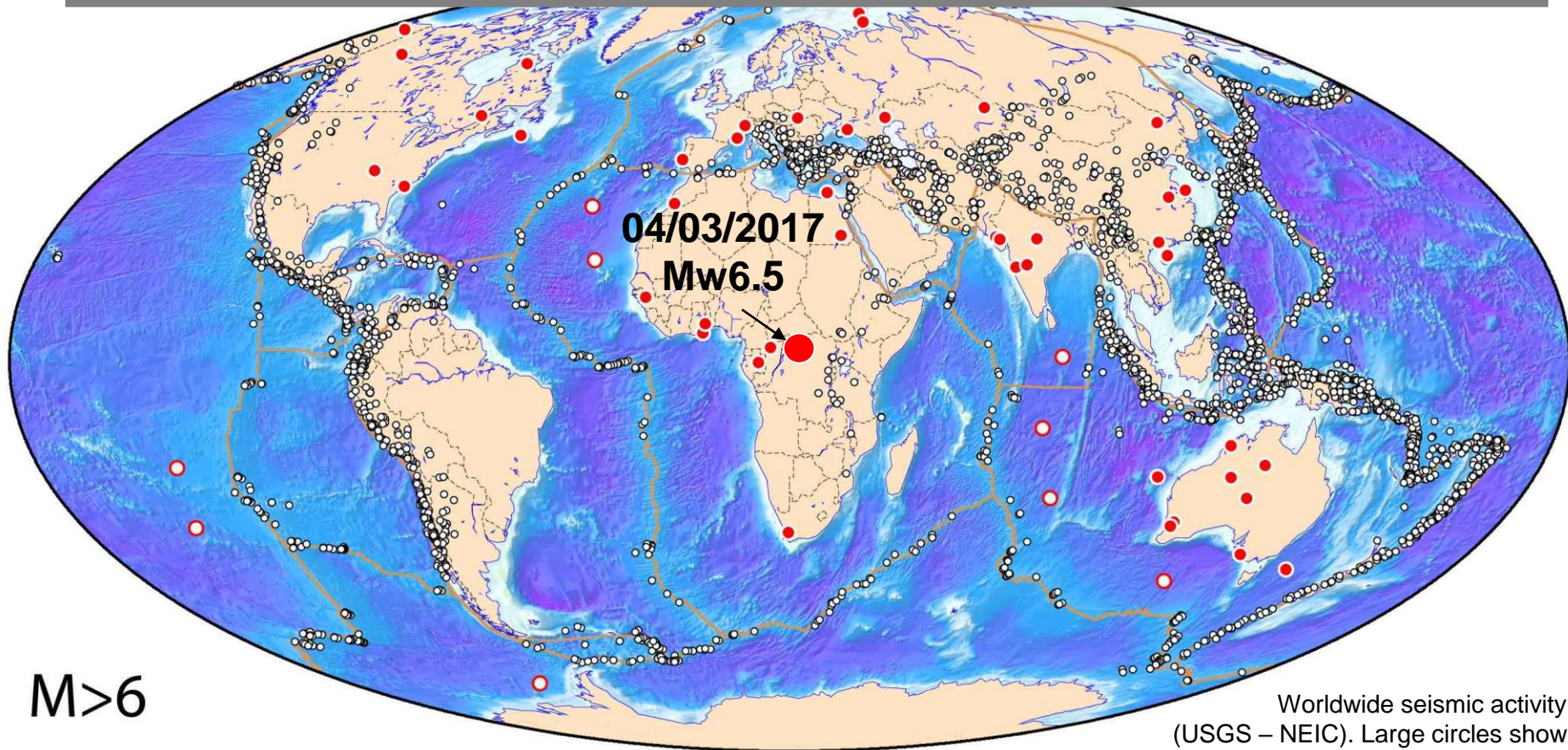
# Maule Eq 27-Feb-2010







# Large Earthquakes in Plate Interiors: A Challenge to Plate Tectonics

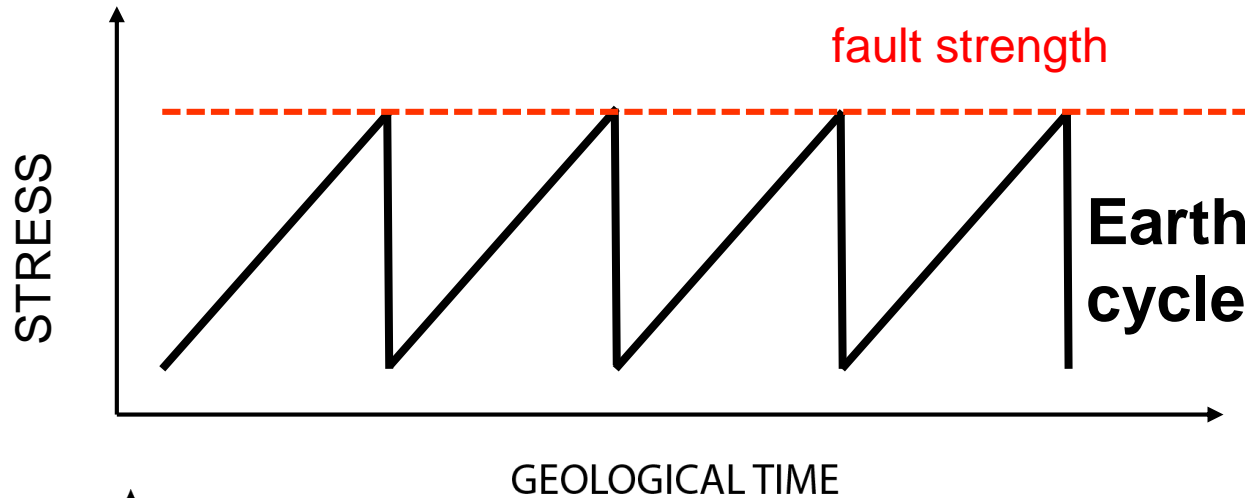


$M > 6$

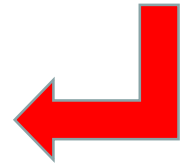
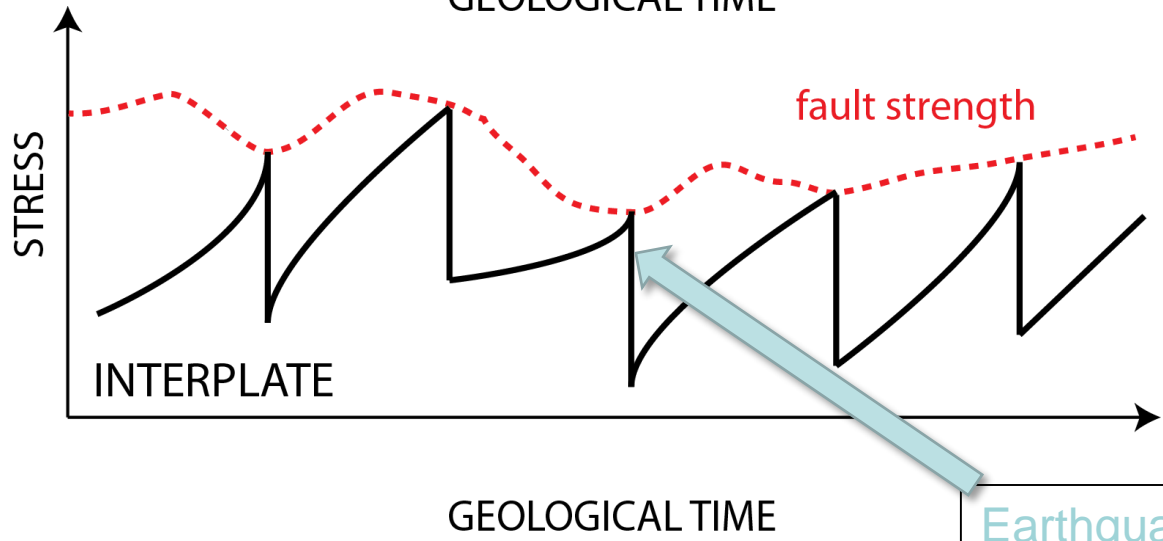
Worldwide seismic activity (USGS – NEIC). Large circles show  $M > 6$  intraplate earthquakes: red for stable continental regions, white for stable oceanic regions.

Stable continental regions (SCRs): “areas where the continental crust is largely unaffected by currently active plate boundary processes” (Johnston, 1989)

# “Earthquakes occur as a result of global plate motion” (Kanamori and Brodsky, Rep. Prog. Phys., 2004)



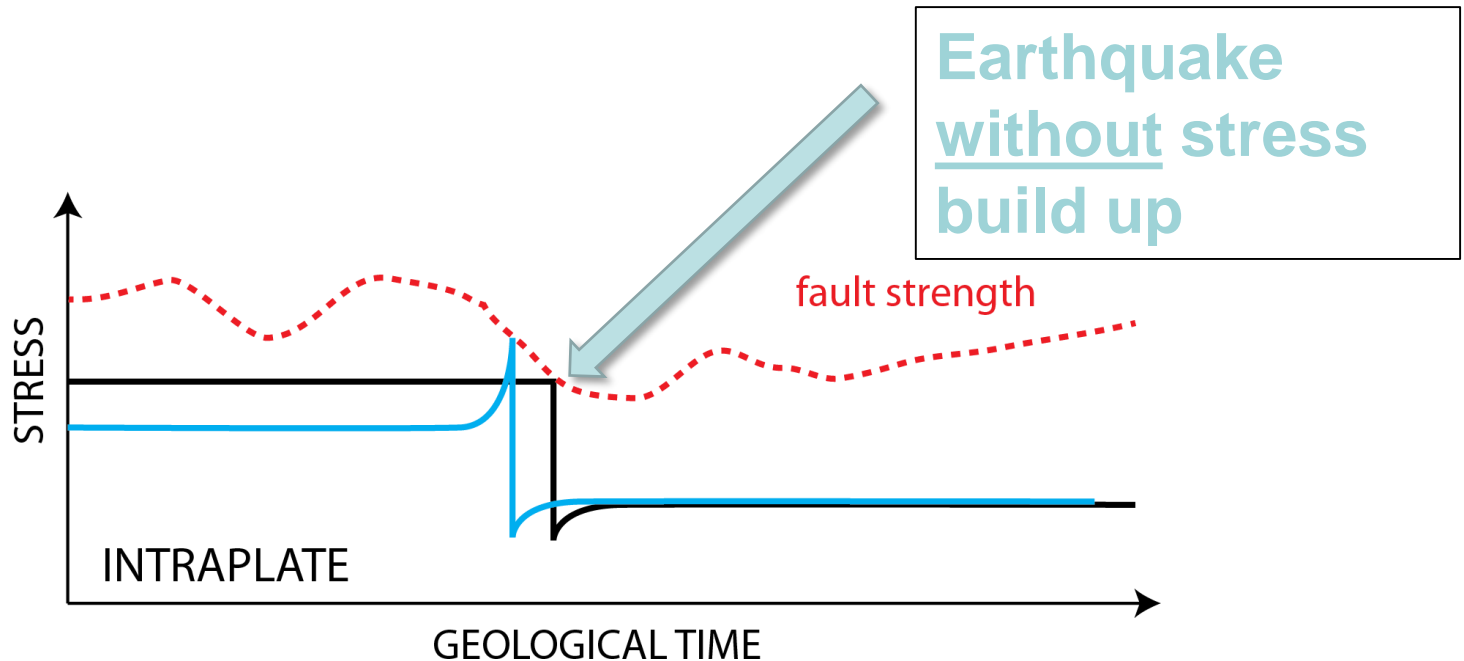
But what if  
fault strength  
changes  
with time ?



Earthquake with almost  
no stress build up



While long-term tectonic stress provides the energy that is released during large SCR earthquakes, they are **triggered by** transient perturbations of local stress that release elastic energy from a **pre-stressed crust** where faults are at failure equilibrium.

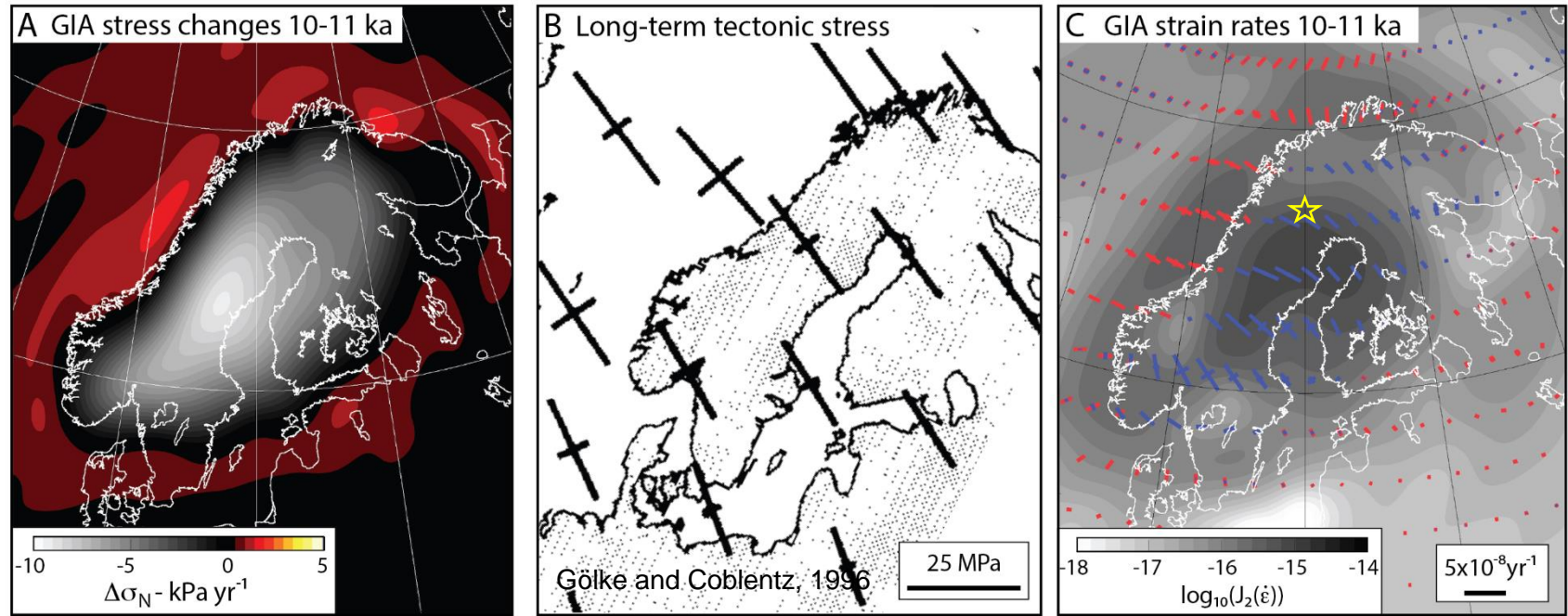


SCR earthquakes occur as a result of transient stress/strength perturbations and release elastic energy from a pre-stressed crust.

Parvie scarp, 3-10 m, reverse faulting, ~10 ka, 155 km long



# Current release of paleo stress in Fenoscandia => new seismic hazard



End-glacial faults did not release strain building up at the time

=> SCR crust stores elastic energy over time scales that are longer than observable by geodesy or paleoseismology

...more [difficult] work ahead..

Thanks for attention



21 4 2007





# Size of an Earthquake

Earthquake « size » or released Moment  $M_0$ , is proportional to :

- Quantity of slip (U)

↳ fault velocity (V) x time between earthquakes  $\Delta t$

- Size of ruptured surface (S)

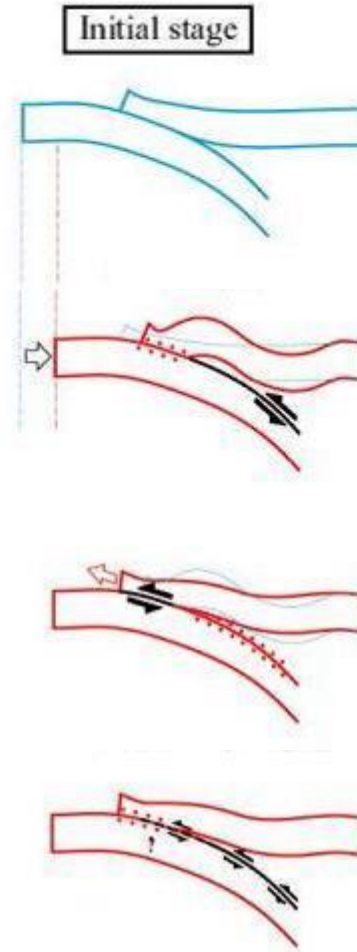
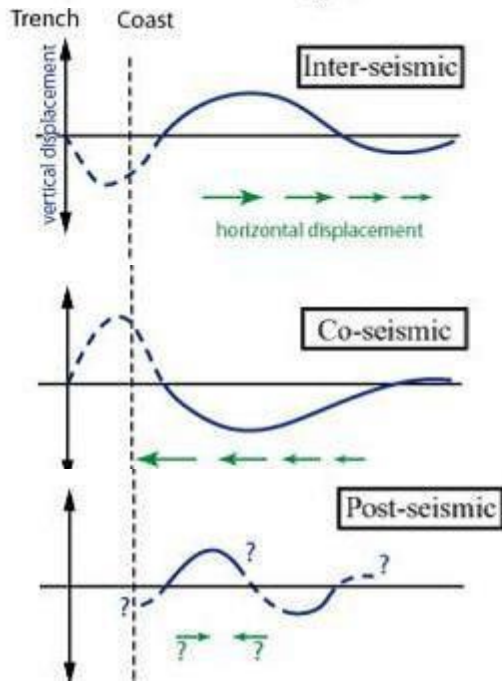
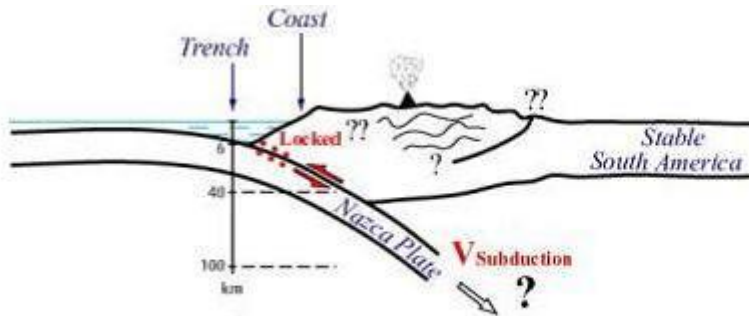
↳ Length of rupture (L) x Locking depth of fault (d)

$$\Rightarrow M_0 = \mu \times S \times U = \mu \times L \times d \times V \times \Delta t$$

Magnitude of an Earthquake (Hanks & Kanamori):

$$M_w \sim \text{Log} (M_0) = 2/3 \text{Log} (M_0) - 10.7$$

# La Subduction : Un très très gros ressort !!!



Centaines d'années

Quelques secondes quelques minutes

Des mois des années

# Seismic cycle on subduction zone

## Interseismic stage :

Interface locked over several decades

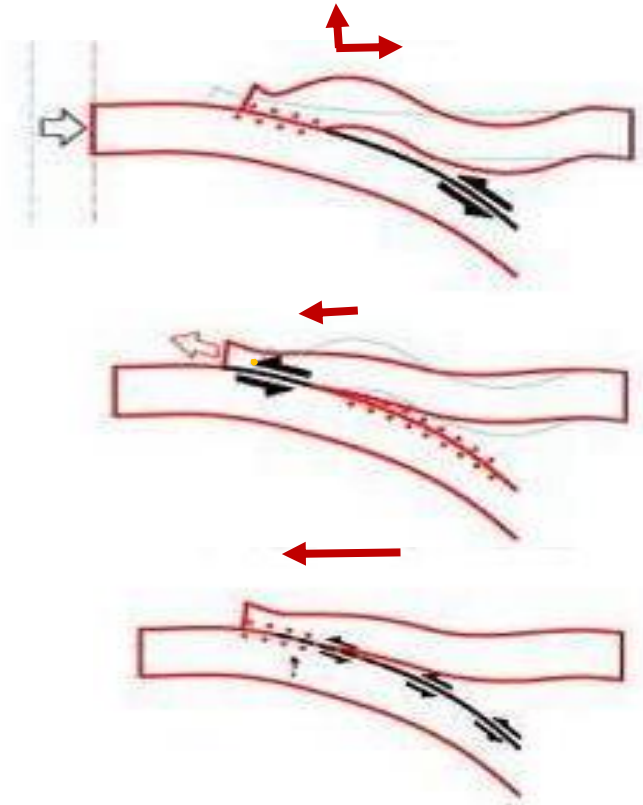
Strain accumulation *over decades to century*

## Coseismic stage : The earthquake

Sudden stresses release *in a few seconds/minutes*

## Postseismic stage :

Response of coseismic stresses transfert on deep layers *over decades*



## Different mechanisms:

Modified from Chlieh *et al.*, 2004

### ➤ Poroelastic rebound

→ < 50km from the trench / several months

### ➤ Elastic afterslip

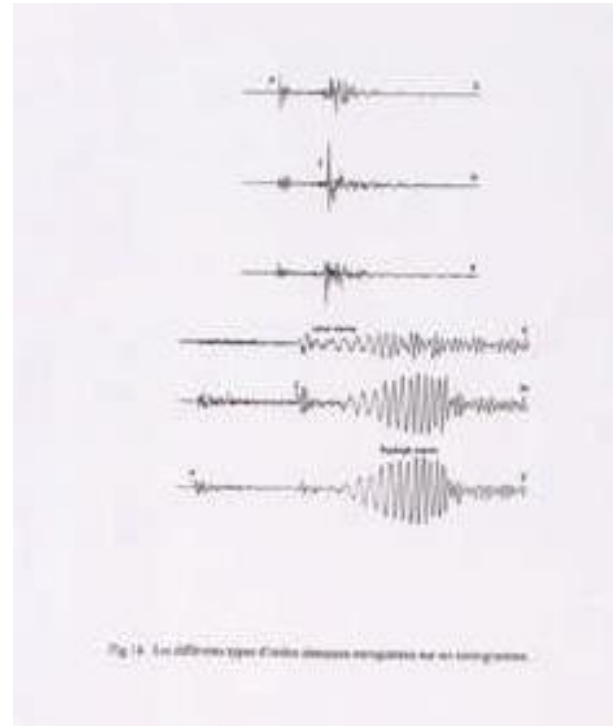
→ first hundreds km / few months to few years

### ➤ Viscoelastic relaxation

→ very large scale / few decades

# Pourquoi un séisme produit il des dommages ?

À cause de l'énergie rayonnée sous forme d'ondes sismiques



L'énergie émise est bien sur reliée à la taille de la rupture (au moment sismique), *mais pas seulement*. Elle dépend aussi de la vitesse à laquelle la « déchirure » se propage.....



# Kobé, Japon (17/01/1995) – Mw 7.5

- dommages au bâti sont surtout causés par mouvements horizontaux du sol (ondes S) dans la gamme de période de 1 seconde à 0,1 seconde qui correspond aux résonnances de la plupart des batiments

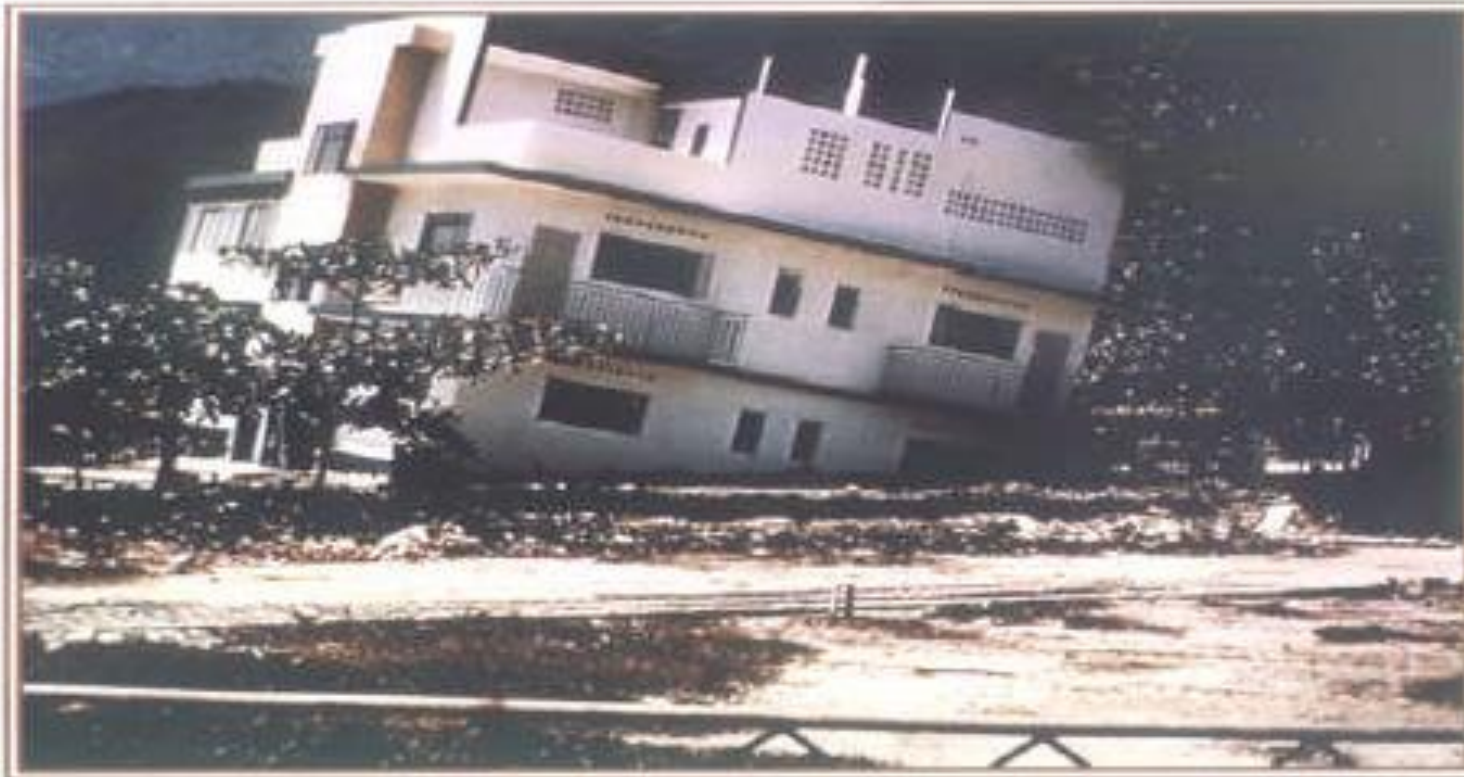


- La chute opposée de deux rangées de vélos permant de déterminer la demi longueur d'onde du mouvement horizontal (onde S)



- Effands indirects : liquéfaction du sol
- Caracas, Venezuela 29/07/1967 Mw 6.6

Phénomène de  
liquéfaction responsable  
du basculement et de  
l'enfoncement d'un  
immeuble à Caracas  
(Vénézuéla), lors du séis-  
me du 29 juillet 1967  
(magnitude 6,6).  
(Collection NCI44)





# Risque sismique = Aléa x Vulnérabilité

- Aléa sismique:

Probabilité pour un site de subir un séisme donné (localisation, profondeur, taille, type, andc...) à un instant donné

- Vulnérabilité:

Dépend 1/ des personnes and 2/ des biens exposés à l'aléa:

1/ De la Population :

- De son niveau d'éducation
- De son niveau économique and social
- De l'existence ou non d'une "culture sismique" des individus and des pouvoirs publics (réflexes, organisation, secours, andc...)

2/ Des constructions:

- Du type and de la qualité des matériaux
- Du mode de construction
- De la qualité du sol



- Dans le désert, le risque sismique est négligeable même si l'aléa est élevé.  
Exemple: le séisme des î Balleny, Antarctique, 2004.
- Dans régions à forte densité de population (and aux constructions précaires), le risque sismique est très élevé même si l'aléa est modéré.  
Exemple séismes de Bâle (Suisse) au 16eme siècle ou de Lisbonne au 17eme siècle.
- La vulnérabilité, **donc le risque**, est en augmentation constante dans pays en voie de développement (surpopulation and paupérisation).

Séisme d'El Asnam (Algérie), le 10 octobre 1980  
M = 7,3



Risque sismique négligeable



Risque sismique élevé

Exemp de vulnérabilité du bâti: étage souple, piliers sous dimensionnés, maçonnerie non chaînée....

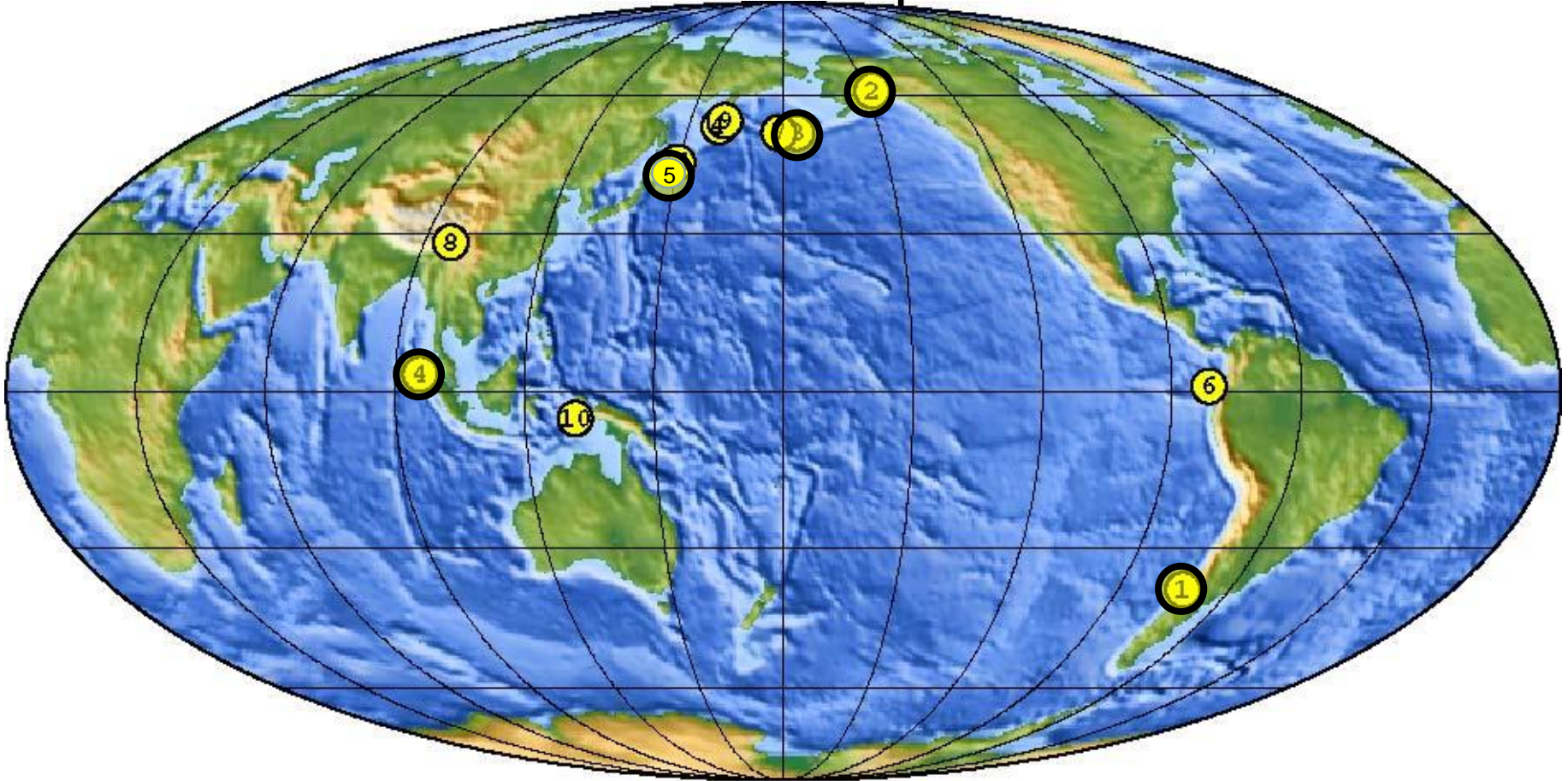
Zémmouri-Boumerdes, Algérie Mai 2003 Mw 6.5





# plus gros séismes en 50 ans

5: c'est bien environ 1 par décennie



1 : Valdivia 1960: 9,6

2 : Alaska 1964: 9,4

3 : I Aléoutiennes 1957: 9,2

4 : Sumatra 2004: 9,2

5 : Japon 2011: 9,0

# Chili : Déjà 4 séismes majeurs en quelques années

## 20<sup>eme</sup> siècle (10)

## 21<sup>eme</sup> siècle (4) and counting

Antofagasta	1995	8.0	Tocopilla	2007	7.8
Valparaiso	1985	8.0	Maule	2010	8.8
Valparaiso	1971	7.8	Iquique	2014	8.2
<b>Valdivia</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>9.6</b>	Illapel	2015	8.4
Antofagasta	1950	8.2			
Coquimbo	1943	8.1			
<i>Chillan(*)</i>	1939	7.8			
Copiapo	1922	8.3			
Atacama	1918	7.8			
Valparaiso	1906	8.2			

