



**2333-13**

**Workshop on Science Applications of GNSS in Developing Countries (11-27 April), followed by the: Seminar on Development and Use of the Ionospheric NeQuick Model (30 April-1 May)**

*11 April - 1 May, 2012*

**Role of GNSS in Advancing Natural Hazards Monitoring and Risk Assessment:  
Earthquakes, Fault Zones, Volcanoes and Landslides**

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U.S.A.*



# Role of GNSS in Advancing Natural Hazards Monitoring and Risk Assessment: *Earthquakes, Fault Zones, Volcanoes and Landslides*

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Reston, Virginia, USA

**Workshop on Science Applications of GNSS in Developing Countries**  
The Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics

April 18, 2012  
Trieste, Italy

*GPS & broadband  
seismic station on  
the San Andreas fault*





# Acknowledgement

## **Kenneth W. Hudnut, Ph.D.**

- Geodesy Coordinator – U.S. Earthquake Hazards Program Council
- Leader: Southern San Andreas Fault Evaluation (SoSAFE) Project
- Email: [Hudnut@usgs.gov](mailto:Hudnut@usgs.gov)
- Website: <http://urbanearth.gps.caltech.edu/ken-w-hudnut/>

and many others



# USGS Mission Areas

New Organization Structure, effective: 1 October 2010

Focused on some of the most significant issues society faces, in which natural science can make a substantial contribution to the well-being of the Nation and the world:

- Climate and Land Use Change
- Core Science Systems
- Ecosystems
- Energy and Minerals
- Environmental Health
- **Natural Hazards**
- Water

**USGS science is founded on data quality.**



## U.S. Geological Survey

Maps, Imagery, and Publications | Hazards | Newsroom | Education | Jobs | Partnerships | Library | About USGS | Social Media

### Start with Science

Climate and Land Use Change

Core Science Systems

Ecosystems

Energy and Minerals, and  
Environmental Health

Natural Hazards

Science Quality and Integrity

Water

Our Contacts

## Natural Hazards

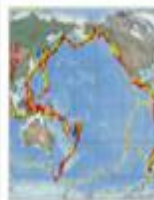
On October 1, 2010, the USGS is realigning its organizational structure around the themes identified in the [USGS Science Strategy](#). One of these new themes, or mission areas, is "Natural Hazards". This mission area brings together the following existing Bureau programs.

Help shape the future of USGS science by [weighing in on our Science Strategy planning process](#).

### Natural Hazards

Every year in the United States, natural hazards cost lives and billions of dollars in damage. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) provides policymakers and the public with a clear understanding of natural hazards and their potential threats to society, and assists with developing smart, cost-effective strategies for achieving preparedness and resilience. See ["Natural Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#).

#### Earthquake Hazards



The Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP) is part of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Earthquakes pose significant risk to 75 million Americans in 39 States. The EHP provides information and products for earthquake loss reduction, including hazard and risk assessment, and comprehensive real-time earthquake monitoring.

- [Real-time RSS Feeds](#)
- [Earthquake Notification Service](#)
- [Did You Feel It?](#)

["Earthquake Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)

#### Volcano Hazards



The overall objectives of the Volcano Hazards Program are to advance the scientific understanding of volcanic processes and to lessen the harmful impacts of volcanic activity. The Volcano Hazards Program monitors active and potentially active volcanoes, assesses their hazards, responds to volcanic crises, and conducts research on how volcanoes work. The Program also issues warnings of potential volcanic hazards to responsible emergency-management authorities and to the populace affected.

- [Current Alerts for U.S. Volcanoes](#)

["Volcano Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)

#### Landslide Hazards



The mission of the Landslide Hazards Program (LHP) is to provide information that leads to the reduction of losses from landslides and increase in public safety through improved understanding of landslide hazards and strategies for hazard mitigation. In pursuit of the program mission, the LHP conducts landslide hazard assessments, pursues landslide investigations and forecasts, provides technical assistance to respond to landslide emergencies, and engages in outreach activities.

- [Advisories](#)
- [Real-time Monitoring](#)

["Landslide Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)

["Wildfire Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)

#### Global Seismographic Network



The Global Seismographic Network (GSN) is a permanent digital network of state-of-the-art seismological and geophysical sensors connected by a telecommunications network. The GSN provides near-uniform, worldwide monitoring of the Earth, with over 150 modern seismic stations distributed globally. The GSN was formed in partnership among the USGS, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS).

- [Station Status](#)

#### Geomagnetism



The mission of the Geomagnetism Program is to monitor the Earth's magnetic field. Using ground-based observatories, the Program provides continuous records of magnetic field variations covering long timescales; disseminates magnetic data to various governmental, academic, and private institutions; and conducts research into the nature of geomagnetic variations for purposes of scientific understanding and hazard mitigation.

- [Real-time Data](#)

["Monitoring the Earth's Magnetic Field" Fact Sheet](#)

#### Coastal and Marine Geology



The Coastal and Marine Geology Program conducts research on changes in the coastal and marine environment, whether naturally occurring or human induced. Changes in this environment can endanger our quality of life, threaten property, pose risk to fragile environments, and affect livelihoods. The management challenge faced by all coastal communities is to balance the competing needs of citizens, government, industry, and the environment. Sound marine science is critical for making such management decisions.

- [Floods](#)
- [Tsunamis](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)

["Flood Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)

["Tsunami Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)

["Hurricane Hazards—A National Threat" Fact Sheet](#)



## Natural Hazards Impacts

- **Earthquakes** have the highest potential for causing catastrophic casualties, property damage, and economic disruption.
- Over 75 percent of declared Federal disasters are related to **floods**.
- More than half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of a coast. Many of these areas, especially the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, will be in the direct path of future **hurricanes**.
- **Landslides** affect every State, causing \$3.5 billion dollars annually in damages and between 25 and 50 deaths.
- The United States faces significant **tsunami** threats to the West Coast, Hawaii, Alaska, and island territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific.
- The United States has 169 active **volcanoes** capable of producing a wide range of hazards that threaten people and infrastructure on the ground as well as aircraft in flight.
- In 2004, **wildfires** burned more than 8 million acres in 40 States.

## USGS Science Seeks to Achieve

- Rapid **earthquake** impact assessments delivered to emergency managers
- Real-time **flood** inundation mapping to support emergency response
- Predictions of coastal impacts 48 hours before **hurricane** landfall
- Better predictions of where and when **landslides** will occur
- **Tsunami** risk maps for all coastal areas that may be at risk
- Early detection of **volcanic** activity to allow maximum response time
- Real-time **wildfire** condition information to support rapid firefighting activity

**Integrated information about multiple hazards are useful for reducing loss of life and property from natural hazards.**



# **Natural Hazards Monitoring Program**

## **Geodesy and Deformation Activities**

# Mission statement

The **USGS Earthquake Hazards Program** monitors the Nation's earthquakes, studies *why they occur* and how they shake the ground, provides **quantitative earthquake-hazard assessments**, helps promote loss-reduction measures using these results, and **provides crucial scientific information to assist emergency responders when earthquakes occur.**

*Geodetic observations and research  
are required to fulfill the  
USGS Earthquake Program mission*

# Role of geodesy in the USGS Hazards Program

- **Overview**

- USGS geodetic activities in support of USGS hazards program (research in earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, subsidence, etc.).

- **Geodetic Measurement and Monitoring Technologies**

- **Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)**

- **Global Positioning System (GPS)**

- LIDAR – airborne and ground based tripod
- Digital photography – airborne and spaceborne
- Radar - InSAR and PSInSAR
- Gravity – absolute, relative and airborne

- **Applications**

- High-precision LIDAR mapping of the **San Andreas Fault**
- Monitoring land surface deformation; landslides
- **Volcanoes**
- Measurements of water level changes
- Subsidence measurements



# Uses of GNSS to Fulfill Statutory Roles in USGS Hazards Mission Area

- USGS is delegated federal responsibility to **provide notifications and warnings** for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and landslides.
- **Seismic networks** support NOAA's tsunami warnings.
- **Streamgages and storm surge monitors** support NOAA's flood and severe weather (including hurricane) warnings.
- **Geomagnetic observatories** support NOAA and AFWA geomagnetic storm forecasts.
- **Geospatial information** (mapping and GIS) supports response operations for wildfire and many other disasters.

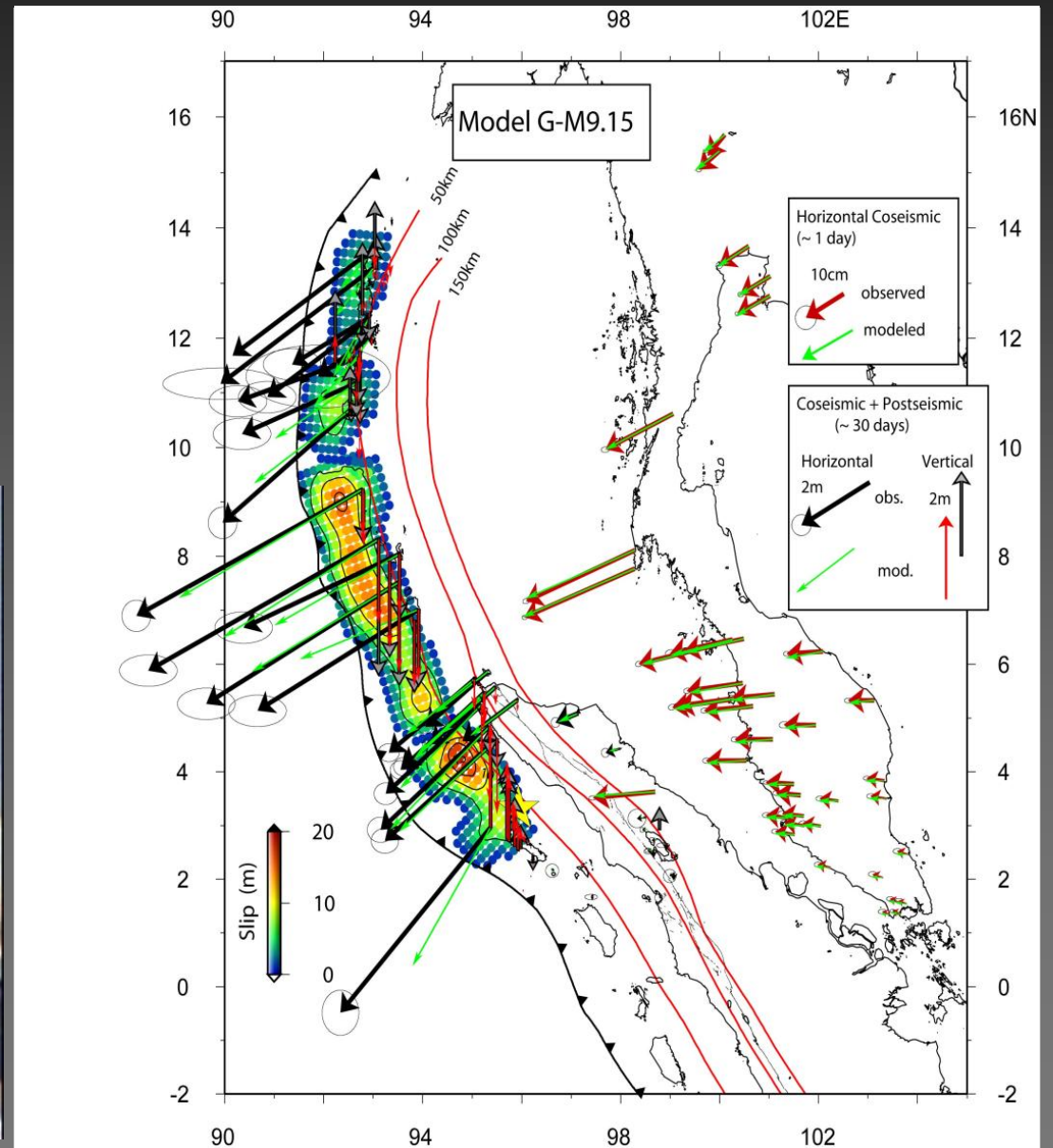
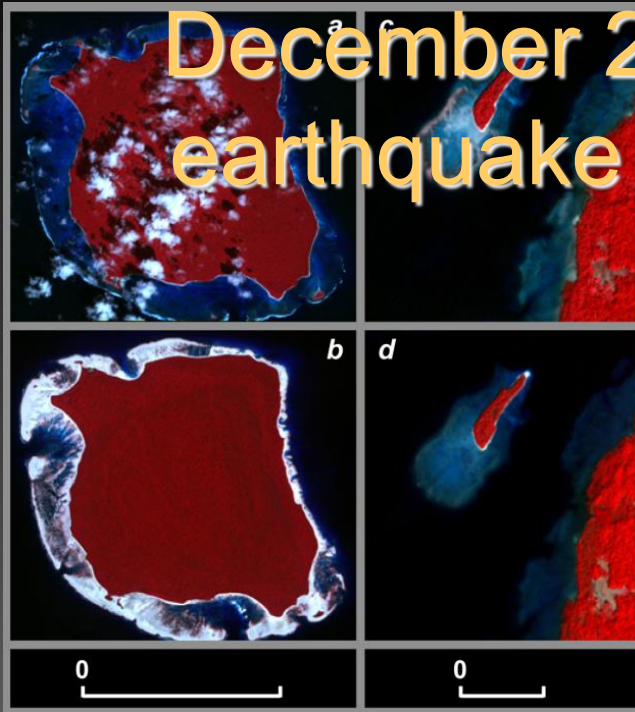


# Geodetic Observations and the National Earthquake Hazards Research Program

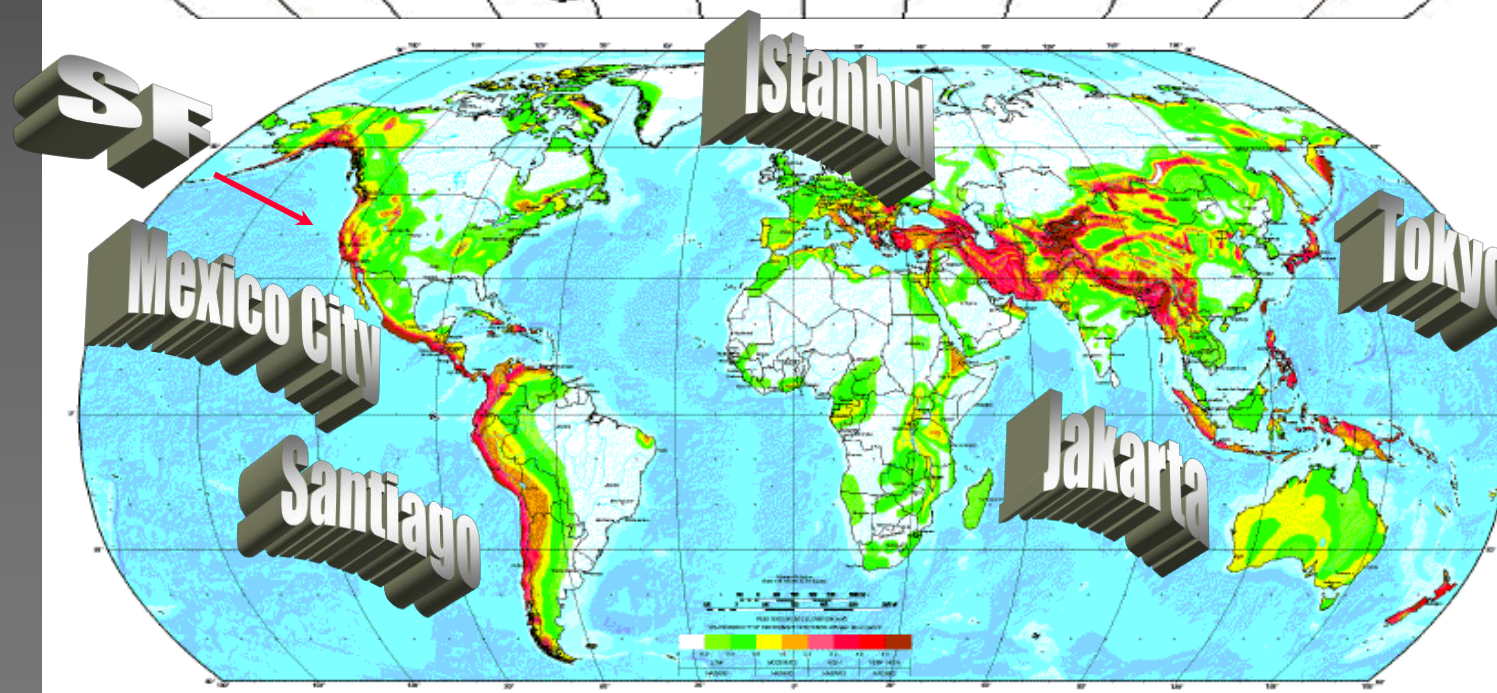
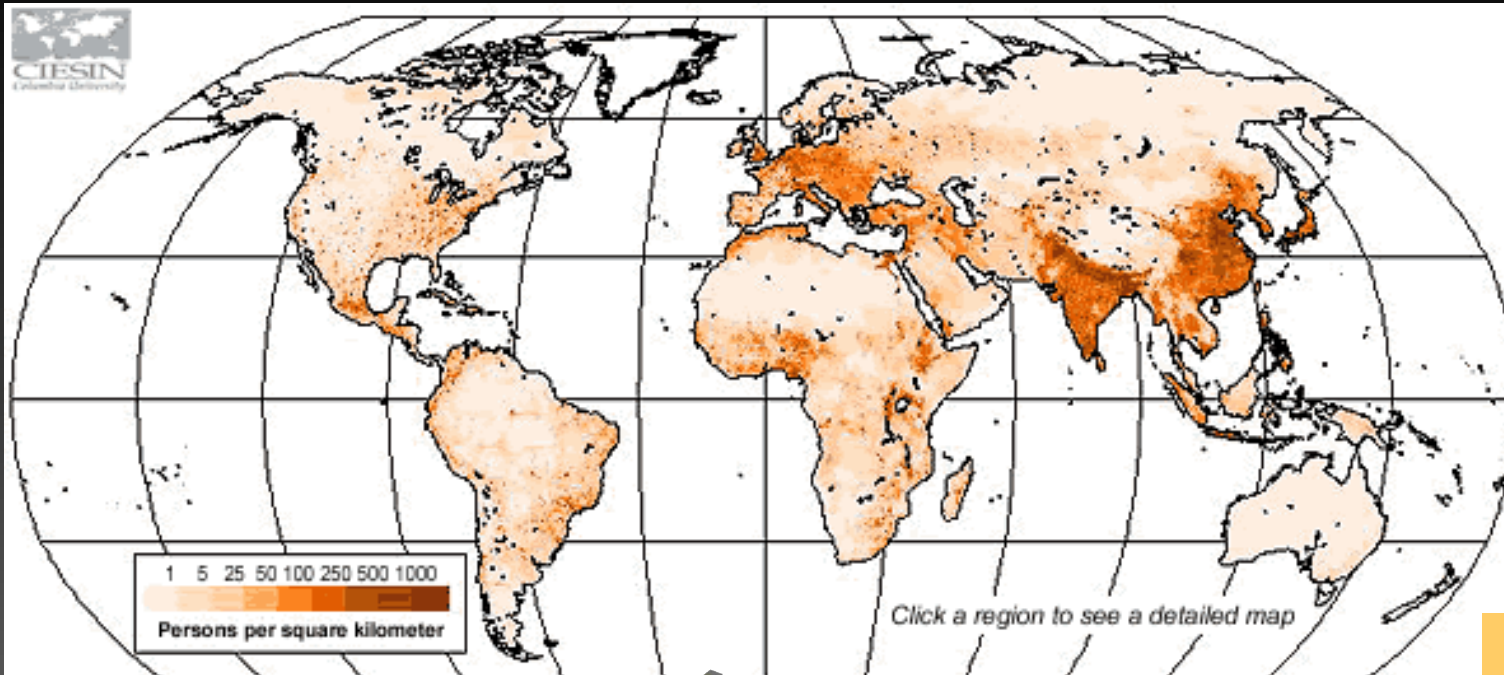
- **Improve quantification of seismic hazards**
  - *quantify the long-term strain accumulation and release along active fault systems*
- **Modernization and expansion of real-time earthquake notification and monitoring systems**
  - *rapid assessment of the earthquake source*
- **Achieve better scientific understanding of earthquake processes and effects**
  - *understanding the range of earthquake-related phenomena between seismic and geologic temporal bands*

**GNSS is a critical component**

# December 26, 2004 Sumatra-Andaman earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami

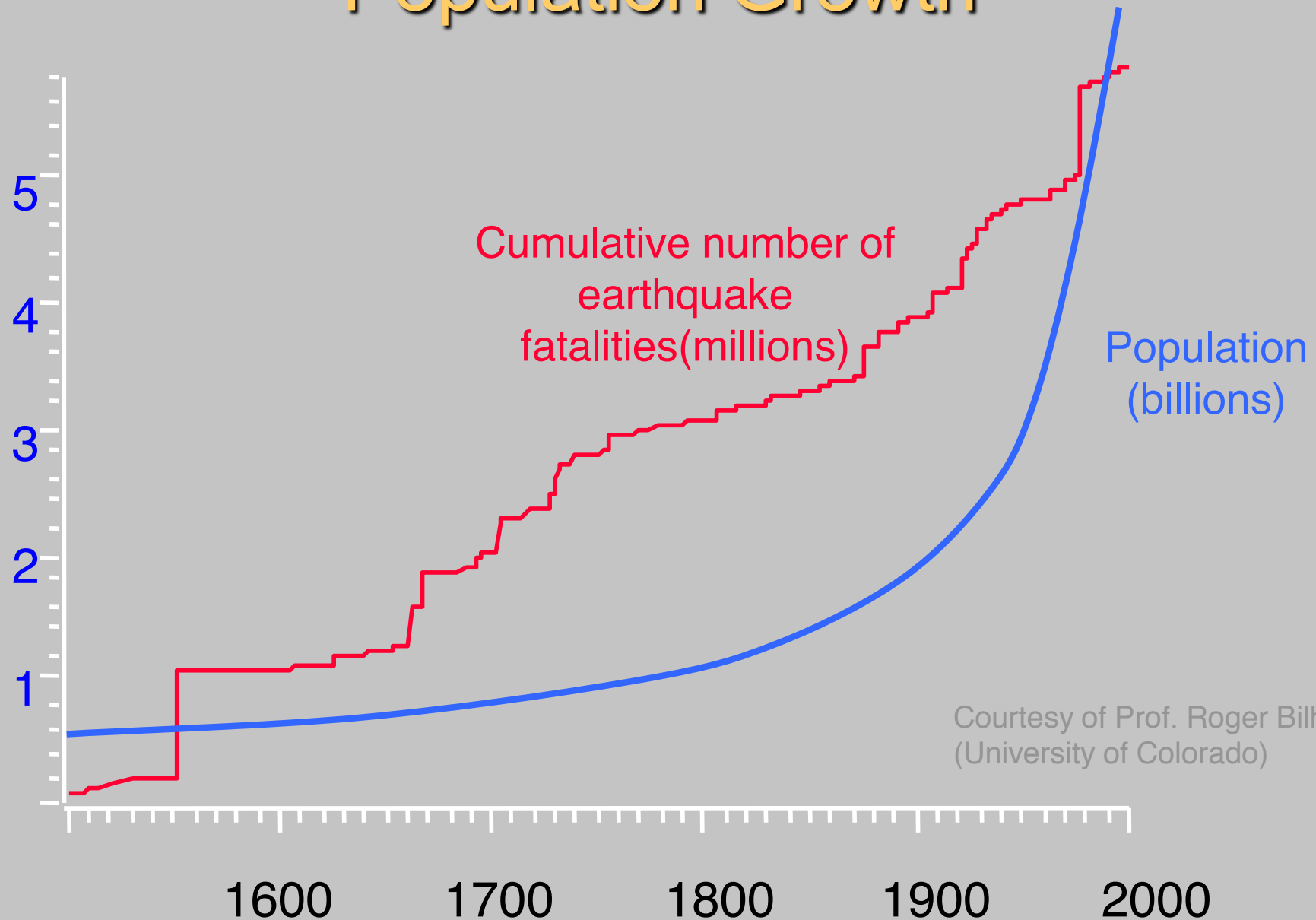






*Earthquakes  
are a global  
problem*

# Earthquake Fatalities and Population Growth





# GNSS precise time reference for accurate earthquake location worldwide - vital for tsunami alerts



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Real-time Earthquake Map

(<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map/>)



[About the data on this map](#)

Jump to: [World](#) [US](#) [California](#) [Alaska](#) [Hawaii](#) [Puerto Rico](#)

Felt something NOT on this map? [Report it here!](#)

Summary

[Help](#)

Updated 2012-04-16 10:00:59 UTC

7137 earthquakes

in the past 30 days

324 meet criteria

located in map area

earthquake age less than 7 days

magnitude greater than 2.5

100 displayed

based on sort order

[Download Earthquakes](#)

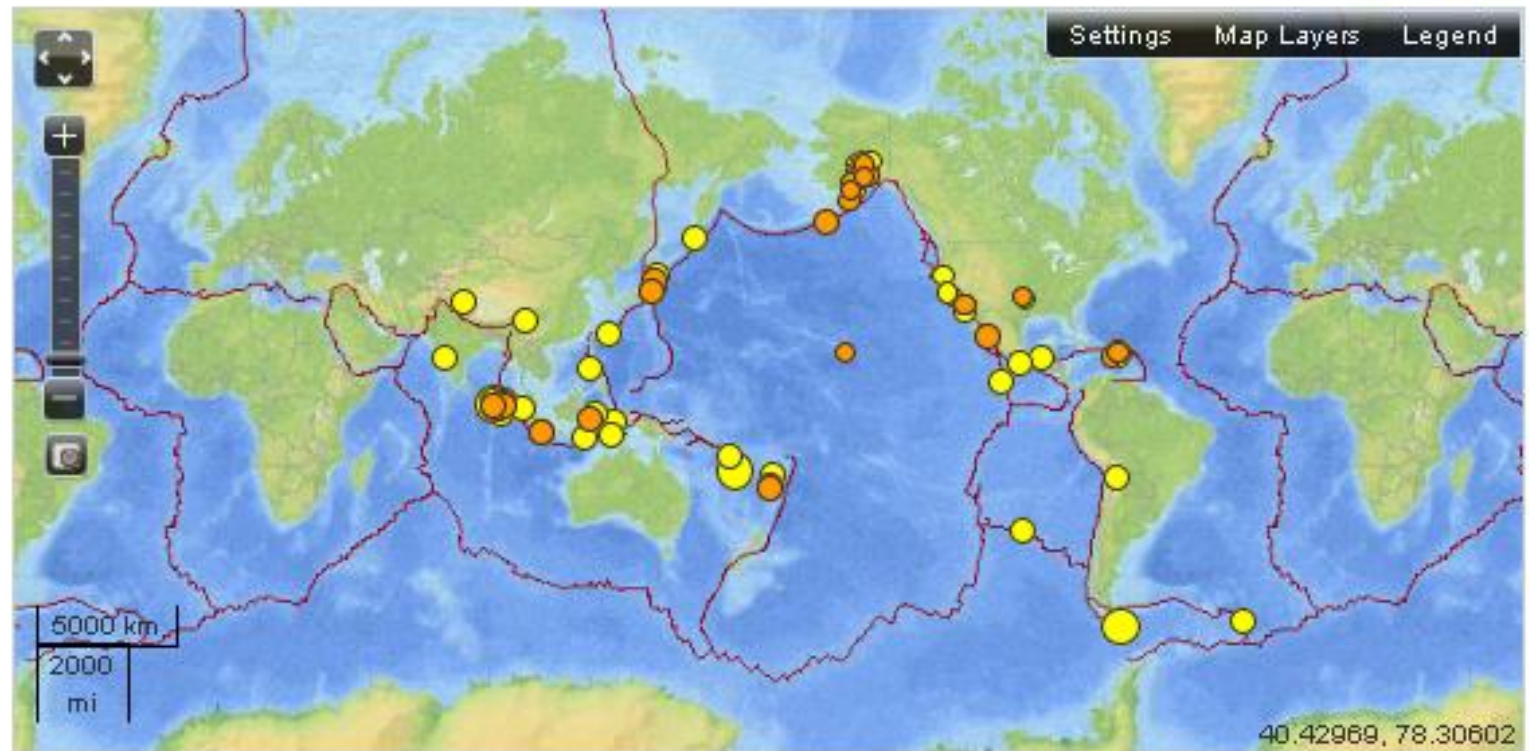
Control Panel

Timezone

Used for all times displayed on this page.

UTC

Auto Update

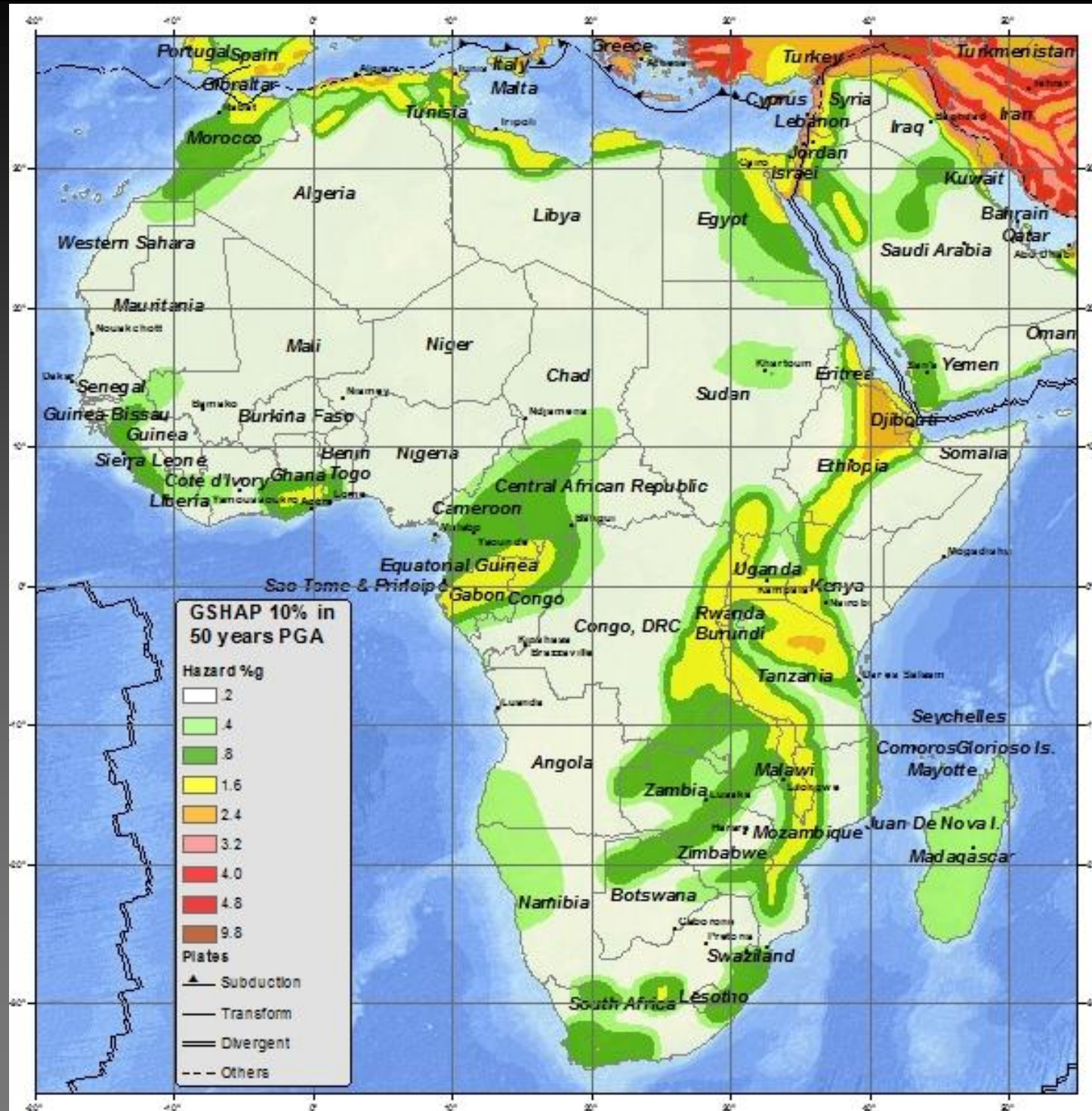


M	Location	Time	Lat	Lon	D
.....	Click Event Below For Details	UTC	.....	.....	km



# Seismic Hazards Map of Africa

**GSHAP** –  
Global Seismic  
Hazard  
Assessment  
Program



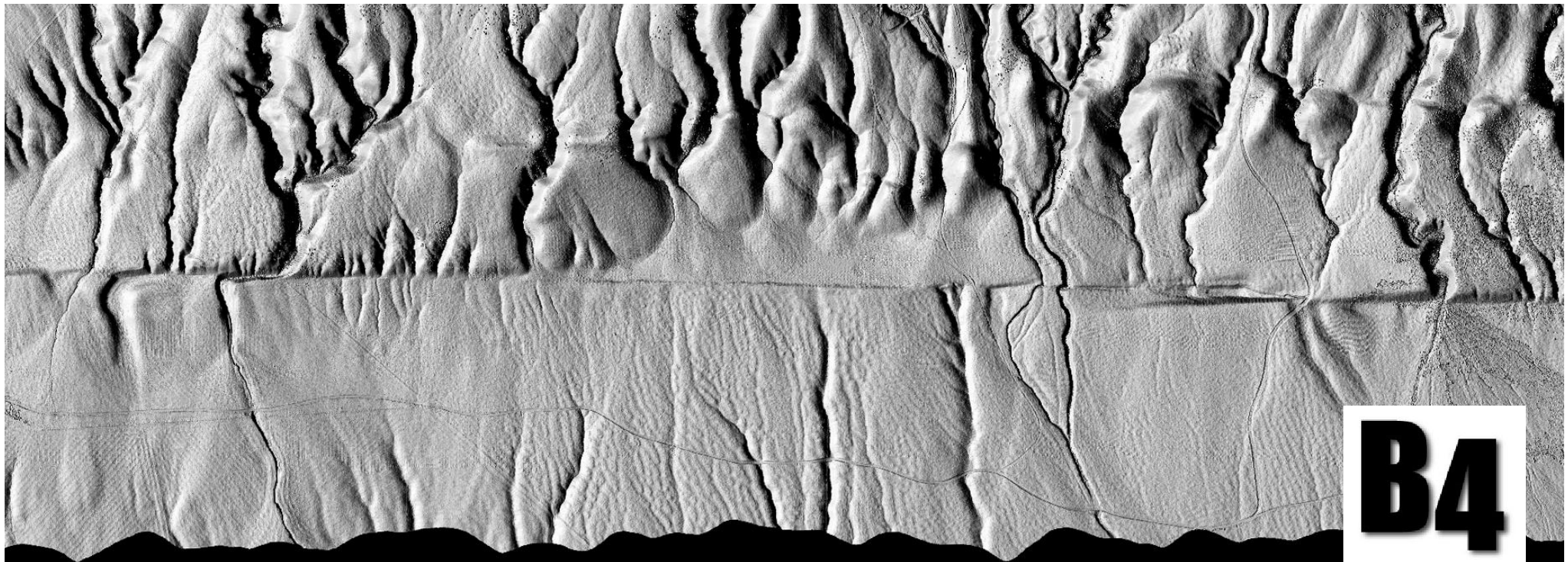


# San Andreas fault

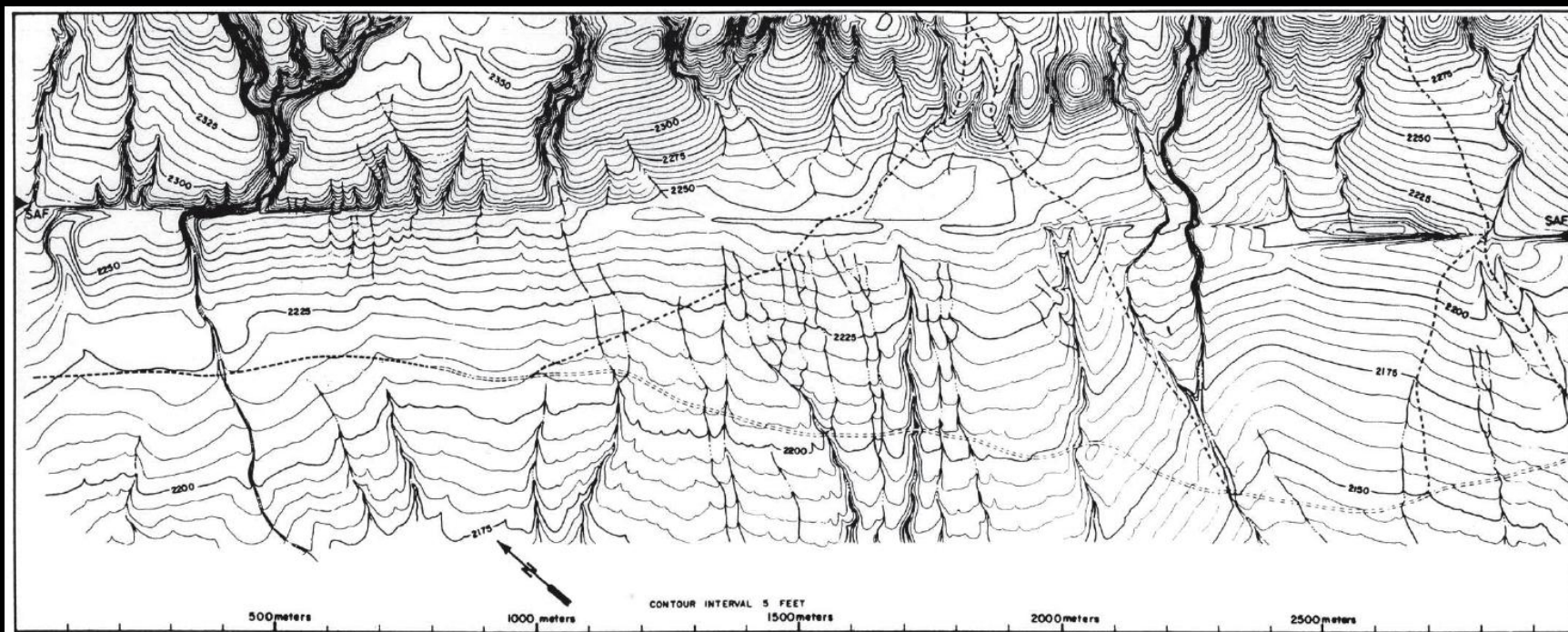
- 35 mm/yr slip rate;
  - >70% of plate motion
  - 1685, 1812, 1857 eq's
- Big Bend compression
  - 1971 Sylmar (M 6.7)
  - 1994 Northridge (M 6.7)
- California is now very heavily 'wired' with many GPS stations
- GPS measures plate motion strain accumulation and large earthquake displacements
- 'Natural laboratory' to study future 'Big Ones'
- B4 - Imaged by airborne LiDAR - ***GPS was crucial!***







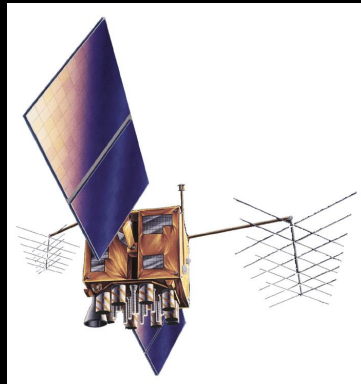
**B4**







GPS



GPS network measures plate tectonic motions to an accuracy of better than **1 mm/yr**

We can see whether the **motion** is 'slow and steady,' or perhaps more interestingly it may **sometimes accelerate or decelerate**

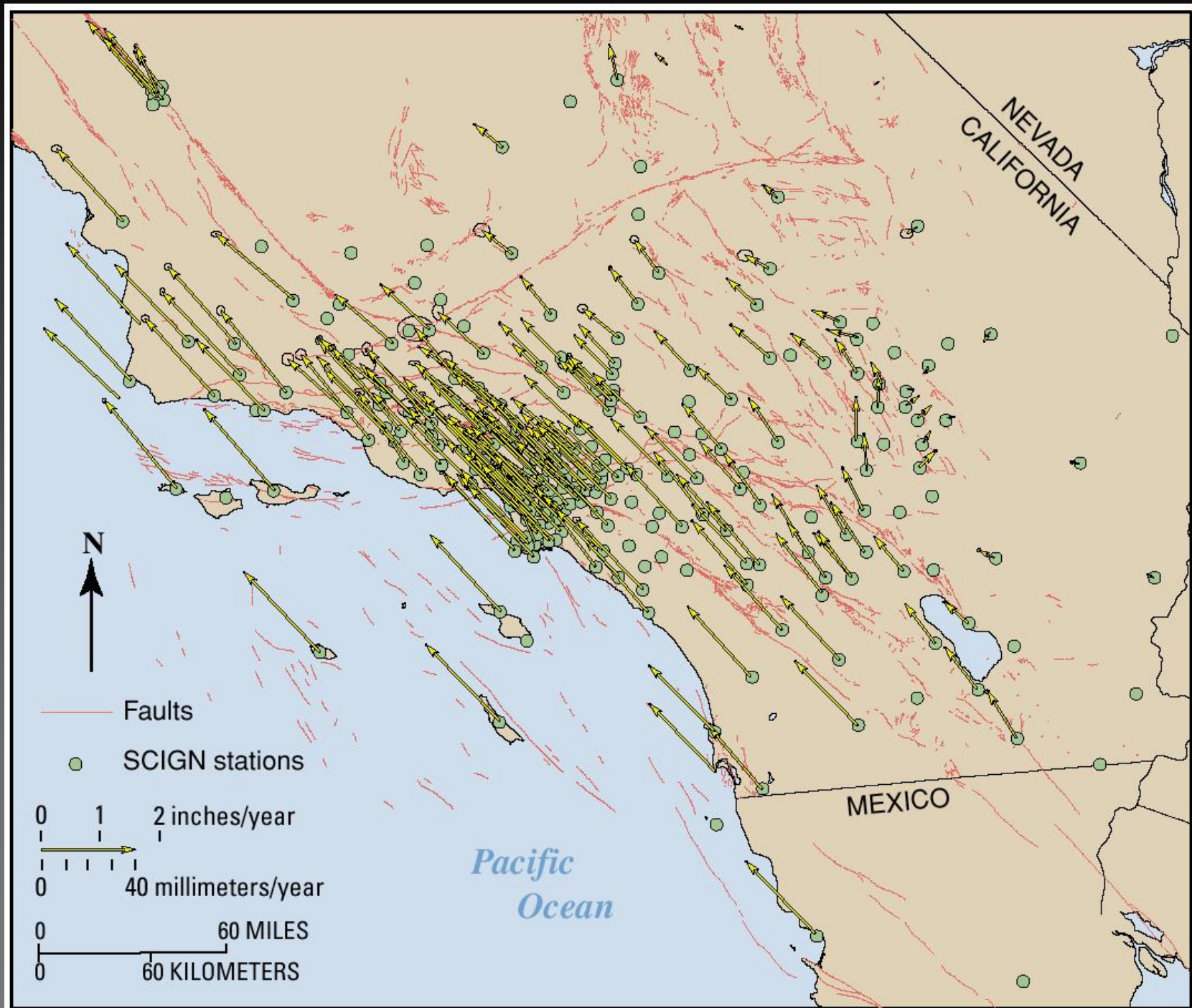




## Major objectives of the SCIGN array

- To provide regional **coverage for estimating earthquake potential** throughout Southern California
- To **identify active blind thrust faults** and test models of compressional tectonics in the Los Angeles region
- To **measure local variations in strain rate** that might reveal the mechanical properties of earthquake faults
- In the event of an earthquake, **to measure permanent crustal deformation** not detectable by seismographs, as well as the response of major faults to the regional change in strain

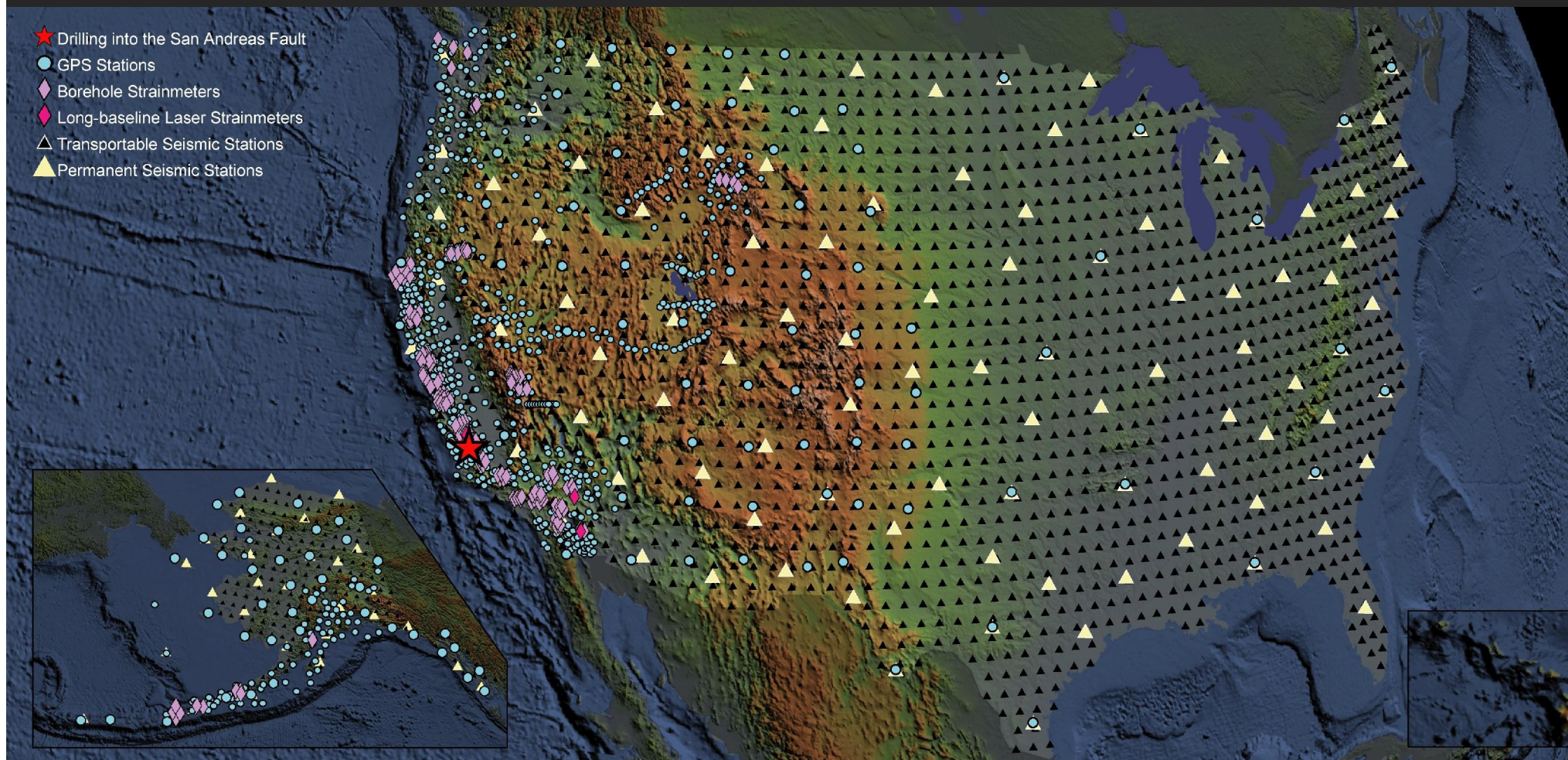






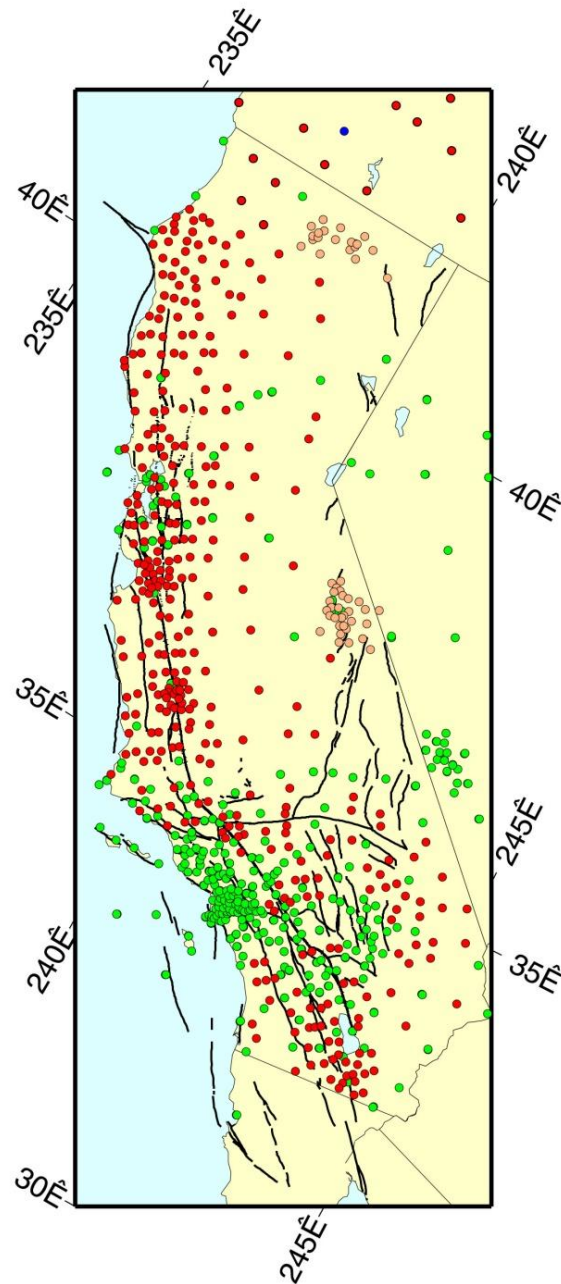


- ★ Drilling into the San Andreas Fault
- GPS Stations
- ◆ Borehole Strainmeters
- ◆ Long-baseline Laser Strainmeters
- △ Transportable Seismic Stations
- ▲ Permanent Seismic Stations



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN





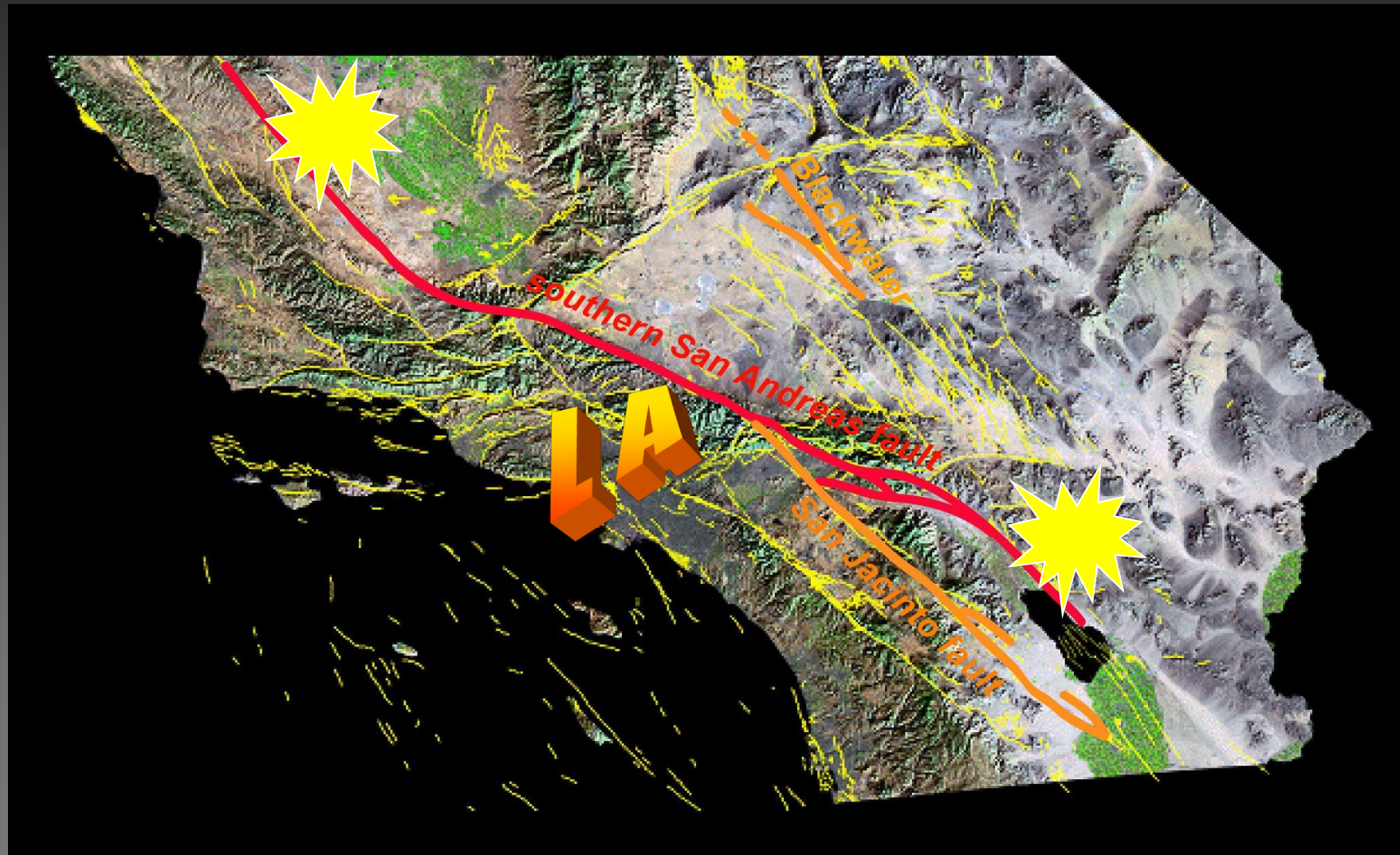
## Plate Boundary Observatory

### San Andreas plan

**GNSS station clusters along San Andreas fault, especially along transitions from creeping to locked sections**

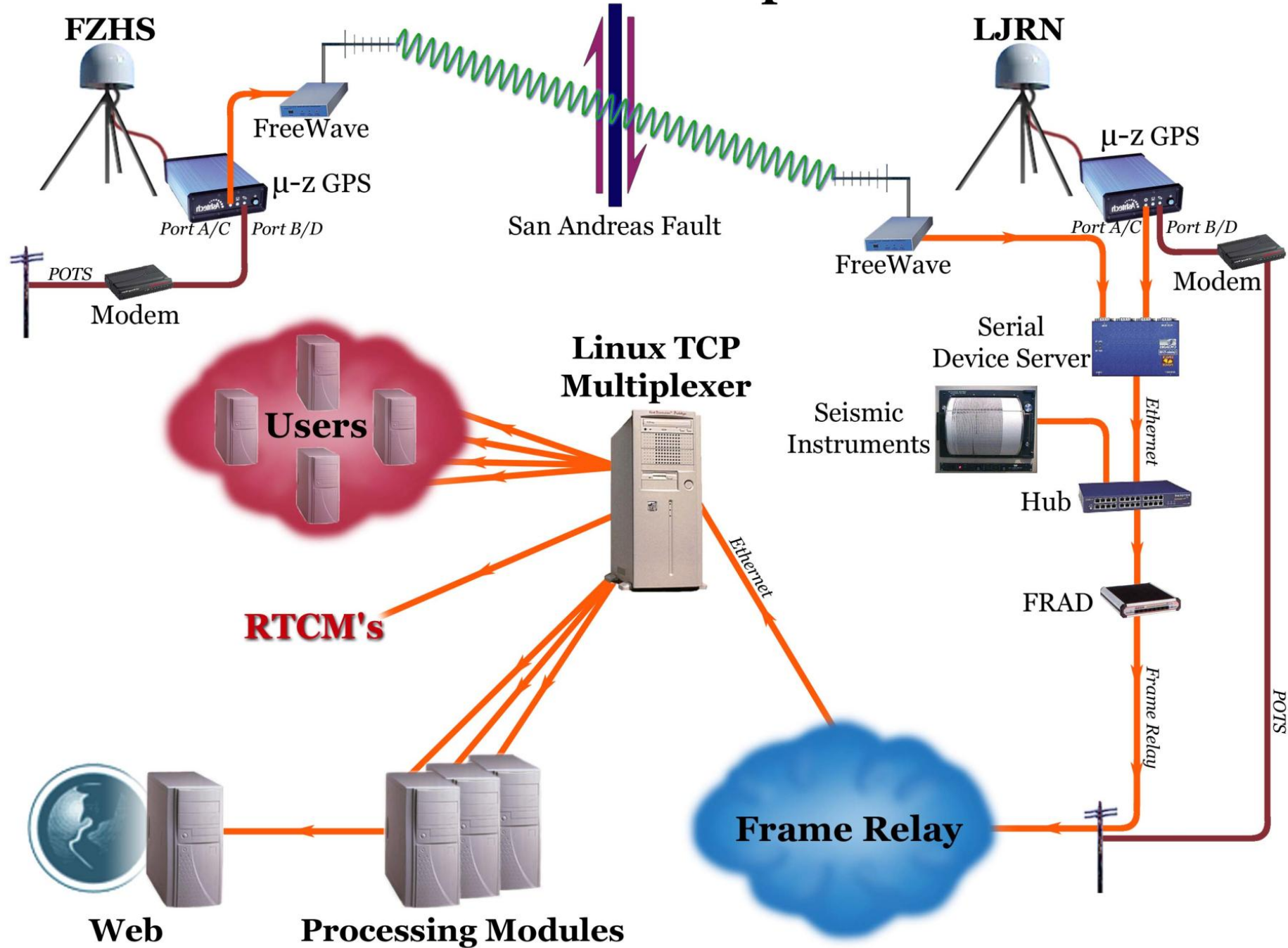
# San Andreas – Earthquake monitoring strategy

Detect possibly the “big one”  
~120 km from Los Angeles (LA)





# Real-Time GPS Slip Sensor

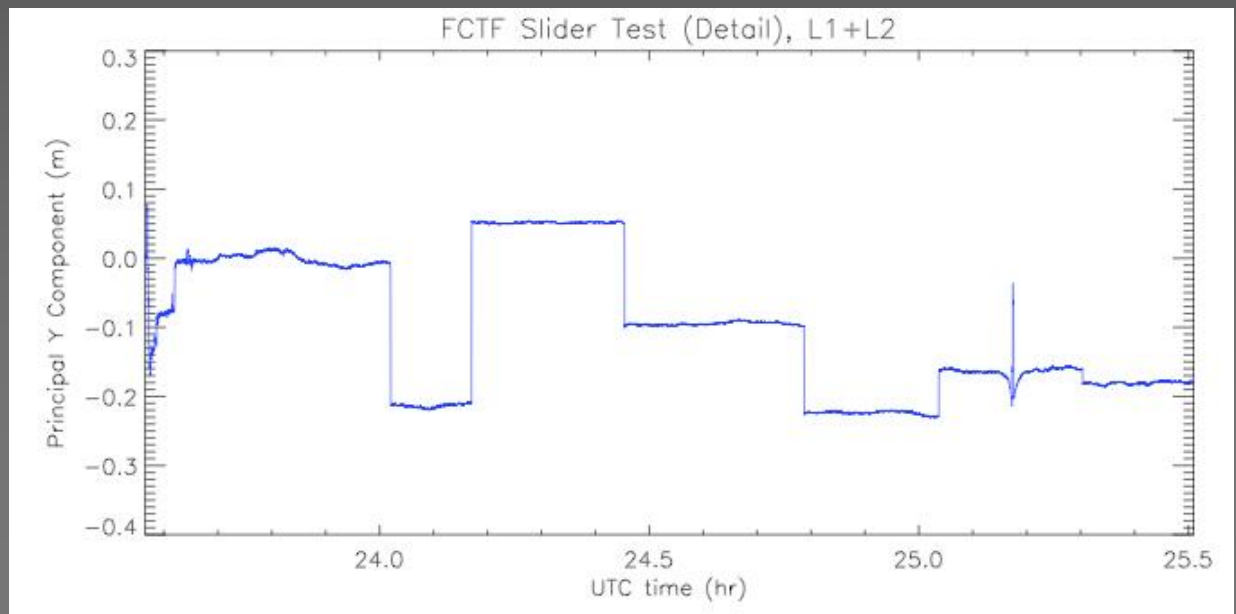


# Real-time GNSS Precise Point and Relative Positioning

**Goal: achieve accuracies at the millimeter level or better**



- There is progress, but **step tests** and other basic testing have revealed issues of gross errors, delayed convergence, and noise
- **Required** is a robust and precise real-time GNSS measurement **capability at the millimeter level**
  - May require integration of sensors; such as **inertial aiding**





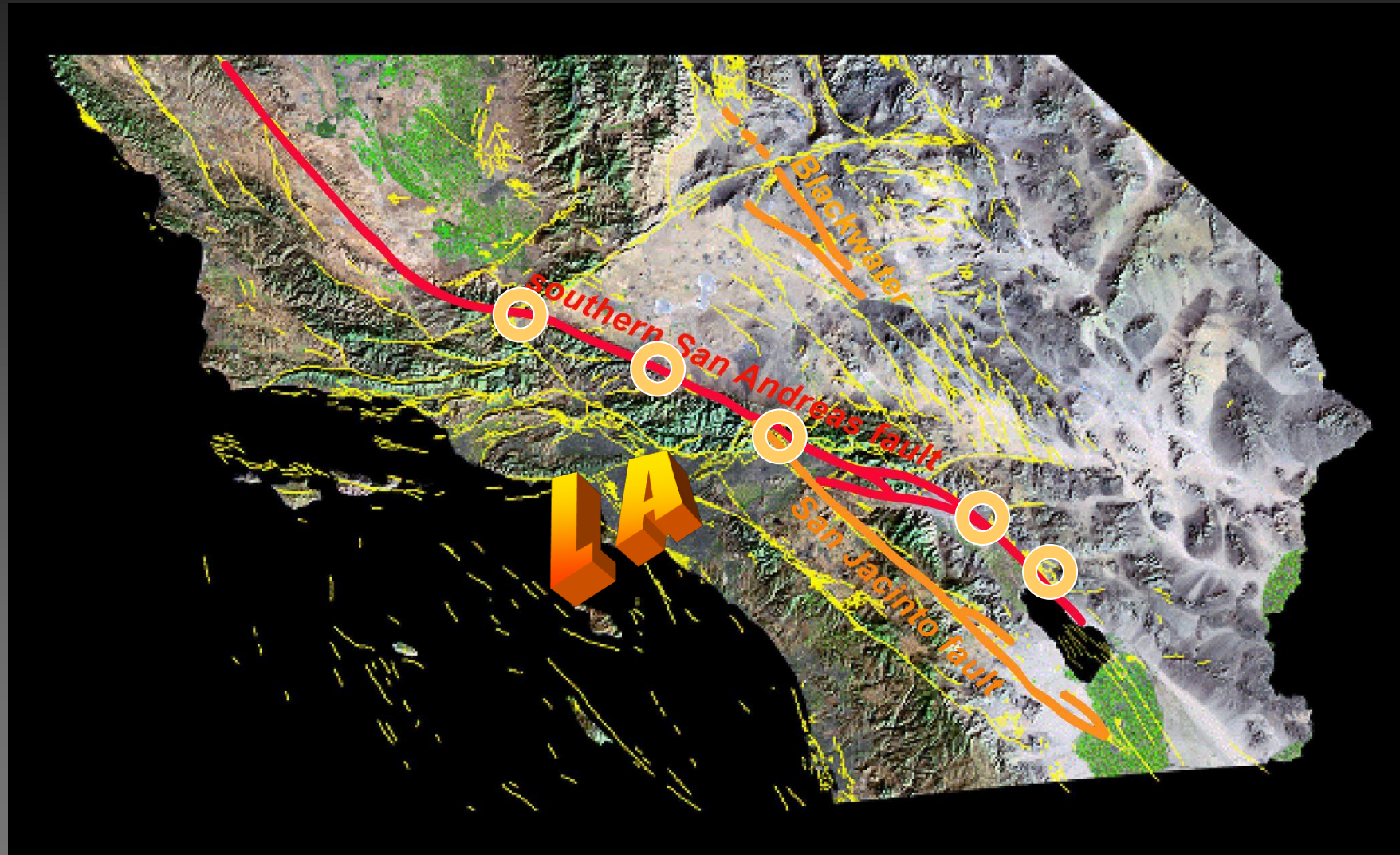
# Lone Juniper Ranch and Frazier Park High School

*GPS fault slip sensor; recording  
rate up to 10 Hz*



***Stations spans  
the San Andreas  
fault near  
Gorman,  
California***

# San Andreas - instrument major lifeline infrastructure crossings



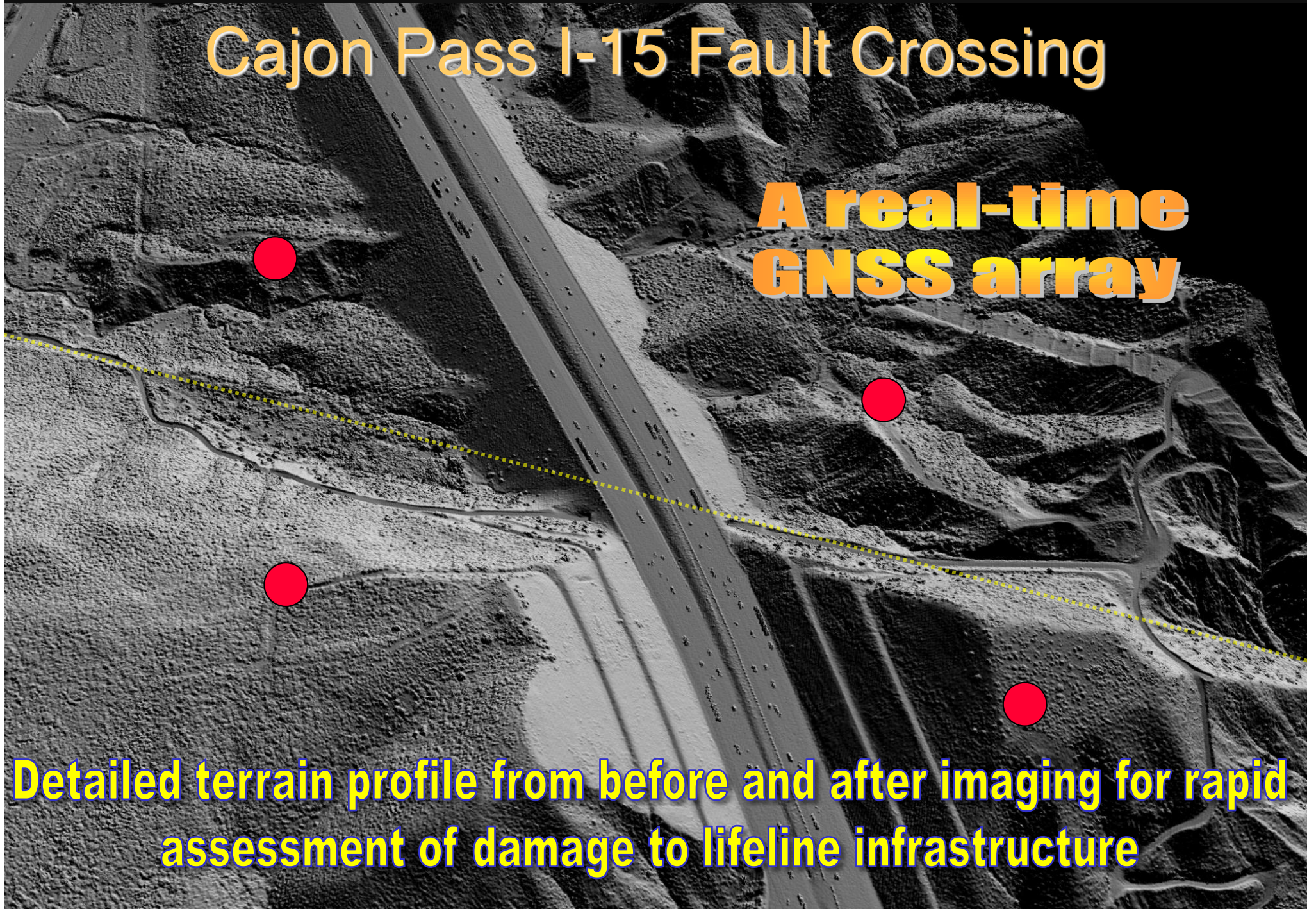
*GNSS augmented with accelerometer arrays*



# Cajon Pass I-15 Fault Crossing

**A real-time  
GNSS array**

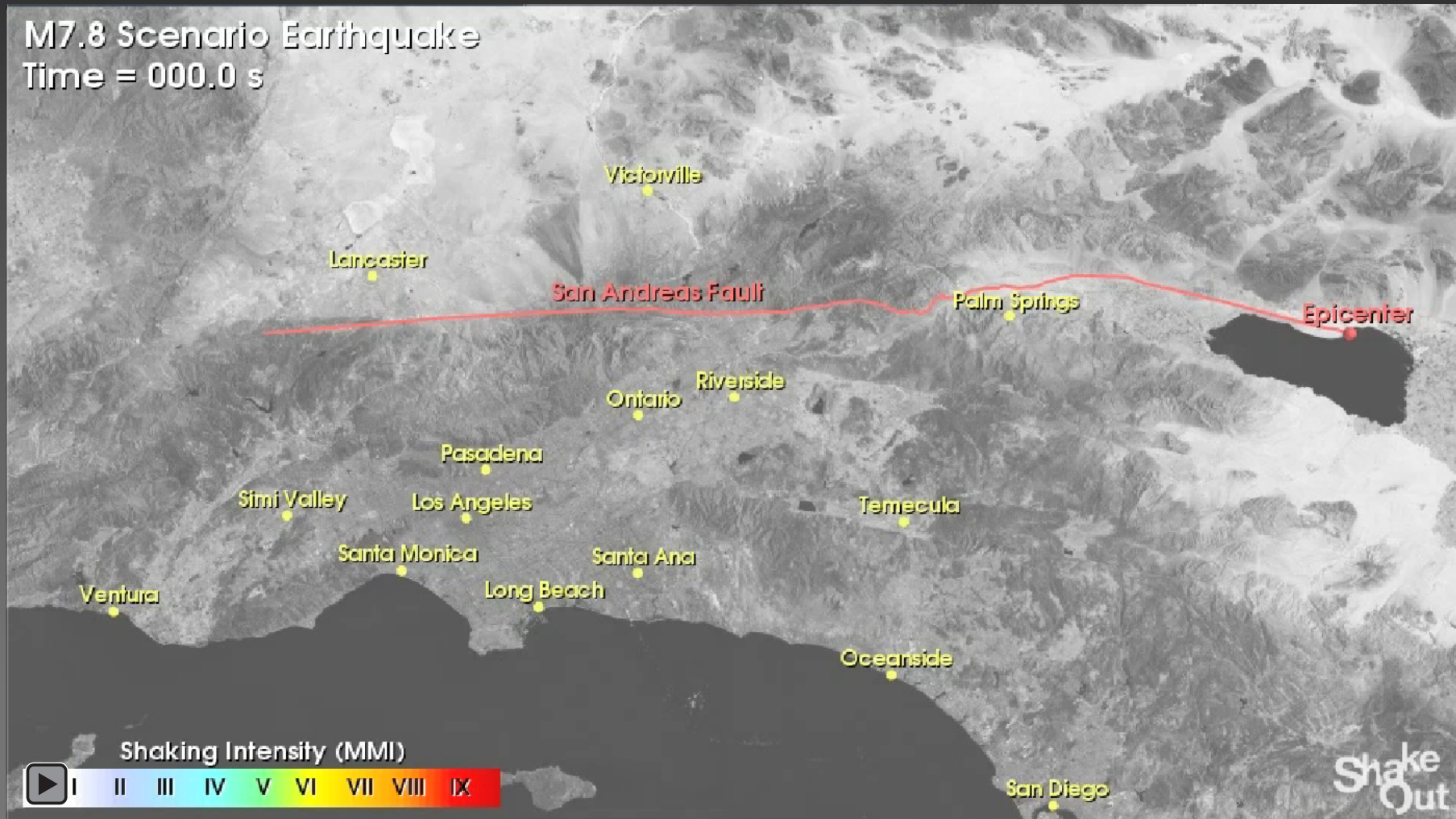
**Detailed terrain profile from before and after imaging for rapid  
assessment of damage to lifeline infrastructure**





# USGS Earthquake Shakeout Drill

## 10:00 AM, November 13, 2008





# PAUSE

Movie  
of  
Shakeout Demonstration



Tangshan, China

1976 - M 7.5

255,000

people died

(official)

Northridge, CA

1994 - it *can*  
happen here

**Earthquakes Don't Kill People, Buildings Do...**



Turkey 1999

Boulanger



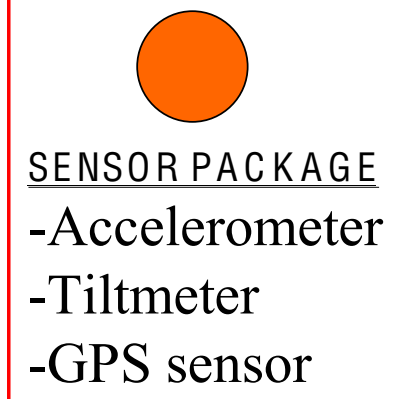
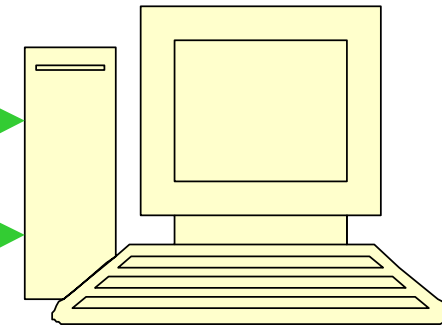


# REAL-TIME DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Courtesy of  
Erdal Safak (USGS)

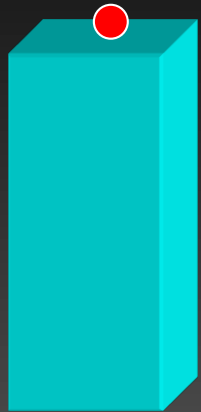


- Satellite
- Telemetry
- Internet





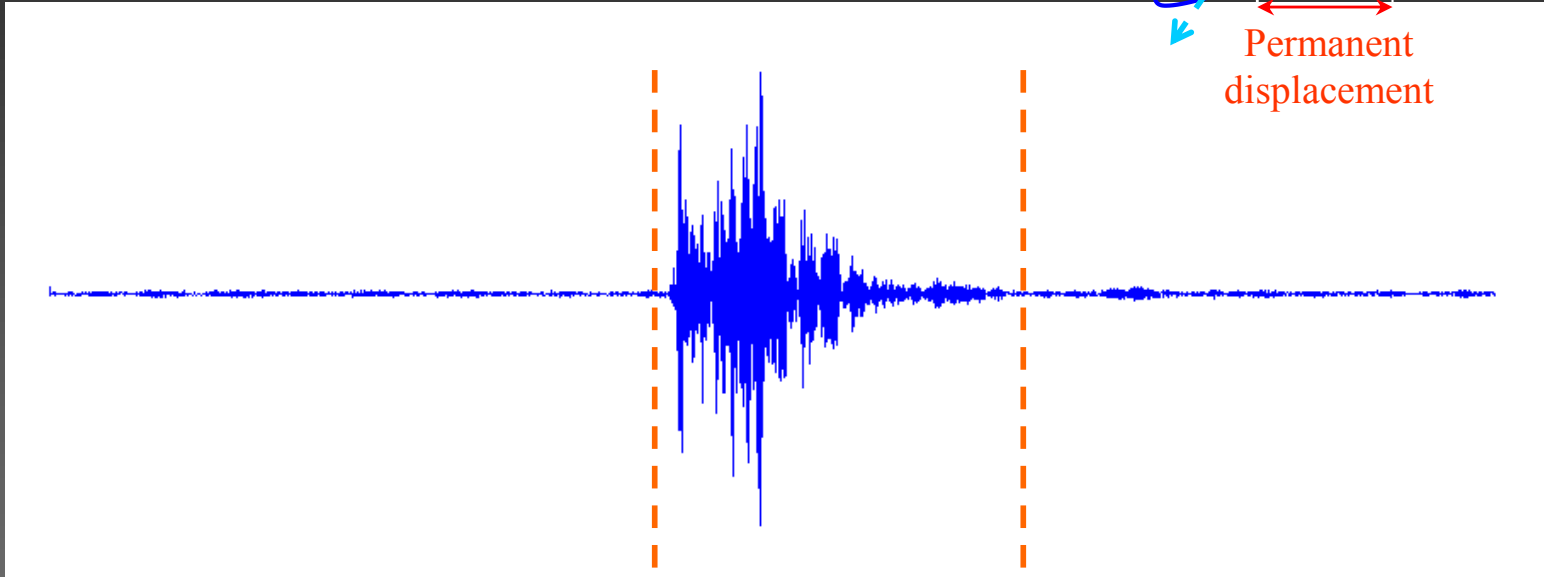
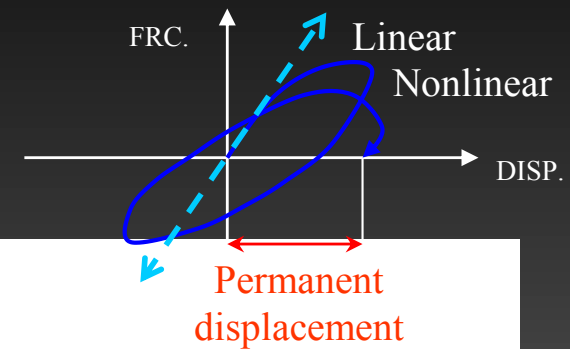
# Automated Tagging and Real-Time Damage Distribution Maps



GNSS  
monitor  
on roof  
of  
building

Multiple sensor package:

- Acceleration / Velocity
- Displacement (GNSS)
- Rotation (tilt-meter)



Pre-earthquake:

- Reference static displacement
- Reference static rotation
- Mean and variance of dynamic characteristics

During earthquake:

- Changes in dynamic characteristics
- Hysteretic behavior
- Damage initiation

Post-earthquake:

- Permanent static displacement
- Permanent static rotation
- Mean and variance of dynamic characteristics

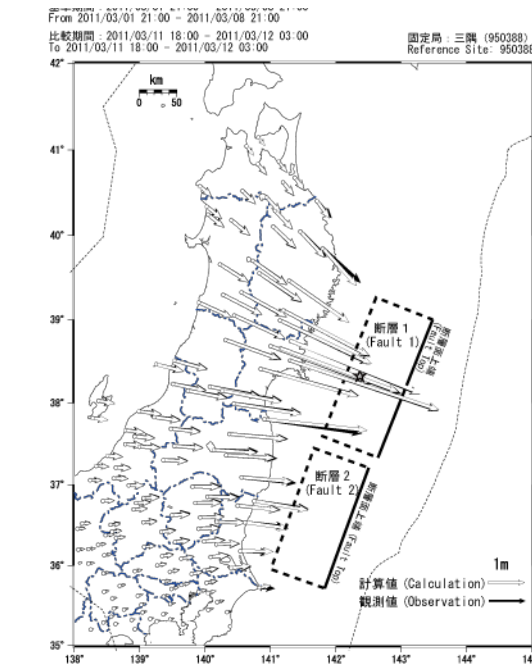
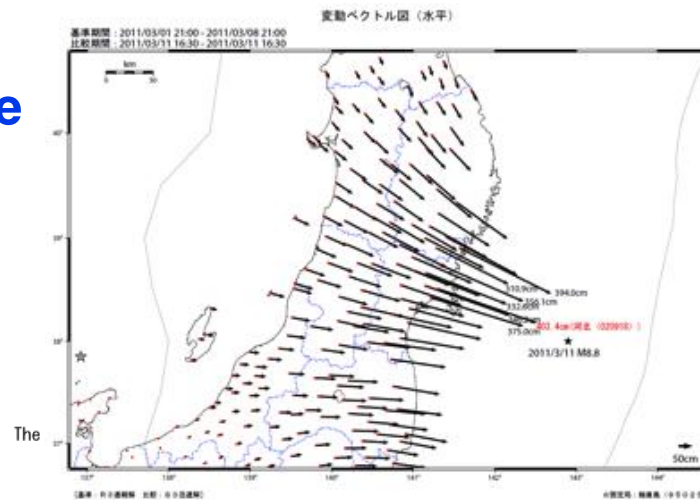
## March 11, 2011 Japan earthquake

Initial GPS results from GSI showed 2.6 meters shift

Later results gave maximum GPS offset of **4.034 m** (that's 13 feet)

Data were openly available and other groups quickly confirmed these results

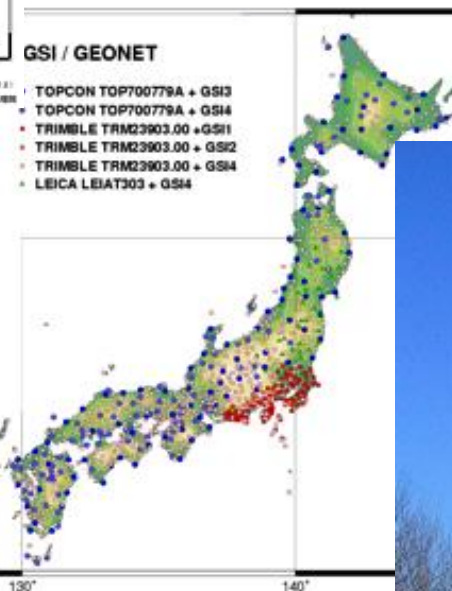
Movies made of the displacements to help visualize the information



星印はUSGSの震央 (142.369°, 38.322°)  
A Star indicates an epicenter released from USGS (142.369°, 38.322°)  
矩形断層2枚での推定結果  
Two rectangular faults with uniform slip are assumed.  
西側に傾き下がる逆断層。モーメントマグニチュードは北側 (断層1) が8.7、南側 (断層2) が8.2、2つ合わせて8.9 (暫定)。  
West-dipping reverse fault. Total moment magnitude: Mw8.8. (Northern segment: Mw8.7, Southern segment: Mw8.2)  
断層の長さは南北に約200kmの断層1と約180kmの断層2で合計約380km。総延長はおよそ400km。  
Total major rupture length: ~400 km (Fault Length: Northern segment ~200 km / Southern segment ~180 km)

緯度 Lat	経度 Lon	上端深さ Depth <small>(Fault Top)</small>	長さ Length	幅 Width	走向 Strike	傾斜角 Dip	すべり角 すべり量 Slip	Mw		
		km	km	km				m		
断層1	39.00°	143.49°	10.0	199	85	202°	18°	97°	27.7	8.7
断層2	37.21°	142.51°	10.1	176	82	201°	15°	81°	5.9	8.2

In the 1990s, Japan coordinated with US on construction of continuously-operating GPS stations (similar to S. California). Japan built a network of over 1000 GPS stations called **GEONET**.

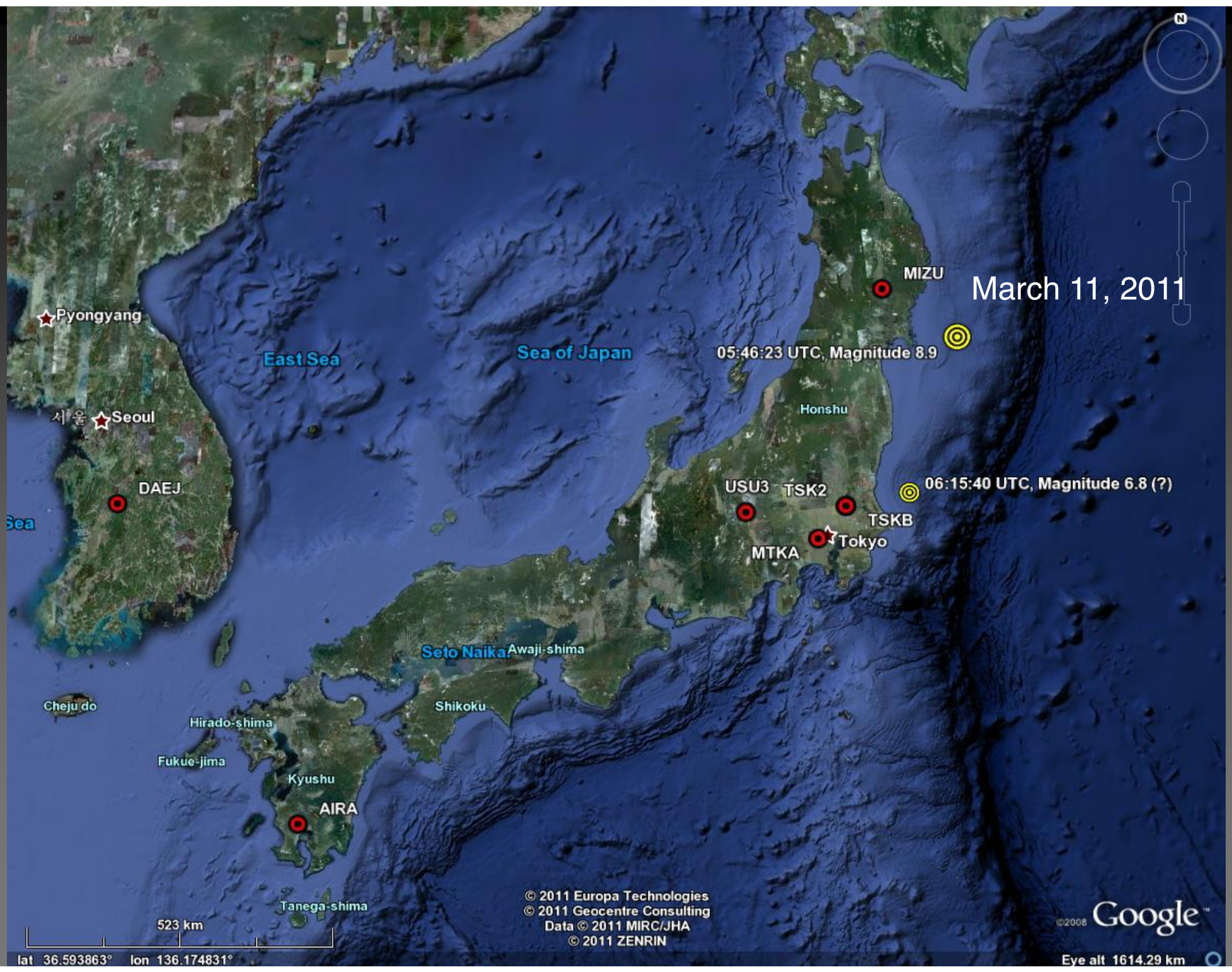


**Post-seismic:**  
re-adjustments will go on for years, GPS is the best way to examine it

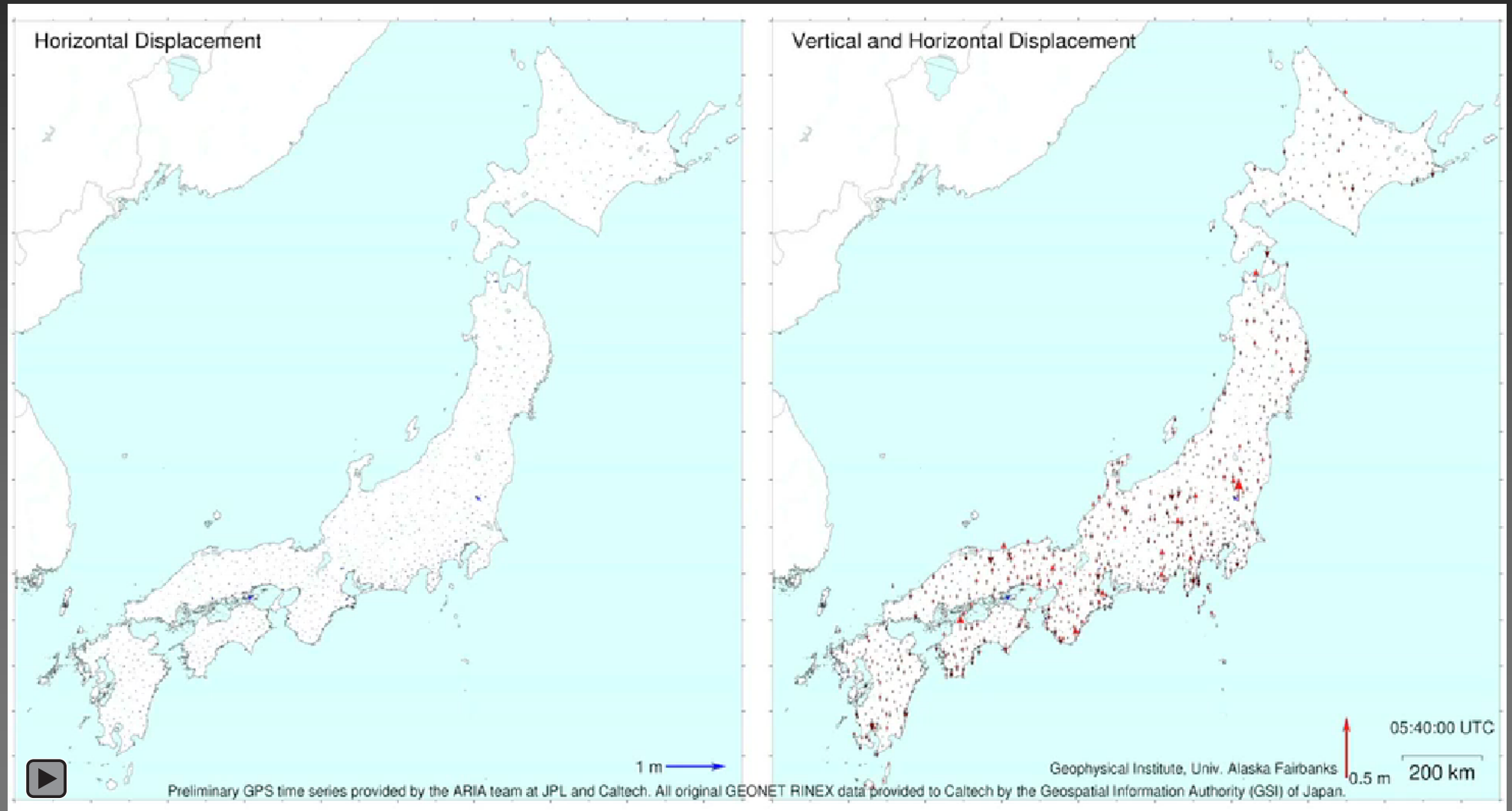




March 11, 2011



# GNSS from GSI, Japan; M8.9 Tohoku





# PAUSE

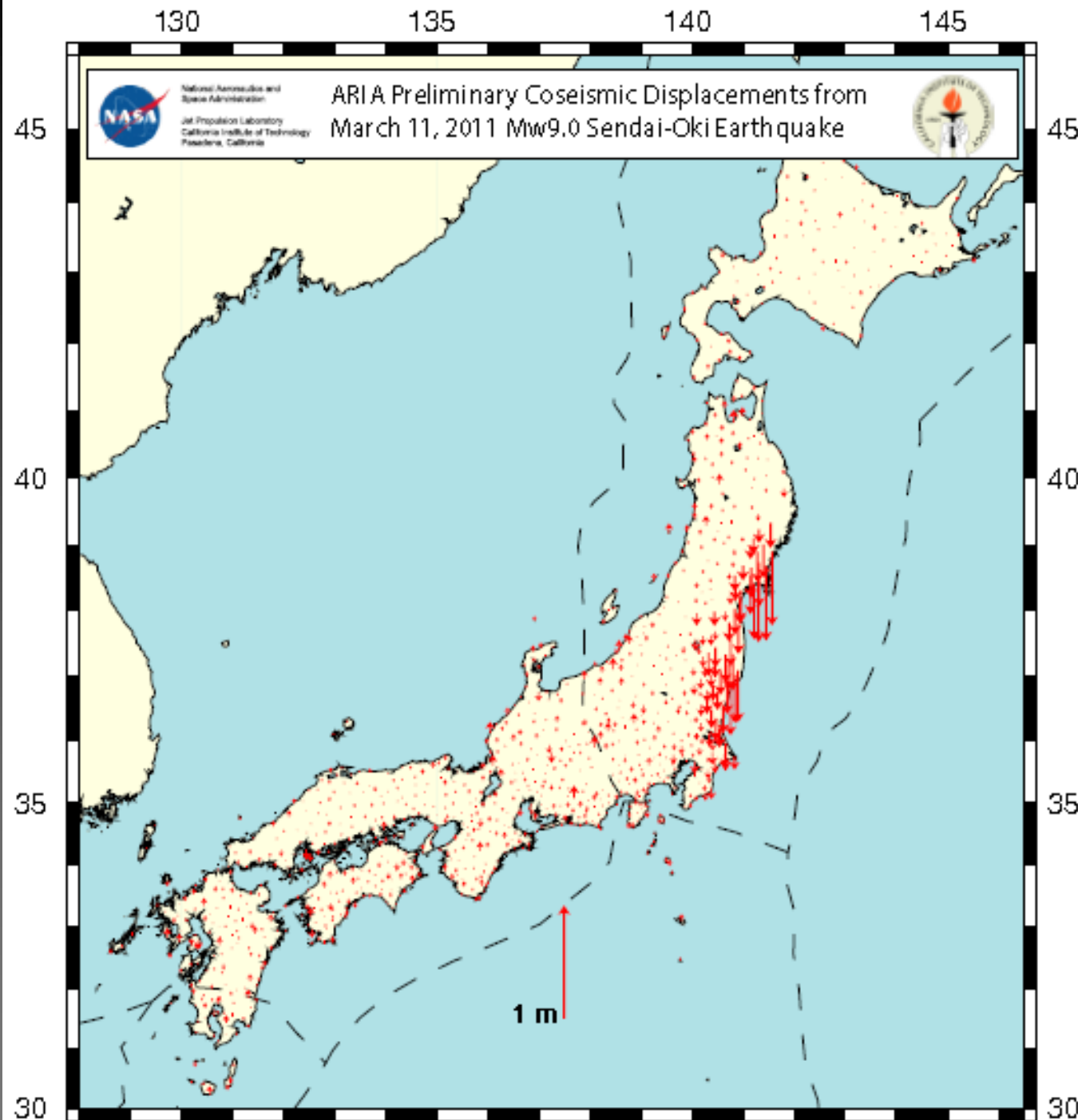
**Movie  
of  
Horizontal and Vertical Displacements  
GPS time series**

# Vertical Displacements

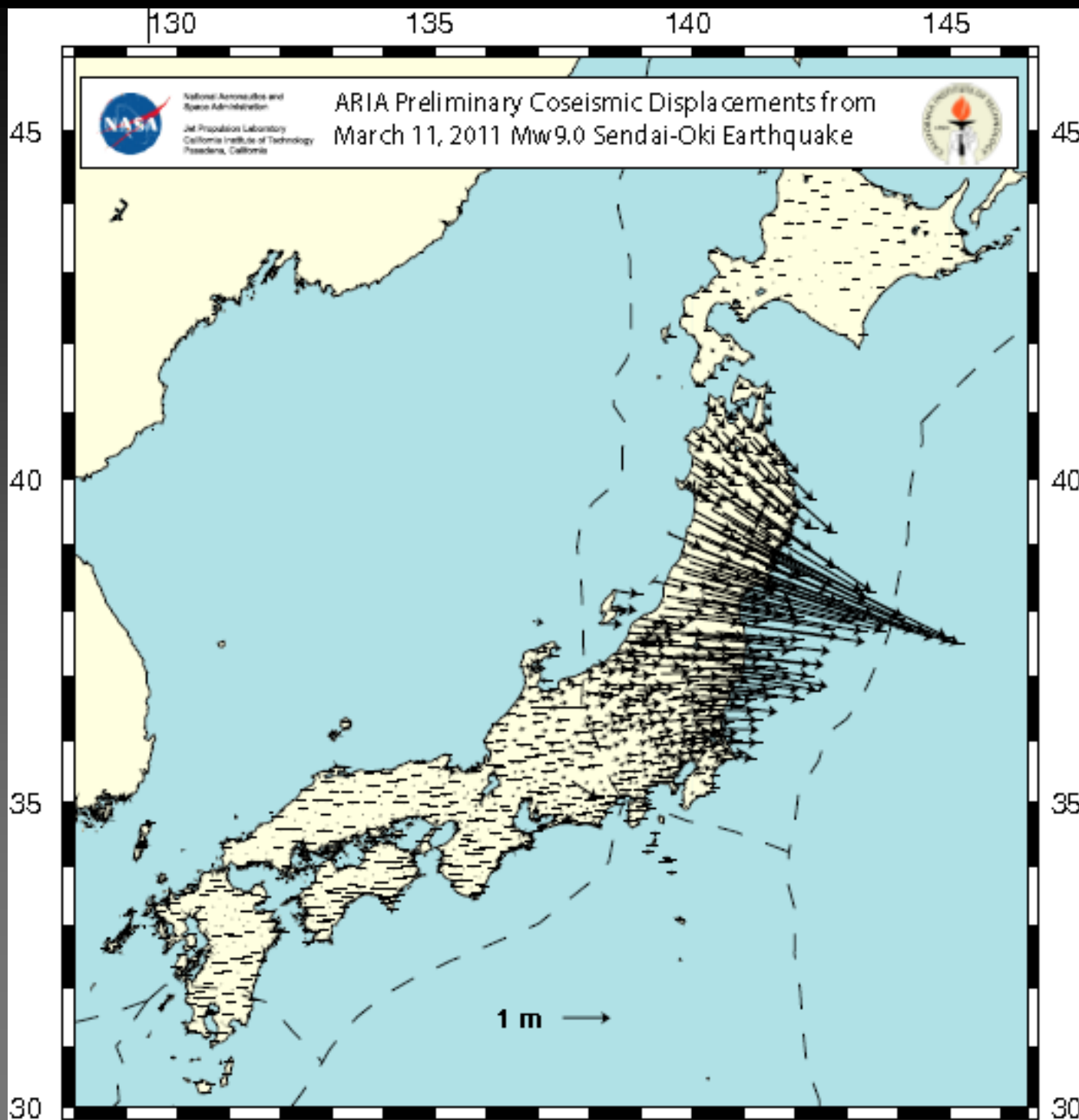
Difference between estimated positions of GEONET stations at 05:00 and 06:30 UTC on March 11, 2011

Solutions by JPL and Caltech.

GPS 1 Hz data in RINEX format provided by the Geospatial Information Authority (GSI) of Japan.







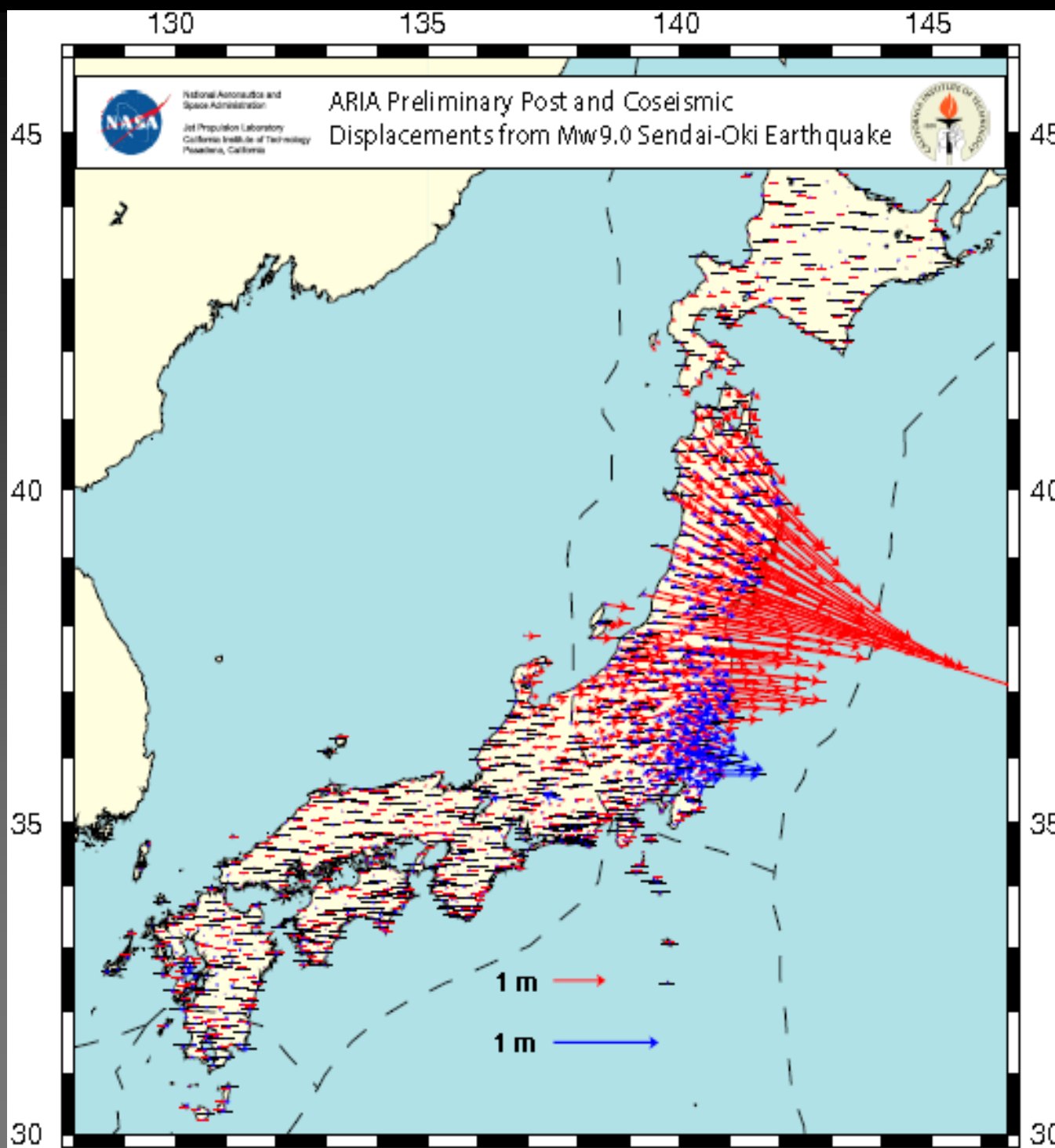
## Horizontal Displacements

Difference between estimated positions of GEONET stations at 05:00 and 06:30 UTC, March 11, 2011

Bars at end of vector show 95% error estimate.

Solutions by JPL and Caltech.

**GPS 1 Hz data** in RINEX format provided by the Geospatial Information Authority (GSI) of Japan.



## Horizontal Displacements

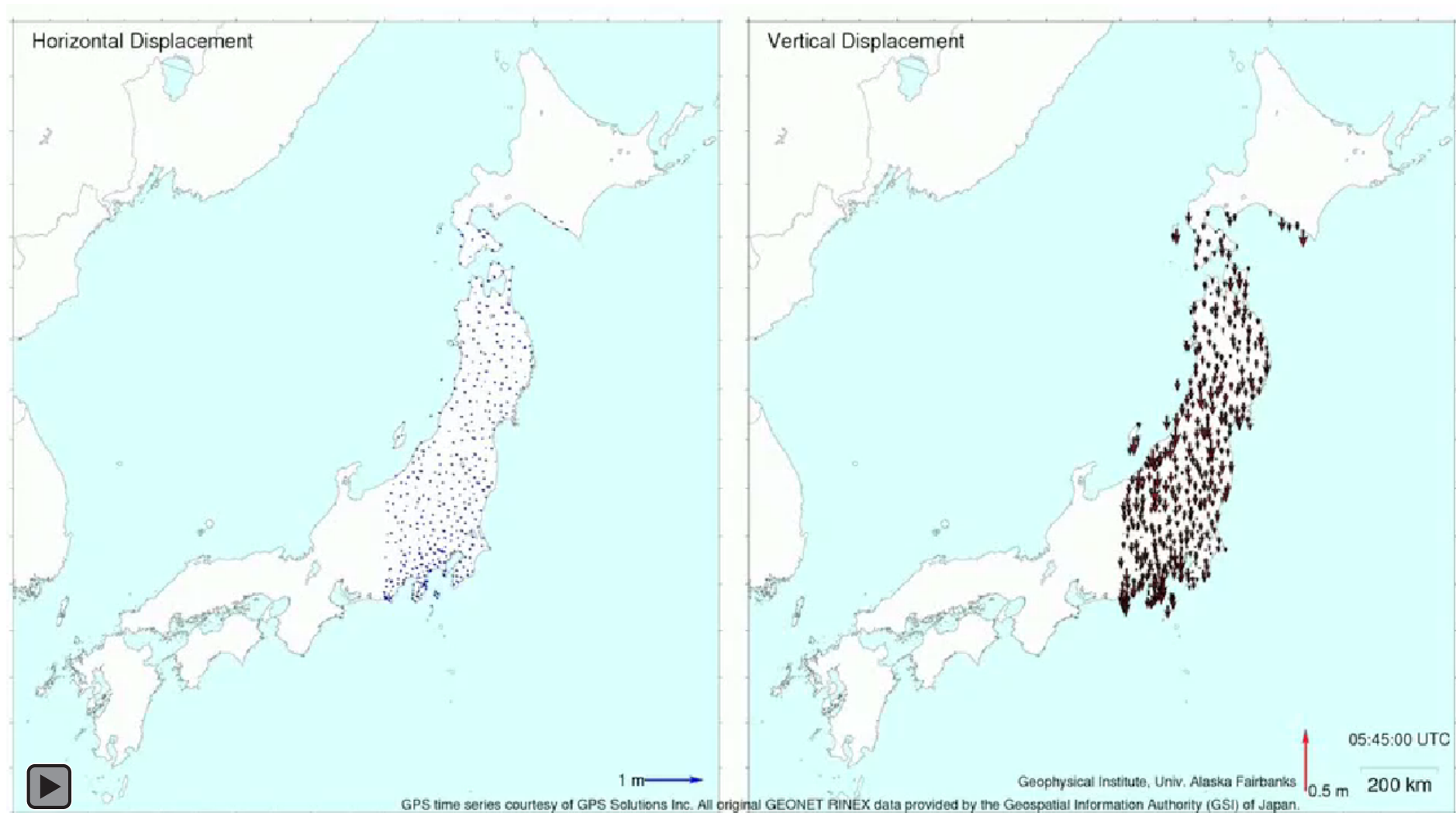
Displacements of position estimates for GEONET stations from 05:00 to 06:30 UTC, March 11, 2011.

Coseismic displacement in red. First 8 h of postseismic motion in blue.

Bars at end of vector - 95% error estimate.

GPS 1 Hz data in RINEX format provided by the Geospatial Information Authority (GSI) of Japan.





Will the operation of GNSS or GPS receivers at stations located in vicinity of potential Earthquakes be affected by major Earthquakes such as occurred on 11 March 2011 in Japan?



# GNSS uses for volcano monitoring



- Key component of volcano monitoring for flank movements and lava dome growth
- Integral part of **US National Volcano Early Warning System**
- Over 300 continuous operating GPS units are currently in use by USGS volcano observatories (most telemeter GPS data in real-time; many are **Plate Boundary Observatory** stations)

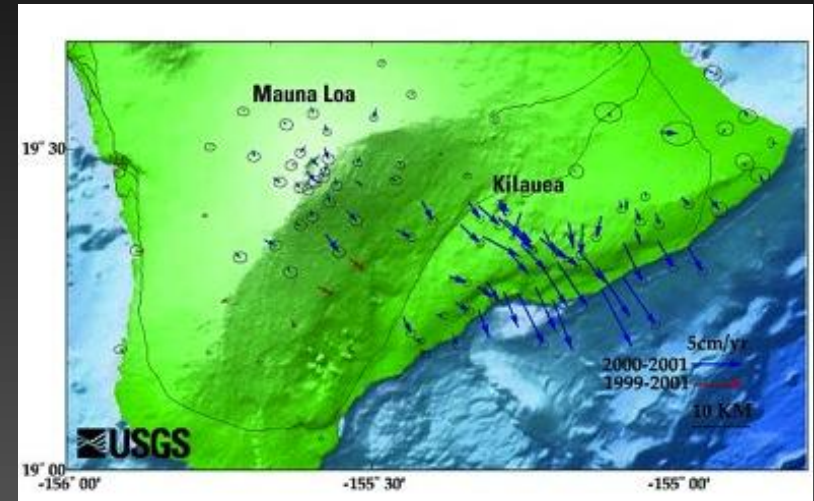


# USGS uses precise GPS measurements for eruption monitoring of volcanoes

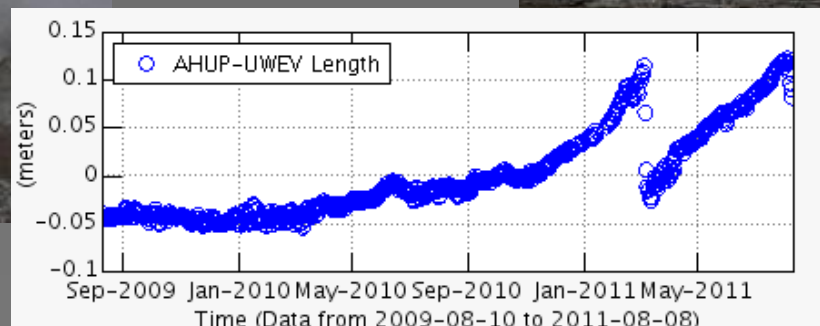
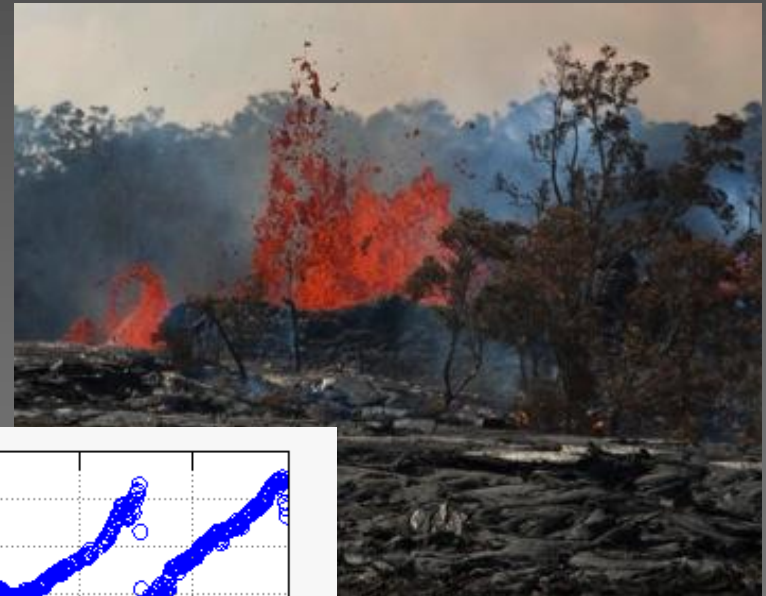
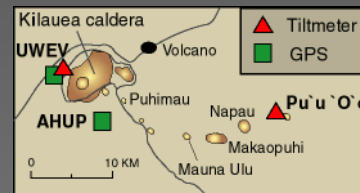
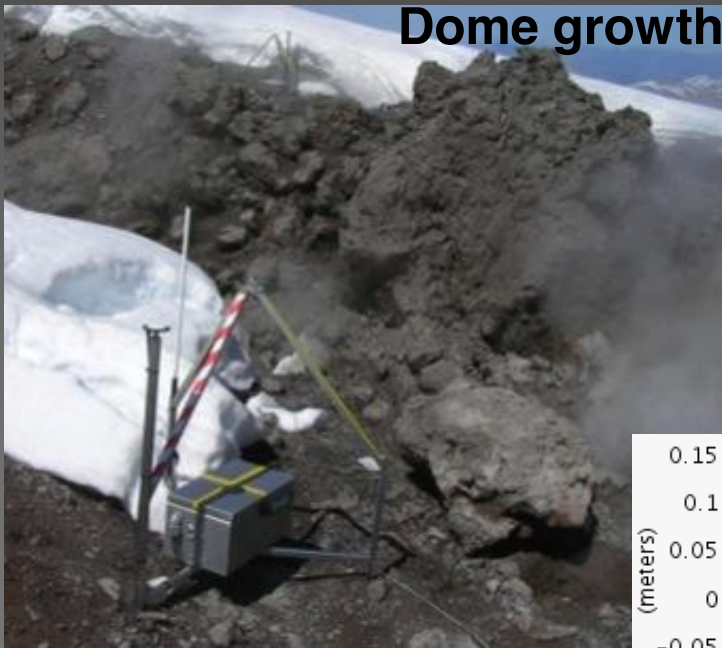
**Flank motions**



Motions of volcanoes' flanks can indicate the arrival of new magma; GPS is used to monitor changes in activity.



**Dome growth**





# GNSS for hazards management

- GNSS is an essential enabling technology for the mapping and precise monitoring needed to accomplish science missions in support of hazard warnings.
- In the aftermath of a significant disaster event, GNSS is critical in support of new mapping and geopositioning incident features is essential in support of immediate response (e.g., support Urban Search & Rescue) as well as for long-term recovery (e.g., organizing debris removal).



# GNSS is benefiting humanity, such as for: Earthquake and Tsunami safety

- Global earthquake observation and tsunami alerts
- Airborne imagery positioning for fault zone characterization & damage assessment
- Tracking plates and strain accumulation and release (PBO)
- Earthquake early warning & rapid slip observation at lifeline fault crossings
- Building monitoring and damage assessment; automatic 'tagging'
- Fault displacement and tsunami buoy measurement

## Nearly everything we do is helped by GNSS

- **GNSS will become even better than it is currently for these applications**
  - GPS L2C, L5 and L1C will improve over current capabilities
  - Future multi-GNSS solutions: GLONASS, QZSS, Galileo and other GNSS
- **GNSS may be improved beyond currently planned system enhancements**
  - Aiding through internet or wireless will enhance real-time precise results
  - Added signals could nearly eliminate the real-time ambiguity resolution problem



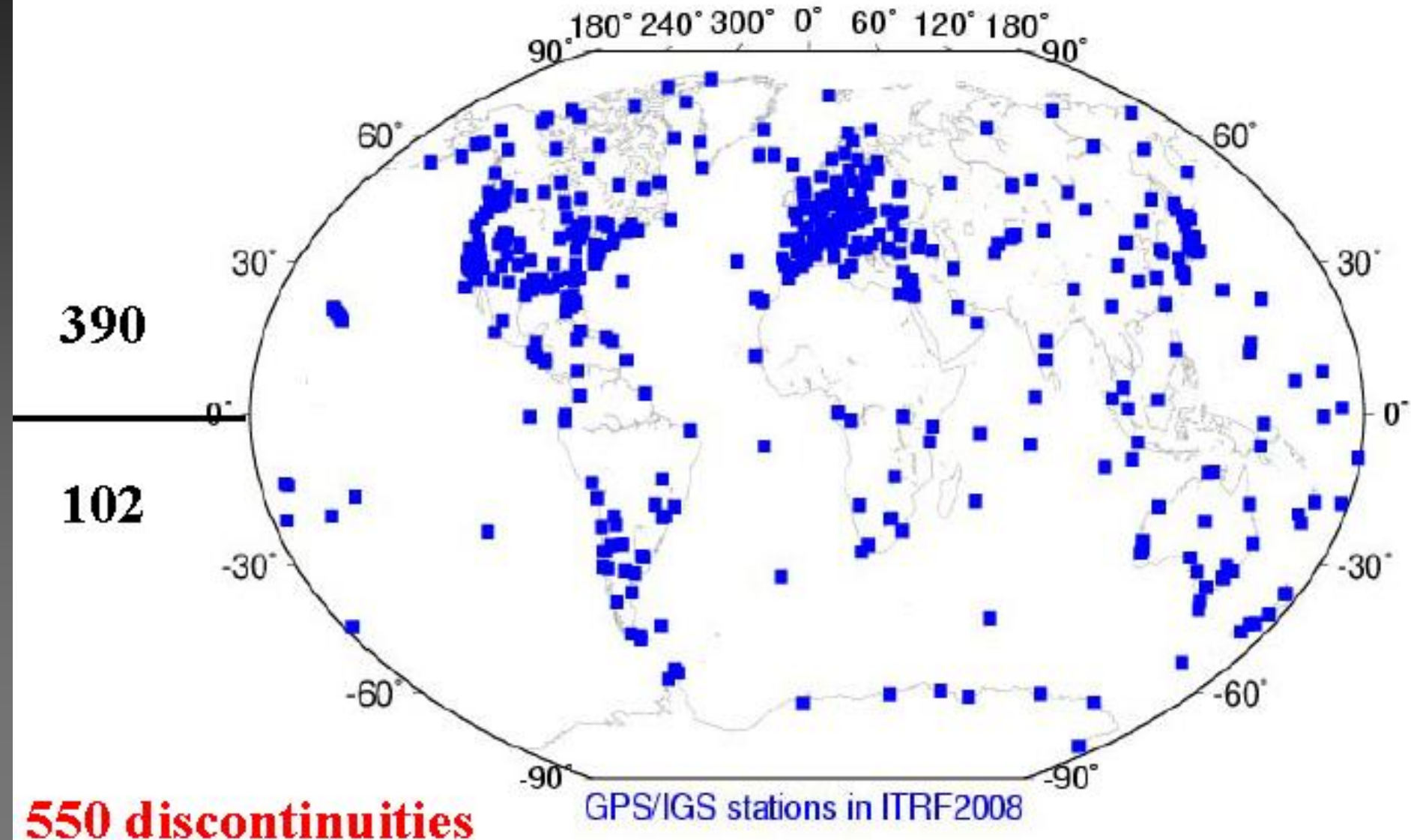


***Thank You***

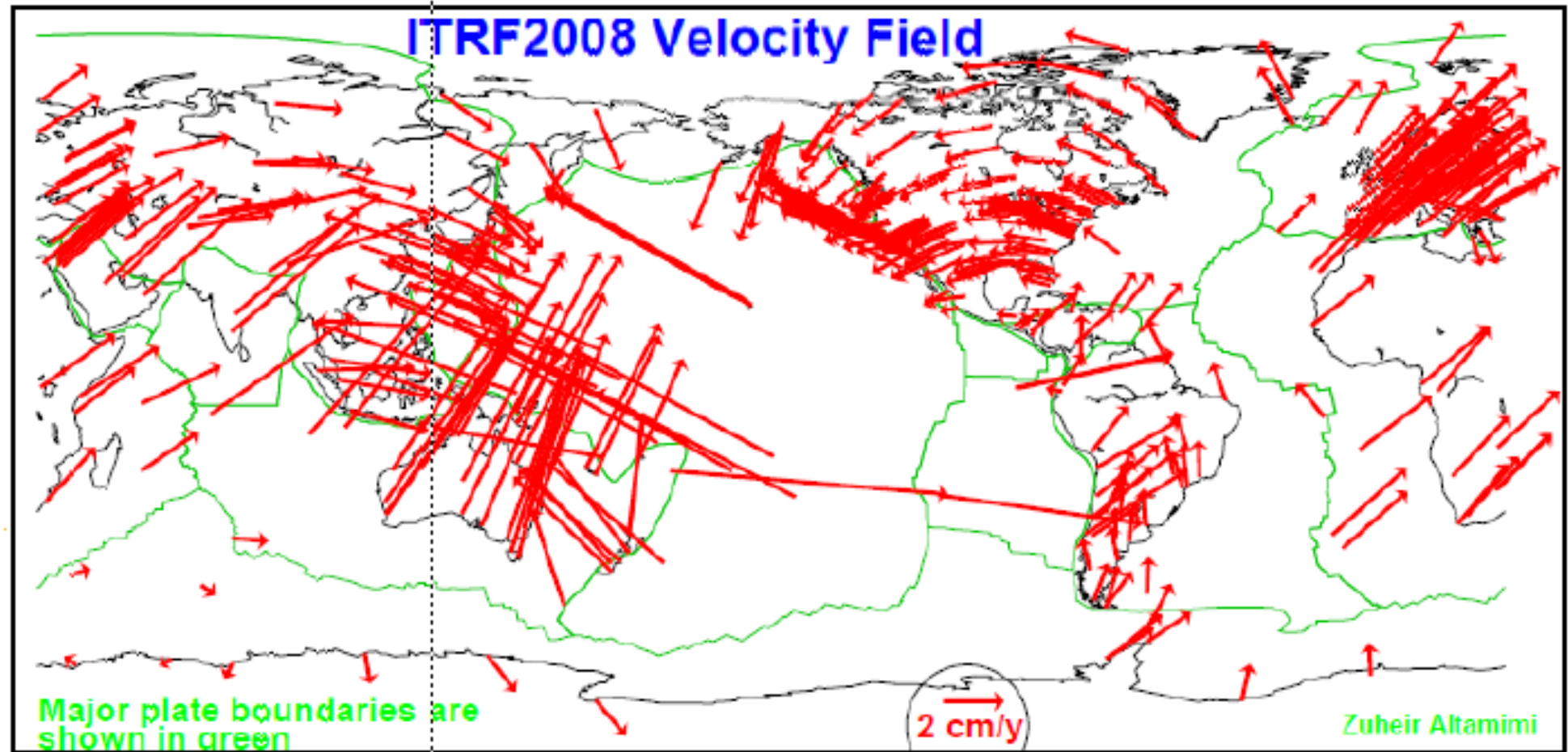
# International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)



# ITRF2008: GPS/IGS Site distribution

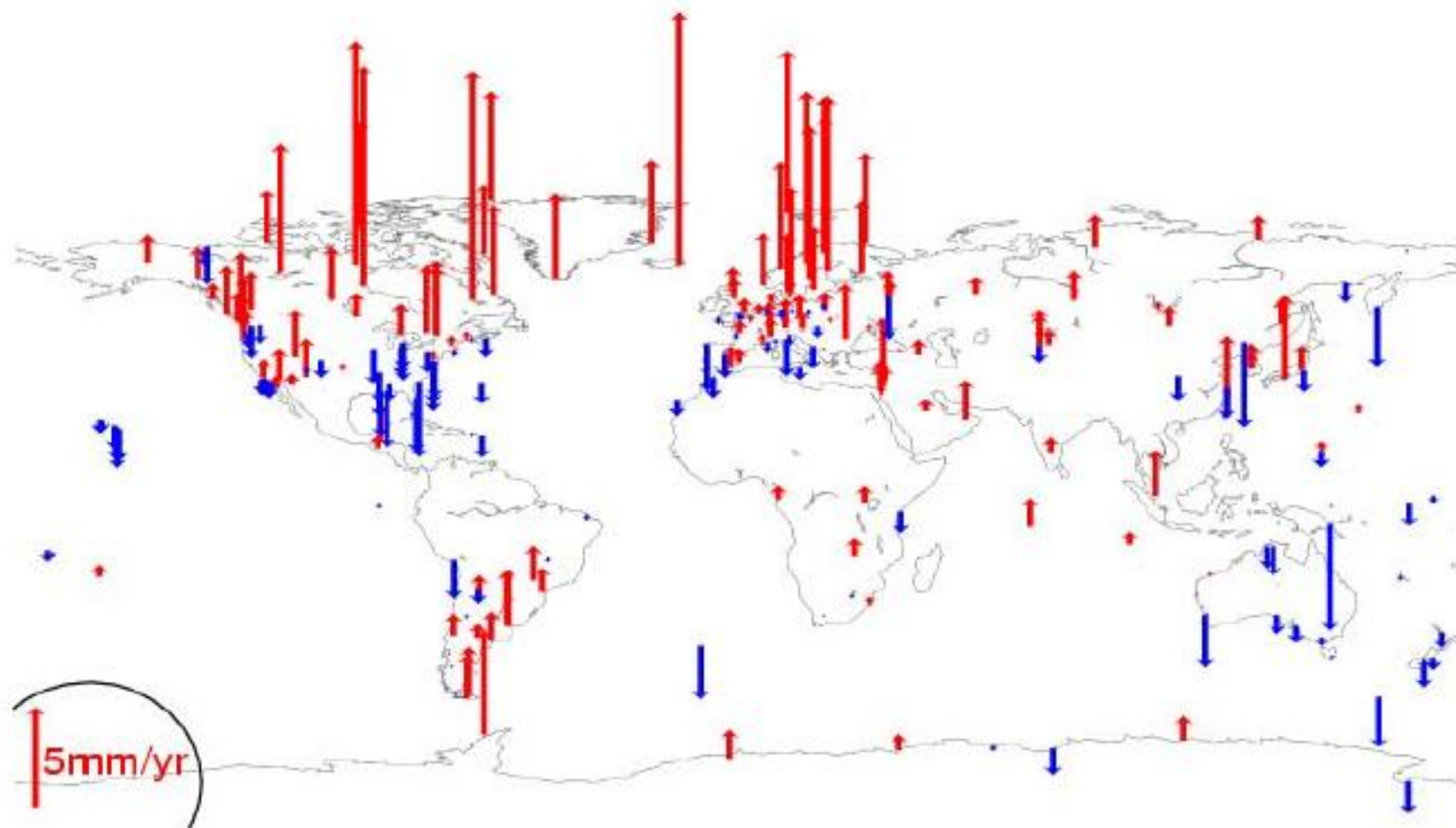


# ITRF2008 Horizontal Velocity Field



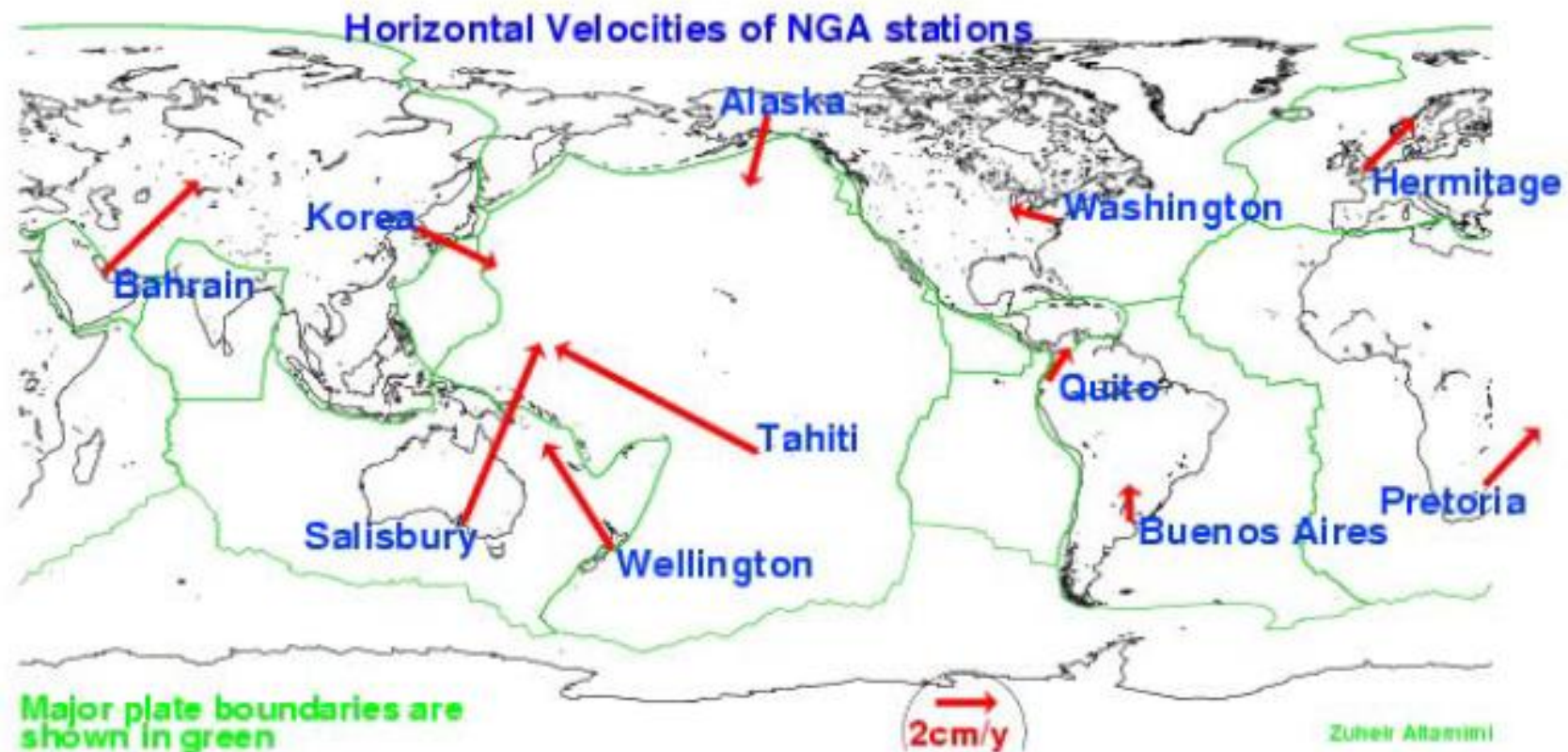


# ITRF2008 Vertical Velocity Field



# WGS84 - NGA Stations in ITRF2008

NGA: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency



$$X(t) = X(t_0) + \dot{X}(t - t_0)$$