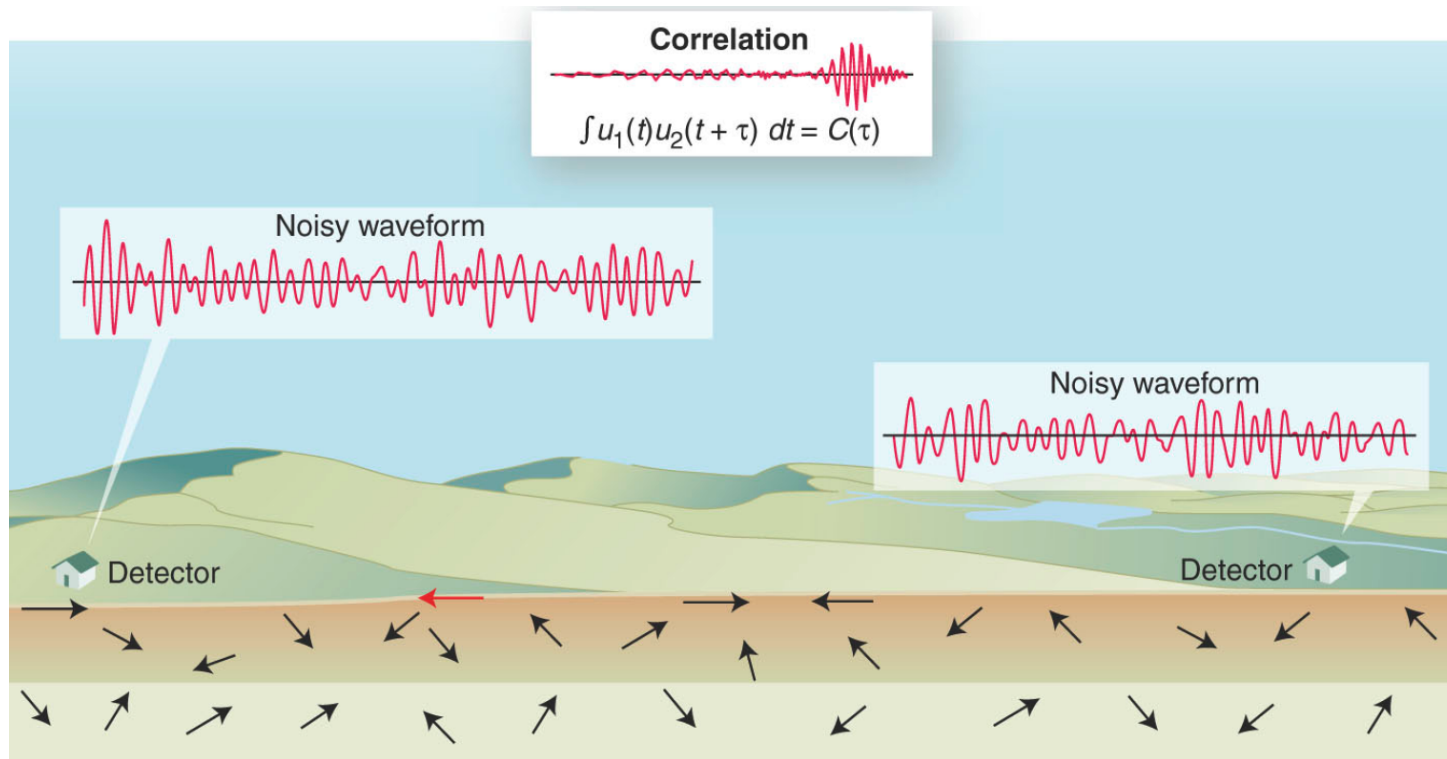


# Field-field correlations in ultrasonics and seismology, and the Retrieval of Green's Function from noise

- *RL Weaver*
- *University of Illinois*



With thanks to my collaborators, including:

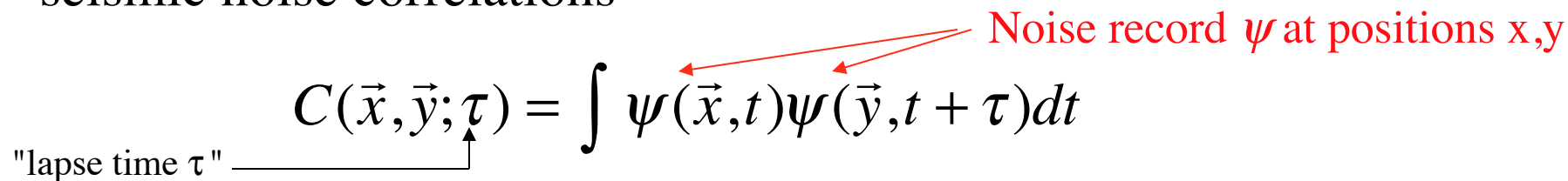
Xiaodong Song, J Yoritomo, Oleg Lobkis U Illinois

David Yang LANL

The team of Ondes et Structures *et al* Grenoble

This subfield of seismology grew out of a theoretical insight that seismic noise correlations

$$C(\vec{x}, \vec{y}; \tau) = \int \psi(\vec{x}, t) \psi(\vec{y}, t + \tau) dt$$

"lapse time  $\tau$ " 

Should be equal (*with numerous caveats and clarifications*) to

$$G(\vec{x}, \vec{y}; \tau)$$

the medium's Green function, representing the response you would have at position  $\vec{x}$  given a unit impulse at  $\vec{y}$

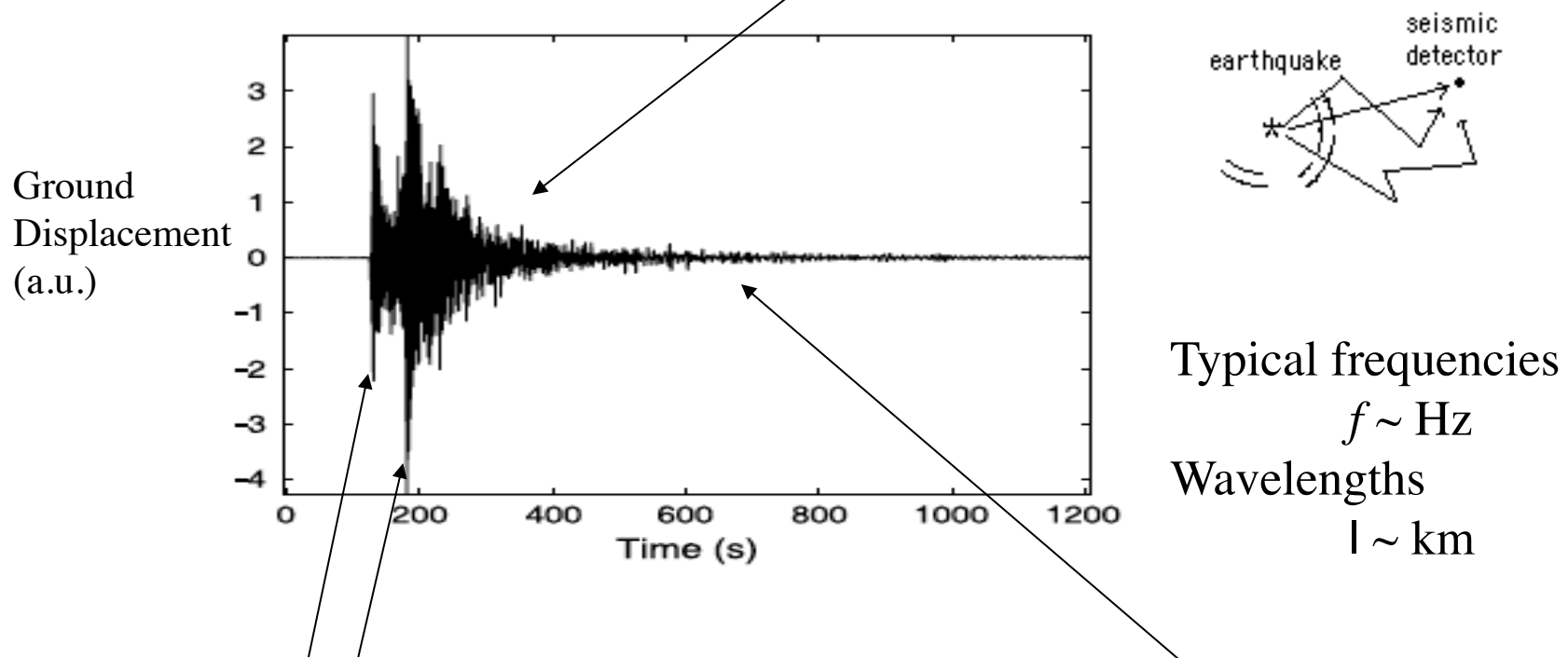
That is, by cross-correlating random noise, we can construct what we'd get if we could do an active experiment by artificially generating seismic waves.

Potentially very convenient!

Major caveat: The noise has to be fully diffuse, "equipartitioned"

One way to have full diffuseness is to have the noise be multiply scattered, e.g. "coda"

For example in earthquakes like this



There are (two) main arrivals (P and S or R),  
and also lots of random looking multiply scattered "coda"

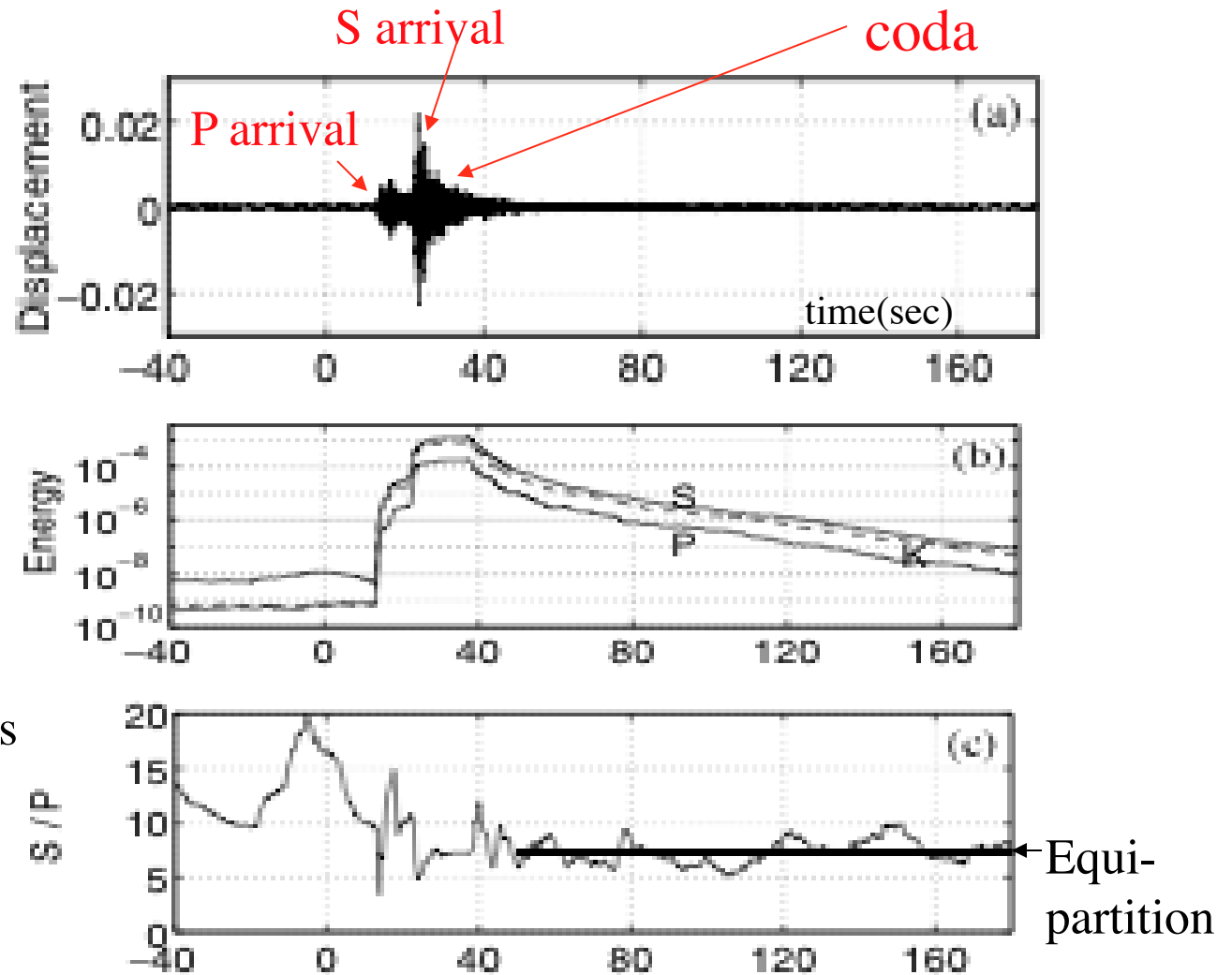
## History of the approach . . .

Conversations at a 1999 workshop,  
about the seismic coda - which appeared to be equipartitioned

An earthquake record

Ray arrivals are  
followed by  
low amplitude noise,  
or "*coda*"

The coda appears to  
achieve a steady state  
ratio of its energy contents  
For example, its shear-to-  
dilatational energies: S/P



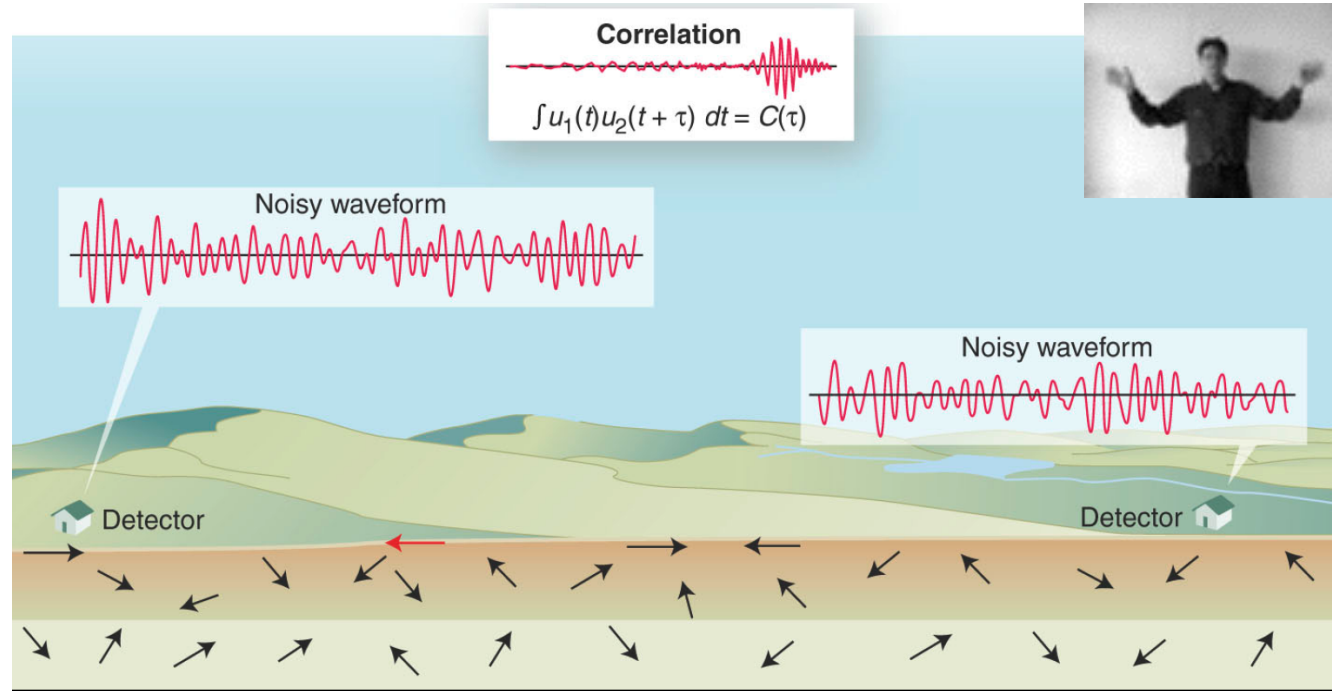
## History of the approach continued. . .

I pointed out

"if a wave field (e.g. seismic coda) is multiply scattered to the point of being equipartitioned, the field's correlations should be Green's function,

And we could recover lots of information without using a controlled source"

# Hand-waving plausibility argument . . .



that there could well be a signature, an "arrival,"  
at the correct travel time

- due to those few rays that happen to be going the right way

But G exactly?

And where's the proof?

And won't other rays from other directions obscure the effect?

## Standard Proofs . .

For a conventional diffuse acoustic field (applies to coda?)  
can invoke a modal picture (for closed systems)  
or a plane wave picture (for homogeneous systems)

For a thermally diffuse field  
can refer to a picture in terms of the normal modes  
or prove it using the fluctuation-dissipation theorem

The simplest proof involves a common definition of a fully diffuse field, from room acoustics, or from the physics of thermal phonons, in terms of the normal mode expansion for the field in a finite body

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n u_n(\vec{x}) \exp(i\omega_n t)$$

For which we assert modal amplitude statistics

$$\langle a_n a_m^* \rangle = \delta_{nm} \quad 2F(\omega_n) / \omega_n^2 \quad \text{"equipartition"}$$

*n.b: this follows from maximum entropy  
where  $F \sim \text{energy per mode} (k_B T)$*

It is then straightforward to derive

$$C(\tau) \equiv \langle \psi(\vec{x}, t) \psi(\vec{y}, t + \tau) \rangle =$$

$$\text{Re} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} F(\omega_n) u_n(\vec{x}) u_n(\vec{y}) \exp(-i\omega_n \tau) / \omega_n^2$$



$$C(\tau) \equiv \langle \psi(\vec{x}, t) \psi(\vec{y}, t + \tau) \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} F(\omega_n) u_n(\vec{x}) u_n(\vec{y}) \cos(\omega_n \tau) / \omega_n^2$$

Compare with the modal representation for G . . .

$$G_{xy}(\tau) = H(\tau) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n(\vec{x}) u_n(\vec{y}) \sin(\omega_n \tau) / \omega_n$$

*(H = unit step function)*

We may conclude

$$\partial C / \partial \tau = -\{G - G^{\text{time reversed}}\} \text{ convolved with } F(\tau)$$

An alternative proof,

based on  $G$ 's role as a *propagator of initial conditions*

$$\psi(\vec{r}, t + \tau) = \int d\vec{a} \psi(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, t) \dot{G}(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, \vec{r}; \tau) + \int d\vec{a} \dot{\psi}(\vec{R} + \vec{a}, t) G(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, \vec{r}; \tau)$$

$\psi$  at position  $r$  and a later time  $t + \tau$

may be constructed in terms of an integral of  $\psi$   
over all other positions at an earlier time  $t$ .

Now take the expectation  $C_{s \rightarrow r}(\tau) =$

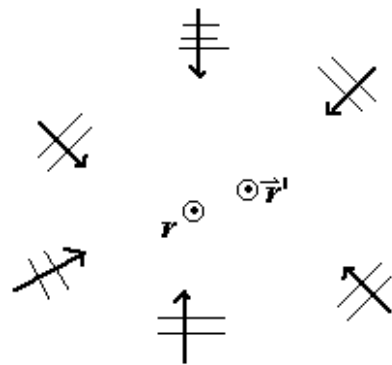
$$C(\tau) = \langle \psi(\vec{r}, t + \tau) \psi(\vec{s}, t) \rangle$$

$$= \int d\vec{a} \langle \psi(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, t) \psi(\vec{s}, t) \rangle \dot{G}(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, \vec{r}; \tau) + \int d\vec{a} \langle \dot{\psi}(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, t) \psi(\vec{s}, t) \rangle G^{ac}(\vec{s} + \vec{a}, \vec{r}; \tau)$$

$C_{s \rightarrow r}(\tau)$  is seen to be a *spatial convolution* of the  
equal time  $C(\tau=0)$  with  $\underline{G}$

A proof applicable to ballistic media (i.e those with no significant scattering)

If the field in the vicinity of the receivers is an incoherent superposition of plane waves – of equal intensity in all directions



$$\tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}, \omega) = \int A(\theta) \exp(-i\omega \hat{\theta} \cdot \vec{r} / c) d\theta$$

( 2-d )

with  $\langle A \rangle = 0$ ;  $\langle A(\theta) A^*(\theta') \rangle = \delta(\theta - \theta')$

Then the field-field correlation is

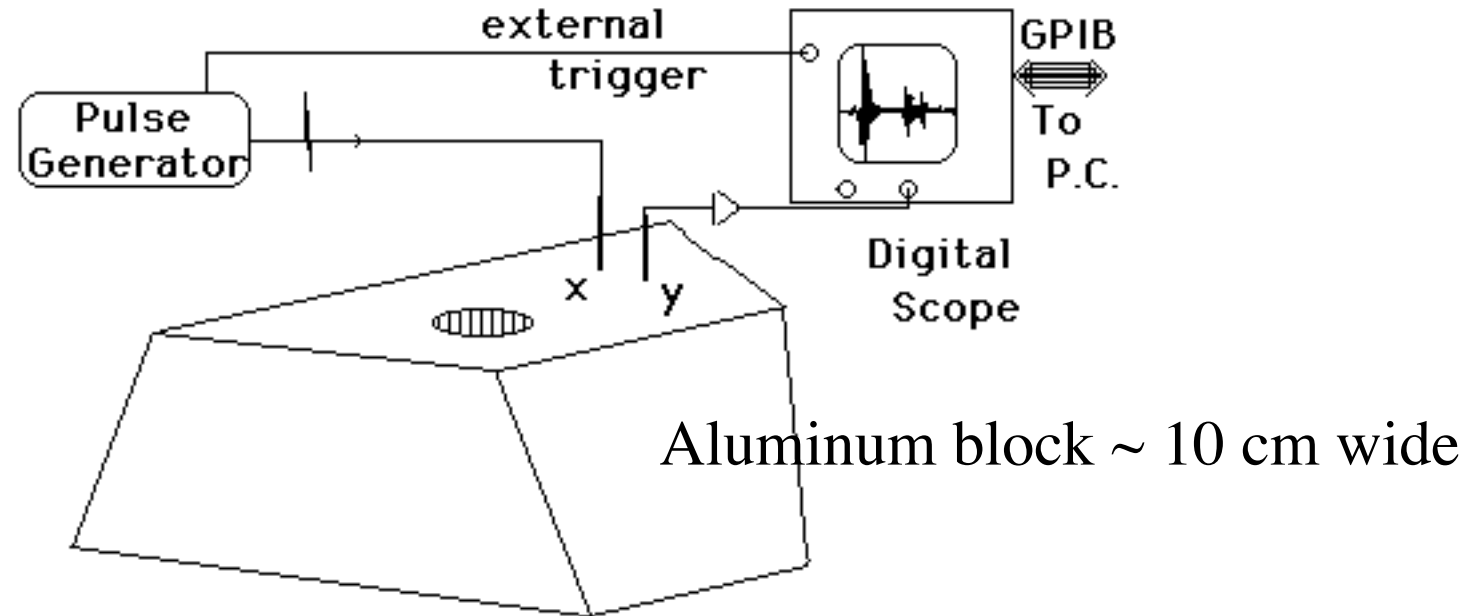
$$\langle \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}, \omega) \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}', \omega)^* \rangle = \int \exp(-i\omega \hat{\theta} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}') / c) d\theta =$$

$$2\pi J_0(\omega |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| / c) \sim \text{Im } G$$

QED

## Laboratory Verification ?

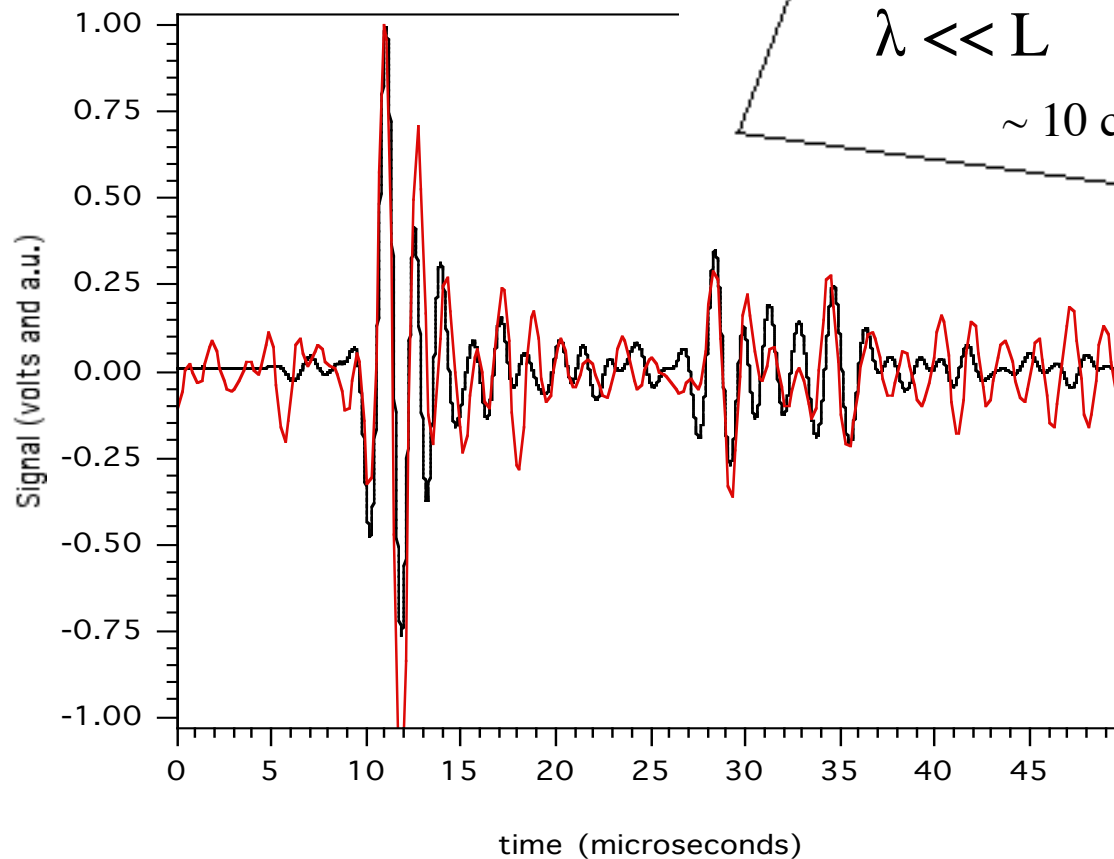
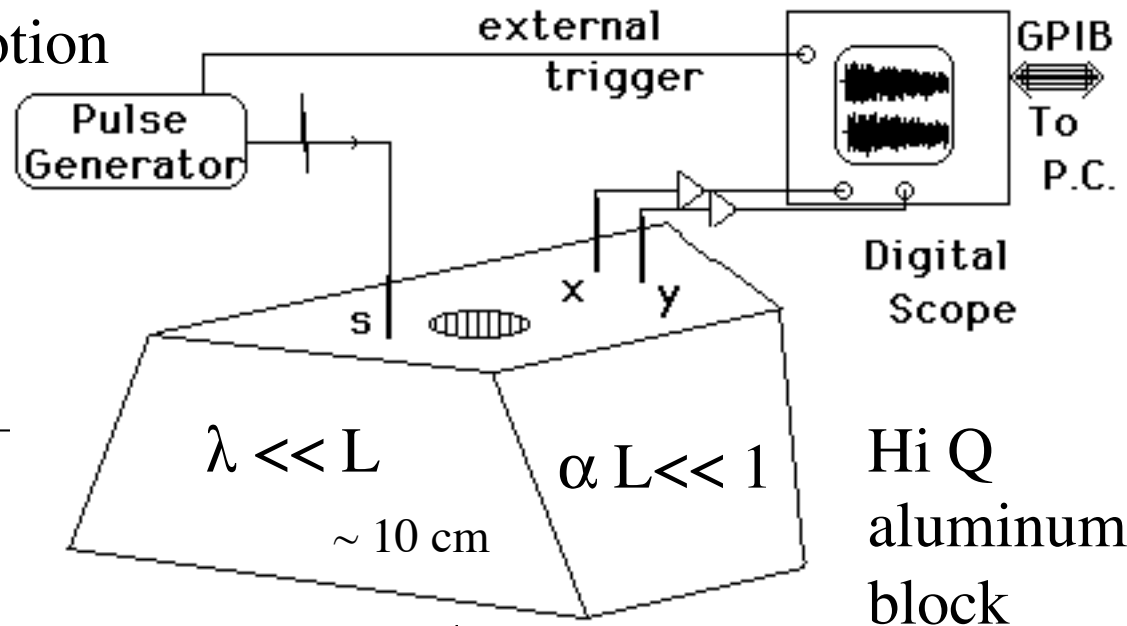
An ultrasonic "pitch-catch" measurement



An impulse (with frequencies up to MHz) is applied at position x.

The resulting mechanical motion (wavelengths  $\lambda \sim \text{mm}$ )  
is detected at position y.

Now apply the source at position "s"  
 And detect the resulting motion  
 at x and y.



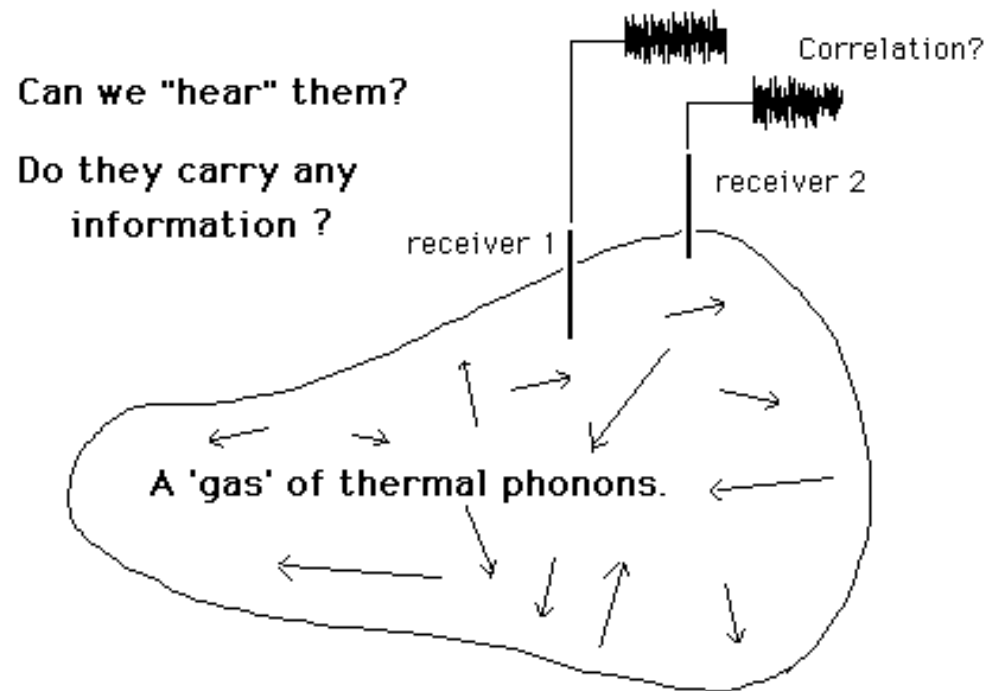
— direct pitch/catch signal  
 $x \rightarrow y$

— Correlation between signals  
 $s \rightarrow x$  &  $s \rightarrow y$

*J Acoust Soc Am.* **110**,  
 (2001)

The best diffuse field is that provided by thermal fluctuations of elastic waves

A gas of phonons as it were . . . .



## The strength of a thermal ultrasonic field at MHz frequencies

- 1) Classical Thermal Fluctuation analysis tells us;  
Each mode has small energy  $kT \approx 4.2 \times 10^{-21}$  joules  
For typical solids,  
with mode counts below 1 MHz of  $\sim 300$  modes /  $\text{cm}^3$

We have energy densities of  $\sim 10^{-12}$  Joules /  $\text{m}^3$   
and rms strain amplitudes of  $\sim 3 \times 10^{-12}$   
and rms displacement amplitudes of  
 $\sim 10^{-15}$  meter

- 2) How difficult is it to detect such weak signals?

We'll see . . . .

- 3) Why should we do so?

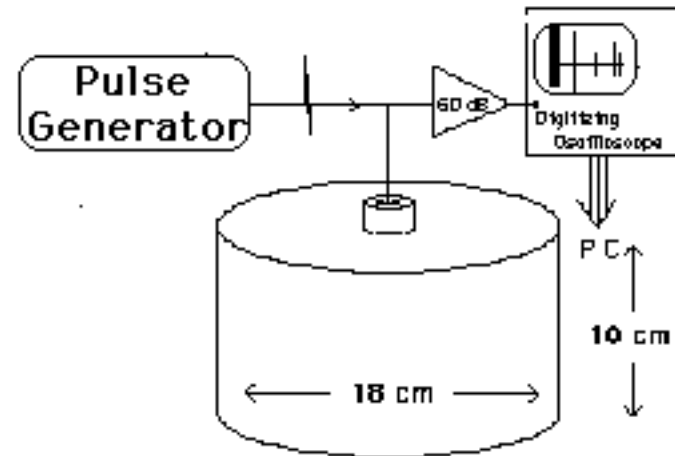
Answer:

They are perfectly diffuse,  
and carry ultrasonic information

## Laboratory verification in the thermal case:

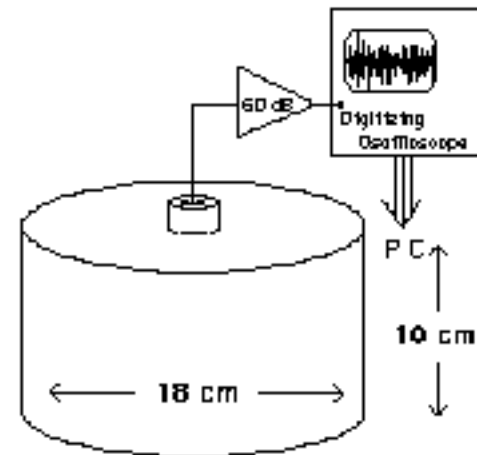
Comparison of a  
Direct Pulse-Echo  
Signal,

(conventional ultrasonics)



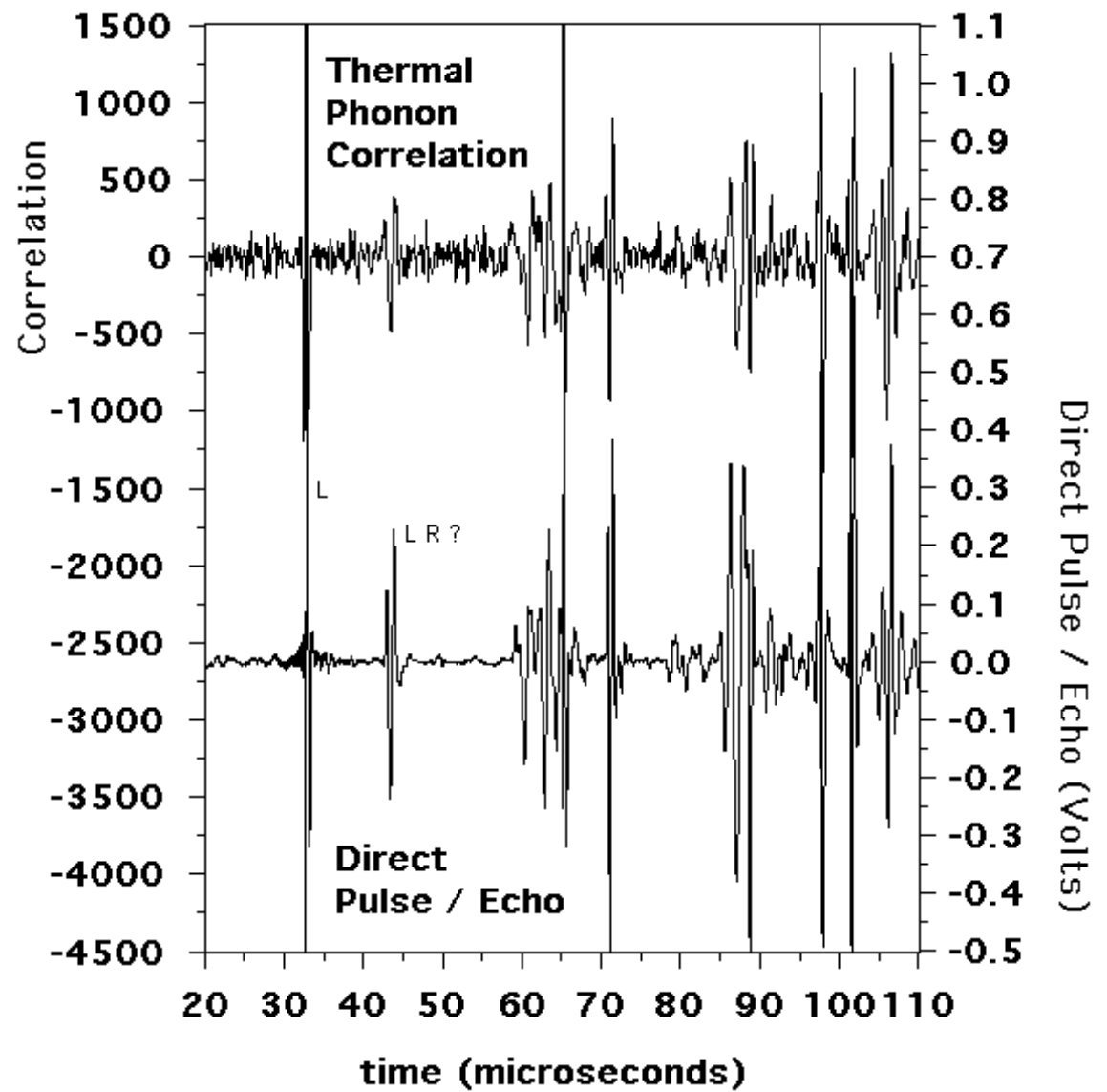
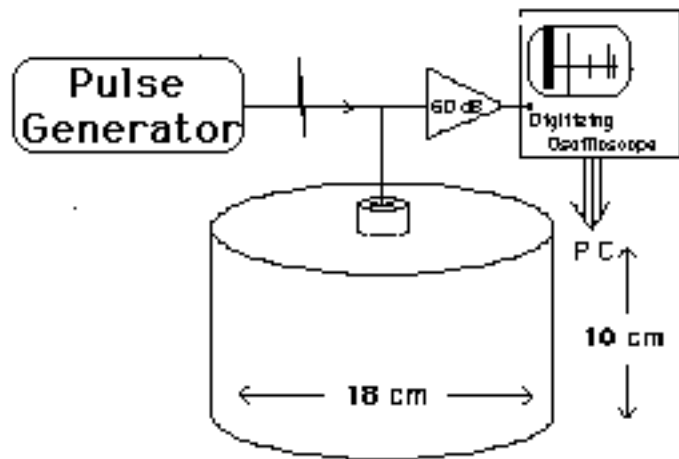
and

Thermal Noise  
Correlation

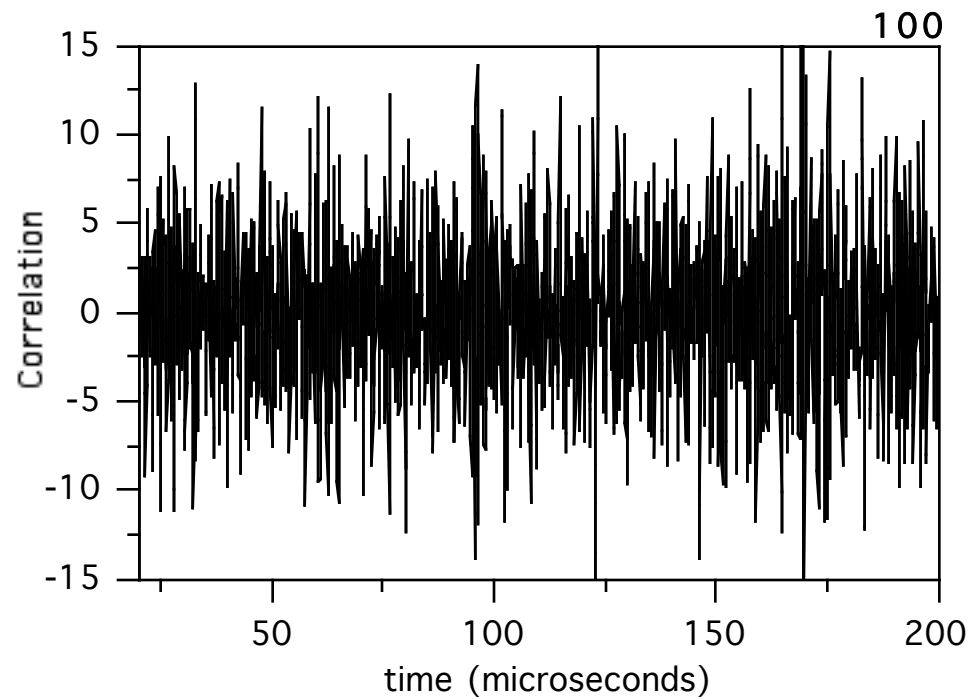




# Direct Pulse-Echo Signal

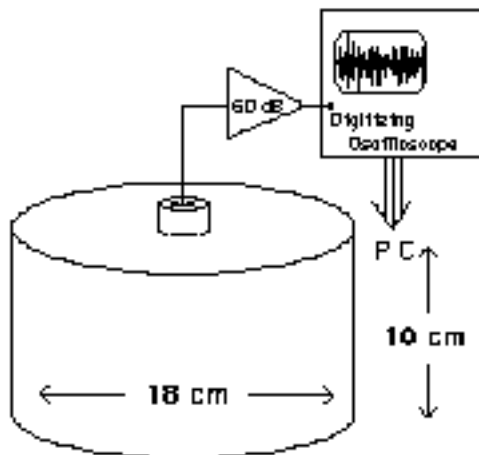


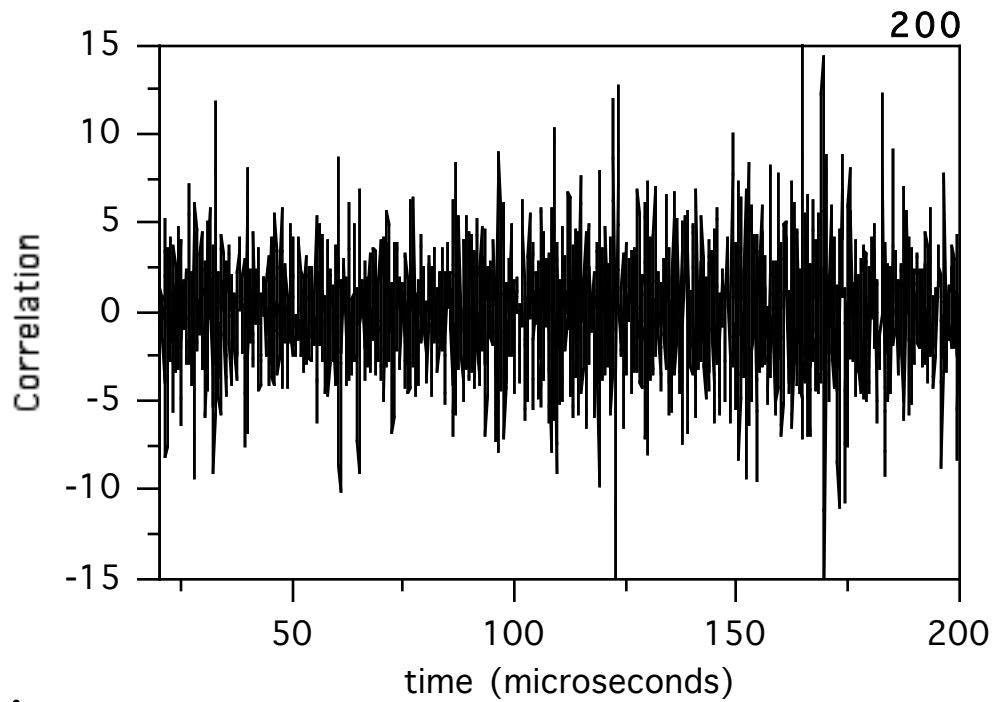
# Thermal noise correlations



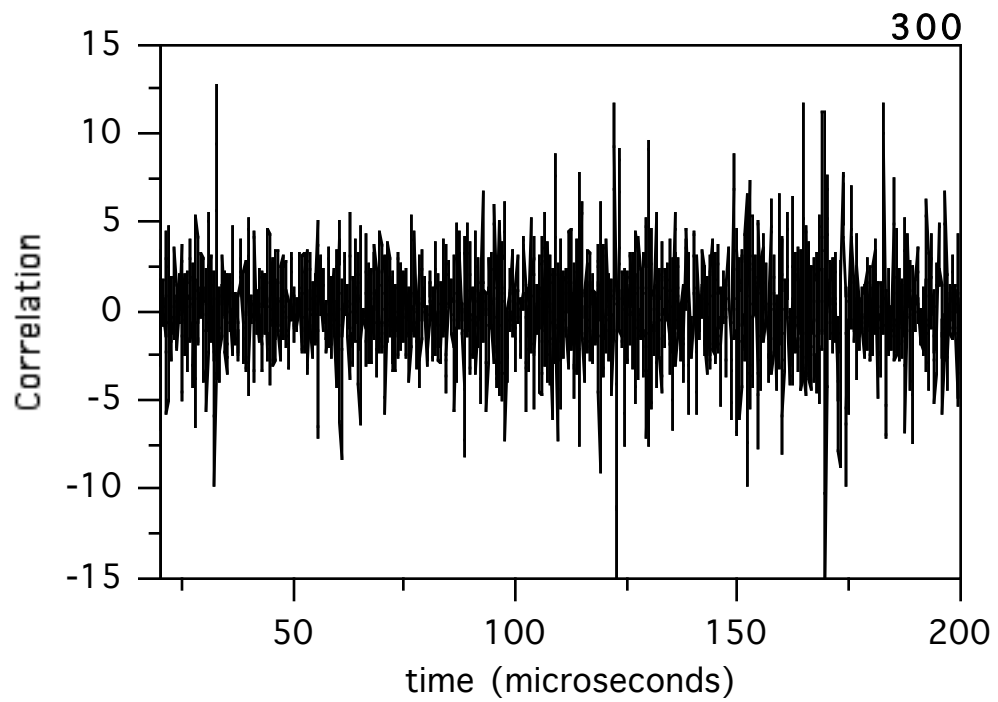
After  
Capturing  
320 msec  
of noise data

(and taking  
9 seconds to do so)

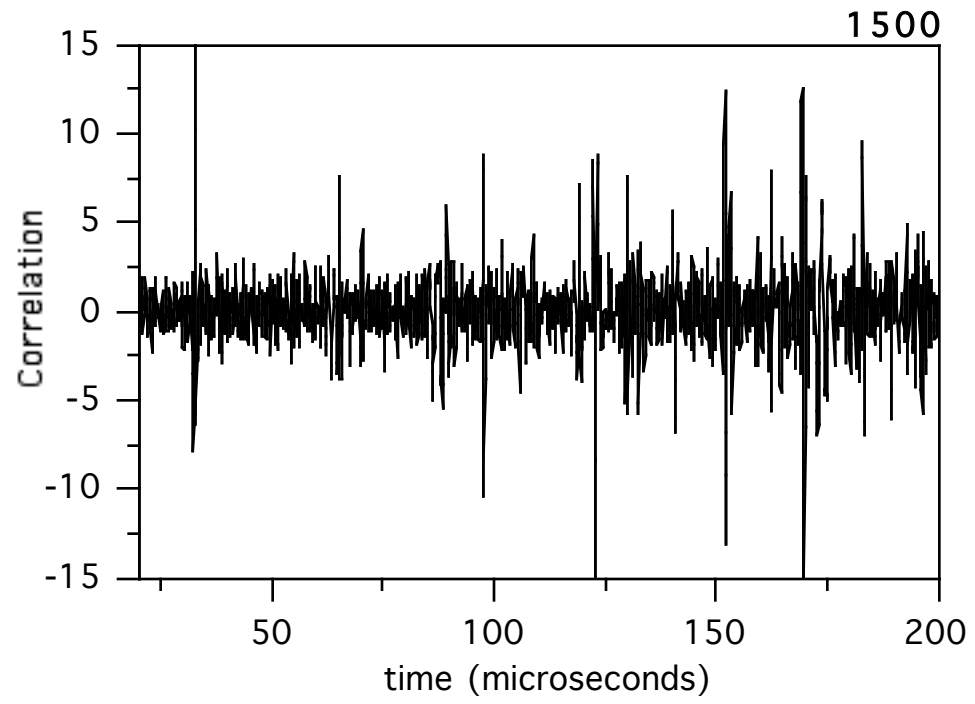




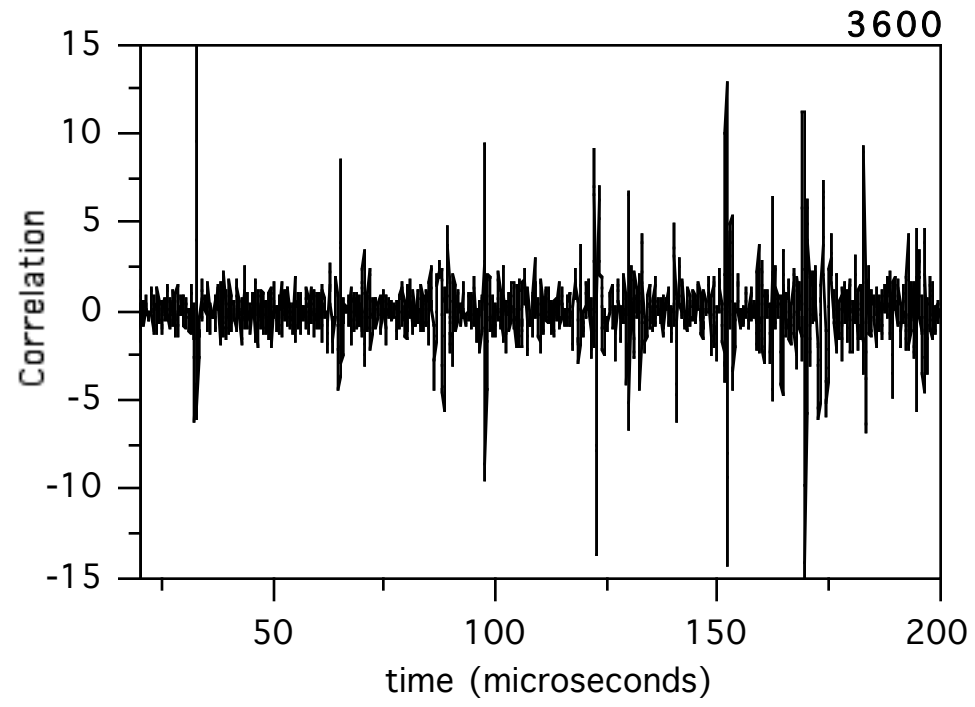
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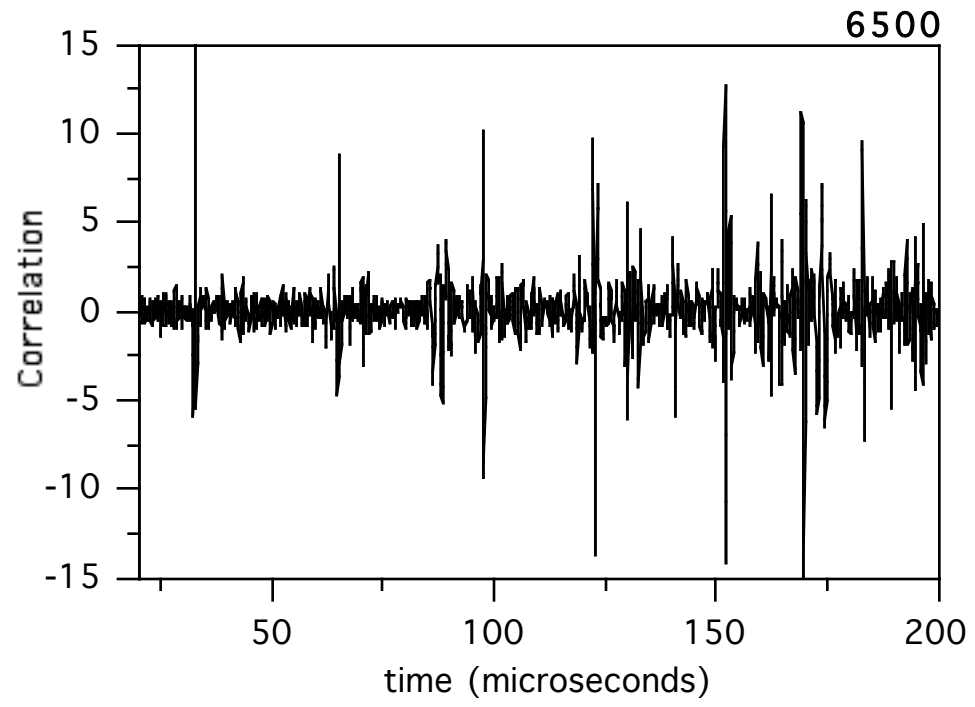
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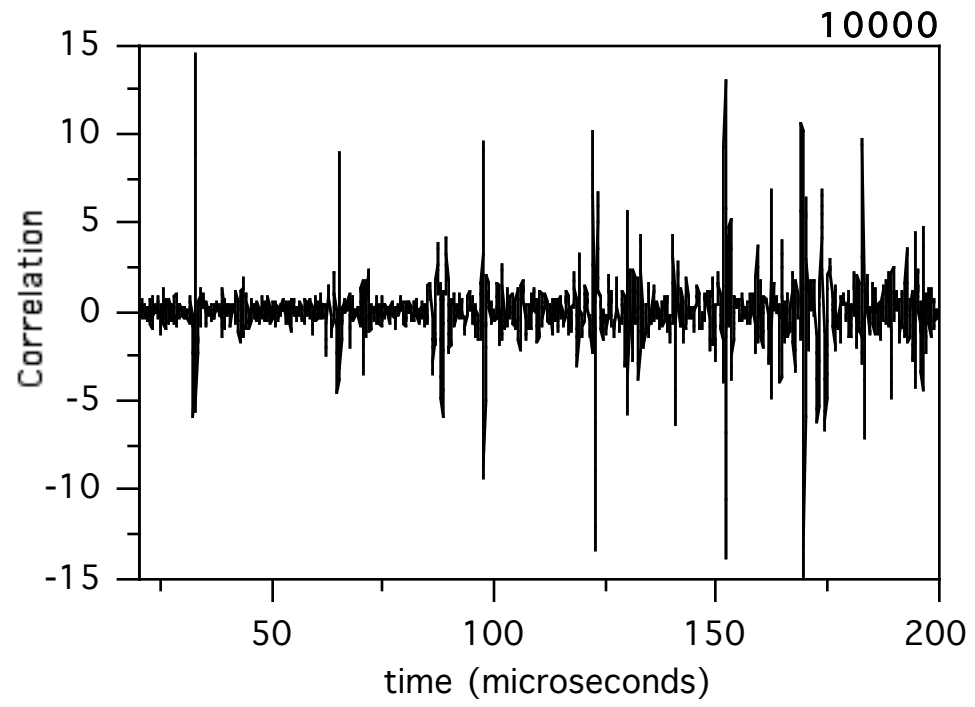
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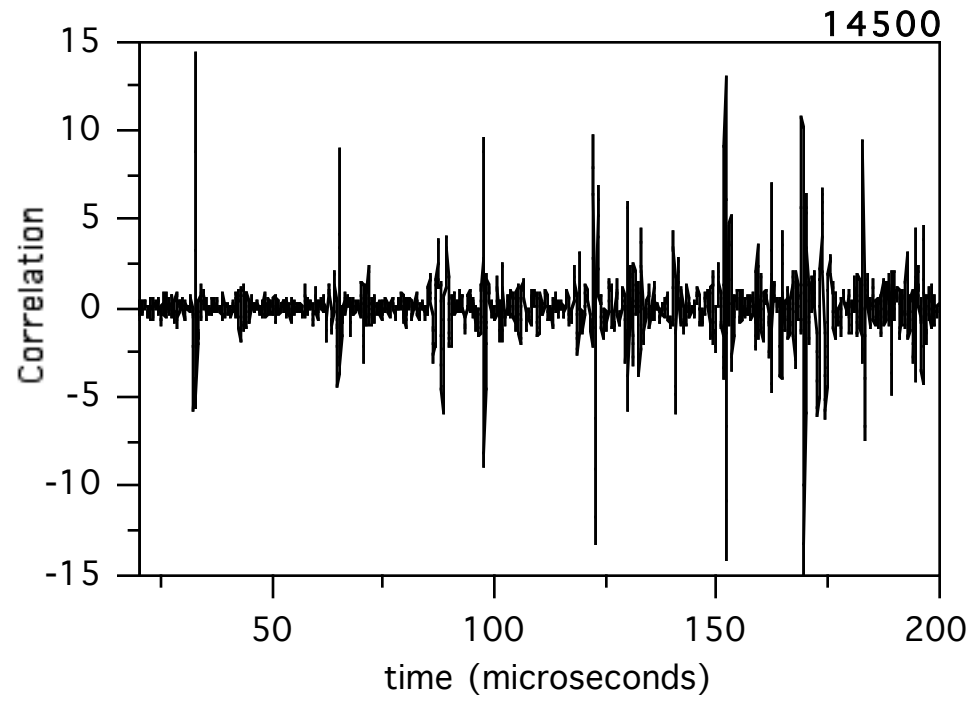


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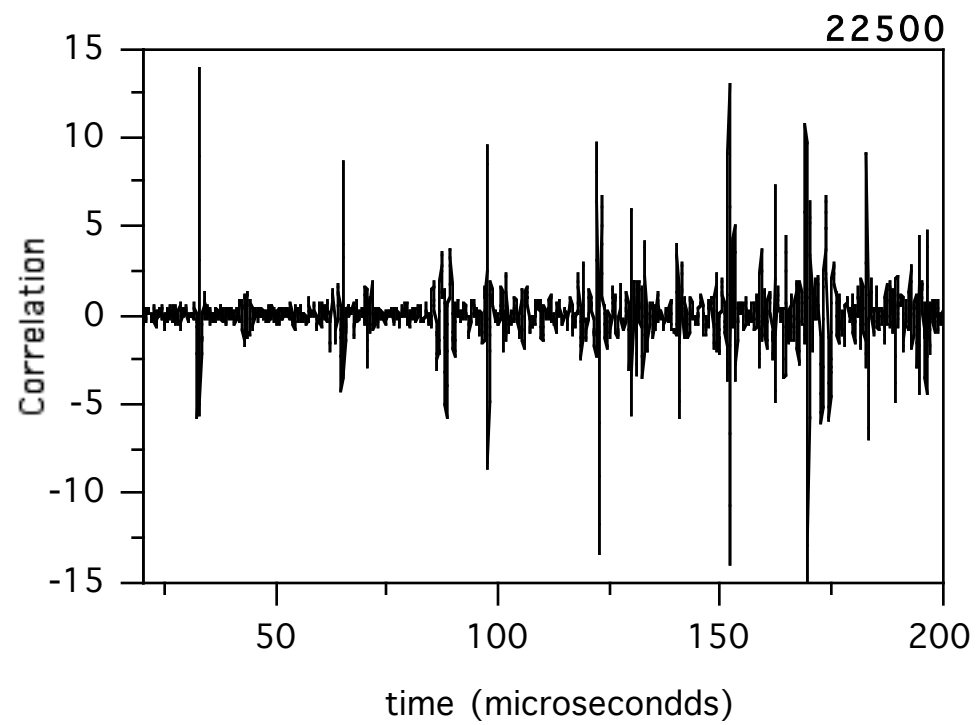


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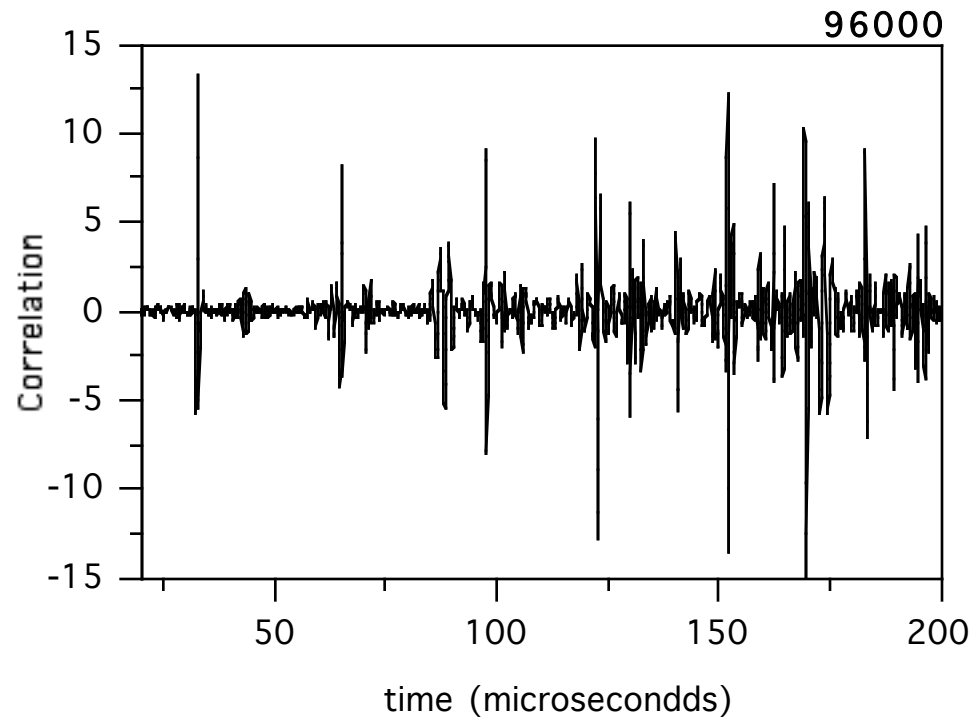




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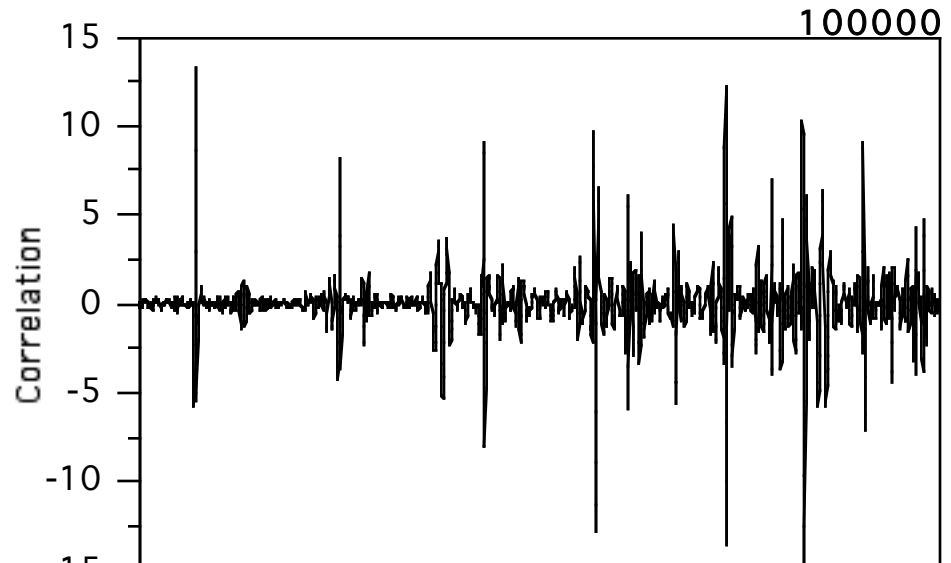
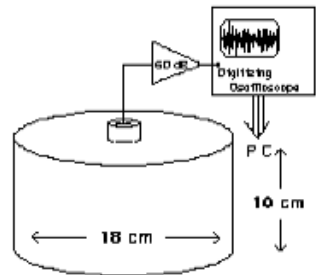


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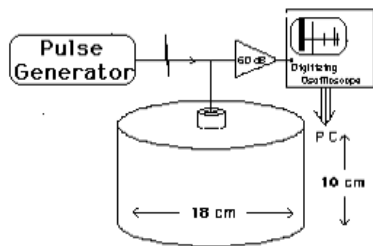
# Thermal noise correlation



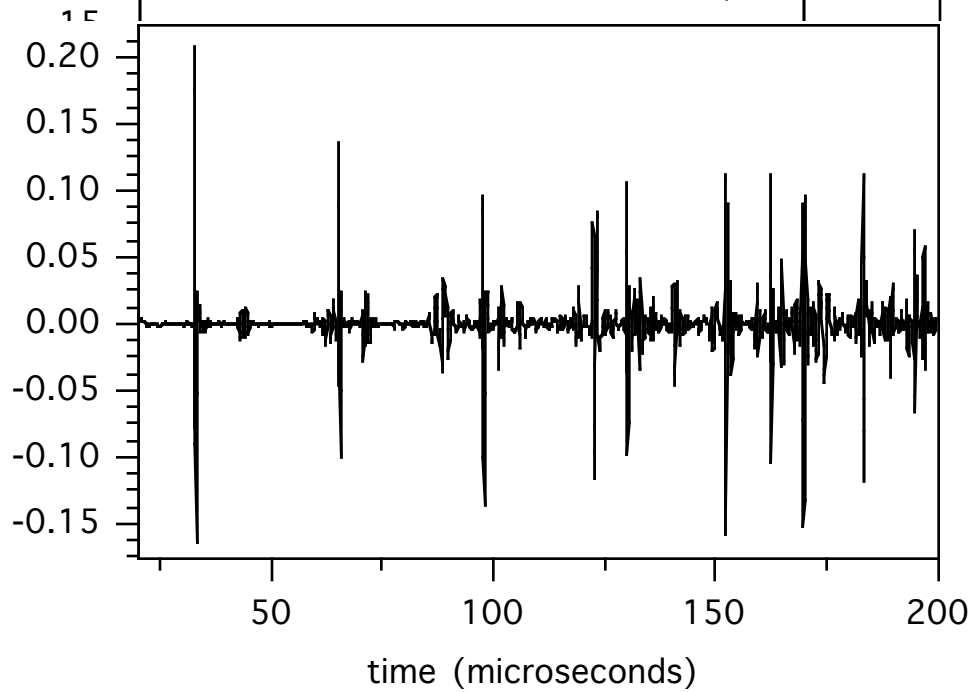
After  
Capturing  
320 seconds  
Of data

(and taking 2.5  
hours to do so)

# Direct pulse-echo



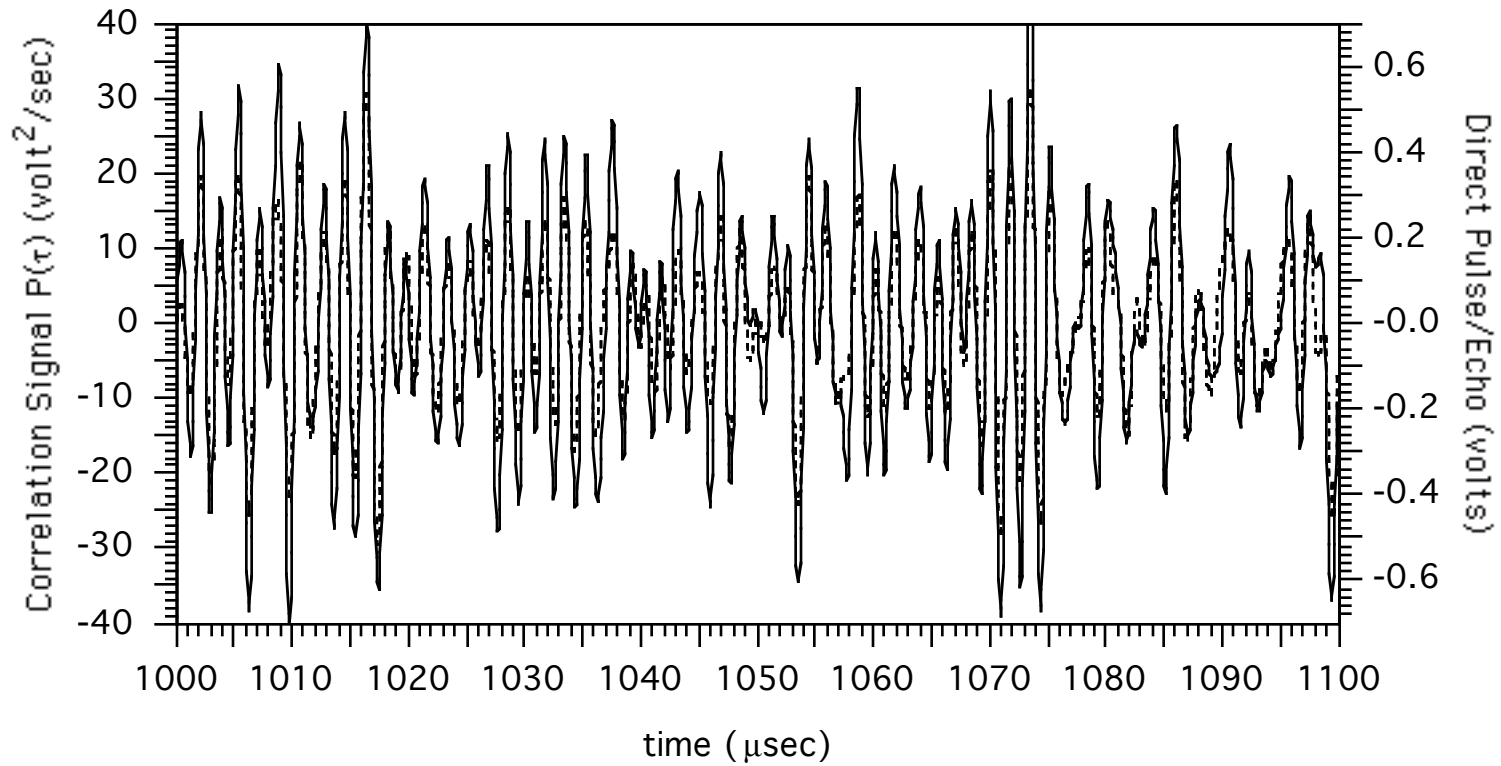
Direct Pulse Echo



*PRL (2001)*

## Comparison at later times

(  $\sim 1$  msec, after rays have traveled  $\sim 3$  meters )



This led Paul et al (Grenoble team) in 2003 to cross correlate the coda from a set of 100 Alaskan earthquakes as measured on an array of many ( $N$ ) seismic stations

From this they constructed  $N(N-1)/2$  cross correlations  $C(\tau)$

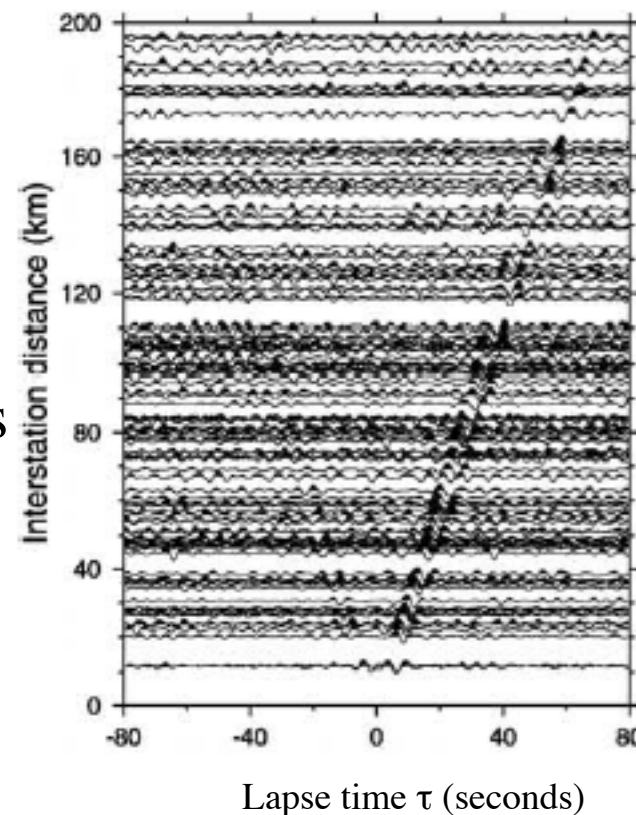
and stacked them against inter-station distance:

From this we note two things

- 1) It works; we clearly see the signs of propagation
- 2) It works *badly*:

Low Signal/Noise

$$C(\tau) \neq C(-\tau)$$



Far more successful, it turns out, were efforts to correlate Ambient Seismic Noise (rather than coda)

Advantage : there is LOTS of it. It is virtually continuous

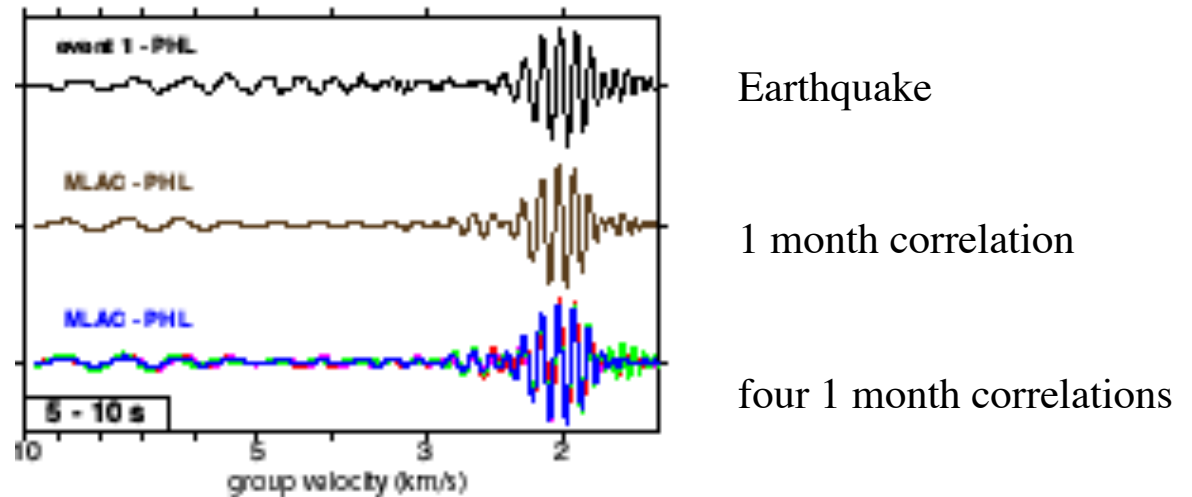
Disadvantage: it is not equipartitioned, it is not multiply scattered

Nevertheless...Shapiro et al constructed correlations of Ambient noise in So Cal in 2005

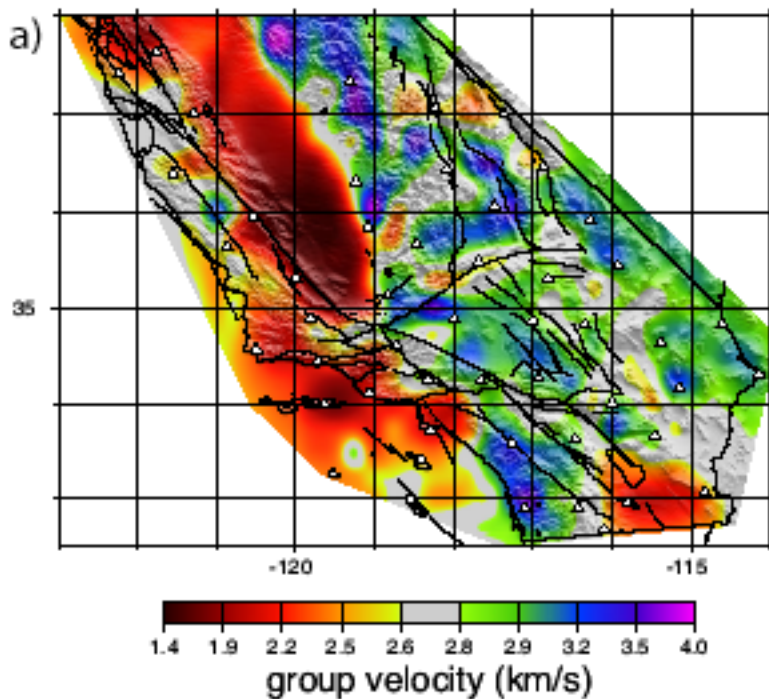
Example traces  $C(\tau)$ :

We note

- 1) It works
- 2) Improved S/N



The work led to the first of several striking maps of  
Seismic Velocity,  
obtained by tomographically inverting the arrival times in the  $C(\tau)$



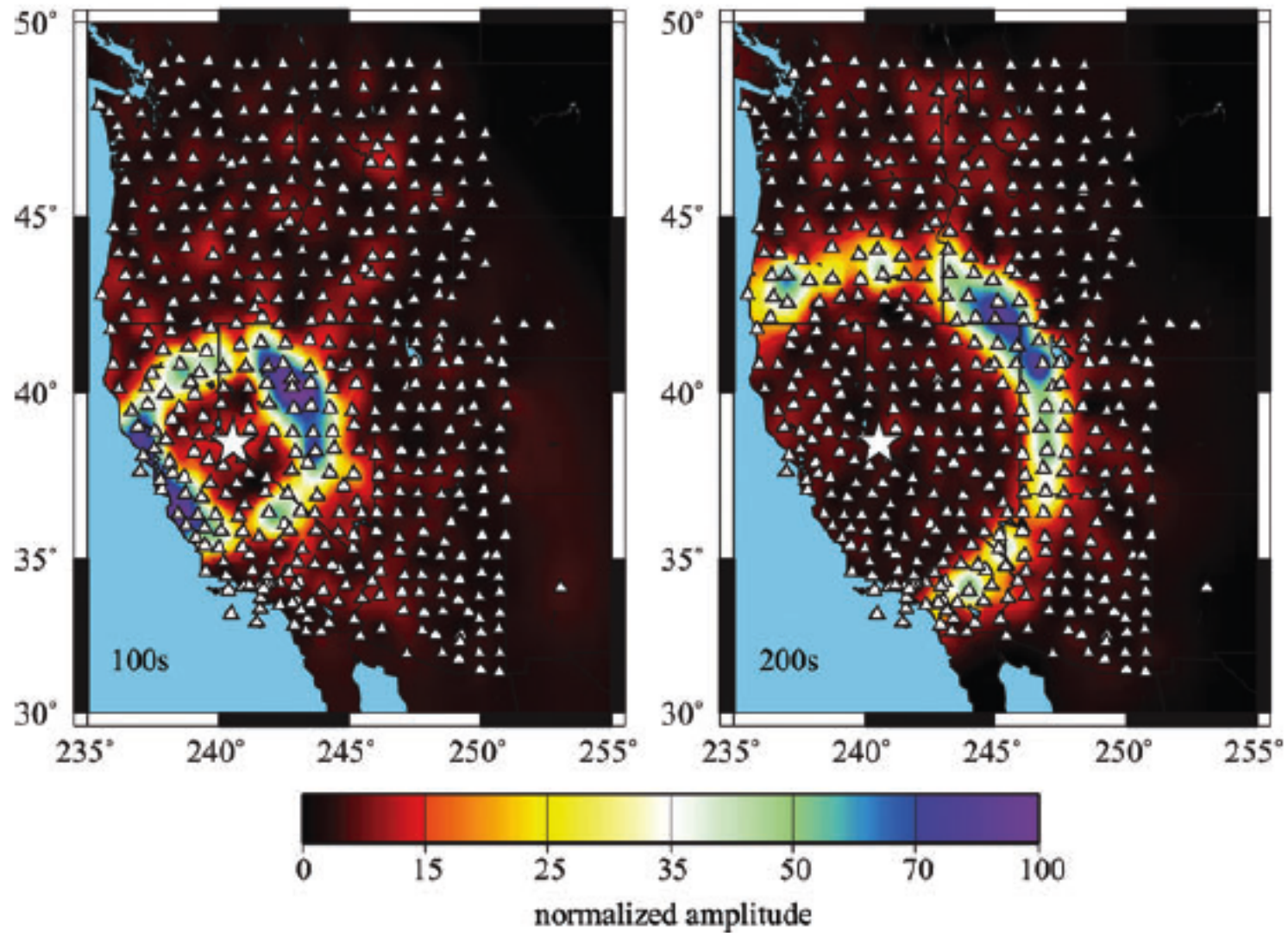
A map of Surface-Wave  
Velocity in California

Obtained from correlating  
seismic noise based on correlations  
between each pair of a network of  
62 So Cal stations  
(*Shapiro et al, Science 2005*)

Frequencies  $\sim 0.02 < f < 1$  Hz;  $3\text{km} < \lambda < 150$  km

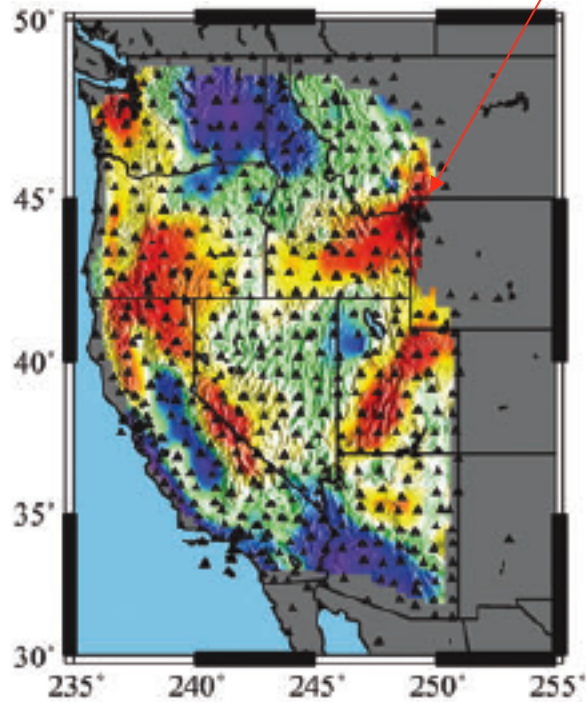


Lin and Ritzwoller and Snieder (2009) Geophys J Int  
3 years of data on a larger array

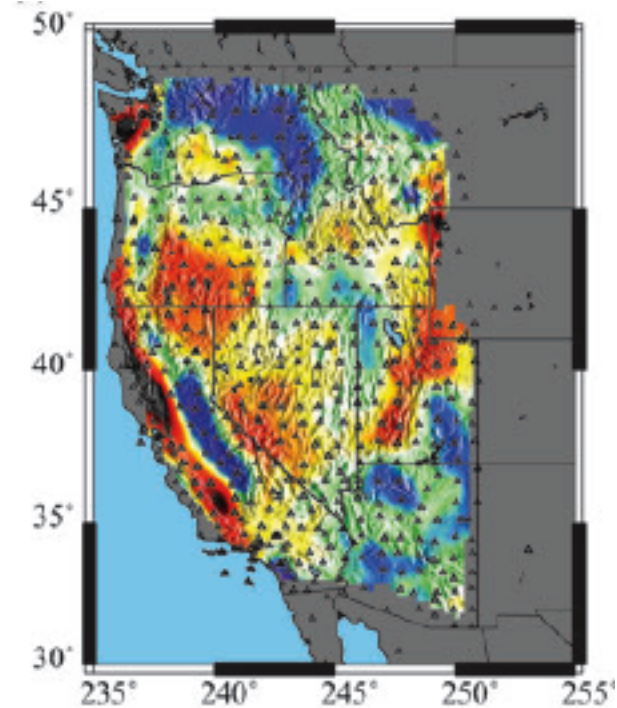
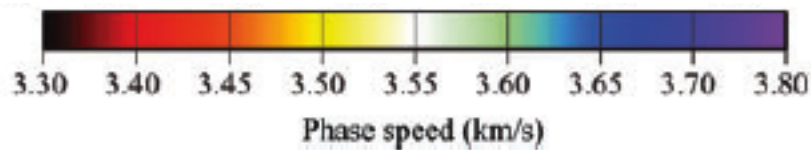


# Tomographically generated maps of wave speed

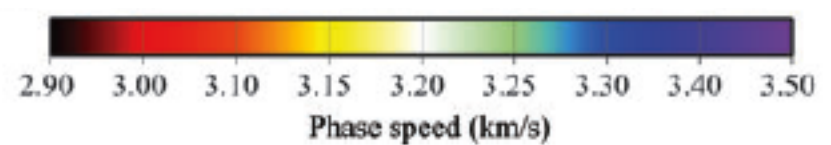
Hot spot in Yellowstone



24 sec

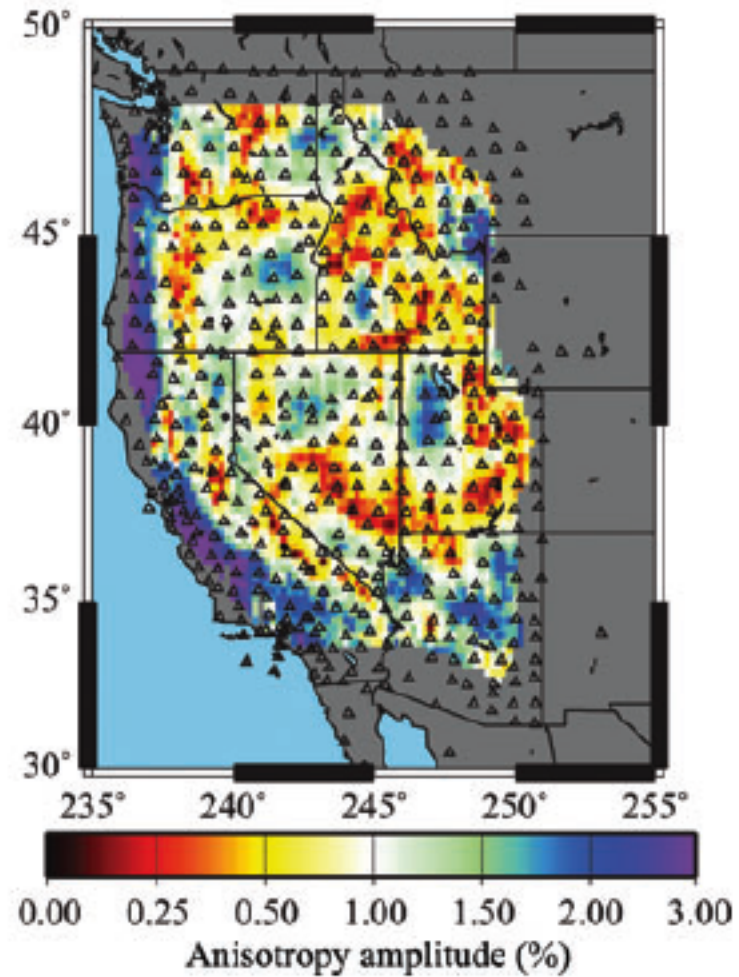


12 sec



Different properties at different frequencies  
i.e, different depths

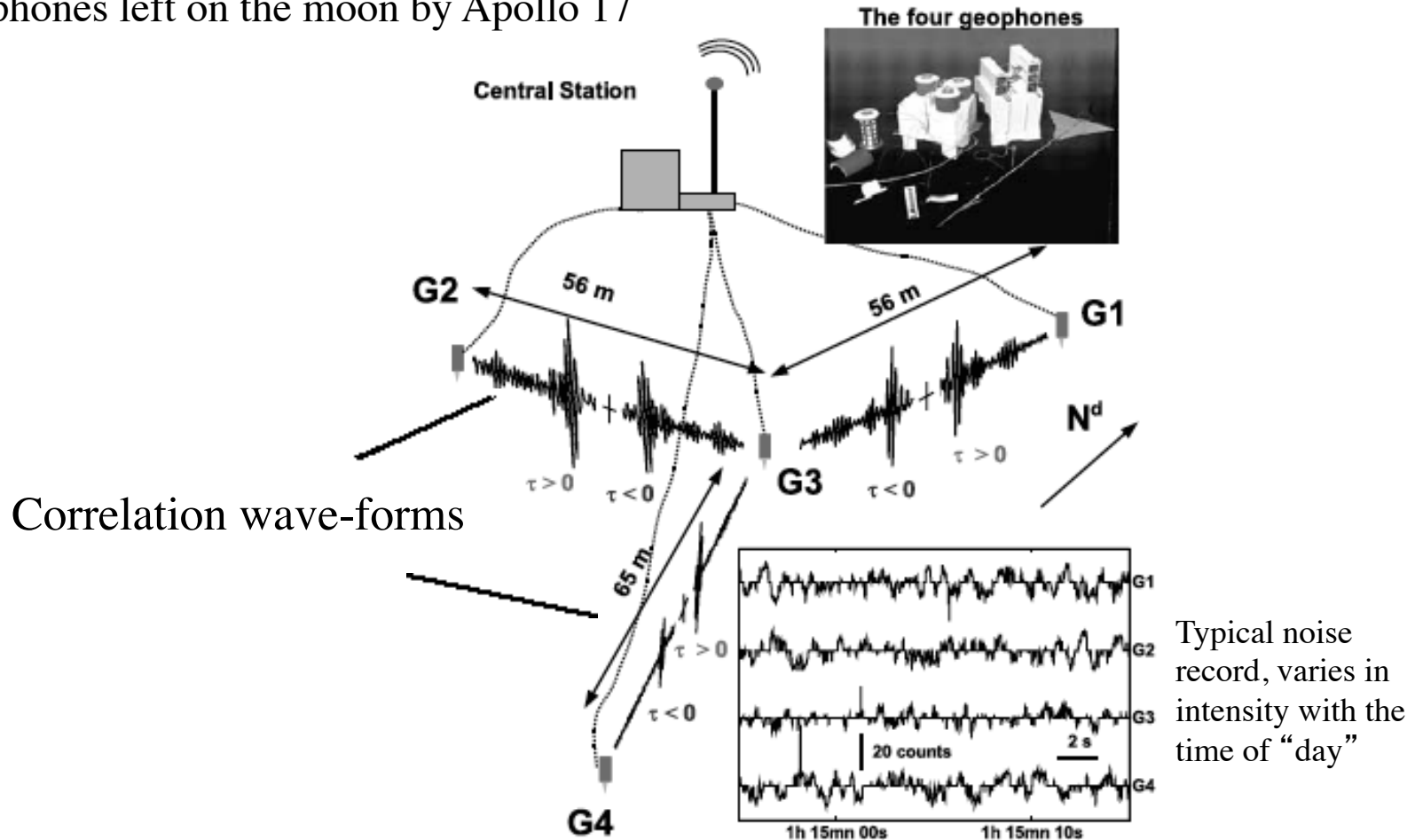
They even resolve  $\sim 1\%$  anisotropies in wave speed



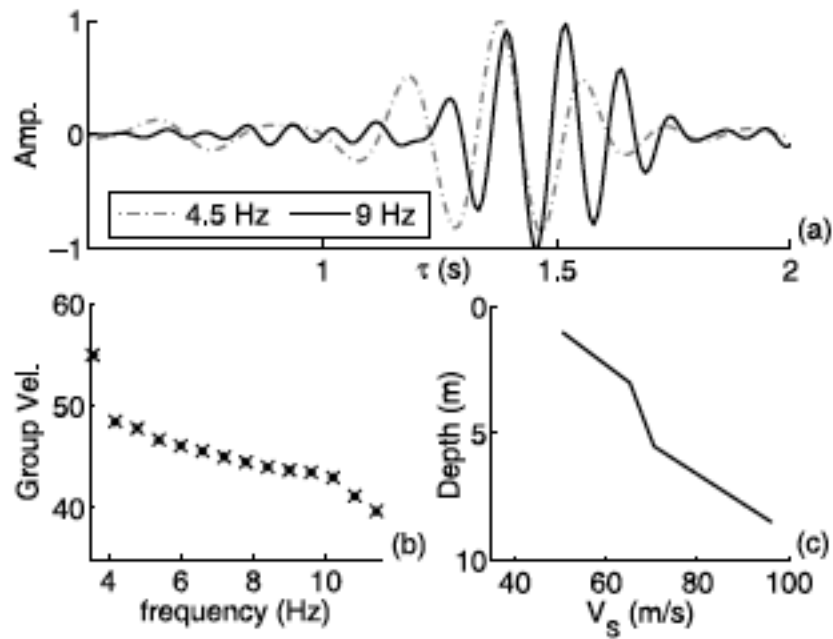
# A similar procedure from the moon . . .

E. Larose, A. Khan, Y. Nakamura, M. Campillo : Lunar Subsurface Investigated from Correlation of Seismic Noise, Geophys. Res. Lett. 32 (16), L16201 (2005)

Noise collected over 16 months from four geophones left on the moon by Apollo 17



Analysis of the lunar correlation waveforms gives subsurface wavespeed profile

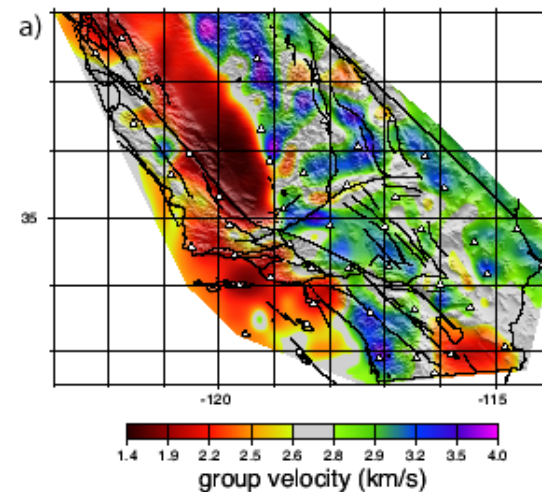


But proofs that depend on full diffusivity and/or finite bodies and closed acoustic systems, may not be relevant for practice.

Ambient seismic noise(\*), for example, is  
NOT fully diffuse

It has preferred propagation directions (sources in ocean storms)  
and it is not multiply scattered

Nevertheless, these  
maps appear to be correct;  
the method appears to work



Why does it work?

\*Late *coda* appears fully diffuse, but there isn't enough of it.

What if an incident field does not have isotropic intensity?

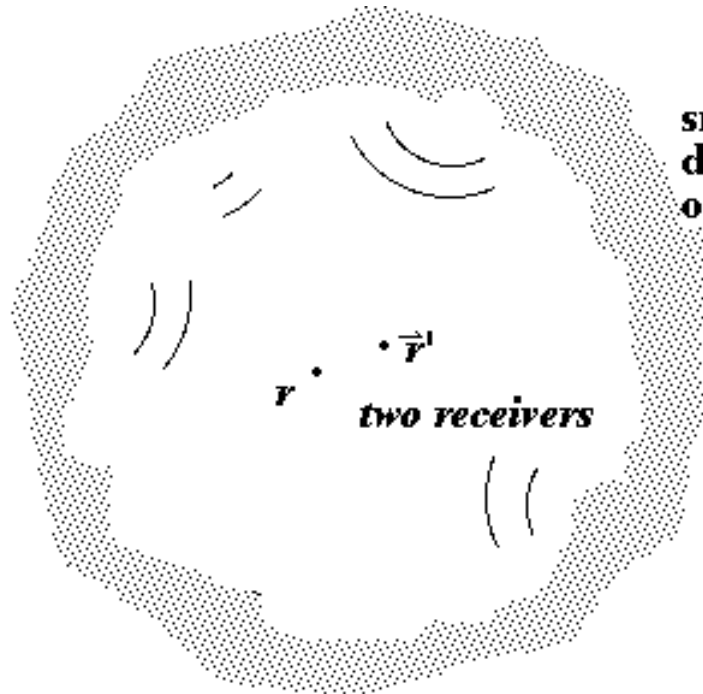
What if it is not equipartitioned?

May we still assert  $C(\tau) \sim G(\tau)$  ?

It transpires that

→ There is an asymptotic validity to assertion

Consider a homogeneous medium with  
incoherent sources at infinity



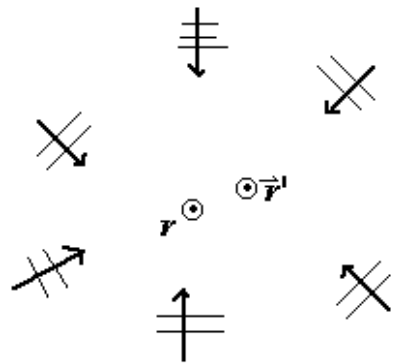
smooth  
distribution  
of incoherent  
sources  
at infinity

Intensity distribution  
 $B(\theta)$

The field in the vicinity of the origin is a superposition of plane waves

$$\tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}, \omega) = \int A(\theta) \exp(-i\omega \hat{\theta} \cdot \vec{r} / c) d\theta \quad (2-d)$$

with  $\langle A \rangle = 0$ ;  $\langle A(\theta) A^*(\theta') \rangle = B(\theta) \delta(\theta - \theta')$



i.e, incident plane waves with intensity  $B(\theta)$  – different in different directions

This implies that the field-field correlation is

$$\langle \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}, \omega) \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}', \omega)^* \rangle = \int B(\theta) \exp(-i\omega \hat{\theta} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}') / c) d\theta$$

Exact (assuming no scattering)



If special case  $B(\theta) = \text{constant}$ , this is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}, \omega) \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}', \omega)^* \rangle &= B \int \exp(-i\omega \hat{\theta} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}') / c) d\theta \\ &= 2\pi B J_0(\omega |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| / c) \sim \text{Im } G \sim G - G^{TR} \end{aligned}$$

and we recover the previous theorem.

If  $B(\theta) \neq \text{constant}$ ,

and if  $\omega |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| / c \gg 1$ , we can evaluate by stationary phase

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}, \omega) \tilde{\psi}(\vec{r}', \omega)^* \rangle &\sim B(0) \int \exp(-i\omega \cos\theta |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| / c) d\theta \\ &\sim B(0) \exp(-i\omega |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| / c) / \sqrt{\omega |\vec{r} - \vec{r}'| / \pi c} \end{aligned}$$

Which looks like the asymptotic form for the Hankel function

Thus the identification is retained in the asymptotic limit,  $\omega |\Delta r| / c \gg 1$ :  $C \sim G \dots$

But.... proportionality depends on intensity  $B(0)$  in the "on-strike" direction

If  $B \neq \text{constant}$ , then...

$$C = \langle \psi(\vec{r}, t) \psi(\vec{r}', t') \rangle = \int B(\theta) \exp(-i\omega \hat{\theta} \cdot (\vec{r} - \vec{r}') / c + i\omega(t - t')) d\theta \tilde{S}(\omega) d\omega$$

We evaluate in the asymptotic limit of large receiver separation

wavelet  $S(t)$  related to power spectrum of noise

$$= \frac{-1}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{\omega x}} \int_0^{+\infty} d\omega i \exp(i\omega(t - x/c)) \tilde{S}(\omega) \times$$

$$\{ B(0) e^{i\pi/4} + B''(0) \frac{1}{2\omega x} e^{3i\pi/4} - B(0) \frac{i}{8\omega x} e^{5i\pi/4} \dots \} + c.c.$$

Leading term

first correction

We see that the apparent arrival time is delayed

relative to  $|r-r'|/c$  by a fractional amount  $[B''(0)/B(0)] / 2k^2|r-r'|^2$

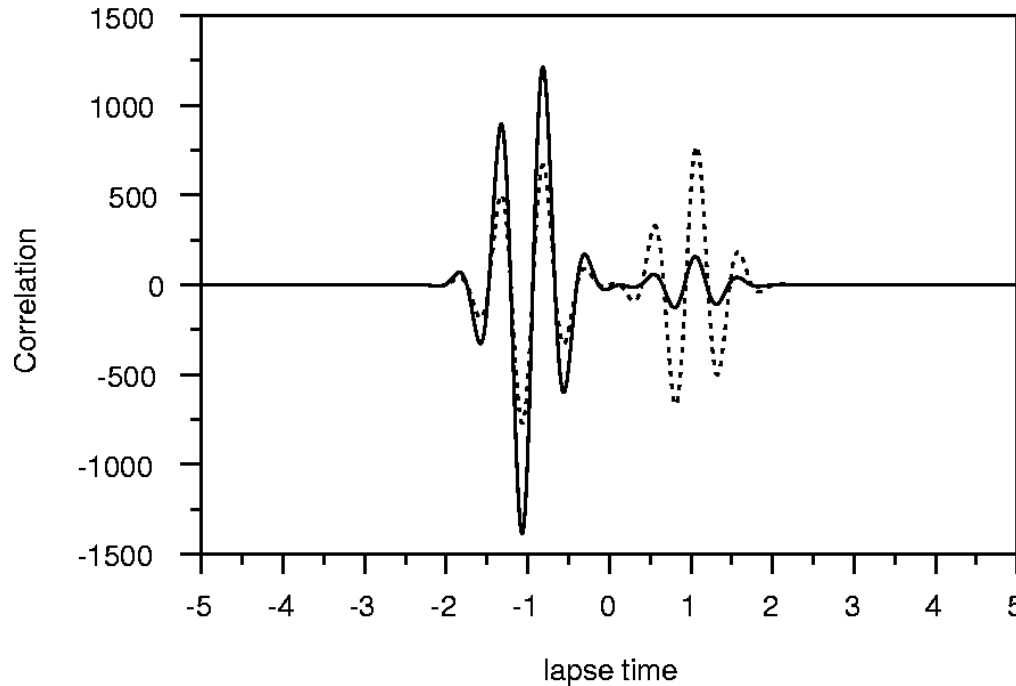
>The effect of non-isotropic  $B$  on arrival time is small in practice

>Hence the high quality of the maps of seismic velocity

*In-spite of* ambient seismic noise being not equipartitioned!

Comparison of Correlation waveform (solid line)  
and time-symmetrized G (dashed line)

For case of non-trivial noise directionality  $B(\theta) = 1 - 0.8 \cos \theta$



Our rough identification is retained: C shows propagation

But a) precise assertion fails,  $G \neq dC/dt$

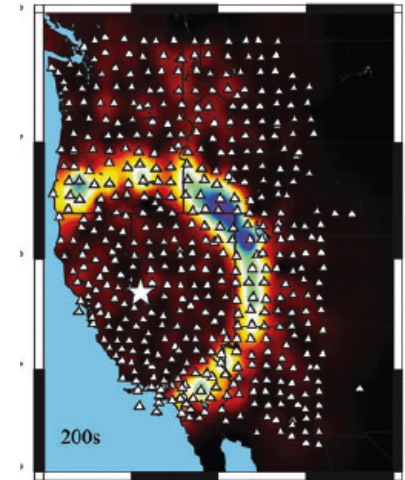
b) large differences in amplitudes at positive and negative time

c) there are *tiny* shifts of apparent arrival time, as predicted

In sum, the method works well for arrival times, hence the good maps

The method is well suited to seismology because

- ➔ Stations are asymptotically well separated  
(more than a wavelength)
- ➔ Controlled sources are *highly* inconvenient,  
(earthquakes and nuclear explosions)
- ➔ Advent of large arrays of long-period seismic stations  
and world-side access to their digitized time records



Once upon a time seismologists would record seismic time-records,  
ignore the noise, and examine the earthquakes

Now they often throw out the earthquakes and keep the noise.

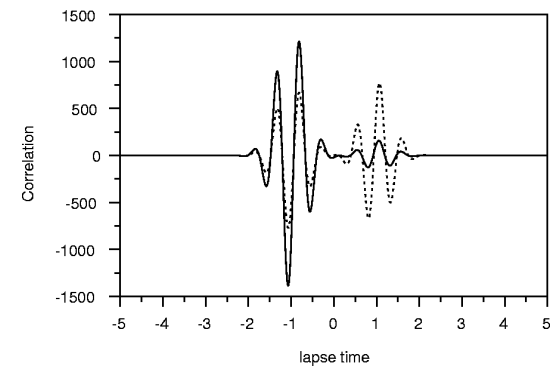
Anisotropy of ambient intensity has little impact on apparent velocities.

BUT, there are other consequences of imperfectly partitioned noise:

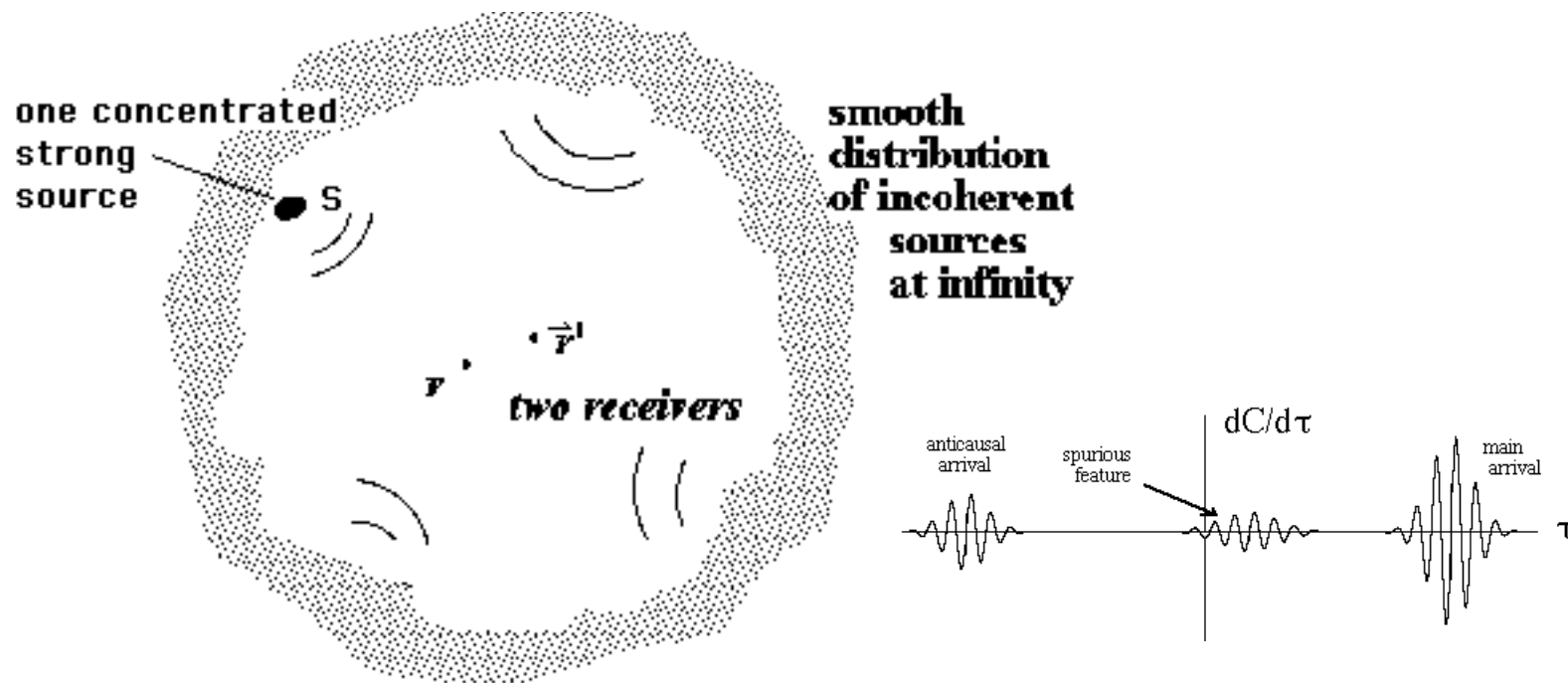
→ non-symmetric Correlations  $C(\tau) \neq C(-\tau)$

→ Spurious features in the correlations

→ Amplitude information is hard to interpret



One consequence of non-fully-diffuse noise occurs  
 if there are point sources of small angular size  $\delta\theta < 1/klr-r'$



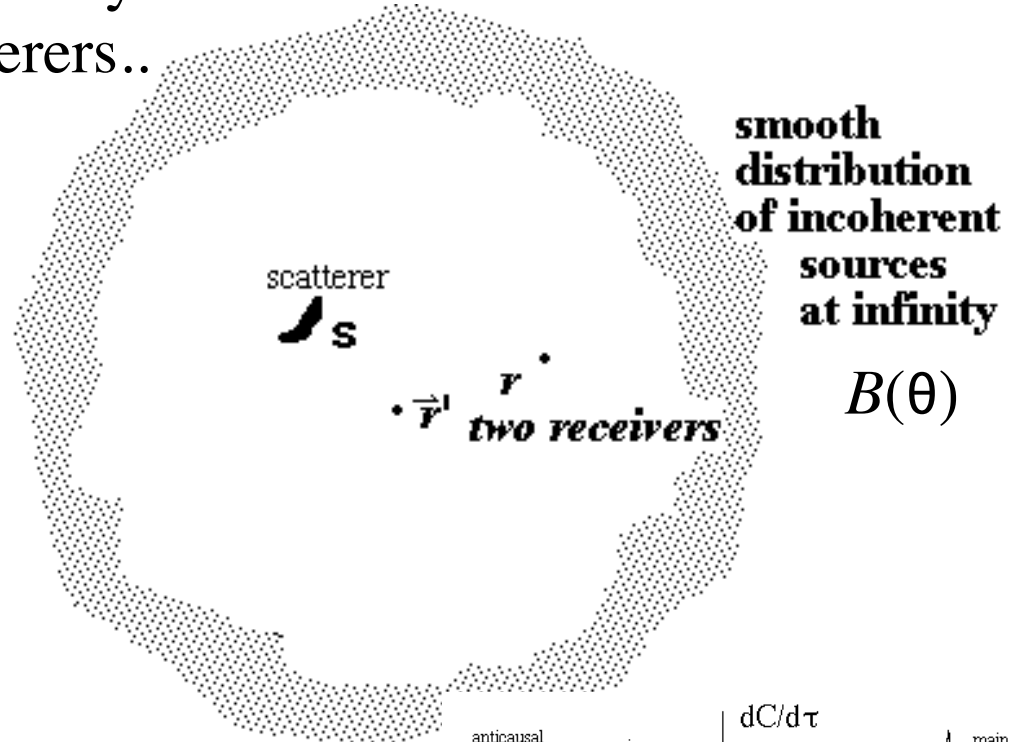
$C(\tau)$  will include a spurious arrival

$$\text{at } \tau = |r-S|/c - |r'-S|/c < |r - r'|/c$$

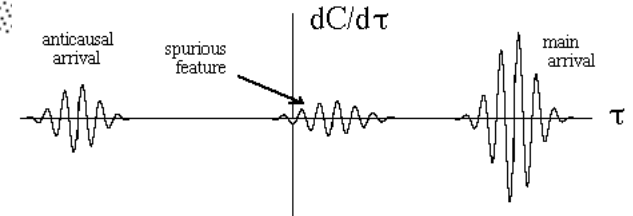
*non-causal*

Another consequence of non-fully-diffuse noise is spurious arrivals due to scatterers..

Intensity distribution  
 $B(\theta) \neq \text{constant}$



Correlations in the presence of a scatterer will show



a direct arrival at  $\tau = |\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{r}'|/c$   
 an indirect arrival at  $\tau = |\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{s}|/c + |\mathbf{r}'-\mathbf{s}|/c$  } parts of G

and

a spurious arrival at  $\tau = |\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{s}|/c - |\mathbf{r}'-\mathbf{s}|/c$   
*non causal*

Disappears if field is Equipartitioned !!

Yet another caveat is the possible occurrence of *ghost arrivals* -

even when the field is multiply scattered

Recall....

$$\partial C / \partial \tau = -\{G - G^{\text{time reversed}}\} \text{ convolved with } F(\tau)$$

So... if  $F(\omega)$  has structure

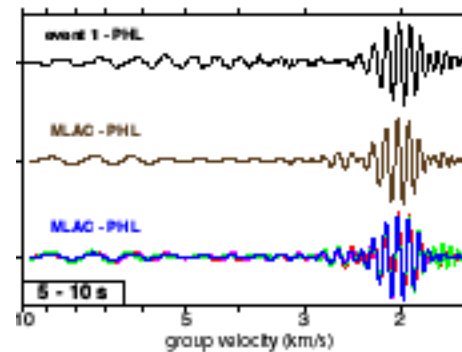
- due possibly to sources in resonant regions,  
or even just next to a coherent reflector.

.... there can be extra features in C.



Another consequence of poorly partitioned noise can be that  
Amplitude Information  
is difficult to interpret

Arrival time is evident



Arrival amplitude?  
Is this meaningful?

If we really had  $G$ ,  
we'd be able to infer attenuation also  
we'd be able to infer ground motion amplitude for earthquakes

Amplitude of C ?

Can we retrieve magnitude of G as well as arrival times ?

Theory (now with due care for all proportionalities):

$$\begin{aligned} C_{sr}(\tau) &= \int_T dt \psi_s(t) \psi_r(t + \tau) = T \langle \psi_s(t) \psi_r(t + \tau) \rangle \\ &= T \frac{\langle \psi_s(t)^2 \rangle}{\pi n} F(\tau) \otimes \dot{G}_{sr}^{TS}(\tau) \times B_{s \rightarrow r} \end{aligned}$$

Proportionality includes

Directivity  $B$  of noise field at ‘s’ towards ‘r’

Mean square signal  $\langle \psi_s^2 \rangle$  at s

modal density  $n$  at s

Frequency filter function  $F$  (normalized to  $F(0) = 1$ )

Permits a “deconvolution”  $\tilde{G}_{sr} \sim \tilde{C}_{sr} / \tilde{C}_{ss}$  ?

$$C_{sr}(\tau) = T \frac{\langle \psi_s(t)^2 \rangle}{\pi n} F(\tau) \otimes \dot{G}_{sr}^{TS}(\tau) \times B_{s \rightarrow r}$$

We might use this in a number of ways

- 1) To predict strong ground motion
- 2) To analyze amplitudes for attenuation
- 3) Compare C with its variance, so as to predict S/N
- 4) For a theory of C3

What is the variance of  $C$  (over realizations of noise process) ?

$$\text{var } C = \langle C^2 \rangle - \langle C \rangle^2$$

$$= \langle \int_T \psi(\mathbf{s}, t) \psi(\mathbf{r}, t + \tau) dt \int_T \psi(\mathbf{s}, t') \psi(\mathbf{r}, t' + \tau) dt' \rangle - \langle \int_T \psi(\mathbf{s}, t) \psi(\mathbf{r}, t + \tau) dt \rangle^2$$

Looks complicated,

BUT – inasmuch as the field  $\psi$  is a Gaussian process,  
the expression breaks up into pair-wise terms

$$\text{var } C \approx \int_{TT} \langle \psi(\mathbf{r})^2 \rangle \langle \psi(\mathbf{s})^2 \rangle F^2(t - t') dt dt'$$

$$= \langle \psi(\mathbf{r})^2 \rangle \langle \psi(\mathbf{s})^2 \rangle T \int F^2(\mu) d\mu \approx \langle \psi(\mathbf{r})^2 \rangle \langle \psi(\mathbf{s})^2 \rangle T \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Delta}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

Proportional to

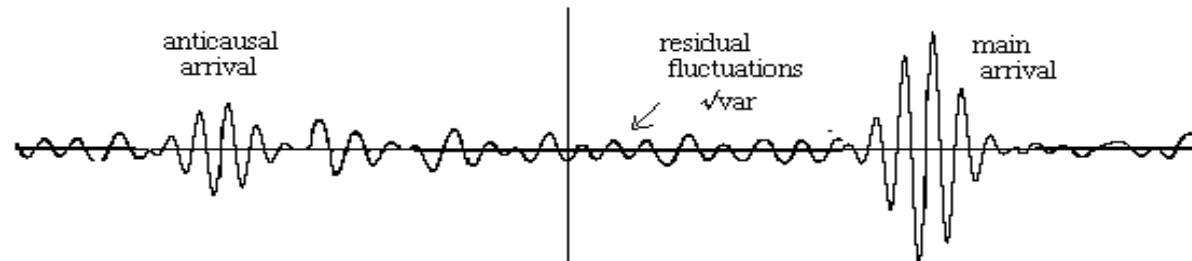
the integration time  $T$ ,

to the time-domain duration  $\Delta$  of the filter  $F$

and the means square signals at  $s$  and at  $r$

And independent of  $\tau$

We can compare  $\langle C \rangle$  and  $\sqrt{\text{var}C}$ :



$$S / N = \frac{C(\tau_{\max})}{\sqrt{\text{var} C}} = B_{s \rightarrow r} \sqrt{\frac{\langle \psi_s^2 \rangle}{\langle \psi_r^2 \rangle}} \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi\omega R}} \sqrt{\frac{2\sqrt{2}T}{\sqrt{\pi}\Delta}} \exp(-\alpha R)$$

The Signal to Noise ratio ( for amplitudes ) improves with integration time T like

$$\sqrt{\frac{T}{\Delta}} = \sqrt{\frac{\text{integration time}}{\text{filter duration}}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{\text{months}}{10's \text{ seconds}}}$$

And degrades with distance like

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{R}} \exp(-\alpha R)$$

Upshot: S/N in most practice should be pretty good!

Can we retrieve attenuation?

Theory: Ray amplitudes  $X$  depend on  
attenuation  $\alpha$

site factors  $s$

"on-strike" intensity  $B$

$$X_{i \rightarrow j} = s_i s_j B_i(\hat{n}_{i \rightarrow j}) \sqrt{2\pi / \omega_o |\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_j|} \exp\left(-\int_{\vec{r}_i}^{\vec{r}_j} \alpha(\vec{r}) d\ell\right)$$

Noise intensity  $B$  varies in space (via a radiative transfer equation):

$$\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} B(\vec{r}, \hat{n}) + 2\alpha(\vec{r}) B(\vec{r}, \hat{n}) = \underbrace{P(\vec{r}, \hat{n})}_{\text{sources}} + \oint B(\vec{r}, \hat{n}') \underbrace{p(\vec{r}, \hat{n}, \hat{n}')}_{\text{Scattering into direction } n \text{ from } n'}$$

Can we ignore scattering and sources on the continent?

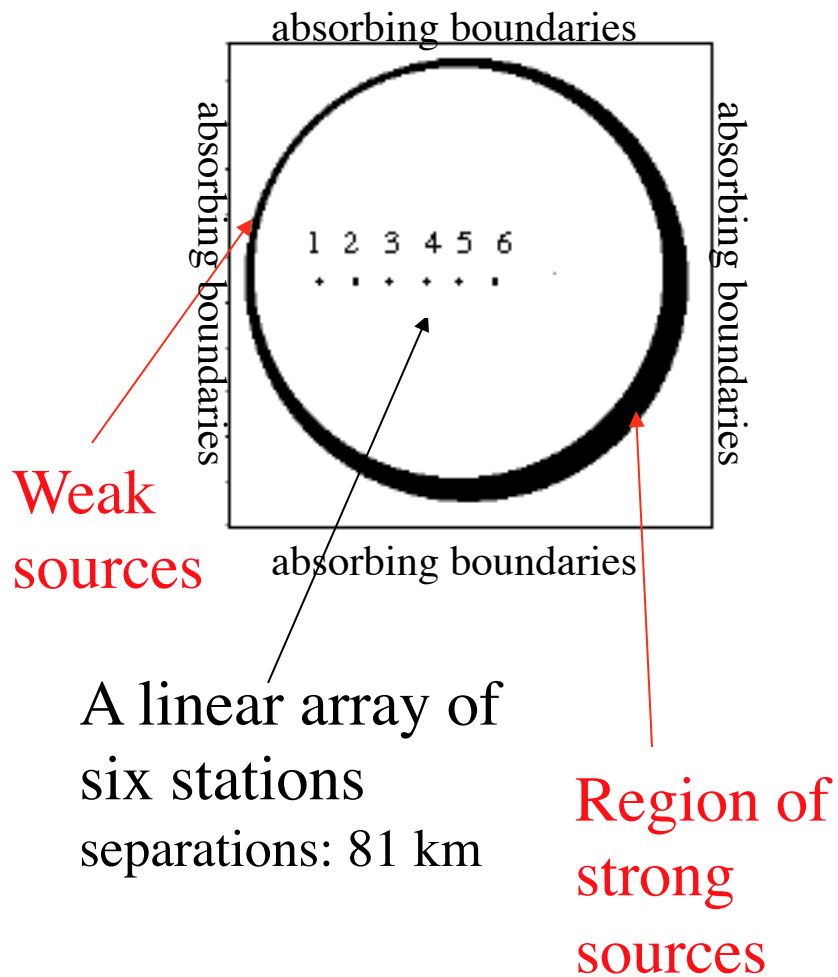
If so, then . . .

$$\hat{n} \cdot \vec{\nabla} B(\vec{r}, \hat{n}) + 2\alpha(\vec{r}) B(\vec{r}, \hat{n}) = 0$$

and,

$$B(\vec{r}, \hat{n}) \sim \exp(-2\alpha \text{ distance})$$

## Some numerical experiments:

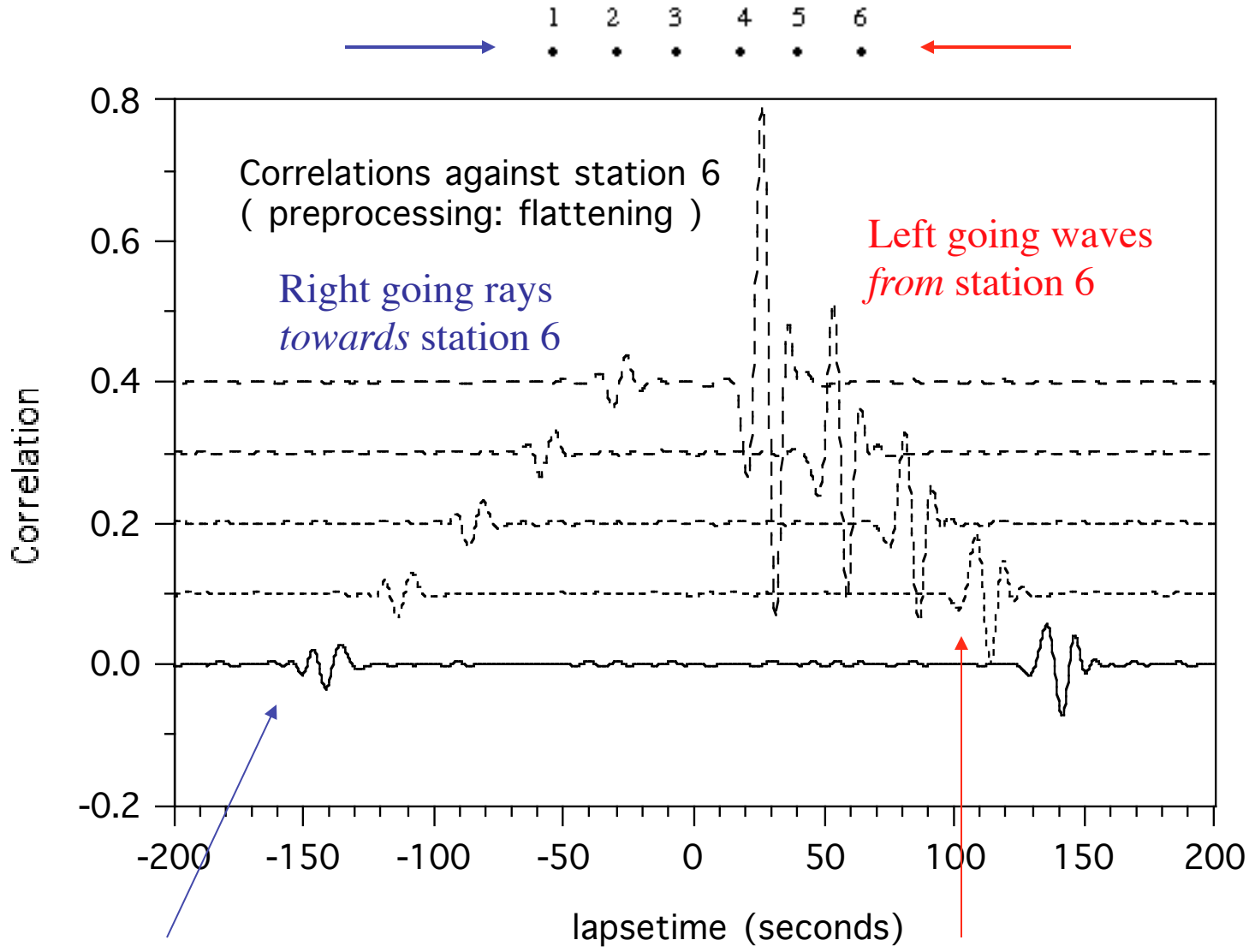


A 271 x 271 square mesh  
(corresponding to 800 x 800 km)

Constant attenuation  $\alpha$

Six receivers

four "months" of time-varying  
and direction-varying  
band-limited  
ten second ambient noise  
(without EQs)

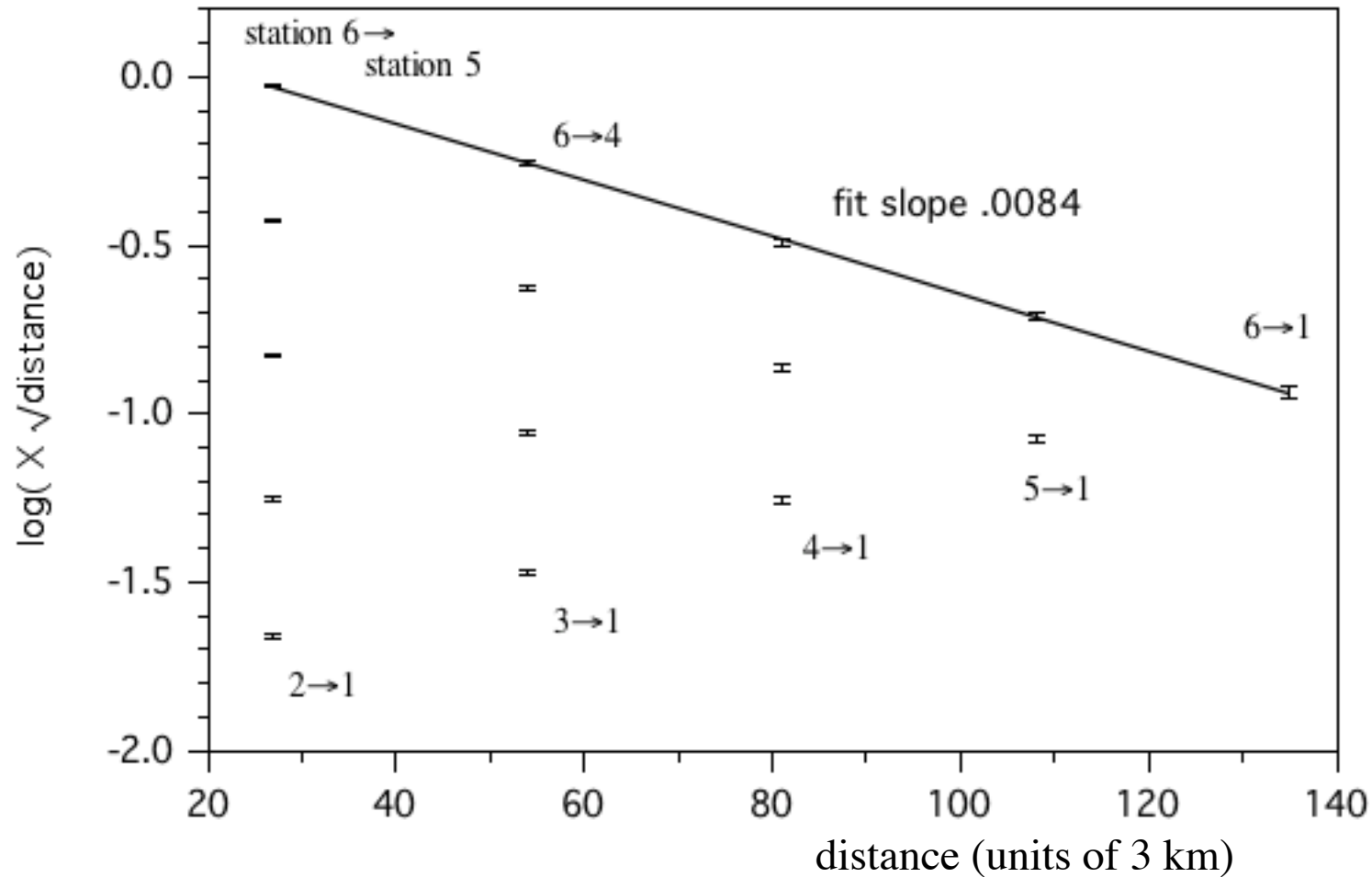


Note an apparent absence of attenuation!

Note the diminishment of amplitude due to geometric + anelastic attenuations (at constant  $B$ )



# All 15 left-going amplitudes



Excellent fit to theory

both for coherent decay

$\exp(-\alpha \text{ distance})$

and for *B* on strike (i.e vertical offsets)

$\exp(-2\alpha \text{ distance})$

So *can we* retrieve attenuation?

In practice it has proved difficult

There are complications from

dispersion

and from (if scattering is present)

spurious features

coda

pulse broadening

secondary sources such that  $B \neq \exp(-2\alpha R)$

Perhaps one way to ameliorate the imperfectness of ambient noise is the so-called  $C^3$  method in which we

Correlate the Coda of the (ambient noise) Correlations

Stehly et al 2008

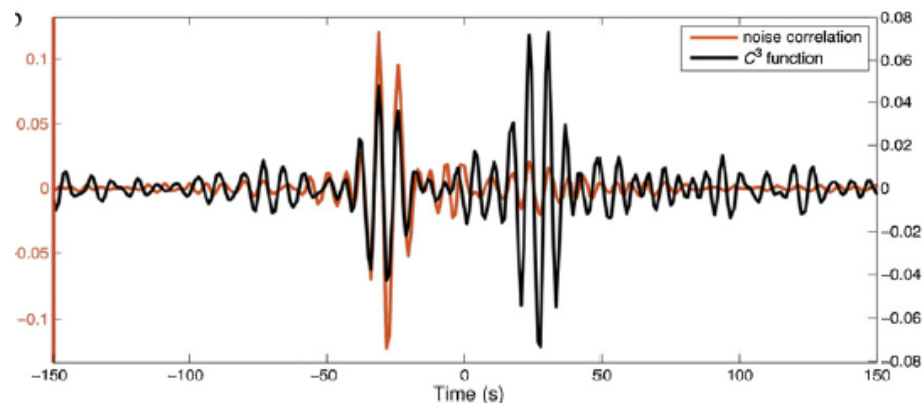
Given many ancillary stations  $a = 1, 2, \dots, N$

and each station's ambient noise  $\psi_a(t)$

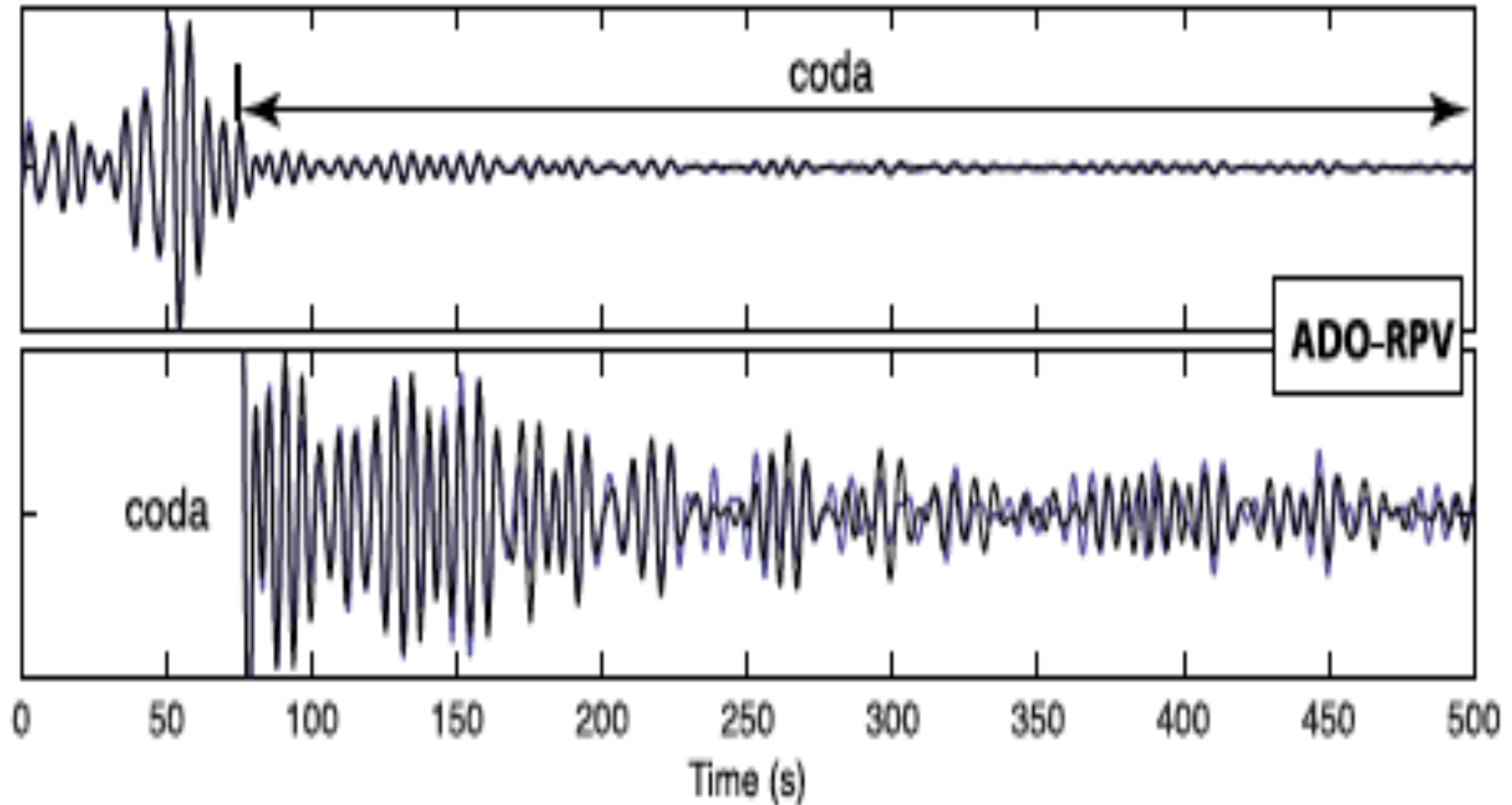
and the noise at two stations of interest  $\psi_s(t)$  and  $\psi_r(t)$

- 1) Construct the  $2N$  cross correlations  $C_{as}(\tau)$  and  $C_{ar}(\tau)$
- 2) Discard their short  $\tau$  support i.e. only keep the late  $\tau$  parts of  $C(\tau)$   
(This is presumably multiply scattered and thus more fully diffuse)
- 3) Construct  $C_{sr}^3(\tau) = \sum_a \int C_{as}(t) C_{ar}(t+\tau) W(t) dt$

Froment *et al* 2011  
using  $N=150$   
European stations:



C3 has been used by Ma and Beroza (GRL 2012)



So Cal, stations separated by  $\sim 60$  seconds, periods  $\sim 7$  seconds  
Comparison of codas from two 6-month data sets

Ma and Beroza had

$N = 155$  stations

useful coda window of  $\tau_{\max} \sim 400$  seconds

filter duration  $\sim 10$  seconds

The figure of merit is therefore  $S/N \sim$

$$B \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{R}} \sqrt{N \tau_{\max} / \Delta} \sim 10 \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{R}}$$

Suggesting good C3 S/N out to distances of 10's of wavelengths

C3 method has been employed by

Froment et al 2011

Ma and Beroza 2012

Zhang and Yang 2013

My query is..

When do we expect C3 to help us?

Can we quantify conditions under which C3 is worth trying?

I think yes.....

When a typical ray of the ambient noise does NOT scatter  
before it dissipates or escapes.

( i.e. when the ambient noise is very non isotropic)

( especially when  $B(\theta) = 0$  ! )

When  $C(\tau)$  is contaminated by spurious features.

When  $C(\tau)$  has a long coda with  $S/N > 1$  i.e high coda-Q

When there are many ancillary stations.

What IS the strength of the ‘empirical coda’ ?

answer:

$$\langle \psi(\mathbf{a}, t) \psi(\mathbf{s}, t + \tau) \rangle^2 = \left( \frac{\langle \psi_a^2 \rangle^2 \Delta}{8\sqrt{2\pi}^{3/2} n\kappa} \right) \frac{1}{\tau} \exp(-R^2 / 4\kappa \tau) \exp(-2\sigma\tau)$$

$\kappa$  = diffusivity =  $c \times$  meanfreepath / 2  
 independent of Directivity D

$\sigma = \pi f / Q_{\text{coda}}$

R = a-s separation

Compare variance of C

$$\text{var } C \approx \langle \psi(\mathbf{a})^2 \rangle \langle \psi(\mathbf{s})^2 \rangle \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Delta}{2\sqrt{2T}}$$

We find that an empirical coda is stable (i.e above its variance) (and therefore worth using) at lapse times  $\tau$  less than  $\tau_{\text{max}}$

with

$$2\sigma\tau_{\text{max}} = \log\left(\frac{T}{\tau_{\text{max}}} \frac{1}{4\pi^2 n\kappa}\right) \quad ; \quad \tau_{\text{max}} \text{ typically } < \sim 5 \frac{Q_{\text{coda}}}{2\pi f}$$

This estimate of  $\tau_{\max}$  then permits us to estimate C3's S/N

Recall C's S/N:

$$S / N = B_{s \rightarrow r} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{R}} \sqrt{\frac{2\sqrt{2}T}{\sqrt{\pi}\Delta}} \exp(-\alpha R)$$

To apply this to C3, we must....

remove B

replace T with  $\tau_{\max}$

replace  $\Delta$  with  $\sqrt{2}\Delta$

and insert factor of  $\sqrt{N_a}$



C3's S/N

$$S / N = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{R}} \sqrt{\frac{2\sqrt{2}\tau_{crit}}{\sqrt{2\pi\Delta}}} \sqrt{N_a} \exp(-\alpha R)$$

Adequate at short R

Ratio

$$\frac{S / N \quad C3}{S / N \quad C} = \frac{\sqrt{N_a} \sqrt{\tau_{crit} / 2T}}{B_{s \rightarrow r}}$$

Usually not an improvement!

Conclusion about C<sup>3</sup>:

C3 will usually not improve S/N ( unless *B* was very bad)  
Though it will give adequate S/N at moderate distances

So why use C3?

It has promise to,

Give adequate S/N, at least at moderate s-r distances,  
Depress or Eliminate spurious features  
and Control Amplitudes for retrieval of attenuation.  
(also – To Permit use of asynchronous records )

In Sum . .

It has been over 12 years now, and Green's function retrieval  
is still active, still hot,

Applications in

High resolution seismic velocity maps

Maps of attenuation too? Of scattering?

Monitor temporal changes in a medium

Ocean Acoustics

Atmospheric Infrasound

Vibrations of Buildings

We still need better understanding of  
the effects of imperfectly diffuse fields  
and ways to ameliorate them