

# Recent advances in infrasound monitoring technology

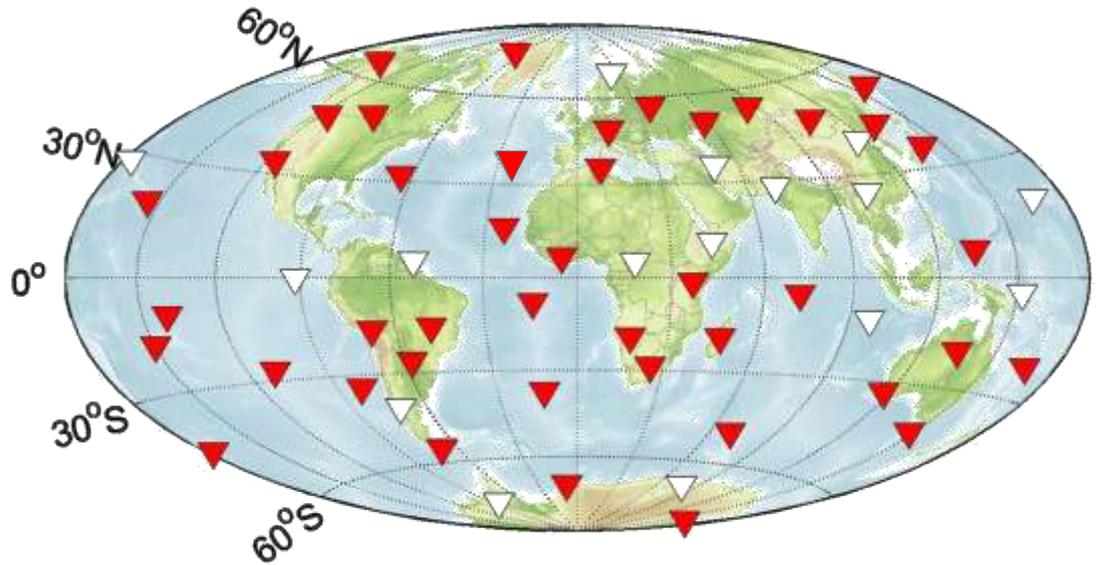
**Alexis Le Pichon**

CEA, DAM, DIF F-91297 Arpajon, France  
[alexis.le-pichon@cea.fr](mailto:alexis.le-pichon@cea.fr)



# IMS Infrasound Network

- ↪ International Monitoring System (IMS)
  - ✓ Operational global network of 60 infrasound arrays
  - ✓ ~70% operating stations
  - ✓ Already allows studies on a global scale
  
- ↪ A "zoo" of infrasound sources (0.02-4 Hz)
  - ✓ Ocean waves, explosions, bolides, earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes...
  
- ↪ An opportunity to calibrate the network and promote civil and scientific applications



# From atmospheric nuclear tests to IMS infrasound era



## The early days of Infrasound

**1960-1970:** studying signals from large explosions and atmospheric nuclear tests (1945-1963)

(e.g. Benioff, 1939; Posey, 1971; Geophys. J. Roy. Astr. Soc., 1971; Flores, 1975)

**1963:** Limited Test Ban Treaty, infrasound research slowed with a reduced number of reference events:

- explosive tests (e.g. Al'Perovich, 1985; Whitaker, 1990)
- industrial accidents (e.g. Grover, 1974)
- large natural events (e.g. Donn, 1981)

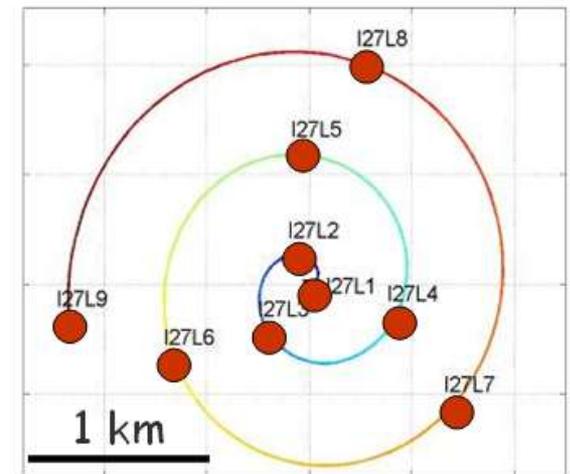
...



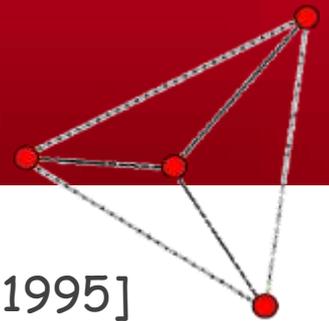
# From atmospheric nuclear tests to IMS infrasound era

➤ **1994-1996:** Geneva Conference on Disarmament - CTBT opened for signature, rapid advance in infrasound monitoring technology

- Highly sensitive sensors
- New developments in filtering systems (*e.g. Christie, 2009; Walker, 2010*)
- Advances in array designs and processing methods (*e.g. Cansi, 1995; Olson, 2008*)



# Infrasound data processing

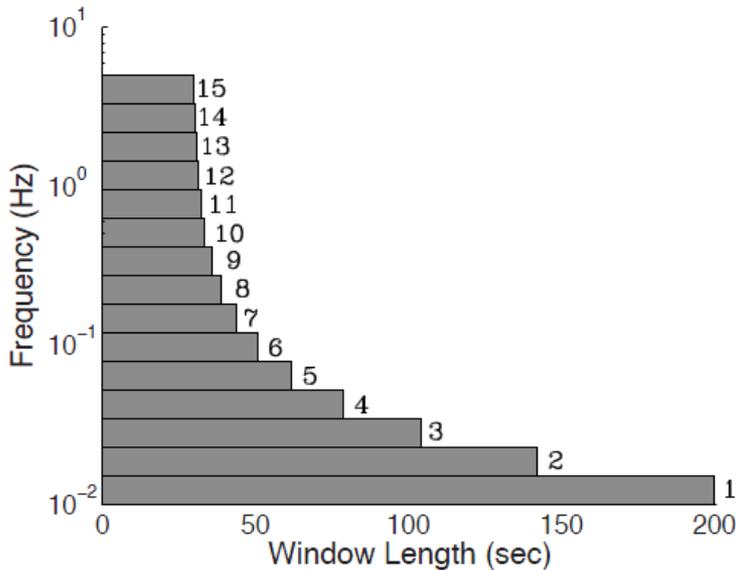


- Progressive Multi-Channel Correlation algorithm (PMCC) [Cansi, 1995]
- Time-domain correlation in a sliding time-window in narrow frequency bands

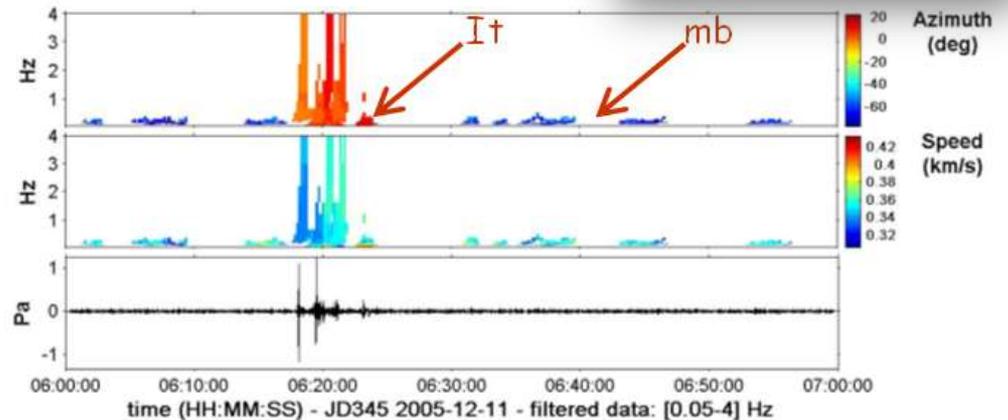
*The Buncefield explosion  
Dec. 11, 2005*



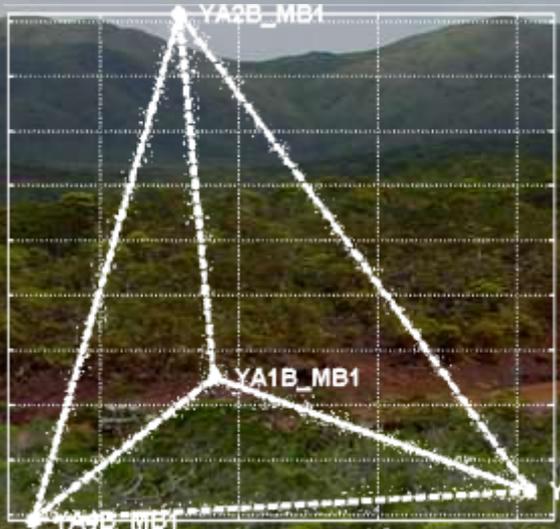
Log-scaled frequency bands  
0.01-4 Hz



Flers - 335 km  
0.01-4 Hz  
15 bands (log-scaled)



# IS22- New Caledonia

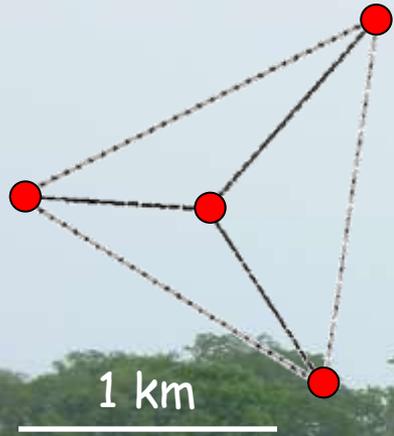


3 km

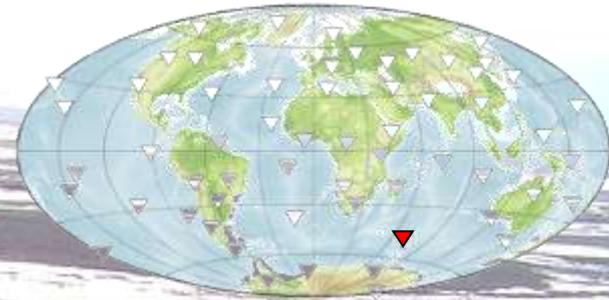
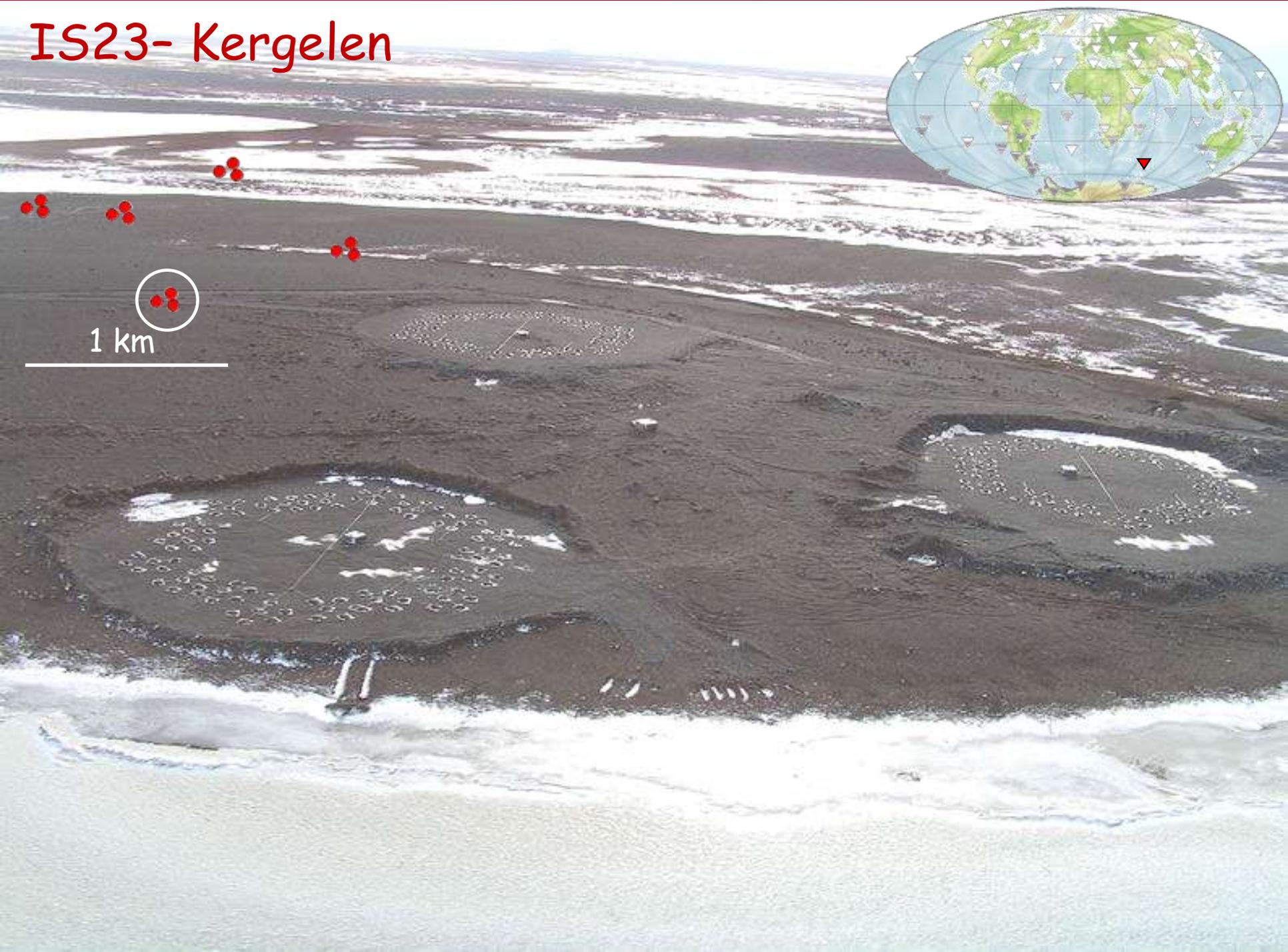


MB2000 microbarometer  
DC to 27 Hz  
Electronic noise 2 mPa rms

# IS17- Ivory Coast



# IS23- Kergelen

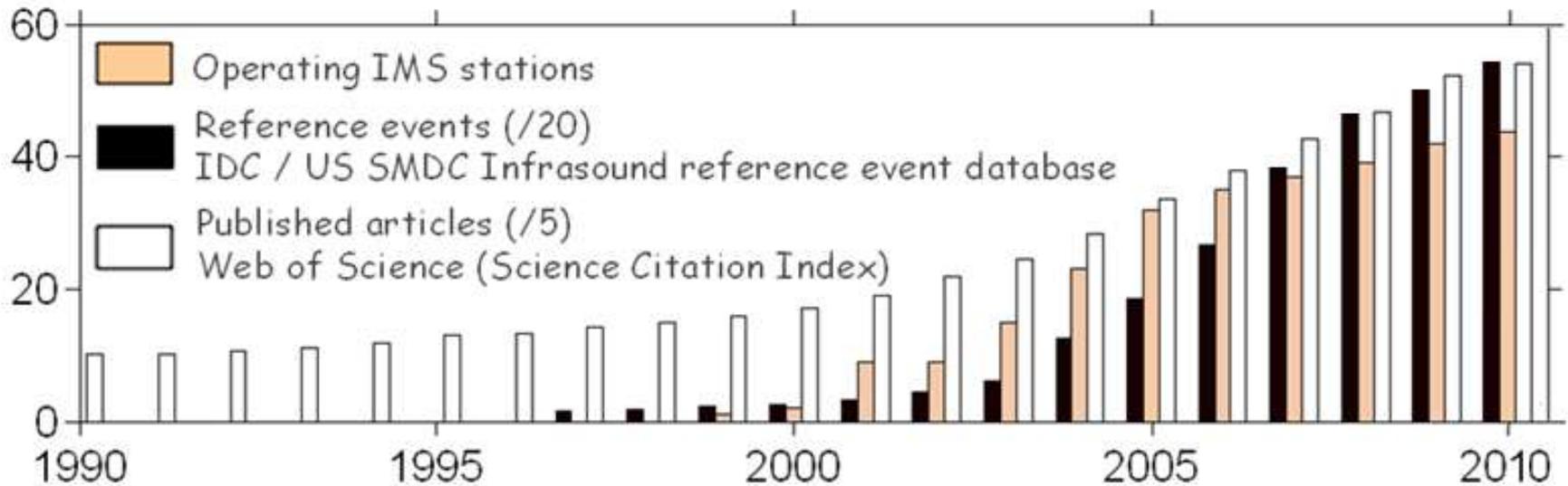


1 km

# From atmospheric nuclear tests to IMS infrasound era



A technology more audible to the  
scientific community

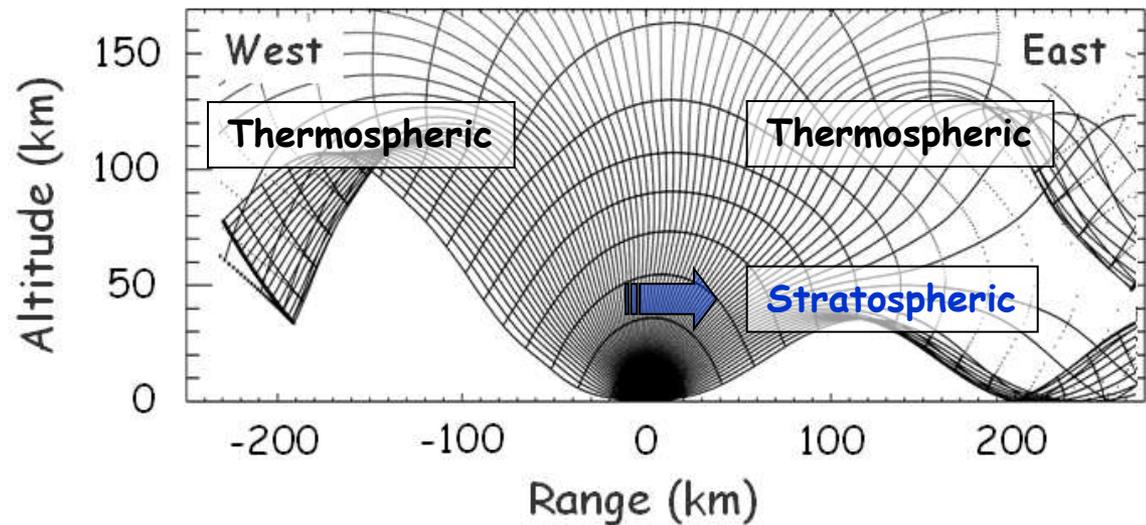
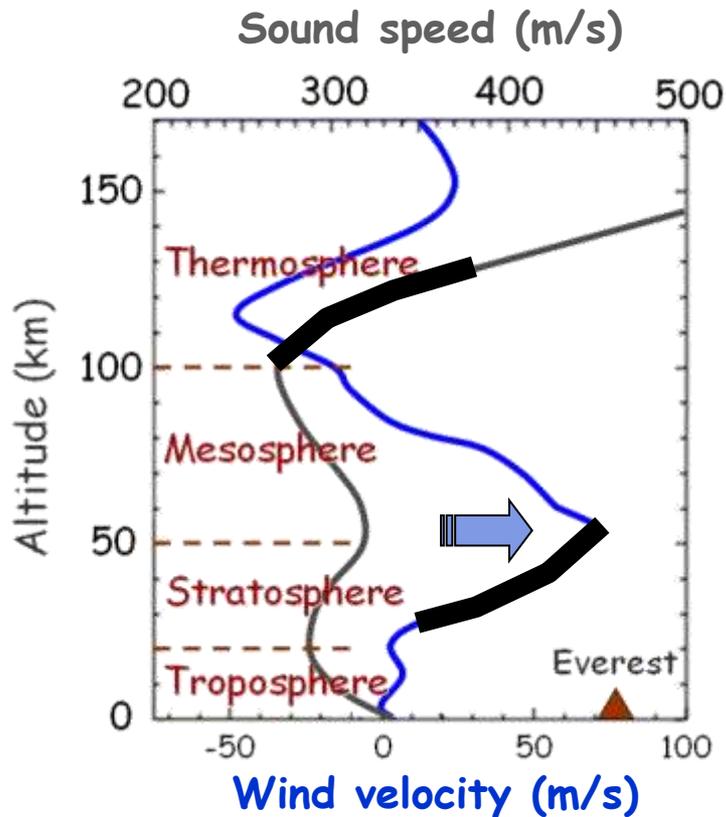


- ↪ Main challenges for infrasound interpretation
- ↪ Evaluating the network performance
- ↪ Calibrating the network using reference events
- ↪ Potential benefit for civil and scientific applications
  - Source studies: ocean-earth-atmosphere interface
  - Geophysical hazard warning systems
  - Better resolve upper atmospheric models

# Main challenge for infrasound interpretation

↪ Highly variable winds in strength and direction

- altitude



# Main challenge for infrasound interpretation

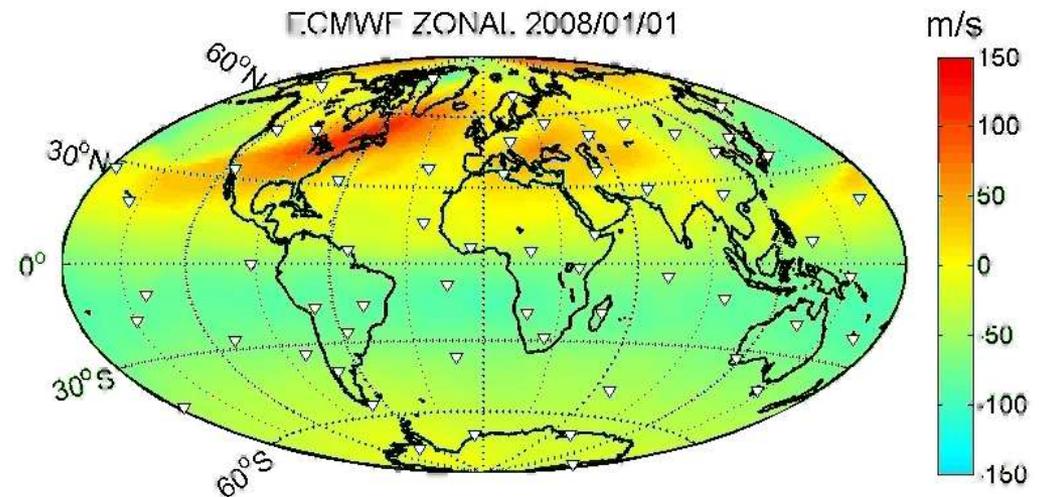
↪ Highly variable winds in strength and direction

- altitude
- space and time

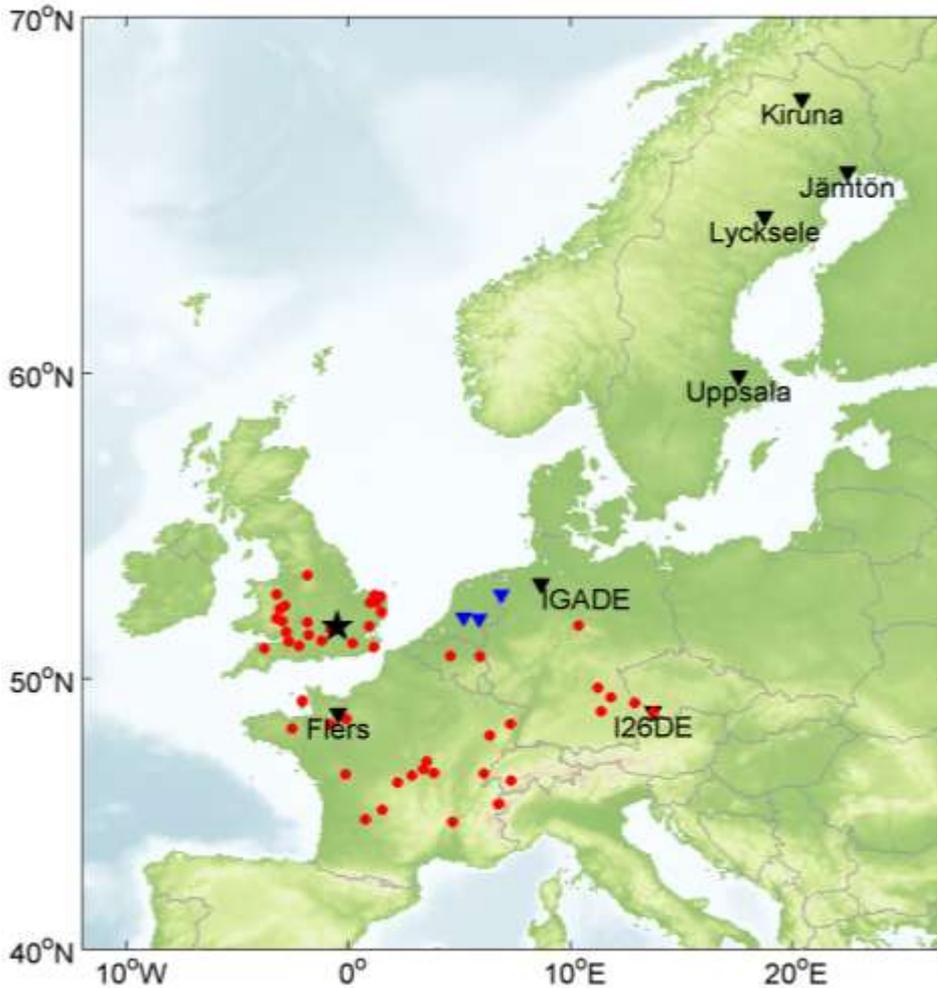
↪ Need to refine propagation models

↪ Infrasound reference events as calibration and validation tools

ECMWF  
50 km altitude  
Zonal (West-East)



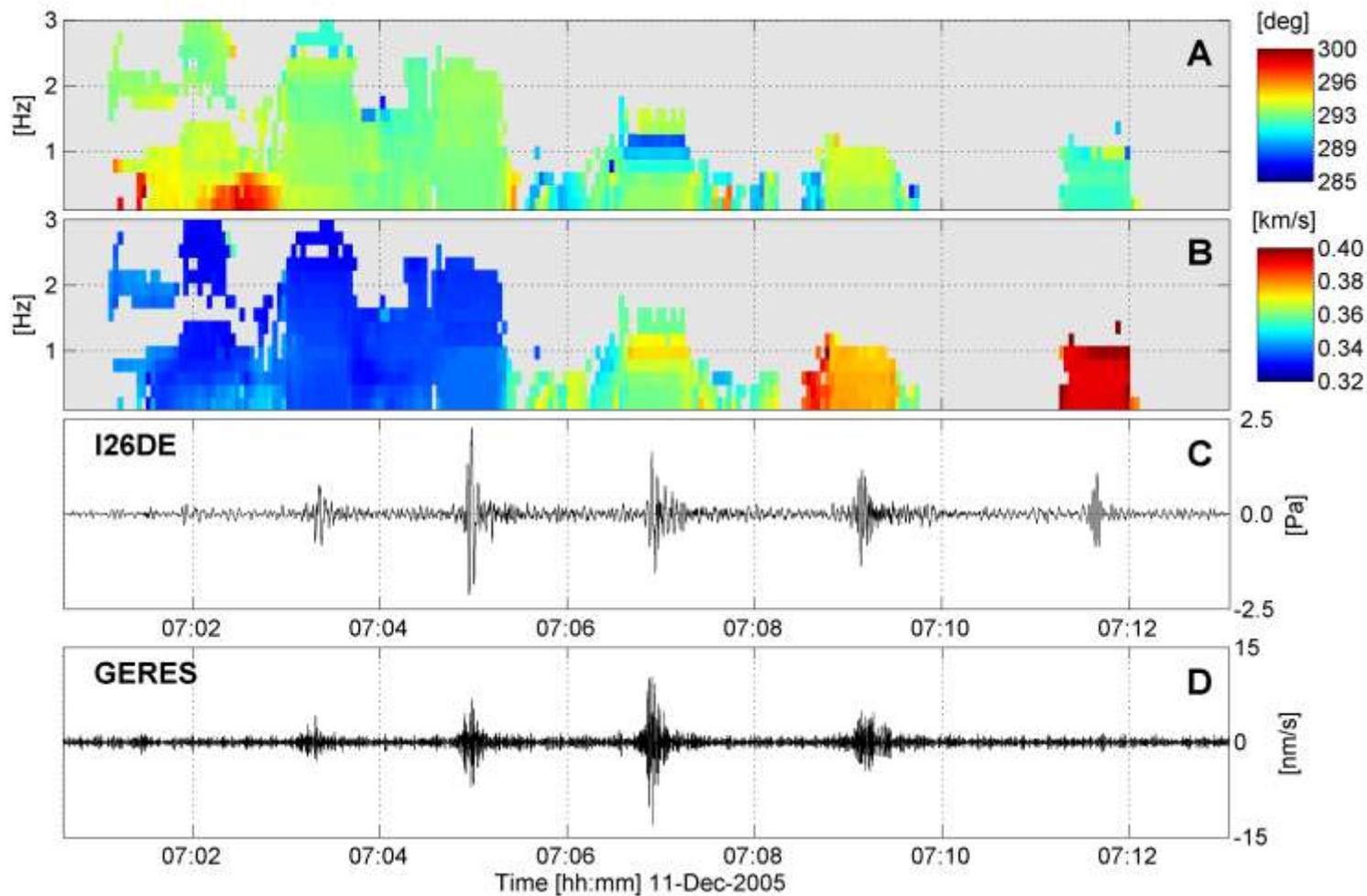
# The Buncefield explosion



- ❑ 11-Dec-2005 06:01:32 (UTC)  
51.78° N / 0.43° W (source: BGS)
- ❑ Hemel Hempstead, 40 km north of London
- ❑ Vapor cloud blew up (~80,000 m<sup>2</sup> and 1 to 7 m thick, ~300 t)
- ❑ Generated infrasound recorded all over central Europe

# Infrasound recordings at IS26: 1057 km

Duration: 644 seconds, number of phases: 6

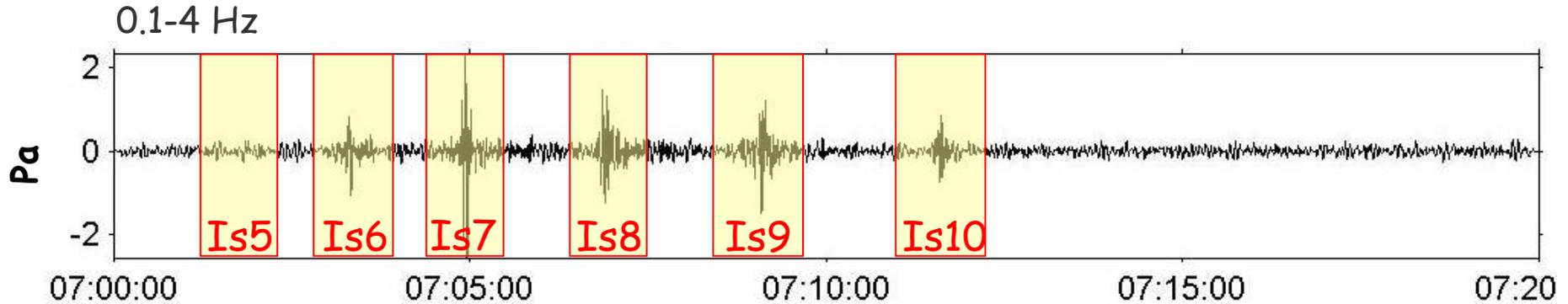
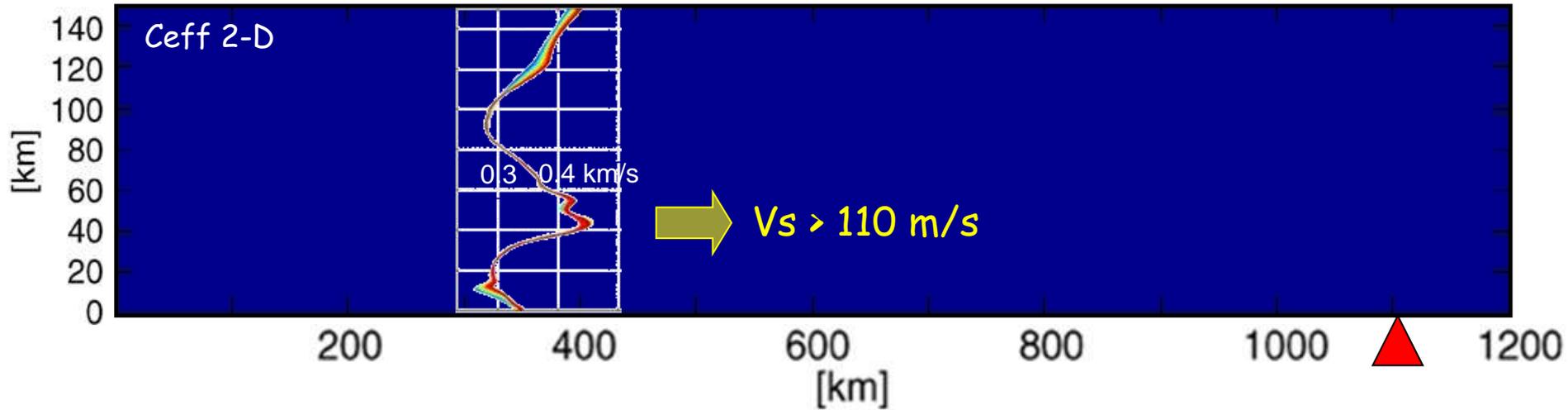


microbarometer

seismometer

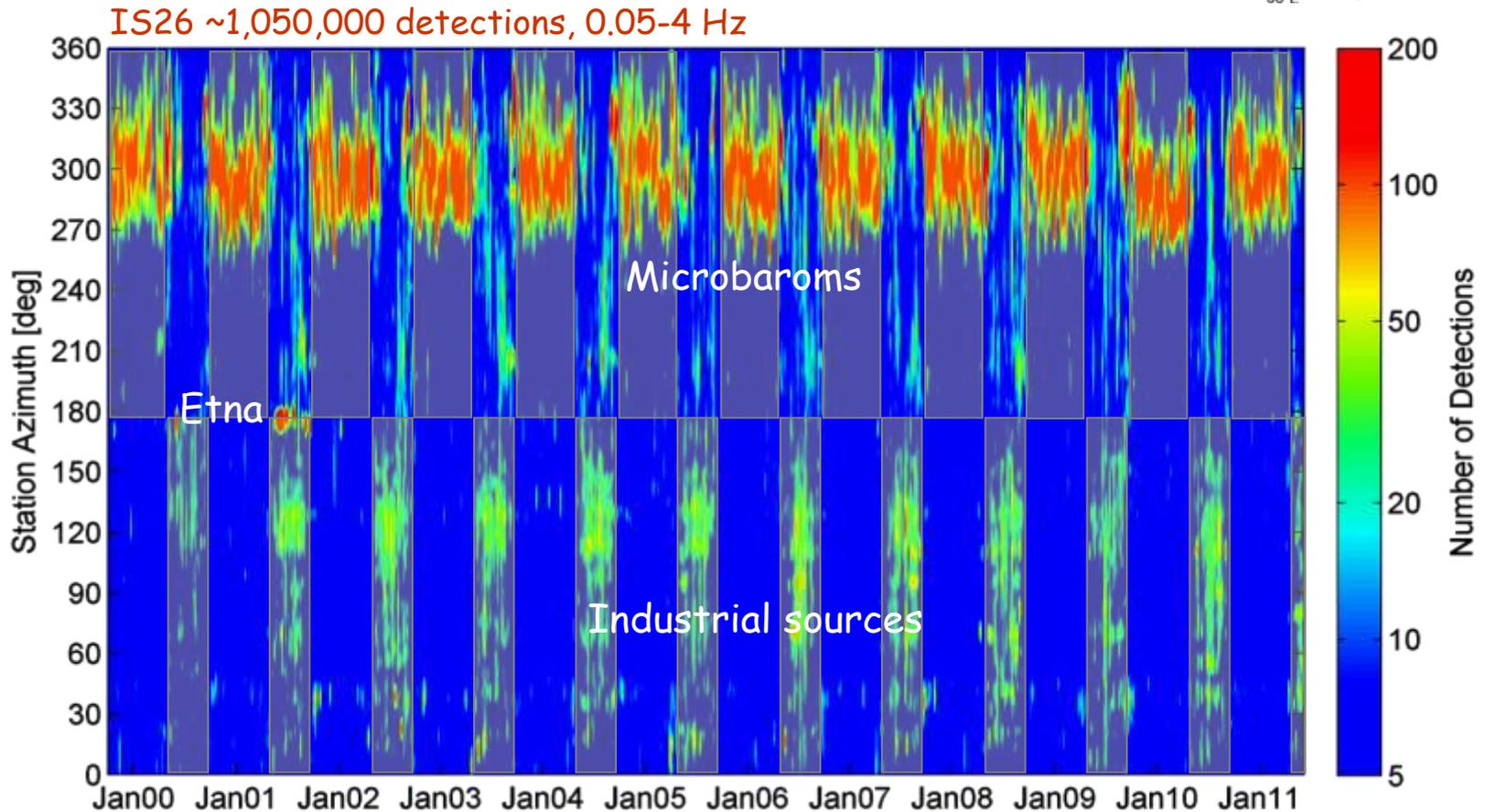
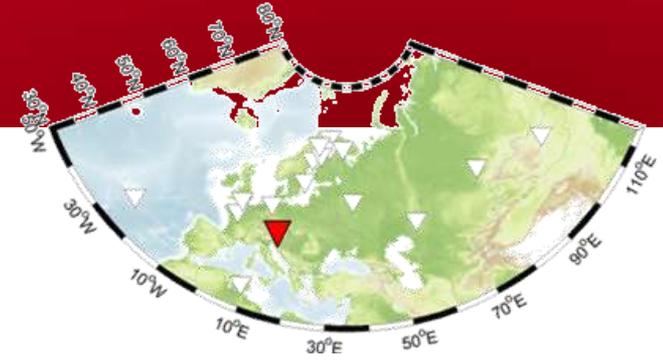


Station IS26 - 1060 km

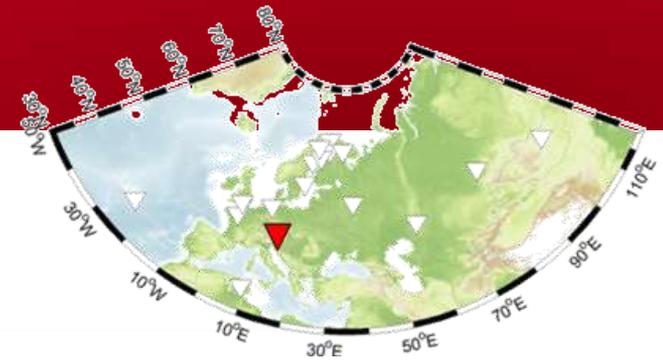


- ↪ Main challenges for infrasound interpretation
- ↪ **Evaluating the network performance**
- ↪ Calibrating the network using reference events
- ↪ Potential benefit for civil and scientific applications
  - Source studies: ocean-earth-atmosphere interface
  - Geophysical hazard warning systems
  - Better resolve upper atmospheric models

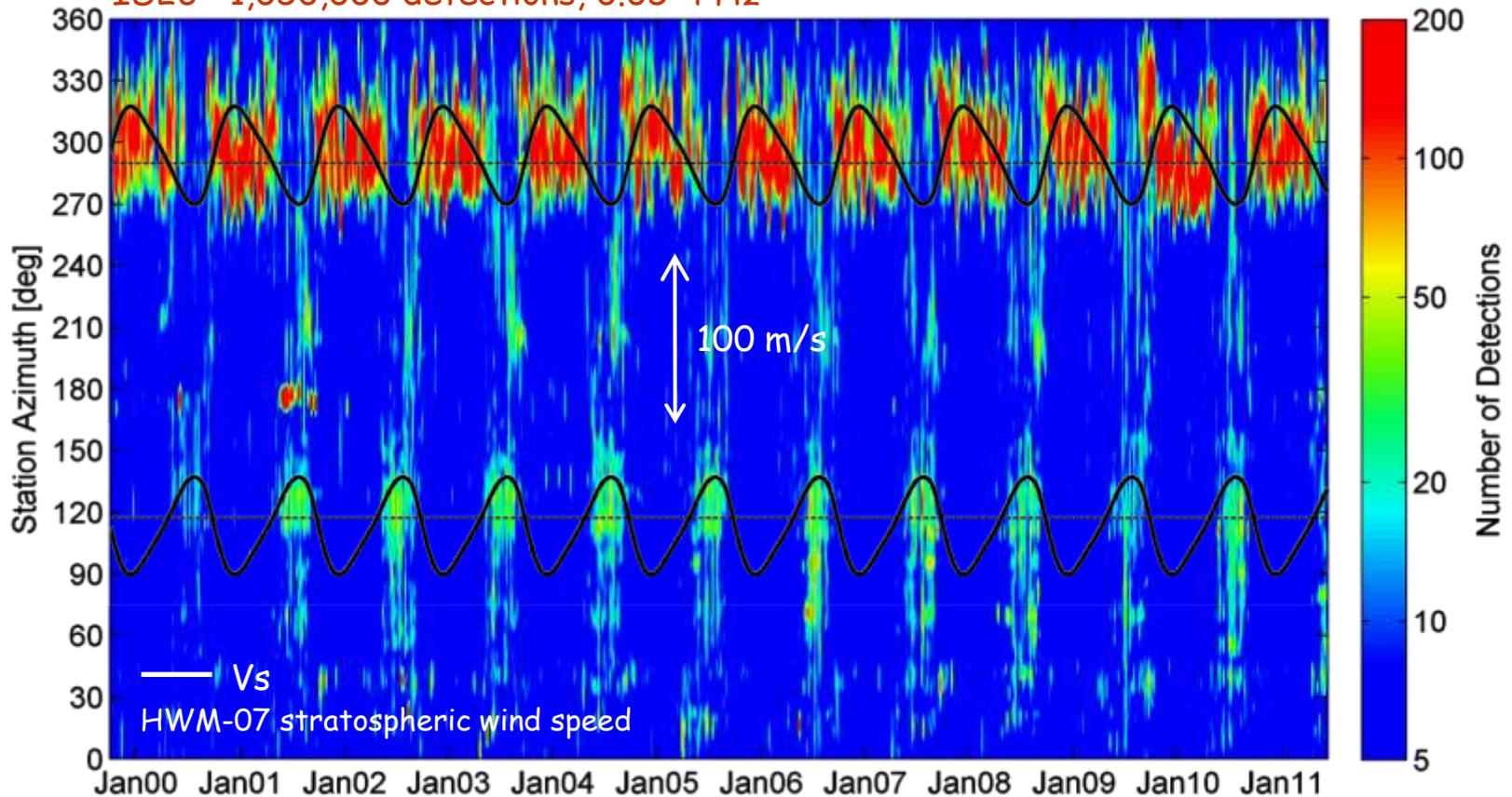
# Results of multi-year operational processing



# Results of multi-year operational processing

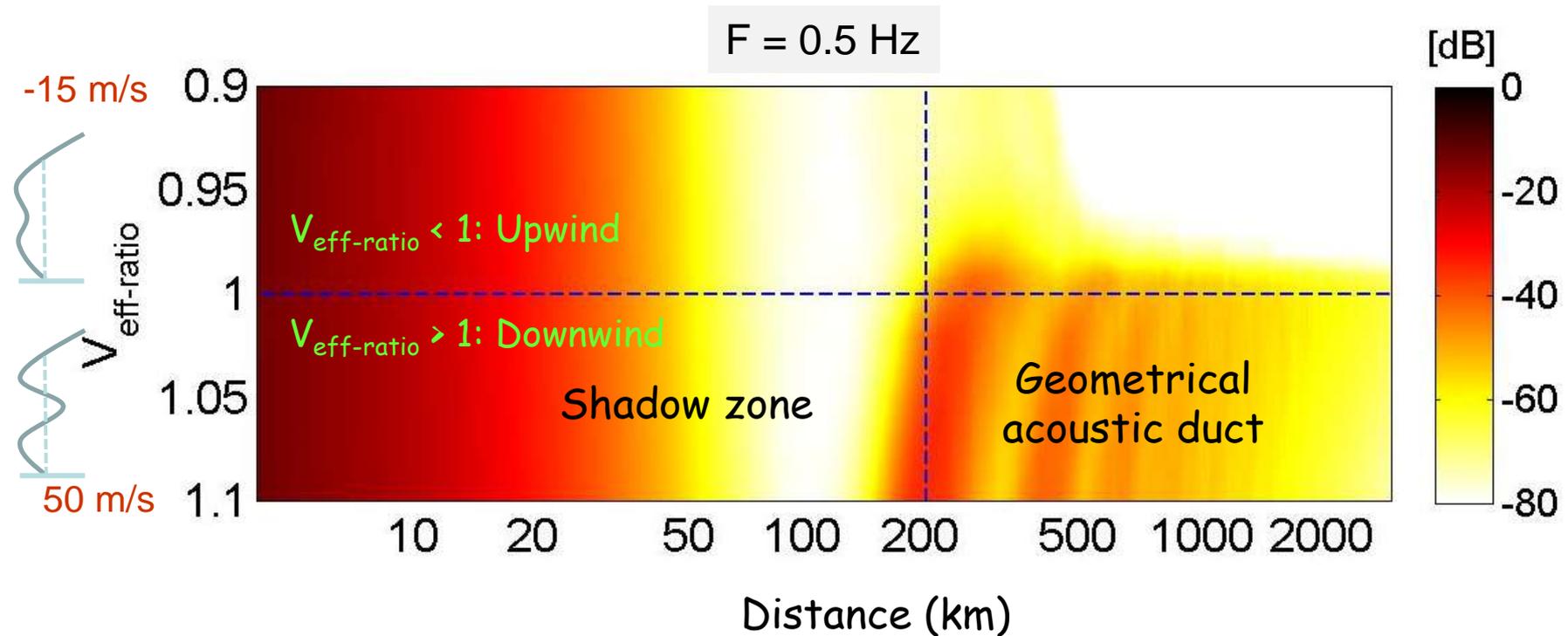


IS26 ~1,050,000 detections, 0.05-4 Hz



# Towards more realistic attenuation relation

## Full wave modeling

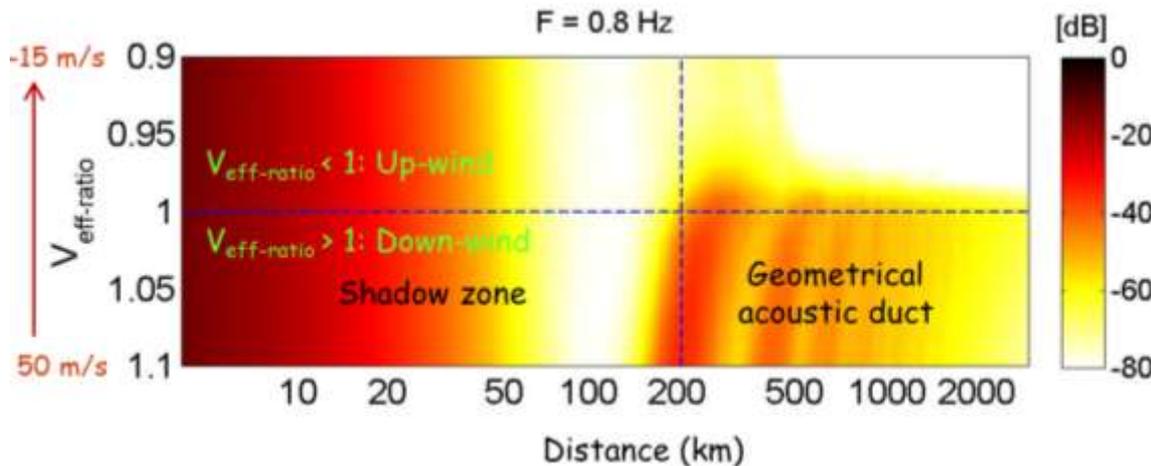


↪ Full-wave forward simulations (PE method, Lingeitch et al., 2002)

- $V_{\text{eff-ratio}} < 1$  : signals strongly absorbed above 50 km
- $V_{\text{eff-ratio}} > 1$  : stratospheric duct efficiently propagates acoustic energy

# Towards more realistic attenuation relation

## Full wave modeling



- At large distance, downwind, the attenuation weakly depends on wind conditions
- A “binary”-like pattern

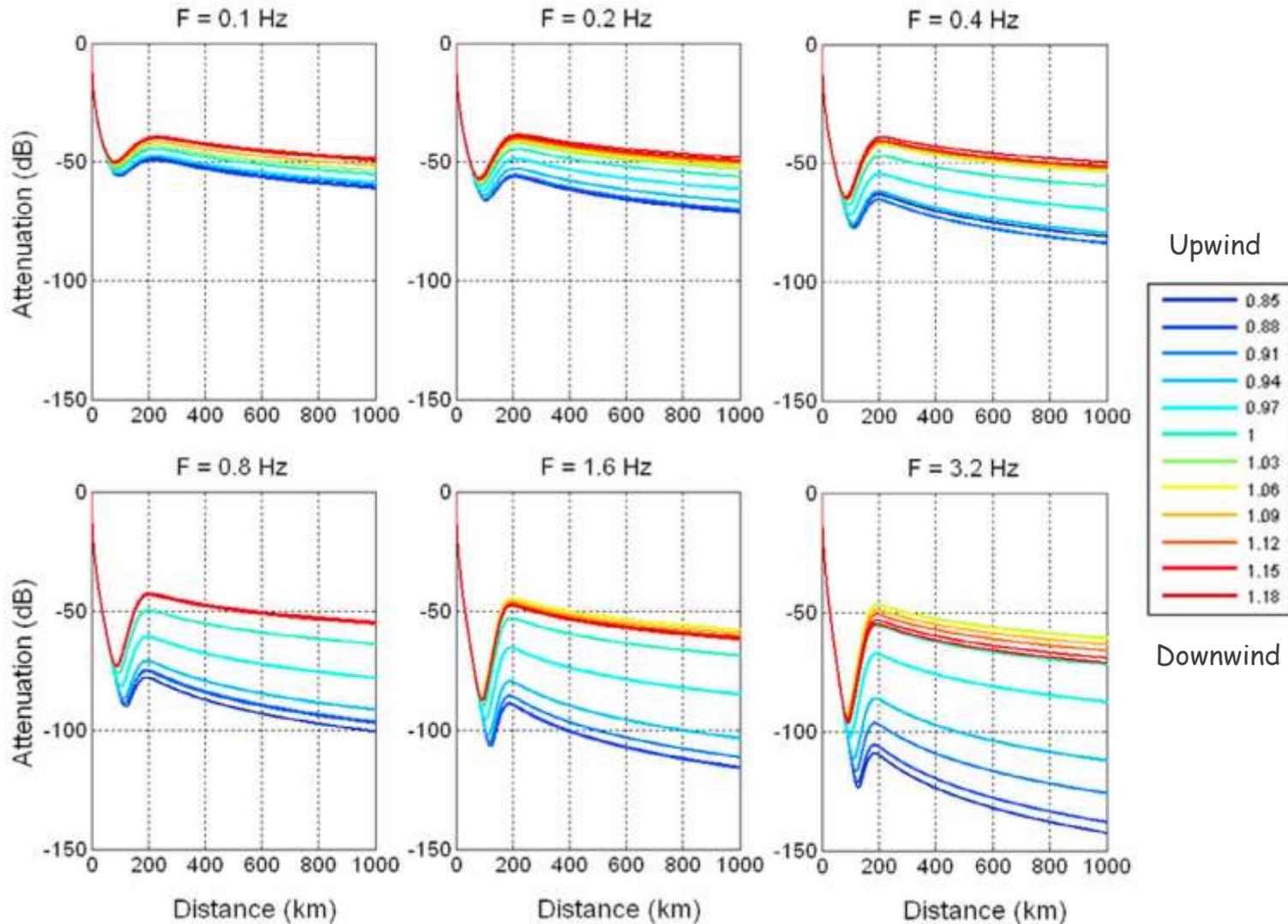
$$P_{\text{receiver}} / P_{\text{source}} = \underbrace{R^{-1} \cdot 10^{(\alpha \cdot R)/20}}_{\text{Near-field}} + \underbrace{R^{\beta} / (1 + 10^{(\delta - R)/\sigma})}_{\text{Far-field}}$$

- $\alpha(f)$  : air losses of direct waves (e.g., Beranek 1954)
- $\beta(V_{\text{eff-ratio}}, f)$  : geometrical spreading of ducted waves
- $\delta(\text{cst})$  : width of shadow zone (ranges between 120 and 250 km)
- $\sigma(f)$  : std deviation of shadow zone's width

# Towards more realistic attenuation relation

## Full wave modeling

- Upwind: the attenuation strongly increases with frequency
- Below 0.1 Hz, the attenuation weakly depends on  $V_{\text{eff-ratio}}$



- ⇒ Main challenges for infrasound interpretation
- ⇒ Evaluating the network performance
- ⇒ **Calibrating the network using reference events**
- ⇒ Potential benefit for civil and scientific applications
  - Source studies: ocean-earth-atmosphere interface
  - Geophysical hazard warning systems
  - Better resolve upper atmospheric models

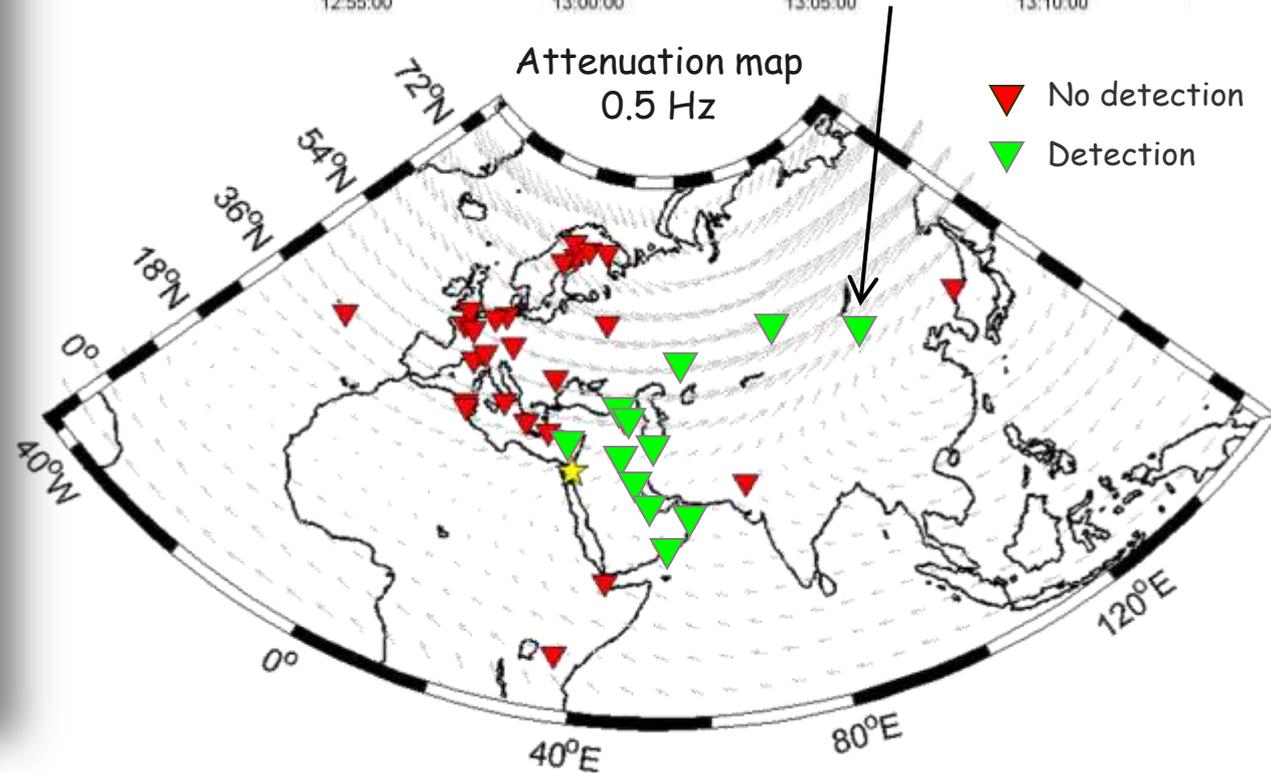
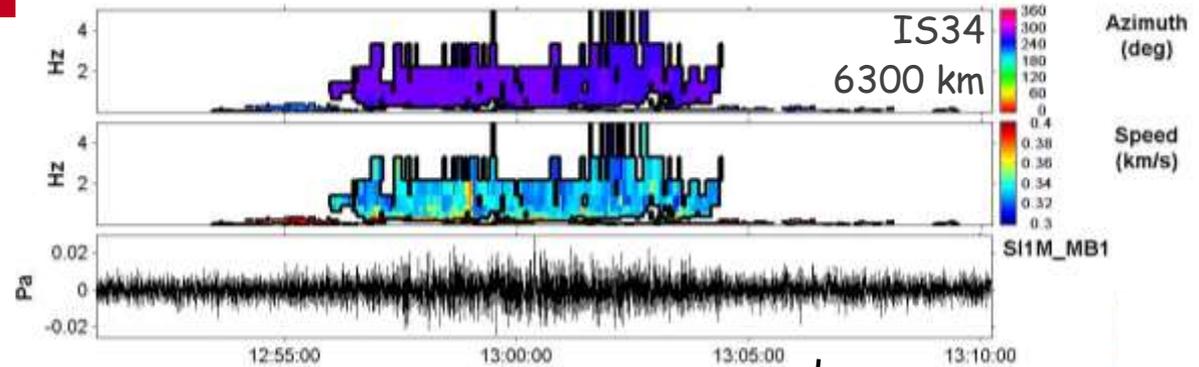
# Evaluating the network performance

Sayarim, Israel  
Calibration experiment  
coordinated by  
PTS/CTBTO (~80+ TNT)  
Jan. 2011

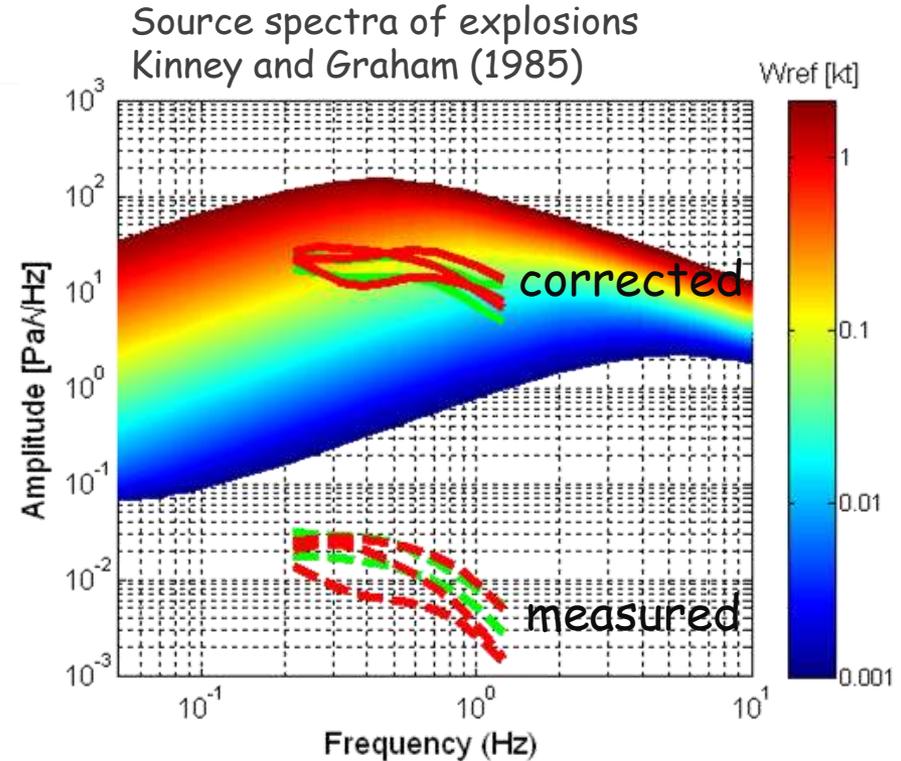
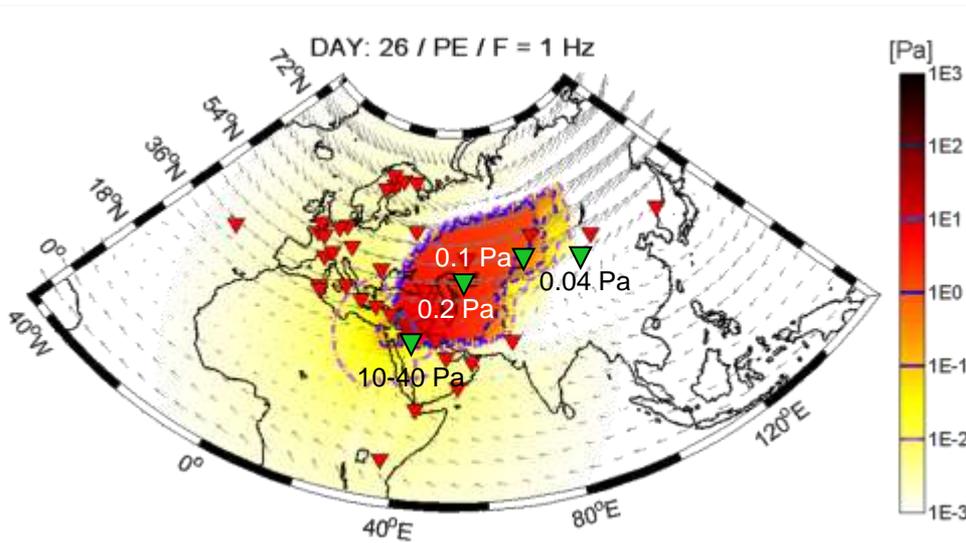


Participants :

- Geophysical Institute of Israël
- Geophysical Institute of Alaska, US
- SAIC, US
- Univ. Mississippi, US
- Univ. Hawaii, US
- National Observatory, Athens
- University of Firenze
- PTS/CTBTO
- CEA/DASE



# Network calibration experiment



PE yield estimates: 30-150 t (Empirical: 10-800 t)

# Network calibration

Global detection of the Chelyabinsk fireball, 15/02/2013

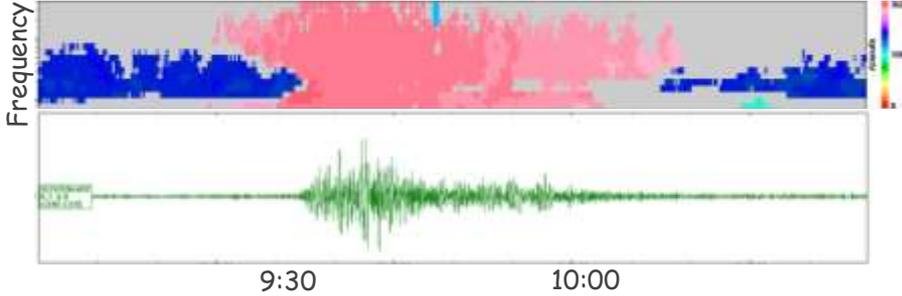


- 20 IMS stations
- 30 arrivals
- Period: 20-80 s
- Duration: 10 min - 3 hours
- Max distance: 86,600 km

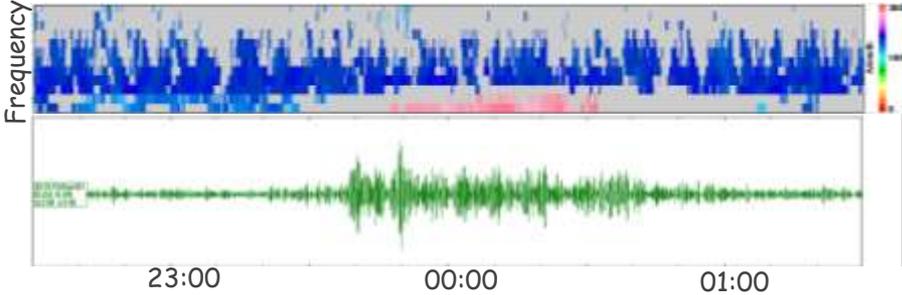
# Russian Fireball - 2013/02/15

## Detection by IS53 (Fairbanks, Alaska)

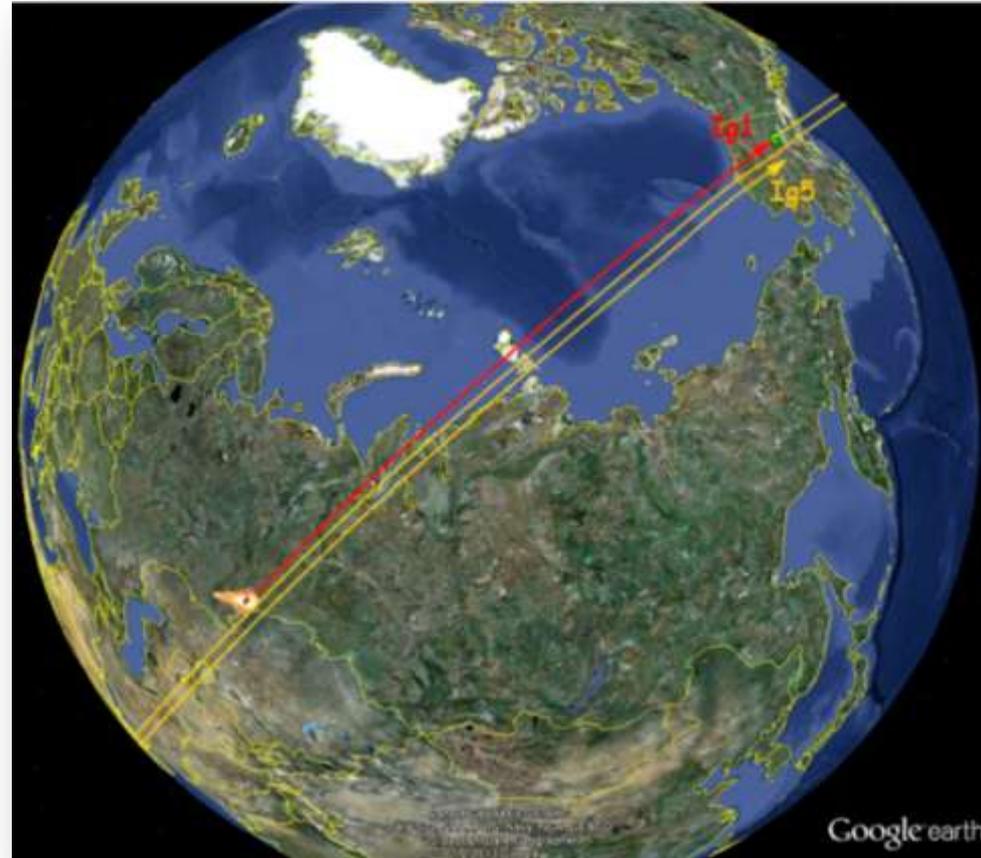
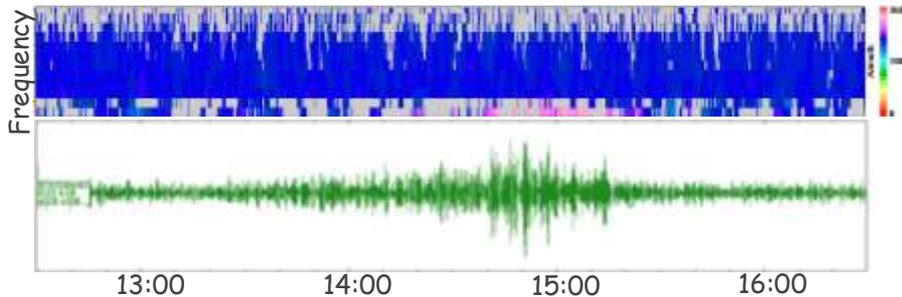
Ig1 - 2013/02/15 - first arrival (6,500 km) ~30 s



Ig3 - 2013/02/16 - first full circumnavigation (46,600 km) ~50 s



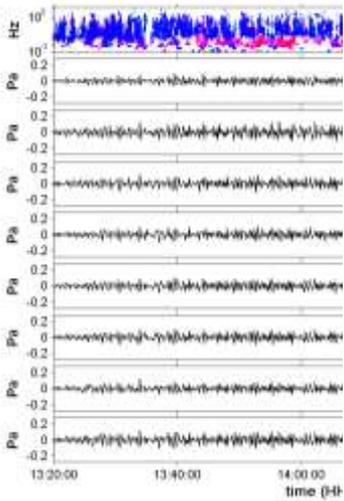
Ig5 - 2013/02/18 - second full circumnavigation (86,600 km) ~80 s



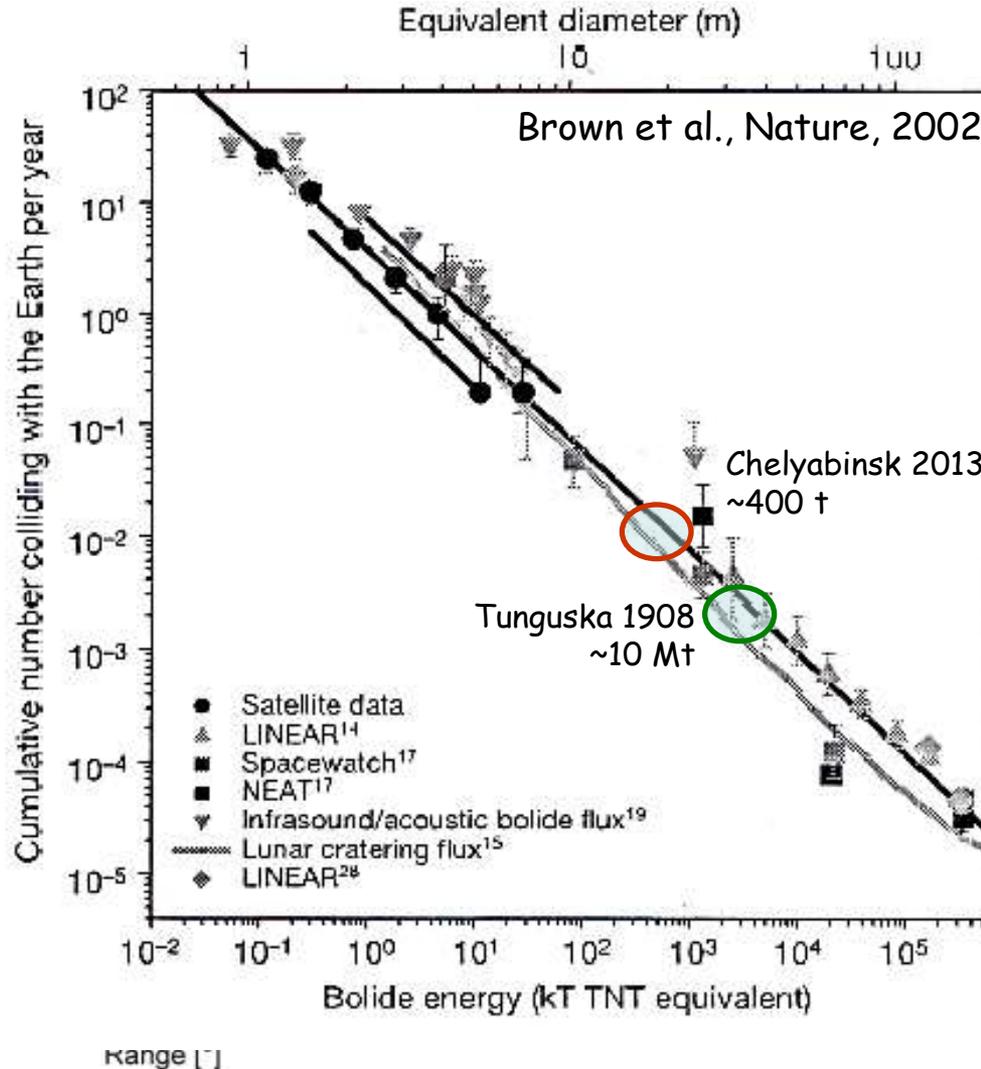
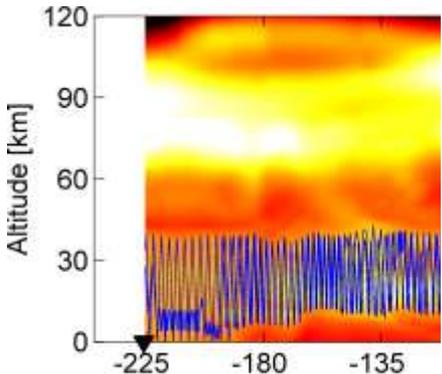
# Network calibration

Global detection of the Chelyabinsk fireball, 15/02/2013

IS53 Alaska (Ig5)



Ig3



Duration: 39 s

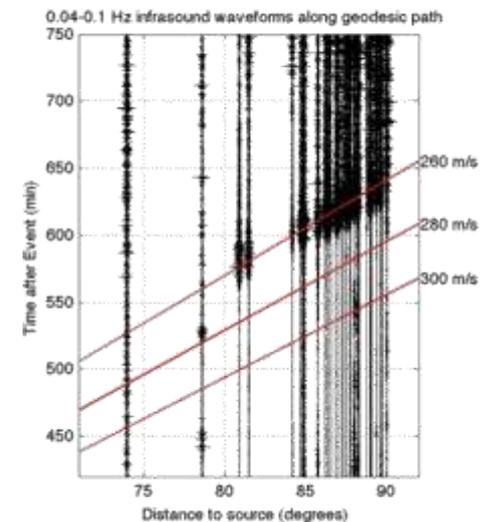
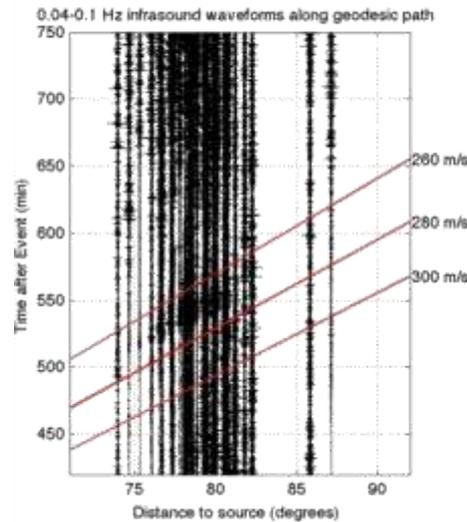
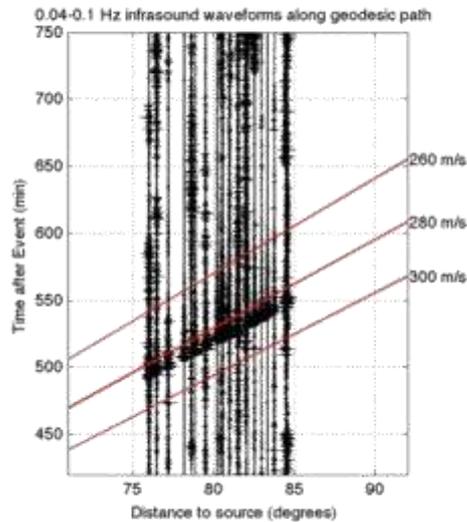
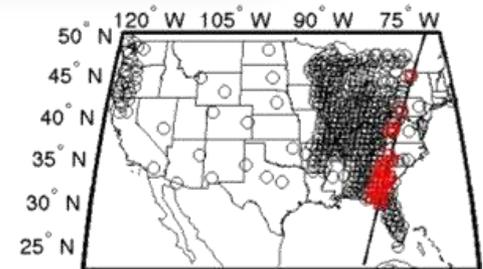
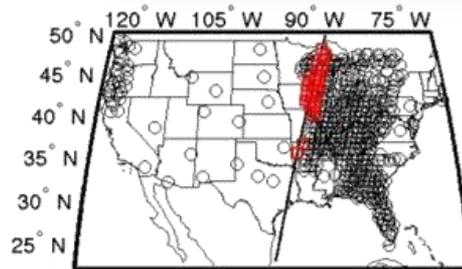
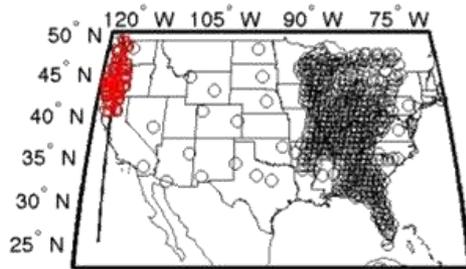
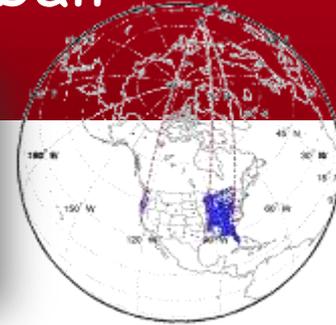
Energy: ~450 kt of TNT

$$N = 0.14 \log(\tau) - 3.61$$

Technical Center

and associated

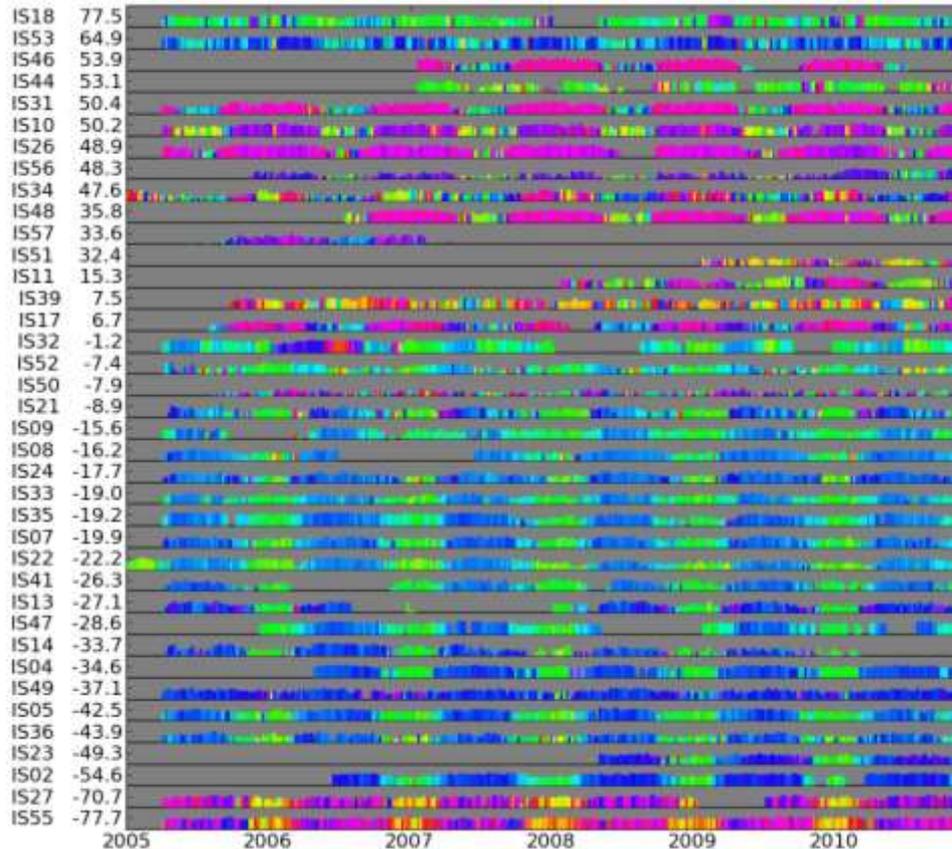
# Global detection of the Chelyabinsk fireball 15/02/2013



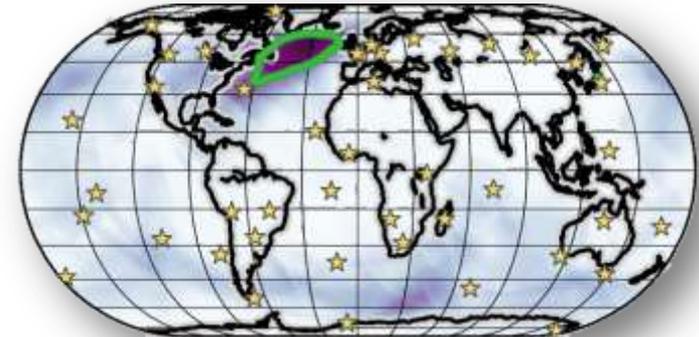
- ⇒ Main challenges for infrasound interpretation
- ⇒ Evaluating the network performance
- ⇒ Calibrating the network using reference events
- ⇒ Potential benefit for civil and scientific applications
  - Source studies: ocean-earth-atmosphere interface
  - Geophysical hazard warning systems
  - Better resolve upper atmospheric models

# Deciphering the song of the sea

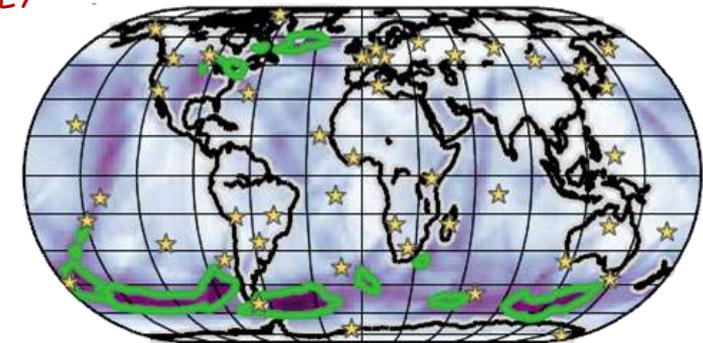
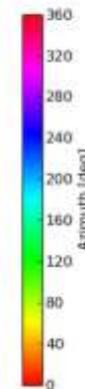
## Monitoring microbaroms on a global scale (5-7 s)



## JANUARY Observations



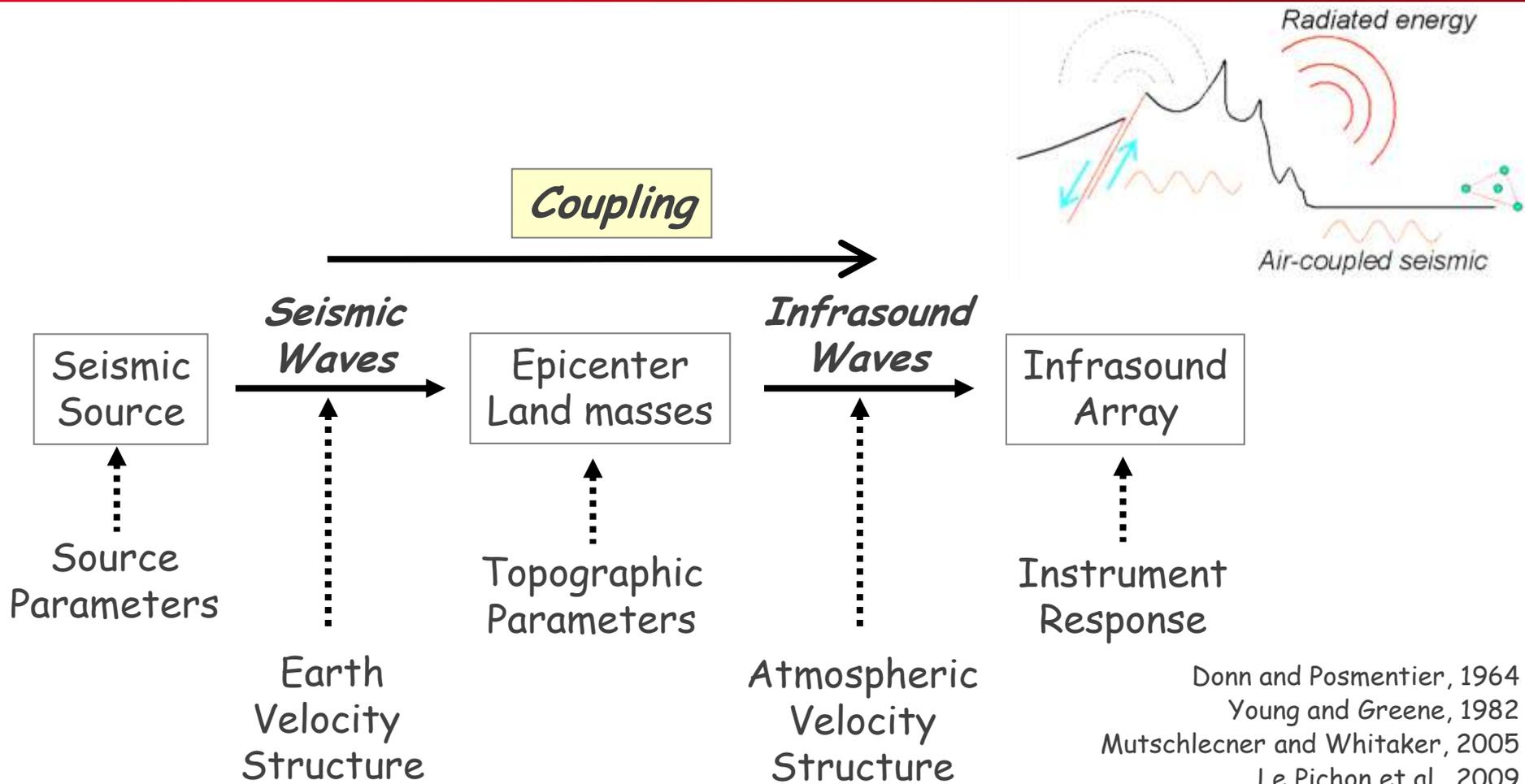
## JULY



Landès et al., GRL, 2012

- Infer source location and strength
- On going studies (Kedar et al., 2008)
- Better constrain source and atmospheric models

# Observations of earthquake-generated infrasound



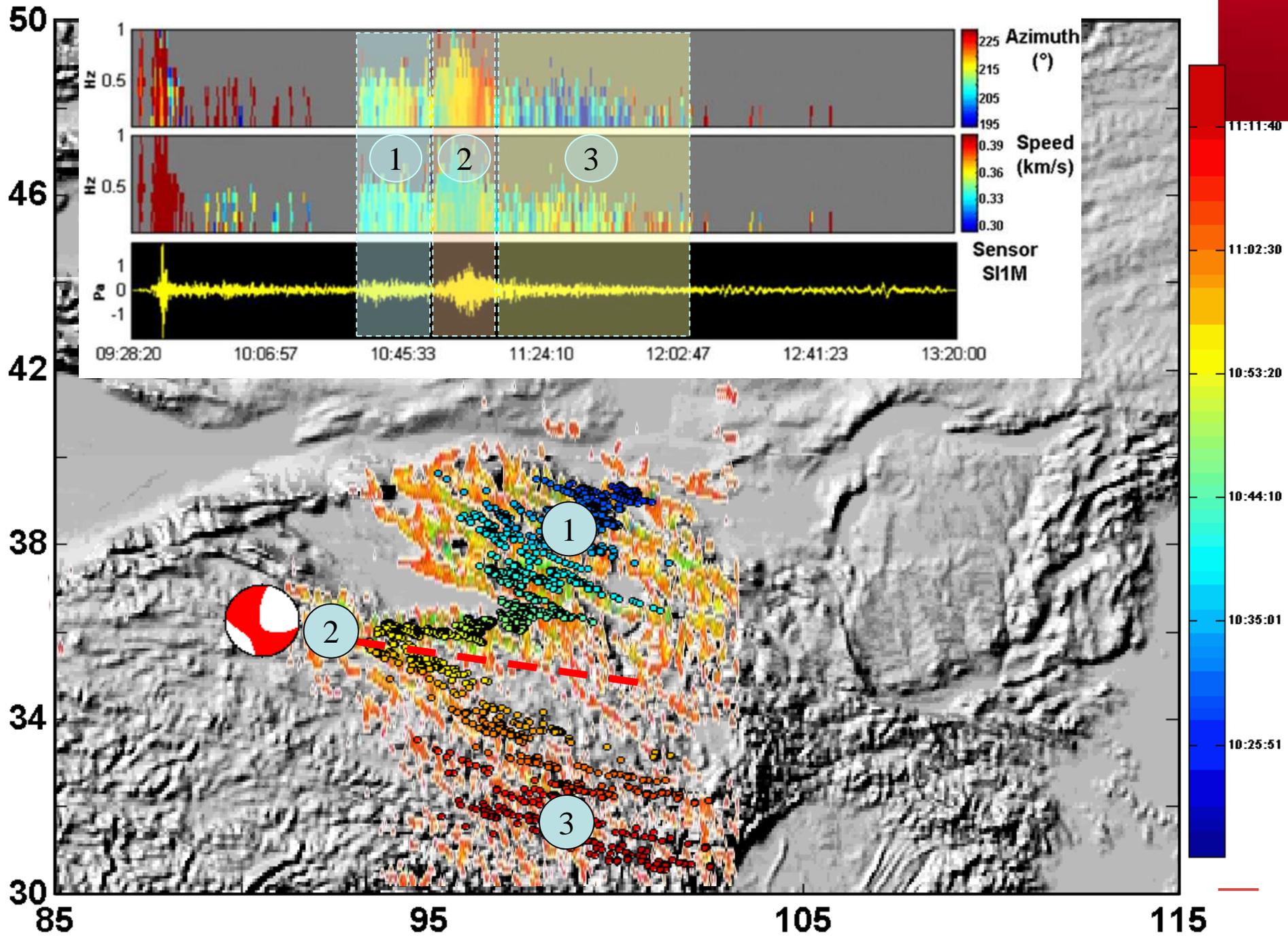
Donn and Posmentier, 1964  
 Young and Greene, 1982  
 Mutschlechner and Whitaker, 2005  
 Le Pichon et al., 2009



# The coupling problem: From ground-motion to pressure fields

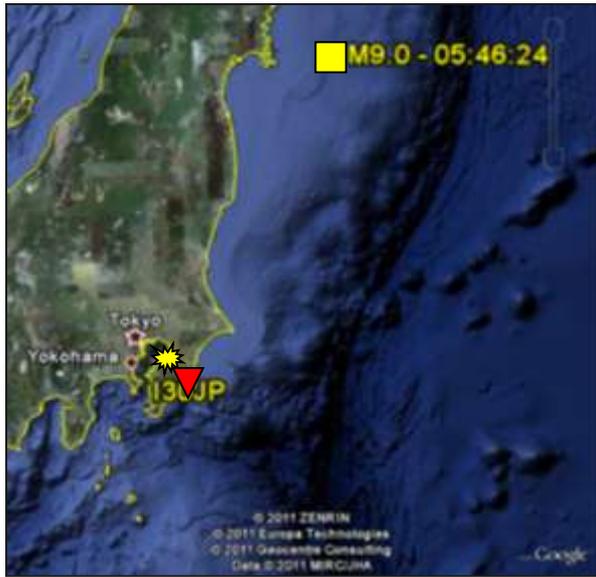
- ❑ Simulation of the RMS of 3C broad band synthetic seismograms (Bouchon, 1981)
- ❑ Far-field approximation of the Helmholtz-Huygens integral formulation (seismograms + ETOPO30)
- ❑ Infrasound propagation using 3D ray-tracing through realistic atmosphere (Virieux et al., 2004)





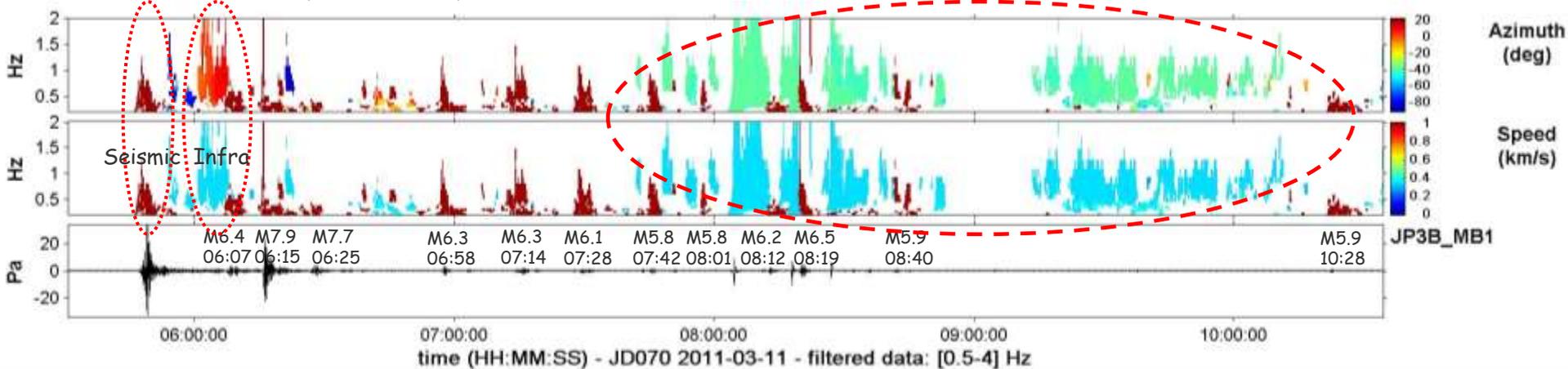
# M9.0 earthquake - East coast of Japan March 11, 2011

Fire in Ichihara oil refinery

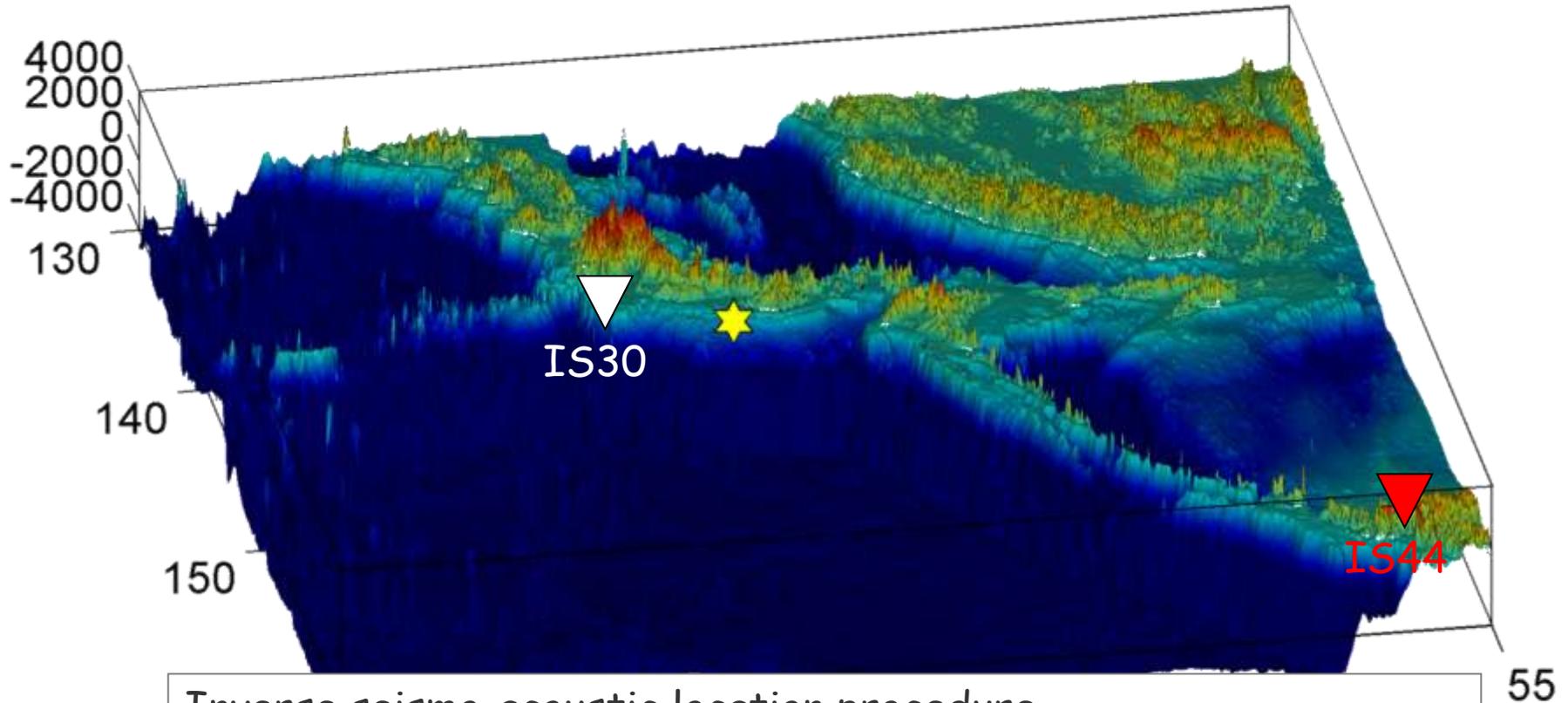


AP/Kyodo News

IS30 - 385 km (0.05-2 Hz)



# M9.0 earthquake - East coast of Japan March 11, 2011

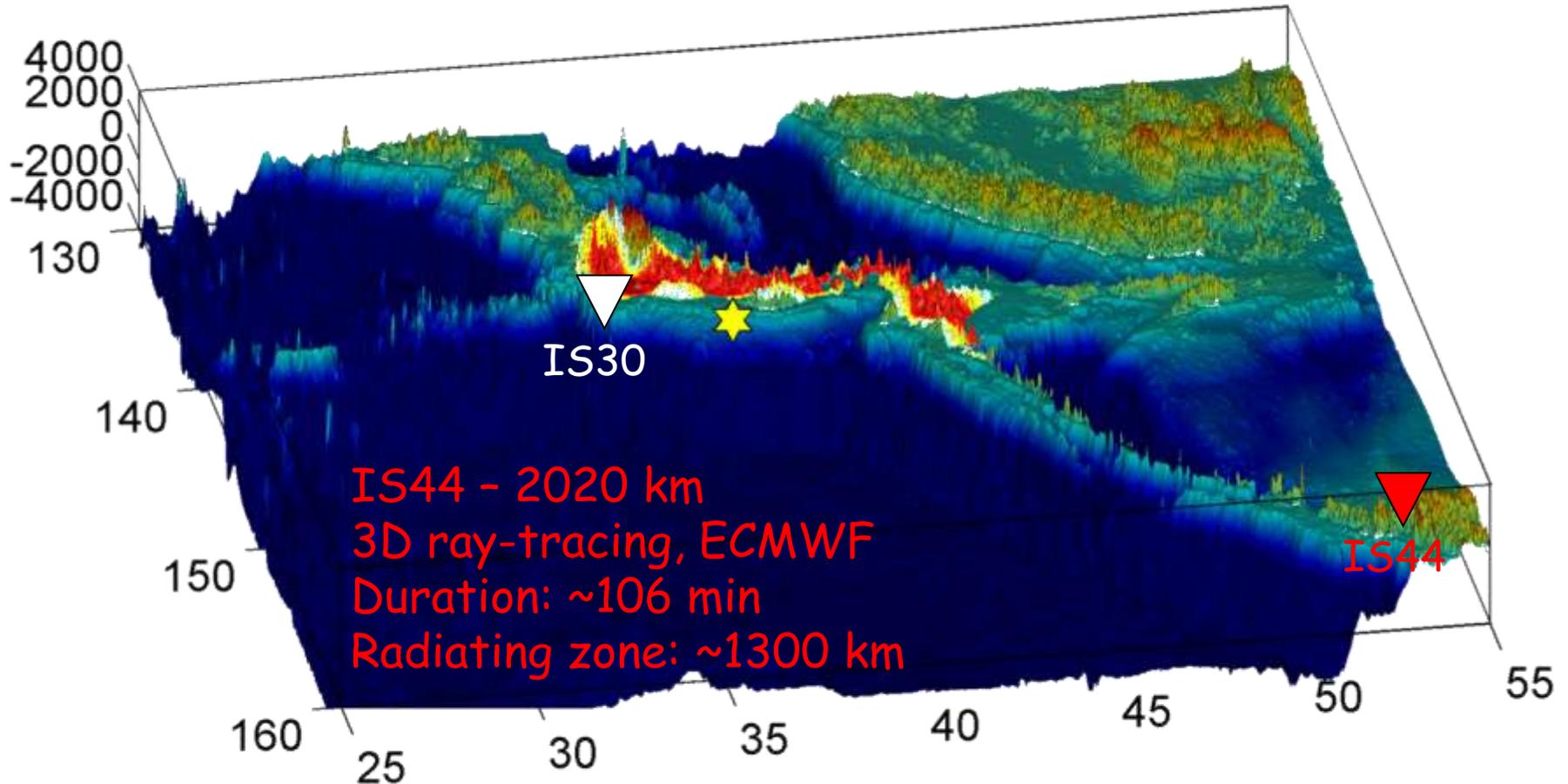


Inverse seismo-acoustic location procedure

✓ Seismic source:  $T_0$ / lat/ long/ depth,  $V_s$

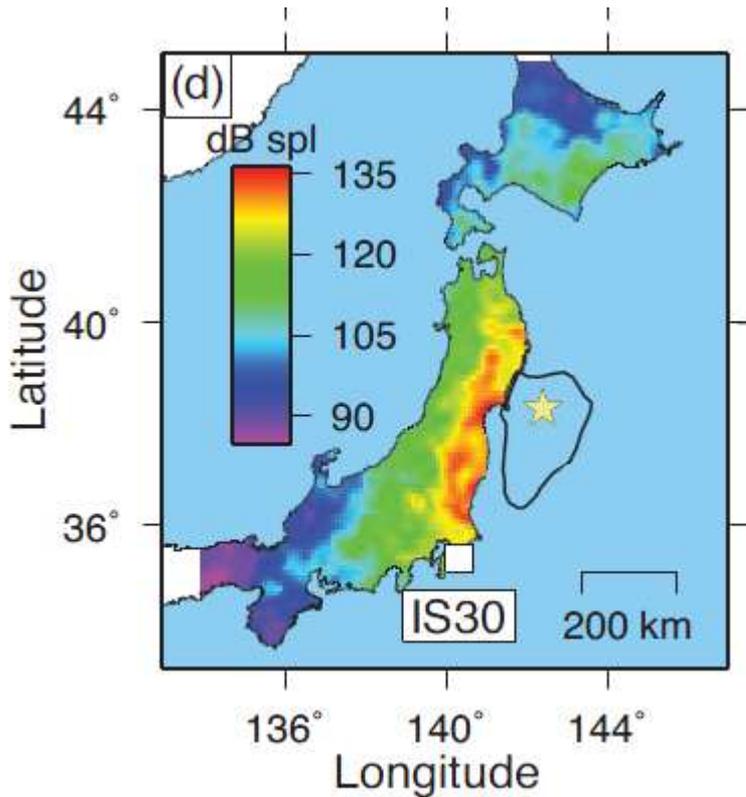
✓ Infrasound measurements: arrival time, back-azimuth, celerity

# M9.0 earthquake - East coast of Japan March 11, 2011

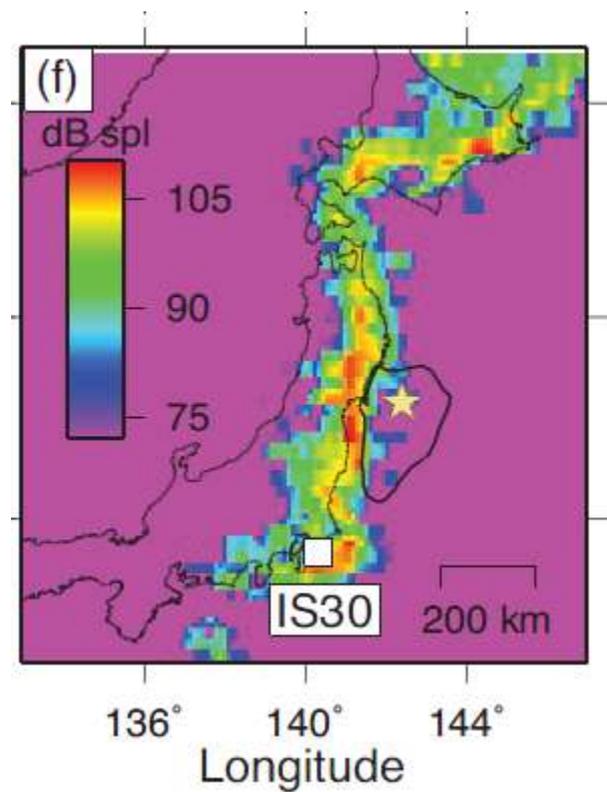


# M9.0 earthquake - East coast of Japan March 11, 2011

Acoustic peak  
 surface pressure from peak  
 acceleration (KNet network)



Infrasound back projected  
 to the source region from array  
 IS44 (Kamchatka)

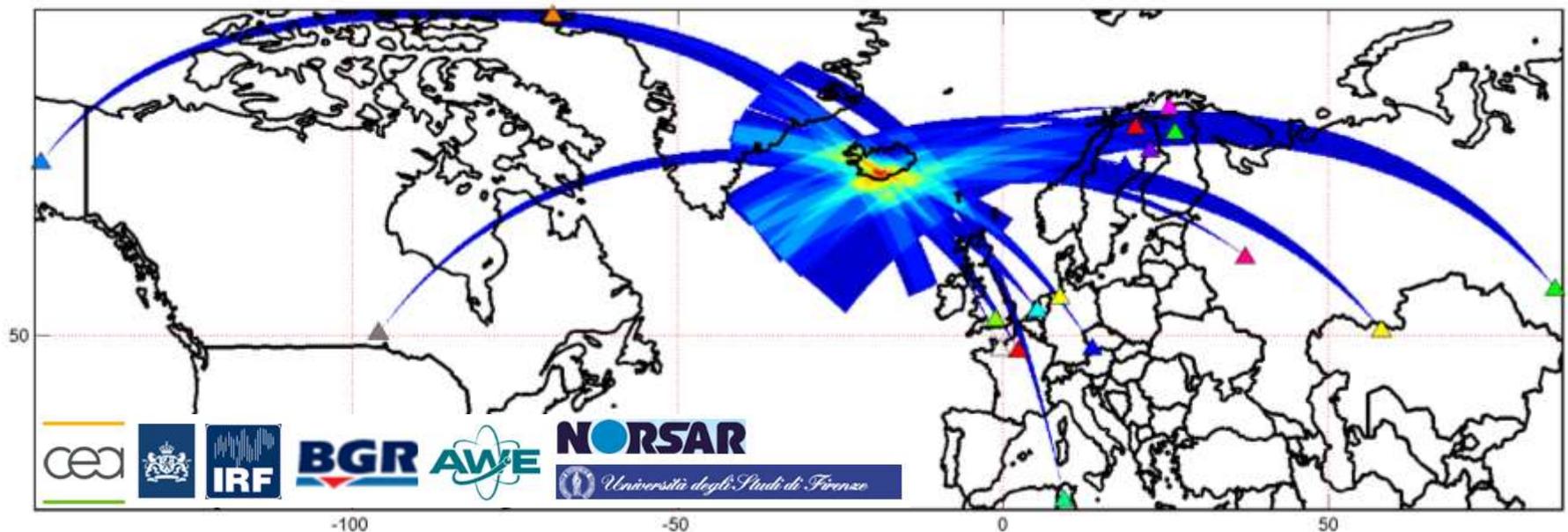


Hedlin et al., JGR, 2013

- ➔ Source distribution in good agreement with areas of strong ground motions
- ➔ Civil: improve procedures for rapid estimation of ShakeMaps

# Telesonic infrasound from Eyjafjallajökull Island, April-May 2010

- Global detection of modest size eruption
- 15 detecting stations (1700-6000 km)
- Cross-bearing location at ~50 km North of the volcano
- Valuable signals for network calibration and atmospheric studies

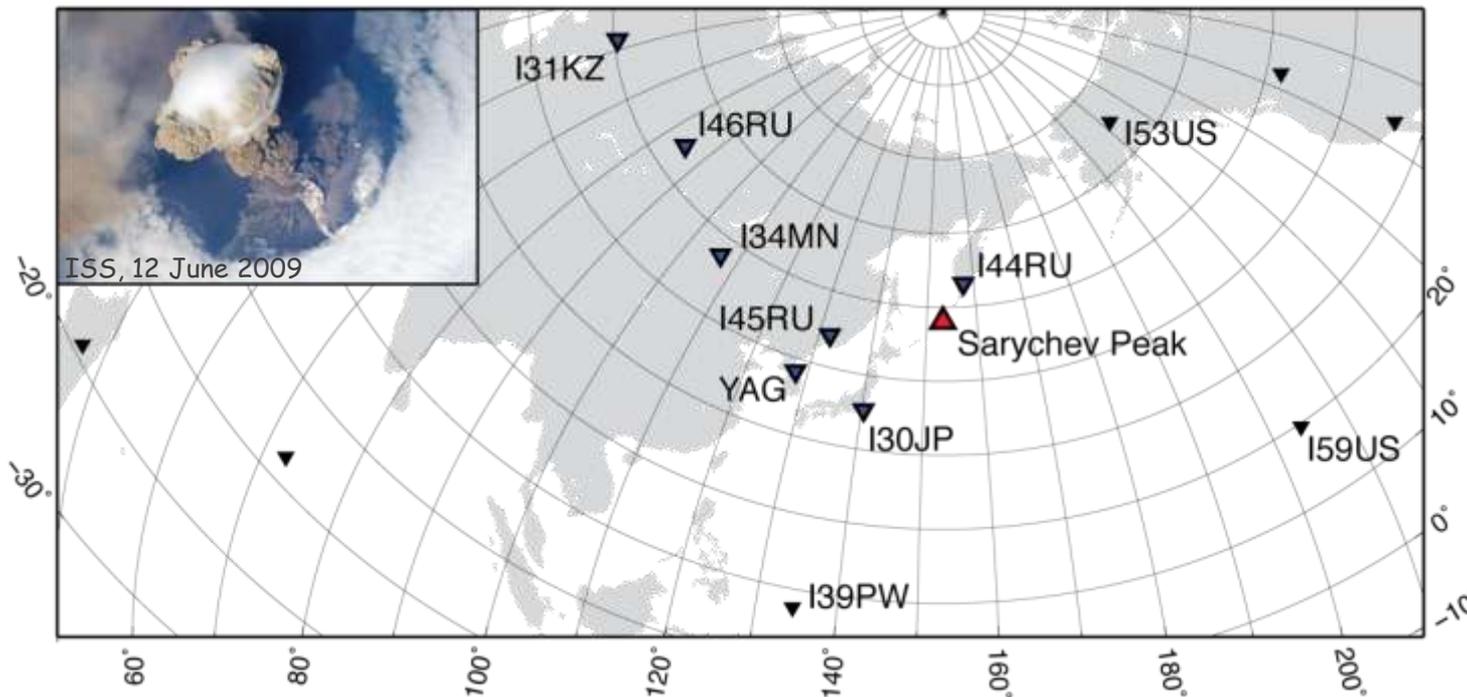


# Sarychev Peak eruption, Kuril Islands

- Large-scale eruption: 11-16 June 2009
- Air traffic: unscheduled fuel stops, flight re-routes
- Seismic network sparse
- Monitored mostly by satellite data (SVERT, KVERT)



Neal et al., 2009  
Salinas, 2010

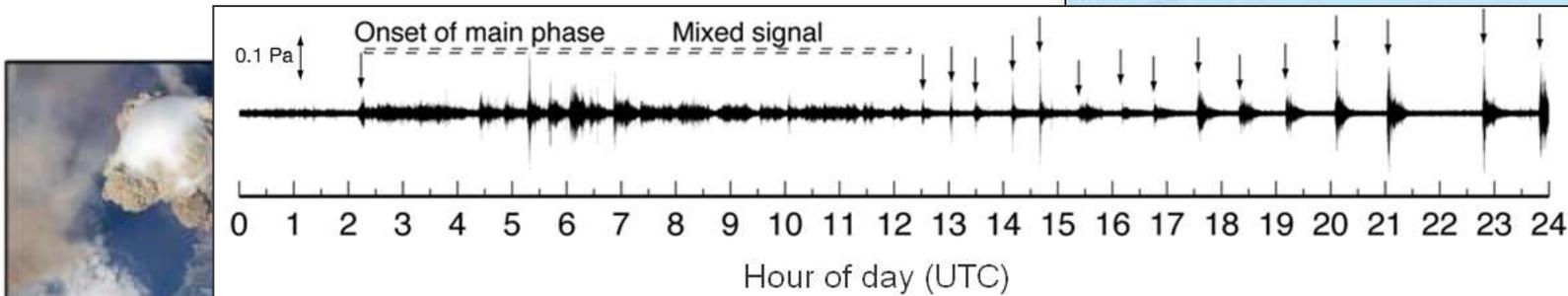


# Sarychev Peak eruption, Kuril Islands

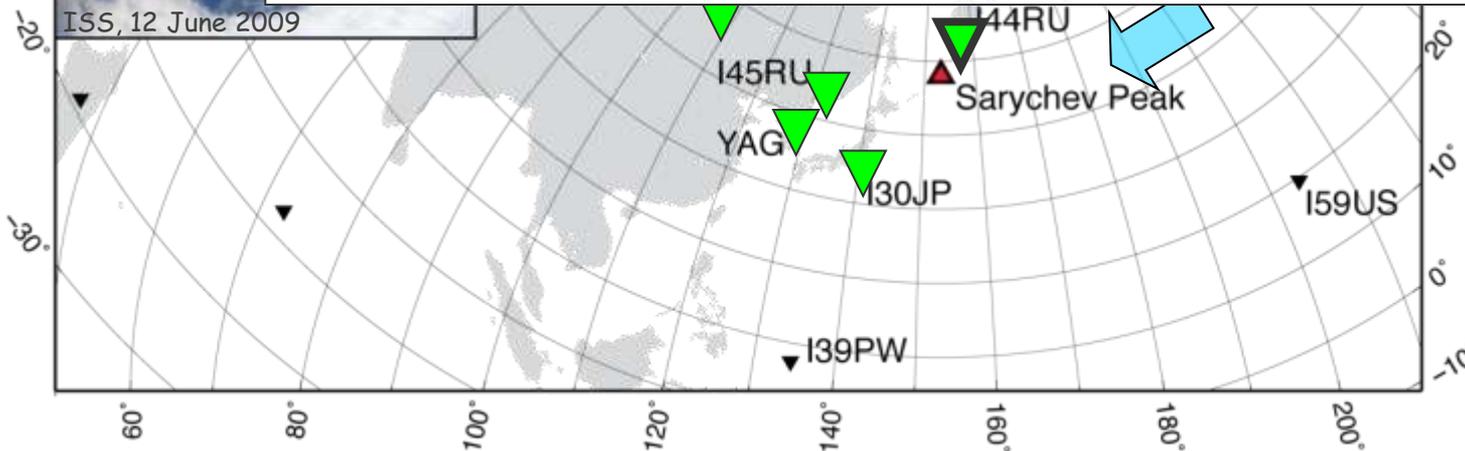
- 6 IMS infrasound arrays + KIGAM stations (Korea)
- Downwind detecting stations
- 640 - 6400 km range



12 June 2009 - 643 km

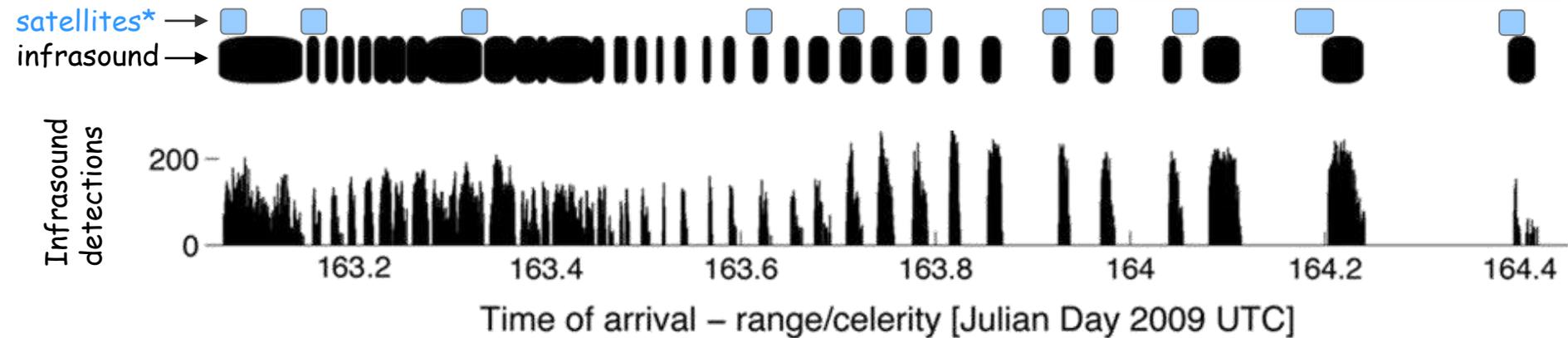


*et al., 2009  
as, 2010*



# Sarychev Peak eruption, Kuril Islands

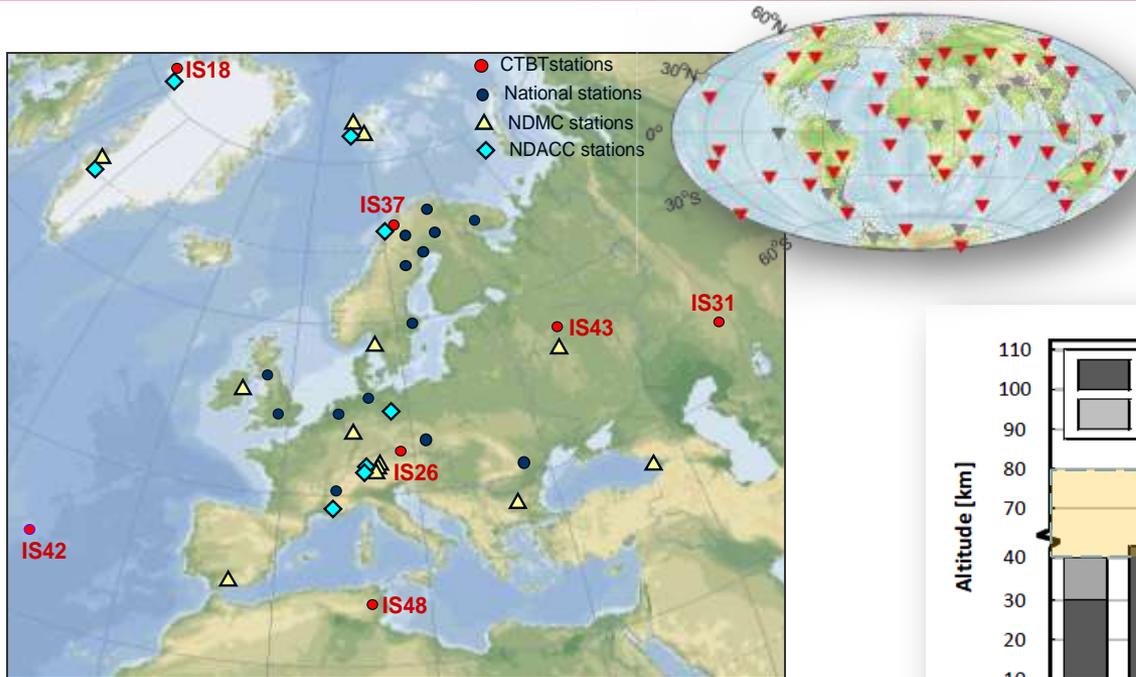
## Detailed explosion chronology



- Infrasound data can provide detailed explosion chronology
- Higher temporal resolution than satellite data

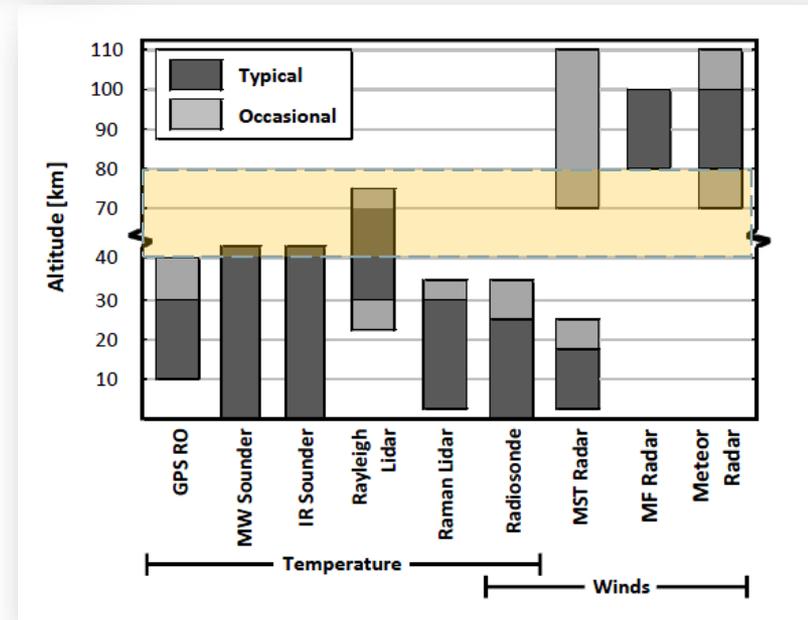
\*Satellites observations: Sakhalin Volcanic Eruptions Response Team (SVERT), Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia

- ⇒ Main challenges for infrasound interpretation
- ⇒ Evaluating the network performance
- ⇒ Calibrating the network using reference events
- ⇒ Potential benefit for civil and scientific applications
  - Source studies: ocean-earth-atmosphere interface
  - Geophysical hazard warning systems
  - **Better resolve upper atmospheric models**



- **Infrasound:** CTBT and national networks
- **Mesosphere:** NDMC - Airglow layer
- **Stratosphere:** NDACC - Lidar

- ❖ Extreme event monitoring
- ❖ Better resolve upper atmospheric models
- ❖ Improve weather forecasting



# The Sudden Stratospheric Warmings of Winter 2012/13

Christopher F Lee<sup>1</sup> | Pieter Smets<sup>2,3</sup> | Andrew J Charlton-Perez<sup>1</sup> | R Giles Harrison<sup>1</sup> | Philippe Keckhut<sup>4</sup> | Carston Schmidt<sup>5</sup> | Sabine Wüst<sup>5</sup> | Michael Bittner<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, UK. <sup>2</sup>KNMI, Netherlands. <sup>3</sup>CTG, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands. <sup>4</sup>LATMOS, IPSL, France. <sup>5</sup>DLR, Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany.



## Forecasting & SSWs

Major Sudden Stratospheric Warmings (SSWs) present a challenge for weather forecasting. ARISE measurements can provide valuable information on atmospheric dynamics before and during such events. Comparing ARISE observations of the Winter 2012/13 SSWs with forecasts reveals:

- Cooling around the mesopause preceded both major SSWs.
- Difficulty in forecasting vortex positions after the vortex split.
- Changes in polar vortex winds substantial altered infrasound propagation.

## ARISE Instruments

DLR's GRIPS instrument measures airglow – faint luminescence of atmospheric gases (in this case, OH) – to infer temperatures between 83 and 90km above OHP.

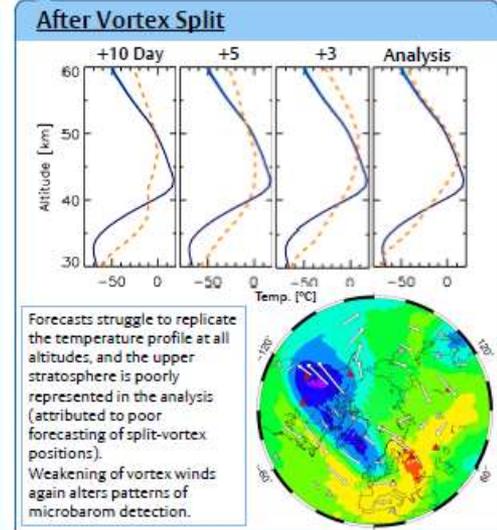
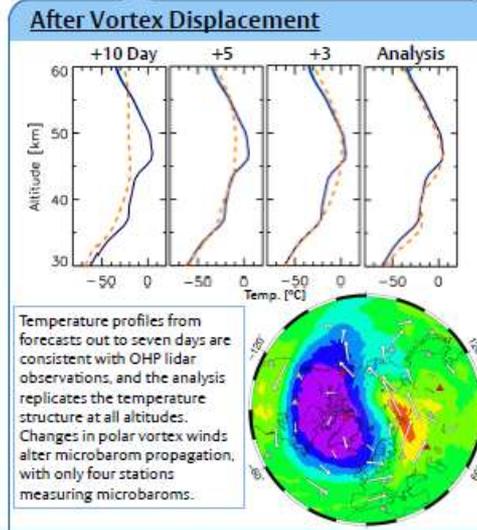
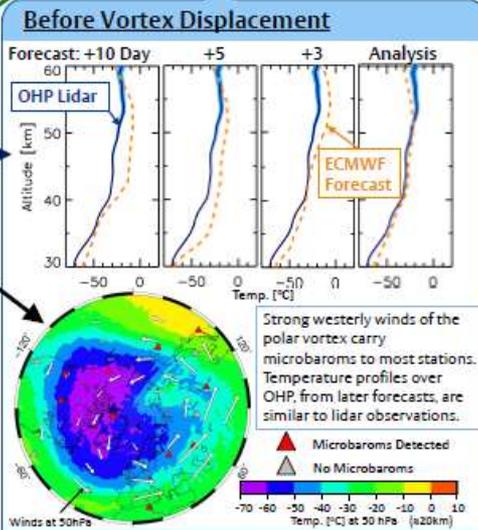
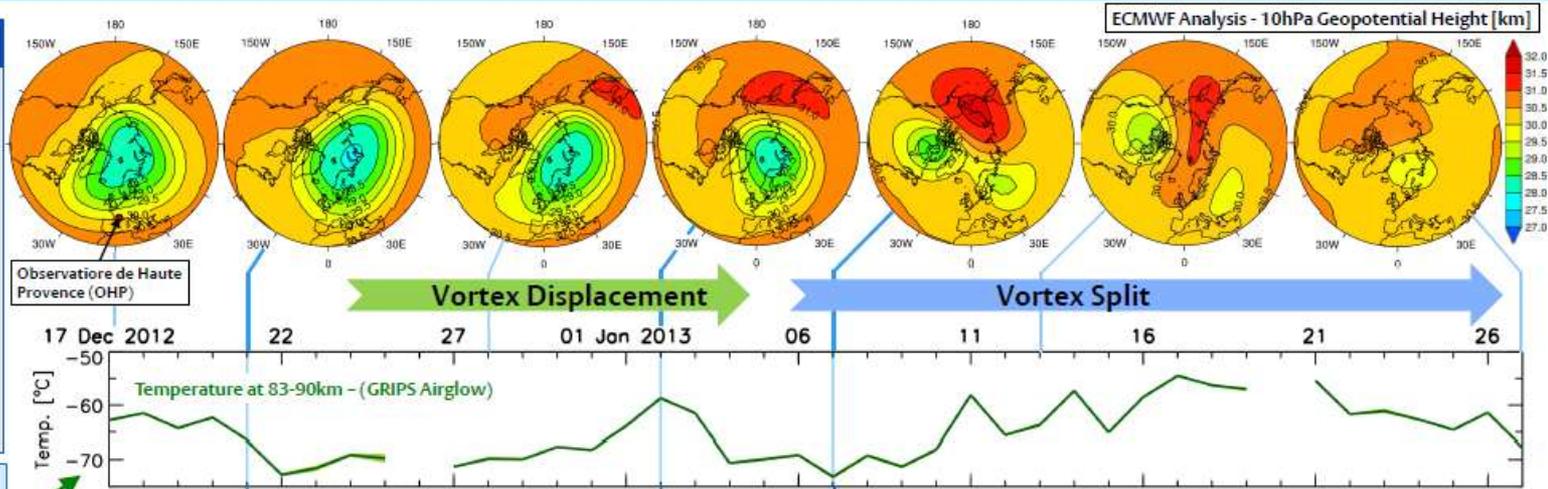
Rayleigh lidar measures temperature profiles between 30 and 90 km above OHP.

Infrasound monitoring stations measure microbaroms (ocean wave noise) from different regions as SSWs alter wind and temperature patterns in the stratosphere.

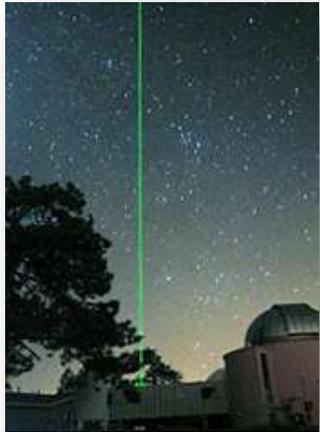
## Further information

- Contact e-mail: [c.f.lee@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.f.lee@reading.ac.uk)
- Poster 10079 (Z183) has more details on infrasound propagation during SSWs.

This project is funded by the European Union under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.



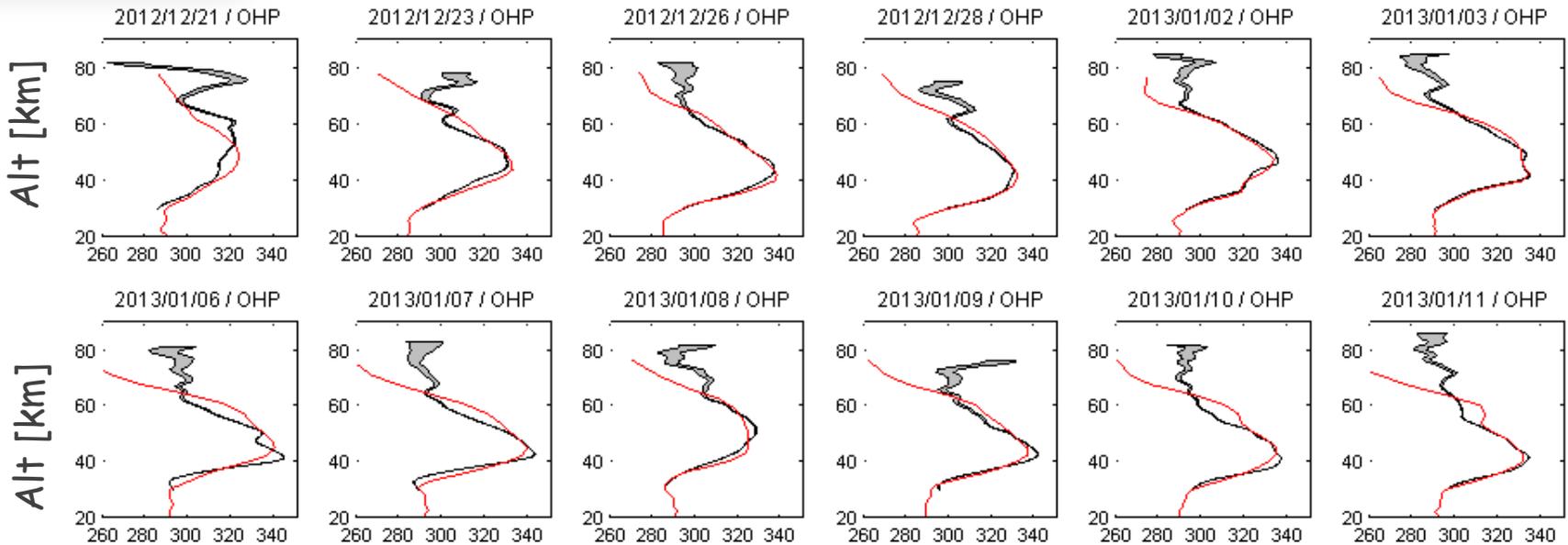
# Quantifying uncertainties in temperature profiles using LIDAR



NDACC LIDAR  
Observatoire  
Haute-Provence,  
France



- Small-scale perturbations filtered out
- Temperature largely underestimated above 60 km

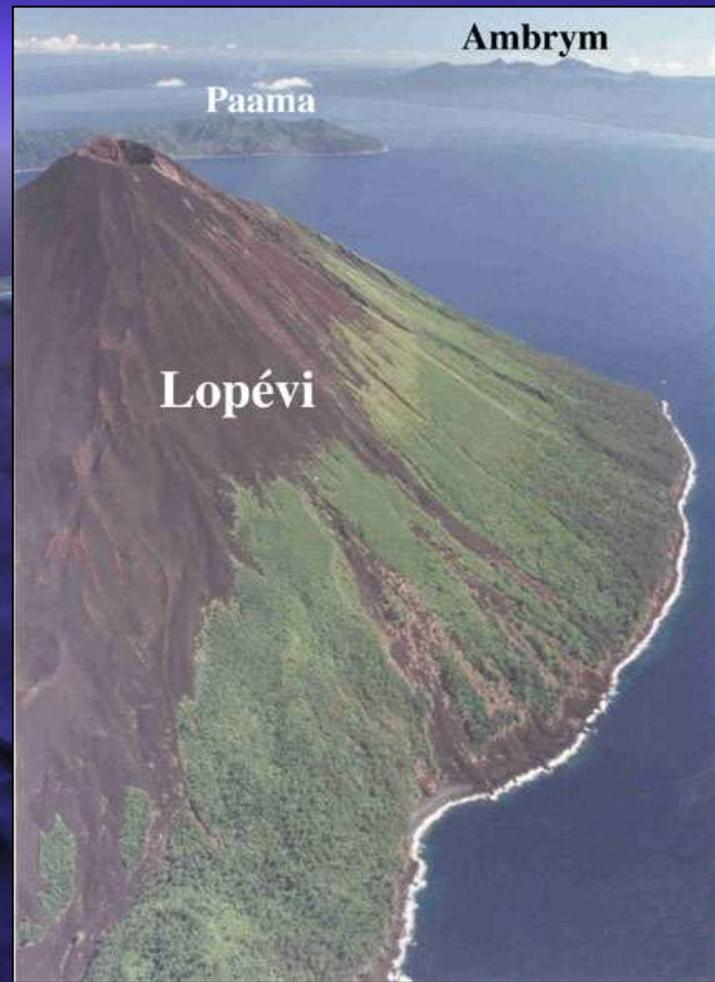
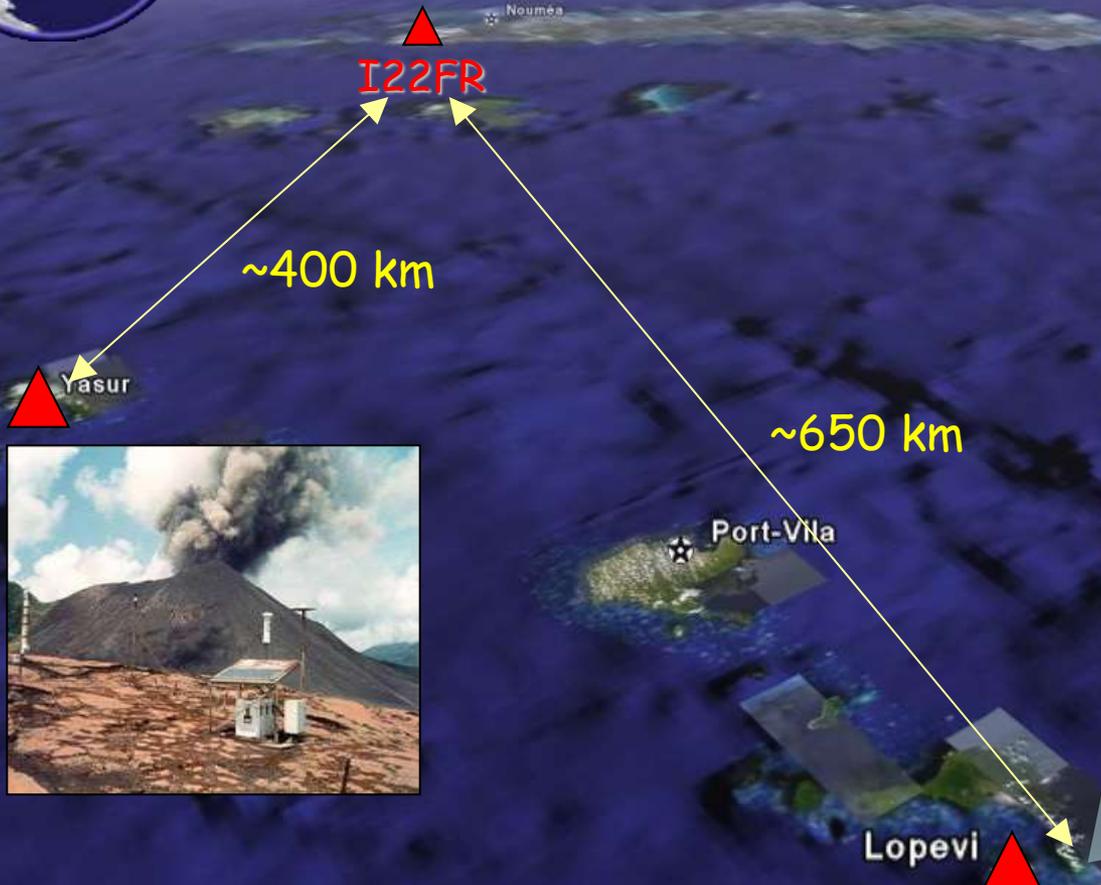
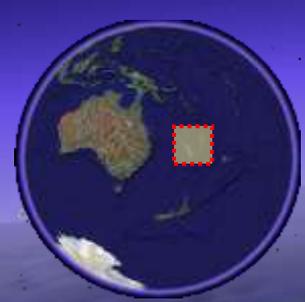


- Infrasound from volcanoes are very valuable for atmospheric studies
- Such studies provide a powerful tool to validate propagation models

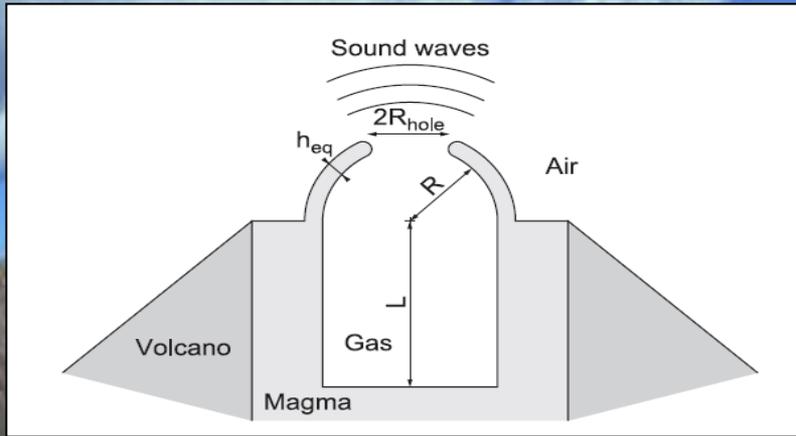


Yasur (19.52S, 169.42E, 360 meters high)

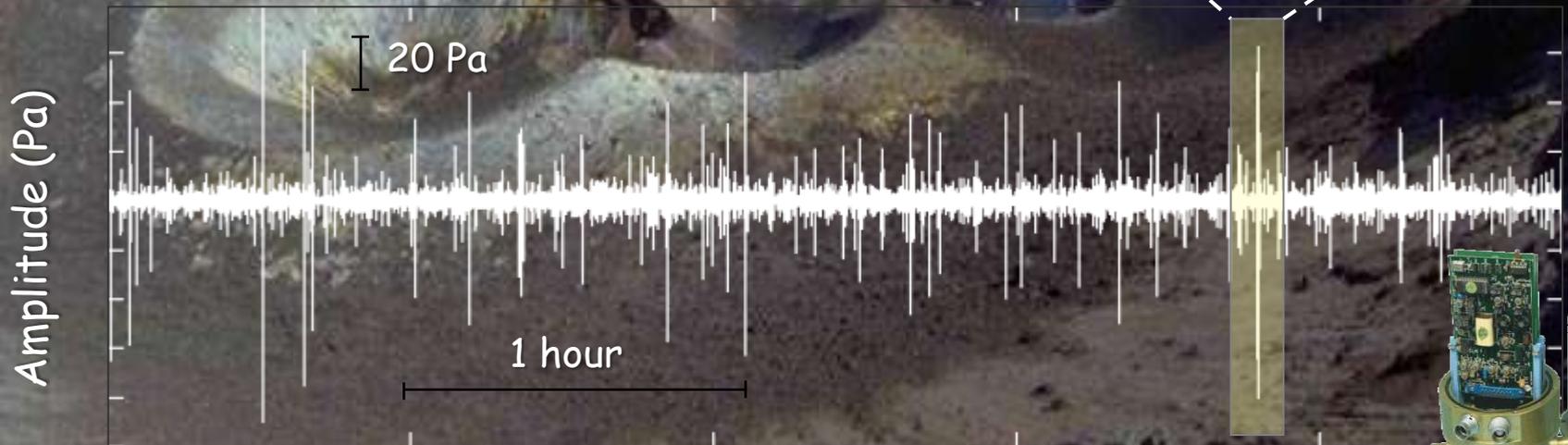
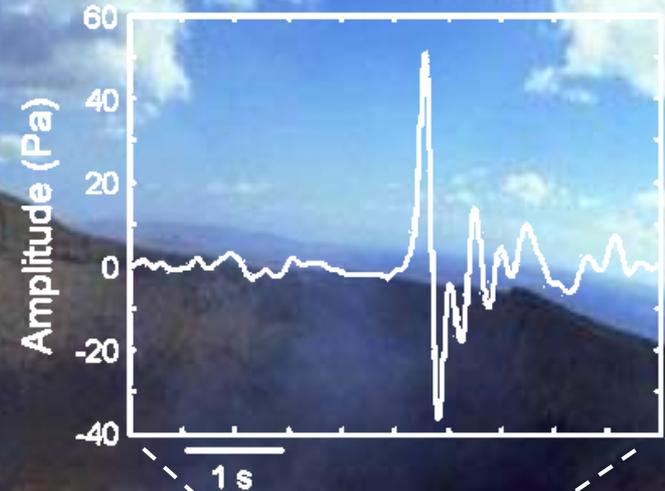




# Infrasound from Yasur Near field measurements



[Vergnolle and Brandeis, 1994]

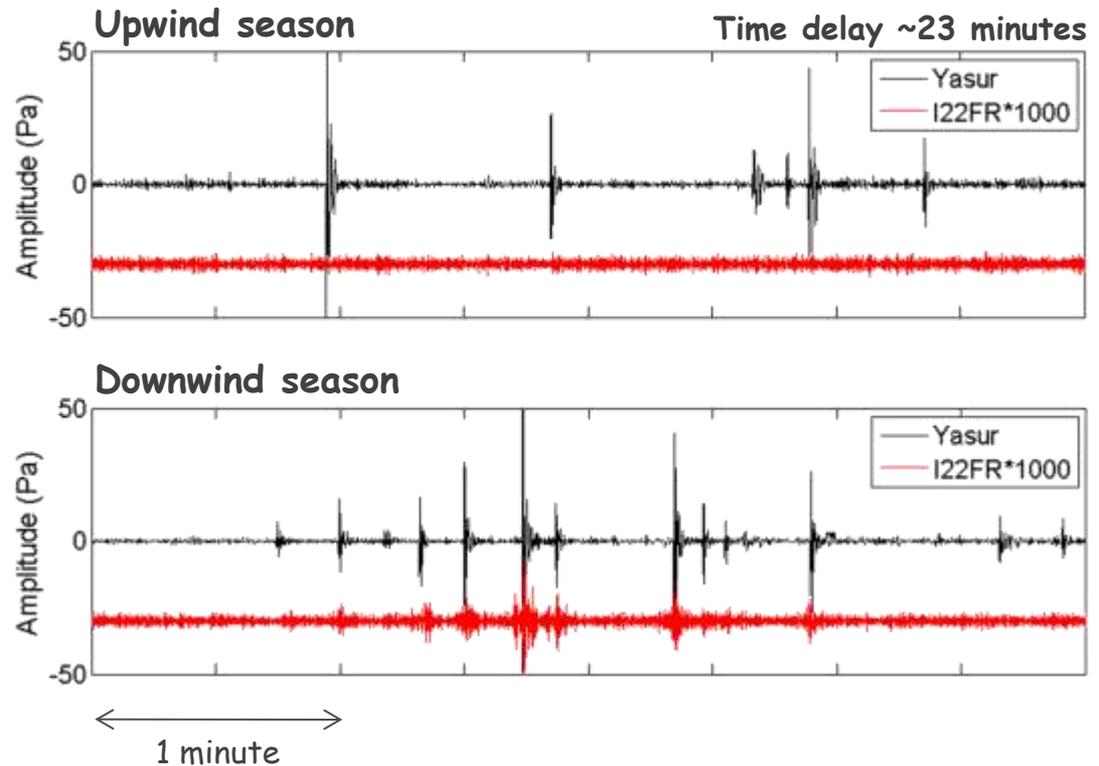


# Calibrating the atmosphere using volcanoes

Microbarometer near Yasur (~200 m)



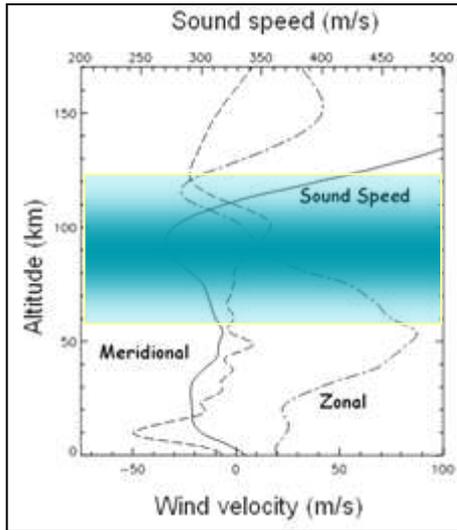
Station I22FR (~400 km from Yasur)



- Time sequences in near and far field correlate well during downwind season
- ~60 dB attenuation

# Atmospheric remote sensing methods

Atmospheric profiles:  $m$

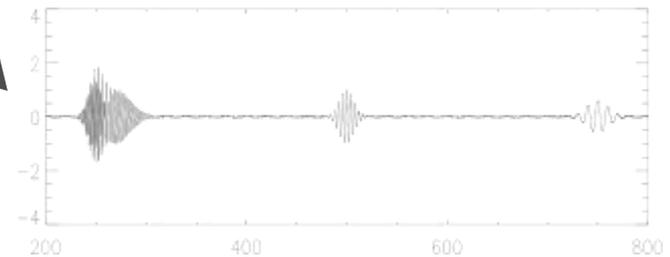


Propagation model with model atmosphere  
 $G(\underline{m}, S) = d_m$



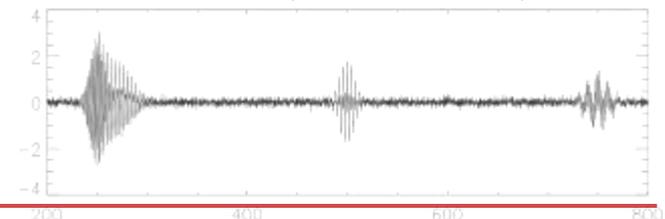
Location, origin time, source amplitude, pulse shape...

Simulations:  $d_m$



Time (s)

Observations:  $d_{obs}$  (travel time, backazimuth, phase velocity...)



Agreement?

$$|\Delta\chi^2| < \epsilon$$

No

Yes

Adjust atmosphere  
 $\rightarrow m + \Delta m$

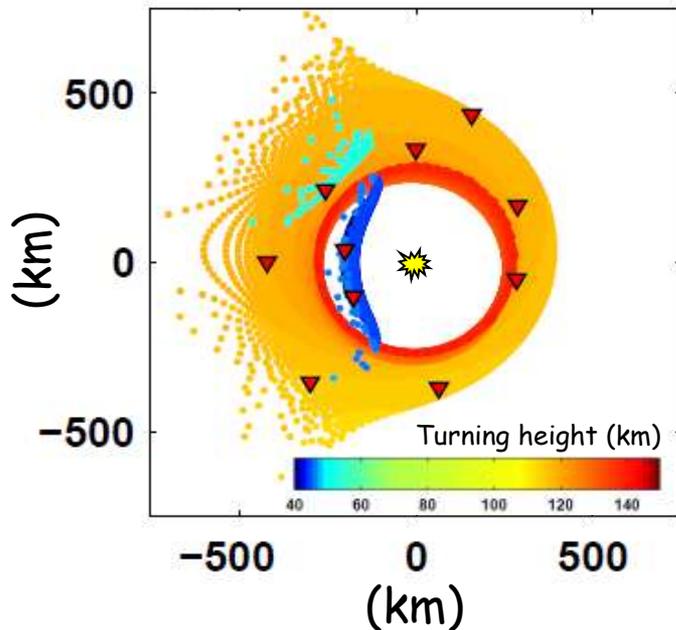
$$\left[ \frac{\partial G}{\partial m} \right]^{-1}$$

Improved Atmospheric Specifications

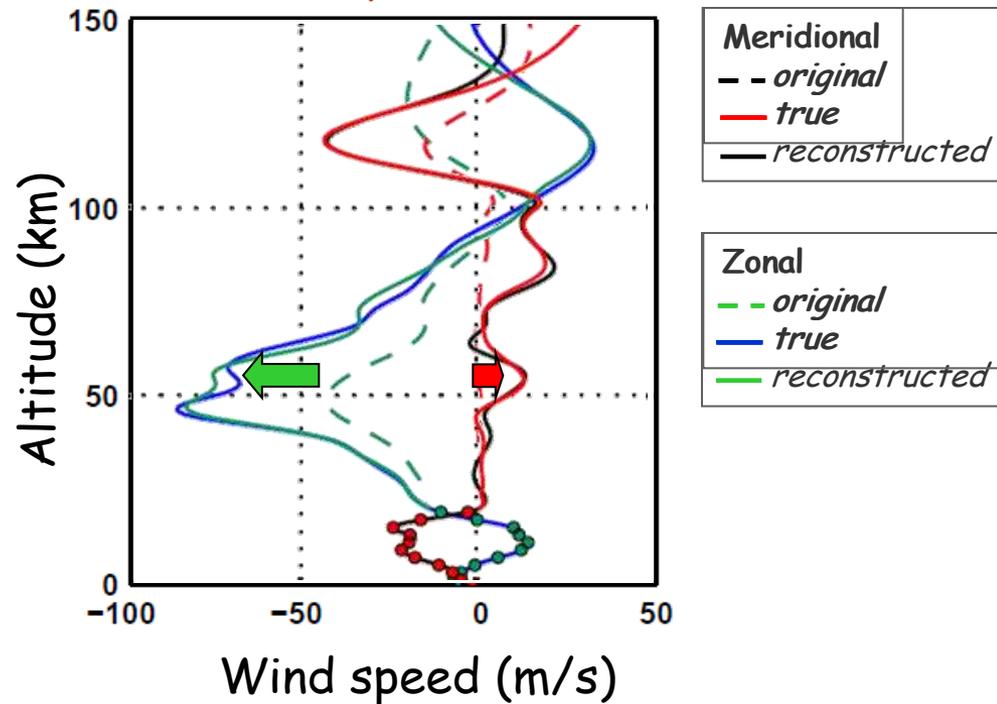
# Atmospheric remote sensing methods

- Input parameters: arrival times, incidence angle, direction of arrival
- Objective function minimization (*Tarantola, 2005*)
- Conjugate gradient algorithms LSQR (*Paige and Saunders, 1982*)
- Assessment on synthetic dataset

Synthetic data set

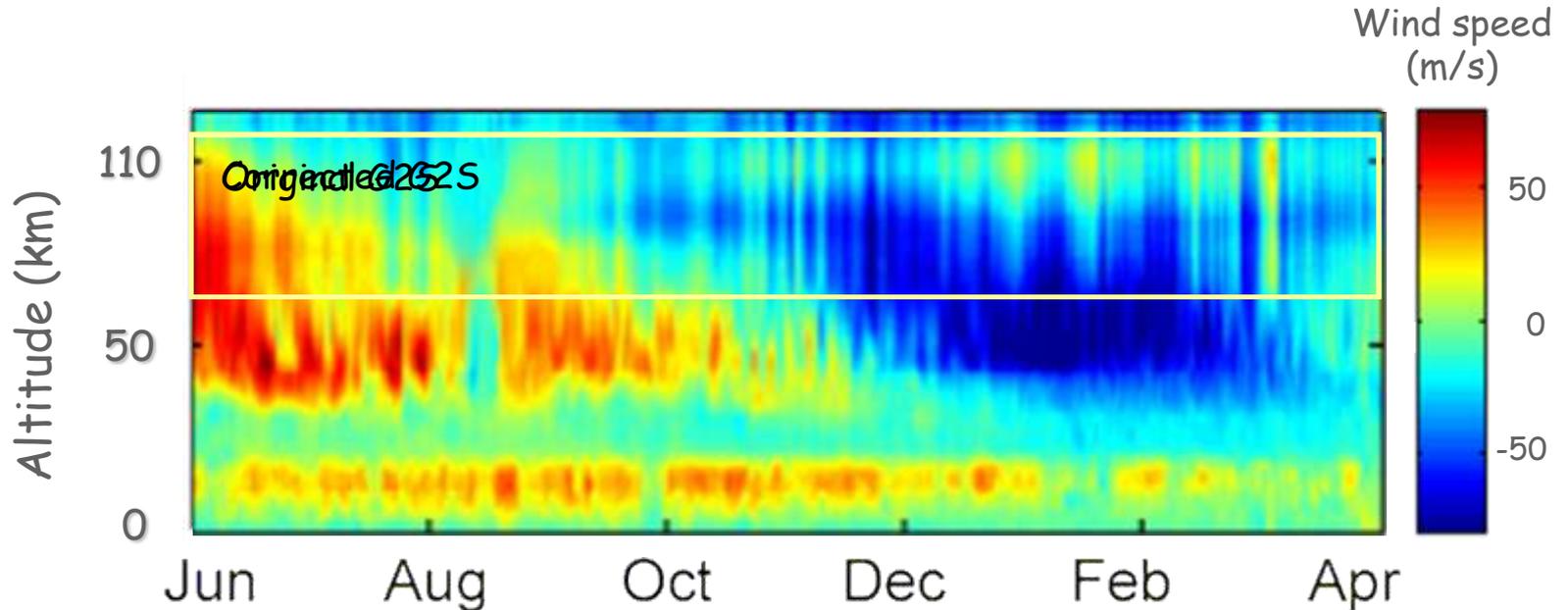


Wind profiles



# Atmospheric remote sensing methods

## Reconstruction of upper-wind profiles

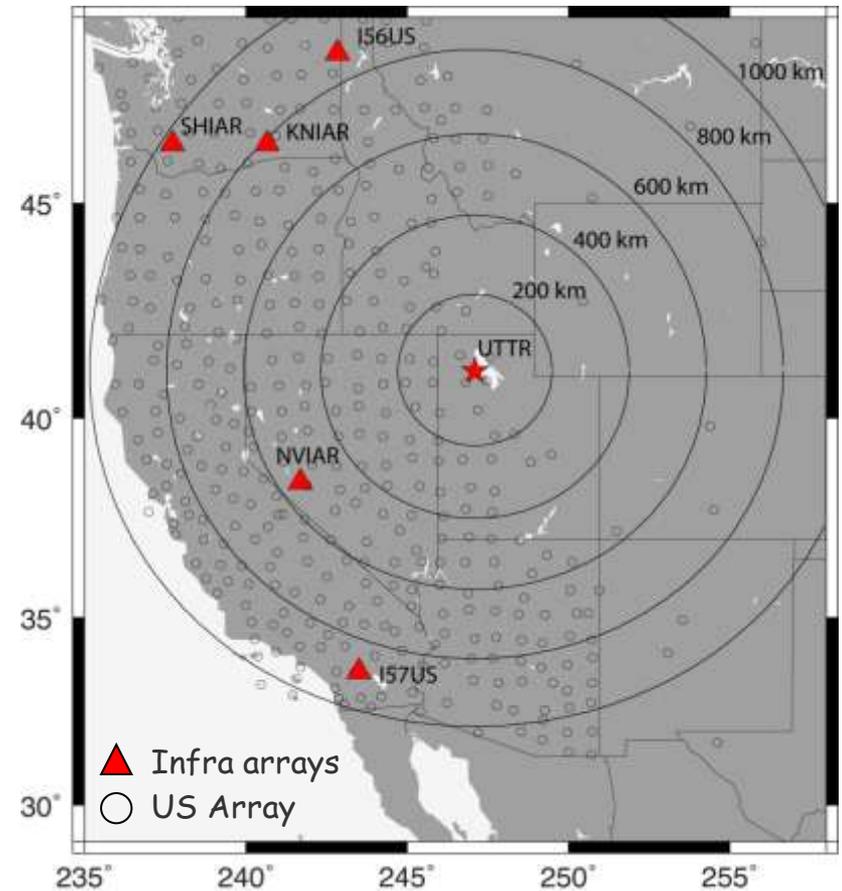
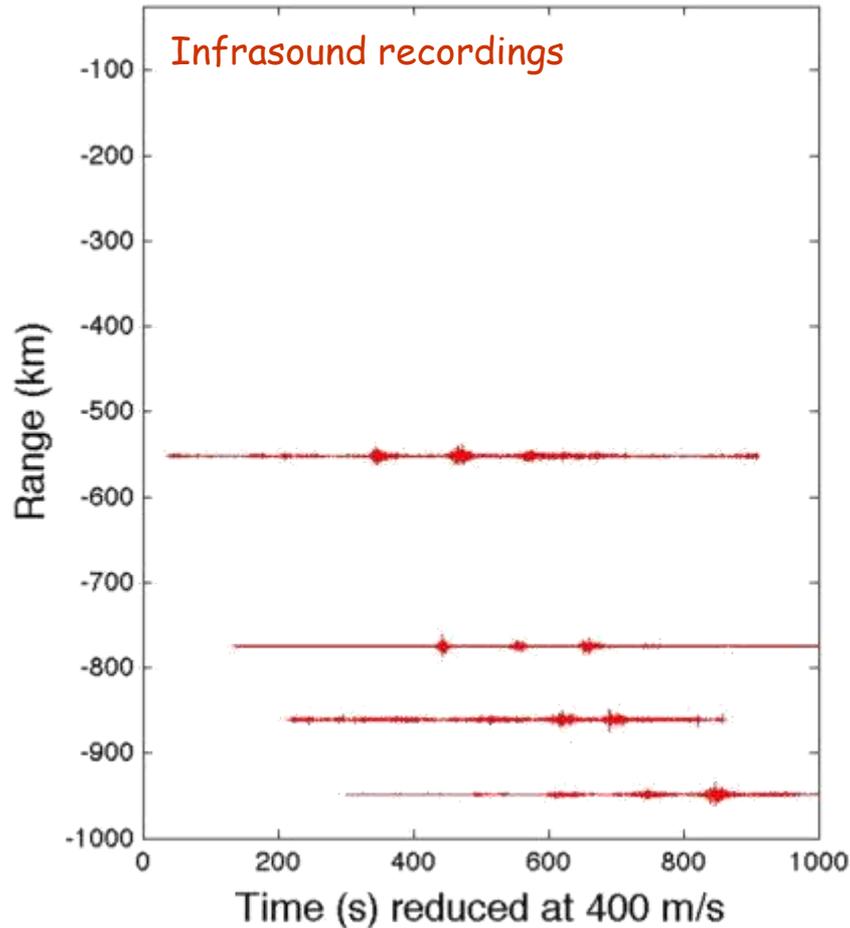


- Reconstruct short time-scale stochastic variations in the MLT
- Mesospheric zonal wind jets generally underestimated by  $\sim 20$  m/s
- In agreement with recent wind measurements in the MLT which indicate that HWM underestimates wind velocities by few 10-30 m/s

# Seismic network studies of the atmosphere

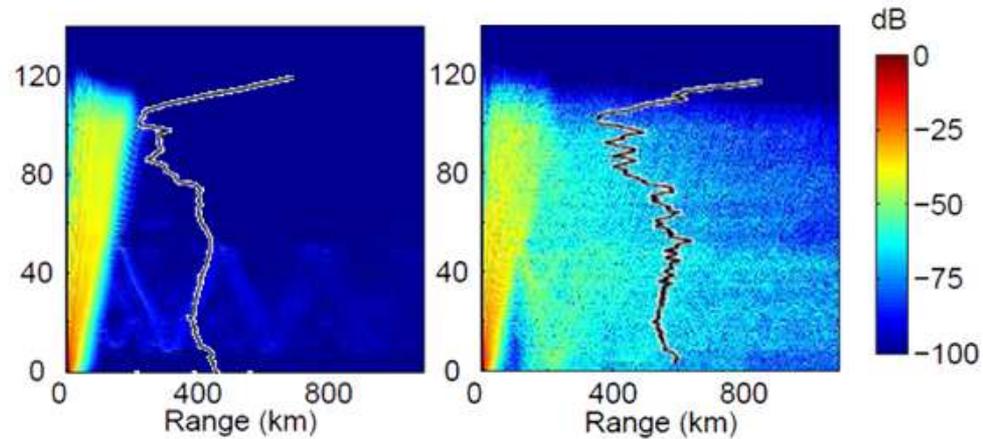
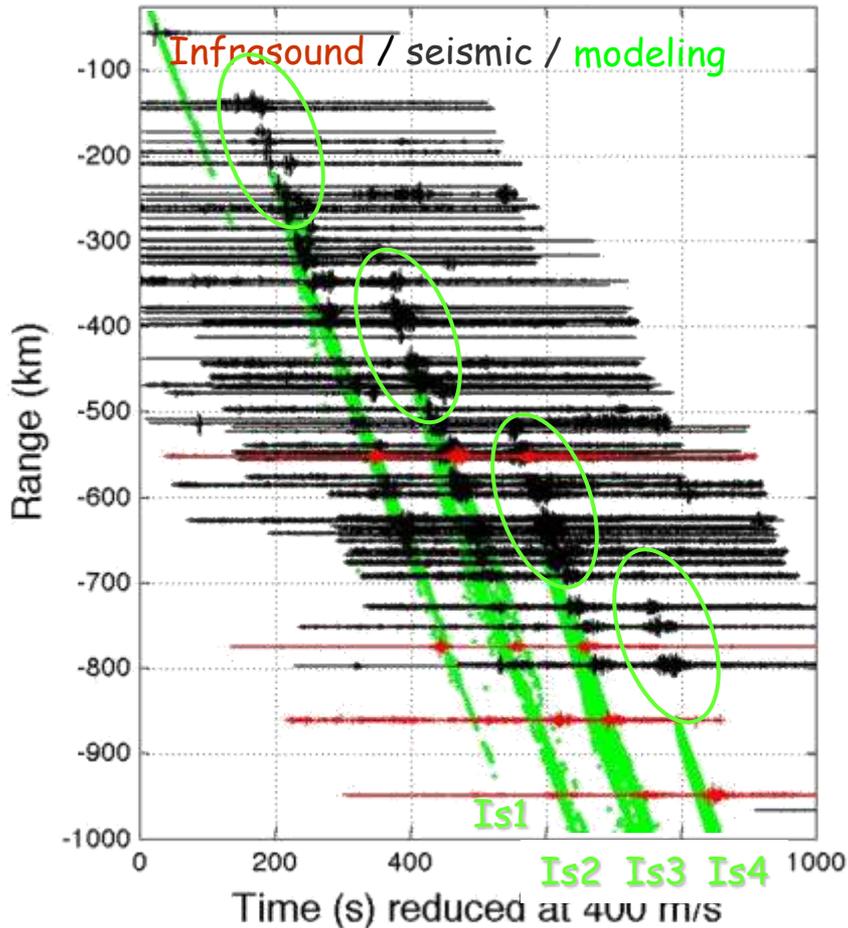


UTTR 2007, 0.8-3.0 Hz (Hedlin et al., 2011)



# Seismic network studies of the atmosphere

UTTR 2007, 0.8-3.0 Hz (Hedlin et al., 2011)



- ✓ Ground footprint of stratospheric returns
- ✓ Discrepancies explained by lack of resolution of models
- ✓ Infer small scale atmospheric structures from ground observations (Drob et al., 2013)

# Conclusion and Perspectives

- ↪ The IMS network provides a unique global coverage of infrasound
  - ✓ Far larger and much more sensitive than any previously operated network
  - ✓ Reference events are more frequently observed
  - ✓ Understand details of infrasound propagation
  
- ↪ Infrasound has developed into a broad interdisciplinary field
  - ✓ Civil applications: monitoring naturally occurring phenomena (severe weather), geophysical hazard warning systems
  - ✓ Scientific applications:
    - Earth-ocean-atmosphere interactions
    - Global and massive sensor networks available: 3D-t imaging (weather forecasting...)
    - Remote sensing methods: applicability of noise correlation technique