

1 Link between Coulomb stress changes and seismic
2 activation in the Marmara sea after the 1999, Izmit
3 (Turkey), earthquake

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Abstract. We investigate the effect of dynamic and static stress changes produced by the 1999 Izmit earthquake, on four pre-existing seismic clusters located in the eastern Marmara sea, beyond the western termination of the earthquake rupture. These four clusters show long-lasting modifications in their seismicity rate. We observe that these seismic activity variations are related to stress changes. Dynamic stress pulses activate strike-slip faulting instantaneously but, in the absence of a concomitant static Coulomb stress increase, this activation is short lived. Indeed, a large dynamic stress combined with a negative static Coulomb stress may result in an immediate activation followed by the occurrence of a seismicity shadow. In contrast, the activation of extensional clusters begins slowly and takes a few days to fully develop. It is also remarkably long-lasting and does not follow a classical Omori decay. More than 10 years after the earthquake, the extensional clusters located near the termination of the rupture, where static stress and pressure changes were high, are still activated.

1. Introduction

It is now well established that stress changes induced by large earthquakes can affect seismicity at close and far distances (*Das and Scholz*, [1981]; *Stein and Lisowski*, [1983]; *Reasenbergh and Simpson*, [1992]; *Hill et al.*, [1993]; *Anderson et al.*, [1994]; *Bodin and Gomberg*, [1994]; *King et al.*, [1994]; *Harris*, [1998]; *Brodsky et al.*, [2000]; *Gomberg et al.*, [2001, 2004]; *Marsan*, [2003]; *Prejean et al.*, [2004]; *Steacy et al.*, [2005]; *Daniel et al.*, [2006]; *Hill and Prejean*, [2007]) and may trigger or modify the timing of future earthquakes in the region (*Harris and Simpson*, [1992]; *Stein et al.*, [1992, 1999]; *Nalbant et al.*, [1998]; *Toda et al.*, [1998]; *Cocco et al.*, [2000]). On the North Anatolian Fault (NAF), a combination of static Coulomb stress increases on neighboring fault segments (*Stein et al.*, [1997]) and long-range dynamic stress excitation of extensional seismic clusters (*Durand et al.*, [2010]) explains the migration of large ruptures along this major plate boundary (*Toksöz et al.*, [1979]). However, an understanding of the deformation mechanisms which are set in action by permanent or transient stress changes is lacking and requires more detailed observations. The aim of this study is to add a set of observations based on the long-term monitoring of seismicity in the eastern Marmara sea, a region which was strongly shaken by the 1999 Mw 7.6 Izmit earthquake. This region is of particular interest because of the possible nucleation there of the next large earthquake in the NAF sequence.

Previous calculations of static stress increase on faults in this region after the Izmit earthquake have been performed by *Parsons et al.*, [2000] to infer probabilistic seismic risk for Istanbul and by *Çakir et al.*, [2003a]. In the present study we investigate the

link between stress and seismicity changes and we try to separate the roles of static and dynamic stimulations.

2. Faults and Seismicity in the Region

The Izmit earthquake occurred on August 17, 1999 and ruptured the east-west running North Anatolian Fault bilaterally over a length of about 150km (*Barka et al.*, [2002]; *Çakir et al.*, [2003b]). Nearly three months later, on November 12, the Mw 7.2 Düzce earthquake extended the rupture 40km eastward. To the west, the rupture ended in the Cinarcik basin, where the main branch of the NAF abruptly changes direction and is referred to as the Main Marmara Fault (MMF) (*Le Pichon et al.*, [2001]). The seismic activity in the eastern Marmara sea following the earthquake is depicted in Figure 1a. This figure displays seismic events which occurred between August 17 and November 5, 1999 when many seismic stations were deployed in the region (*Karabulut et al.*, [2011]). We shall use the corresponding relocated catalog for this period and the national turkish catalog of the Kandilli Observatory (Figure 1b) for the decade before and after the earthquake to study the evolution of activity in the region and to investigate its relation to stress changes. Besides the concentration of seismicity along the earthquake rupture, the post-Izmit activity clusters in a few areas: The Prince’s Islands zone of the MMF, the area off the Tuzla peninsula just north of the termination of the Izmit rupture, the Yalova region to the southwest of the rupture termination, and, further south, the Gemlik region around the Middle Branch of the NAF. This activity takes place in two major types of seismic events: Strike-slip events which are associated with the NAF system, and normal faulting events associated with the aegean extension. A cut-off magnitude is utilized to select the earthquakes used in the following analysis. We selected $M \geq 2.8$

for the Tuzla and Yalova areas, and $M \geq 3.0$ for the Prince's Islands and Gemlik zones. These cut-off magnitudes were chosen after computing the frequency-magnitude curves for each zone, and making sure that it follows a Gutenberg-Richter law for $M \geq M_c$. Except for Prince's Islands, where the limited number of earthquakes (only 31 events of magnitude above or equal to 3.0) prevented us to do so, we observed no significant rupture from a Gutenberg-Richter law down to cut-off magnitude, for separate time intervals (01/01/1989-08/16/1999, 08/17/1999-12/31/2001, 01/01/2002-08/17/2009) for each zone.

3. Observations

3.1. Prince's Islands

The Prince's Islands cluster is located on the Main Marmara Fault, the continuation of the main branch of the NAF in the Marmara sea (Figure 1). Only the relocated data are used here, since the unrelocated (Kandilli) catalog does not allow to select earthquakes in this case (see figure 1). As a consequence, we could not estimate the rate of earthquakes in this cluster prior to the Izmit mainshock. The evolution of seismic activity in this cluster is shown in Figure 2a. It is characterized by a strong immediate activation followed by a rapid extinction of the activity. Indeed, some of the largest early aftershocks of the earthquake occurred in this cluster (*Orgülü and Aktar*, [2001]; *Ozalaybey et al.*, [2002]). These events have almost pure strike-slip mechanism with a nodal plane oriented along the fault direction (*Orgülü and Aktar*, [2001]; *Ozalaybey et al.*, [2002]). The Coulomb stress produced by the earthquake on the MMF at the center of this cluster and near its medium depth (Table 1) is shown in Figure 2b. The stress is calculated using the fault model inferred for the earthquake (*Bouchon et al.*, [2002]) and the discrete wavenumber

method (*Bouchon*, [1981]; *Cotton and Coutant*, [1997]). A friction coefficient of 0.6 is assumed. Other values (0.4 to 0.7) were also tested. The influence of this coefficient is very limited (figure 2b). While the static Coulomb stress increase is relatively small (a little over 1 bar), the positive peak of the dynamic Coulomb stress reaches about 28 bars, a value typical of what is often observed for earthquake stress drops. In view of Figures 2a,b, we interpret the immediate and strong activation of this short segment of the NAF as triggered by the high dynamic stress pulse radiated by the earthquake. Likewise, we attribute its rapid extinction to the low level of the permanent Coulomb stress increase. These observations support the view that static stress changes and transient deformations have different timescales as it has been proposed (*Marsan*, [2003]; *Voisin et al.*, [2004]).

3.2. Gemlik (Middle branch)

Seismicity on and around the Middle Branch of the NAF is clearly activated by the Izmit earthquake near the place where the Middle Branch enters the Marmara sea (Figure 1). The length of the fault segment which is activated is relatively long and extends over about 50 km. Background seismic activity in the region shows that this zone encompasses both strike-slip and normal faulting events (*Karabulut et al.*, [2011]). Normal faulting events dominate onshore, whereas strike-slip events tend to occur offshore. The activation is immediate offshore where the strike-slip regime dominates, while it takes a few days to develop onshore, reaching its peak there about a week after the earthquake (Figure 1a). The activation lasts for several months and is followed by an almost total extinction which lasts for nearly two years (Figure 3a).

We compute the rate of background earthquakes prior to and posterior to the Izmit earthquake. Background earthquakes are those events that remain after declustering, so that

their rate can directly be interpreted as a forcing rate alone in the absence of any earthquake interactions. We here compute the background rate using the simple approach of *Hainzl et al.*, [2006], which is appropriate at these long time scales. For the Gemlik area, the background rate after the Izmit earthquake (0.0070 events per day) is nearly three times smaller than the one before (0.0130 events per day).

The Coulomb stress calculated for a fault orientation and mechanism representative of the Middle Branch of the NAF (Table 1, Figure 3b) reaches a positive dynamic value of about 8 bars but has a negative static value of 4 ± 0.5 bars (depending on the value of the friction coefficient). Nearly similar values are obtained for the normal faulting events geometry. Thus, like what is observed on the Prince's Islands segment of the MMF, the dynamic stress seems to control the seismicity at short time range (immediate activation), whereas the static stress could control its long time range evolution (decrease of seismic rate and seismicity shadow). The migration of seismicity from offshore to onshore after a few days suggests a rapid decrease of the strike-slip activity, as observed along the MMF, and a slow decrease of normal-fault activity. The emergence of quiescence after a period of triggered activity has been observed elsewhere (*Marsan*, [2003]; *Ma et al.*, [2005]; *Marsan and Nalbant*, [2005]; *Daniel et al.*, [2008]). Like in the present case, these observations show short term triggering followed by long term quiescence, suggesting the existence of two distinct interaction regimes, a first one caused by the destabilisation of active faults by travelling seismic waves, and a second one due to the remaining static stress perturbation (*Marsan and Nalbant*, [2005]).

3.3. Tuzla cluster

This cluster is of particular interest because it lays near the junction of the Izmit rupture with the Main Marmara Fault. If static Coulomb stress increase alone were to determine the nucleation site of the next large earthquake on the NAF, it is logically where it would happen. Most of the events in this cluster have normal faulting mechanisms and are located between depths of 5 and 10km (*Karabulut et al.*, [2002]). The evolution of seismicity (Figure 4a) shows a strong activation following the Izmit earthquake. Like for the normal faulting events around the Middle Branch of the NAF, this activation was not immediate but built up slowly over several days and reached its peak about a week after the earthquake (*Durand et al.*, [2010]). This slow onset suggests that fluids could be responsible of the activation of seismicity. This activation does not appear limited in time, as 10 years after the earthquake the background activity (0.0064 events per day) is still higher than what it was before (0.0017 events per day). The normal faults in this area underwent a peak dynamic Coulomb stress of about 30 bars during the earthquake and have had a permanent Coulomb stress increase of nearly 9 ± 2 bars ever since (Figure 4b), depending on the value of the friction coefficient.

3.4. Yalova cluster

This cluster is a long-recognized nest of seismicity located southwest of the termination of the Izmit rupture. It covers an area about 20km across which is well known for its geothermal springs. It was strongly activated by the Izmit earthquake and is made up of normal faulting events on north-dipping east-west trending faults (*Karabulut et al.*, [2002]; *Ozalaybey et al.*, [2002]; *Bulut and Aktar*, [2007]). Like for the other normal faulting events in the region, the seismic activity was not immediate but built up slowly over a few

days (*Daniel et al.*, [2006]; *Durand et al.*, [2010]). As shown in Figure 5a, 10 years after the earthquake, the background rate (0.0250 events per day) is still considerably higher than what it was before (0.0061 events per day). The Coulomb calculation shows a large negative static value (-6 ± 1 bars) on the normal faults in the area (Figure 5b), while the positive peak of the dynamic stress is relatively small. Thus, the strong activation of long duration which is observed is not related to Coulomb stress. A calculation of the pressure produced by the earthquake at the center of the cluster (Figure 6) shows that the area underwent a permanent compression of about 11 bars. The reaction of the fluid-filled fractured area to this high pressure increase seems the logical mechanism of the activation.

4. Discussion

In order to gain more insight into the link between stress and seismicity, we calculate the spatial variation of the Coulomb stress in the eastern Marmara sea. To do so, we separate the different tectonic regimes of the region into 6 zones, which cover the areas where known faults or seismic activity are present (Table 2). In each zone we consider the predominant fault orientation and mechanism associated with the seismicity and evaluate the corresponding Coulomb stress at a grid of points located at 5km interval and 10km depth. The resulting map of the positive peak of the dynamic Coulomb stress is presented in Figure 7. The seismicity which occurred in the day following the earthquake is superposed on the stress map. The largest events in the region on this day are associated with the two branches of the NAF: the Prince's Islands segment of the MMF, and the Gemlik Bay segment of the Middle Branch of the NAF. These events are located in areas where the dynamic Coulomb stress is particularly high. On the Middle Branch

the seismicity is only observed on the offshore segment where the dynamic stress is the highest. The inland segment, closer to the Izmit rupture but where the dynamic stress is significantly lower seems devoid of activity. This suggests that the activation along the Middle Branch is controlled by the directivity of the Izmit rupture, as has been observed elsewhere (*Gomberg et al.*, [2001, 2003]). A similar calculation done for a normal faulting mechanism in this zone instead of a strike-slip one, is presented in Supplementary Figure S1. It shows a lower value of the dynamic stress in this zone. This indicates that the dynamic Coulomb stress around the Middle Branch is more likely to have triggered strike-slip rather than normal-faulting events, in agreement with what is observed on the day after the earthquake.

The map of static Coulomb stress is presented in Figure 8. Its value is inferred from the level of the stress time history 100s after the start of the earthquake. As seen in Figures 2b-5b, the stress has by then reached its permanent value. The seismicity which occurred between October 1st (6 weeks after the earthquake) and November 5th, 1999 is superposed on the map. Most of the seismic activity which occurs away from the Izmit rupture is now associated with normal-faulting events. To the north of the rupture termination, the Tuzla cluster location correlates with an area of large static stress. In contrast, activity on the Prince's Islands section of the MMF where the static stress is low (about 1 bar) is now almost extinct. To the south, seismic activity has picked up in the inland and coastal area around Gemlik, where normal faulting dominates, but has largely decreased on the offshore segment of the Middle Branch of the NAF. The rapid decrease of strike-slip activity there and in Prince's Islands correlates with negative or low values of the static Coulomb stress on the associated strike-slip faults. The strongest

activation in the weeks and months following the earthquake occurs in the Yalova cluster. This activation is in the form of normal faulting events and, like the activation of normal faulting events in the Gemlik area (Supplementary Figure S2), it corresponds to a zone of decrease in static Coulomb stress. The main reason for the negative static Coulomb stress at Yalova and Gemlik is that these zones are put under compression after the Izmit earthquake. This has the effect of increasing the normal stress (in absolute value) across faults and, in the absence of fluids, would increase friction. The two areas, and more particularly Yalova, have been known since antiquity for their geothermal springs which are present throughout the region (*Eisonlohr*, [1996]). This indicates the widespread presence of crustal fluids circulating in this highly fractured region. The map showing the static pressurization of the region produced by the earthquake is presented in Figure 9. The large permanent compression undergone by the Yalova region resulted in a large long-lasting increase of its seismic activity (Figure 5a), which is still being felt more than 10 years before the earthquake.

The parallel observations of seismicity and stress in the eastern Marmara sea following the Izmit earthquake help shed some light on how stress changes affect seismicity. As emphasized elsewhere (*Dewey*, [1976] ; *Karabulut et al.*, [2011]) the interest of the region is that it combines in the same place intense strike-slip deformation and intense extension. In spite of this apparent complexity, what we observe is surprisingly simple and seems physically logical:

1. The strike-slip events are immediately activated after the earthquake. They occur on two sections of the NAF (the MMF and the Middle Branch) which underwent high dy-

215 namic Coulomb stress and small or negative static Coulomb stress. Thus, their activation
216 seems triggered by the dynamic stress.

217 2. This strike-slip activity decays very rapidly. The short duration of the dynamic
218 stress excitation that these areas underwent compared to the sustained excitation that
219 static stress would procure seems consistent with a rapid extinction of the activity as
220 observed elsewhere (*Gomberg et al.*, [2001]) and reproduced experimentally (*Belardinelli*
221 *et al.*, [2003]).

222 3. Intense normal faulting activity seems triggered by the static deformation of a crustal
223 volume where the presence of fluids is widespread. *Beeler et al.*, [2000] and *Cocco and Rice*,
224 [2002] have shown that fluids can decrease the effective normal stress enough to trigger
225 failure while *Hill and Prejean*, [2007] suggest that fluid-driven deformations are sufficient
226 to trigger events. For the Yalova and Gemlik regions, pressure increase seems to have been
227 the triggering factor. In Tuzla where the presence of crustal fluids is less documented,
228 static Coulomb stress increase or permanent volume dilatation or a combination of both
229 were possible triggers.

230 4. The normal faulting activity begins slowly and builds up over a few days. Because
231 this activation involves fluid circulation in a large crustal volume, the presence of a period
232 during which the activity builds up and extends spatially (*Karabulut et al.*, [2011]) seems
233 to be expected. *Nur and Booker*, [1972] have shown that the redistribution of the pore
234 pressure by fluid flow can lead to a decrease of the strength of faults and delayed rupture.

235 5. Once started, the normal faulting activity lasts for a long time. In Yalova and Tuzla
236 the seismicity is still considerably higher more than 10 years after the earthquake than

what it was before. In Gemlik, where the permanent deformation is smaller, the activation lasted for about 10 months.

Combined with other studies, the observations that we have reported show the variety and richness of the seismic triggering mechanisms involved. Transient or static Coulomb stress increases can both activate the same seismogenic structure. Which one dominates in a given case is necessarily a function of the distance to the source of the excitation. For instance, three months after the Izmit earthquake, the Yalova cluster was slightly activated by the Düzce earthquake nearly 200km away, making dynamic stress the likely triggering excitation at that time (*Daniel et al.*, [2006]).

The present observations reinforce the differences which have been previously observed between the response of extensional zones and strike-slip faults (*Hill and Prejean*, [2007]; *Durand et al.*, [2010]). The remarkable sensitivity of extensional clusters to stress excitation which is often seen by the long range triggering of these clusters, is shown here by the very long duration of their activation. Their delayed response shows that the strain changes induced by the earthquake initiate physical processes which take some time to fully develop (*Gomberg*, [1996]; *Freed*, [2005]; *Hill and Prejean*, [2007]). The peak of activation occurs here after a few days, providing an order for the time constant of the processes involved.

The present observations also confirm the limited time efficiency of dynamic triggering previously reported (*Marsan*, [2003]; *Voisin et al.*, [2004]). This characteristic which is displayed here for strike-slip faulting, does not, however, apply to extensional clusters for which fluids may be the triggering agent (*Durand et al.*, [2010]).

Acknowledgments. (Text here)

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Figure 1 : Maps of seismic activity in the Cinarcik Basin, eastern Marmara Sea. The inset shows the location of the studied area. The Main branch of the NAF is in red (Izmit rupture in dotted line, Main Marmara Fault in continuous line). The less active Middle Branch of the NAF is in yellow. The boxes show the extent of the zones over which the cumulative numbers of events are displayed. a) Relocated catalog (used to plot the cumulative number of events in the Prince's Islands zone) from 08/17/1999 to 11/05/1999, without any condition on magnitude. Events during the day following the Izmit earthquake are in green. b) Kandilli catalog (used for the Tuzla, Yalova and Gemlik areas) over the period from 1989 to 2009, for the events of magnitude ≥ 2.8 . Events during the 10 years preceding the Izmit earthquake are in green.

Figure 2 : a) Cumulative number of events on the Prince's Islands segment of the Main Marmara Fault from August 17 to November 5, 1999, using the relocated catalog. b) Coulomb stress calculated in the middle of this segment (for the receiver coordinates and configuration, see Table 1) for three different friction coefficients ($\mu = 0.4$, $\mu = 0.6$, $\mu = 0.7$).

Figure 3 : a) Cumulative number of events in the Gemlik region for the decade before and the decade after the earthquake. The blue line represents the cumulative number of background earthquakes before the Izmit mainshock, the red one, after the mainshock. The jump in the cumulative number during the year 2007 is due to a M=5.2 earthquake. We consider only the events of magnitude larger than 3. b) Coulomb stress calculated in the middle of the Gemlik cluster (for the receiver coordinates and configuration, see Table 1) for three different friction coefficients ($\mu = 0.4$, $\mu = 0.6$, $\mu = 0.7$).

Figure 4 : a) Cumulative number of events in the Tuzla cluster for the decade before and the decade after the earthquake. We consider the events of magnitude larger than 2.8. To facilitate comparison, the time scale is reversed before the earthquake. b) Coulomb stress calculated in

the middle of the Tuzla cluster (for the receiver coordinates and configuration, see Table 1) for three different friction coefficients ($\mu = 0.4$, $\mu = 0.6$, $\mu = 0.7$).

Figure 5 : a) Cumulative number of events in the Yalova cluster for the decade before and the decade after the earthquake. We consider the events of magnitude larger than 2.8. To facilitate comparison, the time scale is reversed before the earthquake. b) Coulomb stress calculated in the middle of the Yalova cluster (for the receiver coordinates and configuration, see Table 1) for three different friction coefficients ($\mu = 0.4$, $\mu = 0.6$, $\mu = 0.7$).

Figure 6 : Pressure at the Yalova cluster (the configuration of the receiver is the same as in Figure 5b).

Figure 7 : Map of the peak (positive) dynamic Coulomb stress calculated in each zone of interest. The receiver configurations in each zone is given in Table 2. Black dots denote the events of $M \geq 2.8$ in the day after the earthquake. Green circles show the $M \geq 4$ events, for the same period. Blue diamonds indicate the locations where the Coulomb stress time histories of Figures 2b-5b are calculated. The dotted lines show the traces of the Izmit rupture and the Main Marmara Fault. The continuous line is the Middle Branch of the NAF. The dashed boxes show the extent of the zones over which the cumulative numbers of events are displayed.

Figure 8 : Map of the static Coulomb stress changes calculated in each zone of interest. These values are inferred from the amplitude of the stress time histories 100s after the start of the earthquake. The seismicity represented is the activity between October 1, and November 5, 1999. The symbols are the same as in Figure 7.

Figure 9 : Map of the static pressure calculated in each zone of interest. These values are inferred from the amplitude of the pressure time histories 100s after the start of the earthquake.

452 The seismicity represented is the activity between October 1, and November 5, 1999. The symbols
453 are the same as in Figure 7.

Table 1. Parameters used for the stress calculation in each cluster. Strike is given from north.

Cluster name	lon (deg.)	lat (deg.)	depth (km)	strike (deg.)	dip (deg.)	rake (deg.)
Prince's Islands	29.07	40.79	10	113	90	0
Gemlik	29.16	40.43	10	90	90	0
Yalova	29.10	40.63	10	300	60	90
Tuzla	29.19	40.76	10	155	70	90

Table 2. Parameters used for the calculation of stresses in each area

	lon. min.	lon. max.	lat. min.	lat. max			
Zone	(deg.)	(deg.)	(deg.)	(deg.)	strike (deg.)	dip (deg.)	rake (deg.)
1	29.01	29.13	40.77	40.82	113	90	0
2	28.16	29.33	40.27	40.52	90	90	0
3	29.15	29.27	40.73	40.80	155	70	90
4	28.84	29.26	40.52	40.66	300	60	90
5	28.60	28.89	40.83	40.93	105	78	0
6	28.89	29.01	40.77	40.93	113	90	0
7	29.33	29.70	40.27	40.52	90	90	0

Supplementary Figure S1 : Map of the peak (positive) dynamic Coulomb stress calculated in each zone of interest. The receiver configurations are the same as for figure 7, except that for zones 2 and 7, we consider normal faulting mechanism instead of a strike-slip one. Black dots denote the events of $M \geq 2.8$ in the day after the earthquake. Green circles show the $M \geq 4$ events, for the same period.

Supplementary Figure S2 : Map of the static Coulomb stress changes calculated in each zone of interest. The receiver configurations are the same as for figure 8, except that for zones 2 and 7, we consider normal faulting mechanism instead of a strike-slip one. The seismicity represented is the activity between October 1, and November 5, 1999. The symbols are the same as in Supplementary Figure S1.

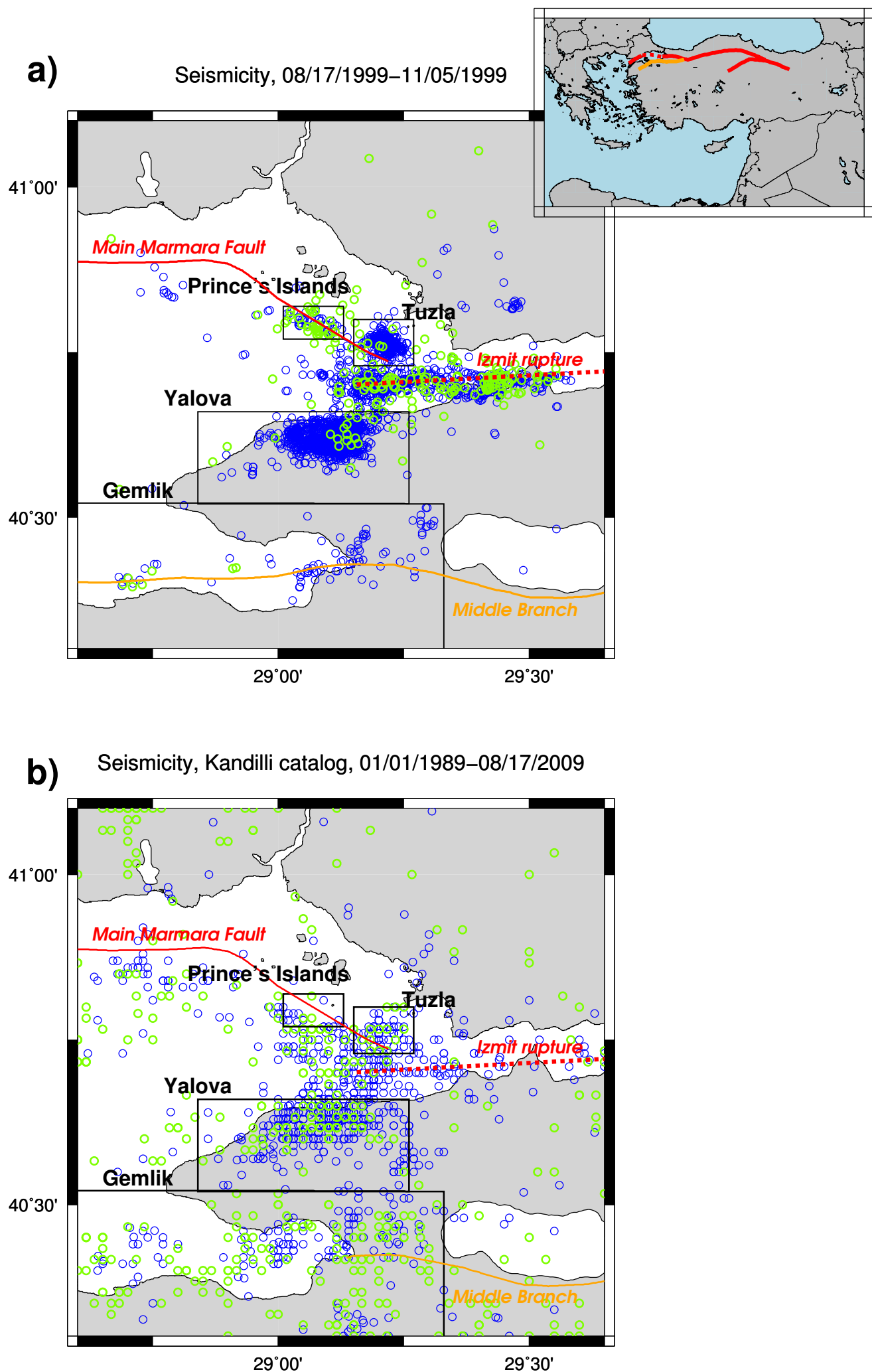
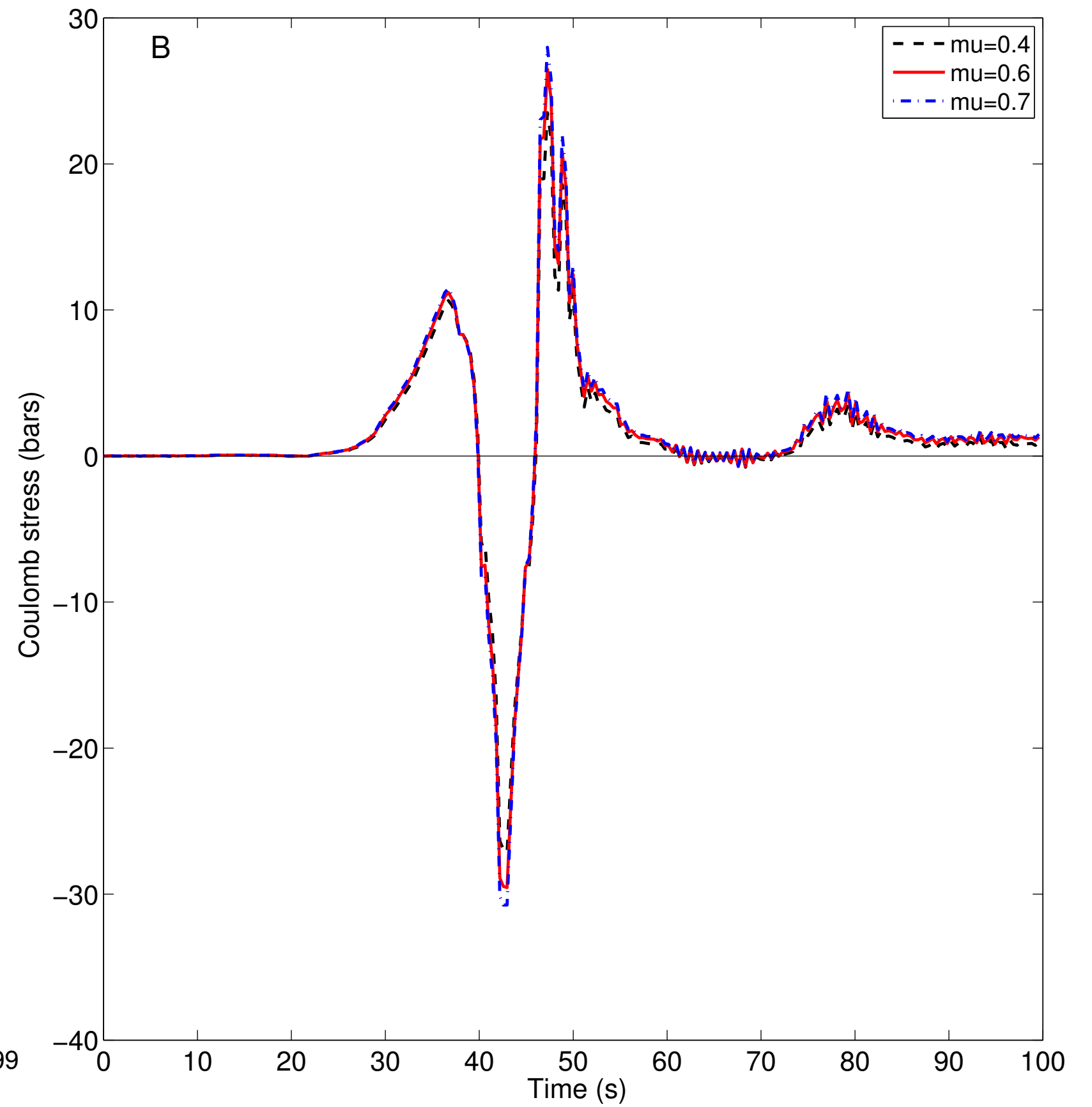
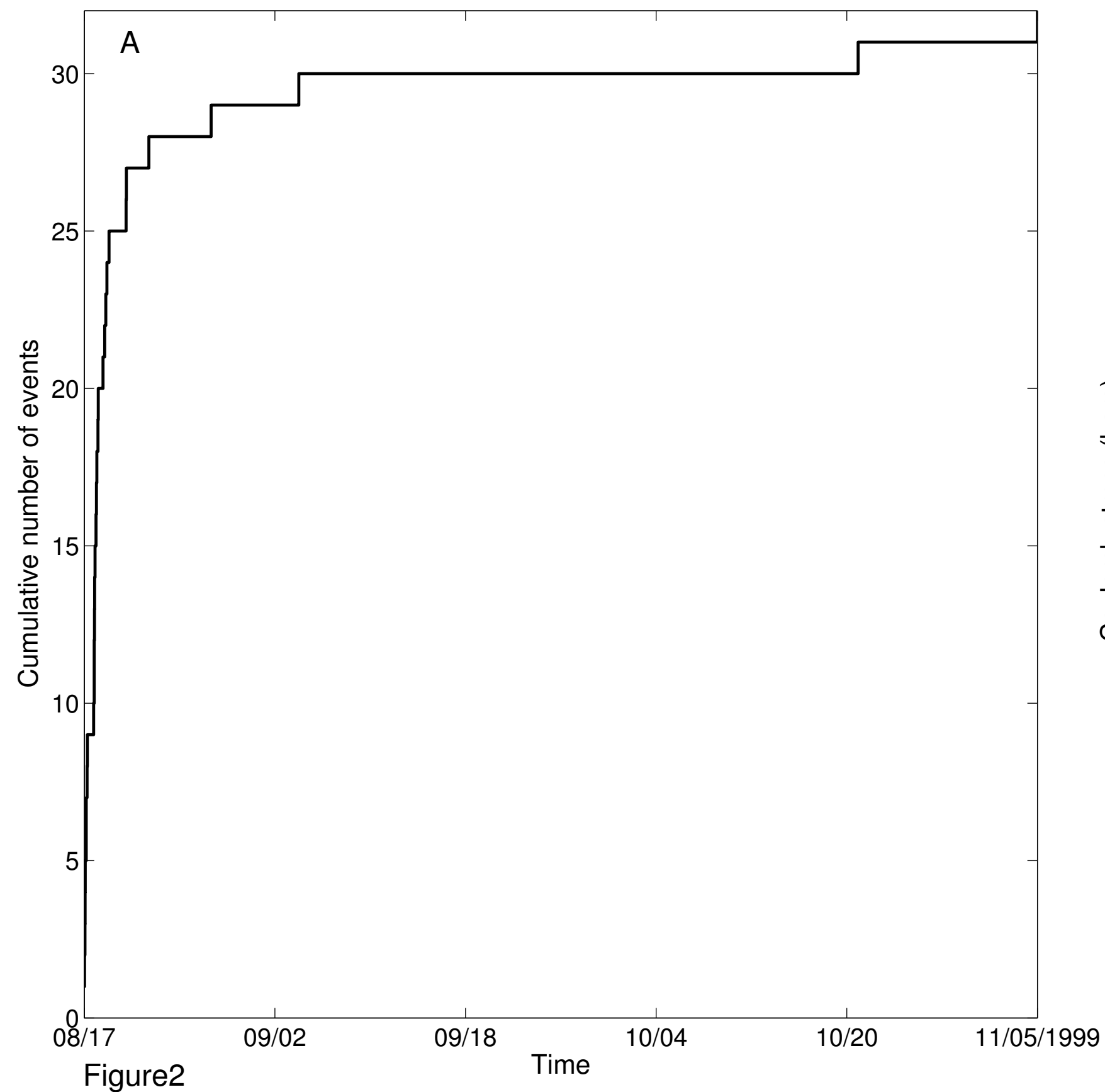


Figure 1



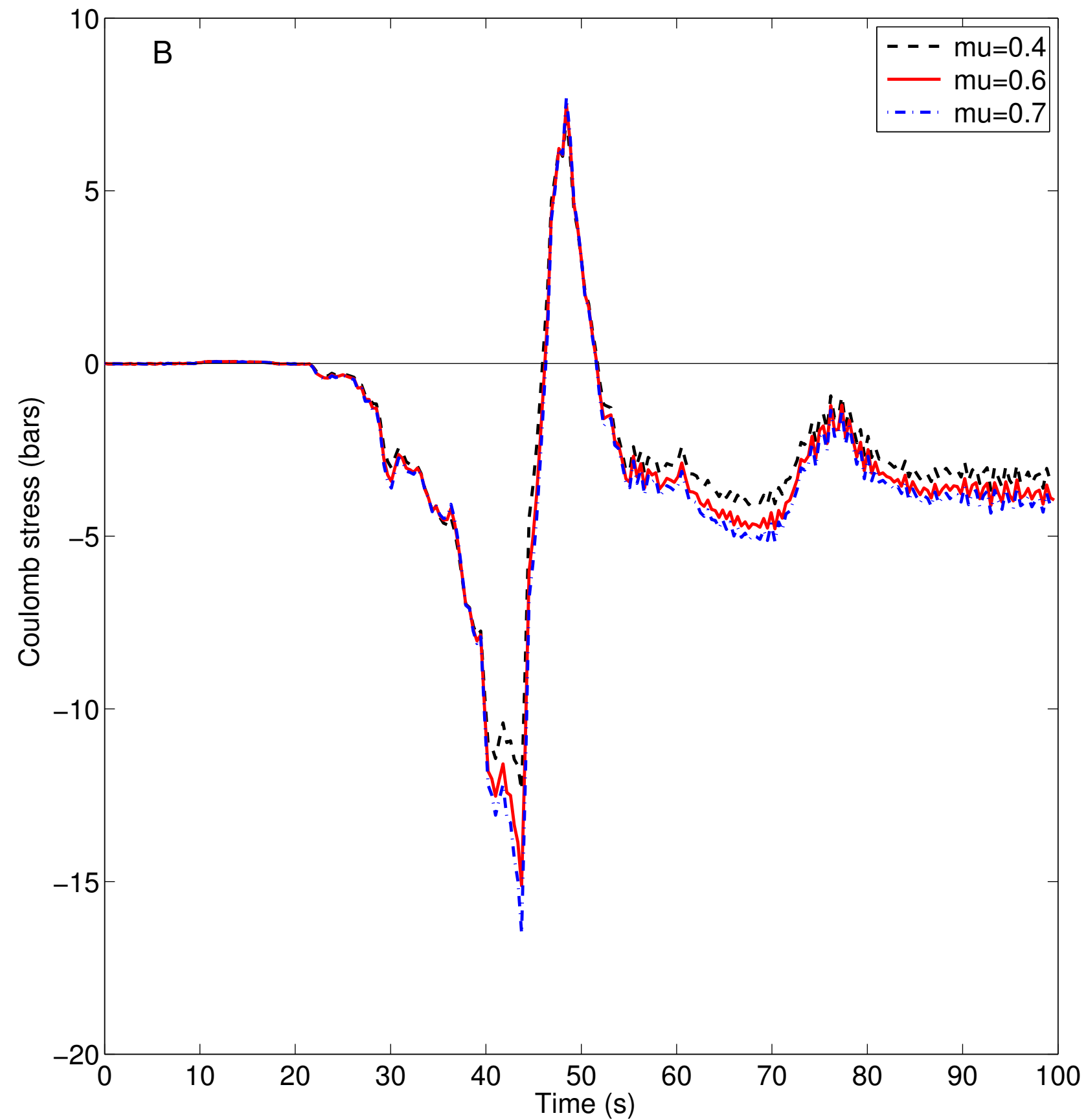
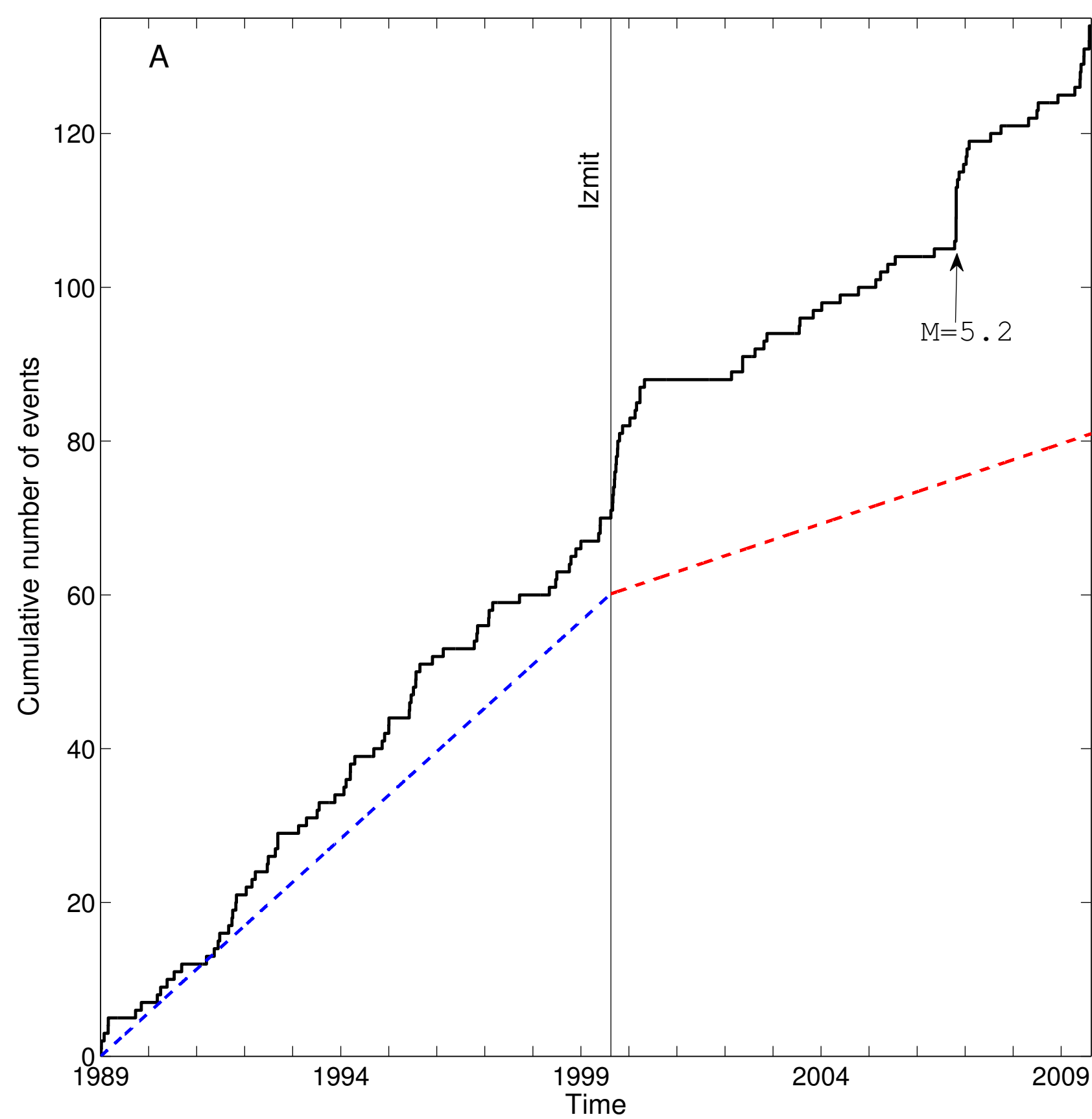


Figure 3

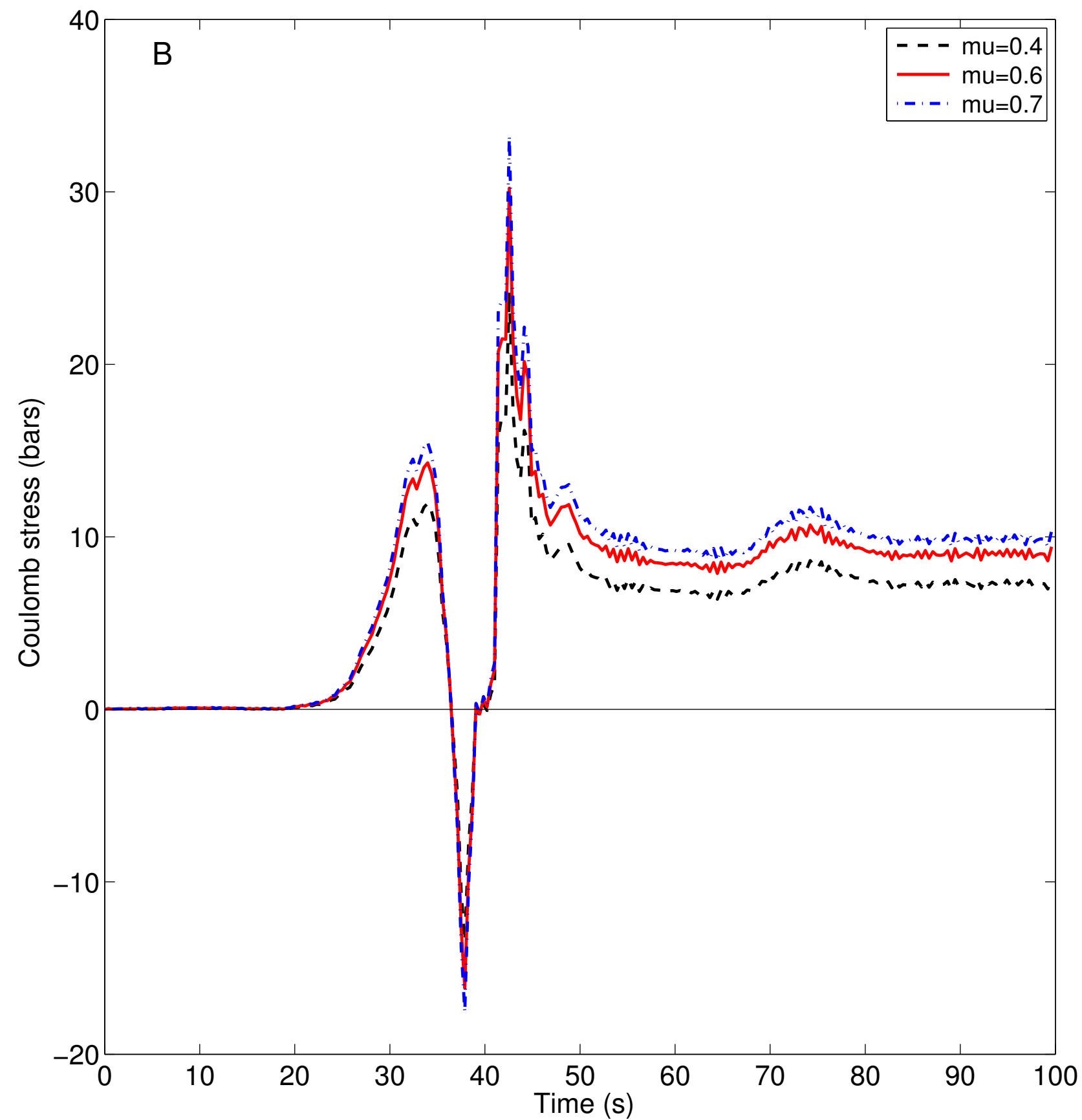
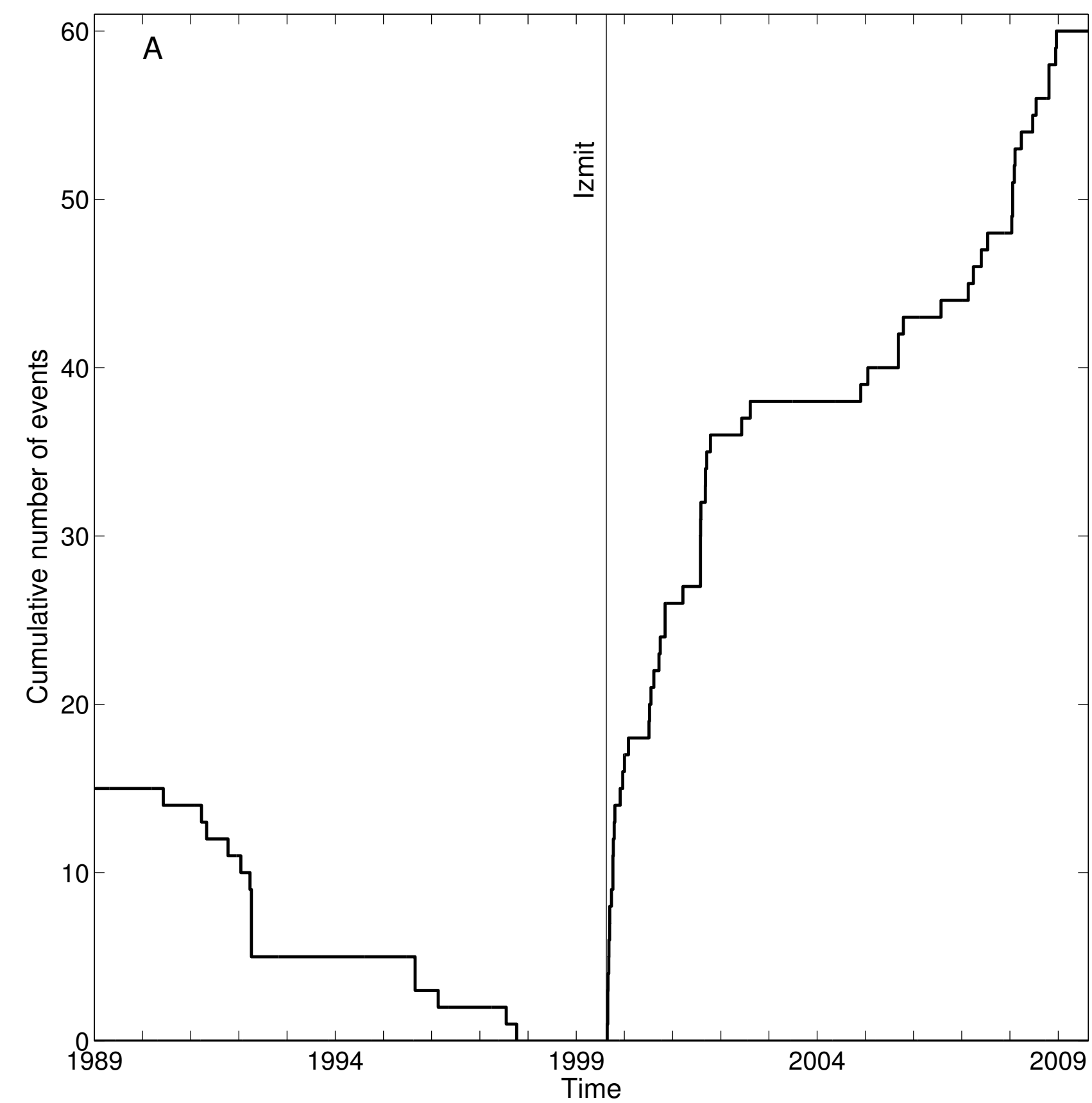


Figure 4

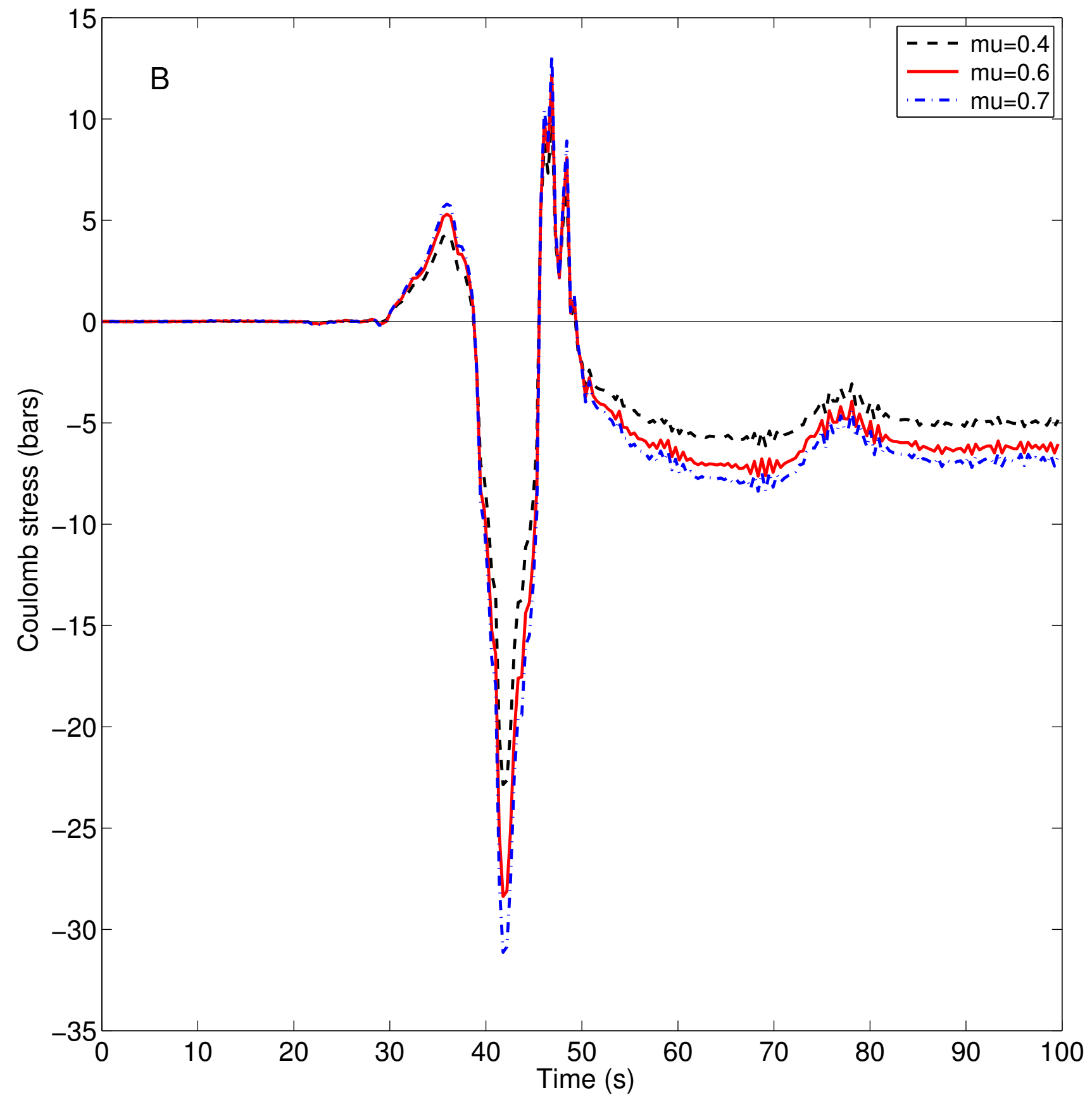
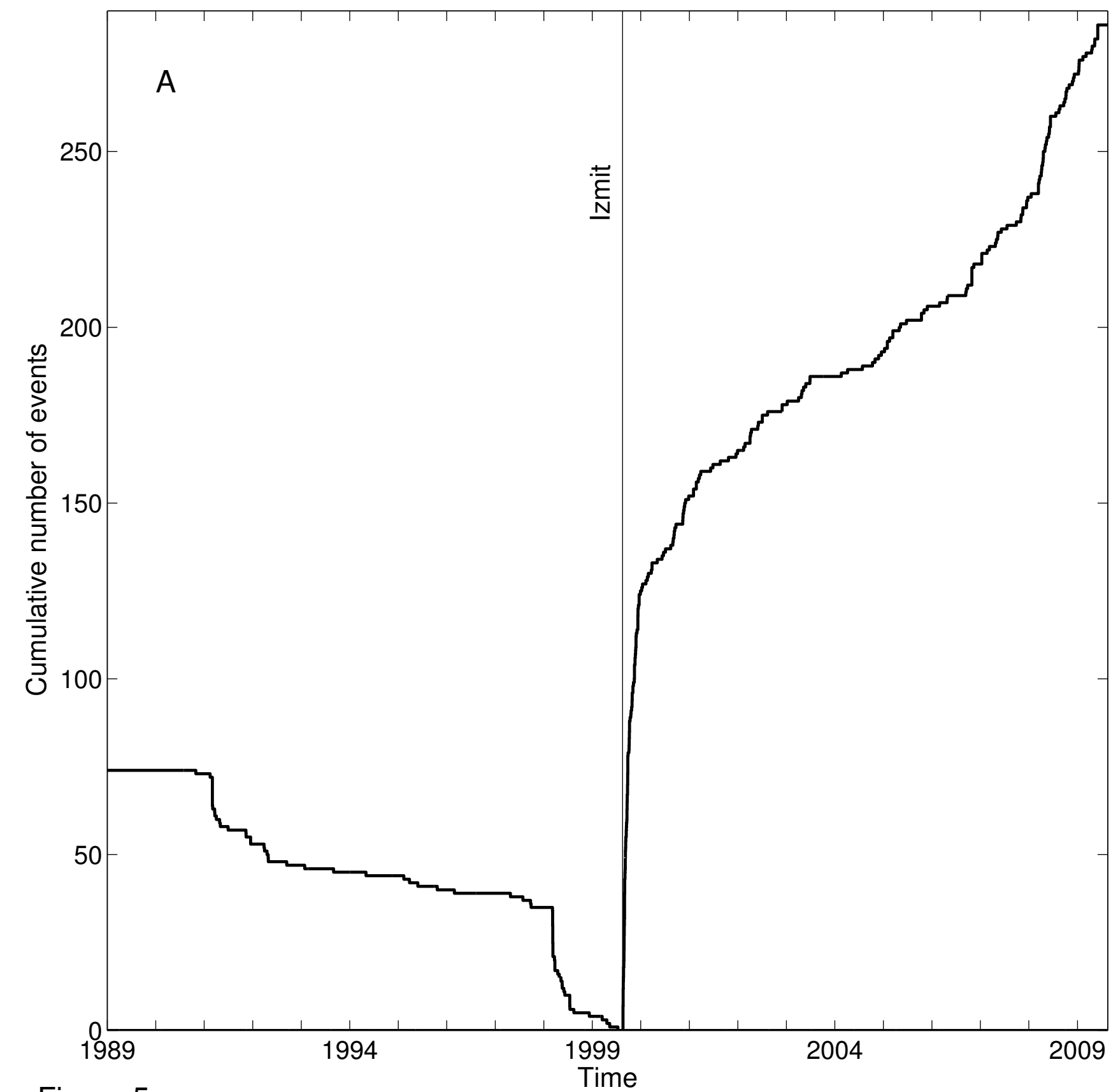


Figure 5

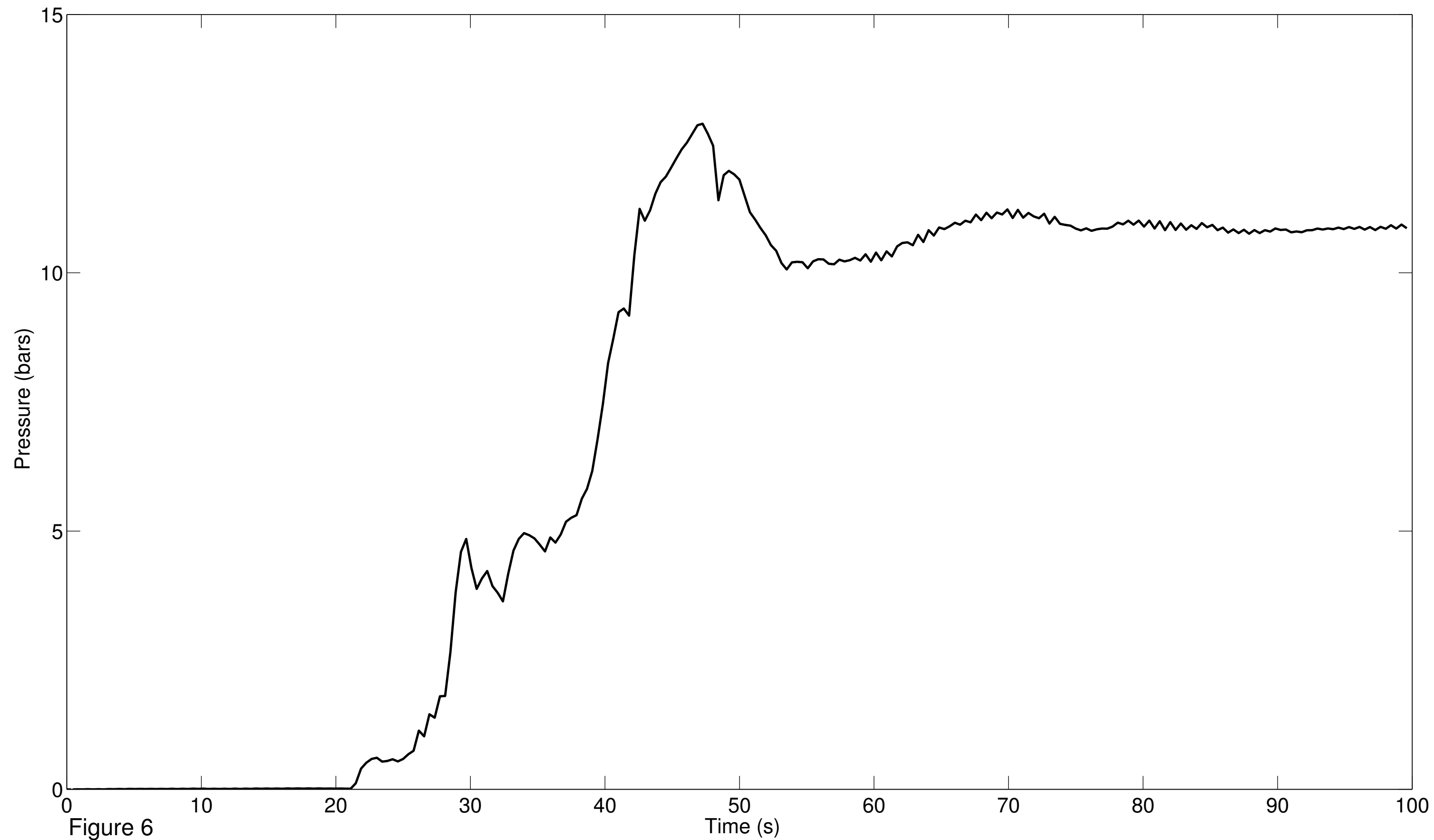


Figure 6

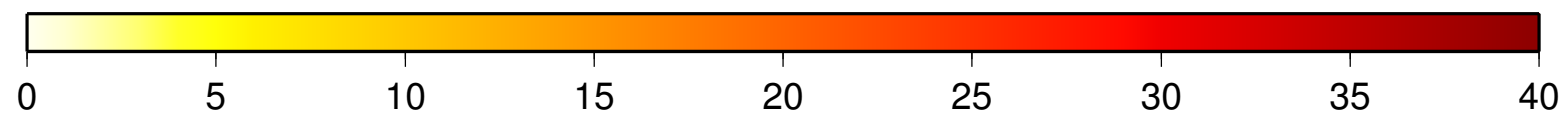
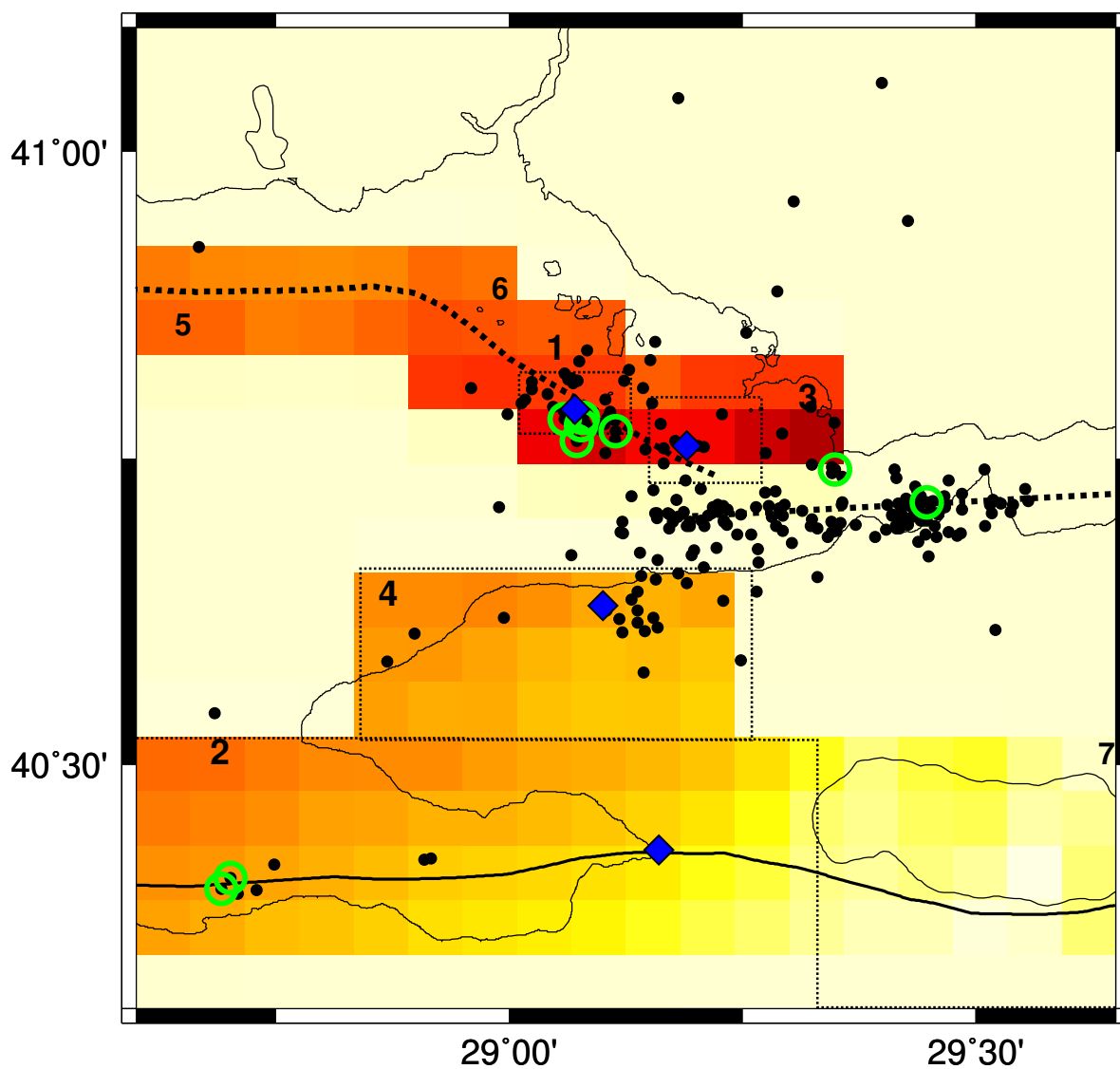


Figure 7 dynamic Coulomb stress

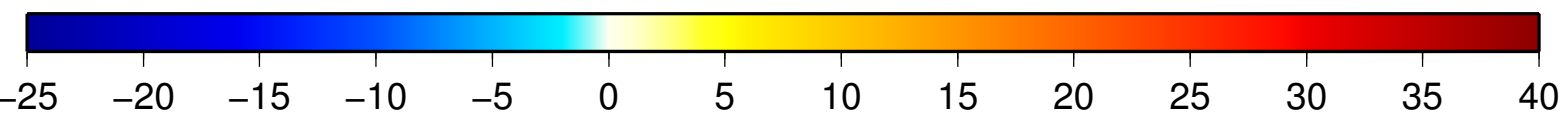
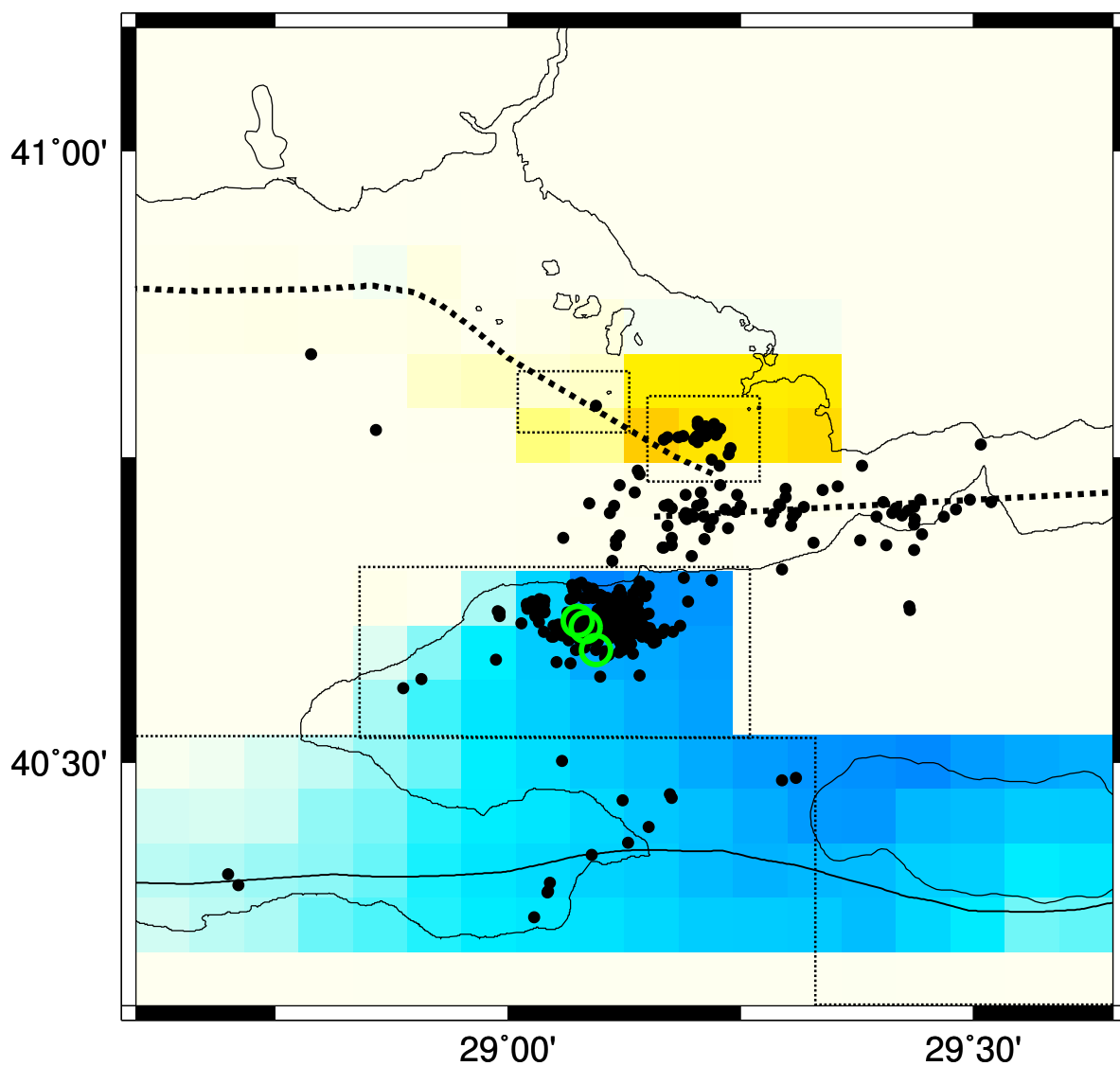


Figure 8 static Coulomb stress

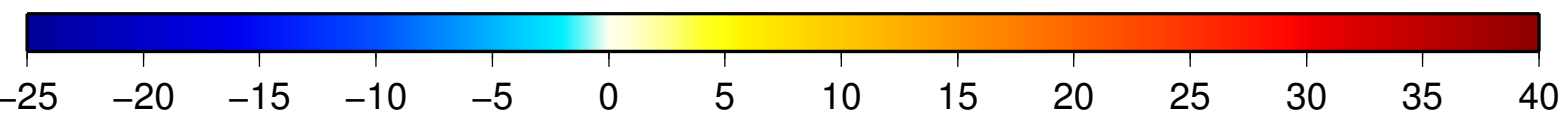
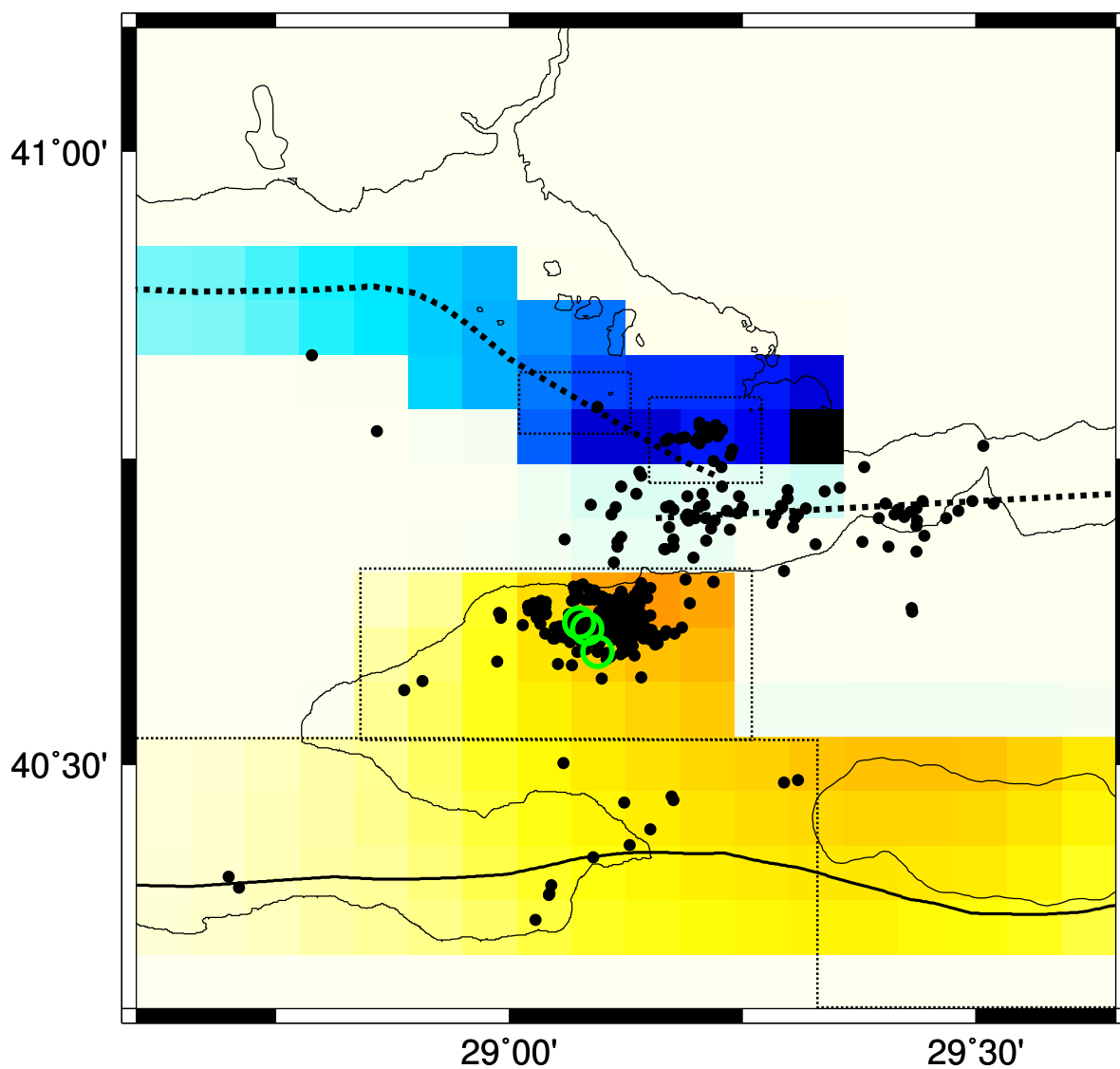


Figure 9 static Coulomb pressure