

# THE QUAKE-CATCHER NETWORK

THE SENSORS, THE SCIENCE, AND THE OUTREACH

ELIZABETH S. COCHRAN

# CORE PROJECT MEMBERS



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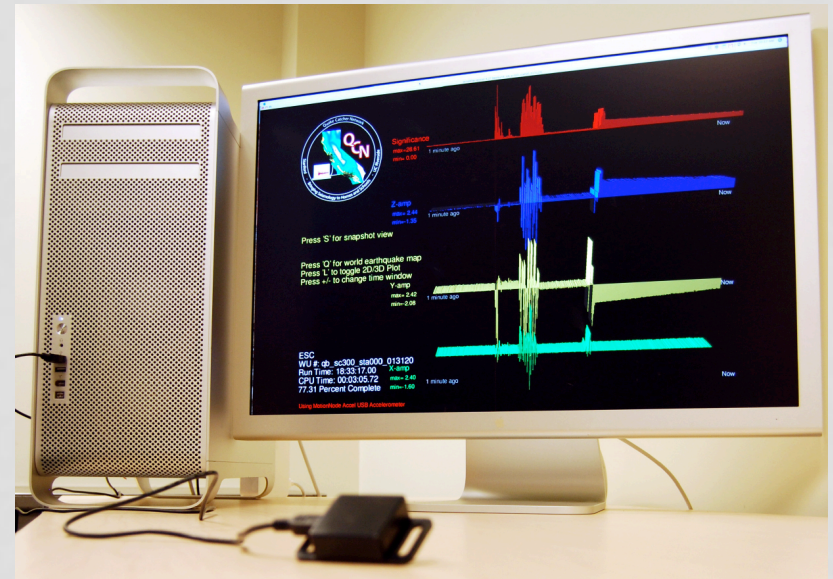
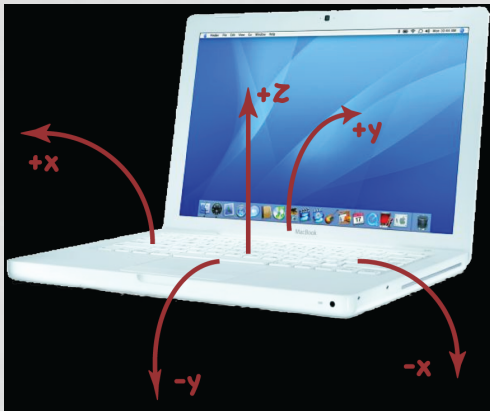
# I. INTRODUCTION TO QCN

Low cost seismic network that utilizes:

## 1. MEMS Sensors

We use triaxial MEMS accelerometers internal to laptops or connected to desktops via USB

Benefits: Very low cost sensing  
\$0 – laptops  
\$30-150 – desktops



*USB-connected triaxial accelerometer*

# I. INTRODUCTION TO QCN

Low cost seismic network that utilizes:

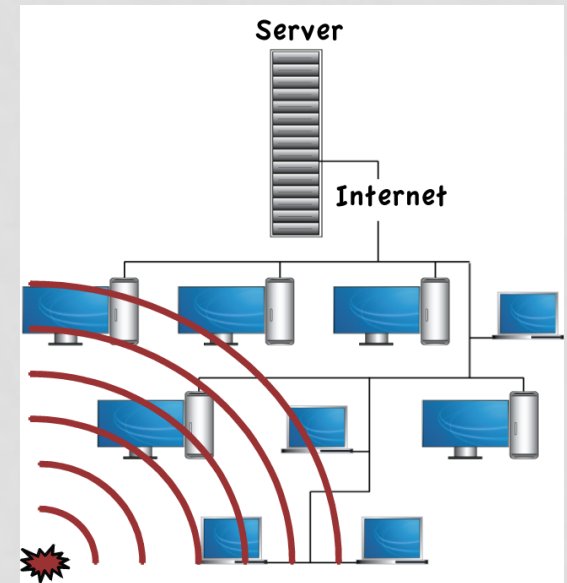
## 2. Distributed Computing

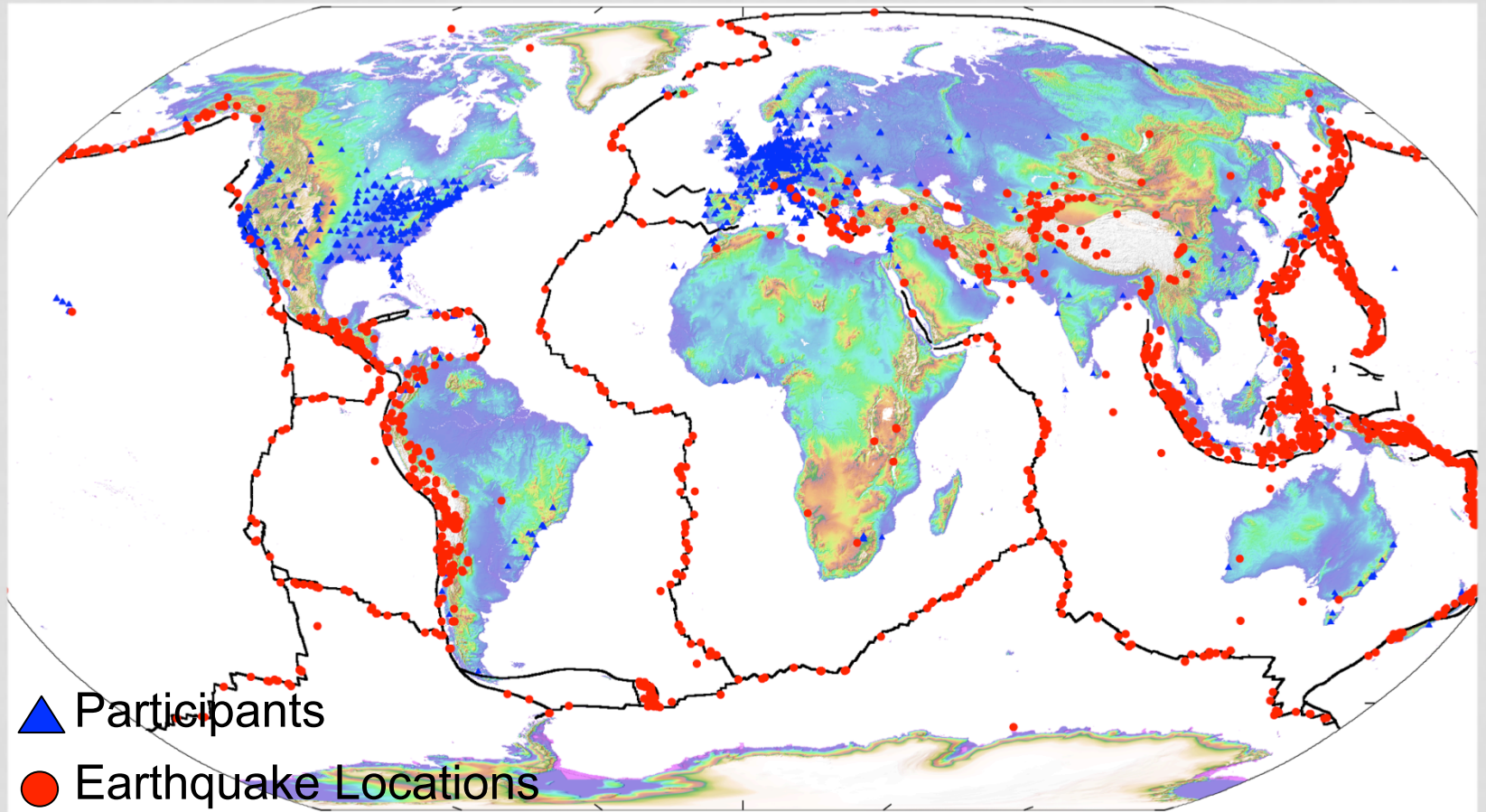
Volunteers donate CPU time to monitor sensors attached to their computer.

We use the Berkeley Open Infrastructure for Network Computing (BOINC) open-source distributed computing platform

### Advantages:

- 1) Reduced infrastructure costs (existing networked computers process data and send information to us)
- 2) Easy to modify software and push changes to participants





## CURRENT NETWORK

2000+ STATIONS GLOBALLY IN 67 COUNTRIES

# II. DATA COLLECTION

## MEMS Sensor Specifications



### Previous Generation

JW24F8 – 10 bit sensor (4 mg)

MotionNode – 12 bit sensor (1 mg)

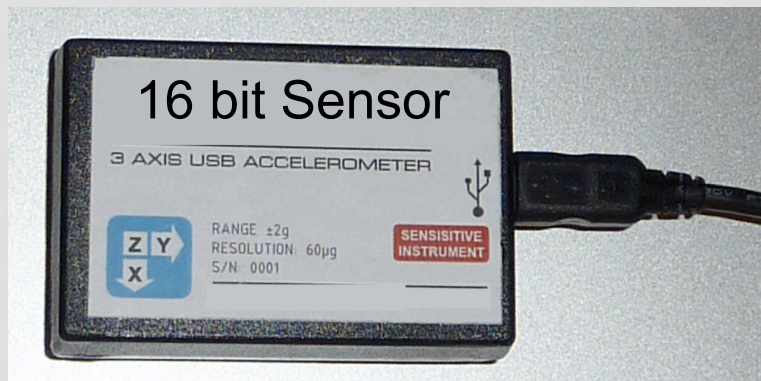
### Current

JW24F14: 14 bit sensor (.24 mg; \$50)

### Next Generation (2011-2012)

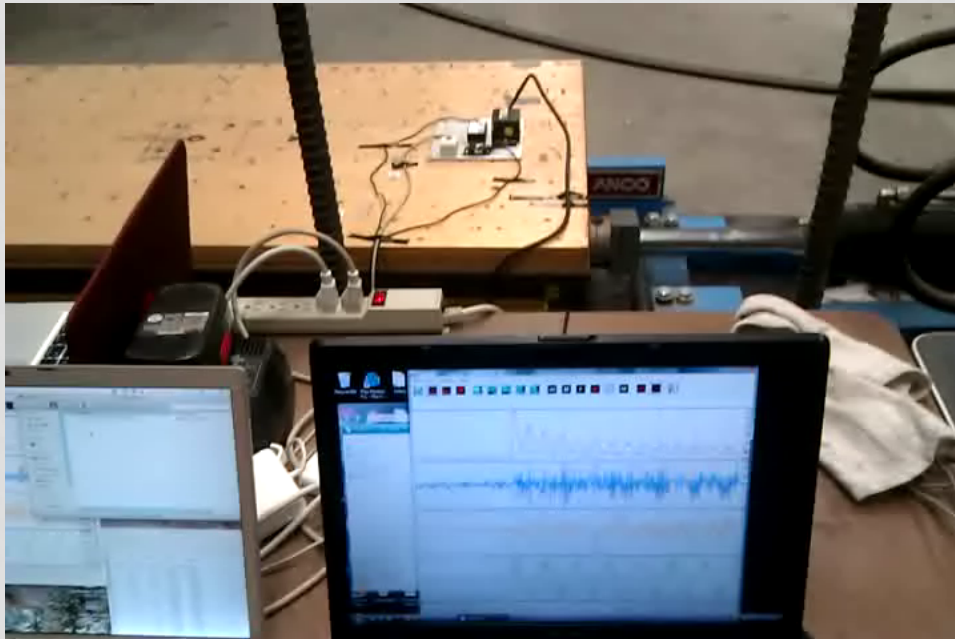
ON-16: 16 bit sensor (6  $\mu$ g; \$50)

ON-24: 24 bit sensor (0.24  $\mu$ g; \$130)

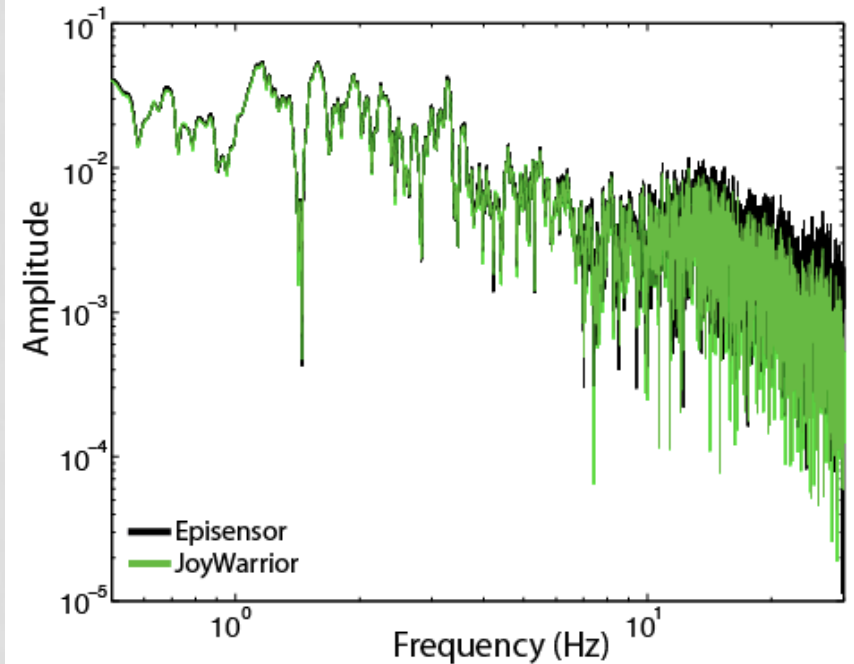
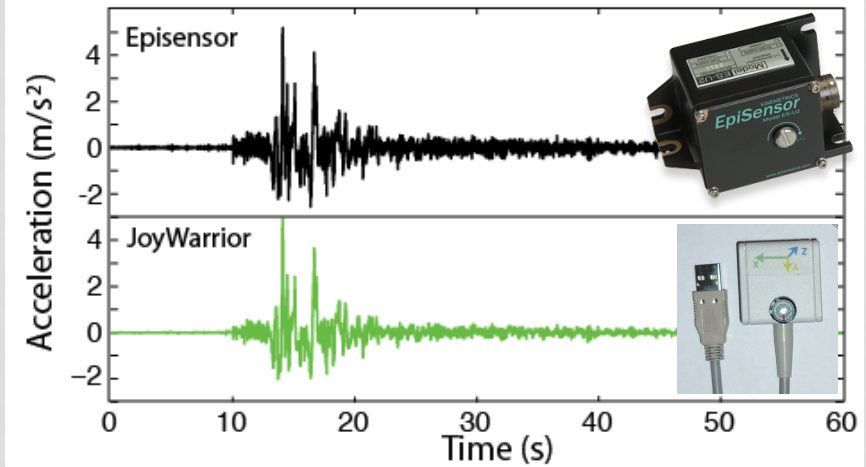


## Shake Table Tests

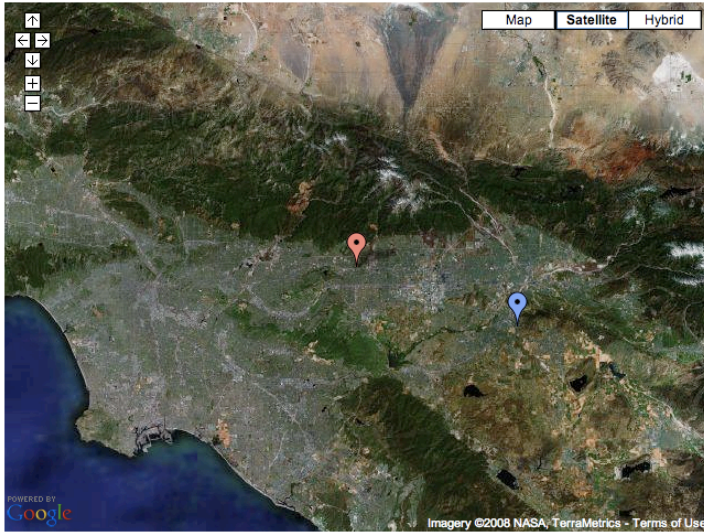
- Single harmonic
  - Frequencies range 0.2 – 10 Hz
  - Acceleration range 0.03g – 2g
- Earthquake ground motion
  - Scaled Northridge (0.5g and 1g)



*M6.7 Northridge scaled to 0.5 g*








# II. DATA COLLECTION



## Location

Initial location based on IP address

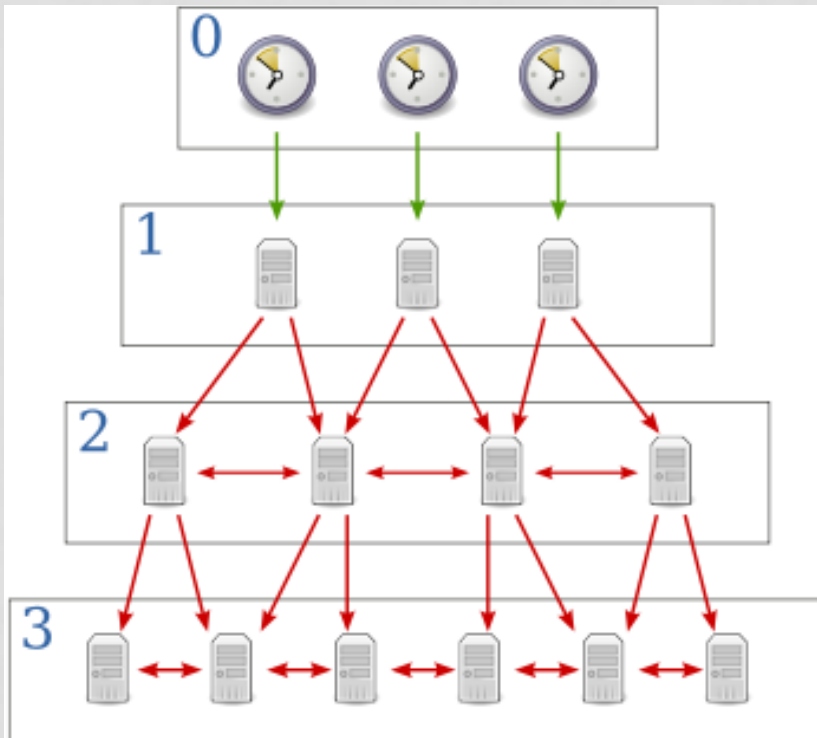
More accurate location from participant input into a Google Map interface

Select	Location Name (optional)	Latitude	Longitude	Net (IP) Addr	Set Net Addr	Clear Net Addr
	Home	34.0971731803043	-117.72793114185:	76.170.119	Set Current	Clear
	Work	33.9745572764349	-117.32615232467:	138.23.128	Set Current	Clear
					Set Current	Clear
					Set Current	Clear
					Set Current	Clear
<input type="button" value="Update info"/>						



## II. DATA COLLECTION

### Timing



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network\\_Time\\_Protocol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_Time_Protocol)

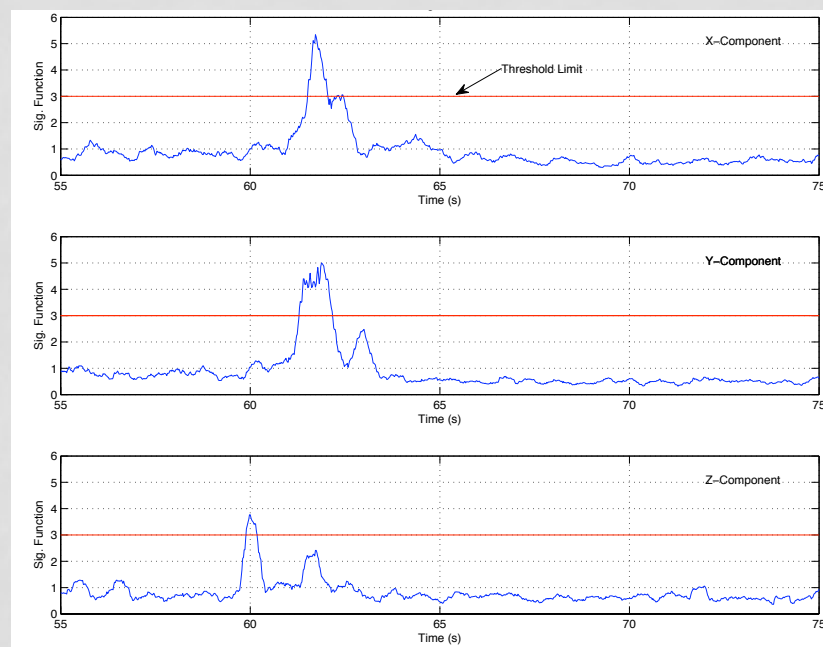
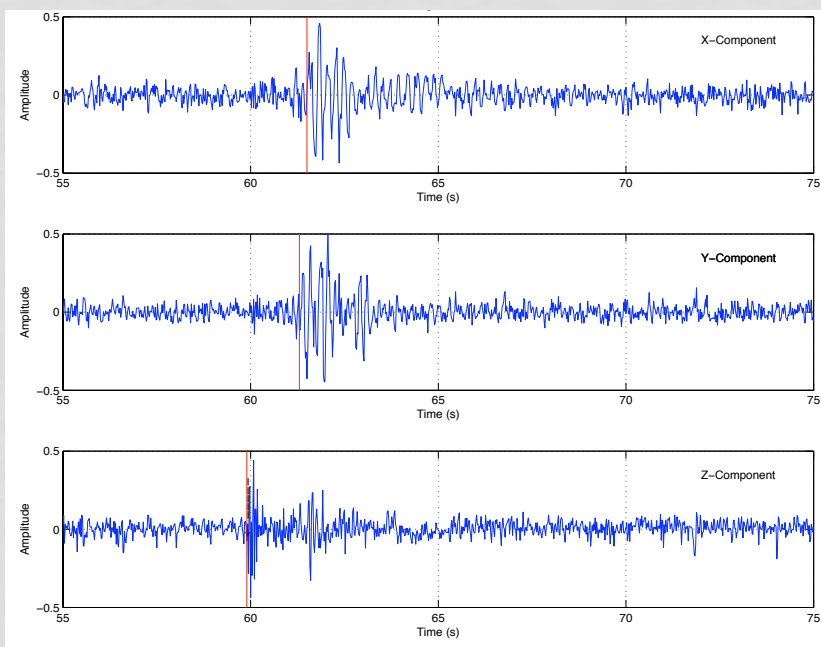
Network Time Protocol (NTP):  
Since 1985

Multi-tier system grounded to  
GPS Clocks  
Atomic Clocks  
Radio Clocks

Peer-to-peer method often  
provides better than 0.1 second  
accuracy, often +/- 20 msec.

# TRIGGERING ALGORITHMS

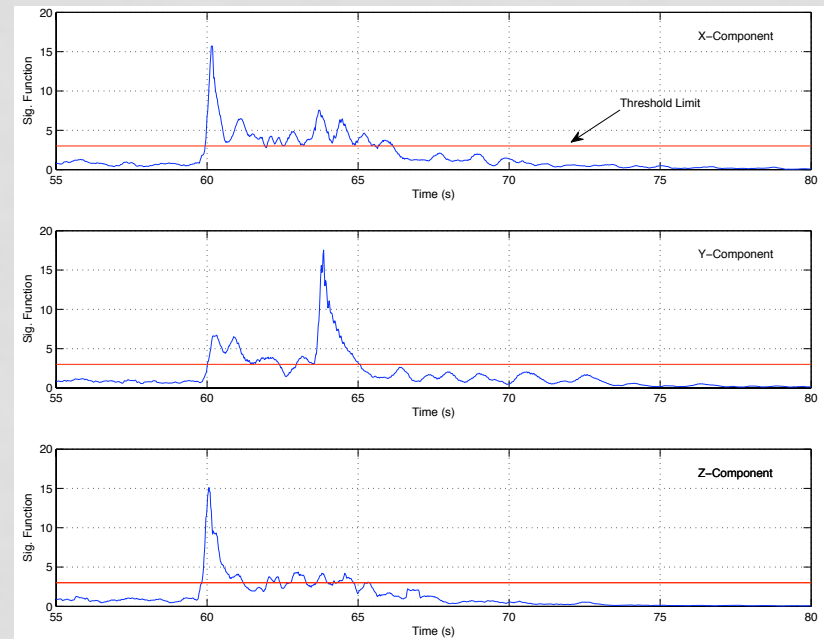
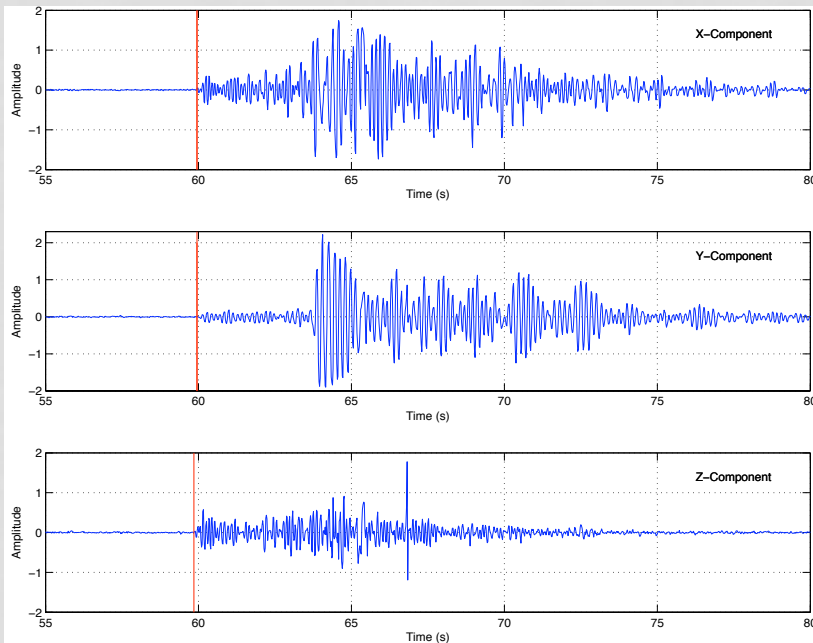
- Examined several possible triggering algorithms to:
  - Maximize true (earthquake) triggers, minimize false triggers
  - Use efficient triggering algorithm for rapid reporting
- Time domain triggers based on STA/LTA are simple and fast to implement



Example 1: M 3.2 Earthquake in San Francisco Region

# TRIGGERING ALGORITHMS

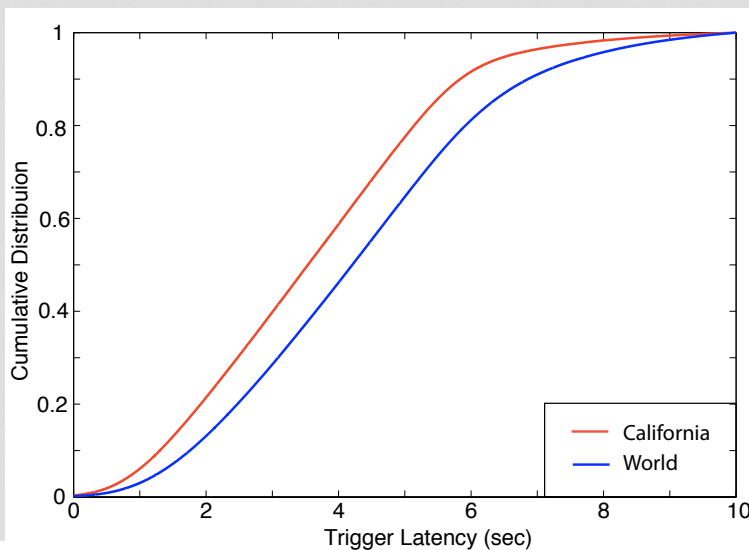
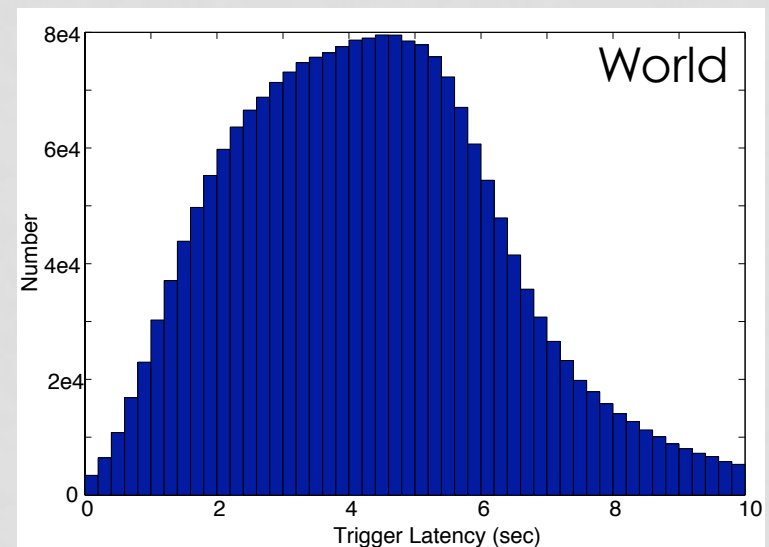
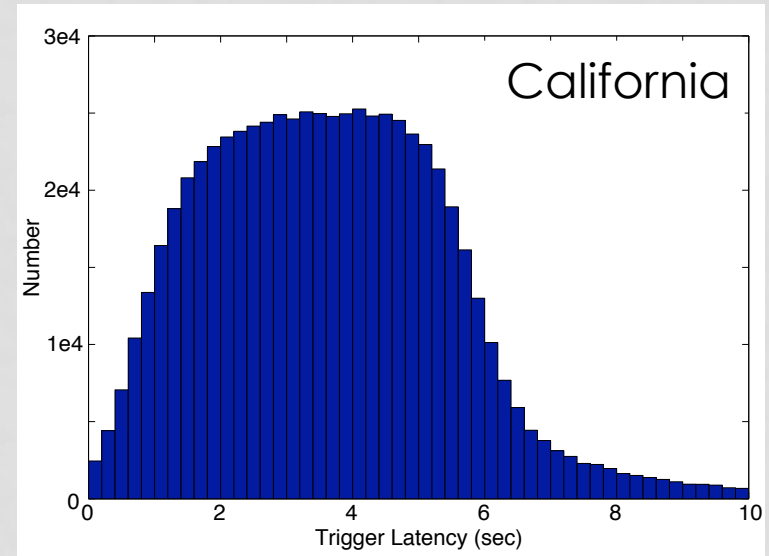
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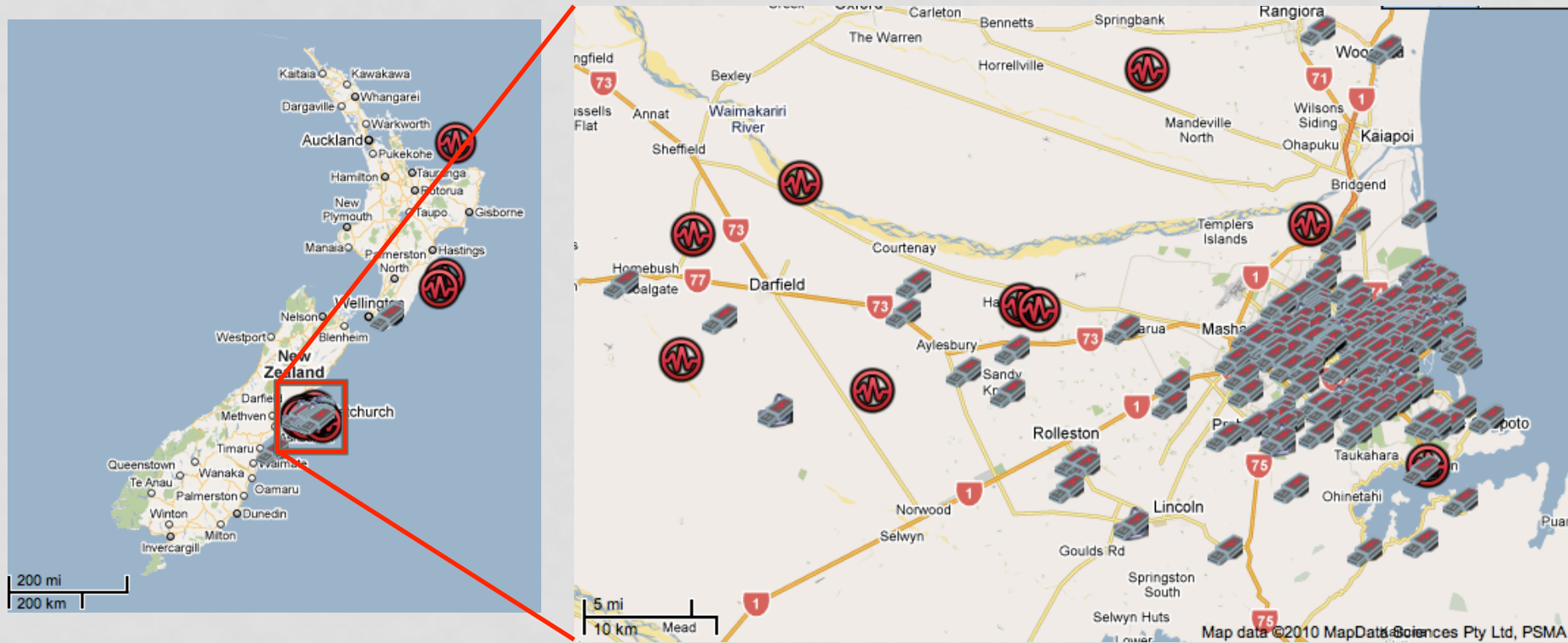
Example 2: M 5.0 Earthquake in Los Angeles Region

# DATA TRANSFER LATENCY

- Initially transfer minimal data:
  - Time
  - Amplitude on each components
  - Significance
  - Station information (location, sensor type)
- Overall small trigger latency:
  - 3.62 seconds within California
  - 4.29 seconds globally



# M7.1 DARFIELD NEW ZEALAND RAMP



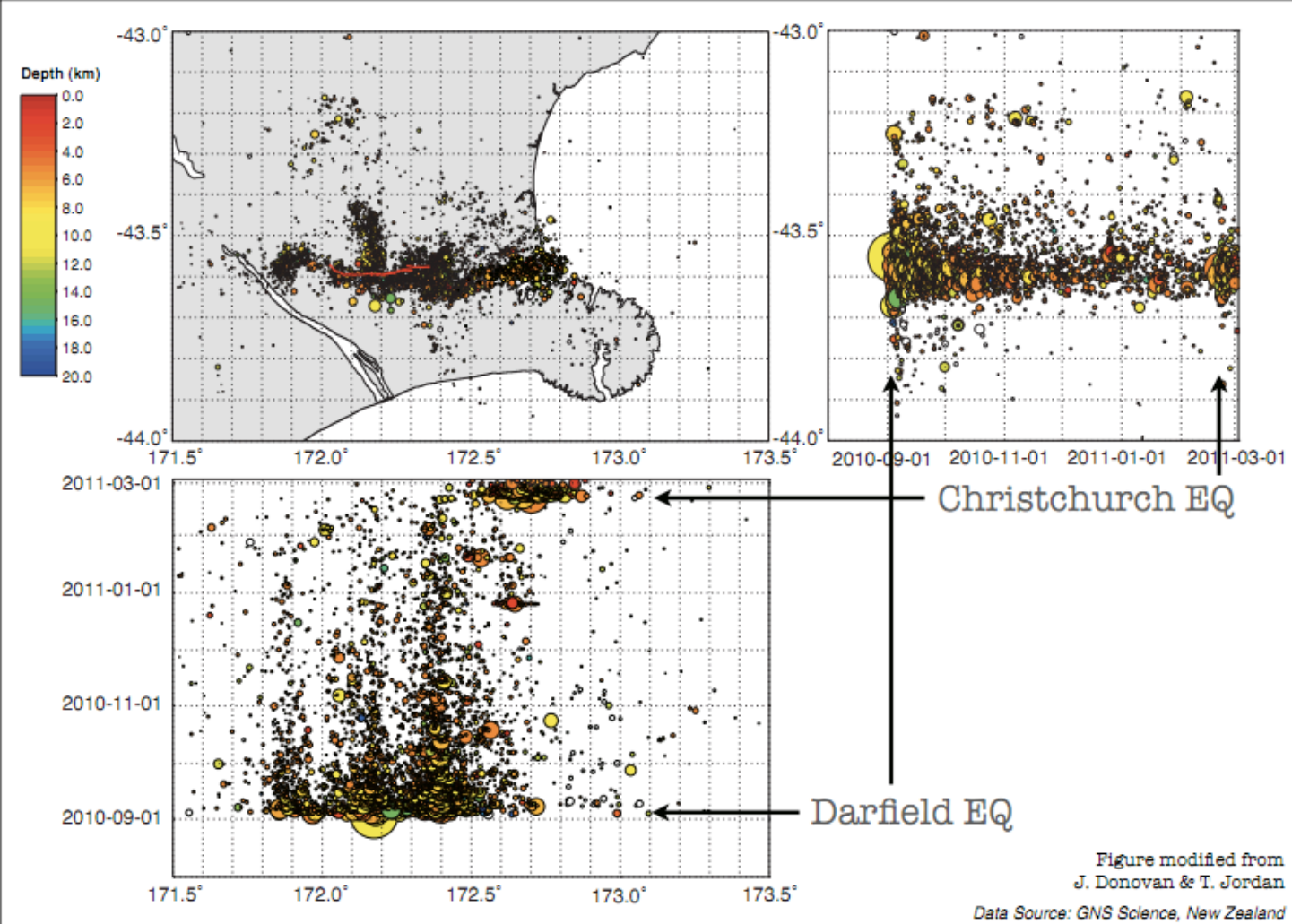
Installed ~180 sensors in New Zealand in the week following the 3 Sept 2010 M7.2 earthquake

Collaboration between GNS Science and QCN

Darfield earthquake continues to have a vigorous aftershock sequence and is being recorded by the QCN array.

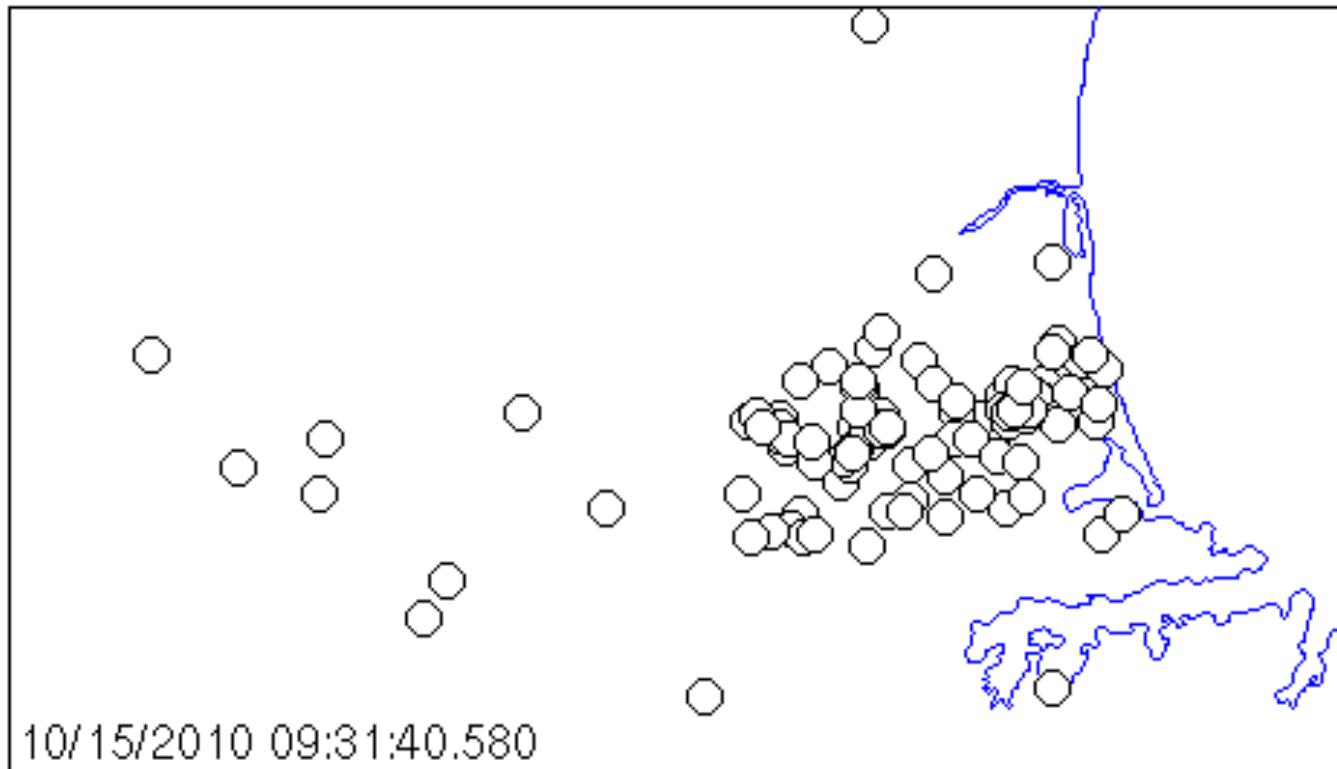


### Darfield Earthquake Aftershock Sequence, Time History



# *Wave Propagation Through Christchurch*

**New Zealand M4.6, October 15, 2010**



# REAL-TIME EVENT DETECTION

1. Trigger message sent from client station

2. Server correlates triggers within:

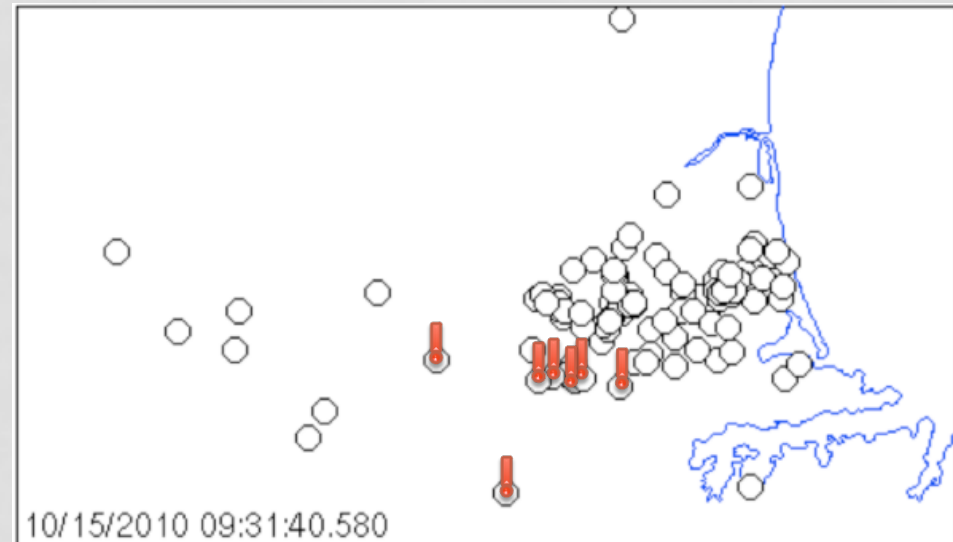
- 100 seconds
- 200 km radius

3. Check moveout

- Is wave traveling at seismic velocities:

$$\Delta T_{ij} \leq \Delta D_{ij} / V_{\min} + \epsilon$$

4. Issue a detection if the # of triggers > regional threshold





# REAL-TIME DETECTION

After a *detection* is issued we estimate:

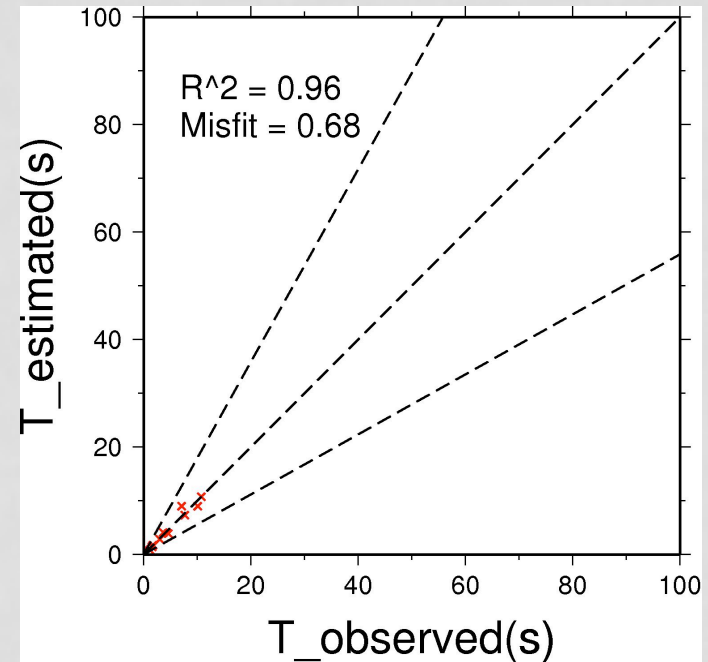
## 1. Location:

- Triggers may be P or S arrivals
- Starting location is set to the location of the first trigger
- Grid search of possible locations
- Iterate to find best location

## 2. Magnitude:

- Vector sum of PGA:  $|PGA|$
- Updated amplitude every 1, 2, and 4 seconds
- Use empirical distance-magnitude relationship (e.g. Campbell, 1981; 1989; Wu et al., 2003; Cua and Heaton, 2007):

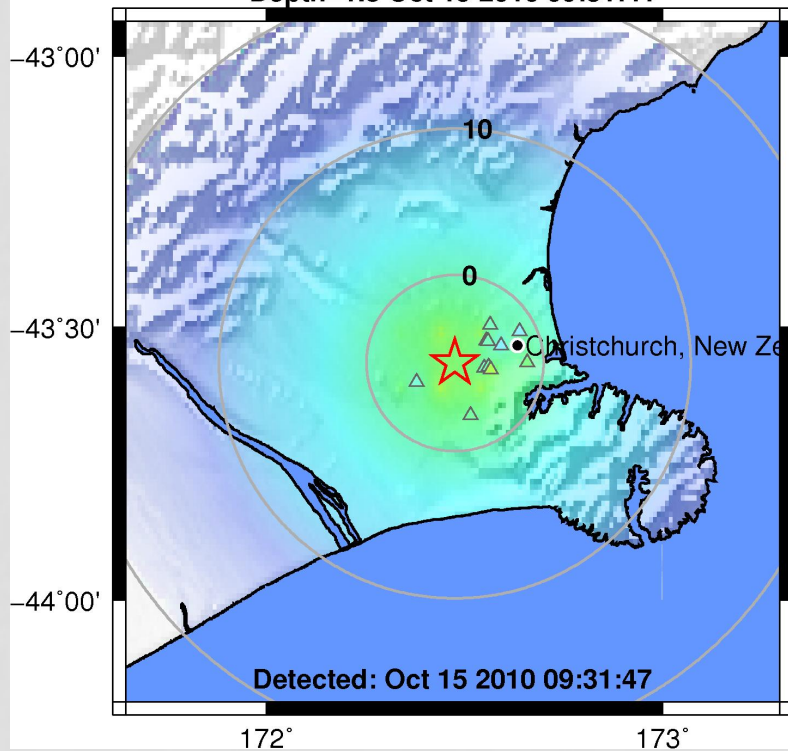
$$|PGA| = \frac{1}{b} \exp \frac{1}{a} (M_L - c \ln(R) - d)$$



# IMPROVING EVENT DETECTION

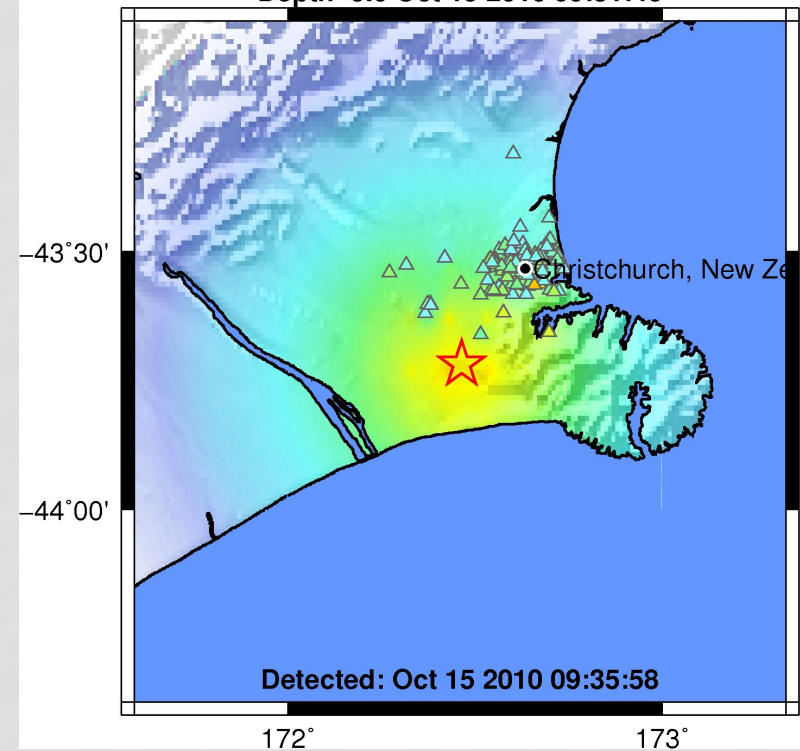
**Initial event characterization:**  
5 seconds after the origin time  
11 triggers

QCN Earthquake – M4.3 Lon=172.48 Lat=-43.57  
Depth=1.8 Oct 15 2010 09:31:41

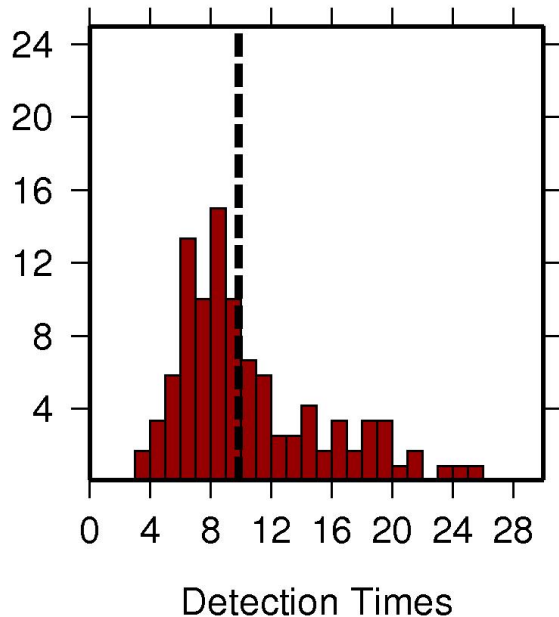


**Final event characterization:**  
257 seconds after the origin time  
194 total triggers from 104 stations

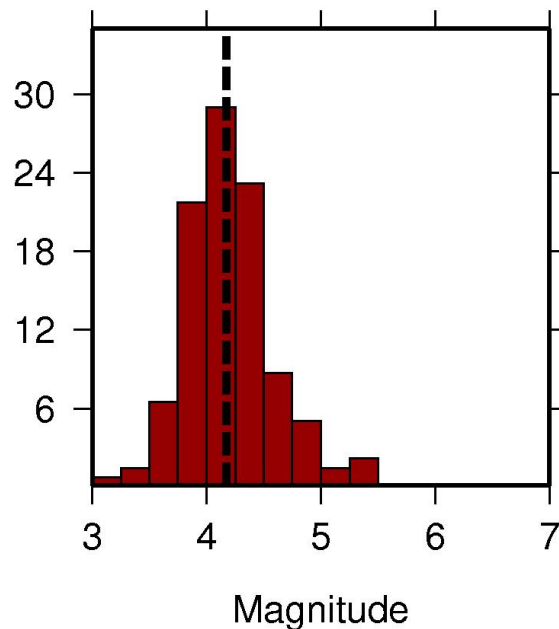
QCN Earthquake – M4.6 Lon=172.46 Lat=-43.72  
Depth=5.0 Oct 15 2010 09:31:40



## Detection Time Distribution



## Magnitude Distribution



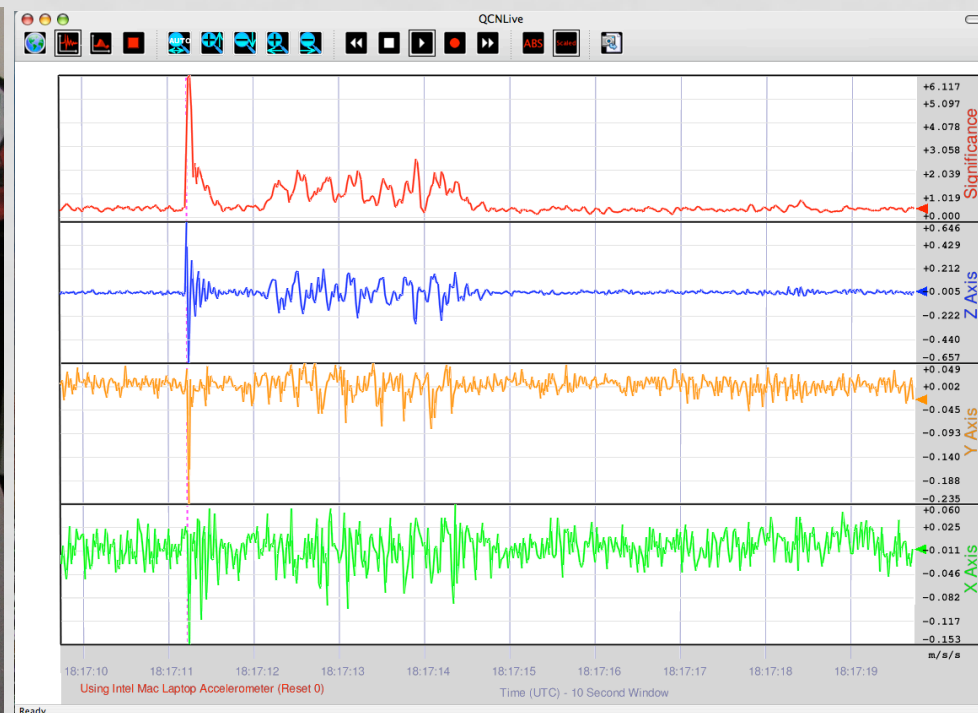
### ***Real-time Detections to date:***

- Detection running since mid-September
- All detections in New Zealand – no other location currently has either:
  - Dense enough network of stations
  - Earthquakes
- First detections occur within ~9-10 seconds from the *earthquake origin time*

*Event locations and magnitudes are revised using updated amplitude data from 1-4 seconds after the event.*

# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Increase seismic hazard awareness and earthquake literacy via participation
- Developed interactive software for use in classrooms (QCNLive)
- Creating activities that utilize the sensors and software to teach Earth Science content standards



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

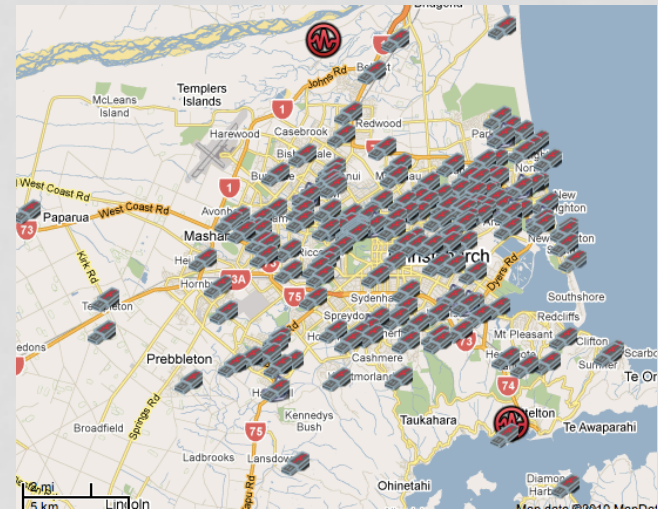
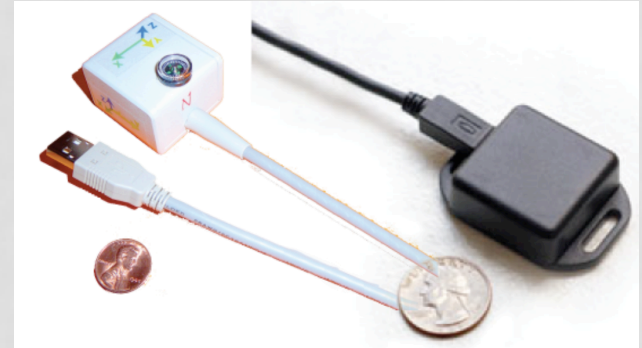
Lessons and Activities – developed by QCN collaborators (M. Hubenthal, D. Kane, D. Kilb, P. Kim, J. Saltzman, IRIS)

- What is a seismometer?
- Magnitude and intensity
- Exploring three component seismic data with accelerometers
- How hard does the ground shake during an earthquake
- Earthquakes and buildings



# SUMMARY

- Current sensors are 14 bit and will be integrating 16 bit and 24 bit soon
- Low-cost MEMS and distributed sensing techniques can provide valuable acceleration data for real-time event detection and characterization
- Creating educational activities to complement the network activities



# THE END

Thank you to all of the QCN participants, especially K-12 teachers and classrooms

QCN is funded by:



Project website: [qcn.stanford.edu](http://qcn.stanford.edu)

*Any Questions?*