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EARTHQUAKE SOURCE PARAMETER ESTIMATES USING LIMITED DIGITAL SEISMIC DATA

by -

C CECILIO JAVIER REBOLLAR BUSTAMANTE

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL PULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
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TO MY GRANDFATHER, JOSE BUSTAMANTE ALVAREZ

Abstract

Theoretical models of seismic sources are developed for digital data collected mainly at Edmonton and Mexico city.

This thesis uses the first digital data ever recorded for a major earthquake sequence in Mexico and is the first attempt to do a study of source parameters in South West Alberta.

First, source theory and some empirical relationships in seismology are reviewed. Then the source parameters of the aftershocks of the Oaxaca, Mexico earthquake of November 29, 1978, are discussed. The digital data used here was recorded at an epicentral distance of approximately 500 km and is the first to be recorded in a set of permanent telemetering digital seismic stations in central Mexico (RESMAC). These source parameters are compared with those calculated using data recorded by digital stations located above the source region.

The source parameters of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm were studied using data recorded by the Edmonton (EDM) digital station. Even though a typical RESMAC station, and Edmonton station have different amplitude response curves, and the epicentral distances of the events were different, the bandwidth of useful information in both systems was between 0.5 and 7 Hz.

Some events of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm were also studied with a portable digital seismic station. The data obtained from this station was of much higher quality than the data from RESMAC or the Edmonton

٧

digital station. Finally, seismic data related to the local seismicity of South West Alberta recorded at Edmonton since 1970 are used to make tentative conclusions about the present day dynamics of this area.

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I wish to acnowledge the invaluable assistence provided by Bruce McGavin in my search for records of seismicity and for permission to use the fruits of his labor at the Department of Physics of the University of Alberta. He and Panos Kelamis did the field work for chapter four. Charles McCloughan's patient help in decoding Edmonton station data tapes is much appreciated.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of the Department of Physics who made my stay as a graduate student a pleasure. Especially I thank my good friend and fellow student Luis Munguia Orosco who helped me with innumerable discussions during the course of this study. I also wish to acknowledge my wife, Margarita (Mayo), for her invaluable understanding and encouragement during this part of our life.

My grandather, Jose Bustamante Alvarez, to whom this thesis is dedicated, has given me financial and emotional

support during my career.

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1. Introduction

Geophysical data, such as observations made on earthquakes, have been described, only partly facetiously, as of type III; Inaccurate, Incomplete, and sometimes Incorrect. The reason for this lies in the fact that a controlled experiment in earthquake seismology is impossible and that the configuration of observing equipment is only partly designed with basic research in mind. The underlying problem in earthquake seismology is then to analyse Type III data sets and to extract from them scientifically valid conclusions. In this work I investigate 3 such data sets, show that limited conclusions about the nature of the mechanism that generates the events are possible, and that these conclusions have geological implications.

With the exception of California and Japan, earthquakes do not often happen in areas well instrumented to study the response of the earth to this stimulus. Much of our knowledge of these phenomena is thus derived from observations made at a distance combined with models of processes at the source. The verification of the legitimacy of these models and the determination of their free parameters is the concern of observational seismology. The data on which such investigations are based are the records of vibrations induced at various seismic stations around the world by the earthquakes.

Effective analysis of these records is limited by the means available to process the data. Until recently the

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recording medium for the data was photographic paper. Although it was relatively easy to determine the time of arrival of the wave on such a record a systematic study of the spectral content of the signal was truly painful. Even computer aided digitization schemes required numerous corrections for unfortunate properties of the data recording scheme. Surprisingly, modern versions of the original seismograph, a sharp stylus scratching smoked paper, are still in fairly common use.

The appearance of technology which allowed digital recording of seismic data (see Aki and Richards Section 11.1.2 1980) changed the nature of seismic investigations dramatically. It now became possible to manage, with the aid of computers, very large sets of data. In particular the spectral characteristics and the nature of the radiation pattern from earthquakes could be investigated. The work done on the LASA network (see for example Engdahl et al 1970) is one example of the processing that evolved. Recently the appearance of cheap digital technology has lead to the spread of these techniques from large expensive installations to smaller research operations.

In spite of the development of technology, the distribution of seismic stations in many parts of the world is far from optimal for investigation of the spectral characteristics of the radiation pattern of seismic events. This does not mean data acquired at such installations is useless, merely that there are limitations to its value.

Since many such installations now exist in the world it is useful to ask not only what observations on these installations tell us about the spectral characteristics of the seismic source, but also to what degree the limited scope of the installation limits the value of its data for such investigations.

I discuss here the analysis of 3 sets of such data. The first objective of the work was to determine in so far as was possible the nature-of the source that gave rise to the seismic signal. Clearly understanding of this source must have implications for the physical process causing earthquakes and a second objective was to connect the measured characteristics of the signal to acceptable models of the source. The parameters of these models hopefully will cast some light on the exceedingly complicated process generating seismic events. As a byproduct of the study I came to some conclusions about the relationship between the capabilities of the observing system and the resolution in the source that could be achieved.

Studies of source parameters, such as those reported here, are of great importance in seismology because they can show regional differences in the earthquake generation process. In other words, regional tectonic processes can give rise to variations in the source related parts of the spectra of seismic signals. Evidence of such changes is contained in the radiated elastic wave energy.

One of the more powerful techniques for such studies is the analysis of the spectra of body and surface waves in the near and far field. Study of the spectra in the far-field give us average properties of the source, such as seismic moment (strength of the fault), and average stress drop. On the other hand, the study of near-field spectra gives us details about the rupture process. Such details include complexities of the rupture process, energy focusing, maximum and minimum displacements, and velocities and acclerations as a function of azimuth.

1.1 The Data Used

The data sets I used are

- 1. The aftershocks of the Oaxaca (November 29, 1978) earthquake as recorded on a digital station 500km from the epicentral zone.
- 2. The events of a swarm of small magnitude earthquakes near the Canadian Rockies as recorded on a digital/analogue station 180km from the epicentral area.
- And the records of this same swarm recorded on portable digital seismic recorders above the swarm.

This data constituted a substantial, unexploited digital seismic data set. It originated from RESMAC in Mexico and Edmonton station in Canada.

At the end of 1978, when the Oaxaca earthquake occurred, RESMAC had only three stations in operation,

Cerrillo (CRX), Mexico city (MEX), and Acapulco (ACR). In addition to the RESMAC stations, the SISMEX stations

Tonantzintla (IIT), Santa Rita (IIC), and El Pino (IIP), provided additional information. Typically with a limited network of stations, such as this, epicentral locations near the shock cannot be significantly improved. It is possible; however, to do spectral analysis of body waves of the aftershocks of the Oaxaca earthquake, and compare our results with the spectral analysis from the portable digital stations deployed by others above the aftershock area. The results of this study are described in chapter two.

Edmonton is the only permanent station in Alberta that records in analog and digital format in its six components (short and long period), and the only one in Western Canada that records in digital format. It was designed to record teleseismic data (McCloughan and Kanasewich 1974), it records 18 samples per second in the short period and three samples per second in the long period signal. It has an amplitude response curve typical of the World-Wide Standard Seismograph Network.

All useful information from this station is archived on magnetic tapes at the Department of Physics of the University of Alberta. The information recorded at Edmonton from the South West Alberta of the Rocky Mountains and particularly from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm allows a study of this activity. Epicentral locations are generally done by Earth Physics Branch, Department of Energy

Mines and Resources in Ottawa, consequently, in order to improve those epicentral locations a network of stations above the epicentral area is desirable.

I did the spectral analysis of the body waves of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm as observed at Edmonton, in order to investigate the earthquake source, and the analysis of the refracted shear wave Sn in order to calculate focal depths of those events showing clear Sn phases in the digital records.

In chapter four I analyse a fraction of the Rocky
Mountain House earthquake swarm recorded on a Spregnether
DR-100 digital instrument. The results obtained are far
better, and the source parameters are more representative of
the active area; However, in order to improve this
information more than one station above the earthquake
source is necessary. Then it would be possible to obtain
fault plane solutions and determine principal stress
orientations in this area.

1.2 Seismic Source Models

All these studies explicitly or implicitly require a model of the earthquake source. In general the source model consists of the intuitively reasonable assumption that over a finite surface, the fault plane, within the earth (modelled as perfectly elastic) there exists a discontinuity in displacement. By analogy with usage in solid state

physics this is generally known as a dislocation even though the scale of the processes in seismology is much larger and pays no heed to atomic structure. In the more general case there can also be a discontinuity in the traction on the fault plane. The resulting displacements in the model can be calculated using the representation theorem (Aki and Richards 1980 equation 2.41)

$$u_{n}(\overline{X},t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau \int \int \int f_{i}(\overline{\xi},t)G_{in}(\overline{\xi},t-\tau; \overline{X},0)dV(\overline{\xi})$$

$$+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau \int \int G_{in}(\overline{\xi},t-\tau;\overline{X},0)T_{i}(\overline{u}(\overline{\xi},\tau)/\overline{n})$$

$$= u_{i}^{(\xi,\tau)} c_{ijkl}^{(\overline{\xi})} n_{j}^{G_{kn,l}^{(\overline{\xi},t-\tau;\overline{x},0)}} ds(\overline{\xi}).$$

If the size of the fault plane is small compared with the epicentral distance to the detector the displacements can be separated into terms that decay like r ' and terms that decay as higher powers of r (r is the epicentral distance). Displacements that decay like r ' are called far field displacements and terms that decay at higher powers of r are called near field (see Aki & Richards 1980 page 73). One characteristic of the far field is that it can be separated into P and S displacements. In the near field (distances of the order of the fault length) we have mixed P and S body waves.

The problem in source studies is to characterize the time evolution of the discontinuities on the fault plane. Obviously additional physics is needed for there is nothing in the theory that indicates when a discontinuity will appear (an earthquake will start) or when it will stop. Since the physical properties of faults are largely unknown seismologists assume time histories and fit them to spectral properties of the radiated elastic energy or to the actual signal shape as observed on seismographs.

There is a useful simplification of the representation theorem. If we introduce the concept of a moment tensor to describe the source, the representation theorem acquires the form (Aki and Richards 1980 equation 3.22)

$$u_n(\overline{x},t) = \iint_{\Sigma} m_{pq} \star_{G_{np,q}} d\Sigma$$

In general nine couples (called vector dipoles) are required to obtain equivalent forces for an arbitrary displacement discontinuity in an anisotropic medium. In other words, the equivalent forces corresponding to an infinitesimal dislocation can be represented as a combination of those nine vector dipoles. Those nine dipoles together constitute the seismic moment tensor and have units of moment per unit area (dynes-centimeter). The components

of the seismic moment tensor for a constant slip on an infinitesimal fault in cartesian coordinates are given by:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{XX}} &= -\mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{O}} \; (\sin \delta \cos \lambda \; \sin \; 2\mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}} + \sin \; 2\delta \sin \lambda \; \sin^{2} \; \mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}}) \,, \\ \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{XY}} &= \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{O}} \; (\sin \delta \cos \lambda \; \cos \; 2\mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}} + \frac{1}{2} \sin \; 2\delta \sin \lambda \sin \; 2\mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}}) = \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{YX}}, \\ \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{XZ}} &= -\mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{O}} \; (\cos \delta \cos \lambda \; \cos \; \mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}} + \cos \; 2\delta \sin \lambda \; \sin \; \mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}}) = \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{ZX}}, \\ \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{YY}} &= \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{O}} \; (\sin \delta \cos \lambda \; \sin \; 2\mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}} - \sin \; 2\delta \sin \lambda \; \cos^{2} \; \mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}}), \\ \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{YZ}} &= -\mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{O}} \; (\cos \delta \cos \lambda \; \sin \; \mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}} - \cos \; 2\delta \sin \lambda \; \cos \; \mathbf{d}_{\mathrm{S}}) = \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{ZY}}, \\ \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{ZZ}} &= \mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{O}} \; \sin \; 2\delta \sin \lambda \end{split}$$

Where M. is the seismic moment, ϕ_a is the strike of the fault, λ is the rake (rake is the angle between strike direction and slip), δ is the dip, and M_{pq} are the components of the seismic moment tensor. The constant term M. is the static seismic moment and gives us the strength of the fault. The dislocation is a function of time, therefore the seismic moment tensor is also a function of time since it depends directly on the average dislocation along the fault.

The problem of observation interpretation then becomes the calculation of properties of the moment tensor and the further interpretation requires connection of this moment tensor to models of the discontinuities. Steketee (1958), Maruyama (1963), Burridge and Knopoff (1964), Brune (1970, 1971), among others developed a general theory for the faulting process in an elastic medium. They assumed that the

rebound theory is valid for shallow earthquakes, and calculated the displacements using the representation theorem. Although their work preceded the formal statement of the moment tensor representation it is easy to derive formulas to connect moments with discontinuities. Excellent reviews of source theory can be found in Archambeau (1968, 1975), Ben-Menahem and Singh (1972), Johnson (1979), and Sahay (1980).

Seismologists usually follow either a kinematic or a dynamic approach. In the kinematic approach the earthquake process is specified by the starting size of the discontinuity, the velocity at which slip spreads over the fault, and final dimensions of the region over which the slip has occurred. In the dynamic approach to the earthquake process, the earthquake is modelled as a shear crack. The crack nucleate in a preexisting stress field which causes stress concentrations around the tip of the crack which in turn cause the crack to grow. Time history of the rupture velocity of the crack as well as self-similarity are assumed (If a function u(x,t), the solution of the shear dislocation for example, is a homogeneous function of x, t of degree 1, we say that we have a self-similar solution).

Given such assuptions the wave equation with appropriate boundary conditions outside the source region can be solved by developing a Green's function (see Aki & Richards 1980 sec 4.2). This Green's function can be convolved with the source term in order to obtain P and S displacements.

Clearly such displacements carry information about fault orientation, source strength (seismic moment), and have a directivity pattern or radiation pattern.

Seismologists do not usually have sufficient data to calculate all properties of the seismic moment tensor. Often they are restricted to determining M., the seismic moment. Several methods can be used to calculate the seismic moment. Geodetic measurements estimate the average dislocation at infinite periods (D), hence knowing the fault surface, A, (for example from the aftershock area) and assuming the shear modulus (u), the moment is given by M.=uDA. However, a more common method for calculating the seismic moment is from the spectra of the far-field displacement of body waves, surface waves or free oscillations of the earth.

The spectrum of the body waves gives the moment at periods of the order of seconds. Therefore this moment is more affected by anomalies in the spectrum resulting from local complexities of the earth structure which give rise to scattering related energy losses. The moment calculated with long-period surface waves or free oscillation data is less affected by structure complexities, since it is calculated at periods of minutes and hours. Values of M. range from about 10° dyne-cm for very large earthquakes to 10° dyne-cm for micro-earthquakes, and 10° dyne-cm for microfractures laboratory experiments in rocks (Aki & Richards page 49).

Observational studies are directed primarily at obtaining the data necessary to either check the theoretical studies or investigate the consequences of interpreting earthquakes in terms of a specified model. This process can be done in two different ways; in the time domain, by adjusting the source parameters until a reasonable agreement is achieved between synthetic and observed seismograms, and in the frequency domain by inferring those characteristics of the spectra such as the long period level, high-frequency asymptote, and corner frequencies, that can be directly related to the source properties.

Brune's model (1970, 1971) follows this last approach. It illustrates both the virtues and difficulties of this problem. The Brune model is simple enough to be a reasonable and tractable representation of some properties of an earthquake. It is in fact remarkably successful.

Nevertheless it is by no means a complete description. The properties of an earthquake derived by assuming Brune's model to be correct are best thought of as a more compact and transparent representation of the seismic observations. Their connection to real processes requires further analysis. Perhaps the current state of this science is best illustrated by the undoubted fact that most observations can be fit to such a simple model in spite of its obvious physical deficiencies.

An earthquake source can be modelled (Brune 1970,1971) as a tangential stress pulse applied instantaneously to the

interior of a dislocation surface (this implies a nonphysical infinite rupture velocity). The total shear stress available to accelerate the two sides of the fault is the difference between the initial stress and the dynamic frictional stress which is of the opposite sense to the initial stress and always acts to resist the fault slip. If the movement across the fault is such that the shear stress acting across the fault has decreased to the value of the frictional stress (Orowan 1960 see also Pilant 1979 page 392), then the stress drop is equal to the total or effective stress drop, otherwise we have a fractional stress drop. The fractional stress drop is defined by Brune as:

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{\sigma} = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_4}$$

where σ_1 is the initial stress, σ_t is the dynamical frictional stress, σ_2 is the final stress ($\sigma_2 \ge \sigma_t$) and is the total or effective stress drop.

The moment, source dimension, and fractional stress drop for the proposed model can be related to the spectra of the far-field displacement of an SH body wave. The long period level of the spectrum is proportional to the seismic moment, and the intersection of the long period level and the asymptote at high frequencies defines the corner frequency which is related to the size of the fault. This spectrum corresponds to total stress drop. If we do not have

a total stress drop ($\epsilon < 1$), the long period level of the spectrum is reduced to ϵ times its value for a total stress drop.

Brune obtained the corner frequency by considering a balance of energy around the dislocation surface. This corner frequency in the spectrum can arise from finite energy flow away from the dislocation surface, from finite rupture velocities or from finite length of the fault.

Later, Hanks and Wyss (1972) extended Brune's theory empirically to include P-wave spectra for non-circular faults.

The decrease in the amplitude spectra at high frequencies proportional to ω^{-2} and ω^{-3} was first proposed by Aki (1967). In the Haskell (1964) model falloff is as ω^{-2} . In kinematic models the effect of finiteness and rupture velocity of the source time function introduces a smoothing factor of ω^{-1} at "intermediate" frequencies given by the envelope of $\sin(X)/X$ (see Aki and Richards 1980 sec 14.1.5). The effect of finite rise time introduces another factor proportional to ω^{-1} . Thus, the spectra have a flat part at low frequencies, a corner frequency, an ω^{-1} dependence at "intermediate" frequencies, and a ω^{-2} decrease at high frequencies. Asymptotes in the spectra at high frequencies have been observed in the range from 1 to 4.

The spectrum of SH reflects source properties since SH does not suffer conversion of phases at sharp interfaces. However, we need to rotate the horizontal components (NS and

EW) in order to obtain the horizontal components of motion transverse to the azimuth from the epicenter to the station. Corrections applied to SH spectra are: free surface amplification, (for SH this is 2 and for SV it should be calculated, see for example Nutlli 1961), radiation pattern, instrument response, and attenuation, Q (generally taken as independent of frequency).

Other earthquake source models (Haskell 1964, Savage 1972, Dahlen 1974, Burridge 1975) are discussed in the next section, and compared with the observed results obtained with Brune's model.

1.2.1 Studies related to Brune Model

Theoretical models which assume a rupture velocity predict corner frequencies as a function of azimuth (Madariaga 1976, Vargas et al 1980). Theoretical models of long narrow faults predict similar corner frequencies for P and S wave spectra. Models of equidimensional faults predict greater corner frequencies for P waves than those for S waves. Molnar, Tucker and Brune (1973) analysing the spectra of P and S-waves of the aftershocks of the San Fernando earthquake, concluded that their observations were consistent with a model which treats earthquakes as approximately equidimensional.

Savage (1972) comparing the spectra of the Haskell model (1964) with Brune's model found that they have similar relations between the fault dimension and the corner

frequency in the displacement spectrum. One of the characteristics of the spectra derived from the Haskell model is that P and S-wave corner frequencies are similar as long as the rupture velocity is subsonic, i. e. with a dislocation velocity less than the S-wave velocity. Later Savage (1974) explained that the Haskell model he considered in 1972 can predict that P-wave corner frequency may exceed the S-wave corner frequency if near-sonic or supersonic rupture velocities are considered. Laboratory experients along pre-existing shear faults show rupture velocities from 0.25 to slightly exceeding shear velocities (Shamina et al 1978, Vinogradov 1978).

Dahlen (1974) also considered a kinematic model in order to explain the observed ratio of P to S corner frequencies obtained using Brune model and later empirically extended by Hanks and Wyss. He assumed that the rupture nucleates at a single point on the fault surface and spread subsonically. He found that the ratio of P to S corner frequencies is less than unity at all points of the focal sphere.

Burridge (1975) modified Dahlen's model for shallow earthquakes in order to analyse the controversial frequency shift of the corner frequency. He considered that the rupture nucleated at some point and began to propagate at the P speed, slowing down in such a way that the initial break governs the high-frequency content of the spectrum. This model predicts that in 70 per cent of the focal sphere

the P corner frequency is higher than that of S while in the remaining 30 per cent, S corner frequencies are higher than P corner frequencies. This is more or less in agreement with the observations, see for example Molnar Tucker and Brune (1973).

Brune et al (1979) analysed the effects of bilateral and unilateral dislocation ruptures on the far-field displacements. They found that the pulse shapes are strongly dependent on the azimuth. This is equivalent to different corner frequencies at different azimuths

Tucker and Brune (1977) analysed the spectra of the aftershocks of the San Fernando earthquake using a great variety of instruments at different hypocentral distances. They found events with one and two corner frequencies. Events with a single corner frequency were consistent with faulting confined to about 0.1 sec in time or 500 m in space. About half of the larger events had two corner frequencies which are consistent with an initial rupture that grows during about 2 sec and to about 6 km. They explain the events with two corner frequencies as fore-slip with a high dislocation velocity followed by afterslip with a low dislocation velocity. The calculated stress drops for those events lie between 1 to 300 bars.

Hanks (1981) in a review of 36 source mechanism studies comments,

"The corner frequency shift is a very common condition of the far-field body wave of earthquakes, with no discernible dependence on earthquake source strength, hypocentral distance, depth, or recording device; and the frequency shift is the manifestation of an intrinsic property of earthquakes, source finiteness."

His conclusions constrain theoretical earthquakes source models. Greater P-wave corner frequencies than S-wave corner frequencies are in general observed. However, there have been some cases of smaller P corner frequencies. This may be due to the analysis of data from a single station which can be affected by complicated local effects (see for example Bakun et al 1976, Rebollar et al 1981).

Fault slips for small events obtained using spectral analysis have been found to vary substantially with the distance at which observations are made. In deep mines they can be several orders of magnitude less than those measured directly (McGarr et al 1979). However, fault slip calculated from spectra of large events usually agrees with geological observations.

Stress drops of the order of kilobars have been found in laboratory experiments on brittle fracture of rocks, while stress drops of natural earthquakes lie in the range of a few bars (1-100). McGarr et al (1979), found that tremors in deep mines appear to be associated with stress drops of the order of 1 kilobar. Consequently, they postulate that a certain amount of stress inhomogeneity is required before failure occurs. This may imply large concentrations of stress in localized regions.

Miyatake (1980a) investigated a three-dimensional dynamic crack model in infinite and semi-infinite homogeneous elastic model using the finite difference method. He considered different strength distributions on the fault and investigated the effect of fault strength on crack propagation. For low strength the shape of the rupture front is elliptic, with a rupture velocity of the order of P along the major axis and with a rupture velocity close to S along the minor axis. Relatively high, strengths produce a nearly circular rupture front with a rupture velocity nearly equal to S. For a line barrier in the fault (like that proposed by Das and Aki 1977), he found that the rupture propagated backwards, generating multiple shocks. In the case of random strength distributions on the fault, highly irregular rupture propagation is generated and in some cases unfractured regions remain.

Miyatake (1980b) analysed the near and far field displacement as well as the shape of the spectrum due to different distributions of strength on the fault. He found that complex seismic waves including multiple shocks are generated more by irregular propagation of the rupture than by a complex source time function. The analysis of the spectrum in the near-field shows a variable slope at high-frequencies with almost the same corner frequency for uniform strength, line barrier, block barrier, or random barrier. Far-field spectra also show a variable slope at high-frequencies.

1.3 Empirical Relations in Seismology

It is an implicit assumption in seismology that earthquakes which occur in the same region will have similar source properties. This is true in spite of the fact that there can be a large range of magnitudes in a particular region. This similarity assumption (Aki 1967) implies that relationships might exist between various aspects of the source in the population of all earthquakes in a region. These can be investigated by analysis of statistical distributions of source properties. Various authors have proposed various such relationships. Since the use of larger populations may allow average statements about a source region, and since I use this device in the work that follows, I now review these relationships.

Originally (Richter 1935) the magnitude of an earthquake was empirically related to the maximum amplitude measured in a standard seismograph, the epicentral distance and depth of a local earthquake in California. Evidently this magnitude was related to the energy radiated from the earthquake source. The first attempts to relate local magnitude and energy were given by Gutenberg and Richter (1942, 1956), they also proposed what they called a unified magnitude mb, that is derived from body waves recorded at teleseismic distances.

The usually accepted relationship between local magnitude and energy is log(Es)=1.5(Ms)+11.8, where according to Richter (1956), Ms (surface wave magnitude) is

an approximation to local magnitude for shallow earthquakes.

(An excellent treatment of the definition of earthquake magnitude is given by Pilant 1979 page 385). Another independent relation given by Bath (1958) is

log(Es)=1.44(Ms)+12.24.

Equations that have been used in energy calculations are those obtained by Starr (1928 equation 18) and Knopoff (1958 equation 33). Tsuboi (1956), assuming that shallow earthquakes have a certain voluminal upper limit to support concentrations of stresses, calculated a relation between energy and fault area (cm²) given by $E=600 \text{xA}^{-1.3}$ (ergs). Pilant (1979), using simple physical considerations, calculated the energy necessary for a crack to return to its original position before rupture, and obtained $Es=(M_e/\mu) \times \eta \sigma$, where n is the seismic efficiency $\eta \sigma$ is the apparent stress, and μ is the shear modulus.

A theoretical relation between energy and source dimension was calculated by Gibowics (1975), using Randall (1972) expression for the seismic energy Es=(1/2) $\Delta\sigma$ M./ μ and Reilis Borok (1959) expression for the seismic moment, M.=(16/7) $\Delta\sigma$ r³, that is given by

 $log(Es)=2log(M_{\bullet})-3log(r)-27.14$ (cgs units).

With new data and improvement in the understanding of earthquake sources, new empirical relationships between source parameters (seismic moment, source dimension, stress drop) and local magnitude, surface wave magnitude, body wave magnitude and a new earthquake magnitude (Ma) proposed by Kanamori (1977), have been developed.

The first attempt to relate seismic moment to earthquake magnitude was made by Brune (1968). He also gave a method for calculating the average slip along faults. Wyss and Brune, 1968, analysed the surface waves of thirteen earthquakes in California with local magnitudes ranging from 3.2 to 5.5. They found the relationship: logM.=1.4M,+17.

Thatcher and Hanks (1973) systematically studied source characteristics of Southern California earthquakes with local magnitudes in the range between 2 and 7. They found empirical and theoretical relationships between local magnitude and source parameters. The relationship of seismic moment and local magnitude (logM.=1.5M,+16) was similar to that found by Wyss and Brune (1968). They also showed:

 $M_1 = log(M_*) - 2/3(log(r)) - 17.8$, $log(M_*) = 2(M_*) + 14.2 - log \Delta\sigma$, $log(2r) = (2/3)M_1 + 2.9 - (2/3)log \Delta\sigma$, (cgs units)

for earthquakes with magnitudes from 3 to 7. Here, M. (seismic moment) is in dynes centimeters, r (source dimension) is in kilometers and $\Delta\sigma$ is stress drop in bars.

Source dimensions of these events lie between 0.6 to 25 km and stress drops between 0.3 and 200 bars. There is some scatter in their data, therefore, these relationships should be used with caution in other tectonic settings. They are useful in the sense that they can be compared with similar empirical relationships from other tectonic settings.

Randall (1973) combined the spectra of the far-field displacement and the response of the Wood-Anderson seismograph, in order to calculate a set of relations between source parameters and local magnitude. Gibowics (1975) following a similar approach, plotted different theoretical curves of local magnitude against seismic moment as a function of source radius and stress drop. Knowing a given event with M. and M. it is possible to estimate the source radius and stress drop from those curves. As the source radius decreases so does the seismic moment. From the graphical relations of Randall (1973) Gibowics calculated logM.=M.+17.16, for events with source dimensions less than 500 meters. This relation is similar to that calculated by Rebollar et al (1982a), using Sato-Hirasawa model, for similar source dimensions. Bakun and Bufe (1975) found

 $logM_{\bullet} = (1.52\pm0.05)M_{\bullet} + (16.2\pm0.1)$

for events with magnitudes in the range from 1 to 5 in Central California.

Kanamori and Anderson (1975) found theoretical relations between seismic moment and surface wave magnitude using the Haskell model and assuming similarity conditions, i. e. the ratio of length to the width of the fault (aspect ratio), the ratio of average dislocation to the length of the fault (constant strain drop), and the ratio of the product of risetime and rupture velocity to fault length (constant effective stress or dynamic similarity). Those relationships are: Ms=logM. for small earthquakes and short risetimes, Ms=(2/3)logM. for earthquakes with magnitudes between 6 and 8, and Ms=(1/3)logM. for great earthquakes. Further similarity conditions have been investigated by Ben-Menahem (1976, 1977), and implicitly by Iida and Aki (1972), who included the Mach number, i. e., the ratio of rupture velocity to phase velocity. They also obtain a relation between seismic moment and source area given by

 $logM_{\bullet} = (3/2)logS + log(16 \Delta \sigma / 7 \pi^{\frac{3}{2}})$

This is a linear relationship for a constant stress drop. A plot of seismic moment against fault area for published data indicates a constant stress drop between 10 and 100 bars for inter- and intra- plate earthquakes.

However, inter-plate earthquakes seems to have stress drops around 30 bars and intra-plate plate events around 100 bars.

Geller (1976) assuming a stress drop of 50 bars obtained

logM.=Ms+18.89 for logM.=(3/2)Ms+15.51 for logM.=3Ms+3.33 for Ms=8.22 for 6.76≥Ms
8.12≥Ms≥ 6.76
8.22≥Ms≥8.12
logM.≥28

However Sato (1979) argues that such detailed relations cannot hold due to the uncertainity of the data. Ohnaka (1978) implicitly assumed the constant strain drop similarity and calculated a linear relation between log(M.D/L) and local and surface wave magnitude for world-wide and California earthquake data (D is average dislocation and L fault length); he obtained

 $log(M_*D/L) = (1.089\pm0.1)Ms + (8.82\pm2.05) Ms \ge 5.5$ $log(M_*D/L) = (1.88\pm0.08)M_* + (9.07\pm1.49) for 2.0 \le M_* \le 6.8$

In fact M.D/L is the seismic energy. He defines the "total force drop" as the product of stress drop times the fault area (ΔF), and calculates

 $log \Delta F = (1.07\pm0.03)M, +(12.81\pm.64)$

Following a different approach Sato (1979), theoretically re-examined the empirical relationships obtained by other investigators, and suggested

logS(km²)=M-4.07 logD(cm)=0.5M-1.4 logM₄(dyne-cm)=1.5logS+27.5

where M is the earthquake magnitude, S fault area, D the mean dislocation and M. the seismic moment. These relations assume a constant strain drop (dynamic similarity), proportionality of seismic moment to seismic energy (constant apparent stress), and the relation logT.=0.5M where T. the predominant period of particle velocity. He compared results of Utsu and Seki (1954), Berckhemer (1962), Bath and Duda (1964), Chinnery (1969), Kanamori and Anderson (1975), and Ohnaka (1978). He argued that the discrepancy in the coefficients in these relations could be due to the use of different data and uncertainities in the evaluation of source parameters and magnitudes.

Kanamori (1977), considering the saturation problem of earthquake magnitude for great earthquakes with fault lengths greater than 100 km, proposed a new magnitude scale as a function of the strain energy drop (difference in strain energy before and after an earthquake). This scale does not suffer saturation and gives a minimum estimate of the strain energy for a partial stress drop. The strain energy is calculated via the seismic moment, i. e. E.=(ΔG/2 μ)M., and the magnitude is calculated using the Gutenberg and Richter energy relation given by logE.=1.5Mω+11.8. Singh and Havskov (1980) calculated relationships between Mω and

seismic moment, according to whether they are intraplate or interplate events. They suggest

 $M\omega=(2/3)\log M_{\bullet}-10.73$ for interplate events $M\omega=(2/3)\log M_{\bullet}-10.46$ for intraplate events $M\omega=(2/3)\log M_{\bullet}-10.57$ if all events are grouped together

These magnitudes are close to Ms for earthquakes with fault lengths less than 100 km.

In the next 3 chapters I examine digital data detected, mainly from one single station at distances of 515 km, 180 km, and above the source 6 km in the light of these proposed empirical/theoretical relations. Obviously data from a single station can give biased results, but studies from ideal networks are generally rare for economic reasons. In the next chapters I argue that it is possible to have good results from single station data, however, more stations are always desirable (see also for example Bakun et al 1976, and Pearson 1981 for other studies using a single station).

2. Spectra of some Oaxaca Earthquake Aftershocks from RESMAC This chapter is based on a published paper (Rebollar and Nyland 1980).

The Oaxaca earthquake of November 29, 1978, (Ms=7.8, 16.07N, 96.48W) yielded an opportunity for detailed study of an earthquake in a subduction zone. This is the first earthquake in Mexico recorded with a great variety of instruments in the near and far field both before and after the main event. This event had been forecast in a gap (Ohtake et al 1977), and later trapped (Ponce et al 1978).

Although the network that trapped the event (Ponce et al 1980) consisted of smoked paper recorders, five telemetering stations a combination of RESMAC (Lomnnitz and Gil 1976) and SISMEX (Prince et al 1973) were recording digitally at a distance of about 500 km from the epicentral. area. Since November 15, 1978, the recording system for this group of telemetering seismic stations in Mexico had been in a final testing stage.

RESMAC stands for "Red Sismologica Mexicana de Apertura Continental". The RESMAC system was planned to cover all of Mexico. All the events are sent by microwave signals to IIMAS at "Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM)". The main task of the system will be to provide quick access to data for earthquakes in Mexico to Mexican and other investigators. It will be functioning in event detection mode. The RESMAC system also acquires data from the SISMEX network operated by "Instituto de Ingenieria" (II). SISMEX

(Prince et al, 1973) supplied data from three of their stations, Santa Rita (IIC), Tonantzintla (IIT), and El Pino (IIP).

Two days after the occurrence of the Oaxaca earthquake seven portable digital stations were deployed by "Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y Educacion Superior de Ensenada" (CICESE) and the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). This was a joint project between CICESE and UCSD. This network was operated from December first of 1978 to late April of 1979 (Munguia et al 1979). Several hundred events were recorded. Those aftershocks are being analysed by L. Munguia at UCSD as part of his PhD thesis at UCSD (personal communication).

The data acquired for the Oaxaca Earthquake of 1978 illustrates quite well the difficulties inherent in the collection of seismological data. Clearly the data has deficiencies, but just as clearly it is the best available data, particularly for the first 3 days of the aftershock sequence when there was only a very small operation monitoring aftershocks in the aftershock zone. An understanding of the behaviour of the aftershocks of this very large earthquake (in fact the largest world wide of 1978) is crucial to untangling the physical properties of fault zones.

S-wave spectra of the main event and 21 aftershocks have been calculated. Due to the bandwidth of the RESMAC system, the corner frequency of the shear wave spectrum of

the main event is not observed. I do see two slopes at high frequencies (-2.0 and -2.8) intersecting at a frequency of 1.4 Hz. Comparison of the spectra of aftershocks with those obtained from the nearby portable digital stations shows a shift of corner frequency to the lower frequencies, typically of the order of 0.3 hz and in general, a smaller value, typically 4.3 smaller, for the seismic moment. The corner frequencies of the P-wave spectra are outside the observed frequency band. A magnitude-moment relationship given by logM.=1.3M.+16.6 was found. This relationship is the same calculated in chapter 3 for events of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm and illustrates a similarity between inter and intra plate earthquake generating processes.

2.1 Tectonic Background of the Oaxaca Earthquake

Mexico has one of the most active plate boundaries in the world, the Middle America Trench. This plate boundary is formed by the subduction of the Cocos Plate below the central Mexican part of the American Plate. Subduction of the Cocos plate causes shallow and deep (no more than 400 km) seismic events in central Mexico. Shallow events are mainly the result of relative movement between oceanic and continental crust or of internal deformation within the plates. Intermediate (between 100 and 300 km) and deep earthquakes (recorded elsewhere between 300 and 750 km)

occur in the interior of plates immersed within the asthenosphere and deeper mantle. Abundant literature about the tectonics of the Middle America trench can be found elsewhere (see for example Cox 1973).

The state of Oaxaca lies in the morphotectonic province of Sierra Madre del Sur (figure 1). Most of this province consists of schists and gneisses of uncertain, but probably Precambrian or Paleozoic, age. However, the highest mountain ranges expose middle Tertiary volcanics, whereas the lowlands are underlain by granites (Guzman and Zoltan de Cserna 1963).

2.2 The Oaxaca Data Set

The spectra and source parameters of the main shock and 21 aftershocks were obtained from the data recorded at the Cerrillo station (CRX). The distance from Cerrillo to the epicentre of the main shock is approximately 515 km. For studies in Oaxaca, the Tonantzintla (IIT) SISMEX station is one of the best stations of the system. Unfortunately calibration information for the SISMEX stations for 1978 and 1979 is not available to us. Three stations of SISMEX (IIC, IIT, IIP) and two stations of RESMAC (CRX, MEX) recorded the main shock and all subsequent aftershocks (with local magnitudes greater than 3) of the Oaxaca event. The main shock saturated must of the stations, however, Mexico and Cerrillo were exceptions. Mexico was moderately saturated

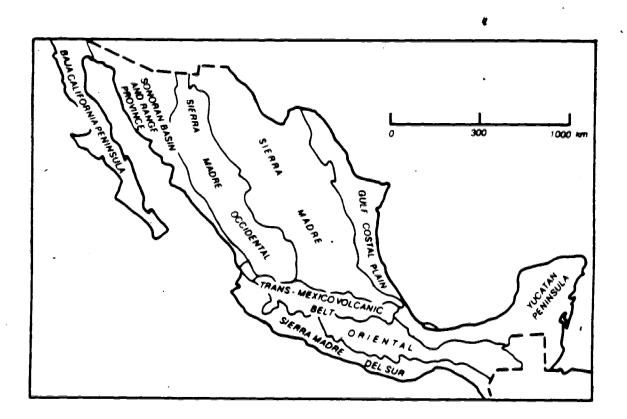


Figure 1... Morphotectonic provinces of Mexico.

and is extremely noisy. Cerrillo is quiet and suffered no saturation. Acapulco station was installed 30 hours after the main shock.

Due to the instrument response of the RESMAC system (figure 2), source parameters for larger events are obscure. However, it was possible to get the slope at high frequencies and source parameters for events of magnitude between 3.6 and 5.0. The source parameters at the CRX station were compared with the spectra of some events from the nearby CICESE-UCSD portable stations (Munguia et al, 1979).

2.3 Instrumentation

The response curve of a typical RESMAC station is shown in figure 2 with the magnification curve for the CICESE-UCSD stations. A RESMAC station consists of a Mark seismometer (with period of one second and damping 0.7), an amplifier, two filters in cascade (period of 0.1 sec and damping 0.7), and an analog-to-digital converter (A-D). A PDP11 mini-computer used for data recording. The maximum output of the analog-to-digital comverter (A-D) is ±131072 "counts", which corresponds to an input of ±10 volts. The maximum velocity magnification is 162 counts/(micron/sec). The output of the A-D is recorded 36 times/sec giving a Nyquist frequency of 18 Hz.

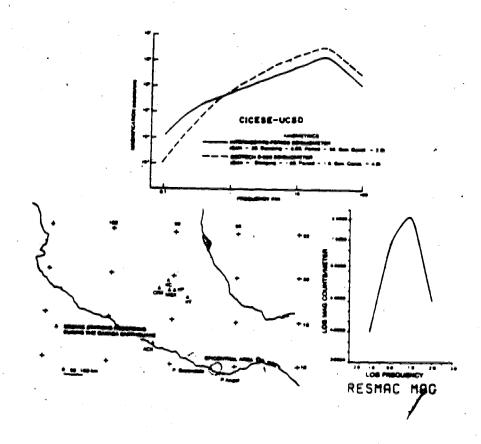


Figure 2.... The response curve for RESMAC and UCSD-CICESE stations and an index map of the area showing stations in 1978

The SISMEX system transmits data by radio link to
Instituto de Ingenieria, where the recorded events can be
digitized. While SISMEX records continuously on analog
magnetic tape, RESMAC does real time event detection on its
input chanels.

The configuration of SISMEX and RESMAC stations in November 1978 made it difficult to get reliable epicentre locations in the Middle America trench. The seismograms (figure 3) are very complicated making it difficult to recognize different phases.

During fifty two hours after the main event the RESMAC system was triggered 151 times. During this interval of time fifty five events (appendix 1) were recorded but only nine (table 1) were clear enough at Cerrillo station for spectral analysis (table 2).

2.4 Data Analysis

From the travel time curves for a continental structure at normal depth (33 km), the phases that would appear in the seismogram at a distance of 510 km are: the refracted wave Pn, the direct wave Pg, the reflection PgPg (very close to Pg), the conversion SgPg, the refracted Sn wave, the direct Sg wave and finally the reflection SgSg. For this distance the surface waves do not appear very soon after the arrival of the S-wave. Consequently, it is unlikely that the energy spectrum is contaminated by surface waves. Instead the

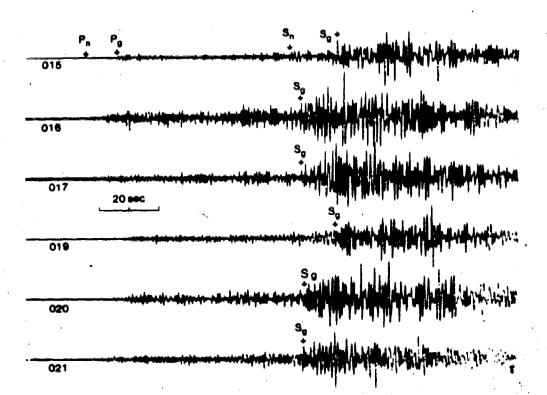


Figure 3.... Examples of Oaxaca seismograms.

F	.lag∆ _s ,	1 _e	ð,	٧.	ī,	4:	MACHITUDE	DITE
631	-2.54	0.72	-1.7	3. 37x10 ²³	1.92	14.1	5.6	
902			-1.3				4.8	21:08:53
. 003	~4.56	₩ 1.0	-1.2	3. 22x10 ²¹	1.39	0.36	3.7	29-11-78 21:50:10
						,		29-11-78 22:06:36
904	-4.11	0.93	-1.7	9.00 <u>x10²¹</u>	1.49	0.81	4.1	29-11-78
005	-4.84	. 27	-1.5	3.53x10 ²¹	1.56	0.28	4.3	22:31:25
006	-2.86	0.65	-2.3	1.61X10 ²³	2.15	4.79		29-11-78 23:06:50
	-2.00	. 0.03	-2.3		2.13	4.79	5.0	29-11-78
007	-4.36	0.83	-2.4	5. 10x10 ²¹	1.67	0.32	3.6	23:39:39 29-11-78
906	-4.01	1.0	-1.9	9.29X10 ²¹	1.39	1.02		27-11-7
•••	-4.01	1.0	-1.7		1.39	1.02	4.2	30-L1-78
009	-4.42	1.0	-2.4	4.44 <u>210²¹</u>	1.39	0.49	3.4	01:32:16 30-11-78
010	-4.04	.74	-2.1	1.01x10 ²²	1.66	0.46	4.0	02:62:35
414		. / ¬	-4.4		1.00	U. 46	4.0	30-11-76
011	-4.62	1.12	-1.2	2.6X10 ²¹	1.24	0.44		17:41:48 30-11-78
01.3	-4.44	0. 9 1	-2.4	4.24x10 ²¹	1.52	- 0.36	3.7	17:57:25
	*****	•			1.34	. 0. 30	3.7	30-11-78
014	-4.8	0.89	-2.1	3.45×10 ²¹	1.56	0.27	3.6	21:23:45 30-11-78
015	-3.36	0.87	-2.8	5.1X10 ²²	1.6	3.72	4.7	05:37:13
		4.47			4.4	3.74	4. /	02-12-78
016	-4.06	0.83	-1.7	1.01x10 ²²	1.67	0.65	4.1	20:29:20 02-12-78
017	-4.4	1.0	-2.6	4.65X10 ²¹	1.39	0.51	3.8	23:36:34
*:		*					*	02-12-78
019	-3.92	0.91	-2.0	1.41X10 ²²	1.52	1.17	4.2	01:11:11 04-12-78
020	-3.48	0.51	-2.0	3. 87310 ²²	2.72	0.57	4.5	06:35:51
					• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			05-12-78
021	-3.9	0.71	-1.4	1.47 x10²²	1.95	0.58	4.7	23:45:49 05-12-78
025	-4.26	1.07	-1.9	6.21X10 ²¹	1.30	0.87	4.6	10:54:24
								06-12-78 15:30:21
031 .	-4.31	0.91	-2.5	5.73X10 ²¹	1.52	0.48	3.9	11-12-78
035	-3.74	0.66	-1.1	2.13x10 ²²	2.1	0.67	4.4*	21:30:40
							***	18-12-78 08:53:50
039	-3.75	0.5	-1.7	2.06X10 ²²	2.77	0.29		28-12-78
040	-4.34	0.91	-1.9	5.34X10 ²¹	1.52	0.45		18:40:07
			*					28-12-78 19:19:47
041	-3.64	0.74	-1.5	2.58X10 ²²	1.58	1.2		28-12-78
042	-4.13	0.78	-1.7	5.67X10 ²¹	1.75	0.48		19:44:09
								28-12-76

Table 1.... Source parameters derived from RESMAC data recorded at Cerrillo.

Nov.29.78.21.08.53 Nov.29.78.21.17.25 Nov.29.78.21.35.19 Nov.29.78.21.40.23 Nov.29.78.21.50.10 Nov.29.78.21.54.01 Nov.29.78.22.06.56 Nov.29.78.22.18.07 IIT saturated
small event
not very clear signals
not very clear signals
spectrum analysed
not very clear signals
spectrum analysed
good signals at IIT, IIC and
IIP

Nov.29.78.22.26.25	good signals at IIT, IIC and IIP
Nov.29.78.22.31.25	spectrum analysed
Nov.29.78.22.57.40	not very clear signals
Nov.29.78.23.08.50	spectral analysed
Nov.29.78.23.29.03	
NOV. 29. / 6. 23. 29. U3	good signals at IIT,IIC and IIP
Nov.29.78.23.39.39	spectrum analysed
Nov.30.78.00.01.53	spectrum analysed
Nov.30.78.00.08.20	small event
Nov.30.78.00.28.32	small event
Nov.30.78.01.11.35	small event
Nov.30.78.01.32.16	good signals at IIT, IIC and
	IIP
Nov.30.78.01.58.33	small event
Nov.30.78.02.02.35	spectrum analysed
Nov.30.78.03.05.10	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.05.11.37	small event crx down
Nov.30.78.05.52.28	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.07.25.34	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.07.49.59	small event
Nov.30.78.08.22.44	small event
Nov.30.78.10.20.32	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.10.35.56	small event CRX down
Nov.30.78.10.43.54	IIT saturated CRX down
Nov.30.78.11.12.24	small event CRX down
Nov.30.78.11.42.51	small event CRX down
Nov.30.78.12.04.32	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.12.24.37	small event CRX down
Nov.30.78.13.13.54	smal event CRX down
Nov.30.78.13.16.50	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.13.49.51	goodevent CRX down
Nov.30.78.13.59.10	small event CRX down
Nov.30.78.14.41.13	small event CRX down
Nov.30.78.15.37.44	small event
Nov.30.78.16.08.44	good event CRX down
Nov.30.78.17.41.48	spectrum analysed
Nov.30.78.17.49.47	IIT saturated
Nov.30.78.17.57.25	good event clear at IIT, IIC
	and IIP
Nov.30.78.19.25.12	small event
Nov.30.78.21.23.45	small event
Nov.30.78.23.56.46	small event
Nov.01.78.03.03.59	small event
Nov.01.78.04.09.04	small event
Nov.01.78.04.38.58	small event
Nov.01.78.09.32.15	good signals at IIT, IIC and
	IIP
Nov.01.78.17.38.56	small event
Nov.02.78.02.01.04	small event
Nov.02.78.03.26.45	IIT and IIC saturated
	*** BUG IIC SECULĒCĒG

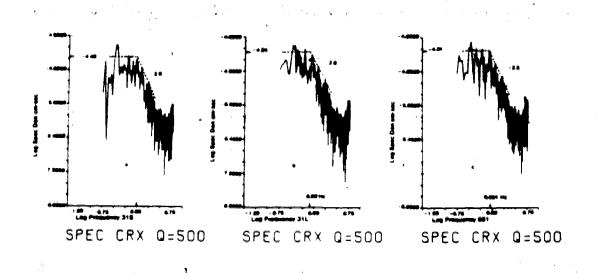
Table 2.... Events recorded at RESMAC and SISMEX stations

fifty two hours after the Oaxaca event.

spectra will have energy from the phase SgSg and the scattering due to reflection near the station.

Spectra of P and S waves recorded at CRX were corrected for instrumental response and seismic attenuation. The epicentral distance was estimated from the average Sg-Pg times assuming a Vp velocity of 6.5 km/sec (based on unpublished refraction results at Pinotepa Nacional). This distance has an error of ±35 km. The uncertainty in the distance yields an error of one order of magnitude in the moment. Several values of Q were tested to gain more insight into the value of this parameter in the reglon. Since very little is known about Q in this area, anelastic attenuation was approximated with a Q of 500 for S-waves and a Q of 1242 for P-waves (as suggested by Anderson et al 1978). From the analysis of the spectra, the reliable bandwidth of frequencies was determined to be between 0.2 to 7.0 Hz. Consequently, the earthquake signal was band-pass filtered outside this range of frequencies.

The different time windows that were used in calculating the shear wave spectra (figure 4) show some increase in the spectral amplitude with an increase of the sample length. All spectral calculations were made with 2000 data points (55.6 seconds) of data. This implies the possible presence of scattered P and S energy. Reyes et al



OAX CRX 11-12-78 15-30-21

Figure 4.... Variation of the spectra with increasing sample length.

(1979) used hypocentral determinations of aftershocks to establish 2 trends in the distribution of aftershocks. One part of the aftershock zone dips at an angle of 20° while another part suggests a reverse fault zone dipping at 70° toward the trench. There are a large number of aftershocks on the first portion, on the second activity is scarce but is supported by a composite focal mechanism.

In order to compare RESMAC spectra with CICESE-UCSD data (figure 5), the spectra must be corrected for radiation pattern and free surface reflection of SV waves. Two of the events used in our comparison to CICESE-UCSD results are associated with the zone that dips at 20°. This admittedly weak result is the basis for assuming that all events analyzed here slipped on fault planes parallel the main thrust zone in a down dip direction. This corresponds to a dip of 20 degrees and an azimuth of 60 degrees. Nuttli, (1961), calculated the amplitude of S-waves at the free surface for different angles of incidence. Using Nuttli's formulas the ratio of the displacement amplitude at the free surface to the amplitude of the incident wave is 0.82. The previously mentioned unpublished refraction results (Singh, personal communication) were used to arrive at this number. An average depth of 35 km was assumed. At 60 degrees azimuth the average radiation pattern correction for Sv waves (assuming a rupture velocity of 0.9 Vs) is 0.84 (Madariaga 1977).

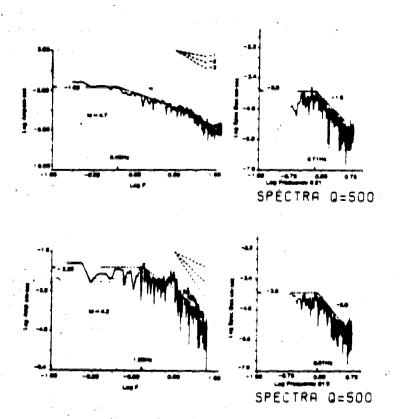


Figure 5.... Two examples of spectra for events recorded both by CICESE-UCSD and RESMAC stations.

Spectral amplitudes, corner frequency and slope at high frequencies (table 1) decrease for different values of Q (table 3). The corner frequency also tends to decrease but in an erratic way.

The response characteristics of the RESMAC system were such that it was only possible to get the slopes at high frequencies of the main shock, (-2.0 and -2.8 (figure 6)). The intersection for these slopes is at 1.4 Hz. The first aftershock of magnitude 5.6 was recorded nearly 13 minutes after the main event, a corner frequency at 0.7 Hz was found, although this means a small source dimension for a relatively large event. The second large aftershock of magnitude 4.8 was recorded approximately 74 minutes later, this spectrum does not show any corner frequency at all in contrast with the first aftershock, instead it is possible to see a slope of -1.3 at high frequencies (figure 7).

2.5 Source Parameters

The constants used in this analysis of source parameters (Brune 1970, 1971) are: S wave velocity=3.75 km/sec, density $\rho=2.35$ gr/cm³. Table 2 shows the results of these calculations.

Two (figure 7) of the 21 aftershocks spectra show poorly defined corner frequencies. I compared (table 4) source parameters of the spectra of some events registered at both RESMAC and CICESE-UCSD stations. In general there is

CICERS-ULED DATA

MAG	Q	log0 _m	f on	3
4.2	1000	-2.26	1.55	-1.50
4.7	1000	-1.68	0.49	-2.00
4.5	1000	-1.73	1.33	-2.50
4,4	1000	-2.00	0.68	-1.1

RESPLAC DATA												
Q	logQ	fel	a _K	Q	logΩ	t _{ek}	'a _R	Q	leg0 _R	feR	•	SHOCK
			i									60
1000	-4.12	0.87	-2.40	300	-3.92	0.91	-2.0	350	-3.86	0.98	-1.4	či:
1000	-4.00	0.69	-2.30	500	-3.90	0.71	-1.60	350	-3.89	0.81	-1.10	31 <u>1</u>
1000	-3.56	0.43	-2.20	500	-3.48	0.51	-2.00	350	-3.46	-0.47	-1.40	020
1000	-3.97	0.78	-1.80	500	-3.74	0.66	-1.10	350	-3.60	0.71	-1.00	035
			'		·							

Table 3.... RESMAC spectral parameters for different values of Q compared with the results from the CICESE-UCSD nearby stations.

RETRIAC DATA

				H _{off}		46	
500	-3.92	0.91	-2.0	1.41x10 ²²	1.52	1.17	319
500	-3.90	0.71	-1.6	1.4721022	1.95	0.58	321
500	-3.48	0.51	-2.0	3.8721022	2.72	0.57	030
500	-3.74	0.66	-1.1	2.13x10 ²²	2.1	0.67	235

CICERE-UCED DATA

	*	Q	LogO	r _{est}	3	Xolt	7_	44
	4.87	1000	-2.26	1.55		6.86X10 ²²		
•	1.1 4.32	1000	-1.68	0.49	-2.0	1.63x10 ²²	3.43	32.49
ē	4. 32	1000	-1.73	1.35	-2.5	1.67220 ²³	2.01	0.40
	2.63	1000	-2.00	0.68	-1.1	5.45x10 ²²	1.44	3.71

NOTES $\frac{\delta M_{_{\rm S}}}{M_{_{\rm A}R}} = \frac{N_{_{\rm OH}}}{M_{_{\rm A}R}} \; ; \quad f_{_{_{\rm S}}} = cornar \; frequency \; EZ,$

To - source dimension Di . M - Stress drop bars

M = Memons dynas - cm } = slope at high frequencies

O - spectral density

Table 4.... RESMAC source parameters for Q=500 compared with CICESE-UCSD results.

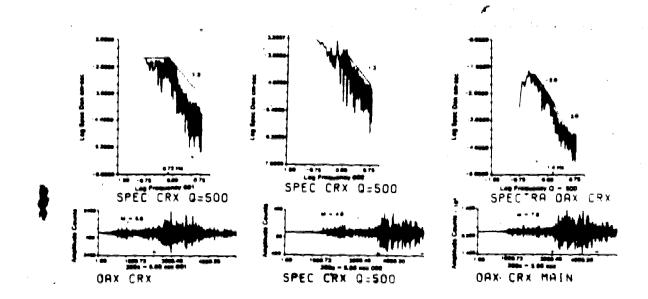


Figure 6.... Spectra of the main shock and the first two aftershocks recorded at RESMAC

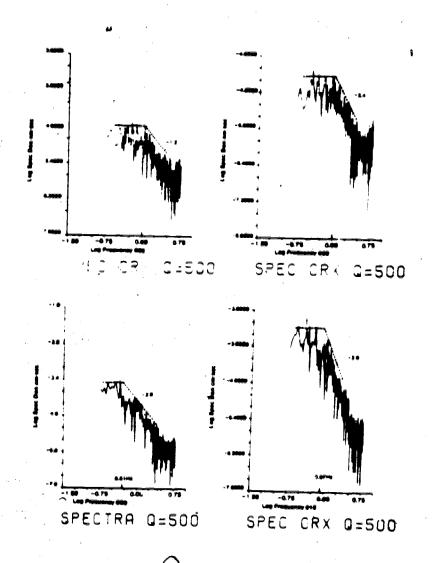


Figure 7.... The two upper spectra show well defined corner frequencies and the two lower spectra are not well defined.

not good agreement between corner frequencies (the largest difference is 0.8 Hz). CICESE-UCSD corner frequencies are larger than the RESMAC corner frequencies. This difference results in a discrepancy of 1.7 km in the source radius and a large discrepancy in the stress drop. This bias could be due to scattering in the crust (Dahlen, 1974), but it seems more likely to be evidence of variations in the focal mechanisms.

Unfortunately only CRX was sufficiently quiet for spectral analysis. It is evident from the seismograms and the time windows which have been used, that the RESMAC spectra contain scattered P and S waves. Consequently, scattering could increase the estimated fault size.

RESMAC moments are smaller, sometimes by a factor of close to 5, than CICESE-UCSD moments. The disagreement could be due to:

- 1) Differences in bandwidth between CRX and the CICESE-UCSD stations.
- 2) The bandwidth of CRX. The station was not originally planned to provide spectral information at teleseismic distances.
- 3) Uncertainties in the radiation pattern. I have only one station.
- 4) Energy losses due to conversion of the SV signal and due to scattering in the largely unknown structure between Oaxaca and Mexico.

Consequently calculations of the moment give a possible lower limit. The spectra of P-waves were calculated and do not show any corner frequency. This could be due to the lower amplitude of the P-waves.

2.6 Seismic Moment and Local Magnitude Relationship of the Oaxaca Aftershocks

Using twenty aftershocks of the Oaxaca event I calculated an empirical relationship between seismic moment (M.) and local magnitude (M.). This relationship was compared with a similar relationship for events from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm (see chapter three). Even though these seismic sequences were generated in different tectonic environments (the Oaxaca aftershocks are interplate events, and the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm is an intraplate sequence). Both sets of data seems to fit the relationship given by logM.=1.3M.+16.6 for magnitudes between 1.5 and 5.5 (figure 8). A more expanded discussion of this relationship is given in chapter three.

2.7 Conclusions

Source parameters of 21 aftershocks of a large earthquake on a subduction zone were obtained. Corner frequencies lie near one Hz, showing smaller values than those obtained with the nearby stations. This could be due to scattering along the path length and near the station.

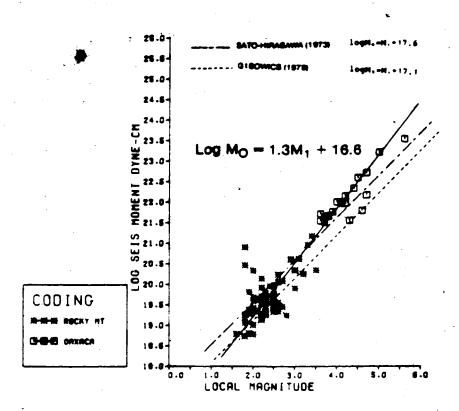


Figure 8.... Comparison of the Oaxaca seismic moments with the seismic moments of the Rocky Mountain House Arthquake swarm

Seismic moments for the observed events with magnitudes from 3.6 to 5.6 range from 3.45x10° dyne-cm to 3.3x10° dyne-cm, with source dimensions from 1.2 to 2.7 km and a maximum stress drop of 4.7 bars. Consequently source dimension and stress drop are lower limits. P-wave spectra do not show any corner frequency, being very sensitive to scattering and noise level. Seismic moment is the more reliable parameter. The magnitude seismic moment relationship for the 21 events analysed fits the relationship given by logM.=1.3M.+16.6.

In this chapter I calculated the spectra of the Oaxaca earthquake aftershocks at about 515 km from the source. I can consider this a "large" epicentral distance. In the next chapter I analyse the refracted phase Sn and the spectra of the events from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm detected at Edmonton, those events are approximately 180 km from Edmonton. Therefore, I can consider that spectral analysis at an "intermediate" distance from the earthquake source. The data in the next chapter will also permit comparison of processes on a subduction zone with the poorly understood processes that give rise to intraplate seismicity.

3. Focal Depths and source Parameters of the Rocky Mountain

House Earthquake Swarm from the digital data at Edmonton

It is often assumed in earthquake seismology that similarity
exists between large and small earthquakes (Aki 1967). This
is the motivation for comparing a sequence of small earthquakes in an intraplate environment with the
aftershocks of a large earthquake on a plate boundary, such
as the Middle American Trench near Oaxaca.

34...

Mountain House earthquake swarm, such an intraplate sequence, from records taken at Edmonton (EDM) and Suffield (SES). From January 1976 to February 1980 one or both of these stations detected 220 events with magnitudes less than 4. Some of these events show well defined Sn, Sg and Pg phases and small variation in the difference of Sg-Sn and Sg-Pg at EDM. Analysis of the theoretical travel times using a structure determined for central Alberta yields an average focal depth of 20±5 km and an average epicentral distance of 175±5 km SW of Edmonton for 40 of these events. Since Sn was not clear on the remainder, it was not possible to get focal depths for all the events.

Seismic moments of 80 events with local magnitudes from 1.6 to 3.5 were found to be in the range of 6.0x10'* to 7.9x10'* dyne-cm. A rélationship between local magnitude and seismic moment was logM.=1.3M.+16.6; similar to one determined in California. A theoretical realtionship using Sato-Hirasawa (1973) model was calculated with different

rupture velocities and source dimensions; It was found that it is strongly dependent on these parameters. Using a rupture velocity of .9 times the shear velocity and a source dimension of 1 km the model give logM.=M,+17.6 The Sato-Hirasawa model fit well our data. The Gibowics (1975) theoretical relationship given by logM.=M,+17.1 also fits our data. Source radii, where they could be determined, were between 500 to 60 meters and stress drops were from 0.01 to 1.5 bars.

The depth of focus, the low stress drops, and the statistical similarity to other natural earthquakes sequences suggest that at least part of this swarm is of natural origin.

This chapter is based on a paper submitted to Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences (Rebollar et al 1982)

3.1 Introduction

Destructive earthquakes are not common in Canada, although large events occur off the coast of British Columbia. Of all the seismic activity detected in Canada approximately two-thirds occurs in Western Canada (figure 9), mainly in British Columbia, Yukon, and the North West Territories (Whitham et al 1970).

The Rocky Mountains, one part of the North American Cordillera, and the Alberta plains show some seismic activity. Seismic events occurring on the Alberta plains are

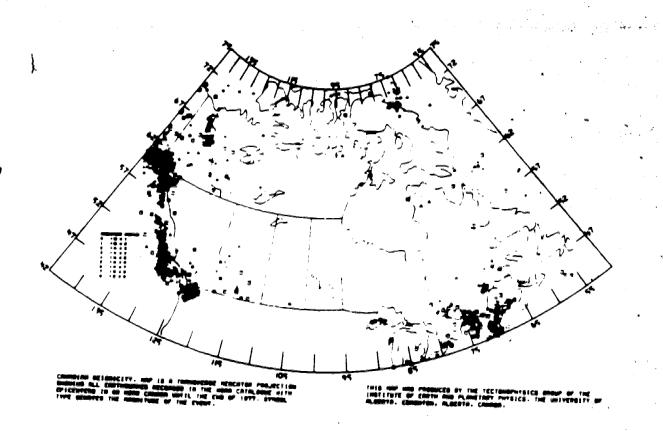


Figure 9.... Seismicity of Western Canada.

usually small (Local magnitude M, \leq 4) and thus are not often detected on more than a few seismic stations. Some may be triggered by secondary and tertiary recovery methods during hydrocarbon extraction. A somewhat higher seismicity level exists in the foothills of the Rocky mountains. This seismicity tan be observed at Edmonton (EDM), Suffield (SES) and Penticton (PNT). The Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm (figure 10) is a good example.

Since January 1976 EDM has been recording signals from a seismic swarm near Rocky Mountain House, appoximately 185 km SW of Edmonton. Due to the small magnitude of these events they have been seen mainly at EDM. Larger events (M, near 3) have also been seen at Suffield station (SES) which is about 350 km from Rocky Mountain House. Therefore, this study is mainly concerned with the analysis of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm detected at Edmonton and Suffield.

3.2 Analysis of the Data

The University of Alberta seismic observatory (EDM) records 3 components each of short and long period data in digital and analog form. The analog system is a part of a Canadian and Worldwide Network of Standard Seismograph stations. In the digital system the seismometer is coupled with an amplifier and a Butterworth filter. The data are recorded at 18 samples per second (short period) and 3

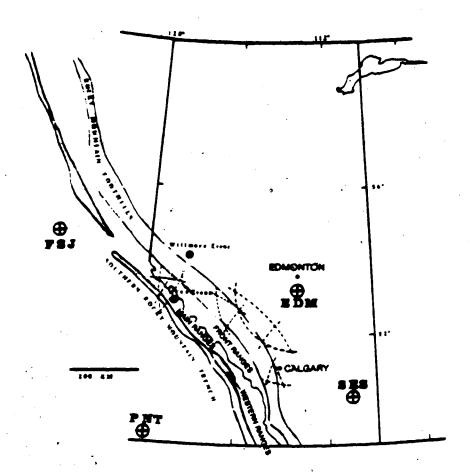


Figure 10.... Geologic provinces of the Southern Rocky Mountains and locations of some seismic events recorded at EDM, SES, and PNT.

samples per second (long period) and is written in a 2'S complement binary as a 14 bit bipolar word. The maximum signal is 13 bits plus sign (±8192 counts) and this is equivalent to ±10 volts level at the imput to the analog to digital converter. There is a WWVB bit inserted at bit position 15 (McCloughan and Kanasewich 1974). The response curve of the curve of the system (see Aki and Richards chapter 10 for details on magnifications curves) is given in (figure 11).

About 5 events per month apparently originating in South West Alberta have been detected on analog records at EDM (figure 12). There were apparently random bursts of up to 25 such events. This is unusually high activity compared to the local activity detected at EDM since 1970 (figure 13).

Some of the events of the swarm are simple, with well defined Pg, Sn, and Sg phases. However, some of the large events are complicated showing similar amplitudes of P and S waves. This could indicate variations in the source mechanism (figure 14). Pn is usually barely above the noise level. Neither the complex nor the simple events appear on the long period records. This suggests relatively deep foci.

From January 1976 to February 1980, it was possible to read Sg-Sn and Sg-Pg in 41 events out of 220 (table 5).

Reading errors of Pg and Pn are of the order of 0.05 sec when the onset is clear, and 0.1 sec or greater for Sg and Sn, when a clear phase was recorded. The average time

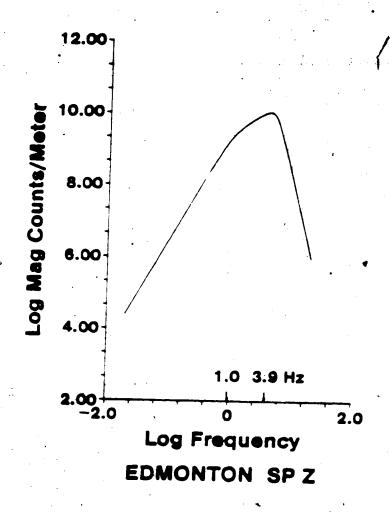


Figure 11... Magnification curve of the short period seismic station, vertical component.

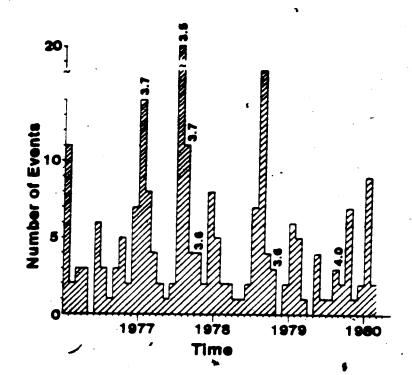


Figure 12.... Histogram of number of events from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm recorded at EDM against time with no apparent frequency magnitude relation.

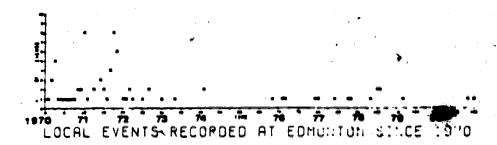


Figure 13.... Local events (S-P times of less than 60 sec) recorded at Edmonton station since 1970

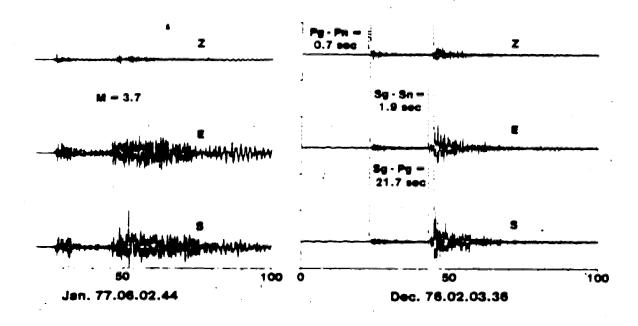


Figure 14.... Events recorded at Edmonton from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm, left - complex event, right - simple event.

MA	pg-8%		ru	10-A1	
		•	f	•	•
44.75.20.19.37	*	1,70	1.79	21 - 84	19 -
AAR - 76 - 39 - 16 - 67	. + * *		: 43	21 36	21.3
MAT - 16 - 13 - 84 - 49	111	1 70	. 44	21 62	
MP . 76 . 61 . 22 . 46				22 . 73	12 - 4
100° 70° 12° 10° 34° 100° 70° 14° 00° 10°	1141	1.90			
967 - 76, 14 : 66, 64	+++	♦. #	1,34	36.16	# - 0
667 . 76. 16. 16. 23		1.95	1 78	21 54	27 - 7
107.75.60.11.42	9.75	1.76	1 79	21 👊	21 - 1
FRC . 75 . 60 . 67 . 26		1.78	1 30		31 : 4
PRC . 70 . 23 . 14		2.17	2.10	21.74	31 - 1 21 - 2
449.77.85.23.26				21.74	21
AM. 77 (65 (66) 44	0.61	4.	1.65	1111	
M6.77 81 87 49		1.70	1 98		,. • •
APR. 27, 12, 17, 14		1 78		21 15	ji. 7
mar 77, 23, 17, 23		1 44	2 #	21 62	31.00
AAL.77 02.20.46		1 96		21.34	21. 30
AAL 77 20:01.28		1 🙀	1 100	20.16	y 21
44, 77 24, 17, 50	0.50	2.17	1.98	21.94	21.74
AR 77. 31. 68,56		1 98	1 58	21 15	21, 54
MG.77 13.00.24		1.00	1 🗯	21 48	21. 19
MB.77 27.11.51		1.76	1 98	21.74	27, 19
GET 77 60:21.28		1 78	1.66	21.74	21, 18
361 77 26 16 34			2 57	31 - 94	21 #3
1007 - 77 - 11 - 11 - 31		1 96			.,=:
060,77.80,19,28		1 96		21 15	
DGC , 77 , 23 , 76 , 52		' 10	1 78	21.48	21, *\$
MC.77 39:21:25	+ -	1 10	2.13	21.34	*
JAN 78, 14, 86, 36	1.1.1	1 - 76	1 78	21.54	21,42
766.76.30.63.10 AP. 76.30.60.67			1.50	: * *	22, 🗪
AA. 79.10.22.10		· ••	4.1		11.5
MAS. 70. 15. 01. 12		1 00 1 70	1 95 1 76	21.00	21.04
MR, 78. 16. 69. 42		2 86	7 78	21.70 21.80	21,94
465.70.20.01.00					21,54
AMD. 79. 69. 50. 14			1.76	21.30	21.74
f48.79.11 Mg. 07			1.78		41.9*
	0.47	78	1.78		21.74
MT 79.21.00.01		1 10	78		:= * * *
M45.79 81.45.47		70	4.2		
MED 70 30 10 30 A		1 2m			

Table 5.... Pg-Pn, Sg-Sn and Sg-Pg phase differences recorded at Edmonton station (N North South and E East West Components)

difference for Sg-Sn was 1.9±0.2 sec and for Sg-Pg was 21.7±0.7 sec. The consistency of this difference suggests that the activity is confined to a small area. The average Pg-Pn difference of 0.6±0.1 sec was based on 6 of the 41 events. This group of events shows remarkably consistent differential travel times and as a consequence I feel justified in treating the data as a group. The average of the differential times should be representative of the group and it is this representative value I analyse.

3.3 Analysis of Refracted Phases

These average differential travel times have implications for the average depth of seismicity at Rocky Mountain House as observed at EDM. Obviously it would be better to have data from nearby stations to determine depths but equipment and technician limitations prevent this except for short intervals. In order to estimate source depth I assume a structure derived from seismic refraction profiles, calculate travel time curves for Pg, Sg, Pn, and Sn as a function of source depth and use the average Sg-Sn, Pg-Pn, and Sg-Pg times to constrain the depths. Since Sg-Sn and

Sg-Pg were tightly constrained we can place limits on the depths from which the seismicity originates if our structure is correct. I have tested the entire range of possible plains structures and conclude that no reasonable structure permits shallow source depths for the portion of the Rocky Mountain House seismicity which has observable Sn at Edmonton.

This conclusion is important. It seems highly unlikely that seismicity at depths exceeding 10 km is triggered by the relatively small changes associated with hydrocarbon recovery operations on the Strachan gas field which is near the swarm. The events studied at EDM are most likely not induced. This does not preclude the possibility that other activity exist and is related to hydrocarbon recovery. The possibility that the basement structures near the foothills are seismically active, albeit at a low level, also has interesting implications for the geodynamics of the North American plate.

Several observational constraints can be placed on the problem. The first, and most important, is the requirement that Sn must arrive before Sg. This must hold no matter what velocity model is used and no matter what source depth is used. The second derives from the spread in Sg-Sn. Although it was .2 seconds in my data I accepted solutions in which deviations of up to 0.35 seconds appeared. A third constraint, which is also crucial, is that Pn arrives before Pg. Here again I accept the pessimistic view that 0.35

second deviation from an observed average is acceptable.

Given these constraints I must solve an inverse problem which has no unique solution. I determine the range of velocity models, source depths and epicentral distances which fit our observations. In order to explore the problem I first derived what appeared to be a reasonable velocity model for the problem and then searched for a source depth and a distance to the activity that satisfied our average of Sg-Sn and Sg-Pg.

The crust is nearly 45 km thick in much of southern Alberta Clowes and Kanasewich (1970), Chandra and Cumming (1972), Cumming and Chandra (1975). Ganley and Cumming (1974) found a possible Moho from reflection record at 35 km near Edmonton. However, those profiles are too far from the Rocky Mountain House activity. The nearest reversed seismic refraction profile which gives reliable deep crust and mantle velocities is that determined by Richards and Walker (1959) from an approximately NS refraction profile near 113.5°W and between 50.8°N and 51.9°N (teble 6). Obviously this profile serves only as a guide to structure but it can be used as a starting point for average velocity depth models on the wave path from Rocky Mountain House to Edmonton. The seismic work that was done closer to this area does not provide reliable lower crust or mantle velocities. In order to interpret the data I have at Edmonton such velocities are far more crucial than the shallow velocities.

Layer Thickness	Vp (km/sec)	Vs (km/sec)
(km)		
2.0	3.6	1.81
1.5	6.1	3.07
28.5	6.2	3.51
13.0	7.2	4.15
Half Space	8.2	4.73

Table 6.... The velocity structure (Richards and Walker 1959)

At a distance corresponding to that between Rocky Mountain House and Edmonton the Sg-Pg time does not depend on the depth of focus. It is thus possible to adjust this depth to satisfy observations of refracted S (Sn) which I obtained from digital data archived at Edmonton. It was however not always possible to match refracted P (Pn) as well. This is not surprising, for Pn is not well observed, even on the records I used. I found that the seismicity was associated with depths in excess of 10 km. Best estimates of the sedimentary section in this area suggest that the maximum depth of sediments in this area is approximately 16000 feet or 4.8 km (Bally et al 1966, keating 1966).

Obviously such depth calculations are model dependent. One way to explore the degree of this dependency is to determine the effect of small changes in the model. Another

•

plausible structure (table 7) also yields the results that the average depth of the activity is greater than 10 km. The predicted values of the time differences for various phases (table 8) for this model are such that the average of the observed values indicates depths of the order of 20 km and epicentral distances on the range 170 to 180 km. Again Pg-Pn does not fit well. On the travel time plots for events at various depths with a dipping Moho and a flat Riel discontinuity we note that only once the source depth exceeds 15 km does Sn arrive before Sg. I cannot distinguish the effect of Moho dip on the travel times hence I compared my data (figure 15) with the travel times predicted for a flat Moho.

The data at EDM does not contradict the existence of shallow activity at Rocky Mountain House. Only 41 of the 220 observed events in the digital system showed positive Sn-Sg times. Small Sn-Sg or negative values of this phase difference would lead to masking of Sn in the Sg wave train. Those events for which Sn cannot be picked can be explained as occurring at depths of less than 10 km. The sharpness of an observed distribution of Sn-Sg suggests a concentration of activity at 20±5 km depth.

In this kind of calculation a compromise between computational effort and results is required. At this stage I have a strong suggestion, but certainly no proof, that the average depth of a significant fraction of the seismicity is in excess of 20 km. In order to explore this further I

Layer Thickness	Vp (km/sec)	Vs (km/sec)
(km)	•	*
1.3	2.68	1.35
1.3	4.59	2.31
29.4	6.20	3.57
13.0	7.20	4.15
Half Space	8.20	4.75 、

Table 7.... A modified version of the Richards and Walker velocity structure

Depth	E. D.	Pg-Pn	Sg-Sn	Sg-Pg
5 km	170, km	-1.06	-1.71	20.90
5 km	185 km	-0.47	-0.68	22.68
10 km	170 km	-0.51	-0'.75	20.92
10 km	185 km	0.07	0.27	22.70
15 km.	170 km	0.06	0.23	20.95
15 km .,	185 km	0.64	1.25	22.73
20 km	170 km	0.65	1.27	21.00
20 km	185 km	1.23	2.28	22.78

Table 8.... A selection of predicted differential travel times for the modified Richard and Walker model

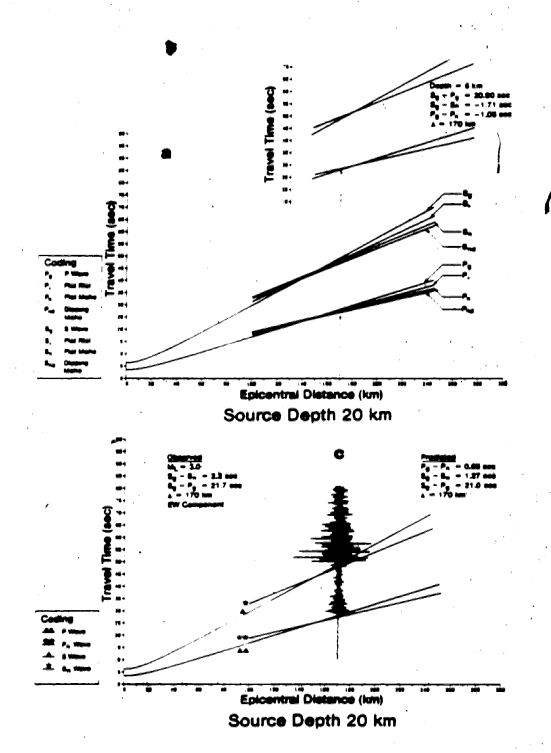


Figure 15.... Theoretical travel time curves for the Alberta model at different depths. The best match of Pg, Sn, and Sg with the theoretical travel time curves was for a source depth of 20 km.

simplified the characteristics of the velocity model and defined a priori reasonable bounds beyond which the solution of our inverse problem could not lie. I admit that 7 parameters are unknown to some degree. These are the average epicentral distance of the activity, the average depth of the activity, the P wave velocities of two layers and a half space and the layers thicknesses. I assumed that Poisson's ratio was 0.28 in order to relate S wave velocities to P wave velocities.

It is possible with a computer search algorithm (ZESRCH from the IMSL library) to determine N possible heptads of numbers constrained within a 7 dimensional rectangle such that the N heptads are evenly distributed in the possible range (table 9) of the solutions. For no particularly good reason, other than the desire to limit computation, I set N to 1000 and let the computer find those heptads which define solutions to the inverse problem, Only two models fit (table 10). They both require focal depths in excess of 25 km.

Obviously a computer search of this type does not rigorously prove that dramatically different solutions do not exist between the points tested. I do however have now a reasonable basis for the statement that at least some of the seismicity at Rocky Mountain House originates at depths which suggest natural rather than induced causes. I also state that this depth can be determined if Sn-Sg can be observed.

165km	≤ Epicentral	≤ 180km _
1	Distance	•
. 1 km	≤ Focal Depth	₹ 40km
5.0km/sec	≤ Vp Velocity of	≤ 6.5km/sec
	the first layer	
30.0km	≤ Thickness of the	≤ 35.0km
•	first layer,	
7.0km/sec	≤ Vp Velocity of	≤ 7.6km/sec
	the second layer	
10.0km	≤ Thickness of the	≤ 20.0 Km
	second layer	
7.9km/sec	≤ Vp velocity of	≤ 8.3km/sec
	the half space	

Table 9.... The bounds on the search for feasible models of the velocity structure

H	vp .	Vs.	н	Vp	Vs
34.14	6.25	3.45	30.83	6.25	3.45
14.10	7.30	4.04	10.80	7.50	4.15
н. ѕ.	8.10	4.48	н. s.	8.23	4.55

Table 10.... The only satisfactory models in a suite of 1000 reasonable ones

There is also shallow seismicity at Rocky Mountain

House. One week of observations with Sprengnether DR100

recording system (Rebollar et al. 1981) found mainly shallow

Unfortunately this event cannot be located, for the Earth Physics Branch portable analog stations, and the Edmonton digital station were down: A program of recording at Rocky Mountain House is continuing in order to acquire data for several swarm events recorded both at Rocky Mountain House and EDM. This would provide final confirmation of deep seismicity at Rocky Mountain House and raise the very interesting problem of its cause.

Even with good observations of Sn the calculation of depth is problematical. A major change in the structure between EDM and Rocky Mountain House would destroy the conclusions. Then the identification of the phase I call Sn can be doubted. Food will consist of simultaneous observation at EDM and at Rocky Mountain House of a deep event. I suggest this may be difficult. In 5 years there were 48 events on which Sn could be picked at EDM, so it may take some time to establish the case for seismic activity in the basement structures of the Rocky Mountain foothills.

3.4 Spectral Analysis

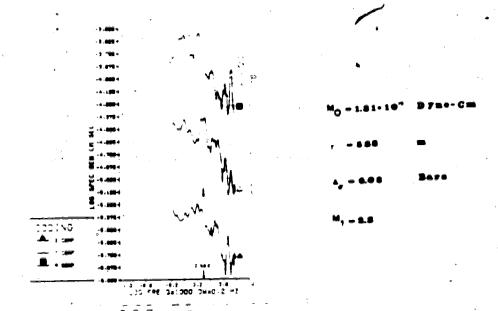
In order to extract good source information, high sampling rate high-dynamic range and a broadband system are desirable. However, there are some cases were digital data of lower quality ill still produce some spectral information. Unfortunately the digital data for the Rocky

Mountain House Earthquake swarm is of the latter type. EDM was designed to detect teleseismic activity. It has a sampling rate of 18 samples per second and a reliable band of frequencies between 0.5 and 7 hz.

Our basic data are the 3 digitized components of the S phases of the signals identified as originating in the Rocky Mountain House area. These were always band pass filtered in this range of frequencies. By suitable rotations I isolated SH on the transverse component and combined the vertical and radial components of SV to isolate pure SV wave.

Clowes and Kanasewich (1970), studying the attenuation in Southern Alberta, found a Q of 300 in the sedimentary layers and a Q of 1500 for the basement. Therefore I approximate the attenuation with a Q of 1000 in order to take into consideration the sediments. The signal was corrected for attenuation, instrument response and distance. I use a sample length of 20 seconds in which is included Sn, Sg and scattered waves near the station. The seismic spectra was calculated and smoothed with a Daniel window of 0.2 Hz (figure 16). Corner frequencies were difficult to recognize in many cases due to the narrow bandwidth.

Source parameters can be derived from these spectra (Brune, 1970, 1971). Since only one station was used in this study, the radiation pattern was approximated as the rms average over the focal sphere for S waves (0.63). I calculate the correction for amplification at the free surface for SV waves using Nutlli's formulation (1961). The



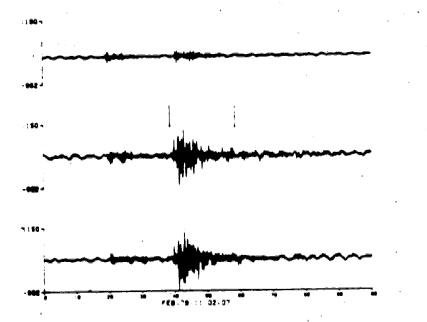


Figure 16... Spectra of typical events. The amplitude of radial and tangential components has been increased in order to plot them together. The spectra were smoothed with a Daniel window -DW- of .2 Hz

correction for free surface amplification is 1.94 for SV vertical component and 1.75 for SV radial component considering an angle of incidence of 24.5 degrees.

The source parameters, seismic moment M., source radius r and stress drop are related (Brune 1970, 1971) to the spectral characteristics by

$$M = 4\pi \rho R \beta^{3} \Omega(0) / R A \qquad dyne-cm$$

$$r = 0.37 \beta / f_{c} \qquad km$$

$$\Delta \sigma = 106 \rho R \Omega(0) f_{c}^{3} / 10^{6} \qquad bars$$

where $\beta=3.37$ km/sec is the S wave velocity, $\rho=2.9$ g/cc is the density, Ω = spectral amplitude at zero frequency, fc=corner frequency, R=epicentral distance, R = radiation pattern, λ free surface amplification.

Computations were made on the spectra of 78 events.

Usually the seismic moment calculated with the SH wave components was higher than that calculated with SV (table 11). This could be an effect of the fault orientation. The average seismic moment of each event was used. The corner frequencies was identified (between 1.8 and 2.9 sec) for 36 events. Those corner frequencies gave source radii from 500 to 600 meters and stress drops from 0.01 to 1.5 bars (figure 17). Obviously at this epicentral distance and with this

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AR 76 19 83 49	1 58-18-1	1.8	44. 78 69.63 37	2 81-19:*
47 75 13 64 46	4 80-10-1 544	8.16 2.6	AL. 79. 10 22. 10	* 75+10++
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Table 11.... Seismic moment, source dimension, stress drop, and local magnitude of some events of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm

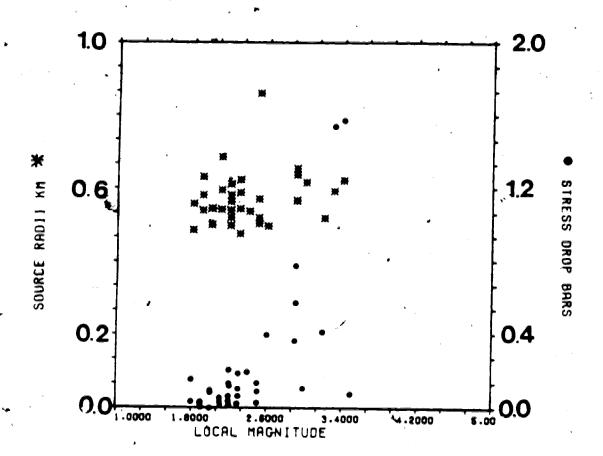


Figure 17.... Plot of local magnitude, source radii and stress drop.

narrow band system I sample only a restricted number of events.

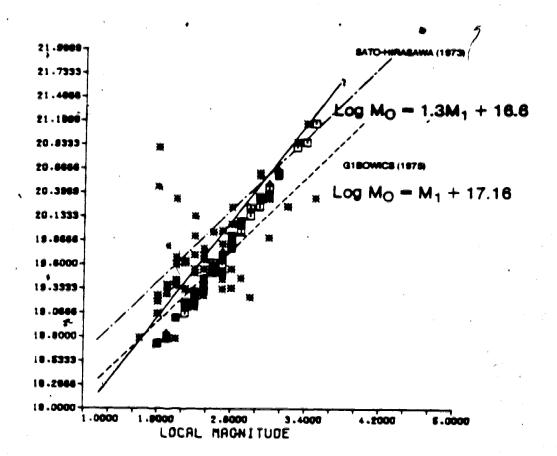
3.5 Seismic Moment and Local Magnitude

Local magnitude is a useful measure of small earthquakes. Small earthquakes do not generate large surface wave amplitudes at periods of 20 seconds and at teleseismic distances the amplitude of P waves is small, so Mb and Ms are hard to determine.

Since I deal here with a relatively large collection of data which is individually rather uncertain, average behavior is probably the best representation of the spectral information. In addition to seismic moment local magnitude is relatively easy to determine and I have calculated local magnitudes for all events for which I have obtained seismic moments. Seismic moments range from 6.38x10⁻⁶ (M.=1.6) to 2.21x10⁻⁶ (M.=3.5) dyne-cm. A plot of M. against M. shows more scatter (figure 18) than that on similar plots (Wyss and Brune 1968, and Thatcher and Hanks 1973). My linear trend is similar to theirs. The best fit to our data is

log M. = 1.3M, +16.6

This equation is a complicated function of source parameters, nevertheless, it can be interpreted in terms of a constant stress drop fault model (Kanamori and Anderson



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Figure 18.... Comparison of theoretical relationships between M. and M. for a circular fault with our experimental relationship, squares are the moments calculated using Thatcher and Hanks (1973) relation

1975, Sato 1979). I used the Sato and Hirasawa (1973) model for a circular fault in order to find a theoretical relationship between seismic moment and local magnitude. In general we can represent the spectral amplitude of the far-field displacement in the form

 $A(\omega) = H_{O}^{RB}(v,u,\tau,\phi,L,or r)/4\pi\rho R\beta^3$

Where

p = density

R = epicentral distance

v = P or S wave velocity

u = rupture velocity

T = rise time

r = source radius

E = fault length for a rectangular fault

m = radiation pattern

• = azimuth

M. = seismic moment

ω = angular frequency

B = source function

Local magnitude is defined as

 $M_1(0.8Hz) = logA - logA_1.35$

where A is the recorded trace amplitude for a given earthquake at a given distance, and A. is that for a particular earthquake selected as standard (Richter 1958), and -1.35 is the correction for Edmonton station. Hence, substituting the spectral amplitude evaluated at a frequency of 0.8 Hz we have

$$M_{L} = \log M_{o} + \log \left[\frac{RB}{4\pi \rho R \beta^{3}} \right] + 2.05.$$

If we assume that all the events of the swarm have the same rupture velocity of 0.9 times the shear wave velocity, a shear velocity of 3.52 km/sec, a density of 2.9 gr/c³, and rms average radiation pattern of 0.63 and a source dimension 2r of 1 km (this number comes from the spectral analysis) we get

for the Sato-Hirasawa model. This model seems to fit our data. The intercept (17.6) of the relationship, using Sato-Hirasawa model, was modeled for a wide variety of rupture velocities, shear wave velocities, densities, source dimensions, radiation patterns, and azimuths, using again the subroutine ZSRCH (IMSL, 1979). The best fit was found to be

assuming a shear and rupture velocity of the same magnitude (3.5 km/sec), a density of 2.8 gr/c², a source dimension of 100 meters a radiation pattern of 0.5 and a azimuth of 71°. Therefore, this search for a best fit tends to give smaller source dimensions, than those observed in our spectral analysis.

Gibovics (1975) calculated a similar theoretical relation using Randall (1973) graphical relations, assuming a circular fault and the asymptotic behaviour of the source function, given by

.logM.=M.+17.16

for source dimensions of less than 500 meters. This is essentialy the same relationship that I found.

It should be noted that the stress drops reported here are just that, fractions of an unknown absolute stress. The stress drops reported here are at best lower bounds on the actual values of the absolute stress.

3.6 Conclusions

Some of the events detected at Edmonton from the Rocky
Mountain House Earthquake swarm appear to have a source
depth of nearly 20 km. This conclusion is based on the match-

of refracted phases with theoretical travel time curves for a model of Central Alberta.

A portable digital seismic station, operated during August of 1980 at 52.26°N and 115.13°W, approximately 160 km SW of EDM, indicates mainly shallow activity (less than 6 km). Nevertheless, there is one event with S-P time greater than 2 seconds, indicating a distant or deep event.

Therefore, two kinds of activity, deep activity possibly associated with thrust faults of the basement of South West Alberta and shallow activity possibly induced by secondary and tertiary recovery methods in the Strachan gas field may exist.

Seismic moments calculated for events with local magnitude from 1.6 to 3.5 vary from 6.38x10'° to 2.21x10'° dyne-cm. A relation between seismic moment and local magnitude was found to be logM.=1.3M.+16.6 for magnitudes from 1.6 to 3.5. This relationship is similar to that found in California by Wyss and Brune (1968) and Thatcher and Hanks (1972) for events with magnitudes in the range from 3.0 to 6.0. A theoretical relationship was calculated using Sato-Hirasawa (1973) model. A source dimension of one km and a rupture velocity of 0.9 the shear velocity was used. This relationship seems to fit our data best, and is essentially the same calculated by Gibowics (1973). Source dimension and stress drop do not show any linear relation to local magnitude; this could be due to the poor resolution of our system.

In the next chapter I analyse the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm activity recorded at "short" epicentral distances (less than 6 km) by a Sprengnether DR-100 digital intrument. This provides further information on the reliability of source parameter estimates and a better insight into shallow activity.

4. Source parameters from shallow events in the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm

This chapter is based on a paper in press (Rebollar et al 1982). I report here source parameters of the Rocky Mountain earthquake swarm derived from three component digital data recorded on a nearby station. During 6 days in October 1980. 21 events were recorded. Focal depths for these events are in the range of 2±2 km. Eleven events with local magnitudes from 2.1 to 2.8 yielded source parameters. Corner frequencies of the S-wave spectra were found in the range 6.2 ± 0.5 Hz giving source dimensions of of 160±10 meters. The corresponding P-wave corner frequencies are in the range 8.6±3 Hz. The ratio of P to S corner frequencies varies from 0.9 to 2.1. There is a path effect between 13 and 16 Hz, that could have affected these ratios. The average fall-off over 3 components at high frequencies varies from -1.8 to -2.3. High stress drops, ranging from 47 to 263 bars and apparent stresses from 2.5 to 23 bars, were calculated. Five events have remarkably similar characteristics in the frequency and time domain. For these events the ratio of minimum strain energy W., according to Kanamori (1977), and the energy calculated using the integration scheme of Hanks and Thatcher (1972) was 3.7 \pm 0.5. A theoretical value gives 3.1. The seismic efficiency ranges from 0.2 ± 0.04 to 0.17±0.8. Large seismic moments for a relatively small magnitudes were found. Some of these spectral characteristics are best explained as the result of

displacement along a smooth fault.

During late September and early October of 1980, a local array of five analog vertical portable seismic stations was operated by R. J. Wetmiller of the Division Seismology and Geothermal Studies of Earth Physics Branch, Dept. of Energy Mines and Resources. One University of Alberta digital 3 component portable station was deployed near Rocky Mountain House Alberta in order to study the seismicity of the area. This area is the most active zone of seismicity in the South West Alberta. Some of this activity has been detected at Edmonton (Rebollar et al 1981). This is the first time that this kind of analysis has been done in South West Alberta at short epicentral distances (less than 5 km).

Events recorded by the analog and digital instruments were confined to an area of approximately 8 square km near 52° 12 N and 115° 14 W at a depth of 4±2 km (figure 19) (Wetmiller 1981). Those events may be confined in a hydrocarbon bearing sedimentary layer from the upper Paleozoic.

This study is mainly concerned with the evaluation of focal depths, and source parameters with a generally accepted source model (Brune 1970,1971). These source parameters are compared with already published data, theoretical models and results from laboratory experiments of shear crack displacements in an effort to explain their particular features.

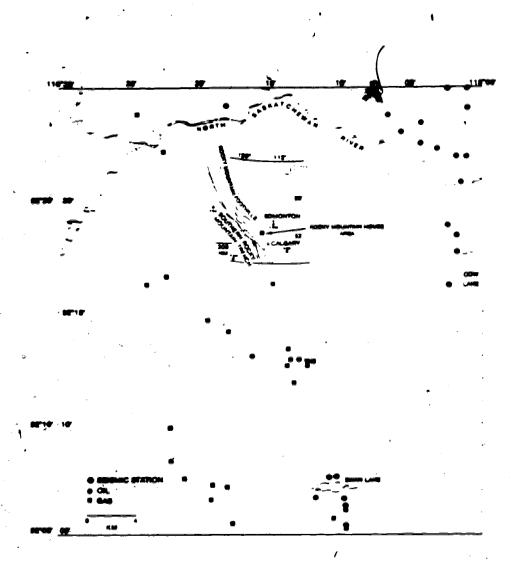


Figure 19.... The location of the Rocky Mountain earthquake swarm. The dash square indicates the seismic locations reported by Wetmiller 1981 an the locations of the digital station. Almost all the locations were near the gas wells

4.1 Digital Recorder

A three channel Sprengnether digital recording system model DR-100 was used in this experiment. This recording system was connected to a five-pole antialiasing Butterworth filters and to Mark product L-4C-1.0 Hz seismometers, to provide a single 3 component portable station. The sampling rate used in this experiment was 100 samples per second. Absolute time was synchronized with the WWVB signal. A response curve for the combined recorder-seismometer for maximum gain of 120 and 60 db is given in (figure 20) The station was located at 52.23°N and 115.27°W, and operated from October 3 to October 9 1980 figure 19. The station was set up in sediments from the Cretaceous, and operated with a gain of 66 db due to local background noise (mainly wind generated and gas field activity).

4.2 Event Locations

In order to analyse the events we need a structural model. Richards and Walker (1959), from an approximately NS refraction profile near 113.5°W and between 50.8°N and 51.9°N, reported two sedimentary layers above the basement. The uppper one is of Mesozoic age with a thickness of 2 km and a P velocity of 3.6 km/sec. The lower one is from the Paleozoic with a thickness of 1.5 km and a P velocity of 6.1 km/sec (figure 21).

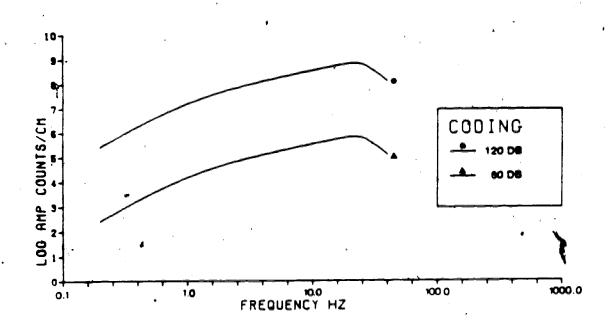


Figure 20.... Magnification curves of the digital station at 60 and 120 db. The station was operated at 66 db.

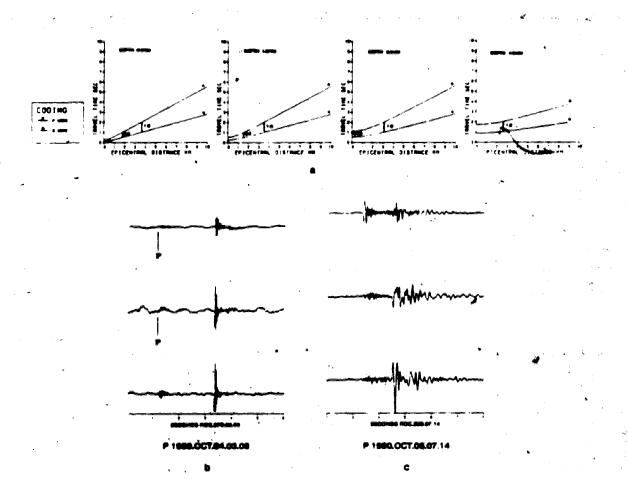
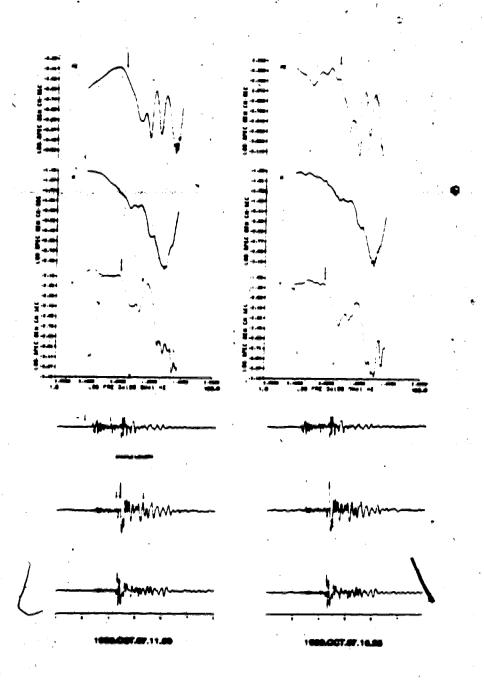


Figure 21.... Travel time curves for different depths using Richards and Walker model 1959. Arrows show S-P times of approximately .5 and 1 seconds of typical events. b) Possible deep event c) typical event

One of the events shows no discernible P or S waves. Five events are remarkable similar in all three components bottom of (figure 22) and (figure 23). This is not the first time that this kind of earthquakes has been observed. Geller and Mueller (1980), reported four similar earthquakes in central California at epicentral distances from 20 to 51 km. This also has been observed in the Victoria earthquake swarm of 1978 in the Valley of Mexicali, Mexico, and in the aftershocks of the Oaxaca eartquake of November 28 of 1978 (L. Munguia personal comunication). This similarity implies that they are clustered in space so that they sample the same path to the recording station. The maximum amplitude was recorded in the EW component, where there is a dominant signal with a period of about 0.2 sec, that correspond to a wave length of 0.6 km assuming a S phase velocity of 3.0 km/sec.

The S-P times of these events are in the range 1.0±0.4 seconds. The P arrival was read in the vertical component and the S arrival in the horizontal component. I calculated theoretical travel time curves using the Richards & Walker model (1959). A travel time curve for a source depth of two km gives an epicentral distance of 3 km, for a source depth of 4 km this correspond to an epicentral distance of 2.65 km. Deeper source depths do not predict the observed S-P time, for example a travel time curve for a source depth of 6 km predict a minimum S-P time of 1.2 seconds above the epicenter. Therefore these events have a source depth of



Pigure 22... Similar events and the spectra of the transverse T and radial component R of the S wave. PZ is the P-wave spectrum calculated from the vertical component, arrows show corner frequencies.

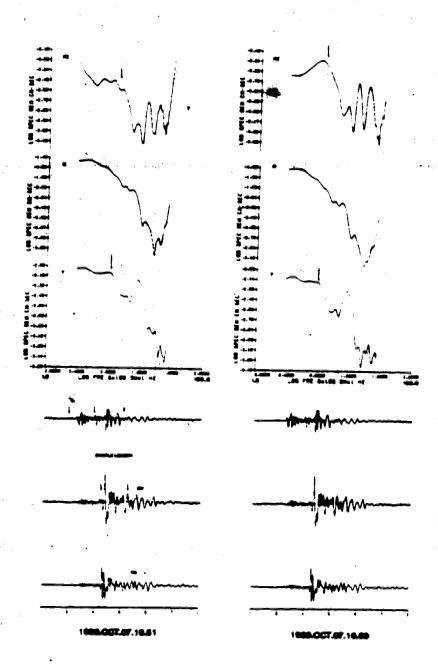


Figure 23.... Similar events and the spectra of the transverse T and radial component R of the S wave. PZ is the P-wave spectrum calculated from the vertical component, arrows show corner frequencies.

approximately 2±2 km figure 21.

These events do not have a large content of high frequencies, even though the station was very near the epicenter. It is well known that irregular rupture dislocations with variable slip and complex strength on the fault enhance high-frequency waves (Miyatake 1980a, 1980b). Perhaps these events correspond to a process in which a barrier is being repeatedly broken and healed. In this case the events share the same dynamic and kinematic characteristics. Another possibility is a collinear shear crack (Rudnicki and Kanamori 1981). Geller and Mueller suggest that the clustering and similarity indicates that these earthquakes can represent stress release at the same asperity.

One event with a relatively large S-P (2.1 sec) time was recorded, therefore is not possible to determine the approximate depth or epicentral distance. I filtered the signal for this event with different bandwidths and still observed clear P and S waves. Perhaps it is one of the deep events analysed using Sn phases at Edmonton. Unfortunately this event was not recorded at Edmonton (figure 21-b).

4.3 Calculation of the Spectra

Source parameters were calculated using Brune's (1970, 1971) model. This theory has been found to be valid in general both at short epicentral distances of a few

kilometers and at teleseismic distances. See, for example,
Hanks and Thatcher (1972), Hanks and Wyss (1972), and Hanks
(1981) among others in an extensive literature.

Corrections applied before the calculation of seismic moment are: free surface reflection of SH or SV waves, radiation pattern, seismic attenuation, geometrical spreading, and instrument response. In this study eleven reliable events were used in order to get source parameters. Epicentral locations, azimuths and angle of incidence calculated by Wetmiller (personal comunication) were used. These events were rotated in order to have a "pure" SH wave in the transverse component, and the horizontal component of the SV wave in in the radial term. Corrections for free surface reflection of the radial and vertical component of SV waves were calculated using Nuttli's (1961) formulas. Taking into consideration short epicentral distances and the sedimentary layers of the South West Alberta, a Q of 150 was used to correct for attenuation in both S and P spectra. However, errors in the choice of Q are not critical because of short epicentral distances.

The sedimentary layers of the South West Alberta consist of shales, siltstones, sandstones, and carbonates with accumulations of hydrocarbons ranging in age from the Paleocene Period to the Cambrian period in the Paleozoic Era (Bokman 1963). Therefore, I assumed a P wave velocity of 5 km/sec, a density of 2.5 gr/cc and a Poisson ratio of 0.33, in order to take into consideration the low velocity body

waves of sediments reported by Richards and Walker (1959). Sample lengths of 1.0 and 1.5 seconds were used for S wave spectra and 0.5 seconds for P wave spectra. All the spectra were filtered between 1 and 45 Hz and smoothed with a Daniel window of 1 Hz.

4.4 Source Parameters and Discussion of the Spectra

Eighteen events with S-P times of the order of one second were analysed; of those eleven yielded source of parameters. The spectra of these events show a significant path effect between 13 and 16 Hz in the transverse or North-South component and vertical component of the spectra. This effect is less prominent in the radial or East-West component. This path effect makes it difficult to recognize corner frequencies, and sometimes it suggests a spurious corner frequency at high frequencies, see figures 25 and 26. In the spectra of P waves this effect is even more noticeable, moving the corner frequency of four events up to 11 Hertz (figure 24). Spectra of some of the events are shown in (figure 25) and (figure 26). Similar events show a great resemblance in the spectra (figure 22 and 23).

Laboratory experiments have shown, that the spectra of waves radiated from the displacement of a homogeneous fault have a simple spectrum i.e. a low level amplitude an the fall-off at high frequencies with a few peaks decreasing in amplitude. However, displacement spectra from an

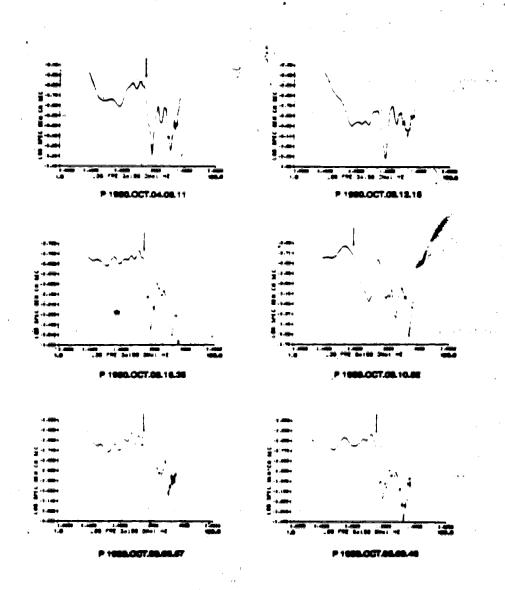
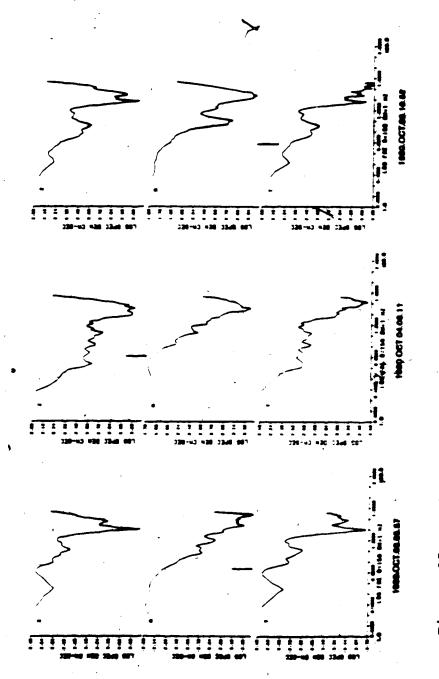
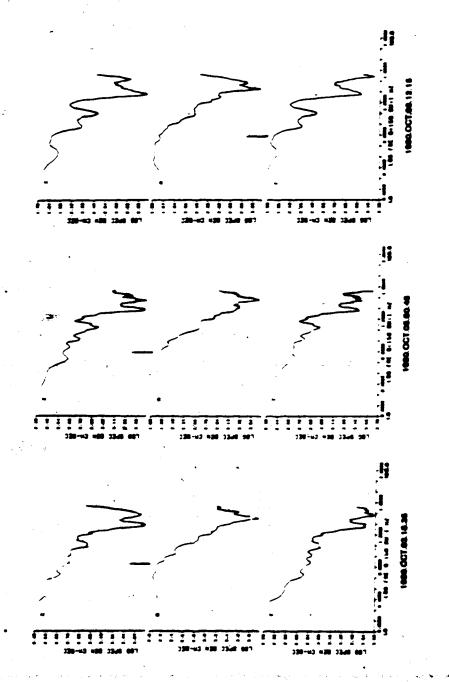


Figure 24.... P-wave spectra of the events of figures 25 and 26. These events show a possible path effect in the corner frequencies; P-wave corner frequencies were usually higher than S-wave corner frequencies



component of the S-wave of the events used in Figure 25.... Spectra of the vertical show possible path inhomogent sis. Arrows show co transverse 1



Spectra of the vertical 2, radial R, and component Figure 26....

inhomogeneous fault (with asperities or obstacles) have a different form; the low level amplitude and the peaks in the fall-off at high frequencies are comparable in magnitude with the low level trend, suggesting two corner frequencies (Vinogradov 1978). Therefore, these results could explain high peaks at "high" frequencies in our spectra. However, the same experiments show that shear displacement along a homogeneous fault (without asperities) gives a high seismic moment for a relatively small magnitude. This is in agreement with our results. Since seismic moment is a more reliable parameter we conclude that those effects present in the observed spectra are more likely due to local inhomogeneities.

Corner frequencies were found in the range of 5.8 to 6.3 Hertz. This is equivalent to source dimensions from 161 to 148 meters. Some corner frequencies in the P wave spectra are strongly affected by path effects as can be seen in the spectra of figure 24. Hanks (1981) pointed out that source parameters calculated at a single station are more likely to be affected by path effects.

Stress drops for those 11 events were consistently high ranging from 47 to 263 bars. Previous work has found stress drops in the range of a few tenth of a bar to 100 bars for events with local magnitudes from -1.3 to 3.4, Wyss and Brune (1968), Douglas and Ryall (1972), Thatcher and Hanks (1972), Bakun et al (1976), Jonhson an McEvilly (1974), Fletcher (1980), Marion and Long (1980), and Rebollar et al

(1981).

Bakun et al (1976) reported stress drops of the order of 245 bars calculated from the spectra of P waves. Hartzell and Brune (1977) found stress drops in the range from 1 to 636 bars for 61 events of the Brawley earthquake swarm with magnitudes from 1 to 4.7.

Mountain House earthquake swarm are of the order of a few tenths of a bar (Rebollar et al 1982). Since the shallow events have high stress drops this seems to contradict the observations that the stress drop increases with depth (Fletcher 1980, and Hartzell and Brune 1977). However, this observation could indicate that shallow events might be an indirect consequence of the extraction of oil and gas whereas deep events are more likely of tectonic origin. Figure 19 shows the epicenter area reported by Wetmiller (1981). Those epicenters tend to lie near the gas wells of the Strachan fields.

Source parameters of the five similar events are more homogeneous, reflecting almost the perfect match in the seismograms. A plot of local magnitude versus seismic moment (figure 27) shows consistently large seismic moments for this range of magnitudes. However, they follow the same slope as the relation logM.=1.3M.+16.6 (Rebollar et al 1981). Large seismic moments for relatively small magnitudes have been observed in laboratory experiments of shear sliding along a smooth fault (Vinogradov 1978). This could

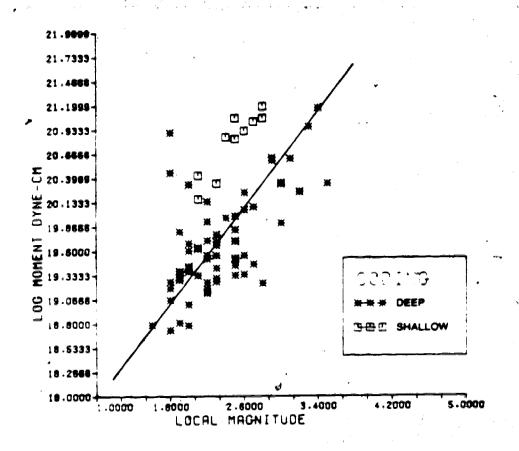


Figure 27.... A comparison of the relation of local magnitude versus seismic moment for deep events detected at EDM and shallow events recorded with the portable digital station. Heavy line is logM.=1.3M,+16.6.

explain those high moments, even though laboratory experiments are an over-simplification of a real earthquake.

The radiated energy E was calculated using Hanks and Thatcher (1972) integration scheme. They found an analytic expression by integrating the far-field shear displacement spectra proposed by Brune (1970), assuming a complete stress drop ($\varepsilon = 1$) and a fall-of at high frequencies of -2. Thatcher and Hanks (1972), however pointed out that uncertainities in the fall-of at high frequencies can give a misleading measure of the energy. In our case the average slope in the three components of the shear spectrum at high frequencies varies from 1.8 to 2.3 (table 12). Therefore, errors in the calculation of the radiated energy due to the slope at high frequencies are small. Most of the energy of small earthquakes is radiated in short period waves, hence, because of the small epicentral distances litle energy can be lost. Therefore, the integration scheme can give a better estimate of the radiated energy.

Energies range from 2.4x10'' ergs (M,=2.1) to 2.1x10'' ergs (M,=2.8). Radiated seismic energies calculated using Gutenberg and Richter, and Thatcher and Hanks empirical relations derived for California give smaller values, as we can see from (figure 28) This could mean that the integration scheme gives a better estimate of the radiated energy at short epicentral distances (less than 4 km).

Corner frequencies of P wave spectra were consistently larger than those of the S wave spectra. Only one corner

=	RECORDING TINE	= 1	z°	_ -9		_4	· •/- 5 •	i - 1	u 1	3 !	e i	2!	An/ra	* '	
-	1980.0CT.04,85.57	7.	2.68-1020	6.2 *1013	4.	1 .6	1.0 1.0	-	1 50	47.3	0.15	1.61	2	2.0	
~	1980.0CT.04.18.35	1.2	1.47×10 ²⁰	2.41×1015	?;	11.6	2.1 2.0 169	7.0	5	62.1	9.0	2.56	24.2	0.1	
•	1980.0CT.05.86.11	2.4	7.07=10.7	6.60×1016	6.3	11.4	1.	5.3	=	2.3 148 211.0	9.14	14.36	14.5	2.0	·
•	1980.0CT; 06.60.48		2.3 2.21×10.20	4.26×10 ¹⁵		11.3	1.0	7.7	Z	74.7	0.16	*	12.6	<u>.</u>	
•	1980.0CT.09.10.52	5.5	1.15=10 ²¹	1.71*1017	\$. 0	5.5	6 : 0	::	172	142.0	0.33	23.28	7.	5.0	
•	1966.0CT.09.12.15 2.8 1.56+10 ²¹	7.0	1.56×10 ²¹	2.10+1017	;;	•	•		8	263.3	0 13	21 . 80	12.00	3.0	
	٠			NI S	BINILAR EVENTS	BITE		**				•			•
^	1980.0CT.08.10.51	3.6	8.28×10 ²⁰	0.99×10 ¹⁶	?	7.4	1.19	7.7	3	1.19 2.2 150 113.5	8.	16.91	16.94 6.7	o. ~	
•	1980.0CT.06.10.59	5.5		6.70*10 ²⁰ 5.30*10 ¹⁶	•	7.1	1.1	7.7	155	92.1	0.27	12.34	1.4	0. 2	
• ,	1980.0CT.08.11.30	7.6	8.28=10 ²⁰	0 . 6.05×1016	5.9	ī	1.30	1.0	1.9 150	105.7	0.33	3.	9.5	2.0	
2	1980.0CT.08.16.25	2.8	1.15-1021	1.39-1017	3.	7.3	1.26 2.2 161 146.0	2.2	3	146.0	97.0	3.6	1.1	o. ~	
=	1980, OCT, 09, 04, 59	2.7		1.04×10 ²¹ 1.31×10 ¹⁷	\$	1.1	1.54 2.1 158	1.1	136	127.4	0.31	19.65	19.65 6.4	7 .0	

929

 H_L - local magnitude, H_B - selamic moment (dynas-ch), E_B - radiated asiamic energy (ergs), f_B , f_B - f-wave, P-wave cerner frequency, γ - everage fall-off of the spectra at high frequencies,

r . Cource dimension (meters), 60 . stress drop (hars), n = seisair efficienty, mi = suparent

etress (bara), & * epicentral distance (km).

Table 12... Spectral parameters for the events recorded in the portable digital station

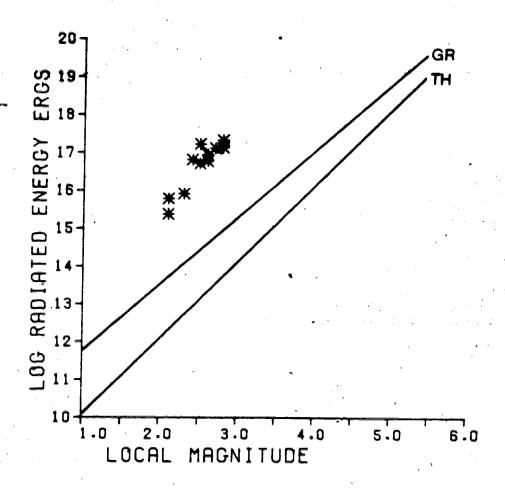


Figure 28.... Plot of local magnitude versus log of radiated seismic energy. GR is the Gutenber and Richter relationship ${\bf g}$ and TH is the Thatcher and Hanks relationship.

frequency of P waves was found to be less than the corresponding corner frequency of the S wave spectra table 12. P wave frequencies seem to be more affected by local path effects. Those path effects are easily recognized because they appear in the same range of frequencies independent of the obvious variation in the radiation pattern that can be recognized by inspection of the seismograms. Ratios of the P and S frequencies (corner frequency shift) were found in the range of 0.9 to 2.1. However, the average ratio of fp to fs in the similar events is 1.2±0.2, more in agrement with the general observation that fp/fs is greater than one, and with theoretical models that treat earthquakes as equidimensional faults (Brune 1970, Madariaga 1976, Burridge 1975), or long and narrow faults with near-sonic or transonic rupture velocities (Savage 1974). Hanks (1981) suggests that the frequency shift is an intrinsic characteristic of the far-field . spectra of body waves independent of source strength (seismic moment), hypocenter, epicentral distance or recording device.

The minimum strain energy drop W. (Kanamori 1977) is

$$\frac{\omega_0}{2\mu} = \frac{\Delta\sigma}{2\mu} = \frac{\omega_0}{2\mu}$$

Which assumes a complete stress drop $(\sigma_2^{=0})$ or if the Orowan (1960) condition is met $(\sigma_2^{=\sigma})$. Substituting the moment and stress drop according to Brune (1970,1971), we get

$$W_0 = \frac{212\pi}{1.26} cgR^2 \Omega_0^2 f_c^3$$

Where ρ is the density, β is the shear wave velocity, R is the epicentral distance, fc is the corner frequency, Ω_0 is the low level amplitude of the SH spectra, and 1.26 is the product of the average radiation pattern and the free surface reflection of SH waves. The radiated seismic energy Es according to the integration scheme of Hanks and Thatcher (1972) is given by

$$E_{s} = \frac{128 \pi^{3}}{15(1.26)^{2}} \rho \beta R^{2} \Omega_{o}^{2} f_{c}^{3}$$

Taking the ratio of W. and Es we get $W_0 = 3.1 E_s$

If we assume that 1/3 of the seismic energy is contained in the P wave we have

This means that even though W. is a minimum estimate of the energy, the integration scheme gives even lower values of the radiated energy. Values of W., Es, and the ratio of W./Es are given in (table 13). This ratio for the similar

N _L	MININGH STRAIN ENERGY	RADIATED SEISHIC EMERCY &	W./E.
	(Kanameri, 1977)	(Hanks and Theccher 1972)	
2.1	4.1*10 ¹⁶ ERGS	6.2=10 ¹⁵ ERCS	6.5
2.1	2.9=1016	2.4=10 ¹⁵	12.2
2.4	4.8=18 ¹⁷	6.6=L0 ¹⁶	7.2
2.3	5.3=10 ¹⁶	8.3=1015	6.4
2.5	5.2=10 ¹⁷	1.7=10 ¹⁷ :	3.0
2.8	1.3=10 ¹⁸	2.2=10 ¹⁷	6.0
•	SINTLAR	CVENTS	
2.6	3.0=10 ¹⁷	8.9=10 ¹⁶	3.3
2.5	1.9=10 ¹⁷	3.3=10 ¹⁶	3.7
2.6	2.8=10 ¹⁷	6.0=10 ¹⁶	* 4.6
2.8	5.4×10 ¹⁷	1.4=10 ¹⁷	3.6
2.7	4.2×10 ¹⁷	1.3×10 ¹⁷	3.2
		and the second s	

Table 13.... Comparison of minimum strain energy according to Kanamori 1977 and Radiated seismic energy by Hanks and Thatcher 1972

events is 3.7±0.5, in good agreement with the theoretical result (W.=3.1Es) which does not include the contribution of the P-wave energy. However, events 1 to 6 give an average ratio of 6.8 with a large standard deviation of 3.

The apparent stress is defined (Wyss 1970) as

$$\eta \bar{\sigma} = \frac{\mu E_s}{M_o}$$

Where n is the seismic efficiency, $\bar{\sigma}$ is the average shear stress, ν is the shear modulus, E_s is the radiated seismic energy, and M. is the seismic moment. Uncertainties in the evaluation of the apparent stress are a direct consequence of the uncertainties in the evaluation of the radiated energy. Therefore, the seismic efficiency is one of the most uncertain parameters in seismology. However, Wyss (1970) calculated a seismic efficiency of 0.1 for deep and intermediate earthquakes in South America. Apparent stress calculated by the Wyss formula range from 2.5 to 23.2 bars table 12. A plot of stress drop versus apparent stress can be compared with that calculated by Hartzell and Brune (1977). Even though there is some scatter it follow a similar trend (figure 29). Those differences indicate

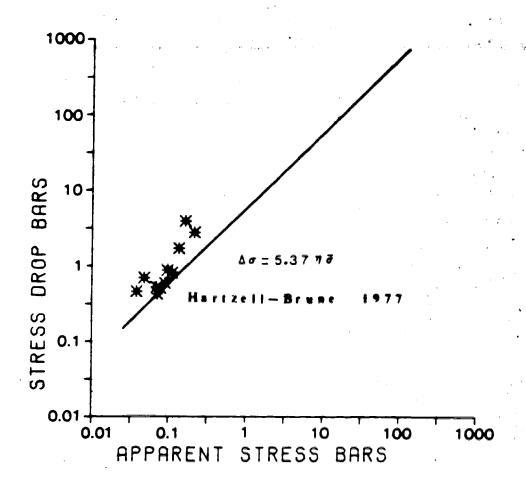


Figure 29.... Plot of apparent stress versus stress drop. The heavy line shows Hartzell and Brune 1977 relation for the Imperial Valley. Similar events have a relation of

regional variations in the apparent stress and consequently the state of stress in the crust of the Rocky Mountain House area.

The ratio of stress drop to apparent stress for similar events is almost constant at 7.4 with a standard deviation of 1.1. This ratio suggests a possible way to calculate absolute stress, however, in order to do this it is necessary to know the seismic energy and the frictional energy.

Following Wyss (1970), it is possible to calculate an approximate upper bound for the seismic efficiency given by:

$$\eta_{\text{max}} = \frac{2\eta \tilde{\sigma}}{\Delta \sigma} \ge \eta$$

Seismic efficiency calculated in this way for the similar events gives a constant value of 0.2±0.04. This reflects the need to pick the correct corner frequencies in the spectra. Events 1 to 6 give 0.17±0.8 (table 12). These high values apparently suggest a high conversion of potential energy to elastic seismic energy for these shallow earthquakes.

4.4.1 Further Field Work

On September 19, 1961 I deployed, in the Strachan gas field, a Sprengnether DR-100 digital seismic station in order to detect deep seismic activity from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm. This station is located at

52.23°N and 115.27°W, at the same place where it was located during the study of 1980. This station has been recording shallow activity (S-P times of less than one second), like that reported at the beginning of this chapter, and possible deep activity.

During three months of observation two events were recorded both at the nearby station and at the analog and digital station of Edmonton. The first event occurred on September 23, 1981, and was recorded at 11 hours 37 minutes and 50.5 seconds at Edmonton. It has an S-P time of 20.5 seconds and does not show any refracted phase in the analog record. This could be due to its small magnitude (M.=1.8). This event recorded in the Strachan gas field station shows a clear P and S wave. Due to drifting problems with the internal clock of the Sprengnether intrument in very cold _weather, it is not possible to read with accuracy the arrival time of the signal. Even though the S wave saturated the instrument, it was possible to read an S-P time of 1.42 seconds, that is equivalent to a maximum epicentral distance of 11.5 km assuming a half space with a P wave velocity of 6 km per second. This also could be a possible deep event.

The second event was recorded at Edmonton on November 25, 1981, at 14 hours, 25 minutes, 12.5 seconds. This event with a local magnitude of M.=2.8 show clear refracted phases in the analog system; it has a Sg-Pg of 20.8 seconds and a Sg-Sn of 1.2 seconds (A typical Sg-Sn in the digital records is 1.9 seconds). The Sprengnether station show clear S-P

times of 1.54 seconds, that is equivalent to an epicentral distance of 12.6 km. Therefore, those events with S-P times of 1.5 seconds recorded in the portable digital station, if not definitely proving the existence of deep seismicity at least show the posibility of events with depths of more than 10 km, in agreement with our conclusion of chapter three. A definite solution of this problem requires the deployment of a network of three digital seismic stations for at least six months of continuous operation.

4.5 Conclusions

Events with S-P times of about one second, and source depths of 2±2 km, show different amplitudes of P and S waves, indicating dislocations with distinct fault orientations. Similar events have small variations in source parameters, perhaps indicating a process in which a barrier or asperity is being repeatedly broken and healed. Stress drops and apparent stress were consistently high for all the events. Hydrocarbon recovery operations can cause concentration of stresses in surrounding areas. This could result in brittle fracture in the sedimentary rocks or the granitic basement by activating ancient faults, joints, or by rupturing along pre-existing cracks. Laboratory experiments reveal a lesser accumulation of strain energy, and consequently stresses, in a closed fracture as compared with an open fracture (Shamina et al 1978). Therefore, high

stresses could indicate a highly fracture zone, since stress drops represent minimum tectonic stresses related to the seismic events.

Radiated seismic energy calculated using W.=($\Delta\sigma/2\mu$)M.

(Kanamori 1977) and Hanks and Thatcher (1972) give a ratio of 3.1; in good agreement with the observed ratio of 3.7±0.5 for the similar events. Larger energies were obtained for a given magnitude using Hanks and Thatcher (1972) method than those calculated using the empirical relationships of Gutenberg and Richter and Thatcher and Hanks for events in California. This could mean that the integration scheme gives a better estimate of the radiated energy at short epicentral distances (less than 4 km). Values of 0.2±0.04 and 0.17±.8 for the seismic efficiency were found, suggesting a high conversion of potential energy to elastic energy for these shallow earthquakes.

Corner frequencies of the S-wave spectra were found between 5.8 and 6.7 Hz, given source dimensions from 150 to 169 meters. The ratio of corner frequencies of P-wave and S-wave spectra give a value of 1.2±0.2 for the similar events, as is usually observed (Hanks 1981). However, corner frequencies for events 1 to 6 give ratios ranging from 0.9 to 2.1. These ratios could have been affected by local inhomogeneities. Swidence for such anomalies is found in our spectra between 13 and 16 Hz.

A plot of local magnitude versus seismic moment gives systematically large seismic moments for relatively small

magnitudes. However, they follow the same trend as the relationship found for deep events by Rebollar et al (1981). Laboratory experiments show that displacement along a smooth fault is a possible mechanism of earthquakes with large seismic moments and a relatively small magnitude (Vinogradov 1978). This could explain those high moments.

5. Other seismicity of South West Alberta and Conclusions
Seismic records from the Edmonton seismological observatory
since 1970 provide evidence for active seismic zones in the
South West Alberta and in the Rocky Mountains. There is a
seismic zone near Rocky Mountain House, and another near
McNaughton Lake. An earthquake occurred in the Willmore
Wilderness Provincial Park (The Willmore event) on October
9, 1977. The seismic moment of this event calculated at
Edmonton from the SV spectrum was 6.7±2x10²² dyne-cm. The
seismic moment of the McNaughton lake earthquake of May 14,
1978 calculated from SV waves at Edmonton, was 7.6±2x10²³
dyne-cm. This compares reasonably with the value calculated
from surface wave spectra (Rogers et al, 1980) at several
stations.

During the last 10 years there has been a denser distribution of seismic stations in British Columbia than in Alberta. Alberta had only (table 14) two seismic stations in continuous operation (EDM and SES), making epicentral locations of micro-earthquake activity in South West Alberta difficult. Earth Physics Branch of Canada usually reports in its monthly bulletin, unlocated events detected in a single station. Those events recorded at Edmonton usually have local magnitudes between 1.7 and 2.5 and typically S-P times between 19 an 22 sec.

Seismic zoning maps of Canada, (Whitham and Milne 1972, Whitham et al 1970, Whitham 1975), suggest that the South West Alberta and the Alberta Plains lies in the zero zone.

Station EDM	Start-up ?/04/63	Shut-down	Latitude 53.2217N	Longitude 113.3500W
SES	5/11/66		50.3958N	111.0417W
PHC	?/12/62		50.7070N	127.4370W
GDR	4/28/78	- 4 4	49.7817N	126.0550W
ALB	3/22/62	7/01/72	49.2720N	124.8300W
ALB	9/11/75		49.2720N	124.8300W
fsj	5/12/65	4/17/79	54.4630N	124.2800W
HYC	9/01/75		49.2656N	122.5731W
PGC	?/08/78		48.6500N	125.4508W
PIB	11/01/75	•	48.8167N	123.3167W
PNT	1960		49.3167N	119.6167W
SKB	10/20/78		53.2478N	131.9963W
FSB	4/30/79		54.4767N	124.3283W
MCE	6/04/77		52.0030N	118.5620W
CUM	10/15/72		52.0869N	118.2117W
DAI	10/15/72		52.1986N	118.3844W
DWN	1/28/77	•	51.4656N	118.4681W
MCV	9/16/74		52.0081N	118.5608W
SPR	8/12/73		52.0153N	117.2564W
TAB	10/18/72		51.7511N	117.7617W
THO	10/15/72		52.6892N	119.1208W
VIC	1898	3/29/78	48.5200N	123.4200W
QCC	7/24/71	7/13/77	53.2550N	132.0883W
BLU	12/12/72	6/06/77	52.1533N	119.2764W

Table 14.... Active seismic stations in British Columbia and Alberta

In this zone the annual probability that accelerations of more than 0.01 g will occur is less than 1 %. This probably reflects the low level of seismicity in South West Alberta, but it could also reflect the detection threshold of the permanent stations (M. near 3.5).

5.1 Previous Studies

A seismicity map of Canada (figure 9) shows a great scatter of events along the Rocky Mountains. Historical and recent earthquakes have been located close to McNaughton lake in the Rocky Mountains (Rogers and Ellis 1979, Rogers et al 1980). This is the most active zone in the Rocky Mountain Trench. Some of this activity (events with magnitudes greater than 3.4) has been detected at Suffield (SES), Penticton (PNT), and Fort St. James (PSJ), and located by the Seismological Service of Canada, Department of Energy Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Previous studies of seismicity in Western Canada have been concerned with the offshore seismicity of British Columbia, its tectonic relation with major plate boundaries and the detection threshold of the Canadian Network in Western Canada (Milne et al 1978). This study is mainly concerned with the description and interpretation of records of micro-earthquake activity in South West Alberta recorded at the Edmonton seismological observatory (EDM).

Mountain House earthquake swarm (table 15), fifteen events with clear Sn refracted phases were located by Ottawa.

A recent example of activity in this area, the Willmore earthquake (figure 30), occurred on October 9, 1977. It was located at 53.63°N and 118.29°W had a focal depth of 18 km, a reported magnitude of 3.3 (Ms) and 4.4 (mb). The McNaughton Lake earthquake of May 14, 1978, (Rogers et al.)

Date	Arrival Time	Epicentral	Location	Ml
M.D.Y.	H.M.S.	LATI TUDE	LONG! TUDE	MAGNI TUDE
Jun2276	03.37.48	52.13°	115.24°	M,=2.7
Sep1376	10.24.20	52.27°	115.42°	
				M,=2.2
Oct 1576	09.47.53	52.22°	115.39°	$M_1 = 2.1$
Oct2376	02.31.12	52.25°	115.46	M,=2.3
De c0976	07.27.36	52.13°	115.22	M,=2.8
Dec 2376	22.17.48	52.20°	115.29*	M,=2.8
Dec 3076	12.53.23	52.20°	115.34°	M,=2.5
Dec 3076	13.36.33	52.25°	115.46*	M,=1.5
Jul0277	20.39.50	52.09°	115.18*	M,=2.7
Jul0577	20.40.25	52.11°	115.14°	M,=2.4
Jul2077	01.22.57	52.23°	115.24	M,=2.0
Jul2477	09.07.30	52.19°	115.23	M,=3.5
Jul 2477	11.24.20	52.10°	115.13	$M_1 = 2.3$
Jul2477	17.49.57	52.18°	115.22	$M_1 = 3.4$
Jul2777	02.17.43	52.24°	115.30°	M,=3.2
Jul2977.	15.28.43	52.06°	115.15°	$M_1 = 2.1$
Jul3177	02.58.30	52.15°	115.20°	$M_1 = 2.7$
Aug 1177	08.51.18	52.26°	115.34°	M,=2.8
Aug 1377	06.24.26	52.29°	115.32°	$M_1 = 2.2$
Aug 1477	21.43.37	52.28°	115.21°	$M_1 = 3.7$
Aug 1477	21.46.25	52.15°	1,15.15°	$M_1 = 2.5$
Aug 1477 -	21.48.27	52.20°	1°15.19°°	$M_1 = 2.8$
Aug2777	11.51.33	52.19°	115.24°	M,=3.1
Sep0877	10.43.10	52.15°	115.19°	$M_1 = 2.4$
Oct2677	00.34.01	52.27°	115.26*	M,=3.5
Jan 1478	08.27.59	52.17°	115.23°	M,=2.3
Jan2178	00.10.60	52.40°	115.36°	M.=1.8
Feb2678	03.18.16	52.06°	115.24°	M,=2.8
Sep2778	01.23.54	52.37°	115.41	M,=2.1
Oct0278	02.04.31	52.21°	115.46	M,=2.2
Jan017	18.43.48	52.22°	115.35°	M,=2.5
Jan0279	07.56.21	52.25°	115.39°	$M_1=2.4$
Jan0579	03.14.03	52.24°	115.38°	M,=2.8
Feb0979	10.17.13	52.17°	115.31°	M, = 2.2
Feb1179	02.07.15	52.19°	.115.31°	M,=2.3
May2879	22.46.09	52.14°	115.14°	M, = 2.7
Jan0880	16.31.14	52.22°	115.22°	M,=2.3
Jan0980	23.43.22	52.17°	115.07°	M,=2.2
Ja n2380	05.07.60	52.25°	115.12°	$M_1 = 2.0$
Sep0480	17.49.25	52.21°	115.32°	M, = 2.7
Sep0480	20.33.54	52.19°	115.35°	$M_1 = 2.7$
Sep0480	21.03.31	`52.17°	115.33°	M,=2.6
Sep1680	01.32.60	52.21°	115.25*	$M_1 = 3.0$
Sep1780	09.58.09	52.22°	115.24	$M_1 = 3.4$
Oct 2980	03.23.48	52.17*	115.19*	M,=2.1

Table 15.... Events located by Earth Physics Branch of Canada from the Rocky Mountain House area since 1976.

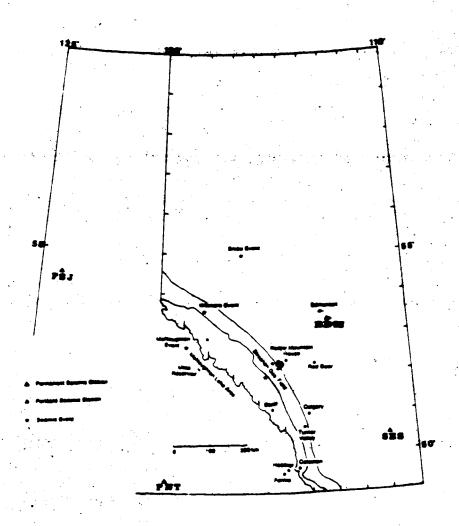


Figure 30.... Location of Snipe, Willmore and McNaughton events and some events located by EPB from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm. Dash are depict maximum S-P time recorded ar EDM equivalent to 120 km

1980) showed .8 right-lateral strike slip faulting combined with .5 of thrust movement. The preferred fault orientation is N10°W. The maximum principal stress axis is nearly horizontal oriented in a northeast direction.

#Earthquake swarms have been observed before and after the impounding of the McNaughton lake reservoir (Ellis et al 1976). Ellis and Chandra (1981) analysed the seismicity of the McNaughton lake reservoir. They found an average of one earthquake with magnitude M,≥3 every 2 years in the period of 1963 to 1972, and four earthquake swarms sequences in the period of 1973 to 1978. They suggest that the activity is mostly of tectonic origin. Earthquake swarms have also been observed near Bella Coola British Columbia and near Mould Bay (Milne et al 1969). Rogers (1981), based on the decreasing age of the Anahim volcanic belt from the coast to the Rocky mountains, the high level of seismic activity and the relocation of recent and historical earthquakes, suggests the possible existence of an active hot spot beneath the Rocky Mountains, near McNaughton lake.

In the Plains an earthquake occurred in 1909 in Southern Saskatchewan with a probable magnitude of 5.5 (Stevens 1977). More recently an event occurred in 1968, 50 km north-east of Bengough close to Amulet with a magnitude of mb=2.9 (Horner et al 1973). In 1972 the Bengough event occurred at approximately 49.35°N and 104.93°W. This event, in spite its small magnitude (mb=3.7), was throughly analysed by Horner et al (1973). They studied intensity

isoseismals, magnitude, epicenter location, focal depth (approximately 10 km), and focal mechanism. In order to calculate the focal mechanism they used the radiation pattern of Love waves for a shallow event. The Bengough event was probably strike slip, striking approximately N 30° E.

No historical earthquakes have been reported in the South West Alberta or the Alberta Plains. However, the Snipe Lake earthquake, of magnitude mb=5.1, occurred on March 8, 1970. This event was felt over approximately 100,000 km² in west central Alberta. It was located near 55° N and 116.5° W with a probably focal depth of 9 km (Milne 1970). Even though the magnitude of this event was relatively high for this part of Canada it was not recorded clearly in many stations. Therefore, no fault plane solution is available, and the probably cause of this event is unknown. It occurred in an area where oil and gas is produced.

Milne and White (1958), using three seismic stations in the Crowsnest Pass area of Alberta and British Columbia during a period of three, years found a correlation between coal mining activity and seismic events. An average of five bumps per day was recorded in active mines. Using a small array (figure 30) at Fernie, Hasmer, and Anderson showed that the locations were confined near the coal mines. Local events detected at stations located at Fernie, Coleman, Turner Valley and Eanff showed that there are micro-earthquakes (with magnitudes less than 3) extending

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from the International Border to Banff. The distribution seemed random in the South West Alberta and in the Rocky Mountain Range. However, this could be due to a poor time control. No relationship between mine tremors and local earthquakes was found.

5.1.1 Seismicity in South West Alberta as Seen by Edmonton Seismograms recorded at the Edmonton seismological observatory have been read on a routine basis since 1963. Only first arrivals were read from 1963 to 1969 but S-P times have been available since 1970 (table 16).

A histogram of local events (S-P times less than 60 seconds) shows all possible events from the South West Alberta (figure 31). Care was taken to avoid mine blasts, which usually occur during working hours and at fixed intervals of time. The largest events were correlated with S-P times at SES, PNT, and FSJ; generally located by Ottawa table 15. A relatively high level of seismicity was observed from 1970 to 1972 (figure 31-a). Then the seismicity decreased to an average of 2.2 events per year. Figure 31-a only includes what I call the "Normal Seismicity of the South West Alberta". It does not include the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm (RMHES), that apparently started in 1976. Figure 31-b includes the Rocky Mountain house earthquake swarm. Events from the RMHES are easily recognised since they generally have an average S-P time of 21.7±0.7 seconds at Edmonton.

	ARRIVAL TIME	1	
MONTH DAY	HOUR MINUTE	S-P	LOCAL
YEAR	SECOND	TIME	MAGNI TUDE
JAN 1676	20.21.09	21.0	
JAN2476	16.09.22	20.5	3.2
JAN2576	19.27.00	20.0	1.5
JAN2676	19.37.18	21.5	2.2
JAN2776	01.48.07	24.0	
JAN2776	04.13.00	20.5	
JAN2776	04.21.39	24.0	
JAN2776	05.33.27	22.0	
JAN2776	05.35.52	20.5	1.9
	05.43.11		1.9
JAN2776		20.6	2.2
JAN3076	15.07.26	20.0	2.2
FEB0876	18.49.02	21.0	1.7
PEB0876	23.04.14	20.0	2.4
MAR0676	09.35.36	20.0	
MAR0676	20.44.49	20.0	
MAR 1076	03.49.54	22.0	1.9
MAY0176	06.44.09	21.0	2.0
MAY1376	04.48.04	20.9	1.9
MAY1376	06.26.43	21.0	2.2
JUN 1876	11.26.17	20.2	2.1
JUN 1876	14.28.04	20.5	3.4
JUN2176	21.59.29	18.0	2.3
JUN2276	03.38.14	21.0	2.7
JUN2776	13.28.03	20.2	2.2
JUN2976	00.40.43	23.0	2.1
JUL0876	05.24.08	20.6	2.6
JUL0876	05.26.00	20.7	2.1
JUL3076	11.57.15	21.0	2.2
AUG0876	18.16.02	20.0	2.3
SEP0176	22.45.31	20.5	3.2
SEP1376	10.24.48	1.9.2	2.2
SEP1476	02.44.43	22.5	2.4
OCT1376	10.54.05	20.7	2.5
OCT1576	09.48.21	20.7	2.1
OCT1576	15.33.56	21.5	3.2
OCT2376	02.31.40	21.1	2.3
OCT2776	06.20.53	20.0	1.7
NOV0376	11.42.54	20.8	2.4
NOV2976	02.28.47	20.5	2.2
DEC0176	15.52.46	20.6	1.8
DEC0276	03.36.16	19.3	3.0
DEC0976	07.28.03	20.1	2.8
DEC 1876	19.51.06	22.0	1.6
DEC2376	22.18.17	20.3	2.8
DEC3076	12.53.51	20.5	2.5
DEC3076	13.37.01	21.0	1.5
JAN0577	03.10.44	20.5	2.6
	03.41.24	20.5	1.7
JAN0577		21.0	3.0
JAN0577	10.48.35 23.28.11	£1.U	
JAN0577	43.40.11		3.9

JAN0677 JAN0877 JAN0877 JAN0877 JAN1477	02.44.30 04.40.13 07.05.33 12.32.22 16.27.52	21.0 19.1 21.0	3.7 2.0 2.3 2.6	•
JAN1977 JAN1977 JAN1977	11.18.32 14.21.38 21.12.15	20.3 20.3 20.5 19.5	3.0 2.8 2.0 2.9	
JAN3077 JAN3177 FEB0377 FEB0477	08.39.25 18.40.00 17.30.48 14:34.25	20.8 20.3 18.5 21.0	2.7 2.5 2.4 2.5	
FEB0477 FEB1077 FEB1177 FEB1577	16.26.07 20.25.50 05.20.33 03.52.06	20.0 20.5 21. 7	2.3 2.8 2.1	
PEB2477 FEB2577 MAR0177	18.42.28 04.00.19 07.49.39	20.0 20.5 21.0 20.8	2.7 2.2 2.6	
MAR0577 MAR2377 MAR3077 APR1077	19.56.19 13.15.58 19.58.02 04.26.11	20.5 20.6 20.0 19.9	2.2 2.0 2.1	
APR1277 MAY2277 JUN0477 JUN1877	17.14.05 17.33.17 06.59.37 04.06.46	19.6 20.6 20.9 19.1	2.1 3.1 2.1 3.4)
JUL0277 JUL0377 JUL0577	20.40.15 10.44.37 20.40.52	19.7 20.0 20.1	2.7 2.3 2.4	• . • . •
JUL2477 JUL2477 JUL2477 JUL2477	09.07.56 10.03.06 11.24.48 11.33.41	20.7 20.8 19.9 21.0	3.5 1.2 2.3 1.2	
JUL2477 JUL2477 JUL2477 JUL2477	11.52.30 16.06.13 17.50.23	21.0 20.0 19.5	1.2 1.7 3.4	
JUL2577 JUL2577 JUL2677	21.59.54 01.36.53 08.59.34 05.11.25	20.0 19.8 19.4 21.7	1.5 1.2 1.8	
JUL2677 JUL2677 JUL2777 JUL2777	07.36.13 09.19.11 02.18.09 04.27.06	18.6 19.3 20.9 19.5	1.8 1.5 3.2 2.1	
JUL2777 JUL2777 JUL2977	07.54.01 12.46.57 15.29.11	21.0 22.6 20.7	1.7 2.1	्राच्या प्रदेशका स्थापन क्षेत्रका है। जिल्लाका स्थापन स्थापन क्षेत्रका है। इसके
JUL3077 JUL3177 AUG0277 AUG0477	15.06.08 02.58.56 06.54.54 04.06.03	20.0 19.0 21.3 20.7	1.7 2.7	
AUG 1177	08.51.45	19.6	2.8	

AUG 1377	06.24.53	19.7		2.2	
AUG 1477	21.44.03	20.5		3.7	
AUG 1477	21.48.54	19.4		2.5	
AUG 1477	21.59.10	20.3		2.8	
AUG 1477	22.16.36	20.9		1 7	
AUG 1777	05.50.11	21.0			•
AUG2377	06.36.12	19.9		1.4	
AUG2777	11.51.59	21.0		3.1	
SEP0877	10.33.37	19.8		2.8	
SEP1177 SEP1277	07.18.16	21.0		1.9	•
OCT0277	09.46.13 21.33.52	18.8		2.1	The first and the street of th
OCT0277	21.47.16	19.6		2.6	
OCT2677	00.34.27	21.0 22.5		2.3 3.5	
OCT3177	09.31.58	20.0		2.3	
NOV1177	11.31.48	20.5		2.1	•
NOV 1977	03.01.03	22.5		2.1	
DEC0877	19.28.30	19.5		2.4	
DEC 1077	01.03.08	21.0		1.7	*
DEC2277	07.38.53	20.4		2.0	¥
DEC2377	20.52.40	19.5		3.1	• •
DEC2477	12.12.18	20.2		2.2	•
DEC2877	11.53.40	20.1	•	2.0	7 18
DEC3077	21.25.25	20.2		2.7	•
DEC3177	10.16.58	20.6		2.0	
JAN 1378	14.27.54	21.0			
JAN 1478	08.28.17	20.1	2	2.6	
JAN1778	19.35.38	20.5		1.9	
JAN1778	21.07.39	20.5			
JAN2178	00.11.24	20.7		2.1	· .
FEB1378	00.01.11	20.0	:		•
FEB2678	03.18.44	\ 21.8		2.8	
MAR1078	14.33.44	20.4	•	1.5	•
MAR1478	05.51.26	21.5		1.2	d e
APR1478 MAY2078	10.07.14 14.14.08	21.6		1.7	, W
JUN2678	06.11.06	20.7 20.1	* -	3.0	*
JUN2878	08.07.29	20.6		2.0 2.4	# · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
JUL0378	08.45.05	20.7		2.3	
JUL0678	02.37.11	21.0		2.3	
JUL1878	22.16.45	20.7		3.3	* *
JUL 1978	06.50.37	20.0		2.4	a service.
JUL 1978	08.49.42	21.1	-	1.7	•
JUL2778	10.09.45	21.3	1	1.7	
JUL3178	17.15.16	19.7		2.6	
AUG0378	10.13.51	21.8	21	3.0	
AUG0878	18.51.50	21.3 .		2.1	رة. رقار مولوم ما وروز يعيقه والإلا متعدد جما
AUG0978	03.34.16	20.4		2.2	
AUG0978	13,09.50	20.2		2.7	•
AUG 1278	09.62.25	21.4		1.9	
AUG 1478	01.09.10	20.3		2.5	•
AUG 1578	01.12.23	21.0		3.6	
AUG1578	06.59.19	20.8	÷ ·	3 . 4	*
				•	

AUG1678 AUG1778 AUG2478 AUG2778 AUG2878 AUG2978 AUG2978 AUG2978 SEP1278 SEP2078 SEP2078 SEP2778 OCT0278 OCT1178	08.42.56 03.46.55 15.20.07 20.55.05 21.24.21 01.03.20 09.27.21 12.30.33 13.21.28 16.00.47 01.35.51 01.24.20 02.04.59 05.09.30	20.5 21.3 19.7 20.5 20.8 19.1 21.0 22.0 22.0 22.0 20.7 21.0 20.7	2.6 2.3 2.7 1.9 3.1 2.0 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.3 2.0 2.1 2.2	
OCT2578 DEC1178 DEC3178 JAN0179 JAN0279 JAN0279 JAN0579 JAN1079 JAN1079	03.33.07 13.32.00 00.27.16 18.44.17 01.01.06 07.56.50 03.14.31 00.39.34 20.02.53	20.8 20.8 21.1 20.8 20.5 21.4 21.2 21.4 20.5	2.1 2.1 2.1 2.5 1.7 2.4 2.8 2.3	(
FEB0179 FEB0979 FEB1179 FEB1179 MAR2879 MAY0479 MAY2179 MAY2579 MAY2579	13.13.51 10.17.41 23.07.01 02.07.43 02.45.02 16.46.17 10.47.26 00.01.36 10.58.05 22.46.37	20.3 21.0 20.2 21.0 20.5 18.5 21.1 20.8 20.5 20.2	2.2 1.9 2.4 1.8 2.8 3.3 2.7 2.0 2.7	
JUN0679 JUL2479 AUG0179 AUG0679 AUG1279 SEP0879 SEP2579 OCT0679 OCT1779	05.38.19 10.29.55 05.47.07 04.53.01 06.43.23 10.21.47 18.28.54 10.01.11 04.49.01	20.8 21.3 21.0 20.5 21.3 20.9 20.3 21.6 20.9 20.9	2.5 2.1 2.4 2.0 1.7 2.5	
OCT1979 OCT2179 OCT2179 OCT2279 NOV1679 DEC1379 DEC2479 JAN0380 JAN0880	08.37.30 05.13.24 05.28.04 01.46.28 03.14.34 14.13.58 12.45.22 12.17.45 16.31.44 23.28.30	21.0 20.3 21.0 20.8 24.0 20.0 22.3 21.0 20.5 20.0	2.8 2.1 2.2 2.2 1.9 2.4 1.9 2.3 3.0	

JAN0980	23.43.47	20.9		2.2	
JAN 1080	21.40.45	21.3		2.3	
JAN1280	02.14.44	20.5		1.9	
JAN 1880	00.17.47	24.0	-	1.9	•
JAN2380	05.08.25	21.3		2.0	
FEB1780	11.07.18	20.7	. •	1.8	•
PEB1980	10.39.04	20.8	•	1.9	•
PEB1780	11.07.18	20.7		1.8	
FEB1980	10.39.04	20.8	•	1.9	
MAR0180	07.49.39	21.0	•	1.9	•
MAR0580	19.20.06	23.4		2.0	a de la companya de La companya de la companya de l
MAR0580	21.54.50	24.3	•	1.9	•
MAR0680	05.27.11	23.4		2.3	
MAR1980	15.23.23	21.0		2.5	
MAR2680	00.08.53	20.0		1.8	
MAY0580	21.57.13	20.9		2.4	
JUN0680	09.05.34	20.2		2.4	
JUN 1280	15.34.12	20.6		2.2	
JUL2580	06.44.43	20.8		1.9	
AUG0380	11.05.31	21.2		3.0	•
AUG0680	12.42.20	21.0		2.9	
AUG2380	16.10.16	21.3	•	3.5	
SEP0180	11.47.25	21.2		3.0	
SEP0280	05.57.39	• 21.0		2.2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
SEP0280	11.31.51	21.0		2.2	
SEP0480	17.49.54	21.1		2.7	*
SEP0480	18.26.52	21.2		1.7	
SEP0480	20.34.22	21.1		2.7	*
SEP0480	21.03.59	21.0	*	2.6	
SEP0580	07.39.08	20.9		1.7	
SEP0580	11.47.34	21.0		2.8	
SEP0580	13.20.48	21.0	•	1.9	
SEP0580	13.41.49	21.2		1.9	•
SEP0680	14.08.56	20.6		2.1	•
SEP0780	14.05.23	21.3	•	2.5	
SEP0880	05.38.21	21.3		2.1	•,
SEP0880	19.10.11	21.3		1.9	
SEP0880	19.27.20	20.8		2.0	
SEP0880	19.47.34	20.9		3.4	-
SEP0980	06.07.48	20.9		3.5	
SEP0980	23.39.03	21.0		2.4	
SEP1080	07.39.44	20.9		3.5	
SEP1080	11.46.31	21.0		3.3	•
SEP1180	16.49.08	20.8		. 2.7	
SEP1580	01.34.54	20. 9	•	3.6	
SEP1680	01.33.27	21.4	-	3.0	
SEP1780	05.05.12	21.0	Superior Control of the second	2.9	ومستفهره والمجاورة والماران وما
SEP1780	09.58.36	21.6		3.4	
SEP1780	12.31.27	21.0	. •	3.3	
SEP1880	15.10.00	21.0	•,		
OCT0280	09.28.59	21.0		3.6	•
OCT0980	12.40.30	21.6		3.3	, • •
OCT2980	03.24.15	20.9		2.1	

OCT3180	00.40.37	21.0	2.4
OCT3180	00.50.23	21.0	2.5
OCT3180	05.16.31	20.5	2.4
OCT3180	18.23.45	20.5	
DEC 1380	09.31.48	21.0	2.6 2.4
JAN 1981	12.59.10	20.7	2.4
MAR0981	12.00.39	20.5	2.7
APR 158 1	11.31.25	22.0	2.3 1.7
APR 1681	12.08.24	19.5	
JUN 1681	05.03.23	21.0	
JUN2481	17.40.20	21.0	2.7 2.4
JUL 1481	07.09.00	20.3	2.4 1.8
JUL2781	13.14.59	20.1	2003
JUL2881	21.32.50	21.8	2.3
JUL3081	15.16.35	20.9	3.0
JUL3081	20.01.17	20.8	3.0
AUG0 18 1	08.31.10	21.0	2.3 2.8 3.0 2.6 2.1
AUG0381	00.27.54	20.8	2.1
AUG2081	14.26.54	20.8	2.0 3.8 2.1 1.9
AUG2781	12.00.14	20.7	2.0
AUG2981	10.01.29	19.4	1 9
SEP0181	04.43.11	20.0	2.0
SEP0481	07.54.23	24.0	2.1
SEP2381	11.37.50	20.5	1.8
OCT 1581	01.45.24	21.0	2.2
OCT 1981	00.10.11	21.3	2.3
OCT2081	10.38.15	20.7	2.6
OCT2181	09.19.56	20.9	27
OCT2281	13.41.53	19.9	2.2
NOV0581	11.27.58	21.1	1.9
NOV 128 1	04.47.15	21.3	2.8
NOV 138 1	14.14.36	21.3	3.4
NOV1481	07.22.34	20.3	1.9
NOV1481	07.26.50	20.8	3.0
NOV1481	10.00.10	20.9	2.1
NOV 1781	12.10.18	19.8	2.1
NOV258 1	14.25.12	20.8	2.8
		· -	

Table 16.... Table of all the events recorded at Edmonton from the Rocky Mt. House earthquake swarm

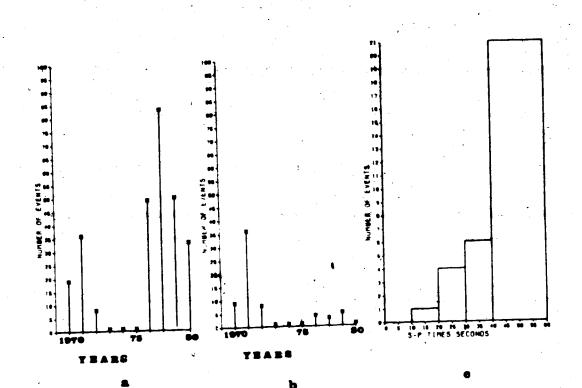


Figure 31.... a) Histogram of local seismicity recorded at EDM including RMH earthquake swarm. b) Without RMH earthquake swarm. c) Histogram of some well defined S-P times ar EDM

5.1.1.1 Relation to the Mica Array

Aside from the station at Edmonton the nearest seismic. facility to the Rocky Mountain House Earthquake swarm is the Mica Array. I have examined an extensive sample of the records from this analog array of vertical seismometers and conclude that the S phase is too emergent as a rule to aid materially in refining locations by means of S-P time. In any case, exact locations are of secondary importance to this study. Its thrust is towards source mechanisms. The data at Mica are all recorded on analog magnetic tape, spectral studies such as I report here would require uncertain corrections for non-linearity in this recording medium and after the fact digitization. I have examined analog records very carefully; convincing evidence of the presence of the Moho refracted phases cannot be found from analog records alone. Finally, and most important, the ray path from Rocky Mountain House to Mica passes through considerably more complex geology than that to Edmonton. Even if the data could be reliably reduced its interpretation would be substantially more uncertain. Nevertheless I report here those results I have from Mica data.

Some events recorded at CUM station from the RMHES have an average S-P time of 24.5 ± 0.8 seconds (table 17).

MONTH DAY	ARRIVAL TIME	S-P	ARRIVAL TIME	S-P
YEAR	AT EDM	AT EDM	AT CUM	AT CUM
SEP1376	10.24.48	19.2	10.24.53	
OCT1376	10.54.05	20.7	10.54.11	23.6
OCT1576	09.48.21	20.7	09.48.27	26.3
OCT1576	13.33.56	21.5	15.34.03	
OCT2376	02.31.40	21.1	02.31.46	25.3
DEC0276	03.36.16	19.3	03.36.21	24.3
DEC0976	07.28.03	20.1	07.28.10	
DEC 1876	19.51.06	22.0	19.51.11	26.0
DEC2376	22.18.17.	20.3	22.18.23	26.0
DEC3076	12.53.51	20.5	12.53.59	24.4
DEC3076	13.37.01	21.0	13.37.06	24.9
JUL0277	20.40.15	19.7	20.40.15	23.8
JUL0577	20.40.52	20.1	20.40.59	24.6
JUL2477	09.07.56	20.7	09.08.03	23.1
JUL2477	10.03.06	20.8	10.03.06	24.0
JUL2477	11.24.48	19.9	11.24.54	24.0
JUL2477	11.33.41	21.0	11.33.48	23.6
JUL2477	11.52.30	21.0	11.52.36	24.0
JUL2477	16.06.13	20.0	16.06.19	25.0
JUL2777	02.18.09	20.9	02.18.15	25.0
JUL2777	04.27.06	19.5	04.27.11	25.0
JUL2777	12.46.57	22.6	12.46.55	20.0
JUL3077	15.06.08	20.0	15.06.08	23.6
AUG 1 1 7 7	08.51.45	19.6	08.51.51	2 44.3
AUG 1377	06.24.53	19.7	06.24.53	24.6
AUG 1477	21.44.03	20.5	21.44.10	24.0
AUG 1477	21.48.54	19.4	21.49.00	24.0
AUG2777	11.51.59	21.0	11.52.06	24.0
SEP0877	10.33.37	19.8	10.33.43	25.5
QCT2677	00.34.27	22.5	00.34.33	
**			•	

Table 17.... Events from the Rocky Mountain earthquake swarm detected at CUM

5.1.2 Summary

From the histogram of number of events against S-P times from the figure 31-c, and associated locations (Table 15) we can suggest.

1) Events with relatively small S-P times must lie in the Alberta plains (figure 32). Whether these events are of

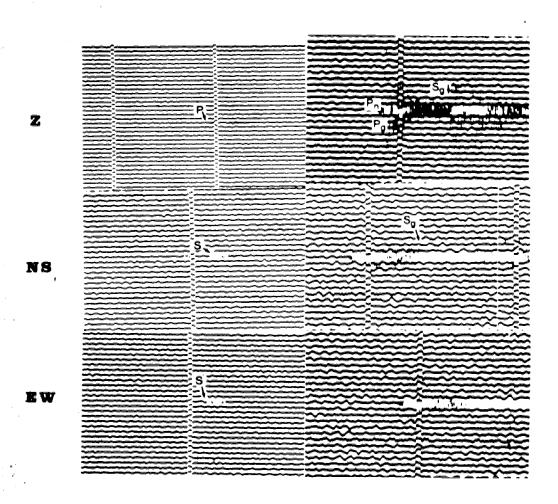


Figure 32.... Local events recorded at EDM. Right, an event with S-P=12 sec. Left, an event with Sg-Pg=27.3 and Pg-Pn=2.4 and was located by EPB at 51.95N and 115.76W.

tectonic origin or due to the oil or mining operations in the Alberta plains cannot be answered by this general discussion of the seismicity.

2) Events with S-P times between 20 and 30 seconds are probably close to Rocky Mountain House, approximately 180 km SW of Edmonton (figure 33). This is the most active zone in South West Alberta. I showed in chapter 3 that some of those events were mainly deep (nearly 20 km). However, most events detected with a temporary array of analog and digital seismic stations were not deeper than 4 km (Wetmiller 1981, Rebollar et al 1981 b).

There may be two kinds of activity associated with the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm. Deep seismicity (near 20 km) more likely of tectonic origin, and shallow seismicity (not deeper than 4 km) possibly associated with secondary recovery activity in the Strachan gas field.

- 3) Events with S-P times around 35 seconds
 (approximately 300 km from EDM), could come from any place
 between Calgary and the Willmore park area. Therefore, more
 evidence from a close network or other stations is needed
 (table 18).
- 4) S-P times between 40 and 60 seconds probably correspond to earthquakes that come from the area of McNaughton Lake (figure 34).

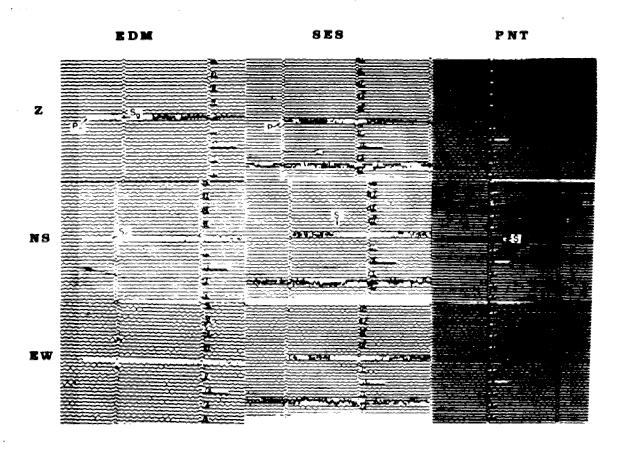


Figure 33.... Example of the Rocky Mountain House events detected in the analog stations at EDM, SES, and PNT. Some of those seismograms do not show clear phases.



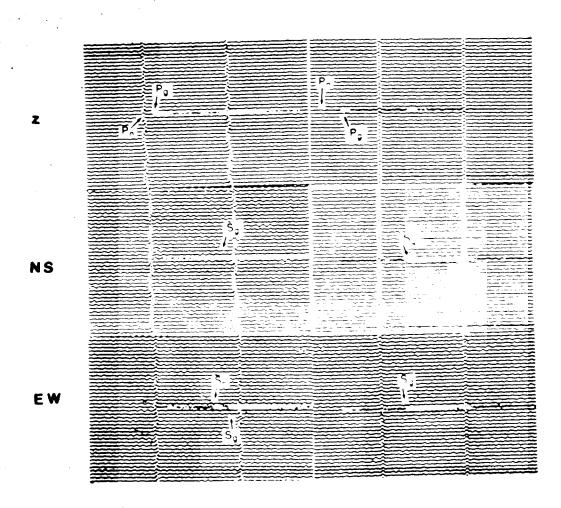


Figure 34... Events with S-P times greater than 40 sec probably coming from the McNaughton lake area. Right event has Sg-Pg=44, Sg-Sn=11.5. and Pg-Pn=7.7 sec. Left event has Sg-Pg=46 and Pg-Pn=11 seconds.

M. D. Y.	H. M. S.	S-P SECONDS
APR2471	06.04.00	53
APR3071	22.32.09	58
MAY1171	19.30.47	57
MAY1571	23.22.35	53
MAY2471	19.17.19	53
JUN2671	19.14.35	57
JUN2871	22.31.43	48
JUN3071	22.33.22	52
JUL2571	01.57.17	29
JUL2771	22.13.29	44
AUG0471	23.15.39	42
AUG 1771	23.24.44	42
AUG 1871	05.18.45	35
AUG2071	18.07.30	38
FEB0172	20.25.33	18
AUG2072	13.20.09	32
AUG2172	02.36.44	37
APR2972	20.53.52	58
JAN0674	16.34.16	55
OCT2675	22.46.10	33
PEB2376	19.09.50	25
NOV2276	22.04.28	33
MAR:1877	21.14.27	27
SEP1277	09.46.13	18
APR1378	05.11.03	29
JUN 1478	07.15.54	21
JUL0878	07.26.51	50
FEB2479	15.50.19	52
JUL2980	12.57.28	28
NOV1880	12.03.46	12
DEC2280	11.36.51	27
MAR0681	20.31.41	27
MAR0681	23.01.22	39
MAR 1081	10.02.22	47
APR2081	03.31.51	46

Table 18... Events recorded at Edmonton with clear S-P times, that fall in the definition of local activity i. e. S-P times of less than 60 sec

5.1.3 Energy release and b value of the Rocky Mountain Earthquake swarm

Lacking an empirical relationship for the evaluation of radiated seismic energy of small earthquakes in Canada. I

used Gutenberg and Richter's (1942, 1956) energy-magnitude empirical relationship in order to calculate the energy release of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm.

Gutenberg and Richter considered the radiated energy contained in a spherical shell centered on the earthquake source. They assumed that this energy was radiated in a sinusoidal wave train and recorded on a standard strong motion instrument. Therefore, knowing epicentral distance, hypocenter, the physical constants of the standard intrument, acceleration, period and travel times of the signals, they found an empirical relationship given by logE=11.3+1.8M,. Later, Gutenberg and Richter (1956), in a review of their original paper found the relationship given by logE=9.4+2.14M,-0.024M².

This empirical relationship depends on the theoretical study of seismic radiation at short epicentral distances, therefore it can give a reasonable estimate of the energy for small earthquakes from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm.

An average of 10's ergs per month was released during the 58 months since 1976. The contribution of small earthquakes to the total energy release is negligible (figure 35). The total energy released during this period was 5.6x10'' ergs equivalent to a single earthquake of magnitude (Ms) 3.9. The total energy release of possibly deep events, i.e. earthquakes that show clear Sn refracted phases, was 5.49x10'' ergs. This mean that 98 % of the total

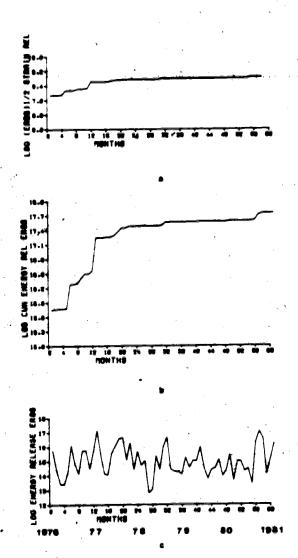


Figure 35.... Energy release, cumulative energy release, and strain release from the Rocky Mt. earthquake swarm calculated at EDM since 1976 to 1980

energy release was released by possibly deep events. This mean that largest earthquakes (with magnitudes between 2.8 and 3.5) are mainly deep. The cumulative seismic strain release (figure 36) yields a maximum strain release of 7.5x10° ergs°.

The strain release as a function of time (figure 35-a) shows a maximum release of strain energy during the first year of the swarm (1976). After that the strain is accumulated and represented by the flat part of the plot. However, whether the strain energy is released in small earthquakes or it is accumulated, cannot be answered from this short period of observation.

Using 242 events I calculated the cumulative number of events versus local magnitude (figure 36) or the Gutenberg and Richter frequency-magnitude relation given by logN=a-bM,, where N is the number of earthquakes for unit time, a and b constants and M, local magnitude. I used some of the magnitudes calculated by EPB and reported in their bulletin. For events not reported by EPB, I calculated the local magnitude according to Richter 1958 (see for example chapter 2).

There are three main factors that limit the accuracy of the evaluation of the b value. The magnitudes are uncertain, small events are undetected, and there are few events due to the short time of observation (Milne et al 1978).

Uncertainties in the evaluation of magnitudes are difficult to estimate if the magnitudes are calculated at a single

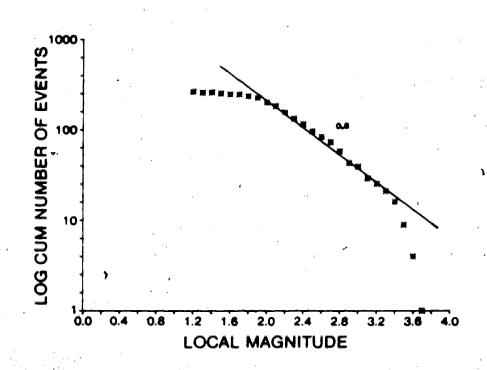


Figure 36.... Evaluation of the b value for the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm

station.

Edmonton station detects events from the Rocky Mountain House area, with magnitudes greater than 1.2, as can be seen from the frequency magnitude relationship, however, the system loses its sensitivity for magnitude 2 from this area. The b value for the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm is 0.8 and lies in the range of values (between 0.6 and 1.5) found by Everden (1970) using world wide seismic data, and is similar to the values found by Milne et al (1978) in Western Canada (those values range from 0.65 to 0.82).

The frequency-magnitude relationship has been found to vary in different tectonic regimes. Higher values of b have been found in spreading centers (Sykes 1970, Reichle 1975) and in volcanic areas (Suzuki 1959). Small values, near 1'.0, are observed for intra-plate earthquakes, like this sequence, and in transform faults. This parameter usually is associated with the state of the stress (Mogi 1962, Scholz 1968, Berg 1968, Wyss 1973). However, Knopoff (personal communication) suggests that it is more likely to be associated with the roughness of the fault.

An analysis of the bulletin edited by the Earth Physics Branch of Ottawa, and the archives at Edmonton reveals that the Nocky Mountain House earthquake swarm is not a common geophysical event. The common pattern in the South West Alberta is scattered events without an aftershock pattern, much like the Willmore event (Ms=3.0), and the event (local magnitude 3.4) that occurred on December 22, 1981, with an

onset at Edmonton at 11 hours 36 minutes and 51.2 seconds. This micro-earthquake was located by E.P.B. at 51.95°N and 115.76°W, approximately 220 km from EDM (see figure 32). However, this pattern of events without aftershocks could indicate that the aftershocks are too small to be recorded in the permanent stations. Therefore, the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm is an interesting phenomenon that needs to be studied more closely.

5.1.4 The Willmore Earthquake

Earth Physics Branch (EPB) located the Willmore event at 53.63°N and 118.29°W with a shallow depth and assigned an Ms=3 an mb=4.4 (see Nuttli, 1973). The U. S. National Earthquake Information Service (NEIS) located the event at 53.68°N and 118.03°W and assigned a mb=4.4 (figure 30).

This event (October 9, 1977) was not recorded clearly in many stations, nevertheless I plotted ten first motions (table 19), assuming a focal depth of 18 km for this event. Obviously there is no unique solution for the focal mechanism. Among those solutions it is possible to fit a strike slip fault, with either of two possible fault plane orientations, one of dip 80° and a dip direction of 120° and the other with a dip of 60° and dip direction of 24°. None of those agree with the strike of the Rocky Mountains. A normal fault with either a dip of 20° and dip direction of 94° or a dip 70° and dip direction of #74° is also possible. (figure 37)

Seismic Station	Latitude	Longitude
Mt. Dainard (DAI)	52.199 ° N	118.384°W
Mt. Thompson (THO)	52.689°N	119.120°W
Mt. Cummins (CUM)	52.087°N	118.212°W
Mica Creek Village (MCV)	52.008°N	118.561°W
Edmonton (EDM)	53.222°N	113.140°W
Penticton (PNT)	49.317°N	113.140°W
Victoria (VIC)	48.518°N	123.917°W
Yellowknife (YKC)	62.478°N	114.473°W
Inuvik (INK)	68.307°N	133.520°W
Mould Bay (MBC)	76.241°N	119.360°W
Albuquerque (ALQ)	34.942°N	106.457°W

Table 19.... Table of the seismic stations used in the plot of the equal-area projection of the Willmore earthquake

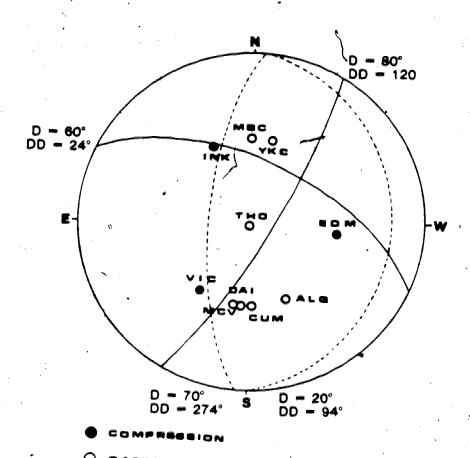


Figure 37.... A plot of ten first motions in an equal-area projection of the focal sphere showing probable fault orientations (D=Dip and DD=Dip Direction)

Edmonton station recorded this event in digital and analog format. I was able to calculate the seismic moment. Only the vertical component was not saturated at EDM (figure 38). Therefore, I used the spectrum of the vertical SV component of the shear waves in the analysis. The Sg-Pg time recorded at Edmonton was approximately 37 seconds. This gives an epicentral distance of 325 km assuming a half space with a P-wave velocity of 6.4 km/sec. The EPB location is 330±10 km from Edmonton. The spectrum was calculated assuming a Q of 10,00, independent of frequency, a density of 2.9 gr/cm³, an average radiation pattern of 0.63, a shear wave velocity of 3.7 km/sec, an epicentral distance of 325±10 km/sec, and an angle of incidence of 49°. Figure 38 shows the spectrum calculated at EDM. The logarithmic low level of the spectrum for the Willmore events is -3.1, and that give's a seismic moment of 6.7±2x10²³ dyne-cm.

In order to investigate the difference between the seismic moment calculated with body waves at a single station and the seismic moment calculated from surface waves at several stations, I used the McNaughton Lake earthquake of May 14, 1978. The moment calculated using the amplitude equalization method (see Aki and Richards 1980, chapter 7) was 4±2x10² dyne-cm (Rogers et al 1980). At Edmonton (figure 38) this event saturated both horizontal components. Hence, assuming the same physical constants as those used for the Willmore event, and the seismic moment calculated by Rogers et al (1980), I get a logarithmic low level amplitude

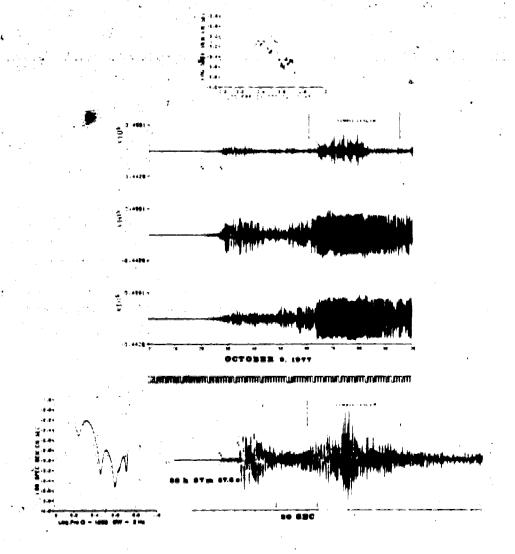


Figure 38.... Seismograms and spectra of Willmore (Ms=3) and McNaughton (M,=4.8) events. Upper (Willmore) event show EW and NS saturated components. Bottom (McNaughton) shows the vertical component at EDM

of the spectrum of -2.4. The value observed at EDM is -2.2, which yields a seismic moment of 7.6x10²³ dyne-cm (figure 38). However, the low level amplitude of the spectrum could have an error due to the bandwidth of the digital system of Edmonton.

If we consider the orientation of the fault (strike N 10 W, dip 38 SW, .8 strike slip, .5 thrust), the correction for the radiation pattern is 0.45 (see Aki and Richards 1980 page 115). Considering this correction I get a seismic moment of 1024 dyne-cm, if no correction is made for the radiation pattern we have 4.8x1023 dyne-cm, therefore, the seismic moment calculated at EDM gives 7.6±2x1023 dyne-cm, two times higher than that calculated by Rogers et al (1980). Kanamori and Anderson (1975) comment,

"The seismic moment is one of the most reliably determined instrumental earthquake source parameters. For large earthquakes, in particular, the value of M. determined by different investigators seldom differ by a factor of more than two. For small earthquakes, the uncertainity is usually somewhat larger".

In view of this comment I consider the agreement satisfactory. However, probable errors in the evaluation of these seismic moments are: errors in the epicentral distance, radiation pattern, attenuation, path inhomogeneities, and in our case a probably narrow bandwidth.

5.2 On the relation of Source Parameters to Tectonics

In this work I have derived a number of measures of earthquake behaviour in various areas. Their connection to geology, which was discussed above is not easy to establish unambiguously. The physical properties of the system are simply to complicated and the quality of the data is not high.

First an obvious question arises: How realistic are those source parameters? I cannot answer this question precisely, since there are many unknowns in the source region, and in the earth's crust in which the signals travel. Corrections for attenuation seem to be not critical, since Q has been observed experimentaly to be between 100 and 1000 for most earth materials, in a range of frequencies from 10⁻³ to 10³ seconds (Pilant 1979). A major problem in our observations is the loss of energy due to scattering and conversion of phases that could give rise to changes in the estimates of source parameters with a given model. Chapter two shows that source parameters calculated at distances greater than the fault length are usually smaller than those calculated at distances of the order of the fault length.

I studied two different earthquake sequences, at relatively large epicentral distances (180 and 500 km). Even though the amplitude response curves are different, for a typical RESMAC station and the Edmonton station, the useful information in both systems was between 0.2 and 7 Hz. Outside this range of frequencies the ratio of signal to

noise was small. Therefore, in order to get more representative information about the earthquake source, it will be necessary to complement spectral analysis of body waves with spectral analysis of surface waves when the epicentral distance exceeds about 150 km. A typical example of this kind of study is that done by Hanks and Wyss (1972).

The seismic moment of the Willmore and McNaughton lake earthquakes were calculated from the spectral analysis of SV waves recorded at the Edmonton digital station. Those moments are 6.7±2x10² dyne-cm for the Willmore event and 7.6±2x10² dyne-cm for the McNaughton lake event. This last seismic moment compares moderately well with that calculated with surface waves (Rogers et al 1980).

5.2.1 Speculations on Tectonic Implications

Results from individual earthquakes or earthquake sequences, are important to an eventual understanding of the earthquake source and plate tectonics models. Orientation of principal stresses (calculated from fault plane solutions), magnitude of stresses (calculated from in-situ measurments), seismic moment and source dimension (calculated from spectral analysis), are important parameters of an earthquake source and the values of these parameters are in the final analysis controlled by the driving mechanism of plates. Seismic moments and source dimensions have been used to calculate the rate of slip of major plate boundaries (Brune 1968), and time recurrence of large earthquakes

(Singh et al 1981).

Intraplate earthquakes have been observed to lie along preexisting zones of weakess within areas of youngest orogenesis (Sykes 1978), or to be apparently due to effects of local topographic features in the plates (Stein 1978). By close analysis, Sykes (1978), found that seismic activity tends to be concentrated near ends of major oceanic transform faults, along preexisting zones of deformation, or along faults in old fold belts within the thicker lithosphere of the continents, hence, the study of earthquake sequences in intraplate environments may reflect varioations in strength within plates.

From spectral analysis of seismograms we can derive stress drops, seismic moment and source dimension. Earthquake stress drops of large intra- and inter-plate earthquakes are probably not greater than 100 bars. This is based on a large number of observations independent of source strength. McKenzie and Jarvis (1980) estimated a mean stress on plate boundaries of 150±50 bars with a probable upper bound of 500 bars, in agreement with seismically determined stress drops. Higher stress drops (630 bars) of micro-earthquakes in the sedimentary basin of the Imperial Valley of California have been observed (Hartzell and Brune 1977).

In this work I compared an interplate sequence of events (Oaxaca aftershocks) and an intraplate sequence (the Rocky Mountain earthquake swarm). They differ in some

respects. The Oaxaca aftershocks have simple spectra with a well defined plateau at low frequencies, a recognizable corner frequency and a well defined asymptote at high frequencies. Therefore, stress drops calulated in the usual way can have meaning. A number of the events of the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm have more complicated spectra, even though the signals were recorded closer to the earthquake source than the records of the Oaxaca events and the structure between the Rocky Moountain House area and the Edmonton station is not complicated. This difference can be appreciated from the plot of local magnitude against seismic moment. The data from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm have more scatter than the data from the aftershocks from the Oaxaca event.

This difference could result from differences in the state of stress in the crust and differences in the heterogeneity of the fault zones. The Oaxaca earthquake was a large simple event (Stewart et al 1981), and it has been found to be similar to past events in the Middle America Trench (Chael et al 1982). Apparently simple events can be associated with relatively homogeneous stress states and physical properties on the fault zone. Maybe the complicated spectra from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm reflect an incipient fault or a possible reactivation of an ancient fault system which could be expected to have a more complex behaviour than a well established fault zone.

Although this study has not answered many of the problems of cause of the Rocky Mountain Earthquake swarm it appears a supportable hypothesis that 2 kinds of seismicity exist. There is small magnitude shallow seismicity and deeper seismicity probably associated with pre-Cambrian basement structures, which accounts for most of the energy release in the area. Many unknowns remain. For example, we do not know fault orientation, stress orientations, or a precise focal depth of these events. Nevertheless, whatever their values clues to the nature of the process exist in the forces acting on the lithosphere in this area and the stress strain relations obeyed by the lithosphere in this area.

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5.2.1.1 Comments on Quantitative Aspects of Plate Dynamics

There are many poorly understood problems associated with the dynamics of the crust and upper mantle. The driving mechanism of plate tectonics, energies involved in the crustal faulting, magnitude of deviatoric stresses (total stress minus hydrostatic stress), and absolute stresses, are only a few.

Solomon et al (1980) summarized possible driving forces of plate tectonics. Among those they consider lithospheric cooling, latitudinal plate motion, crustal thickness inhomogeneities, lithospheric loading and unloading, plate boundary forces at ridges, trenches, transform faults, zones of continent-continent collision, and basal forces associated with viscous interaction between the lithosphere

and asthenosphere.

Different magnitudes of deviatoric stresses in the crust can give rise to different phenomena, such as micro-earthquakes, large earthquakes, and topographic features in the crust. Hanks and Raleigh (1980) argue that away from plate boundaries the crust can support large deviatoric stresses, of the order of kilobars, in response to local or regional loads. For example, McGarr et al (1979) found evidence of high stress drops, greater than 700 bars, in deep mines in South Africa. Scholz (1980) argues that in some faults stresses of the order of a kilobar may exist.

Zoback et al (1980) found that shear stresses determined in wells near the San Andreas fault increase with depth. The depth of those wells ranges from 200 to 1000 meters. Apparently stresses increase linearly with depth, at least up to 5 km. McGarr (1980) found that the maximum shear stress increases with depth from nearly 10-60 bars (1-6 MPa) in the first hundred meters, to 200 bars (20 MPa) to nearly 5 km. He calculated a theoretical relationship of the form A+Bz, where A and B are constants and z is the depth, for the increase of stresses with depth. There is great scatter of data in the first kilometer or so (see also for example Brace and Kohlsted 1980). The constants vary with tectonic environment.

McGarr (1980) comments

"A vertical profile of measurements from the sufface downward might show a monotonic change of the horizontal principal stress directions, with the implication that the stress trajectories measured at the surface may not be indicative of directions throughout much of the crustal section".

Bell and Gough (1979), and Gough and Bell (1980) found, from in situ measurements of oil-well fractures (breakouts) in Alberta, a remarkable alignment of the maximum principal stress in the northeast-southwest direction, i. e. perpendicular to the Rocky Mountains. However, those measurements were made in soft rock (siltstones, sandstones, and carbonate sediments) and at depths not greater than 2 km. Therefore, it could be possible that shallow earthquakes are triggered by those stresses in Alberta, these shallow events are those events with S-P times of less than 15 seconds and recorded at EDM, or the shallow events from the Rocky Mountain House swarm analysed in chapter 4.

5.2.2 A Speculation on the Cause of the Rocky Mountain House Earthquake Swarm

The suggestion that seismic activity originates in the pre-Cambrian formations is controversial. In order to explore its implications I consider, in a very superficial way, the tectonics of South West Alberta. Two structures could be relevant. They are the North American Cordillera and the Fond du Lac gravity trend (Walcott 1968)

The North American Cordillera runs from the Aleutian arc through the western third of North America into Mexico and Central America. The part of the North American

Cordillera that extends from the 49th parallel to the Tintina Trench, near the border with Alaska (The Canadian Rocky Mountains), is a relatively simple and well studied orogen. Its age has been determined as Paleozoic-Mesozoic (Thompson 1979) and its geology and tectonics have been extensively studied (Bally et al 1966, Thompson 1979, Martin 1963, Bokman 1963, Shaw 1963, Elliott 1976, Dahlstrom 1969,1970, Monger and Price 1979, Beaumont 1981). The Canadian Rocky Mountains are delimited on the east by the Interior Plains or Great Plains and to the west by the Western Omineca Crystaline Belt ,and they are usually divided into the Foothills, Front Ranges, Main Ranges (East and West) and the Western Ranges.

The Foothills consist of deformed Paleozoic Mesozoic clastic rocks. The deformation (shortening) is mainly thrust' faulting in the southern part and folding in the north. Fold axes and fault strikes are parallel in most cases. Tear faults and normal faults are also common in the Foothills. The basement lies at approximately 3.0 km in the Interior Plains and dips gently to about 11 km below the Rocky Mountains (Bally et al 1966). The approximate depth below the Rocky mountain House area is 4.8 km based on reflection profiles (Bally et al 1966).

The Front Ranges are formed from a relatively few major thrust layers that are bounded by faults with several tens of kilometers of displacement. The Main Ranges consist of lower Paleozoic and Proterozoic rocks thrust eastwerd over

the adjoining Front Ranges. The Rocky Mountain Trench is a narrow linear topographic depression extending over 1600 Km. In the south the trench is underlain by a westward dipping basement, and the location and strike of the trench is controlled apparently by a complex system of curved low-angle normal faults (Bally et al 1966).

Although conventional wisdom suggest that the Cordillera in this area is decoupled from the pre-Cambrian basement at the decollement zone (Bally et al 1966), significant stress concentrations in the basement can result from the load of the Rocky Mountains and the adjacent foreland basin. (They might also be present as possible residuals from the Laramide orogeny that gave origin to the Rocky Mountains). Beaumont (1981) considered a model of lithosphere flexure for the Alberta foreland basin under laterally migrating loads and predicted the bend of the basement, and consequently the deep root of the Rocky Mountains.

Monger and Price (1979) compiling the work of several authors suggest a Moho depth of 50 km below the Rocky Mountains adjacent to Rocky Mountain House. Therefore, this possible flexure of the crust could create enough stresses to generate micro-earthquake activity in the basement of the Rocky Mountains.

5.2.2.1 Is There a Relationship to the Athabasca Axis?

There is a gravity low extending northeast perdendicular to the Rocky Mountains (Douglas 1970). This anomaly extends from the area of Rocky Mountain House southwest of Edmonton Alberta to North Saskatchewan, and North West Territories. This feature is referred as the Athabasca axis in north Saskatchewan (Darnley 1981) or the Fond du Lac gravity low (Walcott 1968). This gravity low correlates with granitoids containing elevated levels of radioelements (Darnley 1981).

There exists geologic speculation (Darnley 1981) that this rock belt is the result of intrusion into a zone of tensional faulting that developed before the end of the lower Proterozoic. If this is in fact the case, it is reasonable to expect remnant zones of weakness in this portion of the lithosphere. Walcott (1968) studied a portion of this anomaly in Northeastern Alberta and Northern Saskatchewan. In order to explain the Fond du Lac gravity low, he proposed a crustal thinning; perhaps related to tensional stresses in the past, to 34km from 40km with a relatively low density below this anomaly. Such lateral density anomalies could lead to stresses related to isostatic compensation (McNutt 1980). In other regions such stresses may lead to seismicity, but analysis of the archives of the Edmonton seismic station (McGavin personal communication) shows no seismicity along this gravity anomaly.

The exception to this statement occurs where the Fond du Lac trend intersects the Canadian Cordillera. Here, in the region of Rocky Mountain House, the combination of loading stresses from the foreland and isostatic compensation stresses due to the crustal density gradients could conceivably activate zones of weakness in the pre-Cambrian crust. Such zones of weakness need not be large faults but they imply a degree of brittle yielding in the lithosphere at this point.

I do not suggest that major fault zones exist in the -Pre-Cambrian basement, for SW NE reflection profiles in Southwest Alberta imply that the crystalline basement has not been involved in the shortening of the Canadian Rockies (Balley et al 1966). Structure contour maps of the top of the Devonian and of the top of the Sub-Cretaceous show NW-SE and NE-SW trends in central Alberta. Those trends could be faults (Robinson et al 1969).

I conclude therefore that deeper parts of the basement below the South West Alberta can undergo some deformation and consequently generate the deep seismicity I suggest is associated with the Rocky Mountain House Earthquake swarm.

5.3 Summary of Conclusions

Reasonably reliable source mechanism studies can be done with single digital stations at some distance from an earthquake. Source parameter estimates can be related

systematically to those derived from close-in records. In general seismic moments derived from body waves at distant stations are smaller than those derived from near stations

The useful band of information on 2 vastly different systems, the RESMAC system, and the EDM station, turned out to be very much the same. This reflects a property of the seismic noise background and should be useful for other analyses of local networks.

Localized zones of seismic activity rather than a random distribution (Milne and White 1958) exist in South West Alberta. One such zone, the Rocky Mountain House area, is characterized by shallow events which might be related to hydrocarbon recovery operations and deeper events which may reflect yielding of the lithosphere under a combination of isostatic compensation stresses and the load of the Canadian Cordillera. More detailed research should be done with local networks in order to map this activity.

The shallow events at Rocky Mountain House are characterized by high stress drops, the deep events have low stress drops. This suggests distinctly different properties of the fault zones and supports the separation of this activity into 2 different types. The shallow events are probably related to secondary recovery processes in nearby , gas fields, the deep activity may reflect reactivation of ancient zones of weakness in the pre-Cambrian basement.

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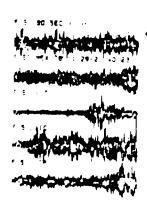
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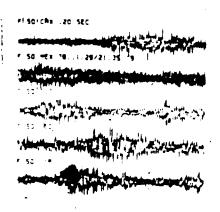
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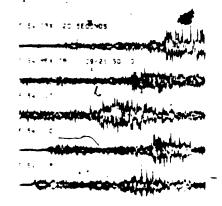
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7. Appendix 1

Plots of the first 52 hours of aftershocks from the Oaxaca Earthquake.



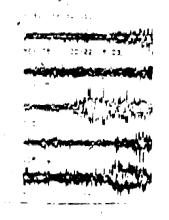


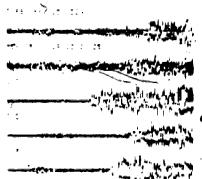


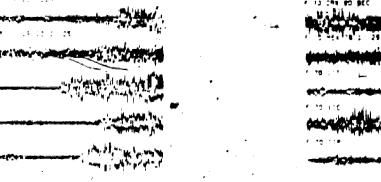
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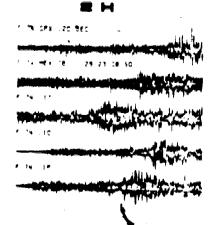
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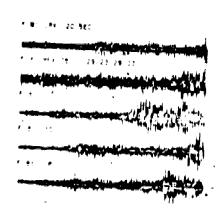
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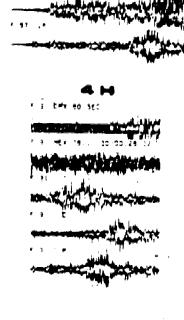


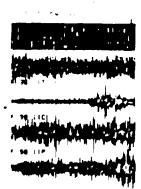




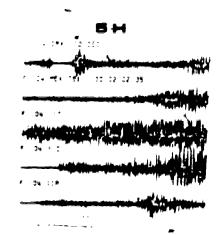


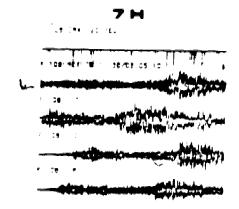


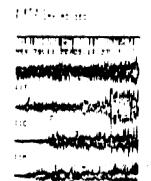




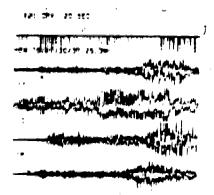
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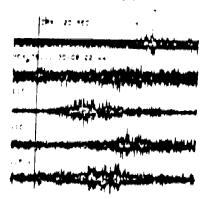




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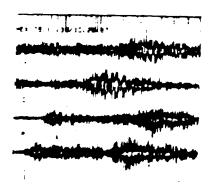


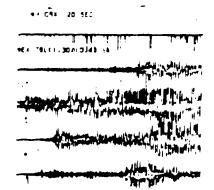
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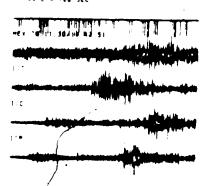
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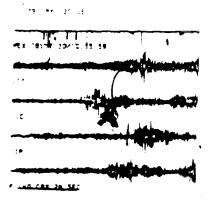
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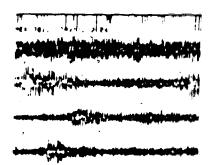


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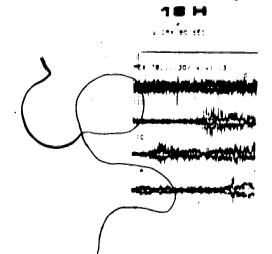
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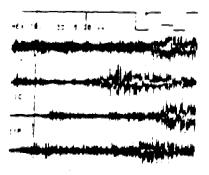
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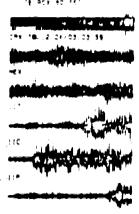
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8. Appendix 2: Program listings

LEE program calculates the spectra of the aftershocks of the Oaxaca earthquake of November 29, 1978, recorded in the RESMAC system. The data is stored on tapes 001400, 001401, 001402, and 001403.

LEE2 program is an iterative program to read and plot the data recorded on the RESMAC system.

KADATA.S program calculate the spectra of S or P body waves of the events from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake swarm recorded in the DR-100 Sprengnether digital system.

RDANIEL program calculate the spectra of the body waves of the earthquakes detected at the digital permanent station of Edmonton, from the Rocky Mountain House earthquake Swarm.

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