



UNESCO/IOC – NOAA ITIC Training Program
Tsunami Early Warning and Mitigation Systems

Earthquakes : Quick Summary

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Earthquake Nomenclature and Classification

Earthquake Nomenclature

Described by Time (t) and Location (x, y, z)

Hypocenter (Focus):

Origin Time,
Latitude, Longitude,
Depth

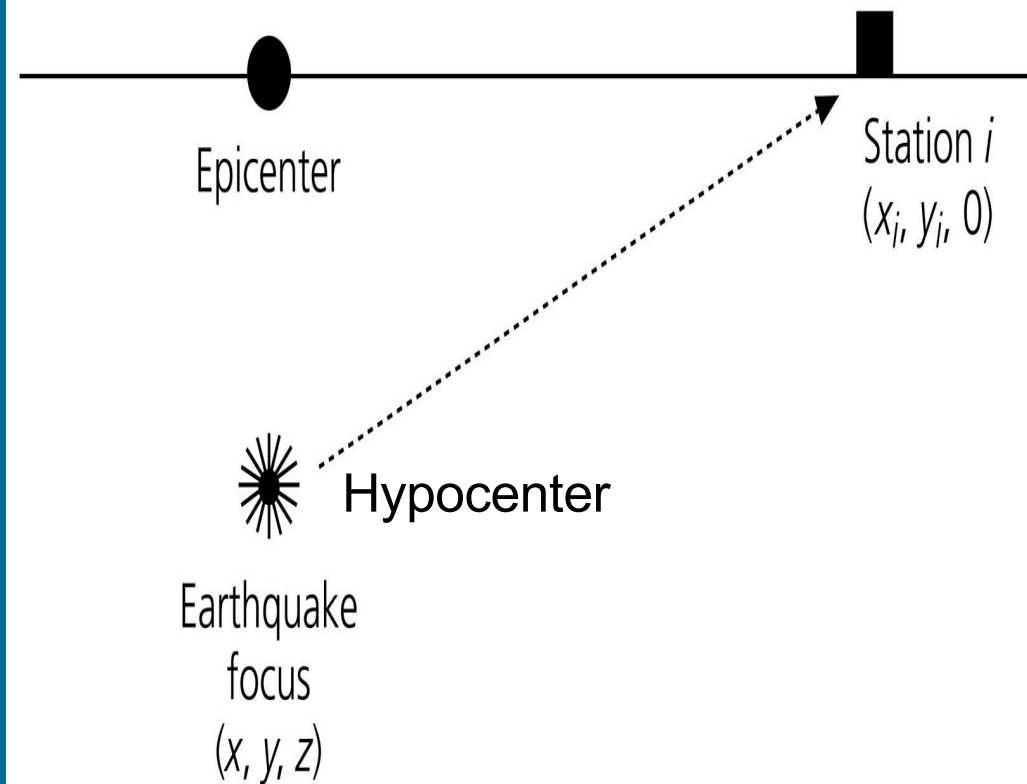
Location in Earth where
energy in the rock being
strained is released

Epicenter:

Latitude, Longitude

Point on Earth's surface
directly above
Hypocenter

Figure 7.2-1: Geometry for earthquake location in a homogeneous halfspace.



EARTHQUAKE CLASSIFICATION - SIZE

MAGNITUDE

CLASSIFICATION

$M \geq 9.0$

Gigantic (? new term)

$M \geq 8.0$

Great Earthquake

$7.0 \geq M < 8.0$

Major / Large Earthquake

$5.0 \geq M < 7.0$

Moderate Earthquake

$3.0 \geq M < 5.0$

Small Earthquake

$1.0 \geq M < 3.0$

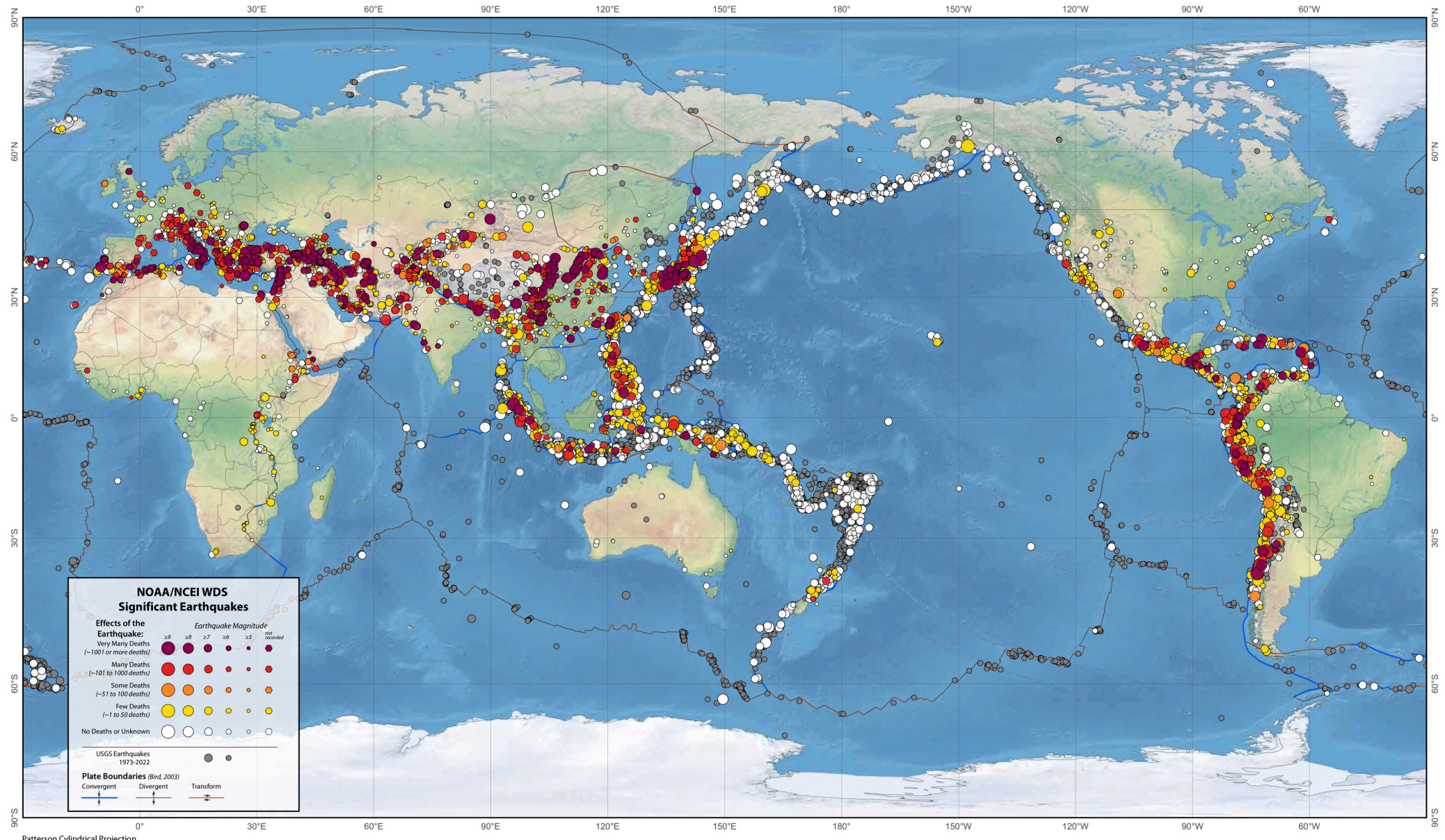
Microearthquake

$M < 1.0$

Ultra Microearthquake

Magnitude	Earthquake Effects	Est Nbr / Year
2.5 or less	Usually not felt, but can be recorded by seismograph.	900,000
2.5 to 5.4 (Small (3-5) to Moderate (5-6))	Often felt, but only causes minor damage.	30,000
5.5 to 6.0 (Moderate)	Slight damage to buildings and other structures.	500
6.1 to 6.9 (Strong)	May cause a lot of damage in very populated areas.	100
7.0 to 7.9 (Major)	Major earthquake. Serious damage.	20
8.0 or greater (Great)	Great earthquake. Can totally destroy communities near the epicenter.	1 every 5-10 years

Significant Earthquakes 2150 B.C. to A.D. 2022



Symbol drawing order: more deaths on top of fewer deaths;
smaller magnitude earthquakes on top of larger magnitude earthquakes.

EQ CLASSIFICATION – DISTANCE MEASURED

- **Teleseismic Earthquake** **> 1000 km**
- **Regional Earthquake** **> 500 km**
- **Local Earthquake** **< 500 km**

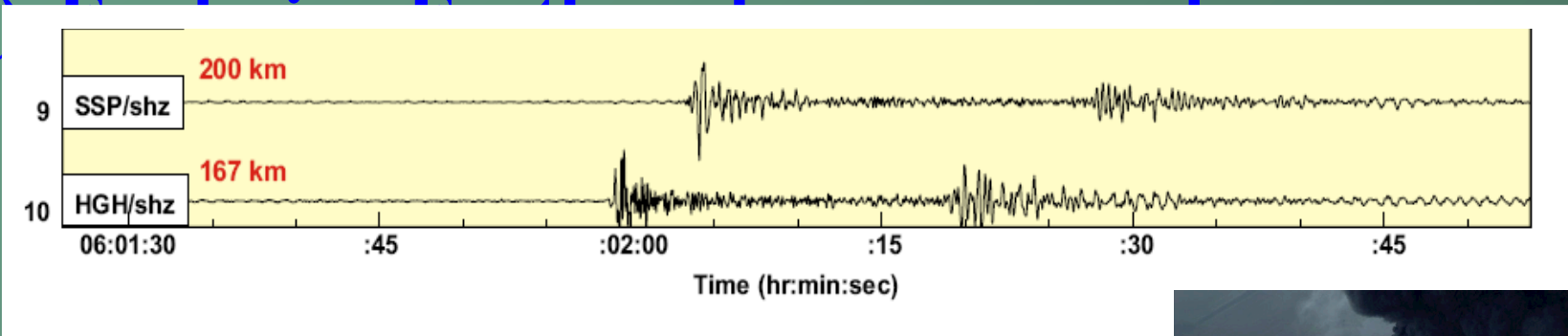
EQ CLASSIFICATION – TIME

- **Foreshocks**
- **Main shock**
- **Aftershocks**
- **Earthquake Swarm**

EQ CLASSIFICATION - CAUSES

- 1) Tectonic Earthquake – MOST COMMON (FAULTS)
- 2) Volcanic Earthquake – magma movement, eruptions
- 3) Collapse Earthquake – cave collapse, rock fall

4)



BGS recordings of an explosion at an oil storage depot near London Dec 16, 2005.
Equivalent to M2.4 earthquake

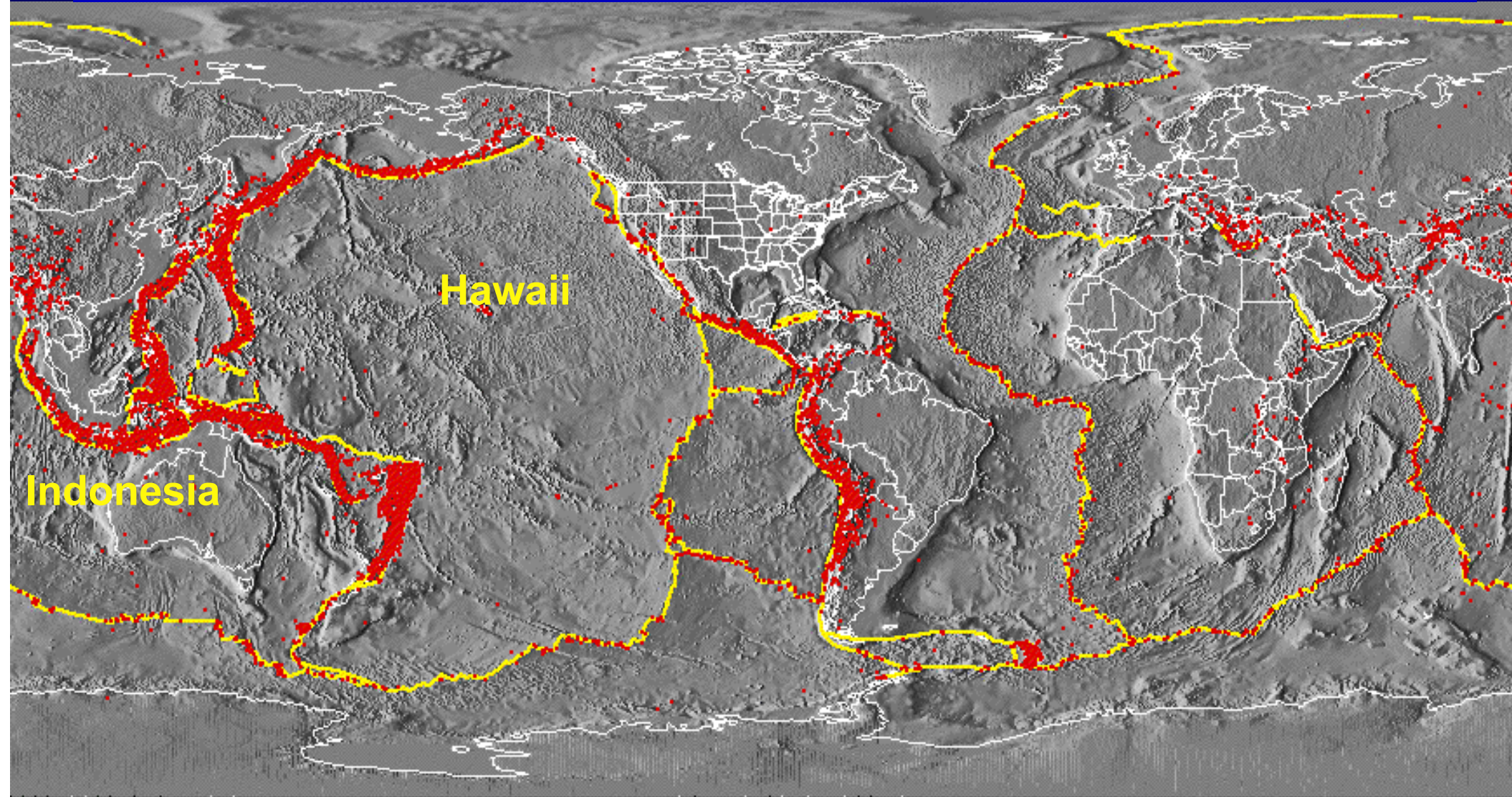




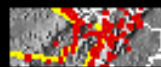
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Faulting

Earthquakes delineate Crustal Plate boundaries



Crustal Plate Boundaries



Earthquake Epicenters, $M > 5$, 1980-1990
Coastlines, Political Boundaries

Types of Earthquake Faulting - Tectonic

- Normal fault
- Thrust or reverse fault
- Lateral slip or strike-slip fault

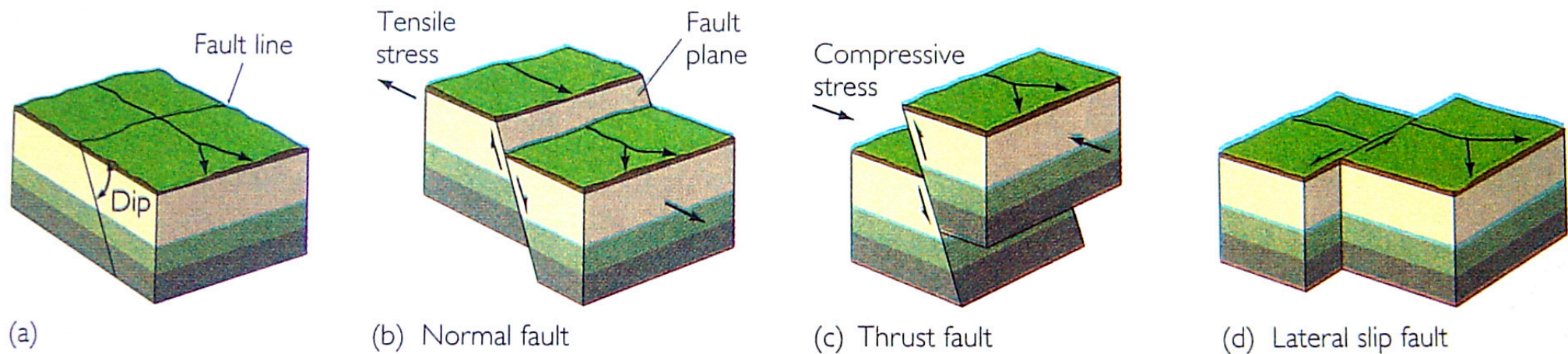


FIGURE 18.12 The three main types of fault movements that initiate earthquakes, and the stresses that cause them: (a) situation before movement takes place; (b) normal fault due to tensile stress; (c) thrust (or reverse) fault due to compressive stress; (d) lateral slip (or strike-slip) fault due to shearing stress.



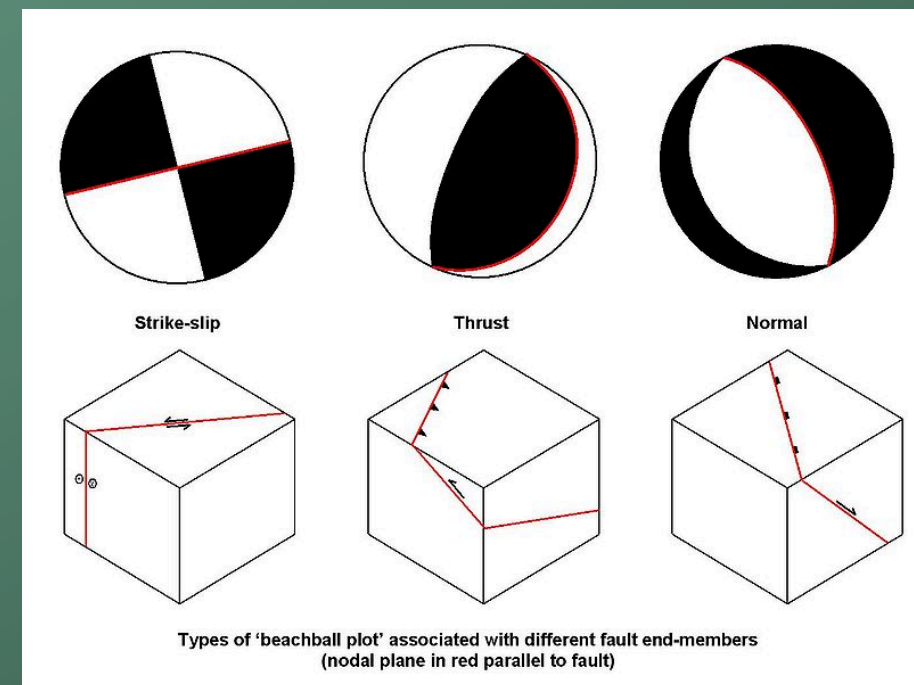
Normal fault Regime



Thrust fault Regime

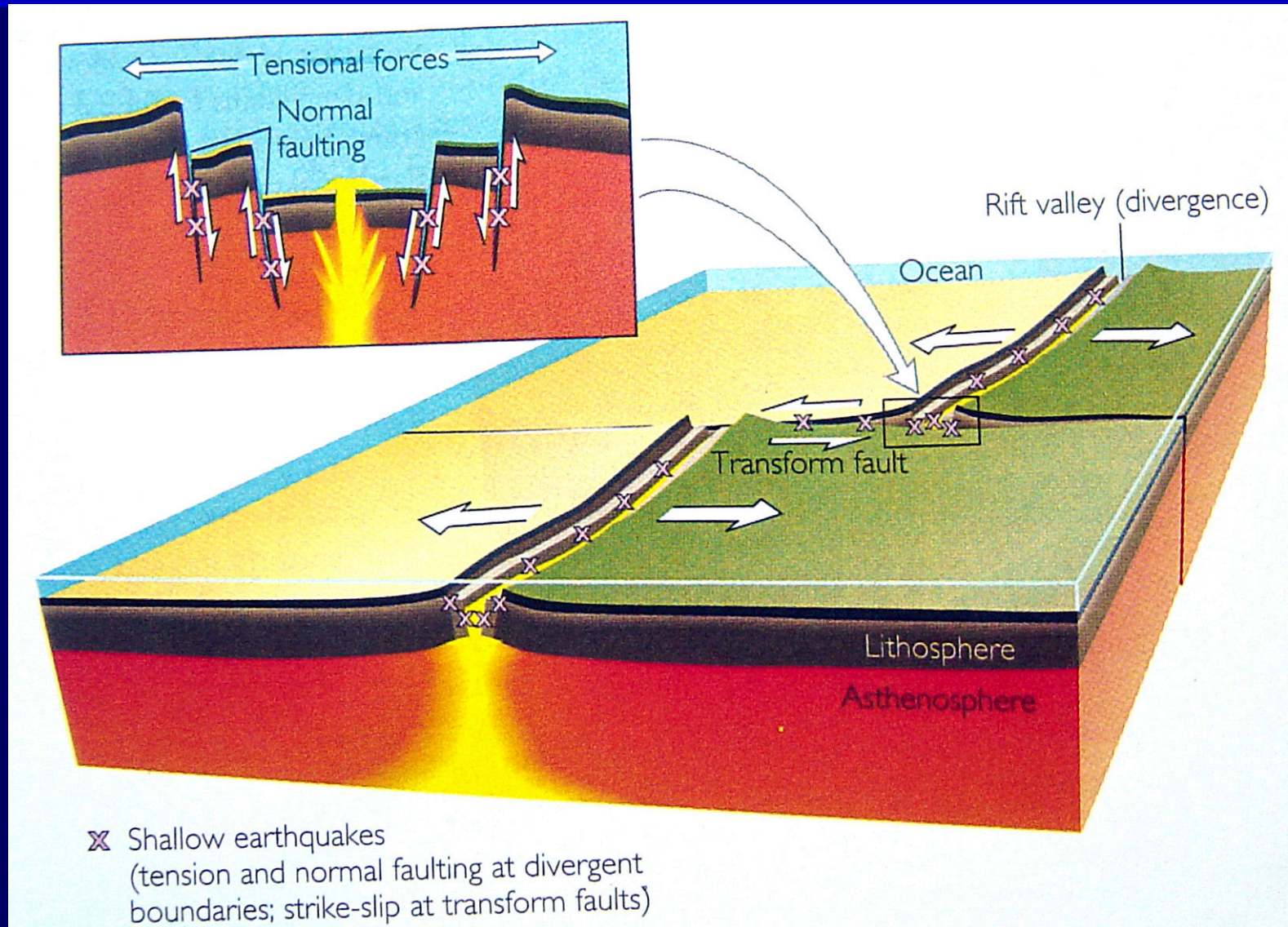


Strike-slip fault Regime



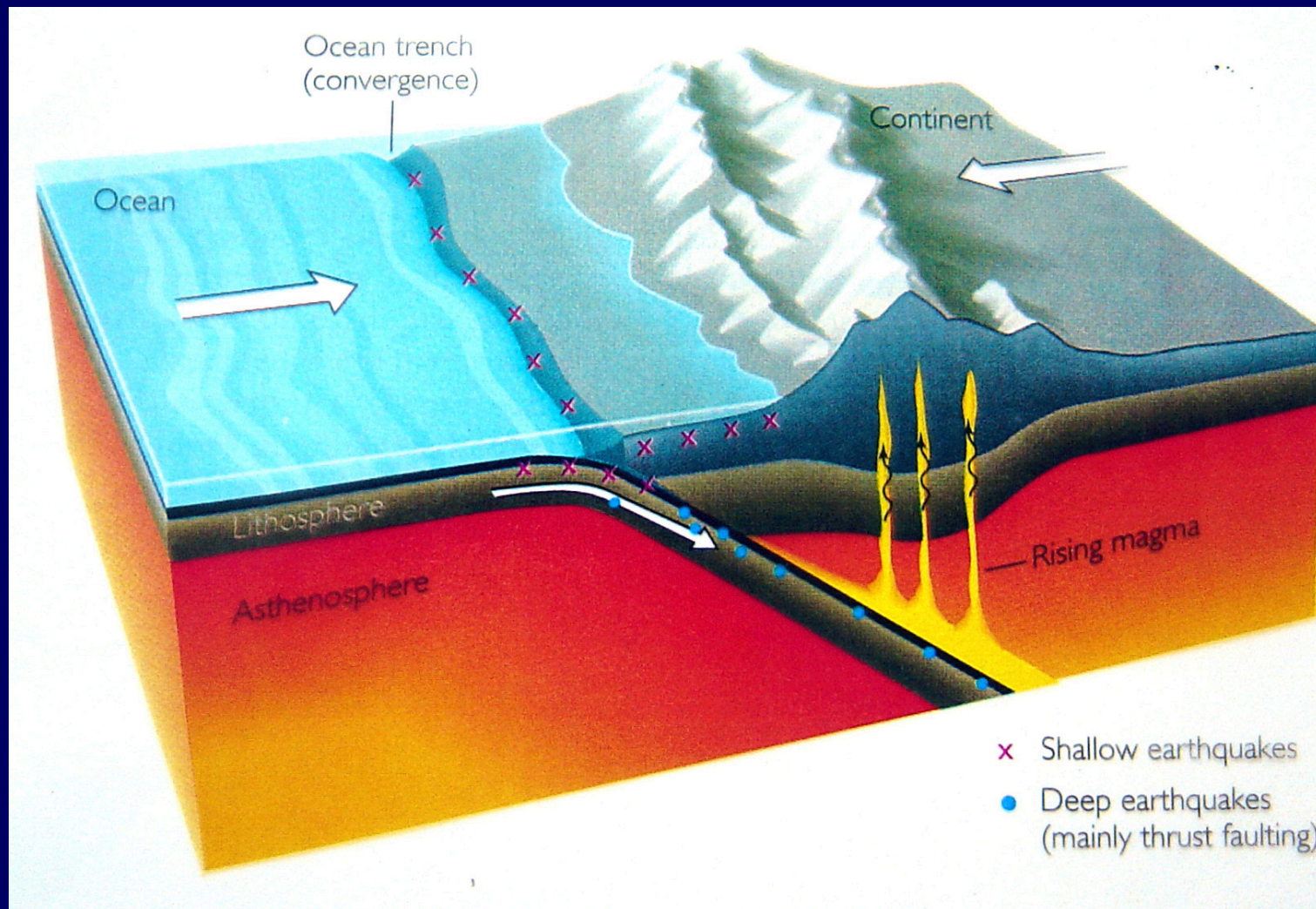
Tectonic Earthquakes at Plate Boundaries

- ***Normal faulting at mid-ocean ridges***
- ***Strike-slip faulting along transform faults***

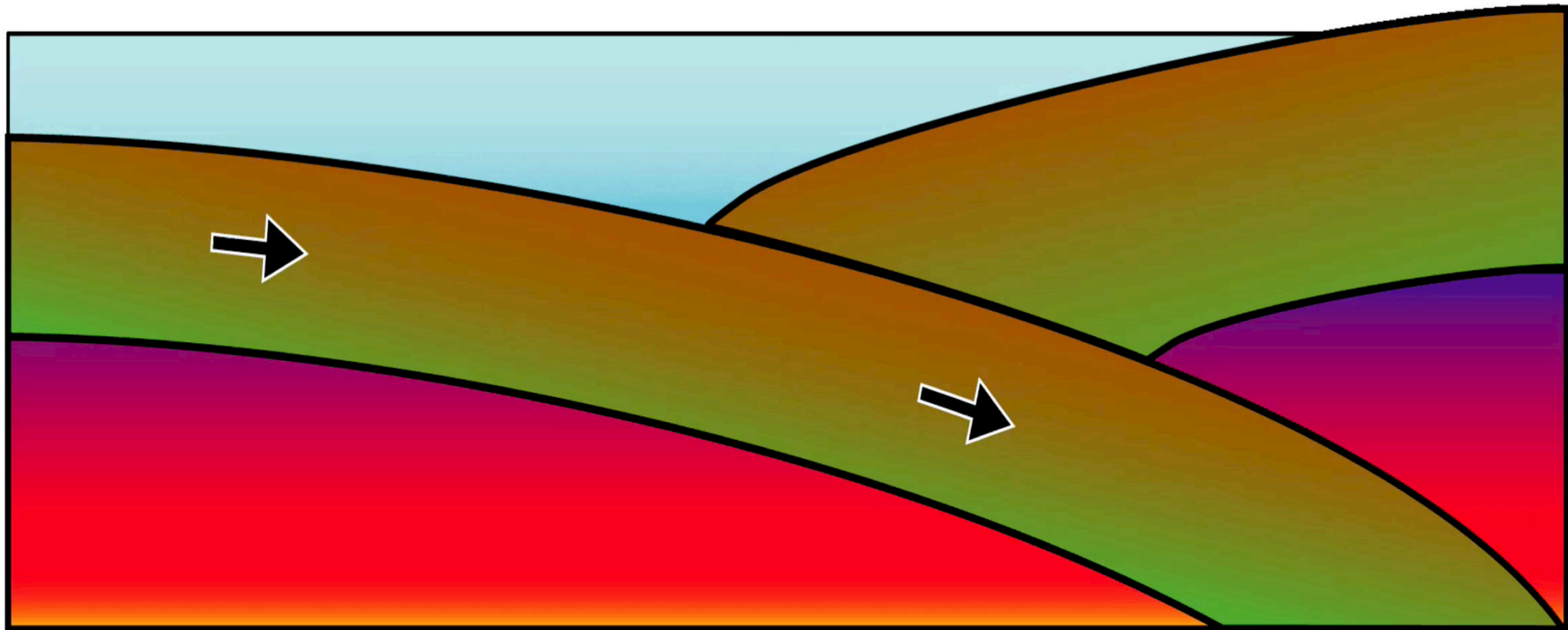


Tectonic Earthquakes at Plate Boundaries

- ***Thrust earthquakes at subduction zones***
- ***Volcanic island arcs built above subducting plate***

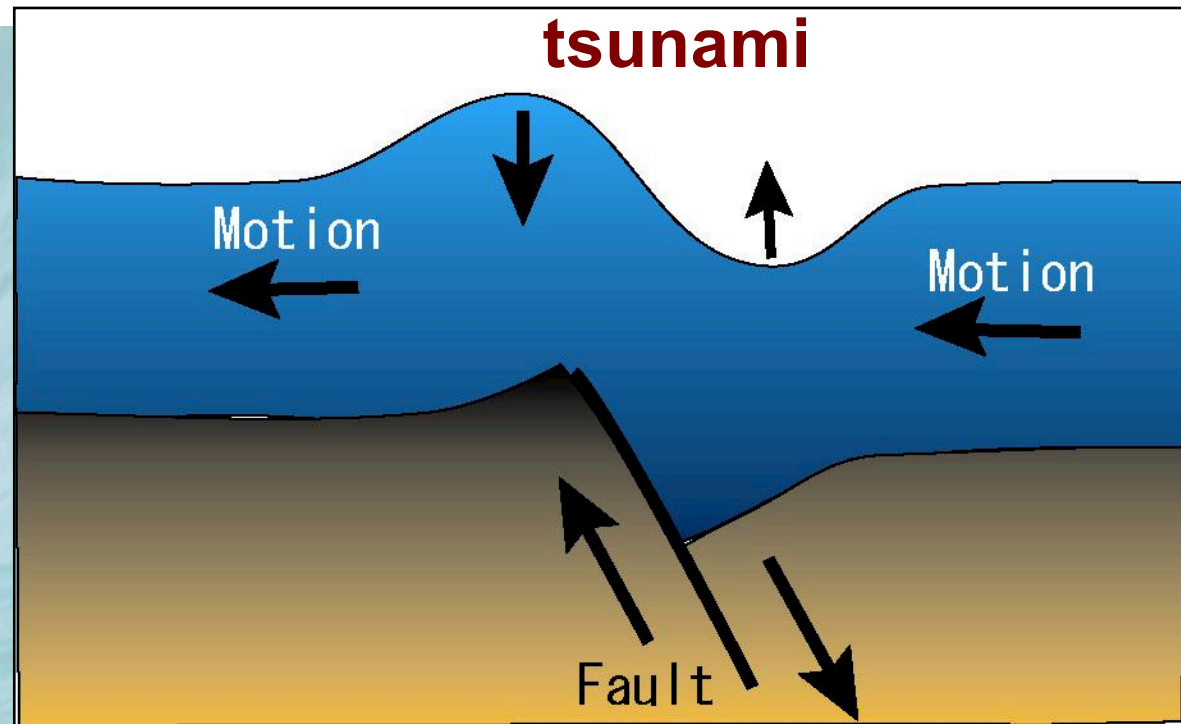


**Most Tsunamis are caused by
Shallow, Large Earthquakes
beneath the Seafloor**



Great Earthquakes ($M > 8.0$)

- Shake for a long time (10s sec to 2-3 min)
- Rupture for 10 to 100s miles
- Move the earth up and down
- => Ocean up and down
- => Generate tsunami





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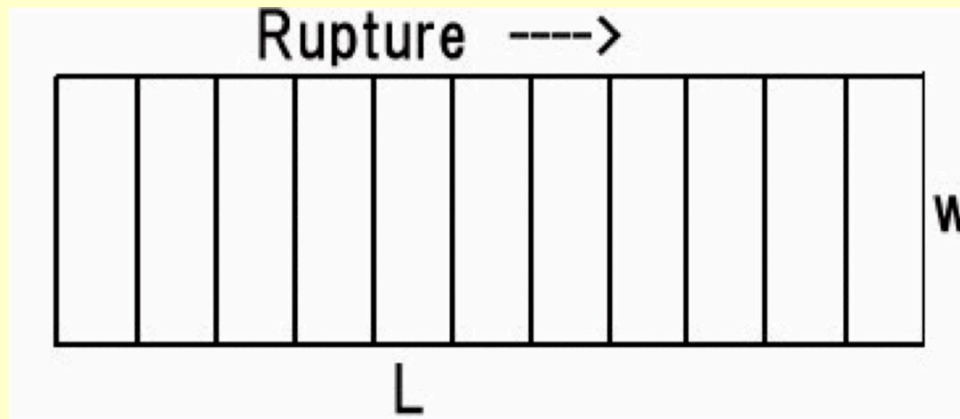
Earthquake Rupture complexity

Great Earthquakes

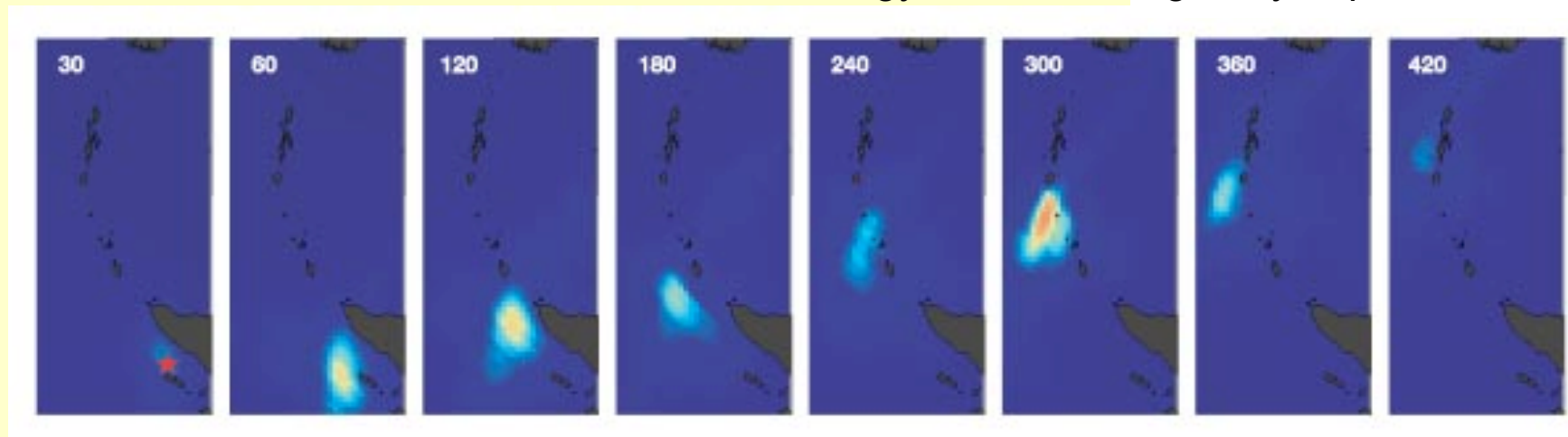
- Shake for a long time (10s sec to 2-3 minutes)
- Rupture for 10 to 100s miles

2004 Sumatra earthquake

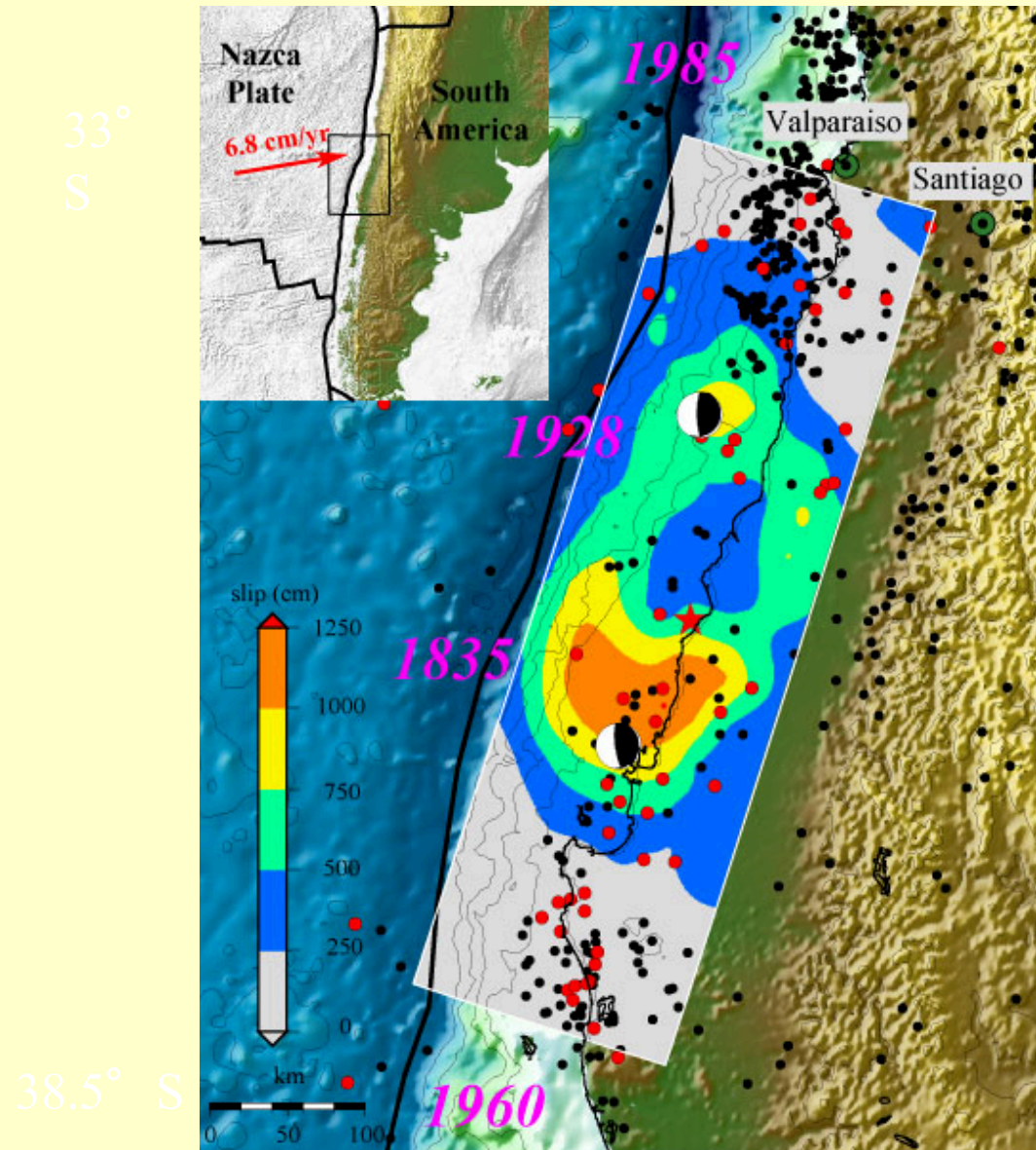
Haskell Line Source
Dislocation Source



Energy Release imaged by Japan HINET Array



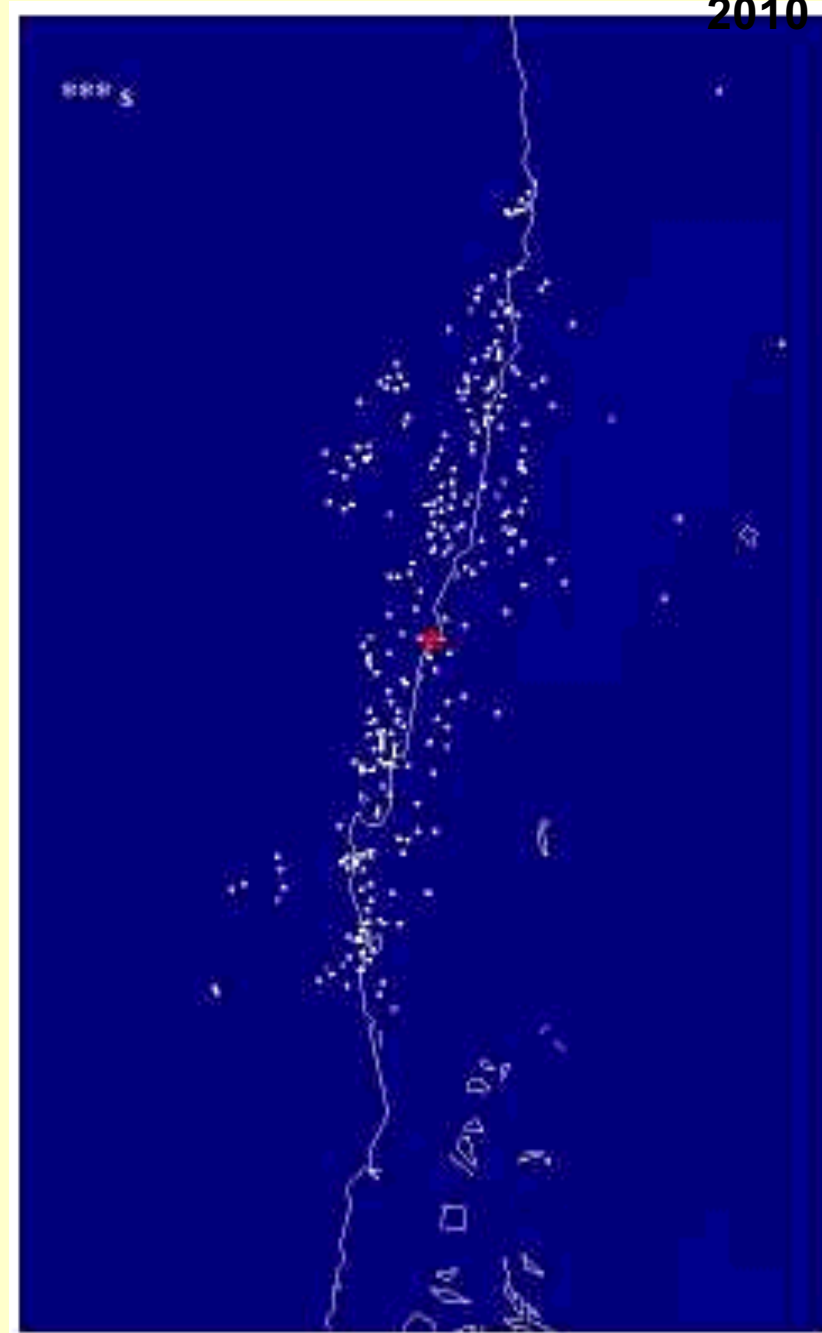
2010 Chile earthquake



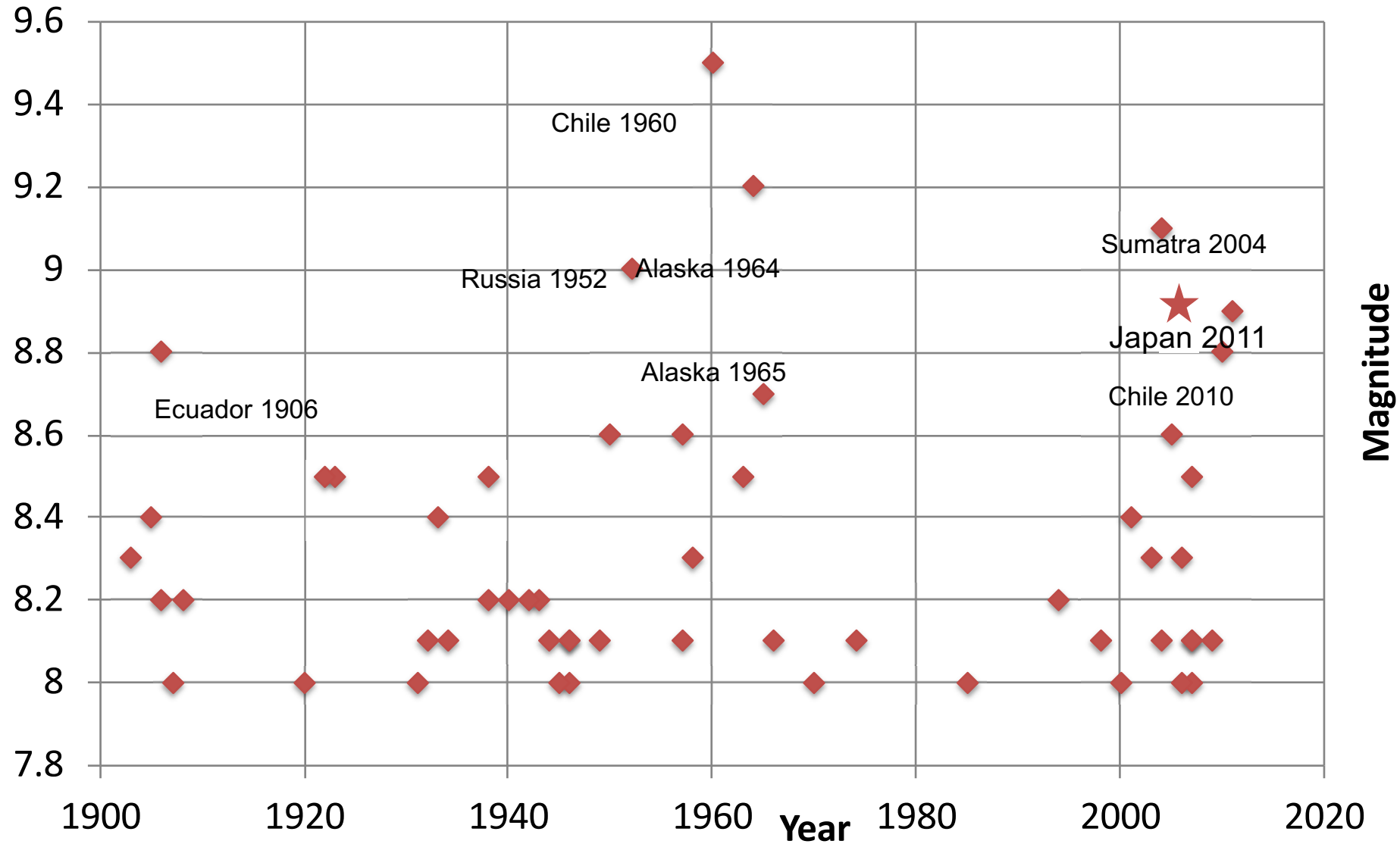
USGS
science for a changing world

Preliminary slip model of the Feb 27, 2010 Mw 8.9 Maule, Chile Earthquake
G Shao, X Li, Q Liu, X Zhao, T Yano, Chen Ji, UCSB

Energy Release imaged by
Japan HINET Array, Ishii et al,
2010



Great ($M > 8$) Earthquakes since 1900 (avg 2.1/yr)





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Thank You

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