

# EAGE

— 22<sup>nd</sup> —  
EUROPEAN MEETING OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND ENGINEERING  
GEOPHYSICS

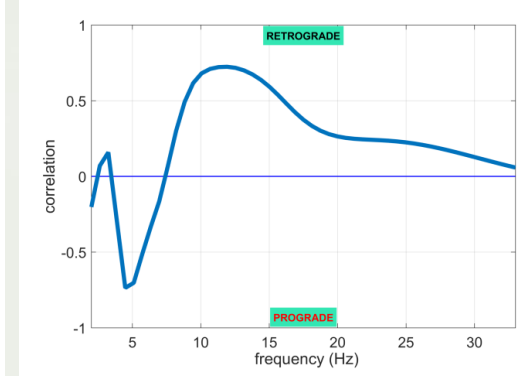
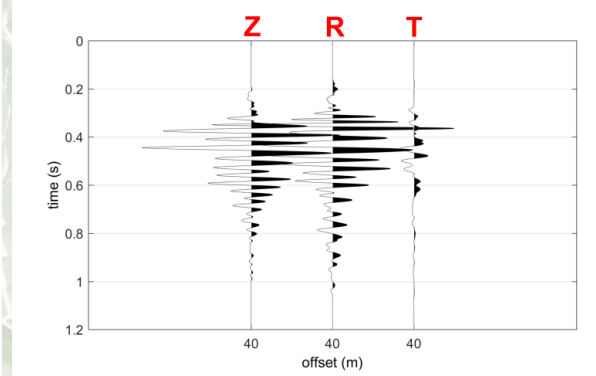
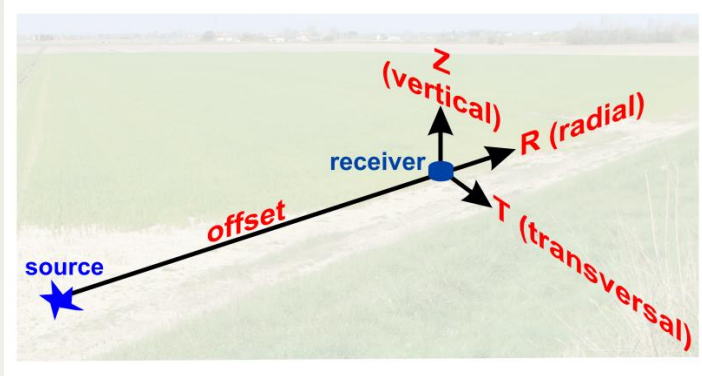
— SECOND —  
APPLIED SHALLOW  
**MARINE**  
GEOPHYSICS  
CONFERENCE

— FIRST —  
CONFERENCE ON  
GEOPHYSICS  
FOR MINERAL  
EXPLORATION  
AND MINING

## NEAR SURFACE GEOSCIENCE



# Four Geophones for Seven Possible Objective Functions: Active and Passive Seismics in Tricky Areas



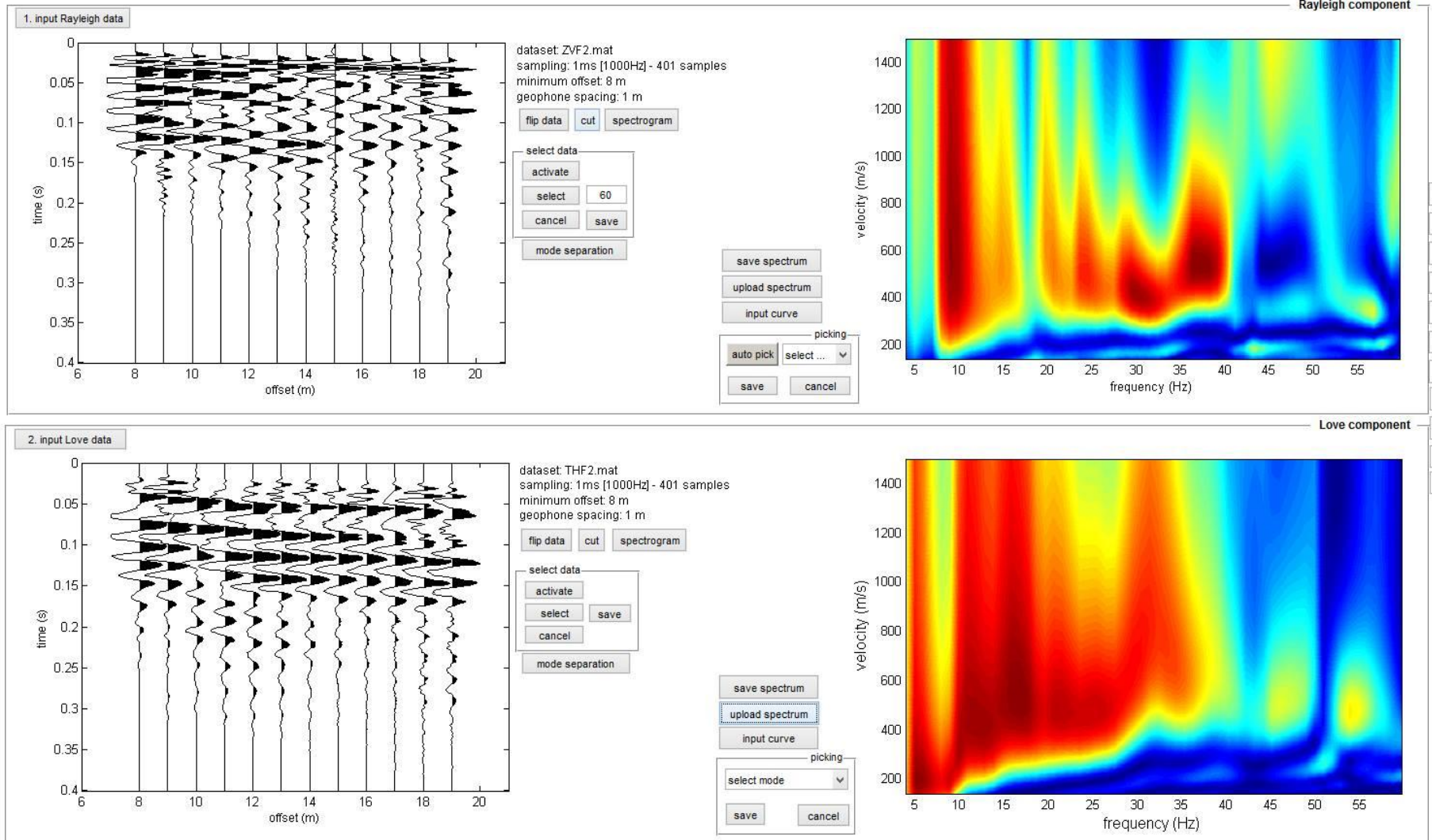
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Department of Seismotectonics  
Institute of Rock Structure and Mechanics  
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Prague - Czech Republic

[dalmoro@irms.cas.cz](mailto:dalmoro@irms.cas.cz); [gdm@winmasw.com](mailto:gdm@winmasw.com)



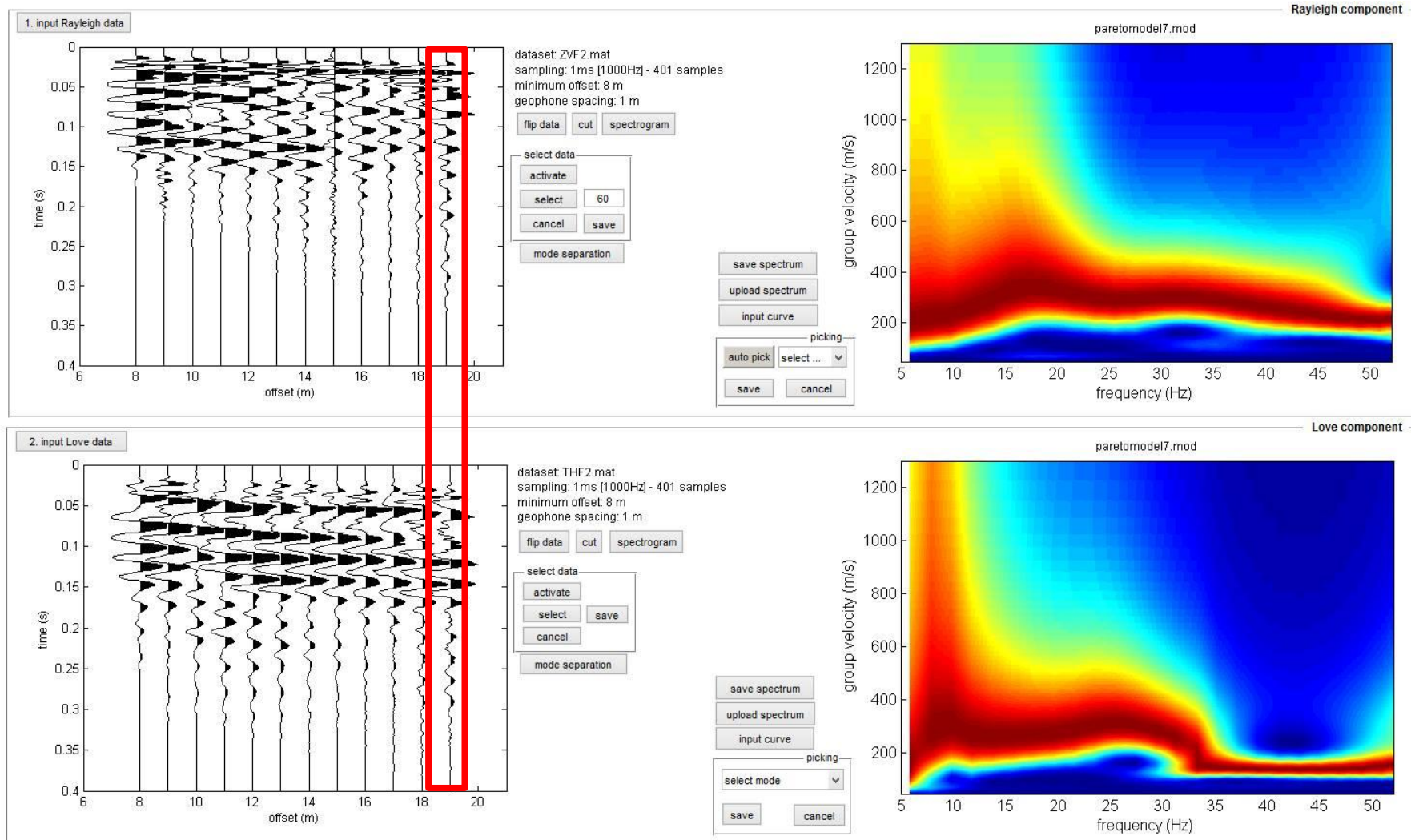
# Questioning the multi-channel dogma: is the analysis of *phase* velocity (analyzed via multi-channel data) better with respect to the single-channel data useful for the analysis of *group* velocities?



*A recent dataset (ZVF + THF)*

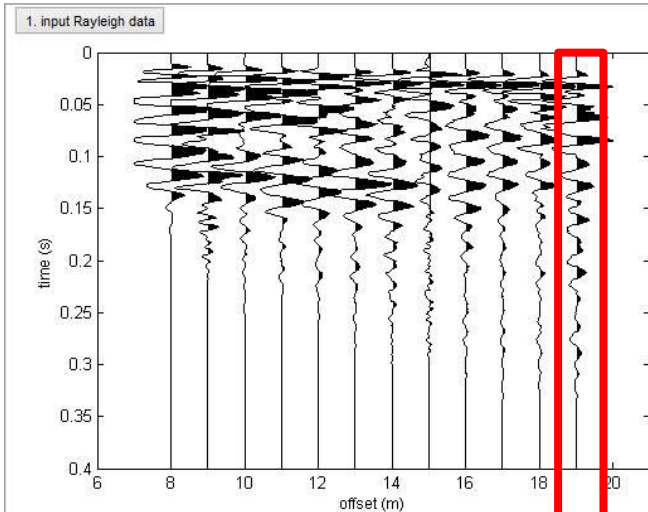


# the multi-channel dogma: here the *group* velocity spectra (Z and T components) for the most-distant trace



*A recent dataset (ZVF + THF)*

# the multi-channel dogma: here the FVS analysis of the *group* velocity spectra (Z and T components)



dataset: ZVF2.mat  
sampling: 1 ms [1000Hz] - 401 samples  
minimum offset: 8 m  
geophone spacing: 1 m

flip data cut spectrogram

select data

activate

select 60

cancel save

mode separation

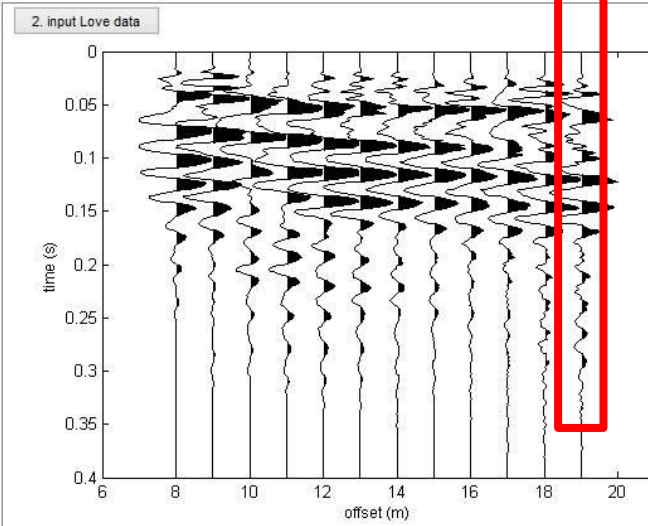
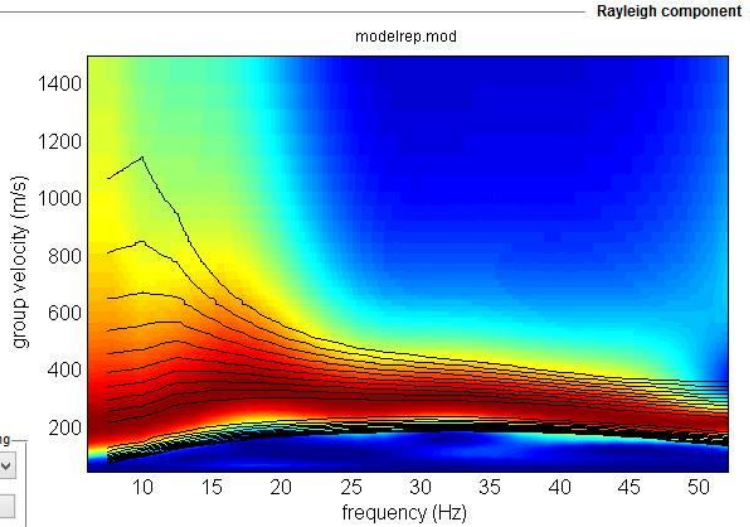
save spectrum

upload spectrum

input curve

auto pick select ...

save cancel



dataset: THF2.mat  
sampling: 1 ms [1000Hz] - 401 samples  
minimum offset: 8 m  
geophone spacing: 1 m

flip data cut spectrogram

select data

activate

select save

cancel

mode separation

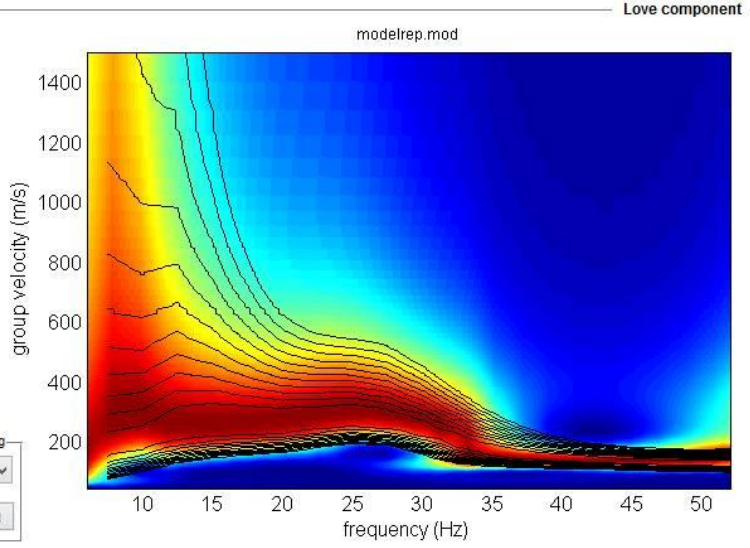
save spectrum

upload spectrum

input curve

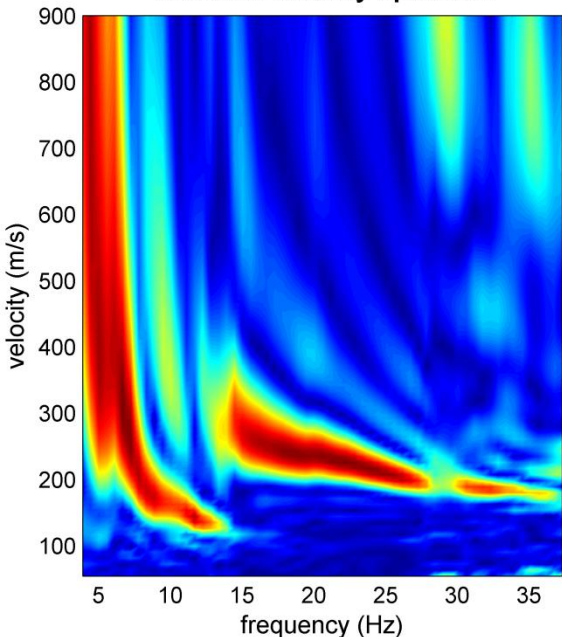
select mode

save cancel

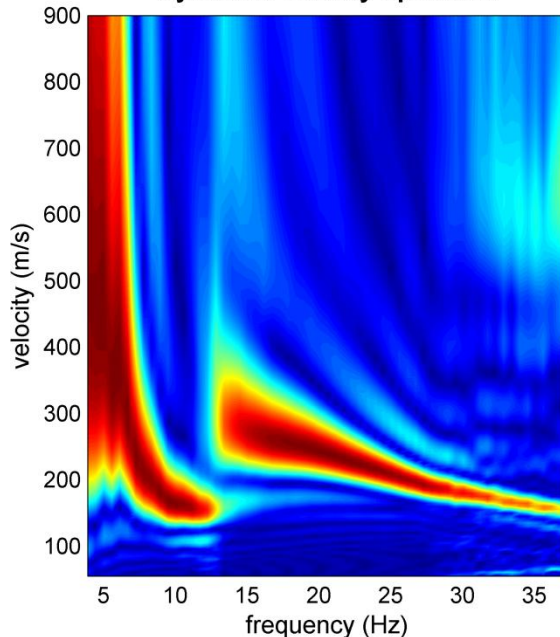


# The FVS (*Full Velocity Spectrum*) approach in short

Observed Velocity Spectrum

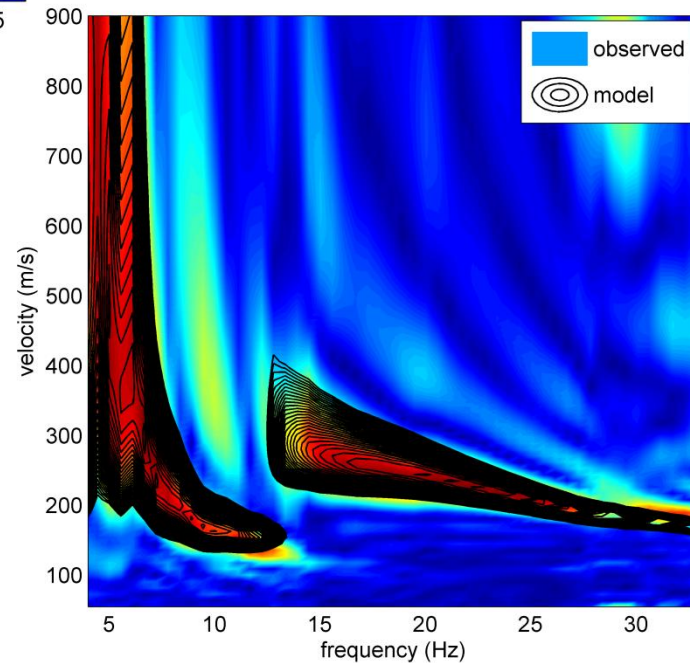


Synthetic Velocity Spectrum



“comparing” the field and the synthetic velocity spectra  
[no interpretation in terms of dispersion curve(s)]

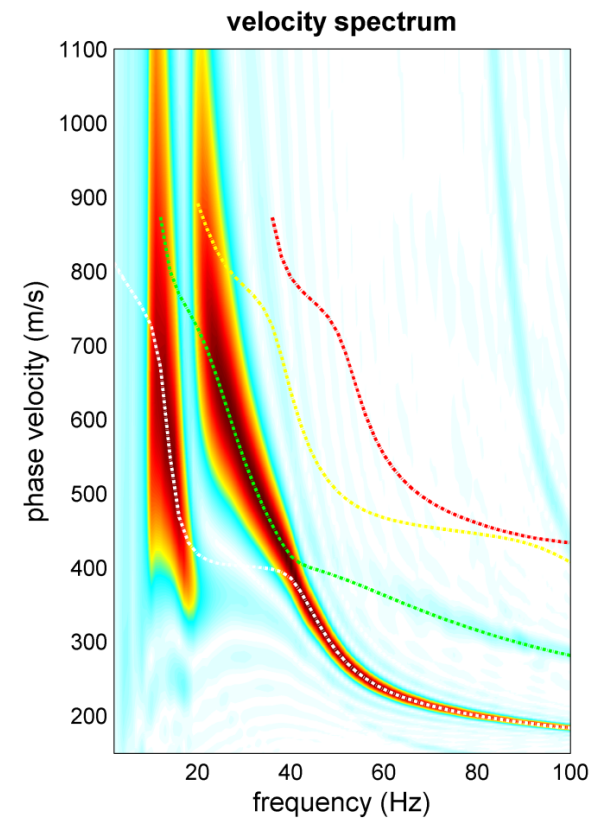
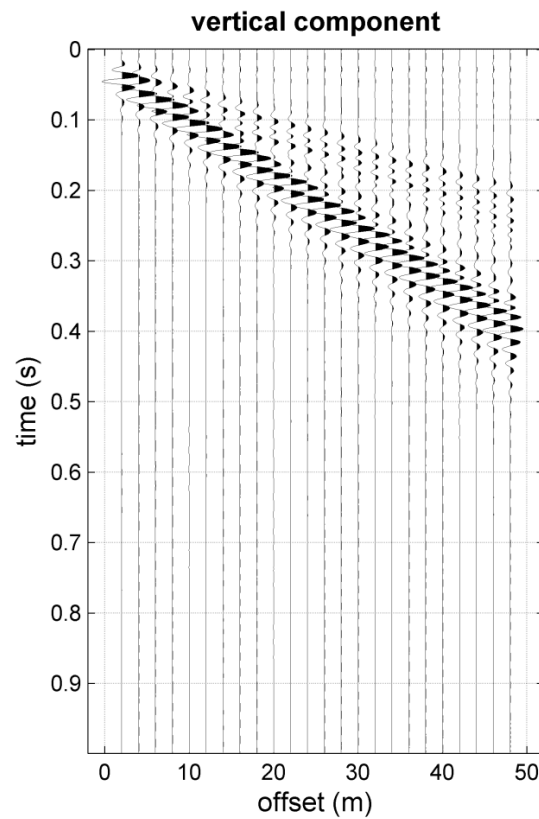
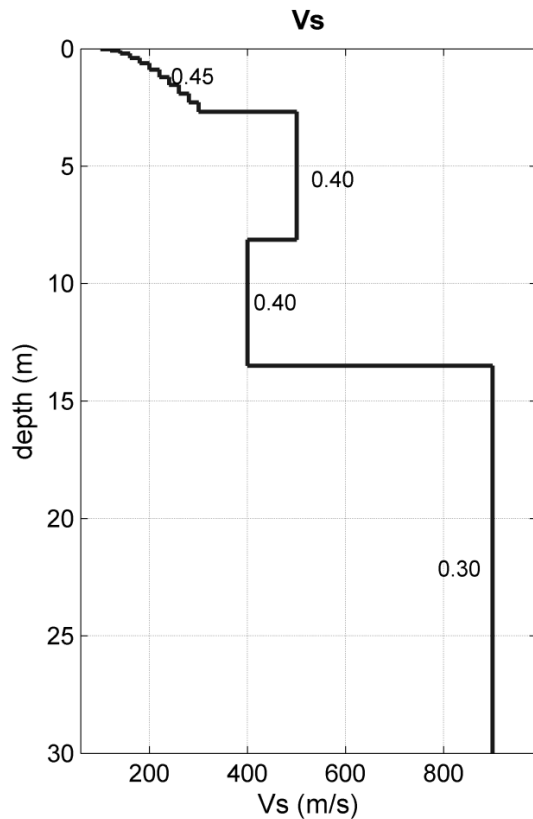
“compact” FVS representation: background colors refer to the field data, overlaying black contour lines to the synthetics





Retrieving the dispersive properties is something, but the way you understand/treat/process them something else:

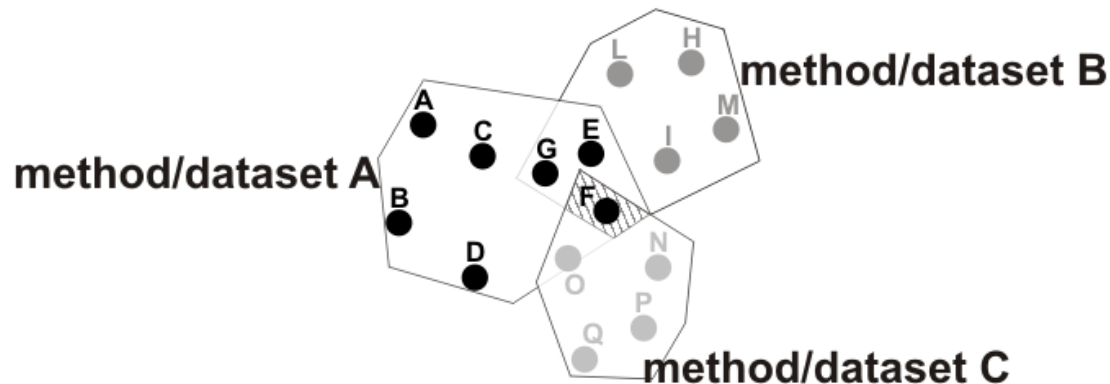
- *Modal* dispersion curves
- *Effective* dispersion curve
- *FVS (Full Velocity Spectrum)*



**The continuity of a signal does not mean that that signal pertains to a single mode.**

# Tricky areas: the two (conflicting?) points

1. Logistical problems that prevent from using certain techniques
2. Need for various components/objective functions (to overcome ambiguities and non-uniqueness): joint analyses

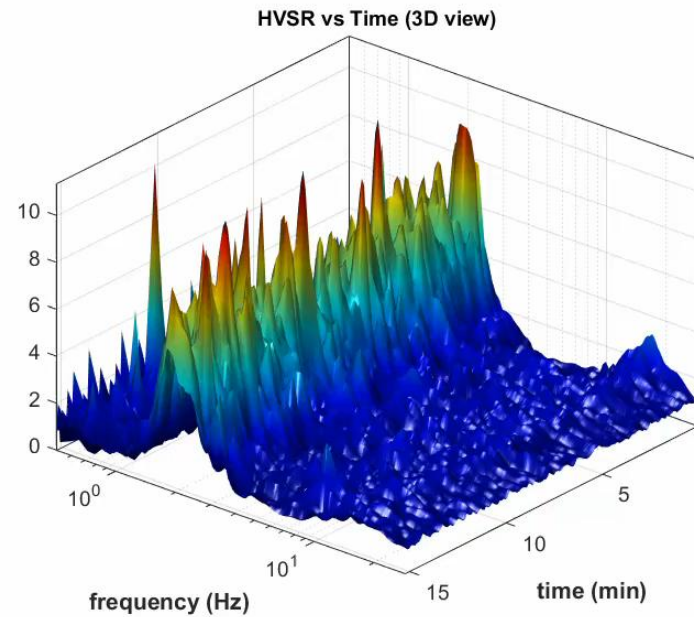
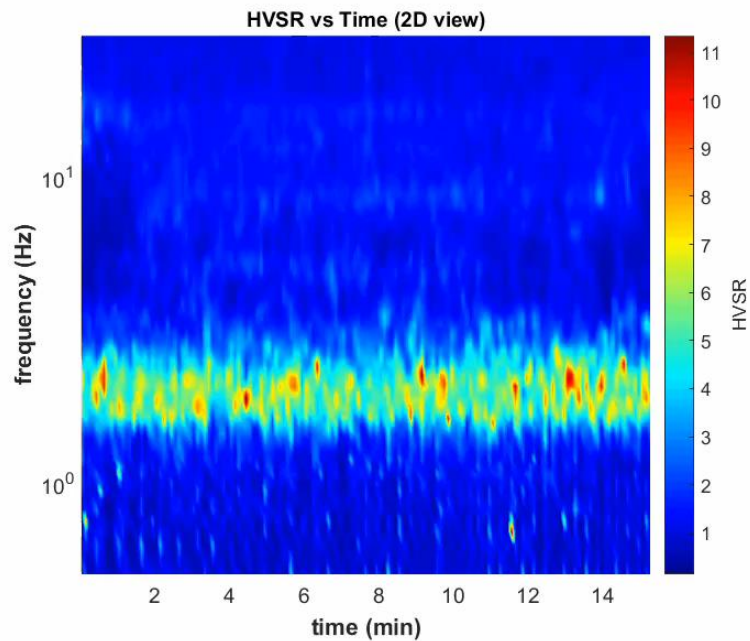




# The Three Considered *Methodologies* (for 7 “objects”)

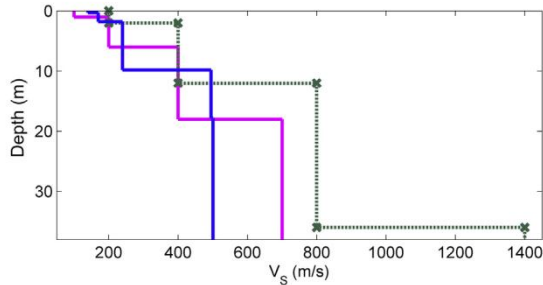
1. HVSR (passive): *Horizontal-to-Vertical Spectral Ratio*  
[objective functions: 1 ]
2. HS (active): *HoliSurface*  
[objective functions: 5 ]
3. MAAM (passive): *Miniature Array Analysis of Microtremors*  
[objective functions: 1 ]

# 1. HVSR (passive): *Horizontal-to-Vertical Spectral Ratio* [objective functions: 1 ]



# HVSR: some problems

## [Dal Moro, 2014]



### Non-uniqueness of the solution

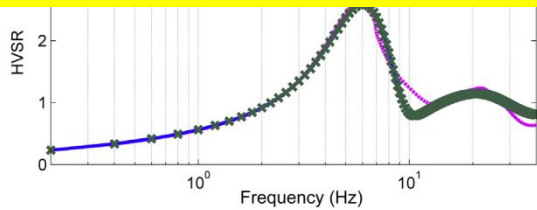


Figure 4.8 Nonuniqueness of the H/V spectral ratio (HVSR) in terms of reconstruction of the  $V_S$  profile



### Temporal variations of the H/V

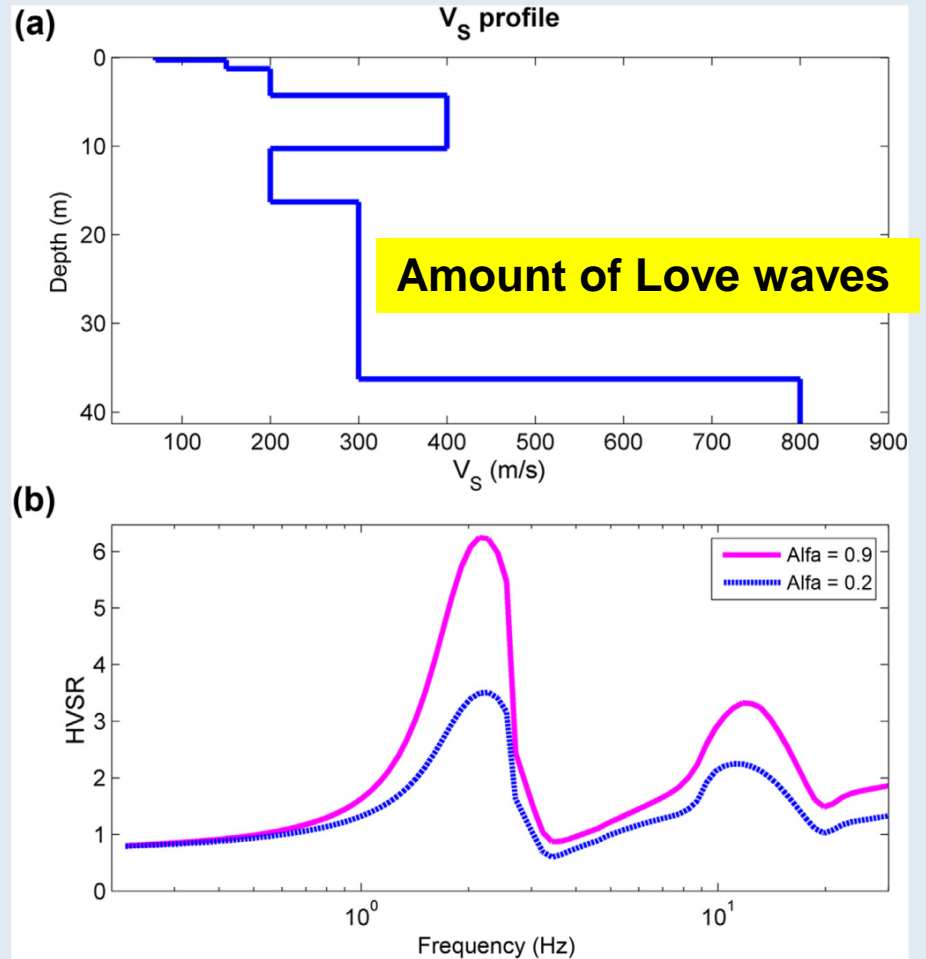
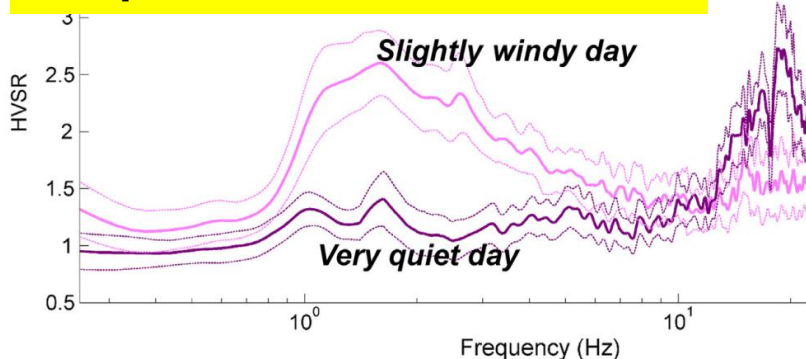


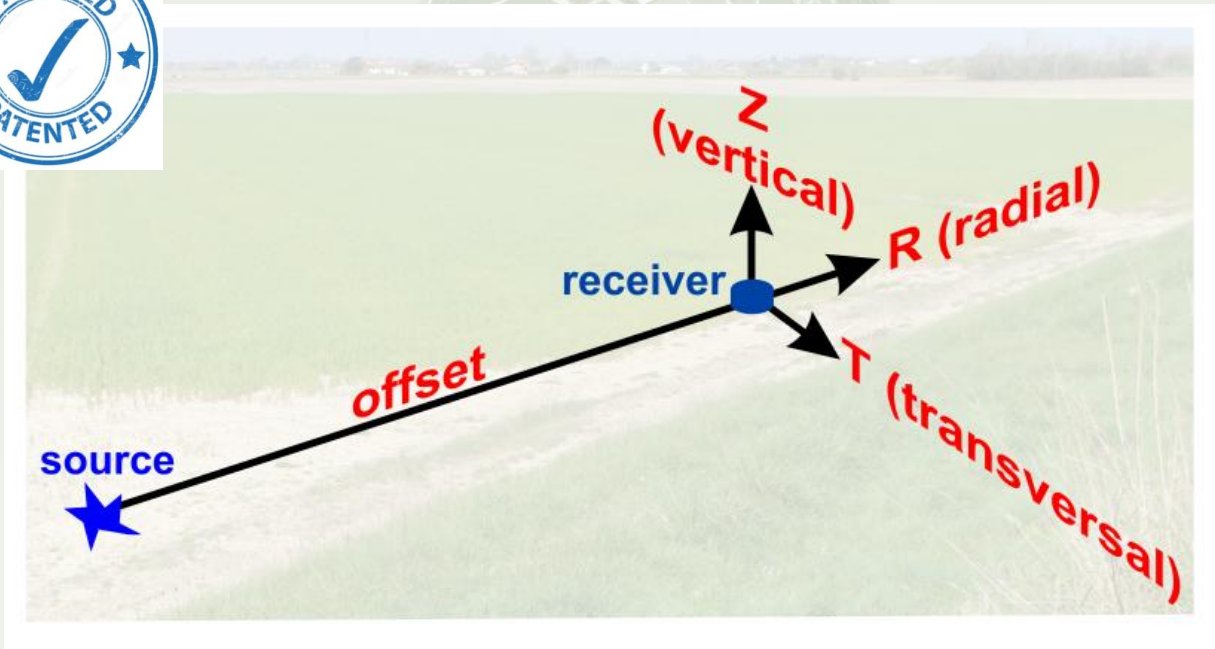
Figure 4.14 Effects of Love waves on the HVSR: (a) considered  $V_S$  profile; (b) the HVSR curves obtained while considering a different amount of Love waves (the  $\alpha$  factor) in the microtremor field. In both cases  $Q_S$  values are fixed according to a simple rule of thumb ( $Q_S = V_S/8$ ).

Two consequences are straightforward:

1. The amount of Love waves (synthetically expressed by the  $\alpha$  factor) should be considered as a further variable in the inversion process aimed at determining the  $V_S$  profile (experience teaches that its value typically ranges from 0.3 to 0.6).
2. The HVSR curve alone is insufficient to properly and precisely define a  $V_S$  profile even when geological/stratigraphical information are available and, consequently, the only viable approach is represented by the joint inversion with further geophysical data (typically the dispersion curves of Rayleigh or Love waves).



## 2. HS (active): *HoliSurface* [objective functions: 5 ]



Active seismics (HS approach): the *components* acquired in case a single 3C geophone is used to record the signal(s) produced by both a Vertical and Horizontal Force (VF and HF).

## 2. HS (active): *HoliSurface* [objective functions: 5]



One  
source

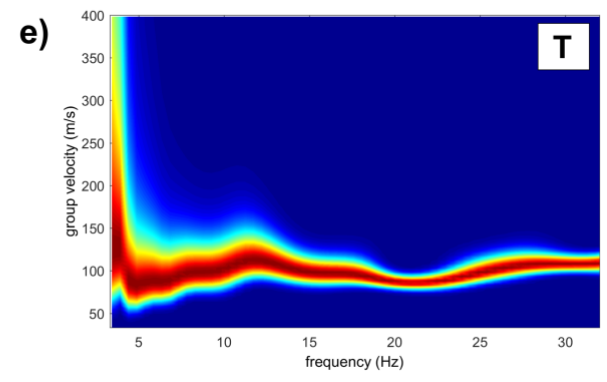
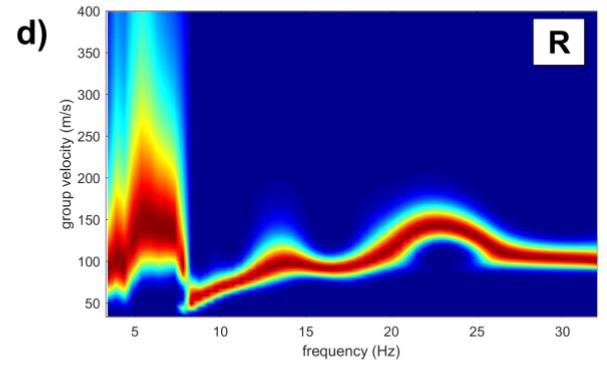
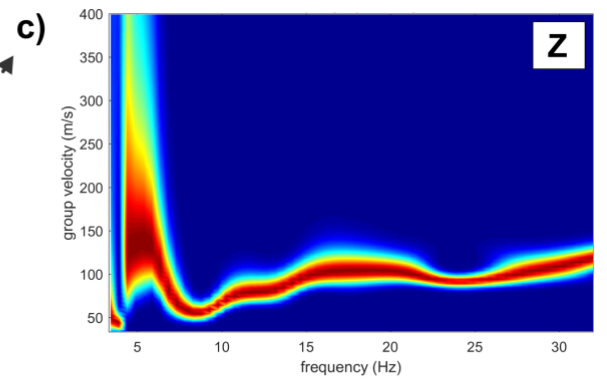
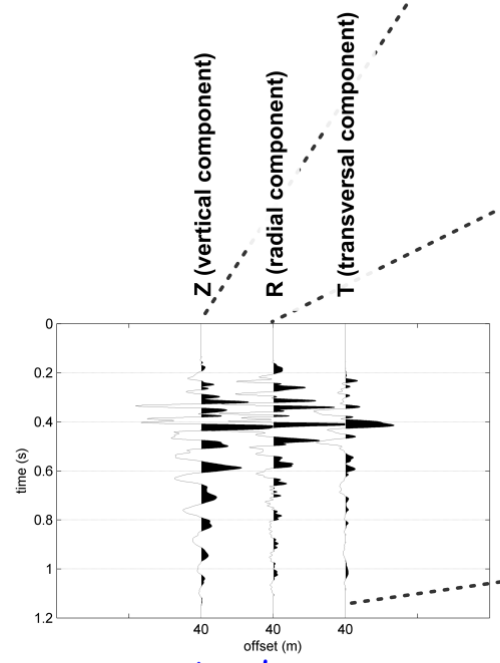
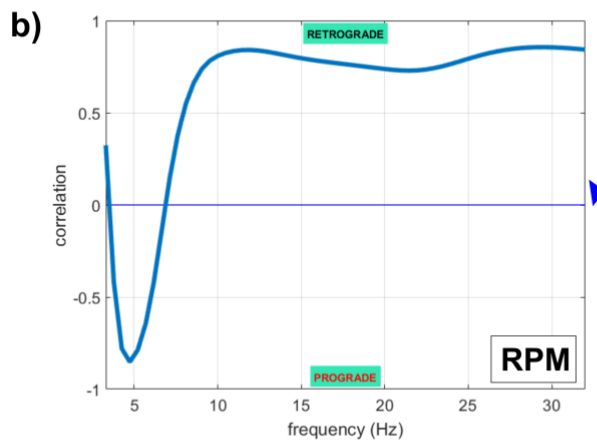
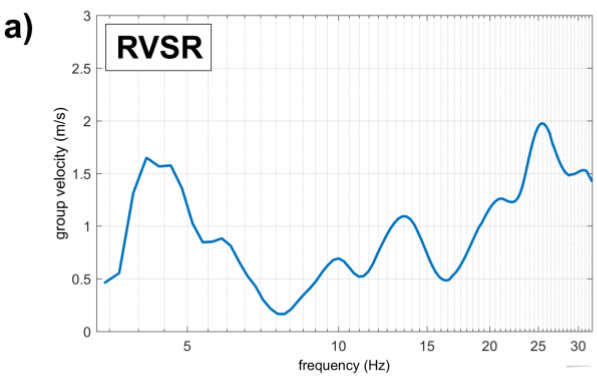
Just one  
receiver  
(a 3-component  
geophone)





# 2. HS (active): *HoliSurface* [objective functions: 5]

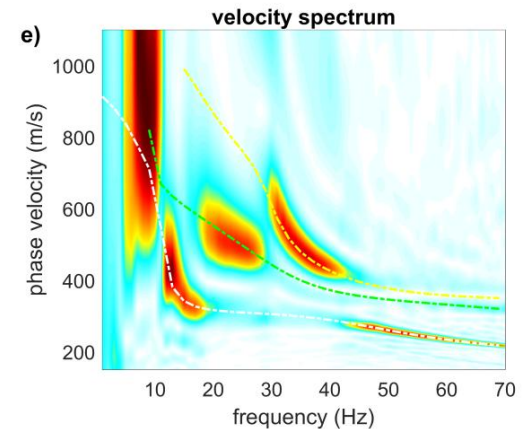
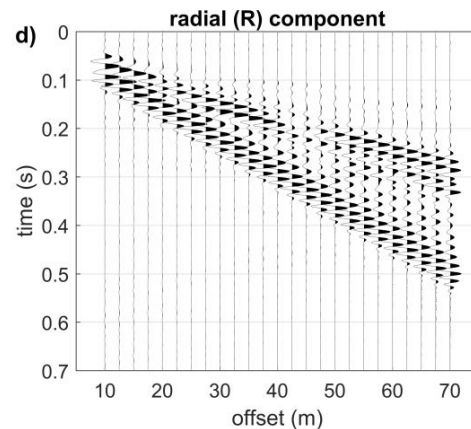
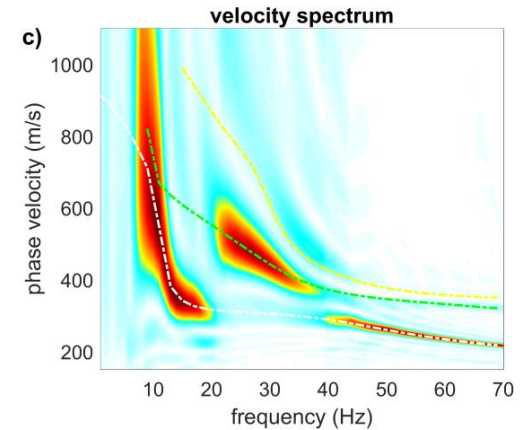
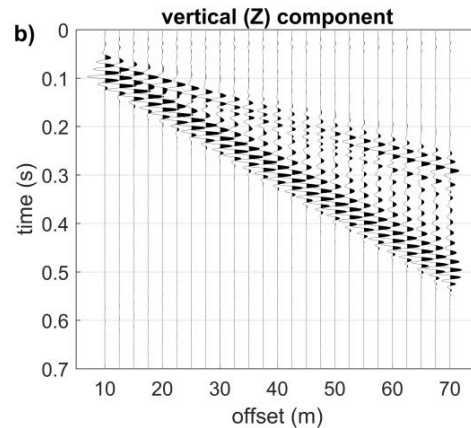
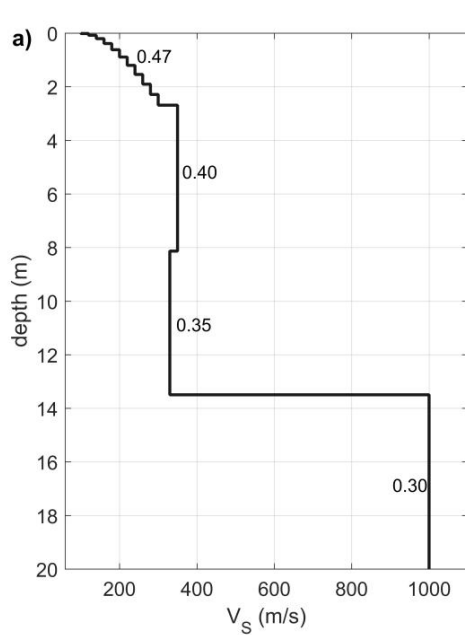
## Holistic analysis of surface-wave propagation





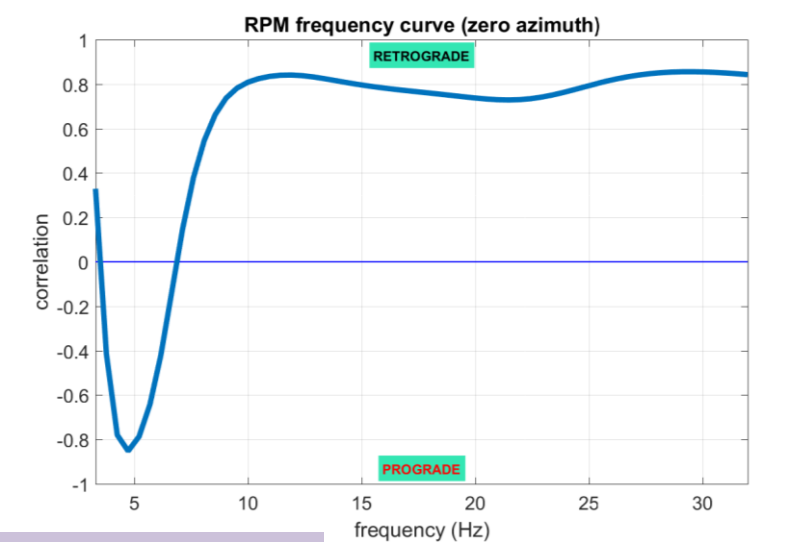
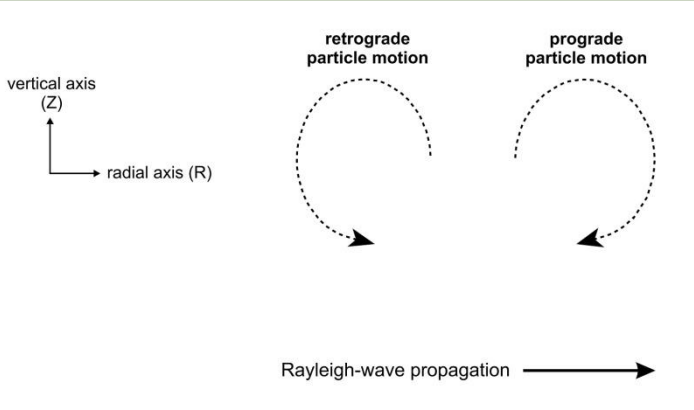
## 2. HS (active): *HoliSurface* [objective functions: 5]

Rayleigh waves: the radial (R) and vertical (Z) components are different



# 2. HS (active): *HoliSurface* [objective functions: 5]

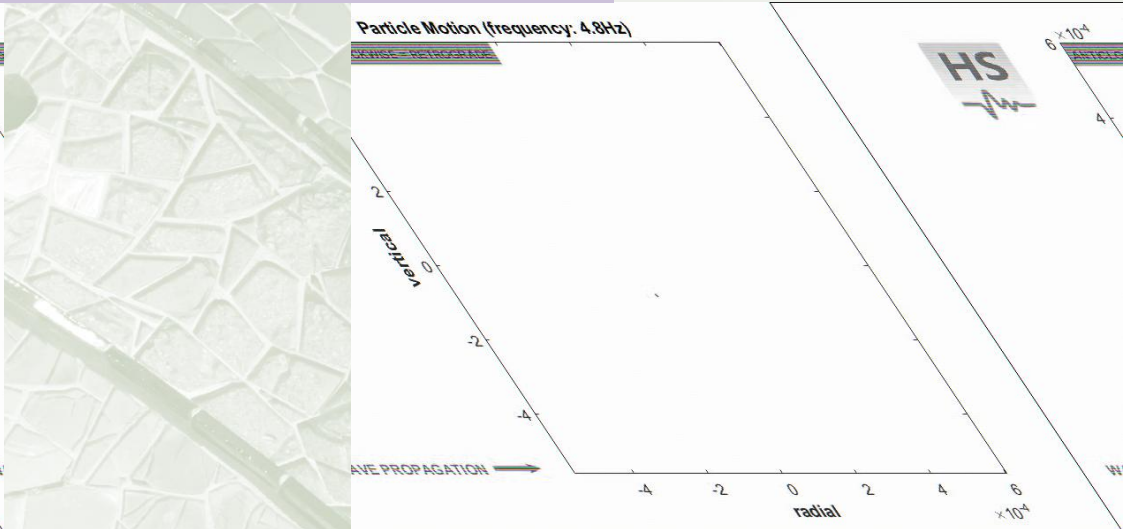
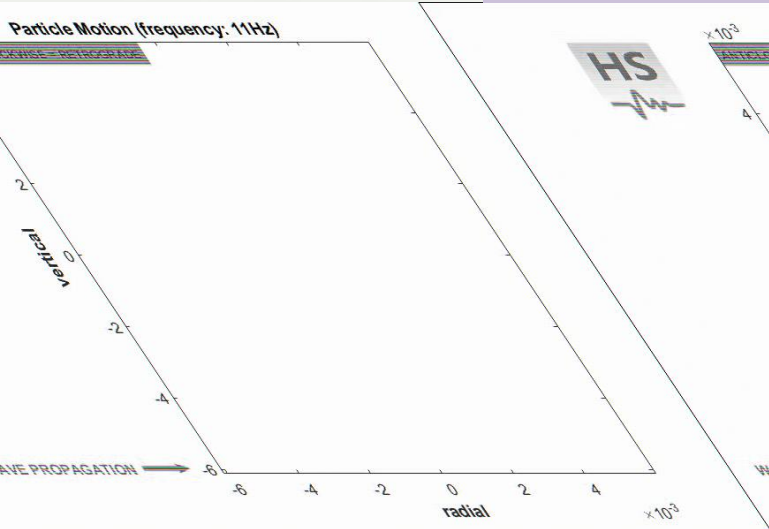
## RPM frequency curve (Dal Moro et al., BSSA - 2016)



11Hz (retrograde)

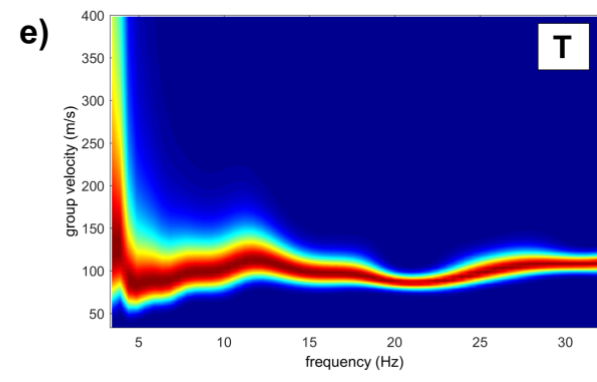
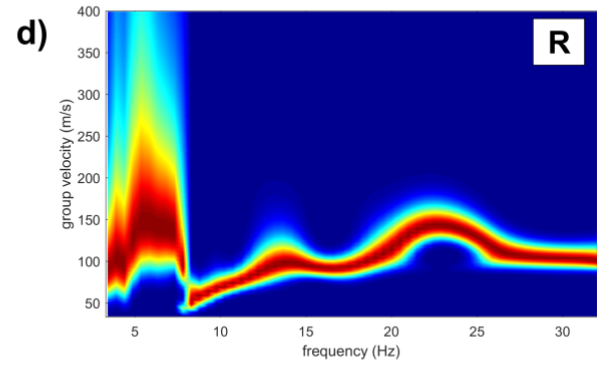
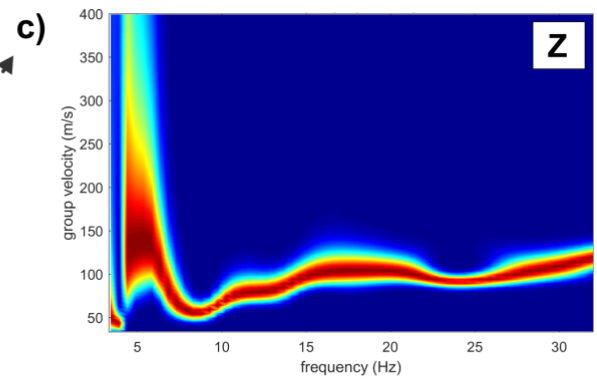
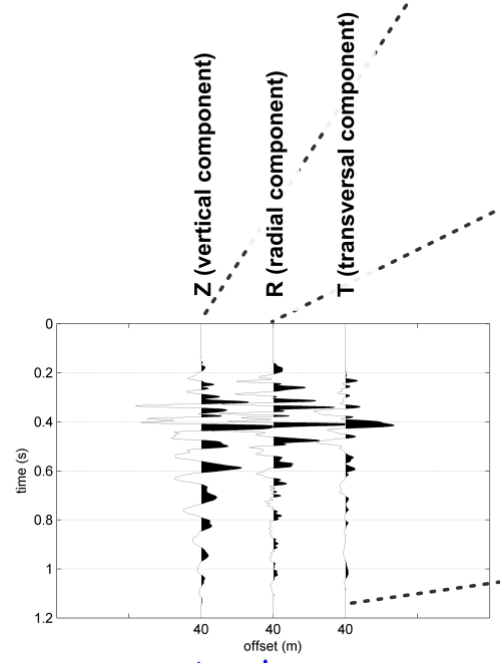
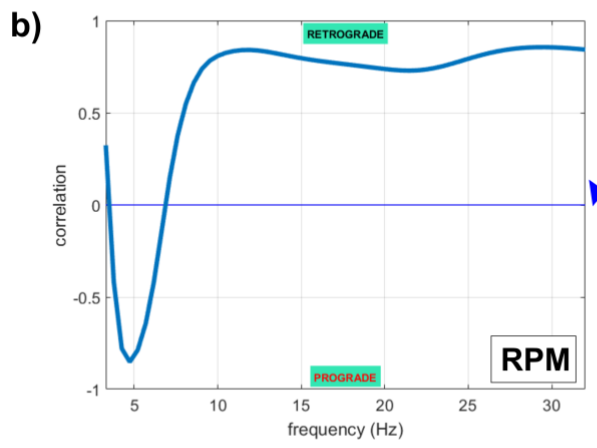
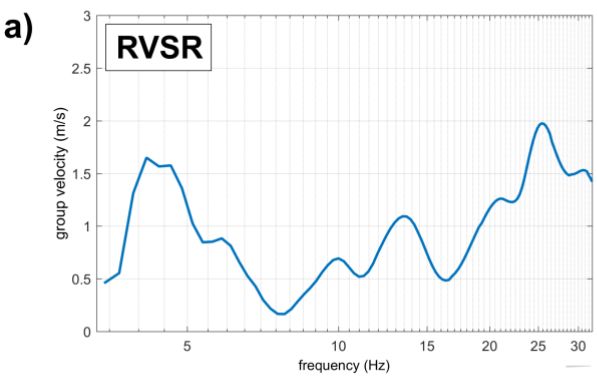
video animations (field dataset)  
[available on request or see the BSSA paper]

4.8Hz (prograde)



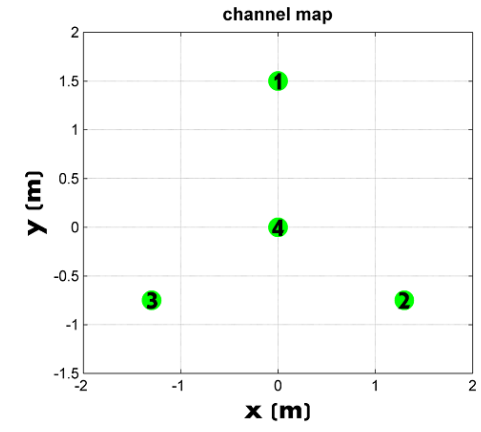
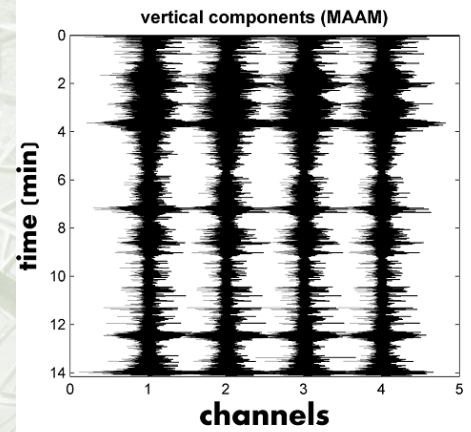
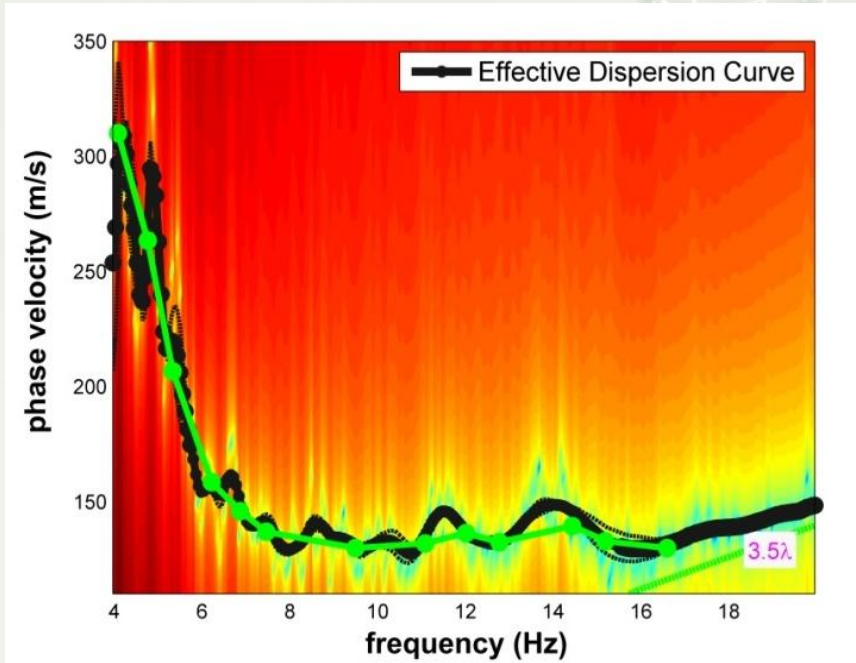
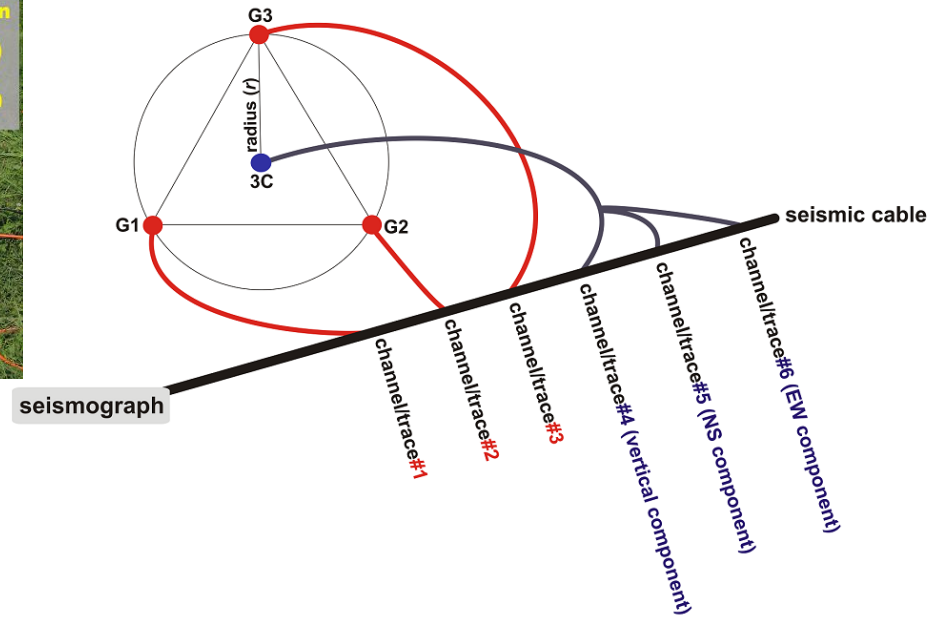
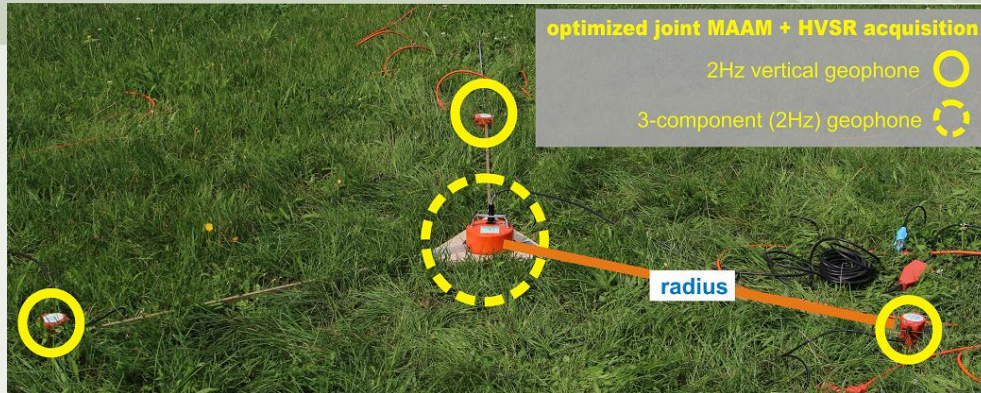
# 2. HS (active): *HoliSurface* [objective functions: 5]

## Holistic analysis of surface-wave propagation





# 3. MAAM (passive): *Miniature Array Analysis of Microtremors* [objective functions: 1 ]



# Noise and Joint Analysis: two quick notes

## 1. What is *noise*?

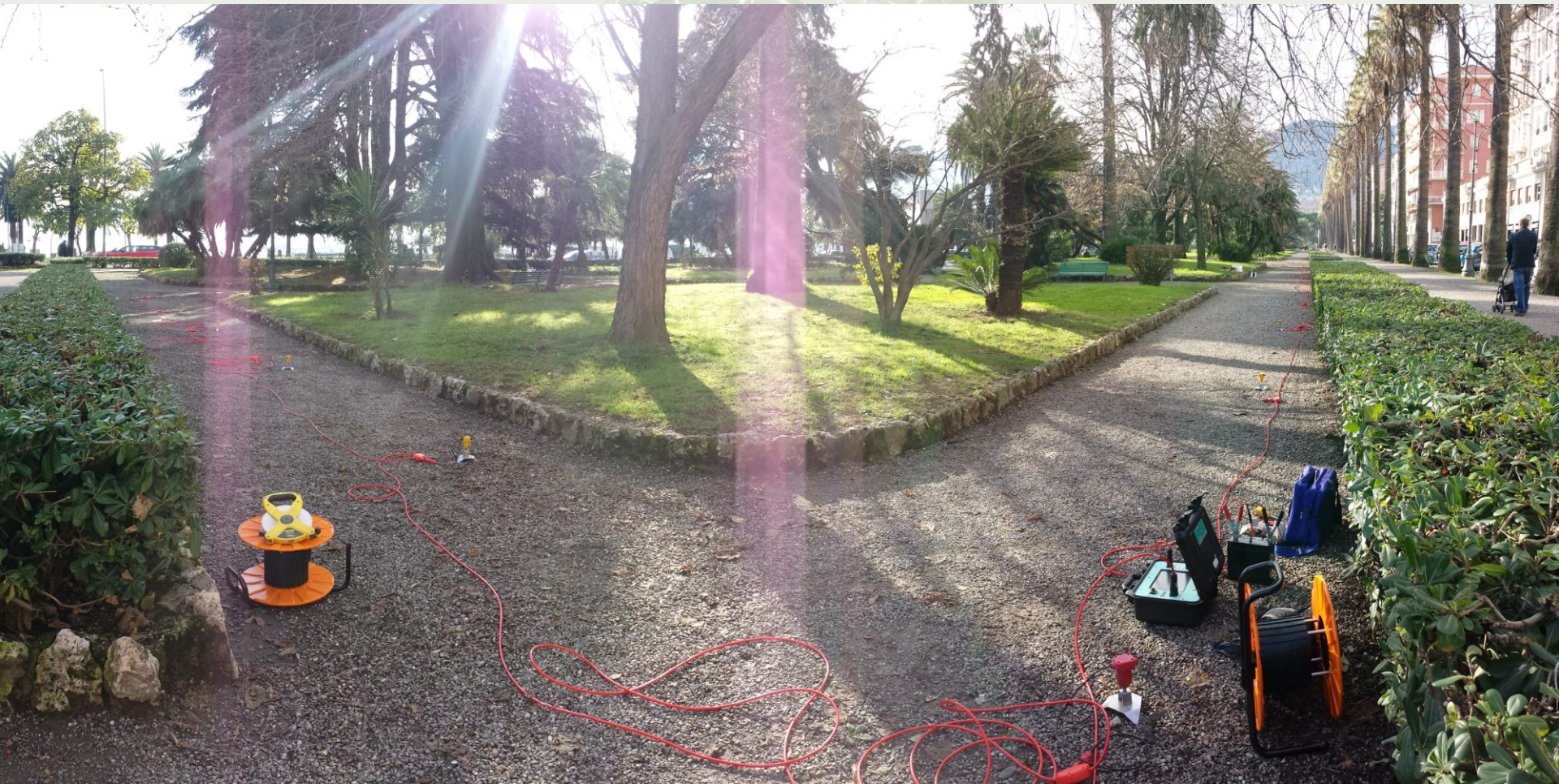
***Noise* is everything that is in our data (and that influences your analyses) while we would like not be there.**

**Does the expression “ambient noise” make thus really sense?**

## 2. Joint inversion is necessarily a *compromise*.



# Case study#1





# The acquisition parameters

<b>sampling rate</b>	4 ms (Nyquist frequency 125 Hz)
<b>acquisition length</b>	30 min
<b>radius</b>	2 + 5 m
<b>sensors</b>	four vertical 4.5Hz geophones

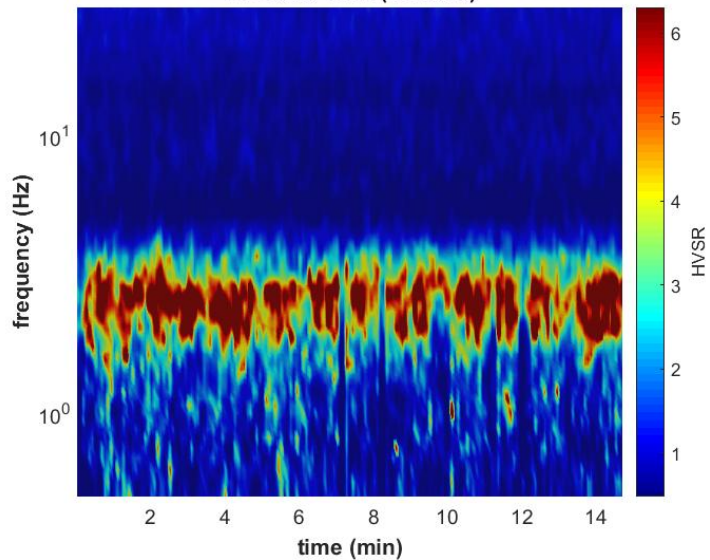
## MAAM acquisition parameters

<b>sampling rate</b>	1 ms (1000 Hz)
<b>acquisition length</b>	1 s
<b>offset (m)</b>	40
<b>sensor</b>	one 3-component 2Hz geophone
<b>stack</b>	4

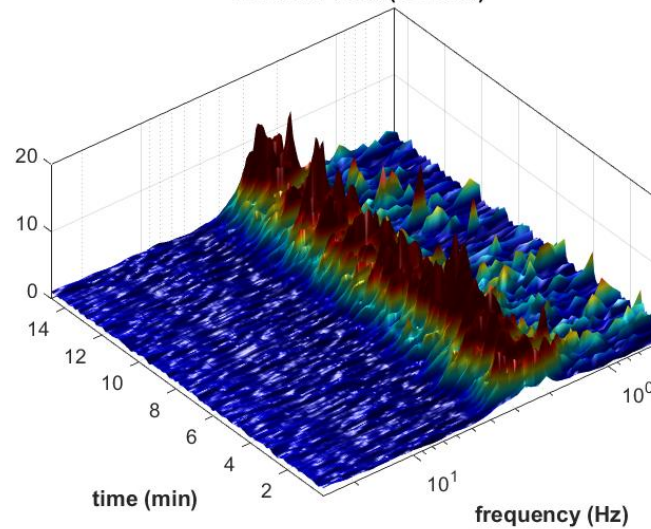
## HS acquisition parameters

# HVSR data

HVSR vs Time (2D view)

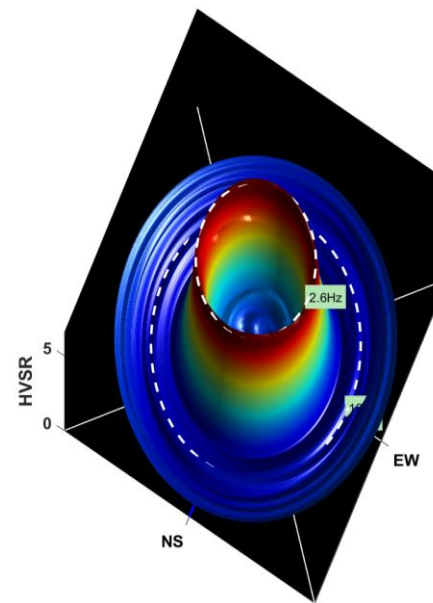
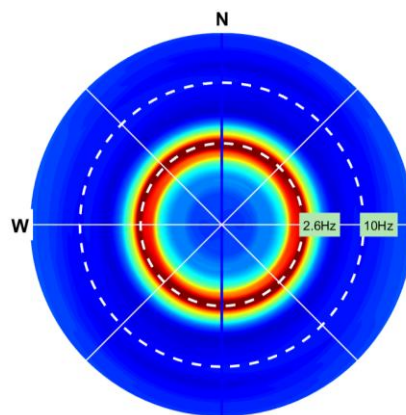
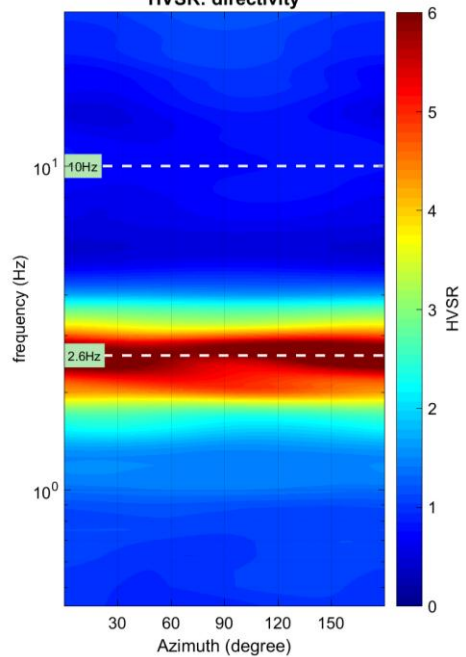


HVSR vs Time (3D view)



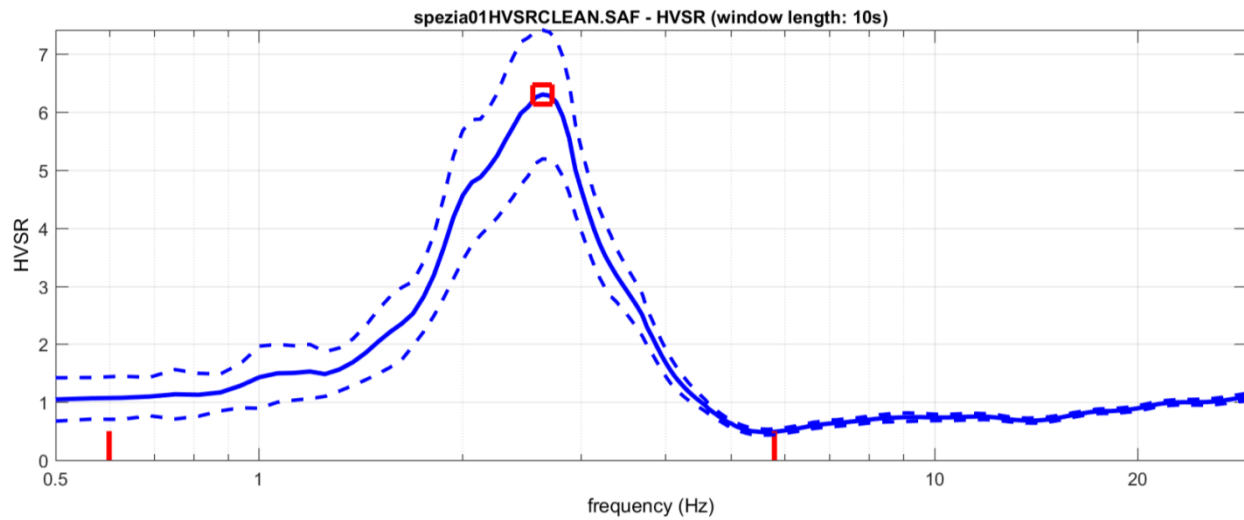
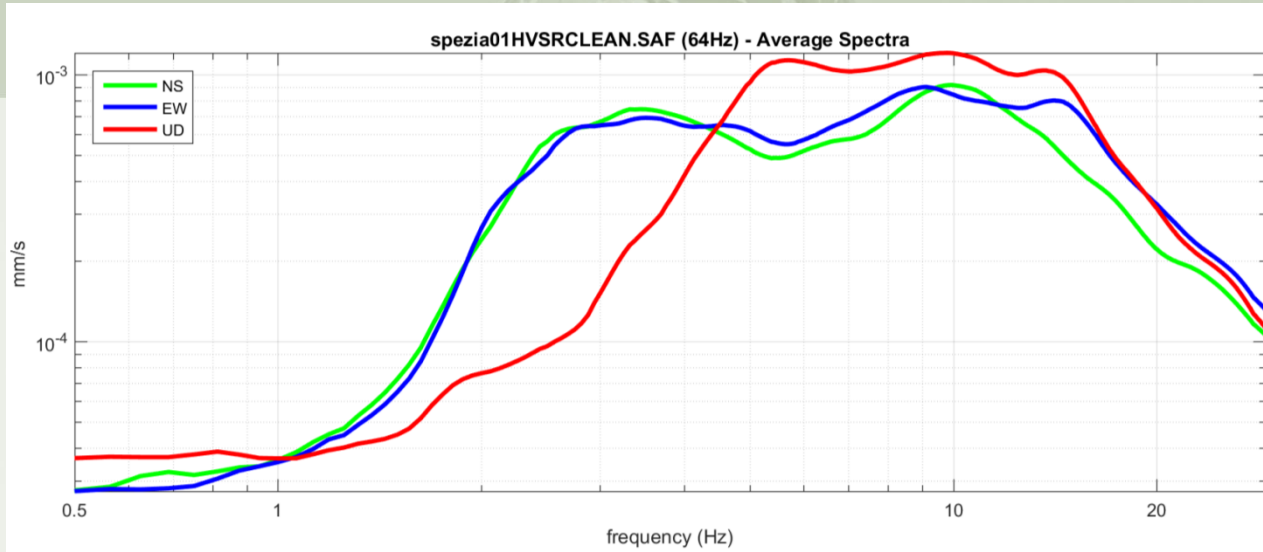
stable

HVSR: directivity

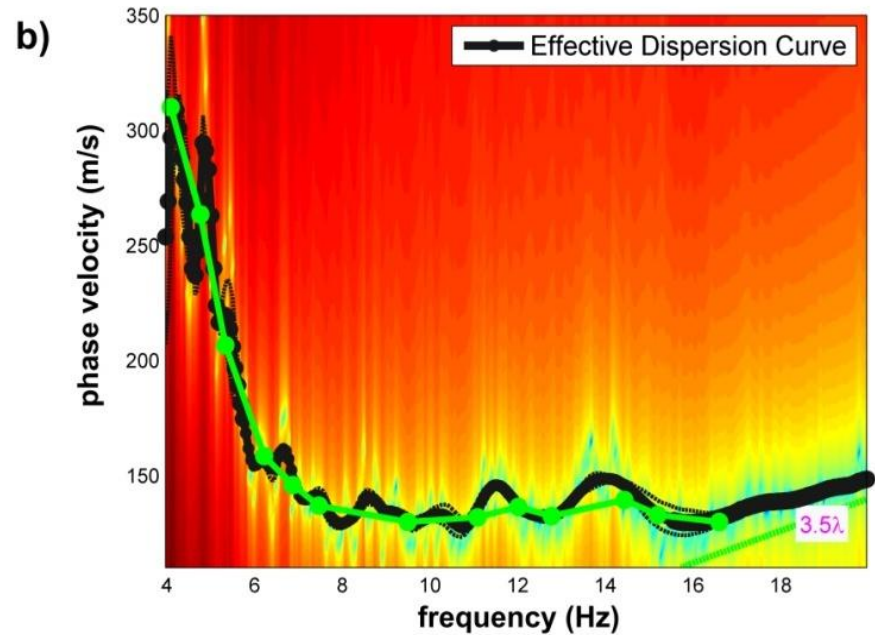
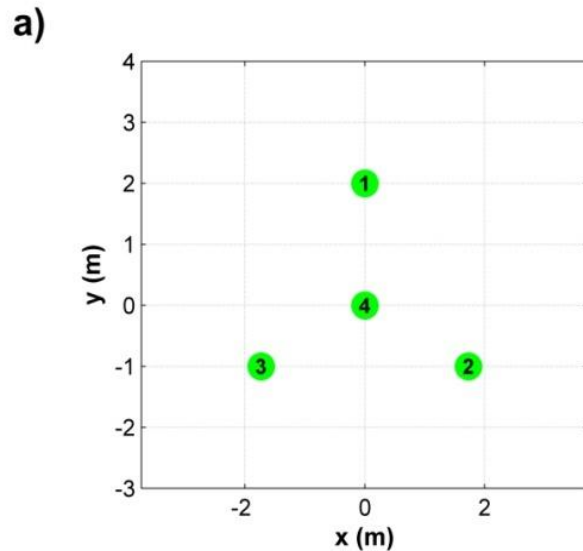


no directivity

# HVSR



# MAAM



MAAM (passive seismics): a) acquisition setting (in this case the four vertical-component geophones are along a 2m-radius circle); b) Rayleigh-wave effective (Tokimatsu et al., 1992) dispersion curve (vertical component) determined while considered the data acquired for the present case study.



# Validation: comparing MAAM and ESAC

x (m):

y (m):

channels to remove:

dataset: ESAC-clean.mat  
sampling: 4 ms

velocity spectrum: min freq.  max freq.   
min vel.  max vel.

FK parameters:  wavenumbers  
 window length (s)

ESAC parameters:  window length (s)

spectral smoothing  hold on

**channel map**  
Number of considered channels: 18

Legend: ● uploaded traces

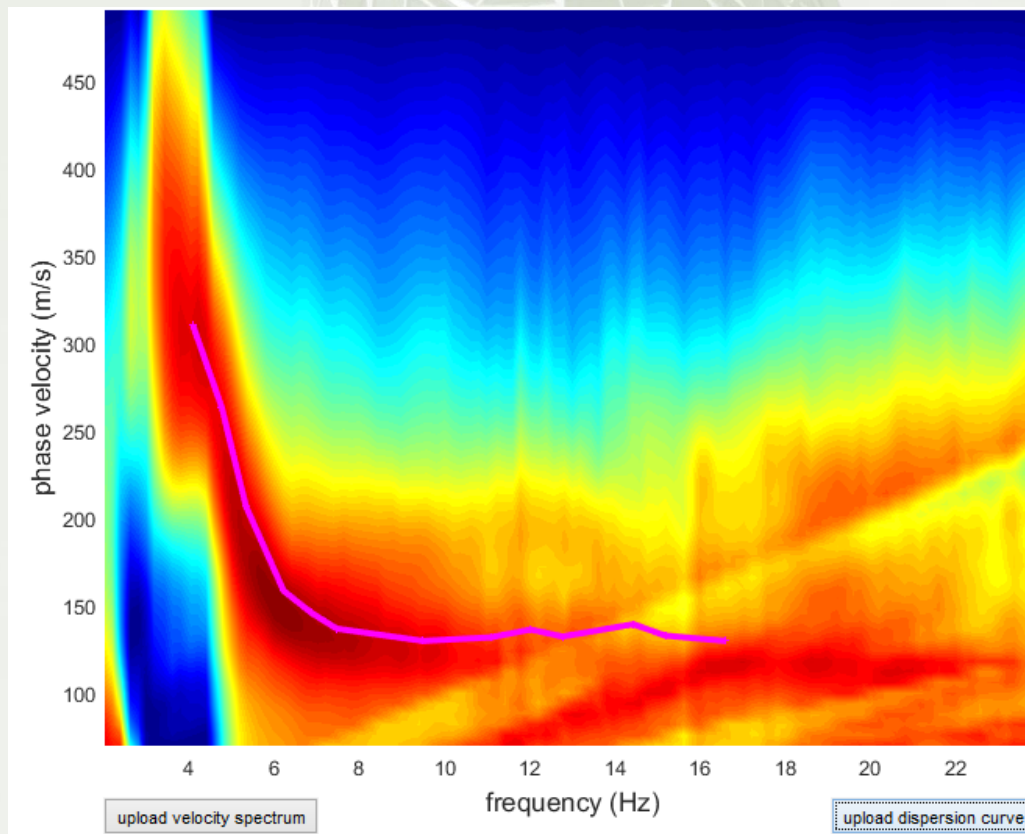
resample to 6ms (166.666Hz)

Legend: ■ ESAC velocity spectrum ○ ESAC dispersion curve

verbose  f-k analysis

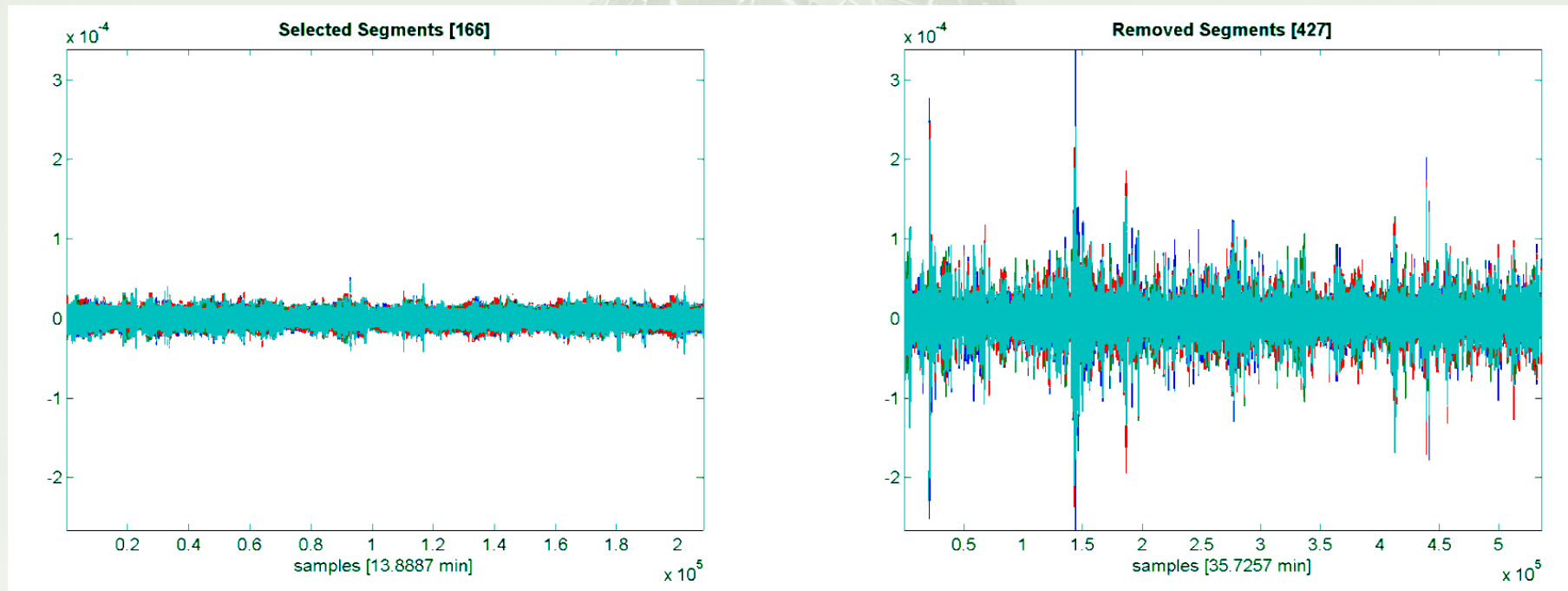
# Validation: comparing MAAM and ESAC

In the background the ESAC velocity spectrum and, overlaying, the MAAM (effective) dispersion curve.



## Critical points in the MAAM analysis:

- Acquisition: necessary a very low amount of “electronic” noise
- Choosing the maximum amplitude of the considered segments



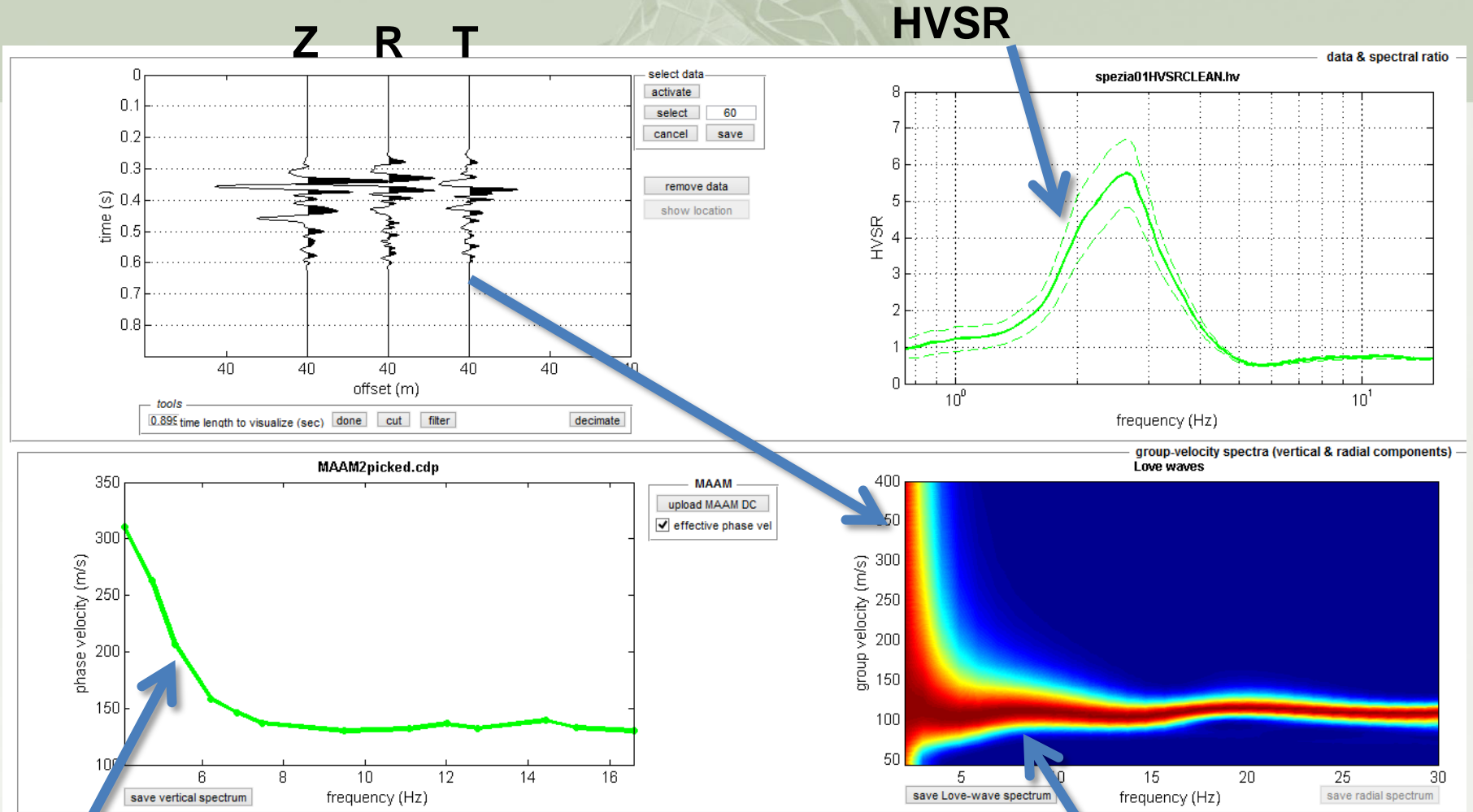
## Joint (Multi-Objective) Analysis:

HVSR: alfa ( $\alpha$ ) parameters as variable

Active data (Rayleigh- and Love-wave group velocity spectra): FVS approach

Effective dispersion from MAAM: effective Z-component (Tokimatsu et al., 1992)

# A joint analysis: the DATA



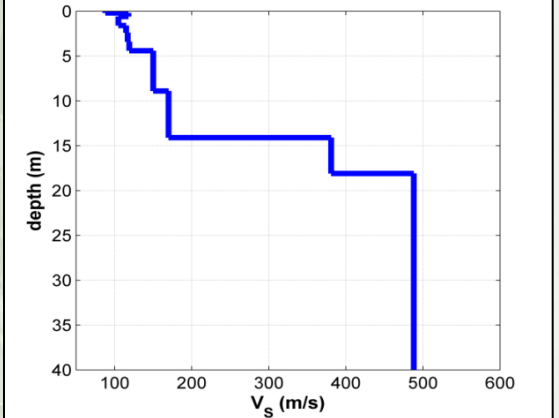
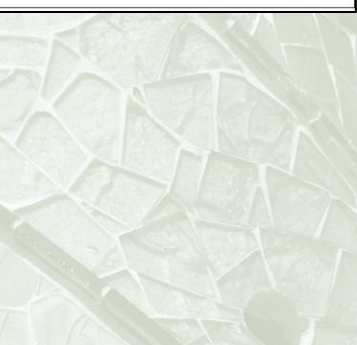
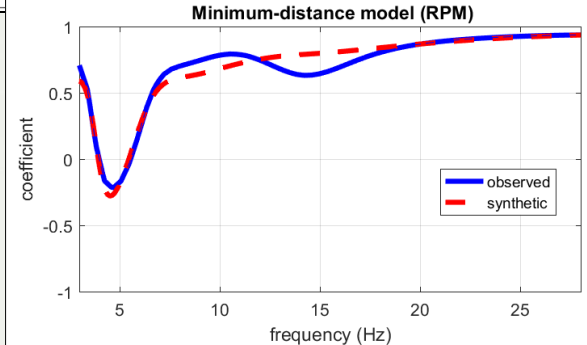
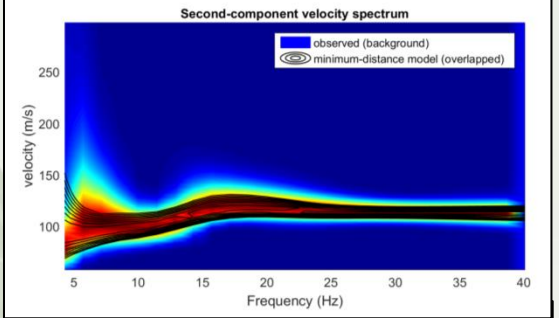
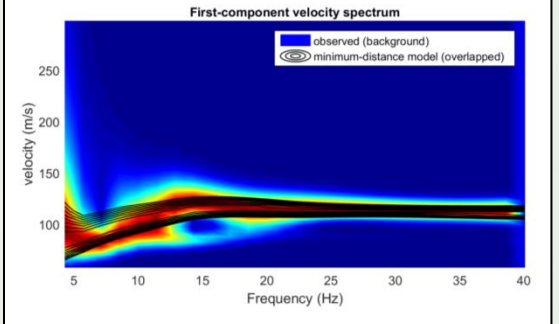
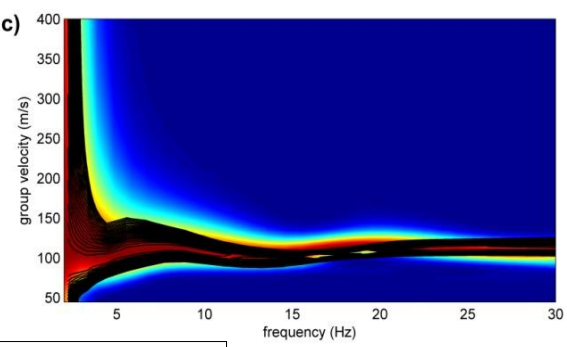
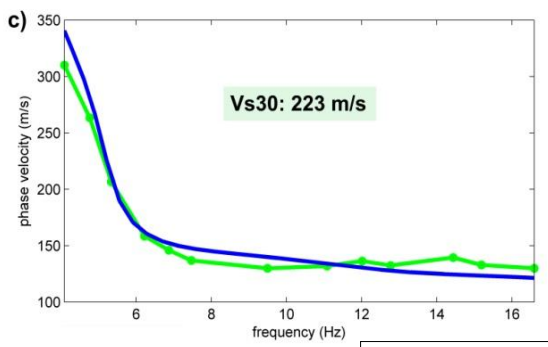
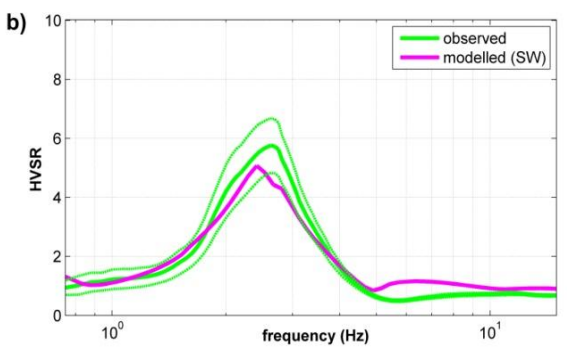
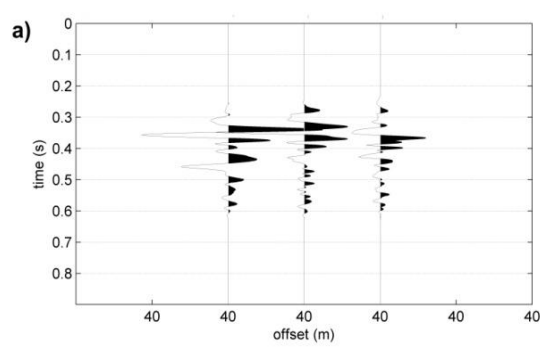
**Rayleigh-wave effective dispersion curve (Z component) from MAAM**

**THF – Love waves (group velocity spectrum)**



# A joint analysis: the results

Joint analysis of the five here-considered components: a) acquired active traces (vertical, radial and transversal components); b) field and synthetic HVSR curves; c) field (from MAAM) and synthetic Rayleigh-wave (vertical component) effective dispersion curves; d) field (background colors) and synthetic (overlain black contour lines) Love-wave group velocity spectra from the active acquisition (FVS analysis). Also shown the ZVF and RVF velocity spectra.



# Case study#2 (a bit dirtier data)

Location

— HS line (S=source; R=receiver)

▲ MAAM (5m radius) + HVSR

100 m





# Location



Fai clic per passare da Street View alla visualizzazione del livello suolo e viceversa

Esci da Street View

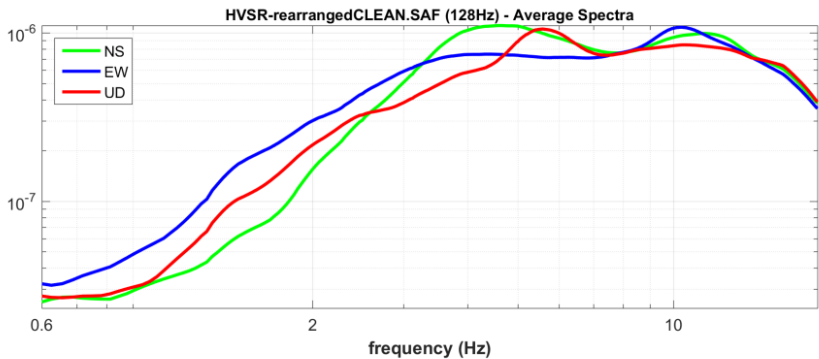
© 2016 Google

Google earth

Data di acquisizione delle immagini: 10/2015 45°18'02.74"N 9°29'29.37"E elev. 119 m alt. 78 m

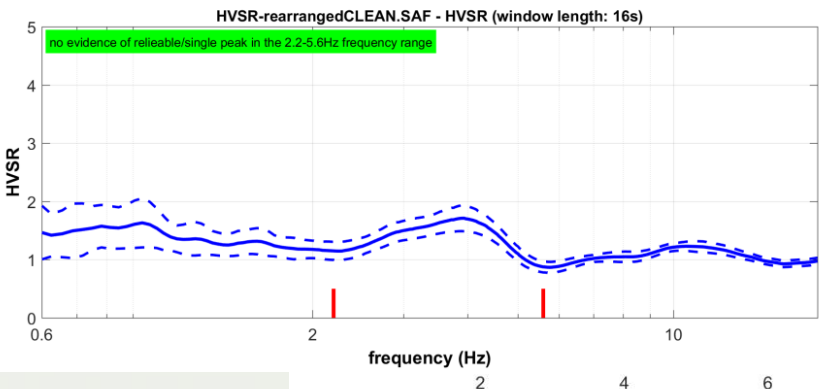
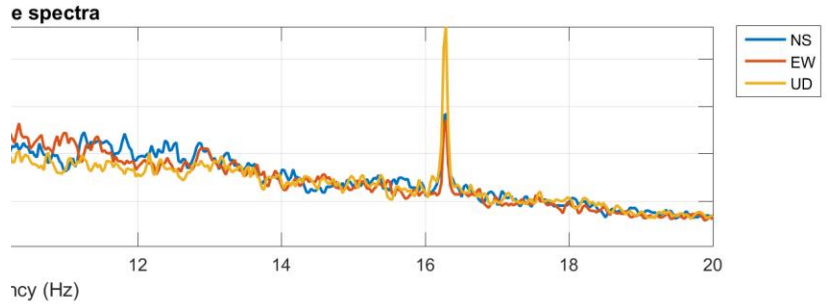
Segnala un problema



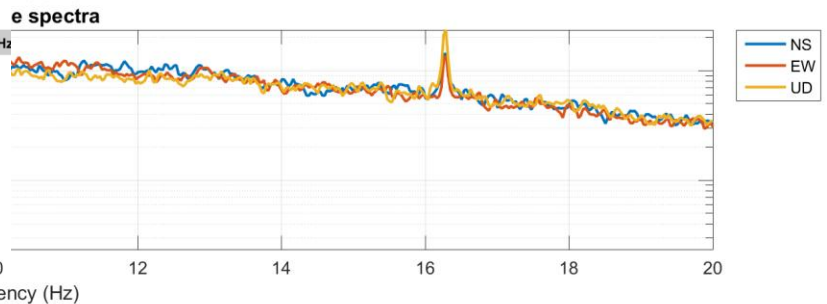


- open working folder
- show location
- field notes

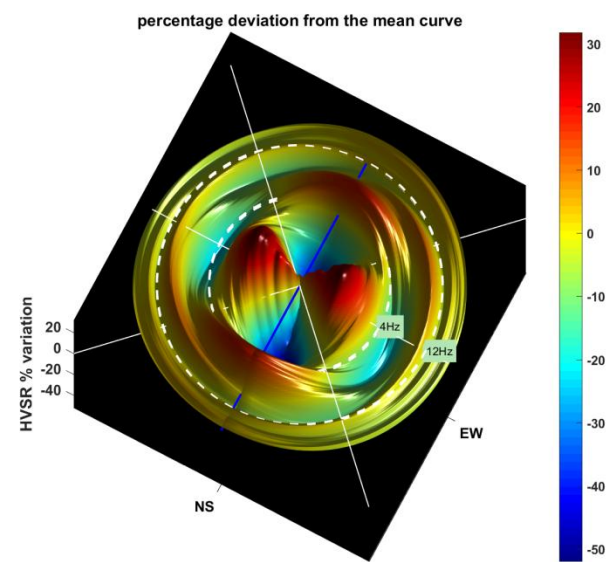
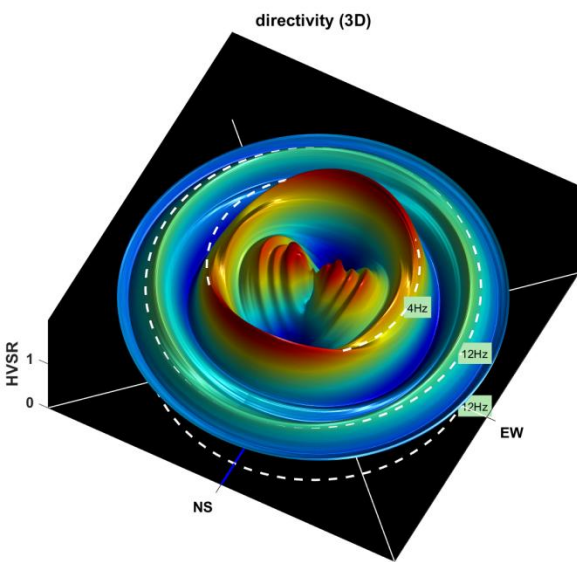
# HVSr



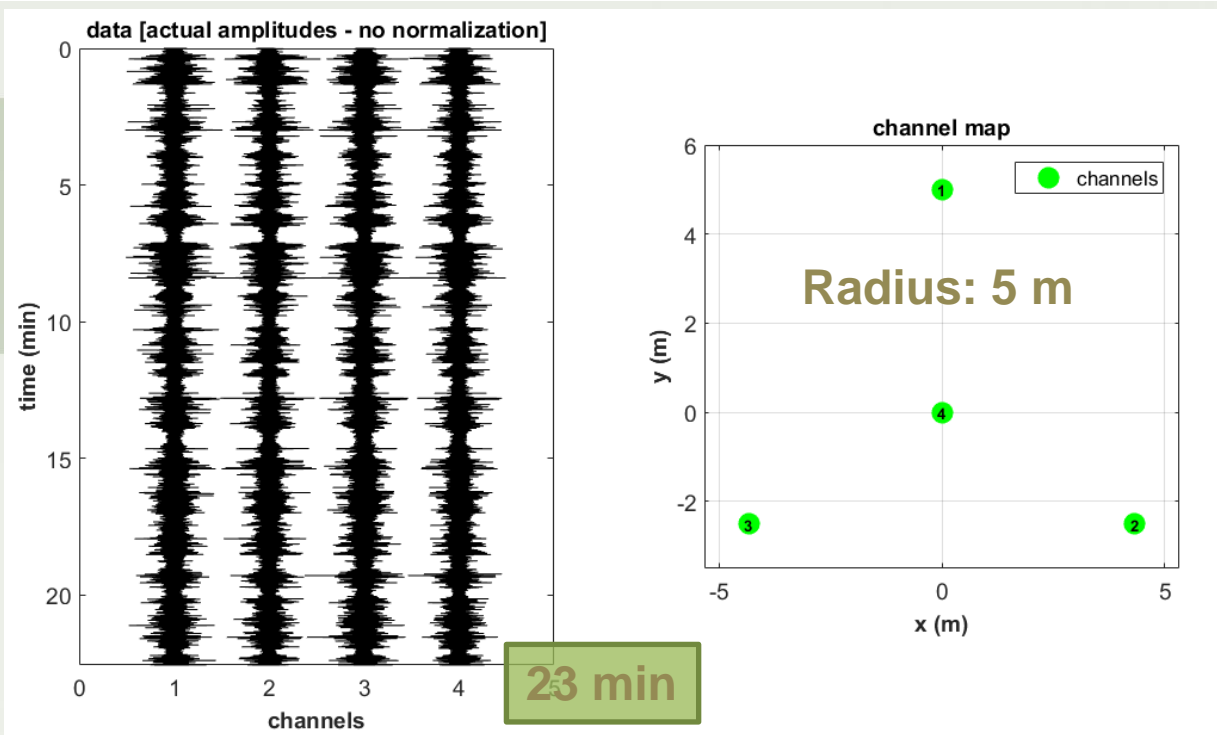
- Criteria for a reliable H/V curve**
- #1: OK
  - #2: OK
  - #3: OK
- Criteria for a clear H/V peak [3.91 Hz]**
- #1: OK
  - #2: OK
  - #3: NG
  - #4: NG
  - #5: NG
  - #6: OK



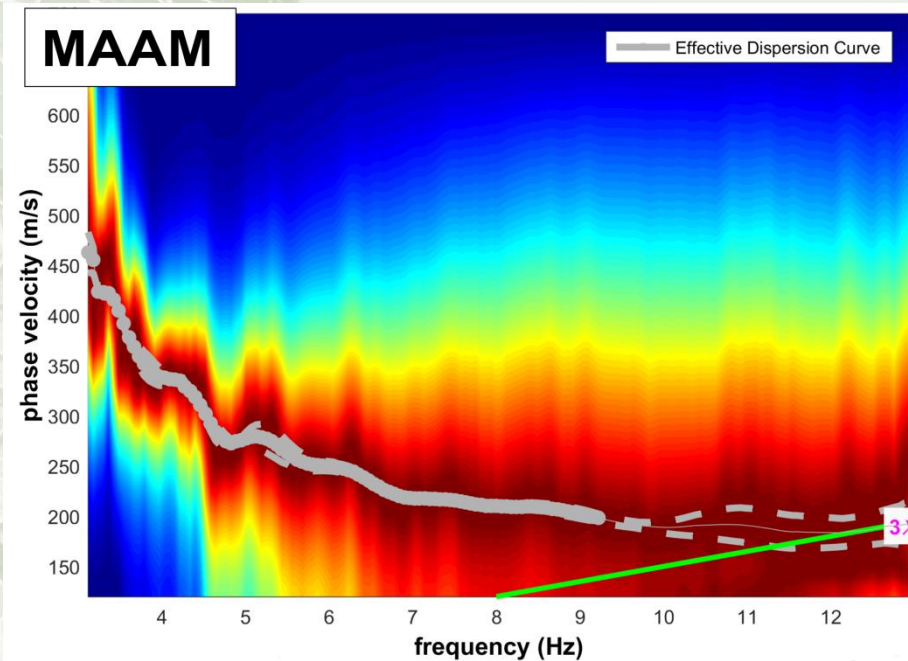
The 4Hz “peak” is azimuthally quite homogeneous, while the lower frequencies...



# MAAM



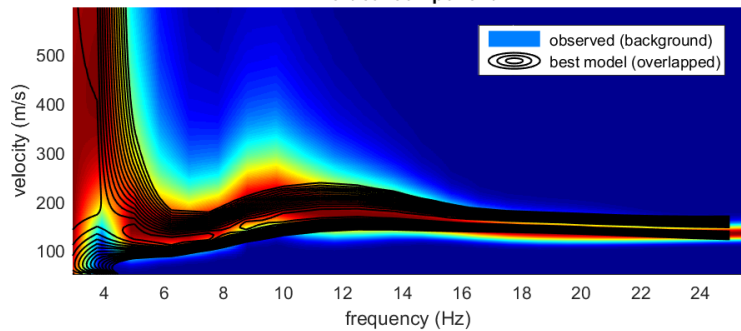
Please, notice the consistency of the trace amplitudes



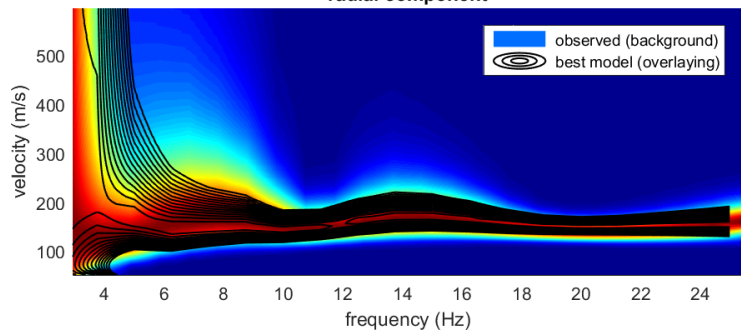
Rayleigh-wave (vertical component) effective dispersion curve

# Joint Analysis

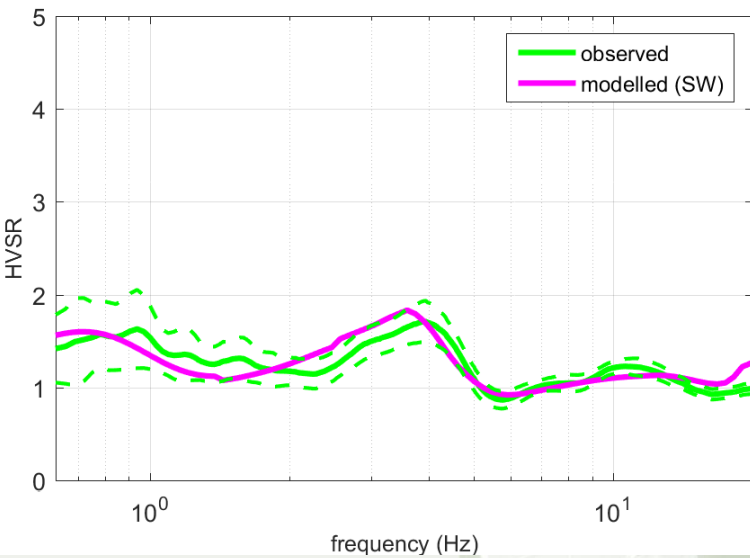
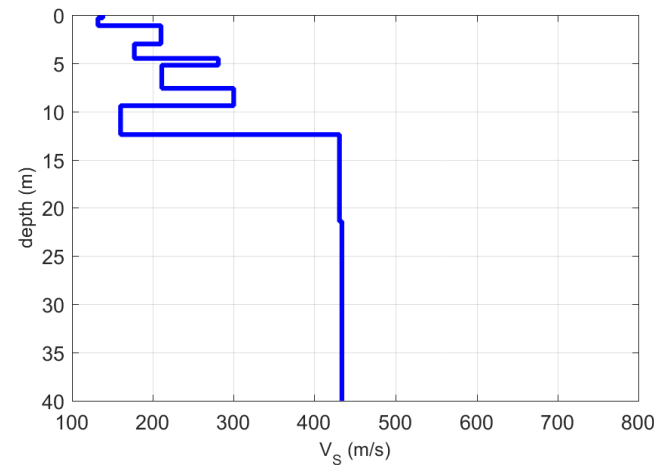
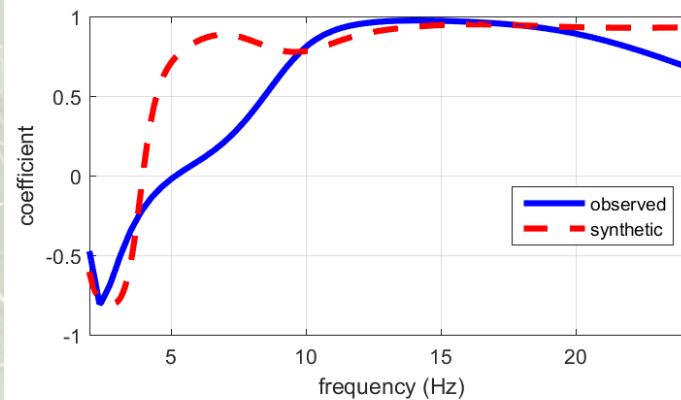
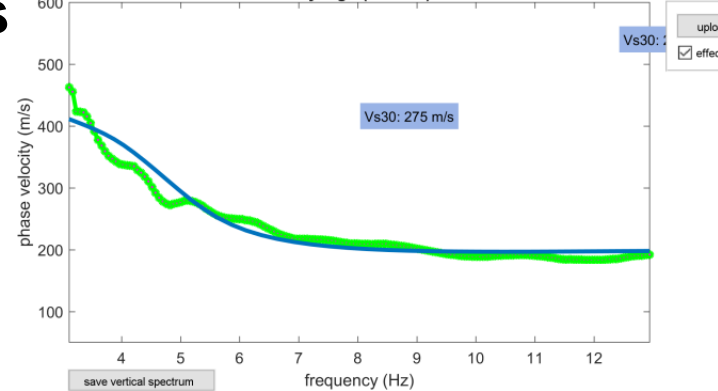
vertical component



radial component



Rayleigh (vertical)



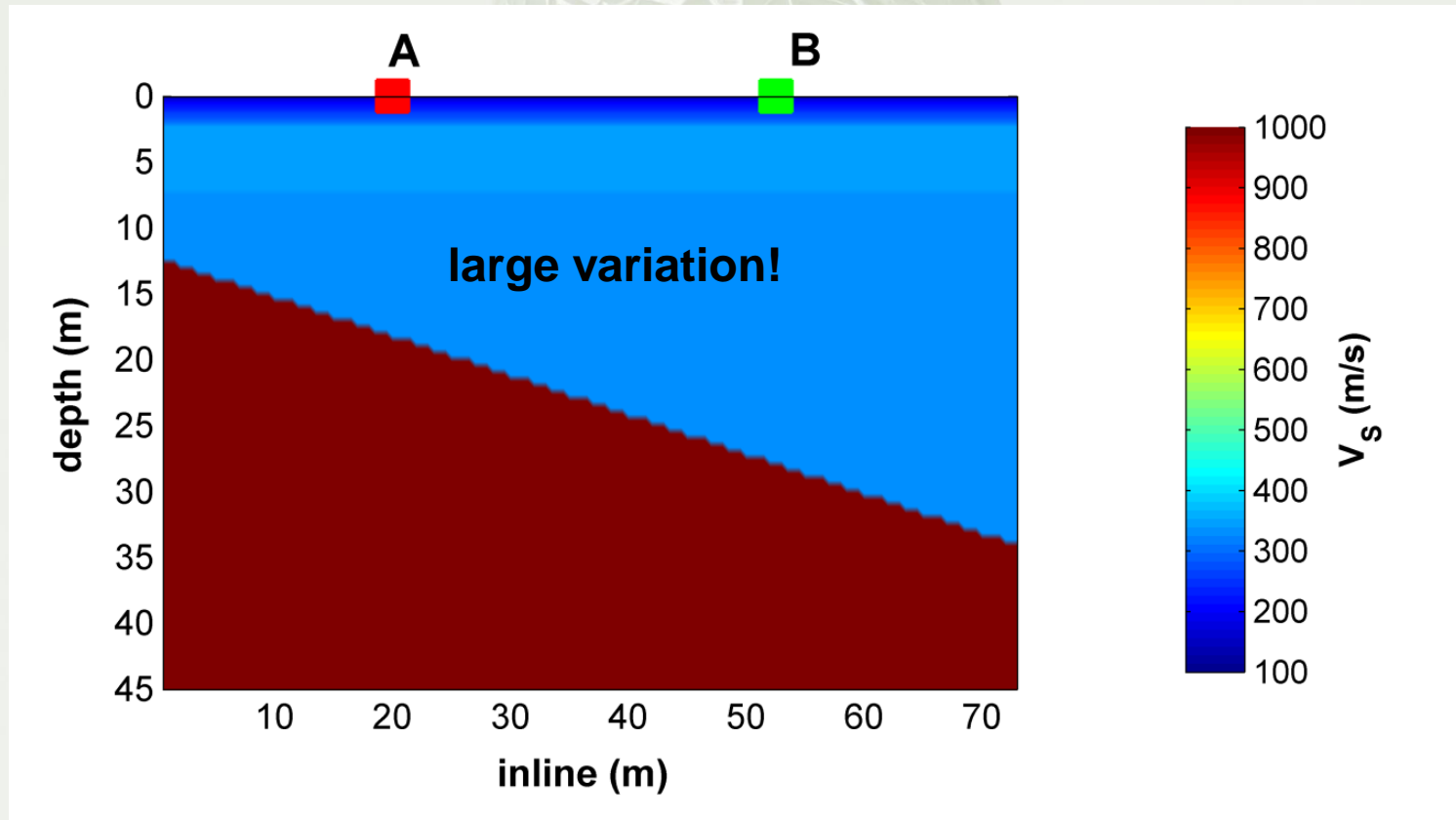


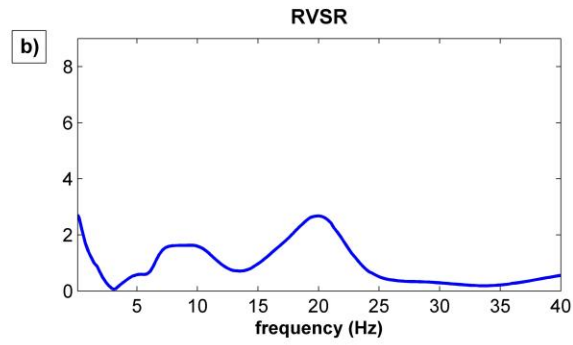
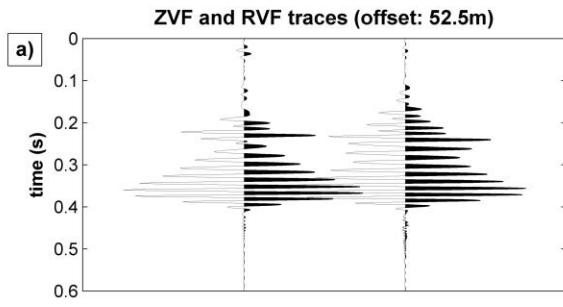
## Some conclusive points [1/3]

- A careful use of a limited number of geophones (three vertical + one 3-component) and appropriate acquisition procedures (that require a limited field effort) can provide data suitable for the characterization of urban or remote/complex regions.
- The analysis performed according to the considered techniques (HS, MAAM and HVSR) impose a clear and deep understanding of a number of issues related to the malicious role of possible noise components
- In some cases, in order to avoid exceedingly pervasive noise related to the human and industrial activities, data acquisition could be accomplished during night time and/or in the weekends.
- HS (as MASW, ESAC etc) relates to the average conditions between the *Source* and the *Receivers*
- RVSr or RPM frequency curve?  
RVSr: extremely (too?) sensitive;  
RPM: less sensitive but more stable

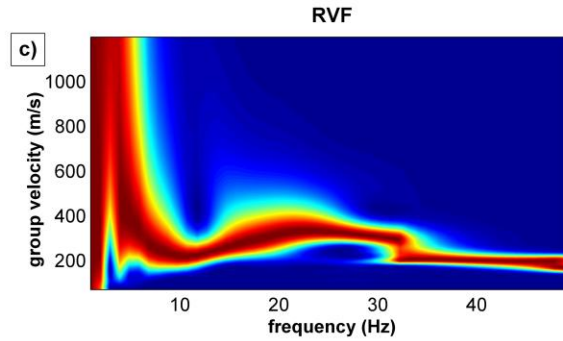
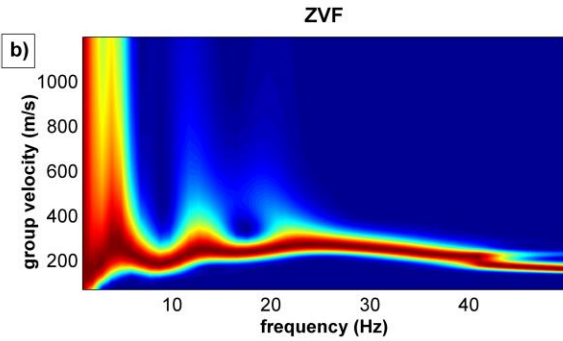
## Some conclusive points [2/3]

- Verifying lateral variations via HS by swapping the Source & Receiver positions

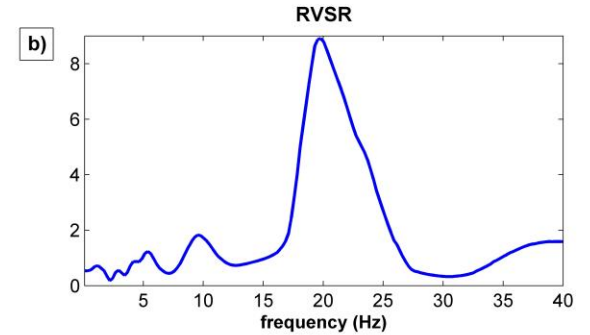
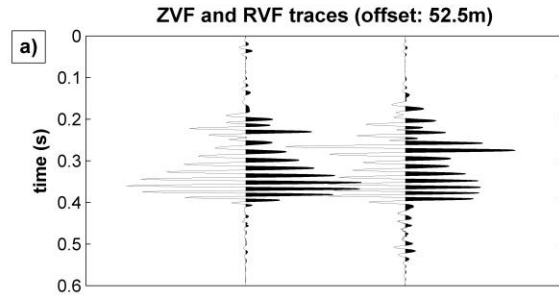




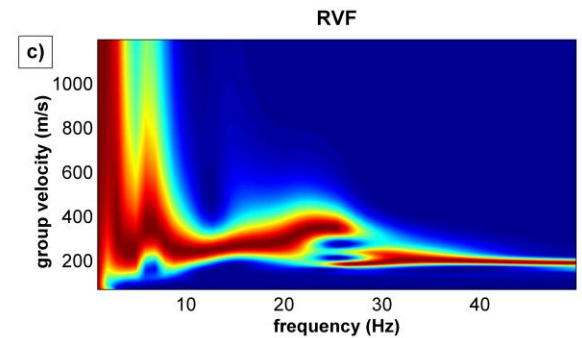
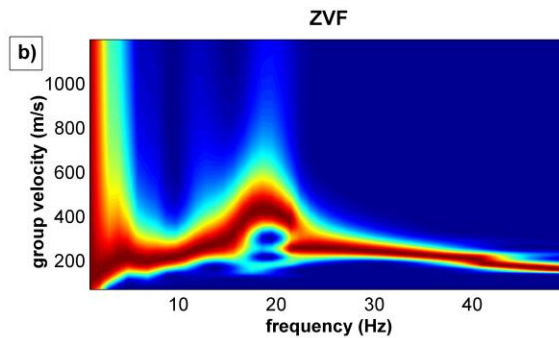
**large lateral variations**



**direct**



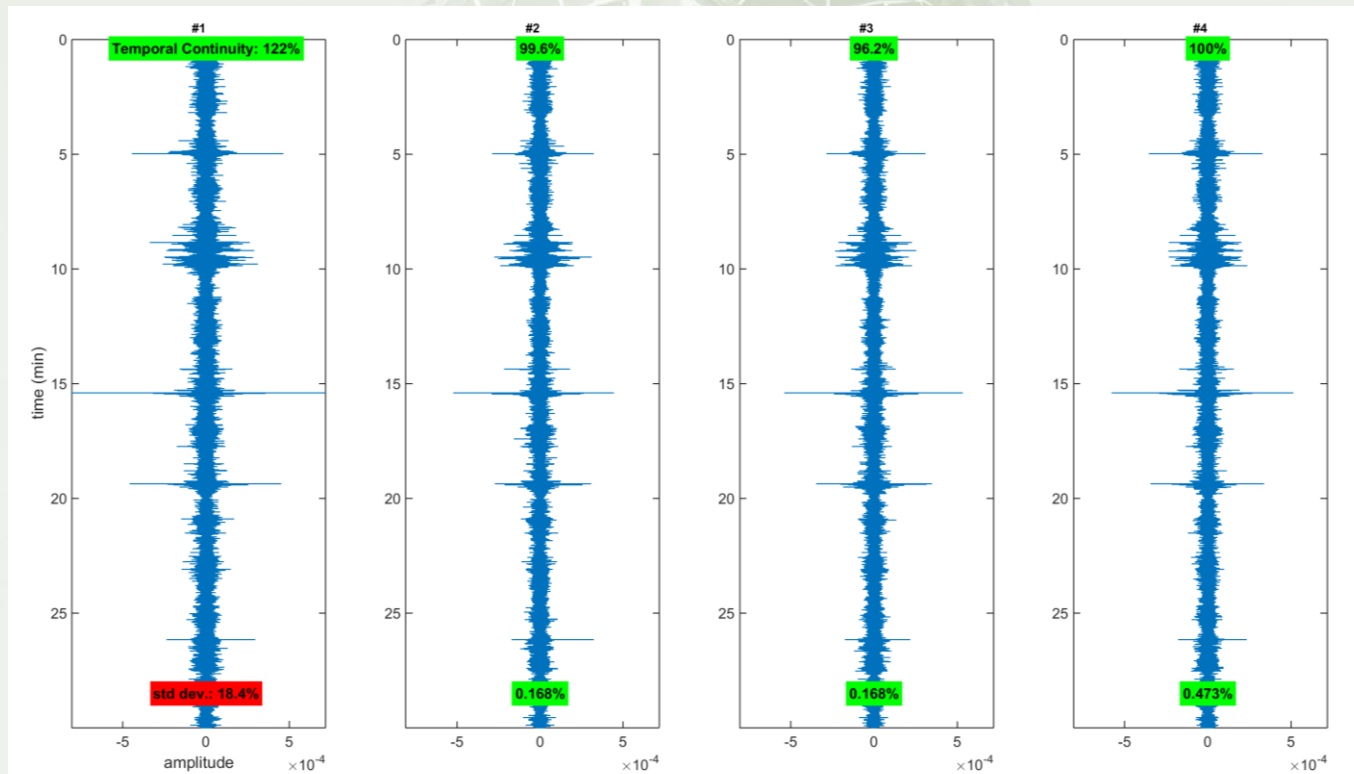
**reverse**





## Some conclusive points [3/3]

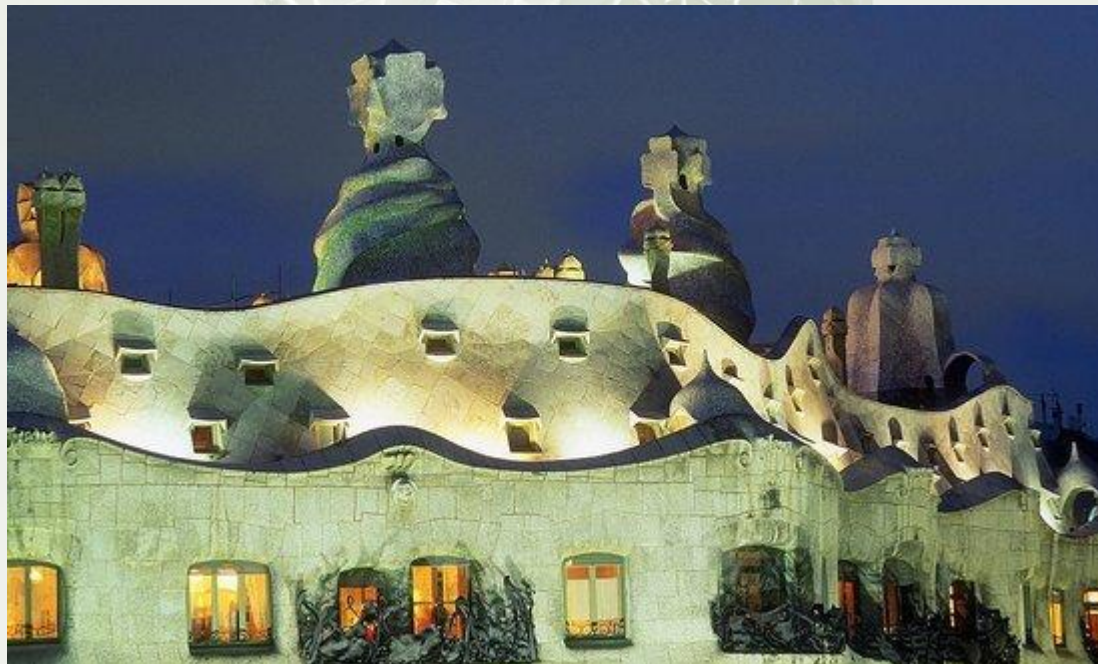
- MAAM and HVSR relate to very local conditions (HS, MASW, ESAC etc to larger areas)
- MAAM acquisitions require a very careful acquisition (Quality Check on the field) and high-quality (specifically designed) equipment



# **THANKS**

22nd European Meeting of Environmental and Engineering  
Geophysics Near Surface Geoscience 2016  
4 - 8 September 2016 - Barcelona, Spain

***Urban Geophysics workshop***  
*Sunday 4 September 2016, 09:00 - 17:00*



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