

# Earthquake-related Electromagnetic Study in China

Qinghua Huang<sup>1</sup>, Hengxin Ren<sup>2</sup>,  
Xiaofei Chen<sup>2</sup>, Peng Han<sup>3</sup>, Yufeng Lin<sup>1</sup>,  
Zhanhui Li<sup>1</sup>, Dunzhu Li<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Peking University

<sup>2</sup> University of Science and Technology of China

<sup>3</sup> Chiba University

# Contents

- **Earthquake prediction in China**
- **Earthquake-related electromagnetics in China**
- **Future study on earthquake-related electromagnetics**

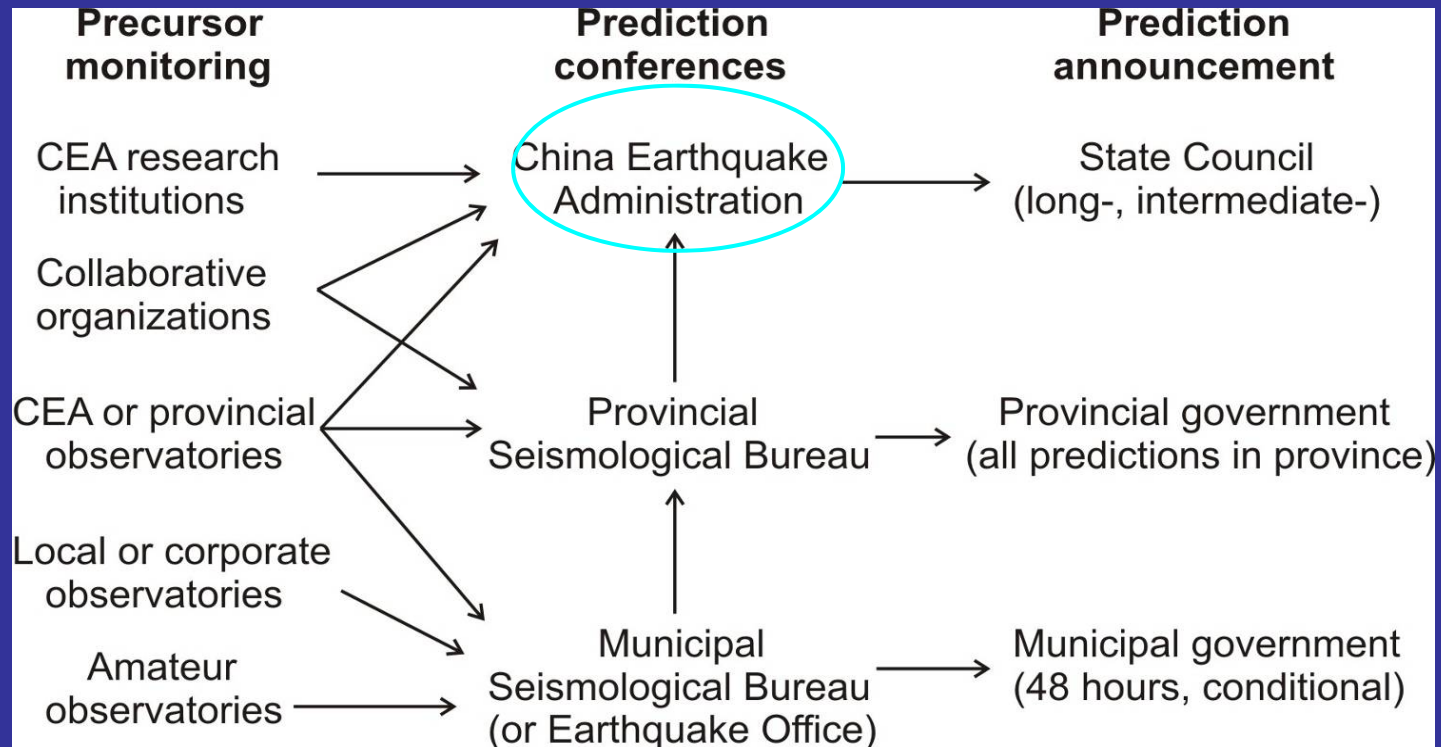


中华人民共和国  
防震减灾法

1998

## Law of the People's Republic of China on Protecting Against and Mitigating Earthquake Disasters

Article 16. The State adopts the practice of unified release of earthquake prediction. Short-term and imminent earthquake prediction shall be released by the people's governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the State Council ...



Courtesy of Qifu Chen and Kelin Wang

# **Main precursors monitored by China Earthquake Administration (CEA)**

**Seismology**

**Deformation**

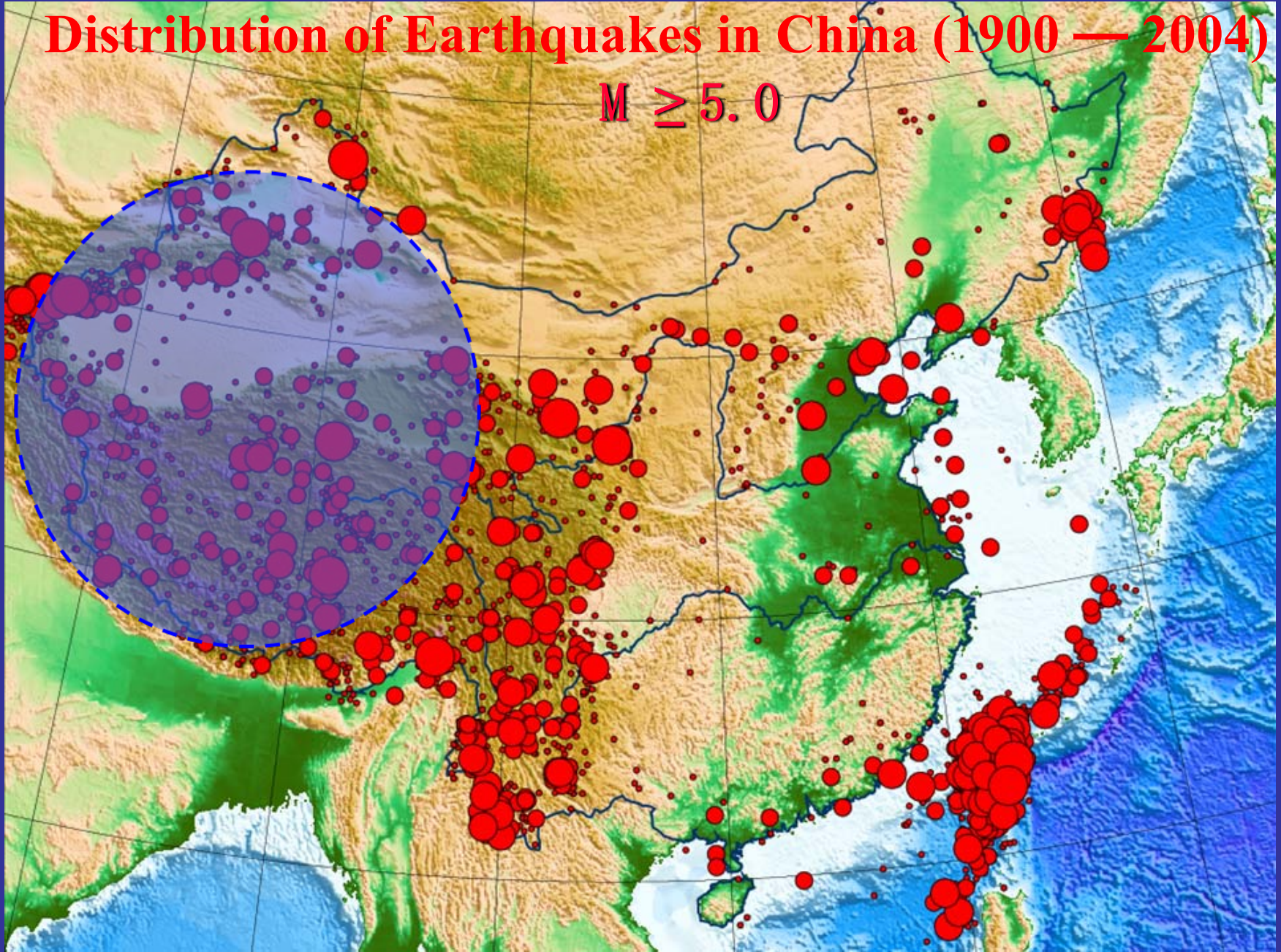
**Electromagnetism**

**Underground fluid**



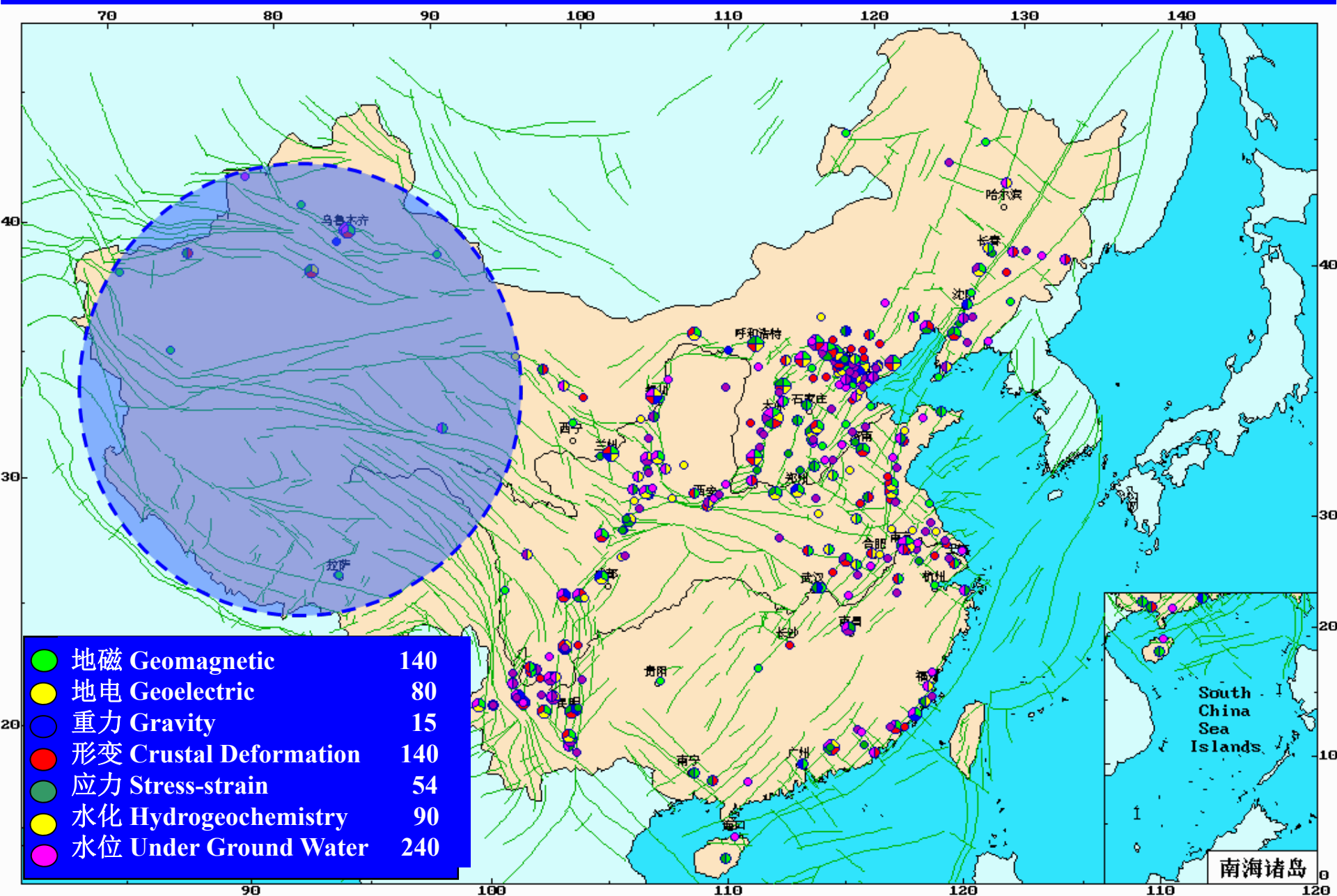
# Distribution of Earthquakes in China (1900 — 2004)

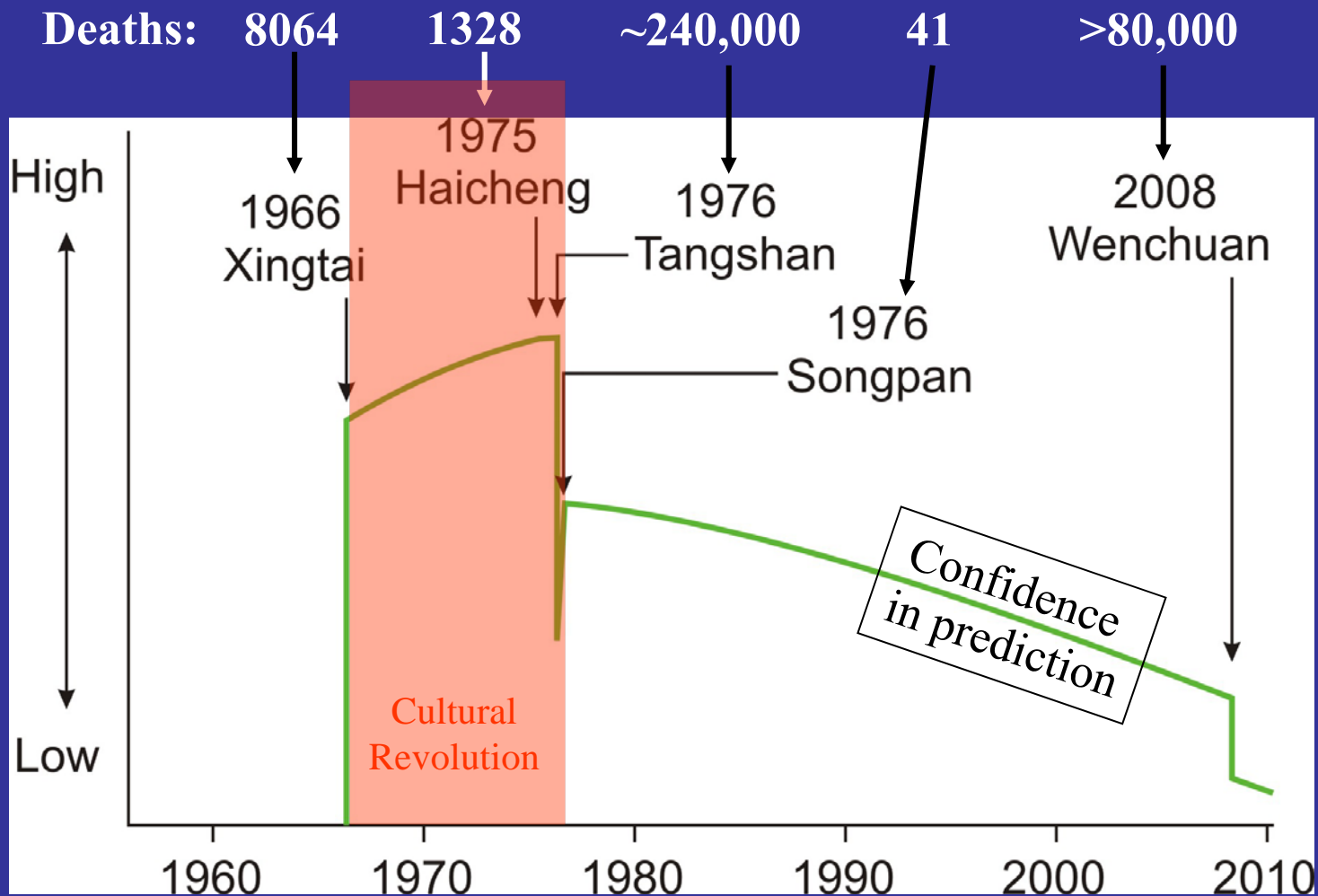
$M \geq 5.0$



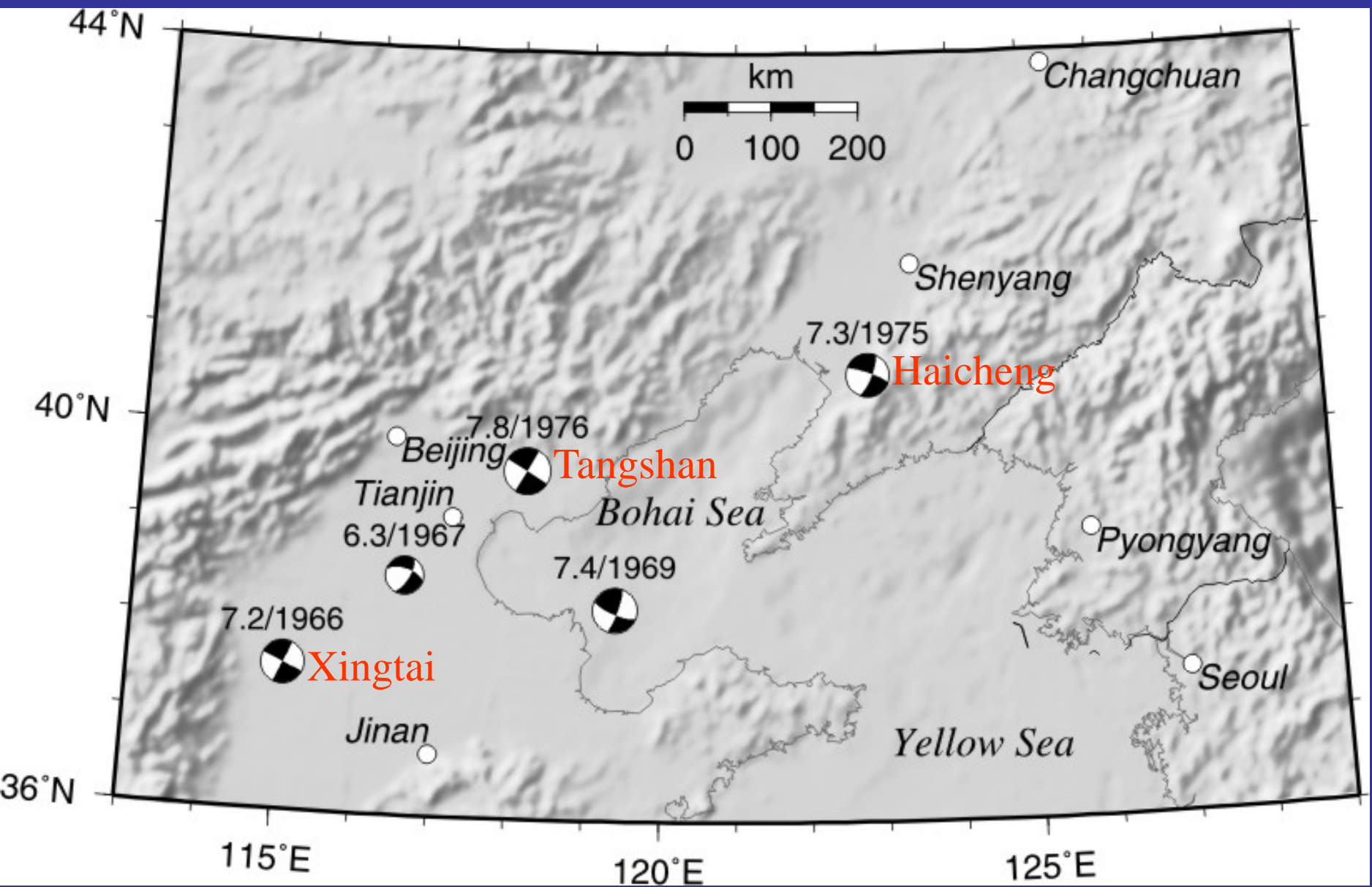


# Precursor monitoring network in China





Courtesy of Qifu Chen and Kelin Wang



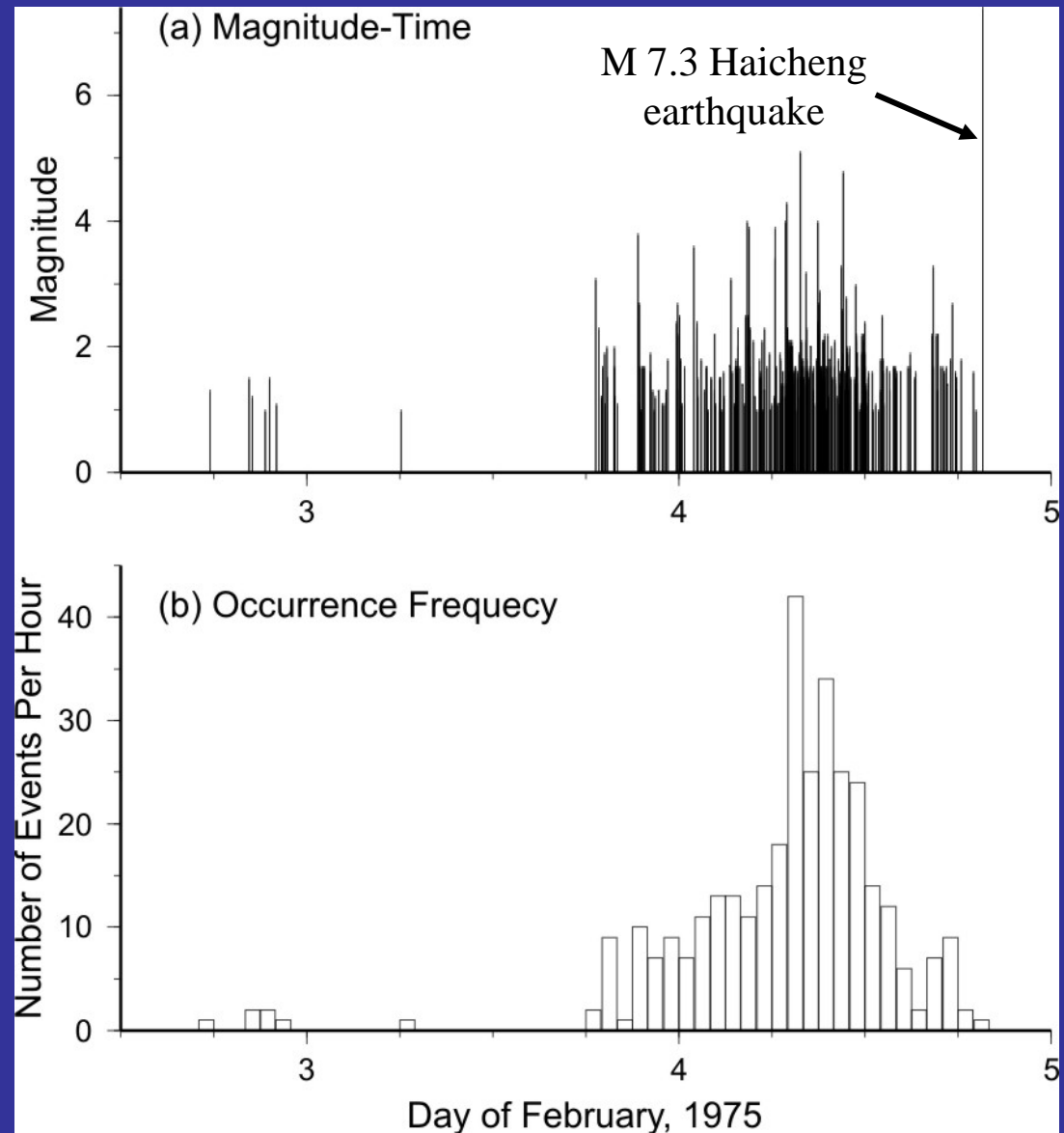
Courtesy of Qifu Chen and Kelin Wang



# Prediction of the 1975 Haicheng earthquake (Ms 7.3)

**An unusually pronounced foreshock sequence triggered imminent prediction.**

**Massive amateur participation had educational effects but made no contribution to prediction.**



**Courtesy of Qifu Chen and Kelin Wang**

**Tangshan (Ms 7.8), 1976, expected seismic intensity VI.  
No seismic design was required. Actual intensity in earthquake: XI.**



1-4 震前的唐山市路南区建筑鸟瞰。

Bird's eye view of the buildings in Lunan district of Tangshan before the earthquake.

**before earthquake**



1-3 震后的唐山市路南区，建筑荡然无存，成了一片废墟（11度区）。

No building left in the Lunan district of Tangshan. All the buildings were turned into ruins after the earthquake (in the area of intensity 11).

**after earthquake**

**Courtesy of Qifu Chen and Kelin Wang**



**Beichuan, 2008, expected seismic intensity VII.  
Seismic design was required. Actual intensity in earthquake: XI.**



**before earthquake**



**after earthquake**

**Although the seismic design standard was later recognized to be too low,  
buildings that met the standard generally withstood shaking.**





Bailu School in Penzhou City. Surface rupture runs between two classroom buildings with ~3 m vertical offset. No one died.



## Some remarks

- It is presently impractical to rely on prediction to mitigate earthquake disasters. Prediction requires long-term research.
- Improved hazard assessment and seismic design in China from 1976 to 2008 saved numerous lives in the Wenchuan earthquake.
- Poor enforcement of the seismic design code was responsible for many deaths (poorly enforced in many urban areas, not enforced at all in rural areas).

# Contents

- Earthquake prediction in China
- Earthquake-related electromagnetics in China
- Future study on earthquake-related electromagnetics

## Related associations in China

- Committee of Earthquake-related Electromagnetic Research, Seismological Society of China
- Committee of Geo-electromagnetism, Chinese Geophysical Society

# Seismo-electromagnetic monitoring in China

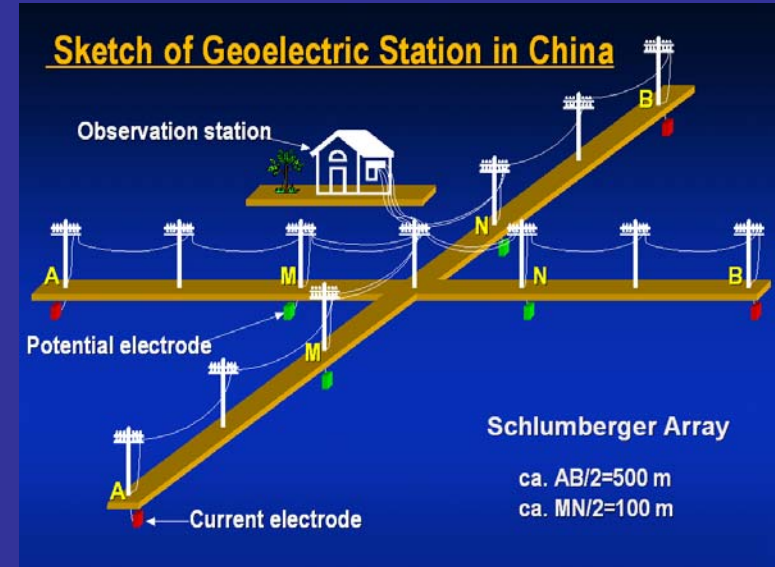
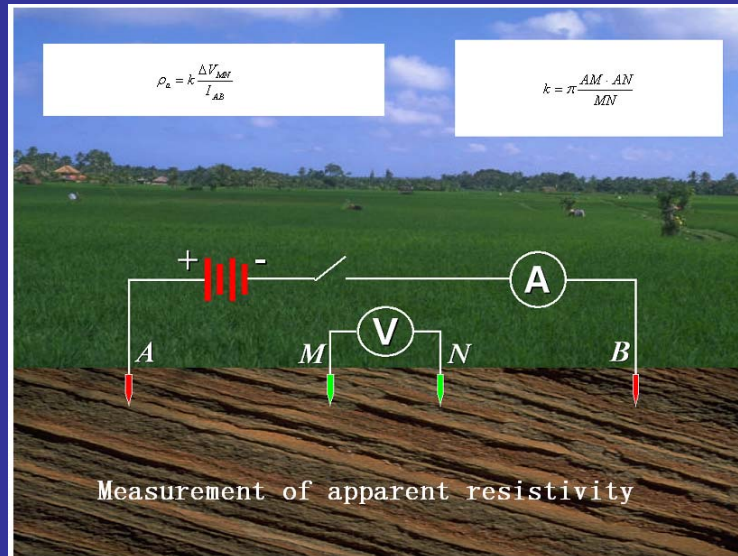
## Four parameters

- (1) apparent resistivity
- (2) geoelectric field
- (3) geomagnetic field
- (4) electro-magnetic disturbances

Project of Chinese Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite



# Configuration for measuring apparent resistivity



**Tengchong Geoelectric Station**

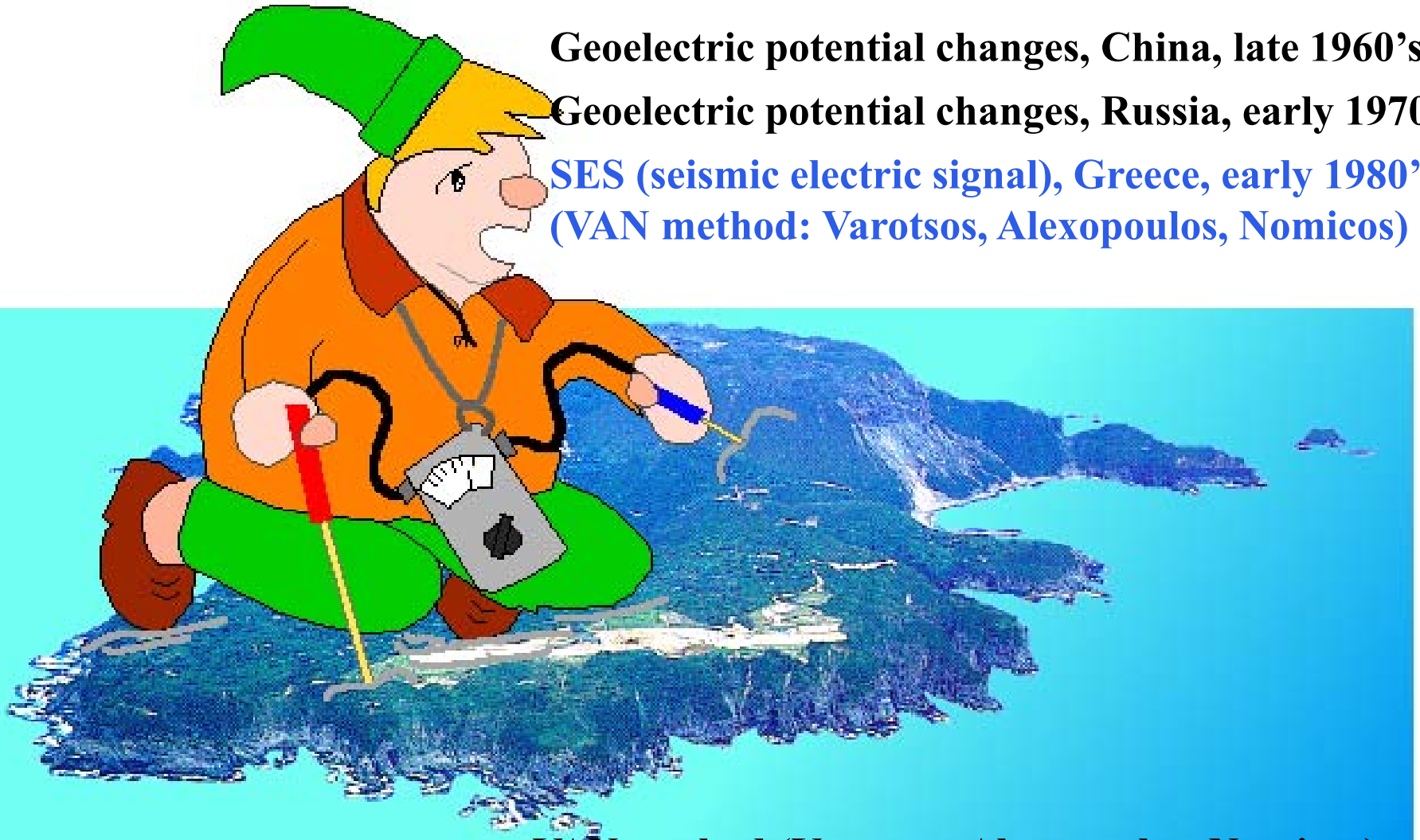
# Geoelectric potential changes

Geoelectric potential changes, China, late 1960's

Geoelectric potential changes, Russia, early 1970's

SES (seismic electric signal), Greece, early 1980's

(VAN method: Varotsos, Alexopoulos, Nomicos)



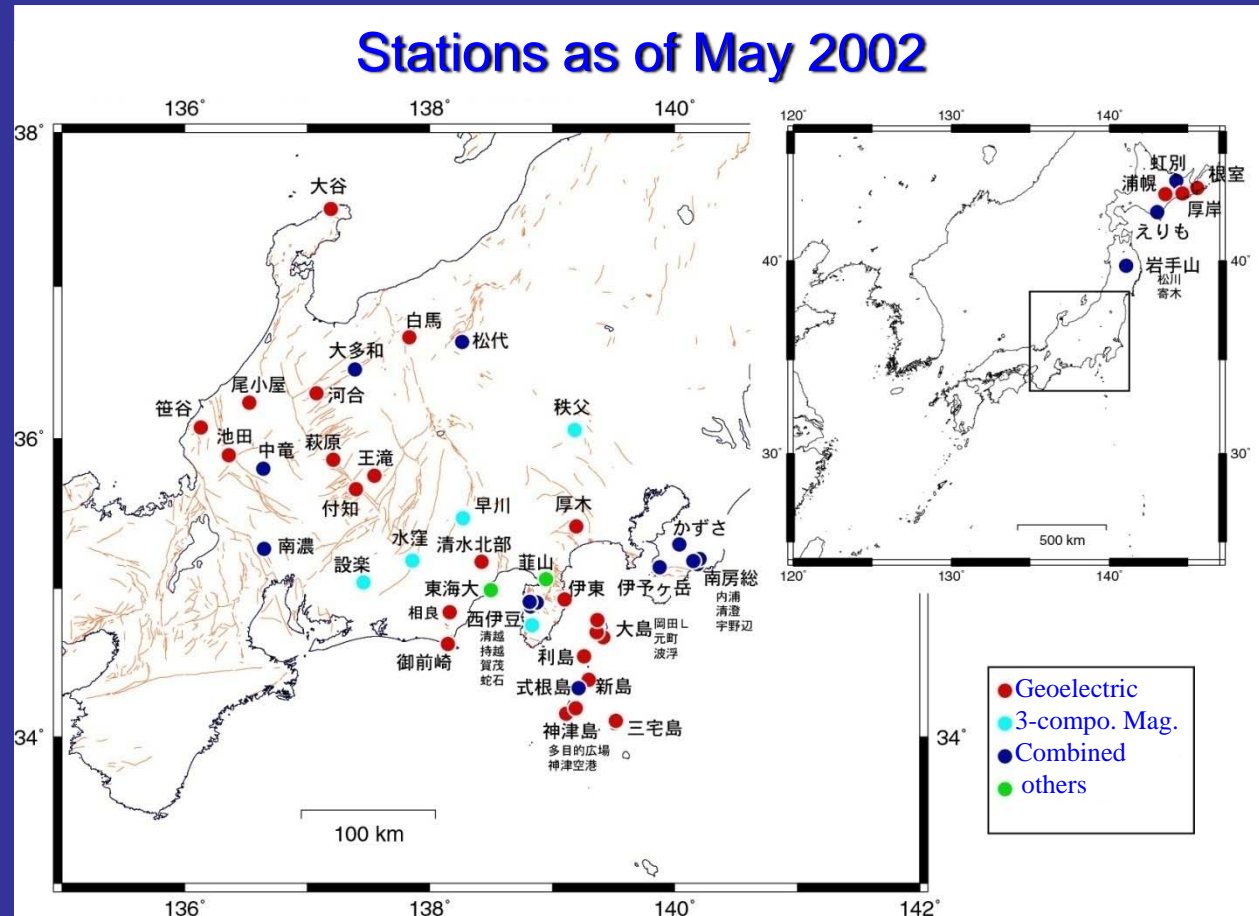
**VAN method (Varotsos, Alexopoulos, Nomicos)**

A short-term earthquake prediction method based on seismic electric signal (SES), which is a kind of precursory geoelectric potential changes

# Test in Japan: Prof. Seiya Uyeda

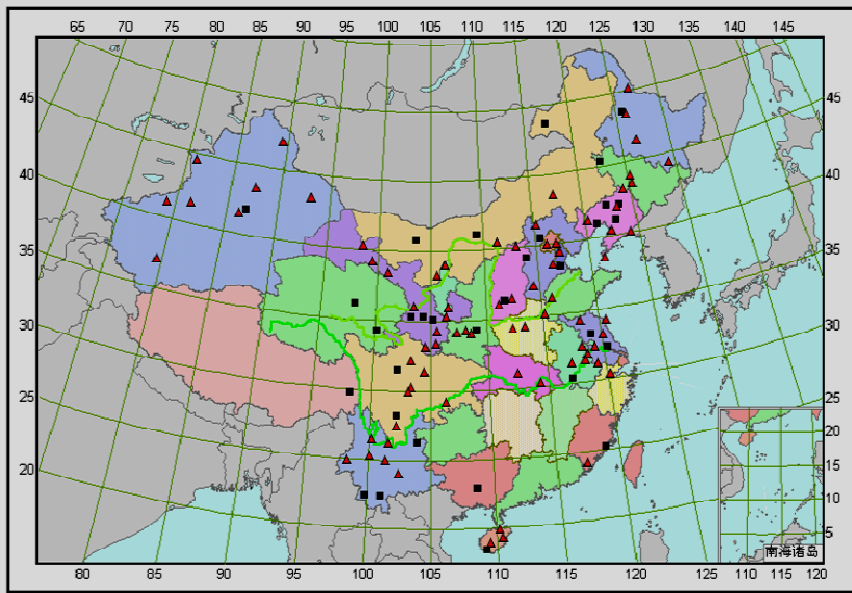
International Frontier Research Group on Earthquakes

The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN)

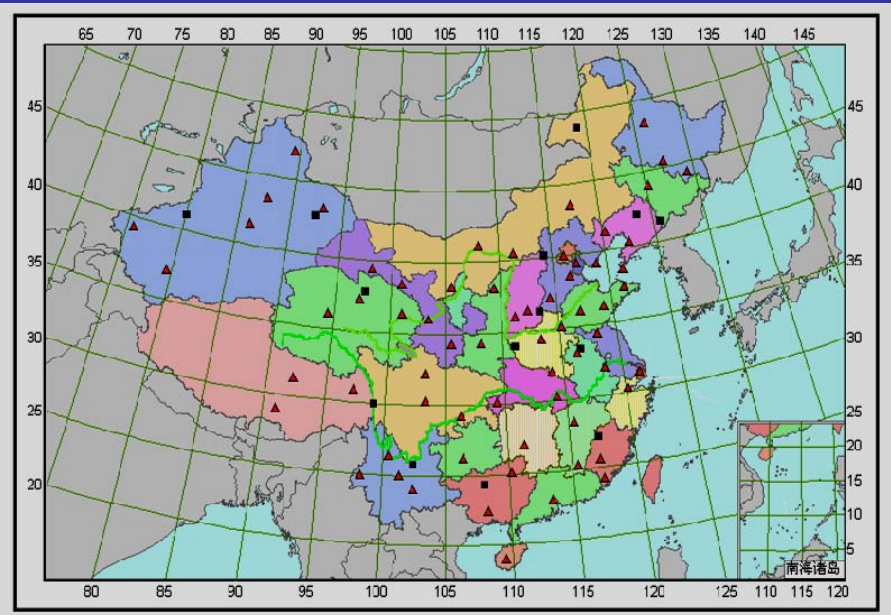


## Network of geoelectric observation

(including the stations of apparent resistivity and the stations of geoelectric field)

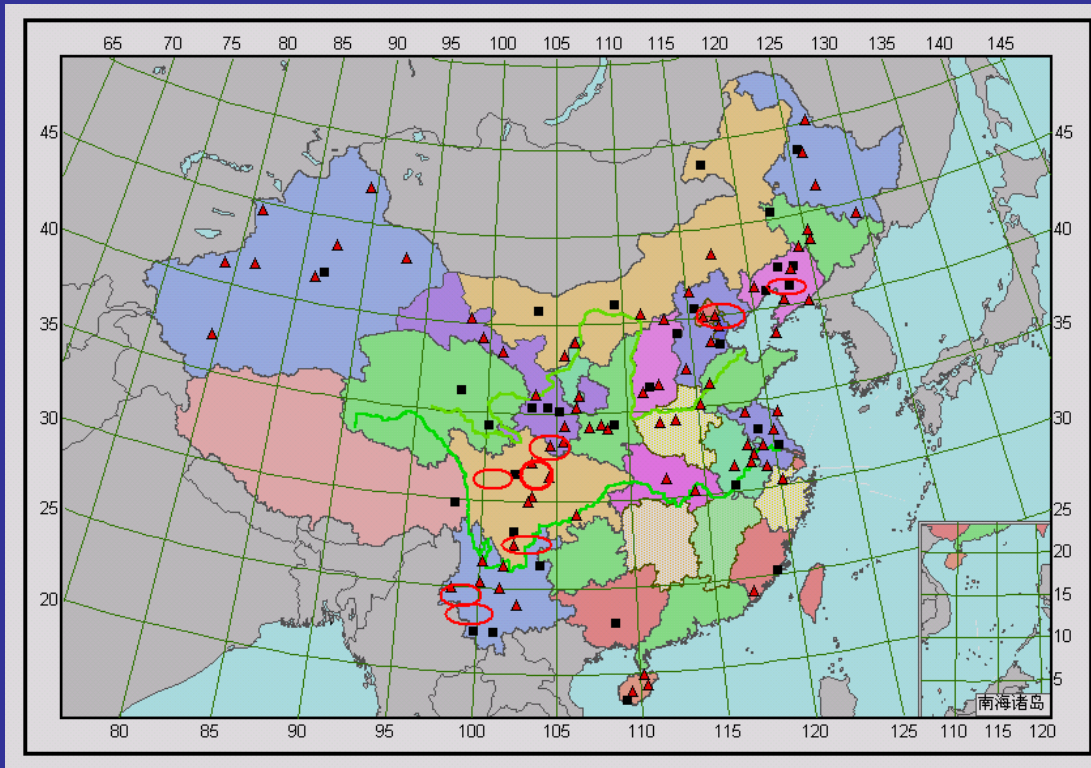


## Network of geomagnetic observation





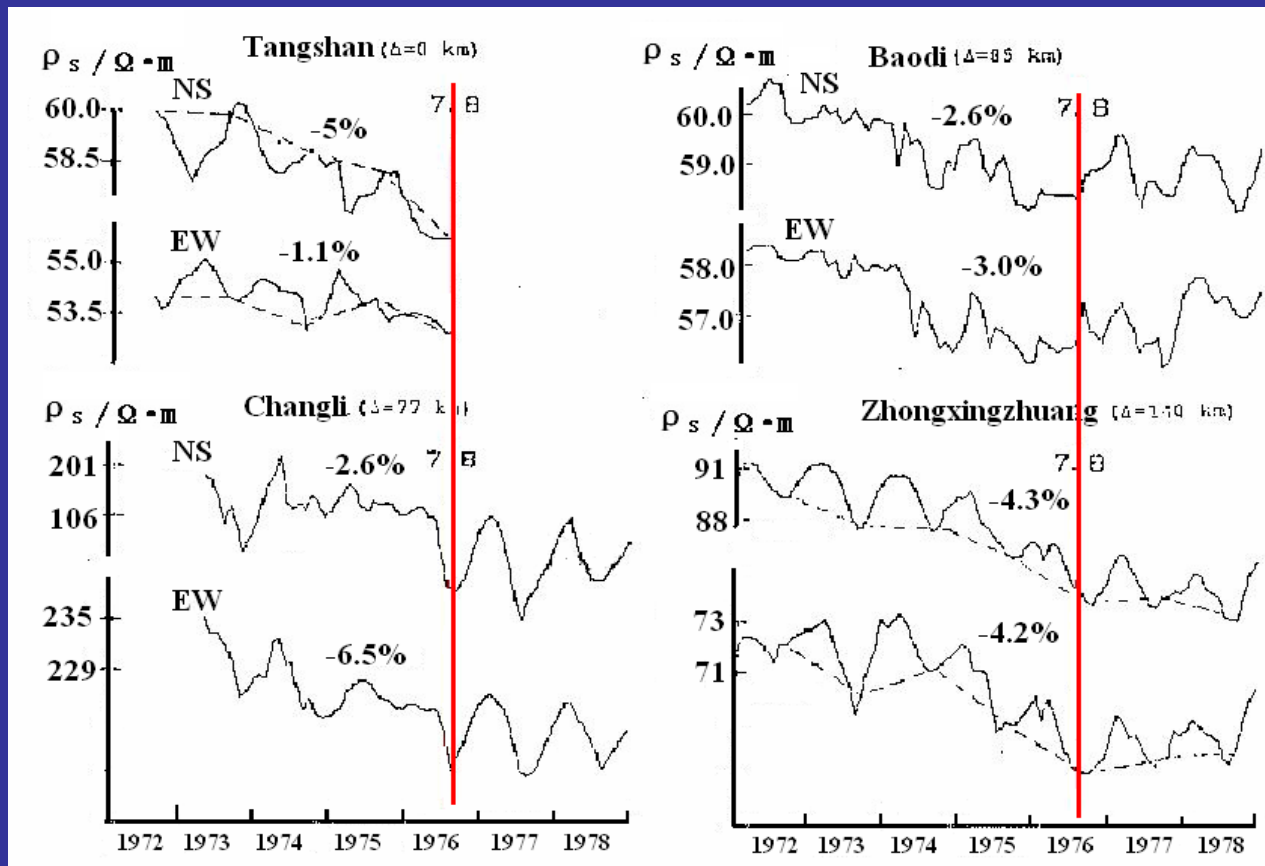
# Case study: apparent resistivity



**M>7**

**1973.2.6** 四川 炉霍 7.9  
**1974.5.11** 云南 昭通 7.1  
**1975.2.4** 辽宁 海城 7.3  
**1976.5.29** 云南 龙陵 7.5  
**1976.7.28** 河北 唐山 7.8  
**1976.8.16** 四川 松潘 7.2  
**1988.11.5** 云南 澜沧 7.6  
**2008.5.12** 四川 汶川 8.0

# Tangshan M7.8 EQ, 28 July 1976



# Tangshan M7.8 EQ, 28 July 1976

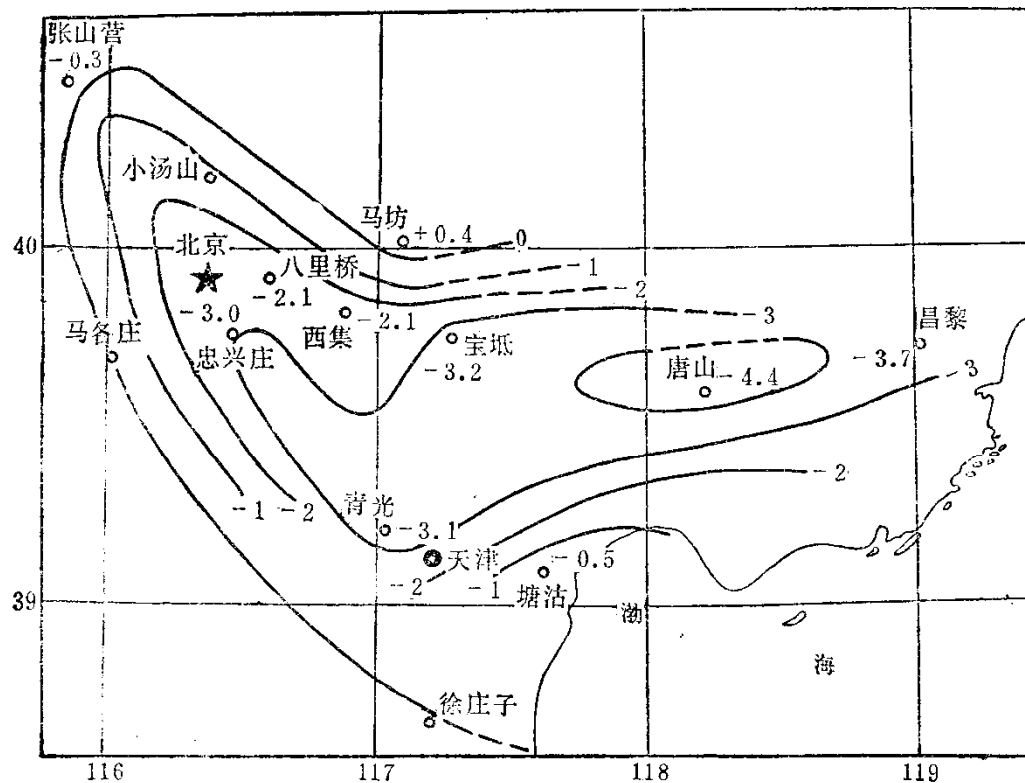
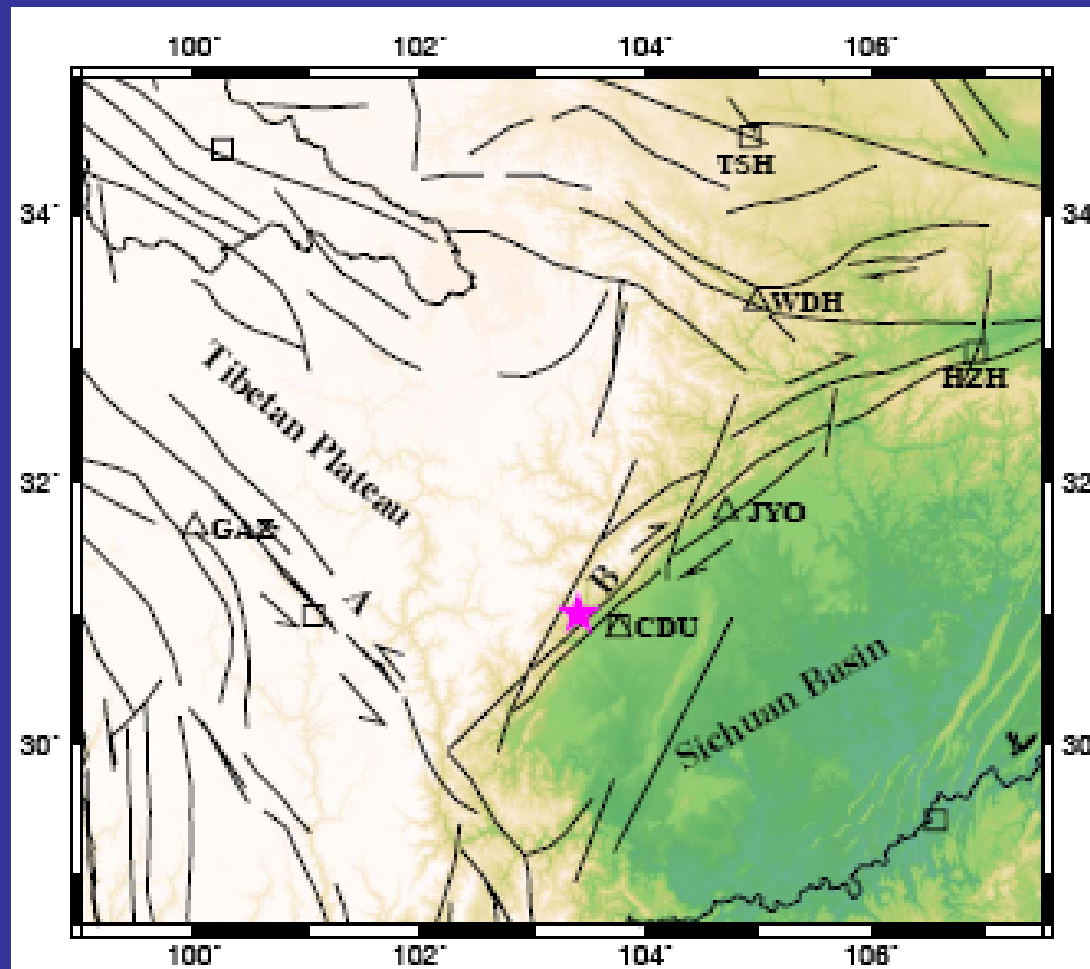


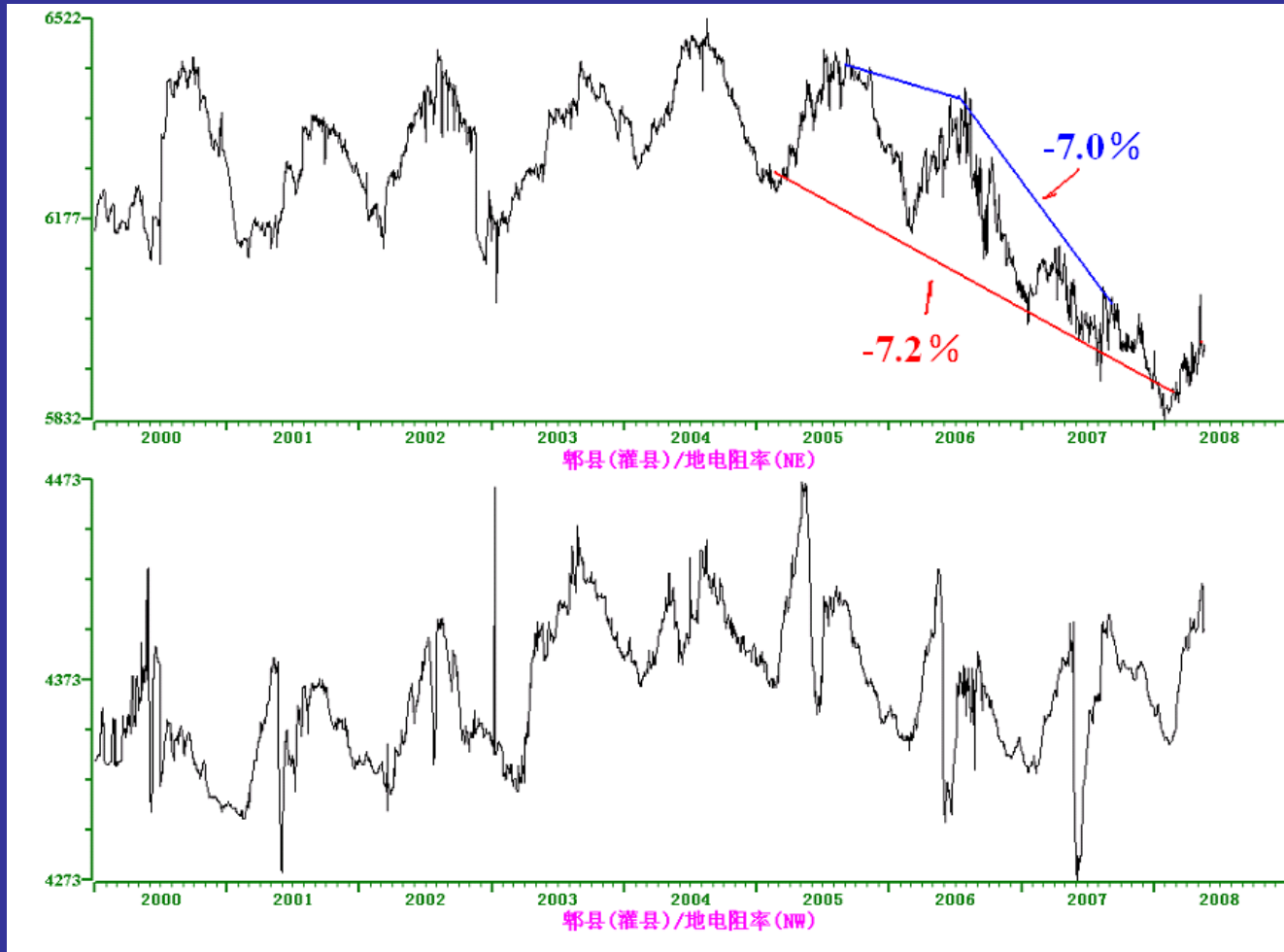
图5.17 京津唐地区南北向地电阻率异常幅度 $\Delta\rho_{sa}/\rho_{sa}$ 等值线图



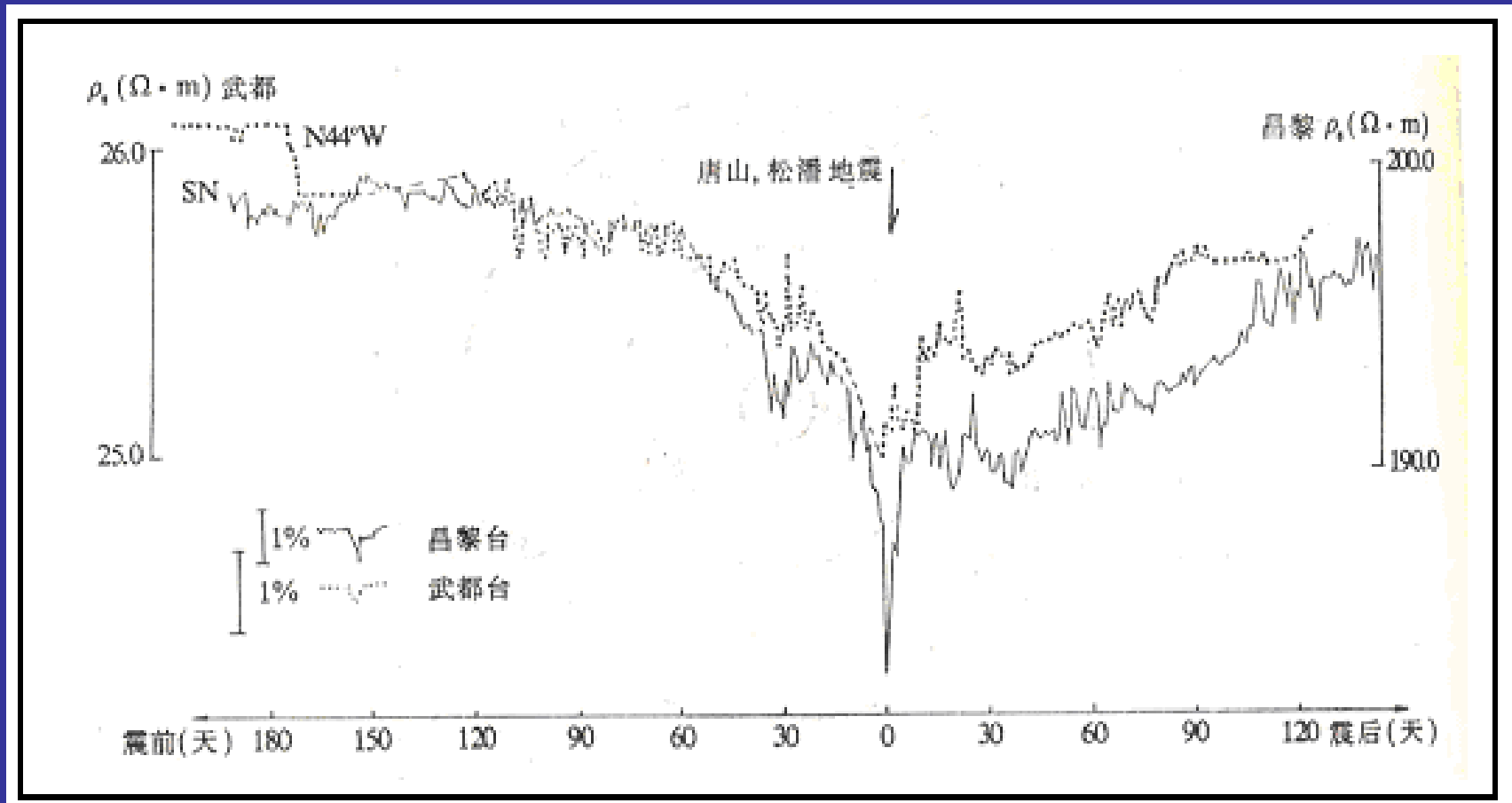
# Wenchuan M8.0 EQ , 12 May 2008



# Wenchuan M8.0 EQ , 12 May 2008

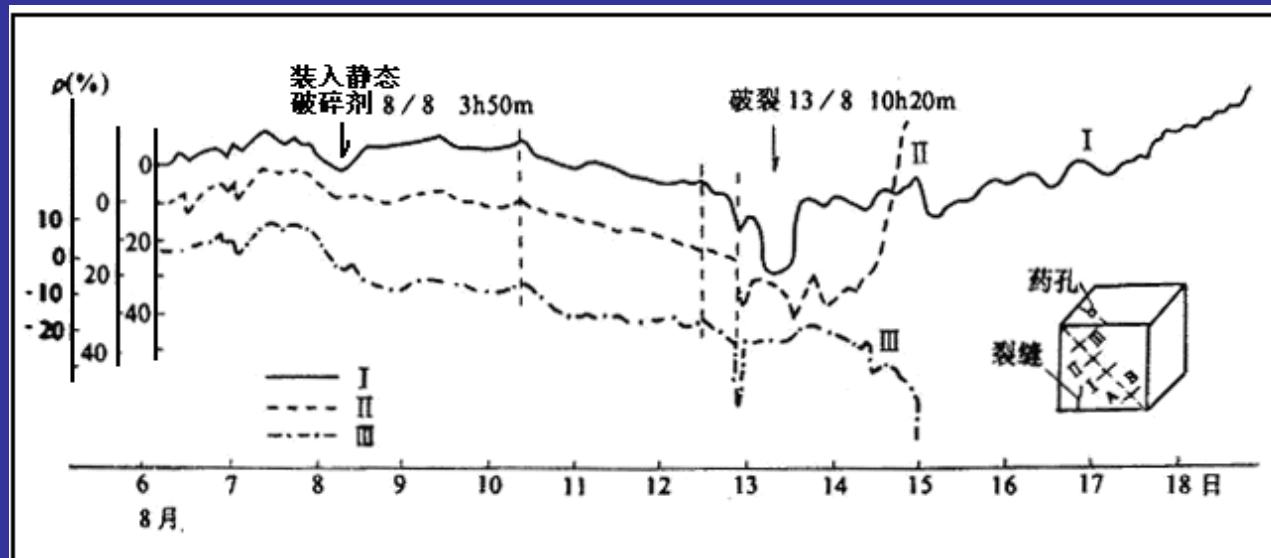


# Similar change pattern of two EQs





# Experiment of large rock sample



# Reports

- Conductivity anomalies (Tangshan EQ, 1976)
- Geoelectric potential changes (Russia, VAN, IFREQ RIKEN)
- Geomagnetic changes
- Electromagnetic signals in various frequency (DC/ULF-VLF)
- Second order phenomena : Ionospheric disturbance, radio noise, apparatus anomalies (TV noise, switch on/off)

e.g., radio noise before the Great East Japan EQ (M9.0, 2011), Miyagi EQ (M6.8, 1994), Migawa EQ (M6.8, 1945), Tangshan EQ (1978), Kobe EQ (1995)

Existence of EQ-related EM signals

# Study on EQ-related EM

- Field observations

  - ✓ Existence of EQ-related EM signals  
(empirical stage)

- Lab experiments

  - Experimental evidence of mechanisms

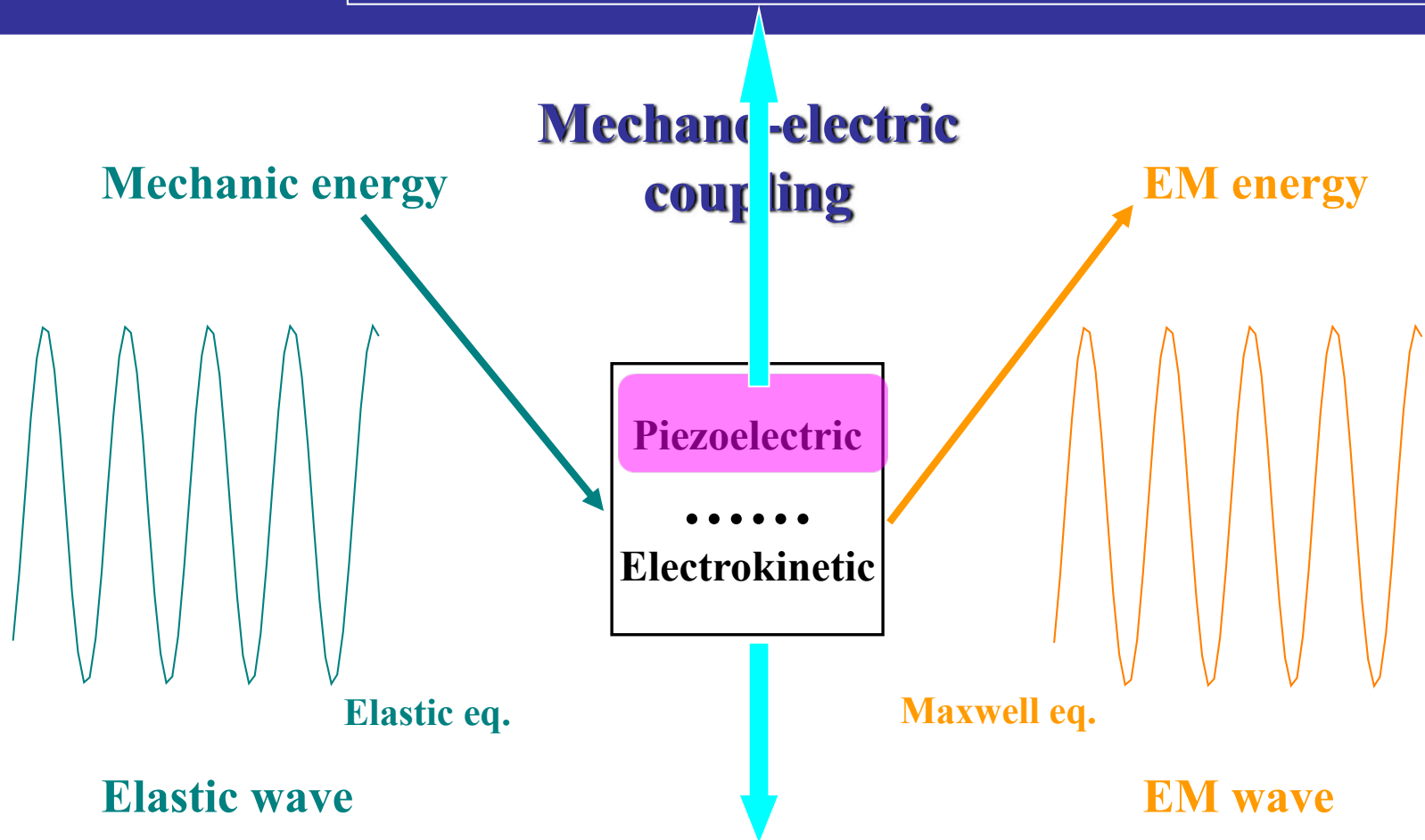
- Explanation of EQ-related EM signals?

  - Key problem (physics-based study?)



# Generation mechanisms

Sasaoka et al, 1998. GRL; Yoshida et al., 1997. JGR



Jouniaux & Pozzi, 1997. JGR; Yoshida et al., 2001. JGR

# Piezoelectric effect

## ➤ Evidence of rock experiments

Yoshida et al, 1997. J Geophys Res

Sasaoka et al, 1998. Geophys Res Lett

## ➤ Controversy : Is the piezoelectric effect of natural rocks too small to generate observable signals?

Finkelstein & Powell, 1970. Nature

Tuck et al, 1977. Tectonophysics

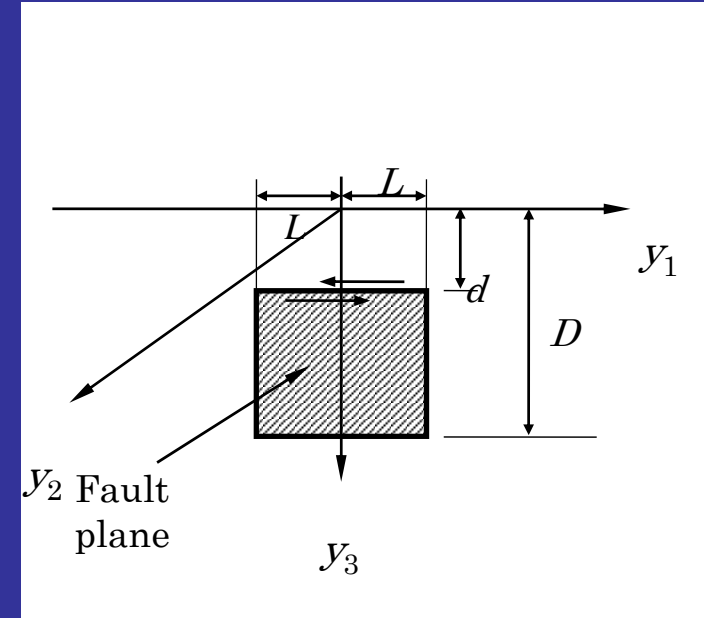
Ghomshei & Templeton, 1989. Phys Earth Planet Inter

## ● How to explain co-seismic electric signals?

# Study on co-seismic electric signals (Huang, 2002)

➤ A mathematical fault model

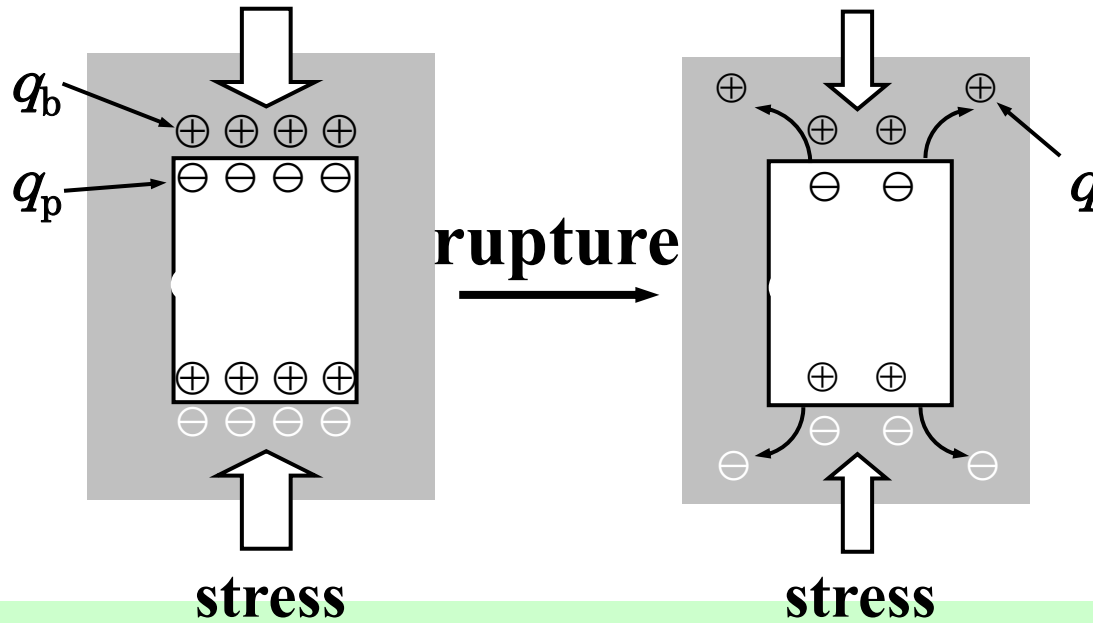
➤ An electromagnetic model  
(piezoelectric effect)





# An electromagnetic model

$q_b$ : bound charge  
 $q_p$ : polarization charge



$$q = q_b - q_p = 0$$

$$q = q_b - q_p \neq 0$$

Piezoelectric polarization of a single quartz,

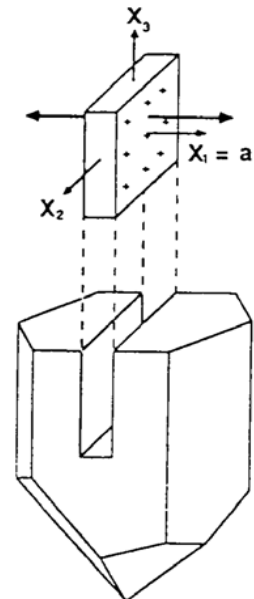
$$P_{ip} = \sum d_{ij} S_j, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \text{ and } j = 1, 2, \dots, 6.$$

$d_{ij}$ : piezoelectric moduli

$S_j$ : stress

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sigma'_{11} & \sigma'_{12} & \sigma'_{13} \\ \dots & \sigma'_{22} & \sigma'_{23} \\ \dots & \dots & \sigma'_{33} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} S_1 & S_6 & S_5 \\ \dots & S_2 & S_4 \\ \dots & \dots & S_3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ S_3 \\ S_4 \\ S_5 \\ S_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Supported by rock experiments



# Study on co-seismic electric signals (Huang, 2002)

➤ A mathematical fault model

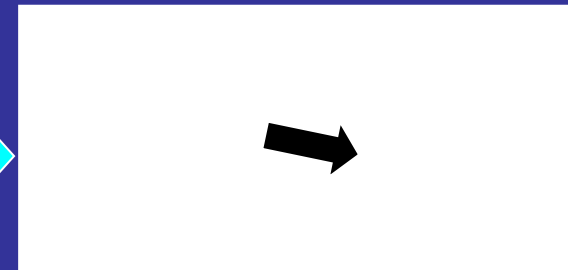
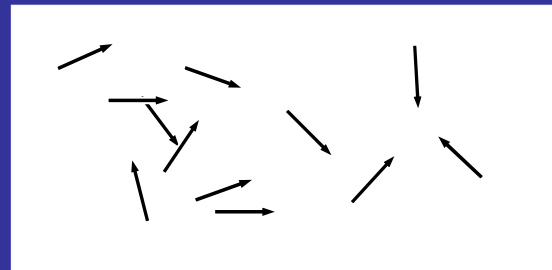
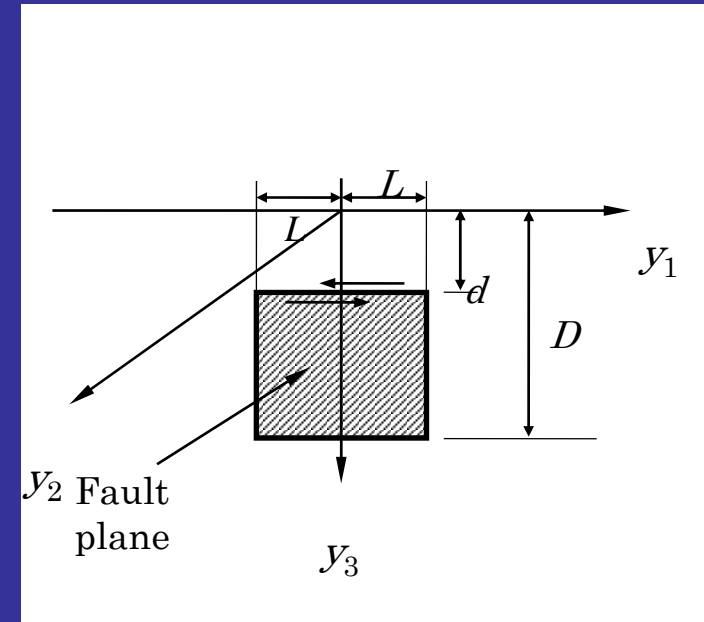
➤ An electromagnetic model  
(piezoelectric effect)

➤ Effective piezoelectricity  
(Rock/Piezo-crystal)

$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = n^{1/2} / N \quad \alpha_{\text{qz}} = \eta / n^{1/2} \alpha_{\text{qz}}$$
$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = (\zeta n + n^{1/2}) / N \alpha_{\text{qz}}$$

( $\eta$  : volume fraction of quartz)  
( $\zeta$  : fraction of preferred orientation)

Lab experiments →  $10^{-2} \sim 10^{-3}$   
Sasaoka et al, 1998. GRL  
Effective piezoelectric coefficient  
of detectable signals in field  
observations :  $10^{-6}$



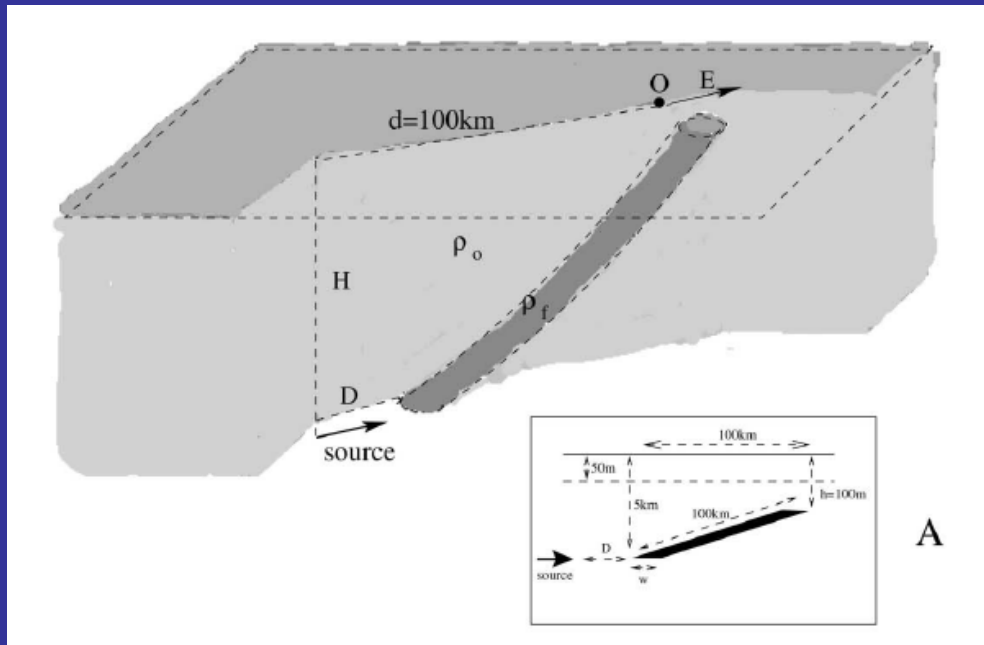
Weak preferred orientation could lead to observable signals

## **Another debated problem**

- How to explain “selectivity” of EM signals?

# Possible explanations

- Special underground conductive channel (Varatsos et al., 1998)

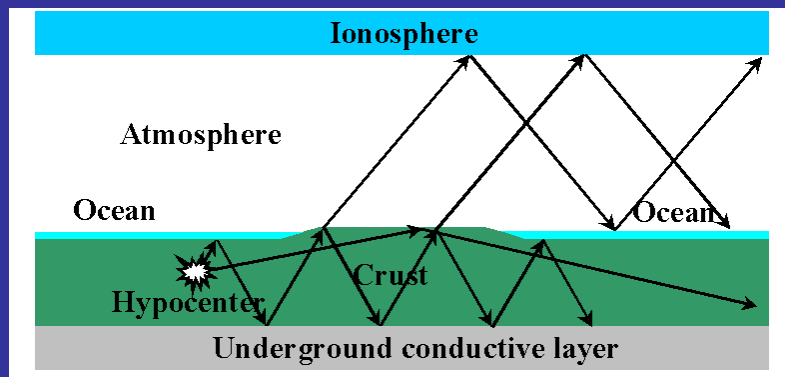


Amplification effect  
at the end of the  
conductive channel

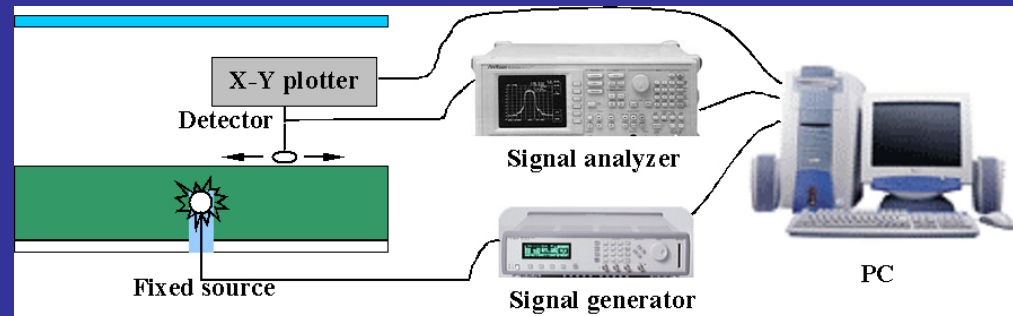


# Possible explanations

- Special underground conductive channel (Varatsos et al., 1998)
- Analogue experiment (Huang and Ikeya, 1998; Huang and Ikeya, 1999; Huang, 2005 )
  - Give an experimental explanation for long distance propagation and “selectivity” of SEMS, especially in frequency of VLF-ELF band
  - Effect of inhomogeneity of surface conductivity on propagation



**Waveguide model**



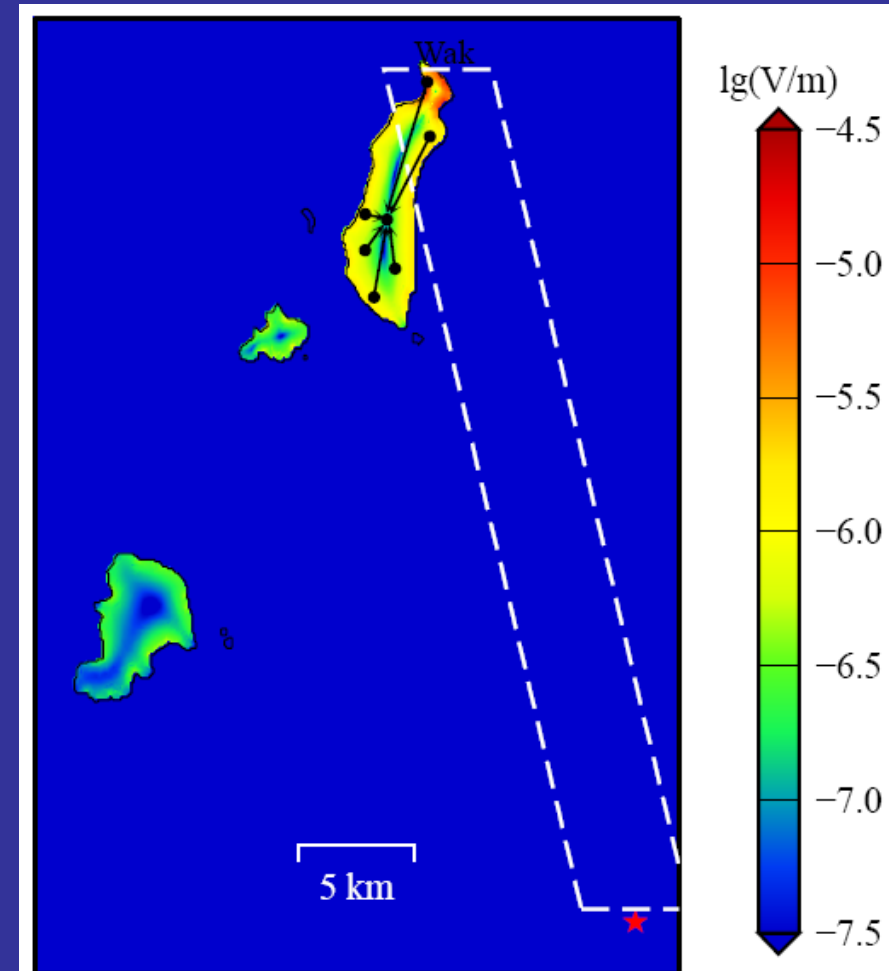
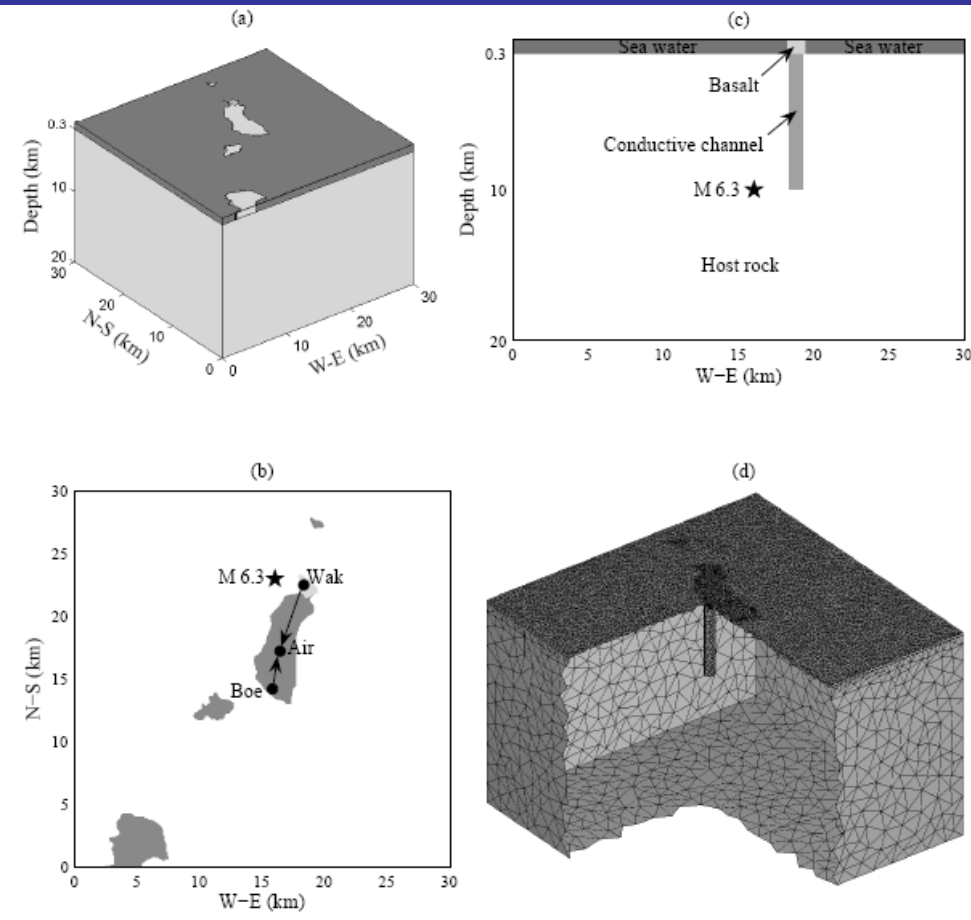
**Similarity**

**Experimental sketch**

# Possible explanations

- Special underground conductive channel (Varatsos et al., 1998)
- Analogue experiment (Huang and Ikeya, 1998; Huang and Ikeya, 1999; Huang, 2005 )
- Numerical simulation (Ke and Huang, 2007; Huang and Lin, 2010)

# Case study: SES selectivity of Izu EQ swarm (Huang and Lin, 2010)



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# Problems

- **Field observation?**

  - √ Existence of EQ-related EM signals

- **Methodology?**

  - Improvement of instrument

  - Increase of environmental EM noise

  - How to reveal weak signals from noisy background: robust methodology?

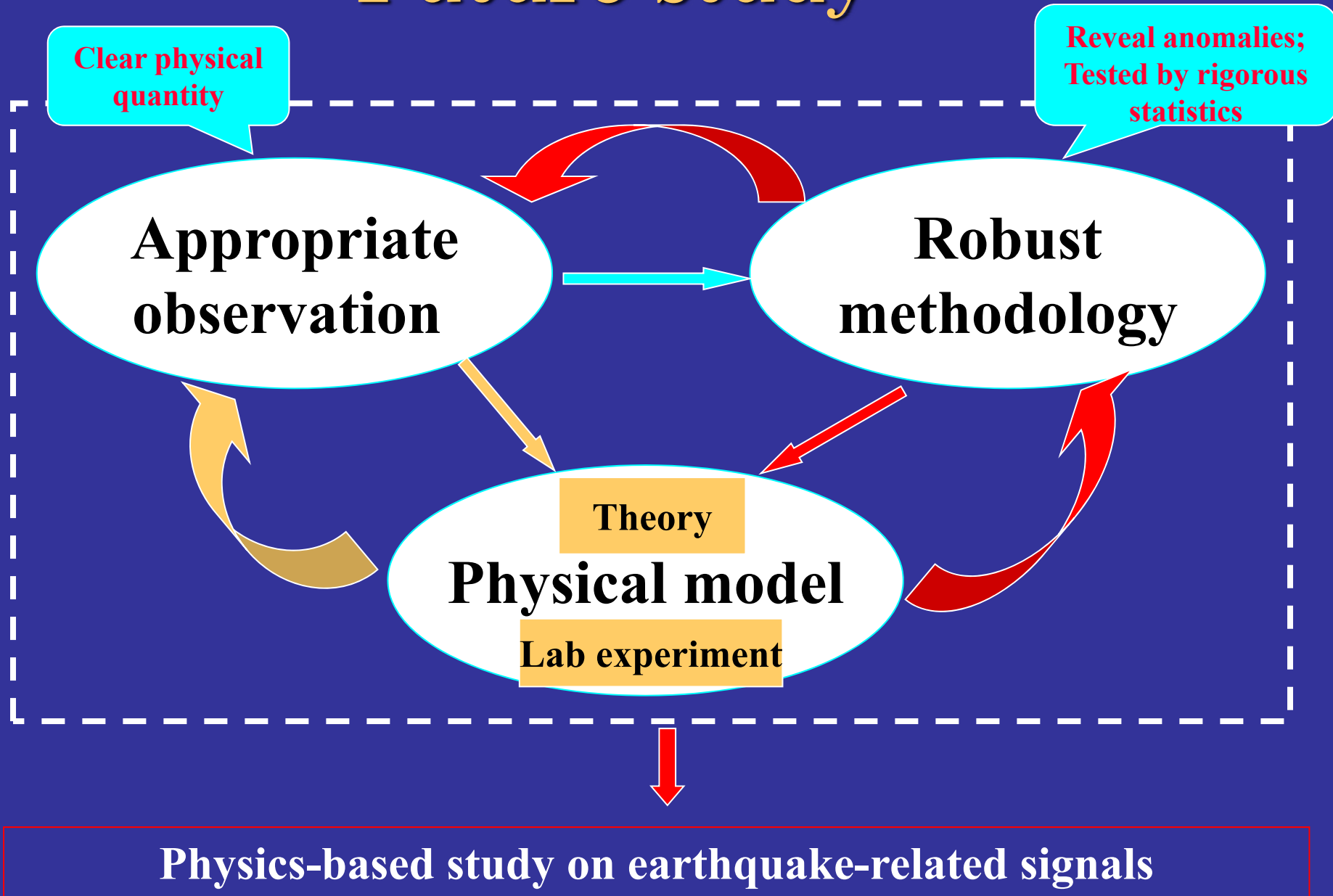
- **Physical explanation?**

  - Lab experiment

  - Theoretical model



# Future study



# **Association of Pacific Ring Universities (APRU) Annual Symposium on Natural Hazard (2010)**

- August 26-28, Peking University, Beijing, China

## **Joint meeting of Chinese Geophysical Society and Seismological Society of China**

- October 17-21, Ningbo, China
- International Session (Q Huang, L Zhao, T Kato, Q Chen)

*Look forward to seeing you in China.*

**Thank You !**