



“Everything you  
always wanted to know  
about ~~sex~~ \* ~~cats~~ K  
\* But were afraid to ask”

**Olga-Joan Ktenidou**

National Observatory of Athens  
[olga.ktenidou@noa.gr](mailto:olga.ktenidou@noa.gr)

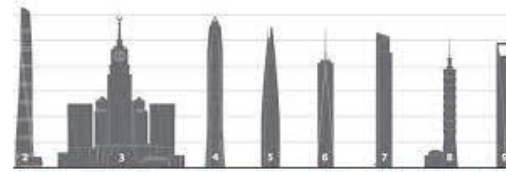
15 June 2023  
Hydra



**Who's afraid of HFs?**

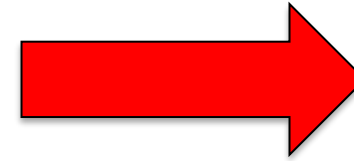


# What are HFs?



typical structures

critical facilities!



0.01

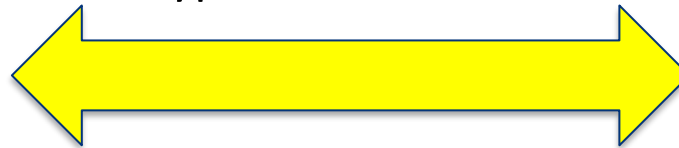
0.1

1

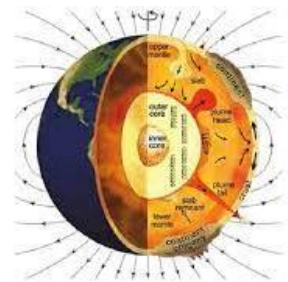
10

100

Frequency (hz)



hard-core  
seismology!





# Engineers



➔ Critical facilities:







# Engineers



## → Critical facilities:

Safety-related **equipment** is sensitive to ground shaking at frequencies above 10-20 Hz.



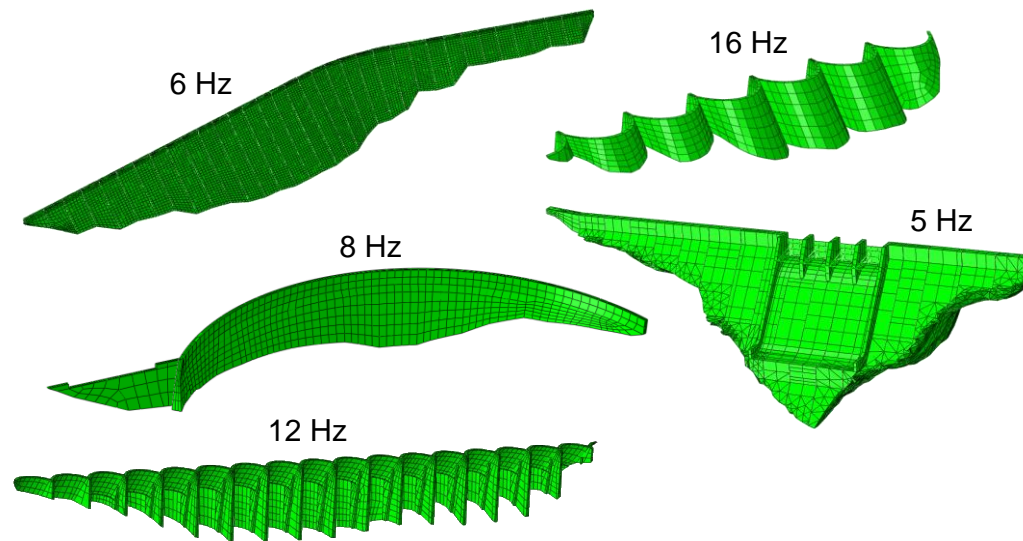


# Engineers



## → Dams:

- Small, concrete dams with eigenfrequencies **up to 10-16 Hz**



*Courtesy of Matt Muto, Southern California Edison*



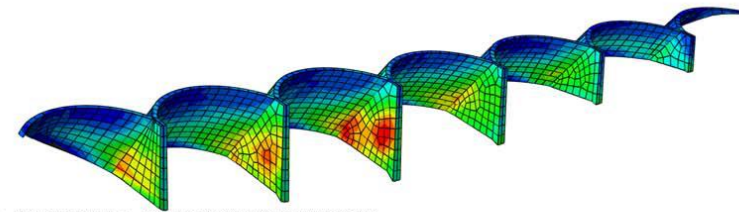
# Engineers



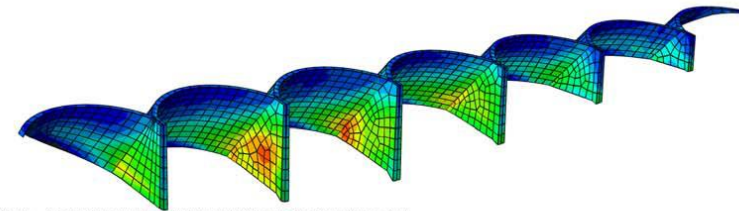
## → Dams:

- Peak stresses are sometimes controlled by HFs

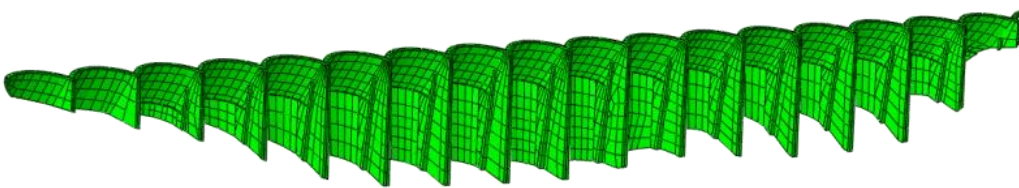
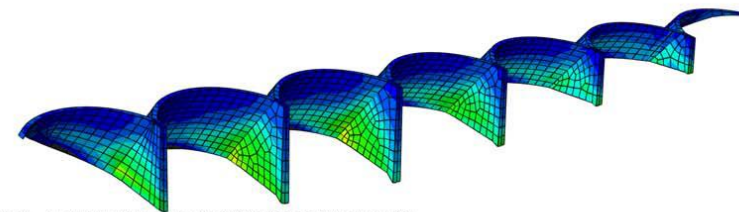
Shear Stress (unfiltered)



Shear Stress (20 Hz filter)



Shear Stress (10 Hz filter)







# Engineers



→ Dams:

- Critical components e.g. gates



*(not that small!)*







# Engineers



→ Tailings dams:

need to maintain integrity for up to 10,000 years

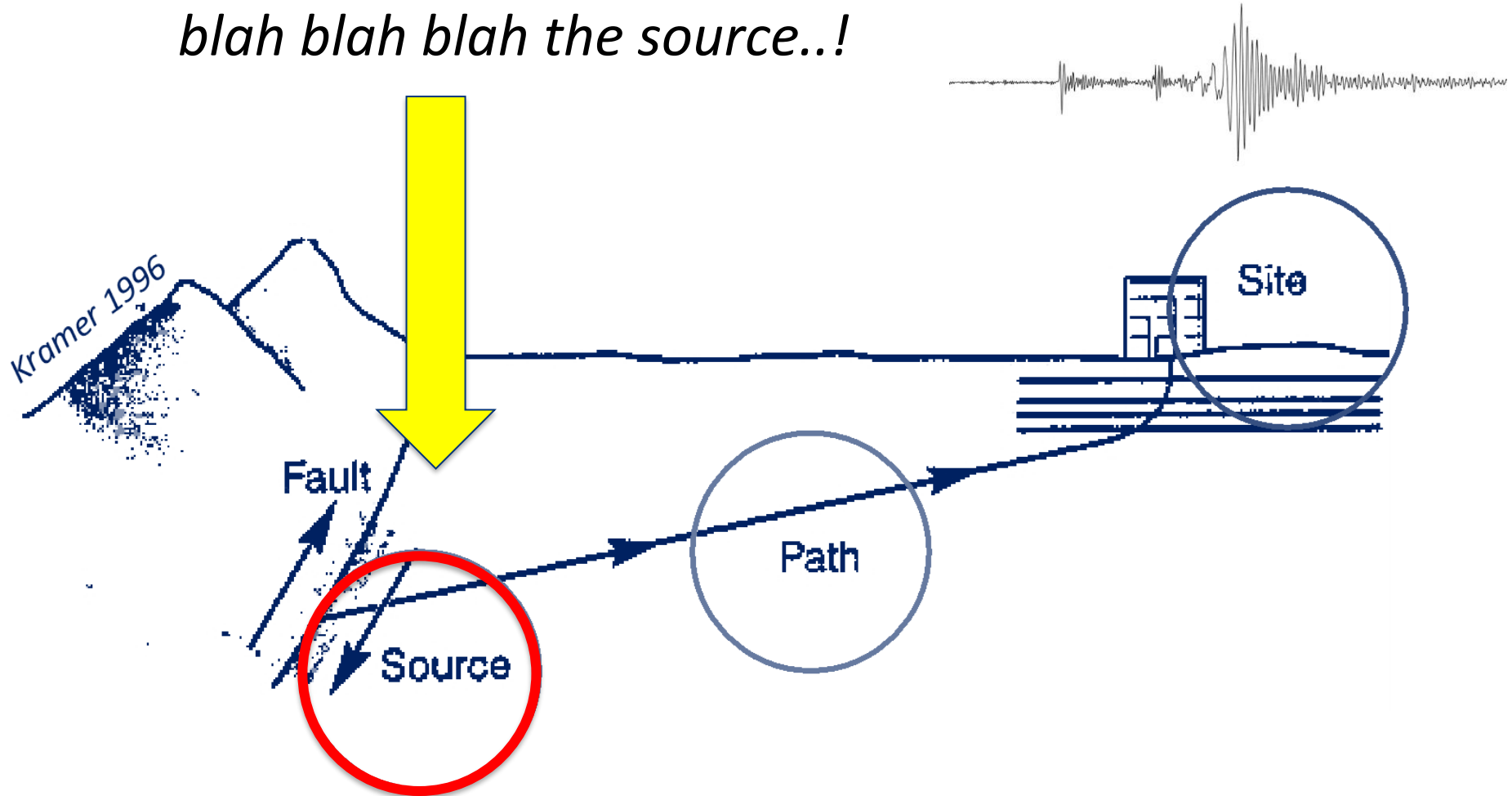




# Seismologists



*blah blah blah the source..!*



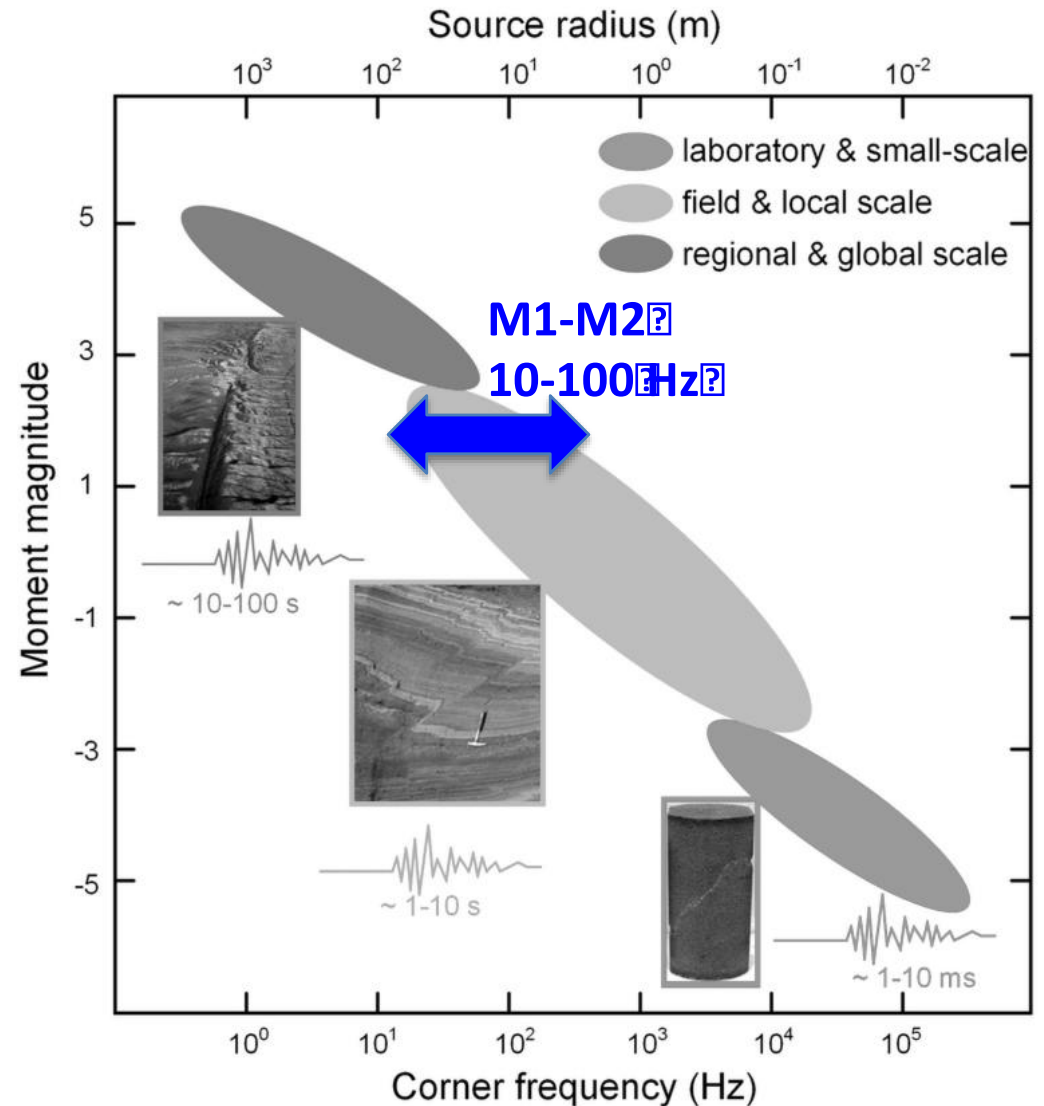


# Seismologists



High frequencies are at the heart of some important ~~blah-bl~~ debates:

- stress parameter
- corner frequency / scaling laws
- small-M events / microseismicity





**K: crossbreed or  
pedigree-in-disguise?**



# Attenuation



- loss of energy per cycle
- exponential amplitude decrease with  $t$  or  $R$
  
- ‘frequency-independent’ intrinsic damping (anelastic attenuation)
- frequency-dependent scattering from smaller-scale heterogeneities



# Attenuation



In 'pure' seismology the pedigree of attenuation terms is  $Q$



$\kappa$  is more empirical & controversial... thus handed over to 'engineers' as a crossbreed



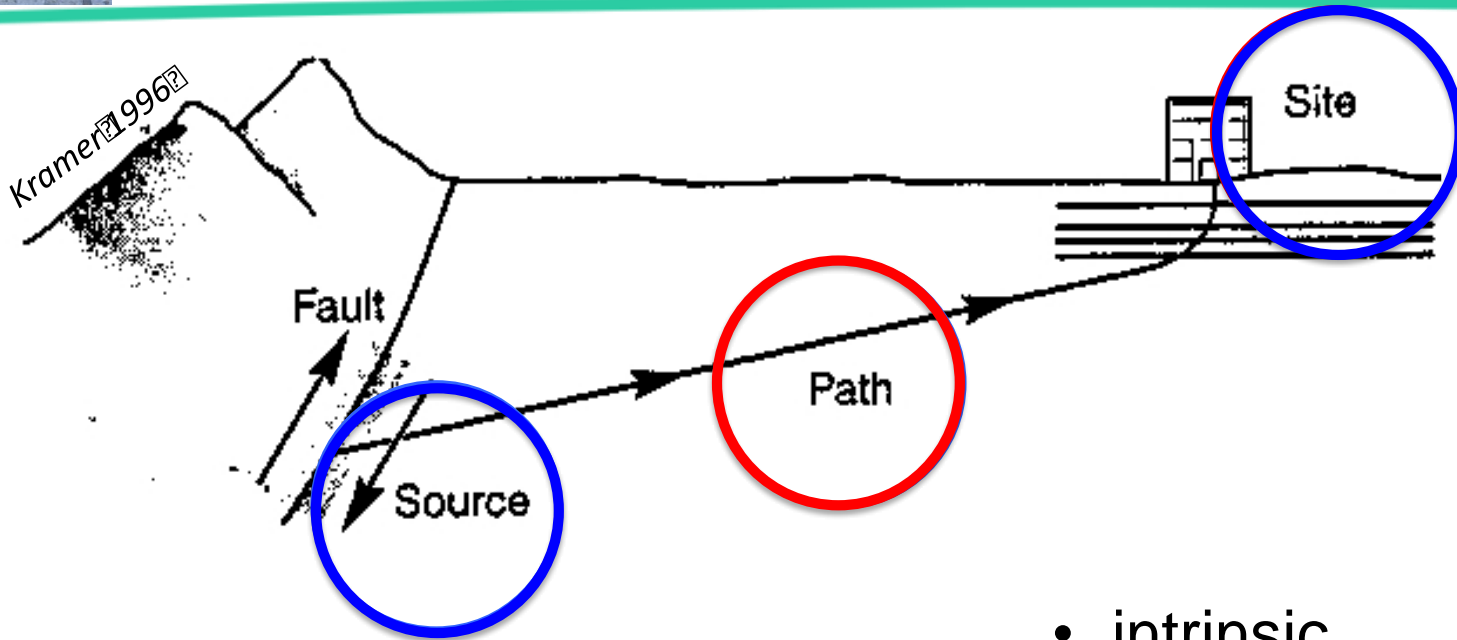
⇒ Trying to understand its origins... treating it like a muddy mystery dog that needs washing







# Attenuation



Quality factor =  $Q$  =



$$\text{Attenuation} = \frac{1}{Q} = \frac{1}{Q}$$



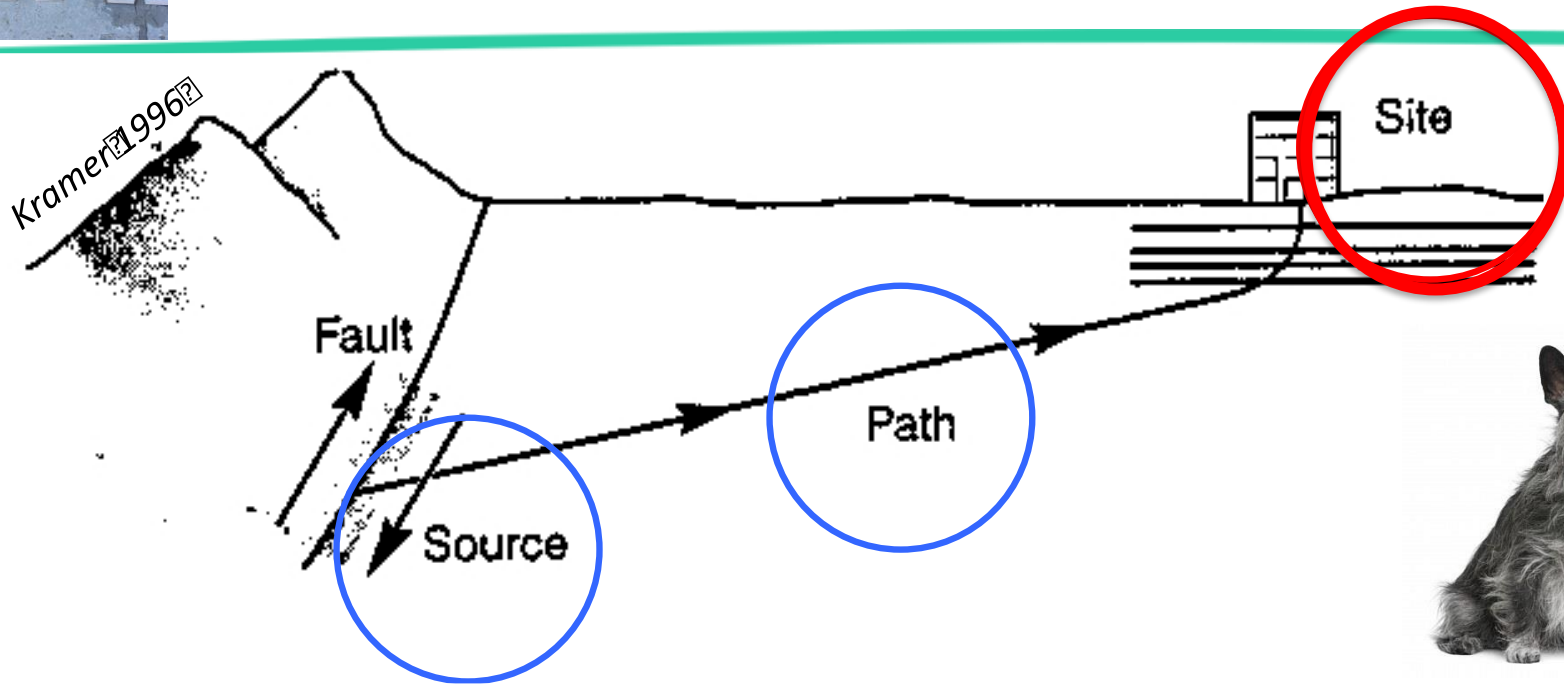
- intrinsic
- scattering

$$\frac{1}{Q} = \frac{1}{Q_{in}} + \frac{1}{Q_{sc}}$$





# Attenuation

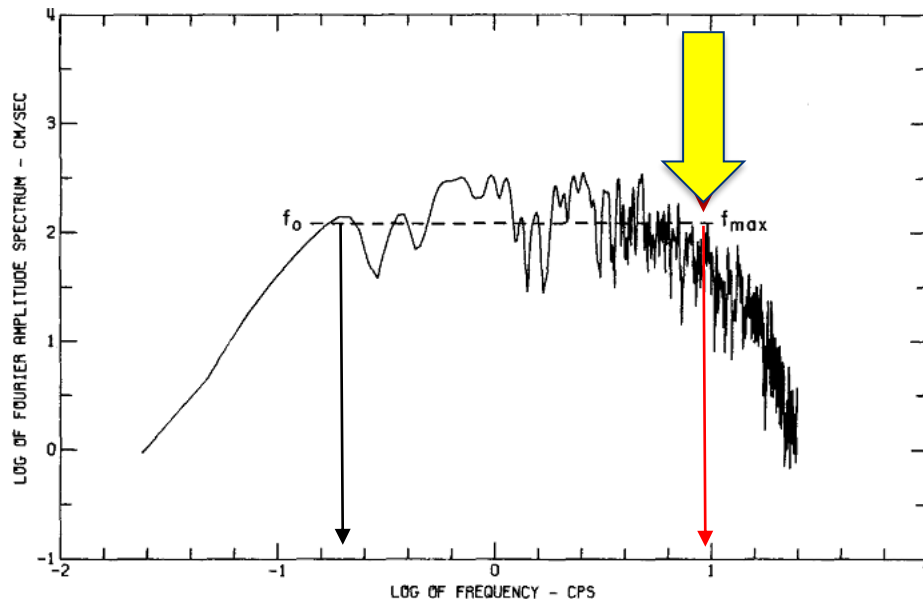




# First came...

Hanks (1982) introduced  $f_{\max}$ :

- the high-frequency band-limitation of radiated EQ energy
- attributed to **local site conditions** (after hot debate with Aki & Papageorgiou on path and source)



‘crashing spectrum syndrome’



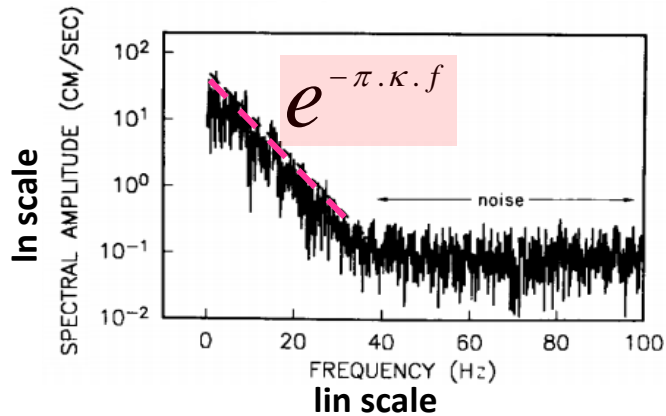


# What is $\kappa$



Anderson & Hough (1984)  
spectral decay parameter ' $\kappa$ '

$$A(f) = A_0 \cdot e^{-\pi\kappa f}, \quad f > f_E$$



$$\kappa = - \frac{\text{slope}}{\rho}$$

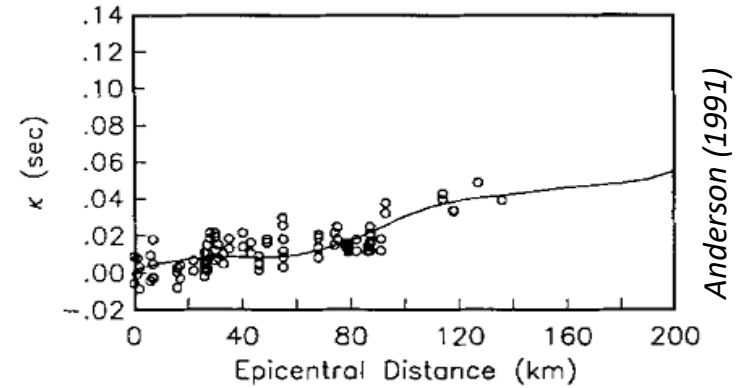
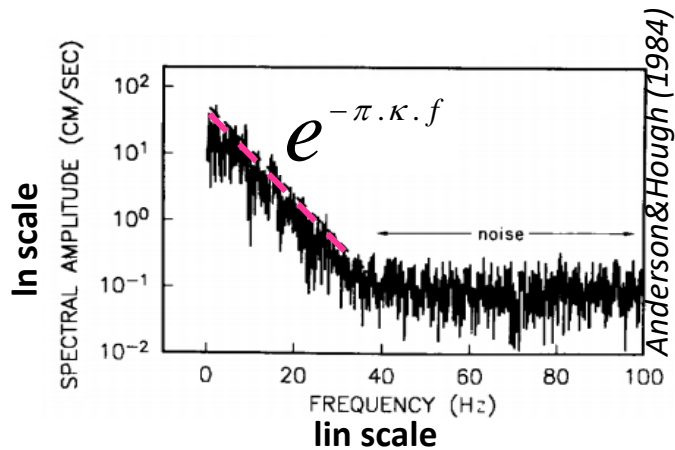


# What is κ



Anderson & Hough (1984)  
spectral decay parameter 'κ'

$$A(f) = A_0 \cdot e^{-\pi\kappa f}, \quad f > f_E$$



$$\kappa = \kappa_0 + \tilde{\kappa}(R)$$

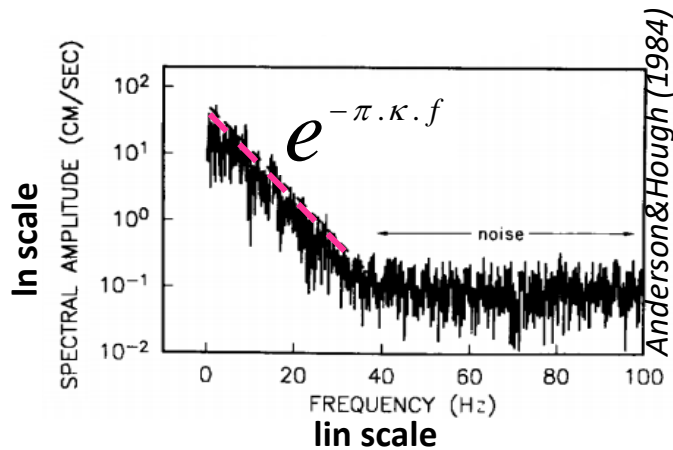
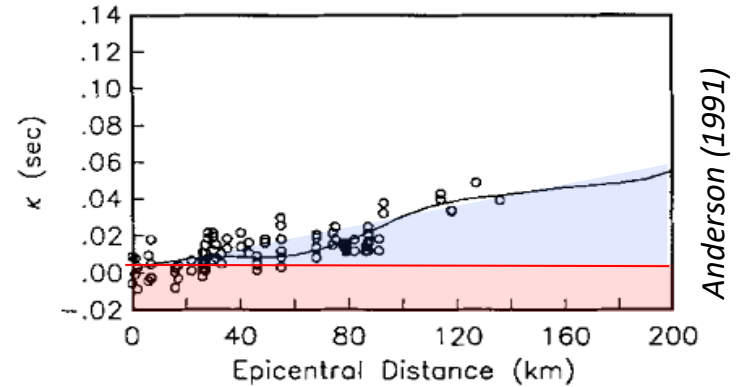


# Distance



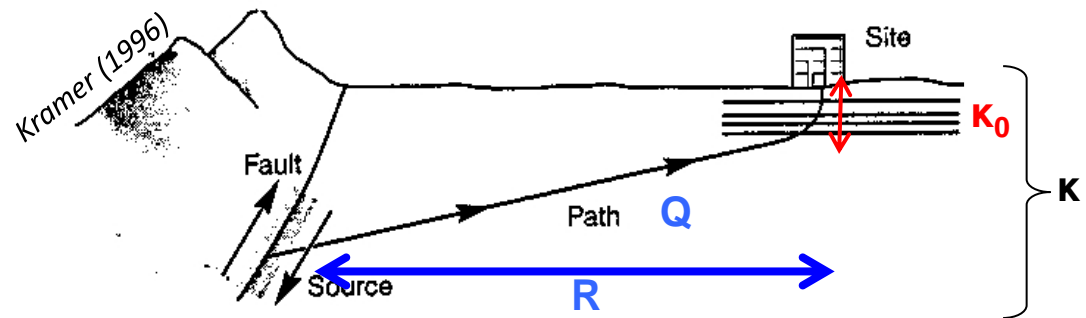
Anderson & Hough (1984)  
spectral decay parameter 'κ'

$$A(f) = A_0 \cdot e^{-\pi\kappa f}, \quad f > f_E$$



$$k = k_0 + \tilde{k}(R)$$

'site'    'régional'





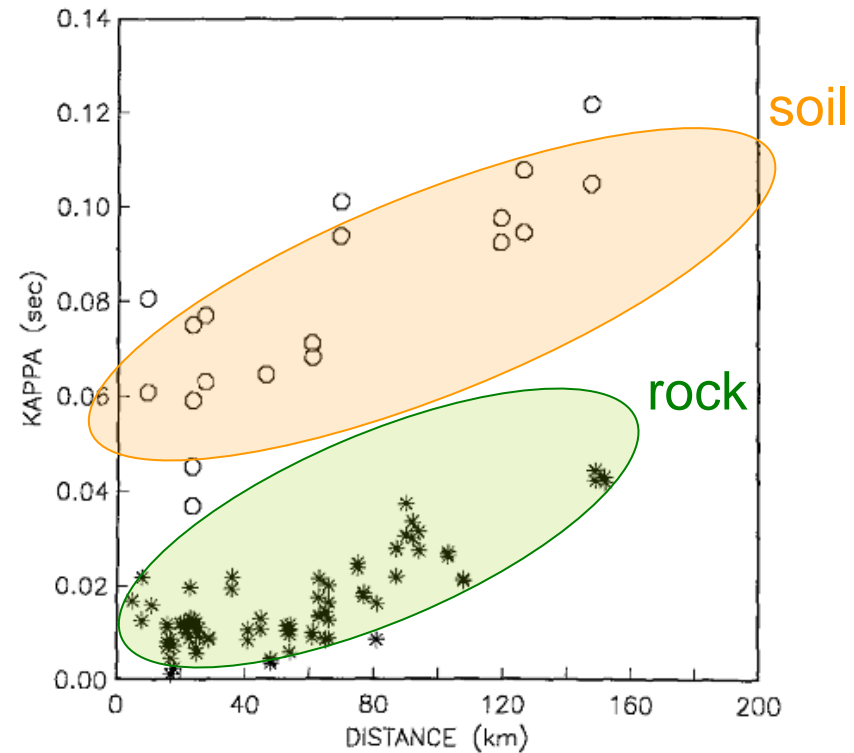
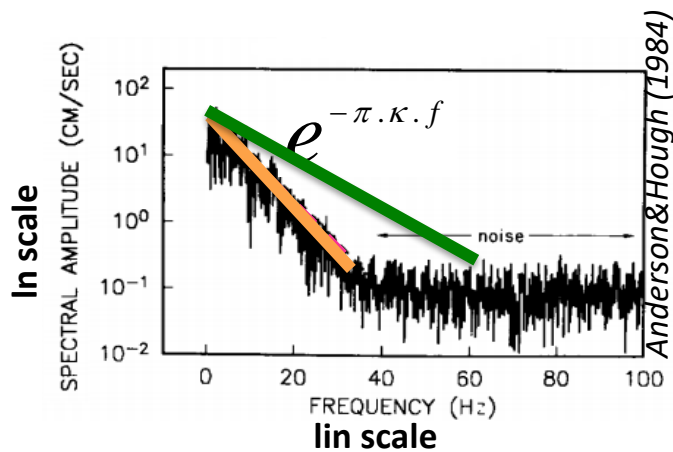


# Geology



Anderson & Hough (1984)  
spectral decay parameter 'κ'

$$A(f) = A_0 \cdot e^{-\pi\kappa f}, \quad f > f_E$$





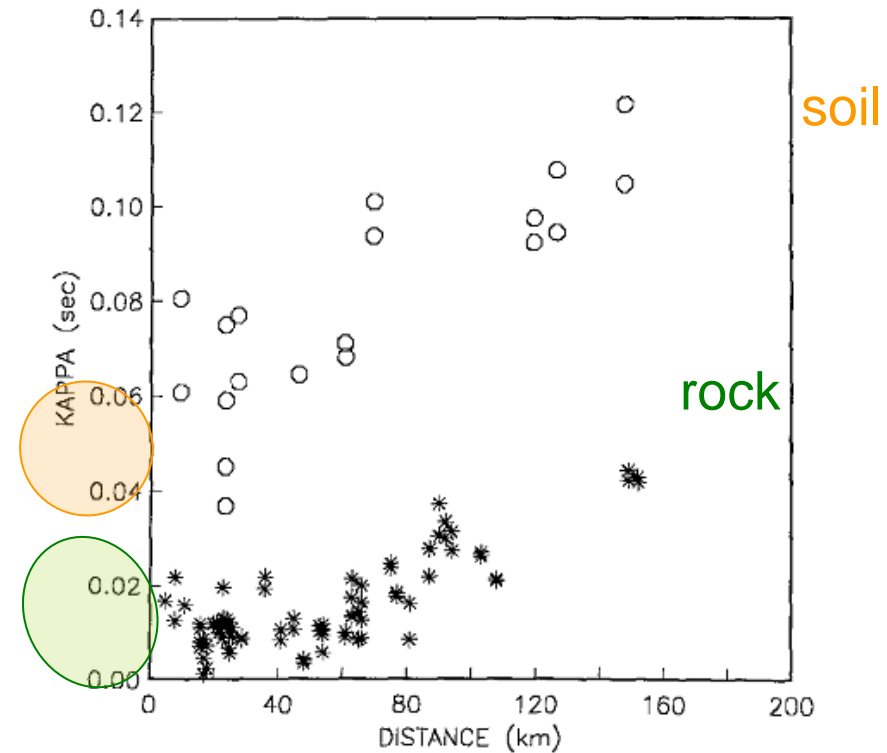
# Time



$$A_o \times e^{\frac{-\rho f R}{Qb}} \times e^{-\rho f k_o} \Rightarrow$$

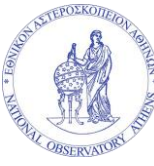
$$'t^*' = \frac{R}{bQ} + k_o$$

Units are  
seconds!





# Damping

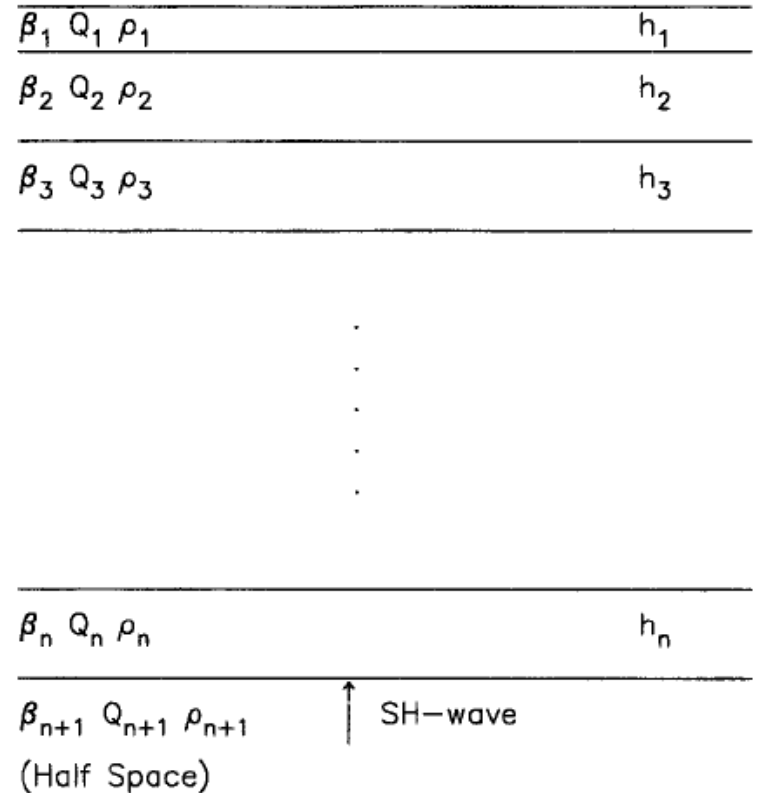


Small-strain intrinsic damping (from site or lab tests) can be related to  $\kappa_0$  through Vs and layer thickness:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{H_i}{V_{si} Q_i} = \kappa_0. \quad \text{Campbell (2009)}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{2\xi}$$

This is a lower-bound on total  $\kappa_0$  not including....



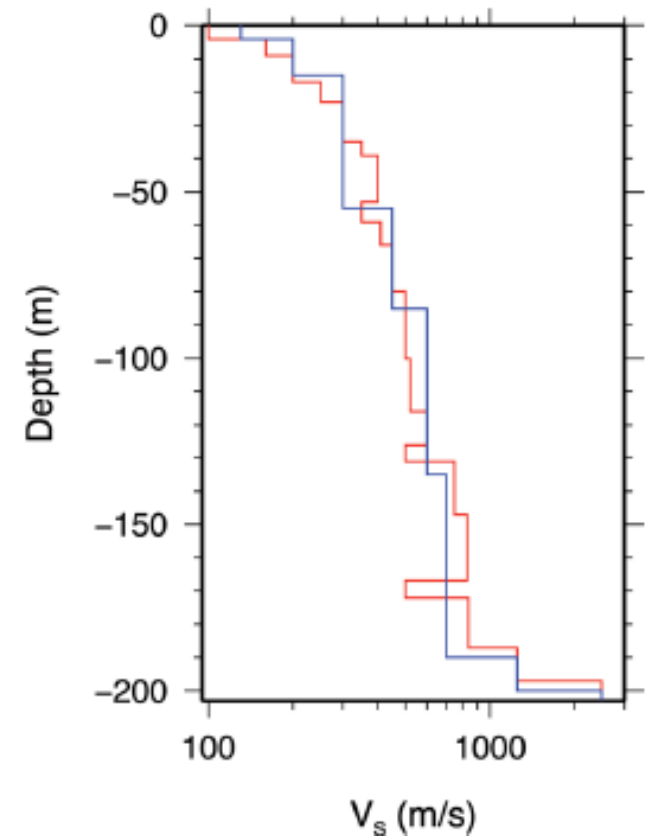
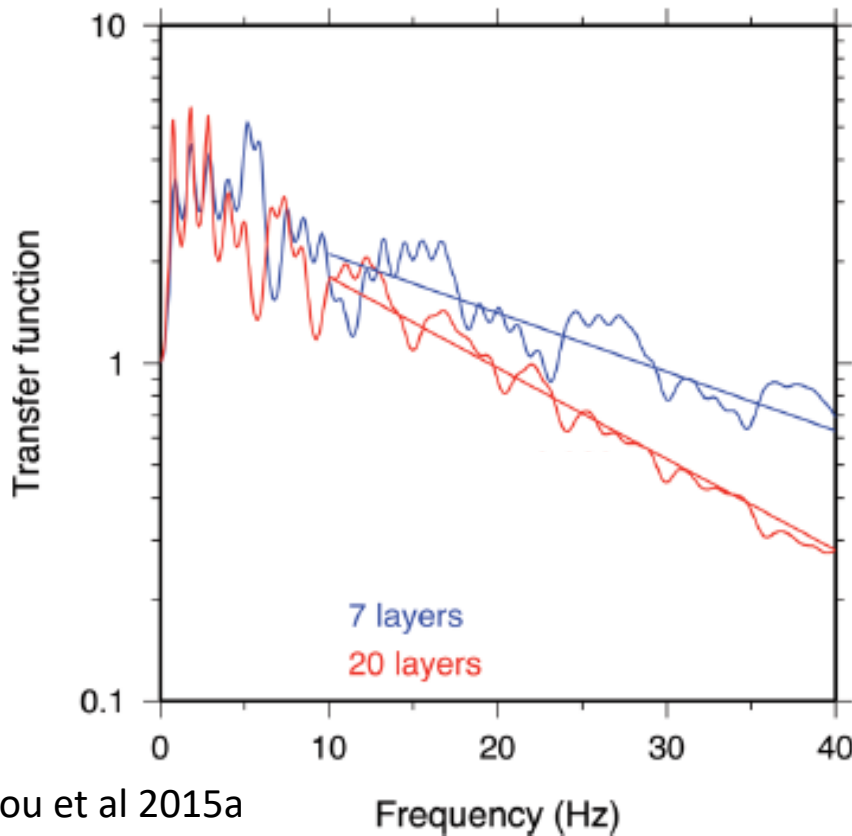


# Stratification



Scattering from small-scale fluctuations is an additional source of site attenuation

Adding layers/complexity/reversals to profile kills more HF energy







# Damage

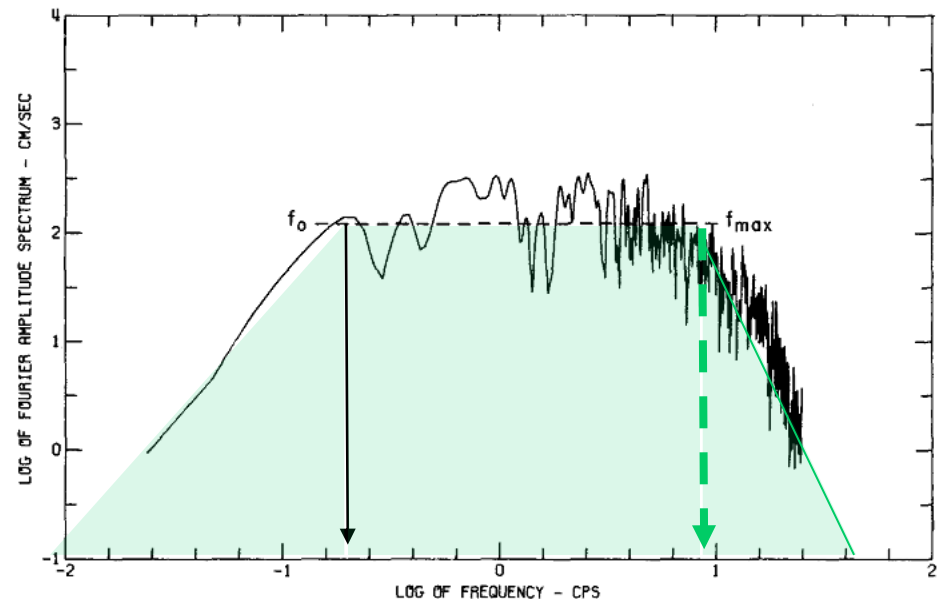


Filter on structural damage potential

$\kappa$  puts the limit on  $a_{rms}$  computation (Singh et al., 1989)

$$a_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{T_d} \int_0^{\kappa} a^2(f) df}$$

- where does the integration stop?
- for small  $\kappa$  it can go on for quite long





# Damage

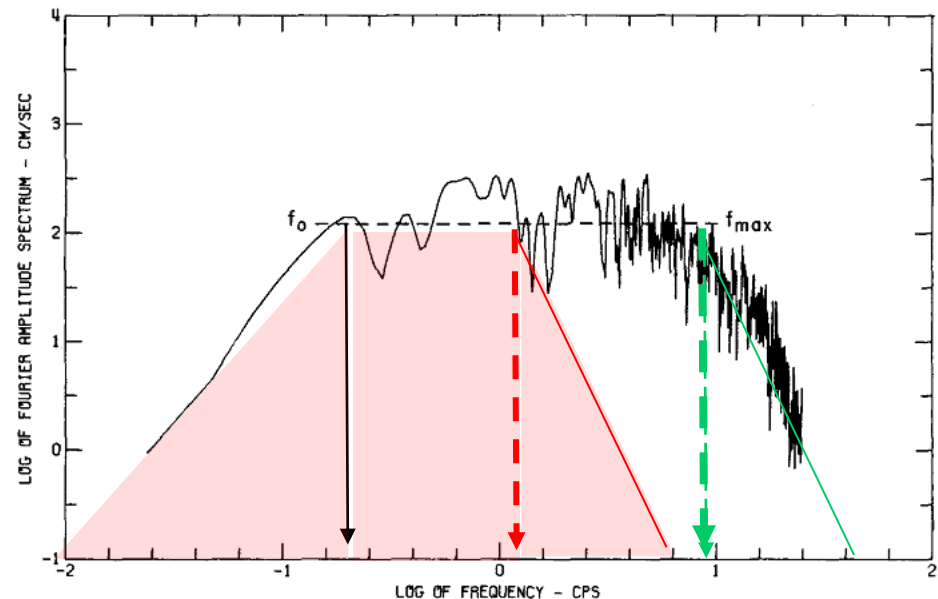


Filter on structural damage potential

$\kappa$  puts the limit on  $a_{rms}$  computation (Singh et al., 1989)

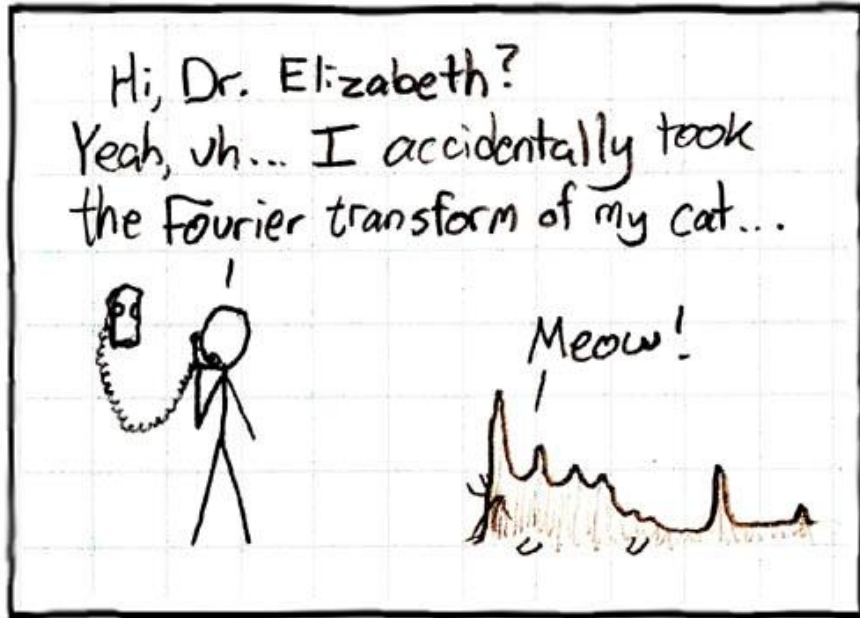
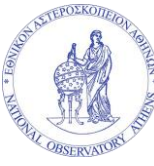
$$a_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{T_d} \int_0^{\kappa} a^2(f) df}$$

- where does the integration stop?
- for small  $\kappa$  it can go on for quite long

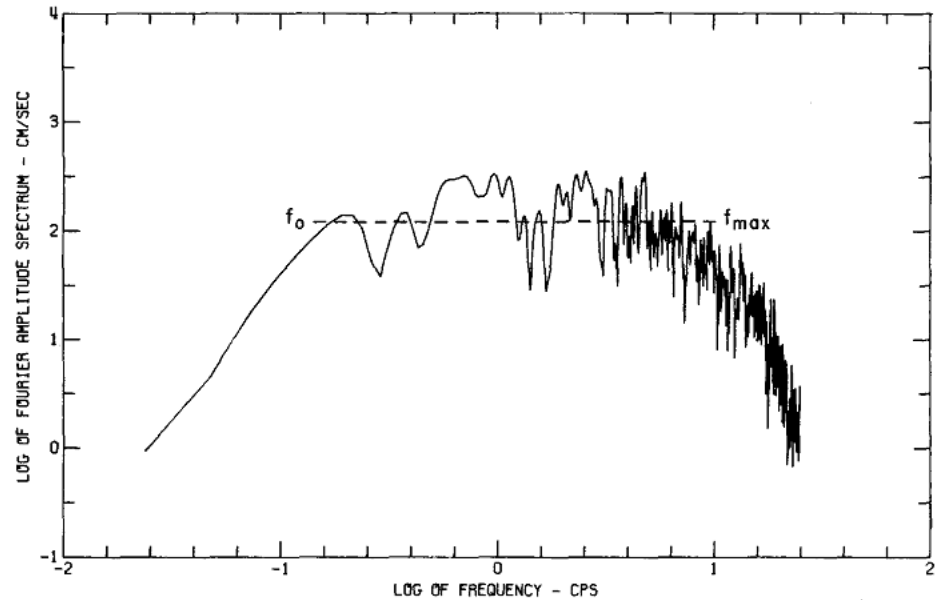


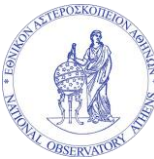


# In seismological terms



xkcd (2005)



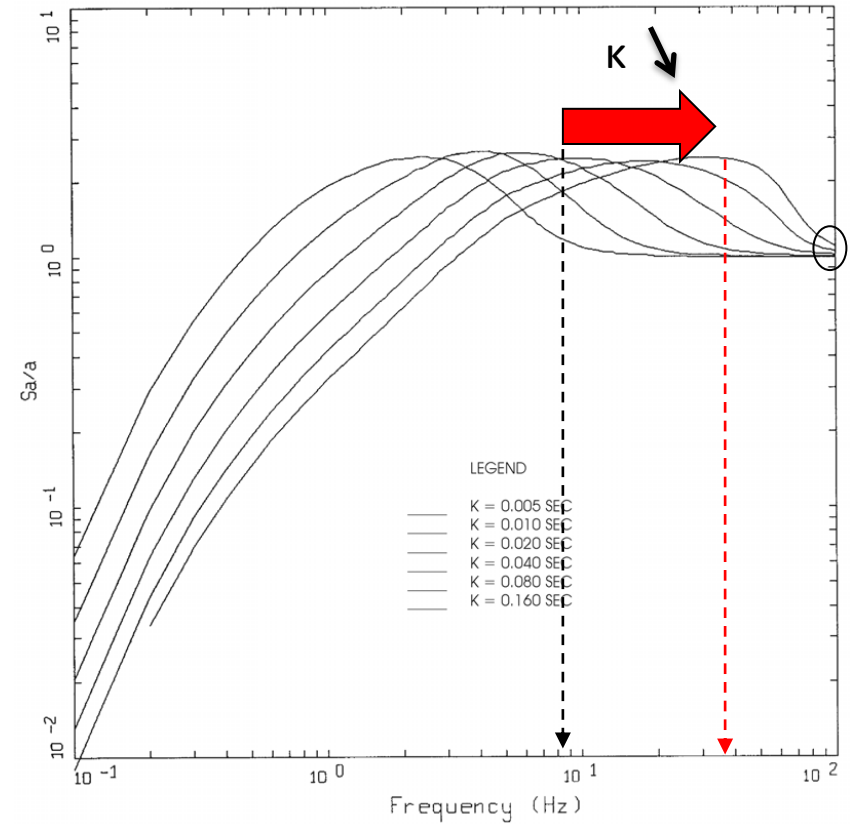
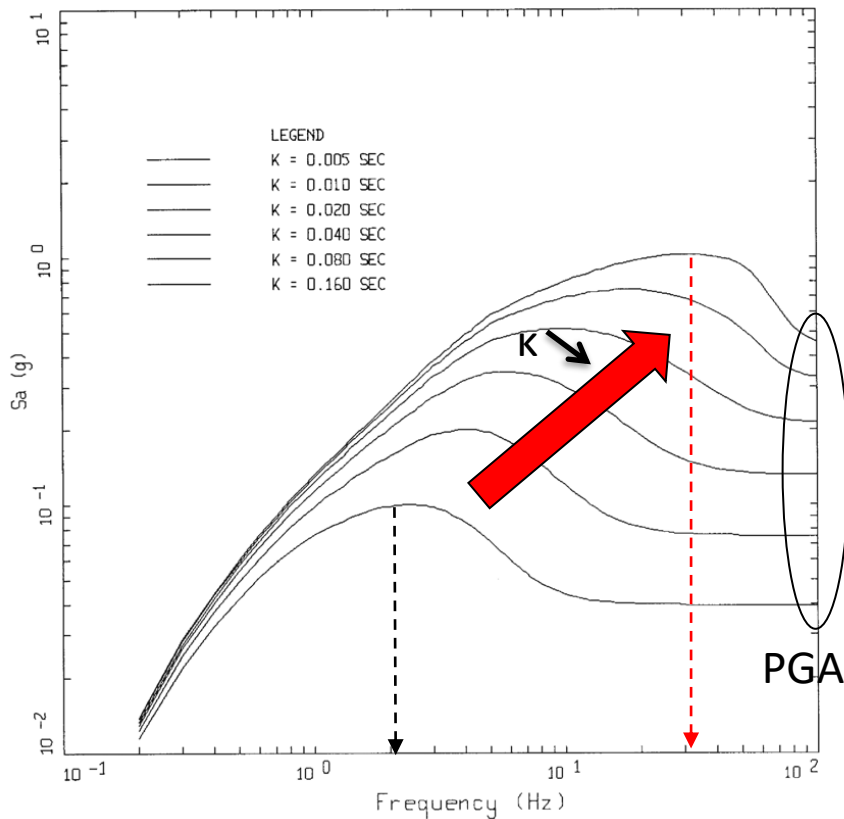


# In engineering terms

For response spectra:  $\kappa$  is where it peaks

$$f_{\text{peak}} = 40 \text{ Hz}, \kappa = 0.005 \text{ s}$$

$$f_{\text{peak}} = 10 \text{ Hz}, \kappa = 0.020 \text{ s}$$



1

Silva et al., 1998



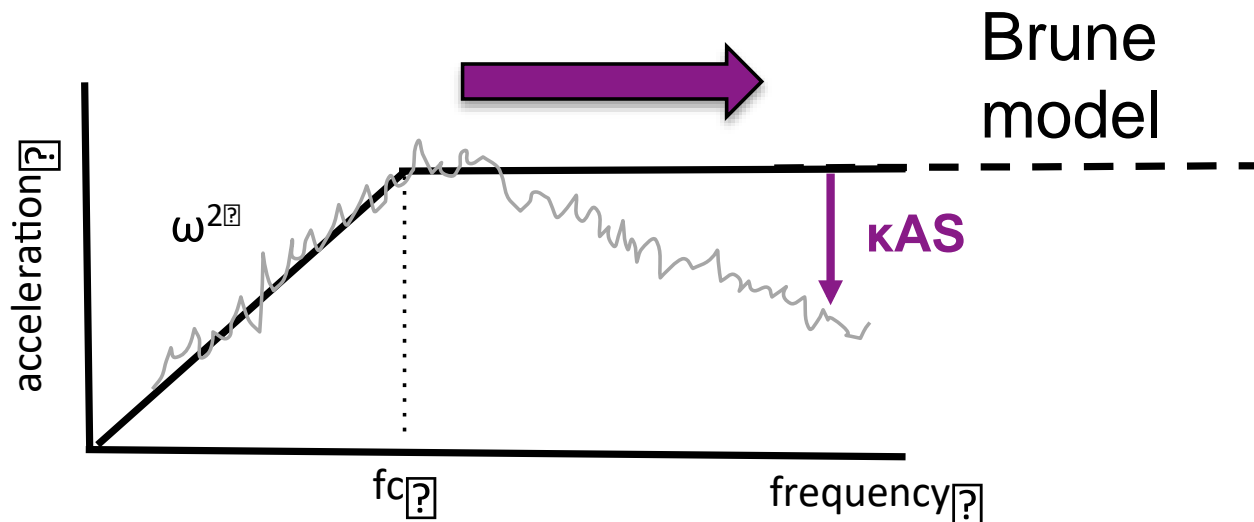
# Inherent issue.....

$\kappa$ : characterises a profile but is not a property per se!  
...defined and measured as the deviation from an assumed theoretical model

...measured as absence!

as opposed to...

$V_s$ : a material property - usually directly measured





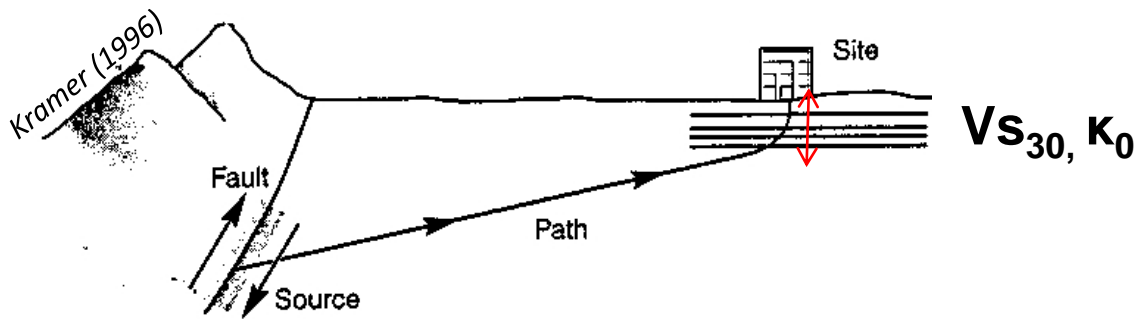
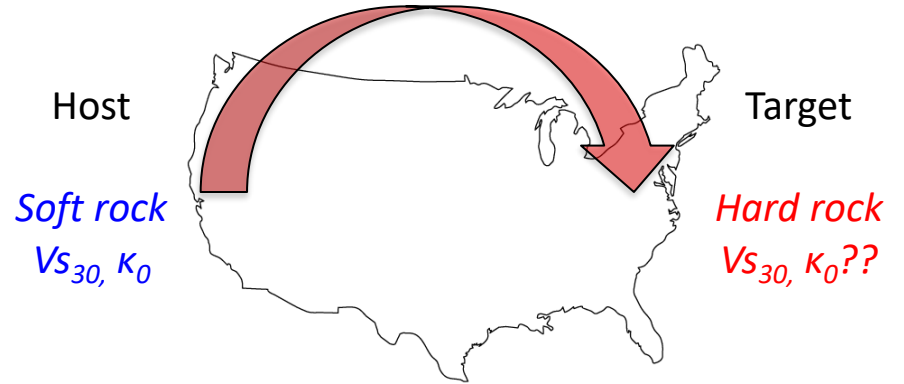
**Some issues  
with hard-rock  $\kappa$   
for PSHA**



# Adjustments

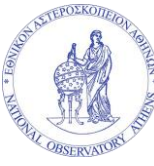


adjusting **soft** to **hard rock**

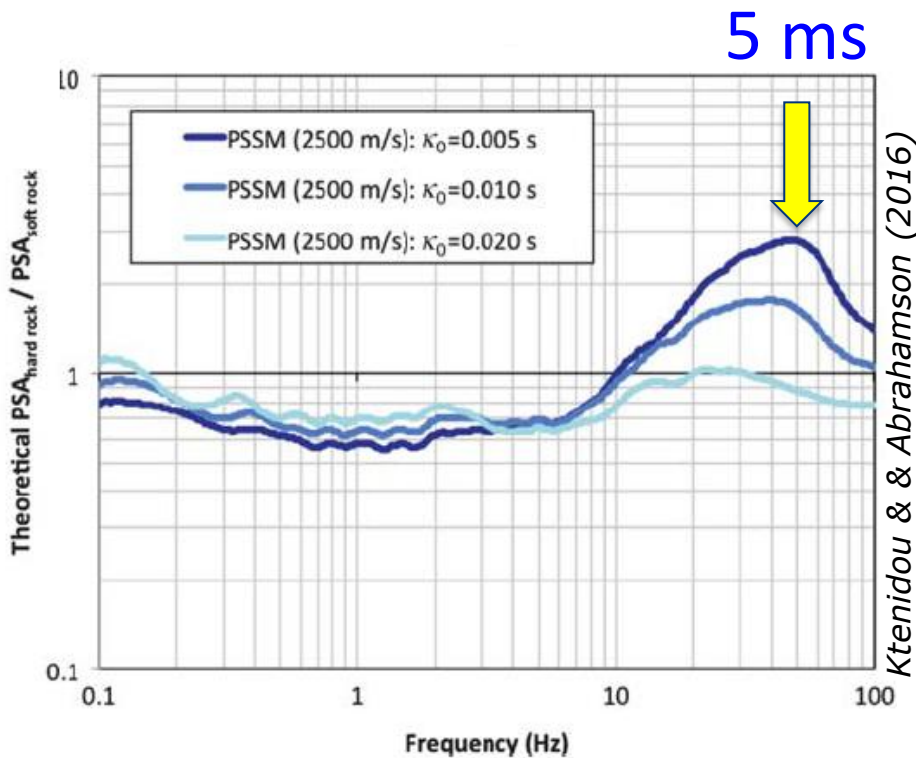
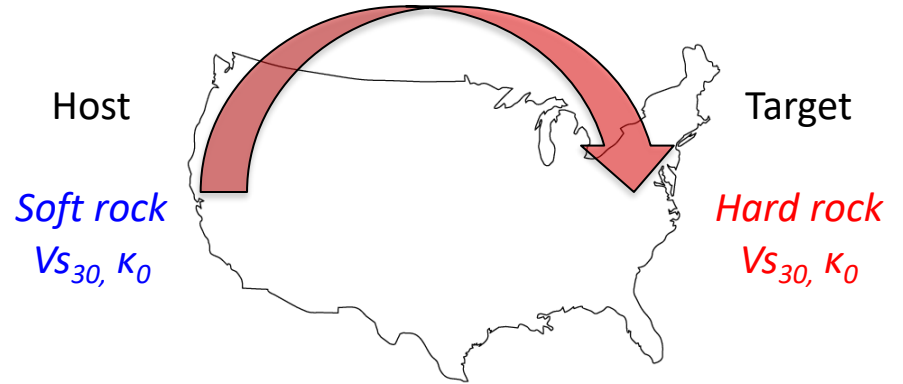




# Problem with current methods



things that go bump  
in HFs



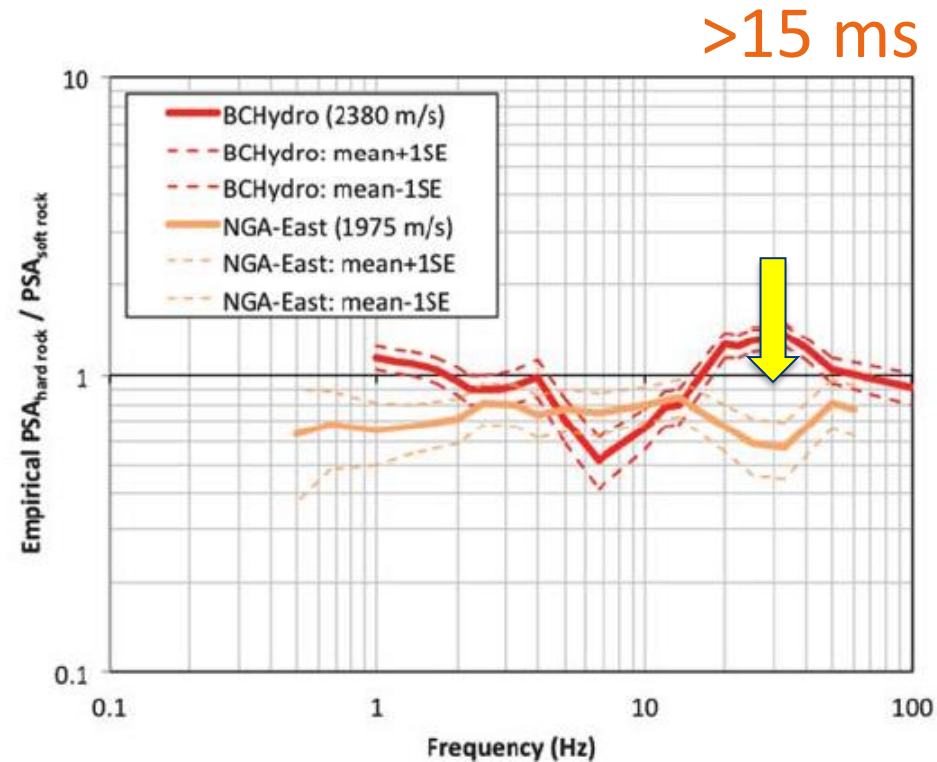
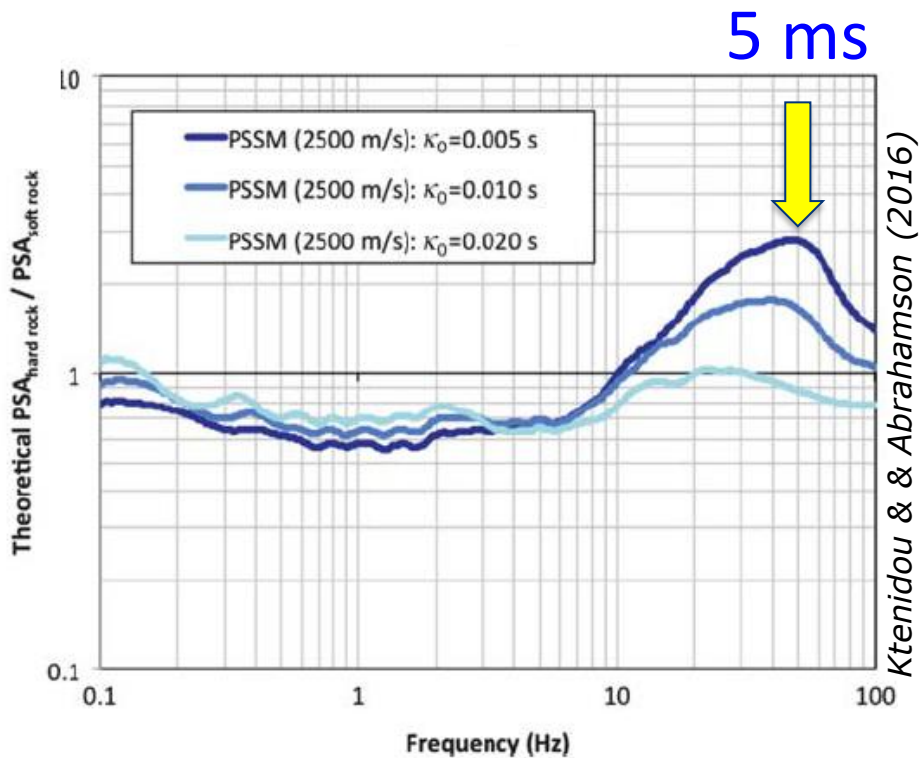
typically, tiny  $\kappa_0$   
values for hard rock

lead to increased ground  
motion at high frequencies



# Problem with current methods

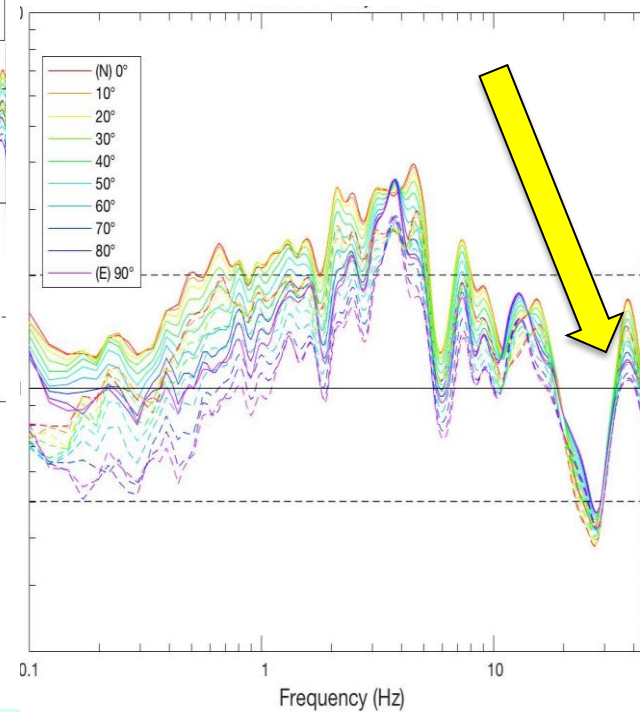
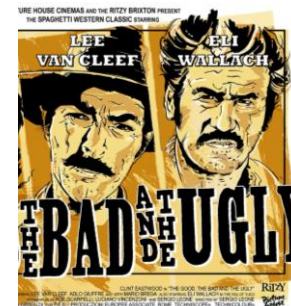
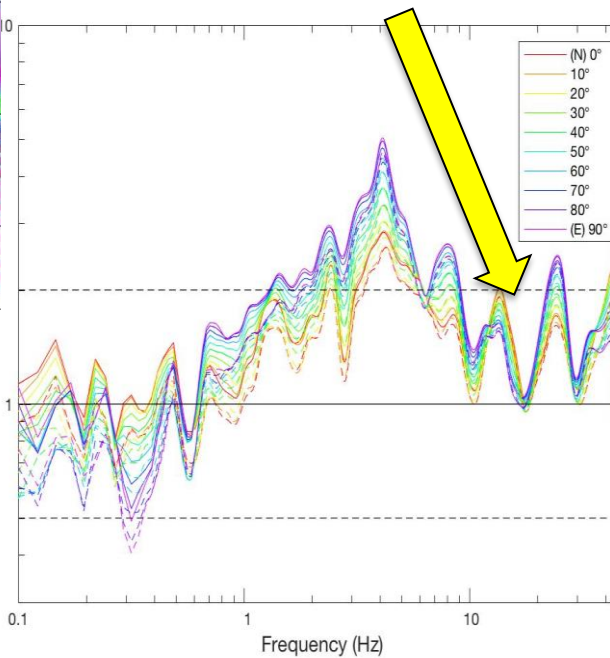
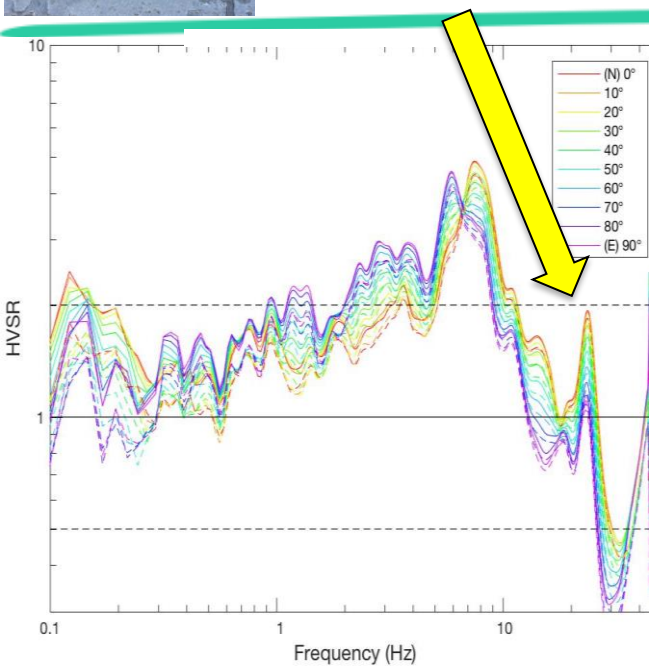
such amplification from theoretical estimates not confirmed by data



**When we have data**

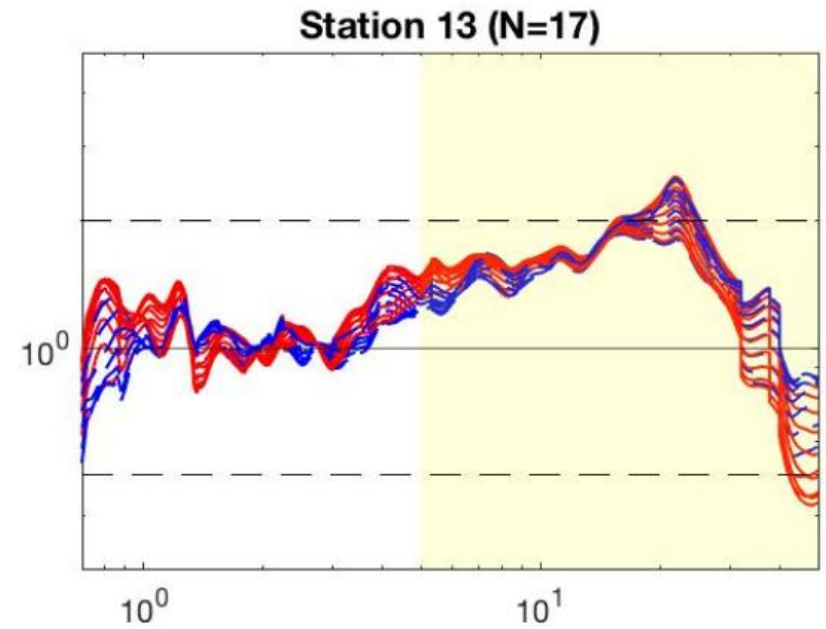
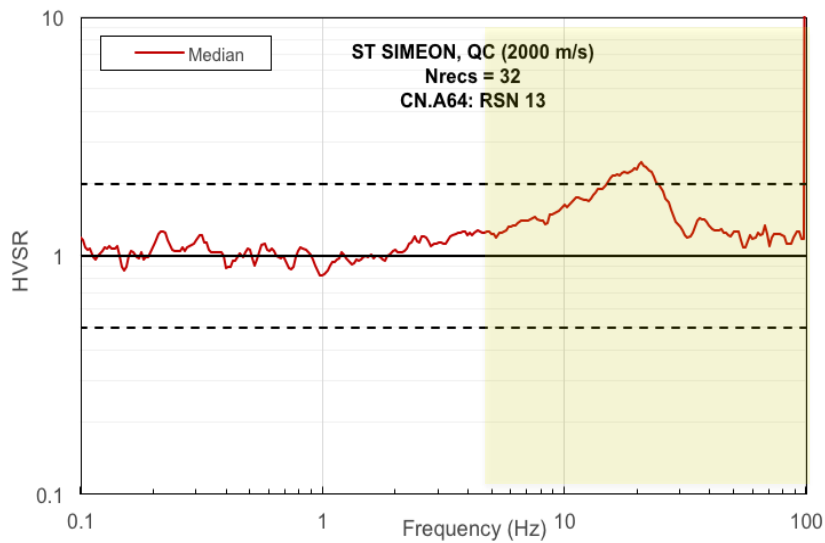
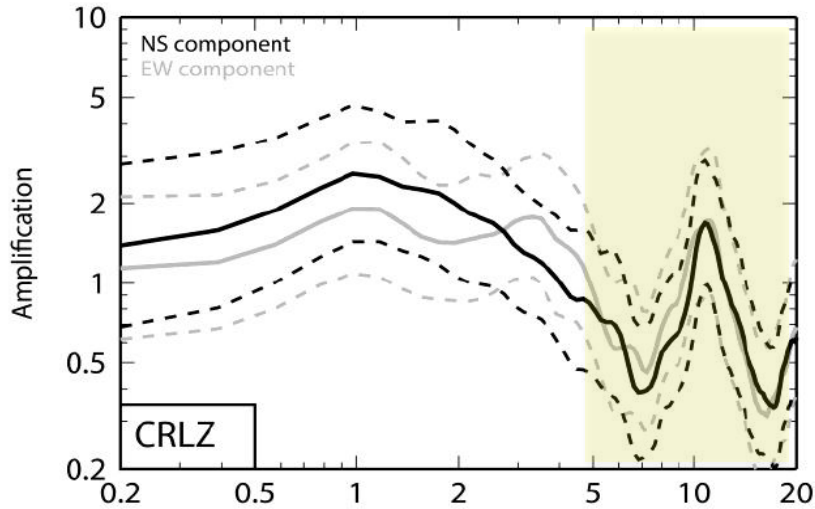


# Bad & ugly rock sites





# Bad & ugly rock sites



*Ktenidou & friends -- various*



# Rock definition schemes

Ground type	Description of stratigraphic profile	Parameters
		$v_{s,30}$ (m/s)
A	Rock or other rock-like geological formation, including at most 5 m of weaker material at the surface.	> 800

EC8  
CEN (2004)

Soil class	Description	$V_{s,30}$ (m/s)
A	Hard rock	>1500
B	Rock	760-1500

NEHRP  
BSSC (2004)

	Ground class	Stiff	Medium stiff
Depth class	$V_{s,H}$ range $H_{800}$ range	$400 \text{ m/s} \leq V_{s,H} < 800 \text{ m/s}$	$250 \text{ m/s} \leq V_{s,H} < 400 \text{ m/s}$
Very shallow	$H_{800} \leq 5 \text{ m}$	A	A

EC8 new draft  
CEN/TC 250/SC 8 (2021)

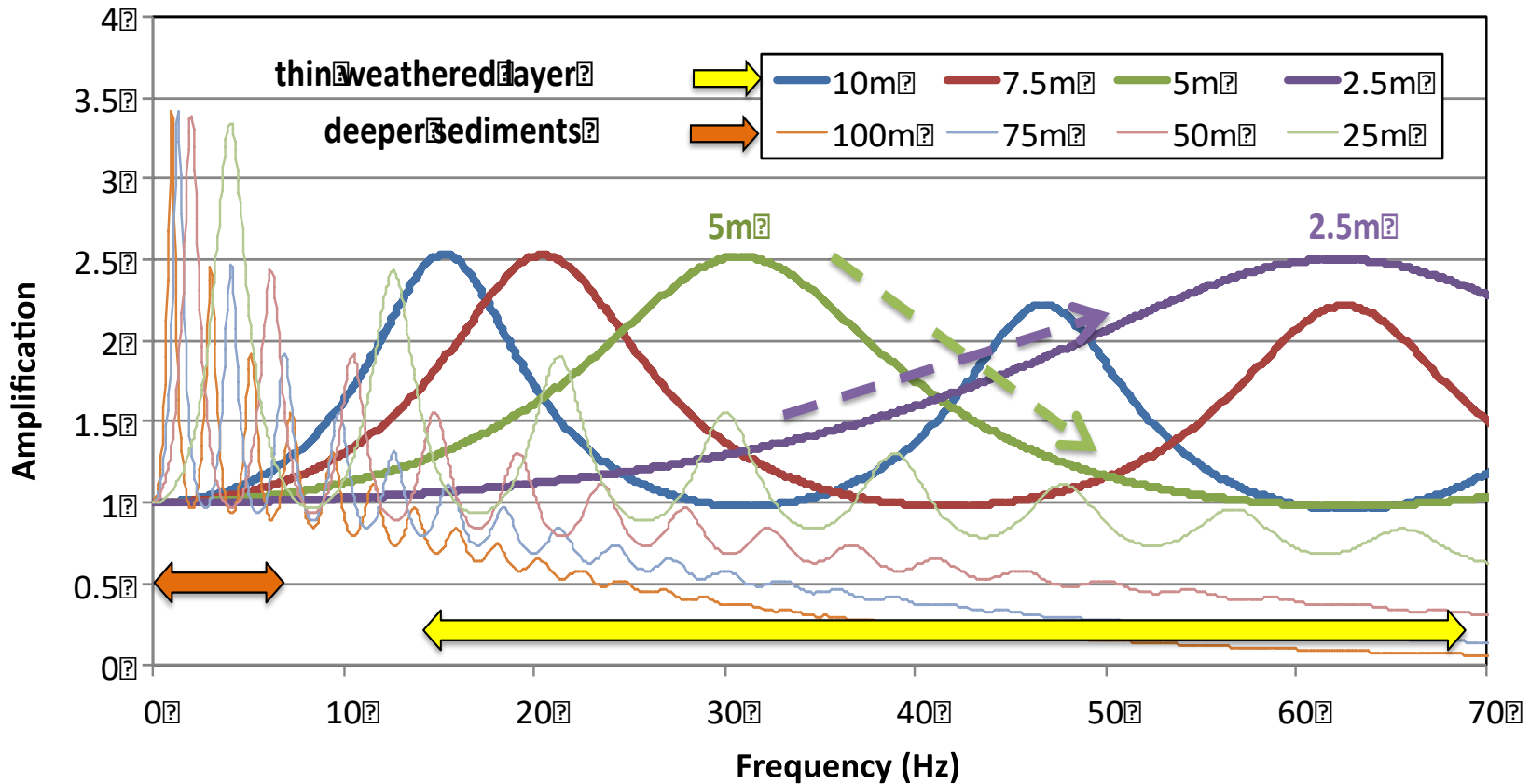
➔ thanks to R. Paolucci !!

Combination of $f_0$ (Hz) and $V_{s,H}$ (m/s)	Site category
$f_0 > 10$ and $V_{s,H} \geq 250$	A



# Resonances

Low (soil) vs. high (rock) resonant frequencies  
Effect of a varying thickness of the weathered layer  
Also, damping dictates HF TF slope



...and other kinds of resonance (Cranswick in 1980s)

**When we dont**

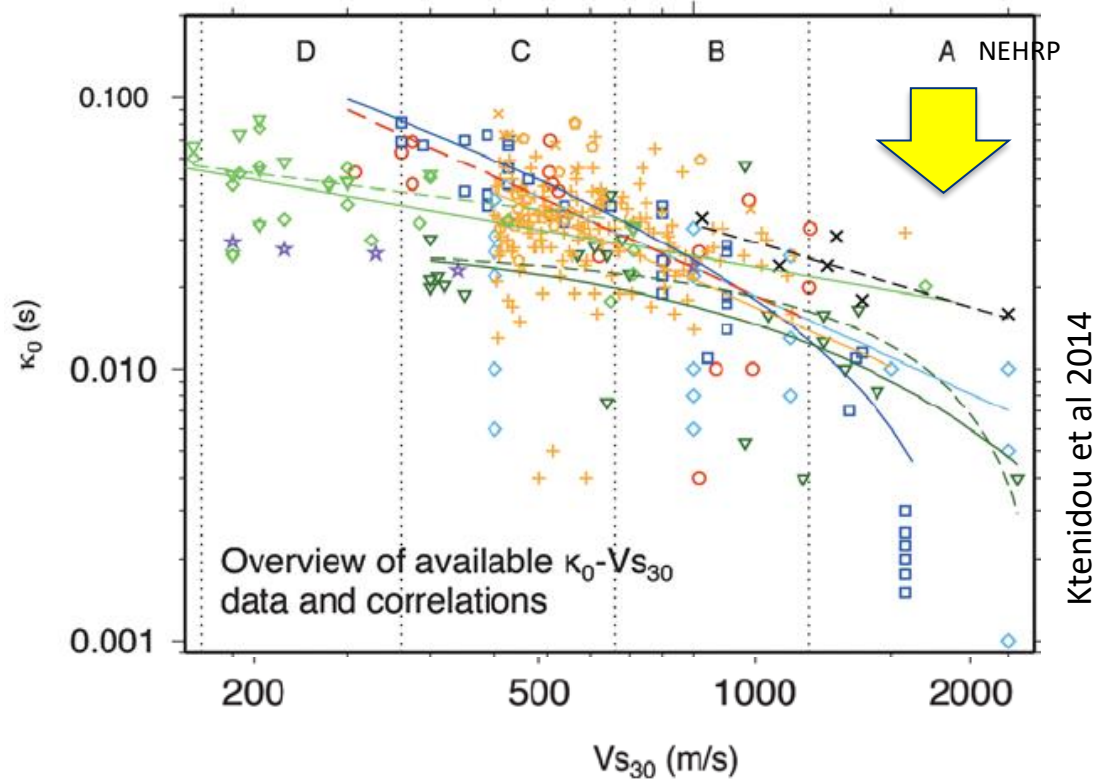




“If you don’t give me numbers (from data), I’ll make them up”  
- Norm Abrahamson, on engineers



“If you don’t give me numbers (from data), I’ll make them up”  
- Norm Abrahamson, on engineers

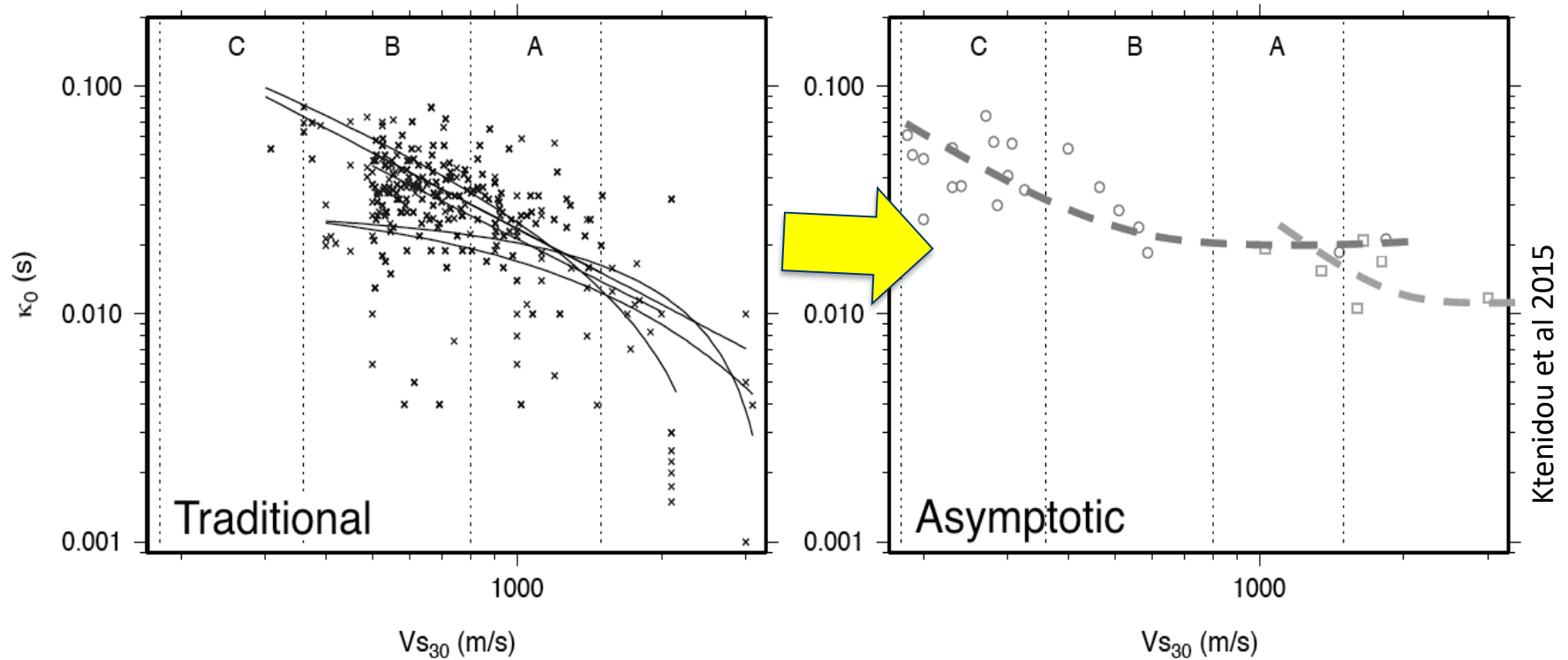


Empirical correlations all assume infinitely decreasing damping with  $V_s / G$

scatter & lack of data  
lack of physical meaning

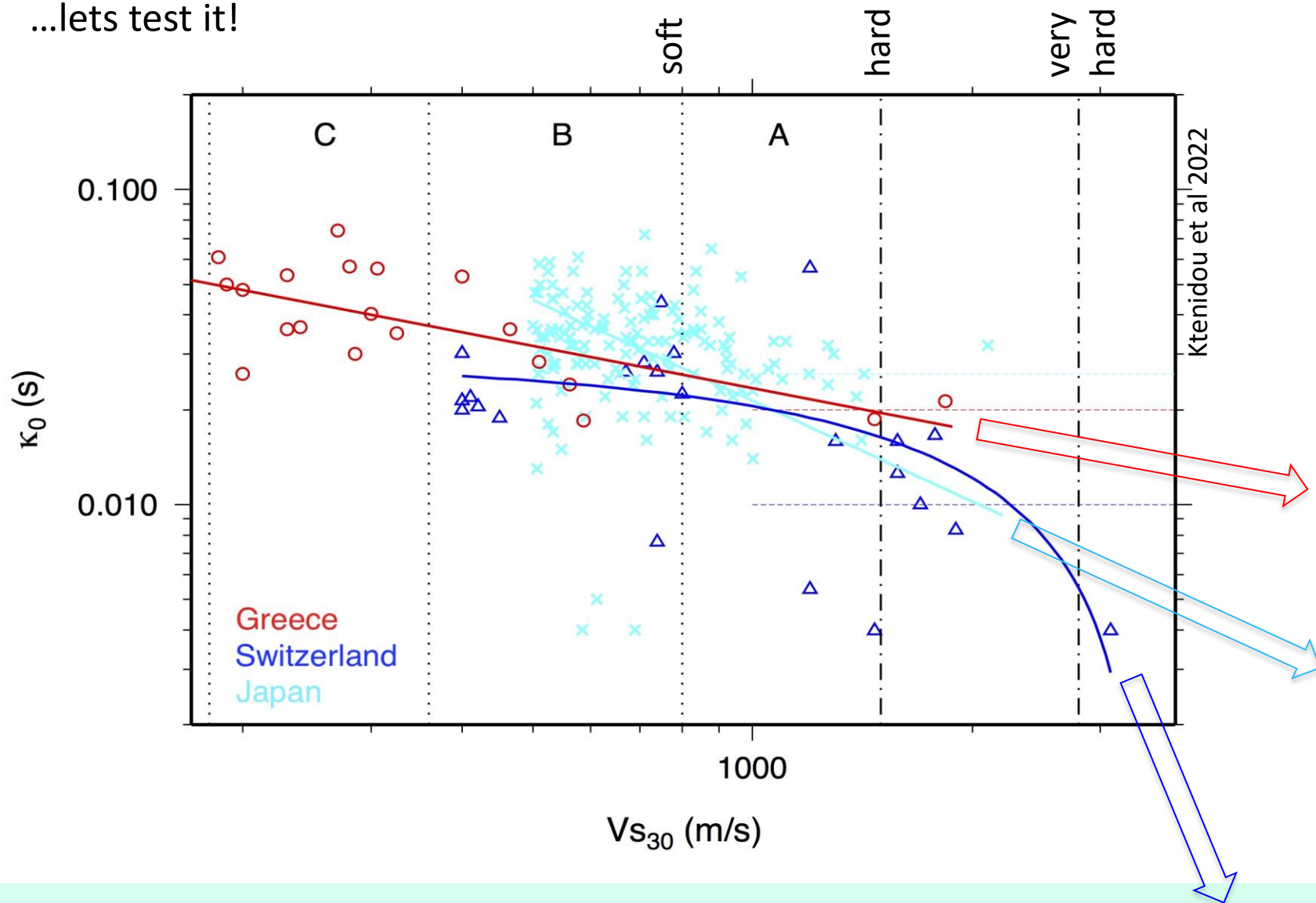


2015 asymptotic model:  
minimum values for different kinds of hard rock, constant within it



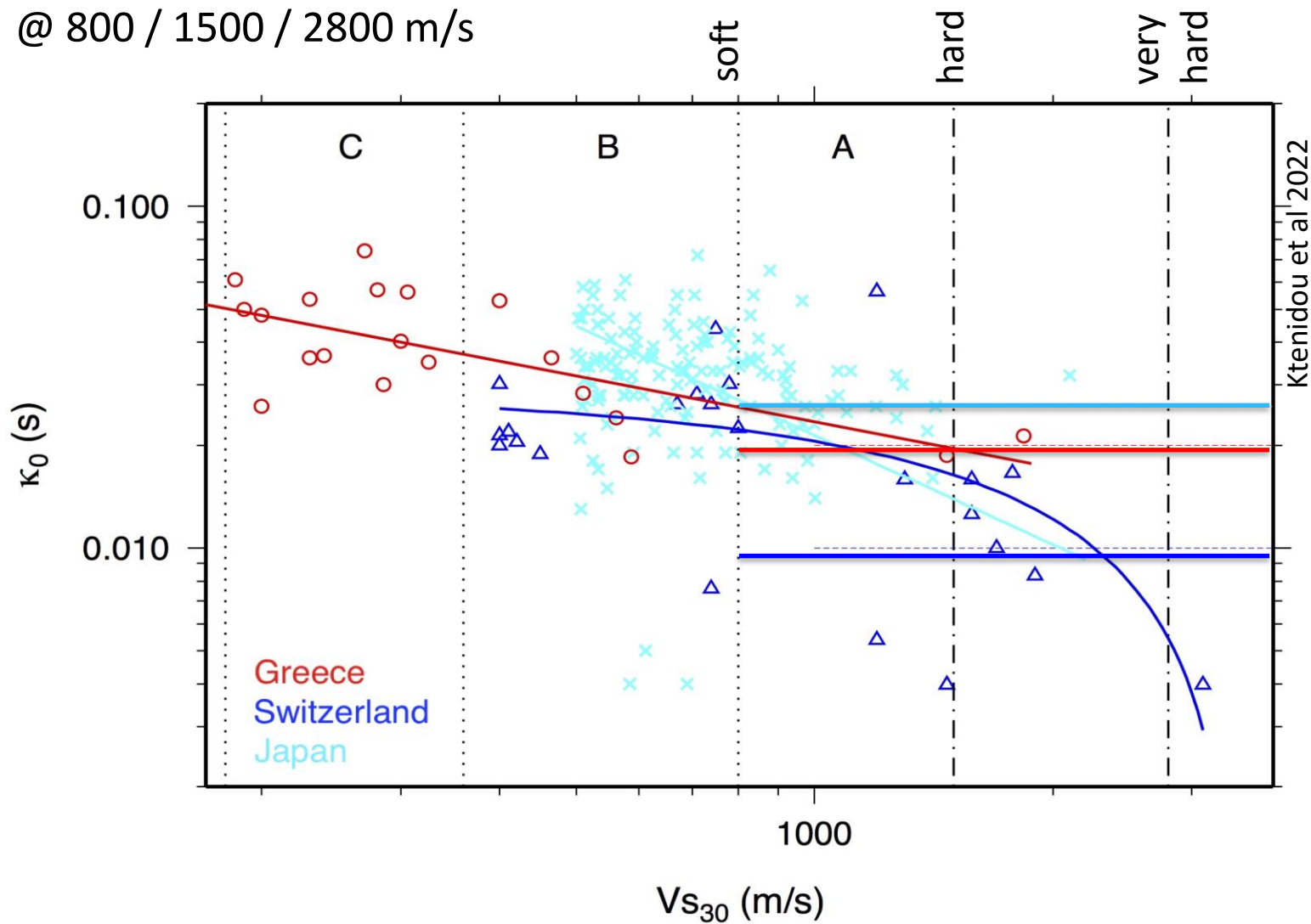


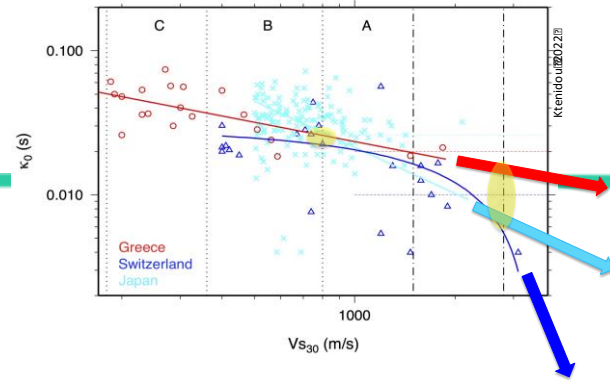
...lets test it!





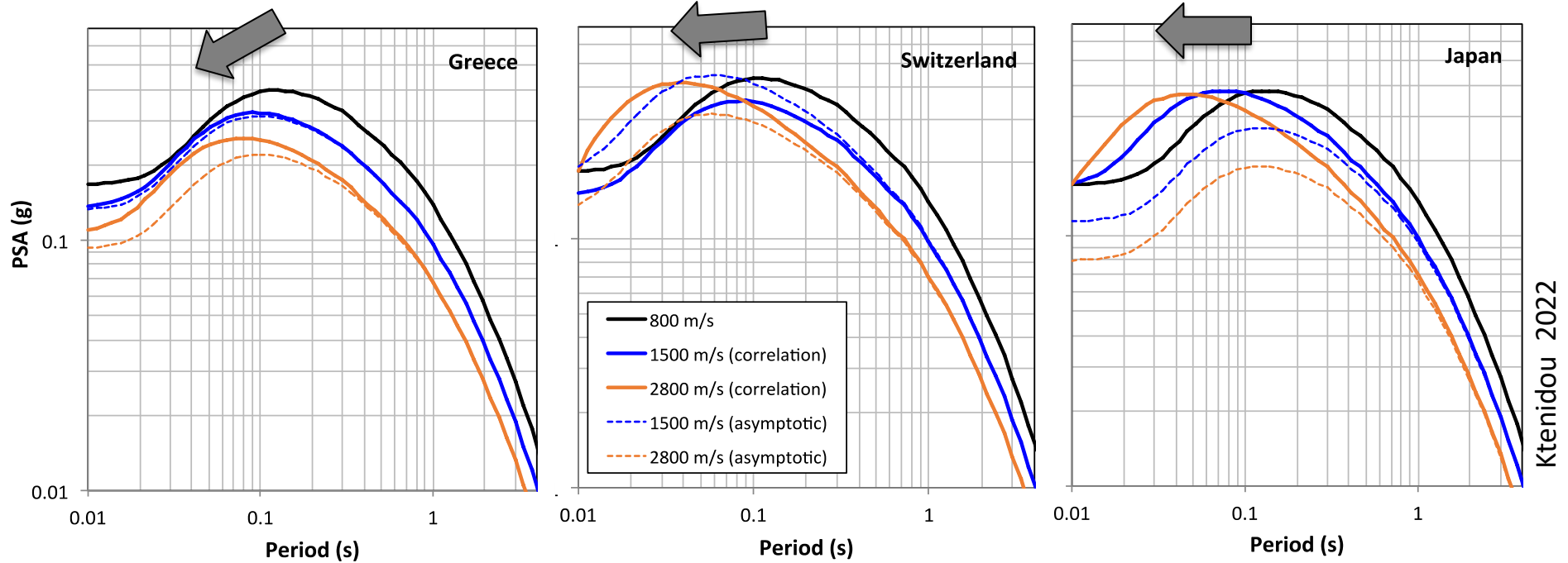
@ 800 / 1500 / 2800 m/s



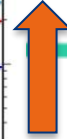
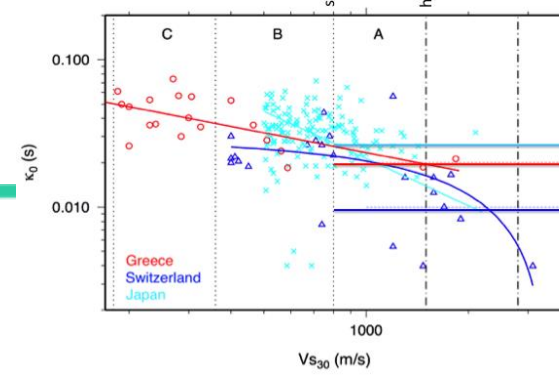


M6 @ 20 km (stochastic simulations)

Traditional ever-decreasing model: soft → hard → very hard

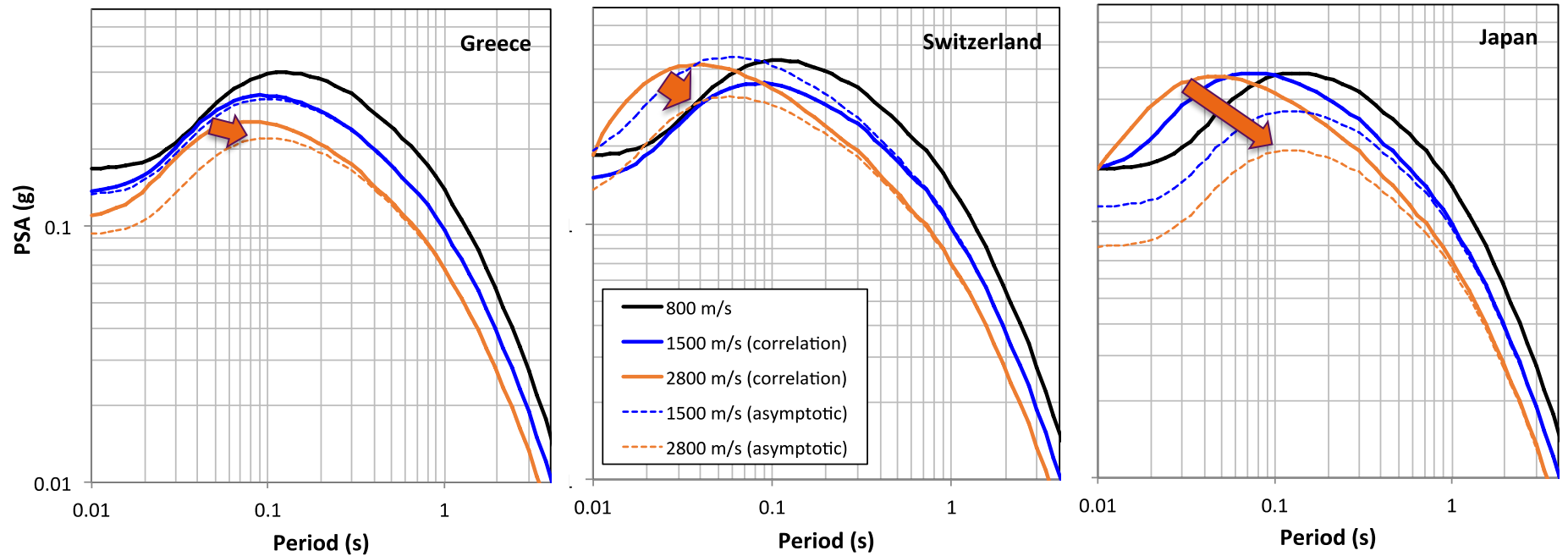






M6 @ 20 km

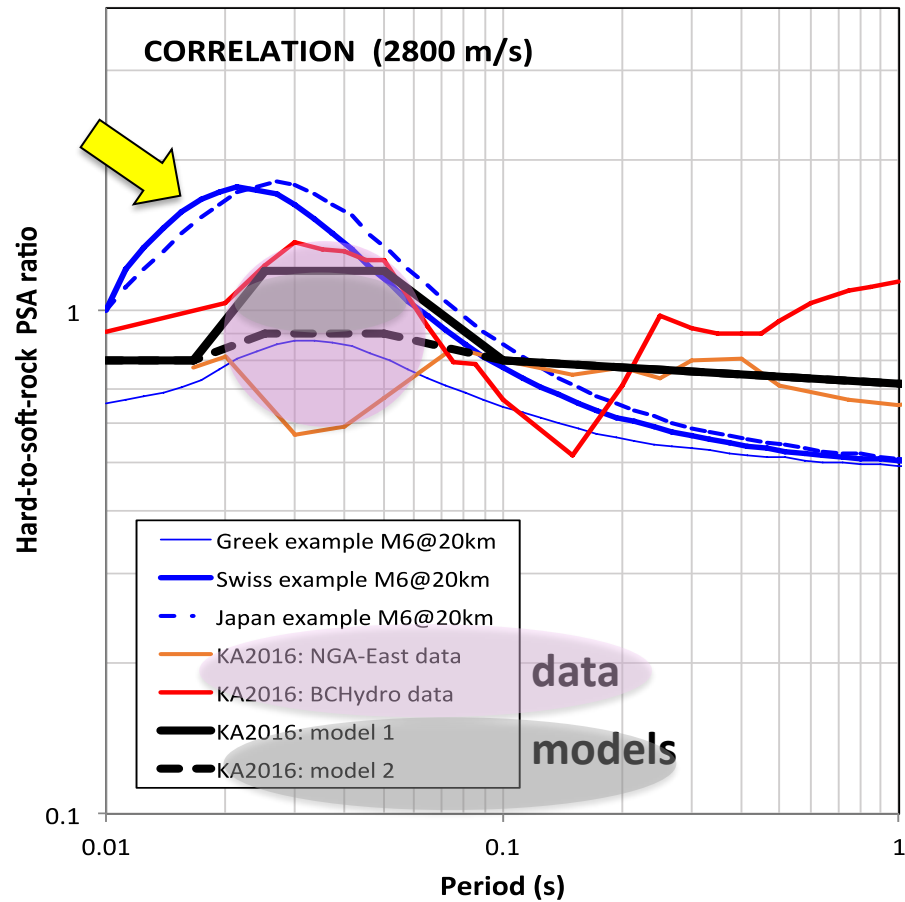
Asymptotic model: much lower GM on VHR: soft → hard → very hard



ΚΤΕΝΙΔΟΥ 2022

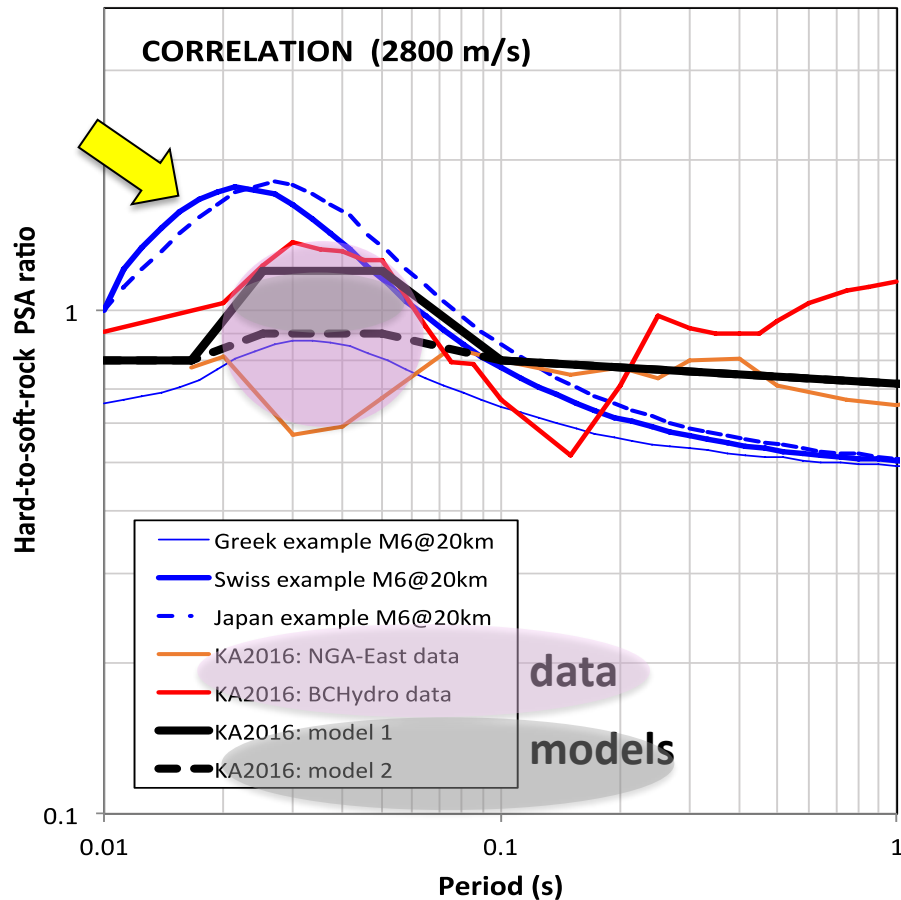


## Traditional ever-decreasing model

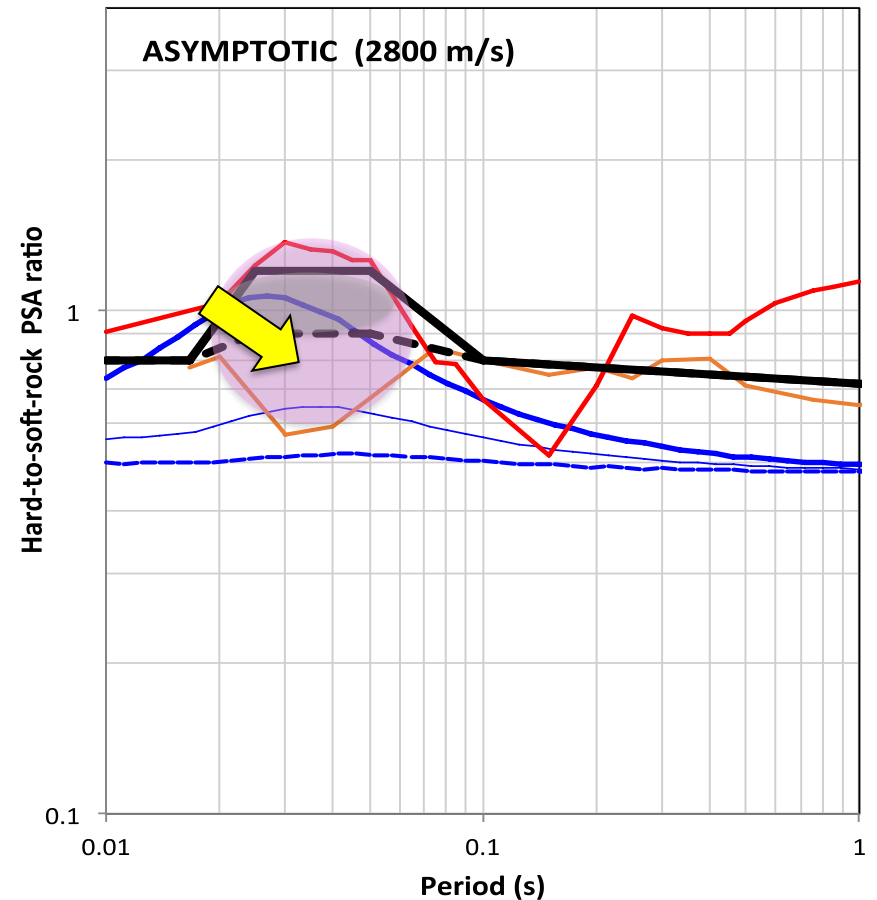




## Traditional ever-decreasing model



## Asymptotic model



**Final thoughts  
looking forward**



So...



Practice right now is overpredicting HF GM:

- Measured HR attenuation is not necessarily 'clean' damping
- Stiffness is not necessarily a proxy for HR damping

Data confrontations do not confirm these working hypotheses.

Need:

- More (good, high-sampled) observations on hard rock sites
- New tools & methods to get to higher frequencies robustly



# As long as you don't....

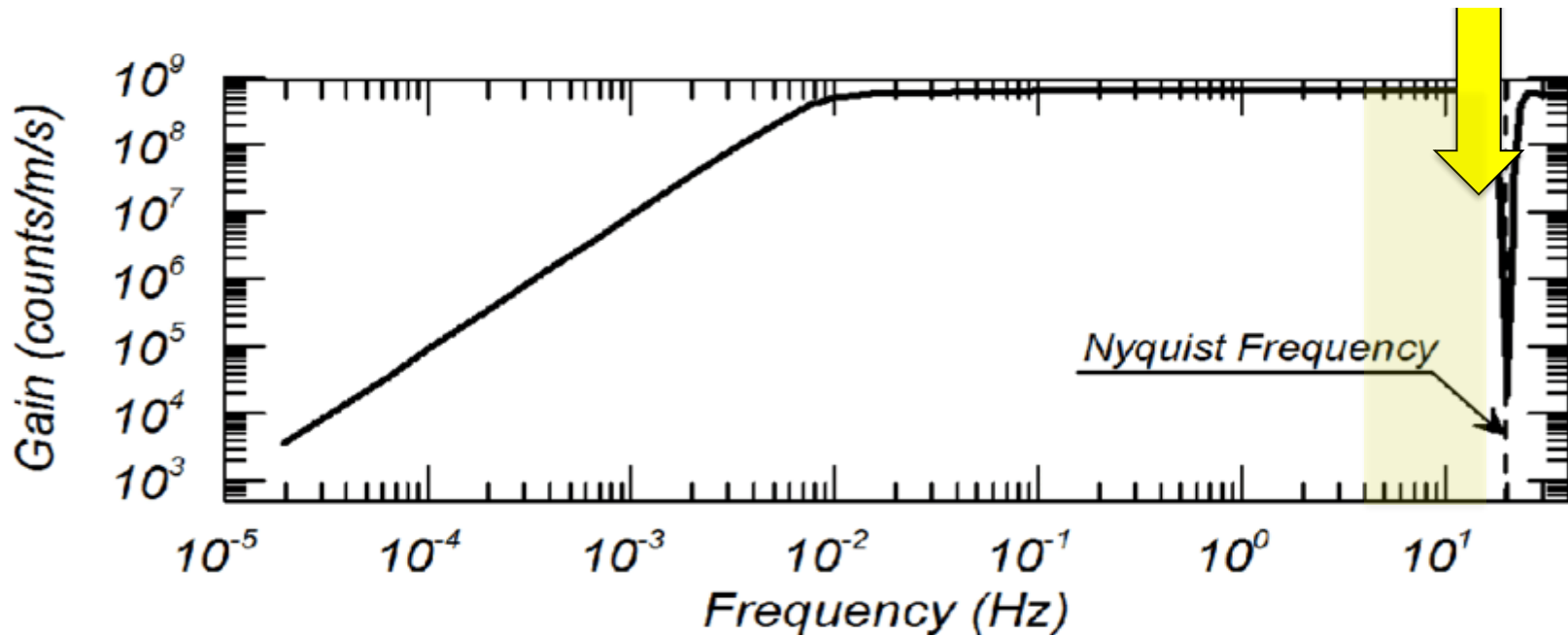
The International Daily Iconoclast by Gzinko & Clark



- **sampling rate / Nyquist**  
(e.g. TA, <20 Hz !!)



Blinders provide focus, but also limits.



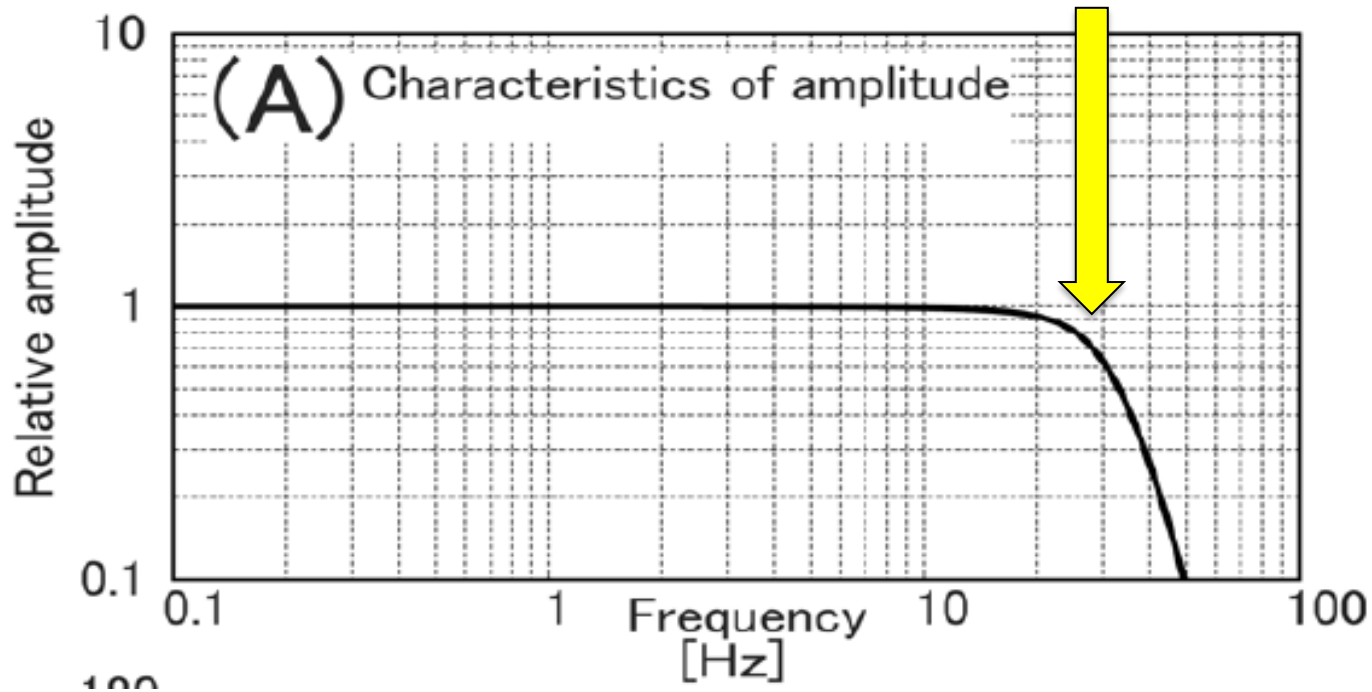




# As long as you don't....



- **sensor filters** (e.g. Kik-net, Knet, <30 Hz)

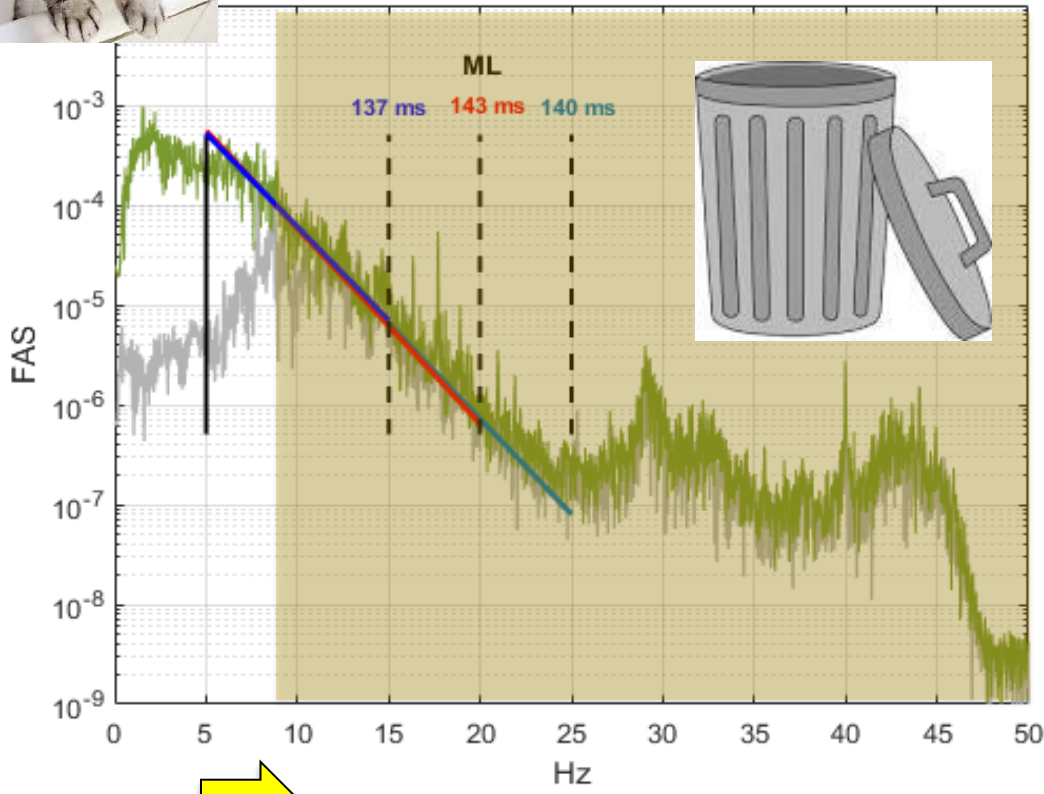


*Aoi et al., 2004*

...this can help

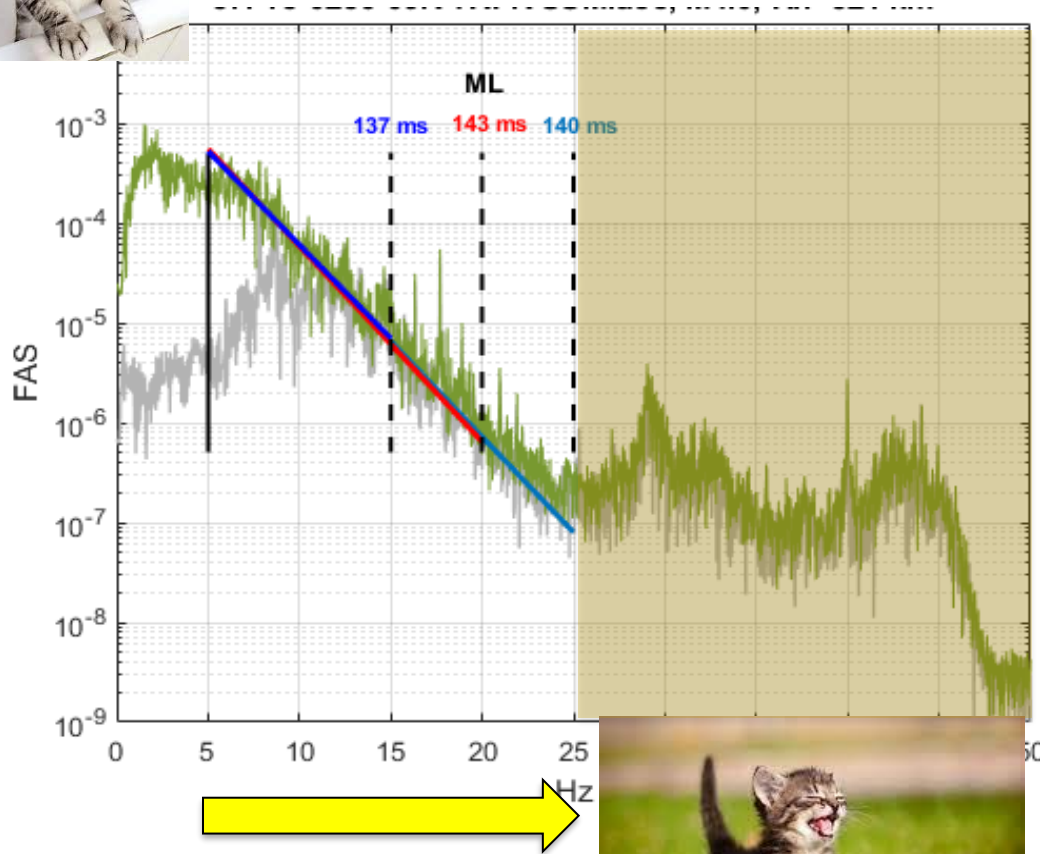


Ktenidou & Pikoulis (2022)





# ...this can help



Pikoulis et al. (2020):

- noise modelling, not avoidance
- extend usability to HFs + render unusable records exploitable
- for  $\kappa$  as well as amp
- more robust estimate – likely systematic underestimation in global values



# Keep in touch or help wash the dog!



Visit, call or write to discuss more!

[olga.ktenidou@noa.gr](mailto:olga.ktenidou@noa.gr)



# The end







# Cross-disciplinary brainstorming



towards a quantitative assessment of the fluffiness of cats?



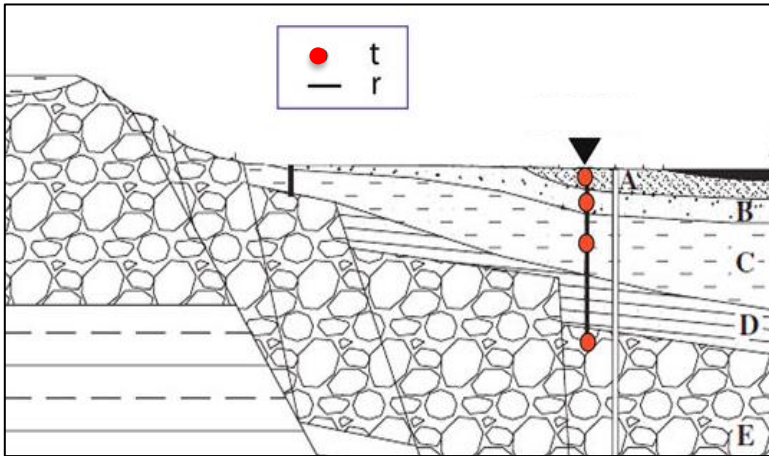




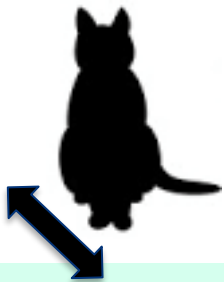


# Amplification

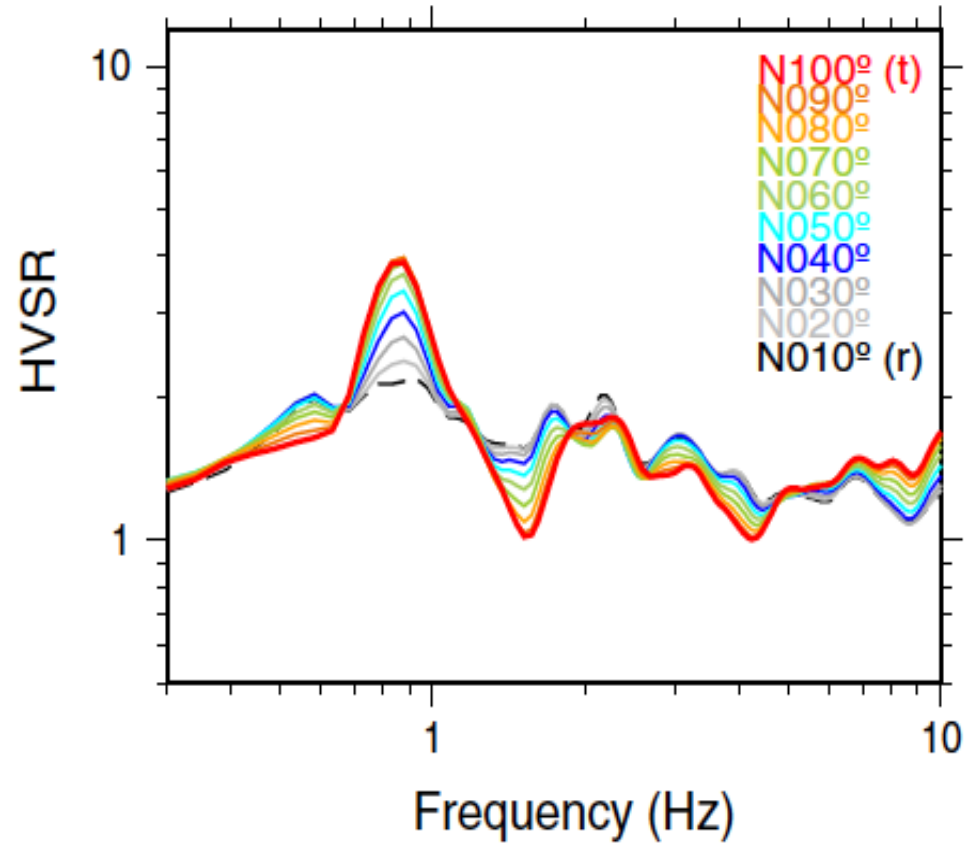
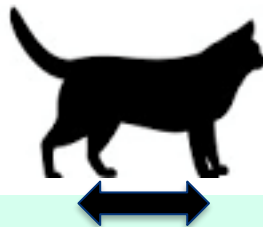
## Directionality



trasvrse (N100)



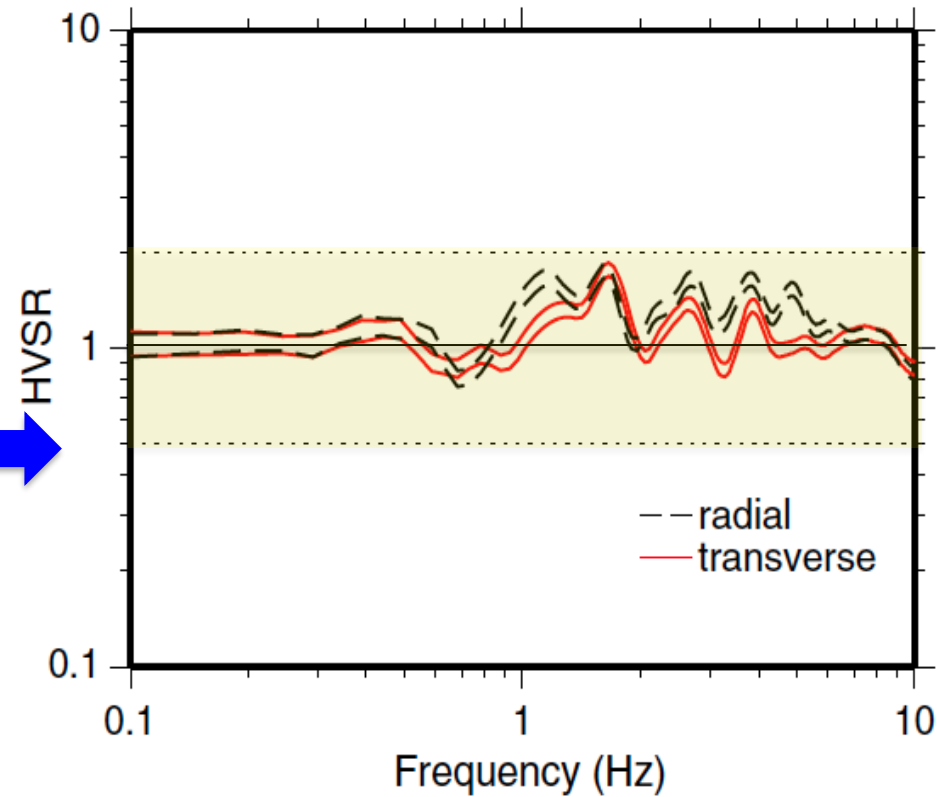
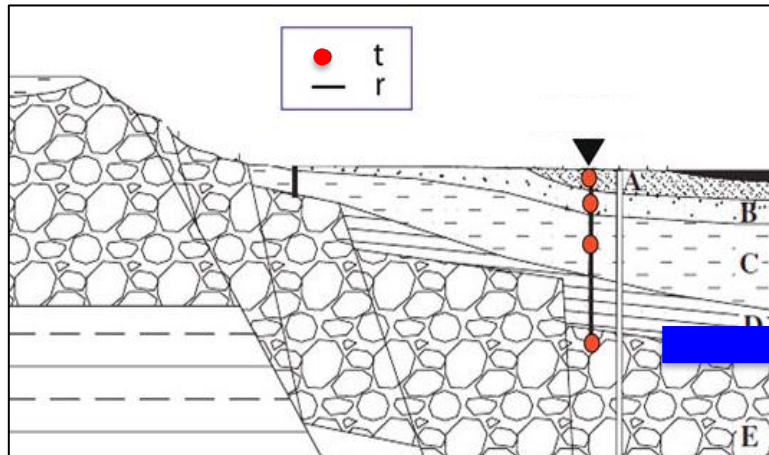
radial (N010)





# Amplification

Reference conditions



... always so??