

# Feature-Based Bayesian Inference for Seismic Event Monitoring

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WAVEFORMS



*Exceptional  
service  
in the  
national  
interest*



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## ■ Challenge:

- Detecting and Locating very weak seismic signals requires sensor fusion and utilizing more information for signal waveforms
- Uncertainty quantification is essential since decisions will have to be made based on limited knowledge about the complexities of the models, sensors, and data
- Historic data or simulations will need to be used to understand these complexities and synthesize them into simpler/tractable models that we can use for monitoring

## ■ Potential Impact:

- Facilitate high consequence decision making by providing event information with well calibrated confidences for very weak signals in domains with little historic data
- Provide a framework for data fusion to integrate multi fidelity and phenomenology data
- Enable experimental design methods to quantify a monitoring network's ability to detect events and test improvements to the network/processing system



- **The Bayesian Perspective:**

- Probability distributions quantify uncertainty due to insufficient information
- Bayesian methods for identification and estimation are critical to robust decision-making

- **Target Contribution:**

- Take a Bayesian approach to waveform processing to detect and identify weak seismic events while integrating various sources of uncertainty.
- Use a unique statistical framework and novel computational methods to make waveform-based Bayesian inference tractable

- **General Approach:**

- Formulate an inference problem based upon predicting waveform features instead of the waveforms themselves
- Simulate waveforms to build a statistical model of waveform features with uncertainty
- Use Sequential Tempered Markov Chain Monte Carlo to efficiently identify events



# Talk Outline

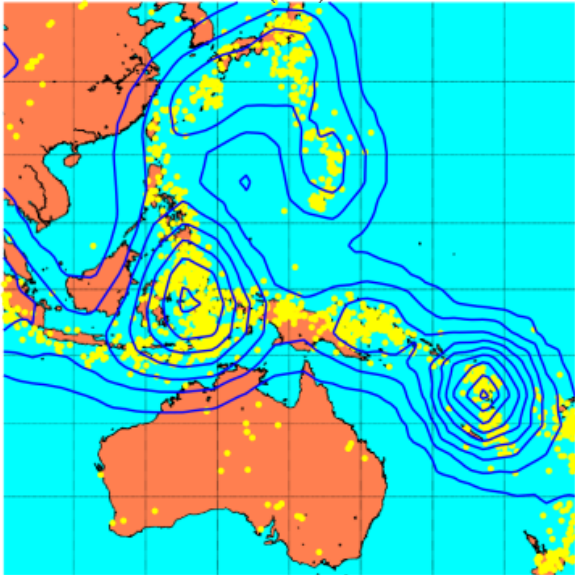
- 1. Formulation of Seismic Monitoring as a Bayesian Inference Problem**
- 2. Feature-Based Bayesian Inference**
- 3. Building the Feature-Based Inference Workflow**
- 4. Example with synthetic data**
- 5. Challenge with Real data**
- 6. Future work and Conclusion**



# **BAYESIAN INFERENCE FOR SEISMIC EVENT LOCALIZATION**

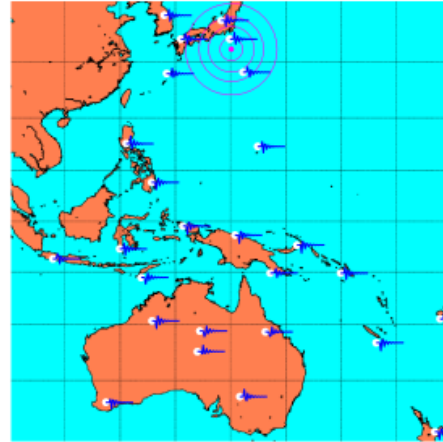
# The Bayesian Framework

Prior:  $p(\theta)$



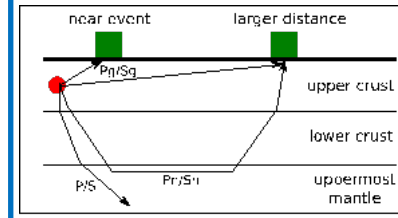
Knowledge about where events are likely to occur

Data:  $\mathcal{D}$



Likelihood:  $p(\mathcal{D} | \theta)$

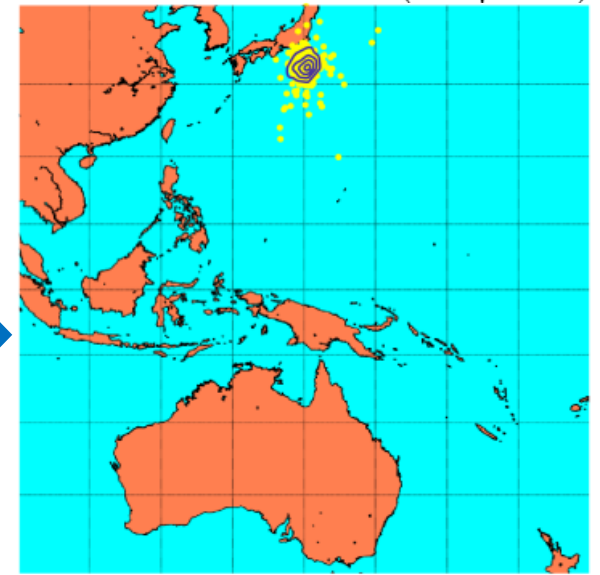
Physics Model  
Sensor Model  
Uncertainty Model



Bayes' Theorem:

$$p(\theta | \mathcal{D}) = \frac{p(\mathcal{D} | \theta) p(\theta)}{p(\mathcal{D})}$$

Posterior:  $p(\theta | \mathcal{D})$



Updated knowledge about where a specific event occurred

## Detection-Based

### ■ Description

- Each station pre-processes their observed waveforms to extract arrival “picks”
- The likelihood of an event (or events) is based upon how well the observed arrival times correspond to arrivals from seismic waves generated by the event hypothesis
- Arrival time and detection uncertainty can be integrated into the model

### ■ Examples: BayesLoc<sup>1</sup>, NET-VISA<sup>2</sup>

### ■ Advantages

- Requires only a model of travel times and not the waveform

### ■ Disadvantages

- Events that produce weak signals below the pick threshold cannot be detected, even when many sensors are combined

<sup>1</sup>Myers, S. C., Gardar Johannesson, and Robert J. Mellors. “BayesLoc: A robust location program for multiple seismic events given an imperfect earth model and error-corrupted seismic data” (2011)

<sup>2</sup>Arora, Nimar S., Stuart Russell, and Erik Sudderth. “NET-VISA: Network processing vertically integrated seismic analysis” (2013)



## Signal-Based

- **Description**
  - The likelihood of a candidate event (or events) is based upon comparing predicted waveforms given the event hypothesis, noise process, and other modeled uncertainty to the observed waveforms
- **Example:** SIG-VISA<sup>3</sup>
- **Advantages**
  - Can integrate many sensors to detect low magnitude signals
  - Waveform characteristics can contain useful information for event identification
- **Disadvantages**
  - Requires learning and evaluating a generative model of the full waveform to compute the likelihood of the observed signal

<sup>3</sup>Moore, David A., and Stuart J. Russell. "Signal-based Bayesian seismic monitoring" (2017)





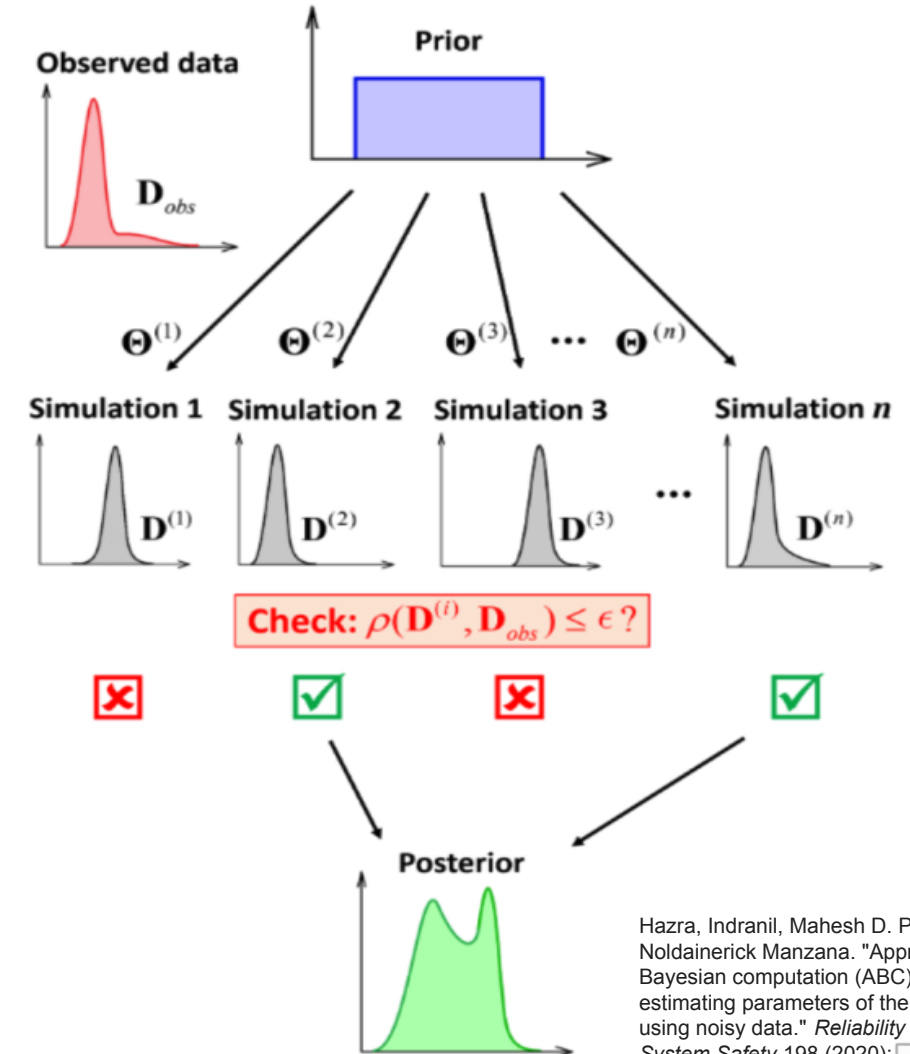
# FEATURE-BASED INFERENCE

# Traditional feature-based inference (Approximate Bayesian Computation)

## Approximate Bayesian Computation:

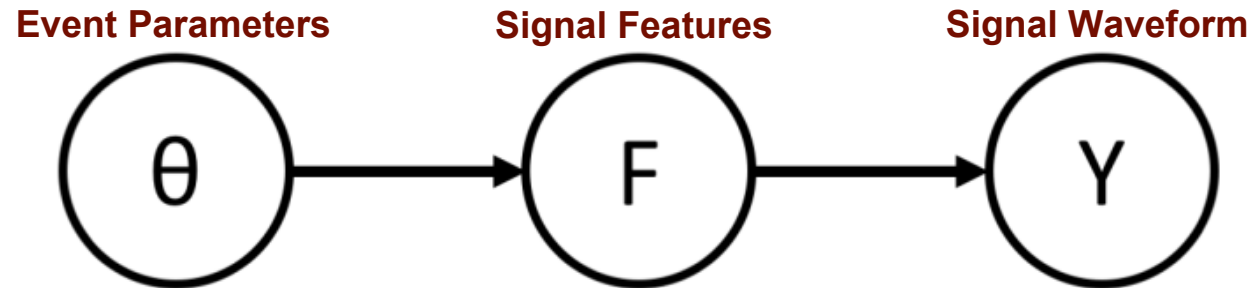
- Likelihood free inference (i.e. no full generative model) can be done approximately if you have a model for a data statistic ( $D_{obs}$ ).
- Requires that the method for computing  $D_{obs}$  is not  $\theta$  dependent e.g. mean of the data.

$$\underbrace{p(\theta | Y)}_{\text{Posterior}} = \frac{\overbrace{p(Y | \theta)}^{\text{Likelihood}} \overbrace{p(\theta)}^{\text{Prior}}}{\underbrace{p(Y)}_{\text{Evidence}}}$$



Hazra, Indranil, Mahesh D. Pandey, and Noldainerick Manzana. "Approximate Bayesian computation (ABC) method for estimating parameters of the gamma process using noisy data." *Reliability Engineering & System Safety* 198 (2020): 107005.

## Graphical Model:



## Bayesian Inference:

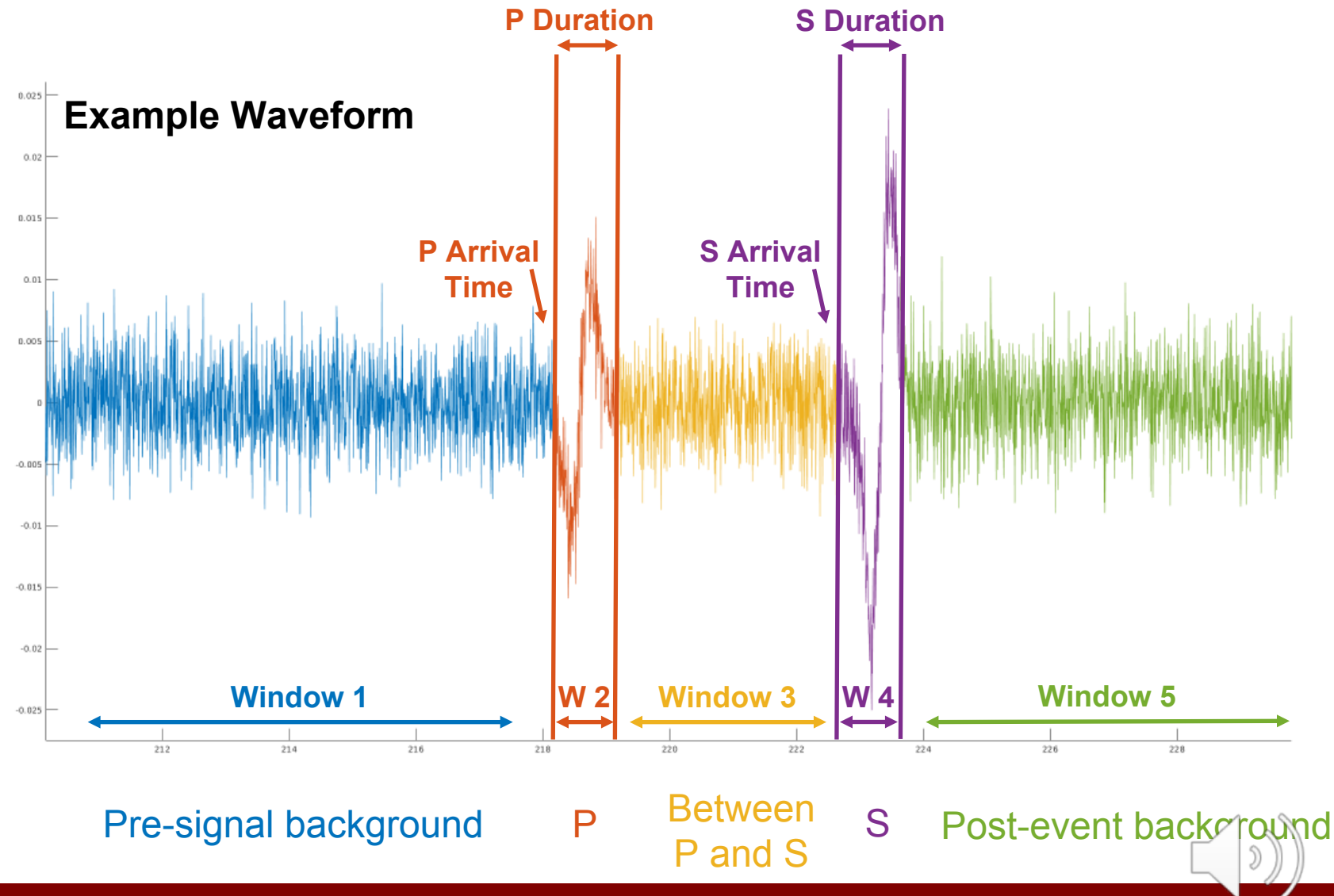
- Feature-based inference requires building statistical models for the likelihood of a signal given certain features and the likelihood of those features given an hypothesized event parameterization.
- Features can be  $\theta$  dependent.

$$\underbrace{p(\theta | Y)}_{\text{Posterior}} = \frac{\overbrace{p(Y | \theta)}^{\text{Likelihood}} \overbrace{p(\theta)}^{\text{Prior}}}{\underbrace{p(Y)}_{\text{Evidence}}} = \left( \underbrace{\int \overbrace{p(Y | F)}^{\text{Signal Likelihood}} \overbrace{p(F | \theta)}^{\text{Feature Likelihood}} dF}_{\text{Marginalize over features}} \right) \frac{p(\theta)}{p(Y)}$$



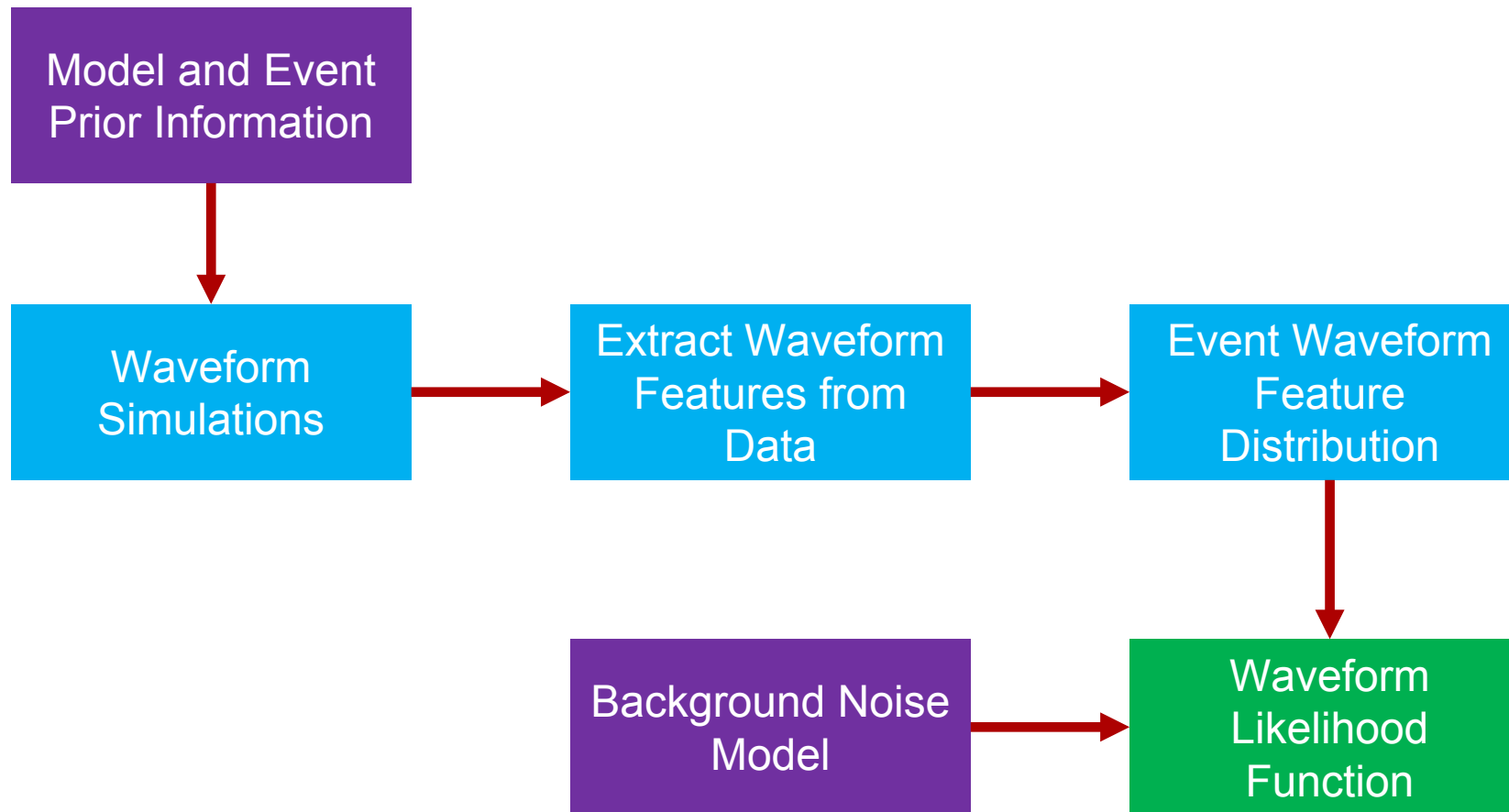
# Feature Based Inference for Seismic Monitoring

- Waveform Features
  - P and S arrival time
  - Waveform feature within window e.g. total signal power or power within a band.
- P and S arrival times and uncertainty can be found using models like AK135
- We can build a statistical model for the signal power using simulations and background models.



# **BUILDING FEATURE-BASED WORKFLOW**

# Data driven workflow



## ■ Parameters

- Event Parameters: Latitude, Longitude, Depth, Magnitude, Origin Time
- Uncertainty Parameters: Travel time uncertainty

## ■ Feature Model

- AK135 for mean travel time and approximate travel time uncertainty
- Waveform Simulations build signal power distribution as a function of distance from the source and marginalize over sources of uncertainty like focal mechanism, stochastic earth model.

## ■ Background Noise Process

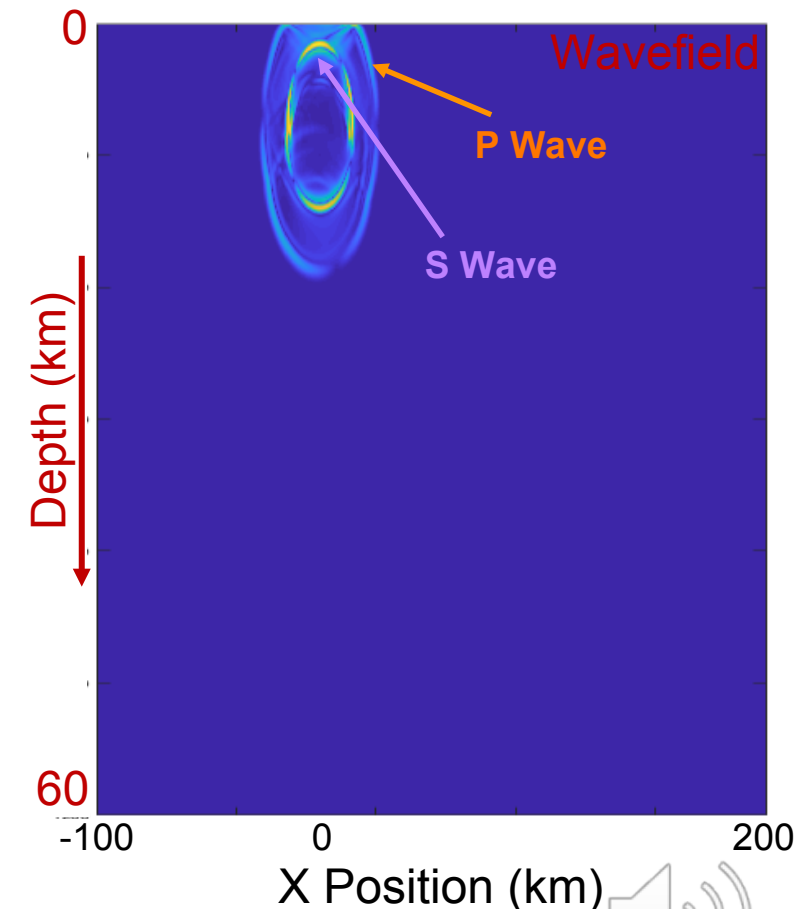
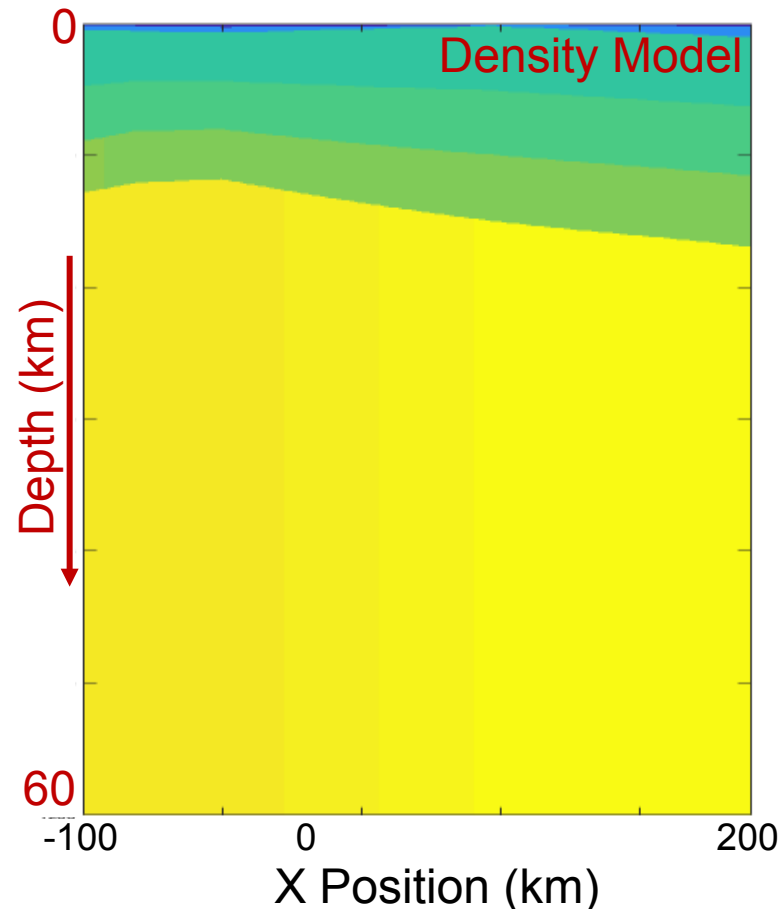
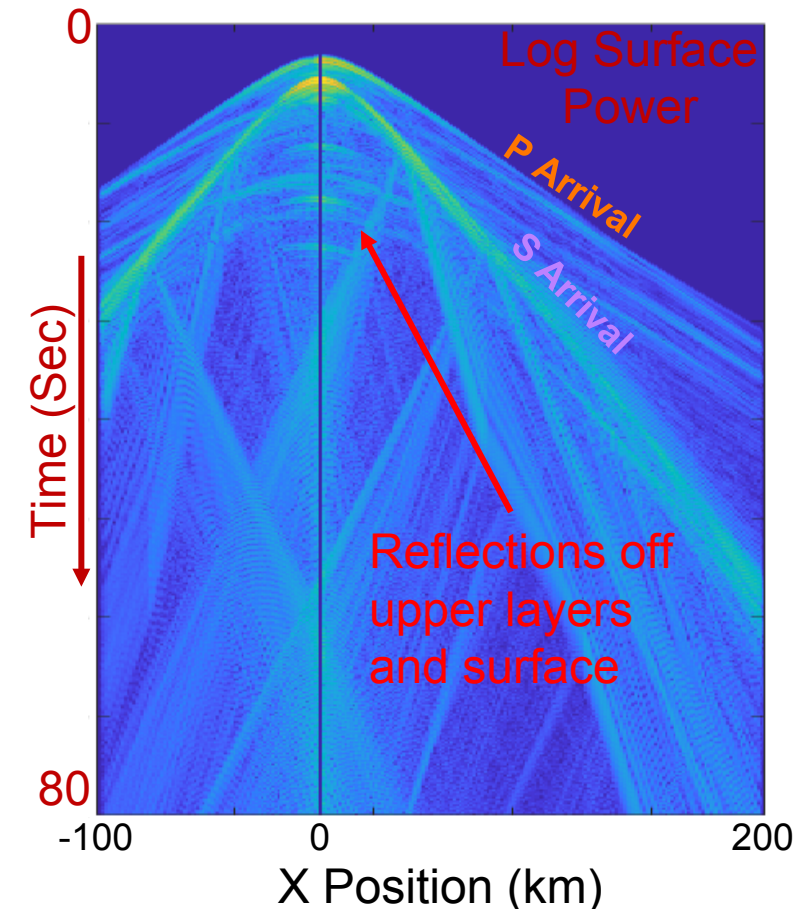
- Assume a process modeled as a stationary Gaussian process within each window with known covariance
- Independent of the event signal



# Building Feature Model

## Simulation Environment

- 2D waveform simulations<sup>4</sup> on 300 km x 60 km domain from Crust 1.0 cross-sections of Utah
- Simulated 1k events at 10 sensors with uniformly distributed event and focal mechanism parameters



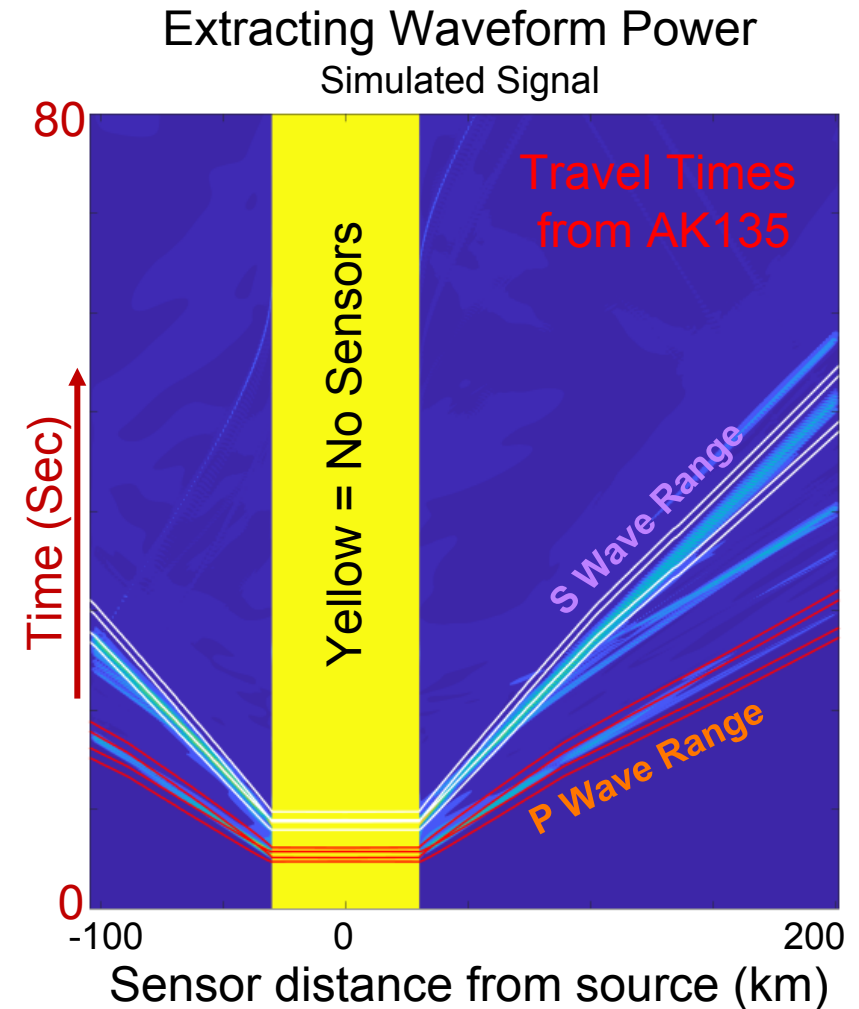
<sup>4</sup>Li, Dunzhu, et al. "Global synthetic seismograms using a 2-D finite-difference method." (2014)





## Extracting Waveform Features

- P and S travel times, uncertainty, and assumed duration define possible window arrangements
- The window arrangement which contains the maximum event power is extracted



# Building Feature Model

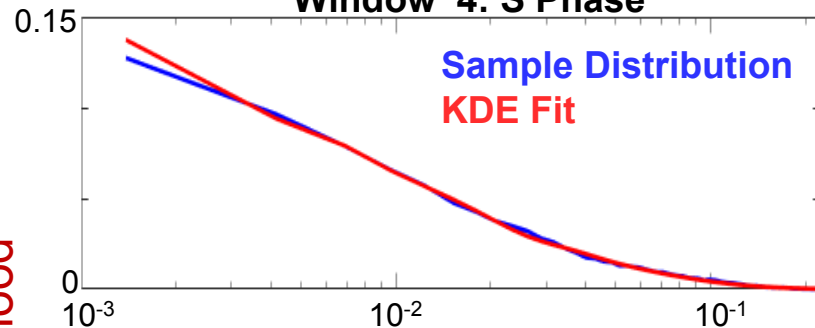
## KDE Model for $p(F | \theta)$

- Use the maximum event power to fit a Kernel Density (KDE) model for events at similar distances

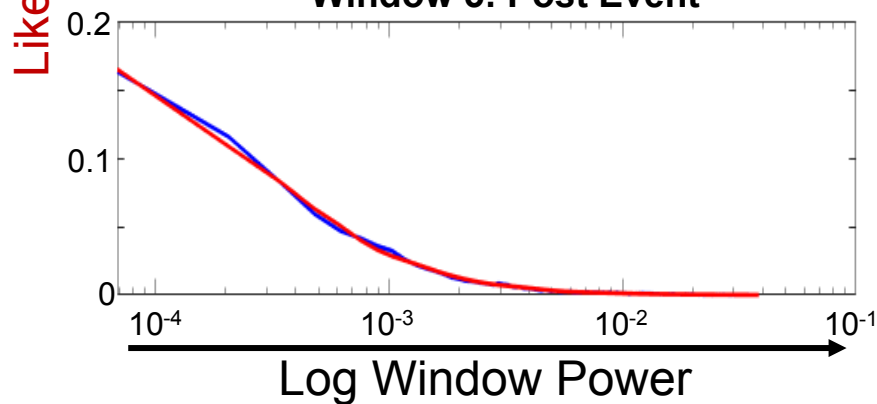
Distribution of Window Power

Simulated Signal

Window 4: S Phase



Window 5: Post Event

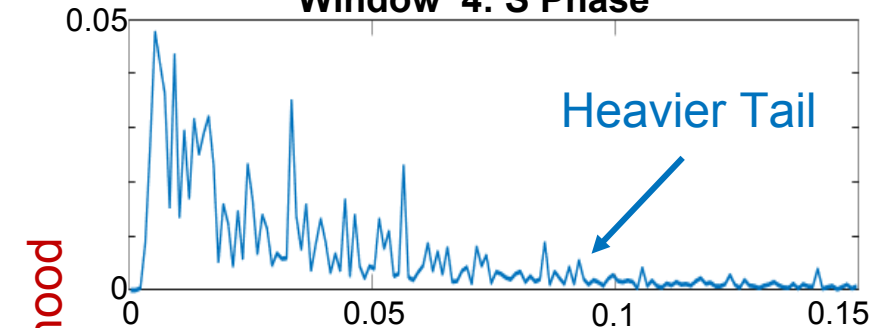


Factor in event magnitude  
and background process

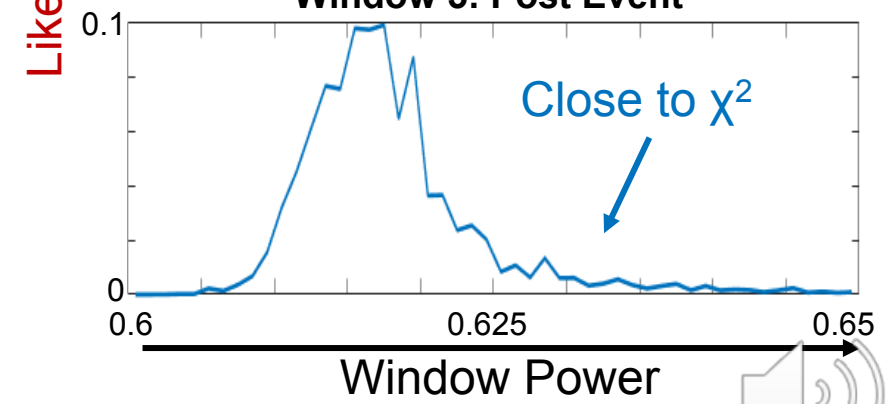
Distribution of Window Power

Background Distribution Added and Scaled

Window 4: S Phase



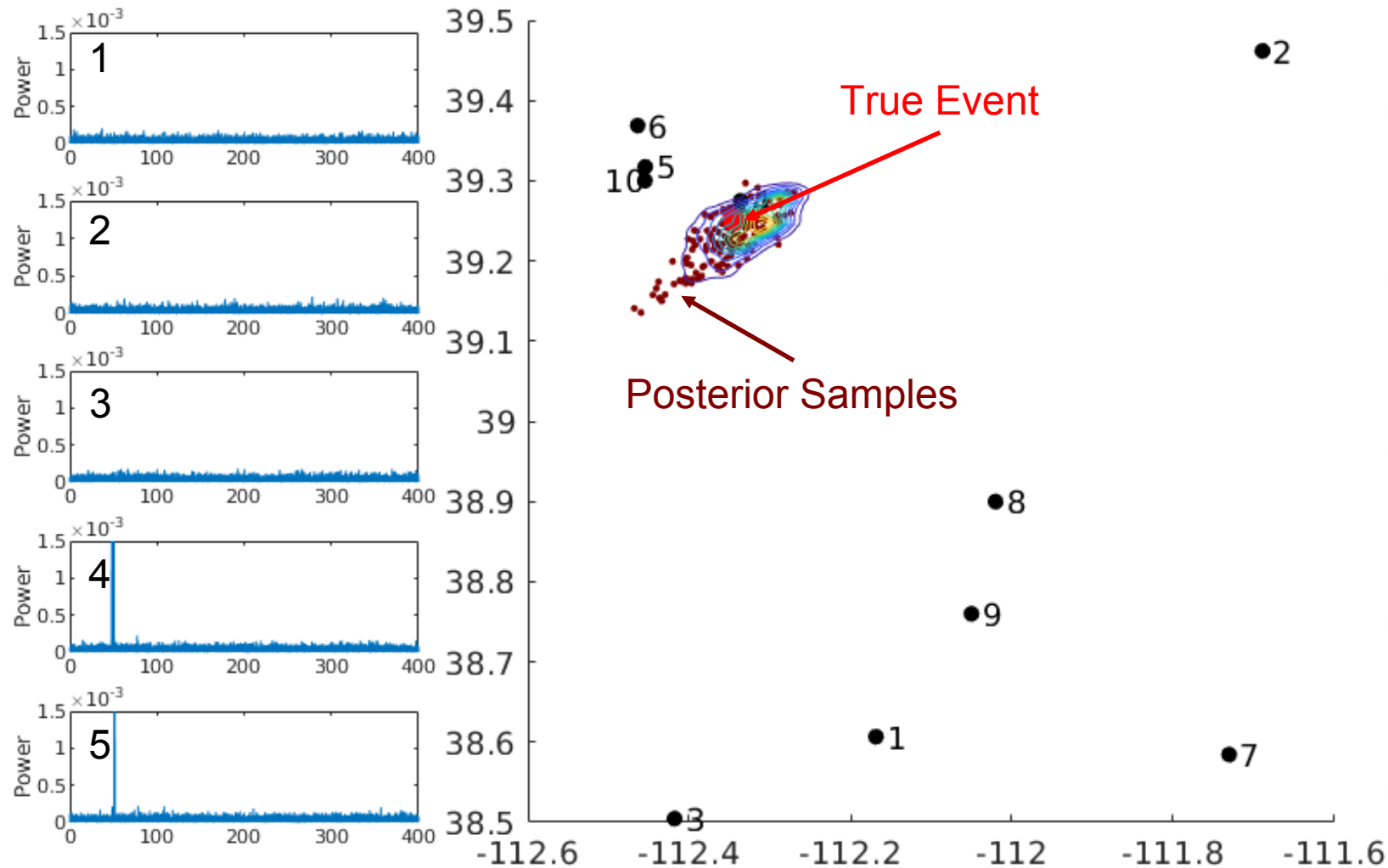
Window 5: Post Event



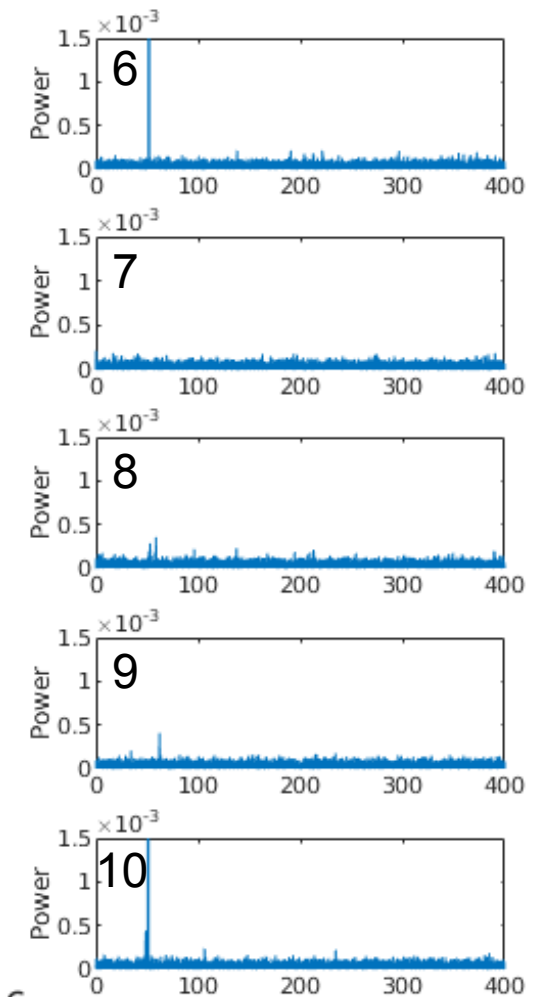
# SYNTHETIC EXAMPLE

# Example 1: Well identified strong signal

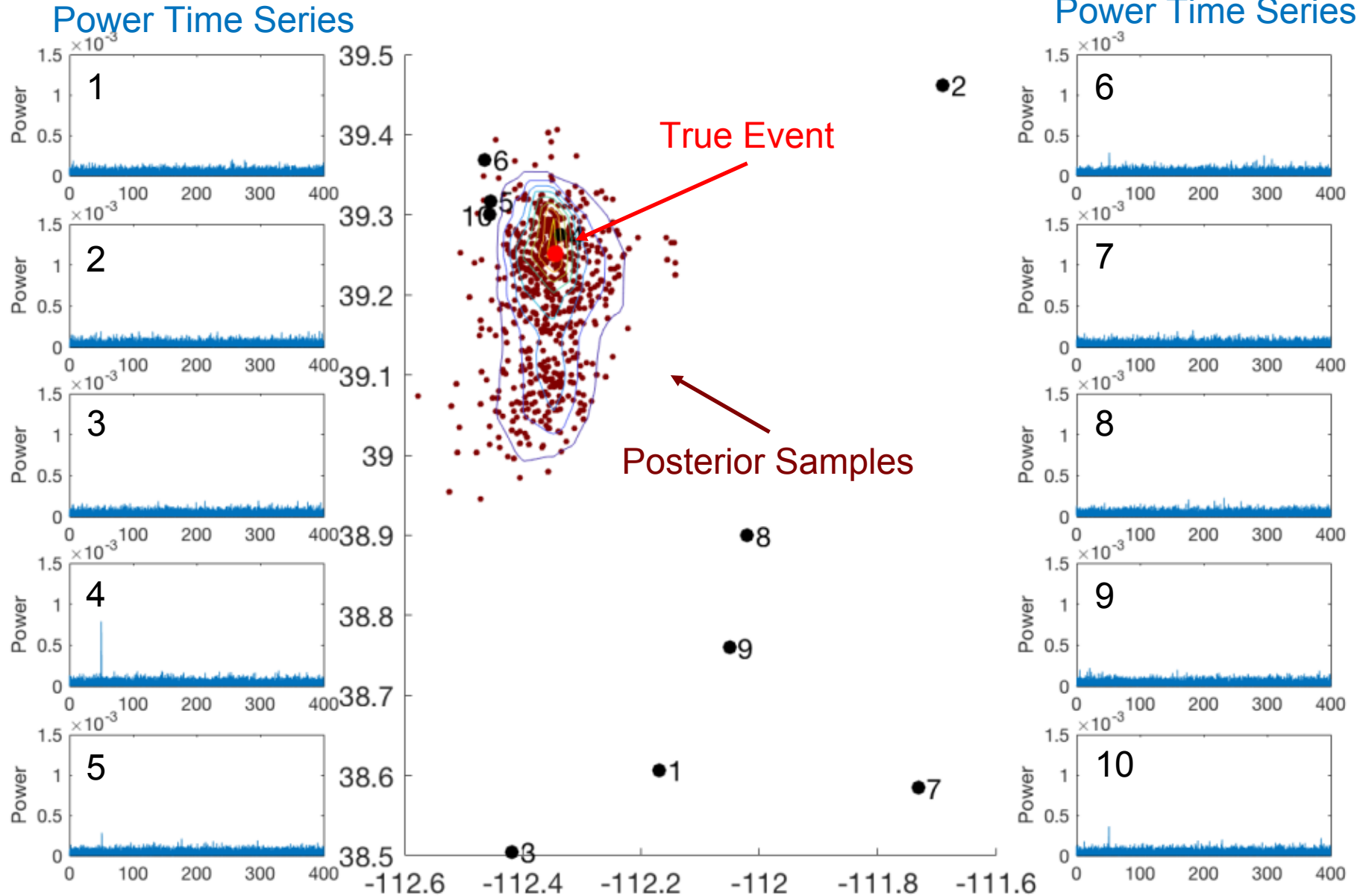
Power Time Series



Power Time Series



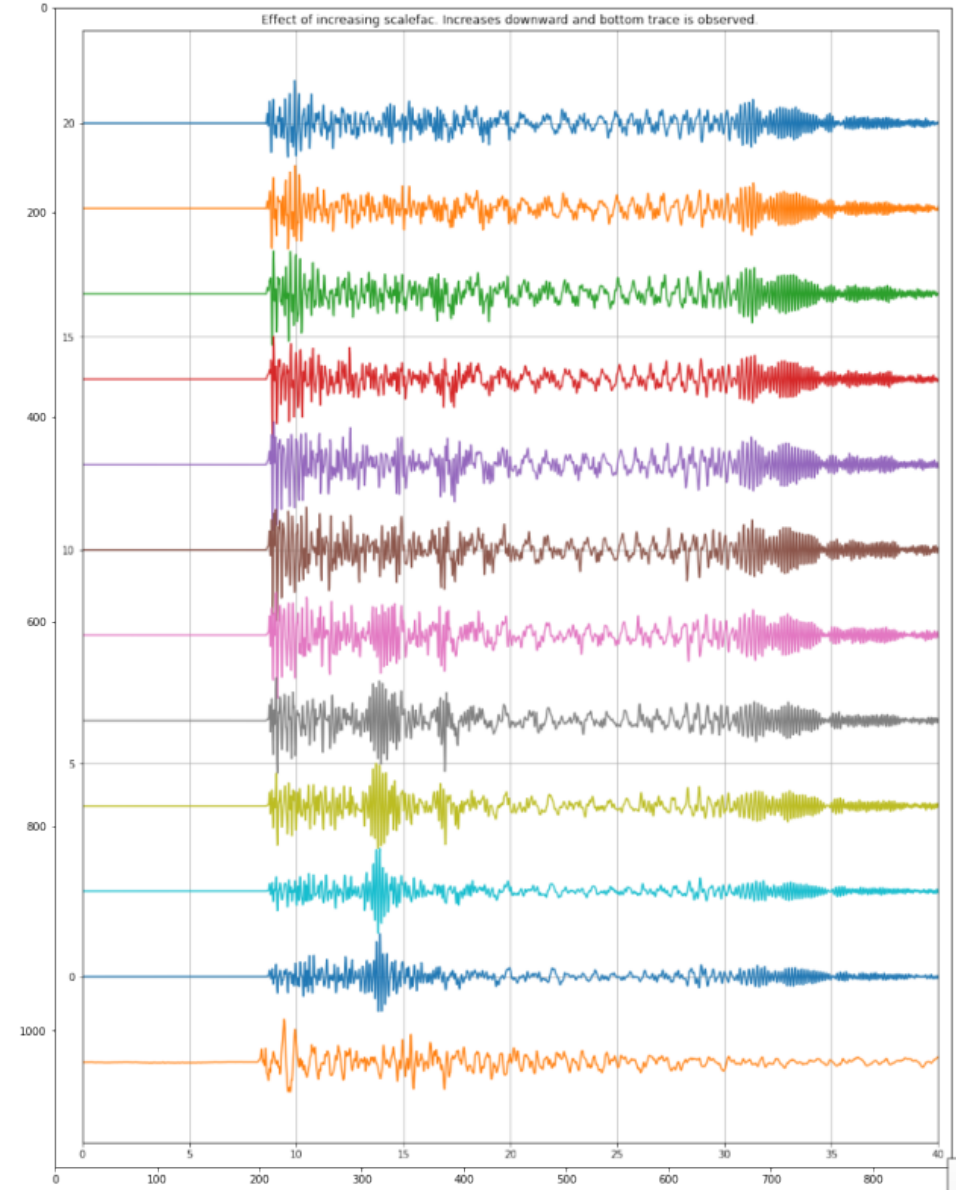
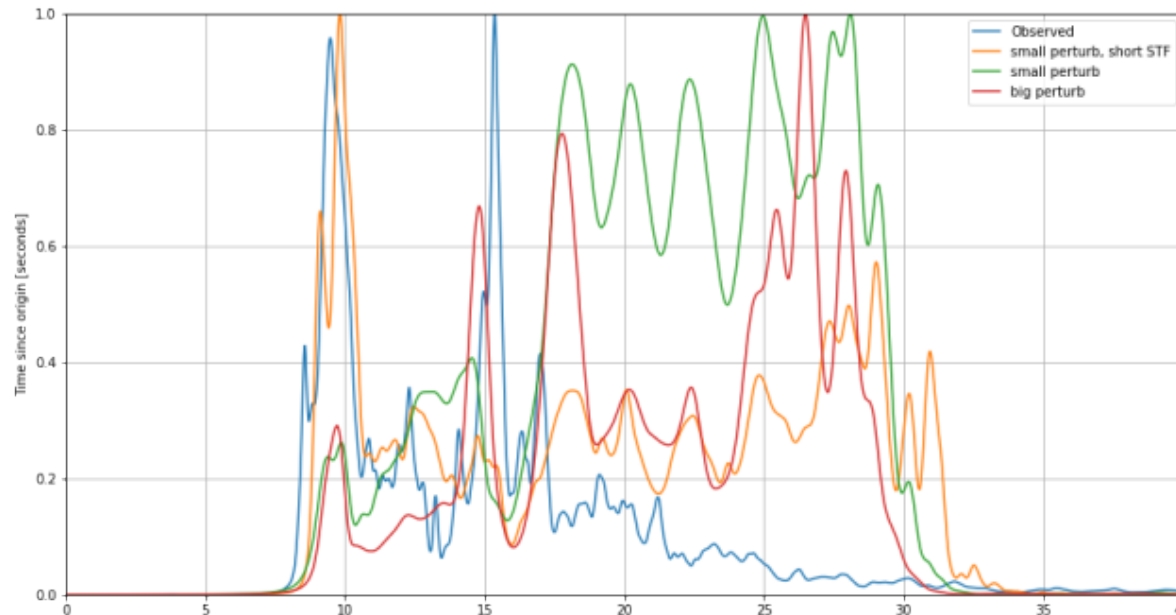
## Example 2: Weak signal with more variance



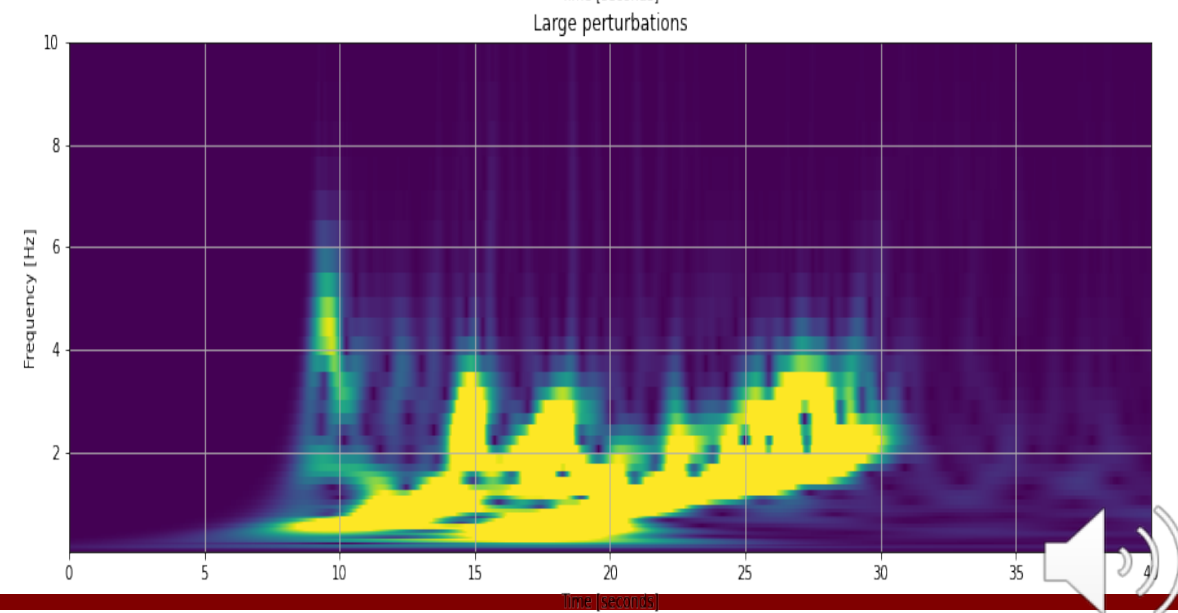
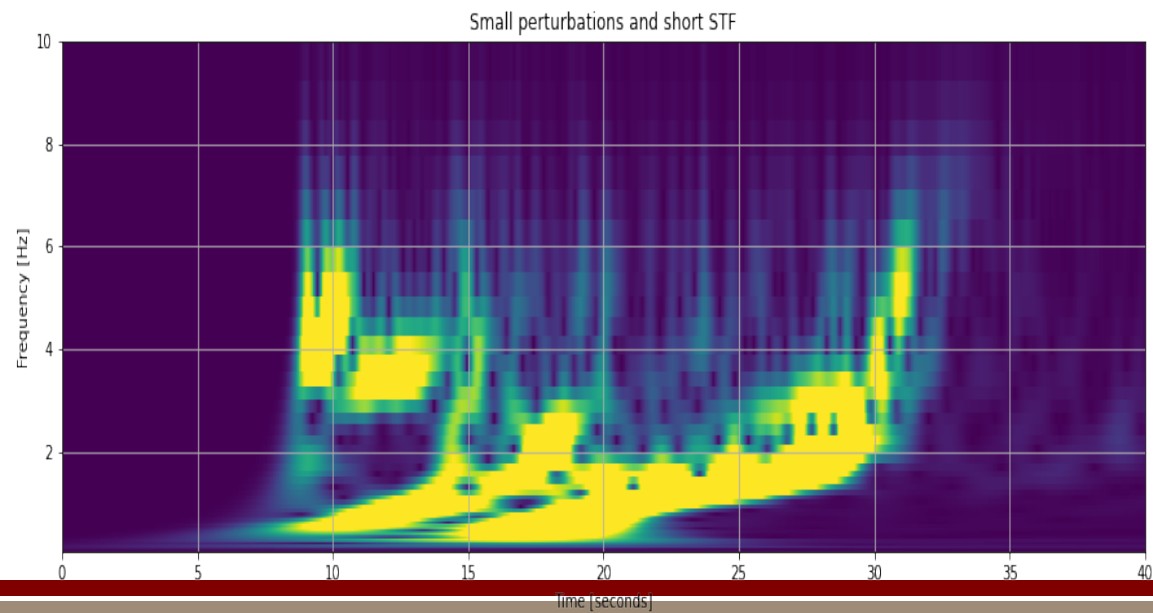
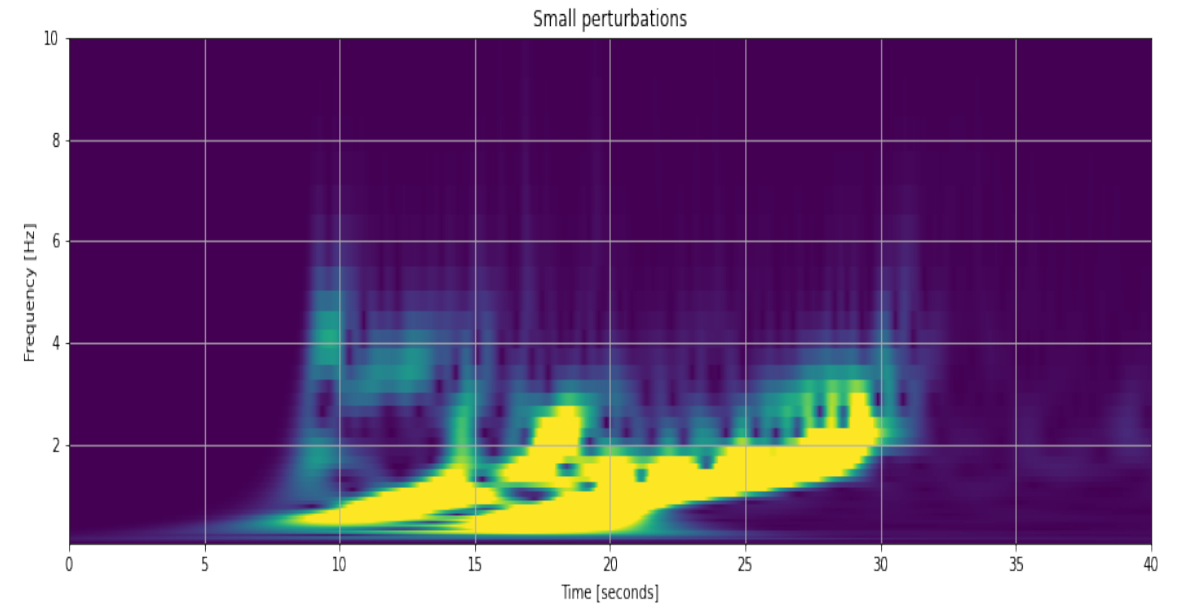
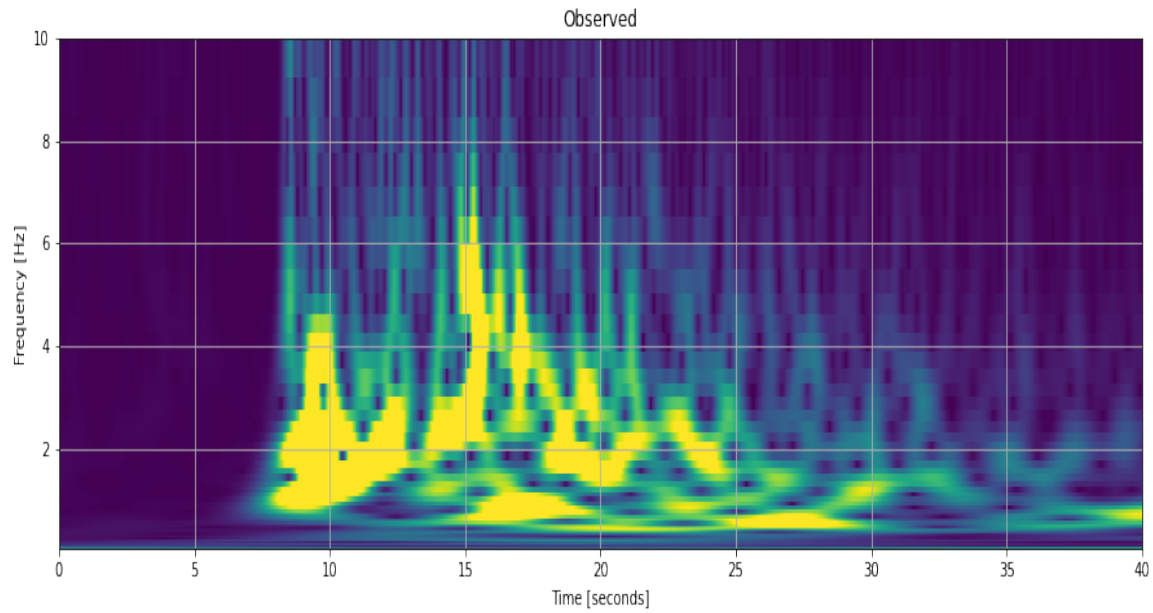
# CHALLENGE MOVING TO REAL DATA

# Synthetics vs Reality

- Identifying features that are robust to modeling uncertainty is very difficult.
- Changing just the scale of stochastic earth model perturbations can significantly change the signal power distribution.



# Synthetics vs Reality





# FUTURE WORK AND CONCLUSION



# Conclusion

- Bayesian inference provides a natural way to express and propagate uncertainty for seismic monitoring and decision-making
- Feature-based inference provides a rigorous way to infer event characteristics from limited data, if we can identify robust features.
- We have not yet identified features that are robust to source and earth model uncertainty.

