



## Spectrum of strong-motion records for large magnitude Chilean earthquakes

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Complete List of Authors:	Rivera, Efrain; Universidad de Chile, Departamento de Geología; Universidad de Chile, Departamento de Geofísica Ruiz, Sergio; Universidad de Chile, Departamento de Geofísica Madariaga, Raúl; Ecole Normale Supérieure, Laboratoire de Géologie, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique; Universidad de Chile, Departamento de Geofísica
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# Spectrum of strong-motion records for large magnitude Chilean earthquakes

Efraín Rivera<sup>1,2</sup>, Sergio Ruiz<sup>2</sup> and Raúl Madariaga<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Geología, Universidad de Chile, Plaza Ercilla, Santiago, Chile. E-mail: efrain@u.uchile.cl

<sup>2</sup>Departamento de Geofísica, Universidad de Chile, Blanco Encalada 2002, Santiago, Chile.

<sup>3</sup>Laboratoire de Géologie, PSL Université, Ecole Normale Supérieure and CNRS, 24 rue Lhomond, 75230 Paris Cedex 05, France.

## Abstract

We studied the broad-band spectra of the 8 largest earthquakes that have occurred in Chile in the last 25 years using strong-motion records and 1-Hz high-rate GNSS (cGNSS) data. To avoid the numerical instability problem with the double integration of the accelerograms, we computed velocity spectra integrating the acceleration time series in the spectral domain and compared them to time-differentiated the cGNSS displacement records. To compute the velocity spectrum, we used a multitaper algorithm so as to provide stability over the entire spectral band. We found that the velocity spectra of records obtained close to the main rupture of the earthquakes are different from classical Aki and Brune spectra. The velocity spectrum of large events in Chile presents a flat trend at low frequencies produced by the near-field waves. This trend converges at low frequencies to the static displacement as determined from GNSS data. For different magnitude earthquakes, we observe a transition in the ground-velocity spectrum from a decay of  $f^{-1}$  at high frequencies and a flat trend at low frequencies to a more classical model with a peak at the corner frequency. The source-station distance influences the shape of the velocity spectrum at low frequencies, but there is no simple rule for the records available at present. At intermediate frequencies, the spectra are controlled by surface waves and S waves. We found a transition in the

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3 28 velocity spectrum for the 2014 Iquique earthquake, which indicates a change in the decay of the  
4 29 spectrum for stations at distances greater than  $\sim 200$  km. Finally, we show that the flat low-  
5 30 frequency trend of the velocity spectra determined from accelerograms, and the peak ground-  
6 31 displacement (PGD) determined from GNSS data scales with the moment to the power  $2/3$ .  
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13 33 **Key words:** Earthquakes ground-motions; Earthquake source observations; Fourier analysis  
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## 18 35 1. Introduction

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20 36 The far-field seismic source spectrum was introduced in the late 1960s and early 1970s  
21 37 (Aki, 1967; Wyss and Brune, 1968; Brune, 1970). Based on this spectrum, Aki (1967) proposed  
22 38 the earthquake scaling law, and Brune (1970) developed his classical  $f^{-2}$  model, with a corner  
23 39 frequency that depends on the size of the fault. Several studies have corroborated this spectral  
24 40 model for events recorded in the far-field or small earthquakes recorded close to the epicenter  
25 41 (Abercrombie, 1995; Prieto et al., 2004; Shearer et al., 2006; Allmann and Shearer, 2007). The  
26 42 Aki-Brune model is widely used for the simulation of synthetic seismograms or accelerograms,  
27 43 and for the prediction of strong ground-motion for earthquake engineering purposes.  
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35 44 The observation of earthquakes in the near-field, at short distances from large sources, is  
36 45 important for understanding the physics of the seismic source. Towards the middle of the years  
37 46 2000 the technological advance of GNSS systems and the increase in the sampling rate, permitted  
38 47 the use of high-rate GNSS records as low-frequency seismograms (Larson et al., 2003; Bock et  
39 48 al., 2004; Ji et al., 2004; Elósegui et al., 2006; Larson, 2009 Vigny et al., 2010; Ruiz et al., 2012;  
40 49 Wang et al., 2013; among others.), making them an excellent complement to the accelerometers  
41 50 when both are installed at very close distances to each other (Emore et al., 2007). The spectrum of  
42 51 these near-field recordings of large earthquakes is different from the  $f^{-2}$  model not only at low  
43 52 frequencies but in the entire recorded spectral range (Vidale et al., 1995; Madariaga et al., 2019).  
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51 53 Studies of broad-band spectra of large magnitude Chilean earthquakes ( $M_w > 7.5$ ) in the  
52 54 near-field (hypocentral distance lesser than 300 Km) are scarce. Lancieri et al. (2012) studied the  
53 55 scaling laws for the 2007 Tocopilla earthquake and its aftershocks using acceleration data from  
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3 56 strong-motion stations located near the rupture area. They observed that the spectra of aftershocks  
4 57 fit well the  $f^{-2}$  spectral model, but not the spectra of the main event of  $M_w 7.8$ . In the near-field  
5 58 the spectra of this event had two corner frequencies delimiting slopes of  $f^{-1}$  at intermediate  
6 59 frequencies and  $f^{-2}$  at higher frequencies. This kind of double-corner frequency spectra have been  
7 60 observed for many events in California and elsewhere (Archuleta and Ji, 2016 using the NGA-  
8 61 West2 data set for earthquakes of magnitude  $3.3 \leq M \leq 5.3$ ). Recently, Madariaga et al. (2019)  
9 62 reported broad-band near-field spectra for the Iquique 2014 earthquake, showing that the static co-  
10 63 seismic displacement plays a key role in the computation of the source spectrum and influences  
11 64 the amplitude and decay of the spectra. Similar observations have been reported by Rukhapyety et  
12 65 al. (2010), and Inbal and Ziv (2020) for several events in Iceland, Taiwan, and Japan.

21 66 The purpose of the present paper is to provide quantitative information about the broad-  
22 67 band spectrum of large earthquakes recorded in the near-field in Chile and to describe the common  
23 68 features of the spectrum, beyond the simple models of Vidale et al. (1995) and Madariaga et al.  
24 69 (2019). Our purpose is not to compare the spectra at low-frequency and short distances that can be  
25 70 studied by GNSS, but to consider the entire frequency band-limited by attenuation at high-  
26 71 frequency and accelerogram noise at low frequencies. We demonstrate that all large earthquakes  
27 72 have similar spectral shapes that are fundamentally different from the classical far-field spectral  
28 73 model of Brune and Aki. For this purpose we study the earthquake spectra of the largest  
29 74 earthquakes that have occurred in Chile in recent years (Antofagasta 1995,  $M_w$  8.0; Tarapacá 2005,  
30 75  $M_w$  7.8; Tocopilla 2007,  $M_w$  7.7; Maule 2010,  $M_w$  8.8; Iquique 2014,  $M_w$  8.2 and its main  
31 76 aftershock  $M_w$  7.6; Illapel 2015,  $M_w$  8.3 and Chiloé 2016,  $M_w$  7.6), analyzing the behavior at both  
32 77 low and high frequencies and comparing, if possible, with spectra from high-rate GNSS records  
33 78 (cGNSS). We recognized a transition in the flat velocity spectrum at low frequencies dominated  
34 79 by the near-field and Brune's far-field velocity spectrum based on two main criteria: (1) the  
35 80 magnitude of the event, observing a transition from a magnitude range of  $M_w$  5.6 – 6.5 for a  
36 81 hypocentral distance of  $\sim 90$  km; (2) the distance from source to the station, for instance for the  
37 82 Iquique 2014 earthquake, this transition is observed from  $\sim 350$  km. Finally, we show that the low-  
38 83 frequency near-field velocity spectrum and the PGD scales with moment to the power  $2/3$ .

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## 2. Recent large earthquakes in Chile

In Chile, 8 earthquakes of magnitude greater than  $M_w$  7.5 have occurred in the last 25 years, 7 of which occurred in the plate interface between the South American and Nazca plates, and one within the Nazca plate (Figure 1). The source rupture process of each of these earthquakes has been very well studied using different techniques. The first of these events, the 31 July 1995 Antofagasta earthquake ( $M_w$  8.0) occurred in Northern Chile at a depth of 47 km broke the deeper part of the subduction interface and a segment of 180 km along the coast. Delouis et al. (1997) used broadband, accelerometer, and GPS data to model the rupture process. This event was the first to be observed with GPS and InSAR instruments (Ruegg et al., 1996; Chlieh et al., 2004).

Ten years later occurred the 2005 Tarapacá earthquake ( $M_w$  7.8). This earthquake was an intraplate event of intermediate-depth that occurred within the Nazca plate at a depth of 108 km, as estimated by the CSN (Centro Sismológico Nacional of the University of Chile). Delouis and Legrand (2007) used teleseismic records and a permanent strong-motion network in the near-field operated by the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Chile to make a joint inversion, identifying the fault planes and the displacement distribution. Peyrat et al. (2010a), using the same strong-motion data, made a kinematic and dynamic inversion to propose a fault model for this event. A couple of years after this earthquake, a multi-parameter network of seismological stations was deployed in northern Chile, Integrated Plate Boundary Observatory Chile (IPOC), by German, French and Chilean researchers (IPOC 2006).

In 2007 the Tocopilla earthquake ( $M_w$  7.7) occurred in the deeper part of the plate interface of the South American and Nazca plates (~47 Km according to CSN). This was the first earthquake studied after the installation of the IPOC seismological network; it has been widely studied with different techniques and instruments (Delouis et al., 2009; Peyrat et al., 2010b; Fuenzalida et al., 2013; Schurr et al., 2012; Lancieri et al., 2012). Peyrat et al. (2010b) used near-field strong-motion data to perform a kinematic inversion of this earthquake and Lancieri et al. (2012) studied the spectral properties of the main event and its aftershocks.

The 27 February 2010 Maule earthquake was the first Chilean mega-thrust earthquake studied with modern seismological instruments in the Chilean subduction zone (Ruiz and Madariaga, 2018). This mega-earthquake was well recorded in the near-field by GPS stations (Vigny et al., 2011; Moreno et al., 2012) and accelerometers installed by the University of Chile

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3 116 (Boroschek et al., 2012, Ruiz et al., 2012). The slip distribution had two large asperities with the  
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5 117 largest one located to the north of the rupture (Lay et al., 2010; Delouis et al., 2010; Vigny et al.,  
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7 118 2011; Moreno et al., 2012; Ruiz et al., 2012).

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9 119 A large megathrust earthquake hit Iquique on 1 April 2014 with a magnitude  $M_w$  8.2. This  
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11 120 event was recorded by an extensive network of broadband, strong-motion, and GPS instruments  
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13 121 deployed by IPOC, and the CSN (Leyton et al., 2018; Baez et al., 2018). This earthquake is the  
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15 122 best-recorded events in Chile, studied by many authors in the time domain (Ruiz et al., 2014; Kato  
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17 123 and Nakagawa, 2014 Schurr et al., 2014; Duputel et al., 2015; Cesca et al., 2016; León-Ríos et al.,  
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19 124 2016; Suzuki et al., 2016; among many others). Two days later, it was followed by the largest  
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21 125 aftershock ( $M_w$  7.6), located at the southern limit of the rupture area at a depth of 26 km, as  
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23 126 reported by the CSN.

24 127 In north-central Chile, the Illapel earthquake of magnitude  $M_w$  8.3 occurred on 16  
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26 128 September 2015, breaking a length of approximately 200 km in the Coquimbo region at a shallow  
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28 129 depth of 11 km. Ruiz et al. (2016) documented this earthquake. Broadband, strong-motion, and  
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30 130 GNSS instruments are available for the study of this event.

31 131 Finally, in 2016 took place the Chiloé event ( $M_w$  7.6) in southern Chile, inside the  
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33 132 estimated rupture area of the giant Valdivia earthquake of 22 May 1960 (Ruiz et al., 2017; Melgar  
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35 133 et al., 2017; Lange et al., 2018). Many other smaller events of magnitude close to 7 have occurred  
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37 134 and have been recorded by the National Accelerometric Network of CSN that was deployed in  
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39 135 2012.

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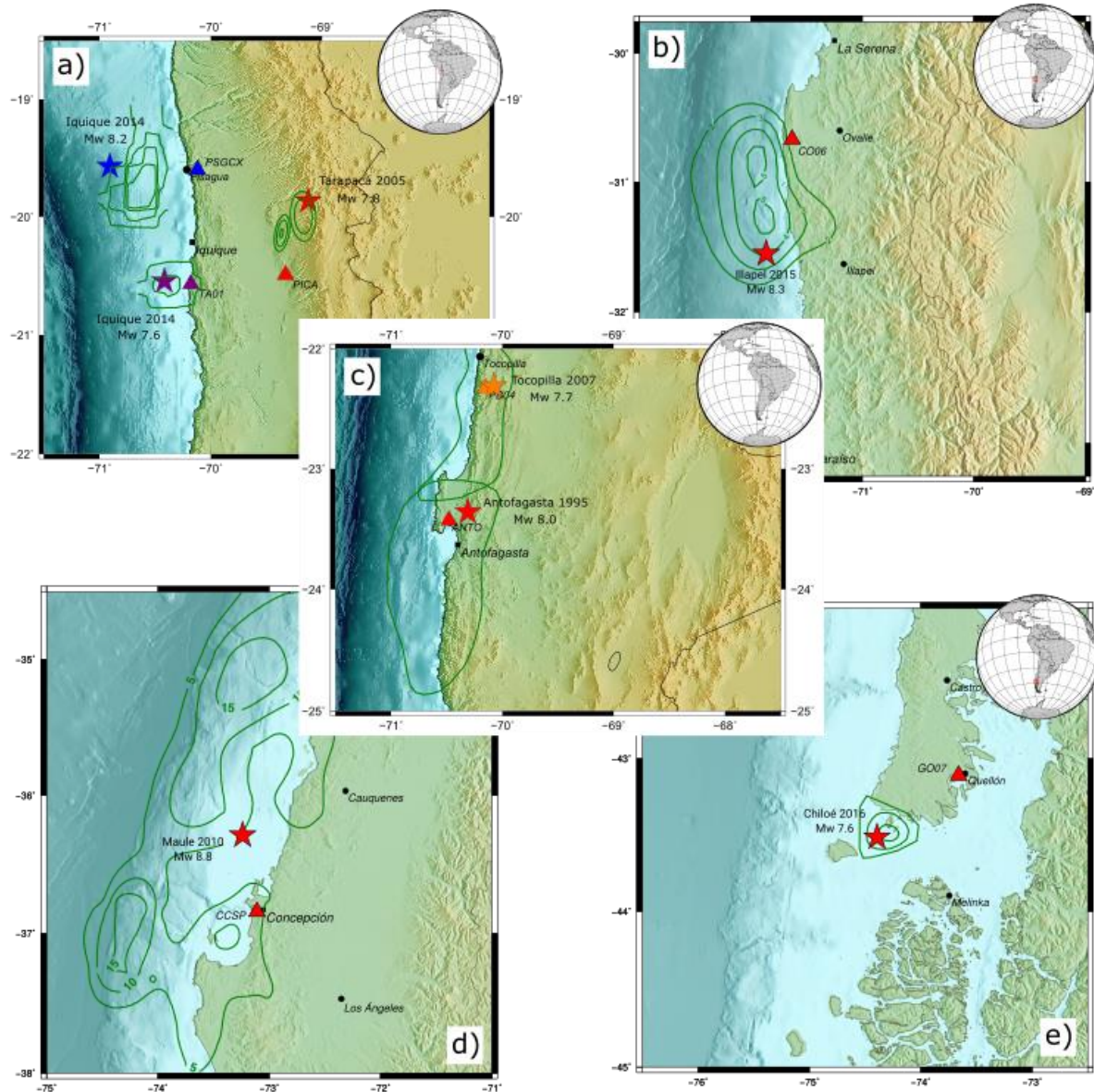
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**Figure 1.** Map with the epicenters of the last 8 earthquakes in Chile and their nearest available acceleration and GNSS stations and the maximum displacements of each earthquake (green contours). **a)** Tarapacá 2005 (Peyrat et al., 2010a), Iquique 2014 and main aftershock (Ruiz et al., 2014); **b)** Illapel 2015 (Ruiz et al., 2016); **c)** Antofagasta 1995 (Delouis et al., 1997) and Tocopilla 2007 (Peyrat et al., 2010b); **d)** Maule 2010 (Vigny et al., 2011); **e)** Chiloé 2016 (Ruiz et al., 2017). Triangles correspond to the GNSS and/or strong-motion station.

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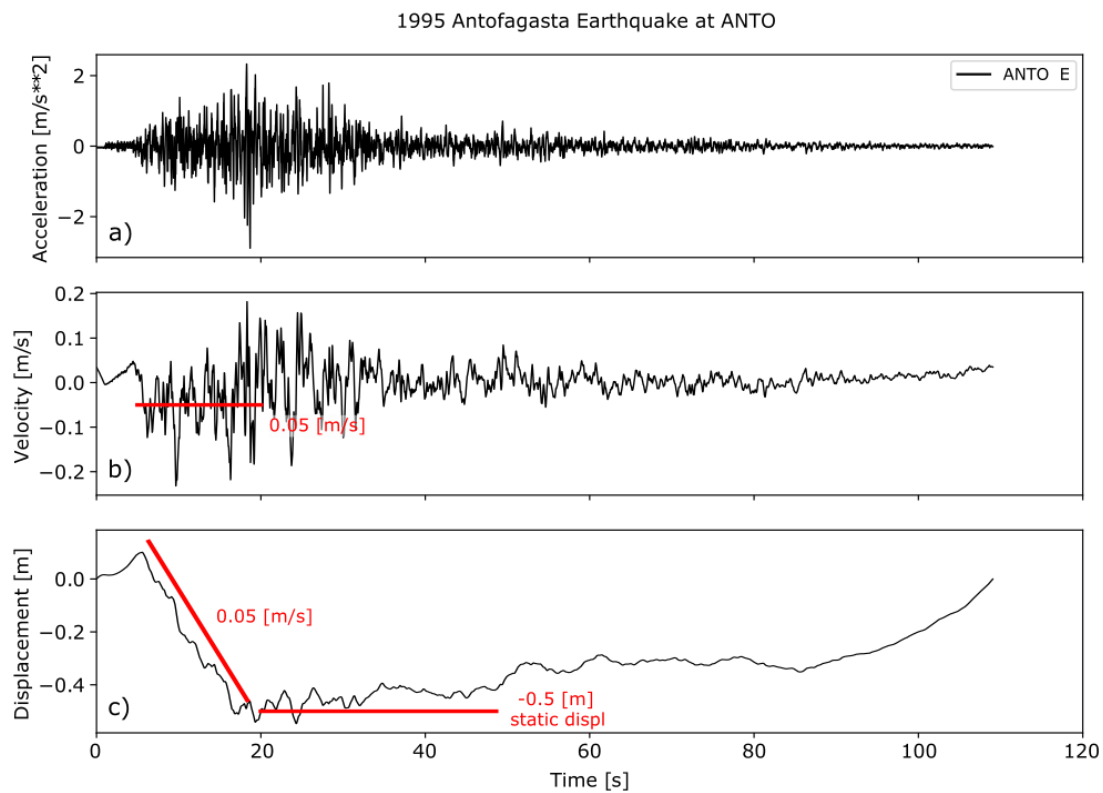
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### 3. Data and Methods

We studied the spectra of the major earthquakes that have occurred in Chile in the last 25 years (listed in Table S1): Antofagasta 1995 ( $M_w$  8.0), Tarapacá 2005 ( $M_w$  7.8), Tocopilla 2007 ( $M_w$  7.7), Maule 2010 ( $M_w$  8.8), Iquique 2014 ( $M_w$  8.2), Iquique 2014 ( $M_w$  7.6), Illapel 2015 ( $M_w$  8.3) and Chiloé 2016 ( $M_w$  7.6). We used all the near-field strong-motion stations available (see Table S2). To compute the spectra of these earthquakes, we used strong-motion and collocated GNSS records. For most of the records, it was not possible to separate the P and S waves to study them individually, because the difference in arrival times of P and S waves were too small with respect to the duration of the events (see Figure 2) and because it was difficult to separate near-field surface waves from body waves.



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**Figure 2.** **a)** Strong-motion record for the east-west component from the ANTO station for the Antofagasta earthquake ( $M_w$  8.0) of July 31, 1995. **b)** Integrated strong-motion record from the ANTO station using the Boore (2001) methodology. **c)** Doubly integrated strong-motion record from the ANTO station. Red line shows the static displacement and the ground-velocity drop during the main arrival at this station.



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3 168 A multitaper algorithm was used in conjunction with the DFT (Discrete Fourier Transform)  
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5 169 to ensure that the spectrum is well estimated across most of the frequency band, avoiding loss of  
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7 170 information when calculating the spectrum (Park et al., 1987; Prieto et al., 2009). Finally, a  
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9 171 smoothing filter was applied to remove oscillations in the spectrum (Konno and Ohmachi, 1998).  
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11 172 We did not correct the velocity spectra for attenuation because there is no general model of the  
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13 173 distribution of Q-value in Chile. As observed in the acceleration spectrum of Figure 3, the  
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15 174 acceleration spectrum is flat up to at least 7 Hz, but this needs further work. Attenuation has been  
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17 175 studied in Chile in some areas (e.g., Schurr and Rietbrock (2004), Lancieri et al. (2012), and  
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19 176 Neighbors et al. (2015)). These studies found kappa values in the order of 0.03 which agrees with  
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21 177 the above estimate for the cut-off frequency (6.6 Hz).

21 178 As discussed by Madariaga et al. (2019) the well-known problem with the double-  
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23 179 integration of accelerograms can be reduced using the velocity records to compute the spectrum.  
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25 180 When available these ground-velocity spectra records were compared with once-differentiated  
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27 181 displacement records of the GNSS signal (Melgar et al., 2013; Baez et al., 2018). We are aware  
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29 182 that integrating the accelerograms once to velocity, produces weak low-frequency noise that could  
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31 183 affect the actual estimation of the spectrum. For this reason, we computed the velocity spectrum  
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33 184 by dividing the acceleration spectrum by  $i\omega$  to avoid the use of filters that may affect the spectral  
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35 185 estimation (Figure 3).

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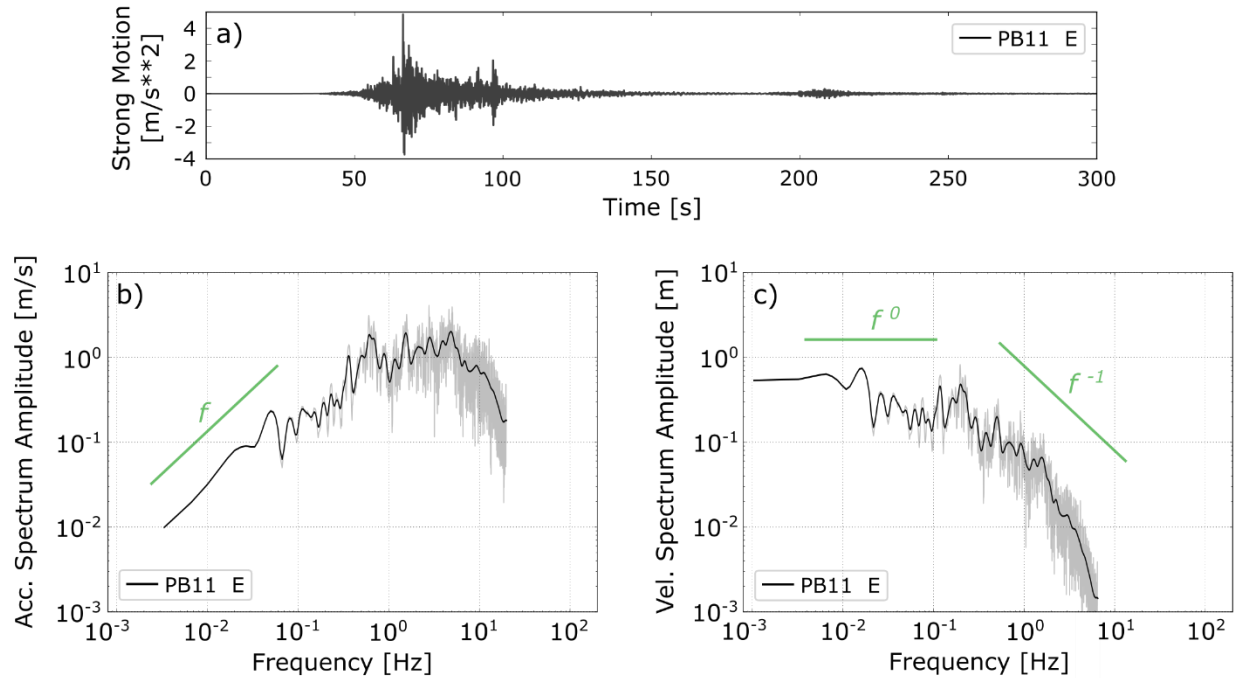
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196 **Figure 3. a)** East-west component for the PB11 station acceleration record for the April 1st  
 197 earthquake in Iquique ( $M_w$  8.2). **b)** Acceleration spectrum obtained directly from the record. **c)**  
 198 Velocity spectrum obtained from the integrated acceleration spectrum. Both spectra have a Konno-  
 199 Ohmachi plotted with a black continuous line.

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### 201 3.1 Ground-velocity spectral model

202 The ground-motion produced by a shallow thrust earthquake can be quite complex as  
 203 shown by numerical simulations. For a simple double couple source embedded in a half-space, the  
 204 static-field is well known, but at intermediate frequencies (when the wavelength is comparable to  
 205 the size of the source and the distance), the dynamic wavefield can only be computed using  
 206 numerical methods that take into account the presence of the free surface and shallow structure.  
 207 For a simple half-space, near-field velocities can be computed using the expressions derived by  
 208 Johnson (1964), but they are difficult to compute. The main effect of the free surface is to produce  
 209 strong surface waves that have no closed-form expressions. The Rayleigh waves follow  
 210 immediately after the shear wave and dominate the intermediate wavefield. At higher frequencies,  
 211 the spectrum is usually modeled using the Brune (1970) far-field equations.

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3 212 In the following, we will compare the broad-band velocity spectra computed from  
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5 213 accelerometers with the model proposed by Brune (1970) for the radiation from a circular source.  
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7 214 In this model, the velocity spectrum has the following shape as a function of frequency  $f$

$$\dot{u}(f) = 2\pi f \frac{\Omega_0}{1 + \left(\frac{f}{f_c}\right)^2}, \quad (1)$$

14 215 where at low frequencies the spectrum has an asymptote ( $\Omega_0$ ), a corner frequency  $f_c$  and a high-  
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16 216 frequency decay as an inverse frequency  $f$ . In this case, we must estimate the values of  $\Omega_0$  and  $f_c$   
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18 217 for our theoretical model.

20 218 The stress drop  $\Delta\sigma$  can be calculated from the seismic moment  $M_0$  and the radius of the  
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22 219 source  $r$ , according to Eshelby (1957) as

$$\Delta\sigma = \frac{7}{16} \left(\frac{M_0}{r^3}\right), \quad (2)$$

28 220 Brune (1970) relates the corner frequency to the source radius as

$$f_c = k \frac{\beta}{r}, \quad (3)$$

34 221 where  $\beta$  is the shear wave velocity.  $k$  is a constant parameter that depends on the specific  
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36 222 theoretical model. Here we will assume  $k = 0.32$  as proposed by Madariaga (1976) for circular  
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38 223 crack with a rupture velocity of 90% of the shear wave velocity. Therefore,

$$f_c = 0.32 \frac{\beta}{r}. \quad (4)$$

43 224 Combining (2) and (4) we finally obtain that

$$\Delta\sigma = M_0 \left(\frac{f_c}{0.42\beta}\right)^3. \quad (5)$$

49 225 We estimate the theoretical corner frequency for each event assuming a constant  $\Delta\sigma$  ( $\Delta\sigma = 10$   
50  
51 226 MPa) and a value of  $M_0$  obtained from the earthquake magnitude using the expression

$$M_w = \frac{3}{2} (\log_{10} M_0 - 9.1). \quad (6)$$

227 Finally, we calculate  $\Omega_0$  from  $M_0$  as

$$M_0 = \frac{4\pi\rho R\beta^3}{F\langle R \rangle} \Omega_0, \quad (7)$$

228 where  $\rho$  is the density of the medium close to the source,  $R$  is the distance from the source to the  
 229 station,  $F$  is the effect of the free surface and  $\langle R \rangle$  is the average radiation pattern. In this case, we  
 230 assume  $F = 2$  and  $\langle R \rangle = 0.67$ .

231 The peak of the equation (1) is at

$$\dot{u}_{max} = \pi f_c \Omega_0 \propto M_0^{2/3} \quad (8)$$

232 Since from (5)  $f_c \propto M_0^{-1/3}$  for a given stress drop.

233 Let us now consider the near-field; as shown by Aki and Richards (2002) the velocity-field  
 234 generated by a double couple source of moment  $M_0(t)$  buried in an elastic medium can be  
 235 approximated by the S wave as

$$\dot{u}_{NF}(r, t) \cong \frac{1}{4\pi\rho\beta^2} \frac{C^{NF}}{r^2} \dot{M}_0\left(t - \frac{r}{\beta}\right), \quad (9)$$

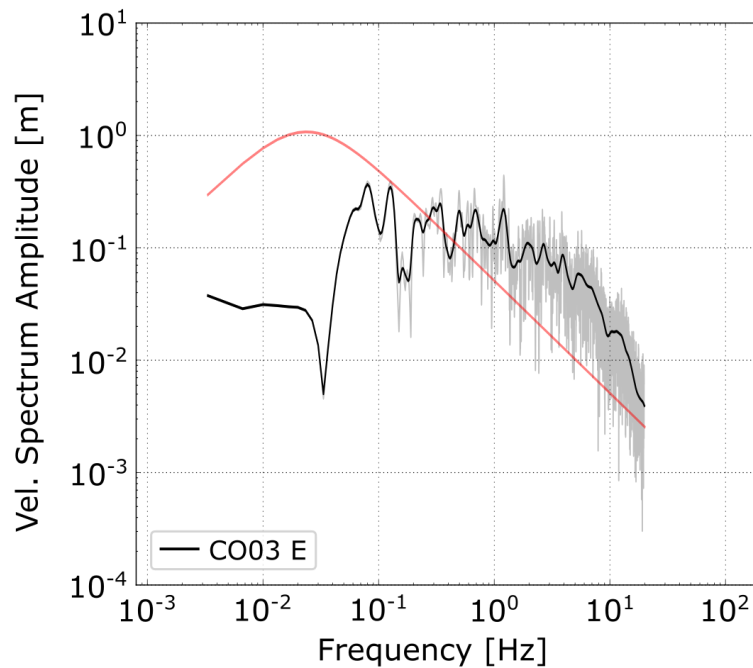
236 where  $C_{NF}$  is the near-field radiation pattern defined by Aki and Richards (2002). This expression  
 237 is valid at low frequencies because it does not take into account the interaction of seismic waves  
 238 with the free surface. Transforming to the frequency domain, the near-field at low frequencies  
 239 approaches

$$\dot{u}(r, \omega) = \frac{1}{4\pi\rho\beta^2} \frac{C^{NF}}{r^2} \dot{M}_0(\omega). \quad (10)$$

240 This expression is remarkably like the far-field displacement spectrum from a point double couple  
 241 except for the near-field radiation pattern and the inverse square dependency on distance  $r$ . The  
 242 limit of the amplitude of the velocity spectra  $\tilde{u}(\omega)$  at low frequencies is the static displacement.  
 243 As derived by Madariaga et al. (2019)

$$\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \tilde{u}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dot{u}(t) dt = u(\infty), \quad (11)$$

244 where  $u(\infty)$  is the static displacement at the station. The relation (11) between permanent ground-  
 245 displacement and the low-frequency trend of the ground-velocity spectrum was used by Rupakhety  
 246 et al. (2010), and Inbal and Ziv (2020) to correct for the displacement jump or “fling” observed in  
 247 ground-displacement at close distances from the source. We do not make those corrections here  
 248 because we are interested mainly in the spectral properties of accelerograms.



249 **Figure 4.** Velocity spectrum of the east-west component from CO03 station for the event of  
 250 September 16, 2015, at Illapel ( $M_w$  8.3). The observed spectrum is shown in grey on which we  
 251 superimpose the spectrum smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter plotted with a continuous black  
 252 line. The velocity spectrum model by Brune (1970) computed using eq. (8) is shown in red.

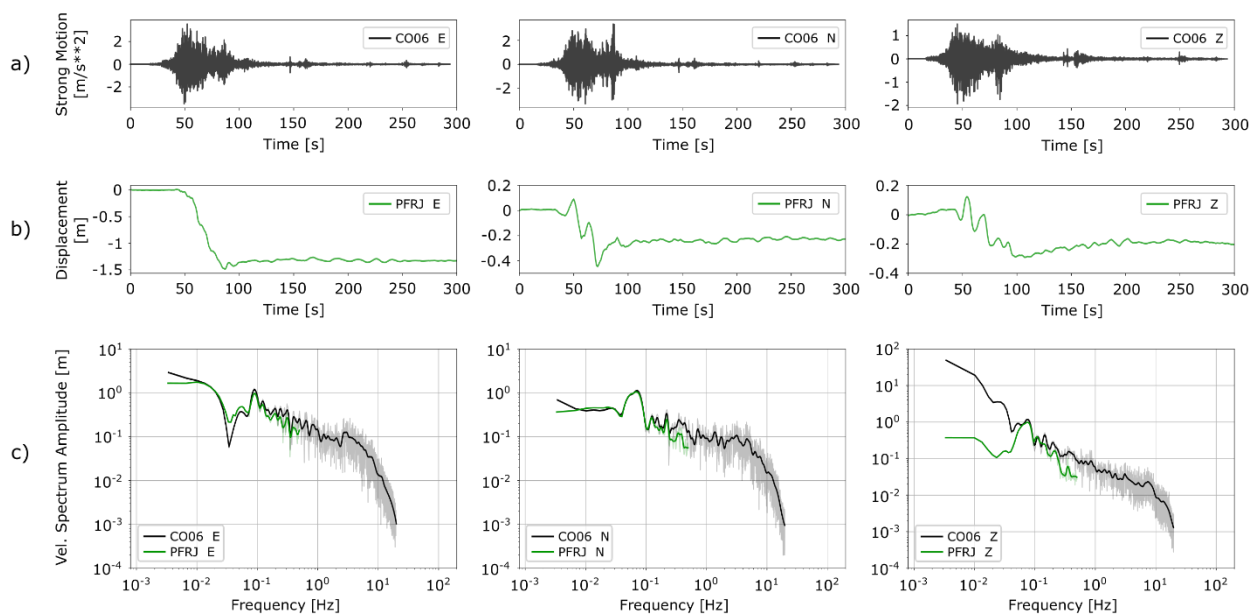
255 In Figure 4 we show the velocity spectrum computed at station CO03 for the Illapel  
 256 earthquake of September 16, 2015. It has a flat trend at intermediate to low frequencies, quite  
 257 unlike the theoretical Brune spectrum plotted in red. The near-field does not only affect low  
 258 frequencies but a broad spectral range.

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#### 4. Comparison between continuous GPS and accelerometer spectra

We compare the velocity spectra computed from strong-motion and cGNSS time series. The strong-motion records were integrated in the frequency domain as explained earlier and the cGNSS were numerically differentiated. We used the GPS kinematic records processed by Baez et al. (2018) and by Ruhl et al. (2019). We compare the velocity spectra obtained from the acceleration and displacement records in Figure 5. We observe a very good agreement between both spectra at low frequencies up to approximately 0.2 Hz, which agrees with several authors (Emore et al., 2007; Bock et al., 2011) who found a good coincidence between both signals in the time domain. This similarity can be observed in the two horizontal components of the recordings, despite poorer resolution of the vertical displacement component record of cGNSS (Figures S1-S8).

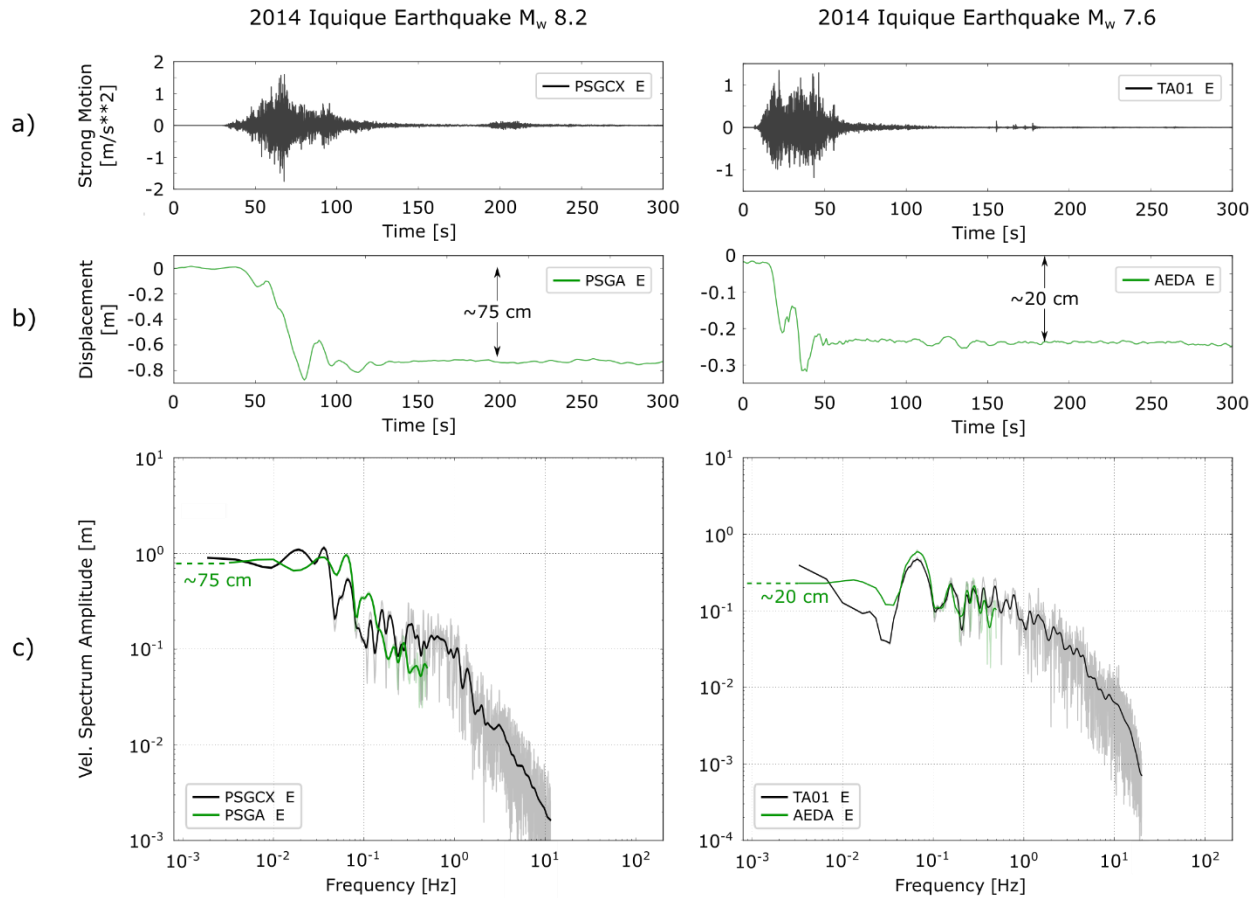


**Figure 5.** **a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the CO06 station of the CSN network for the 16 September 2016 Illapel earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement at station PFRJ, collocated with the CO06 accelerometer. **c)** Velocity spectrum computed from the acceleration record (black) and from the displacement record (green). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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3 279 As predicted by eq. (11), a flat velocity spectral trend is observed at low frequencies both  
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5 280 in the cGNSS spectrum as well as in the velocity spectrum computed from strong ground records.  
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7 281 This means that these records are dominated by the near-field and surface waves. Figures 6, 7, and  
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9 282 8 show the integrated acceleration spectra and the differentiated displacement spectra of the closest  
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11 283 available stations for four earthquakes: Iquique 2014 (PSGCX) along with its main aftershock  
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13 284 (TA01), Illapel 2015 (CO06), Chiloé 2016 (GO07) and Maule 2010 (CCSP and ROC1). Each of  
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15 285 these earthquakes produced significant static displacements at the sites, as can be seen in the GNSS  
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17 286 records. Depending on the earthquake, the displacements vary from some centimeters to hundreds  
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19 287 of centimeters, for instance, the CO06 station for the 2015 Illapel earthquake has a displacement  
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21 288 of ~140 cm, and CCSP for the Maule earthquake had a displacement of ~300 cm, both in their  
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23 289 East-West components.

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25 290 An excellent agreement can be observed between the static displacement observed from  
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27 291 the GNSS record and the low-velocity spectral amplitude in both records. This confirms the  
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29 292 relation (11) between the low-frequency asymptote of velocity spectra with the static displacement  
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31 293 derived from GNSS records. However, possible effects on the integrated acceleration spectrum are  
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33 294 evident at the low-frequency limit and are corrected by the differentiated displacement spectrum.  
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35 295 As expected, GNSS data is much more robust at low frequencies than accelerograms. Madariaga  
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37 296 et al. (2019) had already shown this relationship for the 1 April 2014 event in Iquique, where it is  
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39 297 possible to determine, from the velocity spectrum, the static displacement produced by the  
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41 298 earthquake at the PB11 station.

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43 299 The spectra of these recent large Chilean earthquakes recorded close to their source  
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45 300 (Figures 6, 7, 8, and Figures S1-S8) show a constant low-frequency trend in velocity at low  
46  
47 301 frequencies and decay as  $f^{-1}$  at high frequencies. The dashed horizontal line in the low-frequency  
48  
49 302 end of the spectra shows the static displacement observed at the collocated GNSS station. We  
50  
51 303 observe that for all these records, the velocity spectrum derived from accelerograms and GNSS  
52  
53 304 records are the same, except for the recording of the Maule earthquake in Concepción (CCSP) in  
54  
55 305 Figure 8. At this site, the ground-displacement was 300 cm, so that the strong-motion at this site  
56  
57 306 is probably affected by inaccurate recording of low frequencies. Unfortunately, we do not have  
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59 307 any other records of the Maule earthquake in the near-field to evaluate the accuracy of velocities  
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308 determined from strong-motion integration.



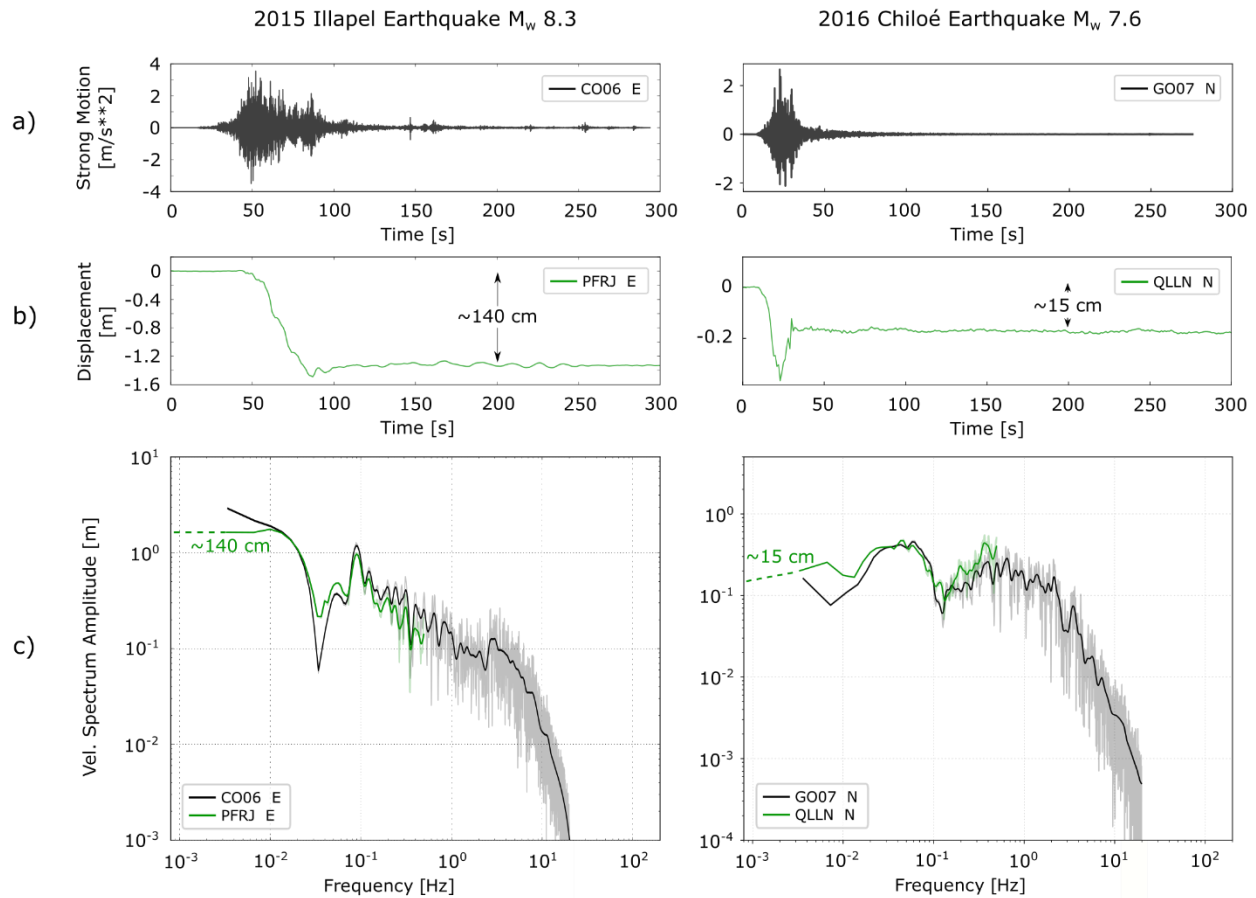
309

310 **Figure 6. a)** Acceleration record for the east-west component of the PSGCX station that recorded  
 311 the magnitude  $M_w$  8.2 Iquique earthquake of 1 April 2014 (left column) and for the TA01 station  
 312 that recorded the Iquique aftershock of magnitude  $M_w$  7.6 on 3 April 2014 (right column). **b)**  
 313 GNSS displacement recording for the east-west component of the PSGA station that recorded the  
 314 magnitude  $M_w$  8.2 Iquique earthquake of 1 April 2014 (left column) and for the AEDA station that  
 315 recorded the Iquique aftershock of magnitude  $M_w$  7.6 on 3 April 2014 (right column). **c)** Velocity  
 316 spectra obtained from both earthquakes, integrated acceleration (black) and differentiated  
 317 displacement (green). The dashed horizontal lines at low-frequency show the excellent fit between  
 318 low-frequency trend of the velocity spectra and the static ground-displacement derived from GNSS  
 319 records.

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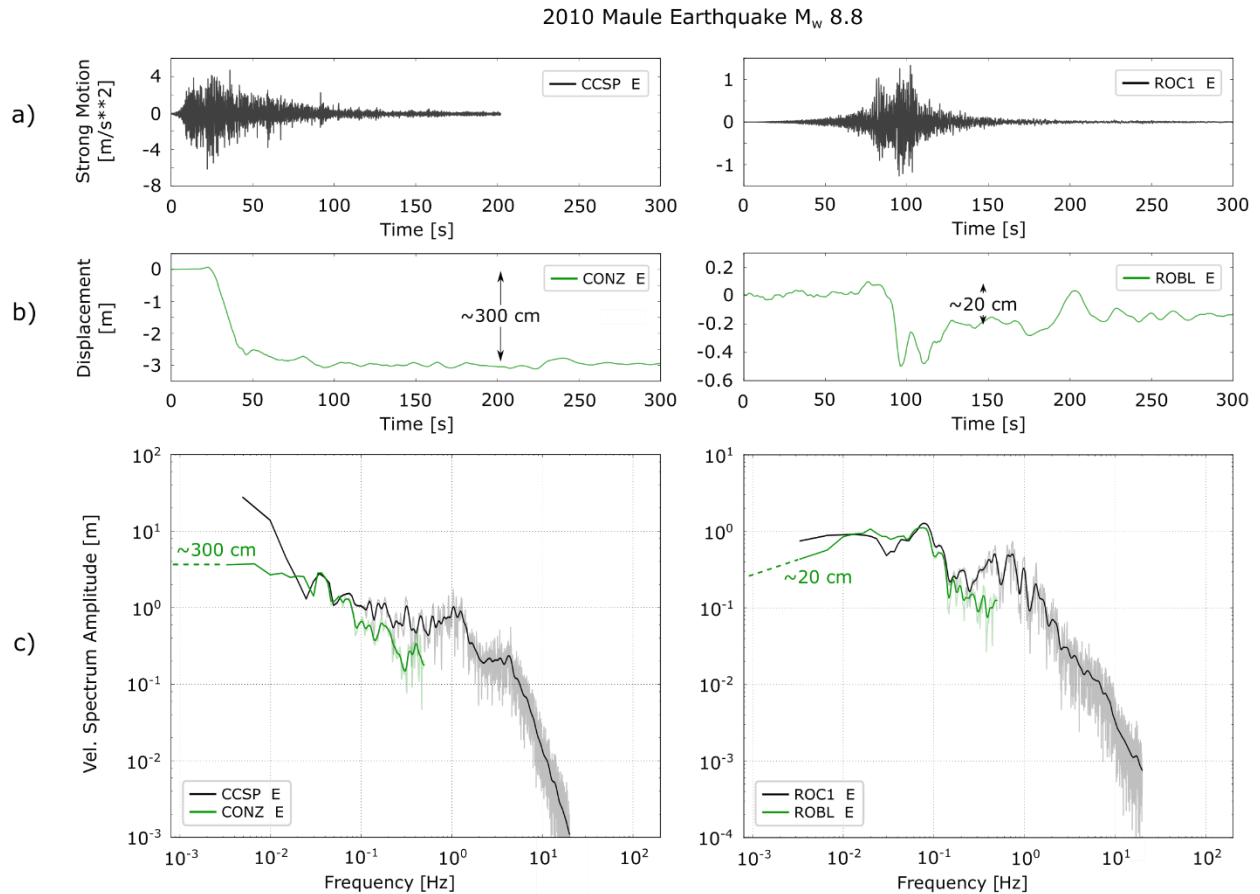


322

323 **Figure 7. a)** Acceleration record for the east-west component recorded at station CO06 for the 15  
 324 September 2015 Illapel earthquake of magnitude  $M_w$  8.3 (left column) and for the GO07 station  
 325 that recorded the Chiloé earthquake of magnitude  $M_w$  7.6 on 25 December 2016 (right column).  
 326 **b)** GNSS displacement record for the east-west component recorded at station PFRJ for the 15  
 327 September 2015 Illapel earthquake of magnitude  $M_w$  8.3 (left column) and for station QLLN  
 328 recording of the 25 December 2016 event in Chiloé of magnitude  $M_w$  7.6 (right column). **c)**  
 329 Velocity spectra obtained from both records, integrated acceleration (black) and differentiated  
 330 displacement (green). The dashed horizontal lines at low-frequency show the excellent fit between  
 331 low-frequency trend of the velocity spectra and the static ground-displacement derived from GNSS  
 332 records.

333

334



335

336 **Figure 8.** **a)** Acceleration records for the east-west component of the CCSP and ROC1 strong-  
 337 motion recordings of the 27 February 2010,  $M_w$  8.8 megathrust earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement  
 338 records for the east-west component of the CONZ and ROBL GNSS recording of the 27 February  
 339 2010,  $M_w$  8.8 megathrust earthquake. **c)** Velocity spectra obtained from both records, by  
 340 integrating acceleration in the spectral domain (black) and differentiating GNSS displacement  
 341 (green). The CCSP station is located near Concepción in the neighborhood of the main fault, while  
 342 ROC1 is situated close to 400 km North of the hypocenter. The dashed horizontal lines at low-  
 343 frequency in the near-field record of station ROC1 shows an excellent fit between velocity spectra  
 344 and static ground-displacement. The low-frequency spectrum at station CCSP is not flat indicating  
 345 that the integration of the strong-motion record is not accurate for frequencies below 0.02 Hz (50  
 346 s period).

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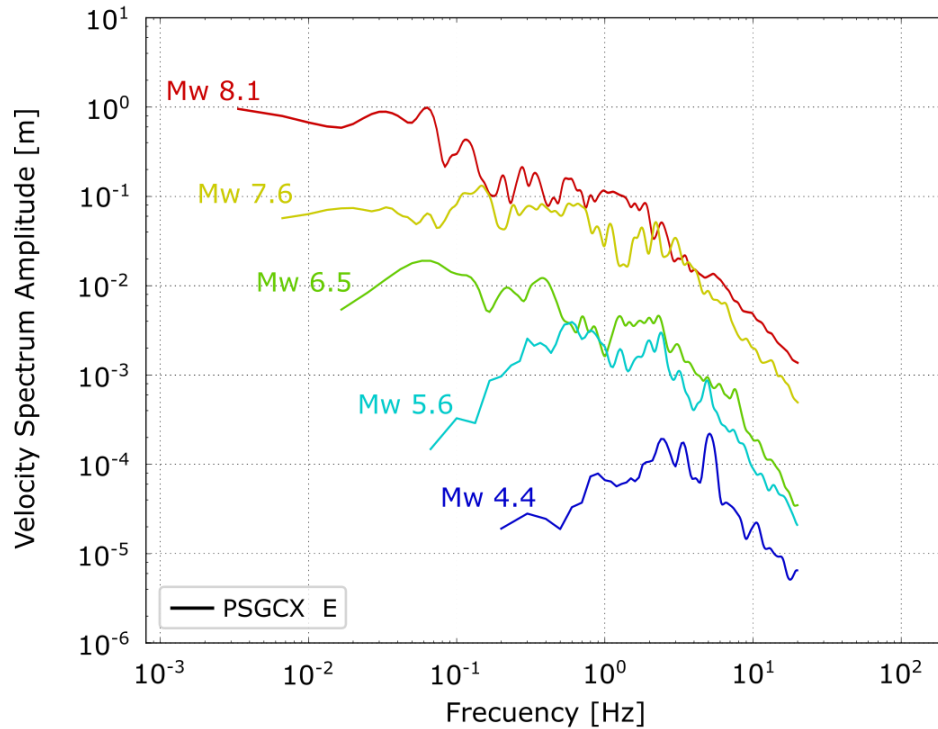
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## 5. Influence of magnitude and distance in the earthquake spectra

Several authors have documented changes in the shape of the displacement, velocity, or acceleration spectrum, both in the near- and far-fields (Boatwright and Choy, 1989; Archuleta et al., 2016; Denolle and Shearer, 2016; Madariaga et al., 2019). Here we show the transition from  $f^{-1}$  to  $f^{-2}$  as a function of distance from the source and magnitude of the events.

### 5.1 Spectrum of earthquakes with different magnitude

We considered events with different magnitudes but observed at a similar hypocentral distance close to 90 km. Figure 9 shows the behavior of the velocity spectrum as a function of magnitude. It is evident that in the transition from an event of magnitude  $M_w$  6.5 to an  $M_w$  5.6 event, the velocity spectra for the smaller magnitude events decay to zero at low frequencies. The corner frequency of the earthquake becomes evident for the smaller and the spectra are similar to that proposed by Brune (1970). For larger magnitudes, on the other hand, the corner frequency becomes increasingly difficult to define. For the largest events, the  $M_w$  8.2, 2014 Iquique earthquake, the velocity spectrum is flat at low frequencies and reaches a value of 1 meter.



374

375 **Figure 9.** Velocity spectrum for events of different magnitude recorded for the east-west  
 376 component of the PSGCX station in northern Chile. The events have a relatively similar  
 377 hypocentral distance to the station. The earthquake information of these events is shown in Table  
 378 S3.

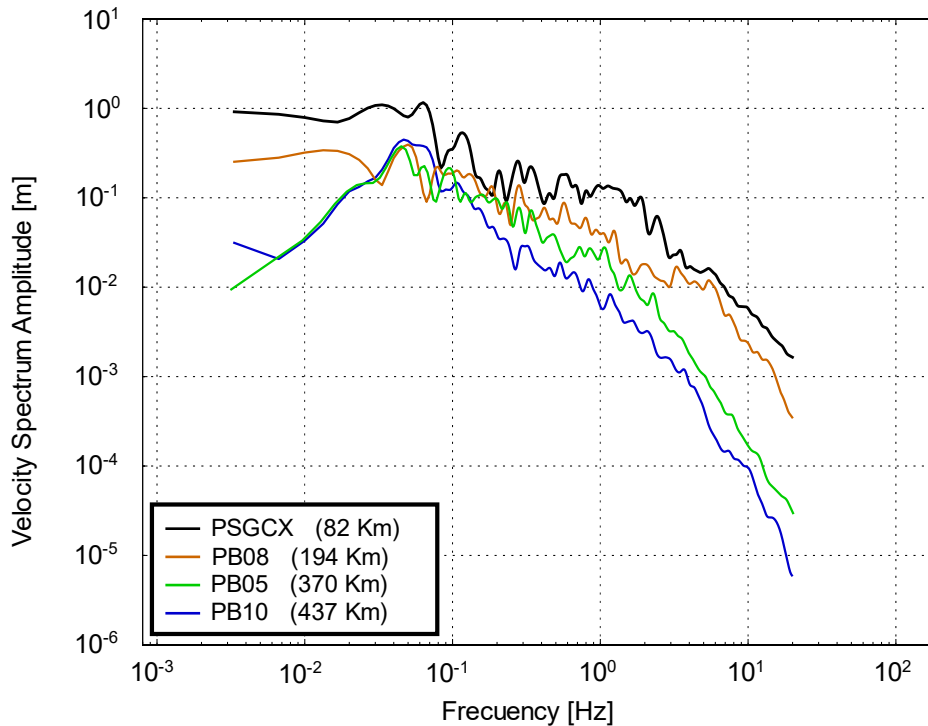
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## 380 5.2 Spectra of a large earthquake at different observation distances

381 The static displacement decreases with distance from the source as  $r^{-2}$  in contrast to the  
 382 amplitude of far-field seismic waves that decrease as  $r^{-1}$ , considering an isotropic and  
 383 homogeneous medium.

384 Figure 10 shows four velocity spectra recorded at four stations for the Iquique earthquake  
 385 of  $M_w 8.2$ . In this figure, we observe that the two closest stations PSGCX and PB08, both at less  
 386 than 200 km from the source have a flat velocity spectrum at low frequencies. However, there is a  
 387 sudden change of slope in the low frequencies for the farther stations PB05 located at a distance  
 388 of approximately 370 km and PB10 at 437 km. Madariaga et al. (2019) estimate that the far-field

389 becomes dominant over the near-field beyond distances of 400 km assuming an average P-wave  
 390 velocity of 6 km/s and a P/S velocity ratio of 1.73.



391  
 392 **Figure 10.** Velocity spectrum for the east-west component of four stations that recorded the April  
 393 1, 2014 earthquake ordered as a function of hypocentral distance. Clearly the spectral shape  
 394 changes for distances greater than 194 Km. The peak in the velocity spectra of stations PB05 and  
 395 PB10 is the corner frequency for this event.

396

## 397 6. Discussion

398 We have studied the velocity spectra of the 8 largest recent earthquakes in Chile. These  
 399 records significantly increase the available spectra for Chilean earthquakes that are needed to  
 400 produce reliable strong-motion prediction for future earthquakes. Due to the limited number of  
 401 strong-motion records available in Chile, seismic spectra have been estimated by assuming that  
 402 the typical earthquake spectrum is that proposed by Brune (1970). As discussed by Madariaga et  
 403 al. (2019) strong ground-motion spectra contain both far-field and near-field terms as well as  
 404 surface wave components.

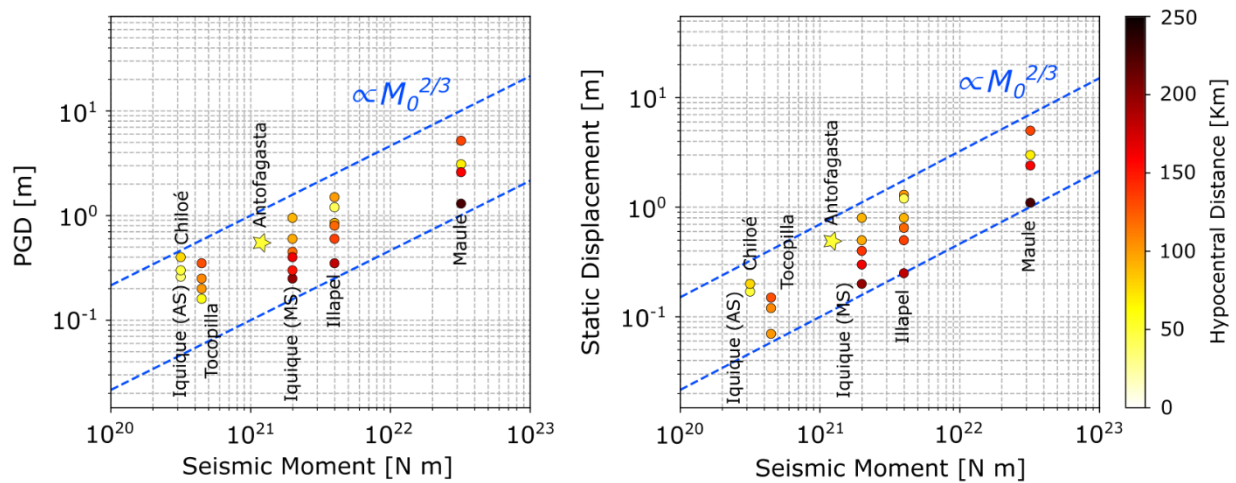
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3 405 Both the velocity spectra derived from strong-motion and cGNSS records are significantly  
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5 406 different from the usual far-field model of Brune (1970). The velocity spectra of large magnitude  
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7 407 earthquakes show a clear flat low-frequency trend. The amplitude observed at low frequencies in  
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9 408 the spectra is a measure of static co-seismic displacement produced by the earthquake at the  
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11 409 location of the station. Although it is difficult to estimate low frequencies from acceleration spectra  
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13 410 because of the well-known instability of velocity traces integrated from accelerograms, GNSS is  
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15 411 a good complement in the frequency band needed to estimate its amplitude. In the velocity spectra  
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17 412 shown in Figures 6, 7, and 8 we cannot determine a clear corner frequency of the earthquakes: the  
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19 413 velocity spectra do not have a clear decay up to about 1 Hz where an abrupt decay begins. It is  
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21 414 highly likely that this strong decay, which is different for each spectrum, could be related to  
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23 415 scattering and attenuation effects that occur at high frequencies.

23 416 The effect of the near-field on the velocity spectrum is to produce a flat trend at low  
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25 417 frequencies (Madariaga et al., 2019) that prevents the observation of the corner frequency. We  
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27 418 understand then that when the near-field dominates strong-motion, the Brune spectrum cannot be  
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29 419 observed. The question is for which distance and type of earthquakes do we observe the Brune  
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31 420 spectrum? The magnitude of the earthquake may give us some clues about this. The smaller the  
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33 421 magnitude of the event, the smaller the co-seismic displacement so that the velocity spectrum at  
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35 422 low frequencies will converge to zero, producing the characteristic Brune spectrum with an evident  
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37 423 corner frequency. Figure 9 shows that for earthquakes recorded at a similar distance (~90 Km)  
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39 424 from the source (see Table S3), there is a transition magnitude at which the spectrum begins to  
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41 425 decay in amplitude at low frequencies. In the case of Figure 9, for earthquakes with magnitudes  
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43 426 between  $M_w$  5.6 – 6.5 it is possible to observe a change in the low frequencies that suggests the  
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45 427 transition from a Brune model to a spectrum dominated by the near-field.

44 428 Boatwright and Choy (1989) were among the first authors to highlight the differences  
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46 429 between the acceleration spectrum of moderate and large earthquakes. Removing the near-source  
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48 430 free surface effect in far-field accelerograms, they made a distinction in the shape of the strong-  
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50 431 motion spectrum for earthquakes with a seismic moment  $M_0 < 10^{20}$  [N m], which has an increase  
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52 432 of  $f^2$  at low frequencies, and those of seismic moment  $M_0 > 10^{20}$  that have an intermediate  
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54 433 frequency of  $f^{5/4}$ . These results show a break in the scaling law for moderate and large magnitude  
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earthquakes, concluding that a large earthquake cannot be obtained by scaling of the spectra of moderate events.

Figure 11 shows the relationship between the static displacement and the peak ground-displacement (PGD), and the seismic moment  $M_0$  of the last seven major earthquakes. The PGD was obtained from relation (8) using accelerograms or, preferably, from high-rate GNSS records when they were available (see Table S4 for availability). The scaling relationship is proportional to  $M_0^{2/3}$ , which is similar to that proposed by Singh et al. (2020) who reported a break in the relationship between PGD and seismic momentum  $M_0$  using seismometers, accelerometers, and cGPS records observed in the near-field in the Mexican subduction zone. They proposed that PGD scaled like  $M_0^{2/3}$  for events of magnitude  $M_w \leq 6$ ; while it scaled like  $M_0^{1/3}$  for events of magnitude  $M_w \geq 8$ . This is not the case for large Chilean earthquakes that rupture to the trench and then propagate bilaterally along the coast. We definitely need more data before we can conclude about scaling of PGD in the near-field. Also, we show that for large earthquakes, like those studied here, the static displacement is a good approximation to the PGD (Ruhl et al., 2019).



**Figure 11.** PGD as a function of seismic moment  $M_0$  for the last 7 large thrust earthquakes in Chile. With discontinuous blue lines, the ratio  $\text{PGD} \propto M_0^{2/3}$  is shown and with color scale the source station distance of the GNSS record used. The PGD and static displacement for the Antofagasta earthquake is computed using the double-integrated acceleration register (star). The PGD and static displacement values are listed on Table S4.

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3 454 From the previous discussion, it is obvious that hypocentral distance plays a key role in the  
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5 455 spectral shape of large earthquakes. Madariaga et al. (2019) made a rough approximation that  
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7 456 Brune's far-field spectrum should be observed at distances larger than 400 Km. Figure 10 shows  
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9 457 a clear transition between the spectra at the PB08 station at a distance of 194 km and that at the  
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11 458 PB05 station at a distance of 370 Km. We do not have spectra at intermediate distances to  
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13 459 determine more accurately when the near-field becomes negligible with respect to the far-field.

14 460 We believe that both distance and magnitude determine the region where near- and far-  
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16 461 field spectra are dominant. However, we would like to emphasize the importance of the effect of  
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18 462 the near-field and its influence on the calculation of the spectrum of an earthquake. Previous  
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20 463 studies had already observed a similar decay in the displacement spectrum, attributing it to a  
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22 464 modification of the Brune model due to a double corner frequency or modifications of the far-field  
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24 465 waves (Archuleta et al., 2016; Denolle and Shearer, 2016).

25 466 Future studies of the near-field spectra will require rethinking several aspects: (1) The  
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27 467 analysis of the static and dynamic parameters of the seismic source, with which the scaling laws  
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29 468 are proposed, could vary for large earthquakes in which the near-field dominates so that the Brune  
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31 469 spectral model cannot be assumed to be valid, (2) Regarding strong-motion prediction studies, in  
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33 470 which the Brune's model is also assumed, they should be reviewed considering the spectral  
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35 471 properties of large earthquakes.

36 472

## 38 473 **7. Conclusions**

40  
41 474 We show the strong influence of the near-field in the velocity spectrum of all the large  
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43 475 earthquake of  $M_w > 7.5$  recorded in Chile. We observe that all of the velocity spectra become flat  
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45 476 at low frequencies and close distances, and the velocity spectral level converges to the static co-  
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47 477 seismic displacement of the earthquake. This is quite different from the classical far-field spectral  
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49 478 models proposed by Aki (1967) and Brune (1970). It is difficult to quantify the transition distance  
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51 479 and magnitude because we have limited data for the moment. Both criteria are currently not  
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53 480 considered when studying spectral parameters or strong-motion prediction in earthquake  
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55 481 engineering and would change the modeling of the strong-motion for large earthquakes. Finally,  
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3 482 we observe that peak ground-displacement and the static GNSS displacement scales like moment  
4 483 to the power  $2/3$  up to the largest event observed in Chile ( $M_w$  8.8, Maule 2010).  
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18 492 department of the University of Chile for the data for the 1995 Antofagasta and 2005 Tarapacá  
19 493 earthquakes.  
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3 **1 Figures and Tables**  
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3 **Table S1.** Location, type and magnitude of each earthquake used in this study.

<b>Earthquake</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>	<b>Depth (Km)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Magnitude</b>
Antofagasta (1995)	23.360°S	70.310°W	47.0	Interplate	$M_w$ 8.0
Tarapacá (2005)	19.895°S	69.125°W	108.0	Intraplate	$M_w$ 7.8
Tocopilla (2007)	22.314°S	70.078°W	47.7	Interplate	$M_w$ 7.7
Maule (2010)	36.290°S	73.239°W	30.0	Interplate	$M_w$ 8.8
Iquique (2014)	19.572°S	70.908°W	38.9	Interplate	$M_w$ 8.2
Iquique (2014)	20.545°S	70.418°W	26.1	Interplate	$M_w$ 7.6
Illapel (2015)	31.553°S	71.864°W	11.1	Interplate	$M_w$ 8.3
Chiloé (2016)	43.517°S	74.391°W	30.0	Interplate	$M_w$ 7.6

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15 **Table S2.** Strong-motion and GPS instrument and hypocentral distance.

<b>Earthquake</b>	<b>Strong-motion</b>	<b>GNSS</b>	<b>Distance (Km)</b>
Antofagasta (1995)	ANTO		
Tarapacá (2005)	PICA		126.0
Tocopilla (2007)	PB04		60.9
Maule (2010)	CCSP	CONZ	69.7
	ROC1	ROBL	421.0
Iquique (2014)	PSGCX	PSGA	91.6
	PB11	PB11	138.2
Iquique (2014)	TA01	AEDA	36.0
Illapel (2015)	CO06	PFRJ	100.6
	CO03		136.8
Chiloé (2016)	GO07	QLLN	79.8

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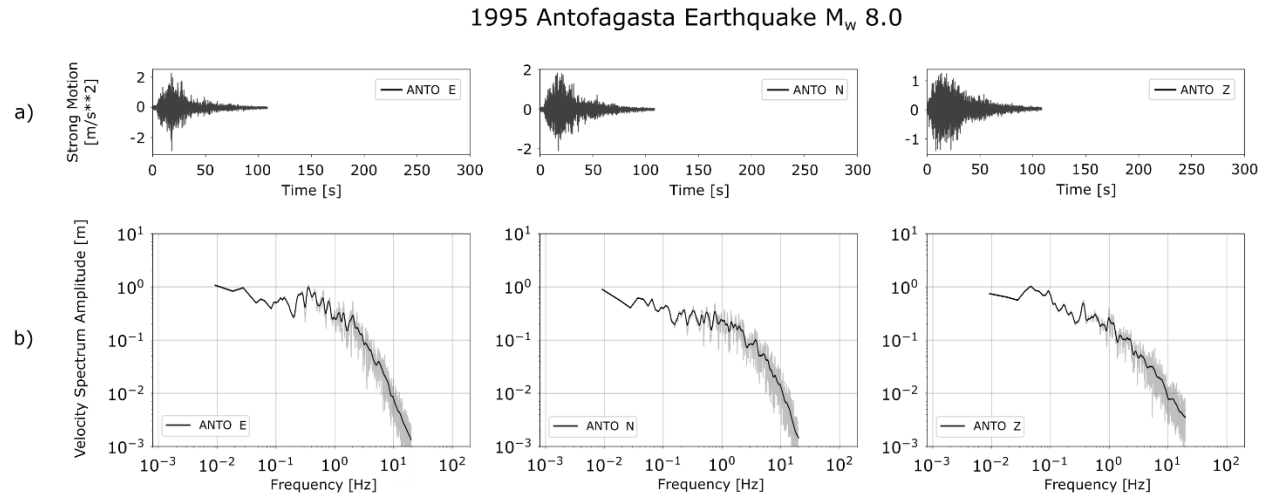
30 **Table S3.** Location of the PSGCX station and events used in Figure 9.

Station	Latitude	Longitude
PSGCX	-19.60°	-70.12°

Event	Latitude	Longitude	Depth (Km)	Magnitude ( $M_w$ )	St-Ev Distance (Km)
E1	-19.572°	-70.908°	38.9	8.2	91.6
E2	-20.545°	-70.418°	26.1	7.6	111.1
E3	-19.508°	-70.705°	39.0	6.5	80.1
E4	-20.413°	-70.186°	43.8	5.6	102.7
E5	-20.442°	-70.137°	46.0	4.4	101.0

50 **Table S4.** Seismic moment  $M_0$ , static displacement and PGD for GNSS records of the last  
 51 Chilean earthquakes.

Earthquake	$M_0$ [N m]	Station	Static Displacement [m]	PGD [m]	Hypocentral Distance [Km]
Antofagasta	1.2E+21	ANTO	0.50	0.55	50
Tocopilla	4.46E+20	CDLC	0.12	0.16	59
		SRGD	0.12	0.25	108
		VLZL	0.07	0.20	102
		JRGN	0.15	0.35	129
Maule	3.2E+22	CONZ	3.00	3.10	70
		CONS	5.00	5.20	133
		SJAV	2.40	2.60	159
		MAUL	1.10	1.30	226
Iquique	1.99E+21	PSGA	0.80	0.95	91
		ATJN	0.50	0.60	95
		PB11	0.40	0.60	139
		IQQE	0.30	0.45	119
		PB08	0.20	0.25	198
		PCHA	0.30	0.40	164
		MNMI	0.20	0.30	152
Iquique	4.46E+20	AEDA	0.20	0.26	36
		IQQE	0.17	0.30	49
Illapel	3.98E+21	PFRJ	1.30	1.50	100
		CNBA	1.20	1.20	42
		CMBA	0.80	0.85	91
		PEDR	0.50	0.60	135
		OVLL	0.65	0.80	121
		TOLO	0.25	0.35	182
Chiloé	3.16E+20,	QLLN	0.20	0.4	79



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53 **Figure S1. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the ANTO station of the  
 54 CSN network for the 31 July 1995 Antofagasta earthquake. **b)** Velocity spectrum computed from  
 55 the acceleration record (black). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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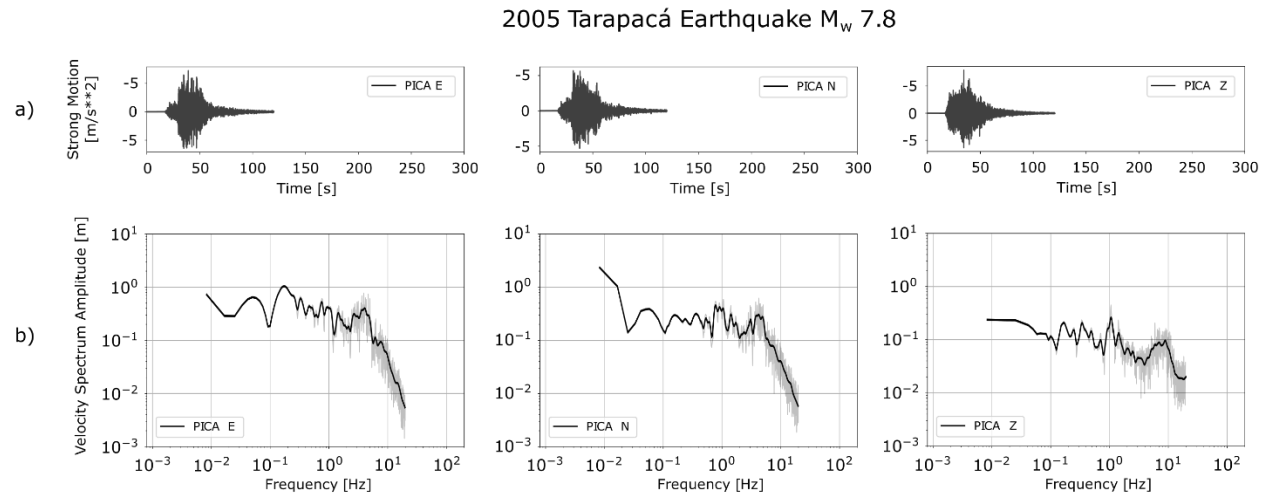
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73 **Figure S2. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the PICA station of the  
 74 CSN network for the 13 June 2005 Tarapacá earthquake. **b)** Velocity spectrum computed from the  
 75 acceleration record (black). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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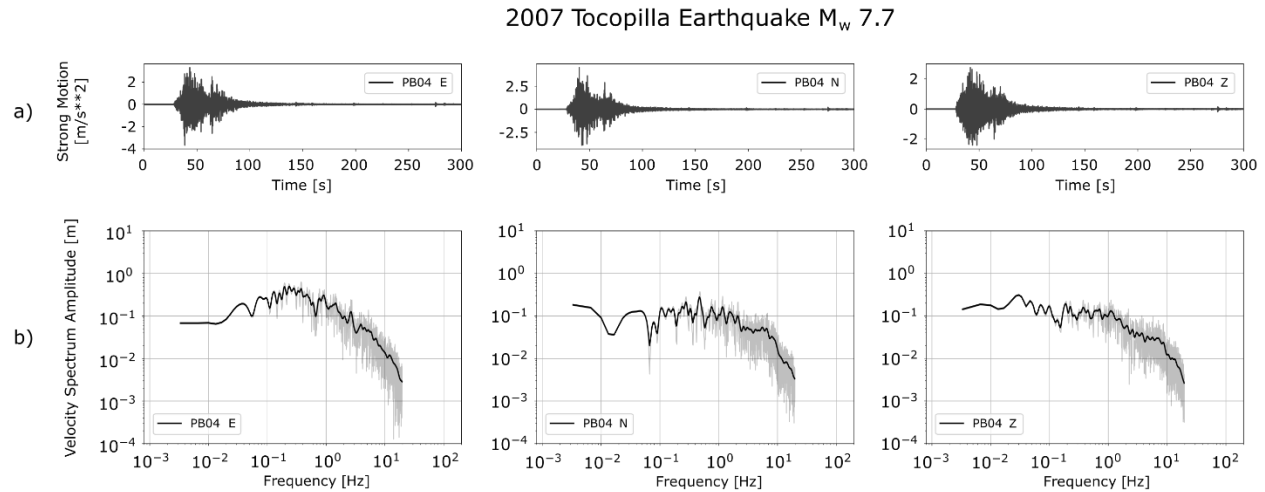
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89 **Figure S3. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the PB04 station of the  
 90 CSN network for the 14 October 2007 Tocopilla earthquake. **b)** Velocity spectrum computed from  
 91 the acceleration record (black). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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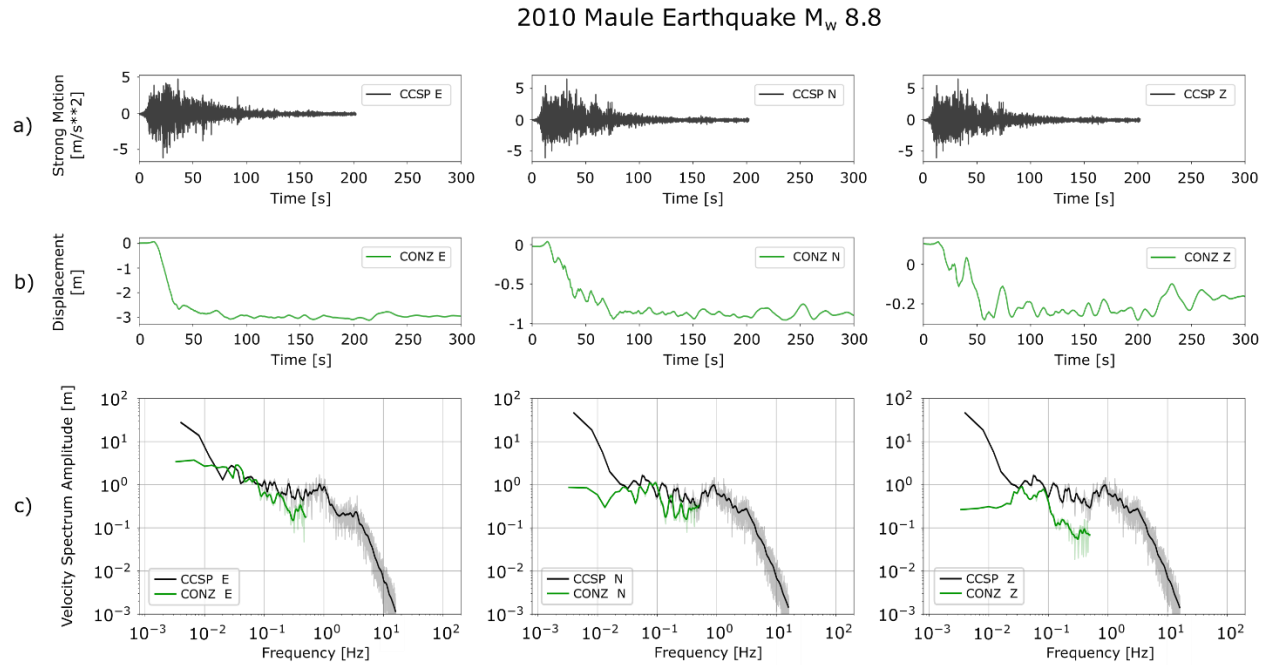
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**Figure S4. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the CO06 station of the CSN network for the 27 February 2010 Maule earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement at station PFRJ, collocated with the accelerometer. **c)** Velocity spectrum computed from the acceleration record (black) and from the displacement record (green). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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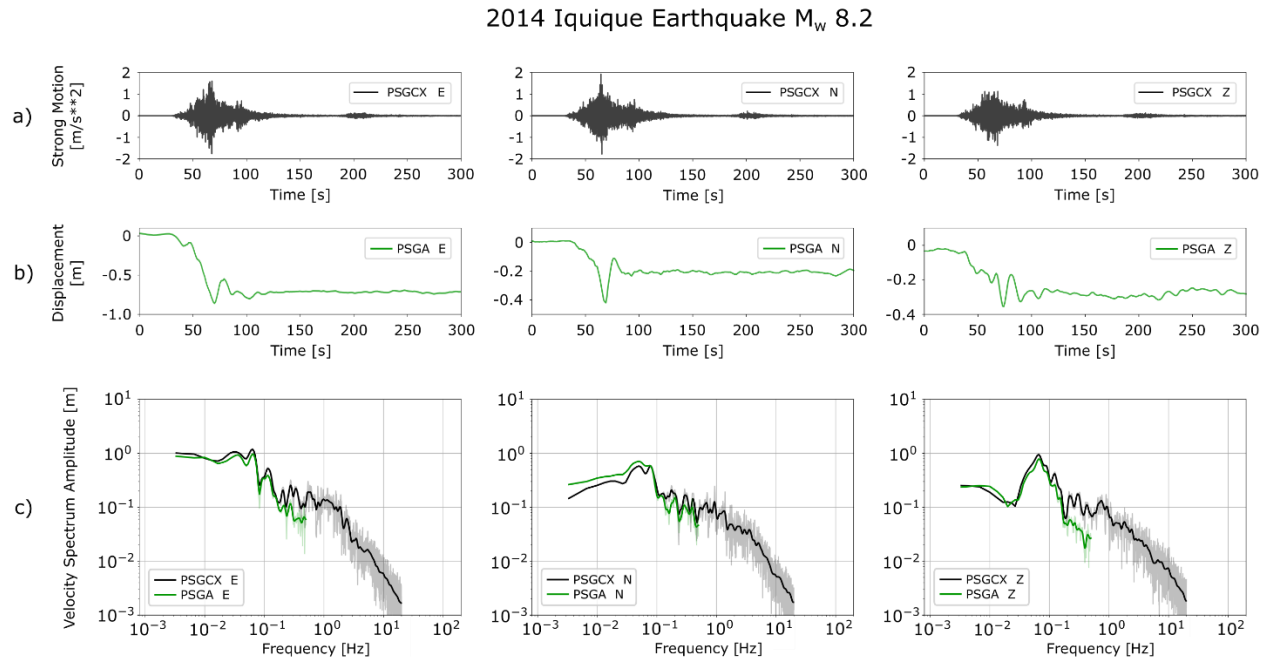
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**Figure S5. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the CO06 station of the CSN network for the 1 April 2014 Iquique earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement at station PFRJ, collocated with the accelerometer. **c)** Velocity spectrum computed from the acceleration record (black) and from the displacement record (green). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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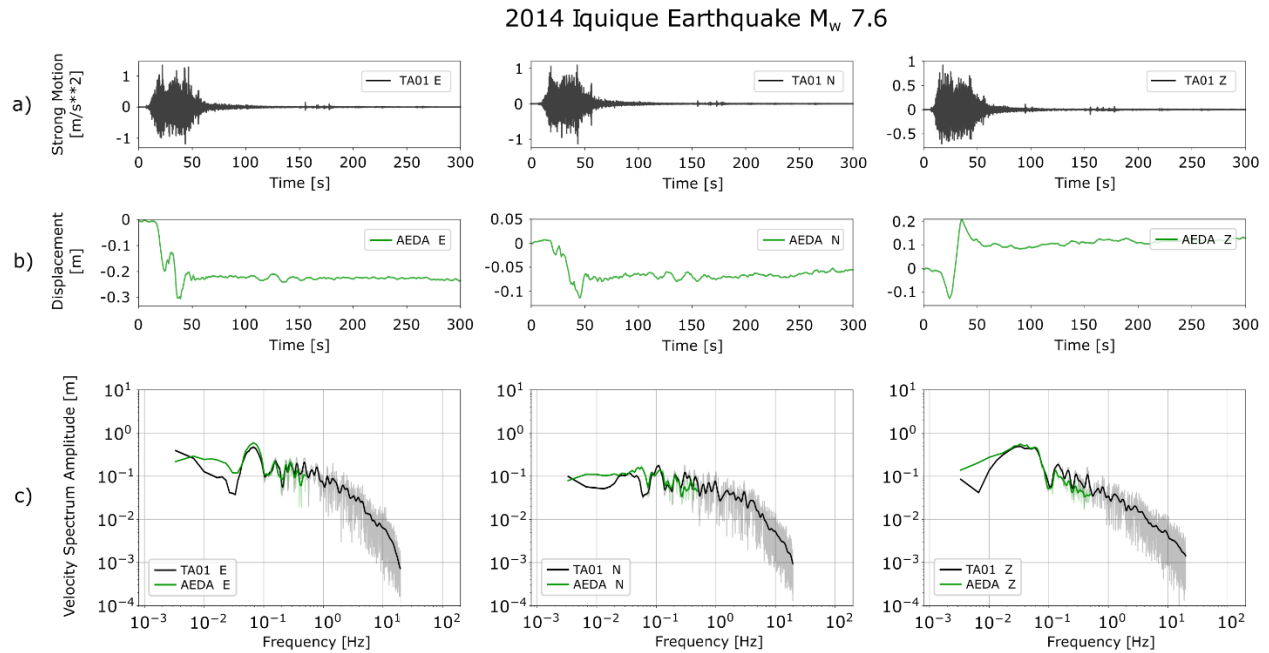
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135 **Figure S6. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the CO06 station of the  
 136 CSN network for the 3 April 2014 Iquique earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement at station PFRJ,  
 137 collocated with the accelerometer. **c)** Velocity spectrum computed from the acceleration record  
 138 (black) and from the displacement record (green). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-  
 139 Ohmachi filter.

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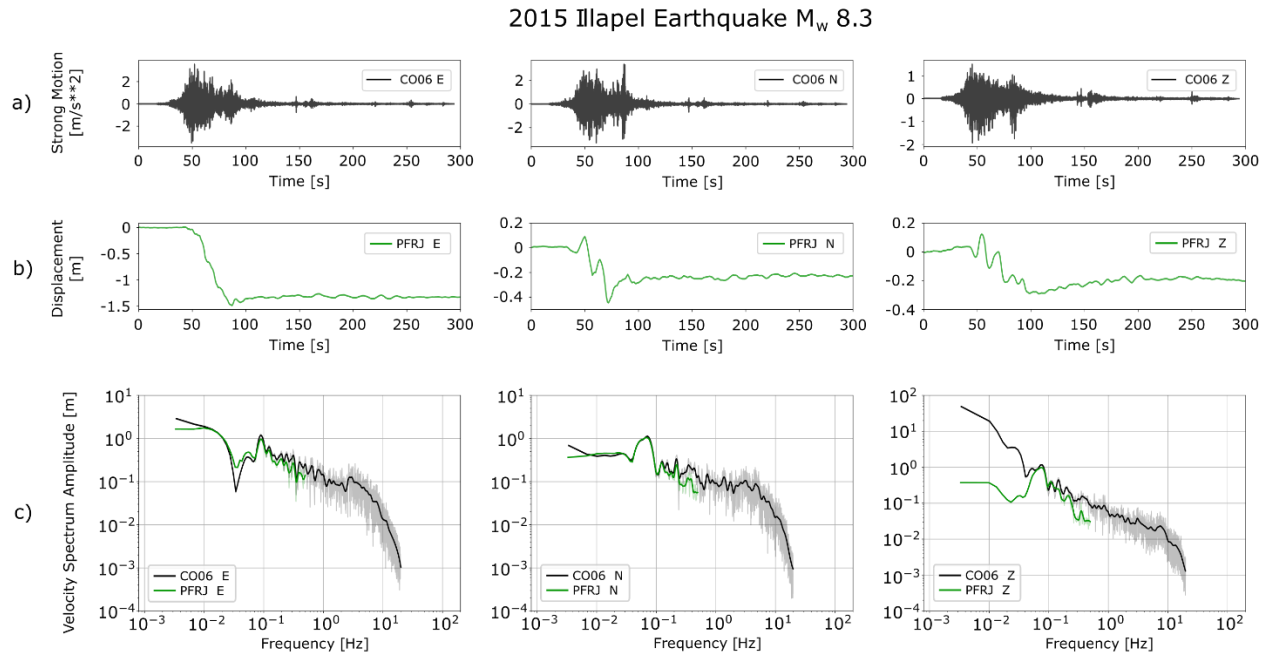
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**Figure S7. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the CO06 station of the CSN network for the 16 September 2015 Illapel earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement at station PFRJ, collocated with the accelerometer. **c)** Velocity spectrum computed from the acceleration record (black) and from the displacement record (green). Both spectra were smoothed with a Konno-Ohmachi filter.

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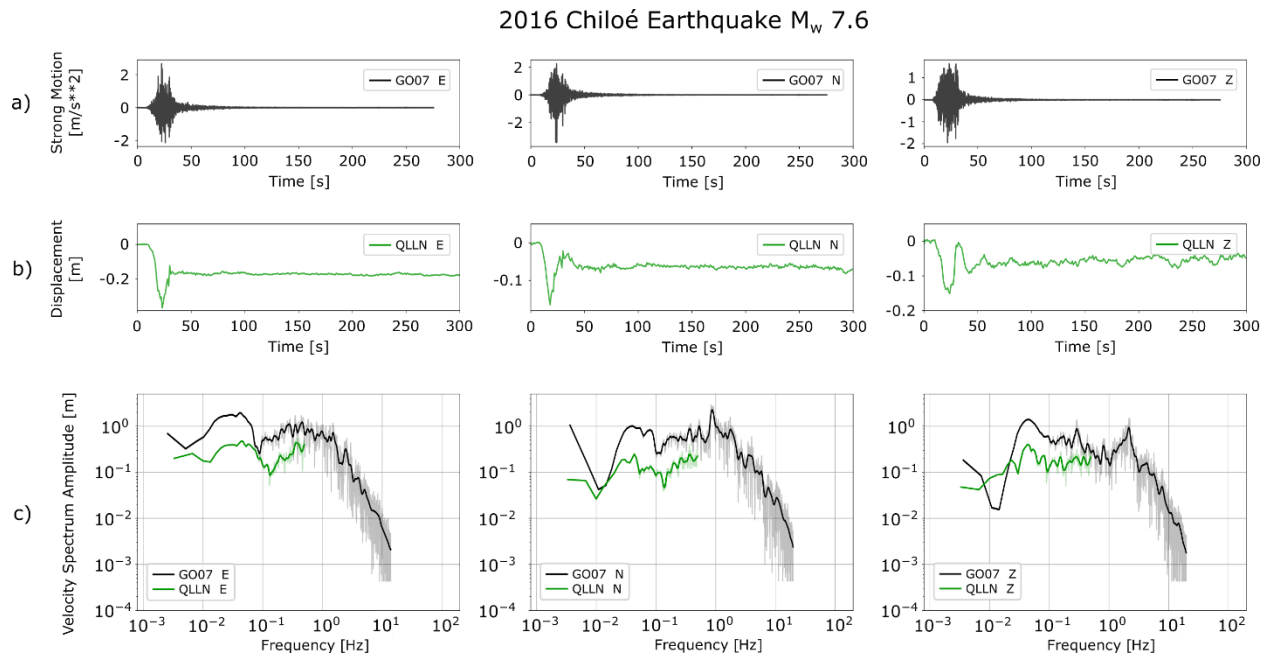
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165 **Figure S8. a)** Three components of the acceleration records obtained at the CO06 station of the  
 166 CSN network for the 25 December 2016 Chiloé earthquake. **b)** GNSS displacement at station  
 167 PFRJ, collocated with the accelerometer. **c)** Velocity spectrum computed from the acceleration  
 168 record (black) and from the displacement record (green). Both spectra were smoothed with a  
 169 Konno-Ohmachi filter.