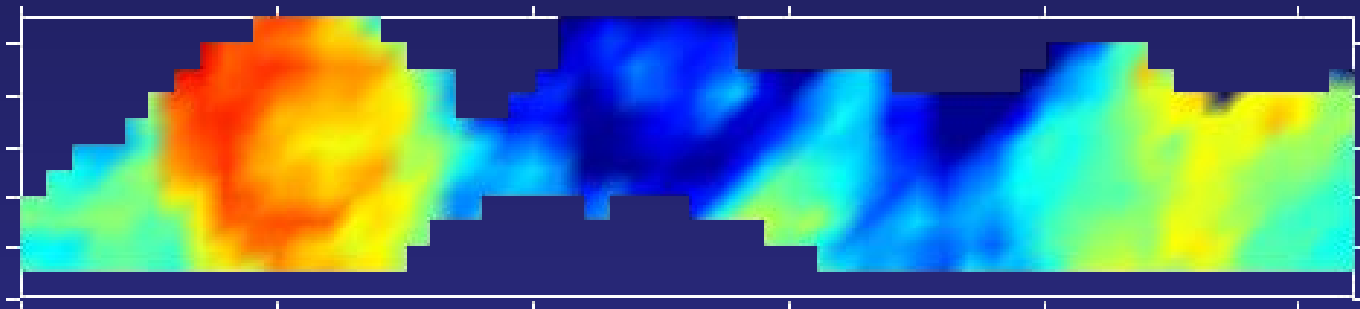


# Can we map asperities using b-values?



**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Schweizerischer Erdbebendienst  
Swiss Seismological Service

**Thessa Tormann (ETH)**

Stefan Wiemer (ETH)

Danijel Schorlemmer (USC)

Jochen Woessner (ETH)

# **b-value as stress sensor**

Amitrano, JGR, 2003

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# b-value as stress sensor

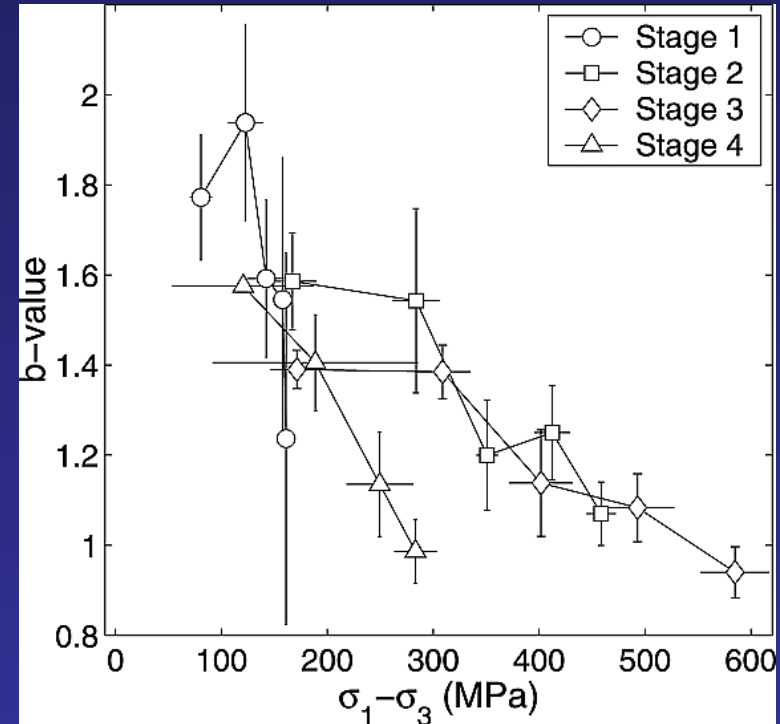
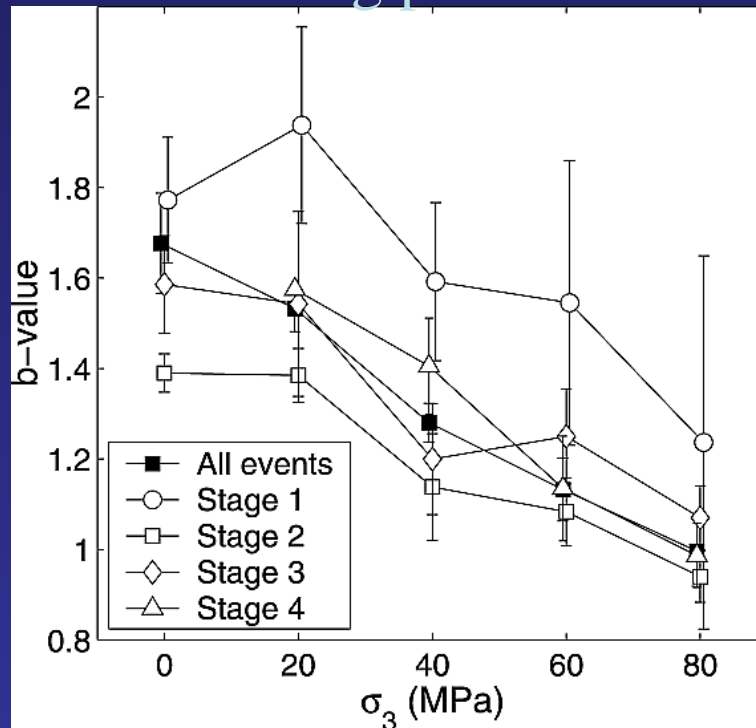
Amitrano, JGR, 2003

Laboratory study:

Acoustic Emission (AE) experiments with granite samples

Mean b-value decreases systematically with increasing

confining pressure and differential stress



# b-value as stress sensor

## Several case studies in different regions of the world

---

### California

1997: Wiemer & Wyss → Parkfield and Morgan Hill

2000: Wyss et al. → San Jacinto and Elsinore

2001: Wyss → Hayward

2005: Schorlemmer & Wiemer → Parkfield

2007: Parsons → Calaveras

### Mexico

2001: Zuniga & Wyss → Pacific Coast

### Iceland

2006: Wyss & Stefansson → Southern Iceland

### France

1999: Sylvander → French Pyrenees

### Turkey

2000: Oncel & Wyss → Izmit

2002: Westerhaus et al. → Izmit

### Sumatra

2005: Nuannin → off coast of NW Sumatra

### Japan

2002, 2005: Wyss & Matsumura → Kanto-Tokai

2006: Nakaya → Kuril Trench

This list is not complete, altogether more than 20 case studies that map spatial b-value distributions (plus several studies of b-values beneath volcanoes and in subduction zones)

# b-value as stress sensor

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---

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This list is not complete, altogether more than 20 case studies that map Spatial b-value distributions (plus several studies of b-values beneath volcanoes and in subduction zones)

# b-value as stress sensor

## Outline

---

- General Issues of b-value Mapping

- Example Case Studies

2005: Schorlemmer & Wiemer → Parkfield

1997: Wiemer & Wyss → Parkfield and Morgan Hill

2000: Wyss et al. → San Jacinto and Elsinore

2002, 2005: Wyss & Matsumura → Kanto-Tokai

2007: Parsons → Calaveras

Currently: Tormann et al. → San Francisco Bay Area

- ALM – Asperity-based likelihood model for California
- CALM – Cross-sectional asperity likelihood model for California
- Testing Perspectives

# General issues of b-value mapping

---

Problems that each study addresses a little differently:

- Data quality
- Minimum number of events versus coverage
- $M_c$  calculation
- Mapping radii

# General issues of b-value mapping

---

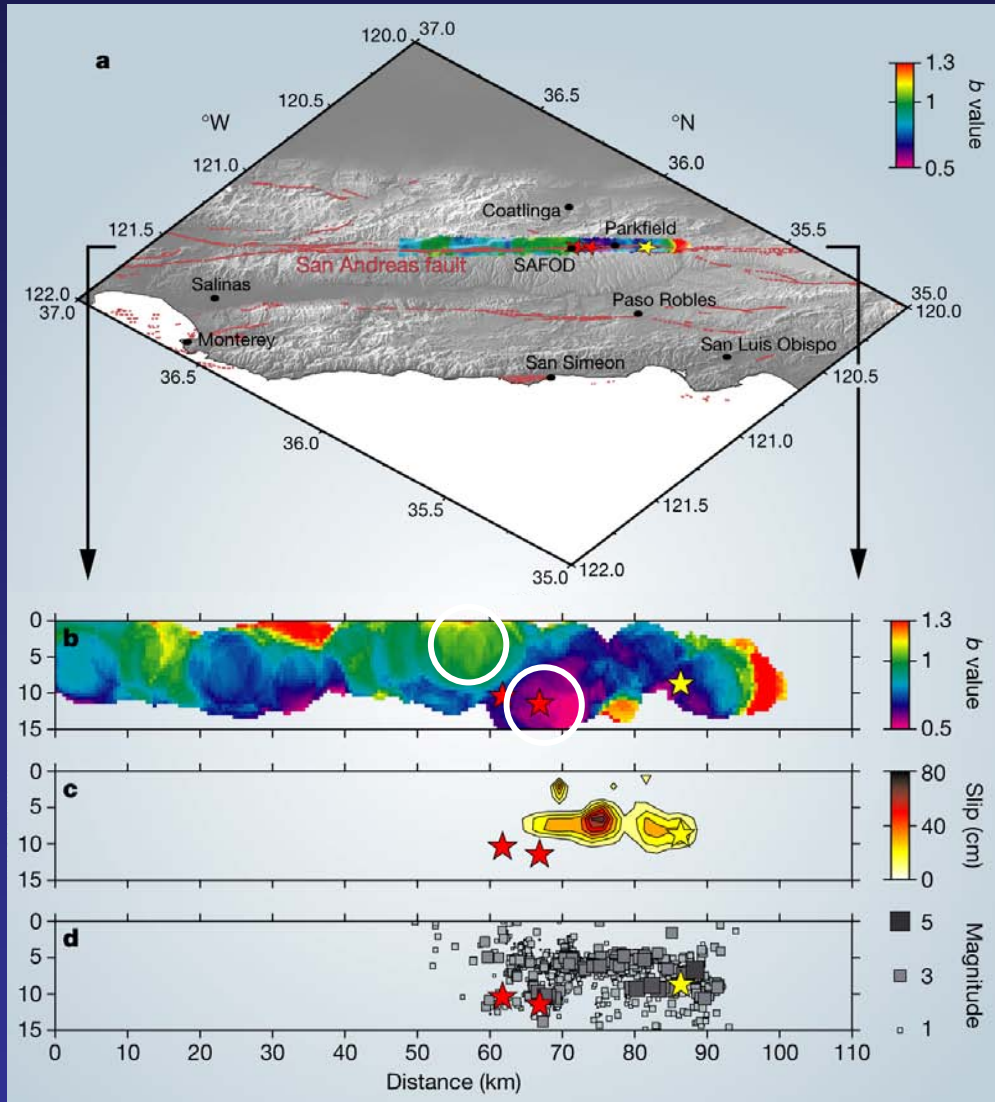
Problems that each study addresses a little differently:

- Data quality
- Minimum number of events versus coverage
- $M_c$  calculation
- Mapping radii
- **Data selection**
- **Temporal non-stationarity**
- **Non-linear FMDs**

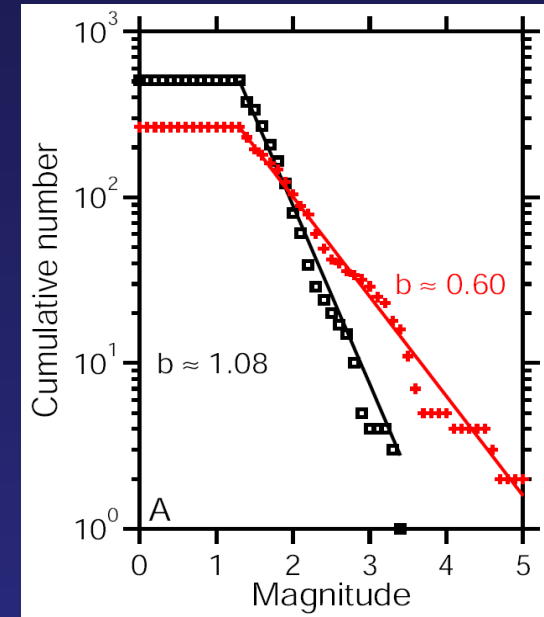


# Parkfield

Schorlemmer & Wiemer, Nature, 2005



NCEDC 1981 - 2003

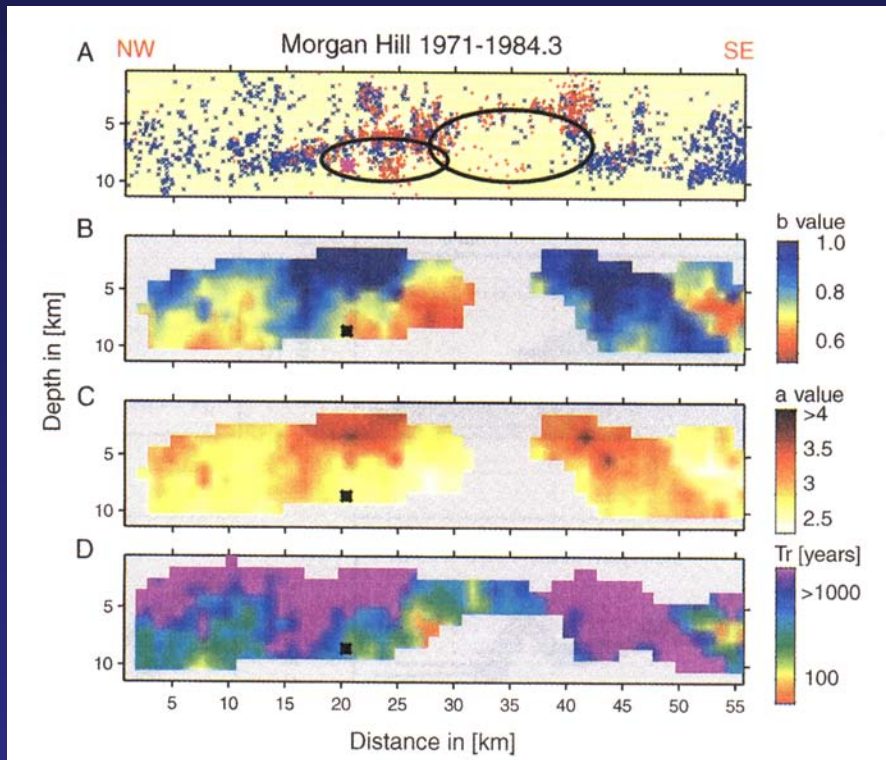


Found temporal stationary  
very low b-value zone

Zone correlated well with the  
mainshock and aftershock  
locations of the 2004 M6.0  
event

# Morgan Hill

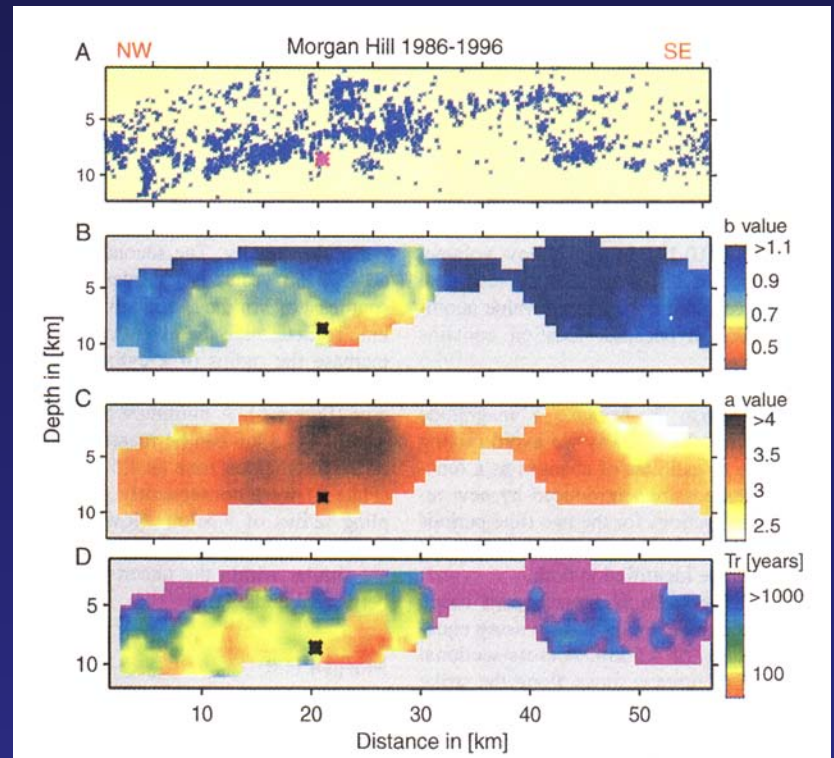
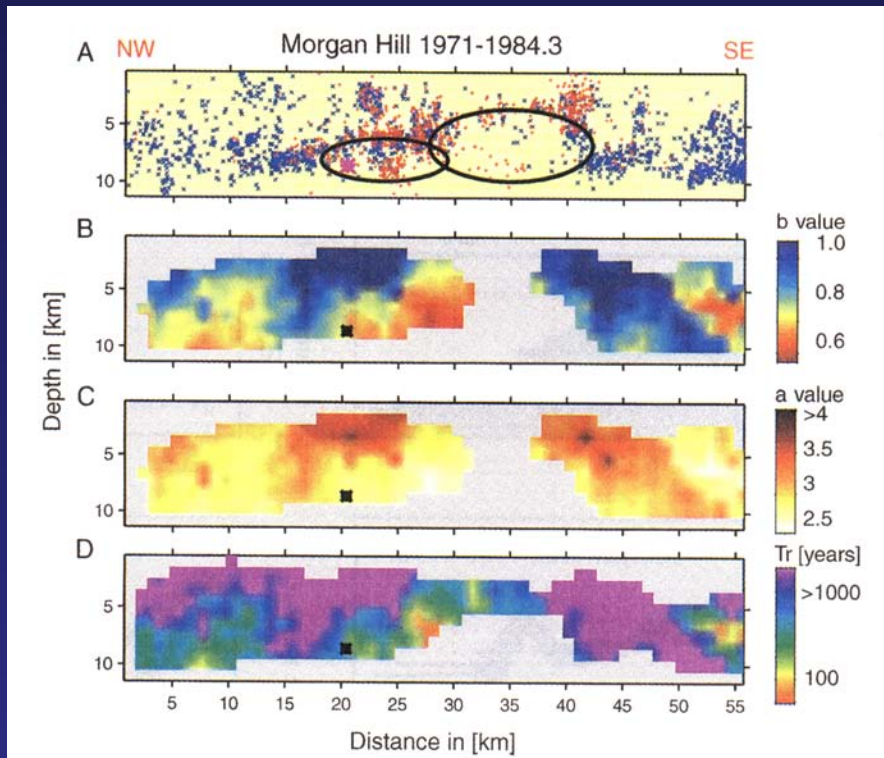
Wiemer & Wyss, JGR, 1997



Anomalies in b-value and local recurrence time (M6+) in the nucleation area before Morgan Hill 6.2 mainshock

# Morgan Hill

Wiemer & Wyss, JGR, 1997



Anomalies in b-value and local recurrence time (M6+) in the nucleation area before Morgan Hill 6.2 mainshock

b-values change a little but still show up anomalously low just south of the mainshock area

Anomaly in Tr is larger and stronger

# San Jacinto-Elsinore

Wyss et al., JGR, 2000

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Modern catalogue  $1.2 \leq M \leq 5.0$  (1981-1998)

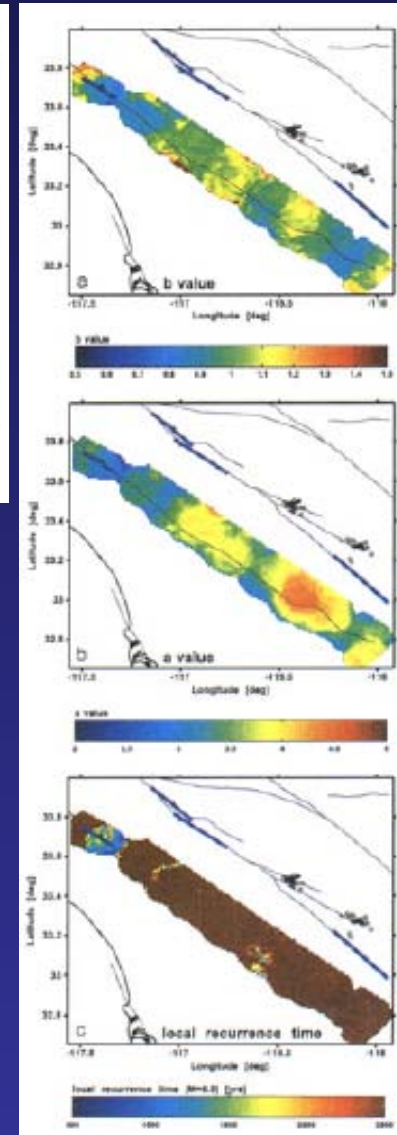
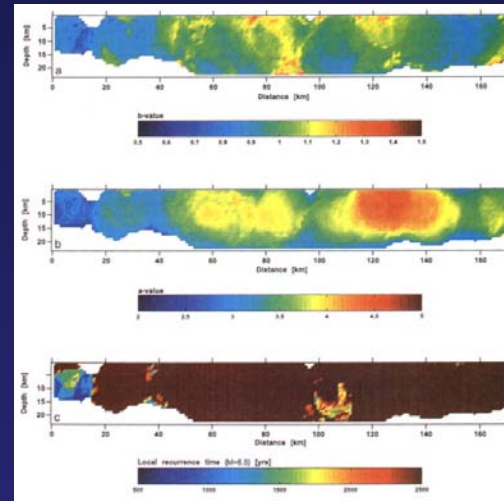
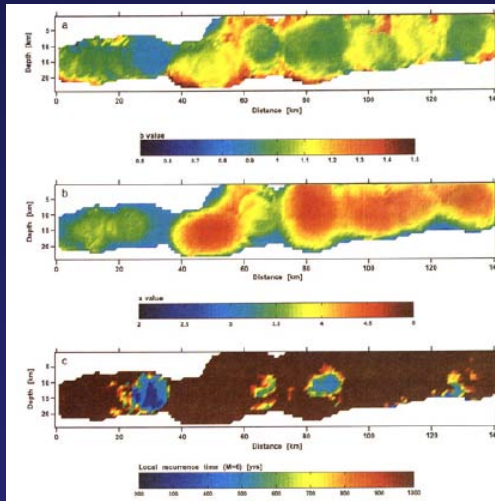
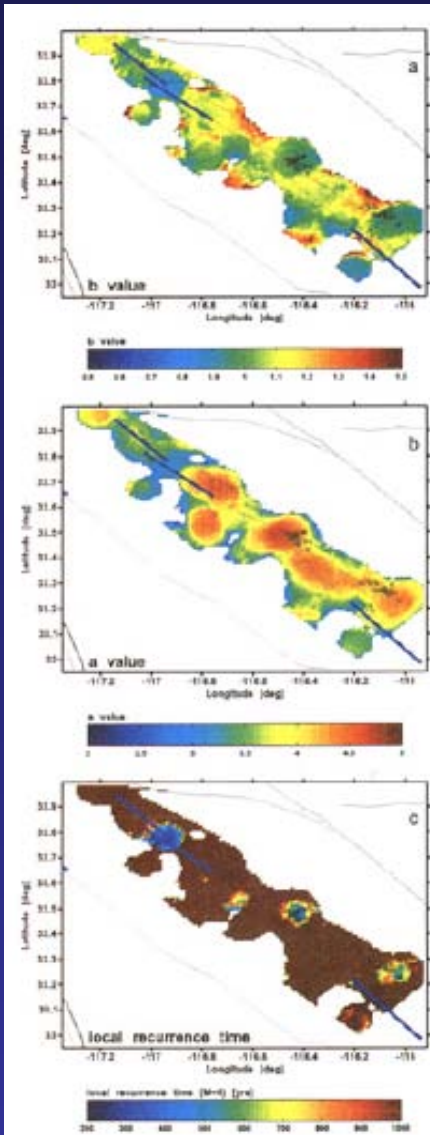
6 historic mainshocks  $M \geq 5.6$

5 of historic events ruptured substantial parts of the

4 mapped asperities

# San Jacinto-Elsinore

Wyss et al., JGR, 2000



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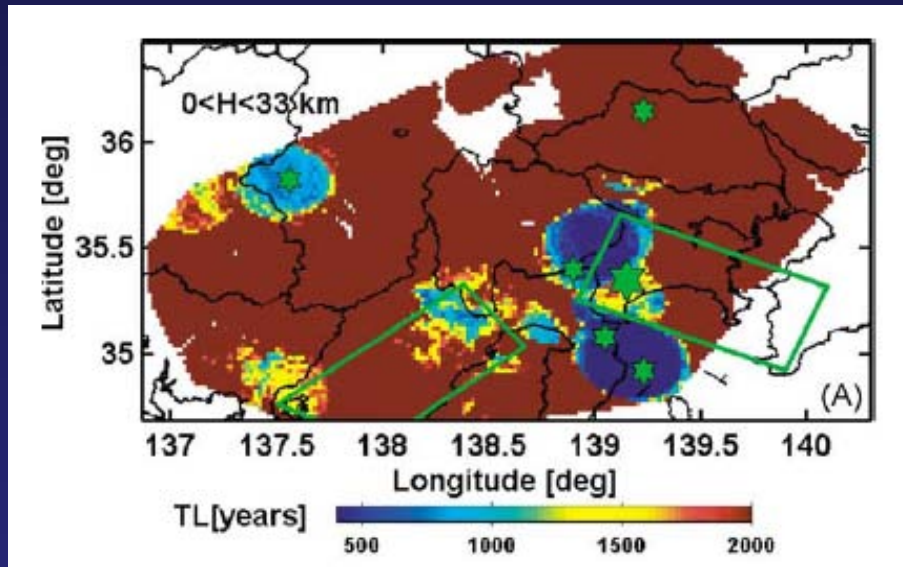
5 of historic events ruptured substantial parts of the 4 mapped asperities

Anomalies in b-value and local recurrence times correlate with mainshock locations and known asperities

Much stronger, more clearly separated anomalies in local recurrence times than b-values

# Kanto-Tokai

Wyss & Matsumura, Tectonophysics, 2005



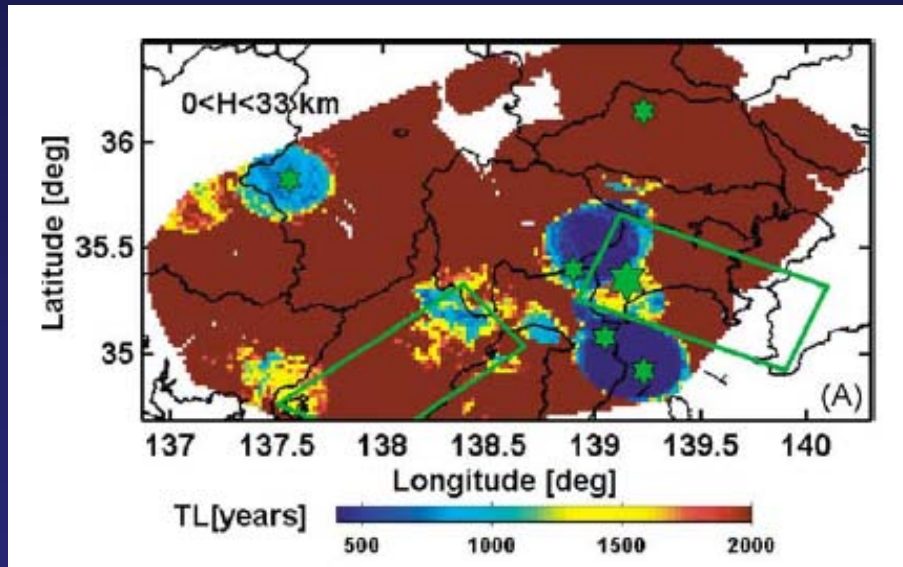
**2002:**

Calculation of b-value and local recurrence time (TL) anomalies using declustered data  $M \geq 1.5$ , 1980-1999

TL of less than 1000 years includes 5 of 6 historic mainshock locations, covering 12% of the study area

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Wyss & Matsumura, Tectonophysics, 2005



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Calculation of b-value and local recurrence time (TL) anomalies using declustered data  $M \geq 1.5$ , 1980-1999

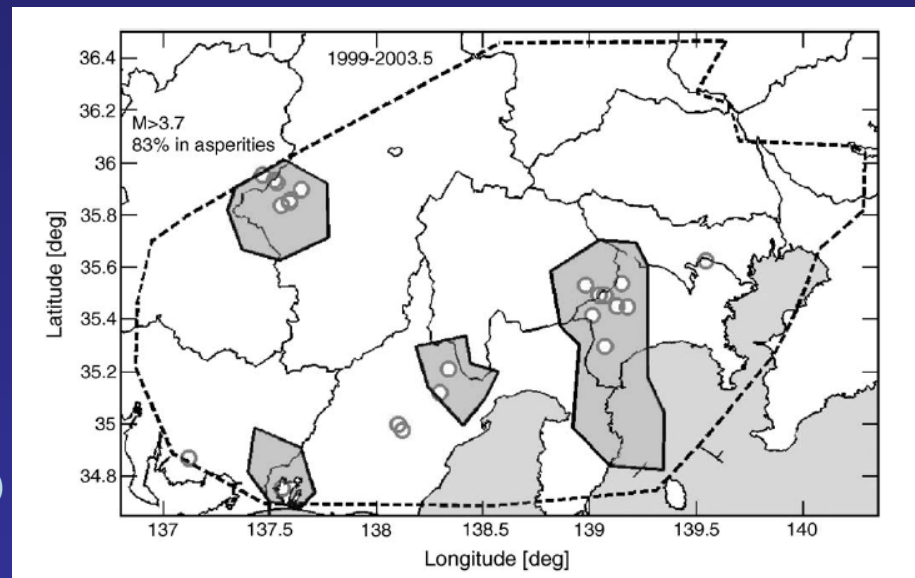
TL of less than 1000 years includes 5 of 6 historic mainshock locations, covering 12% of the study area

**2005:**

Correlation of local recurrence time anomalies (2002) with seismicity 1999-2003.5

→ 13% of all and  $\approx 75\%$  of  $M3.5+$  seismicity fall into the 12% TL anomaly areas (max: 83% of  $M3.8+$ )

→  $P_{\text{rand}} = 2 * 10^{-14}$



# Calaveras

Parsons, JGR, 2007

---

**Do temporal and spatial b-value variations portend  $M \geq 4.0$  events?**



# Calaveras

Parsons, JGR, 2007

---

## Do temporal and spatial b-value variations portend $M \geq 4.0$ events?

- temporal variations do not correlate with mainshock times
- spatial analysis:
  - catalogue from 1968-2005,  $M_c=2.0$
  - boxes of 5x5 km, overlapping by 2.5 km
  - define  $M \geq 4.0$  events as test events  $\rightarrow$  cut catalogue at  $M < 4.0$
  - calculate b-value distribution for each of the 20 test events
  - compare local b-value with mean b-value  $\rightarrow$  significant deviation?



# Calaveras

Parsons, JGR, 2007

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## Is the forecast experiment a conclusive test?

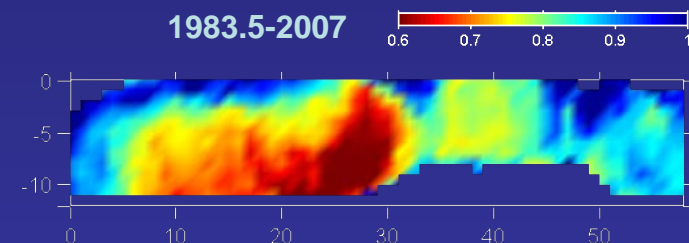
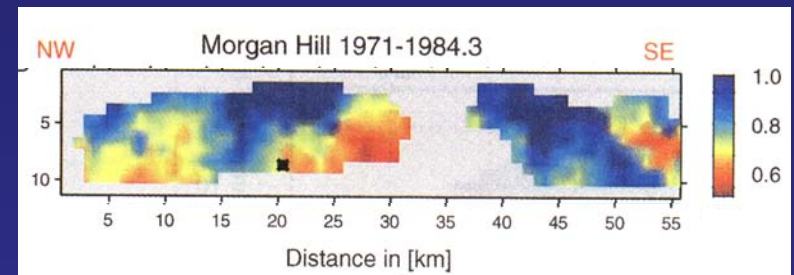
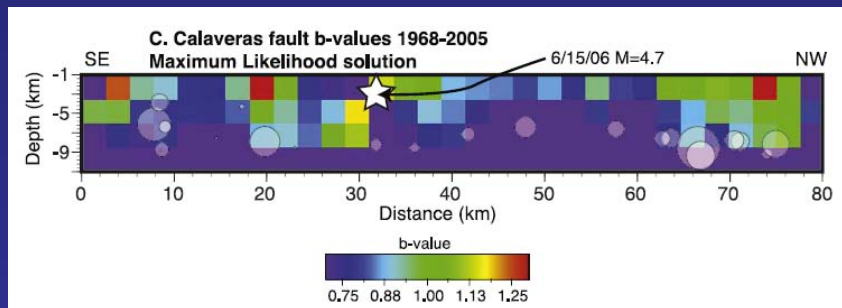
- DATA QUALITY since 1968 (e.g. magnitude shifts)
- ML MATHEMATICS correction for upper limit on magnitude range, deviations from uncorrected formula will be significant?
- BIAS: large events have been taken out, aftershocks not, not comparable to San Jacinto
- TARGET MAGNITUDE: M4 too small to test asperities: rupture lengths of 1-2km  
→ test is not sensitive to such small scale heterogeneity (different radii, binning in cylinders?)

# Calaveras

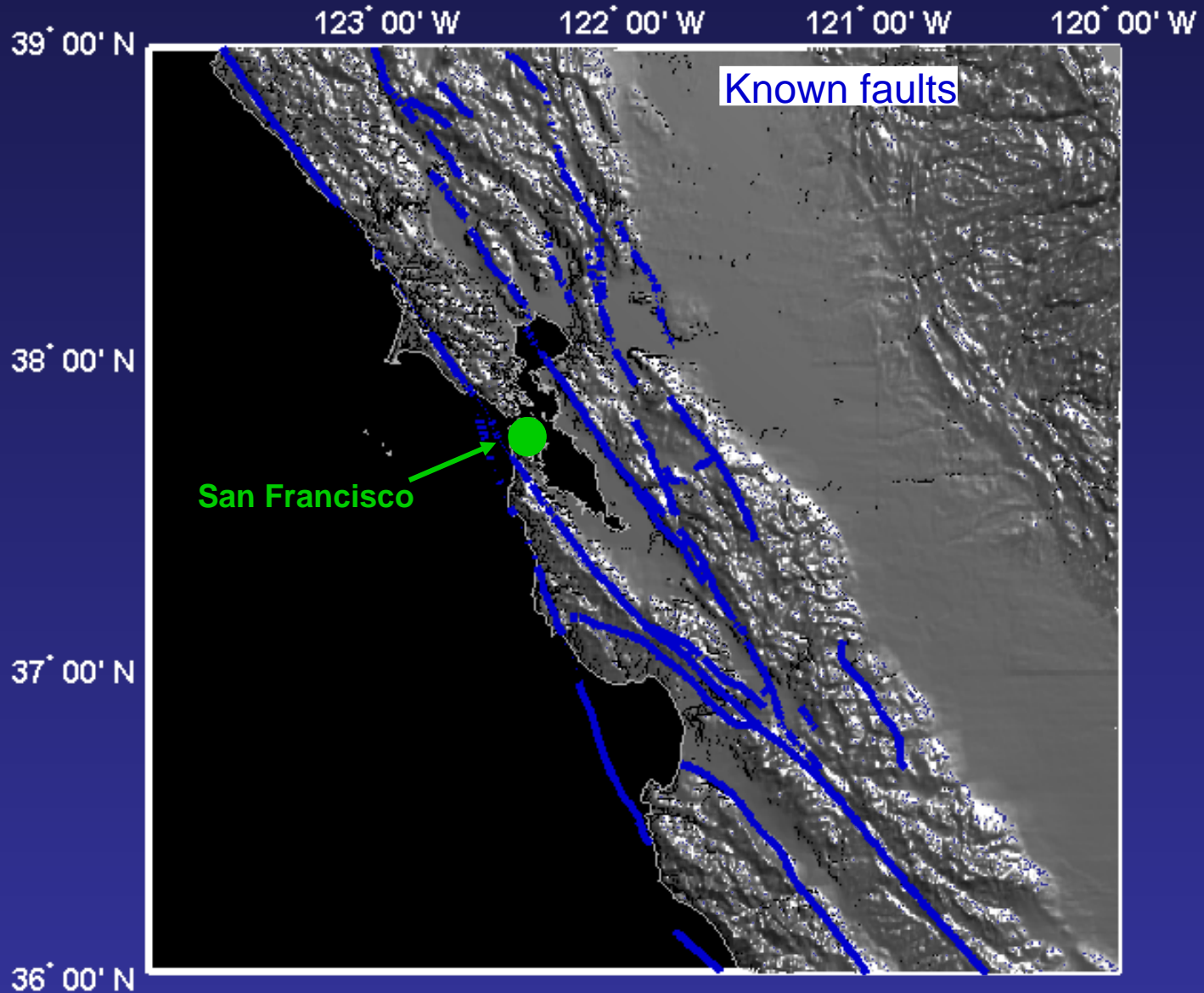
Parsons, JGR, 2007

## Is the forecast experiment a conclusive test?

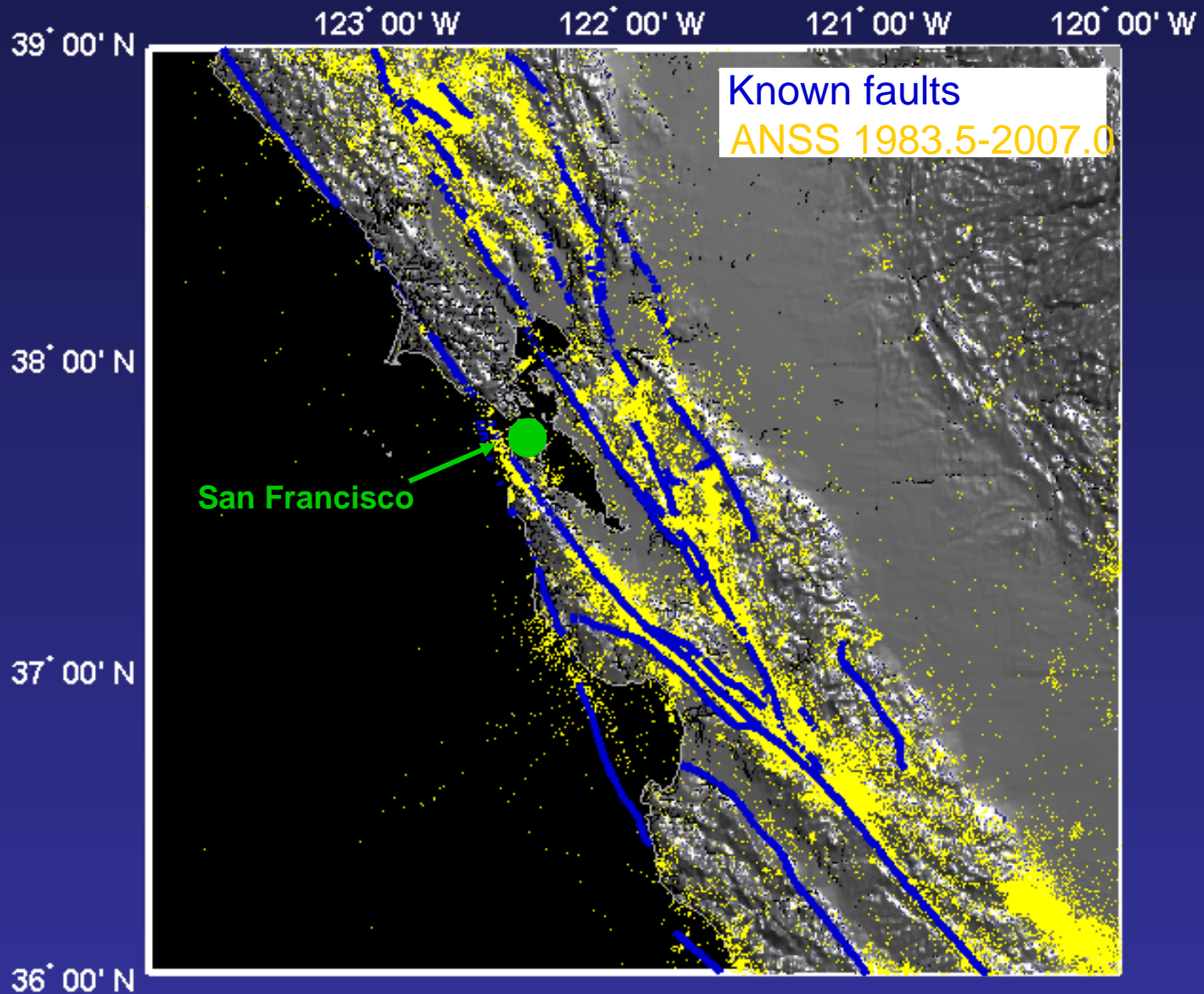
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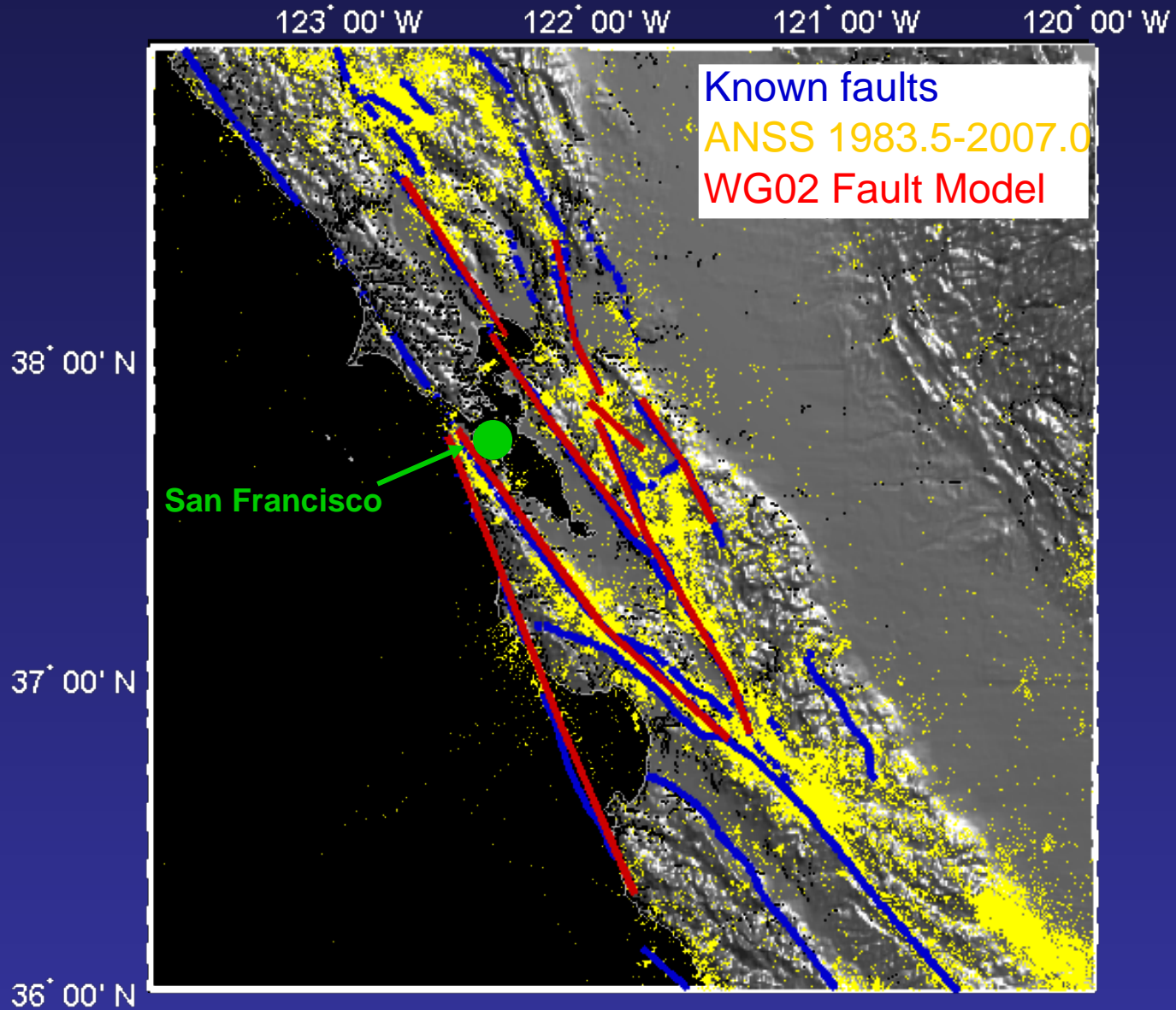
# San Francisco Bay Area



# San Francisco Bay Area

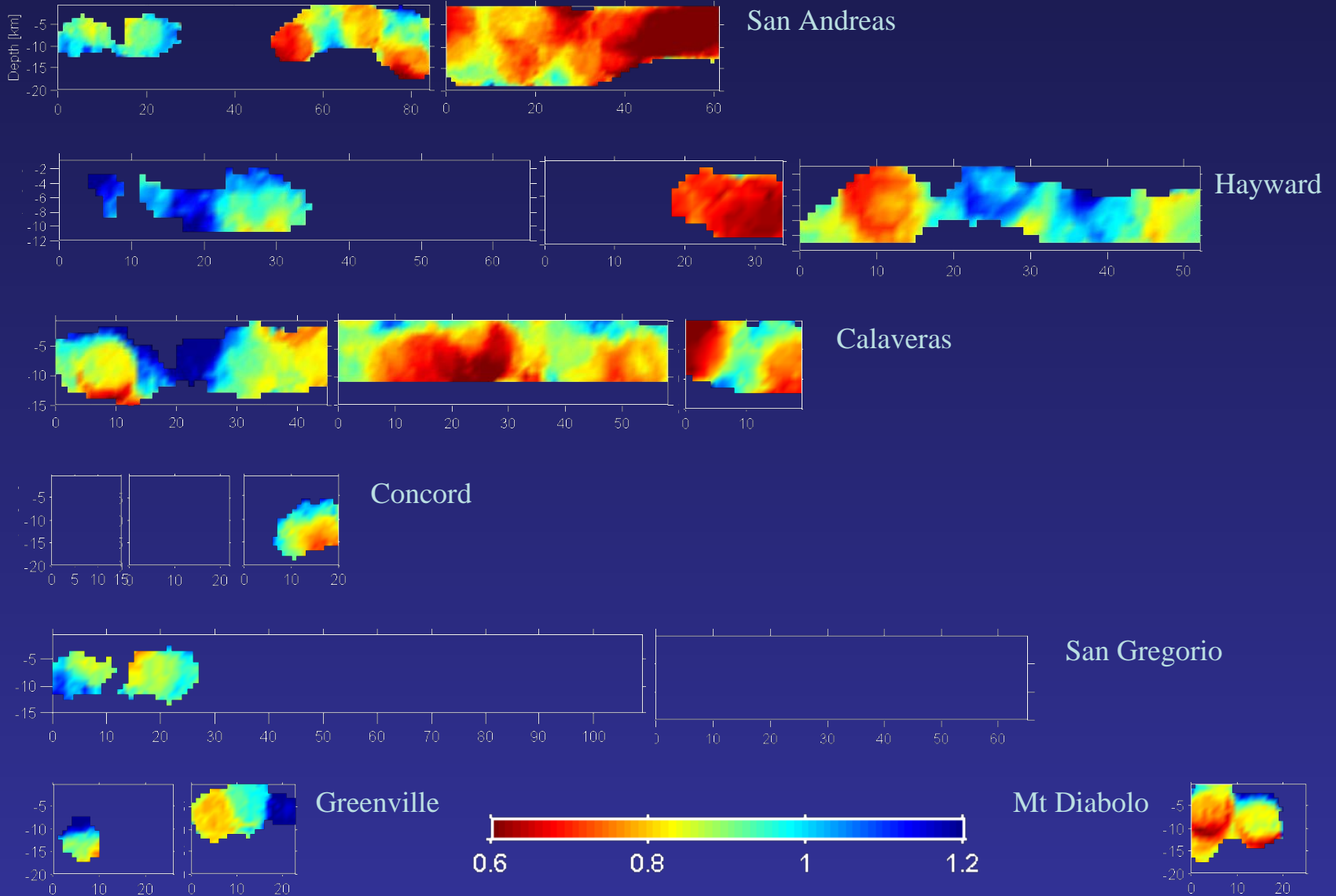


# San Francisco Bay Area



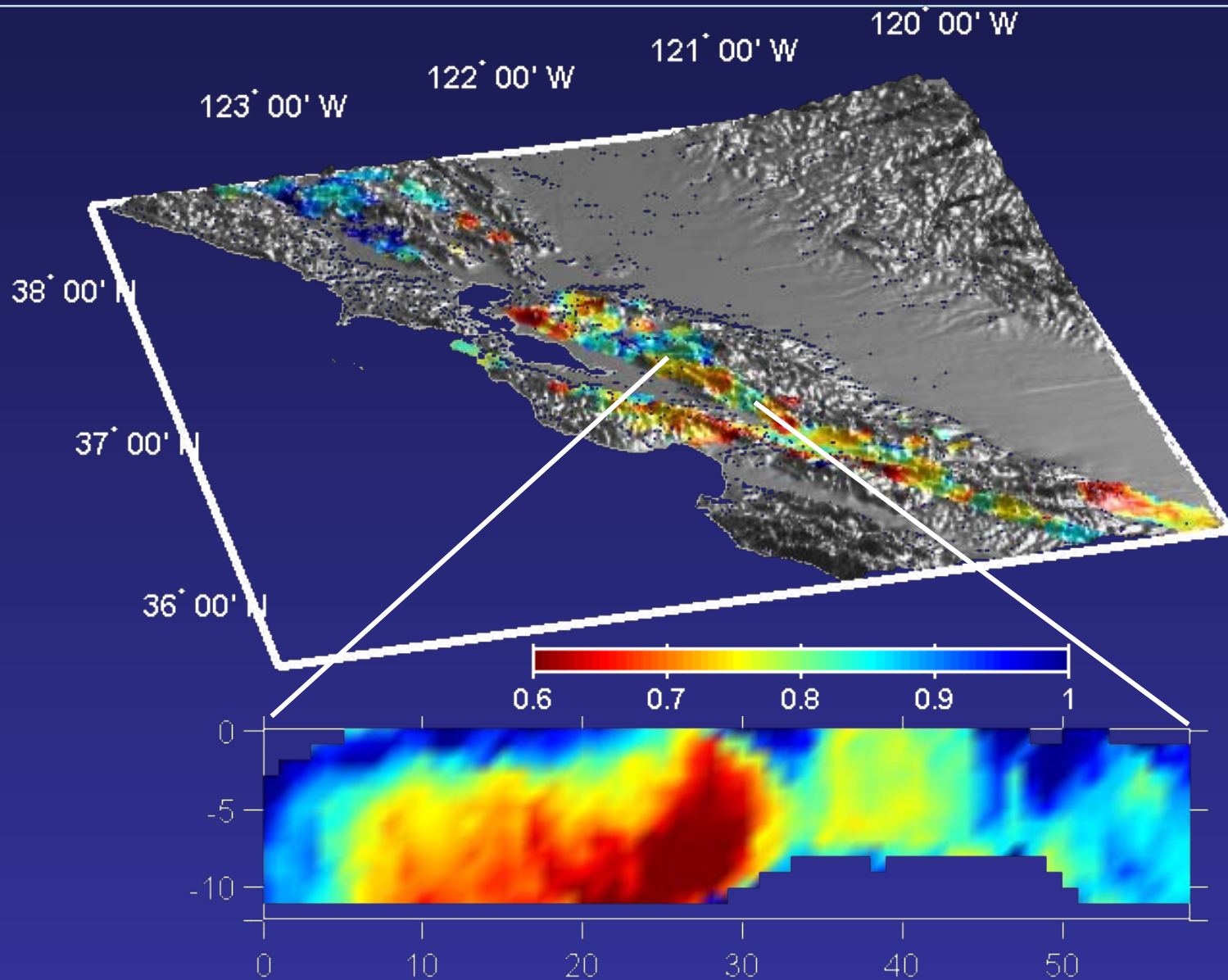
# San Francisco Bay Area

## All segments b-value 0.6-1.2





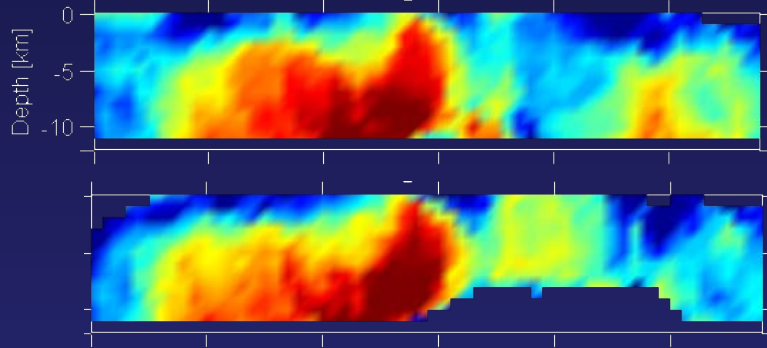
# SFBA: Central Calaveras



# SFBA: Central Calaveras

## Data Selection

---

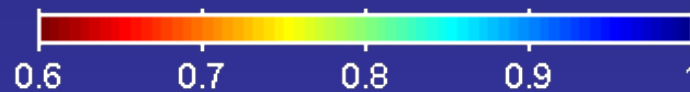


WG02  
( $\pm 5.5\text{km}$ )

Wiemer/Wyss  
( $\pm 2\text{km}$ )

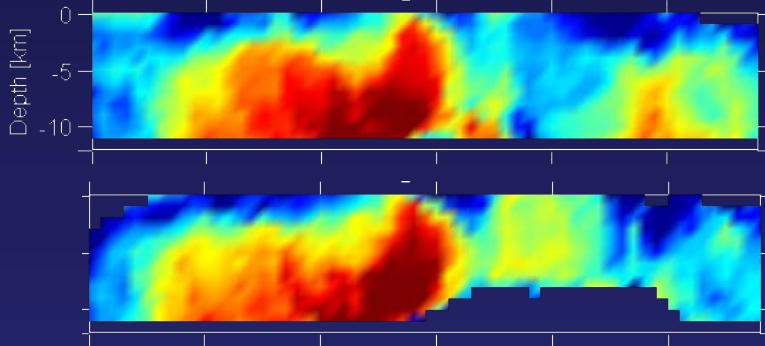
Constant width

---



# SFBA: Central Calaveras

## Data Selection



WG02  
( $\pm 5.5$ km)

Wiemer/Wyss  
( $\pm 2$ km)

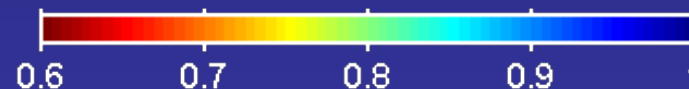
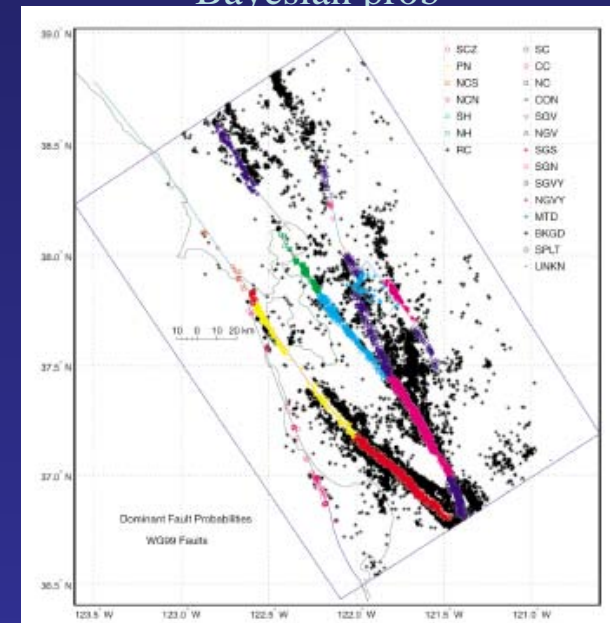
Constant width

More physical based approach for associating faults and events:

### Bayesian statistics

- equal prior  $\rightarrow$  pure distance-based association
- slip rate weighted prior  $\rightarrow$  faster faults are more likely to produce earthquakes

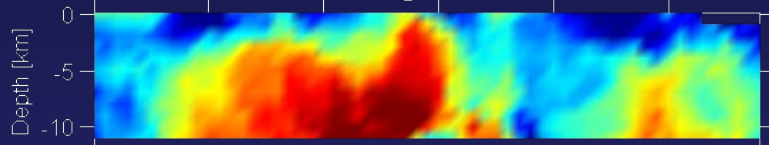
### Bayesian prob



Wesson, 2003, BSSA

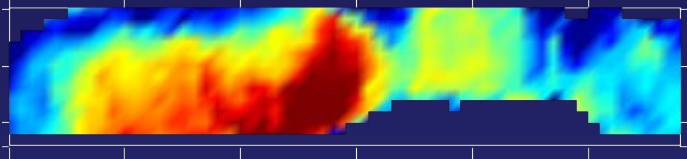
# SFBA: Central Calaveras

## Data Selection

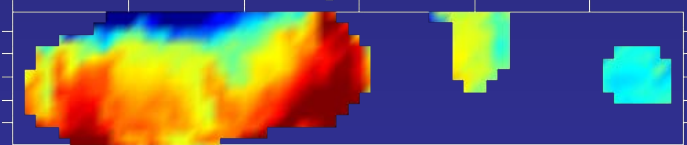
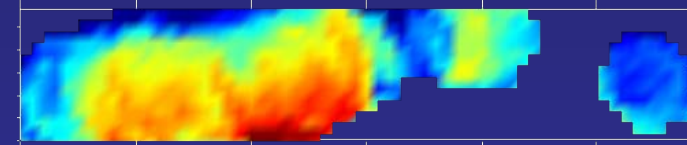
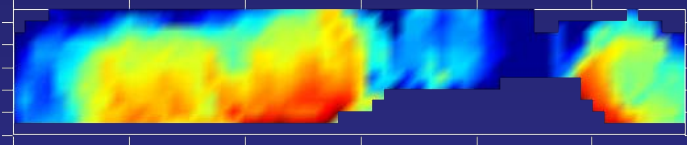
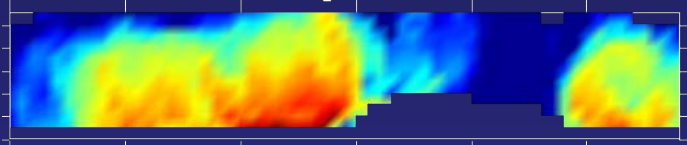


WG02  
( $\pm 5.5$ km)

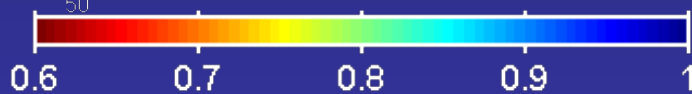
Constant width



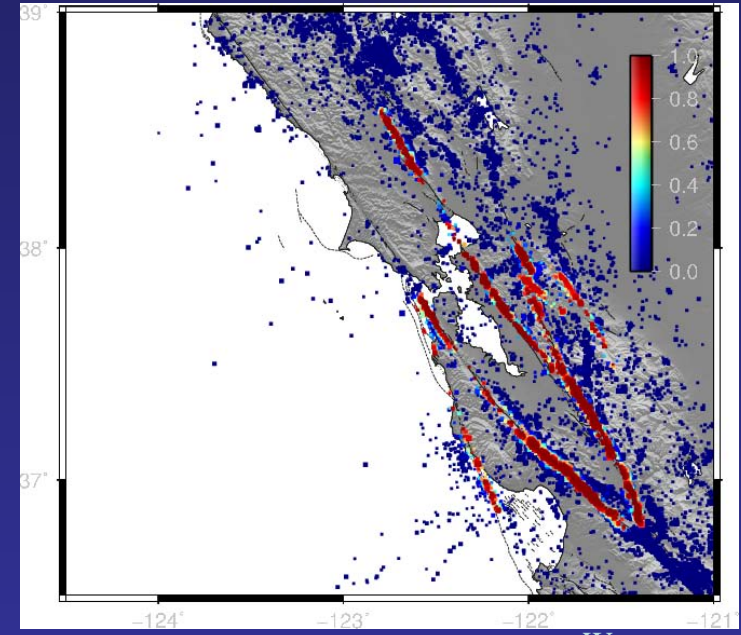
Wiemer/Wyss  
( $\pm 2$ km)



Distance [km]



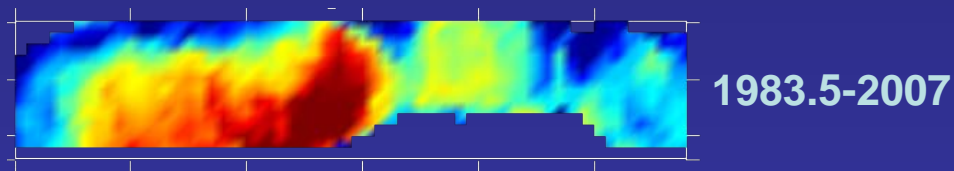
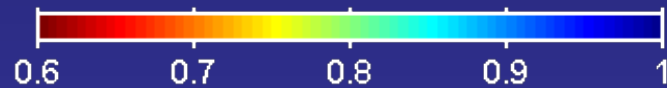
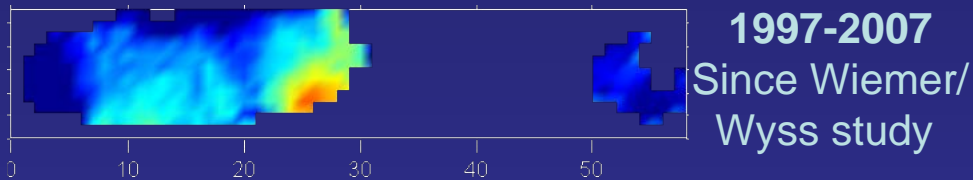
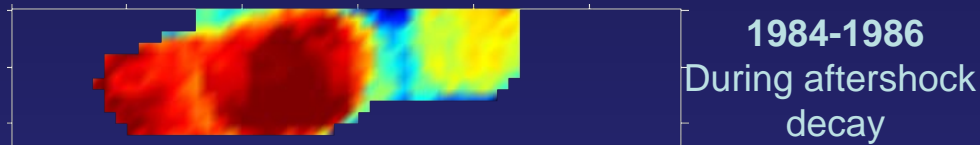
Bayesian prob



# SFBA: Central Calaveras

→ Re-investigation

Constant width 2km

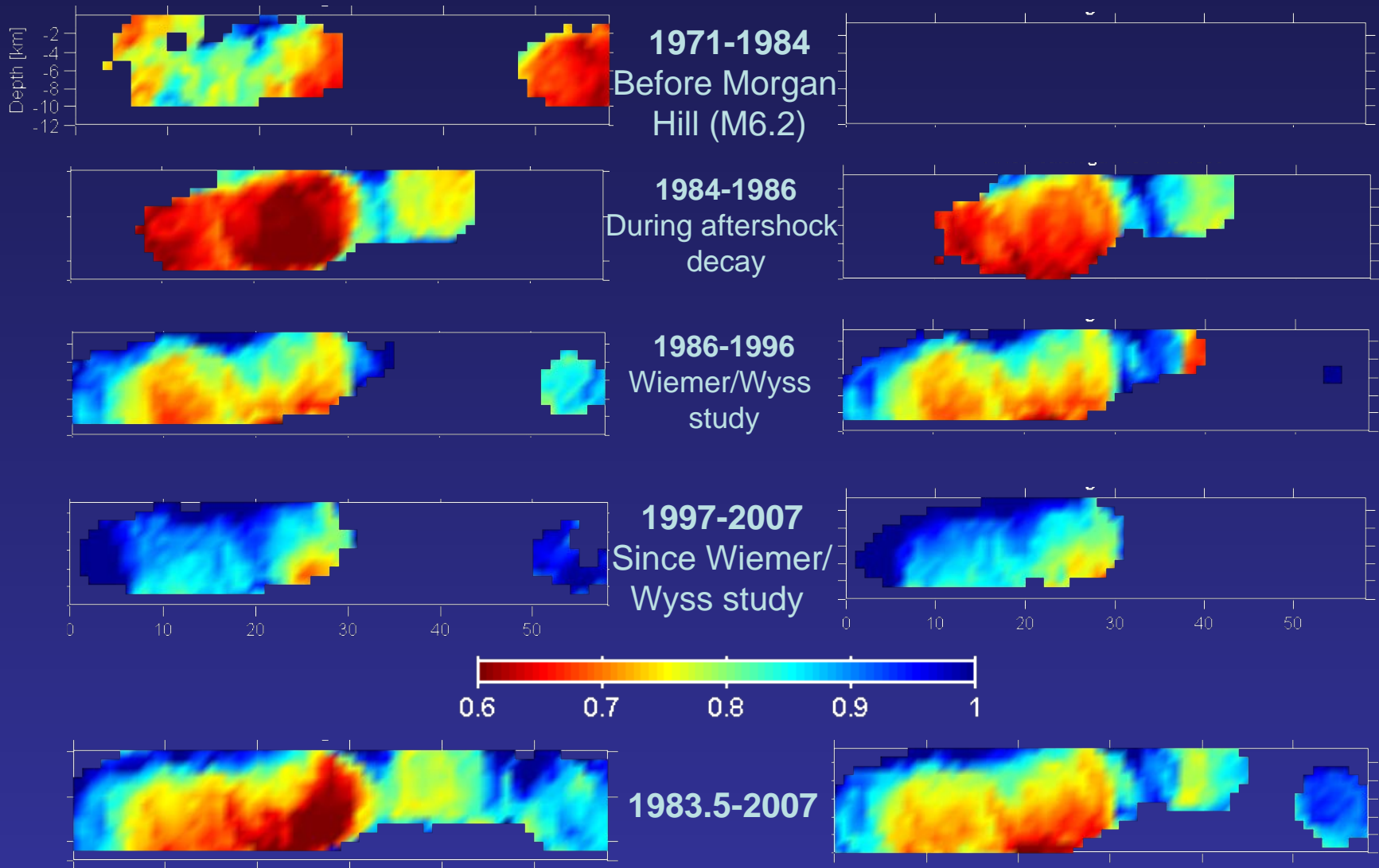


# SFBA: Central Calaveras

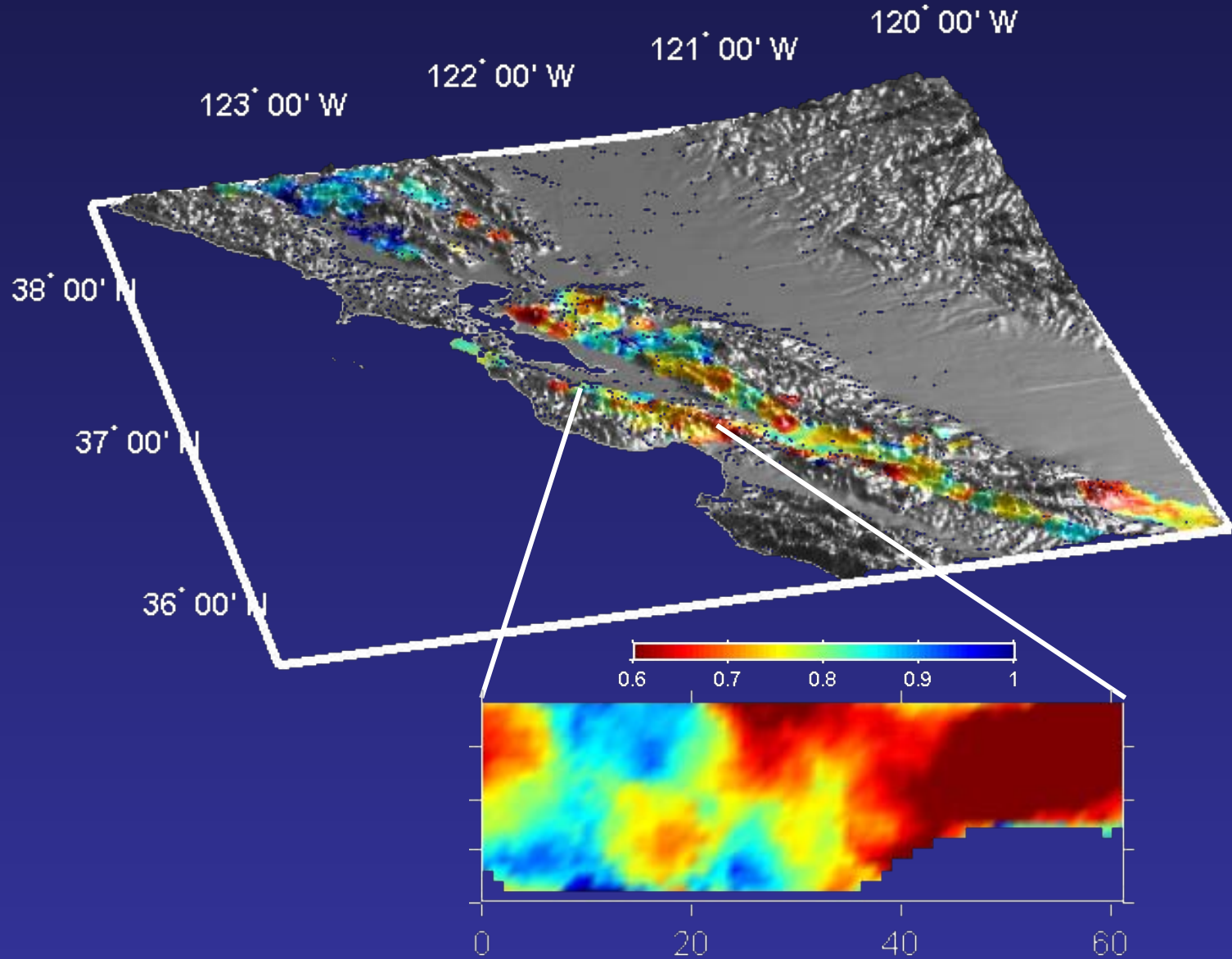
## → Re-investigation

Constant width 2km

Bayesian probability  $\geq 80\%$

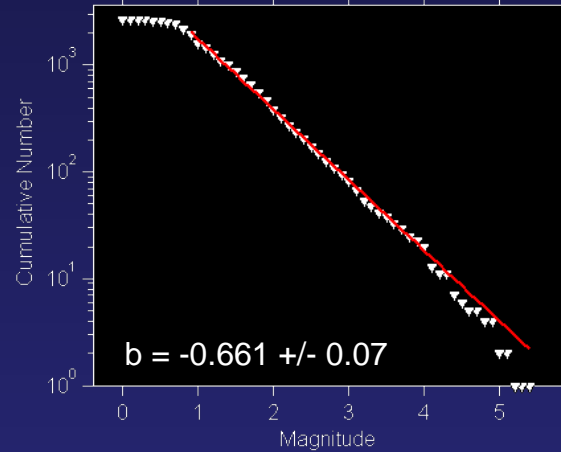
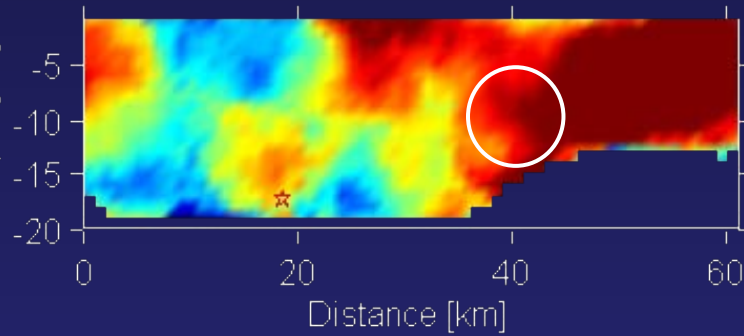


# SFBA: San Andreas – Santa Cruz



# SFBA: Santa Cruz

→ Non-linear FMDs



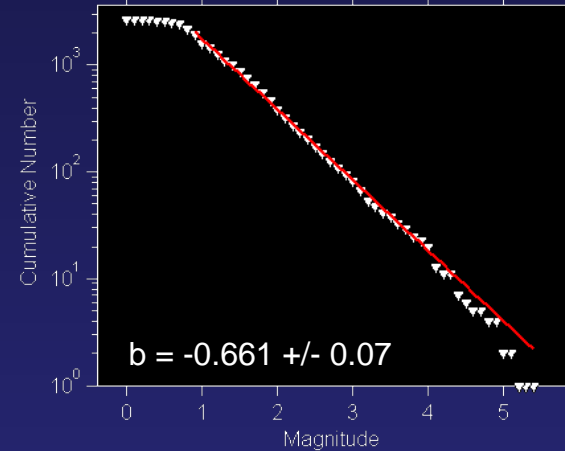
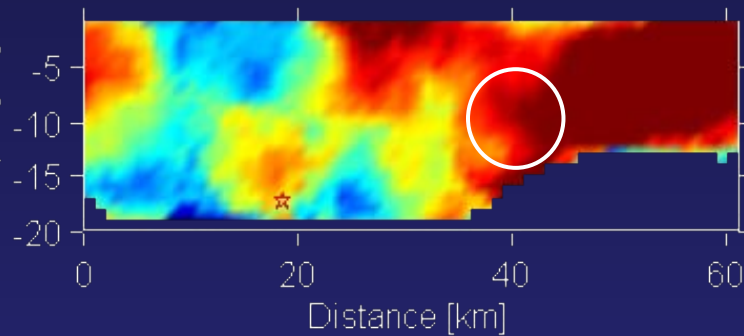
Nicely linear

Frequency  
Magnitude  
Distribution

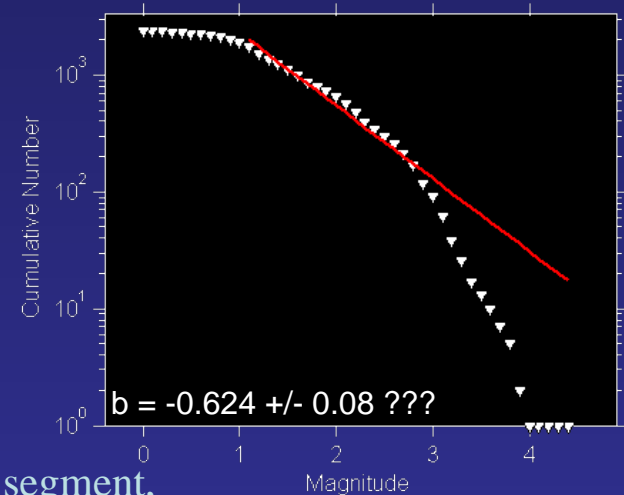
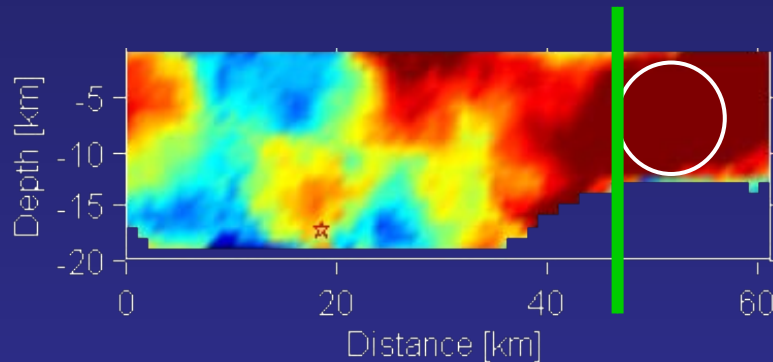


# SFBA: Santa Cruz

## → Non-linear FMDs



Nicely linear  
Frequency  
Magnitude  
Distribution



Transition zone between locked and creeping segment,

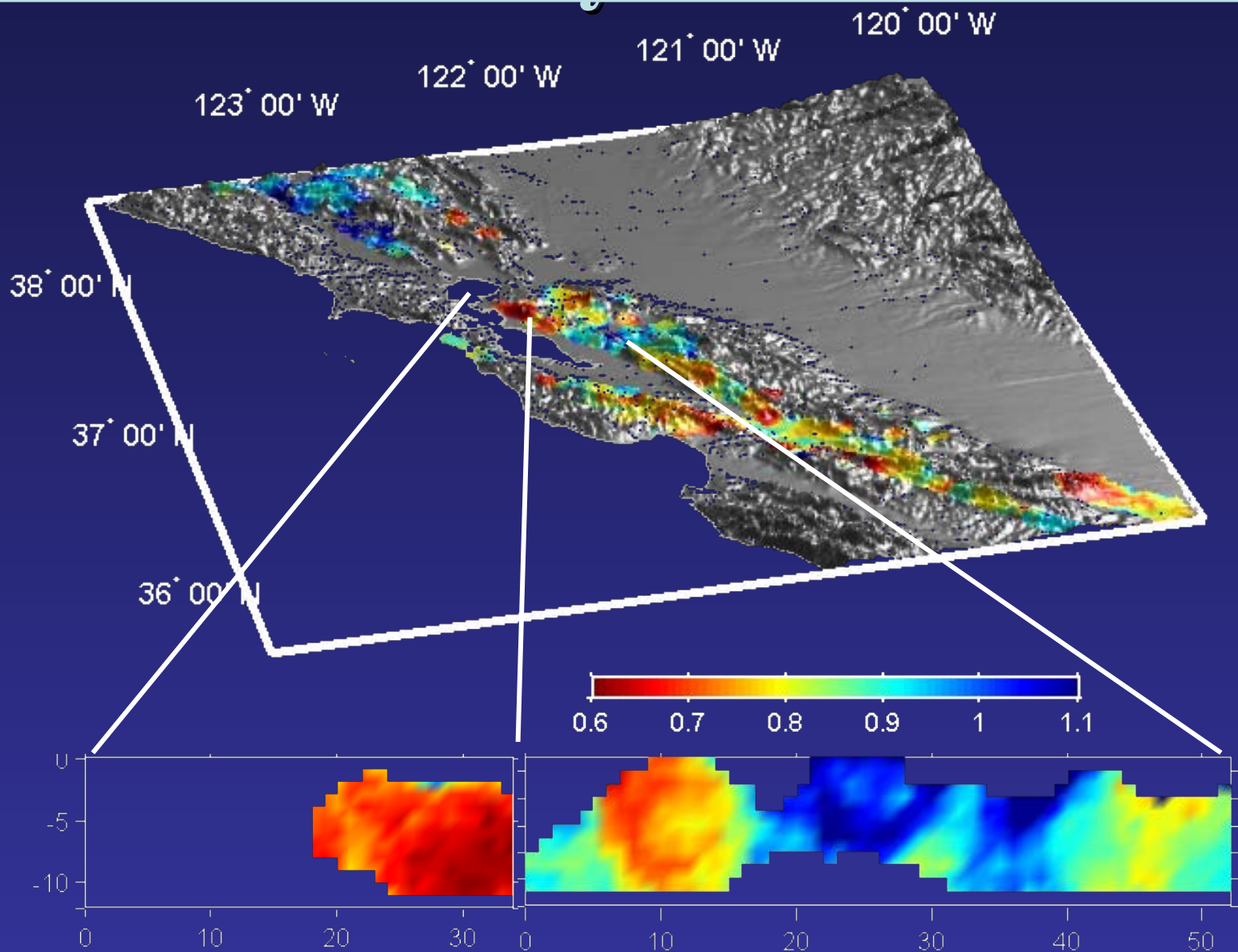
Slow earthquakes (San Juan Bautista)

→ Non-linear frequency-magnitude distributions

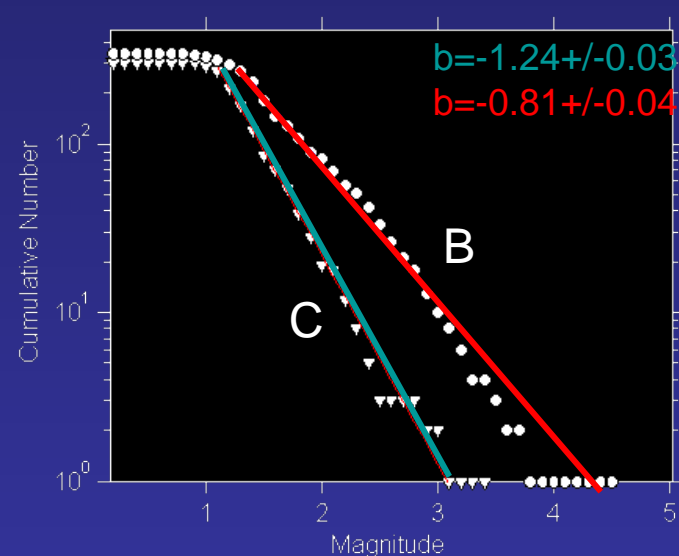
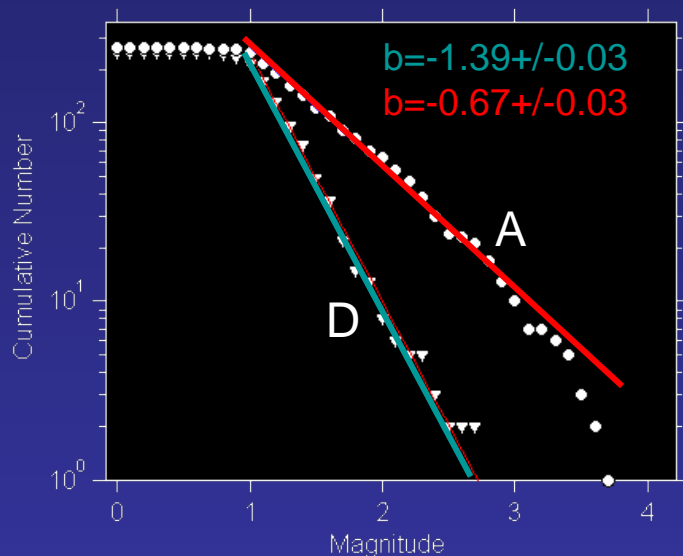
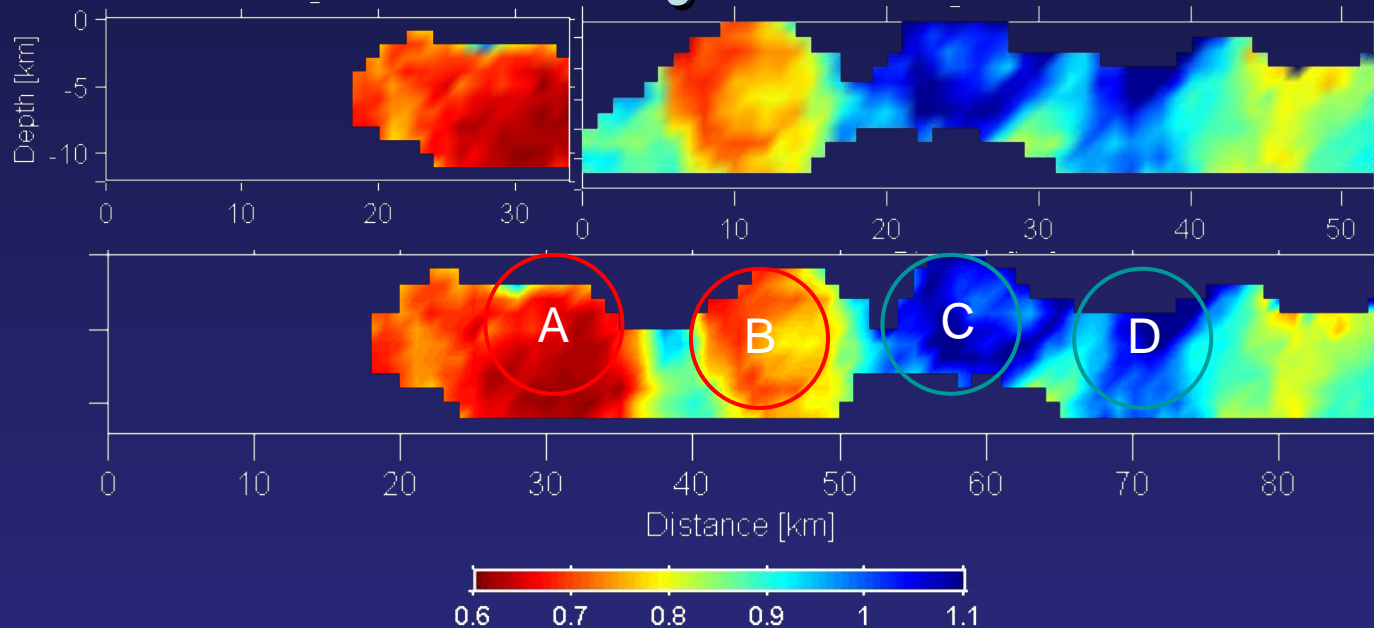
→ No sensible b-value calculation

→ Ignore data to the right of green line

# SFBA: Northern & Southern Hayward



# SFBA: Northern & Southern Hayward



# SFBA: From b-values to probabilities

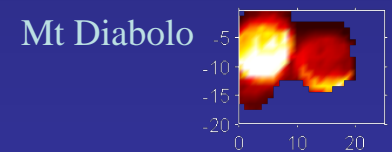
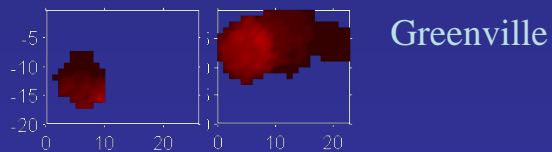
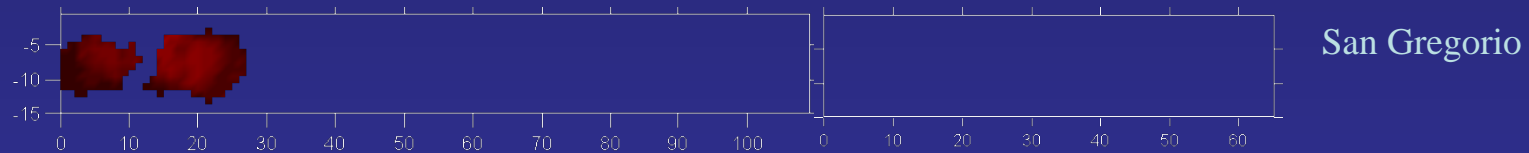
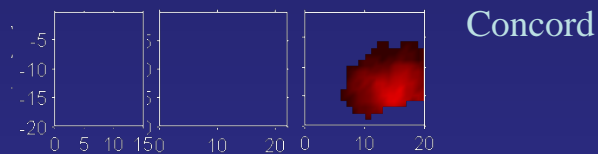
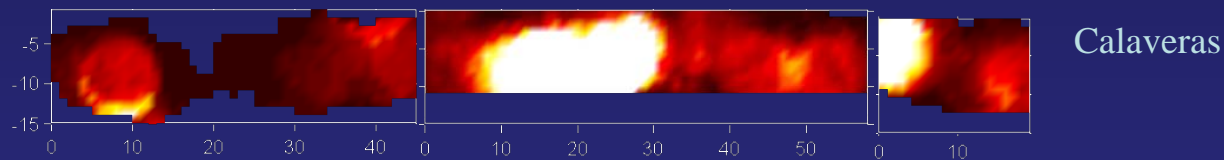
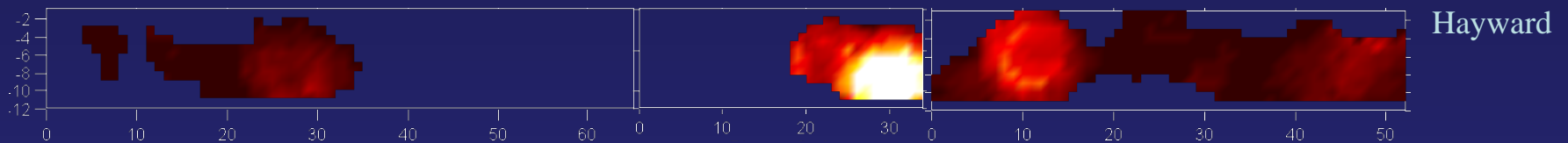
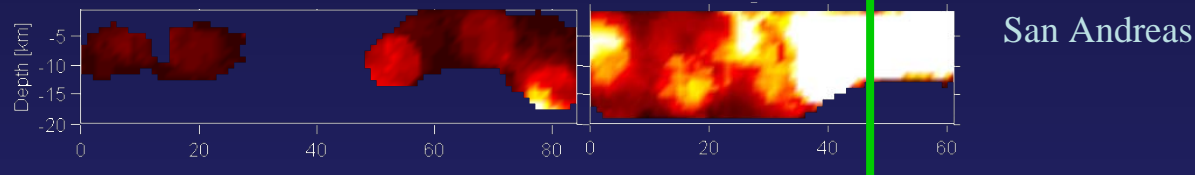
---

- Calculate b-value for each point
- Calculate a-value for each point
- Choose target magnitude
- Calculate annual probability of occurrence of an earthquake equal to or larger  $M_{\text{targ}}$ :

$$P = 1 - e^{-\frac{10^{a - bM_{\text{targ}}}}{\Delta T}}$$

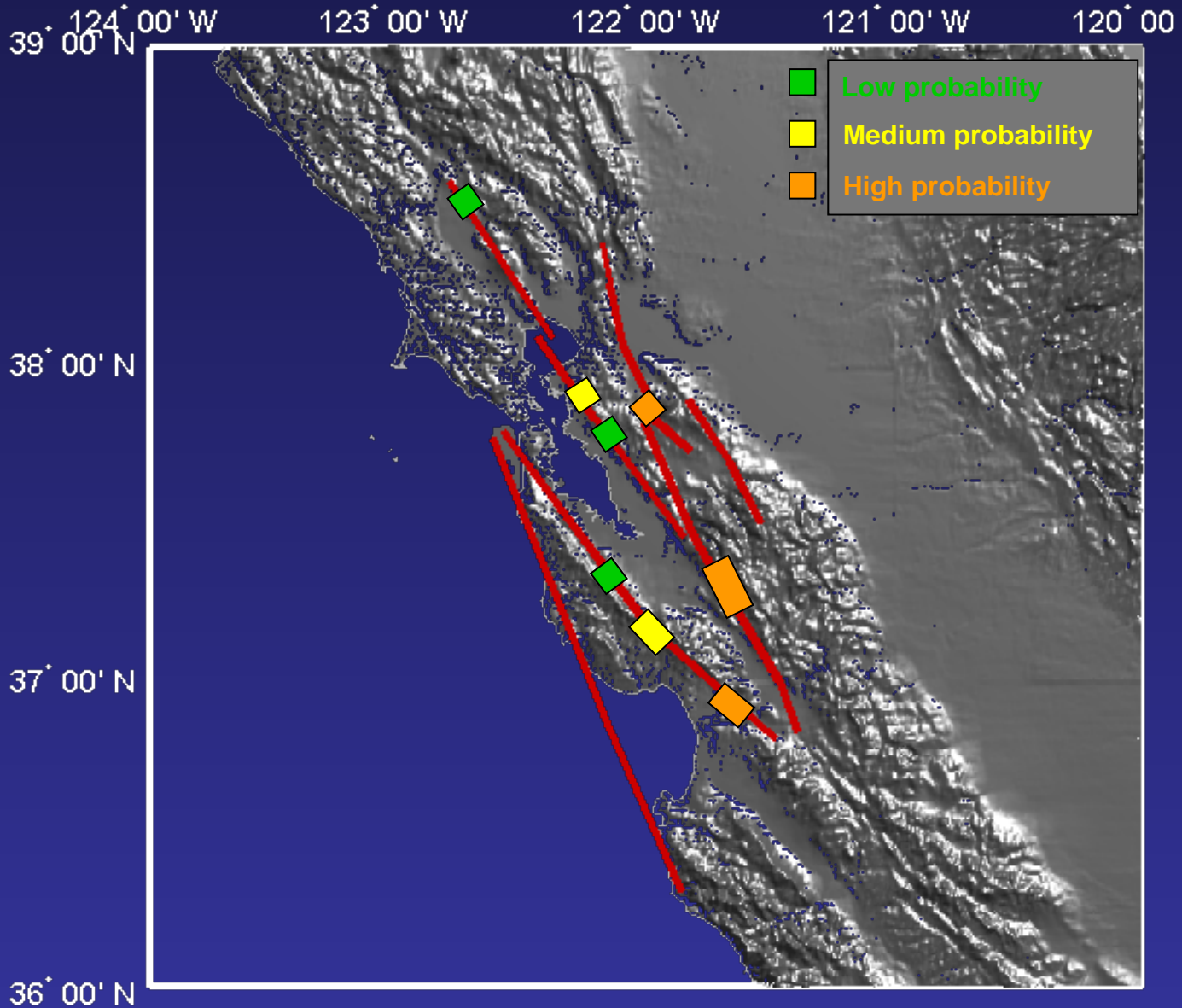
# SFBA: All segments

## Annual Probabilities M6+



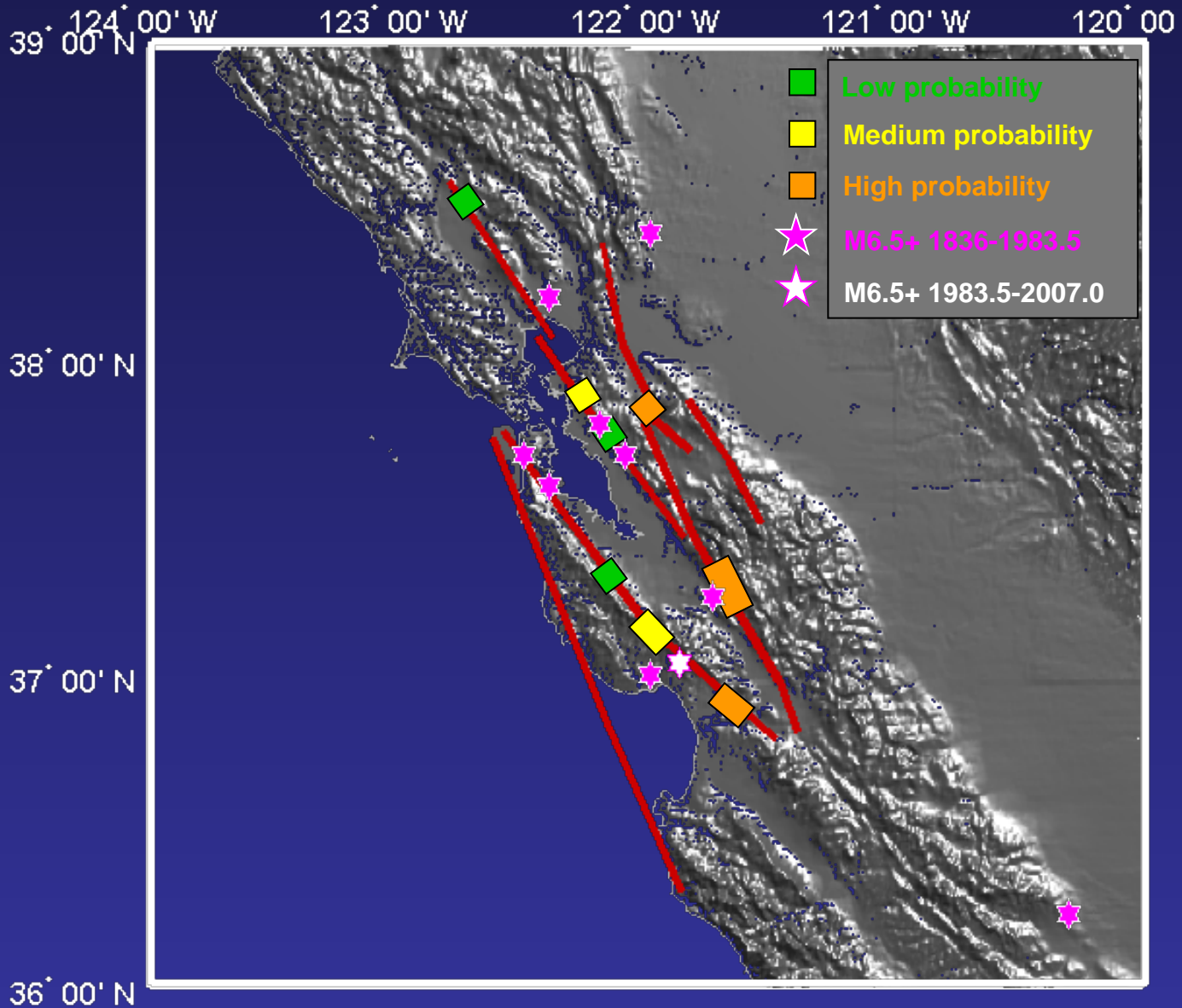
# San Francisco Bay Area

## Preliminary asperity map



# San Francisco Bay Area

## Preliminary asperity map



# Model Summary

---

Three categories of studies:

- 1.** Pure case study:  
correlation with mainshocks/known asperities
- 2.** Consistency test  
does medium scale seismicity continue to concentrate in low b-value areas?
- 3.** Retro/Prospective test:  
does microseismicity forecast large events' locations?



# Model Summary

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3. Retro/Prospective test:  
does microseismicity forecast large events' locations?

**1**

Morgan Hill / Parkfield (1997)  
Hayward (2001)  
Turkey (2001)  
Mexico (2001)  
Kanto-Tokai (2002)  
Sumatra (2005)  
San Francisco Bay Area (2007)

**2**

Kanto-Tokai (2005)  
Calaveras (2007)

**3**

San Jacinto (2000)  
Parkfield (2004)

# Model Summary

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Three categories of studies:

1. Pure case study:  
correlation with mainshocks/known asperities
2. Consistency test  
does medium scale seismicity continue to concentrate in low b-value areas?
3. Retro/Prospective test:  
does microseismicity forecast large events' locations?

**1**

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Hayward (2001)  
Westerhaus (2001)  
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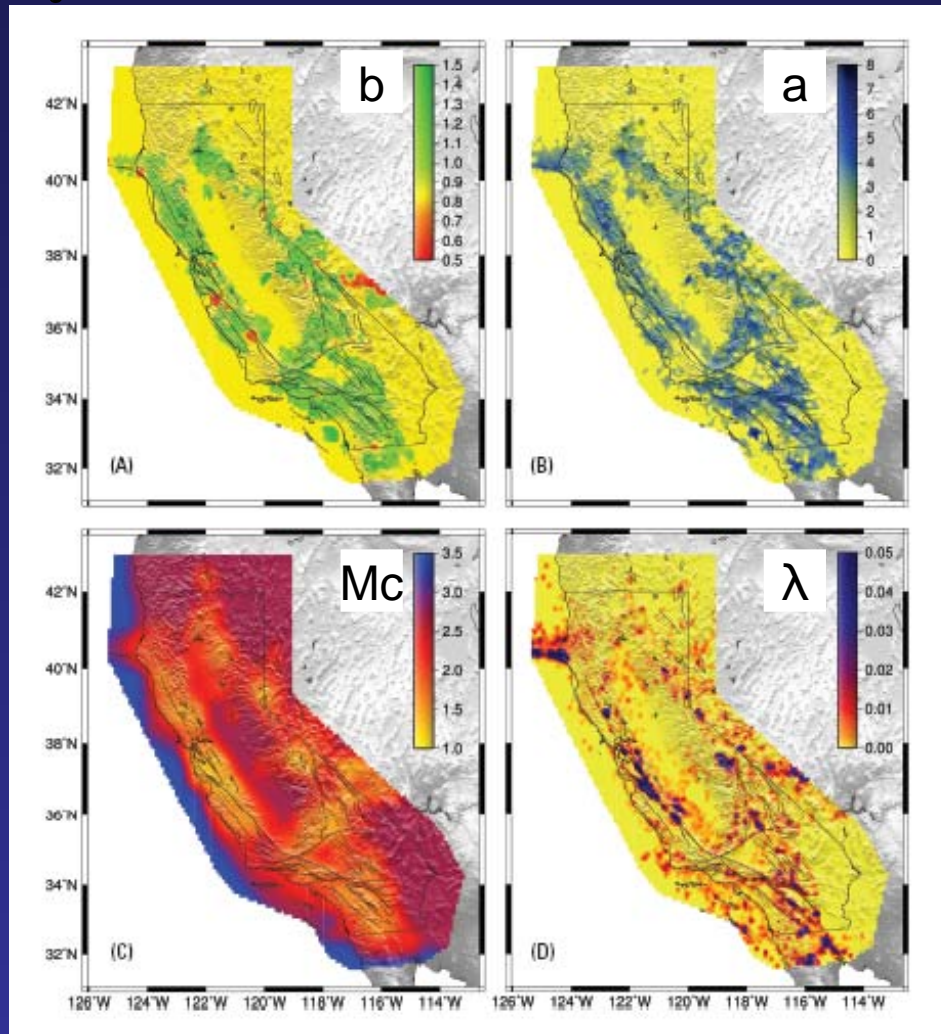


**This is where we need  
more and systematic effort**

# ALM

Wiemer & Schorlemmer, SRL, Special Issue on RELM, 2007

## Asperity-based Likelihood Model for California



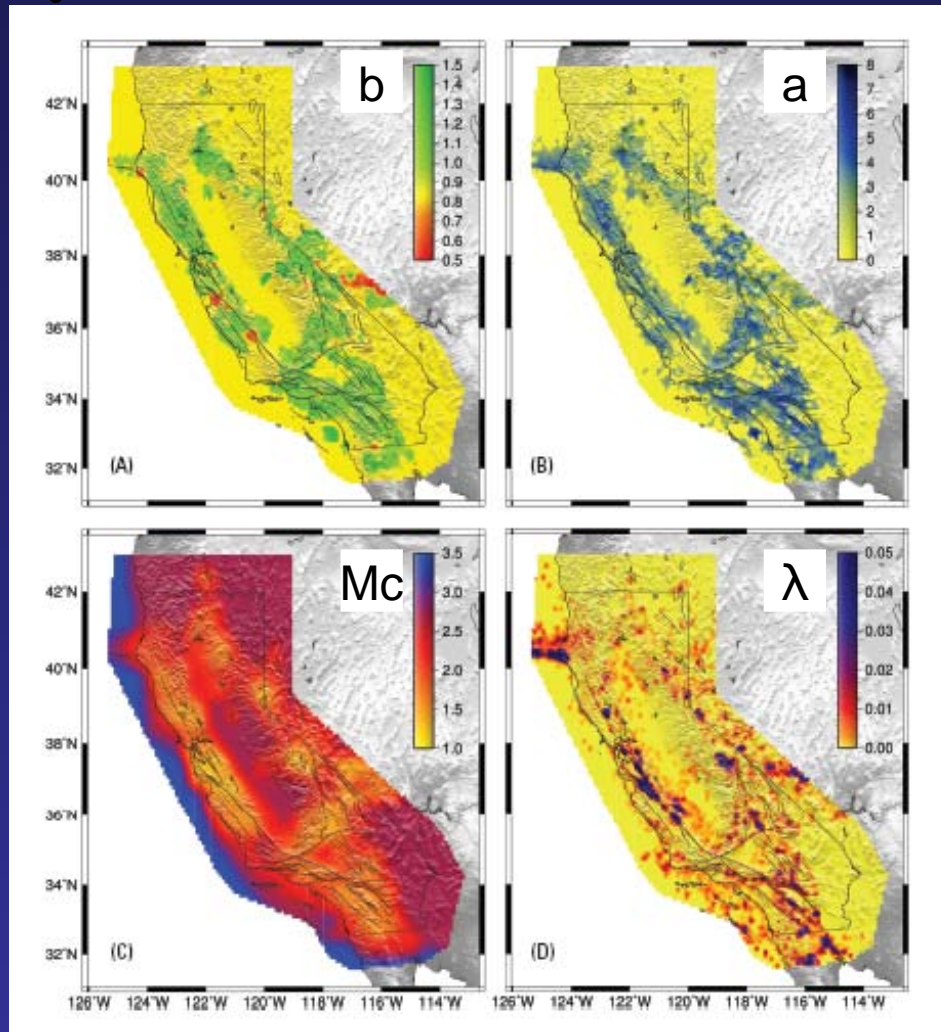
### Achievements

- First testable model forecasting future seismicity on the basis of spatially varying b-values
- Submitted for prospective testing within RELM

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Wiemer & Schorlemmer, SRL, Special Issue on RELM, 2007

## Asperity-based Likelihood Model for California



### Achievements

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- Submitted for prospective testing within RELM

### Shortcomings

- No treatment of depth
- Oversimplifying low resolution mapview approach

# CALM

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## Cross-sectional Asperity Likelihood Model for California

- Testable hybrid model: advanced ALM plus fault information
  - Pseudo fault based testing grid: fine grid near fault, coarse grid off fault  
→ to be developed by and for CSEP
  - Near fault: real forecasts → EMR completeness, b-value and a-value mapping
  - Off fault: background → PMC, a-value mapping and constant b-value
  - Proper treatment of depth
- To be submitted as possible prototype for pseudo-fault-based testing in CSEP**

# Issues of Testing „Physically“

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How to test whether low  $b$ -values allow to map asperities?

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- Problems in interpretation: what do we forecast by asperity mapping?
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  - slip distribution
  - maximum rupture extent → magnitude
  - ...

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    - slip distribution
    - maximum rupture extent → magnitude
    - ...
  - Can a number-per-gridpoint testing approach appropriately account for these physical principles?
  - How to formulate testable description of mapping information?
- **Start with pseudo-fault based testing as envisioned in CSEP:**  
**rate and focal mechanism forecasts on fault based grid**