

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SEATTLE 5, WASHINGTON

U. S. A.

-----

SEISMOLOGICAL BULLETIN NO. 9

REGISTRATION OF EARTHQUAKES AT SEATTLE, 1955

AND

NOTE ON LOCATION OF LOCAL SHOCKS

By

FRANK NEUMANN

-----

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

JUNE, 1956

STATION CONSTANTS

Latitude:  $47^{\circ} 39.3'$  North  
 Longitude:  $122^{\circ} 18.5'$  West  
 Elevation: 30 meters  
 Foundation: Compact glacial till

INSTRUMENTAL CONSTANTS - 1955
VERTICAL component, Sprengnether SHORT-PERIOD pendulum

$$T_0 = T_g = 1.4 \text{ sec.}$$

$$h_0 = h_g = 1.0 \text{ ca.}$$

$V_s = 3000$  or  $1750$ . See 1954 report for further explanation.

NORTH-SOUTH component, Sprengnether SHORT-PERIOD pendulum

$$T_0 = T_g = 1.40 \text{ sec.}$$

$$h_0 = h_g = 1.0 \text{ ca.}$$

$$V_s = 3600, 2500, 1800, \text{ or } 900.$$

See 1954 bulletin for explanation of sensitivity control

EAST-WEST component, Sprengnether SHORT-PERIOD pendulum

$$T_0 = T_g = 1.4 \text{ sec.}$$

$$h_0 = h_g = 1.0 \text{ ca.}$$

$$V_s = 3100, 2200, 1550, \text{ or } 800 \text{ to July 1, 1954}$$

$$V_s = 3800, 2700, 1900, \text{ or } 950 \text{ from July 1, 1954.}$$

(Shifted coil magnet for greater sensitivity. See 1954 bulletin for explanation of sensitivity controls)

NORTH-SOUTH component, Sprengnether LONG-PERIOD pendulum

$$T_0 = 15.0 \text{ sec. } T_g = 1.4 \text{ sec.}$$

$$h_0 = h_g = 1.0 \text{ ca.}$$

The following figures define the magnification curve for maximum  $V_s$  based on assumptions applicable to Galitzin seismographs:

$$T_e = 0 \quad 1.4 \text{ sec. } 3.0, 5.0, 7.5, 10, 15, 20, 30.$$

$$V_s = 0 \quad 1250 \text{ (max.) } 930, 590, 370, 230, 115, 70, 45.$$

Operating values were either 0.82, 0.50, 0.25, or 1.10 of these figures.

EAST-WEST component, Sprengnether LONG-PERIOD pendulum

Same as NORTH-SOUTH component.

Note on the Location of Earthquakes in  
Western Washington from Instrumental Data

The following is applicable to all epicenters in Western Washington reported in Bulletins 6, 7, and 8 of this series:

Since the local wave speeds for earthquakes in this area have never been adequately determined either from the analysis of earthquake data or from controlled explosion tests, it was necessary to undertake a certain amount of exploratory work in order to determine epicenter locations. For this purpose there was available, in addition to the Seattle seismographic data, the readings from three British Columbia stations located at Victoria and Alberni on Vancouver Island, and at Horseshoe Bay near the city of Vancouver. For some of the stronger shocks, data were obtained from the private station of F. W. Geitz in Portland, Oregon and from the station at Oregon State College in Corvallis. The British Columbia network went into operation in August, 1951.

A wide variety of representative speeds and crustal structures were postulated in an effort to obtain consistent epicenters and focal depths from the data registered at these stations, but the results were negative. The most consistent results were obtained when certain specific velocities (5.8, 6.4, and 7.0 km/sec.) were used, and these velocities were treated as though they were represented constant focus-to-station speeds over straight-line paths. Such an assumption has theoretical merit only to the extent that in most cases the actual travel-time in a layered crust is governed largely by the speed in the layer in which the wave travels a large portion of its real focus-to-station path. The assumption ignores the complexity resulting from overlying slower speed layers at the station end of the true seismic ray and also, to probably a lesser degree, at the focal end. The assumption would make the travel time less than that computed by accepted methods for a multi-layered crust.

When using travel-time curves based on the linear ray assumption and the quoted velocities, it was possible, regardless of theoretical objections, to obtain values of epicentral position and depth that were consistent with a common time of origin, and epicentral positions that were founded on good arc intersections. A base map drawn to a scale of one millimeter per kilometer was used in the epicenter work. The results were consistent to the extent that the greater focal depths were always associated with the higher velocity layers in the same locale, and the epicenters were reasonably consistent with positions that might be deduced from the limited number of intensity distribution maps obtained through local earthquake questionnaire coverage.

It would seem that the process of forcibly fitting the data to a "point" epicenter combined with a permissible latitude in the choice

of origin time within the range of computed values and a small percentage increase in assumed velocity for the deeper foci may all work to compensate to some degree for the inconsistencies apparent from a solely theoretical consideration of the problem. Until more is known of crustal structure and speeds of seismic waves in western Washington there is no other alternative than to accept this technique as yielding a "first approximation" of epicenter locations. Epicenters based on a 5.8 km/sec velocity are believed more accurate than others because of the presumable absence of overlying layers of significant thickness.

A list of western Washington instrumental epicenters located by the technique just explained is appended to this report.

Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
January 8	ePZ	7 46 53	Santa Cruz Is. h - 60 km $11\frac{1}{2}$ S., $166\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS Mag. 7 - 9700 km ca
January 10	eLZ	13 20.0	Nevada aftershock $40$ N., $118\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS
January 11	H iPZ iSNE	10 20 08 10 20 28.2 10 20 42.5	Western Olympic Mts. Wash. $47^{\circ} 29'$ N., $124^{\circ} 01'$ W. Felt lightly over wide area. 130 km
January 13	ePZ iSE SN eLN eLE	2 29 51 14 46 15 00 17.2 2 18.0	Fox Is., Aleutians. Felt. $53$ N., $167\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS Mag. 6.9 (P). 3200 km ca
January 20	ePZ eLE	3 55 55 4 08.5	Off west coast of Mexico $15$ N., $104\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS Mag $6\frac{1}{4}$ (P). 4000 km ca
January 25	eLNE	15 15 15	Arctic Ocean. $80$ N., $3$ W. USCGS. 5250 km
January 27	iPZ	18 50 02	Fiji Island region. h-400 $17\frac{1}{2}$ S., $177$ W. USCGS 9100 km ca
January 31	iPZ iE	5 15 32 5 15 38	Mato Grosso, Brazil $12\frac{1}{2}$ S., $57$ W. USCGS Mag $6\frac{3}{4}$ (P). 9300 km ca





Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
April 18	PZ	9 00 45	About 150 mi. off N. coast of Formosa. USCGS. 9500 km ca
April 19	ePZ SKSN SNE PSNE	17 00 14 10 19 11 04 11 14	Near E. coast of Greece. Destructive at Velos. 39½ N., 23 E. USCGS. 9700 km ca
April 19	ePZ iPZ eZ SKSN SE SPZE EZNE eLN	20 37 13 37 22 37 41 47.5 48 03 48.3 50.3 20 14.0	Near coast of Central Chile 30 S., 72 W. USCGS Mag. 7 (P). 10100 km ca
April 21	PZ SE	7 31 14 7 42 19	Greece; destructive aftershock 9700 km ca. USCGS
April 22	iPNZ eSEZ? eNE	6 29 18.7 31.0 6 29 41.0	Local. Felt at Longmire, Wash. on lower slope of Mt. Rainier
April 24	ePZ	13 12.0	Sikiang Province, China 45 N., 86 E. USCGS. 9400 km
April 25	PZ eNE iLNE LZ	10 47 10 47.4 52 21 10 54.2	Calif.-Mexico border. 32 N., 115 W. USCGS Mag. 5 (P). 1800 km ca
April 26	eLNE	3 31	El Salvador; USCGS. Heavy microseisms obscure all phases.
April 28	iPZ ePNE eNE eZ iSNE iZ eNE eNE eLNE	19 12 05 12.2 15.2 17 06 17 43 17 54 18.4 19 20 19 20.5	Aleutian Is., Adak. Felt 51 N., 178½ W. USCGS Mag. 6½ (P). 4000 km ca

Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
April 30	PZ? iPZNE LNE	1 41 00 1 41 30 2 01.0	Nicaragua 12½ N., 87 W. USCGS 5200 km ca
April 30	PZ eNE eE	1 52 28 52.6 1 53 31	Aftershock
May 1	ePZ iZ SNE LNE	10 06.0 06 07 14 43 10 28	Off coast of N. Honshu, Japan 39½ N., 143½ E. USCGS Mag. 6 3/4 (P). 7200 km ca
May 2	iPZ	12 51 01	Marianas Is. 19 N., 145 E. USCGS. 8700 km ca
May 3	eZNE	2 39.9	Regional?
May 8	eNEZ LE	3 45 07 3 46 20	Yukon. 65½ N., 133½ W. USCGS. 1900 km ca
May 8	eE eZ	9 42.6 9 43.6	Idaho-Wyoming border 43 N., 111 W. USCGS 1000 km ca
May 8	eE	10 43.8	Near Fallon, Nev. 39 N., 118 W. USCGS 900 km ca. Heavy microseisms
May 11	iPZ	11 14 24	Ecuador. 0, 78 W. USCGS 6900 km ca
May 13	eZ eLNE	3 40.3 3 56.6	Virgin Is. region. Felt 19½ N., 64 W. USCGS 6100 km ca
May 13	iPZNE iPPZ iSNE	6 15 11 17 00 6 24 12	Bonin Is. region. h-500 km 28 N., 139½ E. USCGS 8200 km ca
May 14	iPZ PNE eN eNE eLNE	20 04 30 04 37 04 55 07.1 20 24.6	Pacific O. off Lower Calif. 29 N., 126½ W. USCGS 2200 km ca

Page 10

Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
May 16	iSNE eN iEZ	3 01 43.9 01 48.0 01 50.5	Light local shock. Not felt.
May 17	iPZ SKSZNE ScSN eN eN eLNE	15 08 48 15.3 16.8 19.3 19.8 15 50	Nicobar Is. 7 N., $94\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS Mag. 7 (P). 12900 km ca
May 19	eZNE eNE	7 19.0 7 29.5	Regional?
May 27	iSNE iLN	23 00 01.5 23 00 08.0	Light local shock. Not felt.
May 21	ePNMZ	3 41.9	Bonin Is. 29 N., $140\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS. 8200 km ca
May 21	iPZ	15 51 18 C	Samoa Is. $15\frac{1}{2}$ S., 173 W. USCGS. 8700 km ca
May 23	ePZ eZ	17 54 45 17 54 50	New Hebrides Is. 18 S., 169 E. USCGS. 10200 km ca
May 25	PZN eLN eLZ	3 17 08 32.5 3 33.7	Off Guatemala coast 14 N., $92\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS 4800 km ca
May 26	PZ LNE	16 36 11 17 07	Solomon Is. 10 S., 161 E. USCGS Mag. 7 (P). 10000 km ca. S. lost in changing records.
May 28	iPZ eZN SN	6 33 37 34 28 6 44 24	Argentina, Cordoba Province $30\frac{1}{2}$ S., 65 W. h-200 km USCGS. 10600 km ca
May 29	P'Z eZ	4 19 02 4 19 19	Bouvet Is. region. S. Atlantic O. USCGS. 16000 km ca
May 29	PZ eZ SNE LNE LNE LNE	13 36 16 40 07 40 30 41 09 42.5 13 45.6	Kodiak Is. 56 N., 155 W. USCGS Mag. 5 3/4 (P). 2350 km ca

Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
May 29	ePZ SNE LN LN	21 08 07 12 10 14.1 21 16.4	Aftershock Mag. 5 (P)
May 30	ePZ iPZNE pPZ iSZNE eNE	12 42 35 42 37 44 04 51 35 12 52.1	Near Volcano Is. h-600 km $24\frac{1}{2}$ N., $142\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS Mag. $7\frac{1}{4}$ (P). 8600 km ca
May 31	iPZ	9 43 49	Kermadec Is. region. h-100 km 27 S., $177\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS Mag. 6 3/4 (P). 10200 km
May 31	iPZ	14 54 42 R	Near S. coast of Hokkaido, Japan. 42 N., 141 E. h-100 km USCGS. 7200 km ca
May 31	iPZ LNE	18 06 47 18 25.0	Galapagos Is. 0., 92 W. USCGS. 6200 km
June 2	iPZ SNE LE	0 26 10 R 31 58 0 34.7	Aleutians, Adreanoff Is. $51\frac{1}{2}$ N., 180 W. USCGS Mag. 6 3/4 (P). 4100 km ca
June 2	iPZ eN SNE	2 09 24 15 10 2 15 22	Aftershock. USCGS
June 5	iPZ iSN eSE eLNE	2 00 30 R. 06 12 06 26 2 11.2	Aftershock. USCGS
June 5	ePZ iPZ	6 24 13 6 24 26	Formosa. $24\frac{1}{2}$ N., 122 E. USCGS. 9800 km ca
June 5	iPZ	15 08 41 R	Near N. coast of Algeria $36\frac{1}{2}$ N., $1\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS 9100 km ca
June 7	eLNE	1 42.0	China, Sikiang, Province
June 8	eLNEZ	12 27 24	Regional







Page 18

Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
August 16	PZ	19 18 41	Nicaragua. $12\frac{1}{2}$ N., $86\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS. 5300 km ca
August 21	ePZ eZ PPE eE SKSE SE PSZ SSE LRE	17 47 47 48 05 52 03 52 44 58 23 17 59 16 18 00 32 06.5 18 19.6	New Guinea 3 S., $137\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS Mag. 7-(P)(B). 11200 km ca
August 23	iPZ iN iNE iSNE LE LNE iLE LZ	16 34 05 34 10 34 13 35 18 35 50 36.2 36 47 16 37 23	About 170 miles off coast of Oregon. $43\frac{1}{2}$ N., 128 W. USCGS Mag. $6\frac{1}{2}$ -(P). 650 km ca
August 24	ePZ eSE eSN LNE iLNE LEZ	6 57 51 59 08 59 15 7 00 01 00 26 7 01.6	Off coast of Oregon $44\frac{1}{2}$ N., $129\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS 650 km ca
August 26	eLNE LE LN	6 33.5 33.8 6 34.0	Yukon, Canada $65\frac{1}{2}$ N., 133 W. USCGS 2000 km ca
August 27	ePZ eZNE iN eNE LN LZ LNZ	7 01 28 02.5 03 02 03 10 04.0 04 22 7 05 13	USCGS reports shock in New Hebrides Is. This record has the character- istics of a shock about 1000 km away.
August 28	iPZE eE eSN eLE LN LN LNE	20 21 30 36 02 27 20 28.0 31.2 35.1 20 39.2	Near coast of Guatemala. h-60 km 14 N., 91 W. USCGS Mag. $6\frac{3}{4}$ (P). 4800 km ca

Date	Phase	Time (G.C.T.)	Remarks
1955		h. m. s.	
August 29	PZ eE SNE SE	15 41 06 46 25 46 40 15 46 51	Adreanoff Is., Aleutians 51 N., $178\frac{1}{2}$ W. USCGS 3900 ea.
August 30	eLNE F	2 01.2 2 05	Cape Mendocino, Calif. Felt in Eureka. 900 km ca
August 30	iPZ eNE eE	17 46 20 46 27 17 46 54	Bonin Is. region. h-500 km 28 N., 139 E. USCGS 8100 km ca
August 31	eLNE	12 35	Alaska. USCGS
September 3	ePZ eEN eZ SNE LN LNE	12 44 15 44.4 45 12 51 16 54.6 13 03.5	Guatemala. h - 100 km 14 N., 91 W. USCGS Mag. $6\frac{1}{2}$ (P). 4700 km
September 3	ePPZ	16 41 38	Celebes Is. 1 N., 123 E. USCGS. 12,000 km ca
September 4	ePZ	11 42 07	Northern Chile h-100 km 22 S., 69 W. USCGS. 9600 km ca
September 5	iPZ SZN LN LNE LQE	2 03 52 06 03 06 40 07 05 2 07.8	Near San Jose, Calif $37\frac{1}{2}$ N., 122 W. USCGS Mag. 5.8 (P). 1200 km ca S very weak
September 8	P'Z eN iSNE eZ	2 22 44 23 05 26 23 2 27 09	Sandwich Island region Mag. 7-(P). 14700 km ca
September 8	ePZ eN eSNE ePSE LQN LRN	3 40 18 40 30 51 52 52 42 4 15 43 4 20.3	Solomon Island region 7 S., $155\frac{1}{2}$ E. USCGS 10,100 km ca
September 8	ePZ iSN iN	22 07 06 07 07.8 22 07 09.2	Local tremor. Not felt





