

23 **1. Introduction**

24 The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a constellation of satellites used primarily for
25 navigation purposes to determine position with a precision of about 1 m in real-time. A
26 much higher horizontal precision approaching ~ 1 mm is achievable via data processing in
27 non-real-time, a fact that has been well exploited to determine long-term deformation in the
28 shallow crust by analyzing changes in position on a daily basis (e.g., Segall and Davis,
29 1997; Larson et al., 1997, 2004; Wang et al., 2001; and many others). Until recently, the use
30 of GPS instruments for seismological purposes has been the subject of appreciably less
31 work. Interest in this application has been growing, however, because near large
32 earthquakes broad-band seismometers tend to clip and, although strong-motion
33 accelerometers do not, the conversion of acceleration to displacement is degraded by large
34 drifts caused by tilts and the non-linear behavior of the accelerometer (e.g., Trifunac and
35 Todorovska, 2001). For GPS to be used for seismology, much higher sample rates
36 approaching or exceeding 1 sample-per-second are required.

37 The seismological potential of GPS was first investigated by Hirahara et al. (1994), Ge
38 (1999), Ge et al., (2000), and Bock et al. (2000) who showed that GPS could measure large
39 displacements or instantaneous geodetic positions over very short time spans. Larson et al.
40 (2003) first observed dynamic seismic displacements using GPS following the 2002
41 magnitude 7.9 Denali Fault (AK) earthquake and demonstrated the similarity between the
42 displacement seismograms determined from GPS and broad-band seismometers. Bilich et
43 al. (2008) further advanced these investigations. These were largely far-field observations

44 (many hundreds of km) made possible by the strong directivity of the earthquake along the
45 azimuth to distant GPS and seismic instruments. The principal interest in the application of
46 GPS seismology is as a strong motion instrument in the near-field (Larson, 2009). The
47 feasibility of near-field GPS seismology was demonstrated following the 2003 magnitude
48 6.5 San Simeon (CA) earthquake (Hardebeck et al., 2004; Wang et al., 2007), the 2003
49 magnitude 8.0 Takachi-Oki earthquake in Japan (Emore et al., 2007), and the 2009
50 magnitude 6.3 L'Aquila earthquake in Italy (Avallone et al., 2011). GPS seismology has
51 also been shown to be useful in fault rupture inversions alone or in concert with
52 strong-motion and teleseismic data (Ji et al., 2004; Miyazaki et al., 2004; Langbein et al.,
53 2005; Kobayashi et al., 2006; Yokota et al., 2009) and for measuring surface wave
54 dispersion (Davis and Smalley, 2009). Blewitt et al. (2006) demonstrated the effectiveness
55 of GPS to estimate earthquake magnitudes rapidly for tsunami warning and Gomberg et al.
56 (2004) used GPS seismology to study earthquake triggering.

57 The 4 April, 2010 magnitude 7.2 earthquake (22:40:41.77 GMT), referred to as the
58 El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake, struck Baja California approximately 65 km south of the
59 US-Mexico border (Fig. 1a). This earthquake ruptured along the principal plate boundary
60 between the North American and Pacific plates with a shallow focal depth. Surface rupture
61 of this earthquake extended for about 120km from the northern tip of the Gulf of California
62 northwestward nearly to the international border, with breakage on several faults.

63 The earthquake occurred where the southern California shear zone, a system of

64 continental parallel right-lateral faults including the San Andreas, San Jacinto and Elsinore
65 faults, connects with a system of transform faults and active spreading centers in the Gulf
66 of California. A high level of historical seismicity has been observed in this region, and this
67 fault system has been active in recent years although the previous large earthquake
68 occurred in 1892 (USGS). The Pacific Plate is believed to move northwestward with
69 respect to the North American Plate at a speed of about 50mm per year. The principal plate
70 boundary in northern Baja California consists of a series of northwest-trending strike-slip
71 faults that are separated by pull-apart basins. The Harvard focal mechanism solution shows
72 that the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake is a NW-SE dextral lateral strike-slip event, which
73 is consistent with the strike-slip movement of the southeastern part of the Laguna-Salada
74 fault system. However, this earthquake is a rather complex event that may have begun with
75 east-down motion along faults on the eastern edge of the Sierra El Mayor, then ruptured
76 bi-laterally along the Sierra Cucapah fault and the newly detected Indiviso fault, including
77 both transform lateral slip and ridge extension simultaneously (Wei et. al, 2011).

78 The main shock lasted over 40 seconds (Wei et. al, 2011) and caused strong shaking in
79 the near-field. Based on the USGS survey, the peak ground acceleration (PGA) recorded by
80 strong motion seismometers was as large as 0.59g. Even at epicentral distances greater than
81 100 km, the PGA was still over 0.1g for some stations (Fig. 1a). For this reason, most of the
82 broadband seismometers close to the epicenter clipped. An example is shown in Figure 1b,
83 which is recorded by station SWS at an epicentral distance of about 100 km.

84 Because the surface waves of these seismograms are clipped, it is difficult to obtain
85 detailed estimates of the source rupture process using seismic records alone. Thus, other
86 kinds of instruments that are not as seriously affected by strong ground motions are needed
87 to detect the surface displacement. In this work we use high-rate GPS records to obtain
88 near field-ground motions of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake and then apply these data
89 to estimate the source mechanism of the main shock.

90 **2. High-rate GPS Data Acquisition and Processing**

91 **2.1 Data Acquisition**

92 The Plate Boundary Observatory (PBO) of EarthScope is a geodetic observatory
93 designed to characterize the three-dimensional strain field across the active boundary zone
94 between the Pacific and the western United States. In order to obtain the long period
95 deformation field as well as short-term dynamic motions, two sample rates are used: one
96 sample per second (1 Hz) and five samples per second (5 Hz). At 5 Hz, GPS data can be
97 used to analyze earthquakes at frequencies up to 2.5 Hz. Because the El Mayor-Cucapah
98 Earthquake occurred after construction of the PBO, it was well recorded not only by
99 seismic stations but also by low-rate and high-rate GPS receivers in the US.

100 In this work, we acquired high-rate GPS data from GPS stations within 250 km of the
101 epicenter ([Fig. 1a](#)). Seven stations are located in the region where PGA is higher than 0.22g
102 and around 20 stations are situated where PGA is larger than 0.1g. This distribution
103 provides the opportunity to observe strong ground motion and co-seismic surface

104 displacement of the main shock. We use the high-rate GPS algorithm to solve for the
105 displacements, then correct the displacement record, and finally use the corrected
106 displacements to study the mechanism of the main shock.

107 **2.2 Data processing**

108 There are several differences between the methods for processing the high-rate GPS
109 data and traditional (30 s sampling) GPS data. The most significant difference is related to
110 the technique of eliminating the GPS satellite clock errors and multipath errors. We process
111 the high-rate GPS data similar to the routine method applied in GAMIT software
112 developed at MIT (King and Bock, 2002) which includes the following steps. First,
113 high-rate GPS satellite clock corrections are estimated by using high-rate GPS data
114 obtained from globally distributed receivers with precise satellite orbits and low-rate
115 clocks. In contrast to the satellite clock, the satellite orbit can be safely interpolated onto
116 the satellite's position at any time using a high-degree polynomial (Schenewerk, 2003).
117 Second, we use the track module GAMIT to estimate high-rate receiver coordinates based
118 on high-rate GPS data, the precise satellite orbits, and high-rate satellites clocks from the
119 first step. The reference site should be distant from the main shock and is chosen to be
120 station P553, which is about 440 km from the epicenter. In this study, carrier-phase
121 ambiguities are estimated as float values, the ionosphere-free linear combination (LC) is
122 used to eliminate ionospheric effects, and the tropospheric delays are modeled using a
123 random-walk stochastic process. In the last step, because the high-rate GPS data contains

124 some noise, in order to obtain more accurate solutions, especially for surface displacements
125 caused by earthquakes, the final GPS data requires further filtering. Sideral filtering was
126 suggested by Bock et al. (1991) and was modified by Choi et al. (2004) by considering the
127 satellite repeat time offset to a sidereal day. Further, in this study, a wavelet transform
128 method is also used to de-noise the high-rate GPS results.

129 **2.3 GPS data correction**

130 Although high-rate GPS records are free from clipping, further corrections are
131 needed to obtain reliable ground displacements. Among these corrections, the most
132 important are the removal of linear trends and setting displacement before the arrival of
133 seismic signals to zero (Fig. 2). Figure 2a shows a seismogram with a long period trend.
134 Figure 2b shows an abrupt jump in the record, which is not caused by the earthquake
135 because it occurs before the first arriving seismic phase.

136 In this study, we use the following methods to remove these disturbances. (1) For the
137 linear trend, the records before the first arriving seismic phase define the pre-arrival
138 background displacement and the signals long after the earthquake signals have passed are
139 taken as the post-arrival background displacement. We then fit linear trends to the pre- and
140 post-arrival background displacement records separately. If the two trends are close to each
141 other, we remove the average fitted trend from the whole seismogram. If the trends are not
142 similar, we remove the pre-arrival and post-arrival trends separately. For the earthquake
143 signal, we extend the trend of the post-arrival part of the record backward in time and then

144 find the trend in the earthquake signal and remove it. (2) For the long period variations of
145 the background displacement, we first find the dominant period band of the variation and
146 then use a wavelet transform method to remove signals in this band. [Figure 2c](#) and [2d](#) show
147 the corrected GPS records. Compared with the raw displacement records most disturbances
148 have been removed in the corrected records.

149 **3. Comparison between seismograms and high-rate GPS records**

150 Using the methods described above, time series of horizontal and vertical displacements for
151 26 high-rate (5-Hz) GPS stations from PBO are obtained. The average error of displacement on
152 the east-west and north-south components is 4.2 mm and 5.4 mm, respectively. However, the
153 error on the vertical component is about 13 mm, more than twice as large as the horizontal
154 components, because atmospheric disturbances cannot be eliminated as well. We analyze the
155 characteristics of the high-rate GPS data here and compare them with seismograms recorded by
156 far-field broadband seismic stations and near-field strong motion seismometers.

157 Horizontal displacements of representative GPS stations are plotted in [Figure 3](#), where the
158 records are aligned by the origin time of the main event (from SCSN). Hand-picked first arrivals
159 indicate an apparent move-out speed of about 3.4 km/s, which is much slower than the P-wave
160 speed. Because this earthquake initiated weakly (Wei et al., 2011), the P-wave signals apparently
161 are blurred by noise in high-rate GPS records. The first arrivals, therefore, are S-waves in the
162 GPS records. Researchers should be aware that this muting of the P-wave arrivals may affect
163 finite fault inversions.

164 The dynamic response of the receiver is important to evaluate data quality. In order to check
165 the ability of high-rate GPS records to detect seismic signals, horizontal records from the station
166 P496, which is 62 km from the epicenter, are chosen to analyze the dynamic responses (Fig. 4a).
167 Peak surface displacements at this station are up to 53 cm and 57 cm on the E-W and N-S
168 components, respectively, which are much higher than the noise level. Figure 4b shows the
169 spectrum of the three components at frequencies below 1 Hz. Signal power mainly concentrates
170 between 0.01Hz and 0.3Hz, and decreases rapidly from 0.25Hz to 0.6Hz. This band is
171 appropriate to analyze medium to strong earthquakes. Signal power at frequencies higher than 1
172 Hz is quite weak and contributes only negligibly to the integrated signal.

173 In order to quantitatively evaluate the quality of high-rate GPS records, we compare
174 them with records from seismometers. An example is shown in Figure 5a in which the record
175 from GPS station P496 is compared with the displacement integrated from a strong motion
176 accelerograph record (NO. 5058). The two stations are located 61-62 km from epicenter and are
177 separated by less than 1 km, so their displacement seismograms should be similar. We find that
178 the two measurements of displacement are largely consistent. Thus, high-rate GPS
179 measurements can be used to monitor the near-field displacement similarly to strong motion
180 seismometers. On the other hand, the integration of the accelerometer twice to get the
181 displacement tends to amplify biases and distort the true signal. It is, therefore, generally more
182 difficult to correct strong-motion records than GPS records. For these reasons, high-rate GPS
183 records can also be used as a calibration for correcting strong-motion records.

184 High-rate GPS not only detects strong near-field signals, but also records seismic waves in
185 the far-field, as Larson et al. (2003) demonstrated for the Denali Fault earthquake. Thus, in order
186 to test the characteristics of the far field GPS seismograms, we compare far-field high-rate GPS
187 data with broadband seismograms. An example is shown in [Figure 5b](#). The record from GPS
188 station P472 is compared with the displacement from broadband station 109C; the distance
189 between the two stations is under 100 m but epicentral distance is ~204 km. Here, all
190 seismograms are filtered from 10 sec to 50 sec period. The early arriving body waves are in
191 relatively good agreement with the seismograms, but the GPS records are enriched in low
192 frequencies. However, in the GPS record there is an unexpected signal following the seismic
193 signal between 120 to 200 sec after the main shock, as shown in [Figure 5b](#). This signal is also
194 observed at other GPS sites. This later arrival is an artifact caused by data processing. We use
195 one site as a reference site and the displacement shown in [Figure 5b](#) is just the displacement of
196 the target site relative to that at the reference site. Although the reference site is farther away
197 from the epicenter than the GPS site, it also can record the movement of the earthquake, but at a
198 later time. Because of the artifact, the reference site should be chosen as far as practical from the
199 site of interest or it may overlap the real signal. On the other hand, if the reference site is too far
200 away from the target GPS site, the paths of the GPS signals are quite different and thus make it
201 difficult to eliminate the GPS satellite clock errors and multipath errors by the method discussed
202 in section 2.2. We choose the reference site based on the following criterion: The reference site
203 should be near the sites of interest, but the interval between the arrival time of the target signal
204 and the artificial signal should be larger than the length of the wave train of the target signal.

205 GPS site P553 satisfies this criterion. The GPS waveform in [Figure 5b](#) is contaminated by the
206 artifact, but the inversion method is not degraded by it.

207 **4. Focal mechanism inversion with high-rate GPS seismograms**

208 **4.1 Methods and data for the focal mechanism inversion**

209 To further validate the high-rate GPS data, we used the data to invert for the focal
210 mechanism of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake. Because the noise level of high-rate GPS
211 seismograms is higher than traditional seismometers, we only used GPS stations with epicentral
212 distances less than 150 km in order to improve the signal-to-noise ratio. The Cut and Paste (CAP)
213 method developed by Zhu and Helmberger (1996) and applied subsequently by Zheng et al.
214 (2009) is applied to obtain the focal mechanism. Compared with other focal mechanism
215 inversion methods, such as P-wave first motion polarity and full waveform modeling, the CAP
216 method is more stable and reliable because it separates the whole seismogram into the Pnl wave
217 and the surface waves, which allows them to be shifted independently to fit the synthetic
218 seismograms. This tends to reduce errors caused by the 1D velocity model. The result is,
219 therefore, less sensitive to the velocity model and lateral variations in crustal structure.

220 Although the CAP method does not require an accurate crustal velocity model, a good
221 velocity model will still improve the inversion accuracy. Because this earthquake has a rupture
222 length of about 120 km, it is hard to find one crustal model to represent the structure between the
223 earthquake and the receivers. For this reason, we use Crust2.0 (Bassin et al., 2000) in the
224 neighborhood of the epicenter as our inversion model, which is sufficiently accurate to provide

225 information about the main shock. The crustal model is listed in [Table 1](#).

226 **4.2 Focal mechanism inversion**

227 Data quality and azimuthal coverage of the stations are important for the inversion
228 for the focal mechanism. Although the CAP method does not require a large number of
229 stations (Tan et al., 2006), relatively better azimuthal station coverage will produce better
230 estimates of focal mechanism and focal depth. Epicentral distance is another factor that is
231 taken into consideration for choosing the stations: the shorter the path, the smaller the
232 degradation caused by uncertainties in the crustal model. Thus, we attempt to choose
233 near-field GPS stations with good data quality as well as to homogenize the azimuthal
234 distribution as much as possible. The selected high-rate GPS stations are shown by red
235 stars in [Figure 1](#). Because all of the stations are located north of the epicenter, the azimuthal
236 coverage is far from homogeneous.

237 Based on the selected data, a grid search for strike, dip, rake, moment and depth is
238 implemented by the CAP method to obtain the best point-source solution. The search steps
239 for strike, dip and rake angles are all 5 degrees, and the magnitude step is 0.1 magnitude
240 units. By comparing the total misfit from waveform modeling at different depths, we
241 estimated the centroid focal depth to be about 10 km and the best fitting focal mechanism
242 solution is listed in [Table 2](#). The focal mechanisms from the Harvard CMT project, the
243 Southern California Seismic Network (SCSN), and USGS are also presented for
244 comparison ([Fig. 6](#)).

245 The dip and rake angles we observe agree fairly well with the teleseismic estimate
246 from the Harvard CMT, differing only by about 6° and 8° , respectively. There is an
247 apparent discrepancy in the strike angle of about 170° . **Figure 7** shows, however, that there
248 are two minima in strike angle, one near 52° and the other near 235° . The 235° strike angle
249 is in better agreement with the orientation of the fault-plane as defined by the aftershock
250 sequence, is about 14° off from the Harvard CMT, and the focal mechanism is in visually
251 better agreement with the seismic studies as **Figure 6** illustrates. With this choice of strike
252 angle, however, the dip angle changes to about 103° . Thus, the largest difference in our
253 focal mechanism and the teleseismic mechanisms actually is in the dip angle, where our
254 result differs from the Harvard CMT by about 20° . As **Figure 7** illustrates, the dip angle is
255 difficult to observe using near-field data alone under the assumption of an instantaneous
256 point source for such a large earthquake. For dip angles between 50° to 80° , there is little
257 change in misfit. This is why the dip angle of the mainshock in this work is substantially
258 different from the other studies.

259 From the comparison between observed and synthetic waveforms (**Figure 8**) we see
260 that although not all of the time segments are fit equally well, most of the cross-correlation
261 coefficients between the synthetics and the observations are larger than 75% and some are
262 even larger than 90%. This level of misfit indicates that the focal mechanism inversion is
263 acceptable.

264 Remaining discrepancies between the focal mechanisms of USGS, Harvard and this

265 work may be due to several causes. First, the noise level of the high-rate GPS records is
266 higher than that of seismometers, which adds to the ambiguity of the angles of the focal
267 mechanism. Second, the observing network we use is very near the earthquake and
268 subtends a narrow range of azimuths. The proximity of the earthquake to the network
269 degrades the assumption that the earthquake is a point source with an instantaneous rupture.
270 In addition, because nearly all of the stations are north of the US-Mexico border, the
271 azimuthal coverage is highly restricted. The geometry of the focal mechanism is, therefore,
272 difficult to resolve. The general similarity between the focal mechanism obtained from
273 near-field high-rate GPS seismology and teleseismic studies, however, suggests that the
274 GPS observations can be added to teleseismic data for joint analysis.

275 **5. Conclusions and Discussion**

276 We study high-rate GPS records following the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake within 250
277 km of the epicenter. These data provide important surface-wave records in the near-field where
278 broad-band seismometers either were clipped or were simply not present. Due to complications
279 in the noise recorded on high-rate GPS, signal de-noising techniques that include linear trend
280 removal and wavelet transformation are developed and applied in this study.

281 We compare integrated seismometer records (including broadband seismometers and
282 strong-motion accelerometers in the near-field) to the high-rate GPS displacement records.
283 These records are in good agreement for the surface waves in the near-field, but beyond about
284 150 km the high-rate GPS degrades due to high noise levels believed to be ionospheric in origin.

285 Combining high-rate GPS in the near-field with seismometers at teleseismic distances
286 may lead to more accurate modeling and imaging of the earthquake rupture sequence and source
287 parameters. To test this hypothesis, based on the corrected high-rate GPS records, the focal
288 mechanism of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake is inverted using the CAP method. The method
289 reveals a right-lateral strike-slip mechanism with a shallow focal depth of about 10 km. This
290 result is generally consistent with the solutions from the Harvard CMT project, the USGS, and
291 the SCSN except for a significant difference in the dip angle. Considering the high noise level of
292 high-rate GPS data, the complexity of the rupture process, and the significantly sub-optimal
293 azimuthal coverage of the stations (Fig. 1), the result is seen as confirmation that high-rate GPS
294 observed at near-field stations can be applied in concert with teleseismic seismometers to yield
295 better information about the earthquake rupture properties and parameters. It is, however,
296 strictly not suitable to describe an earthquake as large as the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake as an
297 instantaneous point source in the near-field. Thus, focal mechanisms based on near-field
298 high-rate GPS either alone or in concert with teleseismic data may be best applied to study small
299 to moderate sized earthquakes.

300

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400

401

402 **Table 1.** The crustal model used in inversion for the focal mechanism. Vp and Vs are P wave velocity and S
403 wave velocity, respectively. Qa and Qb are the Q value of P and S waves.

404

Thickness (km)	Density (kg/m ³)	Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	Qa	Qb
1.0	2100	2.5	1.2	400	200
0.5	2500	4.4	2.5	600	400
9.0	2750	6.1	3.5	1000	600
8.5	2800	6.3	3.6	800	500

8.5	2900	6.6	3.6	900	400
-----	3300	8.0	4.6	972	600

405

406 **Table 2.** The focal mechanism estimated by using near-field high-rate GPS stations compared with solutions
 407 obtained by the Harvard CMT, USGS, and SCSN using teleseismic data.

408

	Mw	Centriod Depth (km)	Strike1	Dip1	Rake1	Strike2	Dip2	Rake2
This work	7.2	10	52	77	-14	146	76	-167
Harvard	7.2	12	221	83	-6	312	84	-173
USGS	7.2	10	222	47	-10	319	82	-135
SCSN	7.2	10	219	84	-17	311	73	-174

409

410

411 **Figure captions:**

412 **Figure 1.** (a) Location of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake and the distribution of
 413 selected GPS stations. Triangles represent the GPS stations: hollow triangles
 414 are the stations > 200 km from the epicenter while the solid triangles are the
 415 stations closer than 200 km. The “beachball” is the Harvard-CMT focal
 416 mechanism of the main shock located at the epicenter. Gray circles are
 417 aftershocks with magnitudes larger than M4.0. The red stars are locations of

418 the high-rate GPS stations used in the inversion for the focal mechanism, and
419 the largest red star is the epicenter of the mainshock. The red square and red
420 diamond are the locations of the broadband seismic station and the strong
421 motion seismic station of Fig. 5. The white contour lines show strong motion
422 of the earthquake, with units in percent of gravitational acceleration, g. The
423 inset enlarges the area outlined by the black rectangle. (b) Clipped broadband
424 seismograms following the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake recorded at the
425 broadband seismograph at station SWS, located about 100 km from the
426 epicenter.

427 **Figure 2.** Correction of high-rate GPS data. (a) North-South component GPS record
428 showing a linear trend (GPS site P507, approximately 109 km from the
429 epicenter). (b) North-South component GPS record illustrating signals
430 arriving before the seismic waves (GPS site P511, approximately 181 km from
431 the epicenter). (c) GPS record corrected by removing a linear trend (GPS site
432 P507). (d) GPS record corrected by removing the background signals (GPS
433 site P511). All records are bandpass-filtered from 3.3 to 100 sec period.

434 **Figure 3.** East-West and North-South components of the ground displacements observed
435 with the 5-Hz GPS data. The stations are ordered by epicentral distance. The
436 thick black lines show a move-out with speed of ~ 3.4 km/s.

437 **Figure 4.** Displacements and spectral amplitudes of GPS records at site P496,

438 approximately 62 km from the epicenter. (a) Displacements on E-W, N-S and
439 vertical components. (b) Spectral amplitude distribution of the high-rate GPS
440 records.

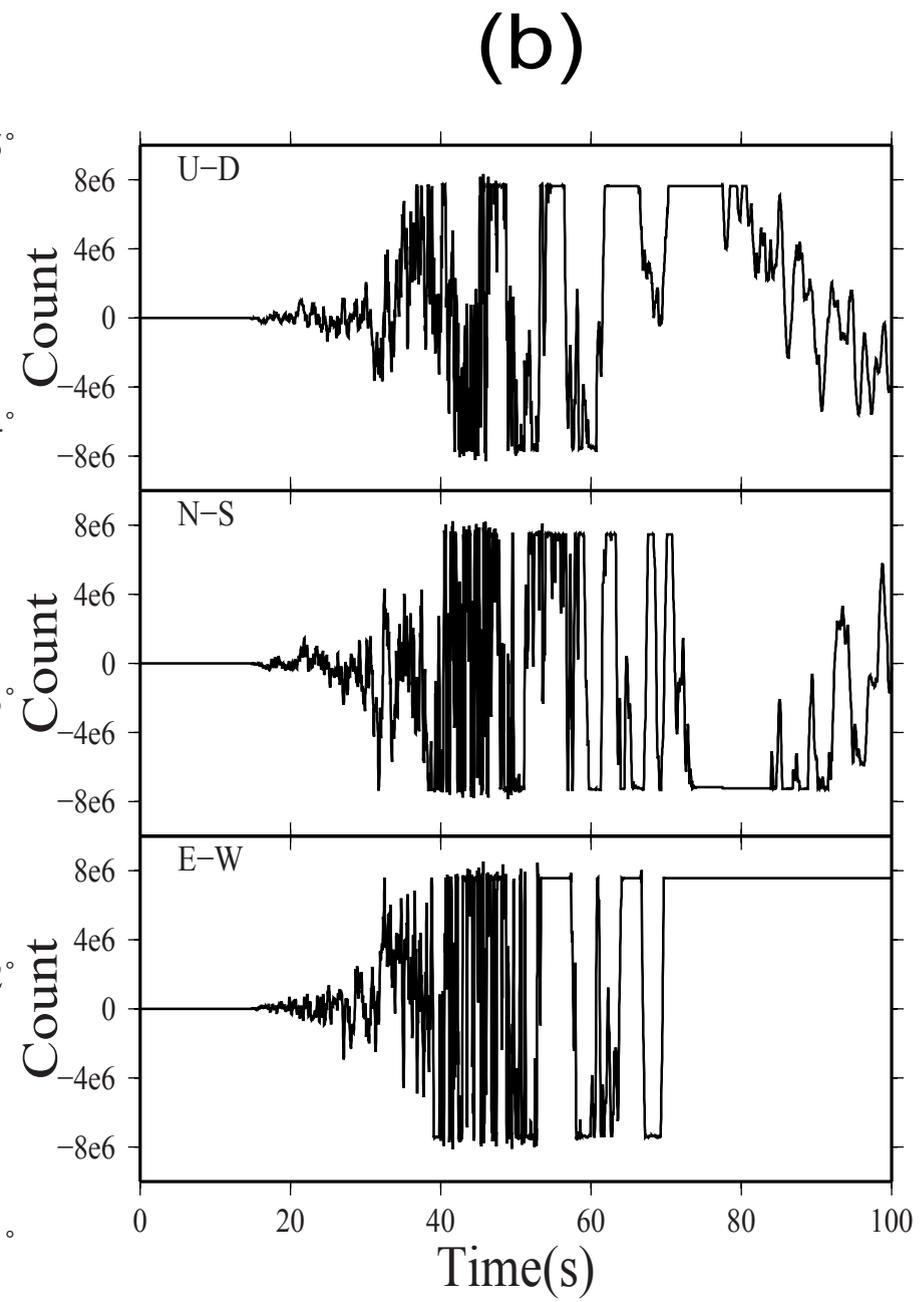
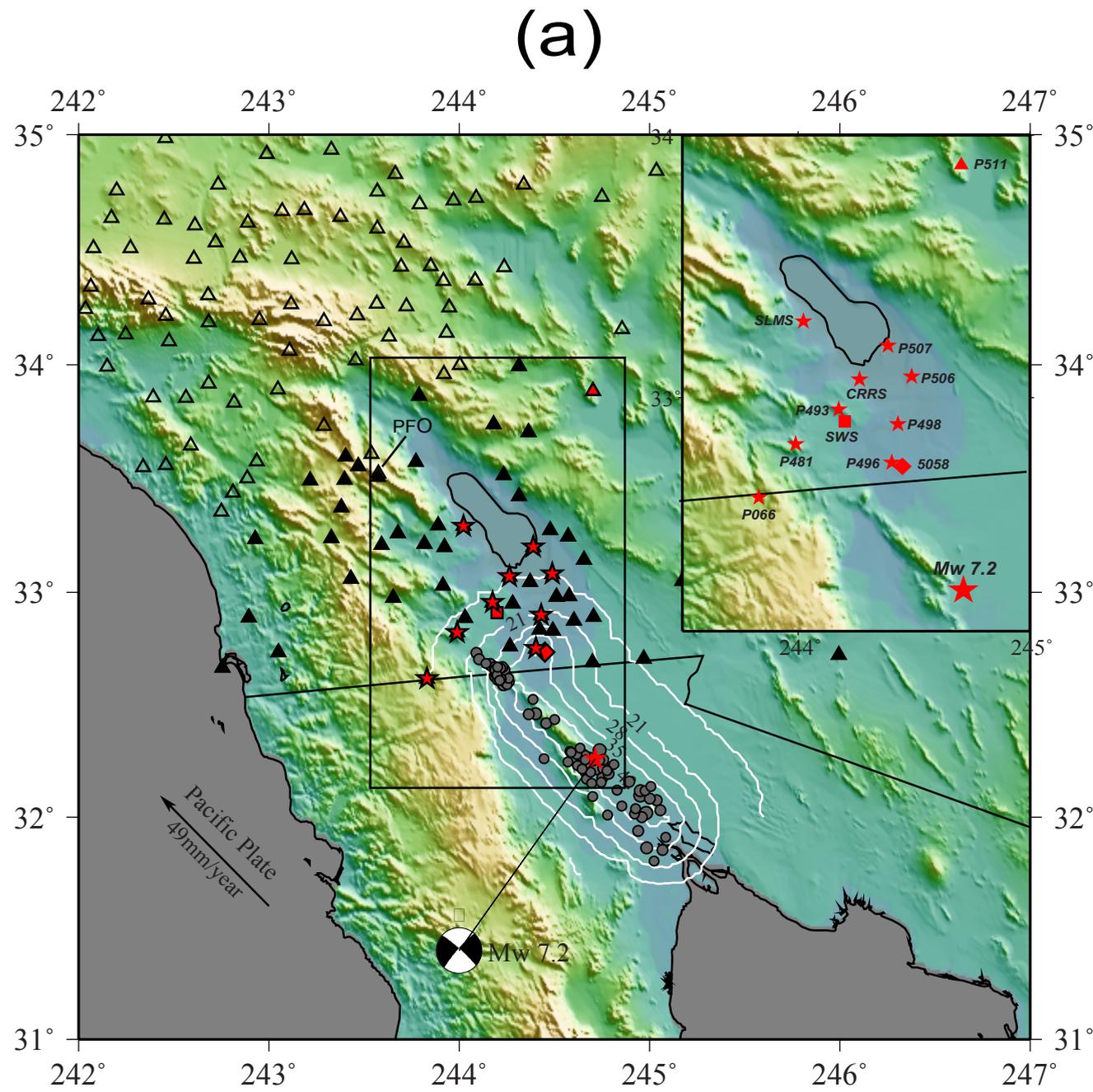
441 **Figure 5.** Comparisons of the seismic waves observed on seismometers with the high-rate
442 GPS records. (a) Comparison of 5HZ GPS displacement record at station P496
443 (62 km from the epicenter) and the displacement record obtained by twice
444 integrating data from the strong motion accelerograph station 5058 (61 km
445 from the epicenter). The distance between GPS station P496 and strong
446 motion station 5058 is less than 1km, the GPS signal has been bandpass
447 filtered from 50 sec to 0.2 sec period. (b) Comparison of the 5HZ GPS
448 displacement record at station P472 and the displacement records at
449 broadband station 109C, which belongs to USArray and was obtained by
450 integrating velocity to displacement. The distance between the receiver and
451 the epicenter of the El Mayor-Cucapah earthquake is 204 km, and the distance
452 between GPS station P472 and seismic station 109C is negligible. The
453 reference zero time is the time of the mainshock.

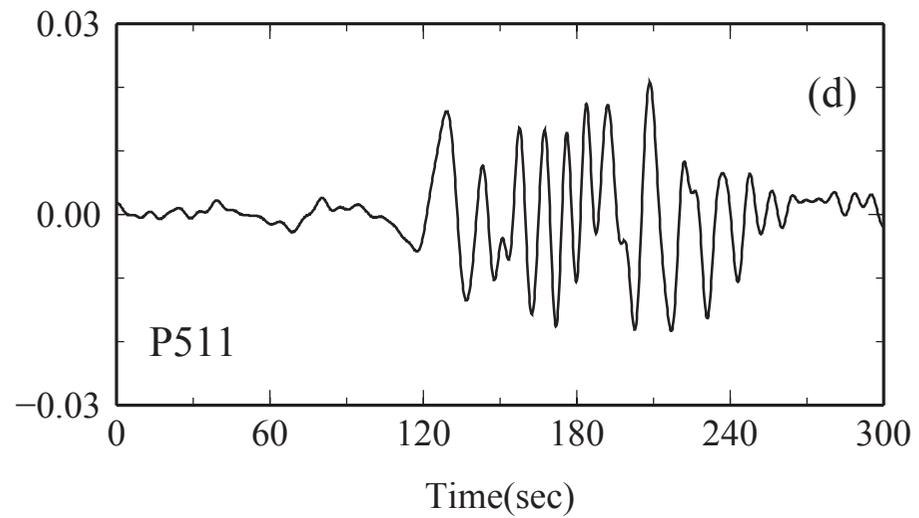
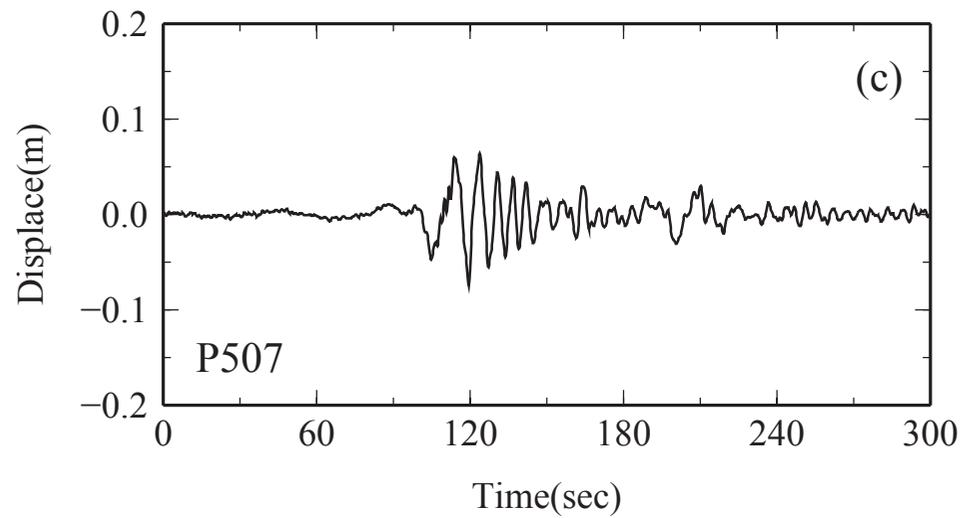
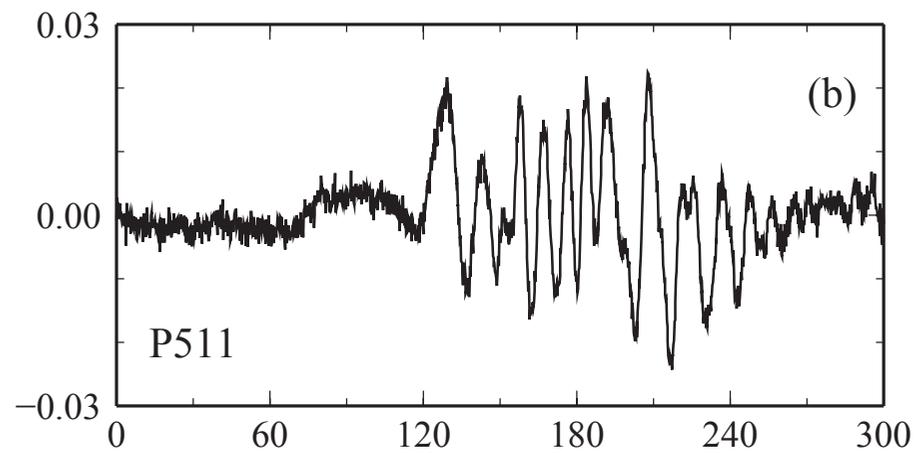
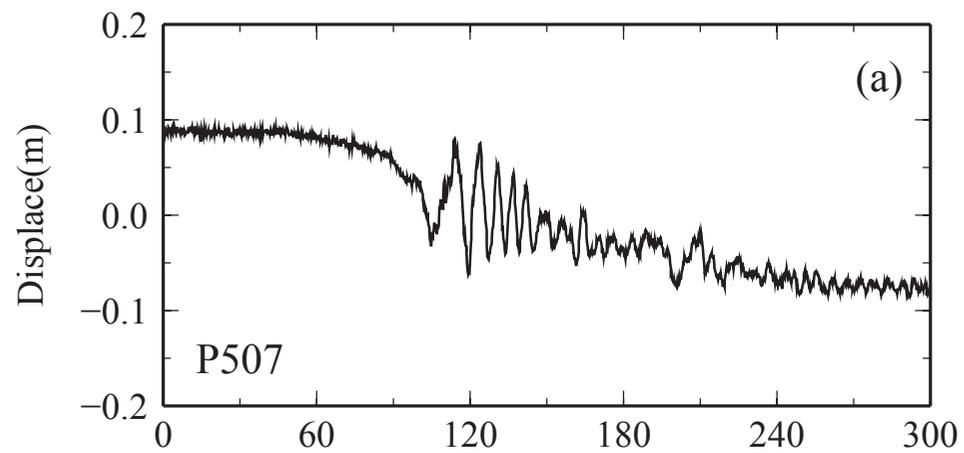
454 **Figure 6.** Visual comparison of the focal mechanisms determined here with the Harvard
455 CMT, USGS and SCSN. Two of our focal mechanisms are shown, one with
456 strike angle of 52° (far left) and the other with strike angle of 235° (far right).

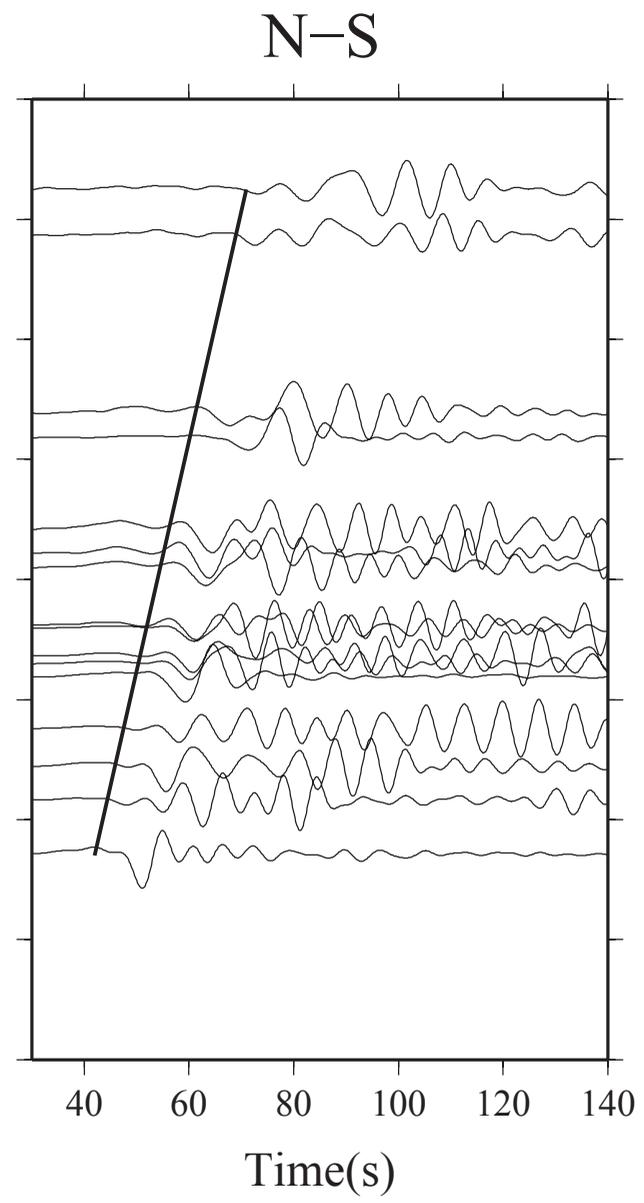
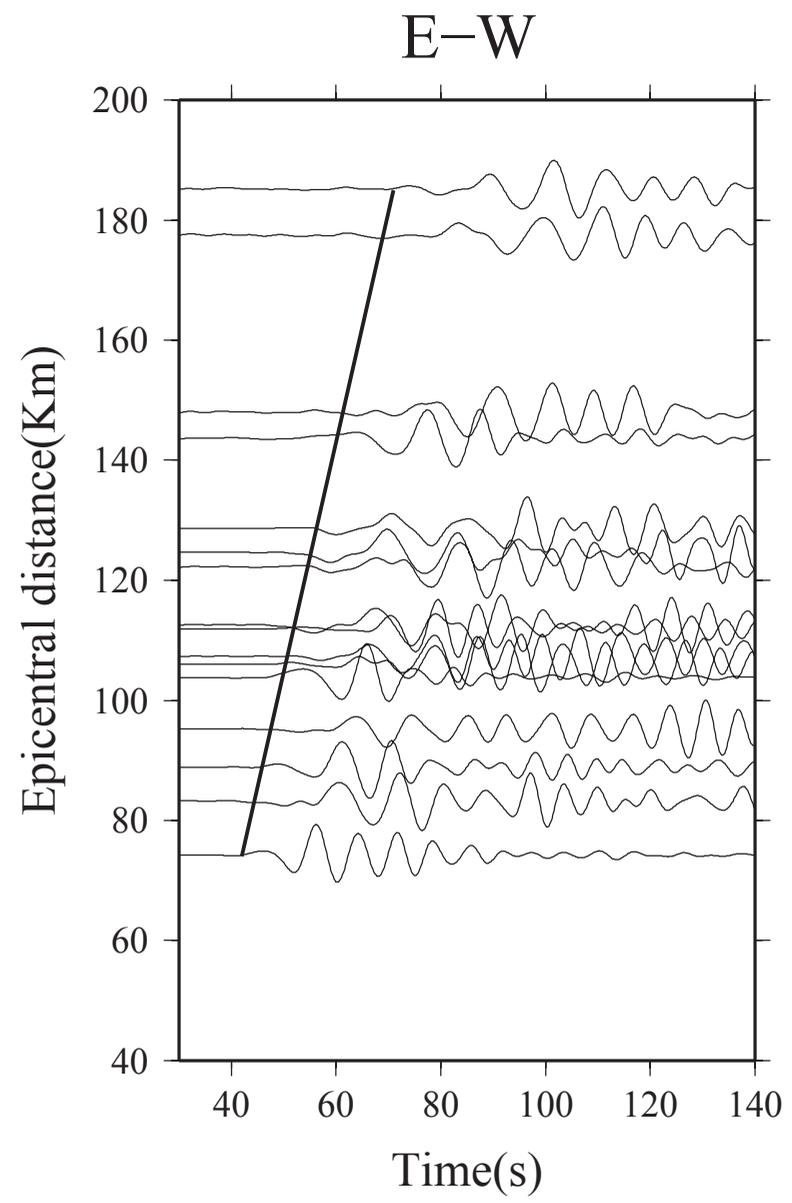
457 **Figure 7.** The variation of misfit error with rake, dip and strike angles, from top to bottom,

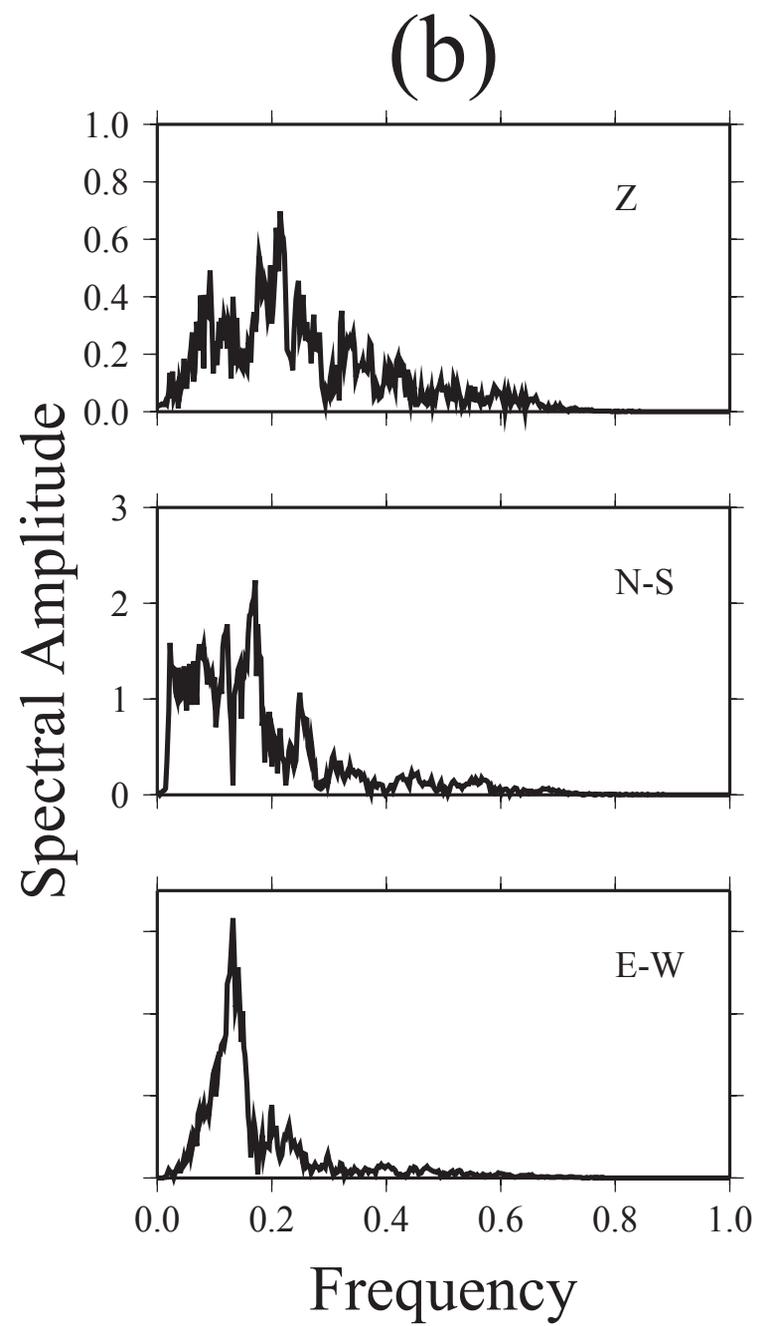
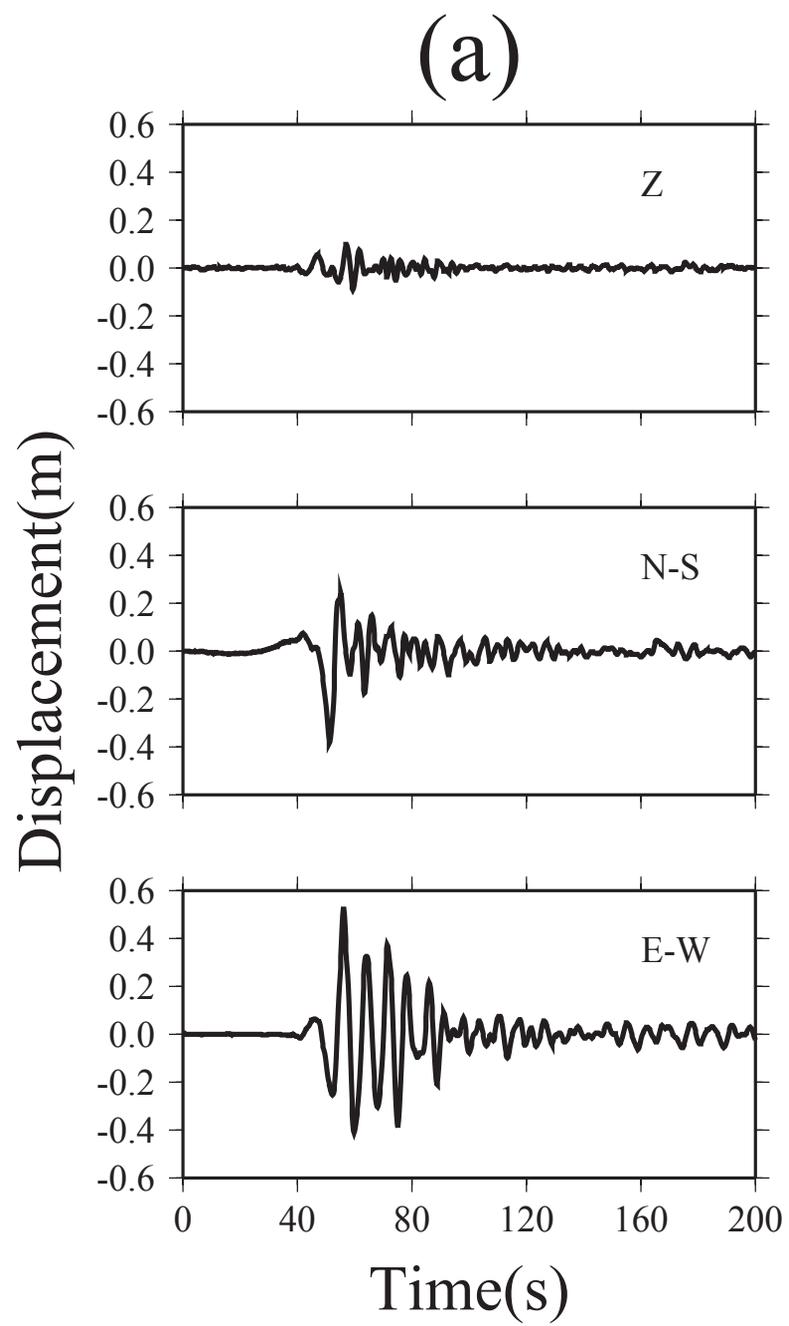
458 respectively. For misfit as a function of each source parameter, the other two
459 parameters are set to our values presented in [Table 2](#).

460 **Figure 8.** Comparison between the observed and synthetic seismograms of the El
461 Mayor-Cucapah earthquake. The red lines are the synthetic seismograms and
462 the black lines are the observed high-rate GPS displacement waveforms. The
463 frequency band of Pnl waveforms are 0.05-0.2Hz while for surface waves it is
464 0.05-0.10Hz. The top line gives the fit and one fault plane of the earthquake
465 and the beachball shows the focal mechanism of the earthquake. The small
466 circles on the beachball are the P-locations of the stations in which a lower
467 hemisphere projection is used to draw the beachball. The first column gives
468 the azimuth, name and distance to the station. The other 5 columns are used to
469 compare the synthetic and observed seismograms, from left to right the phases
470 are: vertical component of Pnl (Pnl V), radial component of Pnl (Pnl R),
471 vertical component of surface wave, radial surface wave component, and SH
472 wave (Tang.). The synthetic waveform and the observed seismogram are
473 aligned by cross-correlation, the two numbers under the corresponding
474 components are the time shift between the two waveforms and the
475 cross-correlation coefficient between the two waveforms. Detailed
476 information about the method can be found in the article about CAP method
477 (Zhu and Helmberger, 1996).

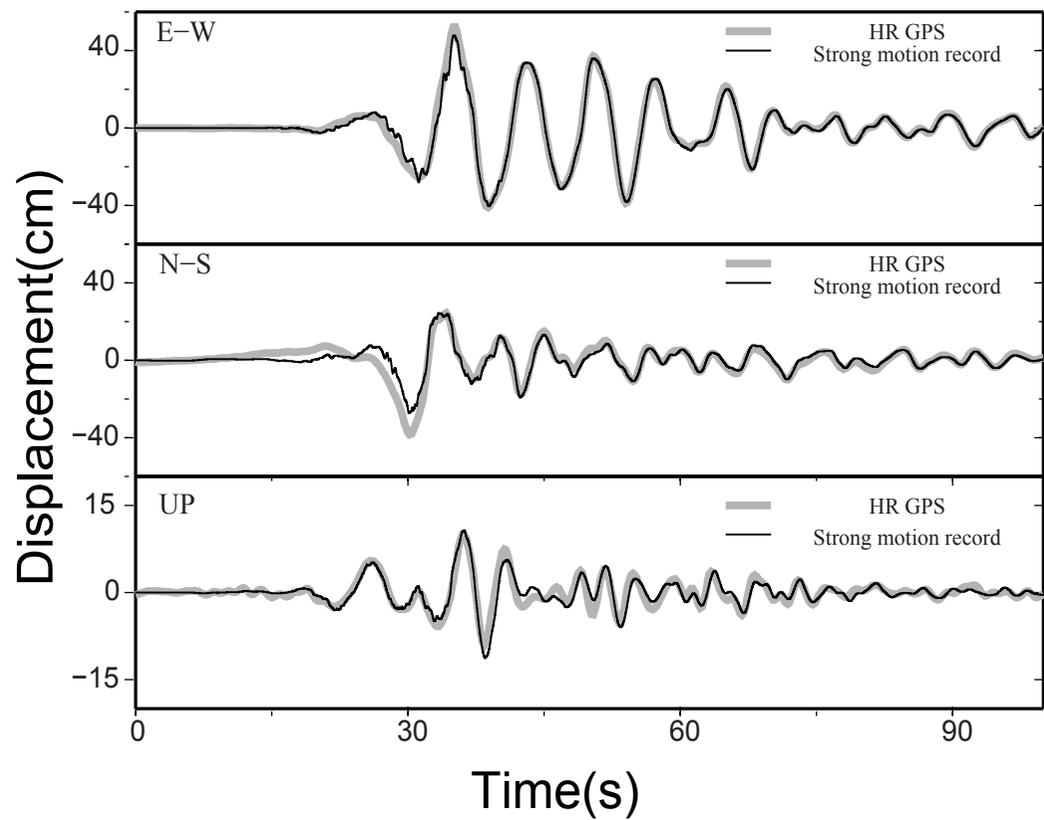




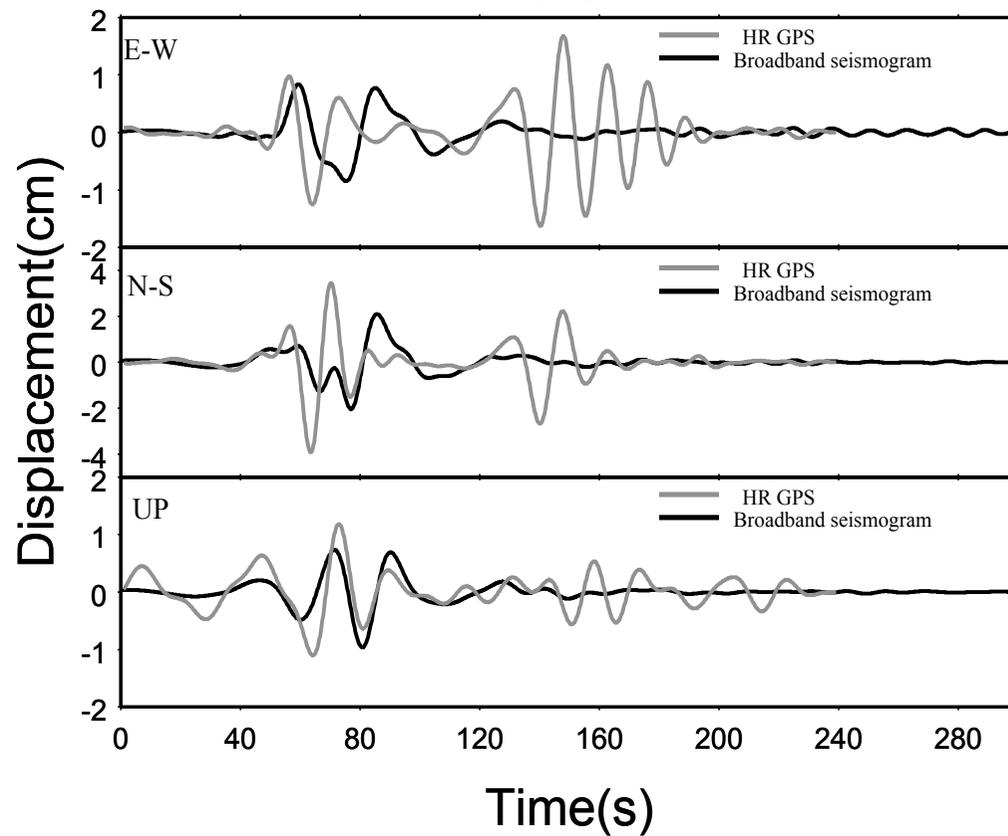




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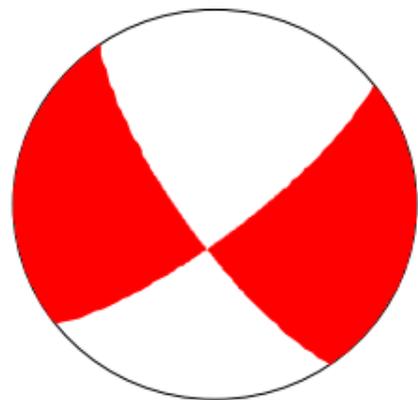


(b)

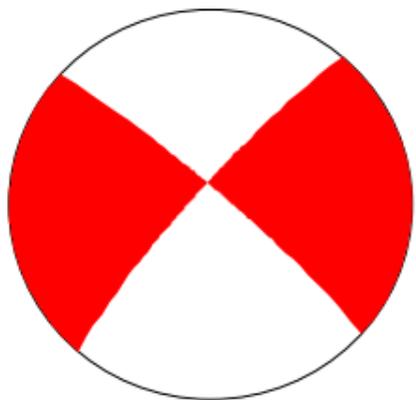


Comparison of the focal mechanisms between different studies

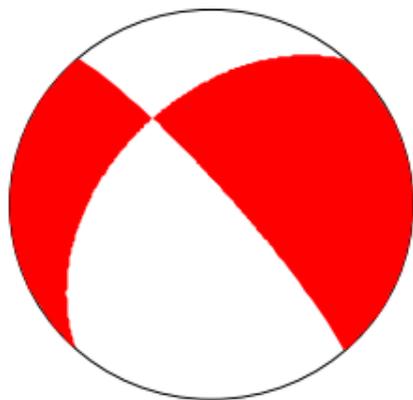
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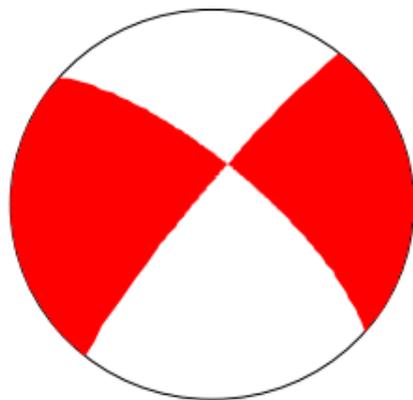
Harvard



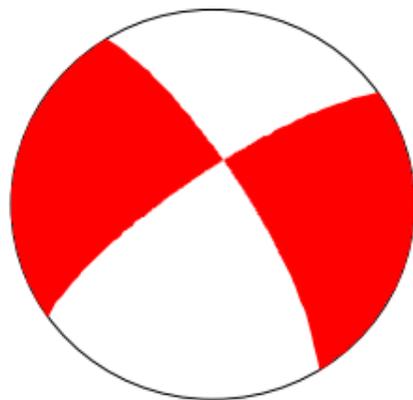
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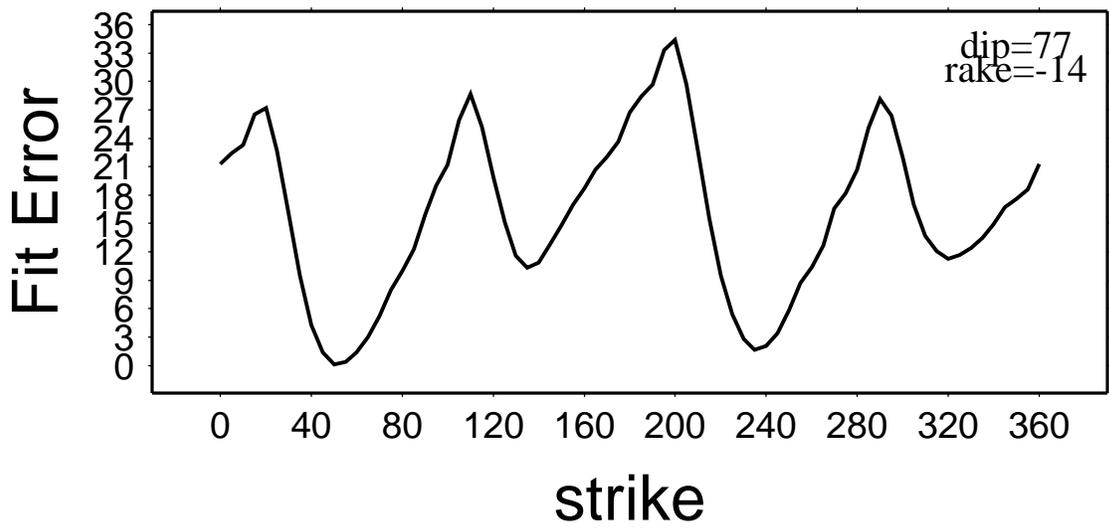
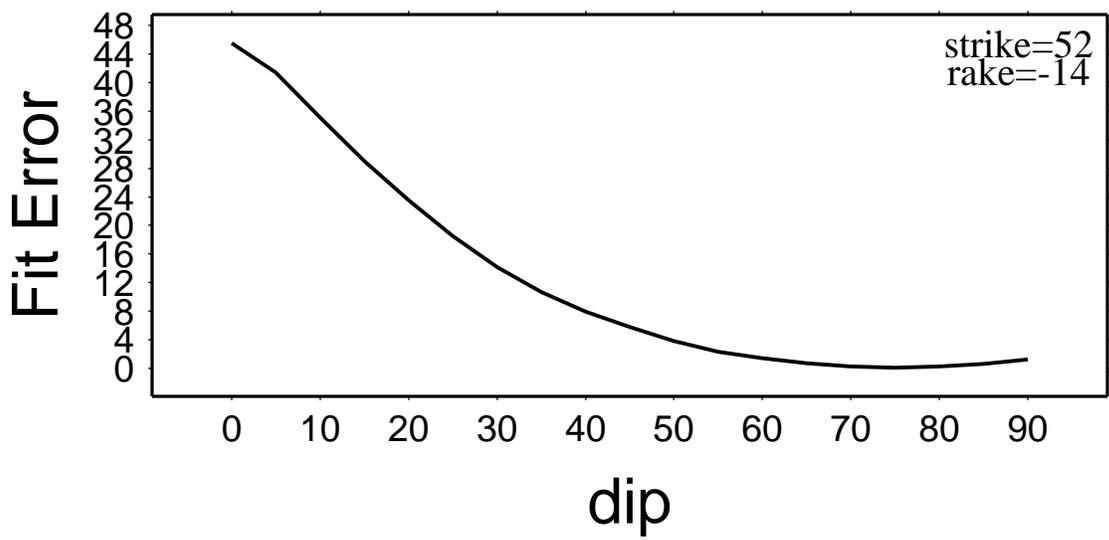
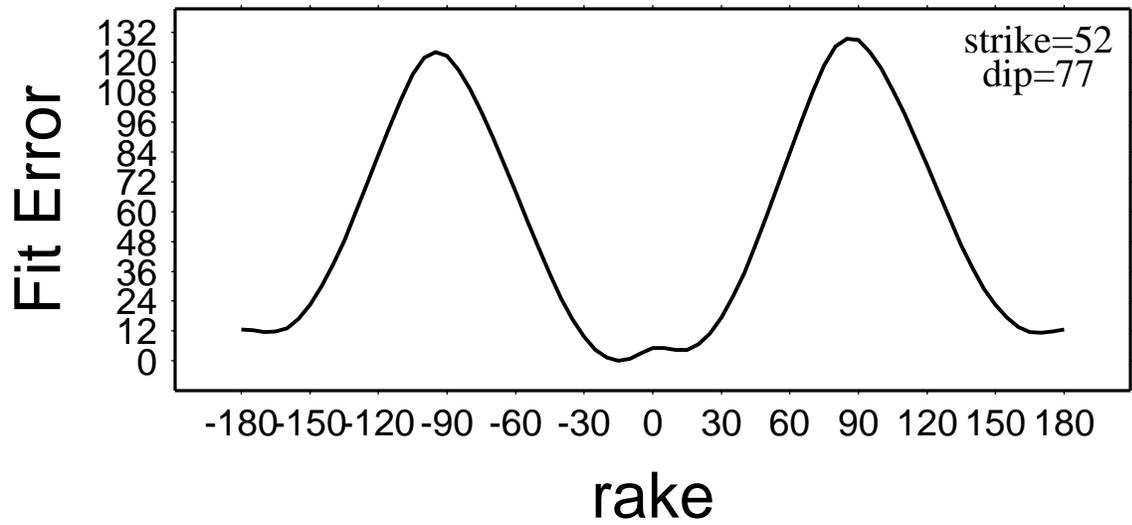


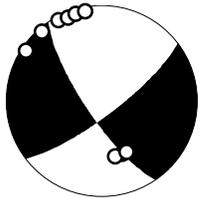
SCSN



str=235







Mw 7.2 Dep: 10km
 str1: 52 dip1: 77 rake1: -14
 str2: 146 dip2: 76 rake2: -167

