

# Capabilities of fibre optic cables to characterize seismic and explosion events – Case study in an underground laboratory

Vincent Brémaud

CEA : Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives



09/09/2025

# Agenda

1

- Description of the DAS experiment

2

- Coupling analysis

3

- Events location

4

- Earthquakes and thunderstorms detections

# Design of the experiment



## ► 3D geometry

□ Seismometer 3C – Short period « Nodes »



+ 6 BB sensors ▲

□ Accelerometer 3C – Galleries: 200 « Sercel » Mems



+ 6 BB sensors ▲

□ Optic Fiber – Galleries: >3km

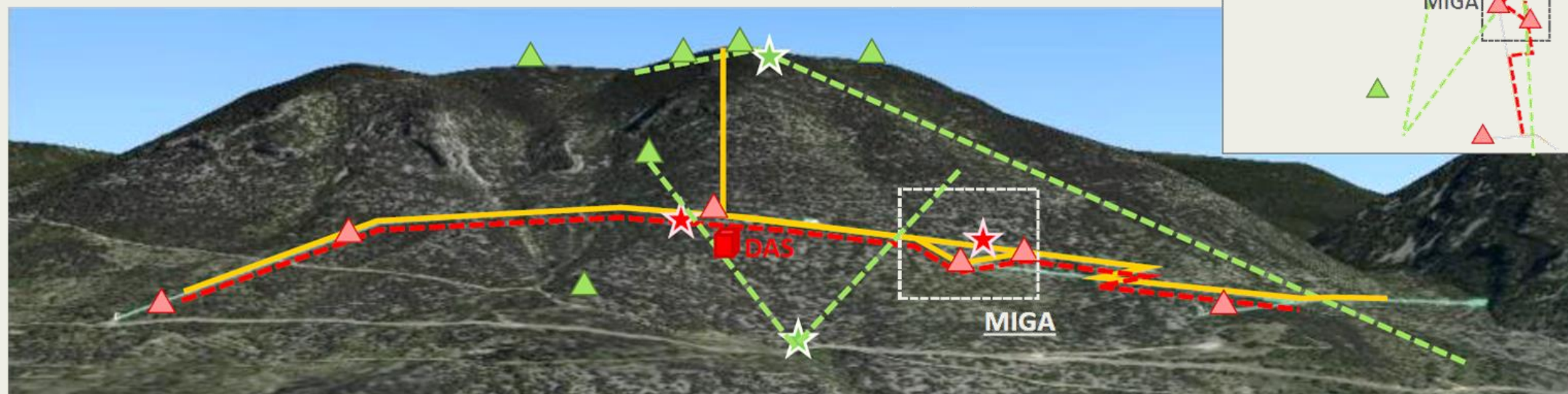
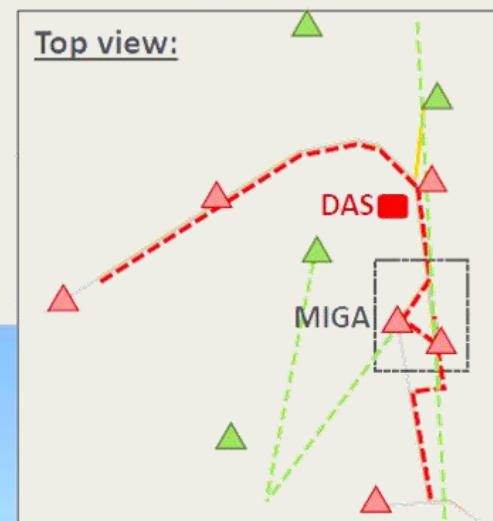
## ► Several specific area:

□ **MIGA**: Simultaneous recording by a dense seismic array of 3C seismic sensors and Optics Fibers

□ Inside ▲★ and outside ▲★ the galleries

► 4 shot zones: ★★

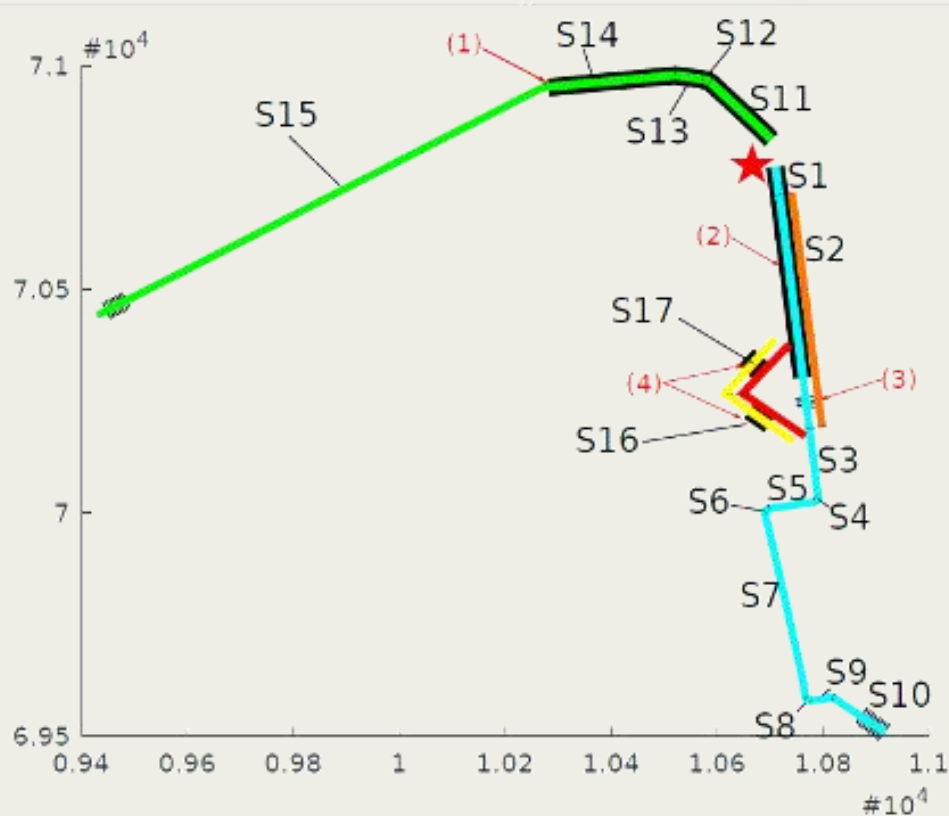
□ different depth: 10m to 500m



# Cloupling settings



- Several fibres
  - Several couplings
-  Sand bags (spaced)  
 Sand bags  
 Section limits

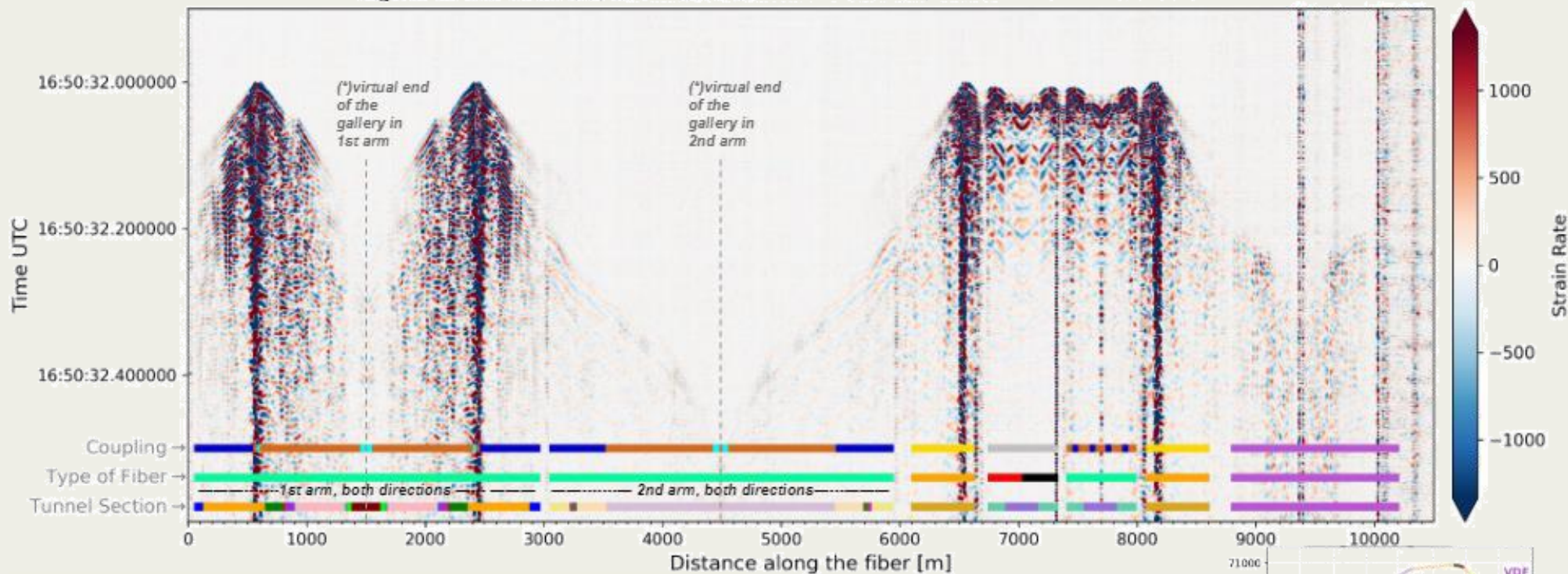




# Event recording example

Signal of the Shot 02, GL = 30.0 m

Shot time 2020-10-26T16:50:30

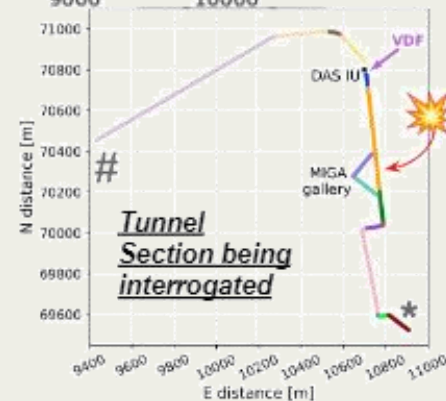


## Coupling condition:

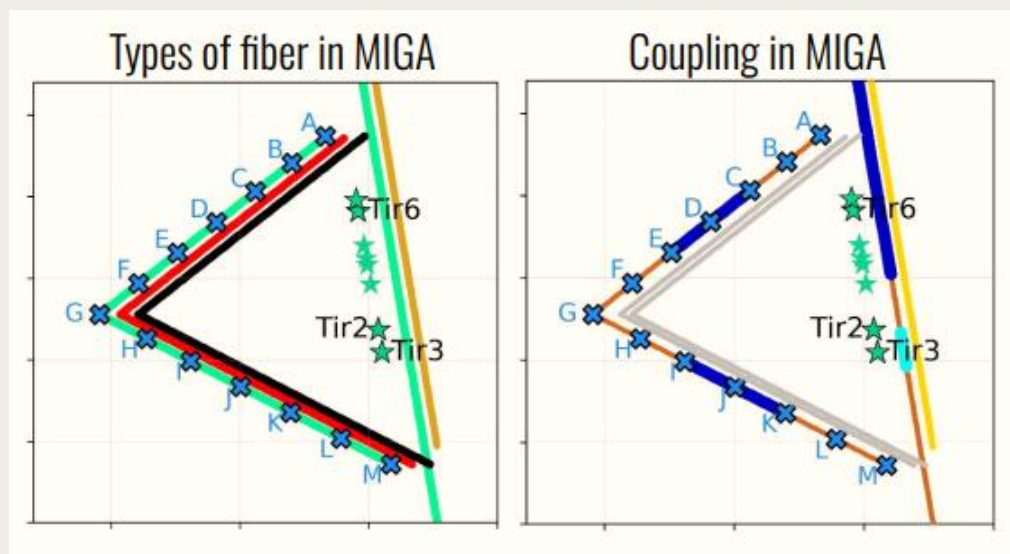
- 1) Laid Fiber
- 2a) Weighted Continuously
- 2b) Weighted Spaced
- 3) Cemented-trenched
- 4) Unknown coupling
- 5) Trunked in the wall

## Type of fiber:

- MultiSens
- BRUsens
- FIMT
- Telecom
- VDF



# Coupling – Preliminary results



MULTISENS

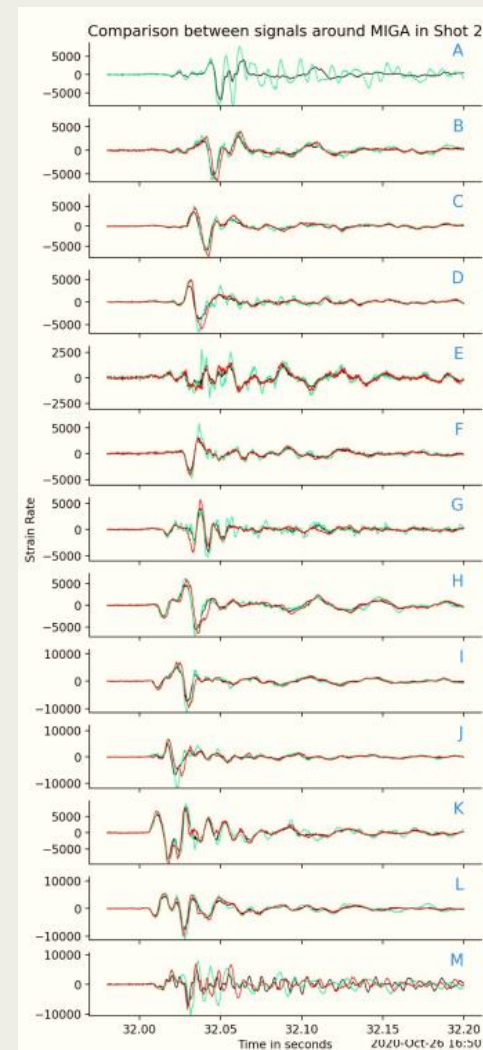
BRUSENS

FIMT

Sand bags on top

Laid on the ground

Cemented



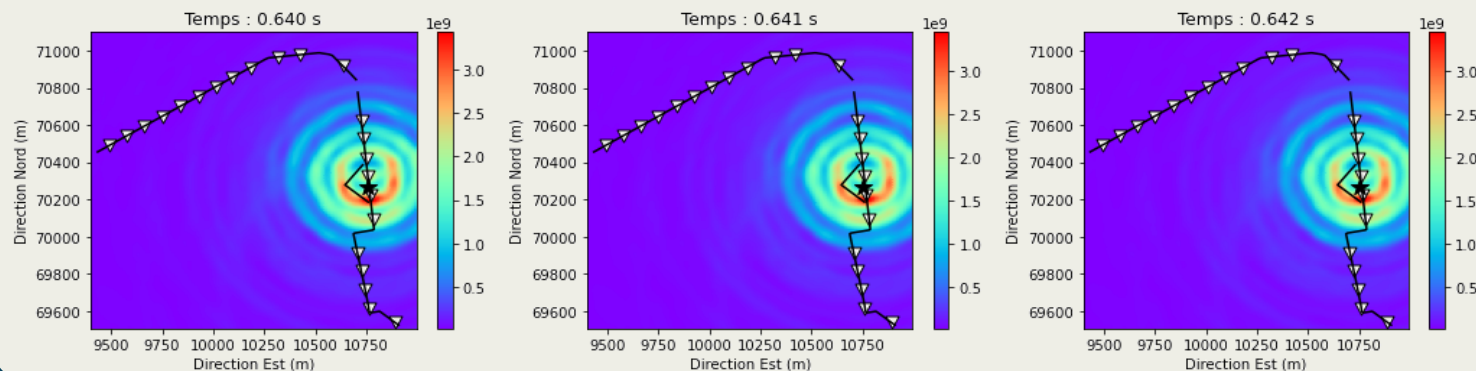
- First order no big differences between cables and couplings
- The coupling seems to have an impact on the high frequencies



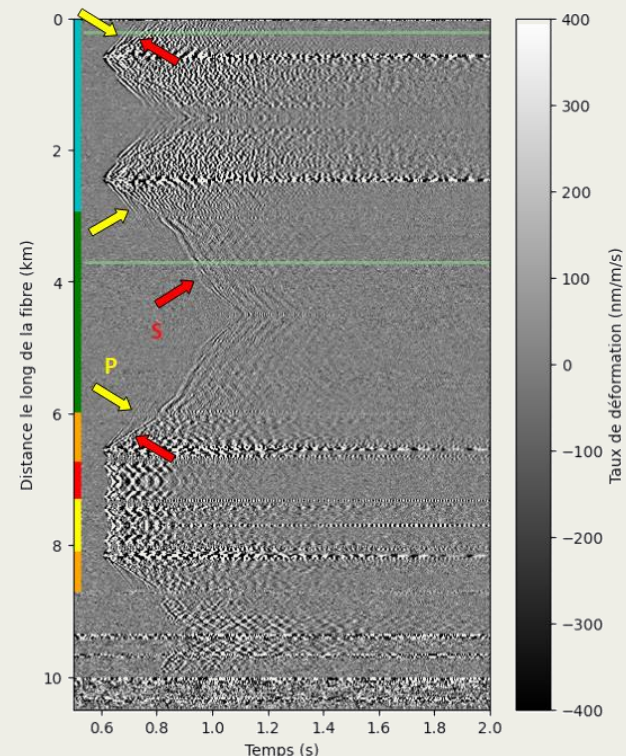
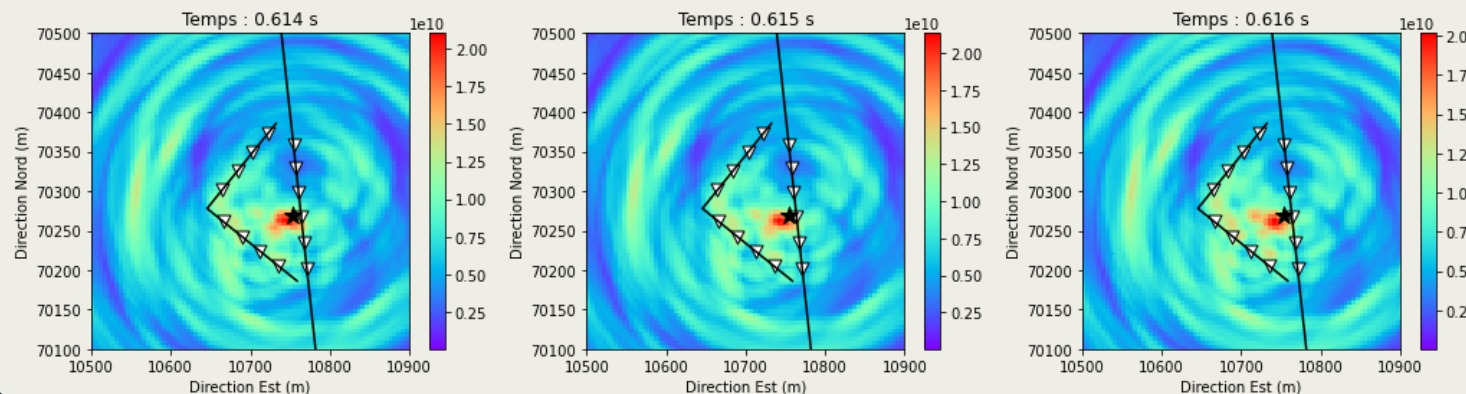
# Location – Back projection of DAS data

- 3 different models tested : constant P velocity, constant S velocity, velocity depends on incidence
- Filters applied : high cut 30Hz, envelope, envelope + high cut 30Hz

Using 23 traces spread in all galleries



Using 14 traces around the source location

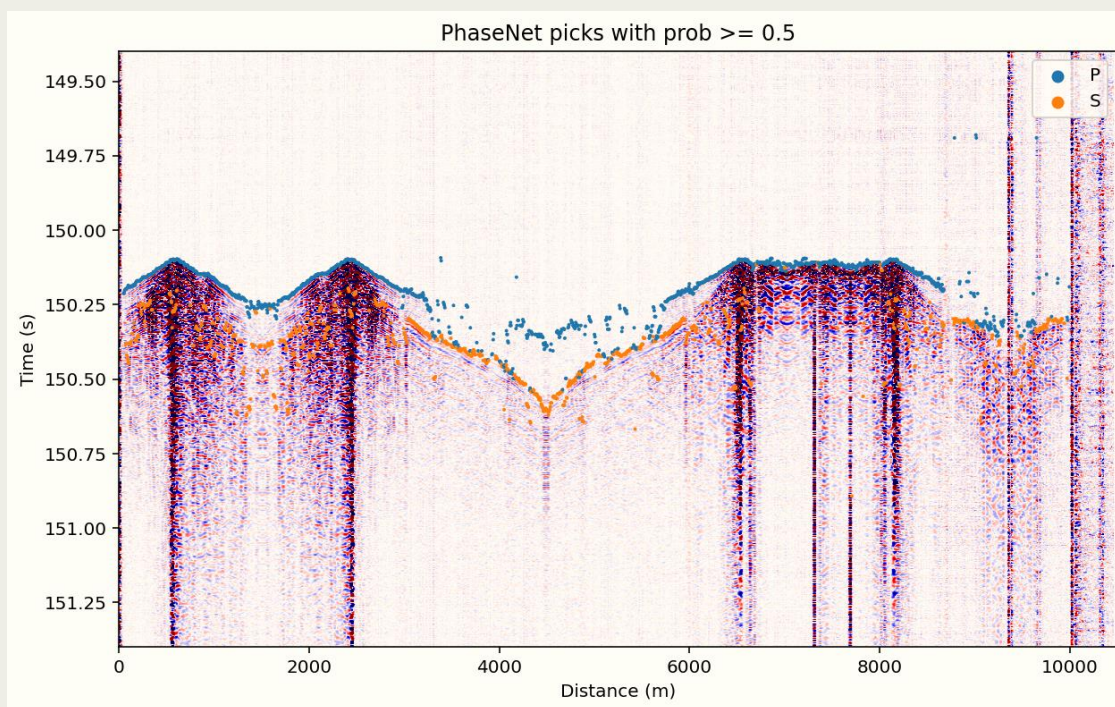


► Best location  
about 15m from real explosion location

# Automatic phase picking – AI

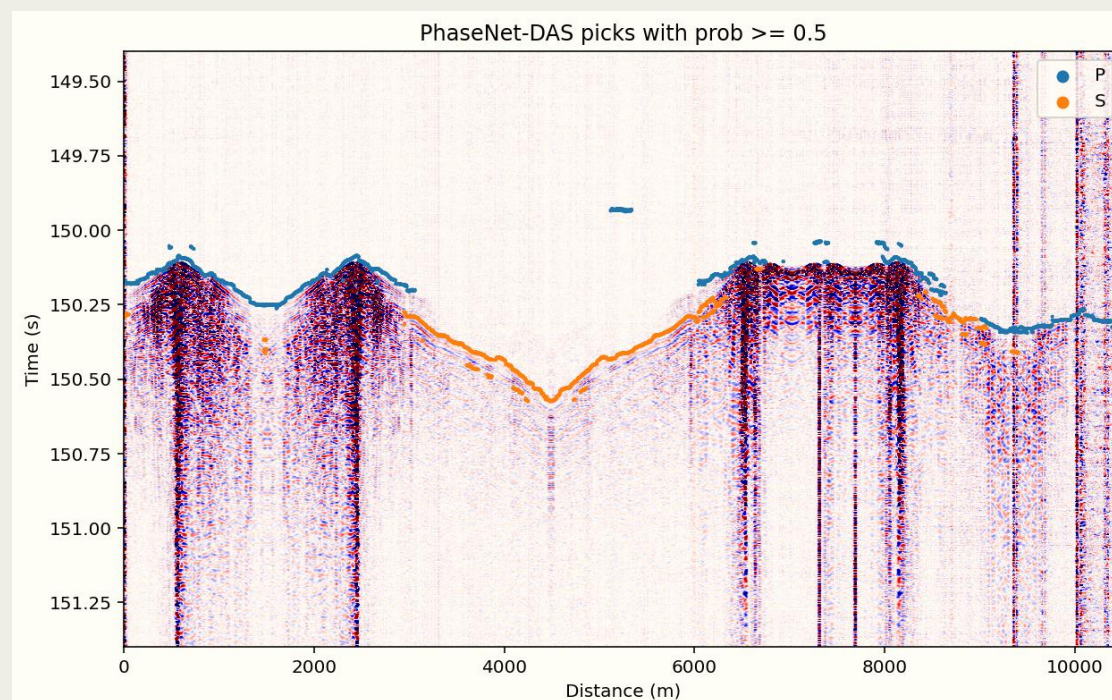
PhaseNet

<https://academic.oup.com/gji/article/216/1/261/5129142>



EQNet  
PhaseNet-Das

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-43355-3>

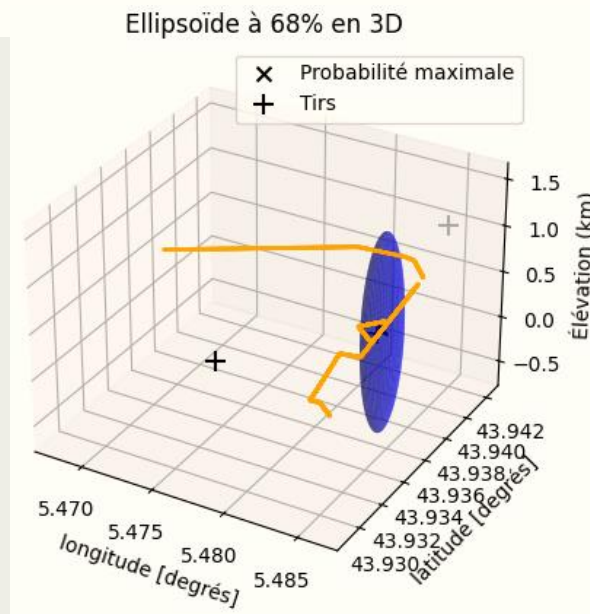
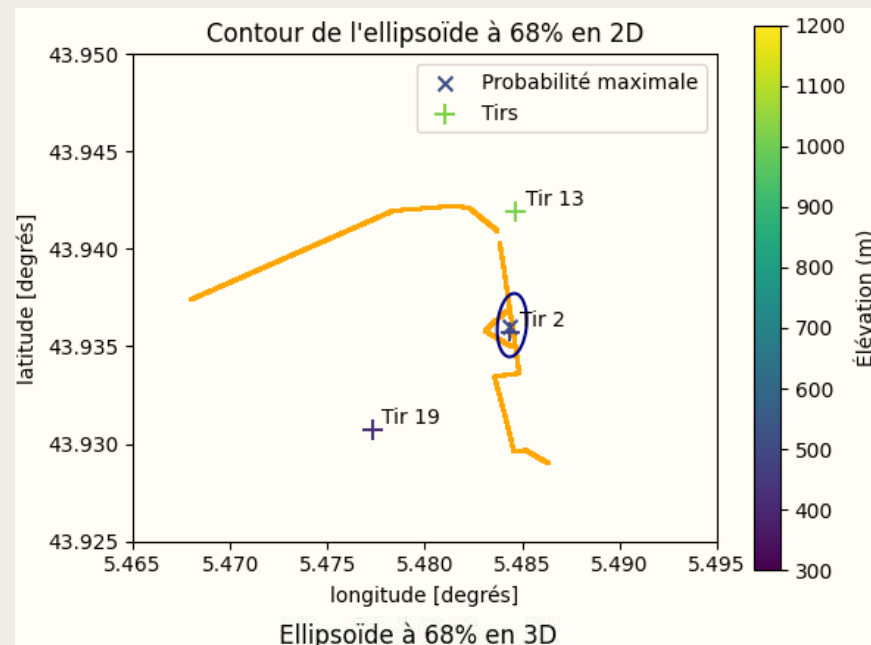
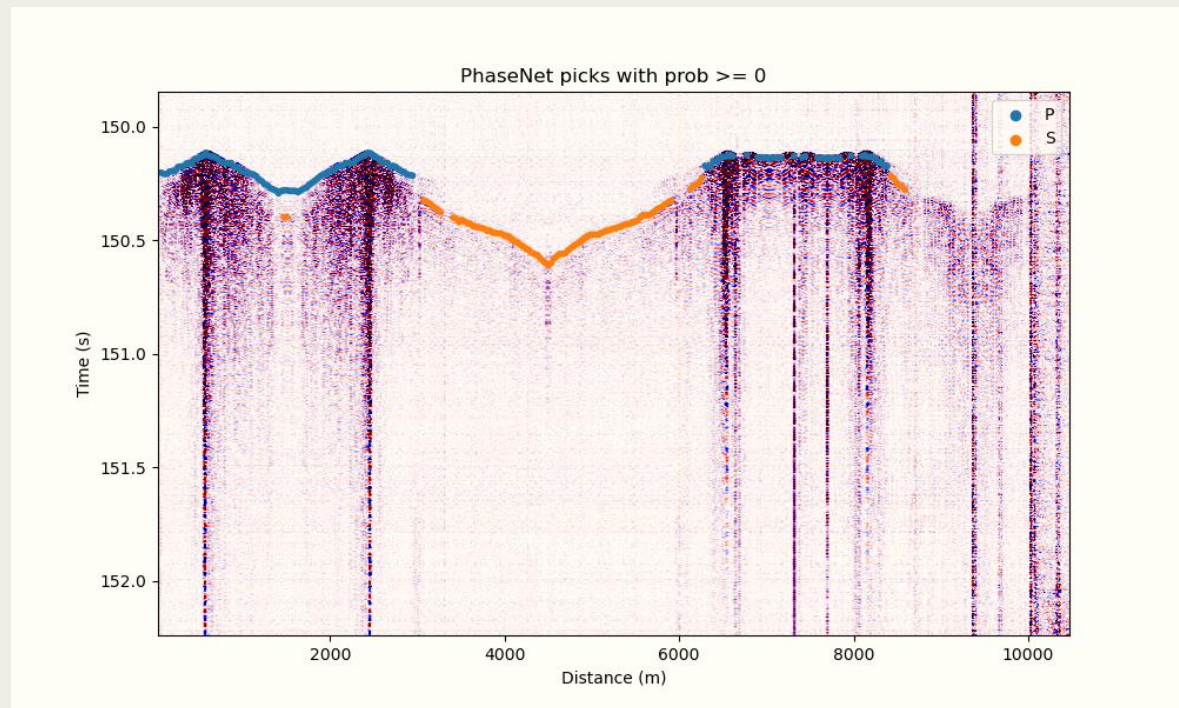


**PhaseNet** (trace-based picking) provides a **higher number of phase picks**.

**PhaseNet-DAS** (image-based picking) delivers **more continuous and coherent picks** across the dataset.



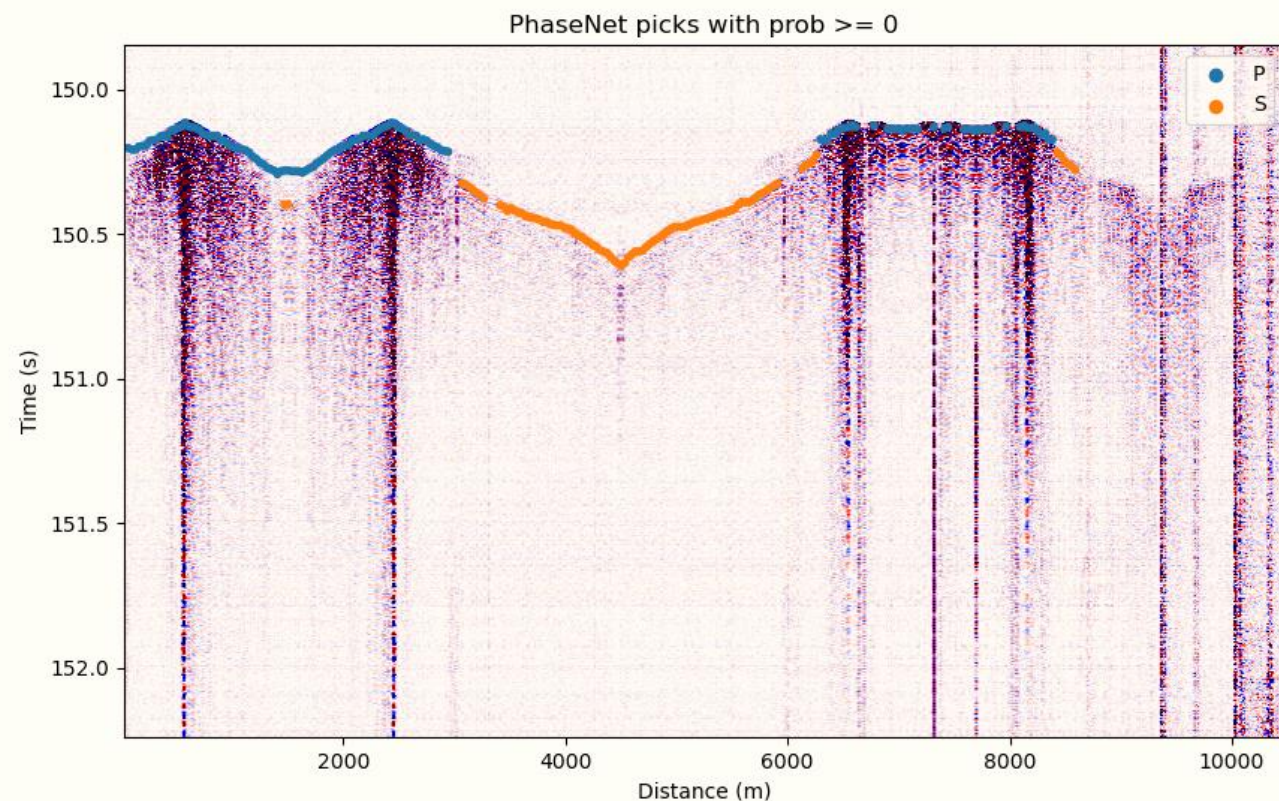
# Event location



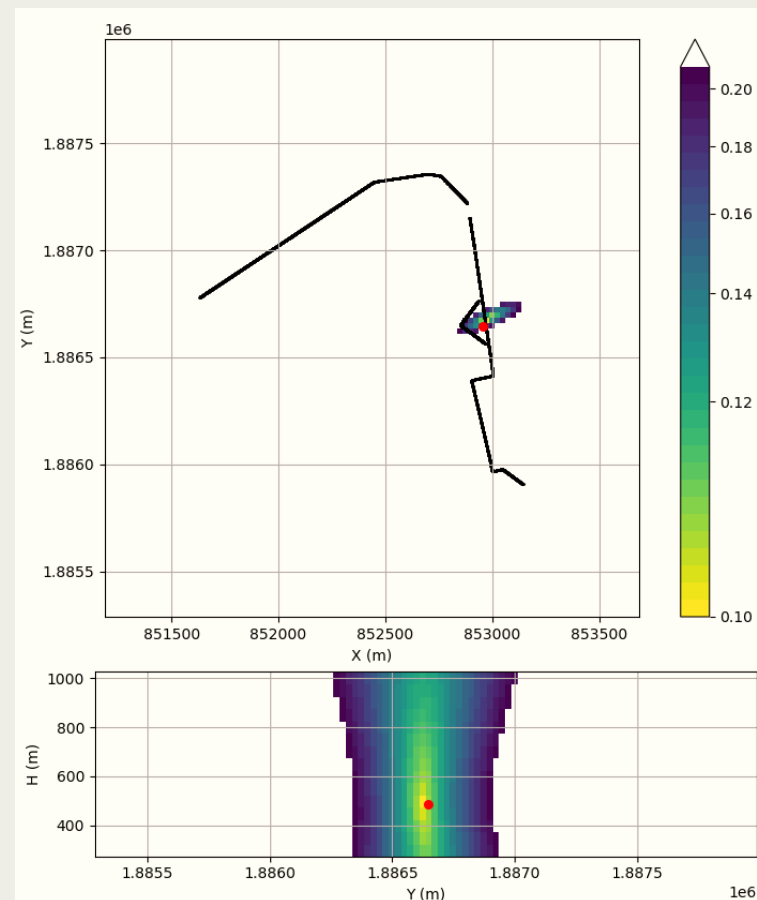
Location method: NonLinLoc  
Bayesian Localization and Confidence Ellipsoid Estimation

Shot 2: true source location is inside the confidence ellipsoid

# Explosion inside the gallery



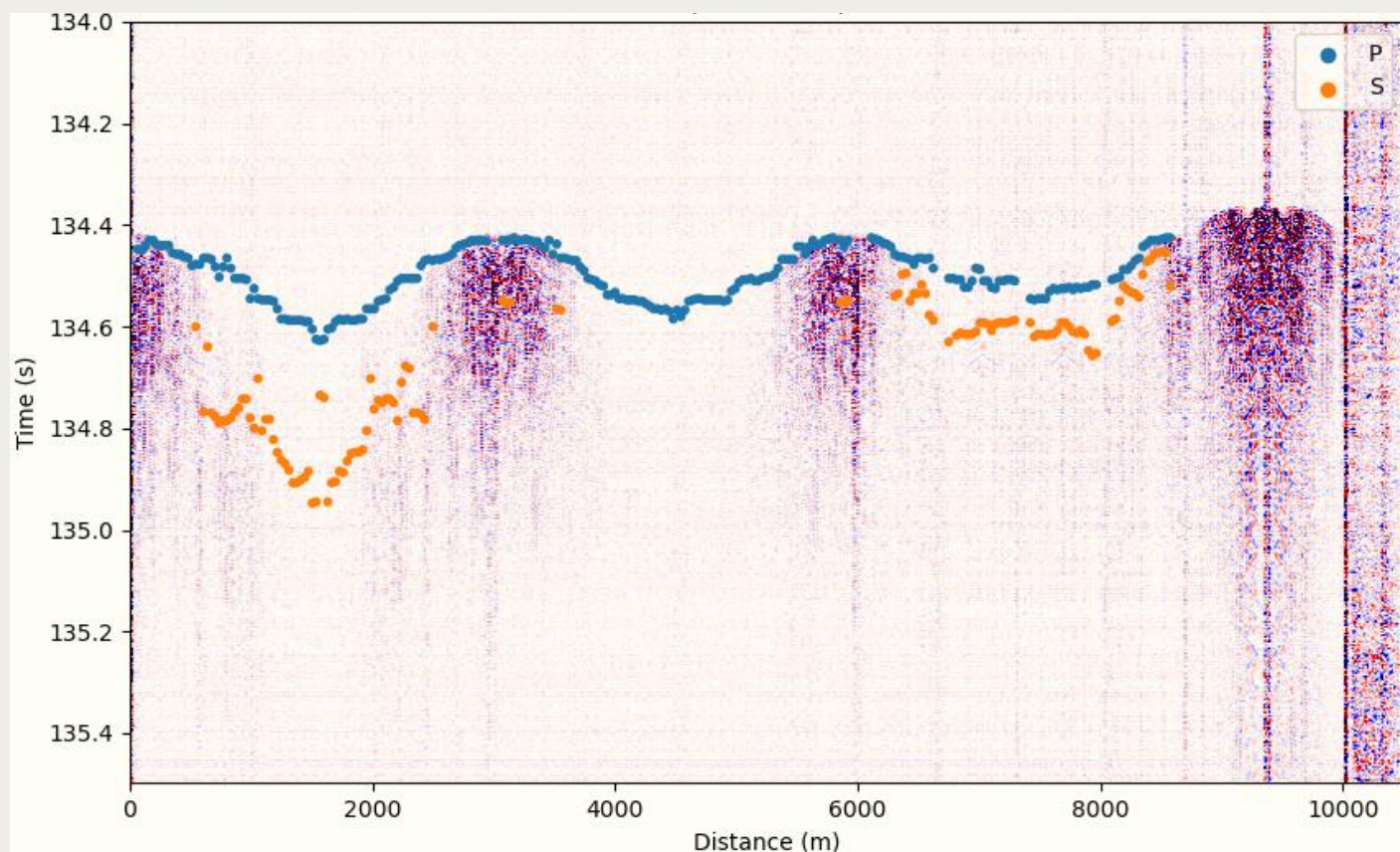
Good picking accuracy for strong events  
Grid search method: Good location precision in X, Y and Z



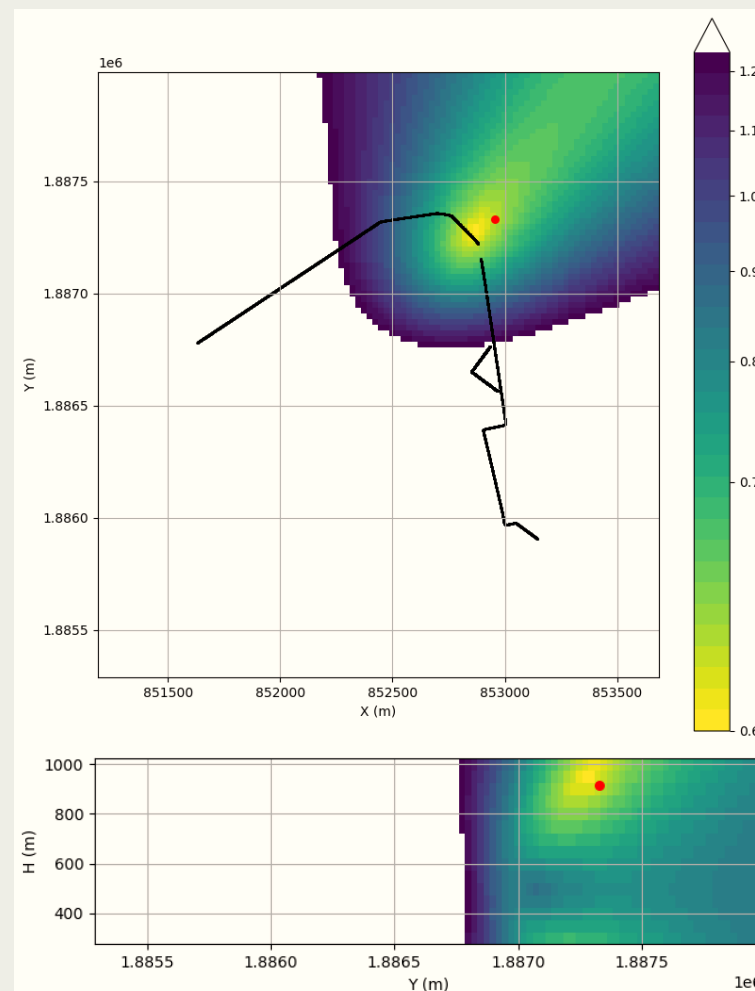
● True explosion location  
gallery elevation: 500m



# Explosion at the top of the mountain



Picking accuracy decreases for less energetic events  
Grid search method: Good location precision in X, Y and Z

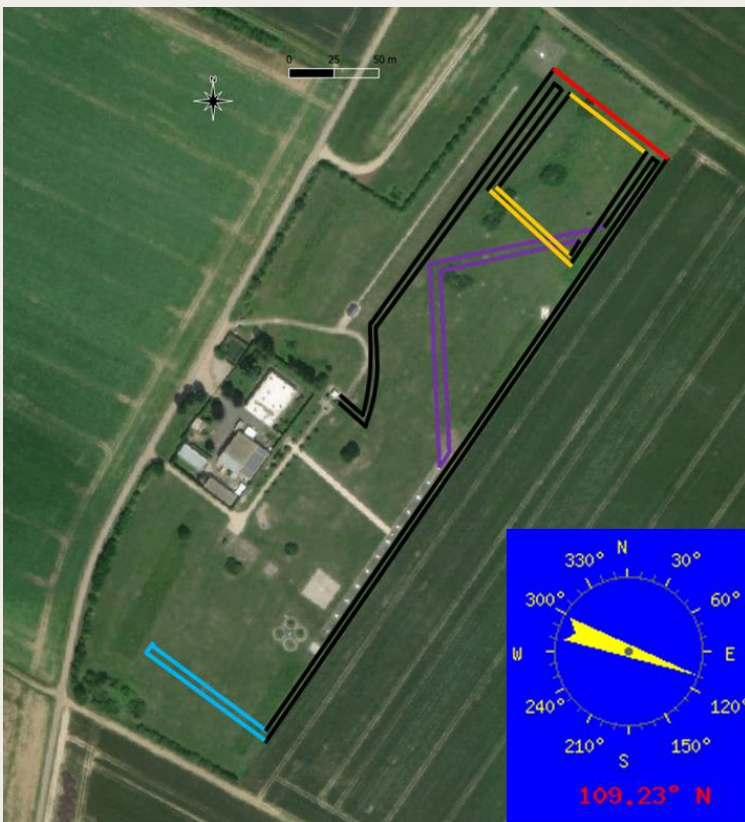


gallery elevation: 500m

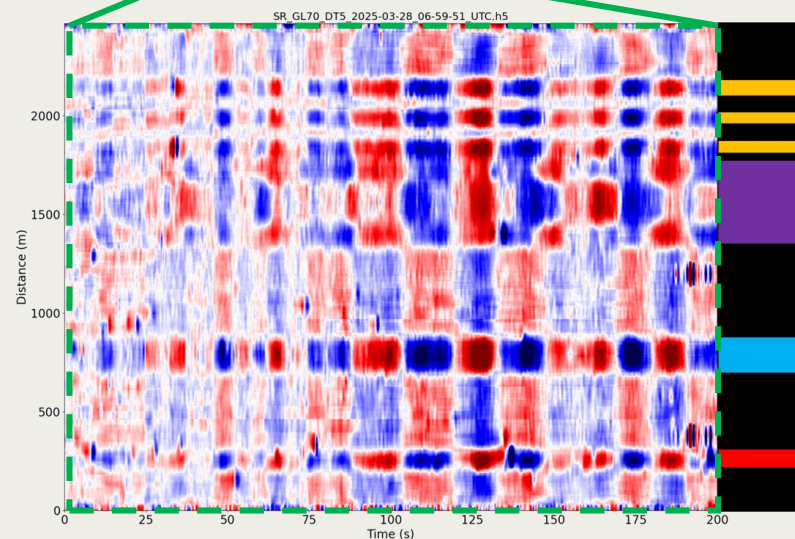
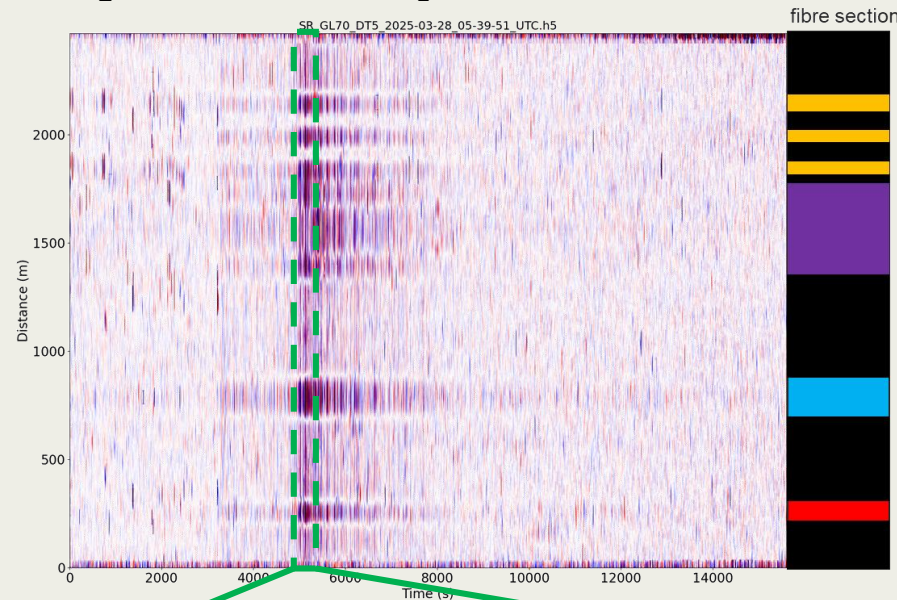


# Earthquake detection (M 7.7 at 8500km)

Myanmar earthquake 28/03/2025



Fiber Optic Cable field deployment

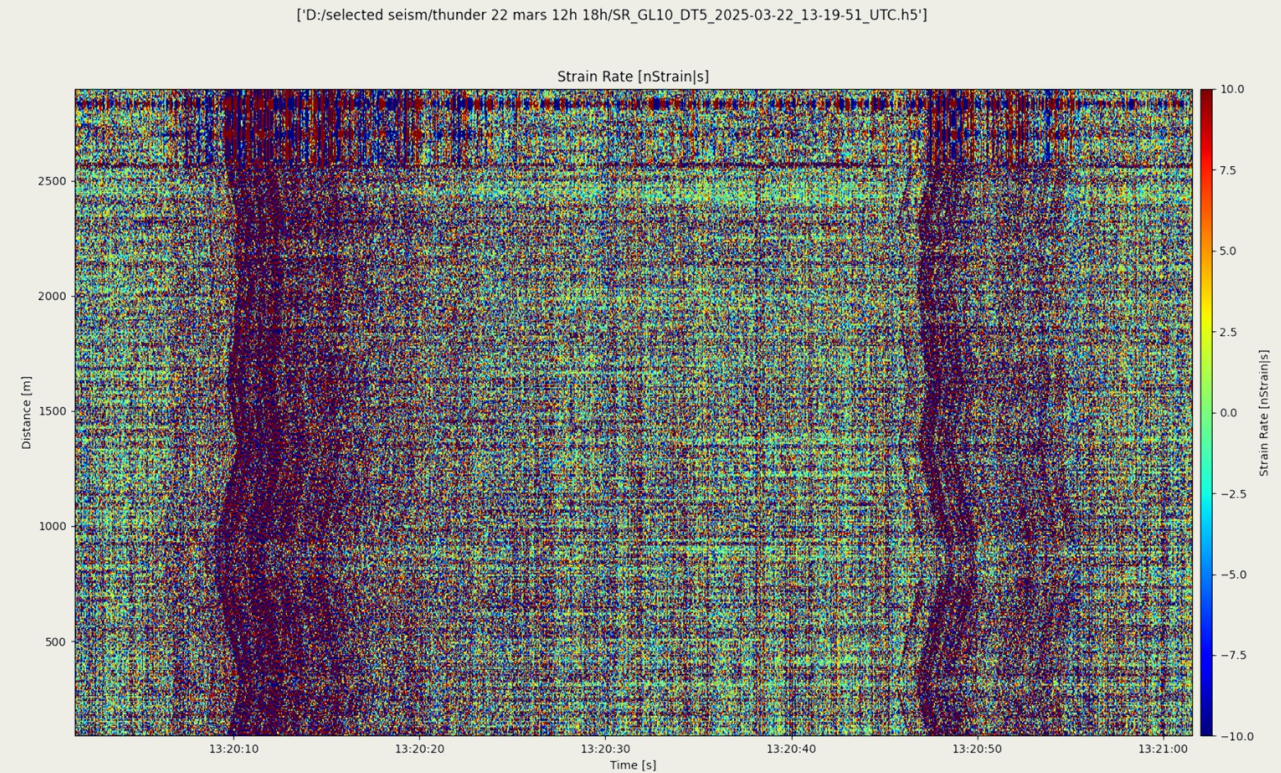
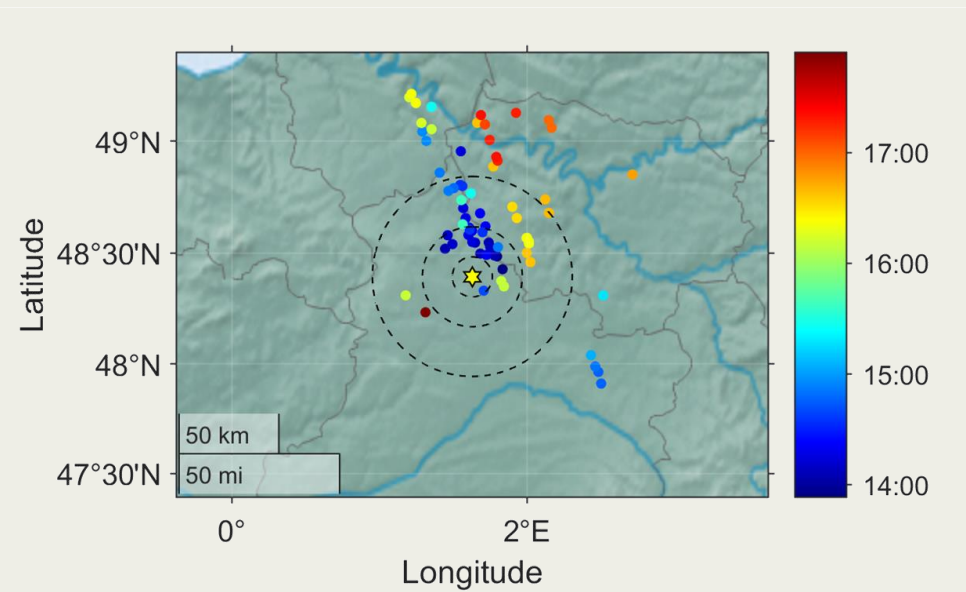
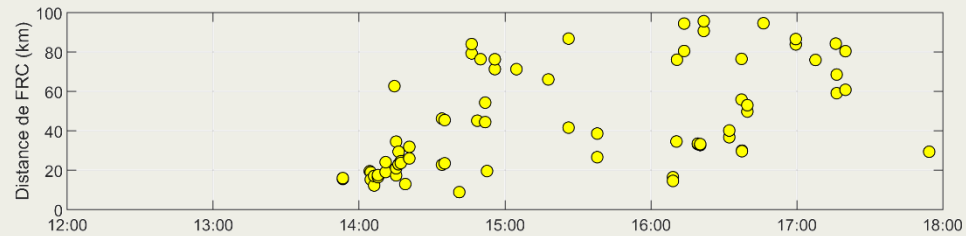


Analysis of signal amplitude as function of event azimuth

Work in progress on DAS sensitivity  
(Detection curve as function of Magnitude and distance)



# Thunderstorm detection

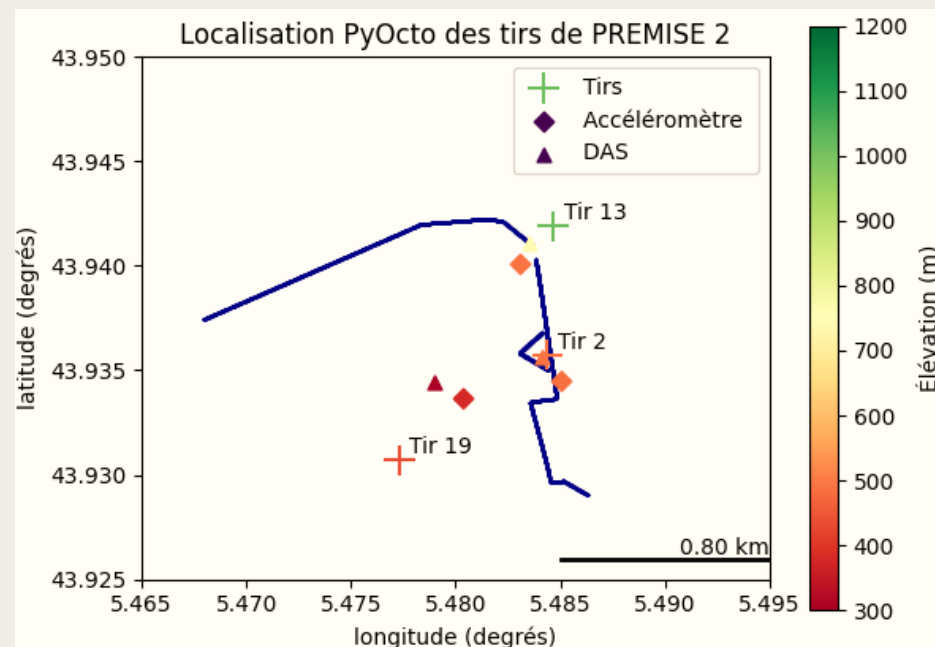


Fiber cables can detect acoustic and seismic waves induced by thunderstorms  
Work in progress to locate these events

# Conclusion

DAS fiber optics delivers cutting-edge performance through:

- **Coupling effect: Critical for accuracy**—optimal cable coupling with its surroundings ensures reliable, high-fidelity data acquisition.
- **Sensitivity:** Detects small events for near-filed detection.
- **Event location/data processing:** Enables real-time localization and advanced analysis of geophysical events.
- **Earthquakes & thunderstorm detection:** Provides early warning and detailed monitoring for natural hazards.

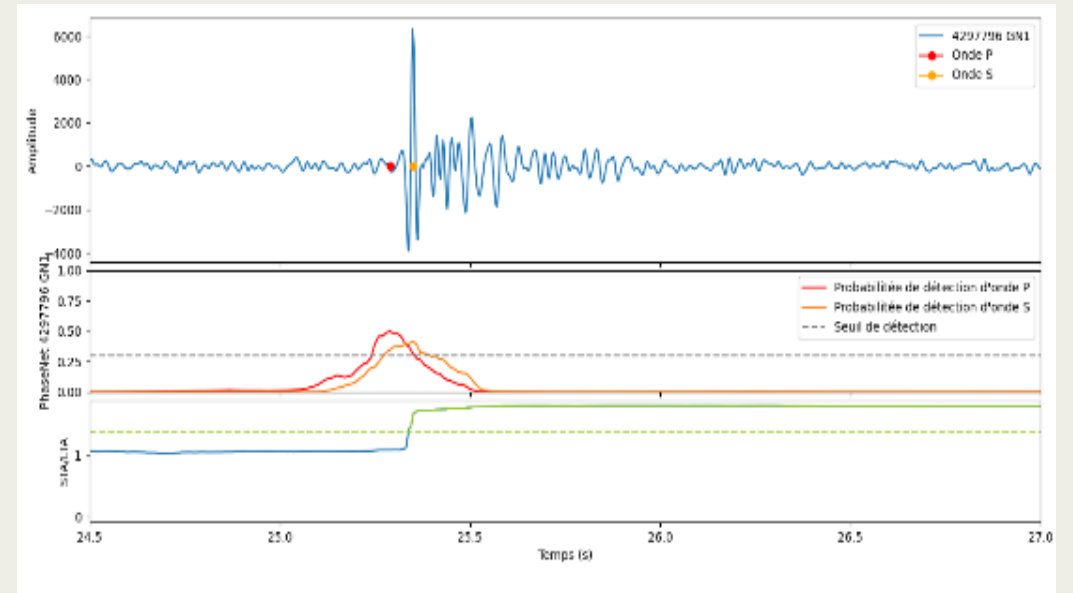
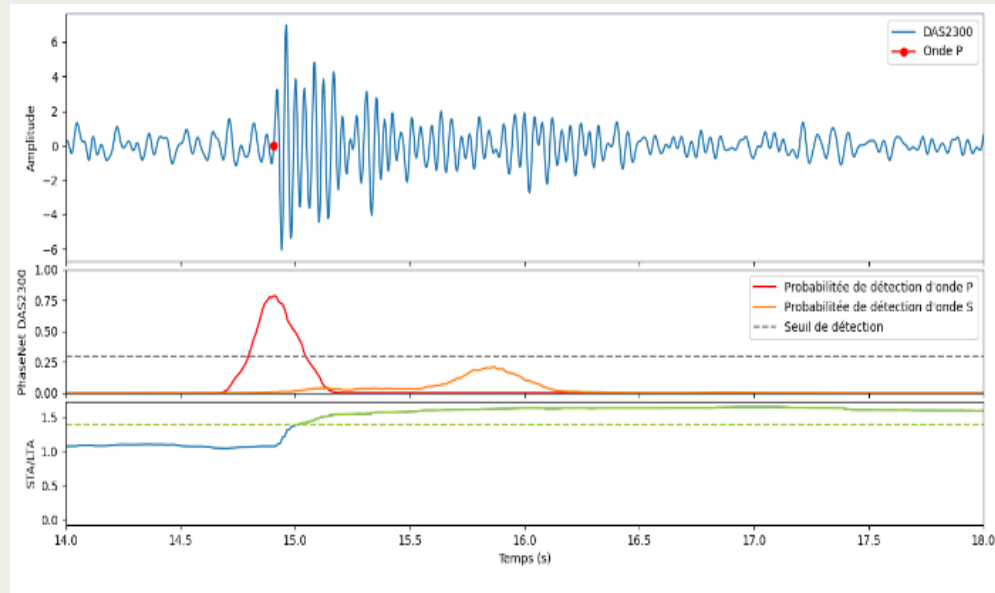






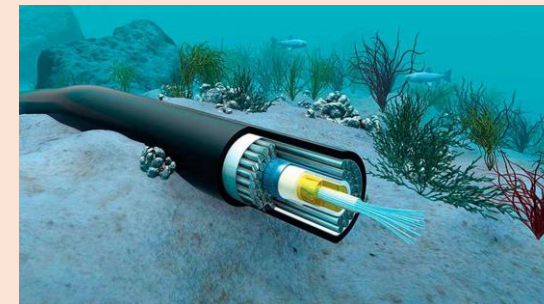
# Thank you

# Automatic phase picking

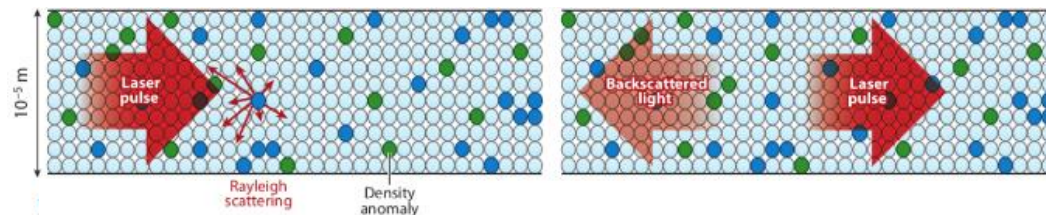
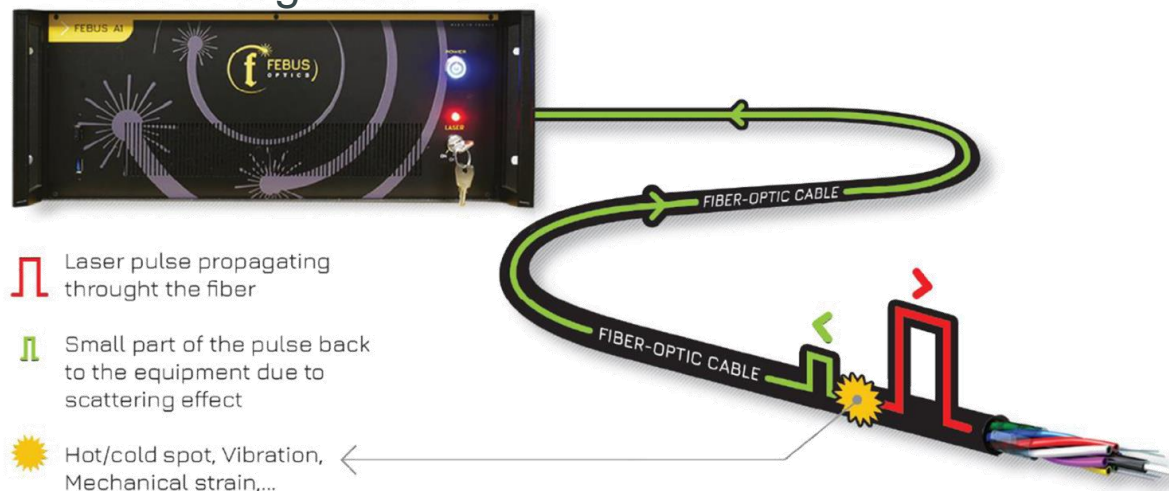


# Fibre optique

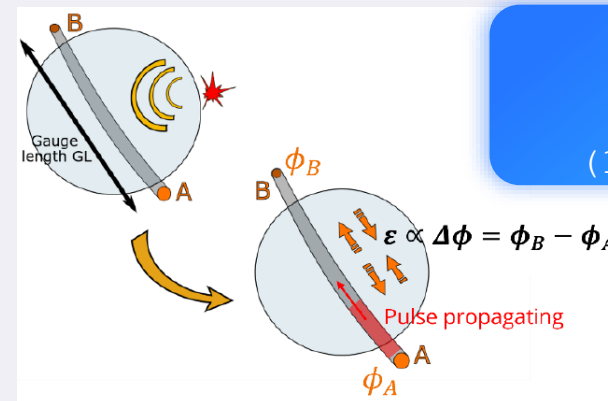
Submarine cable



## Interrogateur



Fiber optic cable turns into thousands of sensors (100km ~ 20 000 sensors)



**DTS → Température**

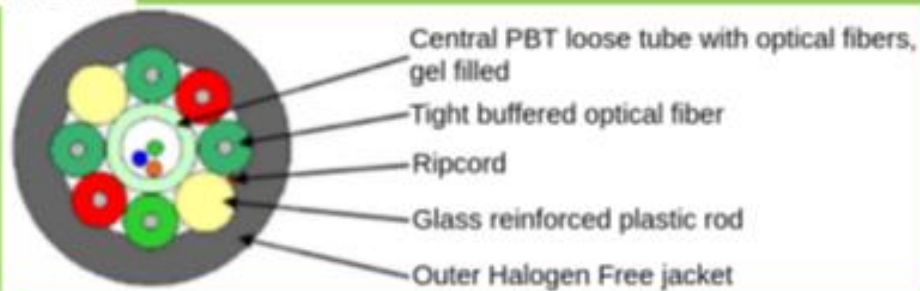
**DSS → Déformation**

**DAS → Acoustique**

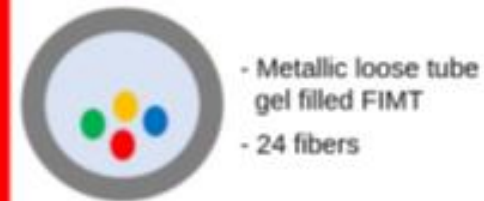
Active and passive seismic



## MultiSens



## FIMT



## BRUsens



## Telecom

