

# Using machine learning to detect and characterize long-range infrasound signals from explosions

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**ORAL**  
PRESENTATION

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Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)

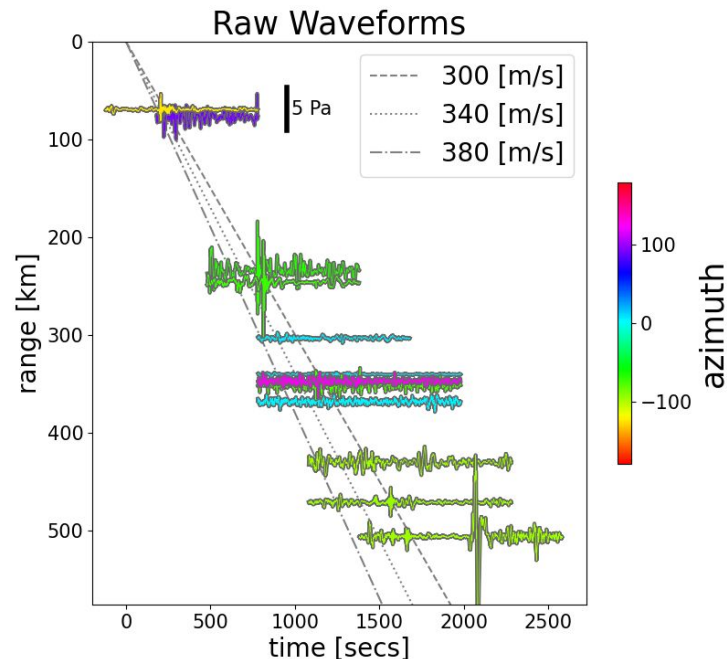
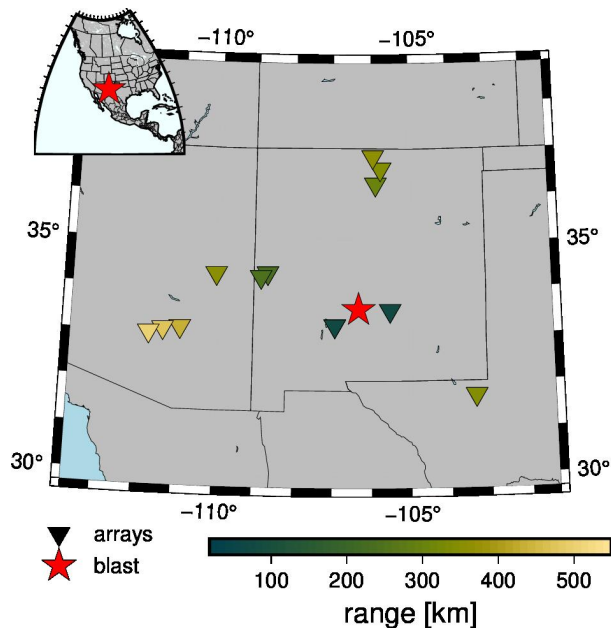
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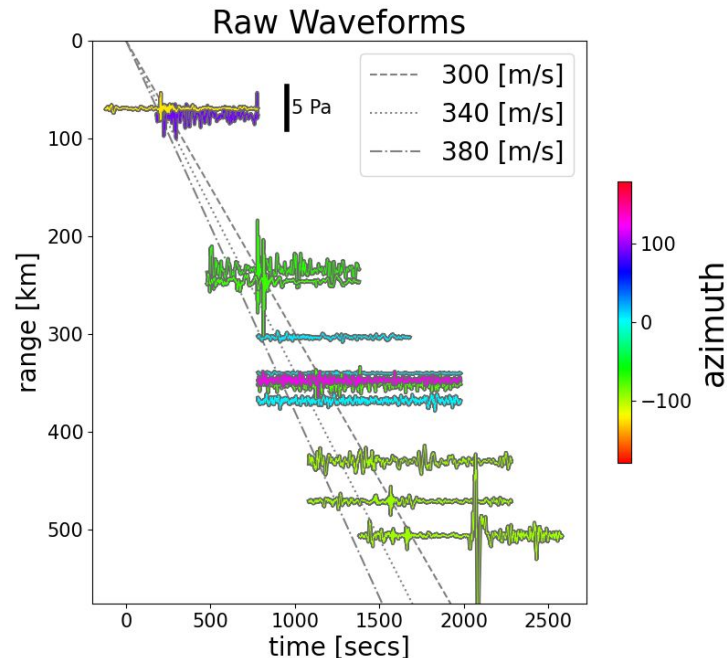
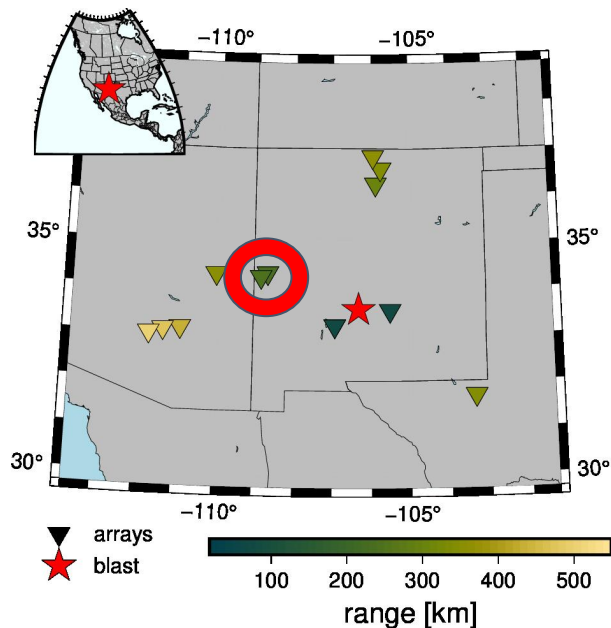
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Infrasound signals can propagate 100s (sometimes 1000s) of km.

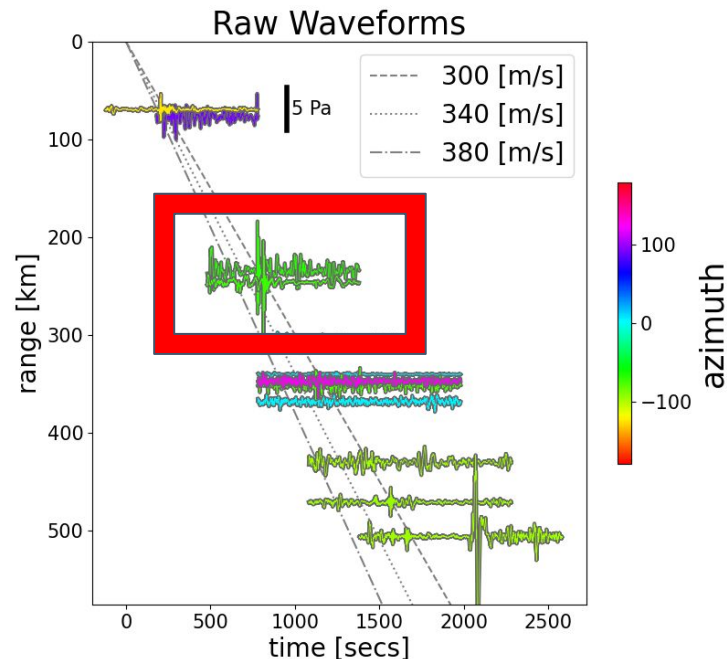
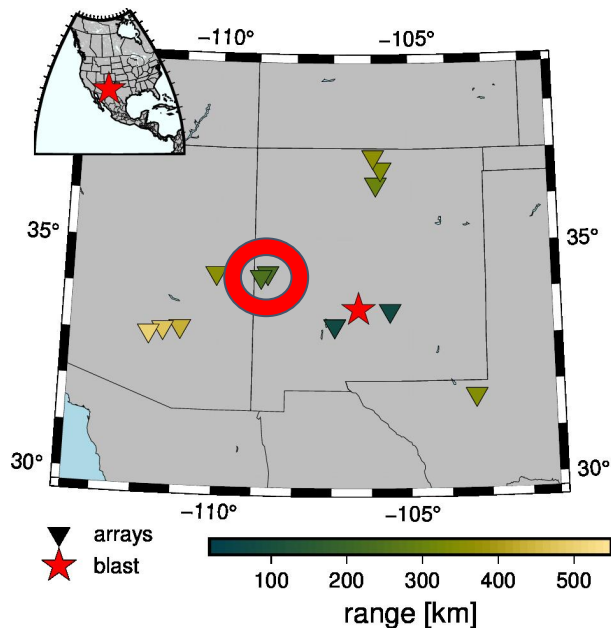


Infrasound signals can propagate 100s (sometimes 1000s) of km.





Infrasound signals can propagate 100s (sometimes 1000s) of km.



## Global infrasound arrays well positioned to record explosion signals.

IMS Stations



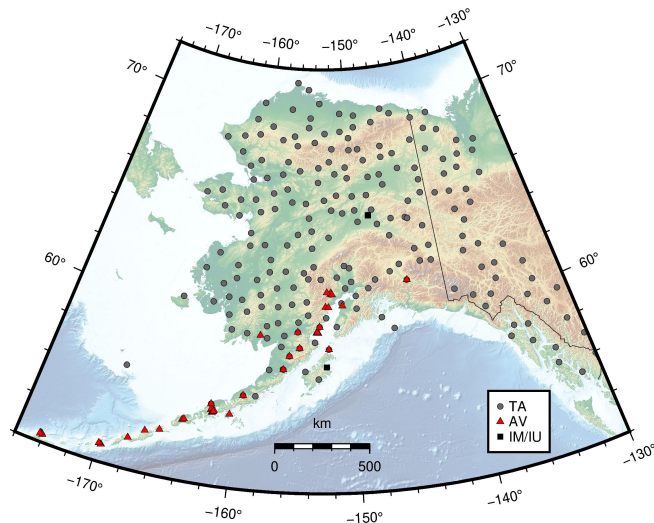
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Most infrasound deployments comprise single channel microphones.

IMS Stations



TA/AVO Stations

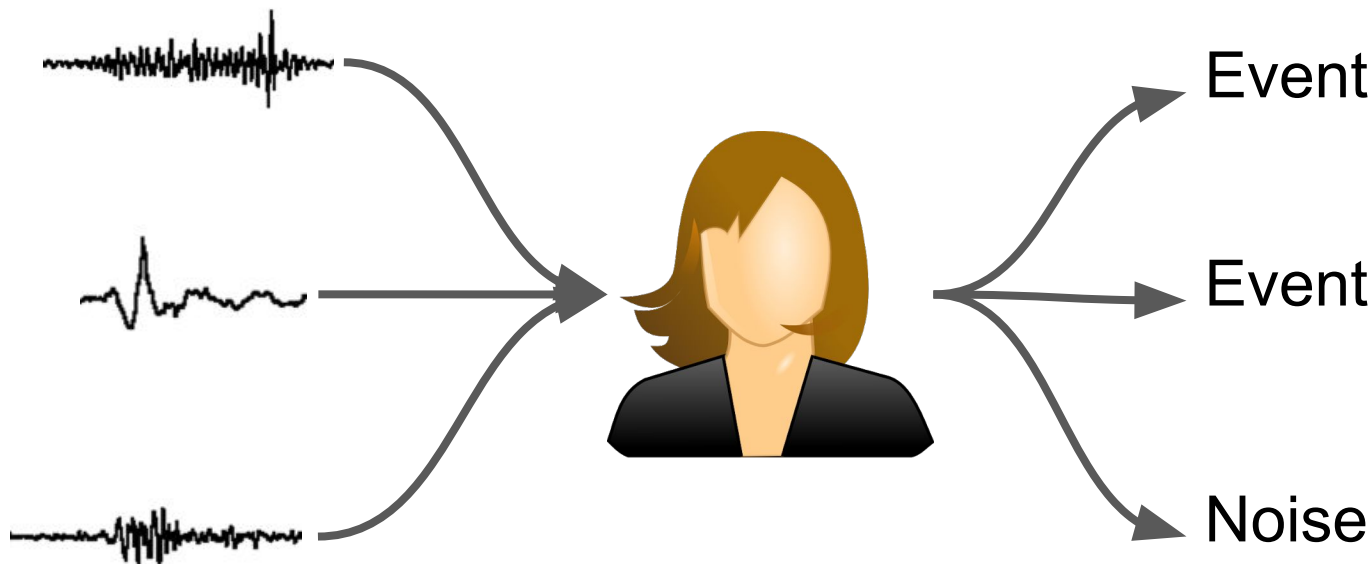


>300 infrasound stations across Alaska



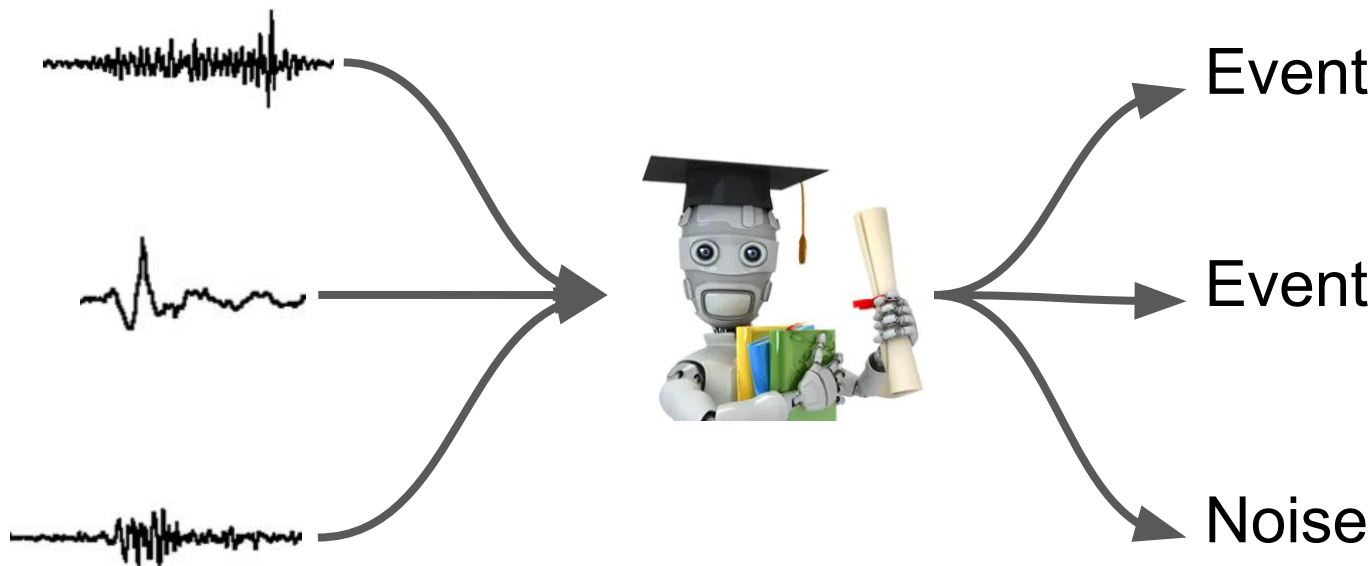
# Can we identify explosion signals from single channel infrasound data?

Typically, a technician is trained to identify activity.

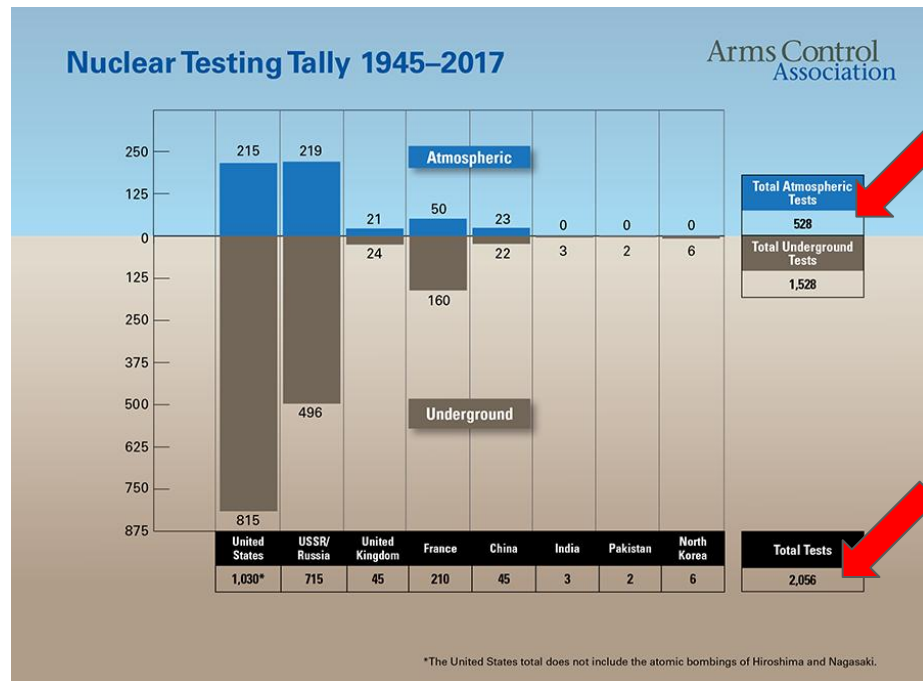




Machine learning is well suited to recognize subtle patterns associated with explosions.



Historic infrasound data from nuclear blasts insufficient to train ML model.

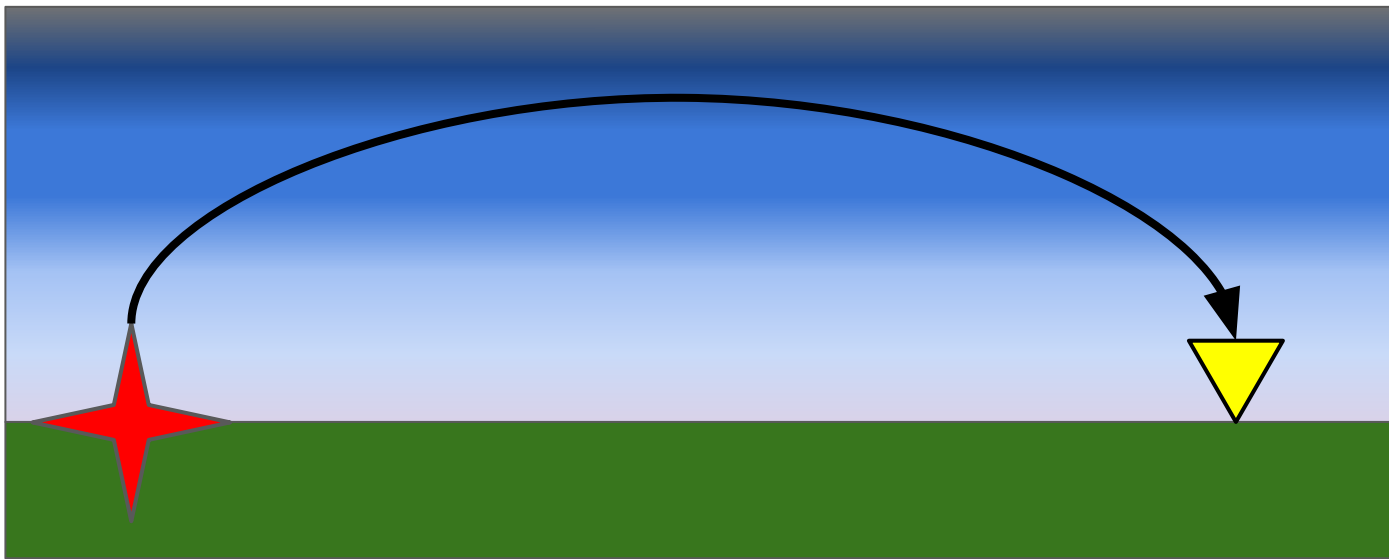


# Train the ML model on a set of synthetic events.

(physics based data augmentation)

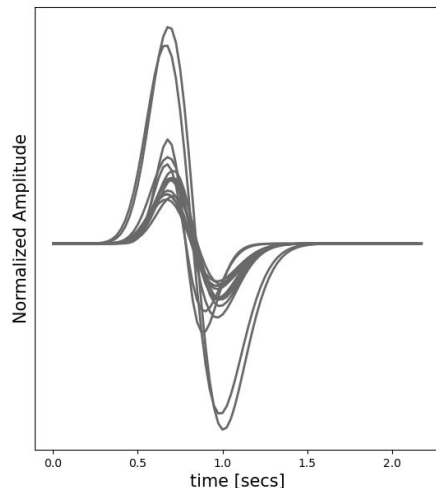


Recorded events are a function of source mechanism,  
propagation path, and instrument response.



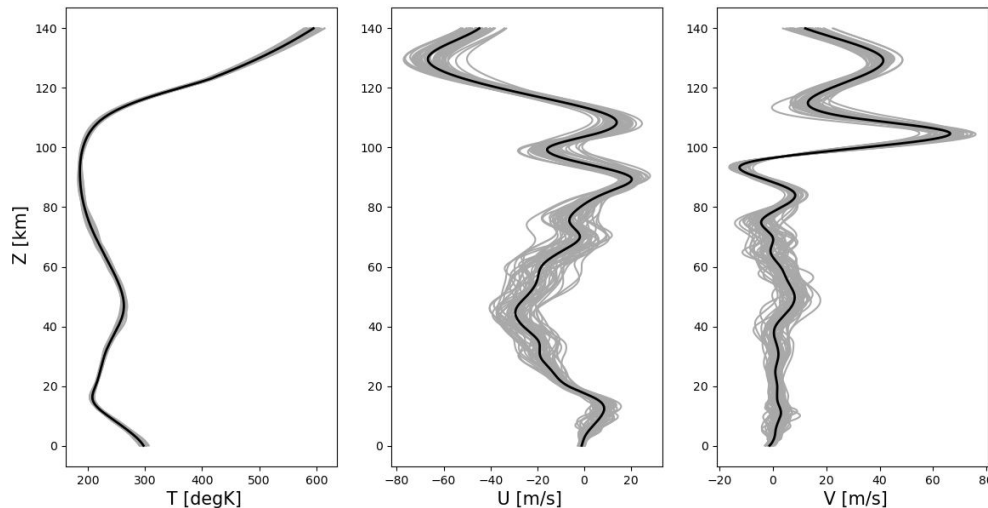
## Use HRR data to model sources and atmospheres.

Sources



[Waxler & Assink, 2018]

Atmospheres



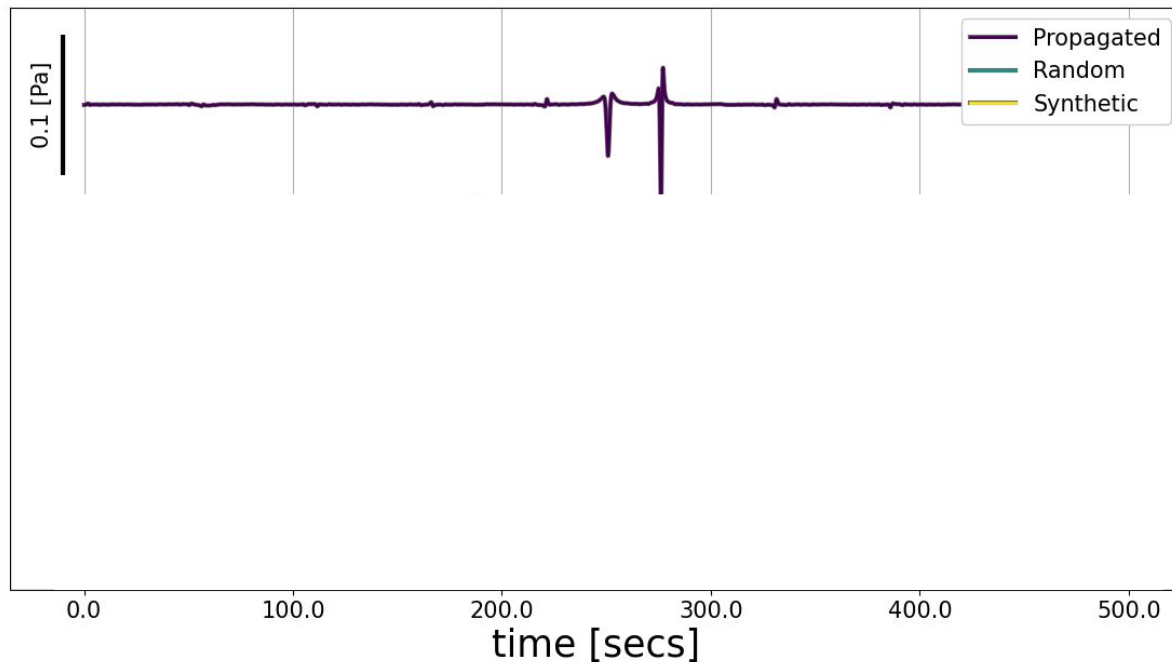
[Schwaiger et al. (2019)]

Propagate 14 sources through 50  
atmospheres in 4 directions out to  
10 distances.

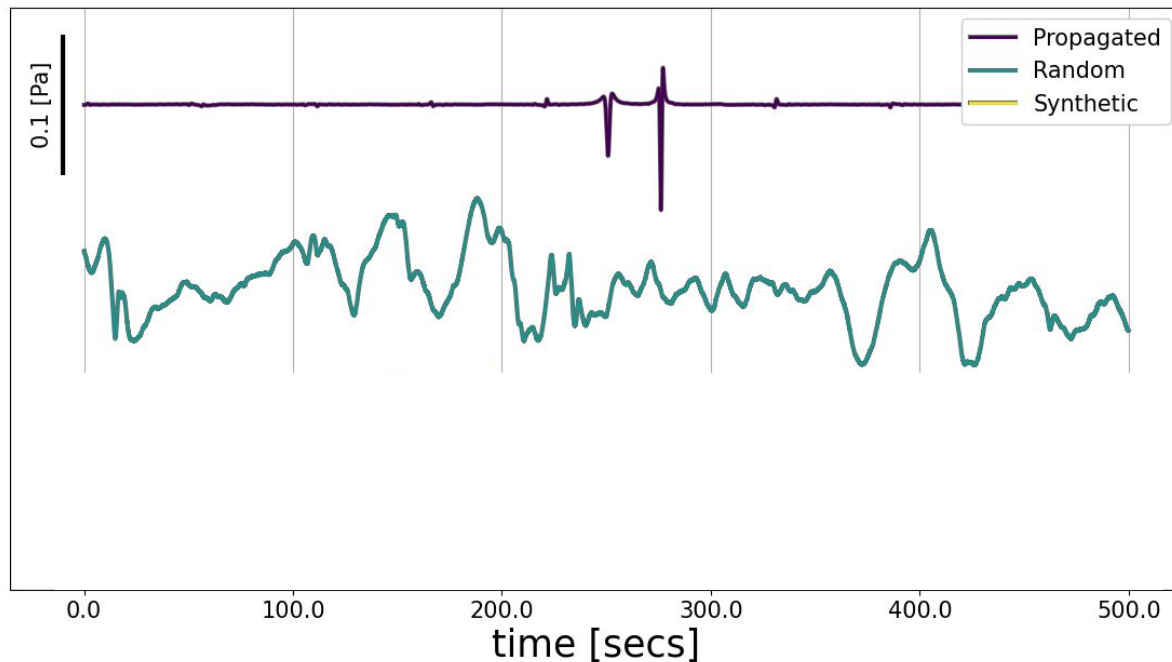
Generate a total of 28,000  
propagated waves.



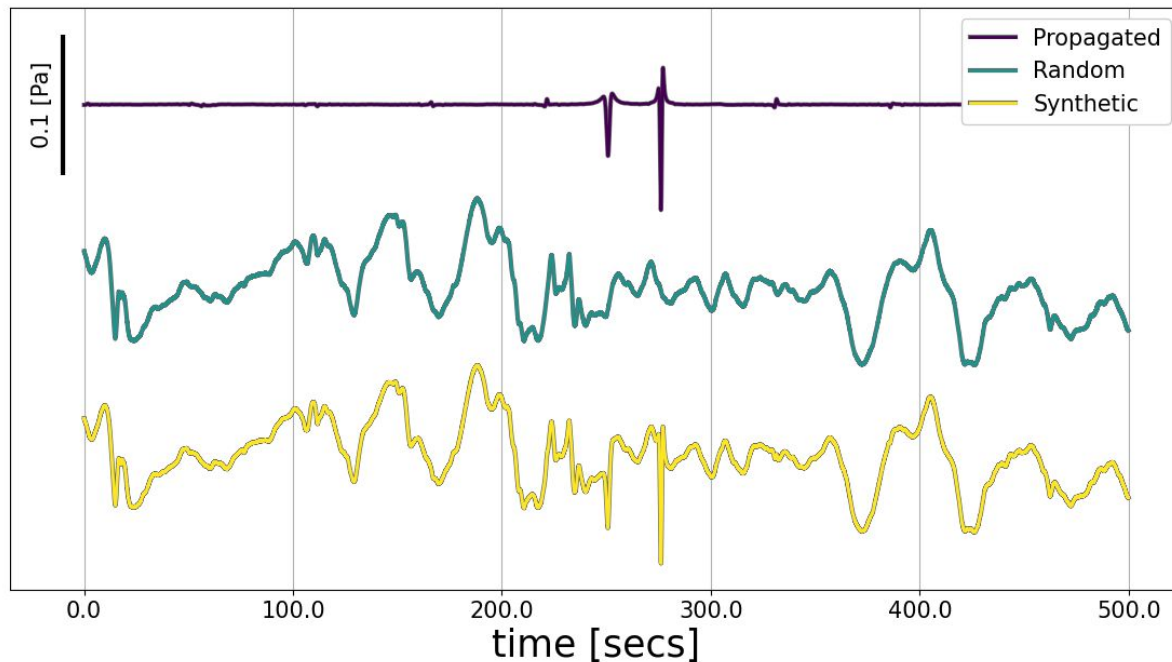
Add random  
recordings (noise)  
from the TA to  
propagated wave to  
create synthetic  
event.



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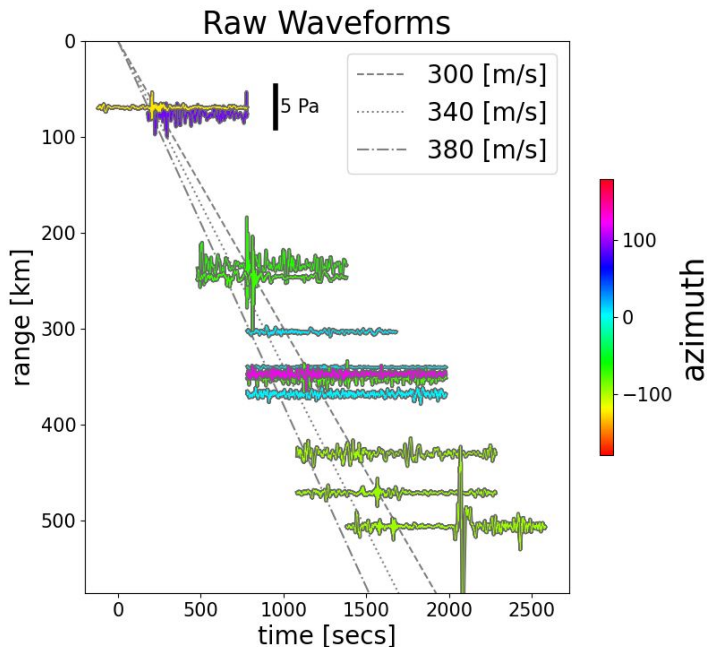


# ML model performs with overall accuracy of 90%

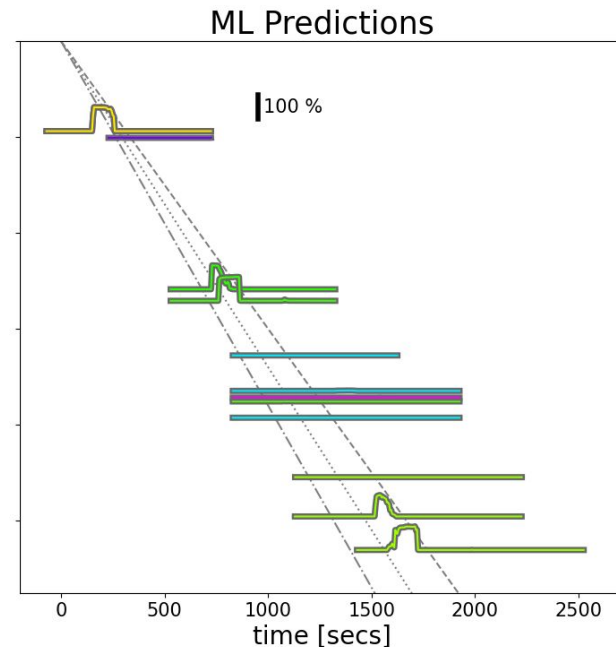
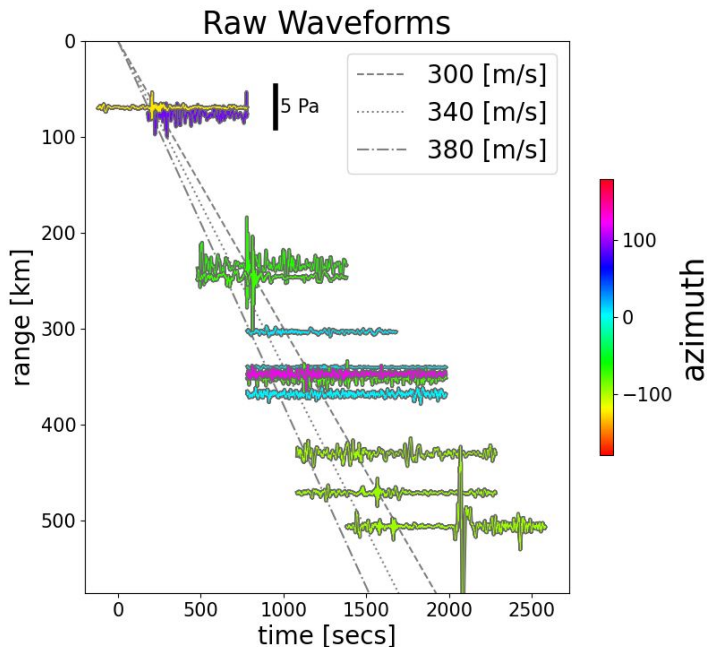
# Using machine learning to detect and characterize long-range infrasound signals from explosions

Alex J.C. Witsil -- *Wilson Alaska Technical Center* -- ajwitsil@alaska.edu

Apply ML model  
to HRR data.



Apply ML model  
to HRR data.





ML model trained on synthetic data  
can detect real world explosions.

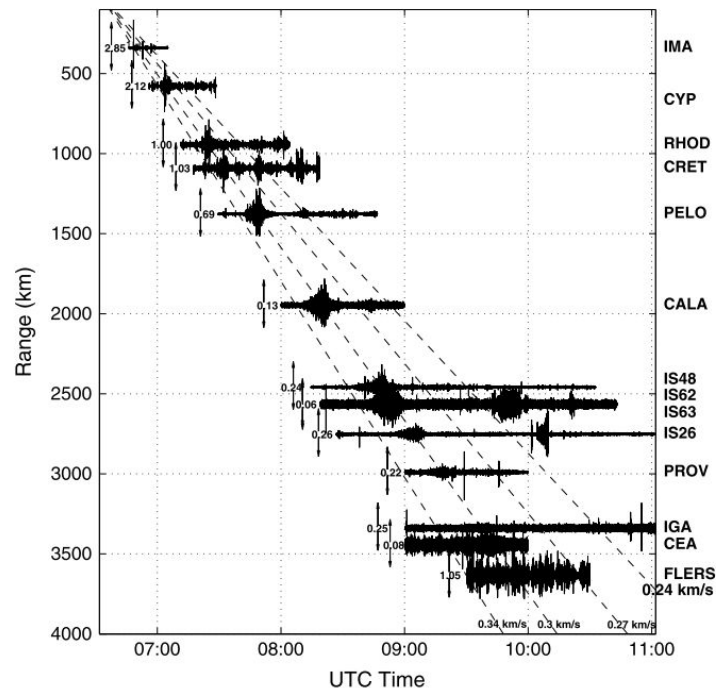
Research elevates the usefulness of  
single channel microphones.

# Using machine learning to detect and characterize long-range infrasound signals from explosions

Alex J.C. Witsil -- *Wilson Alaska Technical Center* -- [ajwitsil@alaska.edu](mailto:ajwitsil@alaska.edu)



Infrasound signals can propagate  
100s to 1000s of km.



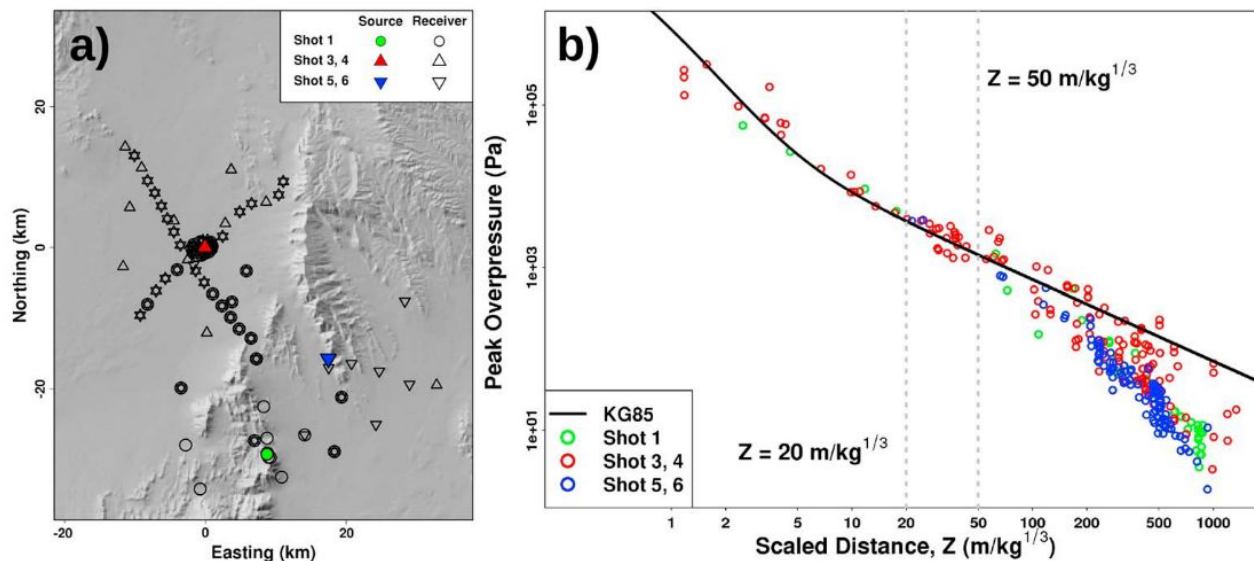
[Fee et al. (2013)]



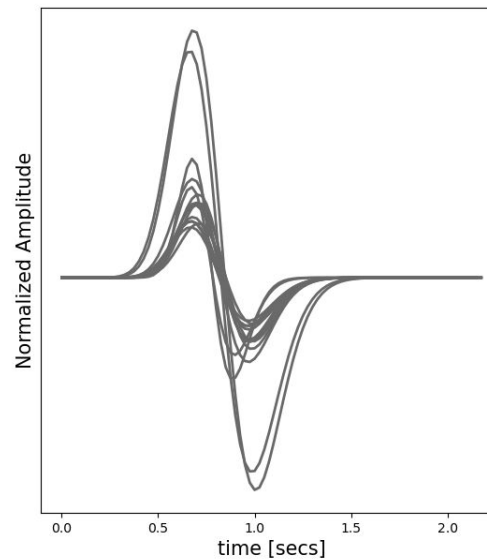
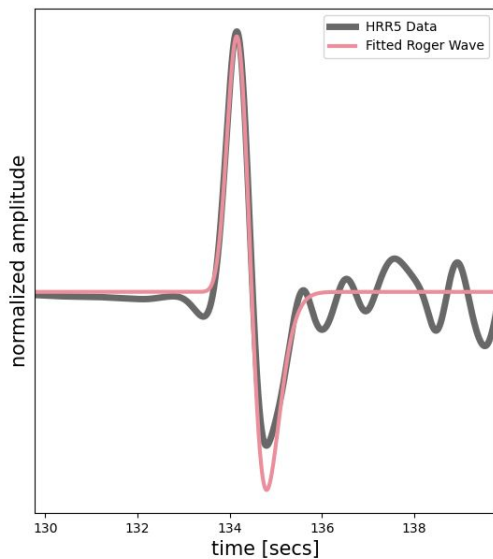
Supervised ML relies on large training datasets.

Dataset	Classes	Instances
ImageNet	20,000	14,197,122
MNIST	9	60,000
YouTube	4,800	8,000,000
COCO	91	2,500,000

## HRR was instrumented in the far and near field.



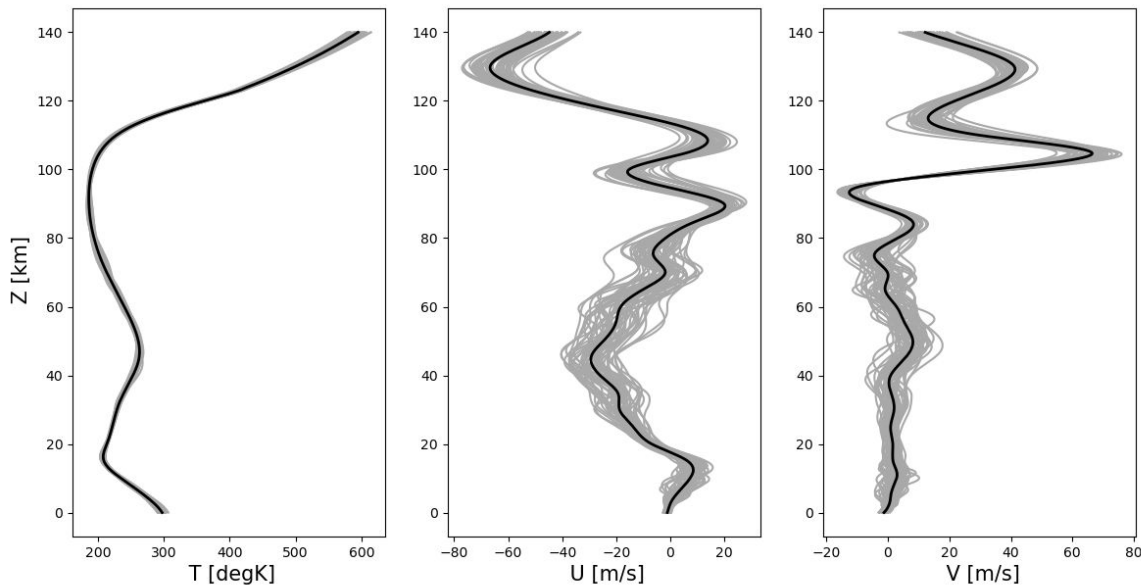
## Model source time functions from HRR near field data.



[Waxler & Assink, 2018]



Generate a set of  
atmospheres by adding  
variance to atmosphere  
modeled at HRR  
testing site.

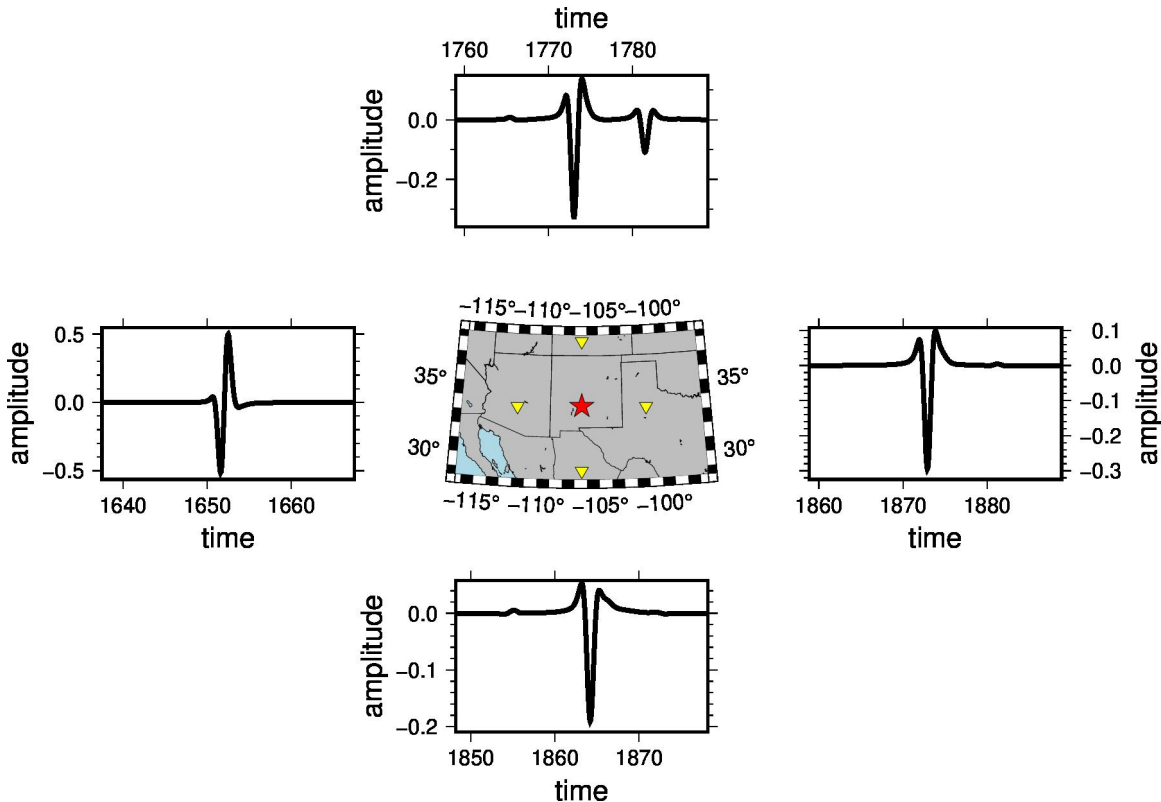


[Schwaiger et al. (2019)]

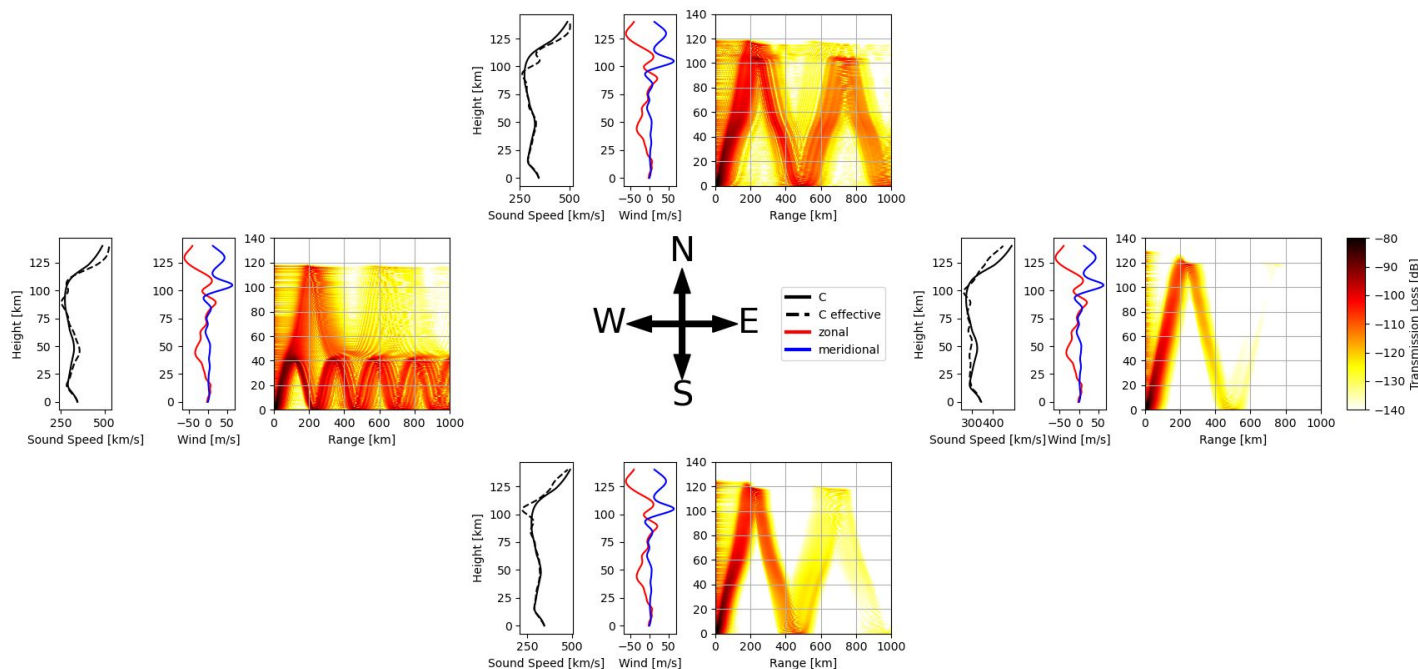
# Using machine learning to detect and characterize long-range infrasound signals from explosions

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Propagated waves  
are a function of,  
among other things,  
propagation  
direction.



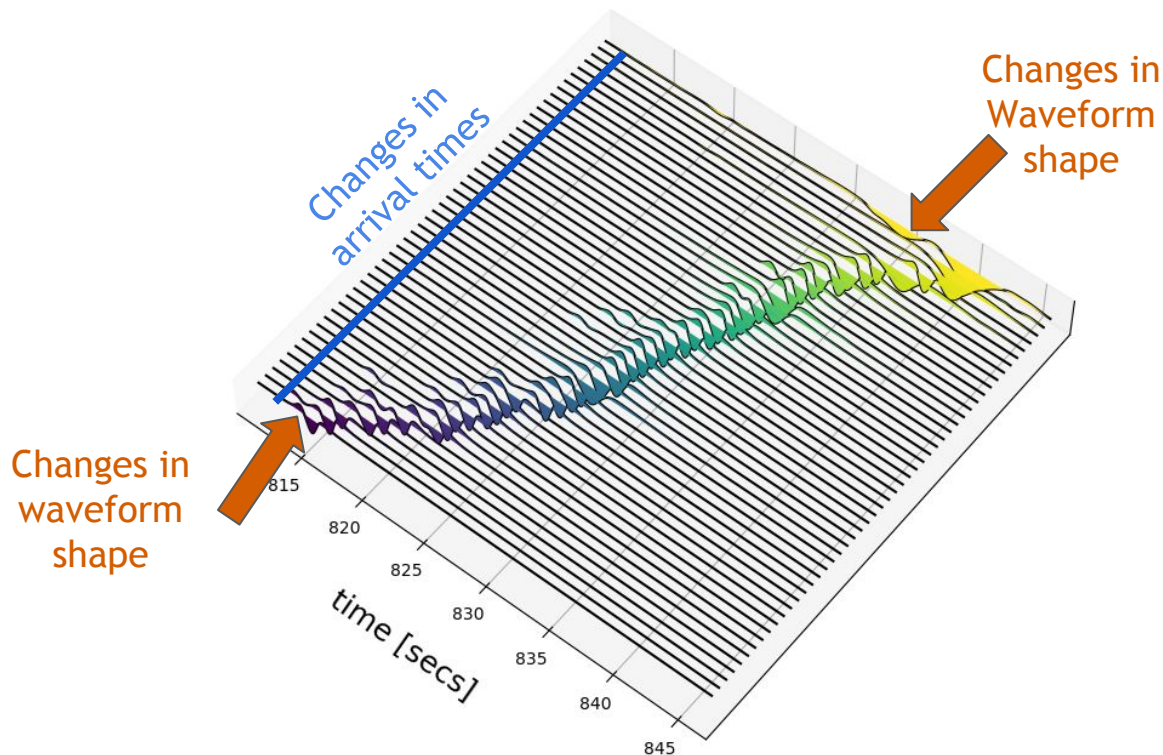
## Waves propagated west experience less transmission loss.



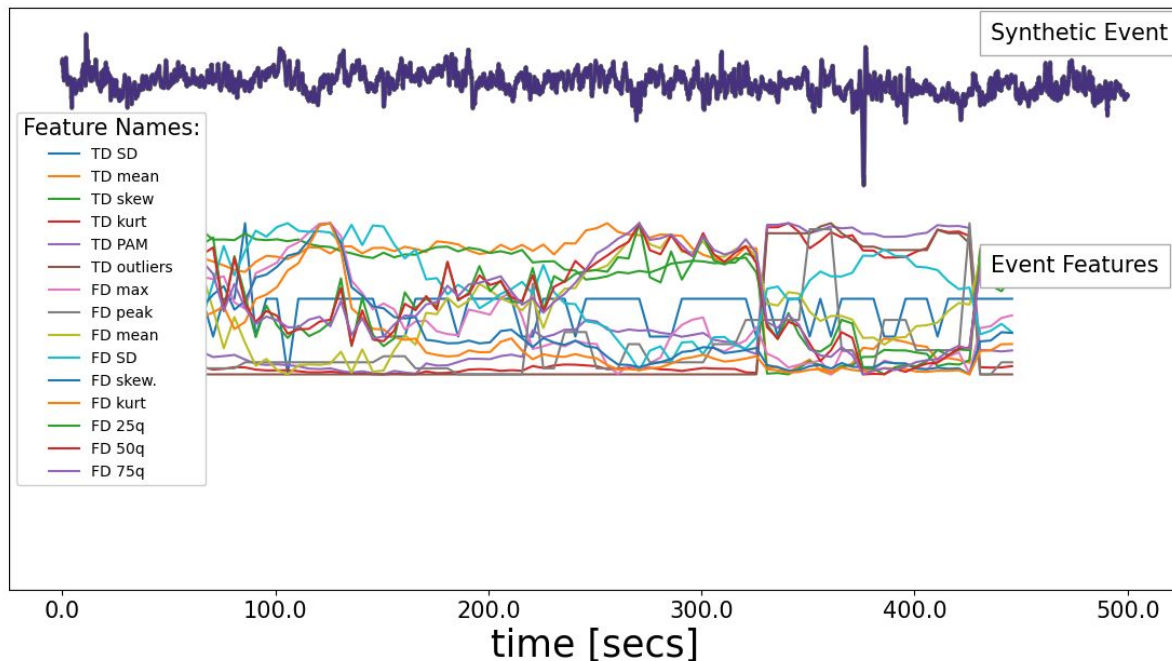
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Propagated waves  
are a function of  
atmosphere.

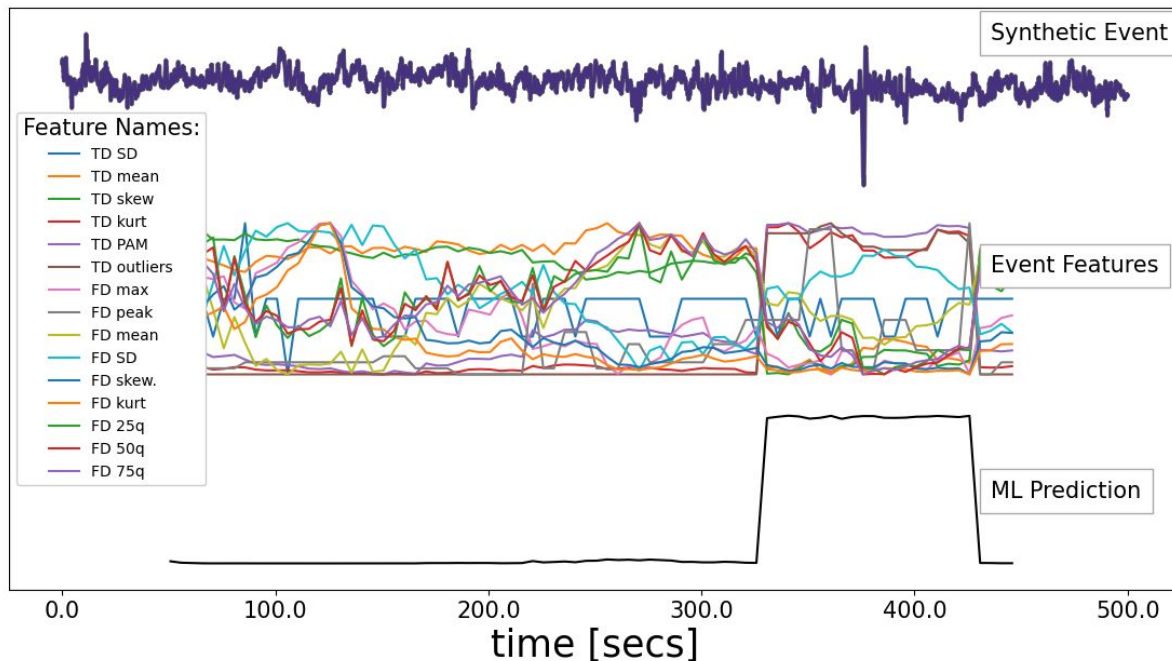


Extract features  
(statistics) from  
synthetic events and  
random TA  
recordings.





Train *vanilla* artificial neural network (ANN) on features.

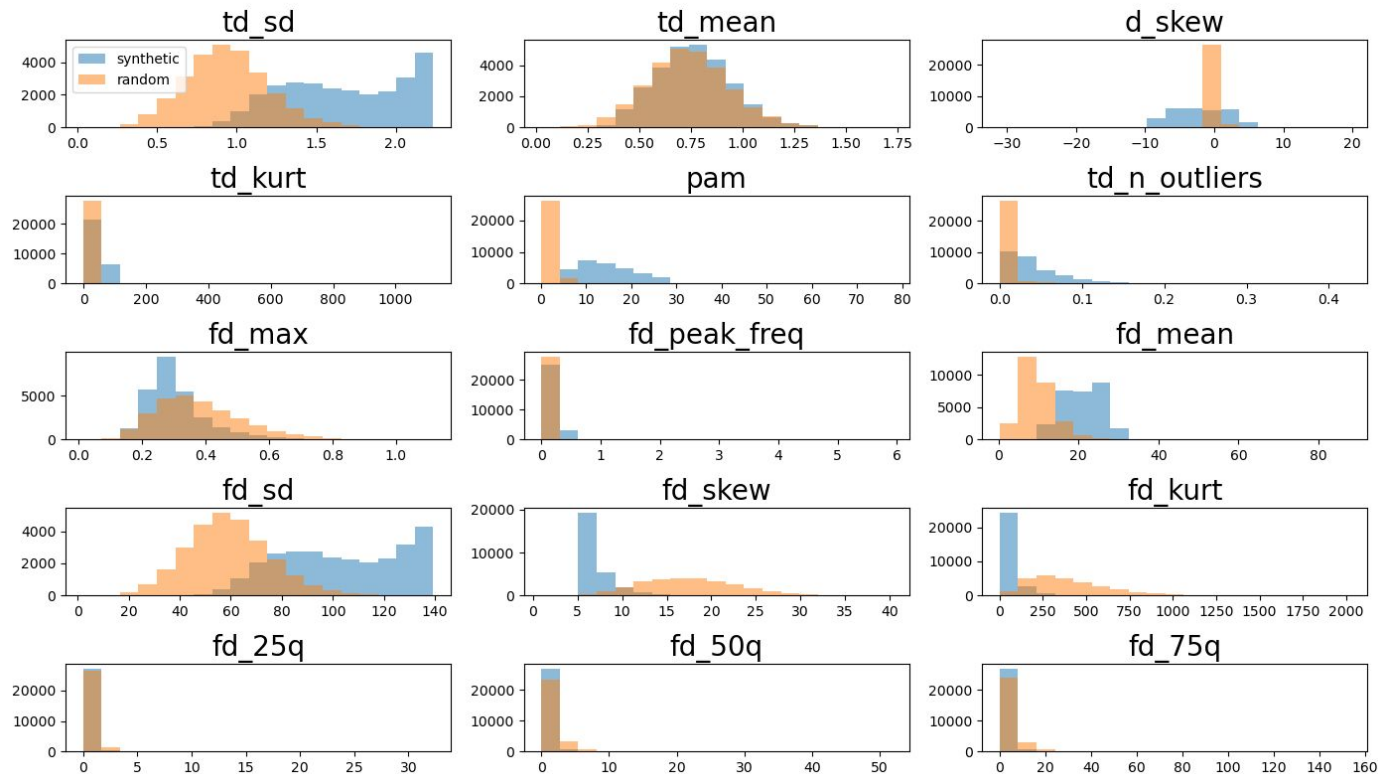




# Using machine learning to detect and characterize long-range infrasound signals from explosions

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ML model  
performs with  
overall accuracy  
of 90%

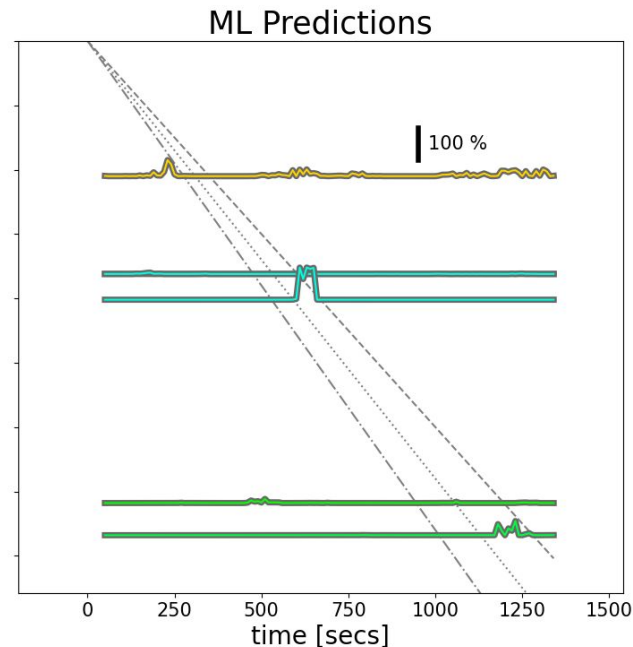
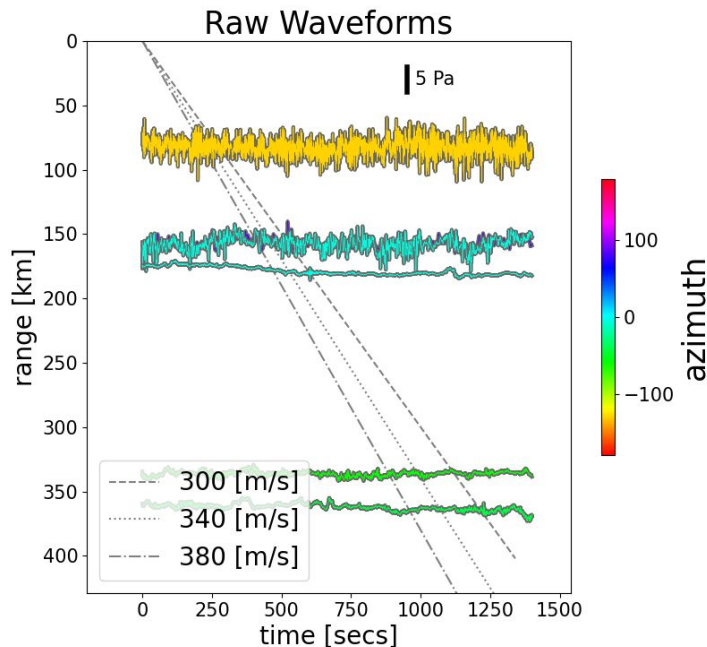


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# Using machine learning to detect and characterize long-range infrasound signals from explosions

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Apply ML  
model to  
HRR data  
from the TA.



## Conclusions:

- Generate a physics-based, synthetic training dataset of infrasound signals from explosions.
- ML model performs with overall accuracy of 90%.
- ML model performs well on synthetic and real world data.
- Research elevates usefulness of single channel microphones.

## Future Work:

- Apply more advanced ML models.
- Move beyond binary explosion/no explosion classifier
- Explore yield determination.
- Integrate probabilities with arrays --> source localization.