

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

Alex Witsil<sup>a</sup>, David Fee<sup>a</sup>, Philip Blom<sup>b</sup>, Raul Pena<sup>c</sup>,  
Joshua Dickey<sup>c</sup>, Roger Waxler<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Wilson Alaska Technical Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks, AK, USA*

<sup>b</sup>*Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM, USA*

<sup>c</sup>*Air Force Technical Applications Center, FL, USA*

<sup>d</sup>*University of Mississippi, MS, USA*



**ORAL**  
PRESENTATION

This work was supported by the Nuclear Arms Control Technology (NACT) Program at Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)

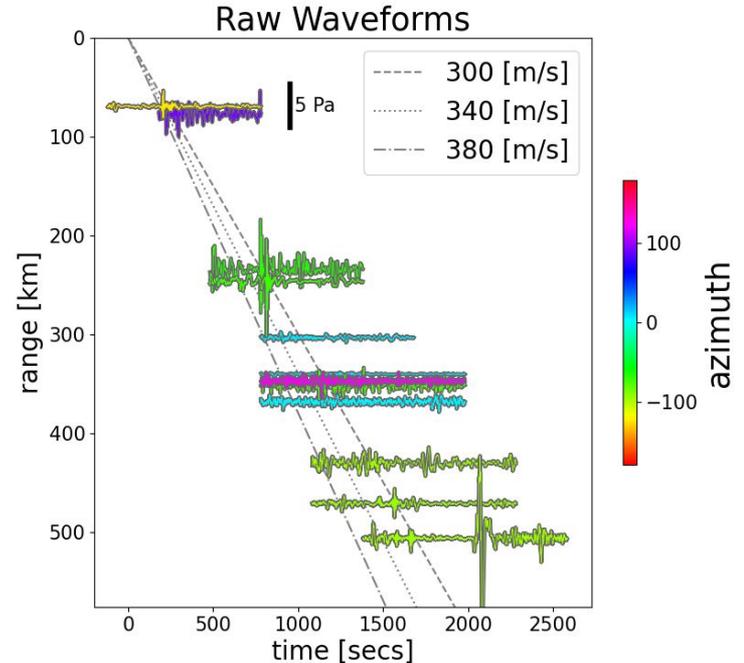
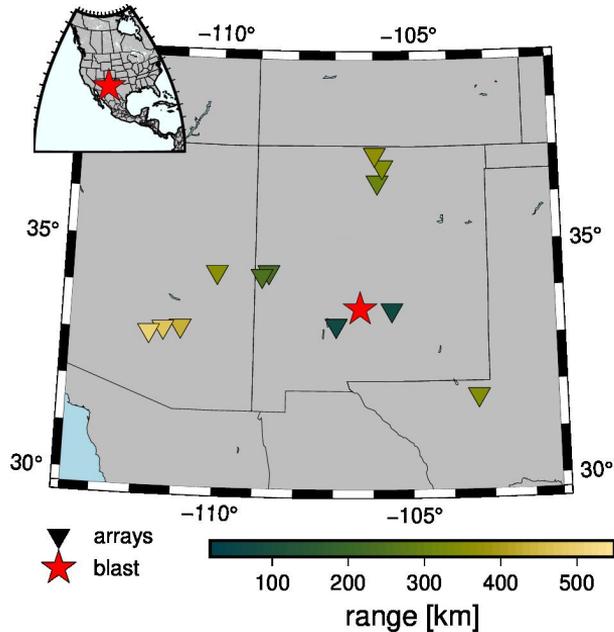
DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Cleared for Release



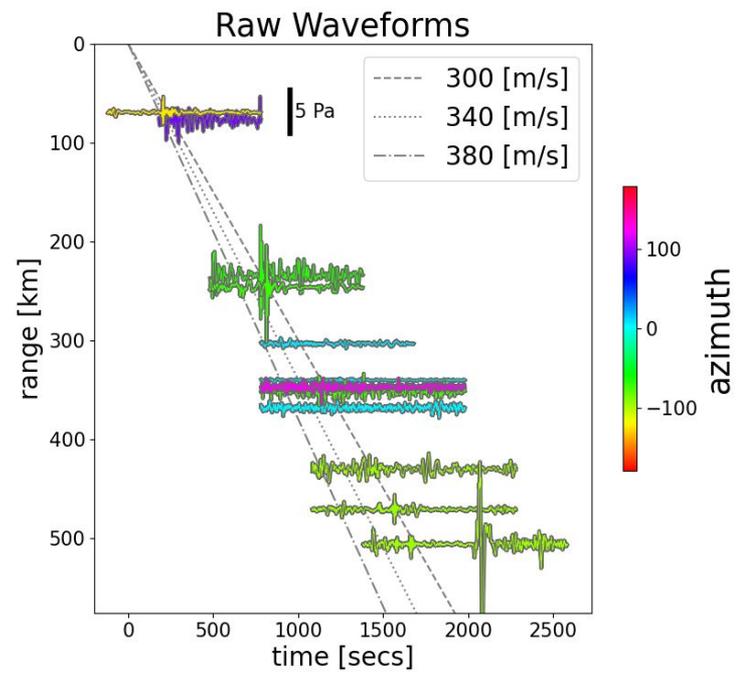
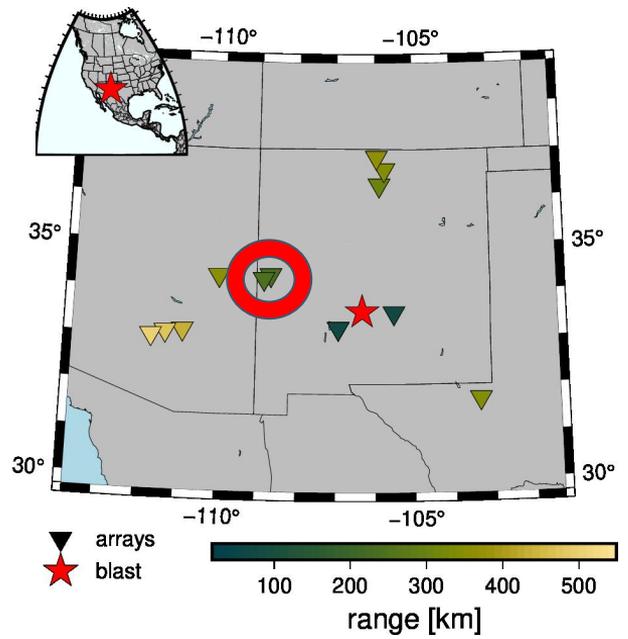
**WILSON**  
**ALASKA**  
TECHNICAL CENTER

**UAF**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
ALASKA  
FAIRBANKS

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

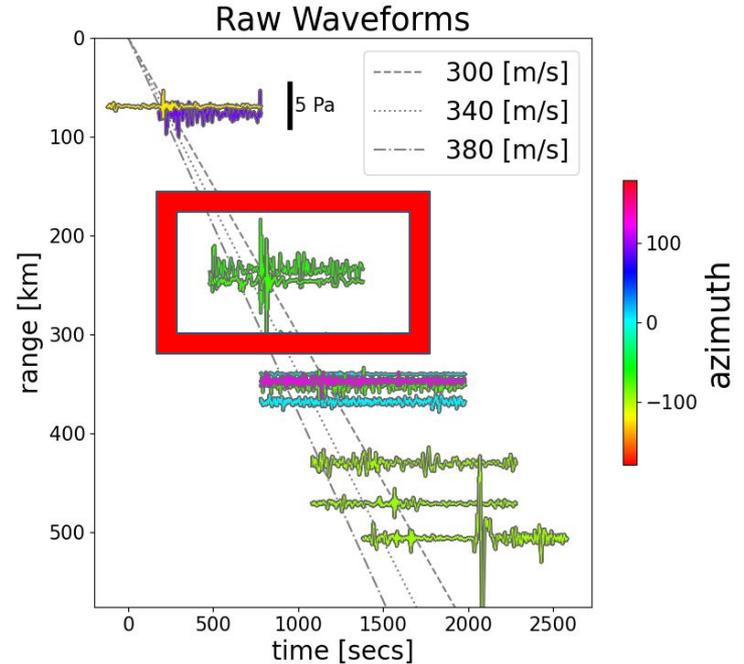
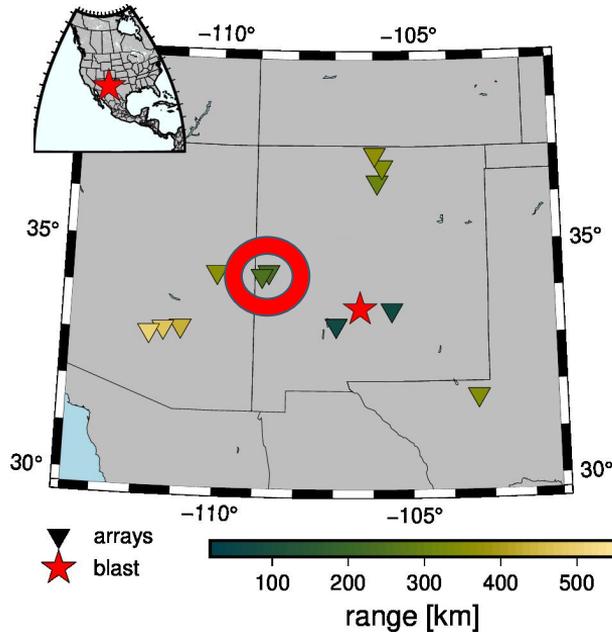


# Infrasound signals can propagate 100s (sometimes 1000s) of km.



Disclaimer: The views expressed on this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the CTBTO

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



# Global infrasound arrays well positioned to record explosion signals.

IMS Stations



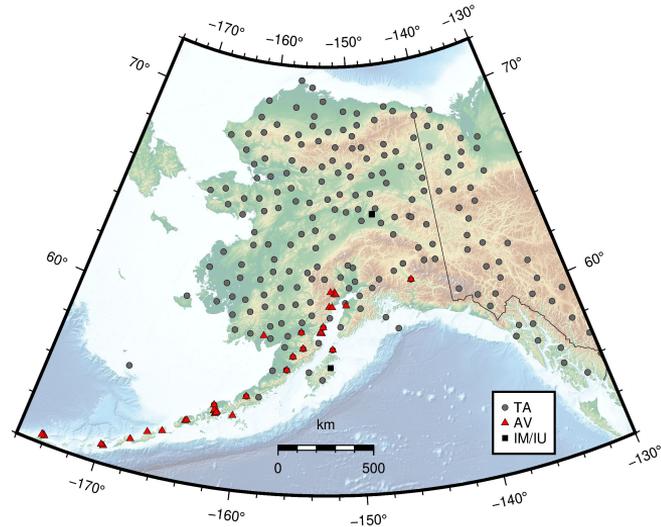
Disclaimer: The views expressed on this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the CTBTO

Most infrasound deployments comprise single channel microphones.

IMS Stations



TA/AVO Stations

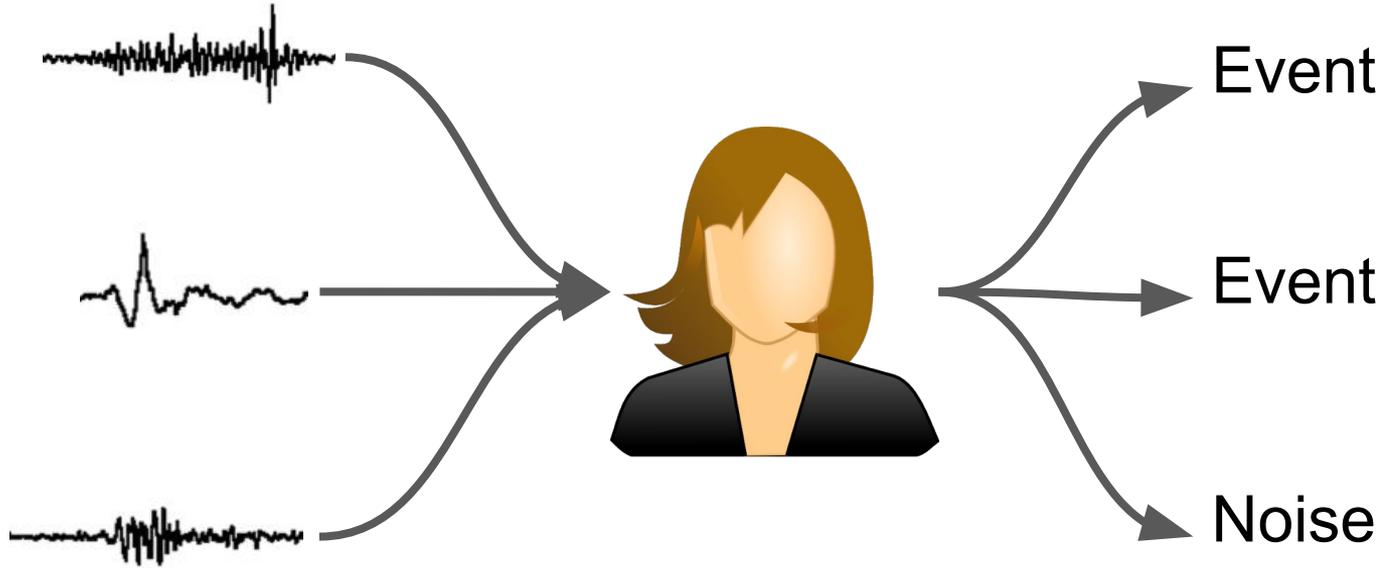


>300 infrasound stations across Alaska

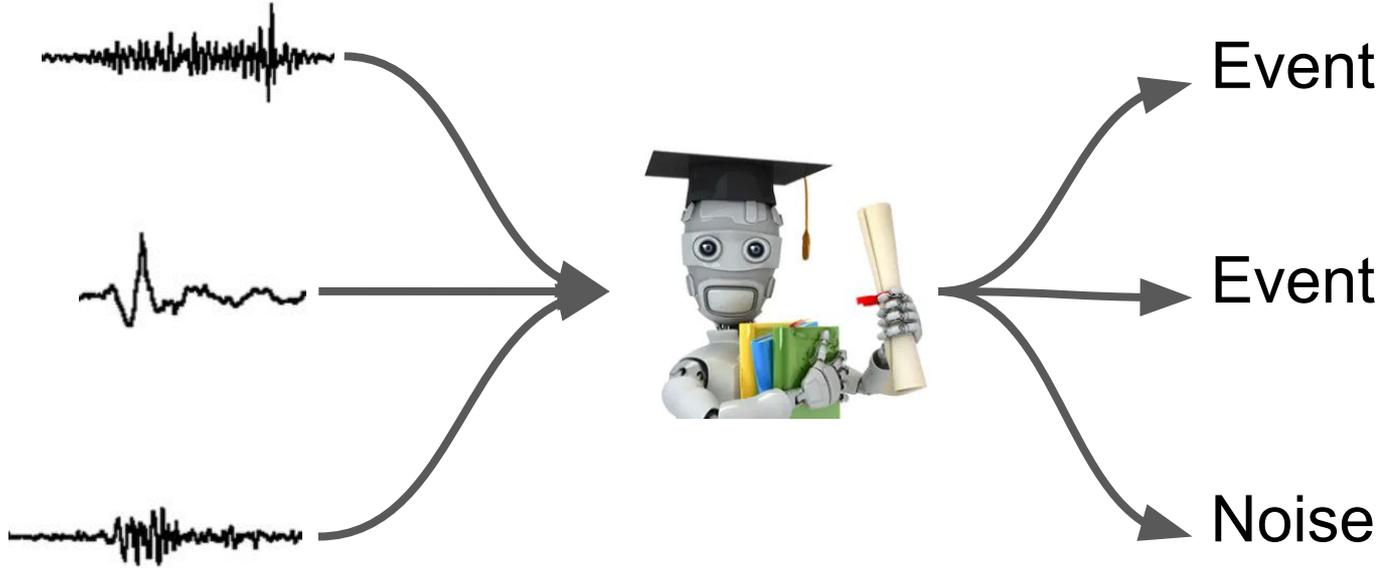


# Can we identify explosion signals from single channel infrasound data?

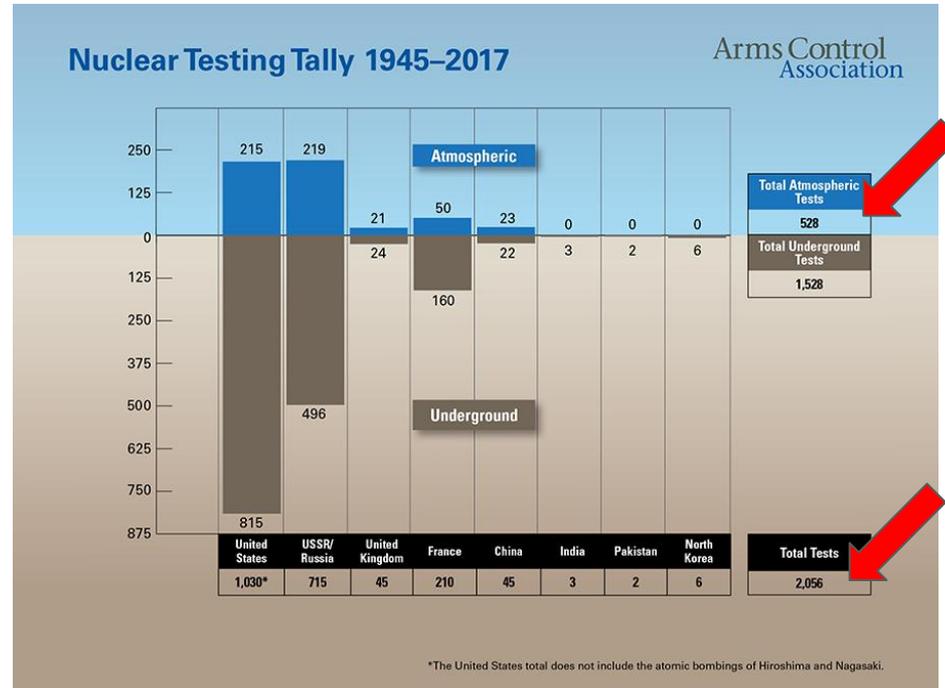
Typically, a technician is trained to identify activity.



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



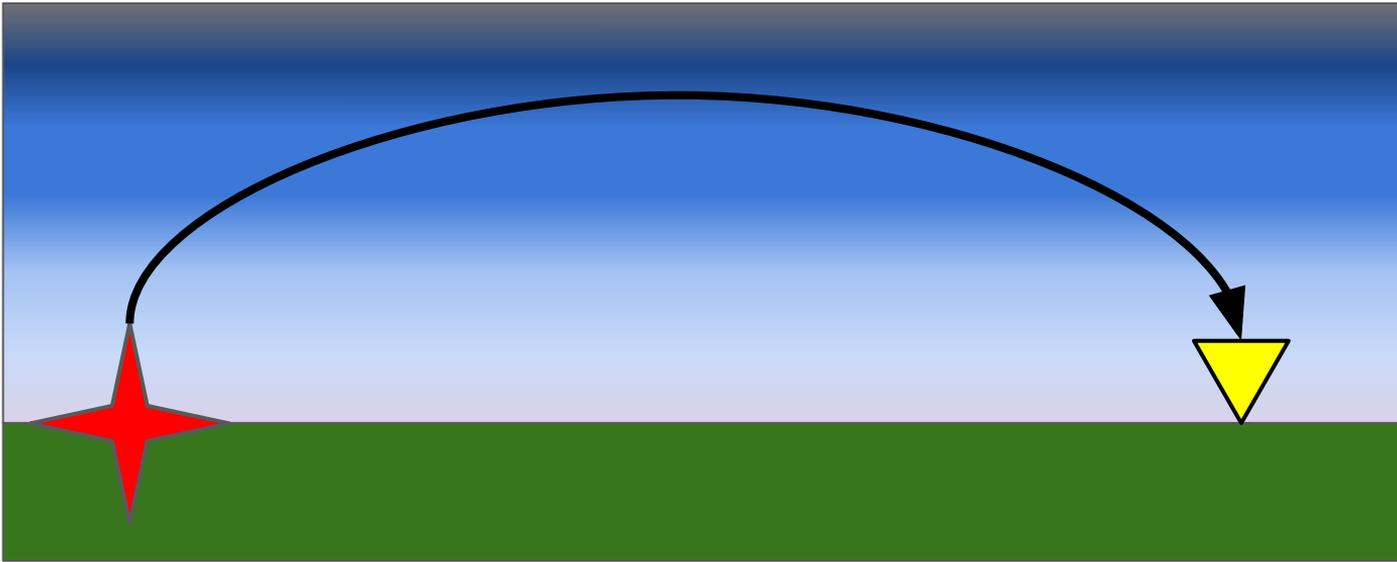
Historic infrasound data from nuclear blasts insufficient to train ML model.



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

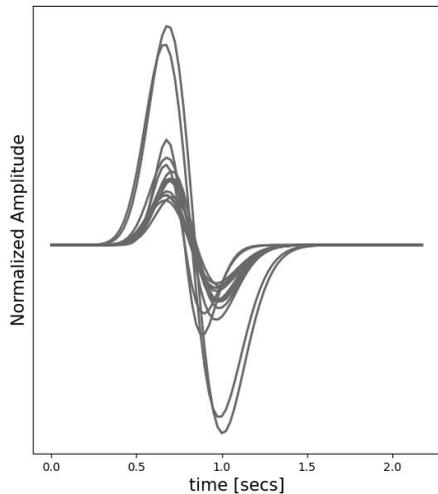
## (physics based data augmentation)

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



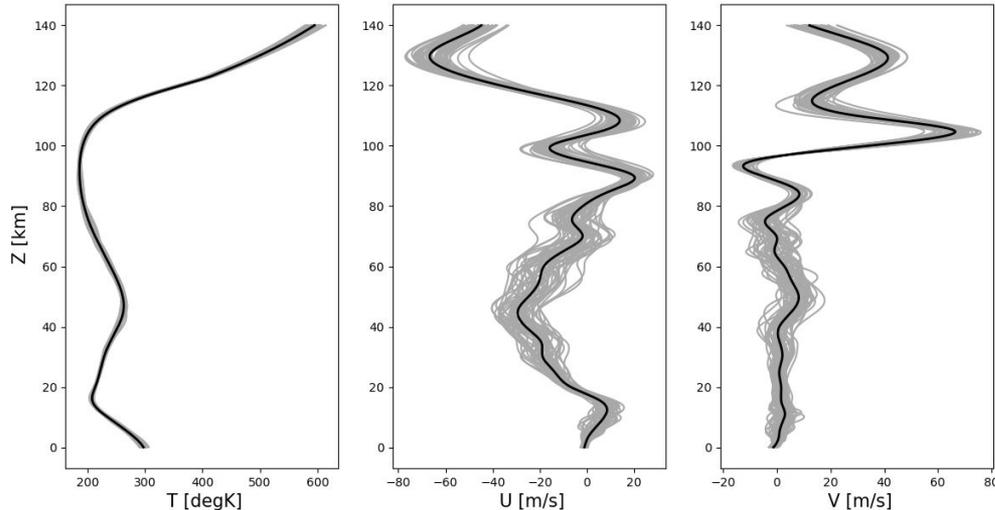
# Use HRR data to model sources and atmospheres.

Sources



[Waxler & Assink, 2018]

Atmospheres



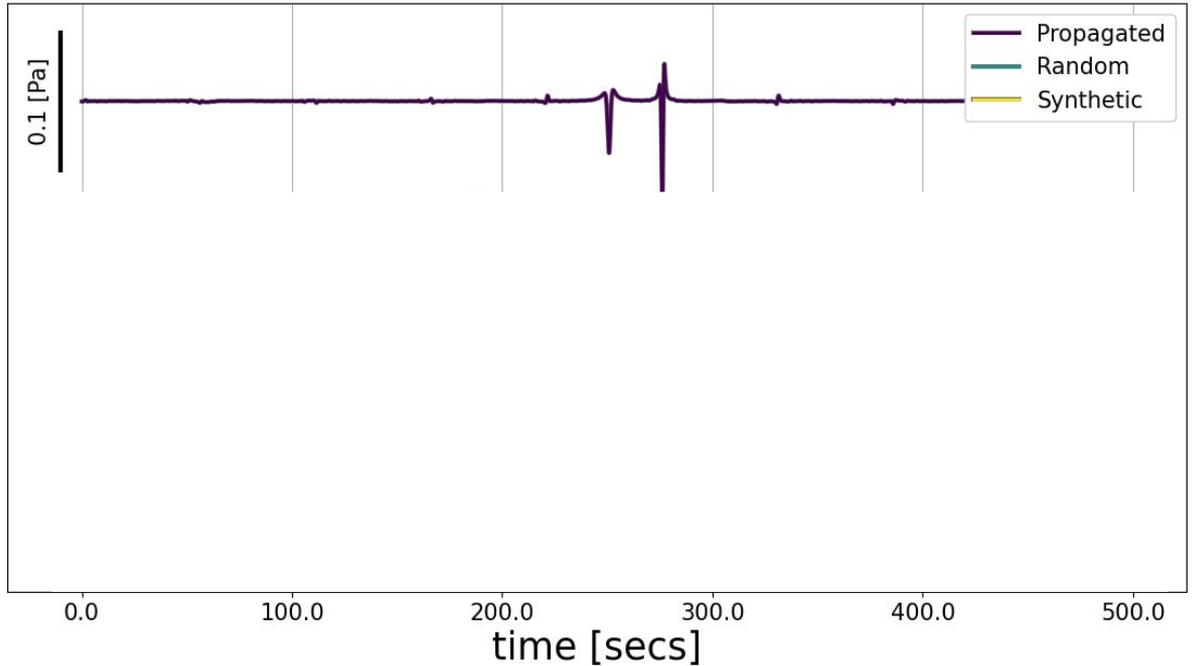
[Schwaiger et al. (2019)]



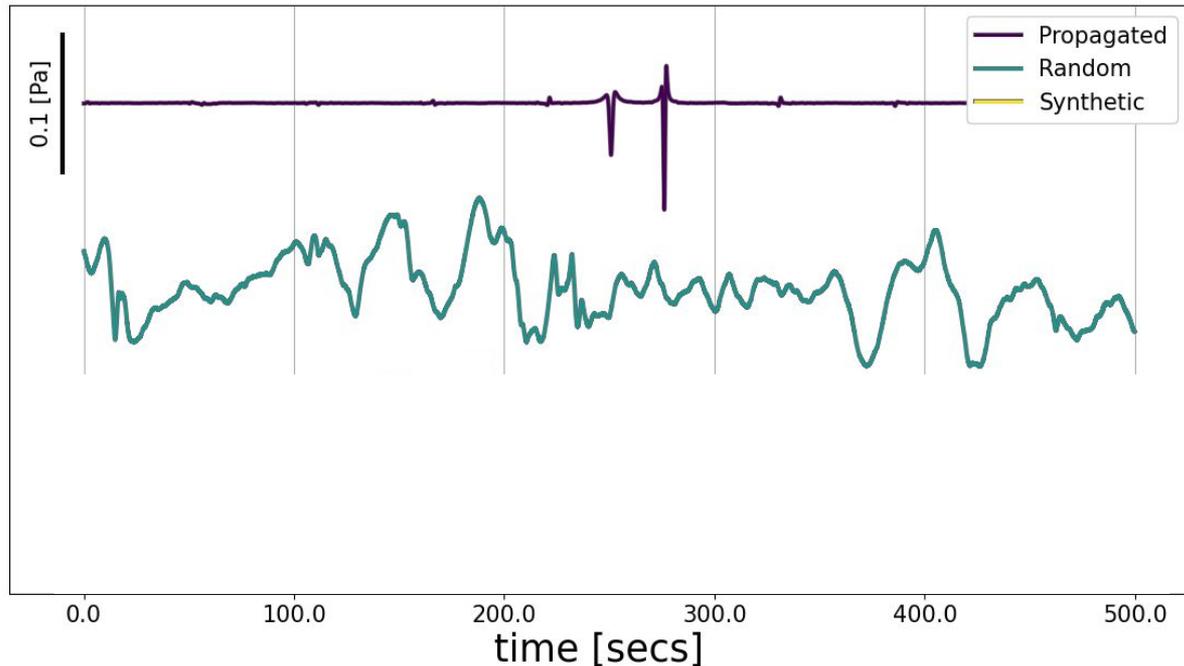
Propagate 14 sources through 50 atmospheres in 4 directions out to 10 distances.

Generate a total of 28,000 propagated waves.

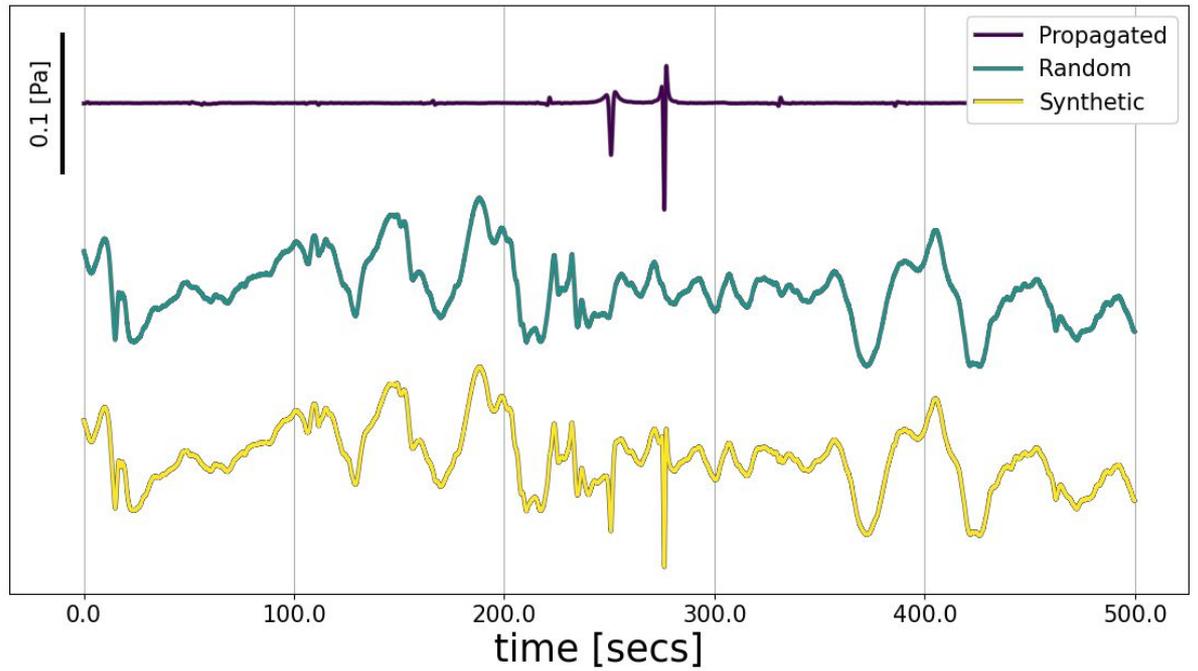
Add random recordings (noise) from the TA to propagated wave to create synthetic event.



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

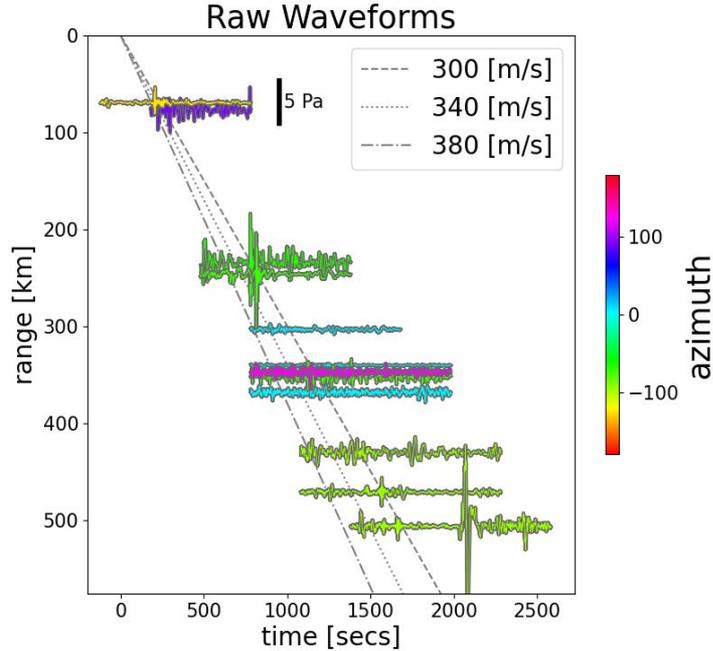


Add random recordings (noise) from the TA to propagated wave to create synthetic event.

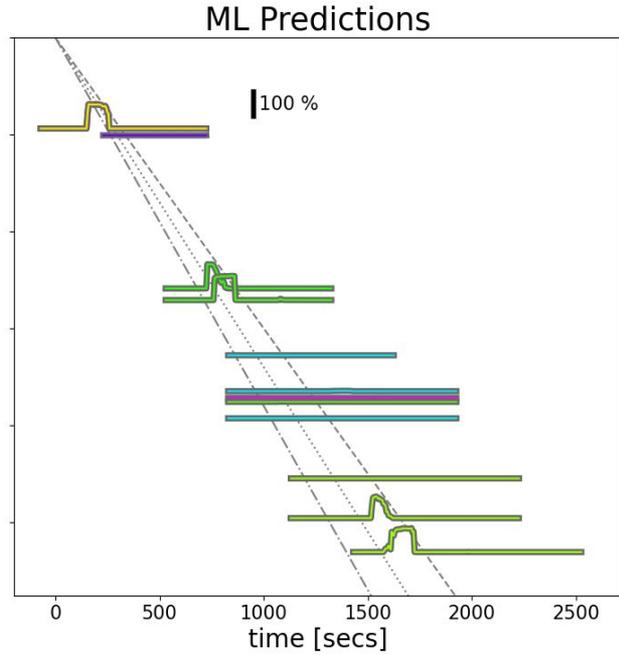
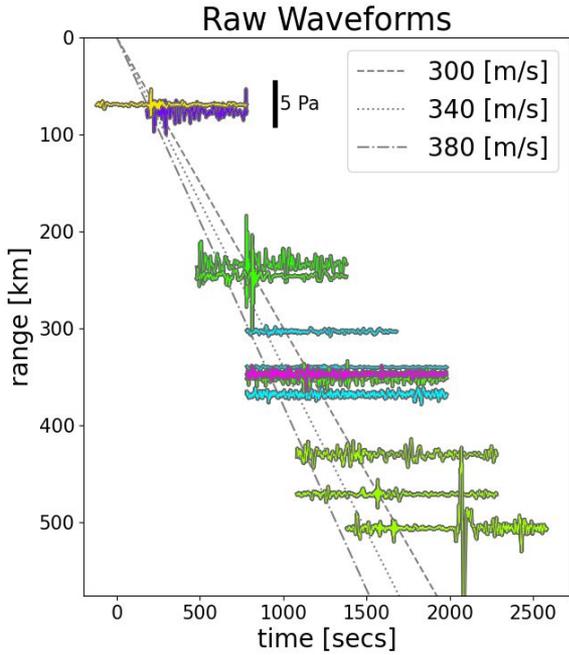


# ML model performs with overall accuracy of 90%

Apply ML model  
to HRR data.



Apply ML model  
 to HRR data.



Disclaimer: The views expressed on this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the CTBTO

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

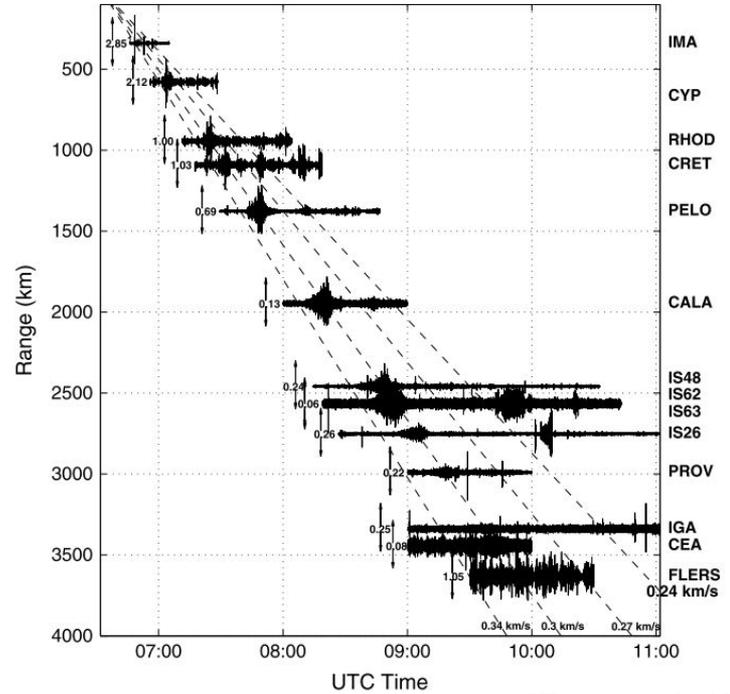
Research elevates the usefulness of  
single channel microphones.

# 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.

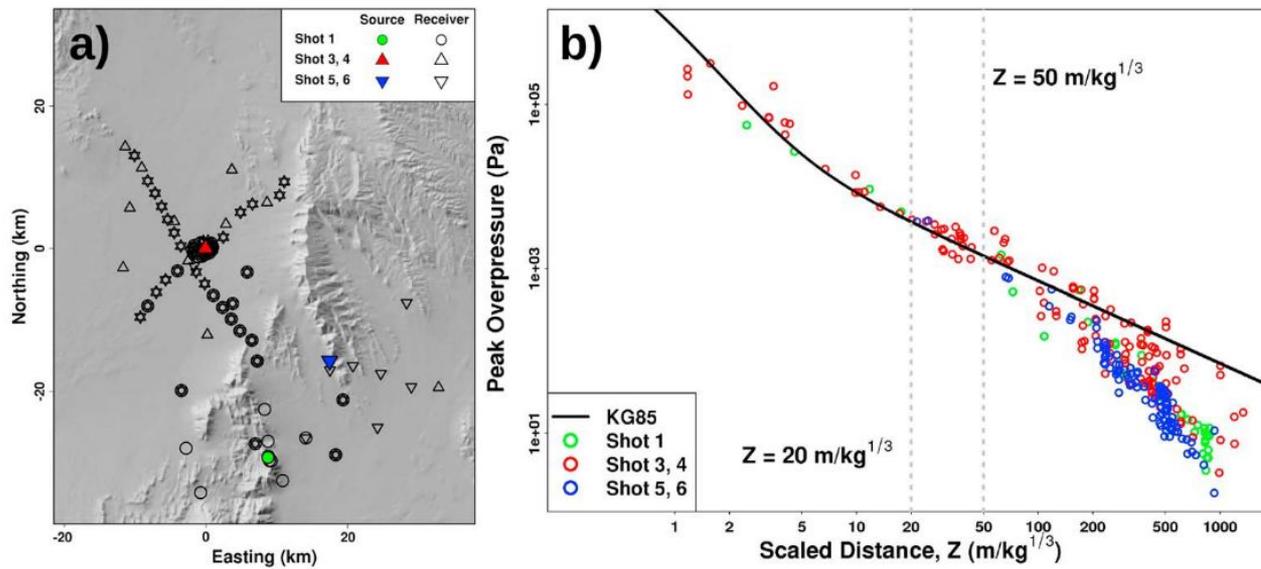


[Fee et al. (2013)]

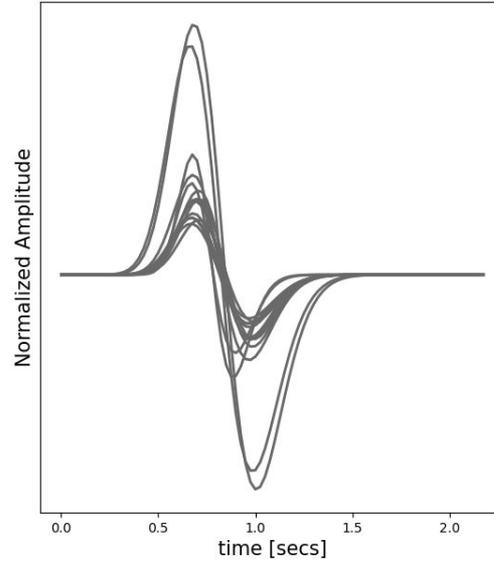
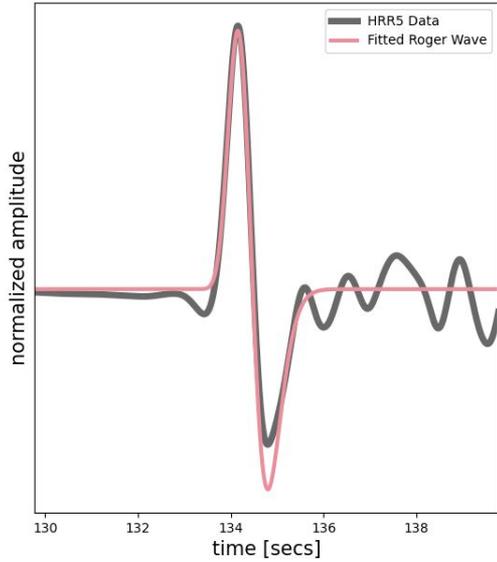
## Supervised ML relies on large training datasets.

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

HRR was instrumented in the far and near field.

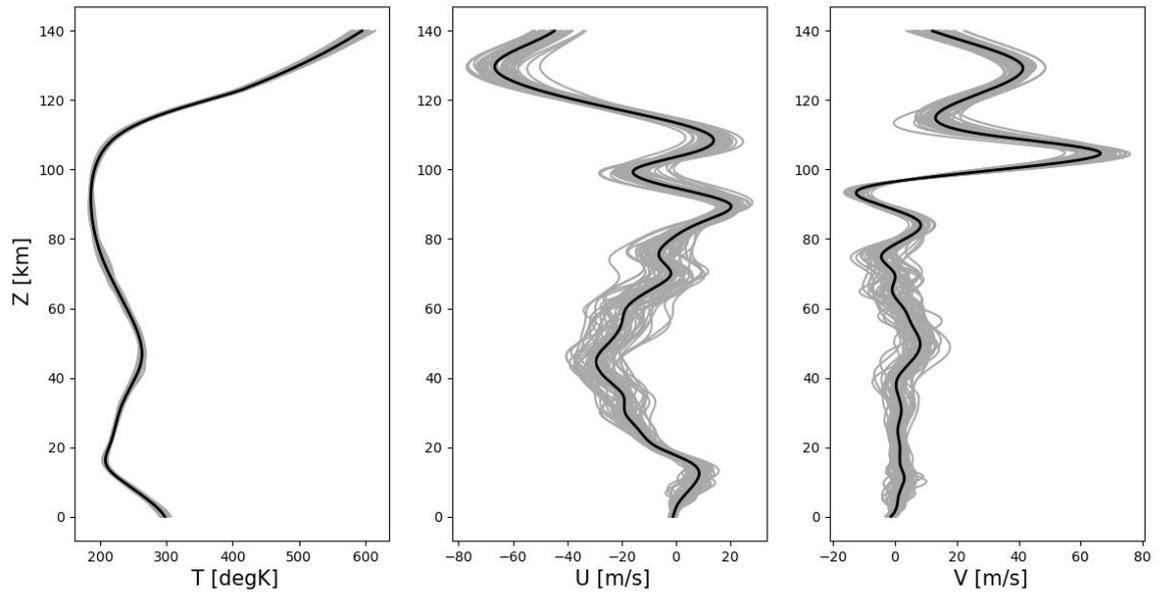


## Model source time functions from HRR near field data.



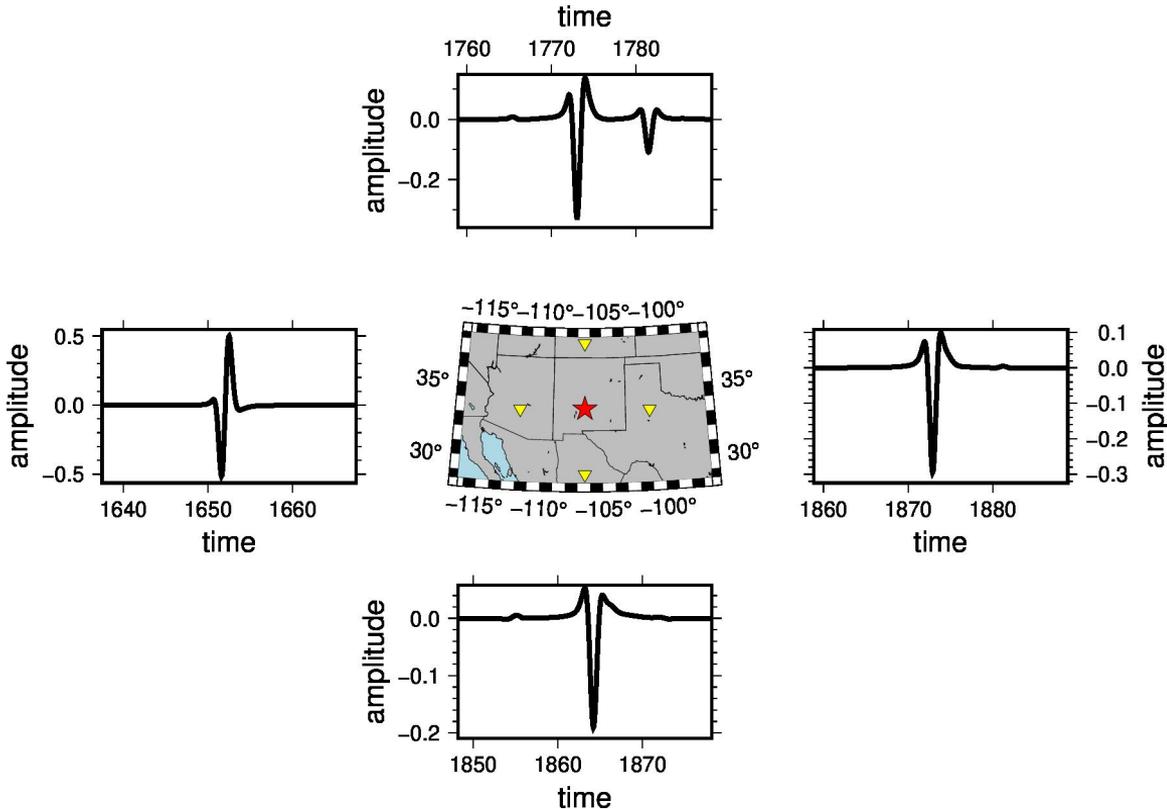
[Waxler & Assink, 2018]

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

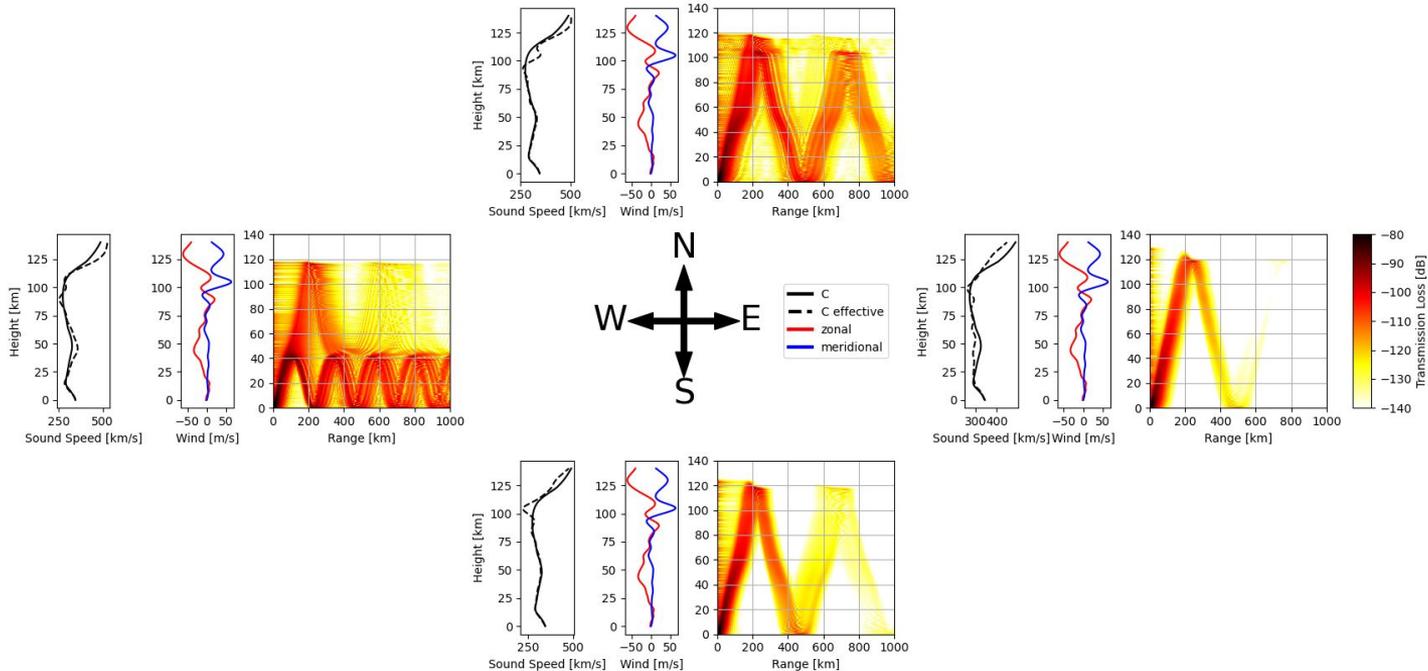


[Schwaiger et al. (2019)]

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

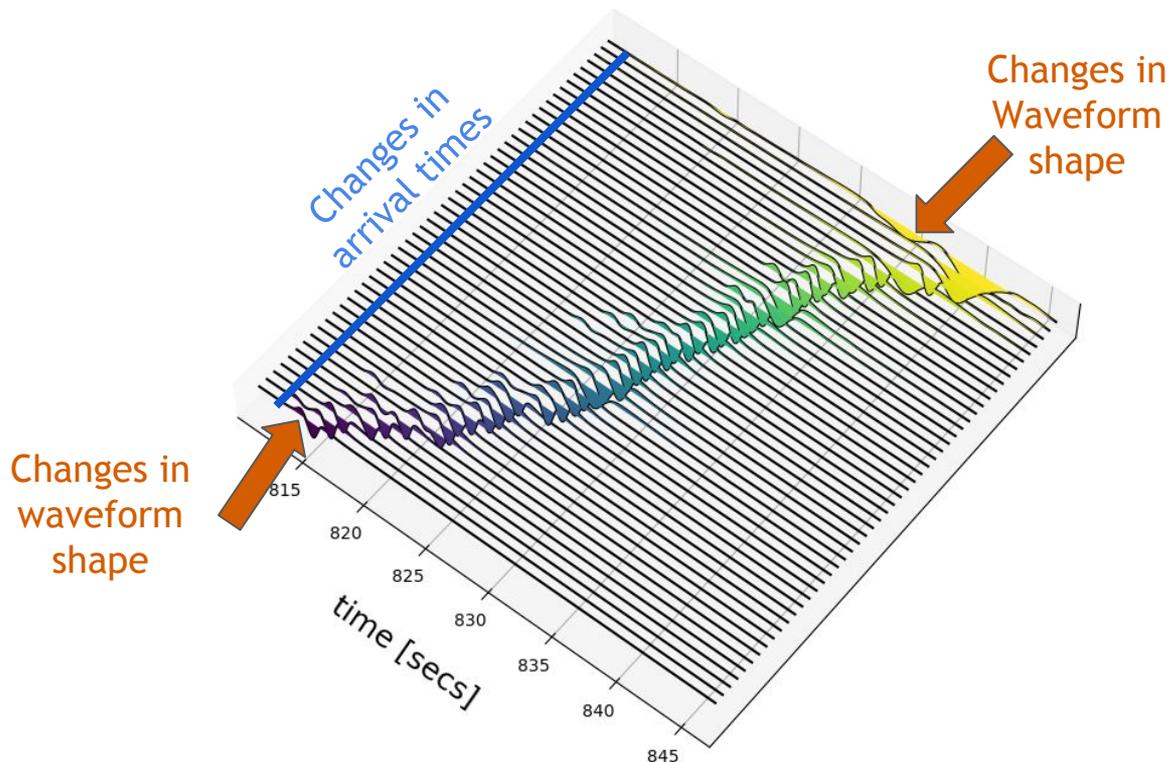


# Waves propagated west experience less transmission loss.

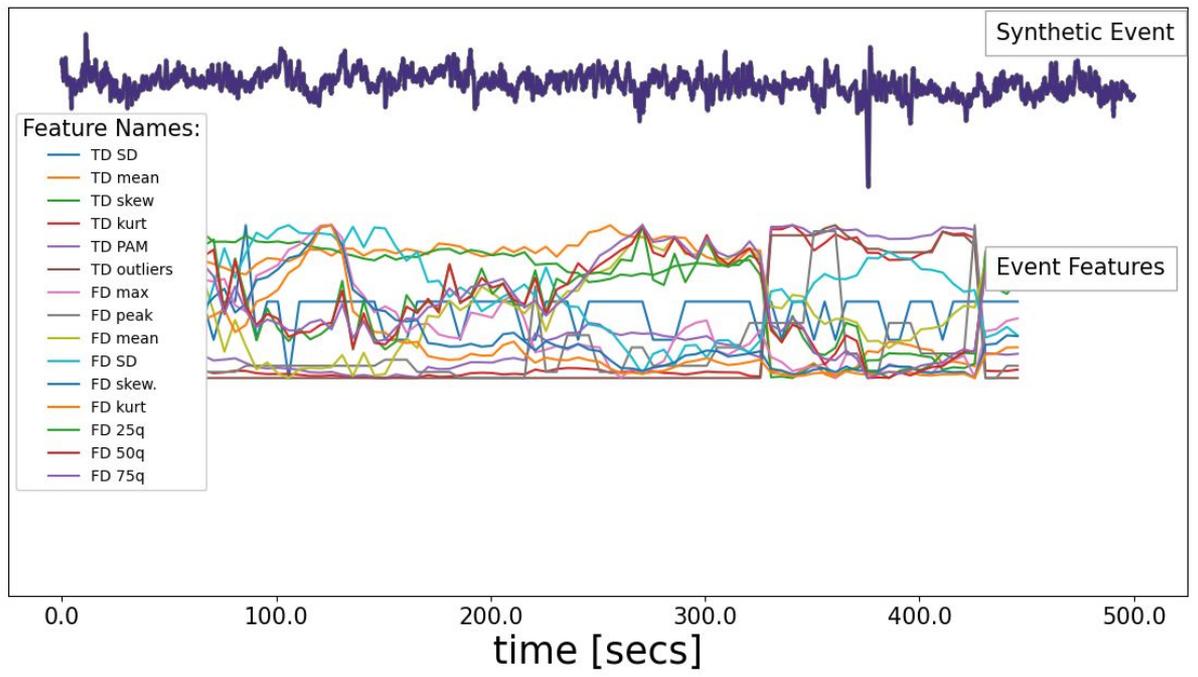


Disclaimer: The views expressed on this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the CTBTO

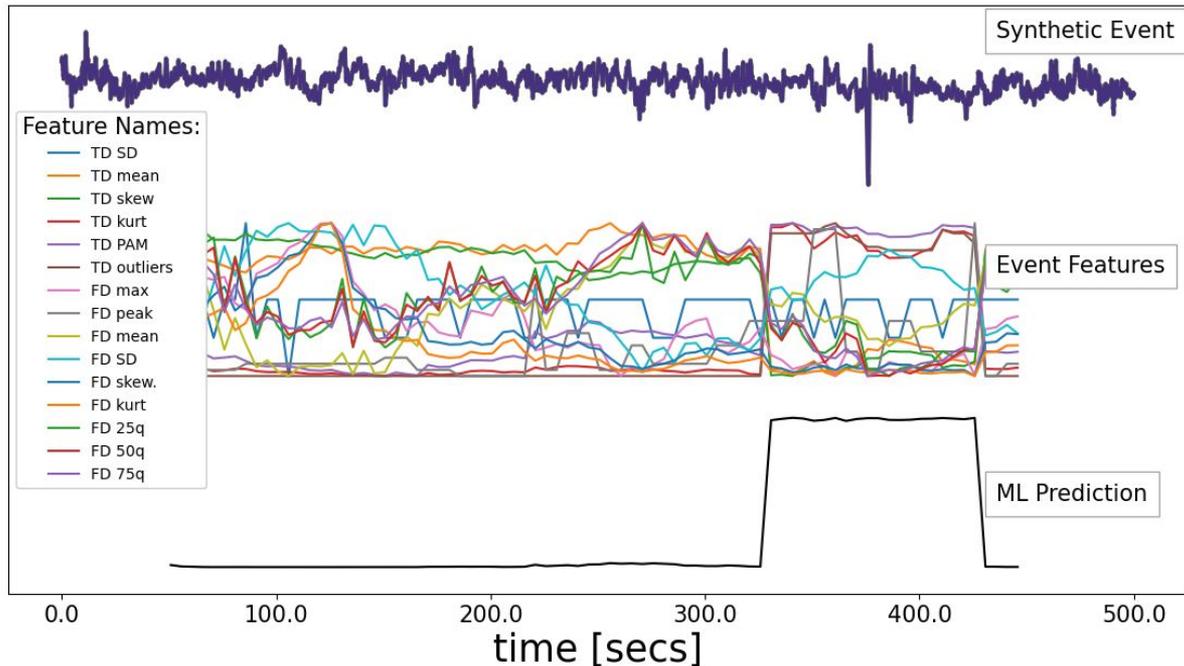
Propagated waves  
are a function of  
atmosphere.



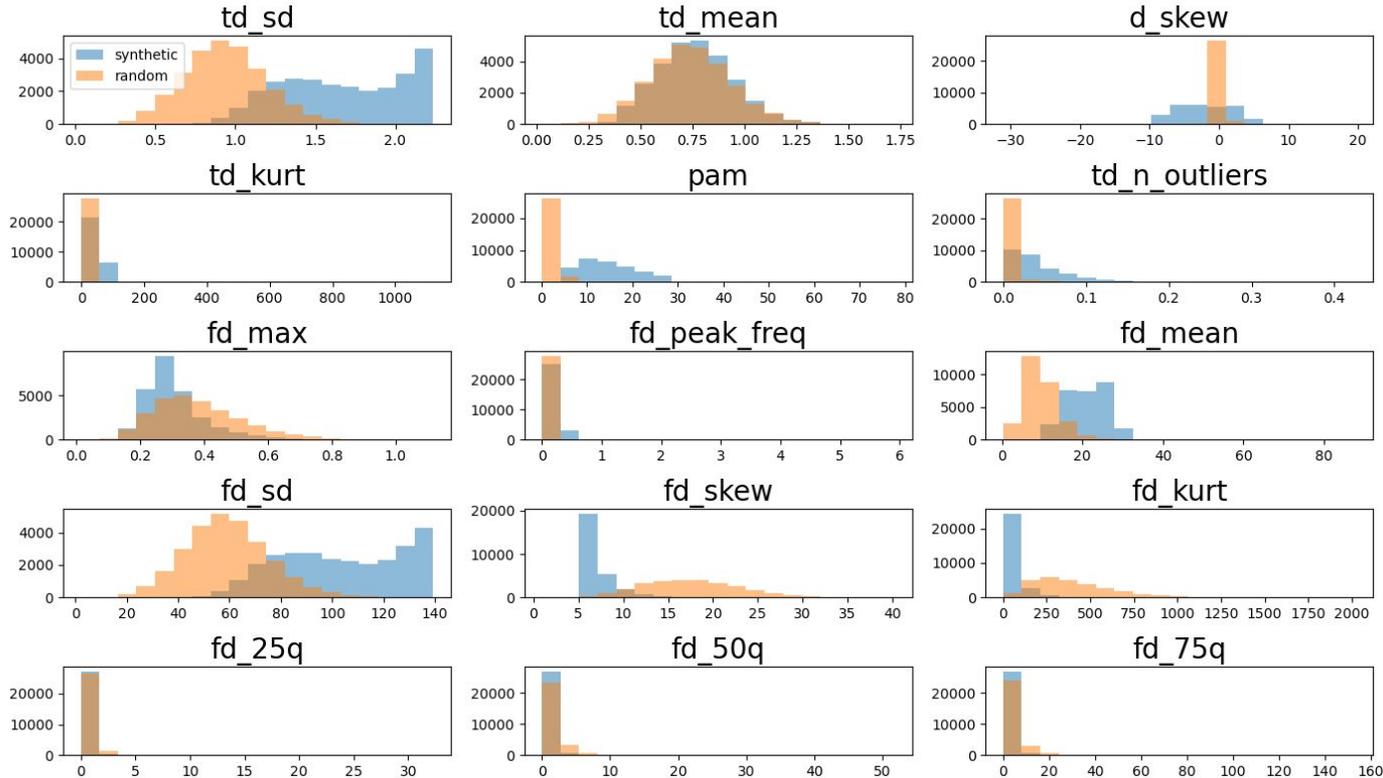
Extract features (statistics) from synthetic events and random TA recordings.



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

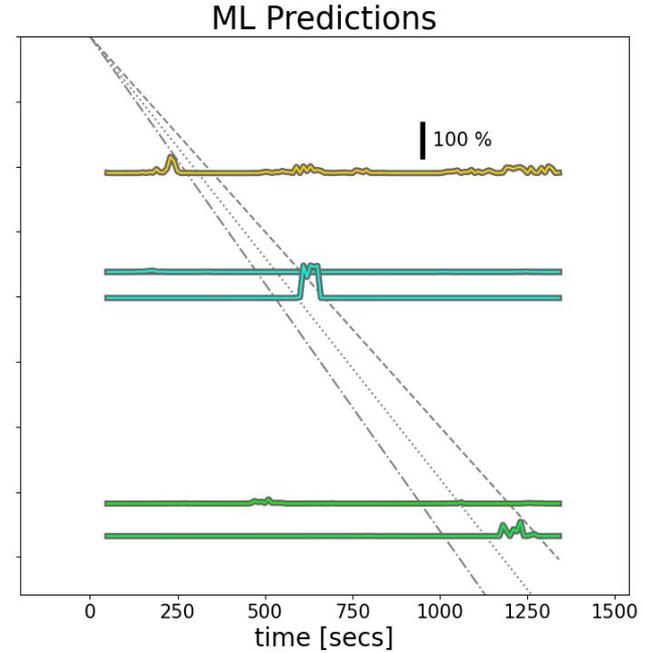
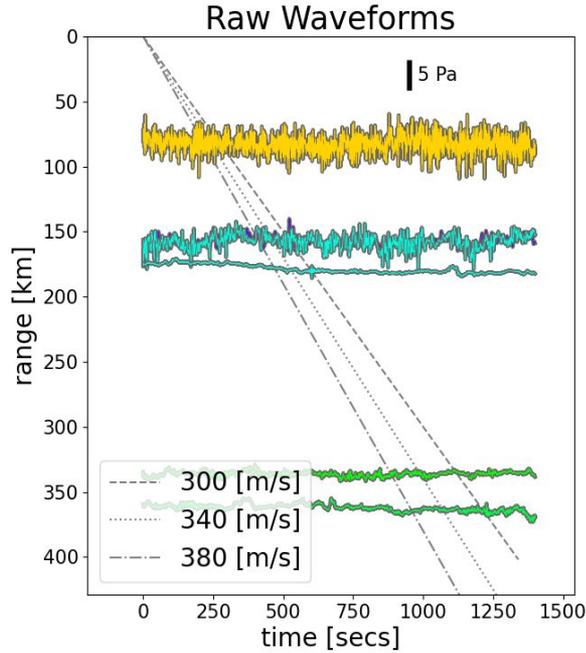


**ML model  
 performs with  
 overall accuracy  
 of 90%**



Disclaimer: The views expressed on this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the CTBTO

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.