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# Instrumentation in Earthquake Seismology

*Second Edition*



Springer

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## Preface to the 2016 Edition

This book first came out in 2004. Since then there has been a lot of changes in the technology used for detecting and recording earthquakes. Some recording media like tape and optical disk have completely disappeared. Seismic recorders have become smaller, using less power, and the trend is for much more standardization with Linux operating system, Ethernet communication, MiniSeed recording, and SeedLink or EarthWorm real-time transmission. Real-time transmission and continuous recording are now the norm, partly due to better communication and cheap large capacity storage. The new open standards for seismic data transmission and data storage have forced the manufacturers to offer more standardized products to the benefit of the users. Compared to 2004, there are now a lot more open seismic stations which provide free real-time access to seismic data, so it is now possible to make a seismic network without owning a single station using free data collection software. The sensor development has been significant with new very compact and easy to deploy broadband sensors, and for new networks broadband sensors are now used almost exclusively. The MEMS accelerometers are now everywhere, even in mobile phones and actually used in community seismic networks. Despite the instrument development, there are several sensors and recorders that are nearly identical to the models sold 10 years ago, so quality lasts! While no new analog stations are installed, there are still hundreds of analog stations in operation, even in very sophisticated networks, since they provide cheap reliable backup when the digital technology fails, are cheap to operate, and require little maintenance. So analog technology is still described in this book. Several equipment manufacturers have disappeared, and some new ones have come on the market. The many changes over the last 10 years have therefore required a significant revision of this book, both in terms of the technology used and new equipment available.

The book's first edition included a copy of SEISAN software, which has been used to generate several examples in the book. This is no longer needed, since this set of programs is freely available from its University of Bergen web site [www.seisan.info](http://www.seisan.info). This is the standard seismic data processing for many institutions around world.

Individuals from various companies helping us with information include Jean-Charles Boigues (Sercel), Mauro Mariotti (SARA), Adam Pascale (ESANDS), Dieter Stoll (Lennartz), Robert Leugoud (Eentec), Tony Russell (Earth Data), Tim Allmendinger (GeoSpace), Albert Riera (Worldsensing), Leonid Zimakov (REFTEK), Liu Minghui (Geodevice), Oleg Razinkov (GeoSIG), Ogie Kuraica (Kinometrics), Nathan Pearce (Güralp Systems), and Nick Ackerley (Nanometrics). Terje Utheim and Mauro Mariotti read the whole book and made valuable suggestions and corrections.

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# Preface to the 2004 Edition

This book is primarily intended for seismologists and technicians working with seismological instruments. Seismologists tend to take their data for granted, hoping that the black boxes of seismographs and processing software will take care of all the nasty problems, much like driving a car and not worrying too much of how it works. But cars stop or malfunction and so do seismographs. Thus a basic understanding of seismic instrumentation is essential, even for the seismologist who is never going to turn a knob on an instrument.

Instrumentation is not just a topic for seismologists, since most equipment is in fact installed and maintained by non-seismologists, so this group of professionals has just as much a need for information on instrumentation.

Early versions of the book have been used for a lab course in seismic instrumentation given at the University of Bergen since 1999 and also in a few other countries. The experience from these courses has helped to improve the book, and we think that it is suitable for students in seismology.

There have been numerous publications on instrumental topics in seismology, with very special emphasis on particular subjects, but few – if any – general textbooks. Some overview was made by Lee and Stewart (1981), which, on the instrumental side, mainly dealt with microearthquake networks. The old *Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice (MSOP)* (Willmore 1979) dealt with all the classical analog seismographs, but is mostly outdated now. The *New Manual of Seismological Observatory Practice (NMSOP)*, Bormann 2002, [www.gfz-potsdam.de/bib/nmsop\\_formular.html](http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/bib/nmsop_formular.html) is the most up-to-date book on seismic instruments, and one of the authors of this book (JH) has also participated in making *NMSOP*. So, why another book? The *NMSOP* deals with a lot of issues in addition to seismic instruments, and we felt there would be a need for a book which further expands on the instrumental topics, much more than was possible within *NMSOP*, and put it all together in one volume. The intention with this book is that it should be a practical tool with only the amount of theory needed to understand the basic principles and that answers to most practical problems should be found here.



The book particularly deals with seismic sensors, their response functions, and how to make calibration and correct for the instrument. More details of the signal processing are the matter of Scherbaum's book *Of Poles and Zeros* (Scherbaum 2001), published in the same series as this one. We consider Scherbaum's a companion book to ours and have taken care to have a minimum of overlap.

The book tries to make an overview of some of the current equipment on the market as well as references to where it can be obtained. We are well aware that this can only be a snapshot in time due to the fast changes currently taking place, and by the time the book is published, new equipment will be available and not mentioned. On the other hand, there is equipment mentioned that has been sold for more than 20 years, so even outdated equipment will serve to illustrate how the technology is used. And the basic principles behind nearly all equipment sold today have been known for some time and are less likely to change rapidly.

Mentioning particular equipment does not mean we endorse that equipment, and we have not tried to include all equipment available.

Most of the signal processing examples are made with the earthquake processing software SEISAN (Havskov and Ottemöller 1999) ([seisan.info](http://seisan.info)), and there are also examples using the data acquisition software SEISLOG (Utheim et al. 2001) ([ftp.geo.uib.no/pub/seismo/SOFTWARE/SEISLOG/](http://ftp.geo.uib.no/pub/seismo/SOFTWARE/SEISLOG/)).

Many people have given corrections and comments, in particular students who had to read the book. We are grateful to all of them. Einar Mæland has revised Sects. 6.2 and 6.3 in detail, and Ole Meyer has checked the appendix. Several companies have provided technical details for their equipment and reviewed relevant text: Tony Russell (Earth Data), Nathan Pierce (Güralp Systems), Ogie Kuraica (Kinometrics), Dieter Stoll (Lennartz), Paul Passmore (REFTEK), Christoph Kundig (GeoSIG), and Robert Leugoud (PMD Eentec). Christoph Kundig has in addition reviewed the whole book. Peter Bormann has done a great job of finding a lot of inconsistencies. Miguel Abril revised the appendix and some chapters. Mathilde Bøtter Sørensen did a very complete final review. The bulk of the book was written during one of the authors' (JH) sabbatical stay at the University of Granada with support from the University of Bergen.

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	1
1.1	Sensor . . . . .	3
1.2	Recorder . . . . .	7
1.3	Stations and Networks . . . . .	9
1.4	Arrays . . . . .	10
1.5	Instrument Correction and Calibration . . . . .	10
	References . . . . .	11
<b>2</b>	<b>Seismic Sensors</b> . . . . .	13
2.1	The Standard Inertia Seismometer . . . . .	15
2.2	Seismometer Frequency Response . . . . .	17
2.3	Seismometer Frequency Response, Alternative Solution . . . . .	21
2.4	The Velocity Transducer . . . . .	24
	2.4.1 Electromagnetic Damping . . . . .	25
	2.4.2 Polarity Convention . . . . .	26
2.5	Instrument Response Curves, Different Representation . . . . .	27
2.6	Sensor Response to Transient Signals . . . . .	30
2.7	Damping Constant . . . . .	30
2.8	Construction of Seismic Sensors . . . . .	33
	2.8.1 The Wood Anderson Short Period Torsion Sensor . . . . .	34
	2.8.2 Long Period Sensors . . . . .	35
	2.8.3 Garden-Gate . . . . .	36
	2.8.4 Inverted Pendulum . . . . .	37
	2.8.5 LaCoste . . . . .	38
	2.8.6 Rotational Seismometer . . . . .	41
2.9	Sensor Calibration Coil . . . . .	42
2.10	Active Sensors . . . . .	43
2.11	Accelerometers . . . . .	44
2.12	Velocity Broadband Sensors . . . . .	45
2.13	Extending the Frequency Response, Inverse Filtering and Feed Back . . . . .	48

2.14	Theoretical Aspects of Active Sensors . . . . .	50
2.14.1	General Response of a Feedback System . . . . .	50
2.14.2	The Basic Force-Balanced Accelerometer . . . . .	51
2.14.3	Broadband Feedback Seismometers . . . . .	57
2.14.4	Servo Velocity Sensors . . . . .	59
2.14.5	Other Feedback Techniques . . . . .	61
2.15	Sensor Self Noise . . . . .	63
2.16	Noise in Passive Sensors Coupled to Amplifiers, Theoretical Aspects . . . . .	67
2.17	Some New Trends in Seismic Sensors . . . . .	72
2.17.1	Seismometers with Electrochemical Transducers . . . . .	72
2.17.2	Micromachined Accelerometers and Seismometers . . . . .	74
2.17.3	Piezoelectric Sensors . . . . .	77
2.18	Sensor Parameters . . . . .	78
2.18.1	Frequency Response . . . . .	78
2.18.2	Sensitivity . . . . .	79
2.18.3	Sensor Dynamic Range . . . . .	81
2.18.4	Sensor Linearity . . . . .	81
2.18.5	Sensor Cross Axis Sensitivity . . . . .	82
2.18.6	Sensor Gain and Output . . . . .	82
2.18.7	Sensor Adjustments . . . . .	83
2.19	Examples of Sensors . . . . .	84
2.19.1	Exploration Type 4.5 Hz Geophone . . . . .	84
2.19.2	Short Period Sensors . . . . .	84
2.19.3	Accelerometer, the Kinometrics Episensor . . . . .	86
2.19.4	Broadband Sensors . . . . .	87
2.19.5	Negative Feedback Sensors, Lennartz LE-3D . . . . .	90
2.19.6	Borehole Sensors . . . . .	91
2.20	Summary of Sensor Specifications . . . . .	93
2.21	Which Sensor to Choose . . . . .	97
	References . . . . .	98
<b>3</b>	<b>Seismic Noise . . . . .</b>	<b>101</b>
3.1	Observation of Noise . . . . .	102
3.2	Noise Spectra . . . . .	103
3.3	Relating Power Spectra to Amplitude Measurements . . . . .	104
3.4	Origin of Seismic Noise . . . . .	110
	References . . . . .	111
<b>4</b>	<b>Analog to Digital Converter . . . . .</b>	<b>113</b>
4.1	Example of a Simple Analog to Digital Converter, the Flash ADC . . . . .	115
4.2	Basic ADC Properties . . . . .	116
4.3	A Typical ADC, the Ramp ADC . . . . .	119
4.4	Multi Channel ADC . . . . .	121

4.5	Digitizers for a Higher Dynamic Range . . . . .	121
4.6	Oversampling for Improvement of the Dynamic Range . . . . .	122
4.7	Sigma Delta ADC, SDADC . . . . .	126
4.7.1	How Sigma-Delta Improves Digitization Noise: Theory . . . . .	133
4.8	Aliasing . . . . .	134
4.9	Anti Alias Filters . . . . .	135
4.10	Dynamic Range, Different Definitions . . . . .	140
4.10.1	Dynamic Range of Digitizers . . . . .	141
4.11	Examples of Digitizers . . . . .	145
	References . . . . .	148
<b>5</b>	<b>Seismic Recorders . . . . .</b>	<b>149</b>
5.1	Analog Amplifier . . . . .	150
5.1.1	Differential Input-Output . . . . .	151
5.2	Analog Filters . . . . .	152
5.2.1	Amplifier Specifications and Noise . . . . .	154
5.3	Analog Recording . . . . .	155
5.4	Introduction to Digital Recorders . . . . .	158
5.5	Digitizing . . . . .	160
5.6	Time Stamping of Data . . . . .	160
5.7	Storage Media and Recording in a Ring Buffer . . . . .	163
5.7.1	The Seed Format . . . . .	164
5.7.2	Ring Buffer . . . . .	165
5.7.3	Naming Seismic Channels . . . . .	166
5.8	Seismic Triggers . . . . .	168
5.9	Summary of Trigger Parameters and Their Settings . . . . .	172
5.10	Communication and Data Retrieval . . . . .	175
5.11	Public Domain Data Acquisition Systems . . . . .	177
5.12	Seismic Recorders in Use . . . . .	179
5.13	Examples of Recorders . . . . .	182
5.14	Which Recorder to Choose . . . . .	194
	References . . . . .	196
<b>6</b>	<b>Correction for Instrument Response . . . . .</b>	<b>197</b>
6.1	Linear Systems . . . . .	199
6.2	Spectral Analysis and the Fourier Transform . . . . .	203
6.3	Noise Power Spectrum . . . . .	210
6.4	General Instrument Correction in Frequency and Time Domain . . . . .	211
6.5	General Representation of the Frequency Response Function . . . . .	214
6.5.1	Other Filters . . . . .	216
6.6	Anti Alias Filters . . . . .	217
6.7	Instrument Correction and Polarity . . . . .	218
6.8	Combining Response Curves . . . . .	220
6.8.1	Poles and Zeros Given in Hz . . . . .	223

6.9	Common Ways of Giving Response Information . . . . .	223
6.9.1	GSE . . . . .	224
6.9.2	SEED . . . . .	225
6.9.3	SAC . . . . .	227
6.9.4	SEISAN . . . . .	228
6.9.5	How to Make and Maintain Response Files . . . . .	229
	References . . . . .	230
<b>7</b>	<b>Seismic Stations . . . . .</b>	<b>231</b>
7.1	Geographical Location of a Seismic Station . . . . .	232
7.2	Site Selection and Seismic Noise Survey . . . . .	234
7.3	Installation of the Seismic Station . . . . .	236
7.4	Sensor Installation . . . . .	238
7.4.1	Broadband Sensor Installation . . . . .	240
7.4.2	Borehole Installations . . . . .	241
7.4.3	What Is a Good VLP Station . . . . .	244
7.5	Temporary Installation of Seismic Stations . . . . .	245
7.6	Lightning and Over-Voltage Protection . . . . .	247
7.7	Power . . . . .	247
7.7.1	Stations Running Off the Main AC Supply . . . . .	248
7.7.2	Batteries . . . . .	249
7.8	Power Sources . . . . .	254
7.8.1	Solar Cells . . . . .	254
7.8.2	Wind Generators . . . . .	258
7.8.3	Fuel Cells . . . . .	259
	References . . . . .	259
<b>8</b>	<b>Seismic Networks . . . . .</b>	<b>261</b>
8.1	Purpose of Seismic Networks . . . . .	263
8.2	Network Geometry . . . . .	264
8.3	Network Configuration: Physical and Virtual Networks . . . . .	267
8.4	Physical Network with Fixed Transmission Links . . . . .	269
8.4.1	Communication Standards . . . . .	271
8.5	Virtual Seismic Networks . . . . .	273
8.5.1	Seismic Continuous Transmission Protocols . . . . .	274
8.5.2	Data Collection Systems . . . . .	275
8.5.3	SeisComp . . . . .	275
8.5.4	EarthWorm . . . . .	275
8.5.5	RTquake . . . . .	276
8.5.6	ANTELOPE . . . . .	276
8.6	Offline Virtual Seismic Networks . . . . .	276
8.7	Seismic Data Transmission . . . . .	279
8.8	Analog Data Transmission . . . . .	280
8.9	Radio Links . . . . .	281
8.9.1	Simplex-Duplex . . . . .	281
8.9.2	Point to Point or Point to Multi Point Radio Networks . . . . .	282