



# Using GPS Data to Learn about Tectonic Plate Movement, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Other Applications: *Ideas for Teaching*

Shelley Olds  
UNA VCO  
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- UNAVCO Data for Educators
  - [http://www.unavco.org/edu\\_outreach/data.html](http://www.unavco.org/edu_outreach/data.html)
- UNAVCO Educations Resources
  - <http://www.unavco.org:8080/cws/modules/>
- Jules Verne Voyage map tools
  - [http://www.unavco.org/edu\\_outreach/maptools.html](http://www.unavco.org/edu_outreach/maptools.html)
- IDV GEON
  - [http://geon.unavco.org/unavco/IDV\\_for\\_GEON.html](http://geon.unavco.org/unavco/IDV_for_GEON.html)

- This presentation presents visualization tools and learning materials developed at UNAVCO that use GPS data to explore plate motion, Boundary zones, Transient deformation, Earthquakes and tectonics, Volcanoes and active magmatic systems, Glacial movements and isostatic adjustment, Hydrologic/seasonal changes.
- Three main levels of interactivity are presented:
  - \*Explore concepts & relationships with visualization tools: Jules Verne Voyager tools and Google Earth overlays
  - \*Digging deeper: Examine evidence through data products. Data for Educators & GPS time series plots
  - \* Starting at the source: Access & analyze GPS data to investigate trends. GPS data sets

- NSF and NASA funded
  - Membership-governed
  - Non-profit
  - Consortium
- 
- Supports and promotes Earth science by advancing high-precision techniques (such as GPS) for the measurement and understanding of Earth deformation



Data from GPS permanent stations to study:

- Plate tectonics
- Boundary zones
- Transient deformation
- Earthquakes and tectonics
- Volcanoes and active magmatic systems
- Glacial movements and isostatic adjustment
- Hydrologic/seasonal changes



- Mission:
  - **Promote a broader understanding of Earth science**
  - **Foster collaboration** between the scientific and educational communities
    - Faculty & Teacher-in-Residence Programs
  - **Increase the number and diversity of students**
    - RESESS
- Goal: **Broaden the use of UNAVCO data and products** by a wide audience of educational and research users.

## Today:

- **Explore concepts & relationships with visualization tools:** *Jules Verne Voyager tools and Google Earth overlays*
- **Digging deeper: Examine evidence through data products.** *Data for Educators & GPS time series plots*
- **Starting at the source: Access & analyze GPS data to investigate trends.** *GPS data sets*



- **To better understand Earth**
- **Provide** on-line, interactive geophysical data visualization tool
- **Develop**
  - Conceptual understandings of relationships among many complex types of data and
- **Audiences**
  - Secondary Earth Science Students
  - Secondary Teachers
  - Undergraduate non-science majors in introductory classes
  - Undergraduate geoscience majors
  - Undergraduate faculty

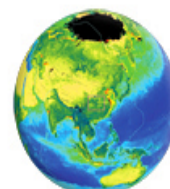
## Education and Outreach - Jules Verne Voyager Map Tools



### [Jules Verne Voyager](#)

Users can access a variety of maps, satellite images, and geophysical data. With this Java-based tool, users can view a variety of base maps including topography, geoid, sea-floor age, and strain rate. Because Jules Verne Voyager generates a map from the data for each request, this tool is appropriate for researchers who have the time to wait for the server to generate the map and transmit it.

Also available are geographic and geophysical overlays such as political boundaries and lakes, National Earthquake and Information Center earthquake and volcano data, stress axes, and observed and modeled plate motion and deformation velocity. This tool represents a compilation of 2933 geodetic measurements from around the world.



### [Jules Verne Voyager, Jr.](#)

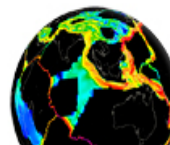
The Jules Verne Voyager, Jr. map tool is an interactive map tool that enables scientists to better understand the relationships between geophysical data and processes, structures, and measurements with high-precision GPS data. The tool is pre-made and served up through Javascript.

This tool is appropriate for large classes from middle school through introductory classes in college. One can link to educational resources for middle/high school Science class from this site.



### [EarthScope Voyager, Jr.](#)

EarthScope Voyager, Jr. has a similar structure to Jules Verne Voyager, Jr. but includes EarthScope specific data and links to information about some of the geophysical interest to the EarthScope Project.



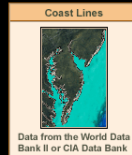
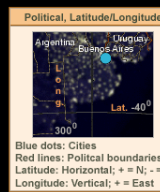
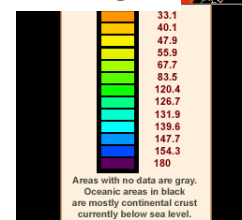
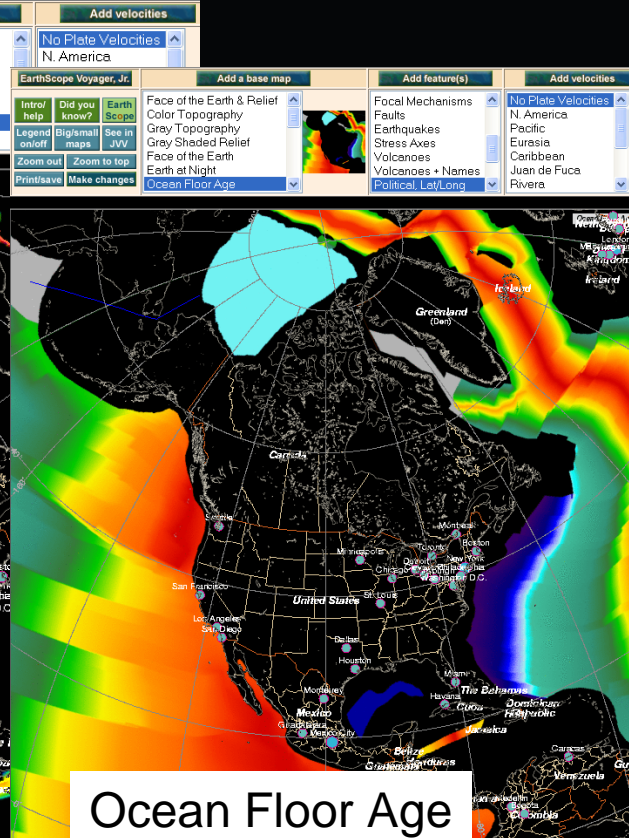
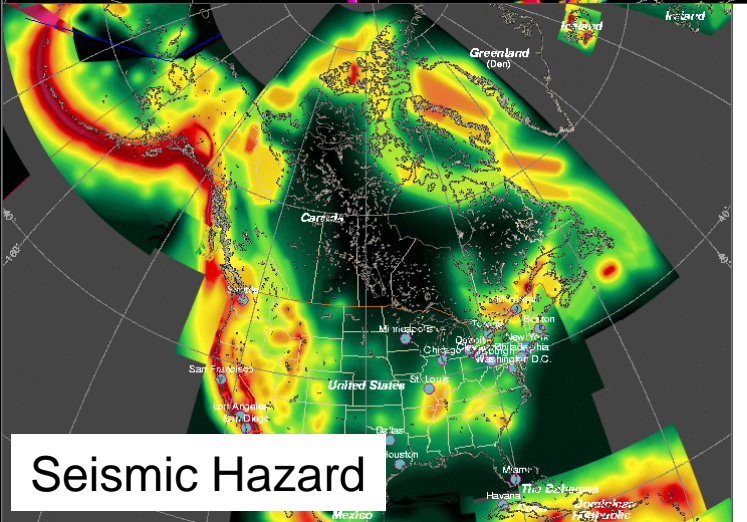
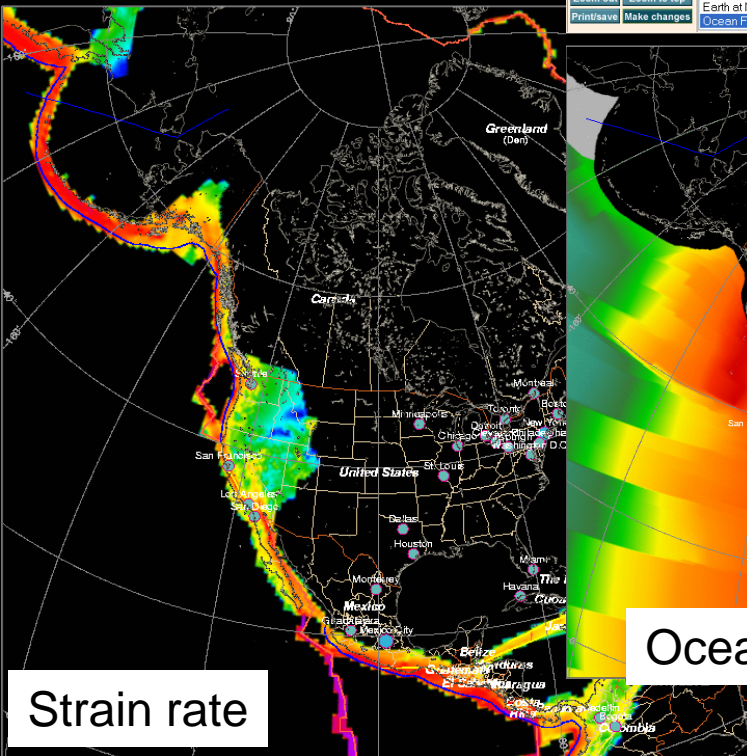
### [Global Strain Rate](#)

The Global Strain Rate Map project was initiated in 1998 by the International Geophysics Program (ILP). Under the guidance of investigators W. Holt (wholt@mantle.su.nyu.edu) (SUNY Stony Brook) and J. Haines (Cambridge University) the first steps in the establishment of such a map have been made. A completed Global Strain Rate Map is available on the ILP website.

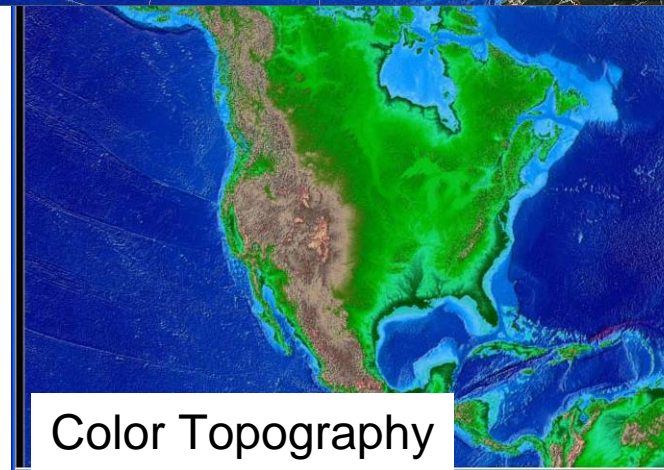
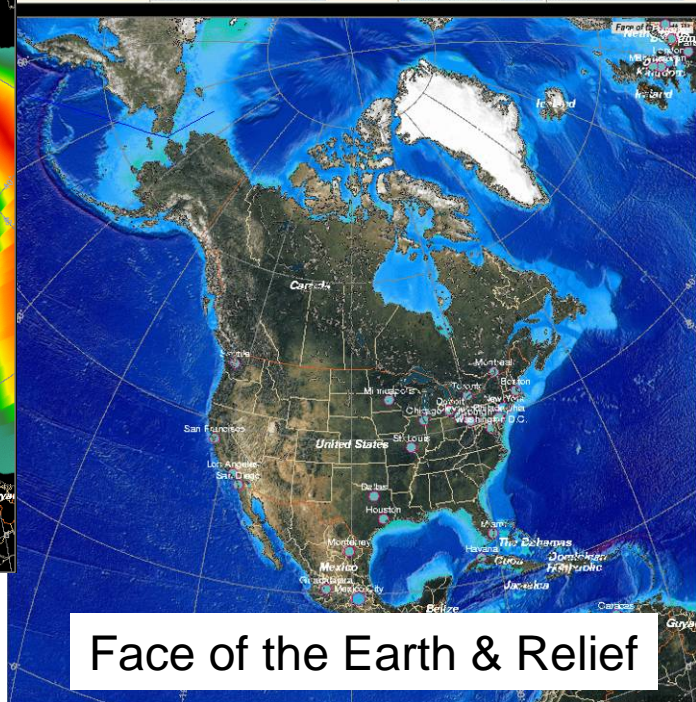


# Compare datasets

EarthScope Voyager, Jr.			Add a base map			Add feature(s)			Add velocities		
Intro/ help	Did you know?	Earth Scope	No Features	USAArray & other	PBO GPS	No Plate Velocities	N. America				
Legend on/off	Big/small maps	See in JVV	Color Topography	Gray Topography	Gray Shaded Relief	Face of the Earth	Earth at Night	Ocean Floor Age	Tectonic Plates	Focal Mechanisms	
Zoom out	Zoom to top		Strain Rate								
Print/save	Make changes										

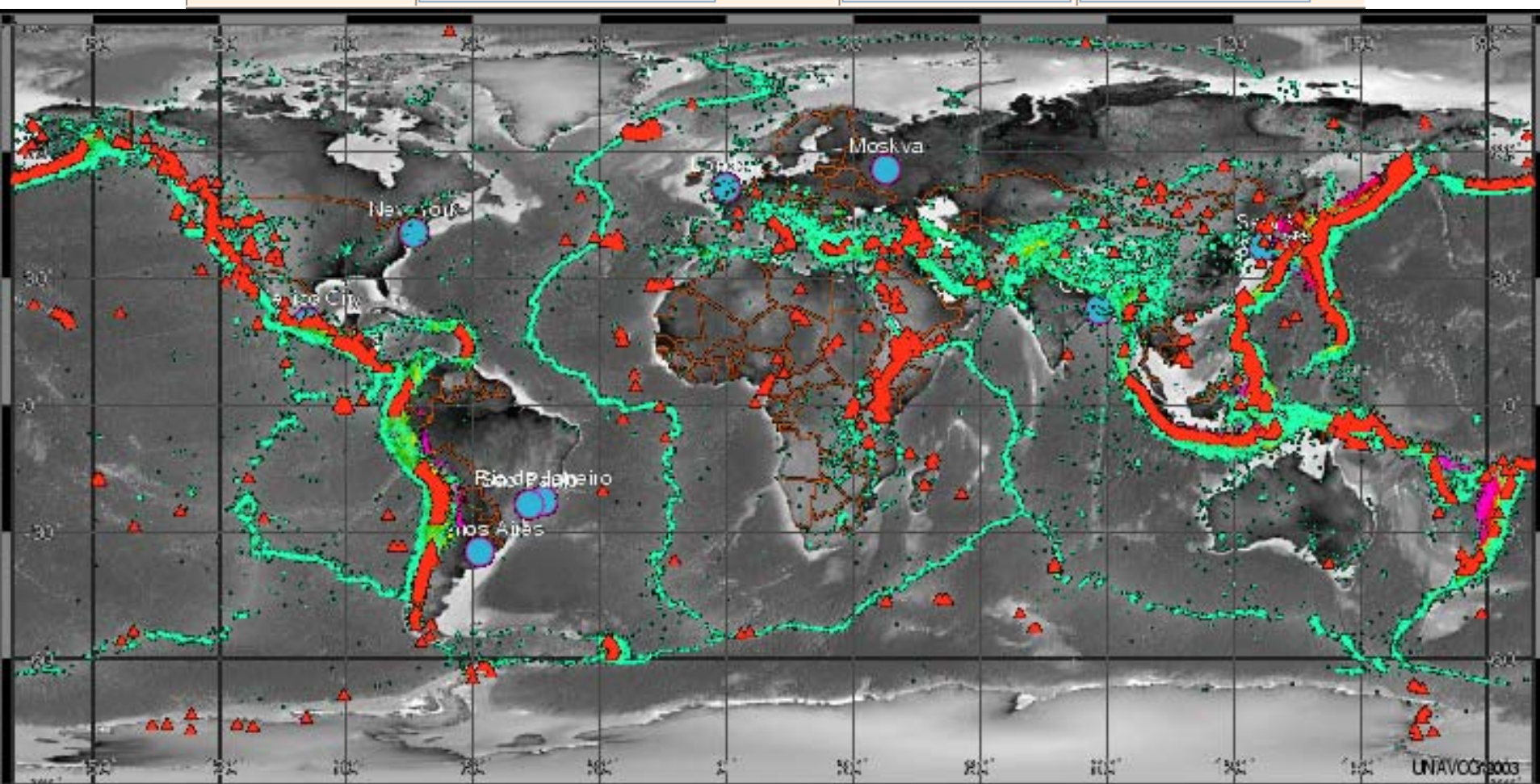


EarthScope Voyager, Jr.			Add a base map			Add feature(s)			Add velocities		
Intro/ help	Did you know?	Earth Scope	Face of the Earth & Relief	Color Topography	Gray Topography	Focal Mechanisms	No Plate Velocities	N. America			
Legend on/off	Big/small maps	See in JVV	Gray Shaded Relief	Face of the Earth	Earth at Night	Faults	Pacific	Eurasia			
Zoom out	Zoom to top		Ocean Floor Age			Stress Axes	Caribbean	Juan de Fuca			
Print/save	Make changes					Volcanoes	Rivera				



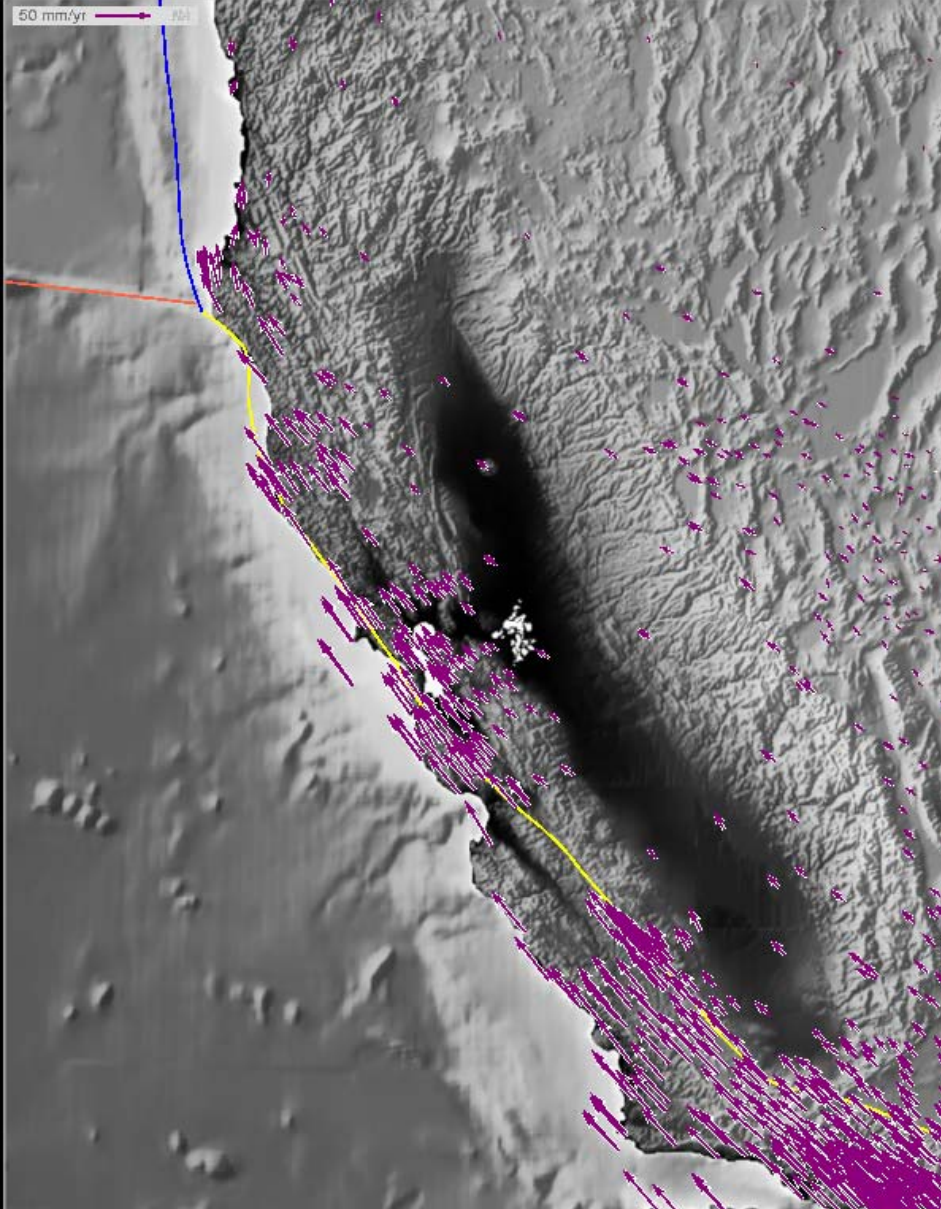


JV Voyager, Jr.		Select a base map	Add feature(s)	Add velocities
Intro / Help	To Ed. Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Face of the Earth &amp; Relief</li> <li>Color Topography</li> <li><b>Gray Topography</b></li> <li>Gray Shaded Relief</li> <li>Face of the Earth</li> <li>Earth at Night</li> <li>Ocean Floor Age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coast Lines</li> <li><b>Political Lat/Long</b></li> <li>Tectonic Plates</li> <li>Focal Mechanisms</li> <li><b>Earthquakes</b></li> <li>Stress Axes</li> <li><b>Volcanoes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>No Plate Velocities</b></li> <li>No-Net-Rotation</li> <li>Amuria</li> <li>Antarctic</li> <li>Arabia</li> <li>Anatolia</li> <li>Australia</li> </ul>
Legend on / off	Big / small maps			
Print / save	World map			
See in JVV	Zoom out			
Make changes				

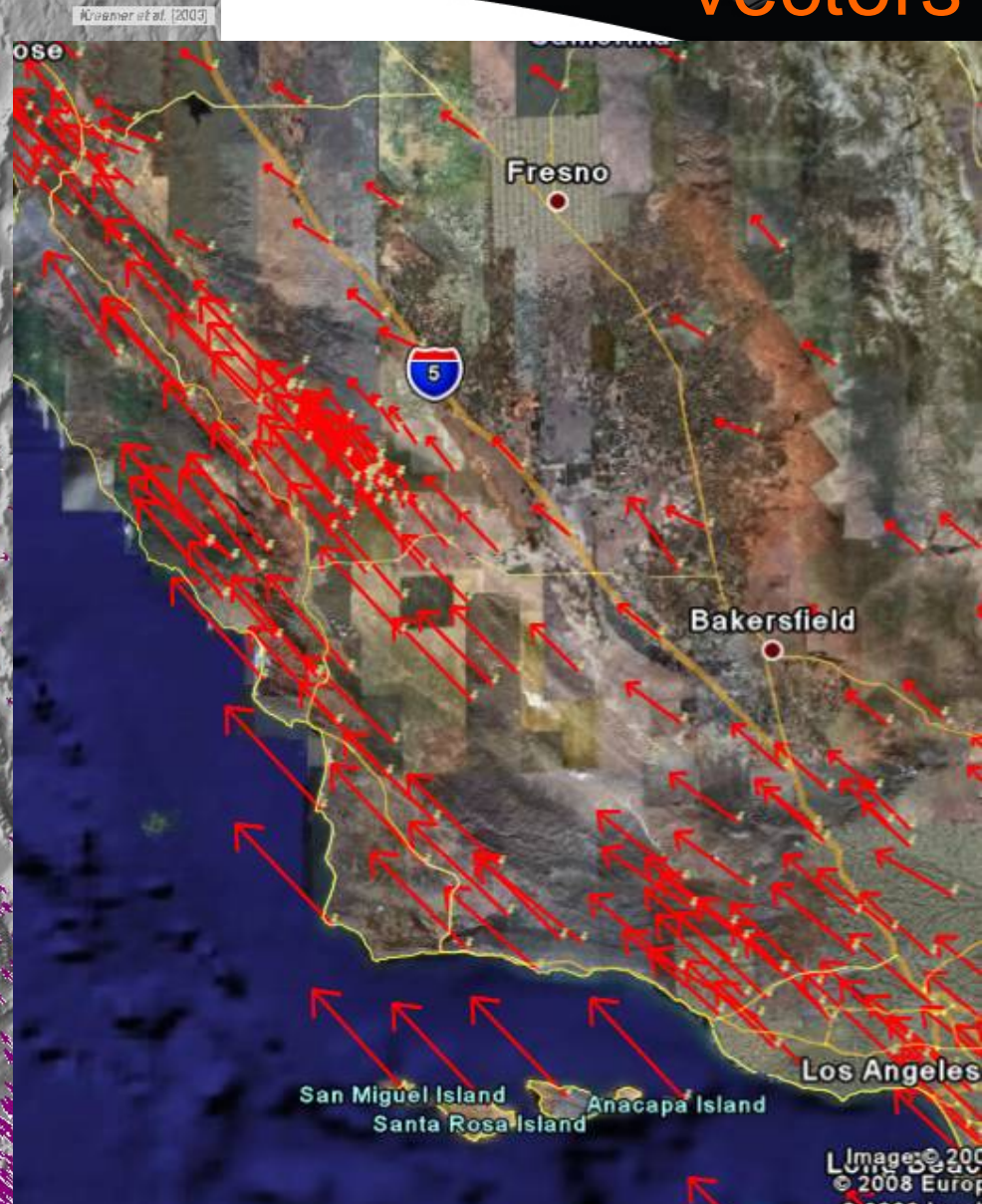




# Study plate motion using GPS velocity vectors



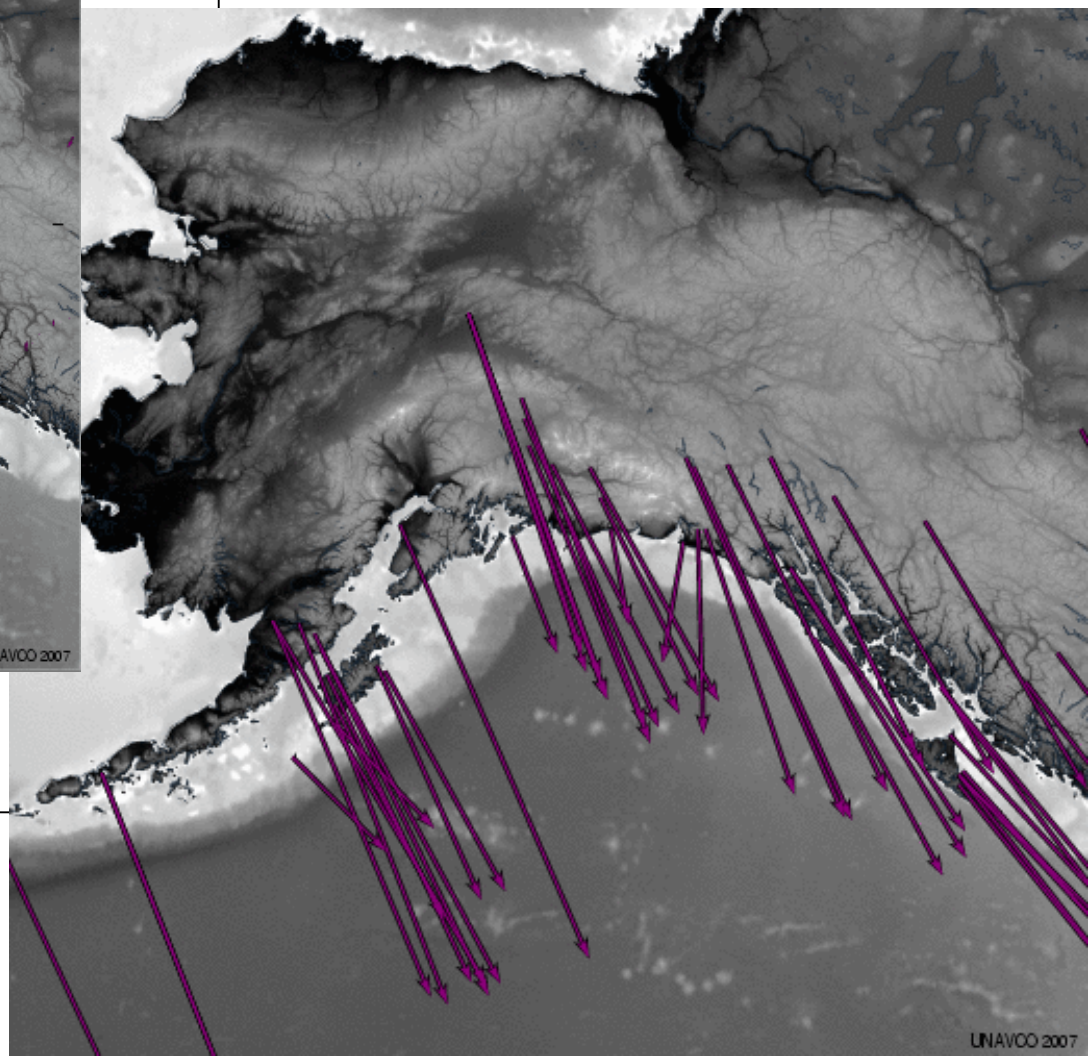
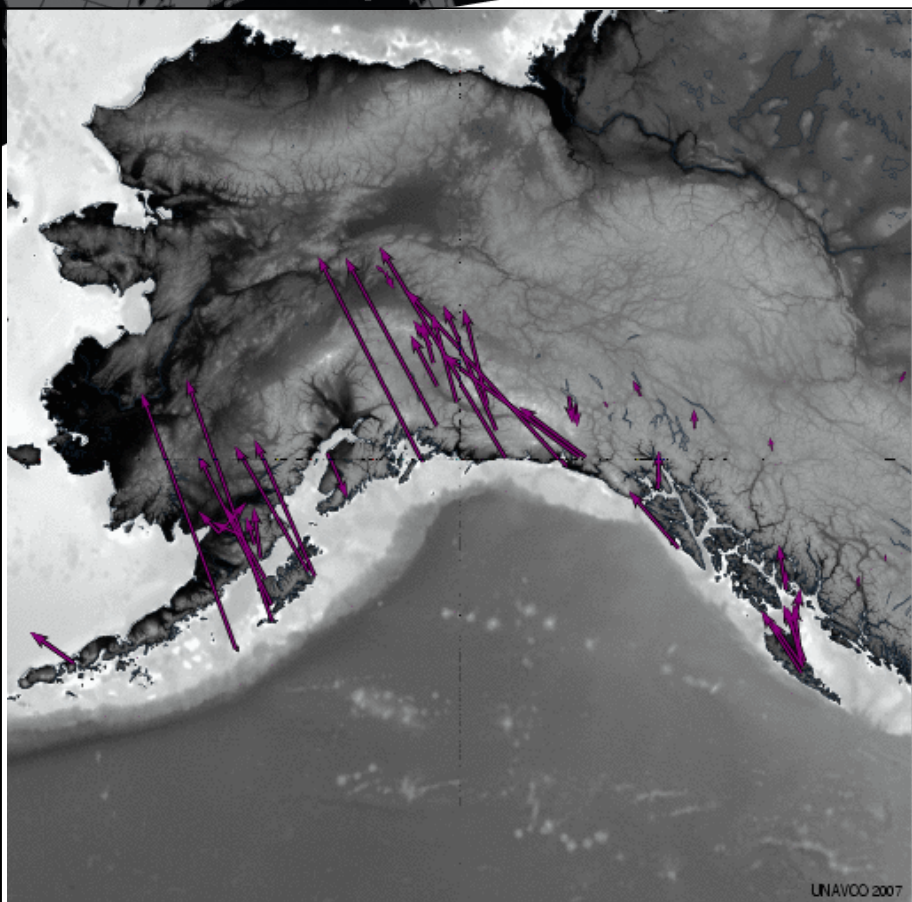
Velocity Vectors in Jules Verne Voyager



Velocity vectors in Google Earth



# Explore Frames of Reference



- Instructor Presentation
- Computer instructions
- Student worksheet
- Map packet



## Worksheet Visualizing Relationships between Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Plate Boundaries

### Part I: Comparing earthquake and volcano locations

#### You will need:

- > Internet access (Mac and PC-compatible) or the map packet
- > Dry erase pens and transparency paper with map of Western U.S. OR color pencils

#### Instructions

Break into teams of two. In your teams, designate one person to study the Earthquake map and one person to study the Volcano map. Separately study your designated map and answer the questions below.

Follow the computer instructions on how to use EarthScope Voyager Jr. or study the maps showing Earthquakes and Volcanoes of the Western United States provided from the map packet.

**Earthquake Map Questions:** Study where earthquakes are and are not located.

Sketch the approximate locations of several earthquake "clusters" using a dry erase pen on the map of the western United States printed on a transparency or from the last page of the worksheet.

Q: How are earthquakes distributed? If there is a pattern, how would you describe it? Where are there no earthquakes? Are they located near the edges of the continents, mid-continent, in the ocean?

Q: At what depth do the earthquakes occur?

**Volcano Map Questions:** Study where volcanoes are and are not located.

Using a dry erase pen on the transparency or from the last page

Volcanoes? Are they located near the edges of the continents, mid-continent, in the ocean?

### Computer Instructions

Visualizing Relationships between Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Plate Boundaries in the Western U.S. Using the EarthScope Jr. Data Tool

unavco.org

Click on the Education and Outreach section

- Click on EarthScope Voyager Jr. - The direct link is: <http://jules.unavco.org/VoyagerJr/EarthScope>. A map of North America will load in several seconds.



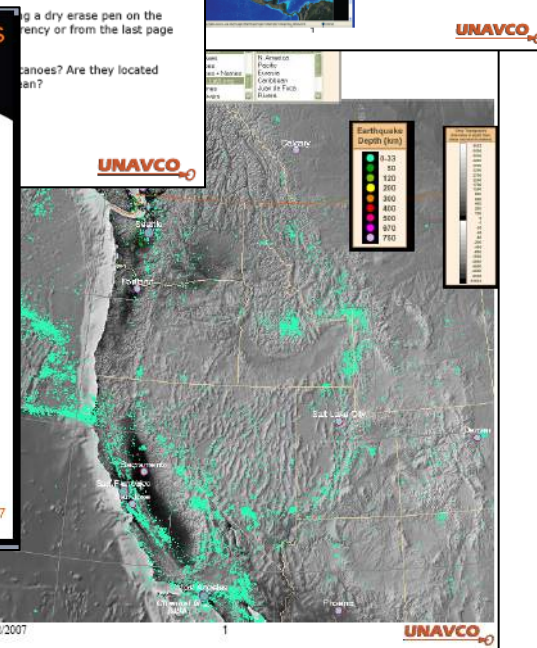
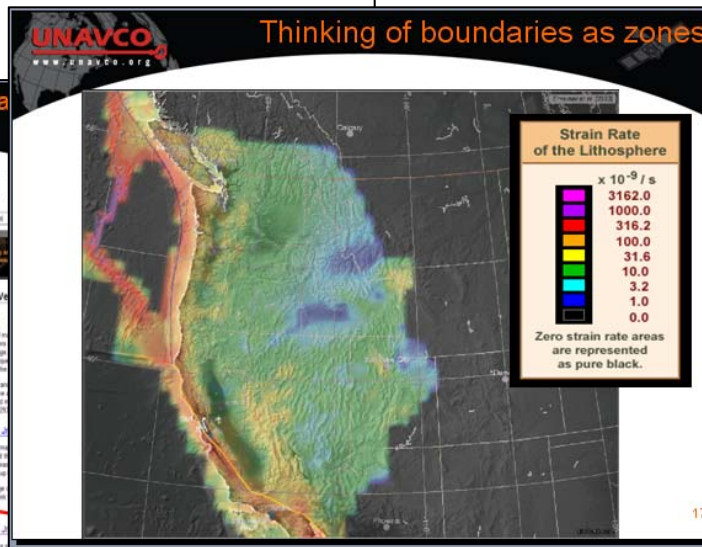
Click on the map to zoom in



Click on map to zoom in

### Part I: Comparing Locations of Earthquakes and Volcanoes

Go to: <http://www.unavco.org/>



- Permanent GPS stations
  - Plate Boundary Observatory
  - PBO Nucleus
- Short Term, “Campaign”
- Multiple search interfaces
- Data/Data Products
  - Time Series Plots
  - Velocity Vectors
  - Data
    - Raw
    - Processed



- **Single interface**, easy to figure out.
- **Interesting data** illustrating a geo-tectonic process
- Data in **Excel readable** formats
- Data with **column headings** & provenance information
- Multiple-pathways to access the data
  - **Visual display of GPS station locations**
  - **Quick previews** of time series plots of the data
  - **Manageable file sizes**
  - Capability to download multiple sets of data at one time (*soon*)



Data For Educators

Looking for interesting data to use in your course? We've worked with educators and scientists to identify GPS stations that illustrate various Earth science processes. The data are the same quality that many scientists use in their research and is in a MS Excel readable format called CVS.

# Data for Educators

GPS data that show...

... tectonic plates moving

GPS Data Products

Station Id	Location
ALBH	Albert Head, Victoria, Canada
BEMT	Twentynine Palms, CA
NEAH	Neah Bay, WA
SBCC	Mission Viejo, CA
SEAT	Seattle, WA

Educational resources using these stations

- Using GPS Time Series Plots to Determine Plate Motion in California
- Using GPS Data to Visualize the Influence of a Subducting Plate in the Pacific Northwest
- Visualizing Relationships between Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Plate Boundaries in the Western United States
- Episodic Tremor and Slip: The Case of the Mystery Earthquakes

... movement on different sides of a fault

GPS Data Products

Station Id	Location
BEMT	Twentynine Palms, CA
SBCC	Mission Viejo, CA

Educational resources using these stations

- Using GPS Time Series Plots to Determine Plate Motion in California
- Visualizing Relationships between Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Plate Boundaries in the Western United States

... rebound of plates after an earthquake!

GPS Data Products

Station Id	Location
CAND	Parkfield, CA
CARH	Parkfield, CA

Educational resources using these stations

- Using GPS Time Series Plots to Determine Plate Motion in California

... movement on a subduction zone

GPS Data Products

Station Id	Location
NEAH	Neah Bay, WA
PABH	Pacific Beach, WA
P020	Lind, WA
SC03	Ellensburg, WA
SEAT	Seattle, WA

Educational resources using these stations

- Using GPS Data to Visualize the Influence of a Subducting Plate in the Pacific Northwest
- Visualizing Relationships between Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Plate Boundaries in the Western United States
- Episodic Tremor and Slip: The Case of the Mystery Earthquakes

... ground motions from volcanic activity

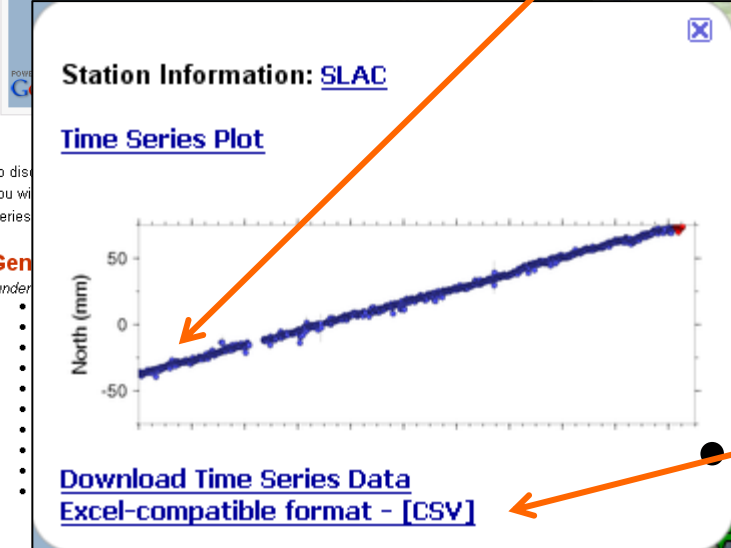
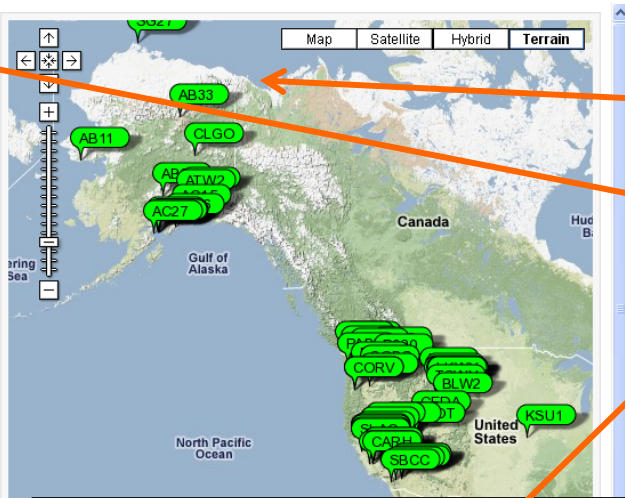
GPS Data Products

Station Id	Location
P697	St Helens, Cougar, WA

Educational resources using these stations

- Coming soon...

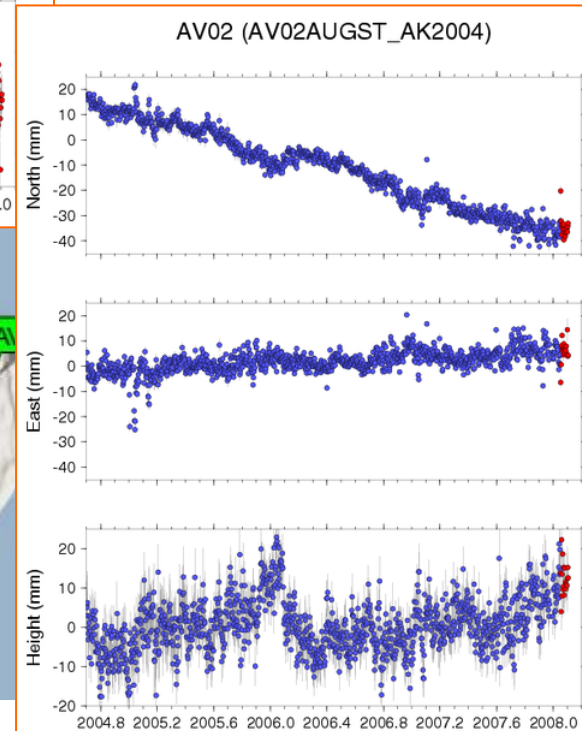
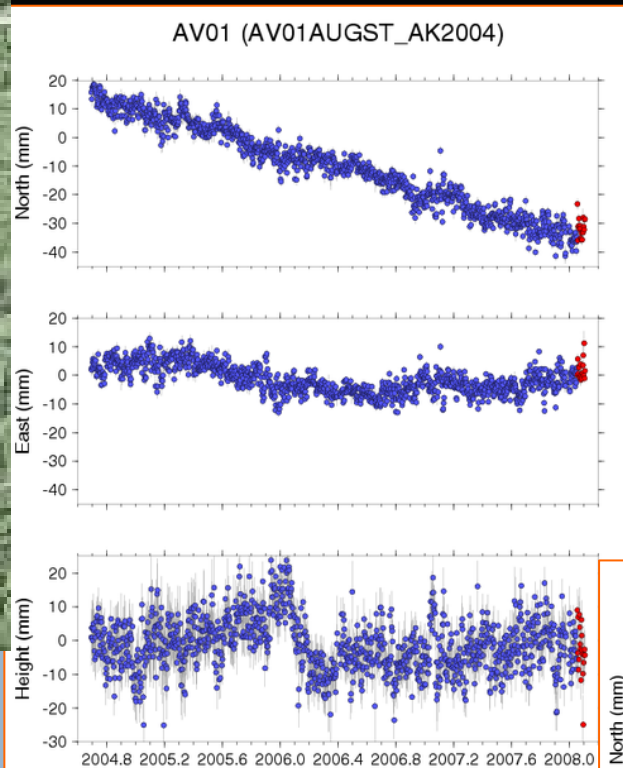
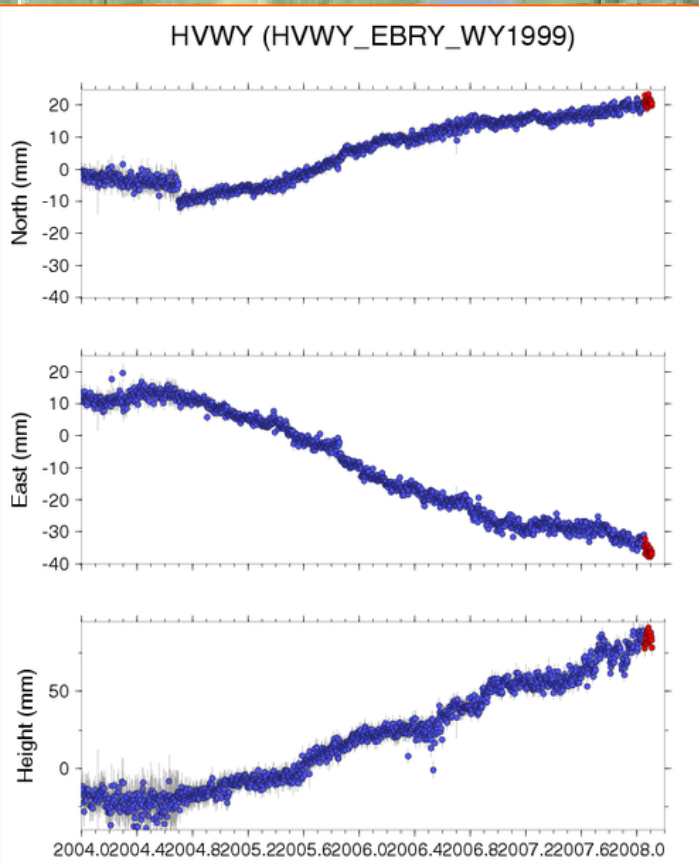
Selected GPS Stations



- Visual display
- Interesting data
- Quick data preview

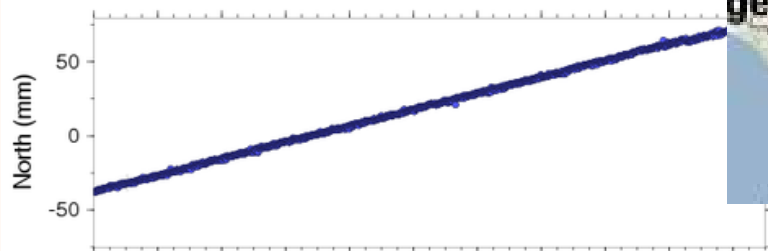
- Excel readable formats
- Associated Activities

# Student-led inquiry

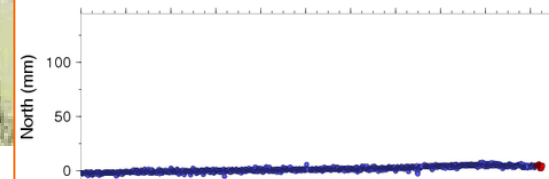




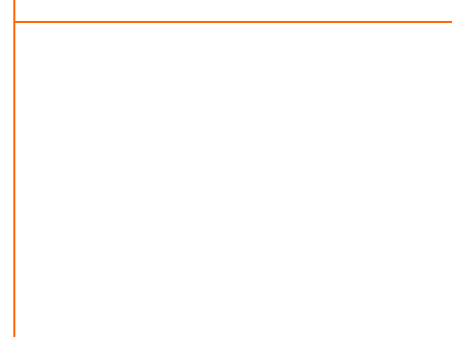
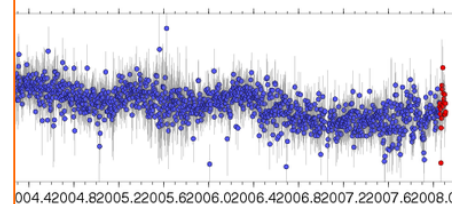
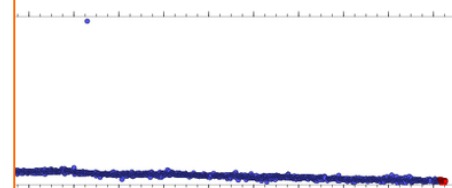
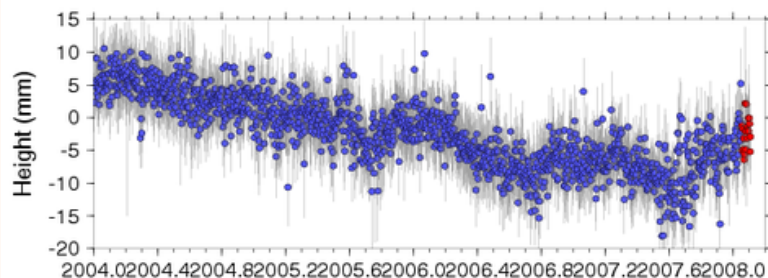
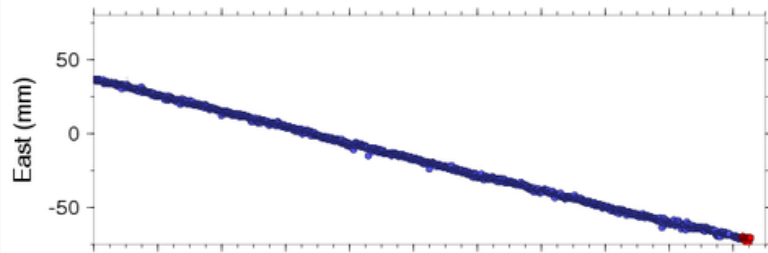
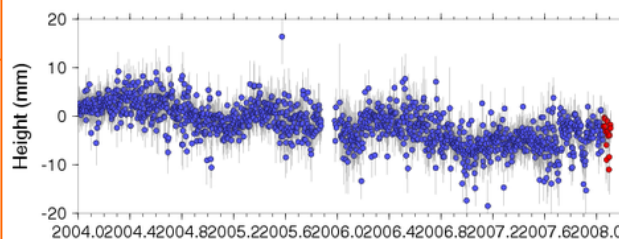
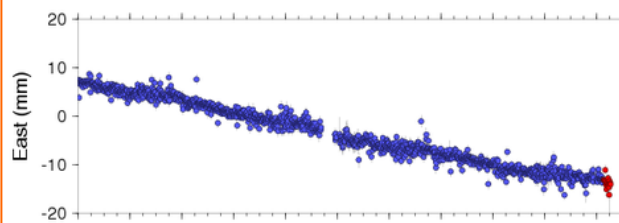
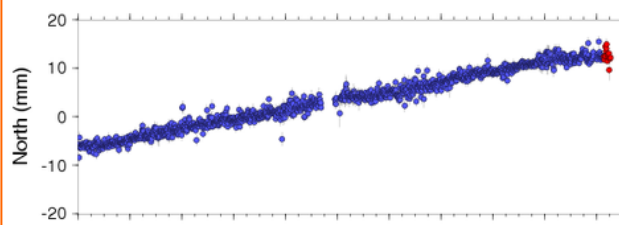
SBCC (SBCC\_SCGN\_CS1999)



OPBL (OPBL\_SCGN\_CS1999)

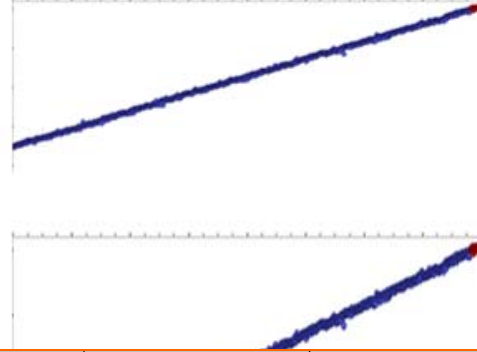


BEMT (BEMT\_SCGN\_CS2001)



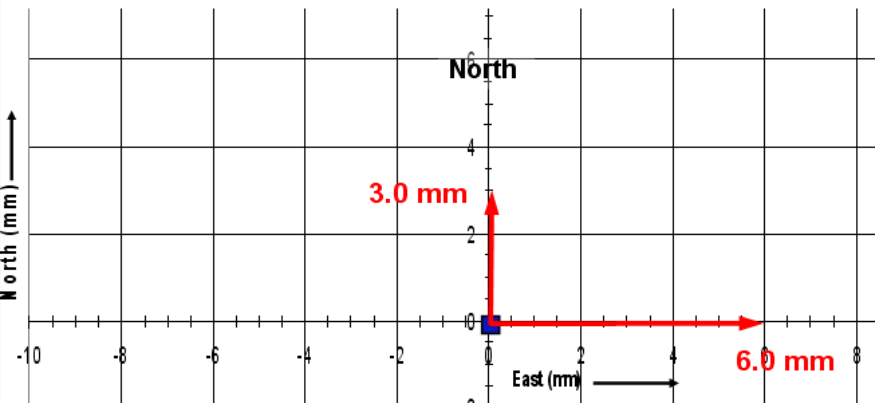
- **Positive slope**
  - North-south time series: The station is moving **north**
  - East-west time series:

North (mm)



	North Position (mm)	East Position (mm)	Vertical Position (mm)
12/1/05	0	0	0.05
1/1/06	0.25	0.5	0
2/1/06	0.5	1	0
3/1/06	0.75	1.5	0.08
4/1/06	1	2	-0.02
5/1/06	1.25	2.5	0
		3	-0.03
		3.5	0.1

- Station A moves
  - **3.0 mm / year to the North**
  - **6.0 mm / year to the East**



- Lecture ppts
- Student worksheet
- Computer worksheet
- How to download the data



- Data for Educators
  - Automate station information page creation
  - Find better way to indicate connection between activities and GPS Stations
  - Show complete Time Series Plots in Google Map window?
  - What would help you?
- Develop college-level specific versions – lab activity, homework, lecture-hall demonstrations, etc?
  - We want your help!
  - Faculty in residence – collaborating with our community
- JVV
- IDV

