Report to the GSN-SC on GSN data quality

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- Problems with GSN data quality; symptoms:
 - station frequency response
 - noise levels
 - secondary-sensor quality
- Impact on science and operations
- Need new focus on defining GSN success:
 - quality
 - transparency
- Opportunities for our science from "gold-standard" data

3 types of analysis

- 1. Scaling analysis
- 2. Intersensor coherence analysis
- 3. Noise analysis



1. Scaling analysis:

Assessment of reported gain in two frequency bands

- 1. M > 6.5 events in CMT catalog
- 2. Deconvolve instrument responses from dataless SEED volumes from IRIS DMC
- 3. Calculate optimal scaling for body waves (~60 s) and mantle waves (~175 s) for all well-fit seismograms
- 4. Calculate annual average and range of central quartiles

Initial results in Ekström, Dalton, Nettles (2006).

Blue - observed seismograms Red - synthetic seismograms



Blue - observed seismograms Red - synthetic seismograms









2. Coherence analysis:

Comparison of signals recorded on two sensors

- 1. M > 6.5 events in CMT catalog (or continuous signal)
- 2. Deconvolve instrument responses from dataless SEED volumes from IRIS DMC
- 3. Calculate coherence in narrow frequency bands
- 4. When coherence is high, calculate scaling factor and phase shift that maximizes trace agreement

Intersensor coherence, ALE-II LHZ, 2003-2009



Intersensor coherence, DGAR-II LHZ, 2003-2009



Intersensor coherence, KIP-IU LHZ, 1999-2009



STS-1 response decay





Intersensor coherence, KIP-IU LHZ, 1999-2009



Intersensor coherence, DGAR-II LHN, 2003-2009



Intersensor coherence, SSE-IC LHN, 1999-2009



Intersensor coherence, CASY-IU LHN, 1999-2009



Intersensor coherence, CASY-IU LHE, 1999-2009



Seismograms from CASY-IU



Intersensor coherence, XAN-IC LHN, 1999-2009



Intersensor coherence, XAN-IC LHN, 1999-2009

phase and amplitude at 8 sec affected -- no flat part of response



Design goals: aggregate data error an order of magnitude smaller than measured/ modeled signal



3. Noise analysis

Calculation of signal power of long-period GSN data

continuous filtered time series:











Problems like these need to be communicated to the community

- Science
- Operational (hazards) data use

Case study: WCI-IU has never operated properly









Good data from Chile earthquake



Not good.



This one is good now.



Not good.



Not good.

Nearly 1/3 of IU, IC, II realtime stations had at least one unusable channel (primary sensor) for the Mw = 8.8 Chile earthquake.

What has happened?

- Technical problems:
 - STS-1 sensor stability (8/10 stations)
 - incorrect response functions (few channels meet design goals)
 - poor secondary-sensor data quality (6/10 stations)
- Not a hardware problem:
 - lack of consistent policies and procedures
 - lack of clear metrics for data quality
- **Need new focus** on defining GSN success:
 - quality
 - transparency

Current operation plan:

- 1. Replace FBEs with Metrozet E300 boxes
- 2. Install secondary broadband sensor on scheduled site visits
- 3. Upgrade to Q330HR datalogger (easier remote calibration)
- 4. Annual calibration cycle

Some successes so far. Many problems not solved.

JTS-II - recent site visit and upgrade





JTS-II - 15 years of confusion and bad data - possibly solved?



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PAB-IU - recent site visit and upgrade



PAB-IU - loss of gain on E-W reported in SRL, 2006



▲ Figure 4. Same as Figure 3, but for station PAB-IU. Beginning in 1999, the LHE-P component shows a time-dependent deviation of the observed gain from the reported gain. The deviation is larger for the longer-period (mantle-wave) data. The open square for year 2004 indicates that the scaling factor was smaller than 0.5.



PAB-IU - STS-I/STS-2 coherence, vertical component



PAB-IU - STS-I/STS-2 coherence, N-S component



PAB-IU - STS-I/STS-2 coherence, E-W component





Technical problems

Current operation plan:

- 1. Replace FBEs with Metrozet E300 boxes. Solves problem in some cases; many not solved. Not a cure-all.
- 2. Install secondary broadband sensor on scheduled site visits. This is slow. Key sites should be prioritized (US Backbone??). Poor-quality installations should be fixed a.s.a.p.
- 3. Upgrade to Q330HR datalogger (easier remote calibration). Great - but need to get cal results into the metadata and ops plan.

4. Annual calibration cycle.

At stations with suspected problems, calibrate more frequently to characterize response evolution. Note: step cal sufficient for problem ID.

- Identify stations where cal input x response differs significantly from output
- Identify stations with secondary sensor significantly noisier than primary
- Target these for fixes
- Communicate status to IRIS community

What has happened?

- Technical problems:
 - STS-1 sensor stability (8 of 10 stations examined)
 - incorrect response functions (few channels examined meet design goals)
 - poor secondary-sensor quality (6 of 10 stations examined)
- Not a hardware problem:
 - lack of consistent policies and procedures
 - lack of clear metrics for data quality
- **Need new focus** on defining GSN success:
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IDA network: STS-1 vertical component response functions 2001-2010

USGS network: STS-1 vertical component response functions 2001-2010

What has happened?

- Technical problems
- Not fundamentally a hardware problem

Identification of problems + feedback to ops and users

- **Need new focus** on defining GSN success:
 - quality
 - transparency

Not just design goals, but operational metrics and standards for *sustainable* high-quality data.

Need to define policies and procedures that make this part of the core work plan.

Opportunities:

IRIS science is great. Imagine what could be done with truly "gold-standard" data!

We need this for the Grand Challenges...

Possible initial steps

- 1. Quality:
 - a. station acceptance testing and certification using basic quality metrics (*e.g.*, relative response, orientation, timing)
 - b. prioritize current data stream, then backfill quality certification
 - c. longer-term quality review (*cf.* TA quality review)
- 2. Transparency:

Giving data users knowledge of quality status

- a. public posting of certification status and other metrics at DMC
- b. user-queriable database of known station problems and metadata change dates, hosted at DMC
- Communication with the IRIS community: How do we ensure sustained high-quality data production (a legacy of gold-standard GSN data)? strategies, resource allocation, etc.

Key questions for the GSN

- 1. How do we close the loop?
 - need the policies and procedures in place to make sure:
 - QC happens
 - info from lab QC and field gets into metadata, and to the user community
 - info from QC drives operational decisions
 - these activities are sustained (= core operational responsibilities)
 - hardware cannot solve this alone
- 2. How best to leverage IRIS resources for immediate and long-term action?
 - TA experience, products, metrics
 - Advance-deploy TA at/near problematic Backbone stations?
 - Personnel resources (fewer ARRA requirements)
 - We need some creative thinking!
- 3. How can the GSN Standing Committee do a better job?
 - Self-assessment session what do we need to do differently to support charge #1?
 - Could be initiated at this meeting.

Доверяй, но проверяй !