Introduction to rotational seismology



Examples of wave fields with curl – images from internet sources



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Advanced Course of Seismology, University of Arba Minch, Nov 2015





What is rotational seismology?

It is an emerging seismological discipline studying all aspects of rotational ground motions induced by earthquakes, explosions, and ambient vibrations.

International Working Group on Rotational Seismology (IWGORS) has been established to promote investigations of rotational motions in seismology and their implications for related fields such as, earthquake engineering, geodesy, strong-motion seismology, tectonics, etc.

Anyone can become a member, join to share ideas, data and software in an open web-based environment http://www.rotational-seismology.org/



Seismic medium is considered as elastic continuum characterized by the Hook's law

$$\tau_{ij} = \lambda \delta_{ij} u_{k,k} + \mu (u_{i,j} + u_{j,i})$$

At the Earth's surface (free of stress)

$$\tau_{31} = \mu(u_{3,1} + u_{1,3}) = 0 \\ \tau_{32} = \mu(u_{3,2} + u_{2,3}) = 0 \} \Longrightarrow \begin{cases} w_1 = -\frac{\partial u_2}{\partial x_3} = -\frac{\partial u_3}{\partial x_2} \\ w_2 = -\frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x_3} = -\frac{\partial u_3}{\partial x_1} \end{cases}$$

 $\tau_{33} = \lambda(u_{1,1} + u_{2,2}) + (\lambda + 2\mu)u_{3,3} = 0$

$$w_3 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_2}{\partial x_2} - \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x_2} \right)$$

Ground Particle Motions have 6 Degrees of Freedom

A thorough understanding of the seismic wave field at a point requires the measurement of 3 components of vector displacement **u** or velocity **v** and 3 components of rotation *w* or rotation rate Ω .



Where do the rotational components come from?

Deformation of a continuum



P₀, Q₀ ... undeformed medium P, Q deformed medium



Where do the rotational components
come from?
$$\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}), \ u_i(\mathbf{x} + \delta \mathbf{x}) \approx u_i(\mathbf{x}) + \begin{pmatrix} \partial u_i(\mathbf{x}) \\ \partial x_j \end{pmatrix} \delta x_j$$

Displacement derivatives represent a second-rank tensor resolvable into **symmetric** and **anti-symmetric** parts:

$$\underbrace{u_{i,j}}_{(small)} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{i,j} + u_{j,i}) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}(u_{i,j} - u_{j,i})}_{(small)}$$
(small) strain tensor (small) rotation tensor
$$\underbrace{\epsilon_{ij}}_{(ij)}$$

anti-symmetric rotation tensor

has three independent components $\omega_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ &$

$$w_1 = \omega_{23} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{2,3} - u_{3,2}) = -\frac{1}{2}(\nabla \times \mathbf{u})_1$$

$$w_2 = \omega_{13} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{3,1} - u_{1,3}) = -\frac{1}{2}(\nabla \times \mathbf{u})_2$$

$$w_3 = \omega_{21} = \frac{1}{2}(u_{1,2} - u_{2,1}) = -\frac{1}{2}(\nabla \times \mathbf{u})_3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -w_3 & w_2 \\ w_3 & 0 & -w_1 \\ w_2 & w_1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

In the classical elasticity theory, rotation appears as the curl of the displacement field

 $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ w_3 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla \times \mathbf{u} \quad \dots \text{ infinitisemal rotation vector}$ $|\mathbf{w}| = \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \times \mathbf{u}| \dots \text{ small rotation angle about axis } \| \text{ to } \mathbf{w}$

Until a few past decades ...

Seismic rotational motions were not measured because of lack of sufficiently sensitive instruments for their detection.

At present, seismic rotations are currently measured at teleseismic, regional and local distances (various methods are discussed in this course). Rotational database is being created (http://www.rotational-seismology.org/).

It was also believed that these motions have only a little importance both in theory and in seismological practice.

> The rotational data are analyzed and interpreted with regard to the relationship between the rotational and the translational components. They contain information on the geological structure as well as the seismic source. Engineering applications are intensively studied.

Can these examples be evidence od strong torsional ground motions capable of serious damages?



No, all of them can be explained without seismic torsion, but these finding played an important "historical" role and evoked an interest in measuring of seismic rotations.

BASIC METHODOLOGIES OF SEISMIC ROTATIONAL MEASUREMENTS

- Small-aperture arrays measuring differential motions (finite spatial derivatives) - indirect measurement, array derived rotations (ADR method)
- 2. Ring laser gyrospopes utilizing the Sagnac effect
 direct measurement
- 3. Small portable rotational sensors
 - both direct and indirect measurements



Minimum number of stations: 3



Figure 1. (a) Epicenter of the Jan Mayen earthquake, Mw 6.7, 30 August 2012 (red star) and the location of the Příbram-Háje array (red square). (b) a map of the Příbram-Háje array area in geographic coordinates. Station positions shown as triangles. The red filled triangle denotes the KON station which serves as a reference in this study.



Surface waves

ADR - example (Brokesova & Malek, 2015) Basic assumption test

1st-order spatial gradients roughly approximated by finite differences



ADR - example (Brokesova & Malek, 2015) ... Basic assumption test

1st-order spatial gradients roughly approximated by finite differences



ADR - example (Brokesova & Malek, 2015) ... Basic assumption test



How good is the 1st order Taylor expansion?



Taylor expansion up to the 1st order (red) vs. measured data (black)





Rotation-to-translation relations (DISTANT EARTHQUAKES)



Under the assumption of a plane wave with apparent velocity *c* along the surface:

$$\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{V}F\left(t - \frac{\xi}{c}\right)$$

we get





... in detail :



... in detail :



Multiple filtering: matching Ω_{T} and a_{Z}

true backazimuth (minimizing Ω_R)



Surface wave phase velocity dispersion and true backazimuth

Comparison of three different methods



- Ω_{T} and a_{Z} matching
- Time delays across the array, zero amplitude beamforming
- Time delays across the array (4 stations), waveform correlation (standard procedure, SVAL package, Kolínský 2004, Kolínský & Brokešová 2007)

Advantages:

- standard seismographs are used, no specialized equipment is necessarry
- relatively inexpensive
- relatively easy instalation

Disadvantages:

- limited applicability in focal regions
- applicable only for relatively low frequencies
- various site conditions under individual stations
- differences in instrumental characteristics of individual seismographs
- translational components contaminated by rotational ones

Ring Laser Gyroscopes (RLG)



Figure 1: A scheme of a square-shaped ring laser gyroscope.

Ring Laser Gyroscopes (RLG) The ring laser at <u>Wettzell</u>



(Igel et al., GJI, 2007)

Ring Laser Gyroscopes (RLG) Ring laser installation at Wettzell



The cavern is located in southern Germany (49.1 N, 12.9 E)

(Lee et al., SRL, 2009)

RLG example

(Igel et al., GRL, 2005; Lee et al., SRL. 2009)

Mw = 8.3 Tokachi-oki 25.09.2003 transverse acceleration – rotation rate



(Igel et al., GJI, 2007) Rotational data base - events with varying distance



RLG method - pros and cons

Advantages:

- most sensitive of all the methods, up to ~10⁻¹² rad/s (Schreiber et al., 2009)
- rotation independent on translation

Disadvantages:

- measures only one rotational component (mostly around the vertical)
- long-period records only (up to ~ 1 Hz)
- expensive device
- require special installation (e.g., special building,etc.), RLG maintenance is relatively demanding

There is a need to develop a reliable, portable rotation sensor for broadband seismology.

Various kinds of small portable rotational sensors suitable for seismic measurements:

- Fiber optic gyros
- •Liquid based sensors (e.g., R1)
- Atom interferometry (Kasevich and others)
- Tuning fork (MEMS)
- Induction principle sensors (Strunc)
- •Seismometer couples (e.g., Rotaphone)

Rotafon = mechanical sensor system for measuring of spatial gradients; it consists of parallel pairs of geophones mounted to a rigid frame



(Brokešová et al., 2009, patent CZ 301217 B6)

... An older prototype of Rotafonu - 3 DOF only, 8 horizontal geophones (Brokešová & Málek 2010, Brokešová et al. 2012a)

A newer prototype - 6 DOF, 8 horizontal + 4 vertical geophones (Brokešová et al. 2012b, Brokešová & Málek 2013, ... Brokešová & Málek 2015a,b)









The latest prototype, 6 DOF, 8 horizontal + 8 vertical geophones

... installed recently at Shashamane

Basic features:

It consists of highly sensitive geophones connected to a common recording device

The geophones are mounted in parallel pairs to a rigid (metal) ground-based frame

The distance separating the paired geophones is much smaller than $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$

The instrument provides collocated records of translational and rotational seismic motions (with the same instrumental characteristics)

Rotation rate is determined by more than one geophone pair, which allows to perform 'in situ' calibration of the geophones simultaneously with the measurement.

Basic features:

 $\mathbf{\Omega}_1 = \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial x_2} = -\frac{\partial v_2}{\partial x_3},$

 $\mathbf{\Omega}_2 = \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x_3} = -\frac{\partial v_3}{\partial x_1},$

 $\mathbf{\Omega}_3 = \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial x_1} = -\frac{\partial v_1}{\partial x_2}.$



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 Ω_i Rotation rate components v_i Ground velocity components

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Essential feature of our method



The inversion is performed by the so-called isometric method (Malek et al., 2007), but any other method suitable for weakly nonlinear problems can be used as well.

IN-SITU CALIBRATION - EXAMPLE



QUARRY BLAST 23.1.2012, 3044 kg

(Brokešová & Málek., 2015b)

Basic features:

It consists of highly sensitive geophones connected to a common recording device

The geophones are mounted in parallel pairs to a rigid (metal) ground-based frame

The distance separating the paired geophones is much smaller than $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$

The instrument provides collocated records of translational and rotational seismic motions (with the same instrumental characteristics)

Rotation rate is determined by more than one geophone pair, which allows to perform 'in situ' calibration of the geophones simultaneously with the measurement.

Specific features: (component-dependent) Frequency range 2 Hz – 40 (or 60) Hz Dynamic range 120 dB Least detectable motion in practice 10⁻⁸ rad/s Largest detectable motion 10⁻¹ m/s, 10⁻¹ rad/s

ROTAPHONE pros. and cons. Advantages:

- it is optimized for measurements in focal regions
- low price (full-value short-period 6-component seismograph)
- collocated rotational and translational data
- rotation free of translation, translation can easily be corrected for rotation
- applicability at high frequencies (seismic prospection)
- easy instalation (in a fast response to the current seismic situation)
- temperature range from -20 to +60°C

Disadvantages:

- short-period measurement only (above 2 Hz)

ROTAPHONE - testing in the laboratory

Albuquerque Seismological Laboratory (USGS, New Mexico, USA) (Brokešová et al., 2012a)



measured directly (dotted) and indirectly – derived from rotation rate and radius (grey)

FOG sensor CROSS-AXIS TEST

ROTAPHONE - testing in the field



ROTAPHONE - testing in the field

A quarry-blast experiment – Klecany quarry, 25.7.2012, m = 1.4 t, Δ = 238 m

ADR applicability conditions: dv_z/dy approx. satisfied, dv_z/dx partly satisfied, dv_y/dx a dv_x/dy not satisfied



Examples of micro-earthquake records measured by Rotaphone (2010 - 2013)

Date and time	Station	$\dot{\Omega}_{z}$	$\dot{\Omega}_{hor}$	Δ	Depth	f_M	M_L	Prot.
(UTC)		$[\mu rad/s]$	$[\mu rad/s]$	[km]	[km]	[Hz]		
12.01.2012 08:54:18	NKC	9.2	23	0.67	9.2	37	2.0	6DOF I
09.05.2010 13:44:37	NKC	1.9	_	1.4	7.6	30	0.3	3DOF
21.02.2012 16:20:26	SERG	3.5	9.0	1.8	11.8	21(7)	1.6	6DOF II
15.12.2011 13:57:18	LBC	12	54	2.6	8.0	33	2.3	6DOF I
15.10.2008 16:00:04	KVC	150	_	4.4	8.6	20	2.2	3DOF
25.04.2012 10:34:12	SERG	400	700	5.0	11.0	11(20)	4.3	6DOF II
25.04.2012 10:45:22	SERG	23	22	5.8	11.1	5(7)	2.4	6DOF II
22.02.2012 20:10:03	SERG	4.0	8.1	9.2	8.5	13	1.9	6DOF II
21.02.2012 20:15:45	SERG	7.1	8.0	9.5	8.0	19(5)	1.9	6DOF II
17.05.2010 18:42:57	NKC	1.6	—	11.1	10.5	24	0.9	3DOF
11.05.2010 15:11:18	NKO	0.5	—	11.1	10.5	24	0.5	3DOF
11.05.2010 13:41:54	NKC	0.3	—	11.1	10.5	24	0.3	3DOF
17.10.2013 15:44:53	ESK	0.06	0.1	14.8	0.1	5	1.8	6DOF II
22.03.2014 17:05:02	ESK	3.6	1.9	14.9	4.8	7.5	2.3	6DOF II
11.07.2011 07:22:47	PROV	0.2	0.6	18.9	2.0	3	1.6	6DOF I
21.03.2012 05:50:47	SERG	15	50	37.2	18.0	4	3.8	6DOF II
22.02.2012 02:23:13	SERG	19	39	112.0	15.0	3.5	3.8	6DOF II
13.10.2013 07:32:16	ESK	2.7	2.4	163.2	4.9	2	4.7	6DOF II
30.08.2010 16:33:53	NKC	0.4	-	290.0	0.0^{*}	4.5	3.7	3DOF

West Bohemia (Czech Rep.)

Geodynamically active region known for recurent earthquake swarms, CO2 emissions, mineral springs, and other post-volcanic phenomena.

Korinthian Gulf (Greece)

Active-rift region (rift openning at a speed cca 1.5 cm/y). Charakteric complex fault system and distinguished seismic activity.

Provadia (northern Bulgaria)

Region characterized by induced seismicity Connected with salt production (Mirovo Salt Dome).

Katla (southern Iceland)

Volcanic complex Eyafjalla-Katla. Current volcanic activity and seismicity Connected with magma movements.

*) A rock burst in the Lubin copper mine, Poland; depth is set to zero.

ROTAPHONE - examples of records

EXAMPLE 1

Rotaphone at the NKC station (WEBNET seismic network) 2012-01-12 08:54:18 UTC; ML 2

distance 0.7 km, depth 9.2 km, geometrical backazimuth 205° from N



Rotaphone at the NKC station (WEBNET seismic network) **EXAMPLE 1** 2012-01-12 08:54:18 UTC; ML 2 distance **0.7 km**, depth **9.2 km**, geometrical backazimuth 205° od N



(Brokešová, 2014)

Rotaphone at the NKC station (WEBNET seismic network) **EXAMPLE 1** 2012-01-12 08:54:18 UTC; ML 2 distance **0.7 km**, depth **9.2 km**, geometrical backazimuth 205° od N



2 - 24 Hz

(Brokešová, 2014)

Rotaphone at the NKC station (WEBNET seismic network) **EXAMPLE 1** 2012-01-12 08:54:18 UTC; ML 2 distance **0.7 km**, depth **9.2 km**, geometrical backazimuth 205° od N



Rotation-to-translation ratios (RTR):

 $\Omega_{Z} \quad v_{R} \quad \text{RTR}^{z} = \max(|\Omega_{z}|) / \max\left(\sqrt{v_{x}^{2} + v_{y}^{2}}\right)$ $v_{Z} \quad \Omega_{R} \quad \text{RTR}^{x} = \max(|\Omega_{x}|) / \max\left(\sqrt{v_{y}^{2} + v_{z}^{2}}\right)$ $v_{Z} \quad v_{T} \quad \text{RTR}^{x} = \max(|\Omega_{y}|) / \max\left(\sqrt{v_{x}^{2} + v_{z}^{2}}\right)$

RTR závisí na frekvenci, hypocentrální vzdálenosti, typu zdroje, vyza Yovací charakteristice, struktu Ye podél trajektorie, lokální struktu Ye & ..

..... systematický výzkum dobudoucna nutný

ROTAPHONE - examples of records

Rotaphone at the ESK station (SIL network) 2014-03-22 17:05:02 UTC; ML 2.3

distance 14.9 km, depth 4.8 km, geometrical backazimuth 36° from N



Rotaphone at the ESK station (SIL network)EXAMPLE 22014-03-22 17:05:02 UTC;ML 2.3distance 14.9 km, depth 4.8 km, geometrical backazimuth 36° from N



(Brokešová & Málek., 2015b)

Rotaphone at the ESK station (SIL network) **EXAMPLE 2** 2014-03-22 17:05:02 UTC; ML 2.3 distance **14.9 km**, depth **4.8 km**, geometrical backazimuth 36° from N



(Brokešová & Málek., 2015b)

2 - 14 Hz

Rotafon at the ESK station (SIL network)EXAMPLE 22014-03-22 17:05:02 UTC;ML 2.3distance 14.9 km, depth 4.8 km, geometrical backazimuth 36° from N



(Brokešová & Málek., 2015b)

Rotation-to-translation relations (LOCAL EARTHQUAKES)

y,

 $^{\downarrow}z$

 S_0

W

 \vec{x}

Under the assumption of a spherical wave propagating from a point source S with phase velocity β :

$$\mathbf{v}(\xi,\eta,z,t) = \frac{\mathbf{V}}{r}F\left(t - \frac{r}{\beta}\right) \qquad r = \sqrt{\xi^2 + \eta^2 + z^2}$$

(Brokešová & Málek, 2015a,b)

$$= C_{11}v_z,$$
 (2.1)

Rotation-to-translation relations

- LOCAL EARTHQUAKES

Velocity terms cannot be neglected in focal regions

They may be important in an immediate vicinity of the epicenter, in the vicinity of nodal planes, in the vicinity of the critical angle, or in a region with high subsurface S-wave velocity

An inverse problem – we seek for the coeficients C_{ij}

 $C_{22}, C_{23} \dots$ information about the structure (~1/ β), C_{11}, C_{21}, C_{31} source mechanism

The relations hold in each time (until the wave under study is masked with other phases) => it is possible to take sufficient number of tsamples to make the inverse problem overdetermined

Synthetic studies prove that the equations can be applied also in a vertically inhomogeneous layered medium (thanks to high localization of the method's sensitivity to a small vicinity of a receiver, ~ 1 λ)



(Brokešová & Málek., 2015a)

Rotafon at the ESK station (SIL network) (EXAMPLE 2) 2014-03-22 17:05:02 UTC; ML 2.3 distance 14.9 km, depth 4.8 km, geometrical backazimuth 36° from N



(Brokešová & Málek., 2015b)

Rotaphone at the NKC station (WEBNET seismic network) (EXAMPLE 1) 2012-01-12 08:54:18 UTC; ML 2

distance 0.7 km, depth 9.2 km, geometrical backazimuth 205° od N



(Brokešová & Málek., 2015b)

Are horizontal translational components contaminated with tilts ?

(a problem widely discussed in the literature, e.g., Graizer 2005)



 $\begin{array}{ll} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} & a_1^r = a_1 - g \sin w_2 \approx a_1 - g w_2 \quad \text{for small} \quad w_2 \quad (\ll 1) \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} & v_1^r \approx v_1 - g \int w_2 \mathrm{d}t; \quad v_1 = \int a_1 \mathrm{d}t \\ a_2 = \dot{w}_2, \text{ so} \end{array}$

(in the frequency domain) $... \sim 9.81/(i\omega)^2 \times RTR$

W₂ … tilt around the E-axis

- g ... gravitational acceleration
- a_1 ... true horizontal acceleration
- $a_1' \dots$ recorded horizontal acceleration

This correction is **NEGLIGIBLE** in the Rotaphone frequency range (>2 Hz) and for RTR obtained up to now from micro-earthquakes in focal regions (<1)

This correction is **usually IMPORTANT** for the ADR and RLG methods

Instead of conclusions:

Rotational seismology is a beautiful and attractive science which explores a new observable quantity, the curl of the seismic wave-field.

It is not too exaggerated if I say that, at present, the science is going through a very exciting and adventurous phase similar to that which the traditional seismology, based on translational motions measured by traditional seismographs, underwent in the late 19th century and early 20th century. I mean a transition phase from the era of fascination by the new possibility to measure something as imperceptible as seismic rotation, when a rotational record as such was a "discovery" by itself for being so new, into the era of systematic research based on in-depth analysis, interpretation and inversion of the data obtained. I believe that rotational seismology has the potential to give seismologists and engineering seismologists alternative methods and supplementary procedures using the new observable (mostly in connection with traditional translation) as well as new discoveries of substantial importance.

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