

# Seismic Metamaterials and their applications to reducing Newtonian Noise



**Brittany Kamai**

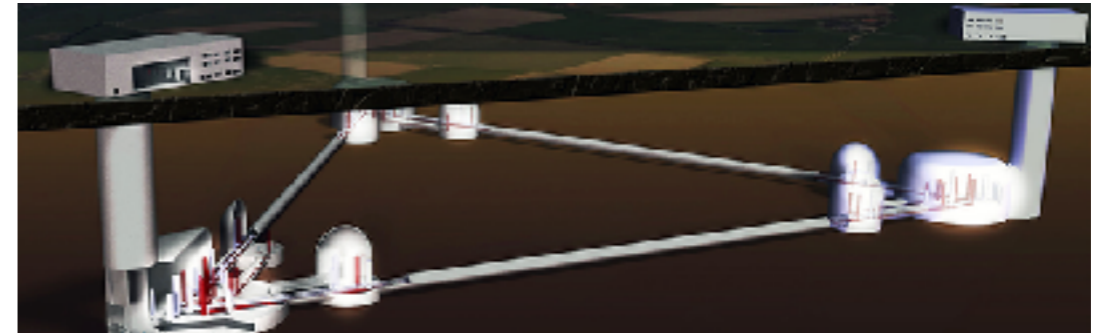
California Institute of Technology  
Fisk-Vanderbilt Bridge Postdoctoral Fellow

[bkamai@caltech.edu](mailto:bkamai@caltech.edu)    [@cosmojellyfish](https://twitter.com/cosmojellyfish)

**Our goal (GW community) reduce the impact of the environment on the detectors**

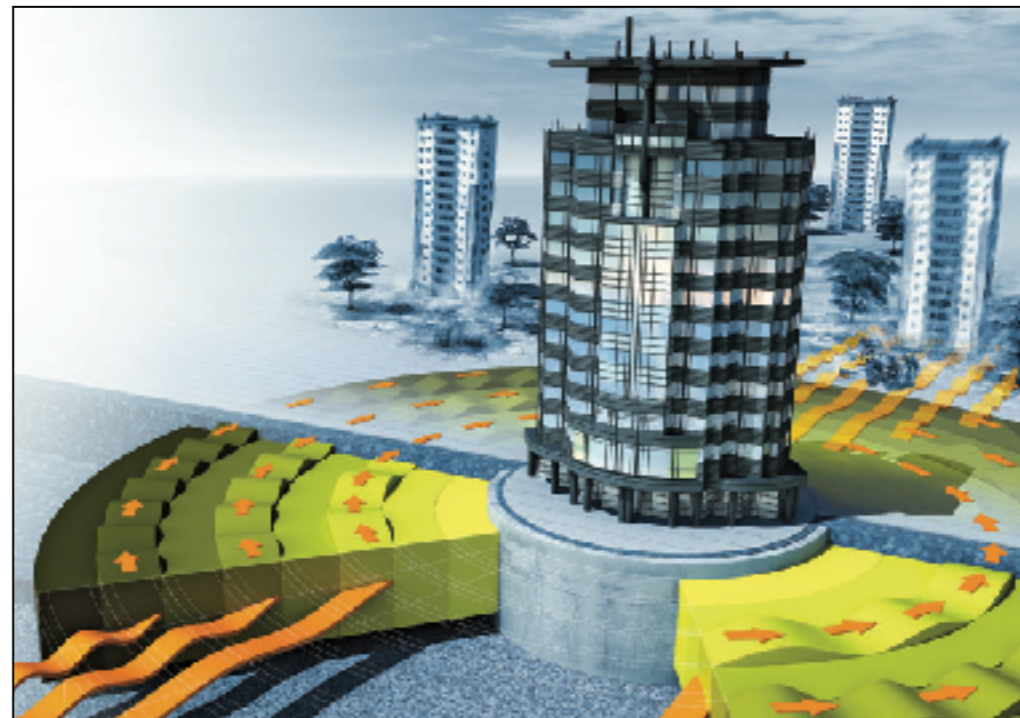
**A goal (seismic engineering community) reduce impact of earthquakes on buildings**

**Our goal (GW community) reduce the impact of the environment on the detectors**



Our past, present and future of ground-based detectors

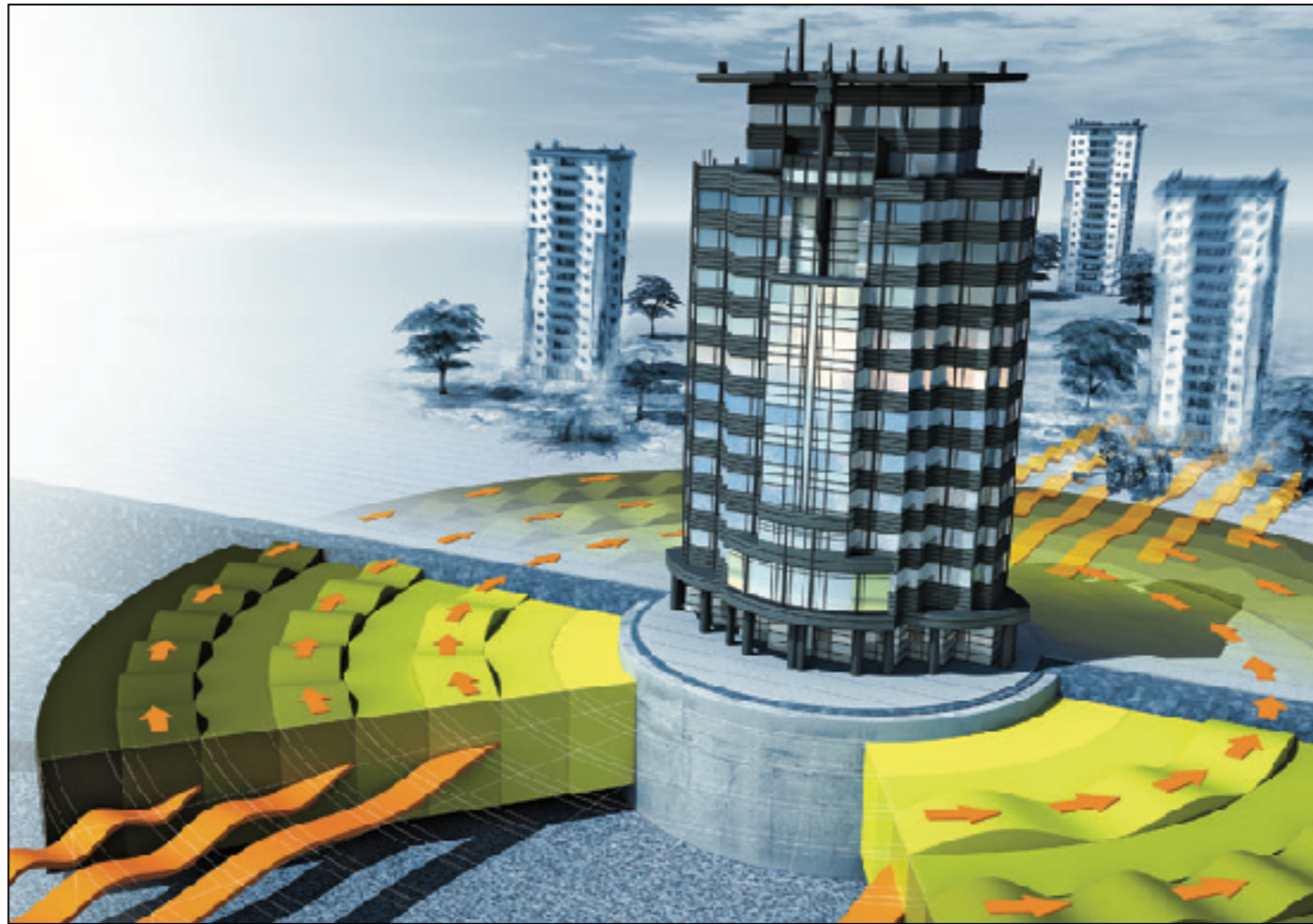
**A goal (seismic engineering community) reduce impact of earthquakes on buildings**



Seismic cloaking as a future direction of seismic engineering



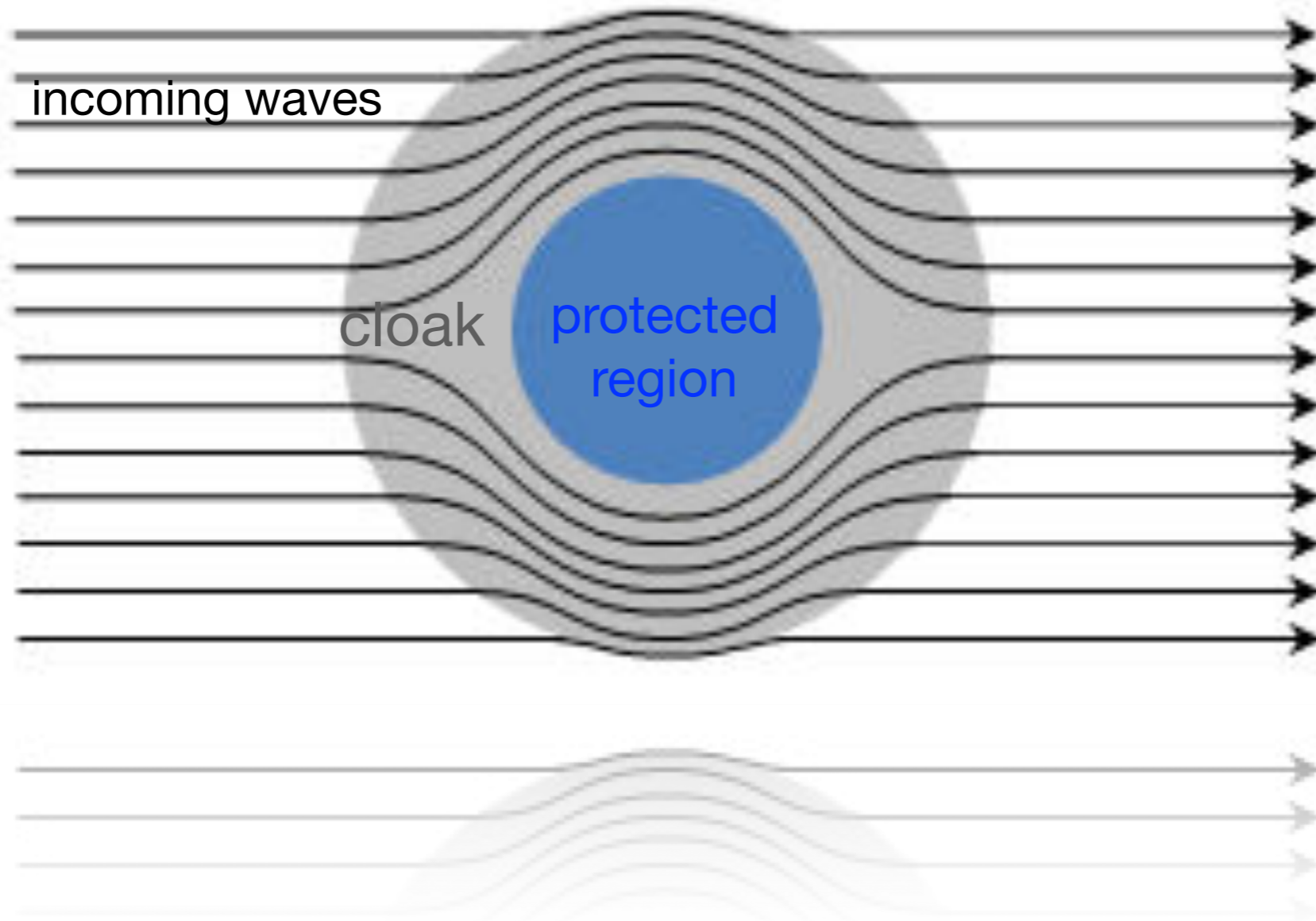
# Seismic cloaking : Maneuvering seismic waves around precious infrastructure



To protect hospitals, nuclear reactors, etc.  
from seismic surface waves during earthquake events

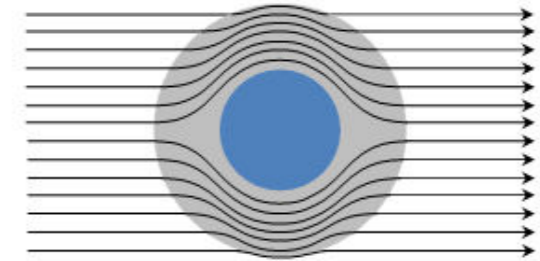
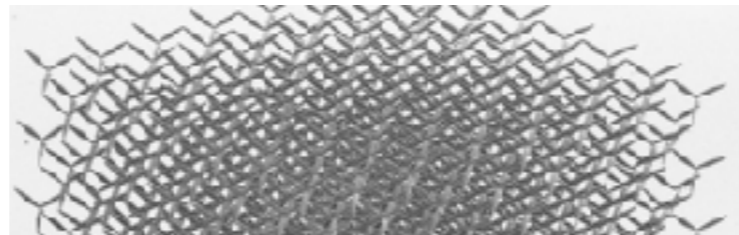


# Cloaking = Yes, invisibility cloaks





Incoming wave + Metamaterials = Cloaking



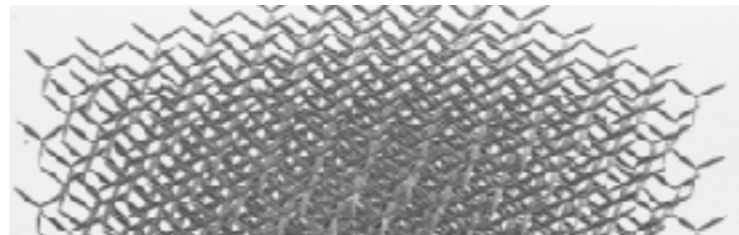




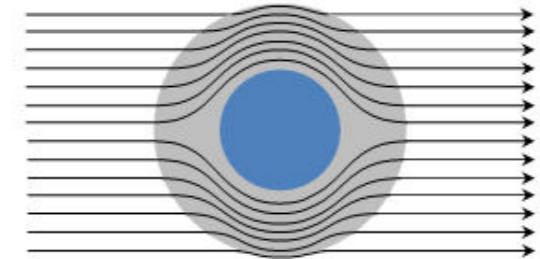
**Incoming wave** + Metamaterials = Cloaking



**Electromagnetic**  
**Acoustic**  
**Seismic**  
**Fluids**



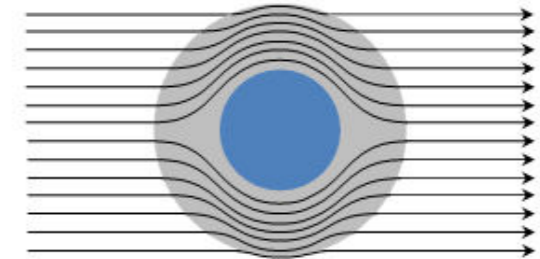
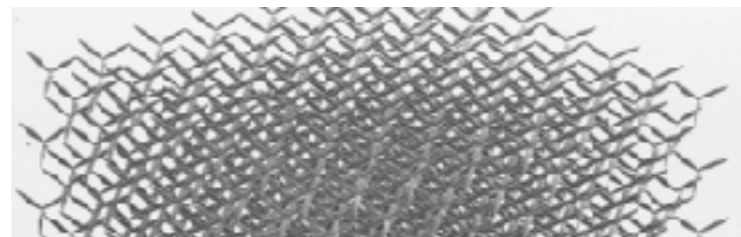
People-designed  
materials



Fabulous overview : "Metamaterials Beyond Optics" Kadic 2013



Incoming wave + **Metamaterials** = Cloaking



Electromagnetic  
Acoustic  
Seismic  
Fluids

**People-designed  
materials**

Cloaking has been experimentally demonstrated in a number of these applications (photonics, telecommunications, acoustic, underwater)

Fabulous overview : "Metamaterials Beyond Optics" Kadic 2013



# Naturally occurring materials

Unit building  
block

Building up to the bulk  
properties of a material

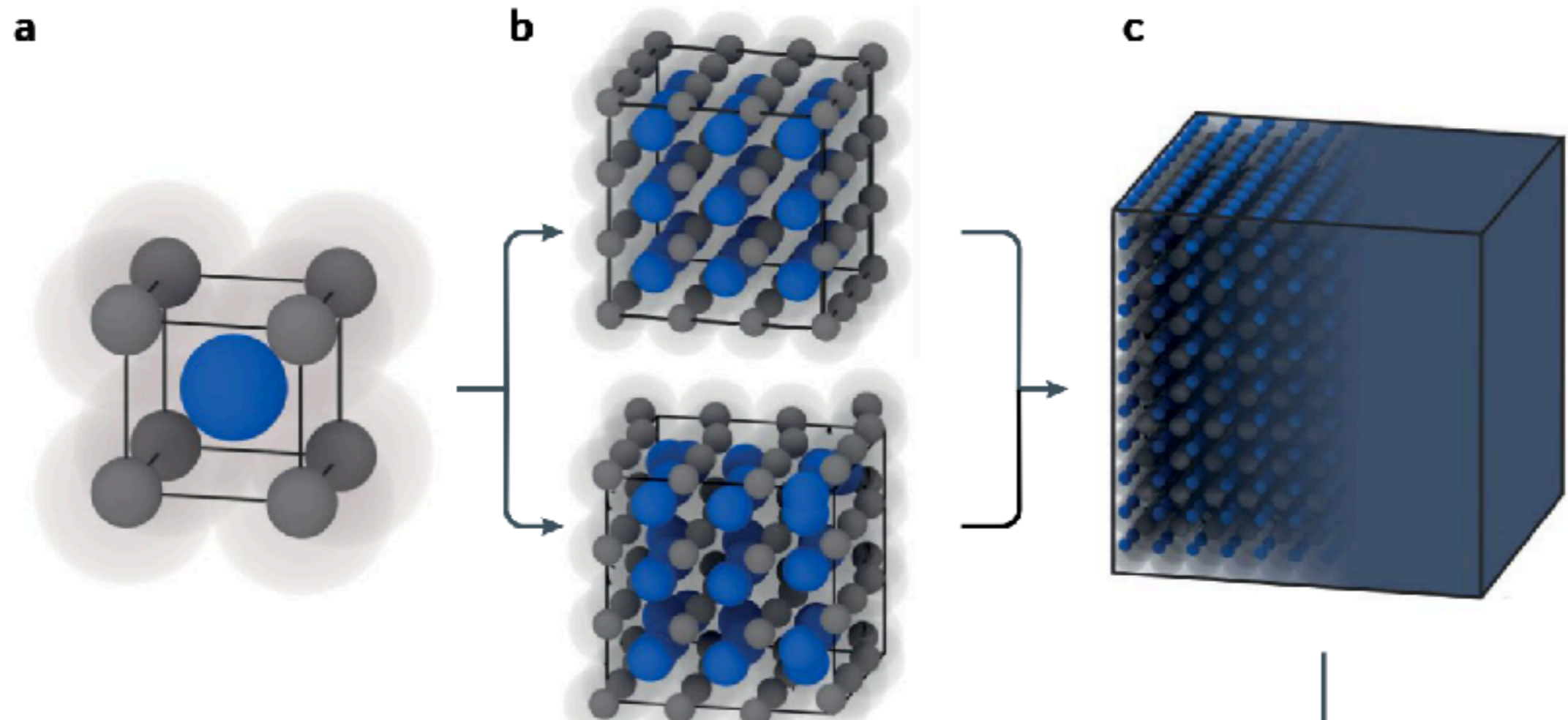
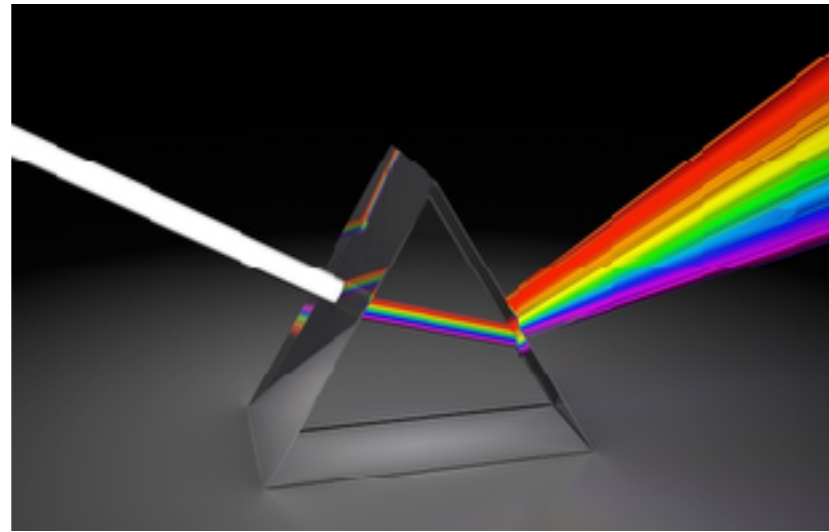
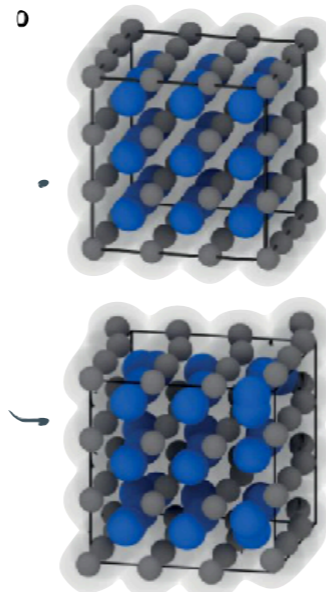


Image credit : "3D metamaterials" Kadic 2019 (also great review!)



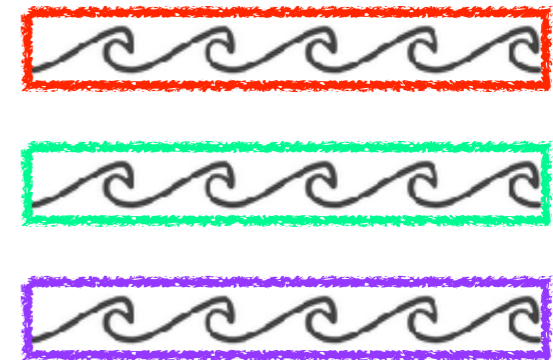
Incoming wave

+



Material

=



Outgoing phenomenon



# New people-designed material = Metamaterials

Unit building block

Building up to the bulk properties of a material

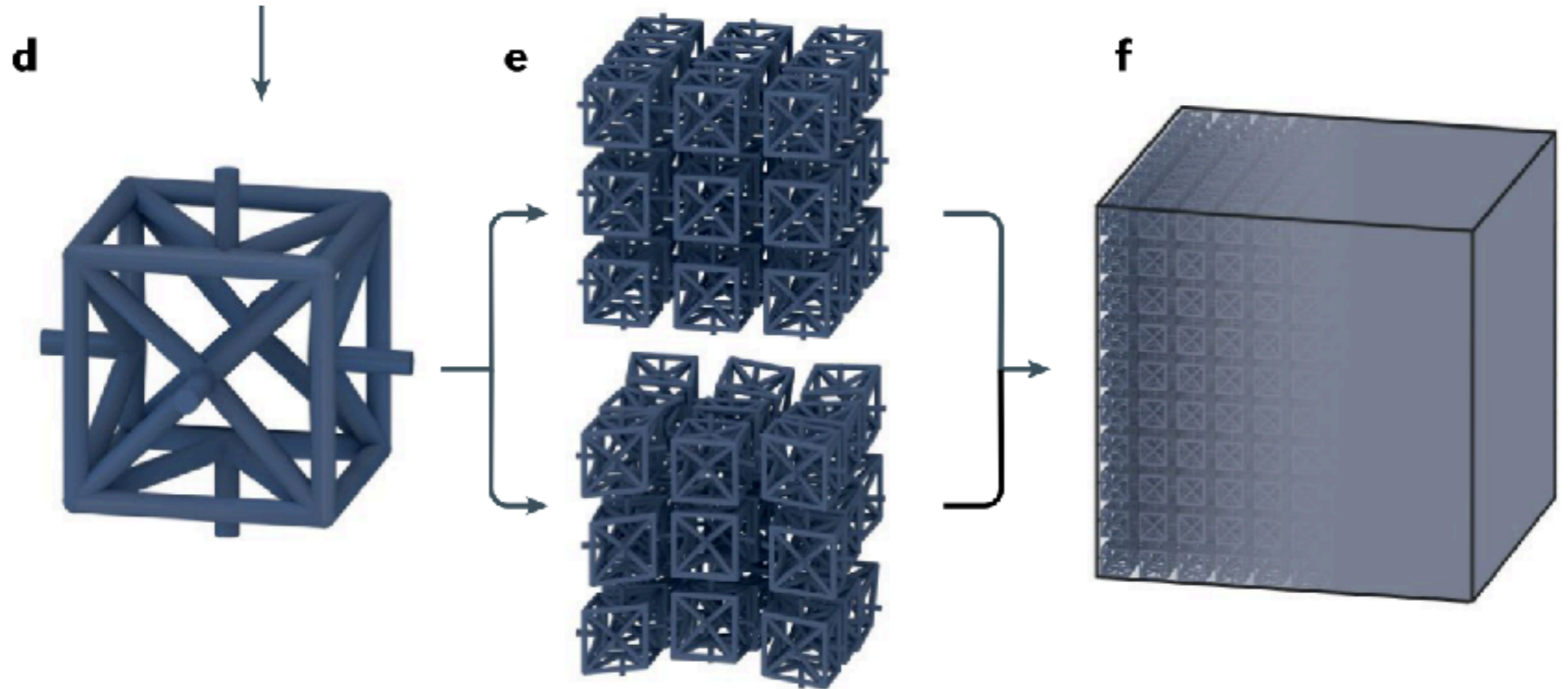


Image credit : "3D metamaterials" Kadic 2019 (also great review!)



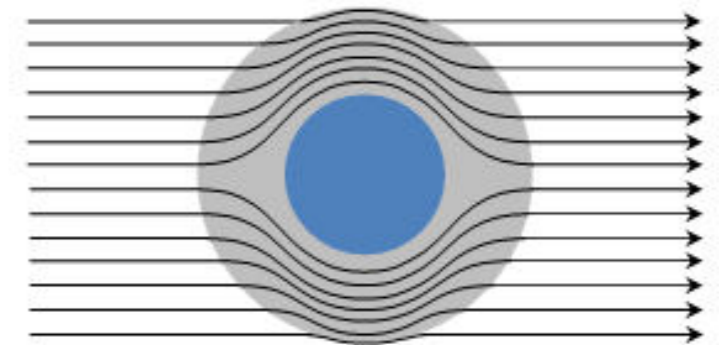
Incoming wave

+

=

Meta-Material

Cloaking



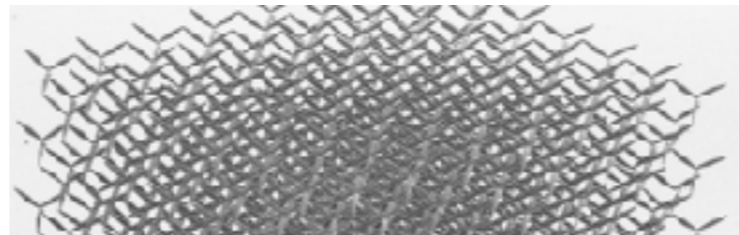
Outgoing phenomenon



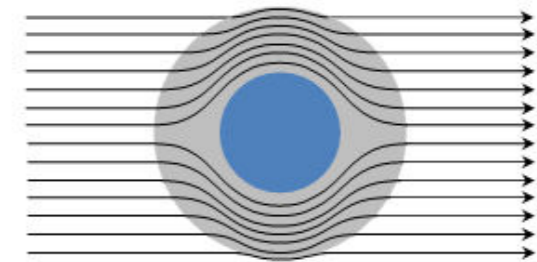
Incoming wave + Metamaterials = Cloaking



Seismic waves



Seismic meta-materials



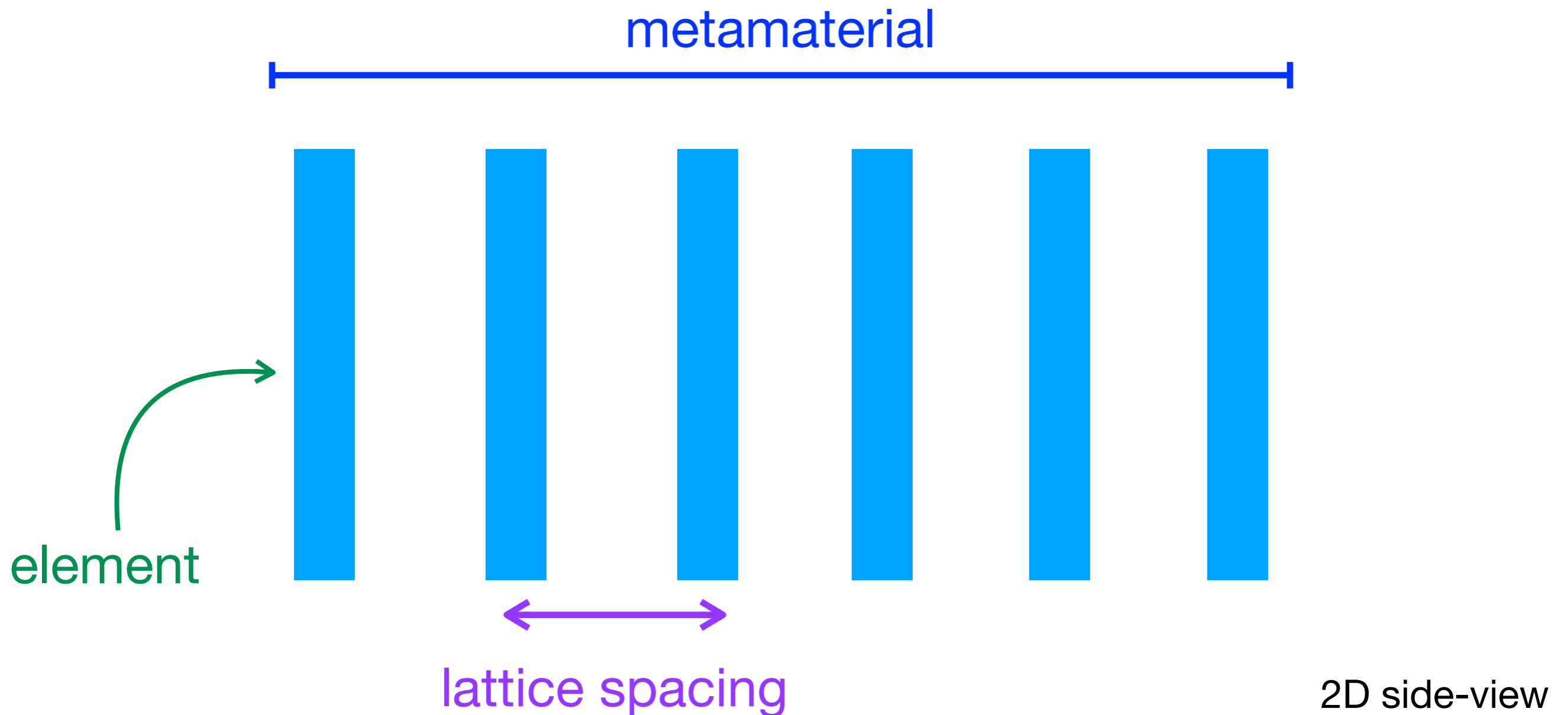
Seismic cloaking





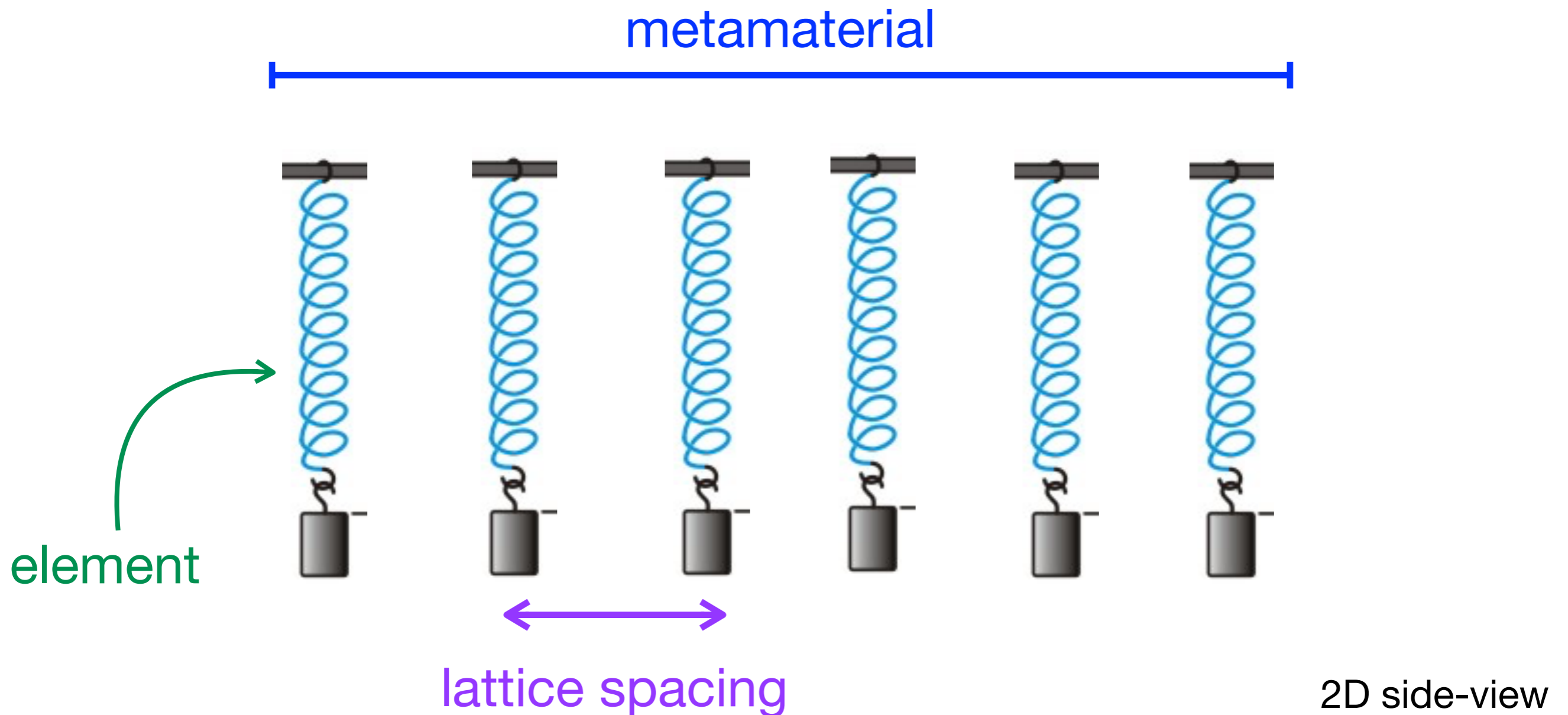
# What is a seismic metamaterial?

It is lattice-like structure designed to mitigate low-frequency seismic waves



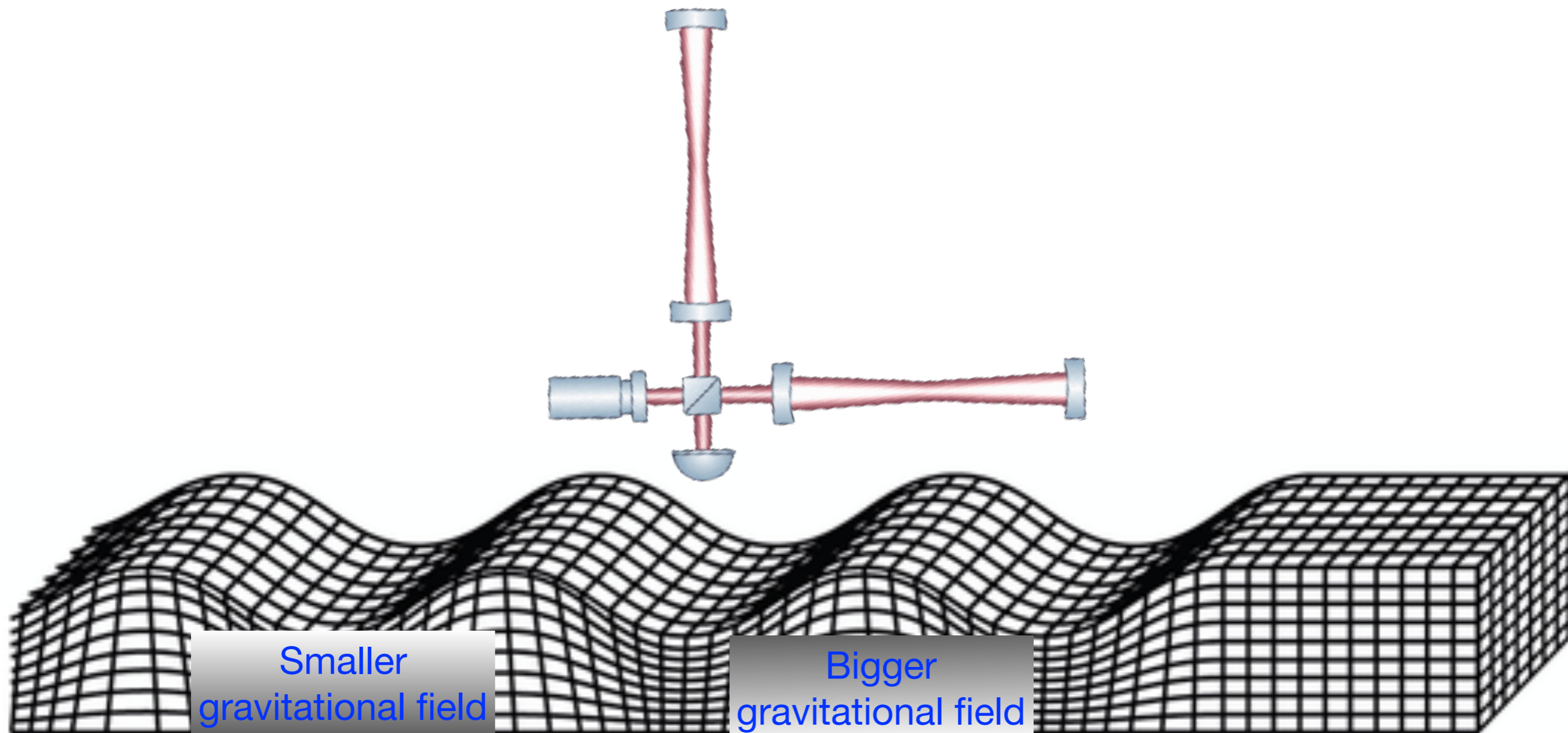
# What is a seismic metamaterial?

It is lattice-like structure designed to mitigate low-frequency seismic waves



# Connecting Seismic Metamaterials to Newtonian Noise

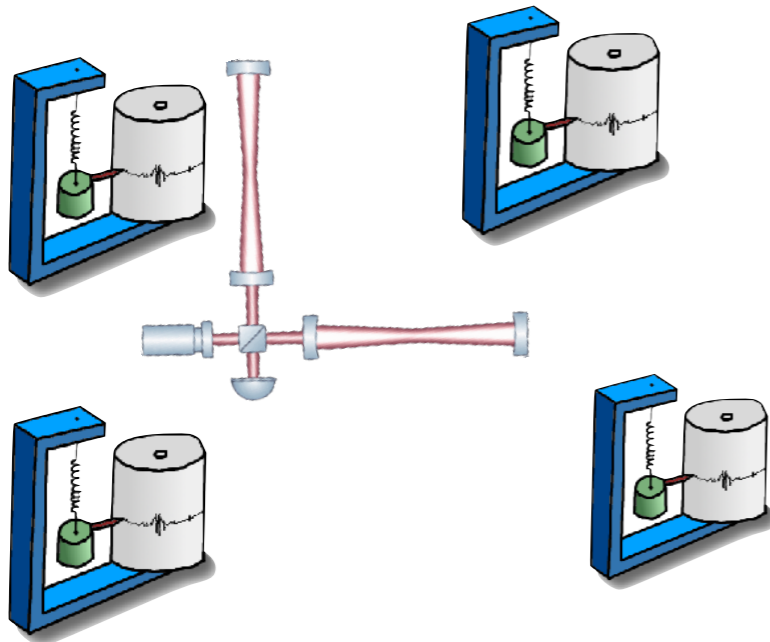
Newtonian Noise (Gravitational Gradient noise)  
comes from Rayleigh waves (surface seismic waves)



“Terrestrial Gravity Fluctuations  
Jan Harms, Living Relativity Reviews 18, 2015 (great review!)



# Current works towards mitigating Newtonian Noise



## Larger Network of sensors

“Subtraction of Newtonian Noise using optimized sensor arrays”  
Driggers 2012

“Towards a first design of a Newtonian-noise  
cancellation system for Advanced LIGO”  
Coughlin 2016

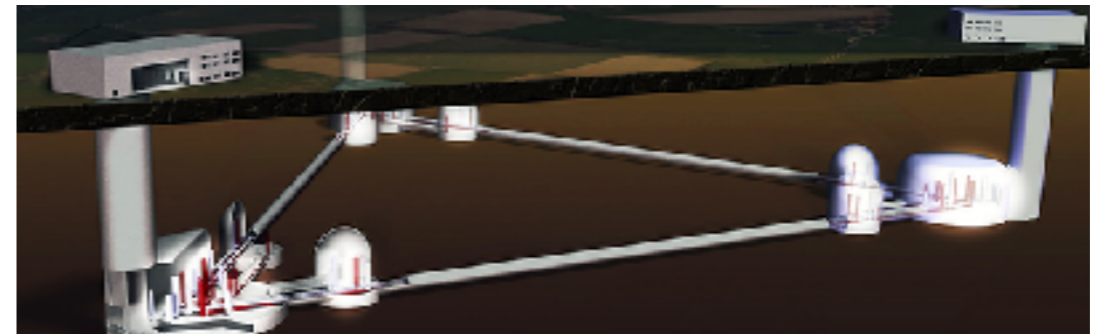
## Underground facilities

Kagra + ET + CE

## Sensor Network + Underground facilities

Other talks in this session!

(Francesca Bonatella, Donatella Fiorucci, Jan Harms)



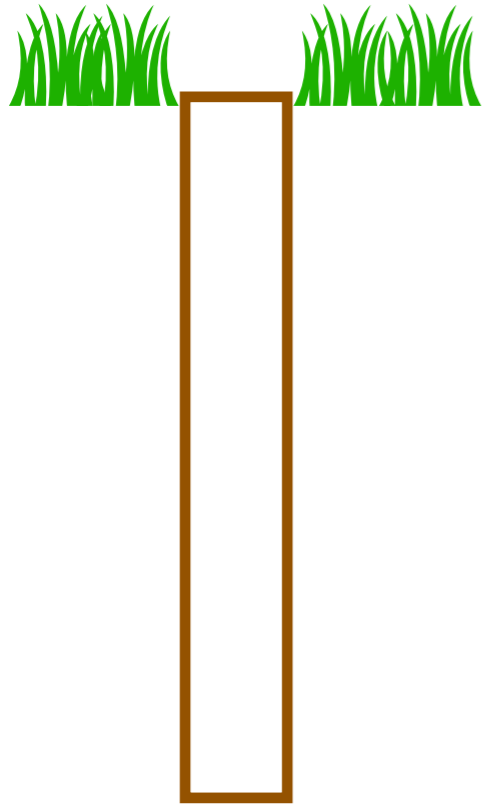
## Shaping the local topology

“Passive Newtonian noise suppression for gravitational-  
wave observatories based on shaping of the local  
topography”

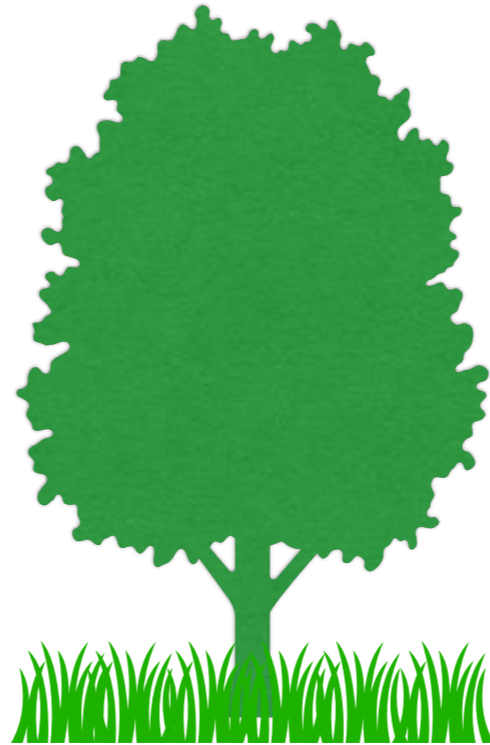
Harms and Hild, arXiv:1406.2253

& Seismic metamaterials?

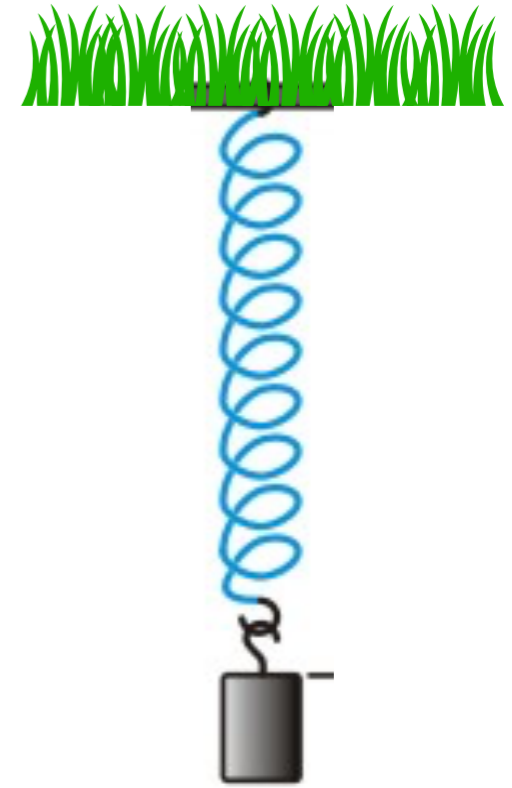
# Advances in the field of Seismic metamaterials



50 Hz notch-filter  
using holes in  
the ground



Bandgaps at 40 & 110 Hz  
Low pass filter 50 Hz  
using trees

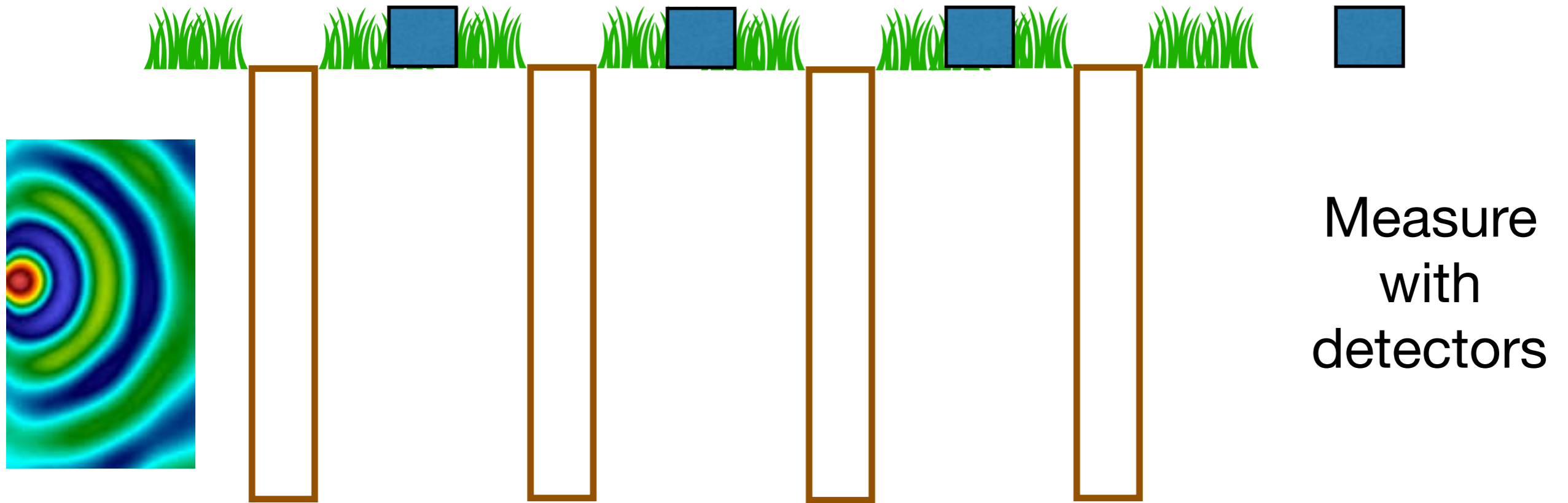


Buried  
resonators  
< 50Hz

# "Experiments on Seismic Metamaterials: Molding Surface Waves"

2014

Brule, et al, PRL 2014



Generate  
50 Hz  
waves

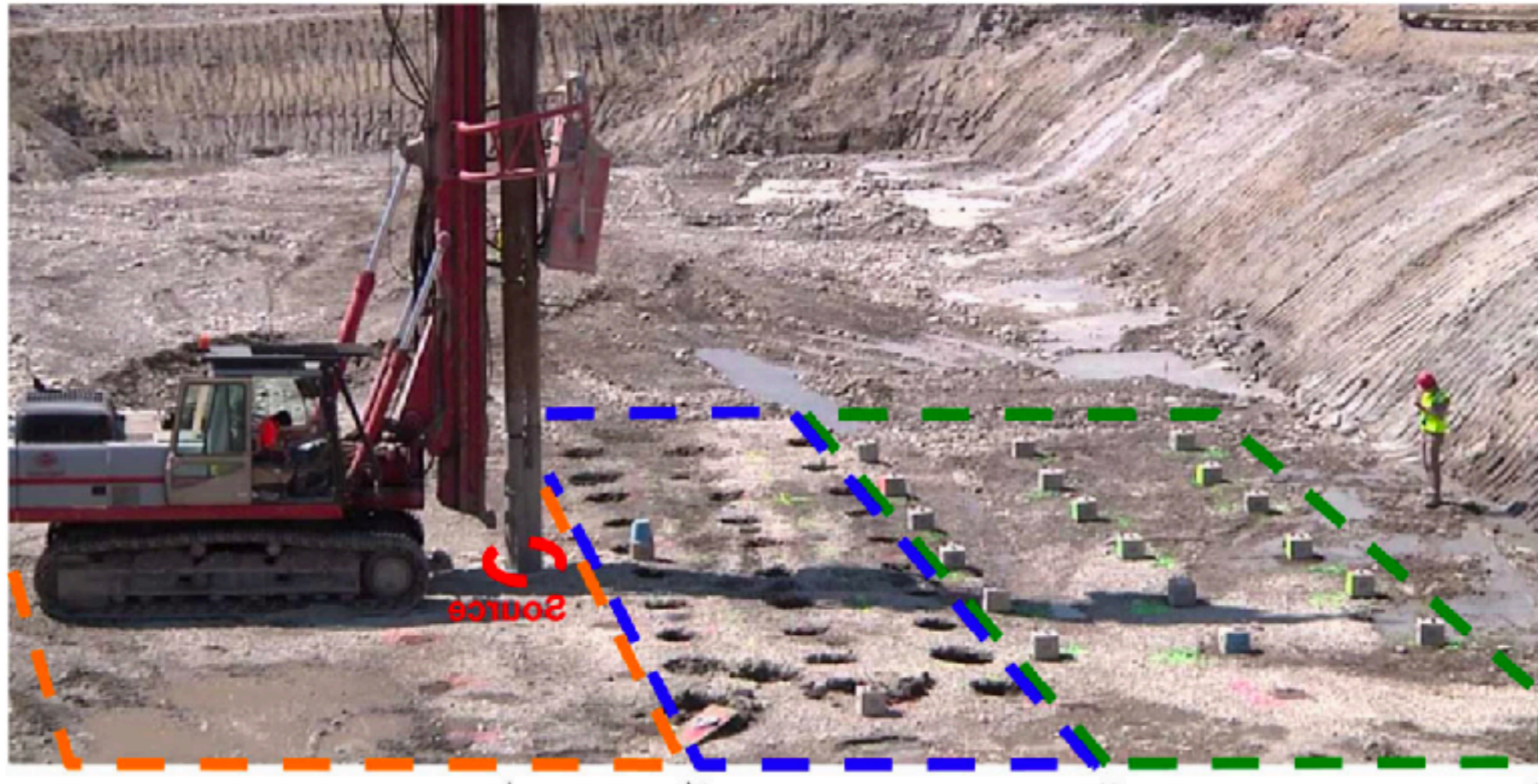
Set scale of metamaterials



# "Experiments on Seismic Metamaterials: Molding Surface Waves"

Brule, et al, PRL 2014

2014

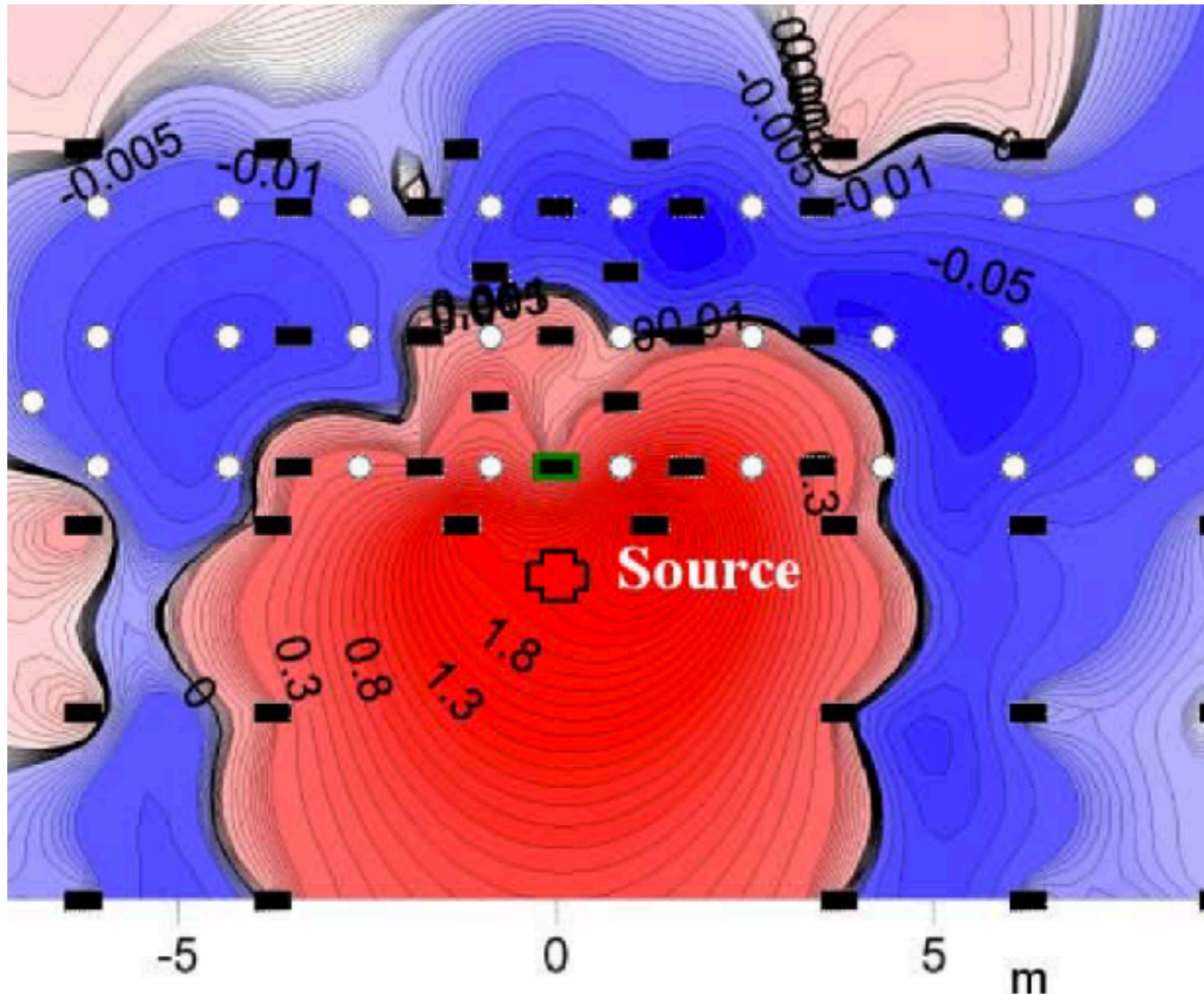


Source :  
- Frequency : 50 Hz  
- Horizontal displacement : 14 mm

Five meters deep  
320 mm holes

Sensitive three components  
velocimeters (green grid)





### Main Results

- Reflected waves back towards the source
- Achieved a factor of 2 attenuation

source  
(cross)

metamaterial  
(white circles)

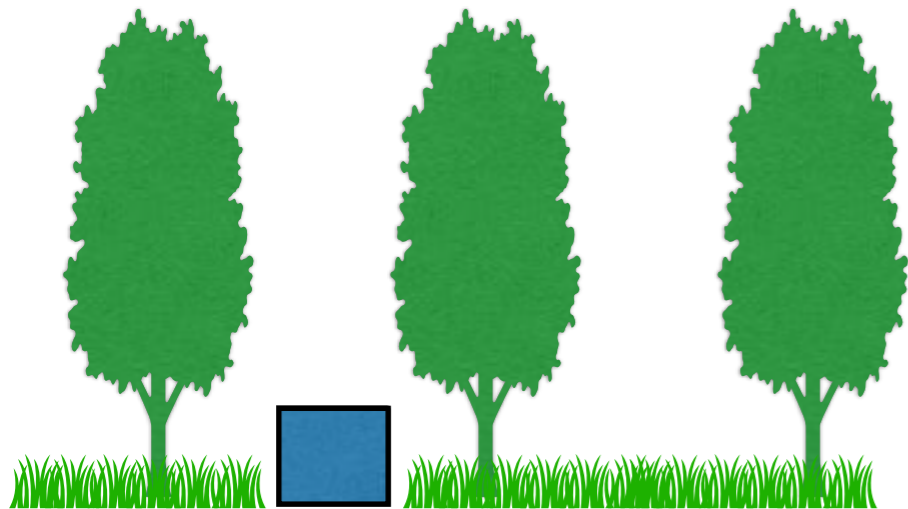
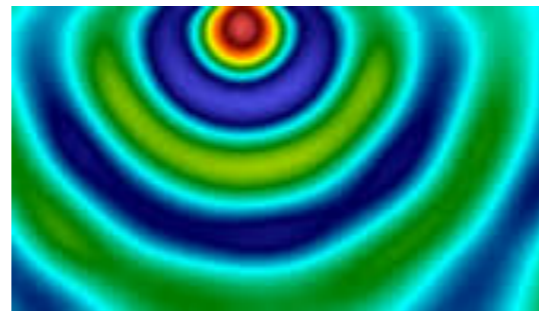
detectors  
(black squares)

"Forests as a natural seismic metamaterial:  
Rayleigh wave bandgaps induced by local resonances"  
Colombi, et al Scientific Reports 6, 19238 (2016)

2016



Construction worker  
generating seismic noise



Detector within the trees

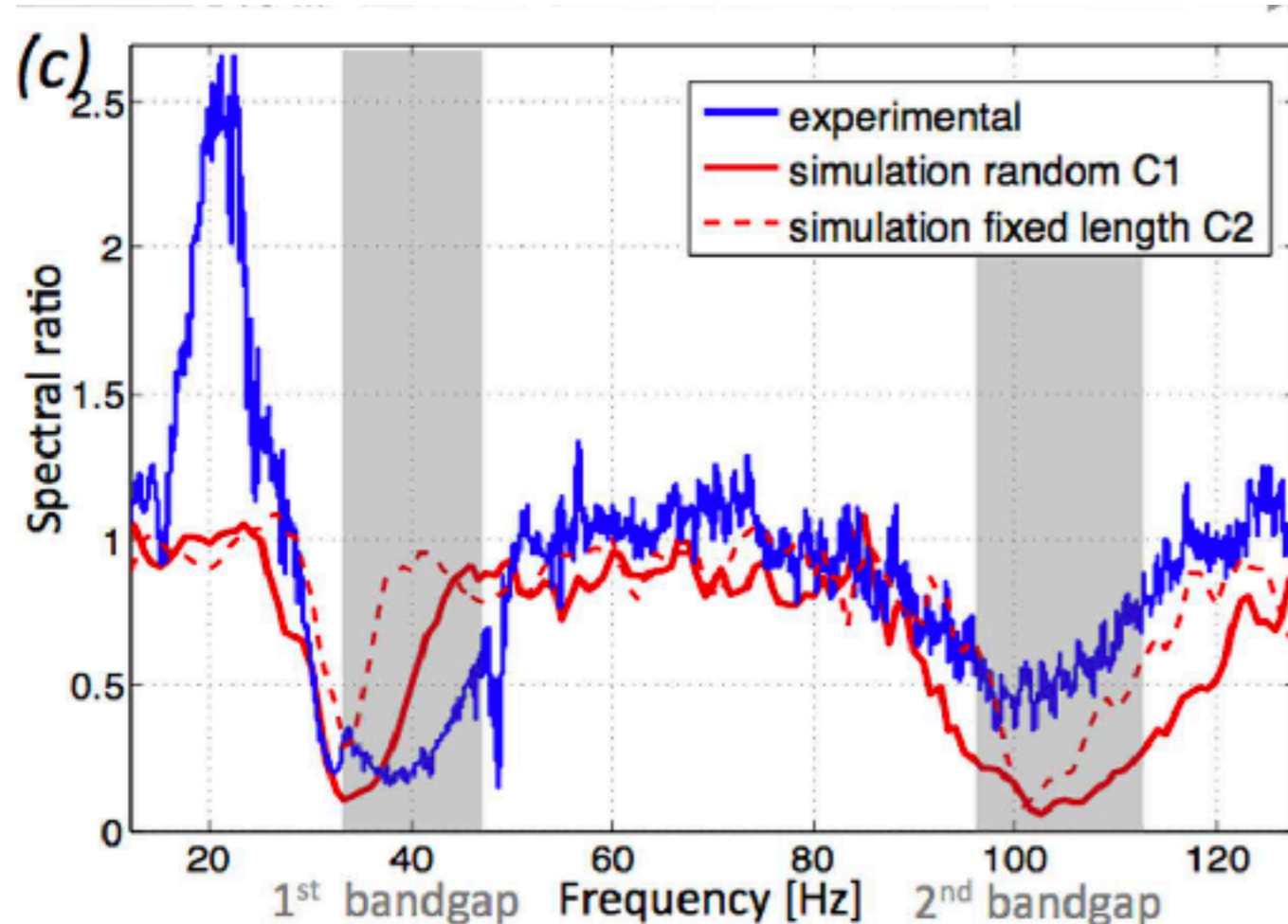


Detector outside of the trees



"Forests as a natural seismic metamaterial:  
Rayleigh wave bandgaps induced by local resonances"  
Colombi, et al Scientific Reports 6, 19238 (2016)

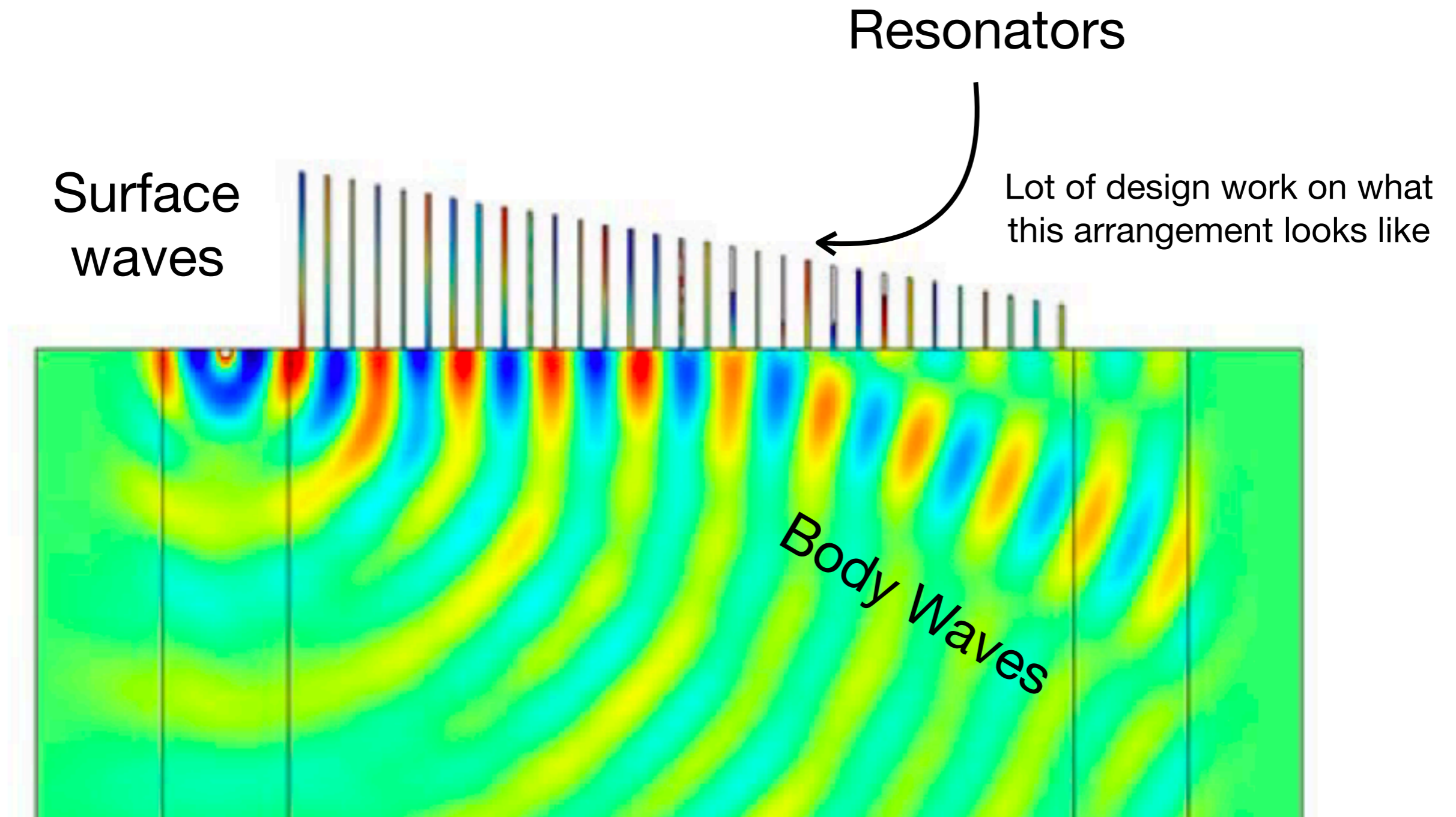
2016



### Main Results

- Bandgaps at ~40 & 110 Hz
- Consistent with properties of the tree forest parameters
- Achieved a factor of 6 attenuation

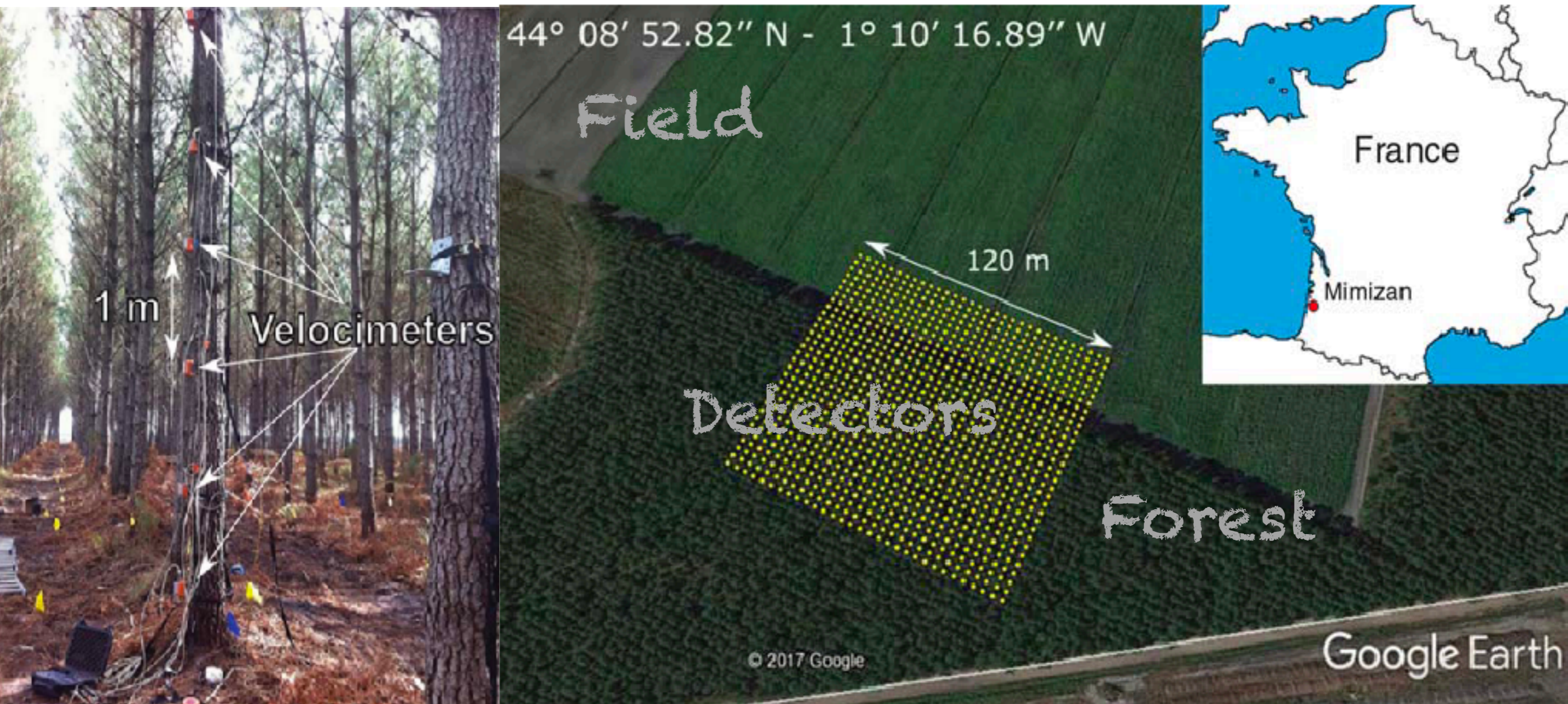
# Trees are a class of surface acoustic resonators





"Toward seismic metamaterials: The METAFORET project"  
Roux et al Seismological Research Letters 2018

Jan 2018

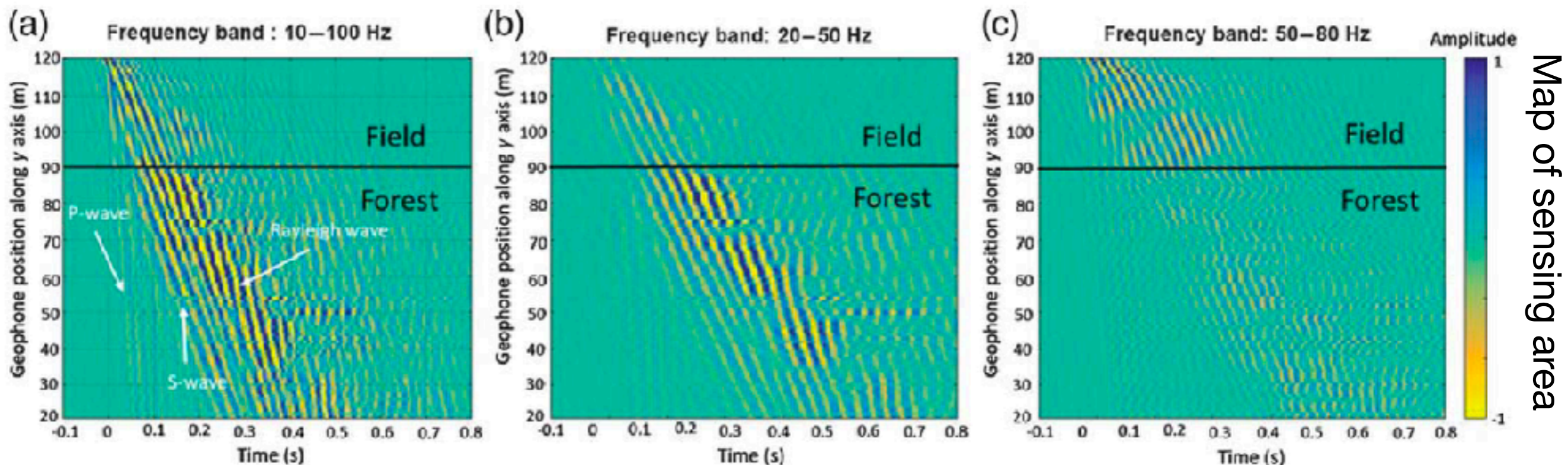




10-100Hz (all the waves)

20 - 50 Hz

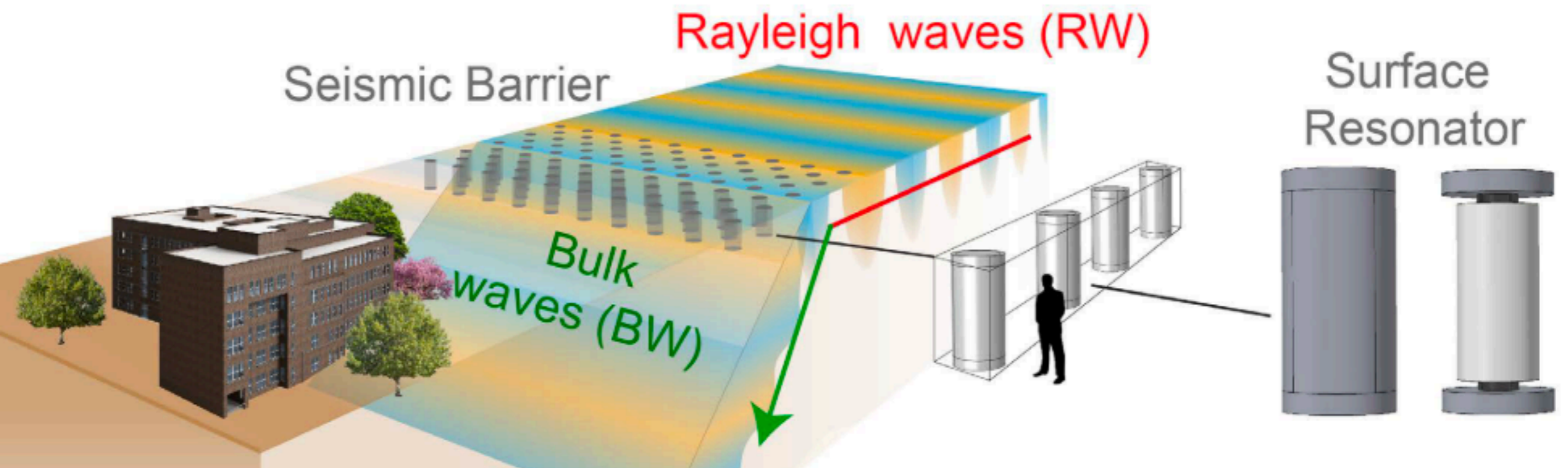
50-80 Hz



## Main Results

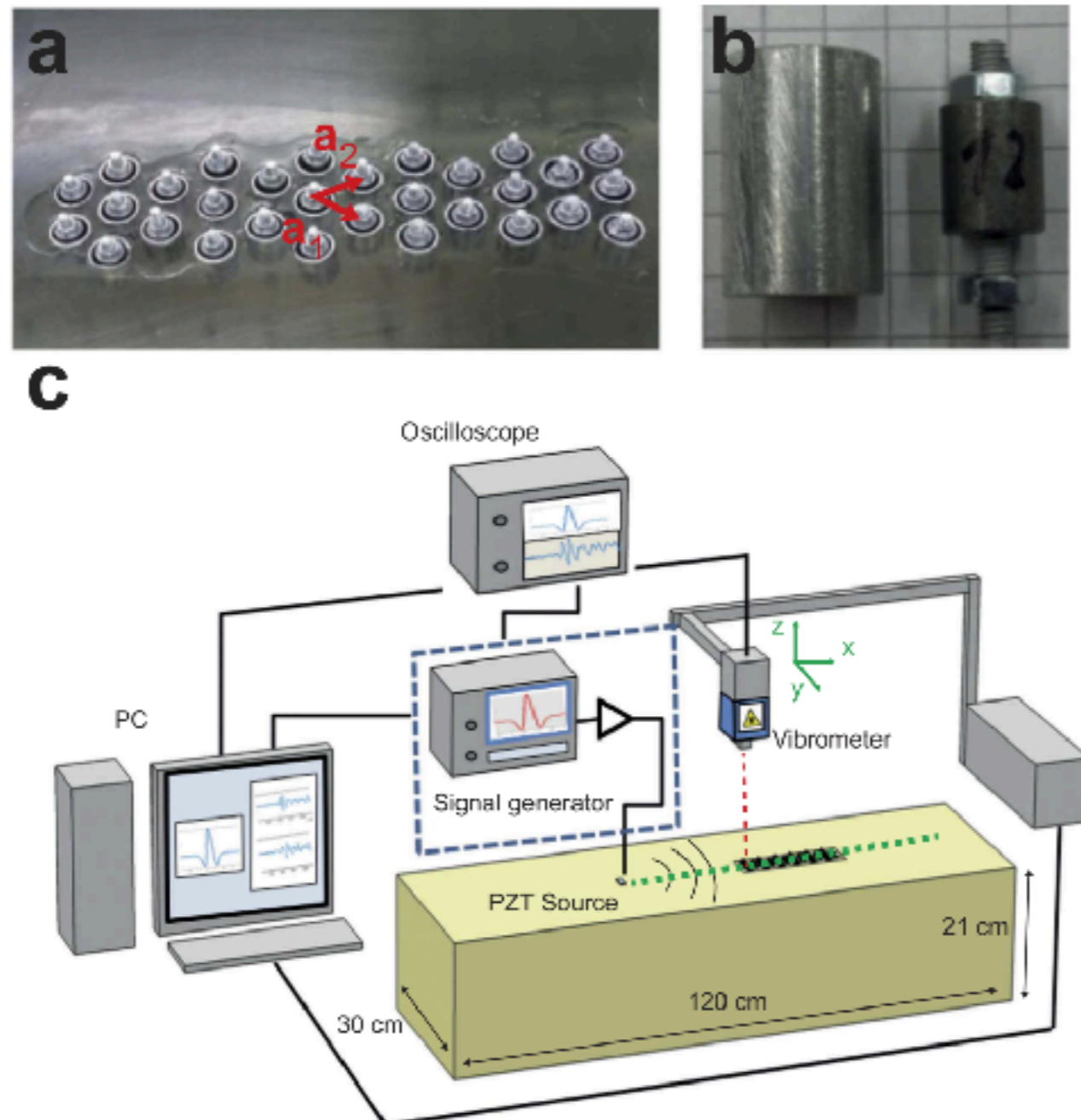
- Forest is filtering waves  $> 50\text{Hz}$
- Directly connected with compressional modes of the trees
- Achieved a factor of 6 attenuation

"Engineered metabarrier as shield from seismic surface waves" Dec 2018  
Palermo et al Nature 6, 39356



Theoretical modeling of underground resonators below 10 Hz

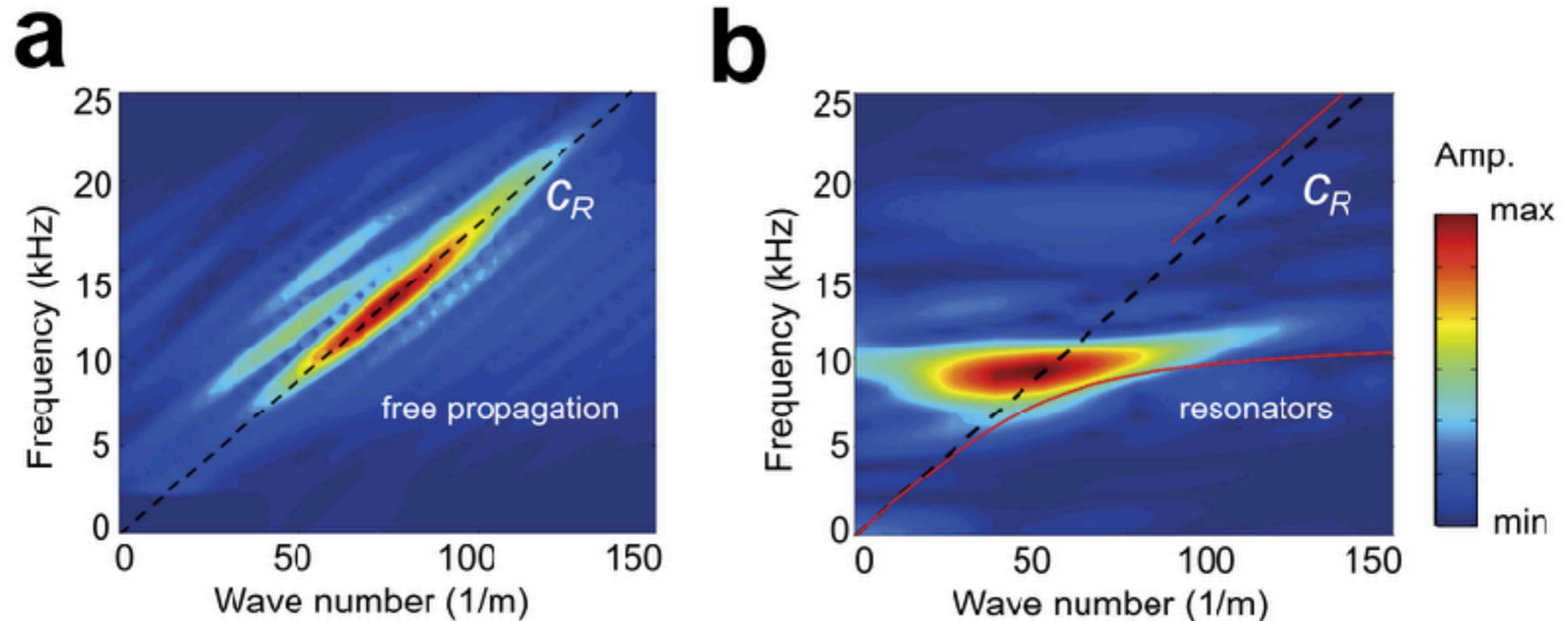
"Engineered metabarrier as shield from seismic surface waves"  
Palermo et al Nature 6, 39356



Tabletop experiments in kHz range to verify models



"Engineered metabarrier as shield from seismic surface waves"  
Palermo et al Nature 6, 39356



## Main Results

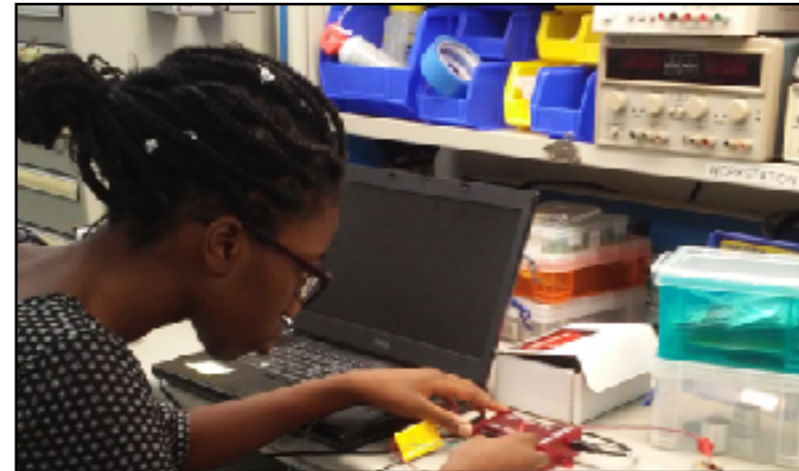
- Theoretical prediction of bandgaps at ~4 & 7 Hz
- Attenuation by up to 60%
- Low pass filtering in 10kHz range from buried resonators

# Pathway towards understanding seismic metamaterials

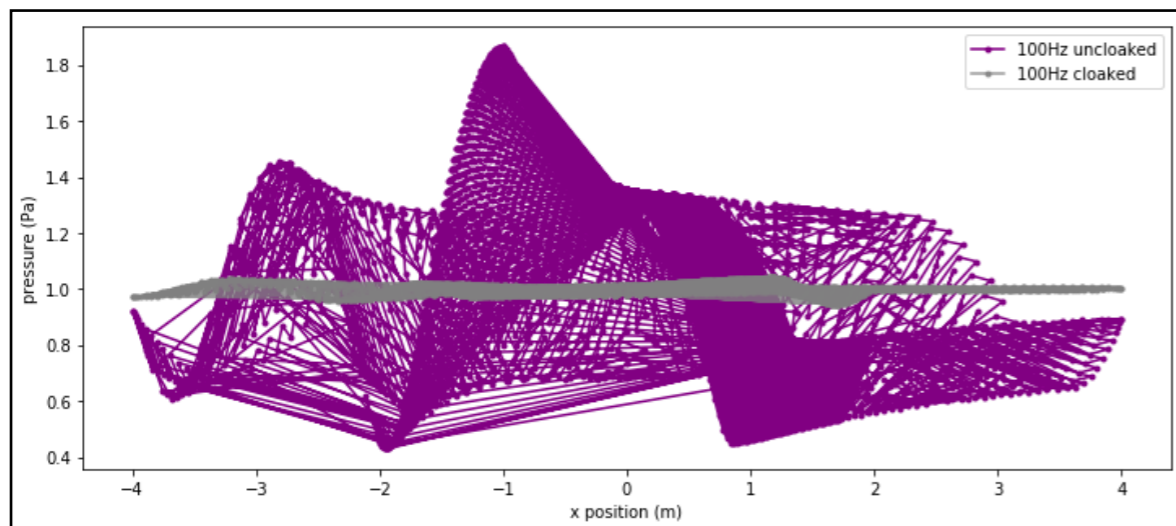
Kaila Nathaniel  
(UG heading to UBonn+RIT)



Ayooluwa Odemuwiya  
(Caltech UG)



COMSOL models of acoustic cloaks



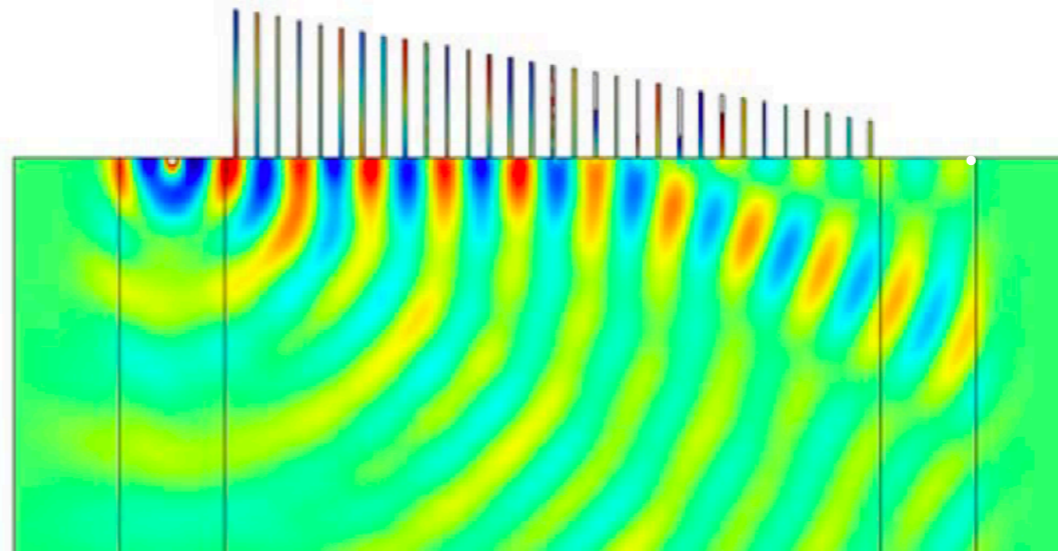
Preliminary Fieldwork



summer  
2017



# Building a collaboration with metamaterials, earthquake engineers+ soil engineering experts



Prof. Chiara Daraio (Caltech)



Dr. Antonio Palermo (Bologna)



Dr. Paolo Celli (Caltech)



Prof. Andrea Calabrese  
(CSU Long Beach)



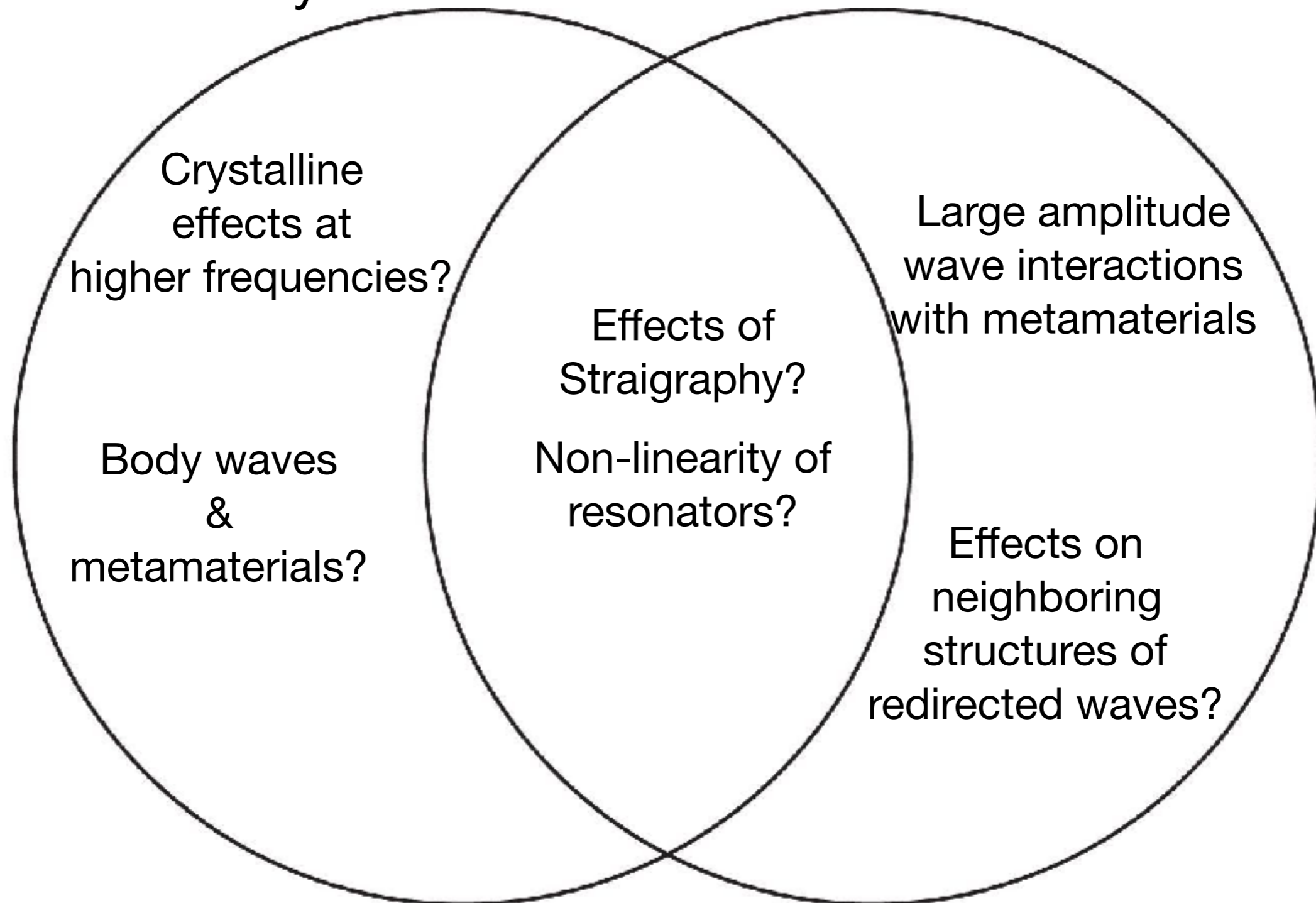
Prof. Dominiki Asimaki  
(Caltech)



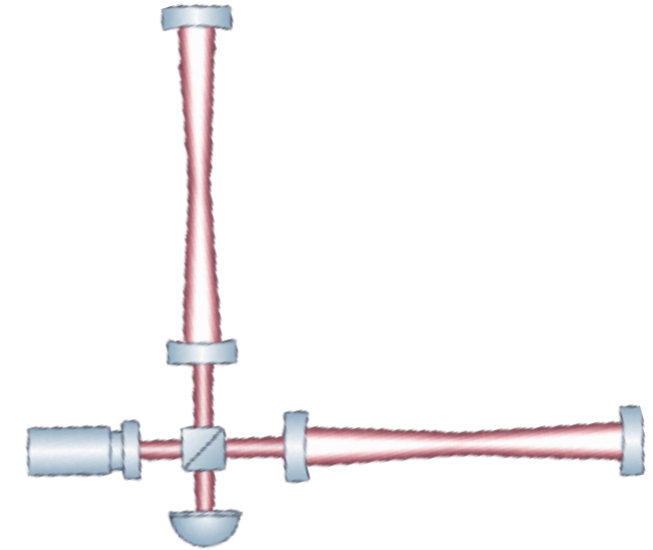
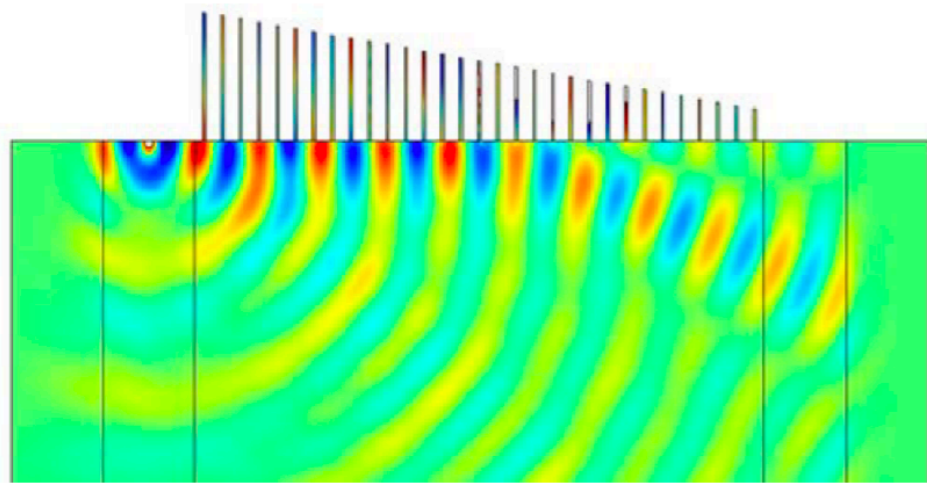
# Open questions in seismic metamaterials

Gravitational wave  
community

Seismic engineering  
community



# Future of seismic metamaterials has a lot of potential for future GW detector designs



So happy, Together...