

# The Precision Laser Inclinometer: a novel instrument for seismic events

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***INFN Pisa – Seminar – 21 October 2019***

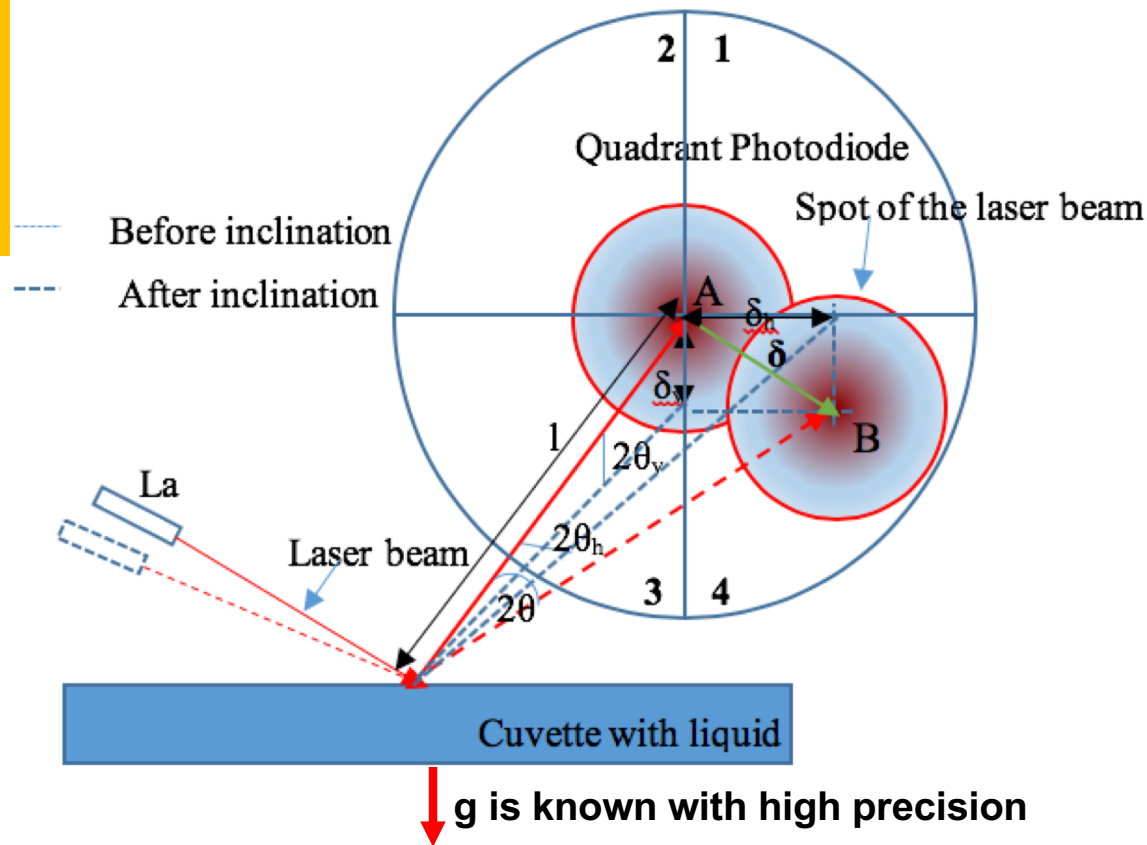
# Outline

- Working principle of the instrument
- Installed units
- Instruments results and figures of merit measured at CERN
- The PLI-Virgo
- First results from Virgo experience
- Early Earthquake Warning (EEW) systems
- Future
- Conclusions



# PLI working principle

Actual implementation of course more complicated and equipped with reference and calibration features

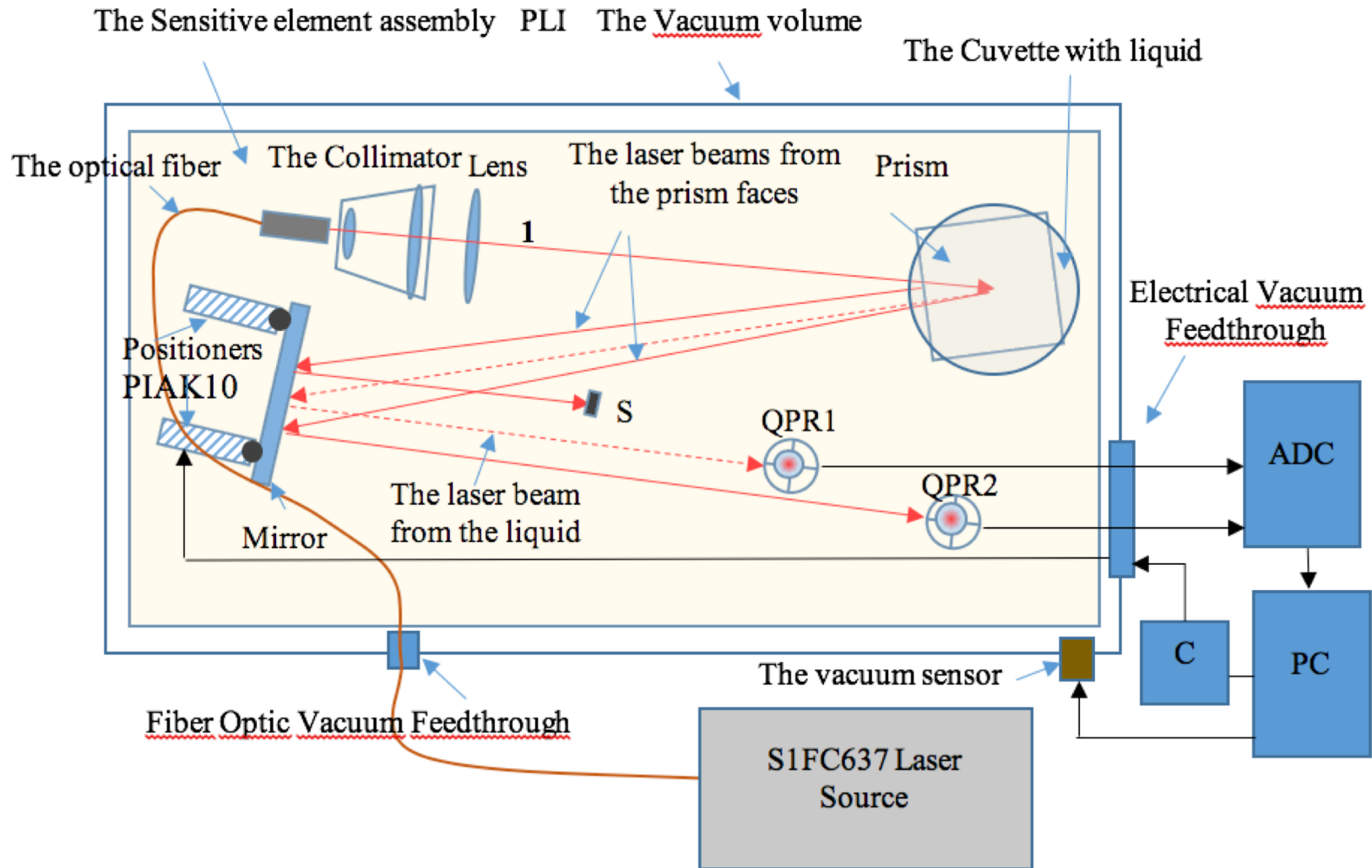


- The PLI uses the displacement of the **laser ray reflected from a liquid surface** when the base support is tilted by ground oscillations
- The angle of the reflected light is twice larger than the support tilt angle  $\theta$ .
- The detection is in both planes, therefore the **combined slope and azimuth** can be easily calculated

# Main characteristics

- The size of the liquid container and the liquid quantity make the instrument **free from resonances**
- The beam spot on the liquid mirror is dimensioned to average fast transient effects
- The choice of the **liquid** is a compromise between achievable **frequency range**, readout speed, compatibility with **vacuum conditions**
- The very moderate **vacuum** allows to avoid the effects of the **air temperature gradient** and reduces the **laser light scattering with air**
- It measures **two coordinates** at the same time

# PLI schematics



# PLI schematics

- A **single mode laser** fibre provides the light source
- The **beam** splits between a path going to be reflected by the **liquid mirror** and a path of **reference**
- The reference beam allows to **subtract noise** from laser output variations with time and it is not subject to Sun-Moon cycle effects as instead the main beam

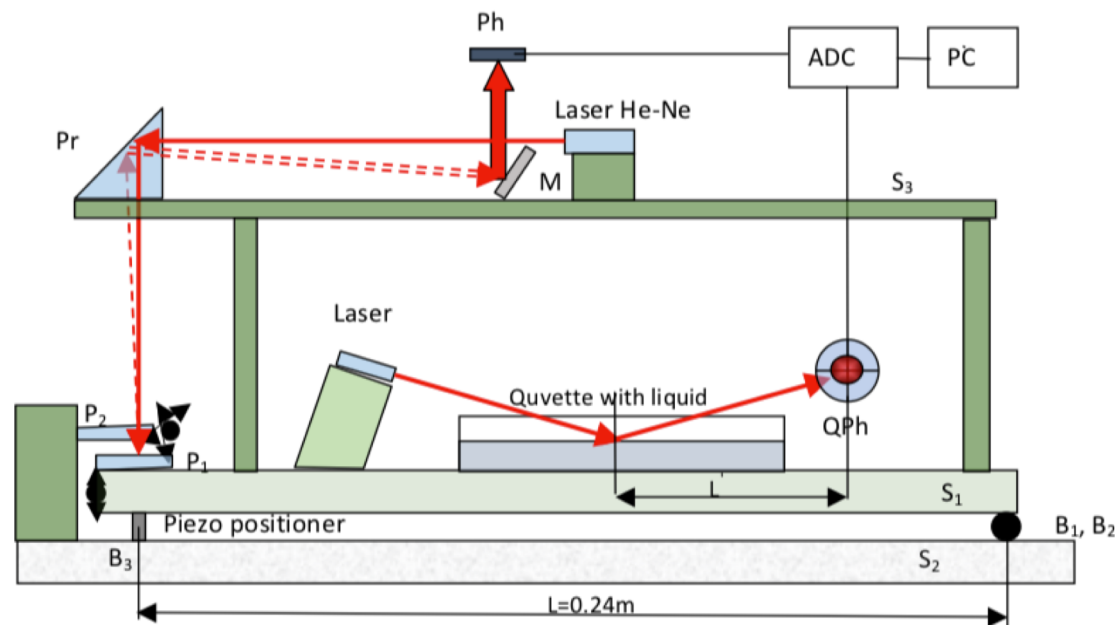
# PLI output and readout

- Typical signal level spanning from  $\pm 0.05$  mV to  $\pm 50$  mV (near earthquakes)
- Use of a 24-bit ADC with low input noise (-140 dB) even at low frequencies ( $10^{-5}$  Hz, the day)
- Need of ADC with  $6 \cdot 10^{-8}$  resolution in the frequency range  $10^{-6}$  Hz – 100 Hz
- We use a 4.8 kS/s/ch, 4-synchronized channels ADC

<https://www.mccdaq.com/Products/24-Bit-DAQ-Modules/DT9824>

# PLI calibration system

- A calibration system allows to determine the conversion between ADC value and angle by using an interferometer and varying the angle with a piezo actuator with an iterative procedure



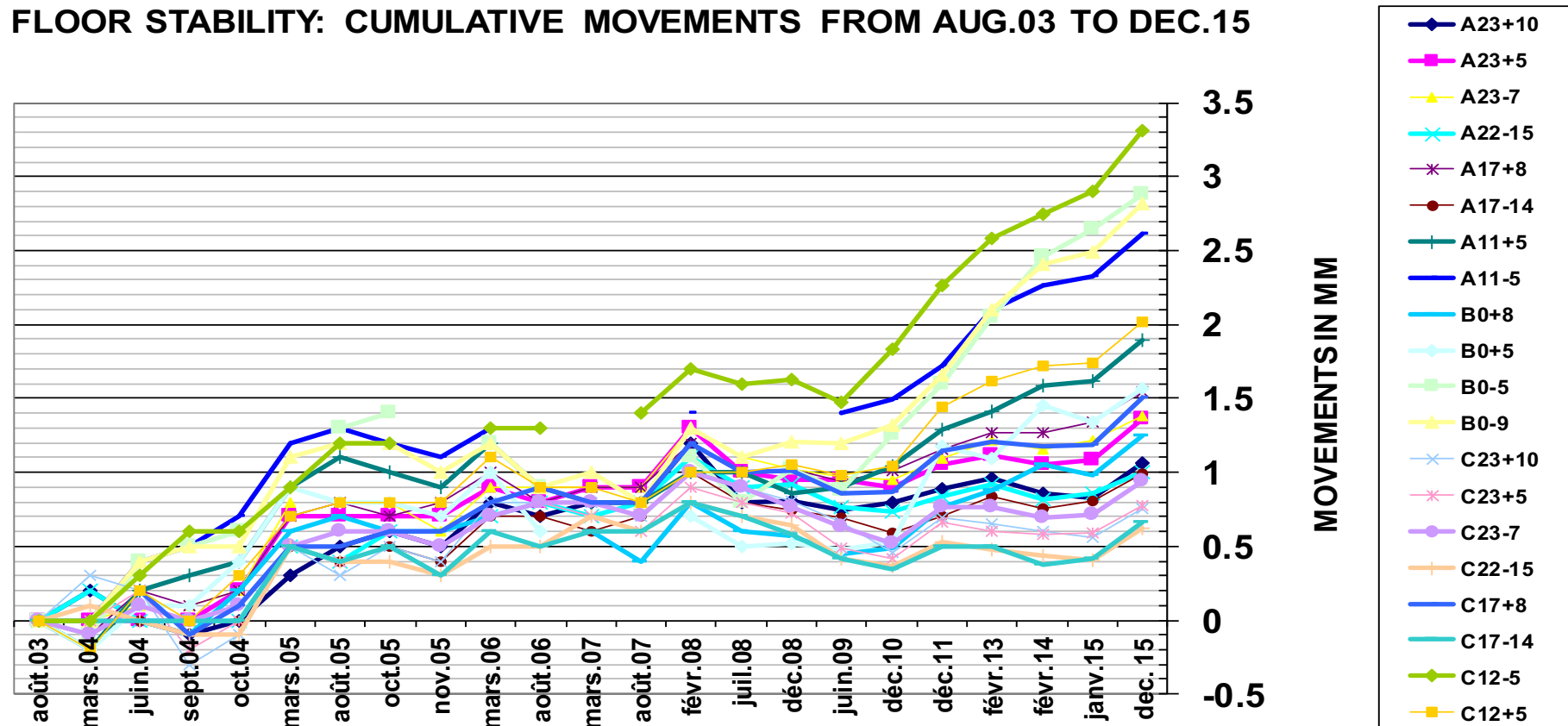


**What was it invented for and what has it been also used for:  
Monitoring of inclination of underground caverns at CERN and as  
part of a complex metrology system at JINR**



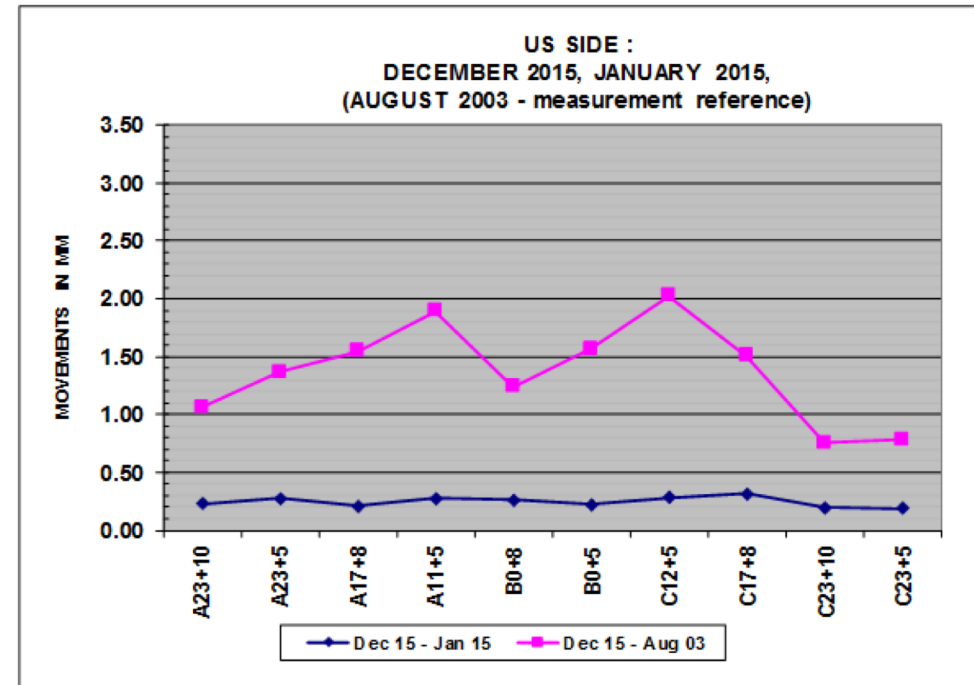
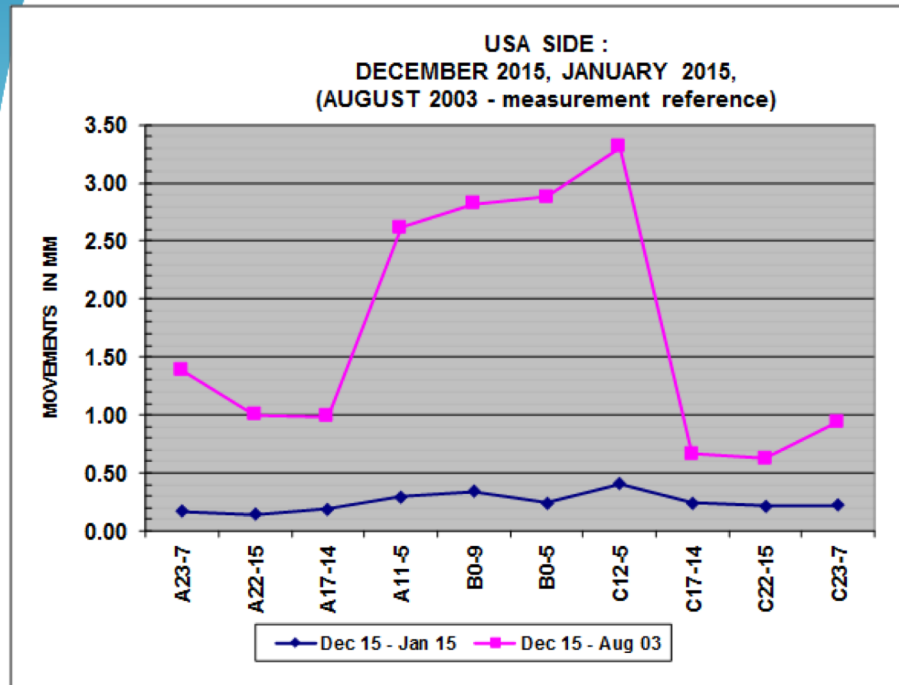
# ATLAS Floor Stability Aug 03 – Dec 15

FLOOR STABILITY: CUMULATIVE MOVEMENTS FROM AUG.03 TO DEC.15



- Reference are deep references in LHC tunnel close to IP1
- Time between measurements varies from 3 to 18 month
- Precision for single epoch 0.2 mm/1 sigma; 0.3 mm between 2 epochs

# ATLAS Floor Stability Aug 03 – Dec 15



- Movement close to detector is asymmetric and larger on USA side
  - ATLAS detector asymmetric to cavern axis
- Measurements done in different detector configurations (open/close)
- Distance between lateral walls -20 mm/12 years

# Published articles

## List of publications

Batusov, V., Budagov and Lyablin M., “A laser sensor of a seismic slope of the earth surface”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett. 10 (2012), Issue 1, 75-83

N. Azaryan et al., “The precision laser inclinometer long-term measurement in thermo-stabilized conditions (First Experimental Data)”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 12 (2015), Issue 4, 532-535

Batusov V. et al., “The Sensitivity Limitation by the Recording ADC to Laser Fiducial Line and Precision Laser Inclinometer”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 12 (2015), Issue 7, 1264-1271

Batusov V. et al., “The calibration of the Precision Laser Inclinometer”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 12 (2015), Issue 7, 1272-1278

Di Girolamo B. et al., “The Monitoring of the Effects of Earth Surface Inclination With the Precision Laser Inclinometer for High Luminosity Colliders”, Proceedings of the 25th Russian Particle Accelerator Conference, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 21 - 25 Nov 2016, 210-212

Azaryan N. et al., “The innovative method of high-accuracy interferometric calibration of the Precision Laser Inclinometer”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 14 (2017), Issue 1, 62

Azaryan N. et al., “Comparative analysis of earthquakes data recorded by the innovative Precision Laser Inclinometer instruments and the classic Hydrostatic Level System”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 14 (2017), Issue 3, 285

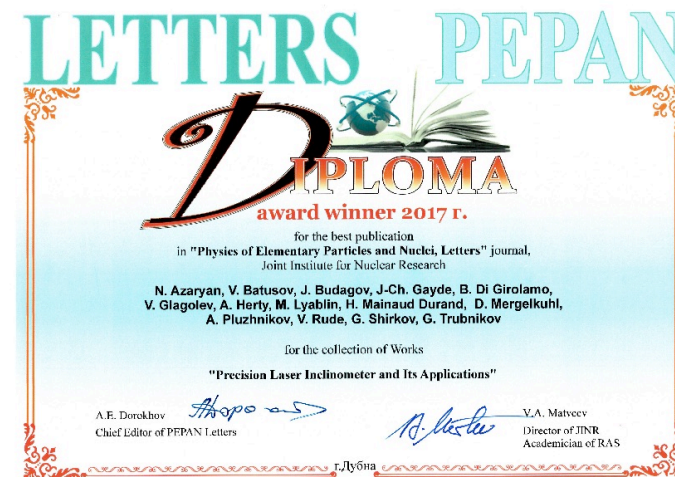
Azaryan N. et al., “The temperature stability of 0.005C for the concrete floor in the CERN Transfer Tunnel #1 hosting the Precision Laser Inclinometer”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 14 (2017), Issue 6, 639-648

Azaryan N. et al., “Determination of the maximum recording frequency by the Precision Laser Inclinometer of an Earth surface angular oscillation”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 14 (2017), Issue 6, 649-660

Azaryan N. et al., “The compensation of the noise due to angular oscillations of the laser beam in the Precision Laser Inclinometer”, Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett 14 (2017), Issue 6, 661-672

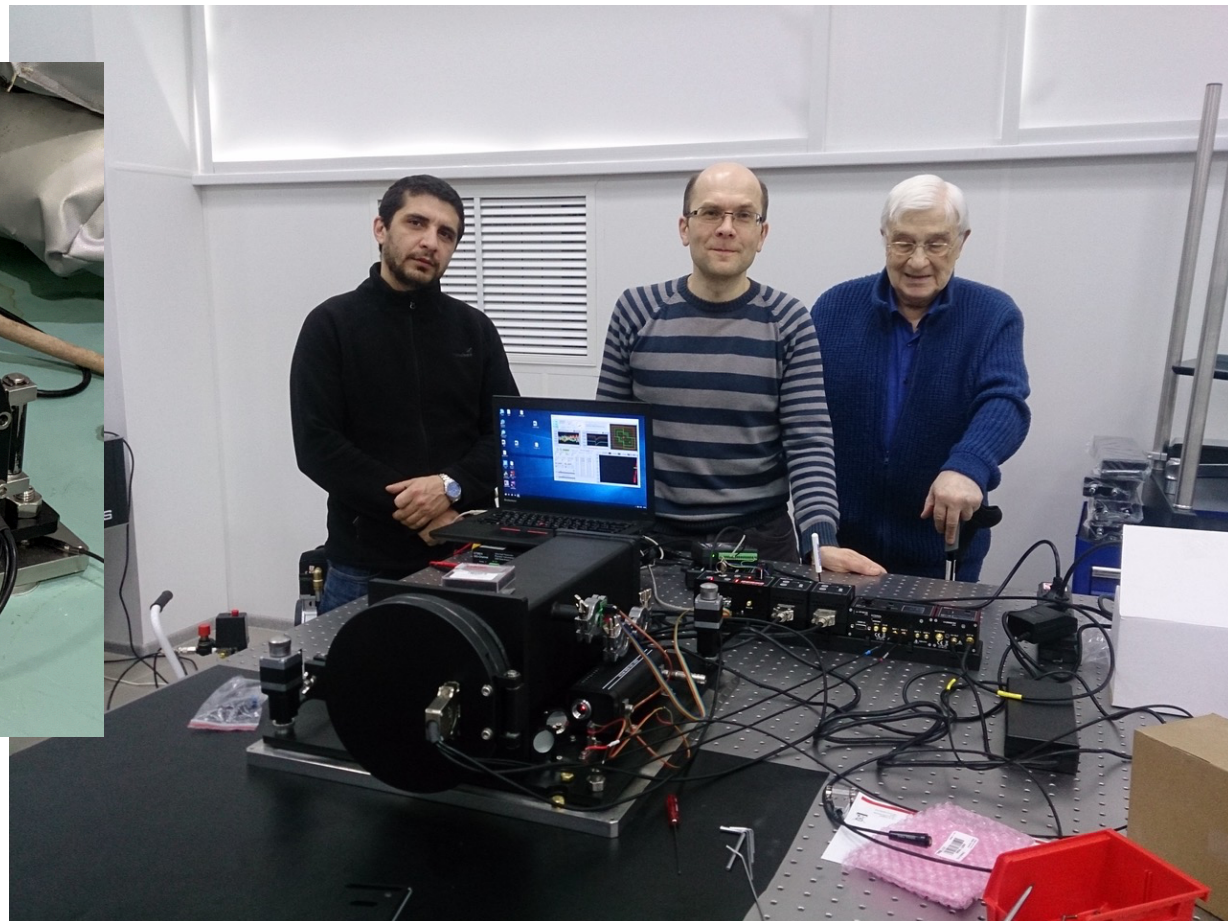
Azaryan N. et al., “Colliding beams focus displacement caused by seismic events”, Submitted to Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett (2018)

5 more articles being published in Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett. and one in preparation for Rev. Sci. Instr.



# PLI pictures and form factor

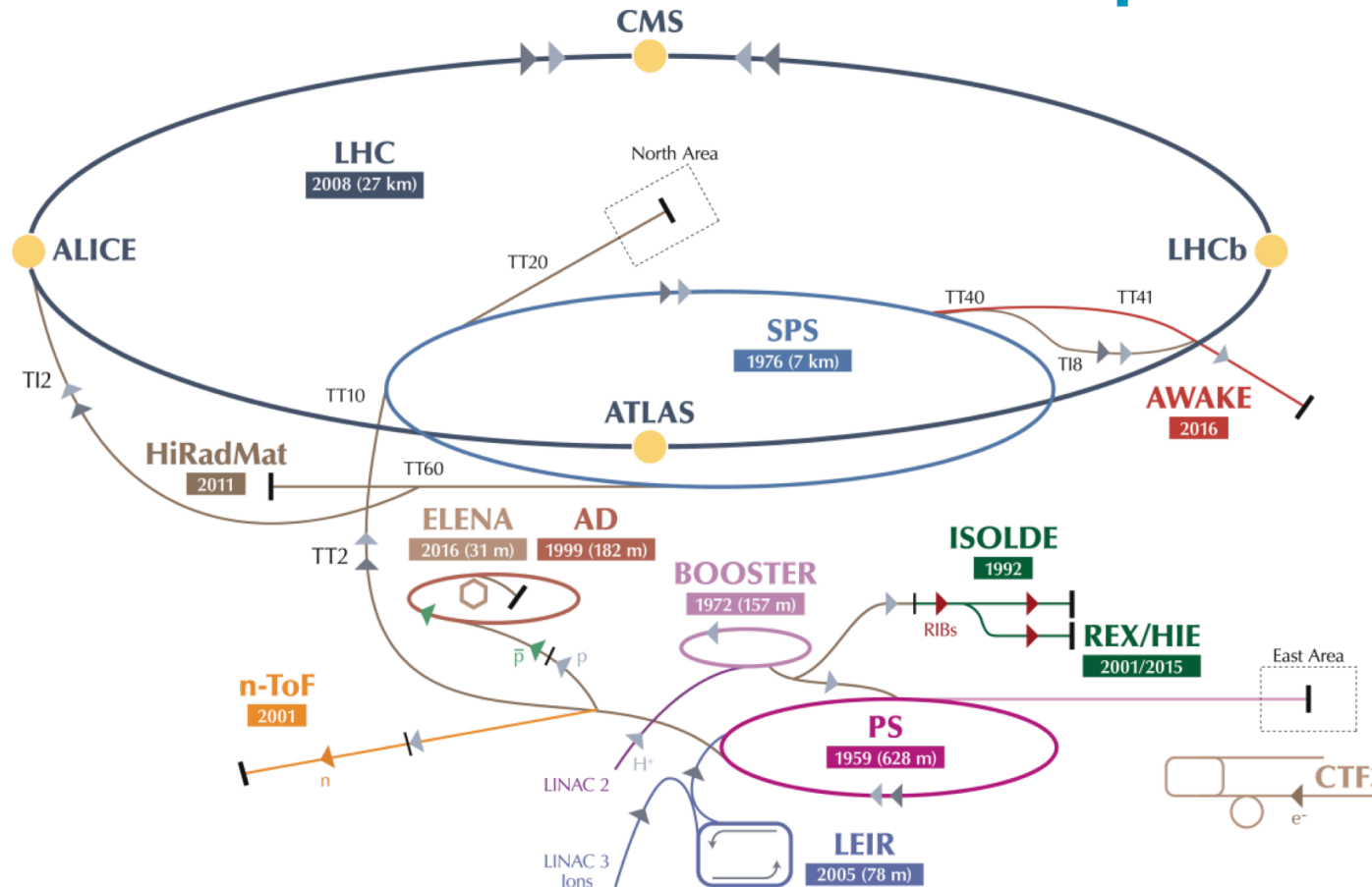
- The PLI is quite compact:  $40 \times 40 \times 20 \text{ cm}^3$



## PLI installed units

- PLI units installed at **JINR and CERN** and in continuous data taking since March 2015
- A production unit installed at CERN since end 2017
  - Latest version installed in March 2019
  - 6 more units produced, three already instrumented, the others being instrumented
- 1 unit installed in **Armenia** in 2018
- 6 August 2019: **1<sup>st</sup>** unit installed at **VIRGO**
- 22 October 2019: **2<sup>nd</sup>** unit being installed at **VIRGO**

# CERN accelerators complex

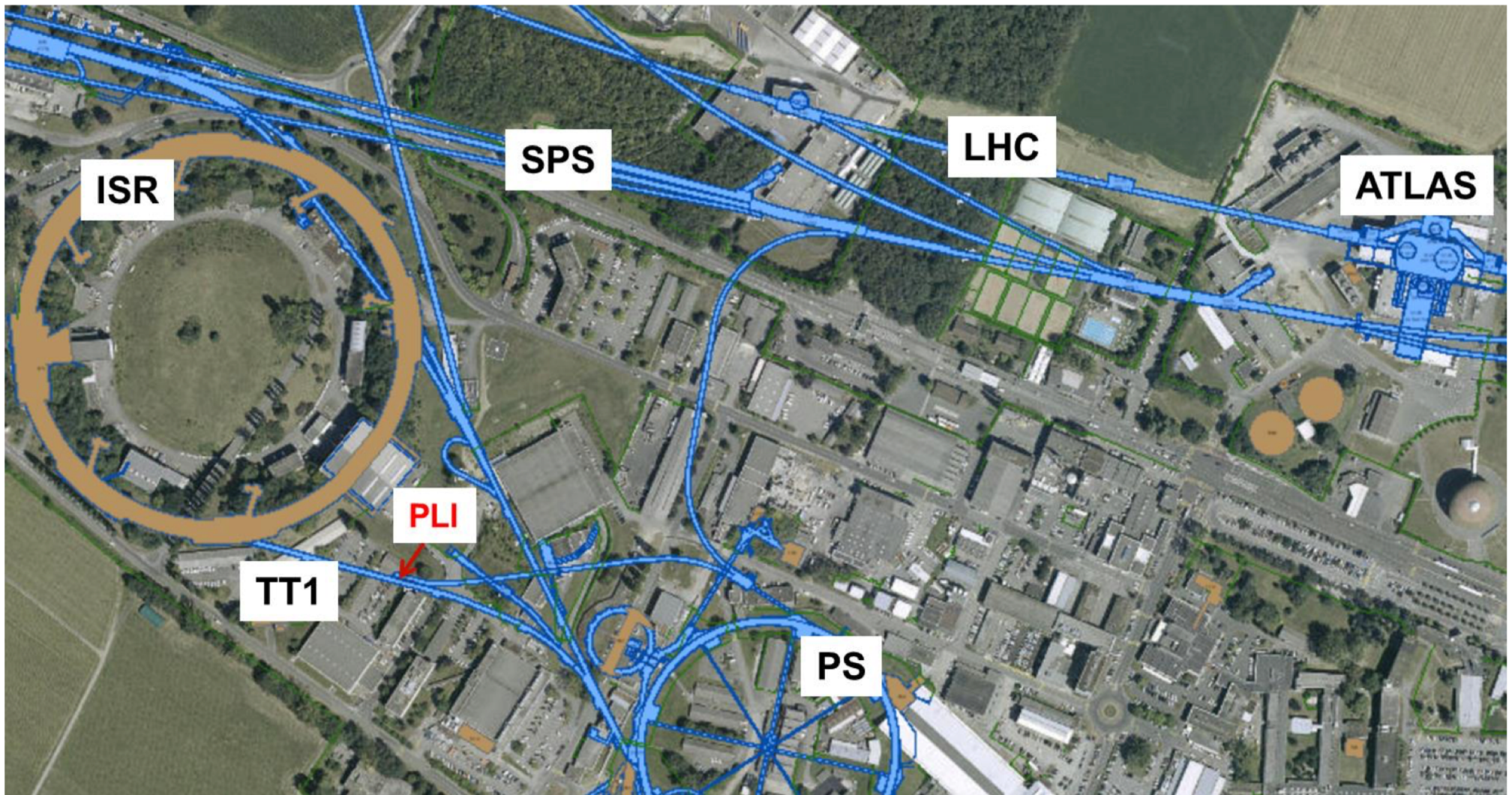


▶ p (protons)    ▶ ions    ▶ RIBs (Radioactive Ion Beams)    ▶ n (neutrons)    ▶  $\bar{p}$  (antiprotons)    ▶  $e^-$  (electrons)    ▶→ proton/antiproton conversion    ▶→ proton/RIB conversion

LHC Large Hadron Collider    SPS Super Proton Synchrotron    PS Proton Synchrotron    AD Antiproton Decelerator    CTF3 Clic Test Facility  
 AWAKE Advanced WAKEfield Experiment    ISOLDE Isotope Separator OnLine    REX/HIE Radioactive EXperiment/High Intensity and Energy ISOLDE  
 LEIR Low Energy Ion Ring    LINAC LINear ACcelerator    n-ToF Neutrons Time Of Flight    HiRadMat High-Radiation to Materials



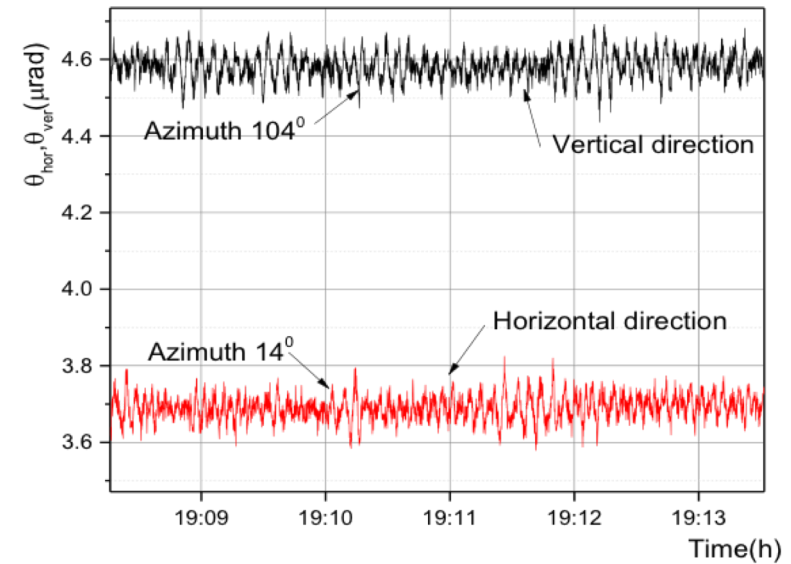
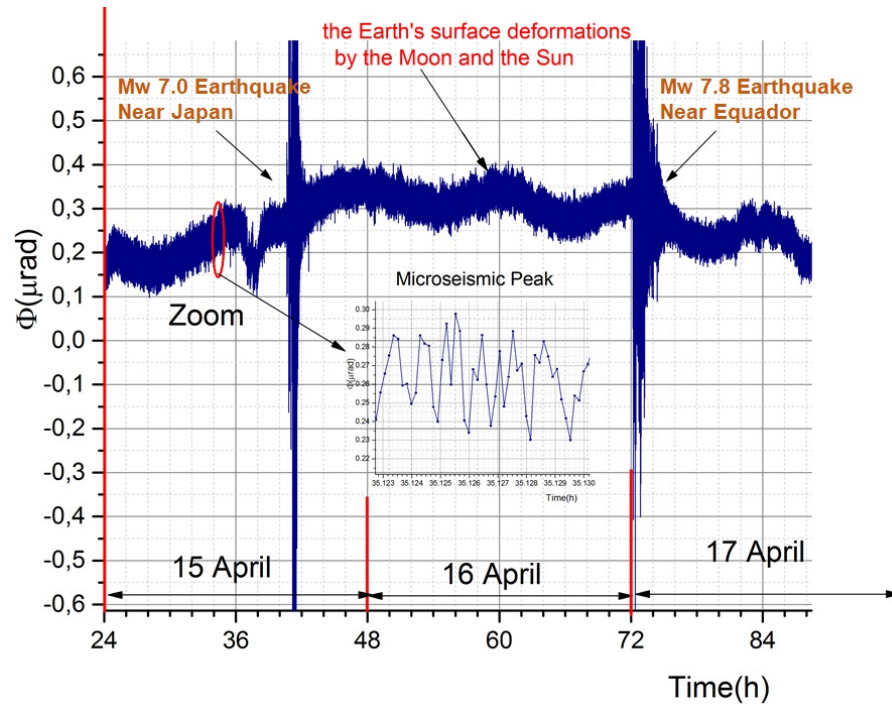
# Installation at CERN: TT1 Tunnel



Very stable ground and temperature conditions



# PLI: just some initial results

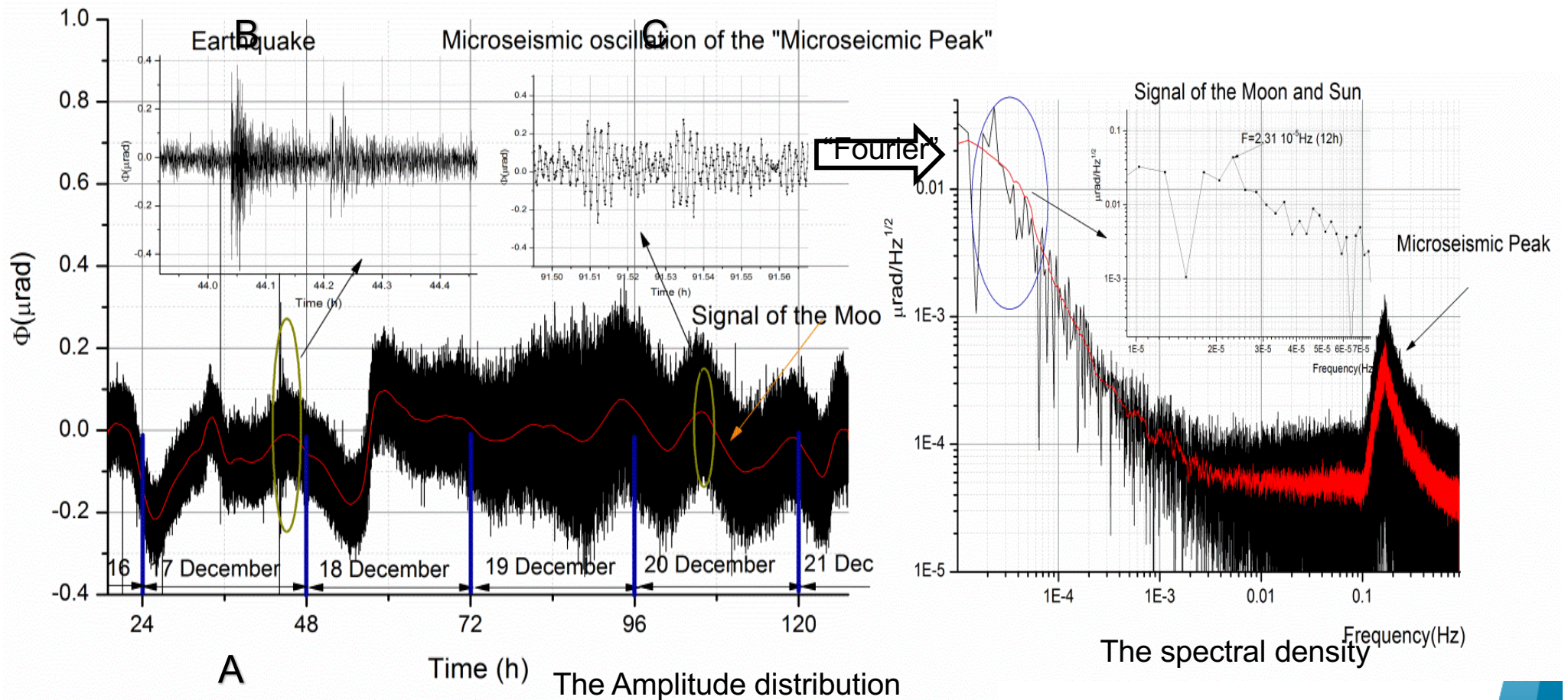


Micro-seismic in the Geneva area

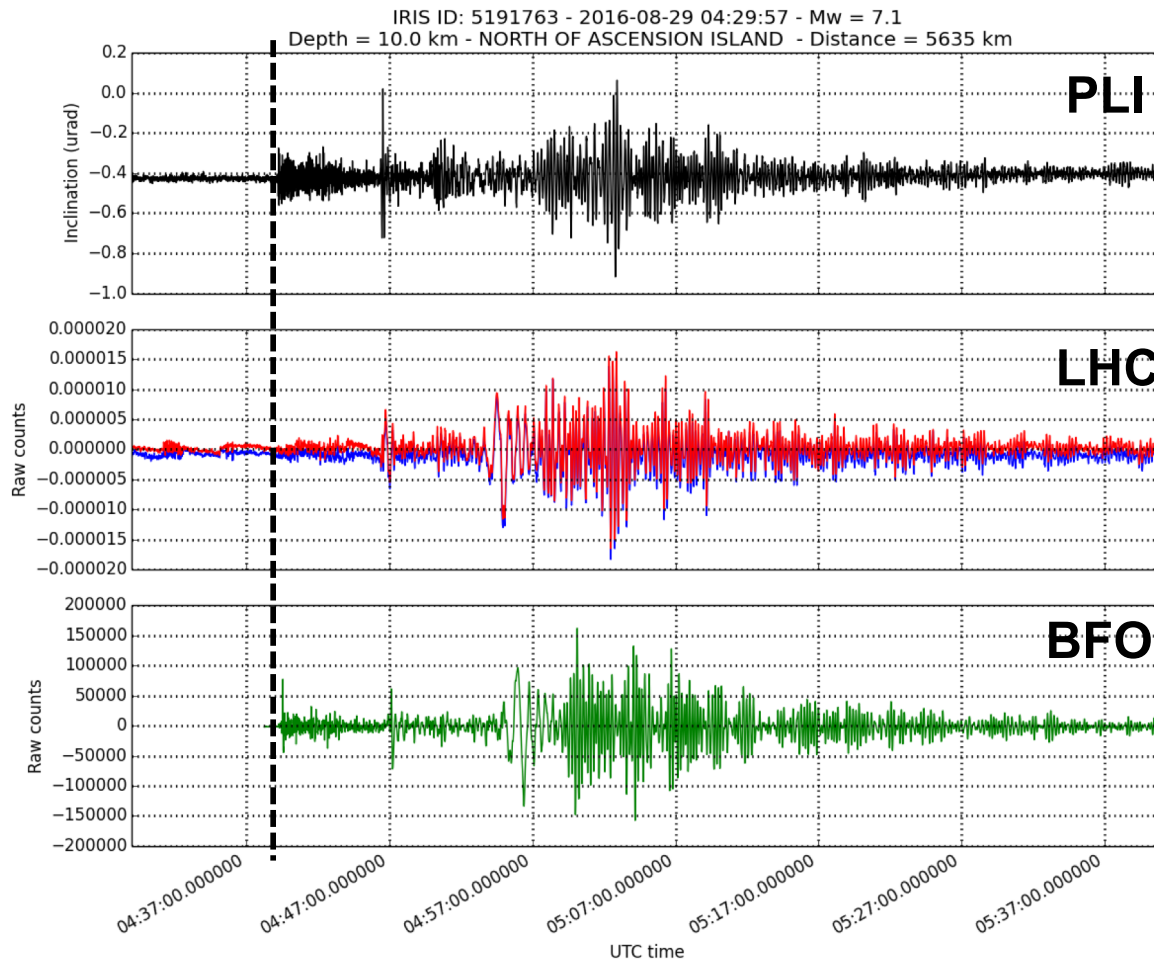
2016  
Simultaneous recording of  
earthquakes, micro-seismic peak and  
Sun-Moon cycle

# First basic results

These PLI-detected ground motions are caused by the Moon and Sun (A); by an Earthquake in Mexico (B); by the “microseismic” kicks (C).



# Far earthquakes: Ascension Island

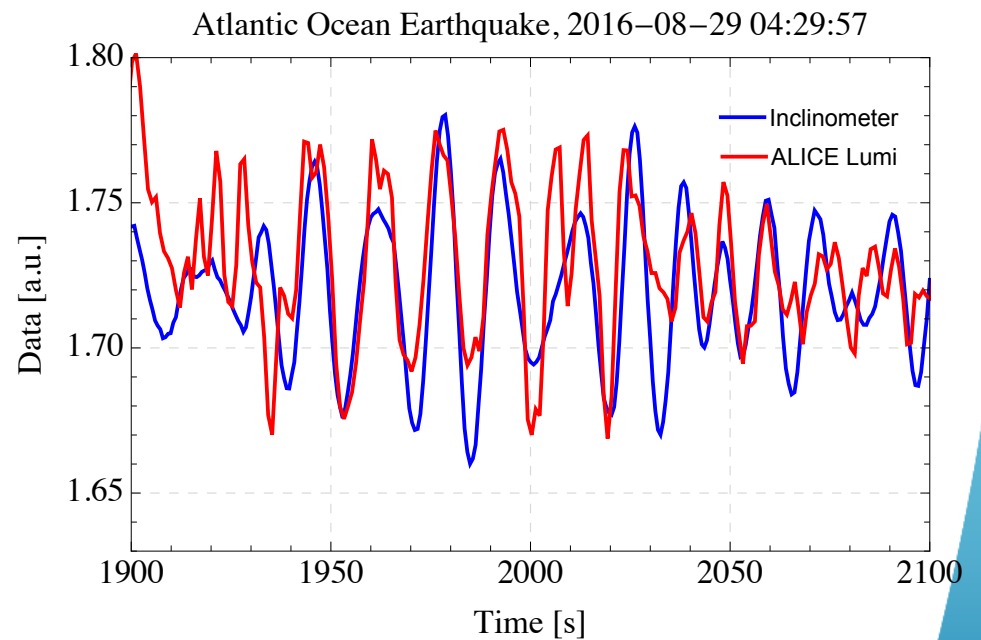
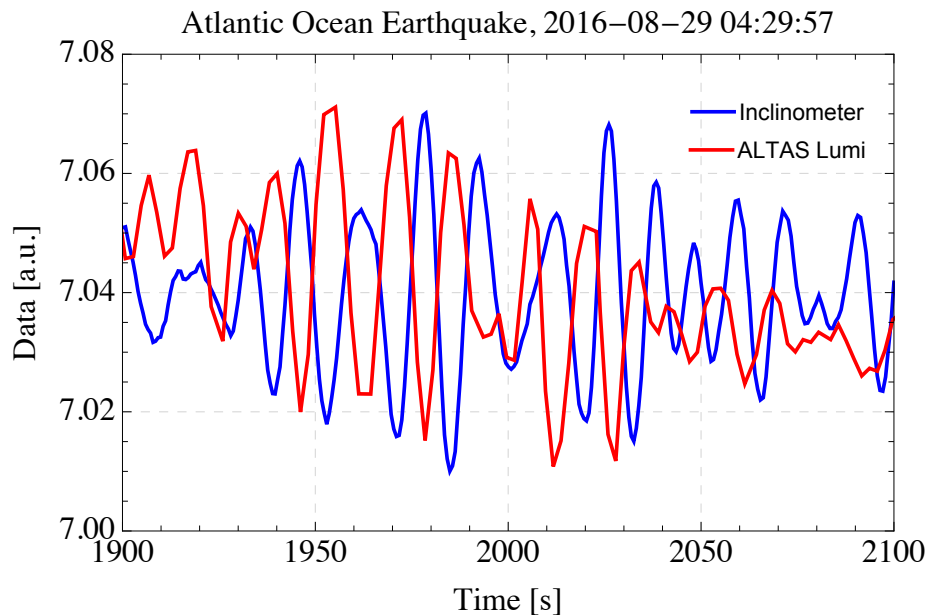


The PLI detection compared to the horizontal orbit oscillations of LHC. As confirmation also the seismogram from the Black Forrest Observatory (which receives it later as expected).

# Correlations of Ground Motion with Luminosity

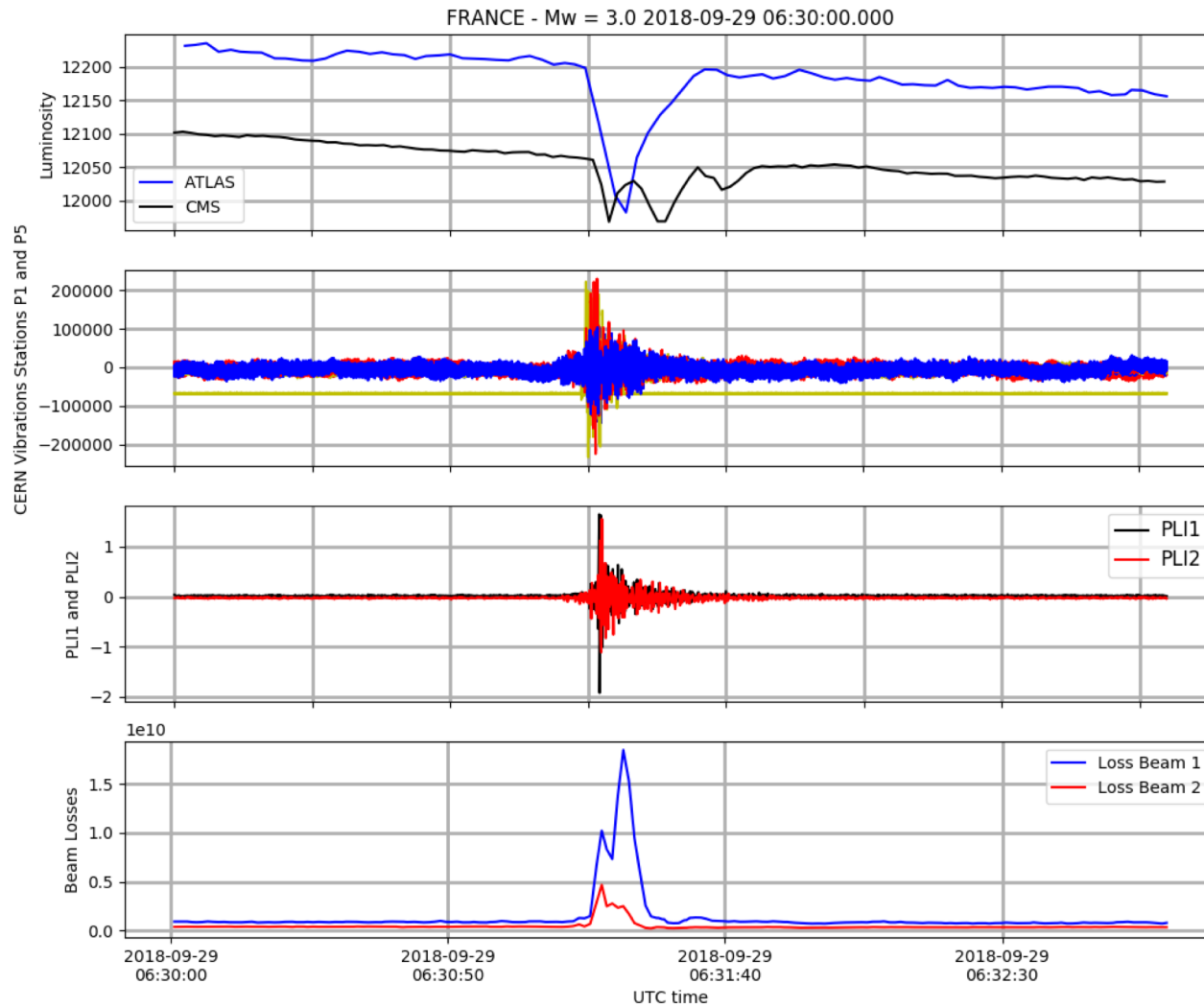
Luminosity shows good correlation with ground motion in TT1.

- ALICE/LHCb oscillate in phase with the ground motion.
- ATLAS/CMS oscillate with  $\pi/2$  phase difference.



# Near earthquakes

France 29 September 2018

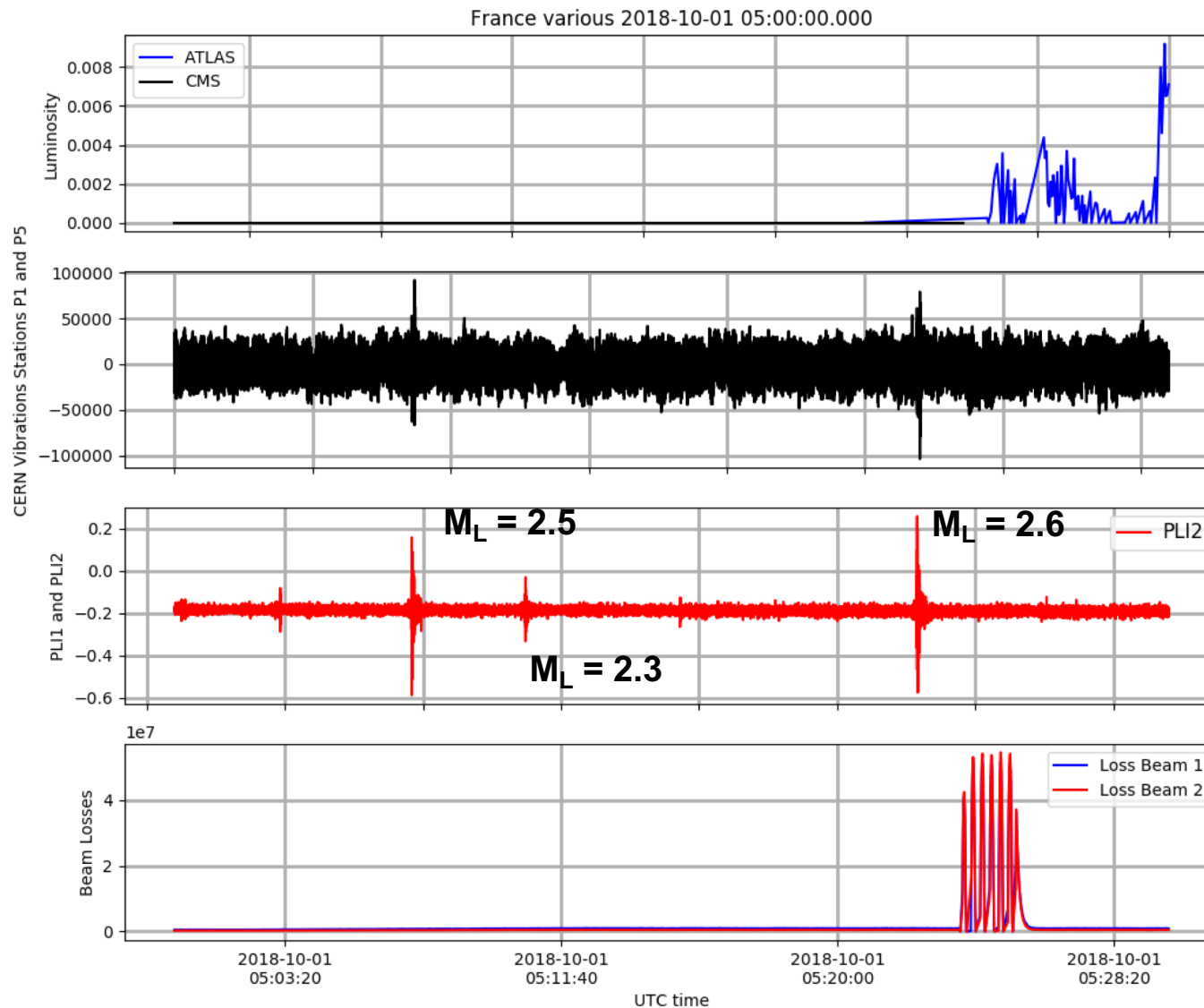


Effect on beam losses and luminosity



# Tiny near earthquakes and comparison with seismometers

France 1 October 2018



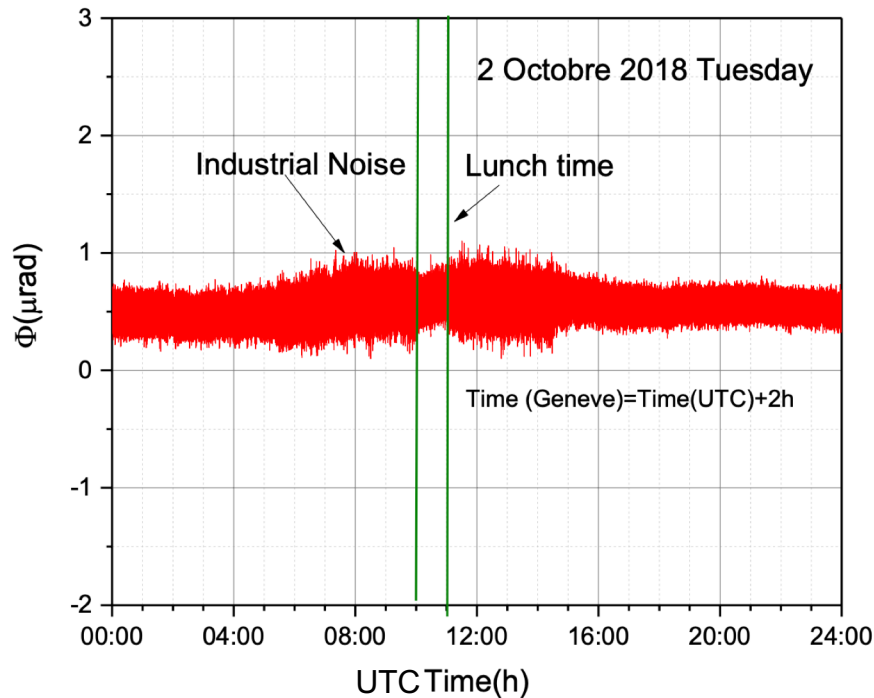
No effects on LHC  
Comparison with  
seismometers in  
P1 and P5  
Small magnitude  
earthquakes



# Precision of detection

- The precision is dependent on the observation period and the frequency of calibration
- Comparative measurements with well-established HLS system at CERN has shown for monitoring ground earth oscillation
  - A precision of  $2.4 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ rad/Hz}^{1/2}$  in the frequency range  $[10^{-3}, 12.4] \text{ Hz}$
  - A precision better than  $10^{-9} \text{ rad/Hz}^{1/2}$  in the frequency range  $[10^{-6}, 10^{-3}] \text{ Hz}$

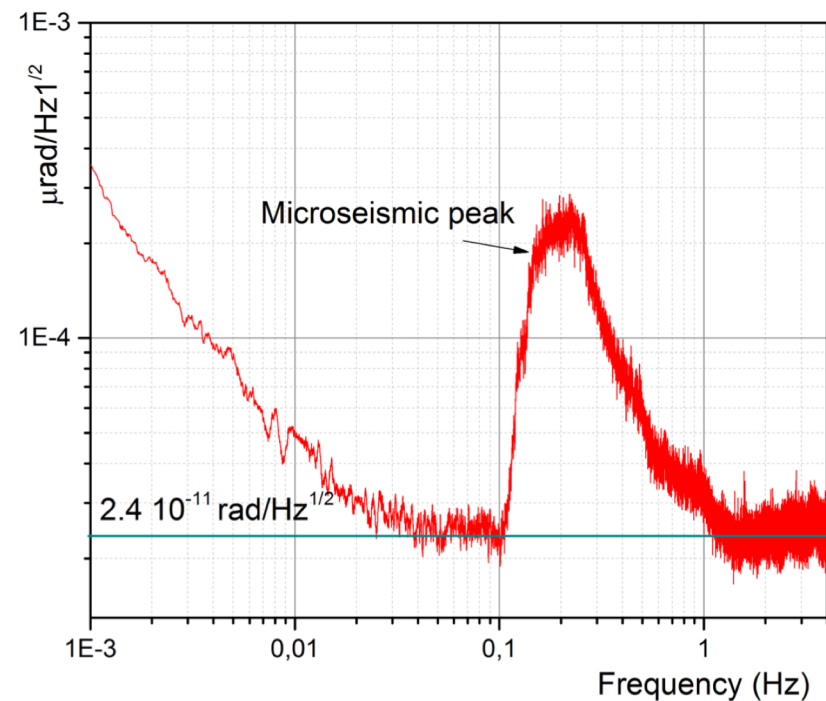
# The seismic effects of CERN and surrounding



Local time = UTC + 2

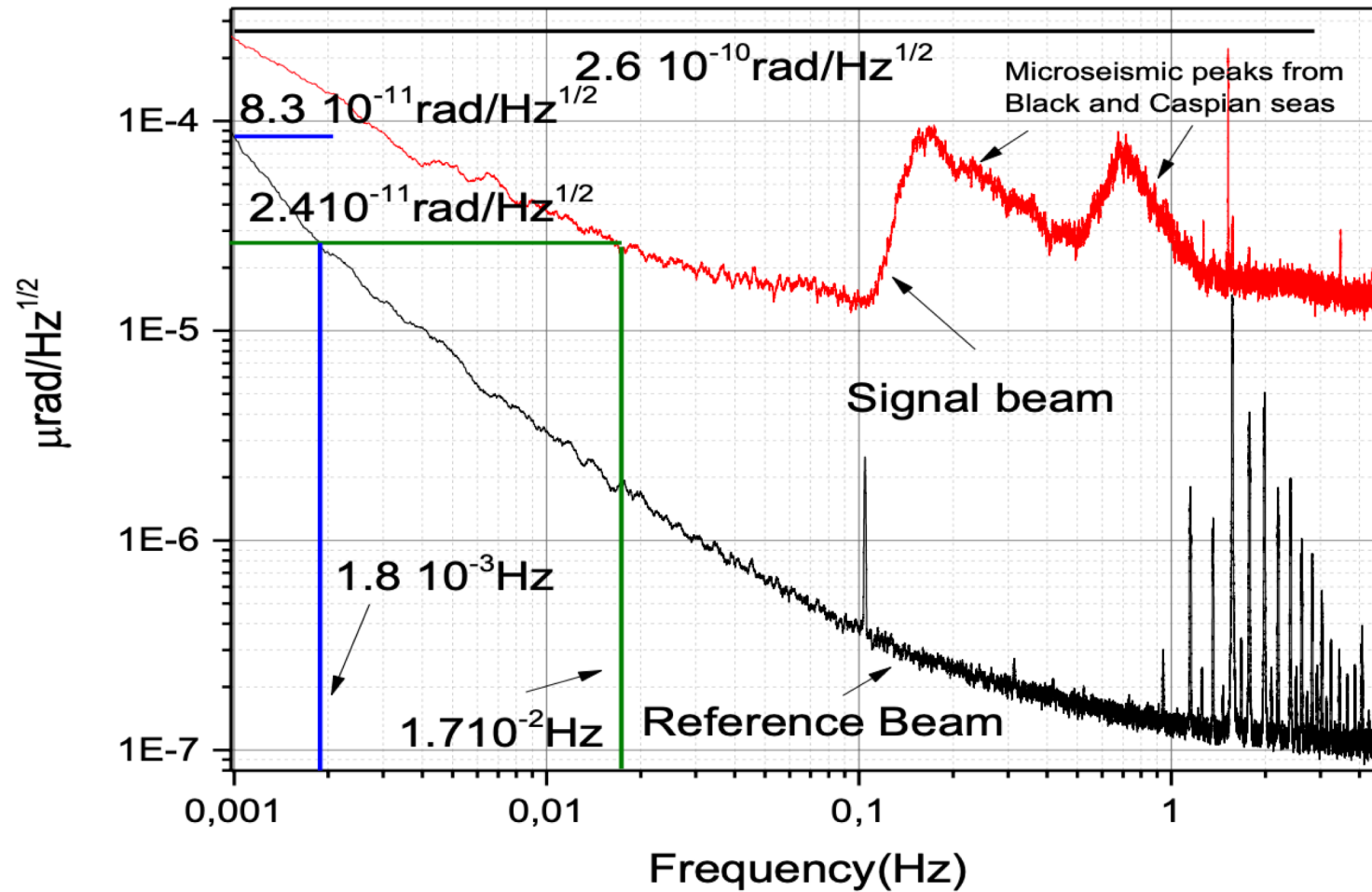
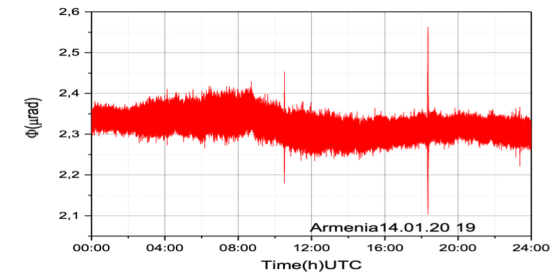
This plot is obtained everyday, here a specific day with no Earthquakes, no significant CERN “noise” and minimal micro-seismic peak amplitude ( $\sim 50$  nrad)

Working day:  $0.5-1 \mu\text{rad}$  during the day  
 $\sim 0.3 \mu\text{rad}$  during lunch  
 CERN daily “noise”





# Detection in Armenia: ground oscillations and reference signal

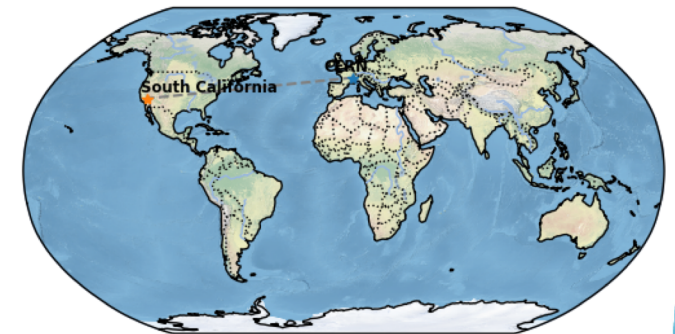
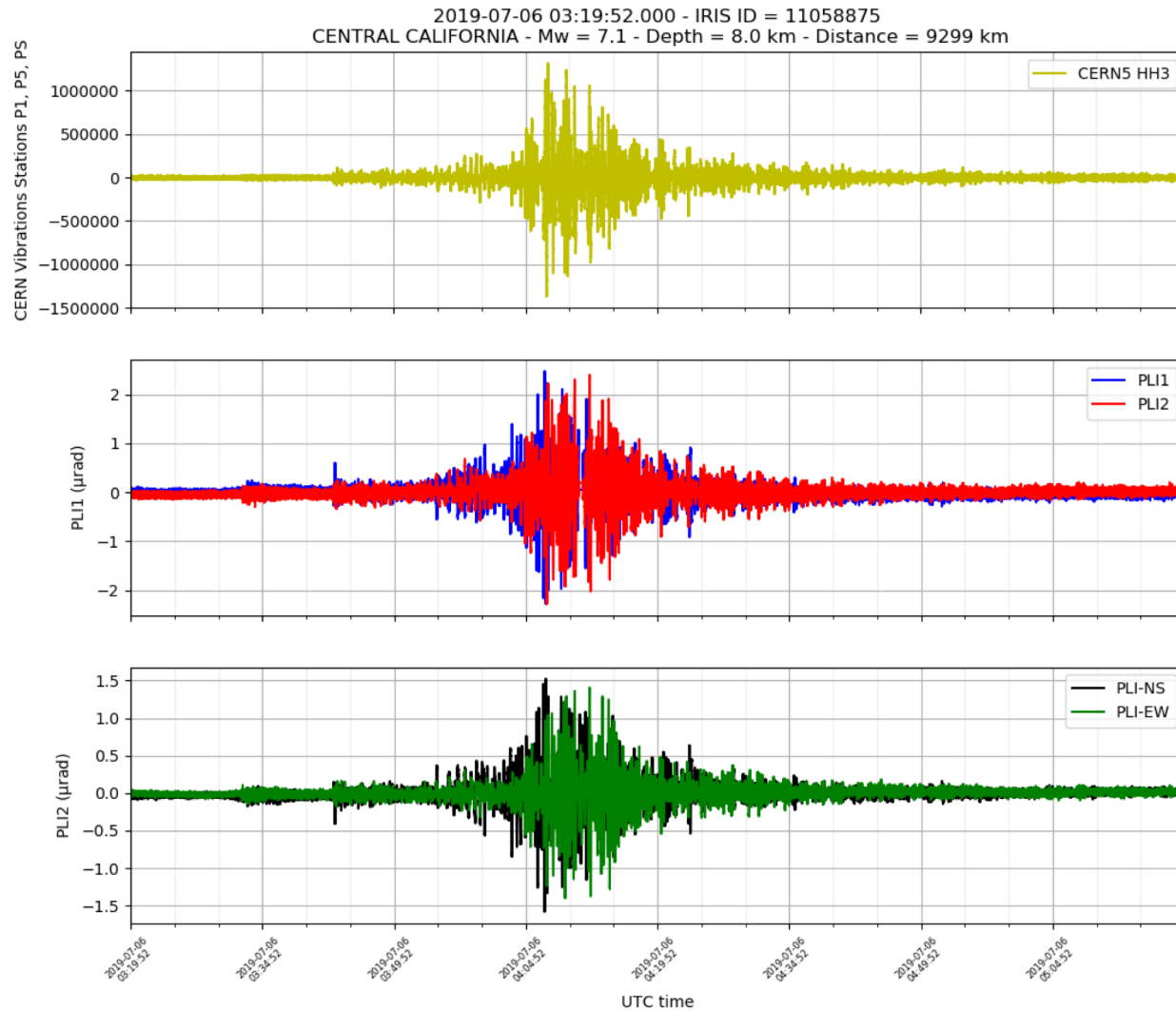


# The PLI for Virgo

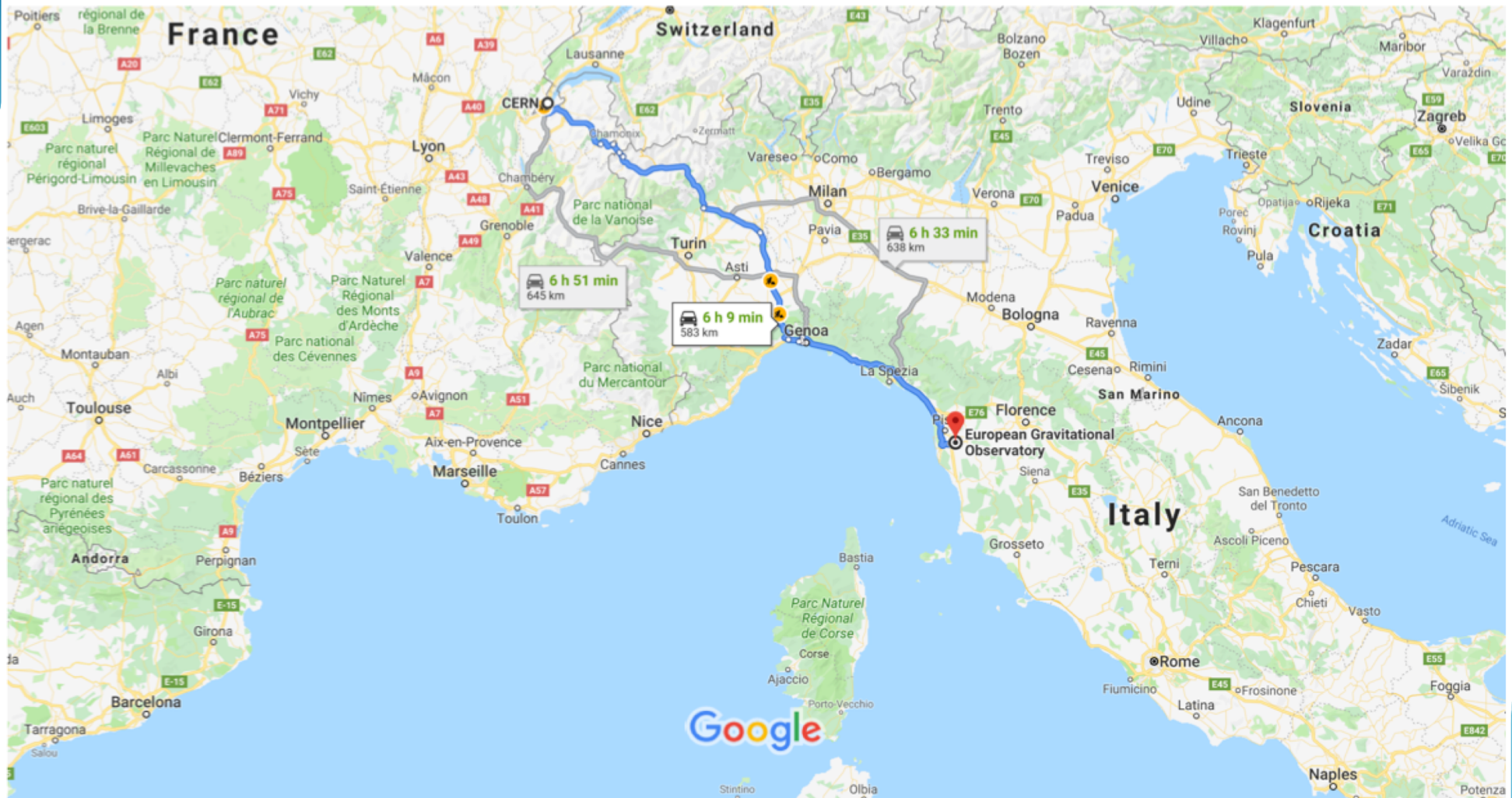


# PLI-Virgo at CERN

## M 7.1 California Earthquake



Comparison with the other PLI installed at CERN and Seismometer from CERN Seismic Network



Map data ©2019 Google, Inst. Geogr. Nacional, GeoBasis-DE/BKG (©2009) 100 km

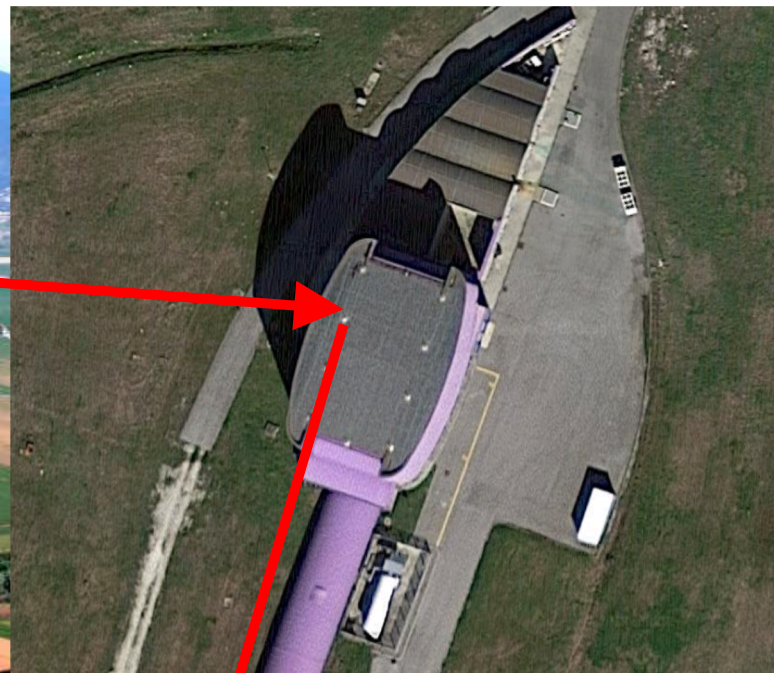
600 km later...

# Installation at Advanced Virgo

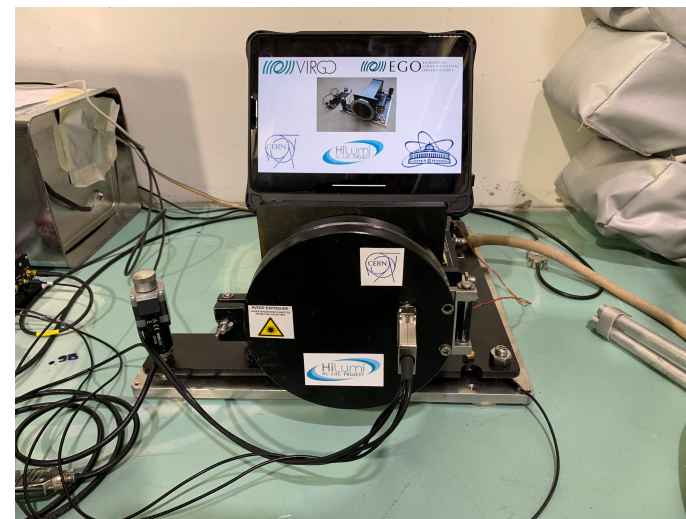
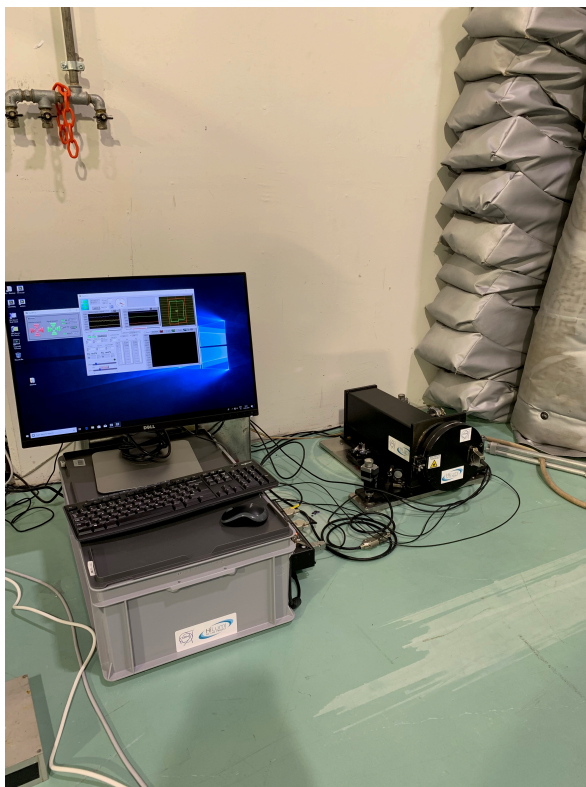
- A collaboration was established between CERN-JINR-INFN to install one PLI device at Advanced Virgo
- Tested at CERN until end of July, installed in North End Building of Adv Virgo on August 6<sup>th</sup>
  - It started data taking immediately
  - New intervention on August 13<sup>th</sup> for final tuning
  - In continuous data taking
  - Working with F. Carbognani for integration in Virgo data frame



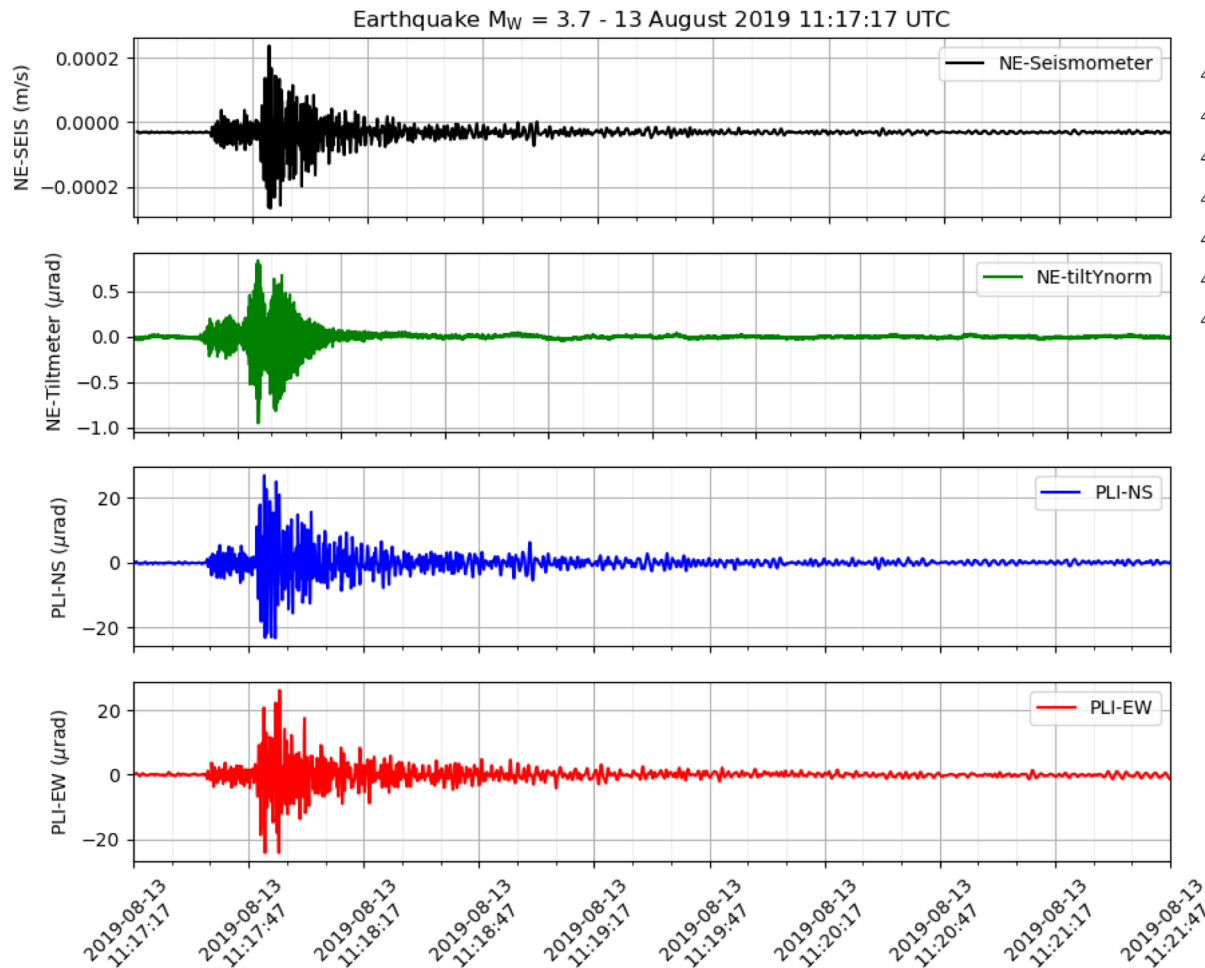
# PLI-Virgo in its position at NEB



# PLI-Virgo in its position at NEB



# Several tiny earthquakes recorded: examples



105 km from Virgo

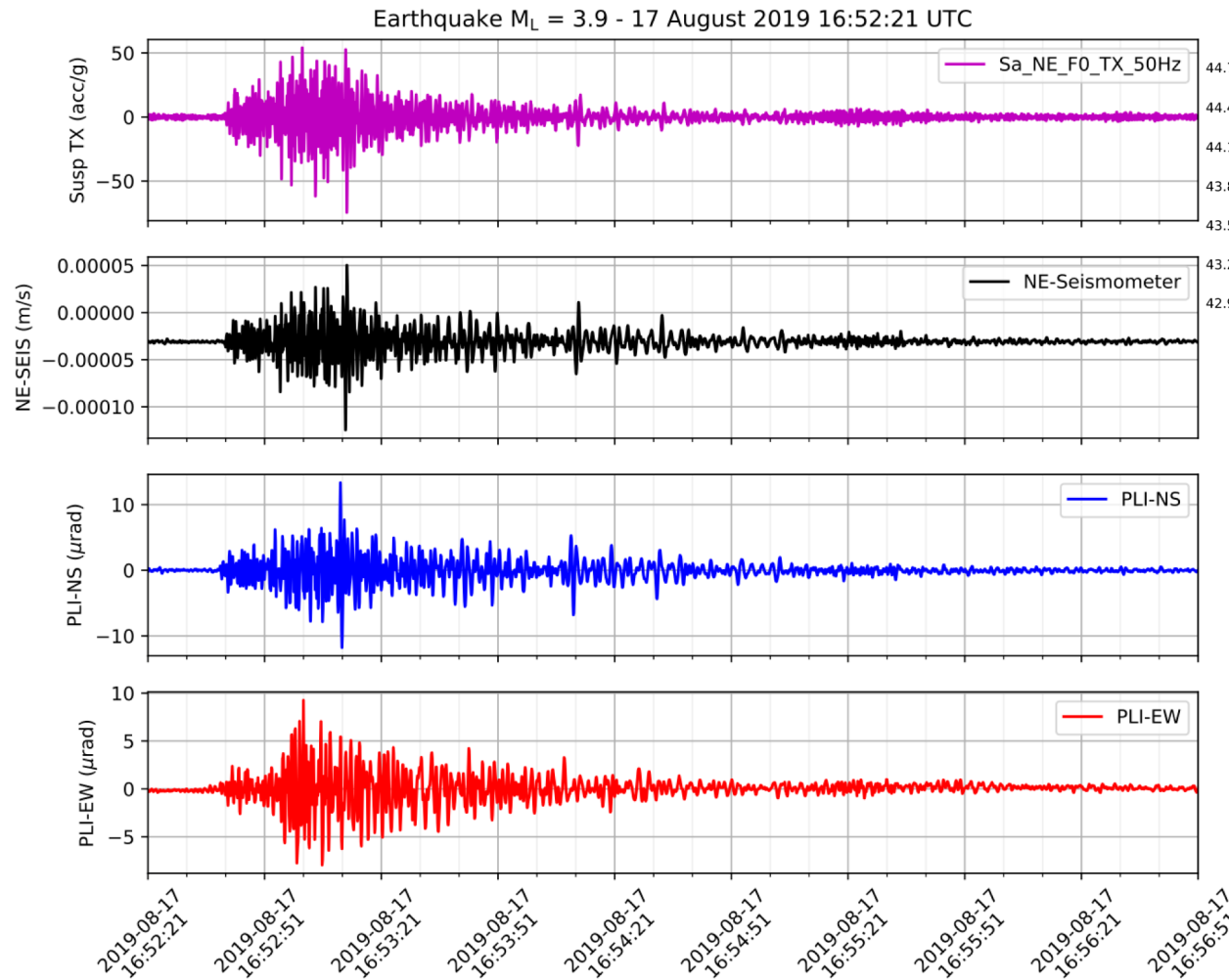
$M_W = 3.7$

Clear arrival of P waves  
after  $\sim 20$  s

Comparison with Napoli's  
tiltmeter and seismometer  
in NEB



# Several tiny earthquakes: examples



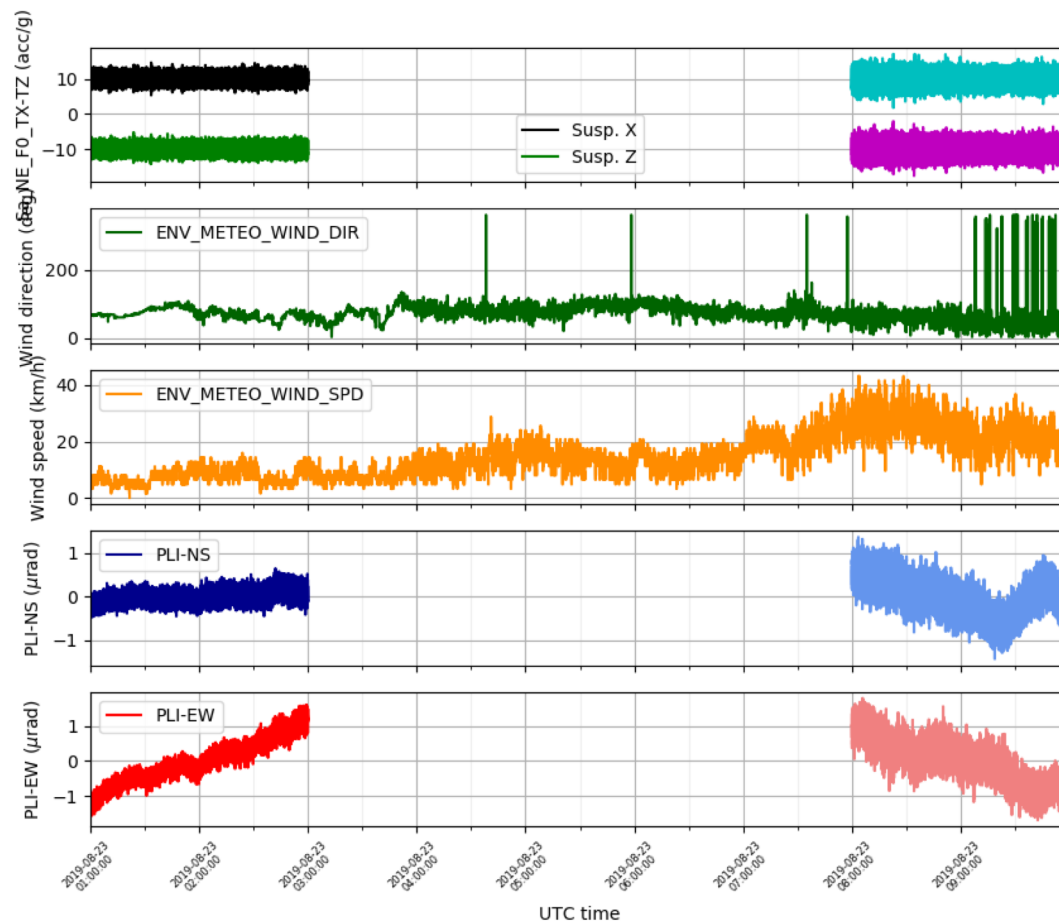
113 km from Virgo  
 $M_L = 3.9$   
Clear arrival of P waves  
after  $\sim 20$  s  
Comparison with  
signals from  
suspensions and from  
seismometer in NEB

# Analysis of wind effects on NEB

- Wind effects are a powerful tool to check coherence with other sensors
- Wind effects under 150 mHz are mostly due to rotation
- The wind effects however also manifest on the micro-seismic peak
- Results are nice, although deeper studies are needed
  - The non uniformity in wind speed is not corrected and certainly source of oscillations in coherence

# Effect of the wind: comparison low-high wind

- Low wind ~ 0 to 5 km/h
- High wind ~ 20 to 30 km/h with constant direction
- Looking at effects on PLI, seismometers and suspensions

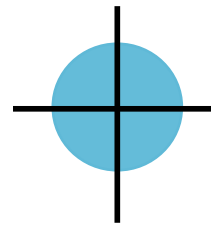


Data from August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Only sub-set of data in  
the interesting times  
01:00-03:00 UTC  
08:00-10:00 UTC

Although not very  
uniform in wind speed

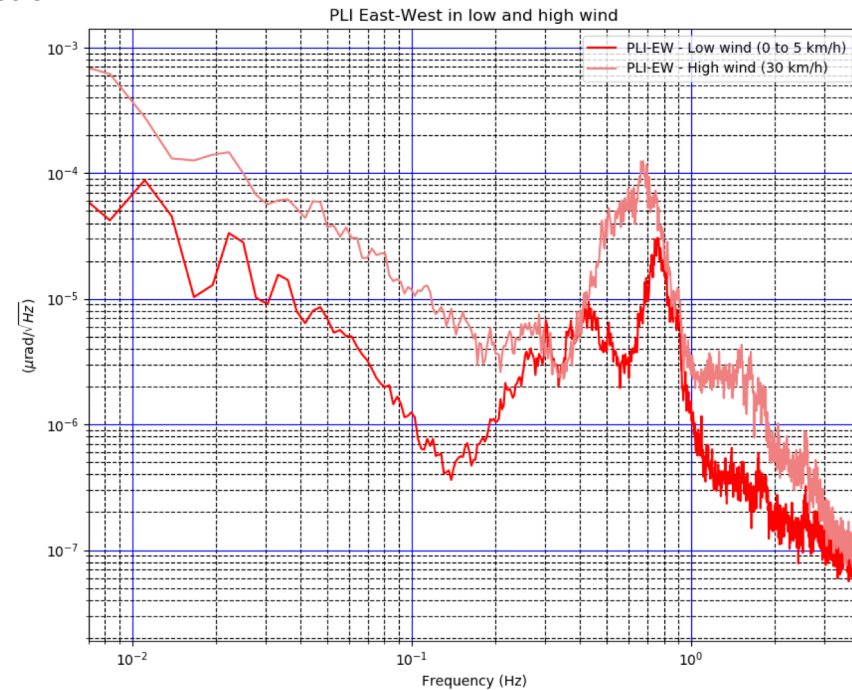
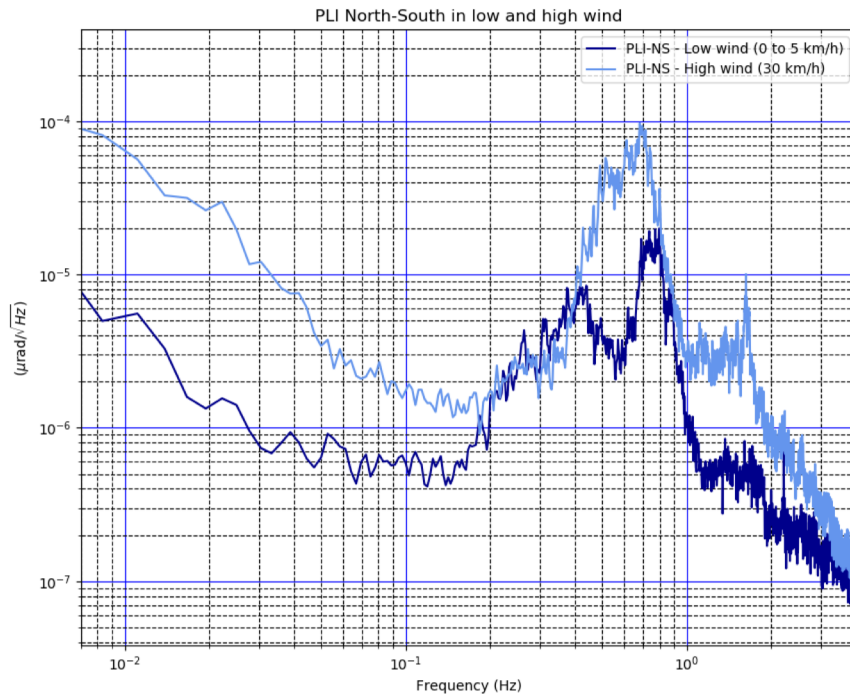
# Effect of the wind: on PLI

Quadrant photodiode



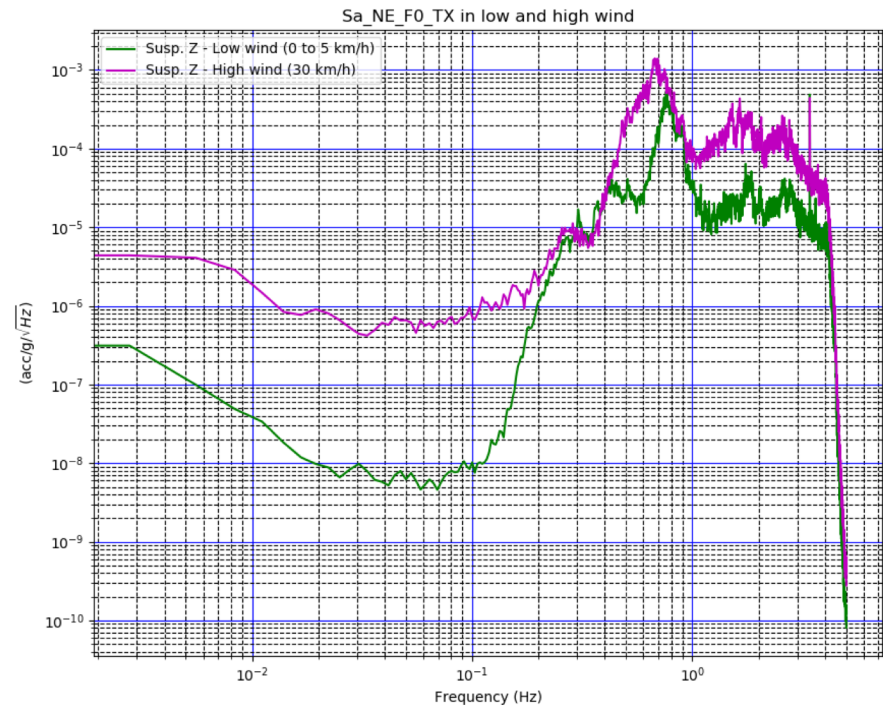
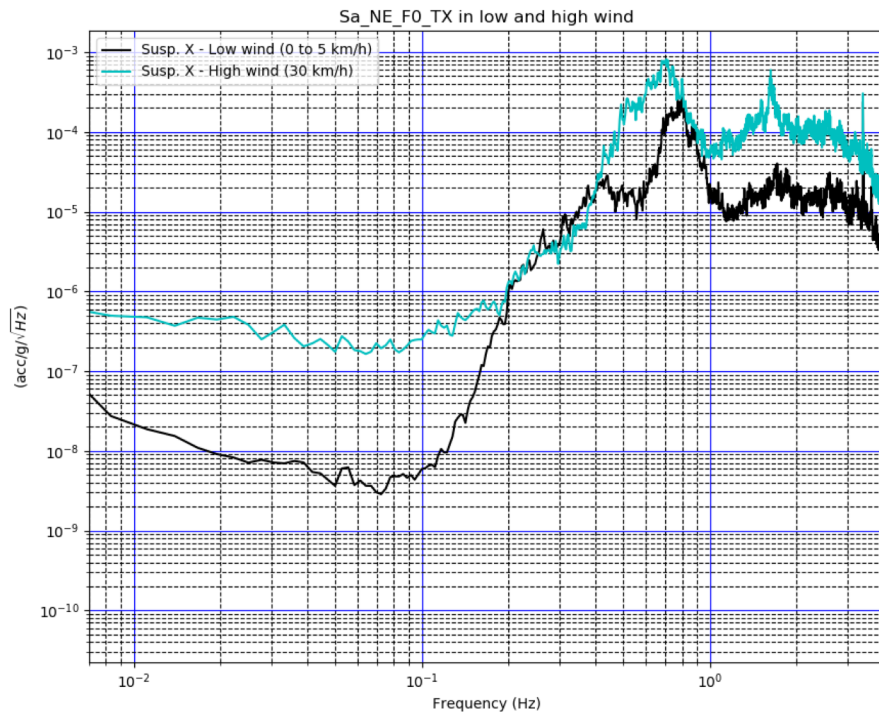
EW direction

NS direction



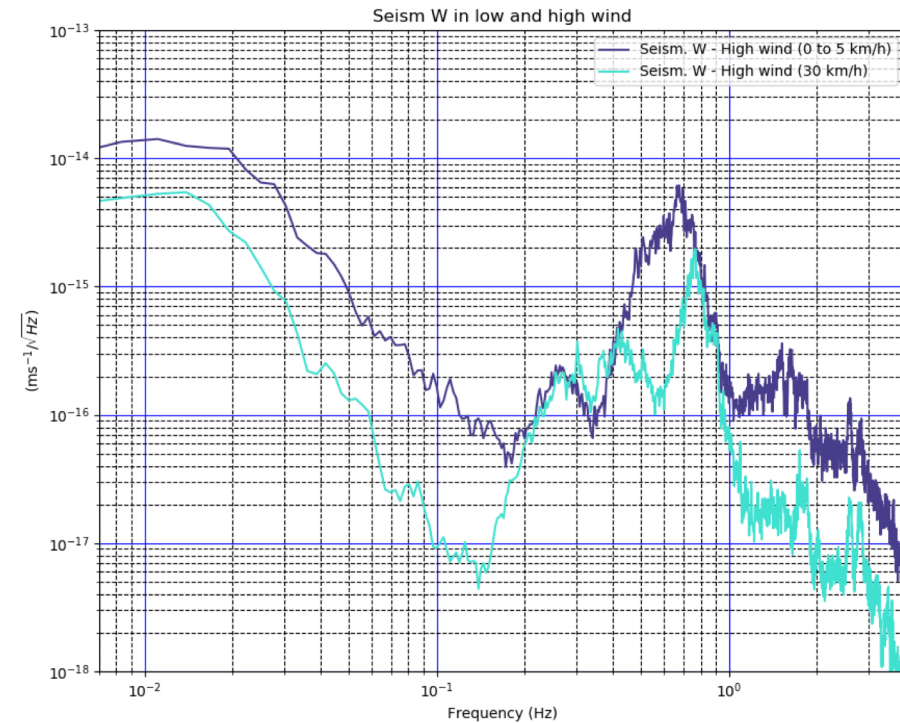
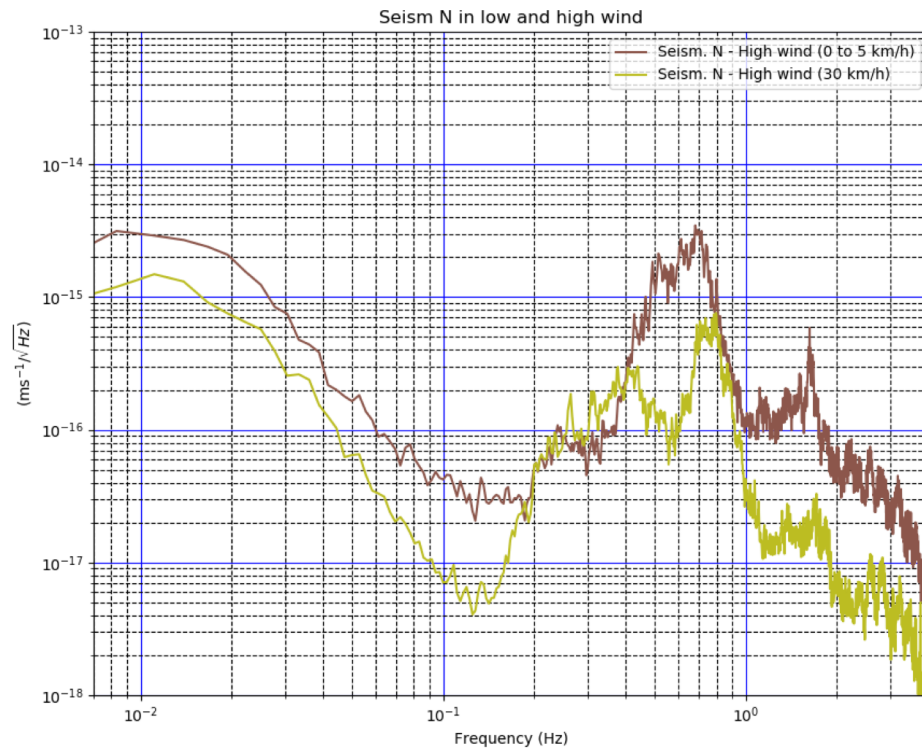
- NS coordinate, aligned as the laser beam and the Napoli's tiltmeter
- EW coordinate, orthogonal to NS

# Effect of the wind: on Suspension



TX and TZ directions

# Effect of the wind: on Seismometer

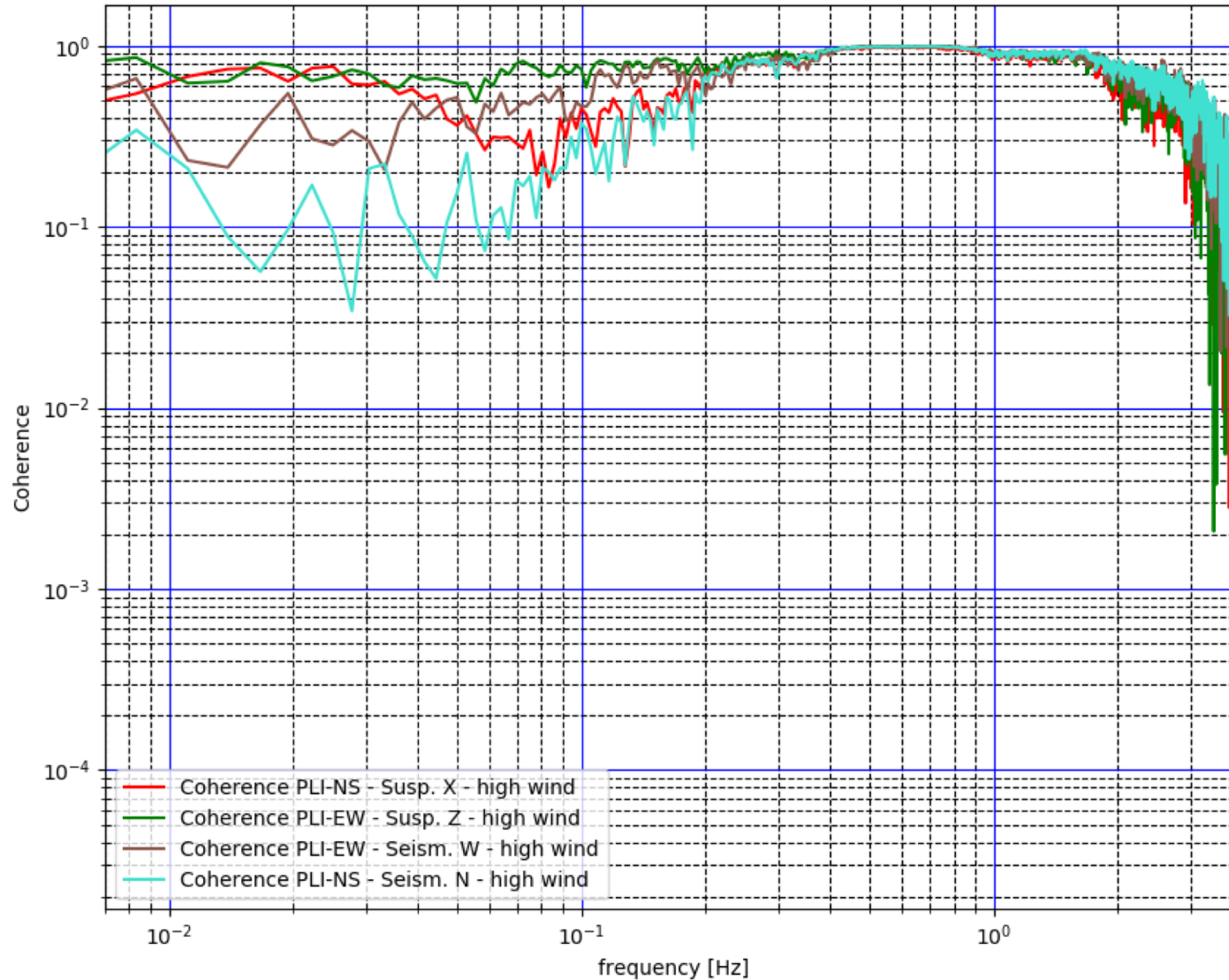


N and W directions

# Effect of the wind: Coherence

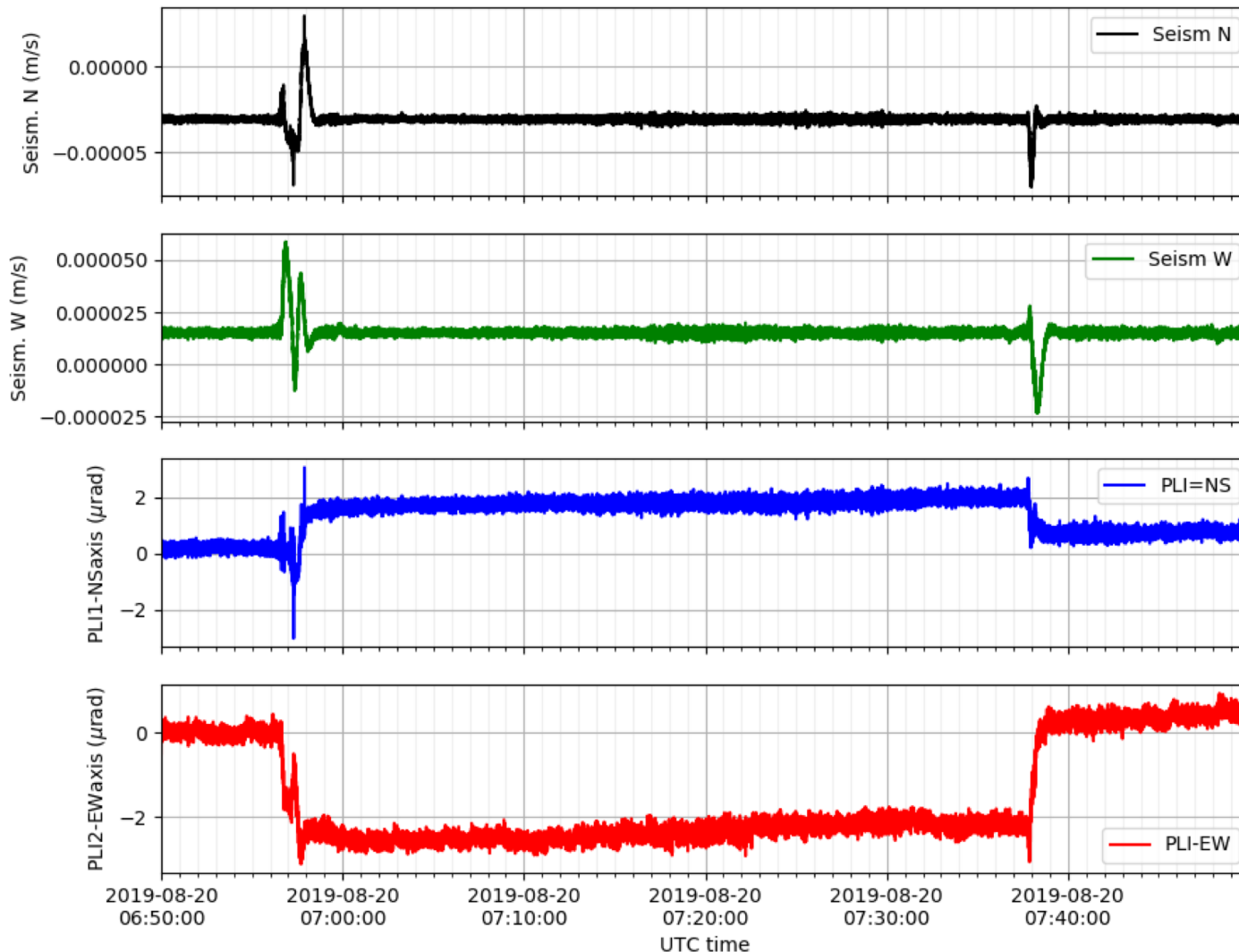
Best coherence PLI-Suspensions

Non uniformity of wind speed affects the coherence



# Funny effects: 20 August

Every Tuesday for 30 minutes a strange effect



Observation  
of a structure  
in speed from  
seismometer

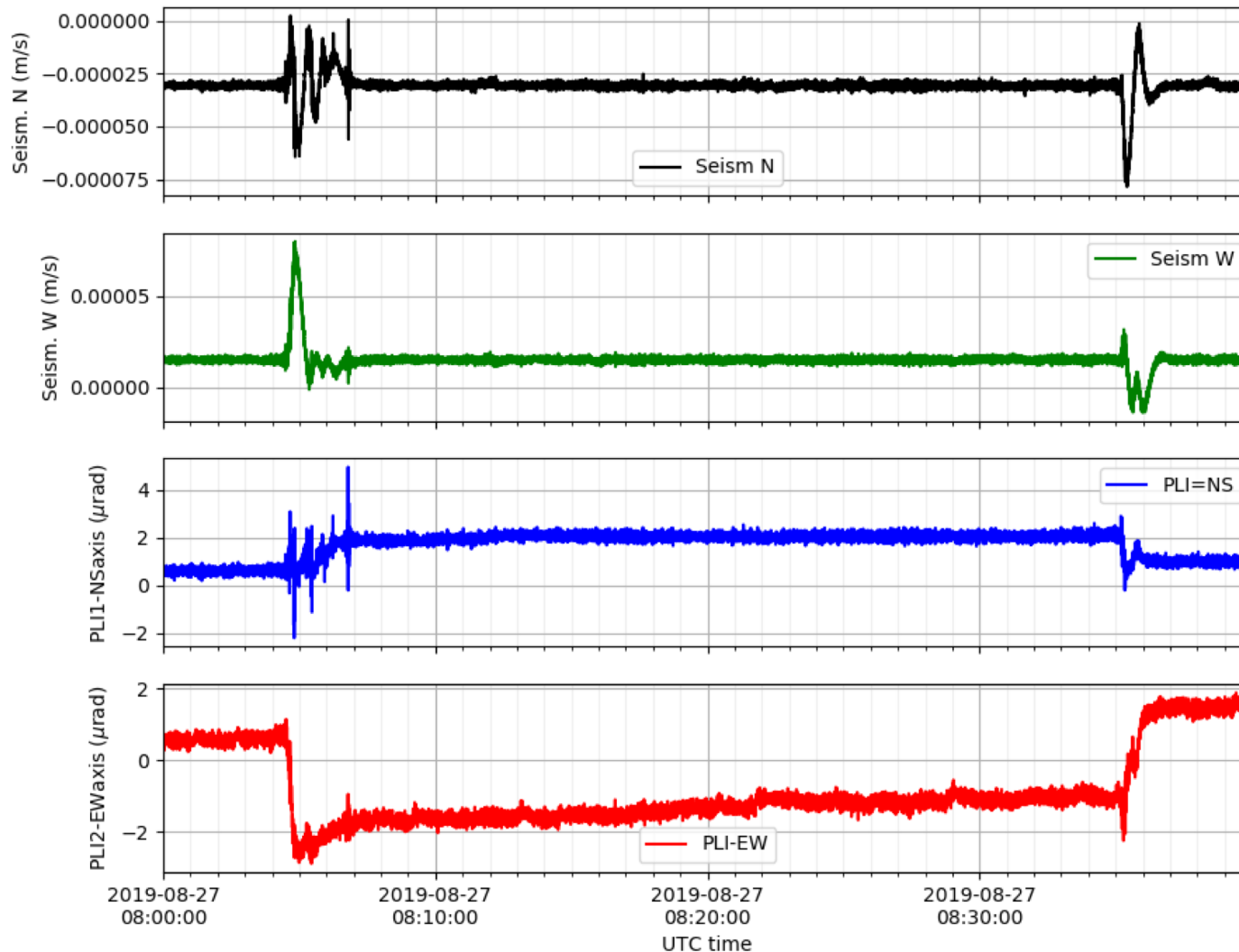
$\sim 1.7 \mu\text{rad}$  offset  
during  $\sim 30$  minutes  
around 08:56 CEST

$\sim 2.6 \mu\text{rad}$  offset  
during  $\sim 30$  minutes  
Back to  $\sim 0.6 \text{ mrad}$   
At 09:37 CEST



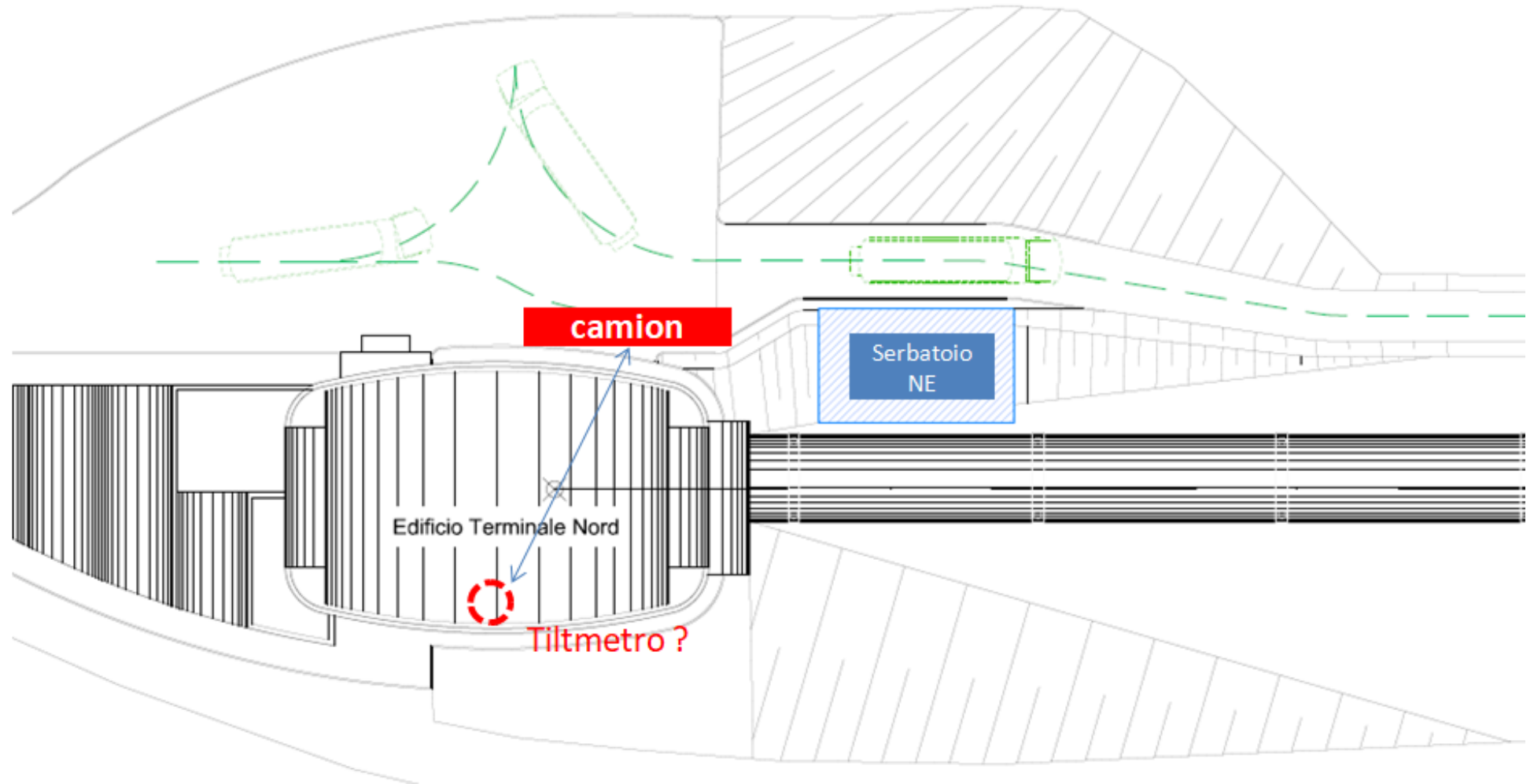
# Funny effects: 27 August

Every Tuesday for 30 minutes a strange effect



Observation of the same phenomena

More maneuvering back and forth?

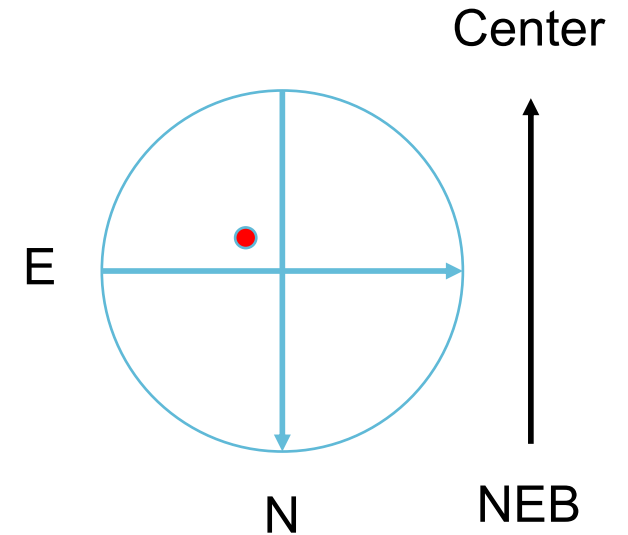
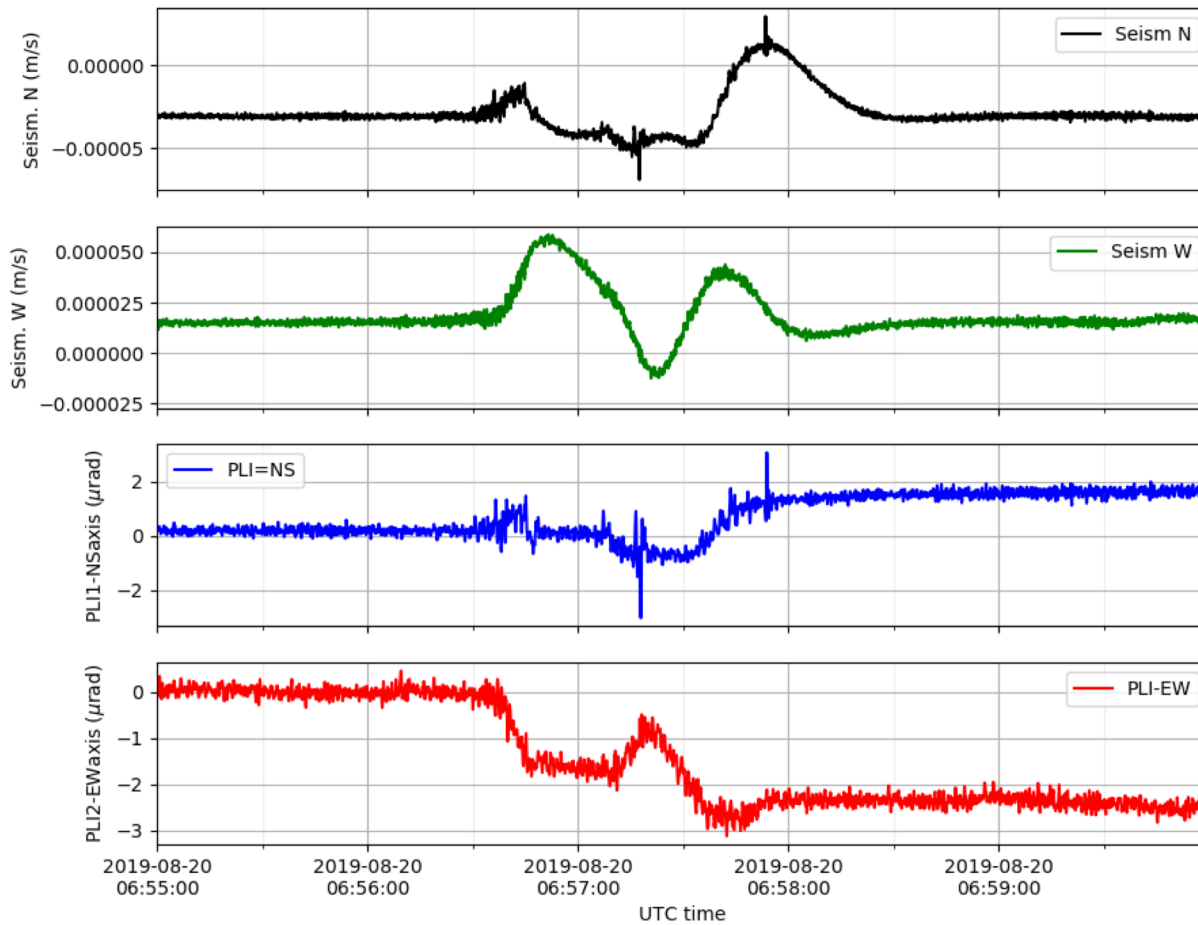


Nitrogen filling

Credit: A. Pasqualetti (picture), F. Ricci (hint)

# Funny effects: start of it

Presence of a structure with different inclinations

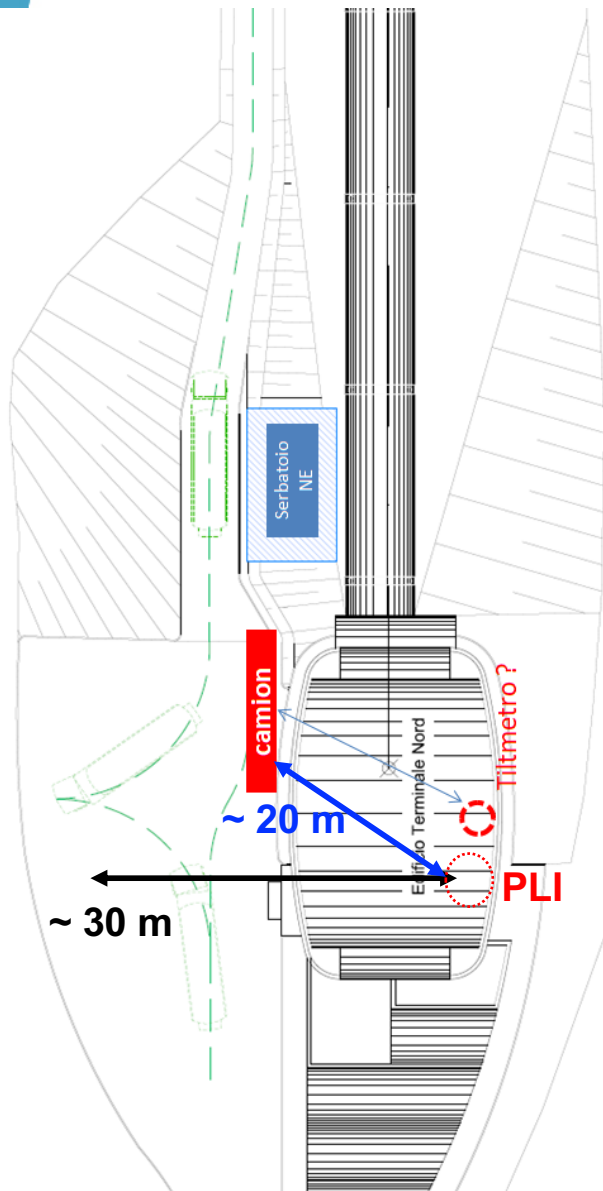


Max 1.7  $\mu\text{rad}$  offset S  
Max 2.6  $\mu\text{rad}$  offset E

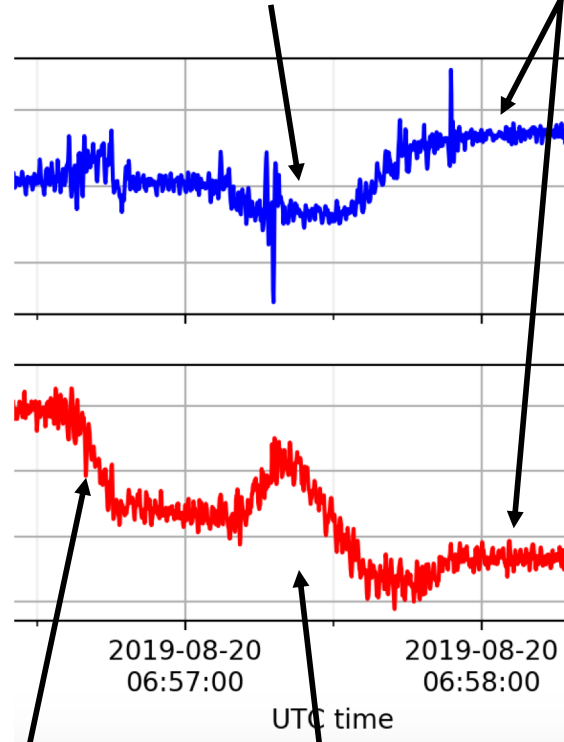
Max  $\sim 3.1$   $\mu\text{rad}$  in top  
left quadrant

# Funny effects: the LN<sub>2</sub> tank truck

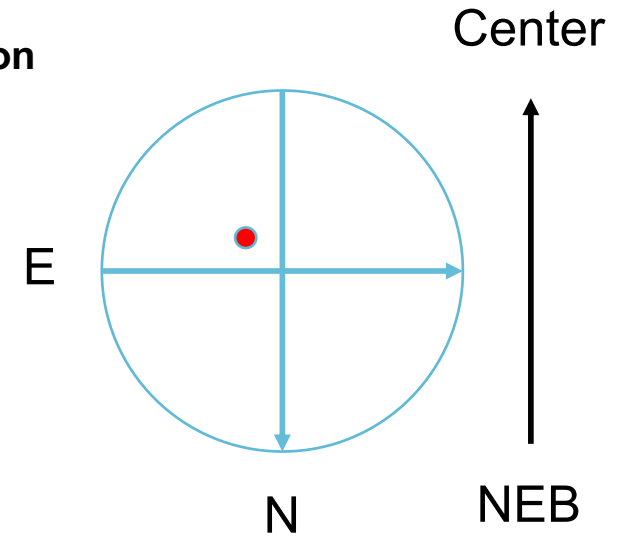
Presence of a structure with different inclinations at arrival



Truck going N      Truck in position



Arrival at ~ 30 m  
maneuvering



Max 1.7  $\mu$ rad offset S  
Max 2.6  $\mu$ rad offset E

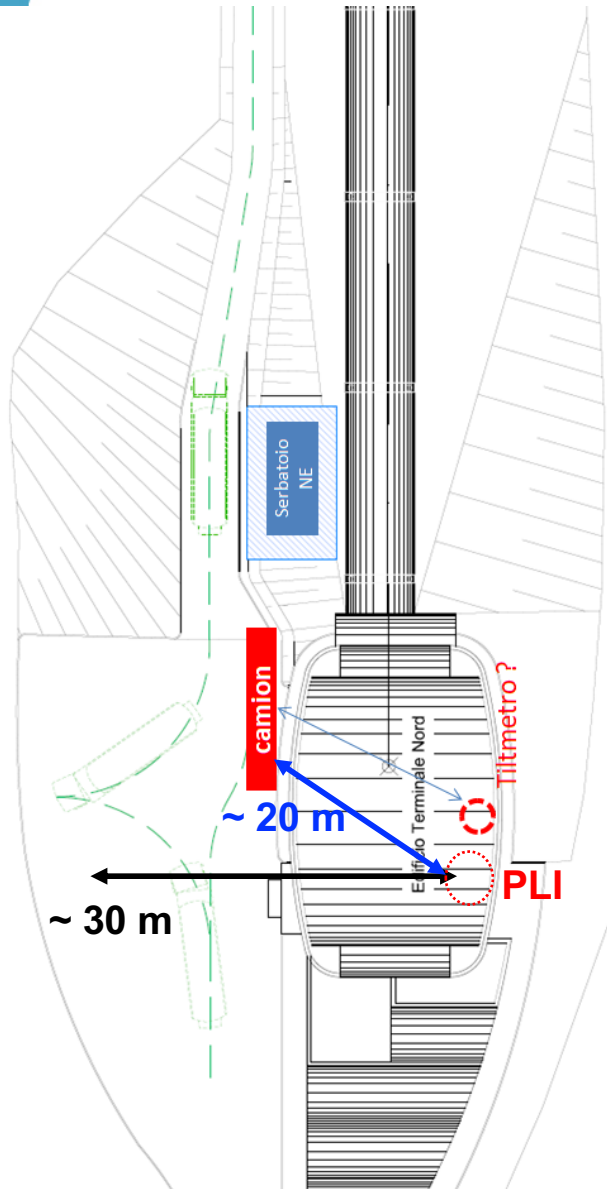
Back of the envelop calculation

Consistent ~ 60  $\mu$ m vertical displacement measurement

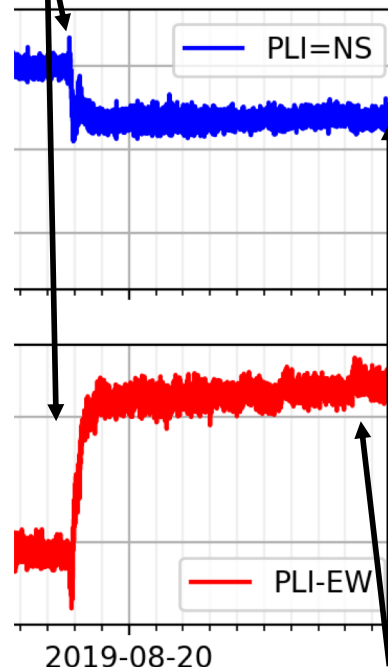
Truck probably ~ 30 tons

# Funny effects: the LN<sub>2</sub> tank truck

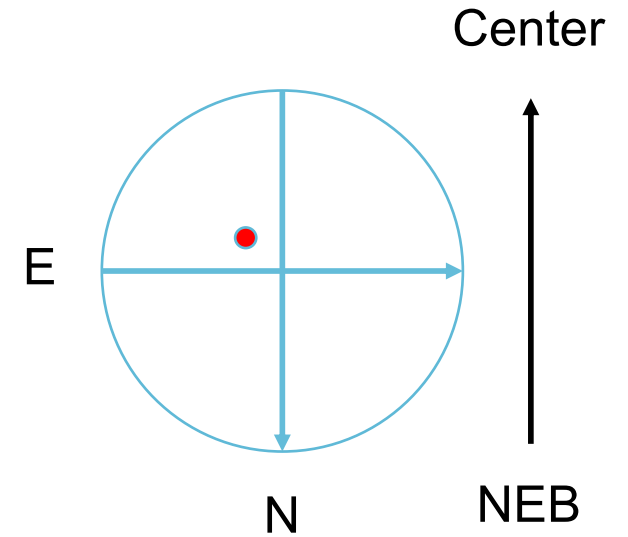
Presence of a structure with different inclinations at arrival



Truck leaving



2019-08-20  
07:40:00  
Residual offset



Max 1.7  $\mu$ rad offset S  
Max 2.6  $\mu$ rad offset E

Back of the envelop calculation

Residual vert displacement due to tank filled?

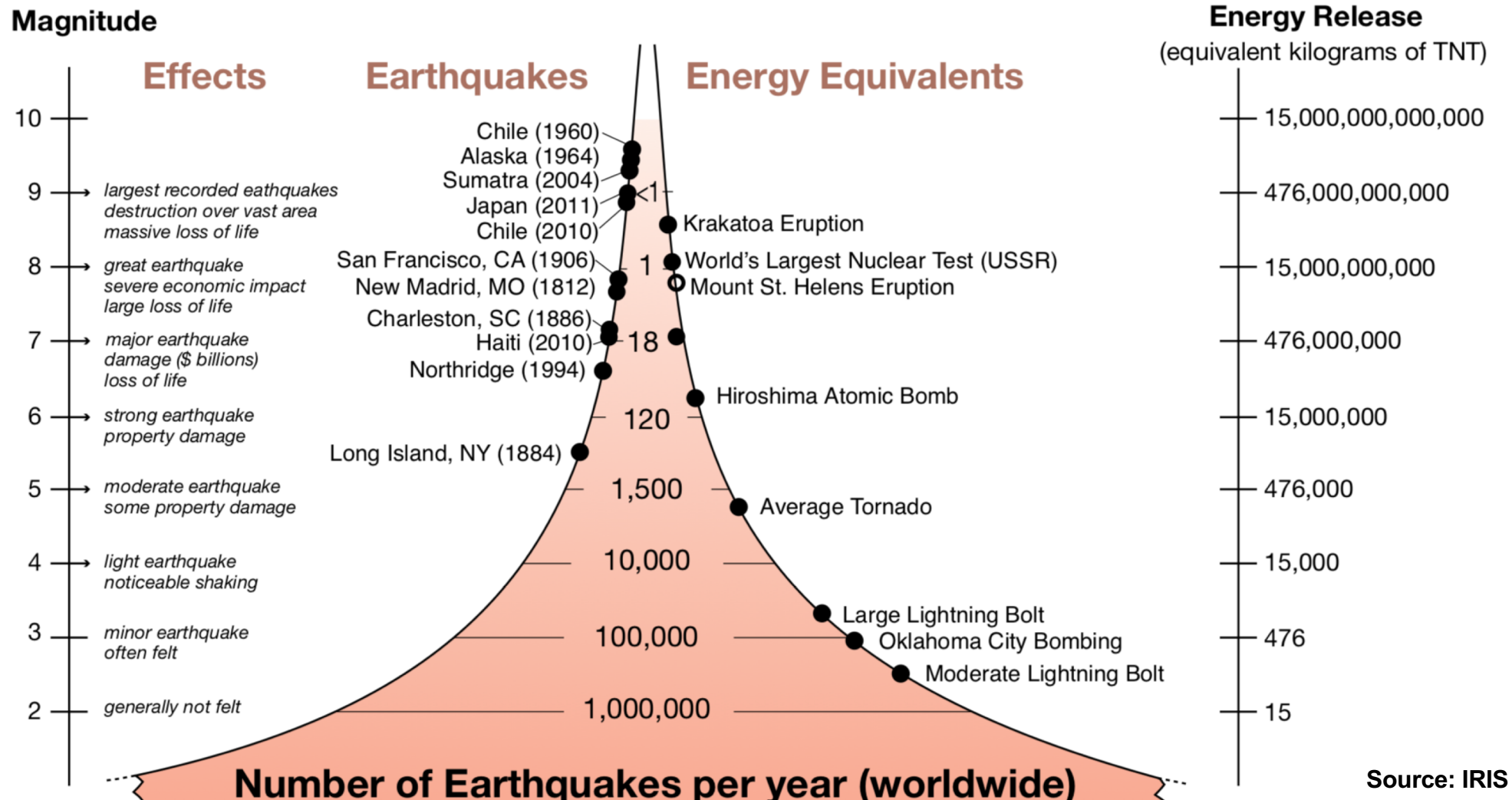
**VERY PRELIMINARY**

# Experience in Virgo: summary

- We are happy that the instrument was setup in four hours and after few minutes was able to take data
  - Immediate clear coherence with suspensions sensors at micro-seismic peak
- We do not have perfect coherence at low frequency
  - Exploring if that is due to position of PLI on a different floor, far from the tower
  - Installation of the second PLI next to the tower
- Dream: installing the PLI in the vacuum volume and on the suspension

**Before drawing conclusions:**  
**brief discussion of EEW research and how**  
**this is also relevant for Virgo and the dream**





Source: IRIS

**Earthquakes are always happening somewhere.**

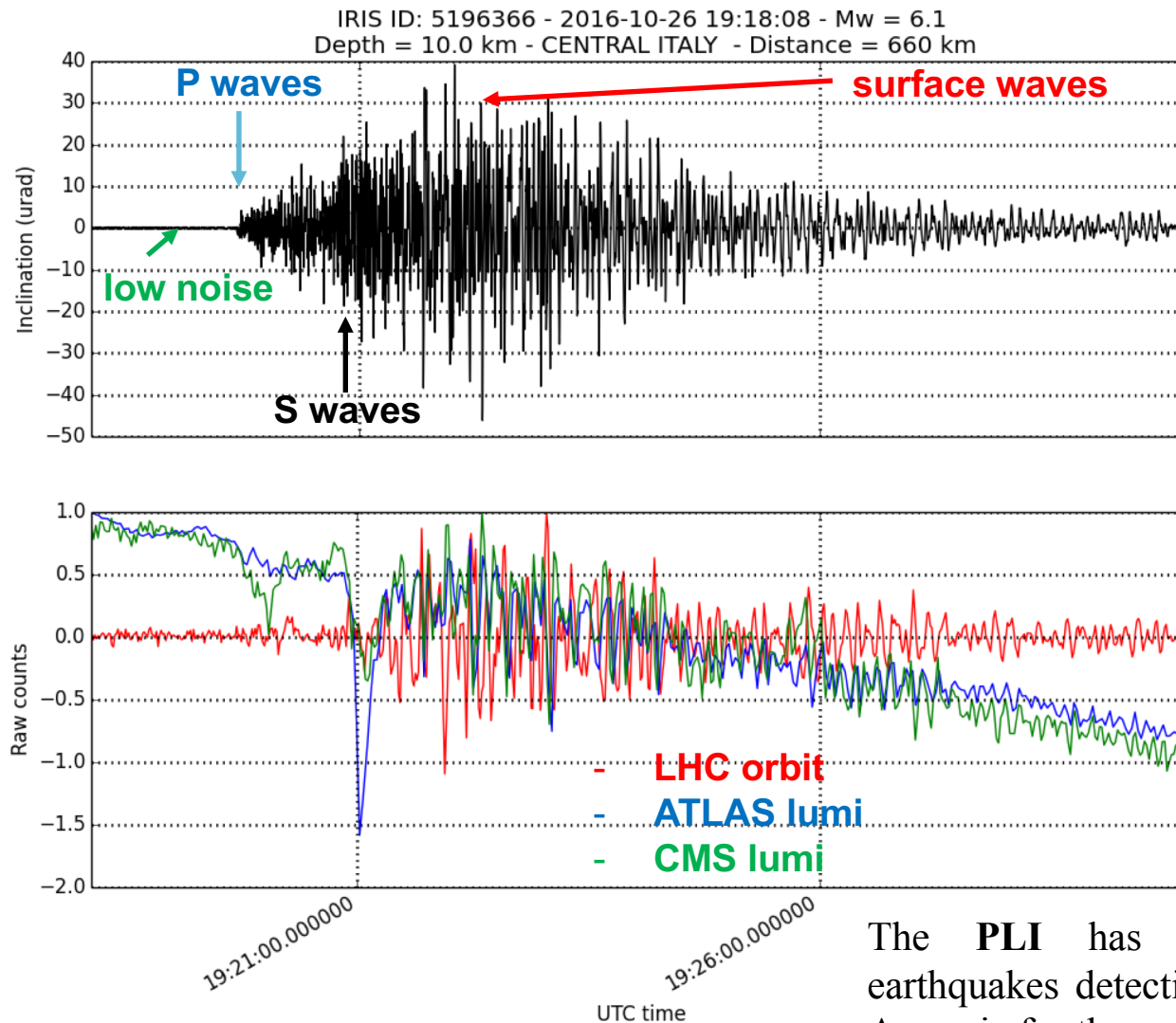
Magnitude 2 and smaller earthquakes occur several hundred times a day world wide.

Major earthquakes, greater than magnitude 7, happen more than once per month.

“Great earthquakes”, magnitude 8 and higher, occur about once a year.



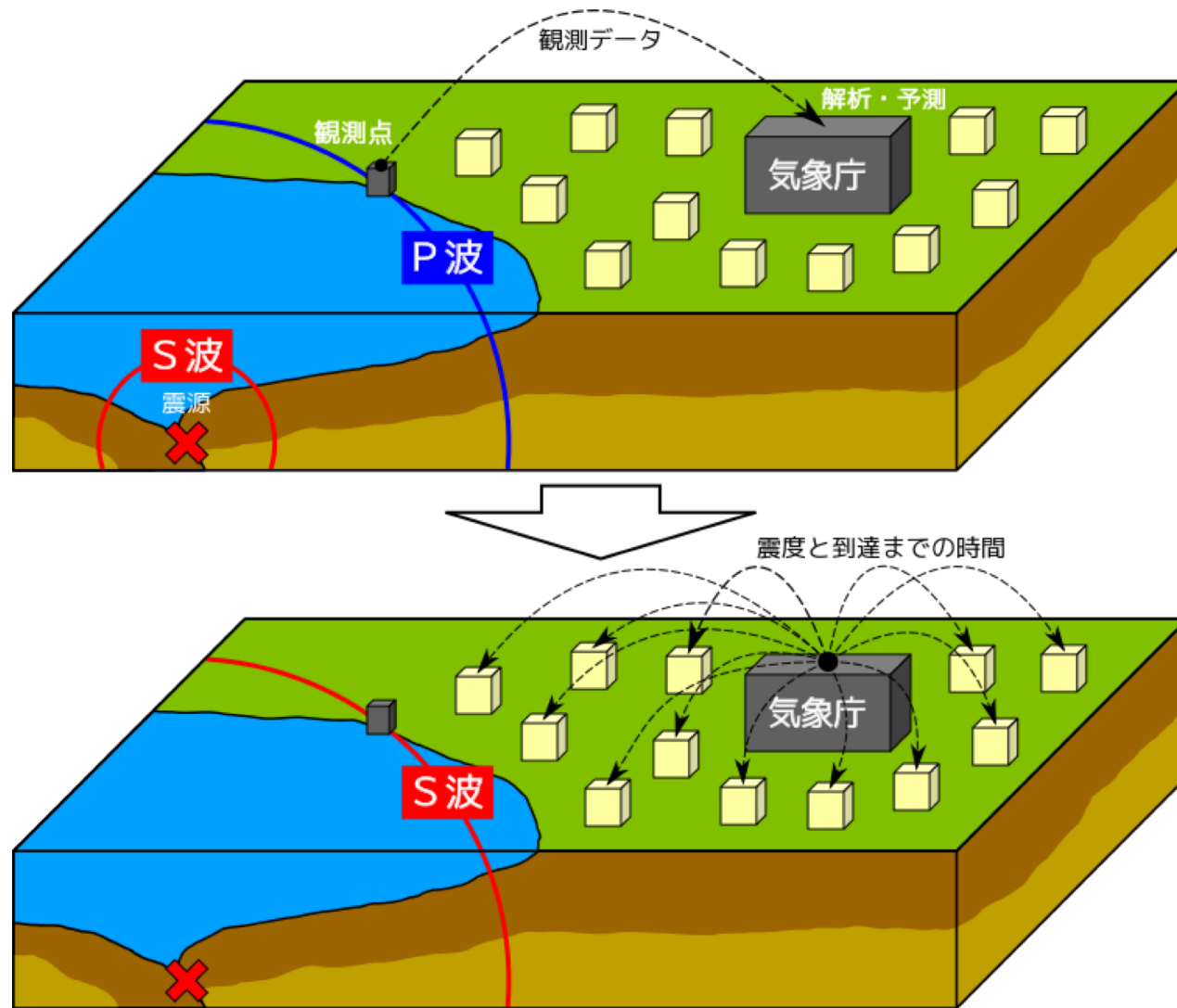
# FAST EARTHQUAKES WARNING: single and multiple devices



The arrival of **P waves** allows to warn for the arrival of much stronger **S** and **surface waves**. The warning time depends on the distance from the epicenter. In Japan the majority of the earthquakes are originated in the sea, therefore it is possible to have from few seconds to minutes warning. Elsewhere most of the earthquakes are originated in populated areas, therefore any possibility of warning has to rely on extremely **low noise** and **high sensitivity** devices... like the **PLI**.

The **PLI** has multiple possible applications: earthquakes detection and warning (it is deployed in Armenia for the monitoring of seismic activity), active feedback for the stabilization of very sensitive devices, site protection, human activity detection, anomalies of Sun-Moon cycles and many others still to discover...

# Japan Earthquakes early warning



Earthquake Early Warning in Japan: When two or more [seismometers](#)<sup>[1]</sup> detect [P-waves](#) (top image), the [JMA](#) immediately analyzes the readings and distributes the warning information to advanced users such as broadcasting stations and [mobile phone](#) companies, before the arrival of [S-waves](#) (bottom image).



# Alerting system based on observations

- Prediction of earthquakes is probably impossible
  - The list of “precursors” is long and there is not a magic one, but rather the use of multiple indicators (electromagnetic effects, recent seismic activities, gas emissions, etc.)
- A network of PLIs can monitor a large geographical area: LHC ring or a specific seismically active area
  - As an example in Armenia there are 3-4 earthquakes/day, around active volcanic areas smaller earthquakes can be precursors of eruption (Vesuvius and Pozzuoli area, Etna)



# Latest development for EEW systems: prompt gravity signals

- We started evaluating the capabilities of the PLI to detect prompt gravity signals
  - All started reading the article: Vallée, M et al. (2017) Observations and modeling of the elastogravity signals preceding direct seismic waves. Science 358:1164-1168. doi: 10.1126/science.aao0746
  - Looking at Tohoku Mw = 9.1 Earthquake in 2011, the authors managed to reconstruct prompt elasto-gravity signals travelling at speed of light,  $3 \cdot 10^5$  km/s to be compared with fast p-waves travelling at  $\sim 10$  km/s
  - The signals from broadband seismometers have been compared to templates from modeling, showing that for smaller magnitude the instruments are not sensitive enough. The comparison with templates allow fast and precise magnitude evaluation
  - Several articles followed: for lower magnitude detection aim at  $10^{-15} 1/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$

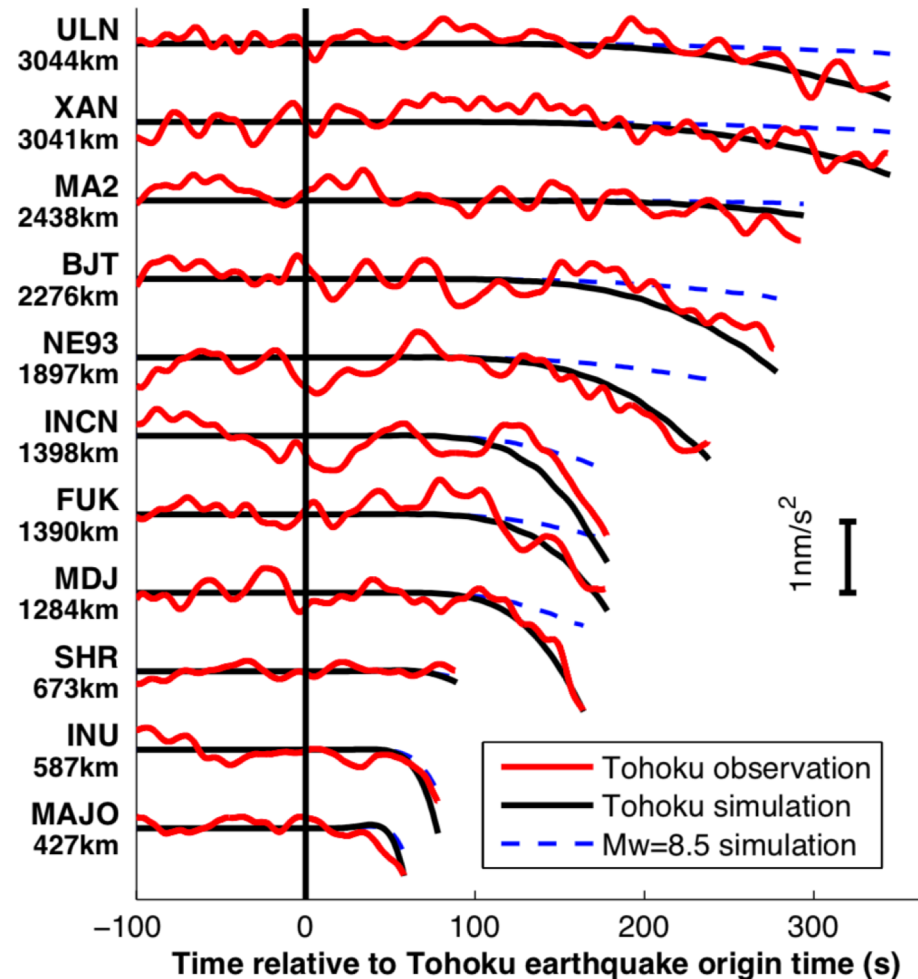


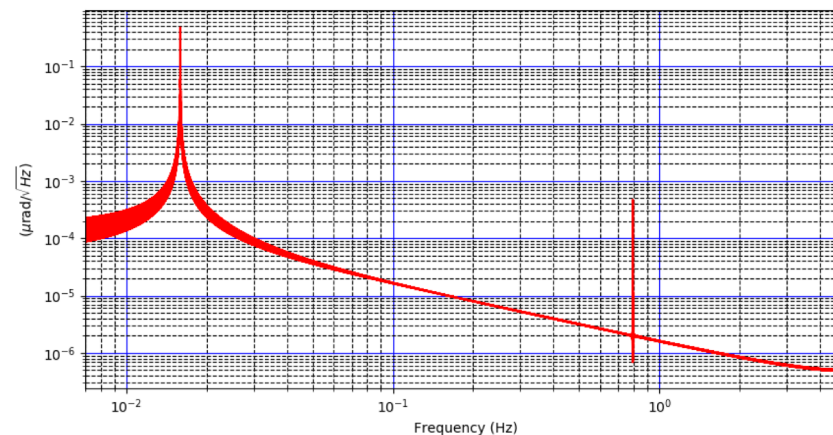
Figure 3: Agreement between observed and modeled  $a_z^P$  signals, and influence of the earthquake magnitude. Red (observed) and black (simulated) curves are in good agreement at all distances and azimuths from the Tohoku earthquake. The simulation for a fictitious  $M_w = 8.5$  earthquake (dashed blue curve) shows large amplitude differences, directly illustrating the magnitude determination potential existing in these prompt elasto-gravity signals.

## EEW with PLI

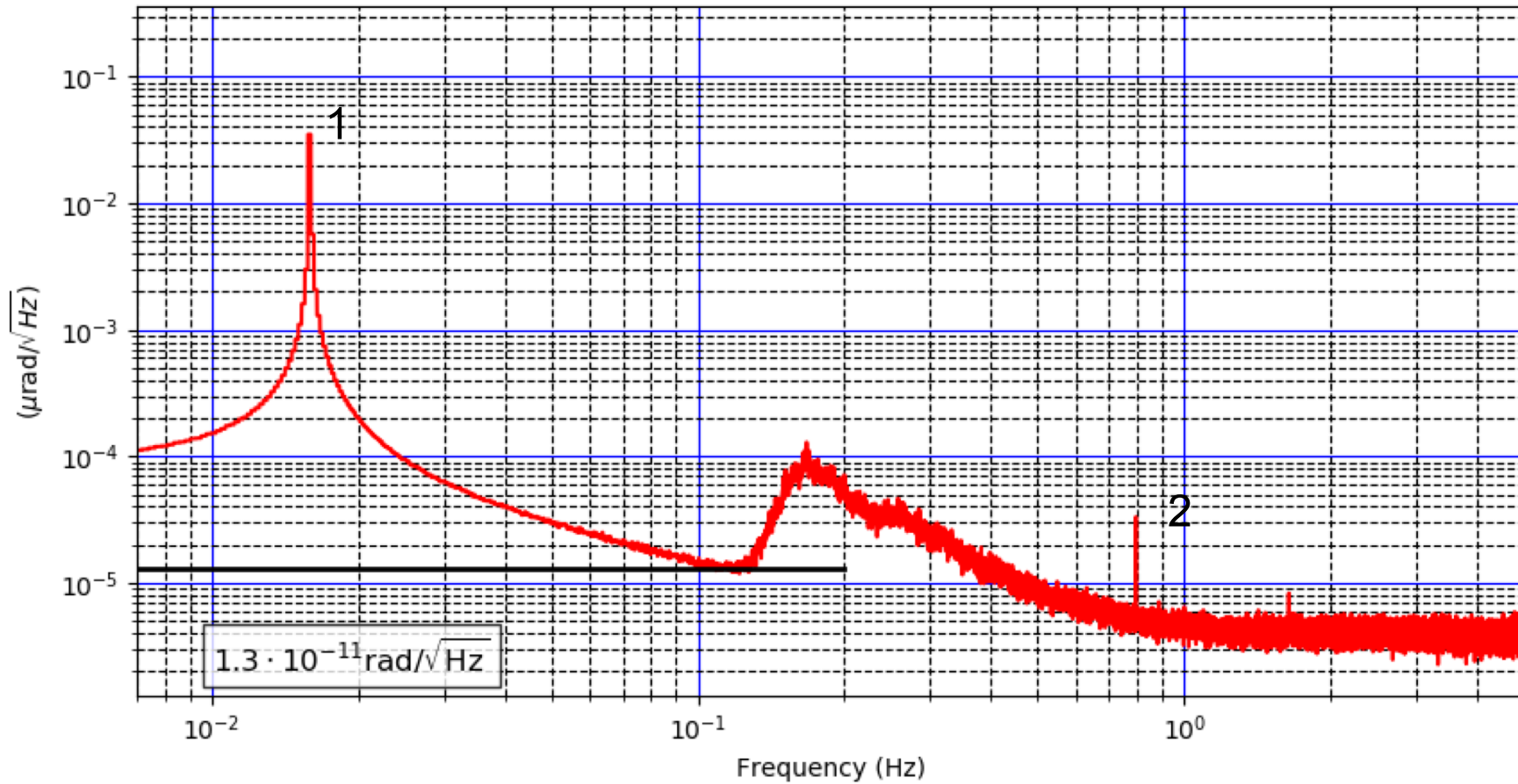
- We are investigating better our limits and trying to identify possible signals in the modest dataset we have for high magnitude Earthquakes (only 3 earthquake with  $M_w > 8$  between 2015 and now)
- It needs a step further in sensitivity and in online detection capabilities possibly using machine learning and artificial neural networks

# Further observations on sensitivity

- A discussion is ongoing with Virgo colleagues on sensitivity and the normalization of DFT in frequency analysis
- To calibrate our normalization we summed the PLI signal over 24 hours to two known sinus in the same frequency range and with amplitude  $10^{-6}$  and  $10^{-9}$  at higher frequency

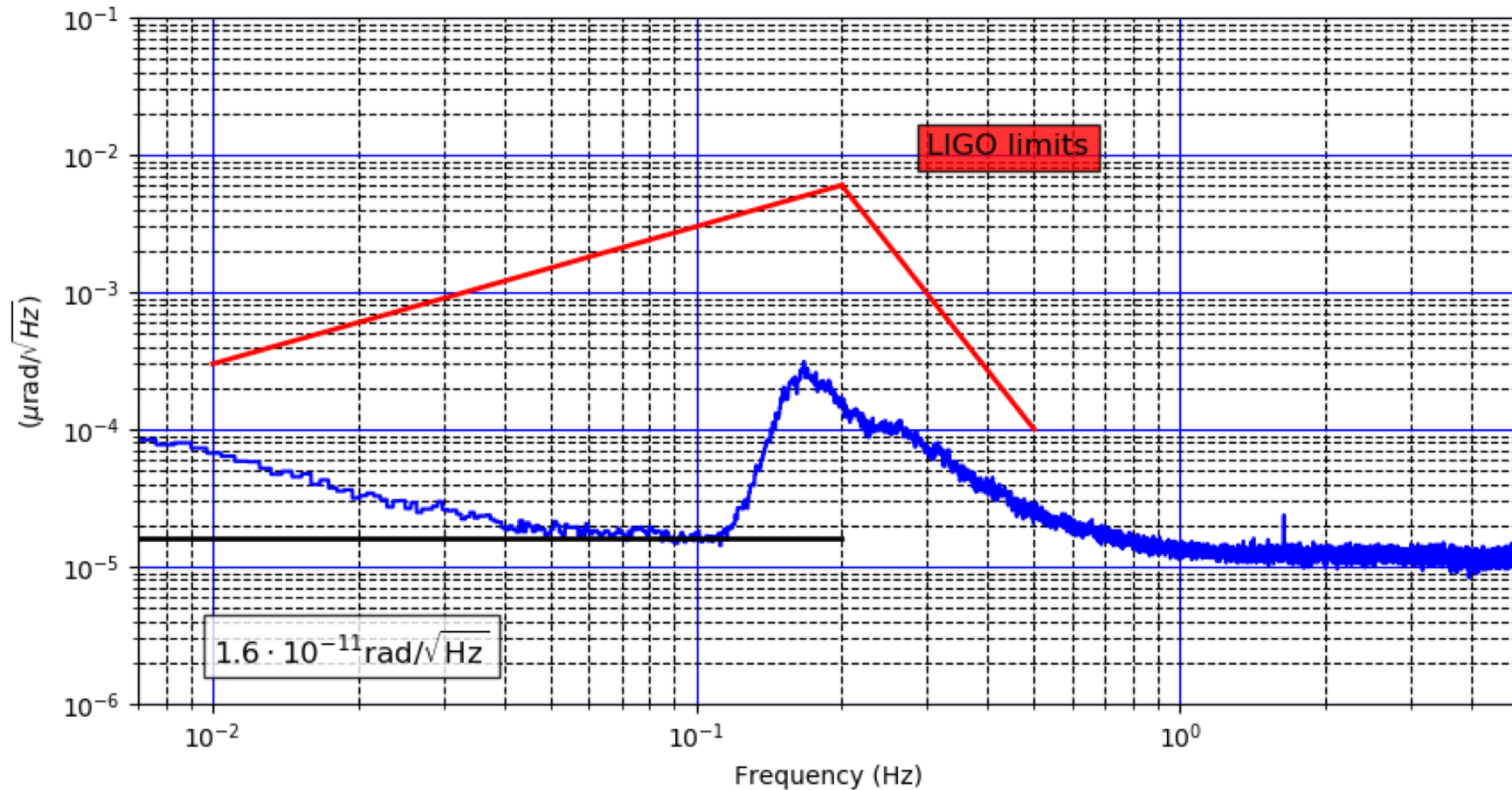


# PLI sensitivity + known sinus





# Result on sensitivity: over 24 hours at CERN



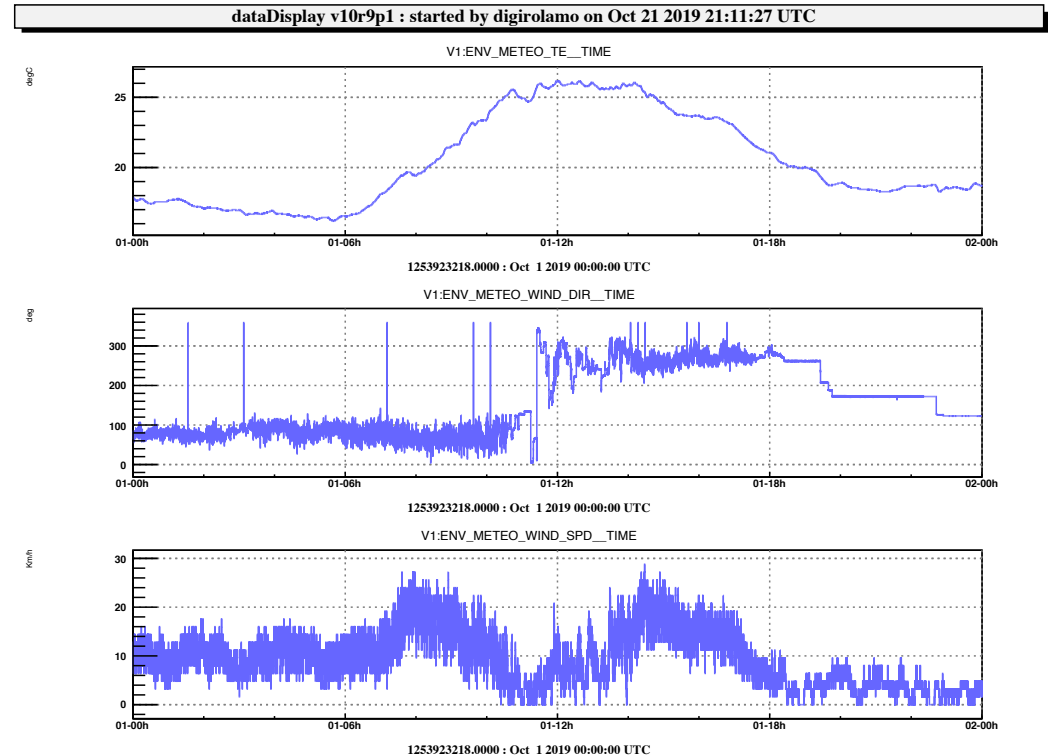
# Virgo site is more “noisy”

- External temperature variations are high even in October: the ground deforms
- The sea is very near
- There is wind almost every day

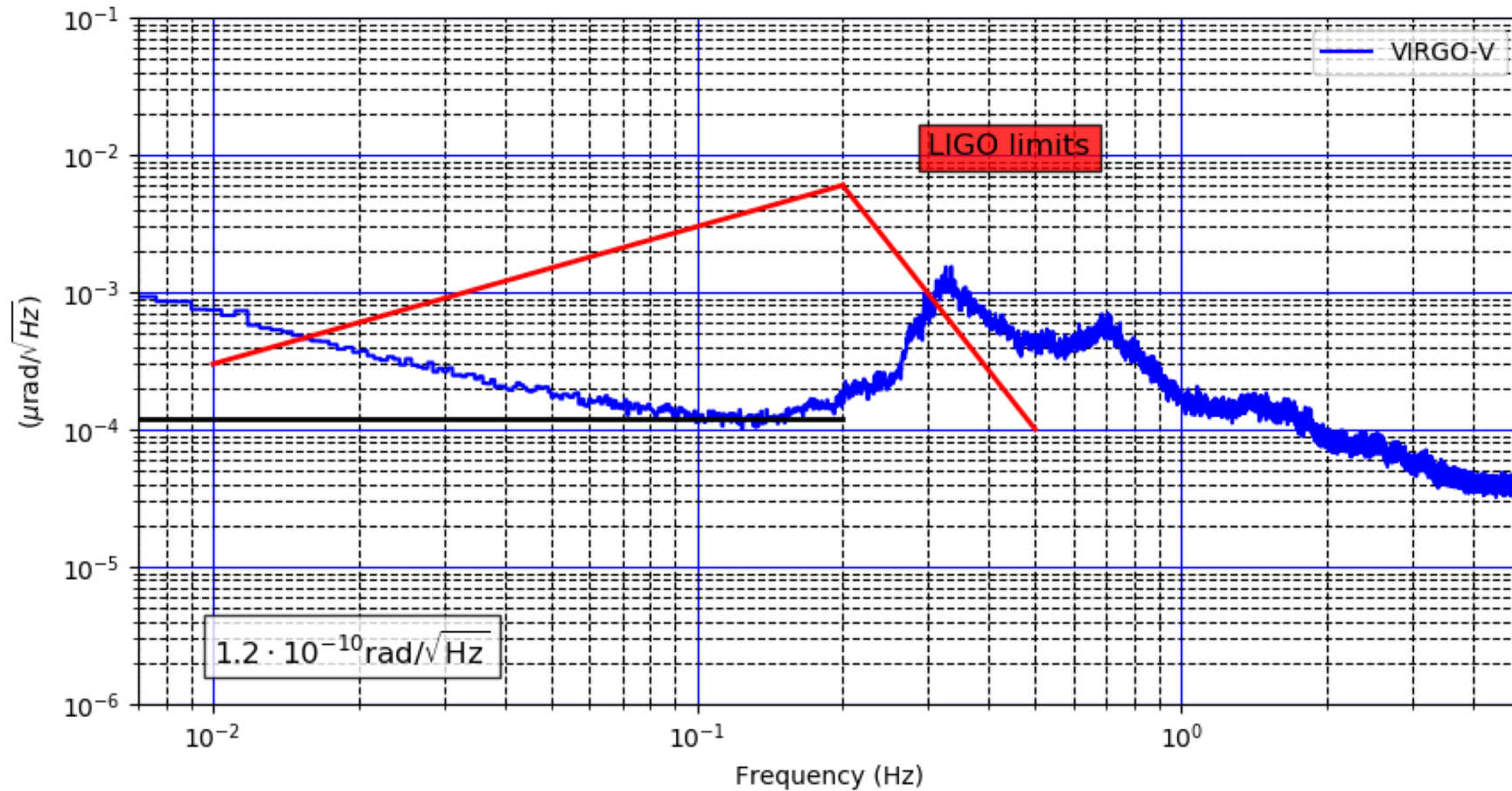
The PLI at CERN is located underground with a constant temperature within 0.1 C

We do see lake Geneva effects in windy days and of course the effect of seas and oceans, but nothing comparable to Tirreno at 15 km

There is no wind



# Amplitude spectrum at Virgo



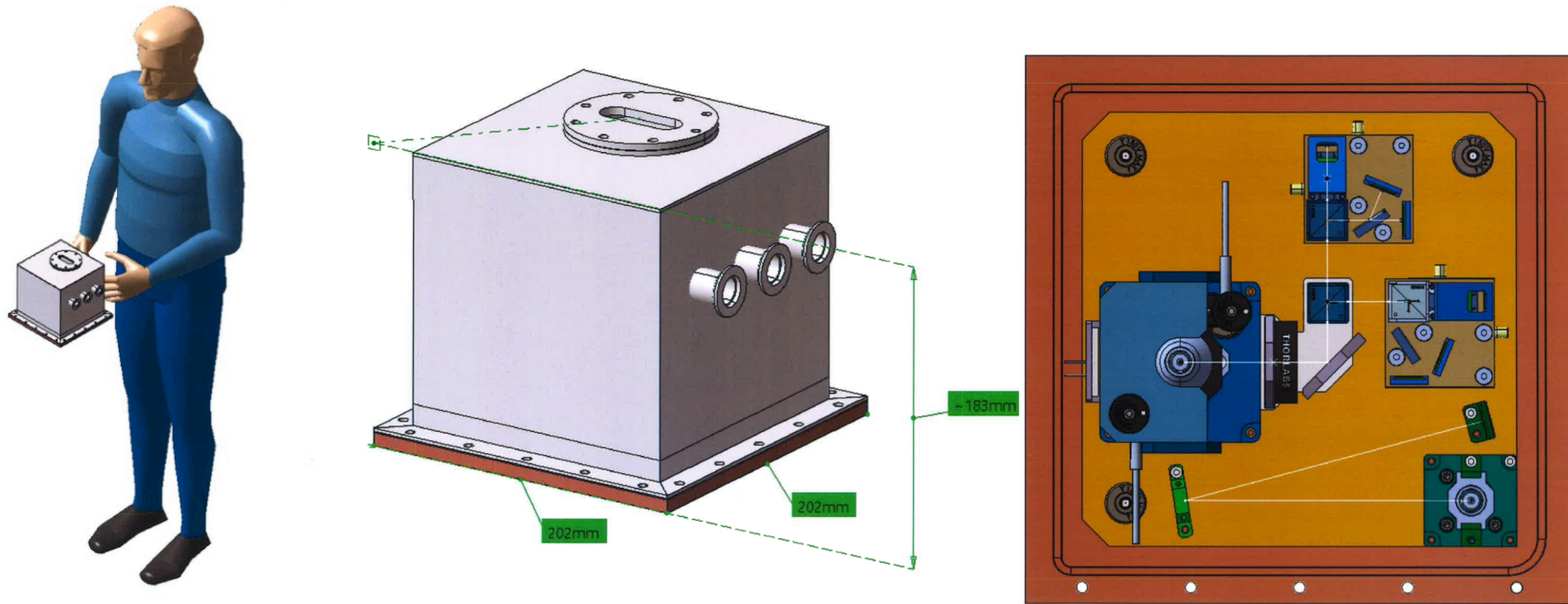
## Next steps of our development

- Aiming at improving sensitivity for Virgo-like applications and for earthquake early warning systems
- Improve readout electronics to reduce number of readout channels (now 8 ADC channels) by doing on-board combination
- Reduce the size of the instrument
- The idea of CompactPLI is born, pending publication and patenting just few information here



# The Compact PLI: two units being built now

- The new version is clearly more compact
- It makes use of a different approach to position sensitive detection that allows to decrease lenses focal length and beam spot diameter. Expected 1.4-1.6 times better sensitivity



Custom electronics for signal combination: better interfacing to standard DAQ systems and low consumption. Limits in frequency range to be studied: preference to enhance signal

# Future developments

- Two main developments:
  - Usage in array of multiple devices for Newtonian Noise studies
  - Production of the compact device (sort of cube with edges length  $\sim 15\text{-}20$  cm) aiming at possible deployment in Virgo vacuum volume and for a variety of studies (EEW)
- At CERN
  - PLIs will be deployed in LHC tunnel around CMS and ALICE
  - Studies for e<sup>+</sup>-e<sup>-</sup> colliders continuing
- Calibration measurements:
  - On top of on-board inclination calibration also periodic translational acceleration calibration: setup proposed in Pisa by Boschi, Cella, Frasconi, Gennai, Passuello, Ruggi et al, the usual suspects
  - Additional optical measurements inspired by Virgo to separate rotational and translational components of the angle: measuring reflected beam on focal plane and on image plane

# Conclusions

- The PLI started being operational at CERN in 2015
- The PLI has been installed at Adv Virgo North End Building in August 2019
  - Looked at classical and funny effects
    - Earthquakes and Wind comparisons with other sensors are very instructive
    - Nitrogen truck weight measurements (coherence with suspensions signals under study)
- Lines of research:
  - Seismic noise studies for Virgo
  - Luminosity stability at accelerators
  - Earthquake Early Warning systems
  - Ground stability monitoring (landslides in Greece, iceberg movements, site protection, etc.)





**Thank you**