

1 Control of lithospheric inheritance on neotectonic activity in
2 northwestern Canada?

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6 **ABSTRACT**

7 Lithospheric inheritance is thought to affect the location and reactivation of tectonic
8 structures through successive cycles of supercontinent formation and dispersal; however, its
9 relation to neotectonic activity remains unclear. In northwestern Canada, abundant seismicity
10 throughout the northern Canadian Cordillera (NCC) is geographically confined by several
11 crustal-scale boundaries, yet its southern extent terminates abruptly along the inferred westward
12 extension of a Late Cretaceous rifted margin boundary called the Liard Transfer Zone (LTZ). We
13 use seismic data to show that the uppermost mantle beneath the Cordillera exhibits a sharp north-
14 south contrast in fabric across the LTZ. South of the LTZ, fast axes of seismic wave propagation
15 align closely with the lithospheric mantle fabric orientation of the adjacent Canadian Shield.
16 North of the LTZ, fast axes reorient sub-parallel with the motion of the Pacific plate and follow
17 the strike of the large dextral strike-slip Tintina and Denali faults. We attribute changes in
18 anisotropic delay times across the Tintina and Denali faults to localized shear within the
19 lithosphere, which implies that the crust and lithospheric mantle remained mechanically coupled
20 during shearing. We propose that the contrast in uppermost mantle structure across the LTZ
21 reflects a change in the nature and origin of the lithospheric mantle from inherited rifted margin
22 structures, which affects the stability of the lithosphere and limits the extent of seismic activity

23 within the NCC. These results indicate that neotectonic activity in modern Cordilleras is
24 controlled in part by inherited upper mantle structures.

25 INTRODUCTION

26 The Canadian Cordillera in western Canada is a wide, high-elevation, low relief orogenic
27 plateau that initially formed as a passive margin in Late Proterozoic-earliest Cambrian as the
28 result of the rifting of Laurentia, and underwent east-west compression in the Late Devonian
29 (Monger and Price, 2002). The northern Canadian Cordillera (NCC) is bounded to the west by
30 the Yakutat collision and the Alaskan border, to the east by the Proterozoic basement rocks of
31 the Canadian Shield, and to the north by the Beaufort Sea (Fig. 1A). Its southern extension is not
32 well defined but corresponds roughly with the southern limit of seismic activity, coinciding
33 approximately with the Yukon-BC border at latitude 60° (Fig. 1A). This limit also follows the
34 westward extension of the Liard Transfer Zone (LTZ) inherited from the asymmetric rifted
35 margins of Laurentia that separated a lower plate (i.e., former foot wall) margin with seaward-
36 dipping blocks to the north from an upper plate (i.e., former hanging wall) margin characterized
37 by steep landward-dipping normal faults to the south (Cecile et al., 1997; Lund, 2008). The
38 westernmost crustal portion south of the LTZ moved northwestward due to strike-slip motion
39 along the Tintina Fault that produced approximately 450 km of right-lateral displacement
40 (Hayward, 2015).

41 The NCC currently exhibits a high rate of tectonic deformation, mainly along its western
42 portion around the Denali Fault and Yakutat collision zone, and across a broad zone to the north
43 and east in the Richardson and Mackenzie Mountains, approximately 800 km east of the plate
44 boundary (Fig. 1A; Leonard et al., 2008). The Tintina Fault generates only sparse, low
45 magnitude seismicity and is mostly inactive due to unfavorable contemporary stress conditions

46 for strike-slip faulting (Maréchal et al., 2015). The current leading model to explain the high
47 seismicity and rate of deformation far from the plate boundary proposes a thin and rigid crustal
48 layer, decoupled from the underlying weak lower crust and mantle due to elevated basal
49 temperatures, which is pushed horizontally at the plate boundary to the west by the oblique
50 Yakutat collision and transmits stresses throughout the NCC (Mazzotti and Hyndman, 2002;
51 Hyndman et al., 2005). According to this model, the sub-lithospheric upper mantle beneath the
52 NCC is losing heat through vigorous and fluid-rich small-scale convection due to its recent
53 position in a back arc setting (Hyndman and Currie, 2011). This model is supported by low
54 values of effective elastic thickness (Audet et al., 2007) and high heat flow data across the NCC
55 (Lewis et al., 2003) that require a thin and weak lithospheric mantle (~30 km) overlying a hot,
56 homogeneous and convecting sub-lithospheric mantle. It is unclear, however, which factors
57 control the geographical extent of seismicity within the Cordillera, in particular its southern
58 boundary, without detailed regional information on the structure and properties of the crust and
59 upper mantle.

60 **UPPER MANTLE SEISMIC ANISOTROPY**

61 Information on upper mantle structure can be obtained from estimates of seismic
62 anisotropy (i.e., the directional dependence of seismic wave propagation speed), which is related
63 to mineral fabrics that are generally acquired through shearing at high temperature via
64 dislocation creep mechanisms, and reflect either dynamic mantle flow processes, or fossilized
65 lithospheric fabric from past tectonic events (e.g., Long and Silver, 2009). Deciphering the
66 source of anisotropy can lead to a better understanding of the role of the crust and upper mantle
67 in controlling surface deformation. The source of upper mantle fabrics is generally attributed to
68 the strain-induced alignment of the abundant mineral olivine generally characterized by

69 hexagonal symmetry (e.g., Nicolas and Christensen, 1987; Long and Silver, 2009). If the
70 alignment of anisotropic olivine minerals is coherent over some depth range, it gives rise to
71 observable seismic anisotropy. In particular, a singly polarized shear wave incident upon the
72 anisotropic medium will split into two orthogonally polarized shear waves travelling at different
73 wave speeds, a property commonly known as shear-wave splitting. Near-vertically propagating
74 core-refracted, radially polarized shear waves (primarily SKS waves) are particularly sensitive to
75 hexagonal anisotropy characterized by a horizontal axis of symmetry, enabling the study of
76 lateral mantle flow or fossilized fabric. The splitting of SKS waves is parameterized by the
77 accumulated delay time (δt) between the fast and slow shear waves that vary as a function of the
78 intrinsic anisotropy and thickness of the anisotropic layer, and the azimuth (ϕ) of the fast axis of
79 shear wave propagation (i.e., S1 polarization direction).

80 We collected seismic data from 12 broadband stations across the NCC in the Yukon and
81 Northwest Territories, Canada, belonging to one of several seismic networks (Fig. 1B; Table
82 DR1). Seismic data were processed to estimate teleseismic shear-wave splitting parameters using
83 SKS phases (see Data Repository 201Xxxx). Single-station estimates were calculated from a
84 vector average, with mean uncertainties of approximately 10° and 0.3 s for ϕ and δt , respectively.
85 We also compiled published shear-wave splitting data for all stations located in northwestern
86 Canada and southeastern Alaska. The final map of seismic anisotropy is shown in Figure 1B.
87 The most striking feature is the large-scale, coherent NE-SW alignment of fast axis directions
88 and large delay times (>1 sec) observed in the Canadian Shield. This pattern has been previously
89 interpreted as a fossilized fabric within the thick (>150 km) lithospheric mantle of the North
90 American continent and/or the sub-lithospheric mantle flow direction from the absolute motion

91 of the North American plate (Courtier et al. (2010); Snyder et al. (2007)) estimated from the
92 MORVEL-NNR model (DeMets et al., 2010).

93 Within the Cordillera, the alignment of fast axes varies over short spatial scales. Toward
94 the south and near the westward extension of the LTZ (Fig. 1B), fast axes are more closely
95 aligned with those observed in the Canadian Shield, and may be due to either or both the
96 extension of the North American fossilized fabric beneath the Cordillera, and the mantle flow
97 direction due to absolute plate motion of North America. These results point to a possible
98 influence of North American structure and/or dynamics on Cordilleran upper mantle fabric. To
99 the north of the LTZ, we observe a noticeable change in the alignment of seismic fast axes. The
100 northwestward, anti-clockwise rotation and margin-parallel alignment of the seismic fast axes
101 (Fig. 1B, blue bars) were separately interpreted as the increasing influence of the Pacific-North
102 America plate interactions 400 km from the plate boundary (Courtier et al., 2010), and fabric
103 from the deep transpressive shear zone of the Denali Fault (Rasendra et al., 2014), respectively.
104 The new data set (Fig. 1B, red bars) resolves a coherent alignment of seismic fast axes parallel to
105 both the strike direction of the Tintina Fault, >200 km further away from the plate boundary, and
106 the absolute motion of the Pacific plate. The spatial pattern of seismic fast axes north of the
107 inferred LTZ suggests that upper mantle anisotropy may be related to sub-lithospheric mantle
108 flow beneath the NCC induced by Pacific plate motion, and/or fossilized fabric associated with
109 the two large crustal faults, which would require mantle penetrating shear zones.

110 **SHEAR ZONE FABRICS**

111 To investigate the influence of the Denali and Tintina faults on upper mantle anisotropy,
112 we extract splitting parameters along two profiles oriented perpendicular to the strike of the
113 Tintina Fault (Fig. 1B). Profile X-X' is located along the inferred extension of the LTZ, whereas

114 profile Y-Y' is located ~400 km to the northwest of the LTZ. The results are shown in Figure 2.
115 Along profile X-X', the azimuth of the seismic fast axes reflects a close alignment with the
116 fabric observed within the North American plate, and a consistent ~30° angle difference with the
117 absolute motion of North America (Fig. 2A). Azimuths rotate anti-clockwise toward the western
118 part of the profile (Fig. 1B, 2B), indicating a rotation of upper mantle fabric across a short
119 distance (~50 km), as outlined previously. More significantly, the delay times decrease from 1
120 sec to almost no splitting within 100 km of the surface trace of the Tintina Fault (Fig. 2B). The
121 absence of splitting near the fault may suggest that it did not generate measurable large-scale
122 coherent strain in the upper mantle, which we find unlikely. Alternatively, we posit that the
123 decrease in delay times is caused by the erasure of pre-existing North American fossilized fabric
124 by prolonged orthogonal (NW-SE) shearing along the Tintina Fault, which may randomize or
125 reduce fabrics and produce no observable splitting. The role of the Tintina Fault in controlling
126 upper mantle fabric is supported by splitting estimates along profile Y-Y', where the azimuths
127 are well aligned with the strike of the two large crustal faults (Fig. 2C). More importantly, delay
128 times increase from ~0.5 sec to >1.5 sec over a similar distance of 100 km to both the Denali and
129 Tintina faults (Fig. 2D). Results from both profiles suggest that up to 0.75-1 sec of accumulated
130 delay time may be due to fossilized fabric within the lithospheric mantle shear zones, with the
131 remainder possibly attributed to coherent, sub-lithospheric mantle flow. Assuming a negligible
132 contribution from crustal fabric, uniform shearing within a 30 to 50 km thick lithospheric mantle
133 with shear wave speed of 4.3 km/s producing 0.75-1 sec of anisotropic delay time amounts to 4-
134 11% of shear-zone related anisotropy, similar to values observed along the Alpine Fault in New
135 Zealand (Zietlow et al., 2014) and other large transcurrent faults (Vauchez et al., 2012).

136 These results imply that the crust and lithospheric mantle were mechanically coupled
137 through at least part of the Paleogene to Mid-Neogene, when ~1000 km of dextral strike-slip
138 displacement was distributed across a network of faults, the largest of which (the Denali and
139 Tintina faults) accumulated >400 km of dextral motion (Johnston, 2008; Rasendra et al., 2015).
140 North of the LTZ, the spatial coincidence of maximum anisotropic delay times with the surface
141 trace of the faults further suggest that the hypothesized lower crustal detachment (Mazzotti and
142 Hyndman, 2002) cannot have produced more than ~20 km of fault-perpendicular displacement
143 of the upper crust relative to a weak lower crust and lithospheric mantle. This implies a
144 maximum rate of horizontal displacement of ~1 mm yr⁻¹ through the Miocene consistent with
145 contemporaneous estimates from GPS data (Maréchal et al., 2015), but much lower than
146 previous estimates of 5 mm yr⁻¹ (Mazzotti and Hyndman, 2002). Finally, the bulk of seismic
147 anisotropy beneath the NCC appears to be related to fossil fabric from lithospheric mantle shear
148 zones, which leaves only a small possible contribution from coherent sub-lithospheric mantle
149 flow.

150 **INHERITANCE AND NEOTECTONICS**

151 The contrast in seismic anisotropy across the LTZ indicates a north-south step change in
152 the properties of the upper mantle in the Cordillera. One possible explanation for the change in
153 anisotropy is the thermally controlled glide in olivine that switches slip system at temperatures
154 <1000°C (Durham and Goetze, 1977; see also Dumouchy et al., 2013). However, this low-
155 temperature transition is generally restricted to mylonites that accommodate the emplacement of
156 peridotite slices in the crust (Vauchez et al., 1998). Furthermore, upper mantle temperatures are
157 on average higher than 1000°C within the Cordilleran lithospheric mantle (Lewis et al., 2003).
158 Instead, we propose that the change in seismic anisotropy represents a lateral transition in the

159 nature and origin of the lithospheric mantle fabric, which reflects a similar transition in the style
160 of rifting of the Late-Proterozoic Laurentian margin and coincides with a contrast in neotectonic
161 activity in the Cordillera (Fig. 3)

162 South of the LTZ, the preserved passive margin structures of the Cordillera are
163 characteristics of a former hanging wall margin formed by rifting on continent-ward dipping
164 listric normal faults (Fig. 3A,B). Seismic anisotropy results suggest that the inherited lithospheric
165 mantle of the former Laurentian margin underlies the Cordilleran crust south of the LTZ (Fig.
166 3C). North of the LTZ, the preserved passive margin structures of the NCC are characteristics of
167 a former foot wall margin with a broad sedimentary basin (Fig. 3A). In this region, the signature
168 of North American fossil fabric is absent, indicating that the upper mantle beneath the NCC has a
169 different origin. Instead, seismic anisotropy results indicate fabrics related to shearing along
170 mantle-penetrating shear zones. The nature of the upper mantle beneath the NCC is unclear and
171 could reflect material of a different origin (e.g., from terrane accretion), or the thermal erosion,
172 rejuvenation, or delamination of former North American lithospheric mantle (e.g., Bao et al.,
173 2014), or else the tectonic and/or magmatic underplating beneath the NCC during convergence
174 and plateau uplift.

175 Current seismic activity throughout the NCC may be partly the result of the oblique
176 collision of the Yakutat block; however, the long-term crust-mantle coupling beneath the
177 transpressive faults within the NCC, as well as the low inferred displacement rate, suggest that
178 stress may be transmitted, at least in part, by a process complementary to the lower-crustal
179 detachment model (e.g., basal tractions; Finzel et al. (2015)). Regardless of the origin of
180 neotectonic activity, its lateral extent is confined by large-scale lithospheric boundaries. The
181 inferred preservation of North American lithospheric mantle beneath the Cordillera south of the

182 LTZ suggests that the lithosphere remained relatively intact through plate convergence and
183 transpression since the Late Cretaceous that affected the entire Canadian Cordillera (Johnston,
184 2008). The long-term stability of the upper mantle lithosphere may provide a backstop for
185 neotectonic activity and control the extent of crustal deformation within the NCC. This
186 interpretation is consistent with the presence of large lower crustal mafic bodies that juxtapose
187 Cordilleran re-entrants (e.g., south of the LTZ), indicating a stronger lithosphere that forms
188 buttresses against active deformation (Saltus and Hudson, 2007). Finally, the olivine LPO fabric
189 may further induce large-scale mechanical anisotropy of the lithosphere, resulting in lateral
190 contrasts in the strength of the lithosphere in the contemporary stress field that concentrate
191 deformation perpendicular to the greatest strength directions (Audet and Bürgmann, 2011;
192 Vauchez et al., 1998).

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269

270 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

271 Figure 1. **A.** Map of northwestern Canada. Grey dots show earthquakes that occurred between
272 2000 and 2016. Thick white lines indicate tectonic boundaries separating the northern Canadian
273 Cordillera (NCC) from the adjacent Canadian Shield (CS). AB: Alberta; AK: Alaska; BC:

274 British Columbia; NT: Northwest Territories; NU: Nunavut; YK: Yukon. The Liard Transfer
275 Zone (Liard TZ) is shown as white dashed lines. **B.** Multi-event average results of teleseismic
276 shear-wave splitting. Blue and red bars with white symbols show the orientation of the seismic
277 fast axes and the accumulated delay time between the fast and slow shear waves for each station
278 in the compiled data set (blue) and from this study (red). Compiled data are from Courtier et al.,
279 (2010), Rasendra et al. (2014), and Snyder et al. (2007). Square and triangular symbols show
280 stations for which the splitting parameters are projected along lines X-X' and Y-Y', respectively,
281 and shown in Figure 2. Large white arrows with labels show the absolute plate motion directions
282 of North America (NA) and Pacific (PAC) plates, according to the no-net rotation frame model
283 of DeMets et al., 2010.

284

285 Figure 2. Multi-event station average ϕ (**A**, **C**) and δt (**B**, **D**) along the X-X' (**A**, **B**) and Y-Y' (**C**,
286 **D**) profiles perpendicular to the Tintina Fault (dotted vertical line at distance of 0 km) shown in
287 Figure 1B. Thick solid lines show the average absolute plate motion of the North American (NA)
288 and Pacific (PAC) plates from the MORVEL model (DeMets et al., 2010). The horizontal black
289 dashed line in **A** and **C** shows the strike of the Tintina Fault along both profiles.

290

291 Figure 3. **A.** Late Proterozoic-Early Cambrian rifted margin of Laurentia showing a south-to-
292 north transition from an upper plate margin to a lower plate margin along the Liard Transfer
293 Zone. **B.** Schematic style of faulting along the asymmetric rifted margin and across the LTZ. **C.**
294 Contemporary tectonic setting in northwestern Canada, showing the inferred location of North
295 American upper mantle underlying the Cordilleran crust south of the LTZ in relation with
296 neotectonic activity (shown by earthquakes). Figure modified from Lund (2008).

297

298 ¹GSA Data Repository item 201Xxxx, describing the methodology for single-event teleseismic
299 SKS splitting, two figures with example results and two tables with compiled estimates, is
300 available online at www.geosociety.org/pubs/ft20XX.htm, or on request from
301 editing@geosociety.org or Documents Secretary, GSA, P.O. Box 9140, Boulder, CO 80301,
302 USA.

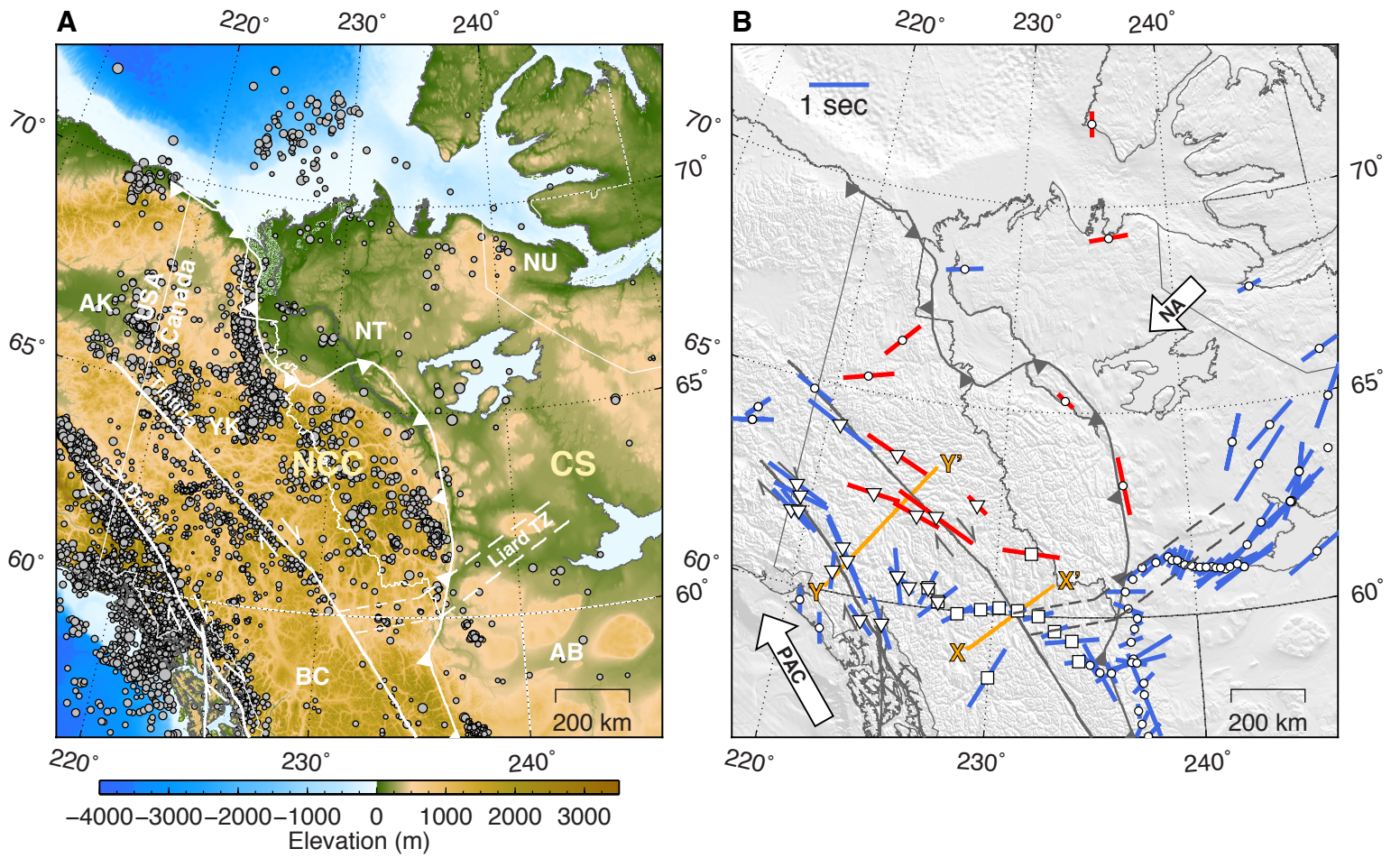


Figure 1

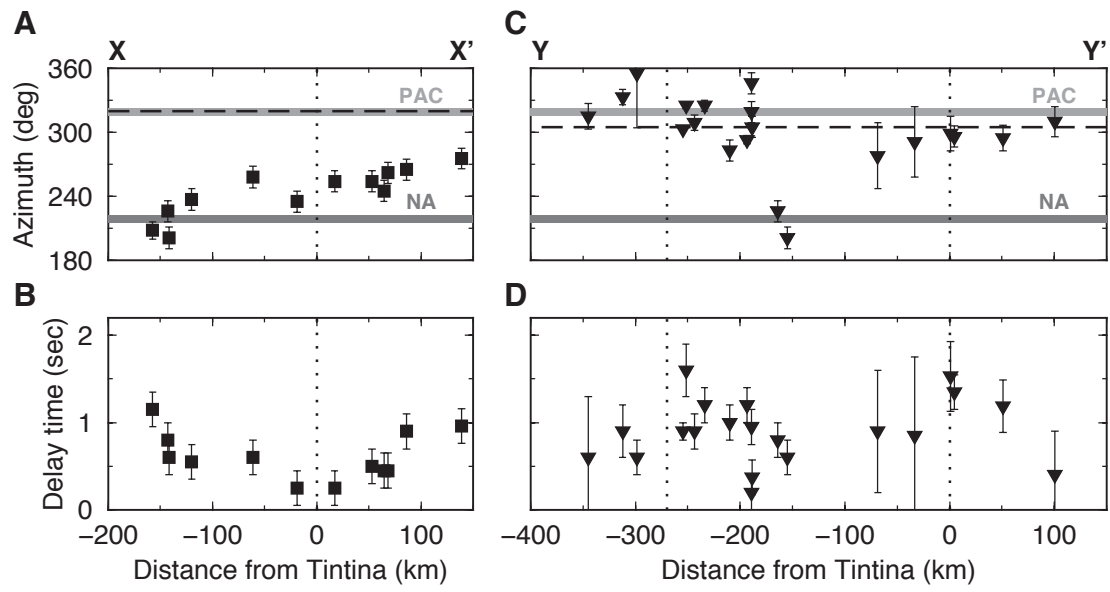


Figure 2

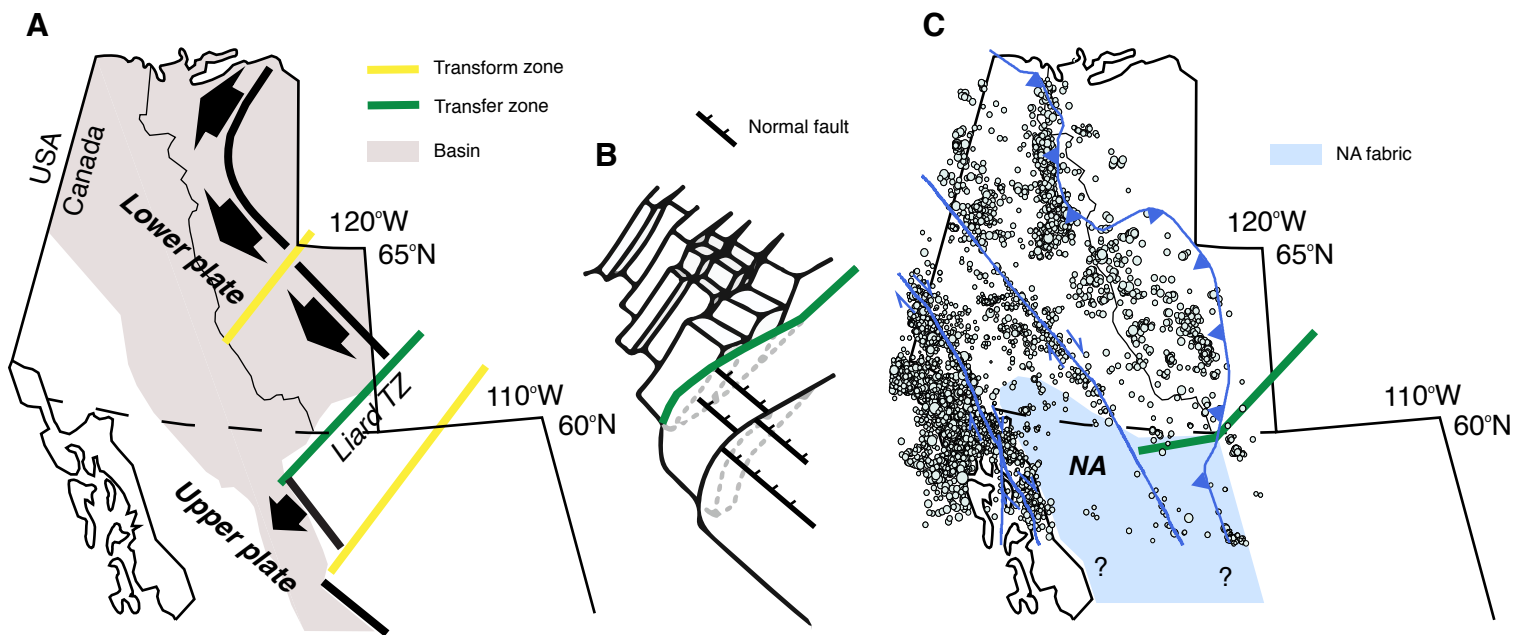


Figure 3

1 **GSA DATA REPOSITORY 201Xxxx**2 **Control of lithospheric inheritance on neotectonic activity in**
3 **northwestern Canada?**4 **Pascal Audet, Christian Sole, and Andrew J. Schaeffer**5 *Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada, K1N*6 *6N5*

7

8 **TELESEISMIC SHEAR-WAVE SPLITTING ANALYSIS**

9 Upon entering an anisotropic medium characterized by azimuthal anisotropy, upgoing radially-
10 polarized and planar SKS waves will split into two orthogonal components, one of which will
11 travel along the fast axis of seismic propagation (with azimuth ϕ), whereas the other component
12 will travel along the perpendicular slow axis. Depending on the thickness of the medium and
13 wave speed difference between the fast and slow axis of hexagonal symmetry, a delay time δt
14 will accumulate between the two polarized shear waves. The splitting process is thus completely
15 characterized by the parameters ϕ and δt (Silver, 1996). Incidentally, shear waves initially
16 travelling along one of the symmetry axes will not produce any observable splitting. These
17 results are called "null" measurements and can further help to constrain the orientation ϕ .
18 Anisotropy that varies with depth or described by a different class of symmetry (or hexagonal
19 anisotropy with a dipping axis of symmetry) will give rise to more complicated patterns of
20 splitting.

21 We used 6 stations from the Transportable Array of USArray (TA), 5 stations from the
22 Yukon-Northwest Seismograph Network (NY), and one station from the Polaris Network (PO)

23 (Table DR1). We selected waveforms for all magnitude $M > 6.0$ events with signal-to-noise ratio
 24 greater than 4 dB in the epicentral distance range of $85\text{-}140^\circ$ that occurred between April 2014
 25 and March 2016. Waveforms are rotated into a longitudinal-radial-tangential (LQT) coordinate
 26 system and filtered using a 0.05-0.15 Hz band-pass filter (Currie et al., 2004). Shear wave
 27 splitting analysis at each station was carried out using the SplitLab software (Wüstefeld et al.,
 28 2008) and resulted in 61 successful (i.e. non-null, see below) splitting measurements from SKS
 29 phases (Tables DR1 and DR2). The number of estimates is low for recently installed stations of
 30 the TA network. SplitLab performs the splitting analysis based on two distinct methods. The
 31 energy minimization method (also called SC method) (Silver and Chan, 1991) seeks the splitting
 32 parameters ϕ and δt for which the energy of the transverse shear wave component is minimized
 33 after inverting the splitting process. In contrast, the rotation-correlation method (also called the
 34 RC method) rotates the seismogram of interest into a test coordinate frame and searches for the
 35 pair of splitting parameters that gives the maximum cross correlation between the transverse and
 36 radial SKS components (Wüstefeld et al., 2008).

37 Results are first classified into nulls if they satisfy two criteria: 1) SNR of the tangential
 38 component of the SKS phase is below 3 dB, or 2) the difference in ϕ obtained from the SC and
 39 RC methods is between 22 and 68 degrees (Wüstefeld and Bokelmann, 2007). Both nulls and
 40 non-nulls are then qualitatively evaluated in terms of "Good", "Fair" and "Poor" results based on
 41 the ratio of RC and SC delay times ($\rho = \delta t_{RC} / \delta t_S$) and the difference between RC and SC
 42 azimuths ($\delta\phi = \max[|\phi_{RC} - \phi_{SC}|, |\phi_{SC} - \phi_{RC}|]$) (Wüstefeld and Bokelmann, 2007). For Nulls, these
 43 correspond to $\rho < 0.2$, $37^\circ < \delta\phi < 53^\circ$ for "Good" measurements; $\rho < 0.3$, $32^\circ < \delta\phi < 58^\circ$ for
 44 "Fair"; and "Poor" otherwise. For non-Nulls, these correspond to $0.8 < \rho < 1.1$, $\delta\phi < 8^\circ$ for

45 “Good” measurements; $0.7 < \rho < 1.2$, $\delta\phi < 15^\circ$ for “Fair”; and “Poor” otherwise. Parameter
46 uncertainty was estimated from the 95% confidence interval using an F-test (Walsh et al., 2013).

47 An example result of parameter estimation for a single event recorded at station EPYK is
48 shown in Figure DR1. Figure DR2 shows the compilation of "good" and "fair", non-null results
49 for station EPYK, sorted by back-azimuth of incoming SKS waves. These results show tightly
50 clustered estimates of both ϕ and δt , and we interpret these in terms of a single layer with
51 horizontal anisotropy. We note, however, that the event distribution is not uniform in back-
52 azimuth, and the single-layer assumption may not hold in reality. We then separately perform a
53 vector average of all "good" and "fair" non-null results (weighting the estimates equally) for both
54 the SC and RC techniques, and obtain final estimates by vector averaging the results of both
55 techniques into a single estimate of ϕ and δt for each station (Table DR1), further preventing us
56 from considering more complex (i.e., multi-layered or dipping) anisotropy models. We also
57 ignore covariance and our error estimates are likely lower bounds. Figure DR3A shows all ‘fair’
58 and ‘good’ measurements at each station.

59 Null estimates can also provide qualitative information on the robustness of the splitting
60 parameters. Null measurements occur because: 1) there is no detectable anisotropy beneath the
61 station; or 2) the incoming SKS wave propagates along either the slow or fast axis of anisotropy.
62 We plot the back-azimuth of all “good” null measurements as rose diagrams in Figure DR3B,
63 along with the estimated splitting parameters (reproduced from Figure 1B). Each set of
64 measurements is binned in 10° back-azimuth and the length of the bars is proportional to the
65 percent number of measurements in each bin. These results show that the dominant back-
66 azimuths of “null” measurements are aligned with either the fast axis or perpendicular to it, thus
67 qualitatively confirming that the splitting measurements are robust.

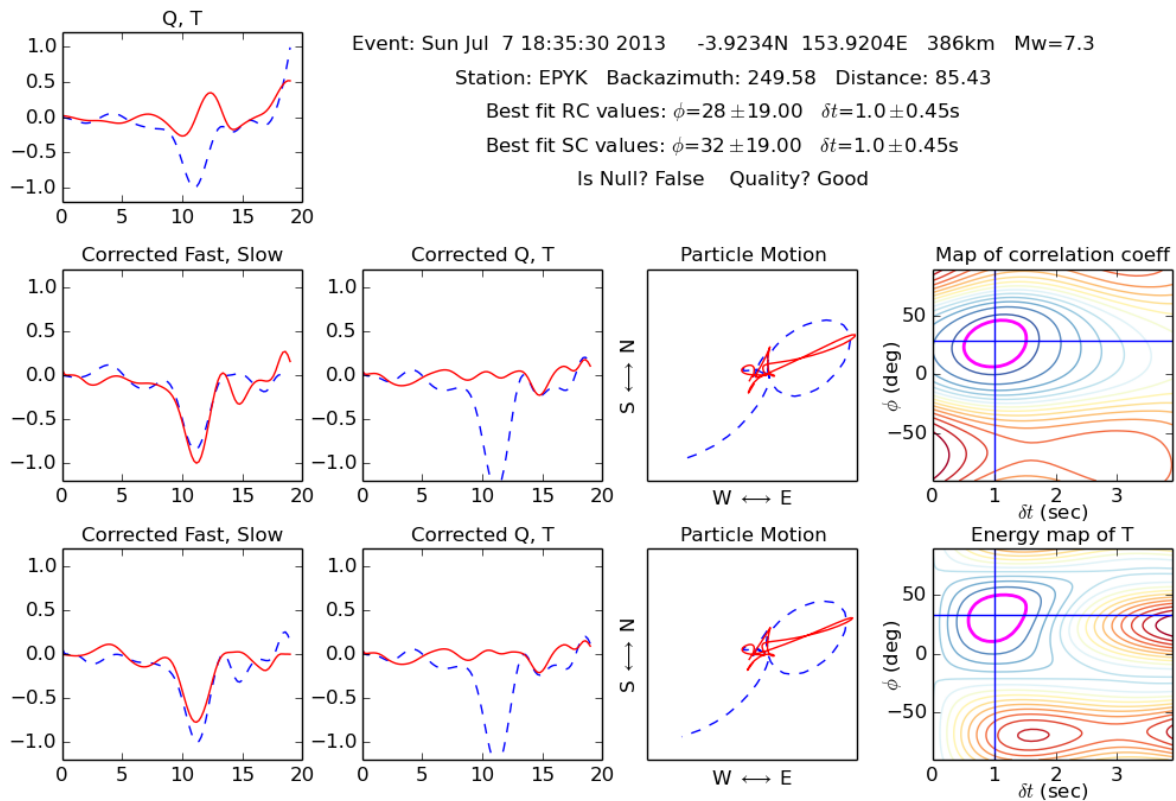
68 **NOTES**

69 The SplitLab software used in this study was translated from Matlab® to Python and thoroughly
70 tested against published results. The Python software makes extensive use of the ObsPy module
71 developed by Beyreuther et al. (2010), and is available upon request.

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88



89

90 Figure DR1. Example result of a single-event estimate of SKS splitting obtained at station

91 EPYK. The text describes the earthquake parameters and best-fit estimates for both the RC and

92 SC techniques, as well as the quality factor. The top left panel shows the longitudinal (Q, blue)

93 and tangential (T, red) seismograms for a hand picked window around the predicted SKS phase

94 arrival. The bottom two rows of panels show inversion results for the RC (middle row) and SC

95 (bottom row) techniques. For each technique, the first two panels represent the fast (blue) and

96 slow (red) components and the longitudinal (blue) and tangential (red) components after

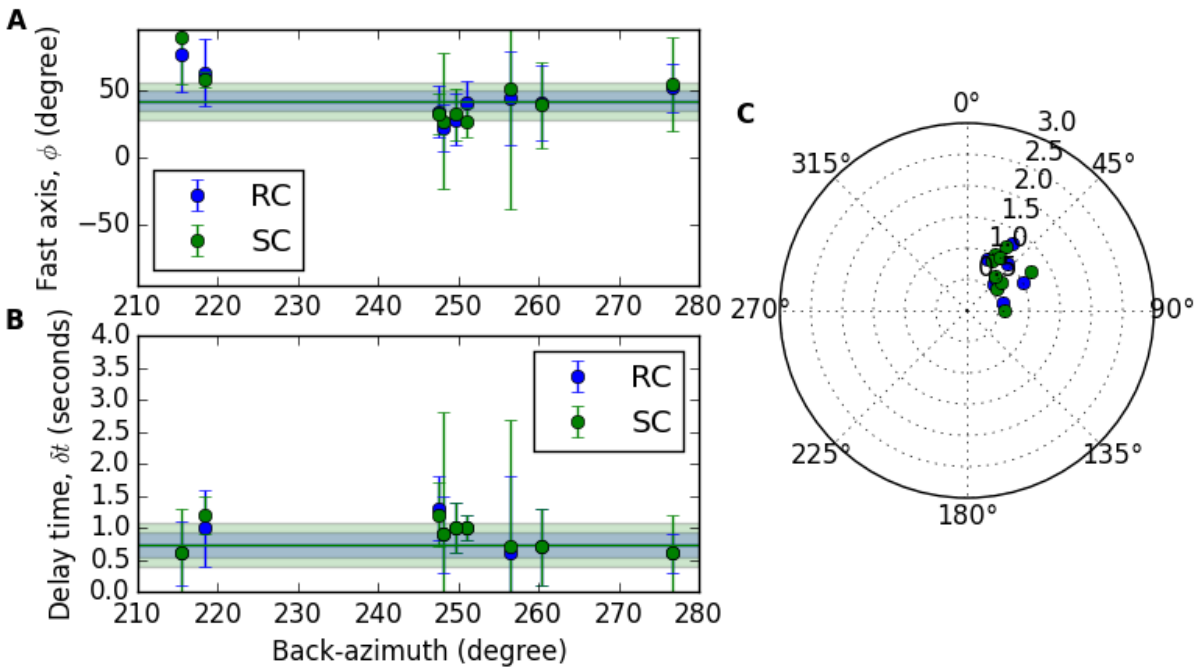
97 removing the effect of splitting. Horizontal axis is time in seconds. The last two panels show the

98 initial (blue) and corrected (red) particle motion in the horizontal plane, and the misfit contours

99 (low misfit in blue, high misfit in red), shown either as a map of the correlation coefficient

100 between the corrected fast and slow components (RC) or the energy of the tangential component

101 after correction. The magenta contours show the 95% confidence interval.



102

103 Figure DR2. Compilation of SKS splitting results for all “Good” and “Fair” non-nulls for station

104 EPYK. **A:** Azimuth of fast shear-wave propagation; **B:** Delay time between fast and slow shear

105 waves. Blue and Green symbols represent results obtained from the RC and SC techniques,

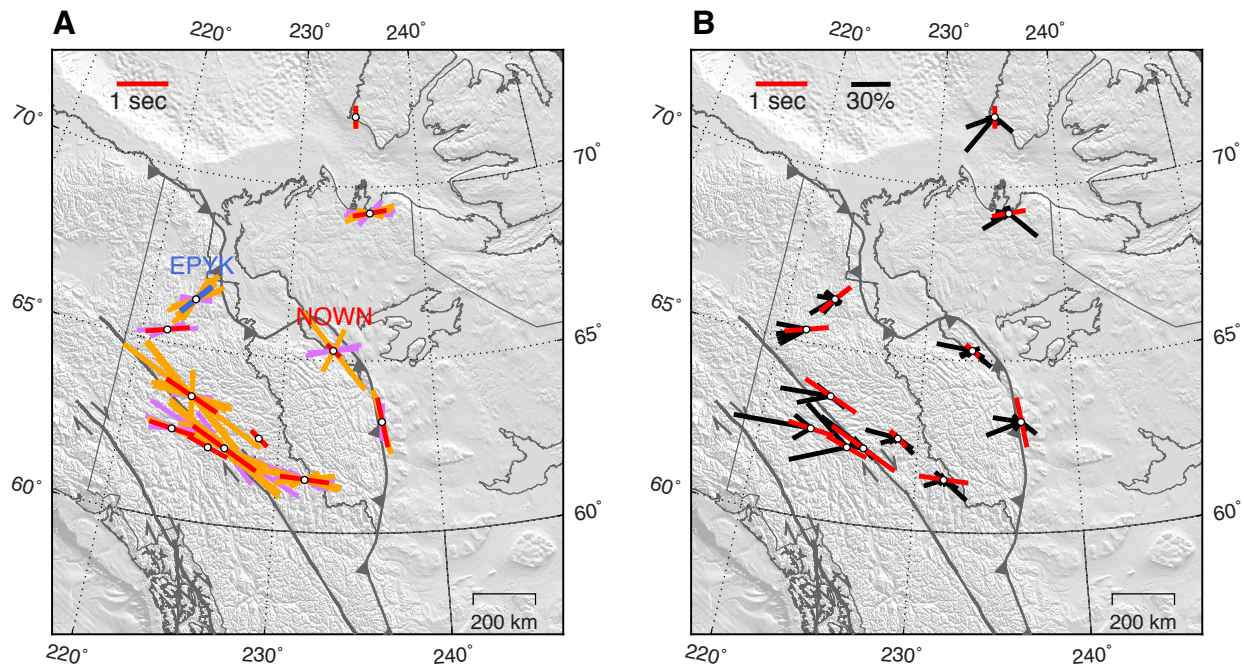
106 respectively. The blue and green shaded areas show the standard deviation of each quantity

107 around the mean value (solid lines) obtained from a vector average of individual measurements.

108 **C:** Representation of the estimated azimuths and delay times as a polar plot with delay time

109 increasing radially from the origin, which emphasizes the clustering of splitting parameters.

110



111
 112 Figure DR3. **A.** Map of SKS splitting results for all “fair” and “good” non-nulls shown as purple
 113 and orange bars, respectively. Except for station NOWN that displays variable fast axis
 114 directions perhaps indicative of multi-layered anisotropy, all stations show a tight distribution
 115 around the average parameters shown in red. Station EPYK is highlighted in blue. **B.** Map of null
 116 measurements for all “good” nulls plotted as rose diagrams (black bars) of back-azimuths of
 117 incoming SKS waves. The bars represent the percent number of events per 10° back-azimuth bin.
 118 Estimated SKS splits appear in red (reproduced from Figure 1B) in both **A** and **B**.

Table DR1: Station average splitting parameters

Stations			RC Avg.				SC Avg.				Station Avg.					
Network	Name	Lon (°)	Lat (°)	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	#	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$
TA	M31M	-134.391	62.202	-74.00	29.00	0.80	0.80	-64.00	37.00	0.90	1.00	1	-69.00	33.00	0.85	0.90
NY	MMPY	-131.262	62.619	-52.00	15.00	0.40	0.20	-48.00	41.00	0.40	0.90	1	-50.00	28.00	0.40	0.55
PO	NOWN	-126.715	65.294	-49.21	32.27	0.26	0.76	-47.09	32.64	0.35	0.73	3	-48.15	32.45	0.30	0.74
TA	I29M	-138.306	63.361	69.85	45.72	0.69	1.02	78.20	22.73	1.00	0.65	2	74.02	34.22	0.84	0.83
TA	A36M	-125.250	71.990	0.00	19.00	0.40	0.20	-1.00	38.00	0.40	0.60	1	-0.50	28.50	0.40	0.40
TA	C36M	-124.070	69.347	83.77	11.36	0.61	0.25	78.40	17.63	0.65	0.52	7	81.08	14.49	0.63	0.38
NY	WGLY	-123.458	63.228	-13.25	19.24	1.00	0.43	-8.12	20.94	0.96	0.46	2	-10.69	20.09	0.98	0.45
TA	M30M	-136.793	62.576	-77.44	45.21	0.90	1.02	-87.04	17.72	0.91	0.41	2	-82.24	31.47	0.90	0.72
NY	FARO	-133.348	62.230	-63.34	20.81	1.46	0.48	-59.07	12.86	1.60	0.41	9	-61.21	16.84	1.53	0.44
NY	MAYO	-135.892	63.596	-66.42	10.46	1.15	0.25	-64.26	14.26	1.23	0.35	14	-65.34	12.36	1.19	0.30
TA	EPYK	-136.719	66.370	41.96	7.91	0.74	0.20	41.52	13.49	0.73	0.34	9	41.74	10.70	0.73	0.27
NY	TGTN	-128.273	61.527	-84.05	10.83	0.95	0.19	-85.16	8.76	0.98	0.26	10	-84.61	9.80	0.96	0.22

Table DR2: Individual Station Splitting Parameters

Station	Event Info						RC				SC			
	Date	Lon (°)	Lat (°)	Mag	Φ (°)	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	
A36M	8/24/14	-73.57	-14.60	6.8	130.4	0.00	19.00	0.40	0.20	-1.00	38.00	0.40	0.60	
	5/24/15	-175.96	-19.39	6.2	-131.6	76.00	37.00	0.90	0.70	72.00	10.00	1.00	0.30	
	4/17/15	-178.60	-15.88	6.5	-128.2	-85.00	33.00	0.90	0.70	85.00	32.00	1.00	0.80	
	4/7/15	-173.22	-15.17	6.3	-133.0	84.00	19.00	0.80	0.40	83.00	28.00	0.80	0.50	
C36M	11/26/14	126.58	1.96	6.8	-71.1	57.00	17.00	0.50	0.30	44.00	44.00	0.60	1.90	
	5/21/14	88.04	18.20	6.0	-30.3	-73.00	33.00	0.50	0.70	-75.00	89.00	0.50	2.00	
	5/15/14	122.06	9.38	6.3	-64.4	72.00	10.00	0.60	0.20	80.00	44.00	0.60	1.90	
	11/23/13	-176.54	-17.12	6.5	-130.5	-88.00	45.00	0.60	1.10	78.00	39.00	0.70	1.00	
	9/16/15	151.48	-6.01	6.1	-108.9	41.00	16.00	1.00	0.20	26.00	11.00	1.00	0.20	
	12/7/14	154.46	-6.51	6.6	-111.9	22.00	17.00	0.90	0.60	27.00	51.00	0.90	1.90	
	11/21/14	127.06	2.30	6.5	-83.3	52.00	18.00	0.60	0.30	54.00	35.00	0.60	0.60	
	11/1/14	-177.76	-19.69	7.1	-141.7	63.00	25.00	1.00	0.60	58.00	6.00	1.20	0.30	
EPYK	7/29/14	146.77	-3.42	6.0	-103.6	44.00	35.00	0.60	1.20	51.00	89.00	0.70	2.00	
	5/7/14	154.90	-6.96	6.0	-112.5	34.00	19.00	1.30	0.50	32.00	15.00	1.20	0.50	
	8/1/13	-173.50	-15.24	6.0	-144.5	77.00	29.00	0.60	0.50	89.00	35.00	0.60	0.70	
	7/7/13	153.92	-3.92	7.3	-110.4	28.00	19.00	1.00	0.40	32.00	19.00	1.00	0.40	
	4/16/13	142.54	-3.22	6.6	-99.7	40.00	28.00	0.70	0.60	39.00	32.00	0.70	0.60	
	9/16/15	151.48	-6.01	6.1	-105.8	-57.00	89.00	0.40	2.00	-66.00	89.00	0.40	2.00	

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Station	Event Info					RC				SC			
	Date	Lon (°)	Lat (°)	Mag	Φ (°)	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$
	5/22/15	163.22	-11.11	6.8	-118.4	-55.00	13.00	3.00	0.70	-58.00	9.00	2.90	0.90
	5/22/15	163.70	-11.06	6.9	-118.9	-75.00	20.00	3.50	0.90	-64.00	13.00	3.60	0.80
	2/27/15	122.53	-7.30	7.0	-80.7	-45.00	31.00	0.70	0.90	-51.00	36.00	0.80	0.80
	11/15/14	126.52	1.89	7.1	-80.0	-53.00	89.00	1.10	2.00	-53.00	30.00	1.10	0.90
	11/1/14	-177.76	-19.69	7.1	-138.7	-71.00	30.00	1.70	1.10	-65.00	6.00	1.90	0.50
	10/9/14	-110.81	-32.11	7.0	160.9	-54.00	89.00	1.50	2.00	-44.00	27.00	1.80	1.40
	7/14/14	126.48	5.71	6.3	-78.2	-40.00	31.00	0.40	0.60	-37.00	47.00	0.40	1.90
	5/4/14	179.09	-24.61	6.6	-137.6	-74.00	89.00	1.90	1.80	-68.00	8.00	2.10	0.80
I29M	2/15/16	-175.48	-21.00	6.0	-145.6	81.00	21.00	0.80	0.40	80.00	29.00	0.80	0.50
	1/11/16	126.86	3.90	6.5	-83.9	57.00	89.00	0.70	2.00	77.00	35.00	1.20	1.20
M30M	4/13/16	94.90	23.13	6.9	-46.4	-77.00	89.00	1.00	2.00	-79.00	10.00	1.00	0.20
	10/20/15	167.30	-14.86	7.1	-126.7	-78.00	16.00	0.80	0.40	84.00	34.00	0.90	0.80
M31M	4/3/16	166.82	-14.35	6.9	-123.9	-74.00	29.00	0.80	0.80	-64.00	37.00	0.90	1.00
	10/20/15	167.30	-14.86	7.1	-125.9	-69.00	18.00	1.10	0.20	-62.00	7.00	1.20	0.20
	9/26/15	-71.32	-30.81	6.3	125.6	-8.00	31.00	1.00	1.00	-5.00	89.00	1.00	2.00
	9/21/15	-71.38	-31.73	6.6	126.1	89.00	23.00	0.70	0.70	-80.00	89.00	0.80	2.00
	5/22/15	163.22	-11.11	6.8	-120.8	-62.00	15.00	3.50	0.60	-62.00	10.00	3.50	0.80
	5/20/15	164.17	-10.88	6.8	-121.6	-51.00	16.00	2.10	0.80	-52.00	89.00	2.10	2.00
	5/7/15	154.56	-7.22	7.1	-111.4	-63.00	19.00	1.10	0.20	-64.00	14.00	1.10	0.20
MAYO	3/3/15	98.72	-0.78	6.1	-57.7	86.00	13.00	0.80	0.20	-85.00	19.00	0.90	0.40
	11/1/14	-177.76	-19.69	7.1	-141.0	-81.00	5.00	1.40	0.20	-76.00	4.00	1.50	0.20

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Station	Event Info					RC				SC			
	Date	Lon (°)	Lat (°)	Mag	Φ (°)	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$
	10/9/14	-110.81	-32.11	7.0	158.7	-64.00	29.00	0.50	0.50	-73.00	37.00	0.50	0.70
	7/8/14	168.40	-17.69	6.2	-127.9	-83.00	24.00	1.10	0.50	-72.00	16.00	1.20	0.50
	5/4/14	178.24	-25.81	6.3	-139.3	-77.00	89.00	1.30	2.00	-79.00	89.00	1.30	2.00
	4/26/14	-174.71	-20.75	6.1	-144.0	-84.00	11.00	1.60	0.50	-80.00	19.00	1.70	1.10
	4/13/14	162.05	-11.46	7.4	-119.9	-81.00	35.00	0.60	0.90	-68.00	43.00	0.60	1.80
	4/12/14	155.24	-7.10	6.1	-111.9	-50.00	89.00	2.90	2.00	-48.00	60.00	2.90	1.50
MMPY	7/4/14	152.81	-6.23	6.5	-105.2	-52.00	15.00	0.40	0.20	-48.00	41.00	0.40	0.90
	4/7/15	-173.22	-15.17	6.3	-135.4	77.00	33.00	1.10	1.00	84.00	33.00	1.00	0.80
NOWN	12/7/14	154.46	-6.51	6.6	-102.7	27.00	19.00	0.90	0.40	26.00	24.00	0.90	0.40
	12/6/14	130.48	-6.11	6.0	-80.8	-40.00	89.00	2.00	2.00	-40.00	89.00	2.00	2.00
	10/20/15	167.30	-14.86	7.1	-119.2	-70.00	16.00	1.00	0.20	-84.00	14.00	1.10	0.30
	5/24/15	-175.96	-19.39	6.2	-135.7	81.00	26.00	0.90	0.50	84.00	29.00	0.90	0.60
	12/29/14	121.52	8.63	6.1	-68.1	80.00	18.00	1.20	0.70	81.00	41.00	1.20	1.70
	11/1/14	-177.76	-19.69	7.1	-134.2	-77.00	7.00	1.20	0.10	-88.00	11.00	1.20	0.20
	7/21/14	-178.40	-19.80	6.9	-133.7	-88.00	21.00	1.10	0.50	-77.00	25.00	1.20	0.70
TGTTN	7/19/14	-174.45	-15.82	6.2	-135.8	-79.00	6.00	1.50	0.00	-81.00	5.00	1.40	0.20
	7/14/14	126.48	5.71	6.3	-73.8	61.00	25.00	0.60	0.40	62.00	35.00	0.60	0.60
	7/8/14	168.40	-17.69	6.2	-121.3	-71.00	28.00	0.60	0.50	-63.00	27.00	0.70	0.50
	7/3/14	-176.45	-30.46	6.3	-139.2	-82.00	25.00	1.00	0.50	-84.00	25.00	1.00	0.40
	5/4/14	179.09	-24.61	6.6	-133.3	-75.00	89.00	1.40	1.40	-76.00	40.00	1.40	1.40
WGLY	11/11/15	-72.01	-29.51	6.8	135.9	-15.00	18.00	1.30	0.50	-14.00	23.00	1.30	0.70

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Station	Event Info				RC				SC				
	Date	Lon (°)	Lat (°)	Mag	Φ (°)	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$	ϕ (°)	σ_ϕ	δt (s)	$\sigma_{\delta t}$
	9/21/15	-71.38	-31.73	6.6	136.2	-10.00	34.00	0.70	0.70	3.00	35.00	0.70	0.60