Integrating onshore and offshore paleoseismic data: a Bayesian model

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What actually happens during the earthquake?



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Synchronous turbidity currents are triggered within a few minutes of each other along the length of the margin



Turbidity Current Triggering Mechanisms

Tests of aerial extent can eliminate many possible triggering mechanisms.

Lack of land external sediment sources on the Cascadia and Sumatran outer slope and absence of cyclones near the equator eliminates storms (almost)

Extreme rarity eliminates impacts

- storm or tsunami wave loading/liquefaction
- sediment loading (trigger still needed)
- storm (hyperpycnal) discharge
- bolide impact
- great earthquakes
- crustal earthquakes
- tectonic over-steepening (trigger still needed)
- gas hydrate destabilization (trigger still needed)



So our primary criteria for distinguishing earthquakes are

- 1) Aerial extent
- 2) Synchroneity, and
- 3) Sedimentology.

Synchronous means within a few minutes to hours at most...

¹⁴C dating gets us only to within a few decades.... So how do we constrain relative timing to within a few minutes?

Cheat!



Turbidite Paleoseismology:

Extending the earthquake record

Cascadia Core Sites:

1999 = gray, 2002 = yellow

Older existing cores = white

Washington Channels defined by 12 days of multibeam survey, now un-classified!



Early tests for earthquake origin. Hats off to John Adams 1984-1990

While brilliant, and this strategy has been successful, much more is needed for confidence in definition of channel systems and stratigraphy!

These cores were collected by OSU and UW investigators and students using Loran (~ .25 nm uncertainty) with PDR and occasional TRANSIT fixes. Detailed correlations are constructed from high-resolution physical property data collected from the cores, including magnetic susceptibility (high and low), gamma density, P-wave velocity, resistivity, and CT imagery.







In addition to the confluence test, we correlate turbidites between remote sites to establish continuity, and test for synchronous triggering.

Correlations are made on the basis of grain-size/physical property "fingerprints" within a ¹⁴C age framework



CT imagery is invaluable for understanding turbidite structure and defining stratigraphic boundaries in detail. This image breaks out the sand fraction, the silt fraction, and the hemipelagic clay by their respective CT density values.

The CT can reveal such subtle features as a worm burrow which is apparently lined with material slightly more dense than its surroundings (biogenic clay)

CT movie...



Looking closely, the main structure of these turbidites is a series of fining upward "pulses" (Bouma A-C) capped by a fining upward tail. The pulsing structure is commonly maintained through channel confluences, and between isolated sites as shown by this example from two cores 300 km apart, with source areas 420-500 km apart. These channels never meet.







T9 Cascadia Ch. T9 Juan de Fuca Ch.



T7 Cascadia Ch. T7 Juan de Fuca Ch.



T6 Cascadia Ch. T6 Juan de Fuca Ch.

Now we'll develop the Bayesian model to assess the tests for turbidite correlation. We'll use the Washington margin as our example

But first.... A Short Time-Out for Statistics!













Bayes' theorem

All information is expressed in terms of probability density functions





Bayesian Probabilities of earthquake origin under uncertainty

Every model follows the same rule: garbage in, garbage out. So we'll spend most of the talk looking at the depositional details and the data...

Northern Cascadia

48°20'N

48°0'N

47°40'N

47°20'N

47°0'N

46°40'N

46°20'N

46°0'N

45°40'N

Nearly complete multibeam (various resolutions) now exists. OSU cruises 1992-2012 cover ~ 80% of the continental slope of Washington. Other sources cover major portions of the southern Canadian slope.



Northern Cascadia

Let's examine some of the complexities in the Cascadia system, and how they can be used to advantage, (or not!)

All existing cores are shown, our primary cores (Professional Paper 1661-F) in white.

All of these systems are more or less relict since the late deglacial/early Holocene.





126°20'0"W

1.6 2.4 3.2

Kilometers

0 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Kilometers 126°20'0"W

Partial blockage and Holocene turbidity current response, frontal thrust, JDF outlet, Nitinat Fan Apex.

Visible in the backscatter are the fine grained pool behind the landward vergent thrust fault blockage, crevasse-splay spillover to the north, and sand tongue continuing down JDF Channel.





Central WA margin: Quillayute confluence, landslides and fault intersections



0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Looking closer, we see a very complex intersection with the frontal landward vergent thrust, partial blockage of Quillayute Canyon and the JDF Channel.

Mud volcano along fault

JDF Channel

N. Nitinat Fault

North Nitinat Fault. SeaMARC 1A image shows fault, mud volcano, and channel deflection



Core W8306c-02. Hemipelagic sediment overlying this slide block (just 1 km south of the upper image) suggests age is ~ 2000 BP

NORTH



And further south, two more landslides are in JDF channel. Just downstream, our primary JDF core (M9907-12PC has a relatively thin Holocene section less than 3 m.









Carson (1971) used by Atwater shows 10 Holocene turbidites and no ash in 29-28. The actual count is 18 Holocene beds, and 14 above the prominent ash (S. Galers work).

Similarly the old logs show 14 Holocene beds in TTo48-08, and 13 in TTo48-09 when the actual count is 17 Holocene and 15 above the ash.



Using CT data and more ash analysis from this project, we observe 18-19 Holocene beds in these cores, and 13-15 above the Mazama ash which is abundant in 3 and sparse in one core.

The difference with the old visual logs is due to using CT data. Visual logging is inadequate (unless beds are coarse grained).

Additionally, ash presence and abundance is very spotty and irregular. Note Carson (1971) missed the ash in TT29-28 altogether.



Provisional correlation using all constraints.

1) High variability in ash percent

2)

3)

4)

- Some cores have significant ash in event correlated to regional T14, suggesting airfall on the slope.
- Virtually no variability seen in turbidite bed count.
- Lithostratigraphic correlation less effective in proximal environments
- 5) Proposed variability (Atwater) not in evidence.

These two paleochannels were mapped as inactive in 1999...



 The two features "A" and "B" extend westward across the fall line at nearly right angles, indicating a high flow regime

J. Beeson et al 2013, in revision.



These features are not landslide related, they are incised into the abyssal plain, and have no landslide blocks. They most resemble plunge pools, but do not have the vertical drop required of plunge pools.





Ages are constrained by crosscutting relationships to be late Pleistocene. The are inactive in the Holocene, as originally mapped.

 The two features "A" and "B" are interpreted as submarine "coulees" similar to those observed onshore and most likely related to the Missoula flooding events of the deglacial period.






Cascadia

Alternative Holocene channel?

In the Missoula outbursts yes, not significant in the Holocene.

But in any case, not relevant to the confluence test as this notional input is below the key core sites.



Cascadia

Upper slope canyons funnel turbidity currents into a margin parallel channel as wedge growth has made the upper slope/lower slope break the lowest point in the wedge.







Classic overbank wavefield at a submarine channel bend



Monte Carlo search inversion for best fit to core stratigraphy





Cascadia

It might be possible to feed a little flowstripped material into the Quillayute Basin.

Over the top of the accretionary prism and into the JDF Channel is not a possible pathway.



Thin sections	Expanded	Compressed	Thick sections
in upper	above	below	in lower
canyon	obstruction	obstruction	channel

Thickening and coarsening downstream! Consistent with seismic trigger (but not required)

Western systems

Eastern systems



New expanded analysis suggests a rather simple signal of 19-20 Holocene turbidites in the along the northern margin in independent canyon/channel systems, supporting the original confluence test



Two major independent Systems:

A consistent record for the most part, with occasional missing section at the Holocene-Pleistocene boundary.

First number is turbidites above the Mazama Ash, second number is Holocene turbidites, red if erosion detected.

Consistency of the Washington margin turbidite record across multiple turbidite systems

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Core	H/P	Mazama	Correl.	visual	notes
			T13	logs	
JDF					
TT63-18	16	12	?	4/7	missing section at base of Holocene?
TT63-20	14	11	?	8-9 Holo.	CT analysis not complete
TT39-27	19	?	?	4 Holo.	No ash reported in Carson 1971, new analysis pending
TT39-06	20	?	13	2 Holo.	No ash reported in Carson 1971, new analysis pending
TT48-09	17	14	14	15 Holo.	HP not quite reached
TT48-08	17	14	14	15 Holo.	HP not quite reached
M9907-05TC	15	13	13	6	core overpentrated? 2 events missing from top. H/P not reached
M9907-12PC	19	13	13	12/17	
TT029-28	18	14	14	10	
Quinault-Willapa					
TT053-18	18	16	14	13/15	possible missing section at base of Holocene
Quillayute					
TT063-17	18	16	14	5/11	possible missing section at base of Holocene
TT053-14	18	16	14	8/12	possible missing section at base of Holocene
Cascadia					
M990722-25PC	19	13	13	12/18	



The confluence:

A mixed signal.

Heavy mineral tracers distinguish northern and southern sources and preclude significant input to JDF from Quinault Canyon.

Direct comparison between offshore and onshore evidence in forearc Lakes.



Goldfinger, Morey, Sherrod et al.













Another independent site investigated by Hamilton et al. (2014)



Slipstream slide: Hamilton et al. 2014



http://mc06.manuscriptcentral.com/cjes-pubs



Land Data

- Deserted Lake²⁰
- Port Alberni¹¹ ×
- Tofino7,17,18 X
- Effingham^{11,45} ÷
- Catala Lake⁹ X
- Kakawis Lake²⁵
- Saanich Inlet⁶ ÷
- Saanich Varves⁶ X
- Discovery Bay⁴¹ 0
- ★ Swantown⁴⁰
- 0 Cultus Bay⁴⁶
- Copalis River² 0 Johns River³⁸
- Willapa Bay^{2,3,47} X

Marine Data

Barclay Canyon

Juan de Fuca

0

0

0

0

Juan de Fuca H

Cascadia 199648

Astoria Channel

Astoria 199648

Hydrate Ridge

Rogue Apron

Smith Apron

Eel Channel

Land Data

Rogue Apron H

- Long Beach WA³⁷
- Ecola Creek^{14,34}
- Ecola 200744 ×
- Netarts Shennan^{39,24}
- Netarts Marsh^{12,13}
- Salmon River²⁹ Δ
- Yaquina Bay¹⁴
- Alsea Bay^{14,31} 0
- Coquille River⁴³ 0
- Coos Bay2^{30,27,28}
- Bradley Lake²³ X
- Sixes River⁴³
- Humboldt Bay³³ 0
- Eel River³³
- Lagoon Creek^{15,16}

Onshore-Offshore space-time diagram for the most recent ~ 2800 years.

(Filled symbols are marine data, open symbols land data; smaller open symbols are bulk peat ages, given lower weighting here.)

Stratigraphic correlation for offshore data shown in blue dashed lines.





- A Smith H

- Eel Channel
- ×
- ۰.
- 🗶 Catala Lake⁹
- ۰.

- Cultus Bav⁴⁶
- Johns River³⁸
- x

- Salmon River²⁹
- Yaquina Bay¹⁴
- Alsea Bay^{14,31} Ô.
- Coquille River⁴³
- Coos Bay2^{30,27,28} Bradley Lake²³
- Sixes River⁴³
- O Humboldt Bay³³
- ✗ Eel River³³

T18





9500

10000

Onshore-Offshore space-time diagram including only higher precision land ages

(Filled symbols are marine data, open symbols land data; smaller open symbols are bulk peat ages, given lower weighting here.)

Stratigraphic correlation for offshore data shown in blue dashed lines.

And finally, back to the model. The inputs are quantified where possible according to this scheme:

- OxCal chi² and agreement indices as measures of radiocarbon fit, land and marine data.
- Pearson correlation coeff. for downcore series.
- 85% probability assigned (+/- 15) for confluence and coincidence tests based on all relevant data.
- Boolean (yes/no) for turbidite filter criteria.
- Binning of strike length and number of sites observed.
- Seismic correlation criteria not applicable to northern margin (topography too rough).
- Hydrodynamic model fit RMS can be used with caution.
- The model is in development, and the following should be considered experimental.

Preliminary results: probability of correlation given the input data, T1-18 for (JDF, Cascadia, HR, Rogue) and high precision land sites.

 Idnum freq 		obabilities of Co	orrel P(case)	
-1	1	*	(0.94 0.06)	4.17444e-008
• 2	1	*	(0.77 0.23)	4.17444e-008
• 3	1	*	(0.82 0.18)	4.30094e-008
• 4	1	*	(0.88 0.12)	4.17444e-008
• 5	1	*	(0.71 0.29)	4.43127e-008
• 6	1	*	(0.93 0.07)	4.17444e-008
• 7	1	*	(0.87 0.13)	4.30094e-008
• 8	1	*	(0.73 0.27)	4.30094e-008
• 9	1	*	(0.83 0.17)	4.17444e-008
1 0	1	*	(0.63 0.37)	4.30094e-008
• 11	1	*	(0.85 0.15)	4.17444e-008
1 2	1	*	(0.74 0.26)	4.17444e-008
• 13	1	*	(0.89 0.11)	4.17444e-008
• 14	1	*	(0.82 0.18)	4.30094e-008
1 5	1	*	(0.77 0.23)	4.30094e-008
• 16	1	*	(0.85 0.15)	4.17444e-008
• 17	1	*	(0.83 0.17)	4.17444e-008
 17a 	1	*	(0.81 0.19)	4.30094e-008
• 18	1	*	(0.79 0.21)	4.17444e-008

Average probability long ruptures= 81%, southern ruptures 64%



Cascadia: The Movie

This sequence shows the Cascadia Holocene earthquake sequence.

The slides are timed at 1 sec ~ 200 years.

Event pulses that correlate at all sites are shown by flashes of the "locked zone" in red. Event "size" shown by intensity of red shading












































































Rupture lengths from Holocene Offshore/Onshore paleoseismic record.

While mean recurrence interval is ~ 500 years in northern Cascadia, it is only 240 years in the south. The NSAF recurrence during this time is similar, ~200 years. Smaller Cascadia events correlate with shorter rupture length and Bradley Lake tsunami deposits.

Segment boundaries are roughly compatible with ETS segment boundaries proposed by Brudzinski et al., 2007, though both sets of boundaries are quite crude.

Conclusions

- Understanding of channel pathways and their history and dynamics is critically important. Erroneous conclusions may be drawn from inappropriate sampling strategies.
- Many cores are required to unravel the unknowns. We may not be smarter than mud on the first try!
- Alternative pathways and turbidite counts are not supported by data or physics.
- Using appropriate cores from active channel/canyon systems, the turbidite stratigraphy is remarkably consistent. Linkages to Effingham Inlet, the Slipstream Slide, onshore lakes and marsh sites suggest consistent record of ~ 19-20 significant events in the Holocene.
- Bayesian models can help quantify and evaluate the numerous inputs to paleoseismic models (19 in this case). Improvements in the data result in improvements to the model.

Thanks for your attention!



Willapa Wave field



The Holocene record in this core consists of ~ 50% hemipelagic mud, and 50% mud turbidites at a range of 12.5 km from the main Willapa bend. This area should be affected by the blowout events, but lack of Holocene record supports and older time frame.



The frontal thrust blocks both JDF and Quillayute, forcing JDF to go over the ridge, and redirecting Quillayute several km north where it joins JDF. A fine grained sediment pool results here as well. Walls of a paleo Quillayute Channel are visible, as is the sand tongue exiting this second bottleneck.



High-resolution chirp profile across the Feature A Blowout Basin to JDF Channel. Sandy turbidites sourced from JFD give way eastward to nearly transparent Holocene fill in the basin, consistent with backscatter data.

- A common misconception is that with evidence of M9 earthquakes, it should be simple to examine cores for this evidence which should be widespread.
- Surprisingly though, there are not as many sites with good paleoseismic records as one might think.
- Moreover, Cascadia is characterized by fine grained turbidite systems for the most part, particularly in the northern relict canyons. This means that techniques used must be capable of reliably detecting and characterizing fine grained deposits in detail.
- Lets look first at the aerial distribution of Holocene, turbidite stratigraphy.

Model and empirical considerations


