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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PRELIMINARY CATALOG OF
EARTHQUAKES IN NORTHERN IMPERIAL VALLEY,
CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 1, 1977 TO MARCH 31, 1977

Open-file Report 78-74

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**PRELIMINARY CATALOG OF EARTHQUAKES IN THE
NORTHERN IMPERIAL VALLEY, JANUARY 1, 1977 - MARCH 31, 1977**

By Madeline Schnapp and Gary Fuis

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Introduction

The northern section of the Imperial Valley region in Southern California is an area of known geothermal resources and an area of high seismicity. To study in detail the relationship between geothermal areas and earthquakes, the U.S. Geological Survey has been monitoring seismicity in the Imperial Valley with a sixteen station network since 1973. Six new stations were added to the network in November 1976. This catalog contains a description of the network and a list of preliminary data on earthquakes recorded by the network from January 1977 through March 1977.

AREA COVERED AND INSTRUMENTATION

Earthquakes reported in this catalog are located in the area indicated in Figure 1. Major faults are shown. Locations of most of the seismographic stations used in locating earthquakes reported here are shown on Plate 1 and are listed in Table 1.

The telemetered seismographic network in the Imperial Valley employs the same type of instrumentation developed by the U.S. Geological Survey for use in the central California network (see Wesson and others, 1973). Seismometers are vertical-component L-4C Mark Products seismometers ($T_{\text{seis}} = 1 \text{ sec}$). Signals from these instruments are filtered in the field ($T_{\text{filter}} = 0.1 \text{ sec}$) and telemetered to the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, where they are recorded on 16 mm films along with a WWVB time code in Develocorders ($T_{\text{galvo}} = 0.06 \text{ sec}$). Peak magnification ranges from 10^5 to about 10^6 and occurs at $T_{\text{peak}} = 0.06 \text{ sec}$ (or 14 Hz). (Refer to Wesson and others, 1974, or Hill and others, 1975, for a somewhat

more detailed description of USGS instrumentation.)

DATA ANALYSIS

The data is analyzed using methods developed for the analysis of similar data from the U.S. Geological Survey's central California network (see, for example, Lee and others, 1972b and Wesson and others, 1974). In particular, each roll of film, which contains 24 hours of data, is processed in the following steps.

- 1) Each film is visually scanned to note approximate times of earthquakes and the stations on which they are recorded.
- 2) Earthquakes that are recorded "impulsively" on 3 or more stations are manually timed. An "impulsive" signal is formally defined as one in which a) there is no question that the first motion seen is the first arrival, b) the amplitude of the first swing is five times the amplitude of the noise and c) the arrival can be picked with an error of 0.1 second or less.
- 3) The arrival-time data are punched on computer cards, and the cards are processed using the computer program HYP071 (Lee and Lahr, 1972) to yield preliminary determinations of origin time, hypocenter location, magnitudes, and statistical data concerning the hypocenter solution. HYP071 generates a summary card containing the above information for each earthquake.
- 4) Information from the summary cards is listed in this catalog. (Table 2) and the preliminary epicenters are plotted on a map (plate 1).

DISCUSSION

Earthquake locations are dependent strongly on the velocity model used in the location program. Epicentral determinations are less strongly dependent on the model than depth determinations, unless the earthquake occurs outside of the perimeter of the station group used in the location. The velocity model used for the earthquake locations in this catalog is based on a seismic refraction study of the Imperial Valley by Biehler and others (1964):

VELOCITY (km/sec)	DEPTH TO TOP OF LAYER (km)
2.0	0.0
2.6	1.0
3.6	2.0
4.7	3.0
6.1	6.0
8.0	20.0

The P-wave delay times assigned to each station (Table 1) were established from a calibration blast detonated by the U.S. Geological Survey on March 23, 1976, at 33° 05.30' N. Latitude and 115° 37.87' W. Longitude, 5 kilometers north of Westmorland. This calibration shot is very near the epicenters of most of the earthquakes of the November 1976 earthquake swarm. Our studies indicate that epicentral locations are probably as accurate as ± 0.5 km; hypocentral locations (depths) are probably accurate only to ± 2 km. The hypocentral locations of these earthquakes relative to one another is probably more accurate, however.

Magnitudes reported in this catalog are based on the method of signal duration described by Lee and others (1972a). The magnitude of a given earthquake is the average at several stations of magnitudes determined by

$$M = -0.87 + 2.00 \log (\tau) + 0.0035\Delta$$

where

Δ is epicentral distance in km, and

τ is signal duration in seconds.

Signal duration is the time interval in seconds from the onset of the P wave arrival to a point where the trace amplitude (peak-to-peak) falls below 1 cm as it is seen on the Geotech film viewer. A 0.0 magnitude (Table 2) indicates that the magnitude was not calculated. In many cases an earthquake signal was truncated by the onset of a larger event or extended by the onset of smaller events. In these cases the method of determining magnitude using signal duration could not be used.

The hypocentral parameters listed in Table 2 are the following

1) Y, year of occurrence	}	GCT
2) M, month of occurrence		
3) D, day of occurrence		
4) H, hour of occurrence		
5) M, minute of occurrence		
6) Sec, second of occurrence		
7) LAT, north latitude of epicenter, in degrees		
8) LONG, west longitude of epicenter in degrees		
9) DEP, depth of hypocenter in kilometers		

- 10) MAG, magnitude
- 11) NO, number of P arrivals used in locating the earthquake
- 12) GAP, maximum gap between stations contributing P-arrivals
- 13) DMIN, distance from epicenter to nearest station used in
locating the earthquake
- 14) RMS, root mean square of travel time residuals, R_1 , in seconds

$$RMS = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{NO} R_i^2 / NO}$$

- 15) ERH, standard error of the epicenter, in kilometers
- 16) ERZ, standard error of the focal depth, in kilometers
- 17) Q, solution quality of the hypocenter.
- 18) M, model used in location. $M = 1$ throughout this preliminary =
catalog.

A filter is applied to the events in this catalog, to eliminate very bad hypocenter solutions. A solution was not listed or plotted unless $RMS \leq 0.50$ seconds. No events have been reread to improve preliminary locations and preliminary RMS's.

REFERENCES CITED

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Figure 1. Base map of southern California region with major faults. Area of Plate 1 is shown.

Plate 1. Location of earthquake epicenters in the Imperial Valley with respect to major faults for the period January 1, 1977 through March 31, 1977. Solid triangles are seismograph stations in the Imperial Valley network installed in 1973 (see Figure 1 and Table 1). Solid circles are the seismograph stations installed in November 1976.

Table 1. Station Data

NO.	STATION	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	ELEV	DELAY
		DEG MIN	DEG MIN	FEET	SEC
1	RUGR 33	2.73N 115	34.10W	-47	-0.02
2	VERD 33	7.07N 115	33.76W	-61	0.02
3	EPIC 33	5.28N 115	36.28W	-61	0.0
4	BANG 33	5.29N 115	37.84W	-62	0.0
5	ELR 33	8.84N 115	49.95W	-63	-0.55
6	NWR 33	6.10N 115	41.01W	-69	-0.64
7	WIS 33	16.56N 115	35.58W	-68	-0.91
8	WNL 33	0.91N 115	37.35W	-44	-0.29
9	CLI 33	8.45N 115	31.64W	-59	-0.20
10	FNK 33	22.98N 115	38.26W	12	-1.13
11	COY 33	21.84N 116	18.63W	210	-1.58
12	HOT 33	18.84N 116	34.89W	1975	-1.39
13	SMO 33	32.15N 116	27.70W	0	-1.34
14	PLT 32	43.87N 114	43.76W	61	-1.52
15	SLU 32	30.10N 114	46.64W	41	-0.97
16	AMS 33	8.48N 115	15.25W	140	-1.13
17	* COA 32	51.81N 115	7.36W	-35	0.0
18	* BSC 32	43.49N 115	2.64W	43	0.0
19	* BLU 34	24.40N 117	43.61W	1880	0.0
20	CPE 32	52.80N 117	6.00W	213	-0.65
21	GLA 33	3.10N 114	49.60W	627	-1.05
22	IKP 32	38.93N 116	6.48W	957	-1.17
23	TPC 34	6.35N 116	2.92W	761	-0.77
24	PLM 33	21.20N 116	51.70W	1692	-0.59
25	BC2 33	39.42N 115	27.67W	1185	-1.05
26	CPM 34	9.24N 116	11.80W	937	-0.61
27	CO2 33	50.82N 115	20.68W	276	-1.10
28	INS 33	56.14N 116	11.66W	1700	-1.35
29	LTC 33	29.34N 115	4.20W	458	-1.21
30	LTM 33	54.90N 114	55.10W	744	-0.66
31	PNM 33	58.64N 115	48.05W	1147	-0.75
32	SHH 34	11.26N 115	39.27W	1122	-0.66
33	KEE 33	38.30N 116	39.19W	1366	-0.92
34	VGR 33	50.25N 116	48.53W	1500	-0.71
35	HWR 33	59.51N 116	39.36W	702	-0.53
36	BON 32	41.67N 115	16.11W	14	-0.22
37	CCH 33	25.75N 115	27.68W	488	-1.30
38	COK 32	50.95N 115	43.61W	-15	-0.40
39	CRR 32	53.18N 115	58.10W	98	-1.07
40	DAH 32	44.07N 115	33.47W	-6	0.20
41	HSP 32	44.81N 115	33.71W	-6	0.13
42	ING 32	59.30N 115	18.61W	2	-0.37
43	KBY 33	2.41N 115	42.06W	-51	-0.27
44	OBB 33	10.04N 115	38.20W	-61	-0.62
45	RSE 32	55.53N 115	29.95W	-41	-0.22
46	RUN 32	58.33N 114	58.63W	152	-1.01
47	SGL 32	38.95N 115	43.52W	110	-1.08
48	SNR 32	51.71N 115	26.21W	-30	-0.32
49	SUP 32	57.31N 115	49.43W	219	-1.07

Table 1. (Cont'd.)

10.

NO.	STATION	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		ELEV DELAY	
		DEG	MIN	DEG	MIN	FEET.	SEC
50	HLK 33	3.08N	115	29.44W	48	-0.11	
51	FTH 32	33.25N	114	20.01W	263	-1.68	
52	PIC 32	54.85N	114	38.59W	263	-0.95	
53	YND 32	33.28N	114	32.68W	76	-0.48	
54	EA11 33	46.44N	115	35.83W	780	-1.13	
55	HA10 33	42.80N	115	34.90W	536	-0.59	
56	ORO9 33	37.05N	115	35.50W	555	-0.79	
57	CHO8 33	30.25N	115	35.68W	634	-1.14	
58	CHO7 33	27.21N	115	35.50W	585	-1.14	
59	COA5 33	22.20N	115	36.10W	18	-1.16	
60	HIL4 33	20.37N	115	35.73W	-40	-1.06	
61	SAL2 33	15.82N	115	35.25W	-69	-0.83	
62	MUD1 33	13.21N	115	35.16W	-70	-0.71	
63	ROCX 33	10.58N	115	36.29W	-69	-0.74	
64	YNGX 33	7.98N	115	36.61W	-64	-0.08	

* Station not used in locating earthquakes

Table 2.
Preliminary hypocenter solutions for
earthquakes in southern California
January 1, 1977 through March 31, 1977.

N	Y	M	D	H	M	SEC	LAT	LONG	DEF	MAG	N	GAP	DM	FMS	ERH	ERZ	C	M
1	77	1	3	19	1	47.08	33- 9.10	115-37.90	4.25	1.75	15	64	1.8	C.06	0.2	C.2	A	1
2	77	1	4	12	4	17.70	33- 8.90	115-37.93	4.60	1.13	8	91	2.1	C.08	C.5	0.3	E	1
3	77	1	4	22	26	39.57	33-19.01	115-41.24	5.00	1.20	8	180	24.2	C.03	C.3	48.9	C	1
4	77	1	5	17	45	17.07	32-11.72	115-38.31	5.41	2.10	15	45	3.1	C.09	C.3	C.2	A	1
5	77	1	7	2	39	37.45	33-13.96	115-38.20	4.41	2.25	20	57	6.3	C.21	C.7	C.7	E	1
6	77	1	7	6	31	20.74	32-55.50	115-48.01	7.17	C.C	12	88	4.0	C.14	C.7	C.8	A	1
7	77	1	7	12	33	18.95	32-13.40	115-38.83	4.82	2.57	27	58	6.3	C.10	0.3	0.3	E	1
8	77	1	1	1	54	30.12	32-54.21	115-30.55	7.72	1.87	17	80	8.7	C.13	C.5	C.8	E	1
9	77	1	13	1	4	55.09	32-59.88	115-44.69	4.67	2.36	15	73	8.8	C.12	0.4	C.4	E	1
10	77	1	14	6	40	4.11	33- 7.66	115-35.37	4.26	1.35	13	83	6.0	C.09	C.5	C.6	E	1
11	77	1	14	5	53	24.34	33- 9.26	115-38.01	4.45	1.46	18	81	1.5	C.07	0.2	C.2	A	1
12	77	1	14	10	43	26.03	33- 1.62	115-44.39	5.00	1.72	14	93	11.0	C.09	C.4	C.4	E	1
13	77	1	14	10	46	45.74	33- 1.58	115-44.42	5.00	1.82	13	93	11.1	C.08	0.4	C.4	E	1
14	77	1	14	11	33	45.03	33- 1.51	115-44.34	5.00	1.90	15	93	11.0	C.10	C.4	C.4	E	1
15	77	1	18	8	52	18.41	33- 4.67	115-34.04	5.45	C.84	11	97	7.7	C.11	0.5	0.4	E	1
16	77	1	18	9	52	37.77	33- 2.99	115-35.60	2.31	1.32	12	99	4.7	C.11	C.4	C.5	E	1
17	77	1	18	10	24	3.11	33- 2.88	115-35.50	2.56	1.48	14	98	4.6	C.10	0.4	C.4	E	1
18	77	1	18	11	27	22.22	33- 2.82	115-35.49	2.41	1.82	15	51	4.6	C.07	C.2	C.3	A	1
19	77	1	18	11	35	47.63	33- 2.79	115-35.39	2.81	3.12	21	81	4.6	C.11	0.3	1.2	A	1
20	77	1	19	7	10	43.74	33- 9.28	115-38.12	4.65	1.32	12	137	1.4	C.07	0.4	C.3	E	1
21	77	1	19	11	40	22.32	33- 8.58	115-37.85	5.00	1.73	20	49	2.0	C.11	0.4	C.3	A	1
22	77	1	24	7	10	43.61	33- 9.62	115-37.91	4.02	2.17	18	86	10.0	C.20	C.7	1.3	E	1
23	77	1	24	21	51	12.44	33- 9.72	115-37.72	5.55	2.67	20	53	5.7	C.10	0.3	3.5	E	1
24	77	1	25	6	28	15.66	33- 9.78	115-37.54	1.26	2.81	22	47	13.1	C.09	C.2	1.7	E	1
25	77	1	25	3	3	25.09	33- 9.75	115-37.93	3.25	2.28	22	67	10.1	C.11	0.4	C.6	E	1
26	77	1	25	10	52	49.00	32-53.62	115-36.46	3.52	1.81	9	100	12.2	C.07	0.4	C.5	E	1
27	77	2	3	6	41	32.89	33- 9.21	115-38.38	4.88	2.26	13	111	7.2	C.10	C.4	C.5	E	1
28	77	2	3	23	59	47.99	32-50.65	115-44.00	5.70	3.36	16	132	C.8	C.21	1.0	1.0	E	1
29	77	2	4	6	13	57.55	33- 8.80	115-37.33	6.00	1.65	11	142	7.6	C.15	C.8	6.7	C	1
30	77	2	5	16	46	57.23	32-53.89	115-30.90	5.00	1.36	4	173	25.6	C.0			C	1
31	77	2	6	9	52	52.77	32-58.25	115-22.42	4.36	2.70	21	67	7.5	C.09	0.3	0.4	E	1
32	77	2	6	10	13	58.74	32-58.70	115-44.42	5.33	1.34	6	177	8.2	C.02	0.2	C.2	E	1
33	77	2	6	10	23	29.36	32-58.46	115-44.30	5.62	1.32	7	172	8.3	C.08	C.8	C.6	E	1
34	77	2	6	12	42	38.83	33- 7.19	115-35.98	5.04	1.19	11	84	7.2	C.06	C.3	C.2	E	1
35	77	2	6	23	59	29.42	22-56.40	115-21.78	7.55	1.38	9	75	12.0	C.09	C.5	1.3	E	1
36	77	2	9	12	15	13.70	32-57.68	115-51.27	6.43	2.75	25	54	3.0	C.22	C.7	1.0	E	1
37	77	2	9	12	21	29.35	32-57.41	115-52.28	5.00	C.59	3	228	6.0	C.18			C	1
38	77	2	10	14	10	57.02	32-48.69	115-40.23	8.15	1.55	8	91	6.7	C.12	C.8	2.1	E	1
39	77	2	12	16	34	46.86	33- 9.69	115-38.30	4.85	1.98	13	82	C.7	C.06	0.3	C.1	A	1
40	77	2	13	9	58	41.01	33- 9.81	115-38.43	5.00	1.83	12	90	0.5	C.09	C.5	C.3	A	1
41	77	2	13	10	1	27.28	33- 9.67	115-38.30	5.00	1.37	12	83	C.7	C.07	C.4	0.2	A	1
42	77	2	13	10	39	44.41	33- 9.60	115-38.20	5.00	2.75	26	42	0.8	C.10	C.3	C.2	A	1
43	77	2	13	11	12	27.05	33- 9.68	115-38.30	5.17	2.18	20	83	C.7	C.10	0.3	C.2	A	1
44	77	2	17	5	24	3.86	32-54.18	115-51.63	1.30	1.62	9	106	6.7	C.15	1.2	1.2	E	1
45	77	2	19	6	48	57.55	32-46.75	115-26.45	5.56	1.85	15	121	5.2	C.08	C.3	C.4	E	1
46	77	2	19	9	18	34.51	33- 7.25	115-35.20	4.91	1.84	20	63	6.0	C.08	0.2	C.2	E	1
47	77	2	27	4	3	21.13	23-11.55	115-55.74	C.21	2.24	14	158	30.8	C.14	C.8	11.8	C	1
48	77	3	10	20	52	44.58	33- 1.52	115-35.74	5.47	1.64	13	84	2.7	C.12	0.6	C.5	A	1
49	77	3	13	10	46	18.31	32-48.63	115-34.27	5.00	1.45	11	105	13.8	C.09	C.5	10.5	C	1
50	77	3	16	11	39	45.07	32-58.78	115-30.89	4.03	1.94	14	114	8.3	C.12	0.5	C.5	E	1

[illegible]