# ACCOUNTING FOR UNCERTAIN FAULT GEOMETRY IN EARTHQUAKE SOURCE INVERSIONS

**Théa Ragon**<sup>1</sup>, Anthony Sladen<sup>1</sup>, Mark Simons<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Université Côte d'Azur, CNRS, Géoazur, <sup>2</sup> Seismological Laboratory, CalTech, USA







What is the impact of this complexity on our models?

![](_page_1_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Yet the Earth is also poorly known... And thus often simplified to an uncertain approximation

![](_page_2_Figure_1.jpeg)

Uncertain

For large earthquakes (Mw>8):

# Uncertainties in the forward model

Up to 1m

observational errors

**σ**<sup>2</sup>~10<sup>-3</sup> to 10<sup>-6</sup>m

Ragon et al. 2018

Yet only observational errors are usually accounted for

#### Account for uncertainties in the fault geometry through a sensibility analysis

![](_page_4_Figure_1.jpeg)

What is the impact of a small variation of the geometry on static measurements?

after Duputel et al. 2014 Ragon et al. 2018

 $\mathbf{K}_{\text{dip}} = \frac{\partial G_d}{\partial d}$  $\mathbf{C}_{\text{p}} = \mathbf{K}_{\text{dip}} \cdot \mathbf{C}_{\text{dip}} \cdot \mathbf{K}_{\text{dip}}^T$ 

 $\mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{d}} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{d}} + \mathbf{C}_{\mathrm{p}}$ 

Updated misfit covariance matrix → can be used in any inversion method

## Application to a toy model

![](_page_5_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Figure_2.jpeg)

Can we infer the target slip if assuming a wrong fault geometry?

![](_page_5_Figure_4.jpeg)

## Application to a toy model

![](_page_6_Figure_1.jpeg)

# that our fault geometry is certain sur 1 km depth Average parameter -(mean of the distribution of most probable parameters) down-dip end (20 km depth) Ragon et al. 2018 **Offset to target model** (= 1 m)

If we assume

Can we infer the target slip if assuming a wrong fault geometry?

50 cm

7

## Application to a toy model

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

# If we If we assume that our fault account for uncertainties geometry is certain $\sigma=5^{\circ}$ in dip surface 1 km depth Average parameter — (mean of the distribution of most probable parameters) down-dip end (20 km depth) Ragon et al. 2018 **Offset to target model** (= 1 m) 0 cm 50 cm

Can we infer the target slip if assuming a wrong fault geometry?

8

Accounting for epistemic uncertainties = Allow for a larger misfit between observations and predictions = Predictions are not over-confident in a wrong forward model

#### Application to the Mw6.2 Amatrice earthquake, 2016, Central Italy

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

Variability of fault geometries assumed for the Amatrice earthquake, from Lavecchia et al. 2016; Tinti et al. 2016; Huang et al. 2017; Liu et al. 2017; Chiaraluce et al. 2017; Cheloni et al. 2017.

# Static estimation of co-seismic slip from **4 interferograms and 28 GPS stations** Usual optimization: **1 model**

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### **ACCOUNTING FOR UNCERTAINTIES**

#### $\sigma$ =5° in dip, 2km in position

![](_page_12_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Uncertainty in fault geometry impacts earthquake slip estimates

And may bias

shallow slip estimates tsunami hazard assessment

Particularly for events well observed in near field

Ragon, Sladen, Simons – *GJI* – Accounting for uncertain fault geometry in earthquake source inversions – 1 (2018) ragon@geoazur.unice.fr

## Synthetic tests: wrong Earth properties and Fault geometry

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_5.jpeg)

Ragon et al. *in prep* 

Accounting for uncertainties **in fault geometry** 

Accounting for uncertainties in fault geometry and Earth properties

# Uncertainty <del>in fault geometry</del> in the forward model impacts earthquake slip estimates

# And we should account for it!

Ragon, Sladen, Simons – *GJI* Accounting for uncertain fault geometry in earthquake source inversions – 1 (2018) Accounting for uncertain fault geometry in earthquake source inversions – 2 (to be submitted September 2018)

> *Contact* ragon@geoazur.unice.fr *You can find the slides at* ragonthea.wordpress.com

![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

	Fault geometry A, no $C_p$	Fault geometry B, no $C_p$	Fault geometry B, $C_p$
GPS	0.318	0.279	0.376
ALOS ascending	2.67	1.73	1.91
ALOS descending	3.48	2.62	3.33
Sentinel ascending	5.02	4.16	5.54
Sentinel descending	2.30	2.99	4.13

TABLE S2 – Residuals between observations and predictions of inferred models for fault geometries A and B, accounting or not for  $C_p$ .

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

**FIGURE S10** – Comparison of the residuals between inversion accounting or not for  $C_p$  and with fault geometry B as reference. The residuals corresponding to dip-slip amplitudes of average models are presented in terms of percentage of slip (left) or as absolute values (right).