

Early warning for great earthquakes from characterization of crustal deformation patterns with deep learning

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8 Key Points:

- 9 ● We use synthetic data to train a deep learning model to predict magnitude from crustal
10 deformation patterns in simulated real-time
- 11 ● The model, M-LARGE, has an accuracy of 99% and accurately estimates the magnitude
12 of five real large events, outperforming other methods
- 13 ● M-LARGE's rapid and accurate magnitude prediction suggesting that significant warning
14 times are possible during real large earthquakes
15

17 Abstract

18 Although infrequent, large (Mw7.5+) earthquakes can be extremely damaging and occur on
19 subduction and intraplate faults worldwide. Earthquake early warning (EEW) systems aim to
20 provide advanced warning before strong shaking and tsunami onsets. These systems estimate
21 earthquake magnitude using the early metrics of waveforms, relying on empirical scaling
22 relationships of abundant past events. However, both the rarity and complexity of great events
23 make it challenging to characterize them, and EEW algorithms often underpredict magnitude and
24 the resulting hazards. Here we propose a model, M-LARGE, that leverages the power of deep
25 learning to characterize crustal deformation patterns of large earthquakes in real time. We
26 demonstrate the algorithm in the Chilean Subduction Zone by training it with more than six million

27 different simulated rupture scenarios recorded on the Chilean GNSS network. M-LARGE
28 successfully performs reliable magnitude estimation on the testing dataset with an accuracy of
29 99%. Furthermore, the model successfully predicts the magnitude of five real Chilean
30 earthquakes that occurred in the last 11 years. These events were damaging, large enough to be
31 recorded by the modern HR-GNSS instrument in the last decade, and provide valuable ground
32 truth. M-LARGE tracks the evolution of the source process and can make faster and more
33 accurate magnitude estimation, significantly outperforming other similar EEW algorithms.

34

35 **Plain Language Summary**

36 Great earthquakes are infrequent but devastating natural disasters. To mitigate their effects,
37 earthquake early warning (EEW) systems aim to provide advance warning of strong shaking and
38 tsunami. However, many of the most sophisticated EEW algorithms operating globally have a
39 difficult time characterizing large earthquakes quickly and accurately enough to issue a
40 meaningful warning -- this is most evident from the failure of EEW during the 2011 M9 Tohoku
41 Oki, Japan earthquake. Here we propose a model, M-LARGE, that learns earthquake's surface
42 deformation patterns from millions of simulations, and then apply it to unseen events. Our model
43 shows a high accuracy of 99% performing on the testing dataset, and accurately estimates the
44 magnitude of five real large historical events in Chile. The M-LARGE outperforms currently
45 operating similar EEW algorithms.

46

47

48 **1 Introduction**

49 Following earthquake initiation, most EEW algorithms provide initial hazard predictions
50 based on the character of the first arriving P-waves, which is the earliest information available.
51 However, it is well known that this approach will routinely struggle during large magnitude
52 earthquakes owing to magnitude saturation, or underestimation, a current limitation of such EEW

53 systems. As an example of this, the Japanese EEW system mis-identified the 2011 Mw9.0
54 Tohoku-oki earthquake as only an Mw8.1 for the first hour after rupture (Hoshiya et al., 2011).
55 Saturation occurs for a couple of reasons. First, inertial-based instruments (seismometers) that
56 record earthquakes in the near-field tend to distort large, low-frequency, signals radiated from
57 large earthquakes, making the data unreliable when real-time automatic processing is considered
58 (Boore & Bommer, 2005; Larson, 2009; Bock & Melgar, 2016). Second, methods that directly
59 calculate earthquake magnitude from body waves or surface wave amplitudes focus on particular
60 frequency bands of the source spectrum, which saturate during large (Mw7.5+) events (Geller
61 1976). Third, large earthquakes have durations of several minutes and early onset signals (i.e.
62 the first few seconds of waveforms), utilized by EEW systems, might not contain enough
63 information to forecast the final magnitude of large events (Rydelek & Horiuchi, 2006; Meier et
64 al., 2016, 2017; Melgar & Hayes, 2017; Ide, 2019; Goldberg et al., 2019). Magnitude saturation
65 has consequences for downstream applications that rely on rapid magnitude determination,
66 specifically, in the 2011 Tohoku-oki case both forecasts of the expected shaking and the tsunami
67 amplitudes were drastically underpredicted (Colombelli et al., 2013; Hoshiya et al., 2014).

68

69 In recent years, a number of EEW algorithms have attempted to perform more accurate and
70 faster magnitude calculations. For example, it is possible to match shaking patterns in real-time
71 to the expected geometric extension of the causative fault (Böse et al., 2012; Hutchison et al.,
72 2020). Another approach is to forego complete characterization of the earthquake, and simply
73 take the observed shaking wavefield at a particular instant in time, and forecast its time-evolution
74 into the future (Kodera et al., 2018; Cochran et al., 2019). Furthermore, the advent of widespread
75 high rate global navigation satellite system (HR-GNSS) networks have enabled a new class of
76 EEW algorithms based on measurements of crustal deformation and are particularly well suited
77 to identifying large magnitude earthquakes (Crowell et al., 2013; Grapenthin et al., 2014; Minson
78 et al., 2014; Kawamoto et al., 2016). Noteworthy among these are methods is the Geodetic First

79 Approximation of Size and Time (GFAST) algorithm which is primarily based on the scaling of
80 peak ground displacement (PGD) and is currently operating in U.S. EEW system for large
81 earthquakes ([Crowell et al., 2013, 2016](#)).

82

83 More recently, advances in computing power and technologies have enabled the use of
84 machine learning and deep learning algorithms ([LeCun et al., 2015](#)). These have also been
85 demonstrated to provide significant improvements in other data-rich seismological applications
86 such as earthquake detection, phase picking, and association ([Perol et al., 2018](#); [Ross et al.,](#)
87 [2018](#); [Kong et al., 2019](#); [Zhu & Beroza, 2019](#); [Mousavi et al., 2020b](#)). Earthquake magnitude
88 estimation is a popular application of deep learning, and multiple studies have demonstrated their
89 fast and accurate magnitude prediction ([Lomax et al., 2019](#); [Mousavi et al., 2020a](#); [van den Ende](#)
90 [& Ampuero, 2020](#)).

91

92 Despite the sophistication of these existing algorithms, many of which are employed in some
93 of the most advanced EEW systems worldwide (such as the U.S. and Japan) ([Murray et al., 2018](#);
94 [Kodera et al., 2020](#)), each of them has limitations. For example, the seismic wavefield-based
95 approaches overcome saturation at the expense of short warning times, typically of the order of
96 ~10-20 s ([Kodera et al., 2018](#)). Meanwhile, PGD-based approaches avoid saturation but can
97 struggle when earthquakes have very long or unilateral ruptures ([Williamson et al., 2020](#)) and can
98 grossly over-predict the magnitudes of these kinds of events. Furthermore, the deep learning
99 algorithms previously proposed that show good performance on magnitude estimation, do not
100 focus on large ($M_w7.5+$) or even very large ($M_w9.0+$) magnitude earthquakes. Such events are
101 the most important target of an EEW system. At the root of these difficulties is that every large
102 earthquake is different from the next. Each can, and likely will, have a different starting location,
103 rupture velocity, slip distribution, and radiated seismic energy that evolves in a complex way as
104 the rupture unfolds. All of these properties fundamentally affect EEW system performance and

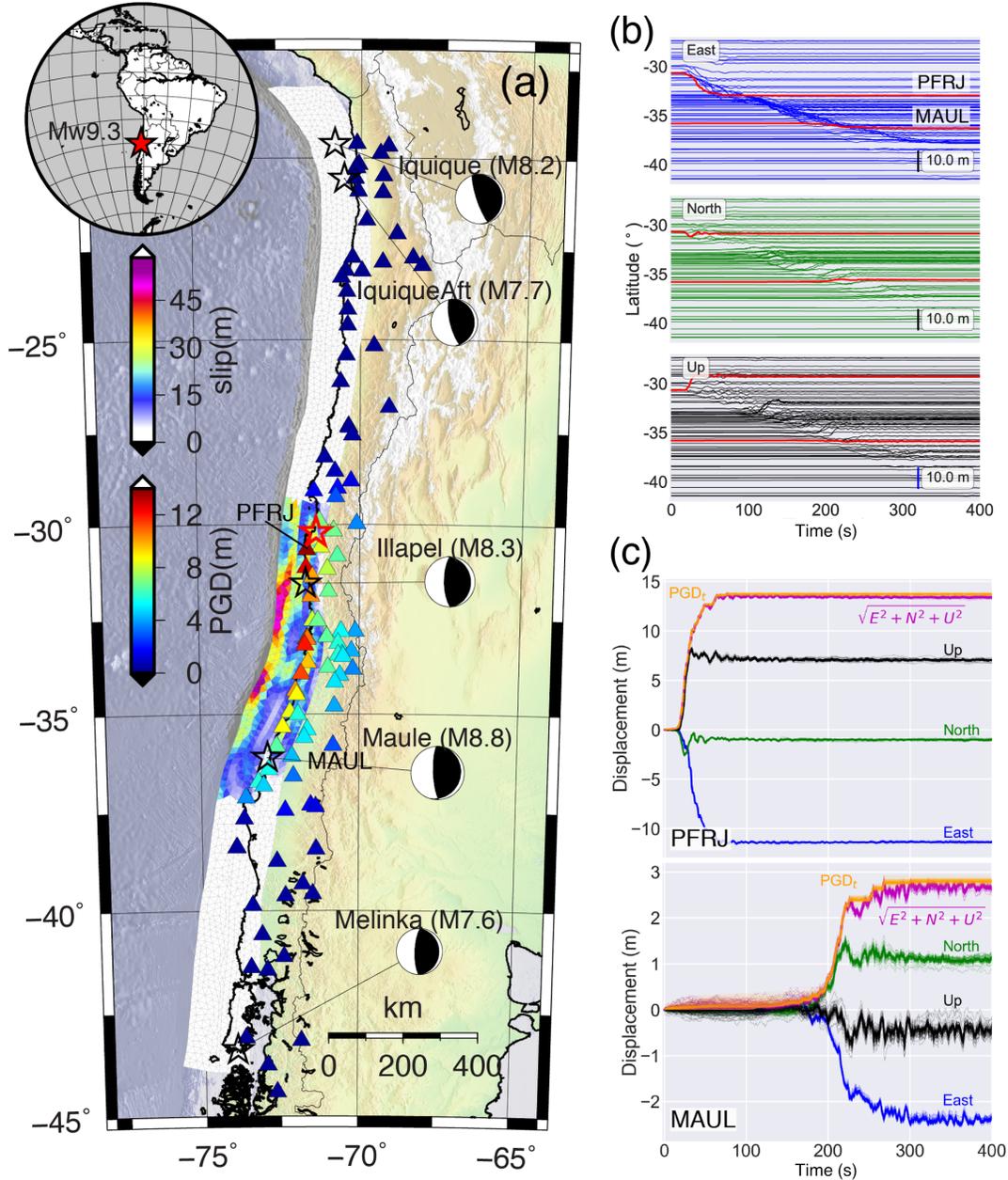
105 are difficult if not impossible to predict prior to earthquake occurrence. As such, developing
106 algorithms that can reliably characterize this complexity from surface observations in real-time
107 has proven challenging.

108

109 In spite of this diversity of earthquake characteristics, advances in seismic and geodetic
110 instrumentation over the last 30 years have allowed observation and synthesis of the basic
111 kinematic behaviors of large ruptures (Vallée & Douet, 2016; Ye et al., 2016; Hayes, 2017).
112 Additionally, the location and geometry of the faults on which many large earthquakes are
113 expected to occur are well known (Hayes et al., 2018). By combining these observations, it is
114 now possible to efficiently simulate the rupture process of many potential earthquakes in a realistic
115 way, and to predict their expected seismic and geodetic signatures (Melgar et al., 2016; Frankel
116 et al., 2018; Goldberg & Melgar, 2020; Pitarka et al., 2020). Another important improvement,
117 specifically in the case of HR-GNSS, is that noise models for real-time data have been proposed
118 (Geng et al., 2018; Melgar et al., 2020). HR-GNSS displacements are a derived product and there
119 can be significant differences between real-time and post-processed solutions. This improvement
120 enables adding noise to any simulated waveform, making the waveforms more realistic.

121

122 Here, we will show how to leverage deep learning, the aforementioned earthquake
123 simulations, and their associated HR-GNSS waveforms to characterize earthquake magnitude in
124 real-time. As a demonstration, we apply this approach to the Chilean Subduction Zone which has
125 a dense real-time GNSS network and assess its performance on five recent large-magnitude
126 earthquakes that have occurred there (Figure 1).



127

128 **Figure 1.** Map of the Chilean subduction zone, example rupture scenario, and resulting HR-GNSS

129 waveforms. (a) Slip distribution of a synthetic Mw9.3 earthquake. GNSS stations (triangles) are color coded

130 by their PGD. Focal mechanisms of 5 large events that have occurred since 2010. Red and black stars with

131 focal mechanisms represent the hypocenter of the Mw9.3 rupture scenario and of the historical

132 earthquakes, respectively. (b) Simulated three-component GNSS time series sorted by latitude. Bold red

133 lines denote the records at station PFRJ and MAUL. (c) time series at stations PFRJ and MAUL. Thin lines

134 denote the GNSS noise introduced in the Data and Method section (see section 2.1).

135

136 **2 Data and Methods**

137 **2.1 Rupture scenarios and synthetic waveforms**

138 The Chilean Subduction Zone on the west coast of South America is nearly 3000 km long
139 and accommodates 78-85 mm/yr of convergence between the Nazca and South American plates
140 (DeMets et al., 2010). It regularly hosts large magnitude earthquakes including five Mw7.5+
141 events in the last 10 years (Riquelme et al., 2018). Chile has a real-time HR-GNSS network with
142 more than 120 stations currently in operation (Báez et al., 2018), and provides an excellent
143 testbed for our proposed approach.

144

145 For generating the kinematic ruptures we use the Slab2.0 3D slab geometry of (Hayes et al.,
146 2018). We utilize the Chilean slab model from its southern terminus to ~100 km north of the
147 Chile/Peru border. We limit the seismogenic depth to 55 km consistent with the down-dip extent
148 of recently observed large earthquakes (Ruiz & Madariaga, 2018). The resulting geometry spans
149 a nearly 3000 km long, 200 km wide fault. The entire fault is then gridded into a total of 3075
150 triangular subfaults using a finite element mesher, the average length and width of the subfault
151 vertices is ~12 km.

152

153 We generate the 36,800 ruptures on this geometry spanning the magnitude range Mw7.2 to
154 Mw9.4 using the stochastic approach first described by Graves & Pitarka (2010) with
155 modifications proposed by LeVeque et al., (2016) to avoid the use of Fourier transformations
156 (Figure S1). The magnitudes of the scenarios are uniformly distributed with allowing a small
157 perturbation so that the exact magnitude spans a wider range (Figure S2). The goal here is not
158 to obey the Guttenberg-Richter frequency magnitude distribution but rather to generate a
159 meaningful large and varied number of ruptures to expose M-LARGE to a sufficient variety of
160 sources. The process of generating one particular rupture and its associated waveforms is

161 described in detail in [Melgar et al. \(2016\)](#) and is summarized here: once the target magnitude is
 162 selected, we define the length and width of fault for that particular rupture. We make a random
 163 draw from a probabilistic length, L , and width, W , scaling law ([Blaser et al., 2010](#)). L and W are
 164 obtained from a random draw from the lognormal distributions

165

$$166 \quad \log(L) \sim N(-2.37 + 0.57M_w, \sigma_L), \quad (1)$$

167

$$168 \quad \log(W) \sim N(-1.86 + 0.46M_w, \sigma_W), \quad (2)$$

169

170 with standard deviations defined in the original work of [Blaser et al. \(2010\)](#). The objective is to
 171 obtain a length and width that is consistent with the behavior seen in earthquakes worldwide while
 172 retaining the observed variability as well. The probabilistic scaling law thus ensures that for a
 173 given magnitude we do not always employ the same fault dimensions. Detailed statistics on the
 174 resulting fault dimensions for all simulated ruptures can be seen in [Figure S1](#). After the fault
 175 dimensions are defined, we randomly select a hypocentral location on the megathrust from a
 176 uniform spatial distribution. We do not take into account the variability in along-strike plate
 177 convergence rates or any information pertaining to which parts of the megathrust are considered
 178 more or less likely to experience a rupture.

179

180 Having selected the hypocentral location we next generate the slip pattern and GNSS
 181 waveforms. For this we use the Karhunen-Loeve (KL) expansion method ([LeVeque et al., 2016](#),
 182 [Melgar et al., 2016](#)). The process is separated into the following steps: 1) generate the stochastic
 183 slip pattern, 2) define rupture kinematics, and 3) forward model the resulting GNSS waveforms
 184 using a Green's function approach. Additional details are provided in Text S1 in the supporting
 185 information. Finally, to make the synthetic data more realistic, we introduce noise into the
 186 displacement waveform characteristics using a known real-time GNSS noise model ([Melgar et](#)

187 [al., 2020](#)) which was computed from analysis of one year-long real HR-GNSS observations
188 spanning a large region. The reference noise model provides expected spectra of noise that vary
189 from the 1st percentile or “low” noise model, continuously through the 50th percentile “median”
190 noise model and up to the 90th percentile “high” noise model. For each waveform we randomly
191 select the percentile noise model and add it to the displacement data. It's worthwhile to note that
192 we only assume the amplitude spectrum of noise, we keep the phase spectrum random. The
193 addition of noise guarantees that the resulting time-domain waveform varies with each realization.
194 In this way we guarantee a large variability of noise and quality in the stations as is routinely seen
195 in true real-time operations.

196

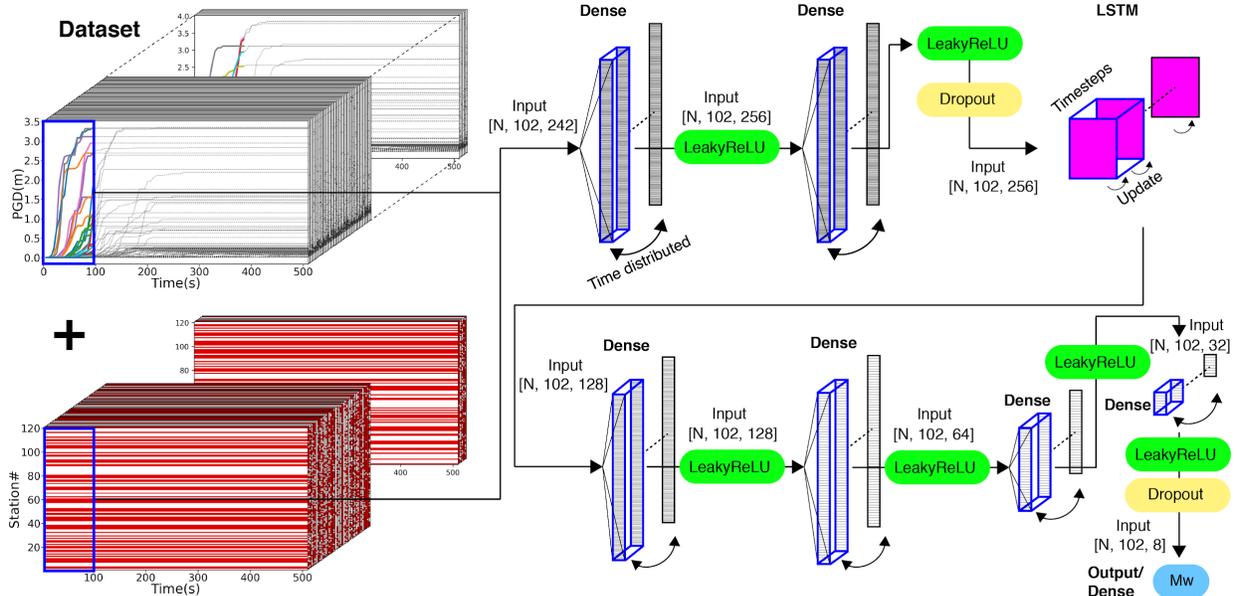
197 To ensure that the synthetic waveforms are realistic, we validate the data by comparing the
198 simulated peak ground displacement against what is expected from PGD-Mw scaling ([Melgar et](#)
199 [al., 2015](#); [Ruhl et al., 2019](#)). This is shown in [Figure S3](#), we find that the synthetic PGD pattern
200 matches the scaling based on real observations at hypocentral distance ~ 100 km and Mw from
201 Mw7.7 to Mw8.7. We note that misfit between modeled and expected values of PGD increases
202 at Mw greater than Mw9.0 or hypocentral distance smaller than 10km. This is due to the fact that
203 the PGD regressions are constructed from databases of real events; large earthquakes (i.e.
204 Mw9.0+) and very close observations are comparatively rare in those databases ([Melgar et al.,](#)
205 [2016](#); [Ruhl et al., 2019](#)). The large misfit is also due to the limitation of point source assumption
206 in PGD-Mw scaling laws where finiteness of large events need to be considered. All the resulting
207 synthetic rupture scenarios and GNSS waveforms are publicly available on Zenodo
208 (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5015610>) ([Lin et al., 2020](#)).

209

210

211 **2.2 M-LARGE : Model architecture**

212 For time-dependent earthquake magnitude prediction we employ a deep learning model,
213 called Machine Learning Assessed Rapid Geodetic Earthquake model (M-LARGE) by linking the
214 input time series recorded at each GNSS station to the time dependent Mw for each rupture
215 derived from integration of the source time function (STF). We attempted to use simple
216 architectures such as artificial neural networks (Figure S4) but ultimately found they did not have
217 enough flexibility to capture the crustal deformation behavior. Our final model is composed of
218 seven fully connected layers and a unidirectional long-short term memory (LSTM) recurrent layer
219 (Hochreiter & Schmidhuber, 1997), which iteratively predicts Mw using the current and previous
220 HR-GNSS observations across the network (Figure 2; Table S1). We adopted this model
221 architecture because LSTMs are ideal for processing sequential data, which allows M-LARGE to
222 update magnitude predictions as the rupture progresses. Additionally, it does not require a-priori
223 source information (such as the hypocenter) typically required by other rapid modeling methods
224 (e.g. Crowell et al., 2018a). Note that the dense layers only connect the feature values at the
225 same time channel, rather than all the features which would include future times as well. Dropouts
226 are applied to prevent overfitting during the training process (Srivastava et al., 2014). We use a
227 Leaky ReLU function with a slope of 0.1 at negative values (Mass et al., 2013), which is an
228 adaptation of the regular ReLU (i.e. slope of 0 at negative values) (Glorot et al., 2011) for the
229 activation of dense layers. Finally, the last layer is connected to a ReLU function to output a
230 current magnitude prediction, and the goal is to minimize the mean square error (MSE)
231 contributed from the magnitude misfits at every epoch (Figure 2).



232

233 **Figure 2.** M-LARGE model architecture showing the input as the time-dependent PGD values from the
 234 GNSS stations plus the station on or off (existence) codes. Detailed parameter values are listed in [Table](#)
 235 [S1](#). Blue rectangles mark the input PGD time series (i.e. 100 s) from all the available stations with their
 236 existence codes, and the participating layers.

237

238 2.3 M-LARGE : Input features, output labeling and model training

239 To train the model, we use the 36,800 synthetic ruptures described in section 2.1 and split
 240 them into training (70% or 25,760 ruptures), validation (20% or 7,360 ruptures) and testing data
 241 (10% or 3,680 ruptures) ([Figure S2](#)). The separation of validation and testing data ensures that
 242 the final model, which is selected based on the minimum validation loss, will not be biased during
 243 the model testing stage. Note that these are the number of rupture scenarios, the actual input
 244 data consider different station recording combination and GNSS noise. In our case, we generate
 245 more than 6 million training data from the original training dataset, and 8,192 testing data from
 246 the testing dataset (i.e. each rupture has ~2 different station recording combination and GNSS
 247 noise).

248

249 We use the PGD time series from all the stations as the model input

250

$$251 \quad PGD(t) = \max(\sqrt{E(t)^2 + N(t)^2 + Z(t)^2}), \quad (3)$$

252

253 where $E(t)$, $N(t)$, $Z(t)$ represents the East, North and vertical component of the GNSS
 254 displacement time series starting from the earthquake origin (i.e. $t=0$), respectively. We use PGD
 255 because it has a clear relationship to earthquake magnitude (Crowell et al., 2016; Melgar et al.,
 256 2015; Ruhl et al., 2019). We introduce feature scaling, which is commonly applied in machine
 257 learning, to avoid large feature values dominating smaller ones, making the model convergence
 258 difficult. The PGD time series is first clipped at a minimum of 0.01 m and scaled logarithmically.
 259 This is done so that during this re-scaling process the zero-valued data do not diverge to negative
 260 infinity. For the model output, we use the time integration from the real STF, convert it to the
 261 moment magnitude scale, and re-scale this by multiplying the value by 0.1 for computational
 262 efficiency. Both the input and output time series are decimated to 5 second sampling so that we
 263 obtain Mw updates in 5 second increments.

264

265 To increase the variability of the data, we apply data augmentation by introducing realistic
 266 HR-GNSS noise as described in section 2.1. We also randomly select some GNSS records to
 267 discard to simulate station outages and network variability yielding more than 6 million earthquake
 268 and station scenarios used for 50,000 training steps (Figure S5). The station incompleteness is
 269 necessary to simulate station outages which commonly occurs in real-time. For a given network
 270 not all stations are operational all of the time, the algorithm should be resilient to this. To
 271 distinguish between existing and non-operational stations, we add an additional “station
 272 existence” feature channel for every site. We set the value to zero to simulate a station outage,
 273 and set it to 0.5 if the station is working normally. This last value is arbitrary, but it is a good

274 practice to set it to the same scale of other features (i.e. In our feature, 0.5 is 3.16 m in the original
275 scale, so that their values are comparable).

276

277 A total of 121 stations ([Figure 1](#)) and 102 time steps (i.e. 5 s sampling for 510 s of signal
278 duration) of data are employed. Data incompleteness is included by randomly removing stations
279 up to a maximum of 115 stations (i.e. a minimum of only 6 stations remaining). We also set a
280 minimum training threshold of Mw7.5 and require at least 4 stations locate within 3 degrees of the
281 hypocenter. This is to make sure that the training data still carries some clear near-field
282 information, otherwise the algorithm could introduce a bias because of the similar far-field values
283 but different labeled magnitudes. Note that the hypocenter is the only necessary information for
284 the data augmentation step. During the training or actual running process, no hypocenter
285 information is needed. Here we also note that M-LARGE does not detect the onset of an event
286 because our intention here is not to build a detection algorithm, but to determine the correct
287 magnitude when an earthquake is obviously detected. GNSS data is usually noisy enough that
288 event detection from the real-time data can lead to many false positives ([Kawamoto et al., 2016](#)).
289 Rather M-LARGE requires triggering, ostensibly by a seismic system as is common in other
290 GNSS algorithms (e.g. [Crowell et al., 2018a](#)). The noise in GNSS data is greater than that in
291 seismic data and many algorithms have been demonstrated for detection of the onset of events
292 using inertial recordings ([Perol et al., 2018](#); [Ross et al., 2018](#); [Zhu & Beroza, 2019](#)) so a system
293 that relies on seismometers for triggering is still the most robust.

294

295 One assumption we make is that there is no travel time delay due to the propagation of
296 seismic waves from source-to-station in the feature and label pairs. Given the proximity of the
297 Chilean subduction zone to the Chilean GNSS network ([Figure 1](#)), we assume any rupture would
298 be recorded soon after the origin. In fact, in most events of our simulations the first arrival occurs
299 by 20 s, and only 6% of rupture scenarios have arrivals later than 20 s. The latency is only a small

300 fraction of the 510 s time series duration. Finally, we save the training weights every 5 epochs
301 and use the model which has the minimum validation loss as the final model (Figure S5). The
302 code base is publicly available and can be obtained at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4527253>
303 (Lin, 2021).

304

305

306 **2.4 Comparison to other geodetic EEW algorithms**

307 Our main point of comparison for assessing whether M-LARGE is an improvement will be
308 GFAST (Crowell et al., 2016), which predicts magnitude from GNSS observations, and it is also
309 one of the most stable GNSS EEW methods currently operating in the U.S. EEW system (i.e.
310 ShakeAlert). It uses the PGD observations from HR-GNSS time series. When a hypocenter is
311 confirmed by a seismic method, the magnitude is calculated based on the PGD-Mw scaling
312 relationship (Crowell et al., 2016; Melgar et al., 2015; Ruhl et al., 2019). To ensure the data
313 contain PGD information and not noise, a 3 km/s travel-time filter is added into the algorithm, and
314 the model only predicts Mw when at least 4 stations have valid information.

315

316 GFAST is not the only GNSS modeling approach; there are other proposed algorithms that
317 utilize near-field GNSS data to rapidly estimate earthquake magnitude. To further compare with
318 M-LARGE we also run the Global Positioning System based centroid moment tensor (GPSCMT)
319 method, which utilizes the near-field static offset term from the GNSS records to calculate
320 magnitude, moment tensor and centroid location (Melgar et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2019). Unlike the
321 GFAST approach, GPSCMT does not require hypocenter information, instead it grid-searches
322 every pre-defined centroid location and solves for the moment tensor. We take the same subfault
323 meshes used by M-LARGE as the potential centroid locations for the GPSCMT algorithm. Both
324 the performance of GFAST and GPSCMT are shown in the next section.

325

326

327 **3 Results**328 **3.1 M-LARGE performance on testing dataset**

329 The performance of M-LARGE on the testing dataset is shown in [Figure 3](#). To quantify how
330 well the model performs on testing data, we define a correct prediction as one within ± 0.3 units
331 of the target magnitude (i.e. time-dependent magnitude) and calculate the model accuracy ([Figure](#)
332 [3b](#)). Within these bounds, the model performs well with a high accuracy of 95% after 60 s which
333 increases to 99% by 120 s. The standard deviation of the magnitude misfits are 0.15, 0.1, 0.09
334 at 60, 120, and 360 s, respectively. The accuracy change from 120 s to 360 s is not significant;
335 however, this additional time improves some underestimations of long source duration events
336 with magnitude greater than $M_w 8.5$ ([Figure 3a](#)).

337

338 We compare this statistic to the GFAST algorithm by using the same testing dataset as M-
339 LARGE. Note that for GFAST, we remove those predictions with $M_w=0$ due to the four-station
340 minimum and only show the data that have non-zero values ([Figure 3b](#)). In this example, over
341 30% of the testing events have $M_w=0$ prediction at 60 s, these predictions require additional time
342 to converge compared to our model. Despite this removal, we find that GFAST has a lower
343 accuracy of 62% at 60 s which slowly increases to 78% by 120 s, and to 80% by 360 s. In
344 comparison to M-LARGE's maximum accuracy of 99%, GFAST's accuracy saturates at 86% by
345 215 seconds. The standard deviation of the magnitude predictions of GFAST are also larger,
346 which are 0.22, 0.21, 0.22 at 60, 120, 360 s, respectively, about 2 times more scatter than the M-
347 LARGE performance. To summarize, M-LARGE reaches 80% accuracy 5 times faster than
348 GFAST and has half the scatter on average.

349

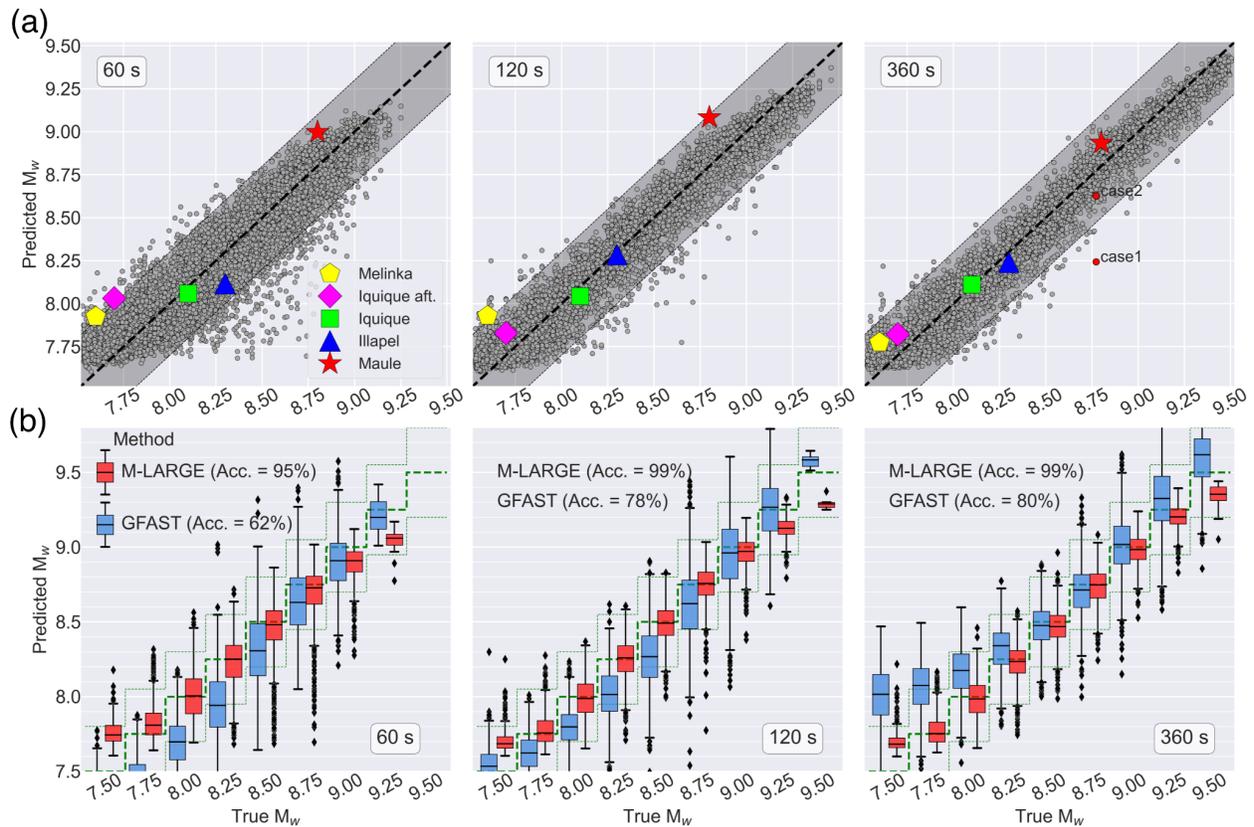
350 Furthermore, we compare the performance between M-LARGE and the GPSCMT ([Figure](#)
351 [S6](#)). Again, M-LARGE significantly outperforms the GPSCMT, where the accuracies are only

352 41%, 28% and 28% at 60, 120, 360 s, respectively. Noting that the GPSCMT performs with overall
 353 much larger scatter, lower accuracy, and systematic overestimations. This has been noted before,
 354 that a point source has limited ability on recovering the deformation of large offshore events (e.g.
 355 [Melgar et al., 2013](#)). Thus, without additional constraints, the model accuracy of GPSCMT method
 356 is about 40% according to our testing dataset.

357

358

359



360

361 **Figure 3.** Model performance on testing dataset and on real events. (a) (from left to right) snapshots of M-
 362 LARGE's performance at 60, 120, 360 s, respectively. Gray dots show the M_w predictions compared to the
 363 time-dependent magnitude. Black dashed line represents the 1:1 line; shaded area represents the
 364 ± 0.3 magnitude range. Colored markers denote the M-LARGE predicted M_w and their final M_w for 5 real
 365 events in shown in [Figure 1](#). The red dots with labels are the scenarios which will be discussed in section

366 3.3. (b) comparison of the GFAST (blue) and M-LARGE (red) predicted magnitudes at 60, 120 and 360 s
367 for different magnitude bins. Model accuracies at 60, 120 and 360 s are shown in text. The thick and thin
368 green dashed lines show the 1:1 and ± 0.3 reference for each magnitude bin.

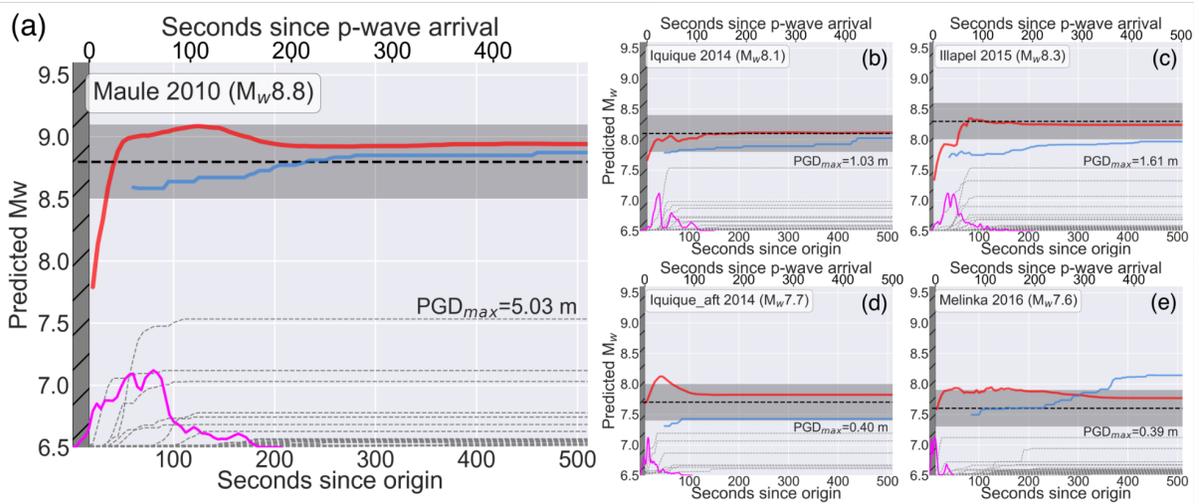
369

370

371 **3.2 M-LARGE performance on real large earthquakes**

372 To further assess the performance of M-LARGE, we apply the model to five large historical
373 events in the Chilean Subduction Zone with HR-GNSS records which were not used for training
374 (Figure 4). For each of these earthquakes, different numbers of GNSS sites were available. For
375 the 2010 Mw8.8 Maule earthquake the model only takes 40 s to reach the ± 0.3 magnitude unit
376 criteria. M-LARGE also successfully predicts the final magnitude of the 2014 Mw8.1 Iquique and
377 the 2015 Mw8.3 Illapel earthquakes at 20 s and 60 s, respectively. For the 2014 Mw7.7 Iquique
378 aftershock and the 2016 Mw7.6 Melinka earthquakes, both the M-LARGE predictions slightly
379 overshoot the true magnitude at 30 s, but soon correct downward to their actual magnitude
380 ranges. Compared to the performance of GFAST, which underestimates the Mw7.7 Iquique
381 aftershock by 0.3 magnitude units and overestimates the Melinka earthquake by 0.6 magnitude
382 units, our model shows more robust results on those smaller magnitude events where large GNSS
383 noise dominated the data across the whole network spanning a 3000 km long subduction zone
384 (Figure 1). We also note that the performance is bounded by the delay times prior to the P-wave
385 arrival at the closest stations. For example the Maule earthquake, where most of the presently
386 operating closest stations did not exist in 2010, the first arrival time was 17 s. Considering these
387 delay times, useful predictions are made as soon as the signals are recorded but the lowest
388 uncertainties are anticipated after ~ 30 s. The timing of the successful prediction correlates with
389 the source duration, data sparsity or coverage, and the signal-to-noise ratio of the event, which
390 will be further discussed in section 3.3, 3.4, and in the discussion section.

391



392

393 **Figure 4.** *M-LARGE performance on real Chilean earthquakes compared to GFAST. (a) The 2010 Maule*
 394 *Mw8.8 earthquake. Red and blue line shows the M-LARGE and GFAST prediction, respectively. Black*
 395 *dashed line and gray shaded areas represent the true M_w and the ± 0.3 magnitude unit range. Thin dashed*
 396 *lines show the PGD waveforms from the 2010 Maule earthquake (Figure 1). Magenta line represents the*
 397 *event source time function from the USGS finite fault product. Hatched dark gray area is the time period*
 398 *prior to the arrival of the P-wave at the closest site where no information on the rupture is available. (b)-(e)*
 399 *Same as (a) but for the 2014 Mw8.1 Iquique earthquake, the 2015 Mw8.3 Illapel earthquake, the 2014*
 400 *Mw7.7 Iquique aftershock, and the 2016 Mw7.6 Melinka earthquake, respectively.*

401

402

403 3.3 M-LARGE testing: Imperfect or sparse data

404 To understand how M-LARGE performs on imperfect data, we test M-LARGE on two different
 405 recording scenarios of the same rupture from the testing dataset. One scenario has poor station
 406 coverage whereas the other has excellent station coverage (i.e. red dots in Figure 3a) (Figure 5).
 407 In the poor station coverage example (i.e. Case 1 in Figure 5), almost all the near-field data are
 408 missing and M-LARGE fails to estimate the true magnitude. It is not until far-field stations begin
 409 recording data that M-LARGE upgrades its moment estimate closer to the lower bound of the
 410 actual magnitude (Figure 5b, 5c). In contrast, for the good station coverage example, abundant

411 near-field data is used to accurately characterize the rupture process and M-LARGE predicts the
412 actual magnitude successfully (Figure 5b, 5d). This suggests that data sparsity in the near-field
413 plays an important role for the accuracy and timeliness of the predictions. The clear implication is
414 that having more stations closer to the source improves M-LARGE's performance.

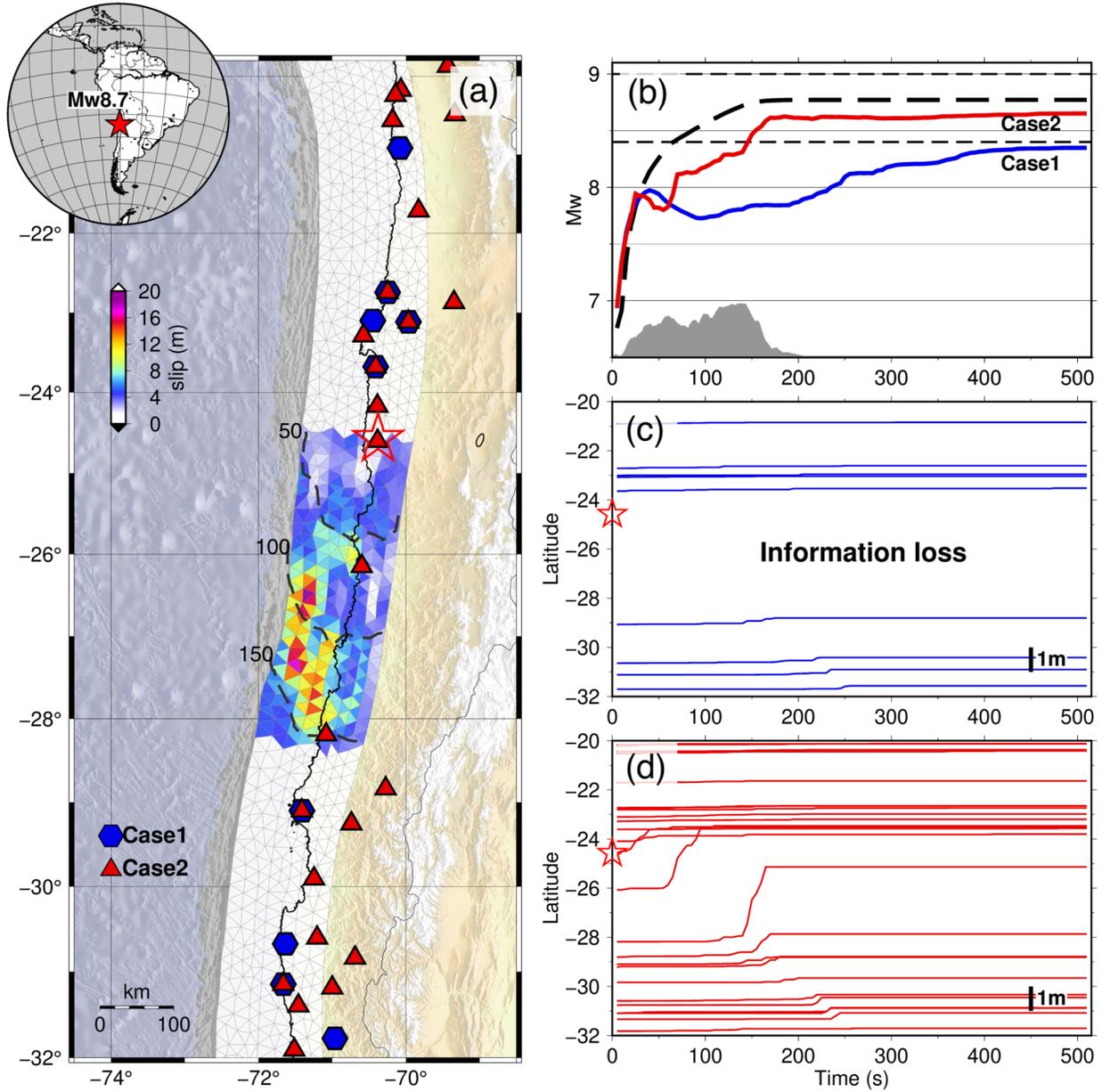
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421 **Figure 5.** M-LARGE prediction tests with two different station distributions. (a) rupture scenario of a Mw8.7

422 earthquake with the station distribution of Case1 (blue hexagon) and Case2 (red triangle). Red star denotes

423 the hypocenter. Black dashed lines show the 50 s rupture time contours. (b) M-LARGE predictions for Case

424 1 (blue line), Case 2 (red line) and the actual Mw (dashed line) calculated from the STF (gray area). (c)

425 PGD data of Case 1 sorted by latitude, Red star denotes the hypocenter latitude. (d) similar to (c), but data

426 of Case 2.

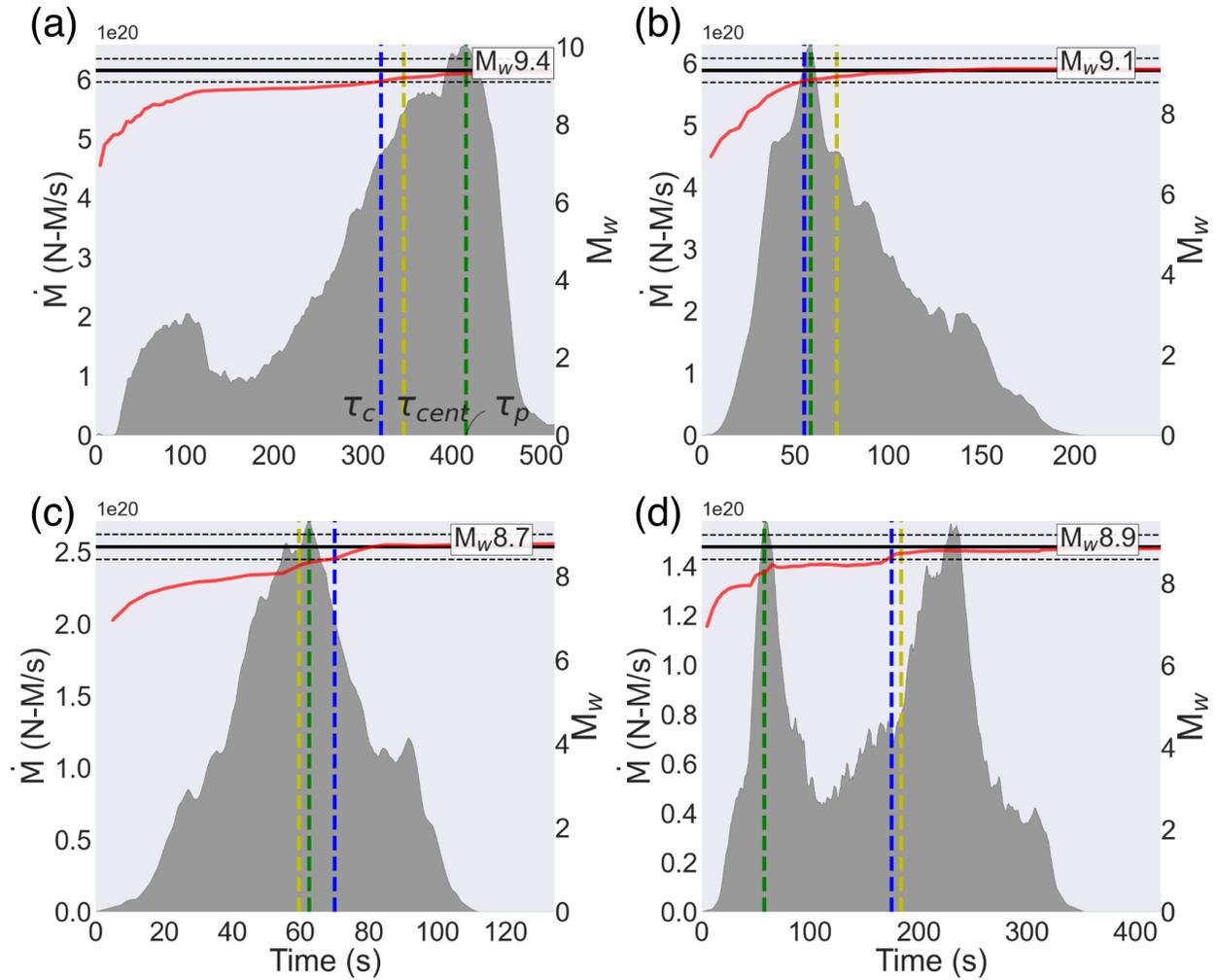
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428

429 **3.4 M-LARGE testing: STF complexity**

430 To understand M-LARGE's performance as a function of source complexity, we choose four
431 different characteristic source time function shapes (i.e. symmetric, bimodal, early and late
432 skewed) and analyze the results. [Figure 6](#) shows examples of each of these characteristic STFs.
433 The models successfully converge to their actual magnitude. We use the time-to-peak STF
434 (hereafter, peak time τ_p) and centroid time (τ_{cent}) as proxies to measure the model performance
435 on different STF shapes. We define the time to corrected prediction (τ_c) as the time when the
436 model successfully predicts the final magnitude with a misfit smaller than 0.3 ([Figure 6](#)). We
437 calculate the correlation coefficient (CC) between these metrics ([Figure S7](#)) and find that the $\tau_c -$
438 τ_p has the weakest correlation with CC=0.66 compared to $\tau_c - \tau_{cent}$ of CC=0.9 and $\tau_c - \tau_{duration}$
439 of CC=0.85. This suggests that the τ_p , a proxy of STF's shape, does not significantly affect the
440 timing and accuracy of the M-LARGE estimations. On the other hand, the performance relies on
441 the actual moment release because it is trained to map the STF directly. We note that the CC of
442 $\tau_c - \tau_{cent}$ is slightly higher than the $\tau_c - \tau_{duration}$, this is because of the effect of the tolerated
443 magnitude which we will discuss in section 4.2.

444



445

446 **Figure 6.** Example plot for the time to corrected prediction (τ_c), centroid time (τ_{cent}), and peak time (τ_p) for
 447 4 different cases. Red and black lines show the M-LARGE predictions and final magnitudes, respectively.
 448 Black dashed lines denote the ± 0.3 magnitude unit range. (a) shows the case of late rupturing, where the
 449 source focuses at the end of the rupture. (b) shows the case with early rupturing, where the source focuses
 450 at the beginning of the rupture. (c) nearly symmetric (triangular) source time function. (d) shows the case
 451 of two rupture asperities.

452

453

454 4. Discussion

455 4.1 Rupture scenario as a representation of the real world

456 One of the challenges for developing algorithms to characterize large earthquakes is the
457 rarity of real events. However, while large earthquakes are infrequent, their rupture kinematics
458 are not unexpected. They are the same as what we image in more modestly sized events. If a
459 comprehensive and realistic rupture scenario dataset can be generated, then for training a
460 machine learning algorithm, large earthquakes are no longer “rare”. We can rely on the synthetic
461 data as a sufficient representation of the real world. To test this we compare the records of the
462 2010 Mw8.8 Maule earthquake to the 25,760 scenario events in the training dataset. These
463 rupture scenarios have no a-priori knowledge of the source behavior of the Maule earthquake,
464 but simply follow the assumptions in section 2.1. In [Figure S8](#) we use a grid-search to select 5
465 best fitting events from the dataset to the Maule records, and they all have similar moment
466 magnitudes (i.e. events with similar PGD patterns have similar fault slips). This suggests that
467 large earthquake’s kinematics are not unmodeled, and given sufficient realistic simulations, rarity
468 is no longer an issue for training.

469

470 **4.2 Timing of final magnitude estimation**

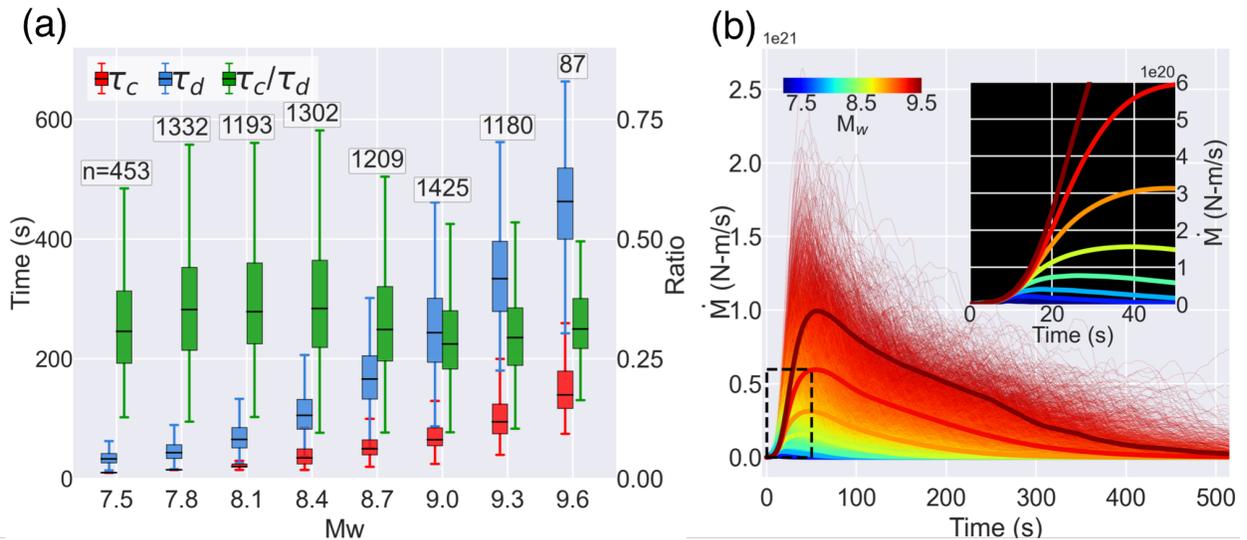
471 Although the timeliness of the final magnitude assessment is intimately tied to the evolution
472 of the STFs (i.e. whether the event grows faster or slower), we find that frequently the time to
473 correct predictions do not follow the exact STF behavior. The reason for this time variation is
474 mainly due to the effect of the ± 0.3 tolerance. A successful prediction can occur earlier than the
475 actual source duration and at the lower bound of the magnitude tolerance (e.g. [Figure 6](#)) resulting
476 in an earlier prediction. While the effect of the magnitude tolerance depends on the shape of the
477 individual STF, which is non-trivial to our stochastic simulations; however, by simply assuming
478 the STF as a triangular function (i.e. rise and fall-off rates are the same), we can estimate this
479 being 71% of the original duration time based on the scaling of [Duputel et al. \(2013\)](#) (a detailed
480 derivation is provided in the Text S2 in the supporting information). For example, on average, a
481 Mw9.0 event takes ~ 170 s to rupture, while it only takes 120 s to rise to the acceptable Mw

482 threshold of $M_w 8.7$. Our model result shows an even shorter magnitude determine time, which
 483 is about 25%-50% of the source duration (Figure 7a). This advance in time is when we consider
 484 sources that follow a non-symmetric flat and long tail Dreger-STF, which have growth patterns
 485 that frequently be seen in worldwide databases (Figure 7b) (Mena et al., 2010). Thus, our model
 486 can provide practical earlier warning while updating its magnitude as time progresses; this is only
 487 possible when the real-time STF can be accurately measured.

488

489

490



491

492 **Figure 7.** Warning time ratios and STF analysis. (a) shows the duration (τ_d), time to the correct prediction
 493 (τ_c), and the ratio between these two for each magnitude bin. Texts indicate the number of samples for
 494 each bin. (b) shows the STF of 36800 rupture scenarios color coded by M_w . Thick lines denote the averaged
 495 STF of different magnitude bins. Inset shows the zoom-in view of the averaged source time functions.

496

497

498 **4.3 Model uncertainty**

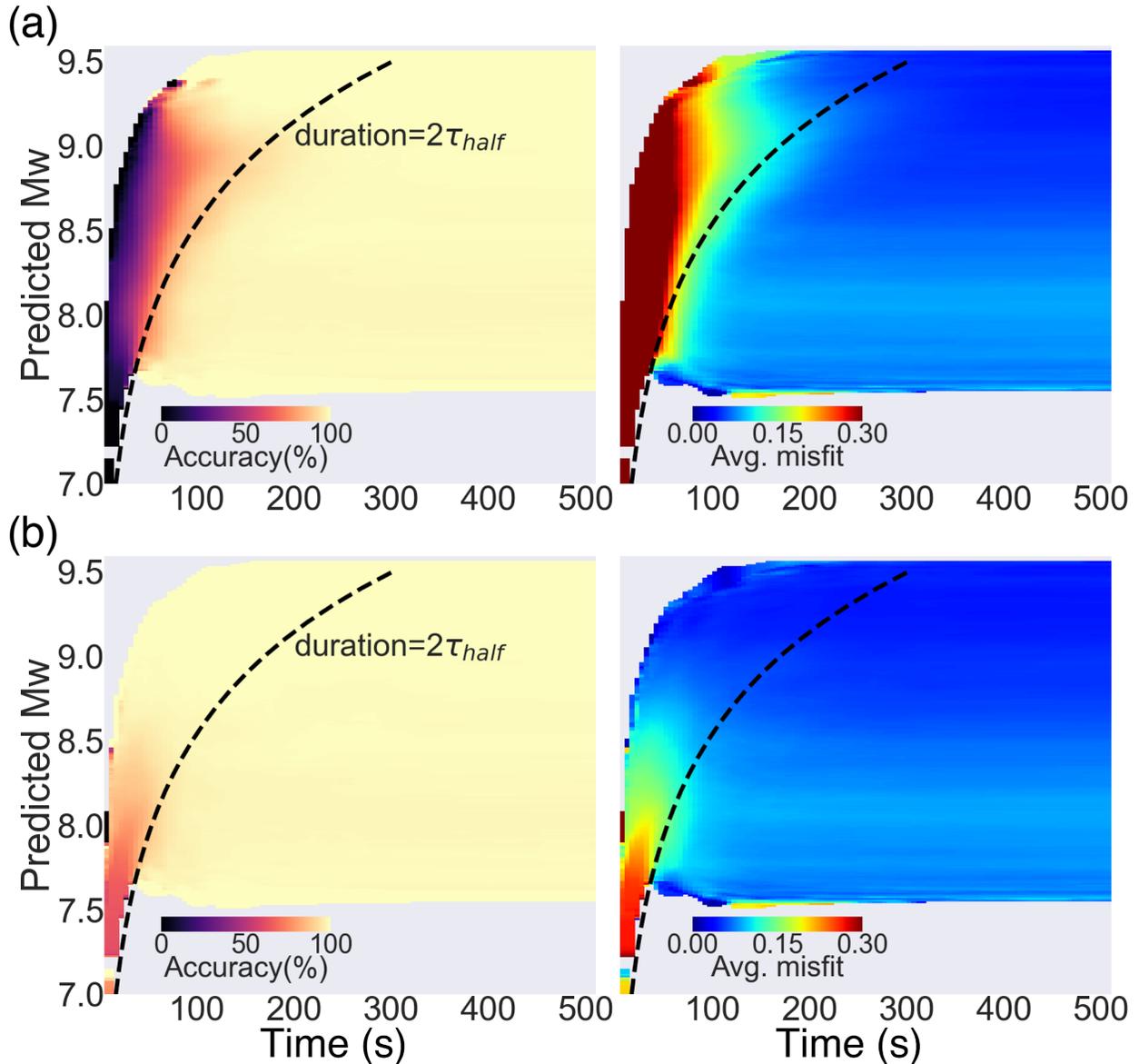
499 The uncertainty in magnitude prediction is important for practical EEW systems. A
500 probabilistic output layer could potentially be an estimator of the model confidence; however, in
501 our regression-type model, such an output layer is not straightforward. Here, we analyze the
502 model performance on the testing dataset to estimate uncertainty. Assuming that the distribution
503 of the testing dataset is complete, we calculate the model accuracy as a function of time (i.e.
504 length of PGD data used) and its magnitude (Figure 8). Figure 8a shows the prediction accuracies
505 with respect to their final magnitudes. We find that generally high accuracies occurred at the right-
506 hand side of the estimated duration curve, suggesting a final magnitude is more likely to be
507 correctly determined after the source termination. For example, the predicted magnitude of Mw9.0
508 has an accuracy of 77% at 100 s, and this rises to 98% when estimating the same magnitude at
509 200 s. On the other hand, the low accuracies at the beginning of the prediction suggests that the
510 initial rupture signals are not good indicators of final magnitude, which is consistent with previous
511 source studies (Rydelek & Horiuchi, 2006; Meier et al., 2017; Goldberg et al., 2018; Ide, 2019;
512 Melgar & Hayes, 2019). This is also demonstrated in Figure S9, where the same current STF
513 shapes may lead to different final magnitudes. We also note that for very large events (Mw9.2+),
514 high accuracies can occur at the very early stage, prior to the source duration. This is due to large
515 slip influencing the beginning of the STF (e.g. Figure 6b), and since the largest possible magnitude
516 is limited by the finite fault geometry (i.e. in our case, Mw9.6), the possibility that a Mw9.2+ event
517 grows into a larger event is limited.

518

519 We further show the model accuracies with respect to their current/time dependent
520 magnitude (Figure 8b). This is also the actual label that the model learns during the training step.
521 However, Figure 8b shows that the misfits are not evenly distributed, large misfits occur at the
522 beginning of the prediction. The mismatches at the beginning of the data-label pairs are mainly
523 due to the travel time delay introduced in section 2.3. In addition to this, GNSS noise can also
524 dominate the beginning of the records when only few stations have true rupture signals,

525 contributing to large uncertainty at this time. The effect of GNSS noise can also be seen in both
 526 [Figure 8a](#) and [Figure 8b](#), where larger misfits occur constantly throughout the time window for
 527 smaller events (e.g. Mw below 8.5).

528



529

530 **Figure 8.** Model performance on the testing dataset. (a) shows the prediction accuracy (i.e. number of
 531 success prediction/total samples) as a function of PGD time and Mw. Where a success prediction is defined
 532 as when the predicted and final Mw misfit is smaller than 0.3. Dashed line shows the estimated duration
 533 from [Duputel et al. \(2013\)](#). (b) same as (a), but define a success prediction is when the predicted and time

534 *dependent Mw misfit is smaller than 0.3. Note that the time dependent Mw is the integration from the STF*
535 *at current time.*

536

537

538 **4.4 Limitations and future work**

539 We have shown that M-LARGE has the ability to learn complex rupture patterns from the
540 crustal deformation data. Also, it significantly outperforms other HR-GNSS EEW algorithms.
541 However, we note that it still has some limitations, and these should be targets for potential
542 improvements in the future. First, once M-LARGE is trained, the model is not global in scope, it
543 is presently limited by the simulated earthquakes, waveforms and network geometry for a specific
544 region. So at present, the model can only be applied to the specific configuration of GNSS sites
545 at a specific subduction zone, Chile. In machine learning, whether a model can be applied to other
546 data not seen in training, such as that from a different subduction zone, is called generalization.
547 It is evident that the approach we have followed here is tied to the specific network geometry and
548 subduction zone and will not immediately generalize to other tectonic settings. For M-LARGE to
549 be useful elsewhere it will need to be re-trained to another specific geometry and perceived
550 possible set of ruptures for that tectonic environment. For example, consider the Cascadia
551 Subduction Zone (CSZ) where an operational EEW system exists (Kohler et al., 2020) and
552 already uses simple PGD scaling from GNSS for magnitude calculation. Steps to implement M-
553 LARGE in this new setting would involve taking the known 3D geometry of the megathrust and
554 simulating an adequate set of ruptures in a desired magnitude range (~M7-M9.2), waveforms
555 would be synthesized for the ~1000 GNSS station network (Murray et al., 2018), polluted with real
556 recorded GNSS real-time noise and used to train another version of M-LARGE. For such a real-
557 world implementation careful thought would have to go into other non-subduction zone sources
558 common to the region, such as offshore strike slip faults and inslab events. These kinds of events
559 could be simulated as well and included in training. Validation, would be challenging given the

560 dearth of large megathrust ruptures but could be done on other real-recorded events such as M7
561 events in the Mendocino triple junction or the M6.7 Nisqually earthquake as shown by Crowell et
562 al. (2016). This discussion shows how it is non-trivial to apply the method to a new region so
563 future avenues of research will include whether the model can perhaps be generalized by other
564 means such as introducing feature engineering (e.g. extracting the hypocentral distance used by
565 GFAST). We have not yet attempted this because regional heterogeneity such as site effects,
566 tectonic environments, fault geometries, and station distribution vary, so global model
567 generalization is non-trivial. However, synthesis of the ruptures and GNSS waveforms is fast
568 enough that the algorithm could be adapted to other environments.

569

570 M-LARGE, like any geodesy-based technique, is only useful for large magnitude events
571 typically in the M7+ range (e.g. Crowell et al., 2013; Melgar et al., 2015). Damaging shaking during
572 earthquakes can also occur at significantly smaller magnitudes (e.g. Minson et al., 2021). The
573 approach proposed here is not meant to replace seismic methods but rather to work in tandem
574 with them. Saturation is a persistent concern for EEW and by combining networks, data types,
575 and algorithms EEW systems can respond to a wider variety of events.

576

577 We note that for the 2010 Mw8.8 Maule earthquake example, there is a 17 s gap without
578 recording due to lack of near-field stations. This performance could be sped up by ~10 s if the
579 information delay introduced by the travel times could be reduced, i.e. if station coverage were
580 expanded offshore. The model performance is strongly reliant on the training dataset behaving
581 according to what is seen in world databases. As a result, an outlier event with a unique rupture
582 may still prove challenging. More simulated events that incorporate rupture variability would
583 improve M-LARGE's performance by making it resilient to complex rupture scenarios.

584

585 The model architecture and hyperparameters are selected arbitrarily; however, the scale of
586 hyperparameters are comparable to those in similar studies (e.g. [Ross et al., 2018](#); [Zhu & Beroza,](#)
587 [2019](#)). We do not find significant model improvement from tuning the hyperparameters we used
588 ([Figure 2](#)), probably because the model has already reached its accuracy limit (i.e. 99%) based
589 on the current architecture. Any further improvement will require different model design. We find
590 that the logarithmic scaling function of PGD features has better performance against the
591 commonly adopted linear scaling. This is consistent with the existence of log-linear PGD and
592 magnitude relationships ([Crowell et al., 2016](#); [Melgar et al., 2015](#); [Ruhl et al., 2019](#)) making the
593 input and output pairs less complicated during model training.

594

595 We trained the model to learn the evolution of STF directly, which is based on the assumption
596 that earthquake sources are not strongly deterministic ([Rydelek & Horiuchi, 2006](#); [Ide, 2019](#)), this
597 is also the source characteristic for our simulations ([Figure 7b](#)), where initial rupture signal (i.e. <
598 5 s) do not provide the information of final magnitude, as opposed to strongly deterministic
599 scenarios ([Wu & Zhao, 2006](#); [Olson & Allen, 2005](#)) where the initial rupture signal for small or
600 large magnitude events are fundamentally different. Even though the final magnitude can be
601 made earlier than the source termination, which has been discussed in section 4.1, earthquake
602 determinism is not the main exploration in this study. However, source observation studies with
603 moderate or weakly deterministic behavior ([Meier et al., 2017](#); [Goldberg et al., 2018](#); [Melgar &](#)
604 [Hayes, 2019](#)) may be incorporated into future models to speed up the warning time. Also, as
605 shown in [Figure S9](#), possibility of the final magnitude can be inferred by tracking the STF's shape
606 when rupture proceed, providing another way to potentially speed up the warning time.

607

608 Lastly, the earthquake magnitude is not the only important factor for EEW. In fact, the source
609 location, rupture length, width, and slip are equally important for an accurate ground motion
610 prediction or tsunami amplitude forecasts. In this paper, we have successfully demonstrated that

611 M-LARGE is capable of learning Mw directly from raw observations. This is a starting point for
612 new types of EEW algorithm, and we anticipate that, given this success M-LARGE could be
613 expanded to directly forecast earthquake hazards.

614

615

616 **5 Conclusion**

617 Developing frameworks to provide timely warning during the largest magnitude earthquakes
618 remains an outstanding scientific and technological challenge. EEW systems continue to expand
619 and have proliferated to many countries across the globe (Allen & Melgar, 2019). Despite this,
620 how these systems will perform in rare but high consequence, large magnitude earthquakes is
621 uncertain. Here, we have combined knowledge of where great earthquakes will occur, their
622 average expected rupture characteristics, state of the art sensor technology, and deep learning
623 to rapidly characterize large magnitude earthquakes from their crustal deformation patterns. The
624 resulting EEW algorithm, M-LARGE, has significantly better performance than current algorithms
625 and can readily be applied to any specific region capable of generating large events. As such, M-
626 LARGE represents a new approach to EEW that if made operational, will obviate many of the
627 performance limitations of current technologies providing accurate and fast alerts that will lead to
628 increased resilience.

629

630

631 **Data availability**

632 The rupture simulations and waveforms can be found on Zenodo:
633 <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5015610> (Lin et al., 2020). The code of M-LARGE can be obtained
634 at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4527253> (Lin, 2020).

635

636

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644

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**Supporting information for Early warning for great earthquakes from
characterization of crustal deformation patterns with deep learning**

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993

Introduction

994

This supporting information includes details of the rupture scenarios and synthetic
995 waveforms (Text S1), details of the estimated rupture duration (Text S2), 7 figures, and details of
996 the model parameters (Table S1) supporting the main text.

997

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999

Text S1. Details on the rupture scenarios and synthetic waveforms

1000

Underpinning the KL expansion method is the notion that slip on a fault can be modeled as
1001 a spatially random field (Mai & Beroza, 2002). Once a correlation function is defined then random
1002 draws can be made to obtain a stochastic slip pattern. By comparison to slip inversions from
1003 earthquakes worldwide several studies have noted that slip is best modeled by the Von Karman

1004 correlation function (Mai & Beroza, 2002; Goda et al., 2016; Melgar & Hayes, 2019) where the
 1005 correlation between the i -th and j -th subfault in the rupture is defined as

1006

$$1007 \quad C_{ij}(r_{ij}) = \frac{G_H(r_{ij})}{G_0(r_{ij})}, \quad (1)$$

1008

$$1009 \quad G_H(r_{ij}) = r_{ij}^H K_H(r_{ij}), \quad (2)$$

1010

1011 where K_H is the modified Bessel function of the second kind and H is the Hurst exponent. We set
 1012 $H = 0.4$ based on a recent analysis of large earthquakes between 1990 and 2019 (Melgar &
 1013 Hayes, 2019), which is slightly lower than the value of $H=0.7$ proposed when stochastic slip
 1014 models were first employed (Mai & Beroza, 2002; Graves & Pitarka, 2010). r_{ij} is the inter-subfault
 1015 distance given by

1016

$$1017 \quad r_{ij} = \sqrt{(r_s/a_s)^2 + (r_d/a_d)^2}, \quad (3)$$

1018

1019 Where r_s is the along-strike distance and r_d the along-dip distance. The along-strike and
 1020 along-dip correlation lengths, a_s and a_d , control the predominant asperity size in the resulting slip
 1021 pattern (Mai & Beroza, 2002) and scale with indirectly with magnitude as a function of the fault
 1022 length and width according to

1023

$$1024 \quad a_s = 2.0 + \frac{1}{3}L, \quad (4)$$

$$1025 \quad a_d = 1.0 + \frac{1}{3}W, \quad (5)$$

1026

1027 Once all the parameters of the correlation matrix are defined the covariance matrix is
 1028 obtained by

$$1029 \quad \widehat{C}_{ij} = \sigma_i C_{ij} \sigma_j , \quad (6)$$

1030

1031 Where σ is the standard deviation of slip which is usually defined as a fraction of mean slip.
 1032 Here we set it to 0.9 (LeVeque et al., 2016). Now we can obtain a randomly generated slip pattern
 1033 with the statistics as defined above by summing the eigenvectors of the covariance matrix
 1034 according to the K-L expansion (LeVeque et al., 2016) such that

1035

$$1036 \quad s = \mu + \sum_{k=1}^N z_k \sqrt{\lambda_k} v_k , \quad (7)$$

1037

1038 where s is a column vector containing the values of slip at each of the subfaults for a particular
 1039 realization. μ is the expected mean slip pattern, we set it to be a vector with enough homogenous
 1040 slip over the selected subfaults to match the target magnitude. N is the maximum number of
 1041 summed eigenvectors. We use a reasonably large number of 100 which should give enough
 1042 variation of slip complexity (Melgar et al., 2016; LeVeque et al., 2016). z_k is a scalar randomly
 1043 selected from a presumed gaussian distribution with zero mean and standard deviation of 1. λ_k
 1044 and v_k denotes the eigenvalue and eigenvector of the covariance matrix.

1045

1046 With the stochastic slip pattern in hand, the second step is to define the rupture kinematics.
 1047 Here we follow common best practices and a full treatment of this can be found in Graves &
 1048 Pitarka (2010, 2015). We set the rupture speed to 0.8 of the local shear wave velocity at the
 1049 subfault depth plus some stochastic perturbation to destroy perfectly circular rupture fronts. The
 1050 hypocenter is randomly selected from the subfaults that are involved in the rupture to ensure both
 1051 unilateral and bilateral ruptures. Rise times are defined to be proportional to the square root of

1052 local slip (Mena et al., 2010) but over the entire fault model must on average obey known rise-
 1053 time magnitude scaling laws (Melgar & Hayes, 2017). We then use the Dreger slip rate function
 1054 to describe the time-evolution at a particular subfault (Mena et al., 2010; Melgar et al., 2016). It is
 1055 well-known that the shallow megathrust has slow rupture speeds and long rise times, so for
 1056 subfaults shallower than 10km rupture speeds are set to 0.6 of shear wave speed and rise times
 1057 are doubled from what is predicted by the scaling by the square root of slip. Below 15km the
 1058 previously described rules are used, and between 10 and 15km depth a linear transition between
 1059 the two behaviors is employed. This is similar to what is done for continental strike-slip faults
 1060 (Graves & Pitarka, 2010). Similarly, the rake vector is set to 90 degrees plus some stochastic
 1061 perturbations.

1062

1063 Once the slip pattern and its complete time evolution are known, synthetic GNSS waveforms
 1064 are generated by summing all the synthetic data from participating subfaults. We use the FK
 1065 package, which is a 1D frequency-wavenumber approach (Zhu & Rivera, 2002) and the LITHO1.0
 1066 velocity structure (Pasyanos et al., 2014) to generate the Green's functions from all subfaults to
 1067 given stations. We focus only on the long period displacement waveforms (<0.5 Hz or 1 second
 1068 sampling) since they are less sensitive to small scale crustal structure and are the dominant period
 1069 of large earthquakes.

1070

1071

1072 **Text S2. Calculation of estimated rupture duration**

1073 We begin the duration estimation by assuming rupture source time function is symmetric (i.e.
 1074 rise and fall-of time are the same). Given the Mw-duration scaling of Duputel et al. (2013),
 1075 duration T can be estimated by

1076

$$1077 \quad T = 2.4 \times 10^{-8} \times M_0^{1/3}, \quad (8)$$

1078
$$M_0 = 10^{(M_w+10.7)\times 1.5}, \quad (9)$$

1079

1080 Where the M_0 represents moment in dyne-cm. By plugging the equation (9) into (8) with an
1081 magnitude $M_w-0.3$, we can estimate the duration ratio

1082

1083
$$R = (10^{(M_w-0.3+10.7)\times 1.5} / 10^{(M_w+10.7)\times 1.5})^{1/3} = 71\%, \quad (10)$$

1084

1085 Thus, the duration of $M_w-0.3$ can be estimated by 71% of the original M_w duration.

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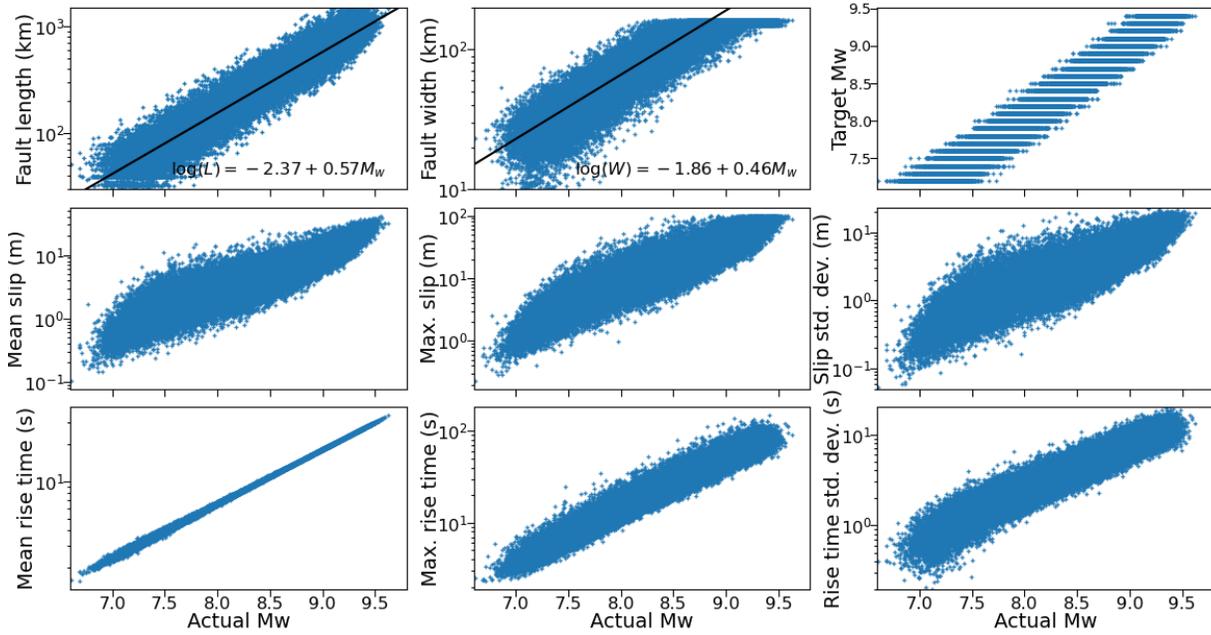
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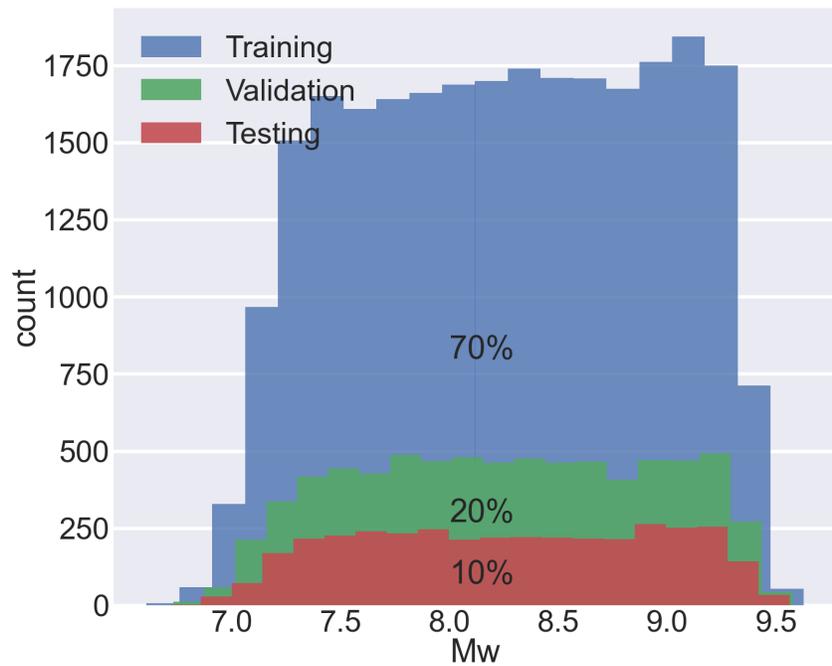
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1097 *Figure S1. Source parameters of the 36800 rupture scenarios.*

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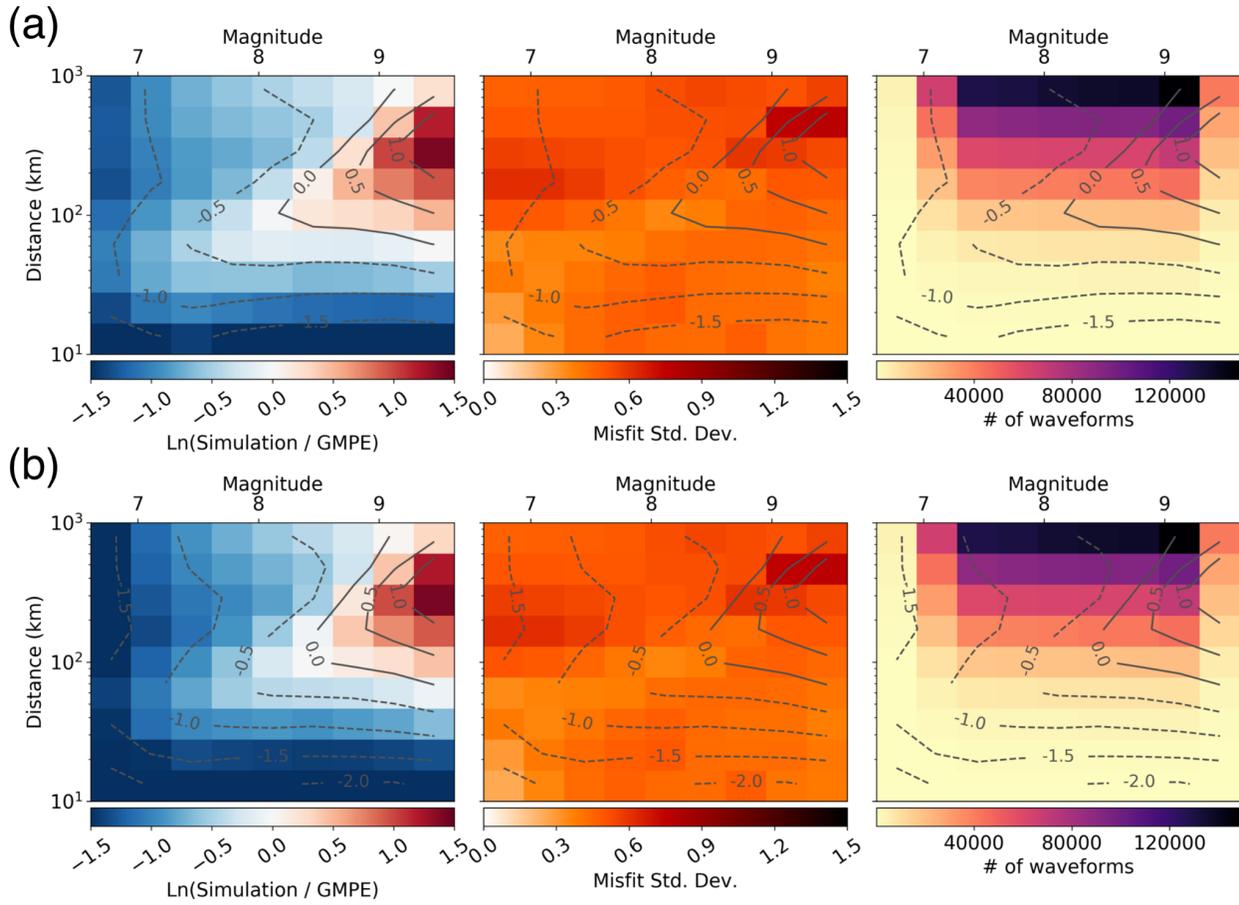


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1102 *Figure S2. Histogram and partition of training, validation and testing dataset.*

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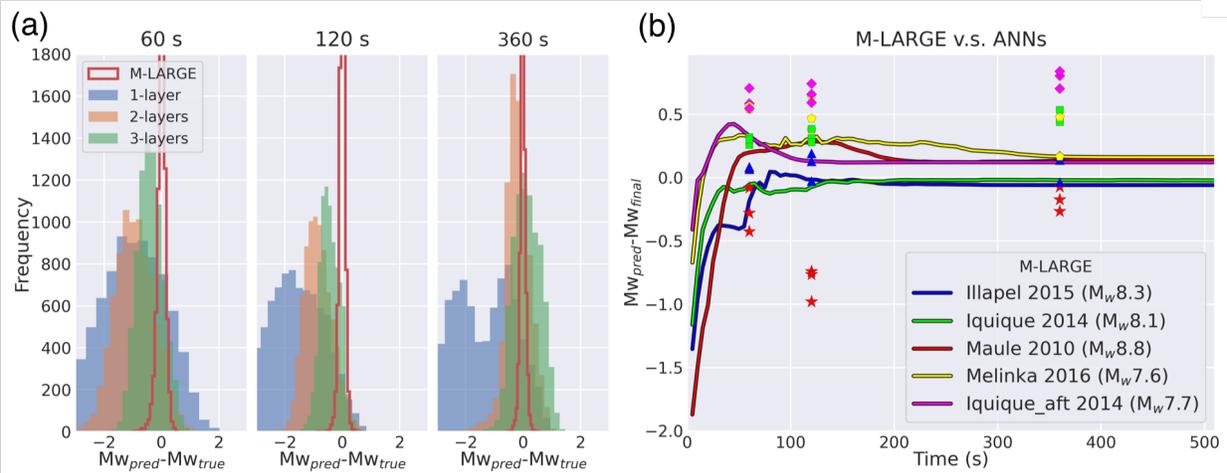
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1106 **Figure S3.** Comparison between synthetic data and PGD-Mw scaling of (a) Melgar et al. (2015) and (b)

1107 Ruhl et al. (2019). (a) and (b) from left to right shows the misfit of synthetic PGD and PGD-Mw scaling and

1108 its contour; standard deviation of the misfit; and distribution of waveforms in count.

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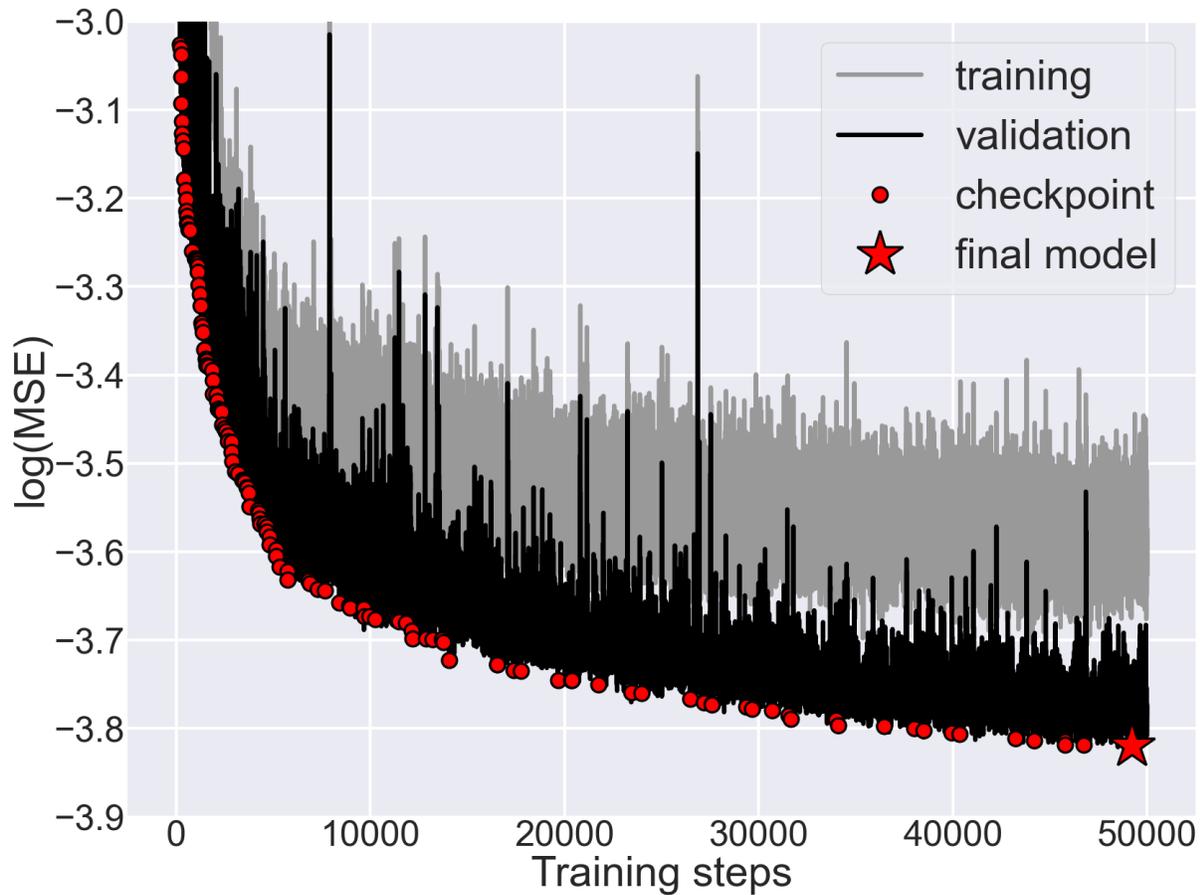
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1111 **Figure S4.** Comparison between multi-layers artificial neural networks (ANNs) and M-LARGE (i.e.
 1112 ANNs+LSTM). (a) Histograms of the Mw misfits for testing data at 60, 120, and 360 s, respectively. Each
 1113 layer of ANNs model has 8 neurons and connects to a ReLU activation function. (b) Model performance on
 1114 real data. Colored-lines represent the M-LARGE predictions, colored-symbols denote the predictions from
 1115 3 ANNs models at 60, 120, 360 seconds. The figure shows that all the ANNs models have larger predicted
 1116 errors than the M-LARGE.

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1120

1121 **Figure S5.** Training curve for M-LARGE. Light and dark line show the MSE for training and validation data,
 1122 respectively. Red dots denote the checkpoints for the training, with interval of every 5 epochs and save the
 1123 model if the current checkpoint loss is smaller than the previous checkpoint loss. Red star represents the
 1124 final selected model, which has the minimum checkpoint loss. Note that the validation loss is smaller than
 1125 the training loss because dropouts are only implemented in the loss calculation.

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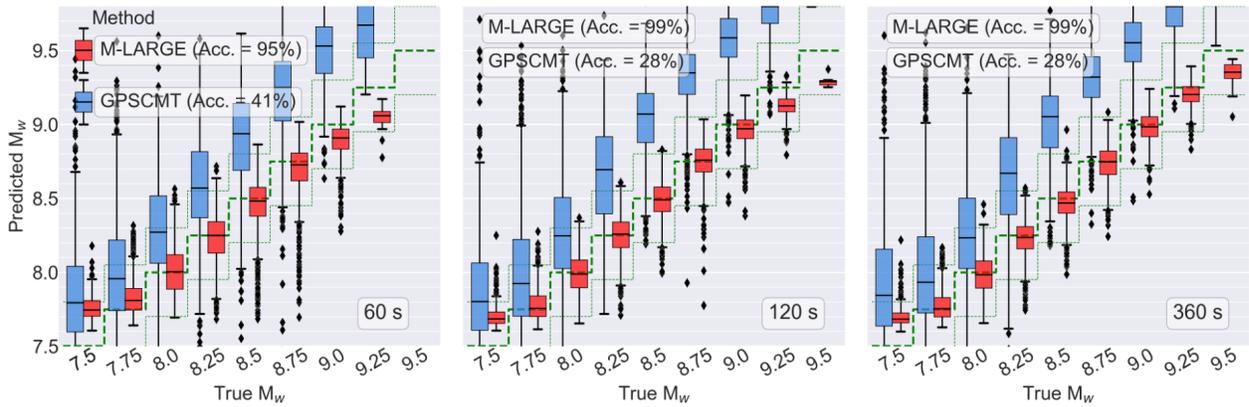
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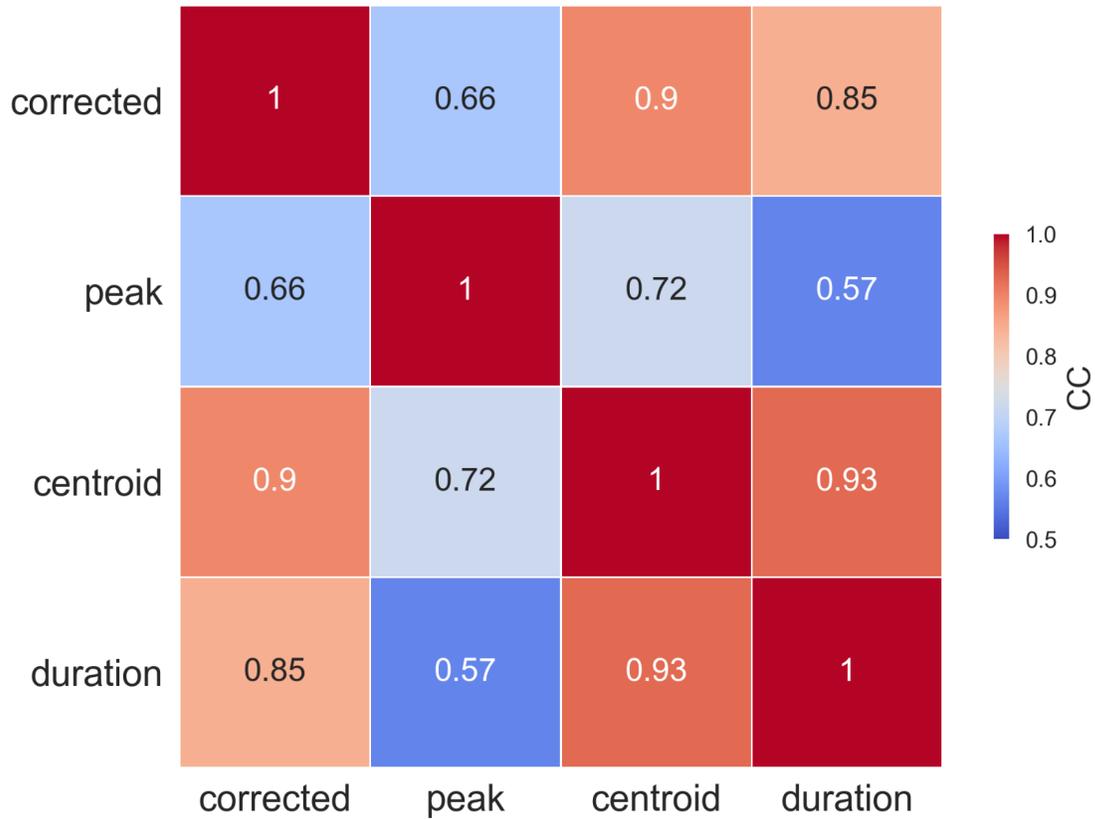
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Figure S6. Similar to the Figure 3b in the main text, but the comparison of the M-LARGE (red) and GPSCMT (blue) predicted magnitudes at 60, 120 and 360 s for different magnitude bins. Model accuracies at 60, 120 and 360 s are shown in text. The thick and thin green dashed lines show the 1:1 and ± 0.3 reference for each magnitude bin, respectively.

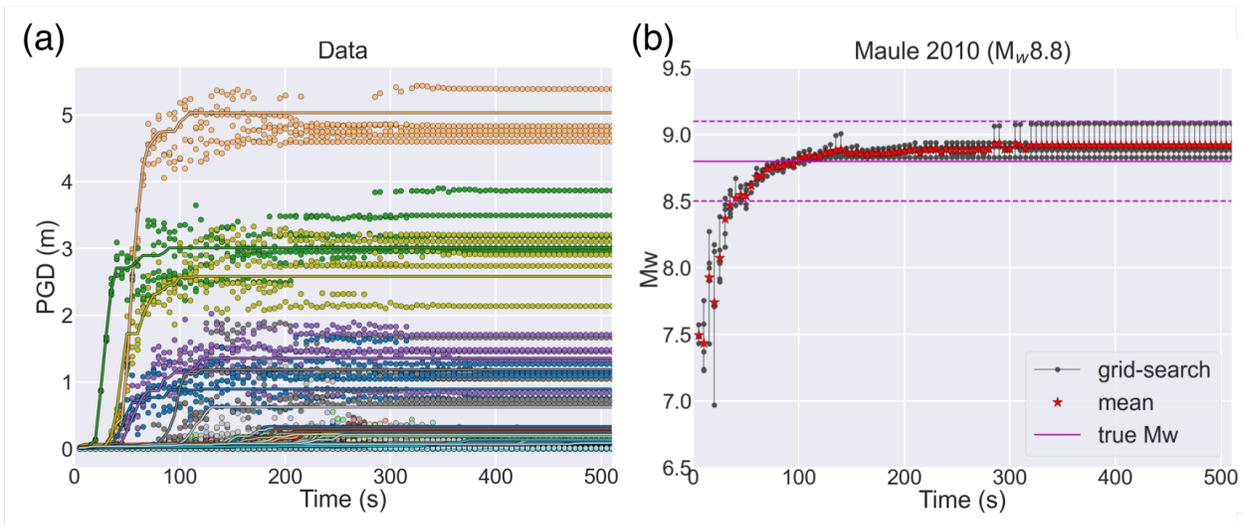


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1147 **Figure S7.** Correlation coefficient between time to corrected prediction, peak time, centroid time and the
 1148 duration introduced in session 3.4 in the main text.

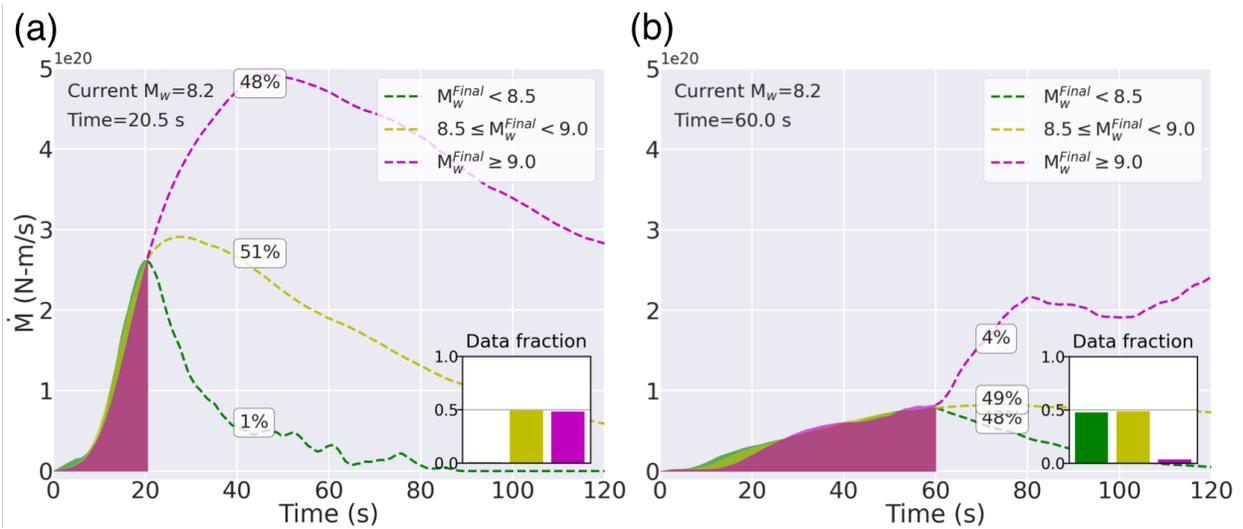
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1152 **Figure S8.** Example of direct grid-searching from the training dataset. (a) Solid lines show the real PGD
 1153 data of the Maule 2010 earthquake. The dots denote the 5 best fitting PGD data for all the stations at the
 1154 particular time. (b) shows the 5 magnitudes corresponding to the PGD in (a). Black dots and red stars
 1155 represent the 5 magnitudes and average of the 5 magnitudes, respectively. Magenta line and dashed lines
 1156 show the true M_w and ± 0.3 magnitude unit, respectively.
 1157



1158
 1159 **Figure S9.** Example STFs in our dataset grouped by the same current magnitude. The figure shows the
 1160 sources are not strongly deterministic; however, the exact current STF can be further used to infer the
 1161 possibility of final magnitude. (a) The STFs at 20.5 s have similar shapes and accumulated M_w of 8.2,
 1162 however, are ambiguous to their final magnitude. The percentage texts denote the fractions of data that
 1163 eventually grow to the designated groups. Dashed lines show the averaged future STFs for each group. (b)
 1164 same as (a) but show the STFs at 60 s. The statistic shows it is less likely (i.e. 4%) that an event can grow
 1165 to a very large event although some large M_w earthquakes take hundreds of seconds to rupture. The
 1166 possibility is restricted according to the current rupture history and the remaining available space of growth
 1167 limited by the subduction zone geometry.
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1175 *Table S1. List of parameter values used*

<i>Layer#</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Input dimension</i>	<i>Output dimension</i>	<i>Trainable parameters</i>
<i>Layer0</i>	<i>Input</i>		<i>[N, 102, 242]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 242]</i>	
<i>Layer1</i>	<i>Dense</i>	256	<i>[N, 102, 242]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	62208
<i>Activation</i>	<i>LeakyReLU</i>	0.1	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	
<i>Layer2</i>	<i>Dense</i>	256	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	65792
<i>Activation</i>	<i>LeakyReLU</i>	0.1	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	
<i>Layer3</i>	<i>Dropout</i>	0.2	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	
<i>Recurrent input</i>					
<i>Layer4</i>	<i>LSTM</i>	128	<i>[N, 102, 256]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 128]</i>	197120
<i>Layer5</i>	<i>Dense</i>	128	<i>[N, 102, 128]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 128]</i>	16512
<i>Activation</i>	<i>LeakyReLU</i>	0.1	<i>[N, 102, 128]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 128]</i>	
<i>Layer6</i>	<i>Dense</i>	64	<i>[N, 102, 128]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 64]</i>	8256
<i>Activation</i>	<i>LeakyReLU</i>	0.1	<i>[N, 102, 64]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 64]</i>	
<i>Layer7</i>	<i>Dense</i>	32	<i>[N, 102, 64]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 32]</i>	2080
<i>Activation</i>	<i>LeakyReLU</i>	0.1	<i>[N, 102, 32]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 32]</i>	
<i>Layer8</i>	<i>Dense</i>	8	<i>[N, 102, 32]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 8]</i>	264
<i>Activation</i>	<i>LeakyReLU</i>	0.1	<i>[N, 102, 8]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 8]</i>	
<i>Layer9</i>	<i>Dropout</i>	0.2	<i>[N, 102, 8]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 8]</i>	
<i>Layer10</i>	<i>Dense</i>	1	<i>[N, 102, 8]</i>	<i>[N, 102, 1]</i>	9

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