

1     **Theoretical investigation of the excitation of leaky modes for multi-layered models**

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7     **Key Points:**

- 8     ● The excitation of leaky modes is thoroughly investigated.
- 9     ● Accurate computation of leaky modes gives us a clear physical picture of the two types of leaky  
10     modes.
- 11    ● The attenuation diagram and the eigen-displacements of leaky modes serve as the basis to invert the  
12     P-wave velocity structure.

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17 **Abstract**

18 With the advent of the array-based methods, the observations of leaky modes from earthquake  
19 records and ambient noise are frequently reported. It is urgently needed to have an effective  
20 guide to the selection of certain leaky modes to put into practical inversion combined with other  
21 imaging methods. To this end the excitation of leaky modes for multi-layered models is  
22 theoretically investigated. By computing theoretical seismograms for different source  
23 mechanisms and different source depths with the discrete wavenumber method and the normal-  
24 mode summation method separately, the contribution of leaky modes to the resultant  
25 seismograms is qualitatively evaluated and the effect of the source depth for the same source  
26 mechanism is in detail examined. Further, we perform accurate computation of leaky modes for  
27 two models and categorize the leaky modes into PL and OP (organ-pipe) modes, whose  
28 distinctive properties are characterized both from the attenuation and from the eigen-  
29 displacements of these two types of modes. Also, these results could help explain very well the  
30 occurrence of certain leaky modes on the dispersion spectrum and be indicative of the reasonable  
31 choice of certain leaky modes to put them into practical inversion for P-velocity structures.

32 **Plain Language Summary:**

33 The leaky modes, unlike the normal modes, attenuate exponentially with time because of leakage  
34 to the underlying substratum, and are frequently observed from earthquake records and ambient  
35 noise with the advent of the array-based methods. Since the leaky modes have long been felt to  
36 be able to provide complementary information to constrain compressional-wave velocity just as  
37 the normal modes are used to invert only the shear-wave velocity, an effective guide is thus  
38 urgently needed to help select certain portion of leaky modes to put into practical inversion  
39 together with other imaging methods. To this end, the excitation of leaky modes for stratified

40 models is theoretically investigated. Our results could help explain very well the occurrence of  
41 certain portion of leaky modes on the dispersion diagram and why massive theoretically  
42 computed leaky modes do not appear at the same time. With the aid of the results of the  
43 attenuation and the eigen-displacements of leaky modes, the leaky modes can be reasonably  
44 selected to perform joint inversion to obtain compressional-wave velocity structure.

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## 46 **1. Introduction**

47       Recently, a great interest in leaky modes arises and consequent studies have been  
48 undertaken both from theoretical and observational or application perspectives (Furumura and  
49 Kennett, 2018; Znak et al., 2015; Gao et al., 2014; Wu and Chen, 2017; Ma et al., 2019; Garc á-  
50 Jerez and S á nchez-Sesma, 2015; Li et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022). Leaky modes physically  
51 describe travelling disturbances that leak at least S waves into the substratum. Since the PL wave  
52 (Somerville, 1930), a long period ( $> 10$  s) wave train beginning shortly after the initial P wave,  
53 was first identified with the fundamental leaky mode (Oliver and Major, 1960), subsequent  
54 observations of wave trains which can be interpreted in terms of leaky modes had been reported  
55 (Oliver, 1961, 1964; Gilbert and Laster, 1962; Su and Dorman, 1965). During the same stage, the  
56 theory of leaky modes had also experienced a series of developments (Rosenbaum, 1960;  
57 Phinney, 1961; Gilbert, 1964; Watson, 1972), and later the computation of complete synthetic  
58 seismograms by mode summation was also completed (Haddon, 1984, 1986, 1987).

59       Leaky modes have long been suggested be used to constrain P-wave velocity structure and  
60 been thought to have unique advantages where traditional surface waves and classic seismic  
61 reflection and refraction methods may fall short (Oliver and Major, 1960; Su and Dorman, 1965;  
62 Roth et al., 1998). On the way to putting leaky modes into practical inversion, earlier studies had  
63 been devoted to the effects of the crustal structure and P-wave velocity structure on the leaky  
64 modes (Haskell, 1966; De Bremaecker, 1967; Cochran et al., 1970; Stalmach and De  
65 Bremaecker, 1973; Su and Dorman, 1965) and to the attenuation and the excitation of the leaky  
66 modes (Laster et al., 1965; Haskell, 1966; Dainty, 1971) and found that a deeper event in the  
67 crust could more efficiently excite the fundamental leaky mode (the most commonly seen mode)  
68 than a near-surface source (Dainty, 1971). Notwithstanding these progresses after 1960, leaky

69 modes have found limited applications in imaging underground structures (Su and Dorman, 1965;  
70 Ibrahim, 1969; Fujita and Nishimura, 1991) and have been approximately computed in the case  
71 of high Poisson's ratios (Roth et al., 1998; Roth and Holliger, 1999; Boiero et al., 2013; Gao et  
72 al., 2014).

73         Given the above observation of applications of leaky modes, the accurate computation of  
74 them may be one limiting factor in incorporating leaky modes into practical inversion.  
75 Furthermore, it is found in the published papers that, the computed leaky modes are much more  
76 than the actual appearance of them in the dispersion spectrum (Li et al., 2021; Wu and Chen,  
77 2017; Roth et al., 1998). Then two questions need to be answered in this study: a) what kind of  
78 conditions may favor the excitation of the leaky modes, which requires considering the effects of  
79 the source and the media properties but restricts herein to the study of the former factor only; b)  
80 why massive leaky modes are not observed in the dispersion spectrum, which needs to be  
81 considered by integrating the attenuation of leaky modes with their eigen-displacements. We  
82 wish by answering these two questions the realistic inversion for velocity structures using leaky  
83 modes might be laid on a solid theoretical foundation. The outline of this paper is as follows: we  
84 first make two inferences on the leaky modes based on the formulae for independently  
85 synthesizing seismograms and then introduce the method and the strategy of accurately  
86 computing leaky modes in Section Theory and Methods; the contribution of leaky modes to the  
87 seismograms and the effects of the source on the excitation of leaky modes are illustrated in  
88 Section Results and Analysis, and the dispersive calculations of leaky modes together with the  
89 attenuation and the eigen-displacements of leaky modes are also shown for two cases in this  
90 Section, with a careful analysis being performed to explain the resultant theoretical dispersion

91 spectrum; lastly, summarizing the main results of our investigation, a detailed conclusion is  
 92 given in the concluding section.

## 93 **2. Theory and Methods**

### 94 **2.1 Inferences on the leaky modes**

95 We can evaluate the effect of leaky modes on the seismograms from two different synthetic  
 96 methods: the discrete wavenumber method (DWM) (Bouchon and Aki, 1977; Chen and Zhang,  
 97 2001), by which the seismogram generated is complete, and the normal-mode summation  
 98 method (NMM) (Aki and Richards, 1980) for synthesizing surface waves only. For the former  
 99 method, in the cylindrical polar coordinates  $(r, \theta, z)$ , each displacement component of layer  $j$  for  
 100 stratified media consisting of several layers overlying a half space can be expressed in the  
 101 frequency domain as (Chen, 1999)

$$102 \quad U^j(r, \theta, z; \omega) \sim S(\omega) \sum_q R_n(\theta) \int_0^\infty K_q(k, z, \omega; z_s) \cdot J_m(kr) dk, \quad (1)$$

103 where  $S(\omega)$  is the source spectra; the summation over  $q$  contains  $q$  integrals of the multiplication  
 104 of the Bessel function or its derivative  $J_m(kr)$  ( $m = 0, 1, 2$ ) and the kernel function  
 105  $K_q(k, z, \omega; z_s)$  depending on the wavenumber  $k$ , the angular frequency  $\omega$  and the source depth  
 106  $z_s$  and the receiver depth  $z$ ; before the integral is the radiation pattern  $R_n(\theta)$  with  $n$  indicating  
 107 different radiation types.

108 For the latter method, taking the Love waves as an example, the displacement excited by the  
 109 point source  $\mathbf{F}\exp(-i\omega t)$  can be expressed as (Aki and Richards, 1980)

$$110 \quad \mathbf{u}^{\text{LOVE}}(r, \theta, z, t) = \frac{e^{-i\omega t}}{2\pi} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} (l_1' + l_1''/\Delta(k)) \mathbf{T}_k^m(r, \theta) k dk$$

$$= e^{-i\omega t} \sum_m \sum_n ik_n \frac{l_1''(k_n, m, z, \omega)}{(\partial\Delta/\partial k)_{k=k_n}} \mathbf{T}_{k_n}^{m(1)}(r, \theta), \quad (2)$$

111 where  $\mathbf{T}_k^m(r, \theta)$  is one of the vector basis functions in the cylindrical system and written as  
 112  $\mathbf{T}_k^{m(1)}$  with the Bessel function  $J_m$  of order  $m$  expressed using the Hankel function of the first  
 113 kind  $H_m^{(1)}$ , whose explicit expressions and the explanations for the notations  $l'$ ,  $l''$  and the  
 114 function  $\Delta$  are referred to Aki and Richards (1980). When  $k$  is the eigenvalue  $k_n$ ,  $\Delta(k_n) = 0$ .  
 115  $|m| \leq 1$  for the single-force case, and  $|m| \leq 2$  for the moment-tensor source.

116 By scrutinizing Eqs. (1) and (2), we can make two inferences: a) the dispersion spectrum  
 117 (Wang et al., 2019; Li and Chen, 2020) generated from the kernel function in eq. (1) may  
 118 correlate with the modal intensity calculated by eq. (2), although the latter relies also on the  
 119 source mechanism; b) the contribution of leaky modes is just the difference of the seismograms  
 120 synthesized by the two methods. Experimental evidence will be given in Section III to show the  
 121 validity of the inferences.

## 122 **2.2 Computation of leaky modes**

123 The computation of leaky modes for multi-layered models is accomplished in the same  
 124 manner as that of normal modes of surface waves. The only difference is that, leaky modes are  
 125 usually complex roots of the dispersion equation while normal modes are real roots, that is, the  
 126 roots of leaky modes are sought in the complex wavenumber domain for each given frequency,  
 127 assuming the real  $\omega$ -complex  $k$  approach (Watson, 1972) is adopted. Considering the duality of  
 128 vertical wavenumber, we may define four Riemann sheets according to the signs of the real parts  
 129 of the multivalued functions

$$130 \quad \gamma^{(N+1)} = \sqrt{k^2 - (\omega/\alpha^{(N+1)})^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \nu^{(N+1)} = \sqrt{k^2 - (\omega/\beta^{(N+1)})^2}, \quad (3)$$

131 where  $N$  is the number of the layers above the half space, whose  $P$ - and  $S$ -wave velocities are  
 132 represented by  $\alpha^{(N+1)}$  and  $\beta^{(N+1)}$ , respectively. The Riemann sheet for which  $\text{Re}\{\gamma^{(N+1)}\} > 0$  and  
 133  $\text{Re}\{\nu^{(N+1)}\} < 0$  is designated as the  $(+, -)$  sheet, and similarly the  $(-, -)$  sheet means

134  $\text{Re}\{\gamma^{(N+1)}\} < 0$  and  $\text{Re}\{\nu^{(N+1)}\} < 0$ . Since the significant contribution to the waveform comes  
 135 mainly from the  $(+, -)$  sheet (Wang and Herrmann, 1980), only the leaky modes in this sheet  
 136 are computed in our study, which have phase velocities between  $\beta^{(N+1)}$  and  $\alpha^{(N+1)}$  and describe  
 137 travelling disturbances leaking only S-wave energy into the substratum.

138 Built in the framework of the generalized reflection/transmission coefficients method (Chen,  
 139 1993; Chen and Chen, 2002; He et al., 2006; Wu and Chen, 2016; Wu and Chen, 2017, 2022),  
 140 the dispersion equation for solving the leaky modes, identical in form with that for the normal  
 141 modes, is obtained as

$$142 \quad \det\{\mathbf{R}_{\text{ud}}^{j-1} \mathbf{R}_{\text{du}}^j - \mathbf{I}\} = 0 \quad (j = 1, 2, \dots, N), \quad (4)$$

143 where  $\mathbf{R}_{\text{ud}}^{j-1}$  and  $\mathbf{R}_{\text{du}}^j$  are the generalized reflection coefficients associated with the upper and the  
 144 lower interface in the  $j$ th layer, and  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity matrix. Note that eq. (4) is a family of  
 145 secular functions (He et al., 2006; Wu and Chen, 2016), and a thorough search of normal modes  
 146 for models with fluid layers or abnormal properties may necessarily invoke several secular  
 147 functions from the family, the left side of eq. (4); however, one suitable dispersion equation may  
 148 be adequate to find the complex roots of leaky modes (Wu and Chen, 2017).

149 The direct strategy for searching roots is the grid search in the 2-D complex  $k$ -plane, but it  
 150 turns out time-consuming and yields less accurate results (Roth et al., 1998; Gao et al., 2014). If  
 151 we resort to some iterative methods such as the Newton-Raphson method, with a series of initial  
 152 values the roots may be located very efficiently (Gilbert, 1964; Cochran et al., 1970; Watson,  
 153 1972; Radovich and De Bremaecker, 1974). Similar to the approach of Watson (1972), we  
 154 search the roots from high frequency to low frequency, extrapolate the trial value of the root of  
 155 the same order at the next frequency point, and employ the Newton-Raphson method to achieve  
 156 the roots to the desired accuracy.

157       Once all of the leaky roots of the dictated frequency range are found and a check for the  
158 mode missing is made, we may then proceed to compute the eigenfunctions of the leaky modes  
159 required, in the same manner as that of the normal modes (Wu and Chen, 2016; Wu and Chen,  
160 2022). Numerical examples will be given for two cases in Section III.

### 161 **3. Results and Analysis**

#### 162 **3.1 Contribution of leaky modes to the seismograms**

163       We compute the theoretical seismograms using the DWM and NMM respectively for the  
164 crust-upper mantle model (Figure 1) modified from Shen and Ritzwoller (2016). Considering the  
165 two source types shown in Table 1, the Green solutions are computed at a distance of 2000 km  
166 from the focus of 0.5 km depth and 8 km depth, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively. In  
167 both figures, the results for the strike-slip source are labeled as (A) and (B), and those for the  
168 dip-slip source are labeled as (C) and (D); the results from the NMM (A, C) are contrasted with  
169 that from the DWM (B, D).

170       We see from Figure 2 that, when the source depth is 0.5 km, the generated synthetic  
171 seismograms from the two methods are almost the same, whether for the strike-slip or for the  
172 dip-slip source. Figure 3 shows that, however, when the source is 8 km deep, the differences  
173 between the seismograms computed from the two methods become very obvious for both of the  
174 sources, especially for the strike-slip source. Because the NMM can only synthesize surface  
175 waves but the DWM produces complete seismograms including early-arrival body waves, this  
176 difference is attributed to the leaky-mode contributions. Therefore, the deeper focus could  
177 effectively trigger the *PL* phase on the seismogram, as also observed by Dainty (1971).

#### 178 **3.2 Effects of the source on the excitation of leaky modes**

179       That deep focus could more easily excite leaky modes can also be seen from corresponding  
180 dispersion spectra. It can be seen from Figure 4 that, more higher-order leaky modes appear on

181 the dispersion spectrum for the source depth of 8 km than those for the source depth of 0.5 km.  
182 Note here that the dispersion spectrum computed from the kernel function depends only on the  
183 source depth, the frequency and the wavenumber, with the receiver fixed on the surface, and is  
184 blind to different source mechanisms.

185 We then proceed to study the effects of the source on the excitation of leaky modes in view  
186 of the mode intensity. Since the excited strength of normal modes could be easily obtained from  
187 eq. (2), the effects of the source on the excitation of normal modes are assumed to have similar  
188 effects on the excitation of leaky modes, as will be verified later. Figure 5 gives diagrams of the  
189 excited strength of the normal modes for the model shown in Figure 1 for the two types of  
190 sources (Table 1) with different source depths. We infer from the results for normal modes that,  
191 when the focus depth is shallow (Figures 5A and 5C), the source mechanism has a prominent  
192 effect on the excitation of leaky modes, and when the source is deep (Figures 5B and 5D), the  
193 effect of the source mechanism seems immaterial. Further, for the same source mechanism, the  
194 source depth still has a significant effect on the excitation of leaky modes.

### 195 **3.3 Case 1: a near-surface model**

196 Using the dispersion equation corresponding to the first layer (cf. eq. (4)), we compute  
197 Rayleigh dispersion curves (including normal modes and leaky modes, see Figure 6) for the one-  
198 layer half space, a near-surface model (Table 2) proposed by Roth and Holliger (1999). The  
199 frequency range is from  $10^{-5}$  to 200 Hz, and the frequency spacing is 1 Hz. Adopting the notation  
200 of Watson (1972), the leaky modes computed in the  $(+, -)$  Riemann sheet are categorized into  
201 two classes: the organ-pipe modes (abbreviated as OP modes) of the relatively steep slope and  
202 the PL modes of gentle ramp; the latter could be approximated by acoustic normal modes as  
203 shown by blue open circles in Figure 6. It should be pointed out that, due to the essentially  
204 different origins of the two types of modes, their phase-velocity curves actually intersect freely

205 one another when the frequency is assumed real, although the modes are connected by lines  
206 according to numerical order. Thus this is the distinct pattern of leaky-mode dispersion compared  
207 with the well-known avoided-crossing character of normal-mode dispersion curves (Wu and  
208 Chen, 2016).

209 Let us examine then the oscillating character of the two types of modes. We plot the eigen-  
210 displacements of PL modes (Figure 7) and OP modes (Figure 8) in the rectangle in Figure 6.  
211 Because the eigen-displacements of leaky modes are complex due to their complex horizontal  
212 wavenumbers, displayed in Figures 7 and 8 are the real parts of the eigen-displacements, which  
213 will not be explicitly stated hereafter. We see from Figure 7 that the energy of the PL modes is  
214 mainly concentrated in the region of the 10-m layer thickness and becomes negligibly small as  
215 soon as they enter the half space. Therefore, the oscillating character of the PL modes is very  
216 similar to that of normal modes. Without taking the attenuation into account, the PL modes  
217 contribute significantly to the seismogram when the source is located in layers above the half  
218 space. On the contrary, the OP modes have little energy in the first layer but their eigen-  
219 displacements grow exponentially in the half space. Consequently, without considering the  
220 attenuation, the OP modes are deemed to be difficult to appear on the seismogram when the  
221 source is well above the half space. We mention in passing that, although the PL modes in Figure  
222 6 could be approximated by the acoustic normal modes, they have essentially different physical  
223 mechanisms, as can be seen by comparing the eigen-displacements of the acoustic modes in  
224 Figure 9 with those of the PL modes in Figure 7; obviously, they are dramatically different.

225 Next, we consider the attenuation of leaky modes. Figure 10 shows that with the increasing  
226 frequency the attenuation of each order of leaky mode decreases gradually. Thus, the leaky  
227 modes of phase velocities just larger than the maximum shear-wave velocity tend to appear on

228 the dispersion spectrum, as shown in Figure 12. In particular, the three PL modes have extremely  
229 small attenuation compared with the rest of the leaky modes, which may account for the more  
230 frequent manifestation of the PL modes in near-surface surveys (Roth et al., 1998). The  
231 attenuation curves of the three PL modes are specially drawn in Figure 11. It is evident that the  
232 three PL modes all display maximas and minimas periodically and that's why the pronounced  
233 tuning effect of leaky modes is reported in the literature (Roth et al., 1998; Znak et al., 2015). As  
234 a band-pass filter (see Figure 12 for the effect of PL modes), the PL modes may even have  
235 wavenumbers with the imaginary parts being almost zero (Figure 11), which, as slowly-  
236 attenuating P-SV leaky waves, were extensively studied by Garc ía-Jerez and Sánchez-Sesma  
237 (2015).

238 Figure 12 shows the dispersion spectrum for different source depths with the receiver on the  
239 free surface. Computed normal modes and leaky modes are in good agreement with the spectrum  
240 plotted from the kernel function. Massive OP modes, however, do not appear on the spectrum,  
241 partly because their attenuations are relatively larger, and most importantly, they contribute little  
242 energy just beneath the surface, as can be seen from the variation of their eigen-displacements  
243 with depth (Figure 8). It is clearly revealed from Figure 12 that, with the increasing source depth,  
244 the intensity of the excited leaky modes becomes larger, which once again confirms that a deeper  
245 seismic event may favor the excitation of leaky modes.

246 Plotted in Figure 13 are the eigen-displacements of the leaky modes at 180 Hz where there  
247 is distinct appearance of leaky modes when the source depth is 15 km. Judging from the  
248 oscillating character of leaky modes we have grasped, with the aid of the dispersion diagram  
249 (Figure 6), we could more definitely determine which are OP modes and which correspond to PL

250 modes, and explain why some leaky modes are visible on the dispersion spectrum while the  
251 others are not.

### 252 **3.4 Case 2: a shallow-water model**

253 Now let us consider a shallow water model (Table 3), whose maximum *S*-wave velocity is  
254 smaller than the *P*-wave velocity in the water. For such a model, due to the observation by Wu et  
255 al. (2020) that the dispersion equation is difficult to be used to find any normal modes, the  
256 dispersion equation corresponding to the first solid layer is employed to compute the Rayleigh  
257 dispersion curves (including normal modes and leaky modes) shown in Figure 14. In this case  
258 there are many PL modes, which are likewise approximated by the acoustic normal modes. Same  
259 with the OP modes for the near-surface model in case 1, the OP modes for the shallow water  
260 model are also reverse continuations of the normal modes behind their cut-off frequencies.

261 Figure 15 is the attenuation diagram of the leaky modes in Figure 14. Once again, with the  
262 increasing frequency the attenuations of the leaky modes of the same order gradually decrease,  
263 and the attenuations of the PL modes are particularly small. Therefore, judging from the  
264 attenuation diagram alone we could predict that the leaky modes of phase velocities slightly  
265 larger than the maximum *S*-wave velocity and the PL modes are apt to appear on the dispersion  
266 spectrum. Nevertheless, we should bear in mind that, the excitation of modes also depends upon  
267 the source mechanism and the source-receiver configuration.

268 Figure 16 shows the dispersion spectrum when the source is just above the seafloor and the  
269 receiver is only 10 m beneath the surface. Superimposed on the spectrum are the normal modes  
270 and leaky modes, represented by solid dots and open circles respectively. The bright regions  
271 above the maximum shear-wave velocity agree very well with the computed PL leaky modes.  
272 We further notice that the energy of the leaky modes on the dispersion spectrum is evidently  
273 stronger than that of the normal modes. This situation does not change much with different

274 source-receiver configurations (Figure 17) except when the receiver is just located on the  
275 seafloor, in which case a number of normal modes appear yet weakly on the dispersion spectrum.  
276 This phenomenon may be well accounted for by the concept of 'adaptive mode observers'  
277 proposed by Wu and Chen (2016), that is, one that is located at the depth where the eigen-  
278 displacements of a certain excited mode are significant, tends to feel the energy of this mode  
279 more strongly. Moreover, for a shallow-water model whose maximum shear velocity is still  
280 lower than the sound velocity in the water, the energies of all of the normal modes are trapped  
281 mainly in the seafloor (Wu et al., 2020).

282 The dispersion spectra with different source-receiver configurations are displayed in Figure  
283 17. All the receiver depths are 10 m on the left panel and 40 m on the right panel, and the source  
284 depth ranges from 0 m to 200 m. As a whole, with the increase of the source depth leaky modes  
285 are excited more strongly, but when the source is too deep (see the case when the source is 200  
286 m deep) the number of the excited leaky modes decreases instead. The excited modes are the  
287 most when the receiver is closer to the source, as is just discussed and can be well understood.

288 The eigen-displacements of the leaky modes are selectively computed at 31 Hz (Figure 18).  
289 Again, the oscillating character of the OP modes is distinct from that of the PL modes; the  
290 former have little energy in the water while the latter have significant energy in the upper region  
291 of the model. The discontinuity of the horizontal displacement across the ocean floor is seen for  
292 all of the modes. Because the PL modes in Figure 18 are found to have negligible energy below  
293 200 m deep, this may account for the decrease in the number and the strength of the excited  
294 modes when the source depth is increased to 200 m (Figure 17). Were the source not a point  
295 source but a horizontal force source, some OP modes would be expected to appear on the  
296 spectrum, as illustrated by Znak et al. (2015).

## 297 **4. Conclusions**

298 Motivated by the two questions: a) under what conditions the leaky modes are favorably  
299 excited, and b) why many theoretically computed leaky modes are not present in the dispersion  
300 spectrum, we have investigated the excitation of leaky modes for multi-layered models in view  
301 of the attenuation and the eigen-displacements of the leaky modes.

302 First, based on the synthetic seismograms generated by the DWM and the NMM, we find  
303 that for a given model the contribution of leaky modes to the resultant seismograms depends  
304 upon the source mechanism and the source depth (the receiver is assumed to be on the surface).  
305 The source mechanism has little effect on the excitation of leaky modes to an observable level  
306 for a deep source, while this effect may be prominent for a shallow source; besides, for the same  
307 source mechanism, the source depth may play an important role in the excitation of leaky modes.  
308 Therefore, for a given model a deeper event tends to favor the excitation of leaky modes, and for  
309 a shallow source different source mechanisms may excite certain types of leaky modes.

310 Second, accurate computation of leaky modes is performed in the  $(+, -)$  Riemann sheet.  
311 The leaky modes can be classified into two types: PL modes and OP modes. PL modes generally  
312 have little attenuation and, due to their being approximated by acoustic normal modes, they are  
313 more sensitive to P-wave velocities than to S-wave velocities and have a significant contribution  
314 to the early portion of the seismograms. In contrast, OP modes have larger attenuation but have a  
315 tendency to lower attenuation with the increasing frequency; moreover, they are more sensitive  
316 to shear-wave velocities and are reverse continuations of normal modes beyond their cut-off  
317 frequencies. These results may help explain why frequently present on the dispersion spectrum  
318 above the maximum shear-wave velocity are the PL modes and partial OP modes whose phase  
319 velocities are slightly larger than the maximum shear-wave velocity. Furthermore, the periodic

320 appearance of the maximas and minimas of the attenuation curves of PL modes are held  
321 accountable for the pronounced tuning effect in the dispersion spectrum.

322 Third, a number of OP modes are absent on the dispersion spectrum, because these modes  
323 generally attenuate more heavily compared to PL modes, and also because the OP modes have  
324 little energy in the shallower subsurface regions in view of their eigen-displacements relative to  
325 those of PL modes. However, certain source mechanisms may still excite some OP modes for  
326 shallow sources.

327 In conclusion, judging from the attenuation and the eigen-displacements of leaky modes, we  
328 are greatly aided to analyze the dispersion spectrum. With the recent soaring interest in applying  
329 an array-based method to extract leaky-mode dispersion curves and in an attempt to invert the P-  
330 wave velocities (Li et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022), we are further served by this study to suitably  
331 select certain leaky modes combined with normal modes to perform joint inversion to obtain  
332 reliable P-wave velocity structure.

333

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338

## 339 **Open Research**

340 All of the model data used in this study are explicitly shown or cited appropriately in the  
341 text. The computer codes for modeling the synthetic seismograms are available from the  
342 corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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**Table 1.** Source parameters.

Fault type	Rake (°)	Dip (°)	Strike (°)	Azimuth (°)
Strike slip	180	90	45	30
Dip slip	90	45	45	30

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**Table 2.** A near surface model, taken from Roth and Holliger (1999).

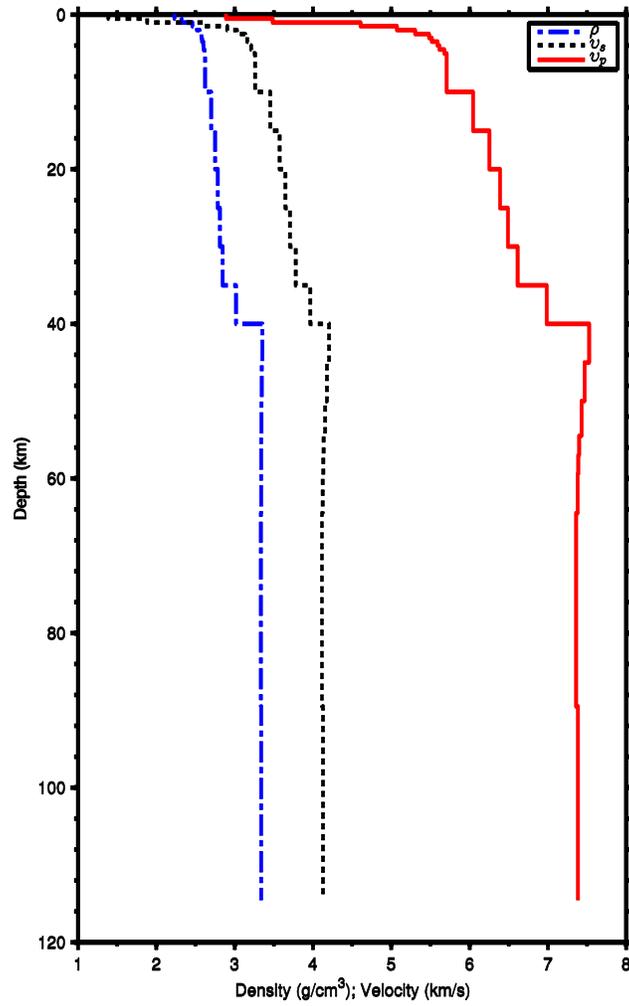
Layer No.	Thickness (m)	$\rho$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$\beta$ (m/s)	$\alpha$ (m/s)
1	10	1.6	330	1100
2	$\infty$	2.0	540	1800

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**Table 3.** A shallow water model.

Layer No.	Thickness (m)	$\rho$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$\beta$ (m/s)	$\alpha$ (m/s)
1	40	1.0	0	1500
2	40	1.5	600	1700
3	100	1.8	900	2300
4	$\infty$	2.0	1200	3000

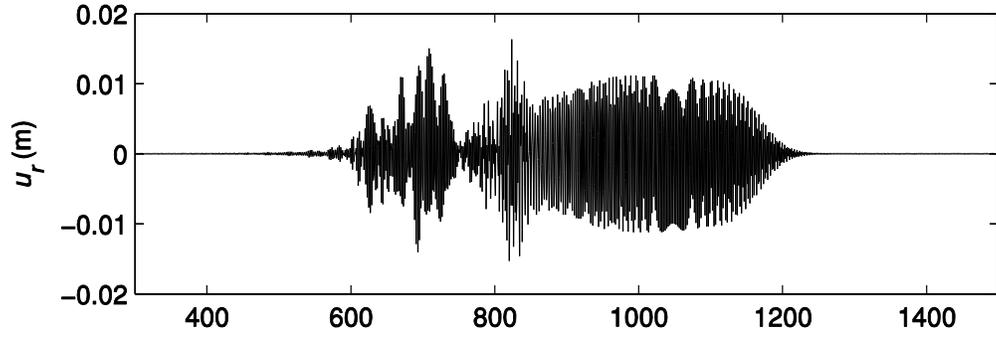
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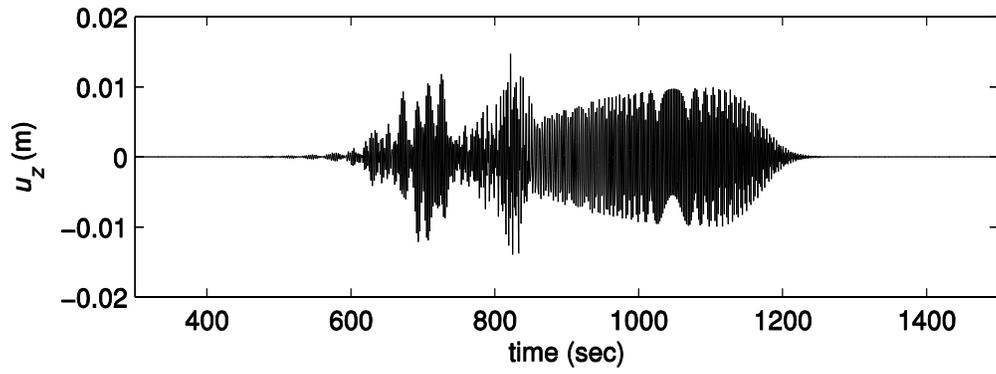
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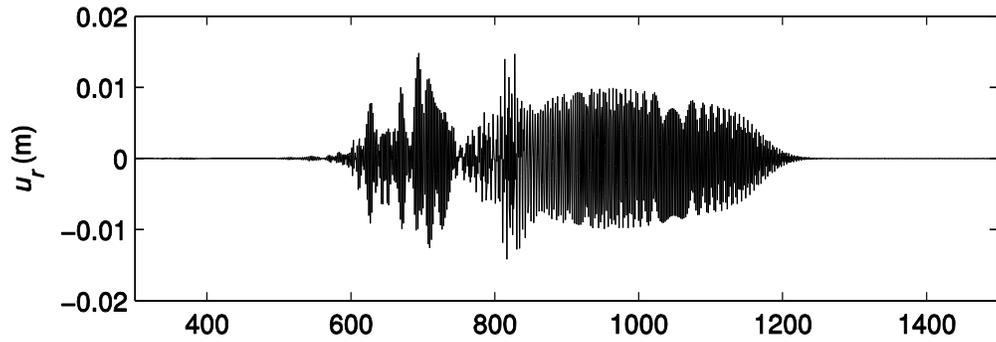
**Figure 1.** The crust-upper mantle model modified from Shen and Ritzwoller (2016).



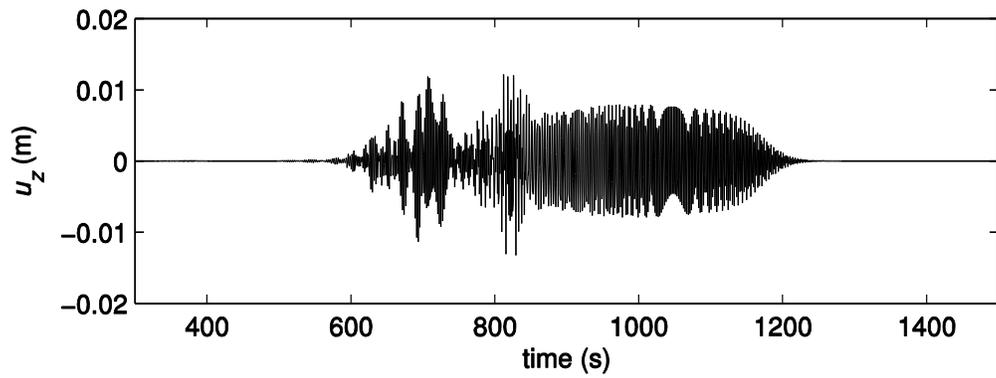
(A)



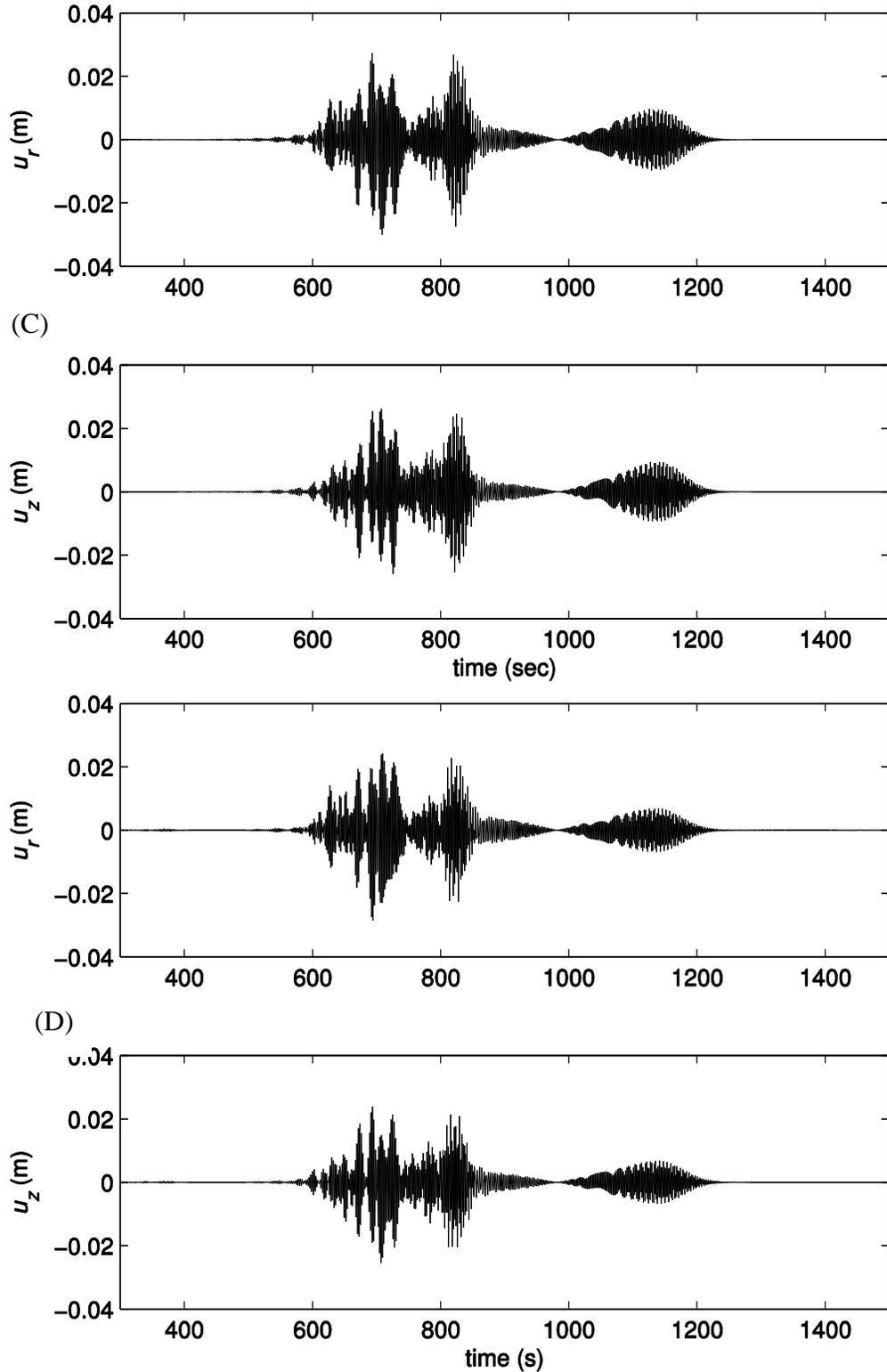
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(B)



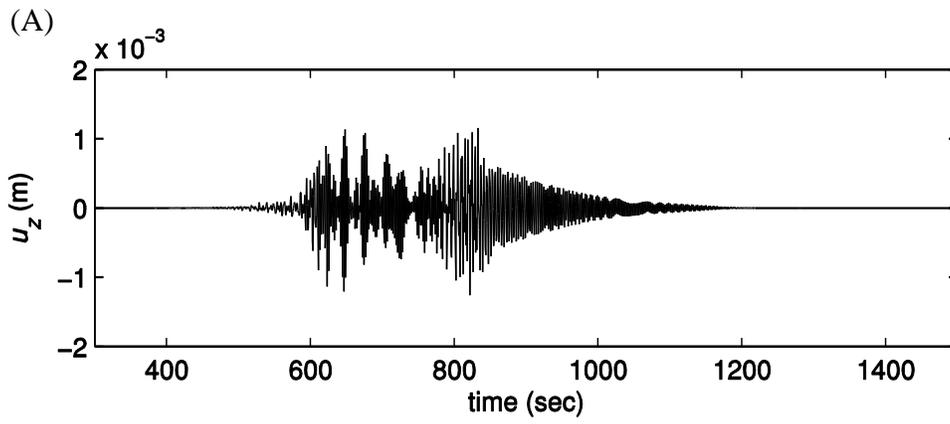
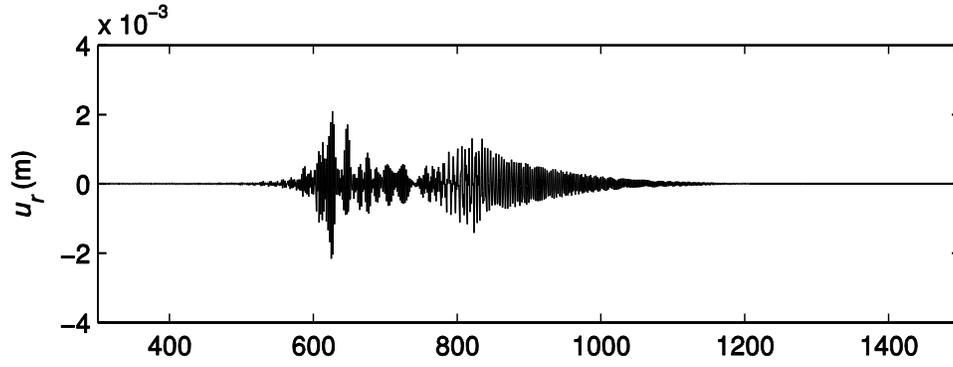
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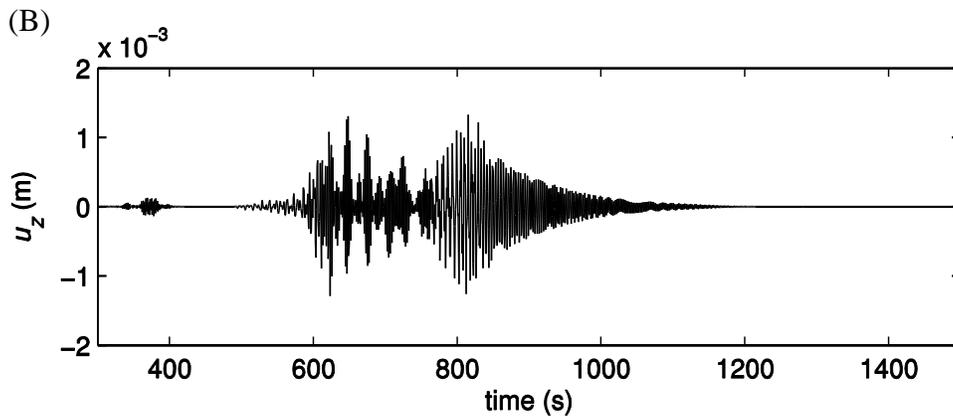
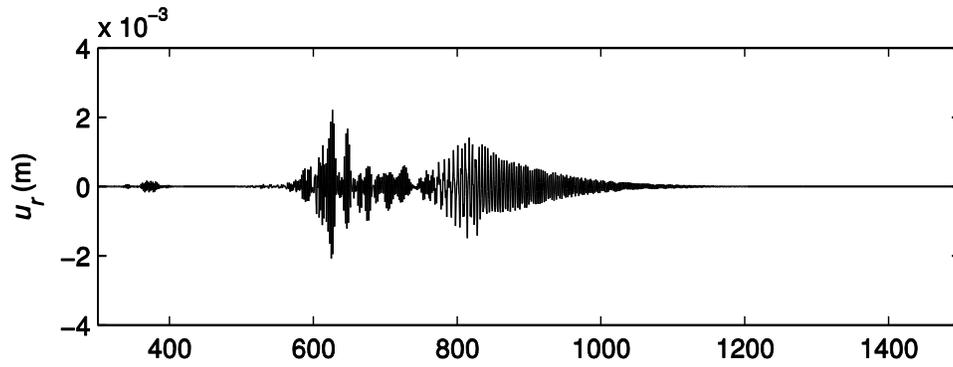
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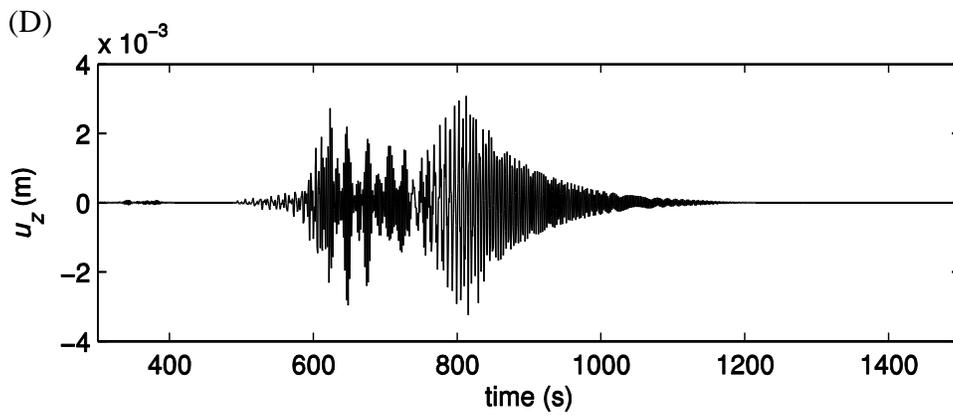
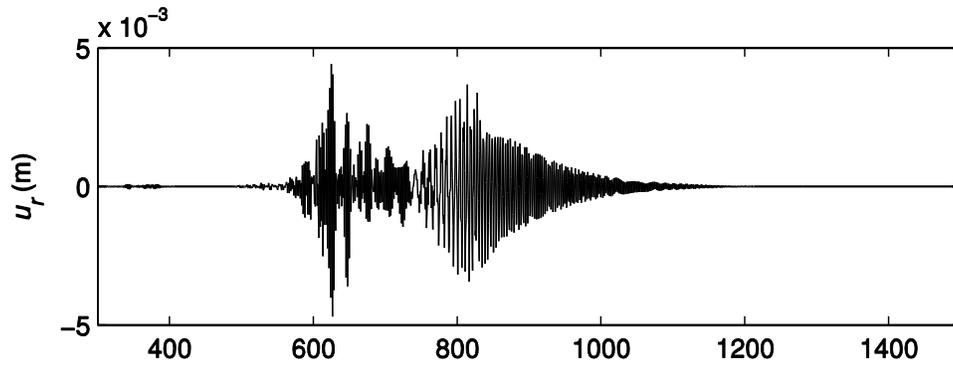
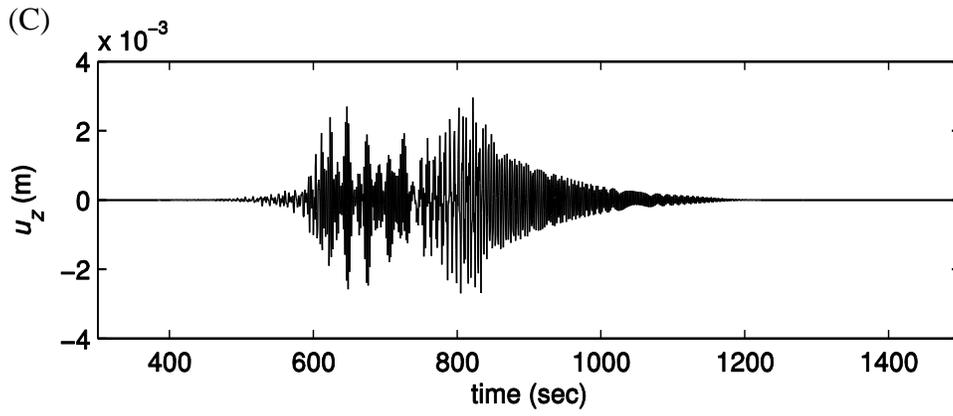
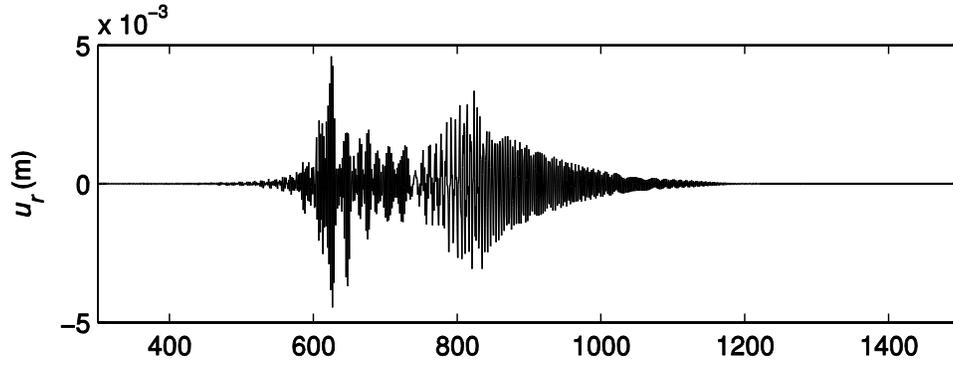
**Figure 2.** The synthetic seismograms (the radial component  $u_r$  and the vertical component  $u_z$ ) for the seismic depth 0.5 km for the strike-slip (A, B) and the dip-slip (C, D) sources, computed by the NMM (A, C) and the DWM (B, D), respectively. The epicentral distance is 2000 km, and the time duration is 3000 s. The Hanning taper is applied to 0.01-0.55 Hz.



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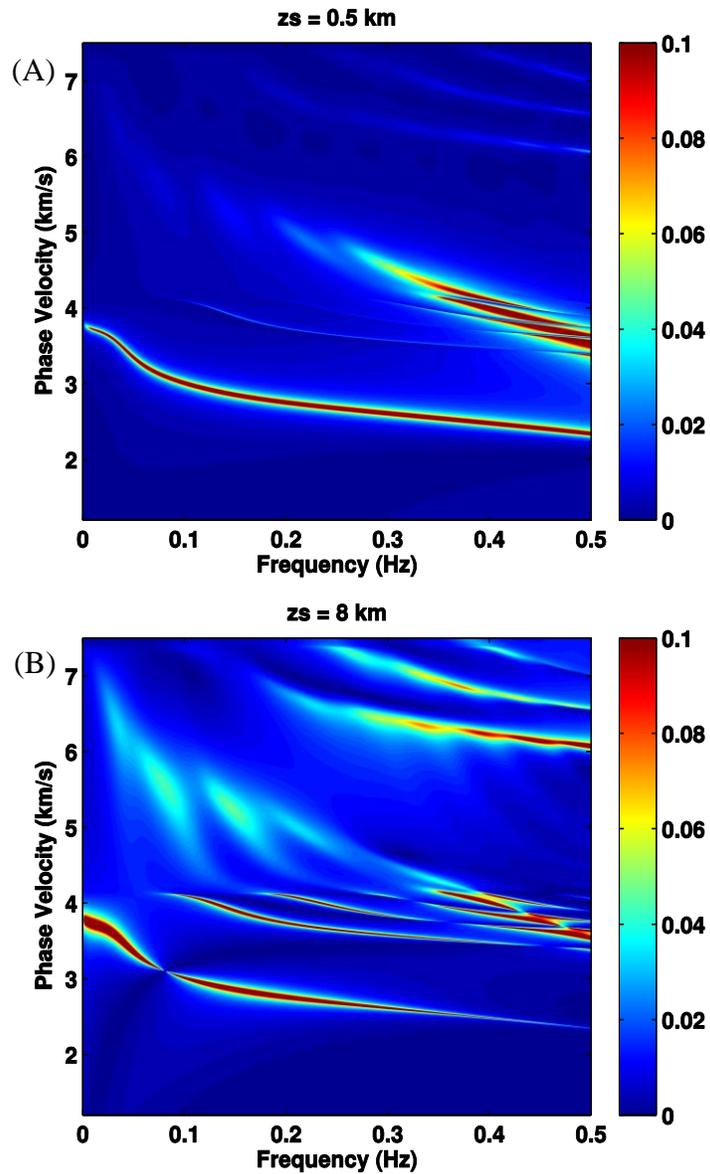
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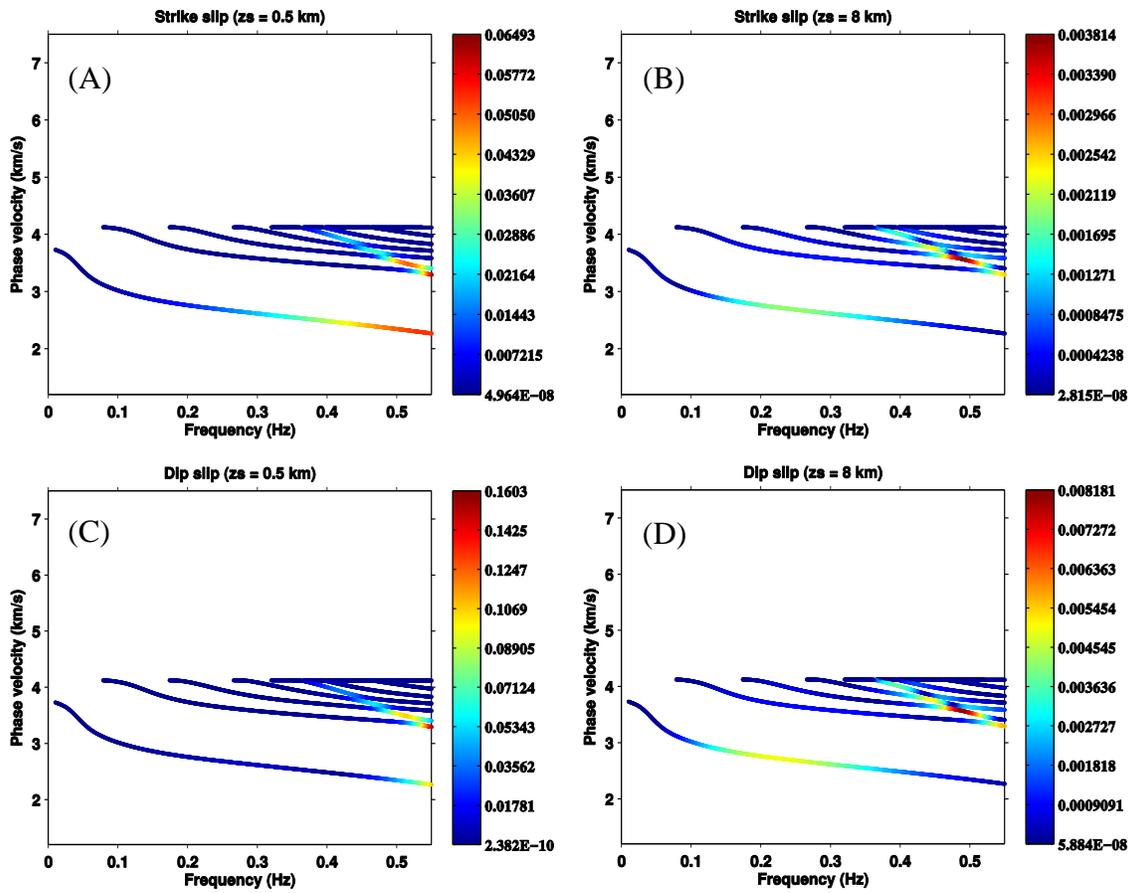
482 **Figure 3.** Same as Figure 2, except the source depth is 8 km.



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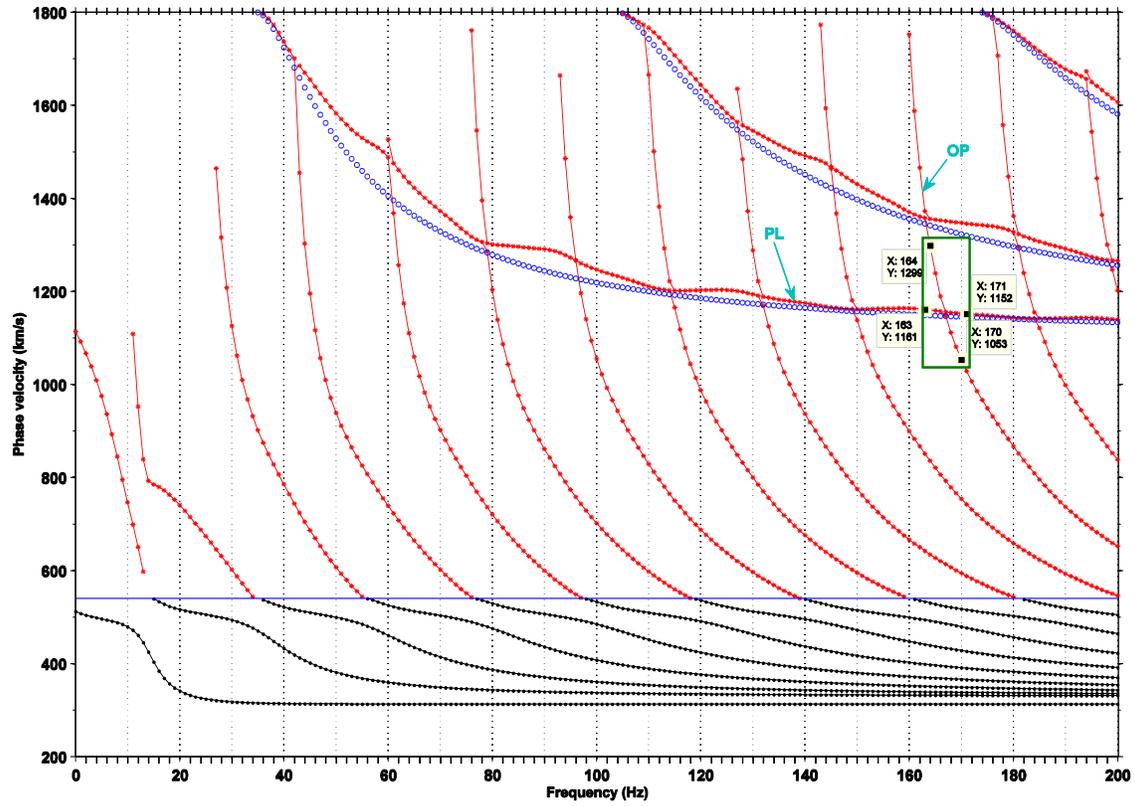
485 **Figure 4.** The theoretical dispersion spectra computed from the kernel function: (A) source depth  $z_s = 0.5 \text{ km}$ ; (B)  
 486 source depth  $z_s = 8 \text{ km}$ .



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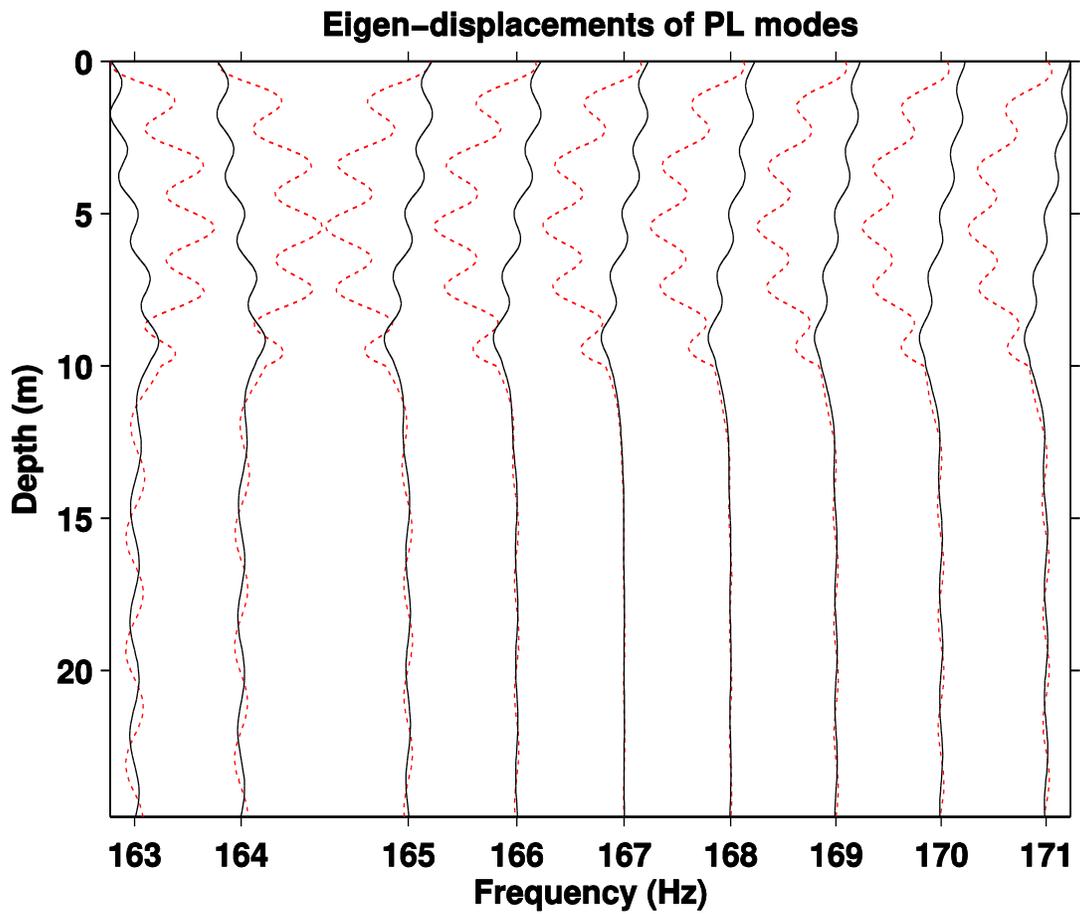
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489 **Figure 5.** The diagrams of the excited strength of the normal modes for the model shown in Figure 1: (A) strike-slip  
 490 source with depth 0.5 km; (B) strike-slip source with depth 8 km; (C) dip-slip source with depth 0.5 km; (D) dip-slip  
 491 source with depth 8 km.



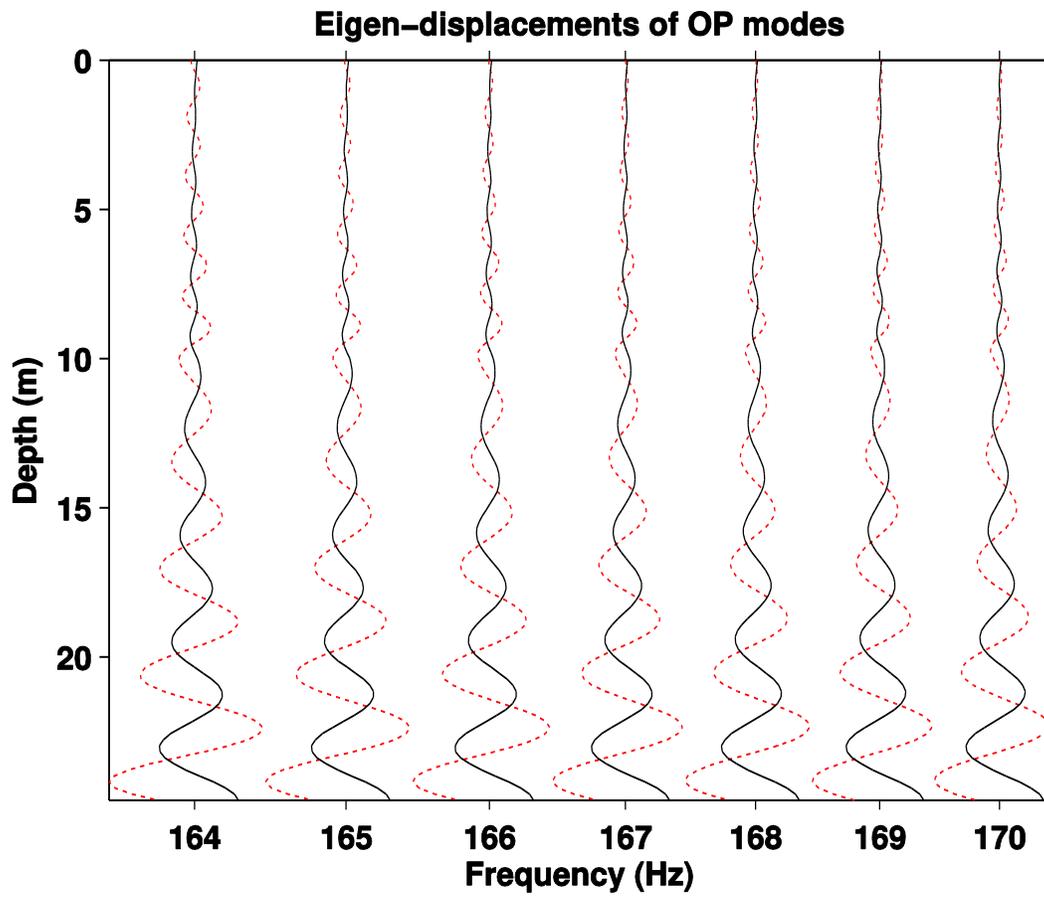
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493 **Figure 6.** Dispersion curves of normal modes (black dots) and leaky modes (red dots) for the model shown in Table  
 494 2. Two distinct families of modes – PL modes and OP modes – are separately indicated. The horizontal blue line  
 495 represents the maximum shear-wave velocity. The acoustic normal modes (blue open circles) are superimposed for  
 496 comparison with PL modes. The eigen-displacements of the leaky modes in the green rectangle would then be  
 497 calculated and plotted.



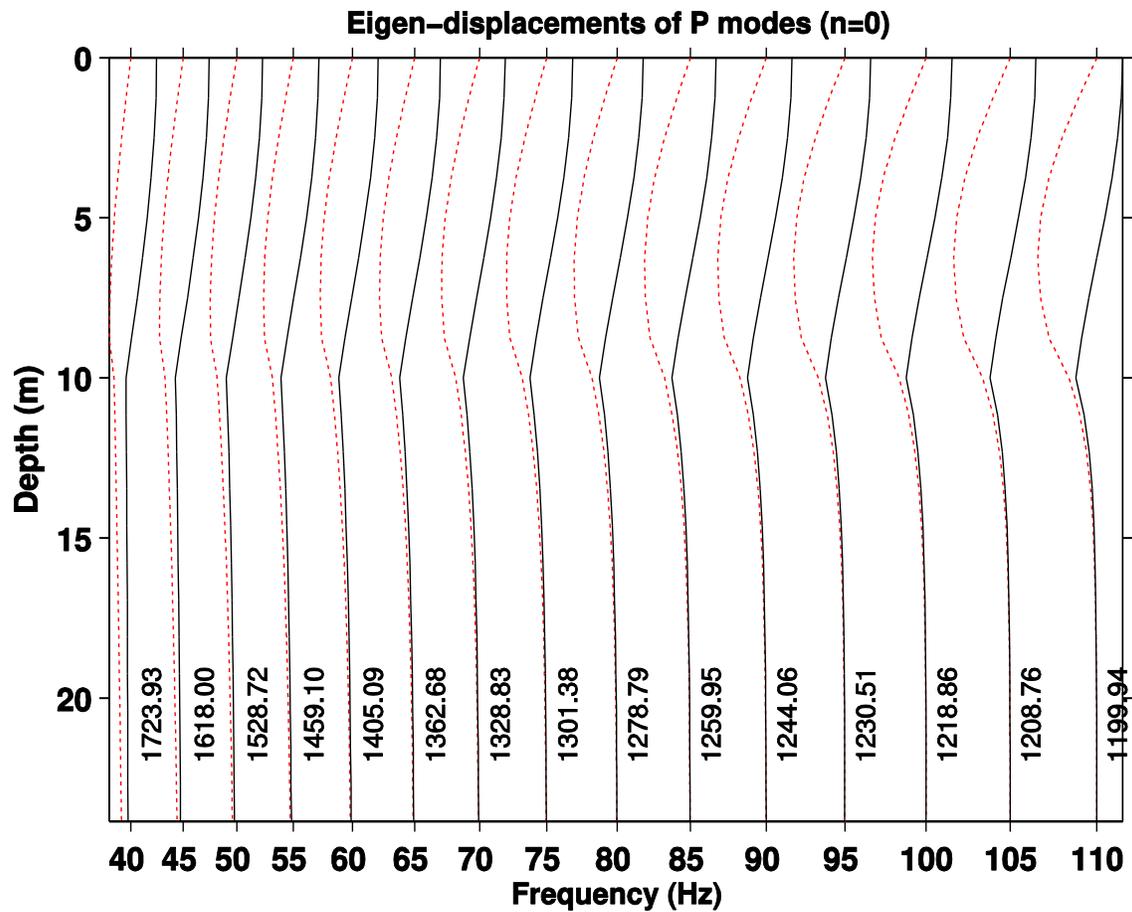
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499 **Figure 7.** The eigen-displacements (real parts) of PL modes in the rectangular box in Figure 6. The vertical and  
 500 horizontal displacements are denoted by black solid line and red dotted line, respectively.



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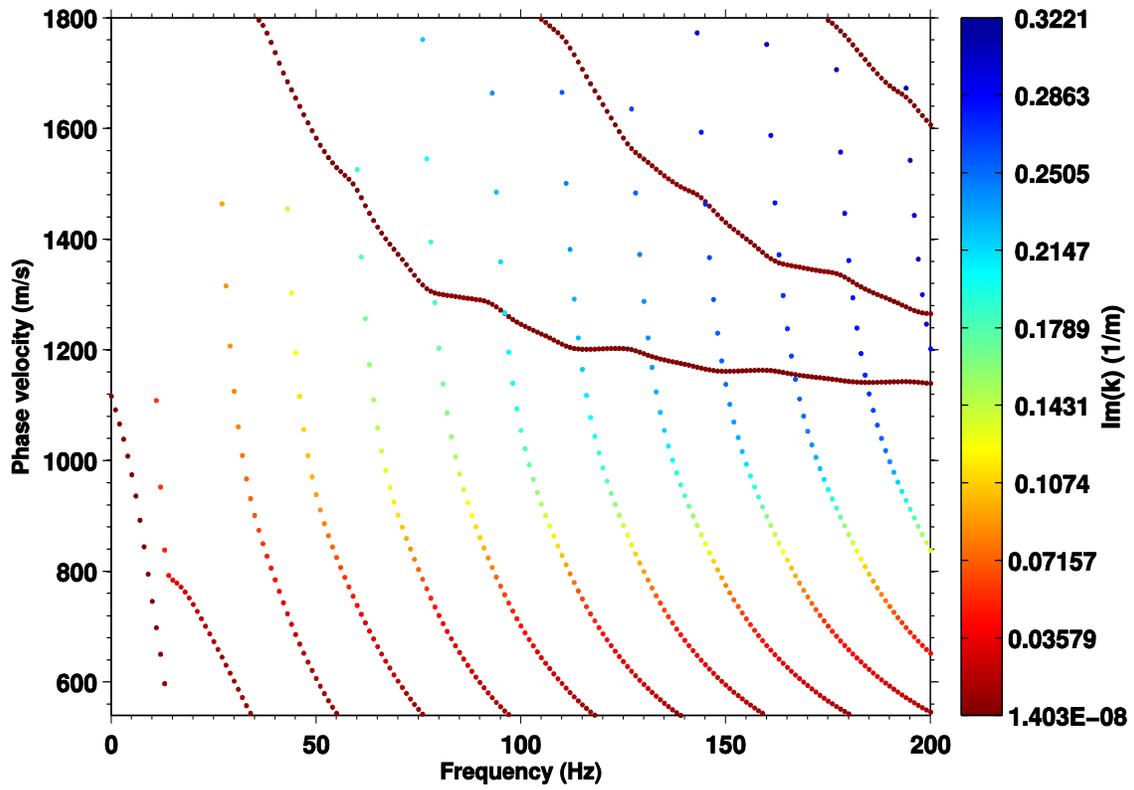
502 **Figure 8.** The eigen-displacements (real parts) of OP modes in the rectangular box in Figure 6 (the same denotation  
 503 of line types and color as Figure 7).



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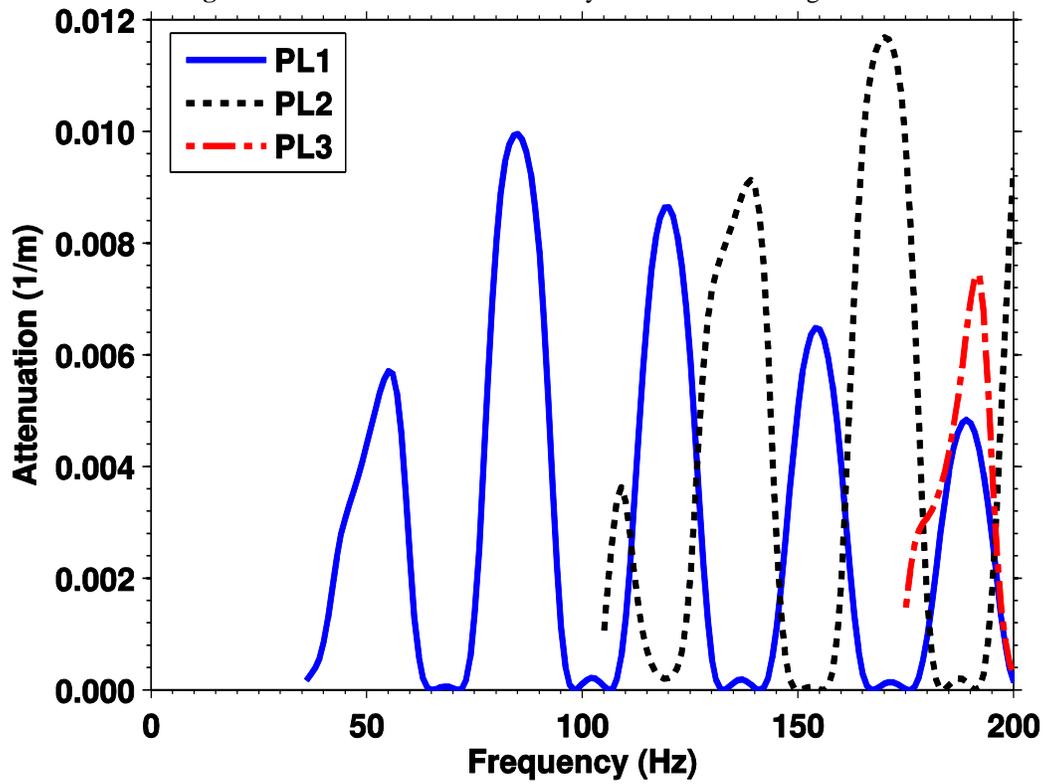
505 **Figure 9.** The eigen-displacements of the fundamental ( $n = 0$ ) acoustic normal modes (P modes) at selected  
 506 frequencies for the model shown in Table 2 but with vanishing values of shear velocities. The phase velocity of each  
 507 mode is labeled appropriately. The denotation of line types and colors is the same as Figure 7.

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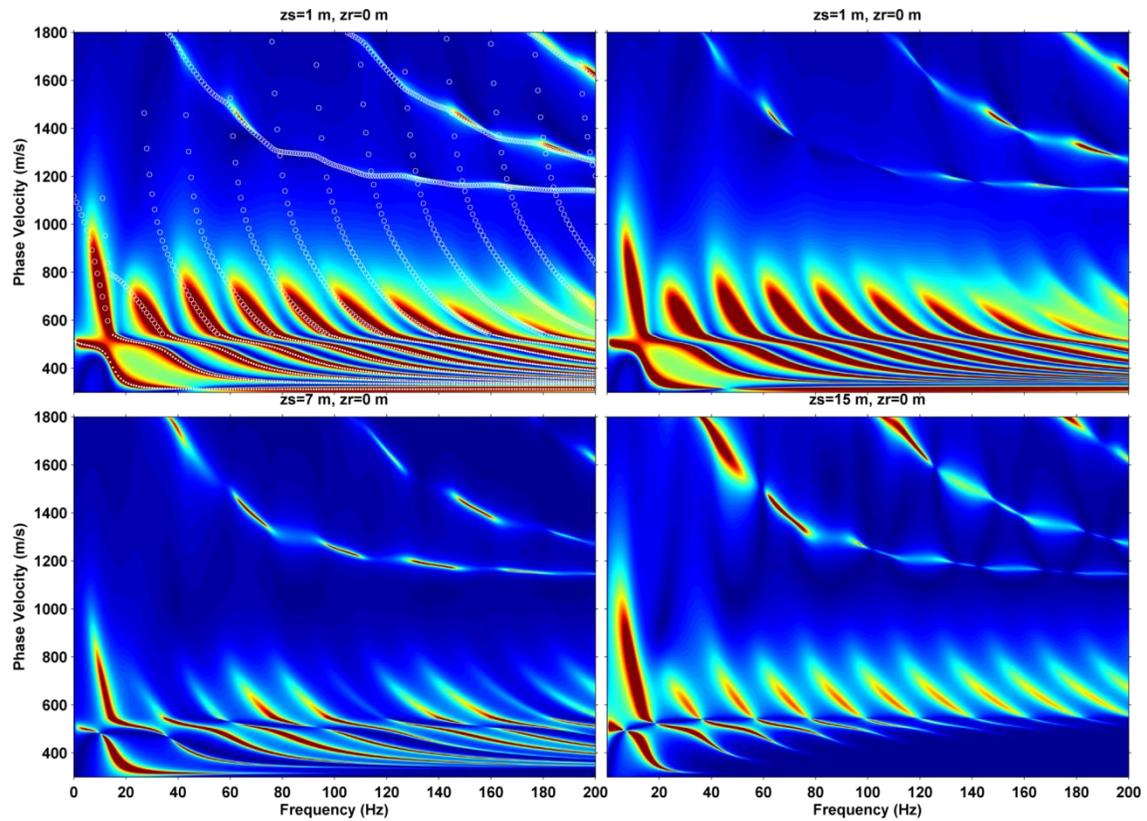
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Figure 10. The attenuation of the leaky modes shown in Figure 6.



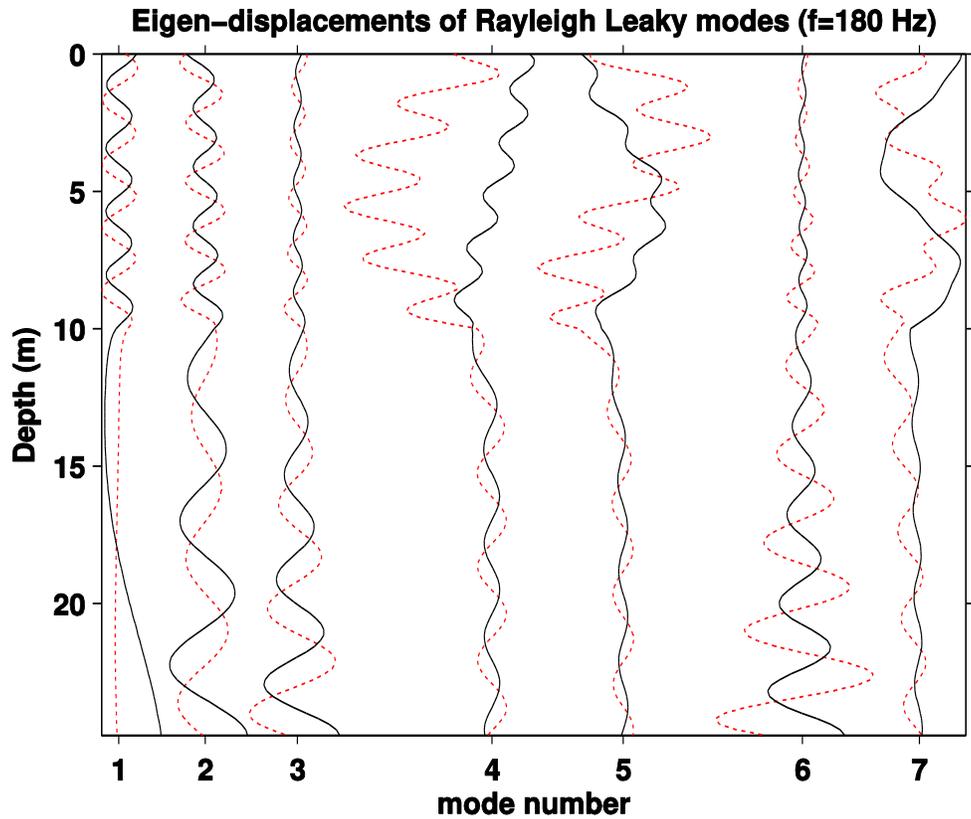
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Figure 11. The attenuation curves of the three PL modes shown in Figure 6.



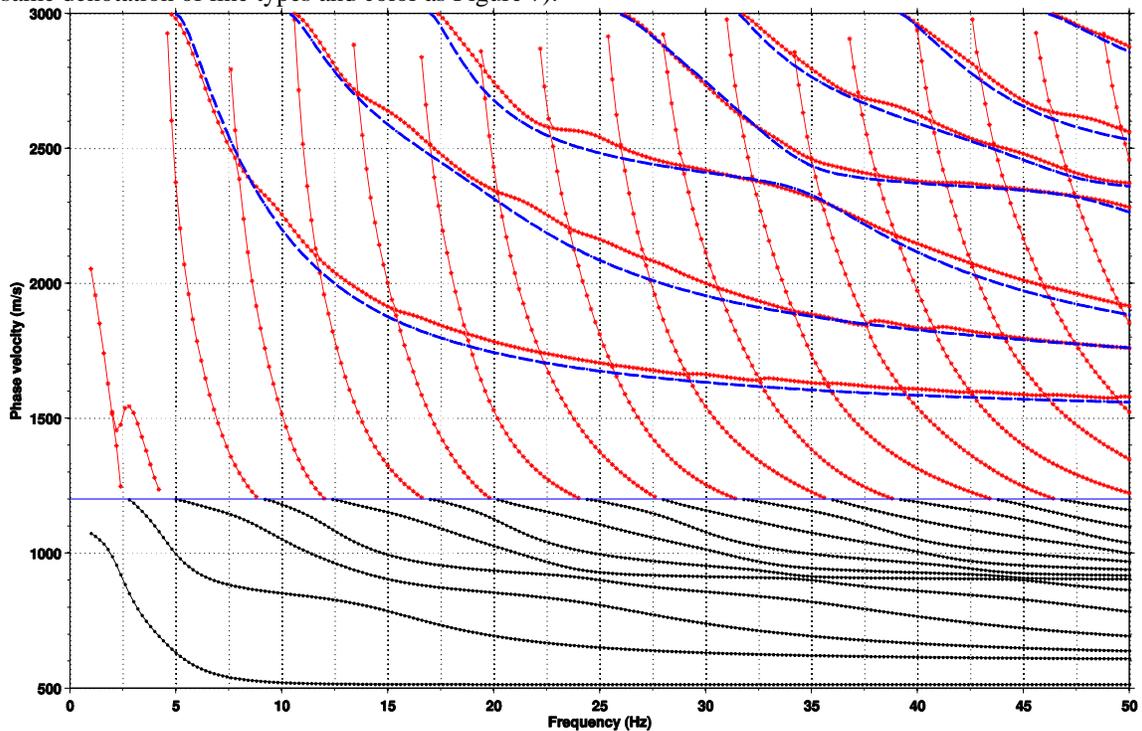
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514 **Figure 12.** The dispersion spectrum computed for the near surface model (Table 2). The corresponding source depth  
 515 and receiver depth are indicated above each subplot. The normal modes (solid dots) and leaky modes (open circles)  
 516 are superimposed on the first subplot for reference.



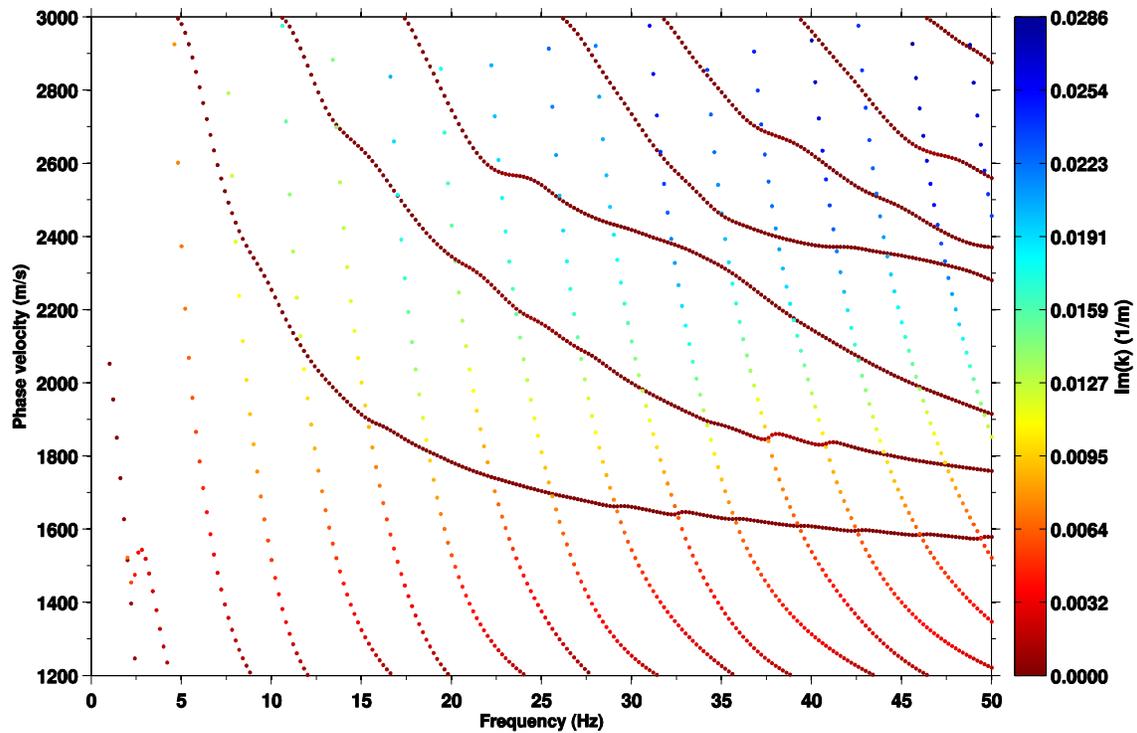
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518 **Figure 13.** The eigen-displacements (real parts) of the leaky modes for the near surface model (Table 2) at 180 Hz  
 519 (the same denotation of line types and color as Figure 7).



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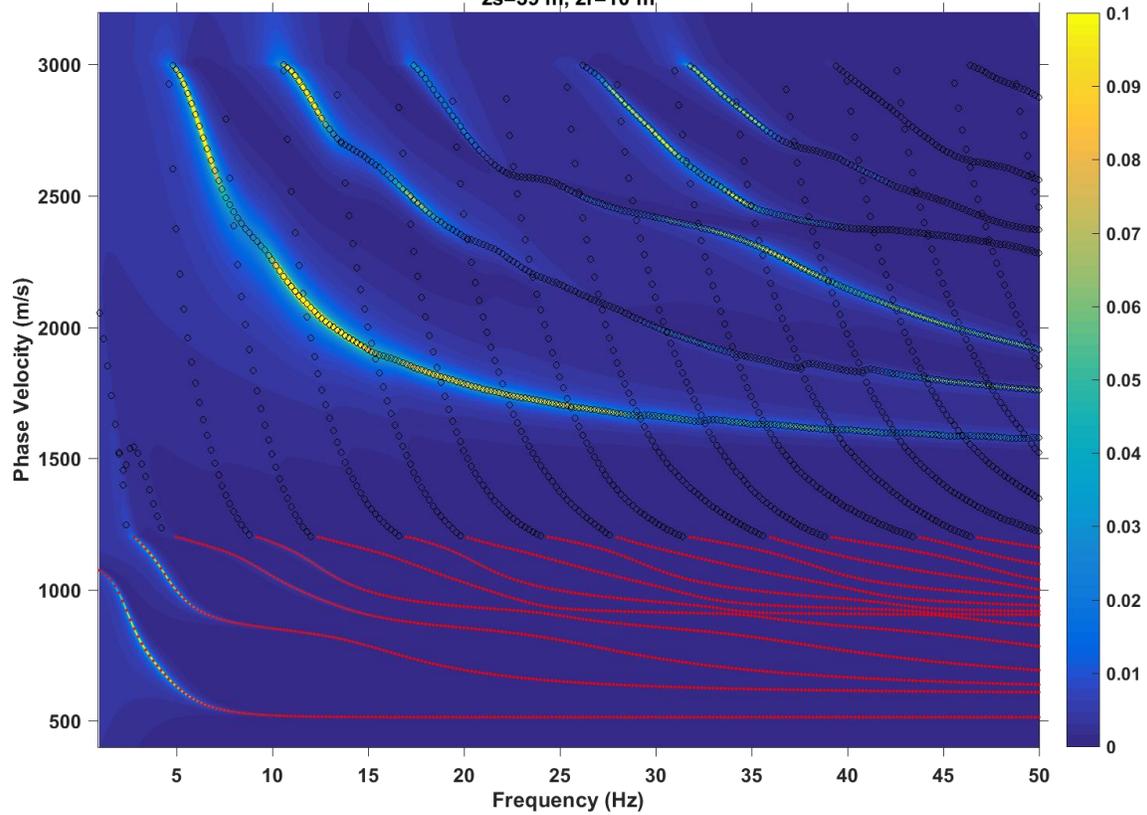
521 **Figure 14.** Dispersion curves of normal modes (black dots) and leaky modes (red dots) for the model shown in  
 522 Table 3 (the same denotation of line types and color as Figure 6).



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**Figure 15.** The attenuation of the leaky modes shown in Figure 14.  
 $z_s=39$  m,  $z_r=10$  m



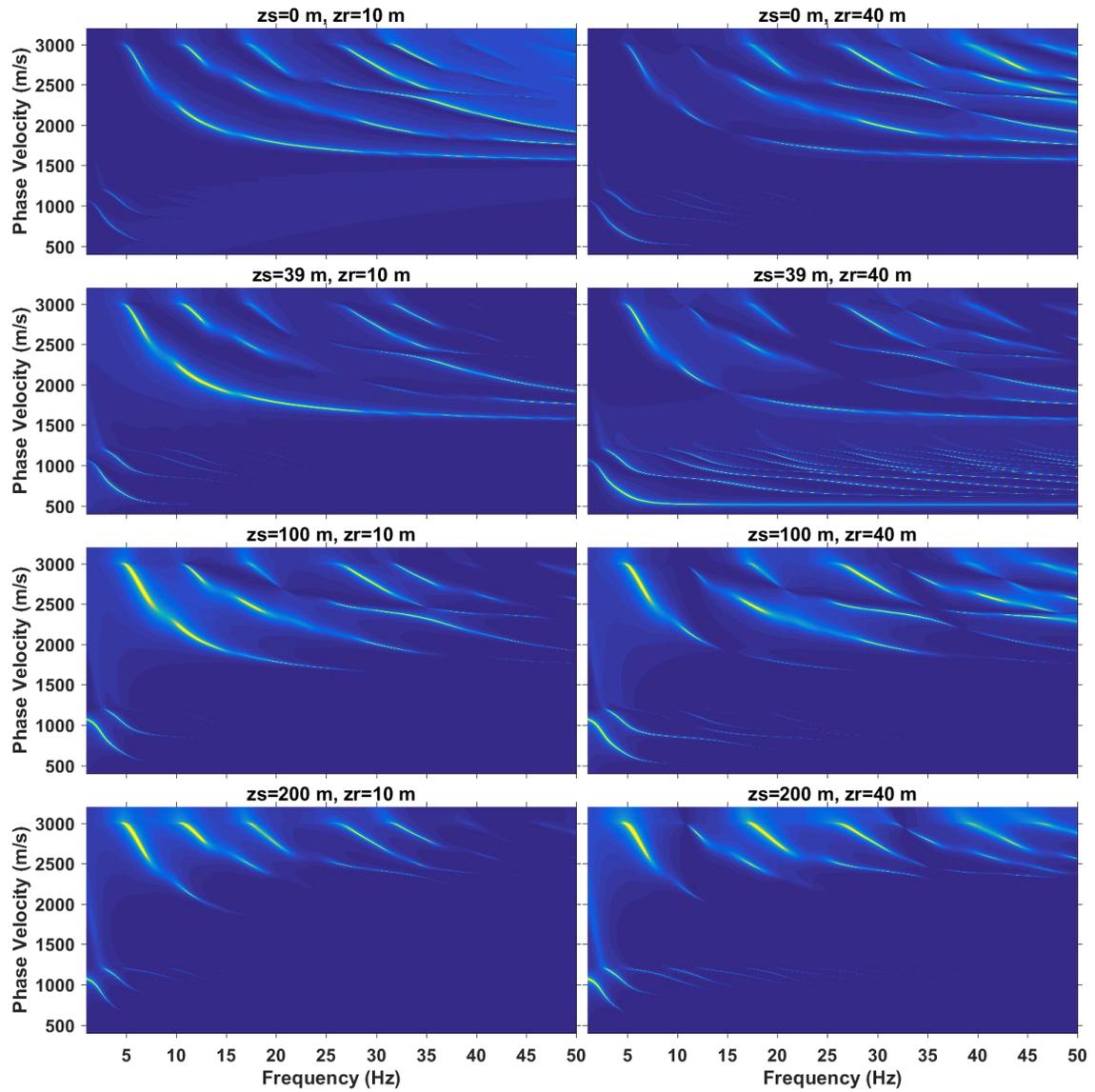
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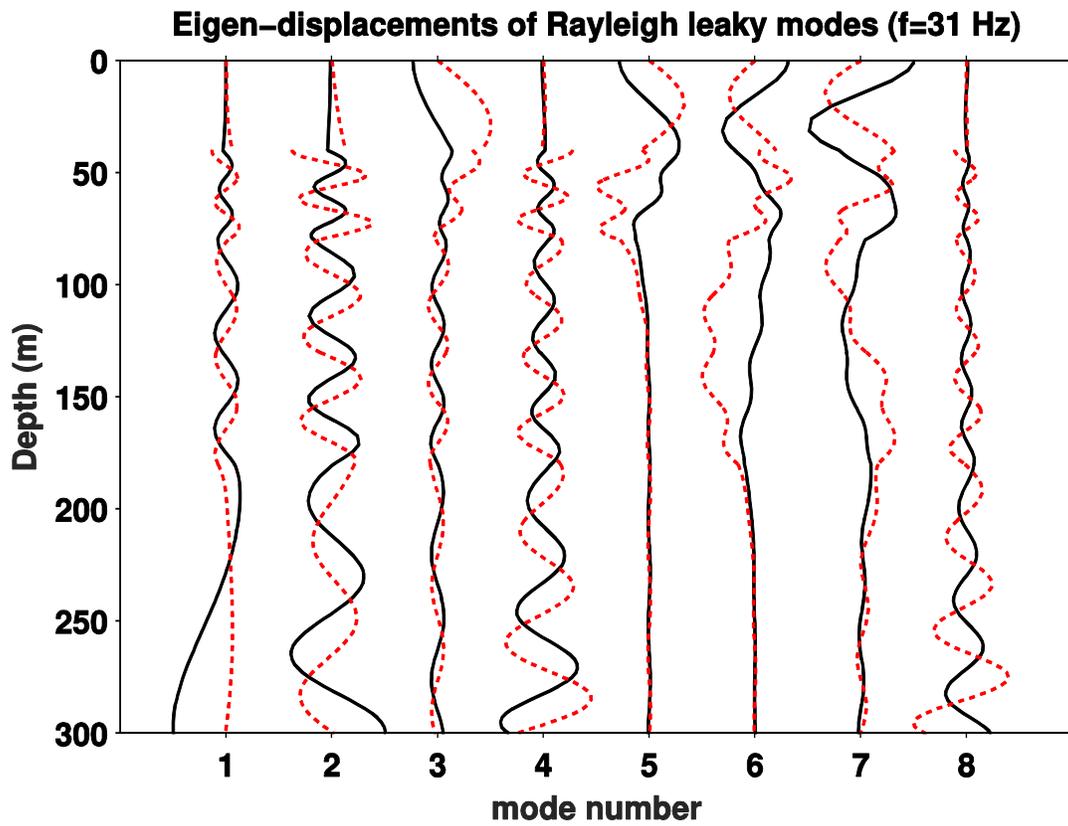
528

**Figure 16.** The dispersion spectrum computed for the shallow water model (Table 3). The corresponding source depth and receiver depth are labeled above. The normal modes (solid dots) and leaky modes (open circles) are superimposed for reference.



529

530 **Figure 17.** The dispersion spectrum for the shallow water model (Table 3) at different source depths (0, 39, 100 and  
 531 200 m) and receiver depths (10 and 40 m).



532  
 533 **Figure 18.** The eigen-displacements (real parts) of the leaky modes for the shallow water model (Table 3) at 31 Hz  
 534 (the same denotation of line types and color as Figure 7).