International Research Journal of Natural and Applied Sciences
Volume 2, Issue 12, December 2015 I F 2.818 ISSN: (2349-4077)

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Seismic Waves and its Type: A Brief Review

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Abstract: In the present paper, Seismic Waves and its Type are reviewed.Seismic waves are of great value for investigating Earth's interior. When an earthquake or explosion occurs, part of the energy released is as elastic waves that are transmitted through the earth.Earthquakes create distinct types of waves with different velocities.The main seismic wave types Compressional (P), Shear (S), Rayleigh (R) and Love (L) waves are discussed.

Keywords: Seismic Waves,Earthquake, Compressional, Shear, Rayleigh.

1. Introduction

Seismic waves are incredibly useful for examining the interior of the Earth. A portion of the energy released after an explosion or earthquake is transported through the earth as elastic waves. Seismograms, which measure, magnify, and record ground motion, then detect the waves and record them. The sites of earthquakes, subsurface structures, and other factors are then determined using the information. We can learn about the globe's heterogeneity and anisotropy through their utilisation. Seismic wave propagation is impacted by elastic anisotropy. Rocks must have mineral- or fluid-filled cracks that are orientated in a fabric in order to be anisotropic. The azimuth of propagation affects wavespeed and scattering; these variations match the anisotropic structure of the rock. Anisotropy in the crust is thought to be primarily caused by the presence of parallel, aligned, fluid-filled fractures or microcracks. Anisotropy in the upper mantle is mostly caused by olivine's preferred orientation. Strong anisotropy can be linked to the preferred orientation of fluid inclusions or the preferred orientation of minerals in the deeper layers of the Earth, such as the inner core and lower mantle.

Compressional (P), shear (S), Rayleigh (R), and Love (L) waves are the four primary types of seismic waves. Because P and S waves spread outward in all directions from a source (such an earthquake) and move through the Earth's interior, they are frequently referred to as body waves. Surface waves, such as Love and Rayleigh waves, move roughly parallel to the Earth's surface. Although surface wave motion travels deep within the Earth, these kinds of waves do not travel directly through the interior of the planet.

2. P-Waves

Compressional, Primary, and Longitudinal waves are other names for P waves. In these waves, particle motion alternates between compressions (called "pushes") and dilations (called "pulls") that are pointed in the same direction as the wave is moving (along the ray path), and are thus perpendicular to the wave front. These waves travel at velocities ranging from 5 to 7 km/s in the normal Earth's crust to 8 km/s in the Earth's mantle and core, 1.5 km/s in water, and roughly 0.3 km/s in the air. Since motion moves quickly through materials, the P-wave is the first energy to appear on a seismogram. Compared to S and Surface-waves, they are often smaller and higher frequency. Pressure waves, including sound waves, are called P waves in a liquid or gas.

3.S-Waves

Shear, Secondary, and Transverse waves are other names for S-waves. These waves have particle motion that alternates between transverse motions (perpendicular to the ray path and propagation direction), which is often approximately polarised to produce particle motion in either the vertical or horizontal planes. These waves move at speeds ranging from 3 to 4 km/s in the average Earth's crust to 4.5 km/s in the Earth's mantle and roughly 2.5 to 3.0 km/s in the (solid) inner core. Since S-waves cannot pass through fluids, they are not present in the Earth's outer core, which is thought to be mostly made of liquid iron, as well as in air, water, or molten rock (magma). S waves follow the P wave in a solid because they move more slowly than P waves do.

4. Love waves

Love is a surface wave that is also referred to as a long wave. These waves' particle motion is transverse horizontal motion, which is generally parallel to the Earth's surface and perpendicular to the wave's path of propagation. These waves travel through the Earth at speeds ranging from 2.0 to 4.4 km/s, depending on the frequency at which they are propagating. In general, Love waves move a little bit more quickly than Rayleigh waves. The Earth's surface is what causes love waves to exist. They are most pronounced at the surface and get smaller as you go deeper. Love waves are dispersive, which means that their speed depends on their frequency, with low frequencies typically moving at a faster rate. Depth of penetration of the Love waves is also dependent on frequency, with lower frequencies penetrating to greater depth.

5. Rayleigh waves

Surface waves, commonly referred to as ground roll, are called Rayleigh. These types of waves have particle motion that is both perpendicular to the direction of propagation and parallel to it (in a vertical plane), and it is "phased" in such a way that the motion is typically elliptical - either prograde or retrograde. These waves travel through the Earth at speeds ranging from 2.0 to 4.2 km/s, depending on the frequency at which they are propagating. The amplitudes of Rayleigh waves normally decrease with depth in the Earth and they are also dispersive. Similar to how water waves appear, so do particles. The Rayleigh waves' depth of penetration is likewise frequency dependant, with lower frequencies penetrating deeper.

6. Summary

Because S-wave velocity in rocks is lower than P-wave velocity, the S wave arrives much later than the P-wave. P and S waves that have taken longer routes from the epicentre to the seismograph are additional arrivals between the P and S wave. Because surface wave velocities in rocks are lower than shear wave speeds, the surface waves arrive after the S waves. Because surface wave propagation is dispersive (the speed of propagation depends on the frequency of the wave), the surface waves span a wide time span.

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