

Find a tornado time for the state of Georgia:

← → ↻ innovation.srh.noaa.gov/tors/index.php?cw=ffc

NWS Atlanta Tornado Database

☐ All Tornadoes in the database
☒ By State
☐ By County

State

GA

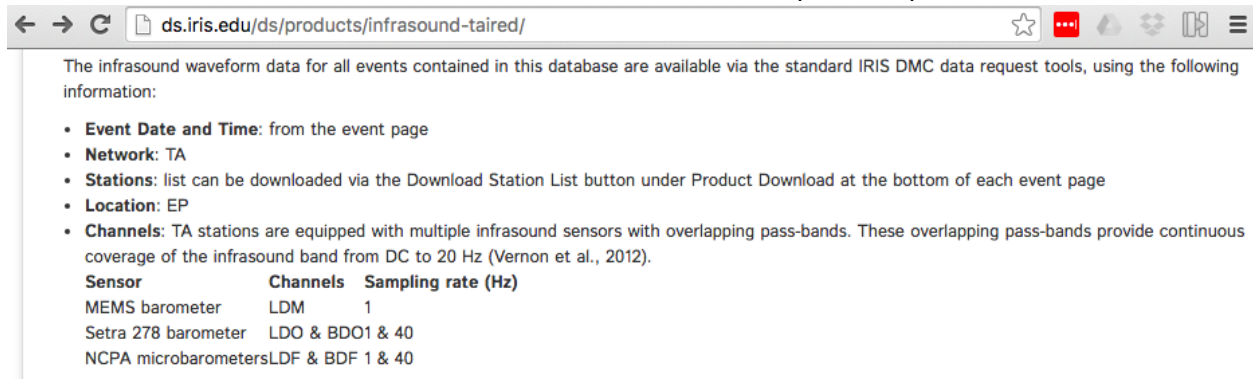
...You may also limit your search by selecting any of the following options

Year	Month	Hour
All Tors	select?	select?
F-scale	Fatalities	Date Range
select?	select?	1873 to 2016

Submit

Requested Info		7/10/16, 12:00 AM	Snooze
Date: 3/2/2012	Time: 709 pm	NWS Atlanta Counties Affected: Haralson, GA Paulding, GA	
Length of path (miles):29.02	Width of Path (yards):200	Whole Path Info: Total Deaths: 0 Total Injuries: 1	
Beg Lat/Lon: 33.87 / -85.30	End Lat/Lon:33.93 / -84.80	F-scale: EF-3 (range of winds from 136-165 mph)	
Fatalities: N/A	Injuries:N/A		

Visit the IRIS website and find out what channel codes correspond to pressure sensors:



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `ds.iris.edu/ds/products/infrasound-taired/`. The page content includes a heading "The infrasound waveform data for all events contained in this database are available via the standard IRIS DMC data request tools, using the following information:" followed by a bulleted list of information: Event Date and Time, Network (TA), Stations, Location (EP), and Channels. The Channels section states that TA stations are equipped with multiple infrasound sensors with overlapping pass-bands. Below this, a table lists the sensors, channels, and sampling rates.

Sensor	Channels	Sampling rate (Hz)
MEMS barometer	LDM	1
Setra 278 barometer	LDO & BDO1 & 40	
NCPA microbarometers	LDF & BDF 1 & 40	

Note here that the network is TA, which is the EarthScope Transportable Array. This is an array of about 400 seismic stations which has been marching across the lower 48 states for the last 10 years (and is now moving to Alaska). Each station is deployed for 2 years, and many have co-located pressure sensors, for recording low frequency sound waves. The relevant channel names are BDO and BDF for high sample rate data (40 Hz) or LDO, LDF and LDM for low sample rate data (1 Hz). Note: the 1-Hz data might be good enough for tornado analysis, but I assume below that you want the 40-Hz data.

If you have GISMO installed, then you also have the `irisFetch` program. To find stations with pressure sensors and download coordinates and other metadata, we use `irisFetch.Channels`, which tells us to look at `irisFetch.Network` for a full usage instructions. Get help on this program:

```
>> help irisFetch.Network
```

OK, so we want to see which stations were operating within a 200 km radius of the tornado start point from 7pm to 8pm on 2012-03-02. I assume these are local times, i.e. EST, 5 hours behind UTC, as the scientific community (including IRIS) use UTC. So the actual time to search is 00:00 to 01:00 UTC on 2012-03-03. Let's grab the stations with a BDO and/or BDF channel code:

```
>> s = irisFetch.Channels('channel','TA','*','*','BD*', ...
'StartTime','2012-03-03 00:00:00', ...
'EndTime','2012-03-03 01:00:00', ...
'radialcoordinates',[33.87 -85.30 km2deg(200) 0])
```

The output variable, `s`, is an array of structures. It has 12 elements. Its fields are:

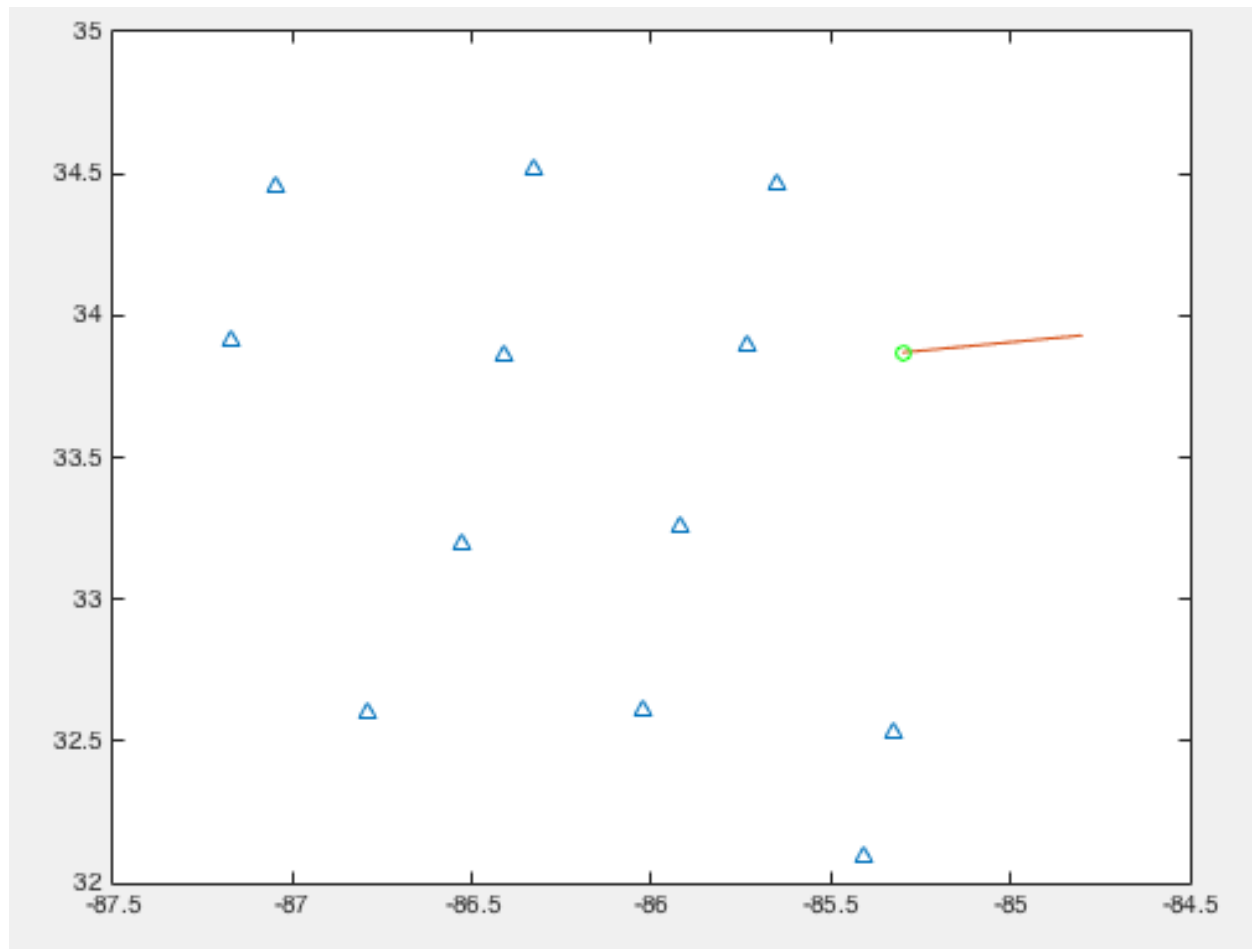
NetworkCode	Response
StationCode	SensitivityFrequency
LocationCode	SensitivityUnitDescription
ChannelCode	SensitivityUnits
NetworkDescription	SensitivityValue
StationName	Equipment
Site	StorageFormat
Latitude	ClockDrift
Longitude	DataLogger
Elevation	Sensor
Depth	PreAmplifier
Azimuth	ExternalReference
Dip	CalibrationUnits
SampleRate	DataAvailability
SampleRateRatio	RestrictedStatus
StartDate	AlternateCode
EndDate	HistoricalCode
Description	StationDescription
Type	

Make a simple map of the station coordinates:

```
>> lat = [s.Latitude];
>> lon = [s.Longitude];
>> plot(lon,lat,'^')
```

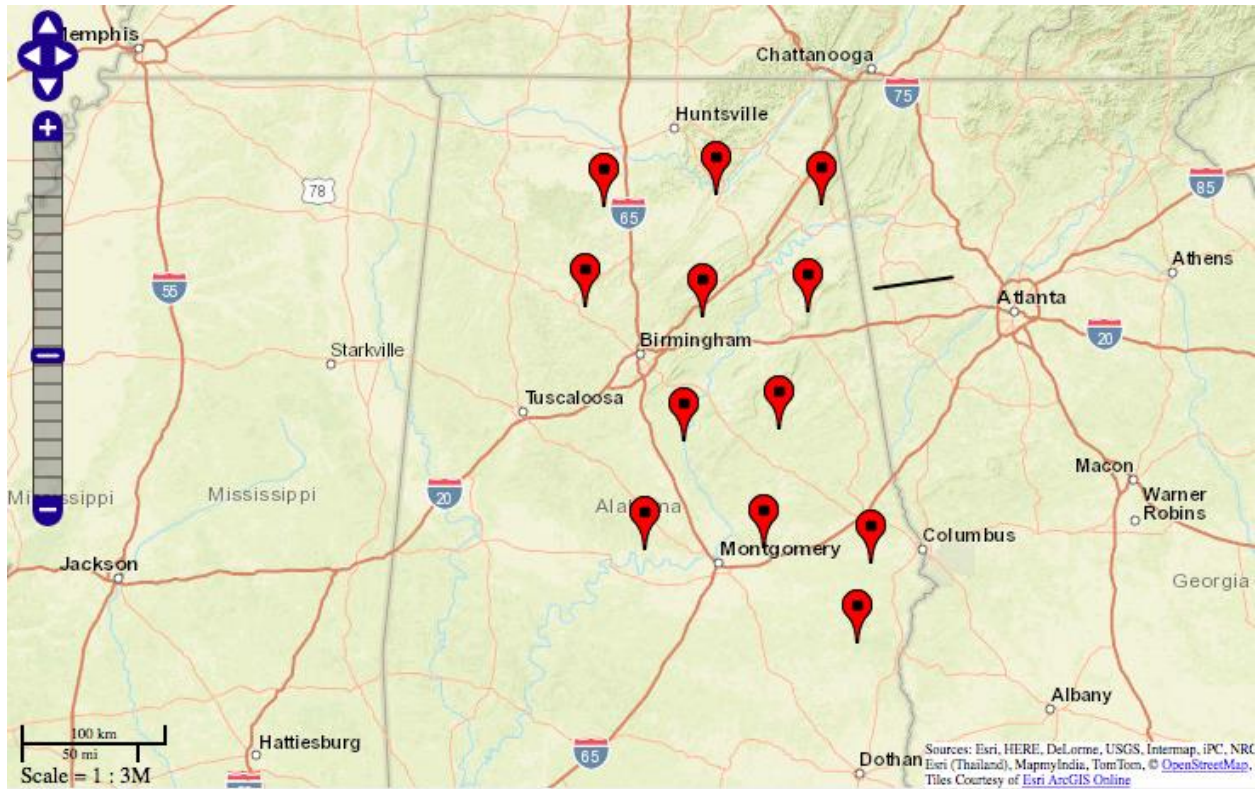
Add the tornado start and end points:

```
>> hold on
>> plot([-85.3 -84.8], [33.87 33.93])
>> plot(-85.3,33.87,'go')
```



A more sophisticated map:

```
>> p = geoint(lat, lon);  
>> h1 = webmap();  
>> wmmarker(p)  
>> wmline([33.87 33.93], [-85.3 -84.8]);
```



OK, but what we really want is the waveform data. How do we get that?

We always get waveform objects by defining:

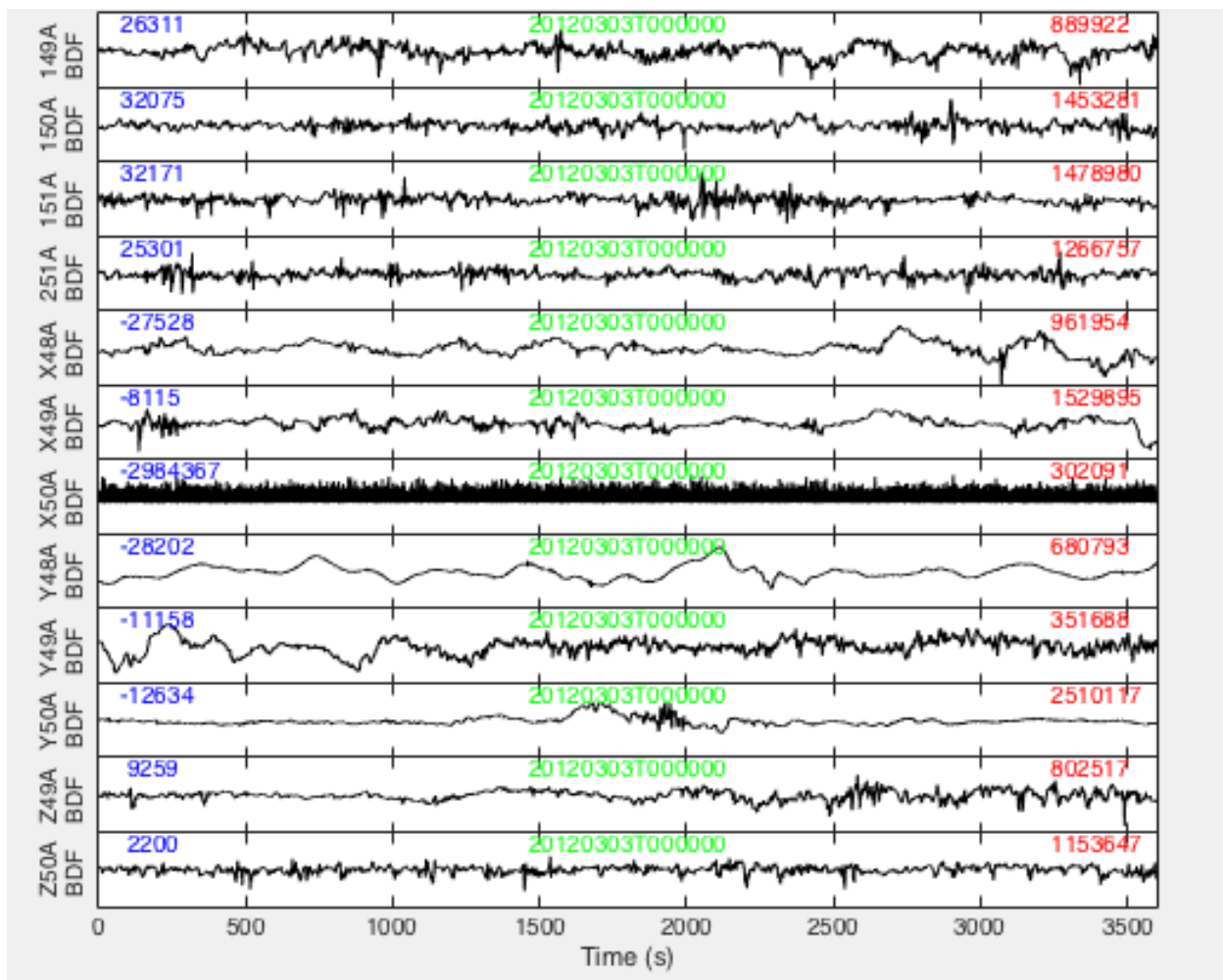
- A datasource – in this case `irisdmcws` (IRIS Data Management Center web services)
- An array of `ChannelTag` objects, containing the network, station, location and channel codes to retrieve
- A start time and an end time

```
>> nscl = ChannelTag.array({s.NetworkCode}, {s.StationCode},
{ s.LocationCode}, {s.ChannelCode})
>> startTime = datenum(2012,3,3,0,0,0);
>> endTime = datenum(2012,3,3,1,0,0);
>> w = waveform(ds, nscl, startTime, endTime);
```

This will take a few minutes (lots of data), but eventually we get back 24 waveform objects, each containing 1 hour of data. There are 12 stations, and a BDO and BDF sensor at each.

Let's just plot the BDF stations for now – these are the odd number-indexed waveform objects, `w(1)`, `w(3)`, ..., `w(23)`

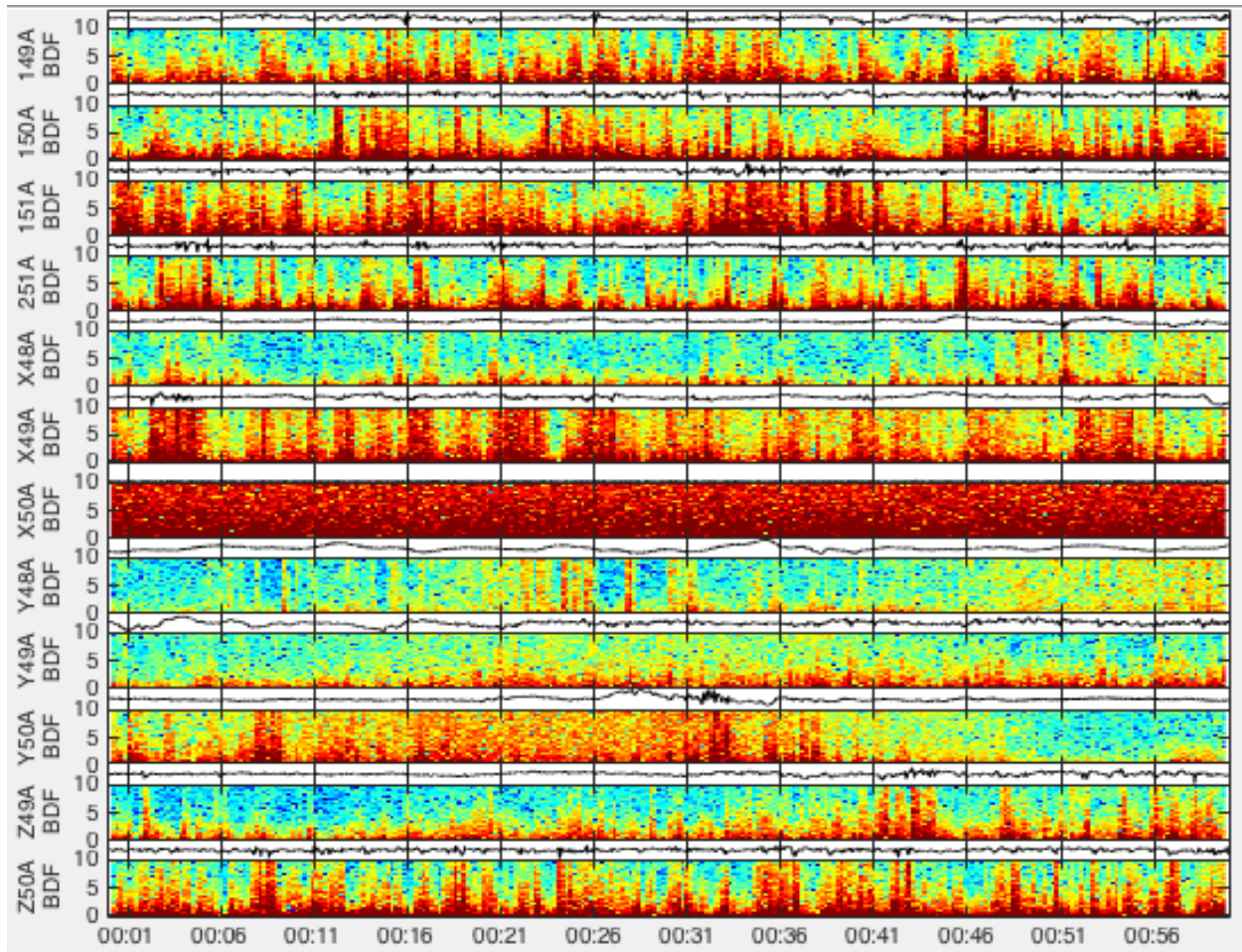
```
>> plot_panels(w(1:2:24))
```



We can immediately see that X50A.BDF is malfunctioning. The other waveforms look reasonable.

What about spectrograms?

```
>> spectrogram(w(1:2:24))
```

OK, so this gets us started.

The next things to look at are (i) data quality and (ii) cross-correlation. This will take some work.

IRIS does have a service called MUSTANG which is supposed to automatically compute some data quality parameters and may even return cleaned data (I'm not sure). Also, some infrasound colleagues of mine might have MATLAB codes that compute their preferred data quality metrics.

There are cross-correlation codes built into GISMO, but I didn't write them and have never used them, so to me they are currently the most mysterious part.