

www.axisem.info

AXISEM TUTORIAL

Kasra Hosseini¹⁾, Martin van Driel²⁾, Simon Stähler¹⁾,
Lion Krischer¹⁾, Tarje Nissen-Meyer³⁾

¹⁾ LMU Munich, ²⁾ ETH Zurich, ³⁾ Oxford University

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1 Tutorial Overview

ObsPy (<http://www.obspy.org>)



ObsPy is a community-driven, open-source project dedicated to provide a Python framework for processing seismological data. It provides parsers for common file formats, clients to access data centers and seismological signal processing routines which allow the manipulation of seismological time series. The goal of the ObsPy project is to facilitate rapid application and workflow development for seismology.

Some of the tools employed in this tutorial use ObsPy but the tutorial does not have a formal introduction to ObsPy due to temporal constraints. The VirtualBox image contains an extensive amount of training material for Python, ObsPy and some third party libraries intended to get you started. Furthermore one of the core developers of ObsPy is present and available for questions. You can find all material related to ObsPy at `~/Desktop/ObsPy`.

AxiSEM - Hands On

The goal of this initial task is to familiarize users with the basic principles behind AxiSEM, its input/output structures and peculiarities such as post-processing. An end-to-end approach (meshing to wavefield movie and seismograms) will be conducted for long-period settings within the virtual box.

Data and Synthetics: ObsPy, AxiSEM and SPECFEM

The main goal of this part of the tutorial is to use AxiSEM for realistic scenarios, compare the results with real seismograms and explore the effects of source parameters and background models on the waveforms. In particular, we will learn how to:

- Load data with ObsPy and plot seismograms.
- compare AxiSEM and SPECFEM synthetics with data including different frequency ranges and background model.
- analyze the influence of different source mechanisms on waveforms.

Virtual Box content

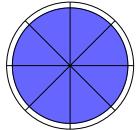
On the desktop you find four folders:

- **ObsPy**: ObsPy training material.
- **axisem**: AxiSEM source code and input files ready for the tutorial.
- **EVENTS**: Data and precomputed synthetics for three events and various background models.
- **VIDEOS**: Illustrative 3D wave propagation video and high-resolution snapshots thereof.

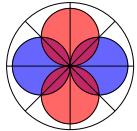
2 AxiSEM - Hands On

The AxiSEM Concept

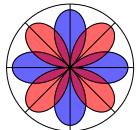
Source Decomposition:



$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(s, z)$$

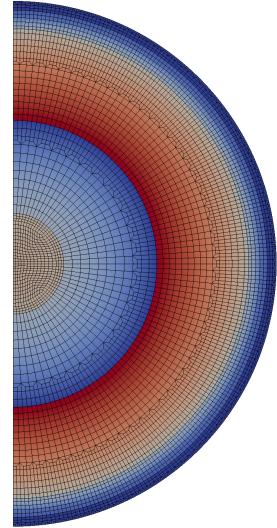


$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(s, z) \cdot f(\sin \phi, \cos \phi)$$



$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(s, z) \cdot f(\sin(2\phi), \cos(2\phi))$$

2D numerical problems:



The basic idea behind AxiSEM is to take advantage of axial symmetry with respect to an axis going through the center of the earth and the source. In such axisymmetric models, the response to a moment tensor or single force point source can be expanded in a series of multipoles (mono-, di- and quadrupole). The dependence of the wavefield on azimuth ϕ can be solved analytically and the remaining 2D problems (four of them for a full moment tensor source) are solved numerically using a spectral element approach.

MESHER - generate a Mesh

1. Open a terminal, go to the `~/Desktop/axisem/MESHER` folder and open the `inparam_mesh` file with your favourite editor:

```
$ cd Desktop/axisem/MESHER
$ vi inparam_mesh
```

The parameters should be readily set, but you might want to double check and verify:

```
BACKGROUND_MODEL      'prem_ani_light'
DOMINANT_PERIOD       100.0
NCPU                  1
WRITE_VTK             true
COARSENING_LAYERS     2
```

The file should be self-explanatory. NB: Models without crust ('light') allow for a larger time step and hence run a lot faster on the box. The virtual box only has a single processor, so parallelization does not speed up the simulation.

2. Run the mesher, and watch the progress:

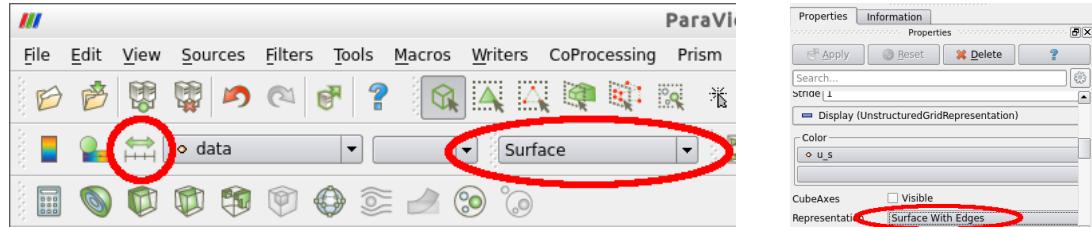
```
$ ./submit
$ tailf OUTPUT
```

The meshing should be really fast for the chosen parameters. Wait for `....DONE WITH MESHER !` to appear.

3. Take a look at the mesh with paraview

```
$ paraview
```

Open one of the vtk files in the subfolder `Diags`, e.g. `mesh_vp.vtk` and click apply in the properties panel on the left (you might get an OpenGL Error on the virtual box, which you can ignore). To see the mesh, change the representation from 'surface' to 'surface with edges' (On some host systems, the dropdown menu seems to be messed up, in that case go to the 'Display' context in the 'Properties' panel on the left. If the plot appears all yellow, click on play). You can open other vtk files to look at other properties of the model and the mesh. You might need to rescale the color range by clicking on the left-right arrow symbol in the top left.



- Move the mesh to the solver directory and give it a meaningful name:

```
$ ./movemesh.csh prem_ani_light_100s
```

SOLVER - solve the elastic wave equation

- Go to the `~/Desktop/axisem/SOLVER` folder and open the `inparam_basic` file with your favourite editor:

```
$ cd ../SOLVER
$ vi inparam_basic
```

The parameters should be readily set, but you might want to double check and verify:

```
SIMULATION_TYPE      single
SEISMOGRAM_LENGTH   1800.
RECFILE_TYPE         stations
MESHNAME             prem_ani_light_100s
ATTENUATION          true
SAVE_SNAPSHOTS       true
```

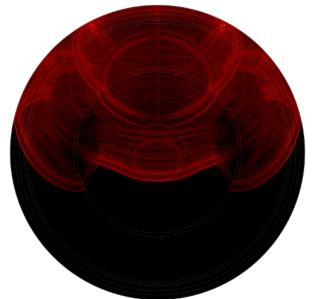
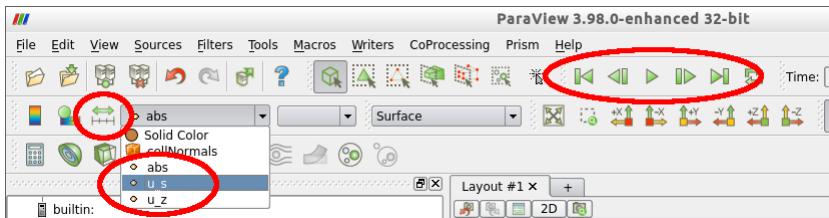
- First, we are taking a look at a basic sourcetype: a vertical dipole, which has a monopole radiation pattern. This is set by `SIMULATION_TYPE single` and defined in the `sourceparams.dat` file. Run the solver, giving the run a meaningful name:

```
$ ./submit.csh prem_ani_light_100s_mzz
```

This command compiles the code if needed and starts the simulation. You can observe the progress in the outputfile:

```
$ cd prem_ani_light_100s_mzz
$ tailf OUTPUT_prem_ani_light_100s_mzz
```

Once the run is finished, take a look at the wavefield with paraview: open the `prem_ani_light_100s_mzz/Data/xmf_xml_0000.xmf` file and click apply. Go to the last snapshot and rescale the color range, then click on play to see the wave propagate. You can also choose different components of the wavefield or the absolute value. For paraview experienced users: choose absolute value and a logarithmic colorscale to see all wave types at once (e.g. 'black body radiation' looks nice). You can find a 5s period movie of these snapshots in the `VIDEOS` folder on the desktop (use `gpicview` to open the `.png` files and `gnome-mplayer` to open the movie `SeismicWavePropagation.mov`).



3. Now simulate seismograms for a full moment tensor source: the source is defined in the **CMTSOLUTION** file and the one referred to as 'event-1' in the later tasks. Stations are defined in the **STATIONS** file. Go back to the **SOLVER** directory and change the **inparam_basic** file such that:

```
SIMULATION_TYPE      moment
SAVE_SNAPSHOTS       false
```

Run the solver, giving the run a meaningful name:

```
$ ./submit.csh prem_ani_light_100s_event1
```

This command compiles the code if needed and starts four simulations at once, each simulating a basic source type (two monopoles, a dipole and a quadrupole, for details see Nissen-Meyer et al 2007). You can observe the progress in the outputfiles in each job's subdirectory

```
$ cd prem_ani_light_100s_event1
$ tailf MZZ/OUTPUT_MZZ
```

Once all the jobs are done (check with **htop**), you can proceed with postprocessing.

POSTPROCESSING - rotate and sum seismograms and wavefields

Postprocessing is a key feature of AxiSEM: the source mechanism and source time function can be modified without redoing the more expensive simulation.

1. For the previous simulation, the contribution of the elemental sources needs to be summed up to get seismograms for a full moment tensor source. In the main rundirectory (**prem_ani_light_100s_event1**) open the file **param_postprocessing**. It should contain these settings (auto generated by the solver):

```
REC_COMP_SYS      enz
CONV_PERIOD       100.0000
CONV_STF          gauss_0
```

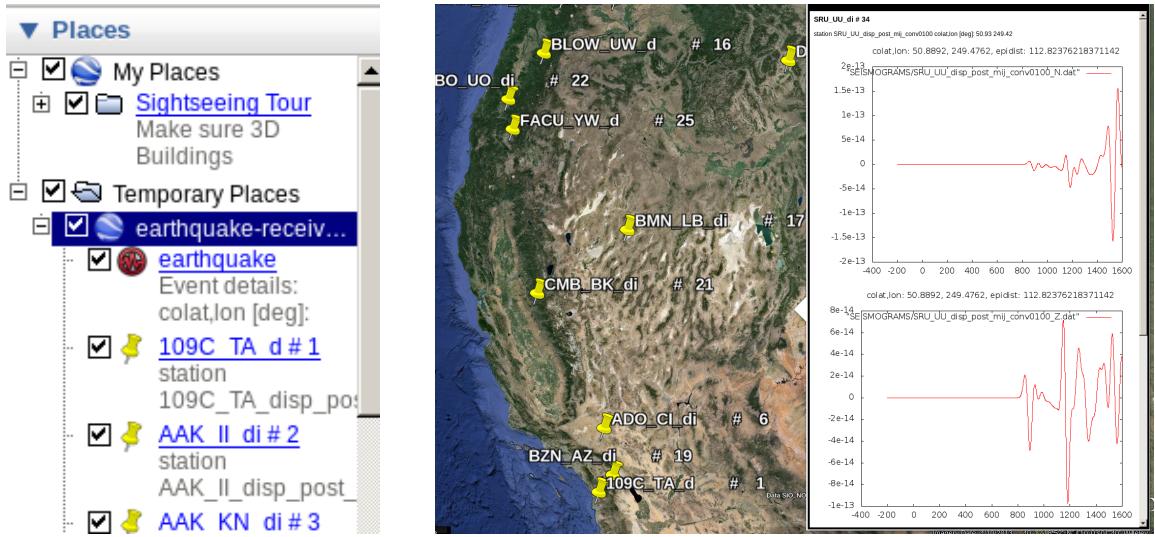
The source mechanism (and only the mechanism, depth and location cannot be changed in postprocessing) is read from the **CMTSOLUTION** file in the same directory. Start the postprocessing:

```
$ ./postprocessing.csh
```

The resulting seismograms and plots can be found in the directory **Data_Postprocessing**. Seismograms can be viewed with

```
$ cd Data_Postprocessing/GRAPHICS
$ gpicview <filename.gif>
```

For a nice overview, you can use google-earth (might not run on all computers and depends on internet connection). Open the `googleearth_src_rec_seis.kml` file in the `Data_Postprocessing/` directory (double check the exact path, google-earth might have something older from history which is quite confusing). You should now see the earthquake and the receivers in the places menu on the left.



Click on the stations or source to see more...

3 Data and Synthetics: ObsPy, AxiSEM and SPECFEM

The main goal of this part of the tutorial is to use AxiSEM for realistic scenarios, compare the results with real seismograms and 3D synthetics and explore the effects of source parameters and background models on the waveforms. For a brief walk-through, follow this:

Start from within the `~/Desktop/EVENTS/` directory:

1. Plot one of the events (listed in EVENTS directory, we choose EVENT-1 in this example):

```
$ plot_station_event_distribution.py EVENT-1
```

* For more information on the folder structure of your VirtualBox image, refer to Appendix-2.

2. To get an overview of both real data and AxiSEM synthetics (e.g. *PREM_ANISO* for 5 seconds dominant period) [Figure-1]:

```
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec
```

3. Window the waveforms around Pdiff and PKiKP seismic phases and plot the seismograms (compared with real data):

```
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec Pdiff  
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec PKiKP
```

4. Change the filter in the `~/Desktop/EVENTS/SCRIPTS/plot_seismograms.py` script and compare the results with SPECFEM3D [Figure-2]:

Note: for changing the filter, open *plot_seismograms.py* and change values at top of the file.

Note: resolution in SPECFEM3D seismograms is 17 - 500 sec.

```
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec Pdiff specfem3d  
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec PKiKP specfem3d
```

5. Compare the results for two different background models (*PREM_ANISO_5sec* with *IASP91_5sec*) e.g. Pdiff phase:

```
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec Pdiff EVENT-1/AXISEM/IASP91_5sec
```

6. Change the filter, as explained in step 4, and repeat step 5.

7. Compare the seismograms calculated for two different source mechanisms (*PREM_ANISO_5sec* and *PREM_ANISO_5sec_GCMT*) for Pdiff phase [Figure-3]:

Note: for more information about the source parameters, refer to Appendix-1.

Note: depth and location of the source can not be changed.

```
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec Pdiff  
EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec_GCMT
```

8. Try different filter settings and compare the results. (Note: dominant period in synthetic seismograms is 5 sec.)

9. Find the time shift between the synthetics and real data (maximum of cross-correlation function), shift the synthetics accordingly and plot the results:

```
$ plot_seismograms.py EVENT-1/AXISEM/PREM_ANISO_5sec Pdiff shift_synthetics
```

10. Map the calculated time shifts in step 9 on the station locations:

```
$ plot_travel_time_map.py EVENT-1
```

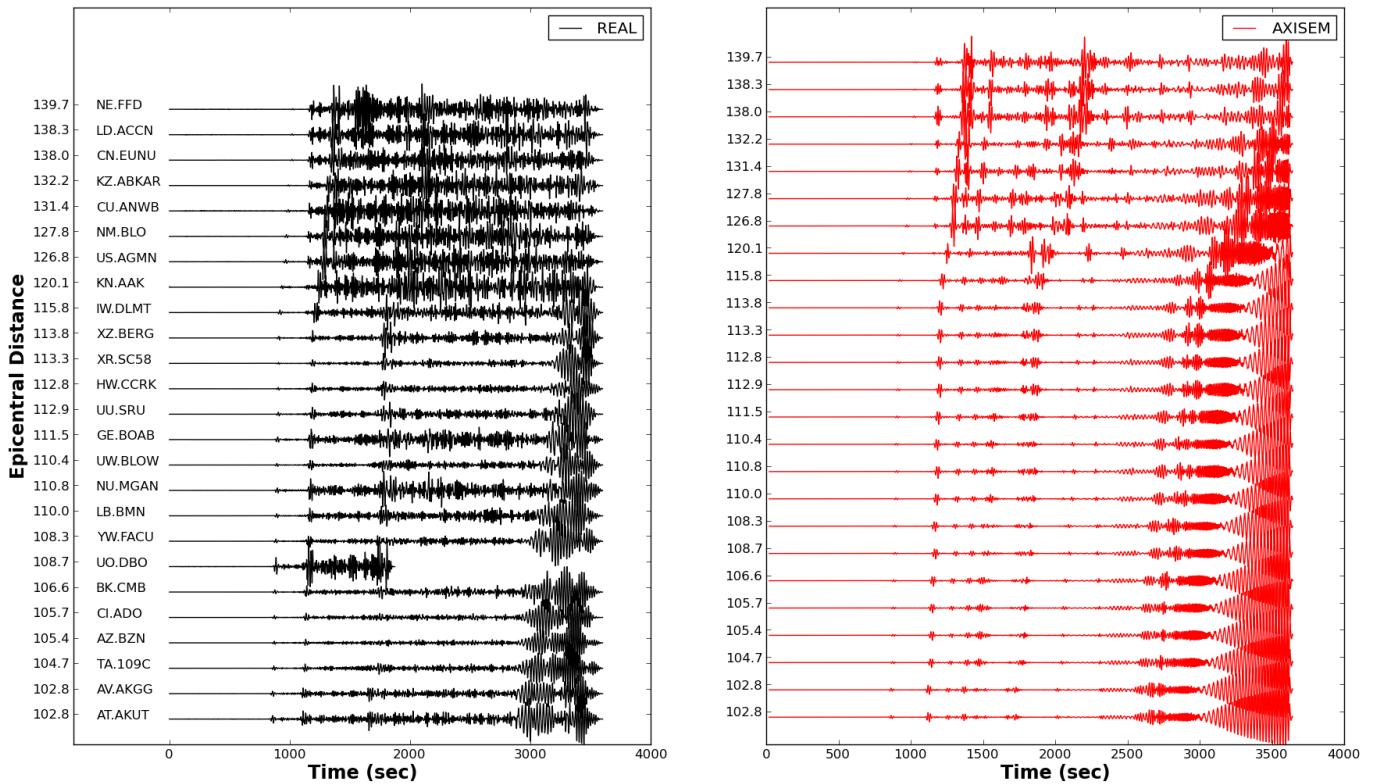


Figure 1: Real and AXISEM waveforms for EVENT-1.

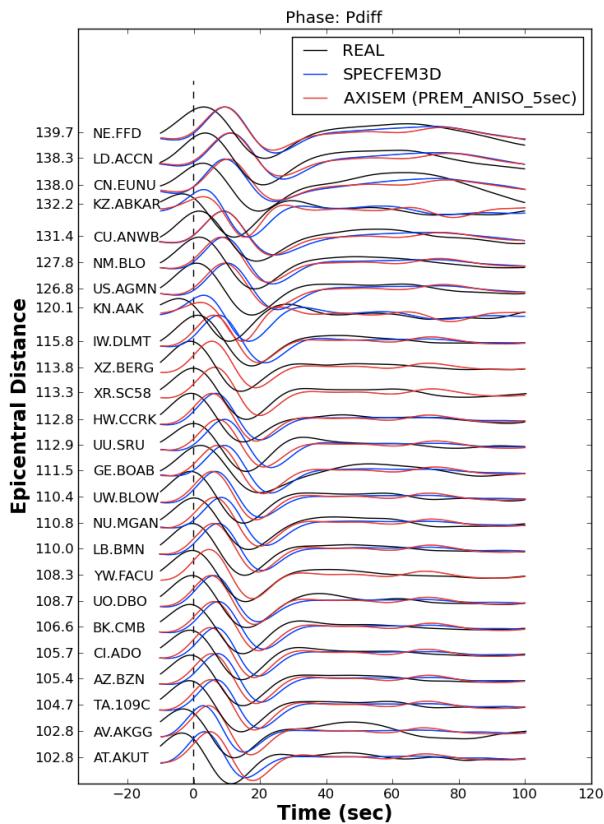


Figure 2: Comparison between real, AXISEM and SPECFEM3D waveforms for Pdiff phase.
Filter: 20 - 100 sec.

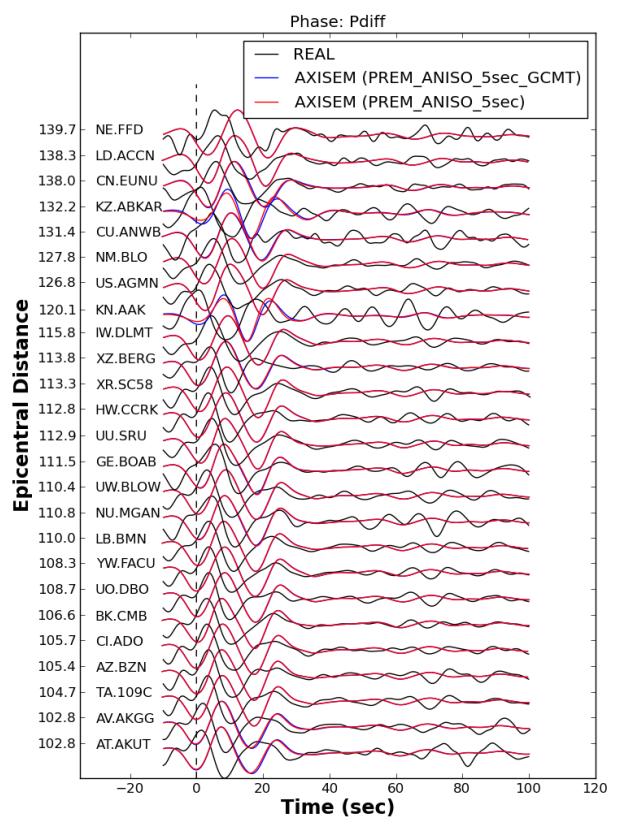


Figure 3: Comparison between real and AXISEM waveforms for two different source parameters (Pdiff).
Filter: 5 - 20 sec.

A APPENDIX-1: Events

Three events are selected for this tutorial (Figure-A1) with the following source characteristics:

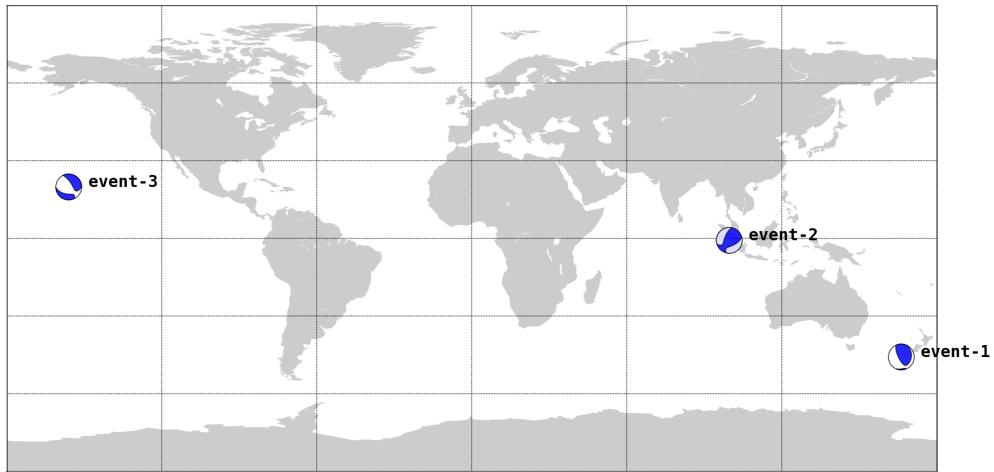


Figure A1: beach ball diagrams of event-1 to event-3 (based on GCMT catalog)

event-1

	GCMT	Inverted
Date-Time (UTC)	2009-07-15 09:22:49	-----
Location	OFF W. COAST OF S. ISLAND, N.Z.	-----
Latitude, Longitude	-45.850 °, 166.260 °	-----
Magnitude	7.8 MW	-----
Depth	23.5 km	24.0 km
Mrr, Mtt, Mpp	3.14e20, 0.759e20, -3.9e20	0.324e21, 0.303e20, -0.354e21
Mrt, Mrp, Mtp	2.59e20, -3.75e20, -0.028e20	0.161e21, -0.439e21, 0.455e20

event-2

	GCMT	Inverted
Date-Time (UTC)	2009-09-30 10:16:10	-----
Location	SOUTHERN SUMATRA, INDONESIA	-----
Latitude, Longitude	-0.790 °, 99.670 °	-----
Magnitude	7.6 MW	-----
Depth	77.8 km	82.0 km
Mrr, Mtt, Mpp	1.76e20, -0.765e20, -0.992e20	0.163e21, -0.148e20, -0.148e21
Mrt, Mrp, Mtp	0.658e20, -0.991e20, -1.94e20	0.349e20, -0.397e20, -0.157e21

event-3

	GCMT	Inverted
Date-Time (UTC)	2006-10-15 17:07:55	-----
Location	HAWAII	-----
Latitude, Longitude	19.830 °, -155.940 °	-----
Magnitude	6.7 MW	-----
Depth	48.0 km	28.0 km
Mrr, Mtt, Mpp	-0.816e19, 0.869e19, -0.053e19	-0.307e19, 0.356e19, -0.496e18
Mrt, Mrp, Mtp	0.063e19, -0.818e19, -0.853e19	-0.142e19, -0.355e19, -0.104e20

B APPENDIX-2: Folder structure

Figure A2 shows how the events (and their meta-data), waveforms and scripts are organized in the Virtual-box:

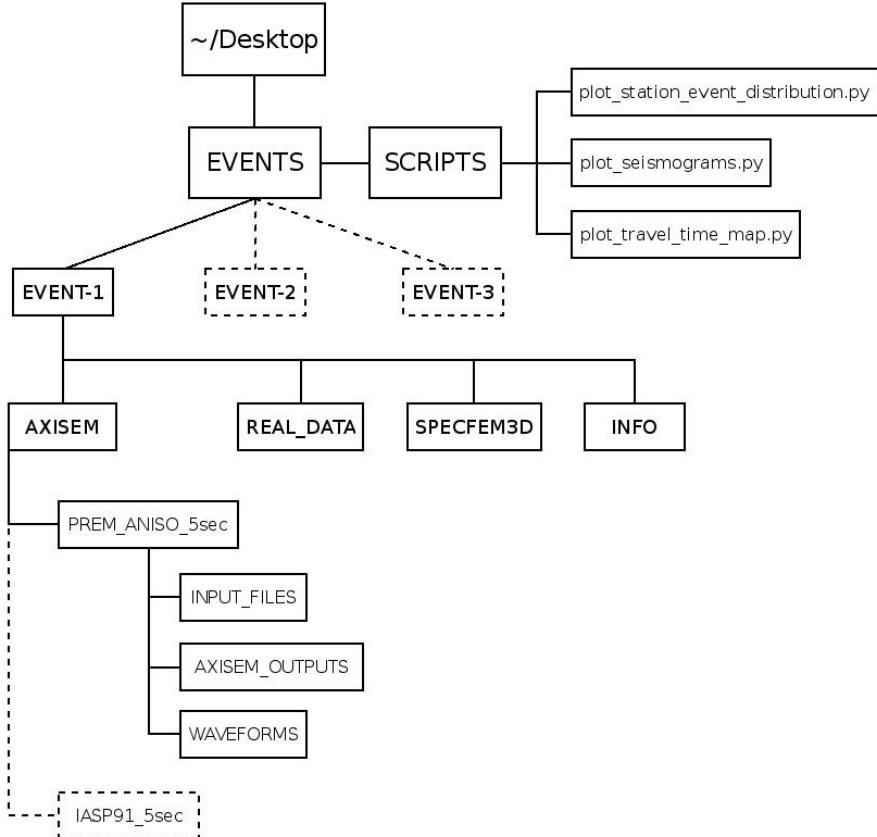


Figure A2: Folder structure

In `SCRIPTS` directory, there are three python scripts that we use here:

1. `plot_station_event_distribution.py`: maps event and stations of an event directory.
2. `plot_seismograms.py`: plotting/filtering seismograms for comparison purposes.
3. `plot_travel_time_map.py`: project the time shift measured by cross correlating the AXISEM waveforms and real data.

In `EVENTS` directory, there are three events, each with the following sub-directories:

1. **AXISEM**: contains seismograms simulated by AXISEM with the required PyAxi (Appendix-3) input files (`INPUT_FILES`) to re-produce them.
2. **REAL_DATA**: seismograms retrieved from *IRIS*. (refer to APPENDIX-4)
3. **SPECFEM3D**: waveforms simulated by *SPECFEM3D* for comparison purposes. (downloaded from *IRIS*, refer to APPENDIX-4)
4. **INFO**: information about the event and stations: `event_1.xml` and `STATIONS`.

C APPENDIX-3: A Quick Guide to PyAxi

PyAxi is a Python script developed as an interface for AXISEM. All the options available in AXISEM are included in only one input file (*inpython.cfg*). By running the script, all the necessary steps (MESHER, SOLVER and Post-Processing) will be done automatically.

All you should do to run PyAxi for an input file (*inpython.cfg*) and station list (STATIONS) is:

```
$ python PyAxi <inpython.cfg> <STATIONS>
```

and the rest should be done automatically.

inpython.cfg is a configuration file that contains all the AXISEM options. To change the input file, open *inpython.cfg* with an editor. However, you could find some already prepared *inpython.cfg* files for the events in the Virtual-box. (refer to APPENDIX-2 for more information; *INPUT_FILES* in Figure A2) Therefore, to run AXISEM for the provided events (EVENT-1 and IASP91-5sec as an example), it is enough to replace:

```
<inpython.cfg>:  
~/Desktop/EVENTS/EVENT-1/AXISEM/IASP91_5sec/INPUT_FILES/inpython.cfg  
  
<STATIONS>:  
~/Desktop/EVENTS/EVENT-1/AXISEM/IASP91_5sec/INPUT_FILES/STATIONS
```

WARNING: this will take ages on the Virtual-box because of the dominant period (5sec) and available computing resources.

D APPENDIX-4: Retrieving real data and SPECFEM3D seismograms automatically

[obspyDMT](#) (ObsPy Data Management Tool) is a command line tool for retrieving, processing and management of massive seismological data in a fully automatic way which could be run in serial or in parallel.

This tool is developed to mainly address the following tasks automatically:

1. Retrieval of waveforms (MSEED or SAC), response files and metadata from [IRIS](#) and [ORFEUS](#) (via [ArcLink](#)) archives. This could be done in *serial* or in *parallel* for single or large requests.
2. Supports event-based and continuous requests.
3. Extracting the information of all the events via user-defined options (time span, magnitude, depth and event location) from [IRIS](#) and [EMSC](#) (European Mediterranean Seismological Centre).
4. Updating the existing archives (waveforms, response files and metadata).
5. Processing the data in *serial* or in *parallel* (e.g. *Tapering, removing the trend of the time series, filtering and Instrument correction*).
6. Management of large seismic datasets.
7. Plotting tools (events and/or station locations, Ray coverage (event-station pair), epicentral-distance plots for all archived waveforms and seismicity maps).

Here, we use obspyDMT to retrieve both real data and SPECFEM3D seismograms. For more information about this tool please refer to the following webpage:

<https://github.com/kasra-hosseini/obspyDMT>

obspyDMT is installed on your virtual machine. By running the following commands, the real data used in this tutorial can be retrieved automatically:

Event-1:

```
./obspyDMT.py --datapath EVENT-1_real --min_date 2009-07-15 --max_date 2009-07-16  
--min_mag 7.0 --min_depth 20 --list_stas ~/Desktop/EVENT-1/INFO/STATIONS  
--offset 3600 --req_parallel --arc N
```

Event-2:

```
./obspyDMT.py --datapath EVENT-2_real --min_date 2009-09-30 --max_date 2009-10-01  
--min_mag 7.0 --min_depth 70 --list_stas ~/Desktop/EVENT-1/INFO/STATIONS  
--offset 3600 --req_parallel --arc N
```

Event-3:

```
./obspyDMT.py --datapath EVENT-3_real --min_date 2006-10-15 --max_date 2006-10-16  
--min_mag 6.0 --min_depth 20 --list_stas ~/Desktop/EVENT-1/INFO/STATIONS  
--offset 3600 --req_parallel --arc N
```

Moreover, the SPECFEM3D seismograms can be also retrieved in the same manner:

Event-1:

```
./obspyDMT.py --datapath EVENT-1 --min_date 2009-07-15 --max_date 2009-07-16  
--min_mag 7.0 --min_depth 20 --list_stas ~/Desktop/EVENT-1/INFO/STATIONS  
--specfem3D --offset 3600 --req_parallel --arc N
```

Event-2:

```
./obspyDMT.py --datapath EVENT-2 --min_date 2009-09-30 --max_date 2009-10-01  
--min_mag 7.0 --min_depth 70 --list_stas ~/Desktop/EVENT-1/INFO/STATIONS  
--specfem3D --offset 3600 --req_parallel --arc N
```

Event-3:

```
./obspyDMT.py --datapath EVENT-3 --min_date 2006-10-15 --max_date 2006-10-16  
--min_mag 6.0 --min_depth 20 --list_stas ~/Desktop/EVENT-1/INFO/STATIONS  
--specfem3D --offset 3600 --req_parallel --arc N
```