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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Review of earthquake activity
and current status of seismic monitoring
in the region of the Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project,
southern Kenai Peninsula, Alaska:
December 1981 - May 1983

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HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT RESULTS

Hypocenters of 91 shallow (depth less than 20 km) earthquakes that occurred between December 1981 and May 1983 indicate that the pattern of recent crustal activity around the southern Kenai Peninsula has remained stable relative to the data prior to December 1981. The earthquakes are generally smaller than about magnitude 2.5. Most of the activity occurred east of the Border Ranges fault, and several concentrations can be observed in an otherwise diffuse distribution of activity. In general there is a poor correlation of the shallow activity with mapped fault traces.

A more reliable estimate of the depth to the Benioff zone beneath Bradley Lake can be made from the greater number of available hypocenters of well-recorded earthquakes now available. Using the current velocity model, the depth to the top of the Benioff zone is 37 ± 5 km.

A strong-motion record was obtained from the SMA-1 instrument co-located at the site of the central high-gain station BRLK, about 2 km from the proposed dam site. A preliminary estimate of 0.14 g ($1 \text{ g} = 980 \text{ cm/sec}^2$) was obtained for the maximum peak-to-peak horizontal acceleration on the record, but at present the event which caused the trigger is uncertain.

Two new stations were installed southeast of Kachemak Bay in June 1983 in order to improve the accuracy of hypocenter determinations for continuing shallow earthquake activity that is observed in this area.

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Power Authority plans to construct a hydroelectric facility on the southern Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. The project involves damming Bradley Lake, which is located in the Kenai Mountains at an elevation of 1,090 feet, and feeding the water through a tunnel to a power plant at sea level. In this region of tectonic interaction between the Pacific and North American plates (Figure 1), the potential for strong earthquakes needs to be addressed so that the hazards they pose can be minimized. The most serious effect of earthquakes on man-made structures is structural damage from strong shaking. Other potentially damaging aspects of earthquakes include surface faulting as well as shaking-induced effects such as liquefaction, landslides, differential settling, and seiches.

A project to investigate the problem of seismic hazards in the Bradley Lake region was initiated by the U.S. Geological Survey in November 1980 at the request of the Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project entails collecting and analyzing earthquake data in the region of the proposed Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project in order to develop a more detailed model for the tectonic framework. Particular emphasis is being placed on the distribution of shallow crustal earthquakes and their relationship to mapped or inferred faults. On November 15, 1982, the responsibility for funding the project was transferred to the Alaska Power Authority.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the work completed to date, including the operation of the seismic stations and a review of the seismic data collected through May 1983. Part of the data has been presented in two previous reports to the Corps of Engineers (Lahr and Stephens, 1981; Stephens and others, 1982). The data presented in this report generally conform to the distribution of earthquake hypocenters and magnitudes described in the earlier reports, but the greater quantity of high-quality data now available allows us to make more reliable estimates of such parameters as the depth to the Benioff zone beneath Bradley Lake and the location of areas that are currently experiencing high rates of shallow seismicity.

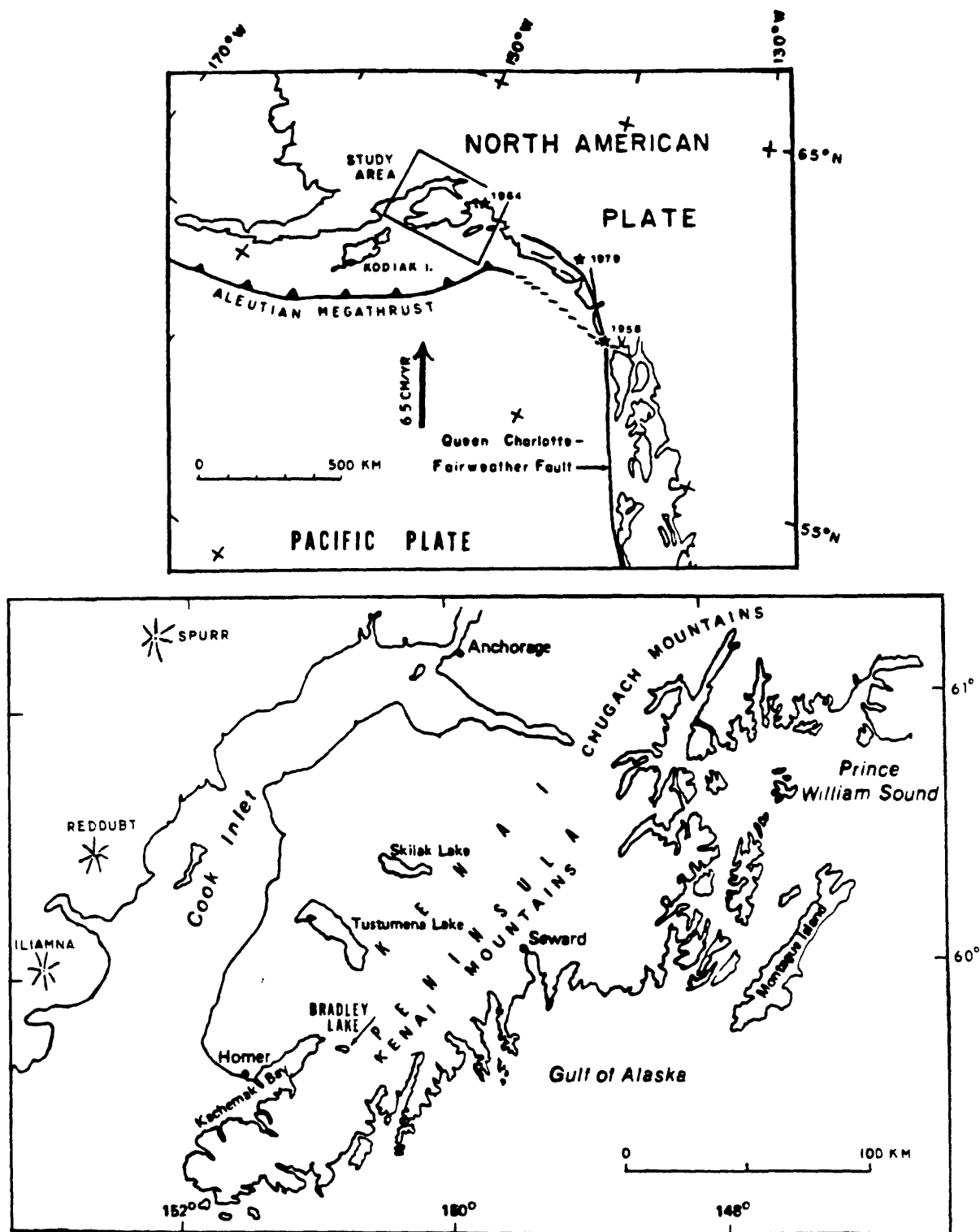


Figure 1. Upper- Current motion of Pacific plate with respect to North American plate. Projection is oblique Mercator using a pole at 54°N and 61°W . Rotation of the Pacific plate with respect to the North American plate about this pole is equivalent to vertical translation in this figure. Epicenters of the 1958, 1964, and 1979 earthquakes are shown. Lower- Enlargement of the area outlined in upper figure, showing the setting of Bradley Lake. The locations of Spurr, Redoubt, and Iliamna volcanoes are indicated. Modified from Woodward-Clyde Consultants (1979).

SEISMOTECTONIC FRAMEWORK

The Bradley Lake region is located in the zone of tectonic interaction between the North American plate and the relatively northwestward-moving Pacific plate (Figure 1). The average rate of convergence near the southern Kenai Peninsula over the past 3 m.y. is 6.5 cm/yr (Minster and Jordan, 1978). Direct evidence for continued convergent motion comes from the occurrence of recent large earthquakes along portions of the Pacific - North American plate boundary adjacent to the Gulf of Alaska. For example, the 1964 Alaska earthquake resulted from dip-slip motion of about 12 m (Hastie and Savage, 1970) on the portion of the Aleutian megathrust extending from Prince William Sound to southern Kodiak Island and dipping northwestward beneath the continent.

The seismicity associated with the processes of convergent plate motion in Alaska generally may be divided into five spatially distinct groups:

1. Earthquakes which occur on the gently dipping Aleutian megathrust (the interface zone between the Pacific and North American plates);
2. Earthquakes which occur in the wedge of crust above the active megathrust zone;
3. Earthquakes that occur within the subducted Pacific plate beneath Alaska (Benioff zone events);
4. Earthquakes within the Pacific plate seaward of the Aleutian megathrust;
5. Shallow earthquakes near the active volcanoes.

The Bradley Lake region is most directly affected by the first three types of events.

INSTRUMENTATION

Earthquakes are recorded by high-gain, high-frequency seismographs of the USGS regional network (Figure 2). Details about the instrumentation can be found in quarterly catalogs of earthquakes (for example, Fogleman and others, 1983). The five stations of the Bradley Lake array (Figure 2 and Table 1) were installed in November 1980. Each station has a vertical-component geophone, and the central station BRLK also has two horizontal-component geophones oriented in north-south and east-west directions. An SMA-1 strong-motion instrument is also operated at the site of the BRLK station.

In June 1983 two new stations were installed between the stations BRSW and SLV in an area where activity was observed during the previous 2 1/2 years of recording. In order to operate these new stations, one of the horizontal components at the BRLK site was discontinued.

DATA PROCESSING

The data recorded by USGS regional seismograph stations in the Bradley Lake region are mailed weekly from Palmer, Alaska, to Menlo Park, California, where they are processed using the following multi-step routine:

1. Scanning: Seismograms with a scale of 15 mm/min for two of the Bradley Lake stations, usually BRLK and BRSW, are scanned to identify and note times of seismic events within the Bradley Lake network and the surrounding area. The events noted are found on the Develocorder film (scale 10 mm/sec) and any event with a P- to S-phase time interval (S-P time) of less than or equal to 6 seconds at one of the Bradley Lake stations is noted for subsequent timing. The upper limit of the S-P timing criterion has varied with time during the project from 10 sec beginning in November 1980, to 12 sec in February 1981, and then to the

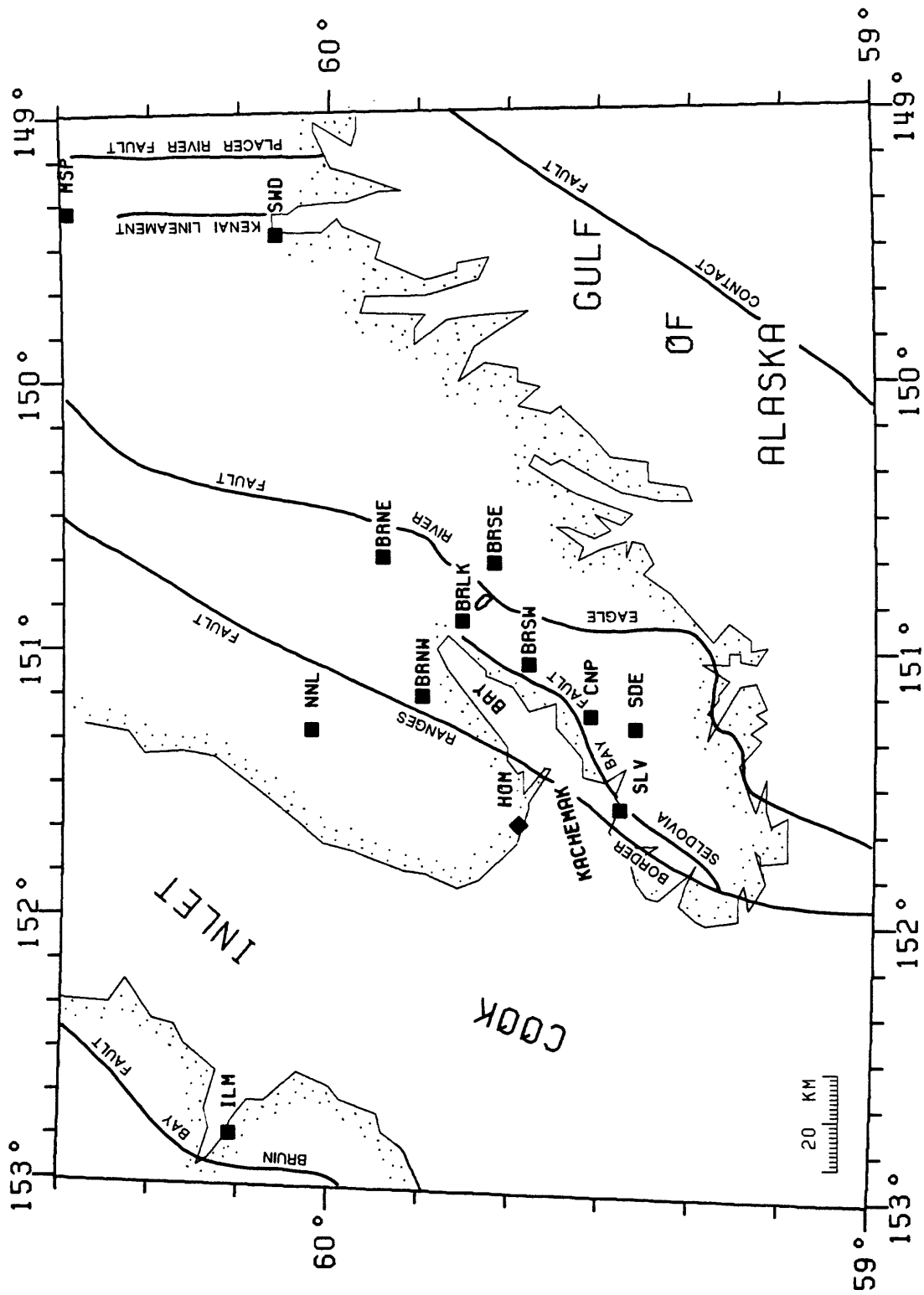


Figure 2 Map of the study area in the Bradley Lake region. All seismic stations are operated by the U.S. Geological Survey with the exception of HOM (diamond) which is operated by the University of Alaska. Faults after Beikman (1980) and Plafker (1969). Bradley Lake is indicated by small oval next to station BRLK near center of map.

TABLE 1. STATION COORDINATES

STATION CODE	LATITUDE, N		LONGITUDE, W		ELEV M	DATE OPENED		
	DEG	MIN	DEG	MIN		YR	MO	DY
BRLK	59	45.85	150	53.13	631	80	11	17
BRNE	59	54.65	150	39.13	1219	80	11	17
BRNW	59	50.25	151	10.15	582	80	11	17
BRSE	59	42.33	150	40.25	975	80	11	17
BRSW	59	38.46	151	2.69	951	80	11	17
CNP	59	31.55	151	14.16	564	83	6	28
HOM	59	39.50	151	38.60	198	81	3	20
ILM	60	10.92	152	48.97	550	71	8	7
MSP	60	29.35	149	21.64	150	73	8	5
NNL	60	2.53	151	17.78	366	72	8	24
SDE	59	26.60	151	16.92	770	83	6	28
SLV	59	28.28	151	34.83	91	72	9	30
SWD	60	6.22	149	26.96	91	72	8	22

This table lists coordinates for stations shown in Figure 2. All stations are operated by the USGS except HOM, which is operated by the University of Alaska. The five stations BRLK, BRNE, BRNW, BRSE, and BRSW were installed and are operated with support from this program. All sites have vertical-component geophones. Two horizontal component geophones oriented north-south and east-west also have been operating at the BRLK site since November 1980, but in June 1983 one of these components was turned off in order to operate one of the two new stations CNP and SDE. In addition, an SMA-1 strong-motion recorder is co-located at the BRLK site.

current value of 6 sec in March, 1983. A one-second S-P interval approximately corresponds to a distance of 8 km. Thus, shocks within about 50 km of one of the five stations are now being timed.

2. Timing: For each of the identified events that has been recorded on the 16-mm Develocorder films at four or more stations in the Bradley Lake region the following data are read for each station: P- and S-phase arrival times; direction of the first motion of the P-wave; duration of signal in excess of 1 cm threshold amplitude (coda); and period and amplitude of maximum recorded signal.
3. Initial computer processing: The data read from the films are batch processed by computer using the program HYPOELLIPSE (Lahr, 1980) to determine the origin time, hypocenter, magnitude, and first-motion plot for each earthquake.
4. Final processing: Each hypocenter solution is checked for large travel time residuals and for poor station distribution. Arrivals that produce large residuals are re-read. For shocks with a poor azimuthal distribution of stations, readings are sought and added from additional stations. The corrected or improved data are then run again and the solutions checked for large residuals that may indicate remaining errors.

Magnitudes are determined from either the coda duration or the maximum trace amplitude (see Fogleman and others, 1983, for details). The magnitude preferentially assigned to each earthquake is that obtained from the coda duration. For shallow earthquakes, the current relationship for computing magnitudes from coda durations results in estimates that are systematically low compared to body-wave magnitudes (m_b) reported by the National Earthquake Information Service (NEIS) and local magnitudes (m_L) reported by the Alaska Tsumani Warning Center (ATWC). Along the northern Gulf of Alaska, the coda-duration magnitudes for shallow earthquakes are generally smaller than m_b by about 1/3 unit at coda magnitude 3 to as much as about 1 unit at coda magnitude 4 (Lahr and others, 1983). This problem is being studied in order to develop a more reliable method of estimating magnitudes from coda duration.

ANALYSIS OF QUALITY

Two types of errors enter into the determination of hypocenters: systematic errors limiting the accuracy and random errors limiting the precision. Systematic errors arise principally from incorrect modeling of the seismic velocity structure of the earth. Random errors result from effects such as random timing errors, and their effect on each earthquake is estimated by standard statistical techniques.

Systematic errors can be greatly reduced by close spacing of seismographic stations within the area of interest, as the hypocentral solution in this situation is much less sensitive to the velocity model assumed for the earth. For this reason, the earthquakes located in the Bradley Lake region since the installation of the additional five stations in late 1980 are expected to have smaller systematic offsets than those located earlier with the less dense regional network.

For each earthquake the lengths and orientations of the principal axes of the joint confidence ellipsoid are calculated. One is 68 percent confident that the hypocenter lies within the one-standard-deviation confidence

ellipsoid, assuming that the only source of error is the estimated random reading error. The size and orientation of the ellipsoid is a function of the station geometry. For earthquakes within the network, the lengths of the ellipsoid axes are generally on the order of 2 to 3 km.

To fully evaluate the quality of a hypocenter, both the size and orientation of the confidence ellipsoid, the root-mean-square (RMS) residual for the solution, and the station geometry must be considered.

RESULTS

The epicenters for 1662 earthquakes that occurred between November 27, 1980, and May 31, 1983, and were located near the southern Kenai Peninsula are shown in Figure 3. Most of these events occurred within the northwestward-dipping Benioff zone that underlies the southern Kenai Peninsula and Cook Inlet (Figure 4). The largest earthquake that occurred during this time period was an event of coda-duration magnitude 4.8 ($5.1 m_b$) which was located at a depth of 118 km in the northwest part of the study area near Iliamna volcano. Ninety-one earthquakes had coda-duration magnitudes of 3 or larger (Table 2 and Figure 5), but all of these events had computed focal depths of 48 km or greater which would place them in the Benioff zone. Twelve of the largest earthquakes were reported in the Preliminary Determination of Epicenters of the USGS National Earthquake Information Service as being felt with maximum intensities ranging from about II to IV (Table 2 and Appendix) in the Kenai-Anchorage area.

Other features of the seismicity that were noted in earlier reports and which can be observed in the data presented here are that the Benioff zone activity dies out near Bradley Lake (near 140 km along the section in Figure 4), that the shallow crustal activity is concentrated east of Cook Inlet, and that few events were located along the Aleutian megathrust.

Benioff zone earthquakes generally occur within a subducted plate near its upper surface. At shallow depths the upper limit of the Benioff zone activity will be near and possibly coincide with the zone of thrust contact between the plates. Hypocenters of well-recorded earthquakes that occurred beneath Bradley Lake (Figure 4) indicate that the maximum depth to the top of the Benioff zone is 37 ± 5 km based on the abrupt increase in the activity at this depth. This depth might change slightly if a different crustal velocity model were used. The seismic zone appears to dip at about 10° in a west-northwest direction.

A few well-recorded earthquakes of magnitude less than 2 have been located beneath Bradley Lake between the Benioff zone activity at 37 km and the shallow crustal activity of the upper 20 km (Figure 6). No reliable focal mechanisms could be obtained for these events, and too few events have been located to define spatial features. Thus, this activity may indicate that faulting extends down into the lower crust, or alternatively, a zone of megathrust interaction between the two converging plates may extend above the Benioff zone and involve a complex zone of splay faulting. Further work is needed to refine the velocity model in this area and thus improve the accuracy of the hypocenters and their locations relative to the crustal and Benioff zone activity. Additional data from continued monitoring will contribute to resolving the nature of this activity.

PATTERN OF SHALLOW EARTHQUAKES

Shallow (depth less than 20 km) earthquakes (Figures 7 and 8 and Table 3) confirm the presence of active faults within the crust. In the available data from 2 1/2 years of recording, 207 shallow earthquakes were located in the study area around the southern Kenai Peninsula. Earthquakes as small as coda-magnitude 0.2 that occur near the Bradley Lake array are routinely

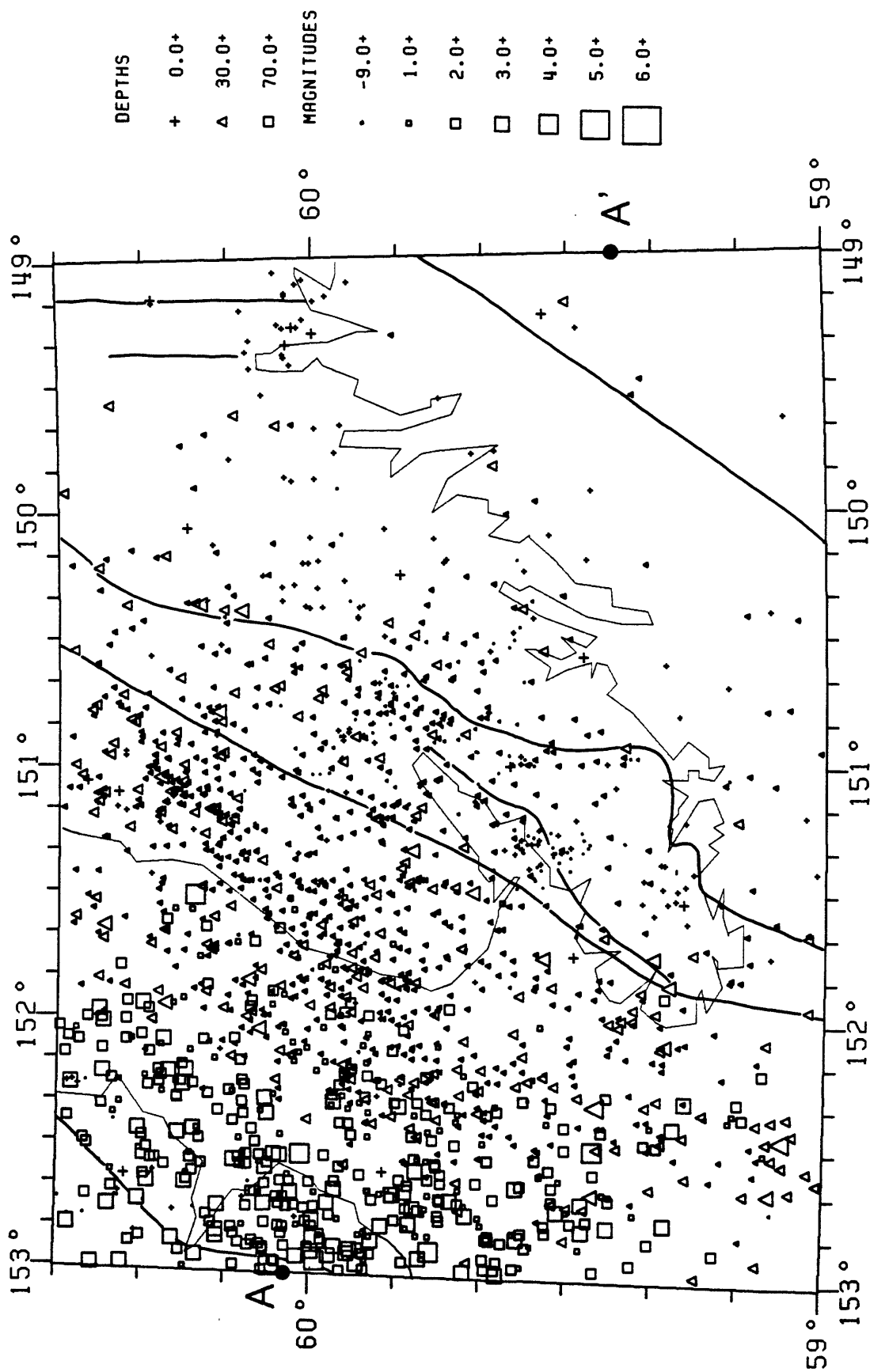


Figure 3 Map of epicenters of 1662 earthquakes that occurred near the southern Kenai Peninsula between November 27, 1980 and May 31, 1983. Heavy lines indicate faults identified in Figure 2.

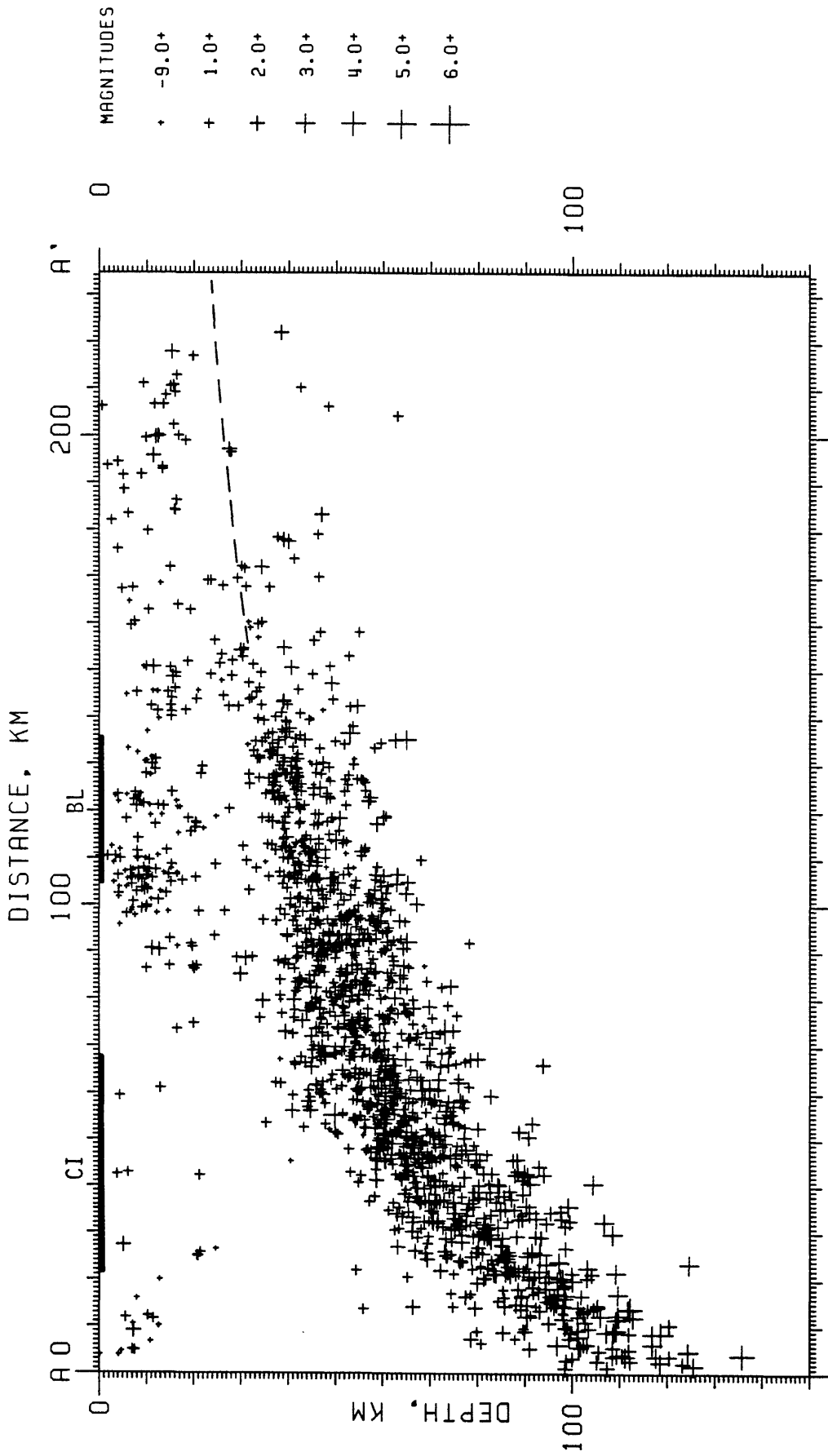


Figure 4 Cross section showing hypocenters of Figure 3 projected onto plane oriented along A-A'. Section width includes area of Figure 3. Heavy lines near 0 km depth indicate approximate locations of Cook Inlet (CI) and Bradley Lake seismic array (BL); light dashed line shows inferred location of Aleutian megathrust.

TABLE 2

EARTHQUAKES OF CODA-DURATION MAGNITUDE 3 AND LARGER NEAR SOUTHERN KENAI PENINSULA NOVEMBER 27, 1980 - MAY 31, 1983															
	ORIGIN HR MN SEC	TIME	LAT N DEG MIN	LONG W DEG MIN	DEPTH KM	MAG	MB	NP	NS	GAP DEG	D3 KM	RMS SEC	ERH KM	ERZ Q KM	
1980	NOV 28	17 44	3.7	60 16.9	152 12.8	90.9	3.6	4.6	35	5	55	57	0.61	1.5	2.9 B
	DEC 11	22 10	60.0	60 2.3	152 41.3	98.4	3.8		34	3	55	78	0.52	1.7	3.4 B
		FELT III AT KENAI AND SOLDOTNA													
1981	JAN 23	17 39	41.7	59 57.0	152 53.8	116.9	3.0		35	5	55	75	0.56	1.4	2.6 B
		26 18	24 54.1	60 8.7	150 23.3	53.0	3.2	4.0	38	9	102	51	0.61	1.1	2.4 A
	FEB 23	13 3	8.5	60 13.5	150 21.8	64.9	3.8	4.8	36	1	100	52	0.52	1.5	2.3 A
		FELT IV AT KENAI, HOMER, MOOSE PASS, AND SEWARD													
	MAR 6	6 44	33.5	60 5.3	152 22.7	81.6	3.1	4.6	29	7	42	73	0.44	1.2	1.9 A
	APR 22	6 31	47.6	60 20.3	152 43.8	124.4	3.6		28	7	81	102	0.57	2.0	3.3 B
		24 7	52 55.0	59 18.3	151 51.0	52.5	3.3	4.0	30	5	111	88	0.49	1.7	3.0 B
		FELT AT HOMER													
		24 21	29 45.1	60 28.6	152 49.8	132.4	3.4	4.0	27	8	67	89	0.54	1.6	3.1 B
	MAY 12	14 36	27.5	59 55.1	152 54.4	107.2	3.1		30	7	137	90	0.55	2.6	2.7 A
		17 8	51 9.5	60 20.4	152 26.8	100.0	3.0		24	5	76	100	0.64	1.5	3.1 B
		21 20	29 33.6	59 45.8	152 54.5	112.2	4.0	4.6	30	1	141	94	0.63	2.3	3.6 B
		FELT ON KENAI PENINSULA AND AT ANCHORAGE													
		27 5	18 36.6	60 1.5	152 56.5	111.1	3.0		24	6	135	92	0.54	2.2	2.5 B
		28 19	8 23.2	60 10.9	152 44.7	108.7	3.7	4.1	30	8	94	82	0.77	1.5	1.9 A
		30 12	44 54.7	59 55.5	152 55.4	101.1	3.3		33	11	84	78	0.50	1.1	1.4 A
	JUL 21	3 17	22.5	59 16.3	152 18.3	76.0	3.3	4.5	38	7	102	97	0.40	1.3	2.5 A
		28 13	43 13.8	59 47.6	152 35.8	82.5	3.0		11	9	222	68	0.49	3.5	2.7 B
		29 5	12 20.5	60 1.3	152 32.3	93.1	4.1		11	6	181	69	0.25	3.5	4.0 B
		30 14	47 32.4	59 26.9	152 19.7	50.0	4.8		13	5	255	86	0.34	3.0	4.8 B
	AUG 1	1 42	17.0	59 59.3	152 52.3	118.7	4.8	5.1	36	3	115	77	0.61	1.8	3.6 B
		FELT IV IN ANCHORAGE-HOMER AREA													
		3 19	43 27.7	60 17.4	151 56.7	59.5	3.7		11	6	114	50	0.37	2.6	4.4 B
		5 10	21 53.1	59 35.9	152 39.1	92.3	3.5		29	6	84	66	0.51	1.4	2.3 A
		7 11	31 17.6	60 25.6	152 59.3	137.5	3.3		31	4	75	98	0.47	1.9	3.9 B
		11 21	27 51.3	59 49.7	152 20.5	90.6	3.2		30	8	71	59	0.50	1.3	1.9 A
	SEP 7	9 57	13.1	60 17.5	152 5.3	104.3	3.2		34	10	60	52	0.68	1.6	2.5 A
		9 18	0 3.8	60 24.6	152 13.2	108.5	3.4		32	8	55	66	0.56	1.2	2.3 A
	OCT 14	11 3	22.4	60 25.1	151 58.4	89.9	3.4		30	7	52	56	0.56	1.1	2.1 A
		15 21	14 28.5	59 48.9	152 40.7	85.7	3.0		36	8	75	85	0.58	1.3	1.7 A
		18 12	36 49.3	60 24.6	151 38.3	69.9	3.0		34	9	55	46	0.72	1.1	2.2 A
		19 1	46 18.2	60 15.2	152 16.1	106.8	3.6		34	3	57	75	0.58	1.3	2.9 B
	NOV 1	9 57	26.0	60 14.8	152 39.5	109.3	3.0		35	8	62	79	0.57	1.1	2.2 A
		3 4	3 15.5	60 4.3	152 32.4	97.2	3.5		39	7	64	68	0.67	1.1	1.6 A
		13 18	10 31.0	60 11.4	150 47.2	50.1	3.0		30	4	77	45	0.67	1.3	2.9 B
		16 23	49 49.4	60 4.6	152 59.0	126.7	4.3	4.5	43	2	65	64	0.61	1.5	2.2 A
		FELT II AT HOMER													
		17 11	28 42.0	60 14.0	151 31.0	73.0	4.1	4.7	41	3	54	59	0.63	1.3	2.5 A
		FELT IV AT KENAI, HOMER, NINILCHIK, SOLDOTNA, CLAM GULCH, COOPER LANDING, TYONEK STERLING, KASLOF, AND GIRDWOOD; ALSO FELT III AT ANCHORAGE, AND II AT PALMER													
	DEC 20	14 13	50.2	59 59.7	152 55.3	101.3	3.4		38	8	68	70	0.47	1.1	1.7 A
		22 4	31 37.4	59 59.7	152 47.8	105.9	3.2		40	8	68	68	0.49	1.2	1.7 A
		25 22	26 40.4	59 35.7	152 51.1	103.2	3.5	4.3	36	3	87	79	0.44	1.5	3.5 B
1982	JAN 1	11 21	32.9	60 13.4	152 56.6	130.3	3.5		40	7	69	49	0.56	1.3	2.1 A
		19 0	48 16.2	60 5.3	152 35.5	97.9	3.3		38	6	64	55	0.58	1.1	2.2 A
		19 17	47 34.0	60 9.1	152 33.9	96.8	3.7	4.3	40	6	61	48	0.68	1.0	1.7 A
	FEB 6	11 50	51.7	59 57.2	152 40.4	97.5	3.0		36	9	69	77	0.61	1.1	2.1 A
		19 18	57 53.7	59 51.6	152 48.8	96.1	3.5	3.9	35	5	142	69	0.53	1.4	2.3 A
		22 11	54 58.3	60 10.9	152 52.1	118.5	3.3		38	8	99	51	0.84	1.1	2.1 A
		26 7	16 58.2	59 59.2	152 57.4	135.8	4.6	4.9	39	1	69	72	0.57	1.7	3.5 B
		FELT IV AT HOMER, CLAM GULCH, KENAI, NINILCHICK, AND TYONEK. FELT III AT ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING, ENGLISH BAY, SELDOVIA, SOLDOTNA, ANCHORAGE, AND PALMER													
		28 6	57 32.5	59 47.1	152 56.2	98.2	3.8	4.4	39	5	78	71	0.58	1.1	2.0 A

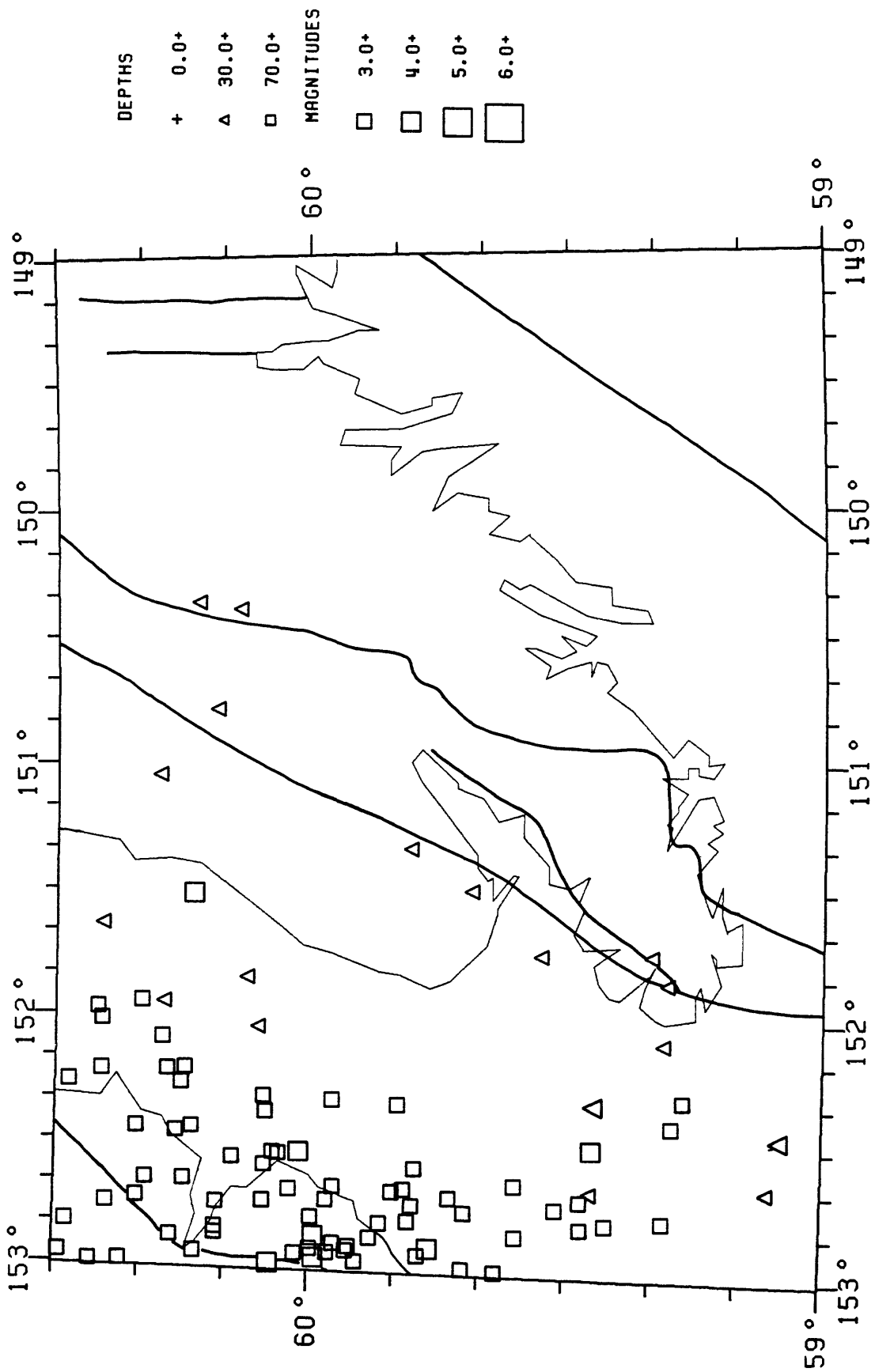


Figure 5 Map of epicenters of coda-magnitude 3 and larger earthquakes that occurred near the southern Kenai Peninsula between November 27, 1980 and May 31, 1983. Heavy lines indicate faults identified in Figure 2.

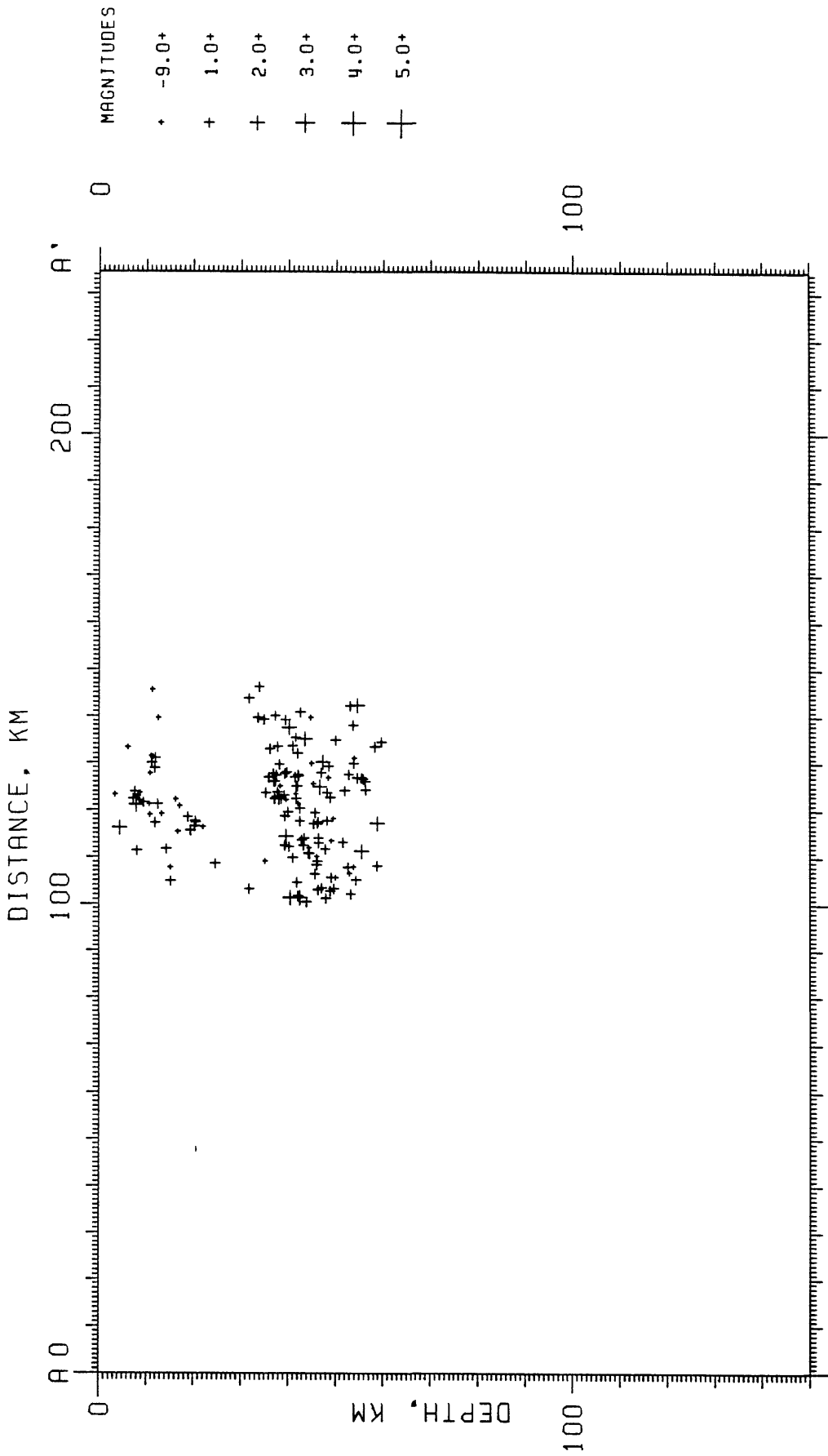


Figure 6 Cross section showing hypocenters of earthquakes located within 25 km epicentral distance from the station BRLK projected onto plane A-A' of Figure 3. Events were also selected to have standard location errors of 5 km or less.

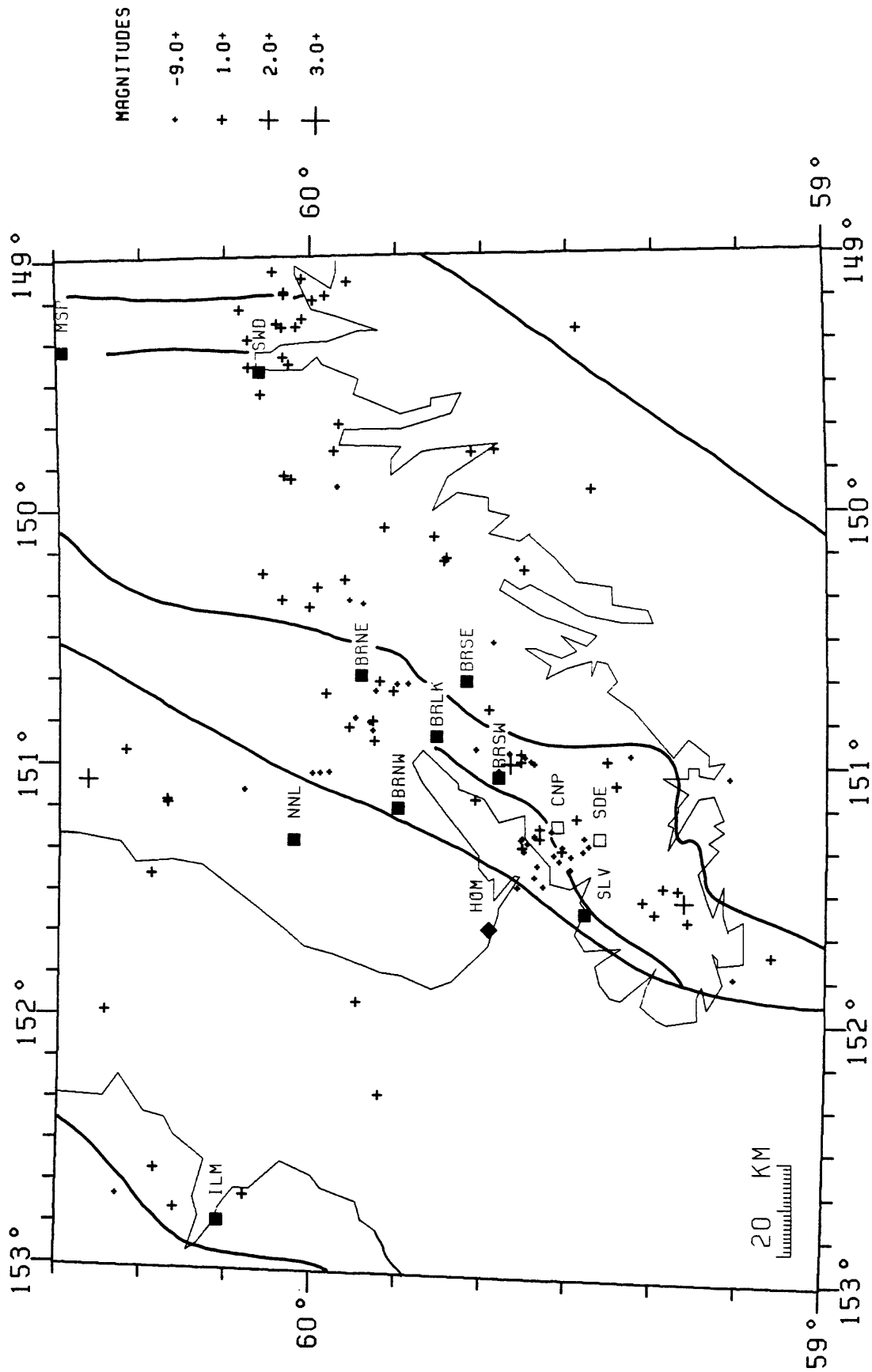


Figure 7 Map of epicenters of shallow (depth less than or equal to 20 km) earthquakes that occurred near the southern Kenai Peninsula between December 1, 1981 and May 31, 1983. Heavy lines indicate faults identified in Figure 2. The open symbols for CNP and SDE indicate that these stations were not operating during this period.

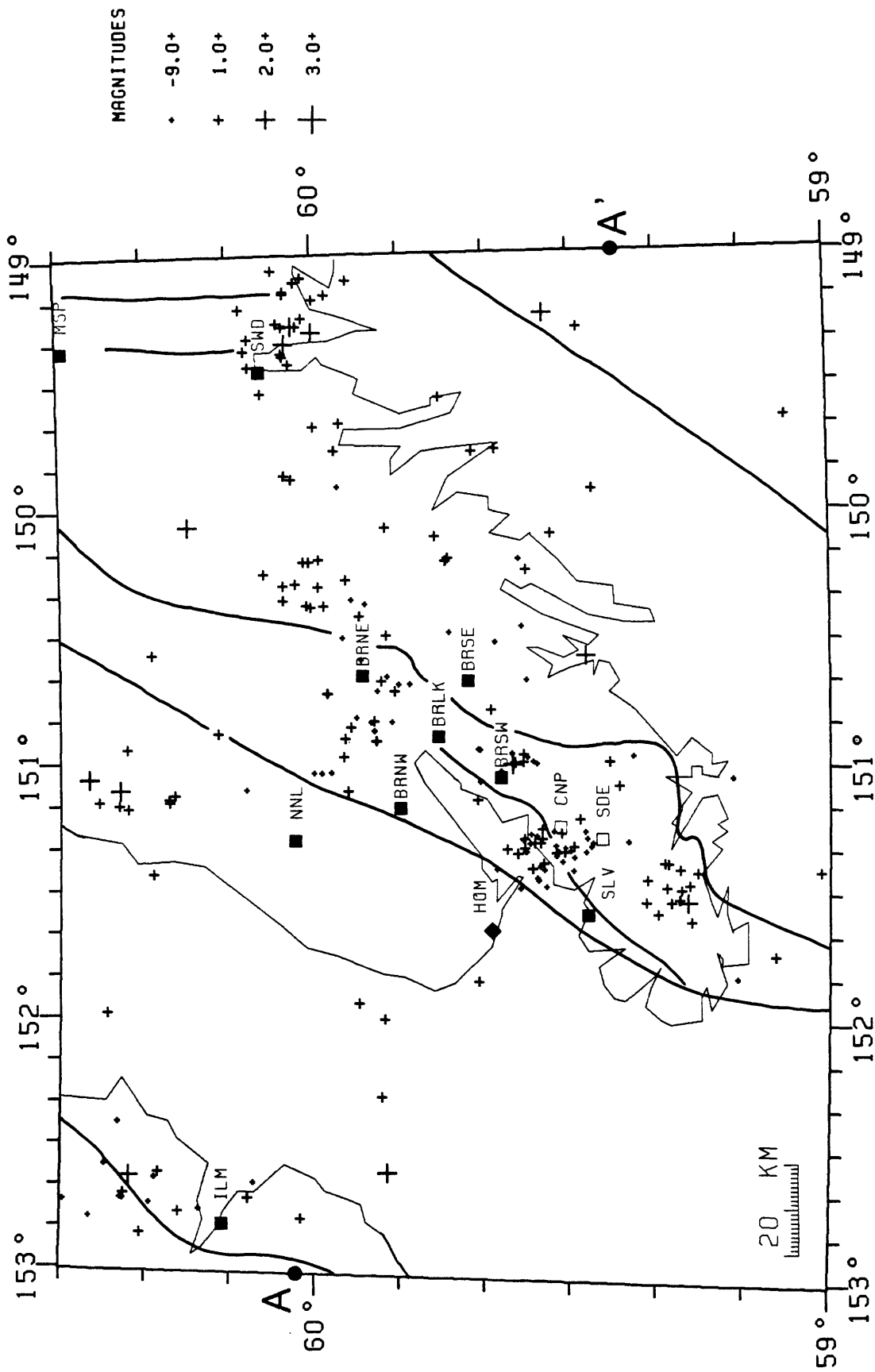


Figure 8 Map of epicenters of shallow (depth less than or equal to 20 km) earthquakes that occurred near the southern Kenai Peninsula between November 27, 1980 and May 31, 1983. Heavy lines indicate faults identified in Figure 2. The open symbols for CNP and SDE indicate that these stations were not operating during this period.

located, but the magnitude threshold increases away from the array due to the criteria used in selecting events for processing and to the increased station separation. The largest shallow event that occurred within the area of Figure 8 during this time had a magnitude of 2.6. The largest shallow event within 25 km of the central station BRLK near Bradley Lake had a magnitude of 2.1, as compared to a magnitude of 2.7 for the largest event in the Benioff zone within the same epicentral distance. Within 25 km of the station BRLK, the rate of shallow activity has been between 15 and 25 times lower than the rate of Benioff zone activity. Along the Kenai Peninsula the rate of shallow activity larger than magnitude 1 remained relatively uniform (Figure 9).

Most of the shallow activity occurred beneath the Kenai Peninsula southeast of the Border Ranges fault. There is no strong correlation of earthquakes with the traces of mapped faults, but the earthquakes do tend to cluster spatially. In the recent period from December 1981 to May 1983, concentrations of activity occurred in areas that had been relatively active during the previous year. These concentrations include one on the southern Kenai Peninsula about 20 km south of the station SLV, one straddling the Seldovia Bay fault southeast of Kachemak Bay between the stations SLV and BRSW, one about 25 km northeast of the station BRNE, and one close to the Kenai lineament near the station SWD (Figure 7). Areas that apparently were less active during the recent time period as compared to the earlier one include one about 7 km southeast of the station BRSW and two others near BRNE, one about 10 to the west and one about 7 km to the south.

FOCAL MECHANISMS

Focal mechanisms have been determined for eight shallow (depth less than 20 km) events that occurred beneath the southern Kenai peninsula since the Bradley Lake network was installed (Stephens and others, 1982). For many of the events the coverage of the focal sphere is poor, but five events near the Bradley Lake network have mechanisms that are reasonably consistent and compatible with normal faulting. The orientations of the tension axes for these events range from east-west to southeast-northwest. This orientation of stress is contrary to what might be expected in a region of northwest-directed plate convergence and is contrary to geologic evidence. However, theoretical studies (for example, Melosh and Fleitout, 1982; Bischke, 1974) suggest that portions of the overriding plate adjacent to a subduction zone may be in tension during the early part of the seismic cycle following a large earthquake (in this case, the 1964 earthquake), and that these zones change to compression prior to the next large earthquake.

STRONG MOTION RECORD

The SMA-1 strong-motion instrument co-located at the site of the high-gain station BRLK was triggered by an earthquake that occurred between June 24, 1982 and June 26, 1983. A preliminary estimate of 0.14 g was obtained for the maximum peak-to-peak horizontal acceleration on the record. At present, the event which caused the trigger is uncertain. In normal operation, an event which causes the strong-motion recorder to trigger can be identified by observing a distinct signal from the strong-motion instrument that is superimposed on the trace of the high-gain instrument. To date, the seismograms of fourteen candidate events of coda magnitude 2.5 and larger have been checked and no signal that would indicate a trigger of the strong-motion recorder was found. Four other events in this magnitude range occurred at times when the BRLK station was not operating or when the seismic signal was not recorded, so there is no direct way to determine whether or not any of these events triggered the instrument. Another possibility is that the triggering mechanism which sends the signal to the high-gain instrument was not working properly.

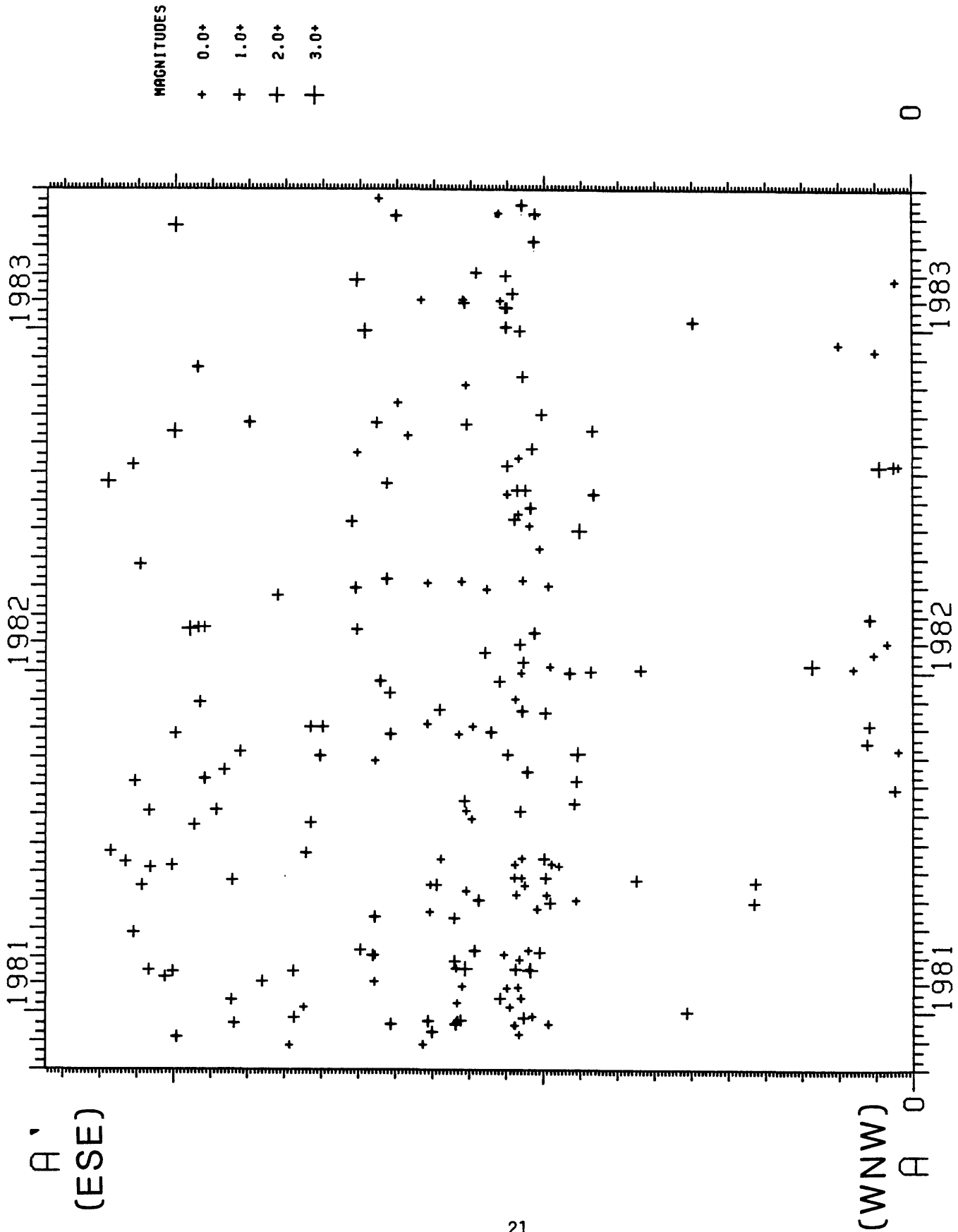


Figure 9 Space-time plot of shallow earthquakes (depth less than or equal to 20 km) from Figure 8 projected onto line A-A' indicated in Figure 8.

In this case, any of the eighteen events described above could have triggered the instrument. A visit to the site is planned for later this summer to check the operation of the trigger. The option of installing an internal clock in the strong-motion recorder should be considered to provide an independent method of identifying earthquakes which cause this instrument to trigger.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

The Bradley Lake seismic network has proved highly successful to date. High-quality hypocenter data are helping to improve our understanding of the tectonic processes active in the Bradley Lake region. The occurrence of shallow earthquakes confirms the presence of active faults within the crust, but faults other than the presently mapped faults must be active to account for the distribution of shallow activity. Well-recorded earthquakes that occur beneath the Bradley Lake array indicate that the depth to the top of the Benioff zone is about 37 ± 5 km. The few earthquakes that occur above the Benioff zone activity between depths of 20 and 35 km suggest that some faults within the upper crust may extend into the lower crust. Alternatively, the zone of megathrust interaction may be shallower than 35 km and involve a complex zone of splay faulting. During the past 2 1/2 years the rate of activity within the crust near Bradley Lake has been about 15 to 25 times lower than in the underlying Benioff zone.

Continued monitoring of the shallow activity near Bradley Lake is essential to help clarify the nature of the crustal activity that occurs throughout the southern Kenai Peninsula. The most critical information will come from the operation of new stations such as CNP and SDE. New stations should be close to seismically active areas because of the improved hypocenter accuracy for resolving the relationship of earthquakes to mapped fault traces. In addition, the P-wave first motions recorded at nearby stations (at distances on the order of a focal depth) constrain focal mechanisms of dip-slip events such as those along the southern Kenai Peninsula. Nearby recordings of P-wave first-motions are particularly useful when the local velocity structure is not well known, as is the case for the southern Kenai Peninsula. Further work is planned to improve this velocity model. For example, travel times recorded along the Kenai Peninsula from well-timed blasts along the Seward Highway north of Turnagain Arm during 1982 will help to constrain the velocity structure. The refined velocity model, improved station control, and application of relative relocation techniques will aid in resolving the relationship between the shallow crustal activity and the mapped faults.

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APPENDIX: INTENSITY SCALE USED BY NEIS

MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY SCALE OF 1931

Adapted from Sieberg's Mercalli-Cancani scale, modified and condensed.

- I. Not felt - or, except rarely under especially favorable circumstances. Under certain conditions, at and outside the boundary of the area in which a great shock is felt: sometimes birds, animals, reported uneasy or disturbed; sometimes dizziness or nausea experienced; sometimes trees, structures, liquids, bodies of water, may sway--doors may swing, very slowly.
- II. Felt indoors by few, especially on upper floors, or by sensitive, or nervous persons. Also, as in grade I, but often more noticeably: sometimes hanging objects may swing, especially when delicately suspended; sometimes trees, structures, liquids, bodies of water, may sway, doors may swing, very slowly; sometimes birds, animals, reported uneasy or disturbed; sometimes dizziness or nausea experienced.
- III. Felt indoors by several, motion usually rapid vibration. Sometimes not recognized to be an earthquake at first. Duration estimated in some cases. Vibration like that due to passing of light, or lightly loaded trucks, or heavy trucks some distance away. Hanging objects may swing slightly. Movements may be appreciable on upper levels of tall structures. Rocked standing motor cars slightly.
- IV. Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few. Awakened few, especially light sleepers. Frightened no one, unless apprehensive from previous experience. Vibration like that due to passing of heavy or heavily loaded trucks. Sensation like heavy body striking building or falling of heavy objects inside. Rattling of dishes, windows, doors; glassware and crockery clink and clash. Creaking of walls, frame, especially in the upper range of this grade. Hanging objects swung, in numerous instances. Disturbed liquids in open vessels slightly. Rocked standing motor cars noticeably.
- V. Felt indoors by practically all outdoors by many or most: outdoors direction estimated. Awakened many, or most. Frightened few--slight excitement, a few ran outdoors. Buildings trembled throughout. Broke dishes, glassware, to some extent. Cracked windows--in some cases, but not generally. Overturned vases, small or unstable objects, in many instances, with occasional fall. Hanging objects, doors, swing generally or considerably. Knocked pictures against walls, or swung them out of place. Opened, or closed, doors, shutters, abruptly. Pendulum clocks stopped, started or ran fast, or slow. Moved small objects, furnishings, the latter to slight extent. Spilled liquids in small amounts from well-filled open containers. Trees, bushes, shaken slightly.
- VI. Felt by all, indoors and outdoors. Frightened many, excitement general, some alarm, many ran outdoors. Awakened all. Persons made to move unsteadily. Trees, bushes, shaken slightly to moderately. Liquid set in strong motion. Small bells rang--church, chapel, school, etc. Damage slight in poorly built buildings. Fall of plaster in small amount. Cracked plaster somewhat, especially fine cracks chimneys in some instances. Broke dishes, glassware, in considerable quantity, also some windows. Fall of knick-knacks, books, pictures. Overturned furniture in many instances. Moved furnishings of moderately heavy kind.

- VII. Frightened all--general alarm, all ran outdoors. Some, or many, found it difficult to stand. Noticed by persons driving motor cars. Trees and bushes shaken moderately to strongly. Waves on ponds, lakes, and running water. Water turbid from mud stirred up. Incaving to some extent of sand or gravel stream banks. Rang large church bells, etc. Suspended objects made to quiver. Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction, slight to moderate in well-built ordinary buildings, considerable in poorly built or badly designed buildings, adobe houses, old walls (especially where laid up without mortar), spires, etc. Cracked chimneys to considerable extent, walls to some extent. Fall of plaster in considerable to large amount, also some stucco. Broke numerous windows, furniture to some extent. Shook down loosened brickwork and tiles. Broke weak chimneys at the roof-line (sometimes damaging roofs). Fall of cornices from towers and high buildings. Dislodged bricks and stones. Overturned heavy furniture, with damage from breaking. Damage considerable to concrete irrigation ditches.
- VIII. Fright general--alarm approaches panic. Disturbed persons driving motor cars. Trees shaken strongly--branches, trunks, broken off, especially palm trees. Ejected sand and mud in small amounts. Changes: temporary, permanent; in flow of springs and wells; dry wells renewed flow; in temperature of spring and well waters. Damage slight in structures (brick) built especially to withstand earthquakes. Considerable in ordinary substantial buildings, partial collapse: racked, tumbled down, wooden houses in some cases; threw out panel walls in frame structures, broke off decayed piling. Fall of walls. Cracked, broke, solid stone walls seriously. Wet ground to some extent, also ground on steep slopes. Twisting, fall, of chimneys, columns, monuments, also factory stacks, towers. Moved conspicuously, overturned, very heavy furniture.
- IX. Panic general. Cracked ground conspicuously. Damage considerable in (masonry) structures built especially to withstand earthquakes: Threw out of plumb some wood-frame houses built especially to withstand earthquakes; great in substantial (masonry) buildings, some collapse in large part; or wholly shifted frame buildings off foundations, racked frames; serious to reservoirs; underground pipes sometimes broken.
- X. Cracked ground, especially when loose and wet, up to widths of several inches; fissures up to a yard in width ran parallel to canal and stream banks. Landslides considerable from river banks and steep coasts. Shifted sand and mud horizontally on beaches and flat land. Changed level of water in wells. Threw water on banks of canals, lakes, rivers, etc. Damage serious to dams, dikes, embankments. Severe to well-built wooden structures and bridges, some destroyed. Developed dangerous cracks in excellent brick walls. Destroyed most masonry and frame structures, also their foundations. Bent railroad rails slightly. Tore apart, or crushed endwise, pipe lines buried in earth. Open cracks and broad wavy folds in cement pavements and asphalt road surfaces.
- XI. Disturbances in ground many and widespread, varying with ground material. Broad fissures, earth slumps, and land slips in soft, wet ground. Ejected water in large amounts charged with sand and mud. Caused sea-waves ("tidal" waves) of significant magnitude. Damage severe to wood-frame structures, especially near shock centers. Great to dams, dikes, embankments often for long distances. Few, if any (masonry) structures remained standing. Destroyed large well-built bridges by the wrecking of supporting piers, or pillars. Affected yielding wooden bridges less. Bent railroad rails greatly, and thrust them endwise. Put pipe lines buried in earth completely out of service.
- XII. Damage total--practically all works of construction damaged greatly or destroyed. Disturbances in ground great and varied, numerous shearing cracks. Landslides, falls of rock of significant character, slumping of river banks, etc., numerous and extensive. Wrenched loose, tore off, large rock masses. Fault slips in firm rock, with notable horizontal and vertical offset displacements. Water channels, surface and underground, disturbed and modified greatly. Dammed lakes, produced waterfalls, deflected rivers, etc. Waves seen on ground surfaces (actually seen, probably, in some cases). Distorted lines of sight and level. Threw objects upward into the air.