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Application of polarization ellipse technique for analysis of ULF magnetic fields from two distant stations in Koyna-Warna seismoactive region, W India

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Abstract. A new approach is developed to find the source azimuth ultra low frequency (ULF) electromagnetic (EM) signals believed to emanating from well defined seismic zone. The method is test applied to magnetic data procured from the seismoactive region of Koyna-Warna known for prolonged reservoir triggered seismicity. Extremely low-high-sensitivity LEMI-30 search coil magnetometers were used to simultaneously measure the vector magnetic field in the frequency range 0.1–10 Hz at two stations, the one located within and another ~100 km away from the seismic active zone. During the observation campaign extended from 15 March to 30 June 2006 two earthquakes (EQs) of magnitude ($M_L > 4$) occurred, which are searched for the presence of precursor signals.

Comparison of polarization ellipses (PE) parameters formed by the magnetic field components at the measurement stations, in selected frequency bands, allows discrimination of seismo-EM signals from the natural background ULF signals of magnetospheric/ionospheric origin. The magnetic field components corresponding to spectral bands dominated by seismo-EM fields define the PE plane which at any instant contains the source of the EM fields. Intersection lines of such defined PE planes at distant observation stations cluster in to the source region. Approaching the magnetic-dipole configuration for the source, the magnetic field components along the intersection lines suggest that azimuth of the magnetic field source align in the NNW-SSE direction. This direction well coincides with the orientation of nodal plane of normal fault plane mechanism for the largest EQs recorded during the campaign. More significantly the correspondence of this direction with the tectonic controlled trend of seismicity, it has been surmised that high pressure fluid flow along the fault that facilitates EQs in the region may also be the source mechanism for the EM fields by electrokinetic effect.

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