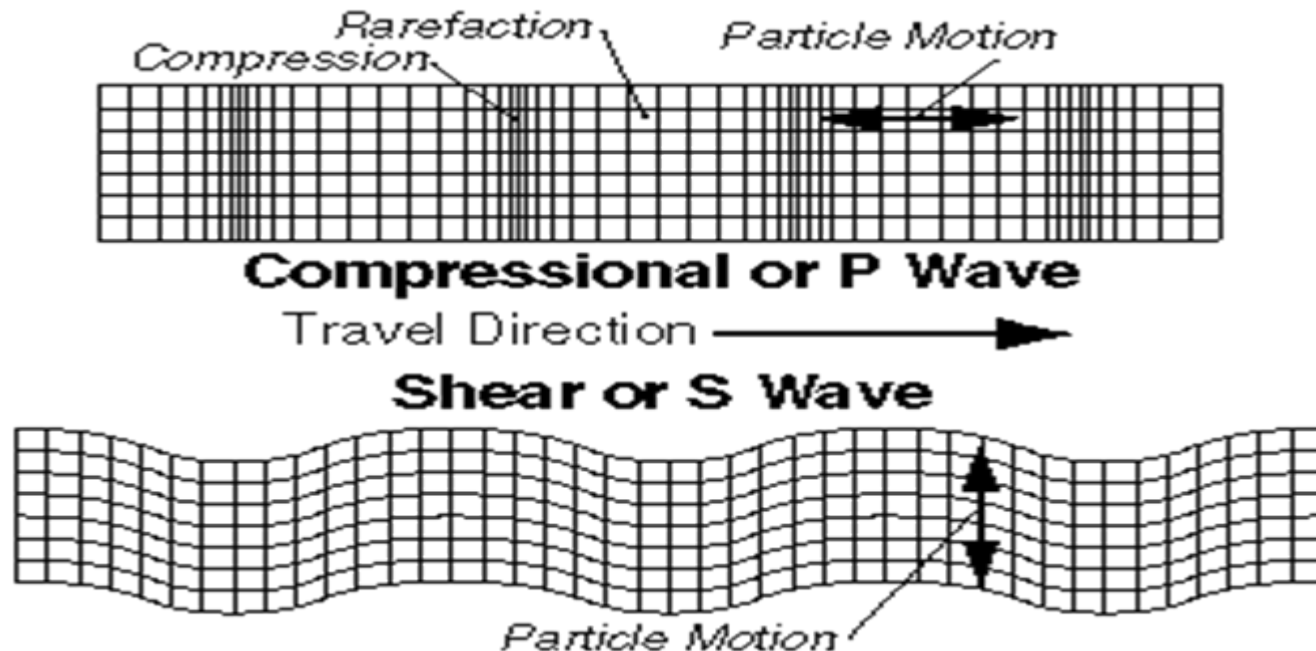


Seismic Waves



The mechanical properties of the rocks that seismic waves travel through quickly organize the waves into two types. Compressional waves, also known as primary or P waves, travel fastest, at speeds between 1.5 and 8 kilometers per second in the Earth's crust. Shear waves, also known as secondary or S waves, travel more slowly, usually at 60% to 70% of the speed of P waves.



P waves shake the ground in the direction they are propagating, while S waves shake perpendicularly or **transverse** to the direction of propagation.

Seismic Wave Demonstrations



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