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# 21 Abstract

Identifying the source mechanisms of low-frequency earthquakes at ice-covered volca-22 noes can be challenging due to overlapping characteristics of glacially and magmatically 23 derived seismicity. Here we present an analysis of two months of seismic data from 24 Llaima volcano, Chile, recorded by the permanent monitoring network in 2019. We find 25 over 2,000 repeating low-frequency events split across 82 families, the largest of which 26 contains over 200 events. Estimated locations for the largest families indicate shallow 27 sources directly beneath or near the edge of glaciers around the summit vent. These 28 low-frequency earthquakes are part of an annual cycle in activity at the volcano that is 29 strongly correlated with variations in atmospheric temperature, leading us to conclude 30 that meltwater from ice and snow strongly affects the seismic source mechanisms related to 31 glacier dynamics and shallow volcanic processes. The results presented here should inform 32 future assessments of eruptive potential at Llaima volcano, as well as other ice-covered 33 volcanoes in Chile and worldwide. 34

## 35 Keywords:

<sup>36</sup> Volcano-seismology, Cryoseismology, Llaima volcano, Volcano monitoring

## 37 Highlights

- We investigate micro-seismic activity at Llaima volcano in early 2019.
- We observe dozens of families of persistent repeating earthquakes.
- Estimated locations suggest sources at shallow depths near or beneath glaciers.
- Long-term activity suggests strong relationship with snow and ice meltwater.

## 42 1. Introduction

Confident identification of recorded seismic signals and their source mechanisms 43 is a fundamental aspect of assessing the eruptive potential of active volcanoes. Civil 44 monitoring organizations and research groups must be prepared to recognize volcanic 45 seismicity generated by fluid or magma ascent within volcanoes (Chouet and Matoza, 46 2013). However, seismic monitoring of active ice-covered volcanoes is complicated by 47 glacial processes (e.g. basal slip, crevassing, ice fall) generating signals greatly resembling 48 those produced by volcanism, raising the risk of misidentification (Weaver and Malone, 49 1976; Métaxian et al., 2003; Caplan-Auerbach and Huggel, 2007; Jónsdóttir et al., 2009; 50 Thelen et al., 2013; Allstadt and Malone, 2014; Lamb et al., 2020). Therefore, detailed 51 descriptions of glacial seismic sources at ice-covered active volcanoes is required before 52 volcanic seismicity is used for assessing future eruption probability. 53

The Southern Chilean Volcanic Zone is home to >19 active ice-covered volcanoes that 54 have erupted in recent history (Fig. 1, inset; Venzke, 2013). Llaima (3179 m a.s.l.) is 55 one of the most active glacier-clad volcanoes in the region with up to 54 documented 56 eruptions since the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Naranjo and Moreno, 2005; Franco et al., 2019). The 57 most recent activity in 2007-09 generated 7 km tall ash plumes and lahars from melting 58 of glacial ice (Franco et al., 2019). As of 2016, >14 km<sup>2</sup> of ice was present on almost all 59 sides of the volcano edifice (Fig. 1; for a detailed description and discussion of how this 60 glacial area was mapped, see Section 2 in Lamb et al., 2020). Most of these glaciers are 61 thin (57 m maximum thickness in 2013; Gärtner-Roer et al., 2014) and retreating rapidly, 62 with significant glacial area reductions in recent decades due to global climate change 63 and eruptive activity (Reinthaler et al., 2019). 64

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Figure 1: Map of Llaima volcano with the locations of OVDAS seismic stations (red squares) used in this study. Also marked are the mapped summit glacial areas which includes 'debris-covered' ice (white area). Thick and thin contours mark 500 and 100 m altitude intervals, respectively. Inset: Map of Southern Chile with the location of Llaima volcano (red triangle) and Santiago (red star, SG) marked. Also plotted are the locations of other ice-covered volcanoes within the Southern Volcanic Zone of Chile that have displayed eruptive activity in last 200 years (white triangles; Venzke, 2013).

Llaima is continuously monitored by OVDAS (Observatorio Volcanológico de los Andes 65 Sur<sup>1</sup>) who require timely and accurate identification of pre-eruptive seismic activity. The 66 challenge in identifying volcanic activity at the volcano was highlighted by Lamb et al. 67 (2020) that described multiple groups of low-frequency (<5 Hz) repeating earthquakes 68 during a two month period in early 2015. While a vast majority of these events were 69 apparently too low-amplitude to be documented in the OVDAS seismic record, their 70 low-frequency, repetitive nature resembles seismicity that can presage or accompany 71 eruptive activity (e.g. Chouet et al., 1994; Iverson et al., 2006; Kendrick et al., 2014; Lamb 72 et al., 2017). On the other hand, similar characteristics have been documented in seismic 73 activity attributed to glacial processes such as crevassing (e.g. Mikesell et al., 2012), 74 ice-fall (e.g. Jónsdóttir et al., 2009), hydrofracturing (e.g. Carmichael et al., 2012), and 75

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>part of Servicio Nacional de Geología y Minería (SERNAGEOMIN)

basal slip (e.g. Thelen et al., 2013; Allstadt and Malone, 2014). After characterizing the
families of repeating events at Llaima, Lamb et al. (2020) concluded they likely originated
from basal slip at the ice-rock interface beneath the glaciers on the edifice. Key evidence
to support this conclusion include mixed arrival polarities at various seismic stations, as
well as shallow locations near or beneath glaciers around the volcano summit.

While the evidence described by Lamb et al. (2020) highlighted the potential for 81 persistent glacial seismic activity at Llaima volcano, the study could not provide concrete 82 conclusions to it's own questions. In particular, the results could not completely rule out 83 other possible sources of repeating seismicity at the volcano, including slow-slip rupture 84 of volcanic materials (e.g. Bean et al., 2013), resonance of fluid-filled cracks (e.g. Chouet, 85 1996), and the interaction of snow and ice meltwater with magnetic hydrothermal fluids 86 (e.g. Matoza et al., 2015; Park et al., 2019). Large error margins on locations for only a 87 small number of repeating event families meant no strong conclusion could be made on 88 the seismic source mechanism. Furthermore, the analysis of 2015 data raises the question 89 of why was this persistent repeating seismic activity not previously documented? Llaima 90 volcano has been instrumentally monitored by OVDAS since 1996 (Franco et al., 2019) 91 and the glaciers on the edifice are supplemented by thick annual snowfall. Are the glaciers 92 on the volcano changing (e.g. sliding faster) and the 2015 deployment was fortunate to be 93 the first to record the repeating seismicity, or have these events been a long-term feature at the volcano but have been overlooked by previous studies? 95

In this study, we build on the findings of Lamb et al. (2020) by describing analysis of 96 seismic data recorded in early 2019 over a similar two month period as in 2015. Here we 97 aim to ascertain whether persistent, repetitive seismicity was recorded by the permanent 98 OVDAS network during a two-month period in early 2019, using a similar but fine-tuned 90 approach as the previous study. This includes using a different, amplitude-based location 100 algorithm (instead of relative arrival times). We conclude by discussing the implications 101 of our findings within the context of long-term seismic activity monitoring at Llaima, and 102 how these events are likely related to variations in snow and ice meltwater. 103

### 104 2. Data and Methodology

# 105 2.1. Data

OVDAS are responsible for maintaining a network of seismometers around Llaima volcano, with 8 stations located within 10 km of the summit (Fig. 1). This includes two short-period, vertical component sensors (PIC and LAJ) and six broadband, threecomponent seismometers (AGU, CON, CRU, LAV, LLA and MO2), all recording and telemetered to OVDAS at 100 samples per second. The network around Llaima also includes stations designed to detect regional tectonic earthquakes and not volcanic

events (PA2, located 10.8 km SSE of LLA) or not available during the period of study 112 due to technical issues (CNO, 2 km SSW of LAV), therefore neither of these stations 113 were appropriate for use in this study. Additionally, weather data (temperature and 114 precipitation) was monitored hourly at a station located in the town of Melipeuco (527 115 m a.s.l., 17 km SSE of the volcano summit), maintained by the Agricultural Research 116 Institute (INIA; data available via https://agrometeorologia.cl/, last accessed October 117 2021). For this study, we use the data recorded from 1 February until 1 April 2019 by 118 the eight stations described above and detailed in Fig. 1 and Table S1 in Supplementary 119 Materials. 120

Earthquakes recorded by the network around the volcano are manually picked and 121 catalogued by OVDAS, with waveform shapes, amplitudes, frequency characteristics 122 and arrival times used to differentiate between volcanic and tectonic earthquakes. The 123 majority of volcanic events are then divided into volcano-tectonic (>5 Hz), long-period 124 (0.5 - 5 Hz), or tremor events, and the temporal behaviour of each type has important 125 implications for assessing the future eruptive potential of the volcano (see Chouet and 126 Matoza, 2013, and references therein). Icequake events are also manually catalogued 127 despite no mandate to do so, but until Lamb et al. (2020), few studies had analysed 128 their recurrence in the seismic record (Mora-Stock et al., 2014); potential low amplitude 120 icequakes would frequently be recognised at stations located close to the glaciers (e.g. 130 AGU, Fig. S1 in Supp. Materials) but usually not catalogued. To assist with our study 131 of the seismic record in early 2019, we use the OVDAS seismic event catalogue from 1 132 February until 1 April 2019. The number of events catalogued by OVDAS during this 133 period are described in the results section. 134

### 135 2.2. Event detection

To detect candidate seismic events at Llaima volcano in early 2019, we adopt a 136 similar approach to that used in 2015 (Lamb et al., 2020). Trigger times were extracted 137 from multiple stations using a short-term average/long-term average ratio (STA/LTA), 138 on condition that an event was detected simultaneously at  $\geq 3$  stations in the OVDAS 139 network. Window lengths of 0.7 and 8 s were used for the short- and long-term windows, 140 respectively, with a ratio threshold of 3.5 used to define a detected event at each station. 141 These parameters were decided using manual inspection of events detected over 24 hours 142 of seismic data recorded at station AGU and differ from those used in 2015 (minimum 2 143 stations, 1 and 9 s for short- and long-term windows, and a ratio threshold of 5). Seismic 144 data during this step were pre-filtered with a 1-10 Hz bandpass filter to improve the 145 signal-to-noise ratio (SNR). Lastly, the catalogue of triggers was combined with the 146 catalogue of all seismic events manually compiled by OVDAS over the same time period, 147

with duplicates removed. This last step differs from the 2015 study (Lamb et al., 2020)which only used the OVDAS catalogue for comparison purposes.

### 150 2.3. Identifying repeating events

The next step is to find repetitive seismic events (i.e. families) within the catalogue 151 of candidate seismic events compiled by the multi-station STA/LTA algorithm. This 152 step follows a similar unsupervised clustering methodology to that used in Lamb et al. 153 (2020) for the 2015 families, which is itself based on the approach used to recognise 154 repeating events at Mt Rainier volcano (Carmichael, 2013; Allstadt and Malone, 2014). 155 Each event is cross-correlated with all other events within each day, using a minimum 156 cross-correlation coefficient of 0.8 to define 2 events as closely matching; this is higher 157 than the 0.7 used for repeating events in 2015. The first 5 s of each event waveform is 158 used, which is sufficient to maximise the SNR of each event. As station AGU had the 159 highest number of detected events, waveforms from this station were used to build the 160 catalogue of families. Families of repeating waveforms were defined using a hierarchical 161 clustering method similar to that used by Buurman and West (2010) and Lamb et al. 162 (2017); the scipy.cluster.hierarchy Python package is used for this step (For more 163 details, see https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/, last accessed October 2021). In 164 this approach, branches within the hierarchy are joined at nodes whose height is the mean 165 cross-correlation value between each event pairs spanning the two groups. These nodes 166 may join individual events or between clusters of events, depending on which linkage has 167 the highest mean cross-correlation, and families are defined by nodes whose values are 168 higher than a threshold. 169

Next, for each day a median waveform stack is computed for each family of 2 or 170 more events, which are then compared with all other stacks across the whole time period 171 to find larger, multi-day families. The last step ensures a more complete repeating 172 event catalogue by using a frequency-domain approach with an overlap-add method, 173 vectorization, and fast normalization to increase computation efficiency (SEC-C; Senobari 174 et al., 2019). This step scans the entire time period with stacked waveforms from all 175 multi-day and non-matched families (i.e. not multi-day) to find any events potentially 176 overlooked in previous steps. This last step differs from Lamb et al. (2020) which only 177 used multi-day families to scan for missed events, potentially underestimating the total 178 number of families taking place in 2015. 179

### 180 2.4. Event locations

Arrival time location methods cannot be used on each individual event in each family as most are emergent and/or have onsets obscured by background noise. Since these events are repetitive, one option is to remove background noise be generating mean

waveforms (i.e. stacks) of the respective families at each station. This approach was 184 effective in locating families of icequakes at Mt Rainier volcano (Allstadt and Malone, 185 2014), but was less effective for similar events at Llaima in 2015 (Lamb et al., 2020). 186 Large errors ( $\sim 500$  m) can be introduced by small offsets in stacking, which is difficult if 187 the original events have low SNRs, or if the shallow velocity model for the area is not 188 known. Here we adopt an approach which uses the full waveform instead of relying on 189 relatively accurate arrival time measurements, and was originally developed for locating 190 episodic tremor and slip in the northern Cascadian subduction zone (Wech and Creager, 191 2008). Locations are estimated with a cross-correlation method that maximizes signal 192 coherency among seismic stations within the network. 193

Centroid locations are estimated by cross-correlating all station pairs and performing a 3D grid search over potential source-location S-wave lag times that optimize the crosscorrelations. The objective function  $M(x^{grid})$  is a weighted L1 norm on all pairs of cross-correlograms (Wech and Creager, 2008):

$$M(x^{grid}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=i+1}^{N} \frac{C_{ij}^{max} - C_{ij}(\delta t_{ij}(x^{grid}))}{\Delta C(C_{ij}^{max})}$$
(1)

where  $x^{grid}$  is a target source position,  $C^{ij}$  is the normalized cross-correlogram between 198 the *i*th and *j*th functions, N is the number of seismograms,  $C_{ij}^{max}$  is the maximum value 199 of the cross-correlogram, and  $\delta t_{ij}(x^{grid}) = t_i(x^{grid}) - t_j(x^{grid})$  is the predicted differential 200 S-wave travel time between the *i*th and *j*th station using  $v_s = 2.5$  km.s<sup>-1</sup> (Franco et al., 201 2019); we assume the largest seismic amplitudes are generated during the arrival of 202 S-waves at each station. Thus, for each possible grid location, we predict the lag time, 203  $\delta t_{ij}(x^{grid})$ , between station pairs and evaluate its corresponding correlation value from 204 the cross-correlogram  $C_{ii}(\delta t_{ii}(x^{grid}))$ . Traditional location methods seek solutions that 205 minimizes the time difference between predicted travel time and peak lag time, but this 206 method instead minimizes the distance between the peak correlation,  $C_{ij}^{max}$ , and the 207 predicted correlation,  $C_{ij}(\delta t_{ij}(x^{grid}))$ . Using only those observations with  $C_{ij}^{max} > 0.5$ , we 208 maximize network coherency with respect to variations in  $x_{grid}$  by minimizing the sum 209 over station pairs of this vertical correlation distance,  $C_{ij}^{max} - C_{ij}(\delta t_{ij}(x^{grid}))$  inversely 210 weighted by the uncertainty  $\Delta C(C_{ij}^{max})$ . 211

The above calculation was performed within the 'enveloc' Python package (Wech and Creager, 2008). This optimization problem was performed on a grid with 0.005° lateral and 100 m depth intervals (down to 5 km) centered on the summit of the volcano. However, the 'enveloc' package was originally developed for searching for locations across a much larger area than that which is used here so topography was previously not taken into account, and stations were located at the top of the grid (i.e. the surface). With a

vertical difference of  $\sim 1800$  m between stations 7 km apart (PIC and LLA), we customized 218 the grid location search to account for the sharp topography around Llaima volcano. The 219 top of the grid is set as the summit of the volcano, and each station was then embedded 220 within the grid at the relevant coordinates and depth. Each grid point was then compared 221 to a topographic map, all points above the topography were excluded and the remaining 222 grid point with the lowest misfit, defined as  $C_{ij}^{max} - C_{ij}(x^{best})$ , was picked as the source 223 location. Centroid location results at or too close to the edge of the search grid were 224 rejected. 225

### 226 2.5. Qualitative event magnitude estimation

For each family successfully located on Llaima volcano we can also estimate their 227 individual event magnitudes, assuming that each family is derived from a fixed location. 228 Event magnitudes, together with characteristic frequencies, of glacially derived seismicity 229 may also provide evidence towards the source mechanism of each family (Podolskiy and 230 Walter, 2016). Magnitudes for long-period and tremor events detected at Llaima by 231 OVDAS are not routinely calculated (the reduced displacement is calculated instead), 232 therefore we adopt an approach previously used for qualitatively estimating magnitudes of 233 micro-seismic events detected at Hekla volcano, Iceland (Eibl et al., 2014). This approach 234 uses recorded amplitudes of located regional seismic events to estimate the magnitudes of 235 local events using their source amplitudes. The 37 regional events used here were recorded 236 and documented by Centro Sismológico Nacional (CSN) and OVDAS, occurring up to 237 250 km from Llaima volcano, up to depths of 113 km, at azimuths between 170 and  $30^{\circ}$ , 238 and with calculated local magnitudes of 0.5 - 4.0 (Table S2 and S3 in Supp. Material). 239

Before estimating magnitudes, site effects must be removed from the recorded seismic 240 data at each station. Coda waves can be used to estimate site amplification (Aki and 241 Ferrazzini, 2000; Battaglia and Aki, 2003; Kumagai et al., 2010; Eibl et al., 2014). For 242 each regional event recorded by CSN and OVDAS we used a 30 s time window that begins 243 at  $2t_s$ , where  $t_s$  is the estimated arrival time of S-waves at each station. Each waveform 244 was instrument corrected and bandpass filtered to 1 - 10 Hz before root mean square 245 values in 5 s, non-overlapping windows were calculated (Aki, 1969). All RMS values were 246 averaged and compared to the chosen reference station, MO2. This station was selected 247 as the reference station as it had the least interrupted seismic dataset and least local high 248 frequency background noise. The resulting correction factors are provided in Table S1 in 249 Supplementary Materials. 250

To estimate source amplitudes for each of the regional events, we first remove the site amplification and instrument response, before filtering to 1 - 10 Hz. The maximum of the smoothed Hilbert Transform was used as maximum amplitude  $A_i$  at each station *i*. The amplitude at the source,  $A_0$ , was then calculated at each station based on (Battaglia and Aki, 2003)

$$A_{0_i} = \frac{A_i r_i}{e^{B r_i}} \tag{2}$$

256 with

$$B = \frac{\pi f}{Q\beta} \tag{3}$$

where r is the source-to-receiver distance, f is the central frequency,  $\beta$  is wave velocity 257  $(2.5 \text{ km.s}^{-1})$ , and Q is the quality factor for attenuation (100; Eibl et al., 2014). A linear 258 regression was then implemented with the logarithm of the mean source amplitudes 259 versus the published local magnitudes. Finally, to estimate the local magnitudes of the 260 events detected in this study at Llaima, we first calculate their source amplitudes using 261 estimated source location of each family of repeating events, under the assumption that 262 families of repeating events are derived from a relatively fixed source location. These 263 source amplitudes were then converted to a local magnitude using the regression line 264 calculated using regional events. 265

#### <sup>266</sup> 3. Results

### 267 3.1. Seismic activity

Between 1 February and 1 April 2019, we detected 6,647 seismic events at Llaima 268 volcano (Fig. 2a). Higher numbers of events were detected at stations closer to the 269 summit, and hourly rates of detections appear to show a diurnal variation that is inversely 270 correlated with background seismic noise levels (Fig. S3). During the same time period, 271 OVDAS manually catalogued a total of 967 events, including 666 long-period, 1 volcano-272 tectonic, 271 rockfall, and 29 icequakes (Fig. 2c, S2). Using the catalogue of automatic 273 detections, we identified 2,006 repeating events across 82 families (Fig. 2b, 3). Of these, 274 370 events were already featured in the OVDAS catalogue, including 270 classified as 275 long-period events. The largest of these families contained 207 events (Family 5; Fig. 3). 276 The daily rate of seismicity, including repeating events, show no obvious indications of 277 cyclic activity or significant changes in rates except for 18 March. On that date, a peak in 278 seismic activity (not seen in repeating events; Fig. 2b) occurs shortly after a brief period 279 of rainfall recorded at the town of Melipeuco, approximately 17 km SSE of the volcano 280 summit (Fig. 2d). 281

# 282 3.2. Locations

Locations were estimated for all families containing at least 30 seismic events (n=17, highlighted with blue diamonds in Fig. 3). Due to low SNRs for individual events,



Figure 2: Rates for (a) events automatically detected, (b) events classified as repeaters, and (c) seismic events manually classified by OVDAS from 1 February to 1 April 2019 in 3-hour bins. (d) Cumulative rainfall (blue line) and variations in temperature on an hourly (grey) and daily rate (orange line) at the weather station located in Melipeuco.

locations could only be reliably estimated using mean waveforms for each family at each 285 station, generated by stacking waveforms of all events. An example of an estimated 286 location is given in Figure 4 for family 4; see Figs. S5 - S20 in the supplementary materials 287 for all other locations. Out of the 17 families for which locations were estimated, 5 were 288 rejected due to locations at or too close to the edge of the search grid (Families 10, 19, 36, 289 71, and 73; Figs. S11, S13, S17, S20 and S21, respectively). The remaining 12 families 290 are all located at shallow depths (<500 m) around the summit of the volcano (Fig. 5). 291 Note that 5 of these families are located at or within close approximation to each other 292 (Families 2 and 64, and Families 16, 21, and 32). With the exception of family 7, all 293 located families were located directly beneath or at the edge of mapped glacial areas 294 around the summit of the volcano. 295

## 296 3.3. Qualitative magnitude estimates

Local magnitudes were estimated for each event within all families for which locations could be calculated (Fig. 5). Local magnitudes for all located repeating events fell within the 0.9 - 1.5 range, with little distinct difference between families (Fig. 6). As we



Figure 3: Catalogue of family occurrence in our dataset. Each plotted point represents the time of an event, and lines join events from the same family. The total number of events in each family is noted with grey numbers before the first event. Families containing 30 or more events are highlighted using blue diamonds for the individual events.

assumed straight wave propagation between source and receiver, we underestimate A<sub>0</sub> for regional events which, in turn, implies that local magnitudes for all repeating events are overestimated; therefore, the values calculated here represent a maximum feasible value.

# 303 4. Discussion

Here we have presented results from detailed analysis of seismic data collected at Llaima volcano in early 2019, with the aim of building on previous work (Lamb et al., 2020) to understand the prevalence of icequakes from glaciers around the summit. The



Figure 4: Example output of location method used, here illustrating the location of Family 4 (red star). The green square in each cross section panel (right and bottom) shows the location if topography was not accounted for. Dotted lines indicate the profiles of the cross-section panels (right and bottom), centred on the final location of the family. Blue lines on main panel outline the mapped summit glacial areas. Black squares are locations of OVDAS seismic stations.

key differences from Lamb et al. (2020) is this study uses seismic data from the permanent
OVDAS monitoring network around the volcano (Fig. 1), a new approach for calculating
event locations that does not rely on accurate arrival time picks, as well as a first attempt
at quantifying local magnitudes of the repeating seismic events.

The persistent repeating seismicity observed in 2015 (Lamb et al., 2020) appears 311 to be continuing in 2019, albeit with higher numbers of detected events (Fig. 2a, b). 312 Consequently, these observations answer the questions posed in the introduction by 313 suggesting that persistent repeating seismic activity is a long-term feature at Llaima 314 volcano. The elevated levels of activity in 2019 relative to 2015 is reflected by the higher 315 number of manually catalogued events by OVDAS (Fig. 2c), with 967 events in 2019 316 compared to 490 in 2015. Furthermore, the seismic activity in 2019 appears to show 317 no relation to changes in weather (Fig. 2d) which was also observed in 2015 (Lamb 318 et al., 2020). One key difference between 2019 and 2015 is that the number of families of 319 repeating events is much greater in the former than the latter time period, with 82 and 320 11, respectively. This is likely due to a slightly different criteria for classifying families in 321 each analysis, in particular, with the 2015 study only using stacks from multi-day families 322



Figure 5: Results for all families that were located (stars). Each star is coloured by the minimum misfit for their location. Dotted lines indicate the profiles of the cross-section panels (right and bottom), centred on the summit of the volcano. Red squares indicate the location of OVDAS seismic stations, and blue lines outline the mapped summit glacial areas.



Figure 6: Results of qualitative local magnitude estimates. (a) Local magnitudes of located repeating events in this study (blue cross) estimated using the linear regression (dotted line) calculated from regional events detected by CSN (red dots) and OVDAS (black dots). (b) Half-violin plots for each located family showing their distribution of estimated local magnitudes with rotated kernel density plots (blue). Also plotted is the median (red circle) and mean (black cross) of the local magnitude for each family. Numbers above each half-violin plot indicate the total number of events within each family.

to scan for missed events with the SEC-C algorithm (Senobari et al., 2019). If we use the same criteria in 2019 as that used in 2015, we find only 12 families in total (not shown here).

Compared to 2015, the new approach for calculating locations of repeating events 326 is more successful in 2019 (Fig. 5). The results suggest that the locations of all the 327 largest detected families are shallow (<100 m) and almost all beneath or near the edge of 328 glaciers around the summit of Llaima volcano, with the sole exception being family 7 (Fig. 329 S9). These location estimates represent an improvement on those in 2015, with a greater 330 number of families located and more robust estimation of location errors. However, there 331 remain significant errors (represented here by the misfit) in locations, particularly in the 332 vertical component (e.g. see cross-section panels in Fig. 4). This is due to the use of 333 a 1D velocity model for Llaima volcano, as no shallow 2D velocity model is currently 334 available for the volcano. We assessed the sensitivity of the location estimations to the 335 chosen seismic velocity  $(2.5 \text{ km}.\text{s}^{-1})$  by re-estimating locations with three other possible 336 velocities (1.25, 2.0 and 3.0 km.s<sup>-1</sup>). Results indicate that while locations may change, 337 they remain within the lowest uncertainty levels indicated by the location misfits of the 338 original locations (Fig. S22 - S24). Furthermore, the depths of the locations generally 339 remain in the shallow depths of the upper edifice. Therefore, the estimated locations 340 and depths for most families support the hypothesis that these were generated by glacial 341 activity rather than volcanic. 342

Qualitative event magnitudes for each located family suggest little distinct differences 343 in energies between families (Fig. 6). The lack of obvious differences between each family 344 suggests they may be generated by a similar source mechanism, but at different locations. 345 A review of glacial seismicity has suggested that source mechanisms may be identified 346 via their frequency versus magnitude relationship (see Fig. 14 in Podolskiy and Walter, 347 2016). For the repeating events for which we have estimated their local magnitudes, 348 their central frequencies lie in the range of 3.5 to 6.5 Hz which would be associated with 349 stick-slip activity at the base of glaciers. Similar frequencies were observed for basal 350 stick-slip events at Iliamna and Mt Rainier volcanoes (Caplan-Auerbach et al., 2004; 351 Caplan-Auerbach and Huggel, 2007; Allstadt and Malone, 2014), but the magnitudes 352 estimated at Llaima ( $M_l 1 - 1.2$ ; Fig. 6) are higher but likely represent overestimates 353 due to an underestimation of  $A_0$  for regional seismic events. The relatively thin ice 354 thicknesses on Llaima volcano (maximum 57 m in 2013; Gärtner-Roer et al., 2014) may 355 preclude the occurrence of stick-slip activity due to insufficient normal stresses. However, 356 we argue that the steepness of volcano edifice provides conditions to induce stick-slip 357 activity at the base of the glaciers, as indicated by the locations of families on the steepest 358 parts of the edifice (see cross-section panels in Fig. 5). Alternative glacial processes for 359

generating repetitive icequakes include englacial crevassing (e.g. Mikesell et al., 2012), 360 hydrofracturing (e.g. Carmichael et al., 2012), and ice-fall (e.g. Jónsdóttir et al., 2009). 361 Crevassing is considered an unlikely process as it releases very little seismic energy and is 362 typically only detected by seismic stations directly on the ice or on rock very close by 363 (Weaver and Malone, 1979; Thelen et al., 2013; Allstadt and Malone, 2014). Furthermore, 364 steep glaciers are poorly coupled to their bed and therefore do not efficiently transmit 365 seismic waves outside the ice (Kamb, 1970; Weaver and Malone, 1979). Hydrofracturing 366 is not considered a major process for the families in 2019 as there was no clear evidence 367 for harmonics or consistent spectral peaks across the seismic stations (not shown here), 368 though the resonant nature of signal could be lost due to waveform alteration between 369 source and receiver. Finally, we also exclude ice-fall because, as noted in Lamb et al. 370 (2020), there are no documented areas that host persistent, highly-repetitive glacial ice 371 collapse around Llaima volcano. 372

The estimation of locations (and in turn, the event magnitudes) using waveform stacks 373 assumes that the source for each event within each family remains fixed. Geller and 374 Mueller (1980) suggest highly correlated waveforms such as those found in repeating event 375 families must be within a quarter wavelength so as to not be influenced by the structure 376 between two source locations. Central frequencies for events within the largest families 377 range from 3.5 to 6.5 Hz which, together with  $v_s = 2.5$  km.s<sup>-1</sup>, suggest the spread of 378 locations should be no more than approximately 96 to 179 m. However, cross-correlations 379 between all events relative to the first detected event highlight a gradual de-correlation 380 over the lifespan of each family (Fig. S4; note these are not the same cross-correlation 381 values used to assign events into families). A similar observation was made for icequake 382 families at Mt Rainier volcano (Thelen et al., 2013) and is likely the result of either 383 changes in source mechanism, modifications to the source-receiver pathway, or the slow 384 migration of the source over time. Here we favour the latter option, considering the 385 other options would likely give abrupt changes in correlation over time, not somewhat 386 continuous. For example, significant precipitation events at Mt Rainier produced abrupt 387 but short-lived reductions in cross-correlation values (See Fig. 5 in Thelen et al., 2013). 388 Before conclusions can be drawn from short-term observations and analysis, the 389 results from this study as well as Lamb et al. (2020) must be placed in the context of 390 the long-term seismic activity of Llaima volcano (Fig. 7). From 1 January 2013 to 31 391 December 2020, a total of 11,079 LP earthquakes were cataloged at Llaima volcano and 392 daily event rates over that time show a clear annual fluctuation with higher event rates in 393 the austral summer (December to April) versus the winter (May to November; Fig. 7a). 394 Over the same time period, volcanic activity at Llaima was minimal aside from a brief but 395 intense swarm of volcanic LP events from 1-3 October 2017, peaking with 460 events on 2 396

October (Fig. 7a). A visual comparison with daily weather measurements from a station 397 located in Melipeuco (Fig. 7b) shows an apparent positive correlation with temperature 398 and negative correlation with rainfall. To quantify this relationship, we performed a 399 normalised cross-correlation between temperature, rainfall and wind velocities and the 400 rate of LP earthquakes. To assess the significance of the correlation values, we followed 401 Allstadt and Malone (2014) by performing 5000 cross correlations between randomised 402 weather data and the earthquake data to estimate the maximum cross-correlation value 403 that could be found by random chance. The resulting correlations with temperature 404 and rainfall oscillate with a period of approximately one year, with rainfall oscillating 405 negatively (Fig. 7c); correlations with wind velocity show no clear annual oscillation. 406 Only temperature has a peak (0.32) which exceeds the maximum correlation value that 407 could be obtained randomly (0.3). There is also a strong diurnal cycle in event rates 408 from 2013 to 2020 with lower detection rates from 1000 to 1800 local time (Fig. 7d). 409 Visual comparison with hourly wind and temperature data suggests this is possibly due 410 to increased seismic noise from wind drowning out smaller magnitude events (Fig. 7d). A 411 similar observation was made during the analysis of seismic events related to the glaciers 412 on Cotopaxi volcano (Métaxian et al., 2003). Alternatively, higher rates of seismic activity 413 during night-time hours may be due to nocturnal thermal fracturing of ice (Carmichael 414 et al., 2012; Podolskiy et al., 2018, 2019) or nightly reductions in surface melt input 415 causing increased basal pressure and traction (Carmichael et al., 2015). Measurements of 416 background seismic noise during the 2019 period of study suggest elevated levels of wind 417 during daytime hours (Fig. S3), therefore we do not favour these alternative processes to 418 explain the diurnal variations; however, we cannot completely rule out these processes 419 taking place at Llaima volcano. 420

Annual cycles in seismic activity correlating with variations in precipitation or tem-421 perature have been observed at other ice- and snow-covered volcanoes (Jónsdóttir et al., 422 2009; Allstadt and Malone, 2014; Park et al., 2019; Castaño et al., 2020). Low-frequency 423 earthquakes at volcanoes can be triggered by rainfall (e.g. Matthews et al., 2009) or 424 snowfall (Allstadt and Malone, 2014) however LP activity at Llaima is inversely correlated 425 with precipitation and positively correlated with temperatures (Fig. 7c). Therefore, we 426 interpret the annual cycle in activity at Llaima as the result of yearly melting of snow and 427 ice around the summit of the volcano. An increase in meltwater at the surface can increase 428 the recurrence of basal slip beneath glaciers at the ice-rock interface. Fluctuations in 429 meltwater flow can directly modulate the recurrence of basal slip beneath glaciers due 430 to changes in shear strength with effective pressure (e.g. Mikesell et al., 2012; Roeoesli 431 et al., 2016; Nanni et al., 2020). Percolation of meltwater into the shallow subsurface of 432 Llaima volcano may also increase the recurrence of slow-slip failure of critically stressed 433



Figure 7: Long-term seismic activity and weather at Llaima volcano. (a) Number of LP seismic events manually catalogued per day by OVDAS at Llaima volcano from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2020. Grey areas mark time periods studied in Lamb et al. (2020) and this study. Red star marks time period of intense volcanic LP activity observed at Llaima volcano. (b) Daily and 5-day median temperature (grey and red lines) and precipitation (cyan bars and green line) measurements from weather station located in Melipeuco, 8 km south of station LLA. Weather data is not available prior to 15 February 2015. (c) Normalised cross correlation between daily LP seismic events (after 15 February 2015) and temperature (red), rainfall (blue) and wind velocity (orange). Horizontal dotted lines lines indicate the maximum correlation obtained when temperature (red), rainfall (blue) and wind velocity (orange) data were randomized and correlated against the earthquake data 5000 times. (d) Histogram of LP event rates by hour from 2013 to 2020 (black bars), plotted with median temperature (red) and wind velocity (dashed orange) per hour of day.

fractures within poorly consolidated volcanic material (e.g. Bean et al., 2013; Heap 434 et al., 2015). However, experimental observations suggest such a mechanism is unlikely 435 (but not impossible) to generate repetitive seismicity like those observed in 2015 and 436 2019 at Llaima (Heap et al., 2015). The ingress of meltwater into the edifice may also 437 lead to the excitation of repetitive low magnitude LP events caused by sudden pressure 438 changes within a shallow hydrothermal system. A similar mechanism was suggested for 439 low-frequency seismic activity at Nevado del Ruiz and Mount St Helens volcanoes (Leet, 440 1988; Matoza et al., 2015) as well as for causing annual seismic cycles at Ngauruhoe 441

volcano (New Zealand; Park et al., 2019). Petrological analysis of eruptive products from Llaima volcano has suggested that magma is stored at very shallow depths ( $\leq 4$  km) as a series of dyke intrusions beneath the summit vent where they undergo intense degassing between eruptions (de Maisonneuve et al., 2012; Ruth et al., 2016, 2018). Therefore, it is possible that a shallow hydrothermal system is present within Llaima volcano and is interacting on an annual basis with snow and ice meltwater.

Identifying specific source mechanisms for each of the repeating families described in 448 this study is difficult due to the low signal-to-noise ratios of the seismic signals. However, 449 evidence from locations, local magnitudes, and drifting source locations suggest that the 450 majority of background long-period seismic activity is generated by basal slip beneath the 451 glaciers. Nevertheless, due to the large number of identified families (Fig. 3) it may be 452 reasonable to conclude that all three of the mechanisms affected by meltwater (increased 453 basal slip, slow-slip failure of volcanic material, and interaction with hydrothermal system) 454 may be occurring at Llaima volcano. 455

#### 456 5. Conclusions

Rigorous interpretation of the source mechanisms of low-frequency earthquakes is 457 vital for assessing the future eruptive potential of ice-covered volcanoes, particularly 458 as icequakes can share many characteristics with volcanic long-period events. Here we 459 present a detailed analysis of two months of seismic data recorded at Llaima volcano, 460 Chile, in 2019. Over 2,000 repeating low-frequency earthquakes were identified across 82 461 different families, the largest of which contained over 200 events and was persistent for the 462 whole time period of analysis. Locations of the largest families indicate shallow sources 463 near or directly beneath glaciers present around the summit of the volcano. Long-term 464 seismic activity reveals that these repeating seismic events are part of an annual seismic 465 cycle that is strongly correlated with atmospheric temperature. Therefore, we conclude 466 that the low-frequency repeating events seen at Llaima volcano are triggered by variations 467 in meltwater affecting basal slip beneath the glaciers, as well as interactions with critically 468 stressed fractures and a shallow hydrothermal system within the edifice. The details of 469 the study presented here should inform future decision making during seismic crises at 470 Llaima volcano as well as other ice-covered volcanoes in Chile and globally. 471

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# 480 Declaration of Interests Statement

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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