

1 Highlights

2 **WICount: Geological lamination detection and counting using an image analysis**
3 **approach**

4 **NON PEER-REVIEWED PREPRINT**

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- 6
- A new technique for laminae or tree-ring detection and counting
- 7
- Dynamic Time Warping used to extract laminae time series from entire 2D images
- 8
- A GUI allows the user operating a semi-automatic count with no parameter setup
- 9
- The technique is adaptive to complex and weakly defined laminated structures

WICount: Geological lamination detection and counting using an image analysis approach

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ABSTRACT

The manual identification and count of laminae in layered textures is a common practice in the study of geological records, which can be time consuming and carry large uncertainty for dense or disturbed lamina textures. We present here a novel image analysis approach to detect and count laminae in geoscientific imagery, called WICount. Based on Dynamic Time Warping and Wavelet analysis, WICount firstly aligns persistent vertical elements to increase the continuity of the lamina structure. Then, using a graphical interface, the user extracts the most significant signal frequencies and allows the automatic count of the laminae. The software, tested on a series of stalagmite cut images showing different types of laminations and a tree-ring image, provides an estimation of the laminae detection and count comparable to the manual one. WICount presents as a useful open-source tool to help geoscientists, sensibly speeding up the lamination count process.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Fabio Oriani: Development of the main ideas, implementation, experiment conception, data analysis and interpretation, manuscript writing and revision. **Pauline C. Treble:** Development of the main ideas, experiment conception, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation, manuscript revision. **Andy Baker:** Development of the main ideas, experiment conception, data interpretation, manuscript revision. **Gregoire Mariethoz:** Development of the main ideas, experiment conception, data interpretation, manuscript revision.

1. Introduction

Laminae or layers are a dominant type of texture in geoscience from the micro to the macro scale. Several types of geoscientific studies require the quantitative analysis of laminated structures: for example stalagmite (Baker et al., 2021), tree-ring, coral (Isdale et al., 1998), mollusk (Arkhipkin et al., 2018), lake sediment (Brauer et al., 1999; Gan and Scholz, 2013) and ice core (Sigl et al., 2016) paleoclimate reconstructions have all employed annual laminae counting methods to create or support chronologies (Butler et al., 2013; Hopley et al., 2018). In many cases, lamina structures can be blurry, irregular, or discontinuous. When this is the case, manual identification and counting are usually the most accurate means of characterizing these structures, but it is also very time consuming and can involve multiple operators.

This task can be supported by automatic counting techniques based on signal processing (Lotter and

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50 Lemcke, 1999; Taylor et al.). These approaches consider an image containing laminations. The expert draw
51 a transect perpendicular to the laminae to extract a time series of the intensity signal. The time series is
52 then processed to identify peaks corresponding to each lamina. This can be based on band-pass filters and
53 minima/maxima detection (Weber et al., 2010; Nagra et al., 2017), fuzzy logic (Ebert and Trauth, 2015),
54 and wavelet transform to extract the component of the signal with a prescribed frequency (e.g. annual
55 periodicity) (Smith et al.). These techniques require repeating the analysis using multiple transects to
56 account for the laminae variability and sometime involve a preliminary assumption on the growth rate. A
57 more sophisticated approach, tested with success on varve sediments (Fabijańska et al., 2020), uses a deep
58 neural network to identify laminae in the target images. This has the advantage of being capable to analyse
59 entire 2D images, but it requires a large training dataset of similar lamination patterns and an accurate
60 setup phase. While these kinds of approaches are promising to assist the counting of laminated structures,
61 there is considerable scope for improvement in developing user-friendly efficient methods. For example:
62 simplification of the preliminary operations to extract the time series, reduction in the need for user-led
63 assumptions in the setup, and techniques to accommodate variable laminae size and density.

64 An alternative approach to analyze different structured signals, as laminated patterns, is Dynamic Time
65 Warping (DTW). Originally introduced in the late 1970's (Sakoe and Chiba, 1978), DTW is a technique used
66 to compare different time series or more generally data vectors, and apply continuous deformations to align
67 them to match common features such as similar sequences of peaks. Based on the amount of deformation
68 applied to match the data series, the level of similarity of the signals is quantified. This approach has been
69 recently used for a variety of applications in geoscience: to estimate travel time in hydrological time series
70 (Claire et al., 2018), to identify common features in physical logs (Silversides and Melkumyan, 2016), for
71 seismic pattern classification (Orozco-Alzate et al., 2015), in correlations of stratigraphic sections (Ajayi
72 et al., 2020), and to compare paleoclimate proxy time series (Ajayi et al., 2020; Burstyn et al., 2021).

73 Using the potential of the DTW technique, we present here a novel semi-automatic tool called WlCount.
74 The goal is to assist scientists through the detection and counting process with a simple workflow supported
75 by a graphical user interface (GUI). In contrast to existing techniques, WlCount extract information from
76 a whole given image instead of a given transect. To do that, we introduce an initial automatic stage where,
77 using DTW, the raster image is deformed to reach the vertical alignment of the laminae. The pixel rows in
78 the image are then summed along the column axis to obtain a time series of the signal along the laminae
79 growth direction, from which a chronology may be derived. This avoids the need for a user to choose a
80 particular transect for counting, which may be ambiguous, and reduces uncertainty by retaining only the
81 persistent laminated structure from the local noise. In a second stage, the time series is decomposed with

82 the wavelet transform and, with the help of the GUI, the user can isolate the signal component which
83 corresponds to the laminae structure. The extracted signal is then automatically thresholded to identify the
84 laminae, whose location is marked in real time in the image. This way, the user can repeat the process to
85 improve the laminae detection.

86 The proposed approach is primarily tested on a series of pictures obtained by synchrotron radiation x-ray
87 fluorescence mapping (SR-XFM) over annually laminated stalagmites (Golgotha Cave, Yonderup Cave, and
88 Harrie Wood Cave, Australia). The obtained automatic count is compared both visually and statistically
89 with a manual count. The main goal is to assess the ability of the method to reproduce the manual count
90 over a selection of maps in which the laminae vary in size, clarity and amplitude. To test the potential
91 for other applications in the geoscience domain, an additional laminae-detection test is performed on an
92 tree-ring image from a dendrochronological tree stem sample.

93 The paper is structured as follows: section 2 presents the method and the implementation, in section
94 3 and 4 the images used and the test methods are described, the results are presented in section 5 and
95 discussed in section 6, and concluding remarks are given in section 7.

96 2. Methods

97 WlCount is a novel approach based on image analysis and signal processing with the goal of assisting
98 geoscientists in the identification and counting of laminae represented in raster images. The depicted laminae
99 may have a variable orientation, but preferably sub-vertical (see point 3). The workflow, implemented in
100 python, is composed of the following steps:

101 **Input** : raster image of size n rows \times m columns, which can be multivariate (Figure 1 a).

- 102 1. If the image is multivariate (e.g. RGB or multiband), the mean value across all variables for each pixel
103 is computed to obtain a univariate image (Figure 1 b).
- 104 2. A fixed 5-pixel moving-average filter can be applied as optional preprocessing step to remove small-scale
105 noise and improve the visibility of relevant structures (Figure 1 c).
- 106 3. Using the dynamic time-warping technique (DTW, section 2), each pixel row is deformed to obtain a
107 vertical alignment of the laminae (Figure 1 d), preserving the structure coherence from row to row.
108 To assure convergence in the DTW alignment, the deformation is by default limited in a radius of 10
109 pixels. In preliminary tests (not shown here) this limitation assured a correct alignment in all cases
110 showing a continuous laminae deformation not exceeding ± 45 degrees from the column axis.
- 111 4. The aligned image is averaged along the column axis (along lamina) to obtain a unique time series
112 (Figure 1 d, red line) of length m , showing the amplitude structures related to the seasonal information,

113 observed along the row direction. In the time series, each lamina is represented by a wave of a certain
114 length and magnitude.

- 115 5. The time series is decomposed using the discrete wavelet transform (Daubechies, 1988; Mallat, 1989):
116 the signal is convoluted with a wavelet, i.e. a theoretical function defined over a limited support and
117 characterized by a certain scale length. The convolution allows obtaining the signal component of the
118 time series in the same scale length as the wavelet. The wavelet is defined for different scale lengths
119 and convoluted each time over the time series. The result is a 2D image where each row represents
120 the intensity of the signal component for a certain scale length (Figure 1 e).
- 121 6. The original image, the aligned image with the associated time series, and its wavelet transform are
122 shown in an interactive GUI: at this point the user can draw, with the mouse pointer from left to right,
123 a section over the wavelet image (Figure 1 e, dashed red line) to select the specific signal component
124 corresponding to the annual laminae wavelength. If the section is drawn in the upper part of the
125 wavelet image, dense/small laminae structures are detected, while large-scale laminations are detected
126 if the section is drawn in the lower part (the scale length is indicated in the y axis). The line can
127 be composed of multiple contiguous segments, which allows detection of laminae that are varying in
128 thickness across the image. As explained in the following step, the result of this operation in terms of
129 detected laminae can be immediately checked and repeated if necessary.
- 130 7. At every segment drawn, the corresponding portions of wavelet signal are retrieved (Figure 1 f, red
131 curve). Its mean intensity is computed and used as threshold to identify the positive half waves
132 indicating the laminae presence in the image. If the selected wavelet component portion is close to
133 stationary, this simple threshold method is usually sufficient to detect the laminae. The mid-point
134 of each positive half wave is marked as a lamina with a cross in the aligned image (Figure 1 f, red
135 crosses). The user can undo/redo each segment to improve the result.
- 136 8. Once the process reaches a point that the user is satisfied with the laminae identification, the section
137 can be ended by a keyboard command, which displays the counts. Multiple lines can be drawn in the
138 wavelet image to assess the uncertainty over different counts.

139 **Output** : .dat file containing the coordinates of each count series, python .npy files for the extracted time series
140 and aligned image (points 3 and 4), and a .pdf screenshot of the GUI.

141 2.1. Laminae alignment by DTW

142 In the WICount workflow, every pixel row composing the image intersects the subvertical laminae struc-
143 tures, thus constitutes a data vector containing the laminae fluctuations. DTW (dtaidistance implementation

Table 1

Summary of the metadata of the stalagmite sections used in the tests.

Section ID	Location	x-axis length [mm]	Image size [pixels]	pixel size [μm]
1562	Yonderup Cave, SWWA	19.1	125 × 4775	4.0
1563	Golgotha Cave, SWWA	4.2	1250 × 2100	2.0
23261	Golgotha Cave, SWWA	18.0	300 × 4500	4.0
23262	Golgotha Cave, SWWA	26.0	150 × 3250	8.0
23265	Harrie Wood, NSW Alps	21.0	140 × 2100	10.0

144 (Meert et al., 2020)) is applied iteratively to deform all pixel rows to obtain a vertical alignment of the lami-
 145 nae structure in the image (section 2 step 3). This is applied to pairs of rows in a hierarchical fashion (Figure
 146 2): DTW is applied to the first row of the image to match the second one, then to the third to match the
 147 fourth, and so on. This way, all the pairs of adjacent rows are aligned with each other (if the number of
 148 rows are odd the last one is discarded). At this point, the numerical values in the two rows of each pair are
 149 averaged to obtain a unique row. Applying the averaging to all pairs results in an image composed by half
 150 the number of pixel rows. Next, DTW is applied again, aligning the new row pairs and averaging to obtain
 151 half the number of rows. The process is repeated until one single pixel row remains, consisting in the time
 152 series of step 4 in the WICount workflow. For display purposes, every original pixel row is again deformed
 153 to match this time series and obtain a visible aligned image (Figure 1 d).

154 3. Used data

155 The imagery used to test the WICount technique consists of a series of SR-XFM generated maps (XFM
 156 Australian Synchrotron, Howard et al., 2020) obtained from polished slabs sectioned along the growth axis
 157 of cave stalagmites, sampled from underground caves in New South Wales (NSW) and South West Western
 158 Australia (SWWA). For all images (Figure 3), the Strontium (Sr) relative element concentration map is
 159 used for the automatic counting since in this case it shows the laminated structure most clearly. The 8-bit
 160 RGB intensity levels are based on the instrumental levels of light detection, with zones of high element
 161 concentration displayed with light shades. The maps length varies from 4 to 26 mm with a pixel resolution
 162 of 2-10 micrometers (Table 1). The represented laminated textures are of different types, including thin
 163 well-defined laminae (1562), thick irregular (23265), barely visible (1563) or disturbed by porosity (23261
 164 and 23262).

165 The tree-ring sample used in the last experiment is the test image used in the demonstration of the
 166 MtreeRing software (Shi et al., 2019). The images used in this analysis are increment core samples from
 167 coniferous species (*Larix gmelinii*) in the northern Greater Khingan Mountains (Heilongjiang Province, NE
 168 China).

169 4. Validation

170 The proposed technique is tested by operating the WICount software on all test images and performing
171 3 counts for each image. The laminae are counted and their position marked in the aligned section with a
172 series of cross pointers. The position (x coordinate) and number of the detected laminae is then compared
173 to a manual count (MC), used as reference. Being the MC repeated by different operators, an uncertainty
174 value (+- integer) is related to the number of laminae which have not been constantly detected over repeated
175 counts, being weakly prominent or discontinuous. Following (Faraji et al.), two codes for uncertain counts
176 are considered: code 1 if a lamina presents a relative (0-1) detection frequency in the range [0.51 – 0.95]
177 and code 2 for the range [0.06 – 0.50]. The corresponding error on the count of each uncertain lamina
178 is determined as $1 - (p1 + p2)/2$, with $[p1, p2]$ as the frequency range. Therefore, for every code-1 and
179 code-2 lamina the error contribution is respectively 0.27 and 0.72. The sum of these unitary contributions
180 constitutes the MC error.

181 To make a quantitative comparison between the automatic and manual counts, two statistical indicators
182 have been considered: i) the number of laminae counted with WICount is compared to the MC and its
183 uncertainty range and ii) the average distance (Da) is computed between the manually counted laminae to
184 the closest laminae detected with WICount. Da allows assessing whether the spatial laminae distribution
185 obtained from WICount is similar to the one from the MC. If this distance is lower than the mean laminae
186 thickness (Ta), this suggests the spatial distribution of the detected laminae follows the actual laminae
187 distribution. Ta is estimated as $(x_{start} - x_{end})/(MC - 1)$, where x_{start} and x_{end} are the first and last lamina
188 x coordinates detected by MC.

189 5. Results

190 As visual examples of the WICount software GUI, the output display for the counts on sections 1562 and
191 23265 are shown in Figure 4 (all output displays attached as supplemental material). The output display
192 shows the original image (mean of all variables if multivariate) at the top, the aligned image in the center
193 together with the time series describing the laminae variations along the x axis, and the wavelet transform
194 of the same time series at the bottom. Section 1562 (Figure 4 a) presents a thin laminae structure in varying
195 density and signal intensity. Avoiding the MA preprocessing (section 2 step 2), allows preserving the fine-
196 scale details for the alignment (Figure 4 a, center image). The alignment process improves the visibility and
197 continuity of thin and barely visible vertical structures, whose signal is contained in the final time series
198 (red line). The wavelet transform of this time series (Figure 4 a, bottom image) shows a marked periodicity
199 in the wavelet scale range of 3-6 pixels (y axis), which corresponds to the laminae structure. By drawing

200 segmented lines in the wavelet transform image, the user isolates this signal component. It is then used by
201 the software to detect the laminae presence in the upper image and return the amount (235-293 bands).

202 The second example (Figure 4 b) shows the output display for section 23262. In this case, the laminae
203 structure appears thicker because the section is approximately half the length with respect to section 1562
204 (the image is stretched to occupy the whole display). The user choose to apply the MA preprocessing which
205 removed the small-scale noise, resulting in a smoother image and time series. In the wavelet transform image
206 (Figure 4 bottom), the choice of the wavelet component with scale length of 2 pixels allowed detecting 99
207 laminae, marked in the aligned image. The image alignment improved again the continuity of the laminae
208 structures. Note that the three lines in the wavelet transform are superposed but they are formed by different
209 segments. This allows breaking up the wavelet signal in different parts which are thresholded differently
210 using their mean value. The final laminae count is equivalent but small differences appear in the laminae
211 locations (crosses of different colors in Figure 4 b, center image).

212 Figure 5 shows all the test sections with reference manual laminae count (MC) and the WlCount estima-
213 tions (three attempts per section). All laminae detected in the MC (blue crosses) are linked to the closest
214 WlCount detection by a dashed white segment. For all sections, the WlCount laminae distribution is overall
215 similar to the MC, but some mismatch in the detection can occur, as visible in Figure 5 b and e: Wlcount
216 may count twice an MC lamina or vice versa. This result is confirmed by the statistical scores in Table
217 2. Sections 1562 and 1563 present respective MC values of 246 and 131 with a relatively small uncertainty
218 (+- 12 and +-19), while the WlCount estimations are in part within and in part outside this uncertainty
219 range (Table 2 bold values). For sections 23261 and 23262 the laminae are dense, less continuous, and more
220 disturbed by porosity (Figure 5 c and d). For these images, the MC uncertainty is higher (+-43 and +-85)
221 and all WlCount estimations lie within the same range. Section 23265 presents better defined laminae for
222 which the MC and Wlcount match well with very low uncertainty (98+-5 and 99 respectively).

223 For all counts, the average distance between every MC detection and the closest WlCount detection (D_a
224 in Table 2) is sensibly lower than the average laminae thickness (Table 2 T_a). This suggests that the laminae
225 locations detected by WlCount match on average the MC locations.

226 The last test image shows a ring lamination from a cross section of tree-ring sample. With respect to
227 the previous stalagmite images, the laminated pattern here is more regular and the border clearer, which
228 makes the detection and counting task easier. As confirmed by the visual output (Figure 6), WlCount is
229 able to detect efficiently all the rings and provide the exact count. Note that here, the laminae thickness
230 is larger and the associated wavelet frequency is represented in the central part of the wavelet transform
231 image, which has been captured with a unique threshold line. The presence of discontinuities in the ring

Table 2

Summary of the results on the counts on all sections, including: the section ID, the different counts (#) performed using WICount, the reference manual count (MC) with uncertainty range, the average laminae thickness (Ta), the average distance between MC laminae and the closest WICount laminae (Da), and the use of the moving-average (MA) preprocessing (step 2 section 2). MC is a unique value with uncertainty for every section. WICount counts outside the MC uncertainty range are indicated in bold.

Section ID	WICount #	MC [laminae]	WICount [laminae]	Ta [pixels]	Da [pixels]	use of MA
1562	0	246+-12	235	19.48	5.78	no
	1		293		4.44	no
	2		235		5.28	no
1563	0	131+-19	127	15.72	5.03	yes
	1		154		4.10	yes
	2		96		6.46	yes
23261	0	245+-43	269	12.81	4.68	no
	1		208		5.87	no
	2		247		5.12	no
23262	0	351+-85	324	8.21	2.78	no
	1		327		2.62	no
	2		322		2.81	no
23265	0	98+-5	99	20.03	5.78	yes
	1		99		6.11	yes
	2		99		5.75	yes

border (thin stripes in blue shaded zones) does not affect the ring detection.

6. Discussion

In contrast to previous techniques for geoscientific laminae counting (section 1), which are mainly based on time series analysis from linear transects, the workflow introduced here is, to our knowledge, the first laminae-counting tool which extracts information from a whole given image with no training phase. The pairwise hierarchical application of the DTW alignment (section 2 step 3) allows estimating the laminated structure based on the average thickness and location of signals persistent along the column direction. Both counts displayed in Figure 4 show how the hierarchical DTW not only aligns the subvertical or curved structures, but allows increasing their continuity over local disturbances, which shrink and tend to disappear in the aligned images. The results show that this approach is adaptive to textures of different thickness, including discontinuous, disturbed, or barely visible laminae, which can constitute a primary limitation for pattern-recognition techniques (see e.g. Fabijańska et al., 2020).

Instead of a non-supervised technique requiring a setup process, WICount is designed to be supervised with an graphical interface, relying on the scientist knowledge on the studied morphology. This requires the user to become familiar with the wavelet analysis and the choice of the appropriate component from the wavelet image. On the other hand, the process is quite intuitive since the laminae periodicity match their spatial distribution and it is selected manually with a trace. The resulting laminae detection appears on the

249 display, allowing quick corrections.

250 The optional MA preprocessing, e.g. used for section 23265 (Figure 4 b), can improve the visibility of
251 the structures by removing small-scale noise, which can generate vertical artifacts in the alignment image.
252 However, this noise is usually filtered out in the wavelet analysis by choosing the appropriate wavelet
253 component. The MA preprocessing is not suggested if thin (< 5 pixels) laminae are present, e.g. section
254 1562 (Figure 4 a).

255 The results suggest that the WlCount estimation is comparable to the manual count for both the number
256 of detected laminae and their position (Table 2). The uncertainty of the WlCount estimation can be given by
257 tracing multiple trajectories in the wavelet space, to explore the zone representing the laminae fluctuation.
258 In case of high uncertainty, the WlCount estimation can constitute a baseline assessment which can be
259 further examined and manually edited using the output files.

260 Tested on high-resolution images of 10^6 pixels (Table 1), the technique took up to 5 minutes to generate
261 one aligned image on a personal computer. This phase can be skipped when the software is run again on
262 the same image, by using the previous alignment files which are automatically stored and recalled from the
263 local folder. The alignment algorithm (Section 2 step 3) is mainly non-sequential, so it can be parallelized
264 for cluster computing if needed. Examining the images and choosing the wavelet component takes usually
265 some minutes, while manual count can take up to hours for one single count.

266 We now compare WlCount to other lamina counting approaches and consider its applicability in geo-
267 science. Previously proposed approaches based on Markov chains (Winstrup et al., 2012) allow a more
268 rigorous quantification of the uncertainty in the layer identifications. Nevertheless, they require statistical
269 assumptions on the layer thickness and a set of layer templates to calibrate the algorithm. This probabilistic
270 approach, tested on chemical time series from ice cores, is convenient for long and stationary scan-line data
271 exhibiting relatively regular lamination structures, for which an accurate inspection is impractical. Con-
272 versely, WlCount requires to visualize entirely the data under form of 2D images, but it is adaptive to more
273 diverse and non-stationary lamination structures, with no required calibration phase and a relatively fast
274 operation.

275 The test on the tree-ring image (Figure 6) shows that the proposed technique can easily detect tree-
276 ring laminations. With respect to the MtreeRing algorithm, tested on the same image (Shi et al., 2019)
277 with comparable results to the commercial software WinDENDRO™, WlCount does not require tracing
278 a scan line perpendicular to the ring borders. This is not necessary since the average laminae location
279 and thickness is represented in the aligned image (Figure 1 d). Moreover, the WlCount approach is less
280 affected by discontinuity in the ring patterns, since the time series extracted from the image is not based

281 on segmentation as in MtreeRing. The WlCount implementation can be adapted to dendrochronological
282 applications by generating as output data not only a time series of band center coordinates, but also the
283 border coordinates and ring thickness.

284 The proposed approach can also have a potential in the field of sclerochronology (Hudson et al., 1976),
285 which analyzes laminar growth patterns in skeletal tissue samples of mollusks and fishes (Schöne, 2013).
286 These laminae, often curved and poorly defined, can benefit from the hierarchical DTW technique, which
287 enhances the visibility of the persistent features in the vertical laminae alignment. This can also reduce
288 potential bias due to the discard of samples presenting discontinuous or unclear lamination, which can be
289 relevant since possibly correlated to environmental conditions (Peharda et al., 2021).

290 7. Conclusions

291 The analysis of laminated structures in geoscientific imagery is a common task to acquire information
292 on geochronology and periodic natural processes. In this paper, we introduced WlCount as a novel semi-
293 automatic laminae counting method, with the goal of speeding up and supporting laminae detection counting
294 operations. With respect to the available assisted or automatic count approaches, the novelty of WlCount
295 resides in the extraction of the average features of the laminated structure from a whole given image,
296 without the need of tracing and comparing multiple line scans and minimizing the effect of disturbances and
297 discontinuities.

298 By applying Dynamic Time Warping to pairs of pixel rows in the image, the technique aligns vertical
299 structures and extracts a time series of the longitudinal variations. This time series is then decomposed
300 using the wavelet transform, which generates a 2D image describing the longitudinal variations at different
301 scales. From the GUI, the user selects the wavelet component representing the longitudinal variations
302 corresponding to the laminated structures. This component is then automatically thresholded to detect the
303 laminae position in the section image.

304 Tested on a series of different images from cave stalagmites, WlCount returned a laminae number and
305 position similar to the reference manual count for both the laminae number and their location. The uncer-
306 tainty of the count can be assessed by performing different wavelet component selections in the scale range
307 representative of the laminae fluctuations. This allows comparing the number and positions of the detected
308 laminae for different counts. The output detection data can be further examined and manually edited if
309 needed. The last test on a tree-ring image suggests the potential of WlCount in other geoscientific fields
310 as the one of dendrochronology, but further testing is needed and possibly an adaptation of the produced
311 output data.

312 Overall, WlCount presents as a flexible tool to make a quick assessment on the number and spatial
313 distribution of the laminae on the studied images, with an accuracy and reliability comparable to the manual
314 count, but a minimal user intervention. Future development will include further testing and adaptation of
315 the implementation to specific applications.

Code availability section

Name of the code/library: WlCount

Contact: Fabio Oriani, University of Lausanne, fabio.oriani@protonmail.com

Suggested Hardware requirements: processor frequency 3.60+ GHz, 8+ GB memory

Program language: Python 3

Software required: Python 3 with additional open-source packages (see repository)

Program size: 1.2 GB (whole repository)

The source codes are available for downloading at the link:

<https://bitbucket.org/orianif/wlcount/src/master/>

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429 **List of Figures**

430 1 Sketch of the WlCount workflow. 16

431 2 Sketch of the hierarchical DTW workflow. In this example, only two levels of alignment are
 432 necessary to generate the final time series. 17

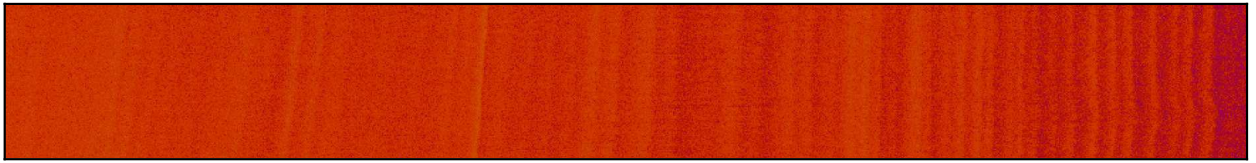
433 3 Synchrotron images of the stalagmite sections used in the tests. The light intensity indicates
 434 a higher Sr concentration. 18

435 4 Example of the WlCount graphic interface section 1562 (a) and 23265 (b). 19

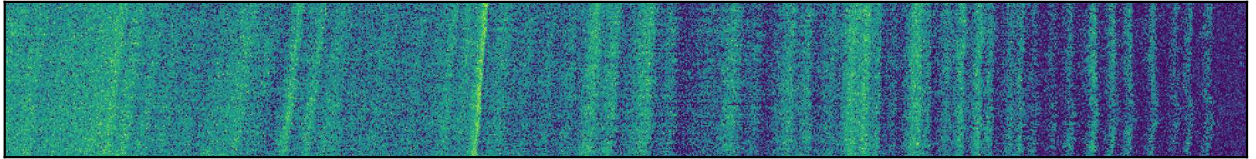
436 5 Comparison of the detected laminae locations between the reference manual count and Wl-
 437 Count. The white dashed lines indicate connections between manually detected laminae and
 438 the closest automatic detections. 20

439 6 Example of the WlCount application (output display) on a tree-ring image used for den-
 440 drochronology. 21

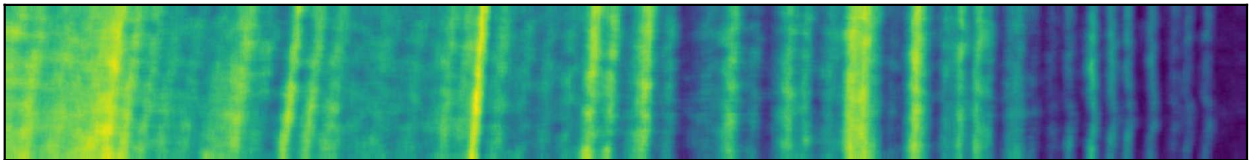
a) Multivariate input image



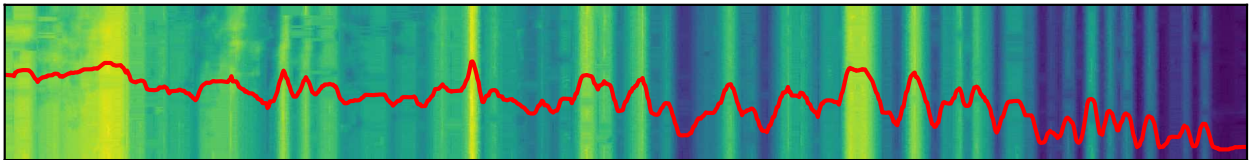
b) Mean over all variables



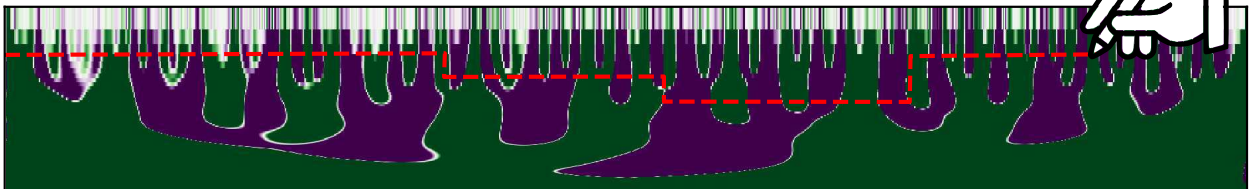
c) Moving average



d) Image alignment and time series



e) Wavelet transform



f) Laminae detection

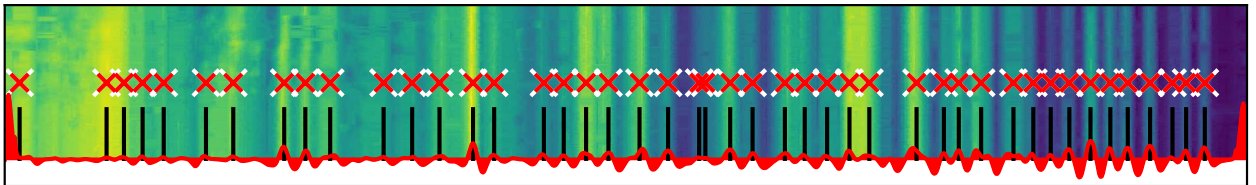


Figure 1: Sketch of the WICount workflow.

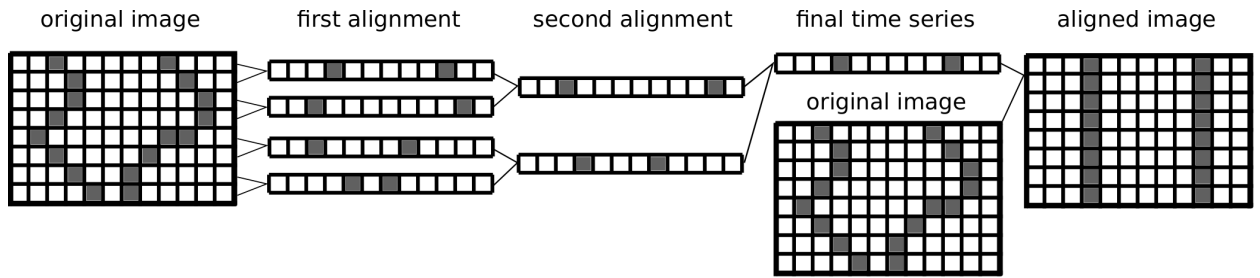


Figure 2: Sketch of the hierarchical DTW workflow. In this example, only two levels of alignment are necessary to generate the final time series.

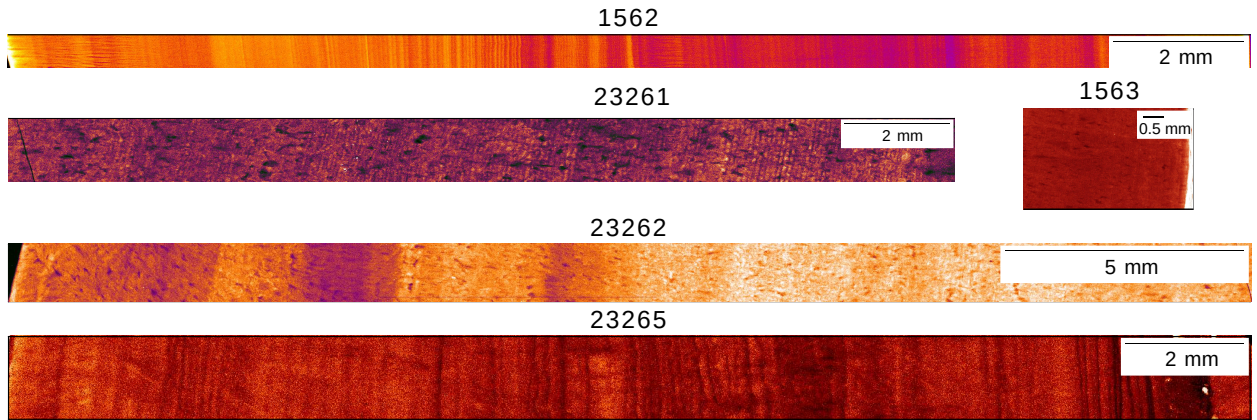


Figure 3: Synchrotron images of the stalagmite sections used in the tests. The light intensity indicates a higher Sr concentration.

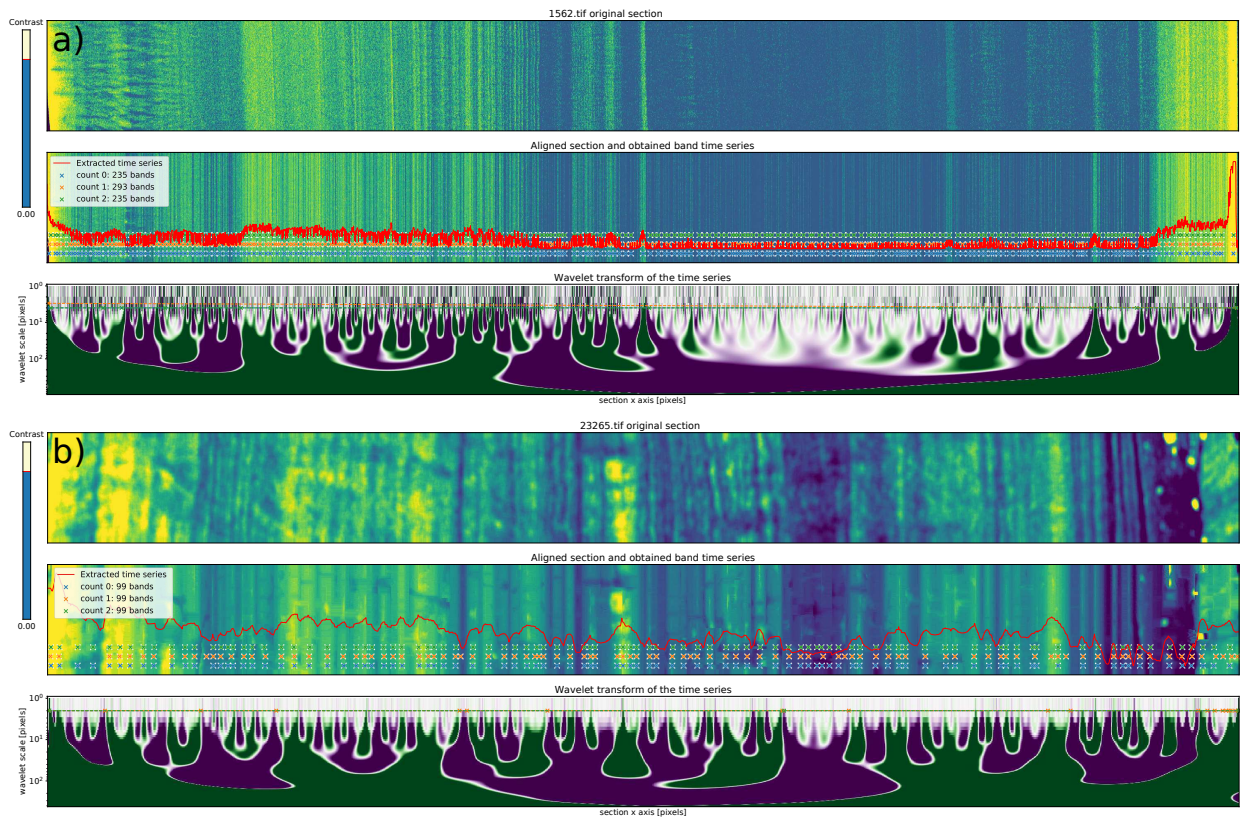


Figure 4: Example of the WICount graphic interface section 1562 (a) and 23265 (b).

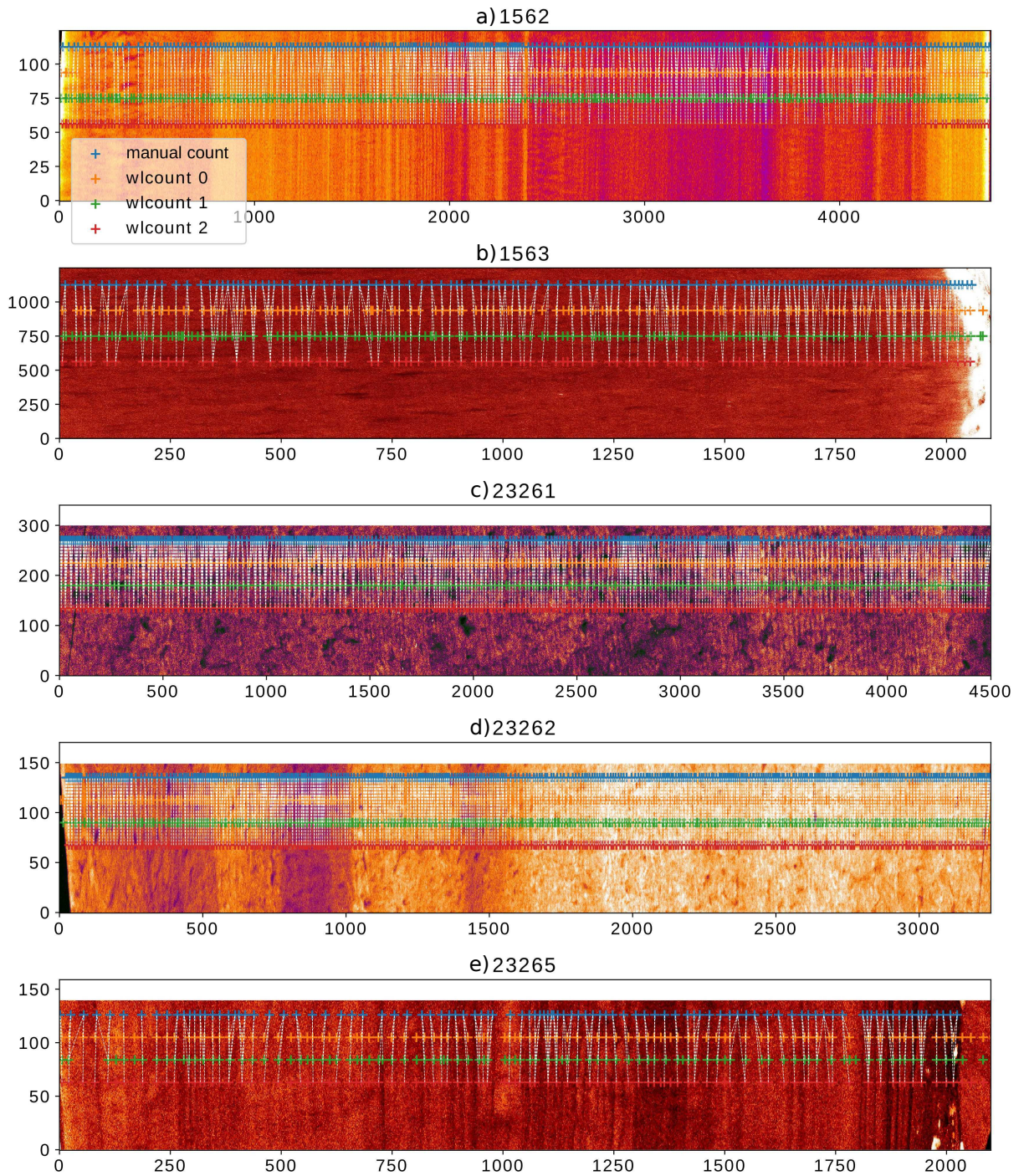


Figure 5: Comparison of the detected laminae locations between the reference manual count and WICount. The white dashed lines indicate connections between manually detected laminae and the closest automatic detections.

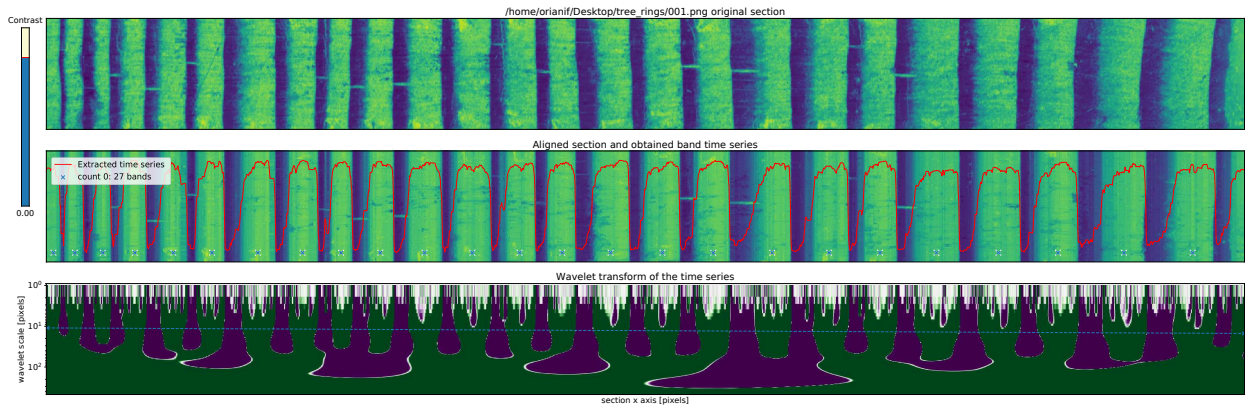


Figure 6: Example of the W|Count application (output display) on a tree-ring image used for dendrochronology.

Supplemental material for the manuscript

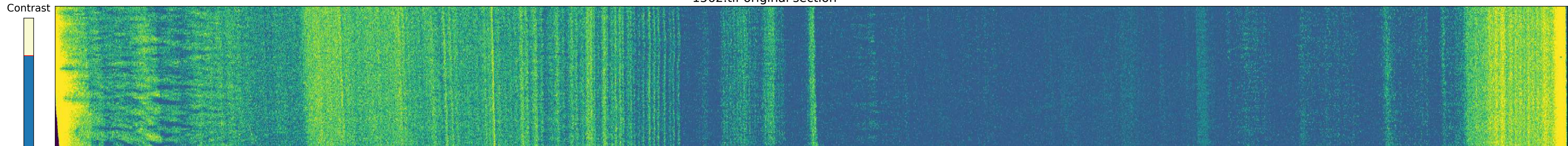
“WlCount: Geological lamination detection and counting using an image analysis approach”

Fabio Oriani, Pauline C. Treble, Andy Baker, Gregoire Mariethoz

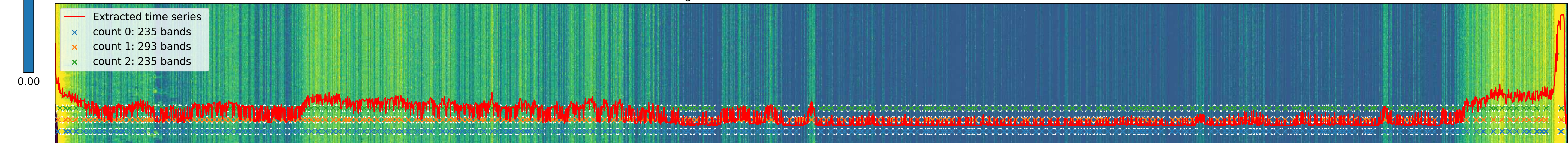
CONTENT:

Output screenshots of the WlCount operation for all stalagmite section images.

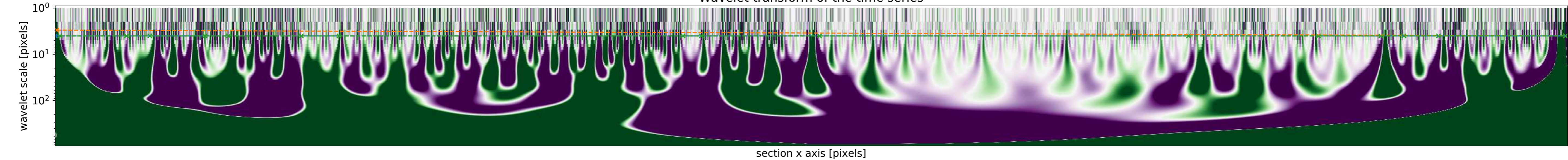
1562.tif original section



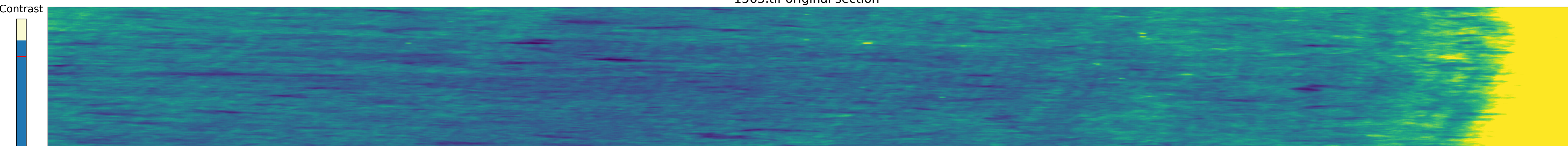
Aligned section and obtained band time series



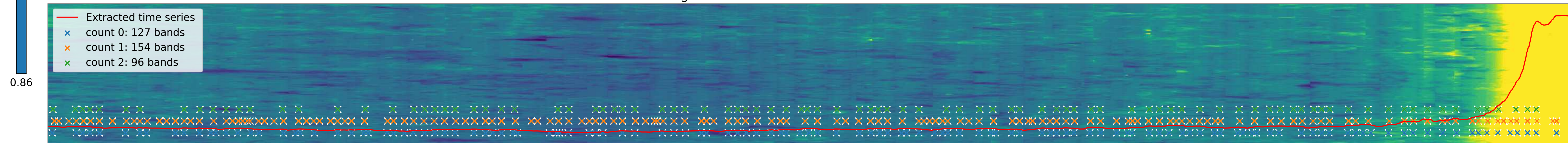
Wavelet transform of the time series



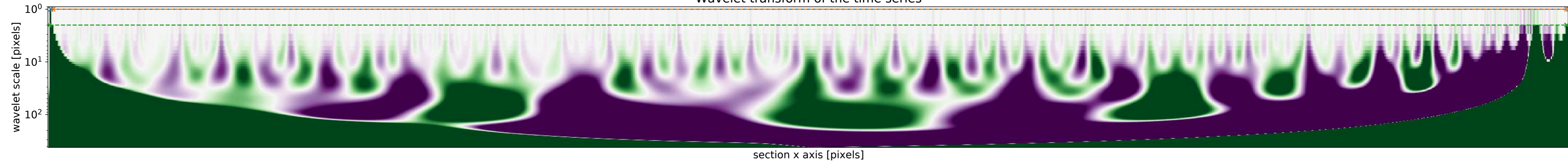
1563.tif original section



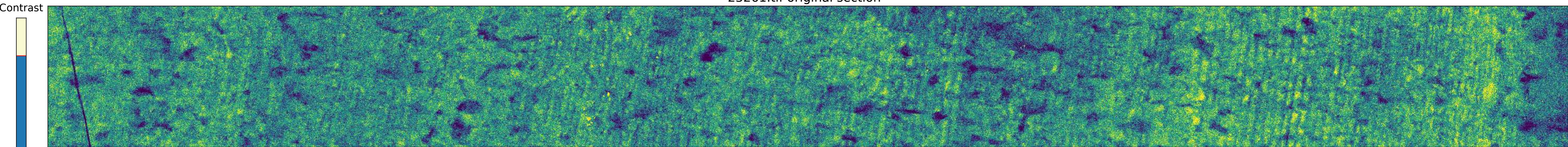
Aligned section and obtained band time series



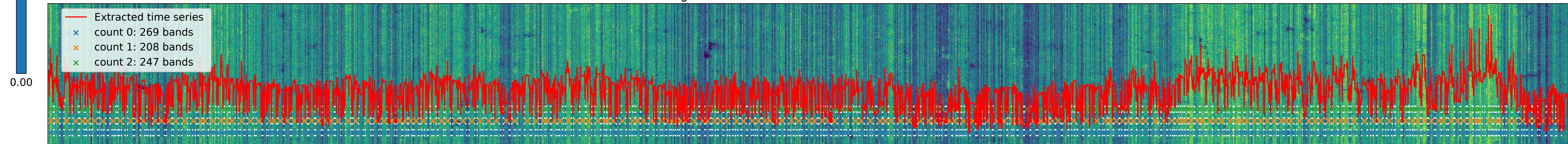
Wavelet transform of the time series



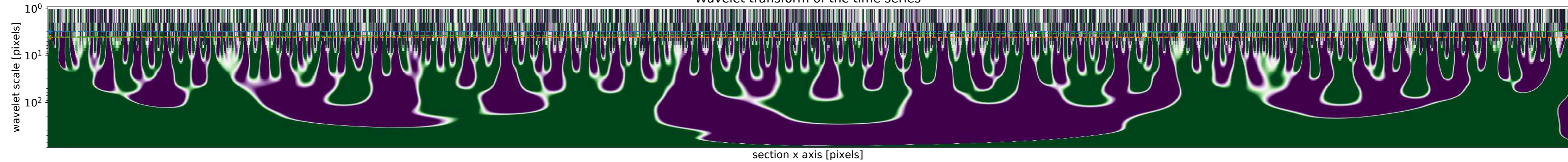
23261.tif original section



Aligned section and obtained band time series

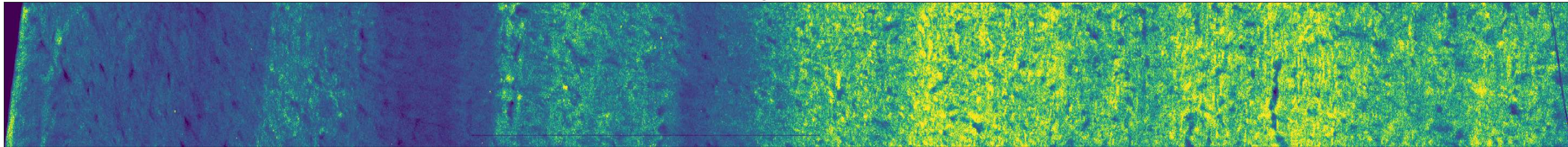


Wavelet transform of the time series

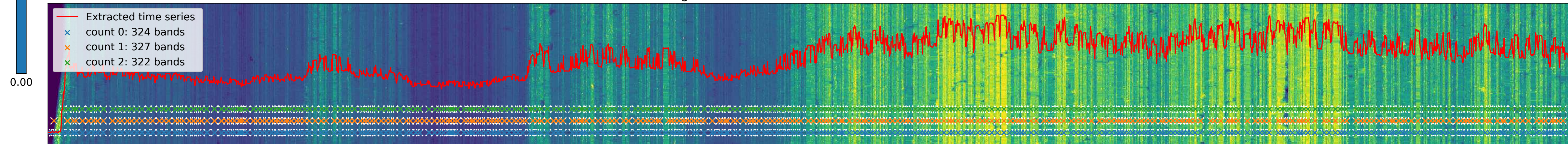


23262.tif original section

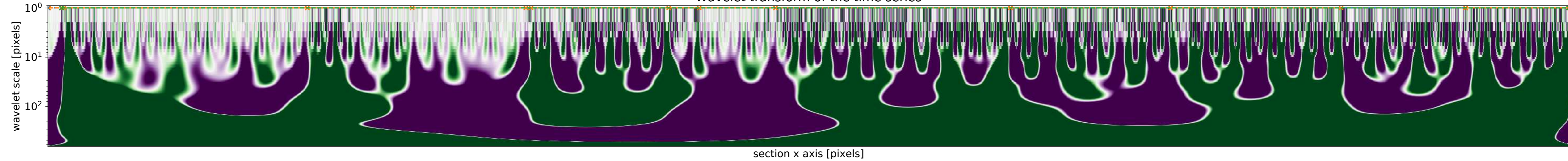
Contrast



Aligned section and obtained band time series

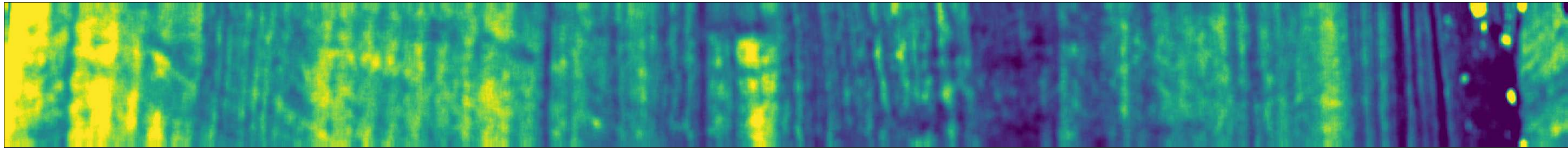


Wavelet transform of the time series

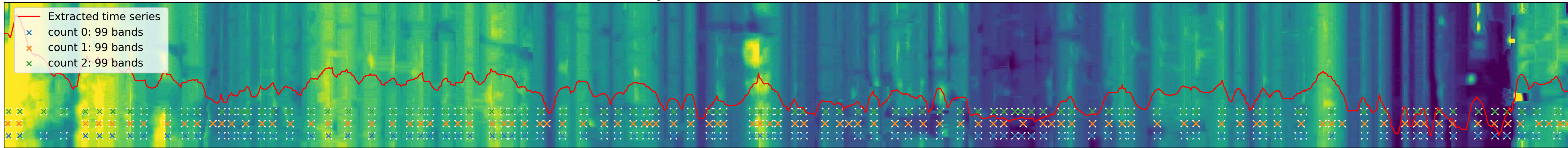


23265.tif original section

Contrast



Aligned section and obtained band time series



Wavelet transform of the time series

