

Improving the retrieval of offshore-onshore correlation functions with machine learning

Loïc Viens¹ and Tomotaka Iwata¹

¹Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University

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Key Points:

- Machine learning is used to improve the retrieval of offshore-onshore deconvolution functions (DFs)
- Typhoons and storms play an important role in the retrieval of clear offshore-onshore DFs
- DFs retrieved with our method are used to better simulate the long-period ground motions from subduction earthquakes

Corresponding author: Loïc Viens, viens.loic.58r@st.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Abstract

The retrieval of reliable offshore-onshore correlation functions is critical to improve our ability to predict long-period ground motions from megathrust earthquakes. However, localized ambient seismic field sources between offshore and onshore stations can bias correlation functions and generate non-physical arrivals. We present a two-step method based on unsupervised learning to improve the quality of correlation functions calculated with the deconvolution method (e.g., deconvolution functions, DFs). For a DF dataset calculated between two stations over a long time period, we first reduce the dataset dimensions using the Principal Component Analysis and cluster the features of the low-dimensional space with a Gaussian mixture model. We stack the DFs belonging to each cluster together and select the best stacked DF. We apply our technique to DFs calculated every 30 minutes between an offshore station located on top of the Nankai Trough, Japan, and 77 onshore receivers. Our method removes spurious arrivals and improves the signal-to-noise ratio of the DFs. Most 30-min DFs selected by our clustering method are generated during extreme meteorological events, such as typhoons. To demonstrate that the DFs obtained with our method contain reliable phases and amplitudes, we use them to simulate the long-period ground motions from a M_w 5.8 earthquake, which occurred near the offshore station. Results show that the earthquake long-period ground motions are accurately simulated. Our method can easily be used as an additional processing step when calculating offshore-onshore DFs, and offers a way to improve the prediction of long-period ground motions from potential megathrust earthquakes.

Plain Language Summary

Seismic waves from subduction earthquakes are generally characterized by a strong and elongated long-period component due to their propagation through complex velocity structures such as accretionary wedges. Seismic interferometry, which consists of cross-correlating continuous ambient seismic field signals at two seismic stations, can be used to retrieve the wave propagation between the two sensor's locations. However, the retrieval of clear wave propagation between offshore and onshore stations is difficult due to the characteristics of the ambient seismic field. We develop a method based on unsupervised learning to improve the quality of correlation functions between offshore and onshore sites. We apply our method to correlation functions calculated between an offshore station on top of the Nankai Trough, Japan, and surrounding onshore stations. The correlation functions retrieved with our method have a higher signal-to-noise ratio and better simulate the ground motions from a M_w 5.8 earthquake, which occurred along the Nankai Trough. Improving our ability to retrieve accurate wave propagation between offshore and onshore stations is critical to better predict the long-period ground motion from potential megathrust earthquakes, which are likely to happen in numerous subduction zones worldwide in the near future.

1 Introduction

Seismic interferometry is a well established method used to gain geophysical information about the Earth’s subsurface. By cross-correlating ambient seismic field time series recorded by a pair of seismometers, the seismic wave propagation between the two sensor’s locations can be retrieved. Theoretical studies demonstrated that for homogeneously distributed ambient seismic field sources and/or a fully diffuse medium, the cross-correlation function (CCF) should yield the true Green’s function of the medium (Weaver & Lobkis, 2001; Fichtner & Tsai, 2019). However, such conditions are rarely fulfilled on Earth as the ambient seismic field is primarily generated by ocean waves at long periods (> 1 s) and by human activities at short periods.

Station-to-station CCFs are generally calculated over short ambient seismic field time windows ranging from a few minutes to hours, and are then stacked over a longer time period to increase their signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs). In addition to stacking, pre-processing of ambient seismic field records, such as 1-bit normalization and/or pre-whitening, is usually applied to improve the retrieval of the phase information of the CCFs (Bensen et al., 2007). The phase information of pre-processed CCFs has been extensively used to image the Earth’s subsurface (Lin et al., 2008; Shapiro et al., 2005) and to monitor temporal changes occurring in the Earth through time (Breguier, Campillo, et al., 2008; Breguier, Shapiro, et al., 2008). However, the pre-processing steps generally involve non-linear operations which can bias the amplitude information of the CCFs.

Empirical studies showed that seismic interferometry by deconvolution with no pre-processing can be used to retrieve both the amplitude and phase information of CCFs (Viens et al., 2017). Deconvolution functions (DFs) have been used to simulate the long-period ground motions from moderate (Denolle et al., 2013; Prieto & Beroza, 2008; Sheng et al., 2017; Viens et al., 2014; Viens, Koketsu, et al., 2016) and large (Denolle et al., 2014, 2018; Viens, Miyake, & Koketsu, 2016) crustal earthquakes as well as mine collapse events (Kwak et al., 2017). However, the retrieval of reliable amplitudes is still debated as it strongly depends on the location and characteristics of ambient seismic field sources (Stehly et al., 2006; Stehly & Boué, 2017; Tsai, 2011).

The recent release of continuous data recorded by ocean bottom seismometers deployed on top of subduction zones worldwide offers new opportunities to better understand the complex seismic wave propagation through accretionary wedges. However, the retrieval of unbiased DFs between offshore and onshore stations is challenging as the ocean bottom environment is generally noisier than continental sites (Webb, 1998). Moreover, localized ambient seismic field sources between the two stations, such as ocean storms, can corrupt the DFs with spurious arrivals (Shapiro et al., 2006; Rétailleau et al., 2017). Along the Nankai Trough, Japan, offshore-onshore DFs have been calculated and used to successfully simulate the long-period ground motions from moderate (Viens et al., 2015) and large (Viens & Denolle, 2019) subduction earthquakes. Nevertheless, the computed DFs are noisier than that retrieved between onshore station pairs and tend to contain spurious arrivals.

To improve the recovery of offshore-onshore DFs, we propose to use a two-step method based on unsupervised learning. For a pre-stack DF dataset calculated from short ambient seismic field time windows (e.g., a few minutes to hours) over a long period of time (e.g., one year) between two seismic stations, we first compute its Principal Component Analysis (PCA). We only keep the output of the first n principle components (PCs, with n being less than 20), which allows us to significantly reduce the dimensions of the dataset. Second, we cluster the data from the low-dimensional space and linearly stack the DFs belonging to each cluster together. Such a two-step method has been used to cluster different types of high-dimensional datasets, such as DNA gene expression and internet newsgroups (Ding & He, 2004). In seismology, a similar approach using dimensionality reduction with autoencoders and clustering has been developed to classify earthquake waveforms (Mousavi et al., 2019).

In this study, we first present our two-step clustering method and apply it to a synthetic dataset. We then introduce the computation of offshore-onshore DFs between seismic sta-

tions located on top and in the vicinity of the Nankai Trough. To validate the results from our method, we finally transform the DFs into velocity waveforms and compare them to the long-period (4–10 s) velocity waveforms from a moderate M_w 5.8 subduction earthquake, which occurred in the vicinity of an offshore station.

2 Methods: two-step clustering and application to a synthetic dataset

Clustering is a machine learning method that is used to partition a dataset into different groups with similar characteristics in an unsupervised manner. While clustering algorithms, such as k-means and Gaussian mixture models (GMMs), perform well on low dimensional datasets, their performance rapidly decreases as the dimension of the data increases (Steinbach et al., 2004). In seismic interferometry, thousands of DFs with a duration of a few hundred seconds can be computed from one year of continuous data recorded by a station pair, resulting in high-dimensional datasets.

2.1 PCA and clustering with Gaussian mixture model (GMM)

The PCA is a popular statistical approach to reduce the number of dimensions of a large dataset into a low-dimensional set of features. This is achieved by transforming the input data into a set of uncorrelated, orthogonal, principal components (PCs). The PCs are ordered so that the first PC explains the largest data variance, the second PC retains the second largest variance, etc. For more details about the PCA, we refer the reader to the extensively literature about the method (Jolliffe, 2002, and references therein).

In this study, our goal is to reduce the dimension of pre-stack DF datasets, which are calculated from short ambient seismic field time windows (e.g., 30 minutes) recorded over one year by station pairs (more details about the computation of the DFs are given in Section 3.1). For each DF dataset, we compute its PCA of and keep the output of the first n PCs. For offshore-onshore DFs, we keep the first 10 PCs (e.g., $n = 10$) and discuss our choice in the supplementary material Text S1 and Table S1. The data from the low-dimensional space of the n PCs are then clustered using a GMM. This probabilistic model clusters the data by assuming that they are generated from a mixture of a finite number of Gaussian distributions with unknown parameters. To learn the parameters of each Gaussian distribution, we use the expectation-maximization (EM) algorithm (Dempster et al., 1977).

One of the main problems of clustering algorithms is that the number of clusters needs to be accurately determined in advance to reduce potential under- or over-fitting of the data (Figueiredo & Jain, 2002). To automatically determine the optimal cluster number for a given DF dataset, we cluster the output of its first n PCs using GMMs with different numbers of clusters and compute the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC, Schwarz, 1978) of each model. The optimal model is generally selected as the one with the lowest BIC score. Note that the formulation of the BIC considers a trade-off between model fitting and model complexity, with a penalty term to penalize more complex models which are most likely to better fit the data.

As stated above, the optimal number of clusters is generally identified with the minimum BIC value. However, it has been argued that the location of a knee (also called kink or elbow) in a BIC versus cluster number plot represents better the optimal number of clusters (Murphy, 2012; Zhao et al., 2008). While several methods have been developed to determine the knee location in BIC curves, we use that from Satopaa et al. (2011), which is based on the mathematical definition of curvature for a continuous function. For all the DF datasets considered in this study, the optimal number of clusters ranges between 2 and 6.

GMM clustering is performed on the output of the first n PCs using the optimal number of clusters and the DFs belonging to each cluster are linearly stacked together. Finally, one only needs to select the stacked DF that minimizes spurious arrivals and maximizes the symmetry between the anti-causal (negative) and causal (positive) parts among the 2 to 6 stacked DFs. We provide more information about the automatic selection of the best DF in

154 Section 3.2. The main advantage of using unsupervised learning to improve the retrieval of
 155 DFs is that no metric is required to select the waveforms which need to be stacked together.
 156 Moreover, applying this method to a DF dataset with thousands of waveforms is fast and
 157 can easily be used as an additional step when processing ambient seismic field time series.

158 2.2 Synthetic dataset

159 We first apply our method to a simple synthetic dataset to test its performance on
 160 waveforms with known signal and noise properties. We consider the propagation of surface
 161 waves between two hypothetical stations (A and B). To reproduce the dispersive property
 162 of surface waves, we use a chirp function with initial and final frequencies of 0.05 and 0.25
 163 Hz, respectively. The duration of the chirp signal is 70 s and starts at a lag-time of 10 s.
 164 The amplitude of the chirp signal is constant through time with a value of 0.5 and both
 165 ends of the signal are slightly tapered. The sampling rate of the waveforms is 2 Hz. In this
 166 synthetic example, we do not intend to replicate real correlation functions from the ambient
 167 seismic field, which is complicated to simulate due to its different of source mechanisms and
 168 the complex wave propagation through the Earth.

169 To mimic a correlation function dataset that could be biased by an uneven distribution
 170 of noise sources, we construct 10,000 waveforms with four different types of signals. The
 171 first 2,000 waveforms represent correlation functions obtained with a uniform distribution of
 172 the noise sources around the two stations. Therefore, both the anti-causal and causal parts
 173 of the CCFs can be retrieved (Figure 1a, top gray waveform). The next 2,000 waveforms
 174 (waveform number 2,001 to 4,000) represent the case where noise sources are still uniformly
 175 distributed around the two stations, but local noise sources (e.g., ocean storms) are also
 176 active between the station pair. This leads to clear spurious arrivals in addition to the
 177 anti-causal and causal signals. The spurious arrivals are created using a 0.11 Hz cosine
 178 function with a higher amplitude than the chirp signal. From waveform number 4,001 to
 179 6,000, we consider the case where noise sources are located between the two stations and
 180 in the stationary phase zone of station B. Therefore, the CCFs only contain the anti-causal
 181 part of the signal (e.g., propagation from station B to station A) as well as spurious arrivals.
 182 The last of the four groups is composed of 4,000 waveforms with no signal. We then add
 183 some random noise drawn from Gaussian distributions with a mean of zero and a variance of
 184 1 to all the waveforms. Note that the random noise values are normalized so the maximum
 185 absolute noise value is equal to 1.0, which corresponds to twice the maximum amplitude
 186 of the chirp signal, before being added to the waveforms (Figure 1a, background color and
 187 black waveforms). Finally, we randomly shuffle the 10,000 noisy waveforms and show them in
 188 Figure 1b. The raw stack of all the waveforms cancels the random noise but strong spurious
 189 arrivals can be observed and the anti-causal and causal signals have different amplitudes
 190 (Figure 1b, gray waveform).

191 2.3 Clustering the synthetic waveforms

192 The PCA of the shuffled dataset is calculated and its projection on the first two PCs is
 193 shown in Figure 2a. For this synthetic example, we only keep the output of the first 2 PCs,
 194 which explain 20.4% of the cumulative data variance. This value is very close to the 23.4%
 195 cumulative data variance explained by the first 10 PCs. This can be explained by the fact
 196 that all waveforms in this synthetic example are constructed with similar chirp and cosine
 197 signals to which white noise is added. Therefore, the chirp and cosine signals are defined by
 198 the first 2 PCs and the white noise by the following PCs. Note that for real offshore-onshore
 199 DF datasets, the output of more PCs is required due to the complexity of the waveforms.

200 To determine the appropriate number of clusters for the GMM, we cluster the output of
 201 the first 2 PCs using GMMs with 2 to 15 clusters and compute the BIC of each model (Figure
 202 2b). We then use the knee method to determine that the optimal number of clusters is four
 203 (red dot in Figure 2b). For this synthetic case, the lowest value of the BIC corresponds to
 204 the optimal number of clusters. The clustering performed with the GMM using four clusters
 205 is represented by the colors in Figure 2a. We finally stack the waveforms belonging to each

206 cluster and show them in Figure 2c. In this example, the four types of noisy waveforms
 207 are clustered with an accuracy of 100%, meaning that no waveform is miss-classified. The
 208 linear stack of the data from each group cancels the random noise and allows us to retrieve
 209 the four types of initial signals. As the goal of seismic interferometry is to retrieve unbiased
 210 correlation functions with no spurious arrivals to infer the physical properties of the Earth,
 211 one only needs to select the waveform from cluster 3 in this synthetic example. Note that
 212 the cluster number might change if the clustering is performed multiple times.

213 3 Application to real offshore-onshore deconvolution functions

214 3.1 Computation of deconvolution functions

215 We focus on one year of continuous data recorded by the KME18 DONET sensor and
 216 77 high-sensitivity Hi-net seismometers from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. All the
 217 stations in this study record with a sampling rate of 100 Hz and are shown in Figure 3.
 218 The raw data are first corrected for their instrument responses, down-sampled to 4 Hz to
 219 speed up the computation process, and band-pass filtered between 1 and 20 s using a 2-pass
 220 4-pole Butterworth filter. As the KME18 virtual source and the 77 Hi-net receivers are
 221 buried in boreholes with depths ranging from 1 m to 3000 m, we rotate the two horizontal
 222 components of each station to the true north-south (*N*) and east-west (*E*) directions using
 223 the orientations determined by Nakano et al. (2012) and Shiomi (2013). We then divide the
 224 dataset into 30-min-long time series and discard windows with spikes larger than 10 times
 225 the standard deviation of the window to remove the effect of potential earthquakes. We
 226 finally compute the deconvolution functions between offshore and onshore stations as

$$\text{DF}_{i,j}(x_r, x_s, t) = F^{-1} \left(\frac{\hat{v}_i(x_r, \omega) \hat{v}_j^*(x_s, \omega)}{\{|\hat{v}_j(x_s, \omega)|\}^2} \right), \quad (1)$$

227 where $\hat{v}_j^*(x_s, \omega)$ and $\hat{v}_i^*(x_r, \omega)$ are the Fourier transforms of a 30-min long velocity record at
 228 the offshore virtual source (x_s) and the onshore receiver (x_r) for the j th and i th components
 229 (either *N*, *E*, or vertical *Z*). ω represents the frequency domain, the * symbol denotes
 230 the complex conjugate, $|\cdot|$ is the absolute value, and $\{\cdot\}$ represents a smoothing of the
 231 spectrum using a 20-point moving average to stabilize the denominator term. The inverse
 232 Fourier transform (F^{-1}) is applied to retrieve the DFs between the two stations in the
 233 time domain (denoted by t). We taper the first and last 1.5 s of the anti-causal (negative)
 234 and causal (positive) parts of each DF with a 6-point half-Hanning function. DFs are then
 235 time derived once to retrieve the proportionality between the correlation function and the
 236 Green's function, and the causal part is multiplied by -1 to retrieve the symmetry between
 237 the anti-causal and causal parts. For each station pair, we then rotate the 9-component
 238 DF tensor from the east-north-vertical (*ENZ*) coordinate system to the radial-transverse-
 239 vertical (*RTZ*) system, where *R* and *T* are the radial and transverse directions from the
 240 virtual source, respectively. In the following, we assume that Love waves are retrieved on
 241 the *T-T* DFs and that Rayleigh waves are captured by the *Z-Z* and *R-R* DFs. Finally, all
 242 the waveforms are band-pass filtered between 4 and 10 s using a 2-pass 4-pole Butterworth
 243 filter.

244 We show an example of the DFs calculated between the KME18 and ABNH stations
 245 every 30-min for the *Z-Z* component in Figure 4. For this station pair, we obtain a total
 246 number of 16,641 waveforms, which is less than the total number of waveforms over 366
 247 days (e.g, 17,568 waveforms) as some time windows are removed during the pre-processing
 248 step. In Figure 4a, we show the raw stack of the offshore-onshore 30-min DFs over the year.
 249 Assuming a theoretical surface wave velocity of 3.5 km/s, the first physical signals should
 250 arrive after 45 s given the 159 km inter-station distance. Therefore, the clear arrivals in
 251 the anti-causal part between -50 s and -130 s, which are barely visible on the causal part,
 252 are likely Rayleigh waves propagating between the two stations. However, the strongest
 253 signal which dominates the waveform in Figure 4a arrives near the zero-lag time. Such
 254 non-physical arrivals are likely generated by ambient seismic field sources located between
 255 the two stations, as the inter-station path is mainly under the ocean (station locations in

Figure 3). Finally, we can observe in Figure 4b that the amplitude of the spurious arrivals varies through the year and is the strongest for the DFs calculated from the data recorded between April and June 2015.

3.2 Clustering offshore-onshore deconvolution functions

We apply the two-step clustering method to the 16,641 $Z-Z$ DFs between the KME18 and ABNH stations and show the results in Figure 5. We first compute the PCA of the dataset and keep the output of the first 10 PCs, which explain 22.5% of the cumulative data variance. Similarly to the synthetic data, we cluster the output of the first 10 PCs using GMMs with 2 to 15 clusters and compute the BIC of each model (Figure 5b). We then use the knee method to determine that the optimal number of clusters is four. Note that contrary to the synthetic example, the BIC value for four clusters is slightly higher than the minimum BIC value, which is found for six clusters. The projection of the data on the first two PCs is shown in Figure 5a together with the clustering results. We only present the projection of the data on the first two PCs as visualizing the data over 10 dimensions is impossible. Unlike the synthetic case, no clear clusters can be observed in the plot of the first two PCs nor in other PC combinations. Nevertheless, the waveforms obtained from the stack of the DFs from each cluster have different characteristics (Figure 5c).

In Figure 5c, the stacked DF from the fourth cluster is very similar to the raw stack over the year and contains strong spurious arrivals as well as Rayleigh wave arrivals in its anti-causal and causal parts. The waveform from the first cluster is also very similar, but does not contain any Rayleigh wave arrivals in its causal part. The stacked DF from the second cluster contains clear Rayleigh wave arrivals in its anti-causal and causal parts, but still contains strong spurious arrivals. Finally, the waveform from the third cluster, which is made by the stack of 1,973 30-min DFs, does not contain any spurious arrivals and has clear anti-causal and causal arrivals with almost similar amplitudes. As our goal is to improve the retrieval of offshore-onshore DFs, we select the waveform from cluster 3 for the $Z-Z$ component between the KME18 and ABNH stations.

To automate the selection of the best stacked DF, we use the fact that the data of the corresponding cluster lay near the origin of the first 2-PC plot and have the lowest variance. This property is consistent for all the stations and all components of the Green's tensor, and can be observed in Figure 5a for the data from the third cluster. Therefore, we simply compute the variance of the data from each cluster on the first 2 PCs and automatically select the stacked DF from the cluster with the lowest variance in the following.

We show the DFs between the KME18 station and the 77 onshore Hi-net stations for the $T-T$, $R-R$, and $Z-Z$ components calculated with the raw stack over the year in Figure 6a, and with the two-step clustering method in Figure 6b. In the 4 to 10 s period range, spurious arrivals can be observed for the three components of the raw stack DFs, and are especially strong for the $Z-Z$ component (Figure 6a). The two-step clustering method allows us to remove the spurious arrivals from the DFs. To quantify the effect of our method on the retrieval of clear DFs, we compute a SNR value for each component (e.g., $T-T$, $R-R$, and $Z-Z$) in three steps. First, we compute the ratio of the peak amplitude of the waves traveling slower than 3.5 km/s over the standard deviation of the first 25 s for both the anti-causal and causal parts of each DF. Second, we compute the mean of the anti-causal and causal SNR values for each DF. Finally, we average the SNR values for each component over 76 Hi-net stations to obtain one SNR value per component and shown them in each panel of Figure 6. We exclude the station located at less than 75 km from the virtual source as the first physical wave arrivals are likely to be in the first 25 s of the signal. For the three components, the SNRs of the DFs calculated with our method are higher than that from the DFs obtained with the raw stack over the year. Note that the SNR values are also used to determine the number of PCs that are needed to retrieve the best DFs (Supplementary material Text S1 and Table S1).

307 To investigate the mechanisms involved in the retrieval of clear DFs with the two-step
 308 clustering method between the KME18 virtual source and the 77 onshore Hi-net stations, we
 309 show the daily number of selected DFs averaged over all the receiver stations between April
 310 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016 in Figure 7. Between May and November 2015, there are five
 311 distinct time periods where the two-step clustering method selects approximately twenty 30-
 312 min DFs per day for the three components. Extreme meteorological events, such as storms,
 313 typhoons, and cyclones, are well known to efficiently excite the ambient seismic field and
 314 to favor the retrieval of correlation functions (Nishida, 2017, and references therein). To
 315 determine if the DF selection can be explained by the effect of storms, we compute a metric
 316 using the typhoon data gathered by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). First, we
 317 select the 14 severe tropical storms (wind speed between 89 and 117 km/h), typhoons (wind
 318 speed ≥ 118 km/h), and extra-tropical cyclones passing at less than 1,500 km from the
 319 virtual source. Second, we compute the metric by multiplying the sea level atmospheric
 320 pressure at the center of each storm by its distance to the virtual source (Figure 7). We find
 321 a positive correlation between the computed metric and the daily number of selected DFs
 322 over the considered time period, with correlation coefficients of 0.61, 0.58, and 0.68 for the
 323 T - T , R - R , and Z - Z components, respectively. This indicates that severe meteorological
 324 events occurring near the region of interest efficiently excite the ambient seismic field in a
 325 way that favors the retrieval of clear offshore-onshore DFs. In 2016, however, the 30-min
 326 DFs selected by the two-step clustering method cannot be explained by typhoons. Takagi
 327 et al. (2018) showed that Rayleigh waves in the 4 to 8 s period range are mainly generated
 328 in the Japan Sea (also known as East Sea) during winter months. Therefore, the selection
 329 of DFs in 2016 can potentially be caused by the occurrence of storms in the Japan Sea.
 330 However, additional work outside the scope of this study is required to fully understand the
 331 mechanisms contributing to the retrieval of better offshore-onshore DFs.

332 3.3 Moderate earthquake simulation

333 3.3.1 Earthquake data

334 A M_w 5.8 earthquake occurred on April 1, 2016 at 11:39:07 Japan Standard Time in
 335 the vicinity of the KME18 station (Figure 3). The F-net solution of the National Research
 336 Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) locates the earthquake at a
 337 depth of 12 km, which is close to the plate interface, with a subduction dominant focal
 338 mechanism. The occurrence of the earthquake on the plate interface was later confirmed by
 339 further studies (Wallace et al., 2016; Nakano et al., 2018; Takemura et al., 2018). We correct
 340 the earthquake velocity records at the 77 Hi-net stations for their instrument responses and
 341 rotate the horizontal waveforms to the radial and transverse directions from the epicenter.
 342 The three-component velocity data are then band-pass filtered between 4 and 10 s using a
 343 four-pole and two-pass Butterworth filter and are down-sampled from 100 Hz to 10 Hz.

344 3.3.2 Simulating velocity waveforms with DFs

345 To demonstrate that the DFs obtained with our two-step clustering method have reli-
 346 able phases and amplitudes, we use them to simulate the velocity waveforms from the M_w
 347 5.8 earthquake, which can be considered as a point source for the period range of interest
 348 (e.g., 4–10 s). Similarly to Viens and Denolle (2019), we consider the causal part of the T - T ,
 349 R - R , and Z - Z DFs as it likely better captures the site amplification and attenuation effects
 350 compared to the anti-causal part (Bowden et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2016). In the following,
 351 the causal T - T DFs are considered to simulate Love waves (e.g., T component from the
 352 earthquake) and the causal R - R and Z - Z DFs are used to simulate Rayleigh waves, which
 353 are the R and Z components from the earthquake.

354 We first resample the causal part of the DFs from 4 Hz to 10 Hz and convolve them
 355 with a source time function to simulate velocity waveforms. The source time function is
 356 a Gaussian function with a duration of 1 s and its amplitude is set so its integral over its
 357 duration is equal to 4.9×10^{17} Nm, which is the seismic moment of the earthquake deter-
 358 mined by the F-net NIED solution. To account for the fact that the earthquake epicenter

359 is located 7 km away from the KME18 station, we multiply the amplitude of the simulated
 360 waveform by the difference of surface-wave geometrical spreading (e.g., multiplication by
 361 $\sqrt{d_{v-r}}/\sqrt{d_{e-r}}$, with d_{v-r} and d_{e-r} being the KME18-receiver and epicenter-receiver dis-
 362 tances, respectively). We also time shift the simulated waveforms considering a constant
 363 local surface-wave velocity of 3.0 km/s, assuming that surface-wave dispersion is negligible
 364 in the 4 to 10 s period range. Finally, as only the relative, rather than absolute, ampli-
 365 tude is preserved by the DFs, the simulated velocity waveforms need to be calibrated with
 366 the velocity waveforms from the earthquake. We compute a calibration factor common to
 367 the 77 Hi-net stations but different for each component by taking average of the ratio of
 368 the simulated over recorded surface-wave long-period peak ground velocity (PGV) over all
 369 stations. The surface-wave long-period PGV of each waveform is defined as the maximum
 370 absolute amplitude of the waves traveling slower than 3.5 km/s.

371 Surface-wave radiation pattern effects should also be taken into account when simulat-
 372 ing earthquakes with DFs (Denolle et al., 2013). However, Viens and Denolle (2019) showed
 373 that for a M_w 5.5 event which occurred near the trench in the Tonankai region, the effect of
 374 the seismic wave propagation through the accretionary wedge is stronger than radiation pat-
 375 tern effects. To demonstrate that a similar effect can be observed for the M_w 5.8 earthquake,
 376 we correct the simulated and observed velocity waveforms for the surface wave geometri-
 377 cal spreading effect by multiplying the waveforms by $\sqrt{d_{e-r}}$. The observed and simulated
 378 surface-wave long-period PGV after geometrical spreading correction are shown in Figure 8
 379 as a function of the azimuth from the epicenter. Similar long-period PGV variations with
 380 the azimuth can be observed for the three components. For the observed radial (R) and
 381 vertical (Z) components and the simulated waveforms with $R-R$ and $Z-Z$ components, the
 382 amplitude of the long-period PGVs decreases with increasing azimuth. For the recorded
 383 transverse (T) and simulated with $T-T$ components, a peak of maximum PGV values can
 384 be observed around the zero azimuth and minimum values are located near the -30 and 30
 385 degree azimuths. As the simulated waveforms only contain the signature of the seismic wave
 386 propagation between the KME18 station and onshore stations, similar azimuthal variations
 387 as the earthquake suggest that propagation effects have a dominant effect on the ampli-
 388 tude of the seismic waves, and are stronger than radiation pattern effects for the M_w 5.8
 389 earthquake in the 4 to 10 s period range.

390 Therefore, we simply consider the causal $T-T$, $R-R$, and $Z-Z$ DFs convolved with the
 391 source time function and corrected for the fact that the KME18 station and the epicenter
 392 are not co-located to simulate the transverse, radial, and vertical earthquake waveforms. In
 393 the following, we consider two types of simulated waveforms. The first type of simulations
 394 uses the raw stack of the DFs over the year, which are call raw simulations, and the second
 395 type of simulated waveforms uses the DFs obtained with the two-step clustering method,
 396 which are called clustered simulations.

397 **3.3.3 Simulation results**

398 In Figure 9, we show the simulated and observed velocity waveforms for the transverse,
 399 radial, and vertical components at six Hi-net stations (location in Figure 3). The raw and
 400 clustered simulations are shown in Figure 9a and Figure 9b, respectively. For the three
 401 components, the main wave packet travels with a velocity of 3.5 km/s and is relatively
 402 well retrieved by the two simulation methods. However, the clustered simulations have less
 403 spurious arrivals, which allows us to better identify the true wave arrivals.

404 To quantitatively compare the observed and simulated waveforms, we compute a cor-
 405 relation coefficient (CC) for each waveform pair. The correlation coefficient is calculated
 406 over 100 s from the time 1% of the earthquake cumulative energy is reached. This metric
 407 varies between -1, when the two waveforms are out of phase by 180 degree, to 1 when the
 408 two waveforms are identical. Note that we allow a 1 s phase shift when calculating CCs to
 409 account for potential errors of the earthquake location. For the 6 stations shown in Figure
 410 9, the clustered simulations generally reproduce better the phase of the earthquake wave-
 411 forms, as shown by the higher CCs for 12 of the 18 waveform pairs. Over the 231 waveforms

412 compared in this study (e.g., 77 receiver stations and 3 components), 152 CCs (e.g., 66%)
 413 calculated between the observed waveforms and clustered simulations are higher or equal
 414 than if the raw simulations are used. For the 79 smaller CCs, 68 of them are smaller by less
 415 than a value of 0.1, which indicates that the raw and clustered simulations are very similar
 416 (e.g., T and R components of the TAGH station in Figure 9).

417 To quantify the difference between the observed and simulated waveform amplitudes, we
 418 use the surface-wave long-period PGVs and compute their residuals as the natural logarithm
 419 of the simulated over observed PGV ratios. The residuals are shown in Figure 10 as a
 420 function of the distance to the earthquake epicenter. For both types of simulated waveforms,
 421 the mean of the residuals is close to the zero-bias. Moreover, there is no clear variation of
 422 the residual distribution with the distance to the epicenter in Figure 10. This indicates
 423 that the attenuation of the waves with distance is relatively well preserved by both the
 424 raw stack and clustered DFs. However, the PGVs from the clustered simulations (Figure
 425 10b) reproduce better the observed PGVs as shown by the smaller standard deviations to
 426 the mean for the three components, compared to that shown in Figure 10a for the PGVs
 427 from the raw simulations. Note that 223 out of the 231 PGV ratios between the clustered
 428 simulations and observed waveforms are smaller than a factor of two, and the 8 other ratios
 429 are larger than a factor of two but smaller than a factor of three (green and blue circles in
 430 Figure 10b). For the raw simulations, 218 PGV ratios are within a factor of two, one ratio
 431 is larger than 3, and the other 12 ratios are larger than a factor of two but smaller than a
 432 factor of three.

433 We finally compute the 5% damped spectral acceleration (SA) for the observed and
 434 simulated velocity waveforms. First, velocity waveforms are time derived once to retrieve the
 435 corresponding acceleration time series and the SA is calculated using the Duhamel's integral
 436 technique (Chopra, 2015). We then compute the SA residuals as the natural logarithm of
 437 the simulated over observed SAs for each period. Finally, we calculate the mean of the
 438 residuals over the 77 stations as well as the one and two standard deviations to the mean
 439 for each period and show the results in Figure 11. For the radial and vertical components,
 440 the clustered simulations perform better than the raw simulations as the mean of the SA
 441 residuals is closer to the zero bias and the standard deviation values at each periods are
 442 smaller. Moreover, the zero-bias line in Figure 11b is always within one standard deviation,
 443 which is not the case for the vertical component in Figure 11a. For the transverse component,
 444 the SA residuals are not as good as for the radial and vertical components for both simulation
 445 methods. Nevertheless, the clustered simulations perform better than the raw simulations
 446 to simulate the SA from the recorded earthquake. The variations observed for the transverse
 447 component can potentially be caused by the fact that Love waves are not as well retrieved
 448 as Rayleigh waves in the offshore-onshore setting. This can be observed in Figure 6 with
 449 the raw and clustered T - T DFs have the lowest SNR values among the three components.

450 4 Conclusions

451 We introduced a method based on unsupervised learning to improve the retrieval of
 452 offshore-onshore correlation functions calculated with the deconvolution technique (DF).
 453 Our method works in two steps: first, the dimension of a DF dataset calculated between two
 454 seismic stations is reduced using the PCA; and second, the data from the low-dimensional
 455 space are clustered with a Gaussian mixture model. The waveforms belonging to each cluster
 456 are finally stacked together and the clustered DF that improves the symmetry between the
 457 anti-causal and causal parts and removes spurious arrivals is selected.

458 We applied our method to DFs calculated between the offshore KME18 station and 77
 459 onshore Hi-net stations in Japan. The selected DFs clustered with our method have higher
 460 signal-to-noise ratios than that obtained with the raw stack of the DFs over the year. To
 461 demonstrate that the DFs calculated with the clustering method contain reliable phases
 462 and amplitudes, we transformed the DFs into velocity waveforms and compared them to
 463 the recorded waveforms of a M_w 5.8 earthquake, which occurred close to the virtual source.

The simulated waveforms obtained with the clustered DFs reproduced better the earthquake waveforms than the simulated waveforms calculated with the raw stack of the DFs over the year.

Our two-step clustering method offers a new way to easily improve the quality of correlation functions between offshore and onshore stations, without having to determine any metric to select the DFs that need to be stacked together. By improving the retrieval of reliable DFs between offshore and onshore stations, we hope to improve the prediction of long-period ground motions from potential future megathrust earthquakes that could occur along subduction zones worldwide, such as the Nankai Trough or the Cascadia subduction zone.

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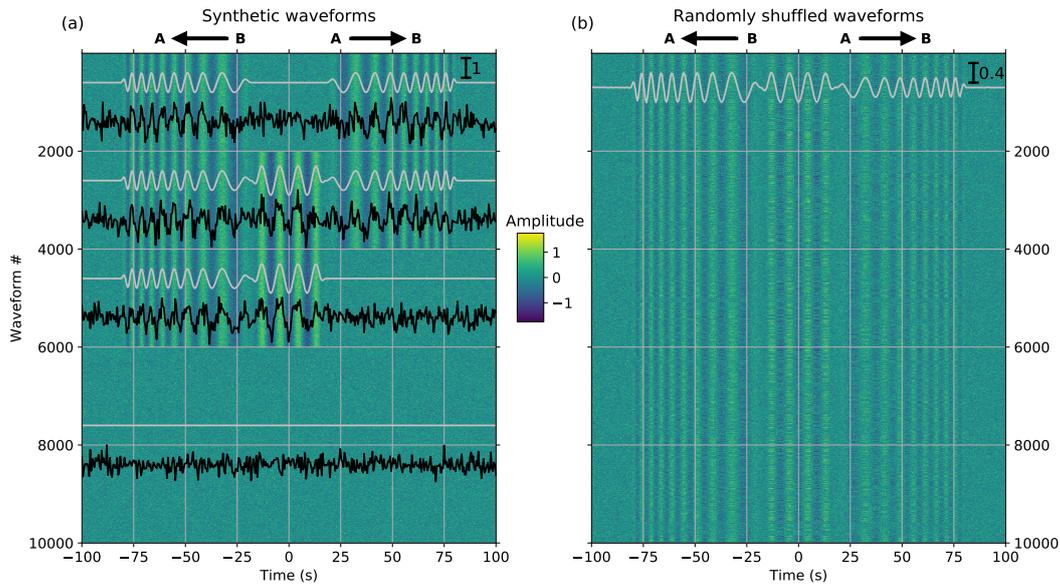


Figure 1. (a) Synthetic waveforms propagating from station A to station B (positive part) and from station B to station A (negative part). For the four different types of waveforms, an example of the clean and noisy traces are shown in gray and black, respectively. The background color represents the noisy waveforms. (b) Randomly shuffled waveforms. The gray trace represents the raw stack of the 10,000 waveforms. The amplitude scale of the gray waveform in the top right-hand corner is different than that in (a).

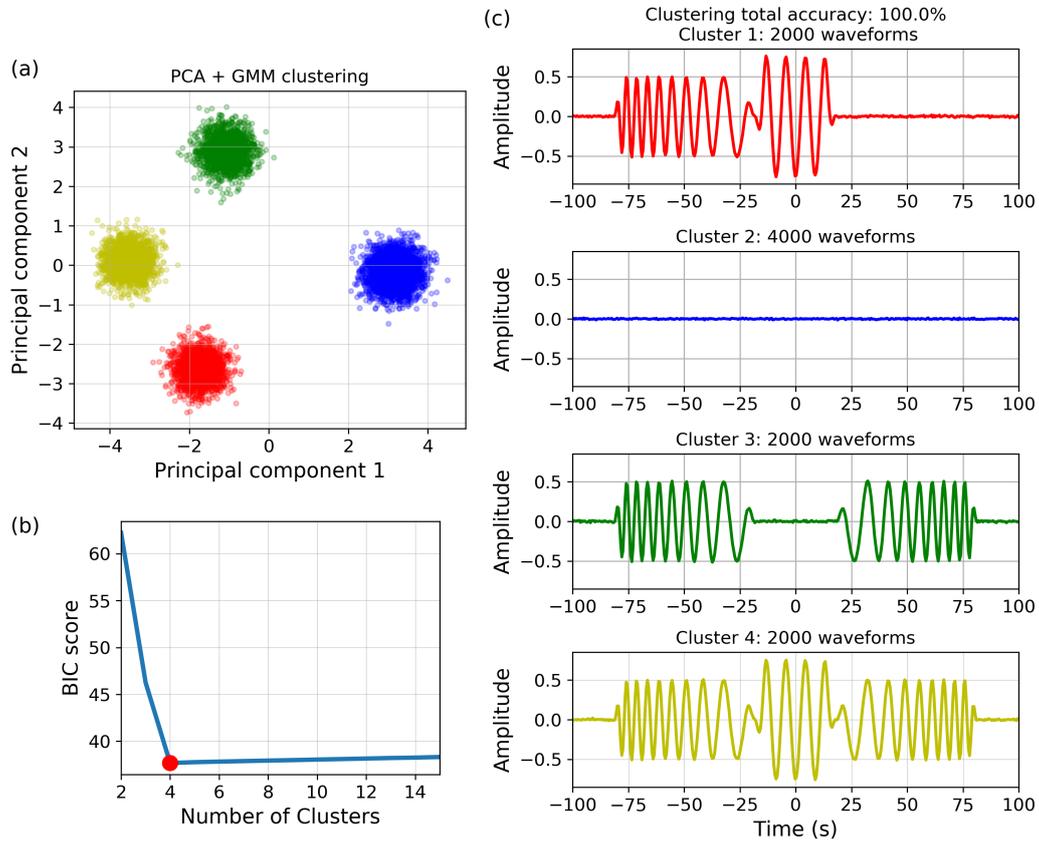


Figure 2. (a) Projection of the synthetic data on the first two principal components of the PCA. The four colors correspond to the four clusters obtained with the Gaussian mixture model (GMM). (b) BIC score for GMMs performed on the output of the first two PCs with different numbers of clusters. The lowest and optimal BIC value obtained with the knee method is found for four clusters. (c) Stack of the waveforms from each cluster. The random noise added to the data is canceled by the stacking of the waveforms and the four types of waveforms originally created are retrieved. The total accuracy of the clustering is also indicated on top of (c) and is 100% for this synthetic example.

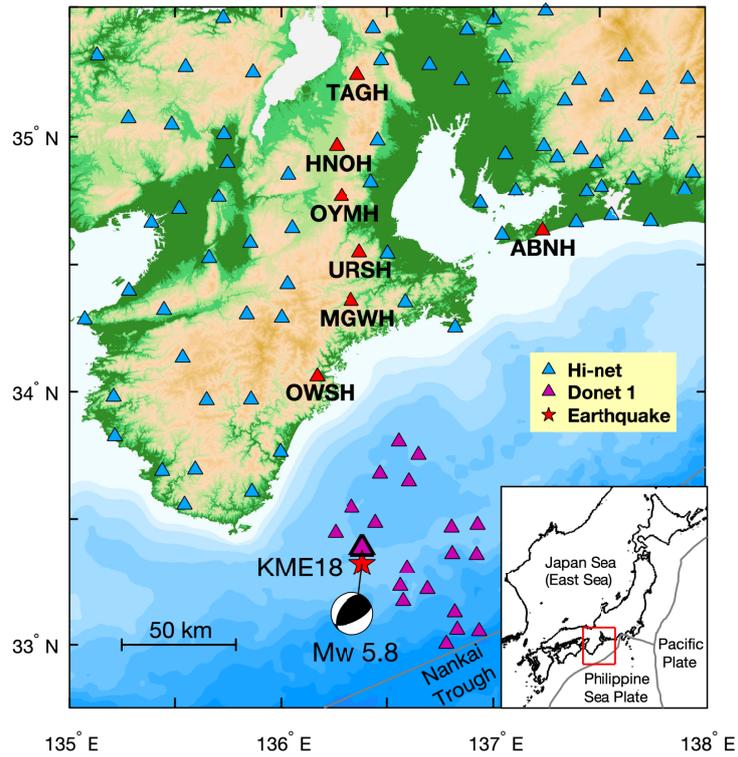


Figure 3. Topographic map of the region of interest, including the 20 offshore DONET 1 (purple) stations and the 77 onshore Hi-net (blue) receivers. The location of the 2016 M_w 5.8 earthquake, which occurred 7 km away from the KME18 station, is shown by the red star with its focal mechanism. The seven Hi-net stations used in this study are highlighted by red triangles and their names are also indicated. The inset map shows the Japan Islands, the plate boundaries (gray lines), and the location of the region of interest (red rectangle).

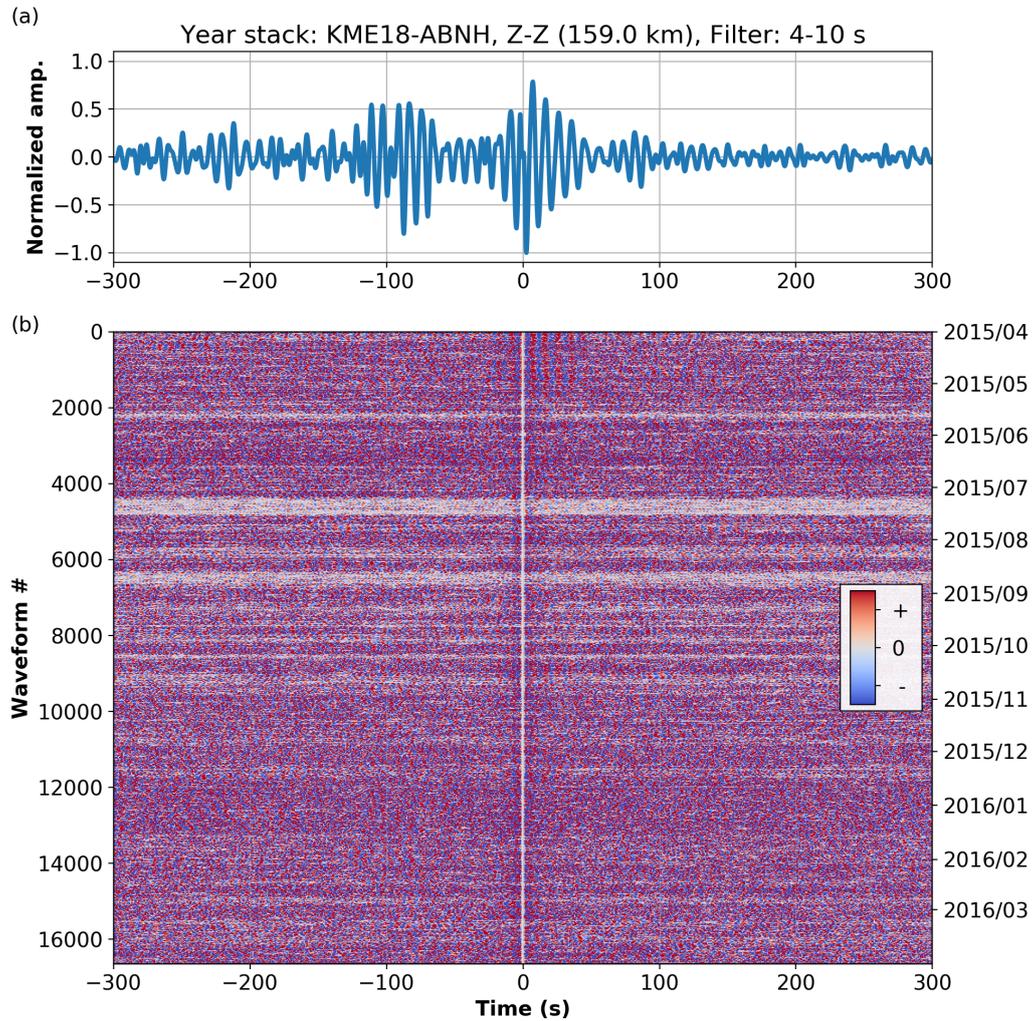


Figure 4. (a) Raw stack over the year of the 30-min deconvolution functions (DFs) between the KME18 and ABNH stations (location in Figure 3) for the Z - Z component. The amplitude of the waveform is normalized in this plot. (b) The 16,641 30-min DFs calculated between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016. All the waveforms are bandpass filtered between 4 and 10 s.

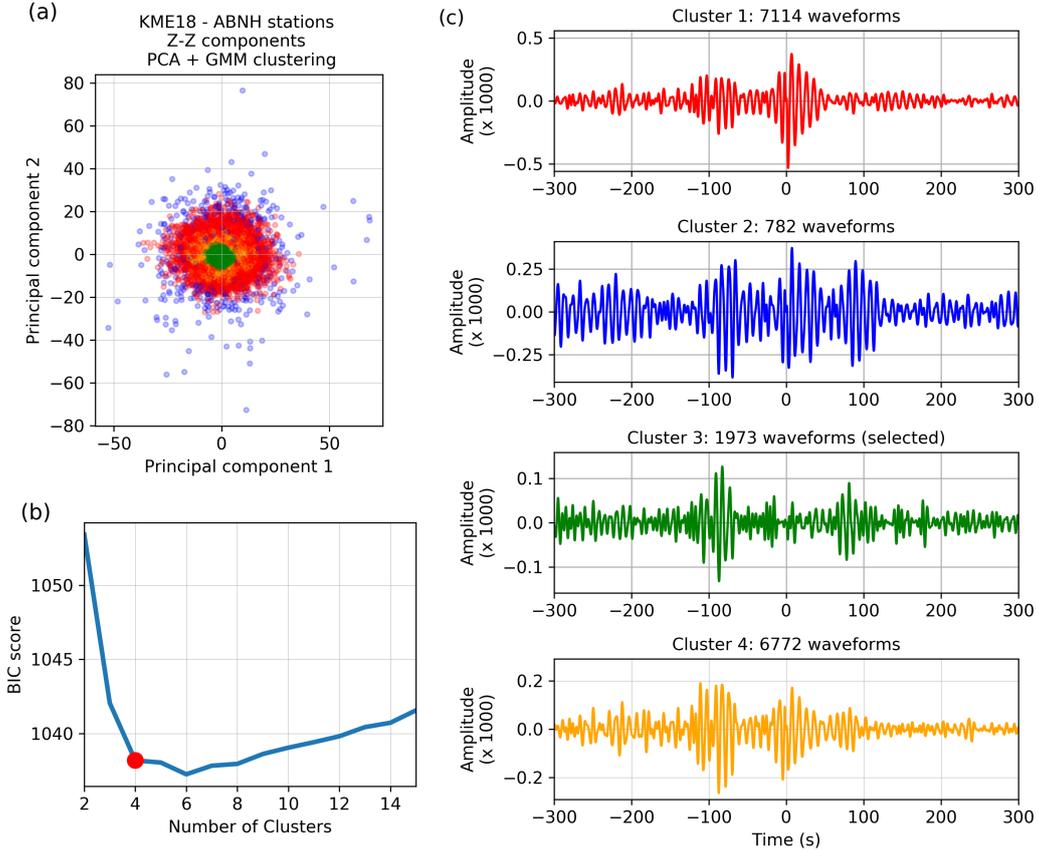


Figure 5. (a) Projection of the 16,641 Z - Z DFs between the KME18 and ABNH stations on the first two principal components of the PCA. The four colors correspond to the clusters obtained with the GMM. (b) BIC score for GMMs performed on the output of the first 10 PCs with different numbers of clusters. The knee method determines that four clusters is optimal (red dot). (c) Stack of the 30-min DFs belonging to each cluster shown in (a). The colors of the waveforms correspond to the colors in (a). Our method automatically selects the Z - Z DF from cluster 3 for this station pair.

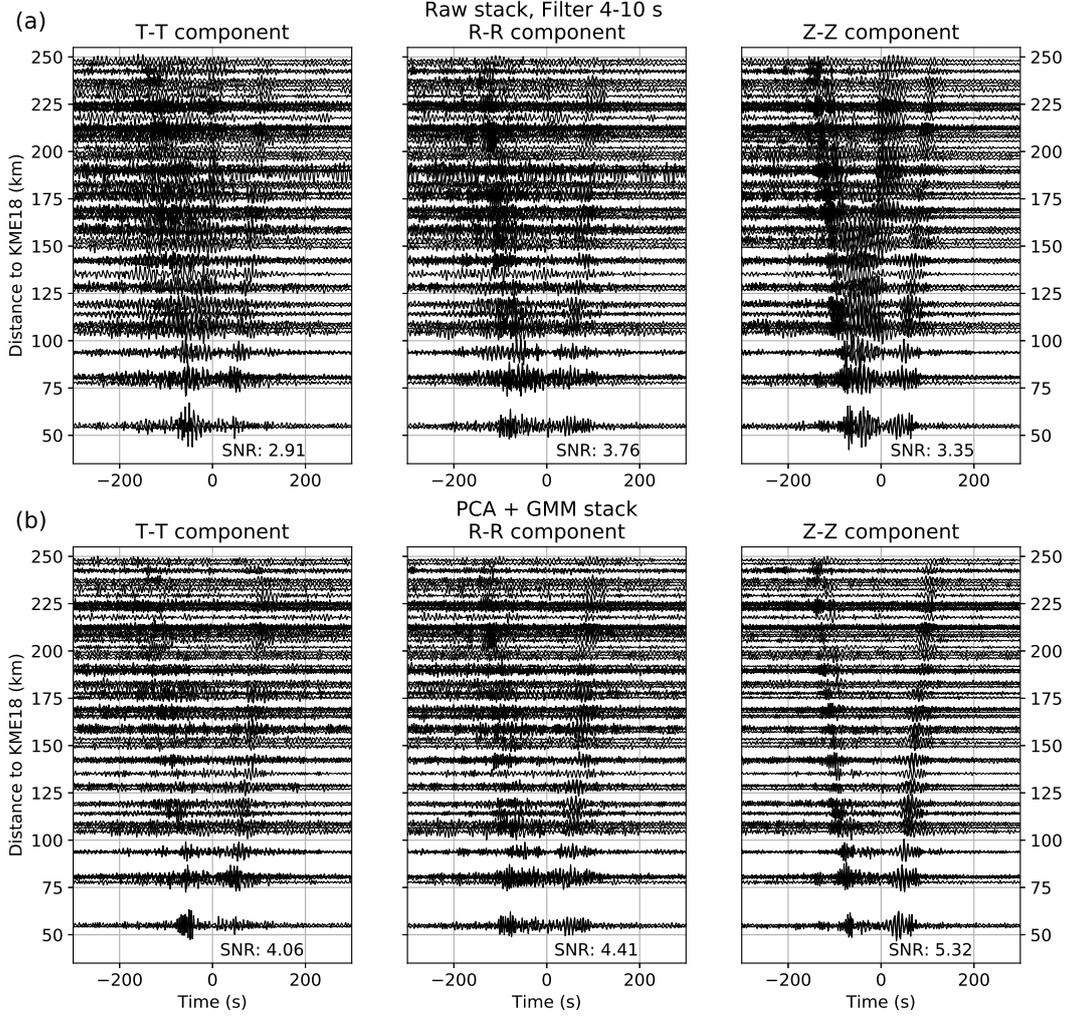


Figure 6. (a) Moveout of the raw stack of the correlation functions for the T - T , R - R , and Z - Z components, band-pass filtered between 4 and 10 s. (b) Same as (a) for the DFs obtained with our two-step clustering method using the first 10 PCs. For each panel, the average SNR (e.g., average value over the anti-causal and causal parts and over 76 stations) is also indicated.

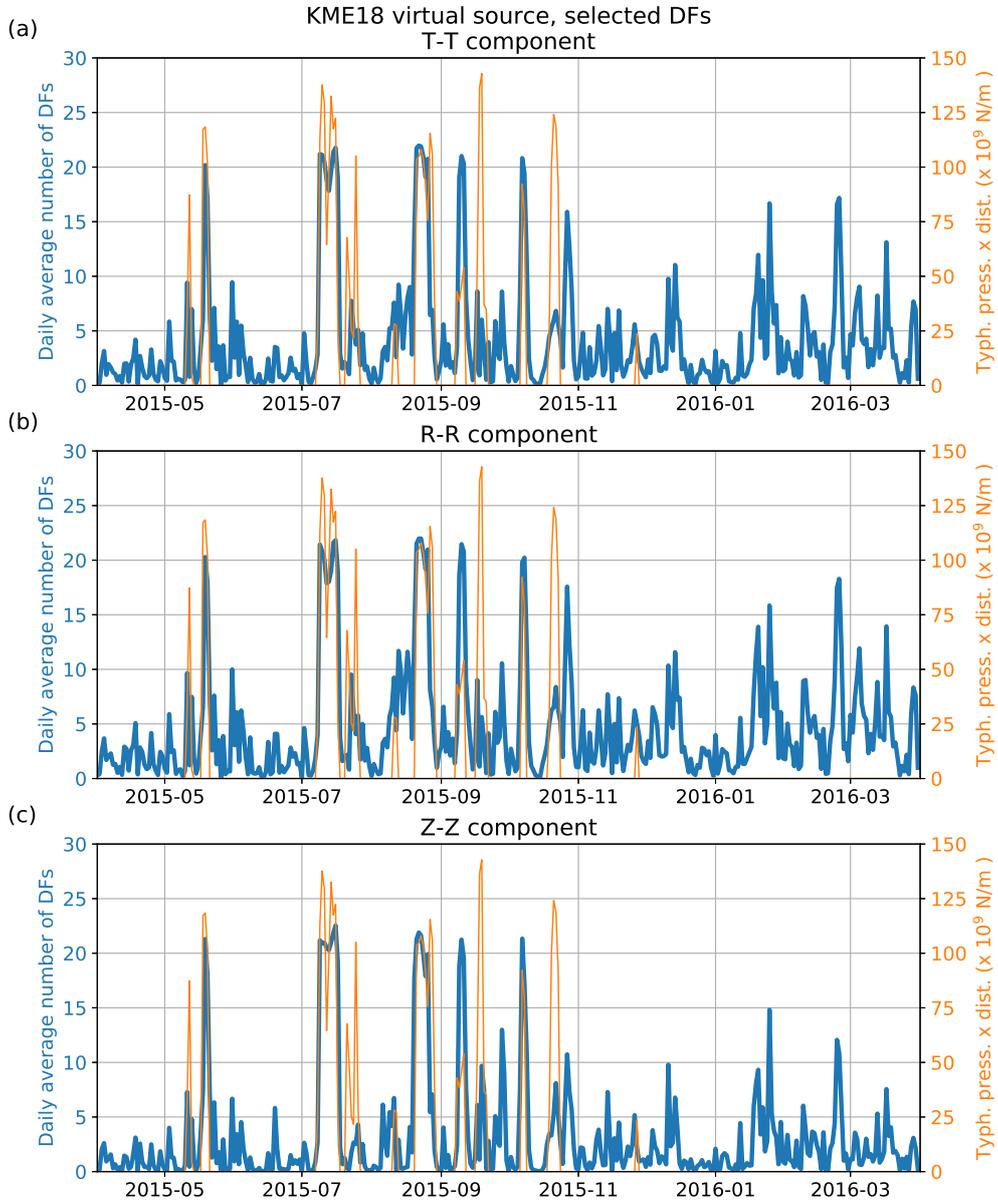


Figure 7. (a) Daily average number of T - T DFs obtained with our two-step method between the KME18 and 77 Hi-net stations (blue). The metric used to investigate the impact of extreme meteorological events on the results (e.g., atmospheric pressure at the center of each storm multiplied by its distance to the the KME18 station) is shown in orange. (b) and (c) are same as (a) for the R - R and Z - Z DFs, respectively.

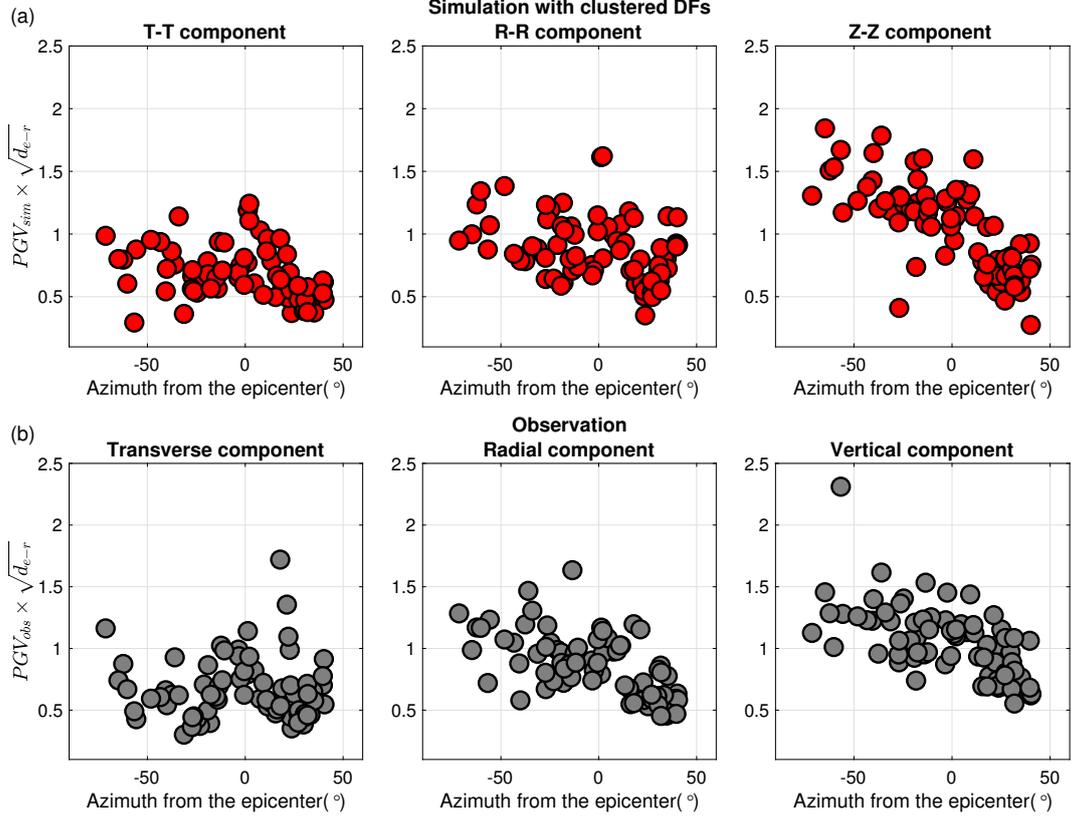


Figure 8. (a) Long-period peak ground velocities of the simulated waveforms (PGV_{sim}) using the $T-T$, $R-R$, and $Z-Z$ DFs obtained with the PCA and GMM clustering method (clustered simulations), as a function of the azimuth from the epicenter. The PGVs are corrected for the surface-wave geometrical spreading between the epicenter and receiver locations (e.g., multiplication by $\sqrt{d_{e-r}}$). (b) Long-period peak ground velocities of the 2016 M_w 5.8 earthquake (PGV_{obs}) for the transverse, radial, and vertical components after surface-wave geometrical spreading correction, as a function of the azimuth from the epicenter. The PGV values are computed for seismic waves traveling slower than 3.5 km/s to focus on surface-wave amplitudes and the zero azimuth is north.

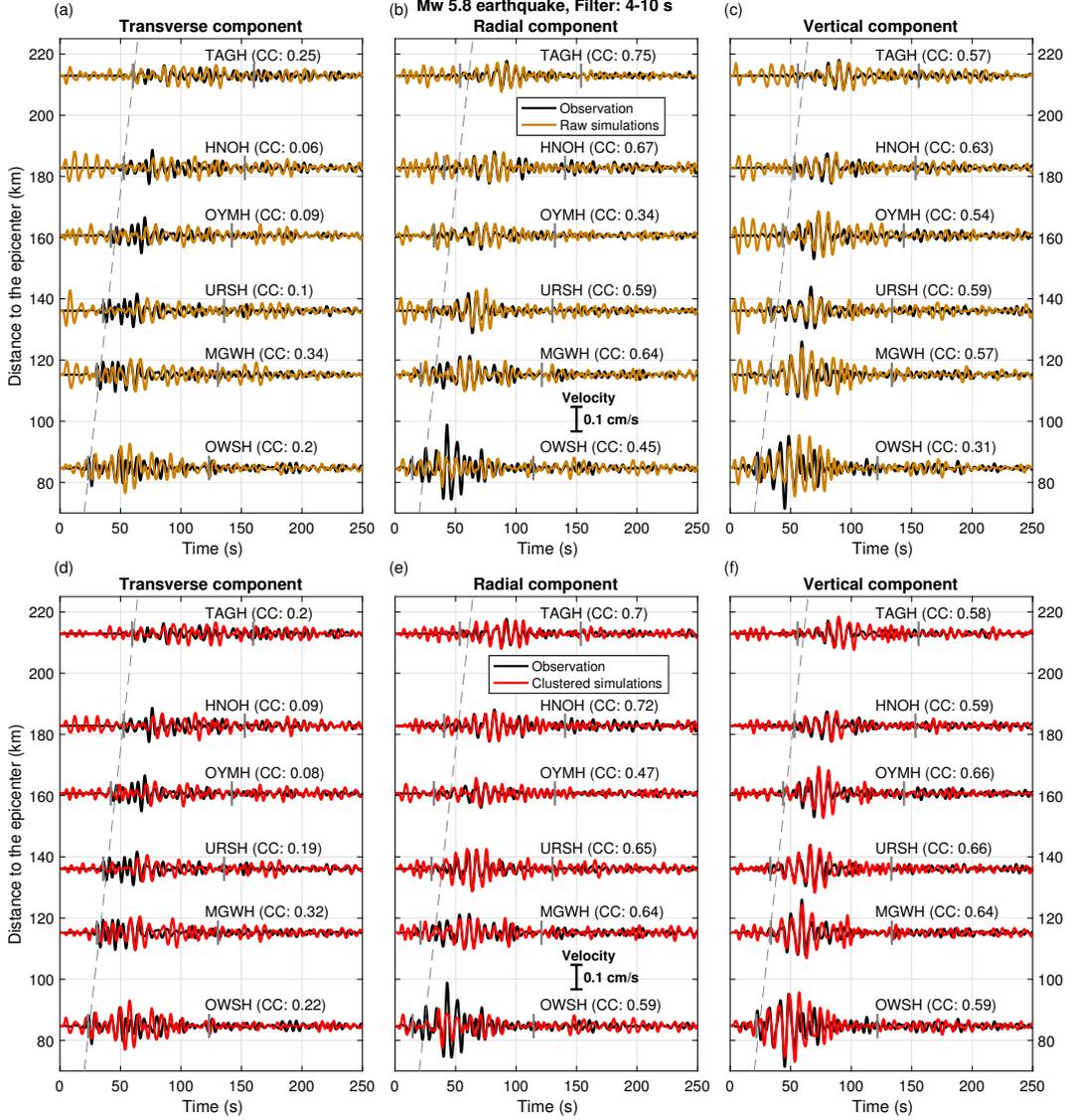


Figure 9. Comparison between simulated and observed (black waveforms) velocity waveforms for the M_w 5.8 earthquake for the transverse, radial, and vertical components in the 4 to 10 s period range. The raw simulations are shown by the orange traces in Figure 9a-c and the clustered simulations are shown by the red traces in Figure 9d-f. The location of the stations is shown in Figure 3. For each station, the correlation coefficient (CC) between the simulated and observed waveforms is calculated between the two vertical gray lines and its value indicated between parenthesis. The dashed lines are the 3.5 km/s moveout.

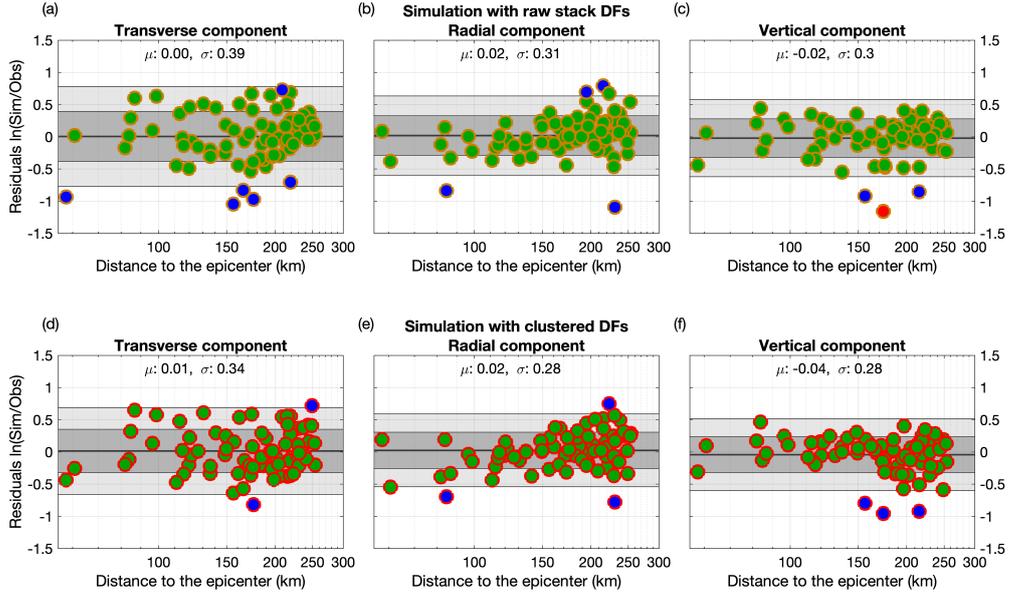


Figure 10. Long-period PGV residuals for the transverse, radial, and vertical components as a function of the distance to the epicenter of the M_w 5.8 event. The raw and clustered simulations are used in Figure 10a–c and Figure 10d–f, respectively. Green circles indicate that the ratio between the simulated and observed PGVs is within a factor of 2 and blue circles show ratio values larger than a factor of 2 but within a factor of 3. The red circle represents a ratio larger than a factor of 3. The thick black line represents the mean of the data, and the 1 and 2 standard deviations to the mean are shown by the dark gray and light gray areas, respectively. The mean of the PGV residuals (μ) and the one standard deviation to the mean (σ) value are shown on top of each panel.

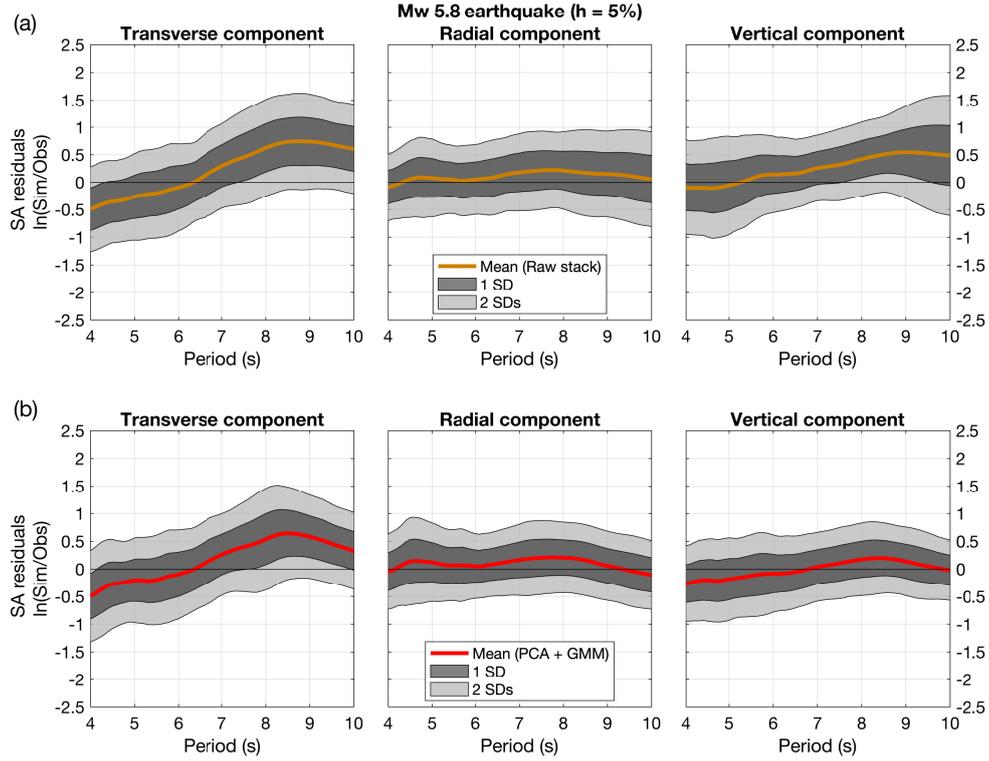


Figure 11. (a) Five-percent damped spectral acceleration (SA) residuals computed between the raw simulations and the observed waveforms of the M_w 5.8 earthquake over the 77 Hi-net stations for the transverse, radial, and vertical components. (b) Same as (a) for the clustered simulations. For each panel, the mean of the SA residuals (red) is shown together with the one (dark gray area) and the two (light gray area) standard deviations to the mean. The zero bias is shown by the black straight lines.

Supporting Information for ”Improving the retrieval of offshore-onshore correlation functions with machine learning”

Loïc Viens¹ and Tomotaka Iwata¹

¹Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University

Contents of this file

1. Text S1
2. Table S1

Introduction

The supporting information includes:

1. information about the number of principle components kept before performing the clustering.

Text S1: On the number of principle components

In the main manuscript, we compute the PCA of each offshore-onshore deconvolution function (DF) dataset and keep the first $n = 10$ principle components (PCs) before performing the clustering on the low-dimensional space. To determine the appropriate number of PCs needed to retrieve clean DFs after clustering, we tried to keep the first 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 PCs. For each number of PCs, we compute the DFs using our two-step clustering method. To determine the best number of PCs to perform the clustering, we compute a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) value for each component (e.g., $T-T$, $R-R$, and $Z-Z$) the same way as detailed in Section 3.2 of the main manuscript. We show the SNR values for each component and the average over the three components in Table S1. While keeping the first 2 PCs only allows us to slightly improve the SNR compared to that from the raw stack of the waveforms, keeping the first 5 or more PCs allows us to significantly increase the SNR values. For our dataset, the highest average SNR is obtained when the clustering is performed on the output of the first 10 PCs, which is why we use this number in the main manuscript.

Method	T - T SNR	R - R SNR	Z - Z SNR	Average SNR
Raw stack	2.91	3.76	3.35	3.34
2 PCs	3.38	3.77	3.90	3.68
5 PCs	4.16	4.40	5.12	4.56
10 PCs	4.06	4.41	5.32	4.60
15 PCs	4.01	4.34	5.33	4.56
20 PCs	4.01	4.31	5.10	4.47
25 PCs	3.96	4.34	5.12	4.47

Table S1. SNR of the T - T , R - R , and Z - Z DFs averaged over 76 receiver stations. The DFs are obtained from the raw stack over the year and with our two-step clustering method using different numbers of principle components (PCs). The last column is the average SNR value over the three components.