

1 Remote characterization of the 12  
2 January 2020 eruption of Taal Volcano,  
3 Philippines, using seismo-acoustic,  
4 volcanic lightning, and satellite  
5 observations

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## 26 Key Points

- 27 - We distinguish five eruption phases using data from long-range lightning, infrasound,  
28 satellite, and seismic sensors.
- 29 - Results suggest water from the Main Crater Lake was vaporized and incorporated into  
30 the plume within the first 12 hours of the eruption.
- 31 - Remote observations can augment local measurements to provide additional details  
32 about the eruption dynamics.

## 33 Abstract

34 On 12 January 2020, an eruption began on the shores of the Main Crater Lake of Taal  
35 Volcano, a caldera system on the southern end of Luzon Island in the Philippines. Taal,  
36 one of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines, is located 30 km south of Manila, a  
37 major metropolitan area with a population of 13.5 million people. Eruptive activity  
38 intensified throughout the day on 12 January, producing prolific volcanic lightning,  
39 ashfall, and a sustained plume that reached 16-17 km altitude. The chronology of  
40 events was well documented by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology  
41 (PHIVOLCS) and the Tokyo Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC). The wealth of data  
42 collected during the eruption provides a unique opportunity to investigate how the  
43 combination of different remote sensing methods may complement local observations  
44 and monitoring. Remote systems tend to provide lower-resolution data but are also less  
45 likely to be compromised by the eruptive activity, thus providing continuous records of  
46 eruptive processes. Here, we present a post-event analysis of the 12 January activity,  
47 including data from long-range lightning, infrasound, and seismic arrays located at  
48 distances up to several thousands of kilometers from the volcano. By combining these  
49 datasets we distinguish five phases of activity and infer a major shift in eruption  
50 behavior around 12:00 on 12 January (UTC). The remote observations suggest that the  
51 most of the water within the Main Crater Lake (~42 million m<sup>3</sup>) was vaporized and  
52 incorporated into the volcanic plume within the first 12 hours of the eruption.

## 53 Introduction

54 Taal Volcano, located on the southern end of Luzon Island (Figure 1), is one of the most  
55 active volcanoes in the Philippines (Delos Reyes et al., 2018; Global Volcanism  
56 Program, 2020). This caldera system is located 30 km south of the southern end of the  
57 major metropolitan area of Manila, home to 13.5 million people (Philippine Statistics  
58 Authority, 2021). The caldera contains Taal Lake (TL) with Taal Volcano Island (TVI)  
59 near the center, which itself contains a smaller crater lake known as the Main Crater  
60 Lake (MCL). Prior to the 2020 eruption the MCL had a volume of 42 million m<sup>3</sup>, a  
61 maximum depth of 70 m, a pH of ~3.1, and a usual temperature of ~32° C (Bernard et  
62 al., 2020). Both the shores of LT and TVI are populated areas. Taal Volcano poses a  
63 hazard not only to the local population but also to more distal communities and the  
64 global aviation industry (Delos Reyes et al., 2018).

65  
66 On 12 January 2020 an eruption began on TVI along the NE shore of the inner lake  
67 (MCL) (PHIVOLCS, 2020a; PHIVOLCS-DOST [@phivolcs\_dost], 2020a). This study is  
68 focused on eruption processes leading to the high-altitude plume on the first day of the  
69 eruption, 12 January. This plume impacted aviation, leading to the cancellation of over  
70 240 flights and the closure of Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Chen, 2020;  
71 Reuters, 2020). Twenty-three cities/municipalities experienced power interruption in the  
72 provinces of Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas (Santos et al., 2022), and thousands were  
73 evacuated, including 142 families who remain displaced at the time of writing (Abanto,  
74 2023).

75 We use four remotely detected datasets to characterize the volcanic plume during this  
76 eruption, including satellite-based imagery (optical and infrared), lightning flashes, and  
77 infrasound and seismic waveforms. Each of these technologies have their own pros and  
78 cons. Satellite-based remote sensing can allow rapid assessment of the location and  
79 height of a volcanic plume, providing information for ash dispersion models; however,  
80 satellite observations can be affected by slow data availability (dependent on factors  
81 such as scanning strategy and data sharing agreements), spatial resolution, latency,  
82 cloudy weather, and nighttime conditions (Poland et al., 2020). Infrasound and lightning

83 detection are independent of time of day and cloud cover, but regional to remote  
84 infrasound can suffer from low signal-to-noise ratios (SNR) in strong wind conditions  
85 both locally and along the propagation path. Other acoustic signals such as  
86 microbaroms from ocean waves can mask the signal of interest (e.g., den Ouden et al.,  
87 2020). Moreover, the long-range transmission of acoustic energy from source to sensor  
88 is determined by variable atmospheric conditions along the propagation path (e.g.,  
89 Waxler and Assink, 2019). Long-range lightning detection can be used to identify the  
90 presence of an energetic plume and track its location, but it can be challenging to  
91 discriminate volcanic lightning from background meteorological storms. In the case of  
92 the Taal eruption, the lack of nearby thunderstorms meant this was not a significant  
93 issue within 200 km of the volcano (Van Eaton et al., 2022). Compared to local seismic  
94 stations (within 20 km), regional seismic arrays are not as sensitive to smaller amplitude  
95 seismicity near the volcano and benefit from the improvement of the signal-to-noise  
96 ratio (SNR) through array processing techniques to detect activity from a greater  
97 distance where they are less likely to be directly impacted by the eruption. SNR is  
98 enhanced through beamforming, the combination of different elements within the array  
99 such that coherent signal is amplified and the noncoherent noise is reduced. Similar to  
100 infrasonic arrays, which are impacted by the microbarom and other noise sources,  
101 concurrent seismic signals, such as microseisms in the 0.1–1.0 Hz band and  
102 anthropogenic noise at higher frequencies, may mask the signals of interest. Combined,  
103 these four tools help compensate for their individual limitations and offer an effective  
104 way to assess volcanic eruptions and their dynamics (e.g., Coombs et al., 2018).

105

106 Here, we investigate data from regional and remote monitoring networks to explore how  
107 their synthesis may complement local observations. Throughout this paper, we use  
108 hours:minutes:seconds for higher resolution data and hours:minutes for lower-resolution  
109 data. All times are reported in UTC unless noted, with an 8-hour time difference  
110 between UTC and Philippine Standard Time (UTC +8). A list of abbreviations is  
111 available in table S1.

## 112 Eruption Timeline Determined by Local Sources

113 An eruption timeline was constructed using a variety of sources including bulletins and  
114 social media posts from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology  
115 (PHIVOLCS) and the Tokyo Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (Tokyo VAAC) (Figure 2,  
116 supplemental Table S2 and supplemental Figure S1). These observations were  
117 combined with photographs and videos from social media (Twitter and Instagram),  
118 Getty Images, and news sources that provided estimated acquisition times (Table S3).  
119 The Tokyo VAAC reports are based on information from the Japan Meteorological  
120 Agency's Himawari-8 satellite, as well as observations from PHIVOLCS, and the Air  
121 Traffic Service within the Manila Flight Information Region (FIR). There was a wide  
122 range of social media and traditional media postings with video and photographs of the  
123 eruption however, most lacked information on time and location. We inferred locations  
124 by comparing images to those with known locations, such as a webcam operated by  
125 PHIVOLCS, and by identifying recognizable features within the frame. Plume heights  
126 are reported above sea level (a.s.l.) unless otherwise noted. All information from  
127 PHIVOLCS and VAAC alerts and bulletins are listed in Table S2 and summarized  
128 below.

129 An initial swarm of earthquakes was detected beginning around 03:00 UTC (DOST-  
130 PHIVOLCS, 2021) and was also felt and reported by the local population in the area  
131 near the future eruption site (Martinez-Villegas et al., 2022). Based on visual  
132 observations, explosive activity began around 05:00 on 12 January 2020, with small  
133 phreatic (steam) explosions, producing plumes up to 100 m high within the Main Crater  
134 Lake (Figure 1, PHIVOLCS, 2020b). This activity was recorded by the webcam  
135 operated by PHIVOLCS (PHIVOLCS-DOST [@phivolcs\_dost], 2020b) and video  
136 footage posted on social media platforms (Adrian [SaiAdrian], 2020). The explosions  
137 originated from a known hydrothermal area with at least five observed steam vents  
138 (Global Volcanism Program, 2020). A tourist guide present at the Main Crater Rim  
139 overlook at approximately 04:30 stated that they saw a fissure form within the crater,  
140 that steaming became stronger, and that it was coming from a big hole before "it  
141 cracked open" (Martinez-Villegas et al., 2022). The activity observed onshore in the

142 PHIVOLCS TVI webcam migrated toward the lake at 05:40, became increasingly  
143 energetic at 06:00, as indicated by larger plumes, and at 06:15 the camera lens was  
144 obscured and ultimately damaged by the growing eruption (Martinez-Villegas et al.,  
145 2022). Between 06:34 and 06:40 Martinez-Villegas et al. (2022) reported that based on  
146 PHIVOLCS web camera images, the eruption transitioned to phreatomagmatic activity.

147 This observation was followed by an escalation of activity; a 1.5 km plume was  
148 observed in satellite data and reported by the VAAC at 07:01 (Tokyo VAAC, 2020). A  
149 video posted online at 07:09 (Table S3) showed a much higher-altitude plume that  
150 appeared light in color. A time-lapse video posted at 09:26 showed the plume growing  
151 from a smaller radius to filling the MCL area. Several distinct explosions can be seen in  
152 the time-lapse. By 09:30 both the Tokyo VAAC and PHIVOLCS reported a high-altitude  
153 plume to 15-17 km producing frequent lightning (PHIVOLCS, 2020c; Tokyo VAAC,  
154 2020). At around sunset (before 09:44) video footage from two separate locations  
155 (Tagaytay area NNW of TVI, and the Balet area east of TVI) showed two plumes: one  
156 large, higher-altitude, light-colored (possibly more steam-rich) plume to the south, and a  
157 second significantly lower, darker (possibly more ash-rich) plume to the northeast. From  
158 both of these locations the shorter, darker plume appeared to originate from the NNE  
159 corner of the MCL area, where PHIVOLCS webcam images indicated the location of the  
160 initial eruptive activity (Table S3). The large, lighter-colored plume took up the majority  
161 of the MCL area. An observer indicated that by 14:00 PST (06:00 UTC) “it was already  
162 big” and around 15:00 PST (07:00 UTC) “the ash [column] was already huge” (Martinez-  
163 Villegas, M. 2020). Several eyewitnesses also reported that between 06:00–08:00,  
164 there was wet ash fall, and some described it as mud (Martinez-Villegas et al., 2022).  
165 Local sunset was around 18:44 PST (09:44 UTC). A few more images capturing  
166 lightning within the plume were taken at local evening time (Table S3).

167 The plume top eventually reached 15–17 km and was reported by both PHIVOLCS and  
168 the VAAC to be sustained for several hours. While there was a gap in webcam visibility  
169 of the eruption due to heavy ash fall and electricity outages, an image was taken with a  
170 camera and shared at 17:59 from Escala - Tagaytay (PHIVOLCS, personal  
171 communication 14 October 2022). PHIVOLCS reported a shift in activity at 18:40 to a

172 magmatic eruption “characterized by weak lava fountaining accompanied by thunder  
173 and flashes of lightning” as the “lake water in the Main Crater completely vaporized”  
174 (PHIVOLCS, 2020d; DOST-PHIVOLCS, 2021). Images were posted online from both  
175 PHIVOLCS and local photographers, showing incandescent material that was visible to  
176 the naked eye (PHIVOLCS-DOST [@phivolcs\_dost], 2020c; Quiambao, P., personal  
177 communication 27 August 2022). Eyewitnesses reported feeling explosions between  
178 18:00–19:00 (Martinez-Villegas et al., 2022). At 23:20 the Tokyo VAAC reported that the  
179 high-level plume, up to 17 km, had detached from the vent and there was a lower  
180 altitude plume rising up to 11 km from the vent (Tokyo VAAC, 2020). By 02:20 on 13  
181 January all observed plumes had detached from the vent and were partially obscured  
182 by meteorologic cloud cover (Tokyo VAAC, 2020). At 14:20 on 13 January the VAAC  
183 reported that the ash had dissipated and was no longer observable by the Himawari-8  
184 satellite.

185 Although there was no longer a significant ash plume being generated, activity at the  
186 vent continued at a lower intensity. Throughout 13 and 14 January PHIVOLCS reported  
187 lava fountaining and “steam rich plumes” to various heights not exceeding 2 km.  
188 (PHIVOLCS, 2020e, 2020f). On 15 January PHIVOLCS reported a continuous, but  
189 generally weaker, eruption with dark gray, steam-laden plumes to 1 km. (PHIVOLCS,  
190 2020g). Between 16–21 January, PHIVOLCS reported plumes fluctuating between 500–  
191 800 m (PHIVOLCS, 2020h, 2020i, 2020j, 2020k, 2020l, 2020 m, 2020n). By 22 January,  
192 the activity was limited to steam plumes 50–500 m high within the vent area, and an  
193 advisory at 16:00 PST local time stated that since 05:00 PST there had been no ash  
194 emissions and that ashfall was due to remobilized ash (PHIVOLCS, 2020n). The  
195 eruption from 12–17 January was accompanied by a dike intrusion. Bato et al. (2021)  
196 modeled the intrusion as a 21 x 8 km, near-vertical, NE-striking dike under TVI that  
197 produced NE-SW ground fissures in several communities (PHIVOLCS, 2020o). It was  
198 first discerned in the “co-eruptive” SAR data between 9–17 January (Bato et al., 2021).

199

200 This near real-time chronology exemplifies the challenges of providing continuous data  
201 using local monitoring networks, as the majority of monitoring stations on TVI were  
202 either destroyed or disrupted, and solar panels powering the wider network were

203 covered with ash, which disrupted the data transmission. PHIVOLCS reported that, of  
204 the five seismic stations on TVI, only one was still functioning and able to send data  
205 after the initial activity on 12 January (Sabillo, 2020). PHIVOLCS also reported issues  
206 with ash covering the solar panels and power issues at seismic stations around TL; they  
207 were using the Philippine National Seismic Network and were working to clear panels,  
208 as well as setting up new stations in the aftermath of the eruption (Sabillo, 2020; Sabillo  
209 [@kristinesabillo], 2020).

210  
211 Due to the proximity of this eruption to major population centers, it was possible to  
212 crowdsource ash samples and footage of the eruption. Balangue-Tarriela et al. (2022)  
213 took advantage of this information to examine the tephra deposits around the volcano in  
214 the region known as CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon)  
215 and the Metro Manila area. Their results confirm that the eruption was  
216 phreatomagmatic, based on the presence of abundant accretionary lapilli (wet clumps of  
217 ash), overall fine-grained, lithic-rich deposits, and ubiquitous hackle lines and stepped  
218 features on the ash grain surfaces, which are indicative of magma-water interaction  
219 (Balangue-Tarriela et al., 2022). They noted four stratigraphic layers consisting of a  
220 basal, light gray ash (layer 1), dark gray ash and lapilli (layer 2), brown ash (layer 3, the  
221 thickest unit), and an uppermost light gray ash (layer 4). Their volume for the total fall  
222 deposit ranged from 0.04 to 0.10 km<sup>3</sup> (bulk) using a range of volume-fitting  
223 assumptions. This bulk eruptive volume is on the low end of the estimate from Van  
224 Eaton et al. (2022) (0.1–0.9 km<sup>3</sup>), which was based on plume heights alone.

## 225 Satellite Datasets

226 We assessed a wide range of satellite observations for coverage of the event, but due  
227 to spatial and temporal gaps in coverage there were limited syn-eruptive scenes  
228 acquired. Aqua, Terra, Sentinel-2, Suomi NPP (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer  
229 Suite or VIIRS sensor), and NOAA-20 (VIIRS sensor) satellites each only had one  
230 overpass during the eruption, while Sentinel-5/TROPOMI had two overpasses (Figure 3,  
231 Figure S2, Table S4). Ambient cloud cover further reduced the number of scenes that



232 could be used for observation of the eruption. The Japan Meteorological Agency's  
233 geostationary Himawari-8 satellite was the most successful in imaging the eruption, with  
234 288 scenes acquired at 10-minute intervals from 12–13 January (Figure 3). We used  
235 the plume heights from Van Eaton et al. (2022), which were determined from Himawari-  
236 8 thermal infrared brightness temperatures in the 11 micron channel. Their single  
237 coldest pixel within 30 km of Taal Volcano was matched to atmospheric temperature  
238 profiles from Reanalysis-1 model output at 6-hourly intervals (Figure 3). We used the  
239 corrected satellite times to account for the time of the actual overpass over Taal  
240 Volcano, which occurred 3 min later than the scan start of each image (Van Eaton et al.,  
241 2022). We performed an additional qualitative analysis of the Himawari-8 infrared  
242 observations to identify discrete eruptive “pulses.” A pulse was defined by a short-lived  
243 (minutes-long) increase in plume height, indicating a possible increase in eruption rate  
244 at the vent. Pulses were identified by comparing plume heights in individual images with  
245 those in images taken immediately before or after—i.e., 10 minutes earlier or later.

246

247 The Himawari-8 visible and infrared images (Bachmeier, 2020) showed an ash plume  
248 rising above the surrounding meteorologic clouds by 06:33 UTC and establishing a  
249 sustained umbrella region by 07:43. The umbrella continues expanding steadily until  
250 ~10:03, after which it begins to recede in the upwind direction (Van Eaton et al., 2022).  
251 Renewed upwind expansion are observed by ~11:03 and remains relatively stable until  
252 recession and weakening by 12:03. There is an eruptive pulse identifiable at 12:43, and  
253 then the plume weakens again at 13:13. The plume loses its umbrella-like morphology  
254 ~14:03 and then begins a phase of pulsatory eruptive behavior with several pauses in  
255 activity. Discrete eruptive pulses are observed at 14:03, 14:33, 15:03, 15:23, 15:53,  
256 16:03, 16:23, 16:53, 17:13, and 17:33. After 17:33, the plume detaches from the vent  
257 and disperses downwind. The plume is no longer clearly identifiable near the volcano  
258 after 20:23.

## 259 Volcanic lightning

260 Volcanic lightning data from Vaisala's Global Lightning Dataset (GLD360) were reported  
261 by Van Eaton et al. (2022). The GLD360 network employs both time-of-arrival and  
262 magnetic direction-finding technologies to geolocate individual lightning strokes, which  
263 can then be grouped into flashes (Said et al., 2010). The sensors in the GLD360  
264 network are sensitive to the very low frequency range (500 Hz–50 kHz) and use a  
265 waveform recognition algorithm to identify specific features in the radio waves  
266 generated by each lightning stroke. A central processor combines measurements from  
267 multiple sensors to calculate the time and location of each stroke, classifies whether the  
268 stroke was cloud-to-cloud or cloud-to-ground, and determines the polarity and effective  
269 peak current.

270

271 Van Eaton et al. (2022) reported that volcanic lightning was not detected until Taal's  
272 plume exceeded 10 km. Their explanation was that the lower-level plume was too warm  
273 to nucleate ice, which is needed to create abundant, high-energy lightning detectable by  
274 global networks. It is also plausible that the incorporation of surface water into the  
275 plume helped create a mixed-phase microphysical region in the upper plume (i.e.,  
276 containing supercooled liquid water, ice, and graupel), which greatly intensified the  
277 lightning activity (Van Eaton et al., 2022).

278

279 Analyzing the volcanic lightning flashes reported by Van Eaton et al. (2022) in greater  
280 detail for this study, we have defined several stages of activity with varying flash rates  
281 (Lightning Stages A through E; Figure 4). We delineated proximal, distal, and total  
282 lightning rates, which can be useful to identify lightning associated with an actively  
283 erupting plume rather than drifting, electrified ash (cf. Van Eaton et al., 2016). Proximal  
284 lightning was defined as occurring within 20 km of the vent, and distal lightning from 20–  
285 200 km. Lightning Stage A from 07:03 to 08:16 UTC is defined by moderate flash rates,  
286 with an average of  $\sim 4$  flashes  $\text{min}^{-1}$  in the proximal zone, and distal lightning  $\leq 1$  flash  
287  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . Lightning Stage B from 08:16 to 10:30 is characterized by a rapid increase then  
288 steadying of flash rates, to a steady rate of  $\sim 26$  total flashes  $\text{min}^{-1}$  on average (76% of

289 which occur in proximal zone <20 km from vent). Lightning Stage C from 10:30 to 15:40  
290 shows a consistently high but fluctuating flash rate with an average of 44 flashes min<sup>-1</sup>  
291 and a maximum of 85 flashes min<sup>-1</sup> (54% of which occur in the proximal zone).  
292 Lightning Stage D from 15:40 to 17:36 shows an average of 12 flashes min<sup>-1</sup> and a  
293 maximum of 31 flashes min<sup>-1</sup> (87% of which occur in the proximal zone). Lightning  
294 Stage E from 17:36 to 20:27 shows another reduction in flash rate to less than 3 total  
295 flashes min<sup>-1</sup> (entirely in the proximal zone) before ending completely by 20:27.

## 296 Infrasound

297 The eruption on 12 January generated infrasound (i.e., low-frequency sound below 20  
298 Hz) that was recorded on various infrasound arrays, including many that are part of the  
299 International Monitoring System (IMS), as well as one in Singapore (SING). The closest  
300 array to Taal is the I39PW array, located 1,645 km southeast in Palau. The next closest  
301 station is the SING array in Singapore, located 2,350 km southwest (Table S5). The  
302 Taal eruption had good azimuthal coverage in terms of remote IMS and non-IMS arrays  
303 (Figure 1).

304  
305 We used several array processing techniques to process the infrasound data and to  
306 characterize the recorded signals. In order to identify the signal generated by Taal on  
307 the regional infrasound network, we used the Progressive Multi-Channel Correlation  
308 (PMCC) algorithm (Cansi, 1995) with the IMS standard filters also used by Matoza et al.  
309 (2013) (Figure 5). The eruption was strongly detected by remote infrasound arrays:  
310 I39PW (Palau) and I30JP (Japan), and detected at I07AU (Central Australia), SING  
311 (Singapore), I34MN (Mongolia), and I44RU (Kamchatka Russia). I06AU (Cocos Islands)  
312 has a marginal detection and is therefore not included, I40PG (Papua New Guinea) had  
313 data quality issues at the time, and while it appears to have detected the event, the  
314 array processing is not reliable. The best time series with the most details was recorded  
315 at the Palau I39PW station. For array processing results from other stations please see  
316 Figures S4-S9.

317

318 The observations at the nearest IMS array I39PW are further analyzed using time-  
319 domain (Melton and Bailey, 1957) and frequency-domain (Smart and Flinn, 1971)  
320 Fisher detector techniques. These detectors rely on the evaluation of the Fisher ratio,  
321 which corresponds to the probability of detection of a signal with a threshold signal-to-  
322 noise ratio (SNR) or greater. We processed the detrended data in a frequency band  
323 between 0.07 and 1 Hz using 60-second windows with a 90% overlap. For each time-  
324 bin, the Fisher ratio is evaluated over a two-dimensional slowness grid that is  
325 parameterized by back azimuth values between 280-320 degrees and apparent velocity  
326 values between 300-450 m/s. Back azimuth values and apparent velocity values are  
327 spaced by 0.5 degrees and 2.5 m/s, respectively. The slowness that maximizes Fisher-  
328 ratio in each time bin is used to compute the best-beam as well as the Power Spectral  
329 Density (PSD) and SNR spectrograms (Figures 6a and 6b). The estimated plane-wave  
330 parameters are aggregated in 10-minute time-bins (Figures 6d and 6e). Only time-bins  
331 with at least two detections are considered. The back-azimuth and apparent velocity  
332 bins widths are 1 degree and 5 m/s, respectively. We examined the peak frequency  
333 through time (Figure S10) following the methods shown in McKee et al. (2021a) and  
334 McKee et al. (2021b) for the closest array, I39PW.

## 335 I39PW Palau Infrasound Array Results

336 Array processing results place the beginning of coherent regional infrasound at I39PW  
337 at 08:30 on 12 January (Figure 6). Note that the times in the following text and Figure 6  
338 have been approximately corrected for the propagation time to the array, by considering  
339 a celerity (distance / travel time) of 0.26 km/s (see section Infrasound Propagation  
340 Modeling). It follows that the latest Taal became acoustically active was around  
341 06:45:30. Between approximately 07:00-12:00 a low-frequency signal was observed  
342 with a frequency content between 0.02-0.2 Hz. For the first part of the detection, the  
343 lowest frequencies are partly masked by wind noise; the progressive improvement in  
344 detectability between 07:00-08:00 is likely related to the transition toward a stable  
345 boundary layer at the station, reducing noise generated by turbulence (Smink et al.,  
346 2019, Perttu et al., 2020a). After 12:00 higher frequency signals (0.5-3 Hz) become  
347 present in the array processing results. We note in particular the high-frequency signals

348 between 13:12-14:27. Infrasound detections ended by 20:06, with a few sporadic  
349 detections through 13 January. The detections have high coherency through ~14:15,  
350 after which the coherency decreases. The continuous background noise spectrum of  
351 microbarom signals (0.2-0.8 Hz) are clearly present in the spectrograms (Figure 6a and  
352 6b). This is to be expected as I39PW is an island array. We also computed the peak  
353 frequency (frequency associated with peak power) through time of the beamform  
354 (Figure S10). The peak frequency is between 0.08 to 0.1 Hz from 06:45 - 10:45, after  
355 which it steadily transitions to between 0.18 and 0.23 Hz, with a maximum frequency of  
356 0.27 Hz at 19:10. As the peak frequency increases the spectral curve narrows,  
357 reflecting a loss of lower frequency signal through time. There is potentially interference  
358 with other non-volcanic signals in the later period of the signal as the SNR decreases.  
359

360 We calculated acoustic power following the method presented in Perttu et al. (2020b).  
361 The acoustic power for the Taal eruption peaks at  $2.90 \times 10^7$  W at 08:14 (Figure S11).  
362 This is associated with the very low frequency infrasound signal. There is a second  
363 peak in acoustic power of  $7.22 \times 10^6$  W at 13:44 associated with the higher frequencies  
364 recorded later in the eruption.

## 365 Infrasound Propagation modeling

366 In order to interpret the remote infrasound observations of Taal in terms of the source  
367 processes, it is important to quantify the long-range propagation characteristics using  
368 infrasound propagation models. As infrasound propagates throughout the atmosphere,  
369 it is sensitive to spatio-temporal variations in temperature and wind (e.g., Smets et al.,  
370 2016; Assink et al., 2019). The effective sound speed  $c_{\text{eff}}$  approximates the refractive  
371 effects of temperature and wind gradients (Assink et al., 2017), and is defined as the  
372 adiabatic sound speed (a function of temperature  $T$ ) plus the horizontal wind  $u$  in the  
373 direction of propagation  $n$ :  $c_{\text{eff}} \sim 20\sqrt{T} + u \cdot n$ . In order to quantify ground-to-ground  
374 ducting efficiency, it is helpful to introduce the effective sound speed ratio,  $c_{\text{eff}}$  ratio,  
375 which is defined as the effective sound speed normalized by its value on the ground.  
376 Efficient ground-to-ground ducting conditions are expected for  $c_{\text{eff}}$  ratio values  
377 exceeding unity.

378

379 Figure 7 shows effective sound speed ratio profiles and infrasound propagation results  
380 for the path from Taal to I39PW. The  $c_{\text{eff}}$  ratio profiles are computed using the Ground-  
381 to-Space (G2S) atmospheric model (Drob, 2019). This model is compiled from  
382 operational numerical weather prediction model specifications by the National Oceanic  
383 and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space  
384 Administration (NASA) for the lower and middle atmosphere. Above the stratopause,  
385 the Horizontal Wind Model (HWM) and The Mass Spectrometer Incoherent Scatter  
386 radar (MSIS) semi-empirical models are used. The G2S model is available for each  
387 hour of the day and is interpolated to a 0.5x0.5 degrees spatial grid. From the effective  
388 sound speed ratio profiles, it can be concluded that there is a borderline stratospheric  
389 duct toward the array. A thermospheric duct between the ground and ~120 km altitude  
390 is always present, because of the large temperature gradient in the lower thermosphere  
391 (Figures S12 and S13).

392

393 Propagation toward I39PW has been computed using the *ePape* Parabolic Equation  
394 (PE) model (Waxler et al., 2021; 2022) and the *InfraGA* raytracer (Blom, 2019). The PE  
395 model is a full-wave model, cast in cartesian coordinates, and takes lateral variations in  
396 temperature and wind along the propagation path into account. Out-of-plane  
397 propagation effects are not included. The ray theoretical model is a geometric  
398 approximation to the wave-equation and does not include full-wave effects. The model  
399 is cast in spherical coordinates and traces rays through the full 3D atmospheric model  
400 space. For both models the effects of absorption (Sutherland and Bass, 2004) are  
401 included. For this study, ray theory is used to find the eigenrays that connect Taal to  
402 I39PW. For each eigenray, traveltime, back azimuth deviation, and apparent velocity  
403 (e.g., Smets et al., 2016) is obtained. The PE is used to estimate the transmission loss  
404 toward I39PW.

405

406 Figure 7 shows propagation results for 09:00 UTC on 12 January 2020. The PE field is  
407 computed at 0.1 Hz and is presented as transmission loss as a function of range and  
408 altitude. The range-altitude plane shows that infrasound is guided in both stratospheric

409 and thermospheric waveguides. However, along the path the stratospheric duct  
410 weakens significantly (Figure S12) and vanishes towards I39PW. The thermospheric  
411 duct remains present along the entire path. From the ground transmission loss curve  
412 (bottom panel), it follows that the transmission loss at I39PW is 56.5 dB (re 1 km) at 0.1  
413 Hz, assuming a point source.

414  
415 Using 3D ray tracing, two thermospheric eigenrays are identified for 09:00 UTC (Table  
416 1). The fastest eigenray arrives with a celerity of ~260 m/s. The computed back azimuth  
417 (298 degrees) and apparent velocity (~348 m/s) values match the observations well  
418 (Figures 6d and 6e). A good agreement is noted for other model times as well, with  
419 exception of the arrival branch with higher apparent velocities. Notably, these rays  
420 reach higher in the thermosphere and are more susceptible to atmospheric absorption  
421 and therefore possibly not observable. The celerities of the eigenrays between Taal and  
422 I39PW vary throughout the day between 259-265 m/s, due to the effects of the semi-  
423 diurnal tides (Assink et al., 2012; see Figure S14). In addition, we note that the  
424 borderline stratospheric duct strengthens throughout the day (compare Figure S12 to  
425 S13). This leads to the simulation of stratospheric eigenrays at 22:00 UTC (Figure S14),  
426 after the main eruption phase has finished.

## 427 Seismic Observations

428 To characterize the seismicity associated with the eruption, we analyzed data from one  
429 local seismic station, Tagaytay (TGY), which is part of the auxiliary seismic network of  
430 the IMS. This station consists of an STS-2 three-component seismometer and is  
431 situated 11 km from the Taal Main Crater Lake (MCL). We also used remote seismic  
432 arrays CMAR (Chiang Mai, Thailand; 2404 km), SONM (Songino, Mongolia; 3987 km),  
433 WRA (Warramunga, Australia; 4032 km), ASAR (Alice Springs, Australia; 4400 km) and  
434 MKAR (Makanchi, Kazakhstan; 5109 km) that are positioned around Taal (Figure 1).

435  
436 On 12 January 2020 after 03:00 at TGY, significant perturbations were measured that  
437 can be associated with the eruption (Figure 8). Between 16:45-17:15 a brief data gap

438 for the vertical channel is noted. After 17:15, no data were registered for the horizontal  
439 components (Figure S15), possibly because the sensor booms were out of balance  
440 following the eruption. In addition to the volcano-tectonic (VT) signals associated with  
441 the eruption there were two distinct tremor signals. One is interpreted to be a seismic  
442 tremor (TS), while the other is an acoustic tremor (TA) that was coupled into the ground  
443 locally and recorded at TGY (cf. Caudron et al., 2015) as discussed in Seismic and  
444 Seismo-Acoustic Observations.

445  
446 Between 03:00 and 06:00, multiple VTs are detected that are indicative of the start of  
447 the eruption (Figure S17). Directly following this interval, the seismic registrations show  
448 near-continuous tremor as well as individual short-lived pulses. The tremor is  
449 characterized by discrete spectral bands. Beginning at 06:09 a continuous tremor signal  
450 begins at TGY (TS), mostly between 0.2–4Hz. This signal has some higher frequencies  
451 that begin after 08:30 and strongly continues throughout the entire day of 12 January.  
452 This tremor signal is present in the horizontal as well as vertical channels (Figure S16).  
453 Operational Real-Time Seismic Amplitude Measurement (RSAM) (Endo and Murray,  
454 1991) calculations between 0.1–15 Hz show a clear increase from 03:15 through 08:20  
455 before leveling out at the higher level for the rest of the day (Figure 9).

456  
457 Between 07:00 and 12:00, a continuous low-frequency tremor signal TA (with energy  
458 0.03–0.2 Hz) is detected on the vertical channel (Figure 8). The amplitude gradually  
459 increases, peaks around 08:30, then decreases. This TA signal corresponds to the low-  
460 frequency signal detected at I39PW as well as the more distant infrasound arrays.  
461 Contrary to other tremor associated with magma-water interaction, this long-lasting  
462 signal is not made up of self-similar low-frequency earthquakes (Perttu et al., 2020a;  
463 Matoza and Roman, 2022).

464  
465 The remote seismic arrays positioned around Taal Volcano also picked up the activity  
466 on 12-13 January. Here, we discuss the array processing results from CMAR (Figure  
467 S18), which provided the best SNR. The results for the more distant arrays can be  
468 found in Figures S18–S22. The vertical velocity data are processed using the same



469 time-domain Fisher processing algorithm that was also used for the processing of the  
470 I39PW infrasound data (Melton and Bailey, 1957). The CMAR data were bandpass  
471 filtered between 0.7–1.8 Hz and processed in 10 second windows with 90% overlap. It  
472 follows from spectral analysis that this passband is optimal to avoid microseisms and  
473 anthropogenic noise near the CMAR station. Similar passband selection parameters to  
474 CMAR were used at other seismic stations, with slight variations to account for different  
475 local seismic noise profiles. The two-dimensional slowness grid that was used in the  
476 processing of the seismic array data was spanned by a back azimuth cone centered  
477 around the theoretical back azimuth to Taal Volcano with a width of 30 degrees, and an  
478 apparent velocity range between 2–20 km/s, with steps of 0.5 degrees and 0.2 km/s,  
479 respectively.

480

481 The array processing results (Figure 10) show a significant increase in high SNR  
482 signals from the direction of Taal. The signals consist of short-lived pulses that are  
483 detected throughout 12–14 January 2020 with the highest number of detections arriving  
484 between 12:00 UTC on 12 January and 00:00 UTC on 13 January. In addition to the  
485 short-lived pulses, spectral banding between 0.7–1.5 Hz is apparent. These  
486 characteristics are similar to the VT and TS tremor signals observed at station TGY. In  
487 fact, individual transient arrivals appear to be well-correlated between stations TGY and  
488 CMAR (Figure 11).

489

490 There is a notable difference between the theoretical back azimuth to Taal (blue-green  
491 line in Figure 10d) and the observed values in the 0.7–1.8 Hz band. The measured  
492 apparent velocities of ~14 km/s indicate that these signals correspond to P-wave  
493 arrivals with steeper incidence angles. We estimate an incidence angle of 30 degrees  
494 with the vertical, given the crustal P-wave speed of 6 km/s (Laske et al., 2013). In  
495 contrast, when processing the CMAR data in a lower frequency band of 0.03–0.1 Hz  
496 (Figure S20), the azimuthal discrepancy disappears. The apparent velocities of those  
497 arrivals are around ~3 km/s, indicating that these are Rayleigh waves. It is known that  
498 the Mohorovicic -discontinuity under CMAR strongly refracts arrivals with steep incident

499 angles such as P-waves, affecting the measured slowness values (Flanagan et al.,  
500 2012). This process provides a plausible explanation for our observations.

## 501 Discussion

502 The timely interpretation of data during an eruption is key for mitigating the hazards to  
503 local communities and international air traffic alike. Given the significant technological  
504 advances over the past decade, there is ample scope to augment real-time volcano  
505 monitoring with remote methods (e.g., Poland et al., 2020, and references therein).  
506 During the 2020 eruption of Taal, the local monitoring network experienced outages in  
507 several stations due to the direct impacts of ash fall and destruction of near-vent  
508 sensors, as well as indirect effects from power grid outages. This loss of in situ  
509 monitoring equipment is not uncommon during major eruptions and highlights the value  
510 of complementing local networks with remote methods in an ongoing volcanic crisis. In  
511 the following sections, we examine how our remote observations improve the  
512 understanding of Taal's eruptive processes in post-analysis and consider how these  
513 datasets might be incorporated into a near real-time monitoring framework.

## 514 Seismic and Seismo-Acoustic Observations

515 Figure 8 shows the measured vertical velocities and the associated spectrogram for  
516 seismic station TGY. Between 07:00–12:00, a continuous low-frequency signal is  
517 detected on the vertical channel that is similar to the observations at the infrasound  
518 arrays (TA; Figures 6 and 8). Figure 8 shows that the onset time and duration is  
519 consistent with the observations at infrasound array I39PW when considering an  
520 infrasonic propagation speed of 0.26 km/s (see Infrasound Propagation Modeling). The  
521 low-frequency signal is absent on the horizontal channels as well as other seismic  
522 stations within a radius of ~2,000 km around Taal Volcano. This suggests that the  
523 observation at TGY is due to acoustic-seismic coupling (i.e. ground coupled airwaves)  
524 (Matoza et al., 2019; Bishop et al., 2022; and references therein). At longer ranges, the  
525 amplitude of the signal is likely too small to couple to seismometers.

526

527 To test the possibility that the TA seismo-acoustic signal from 07:00–12:00 was due to  
528 acoustic-seismic coupling, we compare two pressure estimates at station TGY. The first  
529 estimate is calculated from the Root Mean Square (RMS) vertical velocity measured at  
530 TGY, by using the relationship for seismo-acoustic coupling from Anthony et al. (2022)  
531 to calculate the expected amplitude of the acoustic signal required to generate it. The  
532 second estimate is calculated from the RMS pressure measured at I39PW, by  
533 correcting for the difference in transmission loss at 0.1 Hz between 11 km (TGY) and  
534 1645 km (I39PW). Using the beamform calculated for I39PW, filtered into the range of  
535 the signal from 0.05–0.15 Hz, the average RMS over 30-minute windows was  
536 calculated as 0.056 Pa using ObsPy (Beyreuther et al., 2010). Accounting for a 38 dB  
537 difference in transmission loss, we estimate an RMS pressure amplitude between 1.5–  
538 4.4 Pa. The measured RMS amplitude for the TA signal at TGY was calculated as  $2.075$   
539  $\times 10^{-6}$  m/s. Following Anthony et al. (2022), the depth of sensitivity of the ground to the  
540 acoustic signal was calculated as 0.51 km based on 0.1 Hz frequency (supplemental  
541 Seismo-Acoustic Coupling Calculations section). This finding was combined with the  
542 CRUST1.0 model (Laske et al., 2013) Lamé constants,  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ , to calculate a transfer  
543 coefficient. The location of the station TGY is approximately at the intersection of 4 grid  
544 cells of the CRUST1.0 model, so we used the average of the 4 cells. The average  $\lambda$  is  
545 6.1225 GPa, and the average  $\mu$  is 0.646 GPa. This result gives a transfer coefficient of  
546  $5.263 \times 10^{-7}$  m/s/Pa. Using this value and the RMS from the seismic station, the  
547 expected amplitude of the acoustic signal that could generate the seismic displacement  
548 is 3.94 Pa, which is within the expected range based on the RMS at recorded at I39PW.  
549 These findings confirm that it is reasonable for the TA seismic signal to originate from  
550 ground-coupled airwaves.

551  
552 The TA signal also provides an empirical estimate of the travel time from Taal to I39PW  
553 (Figure 8). By cross-correlating the envelope of the low-frequency signal measured at  
554 TGY and I39PW, we can confirm the celerity range around 260 m/s that is simulated  
555 using ray theory (see section Infrasound Propagation Modeling). The uncertainty in the  
556 estimated travel time amounts to approximately 100 seconds.

557

558 Reduced displacement ( $Dr$ ) is a distance-normalized measure of volcanic tremor  
559 amplitude that allows for comparison between eruptions (Aki and Koyanagi, 1981;  
560 McNut et al., 2015). Reduced displacement was calculated following the method of  
561 McNutt et al. (2015) for station TGY (Figure 9). Based on the bulk erupted volume of  
562 0.04–0.1 km<sup>3</sup> from Balangue-Tarriela et al. (2022), the eruption had a Volcanic  
563 Explosivity Index (VEI) of 3 (Newhall and Self, 1982). Using the relationship between  $Dr$   
564 and VEI, the expected  $Dr$  would be around 29 cm<sup>2</sup>. However, the mean value of 351  
565 cm<sup>2</sup> for this event corresponds to a VEI 5 according to the relationship presented in  
566 McNutt et al., (2015). This reduced displacement value is much larger than the January  
567 1976 eruption of Augustine volcano ( $Dr$  140 cm<sup>2</sup>, VEI 4) and 18 May 1980 eruption of  
568 Mount St. Helens ( $Dr$  260 cm<sup>2</sup>, VEI 5) (McNutt, 1994). As noted by McNutt et al. (2015),  
569 tremor from fissures and phreatic eruptions tend to be stronger than other eruptions.  
570 This is consistent with reports of fissures (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and  
571 Seismology (PHIVOLCS-DOST) [PHIVOLCS], 2020), a dike intrusion (Bato et al.,  
572 2021), and the phreatomagmatic nature of the eruption. The implication is that the  
573 water-rich explosive eruption at Taal may have produced greater seismic tremor than  
574 would be expected from an eruption its size based on the tephra volume alone.  
575 However, this analysis is based on a single seismic station and there could be an  
576 impact on the estimate from path and site effects.

## 577 Combined Timeline and Plume Interpretation

578 Our interpretation of the multi-parameter dataset provides additional detail about the  
579 changing eruption dynamics through time. Figure 12 shows an overview of the eruptive  
580 sequence on 12 January, divided into five phases. In summary, Phase 1 is  
581 characterized by a low-level plume resulting from phreatic activity on the lake shore of  
582 the MCL, as reported by PHIVOLCS, which quickly transitioned into phreatomagmatic  
583 activity. Phase 2 produced an energetic, high-altitude plume detected by satellite,  
584 infrasound, and abundant lightning. Phase 3 created a less energetic but a still high-  
585 level plume (Figure 3), characterized by pulsatory activity in satellite imagery. The TA  
586 seismo-acoustic tremor signal was not present in this phase or any subsequent phases.  
587 In Phase 3 there was less energetic infrasound overall which was only recorded at

588 station I39PW. Phase 4 marked a decrease in eruption intensity in all monitoring data  
589 available, and a transition to lower plumes with incandescence observed by PHIVOLCS  
590 and local eyewitnesses. Finally, Phase 5 marks the transition to low-level activity (plume  
591 heights <2 km) that continued until 22 January, with the PHIVOLCS alert level being  
592 lowered on 26 January. The following section provides a more detailed examination of  
593 each eruption phase.

## 594 Phase 1: Initiation of activity (12 January 2020 from 05:00 – 06:40 595 UTC)

596 The eruption on 12 January began on the northeast shore of the Main Crater Lake  
597 (MCL). Felt earthquake activity began around 03:00 UTC. Initially the eruption was  
598 characterized by low-level activity with small phreatic eruptions beginning at around  
599 05:00 UTC as seen in the PHIVOLCS webcam (PHIVOLCS-DOST [@phivolcs\_dost],  
600 2020b) and video posted online (Figure 12, Adrian [SaiAdrian], 2020), defining the start  
601 of this eruption phase. Prior to this escalation, eyewitnesses also reported seeing a  
602 crack or fissure form within the crater. The location of this initial low-level activity was  
603 close to the shores of the lake and is characterized by what appears to be  
604 predominantly gas emissions in one of the fumarolic areas that quickly escalated. The  
605 source of emission appeared to migrate or expand into the lake before the webcam  
606 view was lost at around 06:15 (Table S3). Based on the webcam images from  
607 PHIVOLCS the eruption appeared to transitioned to phreatomagmatic toward the end of  
608 this phase, based on the increasing appearance of dark-colored plumes, suggesting  
609 involvement of fragmented magmatic particles (Table S3). During this initial activity  
610 there was no regional infrasound detected, no plume visible in Himawari-8 satellite, and  
611 no lightning detected by the GLD360 network.

612 Phase 2: High-level, sustained plume (12 January 2020 from  
613 06:40 – 12:00 UTC)

614 The start of Phase 2 is defined by the initial arrival of infrasound to station I39PW  
615 (06:40) and growth of a plume detectable in Himawari-8 satellite images (by 06:33).  
616 This phase lasted from 06:40–12:00 and featured an eruptive plume with a sustained  
617 height from 16–17 km a.s.l. and maximum overshoot of 17.5 km. The height of the  
618 tropopause was 16.9 km based on the atmospheric sounding at 12:00 on 12 January  
619 2020 from Mactan, Philippines, 500 km south of Taal (Van Eaton et al., 2022). Within  
620 this main phase we define two sub-phases, 2a and 2b.

621  
622 Phase 2a from 06:40–08:20 is defined by the start of detectable infrasound, the TA  
623 signal, and volcanic lightning. The lightning increased to a steady flash rate, followed by  
624 a brief decrease before increasing into phase 2b. Plume height increased to a sustained  
625 altitude of around 16 km during this phase. The infrasound has a peak frequency of  
626 ~0.09 Hz and shows increasing acoustic power to its peak. Volcanic lightning was not  
627 detected by the GLD360 network until 07:03, indicating that the plume was not yet  
628 producing detectable (long-range) lightning even though infrasound signals were  
629 measured at station I39PW beginning at 06:45. Plume heights rose from 5–16 km in this  
630 time frame. Based on the plume height, infrasound acoustic power, and lightning  
631 increase, the eruption reached a sustained, high-level of intensity (Phase 2b) by 08:20.

632  
633 Phase 2b (08:20 to ~12:00) is characterized by decreasing, but still elevated, acoustic  
634 power of the infrasound signal. Detections are present at all detecting remote  
635 infrasound stations in this time frame. The TA tremor signal at station TGY occurs by  
636 07:00 (denoted by purple solid line in Figure 12) and ends by 12:00. There was a  
637 sustained, high-altitude volcanic plume up to the tropopause (between 16-17 km) as  
638 observed by Himawari-8 satellite. From 8:20 to 10:45 the infrasound peak frequency  
639 remains around 0.09 Hz (Figure S11) and the lightning flash rate increases to an  
640 average of 26 flashes  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . From about 10:45 to 12:00 the infrasound peak frequency  
641 and lightning flash rate steadily increase and the infrasound spectra narrow as lower

642 frequency signals wane. In general, lower frequencies tend to have more acoustic  
643 power, so the decrease in acoustic power with increasing peak frequency is expected.  
644 The infrasound peak frequency stabilized around 0.2 Hz, about a factor of 2 increase,  
645 and the lightning flash rate peaked at 85 flashes per minute at 11:46.

646

647 Overall, all of phase 2 of the eruption is characterized by strong, band-limited (0.03–0.2  
648 Hz) infrasound widely in the remote network, a high-level plume leveling off at around  
649 16–17 km, lightning rates averaging 26 flashes  $\text{min}^{-1}$ , TA infrasound tremor signal at  
650 seismic station TGY, and photos and videos of a sustained, light-colored eruption  
651 column that appears to encompass the entire MCL area. The color of the column  
652 suggests a significant amount of water vapor and condensed droplets within the plume  
653 (Table S3). This interpretation is supported by observations of wet ash and accretionary  
654 lapilli in the ashfall deposits (Balangue-Tarriela et al., 2022), and eyewitness reports of  
655 wet clumps of ash and/or mud falling. This phase lasts until around 12:00, during which  
656 the low-frequency infrasound signal is detected at IMS stations at longer ranges (e.g.,  
657 up to 5,000 km). After this time only station I39PW detects infrasound from Taal.

658

659 The volcanic plume dynamics during Phase 2 are of particular interest because they  
660 represent the peak intensity of the eruption. There is an intriguing shift to higher peak  
661 frequency infrasound and a waning of lower frequency signals after ~10:45 (Figures 6,  
662 8, S11), coincident with increasing lightning rates. Lightning production ramps up from  
663 10:30–12:00 (Figures 4 and 12), yet the maximum plume heights remain stable at 16–  
664 17 km across this transition. The end of Phase 2 is defined by the end of the seismo-  
665 acoustic TA tremor signal, which may indicate a significant shift in eruption dynamics,  
666 as discussed below.

667

668 The increase in peak frequency observed after ~10:45 could originate from several  
669 changes, such as: (1) an increase in jet velocity; (2) decrease in jet diameter; or (3)  
670 change in the properties of the jet flow, for example, plume water content, grain size of  
671 particles, or a transition from a gas-rich to ash-rich plume, or a combination thereof.  
672 One possible explanation for the waning of low-frequency infrasound (increase in peak

673 frequency) is that vaporization of water in the crater lake reduced the availability of  
674 external water, changing the dynamics of magma-water interaction.

675

676 We do not have direct evidence for when, exactly, the lake water disappeared.  
677 However, photographs and videos taken before, during, and after the eruption show that  
678 the plume originated under the lake and the water was gone by 02:33 on 13 January  
679 (Table S3). The simplest explanation is that the eruption vaporized the water and  
680 entrained it into the volcanic plume. Earlier in the 12 January eruption, before 10:45, the  
681 predominantly lower frequency infrasound ( $\sim 0.09$  Hz) may be explained by the eruption  
682 interacting with abundant lake water and creating a lower frequency source of  
683 resonance (cf. Fee et al., 2019). Similar changes were observed during the eruptions of  
684 Bogoslof, Alaska, in 2016–2017 and Anak Karakatau, Indonesia, in 2018, when the vent  
685 sites transitioned from subaqueous to subaerial (Fee et al., 2019; Perttu et al., 2020a).  
686 In both cases, the ‘dry’ plume produced higher frequency infrasound, and a significantly  
687 lower frequency infrasound signal emerged when the vent was inundated with water.  
688 The presence of low frequency infrasound in itself does not necessarily imply the  
689 interaction of water, but the shift through time, combined with other observations of the  
690 eruption behavior, help to put these signals into context.

691

692 When Taal’s infrasound signal shifts to a higher peak frequency after 10:45, it is  
693 plausible that dwindling water levels began to change the dynamics of the eruption. A  
694 decrease in the jet diameter could produce higher frequency infrasound, but that would  
695 not explain the increase in lightning production observed at this time (Figure 12).  
696 Another possibility is that dwindling water levels led to a magma-water ratio enabling  
697 more efficient phreatomagmatic fragmentation (Wohletz, 1986). When there are large  
698 amounts of water relative to magma, incomplete water vaporization leads to a cooler,  
699 denser plume that entrains some liquid water droplets (rather than just water vapor) and  
700 makes the volcanic plume more likely to collapse (Koyaguchi and Woods, 1996). If  
701 lower water levels in the crater lake improved the efficiency of magma-water interaction,  
702 we might expect to see finer grained ash in the plume, which is linked to enhanced  
703 lightning production (Springsklee et al., 2022). However, it is also possible that this



704 process could boost the overall plume heights (which was not observed), so no single  
705 explanation is entirely satisfactory. The observation that Taal’s maximum plume heights  
706 topped out near the tropopause suggests that the plume rose convectively through the  
707 tropical atmosphere and may have been relatively insensitive to minor variations at the  
708 eruptive source (cf. Tupper et al. 2009). A detailed geologic study of the fall deposits  
709 from before and after 10:45 UTC would be needed to further investigate the possibility  
710 of a progressive decrease in the supply of water to erupting magma.

711  
712 We also note that photographs and videos taken before, during, and after this key shift  
713 at ~10:45 do not show any obvious changes in the color of the main plume that might be  
714 attributed to major changes in water content. However, a secondary, much smaller  
715 plume (<2.5 km high) is also observed in several photographs and time-lapse images  
716 from 09:00 onward (Table S3), illustrating the complexity of the source and the potential  
717 for multiple vents.

### 718 Phase 3: Pulsatory eruptive activity (12 January 2020 from 12:00 719 - 17:30 UTC)

720 Phase 3 from 12:00–17:30 is characterized by unsteady, pulsating behavior of the  
721 plume. In the beginning of this phase we see a weakening of the plume, observed as a  
722 decrease in the upwind propagation of the umbrella. The first observable “pulse”  
723 occurred at 12:43, continuing until the high-level plume appears to detach from the vent  
724 at 17:33. During this phase there is also a slight shift in the peak frequency of  
725 infrasound at station I39PW and in the high frequency array processing results (Figure  
726 6). As noted in the previous section, a change in frequency content that is remotely  
727 observed can be due to changes in the source as well as in the infrasonic propagation  
728 conditions along the propagation path. However, the stable propagation conditions  
729 throughout the day (Figures S12–S14) point to a change in the character of the  
730 eruption. The lightning flash rates peak just before 12:00 and then become more  
731 variable, correlating with the time frame of observed pulses within the plume (Figure  
732 12). Lightning rates fall below 3 flashes min<sup>-1</sup> at around 17:30.

#### 733 Phase 4: Winding Down (12 January 2020 from 17:30–21:00)

734 Phase 4 from 17:30–21:00 is characterized by the winding down of explosive intensity.  
735 PHIVOLCS reported that beginning at 18:49 through 20:28 (after nightfall) there was  
736 incandescence observed in the plume, which may have indicated lava fountaining  
737 occurring after a shift from a phreatomagmatic to a magmatic behavior. This  
738 incandescence was documented by local photographers who reported that the glow  
739 was visible to the naked eye (Table S3; PHIVOLCS-DOST [@phivolcs\_dost], 2020c;  
740 Quiambao, P., personal communication 27 August 2022; GMA News, 2020). However,  
741 it is unclear whether the incandescence merely became more visible during nighttime.  
742 This possible shift to fountaining and more magmatic eruption behavior is consistent  
743 with the vent becoming isolated from the lake due to vaporization, displacement of the  
744 water, or buildup of a cone around the vent that isolated it from the lake. However, in  
745 later photographs of the MCL area (Table S3 and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and  
746 Seismology (PHIVOLCS-DOST) [PHIVOLCS], 2020) show no evidence of a cone or  
747 spatter ramparts. It is our interpretation that the energetic infrasound, seismic, and  
748 lightning data, as well as the sustained high-altitude plume that was very light in color,  
749 indicate that most of the MCL water was vaporized and entrained into the plume during  
750 Phases 2–3. The shift to higher frequency infrasound signals at 13:12 (within Phase 3)  
751 may suggest when the vent began to dry out. The plume heights continue to wane and  
752 eventually become undetectable ~17:30 in the Himawari-8 satellite images, which  
753 corresponding to a change in lightning activity at 17:36. At this point, the eruption  
754 transitioned from a phreatomagmatic to magmatic eruption characterized by lava  
755 fountaining and low-level plumes. The initial phase of this transition was still detectable  
756 but soon fell below the detection limits for the remote data. Eruption intensity declined  
757 leading to the end of high intensity explosive activity around 21:00. Infrasound  
758 detections in both PMCC and the Fisher detector are greatly reduced at 14:15 and  
759 cease by around 20:00. The lightning flash rate falls below 3 per minute around 17:30  
760 and finally ends after 18:13. Although there are no direct observations of the MCL  
761 available on 12 January, a Sentinel-2 scene acquired at 02:33 on 13 January shows a  
762 mostly dry, incandescent lakebed (Figure S3).

763 Phase 5: Continuation of low-level activity (through 26 January  
764 2020 at 00:00)

765 Low-level activity characterized by the emission of small plumes < 2 km continued for  
766 several days. We end this phase with the lowering of the local alert level from level 4 to  
767 level 3 at 00:00 UTC on 26 January 2020. This phase of the eruption is not examined in  
768 any detail in our study, but it is worth noting there are several photos within this time  
769 frame showing a clear view of the MCL floor almost entirely devoid of standing water on  
770 both 16 and 21 January (Carn [@simoncarn], 2020; Tima [@raffytima], 2020; Table S3).  
771 In Bato et al. (2021), the emplacement of a dike was imaged in inSAR scenes from 9–  
772 17 January 2020, which they call the co-eruptive phase. Deformation within the dike  
773 was still observed during the post-eruptive phase extending to 4 February 2020,  
774 although it was limited to dike opening rather than propagation. This dike was modeled  
775 to extend from below the TVI through the MCL and out to the LT at a depth of <10 km.

776 Where did the Main Crater Lake water go?

777 The absence of the Main Crater Lake as evidenced through numerous photographs and  
778 satellite scenes in the days following the eruption presents an interesting puzzle. The  
779 pre-eruptive volume of the lake was calculated to be 42 million m<sup>3</sup> (Bernard et al., 2020),  
780 and in the two days before the eruption the temperature was measured at 31.1°C  
781 (PHIVOLCS, 2020p). The presence of the incandescence in Phase 4 leads to the  
782 interpretation that much of the water must have been previously removed in order for  
783 the vent to have been mostly dry. This is also supported by the lack of an obvious cone  
784 or similar structure that could have isolated the vent from the lake. This observation  
785 indicates that the majority of the lake water was removed within just under 12 hours.

786  
787 Given the volume, and change in initial temperature from ~31° C, the amount of energy  
788 required to vaporize the entire lake was  $1.07 \times 10^{17}$  J. If most of the lake was vaporized in  
789 just under 12 hours, as we suggest, that would require  $2.50 \times 10^{12}$  W. Alternatively, if the  
790 Sentinel-2 overpass at 02:33 (Figure S3) is used as the ‘end’ of the lake water, then the  
791 vaporization would have required  $1.42 \times 10^{12}$  W (see supplementary Energy Calculation

792 section). Given the volume of tephra calculated from the deposits reported in Balangué-  
793 Tarriela et al. (2022), which ranged from 0.04 km<sup>3</sup> to 0.1 km<sup>3</sup>, and using average values  
794 for andesite specific heat capacity from Heap et al. (2020), of 0.7519 kJ·/kgK, there  
795 would need to be a 980°C decrease in magmatic temperatures to transfer enough  
796 energy to the water. These values represent an upper limit for several reasons. As  
797 noted by Bernard et al. (2020) there was an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> prior to the eruption, and  
798 the presence of excess dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> in the MCL could have decreased its boiling  
799 point. This would reduce the heat input required to boil off the lake. Additionally, it is  
800 likely that the water took other routes not limited to boiling off. Evidence from wet ashfall  
801 (Martinez-Villegas et al., 2022), accretionary lapilli, and light-colored plume support the  
802 idea that much of the water was incorporated into the wet plume, but some water may  
803 have escaped via alternative means (e.g., seepage), which has been known to occur at  
804 Taal (Bayani Cardenas et al., 2012). Water may have been incorporated into the plume  
805 as liquid droplets as well as vapor, entered cracks and pore space in the island, or been  
806 ejected out of the lake by explosions. Overpasses by the Korean satellite KOMPSAT-3A  
807 on 16 and 26 January 2020 showed the area of the crater on TVI beginning to refill with  
808 water, which illustrates the complex hydrologic system on the island (Del Castillo,  
809 2020).

810

## 811 Conclusions

812 Our multi-parametric analysis from remote observations has identified five eruptive  
813 phases within the 12 January 2020 eruption of Taal Volcano. Specifically, our analysis  
814 illustrates a transition from the high-level, sustained ash emissions, to less energetic  
815 eruption by 12:00 UTC, and a shift to unsteady, pulsating activity in the plume. The  
816 sustained, high-level plume lasted around 4 hours as observed from remote infrasound  
817 data, the seismo-acoustic tremor TA signal and the high rate of volcanic lightning  
818 flashes. These findings add detail to the official reports available at the time of the  
819 eruption, which noted two main eruptive phases.

820

821 Our analysis suggests that the Main Crater Lake (MCL) was mostly vaporized and  
822 consumed by the eruption within Phases 1 and 2 corresponding with the TA seismic  
823 tremor signal and infrasound signal recorded at I39PW and totally dry by the end of  
824 Phase 3. The end of the high-intensity explosive activity on 12 January in Phase 4  
825 appears to have been a ‘dry’ magmatic eruption which deposited material blanketing the  
826 earlier phreatomagmatic deposits on Taal Volcano Island (TVI). Future work on deposits  
827 (or erosive features) on the island could constrain the nature and timing of this intriguing  
828 transition. This was followed by a magmatic eruption characterized by incandescence or  
829 lava fountaining and low-level plume. While there was still some water involved, as is  
830 evident by the plume color on the 13 January, most of the water was already consumed  
831 or pushed out, either through cracks, incorporated in the plume, and/or through physical  
832 expulsion by this point.

833

834 During this eruption, local stations were destroyed, covered in ash, and/or impacted by  
835 power outages, disrupting the transmission of data. This issue is common in large,  
836 explosive eruptions, highlighting the value of remote and regional data for monitoring  
837 ongoing activity. While lower-level activity may only be recorded on local monitoring  
838 equipment, the higher-intensity (and potentially hazardous) phases of eruptions can be  
839 monitored with remote methods when local infrastructure is disrupted.

840

841 We envision an opportunity whereby local monitoring infrastructure could be supported  
842 by remote methods for data continuity and adding layers of observational detail. Recent  
843 studies have proposed an international remote sensing strategy for this purpose  
844 (Pritchard et al., 2022). In eruptions that produce volcanic lightning, global lightning  
845 detection networks provide robust datasets with high temporal resolution and are  
846 especially powerful when combined with other remote methods like infrasound, seismic,  
847 and satellite.

## 848 Data and Resources

849 Infrasound and seismic IMS data are available for researchers through the vDEC  
850 program with the CTBTO. The Singapore infrasound station SING is available upon

851 request. Lightning data were provided by Vaisala Inc. Himawari-8 data were acquired  
852 from JMA. PlanetLabs data are accessed through the 'E&R The Smithsonian Institute  
853 PL-0036349' plan. Other satellite data are open access. Photographs were acquired  
854 from social media and traditional media sites that are publicly available. Software used  
855 included PMCC (available through CEA), ObsPy (Beyreuther et al., 2010), CRUST1.0  
856 (Laske et al., 2013), Fisher beamforming (<https://github.com/jdassink/beamforming>;  
857 pysabeam (unreleased)), ePape (<https://github.com/chetzer-ncpa/ncpaprop-release>;  
858 Waxler et al., 2021; 2022), InfraGA (<https://github.com/LANL-Seismoacoustics/infraGA>;  
859 Blom, 2019).

860

861 Supplemental information file contains a table of abbreviations and variables used, a  
862 table of the PHIVOLCS and Tokyo VAAC alerts and bulletins, a table of the visual data  
863 used, a table of the infrasound stations and their distances and azimuths, as well as  
864 supplemental figures of further processing that was completed for this manuscript.

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884

## 885 Declaration of Competing Interests

886 The authors acknowledge there are no conflicts of interest recorded.

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890 <a href="https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/spotlight/01/12/23/some-families-still-awaiting-relocation-after-taal-2020-eruption">relocation-after-taal-2020-eruption> (accessed January 2023).

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1295 **Tables**

1296 TABLE 1: Eigenray parameters for the rays from Taal to I39PW (see Figure 7).

| ray | inclination<br>(deg) | azimuth<br>(deg) | bounces | travel time<br>(s) | celerity<br>(m/s) | turning<br>height<br>(km) | back<br>azimuth<br>(deg) | trace<br>velocity<br>(m/s) |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | 14.8                 | 115.4            | 3       | 6322               | 260               | 114.3                     | 298.4                    | 349                        |

|   |      |       |   |      |     |       |       |     |
|---|------|-------|---|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| 2 | 26.4 | 115.6 | 4 | 6773 | 242 | 117.5 | 298.5 | 375 |
|---|------|-------|---|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|

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## List of Figure Captions

1300 Figure 1: Regional map on the left, showing the remote network used in the study, and  
 1301 indicating infrasound arrays (circles), seismic arrays (stars), and distances from the  
 1302 volcano. On the right, volcano area map and annotated satellite images showing the  
 1303 Taal caldera, Volcano Island (TVI) in Taal Lake (TL), and features on the island,  
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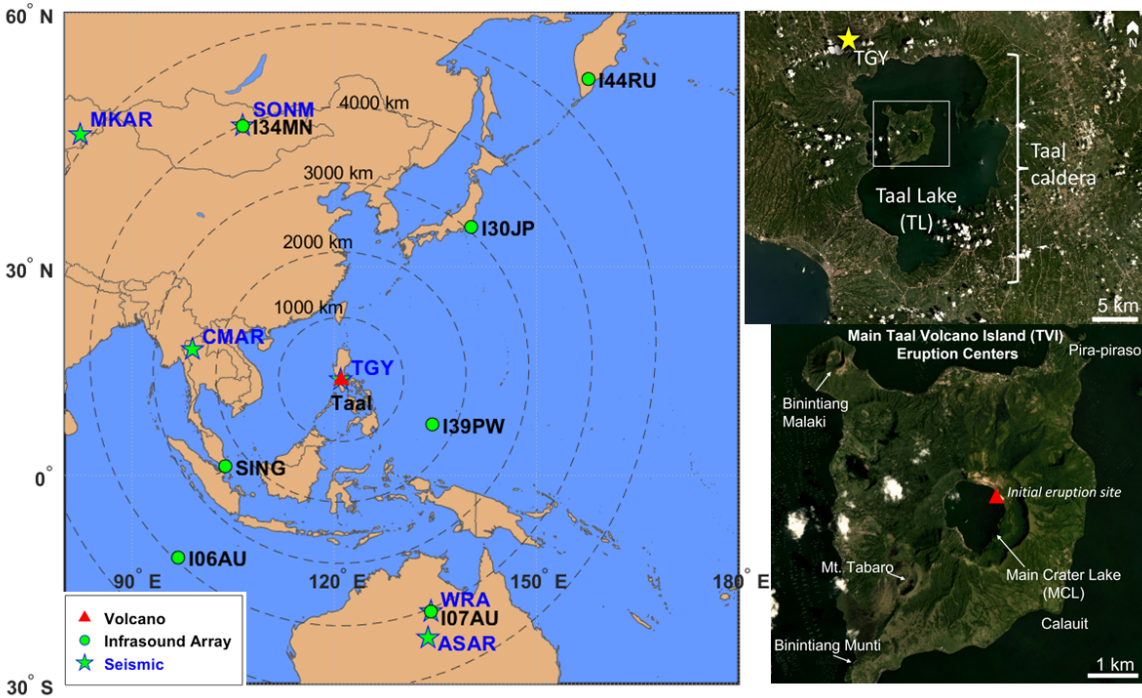
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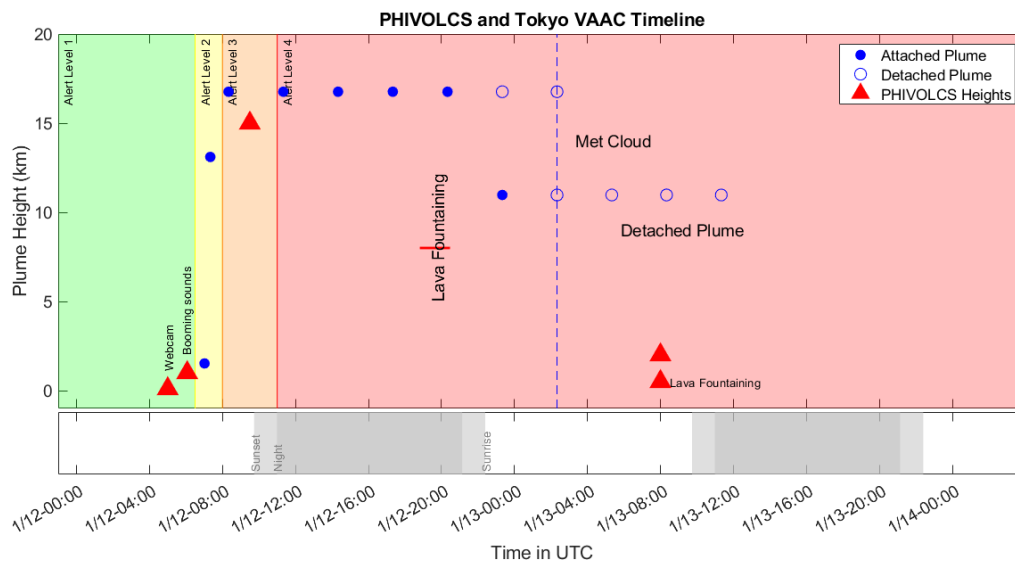
1391 **Figures**



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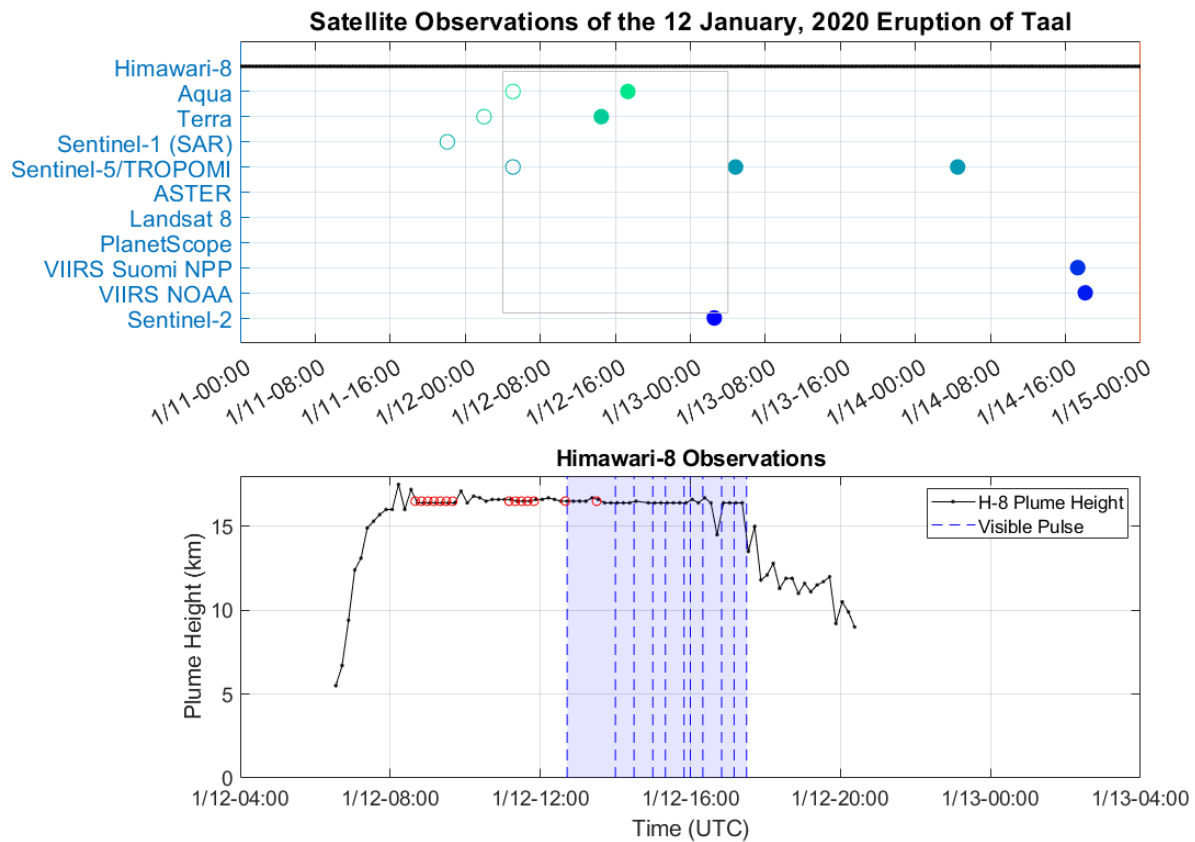
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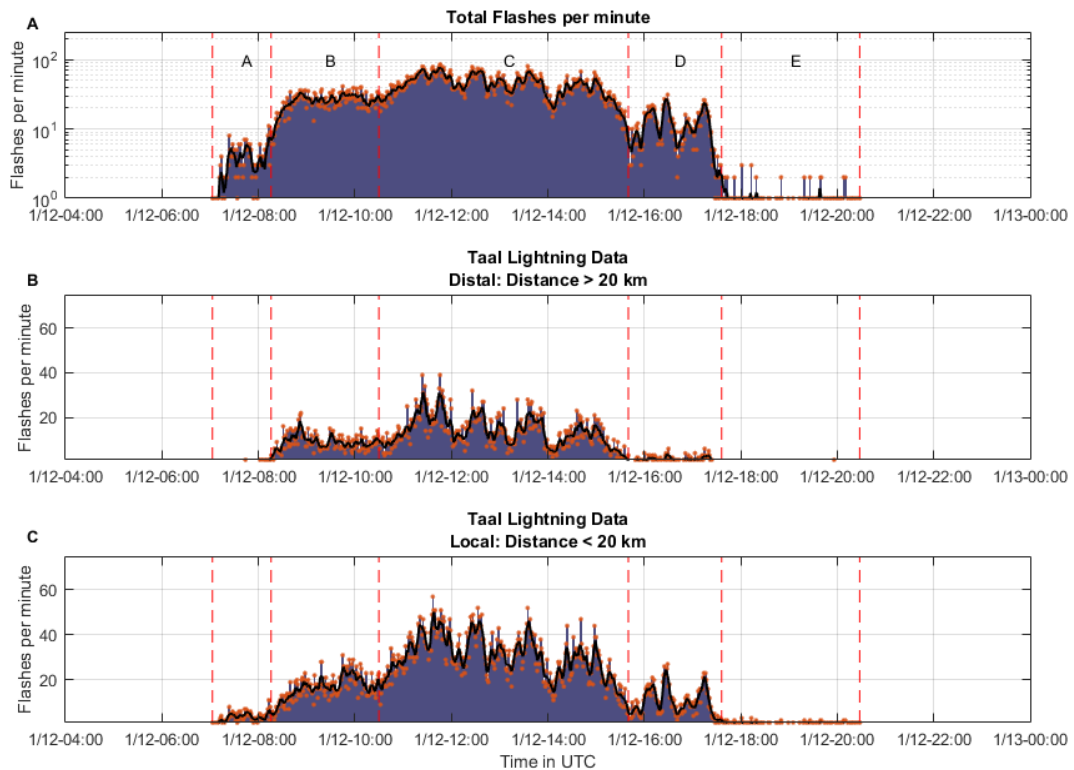


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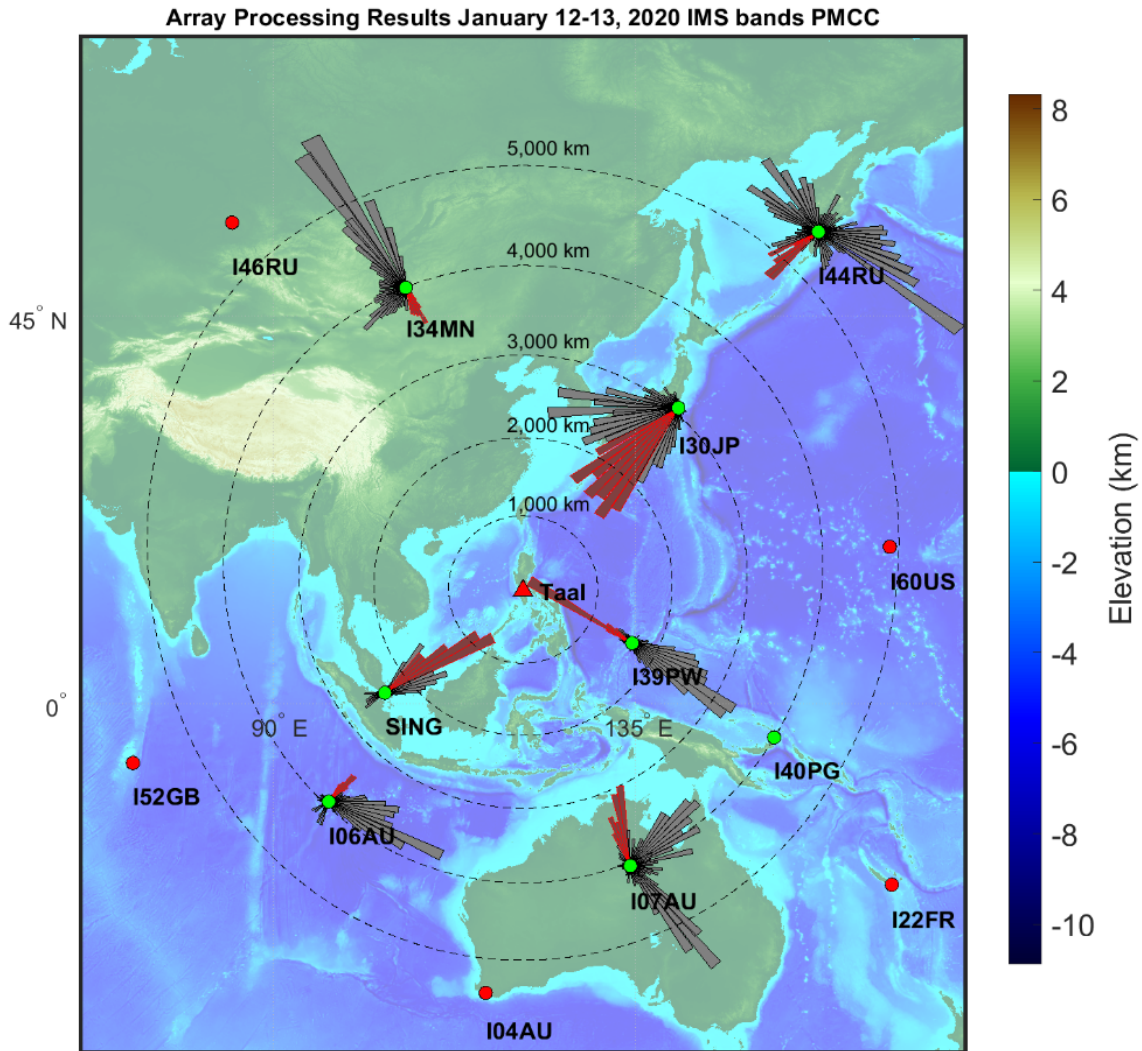
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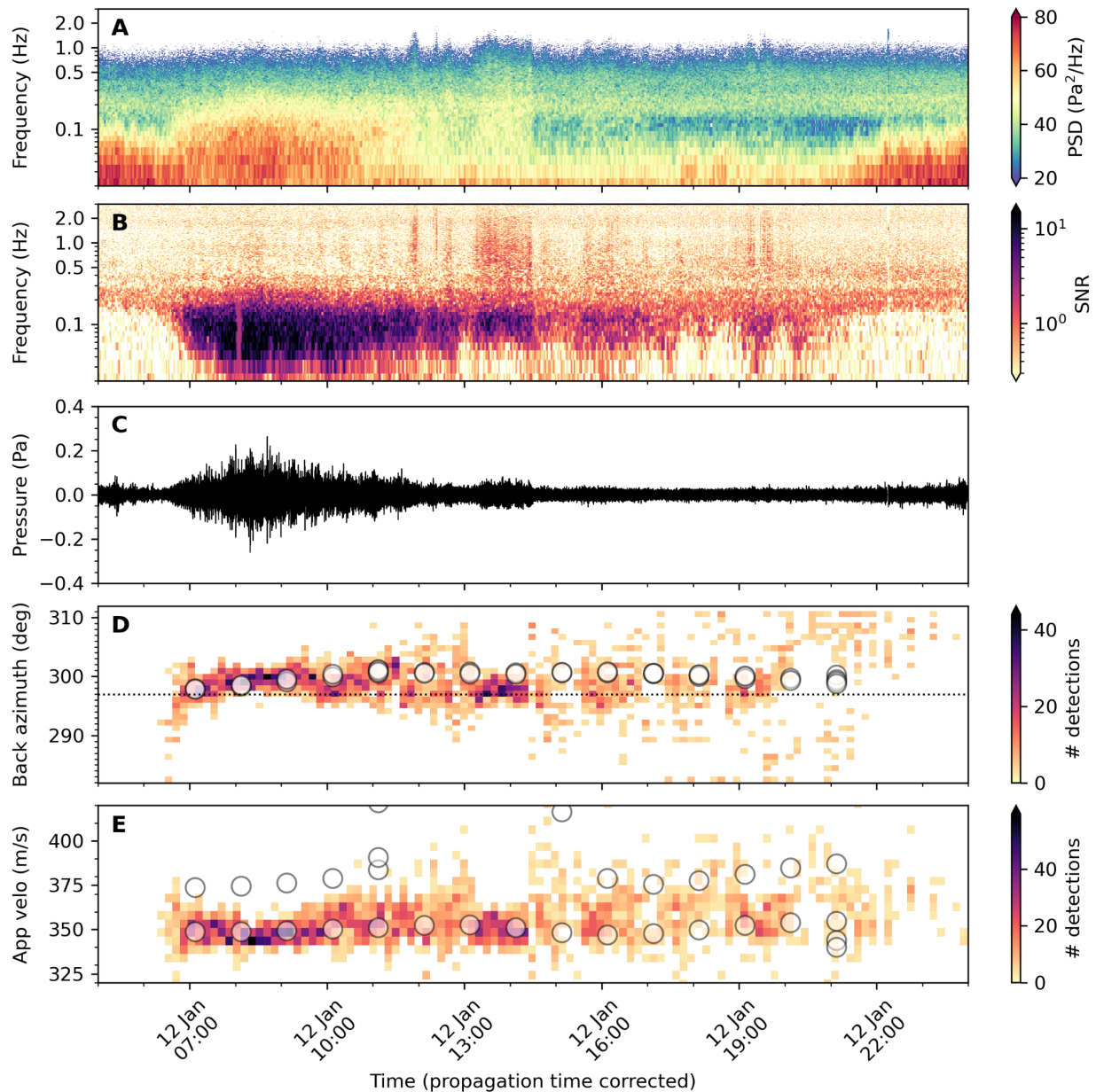
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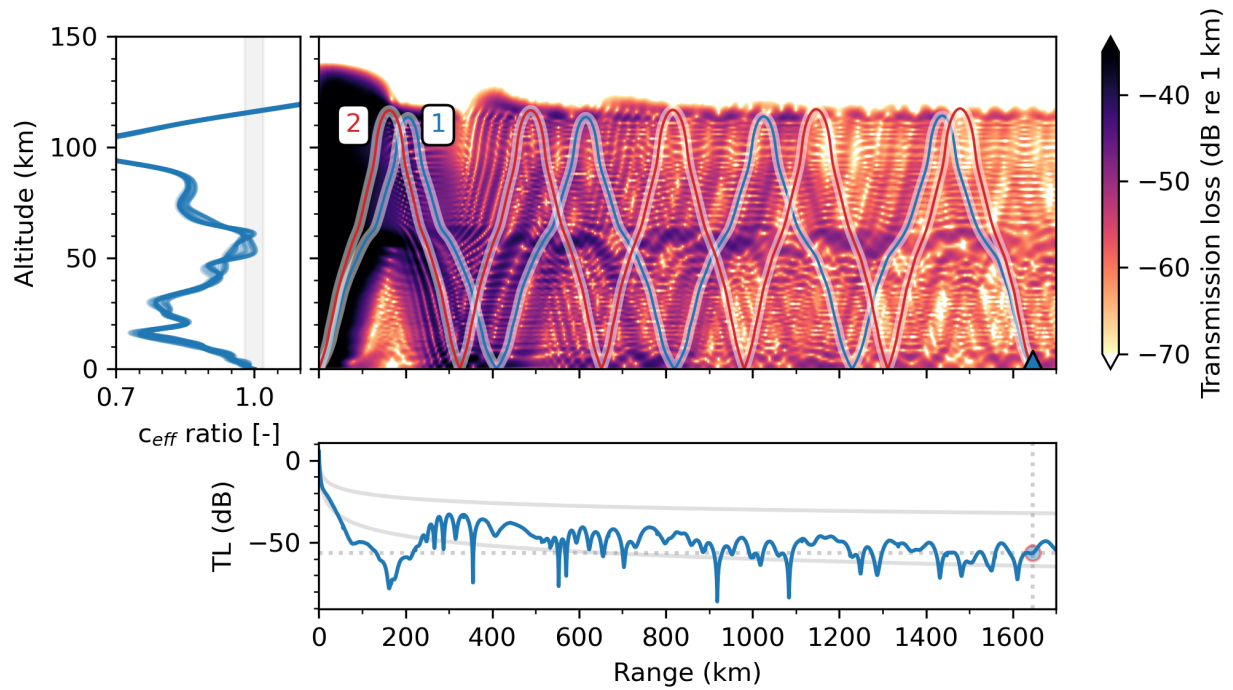
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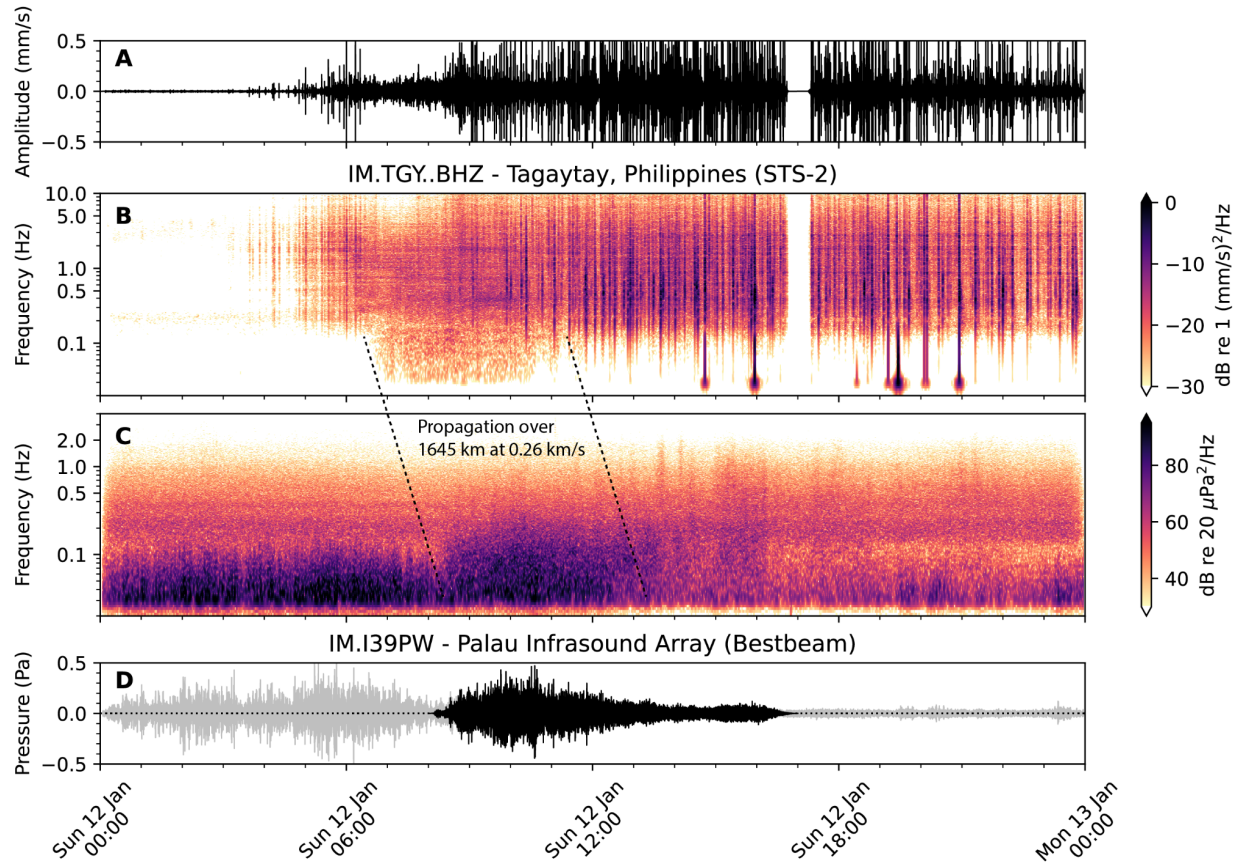
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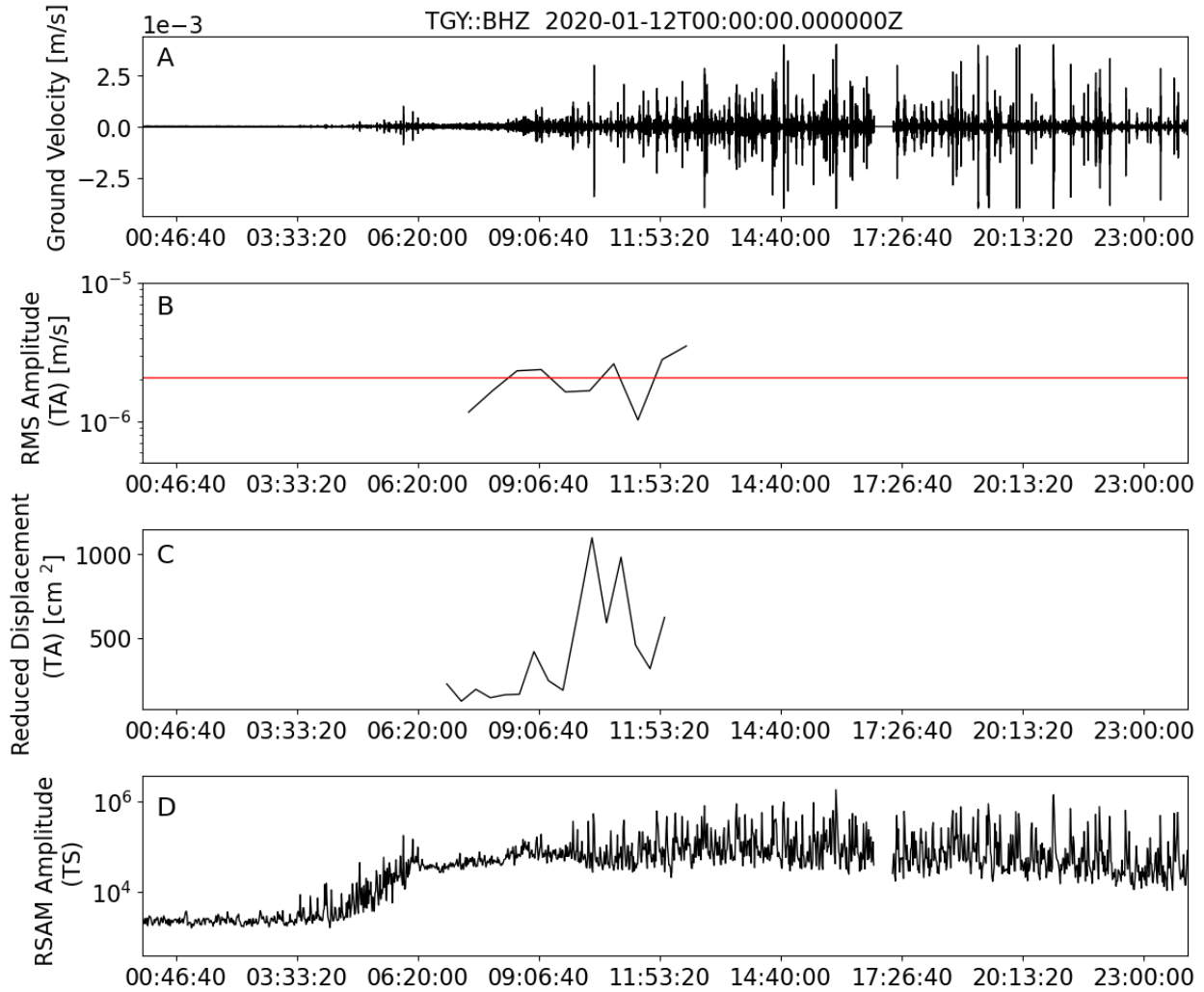
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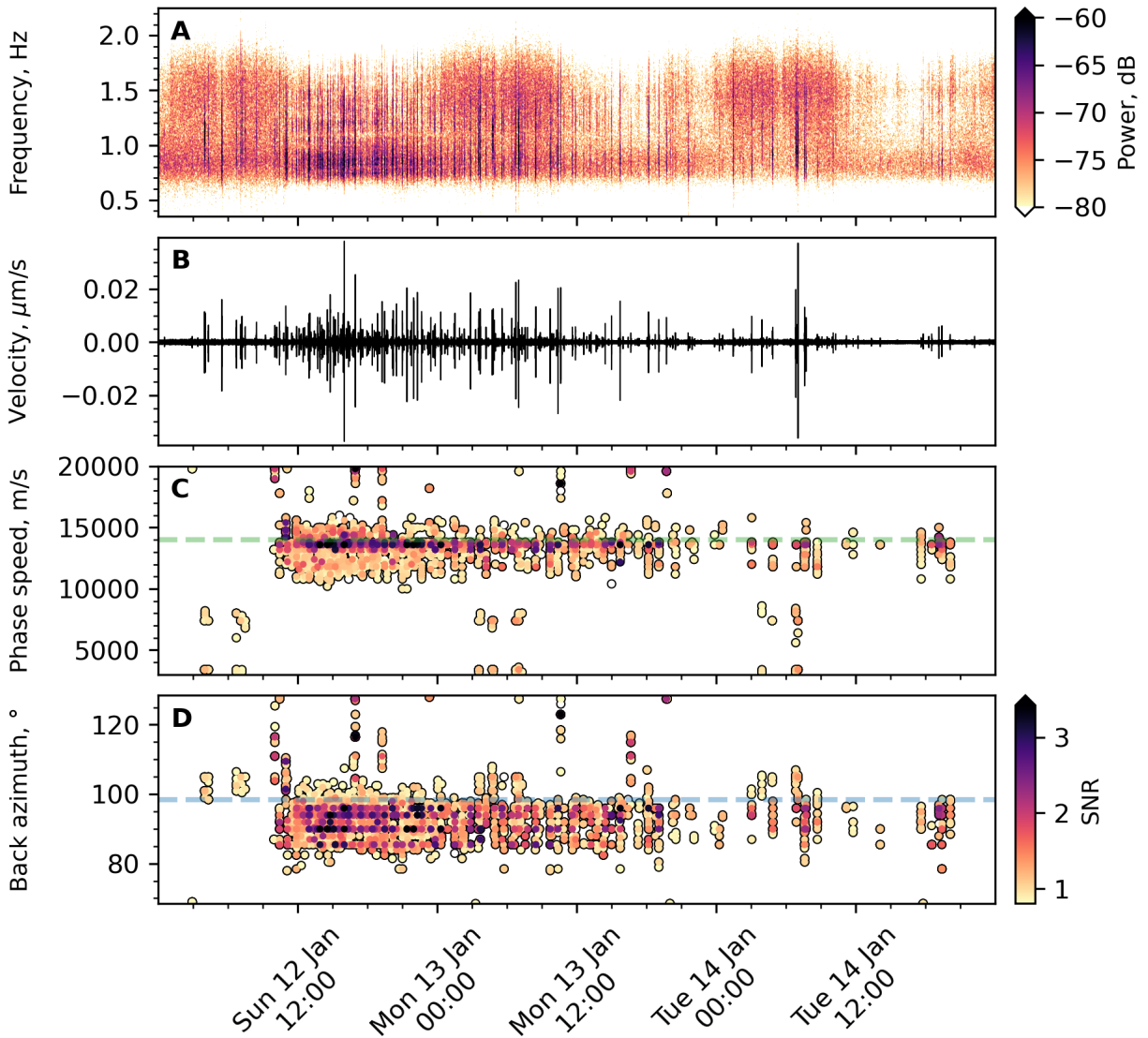
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Time Fisher | wlen: 10.00 s | overlap: 90%  
Array: CMAR | 17 elements | freq: 0.7 --> 1.8 Hz

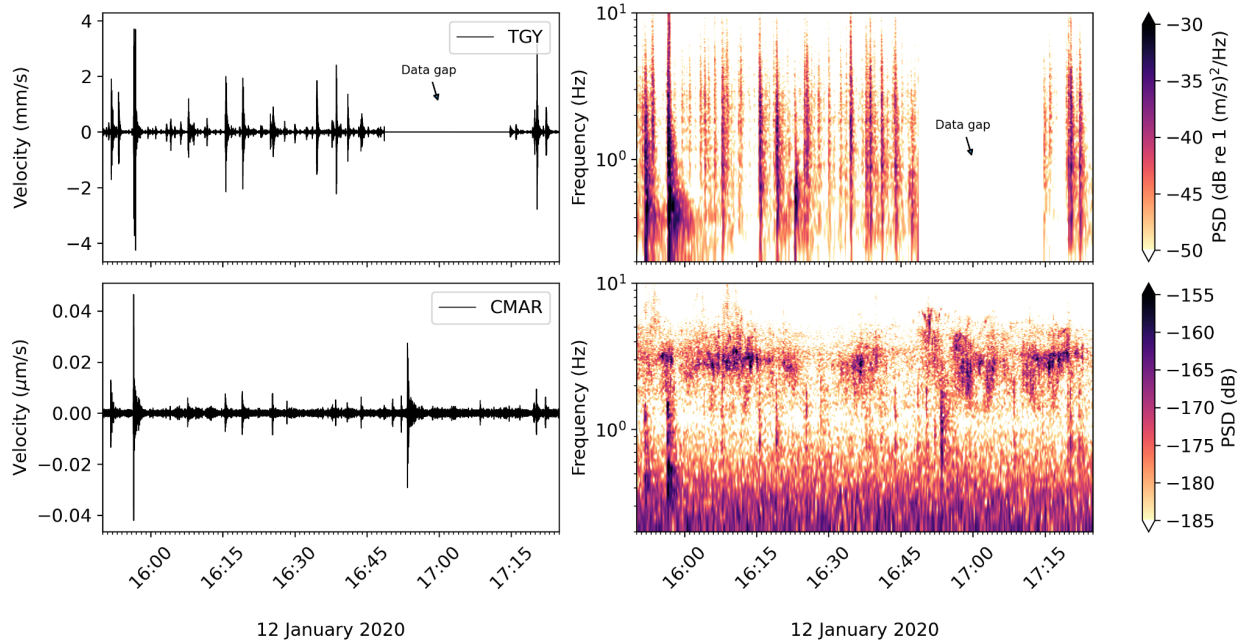


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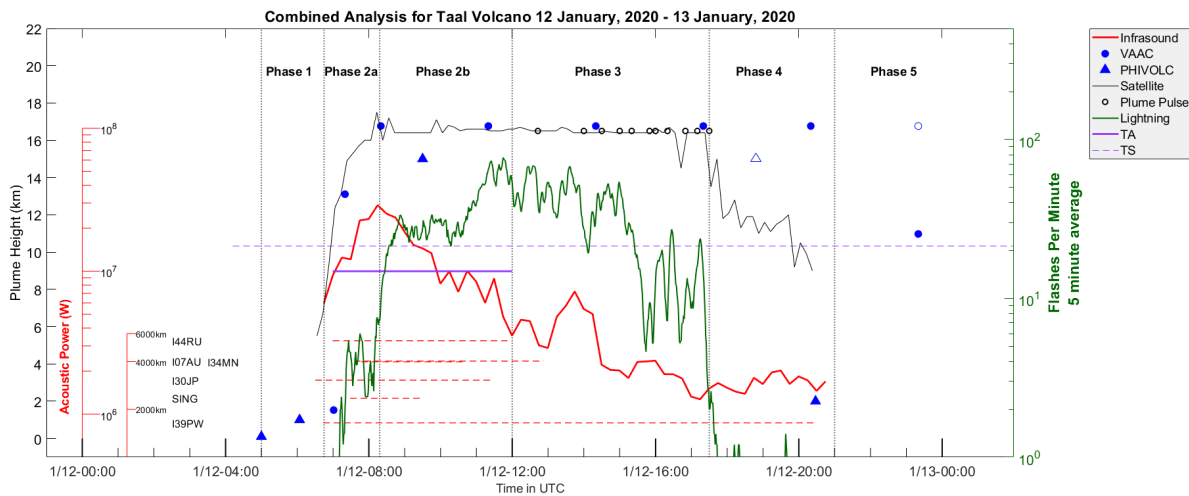
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