

1 **Imaging a crustal low-velocity layer using reflected**  
2 **seismic waves from the 2014 earthquake swarm at**  
3 **Long Valley Caldera, California: the magmatic**  
4 **system roof?**

Nori Nakata<sup>1</sup> and David R. Shelly<sup>2</sup>

5 **Keypoints**

- 6 • Clear reflections are observed during 2014 Long Valley Caldera earthquake swarm.
- 7 • We apply wavefield migration to the reflections to image the reflector using a single station.
- 8 • The reflector is likely related to the top of the contemporary magmatic system at 8.2 km
- 9 depth.

---

<sup>1</sup>University of Oklahoma, Norman,  
Oklahoma, USA

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park,  
California, USA

10 The waveforms generated by the 2014 Long Valley Caldera earthquake swarm  
11 recorded at station MLH show clear reflected waves that are often stronger  
12 than direct P and S waves. With waveform analyses, we discover that these  
13 waves are reflected at the top of a low velocity body, which may be resid-  
14 ual magma from the  $\sim 767$  ka caldera-forming eruption. The polarity of the  
15 reflection compared to direct P and S waves suggests that the reflection is  
16 SP waves (S from hypocenters to reflector and then convert to P waves to  
17 the surface). Because the wavefields are coherent among different earthquakes  
18 and hold high signal-to-noise ratios, we apply them to a wavefield migration  
19 method for imaging reflectors. The depth of the imaged magmatic-system  
20 roof is around 8.2 km below the surface. This is consistent with previous stud-  
21 ies. Even though we use only one station and waveforms from one earthquake  
22 swarm, the dense cluster of accurately located earthquakes provides a high-  
23 resolution image of the roof.

## 1. Introduction

24 Long Valley Caldera in California has been studied intensively for decades [*Hill et al.*,  
25 2017]. *Bailey et al.* [1976] and *Hill* [1976] discussed the geological and geophysical struc-  
26 ture of Long Valley Caldera and its eruption history. A persistent focus of research has  
27 been the location and activity of magma [*Ryall and Ryall*, 1981; *McConnel et al.*, 1995;  
28 *Hildreth*, 2004; *Peacock et al.*, 2016]. A combination of volcanic and tectonic forces gen-  
29 erates high rates of seismicity, including frequent earthquake swarms. *Savage and Clark*  
30 [1982] studied the 1980 **M6** earthquakes and concluded that the earthquakes were trig-  
31 gered by magmatic resurgence. Fine fault structure, stress regions, and interaction of  
32 volcanic fluid have been revealed by the precise analyses of these swarms especially in  
33 1997 and 2014 [*Prejean et al.*, 2002; *Shelly et al.*, 2015]. The swarms at Long Valley  
34 contain brittle  $\sim$  long-period earthquakes at a variety of depths [*Hill et al.*, 2002; *Shelly*  
35 *and Hill*, 2011].

36 The 2014 Long Valley earthquake swarm was the most active swarm in the caldera since  
37 1997, with more than 3300 routinely cataloged events from June–October, 2014. In this  
38 study, we use a portion of the earthquake swarm (811 events) that mostly occurred on July  
39 7–8 and September 26, detected and located by *Shelly et al.* [2016a] (Figure 1). The events  
40 used here are detected by using one template earthquake (**M1.51** event at 2:35AM UTC,  
41 10 July 2014) and most of the events used have very similar left-lateral strike-slip focal  
42 mechanisms [*Shelly et al.*, 2016b]. The earthquakes detected by this template show higher  
43 signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of our target waves. We focus on the wavefields of these events  
44 observed at station MLH (which has only vertical component) in the Northern California

45 Seismic Network (the green triangle in Figure 1). A wave that has distinct moveout from  
46 direct waves is clearly observed when events are sorted by source depth (the red arrow in  
47 Figure 2b), and as we discuss later, this is likely a reflected wave from the upper surface of  
48 a low-velocity body, which could be a zone of partial melt and/or accumulated magmatic  
49 fluids. Note that although reflected waves with active sources and/or other earthquakes at  
50 Long Valley Caldera have been studied [*Hill, 1976; Hill et al., 1985; Luetgert and Mooney,*  
51 *1985; Stroujkova and Malin, 2000*], the waveforms in Figure 2b are exceptionally vivid.  
52 Here, we examine the features of the wave and use it for imaging.

53 For imaging, we apply a wavefield migration technique (reverse time migration; RTM),  
54 which is often used for active-source imaging, to the earthquake swarm seismograms  
55 recorded at station MLH. The idea of using earthquake waveforms for imaging reflec-  
56 tors with migration has been implemented previously [e.g., *Stroujkova and Malin, 2000;*  
57 *Reshetnikov et al., 2010; Hrubcová et al., 2016*]. Compared to the reflected waves on the  
58 west-side of Long Valley Caldera used by *Stroujkova and Malin [2000]*, our earthquake  
59 sources are dense and waveforms show coherent reflections. We use the source informa-  
60 tion (locations and mechanisms) given by *Shelly et al. [2016a, b]*, who estimated precise  
61 locations and mechanisms of each event with wavefield correlation.

62 In this study, we start with the discussion of the detail of the observed wavefields  
63 using time shift, 3D beamforming and waveform averaging. Then we apply RTM to the  
64 wavefields and discuss the imaged reflector.



## 2. Observation of reflected waves

### 2.1. Observed waves

65 We first examine the observed waveforms at station MLH (Figure 2). In addition to  
66 the P, S, and their reverberating coda, this station recorded prominent reflected waves.  
67 When we align the recorded waveforms with the estimated event origin time (Figure  
68 2a), the reflected wave exists at 2.5–3 s, although other phases contaminate to make the  
69 visual identification harder. The reflected waves are coherent and well recognized in the  
70 waveforms aligned on S-wave phases around 3–6 s (Figure 2b). The alignment is based on  
71 the time lags of maximum crosscorrelation values between the template earthquake and  
72 others within this time window. The direct-arrival phases show nearly linear moveout,  
73 and the reflected phase has non-linear moveouts. The reflected wave is mostly observed  
74 between the direct P and S waves except for shallower events, where the reflected waves  
75 arrive after S waves. The arrival times of waves suggest that the reflector is located  
76 below the source region, and the reflected waves are first propagated downward from the  
77 hypocenters, then scattered upward toward the surface. A coherent wave at around 2.6 s  
78 from shallower events is likely an S-to-P converted wave at near surface (probably at the  
79 layer of the volcanic tuff at around 2 km depth) based on the  $V_p/V_s$  ratio (black arrow  
80 on Figure 2b).

81 The ray path of the reflected waves is also confirmed from the source-side 3D beam-  
82 forming (Appendix A). Based on the depth slownesses of direct and reflected waves, the  
83 reflected waves first propagate downward, reflect at a reflector, and then propagate to-  
84 wards the ground surface (Figure S1). The strong reflector beneath the source region at  
85 6–7 km depth might be related to the partial-melt volume of the residual Bishop magma

86 remaining after the caldera-forming eruption  $\sim 767$  ka [Crowley *et al.*, 2007], which would  
87 be a low-velocity volume [Dawson *et al.*, 1990; Weiland *et al.*, 1995; Seccia *et al.*, 2011].  
88 Black *et al.* [1991] argued that the reflections studied by Hill [1976] are likely caused  
89 by the caldera wall. We can exclude this possibility based on the radiation angle of the  
90 reflected wave from the beamforming result (Figure S1).

## 2.2. Amplitude and polarity

91 Observed S-wave amplitudes are stronger than P waves even though we use the vertical  
92 component (Figure 2). Based on focal mechanisms determined by Shelly *et al.* [2016b], the  
93 direct P waves recorded at station MLH radiate from near the nodal plane. When S-wave  
94 radiation angle is similar, the S wave can be stronger even when recorded on the vertical  
95 component (Appendix B). Interestingly, the reflected waves have the highest amplitude  
96 among the three waves highlighted in Figure 2; despite the fact that reflected waves  
97 lose more energy than the direct waves during wave propagation because of incomplete  
98 reflection and a longer wave path.

99 To understand the strong amplitude of the reflection, we analyze the phase of this wave.  
100 Because the reflected wave arrives between P and S direct waves in time, this wave travels  
101 as a P wave for the majority of the path and is recorded on the vertical component (Figure  
102 S2); hence the wave is either PP or SP waves (first letter represents the wave type along  
103 the path from the source to the reflector, and the second from the reflector to the receiver).  
104 Stroujkova and Malin [2000] studied the reflected waves on the west side of the caldera,  
105 and they found that the frequency content of the reflected waves is lower than P waves  
106 and similar to S waves; therefore they concluded that the waves they analyzed were SP

107 waves. In our data, however, we do not find a consistent difference in frequencies between  
108 P and reflected waves (Figure S3) as well as for P and S waves.

109 For the vertical component with a nearly strike-slip earthquake and the radiation angle  
110 computed by *Shelly et al.* [2016b], direct P and S waves have opposite polarity, P and  
111 PP waves also have opposite polarity, and P and SP waves have the same polarity when  
112 the velocity below the reflector is lower (the cartoons in Figure 3). Because the focal  
113 mechanisms for most of the earthquakes in this cluster are similar [*Shelly et al.*, 2016b],  
114 we assume that the polarities of observed waves do not vary much among different earth-  
115 quakes. To estimate accurate polarity changes, we compute averaged P, reflected, and S  
116 wavelets over all earthquakes by using waveforms around the travel times of each wave  
117 shown in Figure S2 (Figure 3). Then we compute crosscorrelation coefficients between  
118 each wavelet; maximum coefficients as absolute value are 0.934 (P and reflection: posi-  
119 tive), -0.772 (reflection and S: negative) and -0.836 (P and S: negative). Although polarity  
120 changes between these wavelets are not very clear, the positive and negative correlation  
121 coefficients suggest that the reflected wave is indeed an SP wave.

122 This suggestion of SP wave is also supported by the amplitude of the reflection (Ap-  
123 pendix B). If the reflector is nearly horizontal, excitation energy for a PP wave is small,  
124 similar to the direct P wave (excitation point is close to the nodal plane). The SP wave  
125 is excited as an S wave, stronger than a P wave, converted to a P wave at the reflec-  
126 tor, and observed in the vertical component of station MLH as a P wave, with a greater  
127 portion of its energy vertically polarized compared to the direct S wave. Therefore, the  
128 SP reflection can be stronger than direct P or S waves. In Appendix B, we analytically

129 compute amplitude ratios between different waves and confirm that the SP wave would  
130 be significantly stronger than the PP wave, and the amplitude of the SP wave is in the  
131 same order of direct P and S waves.

### 3. Imaging reflectors with wavefield migration

132 We use a wavefield migration method to image the reflectors with the SP wave [*Claer-*  
133 *bout*, 1985]. We solve the two-way wave equation and apply reverse-time migration (RTM)  
134 to include the possibility that the reflectors are above the source regions or are vertically  
135 oriented [*Hale et al.*, 1992]. RTM is a technique to image subsurface reflectors: first we  
136 numerically reconstruct wavefields from sources and receivers, respectively (these waves  
137 meet at the location of scatterers/reflectors), and then crosscorrelate these reconstructed  
138 wavefields to image reflectors [*Baysal et al.*, 1983; *Sava and Hill*, 2009; *Nakata and Beroza*,  
139 2016]. For the reconstruction of the wavefields, we need a velocity model. In this region,  
140 several velocity models have been proposed in both 1D and 3D (e.g., 1D: *Sanders and*  
141 *Nixon* [1995]; *Stroujkova and Malin* [2000]; *Prejean et al.* [2002], 3D: *Hill et al.* [1985];  
142 *Kissling* [1988]; *Flidner et al.* [2000]; *Seccia et al.* [2011]; *Lin* [2015]). We use the 1D  
143 velocity model proposed by *Stroujkova and Malin* [2000] and add three layers from 0–1  
144 km depth shown in *Prejean et al.* [2002] (Table S1).

145 With this 1D velocity model, we apply RTM in 2D (slice of each degree of azimuth) but  
146 not 3D because horizontal slownesses are preserved. For the 2D RTM at each degree of  
147 azimuth, we first choose earthquakes that occur in this degree range (e.g., 224.5°–225.5°).  
148 After the 2D RTM for all azimuths, we concatenate 2D slices to generate a 3D image of  
149 the subsurface. To reconstruct wavefields, we use reciprocity of the data; we numerically

150 back-propagate observed waveforms from each hypocenter simultaneously with S-wave  
151 velocities and forward-propagate a Ricker wavelet (peak frequency of 10 Hz) from the  
152 receiver location with P-wave velocities (see the cartoon in Figure 4). This simulates the  
153 SP propagation. For each wave, we solve the pseudo acoustic wave equation with finite  
154 difference by ignoring wave conversions from source/receiver to the reflector. Then we  
155 compute crosscorrelation of these wavefields to construct a reflection image (Figure 4a–  
156 c). Here we take the Born approximation and ignore higher-order scattered waves. As  
157 similar to Figure S1, we use synthetic data as a reference (Figure 4a). When we use the  
158 entire observed wavefields for RTM (Figure 4c), the image contains lots of signals which  
159 contaminate our interpretation of the target reflection. Hence, we deterministically apply  
160 time windows to isolate waves around the reflected wave ( $\pm 1$  s from the travel times  
161 shown in Figure S2) and focus images related to our target reflectors (Figure 4b). The  
162 limited source-receiver aperture results in an egg-shaped image, but with the help of the  
163 synthetic image (Figure 4a) and spatial continuity using different azimuths, the strong  
164 amplitudes at 3 km distance and 8.2 km depth are likely the reflector producing the strong  
165 reflected wave (the white arrow in Figure 4b).

166 After computing images for all available azimuths ( $219^\circ$ – $243^\circ$ ), we construct the 3D view  
167 of the reflectors (Figure 4d). Although it reduces the spatial resolution, we compute the 2D  
168 envelope at each azimuth and use 3D smoothing (Gaussian filter with  $(100\text{m}, 100\text{m}, 3^\circ)$ ) to  
169 smoothly connect each 2D image. Also, to further improve SNR, we create a binary mask  
170 that has a value of 1.0 where the envelope intensity of synthetic images after smoothing  
171 is larger than 0.1 and 0 everywhere else, and then multiply the mask to the 3D image.

172 The result illustrated in Figure 4d shows that a strong reflector exists around  $8.2\pm 0.1$  km  
173 depth, where the silver isosurface is illustrated. The depth uncertainty is based on the  
174 thickness of the high intensity area ( $>0.9$  normalized intensity).

#### 4. Discussion

175 As we inferred from beamforming (Figure S1), the reflector is located deeper than the  
176 source region (Figure 4d). We conclude that this reflector is the top of a low-velocity  
177 zone. Evidence for the low-velocity zone at similar depths has been reported in several  
178 previous studies, and is usually interpreted as a partial-melt volume of the Bishop magma  
179 or accumulated magmatic fluids [Hill, 1976; Stoujckova and Malin, 2000; Seccia et al.,  
180 2011]. The roof of this magmatic system would be expected to present an unusually large  
181 velocity anomaly in the crust. Because of the location of the earthquake swarm and the  
182 receiver used, we cannot determine the horizontal extent of the reflector much beyond  
183 MLH (Figure 4). However, the continuity of images into the azimuth direction indicates  
184 that our technique works well to coherently image the reflector because the earthquakes  
185 used in each azimuth are independent. Kinematically this image constrains the upper  
186 surface of the low-velocity structure with higher resolution (depth of 8.1–8.3 km). By  
187 contrast, local-earthquake tomographic imaging of such structure would be challenging  
188 because waves generated by shallow local earthquakes do not directly sample these struc-  
189 tures. In principle, we could compute the reflection coefficients of the reflector from the  
190 image, but we would have to account for attenuation (both scattering and intrinsic) of  
191 seismic waves with better knowledge of the attenuation structure.

192 Although our preferred interpretation is that of SP reflection, we consider the possibility  
193 that the reflections in Figure 2 are PP reflections. Under this assumption, the depth of  
194 the reflector becomes about 1.0 km deeper than Figure 4, because the P velocities are  
195 higher than S velocities (Figure S4). The quality of the image is about equal to the SP  
196 case (reflection points are well focused). However, based on the information of amplitudes  
197 (Figure 2, Appendix B), polarity (Figure 3), and source mechanisms of events [*Shelly*  
198 *et al.*, 2016b], we conclude that the interpretation of SP waves is most reasonable and  
199 prefer the image shown in Figure 4.

200 Interestingly, the reflected waves at station MLH are much more prominent than at  
201 stations MDR or MLAC, which are closer to the swarm. *Seccia et al.* [2011] found evidence  
202 for a low-velocity layer below station MLAC, suggesting that the reflector may extend  
203 there. We speculate that the weakness of these waves at stations MDR or MLAC is due  
204 to the radiation pattern of the swarm earthquakes. The small offset requires vertically  
205 propagating waves to produce strong reflections, but for strike-slip events, such waves  
206 are weak. More distant stations would presumably capture the waves reflected from the  
207 bottom of the low-velocity volume as in *Luetgert and Mooney* [1985].

208 The methods used here could be applied to other areas in and out the Long Valley  
209 Caldera to characterize reflected waves and map reflectors. Dense earthquake swarms are  
210 helpful to identify reflections. The knowledge of the accurate location of earthquakes is  
211 important, and focal mechanisms are used for the interpretation of wave types but not  
212 needed for imaging. We require sufficiently high SNR of reflected waves for imaging, and

213 hence we need stations at right spots especially for strike-slip earthquakes such as close  
214 enough to have high SNR but not too close to the nodal plane.

## 5. Conclusion

215 We analyze prominent non-direct waves observed during the 2014 Long Valley Caldera  
216 earthquake swarm. These waves clearly have a different moveout than the direct P or S  
217 waves. Beamforming of wavefields suggests that the waves are reflected at a boundary  
218 located beneath the swarm-source volume, which is likely related to the top of the residual  
219 Bishop magmatic system. Based on the amplitude of the waves and their polarity, we  
220 conclude that the waves are SP reflections. We apply a wavefield-migration technique  
221 to the reflected waves to find the location of reflectors. The roof is imaged at 8.2 km  
222 depth, which is roughly corresponding to previous studies. We use synthetic waveforms  
223 (travel times of reflected waves) as a reference to interpret the beamforming and imaging  
224 results to overcome the limited aperture of source-receiver locations and SNR, and hence  
225 we can extract the information of magmatic system using waves from densely clustered  
226 earthquakes recorded on a single receiver.

227 **Acknowledgments.** We thank people who operate seismic stations at the Long  
228 Valley region especially for station MLH operated by the USGS and make the  
229 data available through the Northern California Earthquake Data Center (NCEDC),  
230 doi:10.7932/NCEDC. We also thank Walter D. Mooney, Ashton Flinders, and David Hill  
231 for their fruitful comments. We appreciate two anonymous reviewers and the GRL editor  
232 Jeroen Ritsema to improve the quality of this study. We are grateful to the Madagascar



233 project to freely provide the software for applying RTM [Fomel *et al.*, 2013]. To process  
234 the data, we use the Osker cluster at the University of Oklahoma.

## References

- 235 Bailey, R. A., G. B. Dalrymple, and M. A. Lanphere, Volcanism, structure, and  
236 geochronology of Long Valley Caldera, Mono County, California, *J. Geophys. Res.*,  
237 *81*(5), 725–744, 1976.
- 238 Baysal, E., D. D. Kosloff, and J. W. C. Sherwood, Reverse time migration, *Geophysics*,  
239 *48*(11), 1514–1524, 1983.
- 240 Black, R. A., S. J. Deemer, and S. B. Smithson, Seismic reflection studies in Long Valley  
241 Caldera, California, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *96*(B3), 4289–4300, 1991.
- 242 Claerbout, J. F., *Imaging the Earth's interior*, Blackwell Science Inc, 1985.
- 243 Crowley, J. L., B. Schoene, and S. A. Browring, U-Pb dating of zircon in the Bishop Tuff  
244 at the millennial scale, *Geology*, *35*(12), 1, 2007.
- 245 Dawson, P. B., J. R. Evans, and H. M. Iyer, Teleseismic tomography of the compressional  
246 wave velocity structure beneath the Long Valley region, California, *J. Geophys. Res.*,  
247 *95*(B7), 11,021–11,050, 1990.
- 248 Fliedner, M. M., S. L. Klemperer, and N. I. Christensen, Three-dimensional seismic model  
249 of the Sierra Nevada arc, California, and its implications for crustal and upper mantle  
250 composition, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *105*(B5), 10,899–10,921, 2000.
- 251 Fomel, S., P. Sava, I. Vlad, Y. Liu, and V. Bashkardin, Madagascar: ope-source software  
252 project for multidimensional data analysis and reproducible computational experiments,  
253 *J. Open Res. Software*, *1*(1), e8, 2013.

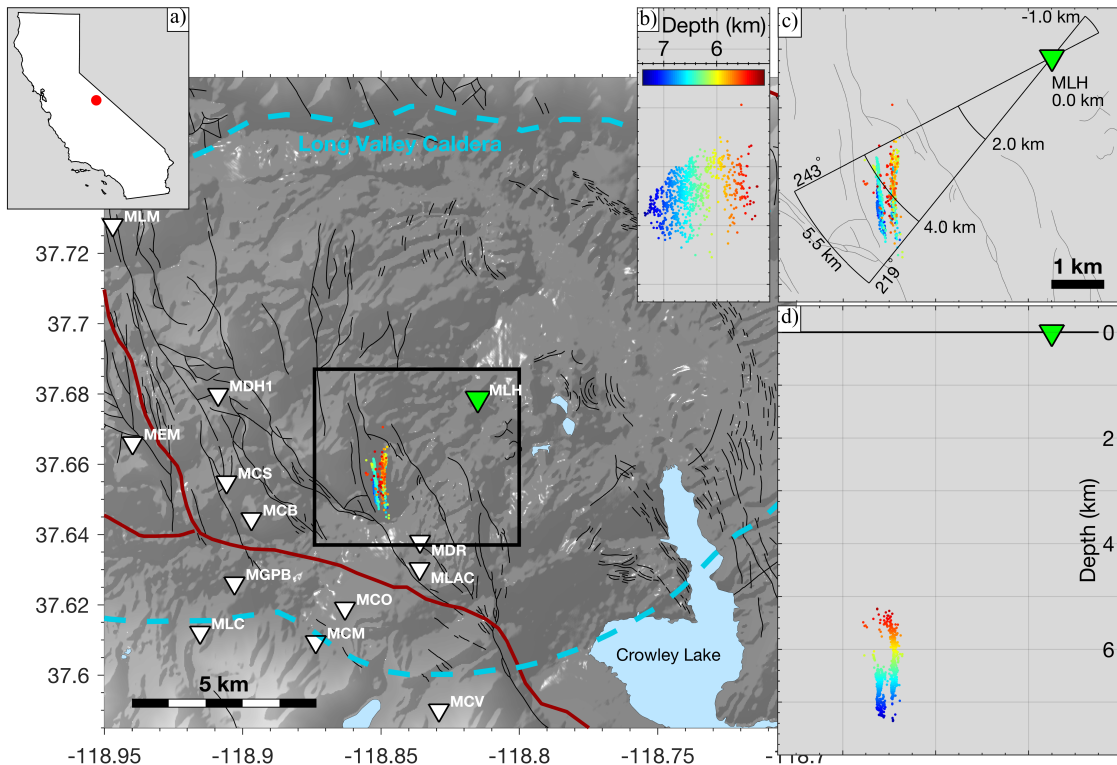
- 254 Hale, D., N. R. Hill, and J. Stefani, Imaging salt with turning seismic waves, *Geophysics*,  
255 57(11), 1453–1462, 1992.
- 256 Hildreth, W., Volcanological perspectives on Long Valley, Mammoth Mountain, and Mono  
257 Craters: several contiguous but discrete systems, *J. Volcanol. Geoth. Res.*, 136, 169–198,  
258 2004.
- 259 Hill, D. P., Structure of Long Valley Caldera, California, from a seismic refraction exper-  
260 iment, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 81(5), 745–753, 1976.
- 261 Hill, D. P., E. Kissling, J. H. Luetgert, and U. Kradolfer, Constraints on the upper crustal  
262 structure of the Long Valley – mono craters volcanic complex, Eastern California, from  
263 seismic refraction measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 90(B13), 11,135–11,150, 1985.
- 264 Hill, D. P., P. Dawson, M. J. S. Johnson, A. M. Pitt, G. Biasi, and K. Smith, Very-long-  
265 period volcanic earthquakes beneath Mammoth Mountain, California, *Geophys. Res.*  
266 *Lett.*, 29(10), 1370, 2002.
- 267 Hill, D. P., M. T. Mangan, and S. R. McNutt, Volcanic unrest and hazard communication  
268 in Long Valley volcanic region, California, *Advances in Volcanology*, pp. 1–17, 2017.
- 269 Hrubcová, P., V. Vavryčuk, A. Boušková, and M. Bohnhoff, Shallow crustal discon-  
270 tinuities inferred from waveforms of microearthquakes: Method and application to  
271 KTB drill site and West Bohemia swarm area, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 121, 881–902, doi:  
272 10.1002/2015JB012548, 2016.
- 273 Kissling, E., Geotomography with local earthquake data, *Rev. Geophysics*, 26(4), 659–  
274 698, 1988.

- 275 Lin, G., Seismic velocity structure and earthquake relocation for the magmatic system  
276 beneath Long Valley Caldera, eastern California, *J. Volcanol. Geotherm. Res.*, *296*,  
277 19–30, 2015.
- 278 Luetgert, J. H., and W. D. Mooney, Crustal refraction profile of the Long Valley Caldera,  
279 California, from the January 1983 Mammoth Lakes earthquake swarm, *Bull. Seismol.*  
280 *Soc. Am.*, *75*(1), 211–221, 1985.
- 281 McConnell, V. S., C. K. Shearer, J. C. Eichelberger, M. J. Keskinen, P. W. Layer, and  
282 J. J. Papike, Rhyolite intrusions in the intracaldera Bishop Tuff, Long Valley Caldera,  
283 California, *J. Volcanol. Geotherm. Res.*, *67*, 41–60, 1995.
- 284 Nakata, N., and G. C. Beroza, Reverse-time migration for microseismic sources using the  
285 geometric mean as an imaging condition, *Geophysics*, *81*(2), KS51–KS60, 2016.
- 286 Peacock, J. R., M. T. Mangan, D. McPhee, and P. E. Wannamaker, Three-dimensional  
287 electrical resistivity model of the hydrothermal system in Long Valley Caldera, Califor-  
288 nia, from magnetotellurics, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *43*, 7953–7962, 2016.
- 289 Prejean, S., W. Ellsworth, M. Zoback, and F. Waldhauser, Fault structure and kinematics  
290 of the Long Valley Caldera region, California, revealed by high-accuracy earthquake  
291 hypocenters and focal mechanism stress inversions, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *107*(B12), 2355,  
292 doi:10.1029/2001JB001168, 2002.
- 293 Reshetnikov, A., S. Buske, and S. A. Shapiro, Seismic imaging using microseismic events:  
294 Results from the San Andreas Fault System at SAFOD, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *115*, B12,324,  
295 2010.

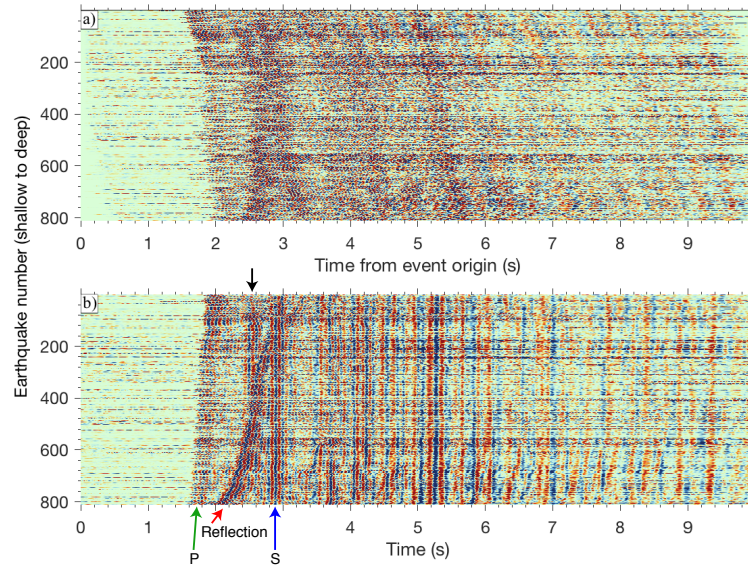
- 296 Ryall, F., and A. Ryall, Attenuation of P and S waves in a magma chamber in Long  
297 Valley Caldera, California, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *8*(6), 557–560, 1981.
- 298 Sanders, C. O., and L. D. Nixon, S wave attenuation structure in Long Valley caldera, Cal-  
299 ifornia, from three-component S-to-P amplitude ratio data, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *100*(B7),  
300 12,395–12,404, 1995.
- 301 Sava, P., and S. J. Hill, Overview and classification of wavefield seismic imaging methods,  
302 *The Leading Edge*, *28*, 170 – 183, 2009.
- 303 Savage, J. C., and M. M. Clark, Magmatic resurgence in Long Valley Caldera, California:  
304 Possible cause of the 1980 Mammoth Lakes Earthquakes, *Science*, *217*, 531–533, 1982.
- 305 Seccia, D., C. Chiarabba, P. D. Gori, I. Bianchi, and D. P. Hill, Evidence for the  
306 contemporary magmatic system beneath Long Valley Caldera from local earthquake  
307 tomography and receiver function analysis, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *116*, B12,314, doi:  
308 10.1029/2011JB008471, 2011.
- 309 Shelly, D. R., and D. P. Hill, Migrating swarms of brittle-failure earthquakes in the lower  
310 crust beneath Mammoth Mountain, California, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *38*, L20,307, 2011.
- 311 Shelly, D. R., T. Taira, S. G. Prejean, D. P. Hill, and D. S. Dreger, Fluid-faulting in-  
312 teractions: Fracture-mesh and fault-valve behavior in the February 2014 Mammoth  
313 Mountain, California, earthquake swarm, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *42*, 5803–5812, doi:  
314 10.1002/2015GL064325, 2015.
- 315 Shelly, D. R., W. L. Ellsworth, and D. P. Hill, Fluid-faulting evolution in high definition:  
316 Connecting fault structure and frequency magnitude variations during the 2014 Long  
317 Valley Caldera, California, earthquake swarm, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *121*, 1776–1795, doi:

- 318 10.1002/2015JB012719, 2016a.
- 319 Shelly, D. R., J. L. Hardebeck, W. L. Ellsworth, and D. P. Hill, A new strategy for  
320 earthquake focal mechanisms using waveform-correlation-derived relative polarities and  
321 cluster analysis: Application to the 2014 Long Valley Caldera earthquake swarm, *J.*  
322 *Geophys. Res.*, *121*, 8622–8641, 2016b.
- 323 Stroujkova, A. F., and P. E. Malin, A magma mass beneath Casa Diablo? Further  
324 evidence from reflected seismic waves, *Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am.*, *90*(2), 500–511, 2000.
- 325 Watanabe, T., Effects of water and melt on seismic velocities and their application to  
326 characterization of seismic reflectors, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *20*(24), 2933–2936, 1993.
- 327 Weiland, C. M., L. K. Steck, P. B. Dawson, and V. A. Korneev, Nonlinear teleseismic  
328 tomography at Long Valley caldera, using three-dimensional minimum travel time ray  
329 tracing, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *100*(B10), 20,379–20,390, 1995.
- 330 Wyering, L. D., M. C. Villeneuve, I. C. Wallis, P. A. Siratovich, B. M. Kennedy, D. M.  
331 Gravley, and J. L. Cant, Mechanical and physical properties of hydrothermally altered  
332 rocks, Taupo Volcanic Zone, New Zealand, *J. Volcanol. Geoth. Res.*, *288*, 76–93, 2014.

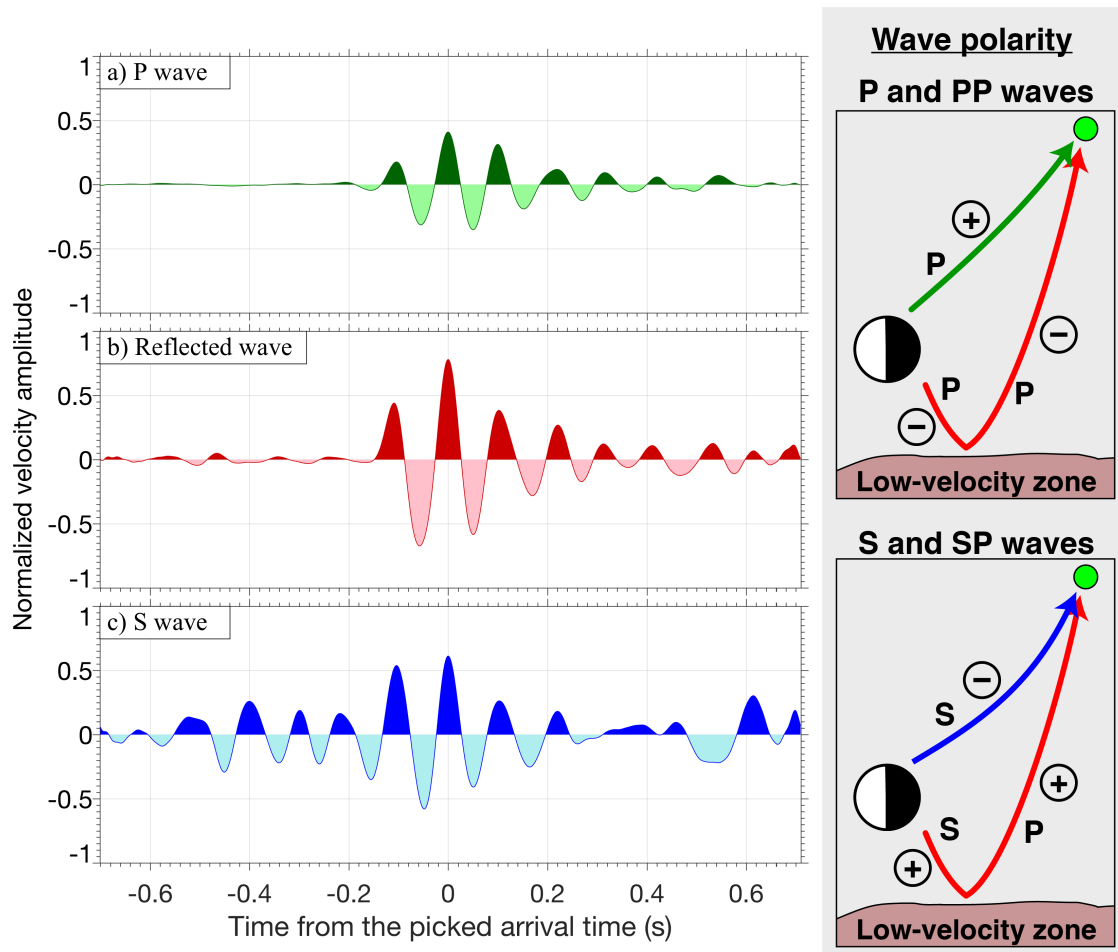
## List of figures



**Figure 1.** Map of the Long Valley Caldera with seismometers (reverse triangle) and located earthquakes used in this study (dots colored by depth). The green triangle (MLH) highlights the station we used. The dashed cyan, thin black, and dark red lines illustrate the boundary of the caldera, mapped faults, and roads respectively. (a) Map of California with the location of the Long Valley with the red dot. (b) Cross-section (latitude–depth) of hypocenters. The depth is referenced to the elevation 2.2 km above sea level (i.e., average ground surface around this area). (c) Magnified map of the area of the thick black rectangle in the main map. The black fan-shaped lines are the axes used in Figure 4. (d) Cross-section (longitude–depth) of hypocenters. The horizontal black line indicates the ground surface. Insets (b–d) share the scale and axes, and have no exaggeration.

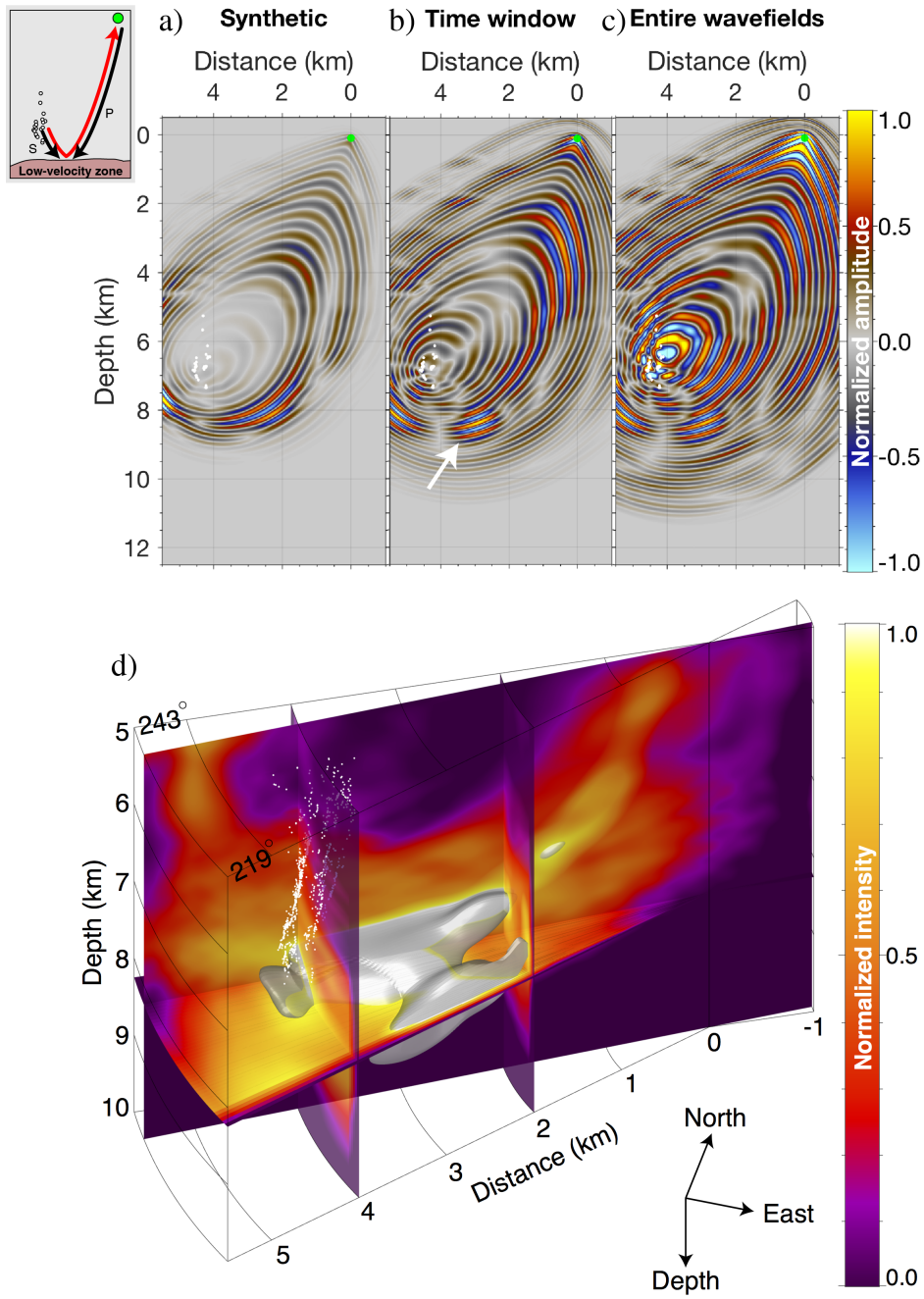


**Figure 2.** (a) Observed waveforms at station MLH (vertical component filtered 2–15 Hz) aligned by the estimated earthquake origin times. The event waveforms are ordered by the relocated depth with the smaller earthquake numbers indicating shallower events. Red and blue indicate positive and negative amplitudes, respectively. The amplitudes of waves are normalized at each trace. (b) Same waveforms as panel (a) after aligning based on wavelets around 3–6 s. The P, reflected, and S waves stand out clearly as indicated by the green, red and blue arrows, respectively. The black arrow highlights the S-to-P converted wave at 2 km depth.



**Figure 3.** (a–c) Polarity of the P, reflected, and S waves averaged over all earthquakes according to the travel times shown in Figure S2. The reflected wave has the same polarity as the P wave. The positive and negative amplitudes are filled by dark and light color, respectively. The relative amplitudes between panels are preserved. The right cartoons show the theoretical polarities of P, reflected, and S waves with a projection on the vertical component; P and PP waves have opposite polarity, and P and SP waves have the same polarity.





**Figure 4.** (a–c) Image at azimuth  $225^\circ$  obtained by the wavefield migration as SP reflection. The green and white dots show the location of station MLH and earthquakes on this plane, respectively. Images on the left, middle, and right columns are constructed from synthetic, time-windowed, and entire wavefields (i.e., Figure 2). The synthetic wavefields are the same as the waves used in Figure S1a. The time window used for panel (b) isolates wavefields at the picked travel time of the reflected wave  $\pm 1$  s. The white arrow in panel (b) highlights the target image portion for the target reflector. The amplitudes of the images are individually normalized in each panel. The top-left inset shows a cartoon for the imaging procedure, where the red arrow indicates the observed data and the black the numerically extrapolated wavefields for imaging. (d) Intensity of the migrated images in the 3-D view with the assumption of SP reflection after combining all 2D images in different azimuths. The area of this image is shown in Figure 1c. To compensate the number of earthquakes used for each 2D image, we normalize the intensity of each 2D image. The receiver is located at distance and depth of 0 km. The white dots show the locations of the earthquakes. The silver surface indicates the high intensity areas (isosurface: normalized intensity of 0.7), which represent inferred reflector locations.

1 **Supporting Materials for “Imaging a crustal**  
2 **low-velocity layer using reflected seismic waves from**  
3 **the 2014 earthquake swarm at Long Valley Caldera,**  
4 **California: the magmatic system roof?”**

Nori Nakata<sup>1</sup> and David R. Shelly<sup>2</sup>

**Appendix A: 3D beamforming**

5 When we consider the earthquake swarm shown in Figure 1 as a source array, we  
6 can apply array signal-processing techniques on the source side [*Spudich and Bostwick,*  
7 1987]. We compute the 3D beamforming assuming that waves from the swarm earthquakes  
8 propagate as plane waves in the time domain. To understand the impulse response of this  
9 source array, we synthesize P, reflected, and S waves according to their travel times. We  
10 pick the travel times of each phase at each event (Figure S2) and make synthetic waves  
11 using a band-limited delta function at 6–12 Hz. Then we apply the 3D beamforming to

---

<sup>1</sup>University of Oklahoma, Norman,  
Oklahoma, USA

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park,  
California, USA

12 the synthetic waves (Figure S1a). The beamforming is based on slant-stacking (or  $\tau - p$   
13 transform) in the time domain [Nakata *et al.*, 2016], and we scan over 3D slownesses as  
14 a grid search to identify waves shown in the data. P, reflected, and S waves are focused  
15 at appropriate locations, respectively (highlighted by arrows), but each beam is smeared  
16 in the East-West direction because the source distribution is sparse in this direction (see  
17 Figure 1bc). Due to this sparseness, we find artifacts in the negative East slowness  
18 (also known as aliasing or cycle skipping). This also indicates that the depth and north  
19 slownesses are more reliable than the East slowness. Note that, although the assumption  
20 of the plane wave is not well satisfied here, we can interpret the beams in Figure S1 and  
21 estimate slownesses of each beam without introducing the added complexity associated  
22 with spherical wave-fronts. The violation of the assumption causes smearing of beams.  
23 If we use sub-clusters of these events as source arrays, plane-wave assumption is better  
24 satisfied because the array size becomes smaller, but signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) would  
25 be decreased due to the smaller number of sources averaging in each cluster.

26 Next, we beamform the observed wavefields from 0.5–4.5 s in Figure 2b (Figure S1b).  
27 Because the wavefields contain not only the three waves we are interested in, the beams  
28 are complex and more difficult to interpret than the impulse response. By using Figure  
29 S1a as a reference, we can find the beams of P, reflected and S waves in Figure S1b as  
30 well (highlighted by the arrows). Estimated slownesses for P, reflected, and S waves are  
31 (North, East, Depth) = (0.06, 0.38, -0.26), (0.10, 0.41, 0.14), and (0.10, 0.40, -0.40) in  
32 s/km, respectively. If the data satisfy the plane-wave assumption reasonably well with  
33 sufficient spatial sampling, the slowness obtained by this 3D beamforming provides a

34 good estimate of the true wave velocity at the earthquake source region. The absolute  
 35 velocities obtained by each beam location are 2.2, 2.2, and 1.7 km/s for P, reflected, and  
 36 S waves, respectively; they are all too low (and similar to synthetic beams in Figure S1a)  
 37 compared to the expected seismic velocities at this depth (Table S1). One possible reason  
 38 of the high slownesses (low velocities) is that the discrepancy between plane and spherical  
 39 wave-fronts for different sources approaches is not ignorable in this scale [*Johnson and*  
 40 *Dudgeon, 1993*].

41 Because the depth slowness of the reflected wave has the opposite sign than other two  
 42 waves, the reflected waves first propagate downward, reflect at an interface, and then  
 43 reach the receiver at the ground surface as expected from the shape of the moveout in  
 44 Figure 2b. This also indicates that the reflector is located deeper than the source region.

### Appendix B: Amplitude ratios between P, S, PP, and SP waves

45 In this appendix, we calculate approximate amplitude ratios between direct P, direct S,  
 46 reflected PP, and reflected SP waves based on our knowledge of the radiation pattern of  
 47 earthquakes and structural parameters (Table S2). The event parameters are estimated  
 48 from the template earthquake. Since we are interested in the ratio of amplitudes, we  
 49 normalize the analytical far-field displacement amplitudes for P and S waves and ignore  
 50 the time shift (adopted after Eqs. 9.22 and 9.26 in *Shearer [2009]*), which are given as

$$\begin{aligned} u^p &= \frac{\sin 2\theta \cos \phi}{rV_p^3} e_z^p \\ u^s &= \frac{-\cos \theta \sin \phi}{rV_s^3} e_z^s, \end{aligned} \tag{B1}$$

51 where  $\theta$  is the takeoff angle from the dip,  $\phi$  is the azimuth from the strike (see Fig. 9.7 in  
 52 *Shearer* [2009] for the convention),  $r$  is the distance from the hypocenter to the receiver,  
 53  $V_p$  and  $V_s$  are the P and S velocities, respectively, and  $e_z^p$  and  $e_z^s$  are the vertical component  
 54 of unit vectors related to the incident angle and the component for observation (vertical)  
 55 for P and S waves, respectively. We focus on the SV component for  $u^s$  because we have  
 56 only data in the vertical component. The takeoff angles for P and S waves are identical,  
 57 because we assume that  $V_p/V_s$  is constant. In our data,  $\theta = 180 - 65 - 38.6 = 76.4^\circ$  and  
 58  $\phi = 48.7 - (100 - 90) = 38.7^\circ$  for direct waves.

59 We assume that the distance is based on the straight path ( $r = 7.2$  km for direct waves).  
 60 This is accurate enough for our study by comparing the estimated takeoff angle ( $38.6^\circ$ )  
 61 [*Shelly et al.*, 2016] and the angle based on this straight-path assumption ( $34^\circ$ ). For  
 62 reflected waves, based on the depth of the reflector images (Figures 4 and S4),  $r = 10.8$   
 63 km and  $r = 12.6$  km for SP and PP reflections, respectively. Again with the straight-path  
 64 assumption, the takeoff angles for SP and PP waves are  $22^\circ$  and  $18^\circ$ , respectively.

65 Due to the velocity structure, the incident angle of the direct waves to the surface  
 66 is  $21.6^\circ$ . Therefore, direct-wave amplitudes for direct P and S waves are  $0.21/rV_p^3$  and  
 67  $0.28/rV_s^3$ , and the ratio of them ( $u_s/u_p$ ) is 7.7. This ratio is much larger than our obser-  
 68 vation (Figure 3), probably because we ignore the near-surface effect, in which the low  
 69 velocity at the near surface makes the propagation of the incoming waves nearly vertical.  
 70 According to the amplitude ratio in Figure 3, an appropriate incident angle would be  $5^\circ$   
 71 and the ratio becomes 1.7. We use this incident angle for the calculation for the reflected  
 72 waves.

73 For the analytical amplitudes for SP and PP waves, we modify Equation B1 and multiply  
74 reflection coefficients. We speculate that the low-velocity body beneath the reflecting  
75 horizon consists of partial-melt rhyolite, with an elevated  $V_p/V_s$  ratio [Watanabe, 1993].  
76 With the incident angle based on the straight path, the reflection coefficient at the top of  
77 the low-velocity zone is 0.047 and -0.020 for SP and PP waves, respectively. Therefore,  
78 the amplitude ratios between these waves and the direct P wave are 0.50 (SP) and -0.024  
79 (PP).

80 Although we approximate some parameters such as the incident angle and velocities  
81 below the reflector, the SP wave is significantly larger than the PP wave. The amplitude  
82 of the SP wave is comparable to direct P or S waves but not larger. This suggests that  
83 the velocity below the reflector is possibly even lower than the values on Table S2.

## References

- 84 Johnson, D. H., and D. E. Dudgeon, *Array signal processing: concepts and techniques*,  
85 Prentice Hall, 1993.
- 86 Nakata, N., P. Boué, F. Brenguier, P. Roux, V. Ferrazzini, and M. Campillo, Body and  
87 surface wave reconstruction from seismic-noise correlations between arrays at Piton de  
88 la Fournaise volcano, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *43*, 1047–1054, doi:10.1002/2015GL066997,  
89 2016.
- 90 Prejean, S., W. Ellsworth, M. Zoback, and F. Waldhauser, Fault structure and kinematics  
91 of the Long Valley Caldera region, California, revealed by high-accuracy earthquake  
92 hypocenters and focal mechanism stress inversions, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *107*(B12), 2355,  
93 doi:10.1029/2001JB001168, 2002.

- 94 Shearer, P., *Introduction of seismology*, 2 ed., Cambridge, 2009.
- 95 Shelly, D. R., J. L. Hardebeck, W. L. Ellsworth, and D. P. Hill, A new strategy for  
96 earthquake focal mechanisms using waveform-correlation-derived relative polarities and  
97 cluster analysis: Application to the 2014 Long Valley Caldera earthquake swarm, *J.*  
98 *Geophys. Res.*, *121*, 8622–8641, 2016.
- 99 Spudich, P., and T. Bostwick, Studies of the seismic coda using an earthquake cluster as  
100 a deeply buried seismograph array, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *92*(B10), 10,526–10,546, 1987.
- 101 Stroujkova, A. F., and P. E. Malin, A magma mass beneath Casa Diablo? Further  
102 evidence from reflected seismic waves, *Bull. Seismol. Soc. Am.*, *90*(2), 500–511, 2000.
- 103 Watanabe, T., Effects of water and melt on seismic velocities and their application to  
104 characterization of seismic reflectors, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *20*(24), 2933–2936, 1993.
- 105 Wyering, L. D., M. C. Villeneuve, I. C. Wallis, P. A. Siratovich, B. M. Kennedy, D. M.  
106 Gravley, and J. L. Cant, Mechanical and physical properties of hydrothermally altered  
107 rocks, Taupo Volcanic Zone, New Zealand, *J. Volcanol. Geoth. Res.*, *288*, 76–93, 2014.



## List of tables

**Table S1.** One-dimensional velocity model.

Depth (km) to top of layer	P velocity (km/s)	S velocity (km/s)
0.0	3.55	1.98
0.5	3.57	1.99
1.0	3.70	2.07
2.0	4.55	2.54
3.0	5.05	3.12
4.0	5.67	3.20
5.0	5.75	3.30
6.0	5.90	3.41
7.0	5.99	3.44
8.0	6.00	3.48
9.0	6.04	3.49
10.0	6.06	3.50
12.0	6.07	3.51

This velocity model is based on *Stroujkova and Malin* [2000] and *Prejean et al.* [2002].

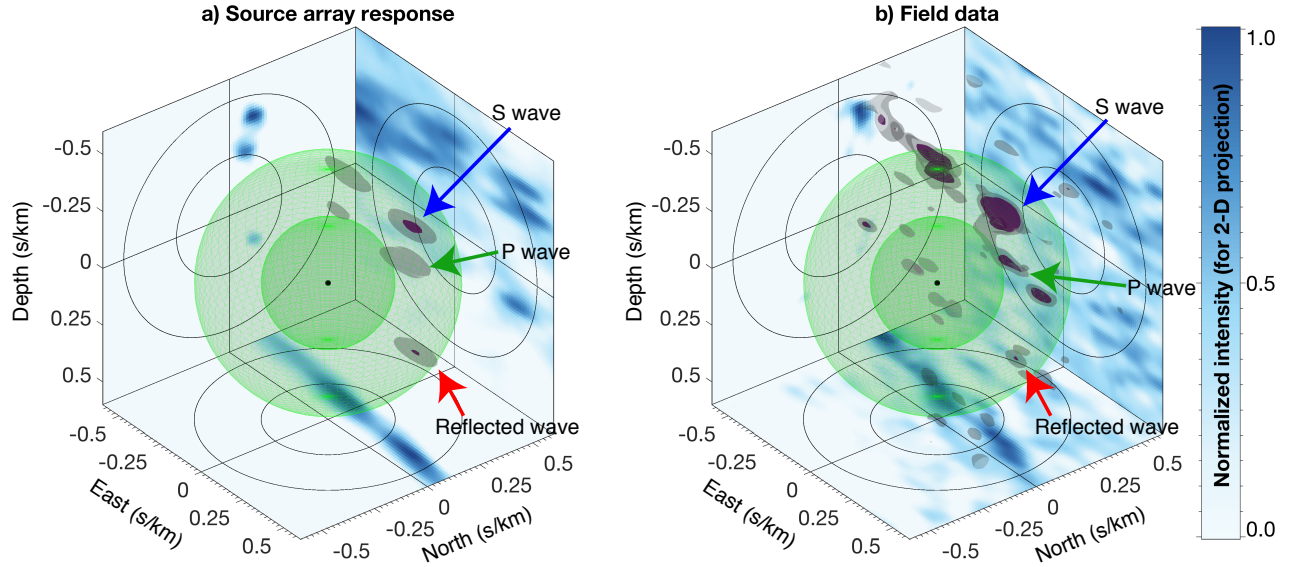
**Table S2.** Parameters of earthquake sources and structural velocities.

Parameter name	values
Azimuth to station MLH*	48.7°
Takeoff angle* (0°=up, 180°=down)	38.6°
Strike, Dip, Rake*	(100°, 65°, 179°)
P velocity in near surface**	3.55 km/s
P velocity at hypocenter†	6.00 km/s
$V_p/V_s$ †	1.79
P velocity below the reflector‡	5.40 km/s
S velocity below the reflector‡	2.70 km/s

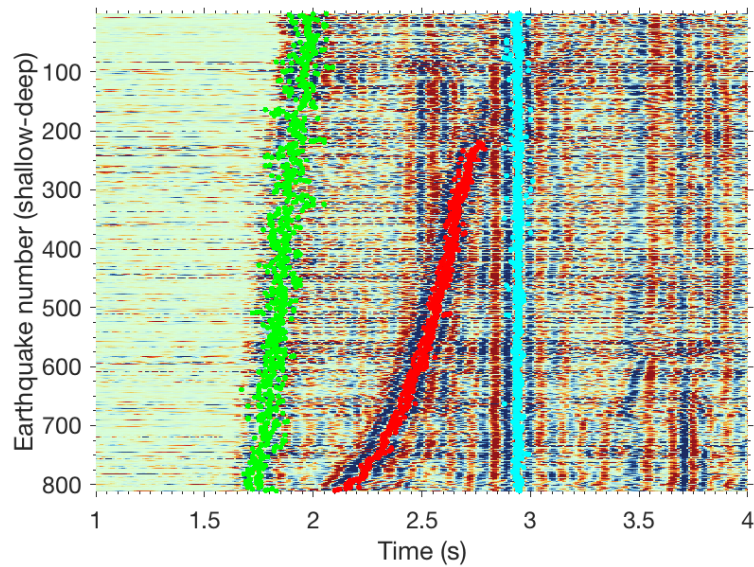
\* *Shelly et al.* [2016]; \*\* *Prejean et al.* [2002]; † *Stroujkova and Malin* [2000]; ‡ *Watanabe* [1993]

and *Wyering et al.* [2014]

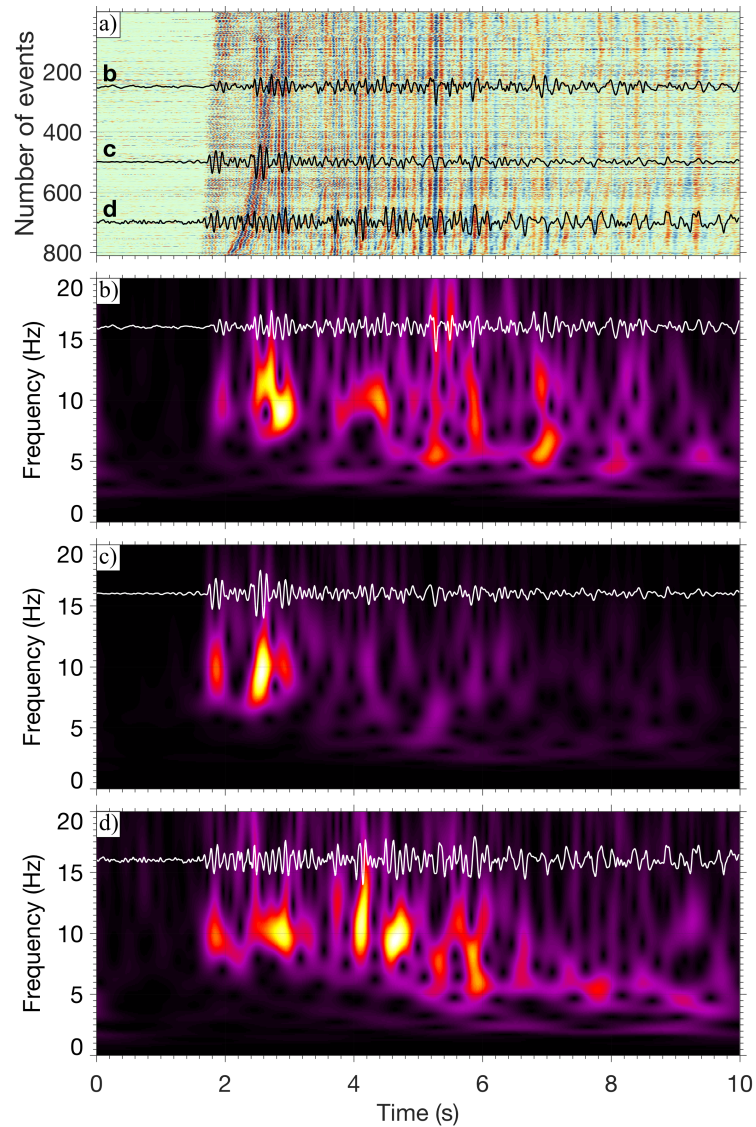
**List of figures**



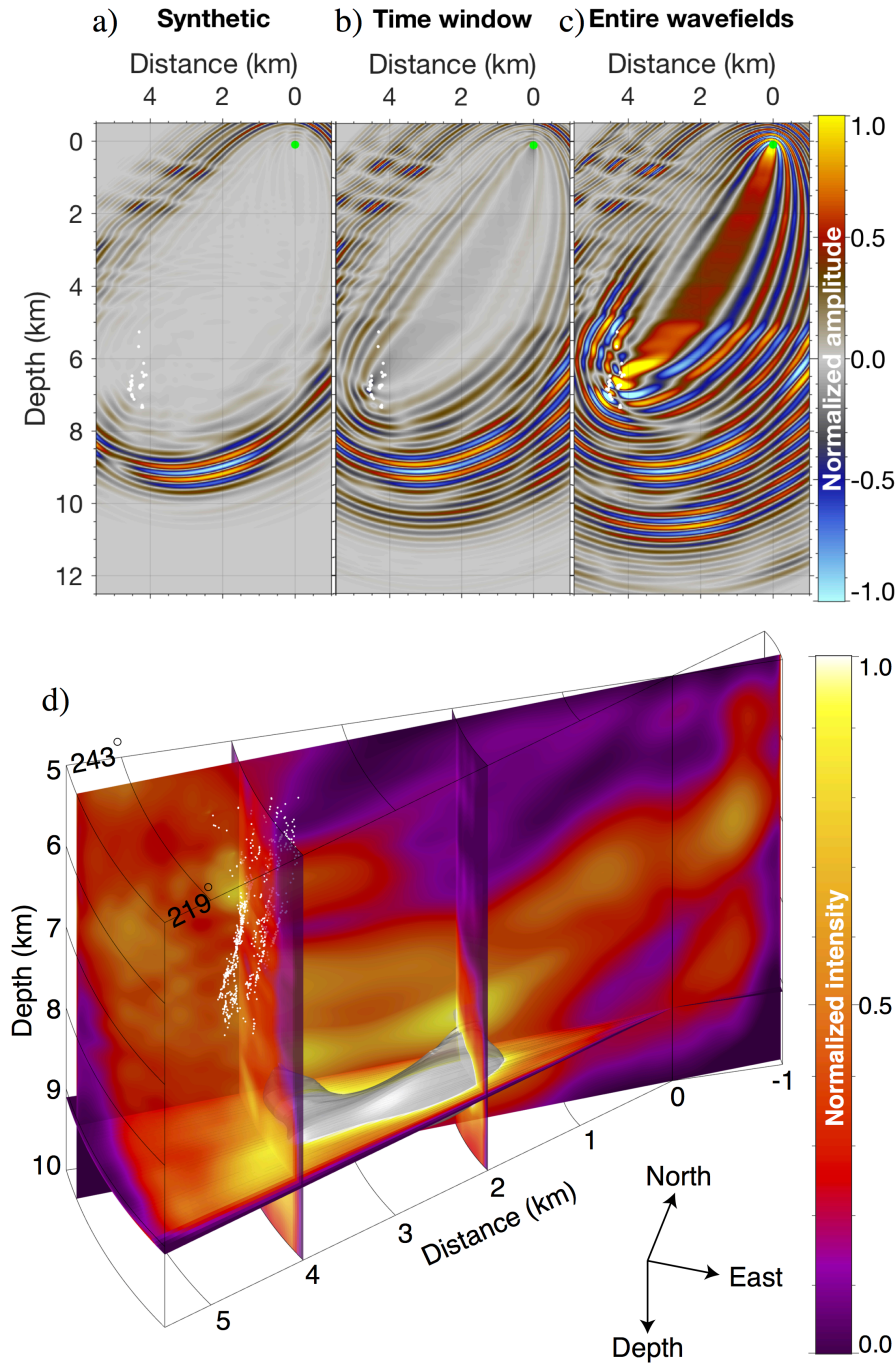
**Figure S1.** Intensity of 3D beamforming at the array of earthquake swarm sources in the slowness domain. The gray and purple surfaces show the isosurfaces of the intensity at two different levels. The green balls indicate slownesses of 0.25 and 0.5 s/km, and the black dot is the origin of the beam domain. Each plane shows the 2D projection of the intensity (average over the normal direction to the plane). (a) 3D beams obtained from synthetic band-limited delta functions, which contains P, reflection, and S waves based on the picked travel times in Figure 2. This beam illustrates the source array response for the spatial distribution of the events used. (b) 3D beams obtained from the wavefields shown in Figure 2a at 0.5–4.5 s. The arrows highlight the beams for P, reflection, and S waves.



**Figure S2.** Picked travel times shown on the waveforms in Figure 2b. The green, red, and cyan dots correspond to P, reflection, and S wave arrival times (with positive amplitudes), respectively. We pick the arrival time of reflected waves at only earthquakes 221–811 because reflected waves of shallower events are weaker and simultaneously arrived with other phases.



**Figure S3.** (a) Observed event waveforms (same as Figure 2b), and time-frequency spectrogram for events (b) 250, (c) 500, and (d) 700. The black lines in panel (a) highlight the waveforms used in panels (b–d) and are the same as the white lines in each panel.



**Figure S4.** Same as Figure 4, but for the assumption of PP reflections.