Extracting near-field seismograms from ocean-bottom pressure gauge inside the focal area: application to the 2011 Mw 9.0 Tohoku-Oki earthquake

T. Kubota[1], T. Saito[1], H. Tsushima[2], R. Hino[3], Y. Ohta[3], S. Suzuki[3], D. Inazu[4]

[1] National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, Tsukuba, Japan

[2] Meteorological Research Institute, Japan Meteorological Agency, Tsukuba, Japan

[3] Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan

[4] Department of Marine Resources and Energy, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Tokyo, Japan

Corresponding author: Tatsuya Kubota (kubotatsu@bosai.go.jp)

Key Points:

- We develop a method to extract low-frequency ground motion including permanent deformation from ocean-bottom pressure gauge (OBP) data
- We obtain the seismograms inside the focal area of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki EQ, which suggest two dominant energy releases around the hypocenter
- High-frequency near-field OBP signals should be utilized more widely for geophysical research as well as real-time tsunami forecasting

Abstract

Recent studies have shown that ocean-bottom pressure gauges (OBPs) can record seismic waves in addition to tsunamis and seafloor permanent displacements, even if they are installed inside the focal area where the signals are extremely large. We developed a method to extract dynamic ground motion waveforms from near-field OBP data consisting of a complex mixture of various signals, based on an inversion analysis along with a theory of tsunami generation. We applied this method to the OBP data of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake. We successfully extracted the low-frequency vertical seismograms inside the focal area (f < ~0.05 Hz), although those of the Mw ~9.0 megathrust earthquake had never previously been reported. The seismograms suggested two dominant energy releases around the hypocenter. The seismic wave signals recorded by the near-field OBP will be important not only to reveal earthquake ruptures and tsunami generation processes but also to conduct real-time tsunami forecasts.

Plain Language Summary

During tsunami generation, different types of waves such as ground motions, ocean acoustic waves, and tsunamis coexist inside the focal area, forming complicated wavefields and pressure changes at the sea bottom. This study developed a method to appropriately decompose the complicated ocean-bottom pressure gauge (OBP) waveforms into ground motion and tsunami signals. Our method was applied to the near-field OBP data of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake to extract the near-field seismic motion waveform which had never been reported previously. The waveform suggested a complex earthquake rupture process along the plate boundary, in which the rupture happened twice near the hypocenter. The seismic wave signals recorded by the near-field OBP will be important not only to reveal the processes of the earthquake rupture and tsunami generation but also to issue tsunami alarms.

1 Introduction

Seismic observations are very important to estimate earthquake source parameters and physical properties around the fault and to understand how an earthquake plays a role in geodynamic frameworks. Far-field seismograms have been used for earthquake kinematic rupture modeling (e.g., Lay et al., 2011). Near-field seismograms are also essential to resolve the rupture kinematics, because far-field seismograms are affected by path effects such as attenuation and scattering and resolve very little about the short-wavelength information on the source (e.g., Aki & Richards, 2002). Near-fault seismograms are also important for earthquake rupture dynamics. Stress drop, defined as shear stress reduction on the fault due to an earthquake, and slip weakening distance Dc, the slip amount needed to reach residual friction, are often inferred from near-field seismograms (e.g., Ide & Takeo, 1997; Mikumo et al., 2003; Fukuyama & Mikumo, 2007; Fukuyama & Suzuki, 2016; Kaneko et al., 2017).

In the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake (Mw 9.0, Global Centroid Moment Tensor [GCMT]; hereafter, the mainshock), various near-field observations were recorded, which were not obtained for past megathrust earthquakes (e.g., Hino, 2015; Lay, 2018; Wang et al., 2018; Kodaira et al., 2020). Seafloor geodetic observations (e.g., Fujiwara et al., 2011; 2017; Ito et al., 2011; Kido et al., 2011; Sato et al., 2011) have particularly played an important role in revealing the mainshock rupture process and tsunami generation (e.g., Iinuma et al., 2012). However, near-field seismograms associated with the mainshock with a reasonable quality have not been reported. The high-sensitivity ocean-bottom seismometers (OBSs) installed off Miyagi (Suzuki et al., 2012) went off-scale and whole seismograms were not recorded. The strong motion accelerometers installed outside of the main rupture area (open triangles in Figure 1a) were dynamically rotated by the strong shaking (Nakamura & Hayashimoto, 2019). Although some near-source seismograms during past megathrust earthquakes have been recorded by onshore seismometers and GNSS, such as in the 2010 and 2014 Chile earthquakes (Vigny et al., 2011; Madariaga et al., 2019), the stations were located outside of the main rupture regions, where the permanent displacement was small.

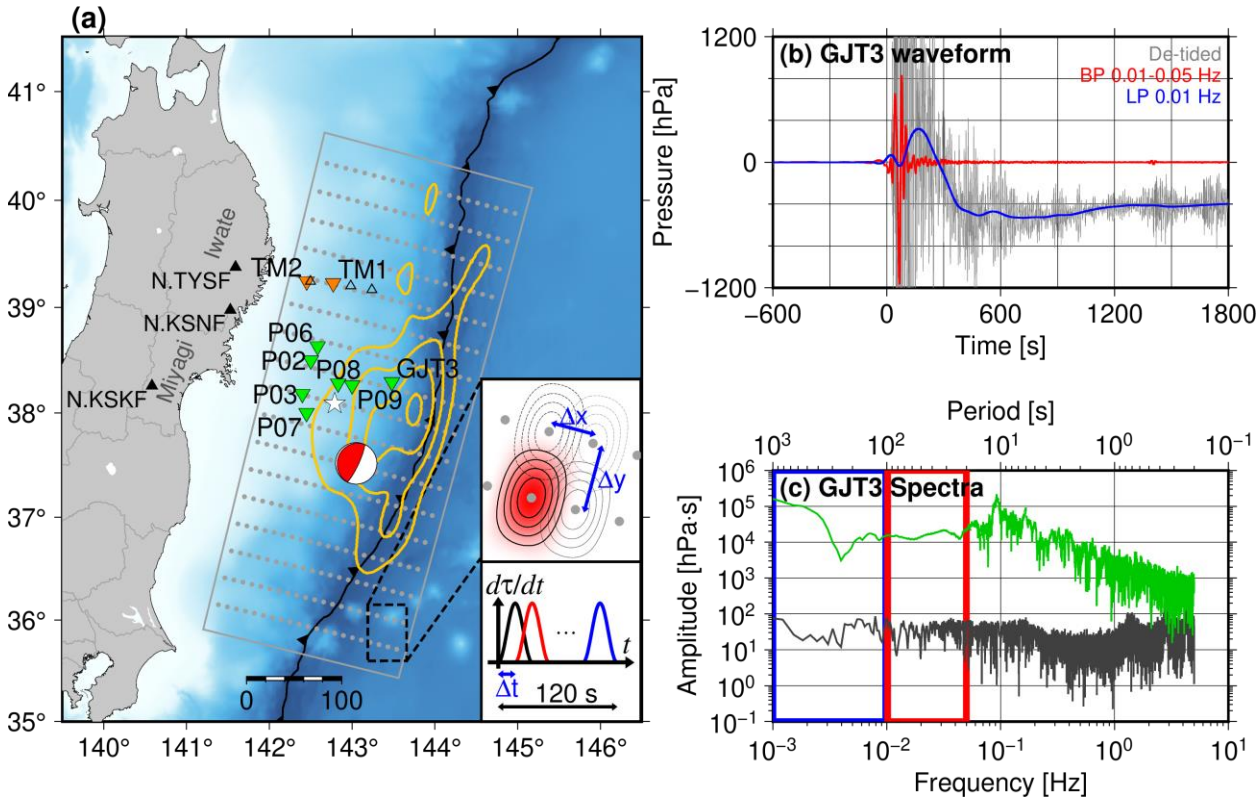

Figure 1. (a) Location map of this study. Inverted triangles denote OBPs (green: Tohoku University, orange: ERI). Open triangles denote OBS stations by ERI. Black triangles are the F-net onshore seismometers. The white star is the mainshock epicenter (Suzuki et al., 2012) and the red CMT solution is taken from GCMT. Yellow contours denote the distributions of the initial tsunami height (Saito et al., 2011, 2 m interval). Gray dots and rectangular areas indicate the locations of the unit sources and the analytical area of the inversion analysis. The configuration of the unit sources in the space and time domains is schematically shown in the inset. (b) Pressure waveforms at GJT3. Gray, red, and blue traces are the de-tided, bandpass filtered (0.01–0.05 Hz), and lowpass filtered (0.01 Hz) waveforms, respectively. (c) Spectral amplitude before and after the mainshock (black and green, respectively), calculated based on Aki and Richards' (2002) definition. Passbands of the filters in Figure 1b are marked by colored rectangles.

During the mainshock, some ocean-bottom pressure gauges (OBPs) were installed around the main rupture area (inverted triangles in Figure 1). The deep-ocean OBPs often observe tsunamis, which have dominant frequencies lower than ~0.01 Hz. Such tsunami data have been widely utilized, because tsunamis constrain the spatial extent of the seafloor vertical deformation (tsunami source) better than seismic waves (Kubota et al., 2018). This is attributed to tsunamis' much slower propagation velocity and there being a less significant tradeoff between the source dimension and rupture propagation velocity across the fault. Previous studies used the mainshock OBP data to investigate the mainshock tsunami generation process (e.g., Saito et al., 2011 (yellow contour lines in Figure 1a); Maeda et al., 2011; Tsushima et al., 2011;

Gusman et al., 2012; Satake et al., 2013; Baba et al., 2015; Hossen et al., 2015; Dettmer et al., 2016; Yamazaki et al., 2018). However, they did not utilize the OBPs installed inside the main tsunami source region where the seafloor uplift was extremely large (e.g., GJT3, Figure 1). This is mainly because there have been few near-field observation examples (e.g., Mikada et al., 2006) and the method to utilize the permanent deformation for tsunami modeling was not established. In this decade, the well-established method to utilize the permanent deformation for tsunami modeling was proposed (Tsushima et al., 2012) and many finite fault models using the OBPs inside the tsunami source have been obtained (e.g., Kubota, Hino et al., 2017; Nemoto et al., 2019).

Our understanding of the ocean-bottom pressure change inside the focal area has also progressed by various theoretical and observational studies. In addition to tsunamis and permanent seafloor deformation, OBPs observe seismic wave signals with dominant frequency of > ~10^{-2} Hz (e.g., Filloux, 1982; Webb, 1998; Nosov and Kolesov, 2007; Matsumoto et al., 2012; 2017; Saito & Tsushima, 2016; An et al., 2017; Kubota, Saito et al., 2017; Saito, 2019; Ito et al., 2020; Mizutani et al., 2020; Saito & Kubota, 2020). These seismic waves in the OBP have reasonable signal-to-noise ratio for the purposes of various geophysical analyses (Kubota et al., 2020), such as earthquake source parameter estimations (An et al., 2017; Kubota, Saito et al., 2017). However, it has also been reported that a simple bandpass filter cannot extract the seismic waves from the complex pressure change field inside the focal area (Saito & Tsushima, 2016). A method to appropriately decompose the OBP signal to the seismic and tsunami signals is not established yet.

The purpose of this study is to propose a method to appropriately extract the seafloor dynamic motion time series from the near-field OBP data inside the focal area. To achieve this, we attempt to decompose the OBP signals into seismic and tsunami wave signals based on a tsunami generation theory. Section 2 describes a theory of tsunami generation inside the focal area, the mainshock OBP data used in this study, and the procedure of our method. In section 3, we show the results of the application of the method to the mainshock OBP data. Discussion and summary of this study are given in sections 4 and 5, respectively.

2 Data and Methods

2.1 Ocean-bottom pressure inside the focal area

We represent the ocean-bottom pressure change inside the focal area as the sum of the contribution originating due to gravity ($p_{\mathrm{gravity}}(t)$) and that without gravity $p_{\mathrm{non-gravity}}(t)$ (Saito, 2019):

$$p(t) = p_{\mathrm{gravity}}(t) + p_{\mathrm{non-gravity}}(t). \quad (1)$$

Supposing that the wave period is long, we may consider the seawater as an incompressible fluid.

Also supposing that the sea-surface height change is small enough compared to the water depth and that the wavelength is much longer than the sea depth, $p_{\mathrm{gravity}}(t)$ is approximately given by

$$p_{\mathrm{gravity}}(t) \approx p_{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(t) = \rho_0 g_0 [\eta(t) - u_z(t)], \quad (2)$$

where $\rho_0 = 1030\ \mathrm{kg/m^3}$ and $g_0 = 9.8\ \mathrm{m/s^2}$ are the seawater density and gravity acceleration, and $\eta(t)$ and $f(t)$ are the time series of the sea-surface height change (tsunami) and the seafloor vertically upward displacement, respectively. Hereinafter we refer to $p_{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(t)$ as the hydrostatic pressure change. The pressure change without gravity can be approximated as the dynamic pressure change, related to the action-reaction forces of the vertically accelerating seafloor, as

$$p_{\mathrm{non-gravity}}(t) \approx p_{\mathrm{dynamic}}(t) = \rho_0 h_0 \frac{d^2 u_z(t)}{dt^2}, \quad (3)$$

where h_0 is seawater depth. This relationship is basically valid at frequencies lower than the acoustic resonant frequency $f_0 = c_0/4h_0$ (c_0: ocean-acoustic wave velocity). In this study, we attempt to extract the vertical acceleration d^2u_z/dt^2 from the pressure change $p(t)$.

2.2 OBP data

We use seven OBPs installed off Miyagi by Tohoku University (green inverted triangles in Figure 1a), which utilize Paroscientific Digiquartz precise quartz pressure sensors, 8B7000 series (Hino et al., 2014). We also use two cabled OBPs installed off Iwate by the Earthquake Research Institute (ERI), the University of Tokyo (orange inverted triangles), which use the quartz pressure sensor manufactured by Hewlett-Packard Inc. (Kanazawa & Hasegawa, 1997; Maeda et al., 2011). Although the frequency response of a quartz pressure sensor generally depends on the counting method of the quartz oscillation, the response of the quartz pressure sensor is typically flat at lower frequency band of < ~1 Hz regardless of its counting method (Webb & Nooner, 2016). Station locations are listed in Table S1.

We subtract the tidal components using the model of Matsumoto et al. (2000) to remove ocean tides. We then apply a 4th-order Butterworth lowpass filter with a cutoff of 0.05 Hz in both forward and backward directions to reduce higher-frequency ocean-acoustic wave components. The cutoff of 0.05 Hz is determined considering the acoustic resonant frequency f_0 for the OBP at GJT3 (~ 0.11 Hz). All records are resampled to 1 Hz after the filtering.

The de-tided waveform at GJT3 is shown in Figure 1b (gray trace). In Figure 1c, spectral amplitudes of the de-tided records before and after the mainshock are shown, which are calculated based on Aki and Richards' (2002) definition (time windows of 3276.8 s are used). High-frequency ocean-acoustic wave signals can be recognized even 1800 s after the origin time, and are dominant in frequencies higher than the acoustic resonant frequency f_0 ~0.11 Hz.

Dynamic pressure changes (Eq. (3)) are evident during the first few minutes, particularly for the frequency range 0.01–0.05 Hz (red traces in Figure 1b). Subsequently, low-frequency hydrostatic pressure changes (Eq. (2)) are also confirmed (< 0.01 Hz, blue).

2.3 Extracting ground motions from OBP data

This study attempts to extract the vertical acceleration d^2u_z/dt^2 in Eq. (3) from the OBP data. In other words, our goal is to appropriately decompose the observed pressure change into its hydrostatic and dynamic components. To achieve this, we develop a method based on the inversion for the temporal evolution of the seafloor vertical deformation combined with the theory for ocean-bottom pressure inside the focal area described in section 2.1. We represent the vertical displacement at the seafloor ($u_z(x,y,t)$) by the superposition of basis functions,

$$u_z(x,y,t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk}U_{z,ij}(x,y)\tau_k(t). \quad (5)$$

The basis function for the spatial distribution of the seafloor vertical displacement $U_{z,ij}(x,y)$ is given by

$$U_{z,ij}(x,y) = \left[\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}\cos\left(\frac{2\pi(x-x_i)}{L_x}\right)\right]\left[\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}\cos\left(\frac{2\pi(y-y_j)}{L_y}\right)\right]$$
$$\text{for} \quad x_i-\frac{L_x}{2} \le x \le x_i+\frac{L_x}{2},\ y_j-\frac{L_y}{2} \le y \le y_j+\frac{L_y}{2}, \quad (6)$$

which takes the maximum value at (x_i, y_j). The displacement time function $\tau_k(t)$ is given by

$$\tau_k(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } t \le t_k \\ \frac{1}{T_\mathrm{d}}\left[t-\frac{T_\mathrm{d}}{2\pi}\sin\left(\frac{2\pi(t-t_k)}{T_\mathrm{d}}\right)\right] & \text{for } t_k \le t \le t_k+T_\mathrm{d}, \\ 1 & \text{for } t_k+T_\mathrm{d} \le t \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where the function begins to increase at $t = t_k$ and reaches 1 after the duration T_d. The coefficient m_{ijk} in Eq. (5) represents the displacement amplitude of the (i,j,k)-th function $U_{z,ij}(x,y)\tau_k(t)$.

The hydrostatic pressure change at the n-th OBP located at (x_n, y_n) is given by

$$p_\mathrm{hydrostatic}(x_n,y_n,t) = \rho_0 g_0[\eta(x_n,y_n,t) - u_z(x_n,y_n,t)]. \quad (8)$$

The first and second terms represent the pressure changes due to the tsunami and the vertical displacement at the seafloor at (x_n, y_n), respectively. The tsunami height $\eta(x,y,t)$ is numerically calculated by solving the linear tsunami equation from the seafloor vertical

displacement $u_z(x,y,t)$ (Eq. (5)). Since the $p_{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(x_n,y_n,t)$ is linear with respect to the seafloor displacement, we represent Eq. (9) as the superposition using m_{ijk}:

$$p_{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(x_n,y_n,t)=\sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk}G_{ijk,n}^{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(x_n,y_n,t). \tag{10}$$

We refer to $G_{ijk,n}^{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(x,y,t)$ as the hydrostatic pressure Green's function in this study, which is the hydrostatic pressure change at (x,y) excited by the unit vertical displacement of $U_{z,ij}(x,y)\tau_k(t)$.

The dynamic pressure change at the n-th OBP located at (x_n,y_n) (Eq. (3)) is given by the displacement of Eq. (5):

$$\begin{aligned} p_{\mathrm{dynamic}}(x_n,y_n,t) &= \rho_0 h_0 \frac{\partial^2 u_z(x_n,y_n,t)}{\partial t^2} \\ &= \rho_0 h_0 \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk}U_{z,ij}(x_n,y_n)\frac{\partial^2 \tau_k(t)}{\partial t^2} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk}G_{ijk,n}^{\mathrm{dynamic}}(x_n,y_n,t), \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

where

$$\frac{\partial^2 \tau_k(t)}{\partial t^2}=\begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } t\le t_k,\ t_k+T_{\mathrm{d}}\le t \\ \frac{2\pi}{T_{\mathrm{d}}^2}\sin\left(\frac{2\pi(t-t_k)}{T_{\mathrm{d}}}\right) & \text{for } t_k\le t\le t_k+T_{\mathrm{d}} \end{cases}. \tag{12}$$

We refer to $G_{ijk,n}^{\mathrm{dynamic}}(x,y,t)$ as the dynamic pressure Green's function, which represents the dynamic pressure change at (x,y) excited by the unit vertical displacement of $U_{z,ij}(x,y)\tau_k(t)$.

By using Eqs. (10) and (11), we represent the pressure change at the n-th OBP excited by the vertical seafloor motions as

$$\begin{aligned} p(x_n,y_n,t) &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk}\left[G_{ijk,n}^{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(x_n,y_n,t)+G_{ijk,n}^{\mathrm{dynamic}}(x_n,y_n,t)\right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk}G_{ijk}(x_n,y_n,t), \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where the Green's function $G_{ijk}(x,y,t)$ is given by

$$G_{ijk}(x,y,t)=G_{ijk}^{\mathrm{hydrostatic}}(x,y,t)+G_{ijk}^{\mathrm{dynamic}}(x,y,t), \tag{14}$$

which represents the pressure change at (x,y) excited by the unit vertical displacement of $U_{z,ij}(x,y)\tau_k(t)$.

We estimate the displacement amplitude m_{ijk} as model parameters in a linear inversion problem given by Eq. (13), where the pressure change at the n-th OBP is used as the data. Using the estimated m_{ijk} with Eqs. (10) and (11), the observed pressure change at the n-th OBP can be decomposed into the hydrostatic and dynamic components. The time history of the vertical acceleration can also be extracted using Eq. (11), as

$$\frac{\partial^2 u_z(x_n,y_n,t)}{\partial t^2} = \frac{1}{\rho_0 h_0}\sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk} G_{ijk,n}^{\text{dynamic}}(x_n, y_n, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk} U_{z,ij}(x_n, y_n)\frac{\partial^2 \tau_k(t)}{\partial t^2}. \quad (15)$$

In the same manner, vertical velocity and displacement can also be obtained. For example, vertical velocity is expressed as

$$\frac{\partial u_z(x_n,y_n,t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_x}\sum_{j=1}^{N_y}\sum_{k=1}^{N_t} m_{ijk} U_{z,ij}(x_n, y_n)\frac{\partial \tau_k(t)}{\partial t} \quad (16)$$

where

$$\frac{\partial \tau_k(t)}{\partial t} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } t \le t_k, t_k + T_\mathrm{d} \le t \\ \frac{1}{T_\mathrm{d}}\left[1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi(t-t_k)}{T_\mathrm{d}}\right)\right] & \text{for } t_k \le t \le t_k + T_\mathrm{d} \end{cases}. \quad (17)$$

To calculate the Green's function, we suppose the x- and y-directions are along the trench-normal and trench-parallel directions, respectively. We distribute the spatial basis function $U_{z,ij}$ in an area of 220 km × 270 km (gray dots in Figure 1a). We suppose the elliptical-shaped unit sources to be $L_x = 20$ km and $L_y = 30$ km, and that each of them overlaps with their adjacent ones at horizontal intervals of $\Delta x = L_x/2$ and $\Delta y = L_y/2$ (inset of Figure 1a). We also distribute the temporal basis function τ_k during the first 120 s from the origin time (inset of Figure 1a). Duration of the displacement is assumed as $T_\mathrm{d} = 10$ s and the temporal interval is set as $\Delta t = T_\mathrm{d}/2 = 5$ s. To calculate the hydrostatic Green's function, tsunami height is numerically simulated from the initial tsunami height distribution using the linear dispersive tsunami equation (e.g., Saito, 2019) with a time step interval of 1 s. We use the bathymetry data of GEBCO Bathymetric Compilation Group (2020), decimating to a spatial grid interval of 2 km. The input sea-surface height for the tsunami calculation is calculated from the unit seafloor displacement $U_{z,ij}(x, y)$ with the water wave theory assuming a constant depth of 6 km (Kajiura, 1963). The dynamic Green's functions are also calculated, using the seawater depth h_0 for each station (Table S1). After the calculation of the Green's functions, the same filter as applied to the observation is also applied to the Green's functions.

In the inversion, we impose the constraints of the spatial smoothing (Baba et al., 2006) and spatial damping. The weights of each constraint are determined based on trial and error. The

deformations are allowed to begin at $t = 0$ s. We use 3600-s time windows for the OBPs of Tohoku University and 1800-s for the OBPs of ERI for the inversion.

3 Results

In Figure 2a, we compare the observed pressure changes at GJT3 with the synthesized ones (see Figure S1 for the other OBPs). Figure 2b shows the extracted vertical accelerograms at the OBPs using the estimated model parameter m_{ijk} in Eq. (12). Compared to the observed pressure changes divided by $\rho_0 h_0$ (black traces), the extracted accelerograms (red traces) do not contain the low-frequency pressure signals due to the tsunami, which are evident after ~120 s from the origin time. High-frequency pressure changes for the first 120 s are explained by the dynamic pressure components (green trace in Figure 2a) and the subsequent low-frequency pressure changes are modeled by the hydrostatic components (blue trace), and the overall pressure changes were explained very well by both pressure changes (red trace). From the amplitude spectra of the pressure change at GJT3 in Figure S2, we confirm that the calculated hydrostatic and dynamic pressure changes are dominant only in the low- and high-frequency ranges, respectively. In Figure 2b, we also plot the accelerograms of the onshore broadband strong-motion seismometer from the F-net (Okada et al., 2004, black triangles in Figure 1a) by gray traces. Although the arrivals of the main wave packet are delayed, the onshore seismograms are similar to the extracted ocean-bottom seismograms at the OBPs near each station (compare N.TYSF with TM1 and TM2, N.KSNF with P02 and P06, and N.KSKF with P03 and P07). We also show the vertical velocity and displacement waveforms in Figures 3a and 3b, respectively. The amounts of the calculated vertical displacements are surprisingly consistent with the observed pressure offset changes due to the permanent deformation (Figure 3c). These comparisons indicate the validity of the extracted seafloor vertical seismograms.

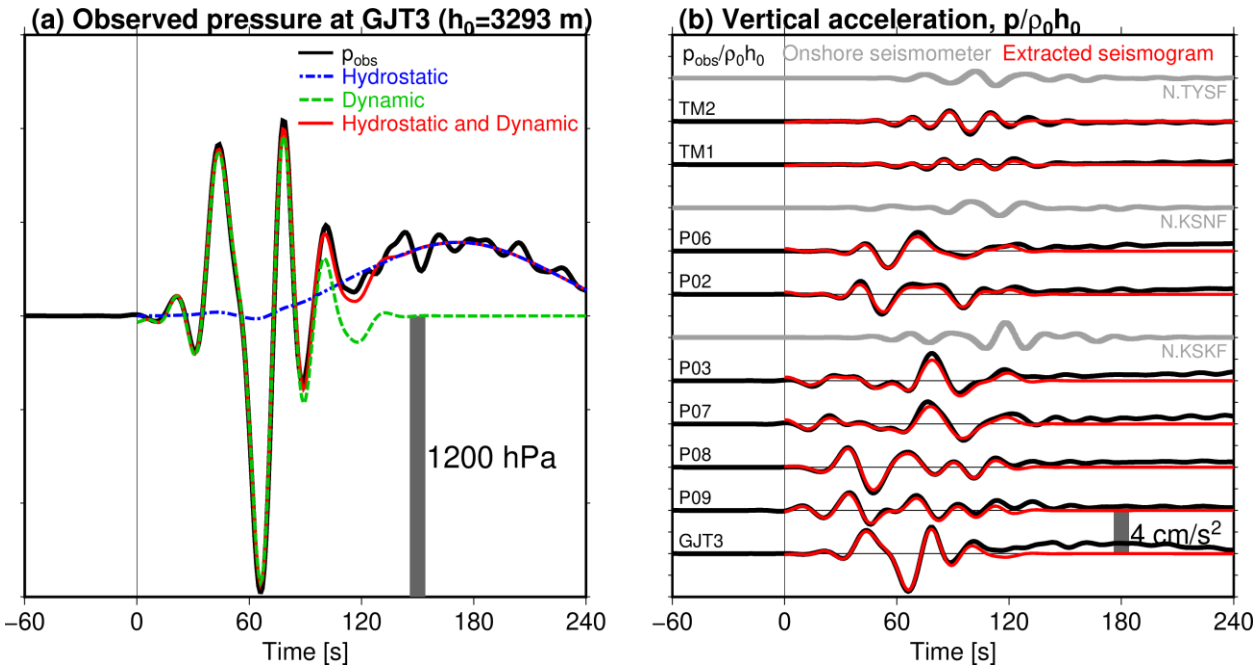

Figure 2. (a) Comparison of the observed OBP waveform (black) at GJT3 and the synthesized ones (blue: hydrostatic, green: dynamic, and red: both pressure changes). (b) Extracted vertical accelerograms at the OBPs (red traces). Observed pressure changes divided by $\rho_0 h_0$, which includes both tsunamis and dynamic pressure change components, are also shown by black traces. Gray traces are the observed accelerograms at the onshore seismometers.

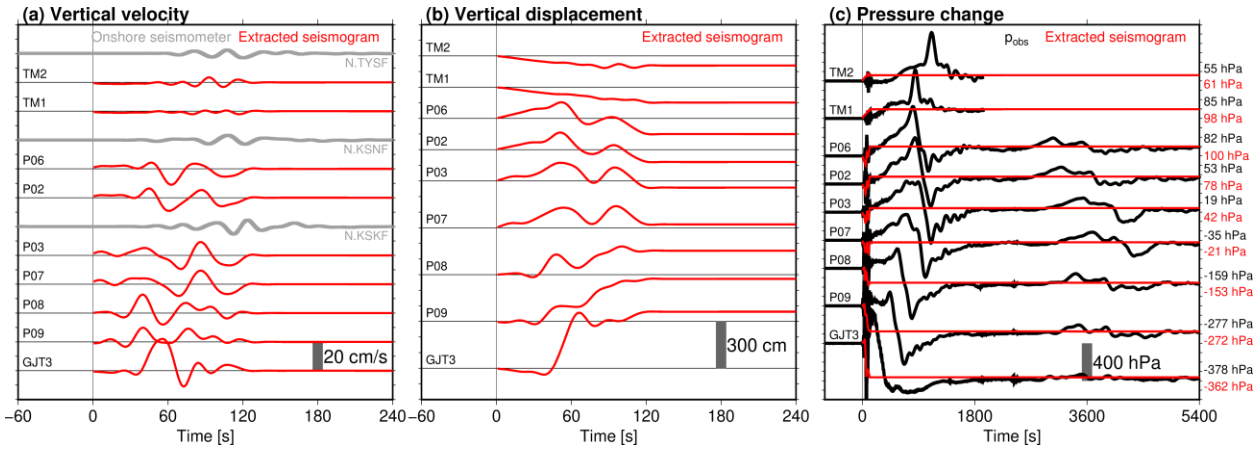

Figure 3. Time series of the extracted vertical seismograms from the OBPs (red traces), for (a) velocity and (b) displacement. Gray traces are the observed seismograms at the onshore seismometers. (c) Comparison of the observed pressure time series (black) and those expected from the extracted displacement (red). The final pressure offsets, calculated by averaging the last 600 s time window, are also shown.

315 It is worth pointing out that the near-field seismograms inside the tsunami source where
316 the vertical displacement was extremely large during the Tohoku-Oki earthquake had never been
317 reported previously. In the accelerograms at the OBPs inside the main rupture area (GJT3, P08,
318 and P09), two dominant positive pulses are confirmed (Figure 2b). The duration of the second
319 pulse at GJT3 is relatively short compared to the first one, whereas the durations in both pulses at
320 P08 and P09 are similar. From the velocity seismogram at GJT3, located ~50 km landward from
321 the trench axis, only one peak with a relatively long duration is confirmed (Figure 3a). On the
322 other hand, at P08 and P09, located near the epicenter and ~100 km from the trench axis, there
323 are two velocity peaks at t ~40 and ~70 s (Figure 3a). These characteristics may reflect the
324 rupture kinematics of the mainshock. One possible interpretation is that the rupture, or energy
325 release, at the fault beneath P08 and P09, which are located near the epicenter, occurred twice.
326 This feature is also suggested by the kinematic modeling of the mainshock from the regional or
327 global seismograms (Lay, 2018).

328

329 **4. Discussions**

330 This study used a lowpass filter with a cutoff of 0.05 Hz to satisfy the condition that the
331 seawater is considered as incompressible fluid. However, if the contribution of the seawater
332 elasticity cannot be neglected in this frequency range, the extracted seafloor seismogram may be
333 incorrect. To confirm validity of the extracted seismograms at f < 0.05 Hz, we conduct a
334 numerical simulation of the two-dimensional P-SV seismic wave propagation using the finite
335 difference method (Maeda et al., 2017, Figure 4). We assume the vertical cross-section passing
336 through GJT3 along the trench-normal direction (azimuth = 105°) from the extended Japan
337 Integrated Velocity Structure Model (Koketsu et al., 2012) with a grid interval of 0.2 km (top
338 panel in Figure 4). We distribute point sources along the plate boundary. We assume their
339 rupture begins at the same time and the source durations are 4 s. We apply lowpass filters with
340 different cutoffs to compare the pressure ($p = -\sigma_{zz}$, red traces) and the pressure-converted
341 vertical acceleration ($\rho_0 h_0 d^2 u_z / dt^2$, blue traces) at the station GJT3. As a result, when the
342 waveforms include high-frequency components of f > ~0.1 Hz, the two waveforms are different
343 from each other. When only focusing on the lower frequency ranges, less than 0.05 Hz, the two
344 waveforms agree with each other. Based on this simulation, we conclude that Eq. (3) holds in the
345 frequency range of f < 0.05 Hz, and our extracted seismograms are valid.

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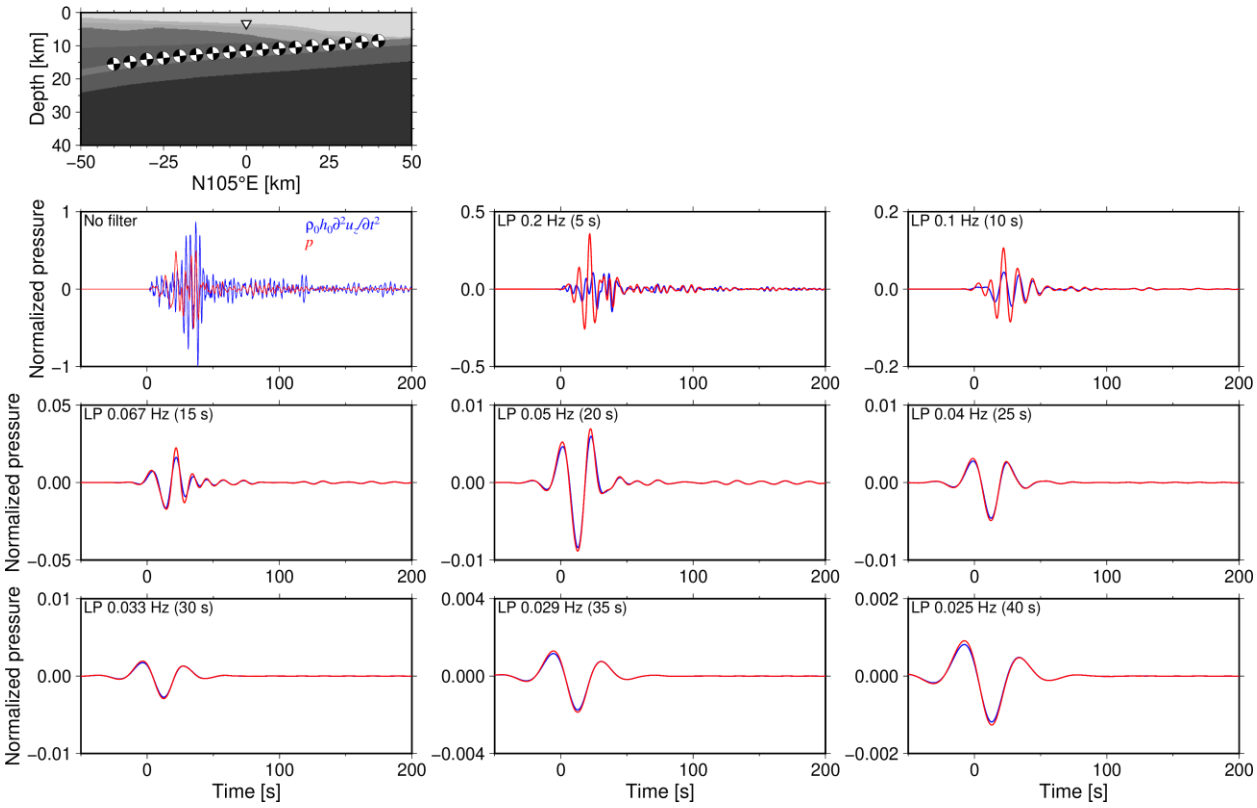

Figure 4. Result of the two-dimensional simulation of the seismic wave propagation. Structure model, point source location, and station location are shown in the top panel, and bottom panels show comparisons of the pressure-converted vertical accelerogram (blue) and the pressure waveform (red) in which lowpass filters with different cutoffs are applied.

This study adopted the inversion-based method to extract the ground motion signals from the OBP data. However, one might think that the bandpass filters are also capable of extracting the seismograms by removing the low-frequency hydrostatic components. In order to evaluate this, we investigate the accelerograms calculated based on a bandpass filter with passbands of 0.01–0.05 Hz, shown in Figure S3a (black dashed line traces). The bandpass filtered accelerograms seem to agree with those extracted by our approach. However, the waveforms do not agree at all when integrating to the displacement (Figure S3b). This is because the permanent offsets are removed by the bandpass filter. Considering a slow rupture near a trench as in a tsunami earthquake (e.g., Lay et al., 2012), the megathrust earthquake rupture process possibly spans broadband frequency ranges. Because the spectral components of the mainshock ground motions possibly range into the low-frequency tsunami-dominant spectral bands, we must not use a highpass filter, which reduces the low-frequency components. It is essential to use a lowpass filter and to employ an inversion-based method with the tsunami

generation theory to appropriately extract the broadband vertical ground motion including the low-frequency permanent offset component.

We could extract near-field seismograms from the OBP data to discuss the source kinematics of the mainshock. This could never be achieved in the past when no OBP was installed inside the focal area and the tsunami generation theory was not established. By combining near-field OBP observation and the tsunami generation theory, it is expected that the parameters for the rupture kinematics and dynamics can be constrained more precisely, particularly for the subduction zone (e.g., Ide & Takeo, 1997; Kozdon & Dunham, 2014; Ma & Nie, 2019). In addition, developments in deep-ocean OBP observation enable us to capture the higher-frequency ocean-acoustic wave signals up to ~1 Hz (Webb & Nooner, 2016; Heidarzadeh & Gusman, 2018; Kubota et al., 2020, Figure 1), which can be modeled by numerical simulation considering the seawater as the elastic body (Figure 4, Maeda et al., 2017; Saito et al., 2019). In deep-ocean measurements, it is still hard to control the installation environment and some studies have reported that the near-field OBS rotated due to strong shaking on the seafloor (Nakamura & Hayashimoto, 2018; Takagi et al., 2019). In such a situation, the near-field OBPs must produce powerful datasets to constrain the earthquake source information. Taking these facts into account, the high-frequency near-field OBP data should be more utilized to deepen our geophysical understanding of the subduction zone, as widely as the data from onshore and offshore seismic instruments.

Our approach utilizing dynamic pressure may also be applicable to practical real-time tsunami early warnings (e.g., Melger & Hayes, 2019; Tsushima et al., 2011; 2012). Inside the focal area, the OBPs observe no hydrostatic pressure changes just after the origin time, because the sea-surface height change and seafloor vertical displacement are almost equivalent soon after the earthquake occurrence (Tsushima et al., 2012). If we utilize the dynamic pressure changes as vertical motion signals, which are dominant in the first few minutes, the accuracy of the tsunami forecast immediately after the earthquake rupture starts will be improved. This study showed the future potential of the high-frequency pressure changes recorded by the OBPs.

4 Conclusion

We developed a method to extract near-field seismograms from the OBP data from inside the focal area. We applied the method to the near-field OBP data of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake to extract the ground motions inside the focal area, whereas the near-field seismograms during the Tohoku-Oki earthquake have never been reported yet. Our analysis successfully decomposed the observed OBP data into the dynamic pressure changes dominant in the first ~120 s and the subsequent hydrostatic pressure changes due to tsunamis and permanent seafloor deformation. The extracted seismograms suggested that two dominant energy releases occurred beneath the OBPs near the epicenter. We confirmed the validity of the extracted seismograms based on the numerical seismic wave propagation simulation. Because the bandpass filter to reduce the low-frequency hydrostatic components also reduces the low-

frequency ground motion components, our inversion-based method is essential to appropriately extract the ground motion waveform including the low-frequency permanent offset components. The high-frequency pressure change signals in the near-field OBP should be utilized more widely, for geophysical research as well as real-time tsunami forecasting.

Data Availability Statement

The OBP data off Miyagi installed by Tohoku University are available in Data Set S1 (during the review process. The file will be uploaded on the online repository after the acceptance). The OBP data off Kamaishi were provided upon request to ERI. The bathymetry data of GEBCO 2020 Grid (GEBCO Bathymetric Compilation Group 2020, 2020) are available at https://www.gebco.net/data_and_products/gridded_bathymetry_data/. The F-net onshore seismometer data are available at http://doi.org/10.17598/nied.0005. The numerical simulation of the P-SV seismic wave propagation was conducted by using OpenSWPC (Maeda et al., 2017) Version 5.0.2, available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3712650. We used Seismic Analysis Code (SAC) software for data processing (Goldstein et al., 2003). Figures were prepared using Generic Mapping Tools Version 6 (GMT6) software (Wessel et al., 2019).

Acknowledgments

This study was financially supported by the research project “Research concerning Interaction between the Tokai, Tonankai, and Nankai Earthquakes” of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, and by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI Grant Numbers JP20244070, JP26000002, JP15K17752, JP19H00708, JP19H02409, 19H05596, JP19K04021, and JP19K14818. TK thanks Yoshihiro Ito of Kyoto University for fruitful comments. TK also thanks Naotaka Y. Chikasada, Hisahiko Kubo, and Osamu Sandanbata of National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience for insightful discussions. The installation and retrieval of the OBPs of Tohoku University were conducted via Research Vessel (*R/V*) *Keifu-maru* and *R/V Ryofu-maru* (Japan Meteorological Agency), Supply Vessels (*S/Vs*) *Kaiko* and *Kaiyu* (Offshore Operation Co., Ltd.) and *S/V Shinsei-maru* (Fukada Salvage Co., Ltd). The OBPs at P03, P07, P08, and P09 were recovered in September 2011 by using Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) *Hakuyo-3000* (Fukada Salvage Co., Ltd.) (Hino et al., 2012; Arai et al., 2013). TK also thanks the captains and crews of these vessels and the staff and technicians at ERI for their efforts for their operation.

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Figure 1.

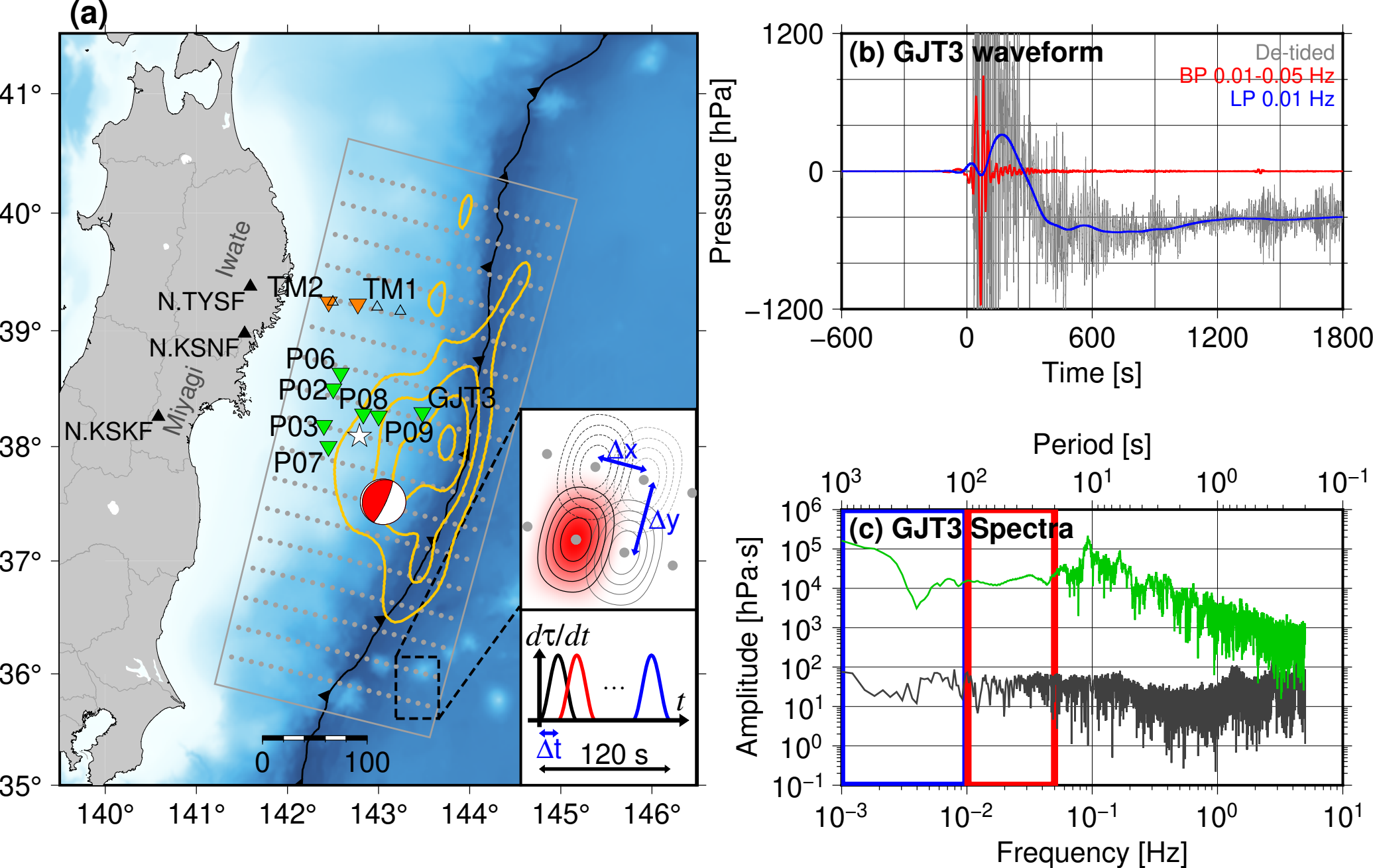

(a)
Iwate
Miyagi
N.TYSF
N.KSNF
N.KSKF
TM2
TM1
P06
P02
P08
GJT3
P03
P09
P07
Δx
Δy
dτ/dt
t
Δt
120 s
0
100
41°
40°
39°
38°
37°
36°
35°
140°
141°
142°
143°
144°
145°
146°
(b) GJT3 waveform
De-tided
BP 0.01-0.05 Hz
LP 0.01 Hz
Pressure [hPa]
1200
0
−1200
−600
0
600
1200
1800
Time [s]
(c) GJT3 Spectra
Period [s]
Amplitude [hPa·s]
Frequency [Hz]

Figure 2.

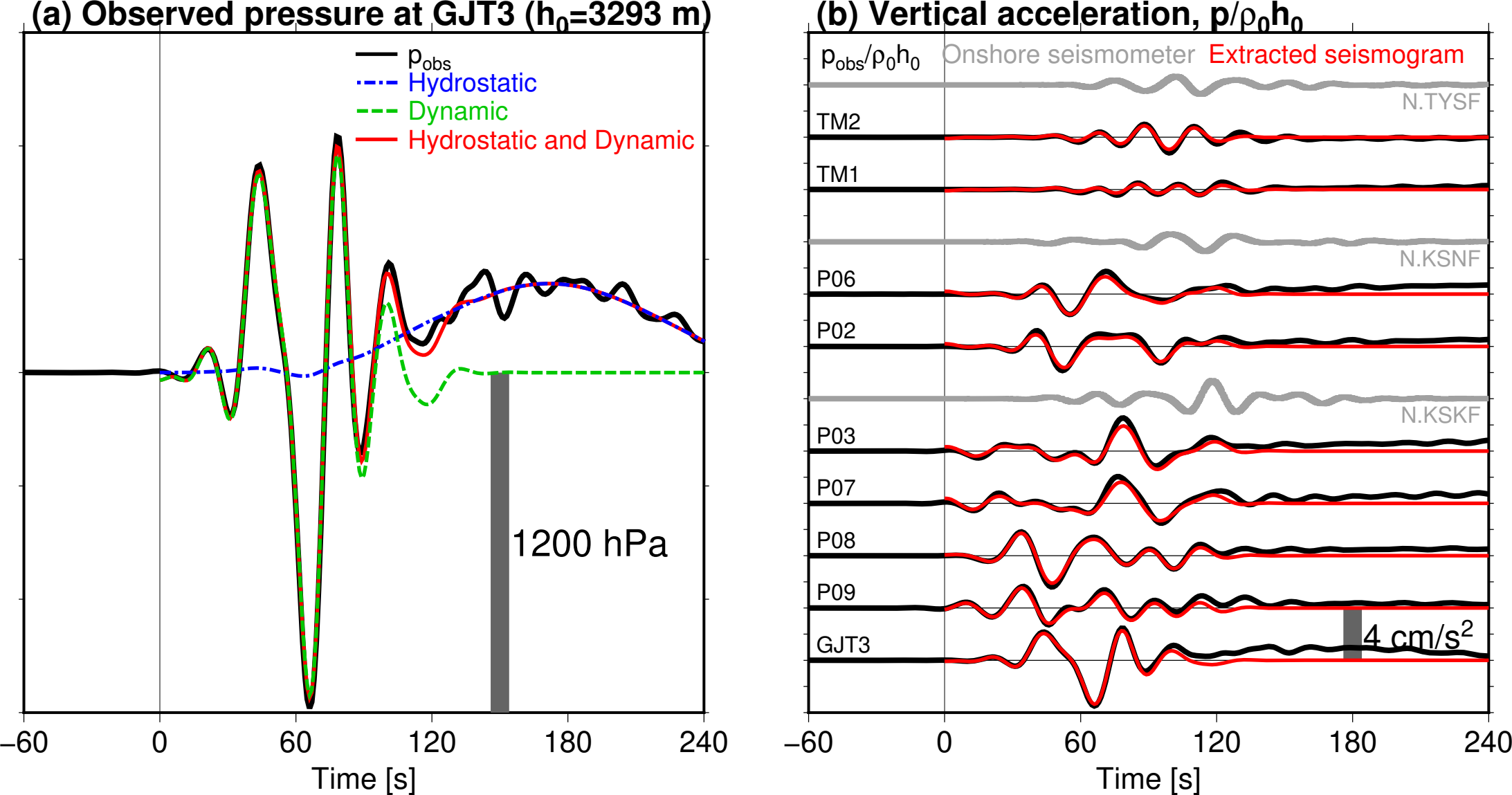

(a) Observed pressure at GJT3 (h_0=3293 m)
p_{obs}
Hydrostatic
Dynamic
Hydrostatic and Dynamic
1200 hPa
−60
0
60
120
180
240
Time [s]
(b) Vertical acceleration, $p/\rho_0 h_0$
$p_{obs}/\rho_0 h_0$
Onshore seismometer
Extracted seismogram
N.TYSF
TM2
TM1
N.KSNF
P06
P02
N.KSKF
P03
P07
P08
P09
GJT3
4 cm/s^2
−60
0
60
120
180
240
Time [s]

Figure 3.

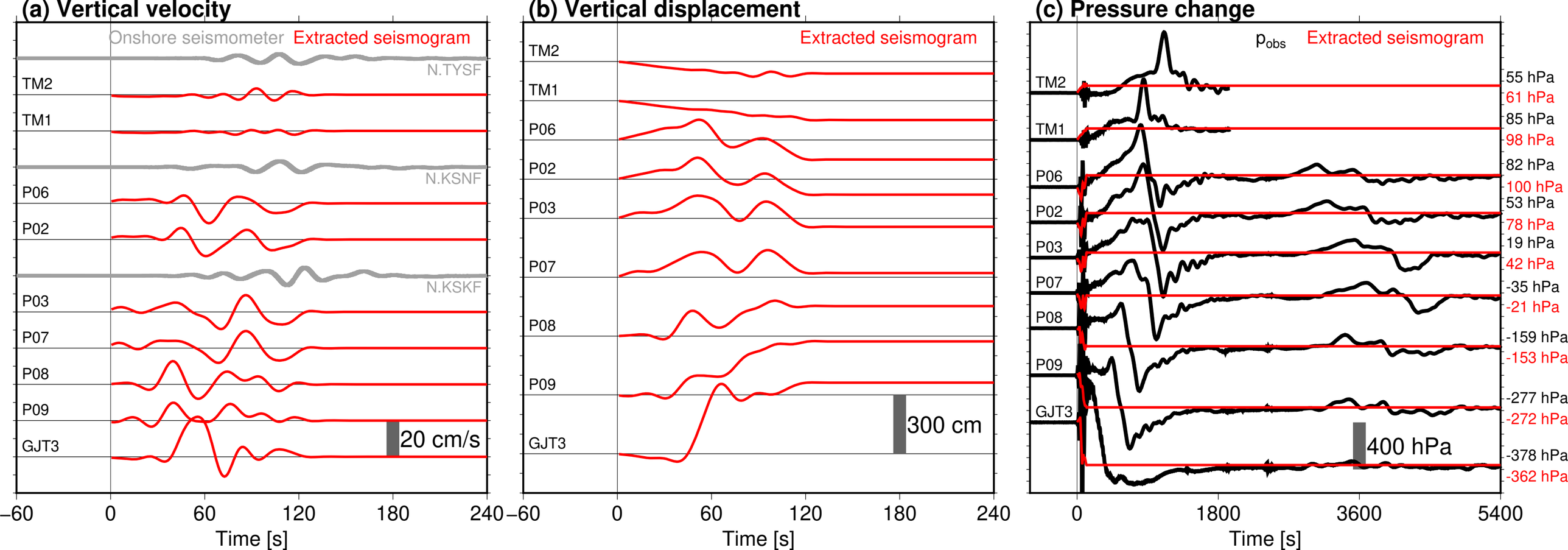
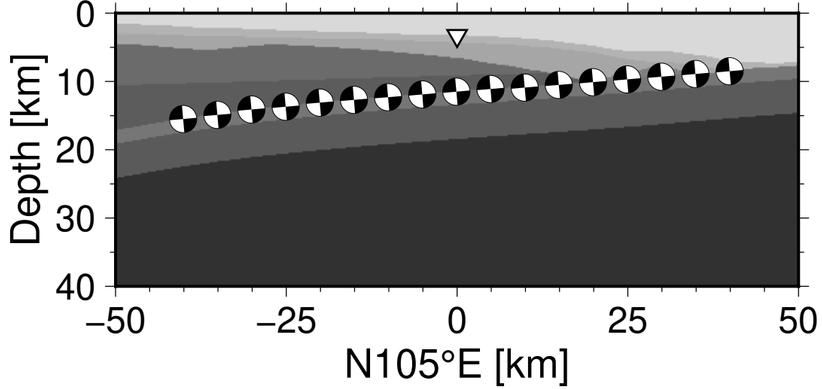
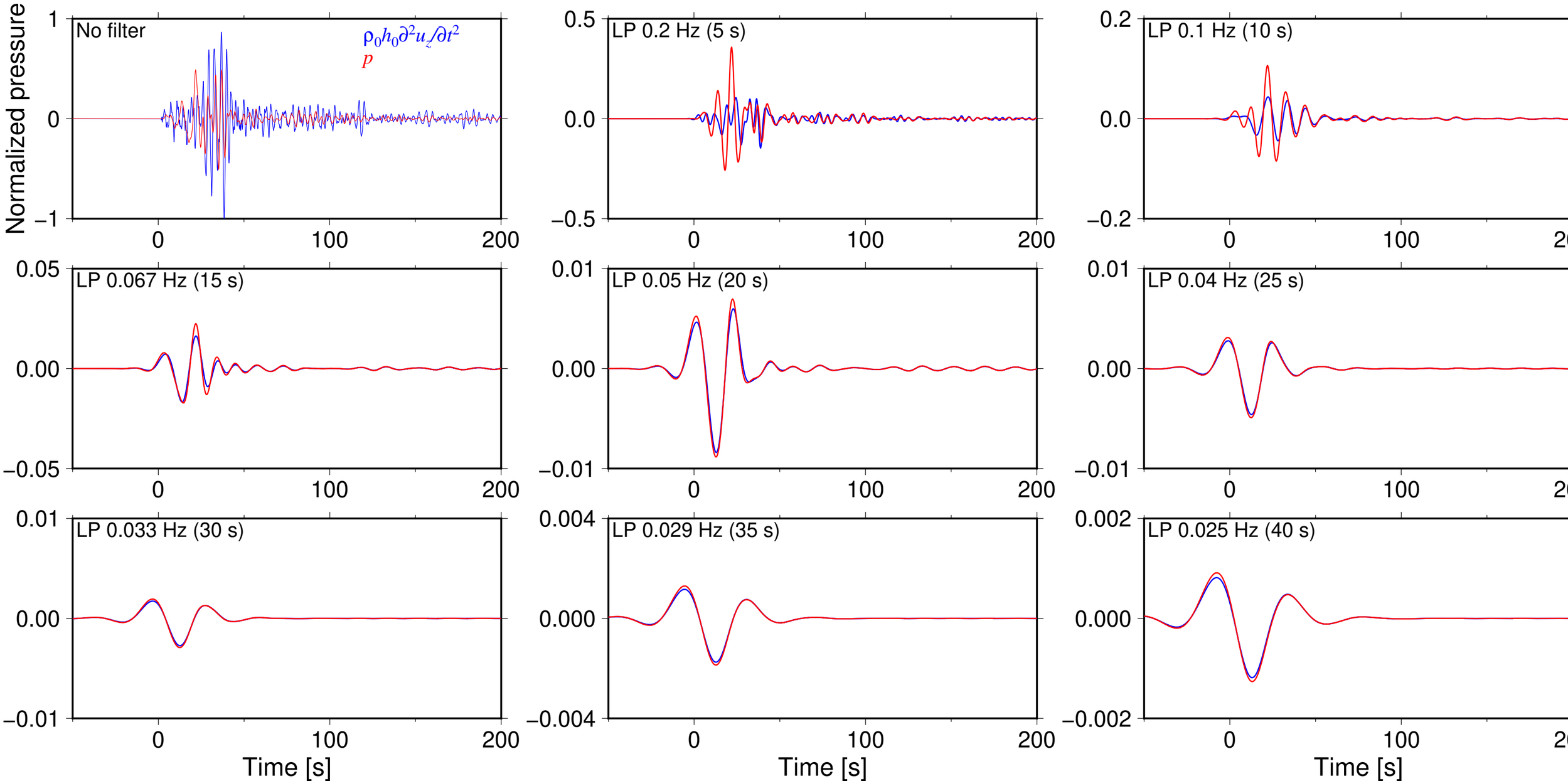

(a) Vertical velocity
Onshore seismometer
Extracted seismogram
N.TYSF
TM2
TM1
N.KSNF
P06
P02
N.KSKF
P03
P07
P08
P09
GJT3
20 cm/s
−60
0
60
120
180
240
Time [s]
(b) Vertical displacement
Extracted seismogram
TM2
TM1
P06
P02
P03
P07
P08
P09
GJT3
300 cm
−60
0
60
120
180
240
Time [s]
(c) Pressure change
p_{obs}
Extracted seismogram
TM2
TM1
P06
P02
P03
P07
P08
P09
GJT3
400 hPa
55 hPa
61 hPa
85 hPa
98 hPa
82 hPa
100 hPa
53 hPa
78 hPa
19 hPa
42 hPa
-35 hPa
-21 hPa
-159 hPa
-153 hPa
-277 hPa
-272 hPa
-378 hPa
-362 hPa
0
1800
3600
5400
Time [s]

Figure 4.


Depth [km]
0
10
20
30
40
−50
−25
0
25
50
N105°E [km]


Normalized pressure
No filter
$\rho_0 h_0 \partial^2 u_z/\partial t^2$
p
LP 0.2 Hz (5 s)
LP 0.1 Hz (10 s)
LP 0.067 Hz (15 s)
LP 0.05 Hz (20 s)
LP 0.04 Hz (25 s)
LP 0.033 Hz (30 s)
LP 0.029 Hz (35 s)
LP 0.025 Hz (40 s)
Time [s]