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# 1 **Noise-based Ballistic Wave Passive Seismic Monitoring – Part**

## 2 **2: Surface Waves**

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4 2 December 2019

### 5 **SUMMARY**

6 We develop a new method to monitor and locate seismic velocity changes in the subsurface  
7 using seismic noise interferometry. Contrary to most ambient noise monitoring techniques, we  
8 use the ballistic Rayleigh waves computed from 30 days records on a dense nodal array lo-  
9 cated above the Groningen gas field (the Netherlands), instead of their coda waves. We infer  
10 the daily relative phase velocity dispersion changes as a function of frequency and propaga-  
11 tion distance with a cross-wavelet transform processing. Assuming a one-dimensional velocity  
12 change within the medium, the induced ballistic Rayleigh wave phase shift exhibits a linear  
13 trend as a function of the propagation distance. Measuring this trend for the fundamental mode  
14 and the first overtone of the Rayleigh waves for frequencies between 0.5 and 1.1 Hz enables

15 us to invert for shear-wave daily velocity changes in the first 1.5 km of the subsurface. The ob-  
16 served deep velocity changes ( $\pm 1.5\%$ ) are difficult to interpret given the environmental factors  
17 information available. Most of the observed shallow changes seem associated with effective  
18 pressure variations. We observe a reduction of shear-wave velocity ( $-0.2\%$ ) at the time of a  
19 large rain event accompanied by a strong decrease in atmospheric pressure loading, followed  
20 by a migration at depth of the velocity decrease. Combined with P-wave velocity changes ob-  
21 servations from a companion paper, we interpret the changes as caused by the diffusion of  
22 effective pressure variations at depth. As a new method, noise-based ballistic wave passive  
23 monitoring could be used on several dynamic (hydro-)geological targets and in particular, it  
24 could be used to estimate hydrological parameters such as the hydraulic conductivity and dif-  
25 fusivity.

26 **Key words:** Seismic tomography; Seismic interferometry; Wave scattering and diffraction;  
27 Wave propagation; Surface waves and free oscillations

## 28 1 INTRODUCTION

29 Ambient seismic noise interferometry (e.g., Shapiro & Campillo 2004; Wapenaar et al. 2010)  
30 via Coda Wave Interferometry (CWI, e.g., Snieder et al. 2002; Sens-Schönfelder & Wegler 2006;  
31 Brenguier et al. 2008b) has become the most efficient way to probe continuous temporal changes  
32 of the elastic properties of the crust. It has successfully been applied to volcano monitoring during  
33 pre- and co-eruptive stages (Brenguier et al. 2008b; Mordret et al. 2010; Yukutake et al. 2016) or  
34 inter-eruptive periods (e.g., Sens-Schönfelder & Wegler 2006; Rivet et al. 2014; Donaldson et al.  
35 2017). It has also been used to monitor the response of the crust to large earthquakes (e.g., Wegler  
36 & Sens-Schönfelder 2007; Brenguier et al. 2008a; Minato et al. 2012; Brenguier et al. 2014) or  
37 slow-slip events (Rivet et al. 2011). More recently, it has contributed to the fast emergence of  
38 environmental seismology applications (Mainsant et al. 2012; Gassenmeier et al. 2014; Larose  
39 et al. 2015; Mordret et al. 2016; Lecocq et al. 2017; Clements & Denolle 2018; Mao et al. 2019a;

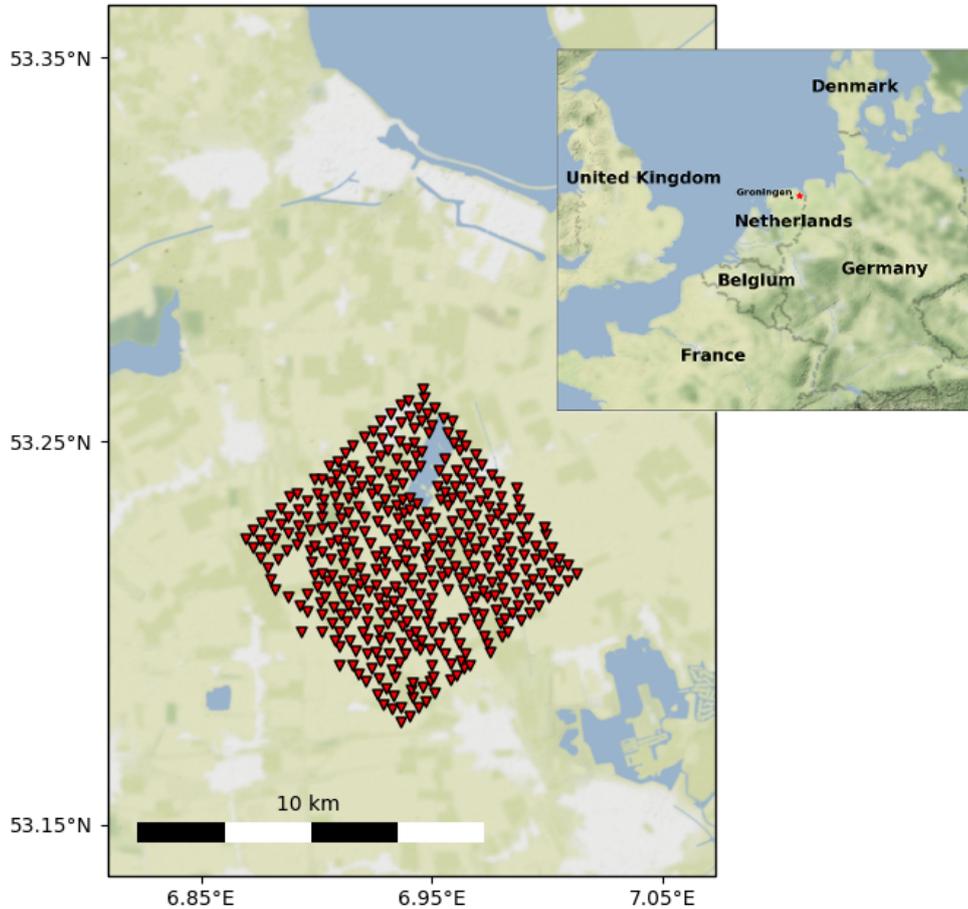
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40 Fores et al. 2018) and passive seismic monitoring of civil engineering structures (Nakata & Snieder  
41 2013; Salvermoser et al. 2015; Planès et al. 2015; Mordret et al. 2017).

42 Although very robust to detect small changes in a medium (Froment et al. 2010; Weaver et al.  
43 2011; Colombi et al. 2014), CWI lacks spatial resolution due to the inherent nature of coda waves.  
44 Statistical approaches can lead to the probability of a local change in a medium knowing the  
45 perturbation in the coda of a seismogram (Pacheco & Snieder 2005; Obermann et al. 2013) but the  
46 sensitivity kernels derived in these studies are smooth, dependent on the modal distribution of the  
47 waves forming the coda and on the statistical scattering properties of the medium which hamper a  
48 precise localization of the changes and proper estimate of their real amplitude.

49 In this work and a companion paper (Breguier et al. 2019) we propose to overcome these lim-  
50 itations by using a new complementary method for monitoring seismic velocity variations based  
51 on the ballistic waves of the noise cross-correlations, instead of their coda waves. The first paper  
52 (Breguier et al. 2019) deals with body waves while this paper focuses on surface waves applica-  
53 tion. Using ballistic waves means that, contrarily to coda-waves, we have accurate models for their  
54 propagation and therefore we can project the observed temporal perturbations of seismic veloci-  
55 ties to specific regions at depth (Voisin et al. 2016, 2017). However, the clear limitation of using  
56 direct, ballistic waves is their strong sensitivity to noise source temporal variations (Colombi et al.  
57 2014) and the fact that they exhibit smaller time-shift than coda waves, for the same perturbation.  
58 We use advanced frequency–time analysis and a dense seismic network coupled with offset and  
59 azimuthal averaging to mitigate these issues, but one still needs to carefully assess the stability of  
60 noise sources for such type of analysis.

61 Surface waves are the most easily retrieved phases in ambient noise correlations (Shapiro &  
62 Campillo 2004) because seismic noise sources are most often located at the surface and mainly  
63 generate surface waves. However, certainly because of the aforementioned drawbacks, only few  
64 attempts have been made to use direct surface waves from noise correlations to monitor the sub-  
65 surface (Durand et al. 2011; de Ridder et al. 2014; Mordret et al. 2014b; Toyokuni et al. 2018). In  
66 this paper we describe the basics of passive ballistic surface wave monitoring using dense arrays.  
67 We are able to measure temporal changes of apparent velocities from both fundamental mode and

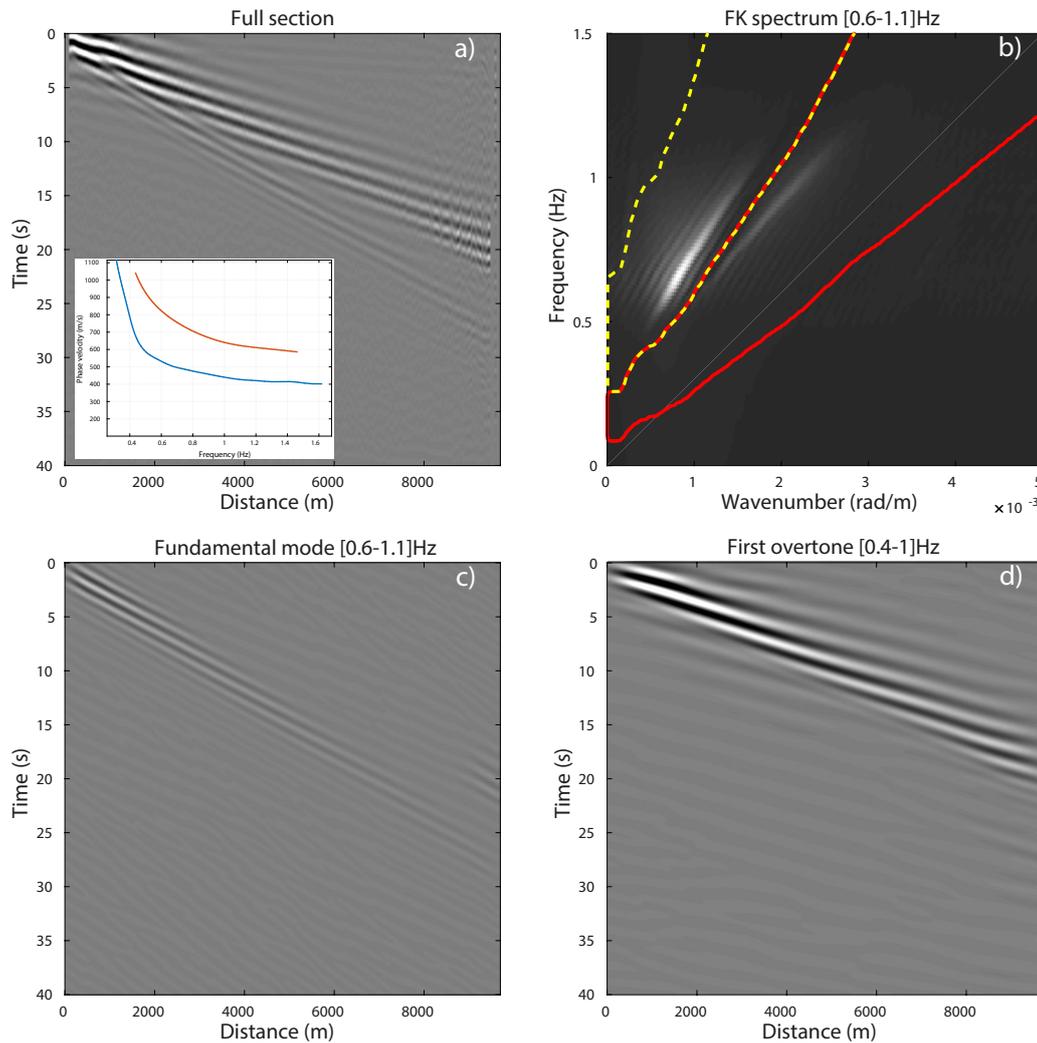


**Figure 1.** Map of the array of 417 sensors used in this study.

68 first overtone Rayleigh waves, which allows us to discriminate between changes localized in the  
 69 shallower part or the deeper part of the subsurface, in good agreement with the P-wave monitoring  
 70 results (Brenquier et al. 2019).

## 71 **2 DATA**

72 We use a network of 417 nodal short period seismic stations (3-component, 5 Hz Geospace) de-  
 73 ployed in the Groningen area of the Netherlands, above the Groningen gas field (Fig. 1). The array  
 74 was deployed for 30 days in 2017 from February 11 (day 42) to March 12 (day 71) and laid out  
 75 as a regular square grid with an aperture of about 8 km and a nominal inter-station distance of  
 76 400 m. The original purpose of the array was to perform high-resolution ambient seismic noise  
 77 tomography to characterize the near surface for seismic hazard assessment and ground motion



**Figure 2.** a) Full seismic section filtered between [0.6–1.1] Hz. The inset shows the phase velocity dispersion curves of the fundamental mode (blue) and the first overtone (red). b) FK diagram of the seismic section. The FK filter windows to extract the fundamental mode and the first overtone are shown in red and yellow, respectively. c) The FK-filtered fundamental mode band-pass filtered between [0.6–1.1]Hz. d) The FK-filtered first overtone band-pass filtered between [0.4–1.0]Hz.

78 prediction (Chmiel et al. 2019). The gas reservoir is located at about 3 km depth in the Permian  
 79 sandstones of the Rotliegend Group, it is 250 m thick and covers a 2000 km<sup>2</sup> area. It is sealed by  
 80 a Zechstein salt layer up to 1 km thick. Above the salt layer lays a ~1 km thick Cretaceous Chalk  
 81 formation capped with a 800 m thick Tertiary and Quaternary sediment cover, up to the surface  
 82 (van Thienen-Visser & Breunese 2015). Bourne et al. (2018) show that the gas production in this  
 83 field led to a 15 MPa average reservoir pore-pressure depletion since 1995 which is associated  
 84 with seismicity rates exponentially increasing with time.

85 We follow Chmiel et al. (2019)'s procedure for the correlation computation. We average the  
86 causal and acausal sides of the correlations, then the symmetrized correlations are further stacked  
87 in 50 m inter-station distance bins, thanks to a continuous distribution of inter-station distances be-  
88 tween 400 m and 8 km, to enhance the signal to noise ratio, to mitigate the azimuthal variations of  
89 noise sources and to help to converge closer to the true Green's function (Boué et al. 2013; Mordret  
90 et al. 2014a; Nakata et al. 2015). This procedure effectively approximates the propagating medium  
91 as a 1-dimensional medium. During the deployment, the main noise source in the considered fre-  
92 quency band comes from the direction of the North Sea, but significant energy arrival covers about  
93 180 degrees, from South-West to North-East (Spica et al. 2018; Brenguier et al. 2019).

94 Finally, we construct one 30-days average seismic section which is used as the reference sec-  
95 tion and twenty-one 10-days moving average sections which are used as daily section for the mon-  
96 itoring. We use a causal stack where the section for day N is the stack of the data of day N with  
97 the 9 previous days. The resulting reference virtual seismic section, filtered between [0.6–1.1] Hz,  
98 is shown in Figure 2a). We can see the faster, higher amplitude and lower frequency first overtone  
99 travelling with a group velocity of about 450 m/s and the slower and less energetic fundamental  
100 mode travelling at a speed around 330 m/s. The FK spectrum of the section is shown in Figure 2b)  
101 and is used to pick the phase velocity dispersion curves of the two modes (Fig. 2a)). In the fol-  
102 lowing, we perform the monitoring measurements on each mode separately. To do so, we apply  
103 two FK-filters to each of the 22 sections (the reference and the 21 daily ones) as described in Fig-  
104 ure 2b-c-d). The FK-filtered sections are further windowed between travel-times corresponding to  
105 [250–380] m/s and [400–1000] m/s for the fundamental mode and the first overtone, respectively.  
106 We tested the effect of the FK-filters on the final velocity variation results: not using them slightly  
107 increases the uncertainties but does not change the overall results and interpretations.

## 108 **3 METHODS**

### 109 **3.1 Phase-shift measurement with Cross-Wavelet transform**

110 Measuring the travel-time shift induced by a localized seismic velocity perturbation on a dispersive  
111 surface-wave requires a frequency–time representation where one is able to estimate the instan-

112 taneous phase of a seismogram in the frequency–time domain (Corciulo et al. 2012). Continuous  
 113 wavelet transform (CWT) has been extensively used in Earth Science for more than two decades to  
 114 analyse the frequency–time behaviour of geophysical transient signals (e.g., Kumar & Foufoula-  
 115 Georgiou 1994; Pyrak-Nolte & Nolte 1995; Labat 2005) and has originally been developed to  
 116 analyse active seismic traces in seismic exploration (Morlet et al. 1982b,a). This section describes  
 117 the use of wavelet-transform for ballistic surface wave monitoring. A similar approach can be used  
 118 for CWI applications and is the subject of a subsequent paper (Mao et al. 2019b).

119 The CWT of a signal  $s(t)$  is defined as the correlation or inner product of  $s(t)$  with a particular  
 120 set of functions  $h_{a,b}(t)$  such as

$$\mathbf{WT}[s(t)](a, b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} s(t)h_{a,b}^*(t)dt, \quad (1)$$

where

$$h_{a,b}(t) = \frac{h[(t-b)/a]}{\sqrt{|a|}}. \quad (2)$$

121 In these expressions,  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $a \neq 0$ . The  $*$  symbol denotes the complex conjugate. The  
 122 elements of the wavelet basis  $h_{a,b}(t)$  are created by dilating and translating the mother wavelet  
 123  $h(t)$  by the dilation parameters  $a$  (called scale and equivalent for frequency) and the translation  
 124 parameters  $b$ . The pre-factor  $\sqrt{|a|}$  ensures norm-squared normalisation. Practically, we used the  
 125 CWT function from the MATLAB2018a Wavelet Toolbox to build our algorithm.

126 In the following analysis, we use the complex analytic Morlet wavelet (Morlet et al. 1982b,a;  
 127 Teolis & Benedetto 1998) composed of a harmonic function windowed by a Gaussian filter. In the  
 128 Fourier domain the Morlet wavelet is defined as:

$$\Psi(a\omega) = \pi^{-1/4}e^{-(a\omega-\omega_0)^2/2}H(a\omega), \quad (3)$$

129 where  $H$  is the Heaviside step function,  $a$  is the scale and  $\omega_0$  the central frequency. Here, we use  
 130  $\omega_0 = 6$  Hz as default value.

131 The resulting Morlet CWT is a 2D complex function which has both amplitude and phase  
 132 information and has an optimum resolution both in time and frequency with the smallest possible

133 Heisenberg uncertainty. It can be shown that the maximum of the CWT amplitude along the scale  
 134 direction defines the group velocity dispersion curves of the transformed time-series (Pyrak-Nolte  
 135 & Nolte 1995).

136 To compare two dispersive time-series by estimating their common power and phase relation,  
 137 we use the cross-wavelet transform (Grinsted et al. 2004) which can be seen as a frequency–time  
 138 cross-correlation. Let  $r(t)$  be a reference seismic trace and  $c(t)$  the current seismic trace we want  
 139 to compare with  $r(t)$ . The cross-wavelet transform of  $r$  and  $c$  is

$$\mathbf{XWT}[r(t), c(t)](a, b) = \mathbf{WT}[r(t)](a, b)\mathbf{WT}^*[c(t)](a, b) = |A|e^{i\Delta\phi}, \quad (4)$$

140 where  $|A|$  is the amplitude power of the cross-wavelet transform and its phase is given by the phase  
 141 difference between  $\mathbf{WT}[c(t)]$  and  $\mathbf{WT}[r(t)]$  such as  $\Delta\phi = \arg(\mathbf{WT}[r(t)]) - \arg(\mathbf{WT}[c(t)])$ .

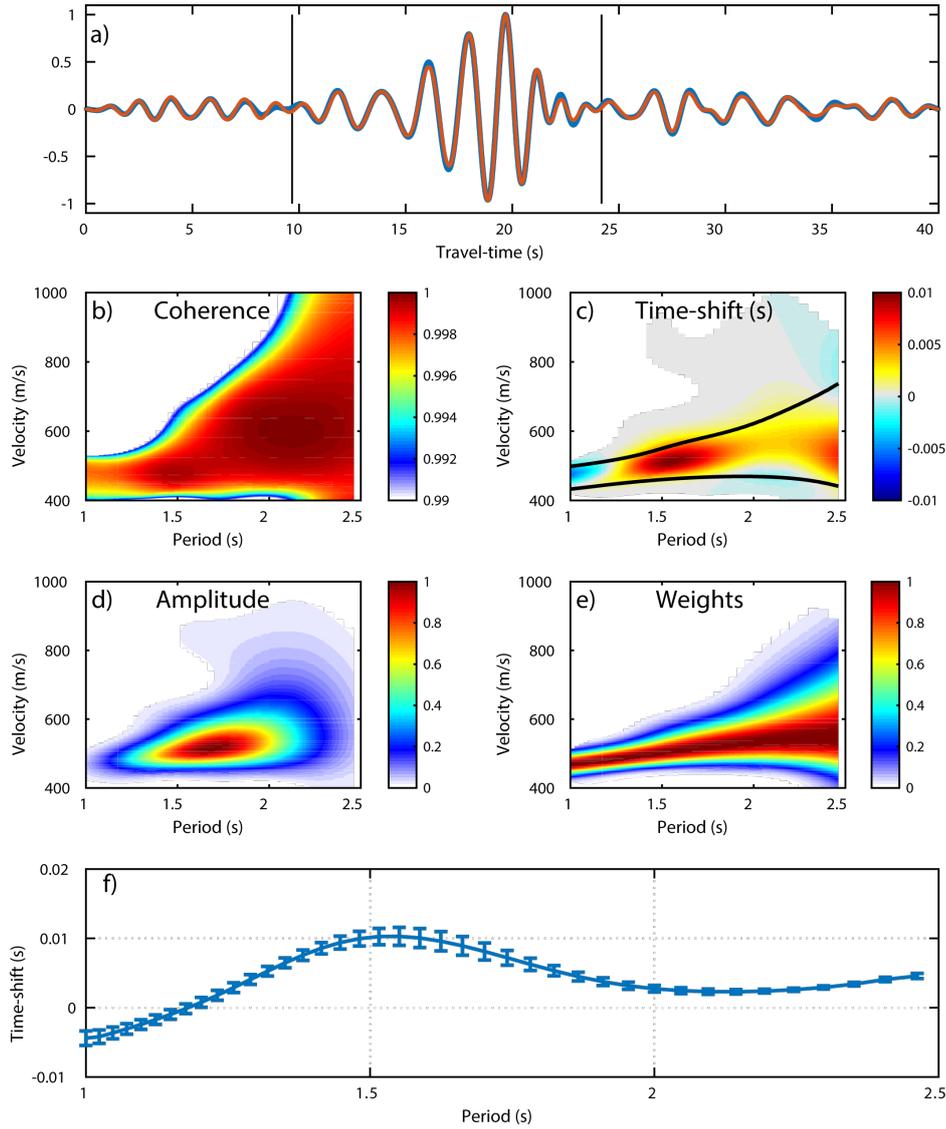
142 The amplitude power of the cross-wavelet transform shows where both time-series have com-  
 143 mon high amplitudes (Fig. 3d). Another useful measure of the resemblance between the two wave-  
 144 form in the frequency–time domain can be defined by the wavelet coherence (Fig. 3b):

$$\mathbf{WCoh}[r(t), c(t)](a, b) = \frac{|\mathcal{S}\{a^{-1}|\mathbf{XWT}[r(t), c(t)](a, b)|^2\}|^2}{\mathcal{S}\{a^{-1}|\mathbf{WT}[r(t)](a, b)|^2\}\mathcal{S}\{a^{-1}|\mathbf{WT}[c(t)](a, b)|^2\}}, \quad (5)$$

145 where  $\mathcal{S}\{\cdot\}$  is a 2D smoothing operator over the scales  $a$  and delays  $b$ . Here, we used a Gaussian  
 146 smoothing window in the delays direction and a moving average (boxcar window) in the scales  
 147 direction. The smoothing is necessary to avoid having a coherence of one for every samples. In  
 148 traditional time-windowed Fourier transform methods, the smoothing is handled by defining an  
 149 additional time-window length. The wavelet coherence can be seen as a local correlation coeffi-  
 150 cient in the frequency–time domain and is bounded between [0 1]. Finally, the time-shift  $\Delta t$  in the  
 151 frequency–time domain (Fig. 3c) between the two waveforms can be computed by

$$\Delta t(a, b) \equiv \Delta t(f, U) = \frac{\Delta\phi}{2\pi f}, \quad (6)$$

152 where  $f$  is the frequency and  $U$  the group velocity obtained by  $U = D/t$ , with  $D$  the distance  
 153 between the source and the receiver. However, the time-shift can only be reliably estimated where



**Figure 3.** a) Reference (blue) and current (orange) binned correlations at 9 km distance, FK-filtered around the first overtone. The vertical black lines show the analysis window. b) Wavelet Coherence between the traces in a). c) The time-shift between the two traces multiplied by the weight function shown in e). The black contour shows where the weights are larger than 0.1. d) The normalised amplitude power of the cross-wavelet transform:  $|A|$ . e) The weight function. f) The weighted-average frequency-dependent time-shift, the errorbars show one standard deviation of the average.

154 the amplitudes of both reference and current traces are largely above the noise level, i.e., where  
 155  $|A|$  is large enough. Following Fichtner et al. (2008), we design a coherence weighting scheme  
 156 (Fig. 3e) that allows us to accurately extract the time-shift between the two waveforms as a function  
 157 of the frequency:

$$\mathcal{W}(f, U) = (\log(1 + |A|) / \max_f \log(1 + |A|))^2 \quad \text{if } WCoH > 0.95 \ \& \ |A| / \max_{f,U} |A| > 0.01, \quad (7)$$

$$\mathcal{W}(f, U) = 0 \quad \text{otherwise.} \quad (8)$$

158 We finally obtain the frequency-dependant time-shift  $\delta t(f)$  between the two waveforms by com-  
 159 puting the weighted average of  $\Delta t(f, U)$  by  $\mathcal{W}(f, U)$  along the group velocity axis. We repeat  
 160 this operation for every distance bins, every days and for both FK-filtered fundamental and first  
 161 overtone.

### 162 **3.2 Relative phase velocity change estimation**

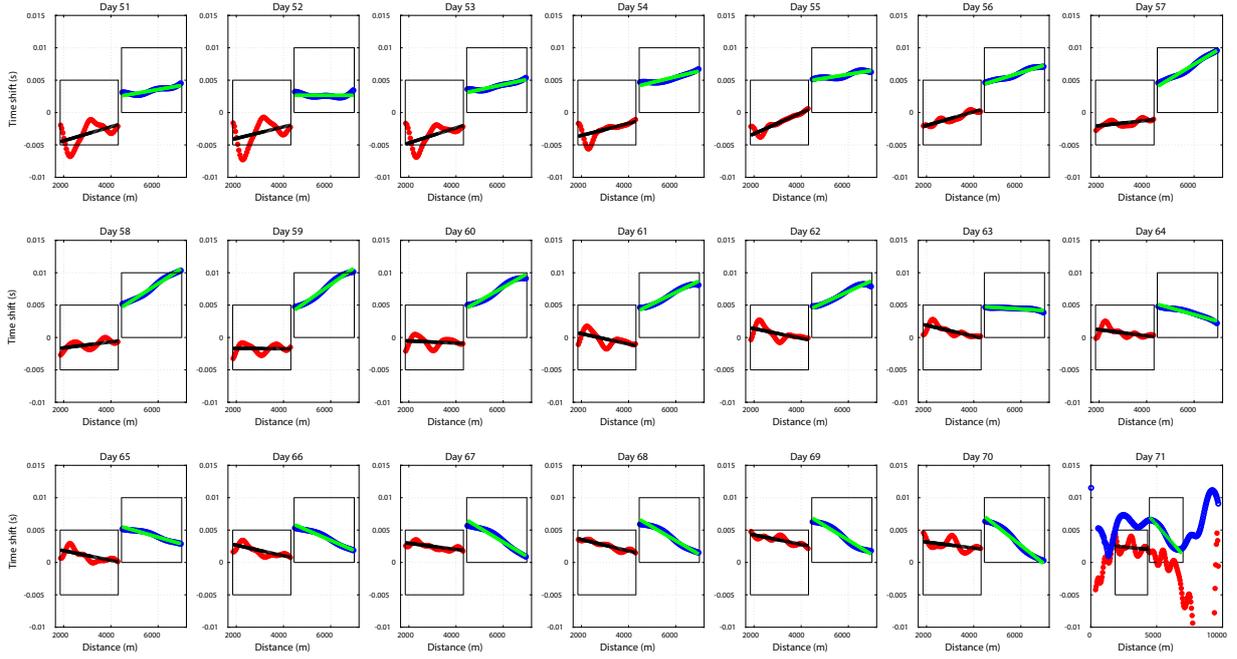
163 From the time-shifts measured at each frequency and each distance along the virtual seismic sec-  
 164 tion, we can estimate the frequency-dependant relative phase velocity change  $\delta C_i^m / C_0^m$  for each  
 165 day  $i = 1..21$  ( $i = 0$  stands for the average over the 30 days) and each considered phase  $m = 0, 1$   
 166 (for the fundamental mode and the first overtone, respectively) following the approach of Bren-  
 167 guier et al. (2019). In this companion paper, Brenguier et al. (2019) showed that the relative ve-  
 168 locity change can be computed as the (weighted) linear regression of the time-shifts  $\delta t$  along the  
 169 offset  $x$  (Fig. 4) multiplied by the velocity of the considered phase:

$$\frac{\delta C_i^m}{C_0^m}(f) = -C_0^m(f) \frac{\Delta \delta t_i^m(f, x)}{\Delta x} \Bigg|_{x=x_{min}}^{x=x_{max}}, \quad (9)$$

170 where  $\Delta Y / \Delta x$  stands for the linear regression of  $Y$  along  $x$  and  $x_{min}$  and  $x_{max}$  are the offset  
 171 bounds between which the regression is performed. We will develop more in the Results section  
 172 on how to chose these bounds. The standard errors of the linear regression gives the uncertainty of  
 173 the relative velocity change.

### 174 **3.3 Depth-dependent relative shear-wave velocity change**

175 Lesage et al. (2014) were the first to attempt a depth inversion of differential dispersion curves for  
 176 relative shear-wave velocity changes. We use a similar approach here to resolve the velocity change  
 177 at depth at our studied area. As shown by Haney & Tsai (2017) using a thin-layer finite-element



**Figure 4.** Daily time-shifts  $\delta t^m(x)$  averaged over the frequencies for the fundamental mode (red dots) and the first overtone (blue dots) and the linear regressions used to estimate the relative phase velocity variations in black and green for the fundamental mode and the first overtone, respectively. The black boxes show the distance ranges over which the regression is performed. The results for the first overtone have been shifted vertically by 0.005 s to avoid clutter. For the day 71, we show the measurements along the whole offsets range.

178 method approach, the relative change in Rayleigh wave phase velocity  $C(f)$  for any given mode,  
 179 at different frequencies (Fig. 5), due to a relative change in shear-wave velocity  $\beta(z)$  at depth is  
 180 given by:

$$\frac{\delta C}{C}(f) = \mathbf{K}(f, z) \frac{\delta \beta}{\beta}(z), \quad (10)$$

181 where  $\mathbf{K}$  is a depth sensitivity kernel,  $f$  the frequency and  $z$  the depth. Equation 10 holds if one  
 182 assumes that either (1) Poissons ratio and density are fixed or (2) P-wave velocity and density are  
 183 fixed. In each case, the sensitivity kernel has to be adapted (see Haney & Tsai 2017, for details)  
 184 and we modified Haney & Tsai (2017)'s code to output the corresponding  $\mathbf{K}$  computed from an  
 185 average velocity model of the area (Chmiel et al. 2019). This average model is in good agreement  
 186 with local borehole measurements (Kruiver et al. 2017) and predicts properly the average phase

187 velocity dispersion curves for both the fundamental mode and the first overtone. In this work, we  
 188 chose to fix the P-wave velocity and the density.

189 The relative shear-wave velocity perturbation can therefore be retrieved using a simple weighted-  
 190 damped least squares inversion (Haney & Tsai 2017). Following Haney & Tsai (2017), we define  
 191 the data covariance matrix as a diagonal matrix with the relative phase velocity uncertainties on  
 192 the diagonal ( $\mathbf{C}_d = \sigma_d \mathbf{I}$ ) and the model covariance matrix as:

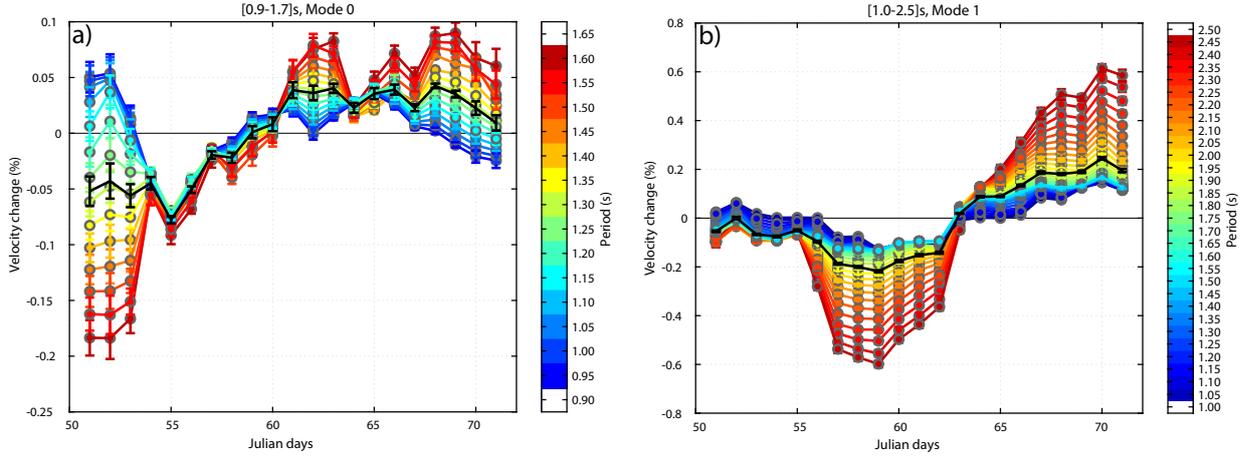
$$\mathbf{C}_m(i, j) = \sigma_m^2 \exp(-|z_i - z_j|/\lambda), \quad (11)$$

193 where  $\sigma_m = \gamma \bar{\sigma}_d$  is the model standard deviation ( $\gamma$  is a user-defined tuning factor and  $\bar{\sigma}_d$  is the  
 194 average of the data uncertainties),  $z_i$  and  $z_j$  are the depths at the top of the  $i^{th}$  and  $j^{th}$  layers, and  $\lambda$   
 195 is a correlation length along depth. The parameters  $\gamma$  and  $\lambda$  are defined through a systematic grid-  
 196 search of the data residual evolution with respect to  $\gamma$  and  $\lambda$  trial values, using a L-curve criterion  
 197 (Hansen & OLeary 1993). The depth distribution of the shear-wave perturbations is obtained by  
 198 solving the following system

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_d^{-1} \mathbf{K} \\ \mathbf{C}_m^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \frac{\delta \boldsymbol{\beta}}{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_d^{-1} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \frac{\delta \mathbf{C}}{\mathbf{C}}.$$

## 199 4 RESULTS

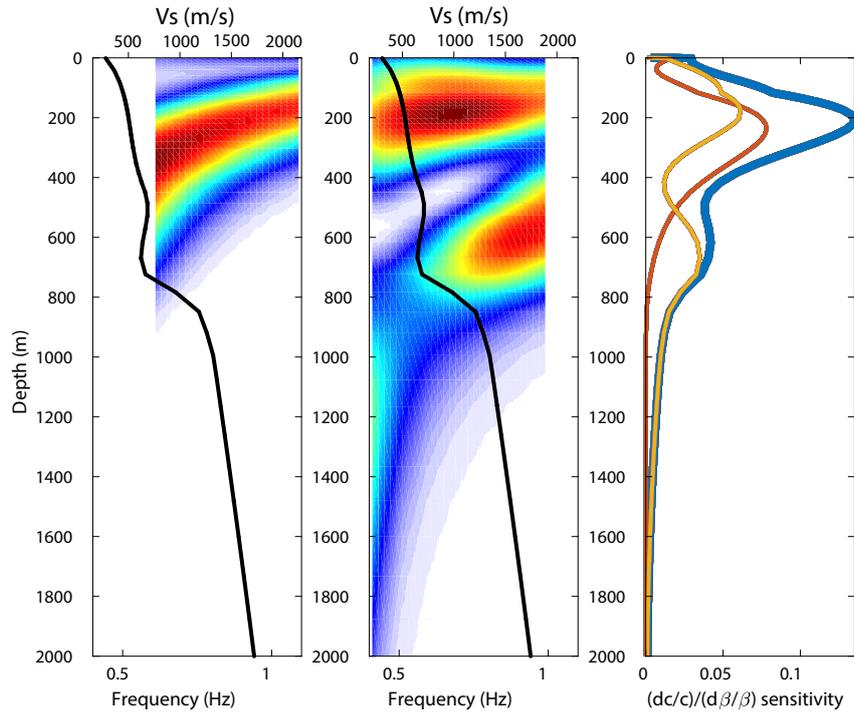
200 The fundamental mode is analysed in the [0.6 - 1.1] Hz frequency band and the first overtone in  
 201 the [0.4 - 1.0] Hz frequency band, where most of their energy is concentrated (Fig. 2b). The funda-  
 202 mental mode exhibit large amplitudes at frequencies lower than 0.5 Hz (Chmiel et al. 2019) but at  
 203 these frequencies, the wavelengths become large compared to the size of the array which impedes  
 204 the measurement of the time shift and reduces the distance range on which the linear regression  
 205 can be performed. As shown in Figure 4, the time-shifts data do not exhibit a linear trend for the  
 206 whole range of distances. At long distances, the  $\delta t_i^m(x)$  measurements strongly oscillate (starting  
 207 around 6.5-7 km) because of the lower signal to noise ratio of the stacked correlations which are  
 208 much less numerous for these ranges. At short distance, we also observe rapid oscillations of the



**Figure 5.** left) Daily, period-dependant relative phase velocity changes for the fundamental mode. right) Daily, period-dependant relative phase velocity changes for the first overtone. Note the difference in amplitude between the two modes. The black curves are obtained by averaging the time-shifts  $\delta t_i^m(f, x)$  over the frequencies before performing the linear regression (shown in Fig.4).

209 time-shifts for both fundamental mode and overtone. However, the fundamental mode measure-  
 210 ments (red dots in Fig. 4) seems to stabilize at shorter distance ( $\sim 2$  km) than the overtone ( $\sim 4.5$   
 211 km). We hypothesize that this effect is a consequence of performing the time-shift measurements  
 212 on waves in the near field where wave interference may occur. The dominant frequencies of 0.8  
 213 Hz and 0.6 Hz give wavelengths on the order of  $\sim 600$  m and  $\sim 1400$  m for the fundamental mode  
 214 and the first overtone, respectively. The measurements are therefore stabilizing around three wave-  
 215 lengths for both phases, a distance at which the near-field effects become negligible. We chose to  
 216 perform the linear regressions along the distances corresponding to three to seven wavelengths. In  
 217 the case of the overtone, seven wavelengths correspond to a distance larger than 7 km, we there-  
 218 fore restrict the maximum distance for this phase at 7 km. Extending the linear regression for the  
 219 fundamental mode to 7 km would slightly change the estimated values of  $\delta C_i^0/C^0$  but has little  
 220 effect on the final estimation of the depth and amplitude of the shear-velocity changes.

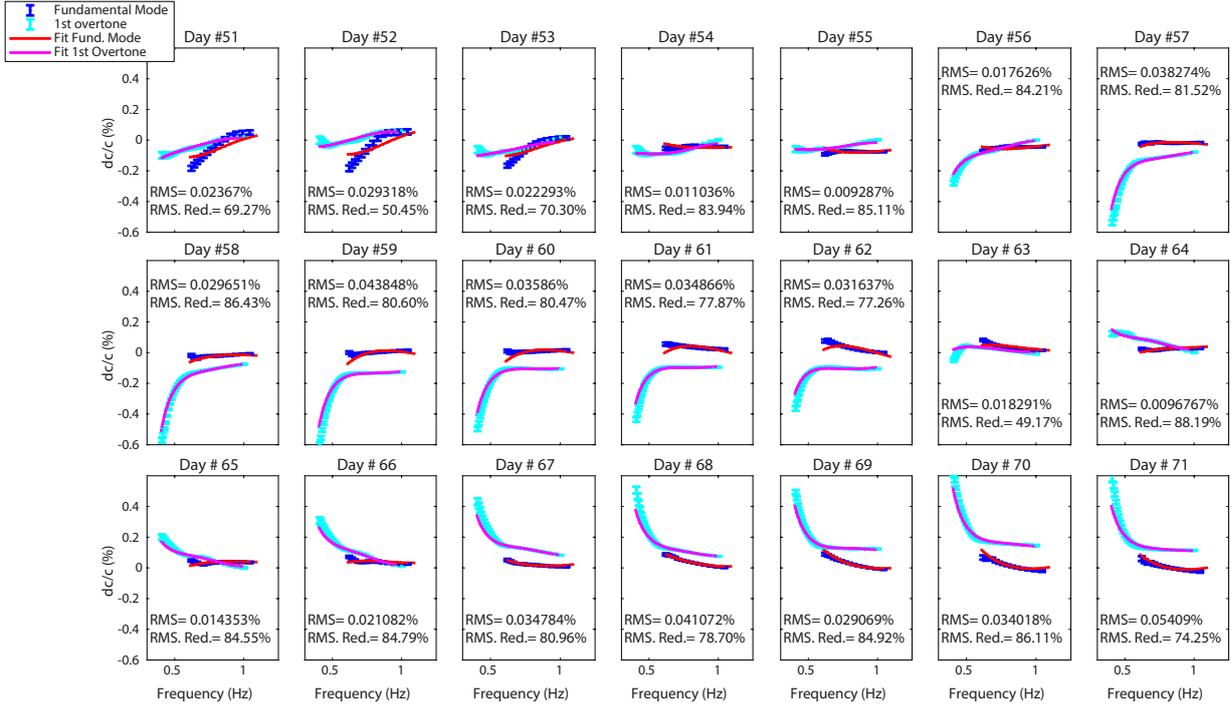
221 Figure 5 shows the temporal variations of phase velocity for the two modes at different frequen-  
 222 cies. Except for the three first days, the fundamental mode exhibit variations smaller than  $\pm 0.1\%$   
 223 at all frequencies. In general, lower frequencies show larger velocity changes which suggests that  
 224 the changes are happening deeper in the subsurface rather than shallower. This is confirmed by the  
 225 shape of the depth sensitivity kernels for the fundamental mode (Fig. 6). In contrast, the overtone



**Figure 6.** Depth sensitivity kernels for relative perturbations in shear-wave velocity with respect to relative perturbations in phase velocity for the fundamental mode (left) and the first overtone (middle). The right panel shows the frequency-averaged kernels (fundamental mode in red, first overtone in yellow) and their sum (in blue) showing the total extent of depth sensitivity when combining the two modes. The (normalized) shear-wave velocity model used for the computation is shown by the black curves.

226 exhibits much larger temporal variations with amplitudes up to 0.6% at low frequency. For these  
 227 frequencies lower than 0.5 Hz (above 2 s of period), the sensitivity of the overtone displays two  
 228 maxima: a large amplitude one around 200 m depth and a lower amplitude one below 1000 m  
 229 depth. The shallow sensitivity region overlaps with the sensitivity of the fundamental mode. The  
 230 fact that the fundamental mode shows only small variations suggests that the large variations de-  
 231 tected by the first overtone at low frequency are located deep in the subsurface.

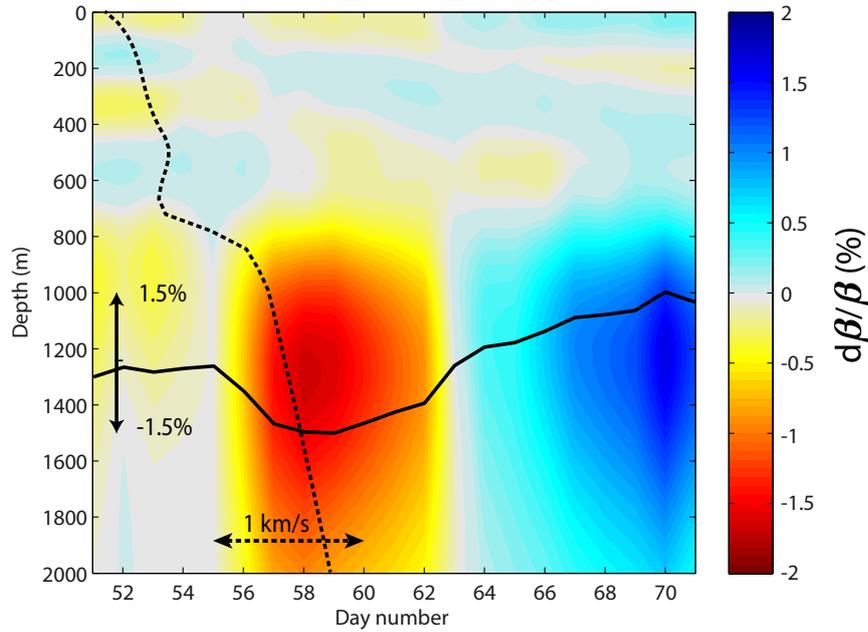
232 These observations are confirmed by the joint inversion of the differential phase dispersion  
 233 curves (Fig. 7). We used  $\gamma = 100$  and  $\lambda = 250m$  as smoothing and damping parameters. The  
 234 median misfit reduction for the whole time period is 81%. The fit to the data is good for every day  
 235 meaning that we manage to find a model of relative shear-wave velocity change at depth that is  
 236 consistent with both fundamental mode and first overtone daily observations. From Figure 7, we  
 237 can see that the overtone data at low frequency explain most of the variance of the model. The final



**Figure 7.** Daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the fundamental mode and the first overtone with their uncertainties (blue and cyan curves, respectively). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in red and magenta for the fundamental mode and the first overtone, respectively. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.

time-lapse results (Fig. 8) indeed show that the largest shear-wave variations (reaching  $\pm 1.5\%$ ) are located below 800 m in the faster layer of the Chalk Group formation, while smaller variations are observed in the shallower North Sea Group sediments (Fig. 9 Kruiver et al. 2017; Chmiel et al. 2019). The decrease of the amplitude below 1600 m is mostly due to the disappearance of the sensitivity of the first overtone at these depths and we cannot rule out large velocity changes deeper in the subsurface.

Velocity variations in the near-surface are shown in Figure 9 with a different color scale to highlight the finer details. The shallow time-lapse results show variations on the order of  $\pm 0.2\%$  in the near surface ( $\sim 50$  m depth) with a large decrease of velocity between day 51 and day 55 followed by a slow recovery until the end of the studied period. The velocity decrease propagates deeper and deeper at depth along the 20 days of record with an apparent vertical velocity of about 10 m/d.

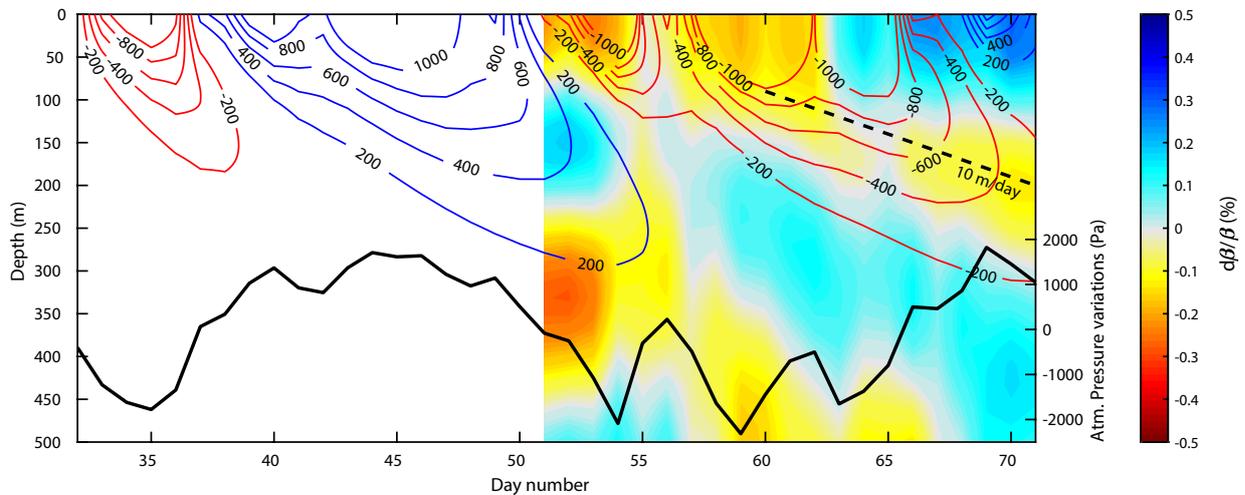


**Figure 8.** Depth-dependent relative shear-wave changes obtained by jointly inverting the frequency-dependent relative phase velocity variations of the fundamental mode and the first overtone. The average velocity change between 1000 m and 1500 m is shown by the plain black curve. Most of the changes happen in the Chalk layer below 1000 m depth. The average  $V_s$  model of the area is shown in dotted black curve for reference with the scale denoted by the dotted arrows.

## 250 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

251 Ballistic wave travel-time from noise correlations are strongly sensitive to the noise sources distri-  
 252 bution and its azimuthal variations during the monitoring period. For the same dataset, Brenguier  
 253 et al. (2019) checked that the azimuthal variations of the noise could not induce travel-time un-  
 254 certainties larger than 0.5%. Moreover, the stacking procedure that we used is partly an azimuthal  
 255 stacking and therefore helps to reduce the noise sources influence on the phase-shift measure-  
 256 ments. The large velocity change that we observe below 1000 m cannot be explained by noise  
 257 sources biases alone. The amplitudes of the shallow variations are less strong and therefore could  
 258 be contaminated by potential sources effects. However, the depth migration of the velocity reduc-  
 259 tion cannot be caused by noise sources variability.

260 Noise sources static spatial distribution inhomogeneity also biases the amplitudes and phases  
 261 of both fundamental mode and first overtone; with a stronger effect on the first overtone (Kimman  
 262 & Trampert 2010). While this static effect has no influence on the monitoring measurements,



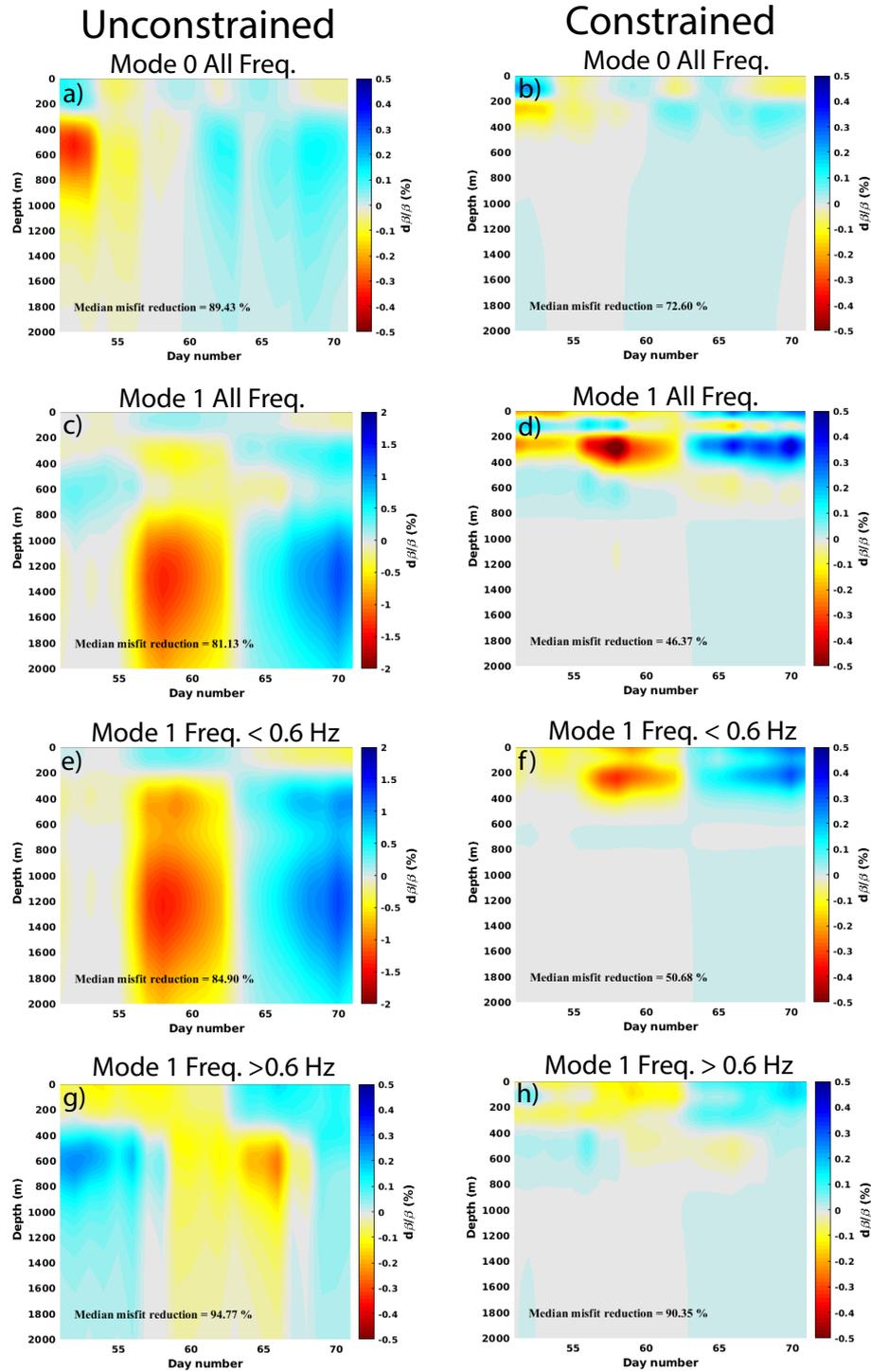
**Figure 9.** Near-surface depth-dependent relative shear-wave changes obtained by jointly inverting the frequency-dependent relative phase velocity variations of the fundamental mode and the first overtone. The velocity of 10 m/d, fitting the move-out of the velocity decrease is shown by the dotted line. The atmospheric pressure near the studied site is shown by the thick black line for the period of the study. The red contours correspond to effective pressure decrease, the blue contours correspond to effective-pressure increase.

263 because we are interested in relative changes, it may still induces an error on the inverted results.  
 264 The depth sensitivity kernels that we are using for the inversion (Fig. 6) assume true fundamental  
 265 and first overtone Rayleigh wave. Kimman & Trampert (2010) showed that the relative errors on  
 266 the first overtone can be up to few percent (less for the fundamental mode), meaning that the  
 267 kernels we use are off by a similar amount. This results in uncertainties on the depth location  
 268 and amplitude of the changes in the shallow part on the order of few meters and about 0.02%,  
 269 respectively.

270 To asses the sensitivity and the contribution of each dataset on the final result we perform a  
 271 set of tests by inverting separately the fundamental mode and the first overtone dispersion curves  
 272 (Fig. 10). In addition to these tests, we perform a second set of inversions by forcing the velocity  
 273 variations to be located only in the first 500 m of the subsurface. To do so, we add to the model  
 274 covariance matrix a damping of the velocity variations increasing exponentially with depth. The  
 275 parameter of the exponential decay is chosen so that the velocity changes vanish bellow 500 m  
 276 depth. For each of the eight tests, the misfit reduction, indicating the quality of the fit to the data

277 and the amount of data explained by the model is shown in each panel of Figure 10. The individual  
278 daily fits to the data are shown in Supplementary Material Figures S1 to S8. A first observation is  
279 that the results obtained in Figure 9 and in Figure 8 in a lesser extent can only be found by inverting  
280 jointly the fundamental mode and the first overtone data. Secondly, although the first overtone has  
281 shallow sensitivity at low frequency (Fig. 6), changes below 800 m depth are required to properly  
282 fit the low frequency data. Changes alone above 500 m cannot fit the low frequency part of the  
283 overtone dispersion curve. The high frequencies (above 0.6 Hz) of the overtone mostly constrain  
284 changes in the first 800 m of the subsurface. If only the low frequency part of the overtone data  
285 is taken into account, the deep velocity changes are smeared between 300 m and 2 km depth. It  
286 is only the combination of the full bandwidth of the fundamental mode and the first overtone that  
287 localizes the large velocity changes in the Chalk layer, below 800 m depth.

288 Observing large velocity variations in the Chalk layer and smaller variations in the Tertiary  
289 and Quaternary sediments is in good agreement with the observations made with ballistic P-wave  
290 on the same dataset (Brenquier et al. 2019). On one hand, the P-wave refracted at the top of the  
291 Chalk layer exhibits small variations during the first four days then its speed increases by  $\sim 1\%$   
292 on days 55-56 before stagnating or slightly decreasing during the rest of the analysed period. On  
293 the other hand, the direct P-wave, which is sampling the first 200 m of the subsurface, shows a  
294 small decrease of velocity of about  $-0.25\%$  during the first 12 days, then a  $0.1\%$  recovery. The  
295 same pattern is observed with S-wave in the near-surface. It has to be noted that the reference used  
296 in the P-wave study and the current work are different. Therefore, only the variations of velocity  
297 changes and their relative amplitudes can be compared. In the Chalk layer, the anti-correlation  
298 between the S-wave and the P-wave velocity change, with similar amplitudes, could suggest a sat-  
299 uration effect (Fores et al. 2018). However, in the Netherlands it is most probable that the ground  
300 is fully saturated at these depths, ruling out this interpretation. Changes originating from deeper  
301 in the subsurface might be possible, but we do not have any other independent information from  
302 the exploitation of the gas field to confirm or infirm the deep nature of the observed changes in the  
303 Chalk layer. Tidal-induced strain variations can induce seismic velocity changes. However, such  
304 changes have been shown to be small and have mainly diurnal and semi-diurnal effects (Reasen-



**Figure 10.** Sensitivity tests. Inversion of a single mode, with and without constrain, for different frequency bands. The median misfit reduction over the 20 days of the study is shown at the bottom of the panels. A misfit reduction below 70% indicates a poor fit to the data. Note the different color scale for panels c) and e). The corresponding individual daily fits are shown in Fig. S1 to S8 of the Supplementary Material.

305 berg & Aki 1974; Yamamura et al. 2003; Mao et al. 2019a). Our observations do not exhibit such  
 306 a periodicity, neither in the deep part of our model nor in the near-surface. Longer periods (around  
 307 15 days) exist in the oceanic loading signal but we would expect the loading-induced strain to  
 308 affect the whole column of sediment and more particularly the less consolidated ones in the near-  
 309 surface, which is not what we observe. Another hypothesis is that the low frequency measurements  
 310 for the first overtone are biased by near-field effects which would produce an over-estimation of  
 311 the amplitude of velocity variations. However, the fact that the refracted P-wave (measured in the  
 312 far field) senses large changes indicates that the observed deep variations may be real.

313 One of the main factor that can influence the seismic velocities in a poroelastic medium is  
 314 variations of effective pressure. These variations can come from two sources in a environment such  
 315 as the one studied here: normal stress variations and pore pressure variations. The normal stress  
 316 variations can be induced by atmospheric pressure variations, while the pore pressure variations  
 317 can be induced by rainfalls. Large variations of shear velocity of few percent have already been  
 318 observed after strong rain events (e.g., Sens-Schönfelder & Wegler 2006; Miao et al. 2018; Viens  
 319 et al. 2018; James et al. 2019) even though the amount of decrease depends on the initial state  
 320 of the soil. During the monitoring period a rainfall event happened during days 51 to 54 with  
 321 40 mm of water (16 mm alone on day 54) following a 2 weeks period without rain. This strong  
 322 rain event induces an increase in pore pressure in the subsurface on the order of 10-100 Pa which  
 323 diffuses at depth with time. Atmospheric loading variations varying around  $\pm 2$  kPa (Fig. 9) are  
 324 accompanying the rain falls (KNMI 2019). We use the model of Roeloffs (1988), extended by  
 325 Talwani et al. (2007) to model the diffusion of effective pressure variations at depth, given loading  
 326 variations at the surface from the rain and the atmospheric pressure. The excess pressure  $P(t, r)$   
 327 at time  $t$  and depth  $r$  is given by:

$$P_i(t, r) = \sum_i^n \delta p_i \operatorname{erfc} \left[ \frac{r}{\sqrt{4c(n-i)\delta t}} \right], \quad (12)$$

328 where  $\delta p_i$  is the relative load variation for the day  $i$ ,  $c$  is the hydraulic diffusivity,  $n$  the number  
 329 of days from the beginning of the record and up to time  $t$ ,  $\delta t$  the time increment and  $\operatorname{erfc}$  is  
 330 the complementary error function. The hydraulic diffusivity is a free parameter and we chose

331  $c = 0.02m^2/s$  in order to fit the move-out of the shear-wave velocity decrease (Fig. 9). The values  
 332 obtained for the hydraulic diffusivity ( $2 \cdot 10^{-2}m^2/s$ ) and conductivity ( $10m/d$ ) are consistent with  
 333 the geology of the quaternary deposits in the subsurface (TNO 2019). Moreover, a variation in  
 334 effective pressure is consistent with the discrepancy in velocity variations amplitude between  $V_p$   
 335 and  $V_s$ ,  $V_p$  being less sensitive to effective pressure changes than  $V_s$  in unconsolidated sediments  
 336 (e.g. Zimmer et al. 2002).

337 The maximum change in pore-pressure is about 1 kPa near the surface and decays at depth and  
 338 in time to about 0.4 kPa at the end of the monitoring period at about 200 m depth. (Fig. 9). Kruiver  
 339 et al. (2017) propose a relationship between the shear velocity ( $\beta$ ) and the confining stress ( $\sigma_0$ ) of  
 340 the form

$$\beta = \beta_0 \left( \frac{\sigma_0}{P_0} \right)^\gamma, \quad (13)$$

341 where  $\beta_0$  is the shear-wave velocity at the surface,  $P_0$  is the atmospheric pressure and  $\gamma$  is an  
 342 exponent depending on the geology. Given the local variability in the parameters  $180m/s < \beta_0 <$   
 343  $270m/s$  and  $0.1 < \gamma < 0.43$  (Kruiver et al. 2017), we can estimate the sensitivity of  $\beta$  to changes  
 344 in effective pressure  $P_e$ ,  $8 \cdot 10^{-5} < d\beta/dP_e < 5 \cdot 10^{-4}$  and the range of expected  $d\beta/\beta$  with

$$\frac{d\beta}{\beta} = \frac{d\beta}{dP_e} \frac{dP_e}{\beta}. \quad (14)$$

345 Taking  $\beta = 350$  m/s at 50 m depth, an effective pressure of 300 kPa (assuming a soil density of  
 346  $1600$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>) and a variation of effective pressure of 1 kPa, we obtain values of  $d\beta/\beta$  ranging from  
 347 0.02% to 0.15%. This indicate that our results are in good agreement with the upper ranges of  $\beta_0$   
 348 and  $\gamma$ .

349 One of the main limitation of this new passive monitoring approach is the need for dense  
 350 seismic arrays with a relatively large aperture to be able to perform a robust linear regression of  
 351 the time-shifts along the offsets. Although such dense arrays are more and more common (e.g.,  
 352 Mordret et al. 2014b; Nakata et al. 2015; Ben-Zion et al. 2015), one would ideally like to perform  
 353 the monitoring measurements on signals from a single pair of stations. One could therefore take

354 advantage of sparse, but permanent or long-term seismic networks, the same way they are used for  
 355 CWI. This will lead to purely passive 4D seismic tomography studies, which will be the logical  
 356 next step from the present analysis. It can be done because we can always measure the time-  
 357 shift between 2 non-synchronous correlations from the same station pair using Equation 6. The  
 358 methodology to measure this time-shift is described in detail by (Mao et al. 2019b). The relative  
 359 (phase) velocity variation can then be estimated with

$$\frac{\delta v}{v_0} = -v_0 \frac{\delta t}{D}. \quad (15)$$

360 Here,  $v_0$  is the phase velocity of the considered (ballistic) wave and  $D$  corresponds to the inter-  
 361 station distance. However, without the averaging scheme presented in this paper, the ballistic waves  
 362 can be strongly sensitive to variations in the seismic noise sources positions and properties which  
 363 can mask the changes of interest in the subsurface.

364 We present in this study a novel approach to monitor the seismic velocity temporal changes  
 365 using ambient noise correlations. Instead of measuring delays in the coda part of single pair of  
 366 stations seismograms, we evaluate the time-shift of the ballistic Rayleigh waves, retrieved from  
 367 a dense seismic network, as a function of the propagation distance, to get the relative veloc-  
 368 ity changes. Using a wavelet-transform processing, we are able to extract frequency-dependent  
 369 time-shifts for different modes. This enables us to invert the corresponding differential dispersion  
 370 curves into 1D depth-dependent relative shear-wave velocity variation profiles. The information  
 371 from two different Rayleigh wave modes helps to constrain the location of the changes at depth.  
 372 The observed shallow temporal velocity changes, reaching  $\pm 0.2\%$ , are caused by a decrease of  
 373 effective pressure diffusing in the ground following heavy rainfalls. This method, generalized to  
 374 any ballistic waves (Brenquier et al. 2019), paves the way to high temporal and spatial resolution  
 375 monitoring studies and make passive time-lapse tomography of dynamic geological targets, such  
 376 as volcano magma chambers, active tectonic faults or industrially exploited reservoirs, possible.

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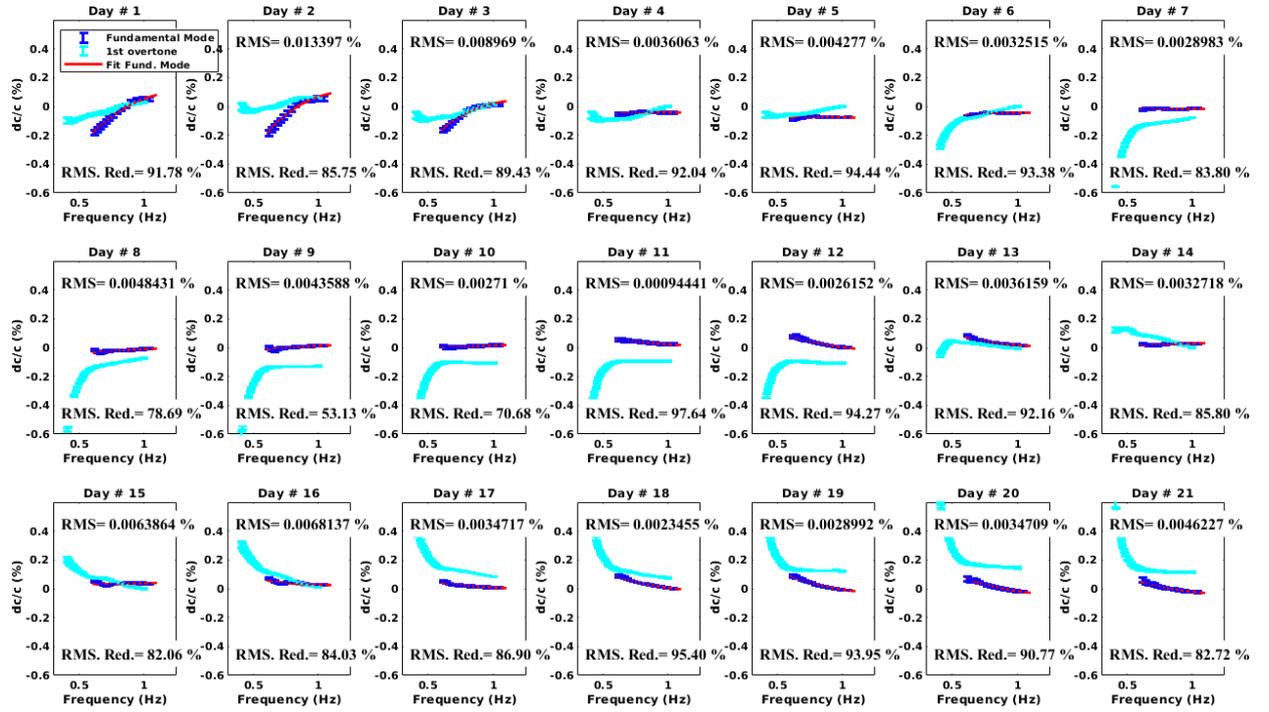
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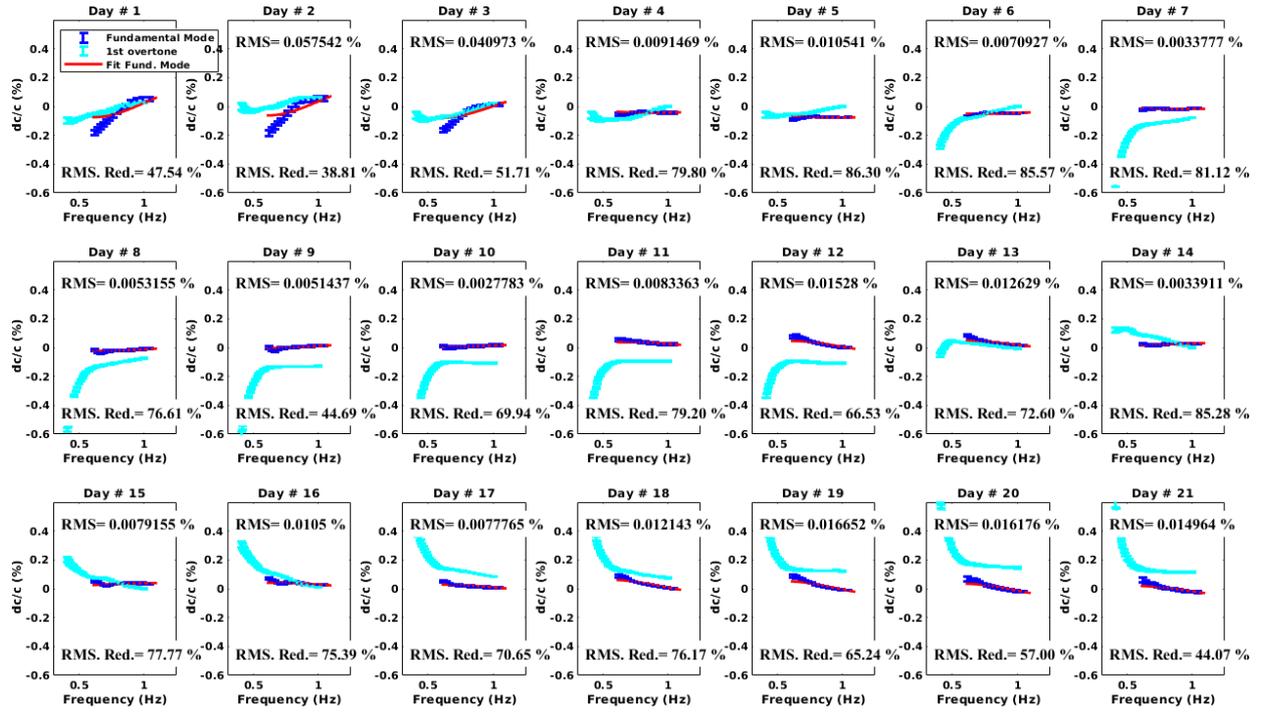
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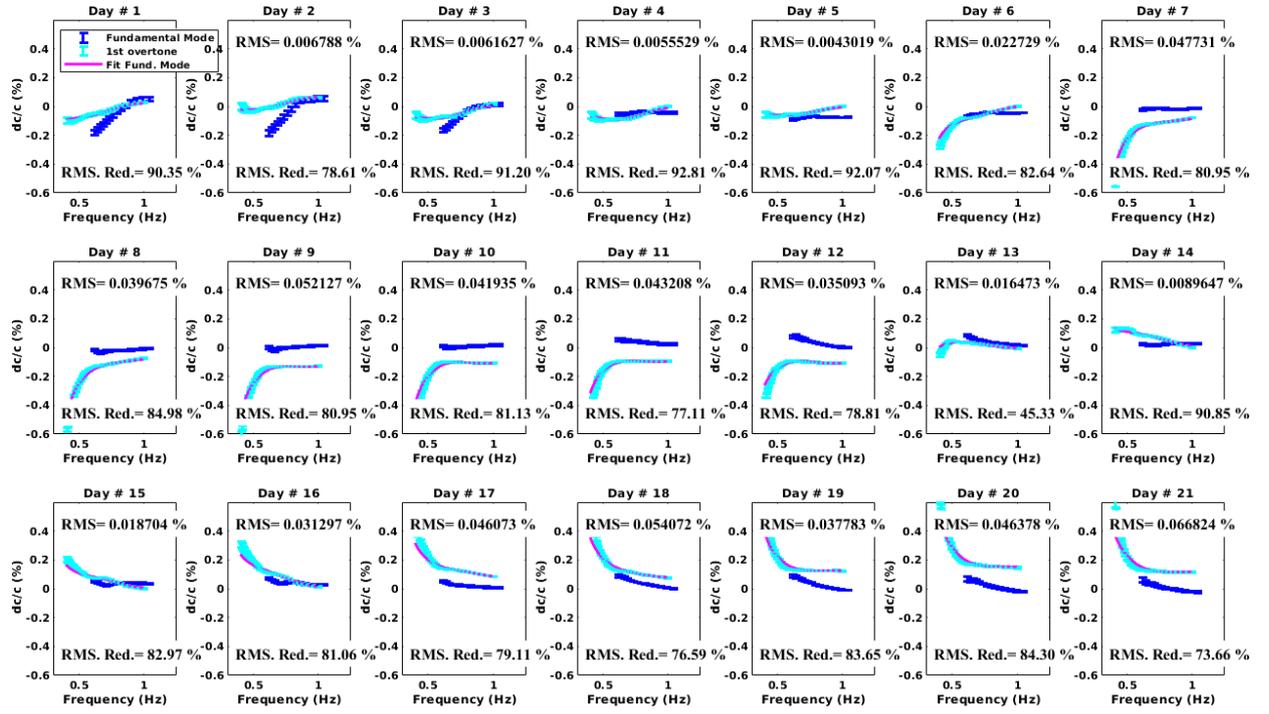
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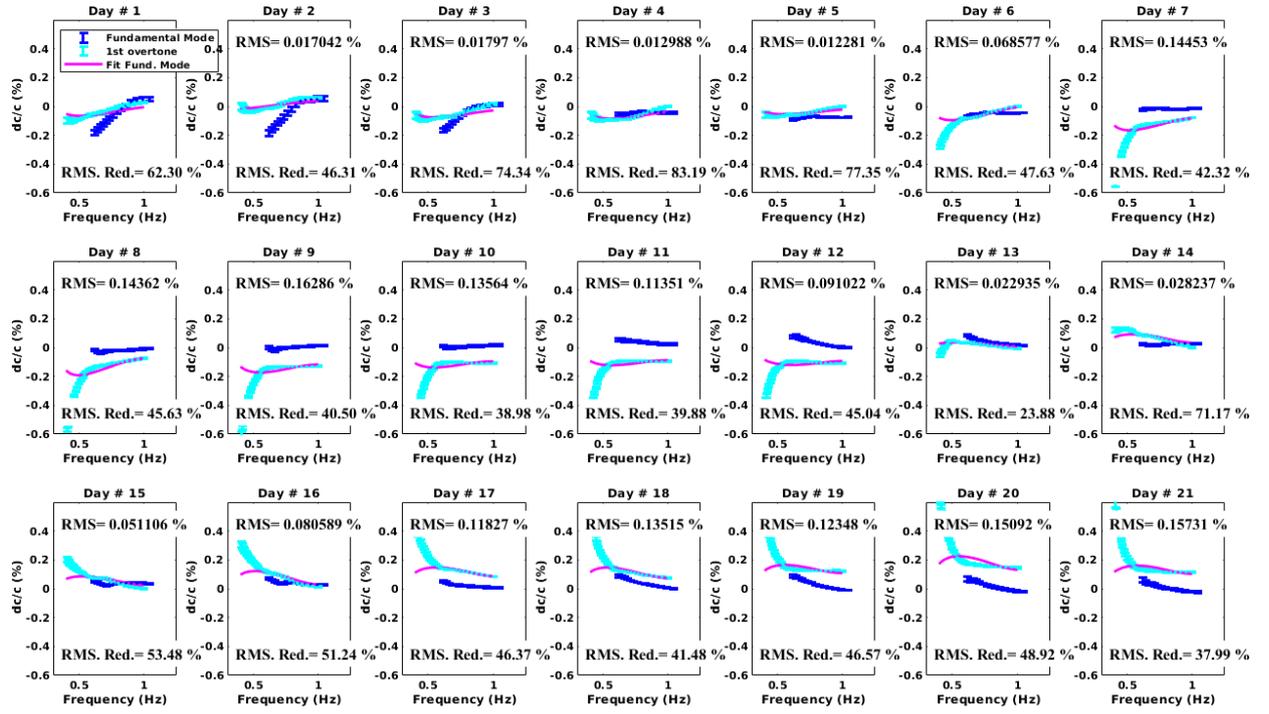
**Figure S1.** Unconstrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the fundamental mode (blue curve, the first overtone curve in cyan is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in red. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



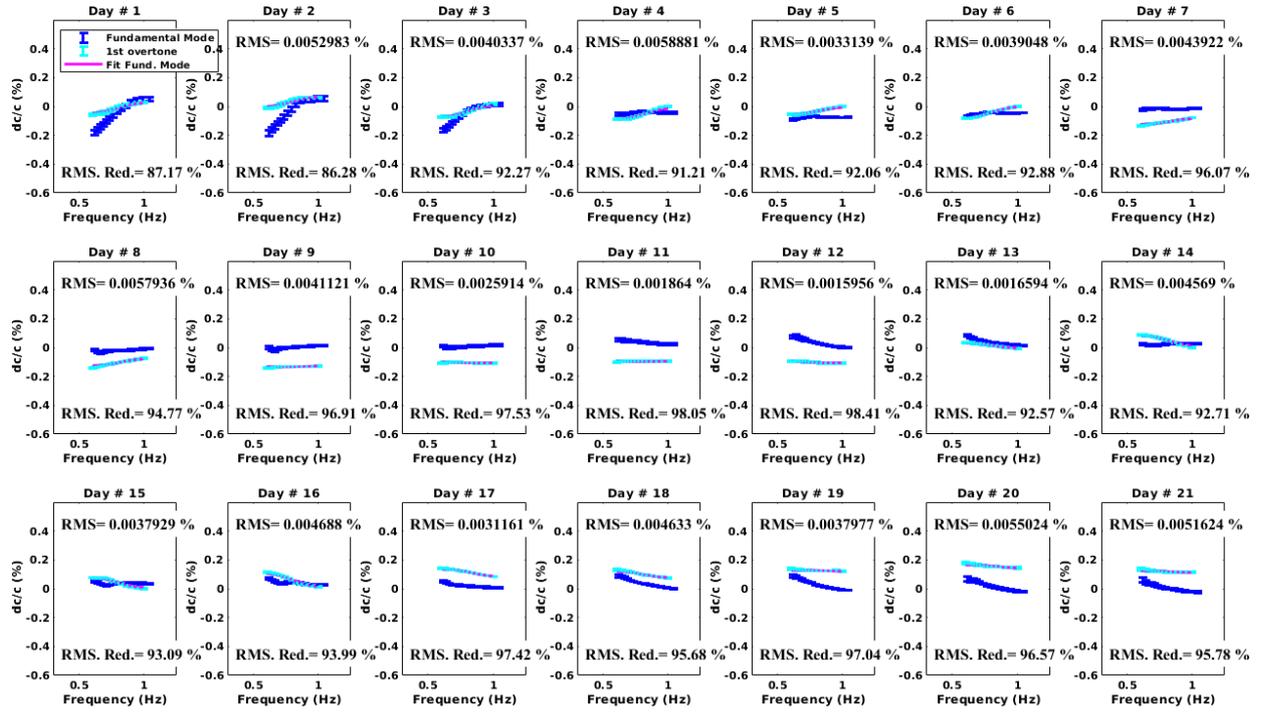
**Figure S2.** Constrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the fundamental mode (blue curve, the first overtone curve in cyan is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in red. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



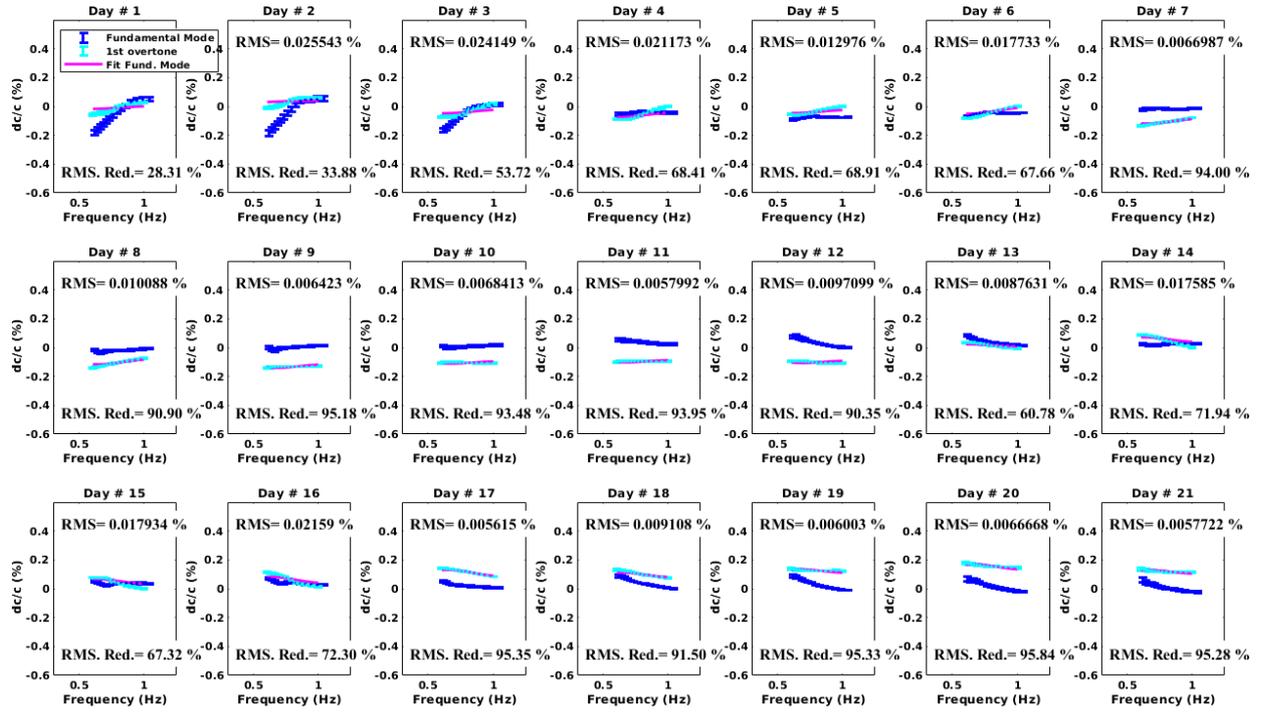
**Figure S3.** Unconstrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the full frequency band first overtone (cyan curve, the fundamental mode curve in blue is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in magenta. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



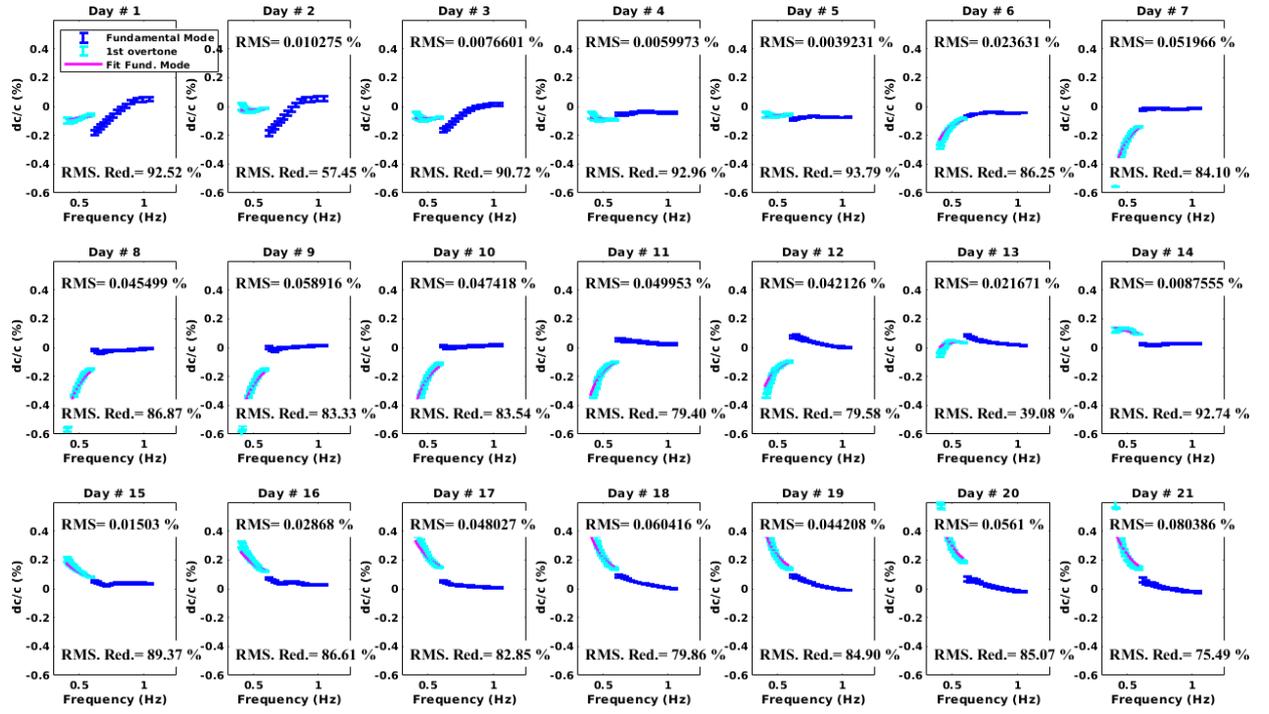
**Figure S4.** Constrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the full frequency band first overtone (cyan curve, the fundamental mode curve in blue is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in magenta. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



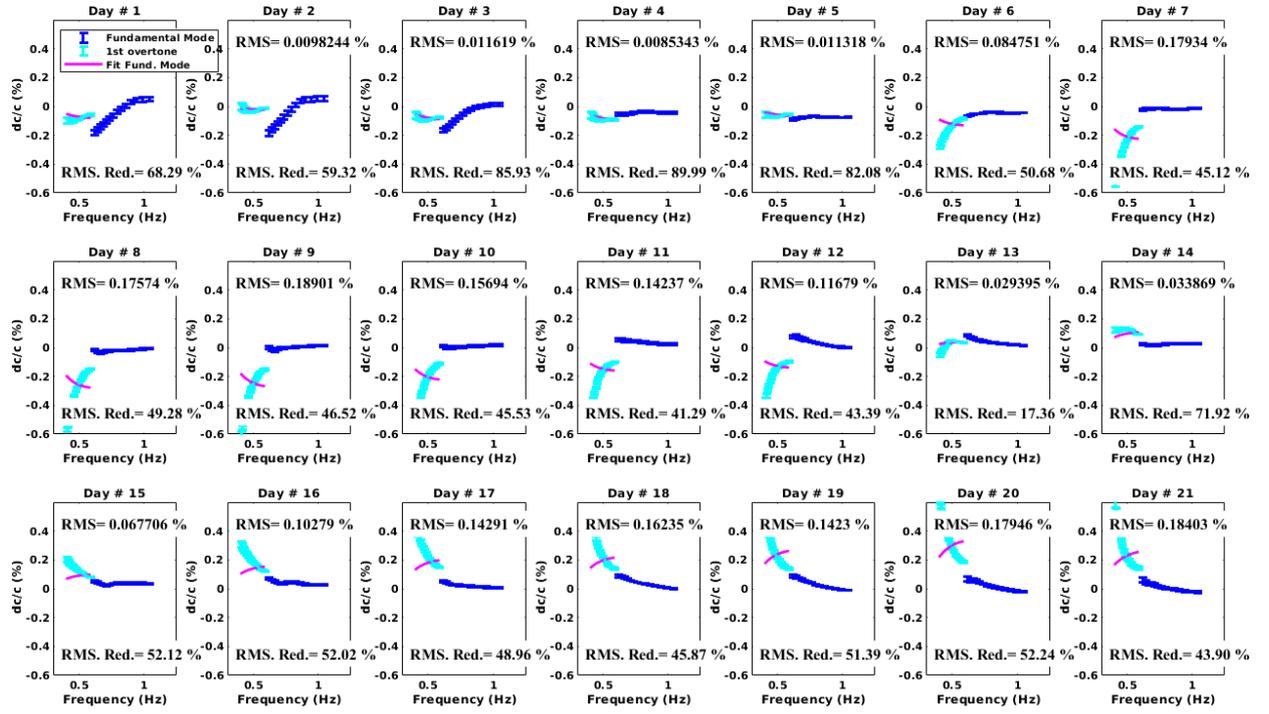
**Figure S5.** Unconstrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the first overtone for frequencies  $> 0.6$  Hz (cyan curve, the fundamental mode curve in blue is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in magenta. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



**Figure S6.** Constrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the first overtone for frequencies  $> 0.6$  Hz (cyan curve, the fundamental mode curve in blue is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in magenta. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



**Figure S7.** Unconstrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the first overtone for frequencies  $< 0.6$  Hz (cyan curve, the fundamental mode curve in blue is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in magenta. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.



**Figure S8.** Constrained inversion: daily differential phase velocity dispersion curves for the first overtone for frequencies  $< 0.6$  Hz (cyan curve, the fundamental mode curve in blue is shown for reference). The fit to the data after inversion is shown by the inverted dispersion curves in magenta. The daily misfit value as well as the misfit reduction from  $\delta C/C = 0$  are shown in each panel.