

Hundred-year advances in volcano seismology and acoustics ¹Diana C. Roman, ²Robin S. Matoza ¹Carnegie Science; ²University of California, Santa Barbara

image: R. Krimmel



- Well-established that volcanic eruptions are preceded by earthquakes (e.g., Scrope [1825])
- Some recognition of different 'classes' of volcanoseismic events (e.g., Omori [1912], Jaggar [1920])
- Recognition of need to record volcano-seismic events on multiple instruments (e.g., Cross [1920])

Volcano Seismology in 1919



Volcano Seismology in 1919



Mechanism of volcanic earthquakes:

"...a seismic disturbance...**due to the direct action of the volcanic force**, or one whose origin lies under, or in the immediate vicinity of a volcano, whether active, dormant, or extinct."

Omori [1912]

Volcano Seismology in 1919



Frg. 2.—Cracks two feet wide, looking southwest toward Kapoho village. About April 24, 1924. Photo by Tai Sing Loo.

Photo from Jaggar and Finch [1924]

Mechanism of volcanic earthquakes:

"Local earthquakes and tremors may be caused variously, but the centers are more or less **fixed rift surfaces at points of maximum friction**.... Where so-called tectonic control ends and magmatic thrust begins, are matters as yet rather of philosophy than of measurement."

Jaggar [1920]

Expansion of Permanent Seismic Networks





36 years earlier...





Symons [1888]

Scott [1883]

Krakatoa 1883; VEI 6

• 1883 August 27 VEI 6 eruption of Krakatoa a major focus of scientific investigation (Royal Society collection); e.g., earliest work in volcano acoustics • Audible "canon-like" sounds documented by eyewitnesses at ~5,000 km





36 years earlier...

- Weather barographs (measuring atmospheric pressure) around the world record the blast wave from Krakatoa • Pressure waves observed globally on >50 weather Recording barometers barometers; low-frequency acoustic wave periods 100–200 min; 7 laps of the globe Krakatoa Scott [1883] http://www.hemswell-antiques.com/antiques/other-scientific-items/victorian-barograph-36676.html



Krakatoa 1883; VEI 6





36 years earlier...

- Weather barographs (measuring atmospheric pressure) around the world record the blast wave from Krakatoa
- Pressure waves observed globally on >50 weather barometers; low-frequency acoustic wave periods 100–200 min; 7 laps of the globe



gravity waves (e.g., 1963; Press and and Press 1967)

Krakatoa 1883; VEI 6

- Development of theory to explain these acoustic-

 - LeConte 1884; Lamb
 - 1911; *Taylor* 1929, 1936;
- Pekeris 1939; Pierce
- *Harkrider* 1962, 1966;
- Harkrider 1964; Harkrider

Scott [1883]







- e.g., Luigi Palmieri 1856 "continuous tremor" at Vesuvius
- Omori [1912]: "The eruptions and earthquakes of the Asama-Yama"
- Omori's two-component horizontal pendulum seismograph "tromometer" was the basis of the Bosch-Omori seismograph, later deployed worldwide



Fig. 2. A small Eruption of the Asama-yama, on Dec. 23rd, 1911, at 10.23 am, seen due southwards from the vicinity of the Kamahara-mura at the north base of the mountain. (F. Omori, photo.)

Omori [1912]

Member of the Imperial Earthquake Investigation Committee.

Early work in volcano seismology



A Portable Two-component Horizontal Tremor Recorder.

THE ERUPTIONS AND EARTHQUAKES OF THE ASAMA-YAMA.⁽¹⁾

By

F. OMORI, Sc. D.,

Fig. 49. Tromometer Observation at Ashino-taira, on the Asama-yama: Diagrams of a Volcanic Earthquake not accompanying an Eruption. Asama-yama Earthquake of Feb. 22nd, 1911; 11.47.04 pm.

Longitudinal Vibration.



Transverse Vibration.







30 Second



Sound-area is shaded red (thin). Ash-area " (deep). Wind Direction at the time of Eruption is indicated by a red arrow. Places where Detonation was perceived are indicated by red dots.



Early work in volcano acoustics

1912

- Omori [1912] used
 - seismometers and
 - barometers to
 - discriminate seismic
 - signals from airborne
 - explosions
 - ("detonations") and
- non-explosion
- earthquakes at Mount
- Asama, Japan



Sound-area is shaded red (thin). , (deep). Ash-area Wind Direction at the time of Eruption is indicated by a red arrow. Places where Detonation was perceived are indicated by red dots.



Early work in volcano acoustics

1906–1943

 Pioneering seismic and acoustic work by Frank Perret at Vesuvius, Etna, Stromboli, Kilauea, Sakurajima, Pelee, Montserrat using moving-coil microphones (audible acoustic signals)

1912

• Omori [1912] used seismometers and barometers to discriminate seismic signals from airborne explosions ("detonations") and non-explosion earthquakes at Mount

Asama, Japan



FIG. 71. Flashing arcs at Vesuvius as they would appear if caught by the camera. The edge of a spherical sound wave made visible by reflection and refraction (pages 81-82).





- Volcano seismology and acoustics are highly observational fields
- What you see depends on instrumentation
- 1919–2019 major advances in:
 - Bandwidth (frequency range) of signals captured
 - Portability and ruggedness of instrumentation, telemetry
 - Computer revolution: Efficiency with which data can be processed and stored









e.g., Kilauea Iki, 1976

- **1970s:** limited portability
 - Installing and maintaining seismic equipment highly laborious
 - e.g., 4 miles of military grade Spiral-4 cable. Spiral-4 came in spools weighing 100 pound each; 40 were used.
 - Data stored on paper, digitized by hand to punch cards



Fig. 2. Amplitude-frequency response (chart recorder trace to ground displacement amplitude ratio) of the portable seismograph used in the 1976 survey of seismic activity in Kilauea Iki. We used a drum-recording Sprengnether model MEQ-800 instrument with a vertical L-4C geophone as sensor.

Instrumentation changes 1919–2019



shown are minute marks

Sprengnether MEQ-800 smoke drum recorder with L-4C geophone

Chouet, B. (1979), Sources of seismic events in the cooling lava lake of Kilauea Iki, Hawaii, J. Geophys. Res., 84(B5), 2315-2330, doi:10.1029/ JB084iB05p02315.





e.g., Mount St. Helens 1980–1986

- **1980s:** beginning of digital data capture and storage
 - e.g., Fehler (1983) a prototype 12-bit recorder designed and built at MIT primarily for ocean bottom deployment.
 - Records long-period (LP) **0.5–5 Hz** seismicity and tremor at Mount St. Helens



Fig. 1. Frequency response of digital event recorder system used to record volcanic tremor data at Mount St. Helens. Figure shows response of instrument to ground displacement when instrument is at maximum gain. Absolute response varies from event to event because of automatic gain control feature of the instrument.

Fehler, M. (1983), Observations of volcanic tremor at Mount St. Helens Volcano, J. Geophys. Res., 88(B4), 3476- 3484, doi: 10.1029/JB088iB04p03476.

Instrumentation changes 1919–2019















Mount St. Helens 1980

Mount St. Helens, May 18, 1980, Station CPW, 70 miles to the northwest



Instrumentation changes 1919–2019

Pinatubo 1991









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Sakurajima Kawakatsu et al. [1992]

EXPLOSION



T explosion

Stromboli Neuberg et a



Instrumentation changes 1919–2019

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- **1990s:** the advent of (portable) broadband seismometry at volcanoes
- Led to discoveries of new signals: Very-Long-Period (VLP) 0.01–0.5 Hz and Ultra-Long-Period (ULP) <0.01 Hz



Kaneshima et al. [1996]









Dec. 17, 1994 13:53





Sakurajima; Sakai et al. [1996]

- E(MIC) ----- 0.40 Pa
- **1990s:** first deployments of infrasound sensors at volcanoes





- Increasing seismic network density
- **1990s:** transition from event-triggered to continuous digital waveform data storage; analog to digital telemetry, etc.



Figure 3. Stations in December 1950.

Klein and Koyanagi [1980]



Figure from *Matoza et al.* [2019]



- The computer revolution enabled increasingly sophisticated data processing and source modeling, and facilitated the transition from event-triggered to continuous digital waveform recording by about the 1990s.
- The first deployments of broadband seismic instrumentation and infrasound sensors on volcanoes in the 1990s led to discoveries of new signals and phenomena.



Phreatic explosion, Mount St. Helens, 8 March 2005; recorded by a broadband seismometer and broadband infrasound array

Matoza et al. [2007]





Event Classification



Fig. 4. Comparison of frequency distribution of hypocentral depth for general earthquake, after-shock and volcanic earthquake of the A and B types.

Four classes of volcanic earthquakes: (location of foci, nature of motion)

- A-type (from a depth of 1-10 km, sometimes 20 km)
- B-type (originating in swarms from a shallow depth near the crater)
- Explosion earthquakes accompanying (causing!) explosive eruptions of the Vulcanian type
- Volcanic microtremors accompanying Strombolian eruptions

Minakami [1960]

Event Classification



Four classes of volcanic earthquakes: (location of foci, nature of motion)

- A-type (depths of 1-10 km, similar to shallow tectonic quakes, double-couple?)
- B-type (depths of < 1 km, small-magnitude, 1-5 Hz waveform, no clear S-phase, first-motion pattern unresolvable)
- Explosion earthquakes
- Volcanic tremors or pulsations

Minakami [1974]

Event Classification



Multiple classes of volcanic earthquakes:

- Volcano-Tectonic (VT), or high-frequency (HF) (=A-Type)
- Hybrid events
- Long-Period (LP), or low-frequency (LF) (=B-Type)
- Very-Long-Period (VLP)
- Explosion earthquakes
- Volcanic tremor

e.g., Lahr et al. [1994]



Figure from Di Franco [1928]

"I think the greater number of so-called volcanic earthquakes are due to tensioncracks. The pressure caused by upwelling lava must produce cracks, which the lava fills, and which appear later as radial dykes about partially disintegrated volcanoes. The strong but very limited earthquakes that occur on Mt. Etna often follow straight lines along which lava shortly afterwards pours out."

HF Reid [1929]

• Early evidence of double-couple mechanism for some (all?) A-type quakes



Minakami [1974]

 Earthquake swarms on mid-ocean ridges reflect the breakup and collapse of the central-rift valley floors due to a drop in pressure in the underlying magma chamber

> large scale fault. Earthquake swarm.



Filson et al. [1973], Francis [1974]

 'Hill mesh' hypothesis – swarms of volcanic earthquakes in transitional regions between spreading centers and transform faults occur on cracks connecting tips of en-echelon, fluid-filled fractures



Hill [1977]

• Evidence from Mt. St. Helens that post-eruptive earthquakes occurred in response to stresses from relaxation of emptied conduit



Barker and Malone [1991]

• VT source process/location depends on magma rheology



• Evidence for 'distal VT' seismicity due to stress transfer onto regional faults





Hurst et al. [2018]



• Propagating VT seismicity at base of laterally-intruding dike, Holuhraun 2014



Agustsdottir et al. [2016], Woods et al. [2019]

Volcano seismology: signal classification

Classification based on mechanism

1) Volcano-tectonic (VT)

- Shear/tensile failure in brittle solid
- e.g., intrusions, loading and deformation



Lahr et al. [1994]; Chouet [1996]

2) Long-period (LP) [0.5-5 Hz]

• Actively involve a fluid





Volcano seismology: signal classification

Classification based on mechanism

1) Volcano-tectonic (VT)

- Shear/tensile failure in brittle solid
- e.g., intrusions, loading and deformation



Lahr et al. [1994]; Chouet [1996]

- 2) Long-period (LP) [0.5-5 Hz]
 - Actively involve a fluid
 - Includes LP events and tremor





Mount St. Helens, May 18, 1980, Station CPW, 70 miles to the northwest



Volcanic tremor

Volcanic tremor a catch-all term for sustained seismic and acoustic signals associated with a wide range of volcanic activity

multifarious : many and of various types; having or occurring in great variety

- Harmonic
- Monotonic/monochromatic
- Spasmodic
- Eruption
- Banded
- Tremor storm

etc.? ...

e.g., Mcnutt [1992], Konstantinou and Schlindwein [2002]







Spasmodic tremor: irregular vibrations

Spasmodic vs. harmonic tremor

Jaggar/Omori: early 20th Century

Harmonic tremor: more rhythmic vibrations





Jaggar/Omori: early 20th Century

Spasmodic tremor: irregular vibrations









Spasmodic vs. harmonic tremor

Harmonic tremor: more rhythmic vibrations

FREQUENCY (HZ)





• Omer [1950] attributes tremor to a path effect: the reverberation of volcanic strata excited into motion by lava moving though feeding conduits.

VOLCANIC TREMOR*

(PART TWO: THE THEORY OF VOLCANIC TREMOR)

By GUY C. OMER, JR.

ABSTRACT

IT is proposed that volcanic tremor originates in the vibration of laminae which are partly freed by the differential tilting of the surface of the earth around a volcanic vent during an eruption. The topographic evidence around Kilauea caldera is examined and a probable range of the free vibrating lengths is determined. The various possible modes of vibration are considered and it is concluded that longitudinal vibration would best explain the observed seismograms.

about 115.

A. March 21, 1921. This is typical of the record when lava is high in Halemaumau. Some microseisms present. Record magnified 3 times.

B. May 8, 1924. Record when no lava is visible in Halemaumau but underground movement of lava in the Puna Rift probable. Magnified 2 times.

Finch [1949]; Omer [1950]

Volcanic tremor mechanisms

Fig. 1. Volcanic tremor as recorded on the Bosch-Omori seismograph, 2.1 miles from Halemaumau, with a static magnification of

momenter manual manual manual mound and many mound and a summer and 10 sec









- Shima [1958] and Kubotera [1974]: peaked tremor spectrum at Aso modeled as free oscillations of a spherical magma chamber
- Shimozuru [1961]: longitudinal resonance of a cylindrical magma column
- However, these early models required implausibly large dimensions for the resonating cavities
- e.g., *Kubotera* [1974] determined the source of 3.5–7 s period tremor at Mount Aso to be a resonating spherical magma chamber of 4–6 km radius.

Kubotera [1974] "Volcanic tremors at Aso Volcano"

Volcanic tremor mechanisms





Fig.2. Seismograms obtained at the volcanological laboratory.

LPs as the impulse response of the resonant tremor system



Waveform of a typical long-period earthquake recorded at Mount St. Helens in October 1980 (lower trace) races show the result when the waveform is filtered with a band pass filter. The passband of the filter is labeled Note that some of the filtered traces have been magnified compared to the original traces



- LPs merge into tremor

[e.g., Latter, 1979; Fehler, 1983; Neuberg, 2011; Hotovec et al., 2012]

Individual LP events (transients) and certain types of tremor are closely linked



Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat, February 12th 1997 [Neuberg et al., 2000]







Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat, 1997



LP events: repetitive waveforms

LP waveform families or multiplets

Redoubt 1989 NCT



Stephens and Chouet [2001]



Matoza et al. [2015]



LPs as the impulse response of the resonant tremor system



Fig. 10. Waveform of a tremor event and filtered traces.

LPs interpreted as the impulse response of a resonant tremor-generating system

Resonance of a fluid-filled conduit

JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 90, NO. B2, PAGES 1881-1893, FEBRUARY 10, 1985

Excitation of a Buried Magmatic Pipe: A Seismic Source Model for Volcanic Tremor

BERNARD CHOUET

U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California

Recent observations of seismic events at various volcanoes suggest that harmonic tremor results from the sustained occurrence of so-called long-period or low-frequency events. Accordingly, we can view the long-period volcanic event as the elementary process of tremor and interpret it as the impulse response of the tremor-generating system. We present a seismic model in which the source of tremor is the acoustic resonance of a fluid-filled volcanic pipe triggered by excess gas pressure. The model consists of three elements, namely, a triggering mechanism, a resonator, and a radiator.

Chouet [1985]



Fig. 1. Configuration of the source, medium, and receiver used in the computation of the ground motion produced by the excitation of a fluid-filled pipe. The composite source consists of a vertical conduit of radius R and length L capped by a hemisphere and shut by a horizontal disk at the bottom. The pipe is filled with a liquid while the hemispherical cap contains a gas. The depth to the pipe inlet is z_{1} , and the receiver is located at the epicentral distance r.

see also *Jousset et al.* [2003]; finite-difference solution of conduit resonance



LPs as the impulse response of the resonant tremor system



Fig. 9. Waveform of a typical long-period earthquake recorded at Mount St. Helens in October 1980 (lower trace). Upper traces show the result when the waveform is filtered with a band pass filter. The passband of the filter is labeled Note that some of the filtered traces have been magnified compared to the original traces

JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 93, NO. B5, PAGES 4375-4400, MAY 10, 1988

Resonance of a Fluid-Driven Crack: Radiation Properties and Implications for the Source of Long-Period Events and Harmonic Tremor

solid, L is the crack length, and d is the crack thickness.

SOURCE MECHANISM OF VOLCANIC TREMOR: FLUID-DRIVEN CRACK MODELS AND THEIR APPLICATION TO THE 1963 KILAUEA ERUPTION

KEIITI AKI, MIKE FEHLER and SHAMITA DAS

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. 02139 (U.S.A.)

(Received November 1, 1976; revised version accepted March 17, 1977)

Fig. 10. Waveform of a tremor event and filtered traces.

Resonance of a fluid-driven crack

BERNARD CHOUET

U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California

A dynamic source model is presented, in which a three-dimensional crack containing a viscous compressible fluid is excited into resonance by an impulsive pressure transient applied over a small area ΔS of the crack surface. The crack excitation depends critically on two dimensionless parameters called the crack stiffness, $C = (b/\mu)(L/d)$, and viscous damping loss, $F = (12\eta L)/(\rho_f d^2\alpha)$, where b is the bulk modulus, η is the viscosity, ρ_f is the density of the fluid, μ is the rigidity, α is the compressional velocity of the

Chouet [1988]

Aki, Fehler, and Das [1977]

Figure 1. Geometry of the crack model. L, W, and d are the length, width, and aperture of the crack, respectively; a is the sound speed of the fluid in the crack and α is the P wave velocity of the rock matrix, and ρ_f and ρ_s are the densities of the fluid and rock matrix, respectively. We use W/L = 0.5, $L/d = 10^4$, and a step increase in pressure applied at the center of the crack as the crack excitation throughout this study.

figure: *Kumagai and Chouet* [2000]

LPs: the fluid-driven crack model

• Bubbly magma, water, steam, dusty gas

LPs: the fluid-driven crack model

~100 m

"Crack waves" Solidfluid interface waves; fluid-filled crack in elastic solid

Chouet [1986, 1988, 1992]

Ferrazzini and Aki [1987]: analytic expressions of the crack waves, considering normal modes in a fluid layer sandwiched between two homogeneous half-spaces.

Figure from *Chouet and Matoza* [2013]

Resonant response

- · Fluid-filled crack or conduit
- Bubbly magma, water, steam, dusty gas

Ps: the fluid-driven crack model

~100 m

"Crack waves" Solidfluid interface waves; fluid-filled crack in elastic solid

Chouet [1986, 1988, 1992]

Ferrazzini and Aki [1987]: analytic expressions of the crack waves, considering normal modes in a fluid layer sandwiched between two homogeneous half-spaces.

Figure from *Chouet and Matoza* [2013]

Ps: the fluid-driven crack model

The trigger mechanism

- What excites the resonance?
- Impulsive trigger: discrete LP event
- Sustained trigger: tremor

LPs: trigger mechanism in magmatic-hydrothermal systems

Cyclic recharge-collapse of a hydrothermal crack

e.g., Kumagai et al. [2005]; Ohminato [2006]; Waite et al. [2008]; Matoza and Chouet [2010]; Maeda et al. [2013]

Solid extrusion, plug stick-slip

e.g., Iverson et al. [2006]; Harrington and Brodsky [2007]; Iverson [2008]; Kendrick et al. [2014]

Mount St. Helens 2004–2008 eruption

Cyclic recharge-collapse of a hydrothermal crack

e.g., Kumagai et al. [2005]; Ohminato [2006]; Waite et al. [2008]; Matoza and Chouet [2010]; Maeda et al. [2013]

- Brittle failure of melt in the glass transition

Tuffen et al. [2008]

Brittle failure of melt

• Multiplets: repeated fracture and heal or ascent through a depth-limited seismogenic window

Gas Aseismic Loss plug flow Seismogenic Window Thermal Boundary Layer

Neuberg et al. [2006]

Fig.8. The practical application of the 1960 formula to eruptions which took place in 1961, based on the daily frequency of B-type quakes. Arrows = eruptions; P = probability of eruption given from the 1960 formula; F_2 = seismic daily frequency of B-type quakes originating in Asama.

- Probability of eruptions based on the occurrence rate of B-type earthquakes (=explosion quakes)
- Increase in rate leads to increased probability of a B-type earthquake large enough to cause an explosion

Minakami [1960, 1974]

- Location and time of Tolbachik 1975 eruption forecast 3 days beforehand on the basis of epicenter locations
- Rapid deployment of additional seismometers for earthquake location

Tokarev [1978]

• Quantitative forecasting of eruption time at Mt. St. Helens based on event rate acceleration ('Failure Forecast Method')

Swanson et al. [1985], Cornelius and Voight [1994]

 Use of RSAM (Real-time Seismic Amplitude Measurement) for rapid assessment of eruption potential at Pinatubo (1991)

Harlow et al. [1996]

• Eruption forecasting without a local seismo-acoustic network at Bogoslof (2016-17)

Wech et al. [2018]

• Most volcanic earthquake swarms do not culminate in eruption

After Power et al. [2019]

• Full-eruption-cycle records are key to understanding volcanic seismicity

Mt. St. Helens earthquakes 1981-2017

W. Thelen (USGS/CVO), personal comm.

Chouet et al., [2010]

• Observationally constrained by increasingly dense geophysical and multi-parametric field deployments

State of the art and future trends

Yasur, Vanuatu 2016

Jolly et al., [2017]; Matoza et al. [2018]; lezzi et al. [in press]

Observationally constrained by increasingly dense geophysical and multi-parametric field deployments

State of the art and future trends

- 200

- 200

Yasur, Vanuatu 2016

YS: seismic; **YI**: infrasound Contour interval: 20 m

Jolly et al., [2017]; Matoza et al. [2018]; lezzi et al. [in press]

Observationally constrained by increasingly dense geophysical and multi-parametric field deployments

State of the art and future trends

- 200

- 200

Seismic data

• 11 broadband seismometers (Trillium Compact 120 s; Omnirecs DATA-CUBE digitizer)

Infrasound data

- 6 single infrasound sensors (Chaparral C60V)
- 7 small-aperture 3-element infrasound arrays
- 2 tethered balloon infrasound systems

Gas geochemistry data

- FTIR
- 2 scanning Flyspecs (SO₂)

Imaging data

- High-frame rate DSLR
- UAV DJI Phantom
- Go-Pro cameras
- FLIR (infrared)

Geologic samples

Scoria and ash samples for petrologic analysis

Jolly et al., [2017]; Matoza et al. [2018]; lezzi et al. [in press]

Infrasonic jet noise from volcanic eruptions

Matoza et al. [2009, 2013]; Fee et al. [2013]; Taddeucci et al. [2014]; Matoza and Fee [2018]

Infrasonic jet noise from volcanic eruptions

Matoza et al. [2009, 2013]; Fee et al. [2013]; Taddeucci et al. [2014]; Matoza and Fee [2018]

- Large *N* and nodal deployments
- Improved knowledge of shallow subsurface velocity structure at volcanoes (upper 500 m, within edifice)
- Resolve controversies about source vs. path effects
- Better constrained full-waveform inversion of smaller and higher frequency sources

Goldstein and Chouet [1994]

- volcanic fluid systems
- Observationally constrained by increasingly dense geophysical and multi-parametric field deployments, which, e.g., enable full seismic and acoustic waveform inversions
- The fields of volcano geodesy, seismology, and acoustics are now merging to track processes on a continuum of spatial and temporal scales in the ground and atmosphere
- Despite vast progress over the past century, major questions remain regarding source processes, patterns of volcano-seismic unrest, internal volcanic structure, and the relationship between seismic unrest and volcanic processes

State of the art and future trends

• Laboratory and numerical experiments are elucidating seismo-acoustic source processes in

- More seismic and acoustic sensors on more volcanoes worldwide
- Steady expansion of operational regional and global volcano-acoustic monitoring systems

State of the art and future trends

Potentially active volcanoes [Siebert and Simkin, 2002-] IMS infrasound network

Matoza et al. [2017]

