Global water level variability observed after the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic tsunami of 2022

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Abstract The eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano on Jan 15th of 2022 provided a rare opportunity to understand global tsunami impacts of explosive volcanism and to evaluate future hazards, including dangers from "volcanic meteotsunamis" (VMTs) induced by the atmospheric shock waves which followed the eruption. The propagation of the volcanic and marine tsunamis was analyzed using globally-distributed 1-min measurements of air pressure and water level (from both tide gauges and deep-water buoys). The marine tsunami propagated primarily throughout the Pacific, reaching nearly 2.0 m at some locations, though most Pacific locations recorded maximums lower than 1.0 m. However, the VMT resulting from the atmospheric shock wave arrived before the marine tsunami, and had a global signature, producing water-level perturbations in the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, and the Caribbean. The resulting water level response of many Pacific Rim gauges was amplified, likely related to bathymetric processes. The meteotsunami repeatedly boosted tsunami wave energy as it circled the planet several times. In some locations, the VMT was amplified by as much as 35-fold relative to inverse barometer, due to near-Proudman resonance and topographic effects. Thus, a meteotsunami from a larger eruption (such as the Krakatoa eruption of 1883) could yield atmospheric pressure changes of 10mb to 30mb, yielding a 3-10m near-field tsunami that would occur in advance of (usually) larger marine tsunami waves, posing additional hazards to local populations. Present tsunami warning systems do not consider this threat.

1. Introduction

The immense energy of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcanic eruption (20.54°S, 175.38°W) at 0415 UTC on 15 January 2022 (hereafter the "Tonga Event") was one of the strongest eruptions of the past 30 years (Witze, 2022). It produced a variety of atmospheric waves at various levels that travelled the globe multiple times (Adam, 2022; Duncombe, 2022). Lamb waves were produced first from the eruption (Lamb, 1911; Nishida et al., 2014). These travel with a celerity V ~310 ms^{-1}, which is faster than marine gravity longwaves, except in the deepest parts of the ocean. Lamb-wave generation is driven by a complex process involving eruption-generated pulses of pressure, temperature, and density gradients in the atmosphere. The Tonga Event induced Lamb waves and closely-following atmospheric gravity waves which were detectable up to the ionosphere (Lin et al., 2022; Wright et al., 2022; Themmens et al., 2022; Kulichkov et al., 2022; Matoza et al., 2022; Kubota et al., 2022; Nishida et al., 2014). Closer to the surface, the pressure pulse added momentum to the ocean surface through a pressure-gradient forcing that pushed the ocean surface in the direction of the positive-pressure gradient (Lynett et al., 2022). The subsequent and slower atmospheric gravity waves had phase speeds of 200-220 ms^{-1}, about the speed of long waves in the deep ocean. Recent work has confirmed the presence of a slower internal Perkeris wave (Perkeris, 1937; 1939) which has helped resolve long-standing issues about atmospheric resonance (Watanabe et al., 2022).

The Tonga Event differed from previously observed tsunamis, with unexpected dynamic atmospheric variability in addition to the expected oceanic variability. The only documented historical corollary is the Krakatoa Event of 1883, which had much stronger atmospheric shock waves and yielded global water level fluctuations, due to a stronger volcanic meteotsunami (VMT) than occurred after the Tonga Event. Krakatoa also differed from the Tonga Event, because the former event was land-based, while the latter was due to eruption of a submarine volcano whose apex was between 500 and 1000m below the ocean surface. This layer of water likely shielded and contained much of the explosive impact of the eruption; if the same event happened at sea level, it would likely have been much more destructive. The Tonga Event is thought to have generated waves via multiple mechanisms: air-sea coupling from the shockwave in the immediate vicinity, collapse of the underwater cavity after the explosion (which controlled near-field impacts), and air-sea coupling with the pressure pulse that circled the Earth and was responsible for the VMT (Lynett et al., 2022).

The unusual nature of the Tonga Event has inspired a plethora of publications. Several observation-based studies documented and cataloged the initial dynamics of the eruption (Yuen et al., 2022; Poli and Shapiro, 2022), the propagation of the atmospheric shock wave, its record-setting volcanic plume height (e.g., Carr et al., 2022),

65 the impacts of the marine tsunami in the Pacific, and the far-field water level fluctuations distant from the Pacific
66 that were due to the VMT (e.g., Carvajal et al., 2022).

67   Ocean-atmospheric interactions due to the Tonga Event produced far-field water-level perturbations
68 comparable to those from the 2004 Sumatra (Titov et al., 2005), the 2010 Chile (Rabinovich et al., 2013), and the
69 2011 Tohoku Events (Mori et al., 2011). It spread throughout the Pacific Ocean and was measured in all ocean
70 basins except the Arctic. Regional studies documented the VMT impacts to water level on the Russian coasts of
71 the Sea of Japan (Zaytsev et al., 2022), as well as along the coasts of Mexico. The Gulf Coast of Mexico only
72 affected by the VMT, while the Pacific coast was impacted by both the marine tsunami and the VMT (Ramírez-
73 Herrera et al., 2022). Tsunami signatures were also seen in parts of the South China Sea, such as Lingding Bay
74 near Hong Kong (Wang et al., 2023).

75   Tsunami characteristics around Japan were closely studied, due in part to an extensive array of ocean
76 bottom pressure instrumentation (S-net and DONET) established after the Tohoku megathrust earthquake of 2011
77 (Tanioka, 2020; Kubo et al., 2022; Kubota et al., 2021). The directionality, velocity, and intensity of the tsunami
78 were estimated through array analysis of this data network, finding that the amplitude of the first tsunami waves
79 diminished upon reaching shallow water regions, and that the wave split after passing the continental shelf
80 (Yamada et al., 2022). Different pressure sensors recorded different velocities, because they were located in
81 different water depths (Kubo et al., 2022).

82   Several studies have approached the Tonga Event through numerical modelling (e.g., Heidazadeh et al.,
83 2022; Kubo et al., 2022; Kubota et al., 2022; Tanioka et al., 2022; Sekizawa et al., 2022; Saito et al., 2022).
84 Typical tsunami models do not include pressure terms in the shallow-water equations, because atmospheric effects
85 are usually small for seismic tsunamis (Yeh et al., 2008), however, the pressure terms are vital for a meteotsunami.
86 Accordingly, Gusman et al. (2022) employed a simplified air wave model to generate oceanic waves in a tsunami
87 model. This model showed that ocean waves are excited by the passage of the air wave, and this generation is
88 more effective over oceanic trenches. Also, repeated passes of the air wave slowed the decay of the tsunami.

89   The global extent and unusual nature of the Tonga event provides a unique opportunity to investigate the
90 dynamics and impacts of a volcanic tsunami, especially the VMT component. The worldwide network of high-
91 frequency, real-time water level (WL) stations and other instrumentation improved significantly after the Sumatra
92 and Tohoku tsunamis, allowing for detailed study of how sensitive different locations and geometries are to
93 volcanically-induced atmospheric perturbations. Though severe devastation during the Tonga Event was confined

to the immediate vicinity (mainly at other Tongan islands; see e.g., Lynett et al, 2022), most Pacific observation systems remained operational. Using these records, we assess the global spatial and temporal patterns of the tsunami and show that significant WL variations were produced in distant locations, primarily due to Lamb waves. Our investigation of 308 tide gauges where the tsunami could be detected (nearly 1000 locations were screened), 30 deep-water buoys, and 137 air pressure stations shows a patchwork of amplification, with some locations highly susceptible to meteotsunami impacts and others relatively insensitive.

We document here how the VMT was induced after the passage of the atmospheric shockwave(s) before the oceanic component, ahead of tsunami forecasts (where they were available) and occurred in areas where the marine tsunami was absent. We will address the following questions in this work:

- What is the amplification potential of these waves, as observed by the unprecedented number of gauges now available?
- Could a more significant volcanic event, such as a VEI 6 or 7 eruption, cause a VMT of dangerous proportions ahead of forecasted arrival times, and in areas not reached by marine tsunami waves?
- How does the persistence of a VMT under repeated passes of a planetary-scale shockwave over many days contribute to overall water levels?

2. Meteotsunami background

Tsunamis of volcanic origin are uncommon; less than 150 have been documented (Levin and Nosov, 2009), and aside from a few large events like Krakatoa (Wharton, 1888), most have had only local or regional footprints. Volcanic tsunamis can occur when magma rapidly displaces water, and major eruptions such as the Tonga Event can drive a planet-circling atmospheric shockwave that induces water level fluctuations globally. Volcanic activity is not, however, the only source of atmospheric tsunamis – local atmospheric disturbances can cause "meteotsunamis", independent of seismic or volcanic activity (Šepić et al., 2014; Šepić et al, 2015; Olabarrieta et al., 2017; Monserrat et al., 2006; Ripepe et al., 2016; Vilibic et al., 2016). Such meteotsunamis may have amplitudes up to 3-5m and can cause significant coastal damage. Some meteotsunami events can be deadly, such as the 1954 meteotsunami of Lake Michigan which led to the drowning of seven fisherman in Chicago (Press, 1956). Meteotsunamis are a common occurrence in the Black and Mediterranean Seas (e.g., Vilibic and Sepic, 2009), Australia, the Persian Gulf (e.g., Heidarzadeh et al., 2020), the Great Lakes of North America, and perhaps other, less documented locations. Meteotsunamis can even occur during good weather, as they can be forced by

far-field atmospheric disturbances. A wealth of information about the history and dynamics of meteotsunamis can be found in Rabinovich (2020).

The water level fluctuations induced worldwide by atmospheric waves after the Tonga Event are a form of meteotsunami, using "meteo" in its larger context as referring to phenomena of the atmosphere in general, and not just weather. VMTs and weather-driven meteotsunamis share similar physics, but with several important distinctions. First, weather-related meteotsunamis move more slowly than VMTs, meaning that resonance with ocean waves occurs at shallower depths. Second, since weather-related meteotsunamis have a purely atmospheric origin, they may allow some predictability via observations of weather conditions which may be ideal for weather-related meteotsunami generation, whereas meteotsunamis generated by an eruption such as the Tonga Event happen with less warning. Third, weather-related meteotsunamis, while potentially destructive, are most often singular events, and do not typically have multiple instances within a short period, such as what was seen with the Tonga Event and the repeating "ringing" of water levels for each pass of the atmospheric shockwave. Fourth, weather-related meteotsunamis will typically only impact discrete locations or regions, whereas the Tonga Event had a worldwide impact. Finally, the periods or frequencies of the forcing events (weather-related vs volcanic) are also likely distinct from one another, which may imply different responses at any particular harbor.

VMTs are generated by a combination of Lamb and Perkaris waves that result from atmospheric explosions like Krakatoa or the Tonga Event which move, in this case, at ~1115km hr^{-1} (see Methods and Appendix A), while weather-related meteotsunamis are driven by strong, but slower weather disturbances (Šepić et al, 2015). The importance of this difference can be explained in terms of Froude number, F_A:

$$F_A = \frac{V}{\sqrt{gH}}, \tag{1}$$

where: V is the atmospheric disturbance speed, H is water depth, and g is gravitational acceleration. For a VMT, $F_A > 1$ for almost the entire ocean, while resonant, near-critical, conditions ($F_A \sim 1$) occur at moderate ocean depths for meteo-tsunamis.

Atmospheric forcing of tsunamis has been analyzed in linear (Garret, 1976) and more realistic nonlinear contexts (Pelinovsky et al., 2001). In either case, the solution consists of a forced ocean wave moving with the atmospheric disturbance, plus forward and backward free waves. Shallow water, linear free waves of small amplitude have celerity $c \approx \sqrt{gH}$, while nonlinear theory, relevant for $F_A \geq 1$, yields dispersive waves. The forced wave has amplitude proportional to $\frac{V^2}{V^2-c^2}\Delta P_A$(13), with a "nominal amplification" relative to an inverse

150   barometer effect of $a_n = \frac{V^2}{V^2-c^2}$; ΔP_A is the P_A (air pressure) disturbance; $a_n > 1$ for most of the open ocean.

151   When $F_A \sim 1$, the forced and forward-moving free waves coalesce, and the atmosphere feeds energy into the ocean

152   (Proudman resonance), allowing waves to grow linearly with fetch (Williams et al., 2021). The actual forced wave

153   "amplification factor," α, observed at an ocean bottom pressure gauge depends on many factors and may differ

154   from a_n.

155   For a subcritical wave, a *rise* in P_A of 1mb causes a *fall* in WL of 10mm via the inverse barometer effect.

156   However, VMT-forced waves are supercritical in ocean depths <9.7km, and the Bernoulli effect causes a *positive*

157   P_A spike to drive a forced ocean wave as a *rise* in WL (Garret, 1976) with Proudman resonance occurring only in

158   the deepest ocean waters. Amplification disappears ($a_n \cong 1$) in shallow water, but interaction of the forced wave

159   with the continental slope and shelf will energize the free waves, allowing shallow-water amplification (Garret,

160   1976). A VMT differs from a weather-related meteotsunami in that strong amplification is limited to deep ocean

161   trenches, where fetch is limited, compensated by a potential for ΔP_A to be larger in the VMT case than for the

162   weather-related case. We define the overall amplification of a tsunami at a tide gauge, encompassing Proudman

163   resonance and local effects, β.

164   What happens when a forced VMT wave encounters a sudden change in depth? A depth change, from

165   deep to shallow, requires the forced wave amplification, a_n, to decrease towards unity because $V^2 \gg c^2$ on the

166   shallow side, spawning transmitted and reflected waves. The transmission and reflection coefficients defined by

167   Garret (1976) suggest that the wave transmitted onshore as a VMT which approaches from the ocean side will be

168   considerably larger than the wave reflected back to the coast, as a VMT moves offshore. The offshore-directed

169   case is also different in that the forced wave must be small, because the shelf will typically be less than a

170   wavelength wide and the fetch for its development is limited. These factors suggest that coastal amplitudes may

171   be different for the direct and antipodal approaches of a VMT to any given location. While Garret's formulae

172   strictly apply to transitions that are abrupt (i.e., occur over a distance small relative to a VMT wavelength of ~180

173   to 1100km). they still provide approximate guidance for VMT interactions with the continental shelf.

174   The dynamics at sharp, but more complex features, like deep ocean trenches, is presumably something

175   intermediate between the Proudman resonance case, where the forced wave amplification factor, a_n, adjusts as

176   the wave propagates, and the fission of the forced wave into transmitted and reflected components. Also, at a

177   trench near the coast, the depth difference will typically be larger on the landward side than on the seaward side

178   driving a larger transmitted wave. The transmitted wave may further grow over a continental shelf landward of

179   the trench as $h^{-\frac{1}{4}}$, per Green's law (Green, 1838). Other resonance processes may occur in specific circumstances.

180   Pattiaratchi and Wijeratne (2015) cite quarterwave resonance and Greenspan resonance. Both of these processes

181   have specific geometric requirements, and the large velocity of VMT waves renders both of these mechanisms

182   less likely for a VMT than for weather-related events. Finally, the propagation of the atmospheric shockwave

183   may also be influenced by atmospheric temperature gradients (Amores et al., 2022), which may in turn modulate

184   the oceanic response to the shockwave.

185

186   **3. Methods**

187   *3.1 Data Inventory*

188   We employ high-frequency (1-min) water level (WL) data from multiple worldwide data sources,

189   including coastal tide gauges and deep-water pressure buoys (see Appendix A for detailed procedures and

190   uncertainty estimates). Air pressure (P_A) data at a variety of temporal resolutions (1, 6, and 10 min) were also

191   acquired. Some regions, such as the European Atlantic coast, the East China Sea, and the Arctic Ocean did not

192   show any tsunami-like WL fluctuations. In addition, some locations (e.g., Spain) that might have registered a

193   tsunami lacked data during the relevant period. The buoys provide 1-min data during "active" WL events and 15-

194   min data otherwise. However, many were not triggered until the atmospheric shockwave had passed; thus, the

195   resultant VMT was often not captured, though the oceanic signal was clearly observed. In total, data from 308

196   tide gauges (out of ~1000 investigated) and 30 (out of ~60) deep-water buoys are employed, with 210 locations

197   in the Pacific, and 98 in the rest of the world. Metadata for all tide gauges and deep-water buoys analyzed in this

198   study (latitude, longitude, data source, and distance from the Tonga volcano) are given in Table S1, and metadata

199   for air pressure stations are given in Table S2. We also list the tide gauges that were investigated but not analyzed

200   in Table S3, along with the reason for not using them, and show a color-coded map of the unanalyzed locations

201   in Figure S1. We use detrended residual WLs to quantify the amplitudes of the largest positive and negative

202   tsunami wave amplitudes at all stations from January 14 to 20, 2022. We also apply an EEMD analysis (Huang et

203   al., 1998) to all WL and P_A data to remove low frequency components and biases in mean water level to yield

204   data in which the tsunami-related signals are dominant.

205   *3.2 Water Level (WL) Analysis*

206   VMT magnitudes and arrival times, and the amplitudes of the largest positive and tsunami waves at each

207   location, were determined from the WL residuals via numerical and visual estimation of the residual time series

208   (see Appendix A for details of calculations and a discussion of inherent uncertainty in this study). We compare

209 the distances and "first arrival" times at all tide gauges stations via robust regression (Holland and Welsch, 1977)

210 to estimate VMT celerity. MATLAB continuous wavelet transform (CWT; Rioul and Vetterli, 1991; Torrence

211 and Compo, 1998; Lilly, 2017) routines are applied to the WL and P_A residuals to confirm approximate arrival

212 times (accurate within half a filter length) and to investigate the frequency response at each location. These are

213 discussed for selected locations. P_A data (onshore and offshore) and are compared with WL variability to

214 investigate the relative synchronization of the P_A-spikes and associated WL variability. This is performed at

215 certain Pacific locations, as well as in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Sea regions, where observed WL

216 variations are solely due to atmospheric effects.

217   *3.3 Energy Decay Analysis and β factor calculations*

218   We calculate the energy decay of the Tonga event and compare to other recent tsunamis. Following

219 Rabinovich, (1997) and Rabinovich et al (2013), we detide 1-min NOAA WL data, remove any residual trend,

220 and then produce power spectra for 4hr segments of the WL residual, with an overlap of 2 hours between

221 successive analyses. A multi-tapered method (McCoy et al., 1998) was applied, because it reduces noise and edge

222 effects, but still conserves energy. The energy within the tsunami band (between 10 minutes and 3 hours) was

223 then integrated for each 4hr period and an exponential decay model of form $E = E_o e^{\frac{-t}{t_d}}$ applied, where E_o is the

224 peak energy in the fit and t_d is the e-folding (decay) time scale.

225   We use the P_A-spike and the related WL fluctuation amplitudes to estimate β at locations where the VMT

226 was observed and where co-located or nearby P_A records were available. β is calculated as the ratio of the

227 maximum (positive) residual WL at VMT arrival divided by the maximum (positive) air pressure spike, with P_A

228 converted to a WL level fluctuation assuming the usual inverted barometer effect of 10mm WL change for 1mb

229 P_A change. In total, we are able to calculate β at 231 locations. For the "first arrival" of the VMT, we only consider

230 waves arriving on 15 January, but for the β calculations, we use the largest WL amplitude closely following a P_A-

231 spike visible in the record; for many locations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, this occurred on the second or

232 third pass of the atmospheric disturbance (Jan 16th).

233 **4. Results**

234 *4.1. Global tsunami impacts as determined from tide gauges*

235   The Tonga Event produced a VMT with a global footprint, along with a marine tsunami confined

236 primarily to the Pacific (Figure 1). VMT-related perturbations were recorded along the west coast of Africa, in

237 the Mediterranean and Caribbean Seas, in the Indian Ocean, and elsewhere (Fig. 1(a),(c)). Tsunami arrival times

238 at most places closely correlate with arrival of atmospheric waves (Fig. 1(b),(d)), which propagated concentrically

239 from the source around the planet, reconverging at the antipode. See also Tables S4-S6 and Figures S3-S12.

240   The largest amplitude far-field WLs from the marine tsunami occurred at dispersed Pacific Ocean

241 locations, without a clear spatial pattern (Fig. 1(a),(b)). Several gauges within 3000 km of the eruption registered

242 tsunamis >1m. Moderate tsunamis were measured at most island locations. In Hawaii, only Kahului measured

243 waves >0.5 m; several islands in French Polynesia also reached this level. Consistently stronger responses

244 occurred around the periphery of the Pacific, with wave heights of >1m at Kushimoto, Japan, four locations in

245 Chile, four locations in California, and one in Alaska. Away from Tonga, the largest maximum and minimum

246 measured WLs in the Pacific occurred at Chañaral, Chile (+1.73m and -1.95m); the largest in the US was Port

247 San Luis, CA, at +1.34m. A ~2m tsunami was reported, but not measured, near Lima (https://www.nytimes.com/

248 2022/01/21/world/americas/peru-oil-spill-tonga-tsunami.html). VMT amplitudes are small (<0.1m) in most

249 locations (Fig. 1(d)), moderate (up to 0.15m) at certain locations in Chile, the Northeastern Pacific, Russia, and

250 Hawai'i, and up to 0.22 m at some locations in Japan, Australia, and New Zealand (Table S5).

251   The "first arrival" map (Fig. 1(c)) shows a circular pattern emanating outwards from Tonga. Robust

252 regression between the VMT first-arrival times and the distances from Tonga yield a slope of 1115±3 km hr^{-1}

253 (Figure S2), about 90% of the sound speed at sea-level (1225 km hr^{-1}), and similar to the estimate of 1080-1170

254 km hr^{-1} for the Krakatoa tsunami (Garret, 1976). Estimates from tide-gauge arrivals yield a smaller VMT celerity

255 estimate (1054±7km hr^{-1}; Figure S2(b)), because the waves observed at tide gauges are subcritical, free waves that

256 fall behind the Lamb waves in coastal waters. A similar regression analysis gives a celerity estimate of 708±8 km

257 hr^{-1} for the oceanic wave, consistent with a mean ocean depth of about 5km. In the Pacific, the fairly regular VMT

258 arrival pattern can be contrasted with the less regular arrival times of the largest maximum/minimum amplitude

259 marine tsunami (Fig. 1(b)) and the time difference between "first arrival" and highest water level (Figure S9 and

260 S10). The latter emphasizes that the VMT can occur some hours before the marine tsunami, where both were

261 observed.

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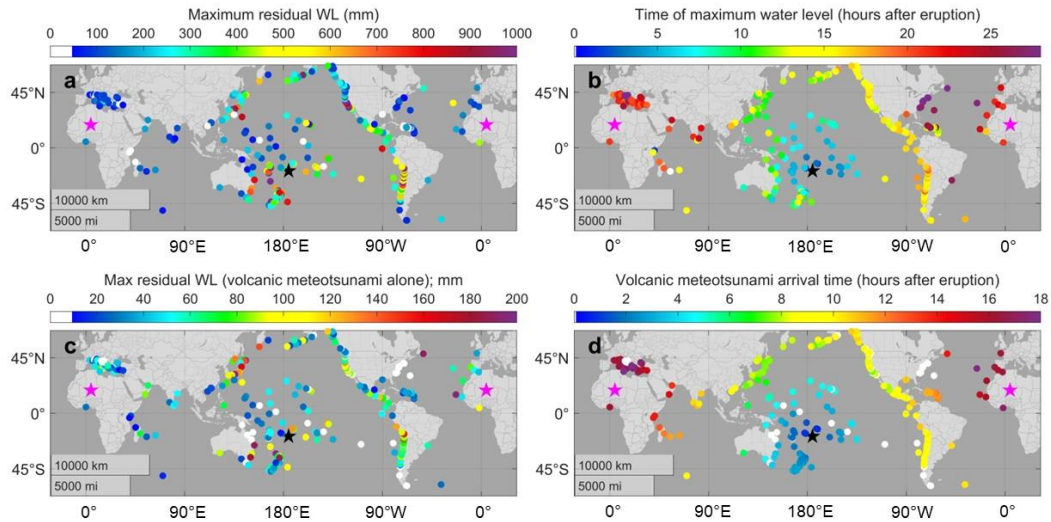
Figure 1. Tonga tsunami global manifestations: (a) maximum amplitude of combined volcanic (VMT) and marine tsunamis; (b) time of maximum amplitude; (c) first arrival VMT amplitude; and (d) VMT arrival time. White markers in (c) and (d) indicate locations where meteotsunami properties could not be determined. The location of the eruption and its antipode are shown by black and magenta stars, respectively.

267

268   Several Indian Ocean tide gauges (East Africa, Oman, Sri Lanka, and India) show WL changes shortly
269   after the atmospheric waves arrived, but little evidence of a marine tsunami. In the Atlantic Ocean there was a
270   strong signal in Senegal, Ghana, and in the Cabo Verde, Canary, and Azores Islands. The Azores showed a large
271   WL amplitude (~0.6m), but this area is undergoing volcanic activity with frequent seismicity. While no nearby
272   air pressure record is available to confirm a relationship to the meteotsunami wave here, no strong seismic activity
273   was recorded either, so the causality of this result is uncertain. All of these gauges are located within ~3000 km
274   of the antipode of the Tonga Event (20.54° N, 4.62° E in the Sahara Desert), where the concentric shock waves
275   re-converge. The resulting interference pattern may have increased the magnitude of atmospheric waves and the
276   subsequent VMT.

277   In the Eastern North Atlantic, small tsunamis occurred after the second pass of the VMT wave on 16
278   January, e.g., at St. Johns, Canada (~0.2m). Storminess after 16 January precluded further detection there and in
279   the Baltic Sea; and little or no signal was seen on the European Atlantic Coast at any time. Wide-spread VMTs
280   occurred in the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas, the latter being close to the antipodal point of the shockwave.
281   In both regions, successive occurrences of the VMT wave have different impacts on WL variability.

282   These results suggest that VMT characteristics vary between closely spaced stations, because of local
283   bathymetry, ambient currents, and the orientation relative to the source (Šepić et al., 2015; Garett, 1976; Williams
284   et al., 2021). VMT properties also change with atmospheric stratification and due to dispersion as the shockwave
285   propagates; the directionality of the VMT (towards or from land) also matters (Garett, 1976). Thus, the level of
286   threat from a VMT event is locally variable, despite its global reach.

287   *4.2. Tsunami propagation in the Pacific as determined from deep water buoys*

288   The network of the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) deep-water tsunami warning buoys provides
289   significant spatial coverage of the Pacific and can reveal the offshore characteristics of strong oceanic signals like
290   tsunamis (e.g., surface amplitude) without contamination by surface swell. These buoys generally provide a 15-
291   min temporal resolution but, when "triggered" by large signals, record 1-min data. We examined all available
292   buoys but found that many buoys did not record any data at all during the Tonga event. Thirty NDBC buoys in
293   the Pacific recorded at least part of the marine tsunami; however, only a subset caught the VMT (12 buoys).
294   Locations are given in Figure 2(a) and details of the buoys are given in Table S1. Ten locations measured the
295   VMT in the Western Pacific, one in Alaska, one in Hawaii, and none in the Eastern Pacific. The Western Pacific

296   data reveals a similar spike-like waveform, with a steep rise followed by a rapid decrease. The magnitude of the
297   VMT-induced WL response is nearly consistent across the basin, except at two of the nearest buoys to Tonga
298   (55015 and 51425), where amplitudes were larger, 70 and 58mm, respectively. All other VMT magnitudes were
299   between 25 and 40mm, independent of distance from Tonga (Figure 2(b)).

300   The energy generated by the Tonga tsunami may have been sustained by repeated returns of the
301   atmospheric wave at many locations. Can the spatial characteristics of energy decay be suggested from the limited
302   buoy data? We next make an estimate of the "persistence" of the tsunami in the Pacific by determining the length
303   of time (in hours) that the buoys were "triggered" in each region of the Pacific for one-minute resolution
304   observations. This metric, possibly influenced by instrumental problems at some locations, allows a simple, if
305   imperfect, estimate of tsunami energy decay for individual buoys and for regional averages. We omit buoy 52406
306   (which recorded at high resolution for > 30 hr, for reasons unclear) and determine a median regional "persistence"
307   in the southwest Pacific (i.e., the buoys nearest to Tonga) of 9hr, while the buoys immediately west of Tonga had
308   a median regional persistence of 6.5 hr. At the periphery of the Pacific, the median regional persistence was 610
309   hours in the Northwestern Pacific (Japan and surrounding areas), 9 hours in the Northern Pacific (Alaska), 10
310   hours in the Northeastern Pacific (California-Canada), and 13 hours around South America. Thus, we generally
311   see a longer persistence in far-field Pacific regions than in near-field regions (Figure 2(c)). The maximum VMT
312   magnitude (where detected) and the persistence times at all buoys are given in Table S7.

313   A subset of five buoys provides an effective summary of the VMT behavior in deep water (Figure 2(d)).
314   Two buoys (52402 and 21420) are close to being a great circle with each other and the Tonga eruption; buoy
315   52402 is ~ 5000 km from Tonga, while 21420 is ~2700 km further towards the southern coast of Japan. The VMT
316   maximum WL at the first buoy is about 38mm versus 30mm at the second; the subsequent WL oscillations at both
317   buoys are similar in form. This suggests that the VMT response of the oceanic WL decayed very slowly, at least
318   across the Pacific basin. The full set of WL responses at all buoys are given in the Supplement and compared by
319   region (Figures S13-S18).

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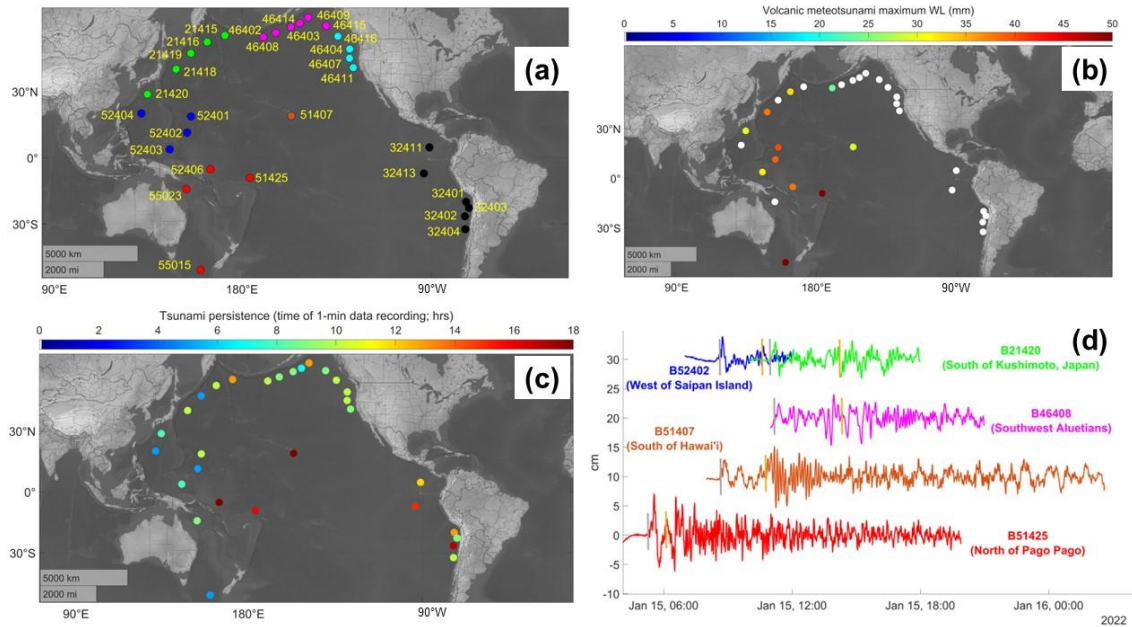
321 **Figure 2** Pacific deep-water NDBC buoys used to detect the VMT and marine tsunami of the Tonga event. (a)
322 Buoy locations and NDBC buoy designation numbers (Table S1), with colors used to show Pacific regional
323 delineation (red: Southwest; orange: Central; dark blue: West; green: Northwest; magenta: North; cyan: Northeast;
324 black: Southeast). (b) Maximum VMT-induced WL (mm) detected at each buoy according to color scale at top of
325 map. White markers indicated that the VMT was not detected at the buoy. (c) Persistence time of the tsunami
326 signal at each buoy, representing the length of time that each buoy recorded at 1-minute resolution (hr). (d) WL
327 response to the VMT and marine tsunami at five deep-water buoys in the Pacific using same color scheme as (a).
328 Two buoys are given on the same line (B52402 and B21420) since their physical locations were on nearly the
329 same great circle path from Tonga; other buoys are offset 10 cm vertically from each other. VMT arrivals based
330 on a theoretical travel time of 1115 km/hr^{-1} are indicated by grey vertical lines, and marine tsunami arrivals based
331 on an average travel time of 700 km/hr^{-1} are indicated by orange vertical lines.

332

4.3 Coastal characteristics of VMTs

As the VMTs propagated from deep water to the coast, we observed several cases in which an abrupt change in geometry produced a large amplification. We return to the example of buoys 52402 and 21420 discussed above, and now compare data from the buoy closer to Japan (21420) with the nearest coastal tidal gauge that also has P_A data, Kushimoto, Japan (Figure 3). The first Lamb wave with a pressure change of ~0.6 mb occurred at ~1130UT, 15 January at Kushimoto (Fig. 3(a),(c)). The WL response in the P_B record (a positive ~30mm spike then a ~30mm negative one) is direct and presumably represents the forced wave. We compare the two closest P_A records to the P_B data (Aburatsu and Kushimoto; see Appendix A for details). Longwave celerity at buoy depth (5700m) is 850km hr^{-1}; $a_n = \frac{V^2}{V^2-c^2}$ ~2.4, relative to the observed amplification of $\alpha \cong 4$. The CWT scaleogram in Fig. 3(e) shows the WL response to the shockwave at ~10hr post-eruption as two relatively distinct bands of energy with periods of ~1hr and 5-10min; these fade within ~1.5hr.

Kushimoto WLs effectively illustrate the potential for amplification of VMTs. The first (VMT) waves arrived between 1200 and 1450UT (Figs. 3(b),(d)), prior to the marine tsunami at about 1450UT; their period is ~0.3hr (Fig. 3(f)); shorter-period energy is seen only after the arrival of the oceanic wave. The initial positive VMT amplitude of ~210mm is a response to the atmospheric shockwave and represents an amplification of ~7X relative to the forced wave, and β~35X relative to the VMT magnitude, for which the inverse barometer response would be only 6mm. Apparently, the Japan trench with depths to 8km ($a_n \approx 5.5$) and continental shelf between buoy 21420 and Kushimoto allowed considerable growth of the forced wave relative to Fig. 3(a),(c). A large volcanic explosion (such as Krakatoa) could yield a shockwave with a magnitude of 30-60mb (Schufelt, 1885), which could potentially drive a disastrous VMT at this location before the arrival of the oceanic waves.

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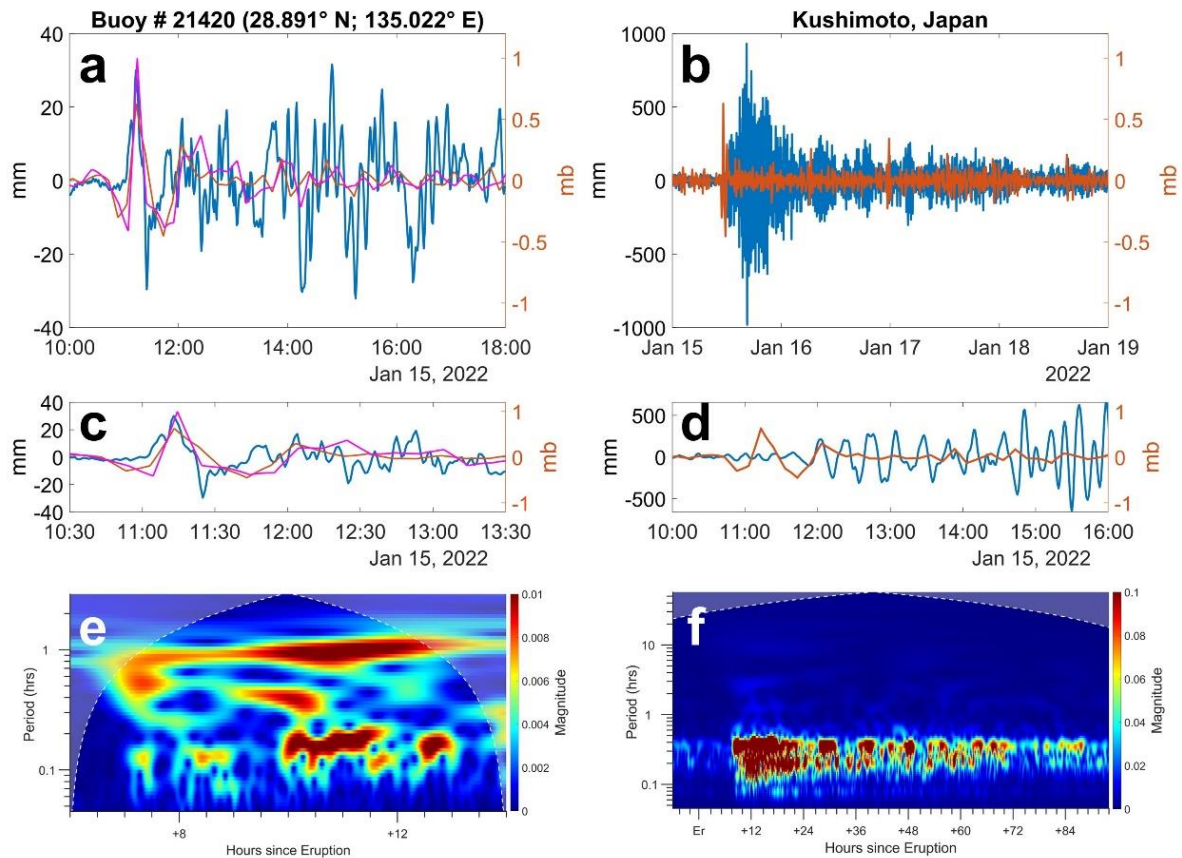
Figure 3. Tsunami response at NOAA P_B buoy 21420 and a coastal tide gauge (Kushimoto. Japan): (a) Residual P_A at Kushimoto (orange) and Aburatsu (magenta), and detided residual buoy WL (blue) with P_A records shifted plot 26 and 16min to account for distance from the buoy (see Appendix A for details); (b) P_A (orange) and detided residual WL (blue) at Kushimoto; (c) expanded view of (a) showing arrival of a VMT as a supercritical forced wave at 1150UT, ahead of the oceanic wave at 1450UT (c); (d) expanded view of (b) showing the arrival at Kushimoto of the VMT as a subcritical free wave at 1200UT; (e) buoy residual WL CWT scalogram, 6-14hr post-eruption; (f) Kushimoto WL CWT scalogram for 92hr post-eruption.

361

362   Observations near Hilo show similar phenomena to those observed at Kushimoto (Figure 4). We use

363   NOAA tsunami bottom-pressure (P_B) buoy 51407 in 4.7 km water depth south of Hilo combined with

364   atmospheric-pressure (P_A) and WL data from Hilo (NOAA station 1617760). Fig. 4(a),(c) show P_A and P_B data

365   (converted to WL). Despite the distance (~100 km) between the two records, the WL and P_B responses are almost

366   simultaneous, at 0854 UT. The first P_A pulse of ~1.5mb elicits an oceanic response of ~30mm (α~2) of the same

367   sign, as expected for a super-critical wave and similar to the response at Kushimoto. This modest amplification is

368   still slightly larger than expected for a_n~1.2. Smaller positive WL pulses follow the first; after the third, these

369   pulses are overlain by the beginnings of the ocean tsunami signal at ~1030 UT. These may be a soliton train, as

370   predicted by the nonlinear theory (Pelinovsky et al., 2001). The CWT scalogram in Fig. 4(e) shows that ocean

371   waves with periods of 0.15-0.2hr arrived at buoy 51407 before 1100 UT; shorter waves (periods <0.1hr) arrived

372   later, confirming the weakly dispersive character of the ocean waves. The VMT is also clearly visible. It appears

373   just before 0900 as a broadband signal with periods of 0.4-1.1 hr. Over time, the pulse shifts to higher frequencies

374   and then disappears by ~1200 UT.

375   The Hilo detided residual WL data present quite a different appearance from the offshore P_B data (Fig.

376   4(b),(d)). The first wave arrival (~120mm) occurs at 0928 UT (~1 hr after the P_A-spike) with a *negative* excursion

377   rather than a *positive* one. This is followed by a series of smaller oscillations leading up to the arrival of the marine

378   tsunami at about 1137 UT. The forced wave is not evident, and the early arriving VMT waves at Hilo are likely

379   free waves that have propagated around the island on which Hilo sits and then amplified, having been generated

380   at the abrupt rise of the island platform; the total amplification is β=9X. The waves from the ocean tsunami wave

381   reach ~400mm, which represents an amplification of about 5X relative to the same P_B waves at the buoy. Records

382   from nearby Hawaiian gauges show similar features. The CWT scalogram for Hilo WL in Fig. 4(f) emphasizes

383   the absence of longer period tsunami waves with periods around 1 hr. Instead, the weak VMT WL response is

384   followed by waves with similar periods, ~0.15 to 0.7 hrs. Over the next several days, the oscillations weaken, with

385   the shortest period waves disappearing first. Hilo is well known to be resonant to tsunamis, and our observations

386   may be related to quarterwave resonance (Pattiaratchi and Wijeratne, 2015; Tang et al., 2017). However, other

387   Hawai'ian tide gauges shows behaved similarly to Hilo.

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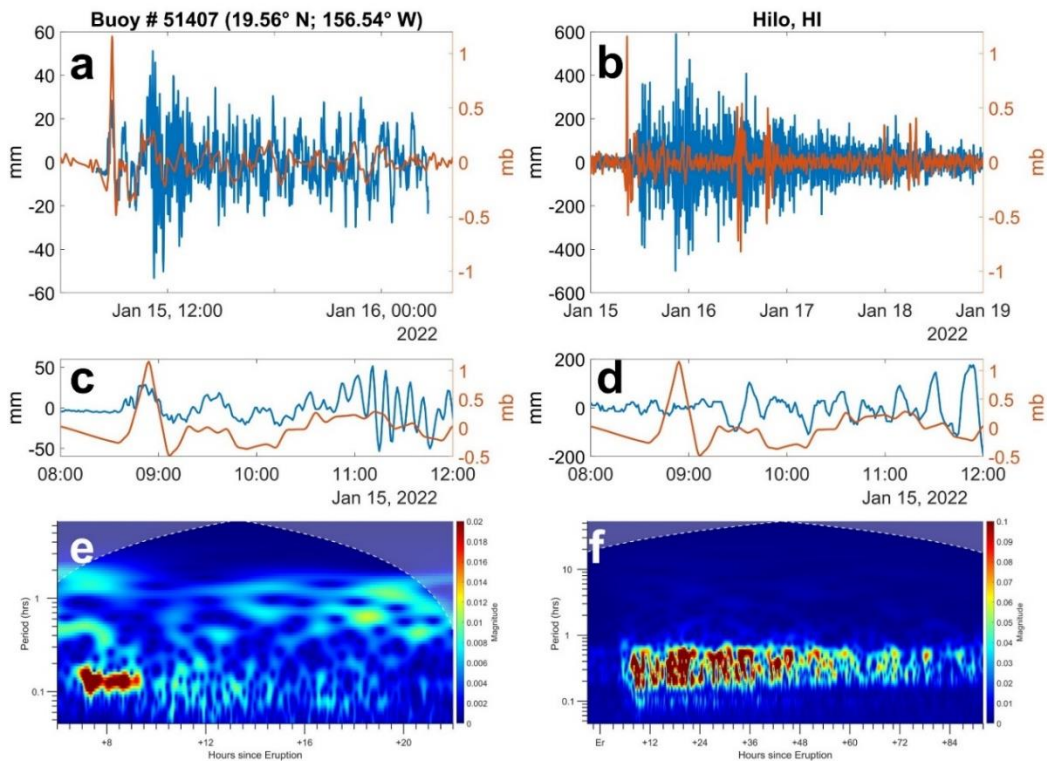
Figure 4. Comparison of WL (blue, mm) and P_A (orange, mb) at offshore buoy 51407 and Hilo, HI. (a) P_A at NOAA tide gauge 1617760 Hilo, HI and detided WL residual from NOAA P_B Buoy 51407 south of Hawai'i following the Tonga Event; (b) P_A and detided residual WL (blue) at Hilo; (c) expanded view of (a) showing the arrival of the VMT at Buoy 51407 in the form of a supercritical forced wave at 0854 UT, ahead of the oceanic wave arrival at ~1054 UT (c); (d) expanded view of (b) showing the arrival at Hilo of the VMT in the form of a subcritical free wave at 0928 UT; (e) a CWT scalogram of buoy heights from P_B for hr 6-24 post-eruption; (f) a CWT scalogram of WL measured at Hilo for 92hr post-eruption.

397

398   Kushimoto and Hilo are only two examples of VMT effects in the Pacific. VMT-induced WL magnitudes

399   were similar to Kushimoto at other Japanese locations and were 50-210mm in New Zealand and Eastern Australia.

400   Much smaller (~20mm) VMTs were seen in the South China Sea, though 1-min data were available at only two

401   locations (Hong Kong and Shenzhen; Wang et al., 2022). In the Eastern Pacific, distant from Tonga, VMT waves

402   arrived 3.5 (California) to 5hr (Chile) before the marine tsunami, allowing their WL effects to be easily

403   distinguished (Fig. 1(a),(c), Table S3), and both regions had particularly large maximum tsunami magnitudes

404   (positive and negative swings). Air pressure (P_A) spikes of ±0.6-0.7mb and +1.5 and -0.8mb at Port San Luis, CA,

405   and Coquimbo, Chile (Figure 5) led to wave excursions of +110 and -150mm, respectively, with total

406   amplifications of β~15-25X at Port San Luis (Fig. 5(c), and ~6X (positive wave) and 30-40X (negative wave) at

407   Coquimbo (Fig. 5(d). There were at least six arrivals of the shockwave over 3d. This recurrence, coupled with

408   very long decay times (below) caused WL disturbances to continue for >90hr, emphasizing the role of the VMT

409   in recharging the combined marine and volcanic tsunami (Fig. 5 (e-h)).

410   These Pacific examples demonstrate combined marine and VMT impacts; in other regions, the VMT

411   occurs in isolation. At Charlotte Amalie in the Caribbean (Figure 6), the P_A-spikes and resulting VMTs are well

412   correlated (Fig. 6(a)). The first P_A-spike of ~1.2mb led to waves of 80mm about an hour later, apparently from

413   the free wave (Fig. 6(b)). In contrast, the third P_A-spike of ~0.5mb apparently excites a forced wave with amplitude

414   of about 50mm, simultaneous with and of the same sign as the P_A-fluctuations (Fig. 6(c)). Waves arriving an hour

415   later and presumably representing the free wave were larger, ~80mm, giving α =~16. The fourth P_A-spike ~±0.2mb

416   again excited a forced plus free wave response, with the later waves being as large at ±100mm (Fig. 6(d)). This

417   corresponds to an impressively large β = ~30. The CWT scalogram shows that water level in this harbor responds

418   most strongly at periods of ~0.5 to 0.9hr (Fig. 6(e)). The CWT of P_A shows eight spikes at ~12hr intervals,

419   suggesting that the shockwave circled the planet at least four times (Fig. 6(f)). The largest WL response occurred

420   from the fourth VMT (Fig 6(e), (f)) for yet unknown reasons. Other gauges in the Caribbean showed significant

421   VMT effects (Figure S11) that were strongest on the second or third pass of the atmospheric disturbance. While

422   β varies with the event, there are numerous volcanoes in the Caribbean, and severe tsunamis (both VMT and

423   marine) could be a very real threat in locations where amplification occurs.

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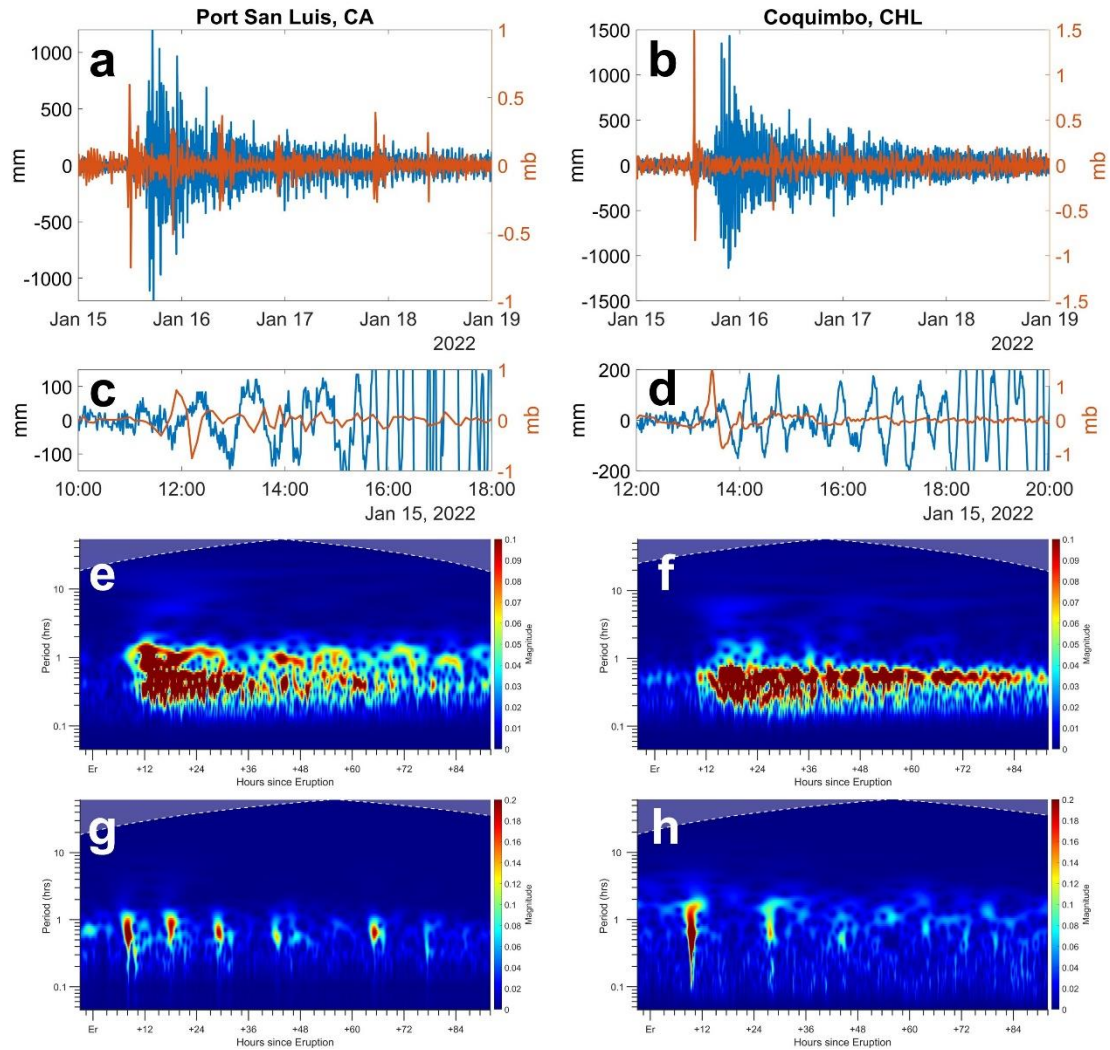
427 **Figure 5.** Residual WL (blue, mm) and detrended air pressure (orange, mb) at: (a) Port San Luis, California
428 (NOAA Station 9412110) and (b) Coquimbo, Chile; (c) and (d) expanded views of (a) and (b) of the WL and P_A
429 records showing the initial arrivals of the VMT and marine tsunami); and scalograms from CWT analyses of WL
430 in (e) and (f) for P_A in (g) and (h). Vertical scales in (c) and (d) are set to a small range to highlight the VMT
431 impacts.

432   The shockwave magnitudes were generally smaller in the Mediterranean than in the Caribbean, perhaps
433   because of the greater distance from Tonga and the complex land topography in the region. Still, VMT-induced
434   meteotsunamis were measured at many locations; they were largest in Sicily, Sardinia, and the "boot" of Italy.
435   Because this region is close to the antipode, the first P_A waves arriving from opposite directions were only a few
436   hours apart, occurring at ~2000 and 2330 UTC on 15 January, and producing a wave packet rather than a clear
437   P_A-spike that swept across the region. A weaker second packet occurs 38hr later at ~1200 UTC on 16 January,
438   followed by a third packet at ~0000 UT on 19 January, not seen at all stations. WL records usually show a single,
439   long-lasting event following the first P_A-packet arrival, with muted responses for the second and third packet. The
440   largest tsunami amplitude, ~300mm (Figure S12), occurred at Crotone, Italy after a steady build-up from the VMT
441   arrival. At a small number of stations, e.g., Cagliari, Italy, there were multiple VMTs, as in the Caribbean (Figure
442   S11). Finally, a few locations in the Adriatic Sea had no response to the first wave packet but responded strongly
443   to the second VMT, with $\beta \approx 8$ -13. Thus, the discrete response of WLs to individual shockwaves is not as clear
444   in the Mediterranean as in the Caribbean, though repeated passes of the shockwave lead to sustained WL
445   variability.

446   ### *4.4. Energy decay*

447   The Tonga event released significant energy and its tsunami persisted longer in the Pacific than other
448   recent tsunamis. Our estimate of energy E_o for the Tonga Event (0.0096m^2, N= 37) is comparable to the Chilean
449   event (0.01m^2; N =28) and about 3.8x less than the Tohoku Event (0.036m^2; N=40). Previous estimates for the
450   Chilean and Tohoku Events were 0.009 m^2 and 0.032m^2, respectively (Rabinovich et al., 2013). Decay time scales
451   for the Tonga Event varied from 29-44hr in Alaska, 25.4hr (Santa Barbara) to 37hr (San Diego) on the US West
452   Coast, and 22.2hr (Nawiliwili, Hawaii) to 29.3hr (Pago Pago, Samoa) for island stations (Figure S19). The Tonga
453   decays are notably longer than other events, especially in Alaska and (most) California locations. The differing
454   timescales depend on distance from the event, frequency content (high frequency decays more quickly), and
455   shallow water processes (Rabinovich et al., 2013). Our estimated median t_d values for the Tohoku, Chile and
456   Tonga events are 26.6±2.4hr (N=40), 27.6±2.8hr (N=27) and 31.0±2.6hr (N=37), respectively (Figure 7). Previous
457   estimates for the Tohoku and Chilean Events were 24.6 and 24.7hr. The longer decay time of the Tonga Event
458   emphasizes the importance of the VMT. Though the VMT was smaller than the marine tsunami, it was refreshed
459   by the Lamb waves that repeatedly circled the planet. The long energy decay scales calculated for the Northern
460   Pacific are in line with our simple estimates of decay taken from the buoys; longest in the Northern/Northeast
461   Pacific and near Tonga (e.g., Hawai'i and Pago Pago).

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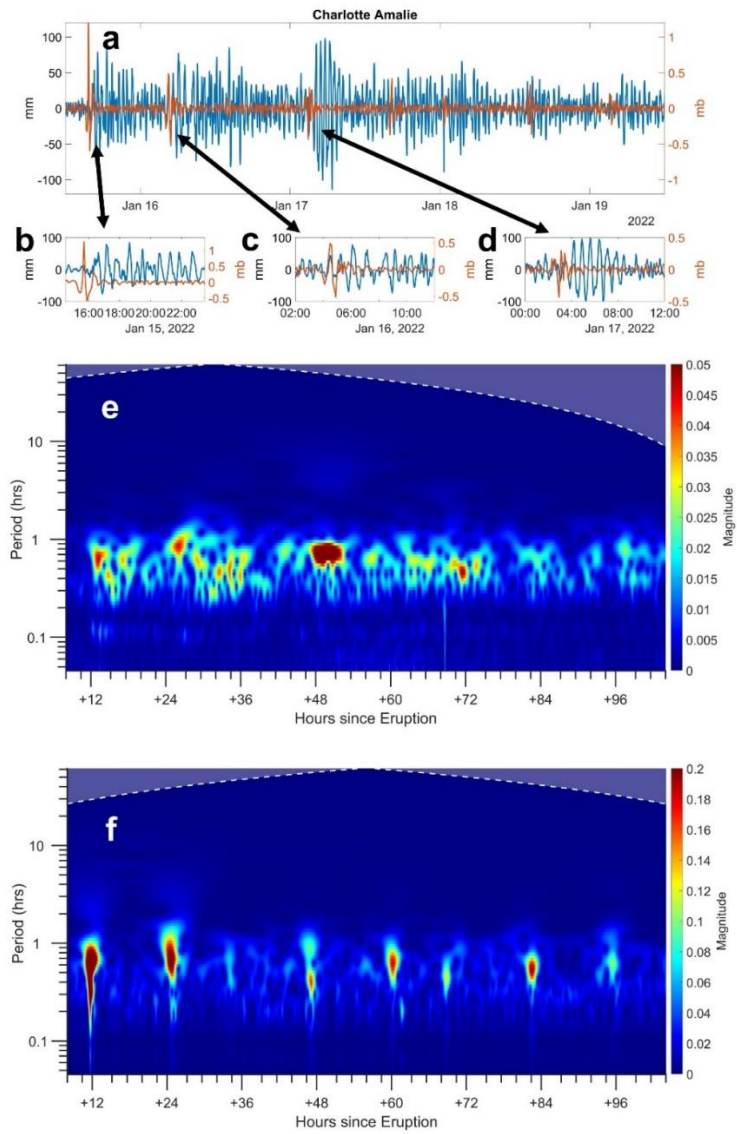
Figure 6. VMTs at Charlotte Amelie (NOAA gauge 9751639) in the Caribbean: (a) Residual WL variability (blue) and P_A (orange) from UT 15 to 19 January 2022; (b)-(d) expanded views of (a) at the times of the 1st, 2nd, and 4th P_A-spikes; (e) and (f) CWT scalograms of the WL and P_A records in (a).

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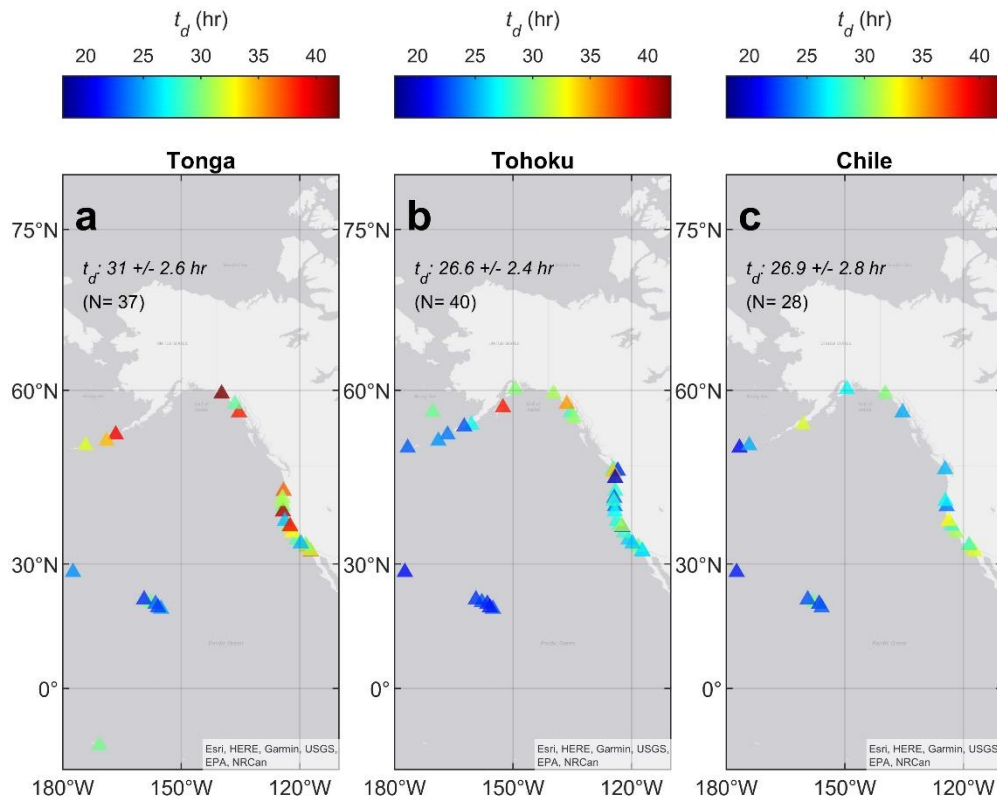
Figure 7. Decay timescales (hours) of recent tsunami events at NOAA gauges in the Northern Pacific; showing
(a) Tonga; (b) Tohoku; and (c) Chile. Median t_d, errors, and number of stations used are given in each panel.

4.5. Amplification, β

Amplification, β, is a vital indicator of future VMT hazards. It was calculated for ~75% of all tide gauge
locations where the shockwave was detected in a nearby P_A record (Tables S5 and S6). Clearly, β is highly local,
with values of 15-35 at 26 stations in all regions where the VMT was observed; over 40 locations had $\beta > 10$
(Figure 8 (a-d)). The largest values of β are seen in Japan, the Northeast Pacific, New Zealand and Australia, and
the Caribbean. Wherever high β values are observed near an active volcano, there is the potential for a large VMT.
Note that β values are uncertain by ~30% (see Appendix A), mainly due to the uncertainty of P_A observations
which have low amplitudes and coarse temporal resolution.

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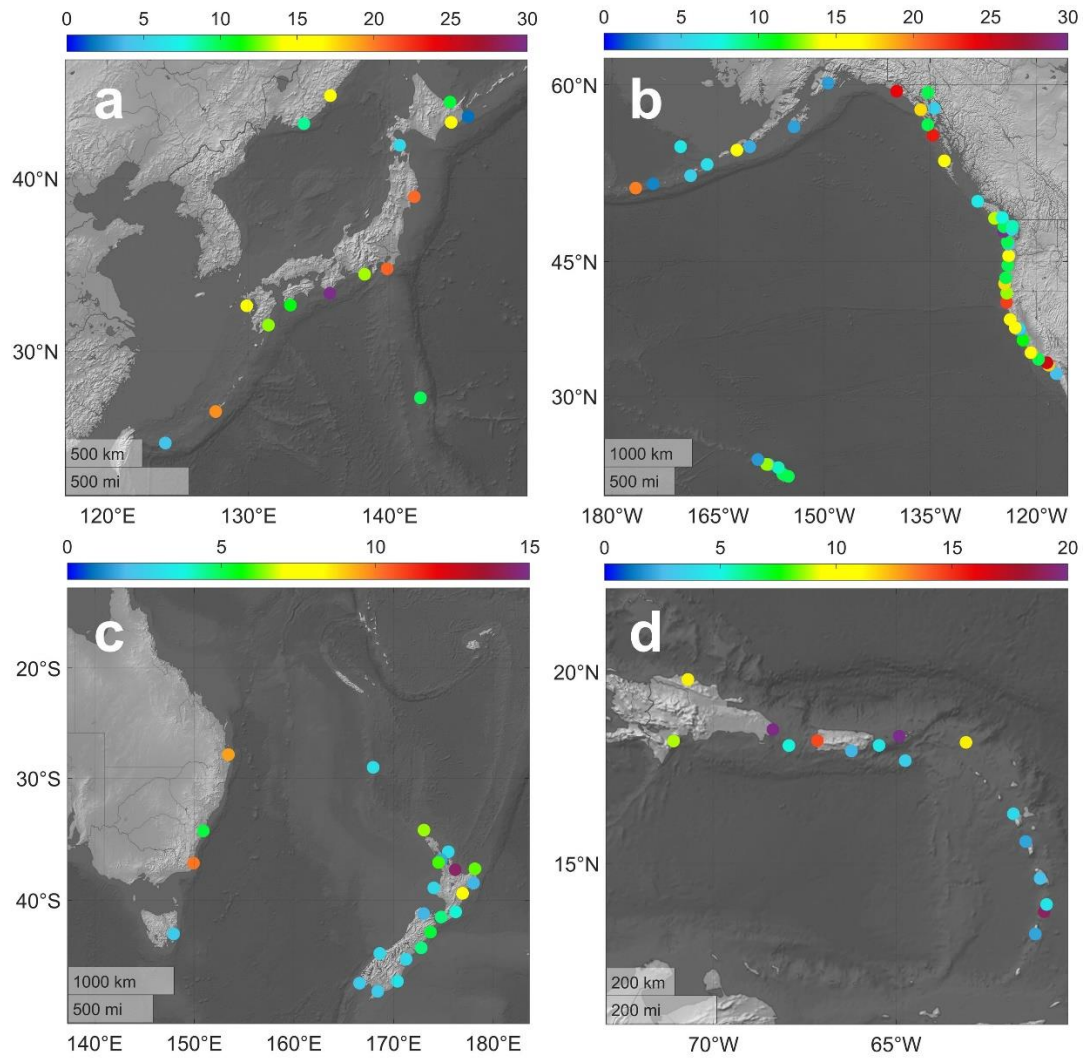
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480 **Figure 8.** Amplification, β in: (a) Japan; (b) the Northeast Pacific; (c) New Zealand and Australia; and (d) the

481 Caribbean. Note diverse color scales.

482

5. Discussion

Analyses of high-resolution WL data from tide gauges (with local P_A, where possible) provides an unprecedented global view of a volcanic meteotsunami (VMT) acting together with a marine tsunami. A moderate marine tsunami was measurable at nearly all Pacific Ocean tide gauges and deep-water buoys, but at only a few stations elsewhere. In addition, most tide gauges and about half of the deep-water buoys also observed the VMT. In the North Pacific, wave amplitudes and energy were comparable to the Chilean Event. Out of 308 tide gauges, 10 showed a total VMT amplification (β) of > 20, 54 were >10, 113 were >5, 204 were 2 or more, and 230 were 2 or less; the remainder did not register any detectable VMT signal. Hence, significant amplification is a localized, but still potentially important, process. We note that much of the world's coastline is still not gauged, and there are many locations in which the VMT was amplified, but not measured, e.g., Lima. Thus, the Tonga Event tsunami was "global" because of the reach of the VMT and its impacts on WLs.

In the Pacific, the VMT preceded the marine tsunamis by up to five hours and the two together produced observable perturbations in water levels for more than three days after the eruption. The effects of atmospheric gravity waves were observed in ocean bottom pressure data after the arrival of the lamb waves and before the oceanic component arrived. However, we observed a delay (~1-2 hours) of the water level response to the shockwave at coastal tide gauges. This delay may be related to the "sequencing" of tsunami waves and observations that the first wave of a tsunami is not always the largest (Okal and Synlokas, 2016). However, this suggestion is based on "traditional" seismic tsunamis; it is not clear if VMTs follow exactly the same physics.

How can we place the Tonga event in a larger context? This Event drove VMTs no larger than ~210mm in the far field due to shockwave magnitudes of ~0.5 to 5 mb. However, the total amplification, β, varied from ~1 to 35×. Values at the larger end of this range were mainly seen at coastal locations; island locations typically had β <5, with only a few exceptions (e.g., Hawai'i and Naha). The reasons why certain regions exhibited a larger amplification (e.g., β) than others, and the possible role of bathymetry, remain to be understood, e.g., through model studies like Denamiel et al. (2022). It seems likely, however, that locations with an ocean trench between the source and the coastal station are at particular risk; this is typical for much of the Pacific "Ring-of-Fire", as conceptualized in Figure 9. We assume a 5mb Lamb wave travelling over deep water which initially induces a forced wave WL fluctuation of 60mm. After travelling some distance, the forced wave grows four-fold. The trench, with F_a near unity, increases VMT amplitude even if the trench is narrow relative to the wavelength of the longer-period tsunami components. Coastal and harbor processes, which can vary substantially along a coast, provide a further boost. Taken together, these processes can an amplification of up to β = 36 (as suggested in

513 Figure 9), in which case an initially modest (5mb) P_A-spike and corresponding WL fluctuation of 6cm can become

514 a ~1.8m tsunami.

515 The VMT from the Tonga event was small, but β was >10 in many parts of the world with active

516 volcanoes, including Italy, Alaska, Japan, and New Zealand. A much larger VMT can occur close to a VEI 6-7

517 volcanic explosion. For example, in 1883, ship barometers measured fluctuations of 1-2 inches of mercury (30-

518 60mb) near Krakatoa (Symons, 1888). Taking 30mb as a conservative upper limit for a VEI 6 event and β = 10 to

519 35, a VMT of 3.5 to ~10m is possible. In most cases, this would be later followed by larger water waves, but the

520 rapid arrival of VMT waves of this size could be catastrophic and might occur in some locations without being

521 followed by a marine tsunami. Moreover, Krakatoa is not the largest historical event by any means—the Santorini

522 (~1800YBP) and Tambora (1817) events were much larger (Newhall and Self, 1982), but these events lack data

523 regarding VMT impacts.

524 Present-day warning systems are designed for marine tsunamis, and do not generate timely warnings for

525 meteotsunamis of any origin, as noted by Vilibić et al. (2016). Future warning systems should consider both

526 marine and VMT threats, but this is not straightforward, because of differences in the causation and warning times

527 between weather and volcanic meteotsunamis. Weather conditions for meteotsunami genesis, which evolve over

528 days, may be able to be at least partially predicted, and this threat is confined to specific regions. Volcanic

529 eruptions are a different problem. The VMT threat is global, VMTs can cross an ocean basin in a matter of hours,

530 given the rapid shock wave celerity (~1100 km hr^{-1}), and their magnitude can be larger. This possibility deserves

531 further consideration.

532 **6. Conclusions**

533 In summary, there are several conclusions regarding the VMT from the Tonga Event:

534 • It arrived before the oceanic wave at all stations where both were observed, though the oceanic wave
535 was larger at stations where both occurred.

536 • The atmospheric shockwave transited the globe multiple times; on every pass it imparted additional
537 energy to WL fluctuations which sustained or re-excited the VMT, leading to a ~25% longer decay
538 timescale than for recent marine tsunamis generated by earthquakes.

539 • The re-focusing of the shockwave in the atmosphere near the antipode of the eruption may have
540 increased nearby tsunami amplitudes in Africa and the Mediterranean. The reasons for the strong
541 Caribbean response are yet unclear.

542   • The first wave observed at deep-water pressure gauges was the super-critical VMT-forced wave
543   predicted by theory, but at most tide gauges only the sub-critical free wave response was observed.
544   • The nominal amplification, a_n, shows that deep water allows strong growth of the forced wave
545   beneath a VMT (Proudman resonance). The large total amplification, β, at Japanese coastal stations
546   suggest that deep water trenches around the Pacific "Ring-of-Fire" (with its many volcanoes) and
547   elsewhere may increase the potential for large, even catastrophic, VMTs.
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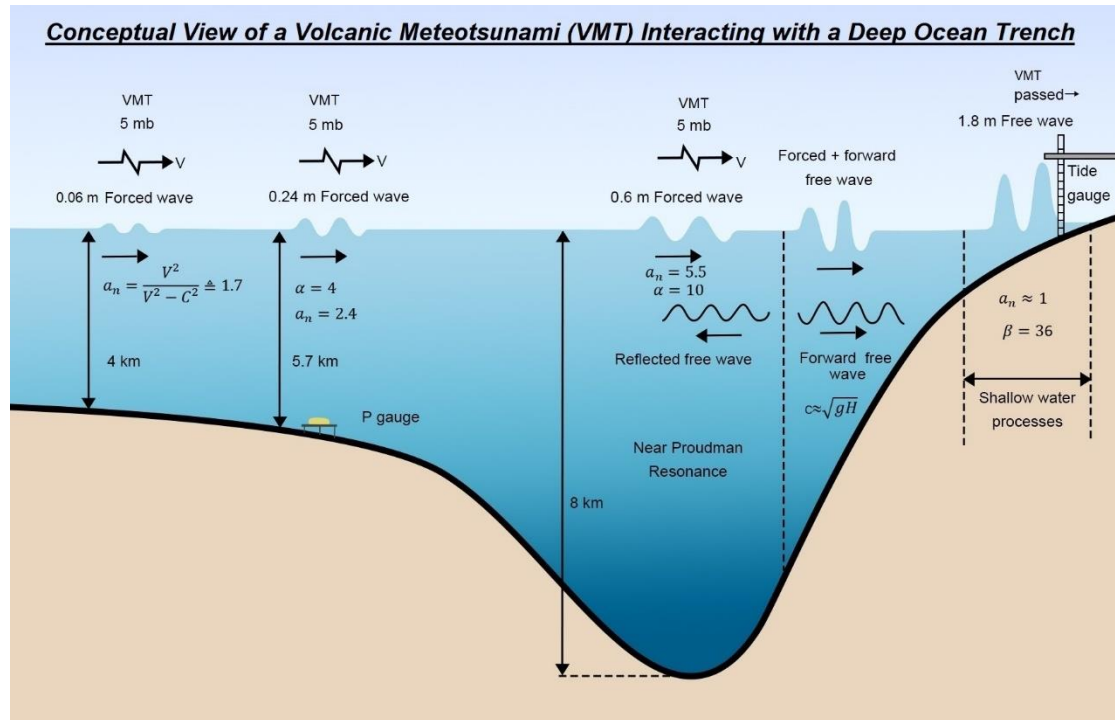
Figure 9. Conceptual view of amplification of a VMT, based on Tonga-Event observations. An initial shockwave amplitude of 5mb is amplified by Proudman resonance in the trench, and again by shallow water processes, after reflection of a free wave by the steep topography landward of the trench. With $\beta = 36$, a 1.8m tsunami occurs at the tide gauge. A larger VMT would lead to a proportionally larger response.

556

Appendix A: Extended Details of Materials and Methods

A1. Data Inventory

We acquired one-minute resolution data from the following sources: the European Commission (EC) World Sea Levels Database (https://webcritech.jrc.ec.europa.eu/SeaLevelsDb/Home), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) sea level station monitoring facility (https://www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org/; VLIZ, 2022), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) CO-OPS Tides and Currents tsunami warning network (https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tsunami/), and Land Information New Zealand (https://www.linz.govt.nz/sea/tides/sea-level-data/sea-level-data-downloads), plus data obtained by direct communication from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) of New Zealand (https://niwa.co.nz/our-services/online-services/sea-levels). Other stations from these networks with less frequent data were used when 1-min data were not available. Tidal predictions and residuals are provided in the EC and NOAA databases, however, a tidal signature or a slope sometimes remains in the provided residuals, and the IOC and NIWA data does not provide any predictions. Therefore, we apply an EEMD analysis (Huang et al., 1998) to all WL data to remove low frequency components and biases in mean water level to yield data in which the tsunami signal is dominant.

Air pressure (P_A) records at 1-minute resolution is downloaded from the Chilean Meteorological Directorate (CMD; https://climatologia.meteochile.gob.cl/), the Australia Bureau of Meteorology (BOM; http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/), and the Instituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA; https://www.mareografico.it/) network for Mediterranean locations, 6min P_A data is downloaded from NOAA at tide gauges and P_B data from offshore buoys in the Pacific and Caribbean (https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stations.html?type=Meteorological+Observations; https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/obs.shtml), and 10-min P_A data is acquired from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA; https://www.data.jma.go.jp/obd/stats/etrn/index.php) and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research National Climate Database (NIWA/NCD; https://cliflo.niwa.co.nz/). A total of 137 air pressure locations were used, listed in Table S5.

Finally, we download data from 30 Pacific deep-water buoys (see Table S1) from the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC; https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/obs.shtml) tsunami warning center operated by NOAA; these provide 1-min data during "active" WL events and 15-min data otherwise. Other buoys were investigated, but because the

585   buoys only sometimes operated at 1-min resolution, many were not triggered until the VMT wave had passed;

586   thus, it was most often not captured. All buoy data and air pressure data were conditioned using EEMD as

587   described above.

588   *A2. Water Level (WL) Analysis*

589   VMT magnitudes and arrival times, and the amplitudes of the largest positive and negative tsunami

590   waves at each location are determined from the WL residuals via numerical and visual estimation of the residual

591   time series. The "first arrival" times and amplitudes represent the effects of the VMT, which travels faster than

592   the marine tsunami; times are determined by finding the rising edge of the first obvious anomalous wave in the

593   residual WL time series, and the VMT amplitude is defined as the maximum WL immediately after the first arrival

594   (Table S3). At a small number of locations, the VMT wave could not be clearly observed, as noted in Table S3,

595   and in Figs. 1(c),(d). We compare the distances and first arrival times at all tide gauges stations via robust

596   regression (Holland and Welsch, 1977) and find an estimate of the VMT velocity from the slope of the regression

597   as 1054 ± 7 km hr^{-1} (Figure S11(b)), slightly less than that estimated from the air pressure gauges (1115 ± 3 km hr^{-1};

598   Figure S11(a)). These estimates can be compared to the much slower celerity estimate for the water wave

599   component of the tsunami (708 ± 8 km hr^{-1}; Figure S11(c)), clearly demonstrating that the "first arrival" WLs are

600   due to the VMT. Note that the water-wave celerity corresponds to an average water depth of about 5km.

601   The timings and amplitudes of the largest positive (negative) waves due to the marine tsunami are

602   determined by when the first local maximum (minimum) occurs after the first arrival of the tsunami. At some

603   locations, slightly larger amplitudes are seen many hours later, usually on the following tidal cycle (i.e., "tidal

604   pulsing"), while other locations have the largest wave arriving a few oscillations after the arrival; the latter may

605   be due to the issue of "sequencing" as described by Okal and Synolakis (2016). WLs and times for maximum

606   WLs, as well as the differences between extreme levels and the VMT arrival are given in Table S2 and Fig. 1(a),(c)

607   and Figure S5 and S6, and the same parameters for minimum WL are provided in Table S4 and Figures S7 and

608   S8. The time differences between "first arrival" and max/min WLs are shown in Figures S9 and S10.

609   Determination of VMT ("P_A-spike") amplitudes was carried out in the same manner as for the tsunami amplitudes.

610

611   *A3. Air-pressure gauge choices for Kushimoto*

612   Comparison of the Kushimoto tide gauge WLs to offshore buoy #21420 and air pressure (Figure 3) raises
613   the difficulty that there is no P_A station within more than 300km of the buoy; we use, therefore, the two nearest.
614   Aburatsu (~465 km) is on a direct line from Tonga and the buoy, while Kushimoto is 305 km from the circle
615   centered on Tonga through the buoy. Accounting for the distance between the coastal gauges and the buoy using
616   a shockwave velocity of 1092 km hr^{-1} (Table S3), we shift the time index of the P_A records by 16 and 26 minutes,
617   respectively. Both P_A records are used, because the sparse, 10 min, resolution of the P_A records precludes either
618   from completely capturing the VMT.

619   *A4. Energy Decay Analysis*

620   Following (Rabinovich, 1997), we detide 1-min NOAA WL data, remove any residual trend, and then
621   produce power spectra for 4hr segments of the WL residual, with an overlap of 2 hours between successive
622   analyses. A multi-tapered method (McCoy et al., 1998) was applied, because it reduces noise and edge effects,
623   but still conserves energy. The energy within the tsunami band (between 10 minutes and 3 hours) was then
624   integrated for each 4hr period and an exponential decay model of form $E = E_o e^{\frac{-t}{t_d}}$ applied, where E_o is the peak
625   energy in the fit and t_d is the e-folding (decay) time scale. To account for the initial "diffusion period" (Van Dorn,
626   1984; 1987), the two initial, largest energy values were removed; hence, E_o represents the energy at the
627   commencement of exponential decay. The exponential decay was fit to all tsunami-band energy values until
628   measurements dipped below the noise floor. The noise floor was defined as the 80% percentile energy in the
629   tsunami band from 7-12 days after the event. Each fit was examined for validity, and the range of points in the
630   fit was manually adjusted in five cases. For fits for which the standard error in the coefficients was more than
631   20%, the coefficient value was removed. The analysis was applied to four events: The 2009 Samoa tsunami, the
632   2010 Chilean tsunami, the 2011 Tohoku tsunami, and the 2022 Tonga tsunami. However, due to the low energy
633   of the Samoa event, we focus primarily on the other three. In our analyses, we also distinguish between coastal
634   and island stations. Unfortunately, high resolution DART data are not presently available over a sufficiently long
635   time scale to repeat the analysis of (Rabinovich et al., 2013) exactly.

636   *A5. Uncertainty and Errors*

637   The possible sources of uncertainty in this study arise from:

1) Instrumental accuracy: Measurements of WL at most locations considered report values to an accuracy of 1mm, and US locations from the NOAA tsunami network are only reported to an accuracy of 10mm. Values are reported to this accuracy in figures and tables. However, due to oceanographic noise from coastal waves and other processes, a "noise floor" of at least 10 mm is likely at all locations. Thus, we assume all locations have an uncertainty of ±10mm in the calculations of β below. This noise level represents a small uncertainty in the determination of maximum and minimum tsunami heights, e.g., a 1000mm tsunami wave would have a relative error of 1%. However, there will be a larger relative error in the estimation of the VMT WL amplitude, e.g., a 20-200mm VMT WL would have a relative error of 5 to 50%. All P_A readings are reported to an accuracy of 0.1mb. Since the P_A fluctuations are mainly in a range of 0.5 to 2.0mb, the instrumental error may be up to 20%.

2) Mean offset/bias in residuals: Common estimates for tidal prediction, such as those performed in the downloaded residual products here, subtract tidal components from water levels using harmonic analysis methods, which are typically based on past epochs and may not always remove all tide-related fluctuations or may include a bias due to sea-level rise or other oceanographic processes (Jay, 2009; Zaron and Jay, 2014; Devlin et al., 2014; Devlin et al., 2017; Devlin et al., 2021; Fang et al., 1999). These artifacts may give erroneous estimates of tsunami-related WLs. Our application of EEMD to further separate and remove leftover tidal components in the lower modes of the decomposition largely alleviates this issue. Analyses of the mean values of residuals WLs after the EEMD conditioning show that almost all residual time series have a mean value ≪ 10mm, a problem no larger than the instrumental accuracy issue. However, we still subtract the mean bias from our reported results of WL (max/min tsunami waves and VMT amplitudes). Similarly, the EEMD process also removes diurnal and low-frequency variability in P_A, and analyses of the residuals show that all locations have mean values less than 0.001mb. Thus, the offset or bias in P_A values is insignificant in relation to the instrumental accuracy.

3) Coarse temporal resolution: Nearly all WL data used here are 1-min resolution. This is sufficient in the estimation of the oceanic and VMT related waves, which have frequencies of ~5 min to a few hours. However, only some of our P_A data is at 1-min resolution (Italy, Chile, and Australia), the remainder is 6-min resolution (US) or 10-min resolution (NZ and Japan). The pressure wave is a rapidly changing phenomenon which shifts from strongly positive to strongly negative over a short time (20-60 min) Therefore, it is possible that the P_A spikes may not be fully captured in the coarser resolution data and may misrepresent the actual intensity of the VMT wave. This unavoidable problem is the largest source of uncertainty in our study. We account for this by qualitatively increasing the uncertainty values of the instrumental accuracy for P_A (±0.1mb) to ±0.15mb for the 6-min data and ±0.2mb for the 10-min data.

668   The calculation of β divides the VMT WL by the P_A spike; i.e., $\beta = \frac{WL_{airshock}}{P_A}$. We determine the relative

669   error in β by propagating the uncertainties detailed above as: $\frac{\delta\beta}{\beta} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\delta WL}{WL}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta P_A}{P_A}\right)^2}$; δWL is 10 mm, δP_A is

670   0.1mb at 1-min stations, 0.15mb at 6-min stations, and 0.2mb at 10-min stations. Using these error estimates, 21

671   locations have relative uncertainties in β which are greater than 50%, four of which are greater than 100%

672   (statistically insignificant). The overall average uncertainty is 30.8%. Best results were found for 1-min pressure

673   data (e.g., Chile had an average of 16% and Australia had an average of 13%), and somewhat less accurate results

674   for 10-min pressure data (e.g., Japan and New Zealand both have averages of 27%). However, the largest

675   uncertainties occurred in places where VMT amplitudes were very small, regardless of air pressure data resolution.

676

677 **Code and Data Availability** All data used in this study are deposited in an online repository of the Harvard
678 Dataverse at: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/F0G63H. Datasets included are original 1-min water levels, post-
679 EEMD water level residuals, original air pressure data (1-minute, 6-minute, and 10-minute resolution), and post-
680 EEMD air pressure residuals. All code was performed in MATLAB and can be shared via direct communication
681 with the authors.

682

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684 reviewing/editing. A.T.D. contributed data curation, formal analysis, investigation, methodology, software, and
685 text writing. D.A.J. contributed formal analysis, investigation, methodology, and writing and editing. S.A.T.
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688

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690

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