

1 **Hierarchical exploration of continuous seismograms**  
2 **with unsupervised learning**

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8 **Key Points:**

- 9 • Seismic data analysis  
10 • Unsupervised learning  
11 • Seismic waveform clustering

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## 12 **Abstract**

13 Continuous seismograms contain a wealth of information with a large variety of signals  
14 with different origin. Identifying these signals is a crucial step in understanding physical  
15 geological objects. We propose a strategy to identify classes of seismic signals in continuous  
16 single-station seismograms in an unsupervised fashion. Our strategy relies on extracting  
17 meaningful waveform features based on a deep scattering network combined with an in-  
18 dependent component analysis. Based on the extracted features, agglomerative clustering  
19 then groups these waveforms in a hierarchical fashion and reveals the process of clustering  
20 in a dendrogram. We use the dendrogram to explore the seismic data and identify different  
21 classes of signals. To test our strategy, we investigate a two-day-long seismogram collected  
22 in the vicinity of the North Anatolian Fault, Turkey. We analyze the automatically inferred  
23 clusters' occurrence rate, spectral characteristics, cluster size, and waveform and envelope  
24 characteristics. At a low level in the cluster hierarchy, we obtain three clusters related to  
25 anthropogenic and ambient seismic noise and one cluster related to earthquake activity. At  
26 a high level in the cluster hierarchy, we identify a seismic crisis that includes more than 200  
27 repeating events and high-frequent signals with correlated envelopes and an anthropogenic  
28 origin. The application shows that the cluster hierarchy helps to identify particular families  
29 of signals and to extract subclusters for further analysis. This is valuable when certain types  
30 of signals, such as earthquakes, are under-represented in the data. The proposed method  
31 may also successfully discover new types of signals since it is entirely data-driven.

## 32 **Plain Language Summary**

33 Seismic data most likely contain a wealth of crucial information about active geological  
34 structures such as faults or volcanoes. The growing seismic data collected nowadays cannot  
35 scale with a manual investigation, suggesting automatic algorithms for scanning continuous  
36 data streams. We develop a strategy based on artificial intelligence to scan continuous seis-  
37 mic data and infer patterns automatically. Our approach investigates how the data gather  
38 into families and how these families relate to each other. We employ a particular neural net-  
39 work, the scattering network, to ease the design and training of our algorithm. This paper  
40 explores two days of continuous seismic data collected in the vicinity of the North Anatolian  
41 fault, where we expect the content of seismic data to be complex, dominated mainly by noise  
42 and with rare events such as explosions or earthquakes signals. We compare and discuss our  
43 results with classical approaches for earthquake detection and noise description.

## 44 **1 Introduction**

45 Continuous seismograms contain a rich amount of information as a large variety of  
46 signals can be observed therein. Determining the origin of these different signals is crucial  
47 in understanding the physical geological objects. For example, faults and plate boundaries  
48 accommodate the tectonic loading by releasing energy in different fashions (Ide et al., 2007),  
49 the most known and well-understood signals being earthquakes, radiating seismic waves  
50 visible in most seismograms. Based on their signal characteristics, seismologists developed  
51 many tools to detect earthquakes in seismograms (e.g. STA/LTA). Only 20 years ago,  
52 a new signal with tectonic origin has been discovered and designated as a non-volcanic  
53 tremor because of the similarities with volcanic tremors (Obara, 2002). However, non-  
54 volcanic tremors are often of weak amplitude with poorly defined signal characteristics; their  
55 detection is a more challenging task than detecting earthquakes. Other than signals with  
56 tectonic origin seismometers also record the oceanic microseisms (see e.g. Ebeling, 2012,  
57 for a recent review), rockfalls and other mass movements (e. g. Lacroix & Helmstetter,  
58 2011; Deparis et al., 2008), ground and air traffic (e. g. Riahi & Gerstoft, 2015; Meng  
59 & Ben-Zion, 2018) or other kind of human-induced sources (such as church bells in Diaz,  
60 2020). The mixing of all these sources renders a complex seismic wavefield that makes the

61 analysis and interpretation of seismic records difficult, especially if seismic data are the only  
62 data available.

63 As a response to this problem, seismologists have developed many processing tools for  
64 exploring these complex seismic data. Since the 1970s seismology benefits from artificial  
65 intelligence developments, bringing machine-learning-based solutions for exploring seismic  
66 data and recognizing patterns (e.g. Allen, 1978). More recently an unsupervised learning  
67 strategy called clustering was utilized to explore seismic data and find families of similar  
68 signals (Köhler et al., 2010; Holtzman et al., 2018; Mousavi et al., 2019; Seydoux et al.,  
69 2020; C. W. Johnson et al., 2020; Snover et al., 2020; Jenkins et al., 2021). In contrast  
70 to supervised learning strategies, clustering does not rely on a labeled training set and  
71 human expert knowledge (Goodfellow et al., 2016). Thus, clustering seismograms can help  
72 identifying families of signals which are not yet discovered or are poorly defined such as  
73 non-volcanic tremors.

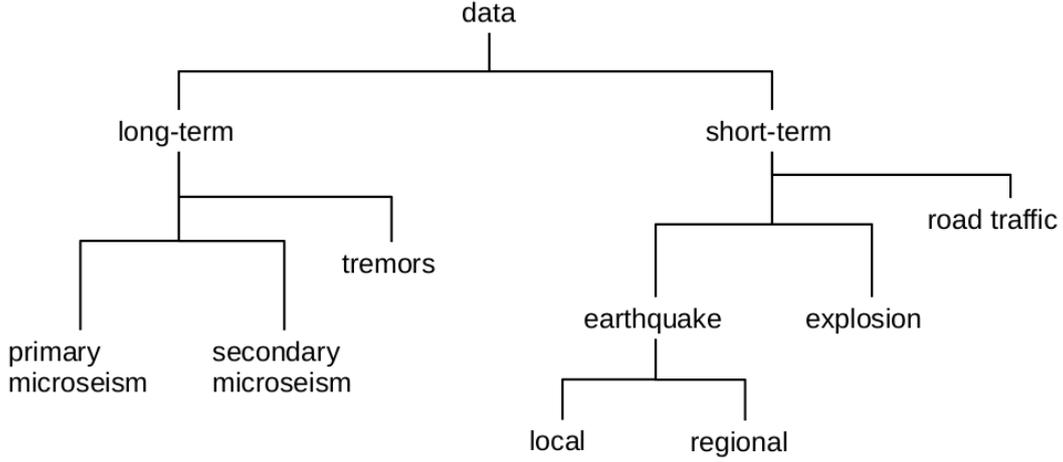
74 In the present paper, we introduce a new strategy to use clustering as an exploration  
75 tool for seismic data. Our strategy follows the idea that seismic signals are grouped in a  
76 hierarchy of classes following a specific similarity measurement, as schematized in Figure 1.  
77 Note that this illustration aims at sketching the concept rather than being complete or  
78 accurate. We consider the similarity between classes of signals to be measured on a set  
79 of signal characteristics that can be human-defined (such as mean frequency and signal  
80 duration) or learned with machine-learning tools, as we propose in the present paper. In  
81 the first place, one can imagine the seismic signal classes to split into long-term and short-  
82 term signals based on the duration of a signal (Figure 1). In the class of long-term signals,  
83 one could use a similarity measure based on frequency content to separate the primary from  
84 secondary microseism. We see that building a tree of classes lets us explore the data on  
85 different levels and that different signal characteristics may be relevant at each node of the  
86 tree.

87 The sketch presented in Figure 1 also illustrates the problems of designing a class  
88 hierarchy by hand. The labels used in this sketch are the ones we created as seismologists  
89 based on our domain knowledge. That is problematic for those classes of signal that do  
90 not have a proper definition of signal and source properties, such as non-volcanic tremors.  
91 Moreover, some splittings, such as between earthquakes and explosions, ask for a more  
92 complex similarity measure which will be hard to design by hand. Hierarchical clustering  
93 produces precisely this kind of tree, called a dendrogram, based on the exploration of the  
94 similarity of signals present in the input data. Therefore, we propose to represent seismic  
95 data as a dendrogram and utilize it to explore the data and interpret the clusters.

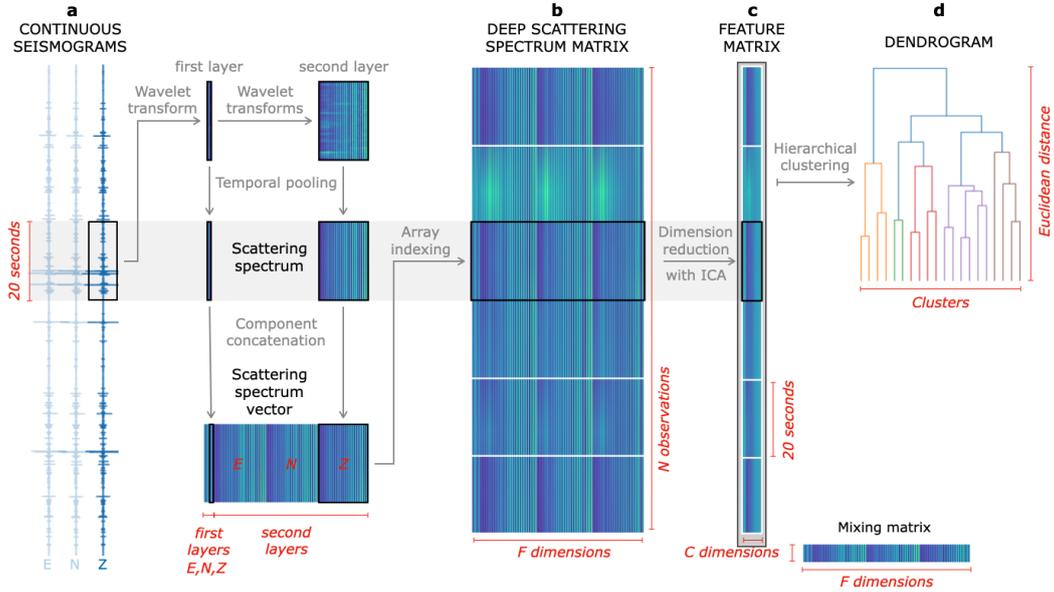
96 In the following section, we present the workflow to build a dendrogram from con-  
97 tinuous single-station data. We introduce the concept of hierarchical clustering and how  
98 we transform continuous seismograms to a meaningful input (features) for the hierarchical  
99 clustering. In section 3, we introduce a data set to apply and test the proposed workflow.  
100 In section 4, we show and discuss briefly the resulting dendrogram. Section 5 is about  
101 navigating through the dendrogram and interpreting the clusters at different levels.

## 102 **2 Method**

103 A sketch of the hierarchical clustering workflow is depicted in Figure 2. In the follow-  
104 ing lines, we start with the concept of clustering in general and hierarchical clustering in  
105 particular. Then, we explain how we transform seismograms into a meaningful input for the  
106 cluster analysis.



**Figure 1.** Illustration of possible hierarchy in seismic data. The different branches represent how a signal class splits into different subclasses depending on a given similarity measure. Here the different classes of events are thought in a hierarchical way, based on arbitrary signals properties (e.g. duration, frequency range or signal’s structure). This scheme aims at illustrating the expected behavior of an optimal clustering algorithm, but does not depict the potential issues related to clustering such as overlapping between different classes of signals or imbalance between classes.



**Figure 2. Proposed workflow for hierarchically exploring continuous seismograms** . (a) Input continuous 3-component seismograms, as detailed in Section 3. (b) Deep scattering spectrum of the seismograms, with a temporal resolution of about 20s and a high number of dimensions, detailed in Section 2.2. (c) Independent features extracted from the deep scattering spectrum with independent component analysis, following the description in Section 2.3. (d) Dendrogram calculated from a similarity metric in the feature space, as explained in Section 2.1.

## 2.1 Hierarchical clustering

In general, cluster analysis groups objects based on their similarity to each other (Kriegel et al., 2009). Objects in the same cluster are more similar to each other than objects in different clusters. The similarity between objects is measured on a set of certain characteristics called features. Finding the most relevant features for this task will be discussed later.

Various algorithms exist to find groups of objects in a data set. This study utilizes hierarchical clustering with a bottom up approach, namely agglomerative clustering. Hierarchical clustering relies on a similarity matrix, which defines the similarity (e.g., a specific distance in the feature space) between all objects in a data set (S. C. Johnson, 1967). With a bottom-up approach, all objects start in a singleton cluster. The clusters start merging based on the similarity matrix until all objects unify in a single global cluster. This process is summarized in a dendrogram, revealing the hierarchical structure of the entire data set. Such a strategy fits very well the nature of seismic data as depicted in Figure 1.

The agglomerative clustering outcome depends mainly on the applied metric, which drives the merging of the cluster. In our approach, we use the Ward’s method (Ward Jr, 1963). Given a distance  $d$  (here considered Euclidean), the Ward’s method aims at grouping objects  $x_i$  into clusters such as the within-cluster variance remains minimal after merging different clusters. The within-cluster variance  $\sigma$  quantifies the spread of each cluster in the feature space (for more details see Appendix A). By minimizing the overall variance,  $\sum_{c=1}^K \sigma_c$  with  $K$  being the number of clusters, the Ward’s method allows for clusters of variable population sizes and variances. Thus, it may highlight clusters of high density located in the vicinity of more spread, low-density clusters. Therefore, Ward’s method is suitable for the expected seismic data partition, where often ambient seismic noise outweighs signals with a tectonic origin.

## 2.2 Finding an appropriate representation of seismograms: the deep scattering spectrum

In order to detect and identify classes of signals in continuous seismograms with hierarchical clustering, the seismograms have to be transformed into a meaningful input for the cluster analysis. For that purpose, we calculate features for fixed windows of the seismogram. Thus, each window will be assigned a cluster based on the features for this window. Note that this process simplifies the complexity of seismic data, since multiple types of signals can occur simultaneously. Common cluster analysis such as hierarchical clustering neglect this fact and can only assign a single cluster to an object. Besides the choice of the applied metric within hierarchical clustering, the choice of features is another important factor, which determines the outcome of the cluster analysis. Finding the most relevant features should be done according to the task at hand and can be done thanks to prior knowledge on the data or by defining proper algorithms to learn the most relevant features. We distinguish classical machine-learning algorithms that rely on human-defined features (Maggi et al., 2017; Malfante et al., 2018) or representation-learning algorithms where the features are learned from the data to optimize a given task (LeCun et al., 2015; Ross et al., 2018; Rouet-Leduc et al., 2020). While classical machine learning provides less accuracy in most cases, it provides interpretability since the features are known, which is an interesting aspect. Most algorithms that rely on representation learning are less easy to interpret since the features are more abstract, but they also provide more accurate results. In the present paper, we propose to use a hybrid approach between classical and representation learning algorithms that combines the advantages of both.

158 A time-frequency representation such as the spectrogram is one way to create a set  
 159 of features for classifying seismic signals (C. W. Johnson et al., 2020; Snover et al., 2020;  
 160 Jenkins et al., 2021). However, Andén and Mallat (2014) showed that a spectrogram gen-  
 161 erated by the Fourier transform is not ideal for classification purposes since it is not stable  
 162 to time-warping deformations, especially at short periods compared with the duration of  
 163 the analyzing window. They introduce another time-frequency representation called a deep  
 164 scattering spectrum which is computed by a scattering network. This type of network  
 165 implements a cascade of convolutions with wavelet filters, modulus function, and pooling  
 166 operations (see Figure 2a and b). Deep scattering spectra are locally translation invariant  
 167 and preserve transient phenomena such as attack and amplitude modulation. These char-  
 168 acteristics are beneficial when it comes to classifying any time series data. In Andén and  
 169 Mallat (2014) and Peddinti et al. (2014), the authors have successfully classified audio data  
 170 based on the deep scattering spectrum. Seydoux et al. (2020) have brought that repre-  
 171 sentation into seismology and showed that small precursory signals of a landslide could be  
 172 detected and classified in an unsupervised fashion. Other successful deep-learning classifiers  
 173 inspired by deep scattering networks are presented in Balestrieri et al. (2018) and Cosentino  
 174 and Aazhang (2020).

175 We use the strategy presented in Seydoux et al. (2020) for calculating the deep scattering  
 176 spectrum. Considering the continuous input signal  $x(t) \in \mathbb{R}^C$  (where  $C$  is the number of  
 177 channels), the scattering coefficients  $S^{(\ell)}$  of order  $\ell$  are obtained from the following cascade  
 178 of wavelet convolutions and modulus operations (i.e. wavelet transforms):

$$S^{(\ell)}(t, f_{n_1}^{(1)}, f_{n_2}^{(2)}, \dots, f_{n_\ell}^{(\ell)}) = \max_{[t, t+dt]} \left| \phi^{(\ell)}(f_{n_\ell}^{(\ell)}) \star \dots \star \phi^{(2)}(f_{n_2}^{(2)}) \star \phi^{(1)}(f_{n_1}^{(1)}) \star x \right|, \quad (1)$$

179 where  $\star$  stands for the temporal convolution,  $|\cdot|$  represents the modulus operator and  
 180  $\phi^{(i)}(f_{n_i}^{(i)})$  is the wavelet filter at the layer  $i$  of the scattering network, with center frequency  
 181  $f_{n_i}$ . Here  $f_{n_i}$  refers to one of the center frequencies of the layer  $i$  indexed by  $n_i = 1 \dots N_i$ ,  
 182 where  $N_i$  is the total number of wavelets at layer  $i$ . In contrast to the Fourier transform,  
 183 the center frequencies of the wavelets are placed logarithmically. In this study, we only  
 184 consider a scattering network with 2 layers (as depicted in Figure 2) since Andén and Mallat  
 185 (2014) argued that more layers do not necessarily introduce new valuable information. Note  
 186 also that each input channel from the seismic station is treated separately and their deep  
 187 scattering spectrum are concatenated later into a vector after the pooling operation in each  
 188 layer. The number of wavelets per layer and frequency range of each layer is discussed later.  
 189 While the authors in Seydoux et al. (2020) implement a learnable wavelet filter  $\phi^{(i)}(f_{n_i}^{(i)})$   
 190 with respect to the clustering loss, we directly use a (non-learnable) Gabor filter, as originally  
 191 presented in Andén and Mallat (2014). This choice was made principally because we do not  
 192 perform a fixed cluster analysis in our study, but an exploration of the data instead where a  
 193 loss function is harder to define. The maximum-pooling operation is performed over a time  
 194 interval  $[t, t + dt]$  of duration  $dt$  over the continuous data; the data sampling rate and the  
 195 pooling operation control the final sampling rate of the deep scattering spectrum. While the  
 196 first-order scattering coefficients resemble a spectrogram based on a wavelet transform, the  
 197 second-order scattering coefficients contain information about the attack and modulation.  
 198 For the interested reader we refer to Andén and Mallat (2014) and Seydoux et al. (2020).  
 199

### 200 2.3 Features extraction from deep scattering spectrum

201 The deep scattering spectrum matrix can have more than 1,000 dimensions and, thus,  
 202 the conditions for clustering are not favorable (Kriegel et al., 2009). Indeed, distances in  
 203 very high-dimensional spaces give little information about the structure of the data (the  
 204 so-called curse of dimensionality; Bellman, 1966). In addition, the representation is known  
 205 to be highly redundant since the wavelet filters of the first scattering layer are often consid-  
 206 ered with a strong frequency overlap in order to provide a dense first-order representation.  
 207 Therefore, it is recommended to reduce the dimensions before clustering. In our case, we use  
 208 an independent component analysis (ICA) to reduce the dimension of the representation.

209 In the following remarks, we explain the basic concept of ICA. For the interested reader we  
 210 refer to (Comon, 1994).

211 ICA is introduced as a statistical tool for blind source separation and feature extraction.  
 212 The generative model of the ICA can be described as:

$$213 \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{s}\mathbf{A}, \quad (2)$$

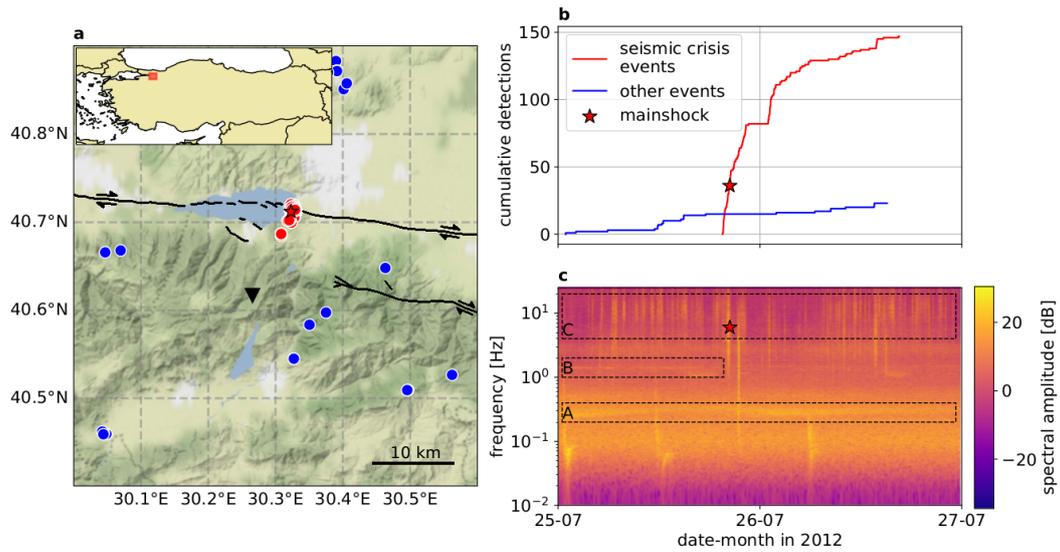
214 where  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F}$  are the  $N$  observations of dimension  $F$ ,  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{F \times C}$  is the mixing  
 215 matrix, and  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^{C \times N}$  are the unmixed sources (namely, the  $C$  unmixed sources obtained  
 216 from ICA). The observations  $\mathbf{x}$  are therefore a linear combination of the independent sources  
 217  $\mathbf{s}$ , with the mixing weights gathered in  $\mathbf{A}$ . A test of statistical independence is required to  
 218 solve Equation 2 while ensuring the sources  $\mathbf{s}$  to be independent. This concept is illustrated  
 219 in Figure 2, where the unmixed sources are considered as features in our workflow (therein  
 220 called feature matrix). These sources are obtained from the projection of the deep scattering  
 221 matrix onto the set of inferred mixing matrix. Among the different strategies, we can look  
 222 for a minimum of mutual information, or similarly, a maximization of the non-Gaussianity.  
 223 In our study, we apply the `FastICA` algorithm from the `scikit-learn` Python library, which  
 224 uses the negentropy as a measure of non-Gaussianity (Hyvärinen & Oja, 2000). This analysis  
 225 is similar to the principal component analysis, with the difference that the independent  
 226 components are not orthogonal. In addition, there is no information about the variance  
 227 explained by the different independent components, and are therefore delivered unsorted by  
 228 the algorithm.

### 229 3 Data

230 We test our proposed workflow on continuous three-component seismic data from the  
 231 station DC06 of the DANA experiment in Turkey (see for instance Poyraz et al., 2015, and  
 232 the map shown in Figure 3a). Originally, the experiment was conducted to investigate the  
 233 crustal structure beneath the western segment of the North Anatolian Fault. We choose  
 234 the data set for mainly two reasons. First of all, the data set contains both seismic and  
 235 anthropogenic activity, which is a typical situation in most seismological studies. Second  
 236 of all, an existing template matching catalog provides labels for the seismicity in this area.  
 237 The catalog was built following the methodology in Beaucé et al. (2019).

238 We choose to analyze the seismic data from the 25th to the 27th of July 2012. During  
 239 that period, a seismic crisis with 148 events occurred on and around the northern strand of  
 240 the North Anatolian fault (see Figure 3a and b). The catalog explains the series of events  
 241 with 17 templates having their hypocenters close to each other (Figure 3a, red dots). Since  
 242 the seismic crisis resembles a repeating pattern with short time-warping deformations due  
 243 to slight changes of the hypocenters, it is an interesting study case for our proposed method.  
 244 Station DC06 is close to the seismic crisis and records the time period of interest without  
 245 data gaps. Thus, we choose the three-component seismograms of this station. The sampling  
 246 rate of the data is 50 Hz.

247 The spectrogram of the east component of station DC06 is presented in Figure 3c. The  
 248 oceanic microseism is visible around 0.2 Hz, where we can observe the dispersive nature of  
 249 the oceanic gravity waves. At around 1.5 Hz we can identify a nonstationary monochromatic  
 250 noise source, which seems to be more active during the first day. At frequencies higher than  
 251 3 Hz we can see increased activity during daytime, most likely induced by anthropogenic  
 252 noise sources. The main shock of the crisis during the evening of the 25th is also easy to  
 253 spot in the spectrogram.



**Figure 3.** Geological context and seismic data used in the present study. **(a)** Map of the North Anatolian fault zone showing station DC06 (black triangle), the seismic crisis (red dots) including the identified mainshock (red star) and other seismic activity (blue dots); all detected with a template matching strategy. The geological faults that ruptured after 1900 (black lines) are adapted from Emre et al. (2011). **(b)** Cumulative detections of the seismic crisis (in red) and other seismic activity (in blue) obtained with template matching. **(c)** Continuous spectrogram of the east-component of station DC06, with a visual identification of (A) oceanic microseism, (B) a non-stationary monochromatic noise source, and (C) daily high-frequency activity.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Feature space

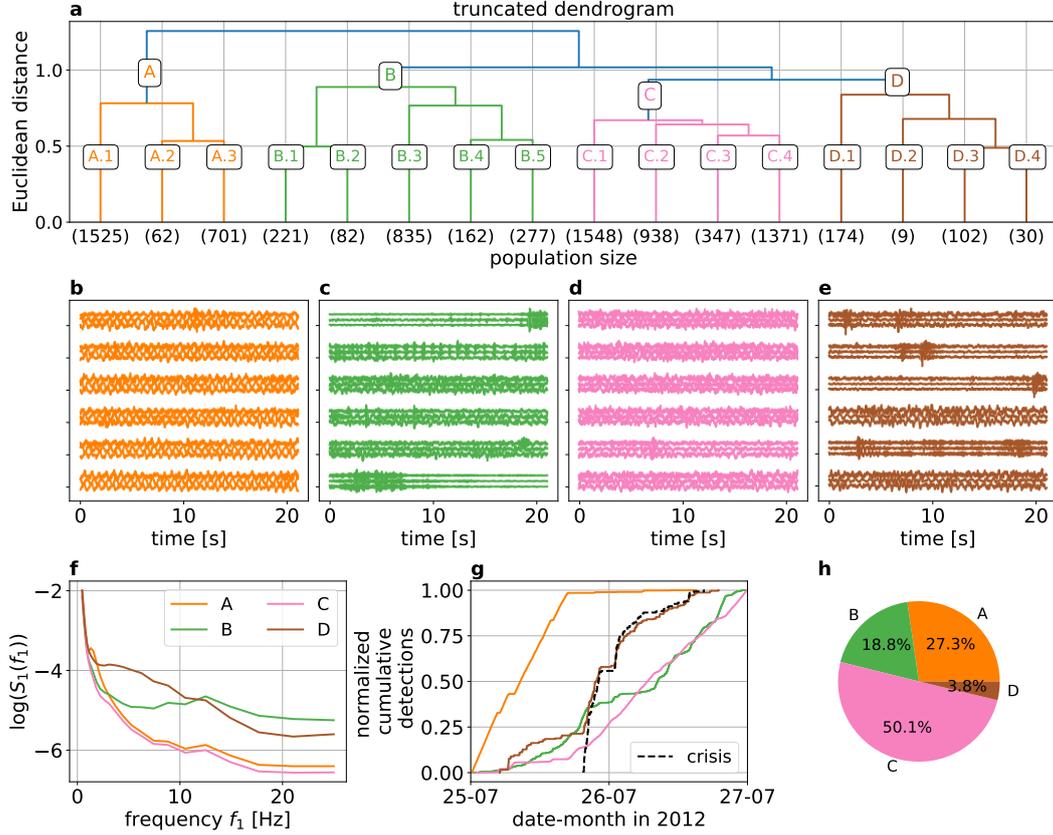
Firstly, we use the continuous three-component seismograms to calculate the deep scattering spectrum with a two-layered scattering network (as detailed in Equation 1). The network parameters are physics-driven and can be adjusted according to the goal. In this study, the first layer contains 24 Gabor wavelets with center frequencies between the Nyquist frequency of the seismogram (25 Hz) and 0.78 Hz with a spacing of 4 wavelets per octave. The second layer contains 14 Gabor wavelets with center frequencies between 25 Hz and 0.19 Hz with a spacing of 2 wavelets per octave. This setup results in 24 wavelet transforms per channel in the first layer and 336 ( $24 * 14$ ) wavelet transforms per channel in the second layer. Because the deep scattering spectrum matrix is a concatenation of the first- and second-order scattering coefficient of each input channel, the total number of scattering coefficients is 1080 (dimension  $F$  in Figure 2). For the temporal pooling operation, we apply maximum pooling, since we are interested in detecting and classifying non-stationary events such as the seismic crisis. If the focus of classification is the background noise, average pooling might be the better choice (as suggested in Seydoux et al., 2020). The moving pooling window is 20.48 s large and does not overlap. Hence, the time resolution of the deep scattering spectrum matrix is also 20.48 s.

For dimensionality reduction, we apply an independent component analysis using the **FastICA** algorithm from the **scikit-learn** Python library. In this study, we select the appropriate number of independent components according to the reconstruction loss between the original data and the reconstructed data after compression with an ICA (detailed in Appendix B). We emphasize that we look for a trade-off between keeping the most significant amount of information while using few independent components. From the study of the loss with increasing number of components shown in Appendix B and Figure B1 therein, we conclude that keeping ten independent components is a good compromise and constitute our choice in the present study. A visual representation of the ten unmixed sources building the feature space is depicted in Figure B2 in Appendix B.

### 4.2 Dendrogram

After transforming the continuous seismic data into a most relevant set of features, we can use this representation to explore the data with hierarchical clustering. By controlling the distance threshold, we can extract different numbers of clusters. The distance threshold sets the boundaries for the possible distances between points within a cluster. While a larger distance threshold allows larger and fewer clusters to form, a smaller distance threshold extracts smaller but many clusters. In Figure 4a we selected a distance threshold of 0.47 in order to show a truncated dendrogram stopping at 16 clusters. At a distance of 0.9, we extract four main clusters labeled as A, B, C, and D. Figure 4b shows the averaged first-order scattering coefficients of these four clusters. These first-order scattering coefficients describe the frequency characteristics of each cluster. Figure 4c presents the normalized cumulative detection rate of each cluster, with the seismic crisis detection rate indicated as a reference. The relative size of each cluster compared to the size of the entire data set is depicted in Figure 4d. In the following remarks, we will analyze each of the four main clusters from left to right.

Cluster A contains ca. 27% of the data (Figure 4d) and is the first cluster to split from the whole data set, i.e., cluster A is the furthest away from the center of the data points (Figure 4a). Compared to the other clusters, its scattering coefficients for all frequencies are relatively low except for a local maximum around 1.5 Hz (Figure 4b). Looking at the corresponding cumulative detection curve (Figure 4c), we see that this cluster is active mainly during the first day until the late afternoon, which seems to correlate with the monochromatic signal around 1.5 Hz we have already identified in the spectrogram (Figure 3c).



**Figure 4.** Dendrogram analysis and statistical characteristics of the different clusters. **(a)** Dendrogram calculated in the feature space (see Sec. 2.1 for explanations). The dendrogram is here truncated in order to form 16 clusters. The clusters marked with a letter are considered the main clusters, and the subclusters are indicated with numbers. The numbers in the parenthesis indicate the number of samples in each cluster. **(b, c, d and e)** depict random examples of waveforms for the four main cluster A, B, C and D, respectively. **(f)** Centroidal first-order scattering coefficients for main clusters A, B, C and D. **(g)** Normalized cumulative detections of main clusters A, B, C and D, and of the seismic crisis obtained from the multi-station template-matching catalog. **(h)** Relative size of the main clusters compared to the size of the entire data set.

Cluster B contains about 19% of the data samples (Figure 4d) and has relatively large scattering coefficients for frequencies above 10 Hz (Figure 4b). The corresponding cumulative detection curve indicates that this cluster accumulates less detections during the beginning of a day than with later times of a day (Figure 4c). Combining these facts leads to the hypothesis that cluster B might be related to signals with an anthropogenic origin.

Cluster C is the largest cluster with more than 50% of the data points (Figure 4d). Compared to the other clusters, it also has the lowest scattering coefficients at all frequencies (Figure 4b). Looking at the cumulative detection curve (Figure 4c), we see this cluster shows an almost linear increase starting at the afternoon of the first day, exactly when cluster A becomes almost inactive. The cluster size and frequency content suggest that cluster C is related to samples containing only ambient noise.

Finally, cluster D contains about 4% of data set (Figure 4d) and is the smallest of the four clusters (Figure 4d). The corresponding first-order scattering coefficients show a local maximum around 5 Hz (Figure 4b). Its cumulative detection curve correlates well with the detections of the seismic crisis (Figure 4c), with additional detections before the seismic crisis starts. All these observations indicate that cluster D is probably related to nearby seismic activity in general.

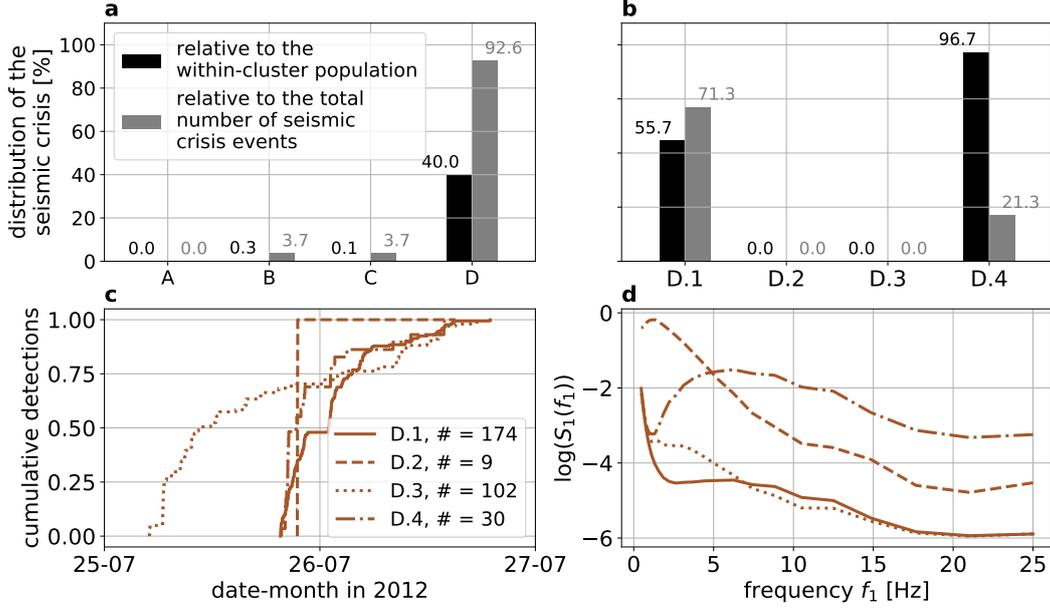
## 5 Discussion

In this section, we will discuss and interpret the dendrogram's representation and its clustering solution. While the main focus is on identifying how the seismic crisis occurs in the dendrogram, we will also discuss how the general seismicity is observed through this representation, and interpret the remaining clusters with anthropogenic activity and ambient seismic noise. To underpin the statement that the deep scattering spectrum is a superior representation for the task at hand than spectrograms, we also create and interpret a dendrogram based on spectrograms of the same data set (see Appendix D).

### 5.1 Identification of the seismic crisis within the dendrogram

Firstly, we identify all time segments containing onsets of the events of the seismic crisis and observe which clusters those time segments belong to. The template matching catalog contains 148 detections related to this seismic crisis. However, we only associate 136 samples in the feature space with the seismic crisis, since one sample represents about 20 s of waveform data and, thus, can contain multiple events. Figure 5a shows that a large majority of the samples, which contain arrivals of the seismic crisis, fall into cluster D (92.6%). On the other hand, only 40% of cluster D is related to the seismic crisis, underpinning the statement that this cluster is related to general seismic activity. Cluster B and C share the remaining 7.4% of the crisis. Compared to the large population sizes of clusters B and C, the contribution of the crisis almost vanishes (0.3 and 0.1%). Cluster A contains no detections of the crisis. While cluster D contains the majority of the seismic crisis, the interesting aspect is to understand what the remaining 60% samples of this cluster are related to (earthquakes from the same source region, different signals, etc). To answer that question, we investigate the subclusters visible in Figure 4a obtained with a distance threshold of 0.47; in particular, we will narrow the focus on the subclusters of cluster D, namely the four subclusters D.1 to D.4.

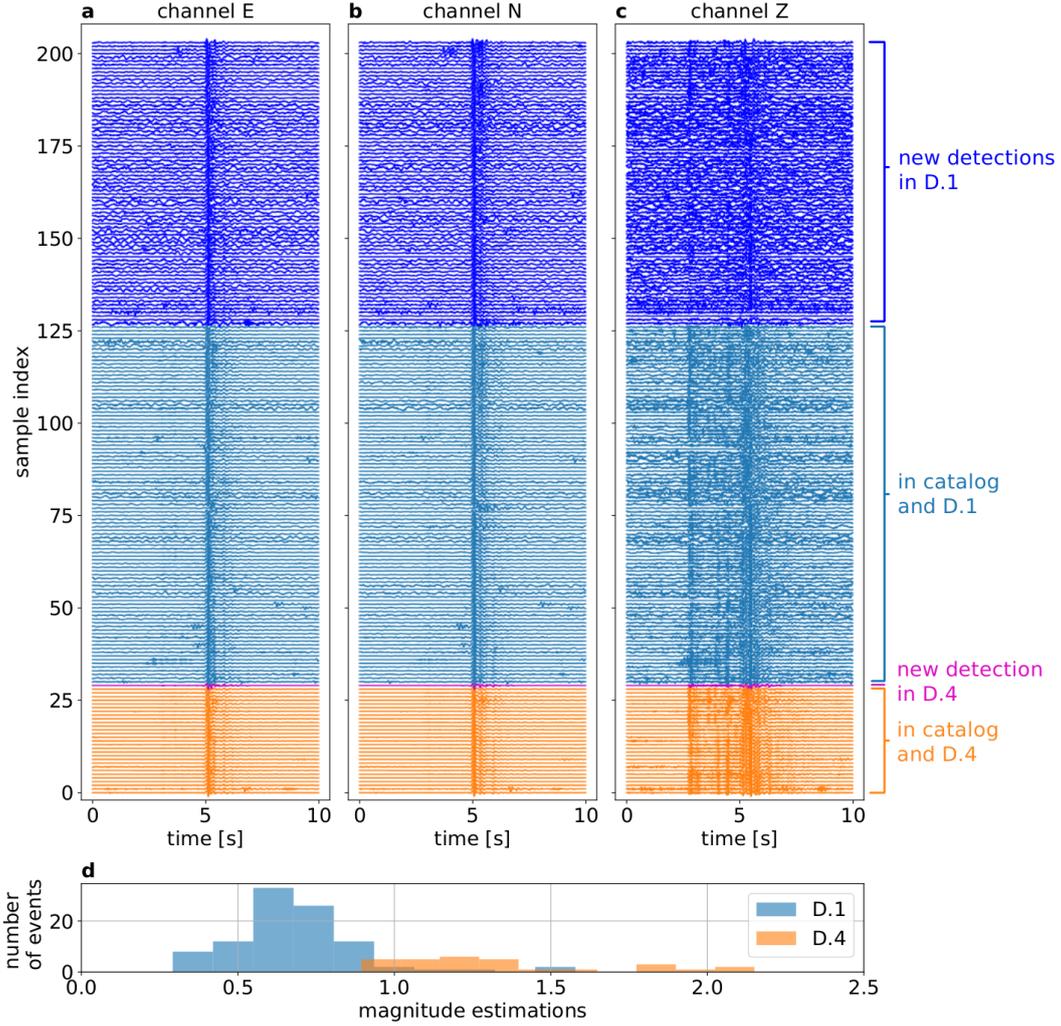
Firstly, we look at the distribution of the samples containing the seismic crisis across the four subclusters in main cluster D. From Figure 5a, we know that more than 92% of the crisis was found in cluster D. We observe in Figure 5b that this amount splits into ca. 71.3% in cluster D.1 and ca. 21.3% in cluster D.4. The subclusters D.2 and D.3 contain no earthquakes from the seismic crisis and will be discussed later. If we look at the cumulative detection curve of each subcluster in D (Figure 5c), we see that cluster D.1 and D.4



**Figure 5.** Identification of the seismic crisis within the main and subclusters. (a) The distribution of the seismic crisis across the four main clusters. (b) The distribution of the seismic crisis across the four subclusters in the main cluster D. (c) Normalized cumulative detection curves for the subclusters in the main cluster D. (d) Centroidal first-order scattering coefficients for the subclusters in the main cluster D.

353 share a very similar temporal pattern. The corresponding centroidal first-order scattering  
 354 coefficients (Figure 5d) explain why the crisis got split into two clusters: across almost all  
 355 frequencies the larger subcluster D.1 shows significantly smaller scattering coefficients than  
 356 the smaller subcluster D.4. Hence, the magnitudes of the events seem to be the character-  
 357 istics that separates the crisis into two clusters. Besides, we observe that 56 % of D.1 and  
 358 97 % of D.4 can be explained by the cataloged crisis. This observation raises the question:  
 359 what are the samples in D.1 and D.4 that cannot be related to the seismic crisis recorded  
 360 by the catalog? We can answer this question by looking at the waveforms representing the  
 361 corresponding data points of subclusters D.1 and D.4.

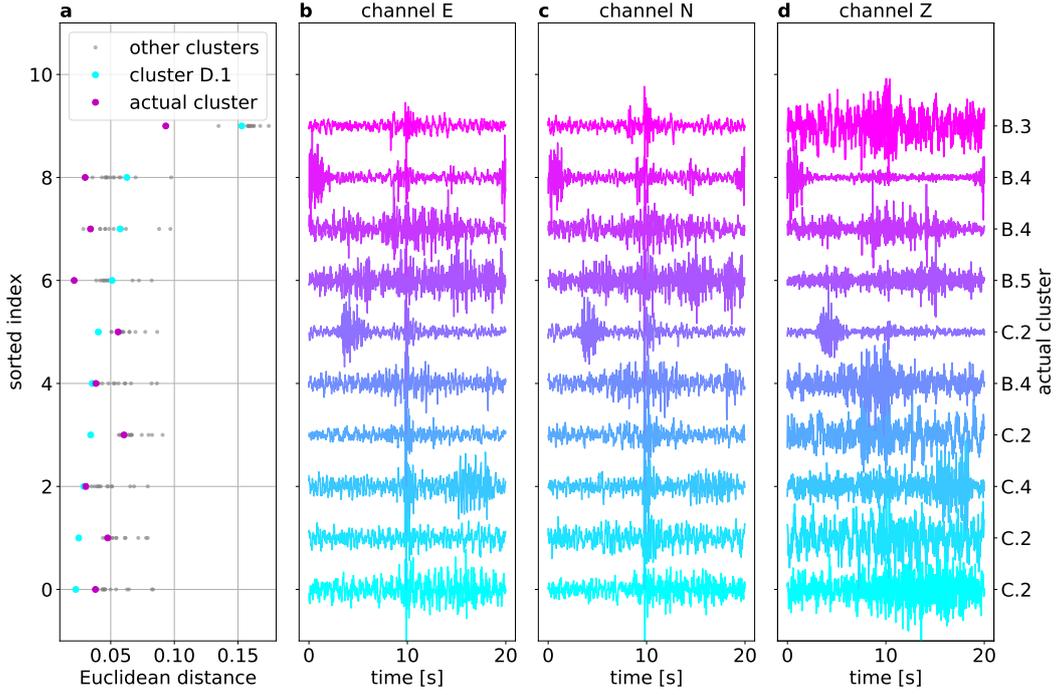
362 Figure 6a, b and c show the corresponding waveforms of all 204 data points of the two  
 363 subclusters D.1 and D.4. For presentation purposes we align the waveforms accordingly to  
 364 their maximum correlation with a template waveform from the subcluster. For all waveforms  
 365 we observe the *P* and *S* seismic phase arrivals of the earthquakes. The first 30 waveforms  
 366 correspond to subcluster D.4. 29 of them are also in the catalog (marked orange)  
 367 while 1 of them is not in the catalog (marked magenta). The following 174 waveforms are  
 368 from subcluster D.1. 98 of them are also in the catalog (marked light blue) while 76  
 369 of them are not in the catalog (marked blue). The waveforms are very similar to each  
 370 other on all three channels. This indicates that these new detections are coming from the  
 371 same source area. Note also that the first 30 waveforms representing subcluster D.4 have  
 372 a better signal-to-noise ratio than the following waveforms of subcluster D.1. This agrees  
 373 with our assumption that the crisis is split into two subclusters due to magnitude differences.  
 374 The magnitude estimations of the template matching catalog confirms this assumption (see  
 375 Figure 6d). While most of the events located in D.1 range between M0.5 and M1, the events  
 376 located in D.4 range between M1 and M2.2.



**Figure 6.** (a,b,c) Waveform data from subcluster D.1 and D.4. The color code indicates the according subcluster and if the event is mentioned by the catalog. (d) Magnitude estimations of the cataloged events of the seismic crisis found in subcluster D.1 and D.4.

377 By investigating cluster D and its subclusters D.1 and D.4, we are able to identify two  
 378 subclusters representing the seismic crisis. While D.1 contains many events with smaller  
 379 magnitudes, D.4 contains fewer events with larger magnitudes. Together the two subclusters  
 380 contain 92.6% of the cataloged events and 77 new events, which have identical  $P$  and  $S$   
 381 wave arrivals as the cataloged ones. The new detections can be explained by the fact that  
 382 we utilize a single station method and compare it to a catalog based on a multi station  
 383 method. More details and a comparison with a single station template matching catalog  
 384 based on station DC06 can be found in Appendix C.

385 However, 7.4% of the cataloged detections can not be found in subclusters D.1 or D.4.  
 386 In the following remarks, we want to analyze the misidentified 7.4% of cataloged events,  
 387 which equal ten over 135 events. First of all, we want to know where these events are  
 388 located in the feature space. Therefore, we calculate the Euclidean distance between the  
 389 misidentified events and the centroids of each cluster in the feature space (see Figure 7a).  
 390 In magenta, we highlight the distance between the sample and its respective subcluster.  
 391 In cyan, we highlight the distance between the sample and subcluster D.1 containing the low



**Figure 7.** Analysis of the misidentified earthquake waveforms. **(a)** Distances between misidentified data points containing an event from the catalog and the centroids of all clusters. The magenta points show the distance between the data point and the centroid of its own respective subcluster. The cyan points show the distance between the data point and the centroid of D.1. The gray points show the distance between the data point and the centroids of the other 14 subclusters. **(b, c, d)** Corresponding aligned waveform data sorted according to the distance to the centroid of D.1 (respectively channels E, N, and Z). The color coding represents the distance to the centroid of subcluster D.1. A purple color indicates a larger distance than a light blue color.

392 magnitude events of the crisis. In gray, we highlight the distances to all other remaining  
 393 clusters as a comparison. We sorted the misidentified ten events according to the distance to  
 394 the centroid of D.1. We see that for the first six events, the distance to the centroid of D.1 is  
 395 smaller than to the centroid of its respective cluster. The corresponding waveform data also  
 396 offer explanations for the misidentification (Figure 7b to d). Indeed, the *P* and *S* arrivals  
 397 are noisy but visible for the first five events. Thus, some events might be misclassified  
 398 because samples are grouped with the Ward’s method, which solves iteratively an objective  
 399 function considering the Euclidean distance and the within-cluster variance. In other words,  
 400 clusters can agglomerate samples which might be closer to the centroids of other clusters  
 401 if we consider the pure Euclidean distance. After the first five events, when the distance  
 402 to its respective cluster becomes smaller than the distance to D.1., the *P* and *S* arrivals  
 403 are not visible anymore, or other large-amplitude events are present. Here the problem is  
 404 related to the representation of the data as a deep scattering spectrum or in the feature  
 405 space. Other large-amplitude transients can corrupt the representation since we perform a  
 406 maximum pooling to extract the scattering coefficients. This is not a specific problem of  
 407 maximum pooling but pooling in general since this operation reduces information in the  
 408 data.

## 5.2 Neighboring clusters of the seismic crisis in the feature space

Having identified most of the seismic crisis in two neighboring subclusters already shows that the representation of the data and the distances between the data points are meaningful. As a next step, we want to analyze the neighborhood of these two subclusters to get a better understanding of the data representation. Since D.2 and D.3 share the same cluster with D.1 and D.4, we know that they are located next to each other in the feature space. This indicates that subcluster D.2 and D.3 might contain similar signals, such as seismic activity with a different origin than the seismic crisis.

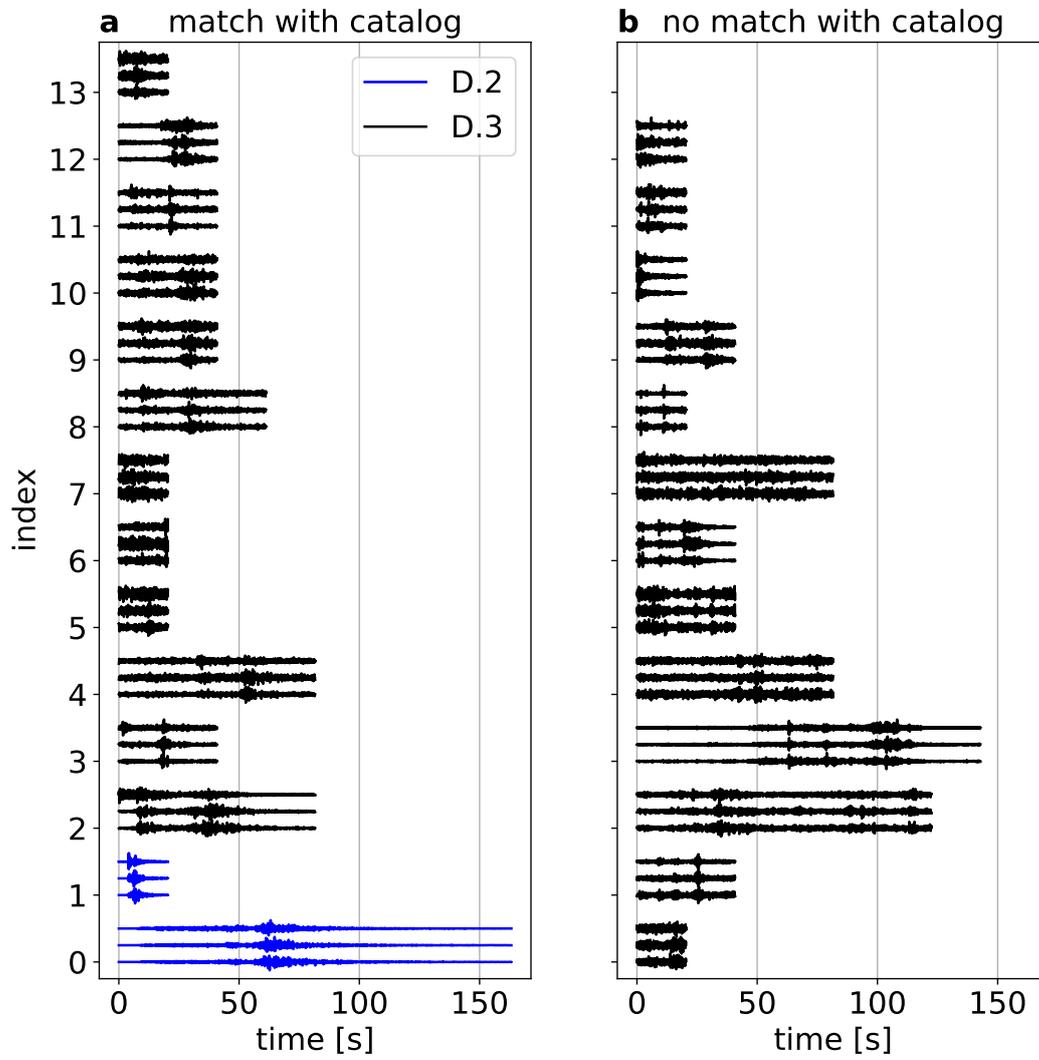
To verify this assumption, we can compare existing earthquake catalogs with the timestamps of the samples in the subclusters. We extend the local template matching catalog with a regional catalog limited to events within a radius of  $5^\circ$  around station DC06. The regional catalog is downloaded from IRIS. For calculating the seismic phase arrivals at the station, we use the `TauP` module of `ObsPy` with the velocity model of Kennett and Engdahl (1991). We consider a sample related to an event of the catalog if the 20s window of the sample overlaps with the window between the  $P$  wave arrival and the decaying coda.

The waveform data of D.2 and D.3 are presented in Figure 8. Figure 8a indicates the samples which can be explained by arrivals of a regional or local event, and Figure 8b shows the samples which can not be explained by arrivals of a regional or local event. Note that one sample in the feature space represents ca. 20s of waveform data and each horizontal waveform displayed in Figure 8 contains multiple consecutive 20s windows. Subcluster D.2 contains only nine samples corresponding to two seismic events indicated in blue in Figure 8a. The first event represented by eight consecutive samples at index 0 is a relatively distant  $M4$  event. The other event represented by a single sample is a quarry blast from a local mine mentioned by the template matching catalog. At first sight, it might seem unexpected that these two events are found in the same subcluster. However, subclusters D.2 shows the largest scattering coefficients for frequencies below 5 Hz (see Figure 5d), and its centroid is the furthest away from the remaining data set as we can see from the inter-cluster distance matrix presented in Figure A1 in Appendix A. Moreover, the within-cluster variance  $\sigma_c$  in the top panel of Figure A1 indicates that the samples of subcluster D.2 are the most spread out compared to the other subclusters, This suggests that both events are seen as outliers in the data space due to their high amplitudes at lower frequencies.

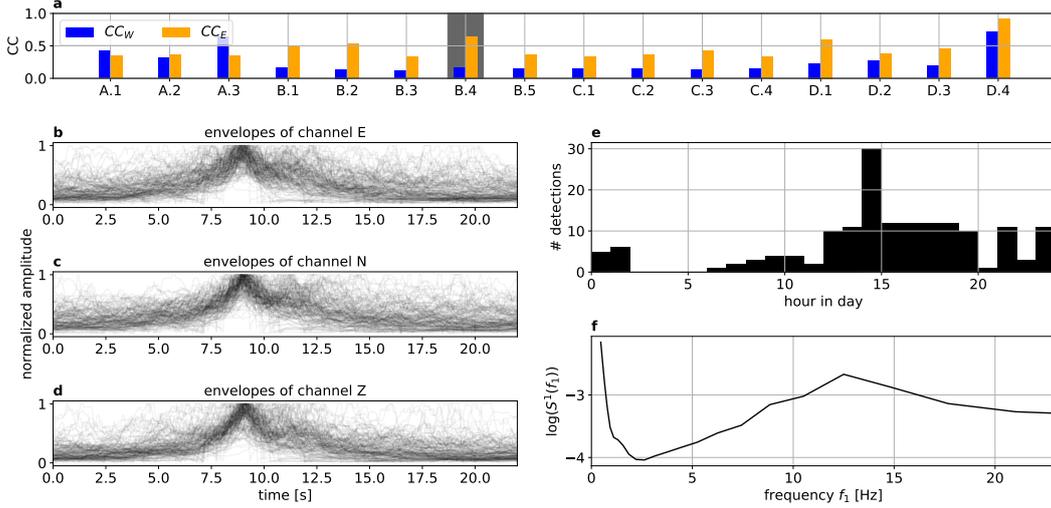
Moreover, we observe that the catalog can explain 67% of all samples of D.3. However, we only show some waveforms in black in Figure 8a. The other 33% are shown in Figure 8b, and some samples also show seismic phase arrivals (in particular, the seismograms shown at index six and nine). It is thus likely that the samples shown in Figure 8b contain uncataloged events. While subcluster D.1 and D.4 represent similar earthquakes from a similar source region, subcluster D.3 shows many kinds of signals, such as earthquakes with different magnitudes and distances to the station. We can interpret subcluster D.3 as an agglomeration of transient signals with increased energy between 1 and 5 Hz (see Figure 5d). Regional and local events also fall into this category. Thus, in the vicinity of the subclusters D.1 and D.4, related to the seismic crisis, other subclusters containing seismic activity can be found.

## 5.3 Anthropogenic signals with high envelope correlation

After identifying seismic activity in cluster D, we want to draw attention to the remaining part of the seismic data set. Seismic activity induces short-term signals with a characteristic waveform and envelope shape. However, if we want to classify other types of signals like tremors, anthropogenic noise, or ambient noise, correlating waveforms are unlikely to be suitable for this task. One key feature of the deep scattering spectrum is the representation of the waveform's envelope in the second-order scattering coefficients (Andén & Mallat, 2014). Consequently, we should find clusters with weakly correlating waveforms but strongly correlating envelopes.



**Figure 8.** Seismic waveforms identified in subclusters D.2 and D.3. **(a)** waveform data of D.2 and D.3 where the phase arrivals match the merged catalog. **(b)** waveform data of D.3 which do not correspond to phase arrivals from the merged catalog.

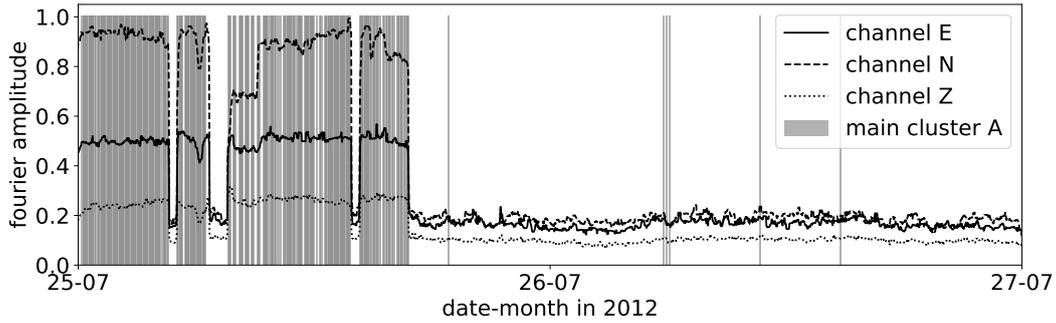


**Figure 9.** Interpretation of subcluster B.4. (a) Averaged correlation coefficient for the waveforms  $CC_W$  and for the envelopes  $CC_E$  for all 16 subclusters. (b,c,d) Aligned envelopes for the three channels for subcluster B.4. (e) Number of detections per hour for subcluster B.4. (f) Centroidal first-order scattering coefficients for subcluster B.4.

460 For that reason, we investigate the correlation coefficient of the waveform ( $CC_W$ ) and  
 461 the envelope ( $CC_E$ ) for all subclusters. Firstly, a template is defined by the closest sample  
 462 to the centroid representing the most typical waveform of a cluster. Then, we calculate  
 463 the correlation coefficient of the waveform data  $CC_W$  and the correlation coefficient of the  
 464 smoothed envelope  $CC_E$  between the template and the remaining samples. The envelope is  
 465 defined by the modulus of the analytic signal, which is a complex-valued representation of  
 466 the waveform disregarding the negative frequencies from the Fourier transform. A median-  
 467 filter smoothens the envelope. The averaged results are depicted in Figure 9a. We firstly  
 468 observe that  $CC_E$  is more significant than  $CC_W$  for most subclusters. In particular, cluster  
 469 B.4 shows the most significant discrepancy between  $CC_E$  and  $CC_W$ ; this subcluster is part  
 470 of cluster B, which we related to high-frequent urban noise. In Figure 9b to d, we align  
 471 the envelopes for each channel and each sample in B.4 to depict the shared characteristics. We  
 472 see a very symmetric envelope that lasts around 5 s. The envelopes look very similar on all  
 473 three components. Figure 9e shows a histogram of detections over the time of the day. We see  
 474 that this cluster mostly appears during daytime with a clear peak around 14:00 local time.  
 475 Figure 9f shows the averaged first-order scattering coefficients for all three channels. The  
 476 frequencies above 5 Hz are very pronounced and peak between 10 and 15 Hz. In summary,  
 477 we see that subcluster B.4 is related to non stationary urban noise which produced similar  
 478 envelopes lasting 5 s. Nearby road traffic could produce these kind of signals.

#### 479 5.4 Long-lasting signals with low envelope correlation

480 As the last example, we want to draw attention towards clusters A and C. Both clusters  
 481 show relatively low correlation coefficients for the envelopes (see Figure 9). Cluster C  
 482 contains more than half of the data, and the average scattering coefficients are the lowest  
 483 for all frequencies compared to the other clusters (see Figure 4b and d). Moreover, the  
 484 subclusters of C have a relatively low distance to each other, and their within-cluster variance  
 485 is relatively low (see Figure A1 in Appendix A). This indicates that they contain similar  
 486 signals. Combining these facts, we conclude that this cluster contains ambient noise without  
 487 any significant activity of transient signals.



**Figure 10.** Fourier amplitude of all three channels calculated over 10 min windows in the frequency range of 1.4 to 1.6 Hz together with the activation of the main cluster A

488 Cluster A seems to correlate with the monochromatic noise source around 1.5 Hz (see  
 489 Figure 3c and 4c). To prove that cluster A contains only data with increased activity around  
 490 1.5 Hz we depict the occurrence of cluster A and the Fourier amplitude of the three channels  
 491 filtered between 1.4 and 1.6 Hz as a function of time in Figure 10. In general, an increased  
 492 amplitude around 1.5 Hz correlates well with the appearance of cluster A. However, not all  
 493 samples with an increased monochromatic activity fall into cluster A. This can be explained  
 494 by the fact that a sample in the independent component space contains pooled information  
 495 of ca. 20 s of waveform data which can contain many different signals. For example, if two  
 496 different seismic data windows contain an increased monochromatic signal activity, but only  
 497 one of the two windows also contains an earthquake or road traffic, the representation in  
 498 the feature space will be different because of the pooling. Therefore, some samples with  
 499 increased activity around 1.5 Hz will not fall into cluster A because other signals happening  
 500 simultaneously will change their position in the independent component space. Moreover,  
 501 it is interesting to note that subcluster A.1 and A.3 show larger correlation coefficients for  
 502 the waveforms than for the envelopes (Figure 9a). This characteristic only applies to these  
 503 two subclusters and is related to the dominance of the monochromatic signal.

504 Cluster A and C show that the dendrogram representation based on features from the  
 505 deep scattering spectrum also finds cluster of noise sources without strong correlation of the  
 506 waveforms or envelopes.

## 507 6 Conclusion

508 In this study, we proposed a new way of exploring seismic data hierarchically with a  
 509 dendrogram based on features extracted from the deep scattering spectrum. A primary  
 510 advantage of the workflow compared to other machine learning algorithms for classifying  
 511 continuous seismic data is the interpretability at each step. For an application in this study,  
 512 we chose a 2-day long data set containing a nearby seismic crisis with 148 cataloged events.  
 513 These labels served as a sanity check for the algorithm.

514 Firstly, we calculated time-frequency features with the scattering network, decreasing  
 515 the sampling period in time and increasing the number of dimensions. Due to the curse  
 516 of dimensionality, we reduced the data into a ten-dimensional feature space with ICA. The  
 517 retrieved features already revealed trends in the data set (see Appendix B). In the feature  
 518 space, we created the dendrogram based on the Ward's distance between data points and  
 519 clusters. The dendrogram was then used to navigate through the data set and explore areas  
 520 of interest. This approach is very different from conventional clustering, where a certain  
 521 number of clusters has to be defined beforehand. Here, the number of clusters changes with

522 the depth of the dendrogram. This approach can retrieve different sized clusters, of which  
 523 some would have been ignored by statistical analysis.

524 At a significant distance threshold, we extracted the four main clusters A, B, C, and D.  
 525 With the cluster size, the temporal detection, and averaged first-order scattering coefficients,  
 526 we delivered a rough interpretation of each cluster and obtained a rough overview of the  
 527 entire data set. We identified cluster D as the cluster containing earthquake signals. Inside  
 528 cluster D, we found D.1 and D.4 containing 92.6 % of the seismic crisis. The main difference  
 529 between the two subclusters is the magnitude of the events: D.4 contains events with a  
 530 larger magnitude than D.1. 7.4 % (ten events) were found in subclusters of B and C due to  
 531 poor signal-to-noise ratio or other significant amplitude signals in the pooling window. Here  
 532 the problem is related to the pooling itself and the choice of similarity measure, which drives  
 533 the iterative agglomeration. Nevertheless, we believe that Ward’s method is an appropriate  
 534 choice as a similarity measure for the agglomeration process, since it is adapted to the class  
 535 imbalance within seismic data. Moreover, the misidentified ten events are outweighed by  
 536 the 77 new events found in subcluster D.1 and D.4. The similarity of the waveforms suggests  
 537 that they come from the same source area. The case of the seismic crisis has shown that we  
 538 can identify a repeating pattern with slight variations of the waveforms in an unbalanced  
 539 data set.

540 The other subclusters of D can also be primarily explained by seismic activity. D.2 is  
 541 a minor outlier cluster containing a regional M4 event and a quarry blast from a nearby  
 542 mine. 67 % of D.3 can be explained by a catalog containing local and regional events. These  
 543 findings are very interesting when we talk about the meaning of neighborhood. Since we  
 544 know that D.1 and D.4 contain the seismic crisis, we have reasons to assume that we can  
 545 find similar types of signals (e.g., other types of earthquakes) in the neighborhood of these  
 546 subclusters. However, we also need to keep in mind that subclusters from A, B, or C can  
 547 also be in the vicinity of the subclusters D.1 and D.4. Further research needs to be done to  
 548 understand better the meaning of neighborhood in this type of data representation.

549 At last, we also analyzed clusters that are not related to seismicity. B.4 contains  
 550 samples with a low correlation coefficient for the waveform data but a high correlation  
 551 coefficient for the envelopes. Here we found a characteristic envelope that was symmetric  
 552 and lasted for 5 s. The traffic of a nearby road could be a possible source for this cluster.  
 553 This case shows the possibility to detect patterns that do not share the same waveform but  
 554 the same envelope. This is particularly interesting for the detection and classification of  
 555 volcanic and tectonic tremors, which often show similar envelopes but no seismic phases.  
 556 Moreover, we relate Cluster A to a monochromatic signal around 1.5 Hz and cluster C to  
 557 the general ambient noise. These examples show that the workflow also finds clusters with  
 558 low correlating waveforms and envelopes.

559 In general, the method can be used for various tasks. It is beneficial to get a general  
 560 overview of an unknown data set. If there is a particular target of interest (e.g., earthquakes,  
 561 urban noise sources, tremors), we can navigate the dendrogram and focus the analysis on a  
 562 specific branch. The temporal detection curves of the clusters can be easily correlated with  
 563 other time series such as GPS displacement or environmental parameters to check for signal  
 564 classes related to certain physical processes. A specific interesting application would be the  
 565 North Anatolian Fault, where seismologists assume the presence of non-volcanic tremors  
 566 but conventional methods did only deliver null results so far (Pfohl et al., 2015; Bocchini  
 567 et al., 2021). Moreover, the method can be helpful to extract particular types of noise for  
 568 performing ambient noise cross-correlation. We also believe that the dendrogram can reveal  
 569 clusters/classes human expert knowledge could not reveal yet and expand the classes of  
 570 signals we know so far.

571 Moreover, the analysis of the seismic data showed its multi-label characteristics. Multi-  
 572 ple signals can arrive simultaneously and, thus, assigning a single label to a window does not

573 reflect the whole truth. Integrating this issue into clustering seismograms is an interesting  
574 aspect for future work.

## 575 Appendix A Within-cluster variance and inter-cluster distance

576 This section presents the way we calculate the inter-cluster distance  $d_{ij}$  between clusters  
577  $i$  and  $j$  and the within-cluster variance  $\sigma_i$  of cluster  $i$ . The inter-cluster distance are defined  
578 by the Euclidean distances between the centroids of the cluster:

$$579 \quad d_{ij} = \|\boldsymbol{\mu}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j\|_2, \quad (\text{A1})$$

580 where  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_i = \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{n \in i} \hat{\mathbf{y}}_n$  represents the centroid of cluster  $i$  with the samples  $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_n \in \mathbb{R}^C$   
581 belonging to cluster  $i$ , and where  $\|\cdot\|_2$  represents the  $L2$  norm. Similarly, the variance  $\sigma_i$   
582 of cluster  $i$  is defined as:

$$583 \quad \sigma_i = \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_{n \in i} \|\hat{\mathbf{y}}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_i\|_2^2. \quad (\text{A2})$$

584 This analysis is inspired from the silhouette analysis (Rousseeuw, 1987) and helps to  
585 understand better the clustering results. The within-cluster variances and the Euclidean  
586 distances between the centroids are depicted in Figure A1.

## 587 Appendix B Number of relevant independant components

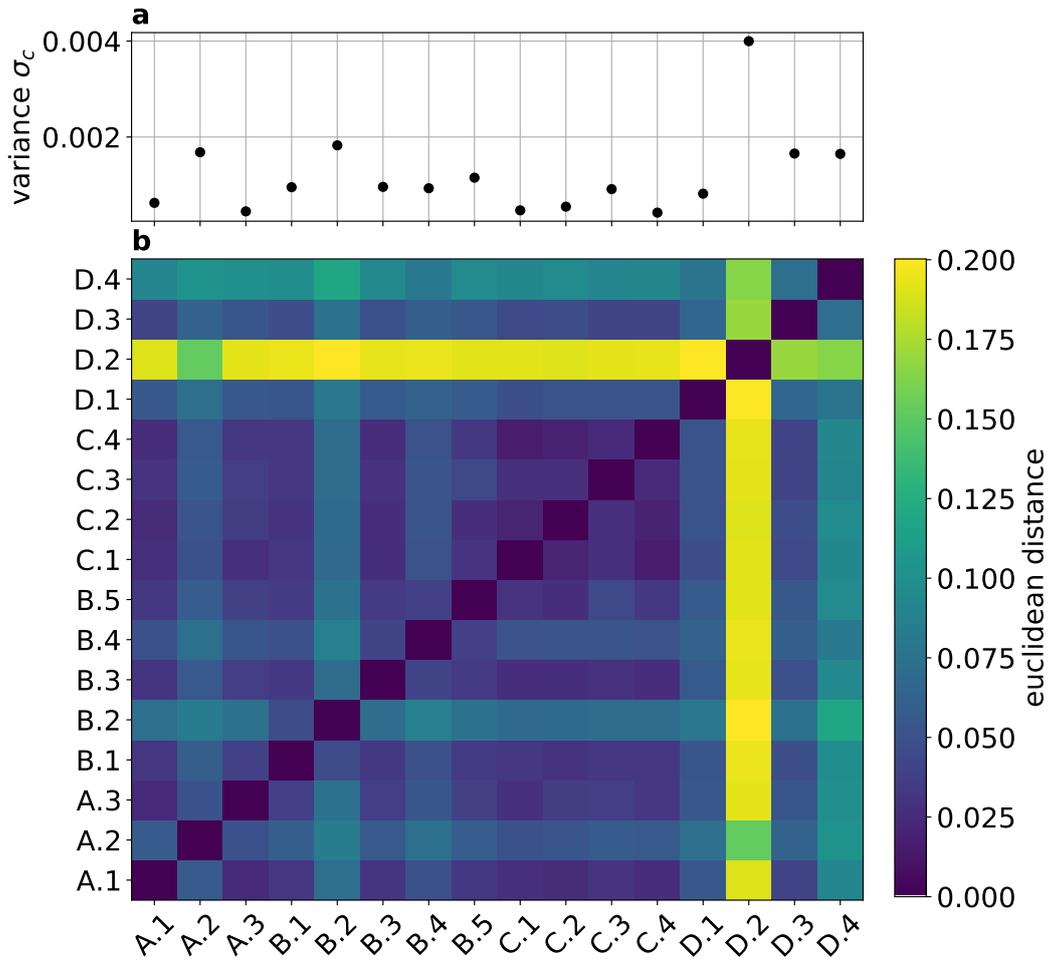
588 For dimensionality reduction, we apply an independent component analysis using the  
589 **FastICA** algorithm from the **scikit-learn** Python library. Setting the number of dimen-  
590 sions in the reduced data space is always an exploratory task, and it is appropriate to  
591 estimate the information loss as a guideline for that. In this study, we use a reconstruction  
592 loss  $\epsilon$  between the original data  $\mathbf{x}$  and the reconstructed data  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{(n)}$ , obtained from Equation 2  
593 with  $n$  independent components, as

$$\epsilon(n) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^N |x_i - \hat{x}_i^{(n)}|}{N}. \quad (\text{B1})$$

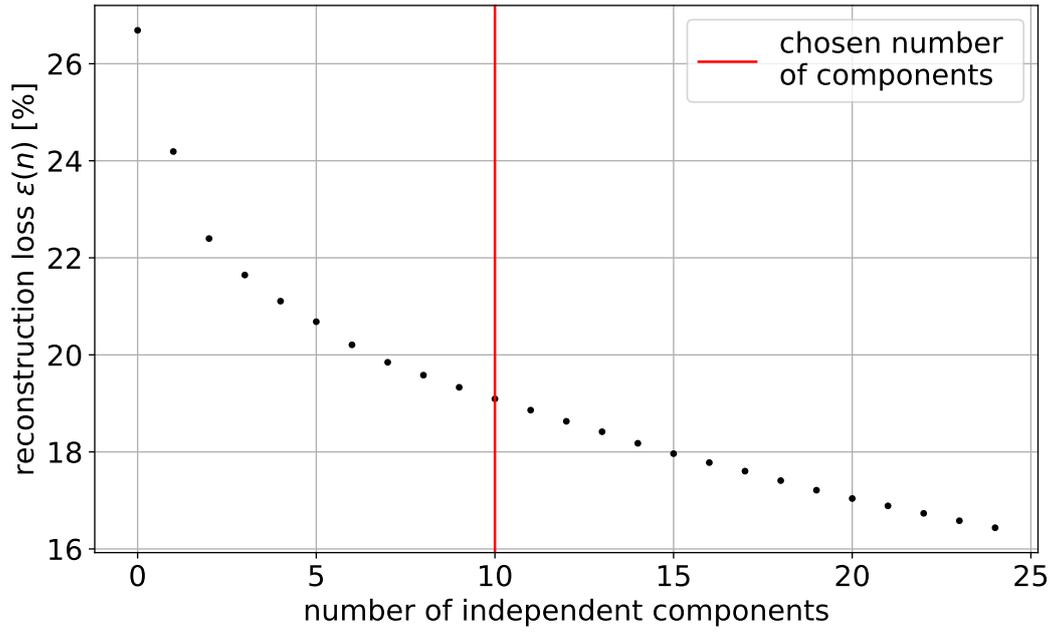
594 Figure B1 depicts the reconstruction loss  $\epsilon(n)$  for an increasing number of indepen-  
595 dent components  $n$ . The reconstruction loss decreases rapidly with the first components.  
596 With a more significant number of components, the rate of error decrease becomes smaller.  
597 The choice of the number of dimensions in the reduced data space is a trade-off between  
598 keeping the dimensions low and retaining most of the information. Thus, ten independent  
599 components seem like a good compromise to us.

600 The time series of the ten unmixed sources calculated from the data set are shown in  
601 Figure B2. To see if single source already show a clear distinction between the seismic crisis  
602 and the rest of the data, we marked in blue the samples containing at least one earthquake  
603 from the crisis. We see that all unmixed sources show very different trends. For example  
604 the ninth unmixed source seems to separate the seismic crisis from the rest of the data.  
605 This observation raises the question if other trends, such as the background noise, can be  
606 correlated with specific unmixed sources.

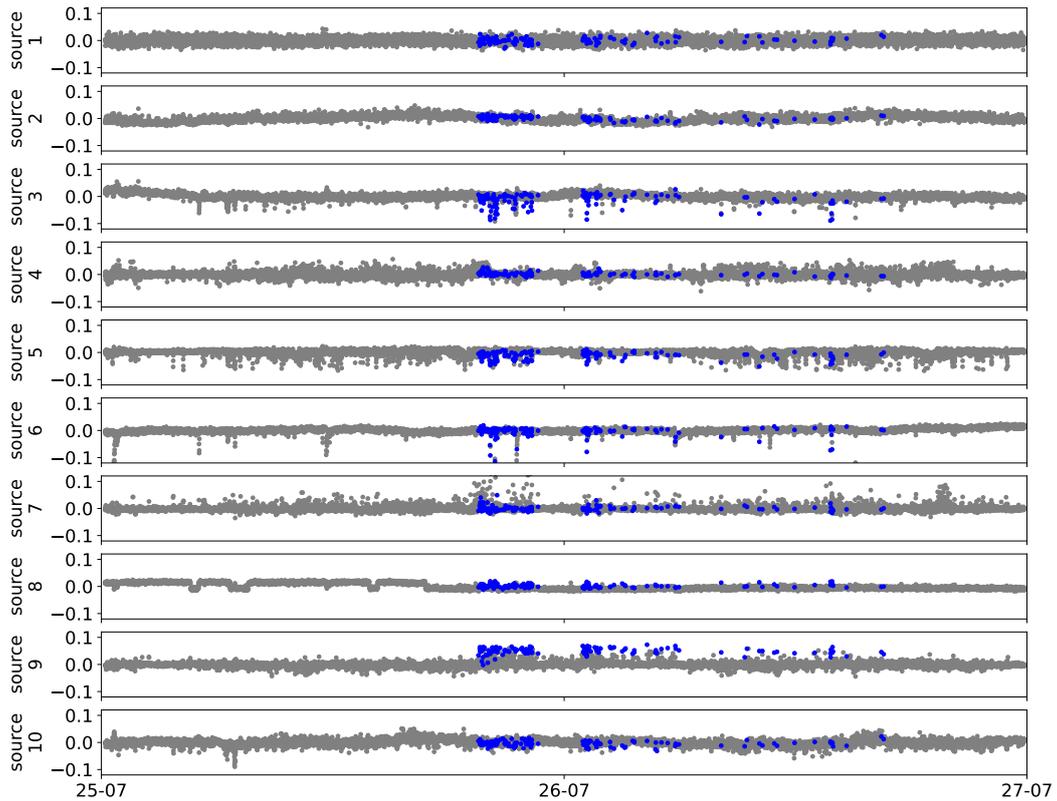
607 If we compare with the spectrogram of Figure 3c we see that the second unmixed source  
608 seems to correlate with the variations around 0.2 Hz and the eighth unmixed source seems to  
609 correlate with the monochromatic noise source around 1.5 Hz. This quick visual inspection  
610 shows us that the reduced data space can already be physically interpreted, and the ICA  
611 separates different signals on its different unmixed sources, which is favorable for further  
612 analysis by clustering algorithms.



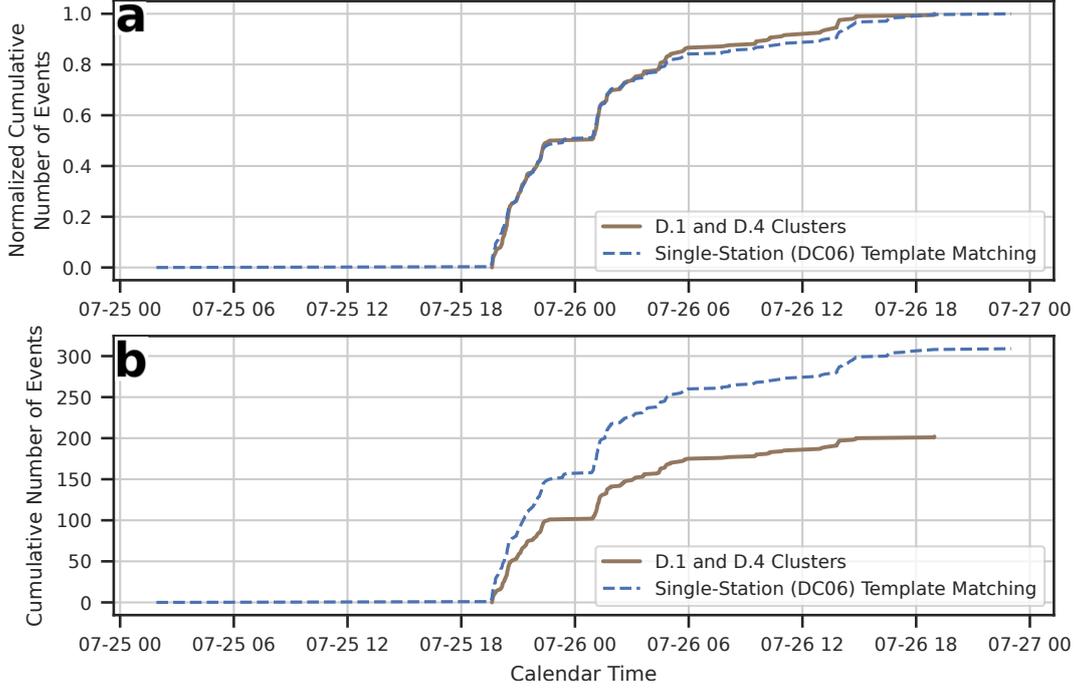
**Figure A1.** Inter-cluster distances and within-cluster variances. (a) Within-cluster variance according to equation A2 for all 16 subclusters. (b) Inter-cluster distance according to equation A1 between all 16 subclusters.



**Figure B1.** Reconstruction loss with independent component analysis from the deep scattering spectrum. The reconstruction loss  $\epsilon(n)$  is calculated from Equation B1 as a function of the number of independent components  $n$ .



**Figure B2.** Time series of the ten unmixed sources of the deep scattering spectrum for the overall seismic data set. The samples containing one or more arrivals of the earthquake from the nearby seismic crisis are highlighted with blue dots.



**Figure C1.** Comparison between the earthquake catalog from clusters D.1 and D.4 (thick brown line), and the single-station (DC06) template matching catalog (dashed blue line). **(a)** Normalized cumulative number of events. **(b)** Cumulative number of events. The single-station template matching catalog documents about 50% more events.

613 **Appendix C Comparison with Single-station Template Matching**

614 Station DC06 recorded higher signal-to-noise ratio S-waves from the seismicity crisis  
 615 than the more proximal stations. Therefore, we are able to detect about twice more events  
 616 by running the matched-filter search only on station DC06, with respect to the multi-station  
 617 (ten stations) matched-filter search. The single-station template matching catalog captures  
 618 a seismicity pattern similar to clusters D.1 and D.4, but reports about 50% more events (see  
 619 Figure C1). Both the single-station and multi-station template matching catalogs were built  
 620 with a detection threshold of eight times the root-mean-square of the correlation coefficient  
 621 time series. The 20-second time resolution of the clustering method presented in this work  
 622 sets a hard constraint on revealing the details of low magnitude seismicity. Nevertheless, we  
 623 recall that producing a fine resolution earthquake catalog is not the first goal of our method,  
 624 which instead aims at unraveling signals of different nature with no prior knowledge of the  
 625 data set.

626 **Appendix D Qualitative Comparison with hierarchical clustering based**  
 627 **on spectrograms**

628 In our study, we use a deep scattering spectrum instead of a Fourier-transform spec-  
 629 trum, since it is more suitable for classification purposes (Andén & Mallat, 2014). In the  
 630 following lines, we create and interpret a dendrogram based on Fourier-transform spectral  
 631 features to verify this claim for seismograms. For the sake of comparison, the window size of  
 632 the Fourier-transform equals the pooling window of the scattering network, which is 20.48 s.  
 633 Moreover, the considered frequency range of the Fourier-transform is adapted to the fre-  
 634 quency range of the first order scattering coefficients. The three-component spectrogram is

635 then used to calculate ten independent components, which resemble the feature space for  
 636 the dendrogram. Thus, we only replaced the scattering coefficients with spectral coefficients  
 637 of comparable time and frequency properties.

638 To compare the clustering outcome, we retrieve 16 subclusters, which can be grouped into  
 639 the three main clusters A', B' and C' (see Figure D1a). The time evolution curves and the  
 640 cluster sizes in Figure D1b and c show if the retrieved main clusters are the same as in  
 641 Figure 4. Cluster A' matches very well with cluster A in terms of cluster size and temporal  
 642 detection curve. Thus, Cluster A' is also related to the monochromatic signal. Cluster  
 643 B' matches with the detection curve of Cluster C, however, Cluster B' contains more data  
 644 than Cluster C. Thus, Cluster B' is also related to ambient signals but possibly contains  
 645 also additional types of signals. The normalized detection curve of Cluster C' matches with  
 646 Cluster B, however, Cluster C' is not even half of the size of cluster B. Hence, Cluster C'  
 647 is probably related to high-frequent urban signals. Cluster D, which is related to general  
 648 seismicity, does not appear within the main clusters based on spectral coefficients. In fact,  
 649 most of the seismic crisis is within cluster B', which is mainly related to ambient signals  
 650 (see Figure D1d). Hence, we can assume that Cluster C and D are unified here in Cluster  
 651 B'. Retrieving subclusters at a lower distance threshold than the three main clusters could  
 652 possibly reveal a few subclusters related to the seismic crisis. However, 11 out of 16 subclus-  
 653 ters contain events from the seismic crisis (see Figure D1e). It is not possible to identify a  
 654 few clusters which are purely related to the seismic crisis. Subcluster B'.1 and B'.2 contain  
 655 more than 20% of the cataloged seismic crisis respectively, however, most of the subcluster  
 656 (>95%) is not related to the cataloged seismic crisis.

657 This example shows that a deep scattering spectrum delivers a better representation for  
 658 classification purposes than the spectrogram. This is particularly true for classifying reoc-  
 659 ccurring transient signals in a relative large data set such as the events of the seismic crisis  
 660 within the continuous seismogram.

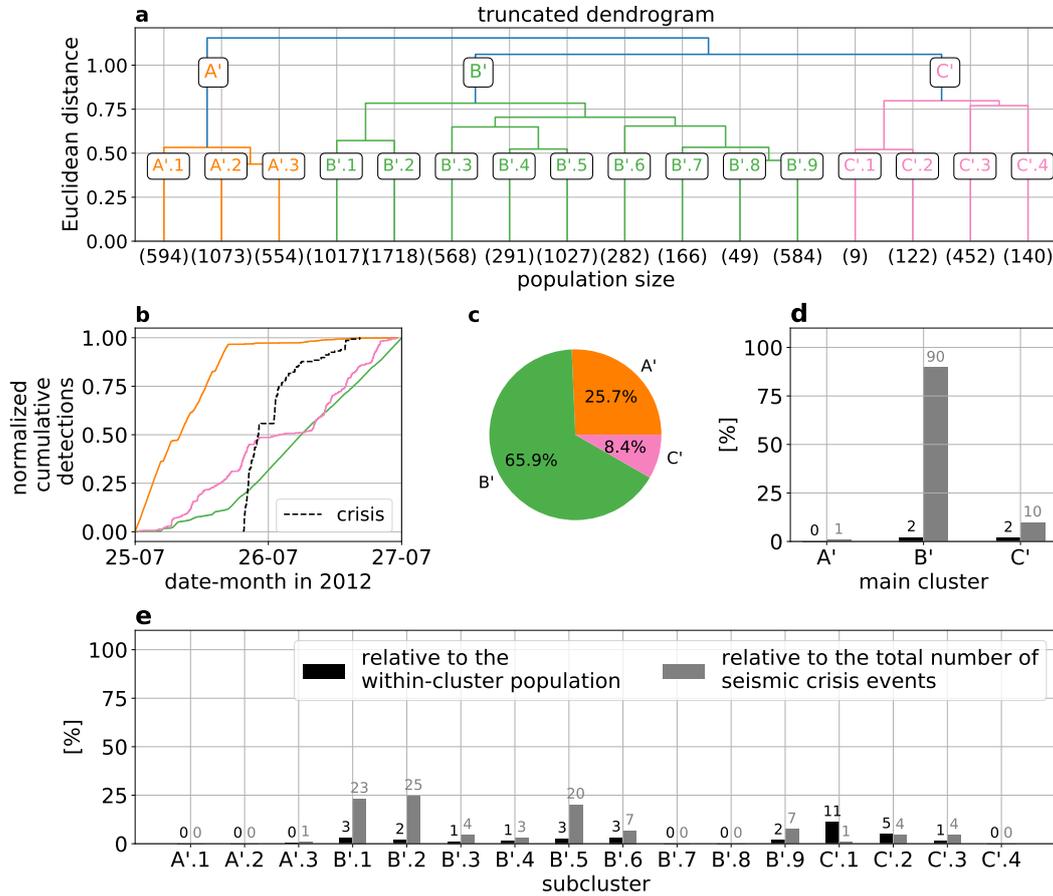
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**Figure D1.** Dendrogram analysis based on spectrogram features and statistical characteristics of the different clusters. **(a)** Dendrogram calculated in the feature space. The dendrogram is here truncated in order to form 16 clusters. The clusters marked with a letter are considered the main clusters, and the subclusters are indicated with numbers. The numbers in the parenthesis indicate the number of samples in each cluster. **(b)** Centroidal first-order scattering coefficients of main clusters A, B and C. **(c)** Normalized cumulative detections of main clusters A, B and C, and of the seismic crisis obtained from the multi-station template-matching catalog. **(d)** The distribution of the seismic crisis across the three main clusters. **(e)** The distribution of the seismic crisis all subclusters.

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