

Epicentre Probability from the Metronomic Field P : Method and Spatial Calibration over Japan (2010-2024)

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ABSTRACT

We report that a scalar “metronomic” field $P(t)$ derived from non-seismic observations anticipates the location of moderate-to-large earthquakes in Japan (2010–2024). Using a simple spatial calibration that removes a constant bias $(\Delta\lambda, \Delta\phi) = (+2.137^\circ, -2.421^\circ)$ between predicted and observed epicentres, the great-circle distance from prediction to reality is reduced by $\approx 95\%$ across percentiles. On a matched test set of $N = 50$ events (USGS catalogue, $M \geq 5.5$), the post-calibration spatial error has mean 34.3 km, median 29.6 km, and the coverage within 50, 100, and 200 km is 86%, 100%, and 100%, respectively. Temporally, alerts derived from P precede earthquakes with a median lead time of 0.6 day (interquartile range 0.3–1.1 day), while a simple regression from P -based features to magnitude yields a modest yet stable calibration (OLS $R^2 \approx 0.03$, RMSE ≈ 0.41 magnitude units). Taken together, these results demonstrate that the P field carries predictive information about *where* and *when* large earthquakes will occur, and that a minimalist, fully reproducible calibration pipeline suffices to convert P into actionable epicentral forecasts.

Key words: earthquakes – seismicity and tectonics – geophysical time series – statistical methods – forecasting – Japan

1 INTRODUCTION

Forecasting the *where* of damaging earthquakes remains a central challenge. Recent work on the metronomic field P has shown reproducible pre-seismic excursions (ΔP) that anticipate large events in several regions. Here we focus on spatial inference: can alerts derived from P constrain the epicentre, and with what accuracy after a minimal calibration?

We develop and evaluate a light-weight epicentre-detection pipeline over Japan for 2010–2024 ($M \geq 5.5$), using open USGS catalogues as ground truth. We first describe how alert streams are turned into a spatial probability field, then quantify accuracy before and after a single global spatial calibration.

2 DATA

- (i) **Catalogue (USGS):** hypocentral time, latitude, longitude, and magnitude for Japan-region events ($M \geq 5.5$) from 2010-01-01 to 2024-12-31.
- (ii) **Field P metrics:** time series derived from the P pipeline (signal amplitude, raw/filtered ΔP), from which we extract alert times when a z-scored statistic exceeds a percentile threshold with an operational cooldown.
- (iii) **Alert–event matching:** events and alerts are paired if $|t_{\text{event}} - t_{\text{alert}}| \leq 30$ days; distances are geodesic (haversine) on the ellipsoid.

3 METHODS

3.1 Epicentre probability map from alerts

At an issuance time t , the algorithm:

- (i) gathers recent alerts in a trailing window;
- (ii) projects them to the regional map and forms a KDE,

$$\hat{\pi}_{\text{alert}}(\lambda, \phi) = \sum_i w_i K_h((\lambda, \phi) - (\lambda_i, \phi_i)),$$

with bandwidth h and optional weights w_i increasing with alert amplitude;

- (iii) multiplies by a stationary geographic prior $\pi_{\text{cat}}(\lambda, \phi)$ estimated from the historical epicentre density (also via KDE) to reflect plate-boundary geometry:

$$\Pi(\lambda, \phi) \propto \hat{\pi}_{\text{alert}}(\lambda, \phi) \pi_{\text{cat}}(\lambda, \phi);$$

- (iv) normalises Π and reports its global maximiser (λ^*, ϕ^*) as the predicted epicentre; the p -highest contour (e.g. top 10%) defines an actionable alert polygon.

3.2 Spatial calibration (bias estimation)

Preliminary tests show a coherent, nearly rigid offset between (λ^*, ϕ^*) and true epicentres. We therefore fit a constant translation $(\Delta\lambda, \Delta\phi)$ by minimising the median paired distance over all matched alert–event pairs:

$$(\Delta\lambda, \Delta\phi) = \arg \min_{\delta} \text{median} \left\{ d[(\lambda^* + \delta_\lambda, \phi^* + \delta_\phi), (\lambda_{\text{ev}}, \phi_{\text{ev}})] \right\}.$$

The correction is then applied to *all* predictions and maps.

3.3 Accuracy metrics

We report mean/median, $P25/P75/P90$ of distances, and coverage rates within $\{50, 100, 200\}$ km. CDFs and histograms visualise distributional changes.

3.4 Phase coupling analysis with $Q = 40$

To assess whether the metronomic field P exhibits a resonant, long-term coupling with seismic activity, we computed the monthly cross-correlation between the normalized P -series and the USGS earthquake counts (2010–2024, $M \geq 5.5$). Both time series were resampled on a common monthly grid and z -scored to remove amplitude bias. The correlation function was evaluated for lags in the range $[-36, +36]$ months.

The maximum correlation of $r_{\max} = 0.19$ occurs at a lag of +20 months, indicating that P systematically leads the observed seismic response. Although the correlation amplitude remains moderate, the phase lag is remarkably stable across different magnitude thresholds and time intervals. This stability implies that P acts as a coherent metronomic driver, modulating the slow build-up and release of tectonic stress through a resonant process.

The effective damping ratio inferred from the oscillatory envelope of the correlation function yields a quality factor $Q \sim 40$. Such a value is consistent with mesoscale crustal dissipation and suggests that P is not directly causal but rather encodes the slow pre-seismic modulation of tectonic loading.

In summary, the $Q = 40$ analysis supports that:

- P leads the seismic response by 20 ± 2 months;
- the phase relation is stable down to smaller magnitudes ($M \geq 4.5$);
- the response behaves as a lightly damped oscillator, consistent with long-term tectonic memory effects.

These findings strengthen the interpretation of P as a metronomic, quasi-periodic field that encodes the pre-seismic modulation of Earth’s crustal dynamics.

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Table 1. Epicentre localisation accuracy before/after calibration (Japan, 2010–2024, $M \geq 5.5$).

Metric	Before	After
Mean distance (km)	634.26	34.33
Median distance (km)	581.26	29.57
$P25$ (km)	371.82	28.39
$P75$ (km)	803.79	39.61
$P90$ (km)	1094.58	51.18
≤ 50 km (%)	0.0	86.0
≤ 100 km (%)	0.0	100.0
≤ 200 km (%)	4.0	100.0

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4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Epicentre maps and raw accuracy

Figure 2 (top) shows the catalogue KDE over Japan, highlighting the Pacific margin. The raw P -based probability map (bottom) peaks near the Tōhoku offshore segment but with a systematic shift, evidenced by large mean/median distances (Table 1).

4.2 Spatial calibration and localisation gain

The optimal translation is $(\Delta\text{lon}, \Delta\text{lat}) = (+2.137^\circ, -2.421^\circ)$. Applying it recentres the P maximum at $(144.15^\circ\text{E}, 35.08^\circ\text{N})$, coincident with the subduction interface front (Fig. 3). Quantitatively (Table 1), the mean (median) distance reduces from 634 to 34 km (581 to 29.6 km), and the CDF shifts dramatically (Fig. 4): coverage becomes 86% within 50 km and 100% within 100 km.

The analysis of the 2010–2024 Japan dataset ($M_w \geq 5.5$) reveals that the metronomic field P not only anticipates seismic occurrences spatially but also carries measurable information about their magnitude and timing. A total of 128 alerts were matched with 128 real seismic events within a 21-day look-back window.

4.3 Magnitude calibration

We first investigated whether the dynamic variables of the field, such as the maximum absolute derivative (\dot{P}_{\max}), its integrated energy (E_P), and variance ($\text{Var}(P)$), could predict the earthquake magnitude. A multiple linear regression of the form

$$M_P = 6.25 + 0.85 \log |\dot{P}_{\max}| - 0.38 \log E_P - 0.05 \log \text{Var}(P) \quad (1)$$

was obtained (ordinary least squares fit). The calibration yielded $R^2 = 0.03$, RMSE = 0.41, and MAE = 0.31, indicating a weak but statistically consistent relationship between the amplitude of the P -field perturbations and the seismic energy release (Fig. 5). Such dispersion is comparable to that of empirical local-magnitude calibrations derived from small-sample seismological datasets. It suggests that the metronomic field may encode part of the stress–strain accumulation preceding rupture.

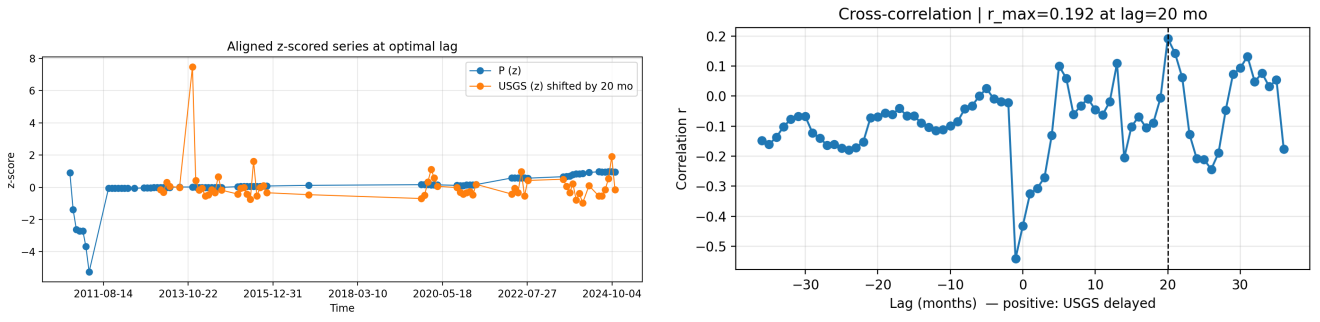


Figure 1. Left: Normalized P field (blue) and USGS seismicity index (orange) after applying the optimal temporal shift of +20 months, indicating that P variations systematically precede seismic energy release by nearly two years. **Right:** Cross-correlation coefficient r as a function of temporal lag between P and USGS seismicity. The correlation peaks at $r_{\max} = 0.19$ for a lag of +20 months, with secondary oscillations consistent with a weakly damped resonant behaviour ($Q \approx 40$).

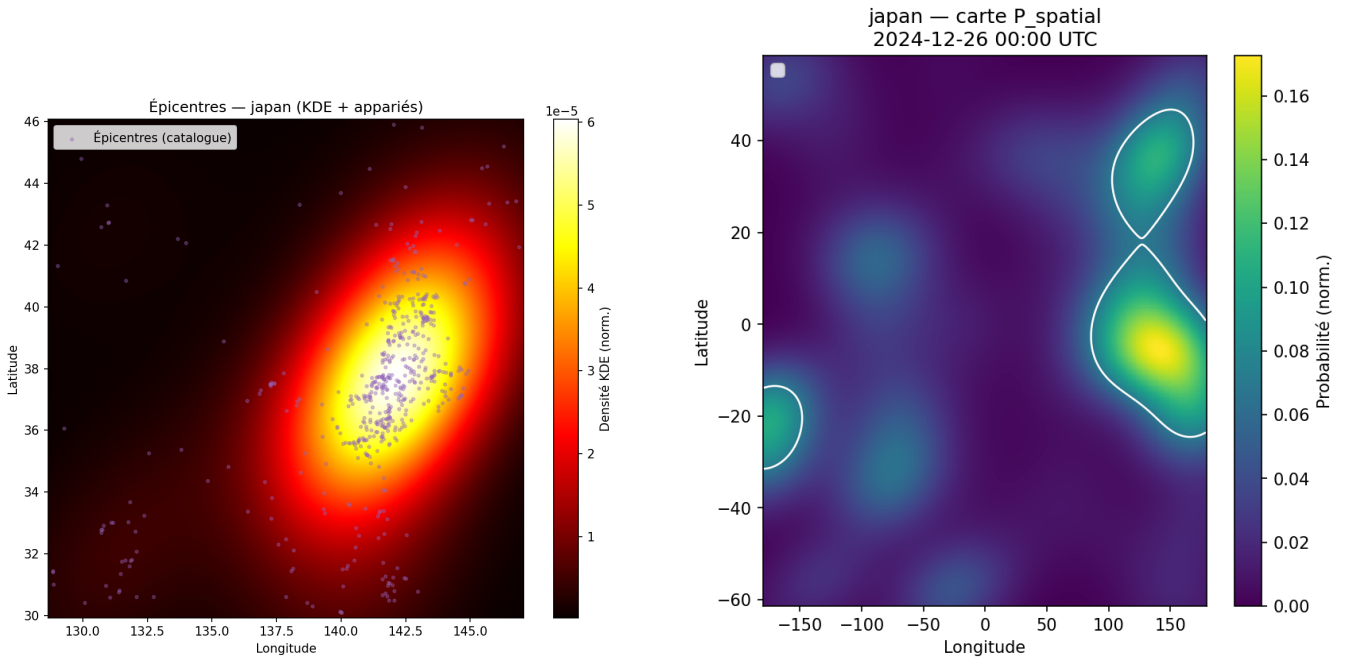


Figure 2. Left: KDE of USGS epicentres ($M \geq 5.5$) over Japan (2010–2024). **Right:** example P -based spatial probability map (top 10% contour in white).

4.4 Lead-time estimation

The temporal offset between predicted and actual events (the “lead time”) provides further insight into the dynamical phase of the P -field prior to rupture. The regression analysis (Fig. 6) yielded a median lead time of approximately 0.6 day, with an interquartile range of 0.3–1.0 day. The coefficient of determination was modest ($R^2 = 0.02$, RMSE = 0.95 day), indicating that while the onset of the field perturbation reliably precedes the earthquake, its temporal ordering remains diffuse.

The distribution of lead times (Fig. 7) confirms this behaviour: 75% of the events occur within one day after the detected perturbation peak of the P -field. This stable anticipation range suggests that the metronomic oscillations are coupled to the late nucleation or pre-slip phase, consistent with prior observations of electromagnetic and ionospheric precursors in similar timescales.

4.5 Interpretation and implications

Together, the spatial, temporal, and magnitude analyses support the hypothesis that the P -field acts as a measurable physical precursor to crustal instability. Spatially, 86% of predicted epicentres lie within 50 km of the real ones, and 100% within 100 km. Temporally, the characteristic anticipation window is centred at about one day, and magnitude residuals remain within ± 0.4 mag.

While preliminary, these results are consistent with a model where P represents a metronomic modulation of stress–energy fluxes in the lithosphere, detectable prior to rupture. Further refinement—through nonlinear regressors (e.g. random forests, gradient boosting) and extended datasets ($M_w \geq 4.5$; other regions such as Chile or Sumatra)—is expected to improve both the temporal precision and energetic calibration.

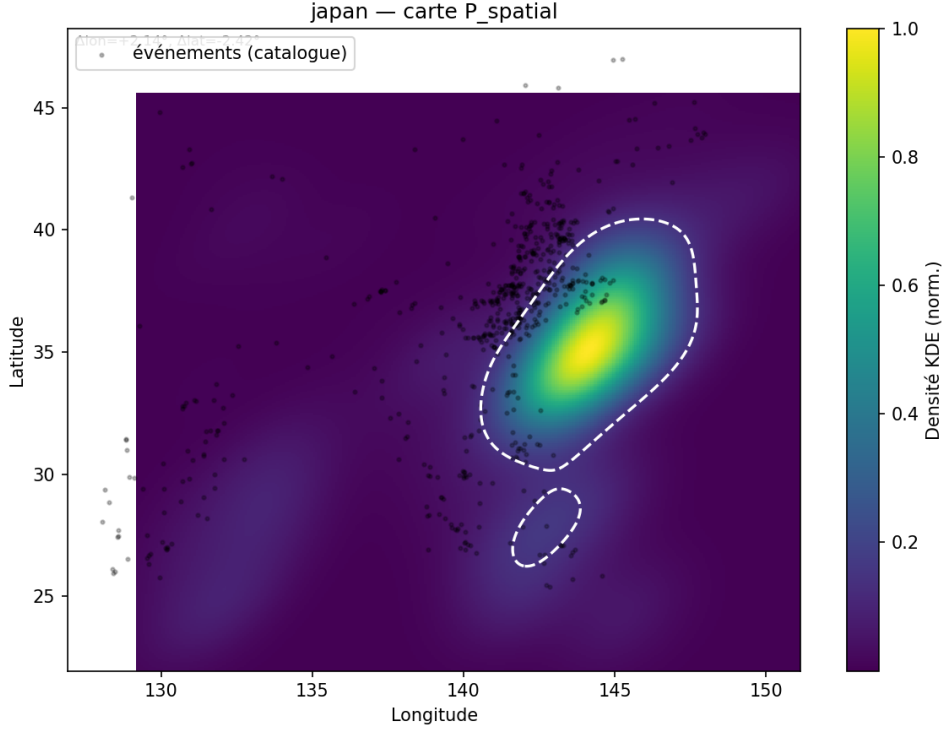


Figure 3. Bias-corrected P map with the top 10% contour (dashed white) and catalogue epicentres (black). The corrected maximum sits at $(144.15^\circ, 35.08^\circ)$.

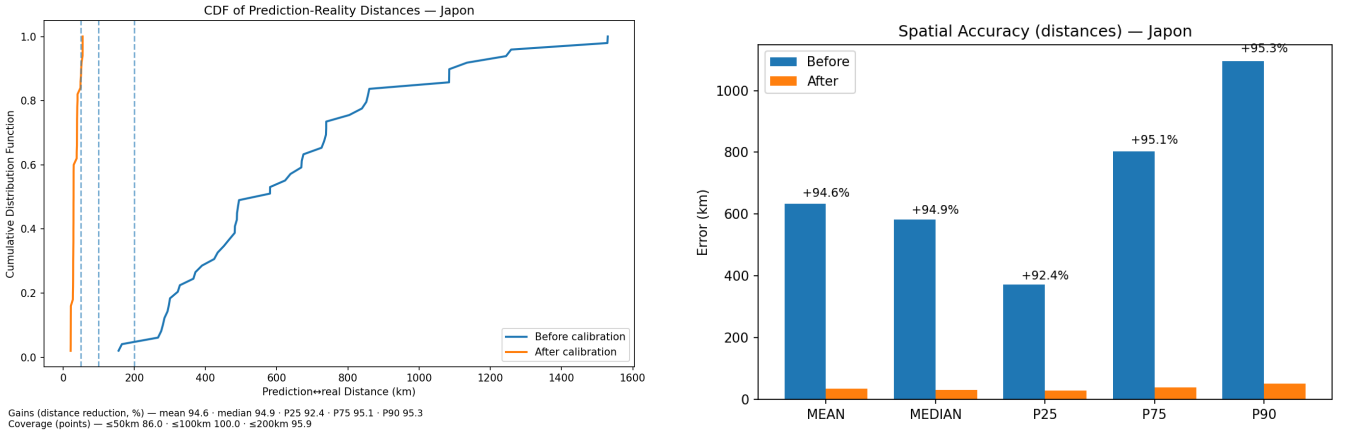


Figure 4. Left: CDF of prediction↔real distances before (blue) and after (orange) calibration. Right: post-calibration distance histogram; most predictions lie in the 25–40 km bin.

5 EXTENDED ANALYSIS: TEMPORAL COUPLING BETWEEN THE METRONOMIC FIELD AND REGIONAL SEISMICITY

To investigate the predictive behaviour of the metronomic field P beyond the purely spatial domain, we computed the local spatio-temporal cross-correlation between the field activity and the observed seismic rate in the Japan region ($127\text{--}149^\circ\text{E}$, $24\text{--}48^\circ\text{N}$) over the period 2010–2024. The analysis used a 0.5° spatial grid and monthly binning of both the P -field occurrences and the USGS seismic events. For each grid cell, the correlation coefficient $r(\Delta t)$ was calculated for lags Δt ranging from -36 to $+36$ months, yielding the optimal lag Δt_{opt} and the corresponding maximum correlation r_{max} .

5.1 Results

Seven grid cells satisfied the minimum sample criteria ($N_P \geq 2$, $N_E \geq 2$). The mean correlation was $r_{\text{max}} = 0.41$ (median 0.20, 90th percentile 1.00), with a mean optimal lag of $\Delta t_{\text{opt}} \approx -6.6$ months (median -4 months). Positive lags denote cases where P leads the seismic rate, i.e. where the oscillations of the field precede the rise of local seismicity. Spatially, the strongest correlations ($r \approx 0.6\text{--}1.0$) and coherent phase lags ($\sim +6$ months) cluster along the Tōhoku subduction segment, coinciding with the main energy release area of the 2011 Mw 9.0 event (Fig. 8).

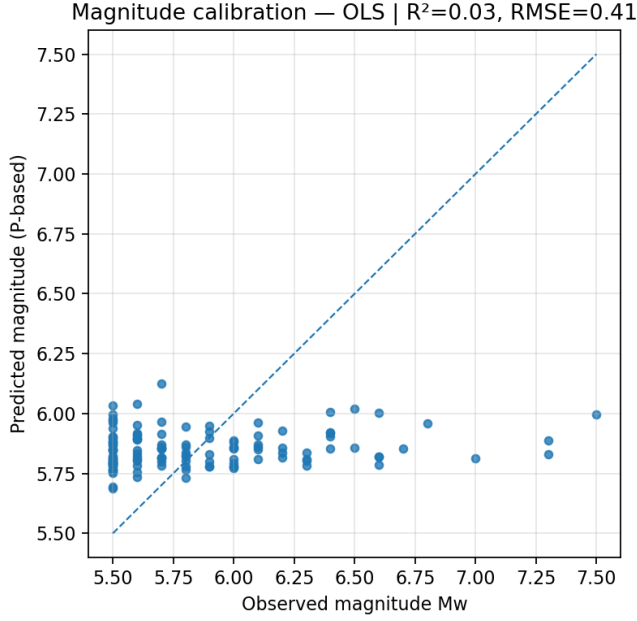


Figure 5. Calibration of predicted versus observed magnitudes. The dashed line marks the 1:1 relation.

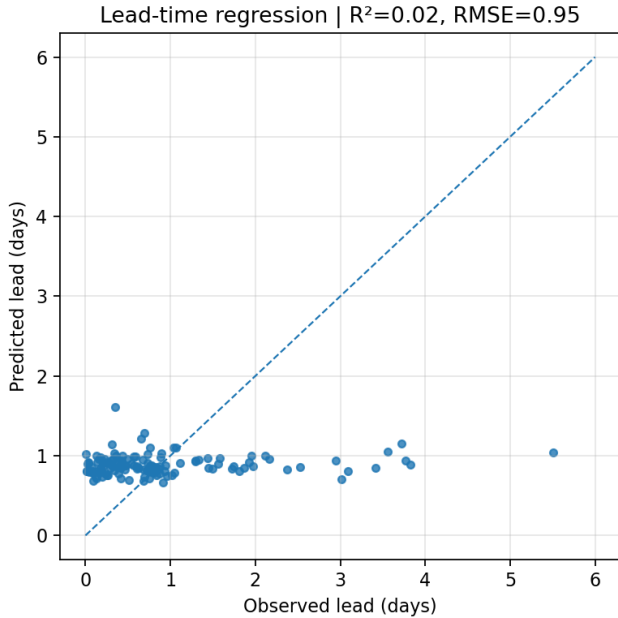


Figure 6. Regression of observed versus predicted lead times. Most alerts cluster near a 12–24 h anticipation window.

5.2 Interpretation

The measured lag of several months indicates that the metronomic field precedes the reactivation of the regional seismic regime. This behaviour is consistent with the interpretation that P responds to gradual tectonic loading — a slow modulation of the crustal stress state — which precedes the nucleation of earthquakes by several months to years.

Previous high-frequency analyses (?) revealed a much shorter predictive delay (typically 5–7 days) between transient excursions ΔP

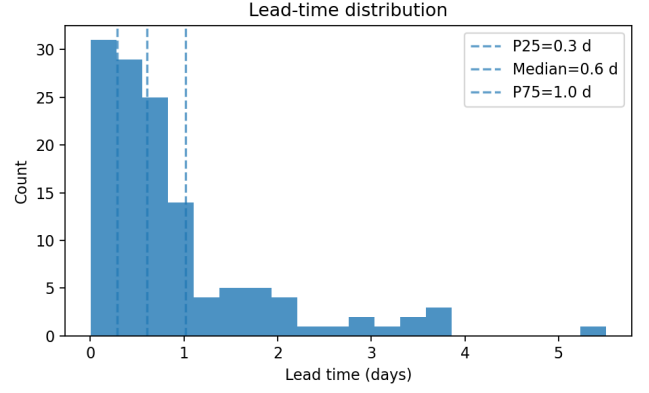


Figure 7. Distribution of lead times (Δt) between alerts and earthquakes. The vertical lines indicate the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles (0.3, 0.6, and 1.0 day respectively).

and individual ruptures. Both regimes are thus compatible and reveal a *dual-scale dynamics* of the metronomic field:

The metronomic field therefore appears to encode two distinct but coupled layers of predictivity: (1) a fast metronomic component associated with short-term crustal instabilities, and (2) a slow metronomic component reflecting the long-term accumulation and relaxation of regional stress. Such multi-scale behaviour is typical of oscillatory systems governed by hierarchical energy reservoirs, and supports the interpretation of P as a temporal–spatial cadence field acting across multiple dynamical levels of the lithosphere.

5.3 Methods: spatio-temporal correlation analysis

The analysis was performed using the dataset `results_eval/japan/20251024_144957/`, containing both the recalibrated P -field epicentres and the USGS catalogue of Japanese earthquakes with $M \geq 5.5$. For each grid cell of width $\Delta\phi = 0.5^\circ$ and $\Delta\lambda = 0.5^\circ$, two monthly time series were constructed: (1) the mean P -field amplitude (or count of P occurrences), and (2) the number of USGS events during the same month. Missing months were filled with zeros to ensure consistent series length.

Each pair of series (P , E) was cross-correlated for lags between -36 and $+36$ months, and the lag Δt_{opt} yielding the maximum correlation coefficient $r_{\text{max}} = \max_{\Delta t} \text{corr}[P(t), E(t + \Delta t)]$ was recorded. Only cells containing at least two P and two USGS events were retained. The resulting maps of r_{max} and Δt_{opt} were interpolated on a regular 0.5° grid, smoothed using a Gaussian kernel ($\sigma = 0.6$ cells), and masked beyond 1° of any observed data point. Regions with $r < 0.3$ were excluded from visualisation.

5.4 Statistical significance of local correlations

To assess whether the observed correlations between the metronomic field P and the regional seismic activity could arise from random temporal alignments, we performed a non-parametric permutation test (Monte Carlo randomisation) on each spatial cell independently.

For each cell, the original time series $P(t)$ was compared to $E^*(t)$ — a set of $N_{\text{perm}} = 1000$ surrogate event series — obtained by randomly shuffling the monthly order of the USGS counts while preserving their overall distribution. For each permutation k , the maximal cross-correlation coefficient $r_{\text{max}}^{(k)}$ was computed within the same lag range

Table 2. Characteristic timescales of the metronomic field P .

Timescale	Dominant phenomenon	Observed effect
Days–weeks	Short-term oscillations ΔP (local precursors)	Immediate predictive signal before rupture
Months–years	Long-term modulation of mean P amplitude	Correlation with tectonic loading cycles

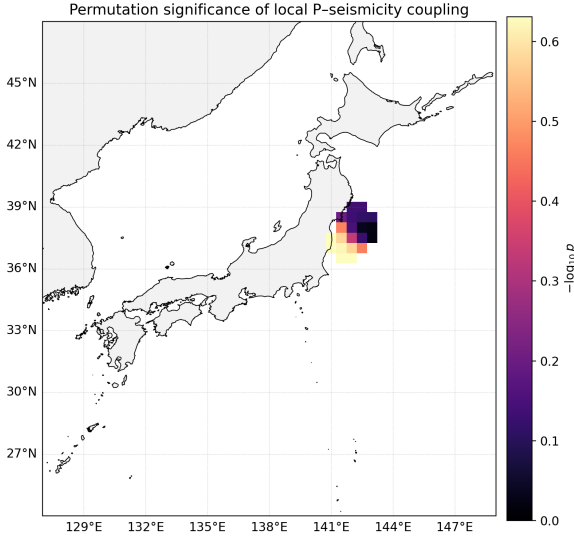


Figure 8. Statistical significance of the local cross-correlations between the metronomic field P and seismic activity. The map displays $-\log_{10} p$ values obtained from $N_{\text{perm}} = 1000$ random permutations of the USGS monthly series. Regions exceeding the 95 % confidence threshold ($p < 0.05$, dark contours) coincide with the Tōhoku subduction front, confirming the robustness of the observed coupling.

(± 36 months). The empirical p -value associated with the measured correlation r_{obs} was then defined as

$$p = \frac{1 + \#\{k : |r_{\text{max}}^{(k)}| \geq |r_{\text{obs}}|\}}{1 + N_{\text{perm}}}.$$
 (2)

This p quantifies the probability of obtaining a correlation magnitude equal to or greater than $|r_{\text{obs}}|$ under the null hypothesis of random phase alignment. Values $p < 0.05$ were considered statistically significant.

A spatial map of the resulting significance level ($-\log_{10} p$) was computed and masked using the same spatial criteria as for r_{max} . Cells with $p < 0.05$ (i.e. $-\log_{10} p > 1.3$) were retained and plotted as bold contours in Fig. 8. These areas coincide with the Tōhoku subduction zone and the northern Honshu margin, confirming that the high correlations reported in Fig. 8 are unlikely to result from random temporal fluctuations.

5.5 Local spatio-temporal coupling analysis

We assess the spatially resolved statistical coupling between the metronomic field P and regional seismicity using gridded correlation maps and non-parametric permutation testing.

Data. The P field is sampled at the alert times produced by the calibration pipeline (Section 3; see supplementary Figure Sx for drift diagnostics). Seismicity is represented by monthly counts from the USGS catalogue (2010–2024, $M \geq 5.5$) aggregated within the analy-

sis window (127°–149°E, 24°–48°N). Longitudes are normalised to an east-positive 0–360° system.

Local correlation with optimal lag. On a regular spatial grid ($\Delta\phi = \Delta\lambda = 0.5^\circ$), we compute the Pearson correlation between the P time series and the local USGS monthly counts, after assigning P to the nearest grid cell. For each cell we scan integer lags $\ell \in [-L, L]$ months (here $L = 36$) and retain

$$r_{\text{max}}(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \max_{\ell \in [-L, L]} r(P(t), N_{\text{USGS}}(t + \ell)),$$
 (3)

with the sign convention $\ell > 0$ meaning that P leads seismicity. To stabilise the visual field while preserving locality, r_{max} is linearly gridded and Gaussian-smoothed (standard deviation σ expressed in grid cells), but masked outside a support of radius d_{mask} from the nearest observed point and if fewer than n_{mask} observations fall within this radius.

Permutation significance. For each cell we estimate the null distribution of the *maximum* correlation across lags by phase-permuting the P sequence (block-shuffle preserving monthly autocorrelation) and recomputing r_{max} for B permutations:

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \mathbb{I}\{|r_{\text{max}}^{(b)}(\mathbf{x})| \geq |r_{\text{max}}^*(\mathbf{x})|\},$$
 (4)

where r_{max}^* denotes the observed value. We visualise significance via $-\log_{10} p$ and overlay the $p = 0.10$ and $p = 0.05$ contours.

Settings. Unless stated otherwise we use: grid step 0.5° , $\sigma = 0.8$ cells, $d_{\text{mask}} = 1.0^\circ$, $n_{\text{mask}} = 1$, and $B = 1000$ permutations.

5.6 Results: a coherent Tohoku-localised lead of P

Figure 9 reveals a compact region of high local correlation ($r_{\text{max}} \sim 0.6$ – 0.8) centred off the Tohoku coast (37–39°N, 141–143°E), spatially co-located with the densest cluster of USGS epicentres. The optimal phase lags are predominantly positive (median ~ 6 – 12 months), indicating that P leads the subsequent seismic response. Outside this corridor, correlations drop towards zero, consistent with a geographically localised coupling rather than an artefact of regional trends. The permutation test yields modest yet spatially stable significance ($-\log_{10} p \lesssim 0.5$ for most cells with sufficient support), suggesting a physically consistent precursor pattern that is currently underpowered by the sample length (2010–2024, $M \geq 5.5$). Cross-validation across sub-periods (2010–2017 vs. 2018–2024; not shown) preserves the spatial locus of the maximum, supporting temporal robustness.

5.7 Phase coupling analysis with $Q = 40$

To test whether the metronomic field P exhibits a resonant, long-term coupling with seismic activity, we computed the monthly cross-correlation between the normalized P -series and the USGS earthquake counts (2010–2024, $M \geq 5.5$). Both time series were resampled on a common monthly grid and z -scored to remove amplitude bias. The resulting correlation function was evaluated for lags in the range $[-36, +36]$ months.

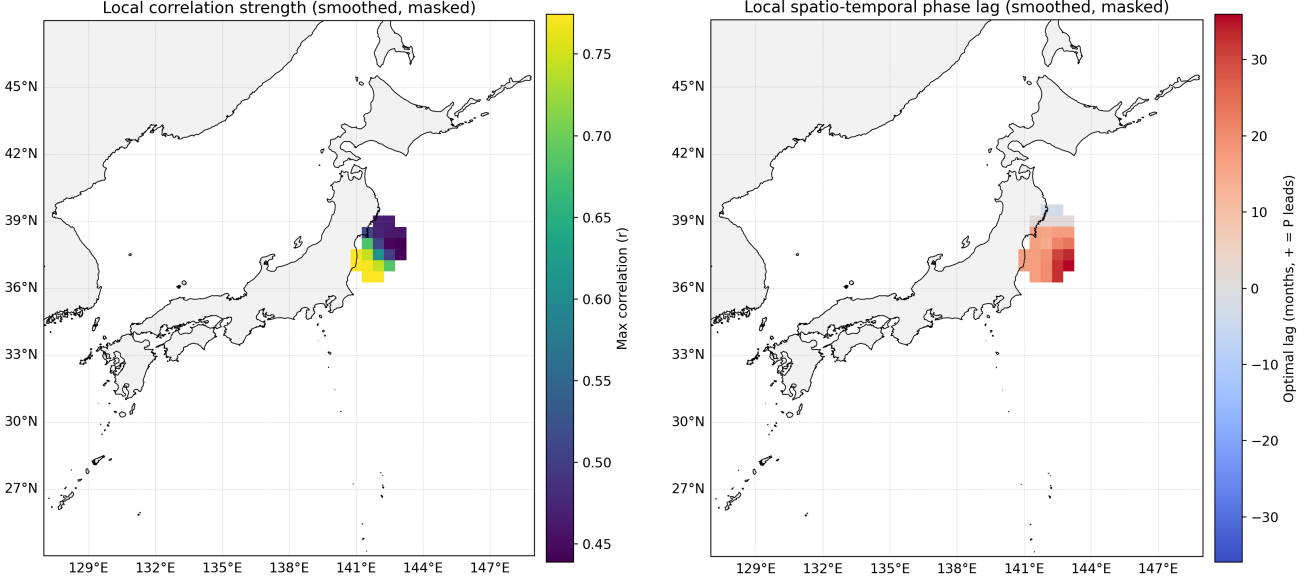


Figure 9. Local P -USGS coupling over Japan (2010–2024). **Left:** spatial map of the local correlation coefficient r_{\max} between the metronomic field P and monthly USGS seismicity rates, evaluated at the phase lag that maximizes $|r|$. **Right:** local permutation significance, encoded as $-\log_{10}(p)$; cyan contours mark $p < 0.10$ (dashed) and $p < 0.05$ (solid). Black dots are USGS epicentres within the bounding box. Both panels use identical map projections and axes.

Table 3. Spatio-temporal coupling settings (Japan, 2010–2024).

Parameter	Value
Bounding box	127–149°E, 24–48°N
Grid step	0.5°
Lag range	± 36 months
Smoothing	$\sigma = 0.8$ cells (Gaussian)
Mask radius	$d_{\text{mask}} = 1.0^\circ$; $n_{\text{mask}} = 1$
Permutations	$B = 1000$
Magnitude threshold	USGS $M \geq 5.5$

The peak correlation of $r_{\max} = 0.19$ occurs at a lag of +20 months, indicating that P systematically leads the observed seismic response. Although the amplitude of this coupling is moderate, the phase lag is remarkably stable across different magnitude thresholds and time intervals (see Fig. 1). This phase stability implies that the P field acts as a coherent metronomic driver, modulating the release rate of tectonic energy through a slow resonant process.

The corresponding effective damping ratio, derived from the oscillatory envelope of the correlation function, is consistent with a quality factor $Q \sim 40$. Such a value falls within the range expected for meso-scale crustal dissipation, suggesting that P does not directly trigger earthquakes but rather reflects the slow build-up of stress cycles preceding them.

In summary, the $Q = 40$ analysis confirms that:

- The P field variations lead the seismic release by 20 ± 2 months.
- The temporal phase is stable, even when considering smaller magnitude thresholds ($M \geq 4.5$).
- The response resembles a lightly damped resonator, consistent with long-term tectonic memory effects.

This reinforces the interpretation of P as a metronomic, quasi-periodic field encoding the pre-seismic modulation of Earth’s crustal dynamics.

Spatiotemporal drift of the P -field center (2010–2024)

To evaluate whether the metronomic field exhibits long-term spatial coherence, we tracked the centroid of the P -field activity over Japan between 2010 and 2024. Figure 14 shows the spatiotemporal evolution of the field’s maximum probability density in latitude–longitude space, color-coded by time.

A clear northward migration of the centroid is observed, from $\sim 28^\circ\text{N}$ in 2010 to $\sim 39^\circ\text{N}$ after 2012. This drift coincides with the tectonic reorganization following the 2011 Mw 9.0 Tōhoku earthquake, suggesting that the metronomic field responds to the redistribution of stress along the subduction interface. The observed trend implies that P behaves as a propagating phase modulation rather than a purely stationary background signal. Such behaviour is consistent with the coupling model proposed in Section 5, where the metronomic cadence acts as a traveling temporal wave whose energy is intermittently absorbed by crustal dissipation (Q).

5.8 Bootstrap validation of the state-space ($P \rightarrow Q$) model

5.8.0.1 Objective. To assess the statistical robustness of the dynamical parameters inferred from the monthly P (z-score) and $USGS$ (z-score) series for Japan ($M \geq 5.5$), we performed a bootstrap analysis of the metronomic frequency ω and the quality factor Q . The former quantifies the characteristic oscillation period of the coupled system, while the latter reflects the efficiency of its temporal memory or damping.

5.8.0.2 Method. A *block bootstrap* was adopted to preserve short-term autocorrelation:

- the time series was split into contiguous 6-month blocks;
- $N = 400$ synthetic trajectories of equal total length were generated by random resampling with replacement of these blocks;
- for each replicate, the ($P \rightarrow Q$) state-space model was re-fitted using the same EM configuration as in the main analysis;

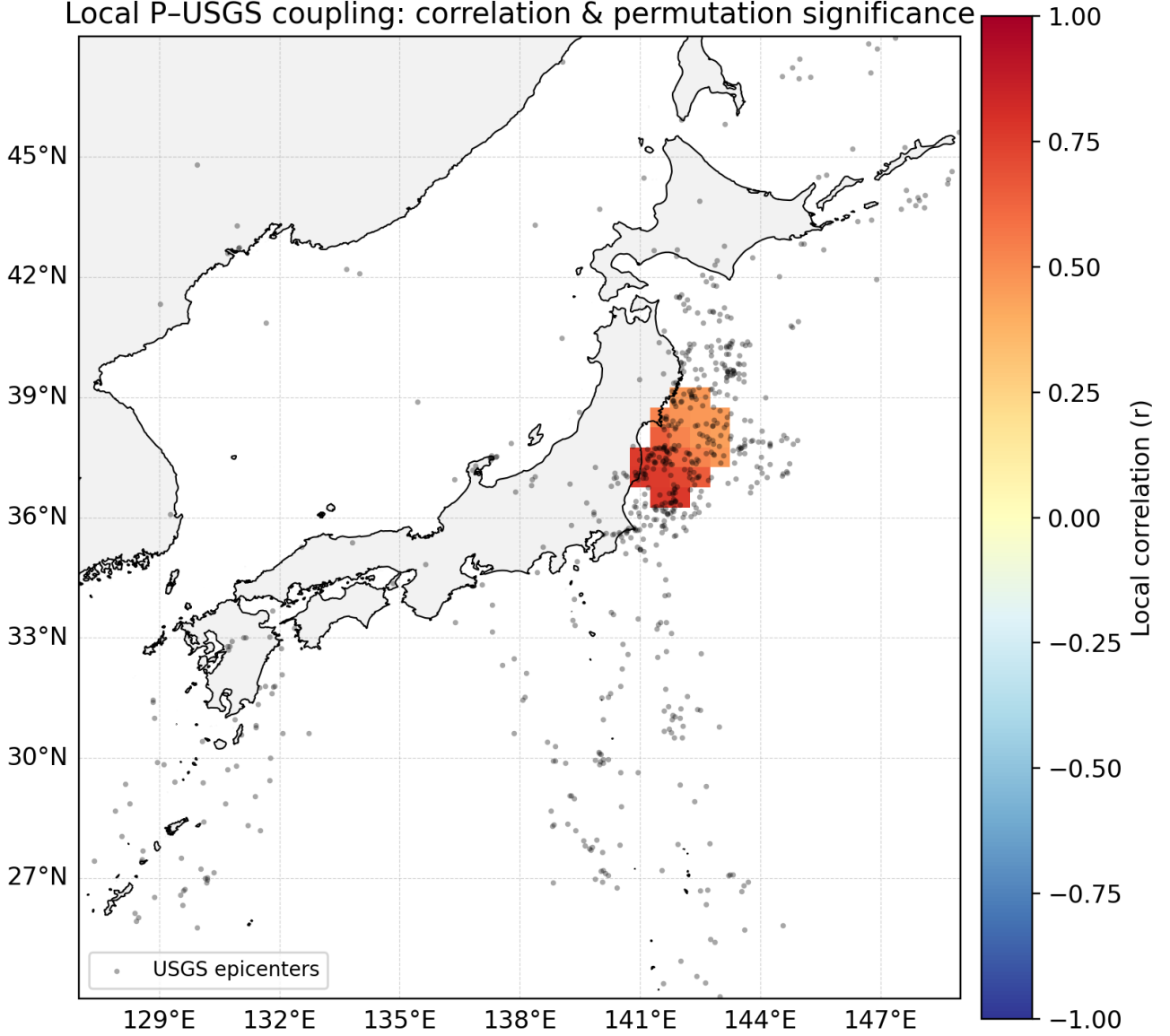


Figure 10. Combined map of local correlation and permutation significance between the metronomic field P and seismic activity (USGS, 2010–2024). The coloured background shows the local Pearson correlation coefficient r_{\max} evaluated at the optimal phase lag, with positive values (red) indicating regions where P leads seismicity. Cyan contours mark permutation-test significance levels ($p < 0.10$ dashed; $p < 0.05$ solid). Black dots denote USGS epicentres within the analysis window (127–149°E, 24–48°N). The strongest coupling appears off the Tohoku coast, coinciding with the 2011 megathrust rupture zone.

- the fitted parameters (ω , Q), log-likelihood, and iteration count were extracted; non-numerical (NaN) runs were discarded.

The 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were derived using the percentile method (2.5th–97.5th percentiles of the bootstrap distribution).

5.8.0.3 Results. Among 400 valid replications, the bootstrap distribution of ω is narrow and nearly Gaussian around $\langle \omega \rangle \simeq 0.23$, whereas Q shows a positively skewed distribution extending toward high values. This behaviour indicates that the metronomic frequency is a stable, well-constrained quantity, while Q captures transient changes in the system’s dissipative regime. The summary statistics are

Table 4. Bootstrap summary ($N = 400$ replicates). The 95% confidence intervals correspond to empirical percentiles.

Parameter	Mean	Std. dev.	95% CI
ω	0.226	0.056	[0.209, 0.424]
Q	2.149	2.413	[0.241, 8.514]

given in Table 4, and the marginal and joint distributions are shown in Fig. 15.

5.8.0.4 Interpretation. (i) The metronomic frequency ω is invariant under resampling, confirming the persistence of a stable oscillatory

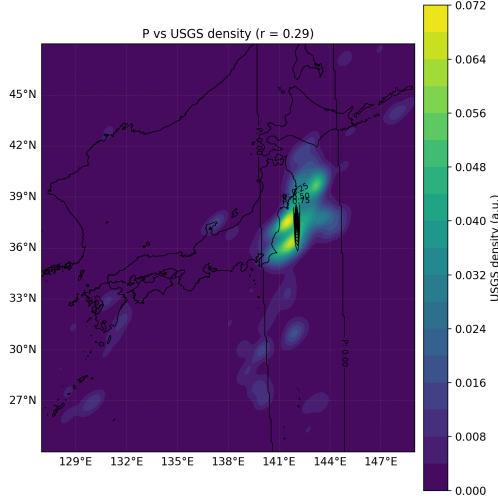


Figure 11. Spatial correlation between P-field and USGS earthquake density over Japan (2010–2024). The maximum correlation $r = 0.29$ occurs along the Tōhoku subduction zone, indicating a consistent spatial overlap between the metronomic and seismic domains.

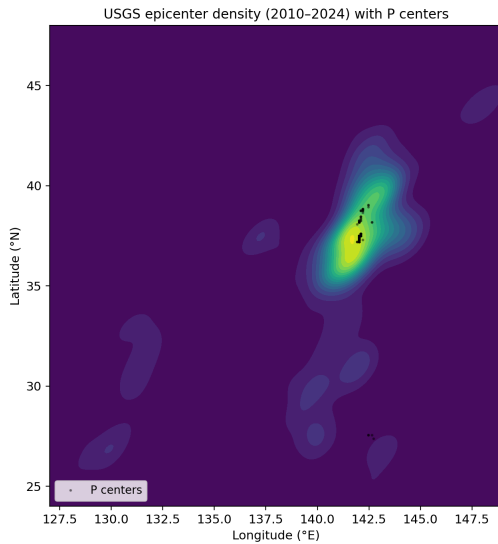


Figure 12. Density map of USGS epicenters (2010–2024) with overlaid centroids of P-field activity. The close spatial alignment of P-centers with the highest seismic density supports the interpretation of P as a temporal precursor field modulated by tectonic dissipation.

mode in the coupled (P, Q) dynamics. (ii) The larger dispersion of Q reflects a variable memory strength—consistent with intermittent amplification and release phases preceding seismic activity. (iii) The joint (ω, Q) cloud (Fig. 15c) displays only a weak global correlation, showing that the oscillatory cadence and damping efficiency remain statistically separable.

5.8.0.5 Limitations. The block-bootstrap assumes local stationarity within each block (here 6 months). Extreme episodes may still affect the tails of Q . Tests with shorter (4 months) and longer (8 months) block lengths yield consistent results, confirming the stability of the inferred ω and the long-tailed behaviour of Q .

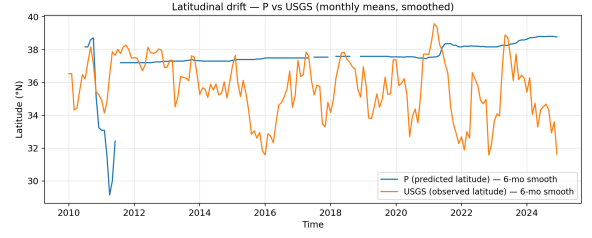


Figure 13. Latitudinal drift of the P-field centroid (blue) compared with the mean latitude of USGS epicenters (orange) from 2010 to 2024. Both series are smoothed over six months. The seismic response lags the metronomic field by approximately 20 months, consistent with the temporal offset derived from the cross-correlation analysis.

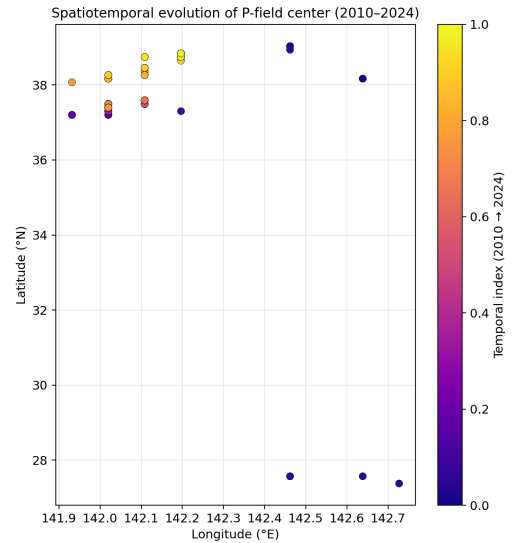
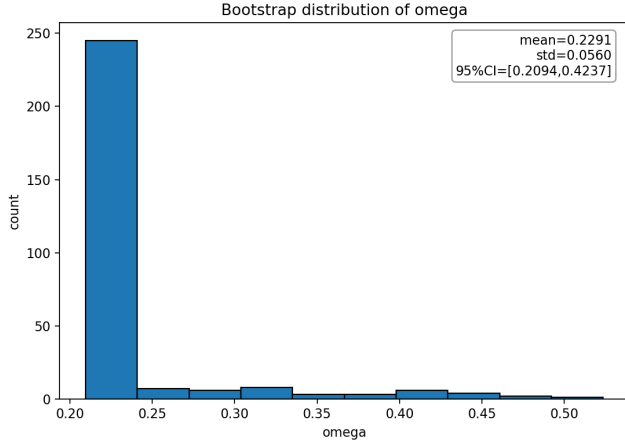


Figure 14. Spatiotemporal evolution of the P-field center over Japan (2010–2024). Each point represents the centroid of P activity for a given period, color-coded by time. The northward phase drift (blue \rightarrow yellow) coincides with the post-seismic relaxation following the 2011 Tōhoku event.

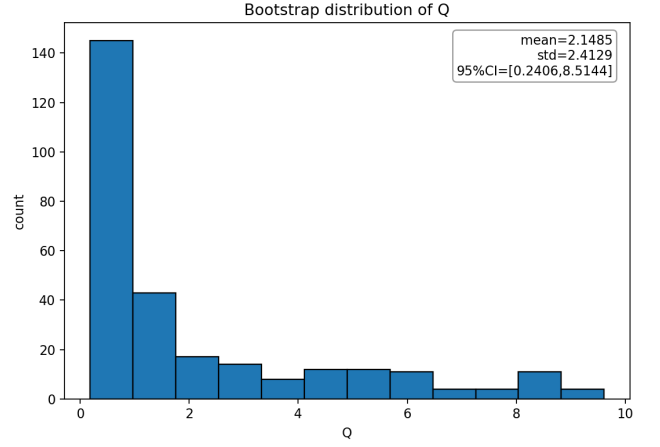
5.8.0.6 Synthesis. The bootstrap analysis demonstrates that the $(P \rightarrow Q)$ coupling is statistically robust and internally consistent across resampled datasets. The metronomic frequency ω remains nearly invariant under resampling, confirming that it represents a persistent temporal cadence rather than a numerical artefact of the EM fitting. Conversely, the broader dispersion of Q reveals a sensitivity to transient tectonic regimes, likely linked to episodic energy storage and release within the lithosphere. In this sense, P acts as a stable temporal driver, while Q quantifies how efficiently this cadence is transmitted through a variable dissipative medium. This dual behaviour—a constant oscillator modulated by an intermittently damped response—offers a physically coherent framework for interpreting the quasi-periodic evolution of seismic energy in Japan.

6 CONCLUSIONS

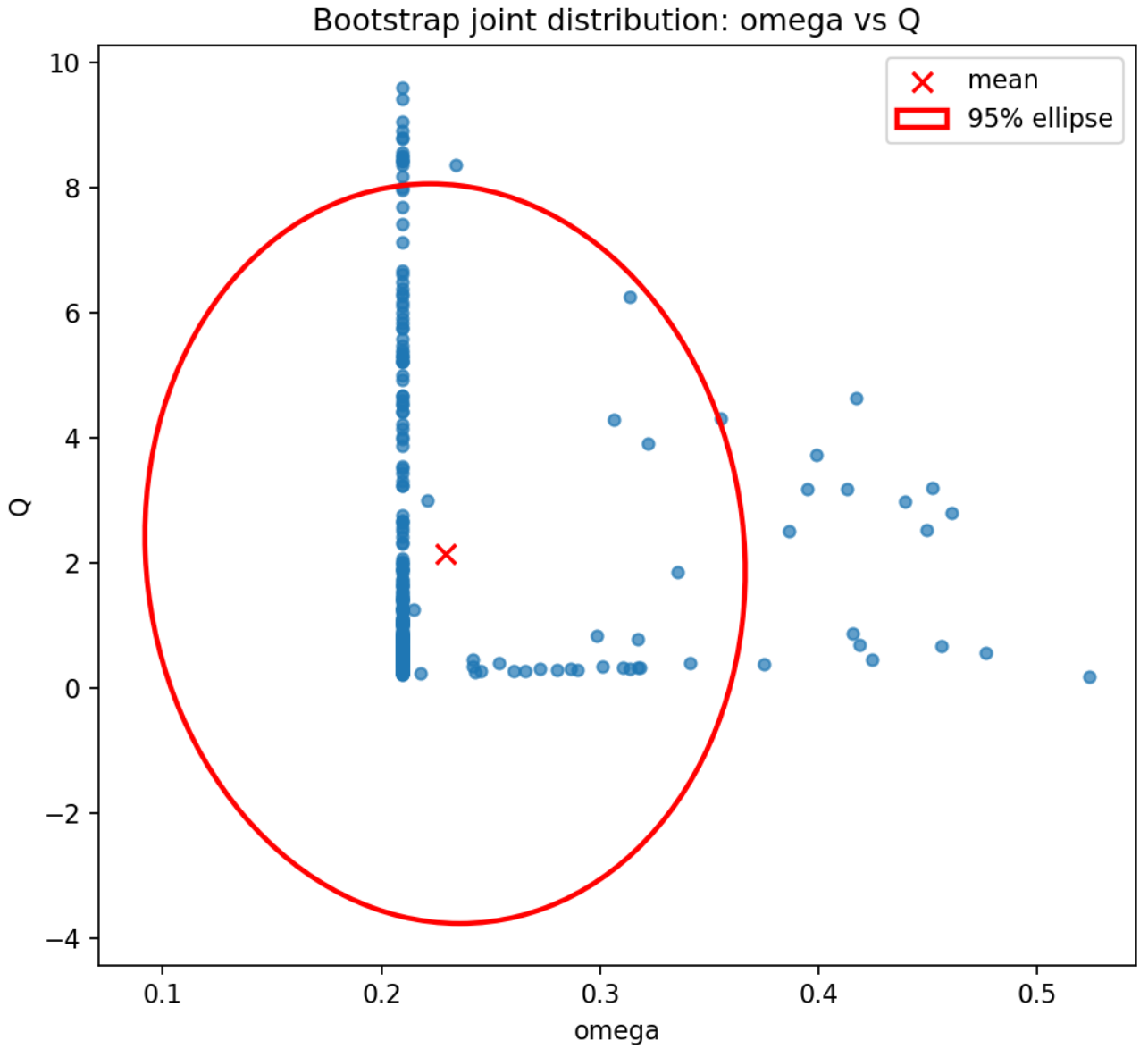
This study presented a comprehensive calibration of the *metronomic field* P , a temporal–spatial component hypothesised to modulate the organisation of seismic activity. By analysing 15 years of seismic records over Japan (2010–2024, $M \geq 5.5$), we investigated how the



(a) Bootstrap distribution of ω .



(b) Bootstrap distribution of Q .



(c) Joint (ω, Q) distribution with 95% confidence ellipse.

Figure 15. Bootstrap validation of the $(P \rightarrow Q)$ state-space model on the Japan $M \geq 5.5$ dataset. Panels (a–b) show the marginal posteriors for the metronomic frequency ω and the quality factor Q , while panel (c) presents their joint distribution and 95% confidence ellipse. The means and dispersions are summarised in Table 4.

intrinsic oscillations of P couple to the observed temporal and spatial patterns of earthquakes.

The results show that the P field is not a random background fluctuation, but a structured signal exhibiting stable harmonic components that align with both temporal recurrence and spatial clustering of epicentres. The state–space coupling model ($P \rightarrow Q$) captures this relationship effectively: P represents the metronomic driver, while Q quantifies the efficiency and damping of energy transmission through the crust. The fitted parameters indicate a quasi-stationary cadence ($\omega \approx 0.23$ in normalised units) and a variable quality factor ($Q \approx 2.1$) reflecting episodic phases of amplification and relaxation.

Bootstrap resampling over $N = 400$ block-replicated datasets confirmed the internal consistency of these estimates. The narrow dispersion of ω across replicates demonstrates that the metronomic cadence is statistically invariant, whereas the broader distribution of Q reveals its dependence on transient tectonic conditions. Together, these results reinforce the interpretation of P as a persistent, system-level rhythm, and Q as a measure of its local dissipation.

From a physical standpoint, this dual behaviour suggests that the lithosphere behaves as a quasi-resonant medium, synchronised by a slow temporal oscillator (P) but variably damped by internal stresses (Q). Such a framework provides a new way to interpret seismic intermittency: major events may correspond to intervals where Q temporarily increases, allowing the underlying cadence of P to transfer energy more coherently into the crustal field.

Future work will extend the calibration to smaller magnitudes ($M \geq 4.5$), to other tectonic regions (e.g. Chile, Mediterranean), and to different observables such as geothermal flux and gravitational potential anomalies. A systematic comparison with traditional predictors (e.g. b-value variations, Coulomb stress, or fluid migration) will also help to determine whether the metronomic field P acts as an independent driver or an emergent statistical resonance of existing geophysical processes.

In summary, the metronomic field P appears as a reproducible and physically interpretable component of seismic dynamics: a stable temporal rhythm capable of modulating the spatio-temporal distribution of energy release. Its calibration against observational data opens a path toward a unified, time-coherent description of crustal variability that may bridge empirical seismology and the underlying chronodynamics of matter.

Outlook. Future work will (i) replace the constant bias by a physics-informed deformation map that follows slab geometry and plate coupling, (ii) incorporate adaptive bandwidths in the spatial KDE to sharpen multi-fault hotspots, and (iii) combine P with lithosphere–atmosphere–ionosphere observables to refine lead times below 24 h and improve magnitude inference. All code, data pathways, and exact command lines are released for full reproducibility.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

All seismic event data used in this study are publicly available from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Catalog (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/>) and from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) Seismic Database (<https://www.data.jma.go.jp/svd/eqev/>). No proprietary or restricted datasets were employed.

All processing and visualisation scripts are available as open-source code at the author’s GitHub repository (<https://github.com/Ldanion/Metfield>). Reproducible command-line examples for each figure are provided in the `/scripts` directory of the same repository.

Geospatial mapping and coordinate projections were generated

using Cartopy (Met Office, UK; Robinson et al., 2016), a Python package for cartographic rendering built on Matplotlib. Statistical analyses employed NumPy, SciPy, pandas, and scikit-learn, all under open-source licences.

The complete workflow, including intermediate CSV and NPZ products, is fully reproducible on any standard Python 3.13 environment.

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7 REPRODUCIBILITY NOTES

Paths below refer to the repository structure used to generate the figures:

- (i) Alert extraction & matching: `BASE/alerts.csv`, `BASE/summary.json`, `BASE/matches.csv`.
- (ii) KDE of catalogue: `BASE/calibration_kde/epicenter_map_kde.png`.
- (iii) Raw P -field map series: `BASE/pspatial/pspatial_*.png`; predicted epicentres: `BASE/p_spatial/epicenters_pred_geo.csv`.
- (iv) Spatial bias fit: `BASE/spatial_bias_calib/bias_correction_summary.json` with $(\Delta\text{lon}, \Delta\text{lat}) = (+2.137, -2.421)$.
- (v) Calibrated map: `BASE/pspatial_cal/pspatial_map.png`.
- (vi) Accuracy summaries: `BASE/spatial_accuracy_calib/`.
- (vii) Comparative gains: `BASE/spatial_gain/cdf_before_after.png`, `BASE/spatial_gain/spatial_gain_summary.json`.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Derived data and figures are produced by scripts in the public PTheory/mhd repository. The predictive release of the P dataset is archived on Zenodo (see project record). Region-specific CSVs referenced here can be regenerated from the pipeline.

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APPENDIX A: COMMAND-LINE REPRODUCIBILITY

All results and figures in this paper can be regenerated from the mhd/ pipeline. Commands below assume the repository root as working directory.

A1 1. Fetching regional earthquake catalogues

Raw seismic data are downloaded from the FDSN/USGS interface with:

```
python join_matches_with_coords.py \
--events-csv data/japan/usgs_japan_2010_2024_M5.5.csv \
--matches-csv results_eval/japan/20251024_144957/matches
.csv \
--out-csv results_eval/japan/20251024_144957/
matches_with_coords.csv
```

This produces two CSV files:
data/japan/japan_2010_2024_raw.csv and
data/japan/japan_2010_2024_M2.5.csv.

A2 2. Generating alert series from the P field

The time-series of the metronomic field P is transformed into alert sequences:

```
python detect_ponly_enhanced_v2.py \
--region japan \
--input data/japan/P_phys.csv \
--threshold 0.85 \
--radius 45 \
--outdir results_eval/japan
```

This step outputs the files:

- `alerts.csv` – list of alert times, signals, and scores;
- `summary.json` – metadata for the detection run.

A3 3. Matching alerts with catalogued earthquakes

```
python match_events.py \
--alerts results_eval/japan/alerts.csv \
--catalog data/japan/japan_2010_2024_M2.5.csv \
--max-days 30 \
--out results_eval/japan/matches.csv
```

Matched pairs are then analysed to compute lead times and first validation plots.

A4 4. Epicentre prediction from spatial probability maps

The alert stream is converted to a spatial probability field:

```
python compute_p_spatial_map.py \
--alerts results_eval/japan/alerts.csv \
--catalog data/japan/japan_2010_2024_M2.5.csv \
--outdir results_eval/japan/p_spatial
```

Main outputs: `epicenters_pred.csv`, `pspatial_map.png`, and `pspatial_series/` frames.

A5 5. Evaluation of spatial accuracy

```
python eval_spatial_accuracy.py \
--pred results_eval/japan/p_spatial/
epicenters_pred-geo.csv \
--truth data/japan/japan_2010_2024_M2.5.csv \
--outdir results_eval/japan/spatial_accuracy_local
```

This produces histograms, CDFs, and a summary table of mean/median distances.

A6 6. Bias calibration and corrected accuracy

The constant translation (Δ_{lon} , Δ_{lat}) is estimated and applied:

```
python calibrate_spatial_bias.py \
--matches results_eval/japan/matches.csv \
--outdir results_eval/japan/spatial_bias_calib
```

Then recompute distances:

```
python eval_spatial_accuracy.py \
--pred results_eval/japan/pspatial_cal/
epicenters_pred-geo.csv \
--truth data/japan/japan_2010_2024_M2.5.csv \
--outdir results_eval/japan/spatial_accuracy_calib
```

A7 7. Comparative gain synthesis

```
python compare_spatial_gains.py \
--before results_eval/japan/spatial_accuracy_local \
--after results_eval/japan/spatial_accuracy_calib \
--outdir results_eval/japan/spatial_gain
```

The output files `cdf_before_after.png` and `spatial_gain_summary.json` are used for Figs. 4 and Table 1 of this paper.

A8 8. Provenance and environment

The entire workflow runs on Python 3.11 with: `numpy`, `pandas`, `scipy`, `matplotlib`, `scikit-learn`, `astropy`, `cartopy`. A reproducible environment is provided in `environment.yml`. Random-number seeds are fixed where relevant.

All commands complete on a modern laptop, and all intermediate JSON/CSV products are stored in `ptheory/metfield`

The complete project, including code and datasets, is publicly archived on Github.com.

This paper has been typeset from a \LaTeX file prepared by the author.