

# The dynamics of tsunamigenic acoustic-gravity waves and bathymetry effect

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## Abstract

The investigation of atmospheric tsunamigenic acoustic and gravity wave (TAGW) dynamics, from the ocean surface to the thermosphere, is performed through the numerical computations of the 3D compressible nonlinear Navier-Stokes equations. Tsunami propagation is first simulated using a nonlinear shallow water model, which incorporates instantaneous or temporal evolutions of initial tsunami distributions (ITD). Surface dynamics are then imposed as a boundary condition to excite TAGWs into the atmosphere from the ground level. We perform a case study of a large tsunami associated with the 2011 M9.1 Tohoku-Oki earthquake, and parametric studies with simplified and demonstrative bathymetry and ITD. Our results demonstrate that TAGW propagation, controlled by the atmospheric state, can evolve nonlinearly and lead to wave self-acceleration effects and instabilities, followed by the excitation of secondary acoustic-gravity waves (SAGWs), spanning a broad frequency range. The variations of the ocean depth result in a change of tsunami characteristics and subsequent tilt of the TAGW packet, as the wave's intrinsic frequency spectrum is varied. In addition, focusing of tsunamis and their interactions with seamounts and islands may result in localized enhancements of TAGWs, which further indicates the crucial role of bathymetry variations. Along with SAGWs, leading long-period phases of the TAGW packet propagate ahead of the tsunami wavefront and thus can be observed prior to the tsunami arrival. Our modeling results suggest that TAGWs from large tsunamis can drive detectable and quantifiable perturbations in the upper atmosphere under a wide range of scenarios, and uncover new challenges and opportunities for their observations.

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2 **and bathymetry effect**

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6 **Key Points:**

- 7 • Numerical simulations of acoustic-gravity waves generated by tsunamis are per-  
8 formed with 3D compressible nonlinear neutral atmosphere model
- 9 • Bathymetry variations markedly impact the propagation of tsunamis and tsunami-  
10 genic AGWs and may lead to their nonlinear evolution
- 11 • Phase fronts of tsunamigenic AGWs and thermospherically-generated secondary  
12 AGWs arrive prior to the tsunami and may explain observations

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**Abstract**

The investigation of atmospheric tsunamigenic acoustic and gravity wave (TAGW) dynamics, from the ocean surface to the thermosphere, is performed through the numerical computations of the 3D compressible nonlinear Navier-Stokes equations. Tsunami propagation is first simulated using a nonlinear shallow water model, which incorporates instantaneous or temporal evolutions of initial tsunami distributions (ITD). Surface dynamics are then imposed as a boundary condition to excite TAGWs into the atmosphere from the ground level. We perform a case study of a large tsunami associated with the 2011 M9.1 Tohoku-Oki earthquake, and parametric studies with simplified and demonstrative bathymetry and ITD. Our results demonstrate that TAGW propagation, controlled by the atmospheric state, can evolve nonlinearly and lead to wave self-acceleration effects and instabilities, followed by the excitation of secondary acoustic and gravity waves (SAGWs), spanning a broad frequency range. The variations of the ocean depth result in a change of tsunami characteristics and subsequent tilt of the TAGW packet, as the wave's intrinsic frequency spectrum is varied. In addition, focusing of tsunamis and their interactions with seamounts and islands may result in localized enhancements of TAGWs, which further indicates the crucial role of bathymetry variations. Along with SAGWs, leading long-period phases of the TAGW packet propagate ahead of the tsunami wavefront and thus can be observed prior to the tsunami arrival. Our modeling results suggest that TAGWs from large tsunamis can drive detectable and quantifiable perturbations in the upper atmosphere under a wide range of scenarios, and uncover new challenges and opportunities for their observations.

**1 Introduction**

Ocean surface gravity waves (tsunamis) are a well known sources of waves in the atmosphere, as fluid quantities on water-air interface must be conserved (Davies & Baker, 1965; Peltier & Hines, 1976; Godin et al., 2015). Exponential decrease of neutral atmospheric mass density with altitude leads to the substantial amplification of tsunamigenic acoustic and gravity waves (collectively, TAGWs), with periods from tens of seconds to tens of minutes. Today, a broad range of ground- and space-based instruments provide unprecedented opportunities for the investigation of TAGW dynamics through the observations of neutral and charged particle disturbances caused by them (Galvan et al., 2011; Coisson et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2017). Collected data enable new scientific inves-

45 tigitations of natural hazard-atmosphere-ionosphere coupled processes and can motivate  
46 important future applications in detections or diagnostics (Kamogawa et al., 2016; Savas-  
47 tano et al., 2017; Rakoto et al., 2018).

48 Undersea earthquakes generate the majority of large tsunamis (Levin & Nosov, 2016),  
49 and main features of TAGWs excited by them have been widely investigated (e.g., Artru  
50 et al. (2005); Hickey et al. (2009); Occhipinti et al. (2013); Huba et al. (2015); Vadas et  
51 al. (2015)). As with other acoustic-gravity waves (AGWs), the propagation of TAGWs  
52 is controlled by the atmospheric state, which may result in their reflection, refraction and  
53 tilting (Broutman et al., 2014; Heale & Snively, 2015; Wu et al., 2016), tunneling (Sutherland  
54 & Yewchuk, 2004; Yu & Hickey, 2007) and ducting (Chimonas & Hines, 1986; Snively  
55 & Pasko, 2008), damping and interference (Sutherland, 2006; Vadas, 2007). Nonlinear  
56 effects, breaking, self-acceleration and dissipation are of particular importance for their  
57 propagation in the upper atmosphere (Walterscheid & Schubert, 1990; Heale et al., 2014;  
58 Fritts et al., 2015). However, there remains a lack of comprehensive modeling studies,  
59 which incorporate realistically varying tsunami waves coupled with compressible and non-  
60 linear models, thus spanning from the ocean to the upper atmosphere. Models lacking  
61 comprehensive physics may suggest marked under- or over-estimation of TAGW ampli-  
62 tudes due to insufficient accounting for nonlinearity, that would otherwise lead to evo-  
63 lution of their spectra or dissipation. It is fair to assume that temporal and spatial evo-  
64 lution of ocean surface waves, their interaction with bathymetry and shores, interference,  
65 dispersion and nonlinear effects should also affect TAGW characteristics and, to the best  
66 of our knowledge, this was not yet addressed in a literature.

67 Here, we report simulation results of TAGW dynamics based on the 2011 Japan  
68 Tohoku-Oki tsunami case study, incorporating tsunami evolution over realistic bathymetry.  
69 Tsunami simulation is performed in a nonlinear shallow-water model. The results of a  
70 forward seismic wave propagation simulation are used as a temporally-varying initial tsunami  
71 distribution (ITD). TAGW excitation and propagation from the ocean to 500 km height  
72 are simulated in 3D compressible nonlinear neutral atmosphere model. Separately, we  
73 investigate source and bathymetry effects on TAGWs through parametric 2D and 3D  
74 simulations with simplified and demonstrative ITDs and ocean seafloor variations.

75 Our results demonstrate that TAGW propagation is affected by the atmospheric  
76 state and nonlinear evolution, as well known for other short-period gravity waves (Fritts

et al., 2015). Substantial amplitudes of TAGWs in the thermosphere can lead to instabilities, followed by the excitation of secondary acoustic and gravity waves (SAGWs), spanning a broad range of periods (e.g., Bossert et al., 2017; Heale et al., 2020, and references therein). Bathymetry plays a crucial role on TAGW characteristics. Particularly, ocean depth changes result in TAGW amplitude increase or decrease at different altitudes, as the whole TAGW packet tilts from the variations of the intrinsic frequencies of excited in the atmosphere TAGWs, exhibiting different dissipation altitudes. Focusing of tsunami waves over rises and their interaction with seamounts and islands can lead to the substantial enhancement of the generated TAGWs. Long-period TAGWs that propagate ahead of the tsunami wavefront may generate early-detectable perturbations, whereas the dissipation of primary TAGWs also leads to the excitation of SAGWs. Our modeling results suggest that TAGWs can drive detectable and quantifiable perturbations in the upper atmosphere, under a wide range of scenarios, but also uncover new challenges and opportunities for their observations. The results of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki tsunami case study are presented in Section 3 and of parametric studies in Section 4. The discussion and a summary of these investigations are provided in Section 5. These results provide a platform for future investigations that include comprehensive airglow and ionospheric responses, and comparisons with data.

## 2 Numerical simulation approach

For the simulation of tsunamis, we use GeoClaw model, which numerically solves nonlinear depth-averaged shallow water equations and was approved by the United States National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program for the use in modeling work (Gonzalez et al. (2011); Clawpack Development Team (2018); Berger et al. (2011)). Simulated vertical ocean surface velocities, generated by tsunamis, are used to specify lower boundary conditions for the three-dimensional nonlinear compressible neutral atmosphere Model for Acoustic-Gravity wave Interactions and Coupling (MAGIC) (Snively, 2013).

As a realistic scenario, we study one of the largest tsunamis that was generated by the 2011 M9.1 Tohoku-Oki subduction megathrust earthquake near the east coast of Honshu Island, Japan (epicenter at 38.297°N/142.373°E, 05:46:24.120 UT, United States Geological Survey). The earthquake rupture area was estimated as  $\sim 400$  km along-strike and  $\sim 220$  km across the width (Lay, 2018) and fault slips of 30-50 m during  $\sim 100$  s. On the shore of Japan, waves reached  $\sim 15$ -20 m in height with a run-up of more than 20

109 m (Mori et al., 2011; Fritz et al., 2012). An unprecedented amount of TAGW-driven dis-  
 110 turbances were recorded to Earth’s magnetic field, airglow layers and ionospheric plasma  
 111 densities were collected in data at the near-epicentral region (Saito et al., 2011; Liu et  
 112 al., 2011; Galvan et al., 2012; Maruyama & Shinagawa, 2014) and in the far-field (Makela  
 113 et al., 2011; Hao et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2014; Azeem et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2017).

114 The complexity of the earthquake motivated studies leading to a wide range of pro-  
 115 posed finite-fault models that produce different peak vertical displacements at the seafloor  
 116 ranging from 7–22 m (Lay, 2018). Through simulations of the Tohoku-Oki tsunami with  
 117 the GeoClaw model, MacInnes et al. (2013) investigated the reproduction of wave gauge  
 118 data with 10 different ITDs. Based on the analysis of their and our own modeling re-  
 119 sults, here we specify temporally-varying ITD, calculated in a forward seismic wave prop-  
 120 agation simulation with SPECFEM3D\_GLOBE codes based on finite-fault model by Shao  
 121 et al. (2011). For the details of the modeling process, we refer to Inchin et al. (2020), that  
 122 is devoted to the investigation of mesopause airglow responses to AGWs with the use  
 123 of the same ITD.

124 We specify 500 m Gridded Bathymetry Data J-EGG500 with 30’’ USGS GTOPO  
 125 topography near the Japan Islands area and 1’ ETOPO1 bathymetry from the National  
 126 Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS) archive for open ocean.  
 127 Bottom friction is incorporated with a Manning roughness coefficient of 0.025. To avoid  
 128 boundary discontinuities, we apply a smooth taper at the edges of the ITD domain prior  
 129 to incorporating it into GeoClaw. ITD dynamics are resolved for 12 minutes after the  
 130 earthquake’s initiation time for the region of 1200x1200 km around the epicenter. The  
 131 tsunami evolution is computed for 7 hours, until direct waves reach the farthest bound-  
 132 ary of the numerical domain.

133 TAGW dynamics are resolved for 7 hours in a domain of 6000x5490x500 km in lat-  
 134 itude, longitude and altitude directions, respectively. The horizontal and vertical reso-  
 135 lutions are chosen as 5 and 1 km, respectively, resulting in 0.6588B grid points of the nu-  
 136 merical domain. We apply wave-absorbing (“sponge”) layers near the edges of MAGIC  
 137 numerical domain to avoid boundary wave reflections. Meridional and zonal winds and  
 138 temperature profiles for altitudes up to 55 km, are used from the MERRA-2 database.  
 139 For higher altitudes, empirical models NRLMSISE00 (Picone et al., 2002) and HWM-  
 140 14 (Drob et al., 2015) are specified. MERRA-2 data are selected for 15:00:00 LT,  $\sim 14$

141 minutes after earthquake initiation time. The configurations of models for parametric  
 142 2D and 3D studies are provided separately in Section 4.

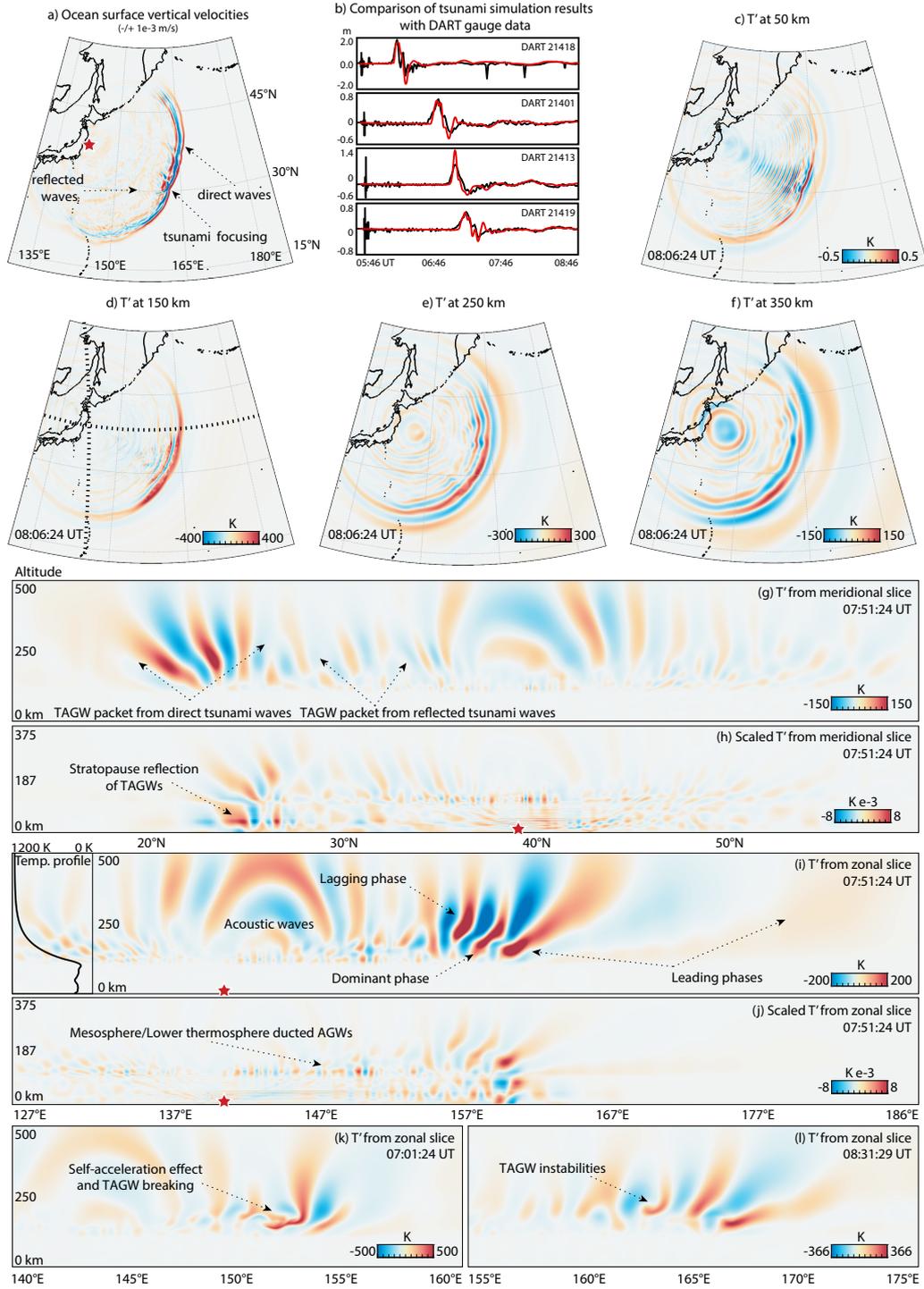
### 143 **3 Tohoku-Oki tsunami case study results**

144 This section contains 5 figures that demonstrate TAGW characteristics and evo-  
 145 lution from different perspectives, and through the whole range of altitudes, distances  
 146 and times. Figure 1 presents snapshots from the simulated ocean surface vertical veloc-  
 147 ities (panel a), and absolute major gas temperature perturbations ( $T'$ ), sliced horizon-  
 148 tally at 4 altitudes (panels c-f). The snapshots of  $T'$  for chosen meridional and zonal slices,  
 149 shown with dashed lines in Figure 1d, are provided in Figure 1g to 1l. Time-distance di-  
 150 agrams of ocean surface vertical velocities and  $T'$  at 50, 150, 250 and 350 km altitudes  
 151 for zonal and meridional slices are presented in Figure 2. Power spectral density (PSD)  
 152 diagrams for the zonal slice of the ocean surface vertical displacements and  $T'$  at 4 al-  
 153 titudes are provided in Figure 3. The bathymetry of the numerical domain, obtained through  
 154 NESDIS services, and the field of maximum simulated tsunami amplitudes are presented  
 155 in panels a and b of Figure 4, respectively. The fields of maximum  $T'$  from horizontal  
 156 slices at 50, 150, 250 and 350 km are shown in Figure 4c to 4f. The fields of maximum  
 157 horizontal and vertical fluid velocities for meridional and zonal slices are depicted in Fig-  
 158 ure 5, along with the bathymetry profiles corresponding to these slices. All maximum  
 159 perturbation fields are calculated incorporating the dynamics during 7 hours of simu-  
 160 lation. The animations for the figures are provided in the supporting information.

161 Tsunami evolution is influenced by bathymetry variations, resulting in refraction,  
 162 reflection, focusing and branching of waves (Satake, 1988; Mofjeld, 2000). The strongest  
 163 tsunami waves are simulated to the southeast of the epicentral area (Figure 4b). The prop-  
 164 agation of the tsunami to the north and northeast is markedly affected by shallow bathymetry  
 165 near the shore of Japan and the Kuril Islands. Long-lived dynamics, driven by trapped  
 166 and deflected waves, are discernible near the coast of Japan (Figure 2a,b). Along with  
 167 the shores, notable tsunami wave reflections result from the Hawaiian-Emperor Seamount  
 168 Chain (HESC) to the east, Izu-Bonin-Mariana Arc (IBMA) and Ogasawara Plateau to  
 169 the south and the Mid Pacific Mountains (MPM) to the southeast. Apparent focusing  
 170 of tsunami waves is driven by Shatsky and Hess rises. The tsunami exhibits a broad spec-  
 171 trum of periods in the range of  $\sim 7$ -60 min with a dominant peak at  $\sim 19$ -20 min, and  
 172 horizontal wavelength ( $\lambda_x$ ) varying between 140-400 km (Figure 3a). The average ap-

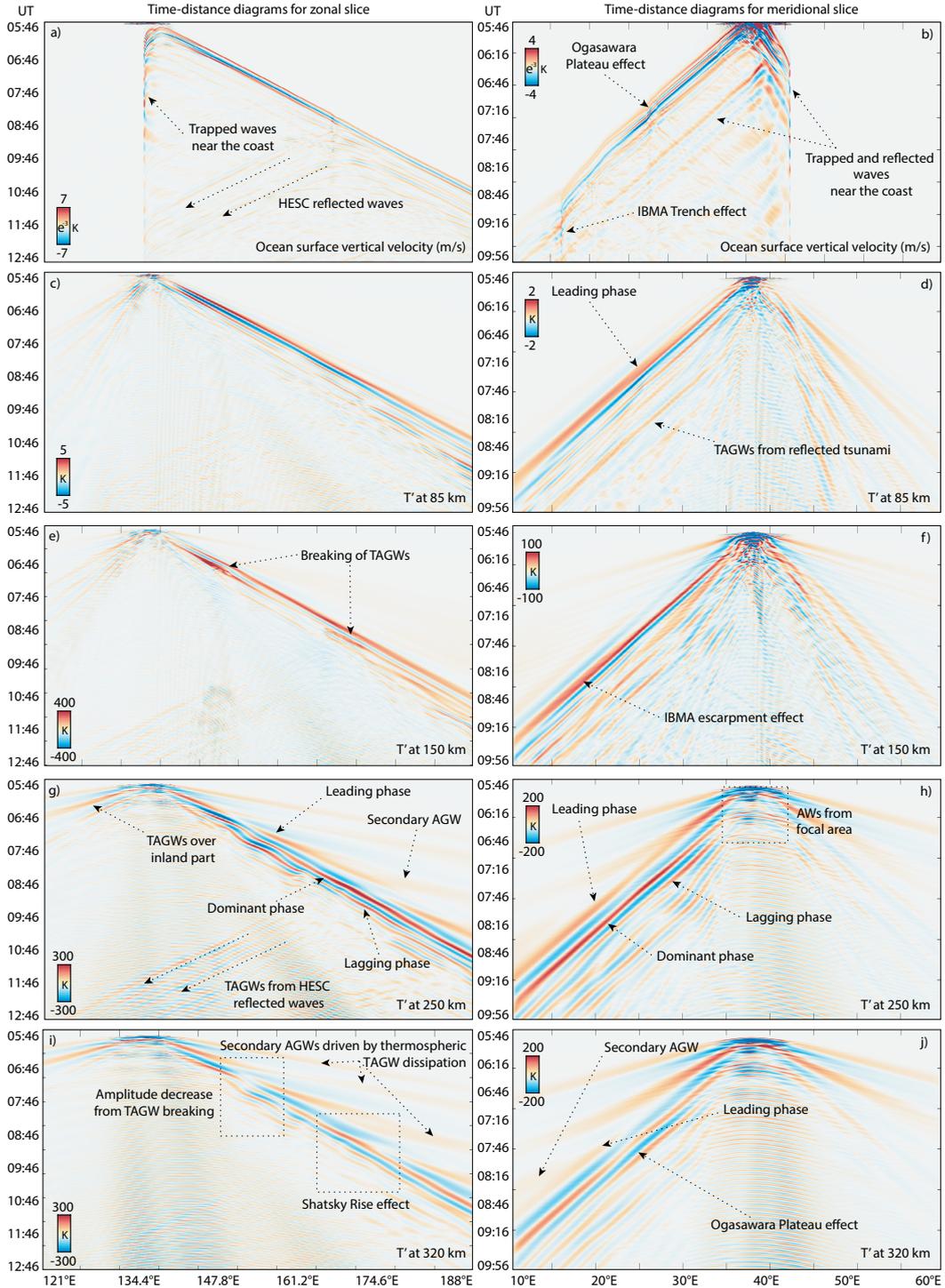
173 parent phase speed of the tsunami waves is  $\sim 231$  m/s, though its marked change results  
174 from bathymetry variations, for example over Shatsky Rise or IBMA. The comparison  
175 of synthetic and Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) wave gauge  
176 data is provided in Figure 1b.

177 The strongest perturbations in the atmosphere are generated over the epicentral  
178 area by strongly-nonlinear acoustic waves (AWs) from intense ocean surface displace-  
179 ments over crustal deformation (Figure 5). In this area, the perturbations are present  
180 even 5 hours after the earthquake (Figures 1f and 2i,j) and exhibit periods of  $\sim 4.2$  min  
181 (Figure 3) and result from AWs that are trapped between the ground and lower ther-  
182 mosphere, tunneling to higher altitudes (Figures 1f,g,i and 2h). Similar long-lived dy-  
183 namics were observed for at least 4 hours after the earthquake in total electron content  
184 (TEC) data (Tsugawa et al., 2011; Saito et al., 2011). With time, the simulated AWs  
185 are slightly shifted to the east from the epicentral area, that is explained by the dom-  
186 inant eastward wind from ground to  $\sim 110$  km height (wind profiles are provided on Fig-  
187 ure 5a,d). It should be noted that the resolution of the numerical grid is suitable pri-  
188 marily for TAGW dynamics to meet computational expenses, whereas short-period AWs  
189 can be under-resolved. AW dynamics and generated mesopause airglow perturbations,  
190 driven by this ITD, were discussed by Inchin et al. (2020).



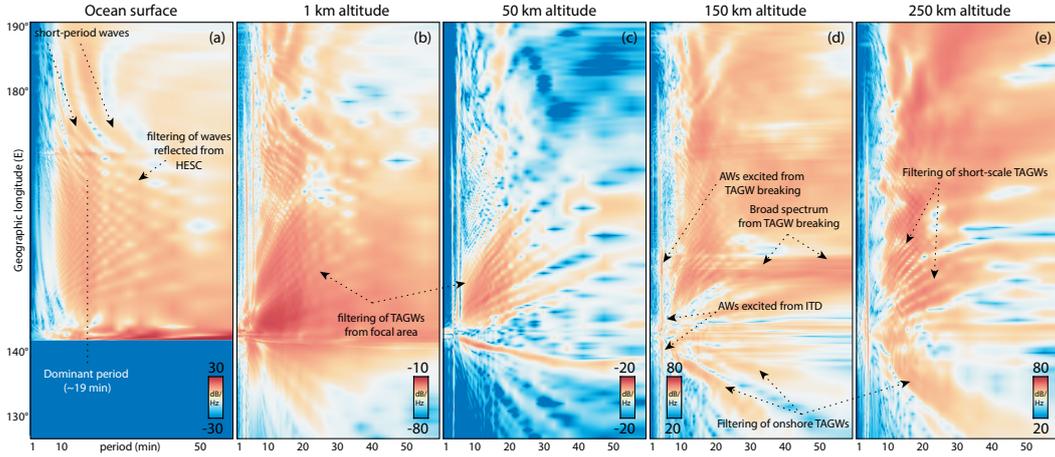
191 **Figure 1.** The snapshots of (a) ocean surface vertical velocity and (c-f)  $T'$  at 4 altitudes; (g-l)  
 192 absolute and scaled  $T'$  for meridional and zonal slices shown with dashed lines on panel d. (b)  
 193 The comparison of simulated ocean surface vertical displacements with DART wave gauge data.  
 194 The data on plots are presented on an oversaturated scales for better visibility of weaker features.

195 TAGW packet structure is preserved for the whole range of distances and altitudes  
 196 (Figure 1g-l). Notable leading phases in the TAGW packet exhibit periods of  $\sim 25$ -45 min  
 197 and propagate ahead of the tsunami (Figures 1c-j and 2,d,g,h,j). Possessing substantial  
 198 amplitudes from the ground to the lower thermosphere, they experience marked damp-  
 199 ing above  $\sim 150$  km, having comparatively small vertical wavelengths ( $\lambda_z$ ) of  $\sim 150$ -200  
 200 km ( $\lambda_x \sim 250$ -500 km), leading to their dissipation at lower altitudes (Vadas, 2007). The  
 201 dominant TAGW phase, slightly trailing behind the tsunami wavefront, is locked with  
 202 a dominant tsunami period of  $\sim 19$  min (at thermospheric heights its  $\lambda_x \sim 260$  km,  $\lambda_z \sim 260$   
 203 km and  $v_z \sim 228$  m/s), and in general exhibits stronger amplitudes above lower ther-  
 204 mosphere than leading phases (Figure 2g-j). From the ground to the mesosphere, its am-  
 205 plitude is usually lower than of the leading phases, though marked variations are present  
 206 at all altitudes (Figure 4g,i). The next trailing phase front has comparatively short  $\lambda_x \sim 190$   
 207 km, but large  $\lambda_z \sim 300$ -330 km in the thermosphere and may exhibit substantial am-  
 208 plitudes at ionospheric heights, but does not produce any notable perturbation below  
 209 the thermosphere. The following train of TAGWs includes ducted and resonating waves,  
 210 as well as TAGWs from refracted and reflected tsunami waves, spanning a broad range  
 211 of periods, though with some components of comparatively small amplitudes.



212 **Figure 2.** Time-distance diagrams of (a,b) ocean surface velocity and (c-j)  $T'$  for zonal (left  
 213 column) and meridional (right column) slices at 4 altitudes. Chosen slices are shown with dashed  
 214 lines in Figure 1d. The data on plots are presented on an oversaturated scales for better visibility  
 215 of weaker features.

216 Thermo-viscous molecular dissipation of TAGWs at thermospheric heights, and tran-  
 217 sience within the tsunami-driven wave field, are causes for the local generation of SAGWs.  
 218 They propagate ahead of the TAGW packet with an apparent horizontal phase veloc-  
 219 ity ( $v_x$ ) of  $\sim 600$  m/s and exhibit amplitudes up to  $\sim 50$  K (Figure 1f,g). A particularly  
 220 strong SAGW is generated from the epicentral region and propagates practically through  
 221 the whole numerical domain. SAGWs have large  $\lambda_x$  of  $\sim 600$ - $700$  km and periods of  $\sim 14$ -  
 222  $18$  min. Our results demonstrate at least superficial agreement with a previous study by  
 223 Kherani et al. (2015), who reported similar characteristics of these SAGWs. It is inter-  
 224 esting to note that the local generation of SAGWs (from the transience within the tsunami-  
 225 driven wave field) occurs most prominently as TAGWs packet tilts horizontally from the  
 226 change of wave intrinsic frequency. In the majority of cases, the enhancement of lead-  
 227 ing phases in the thermosphere is followed by the radiation of SAGWs (Figure 2g,i).



228 **Figure 3.** Power spectral density (PSD) diagrams of ocean surface vertical displacements and  
 229  $T'$  at 4 altitudes, derived by calculating PSD for each position of the zonal slice shown on Figure  
 230 1. The data on plots are shown on an oversaturated scales for better visibility of weaker features.

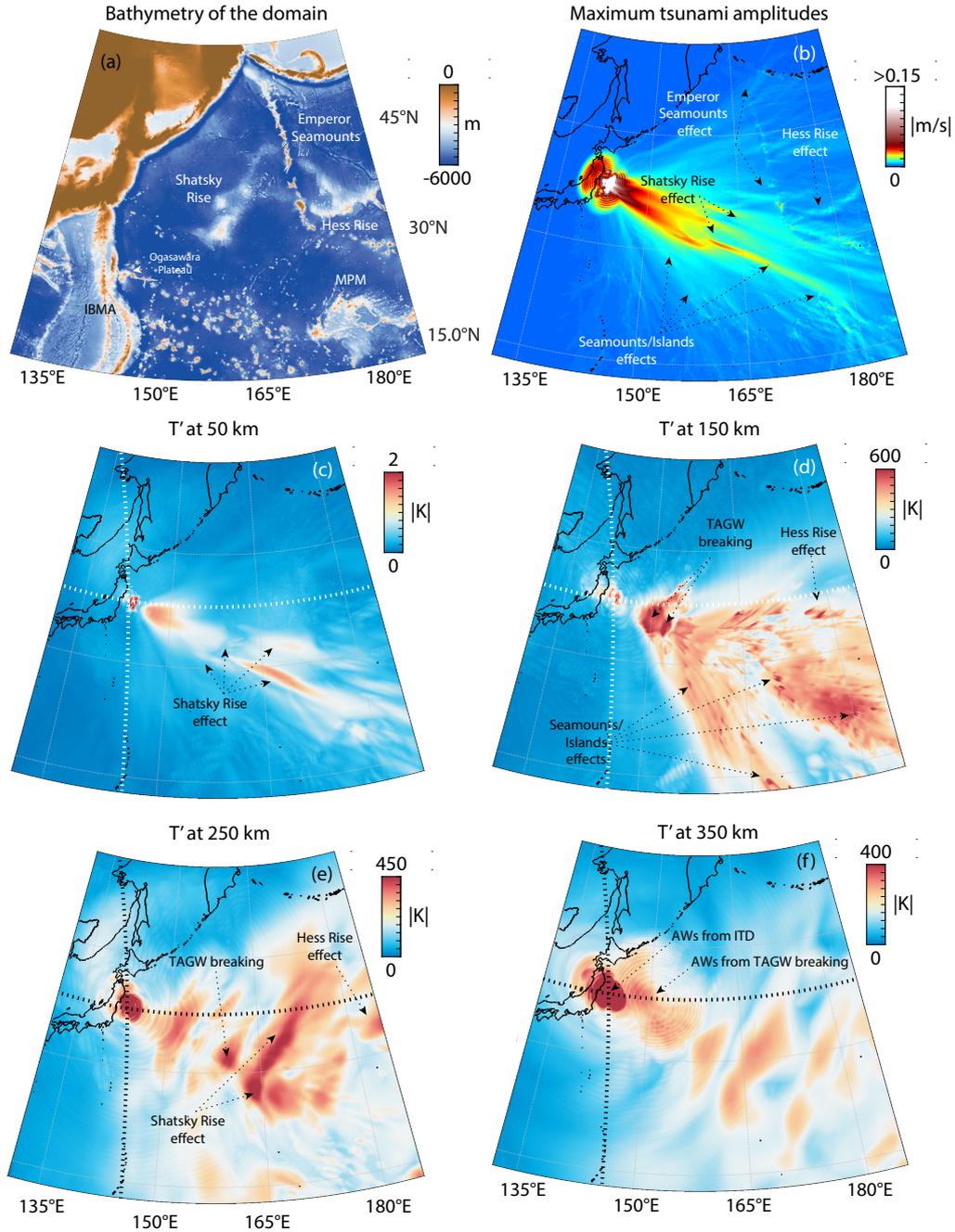
231 At thermospheric heights, TAGWs exhibit temperature perturbations of  $\sim 100$ - $250$   
 232 K, though some local peaks reach  $600$ - $700$  K at  $150$  km altitude (Figure 4b). Vertical  
 233 fluid velocities, starting from lower thermosphere, vary in a range  $\sim 150$ - $200$  m/s, whereas  
 234 horizontal fluid velocities are  $\sim 150$  m/s on average. The phase speeds of the tsunami and  
 235 TAGWs at altitudes lower than  $\sim 100$  km are practically the same  $\sim 231$  m/s (Figure 2,c)  
 236 and TAGWs exhibit similar amplitude variations as the tsunami (Figure 4c). At ther-

237 atmospheric heights, there is a notable variability of TAGW phase speeds (Figure 2g-j) and  
 238 amplitudes (Figure 4d-f), which result from bathymetry variations and nonlinear effects  
 239 (nothing that fluid velocities are comparable to the phase velocity). Although the dis-  
 240 persive nature of the TAGW packet also leads to its spreading (Laughman et al., 2017),  
 241 this effect takes relatively longer distances prior to becoming clearly discernible.

242 The gap in the fields of maximum perturbations at  $\sim 300$ - $500$  km radially from the  
 243 epicenter, where practically no perturbations are observed in the upper atmosphere, is  
 244 explained by the distances that need to be covered by TAGWs before they reach upper  
 245 layers (Occhipinti et al., 2013). Then, the strongest TAGWs propagate at distances  $500$ -  
 246  $800$  km to the southeast from the epicentral region and are driven by the substantial am-  
 247 plitudes of the tsunami near its source (Figure 4b,g). The leading phases exhibit com-  
 248 paratively strong amplitudes at  $\sim 153^\circ\text{E}$  and  $\sim 130$ - $150$  km altitudes. The following trail-  
 249 ing phases appear in the lower thermosphere already with practically vertically-aligned  
 250 phase fronts and apparent instabilities arise right after them (Figure 1k). Leading phases  
 251 induce mean flow and increase local  $v_x$  (Figure 5d), which results in the horizontal ac-  
 252 celeration of trailing phases in the direction of TAGW packet propagation, that start ex-  
 253 hibiting larger  $v_z$  and subsequent phase front distortions. As the speed of the mean flow  
 254 exceeds phase velocities of TAGWs, breaking of waves occurs. Further to the southeast,  
 255 apparent breaking of trailing phases of the TAGW packet occurs, but at altitudes of  $\sim 200$   
 256 km (Figure 1l). Again, prior to breaking, trailing phases start tilting vertically as they  
 257 are shifted to higher intrinsic frequencies and larger  $\lambda_z$ . At  $150$ - $200$  km altitudes, the  
 258 amplitudes of leading phases are already comparatively small, and we attribute insta-  
 259 bilities to the induced mean flow by the dominant phase.

260 The dynamics discussed above, support the conclusion that the simulated insta-  
 261 bilities arise via self-acceleration effects from strong mean flow, induced by the leading  
 262 phases of the TAGW packet (Fritts & Lund, 2011; Fritts et al., 2015; Dong et al., 2020).  
 263 Along with the generation of long-period SAGWs, TAGW breaking leads to the gener-  
 264 ation of AWs (e.g., Snively (2017), and references therein) that drive long-lived dynam-  
 265 ics (Figures 3d and 4f and 5d,e). The TAGW breaking may be in part enhanced from  
 266 the interaction of TAGWs excited by direct tsunami waves and TAGWs from tsunami  
 267 waves that are first reflected from the coast of Japan and then closely follow direct tsunami  
 268 waves (Figure 1a). As TAGWs from direct tsunami slow down over Shatsky Rise, they  
 269 can more readily interact with the TAGWs from the reflected tsunami.

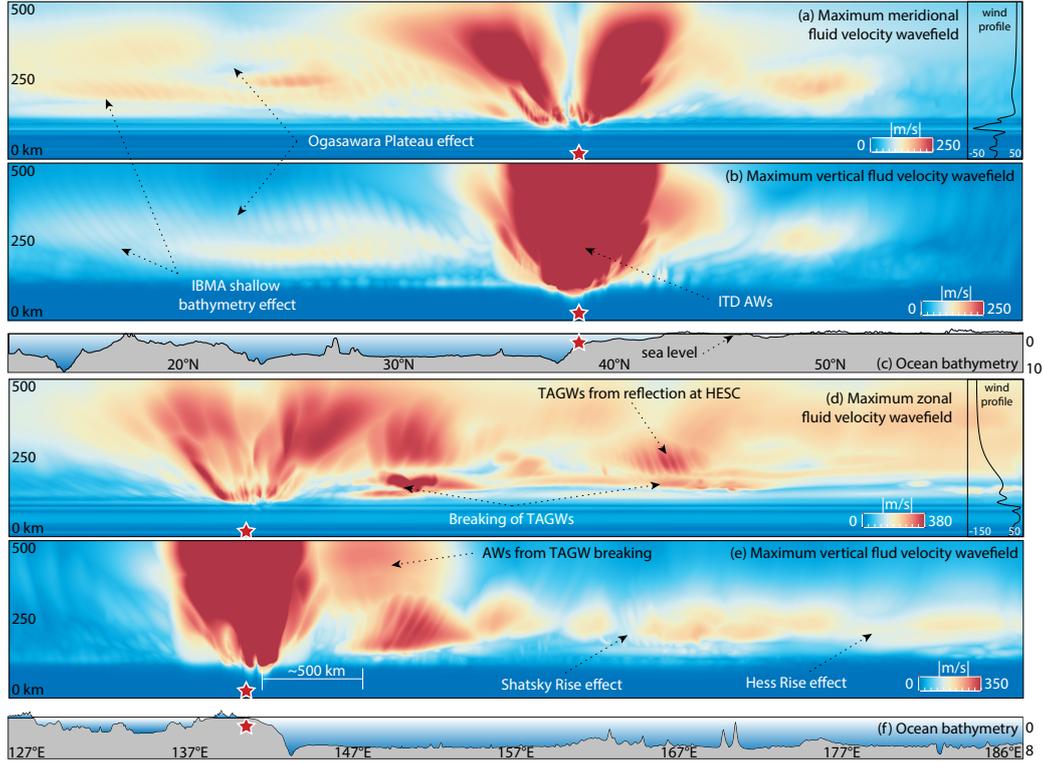
270 The spreading of ocean waves over the passage of Shatsky Rise leads to the decrease  
271 of their amplitudes, but focusing intensifies the tsunami to the east and southeast (Fig-  
272 ure 4b). At altitudes lower than  $\sim 100$  km, TAGWs practically mimic the tsunami evo-  
273 lution (Figure 1c). They exhibit similar initial decrease and further enhancement of am-  
274 plitudes, and two intensified region of  $T'$  to the southeast and east can be discerned (Fig-  
275 ure 4c). In the lower thermosphere, the Shatsky Rise produces similar effects, although  
276 less prominent. At 250 and 350 km, there is no elongated southeastward enhancement  
277 of TAGWs, but, instead, the pattern of perturbations practically mimics the shape of  
278 Shatsky Rise from Tamu Massif at the southwest to Shirshov Massif at the northeast (Fig-  
279 ure 4a,e,f). We attribute this enhancement in the perturbations to TAGW self-acceleration  
280 and following instabilities from tsunami passage over Shatsky Rise and its focusing. Also,  
281 perturbation enhancement is accompanied by substantial increase of horizontal fluid ve-  
282 locities in these regions (Figure 5d).



283 **Figure 4.** (a) Bathymetry of the numerical domain. (b) The field of maximum simulated  
 284 vertical ocean surface velocities. (c-f) The fields of maximum  $T'$  at 4 altitudes. The data on plots  
 285 are shown on an oversaturated scales for better visibility of weaker features.

286 In a north-south direction and meridional slice shown with a dashed line in Fig-  
 287 ure 1d, TAGWs possess comparatively smaller amplitudes ( $\sim 150$ - $200$  K) and do not dis-

288 play significant nonlinearity, in contrast to the east and southeast, and no apparent TAGW  
289 instabilities occur. Here, even at 150 km altitude the leading phases exhibit the strongest  
290 amplitudes (Figure 2d,f). At higher altitudes, the dominant phase exhibits the strongest  
291 amplitudes and the trailing phases are practically absent at ionospheric F-layer (Figure  
292 2h,j). After the passage of Ogasawara Plateau, the TAGW trailing phase amplitudes are  
293 decreasing locally, while TAGW leading phases are enhanced (Figure 2j). Over shallower  
294 bathymetry the tsunami speed decreases, followed by the diminishing of  $\lambda_z$  of TAGWs.  
295 The whole TAGW packet tilts horizontally and the leading phases intensify (though are  
296 still damped at ionospheric heights drastically), whereas trailing phases start dissipat-  
297 ing at lower altitudes. This can be seen from the increase of the meridional fluid veloc-  
298 ities (from the intensified leading TAGW phases) at altitudes lower than  $\sim 200$  km and  
299 the diminishing of vertical fluid velocities and  $T'$  above  $\sim 250$  km (Figure 5a,b). Notable  
300 decrease of vertical, and the enhancement of horizontal, fluid velocities can also be seen  
301 farther to the south, as the tsunami runs into a shallower bathymetry of IBMA and the  
302 TAGW packet tilts horizontally.



303 **Figure 5.** Fields of maximum elongated and vertical fluid velocities for (a,b) zonal and (d,e)  
 304 meridional slices shown with dashed lines on Figure 4,b. (c,f) Bathymetry profiles for chosen  
 305 meridional and zonal slices. The data on plots are shown on saturated scales.

306 The reflections of the tsunami from the HESC result in ocean surface waves and  
 307 TAGWs of notable amplitudes as they return to the Japan coast (Figure 2a,g). This is  
 308 supported by observed TEC perturbations from these reflected waves (Tang et al., 2016).  
 309 The arrival of the simulated and observed reflected TAGWs from the HESC to the shore  
 310 of Japan is  $\sim 6$  hours after the earthquake. Simulated  $T'$  of these TAGWs reach  $\sim 100$ –  
 311  $140$  K at 250 km. The reflection and refraction of tsunami waves from the HESC leads  
 312 to the excitation of short-scale waves in the ocean and subsequently short-scale TAGWs  
 313 in the atmosphere (Figure 3), which transit to longer periods away from HESC. Notable  
 314 tsunami reflections to the north from the epicentral area result in a second TAGW packet  
 315 that follows the TAGW packet generated by direct tsunami waves propagating to the  
 316 south (Figure 1g). These two packets are spatially separated and do not interact.

317 The interaction of the tsunami with seamounts and islands leads to the generation  
 318 of compact, but markedly intensified short-scale TAGWs (Figure 4d). These TAGWs

319 are particularly apparent to the east of the IBMA in a quadrant 15–30°N and 150–165°E  
 320 (Figure 4b). However, they are markedly attenuated at higher altitudes and are prac-  
 321 tically not present at 250 km (Figure 4e). In the southeast quadrant of the domain, the  
 322 perturbations are absent at almost all altitudes, which is caused by tsunami damping  
 323 from the interaction with the MPM. Notable perturbations at 50 and 150 km follow the  
 324 same way to the north from the MPM as the tsunami (Figure 4c,d), but this evolution  
 325 is practically not present at 250 and 350 km.

326 Finally, the evolution of the tsunami with distance leads to the filtering of small-  
 327 scale ocean waves and TAGWs, as can be seen in the zonal direction between 142–160°E  
 328 in Figure 3. Over the inland part, in the absence of a quasi-continuous source (tsunami),  
 329 the TAGW energy peak is shifting from shorter to longer periods and horizontal scales.  
 330 Dissipative filtering drastically affects TAGW phases with longer  $\lambda_z$  (Heale et al., 2014),  
 331 but even 10° to the west, the power of TAGWs is still substantial at thermospheric heights  
 332 (Figure 3d,e).

#### 333 4 Effects of ITD and bathymetry on TAGWs

334 The 2011 Tohoku-Oki tsunami case study shows that bathymetry variations may  
 335 markedly affect the amplitudes and characteristics of TAGWs. In this section, we con-  
 336 tinue this analysis based on simulations with simplified and demonstrative bathymetry  
 337 variations and ITDs.

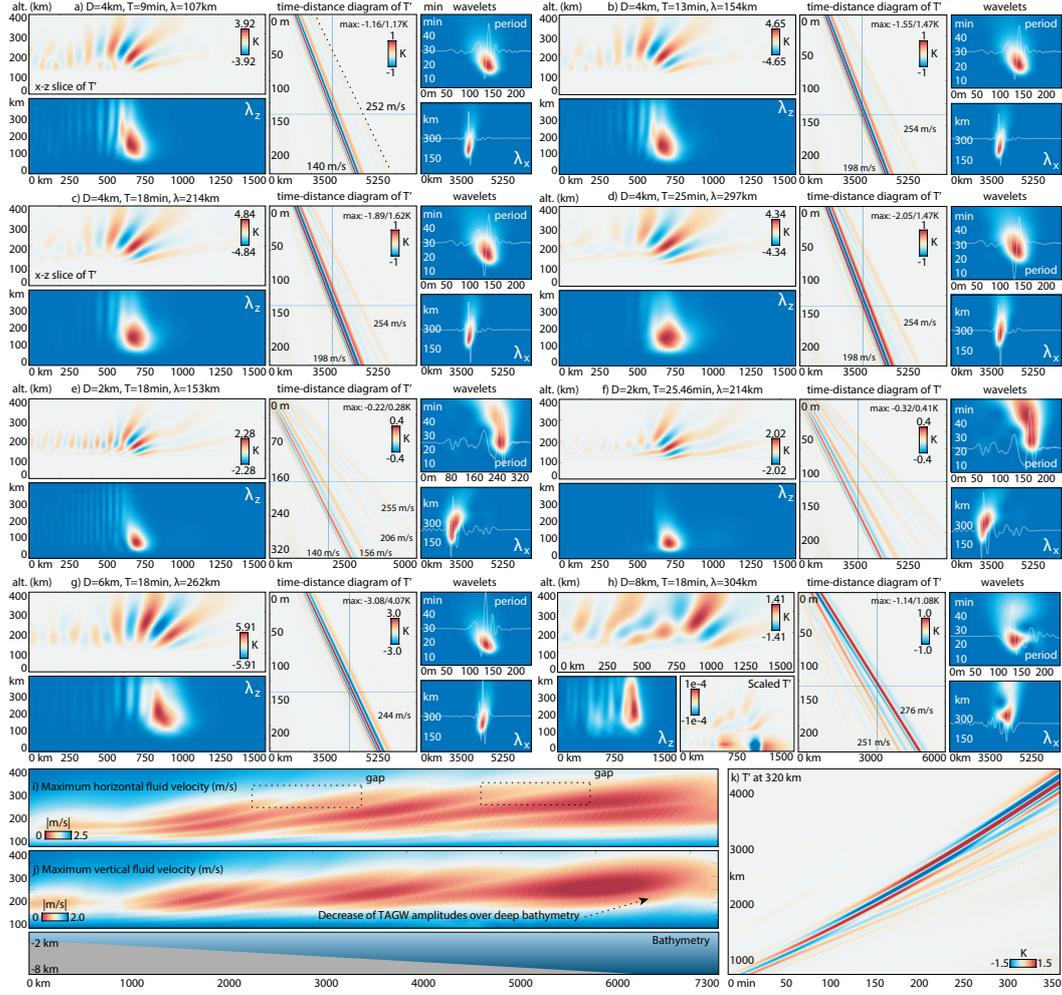
We use a single 1D or 2D circular Gaussian model as the ITD:

$$ITD(x_i, y_j) = A \cdot e^{\left(-\frac{(x_i - x_c)^2}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{(y_j - y_c)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)} \quad (1)$$

338 where the ITD is set as instantaneous,  $x_c$ ,  $y_c$  - position of the center of the peak,  $\sigma$  - stan-  
 339 dard deviation and A - amplitude, set as 0.6 m. Tsunami dynamics for the 2D TAGW  
 340 simulations are calculated in the Cartesian 1D version of GeoClaw. The species densi-  
 341 ties and temperature profiles are utilized from the Tohoku-Oki case study. Winds are  
 342 not included in these idealized simulations to control complexity.

343 We start with the investigation of the effect of ITD size on TAGWs. Figure 6a-d  
 344 shows the simulation results of TAGW dynamics generated by 4 different tsunamis with  
 345  $\lambda_x=107, 154, 214$  and 297 km and periods 9, 13, 18 and 25 min, respectively. The bathymetry  
 346 is set as flat at 4 km depth and the amplitudes of ITDs are decreased by a factor of 100,

347 in order to exclude nonlinear effects. For each case, we provide an  $x$ - $z$  snapshot of  $T'$  and  
348 a corresponding 2D wavelet of  $\lambda_z$ , time-distance diagram of  $T'$  at 320 km, and  $\lambda_x$  and  
349 period wavelets for slices shown with blue lines on time-distance diagrams. The data on  
350 the time-distance diagrams are shown with saturated color scales for better visibility of  
351 weaker features and the maximum and minimum values are indicated. As expected, tsunamis  
352 of different periods result in different dominant intrinsic frequencies and thus phase ve-  
353 locities of the TAGW packet. The amplitudes of the long-period leading phases that reach  
354 320 km become notable with the increase of the tsunami period, while trailing phases  
355 are more apparent with the decrease of the tsunami period. In common, shorter period  
356 tsunamis result in weaker TAGWs in the thermosphere. TAGW dominant  $\lambda_z$  varies in  
357 the range  $\sim 147$ - $156$  km in the thermosphere, whereas  $\lambda_x$  increases markedly with the  
358 increase in a tsunami period, from 206 km for a 9 min period tsunami, to 264 km for a  
359 25 min period tsunami. Thus, the spectra of the tsunami waves and their coupling with  
360 AGWs clearly establishes the observable spectrum in the atmosphere (Vadas et al., 2015;  
361 Wu et al., 2016, 2020).



362 **Figure 6.** (a-h) The results from 8 parametric simulations presented with altitude-distances  
 363 (x-z) slices of  $T'$  and corresponding  $\lambda_z$  2D wavelets, travel-time diagrams of  $T'$  at 320 km, as well  
 364 as  $\lambda_x$  and period wavelets for slices at 320 km shown with blue lines on travel-time diagrams.  
 365 Values in travel-time diagrams indicate horizontal apparent phase velocities. (i-j) Fields of max-  
 366 imum horizontal and vertical fluid velocities from the simulation with constantly decreasing  
 367 bathymetry, (k) Time-distance diagram of  $T'$  at 320 km altitude.

368 Panels c, e, g and h of Figure 6 shows simulation results of TAGW dynamics gener-  
 369 ated by a tsunami with a dominant period of 18 min that propagates over flat bathymetry  
 370 of 2, 4, 6 and 8 km depth. To recall, the propagation of the tsunami over different depth  
 371 of the ocean results in a change of its  $\lambda_x$  and  $v_x$ , as the tsunami speed for the shallow-  
 372 water approximation is  $v_x = \sqrt{gH}$ , where  $g$  - Earth's gravity and  $H$  - ocean depth. This  
 373 in turn leads to the change of dominant phase velocities and horizontal wavelengths (and

374 thus frequencies) of the generated atmospheric TAGWs. Shallower bathymetry results  
 375 in shorter tsunami's  $\lambda_x$ , and a shortening of dominant thermospheric  $\lambda_z$  of TAGWs, from  
 376 236 km in case of 8 km depth to 92 km for 2 km depth. Shallow bathymetry are causes  
 377 for a notable presence of leading TAGW phases due to the decrease of dominant intrinsic  
 378 frequencies of generated in the atmosphere TAGWs, even at 320 km, that exhibit com-  
 379 parable amplitudes to the dominant phase (Figure 6e). In case of deep bathymetry, lead-  
 380 ing phases are practically not present in the thermosphere, but trailing phases appear.  
 381 The maximum TAGW amplitudes at thermospheric heights are 2.28, 4.84, 5.91 and 1.141  
 382 K for 2, 4, 6 and 8 km depth bathymetry, respectively. In case of 8 km bathymetry, prac-  
 383 tically all phases are evanescent starting from the stratosphere (scaled  $T'$  snapshot is pro-  
 384 vided in Figure 6h). Although at thermospheric heights some of these phases are freely  
 385 propagating, they exhibit small amplitudes. The dominant  $\lambda_x$  at 320 km varies from  $\sim 270$   
 386 km for 2 km depth to  $\sim 230$  km for 6 km depth bathymetry.

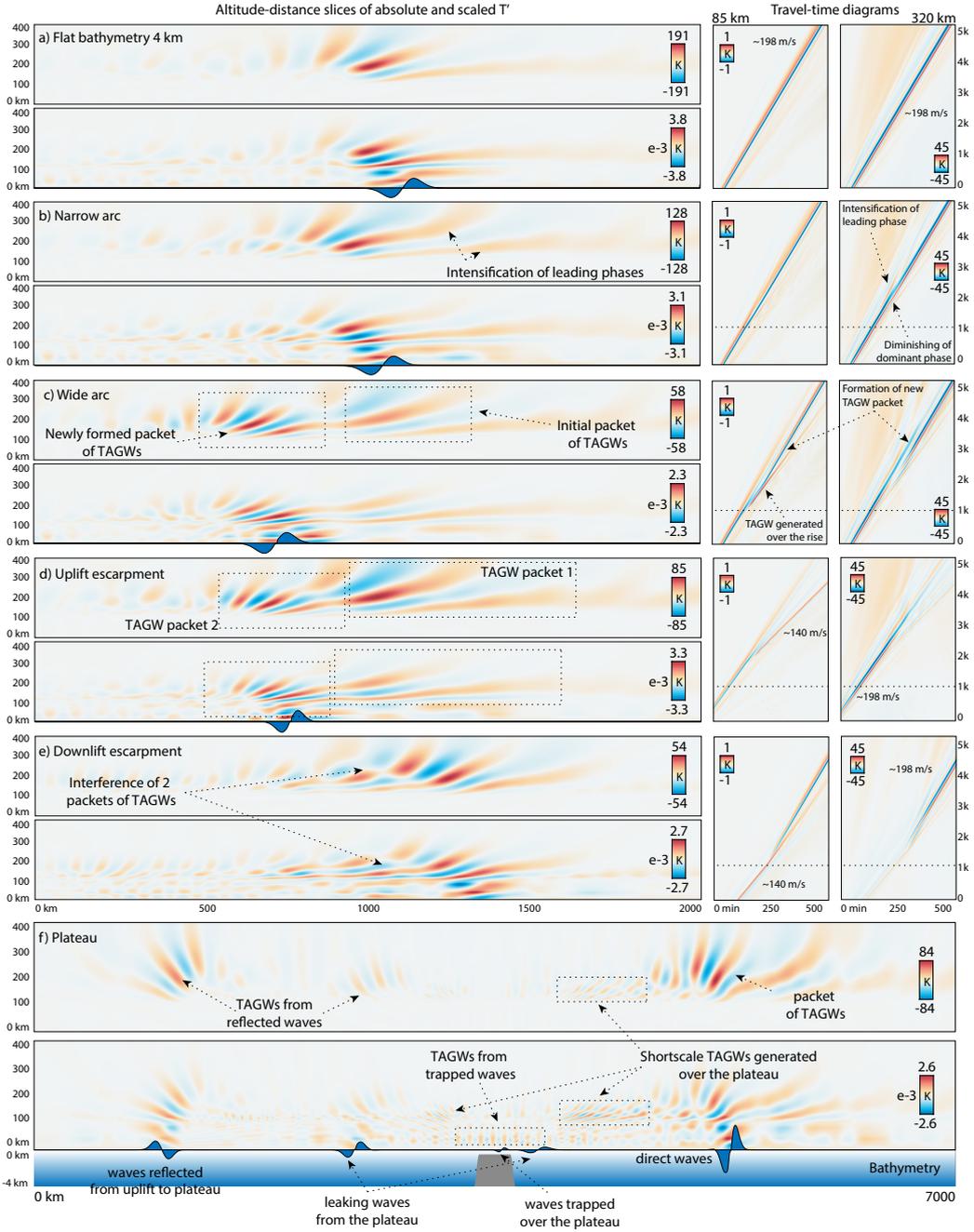
387 In Figure 6i to 6k, we provide simulation results with gradually increasing ocean  
 388 depth from 2 km to 8 km over 7300 km distance. As it is stated earlier, the excitation  
 389 and dynamics of TAGWs are defined by the dominant phase velocities and horizontal  
 390 wavelengths imposed by the tsunami, which in this case are constantly increasing width  
 391 depth. This results in a wide range of characteristics of TAGWs and their amplitudes  
 392 leading up to the onset of evanescence, what can be seen from panels i and j that demon-  
 393 strate continuous change of horizontal and vertical fluid velocities of TAGWs. This can  
 394 also be seen in the time-distance diagram of  $T'$  at 320 km shown in Figure 6k. At some  
 395 time epochs, two phases may exhibit similar amplitudes at one altitude. The TAGW packet  
 396 lines of constant phase tilt increasingly vertically with increasing ocean depth and in-  
 397 crease of the intrinsic frequency. In general, TAGWs drive stronger perturbations at higher  
 398 altitudes as the ocean depth increases. However, it is not the rule; for example, fluid ve-  
 399 locities decrease at  $\sim 250$ -300 km altitudes at distances of  $\sim 2500$  and  $\sim 5500$  km. Over  
 400 some depth, the tilting TAGW packet may provide fairly small perturbation at these heights  
 401 when it dissipates at lower altitudes (i.e., where thermo-viscous dissipation starts dom-  
 402 inating wave amplitude growth from the decrease of atmospheric mean density). As the  
 403 bathymetry reaches a depth of  $\sim 7$  km or deeper, TAGWs in the thermosphere start to  
 404 lose intensity, as most of the generated TAGWs are evanescent at altitudes lower than  
 405 100 km.

406 Next, we address the bathymetry effect based on 2D simulations with simplified  
 407 ocean floor variations. The snapshots of absolute and scaled  $T'$  are present in Figure 7.  
 408 Distance-altitude plots show TAGW dynamics after the passage of bathymetry feature  
 409 (variation) that is located at  $x=0$  km. Except bathymetry features, the depth of the ocean  
 410 is set as 4 km in all simulations. The ITD generates a tsunami with  $\lambda_x \sim 214$  km, as shown  
 411 in panel c of Figure 6, but here its amplitude peaks at 0.6 m height. For the demonstra-  
 412 tion of how ocean floor variations affect TAGWs, we separately provide simulation re-  
 413 sults with flat bathymetry in Figure 7a, and in this case  $T'$  reaches  $\sim 191$  K in the ther-  
 414 mosphere.

Arcs and chains of seamounts cause a marked change of tsunami characteristics, reflection and trapping of waves. We present simulation results with different shapes of arcs. A narrow arc is represented with a Gaussian function with  $\sigma=70$  km and a wide arc, comparable with the Tamu Massif of Shatsky Rise, is represented by a Gaussian function with  $\sigma=300$  km. A plateau is represented by a bathymetry depth change from 4 to 0.5 km with uplift and downlift of 31 km and plateau extension of  $\sim 267$  km using a tapered cosine function (applicable for the representation of the plateau):

$$ITD(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2} \{1 + \cos(\frac{2\pi}{r}[x - \frac{r}{2}])\}, 0 \leq x < \frac{r}{2} \\ 1, \frac{r}{2} \leq x < 1 - \frac{r}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \{1 + \cos(\frac{2\pi}{r}[x - 1 + \frac{r}{2}])\}, 1 - \frac{r}{2} \leq x < 1 \end{array} \right\} \quad (2)$$

415 where  $r$  represents cosine fraction and set as 0.25 (Figure 7f). The narrow arc barely af-  
 416 fects TAGW propagation, with only localized enhancement of the leading phases and di-  
 417 minished amplitudes of the dominant phase (Figure 7b). However, in case of wide arc,  
 418 initial TAGW packet is markedly dissipates prior to a newly formed TAGW packet (formed  
 419 from waves after arc passage) appearing at later time epochs and distances (Figure 7c).  
 420 After the formation of the new TAGW packet, slowly dissipating leading TAGWs from  
 421 the initial packet may still generate notable perturbations over  $\sim 100$ -1500 km distances.  
 422 Tsunami propagation over the wide arc also results in a local generation of TAGWs that  
 423 can be discerned at 85 km, but they are weak at thermospheric altitudes. In the case  
 424 of tsunami propagation over the flat plateau, part of the tsunami waves are reflected back  
 425 from the plateau uplift and generate TAGWs propagating toward the ITD. Trapped and  
 426 propagating over the plateau tsunami waves generate short-scale TAGWs that are prac-  
 427 tically all dissipated below the thermosphere.



428 **Figure 7.** (a-e) Altitude-distances slices of absolute and scaled  $T'$  and travel-time diagrams of  
 429 absolute temperature perturbations at 85 and 320 km for bathymetry variation cases. Numbers  
 430 of travel-time diagrams indicate horizontal apparent phase velocities in m/s. (f) Altitude-distance  
 431 slices of absolute and scaled  $T'$  for the case of simulation with plateau.

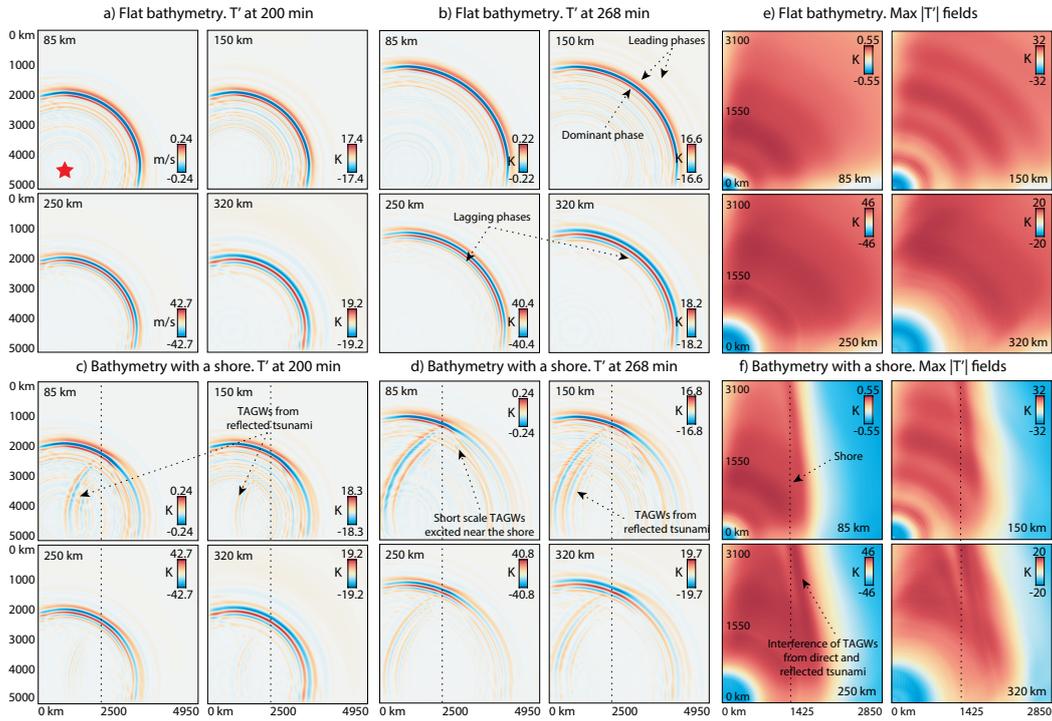
432 In panels d and e of Figure 7, we show the result of simulations with uplift and down-  
 433 lift escarpments with 2 km depth variation over 75 km distance. Such escarpments are

434 present, for example, at IBMA, Tonga Ridge, Ryukyu Arc, shelves etc. The TAGW packet,  
 435 driven by the tsunami prior to reaching the escarpment, continues propagating in the  
 436 same direction. Without continuous forcing by the tsunami, these TAGWs disperse and  
 437 dissipate, transitioning the packet toward larger dominant  $\lambda_x$ . The newly formed TAGW  
 438 packet appear  $\sim 400$  and  $\sim 600$  km ahead of the escarpment at 85 and 320 km altitudes,  
 439 respectively. As this packet tilts horizontally (exhibiting lower intrinsic frequency) over  
 440 shallow bathymetry, the maximum TAGW amplitudes at 85 km height enhance from 0.55  
 441 to 0.8 K, whereas at 320 km TAGW amplitudes fall drastically from 40 K to 9.8 K. The  
 442 reverse situation is present after the passage of the downlift escarpment, where TAGW  
 443 amplitudes become smaller at 85 km (from 0.51 to 0.46 K) and larger at 320 km height  
 444 (from 6.46 to 22.78 K).

445 Next, we present simulation results of continued TAGW propagation over land, as  
 446 the tsunami reaches the coast (Figure 8). The chosen ITD generates a tsunami with a  
 447 dominant period of  $\sim 18$  min and  $\lambda_x \sim 214$  km over flat bathymetry of 4 km depth. First,  
 448 for reference, we demonstrate the 3D simulation with flat bathymetry of 4 km depth and  
 449 the results are shown in Figure 8a,b,e. TAGWs, generated over flat bathymetry, prop-  
 450 agate concentrically away from the source. The generation of SAGWs in the thermosphere,  
 451 propagating ahead of the TAGW packet, can be seen. Again, the leading phases are more  
 452 prominent at lower altitudes, whereas phases with larger  $\lambda_z$  dominate in the thermosphere.  
 453 The fields of maximum  $T'$  perturbations are not uniform, as TAGWs disperse spatially  
 454 and excited SAGWs propagate separately (Figure 8e). Next, a straight-line shore is set  
 455 as a transition of ocean depth from 4 to 0 km over 45 km extension. The shore is shown  
 456 in Figure 8c,d,f with a dashed line. The distance between ITD and the shore is set as  
 457 2000 km in a straight direction. The propagation of TAGWs over land leads to compar-  
 458 atively fast filtering of the dominant and trailing phases that possess longer  $\lambda_z$  (Figure  
 459 8c,d). As it was demonstrated by Heale et al. (2014), this filtering is driven by faster dis-  
 460 sipation of phases with larger  $v_z$ , that reach thermospheric heights earlier and dissipate  
 461 first. Far inland, the leading phases of the TAGW packet start exhibiting the largest am-  
 462 plitudes. In the vicinity to the shore, the packets of small-scale TAGWs are excited and  
 463 are driven by shortening of the tsunami wavelength as it reaches the shore, although they  
 464 dissipate below  $\sim 200$  km altitude.

465 As the tsunami approaches the shore obliquely, reflected and direct tsunami waves  
 466 interfere at the vicinity of the shore, producing an obliquely nonuniform region of ocean

467 surface displacements. The same pattern can be seen in the TAGW fields of maximum  
 468 perturbations at distances 100-500 km to inland part, where constructive and destruc-  
 469 tive interference of TAGWs leads to alternating regions of enhanced and diminished per-  
 470 turbations. At 85 km altitude, TAGW amplitudes decrease rapidly as they propagate  
 471 over land, exhibiting  $\sim 50\%$  lower amplitudes 500 km and  $\sim 85-88\%$  lower at distances  
 472 1000 km on shore. TAGWs in the thermosphere dissipate with a much slower rate. At  
 473 320 km altitude and distances 500 km on shore, TAGWs still exhibit practically the same  
 474 amplitudes as near the shore, and 1000 km on shore they fall to  $\sim 30-50\%$ .

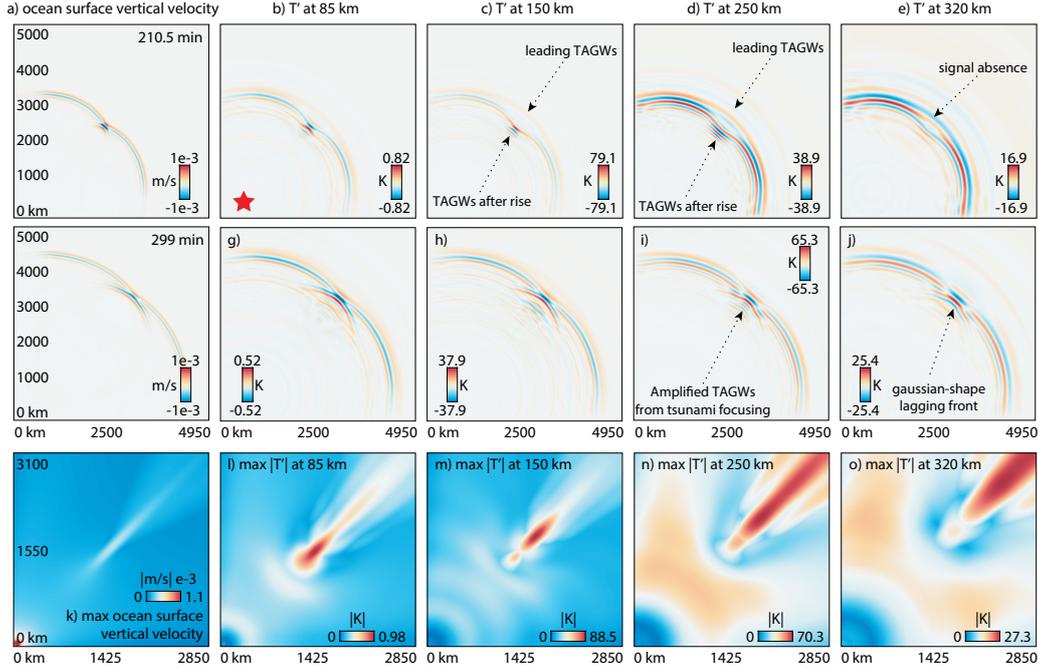


475 **Figure 8.** The snapshots of sliced horizontally  $T'$  at 4 altitudes from simulation with (a,b)  
 476 flat bathymetry and (c,d) bathymetry with a shore, shown with dashed vertical lines. (e,f) The  
 477 fields of maximum  $T'$  at 4 altitudes for (e) flat bathymetry simulation and (f) bathymetry with a  
 478 shore.

479 Finally, based on the 3D simulation, we demonstrate the effect of tsunami focus-  
 480 ing on TAGW evolution. For the investigation of the focusing effect, we set a rise using  
 481 a single circular Gaussian model of 300 km diameter, which is roughly represents the Tamu  
 482 Massif of Shatsky Rise. The peak of the rise is at 2 km depth, whereas the area around

483 is set as flat with 4 km depth. The snapshots in Figure 9b-e present the simulated  $T'$ ,  
484 sliced horizontally at 4 altitudes. Tsunami evolution for the same time epochs are pro-  
485 vided in Figure 9a and the maximum tsunami vertical velocities and maximum  $T'$  at 85,  
486 150, 250 and 320 km are provided in Figure 9k-o.

487 As they pass over the rise, the tsunami waves become superposed in the vicinity  
488 of a cusped caustic (Figure 9g). Such evolution is discussed by Berry (2007), and we find  
489 similar dynamics in the case of the Tohoku-Oki tsunami focusing from Shatsky Rise. TAGWs  
490 also exhibit correlated dynamics at higher altitudes, e.g., at 85 and 150 km where they  
491 are superposed, leading to their amplification and interaction. Initially, the central part  
492 of the TAGW front bends while propagating over the rise (Figure 9b,c); then, enhanced  
493 TAGWs arise inside the caustic from the superposition of waves (Figure 9g,h). At al-  
494 titudes of 250 and 320 km, the bending of the TAGW front is followed by an initial marked  
495 decrease of TAGW amplitudes (from the tilting of TAGW packet horizontally due to the  
496 decrease of intrinsic frequency) and at some distances, the signal is practically absent  
497 (Figure 9e). Later on, focusing of TAGWs can be seen inside the caustic (Figure 9i,j).  
498 Leading components of the TAGW packet, formed prior to the passage of the rise, can  
499 be discerned, propagating ahead of the newly formed TAGW packet (Figure 9j).



500 **Figure 9.** The snapshots of (a) ocean surface velocity and (d-e) sliced horizontally  $T'$  at 4  
 501 altitudes from simulation with rise presence. Time epochs of snapshots are indicated on panel a.  
 502 (e,f) The fields of maximum ocean surface vertical velocity and  $T'$  at 4 altitudes.

503 Tsunami focusing results in wave amplification and subsequent intensification of  
 504 generated TAGWs (Figure 9k). At 150 km, TAGW amplitudes increased to almost three  
 505 times the original value and reach 88.5 K in direct distances after the passage of the rise  
 506 (Figure 9m). At higher altitudes, TAGWs enhance to 1.3-1.5 times their initial ampli-  
 507 tudes and reach 70.3 K at 250 km and 27.3 K at 320 km (Figure 9n,o). Again, as in the  
 508 case of the Tohoku-Oki tsunami, we see that TAGWs mimic the evolution of the tsunami  
 509 at 85 km, whereas at higher altitudes, the amplitude variations exhibit more complex  
 510 patterns. Although we demonstrate focusing of a comparatively small tsunami, such strong  
 511 amplification of TAGWs clearly indicates that, in case of large tsunamis, this amplifi-  
 512 cation can readily lead to localized nonlinear effects and TAGW breaking.

## 513 5 Discussion and conclusion

514 Through numerical simulations, we investigated the dynamics of acoustic and grav-  
 515 ity wave dynamics generated by tsunamis. Simulated nonlinear ocean surface wave evo-  
 516 lutions are used as a source of acoustic-gravity waves in the three-dimensional compress-

517 ible and nonlinear neutral atmosphere model. We performed a case study of the 2011  
 518 Tohoku-Oki tsunami, as well as parametric numerical studies with demonstrative bathymetry  
 519 variations and initial tsunami distributions. This section summarizes main outcome of  
 520 these studies.

521 The TAGW packet has discernible structure, with phase variations from long-period  
 522 (and long  $\lambda_x$ ) phases at the head of the packet to short-period (and short  $\lambda_x$ ) phases in  
 523 its tail. The dominant phase is locked to the dominant tsunami phase velocity. This sup-  
 524 ports earlier findings by Vadas et al. (2015) on TAGW packet excitation as a mix of dis-  
 525 crete and continuum spectral components, both above and below the fundamental mode.  
 526 The tsunami continuously generates TAGWs in the atmosphere, representing a quasi steady-  
 527 state forcing (analogous to a moving, evolving mountain). Thus, phases in the tail of TAGW  
 528 packet with larger  $\lambda_z$  do not dissipate earlier, as in the case of source-free propagating  
 529 AGWs, where trailing short-period phases reach higher altitudes and dissipate earlier  
 530 (Heale et al., 2014). Phases in the tail of the TAGW packet usually exhibit stronger am-  
 531 plitudes at thermospheric heights than the leading phases, whereas at lower altitudes the  
 532 leading phases may dominate.

533 Slower (faster) tsunamis or their deceleration (acceleration) over bathymetry fea-  
 534 tures leads to a horizontal (vertical) tilt of the whole TAGW packet as its intrinsic fre-  
 535 quency varies. This leads to the change of dissipation altitudes of components in the packet,  
 536 which in turn leads to the variations of phase fronts that drive the strongest perturba-  
 537 tions at different altitudes. The dominant phase, locked with a dominant tsunami phase  
 538 velocity, does not necessarily provide the strongest signal. For example, in a shallow bathymetry  
 539 case (or long period tsunami) the dominant phase amplitude can be comparable with  
 540 amplitudes of the leading phases even at ionospheric altitudes, whereas deep bathymetry  
 541 result in the absence of the leading phases above lower thermosphere. Although very deep  
 542 bathymetry drives higher intrinsic frequency TAGWs into the atmosphere (as the tsunami  
 543 propagates faster), the resulting TAGWs become evanescent in the stratosphere. With  
 544 8 km bathymetry, practically all phases from the TAGW packet are evanescent, in some  
 545 cases tunneling upward and becoming propagating in the thermosphere (e.g., Snively and  
 546 Pasko (2008), and references therein). Indeed, as it was demonstrated by Wei et al. (2015),  
 547 there is a barrier of  $2NH < V < c$  ( $N$  - Brunt-Väisälä frequency,  $H$  - scale height,  $V$   
 548 - tsunami speed,  $c$  - speed of sound) that serves as a filter to TAGWs in the atmosphere.

549 The intensification of thermo-viscous dissipation at thermospheric heights filters  
 550 small-scale TAGWs, along with tilting of phase fronts vertically, as they shift to higher  
 551 intrinsic frequencies (Hines, 1968; Vadas, 2007). Leading phases of the TAGW packet  
 552 and thermospherically-generated SAGWs may drive earlier-than-tsunami arrival pertur-  
 553 bations, which is consistent with previous finding (Vadas et al., 2015; Bagiya et al., 2017).  
 554 For example, the coherent structure of TEC perturbations and ionospheric airglow that  
 555 are detected ahead of the tsunami over Hawaiian Islands by Makela et al. (2011) ( $\lambda_x =$   
 556  $290 \pm 12.5$  km,  $v_x = 184.5 \pm 33.8$  m/s and  $\lambda_x = 189.9 \pm 4.9$  km,  $v_x = 222.9 \pm 52.4$  m/s),  
 557 points to leading phases as their source, whereas SAGWs propagate with much faster  
 558  $v_x$ .

559 Nonlinear evolution of TAGWs, generated by large tsunamis along a main lobe of  
 560 tsunami energy, can lead to substantially different dynamics in comparison with linear  
 561 assumptions. Self-acceleration effects cause the distortion of TAGW phases, which are  
 562 followed by instabilities. In addition to recent modeling results on self-acceleration ef-  
 563 fects and instabilities in the lower thermosphere and below (Fritts & Lund, 2011; Dong  
 564 et al., 2020), our results suggest they can develop in the lower regions of the F-layer of  
 565 the ionosphere. TAGW instabilities lead to the generation of acoustic and gravity waves,  
 566 spanning broad range of periods, many that are radiated downward to form ducted waves  
 567 that persist after the TAGWs' passage.

568 Undersea seamounts and plateaus, rises and escarpments cause reflection, refrac-  
 569 tion and trapping of ocean surface waves, as well as their acceleration or slowdown. We  
 570 demonstrated that these dynamics may also markedly affect TAGW characteristics and  
 571 amplitudes. Thus, highly varying bathymetry in the West Pacific Ocean (Shatsky and  
 572 Hess rises, HESC, MPM, IBMA etc.) drastically affects TAGW characteristics. This also  
 573 seems to be true for the Indian Ocean, where marked undersea features (e.g., Ninetyeast  
 574 Ridge, Diamantina Fracture Zone) can result in a substantial variability of tsunamis and  
 575 subsequent TAGWs. Focusing and branching of tsunami waves cause their amplification  
 576 up to an order in magnitude (Berry, 2007; Degueldre et al., 2016) and TAGWs can ex-  
 577 perience marked variations of amplitudes. Bathymetry variations may also lead to the  
 578 superposition of TAGW phases inside the packet. Below the thermosphere, TAGW mimic  
 579 the tsunami wave evolution, exhibiting the same amplitude variations. At ionospheric  
 580 altitudes, only large undersea scale massifs (such as Shatsky Rise) result in notable change  
 581 of TAGW characteristics. Finally, TAGWs may propagate inland and still drive com-

582 parable perturbations even  $\sim 1000$ - $1500$  km away from the shore, filtering toward larger  
 583 dominant  $\lambda_x$ . These outcomes are also supported by previous observational studies, for  
 584 example by Azeem et al. (2017), finding travelling ionospheric disturbances driven by  
 585 the Tohoku-Oki tsunami based on TEC observations as far inland as western Colorado,  
 586 while  $\lambda_x$  of TEC disturbances increased from  $\sim 150$ - $250$  to  $\sim 250$ - $400$  km with distance.

587 In Figure 1i we depict background temperature profile that was incorporated to  
 588 the simulation of TAGWs in the Tohoku-Oki case study. At thermospheric heights the  
 589 temperature reaches almost 1200 K. In addition to the fact that Tohoku-Oki tsunami  
 590 was one of the largest recent tsunamis, “hoT” thermospheric state results in large sim-  
 591 ulated perturbations along main energy lobe of the tsunami to the east and southeast.

592 It is feasible that tsunami heights can be retrieved from upper atmosphere obser-  
 593 vations and can be useful for future applications and tsunami early-warning systems (Savastano  
 594 et al., 2017; Rakoto et al., 2018). However, it is not yet clear how accurately the ocean  
 595 response can be retrieved while incorporating nonlinearity in the atmosphere and bathymetry  
 596 effects in the ocean. The detailed comparisons of models and data, as well as experiments  
 597 with synthetic data, are needed. Thus, further studies can be directed toward the inves-  
 598 tigation of mesopause and ionospheric airglow signatures, as well as ionospheric plasma  
 599 responses to TAGWs and characteristics of detected signals with an incorporation of re-  
 600 alistic bathymetry and ITDs. Studies may also address the dispersive nature of tsunamis  
 601 and full 3D ocean-atmosphere coupling, that will provide deep insight into atmosphere  
 602 responses to undersea earthquakes and tsunamis generated by them.

### 603 **Acknowledgments**

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 605 ERAU. Finite-fault model for forward seismic wave propagation simulation was taken  
 606 from [http://ji.faculty.geol.ucsb.edu/big\\_earthquakes/2011/03/0311\\_v3/Honshu](http://ji.faculty.geol.ucsb.edu/big_earthquakes/2011/03/0311_v3/Honshu.html)  
 607 [.html](http://ji.faculty.geol.ucsb.edu/big_earthquakes/2011/03/0311_v3/Honshu.html). For tsunami simulation we used 500 m Gridded Bathymetry Data (J-EGG500)  
 608 (<https://www.jodc.go.jp/jodcweb/JDOSS/infoJEGG.html>) with USGS GTOPO30 land  
 609 portion ([www.jodc.go.jp/jodcweb/JDOSS](http://www.jodc.go.jp/jodcweb/JDOSS)) near the Japan Islands area and 1-min res-  
 610 olution ETOPO1 bathymetry by NOAA ([www.maps.ngdc.noaa.gov/viewers/wcs-client/](http://www.maps.ngdc.noaa.gov/viewers/wcs-client/)).  
 611 Tsunami simulation codes can be found here: <https://www.clawpack.org/geoclaw.html>.  
 612 The authors gratefully acknowledge the use of the ERAU Vega High-Performance Com-  
 613 puting Cluster and the assistance of Scott Hicks. Supplementary materials can be found

614 here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ar9kaci77mttx5v/AADSTmCODa0g-syYLqMSoZCda?dl=0>  
 615 and will be transferred to Embry-Riddle Scholarly Commons after the revision.

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