# Estimation of Volcanic Earthquakes at Kirishima Volcano Using Machine Learning

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#### Abstract

Volcanic earthquakes provide essential information for evaluating volcanic activity. As volcanic earthquakes are often characterized by swarm-like features, conventional methods using manual picking require much time in constructing seismic catalogs. In this study, using a machine learning framework and a trained model from a volcanic earthquake catalog, we obtained a detailed picture of volcanic earthquakes during the past 12 years at Kirishima volcano, southwestern Japan. We could detect earthquakes about 7.5 times larger than those in a conventional seismic catalog and obtain a high-resolution hypocenter distribution through waveform correlation analysis. Hypocenter clusters were estimated below the craters where magmatic or phreatic eruptions occurred in recent years. Increases in seismic activities, b-values, and low-frequency earthquakes were detected before the eruptions. The process can be carried out in real time, and monitoring volcanic earthquakes through machine learning contributes to understanding the changes in volcanic activity and improving eruption predictions.

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## 10 Key Points:

- Using machine learning, earthquakes about 7.5 times larger than those in a conventional seismic catalog were detected.
- Hypocenter clusters were estimated below the craters where magmatic or phreatic eruptions occurred in recent years.
- Increases in seismic activities, *b*-values, and low-frequency earthquakes were detected
   before the eruptions.

#### 18 Abstract

- 19 Volcanic earthquakes provide essential information for evaluating volcanic activity. As volcanic
- 20 earthquakes are often characterized by swarm-like features, conventional methods using manual
- 21 picking require much time in constructing seismic catalogs. In this study, using a machine
- learning framework and a trained model from a volcanic earthquake catalog, we obtained a
- 23 detailed picture of volcanic earthquakes during the past 12 years at Kirishima volcano,
- southwestern Japan. We could detect earthquakes about 7.5 times larger than those in a
- conventional seismic catalog and obtain a high-resolution hypocenter distribution through
- waveform correlation analysis. Hypocenter clusters were estimated below the craters where
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- and low-frequency earthquakes were detected before the eruptions. The process can be carried
- out in real time, and monitoring volcanic earthquakes through machine learning contributes to
- 30 understanding the changes in volcanic activity and improving eruption predictions.
- 31

## 32 Plain Language Summary

Volcanic earthquakes are caused by the migration of magma or hydrothermal fluid and changes in the stress field. This is an essential observation for predicting volcanic eruptions. However,

- the comprehensive detection of volcanic earthquakes and the estimation of accurate hypocenter
- 36 locations involve many difficulties. The arrival time of seismic waves in waveform records must
- be picked to obtain reliable hypocenter parameters. On the other hand, phase picking based on
- visual inspection is time-consuming. In recent years, new phase-picking methods using machine
- 39 learning techniques have been developed. In this study, we obtained a detailed picture of
- 40 volcanic earthquakes during the past 12 years at Kirishima volcano, southwestern Japan, using a
- 41 machine learning framework and a trained model from a volcanic earthquake catalog. We
- 42 detected earthquakes about 7.5 times larger than those in the conventional seismic catalog and
- 43 obtained a high-resolution hypocenter distribution through waveform correlation analysis.
- 44 Hypocenter clusters were estimated below the craters where magmatic or phreatic eruptions
- 45 occurred in recent years. Increases in seismic activities, *b*-values, and low-frequency earthquakes
- 46 were detected before the eruption, which may reflect a precursive signal toward eruptions.
- 47 Monitoring volcanic earthquakes through machine learning could thus contribute to improving
- 48 our ability to perform eruption forecasting.
- 49

# 50 **1 Introduction**

51 Volcanic earthquakes are activated in response to the migration of magma or

52 hydrothermal fluids (Hayashi & Morita, 2003; Kato et al., 2015; Shelly et al., 2013) or the

changes in the stress field (Toda et al., 2002). They provide important information for evaluating

- volcanic activities (e. g., McNutt, 1996). For accurately evaluating the characteristics of
- <sup>55</sup> earthquake activity, a precise seismic catalog must be constructed. The construction of an
- <sup>56</sup> accurate seismic catalog on a real-time basis is also desirable for the improvement of eruption
- 57 forecasting and hazard assessment. In the conventional procedures for constructing an
- earthquake catalog, an earthquake is detected using an indicator, such as the short-time to long-
- 59 time ratio of waveform amplitude. Then, the arrival time and amplitude of the seismic phase are

picked through visual inspection to obtain reliable hypocenter locations and magnitudes.
 Consequently, obtaining a precise seismic catalog takes an enormous amount of time.

In volcanic or geothermal regions, we often observe earthquake swarms during the 62 activation of volcanic activity, where numerous volcanic earthquakes occur during a short 63 period. As seismic waves from many events crowd into the waveform record with a short-time 64 65 range, detecting earthquakes and phase picking is more complicated, even for expert researchers. In this regard, the matched filter method (e.g. Peng & Zhao, 2009; Shelly et al., 2007) is a 66 powerful tool used to detect earthquakes for crowded waveform records. However, because this 67 method involves cross-correlation analysis using waveforms of template earthquakes and 68 continuous waveforms, detection is difficult when an earthquake occurs in a different location 69 from the template earthquakes or when the waveform characteristics temporally change because 70 71 of changes in focal mechanisms or surrounding medium, even in identical locations. Also, as the number of template earthquakes increases, the computational cost increases and real-time 72 processing becomes more difficult. 73

Recently, automatic event detection and phase picking using machine learning have been
 developed (e. g., Mousavi et al., 2020; Rossi et al., 2018; Zhu & Beroza, 2019). These methods
 reveal detailed pictures of seismicity that could not be obtained using conventional methods. For

example, Ross et al. (2020) detected crustal earthquakes in Sothern California and revealed 77 highly resolved fault structures from the hypocenter distribution and temporal change of the 78 79 hypocentral area related to the migration of crustal fluid within fault zones. Meanwhile, Wilding et al. (2022) revealed the detailed structure of a sill complex at the deep part of the Hawai'i 80 volcanic system using a high-resolution earthquake catalog with a machine learning procedure. 81 In addition to phase picking, based on machine learning, reliable information on seismic activity 82 could be estimated using clustering based on waveform similarity (Perol et al., 2018), the spatial 83 pattern of wave propagation (Sugiyama et al., 2021), and classification of the seismic event type 84 (Nakano et al., 2019). 85

Although the application of machine learning in monitoring seismic activity has been 86 widely promoted, its application for volcanic regions is still challenging. One reason is that the 87 existing trained models are created from the seismic catalog of ordinary earthquakes and may not 88 fully reflect the characteristics of volcanic earthquakes. It is pointed out that applying optimally 89 90 trained models matched to a target region improves the performance of detection and phase picking (Münchmeyer et al., 2022). Kim et al. (2022) constructed a deep learning model to detect 91 seismic phase onset using a precise catalog of volcanic earthquakes at the Hakone volcano in 92 central Japan and showed that the model improved the detection rate and accuracy of phase 93 94 picking for volcanic earthquakes compared with the original trained model developed by Zhu and Beroza (2019), which they used as the starting model. 95

96 In this study, we applied the architecture of machine learning developed by Zhu and Beroza (2019) and the trained model by Kim et al. (2022) to seismic data from the Kirishima 97 volcano and discussed its availability for monitoring volcanic earthquakes and the detailed 98 picture of volcanic activity. The Kirishima volcanic complex is located in southern Kyushu, 99 Japan and consists of approximately 20 volcanoes (Figure 1a). At Shinmoe-dake, small phreatic 100 eruptions occurred in August 2008 and March-July 2010. A magmatic eruption after about 101 300 years (quasi-Plinian eruption) occurred in January 2011. Subsequently, magmatophreatic 102 eruptions occurred again in October 2017, followed by a magmatic eruption on May 2018. A 103

phreatic eruption also occurred at Iwo-Yama, located about 5 km northwest of Shinmoe-dake, inApril 2018.

Several studies have reported the activity of volcanic earthquakes at Kirishima volcano 106 based on a seismic catalog obtained using the conventional event detection method (Fukuoka 107 District Meteorological Observatory and Kagoshima Local Meteorological Observatory, 2013; 108 109 Yamada et al., 2015). However, the detailed spatial-temporal distribution of volcanic earthquakes and their relation to eruptive activities have not been fully clarified. Thus, we 110 estimated a highly resolved hypocenter distribution based on phase-picking data using the 111 machine learning method to obtain further information associated with volcanic activity. We also 112 estimated a temporal change in *b*-values and event types using the frequency index. 113 114

#### 115 **2 Data and Methods**

116 2.1 Seismic Observation

We used continuous waveform data from the past 12 years (2008–2019) recorded at 30 117 118 permanent stations installed in and around Kirishima volcano (Figure 1a) by the Earthquake Research Institute of the University of Tokyo (ERI), the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), 119 the Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, and Kyushu University (Figure 120 1a). The average station spacing at Kirishima volcano is about 2 km. Broadband seismometers 121 are installed at ERI stations, whereas short-period seismometers with a natural period of 1 Hz are 122 installed at other stations. Seismic waveforms are continuously recorded at 100-Hz sampling 123 124 intervals at all stations.



125

Figure 1. Map and seismicity at the Kirishima volcano. (a) Map of Kirishima volcano showing the locations of permanent seismic stations. The inset shows the target regions with respect to the

128 western part of the Japanese island. The orange rectangle corresponds to that shown in (b). (b)

129 Hypocenter distribution of earthquakes beneath Kirishima volcano for the hypocenter catalog

based on machine learning. The top panel shows the epicentral distribution, and the right and

- bottom panels indicate the depth distribution along the N–S and E–W sections, respectively. The depth of 0 km corresponds to the sea level. The red circles show the locations of low-frequency
- 132 depth of 0 km corresponds to the sea level. The red encles show133 earthquakes classified based on the frequency index.
- 134

135

## 2.2 Phase Picking and Hypocenter Determination

136 We conducted the following processing for every hour of continuous waveform recording. The continuous waveform recordings were preprocessed by removing the offset and 137 trend and then applying a 1-Hz high-pass filter to reduce the contamination of low-frequency 138 noise. For the waveform record at each station, phase picking was performed using the PhaseNet 139 architecture developed by Zhu and Beroza (2019) with a trained model by Kim et al. (2022). 140 This trained model was created based on the seismic catalog of approximately 30,000 volcanic 141 142 earthquakes at Hakone volcano over the past 20 years. The probability threshold for identifying P- and S-wave onsets was set at 0.3. The phase association was conducted using the REAL code 143 developed by Zhang et al. (2019) for the P- and S-wave arrival times picked by PhaseNet. The 144 threshold for identification of the same event was set at  $\geq 3$  stations for *P* waves and  $\geq 2$  stations 145 for S waves. The theoretical arrival time from an assumed source to each station during the phase 146 association was calculated using the 1D velocity structure beneath Kirishima volcano that has 147 148 been used for the routine hypocenter determination at Kirishima Volcano Observatory of ERI (Mikada, 1996). For the picking data identified as seismic phases from the same event by the 149 REAL code, the hypocenter was determined using the method of Hirata and Matsu'ura (1987), 150 and the local magnitude was determined using the maximum amplitude following the empirical 151 relation by Watanabe (1971). The hypocenter locations of 61200 earthquakes were estimated 152 over 12 years. 153

We improved the original 1D velocity structure (Mikada, 1996) and estimated station corrections using the JHD method (Kissling et al., 1994) to obtain reliable absolute locations of earthquakes. In this analysis, we used earthquakes with at least eight phase pickings of both Pand S waves obtained by the above procedure. With the estimated 1D velocity structure and station corrections (Figure S1), the hypocenter was determined using the hypomh\_ps code (Kawanishi et al., 2009), only for the earthquake with at least four phase pickings of both P and S waves. We obtained the initial hypocenters of 55780 events.

We relocated the hypocenters using the double-difference (DD) method (Waldhauser & 161 Ellsworth, 2000). In addition to the relative arrival time data (catalog data) obtained by 162 PhaseNet, we also used relative travel time data through waveform correlation analysis (cross-163 correlation data). The waveforms within a time window of 0.1 s before and 0.4 s after the P- or 164 S-wave arrival times were used for the correlation processing. For the stations where picking 165 data were not available, the waveforms were trimmed based on the theoretical arrival time using 166 the time window with the same length. We used the cross-correlation data with a cross-167 correlation coefficient  $\geq 0.8$ . Consequently, 4.6 million station pairs for the catalog data and 12.5 168 million station pairs for the cross-correlation data were applied to the DD method. During the 169 relocation process by the DD method, earthquakes with large travel time residuals or determined 170

in air depth were eliminated. After applying the DD method, the locations of 40296 events were
 finally obtained (we call this hypocenter catalog the ML catalog).

173

174 2.3 *b*-values

We estimated the temporal variation of *b*-values for the earthquakes beneath Shinmoedake and Iwo-Yama using the ZMAP code (Wiemer & Wyss, 2000). The *b*-value is defined by the following equation.

178

$$\log N = a - bM. \tag{1}$$

179 Earthquakes were selected using a time window containing 300 events, moving the time window with an 83% overlap. The seismic catalog was split before and after the occurrence time 180 of the eruptions to avoid mixing preseismicity and postseismicity data for the eruption. 181 Meanwhile, because the number of earthquakes beneath Shinmoe-dake was limited before the 182 2011 eruption, we did not split the data during this eruption. For each time window, the 183 completeness magnitudes  $(M_c)$  were calculated using the method of Wiemer and Wyss (2002). 184 The *b*- and *a*-values in equation (1) were estimated, using the earthquakes that meet the condition 185 of  $M \ge M_c$ . Then, we used the maximum likelihood estimate (Aki, 1965) for the estimation of the 186 b- and a-values. The estimation of the b-value is detailed in Text S1. 187

188

#### 189 2.4 Frequency Index

We classified the type of seismic signal on the basis of the frequency index (FI). 190 Examples of spectra for volcano-tectonic and low-frequency earthquakes (defined by A- and B-191 type earthquakes, respectively, following the definition of Minakami (1974)) labeled in the 192 seismic catalog by JMA (Figures S2, S3, and S4) are shown in Figure S5. The JMA catalog was 193 obtained using manually picked data. Low-frequency earthquakes had a significant amplitude in 194 the frequency range of 1-4 Hz compared with those of volcano-tectonic earthquakes. Therefore, 195 for classifying these events, we defined the ratio of the average amplitude between 1–4 Hz and 196 10-15 Hz in the amplitude spectrum as FI. We could estimate FI for 26966 events. The 197 estimation of FI is detailed in Text S2. 198

199

#### 200 **3 Results**

The hypocenter distribution of the ML catalog is shown in Figure 1b. For comparison, we 201 also show the hypocenter distribution based on the JMA catalog in Figure S2. We also show the 202 time-depth distribution and cumulative number of earthquakes beneath the Kirishima volcano in 203 Figure 2. Clusters of volcanic earthquakes were identified beneath Shinmoe-dake, Iwo-Yama, 204 and in the western part of Kirishima volcano. The features of hypocenter distribution on the large 205 scale are not significantly different from those in the JMA catalog (Figures 2, 3, S2, and S3). 206 However, the ML catalog revealed a detailed pattern of seismic activities associated with 207 eruptive activities beneath Shinmoe-dake and Iwo-Yama. The magnitude-frequency distribution 208 for the ML and JMA catalogs is shown in Figure S4. We obtained the hypocenters of volcanic 209 210 earthquakes about 7.5 times larger than that in the JMA catalog through the machine learning.

- The magnitude completeness was -0.8 for the ML catalog, whereas that of the JMA catalog was
- 212 0.0, indicating an improvement in the detectability of earthquakes.



Figure 2. Depth–time distribution and the cumulative number of earthquakes. The red circles

correspond to low-frequency (LF) earthquakes. The blue and red lines show the cumulative

curve of volcanic and low-frequency earthquakes, respectively. The dotted vertical yellow lines

show the occurrence time of main events: the 2011 Shinmoe-dake eruption, the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, the 2017 and 2018 Shinmoedake-eruption, and the 2018 Iwo-yama phreatic eruption.

earthquake, the 2017 and 2018 Shinmoedake-eruption, and the 2018 Iwo-yama phreatic eruption
(a) Whole region, (c) Shinmoe-dake, (e) Iwo-Yama. Panels (b), (d), and (f) show the cumulative

curve of LF earthquakes and the ratio of LF earthquakes to volcano-tectonic earthquakes (thin

black line) in each region. We used the time window of 7 days, moving at 2-day intervals, to

222 estimate the LF ratio.

223

The seismic activity beneath Shinmoe-dake is shown in Figures 2c, 2d and 3a. Beneath 224 Shinmoe-dake, numerous small volcanic earthquakes occurred in the depth range from -0.5 to 3 225 km below the crater (Depth of 0 km corresponds to sea level), showing a vertical hypocenter 226 lineament that may reflect the magma pathway. At Shinmoe-dake, several eruptive events 227 occurred: small phreatic eruptions on August 2008 and March-July 2010, a quasi-Plinian 228 eruption on January 26, 2011, a magmatophreatic eruption on October 11, 2017, and a magmatic 229 eruption on March 1, 2018. The seismic activity was gradually activated toward the 2011 230 magmatic eruption since 2010. The activity in the shallow part of the crater was also enhanced 231 from March 2017 preceding the 2017 eruption. The upper depth of the seismicity area tended to 232 gradually become shallower toward the 2017 eruption since March 2017 (Figure 2c). After the 233 2017 eruption, the seismic activity was quiescent for approximately 1 month. From December 234 2017, the earthquakes were activated again, showing a burst-like increment, leading to the 2018 235 eruption. The seismic activity remained high after the 2018 eruption until October 2018. 236

The seismic activity beneath Iwo-Yama is shown in Figures 2e, 2f and 3b. Volcanic earthquakes are concentrated in the depth range from -0.5 to 0.5 km beneath Iwo-Yama. A phreatic eruption occurred on April 19, 2018, at Iwo-Yama. In this area, seismic activity has increased since 2014. The upper depth limit of seismicity became shallower toward the 2018 eruption (Figure 2c). Moreover, before the eruption, seismic activity was remarkably activated since the end of February 2018. Seismic activity quiesced for a month after the eruption and activated again from late June 2018 through April 2019.

The temporal changes in the *b*-values within the two regions are shown in Figure 4. The 244 b-values of earthquakes beneath Shinmoe-dake (Figure 4a) exceeded 1.2 before the 2011 245 eruption. After the 2011 eruption, b-values remained high, dropped temporarily, and again 246 elevated at the end of 2011. The *b*-value rose again to a high value of 2 in early 2013 and then 247 gradually declined through 2015, showing slight fluctuations. From the beginning of 2017, it 248 increased again toward the 2017 eruption. After the eruption, the b-values increased again 249 toward the 2018 magmatic eruption. Although the fitness for the Gutenberg-Richter law is not 250 very good in the Iwo-Yama region (Figure 4b), the *b*-value increased through the beginning of 251 2016. After once dropping, we see an abrupt increase in the *b*-values just before the 2018 252 phreatic eruption at Iwo-Yama. 253

Low-frequency earthquakes concentrated on the area just beneath the crater of Shinmoedake and Iwo-Yama. Another cluster of low-frequency earthquakes was also identified at a depth of 3 km below Karakuni-dake (Figure 1b). The temporal sequence of seismicity shows that the number of low-frequency earthquakes just below the crater of Shinmoe-dake and Iwo-Yama

- increased before the eruptions (Figures 2d and 2f). From 2014 to 2015, the number of low-
- 259 frequency earthquakes slightly increased (Figure 2b). Although the eruption did not occur during
- this period, an expansion of the GPS baseline length was observed (Kurihara et al., 2019),
- suggesting that the supply of magmatic fluid was activated.

(a) Shinmoe-dake



Figure 3. Hypocenter distributions beneath Shinmoe-dake and Iwo-yama. (a) Hypocenter distribution of earthquakes beneath Shinmoe-dake. (top) Epicentral distribution and (right and bottom) depth distributions along the N–S and E-W sections. Red circles correspond to the

268 hypocenters of low-frequency earthquakes. (b) Hypocenter distribution of earthquakes beneath

- 269 Iwo-Yama.
- 270

#### 271 4 Discussion and Conclusions

272 In this study, we developed a seismic catalog for the Kirishima volcano using automatic phase picking based on the machine learning framework. The resulting catalog was improved in 273 terms of detectability compared with the JMA catalog based on manual phase picking (Figure 274 S4). In this study, we obtained the detailed history of volcanic earthquakes at Kirishima volcano 275 using the learning model derived from the hypocenter catalog at the different volcano, showing 276 the applicability of the model. This model enables us to obtain seismic activity at volcanoes that 277 have not been adequately developed seismic catalogs yet. Following the 2016 Kumamoto 278 earthquake in the central part of Kyushu, numerous aftershocks occurred (e.g., Asano & Iwata, 279 2016). The seismicity beneath Kirishima volcano did not change for both seismic catalogs 280 (Figures 2a, S3). This result implies that event detection based on machine learning has hardly 281 282 caused any false detections even if the waveforms were contaminated by wave trains from outside of the study area. 283

We compared the seismic catalog derived from the original learning model developed by Zhu and Beroza (2019) from 2017 to 2019 to evaluate the performance of the trained model based on volcanic earthquakes (Kim et al., 2022) (Figure S7). Although the main characteristics of hypocenter distributions were not significantly different between the two catalogs, we can detect about 16% more earthquakes using the learning model derived from volcanic earthquakes compared with the original learning model, suggesting an improvement in the detectability in volcanic regions.

The highly resolved seismic catalog provides important information that may correspond 291 to precursive signals toward eruptions. We detected the activation of volcanic earthquakes before 292 the eruptions at Shinmoe-dake and Iwo-Yama (Figure 2). The 2017 and 2018 eruptions at 293 Shinmoe-dake occurred when the *b*-values were close to 1.5 (Figure 4a). We also observed the 294 abrupt increase in the *b*-value before the 2018 eruption at Iwo-Yama (Figure 4b). The high *b*-295 values observed during fluid-induced seismicity are interpreted as reflecting a low shear stress 296 level on fault planes (Mukuhira et al., 2021). The activation of volcanic earthquakes with the 297 increment of the *b*-values is caused by an elevation of magmatic fluid pressure (Nanjo et al., 298 2018). The high *b*-values with the increment of seismic activity before an eruption (Figures 2 and 299 4) may reflect unstable conditions in and around a volcanic conduit due to the increment of fluid 300 pressure accompanied by the supply of magma. Meanwhile, as enough earthquakes were not 301 obtained before the 2011 eruption at Shinmoe-dake, the detailed temporal sequence of b-values 302 preceding the 2011 eruption could not be discussed in this study. 303

We also detected the activation of low-frequency earthquakes before the 2011, 2017, and 2018 eruptions at Shinmoe-dake (Figure 2d). The increment of the ratio of low-frequency earthquakes to volcano-tectonic earthquakes before the eruptions may reflect the interaction between magmatic and shallow hydrothermal fluids (e.g., McNutt, 1996). The activation of lowfrequency earthquakes at the deeper part of the volcano (deeper than 10 km) and crustal expansions due to an inflation of pressure source at the depth of 8 km were detected

approximately 1 year before the 2011 eruptions, suggesting the supply of magma into the

- volcanic root (Kurihara et al., 2019; Nakao et al., 2013). The rapid increment of the ratio of low-
- 312 frequency earthquakes since April 2010 suggests the supply of new magmatic fluid into the
- 313 shallow part beneath the volcanic conduit. The expansion of the hypocenter area to the shallow
- region beneath Iwo-Yama since 2014 toward the 2018 phreatic eruption may reflect a gradual
- intrusion of hydrothermal fluid beneath the low-permeable cap structure developed in the
- 316 shallow hydrothermal system (Tsukamoto et al., 2018).



Figure 4. Temporal changes in *b*-values. (a) Shinmoe-dake and (b) Iwo-yama. The horizontal and vertical gray lines at each circle show the time window for selecting the earthquakes and the error bar of the *b*-value estimated using the bootstrap resampling method. Red circles represent reliable *b*-value estimations with residuals for the theoretical Gutenberg–Richter law distribution  $\leq 10\%$ . Inset diagrams in panels (a) and (b) show the magnified plot around the 2017 and 2018 eruptions at Shinmoe-dake and the 2018 eruption at Iwo-Yama, respectively.

324

Using the machine learning architecture developed by Zhu and Beroza (2019) and a 325 trained model from the seismic catalog of the Hakone volcano (Kim et al., 2022), we obtained a 326 high-quality seismic catalog of volcanic earthquakes at Kirishima volcano from 2008 to 2019. 327 We could produce a seismic catalog with higher detectability than the conventional seismic 328 329 catalog based on manual phase picking and could estimate the highly resolved hypocenter distribution through relative hypocenter relocation using wave cross-correlation analysis. From 330 the seismic catalog, the activations of volcanic earthquakes and increment of b-values were 331 detected preceding the magmatic and phreatic eruptions at Kirishima volcano. This improved 332 333 detectability enables evaluating eruption risks through statistical analysis based on b-values and the temporal sequence of low-frequency earthquake activity, as well as the spatial-temporal 334

- 335 sequence of volcanic earthquakes. Using a standard Linux machine, the computation time to
- obtain initial hypocenters for a 1-h waveform record is only a few minutes. Therefore, this
- 337 system contributes to the improvement of our ability to perform eruption forecasting.
- 338

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- 348
- 349 **Open Research**
- 350 Data Availability Statement
- The waveform data are obtainable from the web page of NIED Hi-net (National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience, 2019). The hypocenter catalog obtained in this study is available in the data repository (Yukutake, 2023). Most of the figures in the study were created with Generic Mapping Tools software (Wessel et al., 2019). The b-values were calculated using the ZMAP program (Wiemer, 2001).
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Figure1.







Figure2.





Figure3.

(a) Shinmoe-dake



(b) Iwo-Yama







Figure4.

