

Interactive comment on “Seismic monitoring of urban activity in Barcelona during COVID-19 lockdown” by Jordi Diaz et al.

Jordi Diaz et al.

jdiaz@ictja.csic.es

Received and published: 3 February 2021

Please find enclosed our answers ("==>" marks) intercalated with the reviewer's comments.

The authors present a very nice local study on the lockdown effects in Barcelona observed on the fixed seismometers and (school) Raspberry shakes. In general this is a clear, well-written study which reads fluently. In this review I suggest only minor changes and propose only cosmetic changes and corrections. There is one statement though that the authors did not fully discuss. The authors explain that they see a direct relationship between the geological cover and the seismic amplification and that this can be detected without the need of performing a microzonation or tomographic inver-

[Printer-friendly version](#)

[Discussion paper](#)



sions. It is somewhat difficult to compare the microzonation results with your findings. It would help to add the zoning of Cid et al. (2001) on the maps in Fig. 8 to see correspondence. Also, why is this correspondence there? Because of interference in the subsoil in this frequency band? This needs some more explanation.

==> Thanks for the kind comments. Regarding the discussion on the relationship between geology and noise amplification, we would prefer do not enter too much in details because i) the focus of this manuscript is the effect of human activities on seismic noise, not really the geology of Barcelona subsoil. li) our plans include writing an independent contribution, where HVSr and autocorrelation measurements performed before and during the COVID-19 lockdown will be used to analyze the noise amplification variations. In fact, the relation between amplification and subsoil appears quite direct, with high amplification in the sedimentary zone and low amplification in the Paleozoic outcrops surrounding the city, as commented in the text (lines 254-255). We have now clarified that this is a rather usual feature, documented at larger scales and taken into consideration in seismic risk studies; “This correlation between geology and seismic amplification is a well-known feature that has been documented at the scale of the Iberian Peninsula, where high seismic noise is observed over the sedimentary basin and minimum values over hard-rock regions (Custódio et al., 2014).”

Minor comments:

L22: ambient noise studies: this is a bit vague? What purpose have these ambient noise studies? ==> We have changed the sentence to “...the feasibility of ambient noise studies based on tomographic and interferometric methods in urban environments” to provide more information. However, we think that developing the general objectives of the SANIMS project is not convenient here.

L31: change brackets to Lecocq et al. (2020); same for L34: Lindsey et al. (2020) + Check the rest of the paper. Authors are often within the brackets when they are an active part of the sentence. I refer to this comment by writing “brackets” in this review.

==> Sorry for this “bracket” problem, related to the use of Mendeley. We have now edited the citations along the manuscript.

L34-35: “However, as far as we know, there are no studies available that explore variations in seismic noise within a large city with a space between sites on the order of 2-3 km.” Be careful here: you mean that really no-one studied ambient noise variations? There are a lot of geophysical papers about measuring noise in a city, but these are mostly used for array processing and subsurface identification, nevertheless they use the noise variations. ==> No, what I mean is that there are not (to my knowledge) other seismic noise studies related to the COVID19 pandemic using a dense seismic array within a city. In order to make this point clear, we have modified the sentence to “However, as far as we know, there are no studies available that explore variations in seismic noise within a large city during the COVID-19 lockdown period with a space between sites on the order of 2-3 km. “

L43. Thursday the 13th of March L45. Sunday 15 March or Sunday 15th of March In this paper be consistent how you refer to dates. I already noticed 3 different notations. So use one consistent notation: e.g. Sunday 15 March, Sunday 15th of March, Sunday, March 15 (probably the last is the best choice, as you continue using this notation, e.g. March 29, May 4, etc. . .) ==> We have now unified the references to the notation: Sunday, March 15

L67: Is there an official Raspberry shake paper to refer to instead of using the weblink? + It would not harm to cite few city-context papers where Raspberry Shake was already successfully used (e.g. Anthony et al 2018, SRL; De Plaen et al. 2020 (this special issue volume)) ==> Following the reviewer recommendation, we have now used the Anthony et al 2018 paper as a reference for the Raspberryshake instrument, as it provides technical testing of the instrument. We have added a new sentence to highlight the utility of Raspberry shakes in both scientific and outreach objectives, including the De Plaen citation, as well as Subedi et al 2020 (seismometers Nepal schools): “These instruments, designed primarily for “amateur seismologist” users, have proved

[Printer-friendly version](#)[Discussion paper](#)

to be useful for research projects interested in acquiring quality data and addressing outreach objectives (Plaen et al., 2020; Subedi et al., 2020)."

L69: outside the municipality ==> Corrected

L71: "most recent terranes near the sea": give a geological time frame. Holocene? Pleistocene? L71: Is "materials" a correct term? hard rock? ==> We have modified the sentence to better describe the geologic zones: "The geometry of the network has been chosen to sample the main geological units of the Barcelona area, with sites installed in the Holocene terranes near the sea, above the Pleistocene sediments of the Barcelona plain and in the hills where Paleozoic rocks outcrops (Figure 1)."

L89: "brackets" ==> Done

L95: "brackets" ==> Done

L96: a sentence is missing to link L95 and L96, something like: "because not all stations show reduction up to 45Hz, we will only focus our research..." ==> We have rephrased to "Although some of the stations also show a significant reduction in the 35-45 Hz band, this is not a general feature. Therefore, we have focused our analysis on the seismic signals within 2-20 Hz band, calculating the averaged noise power within this band."

L106: although some of the stations ==> Done

L117: "its hours of completion": weird phrasing. If you refer to the activities, it should be "their hours of completion"; not sure if completion is the correct word to use. ==> Changed to "their ending times"

L119: "a curious observation": is it "curious" when you explain what it is? Perhaps use "remarkable" or "notable", . . . ? ==> We used "curious" to mean that this football-related noise effect can be seen as quite funny. However, we agree that using "remarkable" is better

Table 1: This table should be self-standing. Explain what the pre/lock1, pre/lock2 , pre/new norm columns stand for. ==> We have now completed the Table caption

L135: “clearly identified”: try to minimize the use of words as “clearly, obvious” etc, rather explain why it’s clear. E.g. a drop follows an lockdown phase, a mean rise follows a phase, etc. . . ==> We have rephrased to “For most of the stations, each lockdown phase has a well-differentiated mean amplitude value”

L139: '90dB = -90 dB ? ==> Corrected

L150: clearly is ok in this phrase ==> Ok

L155: nearest neighbor algorithm ==> Corrected

L170: here again reference should be made to the technique how these figures were computed. Or this can be mentioned in the caption of Fig. 7 ==> We have modified the sentence to “Figure 7 shows the power amplitude in the 2-20 Hz band measured every 15 minutes (light blue line) and the daily mean value during business hours (dark blue line) for some selected sites”

L175: indicate which stations you are talking about by e.g. putting station names in brackets behind “in schools” ==> We have added the list of the stations in school, although the information was already available at Table 1

L186: (2017) “brackets” ==> Done

L239: “brackets” ==> Done

L252 : for people that never visited Barcelona, indicate where montjuic is located ==> A label indicating the location has now been added to Figure 1

L253: how are both maps consistent? Please explain. Do the 4 zones correspond to the microzonation map of Cid2001? Perhaps it would be interesting to put the zonation boundaries on the map. ==> (see the answers to general comment and comment "L358" below)

[Printer-friendly version](#)[Discussion paper](#)

L254: “brackets” ==> Done

L255: “brackets” ==> Done

L280: “probably be related to civil works near to the station site.” This is speculation. Needed in this paper? You can just say this increase remains unexplained due to a lack of local site/communal information. ==> We have modified the sentence following the reviewer’s recommendation

L358: I think you can separate the discussion (everything before L358) and the conclusion (starting from L358) ==> Attending also the recommendations of Reviewer # 1, we have now split the former section in two parts: “4 Seismic data and mobility patterns “ and “5 Conclusions”.

L358: in the discussion, a discussion on the comparison between your findings and microzonation findings is lacking. Is this anywhere else observed? Can this be done in other cities (check e.g. papers in this special issue). If this is new, it should be mentioned in the conclusions, and perhaps in the abstract. ==> (see also the answer to the general comments above). We have reworked the paragraph to clarify that the lockdown period allows suppressing the perturbations due to local sources, making the relationship between geology and seismic noise clearer than in regular times.

L360: “brackets” ==> done

L373: I think it’s “near real-time”, not nearly real-time. Please check. ==> I think both terms can be used, but “near real-time” appear to be more common. Changed

L401-403: add these cited references to the reference list and follow the proper citation rules in these lines: i.e. Wessel et al. (2013), Lecocq et al. 2020. T. Lecocq, F. Massin, C. Satriano, M. Vanstone, T. Megies, SeismoRMS - A simple Python/Jupyter Notebook package for studying seismic noise changes, Version 1.0, Zenodo (2020); doi:10.5281/zenodo.3820046 ==> The references have now been included

L437: wrong author list: either provide full names of all 75 authors or write: Lecocq,

T., Hicks, S. P., Van Noten, K., Van Wijk, K., Koelemeijer, P., et al. : Global quieting of high-frequency seismic noise due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures, Science (80)., 369(11 September), 1338–1343, 2020. ==> Corrected

Figure 1: - The colors of the geology in the background of the Holocene, Pleistocene, Pliocene and Carboniferous periods are very difficult to distinguish. ==> The colors for the geological units come directly from the WCS server of the ICGC and are those commonly used to refer to those units. In order to make them clearer, we have now modified the color used for roads and streets. - Add coordinates to the figure. ==> We have added coordinates, without using frames to keep the figure clear - A little inset with the locality of Barcelona indicate on the scale of Spain would be of interest for the international reader. ==> The proposed inset has now been added - can you use a different symbol for Seismometers and Accelerometers (or Raspberryshake)? ==> Attending also to the observation of Reviewer #1, the stations are now represented using different colors - caption: “The dark and light blue ==> Corrected

Figure 2: in the caption, please write again the lockdown phase dates that correspond to the 3 dashed lines. ==> Done

Figure 3: - indicate when lockdown happened with a vertical bar on this figure - add to caption: Weekdays are indicated in green. - add to caption: Trends in noise variation prior to lockdown. - explain again where the stations are located (e.g. AM.R888C in school, . . .) ==> We have modified the legend to: “Trends in power acceleration variation in the 2-20 Hz band prior to lockdown at the ICJA (broad-band), R888C, R4B31 (short period stations installed in high schools) and BAJU (accelerometer located downtown). Data is expressed as dB relative to 1 m2/s4/Hz. Red line marks the beginning of the lockdown period. Green shading indicates weekdays. - What are the spikes on CA.BAJU ? ==> As stated in the text (l 269) “The spikes often observed for the BAIN and BAJU sites are related to data transmission problems and are not relevant for the discussion” - Refer to Lecocq’s seismo RMS technique either in the text (L102) or in the caption, to highlight how you made this figure: T. Lecocq, F.

SED

Interactive
comment

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper



Massin, C. Satriano, M. Vanstone, T. Megies, SeismoRMS - A simple Python/Jupyter Notebook package for studying seismic noise changes, Version 1.0, Zenodo (2020); .doi:10.5281/zenodo.3820046 ==> We have added this reference in “Data and processing” section (lines 79-81): “Data processing is based on the “SeismoRMS” software package, publicly available on Github (Lecocq et al. 2002a).” A reference to the software package was already included in the Acknowledgments section.

Figure 4: It would be more intuitive if the legend could be ordered according to the observations: so MTJR on top (dark green), then R4B31 (light green), etc. . . this would easier to read the diagram. ==> The figure has now been modified following this recommendation

Figure 6: - This figure is of low resolution. Can you increase the resolution. - Also the coordinates are unreadable - Topographical contours are included, but height is not shown in the legend - Add a legend below the color axis (normalized PSD) - Lockdown phase 1b ==> Regarding resolution, the original svg file appears fine. We think that the problem may be related to the insertion of the figure in the Word document. We have now increased the size of the coordinate labels and added the color bar legend. Regarding topographical contours, we precise now in the legend that thick lines are for 100m isolines and thin ones for 50m. We prefer do not to include the map for Lockdown phase 1b, as is very similar to that of Phase 1 and will surcharge the Figure. The reader can find it at Supp. Figure S2

Figure 7: - Again I have the impression this is a low resolution figure, but it may be related to the pdf conversion. Please check. - as said above, refer to the method how these graphs were computed. Regarding resolution, the svg file appears fine ==> As commented before, an explicit reference to SeismoRMS is now included in the “Data and Processing section”. Most of the figures (figs, 3,4,5,7,9,10) are derived from this software; we think that including a reference at each figure will be reiterative and will not provide further information to the reader.

Figure 10: - please increase font of the legend ==> Done

Fig. S2: - what happened on 2020-06-24? ==> 24th June is the St-Jean celebration, a bank holiday. Usually, the night before there are large celebrations around the city, including fireworks, music etc. . .

References: Nowhere in the paper, the seismic networks are cited. Please do as below: CA: Institut Cartogràfic I Geològic De Catalunya, Institut d'Estudis Catalans (1984). Catalan Seismic Network [Data set]. International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks. <https://doi.org/10.7914/SN/CA> YS: Diaz, J., and Schimmel, M. (2019). SANIMS [Data set]. International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks. <https://doi.org/10.7914/SN/YS2019> AM: (1) Raspberry Shake Community; (2) OSOP, S.A.; (3) Gempa GmbH. (2016). ==> The network references have now been added

Interactive comment on Solid Earth Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/se-2020-190>, 2020.

SED

Interactive
comment

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper



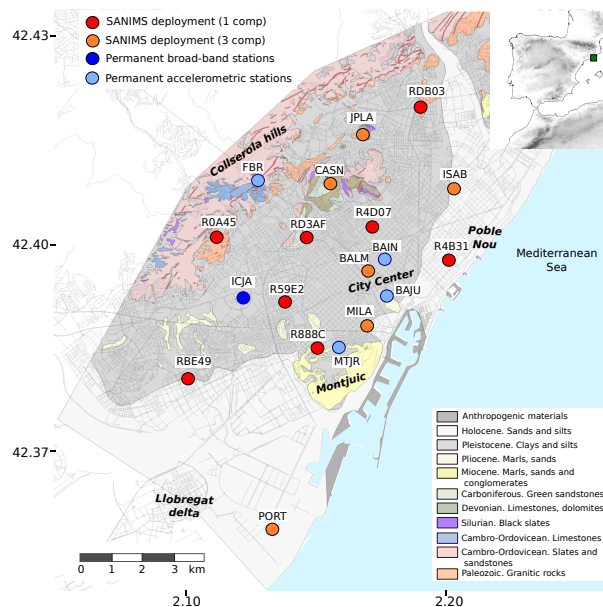


Fig. 1. Location plan of the available seismic stations on the geotechnical map of Barcelona (ICGC). The color code for the different types of instruments used is shown at the top-left corner. Road map from ©

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper



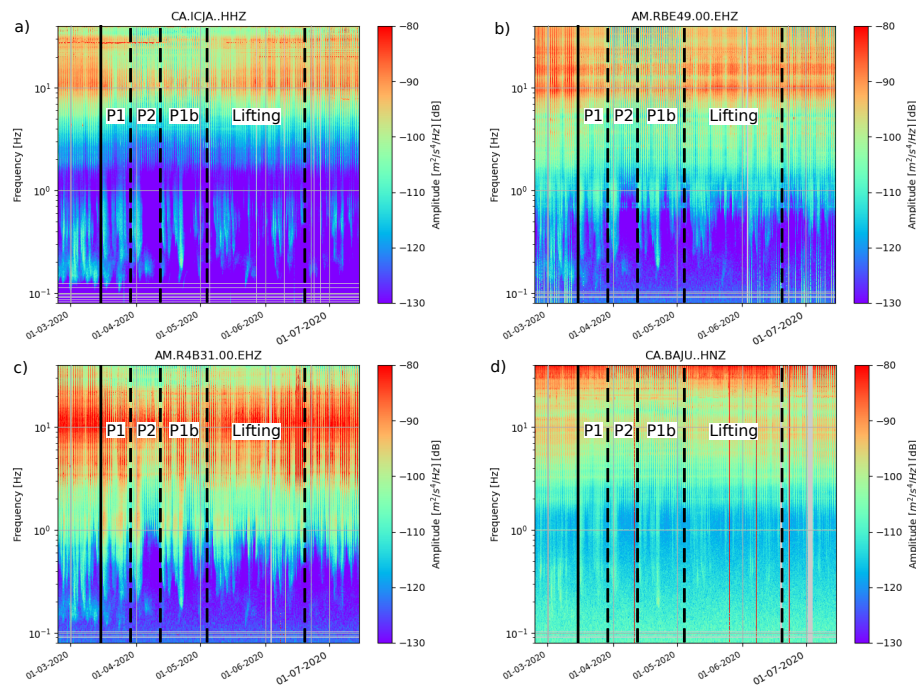


Fig. 2. Spectrograms for period from February 24 to July 14, 2020 corresponding to the ICJA, RBE49, R4B31 and BAJU sites. The solid lines mark the beginning of the lockdown period and the dashed lines show th

[Printer-friendly version](#)
[Discussion paper](#)

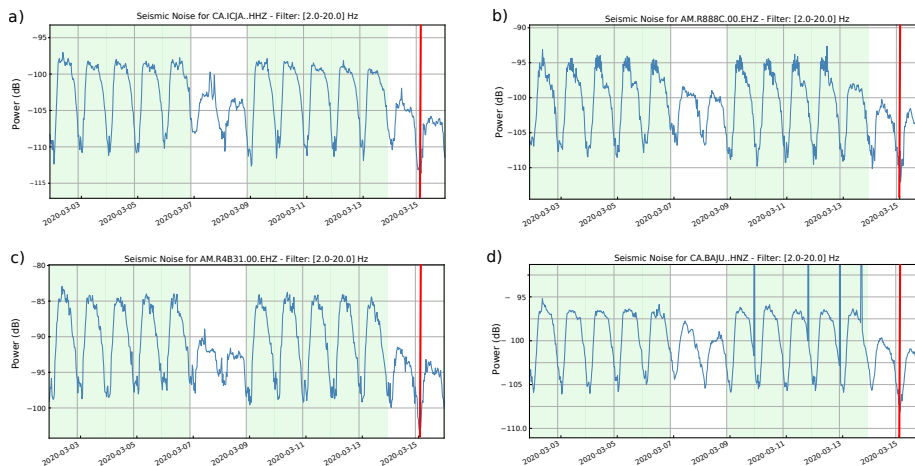



Fig. 3. Trends in power acceleration variation in the 2-20 Hz band prior to lockdown at the ICJA (broad-band), R888C, R4B31 (short period stations installed in high schools) and BAJU (accelerometer located do

Printer-friendly version

Discussion paper



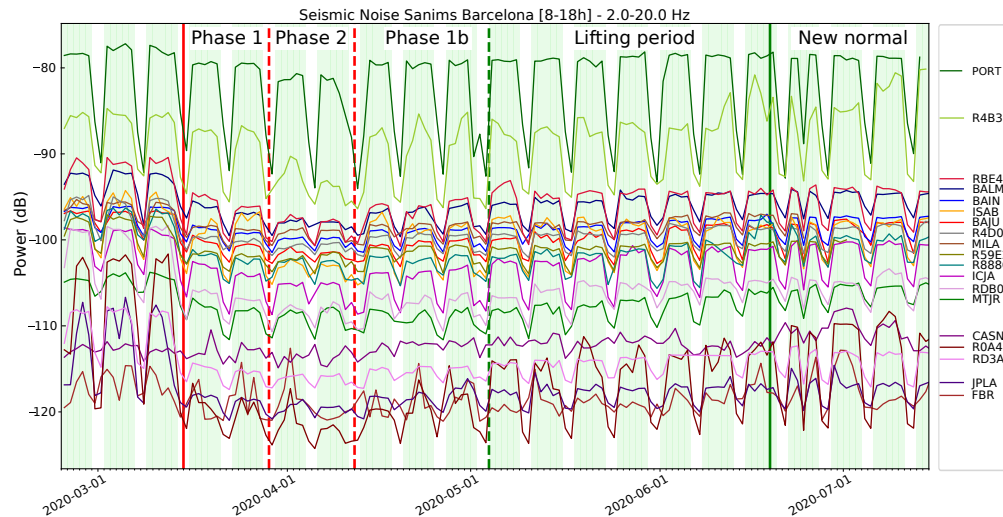


Fig. 4. Variation of the power of the seismic acceleration in the 2-20 Hz band for all the investigated sites, expressed in dB. The colored lines show the daily average during business hours. The vertical bar

[Printer-friendly version](#)
[Discussion paper](#)

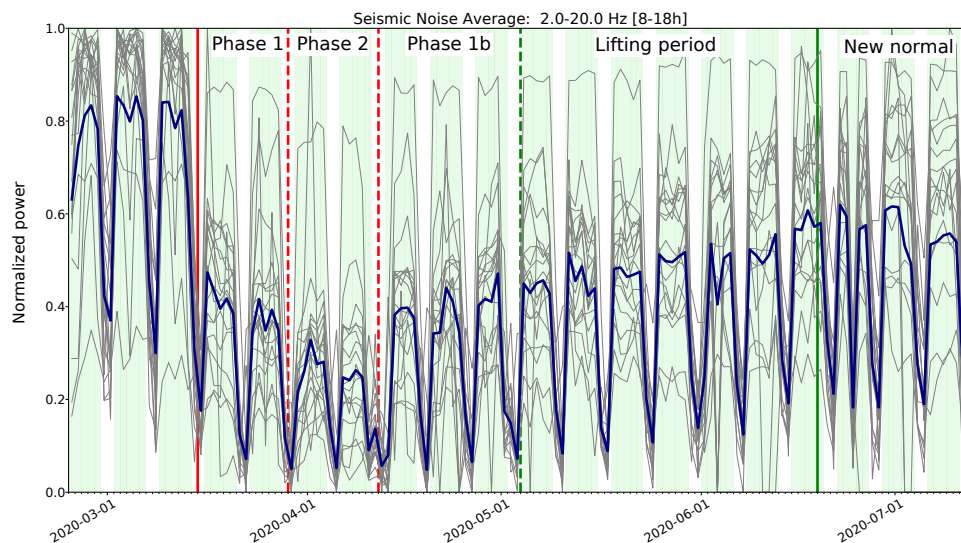



Fig. 5. Normalized power in the 2-20 Hz band during working hours for all the stations (gray lines) and the corresponding mean profile (blue line). Bars as in Figure 4.

[Printer-friendly version](#)[Discussion paper](#)

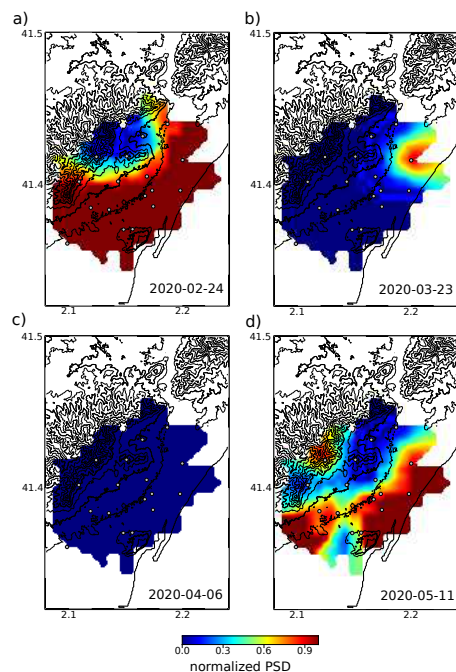


Fig. 6. Daily maps representing the normalized power in the 2-20 Hz band during working hours. Each image corresponds to a Monday. (Supplementary figure S2 shows all the daily snapshots). a) Pre-lockdown peri

[Printer-friendly version](#)[Discussion paper](#)

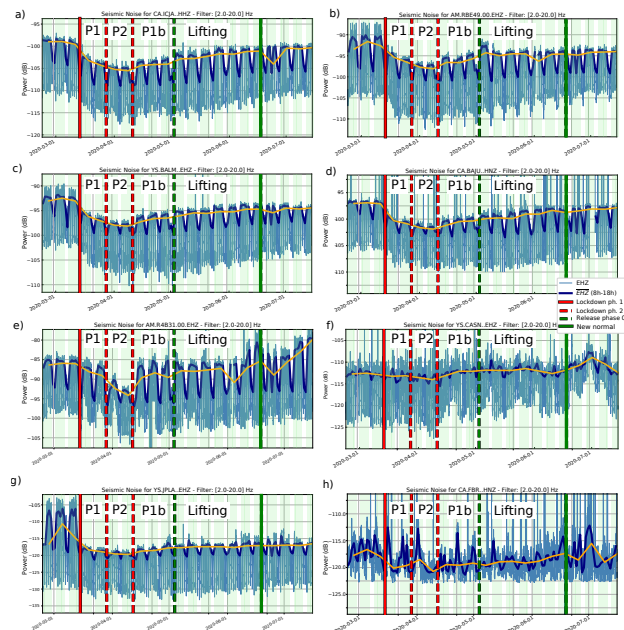


Fig. 7. Variations of the PSD of the seismic acceleration in the 2-20 Hz band for representative stations. a-d) sites that follow the general trend. e-h) sites with particular characteristics (see text). Light

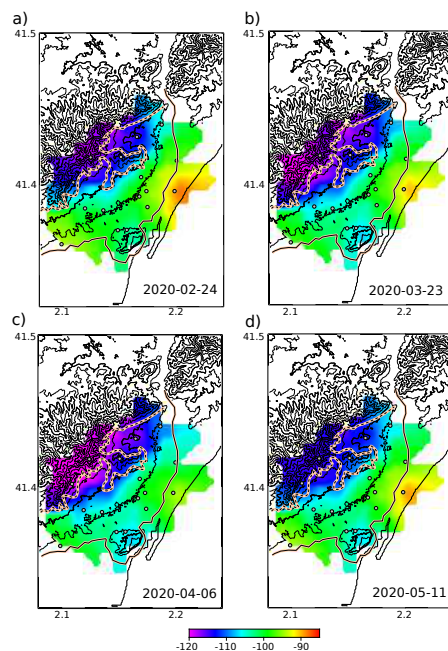


Fig. 8. Daily maps representing the real power values in the 2-20 Hz band during working hours. Each image corresponds to a Monday. (Supplementary figure S4 shows all the daily snapshots). a) Pre-lockdown per

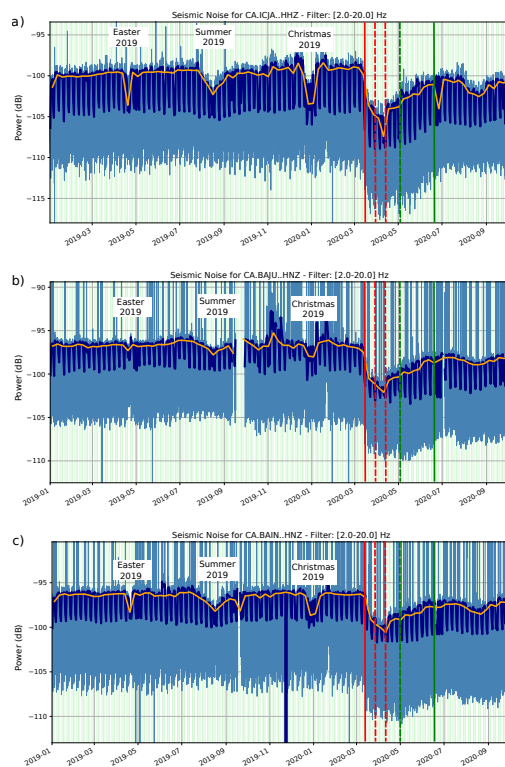


Fig. 9. Long term (1/1/2019 – 30/9/2020) PSD of the seismic accelerations in the 2-20 Hz band. a) ICJA broad-band seismometer. b) BAJU accelerometer. c) BAIN accelerometer. Color code as in Figure 7.

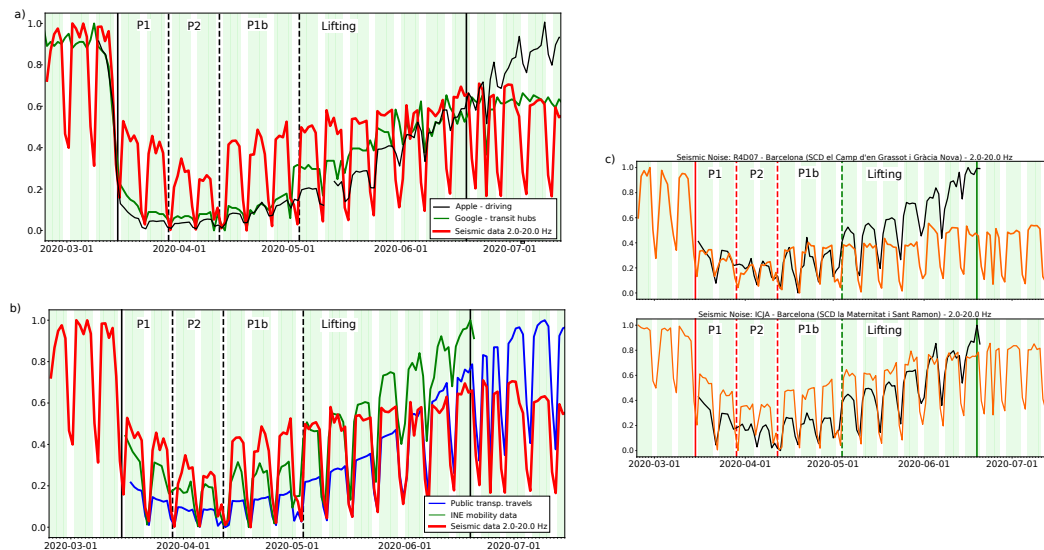


Fig. 10. Mobility data from different sources compared to seismic data. a) Normalized mean seismic power during business hours (9:00 – 19:00) vs. mobility data from Apple and Google. b) Normalized mean seismic