RE: NHESS 2016 321R1

Walter et al. Testing Seismic Amplitude Source Location

(ASL) for Rapid Debris at Illgraben, Switzerland

Overview

This reviewed paper is quasi-ready for publication. Main deficiencies below:

1) The part of the seismic signal analysis and computation should be better and wider explained (see

specific comments).

2) The references belonging to groups (see line 7 of page 4 and others) should be listed in

chronological order.

3) There are a lot of oversight errors: the writer suggests a careful rereading of the work.

Specific comments

Title

Perhaps "Fast" is better than "Rapid"

Introduction

At line 10 of page 3 (and in other points) Burtin et al. (2013) is cited but it is not present in the

references.

3 Seismic data

At line 15 of page 7, please substitute "and" with "while".

4 Detection and Location Scheme

The writer suggests some more explanations about the use of equation (3). The quantity VR is

computed for each pixel of the grid where data is A(i) and fit is the second member of equation (1)

computed by varying A_O and α in the range 500-1500 times the...... and 0.0-0.001 respectively (r_i

is the distance between the pixel and the seismometer location). The summation, \sum is carried out for

the n seismometers. Did the writer understand the computation of VR?

Moreover, the writer suggests to anticipate that the computed source location could be not in the

channel (see the following section at lines 24-25 of page 11) and the position of debris flow along

the channel is determined by projecting the locations on the channel (as written at following section,

line 11 of page 11).

5 Results: Seismic Noise....

About the sentence at lines 18-19 of page 11, the reason of bias could be due to the arrival of other

solid-liquid waves?

5 Debris Flow Detection....

Why this section and the previous one have the same numbering (5)?

At line 10 of page 16, it should be Figure 13b instead of Figure 10.

6 Discussion: Suitability for early warning

The discussion about the influence of rainfall on the triggering mechanism is not clear and

confused. The sentence at line 4 of page 18 "These observations could be explained..." is not

reasonably linked to the previous period. Authors should write something like: "notwithstanding the

two rainfalls are comparable because of nearly the same maximum intensity overo 10 minutes

(data.....), occurred phenomena are different because in the case of 13th of July, previous

precipitation (please write the total depth and interval time, as for the that previous the 19th of July

event). Then, they can add the explanation of the effect of previous precipitation.

Figures

Figure 1: please reduce the size of the triangles.

Figure 5: plot of panel c of Figure 4 and of panel b of Figure 5 should be the same but they do not

seem. Moreover, the ordinate of panels a and b of Figure 5 is missing.

Figure 10: panels a and b are inverted in the caption.