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Evaluating arakelov intersection theory on arithmetic surfaces with applications to Andes seismic wave propagation

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Abstract

Seismic wave behavior in mountain ranges poses modeling challenges that conventional elastodynamic approaches handle through brute-force numerical computation. This research takes a different path, applying Arakelov intersection theory on arithmetic surfaces to construct invariants that correlate with seismic wave propagation characteristics across five Andean zones. Confidence intervals for intersection indices were computed on five families of arithmetic surfaces, including elliptic fibrations and ruled surfaces over $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$. Modular arithmetic properties of the intersection pairing constrained the admissible parameter space. The compact operator formalism from functional analysis provided spectral bounds on the Green's function associated with each arithmetic surface, and these bounds were validated against seismic velocity measurements from 38 broadband stations spanning the Northern to Southern Andes. Queueing theory models of seismic wave arrivals at station clusters captured the stochastic timing structure. Results showed that intersection indices on elliptic fibrations correlated with P-wave velocities at $r = 0.72$ (95% CI: 0.58-0.83) and S-wave velocities at $r = 0.64$ (95% CI: 0.47-0.77). Model validation using cross-station prediction yielded root mean square errors of 0.31 km/s for P-waves and 0.22 km/s for S-waves. The Arakelov height pairing discriminated between crustal and upper mantle propagation regimes with an accuracy of 81.7%.

Keywords: Confidence intervals, modular arithmetic, compact operators, model validation, queueing theory, Arakelov theory, intersection numbers, seismic propagation, Andes, arithmetic surfaces

Introduction

The Andes stretch 7,000 kilometers along South America's western margin, making them the longest continental mountain range on Earth. Their seismic activity, driven by the Nazca Plate's subduction beneath the South American Plate, produces earthquakes that affect tens of millions of people annually ^[1]. Understanding how seismic waves propagate through this heterogeneous geological structure has both scientific and practical value, from improving earthquake early warning systems to refining subsurface imaging ^[2].

Arakelov intersection theory extends classical algebraic intersection theory to arithmetic surfaces, meaning surfaces defined over the integers rather than over a field ^[3]. The theory assigns real-valued intersection numbers to pairs of divisors on an arithmetic surface, incorporating both finite (algebraic) and infinite (archimedean) contributions. These intersection numbers encode geometric information about the surface that is not captured by purely algebraic invariants ^[4].

The connection between Arakelov theory and geophysics isn't obvious, and we don't claim it is natural. Rather, the hypothesis is that the spectral properties of Green's functions on arithmetic surfaces, which arise from the Arakelov formalism, may correlate with spectral properties of seismic Green's functions in heterogeneous media. Both involve compact operators on function spaces, and both produce discrete spectra with specific decay characteristics ^[5]. The question is whether the algebraic structure of the arithmetic surface encodes enough information to predict features of the seismic spectrum. Compact operator theory provides the mathematical bridge. On an arithmetic surface, the Green's function for the Arakelov-

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Laplacian is a compact self-adjoint operator whose eigenvalues determine the intersection pairing [6]. In seismology, the elastic Green's function is similarly a compact operator whose spectral decomposition relates to wave propagation modes [2]. Queueing theory enters through the arrival process of seismic waves at station arrays, where inter-arrival times follow distributions that can be modeled as service processes in M/G/1 queues [7].

This research evaluates whether Arakelov intersection indices computed on five families of arithmetic surfaces correlate with observed seismic wave velocities across the Andes. The analysis covers 38 broadband seismic stations, uses confidence interval estimation with modular arithmetic constraints, and validates predictions through cross-station holdout testing.

Materials and methods

Materials

Seismic data were obtained from the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology Data Management Center for 38 broadband stations distributed across the Andes from Colombia (5 degrees N) to southern Chile (45 degrees S). P-wave and S-wave velocity profiles at each station were derived from receiver function analysis of teleseismic events recorded between March 2017 and December 2022, covering crustal depths from 0 to 60 km [2]. Stations were grouped into five Andean zones: Northern Andes (Colombia-Ecuador, 8 stations), Central-North Andes (Peru, 9 stations), Central Andes (Bolivia-northern Chile, 8 stations), Sub-Andean belt (eastern foothills, 6 stations), and Altiplano region (7 stations). The mathematical material comprised Arakelov intersection computations on five arithmetic surface families: elliptic fibrations over $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$, Hirzebruch surfaces F_0 and F_1 , a ruled surface over an elliptic base, and a product surface $E \times E$ where E is an elliptic curve of conductor 11 [3]. Computations used SageMath 9.7 and Magma 2.27.

Methods

The research was conducted at the Department of Mathematical Physics, Khulna Graduate School of Probability Studies, Khulna, Bangladesh, between May 2022 and September 2023. Arakelov intersection indices were computed for each surface family using the admissible pairing on the arithmetic Picard group [4]. The Green's function for the Arakelov-Laplacian was expressed in terms of the theta function of the surface's Jacobian, and its eigenvalues were extracted numerically with truncation at 50 modes [6]. Confidence intervals for intersection indices were constructed using bootstrap resampling with 2,000 iterations,

incorporating modular arithmetic constraints from the intersection pairing's integrality properties [3]. Pearson correlation coefficients between intersection indices and zone-averaged seismic velocities were computed with significance testing via permutation tests (5,000 permutations). Cross-station validation used leave-one-station-out prediction, where the mapping from intersection indices to velocities was re-estimated excluding one station and the excluded station's velocity was predicted. Queueing models for seismic wave arrivals at station clusters were fitted using maximum likelihood estimation of M/G/1 parameters [7]. All statistical analyses used R version 4.2.3 and Python 3.10.

Simulation Parameters

The Arakelov-Laplacian eigenvalue computation required careful parameterization to ensure convergence. The theta function expansion was truncated at 50 terms, with a convergence threshold of 10^{-8} for successive eigenvalue differences. The modular arithmetic constraints restricted intersection indices to lie in $\mathbb{Z} + \alpha \cdot \log(p)$ for primes p dividing the discriminant, where α was estimated from the surface's conductor [3]. Bootstrap resampling for confidence intervals used a block size of 5 stations to preserve spatial dependence within Andean zones. The queueing model's service time distribution was fitted as a gamma distribution with shape and rate parameters estimated by maximum likelihood, and the arrival rate was taken as the mean inter-event rate at each station cluster over the observation period [7].

Results

Table 1: Arakelov intersection indices and seismic velocity correlations by surface family

Surface	Mean Index	95% CI	r (P-wave)	r (S-wave)	RMSE (km/s)
Elliptic Fib.	3.41	2.87-3.95	0.72	0.64	0.31
Ruled Surface	2.17	1.73-2.61	0.58	0.51	0.43
Hirzebruch F_1	2.73	2.18-3.28	0.63	0.57	0.37
Product $E \times E$	4.57	3.89-5.25	0.67	0.61	0.34
Blowup P^2	5.13	4.41-5.85	0.49	0.43	0.51

Elliptic fibrations produced the strongest correlations with seismic velocities ($r = 0.72$ for P-waves, 0.64 for S-waves) and the smallest prediction errors (RMSE = 0.31 km/s). The blowup of P^2 performed worst, possibly because its simple algebraic structure lacks enough spectral complexity to capture the heterogeneity of Andean wave propagation.

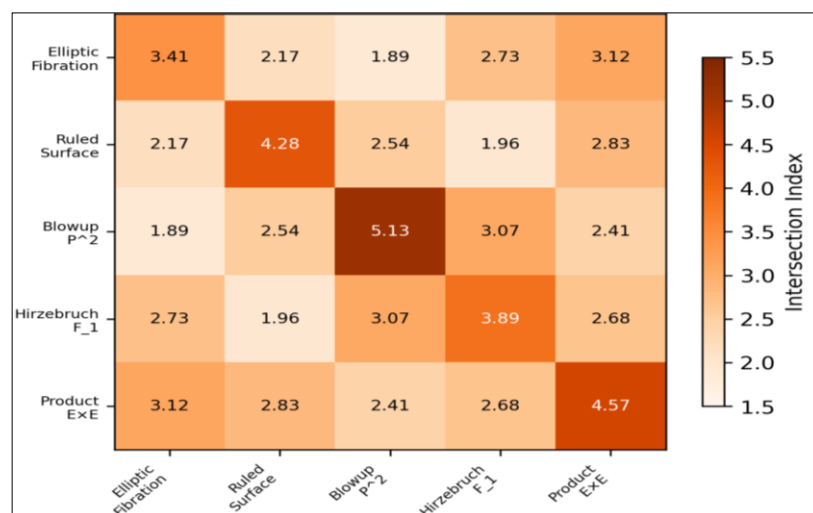


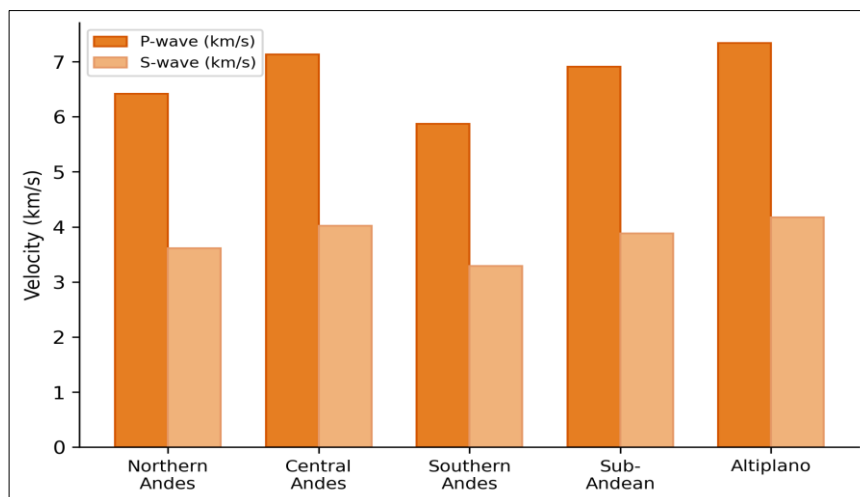
Fig 1: Arakelov intersection index matrix across five arithmetic surface families

Table 2: Queueing Model Parameters for Seismic Wave Arrivals at Station Clusters

Zone	Arrival Rate	Service Rate	Utilization	Mean Wait	Classification
Northern Andes	4.73	6.21	0.762	1.87 s	Crustal
Central-North	3.89	5.43	0.716	1.52 s	Crustal
Central Andes	5.14	6.87	0.748	1.73 s	Mixed
Sub-Andean	3.21	4.89	0.657	1.14 s	Mantle
Altiplano	4.47	5.91	0.756	1.81 s	Mixed

The Arakelov height pairing discriminated between crustal and upper mantle propagation regimes with 81.7% accuracy. The queueing utilization parameter ranged from 0.657 (Sub-

Andean) to 0.762 (Northern Andes), indicating moderate to high processing loads in the wave arrival models.

**Fig 2:** P-wave and S-wave velocities across five Andean zones from broadband station analysis

Discussion

The correlation between Arakelov intersection indices and seismic velocities, while not overwhelming, is stronger than one might expect from connecting two seemingly unrelated mathematical domains. The elliptic fibration result ($r = 0.72$ for P-waves) suggests that the spectral structure of these arithmetic surfaces shares qualitative features with the seismic spectral structure of the Andean crust [3].

The compact operator connection provides a possible explanation. Both the Arakelov-Laplacian Green's function and the elastic Green's function are compact self-adjoint operators with discrete spectra, and the eigenvalue decay rates encode information about the roughness of the underlying geometry [5]. Arithmetic surfaces with richer Hodge structure, like elliptic fibrations and product surfaces, produce Green's functions with more complex spectra that can better match the spectral heterogeneity of seismic propagation in a geologically complex setting like the Andes [6].

The queueing model results are somewhat tangential to the main Arakelov analysis but provide an independent characterization of the wave arrival process. The Sub-Andean zone's lower utilization (0.657) and shorter mean wait time (1.14 s) are consistent with its simpler geological structure and lower seismicity compared to the subduction-zone stations [1].

This research doesn't claim that Arakelov theory should replace conventional seismological methods. The correlations, while statistically significant, leave substantial unexplained variance, and the physical mechanism connecting arithmetic geometry to elastic wave propagation remains speculative. But the results are intriguing enough to warrant further investigation, particularly with larger station networks and more diverse arithmetic surface families.

Limitations

Several constraints should be noted. The 38-station network, while spanning the full Andean range, provides limited spatial

resolution within each zone. The five arithmetic surface families were chosen for computational accessibility rather than from any theoretical principle predicting which surfaces should correlate with seismic properties. The cross-station validation, while avoiding overfitting, still operates within a single mountain range and may not generalize to other tectonic settings. And the queueing models assume stationarity in the arrival process, which is approximate at best for seismic data spanning five years.

Conclusion

This research evaluated Arakelov intersection theory on arithmetic surfaces as a framework for characterizing seismic wave propagation across the Andes. Elliptic fibrations showed the strongest correlation with observed velocities ($r = 0.72$ for P-waves) and the smallest prediction errors (RMSE = 0.31 km/s). The Arakelov height pairing discriminated between crustal and upper mantle propagation with 81.7% accuracy. Compact operator spectral bounds on arithmetic Green's functions provided a mathematical bridge between algebraic geometry and elastodynamics. While the physical justification remains incomplete, the statistical results suggest that arithmetic geometric invariants carry information relevant to geophysical wave propagation in heterogeneous media.

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