

# 1 Supporting Information for “The Earth’s surface 2 controls the depth-dependent seismic radiation of 3 megathrust earthquakes”

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## 6 Contents of this file

7 1. Text S1 to S2

8 2. Figures S1 to S13

9 3. Table S1

10 **Additional Supporting Information (Files uploaded separately)** Caption of the  
11 figures. Each figure contains 8 subfigures to show model settings and results. (a) The  
12 structure of model: topography, fault geometry, P wave velocity. The blue outlined region  
13 (if any) indicates the region where we set the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio to the given value. (b) Initial  
14 stress distributions along depth (black line: initial shear stress  $\tau_0$ ; gray line: initial effective  
15 normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_0$ ). (c) Parameters of used friction law along depth: upper X-axis shows  
16 the friction coefficients (red dashed line: dynamic friction coefficient  $\mu_d$ ; red solid line:  
17 static friction coefficient  $\mu_s$ ), bottom X-axis shows the critical slip  $D_c$  in black line. (d)  
18 Space-time evolution of the rupture (in blue colormap) and of selected points on the fault  
19 (black lines), including the one at the trench/surface (thick black line). Gray and red  
20 lines show the updip- and downdip-propagating rupture front, respectively. We estimate

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21 the rupture velocity by linear fitting the location and time of rupture front. Light purple  
22 lines (if any) indicate the super-shear rupture front triggered by free surface and shallow  
23 compliant structures. (e) Slip-rate functions at each fault segment, aligned to their onset  
24 time (when rupture front arrives). The location of the fault segment center taken as  
25 the alongdip distance from the trench is indicated by the gray colormap. (f) Normalized  
26 Fourier amplitude spectra corresponding to the slip-rate functions shown in (e). The  
27 same color scheme is used to indicate the fault segment location. (g) moment-rate density  
28 function averaged along the entire fault. (h) The along-dip best-fit spectral parameters  
29 of the spectra in (f) as well as its 95% confidence interval. The right Y-axis shows the  
30 corner frequency  $f_c$  in red. The left Y-axis shows the spectral falloff rate  $n$  in blue.

## 31 Introduction

32 Text S1 presents the information about the back-projection observations (Figure 1 in  
33 the main text). Text S2 presents detailed information about dynamic rupture modeling.  
34 The model setup details include model setting, friction, initial stress, and software in-  
35 formation. All simulation settings and results of each model are included in Supporting  
36 Information 2, which is a Zip file of Figures including the model parameters ((a) struc-  
37 tures, (b) stress, (c) friction), simulations results ((d) - (g)) and the fitting of spectral  
38 parameters ((h) corner frequency  $f_c$  and spectral falloff rate  $n$ ).

### 39 1. Text S1. back-projection analysis

#### 1.1. Recent large earthquake BP images

40 We show the back-projection (BP) results of the Mw 9.0 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake,  
41 the Mw 7.9 2015 Gorkha earthquake, and the Mw 8.3 2015 Illapel earthquake. We obtain  
42 these BP results using a high-resolution improved Compressive Sensing back-projection  
43 (imCS-BP) method that we developed. Detailed information about this methodology can  
44 be found in Yin, Denolle, and Yao (2018).

45 We download the available teleseismic P wave velocity seismograms of the 2011 Tohoku  
46 earthquake recorded by the USArray stations (TA array, Fig. S1a - b) in North America  
47 (TA doi:10.7914/SN/TA, data is downloaded using Wilber 3 of the Incorporated Research  
48 Institutions for Seismology Data Management Center, IRIS-DMC, [http://ds.iris.edu/  
49 wilber3/find\\_event](http://ds.iris.edu/wilber3/find_event)). The raw data is first processed by removing the mean, trend, and  
50 instrumental responses. Then we filter the waveforms (Butterworth filter, order 2) into  
51 the low-frequency (LF) band (0.05 - 0.5 Hz) and high-frequency (HF) band (0.5 - 1 Hz)  
52 and align the waveforms based on the P wave arrival time Fig. S1a - b. The sliding time  
53 window technique is used to get the time evolution of the earthquake rupture, and we

54 choose a window length of 14 s for the 0.05 – 0.5 Hz LF band and 8 s for the 0.5 – 1 Hz  
55 HF band. The step of the moving time window is set 2 s. Within each time window, we  
56 apply the imCS-BP with auto-adaptive source grid refinement (Yin et al., 2018) to locate  
57 the coherent peaks and finally get the back-projection images of the Tohoku earthquakes  
58 in different frequency bands (Fig. S1c - d). In the main text, we integrate the BP results  
59 over the entire duration to construct a total BP image for each frequency band (Fig.  
60 1a). Our BP results of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake are well consistent with the relevant  
61 previous studies (Wang & Mori, 2011; Yao et al., 2011; Lay et al., 2012).

62 For the 2015 Nepal and Chile earthquakes, we use the same imCS-BP technique and  
63 the same USArray data as our previous studies (Yin et al., 2017, 2018). The waveforms  
64 of the Mw 7.9 2015 Gorkha earthquake are filtered at 0.05 - 0.25 Hz and 0.25 - 1.0 Hz  
65 frequency bands while the waveforms of the Mw 8.3 2015 Illapel earthquake are filtered  
66 at 0.05 - 0.5 Hz and 0.5 - 1.0 Hz frequency bands. The difference in the frequency band  
67 is due to handling different magnitudes of earthquakes (Yin & Denolle, 2019). Here we  
68 simply show the data and BP results of both events (Figs. S2 - S3) and refer to the  
69 previous publications for more details on the interpretation and reliability of the images  
70 given the source and receiver array configuration (Yin et al., 2016, 2017, 2018).

## 1.2. Analysis of the IRIS BP database

71 We further explore whether the depth-frequency relation exists for most megathrust  
72 earthquakes with the help of the back-projection database of the Incorporated Research  
73 Institutions for Seismology (IRIS). The IRIS back-projection database (Incorporated Re-  
74 search Institutions for Seismology Data Management Center, 2011) automatically gener-  
75 ates the BP images from three regional arrays (NA: northern America; EU: Europe; AU:  
76 Australia) and the Global Seismic Network (GSN) for all the M6.5+ earthquakes since  
77 1995 (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology Data Management Center, 2011).

78 The three regional arrays can produce the HF (0.25 - 1.00 Hz) BP images, and the GSN  
79 can produce the LF (0.05 - 0.25 Hz) BP images. This provides an opportunity to compare  
80 the depth-frequency relation systematically (i.e., with a single method) instead of making  
81 an inventory of results based on different methods applied to different earthquakes.

82 We collect the HF and LF BP peaks of all the 842 earthquakes present in the IRIS  
83 database (available at <http://ds.iris.edu/spud/back-projection>, last accessed on  
84 02/27/2021). Among the events from the IRIS database, we only select those with BP  
85 results from all four arrays/networks. Because the BP results are recovered from the tele-  
86 seismic P waves, which have poor depth resolution, we project the latitude and longitude  
87 of the BP peaks onto the corresponding Slab2 slab model (Hayes et al., 2018) to infer the  
88 depth of the BP results. Only 461 earthquakes (mostly megathrust earthquakes) within  
89 the latitude-longitude range of the available Slab2 models are kept.

90 Next, we calculate the average depth of all the BP peaks weighted by the BP peak  
91 amplitude for each array. We define the average depth as the BP centroid depth of the  
92 earthquake for each specific array. In this way, we can obtain the BP centroid depth  
93 from the GSN BP results in the low-frequency band of 0.05 - 0.25 Hz and the 3 estimates  
94 of the HF BP centroid depths from the dense regional arrays NA, AU, and EU in the  
95 high-frequency band of 0.25 - 1 Hz. Because we focus on the megathrust earthquakes in  
96 this study, we only keep the 245 events with BP centroid depth less than 70 km and the  
97 comparison results of all three regional arrays are shown in Fig. S4.

98 Finally, we take the mean the HF BP centroid depths across all three arrays as the  
99 representative HF BP centroid depth and show the comparison with LF BP centroid from  
100 GSN in Fig. 1d of the main text. We also show the same results for the deep earthquakes  
101 with depth from 70 km to 700 km in Fig. S5 to show that the frequency-depth relation  
102 disappears for deep earthquakes.

## 2. Text S2. Details on the dynamic rupture simulations

### 2.1. Model setting

103 The simulation domain is a semicircle domain with a radius of 350 km and centered at  
 104  $X = 150$  km,  $Y = 0$  km, and a traction-free surface. The simulation domain consists of 1)  
 105 a near-source, small grid-size, rectangular structure of dimension  $270$  km  $\times$   $50$  km (black  
 106 box area in Fig. S7a), and 2) a far-source homogeneous half-space (Fig. S7).

107 In the near-source region, we test different structural settings: a planar fault embedded  
 108 in a homogeneous velocity structure and flat topography (Model 1 and Model 15); a  
 109 curved fault embedded in a homogeneous velocity structure and flat topography (Model  
 110 2 and Model 16); and a curved fault embedded in a homogeneous velocity structure and  
 111 realistic topography (Model 3 and Model 17). The rest of the models use a curved fault  
 112 embedded in heterogeneous velocity structure and realistic topography. We use the P-  
 113 wave velocity model directly from tomography (Miura et al., 2005). We use the empirical  
 114 relation of Brocher (2005) to calculate density from the  $V_P$  values,  $\rho = 1.74(V_P)^{0.25}$ . The  
 115 S-wave velocity  $V_S$  is calculated from a  $V_P/V_S$  ratio structure. For most of the simulation  
 116 domain, we fix the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio constant of  $\sqrt{3} \approx 1.73$ , assuming a Poisson medium. For  
 117 specific regions detailed as the blue outlined region in Fig. 2b (also see Figure S6), we  
 118 raise the  $V_P/V_S$  ratio to the following values: 1.83 (Models 8 and 22), 1.94 (Models 9  
 119 and 23), 2.04 (Models 10 and 24), 2.14 (Models 11 and 25), 2.24 (Models 12 and 26), 2.34  
 120 (Models 13 and 27), and 2.45 (Models 14 and 28). For other heterogeneous models, the  
 121  $V_P/V_S$  ratio is fixed constant  $\sqrt{3} \approx 1.73$  (Models 4-7 and Models 18-21). Finally, we can  
 122 get the shear modulus  $\mu = \rho V_S^2$ .

123 For the homogeneous models in the far-source region, we have  $V_P = 6.93$  km/s and  
 124  $V_S = 4$  km/s, which are the same as those in the near-source region of Models 1-3 and  
 125 15-17. For the heterogeneous models,  $V_P = 8.30$  km/s is chosen as the maximum P wave

velocity in the model of Miura et al. (2005) and  $V_S = 4.79$  km/s, corresponding to  $V_P/V_S$  ratio =  $\sqrt{3}$ . To avoid strong wave reflections from sharp velocity contrasts between the two simulation domains, we set a 5-km wide transition zone with a smooth gradient in the velocity values from the near-source to the far-source regions. At the boundaries of the simulation domain, we set the traction-free boundary condition on the top surface (blue line in Fig. S7), and absorbing boundary conditions along the borders of the semicircle domain (red line in Fig. S7).

As a benchmark case for the free-surface effects, we also run one model in a homogeneous full-space (no free surface, Model 29, also referred to as Full in the main text). The simulation domain of the full-space model is a sufficiently large circular domain with the same radius of 350 km, and an absorbing boundary condition encloses the entire domain. The same curved fault is embedded in the center of the simulation domain, and all other model parameters are kept identical to the homogeneous half-space model.

## 2.2. Friction

We use a linear slip weakening friction for most of our simulations (except Models 4-6 and 18-20). The parameters of linear slip weakening are constant from the surface down to 40 km depth (Supporting Information 2 (c)): static friction coefficient  $\mu_s = 0.677$ ; dynamic friction coefficient  $\mu_d = 0.2$ ; the critical slip of slip weakening  $D_c = 0.4$  m. Below 40 km, we increase the dynamic friction coefficient to 0.99 to force the termination of the rupture. While the focus of this study is not to explore all frictional relations, we test several different friction relations above 10.8 km depth (at the base of the frontal prism) to be slip neutral/stable ( $\mu_s = \mu_d = 0.677$  above 10.8 km depth, Models 4 and 18) or slip hardening/strengthening ( $\mu_s = 0.677$ ,  $\mu_s < \mu_d = 0.85$  and  $D_c = 2$  m above 10.8 km depth, Models 5 and 19). Finally, we include a model with the same lab-based exponential slip weakening proposed by Murphy et al. (2018) in Models 6 and 20. We

150 use the same relations (See their equations (1) and (2)) to set up the stress and frictional  
 151 parameters.

### 2.3. Initial stress

152 In our simulations, the effective normal stress  $\bar{\sigma}_n$  is reduced from the fault normal stress  
 153  $\sigma_L$  due to pore pressure  $p$ ,  $\bar{\sigma}_n = \sigma_L - p$ . Because of the relatively low dip angle of the fault,  
 154 we approximate the normal stress  $\sigma_L$  as the lithostatic stress that is calculated based on  
 155 the density structure  $\rho(x, h)$  of each model:  $\sigma_L(x) = \int_{h_{slab}}^{h_0} \rho(x, h)gdh$ , where  $h_{slab}$  and  $h_0$   
 156 are the depths of slab surface and top free surface,  $g$  is the gravitation constant. We use  
 157 the fluid pressure ratio  $\lambda$  to quantify the pore pressure:  $p = \lambda\sigma_L$ . This quantification is  
 158 introduced by Hubbert and Rubey (1959) and has been used in many previous studies  
 159 (e.g., Murphy et al., 2018; Lotto et al., 2018). Finally, we assume the effective normal  
 160 stress  $\bar{\sigma}_n$  is bounded at 40 MPa, at which the over-pressurized pore pressure becomes  
 161 lithostatic (Rice, 1992), and this is similar to the settings in Lotto et al. (2018). In this  
 162 study, we mainly vary  $\lambda$  for the stress setting variations of models and include cases of  
 163  $\lambda = 0.9$  and  $\lambda = 0.7$ . This parameter controls how pore pressure varies along the depth  
 164 and where the pore fluid becomes lithostatic (see Fig. 2c in the main text).

We assume a relatively low initial shear stress  $\tau_0$  on the fault and calculate it using the seismic S ratio (Fig. 2c), which is used to measure how close the initial stress is to the level of failure (Day, 1982):

$$S = \frac{\tau_s - \tau_0}{\tau_0 - \tau_d} = 2.77, \quad (1)$$

165 where  $\tau_s = \bar{\sigma}_n\mu_s$  and  $\tau_d = \bar{\sigma}_n\mu_d$  are the static friction (yielding stress) and dynamic fric-  
 166 tion, respectively. This high seismic S ratio is set to avoid the unwanted supershear rupture  
 167 that arises from high initial stress and resulting high dynamic stress drop (Andrews, 1985;  
 168 Dunham, 2007). Finally, we use over-stress nucleation to start the spontaneous dynamic

169 rupture for all models. We increase the initial shear stress to  $1.016\tau_s$  within a 2-km patch  
 170 on fault centered at a depth of 20 km (Fig. 2c). The only exceptions are the models with  
 171 exponential slip weakening friction (Models 6 and 20). We have to set a larger nucleation  
 172 zone of about 14 km to nucleate megathrust rupture successfully. We have checked the  
 173 results of those models (Models 6 and 20) and can assure that this large nucleation patch  
 174 has negligible effects on the later dynamic rupture process.

## 2.4. Numerical solver

175 The entire domain is discretized with unstructured mesh using software CUBIT  
 176 (<https://cubit.sandia.gov/>, the mesh script is written based on Huang, Meng, and  
 177 Ampuero (2012)). To determine the element grid size, we estimate the corresponding  
 178 cohesive zone size  $\Lambda_0$  based on Palmer and Rice (1973):  $\Lambda_0 = \frac{9\pi}{32} \frac{\mu}{(1-\nu)} \frac{D_c}{(\tau_s - \tau_d)}$ , where  
 179  $\nu = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(V_P/V_S)^2 - 2}{(V_P/V_S)^2 - 1}$  is the Poisson's ratio. For the homogeneous model  $V_P = 6.93$  km/s,  
 180  $V_P/V_S = \sqrt{3}$  and  $\tau_s - \tau_d = 40$  MPa, the corresponding cohesive zone size  $\Lambda_0 = 1114.4$   
 181 m. For the heterogeneous model, we take the case of  $V_P = 4$  km/s,  $V_P/V_S = 2.45$  and  
 182  $\tau_s - \tau_d = 8$  MPa as a representative lower bond estimation, which gives the cohesive zone  
 183 size  $\Lambda_0 = 1012.6$  m. Based on the estimation of the cohesive zone size, we set the element  
 184 grid size  $dl = 500$  m  $< \Lambda_0/2$  in the source domain (Fig. S7) to ensure sufficient numerical  
 185 resolution (Day et al., 2005). Accordingly, the frequency resolution is determined by  $dl$   
 186 and the minimum S wave wavelength. We require at least  $n = 4$  grids within the minimum  
 187 wavelength, so we can estimate the maximum resolvable frequency of our simulations. This  
 188 varies for different models. For the models with homogeneous velocity structure (Models  
 189 1-3, 15-17),  $V_S = 4$  km/s and the maximum frequency we can resolve is  $f = V_S/4dl = 2$   
 190 Hz. For the models with heterogeneous velocity structures, the maximum resolvable fre-  
 191 quency varies with minimum  $V_S$ . The minimum shear wave speed in all the velocity  
 192 models is 0.6 km/s, corresponding to  $f = \min(V_S)/4dl = 0.3$  Hz. In our results, we will

193 interpret radiation below this maximum frequency. We use the 2D spectral element-based  
194 code SEM2DPACK (Ampuero, 2012, <https://github.com/jpampuero/sem2dpack>, last  
195 accessed on 06/08/2021) to solve for the dynamic rupture. This code has been well vali-  
196 dated and applied in some previous studies (e.g., Huang & Ampuero, 2011; Huang et al.,  
197 2012) to simulate the megathrust earthquakes as well as the wave fields.

198 In most of our simulations, we include the realistic velocity models, which have sig-  
199 nificant material contrasts in the downdip regions (Fig. 2b or Fig. S6). The material  
200 contrasts can lead to ill-posedness in the numerical solution and regularization is needed  
201 (Cochard & Rice, 2000). As proposed by Rubin and Ampuero (2007); Ampuero and  
202 Ben-Zion (2008); Huang (2018), the material contrasts can cause normal stress pertur-  
203 bation during dynamic rupture. They suggest using a regularization  $\dot{\sigma}^* = \frac{V^*}{D_\sigma}(\dot{\sigma} - \dot{\sigma}^*)$   
204 to force the normal stress to evolve continuously.  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma^*$  are the actual normal stress  
205 and the regularized normal stress (referred to as an “effective” normal stress but here we  
206 use “regularized” to differentiate from the one related to pore pressure). The reference  
207 velocity  $V^*$  and slip distance  $D_\sigma$  are the two constitutive parameters. In our simulations,  
208 since we are focusing on the fault slip within the frequency band below 0.3 Hz, we apply  
209 a 1-s-long Gaussian window to smooth out the numerical noise in the slip rate functions.  
210 We compare models processed by different schemes and find that the slip-rate functions  
211 are almost indistinguishable (Fig. S13).

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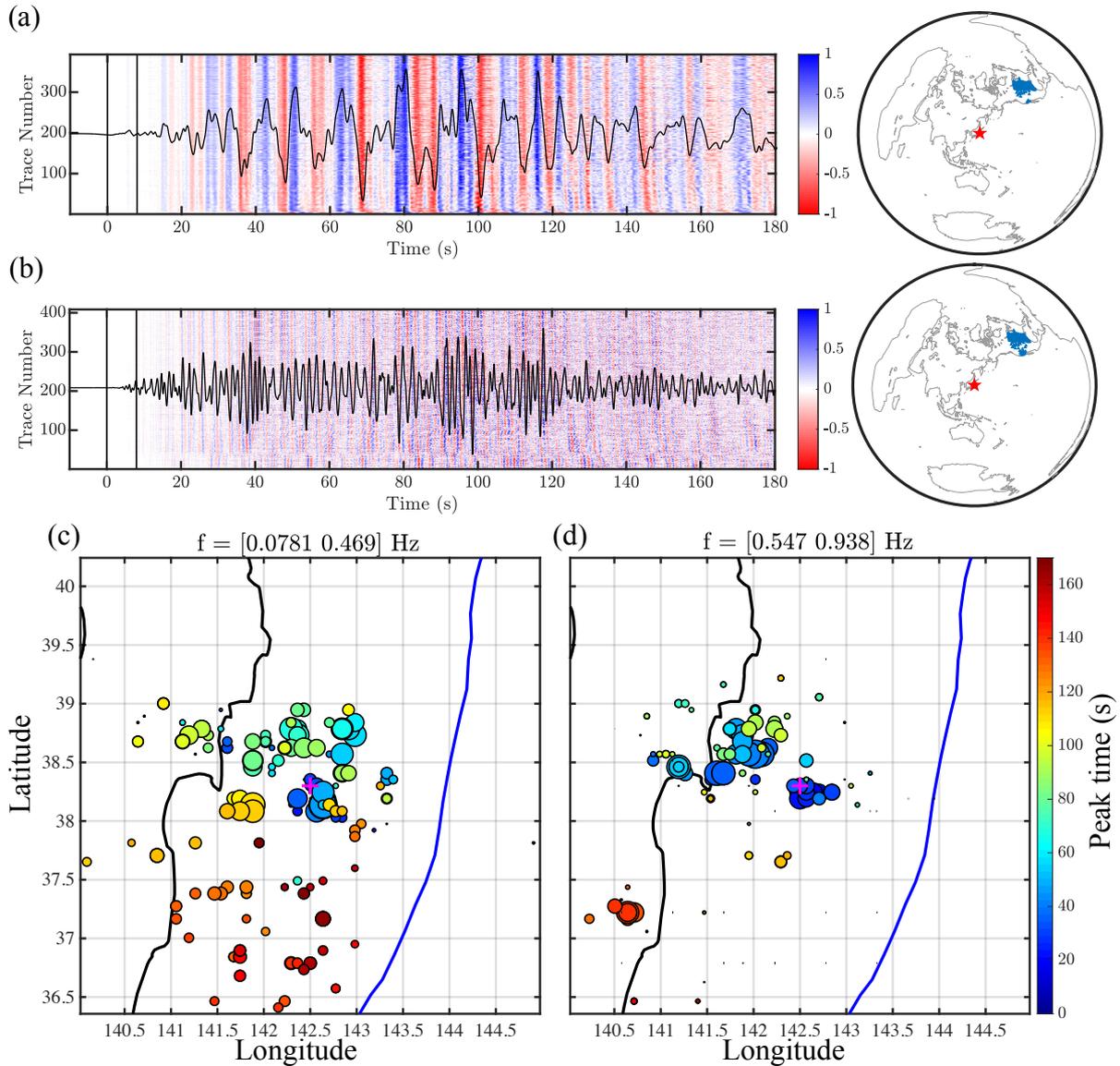


Figure S1: Data and back-projection results of the Mw 9.0 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake. (a) Teleseismic P wave velocity seismograms filtered in the LF band (0.05 - 0.5 Hz) and the corresponding TA array distribution (blue triangles to the right and the red star indicates the location of the epicenter). The aligned waveforms recorded by the array are shown by the red-to-blue image and the stacked waveform is also shown on top of the image. (b) Same as (a) but for the teleseismic P wave velocity seismograms filtered in the high-frequency band (0.5 - 1 Hz). (c) imCS-BP results in the low-frequency band (0.05 - 0.5 Hz): the circles indicate the energy bursts, their colors correspond to the time of the burst since the onset of the earthquake, and their sizes are proportional to the amplitude power of energy bursts. The purple cross indicates the location of the epicenter. (d) The imCS-BP results in the high-frequency band (0.5 - 1 Hz) and the symbols have the same meanings as (c).

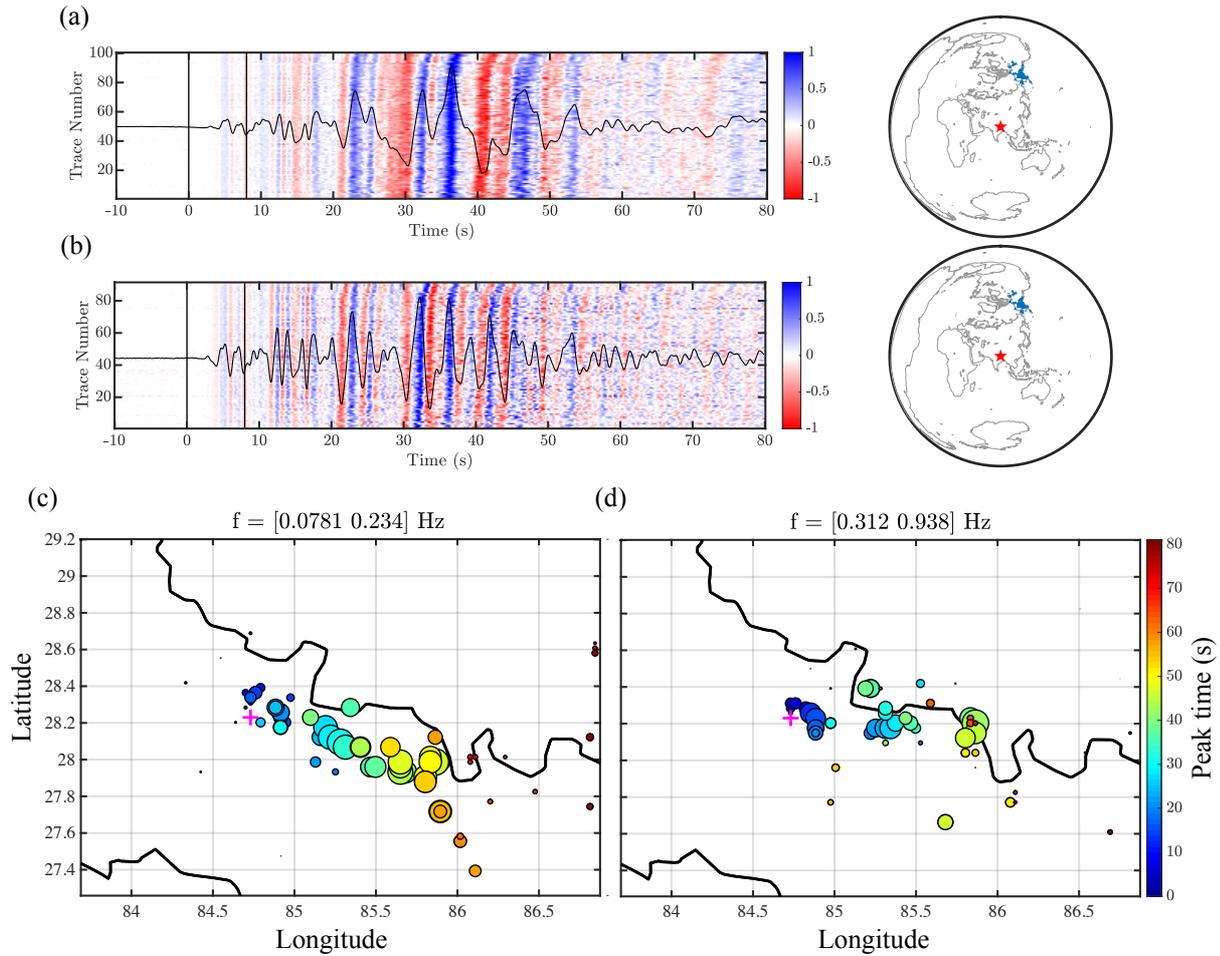


Figure S2: Data and back-projection results of the Mw 7.9 2015 Gorkha earthquake. (a) Teleseismic P-wave velocity seismograms filtered in the low-frequency band (0.05 - 0.25 Hz). (b) Same as (a) but for the teleseismic P-wave velocity seismograms filtered in the high-frequency band (0.25 - 1 Hz). (c) imCS-BP results in the low-frequency band (0.05 - 0.25 Hz). (d) imCS-BP results in the high-frequency band (0.25 - 1 Hz) and all other symbols have the same meanings as Fig. S1.

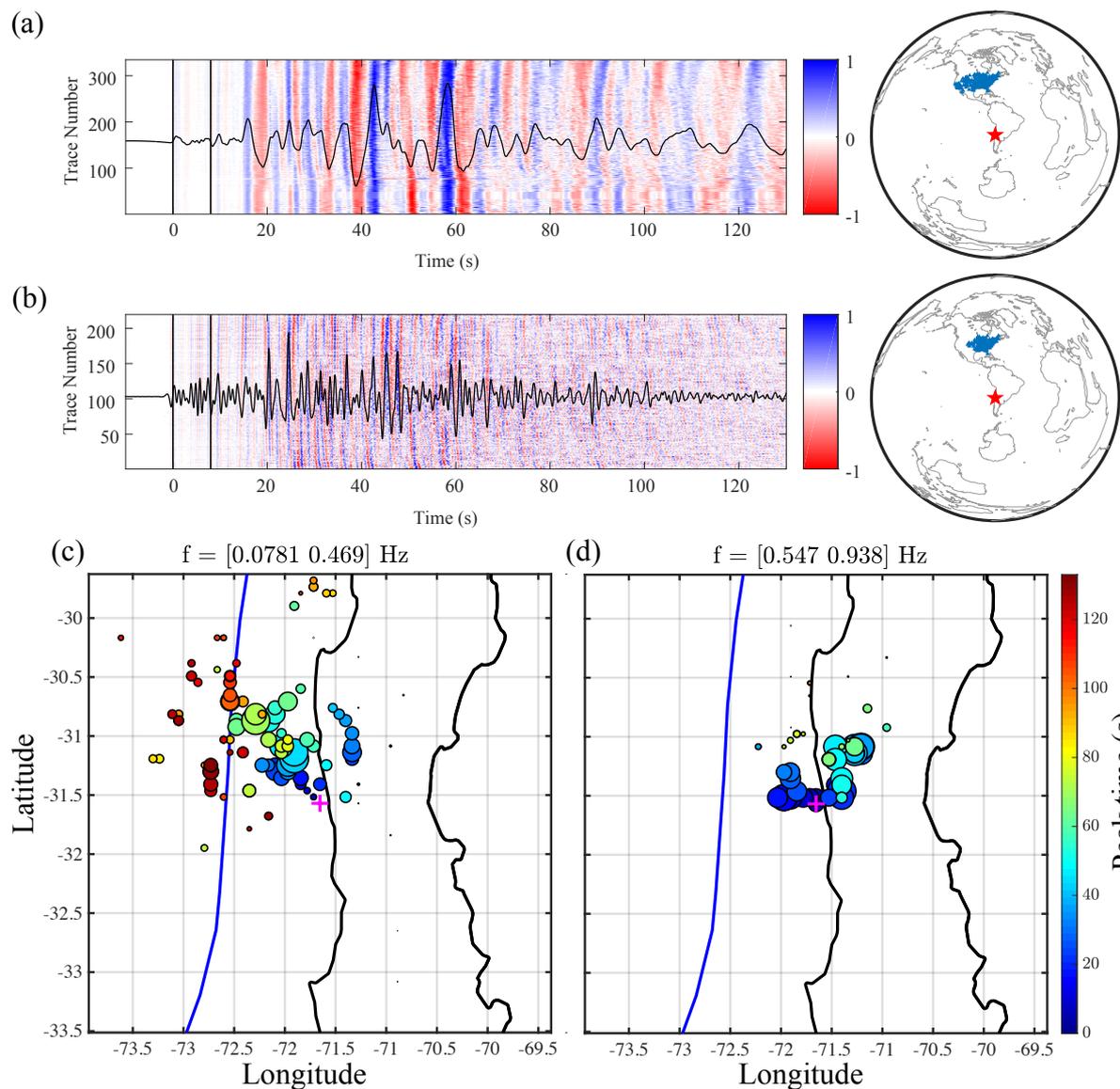


Figure S3: Data and back-projection results of the Mw 8.3 2015 Illapel earthquake. (a) Teleseismic P-wave velocity seismograms filtered in the LF band (0.05 - 0.5 Hz). (b) Same as (a) but for the teleseismic P-wave velocity seismograms filtered in the high-frequency band (0.5 - 1 Hz). (c) imCS-BP results in the low-frequency band (0.05 - 0.5 Hz). (d) imCS-BP results in the high-frequency band (0.5 - 1 Hz) and all other symbols have the same meanings as Fig. S1.

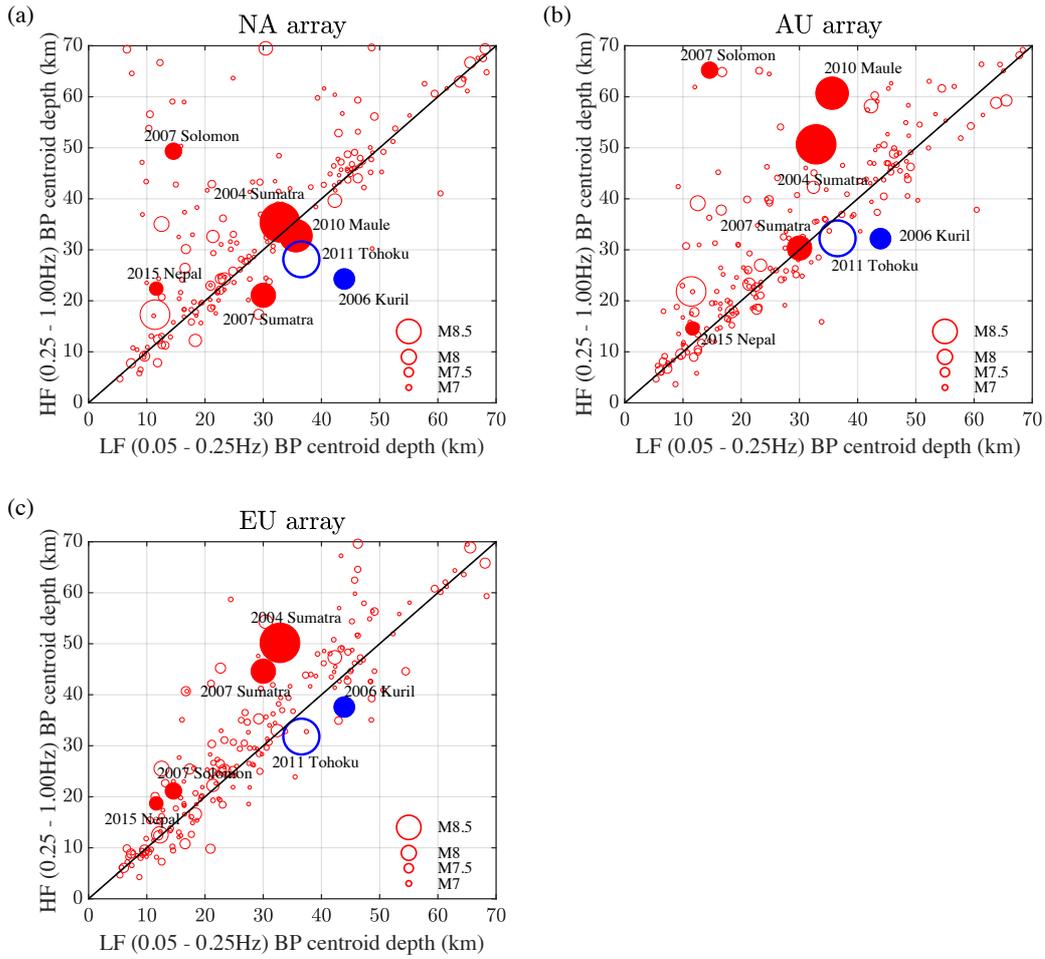


Figure S4: Comparison between the LF BP centroid depth from GSN and HF BP centroid depth from (a) North America NA array; (b) Australian AU array and (c) European EU array for the megathrust earthquakes in the IRIS back-projection database.

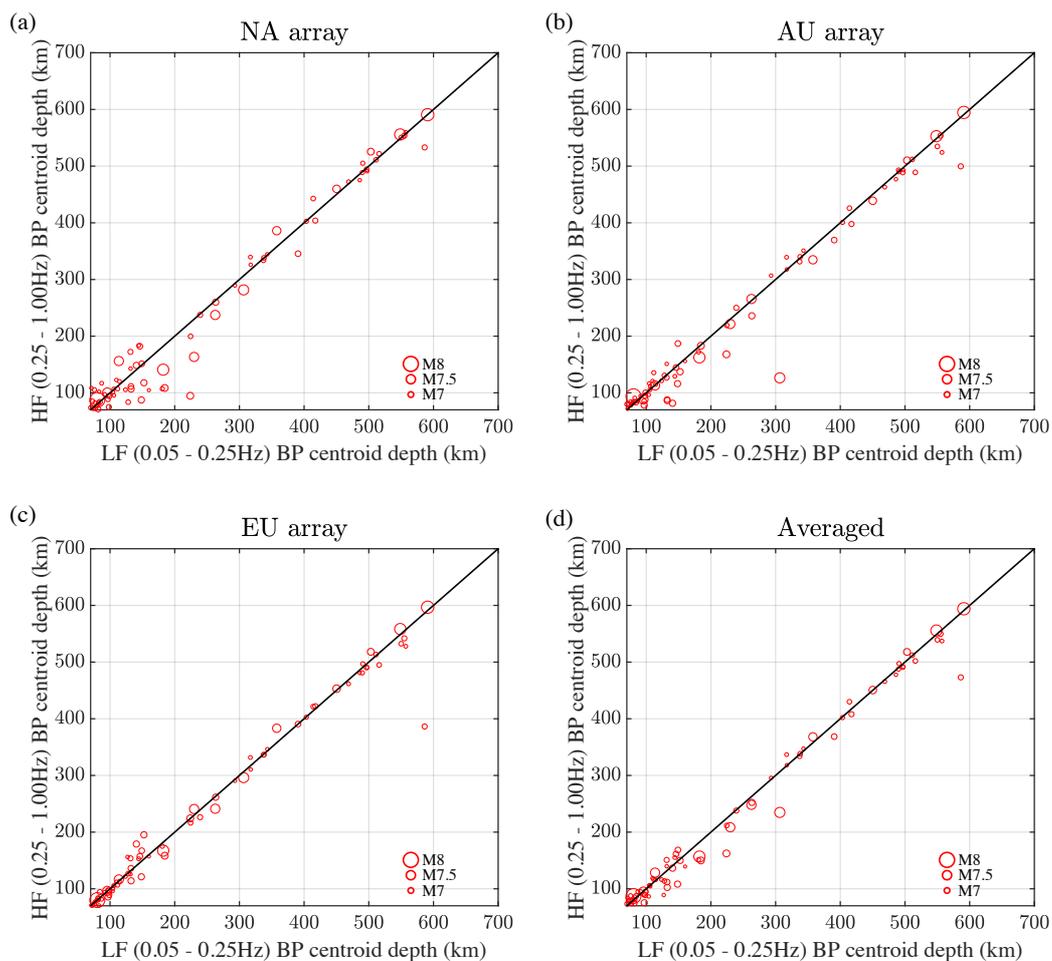


Figure S5: Comparison between the LF BP centroid depth from GSN and HF BP centroid depth from (a) NA array; (b) AU array; (c) EU array and (d) three-array-average for the deep earthquakes (70 - 700 km) in the IRIS back-projection database.

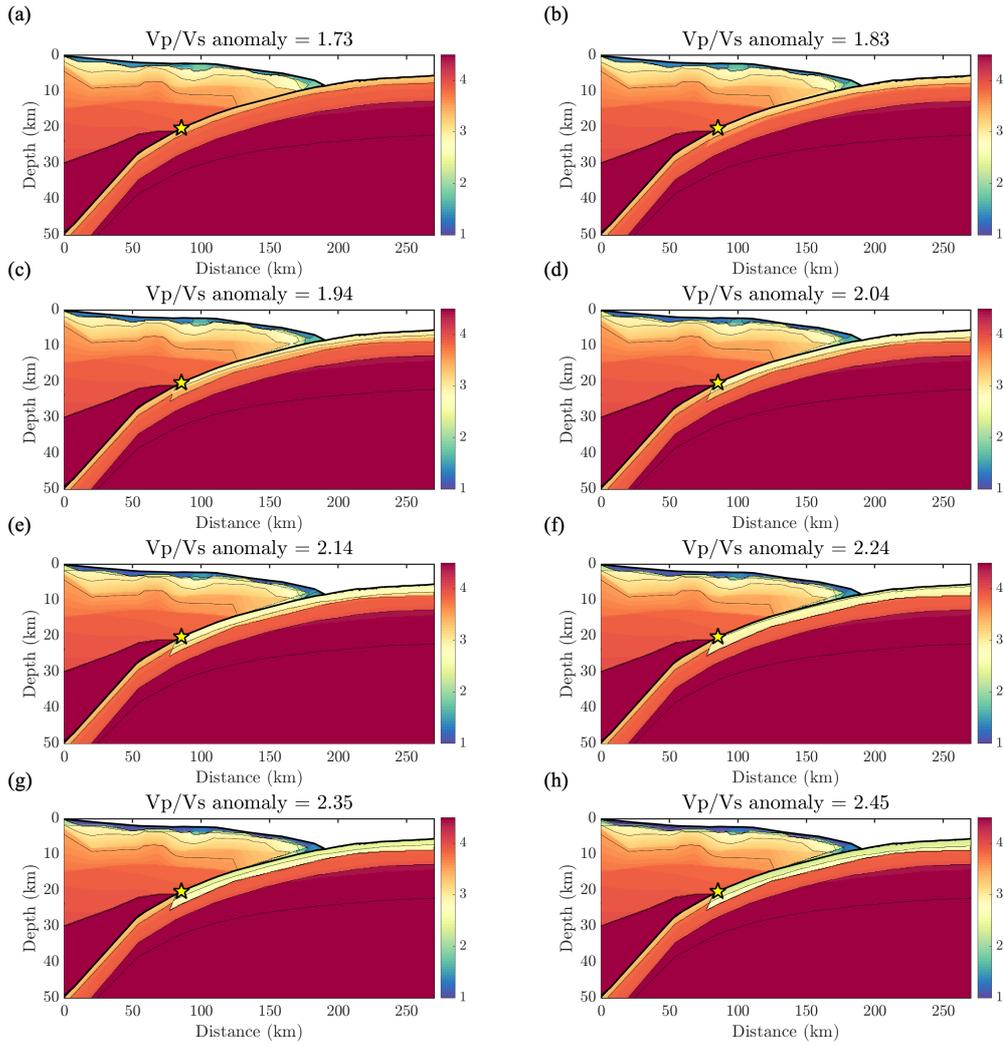


Figure S6: Corresponding S wave velocity from different settings of  $V_P/V_S$  ratios: (a)  $V_P/V_S = 1.73$ ; (b)  $V_P/V_S = 1.84$ ; (c)  $V_P/V_S = 1.94$ ; (d)  $V_P/V_S = 2.04$ ; (e)  $V_P/V_S = 2.14$ ; (f)  $V_P/V_S = 2.24$ ; (g)  $V_P/V_S = 2.34$ ; (h)  $V_P/V_S = 2.45$ .

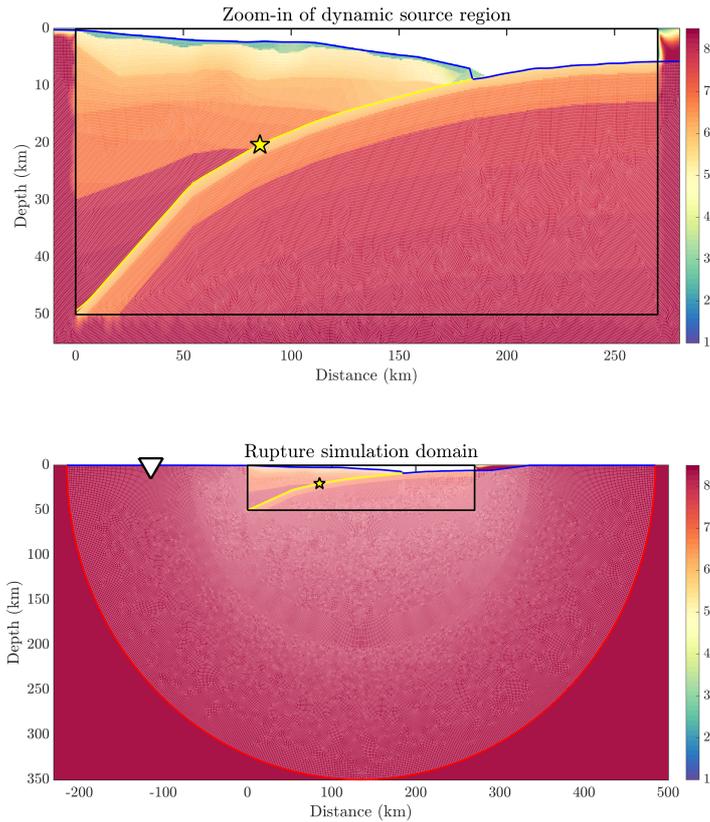


Figure S7: **Domain of dynamic simulations.** (top) The near-source region with various model settings: Blue and yellow lines indicate the free surface and dynamic fault, respectively. The colormap shows the P wave velocity from Miura et al. (2005). The star indicates the hypocenter of simulated megathrust earthquakes. (bottom) Entire simulation domain: The red semicircle indicates the domain boundary with absorbing conditions. The unstructured mesh is shown in white on top of the simulation domain.

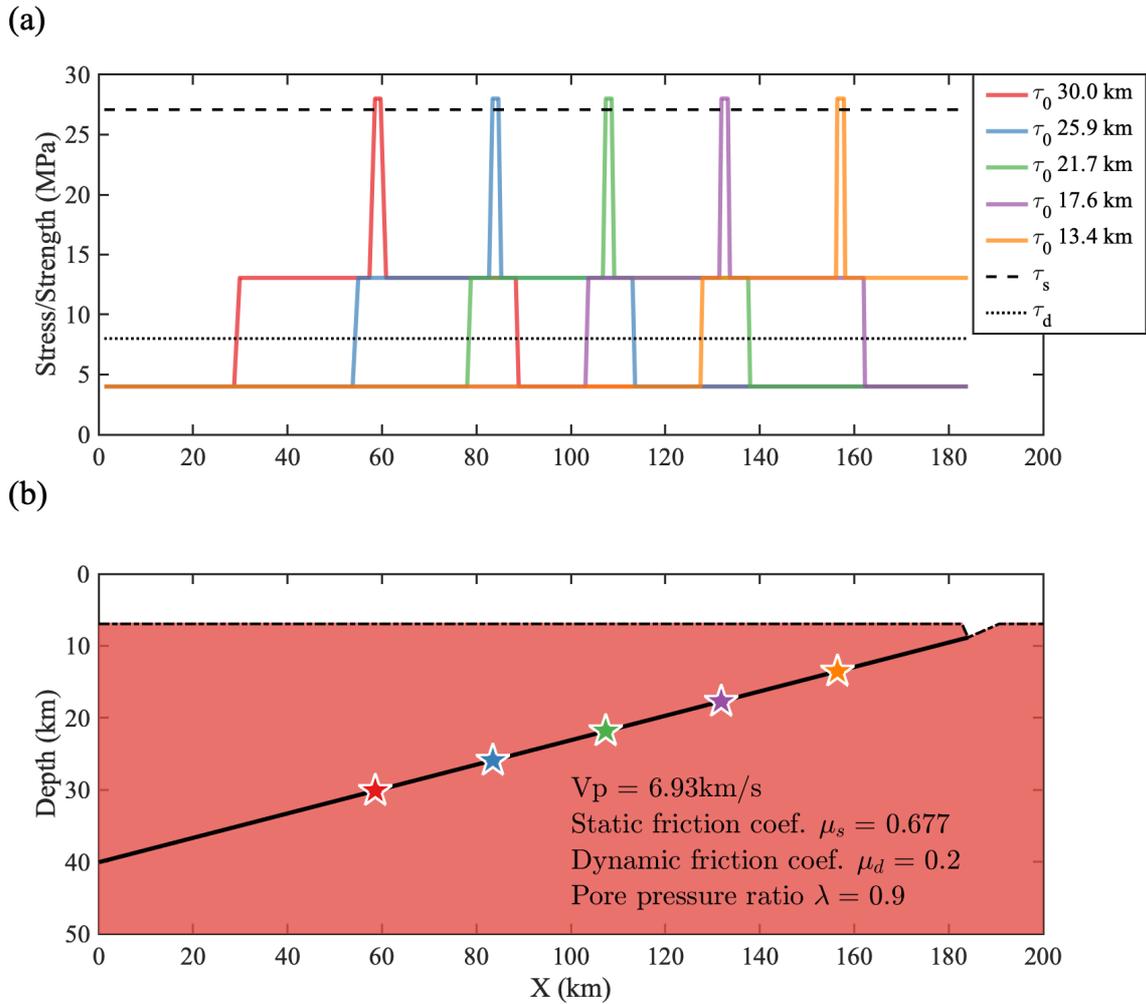


Figure S8: **Model settings of the five small megathrust earthquake models.** (a) Stress/strength distribution along the slab (in X coordinate): the black dotted line and dashed line show the dynamic friction  $\tau_d$  and static friction  $\tau_s$ , respectively. Colored lines indicate the initial shear stress  $\tau_0$  for earthquakes nucleated at different depths: red - 30.0 km; blue - 25.9 km; green - 21.7 km; purple - 17.6 km; orange - 13.4 km. (b) Simulation domain for a homogeneous medium with planar slab geometry and flat topography for the small rupture models. The colored stars indicate the location of nucleation/hypocenters of the small earthquakes.

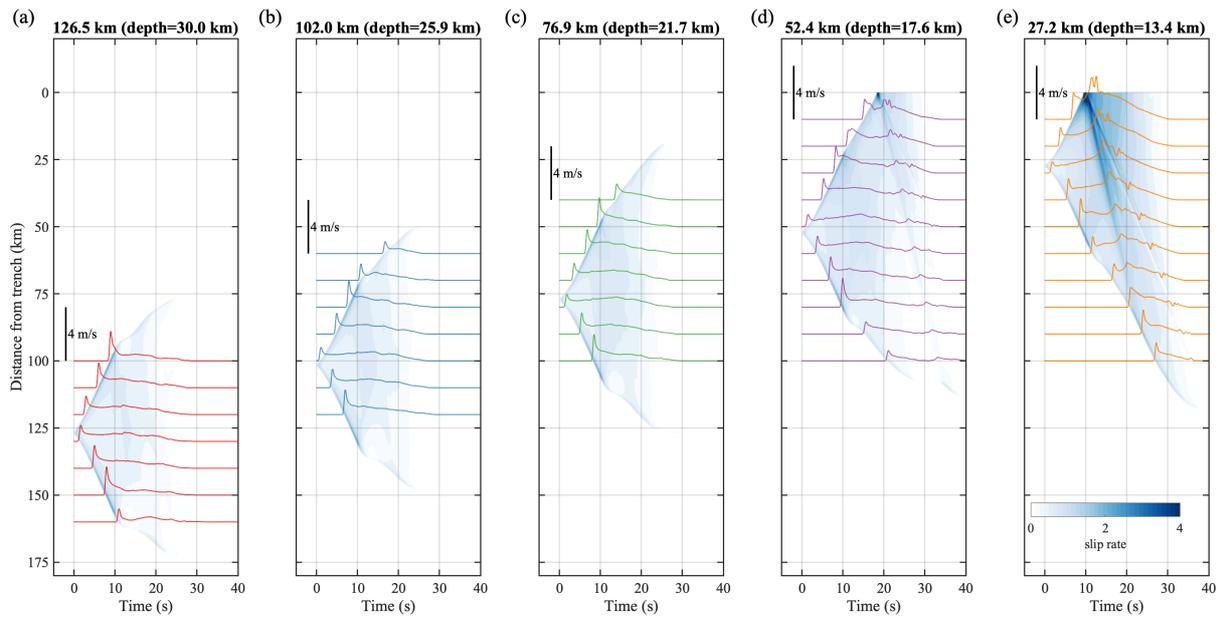


Figure S9: Space-time plot of the slip histories for all small earthquake models nucleated at different depths measured by distance from trench (depth): (a) distance = 126.5 km / depth = 30.0 km; (b) distance = 102.0 km / depth = 25.9 km; (c) distance = 76.9 km / depth = 21.7 km; (d) distance = 52.4 km / depth = 17.6 km and (e) distance = 27.2 km / depth = 13.4 km. The slip-rate functions at different points are also shown in colored lines.

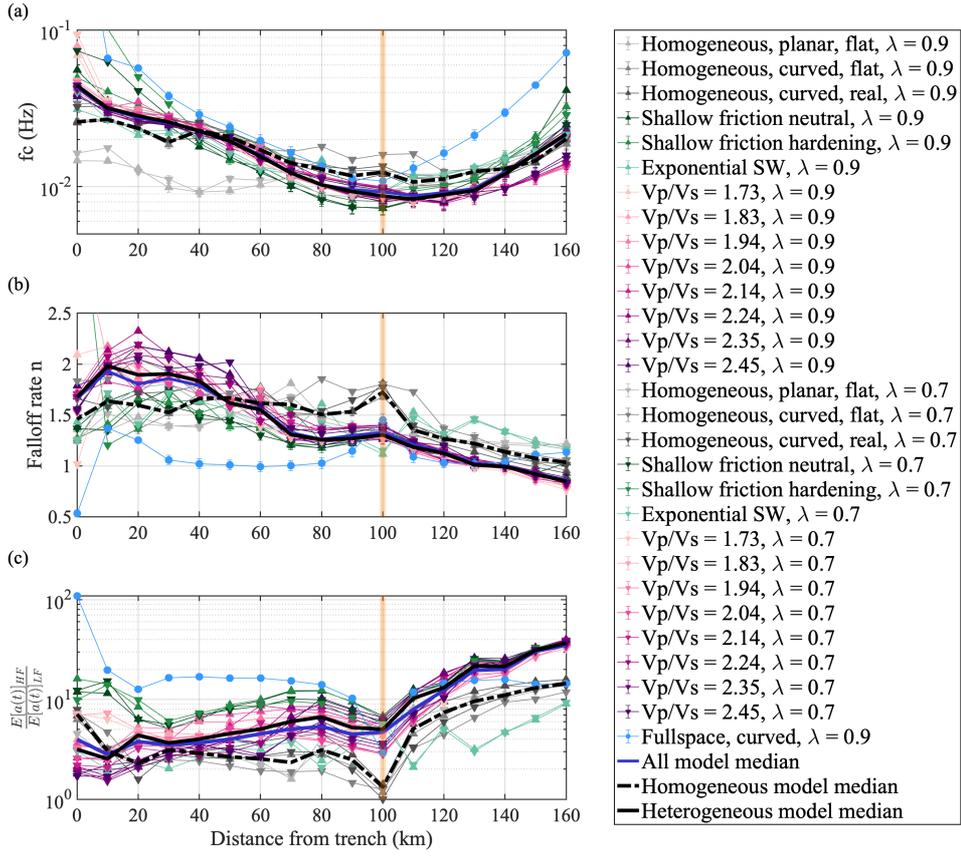


Figure S10: Results of the spectral content of the **slip-rate function extracted at individual point every 10 km** along dip: (a) corner frequency  $f_c$ ; (b) spectral falloff rate  $n$ ; (c) HF/LF power ratio of slip acceleration. Yellow bars indicate the location where rupture is nucleated.

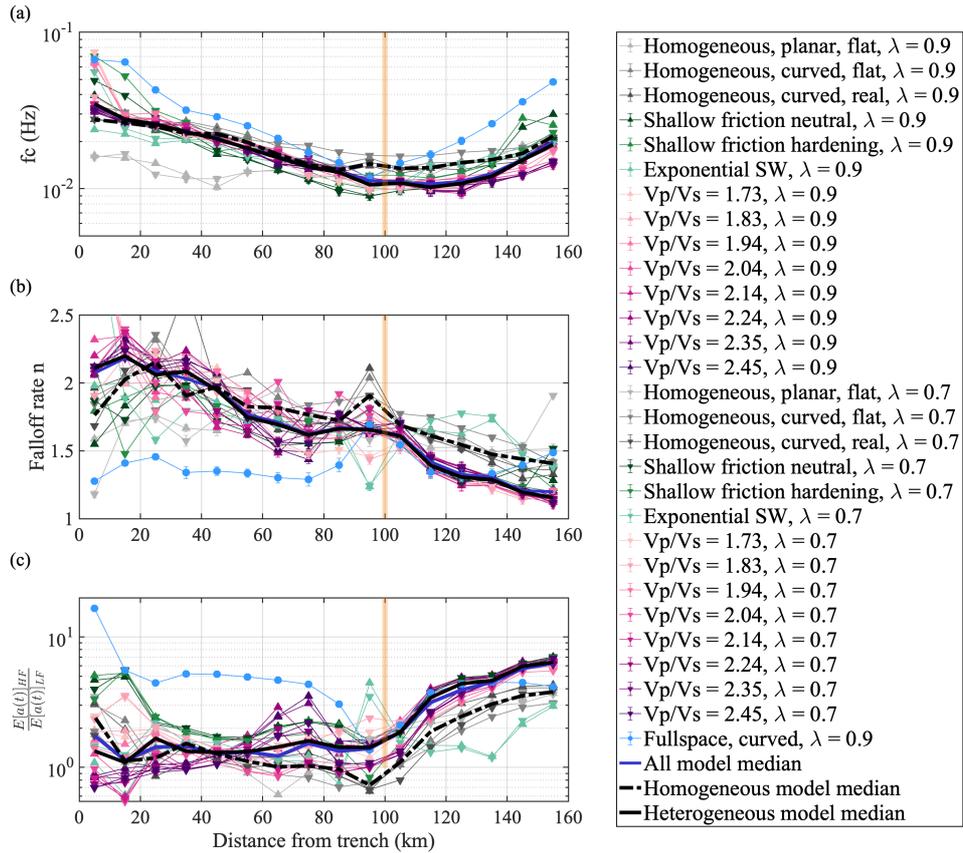


Figure S11: Results of the spectral content of the **slip-rate functions averaged over 10-km subfault** along dip: (a) corner frequency  $f_c$ ; (b) spectral falloff rate  $n$ ; (c) HF/LF power ratio of slip acceleration. Yellow bars indicate the location where rupture is nucleated.

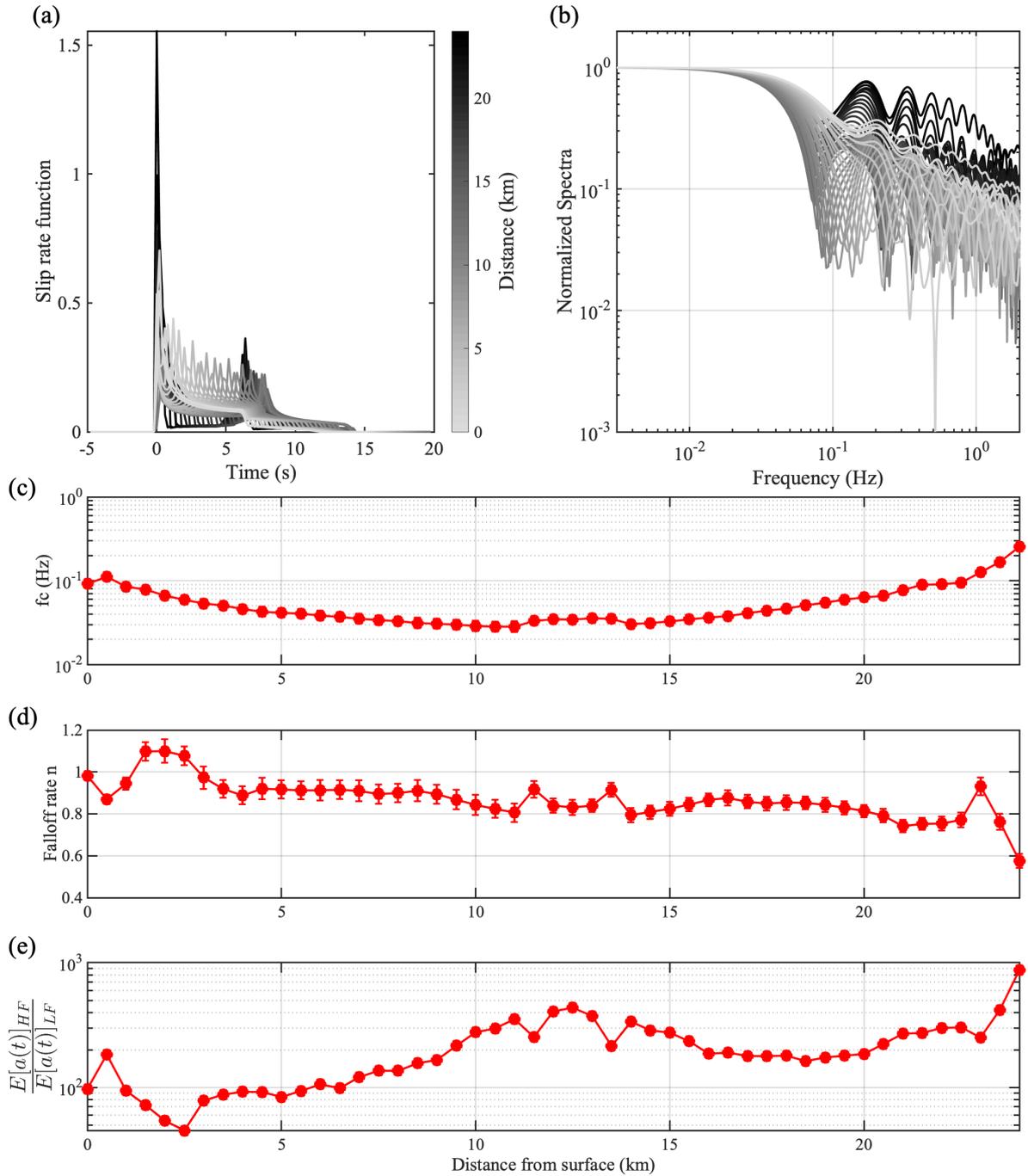


Figure S12: Results of a mode-III (anti-plane) rupture model on a vertical fault intersecting the free surface in a homogeneous medium. Fault length is 25 km, and the rupture is nucleated at 12.5 km depth with over-stress nucleation. Other model parameters are:  $V_P=6.9$  km/s,  $V_S=4.0$  km/s,  $D_c=0.4$  m,  $\mu_S=0.677$ ,  $\mu_D=0.2$ ,  $\bar{\sigma}_n=40$  MPa. (a) - (b) Slip-rate function and slip-rate spectrum at different depths. (c) - (e) Along-depth variation of corner frequency  $f_c$ , spectral falloff rate  $n$  and HF/LF power ratio of slip acceleration.

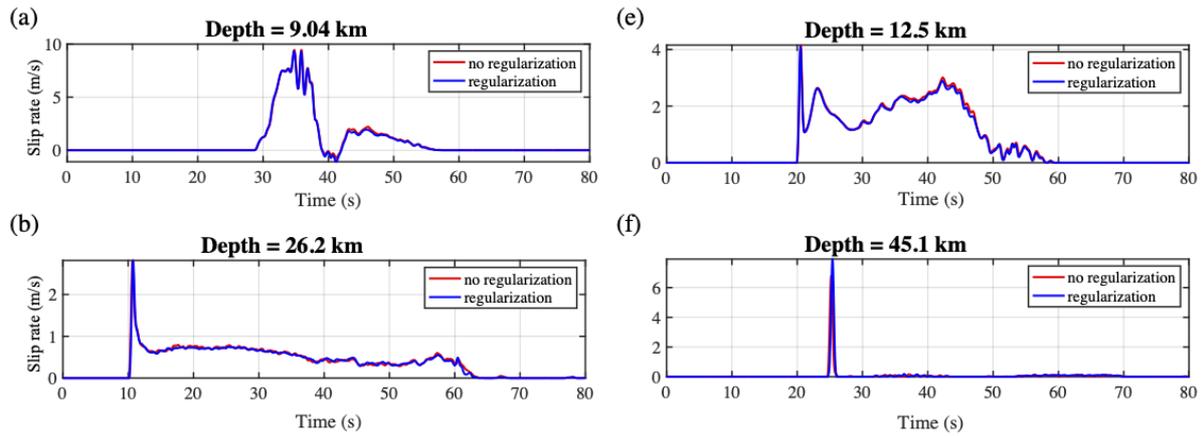


Figure S13: Comparisons between slip-rate functions with (blue) or without (red) normal stress regularization after the Gaussian time window smoothing, extracted at different depths: (a) 9.04 km; (b) 12.5 km; (c) 26.2 km and (d) 45.1 km.

Table S1: Range in  $V_P$  values in the downgoing slab low velocity zone LVZ ( $V_{LVZ}$ ) and in the overhanging continental crust ( $V_{cont}$ ) for various subduction zones.

Subduction zone	Reference	$V_{LVZ}$ (km/s)	$V_{cont}$ (km/s)
Alaska	Ye, Flueh, Klaeschen, and von Huene (1997)	4.9 - 5.1	4.6 - 5.1
Antilles	Kopp et al. (2011)	5.5 - 6.0	6.5 - 8.0
Cascadia	Horning et al. (2016)	4.0 - 4.5	4.5 - 6.5
Chile 1	Contreras-Reyes, Greve-meyer, Flueh, and Reichert (2008)	3.5 - 4.8	5.5 - 6.0
Chile 2	Scherwath et al. (2009)	4.5 - 5.0	5.0 - 7.0
Chile 3	Moscoso et al. (2011)	4.5 - 6.0	6.0 - 6.9
Chile 4	Contreras-Reyes, Becerra, Kopp, Reichert, and Díaz-Naveas (2014)	4.0 - 5.0	5.5 - 7.0
Costa Rica 1	Walther, Flueh, Ranero, Von Huene, and Strauch (2000)	5.5 - 6.0	5.7 - 8.3
Costa Rica 2	Sallarès, Dañobeitia, and Flueh (2001)	5.0 - 6.3	5.9 - 7.2
Costa Rica 3	Zhu et al. (2009)	3.0 - 4.0	4.5 - 6.0
Costa Rica 4	Martínez-Loriente et al. (2019)	4.0 - 5.0	4.0 - 6.5
Ecuador 1	Graindorge, Calahorra, Charvis, Collot, and Bethoux (2004)	5.0 - 6.0	6.0 - 6.7
Ecuador 2	Gailler, Charvis, and Flueh (2007)	4.5 - 6.0	4.5 - 6.5
Ecuador 3	Agudelo, Ribodetti, Collot, and Operto (2009)	4.5 - 6.0	6.0 - 7.0
Izu Bonin	Takahashi, Suyehiro, and Shinohara (1998)	4.7 - 6.4	5.7 - 7.4
Java 1	Planert et al. (2010)	3.0 - 4.5	5.0 - 7.6
Java 2	Shulgin et al. (2011)	5.0 - 6.0	5.0 - 7.5
Kuril	Nakanishi et al. (2009)	4.5 - 6.0	6.0 - 8.0
Nankai Trough 1	Kodaira et al. (2000)	5.2 - 5.8	5.2 - 6.7
Nankai Trough 2	Nakanishi et al. (2002)	4.2 - 5.4	5.0 - 6.8
New Zealand	Bassett et al. (2010)	4.9 - 6.3	6.8 - 8.5
Nicaragua 1	Walther et al. (2000)	5.5 - 6.9	5.9 - 8.3
Peru 1	Hampel, Kukowski, Bialas, Huebscher, and Heinbockel (2004)	4.5 - 5.0	4.2 - 5.5
Peru 2	Krabbenhöft, Bialas, Kopp, Kukowski, and Hübscher (2004)	4.0 - 6.1	5.7 - 6.5
Ryukyu	Nishizawa et al. (2017)	5.0 - 6.0	5.0 - 7.0
Sumatra	Klingelhoefer et al. (2010)	5.0 - 6.0	5.0 - 8.0
Solomon	Miura et al. (2004)	5.0 - 6.3	5.3 - 6.9
Taiwan	Klingelhoefer et al. (2012)	5.5 - 6.0	4.5 - 7.0
Tohoku	Miura et al. (2005)	5.5 - 6.6	5.5 - 8.0
Tonga 1	Contreras-Reyes et al. (2011)	5.5 - 6.5	6.0 - 7.5
Tonga 2	Bassett et al. (2016)	3.8 - 4.5	4.5 - 7.9