

1 **Back-propagating rupture evolution within a curved slab during the** 2 **2019 Mw 8.0 Peru intraslab earthquake**

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8

9 **Summary**

10 The 26 May 2019 M_W 8.0 Peru intraslab earthquake ruptured the subducting Nazca
11 plate where the dip angle of the slab increases sharply and the strike angle rotates
12 clockwise from the epicentre to north. To obtain a detailed seismic source model of the
13 2019 Peru earthquake, including not only the rupture evolution but also the
14 spatiotemporal distribution of focal mechanisms, we performed comprehensive seismic
15 waveform analyses using both a newly developed flexible finite-fault teleseismic
16 waveform inversion method and a back-projection method. The source model revealed
17 a complex rupture process involving a back-propagating rupture. The initial rupture
18 propagated downdip from the hypocentre, then unilaterally northward along the strike

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19 of the slab. Following a large slip occurring ~50–100 km north of the hypocentre, the
20 rupture propagated bilaterally both further northward and back southward. The spatial
21 distribution of focal mechanisms shows that the direction of T-axis azimuth gradually
22 rotated clockwise from the epicentre northward, corresponding to the clockwise
23 rotation of the strike of the subducting Nazca plate, and the large-slip area corresponds
24 to the high-curvature area of the slab iso-depth lines. Our results show that the complex
25 rupture process, including the focal-mechanism transition, of the Peru earthquake was
26 related to the slab geometry of the subducting Nazca plate.

27 **Keywords:** Waveform inversion, Body waves, Earthquake dynamics, Earthquake
28 source observations, Dynamics: seismotectonics, Dynamics and mechanics of faulting,
29 Subduction zone processes

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33 1. Introduction

34 Intermediate-depth (70–300 km) earthquakes (Gutenberg and Richter, 1949)
35 occurred within the subducting slab that located beneath or near inland may cause
36 particularly serious damages (e.g. McCloskey et al., 2010; Melgar et al., 2018; Ye et
37 al., 2020). The generation mechanisms of these intraslab earthquakes are still hot-
38 debated. The dehydration embrittlement of the subducting slab due to the high
39 temperature environment in the mantle (e.g. Hacker et al., 2003; Houston, 2007; Di
40 Toro et al., 2011; Derode and Campos, 2019), periodic viscous shear heating
41 instabilities (e.g. Kelemen & Hirth, 2007; Prieto et al., 2013) or adiabatic shear
42 instability (e.g. Renshaw and Schulson, 2013) have been considered as cause of
43 intermediate-depth earthquakes. One of the obstacles to understanding the
44 intermediate-depth earthquakes (especially depth deeper than 100 km) is low activity
45 of aftershocks (e.g. Persh and Houston 2004a). Since it is difficult to estimate the fault
46 size and geometry from aftershock activity, the source characteristics have been
47 estimated mainly by analysing the complex broadband waveforms (e.g. Persh and
48 Houston, 2004b; Tocheport et al., 2007). The moment (M_0) and duration (τ) scaling
49 relation for the deep and intermediate-depth earthquakes has been systematically
50 investigated using the broadband P -waveforms, which shows $\tau \propto M_0^{0.25\sim 0.26}$ (Persh
51 and Houston, 2004b; Poli and Prieto, 2014). According to the results of the dynamic
52 and kinematic finite-fault analysis, the rupture process of large intermediate-depth
53 earthquakes is influenced by the complex stress distribution (e.g. Ide and Takeo, 1996)
54 and the heterogeneities of subducting slab (e.g. Twardzik and Ji, 2015) .

55 On 26 May 2019, a great normal-fault earthquake struck Peru and adjacent areas.
56 The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) determined the origin time 07:41:15 (UTC) on 26
57 May 2019, the hypocentre on 122.6 km deep at 5.812°S, 75.270°W, and the moment
58 magnitude (M_w) 8.0. The 2019 Peru earthquake is the largest event ever recorded in
59 northern Peru (Wong et al., 2012; Villegas-Lanza et al., 2016), one of the most
60 seismically active zones in the world (Perfettini et al, 2010; Sladen et al., 2010), where
61 the oceanic Nazca plate is subducting beneath the South America plate (Somoza and
62 Ghidella, 2005; Prezzi and Silbergleit, 2015) (Fig. 1). The 2019 Peru earthquake is the
63 largest intermediate-depth earthquakes listed in the Global Centroid Moment Tensor
64 (GCMT) Catalog in the last 45 years (Dziewonski et al., 1981; Ekström et al. 2012).
65 The distribution of hypocentral depths of intermediate-depth (70–300 km) earthquakes
66 near the source region is consistent with slab depth changes. According to the GCMT
67 catalog (Dziewonski et al., 1981; Ekström et al., 2012), the focal mechanism of most
68 intraslab earthquakes is normal faulting (Fig. 1). Before the 2019 Peru earthquake,
69 intense seismicity was observed in slab-bending zones, such as between 1.0°S and
70 2.5°S, and between 7.5°S and 9.5°S, but no large earthquake had been recorded in the
71 source area of the 2019 event. Previous studies applied the conventional finite fault
72 inversion to tele-seismic broadband waveforms found that the rupture propagated
73 northward along steeply east-dipping nodal plane in a narrow rupture zone (Ye et al.,
74 2020; Liu and Yao, 2020).

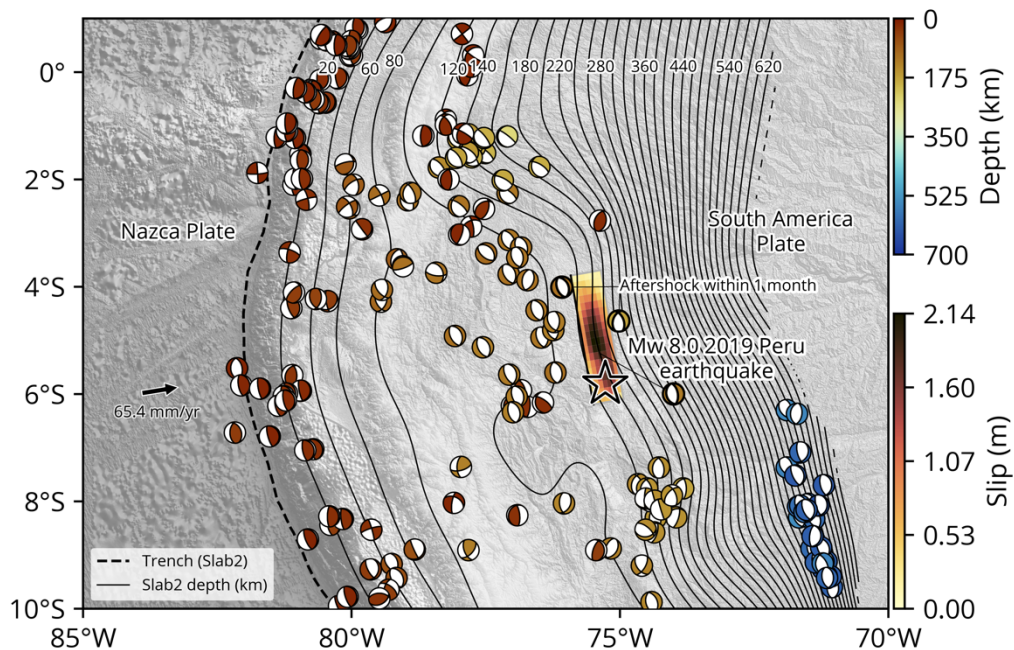
75 In this study, we applied the flexible finite-fault inversion method developed by
76 Shimizu et al. (2020) to the teleseismic body waves of the 2019 Peru earthquake, and

77 then estimated the T-axis azimuth distribution of the obtained focal mechanism
78 distribution to evaluate the relationship between T-axis azimuth variation and the stress
79 field related to the slab geometry.

80 One problem in interpreting the source model of an intermediate-depth earthquake is
81 that it is generally difficult to select a primary fault plane from the two possible nodal
82 planes obtained by moment tensor inversion (e.g., the GCMT solution). Because of the
83 low aftershock activity of most intermediate-depth earthquakes, including the 2019
84 Peru earthquake (Ye et al., 2020), the aftershock distribution may not directly indicate
85 the primary fault plane. In this study, the primary fault plane of the 2019 Peru
86 earthquake was evaluated by the integrated use of waveform inversion and back-
87 projection (BP). BP is useful for tracking the spatiotemporal source evolution of
88 specific seismic phases during large earthquakes (e.g., Ishii et al., 2005; Krüger and
89 Ohrnberger, 2005), but the depth resolution of the method is generally low (Yagi et al.,
90 2012; Kiser and Ishii, 2017). In contrast, finite-fault inversion using teleseismic body
91 waves have better resolution in depth (e.g., Yagi et al., 2004). Complementary use of
92 BP and finite-fault inversion thus helps us to estimate both the rupture evolution and
93 the primary fault plane. Finally, we compared the distributions of the high-frequency
94 radiation sources and the slip rate distribution on the primary fault plane and then
95 constructed an integrated source model from which we inferred the detailed rupture
96 process of the 2019 Peru earthquake.

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100 Figure 1: Overview of the source region of the 2019 Peru earthquake. Black and dashed lines indicate depth contours
 101 of Slab2 model (Hayes et al., 2018) at an interval of 20 km and trench, respectively. The beach balls show the GCMT
 102 solutions (Dziewonski et al., 1981; Ekström et al. 2012) of the $M_w > 5.5$ earthquakes occurred in 1976–2019. The
 103 colour of beach balls represents depth. The thick black-outlined beach balls are the aftershocks of the Peru
 104 earthquake within one month. Black arrow shows the relative motion of the Nazca plate (DeMets et al., 2010). The
 105 slip distribution on the map is from our preferred model (N1) for the 2019 Peru earthquake. The star shows the
 106 epicentre. The rectangle outlines the model plane geometry, and the black line is a top of the model plane.

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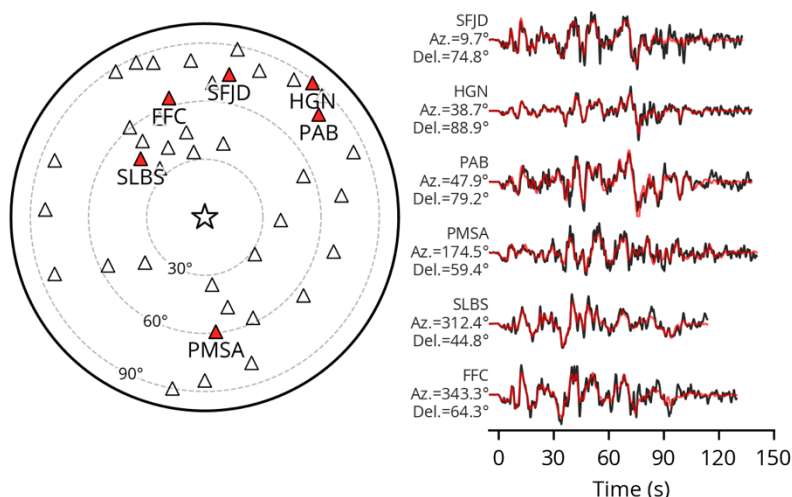
108 2. Data and methods

109 We used the vertical components of teleseismic P -wave data from the Data
 110 Management Center of the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS-
 111 DMC) recorded by stations within an epicentral distance between 30° and 90° .
 112 Teleseismic P waveforms recorded at 41 stations (Table S1) with adequate quality and

113 good azimuthal coverage were selected for use in both the finite-fault inversion and BP
 114 (Fig. 2). We chose the teleseismic *P* waveform because of its well-defined data
 115 covariance components in the inversion formulation (Yagi and Fukahata, 2011) and its
 116 clear first-motion rise, which can be reliably picked. The first motion of the *P*-phase
 117 was manually picked, and the data were converted to velocity data. Then, the velocity
 118 waveforms were resampled at 0.8 s intervals for the finite-fault inversion.

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122 Figure 2: Distribution of teleseismic stations (triangles) and selected waveform fitting between observed (black) and
 123 synthetic waveforms (red). The synthetic waveforms are from the results using the N1 fault plane. The star denotes
 124 the epicentre. The station code, azimuth and epicentral distance are shown on the left of each panel.

125 Finite-fault inversion has been widely used since the 1980s for estimating the
 126 spatiotemporal slip-rate distribution of earthquakes (e.g., Olson and Apsel, 1982;
 127 Hartzell and Heaton, 1983). A linear finite-fault inversion can be used to obtain the

128 slip-rate distribution on an assumed model plane. However, because we never know the
129 true velocity structure under the surface and can rarely get the detailed information of
130 fault geometry, the uncertainty of the Green's function and the uncertainty of the fault
131 geometry together make it difficult to estimate seismic source models in a stable
132 manner (e.g., Yagi and Fukahata, 2011; Duputel et al., 2014; Ragon et al., 2018;
133 Shimizu et al., 2020). Recently, Shimizu et al. (2020) proposed a flexible finite-fault
134 inversion method that mitigates the effect due to the uncertainty of the fault geometry
135 by obtaining the distribution of seismic potency tensors (i.e., spatiotemporal
136 distribution of slip and the fault geometry) along the assumed model plane, and that
137 also mitigates the effect of the uncertainty of the Green's function by appropriately
138 setting the data covariance matrix following Yagi and Fukahata (2011) (see Text S2
139 and Fig. S6). In the flexible finite-fault inversion method, fault slip along the assumed
140 model plane is represented by the superposition of five basis double-couple components
141 (Kikuchi and Kanamori, 1991); then, the possible fault geometry can be inferred from
142 the spatiotemporal variation of focal mechanisms. Thus, to reveal both the slip-rate
143 evolution and fault geometry of the 2019 Peru earthquake, we applied flexible finite-
144 fault inversion to teleseismic P waves.

145 In this study, we set a model plane and assumed that fault slip occurred in the vicinity
146 of this model plane (called the "fault plane" hereafter). Because it is difficult to select
147 the primary fault plane from the two nodal planes of a moment tensor solution, we
148 tested two different fault plane geometries (called N1 and N2) based on the USGS W-
149 phase moment tensor solution (N1: strike = 350° , dip = 53° ; N2: strike = 166° , dip =

150 37°) (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us60003sc0/moment-tensor>,
151 last accessed on 2021-06-15). For both the N1 and N2 models, we considered the fault
152 plane to be 270 km long and 105 km wide, with along-strike 18 grid and along-dip 7
153 grid cells spaced at 15 km intervals in both the strike and dip directions. The theoretical
154 Green's function with a sampling rate of 0.1 s was calculated by the method of Kikuchi
155 and Kanamori (1991). We adopted the hypocentre determined by the USGS as the
156 initial rupture point. For the velocity structure model near the source, we used a one-
157 dimensional velocity model modified from the inferred velocity structure in the Peru
158 region (Kaila et al., 1999; Ma and Clayton, 2014) (Table 1). The travel time, ray
159 parameters, and geometrical spreading factors were calculated based on the ak135
160 reference velocity model (Kennett et al., 1995). For the slip-rate function at each source
161 node, we adopted a linear B-spline function with a temporal interval of 0.8 s and a
162 maximum duration of 55 s, and we assumed the slip rate to be zero after 80 s. We tested
163 maximum rupture-front velocities from 2.5 to 5.0 km/s (Fig. S1). In the range of 2.5 to
164 3.5 km/s, the major rupture area expanded as the assumed maximum rupture-front
165 velocity increased, but in the range of 4.0 to 5.0 km/s (Fig. S1), this dependency became
166 indistinct. In addition, fluctuations of the moment rate function (Fig. S1) were similar
167 among the tested rupture-front velocities. The first peak was during 0–15 s (the initial
168 rupture), and the largest peak was during 15–80 s (the main rupture). On the basis of
169 these results, we selected 4.0 km/s as the maximum optimum rupture-front velocity.

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172 **Table 1.** Velocity model used for calculating Green's function

V_P (km/s)	V_S (km/s)	Density (10^3 kg/m^3)	Thickness (km)
6.00	3.47	2.70	20
6.66	3.85	2.90	20
7.10	4.13	3.05	30
7.80	4.50	3.25	30
8.10	4.70	3.38	90
8.60	5.00	3.55	0*

*0-km thickness means the semi-infinite velocity layer

below the moho depth.

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174 BP is a method used to obtain the spatio-temporal distribution of seismic radiation
 175 sources by waveform stacking that can provide information on rupture acceleration and
 176 deceleration (e.g., Uchide et al., 2013; Okuwaki et al., 2015). The interference between
 177 P and the depth phases (e.g., pP waves) when stacking waveforms is known to degrade
 178 the BP images especially for the large shallow earthquakes (Yagi et al., 2012; Fukahata
 179 et al., 2014). However, as shown in the synthetic test of the BP method (Fig. S5), the
 180 effect of the interference of the depth phases is not significant, and the later events (>30
 181 s) are well resolved. This is because the 2019 Peru earthquake was an intermediate-
 182 depth earthquake, and the P phase and the later depth phases were well separated,

183 making it possible to acquire less-biased BP images (e.g., Suzuki and Yagi, 2011) from
184 which to reliably estimate rupture velocity and, therefore, infer the detailed rupture
185 evolution. Thus, the combined interpretation of the slip models and back-projection
186 images allows the causative fault plane to be deduced – not one method alone either by
187 the finite-fault model or the BP image. In our study, we used the BP method to obtain
188 the primary fault plane and to infer the detailed rupture process, including rupture
189 acceleration and deceleration. To enable comparison of the BP results with the finite-
190 fault inversion, we used the same velocity waveform dataset for the BP as for the
191 waveform inversion (Figs. 2 and S2). Butterworth band-pass filters of 0.3 to 2.0 Hz and
192 0.1 to 0.5 Hz were applied to the velocity waveforms, and then the data were resampled
193 at 0.05 s intervals. We adopted nonlinear n th root stacking ($n = 3$) (Muirhead and Datt,
194 1976) to improve the signal-to-noise ratio of the BP images. The BP images are
195 projected on the 320 km long and 200 km wide fault planes with the same strike and
196 dip angles of the N1 and N2 fault planes, and the spatial grid interval of the possible
197 source area was set to 2 km, which is fine enough to resolve high-frequency radiation
198 sources. The BP procedure adopted in this study is evaluated by the synthetic test (Fig.
199 S5), and we confirm that the input sources are robustly resolved.

200 **3. Results**

201 We constructed two seismic source models, one for each of the two fault plane
202 geometries, N1 and N2 (Fig. 3). In both the N1 and N2 models, the rupture is
203 concentrated in the area from 30 km south to 200 km north of the hypocentre in the

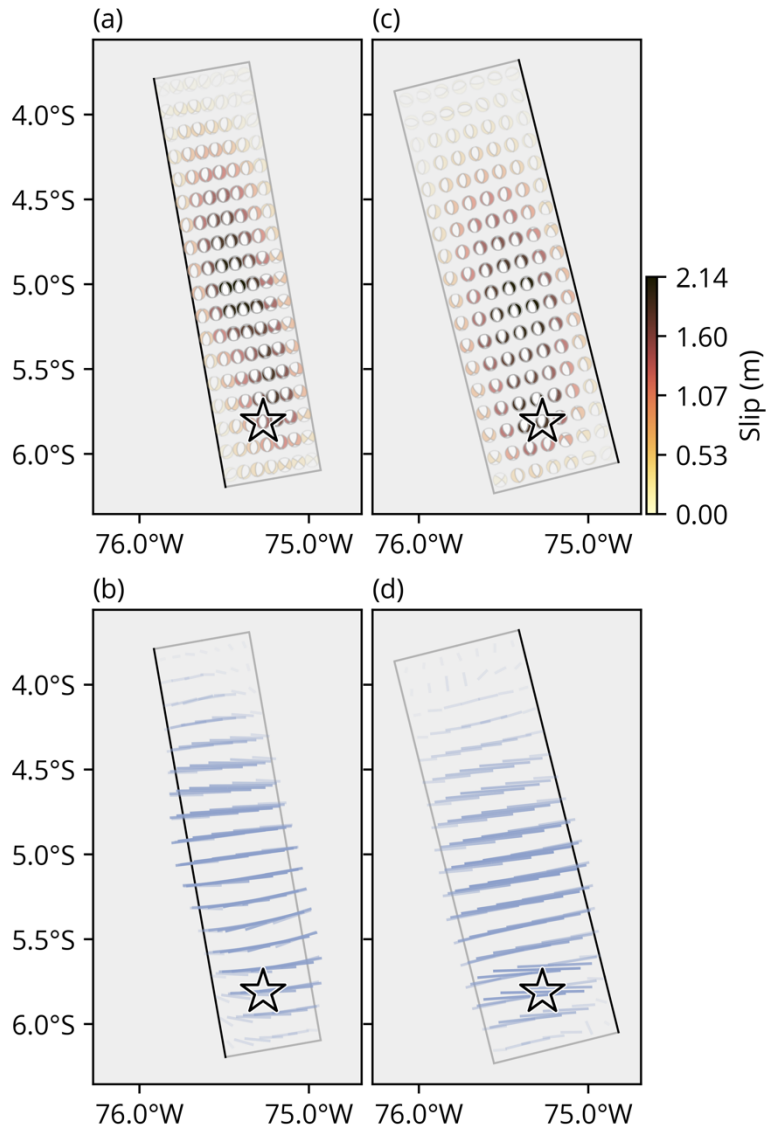
204 along-strike direction. The dominant northern rupture propagation is found on both the
205 two fault planes which is commonly observed in the previous studies (Ye et al., 2020;
206 Vallée et al., 2020; Liu and Yao, 2020); while the rupture propagates eastward on the
207 N1 fault plane and westward on the N2 fault plane.

208 The focal mechanisms in the large-slip area indicate normal faulting, but a small
209 strike-slip component was obtained in the small-slip areas at the northern and southern
210 edges of each fault plane (Figs. 3a, c). In both models, the T-axis azimuth, extracted
211 from the resultant potency-density tensors, gradually rotate in the clockwise direction
212 from the hypocentre toward the northern end of the major rupture area (Figs. 3b, d). T-
213 axis azimuths in the small-slip area are inconsistent with those seen in the large-slip
214 area, possibly because of contamination by later phases and the relatively small slip
215 amplitudes at the northern and southern edges of the fault plane. The inverted total
216 seismic moment was 1.965×10^{21} Nm (M_w 8.1) for the N1 fault plane and 1.931×10^{21}
217 Nm (M_w 8.1) for the N2 fault plane; these values are slightly larger than both the USGS
218 W-phase solution of 1.14×10^{21} Nm (M_w 8.0) and the GCMT solution of 1.23×10^{21}
219 Nm (M_w 8.0). The waveform fittings between observed and synthetic waveforms show
220 good agreement, with variance reductions of 72.3% for the N1 model and 70% for the
221 N2 model.

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226 Figure 3: Static slip distribution of the N1 and N2 models. (a) The beachballs show the moment-tensor solutions

227 from the N1 model. The colour represents the slip. (b) The T-axis azimuth distribution for the N1 model, whose

228 length is scaled with the slip. The star shows the epicentre. The rectangle outlines the model plane geometry. The

229 black line is a top of the model plane. (c) and (d) are the same as (a) and (b) but for the N2 model.

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231 Figure 4 shows snapshots of the N1 and N2 models. In both models, the rupture

232 propagates downdip from the hypocentre for 15 s after the initial break. In the N1 model,

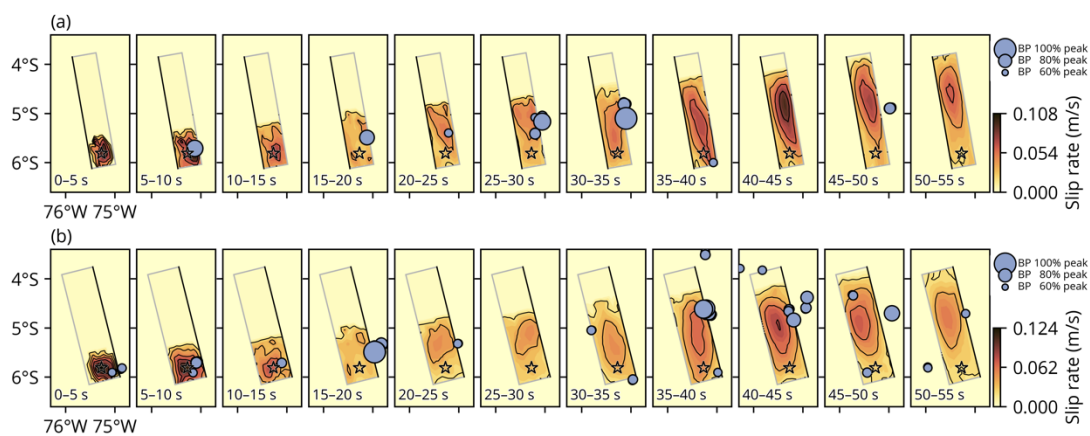
233 the initial rupture propagates eastward, whereas it propagates westward in the N2 model.

234 From 15 to 30 s after the initial break, the rupture propagates unilaterally northward in
235 both models. Then at 30 s, the rupture begins to propagate bilaterally toward both the
236 north and south, and a large slip occurs on the downdip side of the hypocentre near
237 where the initial rupture occurred in both models. Then, 45 s after the initial break, the
238 rupture propagates unilaterally northward again. The rupture finally stops about 200
239 km north of the epicentre. A synthetic test performed to evaluate the robustness of the
240 waveform inversion result showed that these rupture behaviours are well reproduced
241 (see Text S1).

242 We also performed the BP with the fault planes N1 and N2 by computing the travel
243 times between the possible sources and the stations (Figs. 5a and S4a). In both the
244 models using the high-frequency (0.3–2.0 Hz) waveforms, the relatively intense BP
245 signals appear east of the epicenter during the initial rupture process (within ~15 s of
246 the initial break). From 20 to 30 s, another intense BP signals can be seen around 20 to
247 80 km north of the epicenter. At ~40 s, we observed the intense BP signals at 20 km
248 south of the epicenter, then, at ~50 s, another intense BP signals can be seen at 100 km
249 north of the epicenter. We also observe several modest patches of the BP signals in the
250 later time, and it ceased at ~60 s. The low-frequency (0.1–0.5 Hz) BP result (Figs. 5b
251 and S4b) shares the similar spatiotemporal signal distributions with those in the high-
252 frequency BP results; the dominant northern signal migration and the peculiar
253 appearance of the intense BP signals at the southern part of the model space at ~40 s
254 from the hypocentral time, but they show relatively smoother signal distributions than
255 the high-frequency BP results (Figs. 5 and S4).

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259 Figure 4: Snapshots of slip-rate distribution and the BP signals for the N1 and N2 fault planes. The circles indicate

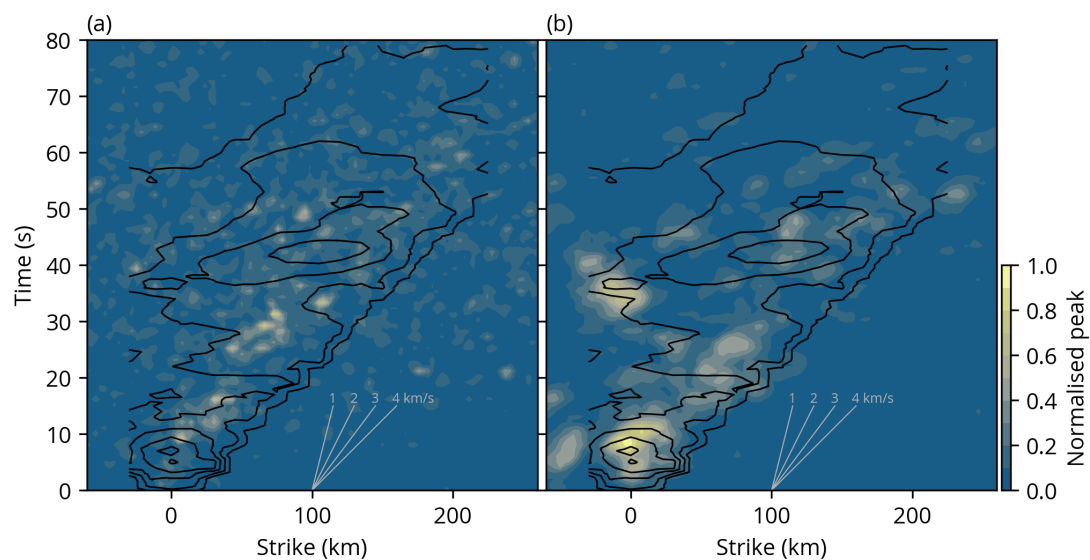
260 the relatively intense BP signals larger than 60% of the maximum peak. The time window of each snapshot is on

261 left-bottom. The black star indicates the epicentre, and the black contour interval of slip-rate is 0.02 m/s. The

262 rectangle outlines the model plane geometry. The black line is a top of the model plane.

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266 Figure 5: Finite-fault inversion and BP results for the N1 fault plane. The background colour shows the normalized
267 peak of the BP results by using the (a) 0.3–2.0 Hz and (b) 0.1–0.5 Hz bandpass filtered waveforms. The contour
268 interval of the slip-rate is 0.02 m/s. The grey lines show the reference rupture speeds.

269

270 **4. Discussion**

271 *4.1. Evaluation of the primary fault plane of the 2019 Peru earthquake*

272 In ordinary finite-fault inversion, the selection of the primary fault plane from the
273 two possible nodal planes obtained from the moment tensor solution is usually based
274 on the aftershock distribution or the surface rupture geometry; then, the slip-rate
275 distribution is estimated for the selected fault plane (e.g., Legrand and Delouis, 1999).
276 However, for an intermediate-depth earthquake associated with low aftershock activity
277 such as the 2019 Peru earthquake, it is difficult to uniquely identify the primary fault
278 plane. It might be possible to select the primary fault plane if the main rupture
279 propagation direction can be determined by examining the pulse width of the observed
280 waveforms (e.g., Legrand and Delouis, 1999). However, even if a seismic source model
281 in which both planes satisfy the major rupture direction can be constructed, selecting
282 the primary fault plane is still difficult because for both fault planes the waveform
283 variances between synthetic and observed waveforms would have nearly identical
284 values (e.g., Julian et al., 1998; Ye et al., 2020). Even though the variance of the
285 waveform fittings differed by 2.3% between our N1 and N2 models indicating that the
286 N1 nodal plane is the causative fault plane, the spatial distribution of the slip and focal

287 mechanisms and the snapshots in both the two assumed fault planes are interpretable
288 and reasonable. The determination of the primary fault plane of the 2019 Peru
289 earthquake by only finite-fault inversion is in doubt, we therefore proposed the way
290 combining with the finite-fault inversion and BP to further evaluate the likeliness of the
291 primary fault plane of the 2019 Peru earthquake.

292 In general, the Green's function of teleseismic body waves describes not only the
293 direct P phase but also phases reflected from the ground surface in the near-source
294 region (i.e., the pP and sP phases), which contain useful information on the depth of
295 the radiation source. In finite-fault inversion, a high resolution in the depth direction
296 can be obtained that can explain waveforms overall, including the reflected phases (e.g.,
297 Yagi et al., 2004). In our study, snapshots of the slip distribution on the N1 and N2 fault
298 planes show spatial differences in rupture propagation (Fig. 4). During the initial
299 rupture, the finite-fault inversion for the N1 model resolved an eastward downdip
300 rupture, whereas the N2 model showed downdip westward propagation. Thus, in both
301 the N1 and N2 models, the finite-fault inversion had good resolution in the depth
302 direction, as shown by the downdip propagation of the initial rupture in both models,
303 but not in the horizontal rupture direction. In contrast, the BP results showed that the
304 initial rupture propagated eastward on both the fault planes (Fig. 4). Similarly, in the
305 finite-fault inversion result for the main rupture on the southern part of the fault plane,
306 the inverted slip near the hypocenter from 35 to 45 s is on the east and west side of the
307 hypocenter in the N1 and N2 model, respectively. In contrast, the BP results showed
308 that P -waves with strong intensity radiated eastward from the epicenter on both the

309 fault planes. Given the consistency of the rupture direction on the N1 fault plane
310 between the inversion and BP imaging results, the rupture paths are located to the east
311 of the epicenter. We therefore selected the eastward-dipping N1 fault plane as likely
312 the preferred fault plane for the 2019 Peru earthquake.

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314 *4.2. Detailed rupture process with a back-propagating rupture*

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316 The initial rupture begins around the hypocentre at 0 to 5 s and then propagates
317 downdip from the hypocentre at a high slip rate. From 15 s, the rupture propagates
318 northward from the epicentre, and a high slip rate is observed north of the epicentre
319 during 15 to 30 s (Fig. 4a). The intense BP signals appear to the east of the epicentre
320 and move north of the epicentre during the first ~15 s. It is known that intense high-
321 frequency waves can be radiated as a result of a rapid change of rupture-front velocity,
322 slip velocity, or both (e.g., Madariaga, 1977; Spudich and Frazer, 1984; Yagi and
323 Okuwaki, 2015). The multiple energy burst spots located around the rupture front
324 correspond to fluctuations in the rupture propagation rate. The patchy BP image may
325 also reflect artifact sources related to the high-frequency reflection/refraction waves. In
326 our BP analysis, however, we use the globally observed stations with the good
327 azimuthal coverage, which could generally enhance the spatial resolution and suppress
328 the known swimming artifacts, originated from using the narrow aperture array stations
329 (Fukahata et al., 2014; Okuwaki et al., 2015). The first peak of the moment rate function
330 (Fig. S1b) also suggests that the first rupture episode with small seismic energy occurs

331 during 0 to 15 s. We therefore inferred that, following the initial rupture propagation
332 downdip from the hypocentre, the rupture propagated unilaterally northward from the
333 epicentre.

334 From 15 to 45 s, a high-slip-rate area appears to the north of the epicenter (15 to 30
335 s) that then expands bilaterally, both northward and southward, from 30 to 45 s (Fig.
336 5). During this rupture stage, we observe the strong BP signals during 15 to 30 s at ~60
337 km north of the epicentre, just before the rupture begins to propagate bilaterally both
338 northward and southward from the epicenter, which suggests the BP signals during 15
339 to 30 s is interpreted as bilateral rupture acceleration, including back-rupture
340 propagation toward the south. During the southward back-rupture propagation, the
341 strong BP signal is observed at ~40 s, around 25 km south of the epicenter (Fig. 6).
342 Because this BP signal is at the southern edge of the rupture zone, where the slip rate
343 decreases, it likely corresponds to the deceleration or termination of the southward
344 back-propagating rupture. Notably, the IRIS-DMC automated BP product also shows
345 weak BP signals at 30 to 40 s near the epicentre
346 (<http://ds.iris.edu/spud/backprojection/17616500>, last accessed on 2021-06-15).
347 Furthermore, Vallée et al. (2020), using the Multitaper-MUSIC BP method (Meng et
348 al., 2011) independently found similar high-frequency signal emissions back-
349 propagating from north to south of the epicentre. If the BP signals during 15 to 30 s and
350 ~40 s are the signature of continuous back-propagation from north to south of the
351 epicentre, then the rupture-front velocity can be estimated as approximately at 4 km/s
352 ($0.85 V_s$) (V_s is the shear wave velocity) along the strike of the fault plane (Fig. 6). Our

353 observation of the back-rupture propagation is similar to what is proposed in the
354 numerical simulations (Gabriel et al., 2012; Idini & Ampuero, 2020) and the recent
355 finding during the M_w 7.1 2016 Romanche transform-fault earthquake (Hicks et al.,
356 2020). Alternatively, a rupture path with a slow rupture-front velocity of <1 km/s could
357 be drawn directly from the initial BP signals during 0-15 s to the BP signals in south of
358 the epicentre ~ 40 s (Fig. 6). Although such the slow rupture migration is possible for
359 the deep earthquakes (e.g. Kanamori et al., 1998; Suzuki and Yagi, 2011), the rupturing
360 path from the hypocentre to ~ 25 km south of the hypocentre (~ 40 s) is not clearly seen
361 from both the finite-fault model and the low-frequency and high-frequency BP results
362 (Figs. 5 and 6), compared to the one from the hypocentre to ~ 60 km north from the
363 hypocentre until ~ 30 s (Figs. 5 and 6). It is also possible that in a narrow model space,
364 such an apparent, sudden stop of the southern rupture behaviour might be artificially
365 observed by finite-fault inversion. We tested this hypothesis by adopting a longer model
366 space, with 60 km model plane length south of the epicentre, and we confirmed that,
367 consistent with the rupture behaviour in the shorter model space, the southward rupture
368 robustly stopped at ~ 30 km south of the epicentre (Fig. S7).

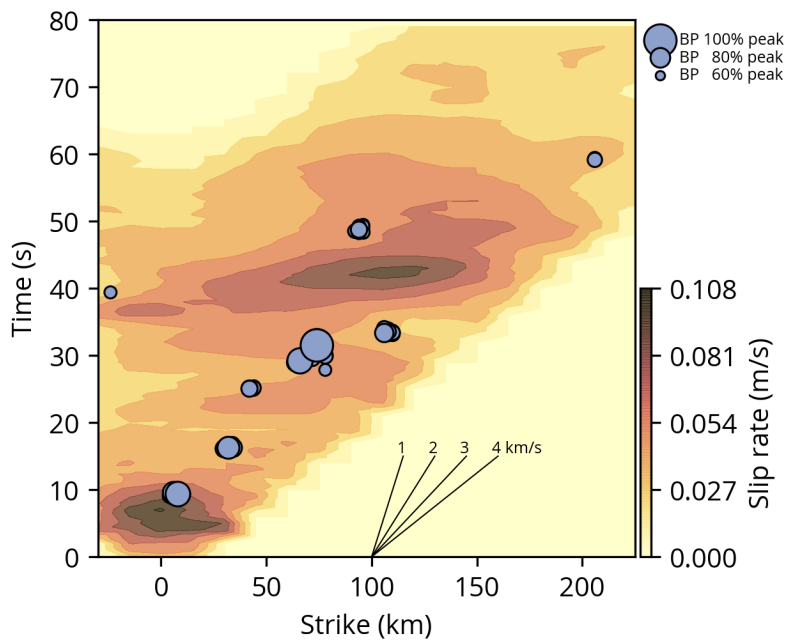
369 Following the north-south bilateral rupture, the rupture pattern returns to northern
370 unilateral propagation. At ~ 50 s, we observe the BP signals at ~ 100 km north of the
371 epicentre (Fig. 6). The high-slip rate associated with the BP signals at 100 km north of
372 the epicentre can therefore correspond to northward rupture acceleration. Then, the
373 rupture propagation finally halts in the area ~ 200 km north of the epicentre (Fig. 6).

374 Thus, the BP signals at ~60 s can correspond to rupture deceleration at the northern
 375 edge of the fault plane, indicating termination of the rupture.

376

377

378



379

380 Figure 6: Time evolution of slip rate and the BP along the strike direction for the N1 fault plane. The lines show the
 381 reference rupture speeds.

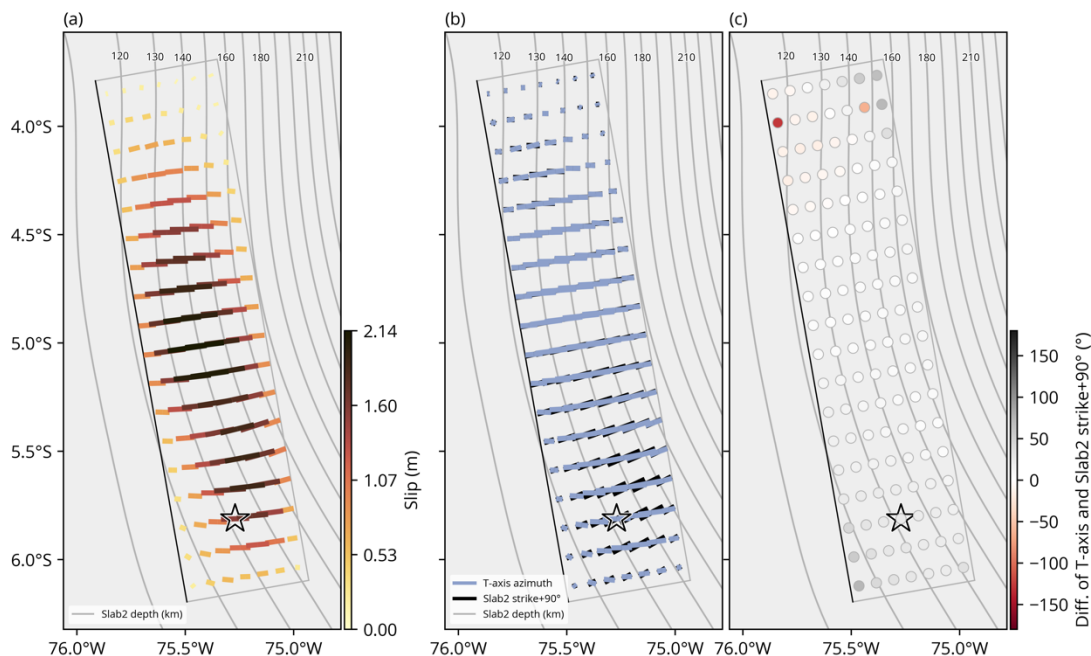
382

383 The distribution of T-axis azimuths, extracted from the resultant potency-density
 384 tensors, shows gradual clockwise rotation from the epicentre northward, and the large-
 385 slip area from 50 to 150 km north of the hypocentre corresponds to the high curvature
 386 area of the slab iso-depth lines (Fig. 7). The synthetic test showed that the T-axis
 387 azimuth rotation was well restored in the output model (Fig. S3b). The rotation of the
 388 T-axis azimuths is well correlated with that of the slab strike. In general, accumulation

389 of extensional stress associated with slab bending is one cause of intraslab earthquakes
390 (e.g., Astiz et al., 1988; Okuwaki and Yagi, 2017). The apparent consistency between
391 the T-axis azimuths and the slab geometry suggests that the 2019 Peru earthquake was
392 caused by extensional stress generated by the slab bending and that the rupture process
393 of the 2019 Peru earthquake was controlled by the slab geometry. While Ranero et al.
394 (2005) found that, in Middle America and Chile subduction zones, the patterns of
395 nodal-planes orientation of intermediate-depth earthquakes in slab is similar to those of
396 the near-trench bending-related earthquakes, which is not consistent with the slab
397 geometry, suggesting that the intermediate-seismicity is a result of reactivation of faults
398 formed by the plate bending near the trench. Given the possible uncertainty of slab-
399 geometry model and the limited seismicity in the source region of the 2019 Peru
400 earthquake, however, it is difficult to uniquely eliminate either the possibility of fault
401 reactivation or the slab bending for the occurrence of the 2019 Peru earthquake alone,
402 and a future study, together with a high-resolution bathymetry map of the sea-floor
403 fabric, will evaluate whether this rotation of the T-axis azimuth along ~200-km-long
404 fault is a result of fault reactivation. We also note that it is possible that the T-axis
405 rotation observed in this study does not necessarily represent the curved geometry of
406 the one sole fault, but also indicates the distinct multiple faults either aligned along the
407 orientation of the slab, or independently aligned by the other structures in the slab, e.g.,
408 the inherited ocean fabrics developed before the subduction, though these possibilities
409 are currently difficult to discriminate primarily because of the limited spatial resolution
410 of our teleseismic finite-fault inversion.

411

412



413

414 Figure 7: (a) Spatial distribution of T-axis azimuth distribution in the N1 fault plane. (b) The comparison between

415 T-axis azimuth for the N1 fault plane and the Slab2 model (Hayes et al., 2018). The contours are iso-depths (km) of

416 the Slab2 model (Hayes et al., 2018). The The rectangle outlines the model plane geometry. The black line is a top

417 of the model plane.

418

419 The inverted source model shows a complex rupture pattern, including back-rupture

420 propagation and the rotation of T-axis azimuth, but the total slip distribution in the

421 inverted model was smoother than in previous studies (e.g., Liu and Yao, 2020; Ye et

422 al., 2020). This difference in smoothing may be explained by the fact that we used a

423 seismic source model with high degrees of freedom and determined the optimal values

424 of the hyperparameters, including smoothing strength, by minimizing Akaike's

425 Bayesian Information Criterion (Akaike, 1980; Yabuki and Matsu'ura, 1992; Yagi and

426 Fukahata, 2011). It is worth noting that the smooth source model well explains the
427 characteristics of the observed velocity waveforms, including the high-frequency
428 components (Fig. S2).

429

430 *4.3. Scaling relationships and the abnormal source characteristics of the 2019 Peru* 431 *earthquake*

432

433 The physical nature of the intermediate-depth intraslab earthquake, especially the
434 ones occurring at deeper than 100 km, is generally difficult to investigate, primarily
435 because of the lack of aftershock (e.g., Persh and Houston 2004a). Yet, by analysing
436 the complex broadband waveforms, the source characteristics of the deep intermediate-
437 depth intraslab earthquakes have been investigated. The scaling relationship between
438 the source duration τ and the seismic moment M_0 is found to follow $\tau \propto M_0^{0.25\sim 0.26}$
439 (Persh and Houston, 2004b; Poli and Prieto, 2014). Whilst our preferred finite-fault
440 model for the N1 fault plane shows the source duration at 80 s and the seismic moment
441 of 1.965×10^{21} Nm, which is over two times longer than the expected duration (~ 35
442 s) from the scaling relationship (Persh and Houston, 2004b). The stress drop of the deep
443 and intermediate-depth earthquakes is generally larger than the shallow crustal
444 earthquakes. For example, Poli and Prieto (2016) found the median stress drop 14.8
445 MPa through the measurements of the source duration and the radiated seismic energy,
446 which reflects the variety of large frictional stresses for the deep and intermediate-depth
447 earthquake. We estimated the stress drop $\Delta\sigma_0$ for the 2019 Peru earthquake by the

448 relationship with the seismic moment M_0 and the fault area S of $\Delta\sigma_0 = 2.5M_0/S^{1.5}$
449 (Kikuchi and Fukao, 1980). By assuming an effective fault area as $200 \times 90 \text{ km}^2$ and
450 the seismic moment $1.965 \times 10^{21} \text{ Nm}$ of our preferred N1 model, the stress drop
451 estimates 2.03 MPa, which is comparable to the estimates by Ye et al. (2020). The
452 estimated stress drop for the 2019 Peru earthquake is significantly lower than the
453 median stress drop for the deep and intermediate-depth earthquakes (Poli and Prieto,
454 2016). Those abnormal source characteristics of the 2019 Peru earthquake collectively
455 suggests the rupture complexity among the multiple rupture stages involving the back-
456 rupture propagating, which contributes to the longer source duration, and the highly
457 heterogeneous distribution of fault strength/stress that enables the abnormal back-
458 rupture propagation.

459

460 **5. Conclusion**

461 We applied a newly developed finite-fault teleseismic waveform inversion method
462 and the BP method to estimate the detailed rupture process of the 2019 Peru intraslab
463 earthquake. Integrated use of the finite-fault inversion and BP methods made it feasible
464 to select the primary fault plane of the main shock, because the finite-fault inversion
465 and the BP were consistent in showing eastward rupture propagation only on an east-
466 dipping fault plane during the rupture process. Our study revealed that the 2019 Peru
467 earthquake ruptured a steeply dipping normal fault with multiple rupture episodes. The
468 initial downdip and eastward rupture episode around the hypocentre was followed by a

469 northward rupture episode. Then, the main bilateral rupture episode propagated both
470 northward and southward of the epicentre and was followed by a unilateral northward
471 rupture episode. Most notably, the southern wing of the main bilateral rupture back-
472 propagated through the initial rupture area. The estimated potency-density tensor for
473 each source element in the finite-fault model revealed that the clockwise rotation of T-
474 axis azimuths corresponded well to the change in the strike of the Nazca slab in the
475 large-slip area. These findings suggest that the 2019 Peru earthquake resulted from
476 extensional stress generated by slab bending and the source process was controlled by
477 the slab geometry.

478

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496 (IM; <https://www.fdsn.org/networks/detail/IM/>); the Global Seismograph Network (IU;
497 <https://doi.org/10.7914/SN/IU>), the Global Telemetered Seismograph Network (GT;
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