

# Shear-wave Anisotropy in the Earth's Inner Core

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## Key Points:

- We observe shear-wave anisotropy in the Earth's inner-core based on time and amplitude variations of earthquake coda-correlation wavefield
- Inner-core shear waves travel faster for oblique than equatorial angles relative to Earth's rotation axis by at least ~5s (~0.8% anisotropy)
- The new observations rule out one of the bcc-iron models in the inner core, although we cannot uniquely determine the dominating model

## Keywords:

Earth's inner core; Shear-wave anisotropy; Iron crystal structure

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**21 Abstract**

22 Earth's inner core anisotropy is widely used to infer the deep Earth's evolution and present dynamics.  
23 Many compressional-wave anisotropy models have been proposed based on seismological observations.  
24 In contrast, inner-core shear-wave (J-wave) anisotropy – on a par with the compressional-wave anisotropy  
25 – has been elusive. Here we present a new class of the J-wave anisotropy observations utilizing earthquake  
26 coda-correlation wavefield. We establish that the coda-correlation feature I2-J, sensitive to J-wave speed,  
27 exhibits time and amplitude changes when sampling the inner core differently. J-waves traversing the  
28 inner core near its center travel faster for the oblique than equatorial angles relative to the Earth's rotation  
29 axis by at least  $\sim 5$  s. The simplest explanation is the J-wave cylindrical anisotropy with a minimum  
30 strength of  $\sim 0.8\%$ , formed through the lattice-preferred-orientation mechanism of iron. Although we  
31 cannot uniquely determine its stable iron phase, the new observations rule out one of the body-centered-  
32 cubic iron models.

**33 Plain Language Summary**

34 Earth's inner core anisotropy – the directional dependence of seismic wave speed in the inner core –  
35 contains essential information of deep Earth's structure and dynamics. It results from a preferred  
36 alignment of iron crystals related to the formation and post-formation dynamics of the inner core. Many  
37 studies have investigated the inner core anisotropy observed for compressional waves. In contrast, possible  
38 anisotropy for the inner-core shear waves remains elusive. This study presents a new class of inner-core  
39 shear-wave anisotropy observations based on recent advances in earthquake coda-correlation wavefield.  
40 We find that the coda-correlation feature I2-J, sensitive to the inner-core shear-wave speed, exhibits  
41 variable timing and amplitude for sampling the inner core in different directions. Quantitatively, inner-  
42 core shear waves travel faster for at least  $\sim 5$  s in directions oblique to the Earth's rotation axis than  
43 directions parallel to the equatorial plane. The simplest and most plausible explanation for our

44 observations is the inner-core shear-wave anisotropy with a strength of  $\sim 0.8\%$  or higher. We can rule out  
45 at least one of the body-centered-cubic iron models in the inner core, although the other models are not  
46 distinguishable.

## 47 **1 Introduction**

48 It has been eight and a half decades since the discovery of the Earth's inner core (IC) (Lehmann, 1936).  
49 Understanding the IC structure and dynamics is of high priority to geoscientists, given its active role in  
50 the Earth's evolution (Tkalčić, 2017). This includes coupling with the liquid outer core, which sustains  
51 the geodynamo (Braginsky, 1963; Buffett et al., 1996) and possibly affects the lowermost mantle  
52 dynamics (Aubert et al., 2008; Gubbins et al., 2011), and even the processes at Earth's surface (Biggin et  
53 al., 2015). One direction in IC studies is its elastic anisotropy. The anisotropy strength and volumetric  
54 dependence may help decipher the IC evolution and its current state (Tkalčić, 2017). This is because the  
55 anisotropic properties reveal a preferred alignment of iron crystals (Stixrude & Cohen, 1995; Steinle-  
56 Neumann et al., 2001; Belonoshko et al., 2008) formed during the solidification (Karato 1993; Bergman,  
57 1997) or post-solidification deformation progress (Jeanloz & Wenk, 1988; Yoshida et al., 1996; Wenk et  
58 al., 2000) coupled with the geodynamo (Karato, 1999; Buffett & Wenk, 2001). However, it is uncertain  
59 which type of iron crystal, hexagonal-close-packed (hcp) (Stixrude & Cohen, 1995; Steinle-Neumann et  
60 al., 2001) or body-centered-cubic (bcc) (Vočadlo et al., 2003; Belonoshko et al., 2008; Calvet & Margerin,  
61 2008) structure, is stabilized in the IC.

62

63 Pioneering studies characterized the anisotropy based on faster compressional waves traversing the IC in  
64 directions quasi-parallel to the Earth's rotation axis than in equatorial directions (Poupinet et al., 1983;  
65 Morelli et al., 1986; Woodhouse et al., 1986; see also Shearer et al., 1988; Creager, 1992; Tromp, 1993).  
66 However, subsequent observations revealed more complex anisotropic properties of the IC (Figure 1),  
67 such as a quasi-isotropic thin layer in the upper IC (e.g., Shearer, 1994; Song & Helmberger, 1995) and a  
68 hemispherical dichotomy of the IC (e.g., Tanaka & Hamaguchi, 1997; Niu & Wen, 2001; Waszek & Deuss,  
69 2011). Notably, the innermost part of the IC (IMIC) was found to present distinct anisotropic behavior

70 from the outer IC (OIC) (e.g., Ishii & Dziewoński, 2002; Beghein & Trampert, 2003; Cormier &  
71 Stroujkova, 2005; Stephenson et al., 2021). Studies in the last two decades reveal that the slowest direction  
72 of compressional-wave propagation in the IMIC is tilted relative to the Earth's rotation axis, while in the  
73 OIC, it is equatorial. But this contrast is not well constrained due to limited observations for IC central  
74 part that require source-receiver pairs close to  $180^\circ$ .

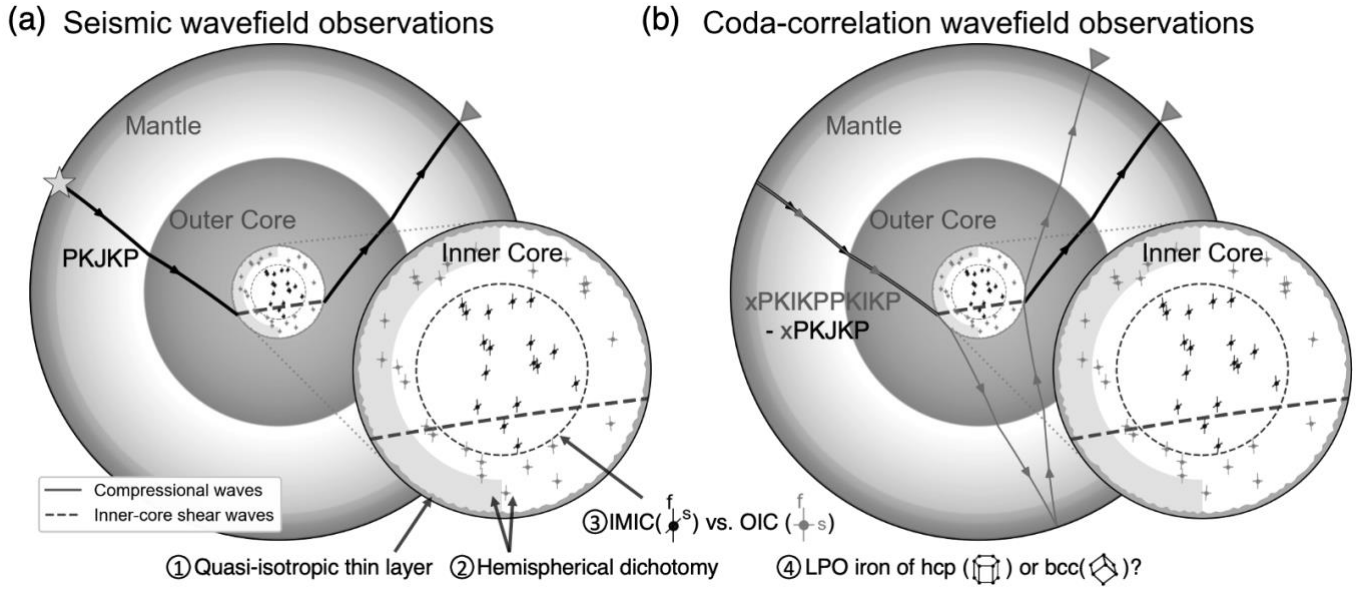
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76 More observational evidence is required to reconcile these properties and the different mechanisms behind  
77 them. However, the existing observations are limited to IC compressional-wave anisotropy. Possible  
78 anisotropy for IC shear waves (J waves) that constrains the central part of the IC remains elusive. To our  
79 best knowledge, there are minimal direct observations of J waves (Julian et al., 1972; Okal & Cansi, 1998;  
80 Deuss et al., 2000; Cao et al., 2005; Wookey & Helffrich, 2008), likely because of the very weak amplitude  
81 of J waves (Shearer et al., 2011).

82

83 Here we present a new observation of IC shear-wave anisotropy based on recent advances in global coda-  
84 correlation wavefield (Phạm et al., 2018; Wang & Tkalčić, 2020; Tkalčić et al., 2020). We observe stable  
85 time and amplitude variations for the coda-correlation feature I2-J (Tkalčić & Phạm, 2018) sensitive to J-  
86 wave speed at the periods 15-50 s when its constituents sample the IC in different directions. The I2-J is  
87 formed by pairs of seismic waves (Figures 1b and 2a-c). We argue that the observed variations are due to  
88 IC shear-wave anisotropy based on analyzing and eliminating multiple possible causes. We then evaluate  
89 the J-wave anisotropy strength and examine various iron crystal models which can cause anisotropy. We  
90 show that J waves traveling in directions oblique to the Earth's rotation axis travel faster than those  
91 traveling in the equatorial plane. Although we cannot utilize J waves in planes parallel to the rotation axis

92 and determine whether the hcp or bcc iron model dominates the IC from our observations alone, we show  
 93 that we can rule out one bcc model from many candidate models.



94  
 95 **Figure 1.** Complex anisotropic IC sampled by seismic wavefield and coda-correlation wavefield. The  
 96 observed complexities shown in the insets are explained in the main text. (a) Ray path for a PKJKP wave  
 97 from an event (star) to a receiver (triangle). The dashed line indicates the IC shear wave (J wave). (b) A  
 98 diagram for correlation feature I2-J formed due to the similarity between two seismic waves:  
 99 xPKIKPPKIKP (xI2) and xPKJKP (xJ) recorded at two receivers (triangles), respectively. “x” in the  
 100 nomenclature represents any common combination of ray legs for the two seismic waves and is not shown.  
 101 The dashed line indicates the J wave for the pair xI2-xJ. Other pairs of seismic waves contributing to I2-J  
 102 and the resultant diverse J-wave directions are explained in the main text and shown in Figure 2.

103  
 104 **2 The Observations and Confirmation of J-wave Anisotropy from Coda-correlation Wavefield**

105 We compute earthquake coda-correlation wavefields for I2-J features following Phạm et al. (2018) and  
 106 Wang and Tkalčić (2020). The I2-J is formed due to the similarity of seismic waves in a plane proximal  
 107 to the great-circle plane defined by a receiver pair (Tkalčić & Phạm, 2018; Wang & Tkalčić, 2020).  
 108 Multiple seismic waves can contribute to forming PKIKPPKIKP-PKJKP (I2-J) in a great-circle plane,  
 109 such as xPKIKPPKIKP-xPKJKP (xI2-xJ) and xPKIKPPKIKPPKIKP-xPKJKPPKIKP (xI3-xJI) (Figures  
 110 2a-c), in which “x” represents the common ray legs for a pair of seismic waves. Therefore, we cannot

111 uniquely define the direction for an individual J-wave ray path for the feature I2-J. Accordingly, we bin  
112 great-circle planes based on the angle  $\varphi$  for which  $90^\circ - \varphi$  is the angle between the plane's normal and  
113 the Earth's rotation axis. Figures 2d-f showcase quasi-equatorial ( $\varphi \sim 90^\circ$ ), oblique ( $\varphi \sim 50^\circ$ ), and quasi-  
114 polar ( $\varphi \sim 0^\circ$ ) planes. In each of the planes, J-wave directions vary. In the quasi-equatorial plane, J-wave  
115 directions are exclusively quasi-equatorial. J-wave directions can range from equatorial to oblique in the  
116 oblique plane, and the more oblique the plane gets, the more versatile J-wave directions become. In the  
117 quasi-polar plane, J waves can take arbitrary directions.

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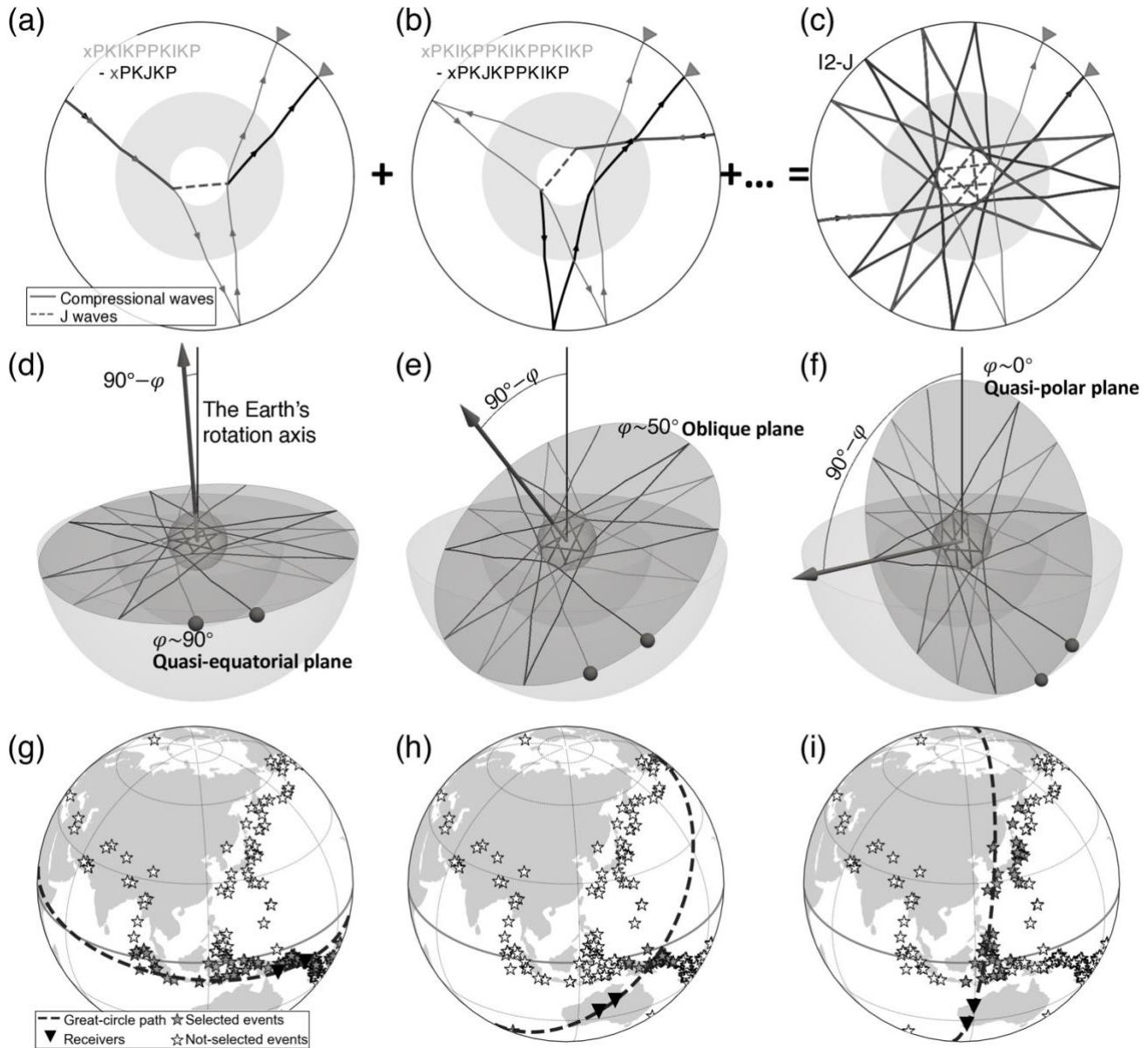
119 We then select the events with hypocenters proximal to the great-circle planes (Figures 2g-i). We  
120 empirically select events close to the great-circle path for a spherical distance smaller than  $15^\circ$ , and  
121 exclude those farther than  $15^\circ$  (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020). After the selection, for specific  $\varphi$ , the I2-J is  
122 predominantly sensitive to the Earth structure proximal to the great-circle plane (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020).  
123 We consider global events regardless of their epicentral distances. Any event close to the great-circle plane  
124 can contribute to forming the correlation feature I2-J (Figures 2a-c). Subsequently, we compute coda-  
125 correlation stacks for different  $\varphi$  ranges, with a step of  $10^\circ$  (Figure S4; see Methods section in the  
126 supporting information), and we conclude that I2-J is not prominently visible in all ranges. We, therefore,  
127 compute stacks for  $20^\circ$ -wide bins (Figures 3a-b).

128

129 As shown in Figure 3, I2-J exhibits a variation in time for different  $\varphi$  ranges. We find that the I2-J timing  
130 for the bin  $\varphi = 40^\circ - 60^\circ$  (oblique planes) lags  $\sim 5$  s behind the bin  $\varphi = 60^\circ - 80^\circ$  (quasi-equatorial planes)  
131 (Figures 3a-d) via slant-stack analyses (see Methods section in the supporting information). This time  
132 variation is robust given that the I2-J is a stacked cross-correlation feature based on ten-year recordings  
133 for globally distributed events and receivers (Figure S1). We test the stability of time variations by

134 analyses with denser bins (Figures 3g-i, S6, and S7) and bootstrap experiments (Figure S8 and Methods  
 135 section in the supporting information).

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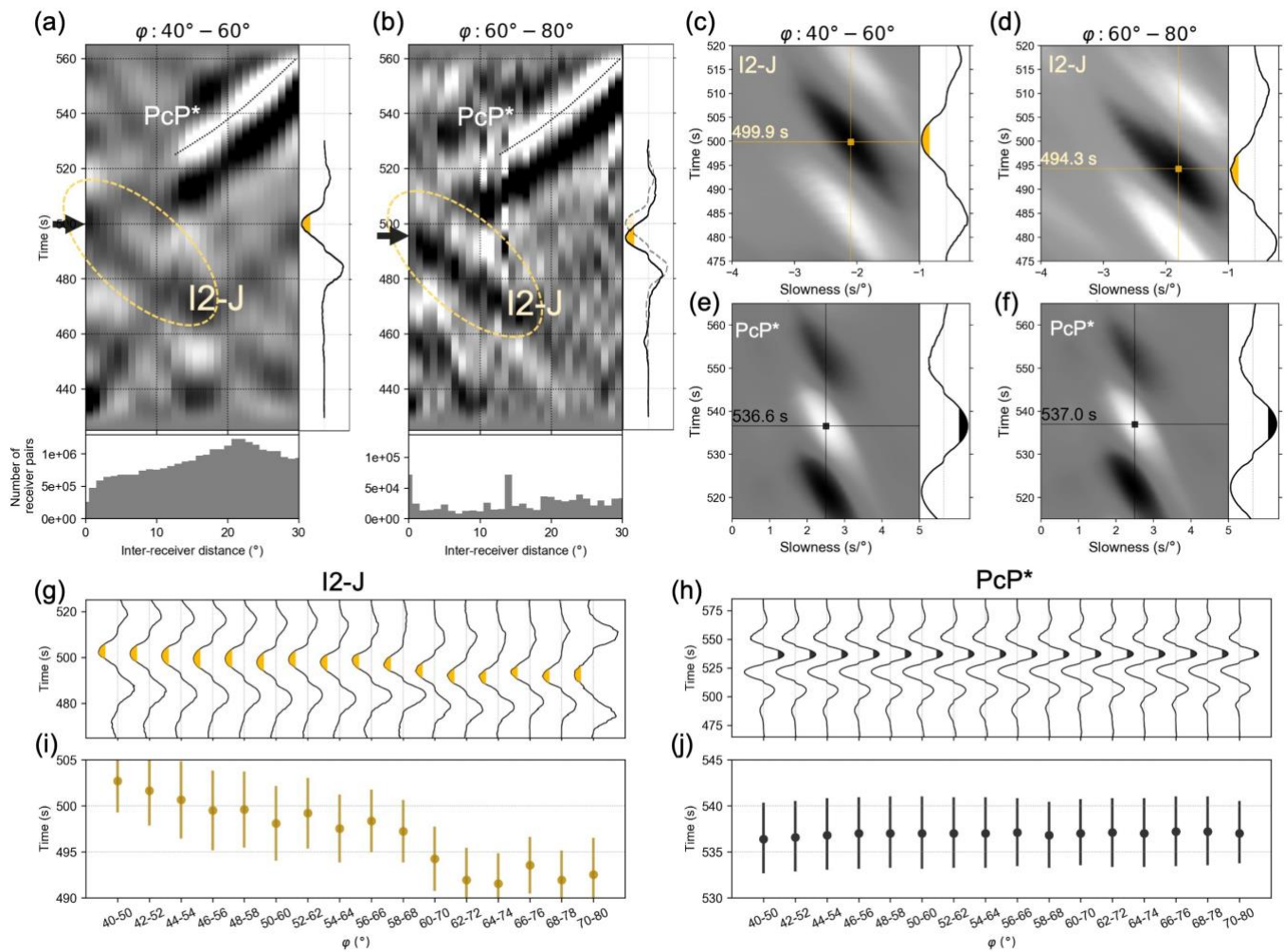
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138 **Figure 2.** The ray-path geometry of the coda-correlation feature I2-J. (a) The I2-J can be formed by the  
 139 interference between two seismic waves: xPKIKPPKIKP (xI2) and xPKJKP (xJ), recorded at two  
 140 receivers (triangles), respectively. The “x” represents the common propagation legs for the two waves.  
 141 The dashed line represents the IC shear waves (J waves). (b) The I2-J formed by another two seismic  
 142 waves: xPKIKPPKIKPPKIKP (xI3) and xPKJKPPKIKP (xJI). (c) Combined (a), (b) plus other pairs not



143 shown in a) and b) (xI4-xJI2, xI5-xJI3, xI6-xJI4, xI7-xJI5) that contribute to the correlation feature I2-J.  
 144 (d) I2-J ray paths inside a quasi-equatorial great-circle plane ( $\varphi \sim 90^\circ$ ). The plane passes through two  
 145 receivers (black balls). The angle between the plane's normal (black arrow) and the Earth's rotation axis  
 146 is defined as  $90^\circ - \varphi$ . All J-wave ray paths in the quasi-equatorial plane are in quasi-equatorial directions  
 147 (relative to the Earth's rotation axis). (e) Same as d) but for an oblique plane ( $\varphi \sim 50^\circ$ ). The J-wave ray  
 148 paths exhibit a range of equatorial and oblique directions relative to the Earth's rotation axis. (f) Same as  
 149 d) but for a quasi-polar plane ( $\varphi \sim 0^\circ$ ). The J-wave ray paths are in arbitrary directions relative to the Earth's  
 150 rotation axis. (g) An example showing a selection of events (stars) for a quasi-equatorial great-circle plane  
 151 for two receivers (black triangles). We select events within the spherical distance of  $15^\circ$  to the great-circle  
 152 path and exclude those farther than  $15^\circ$ . (h, i) Similar to (g) but for oblique and quasi-polar planes,  
 153 respectively.

154  
 155



156

157 **Figure 3. Observations of IC shear-wave anisotropy in coda-correlation wavefield.** (a, b) Coda-  
 158 correlograms and frequency histograms of receiver pairs in different inter-receiver distance bins for two  
 159  $\varphi$  ranges: (a)  $40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , (b)  $60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ .  $\varphi$  is defined in Figure 2; yellow ellipses and black arrows indicate the  
 160 coda-correlation feature I2-J sensitive to the IC shear-wave speed; dotted lines indicate the feature PcP\*.  
 161 Positive correlation amplitudes are in white shades, and negative are in black shades; the intensity of the  
 162 black or white indicates the amplitude strength. The I2-J waveform stacks are shown alongside the  
 163 correlograms. (c, d) Slant stacks of I2-J for the two different  $\varphi$  ranges,  $40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , and  $60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ , respectively.  
 164 The yellow dots correspond to the lower branch of the I2-J cusp. Each slant stack is normalized with  
 165 respect to the maximal amplitude. The I2-J waveform stacks are shown alongside the slant stacks. (e, f)  
 166 Similar to (c, d) but for PcP\*. (g, h) I2-J and PcP\* waveform stacks based on slant stacks for different  $\varphi$   
 167 ranges. Colored areas correspond to stack amplitudes greater than 80% of the maximum. (i, j) Time  
 168 measurements of the I2-J and PcP\* waveform stacks. Dots correspond to the stacks' maximum amplitudes.  
 169 Vertical bars correspond to the time range of the colored area in (g, h).

170

171 To explain the time variation, we consider multiple possibilities, similar in the scope to analyses of IC  
 172 compressional-wave travel times (e.g., Poupinet et al., 1983; Morelli et al., 1986; Shearer et al., 1988;  
 173 Creager, 1992). The possible explanations for our observations are 1) mantle structure, core-mantle-  
 174 boundary (CMB) topography, and ellipticity of the Earth, 2) outer-core (OC) heterogeneity, 3) IC  
 175 heterogeneity, 4) IC compressional-wave anisotropy, and 5) IC shear-wave anisotropy. In short, these  
 176 considerations show that the shear-wave anisotropy is the simplest and most likely cause for the observed  
 177 travel time variations.

178

179 Considering the first cause, the correlation stacks for each  $\varphi$  range correspond to a laterally-averaged  
 180 mantle due to the mixture of raypaths at diverse directions (Figure 2). Hence, the signature from mantle  
 181 heterogeneity, CMB topography, and Earth's ellipticity is averaged out. This is evident via the correlation  
 182 feature PcP\*, sensitive to the mantle structure, CMB topography, and Earth's ellipticity. Namely, for  
 183 different  $\varphi$ , PcP\* is nearly invariant compared to I2-J (Figures 3g-j), that the measured time variation for

184 PcP\* is less than 0.5 s (Figures 3e-f). In conclusion, mantle structure, CMB topography, or Earth's  
185 ellipticity cannot reconcile such a difference between I2-J and PcP\*.

186

187 As far as the OC heterogeneity is considered, effects due to possible OC structure are mitigated due to the  
188 diverse I2-J ray paths in the OC (Figure 2). Notably, the bulk of the OC is well-mixed and homogeneous  
189 due to vigorous convection (Stevenson, 1987). Romanowicz et al. (2003) showed that OC tangent-cylinder  
190 structure could explain PKP observations, although this was later disputed (e.g., Souriau et al., 2003; Ishii  
191 and Dziewoński, 2005). Therefore, the possibility of a complex structure in the OC affecting I2-J is even  
192 smaller than 1) to explain the I2-J variations.

193

194 IC heterogeneity requires significant structural anomalies in the bulk of the IC. If such anomaly  
195 distribution indeed exists, there should also be evidence in compressional-wave travel time observations.  
196 However, that has not been observed for the bulk of the IC (Shearer, 1994). The observed lateral variation  
197 in travel times for the waves sampling the upper parts of the IC (Tanaka & Hamaguchi, 1997; Niu & Wen,  
198 2001; Yee et al., 2014) is not sufficiently large to explain our observations. In conclusion, IC heterogeneity  
199 would have to be more complex than the IC shear-wave anisotropy.

200 The IC has been hypothesized to be cylindrically anisotropic for compressional waves based on seismic  
201 travel times (Morelli et al., 1986; Shearer et al., 1988; Creager, 1992) and normal modes (Woodhouse et  
202 al., 1986; Tromp, 1993). PKIKP waves propagate faster along the rotation axis than along equatorial  
203 directions. However, the IC compressional-wave anisotropy cannot explain the observed time difference  
204 for I2-J. The IC compression waves (I-wave legs) contributing to I2-J do not penetrate deep into IC. The  
205 I waves sample the topmost IC at a maximal depth less than 10 km below the IC boundary (ICB) (Figure  
206 S11), and the total travel time for the I legs is less than 50 s. Therefore, if the IC compressional-wave

207 anisotropy were the cause for our observations, it would have to be at least 10% in the topmost 10 km of  
208 the IC, which has not been observed. Quite to the contrary, a thin layer in the upper IC is revealed to be  
209 quasi-isotropic (e.g., Shearer, 1994; Song & Helmberger, 1995).

210

211 The IC can be anisotropy for shear waves due to lattice-preferred orientation (LPO) of iron crystal in either  
212 hcp (Steinle-Neumann et al., 2001; Stixrude & Cohen, 1995) or bcc (Belonoshko et al., 2008; Calvet &  
213 Margerin, 2008; Vočadlo et al., 2003) models in the IC hypothesized for explaining the compressional-  
214 wave anisotropy. By invoking these models, theoretical computations predict travel-time difference up to  
215 a few tens of seconds for J waves sampling the whole bulk of the IC in different directions (Song, 1997;  
216 Stixrude & Cohen, 1995; Vočadlo et al., 2009). That is sufficient to explain the observed ~5 s time  
217 difference via invoking a portion of LPO of iron inside the IC. The J-wave anisotropy might be different  
218 in the OIC and the IMIC because the same is true for the P-wave anisotropy (e.g., Ishii & Dziewoński,  
219 2002; Beghein & Trampert, 2003; Cormier & Stroujkova, 2005; Stephenson et al., 2021). However, from  
220 the observations of I2-J, we cannot distinguish between the OIC and the IMIC. As shown in Figure S11,  
221 the J waves contributing to I2-J sample the bulk of the IC from the ICB to depth ~815 km below the ICB,  
222 and that is similar for all I2-J at different inter-receiver distances. Therefore, the observed ~5 s time  
223 difference for I2-J corresponds to an aggregated J-wave anisotropy for the whole bulk of the IC.

224

225 J-wave anisotropy is also supported by the varied strength of the I2-J cusp for different angle  $\varphi$  ranges.  
226 The I2-J cusp presents weaker amplitude for  $\varphi$  in the range  $40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$  than in  $60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$  (Figures 3a-b), and  
227 loses its visibility when  $\varphi$  approaches  $0^\circ$  although there are still a large number of cross-correlation pairs  
228 (Figure S4). When  $\varphi$  is close to  $0^\circ$ , the J waves contributing to I2-J sample the IC at varying angles relative  
229 to the Earth's rotation axis (Figure 2f) and hence have notable different travel times due to anisotropy.

230 Namely, the time difference due to shear-wave anisotropy can be up to tens of seconds, as predicted (Song,  
231 1997; Stixrude & Cohen, 1995; Vočadlo et al., 2009). The time difference between J waves can decrease  
232 the amplitude of their stacks when forming I2-J (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020). To test the effect of anisotropy  
233 on the strength of I2-J, we perform a synthetic experiment (see Methods section in the supporting  
234 information). As shown in Figure S10, J waves interfere destructively for polar and polar-oblique planes,  
235 yielding a decrease in the amplitude of I2-J stacks. The observations confirm that.

236

237 In contrast, since all J waves have sufficiently similar travel times for the equatorial and quasi-equatorial  
238 planes, they constructively interfere to form a clear I2-J feature. That is evident by the strong I2-J  
239 amplitude for  $\varphi$  in  $60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$  although the number of receiver pairs is less than one-tenth of those at other  
240  $\varphi$  ranges (Figures 3a-b and S4). We cannot rule out attenuation anisotropy in the IC (Mäkinen et al., 2014;  
241 Souriau & Romanowicz, 1996), which would also contribute to explaining the unclear I2-J feature. Strong  
242 attenuation in polar directions would weaken a portion of J waves constituting I2-J for  $\varphi$  close to  $0^\circ$ . But  
243 for  $\varphi$  close to  $90^\circ$ , the constituents of I2-J do not suffer from the strong attenuation effects, and their stacks  
244 result in visible I2-J features.

245

### 246 **3 The Anisotropy Strength and Implications for the Stable Phase of Iron and Viscosity**

247 Based on the above rationale, we evaluate the IC shear-wave cylindrical anisotropy strength by defining  
248 the angle  $\xi$  as the angle between the individual J-wave raypath and the Earth's rotation axis (Figure 4a;  
249 Shearer et al., 1988; Tkalčić, 2015). For I2-J in a plane defined by  $\varphi$ , the angles  $\xi$  of contributing J waves  
250 are distributed in the interval from  $\varphi$  to  $90^\circ$  (Figure 2). The observed I2-J travel time corresponds to an  
251 averaged J wave at those different  $\xi$  angles. We evaluate that the J waves are faster for at least  $\sim 5$  s at the  
252 oblique angles ( $\xi=40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ ) than at the equatorial angles ( $\xi=60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ ) (see Methods section in the

253 supporting information). The  $\sim 5$  s time difference sets a minimum bound of shear-wave anisotropy  
254 strength to  $\sim 0.8\%$ . We do not have enough resolution for polar angles due to the unclear I2-J when  $\varphi$   
255 approaches  $0^\circ$  (Figure S4). The  $\sim 0.8\%$  J-wave anisotropy is comparable to the  $\sim 1\%$  based on direct seismic  
256 body wave observations (Wookey & Helffrich, 2008).

257

258 Unlike some other coda-correlation features (e.g., I2\* in Wang & Tkalčić (2020)), I2-J cannot be separated  
259 into unambiguous (timing-wise) constituents (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020). Hence, we cannot determine the  
260 travel times of individual J waves along different raypaths. This prevents us from observing J-wave  
261 splitting into two polarized shear waves (quasi-SV and quasi-SH) propagating at different speeds.  
262 Furthermore, the quasi-SH in the IC can be relatively weaker than the quasi-SV because of its ineffective  
263 conversion from and to the P waves at the ICB. Nevertheless, the J-wave observations derived from coda-  
264 correlation stacks correspond to an average of two split shear waves.

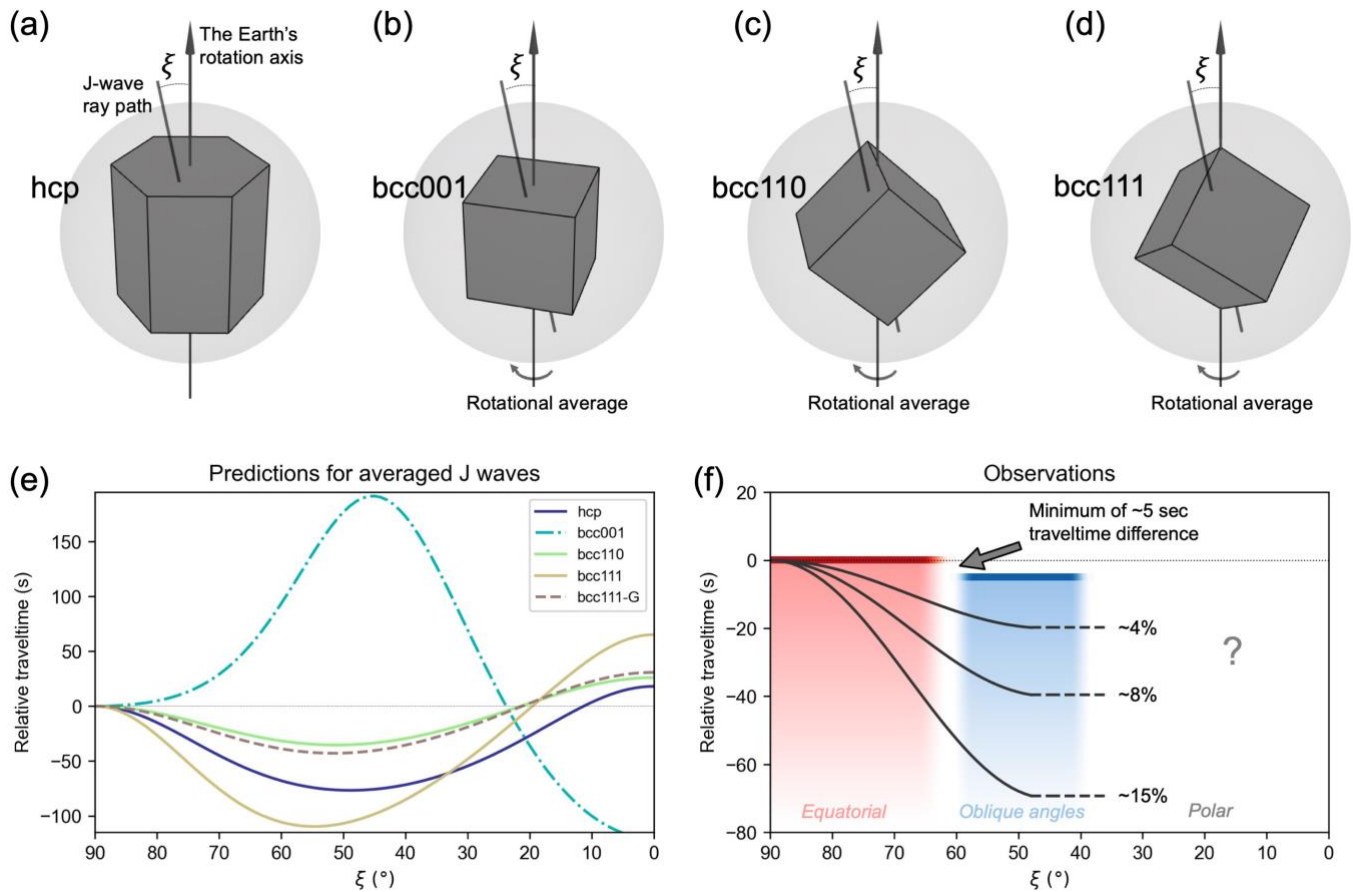
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266 Various crystallographic models have been suggested to explain the cylindrical anisotropy of the IC based  
267 on compressional-wave observations, as summarized in many studies (e.g., Mattesini et al., 2010;  
268 Romanowicz et al., 2016; Vočadlo et al., 2009). Although we cannot obtain an evaluation for J-wave  
269 anisotropy based on the full range of angles  $\xi$ , we can check each model's compatibility with our  
270 observations. We consider the following models: hcp with its  $c$  axis quasi-parallel to the Earth's rotation  
271 axis (Figure 4a) and bcc with different crystal alignments (bcc001, bcc110, and bcc111, shown in Figures  
272 4b-d). We calculate averaged J-wave velocities by assuming a single crystal for the whole IC (see Methods  
273 section in the supporting information). As shown in Figure 4e, the bcc001 model predicts slower J waves  
274 at oblique ( $\xi=40^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ ) than equatorial directions ( $\xi=60^\circ$ - $90^\circ$ ). That is the opposite of our observation. In  
275 contrast, the hcp, bcc110, and bcc111 models predict faster J waves at oblique than equatorial directions,

276 in agreement with our observation. Therefore, bcc001 can be excluded from candidate IC iron models.  
277 However, we cannot distinguish between the hcp, bcc110, and bcc111 models because they give similar  
278 travel time curves (Figure 4e). This is somewhat similar to the conclusion drawn based on direct body  
279 wave observations at shorter periods (Wookey & Helffrich, 2008), in which different models yield similar  
280 J-wave anisotropy. Both this study and Wookey & Helffrich (2008) rely on theoretical computations of  
281 elasticity for iron crystals. Wookey & Helffrich (2008) prefers an hcp model with its  $c$  axis perpendicular  
282 to the Earth's rotation axis considering the fastest P-waves at directions perpendicular to the  $c$  axis  
283 (Steinle-Neumann et al., 2001), however opposite anisotropic properties for the hcp iron were reported by  
284 different studies, related to temperature and pressure uncertainty (e.g., Antonangeli et al., 2006; Stixrude  
285 & Cohen, 1995; Vočadlo et al., 2009).

286

287 Furthermore, the predictions for single crystals exhibit much stronger anisotropy than the observations. A  
288 portion of the iron crystal's LPO, related to crystal defects or grain boundaries, could decrease the  
289 anisotropy strength. We set a model for imperfect crystal alignment (bcc111-G in Figure 4e). We set a  
290 Gaussian distribution of the cubic main diagonal orientations around the Earth's rotation axis, and the  
291 Gaussian distribution has its half maximum at  $30^\circ$ . This imperfect crystal alignment reduces the anisotropy  
292 strength from 25.1% (bcc111) to 10.8% (bcc111-G). The crystal imperfections are also suggested to be a  
293 reason for the lower rigidity of the IC in observations than in experimental predictions (Belonoshko et al.,  
294 2007).



295

296 **Figure 4.** Hcp and bcc models for IC shear-wave anisotropy. (a-d) Diagrams of hcp and bcc models for  
 297 iron crystal in the IC.  $\xi$  is the angle between J-wave ray paths and the Earth's rotation axis. The hcp model  
 298 has its  $c$  axis parallel to the Earth's rotation axis. The bcc001, bcc110, and bcc111 have the cube edge,  
 299 face diagonal, and main diagonal parallel to the rotation axis, respectively. (e) J-wave travel time  
 300 predictions as a function of the angle  $\xi$  for the models shown in (a-d). bcc111-G corresponds to an  
 301 imperfect crystal alignment for bcc111 (see main text). Elastic properties for different models are listed in  
 302 Table S1. (f) Illustration of the observed relative travel times in this study. The curves indicate shear-wave  
 303 anisotropy models of different strengths.

304

305 The analyses above are based on the J-wave speed variation between oblique and equatorial directions.  
 306 We lack constraints in polar directions due to unclear I2-J in polar planes ( $\varphi$  close to  $0^\circ$ ). In polar planes,  
 307 J waves contributing to I2-J sample the IC at varying angles ( $\xi=0^\circ-90^\circ$ ) and thus have highly variable  
 308 travel times due to cylindrical anisotropy, which decreases I2-J amplitude via non-constructive stacking



309 (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020). A more complex asymmetric IC model departing from the cylindrical anisotropy  
310 (Romanowicz et al., 1996) can increase travel time variability and further decrease the amplitude of I2-J.  
311 The anisotropy asymmetry may imply a slow translation in addition to the preferential equatorial growth  
312 of the IC (Romanowicz et al., 1996; Frost et al., 2021). Currently, the coda-correlation observations cannot  
313 provide constraints on some proposed complex models, but they do not rule out models of asymmetric  
314 anisotropy and large-scale low-order convection in the IC ( Romanowicz et al., 1996; Frost et al., 2021).  
315 A delicate grouping of I2-J with respect to longitude may shed light on the asymmetric anisotropy;  
316 however, care should be taken due to the unequal distribution of great-circle planes as a function of  
317 longitude (Figure S3).

318

319 The IC shear-wave anisotropy can bias estimation of the attenuation structure, which is an essential  
320 parameter in understanding the viscosity and the related mineral physics and dynamics of the IC (Souriau  
321 & Romanowicz, 1996; Tkalčić & Phạm, 2018). For example, the attenuation strength can be overestimated  
322 from the coda-correlation wavefield observations if anisotropy is not considered, as noted by Tkalčić &  
323 Phạm (2018). The amplitude of a correlation feature can decrease due to the stacking contributions  
324 affected by anisotropic travel times (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020). As shown in a synthetic experiment (Figure  
325 S10), the anisotropy for a simple hcp model in the IC can result in amplitude reduction >80% for I2-J  
326 stacks from  $\varphi=85^\circ$  to  $\varphi=5^\circ$  without adding any attenuation effect.

327

#### 328 **4 Conclusion**

329 We observe travel time and amplitude variations for coda-correlation feature I2-J, which confirms the  
330 existence of shear-wave anisotropy in the bulk of the IC. The shear waves traverse the IC near its center  
331 faster in directions oblique to the Earth's rotation axis than in the equatorial directions. The observed travel

332 time difference is  $\sim 5$  s, which translates to the apparent anisotropy strength of  $\sim 0.8\%$ . However, given the  
333 increasing versatility in J-wave raypath directions for the planes progressing from equatorial to polar  
334 angles, we cannot utilize the quasi-polar planes, and  $0.8\%$  is the lower estimate of the anisotropy strength.  
335 The anisotropy can be explained by invoking a portion of LPO of iron either in hcp or bcc structure.  
336 Currently, our observations rule out the bcc001 structure, but other iron structures are not distinguishable.  
337 A delicate grouping of coda-correlation stacks may help reveal a complex IC anisotropy. Further  
338 proliferation of seismographs worldwide, including the ocean floor, will provide uniform coverage of  
339 coda-correlation observations and resolve trade-offs between anisotropic and attenuative structures.

340

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*Geophysical Research Letters*

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Supporting Information for

533

## **Shear-wave Anisotropy in the Earth's Inner Core**

534

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535

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538

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### **Methods**

549

#### *Computation of earthquake coda-correlation wavefield*

550

We compute earthquake coda-correlation wavefield following Phạm et al. (2018) and Wang and Tkalčić

551

(2020). First, for global events and receivers (Figure S1), we select late-coda recordings in 3-9 h after

552

events' origin time. We perform temporal normalization to suppress surface waves and spectral whitening

553

to balance energy across the entire frequency band (Phạm et al., 2018). Then, we compute cross-

554

correlation functions for recordings at each pair of receivers. We select the events close to the great-circle

555 plane passing through the two receivers due to their dominant and constructive contribution to coda-  
556 correlation's formation (Wang & Tkalčić, 2020). We empirically discard the events being spherically  
557 farther than  $15^\circ$  from the great-circle plane (Figures 2c,e,g). For two receivers at the same location, the  
558 great-circle plane passes through the receivers and an event. Finally, we bin and stack the correlation  
559 functions with respect to the inter-receiver distance and filter the stacked correlograms with a 15-50 s  
560 (0.02-0.067 Hz), second-order, zero-phase bandpass filter.

561

562

### 563 Grouping coda-correlation functions for different I2-J stacks

564 We group correlation functions based on the geometry of events and receiver pairs. As shown in Figures  
565 2 and S2, we can define a great-circle plane passing through the two receivers for each receiver pair. For  
566 two receivers at the same location, the great-circle plane passes through the receivers and an event. For  
567 each great-circle plane, we can define an angle  $\varphi$  for which  $90^\circ - \varphi$  is the angle between the plane's  
568 normal and the Earth's rotation axis. We select receiver pairs having  $\varphi$  in the same bin (Figure S3), and  
569 then we use those receiver pairs to compute I2-J stacks. For varied  $\varphi$ , we get different I2-J correlograms  
570 (Figures 3 and S4), and they sample the IC differently (Figure 2).

571

572 Figure S5 shows the histograms for the number of receiver pairs relative to angle  $\varphi$  and inter-receiver  
573 distance. There is a cliff-like change for  $\varphi$  crossing  $\sim 56^\circ$ . That is because there is a limited number of  
574 stations close to the equator. Most stations, especially the USArray stations, the stations in East Asia and  
575 Europe, are at medium and high latitudes (Figure S1). The great-circle plane defined by any two  
576 receivers cannot be close to the equator plane ( $\varphi=90^\circ$ ). Specifically, the southernmost stations of the  
577 USArray are at latitudes  $\sim 30^\circ\text{N}$  (Figure S1), and hence the largest  $\varphi$  for great-circle-planes defined by  
578 any two USArray stations is  $\sim 60^\circ$ . Given the dominance of USArray stations, there is a sharp reduction  
579 near  $56^\circ$  in Figure S5. The column spike for  $\varphi \sim 69^\circ$  and inter-receiver distance  $\sim 15^\circ$  corresponds to the  
580 cross-correlations between two networks. The two networks are at  $\sim 20^\circ\text{N}$  and are  $\sim 15^\circ$  away from each  
581 other. Several local-scale networks match such criteria, such as the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa  
582 networks or Central America and the Caribbean Sea networks.

583

584

585 *Slant-stack analysis*

586 We perform slant stacking to transform the coda-correlation wavefield in distance-time ( $x-t$ ) domain into  
 587 slowness-delay time ( $\tau-p$ ) domain (Chapman, 1981):

$$588 \quad s(\tau, p) = \sum_i c(\tau + p(x_i - x_0), x_i), \quad (1)$$

589 in which  $c(t, x)$  represents coda-correlation correlograms, and  $s(\tau, p)$  the slant stacks. To form a slant  
 590 stack, each waveform  $c(t, x_i)$  at a distance  $x_i$  is shifted in time by  $p(x_i - x_0)$ , and then all shifted  
 591 waveforms are stacked together. The time shift depends on the reference distance  $x_0$ . For I2-J slant stacks,  
 592 we choose  $x_0 = 0^\circ$ . We search for the maximal amplitude point  $(\tau_0, p_0)$  that corresponds to the optimal  
 593 stack. The  $\tau_0$  and  $p_0$  correspond to the time and slowness of I2-J at  $0^\circ$ , respectively. We choose  $x_0 = 20^\circ$   
 594 for PcP\* slant stacks and the resultant  $\tau_0$  and  $p_0$  correspond to the time and slowness of PcP\* at  $20^\circ$ . Also,  
 595 from two-dimensional slant stacks, we can extract the waveform stack  $s(\tau, p_0)$  that are time series with  
 596 the obtained  $p_0$ . The waveform stacks for I2-J and PcP\* are shown in Figures 3, S6-S8.

597

598 The correlation feature I2-J has two branches in correlograms (Figure S4). We only use the lower branch  
 599 of the I2-J cusp for slant-stacking analysis. That brings better accuracy and reliability for several  
 600 reasons. As shown in Figure 3, the lower branch is visible in a larger distance range than the upper  
 601 branch. Second, the lower branch is less contaminated by the strong feature PcP\* than the upper branch.  
 602 Third, the I2-J lower branch has a negative moveout while the PcP\* presents a positive one, making  
 603 them distinctive in the  $\tau-p$  domain.

604

605

606 *Bootstrap experiments*

607 Due to the complex composition of J waves in forming I2-J stacks, we perform bootstrap experiments to  
 608 test the stability of time measurements from the coda-correlation wavefield. We re-compute correlograms  
 609 200 times with random samples of receiver pairs, and then for each correlogram, we compute slant stacks  
 610 and waveform stacks for I2-J and PcP\*. As shown in Figure S8, the I2-J time variation between  $\varphi=40^\circ$ -  
 611  $60^\circ$  and  $\varphi=60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$  is stable. Similarly, the PcP\* time is stable, and it is nearly invariant between  $\varphi=40^\circ$ -  
 612  $60^\circ$  and  $\varphi=60^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ .

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616 *Evaluation of IC shear-wave speed at different directions*

617 We compute coda-correlation stacks for different  $\varphi$  ranges (Figure 2). We note that for  $\varphi$  angles varying  
 618 from the equatorial to polar, I2-J corresponds to J waves sampling the IC in fundamentally different ways  
 619 (Figures 2d,e,f). Namely, in a plane defined by  $\varphi$ , J waves propagating at different angles  $\xi$  in the interval  
 620 from  $\varphi$  to  $90^\circ$  (Figures 2 and S2) contribute to the I2-J stack. The observed I2-J travel time corresponds  
 621 to an averaged J wave speed at different  $\xi$  angles.

622

623 Specifically, for the bin  $\varphi=40^\circ-60^\circ$ , the I2-J is a result of J waves for  $\xi=40^\circ-90^\circ$ , and for the bin  $\varphi=60^\circ-$   
 624  $80^\circ$ , the I2-J is a result of  $\xi=60^\circ-90^\circ$ . Accordingly, the  $\sim 5$  s time difference between  $\varphi=40^\circ-60^\circ$  and  
 625  $\varphi=60^\circ-80^\circ$  (Figure 3) represents J-wave travel-time difference between  $\xi=40^\circ-90^\circ$  and  $\xi=60^\circ-90^\circ$ . For  
 626 that, J waves must be faster for at least  $\sim 5$  s at  $\xi=40^\circ-60^\circ$  (oblique angles relative to the Earth's rotation  
 627 axis) than at  $\xi=60^\circ-90^\circ$  (equatorial angles).

628

629

630 *Calculation of IC shear-wave speed*

631 We calculate the shear wave speed for an anisotropic IC with low-order harmonics approximations  
 632 following Song (1997):

$$633 \quad \rho V_{S1}^2 = C_{44}(\sin^4 \xi + \cos^4 \xi) + (C_{11} + C_{33} - 2C_{44} - 2C_{13})\sin^2 \xi \cos^2 \xi, \quad (2)$$

$$634 \quad \rho V_{S2}^2 = \frac{(C_{11} - C_{12})}{2} \sin^2 \xi + C_{44} \cos^2 \xi, \quad (3)$$

635 in which  $V_{S1}$  and  $V_{S2}$  are IC shear waves with polarization parallel to meridians and the equator,  
 636 respectively,  $\rho$  the density,  $\xi$  the angle between J-wave ray paths and the Earth's rotation axis, and  $C_{11}$ ,  
 637  $C_{33}$ ,  $C_{44}$ ,  $C_{12}$ ,  $C_{13}$  the elastic constants for a cylindrically anisotropic (or transversely isotropic) medium:

$$638 \quad \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & C_{14} & C_{15} & C_{16} \\ & C_{22} & C_{23} & C_{24} & C_{25} & C_{26} \\ & & C_{33} & C_{34} & C_{35} & C_{36} \\ & & & C_{44} & C_{45} & C_{46} \\ & & & & C_{55} & C_{56} \\ & & & & & C_{66} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{1111} & C_{1122} & C_{1133} & C_{1123} & C_{1113} & C_{1112} \\ & C_{2222} & C_{2233} & C_{2223} & C_{2213} & C_{2212} \\ & & C_{3333} & C_{3323} & C_{3313} & C_{3312} \\ & & & C_{2323} & C_{2313} & C_{2312} \\ & & & & C_{1313} & C_{1312} \\ & & & & & C_{1212} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

639 in which  $(c_{ijkl})$   $i, j, k, l = 1, 2, 3$  represents the tensor for elastic constants. We calculate the moduli for  
 640 models with different crystal alignments using the coordinate transformation law (Auld, 1990):

$$641 \quad c_{mnop} = a_{mi} a_{nj} a_{ok} a_{pl} c_{ijkl} \quad (i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p = 1, 2, 3), \quad (5)$$

642 in which  $(a_{ij})$  is the matrix for coordinate transformation. The elastic constants for different IC iron  
 643 models are in Supplementary Table 1. We calculate the averaged shear wave speed following Lin et al.,  
 644 (2010) and Mao et al., (2008):

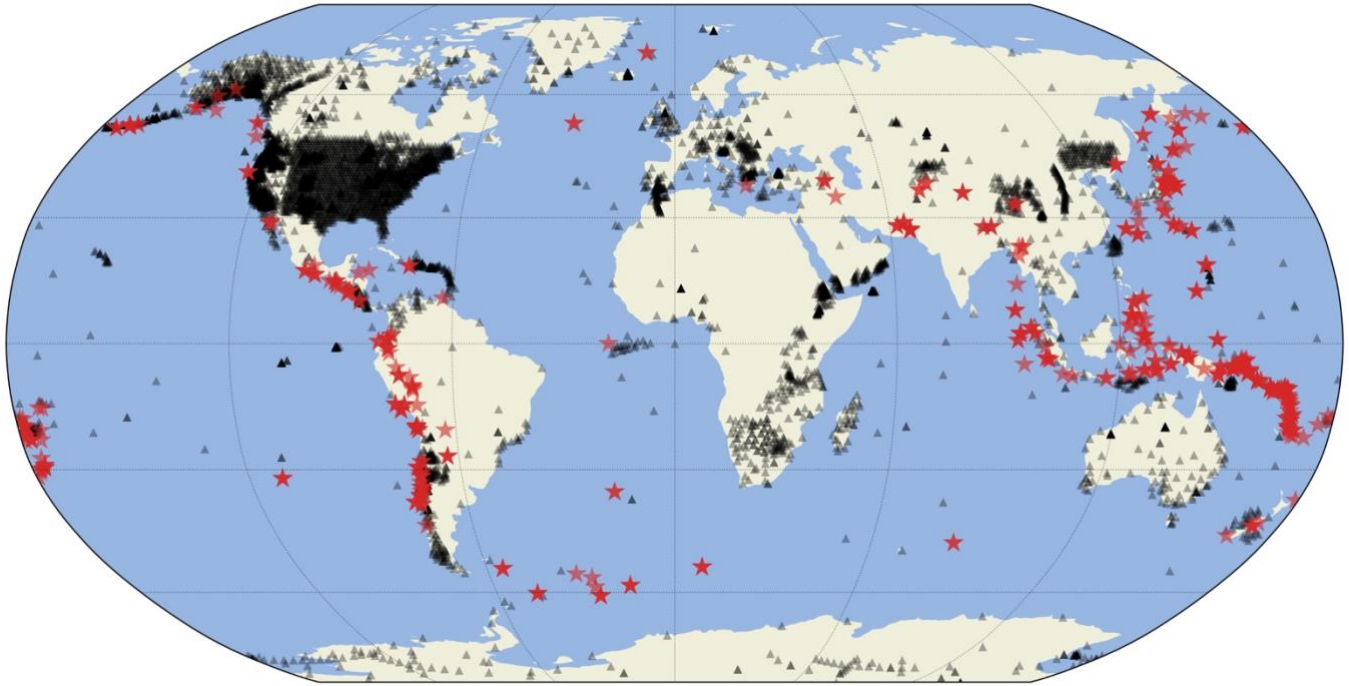
$$645 \quad \frac{2}{v_S^3} = \frac{1}{v_{S1}^3} + \frac{1}{v_{S2}^3}, \quad (6)$$

646 in which  $V_{S1}$  and  $V_{S2}$  are speed of J waves of the two polarizations. Calculation results for different models  
 647 are in Figure S9.

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 649  
 650 *Synthetic experiments for IC shear wave stacks at different  $\varphi$  angles*

651 We perform synthetic experiments to show how IC shear-wave anisotropy can decrease the amplitude of  
 652 I2-J stacks when  $\varphi$  approaches  $0^\circ$ . We set an IC model made of a single crystal of hcp structure (Figure 4  
 653 and Table S1). We then calculate the relative travel times and produce synthetic waveforms for J waves  
 654 propagating in different directions. We do not consider the compressional-wave anisotropy in the IC,  
 655 because the compressional waves (I waves) contributing to the I2-J feature sample the topmost IC at  
 656 maximal depths less than 10 km below the ICB (Figure S11c). Apart from that, the thin layer (thickness  
 657 of a few tens of kilometers) in the upper IC was suggested to be quasi-isotropic or weakly anisotropic (less  
 658 than 1%) (e.g., Shearer, 1994; Song & Helmberger, 1995). In the calculation, we take ellipticity into  
 659 account. We use Ricker wavelets to represent synthetic waveforms by shifting them with respect to the  
 660 calculated travel times. They are bandpass filtered in the interval 15-50 s, which is the dominant frequency  
 661 range for coda-correlation wavefield. Then, for each angle  $\varphi$ , we calculate the composition of J waves for  
 662 varied angle  $\xi$  (Figures S10a-b). The composition is described by the probability density function (PDF)  
 663 with respect to angle  $\xi$  (the angle between J wave ray paths and the rotation axis). Finally, we calculate  
 664 waveform stacks (Figures S10d,f,h) based on the synthetics and the PDFs. The stacking is weighted by  
 665 the PDFs. We perform the tests for J waves with polarization parallel to meridians (Figures S10c-d) and  
 666 the equator (Figures S10E-F), and the averaged J waves (Figures S10g-h).

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671 **Figure S1.** Global distributions of events (red stars) and stations (black triangles) used in this study.672  $M_w \geq 6.8$  earthquakes in 2010–2019 from the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC) catalog673 (<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/70016044>) are used, as listed in Table S2. Seismic waveform data674 are retrieved from IRIS DMC (<https://ds.iris.edu/ds/nodes/dmc/data>). Stations are from networks675 identified according to FDSN (<https://www.fdsn.org/networks/>): 1P, 2H, 2K, 3J, 4F, 5A, 6A, 6D, 6E,

676 7A, 7C, 8A, 9C, 9D, AC, AD, AE, AF, AI, AK, AT, AU, AV, AZ, BC, BE, BK, BL, BN, BX, C, C1,

677 CA, CB, CC, CH, CI, CK, CM, CN, CU, CZ, DK, DR, EI, EP, ER, ES, EV, G, GB, GE, GG, GR, GS,

678 GT, HK, HL, HT, HV, HW, IC, II, IM, IO, IP, IU, IW, JP, KC, KG, KN, KO, KP, KR, KS, KW, KZ,

679 LB, LD, LI, LM, LX, MB, MC, MG, MI, MM, MN, MS, MU, MX, MY, N4, NA, NE, NJ, NK, NL,

680 NM, NN, NO, NR, NU, OE, OH, OK, ON, OO, OV, PB, PE, PI, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PR, PS, PT, PY,

681 RB, RM, RO, RV, S1, SB, SC, SL, SS, SV, TA, TC, TM, TR, TS, TT, TW, TX, UK, UO, US, UU, UW,

682 VE, WC, WI, WM, WY, X1, X3, X5, X9, XB, XD, XE, XF, XH, XI, XN, XP, XR, XS, XU, XV, XW,

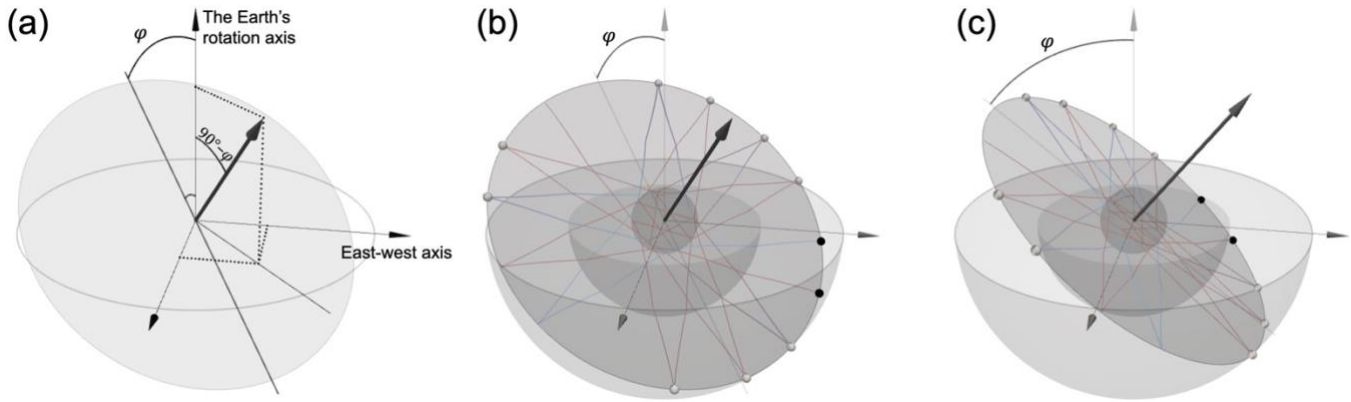
683 XZ, Y2, Y5, Y6, YB, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YL, YM, YN, YP, YS, YT, YW, YY, YZ, Z1, Z2, Z4, Z5,

684 Z6, ZC, ZM, ZN, ZP, ZT, ZV.

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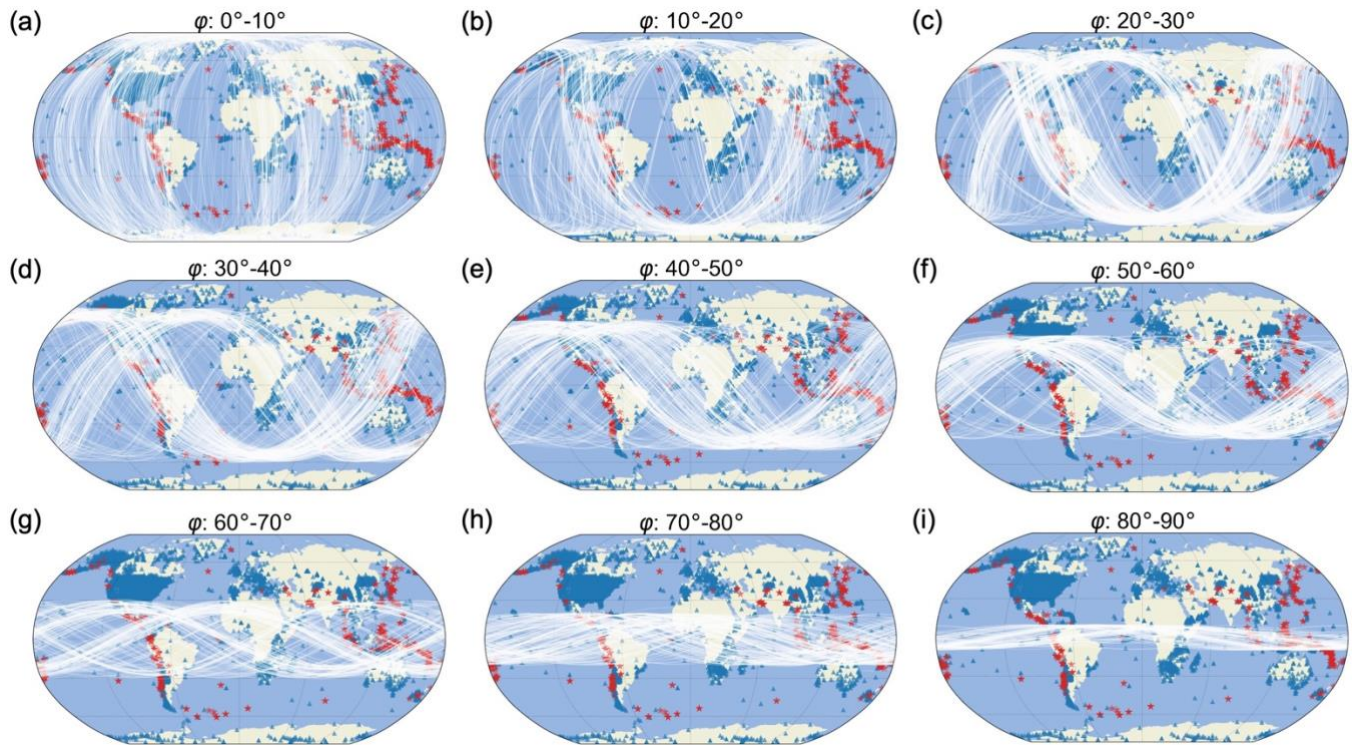
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688 **Figure S2.** (a) A great-circle plane is described by its normal vector (black arrow) in three dimensions.  
 689  $\varphi$  is the angle between the great-circle plane and the Earth's rotation axis.  $90^\circ - \varphi$  is the angle between  
 690 the normal vector and the rotation axis. (b) A great-circle plane passing through two receivers (black  
 691 spheres) and events (white spheres). (c) Another great-circle plane with the same angle  $\varphi$  as in (b) but  
 692 with a different normal vector. The receiver pairs are binned in ranges with respect to  $\varphi$  (Figure S3) to  
 693 form nine I2-J stacks (Figure S4).

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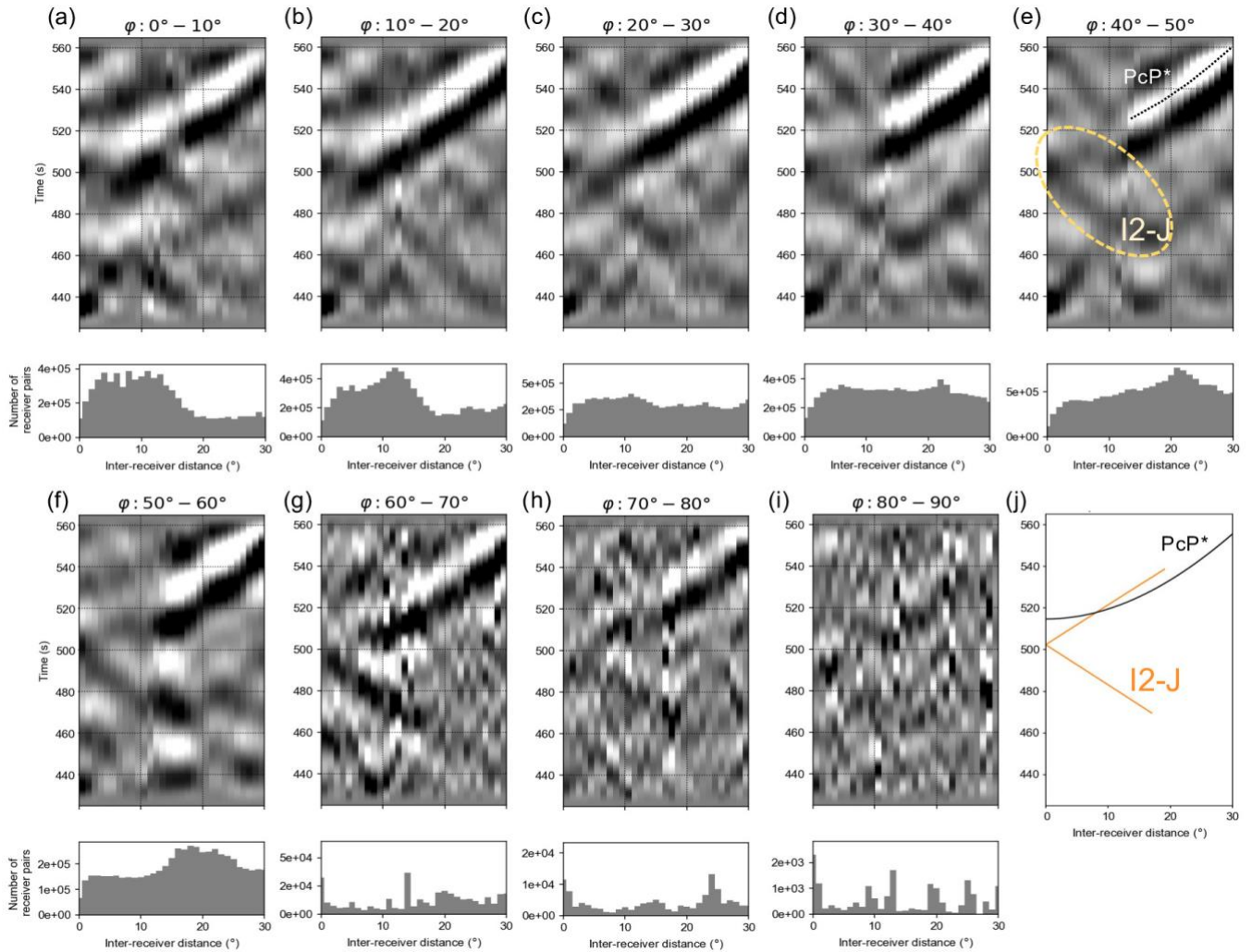


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696 **Figure S3.** Great-circle planes (white lines) for different angle  $\varphi$  ranges: (a)  $0^\circ$ - $10^\circ$ , (b)  $10^\circ$ - $20^\circ$ , (c)  $20^\circ$ -  
 697  $30^\circ$ , (d)  $30^\circ$ - $40^\circ$ , (e)  $40^\circ$ - $50^\circ$ , (f)  $50^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , (g)  $60^\circ$ - $70^\circ$ , (h)  $70^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ , (i)  $80^\circ$ - $90^\circ$ . The angle  $\varphi$  is defined in  
 698 Figure 2 and Figure S2. See Methods for grouping of correlograms for the angle  $\varphi$ . We plot randomly  
 699 downsampled great-circle planes instead of all planes to avoid intense overlapping.

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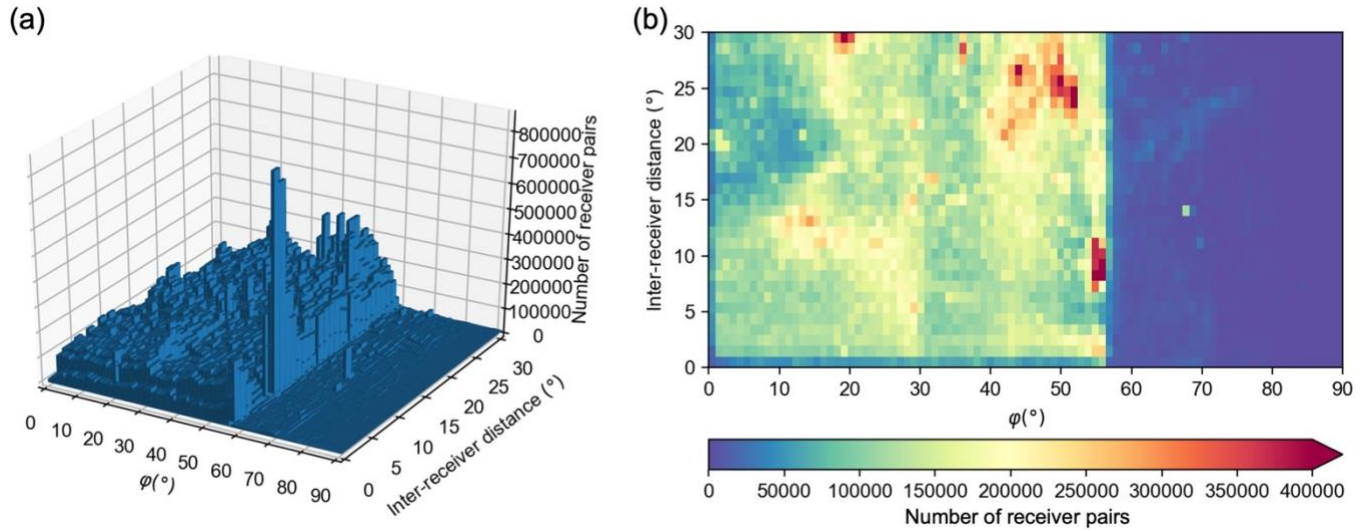
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**Figure S4.** Earthquake Coda correlograms and histograms of receiver pair numbers for nine angle  $\varphi$  ranges: (a)  $0^\circ$ - $10^\circ$ , (b)  $10^\circ$ - $20^\circ$ , (c)  $20^\circ$ - $30^\circ$ , (d)  $30^\circ$ - $40^\circ$ , (e)  $40^\circ$ - $50^\circ$ , (f)  $50^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , (g)  $60^\circ$ - $70^\circ$ , (h)  $70^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ , (i)  $80^\circ$ - $90^\circ$ .  $\varphi$  is the angle between a great-circle plane and the Earth's rotation axis, as defined in Figures 2 and S2. The orange ellipse (shown only in (e) to avoid overlapping with the correlogram features for the sake of clarity) indicates the I2-J cusp sensitive to the IC shear-wave speed. The feature PcP\*, sensitive to mantle structure, CMB topography, and Earth's ellipticity, is indicated by the black dotted line. Positive amplitudes are in white, and negative amplitudes are in black shades. The intensity of the black or white indicates the amplitude strength. (j) Theoretical I2-J and PcP\* time curves based on Tkalčić & Phạm (2018).

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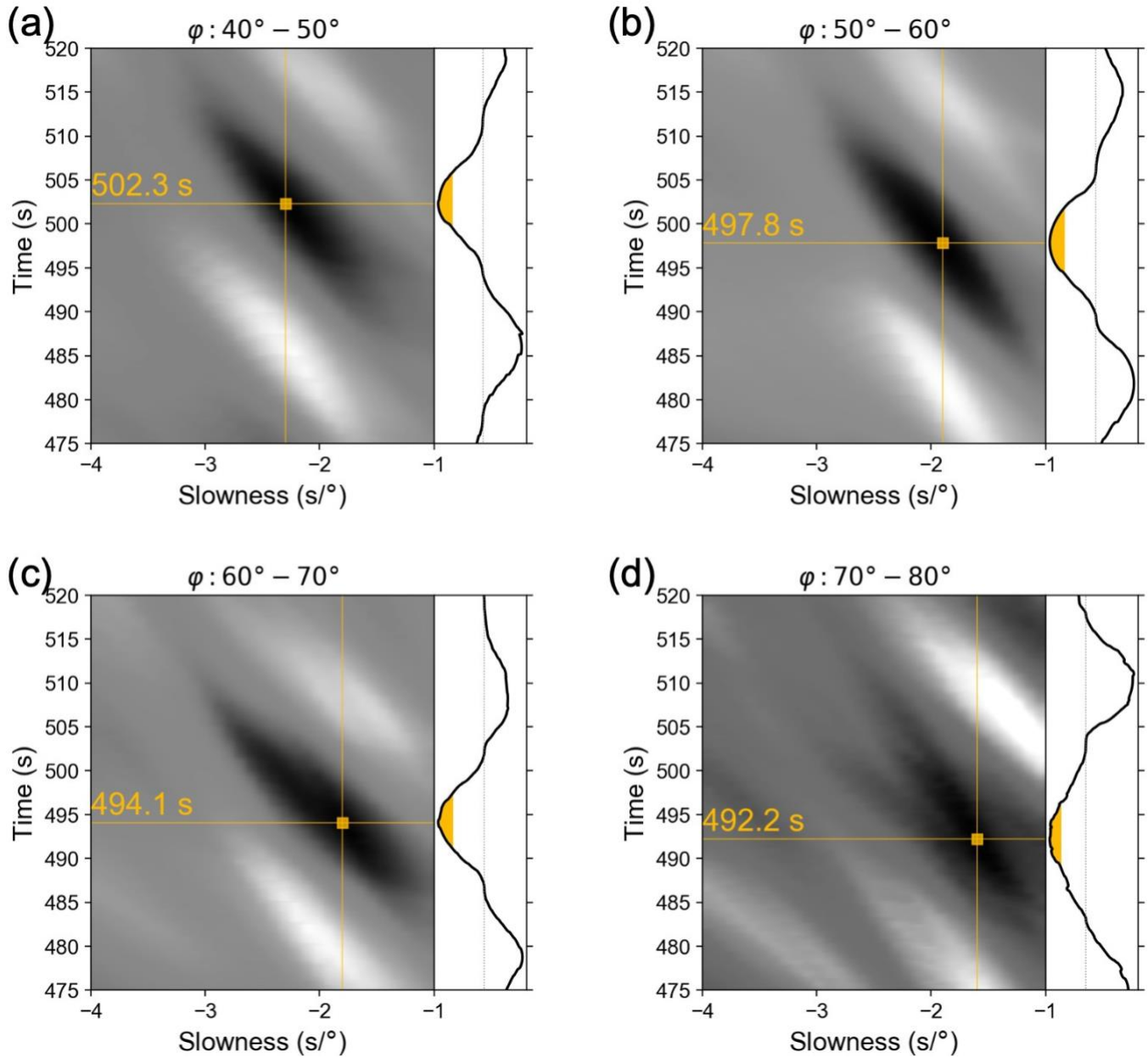
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**Figure S5.** (a) 3D histogram of the number of receiver pairs relative to angle  $\varphi$  (as defined in Figs. 2 and S2) and inter-receiver distance. See the Methods section for the cliff-like change for  $\varphi \sim 60^\circ$  and the column spike for  $\varphi \sim 69^\circ$  and inter-receiver distance  $\sim 15^\circ$ . (b) Isogram of the 3D histogram in (a).



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722 **Figure S6.** I2-J slant-stacks for four angle  $\phi$  ranges: (a)  $40^\circ$ - $50^\circ$ , (b)  $50^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , (c)  $60^\circ$ - $70^\circ$ , (d)  $70^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ .

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724 The yellow dots correspond to the lower branch of the I2-J cusp.  $\phi$  is the angle between a great-circle

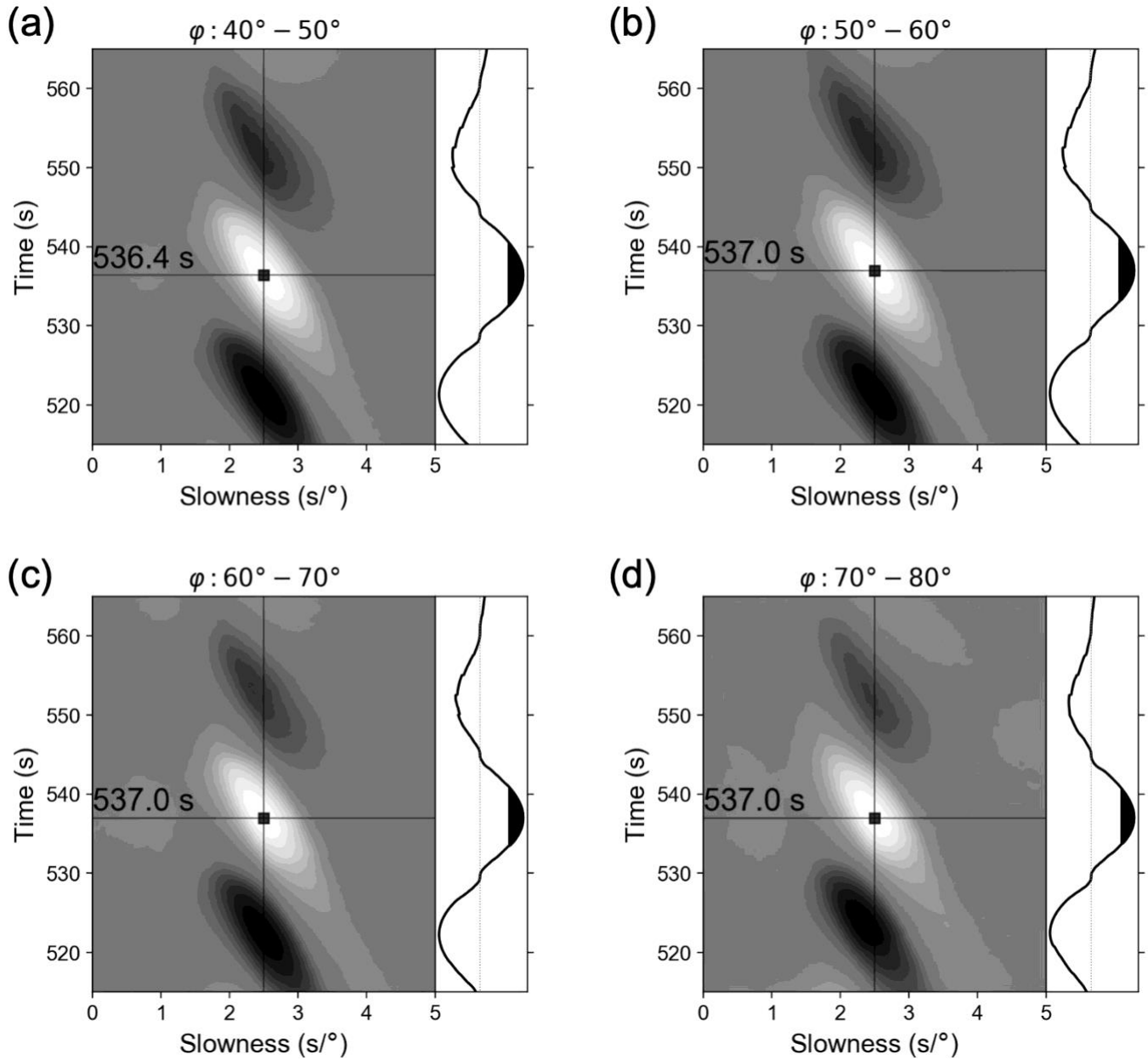
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726 plane and the Earth's rotation axis, as defined in Figures 2 and S2. Each slant stack is normalized with

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728 respect to the maximal amplitude. Details of the slant-stack method are in Methods section.

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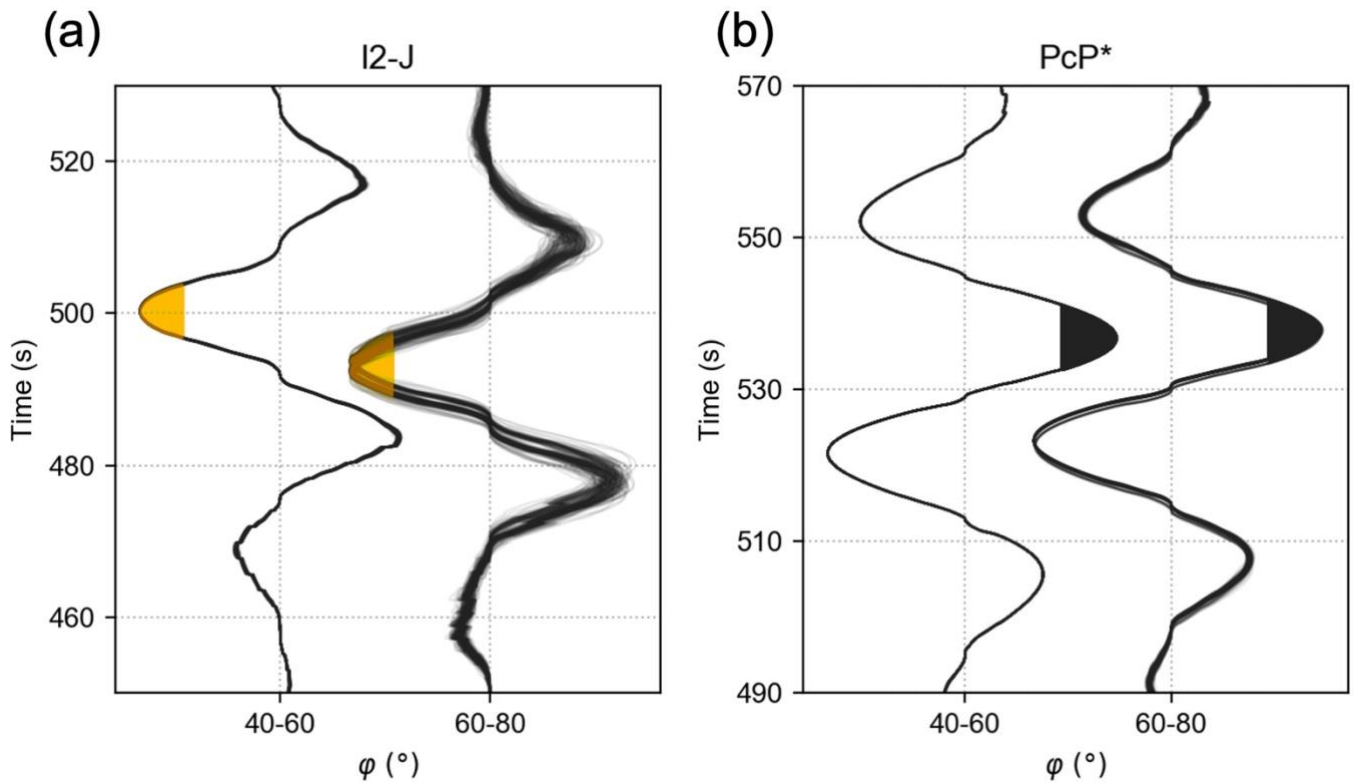
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728 **Figure S7.** PcP\* slant-stacks for four angle  $\varphi$  ranges: (a)  $40^\circ$ - $50^\circ$ , (b)  $50^\circ$ - $60^\circ$ , (c)  $60^\circ$ - $70^\circ$ , (d)  $70^\circ$ - $80^\circ$ .729 The  $\varphi$  is the angle between a great-circle plane and the Earth's rotation axis, as defined in Figures 2 and

730 S2. Each slant stack is normalized with respect to the maximal amplitude. Details of the slant-stack

731 method are in Methods section.

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734 **Figure S8.** Bootstrap experiments for travel time measurements of I2-J (a) and PcP\* (b). See Methods

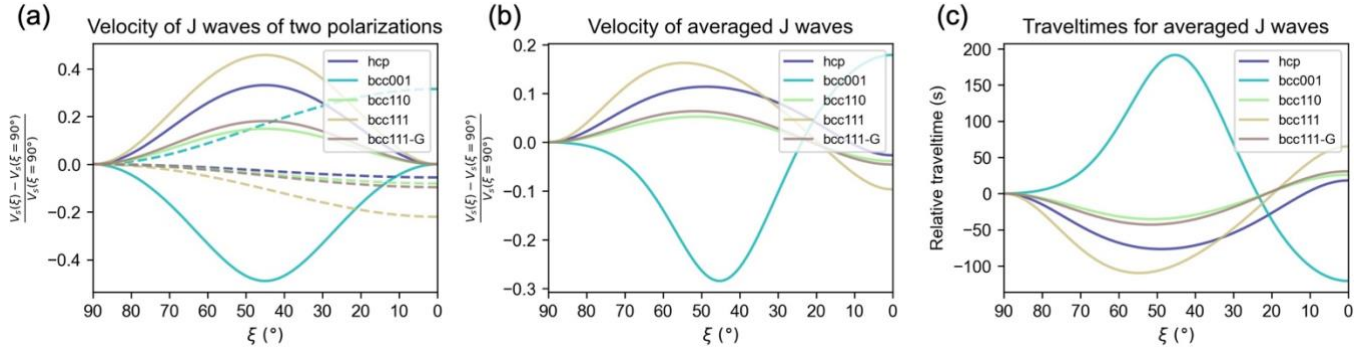
735 section for details of bootstrap experiments. Waveform stacks for (a) I2-J and (b) PcP\* correlogram

736 features are extracted from the slant-stacks. Each waveform stack (represented by black lines)

737 corresponds to a single random resampling. Colored areas correspond to stack amplitudes greater than

738 80% of the maximum.

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**Figure S9. (a)** Fractional J-wave speed (with respect to the speed in the equatorial plane) for two

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polarizations as a function of the angle  $\xi$  defined in Figure 4 for a cylindrically anisotropic inner core.

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The solid lines represent the J waves with the polarization parallel to meridians, and the dash lines

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represent the J waves with the polarization parallel to the equator. The colors represent different iron

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crystal models, as listed in Table S1. The 3D iron crystal models of hcp and bcc are illustrated in Figure

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4. **(b)** Same as (a) but for averaged (both polarizations) J waves. **(c)** Relative travel time for averaged J

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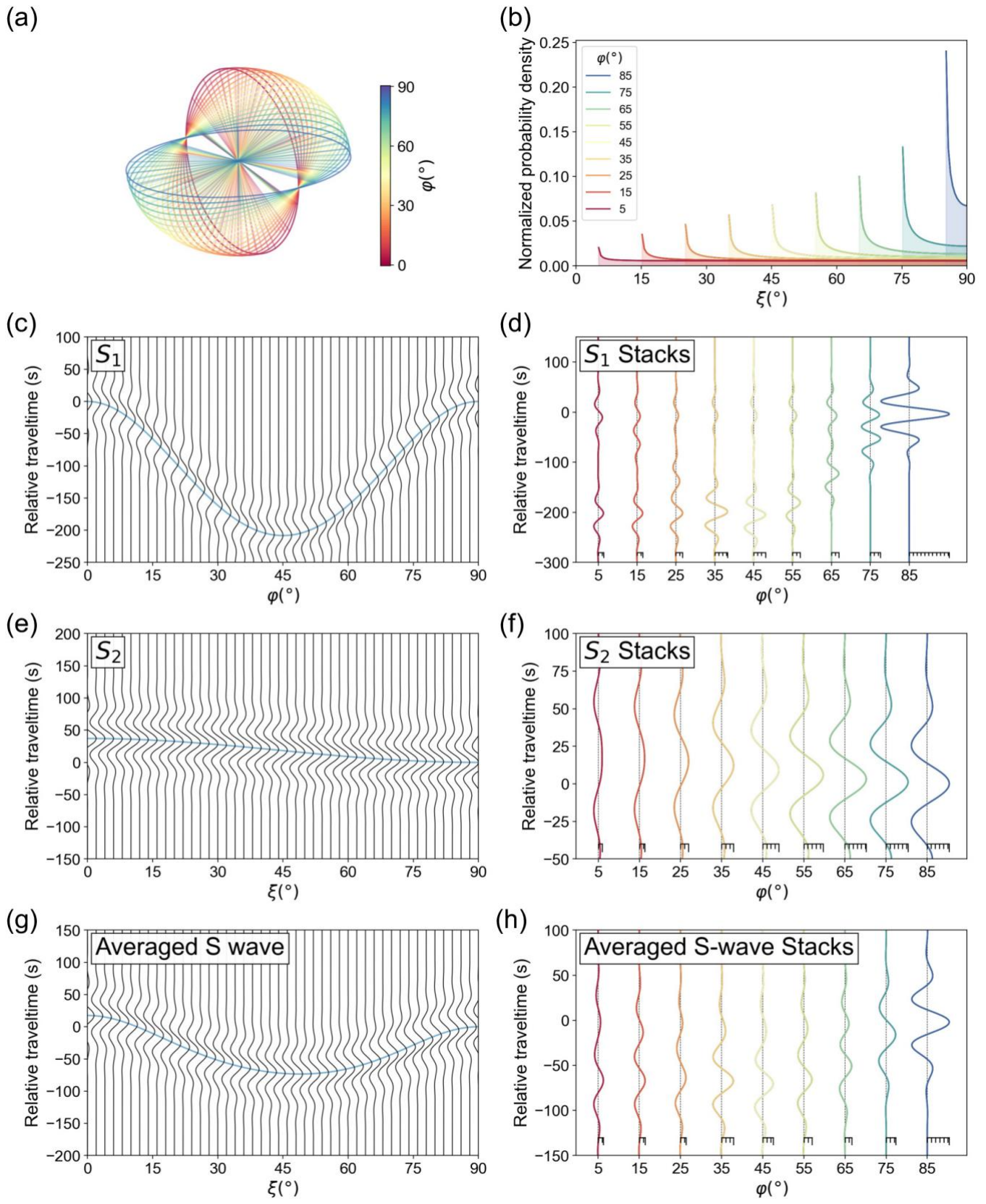
waves traveling along the IC diameters. See Methods section for calculations of J-wave speed given

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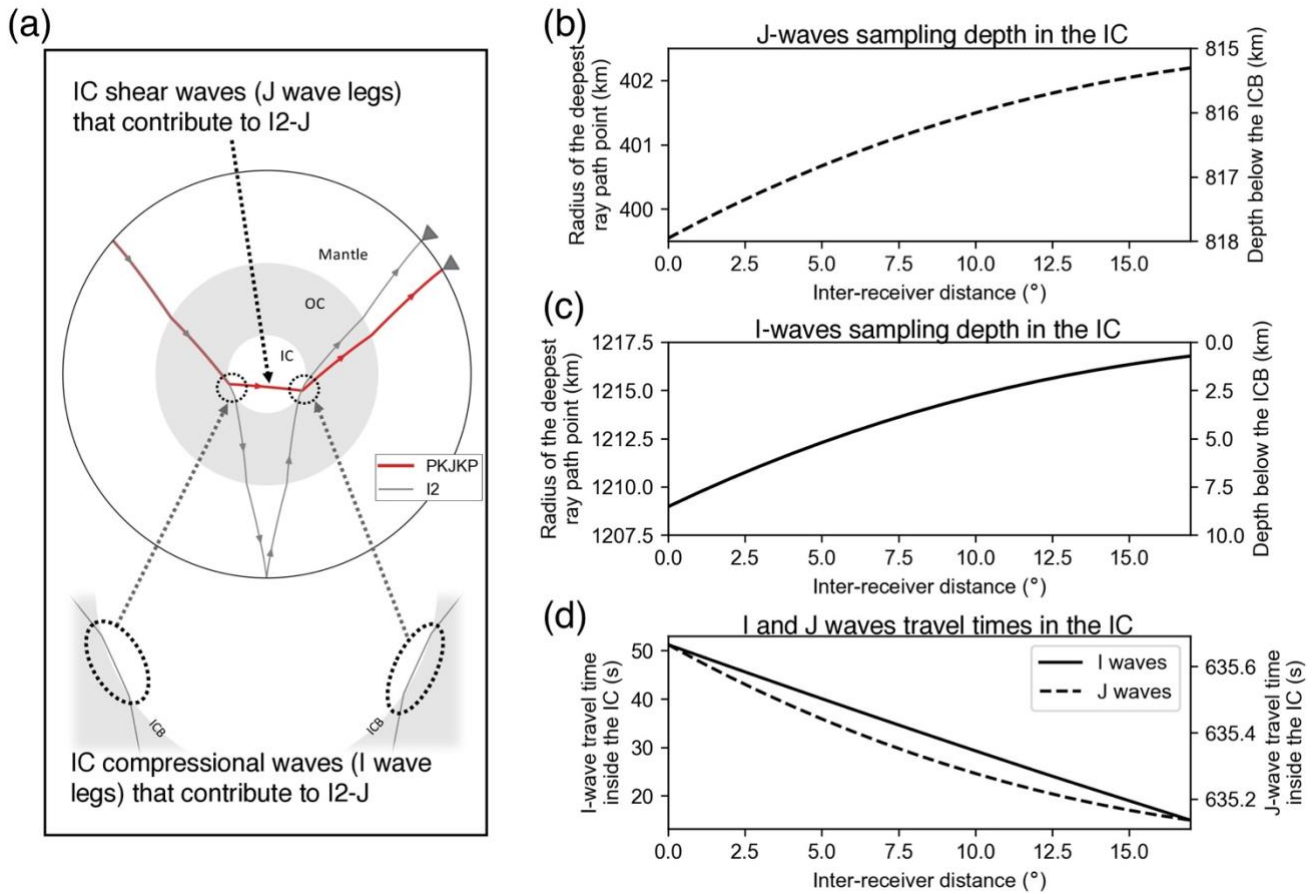
elastic properties of an iron crystal model.

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751 **Figure S10.** Synthetic tests for I2-J stacks at different angles  $\varphi$  given an anisotropic inner core. (a) Inner-  
752 core shear-wave ray paths inside great-circle planes for varied angles  $\varphi$  shown in different colors. The  $\varphi$   
753 is the angle between a great-circle plane and the Earth's rotation axis, as defined in Figures 2 and S2. (b)  
754 The probability density of inner-core shear-wave angle  $\xi$  for great-circle planes at different  $\varphi$ . The  $\xi$  is  
755 the angle between inner-core shear wave ray paths and the rotation axis. The shaded areas indicate the  
756 integrals of the probability density functions that correspond to the weighting-factors for computing the  
757 synthetic waveform stacks for different  $\varphi$ . (c) Synthetic waveforms of inner-core shear wave  $S_1$  that  
758 propagate at different angles  $\xi$ . The  $S_1$  has the polarization parallel the meridians and passes through the  
759 Earth's center. The relative travel time curve (blue line) is based on the hcp iron model in Figure 4 and  
760 Table S1 and corrected for the Earth's ellipticity. Other iron crystal models have similar behavior. We use  
761 Ricker wavelets bandpass-filtered in the 15-50 s range, which is the dominant frequency range of the coda-  
762 correlation wavefield. (d) Stacked  $S_1$  waveforms for different angles  $\varphi$  based on the probability density of  
763  $\xi$  (b). The scale bars indicate the relative amplitude difference for waveform stacks for different angles  $\varphi$ .  
764 (e) Similar to (c) but for inner-core shear waves  $S_2$  that have the polarization parallel to the equator. (f)  
765 Similar to (d) but for  $S_2$  wave stacks. (g) Similar to (c) but for averaged shear waves in the inner core. The  
766 average uses the expression  $2/V_S = 1/V_{S1} + 1/V_{S2}$  (Lin et al., 2010; Mao et al., 2008) . (h) Similar to (d)  
767 but for averaged S-wave stacks.



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769 **Figure S11.** A sampling of the IC for shear waves and compressional waves that contribute to the coda-  
 770 correlation feature I2-J. **(a)** Diagram for I2-J ray path. The I2-J is formed by the cross-correlation between  
 771 PKIKPPKIKP (grey line) and PKJKP (red line). The IC shear waves (J waves) that contribute to I2-J are  
 772 indicated with a dashed arrow. The insets show the IC compressional waves (I waves) that contribute to  
 773 I2-J. **(b)** Radius/depth of the deepest ray path point for J waves contributing to I2-J as a function of inter-  
 774 receiver distance. We use the reference model ak135 (Kennett et al., 1995) for computing the ray path.  
 775 We choose the lower branch of the I2-J to analyze the time variations (see Methods section in the  
 776 supporting information). **(c)** The same as (b) but for I waves contributing to I2-J. **(d)** The total travel time  
 777 for J and I (double legs) waves that contribute to the I2-J.

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**Table S1.** Elastic properties of inner-core iron crystal models used in this study. The elastic properties for hcp and bcc001 are provided by Mattesini et al. (2010), Romanowicz et al. (2016), and Vočadlo et al. (2009). We compute the elastic properties for bcc110 and bcc111 via rotating the bcc001 model (Methods). bcc111-G corresponds to an imperfect alignment of the bcc111 crystal (see main text). The anisotropy of S waves is  $An(\%) = 200(S_{max} - S_{min})/(S_{max} + S_{min})$ .

Iron model	$\rho$ (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	$c_{11}$ (GPa)	$c_{33}$	$c_{44}$	$c_{12}$	$c_{13}$	Anisotropy of S (%)
hcp	13.543	1700	1769	200	1252	1025	13.5
bcc001	13.559	1715	1561	365	1293	1448	48.9
bcc110	13.559	1831	1870	211	1332	1293	9.0
bcc111	13.559	1870	1973	159	1345	1242	25.1
bcc111-G	13.559	1836	1882	205	1334	1287	10.8

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**Table S2.** List of events used in this study.

Table S2. List of events used in this study				
Longitude(°)	Latitude(°)	Depth (km)	Magnitude(Mw)	Origin Time
125.17	6.7	18	6.8	2019-12-15T06:11:51
126.42	1.62	33	7.1	2019-11-14T16:17:40
104.79	-7.28	49	6.9	2019-08-02T12:03:27
-72.31	-34.24	25	6.8	2019-08-01T18:28:07
128.03	-0.59	19	7.2	2019-07-14T09:10:51
126.19	0.51	35	6.9	2019-07-07T15:08:40
129.17	-6.41	212	7.3	2019-06-24T02:53:39
-178.1	-30.64	46	7.3	2019-06-15T22:55:04
-75.27	-5.81	123	8	2019-05-26T07:41:15
152.6	-4.05	10	7.6	2019-05-14T12:58:25
146.45	-6.97	146	7.1	2019-05-06T21:19:37
122.58	-1.81	15	6.8	2019-04-12T11:40:49
-70.16	-14.71	267	7	2019-03-01T08:50:42
-77.05	-2.19	145	7.5	2019-02-22T10:17:23
-71.59	-8.14	570	6.8	2019-01-05T19:25:38
126.92	5.9	60	7	2018-12-29T03:39:09
164.7	55.1	17	7.3	2018-12-20T17:01:55
-26.39	-58.55	133	7.1	2018-12-11T02:26:29

169.43	-21.95	10	7.5	2018-12-05T04:18:08
-149.96	61.35	47	7.1	2018-11-30T17:29:29
-178.93	-17.87	540	6.8	2018-11-18T20:25:46
20.56	37.52	14	6.8	2018-10-25T22:54:52
-129.29	49.34	10	6.8	2018-10-22T06:16:26
151.21	-5.7	39	7	2018-10-10T20:48:20
119.85	-0.26	20	7.5	2018-09-28T10:02:45
-179.37	-31.75	115	6.9	2018-09-10T04:19:02
179.35	-18.47	671	7.9	2018-09-06T15:49:18
170.13	-22.03	21	7.1	2018-08-29T03:51:56
-70.83	-11.04	630	7.1	2018-08-24T09:04:08
-62.9	10.77	147	7.3	2018-08-21T21:31:47
116.63	-8.32	21	6.9	2018-08-19T14:56:27
-178.15	-18.11	600	8.2	2018-08-19T00:19:40
116.44	-8.26	34	6.9	2018-08-05T11:46:38
-63.01	-20.66	559	6.8	2018-04-02T13:40:34
151.5	-5.53	35	6.9	2018-03-29T21:25:36
153.2	-4.38	23	6.8	2018-03-08T17:39:51
142.75	-6.07	25	7.5	2018-02-25T17:44:44
-97.98	16.39	22	7.2	2018-02-16T23:39:39
-149.17	56	14	7.9	2018-01-23T09:31:40
-74.71	-15.77	39	7.1	2018-01-14T09:18:45
-83.52	17.48	19	7.5	2018-01-10T02:51:33
168.67	-21.32	10	7	2017-11-19T22:43:29
45.96	34.91	19	7.3	2017-11-12T18:18:17
-173.17	-15.32	10	6.8	2017-11-04T09:00:19
-98.49	18.55	48	7.1	2017-09-19T18:14:38
-93.9	15.02	47	8.2	2017-09-08T04:49:19
168.86	54.44	10	7.7	2017-07-17T23:34:13
-90.97	13.72	38	6.8	2017-06-22T12:31:03
-92.01	14.91	93	6.9	2017-06-14T07:29:04
167.38	-14.59	169	6.8	2017-05-09T13:52:10
125.07	5.5	26	6.9	2017-04-28T20:23:17
-72.06	-33.04	28	6.9	2017-04-24T21:38:30
-178.8	-23.26	414	6.9	2017-02-24T17:28:44
155.17	-6.25	135	7.9	2017-01-22T04:30:22
122.62	4.48	627	7.3	2017-01-10T06:13:48
176.05	-19.37	12	6.9	2017-01-03T21:52:30

-73.94	-43.41	38	7.6	2016-12-25T14:22:27
153.52	-4.5	95	7.9	2016-12-17T10:51:10
161.13	-10.75	20	6.9	2016-12-09T19:10:06
161.33	-10.68	40	7.8	2016-12-08T17:38:46
-88.9	11.91	10	6.9	2016-11-24T18:43:47
173.05	-42.74	15	7.8	2016-11-13T11:02:56
148.89	-6	42	6.8	2016-10-17T06:14:58
-178.24	-19.78	596	6.9	2016-09-24T21:28:41
179.15	-37.36	19	7	2016-09-01T16:37:57
152.79	-3.69	476	6.8	2016-08-31T03:11:34
-17.83	-0.05	10	7.1	2016-08-29T04:29:57
94.57	20.92	82	6.8	2016-08-24T10:34:54
-31.88	-55.28	10	7.4	2016-08-19T07:32:22
173.12	-22.48	16	7.2	2016-08-12T01:26:36
145.51	18.54	196	7.7	2016-07-29T21:18:24
-26.93	-56.24	78	7.2	2016-05-28T09:46:59
-178.2	-21.97	406	6.9	2016-05-28T05:38:50
-79.62	0.49	30	6.9	2016-05-18T16:46:43
167.38	-16.04	24	7	2016-04-28T19:33:24
-79.92	0.38	21	7.8	2016-04-16T23:58:36
130.75	32.79	10	7	2016-04-15T16:25:06
94.86	23.09	136	6.9	2016-04-13T13:55:17
166.85	-14.32	26	6.9	2016-04-03T08:23:52
94.33	-4.95	24	7.8	2016-03-02T12:49:48
158.55	53.98	177	7.2	2016-01-30T03:25:12
-153.34	59.62	126	7.1	2016-01-24T10:30:29
129.51	-4.11	21	6.9	2015-12-09T10:21:48
72.78	38.21	22	7.2	2015-12-07T07:50:05
85.09	-47.62	35	7.1	2015-12-04T22:25:00
-71.02	-10.06	621	7.6	2015-11-24T22:50:54
-70.94	-10.54	606	7.6	2015-11-24T22:45:38
158.42	-8.9	13	6.8	2015-11-18T18:31:04
-72.06	-29.51	10	6.9	2015-11-11T02:46:19
-72.01	-29.51	12	6.9	2015-11-11T01:54:38
-71.45	-30.88	46	6.8	2015-11-07T07:31:43
70.37	36.52	231	7.5	2015-10-26T09:09:42
167.3	-14.86	135	7.1	2015-10-20T21:52:02
-71.43	-31.56	28	7	2015-09-16T23:18:41

-71.67	-31.57	22	8.3	2015-09-16T22:54:32
138.53	-2.63	48	7	2015-07-27T21:41:21
-169.45	52.38	29	6.9	2015-07-27T04:49:46
165.14	-10.4	11	7	2015-07-18T02:27:33
-17.16	-35.36	10	7	2015-06-17T12:51:32
140.49	27.84	664	7.8	2015-05-30T11:23:02
-156.43	56.59	73	6.8	2015-05-29T07:00:09
163.22	-11.11	10	6.8	2015-05-22T23:59:33
163.7	-11.06	11	6.9	2015-05-22T21:45:19
164.17	-10.88	11	6.8	2015-05-20T22:48:53
142.03	38.91	35	6.8	2015-05-12T21:12:58
86.07	27.81	15	7.3	2015-05-12T07:05:19
154.56	-7.22	10	7.1	2015-05-07T07:10:19
151.88	-5.46	55	7.5	2015-05-05T01:44:06
151.78	-5.2	44	6.8	2015-05-01T08:06:03
152.56	-4.73	41	7.5	2015-03-29T23:48:31
122.53	-7.3	552	7	2015-02-27T13:45:05
-31.9	52.65	17	7.1	2015-02-13T18:59:12
168.52	-17.03	220	6.8	2015-01-23T03:47:27
126.58	1.96	39	6.8	2014-11-26T14:33:43
126.52	1.89	45	7.1	2014-11-15T02:31:41
-177.76	-19.69	434	7.1	2014-11-01T18:57:22
-88.12	12.53	40	7.3	2014-10-14T03:51:34
-110.81	-32.11	17	7	2014-10-09T02:14:31
-73.57	-14.6	101	6.8	2014-08-24T23:21:45
146.17	0.83	13	6.9	2014-08-03T00:22:03
-178.4	-19.8	615	6.9	2014-07-21T14:54:41
-92.46	14.72	53	6.9	2014-07-07T11:23:54
178.74	51.85	109	7.9	2014-06-23T20:53:09
-177.72	-29.98	20	6.9	2014-06-23T19:19:15
155.02	-6.75	43	7.5	2014-04-19T13:28:00
-100.97	17.4	24	7.2	2014-04-18T14:27:24
8.72	-53.5	11	6.8	2014-04-15T03:57:01
162.05	-11.46	39	7.4	2014-04-13T12:36:19
162.15	-11.27	23	7.6	2014-04-12T20:14:39
155.05	-6.59	61	7.1	2014-04-11T07:07:23
-70.49	-20.57	22	7.7	2014-04-03T02:43:13
-70.94	-19.89	28	6.9	2014-04-01T23:57:58

-70.77	-19.61	25	8.2	2014-04-01T23:46:47
-125.13	40.83	16	6.8	2014-03-10T05:18:13
82.59	35.91	10	6.9	2014-02-12T09:19:49
-55	-53.95	12	7	2013-11-25T06:27:33
-46.4	-60.27	10	7.7	2013-11-17T09:04:55
144.66	37.16	35	7.1	2013-10-25T17:10:19
154.93	-6.45	35	6.8	2013-10-16T10:30:58
124.12	9.88	19	7.1	2013-10-15T00:12:32
65.5	27.18	12	6.8	2013-09-28T07:34:06
-74.51	-15.84	40	7.1	2013-09-25T16:42:43
65.5	26.95	15	7.7	2013-09-24T11:29:47
-175.23	51.54	29	7	2013-08-30T16:25:02
-25.07	-60.86	11	7.3	2013-07-15T14:03:39
153.93	-3.92	386	7.3	2013-07-07T18:35:30
153.22	54.89	598	8.3	2013-05-24T05:44:48
-177.23	-23.01	174	7.4	2013-05-23T17:19:04
145.29	18.73	602	6.8	2013-05-14T00:32:25
150.79	46.22	110	7.2	2013-04-19T03:05:52
62	28.03	80	7.7	2013-04-16T10:44:20
138.48	-3.52	66	7	2013-04-06T04:42:35
157.28	50.95	41	6.9	2013-02-28T14:05:50
-77.39	1.14	145	6.9	2013-02-09T14:16:07
166.02	-10.93	21	7.1	2013-02-08T15:26:38
165.97	-10.84	12	6.8	2013-02-08T11:12:11
164.88	-11.18	10	7.1	2013-02-06T01:23:19
165.11	-10.8	24	8	2013-02-06T01:12:25
143.09	42.77	107	6.9	2013-02-02T14:17:35
-70.65	-28.09	45	6.8	2013-01-30T20:15:43
129.82	-6.53	155	7.1	2012-12-10T16:53:08
143.95	37.89	31	7.3	2012-12-07T08:18:23
95.89	23	14	6.8	2012-11-11T01:12:38
-91.89	13.99	24	7.4	2012-11-07T16:35:46
-132.1	52.79	14	7.8	2012-10-28T03:04:08
-76.36	1.93	170	7.3	2012-09-30T16:31:35
-85.31	10.09	35	7.6	2012-09-05T14:42:07
126.64	10.81	28	7.6	2012-08-31T12:47:33
-10.61	71.44	14	6.8	2012-08-30T13:43:25
-88.59	12.14	28	7.3	2012-08-27T04:37:19



145.06	49.8	583	7.7	2012-08-14T02:59:38
147.12	-5.46	198	6.8	2012-04-17T07:13:49
-113.1	28.7	13	7	2012-04-12T07:15:48
92.46	0.8	25	8.2	2012-04-11T10:43:10
93.06	2.33	20	8.6	2012-04-11T08:38:36
-72.22	-35.2	41	7.1	2012-03-25T22:37:06
-98.23	16.49	20	7.4	2012-03-20T18:02:47
144.94	40.89	12	6.9	2012-03-14T09:08:35
167.13	-17.83	23	7.1	2012-02-02T13:34:40
93.21	2.43	19	7.2	2012-01-10T18:36:59
138.07	31.46	365	6.8	2012-01-01T05:27:55
146.81	-7.55	135	7.1	2011-12-14T05:04:58
125.62	27.32	225	6.9	2011-11-08T02:59:08
-75.97	-14.44	24	6.9	2011-10-28T18:54:34
43.51	38.72	18	7.1	2011-10-23T10:41:23
-176.24	-28.99	33	7.4	2011-10-21T17:57:16
88.16	27.73	50	6.9	2011-09-18T12:40:51
-179.53	-21.61	645	7.3	2011-09-15T19:31:04
169.72	-20.67	185	7	2011-09-03T22:55:40
-171.71	52.17	32	6.9	2011-09-02T10:55:53
126.75	-6.36	470	6.9	2011-08-30T06:57:41
-74.53	-7.64	147	7	2011-08-24T17:46:11
168.22	-18.31	28	7.1	2011-08-20T18:19:23
168.14	-18.36	32	7.2	2011-08-20T16:55:02
143.26	38.03	23	7	2011-07-10T00:57:10
-176.34	-29.54	17	7.6	2011-07-06T19:03:18
-171.84	52.05	52	7.3	2011-06-24T03:09:39
168.23	-20.24	11	6.8	2011-05-10T08:55:08
161.2	-10.38	79	6.8	2011-04-23T04:16:54
141.59	38.28	42	7.1	2011-04-07T14:32:43
144.59	38.06	19	7.7	2011-03-11T06:25:50
141.11	36.28	43	7.9	2011-03-11T06:15:40
142.37	38.3	29	9.1	2011-03-11T05:46:24
142.84	38.44	32	7.3	2011-03-09T02:45:20
-72.96	-36.42	26	6.9	2011-02-11T20:05:30
63.95	28.78	68	7.2	2011-01-18T20:23:23
-73.33	-38.35	24	7.2	2011-01-02T20:20:17
-63.14	-26.8	577	7	2011-01-01T09:56:58

167.95	-19.7	16	7.3	2010-12-25T13:16:37
143.7	26.9	14	7.4	2010-12-21T17:19:40
139.19	28.35	470	6.8	2010-11-30T03:24:40
100.08	-3.49	20	7.8	2010-10-25T14:42:22
133.76	-4.96	26	7	2010-09-29T17:11:25
171.83	-43.52	12	7	2010-09-03T16:35:47
141.47	12.49	16	6.9	2010-08-13T21:19:34
-77.31	-1.27	207	7.1	2010-08-12T11:54:15
168.07	-17.54	25	7.3	2010-08-10T05:23:44
150.76	-5.75	44	7	2010-08-04T22:01:43
123.26	6.78	641	7.5	2010-07-23T23:15:10
123.48	6.5	578	7.6	2010-07-23T22:51:11
123.41	6.72	607	7.3	2010-07-23T22:08:11
150.59	-5.93	35	7.3	2010-07-18T13:34:59
150.43	-5.97	28	6.9	2010-07-18T13:04:09
136.54	-2.17	18	7	2010-06-16T03:16:27
91.94	7.88	35	7.5	2010-06-12T19:26:50
166.64	-13.7	31	7.2	2010-05-27T17:14:46
96.02	3.75	38	7.2	2010-05-09T05:59:41
96.55	33.16	17	6.9	2010-04-13T23:49:38
161.12	-10.88	21	6.9	2010-04-11T09:40:25
97.05	2.38	31	7.8	2010-04-06T22:15:01
-71.8	-34.33	18	7	2010-03-11T14:55:27
-71.89	-34.29	11	6.9	2010-03-11T14:39:43
100.99	-3.76	26	6.8	2010-03-05T16:07:00
-75.05	-37.77	35	7.4	2010-02-27T08:01:23
-72.9	-36.12	23	8.8	2010-02-27T06:34:11
128.43	25.93	25	7	2010-02-26T20:31:26
130.7	42.59	578	6.9	2010-02-18T01:13:19
-72.57	18.44	13	7	2010-01-12T21:53:10
157.55	-9.02	15	6.8	2010-01-05T12:15:32
-14.7	-58.17	13	6.8	2010-01-05T04:55:39
157.35	-8.78	10	7.1	2010-01-03T22:36:25

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