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Source Rupture Process of the 2004 Chuetsu, Mid-Niigata Prefecture, Japan, Earthquake Inferred from Waveform Inversion with Dense Strong-Motion Data

by Kimiyuki Asano and Tomotaka Iwata

Abstract The kinematic source rupture process of the 2004 Chuetsu, mid-Niigata prefecture, Japan, earthquake, is estimated from strong-motion data by the linear waveform inversion method. In order to develop appropriate Green's functions, one-dimensional velocity structure models for each station are constructed by modeling the aftershock waveforms. The estimated top of the bedrock is deeper at the western side of the fault and relatively shallow at the eastern side. This tendency coincides with other investigations of seismic tomography and microtremor array observations. The obtained source model shows large slips in the vicinity of the hypocenter. The reverse slipping rupture originated from the deeper part of the fault and propagated toward the up-dip and southwest directions. The near-surface slip is small. Two tests are demonstrated to check the stability of the obtained source model. The first test examines the effects of the number of available stations on the solution, and the second test examines how the difference in the target waveform type affects the solution. The number of stations affects the variation of slip amount, and more than 12 stations appear to be sufficient to obtain a stable solution in this case. The difference in the target wave type in the data set does not significantly affect the solution if the number of stations is sufficient and the Green's functions are well calibrated. The model obtained using calibrated velocity structure models shows clear image of high-slip area compared to the model obtained using a single velocity structure model.

Introduction

At 1756 Japan Standard Time (JST) (0856 coordinated universal time [UTC]) on 23 October 2004, a large shallow inland earthquake occurred in the Chuetsu district of the mid-Niigata prefecture, central Japan (Fig. 1). The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) estimated that the magnitude of this earthquake was 6.8. This earthquake is a shallow crustal earthquake with reverse faulting. The strike, dip, and rake angles obtained from the moment tensor solution released by the F-net Broadband Seismograph Network, which is operated by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED), Japan, are 212° , 47° , and 93° , respectively (see Data and Resources section). The result of the field surveys revealed minor surface cracks and deformations resulting from this earthquake (e.g., Kim and Okada, 2005).

The 2004 Chuetsu earthquake occurred in an active fault and folding mountain system. The faulting and folding structures were originally formed at 25–20 Ma as normal faults during the backarc rifting associated with the opening of the Japan Sea. The structures were subsequently reactivated as reverse faults by the tectonic inversion due to the increase

in the velocity of the westward motion of the subducting Pacific plate from 3.5 Ma (Sato, 1994). Because of these tectonic settings, the sedimentary layers in this area are significantly thick and their thickness varies spatially. Several authors have carried out temporary aftershock observations and precise investigations of the hypocenter relocation by considering the complex velocity structure (Kato *et al.*, 2005; Okada *et al.*, 2005; Shibutani *et al.*, 2005). Their studies revealed that the expected location of the hypocenter of the mainshock is approximately 3–4 km northwest from the hypocenter routinely located by the JMA using a uniform velocity structure model. The three-dimensional velocity structure models obtained from the double-difference tomography method (e.g., Kato *et al.*, 2006; Okada *et al.*, 2006) suggest that the thickness of the low-velocity layers is considerably greater at the northwest side of the fault area than at the southeast side. These studies imaged the high-angle westward-dipping fault plane as a zone of velocity change from a high velocity at the footwall side to a low velocity at the hanging-wall side.

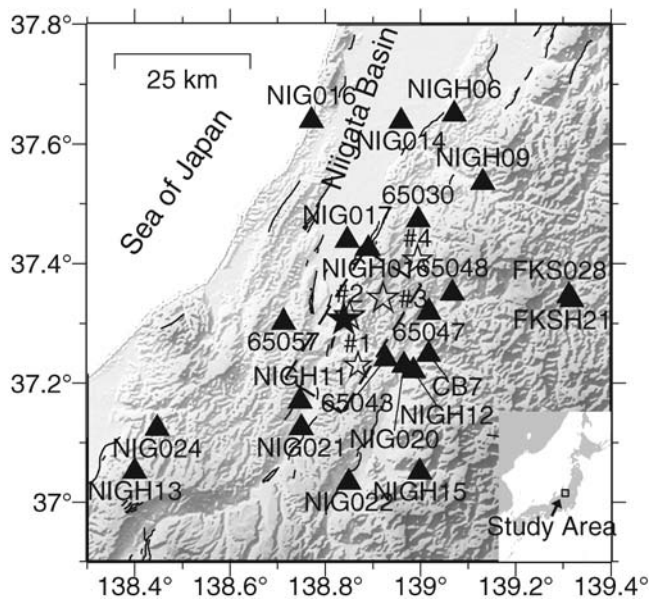


Figure 1. Map showing the study area. The solid star indicates the epicenter of the mainshock. The broken rectangle shows the surface projection of the fault plane of the mainshock assumed in the inversion analysis. The open stars represent the epicenters of the aftershocks used in the velocity structure modeling. The solid triangles indicate the strong-motion stations used in this study. The solid lines show the surface traces of active faults compiled by Nakata and Imaizumi (2002).

The ground motions from the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake sequence were densely observed by K-NET (Kinoshita, 1998) and KiK-net (Aoi *et al.*, 2000) stations in and around the epicentral area. JMA and local governments also obtained time histories of ground motions by their seismic intensity observation network. Among these stations, several strong-motion stations recorded extremely large ground motions with peak ground acceleration greater than 1000 cm/sec^2 or peak ground velocity greater than 100 cm/sec (e.g., Mori and Somerville, 2006). For understanding the physical mechanism of the ground-motion generation process during this earthquake, a reliable and detailed source model needs to be constructed. In general, the thick and complicated sediment structure would also influence the wave propagation and amplification characteristics during the earthquake. If inadequate velocity structure models are used in the source inversion, the obtained source model might be affected by the inaccuracy in the Green's functions because observed ground motion is a convolution of source, propagation path, and site effects. Therefore, it is quite necessary to use appropriate velocity structure models in calculating Green's functions for retrieving a reliable source model from the observed ground-motion data.

In the last two or three decades, waveform inversion techniques utilizing near-source strong motions to estimate the spatial and temporal kinematic slip history on the source fault during an earthquake have been widely applied for many remarkable earthquakes (e.g., Hartzell and Heaton,

1983; Asano *et al.*, 2005). Recently, Beresnev (2003) reviewed kinematic slip inversion techniques and discussed uncertainties of the inversion among many factors. He asserted that the solution might depend on the array geometry. Custódio *et al.* (2005) examined the dependence of the kinematic inversion solutions on the data by using 12 equivalent data subsets for the 2004 Parkfield, California, earthquake. Owing to the substantial increase in the number of available strong-motion data, the evaluation of the reliability of the inverted source model so as to investigate how the final solution depends on the number and array geometry of the strong-motion stations has gained importance. Particularly, the reliability of the location of asperities is practically significant to evaluate near-source strong ground motions.

In this article, the source rupture process of the 2004 Chuetsu, mid-Niigata prefecture, earthquake is estimated by using the kinematic linear waveform inversion technique (Hartzell and Heaton, 1983) and the strong-motion data. First, proper velocity structure models to each strong-motion station are constructed by the waveform modeling of the aftershock records. Next, the theoretical Green's functions for the waveform inversion are calculated by using these velocity structure models. The kinematic source rupture process of the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake is then obtained by the waveform inversion of the ground-motion time histories at 22 strong-motion stations. Then, the variations among the many source models obtained by changing the number and combination of stations are discussed to observe the robustness of the inversion result. The difference between the source models deduced from the *S* wave alone and both the *P* and *S* waves is also examined. Finally, some important features of the source process of this event are addressed.

Data Set

In the following sections, the strong-motion records observed at 22 stations of K-NET, KiK-net, JMA, and the Niigata Prefecture Government are used (Fig. 1). For the KiK-net stations, downhole sensor records are used. The stations belonging to the K-NET, JMA, and the Niigata Prefecture Government have sensors only on the ground surface. The locations and depth of each strong-motion station are listed in Table 1. These stations include most stations within a radius of 50 km from the epicenter. Two strong-motion stations (K-NET and JMA) located in Ojiya City, which is close to the source fault, are excluded because nonlinear site effects during the mainshock were reported (e.g., Mori and Iwata, 2006; Tokimatsu and Sekiguchi, 2006). The original records are the three components of the acceleration time histories sampled at 200 Hz for the KiK-net stations and at 100 Hz for the others. All of the observed acceleration waveform data are numerically integrated into velocity in the time domain, band-pass filtered between 0.05 and 1.0 Hz using a sixth-order Chebyshev Type I recursive filter with zero-phase shift, and resampled at 10 Hz.

Table 1
Strong-Motion Stations Used in This Study

Station	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Depth (m)	Network	Location
NIG014	37.638	138.959	0	K-NET	Sanjo
NIG016	37.639	138.771	0	K-NET	Teradomari
NIG017	37.439	138.846	0	K-NET	Nagaoka
NIG020	37.230	138.965	0	K-NET	Koide
NIG021	37.125	138.750	0	K-NET	Tokamachi
NIG022	37.033	138.849	0	K-NET	Shiozawa
NIG024	37.124	138.447	0	K-NET	Yasuduka
FKS028	37.346	139.318	0	K-NET	Tadami
NIGH01	37.424	138.891	100	KiK-net	Nagaoka
NIGH06	37.650	138.071	100	KiK-net	Kamo
NIGH09	37.536	138.131	100	KiK-net	Shitada
NIGH11	37.170	138.747	200	KiK-net	Kawanishi
NIGH12	37.221	138.985	110	KiK-net	Yunotani
NIGH13	37.051	138.400	100	KiK-net	Maki
NIGH15	37.050	138.998	100	KiK-net	Muika
FKSH21	37.339	139.318	200	KiK-net	Tadami
CB7	37.248	139.017	0	JMA	Hirokami
65030	37.473	138.995	0	Niigata Prefecture	Tochio
65043	37.241	138.927	0	Niigata Prefecture	Horinouchi
65047	37.319	138.018	0	Niigata Prefecture	Sumon
65048	37.350	138.067	0	Niigata Prefecture	Irihiro
65057	37.302	138.712	0	Niigata Prefecture	Oguni

Modeling of Velocity Structure Using Aftershock Records

Methodology for Velocity Structure Modeling

A set of well-calibrated Green's functions is indispensable to retrieve a precise kinematic source rupture model from the observed strong ground motions. As previously mentioned, the velocity structure in and around the source region of the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake is rather complicated; therefore, it would be inappropriate to use a single one-dimensional velocity structure model for calculating theoretical Green's functions. In the ultimate sense, the use of a three-dimensional velocity structure model seems to be the best option, and the source model obtained using three-dimensional Green's functions would be different from that obtained using a single one-dimensional Green's function (e.g., Koketsu *et al.*, 2003; Liu and Archuleta, 2004). However, developing an exact three-dimensional velocity structure model for the entire area in the target region is usually difficult without extensive integrated geophysical explorations. Graves and Wald (2001) tested the influence of the inaccuracy of the Green's function on kinematic source inversions by using synthetic models. They showed that the resolution of the slip distribution obtained with a set of calibrated one-dimensional Green's functions is comparable to that obtained with three-dimensional Green's functions. In particular, if we mainly concentrate on the waves propagating directly upward from the source, then the one-dimensional structure could be a good approximation of the wave propagation characteristics of the true three-

dimensional structure. Several previous studies (e.g., Ichinose *et al.*, 2003) constructed proper layered structure models to each station based on the waveform modeling of small events and succeeded in obtaining the detailed source rupture process.

In this study, a velocity structure model for each strong-motion station is constructed by the forward modeling of the aftershock records. The M_w 4.8 aftershock that occurred at 0435 on 1 November 2004 (JST) is mainly used in this analysis (aftershock #1 in Table 2). For the stations where the record of this aftershock is not available, the other three aftershocks (M_w 5.4–5.5) are used (aftershock #2–#4 in Table 2). The source time function of these aftershocks is approximated by a point source with a finite duration of the smoothed ramp function. The locations of the aftershocks are assumed by referring to the results of the hypocenter relocation studies by Kato *et al.* (2005), Okada *et al.* (2005), and Shibutani *et al.* (2005). The focal mechanism follows the moment tensor solution determined by F-net. The source duration of the events are tuned up to fit the observed waveforms. The source parameters of these aftershocks are listed in Table 2. The epicenters of these aftershocks are also indicated by open stars in Figure 1.

The reference underground structure model employed here is listed in Table 3. The reference model is assumed based on the P -wave velocity structure model obtained from the refraction survey by Ikami *et al.* (1986) and the S -wave velocity structure model obtained from the microtremor array measurements by Yamanaka *et al.* (2005). For most stations, the PS logging information at the superficial layers released by K-NET and KiK-net is also included above the

Table 2
Source Parameters of the Aftershocks

Aftershock	Origin Time (JST)		Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Depth (km)	M_0^* (Nm)	Strike/Dip/Rake (°)	Half Duration (sec)
	(yyyy/mm/dd)	(hr:min:sec)						
#1	2004/11/01	04:35:49.0	37.230	138.869	6.0	1.75×10^{16}	216/54/104	0.5
#2	2004/10/23	19:45:56.8	37.312	138.851	10.7	1.78×10^{17}	217/40/107	1.2
#3	2004/10/25	06:04:57.3	37.342	138.921	12.8	2.47×10^{17}	215/53/94	1.4
#4	2004/11/08	11:15:58.4	37.406	138.994	3.8	2.24×10^{17}	209/38/103	1.3

* M_0 is the seismic moment determined by the F-net/NIED.

top layer of the reference structure model. The appropriate thickness of each sedimentary layer is searched for by the nonlinear optimization using the genetic algorithm (GA) (Holland, 1975). The deep structure beneath the bedrock is common for all of the stations. The theoretical Green's function is calculated by using the discrete wavenumber integration method (Bouchon, 1981) with the reflection and transmission matrix (Kennett and Kerry, 1979). This method gives a full Green's function. For the stations where aftershock #1 is used, the target velocity waveforms are band-pass filtered between 0.05 and 1 Hz. For the other stations where aftershocks #2, #3, and #4 are used, the target velocity waveforms are band-pass filtered between 0.05 and 0.5 Hz to maintain a point-source approximation, because the magnitude of these aftershocks is greater than aftershock #1.

The goodness of the waveform fitting is evaluated by using the following misfit function first introduced by Sen and Stoffa (1991):

$$f(\tau) = 1.0 - 2 \frac{\int u(t)_{\text{obs}} u(t + \tau)_{\text{syn}} dt}{\int [u(t)_{\text{obs}}^2 + u(t + \tau)_{\text{syn}}^2] dt}. \quad (1)$$

Here, $u(t)_{\text{obs}}$ and $u(t)_{\text{syn}}$ are the observed and synthesized waveforms, respectively, and τ is the time shift to compensate for the error in the absolute travel time between them. The unknown parameters are estimated so as to minimize $f(\tau)$ using the GA developed by Carroll (1996). In our problem, the material parameters (elastic wave velocity, density, and Q values) for each sedimentary layer are fixed during the optimization, and the unknown parameters are the thicknesses of several sedimentary layers only. The initial popula-

tion that consists of 40 models is randomly generated. Then, the evolution process, including the tournament selection, uniform crossover, jump and creep mutation, and elitism (best individual replicated into next generation), is applied to the population to produce the next generation with the same population size. In this simulation, the crossover probability, jump mutation probability, and creep mutation probability is 0.5, 0.025, and 0.125, respectively. These parameters are determined according to Carroll (1996). The reproduction and selection procedure is terminated at the fiftieth generation. In order to obtain a stable solution, five runs are tested, by changing the initial models, for each station. The best model among the five is selected as the final solution.

Estimated Velocity Structure Model

According to the methodology described in the previous subsection, the one-dimensional velocity structure models for 22 stations are constructed. Figure 2a shows the minimum misfit value at each generation for each GA run in the case of waveform modeling of aftershock #1 for NIGH11. The misfit values decrease rapidly in the first 10–20 generations. This shows convergence near the minimum solution. The velocity structure model obtained here is shown in Figure 2b. The final model with the minimum misfit value among the best-fit models obtained by each run and the other four models are indicated by solid and broken lines, respectively. These five models closely resemble each other, so that the appropriate structure model is stably estimated by the procedure. Figure 2c,d shows comparison among the best-fit model using aftershocks #1, #2, and #4. These three

Table 3
Reference Underground Structure Model to Estimate Velocity Structure Model for Each Station

Layer	Depth (m)	V_P (m/sec)	V_S (m/sec)	ρ (kg/m ³)	Q_P	Q_S
#1	0	1800	600	1800	100	50
#2	Variable	2200	1000	2100	200	100
#3	Variable	2600	1300	2200	300	150
#4	Variable	3100	1790	2300	400	200
#5	Variable	4100	2370	2400	500	250
#6	Variable	4700	2710	2550	600	300
Upper crust	Variable	6000	3460	2670	700	350
Lower crust	17,000	6700	3870	2900	800	400
Upper mantle	34,000	7900	4400	3200	1000	500

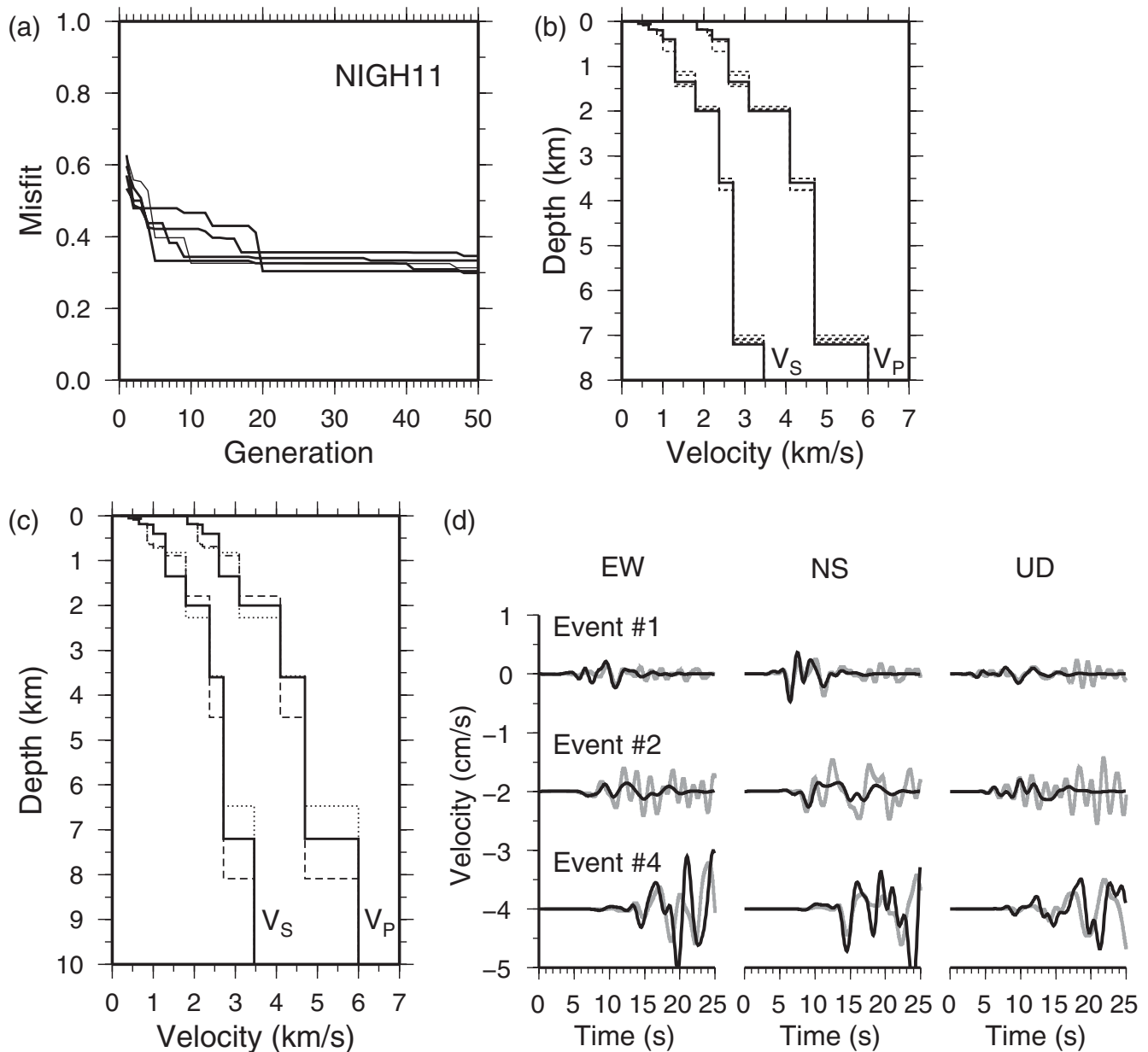


Figure 2. Results of velocity structure modeling for NIGH11. (a) The minimum misfit value as a function of generation for five GA runs using aftershock #1 for NIGH11. (b) The best-fit subsurface velocity structure models obtained using aftershock #1 for NIGH11. The solid line indicates the best model among five runs, and broken lines indicate models obtained from the other four runs. (c) Comparison of the best-fit models obtained using aftershock #1 (solid line), #2 (broken line), and #4 (dotted line) for NIGH11. (d) Comparison between observed (gray line) and synthesized (solid black line) velocity waveforms for aftershocks #1, #2, and #4.

models are fairly similar to each other. It supports that the effective one-dimensional velocity structure model proposed here works well though small differences among three models still remain. These differences may be due to three-dimensional effects along the propagation path.

Figure 3 shows the estimated velocity structure models for all of the stations. The synthetic velocity waveforms calculated from the obtained velocity structure model are plotted with the observed ones in Figure 4. The synthetic waveforms reproduce the observed ground motions fairly well in the frequency range considered. The stations located

inside the basins and valleys have thicker sediment layers than other stations. In particular, the bedrock depths at several stations are deeper than 5 km. The stations located at the footwall side have thin sediments. The estimated bedrock depth ranges from 0.5 km to 7.7 km. These overall features are consistent with the three-dimensional inhomogeneous velocity structure models obtained by the tomography studies that are mentioned in the Introduction section of this article. These obtained velocity structure models are used to calculate the Green's functions for the waveform inversion study in the following sections.

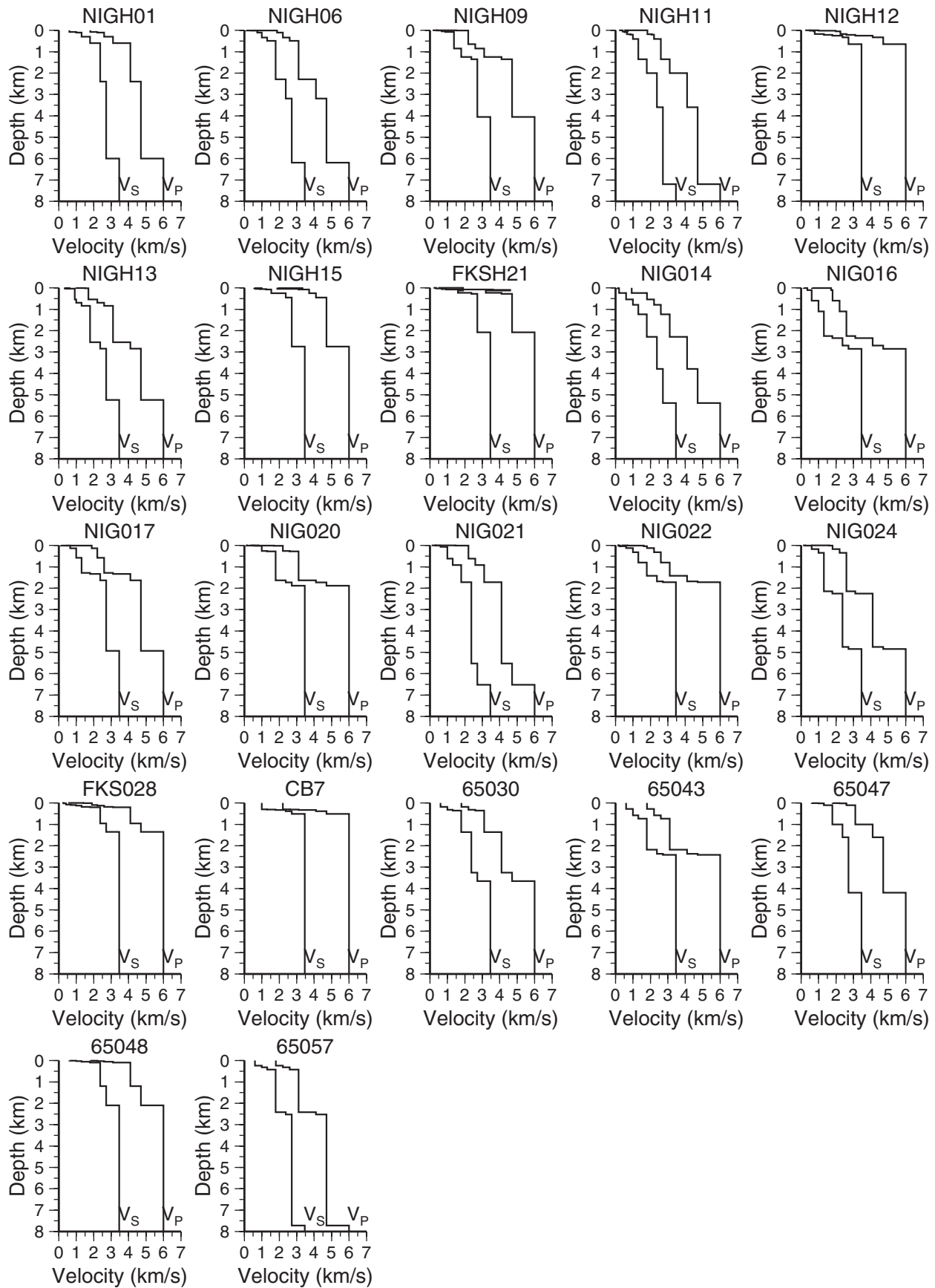


Figure 3. *P*- and *S*-wave velocity structure model above the bedrock for each station estimated by modeling aftershock waveforms.

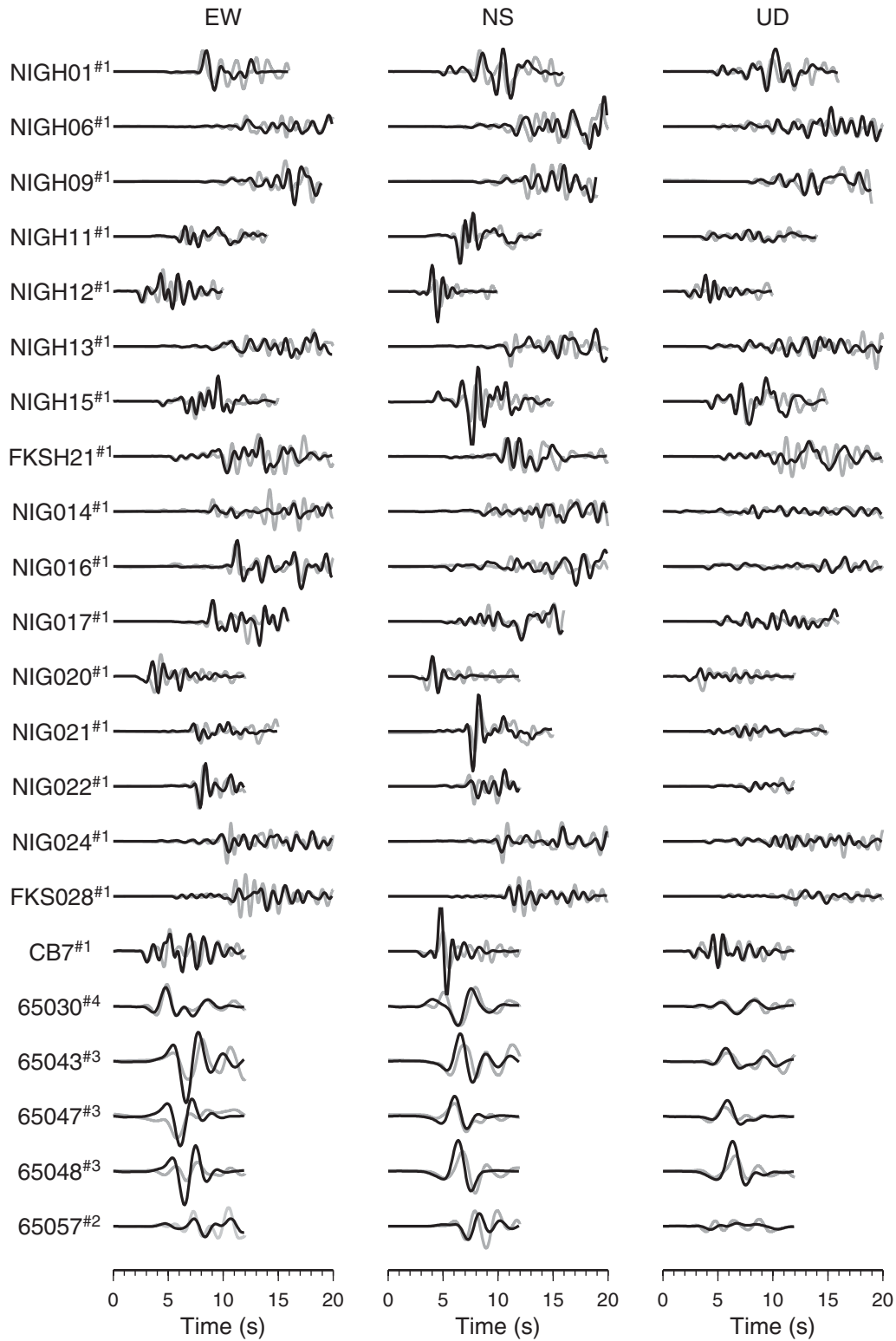


Figure 4. Comparison between observed velocity waveforms (gray line) and synthesized velocity waveforms for the aftershock modeling (solid black line). The number associated with each station code denotes the aftershock in Table 2. The amplitude is normalized by the maximum amplitude of observation for each station.

Waveform Inversion to Estimate Kinematic Source Model

Waveform Inversion Method

The spatial and temporal rupture history is estimated by the multiple-time-window linear waveform inversion method (Harzell and Heaton, 1983). A planar fault plane is assumed by referring to the aftershock distribution, and its length and width are set to 28 and 18 km, respectively. The strike (212°) and dip angle (47°) of the fault plane follows the moment tensor solution determined by F-net. The hypocenter or rupture initiation point is assumed to be 37.307° N, 138.839° E at a depth of 10.6 km. This hypocenter location is obtained by averaging the results from the precise hypocenter relocating studies by Kato *et al.*, (2005), Okada *et al.* (2005), and Shibutani *et al.* (2005). The original hypocenters of these studies are close to each other. The moment release on the fault is discretized in space and time. The fault plane is divided into 126 subfaults. Each subfault has a length of 2 km and width of 2 km. A point source is located at the center of each subfault. The depth of the point source for the uppermost subfaults is 1.8 km. The temporal moment release from each subfault is expressed by a series of six smoothed ramp functions with a rise time of 1.0 sec separated by 0.5 sec (Δtw). Circular rupture propagation at a constant velocity V_R from the hypocenter is assumed. The observational equation is expressed in the vector form as

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{m} \cong \mathbf{d}, \quad (2)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} A_{pq} &= G_{ni}[x_s, t_l - R_k/V_R - (j-1)\Delta tw; \xi_k, 0], \\ m_q &= \Delta u_{ijk}, \quad d_p = u_n(x_s, t_l), \\ p &= (s-1)LN + (n-1)L + l, \\ (s &= 1, \dots, S, n = 1, \dots, N, l = 1, \dots, L), \\ q &= (i-1)JK + (j-1)K + k, \\ (i &= 1, \dots, I, j = 1, \dots, J, k = 1, \dots, K), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where u_n is the n th component of the observed velocity waveform at the l th sampled time at the s th station, Δu_{ijk} is the i th component of slip at the j th time window at the k th subfault, G_{ni} is the n th component of the Green's function convolved with the element source time function corresponding to the i th component of the slip at the k th subfault, and R_k is the distance from the rupture initiation point to the center of the k th subfault. I, J, K, L, N , and S are the total number of slip components (here, $I = 2$ as slip has dip and strike-slip components), time windows, subfaults, data samples of each component, data components (here, $N = 3$ as observed data has three components), and stations, respectively. The rupture propagation velocity V_R , which triggers the rupture of the first time window at each subfault, is de-

termined so as to minimize the residual of the data fitting. Here, eight values—1.73, 1.90, 2.08, 2.25, 2.42, 2.60, 2.77, and 2.94 km/sec—are tested. They correspond to 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and 85% of the shear-wave velocity of the upper crust model, respectively. The amplitude of the waveforms is normalized by the maximum amplitude at each station.

The spatiotemporal smoothing constraint is introduced to stabilize the inversion result according to Sekiguchi *et al.* (2000). This smoothing constraint assumes the model parameters close in space and time to be similar. The smoothing constraint equations for all of the model parameters are combined in the matrix form as

$$\mathbf{S}\mathbf{m} \cong \mathbf{0}. \quad (4)$$

Equations (2) and (4) can be combined as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} \\ \lambda \mathbf{S} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{m} \cong \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{d} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

A hyperparameter describing the relative strength of smoothing, λ , is determined by Akaike's Bayesian Information Criterion approach (Akaike, 1980). Because the focal mechanism of this earthquake is reverse faulting, the rake angle direction is limited within $90^\circ \pm 45^\circ$. The detail of the technique applied here is described in Sekiguchi *et al.* (2000). Because we are mainly interested in the S -wave portion of the ground motions, the 12 sec of time histories beginning from 1 sec prior to the direct S -wave onset are used. Equation (5) is solved to obtain the unknown model parameter $\mathbf{m}$ using the non-negative least-squares algorithm (Lawson and Hanson, 1974).

Result

The obtained final slip distribution on the fault surface is shown in Figure 5. Figure 6 shows the comparison between the observed and synthesized velocity waveforms in 0.05–1 Hz. The observed waveforms exhibit a complicated behavior even in the low-frequency range. The synthesized waveforms fit the observed waveforms fairly well, although some discrepancies still remain. The rupture front propagation velocity of the first time window is selected as 1.90 km/sec to give the best-fit model. This rupture velocity corresponds to approximately 55% of the shear-wave velocity in the upper crust, and it is slower than the average rupture velocity of the shallow crustal earthquakes compiled by Geller (1976). A large slip area or asperity is observed in the vicinity of the hypocenter. Its maximum slip amount is 3.1 m. The average slip amount over the fault is approximately 0.7 m. The estimated total seismic moment is 1.07×10^{19} Nm (M_w 6.6). Figure 7 shows the temporal progression of the slip. Figure 8 shows the moment-rate functions of each subfault. The maximum moment rate is observed at the hypocenter. The rupture originated from the

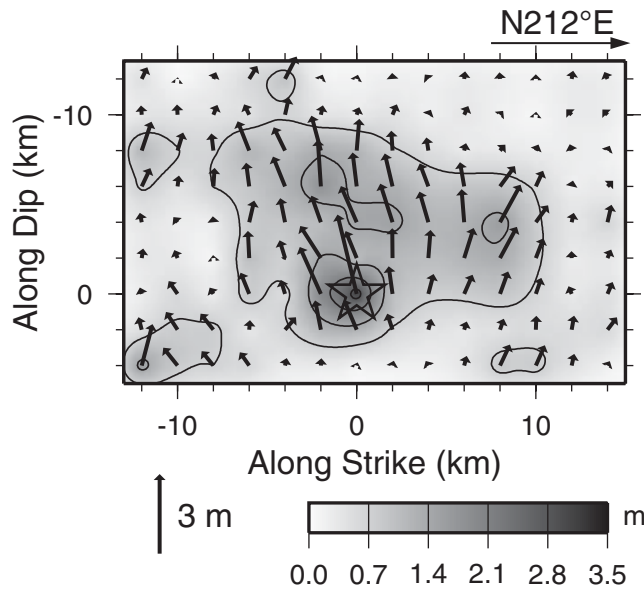


Figure 5. Final slip distribution obtained from the waveform inversion. The open star indicates the hypocenter. The arrows show slip vectors of the hanging wall relative to the footwall. The slip distribution is interpolated by the minimum curvature gridding algorithm (Smith and Wessel, 1990). The contour interval is 0.7 m.

deep part of the source fault and propagated toward the up-dip direction with a slightly lower rupture velocity. The asperity also extended along the southwest direction. The large pulse observed in the ground motions southwest of the fault (NIG021, NIGH11) are mainly contributed by the slip in the southwest portion of that asperity, whereas the ground motions at the other stations are controlled by the large slip in and around the hypocenter. Most of the slip is observed in an area of 20 km $\times$ 12 km. The slip near the ground surface is not significant. This is consistent with the field observations, which reported that no obvious surface faulting was observed along the surface projection of the top of the fault plane. The entire rupture lasted for approximately 10 sec.

Robustness of Inversion Solutions

Overview

In the previous section, the source model of the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake was constructed using the strong-motion data recorded at 22 stations within a radius of 50 km from the epicenter. Because this earthquake occurred in the inland area of Japan, the strong-motion stations are located above and around the source region. The coverage of the stations appears to be good. The influence of the spatial configuration of the observation stations on the resolvability of the inverted fault slip model has been examined in previous studies (e.g., Iida *et al.*, 1990; Saraó *et al.*, 1998). Iida *et al.* (1988) proposed the optimum array configuration to perform the source inversion for strike-slip and inclined dip-slip fault earthquakes based on the prediction analysis. The resultant source model might depend on the selection of stations in some

cases. Custódio *et al.* (2005) practically investigated how the resulting source models depend on the data. They prepared 12 equivalent data subsets for the 2004 Parkfield, California, earthquake, and compared the inversion results. Their primary conclusion was that common features could be identified despite some variability between the models, and they insisted that only these persistent features should be considered as accurate when concluding the earthquake fault dynamics. However, the problem of determining how many strong-motion stations are required in order to obtain a robust solution has not been suitably addressed in practical cases. In the following subsection, we will demonstrate how the solutions depend on the number of stations used in the inversion. Here, we treat the solution obtained in the previous section as the reference solution and compare the results from different data sets and discuss their robustness and varieties. In the subsequent subsection, the difference between the solution from only the *S* wave and that from the *P* and *S* waves will be discussed to check whether the *S*-wave part has sufficient resolution to retrieve a precise rupture model. From these tests, the reliability of the location of the large slip area or asperities within the fault plane can be confirmed.

Variation of Inversion Results among Different Station Combinations

In order to examine the influence of the number of stations (N_s) included in the waveform inversion on the obtained source model, inversion analyses by changing the number of stations are performed following the jackknife resampling technique (e.g., Efron, 1982). Four cases, in which N_s are 4, 8, 12, and 16, respectively, are tested. Twenty-two stations are divided into four groups according to the azimuth from the epicenter. Each group consists of five or six stations. In order to build a data set, $N_s/4$ stations are chosen from each group. For each case, 200 combinations of stations are randomly generated using the pseudo random number generator MT19937 (Matsumoto and Nishimura, 1998). According to the inversion result using all of the data, which was shown in the previous section, the rupture propagation velocity of the first time window is fixed at 1.90 km/sec. It is because we would like to only see the effect of the station configurations in the test.

Figure 9 shows the maps of the average slip model obtained by averaging the 200 models (a), their standard deviation (b), and coefficient of variance (c) for each N_s . The coefficient of variance is calculated by dividing the standard deviation by the average value (Custódio *et al.*, 2005). The average slip models for each N_s are quite similar to each other and to the reference source model. The standard deviation of slip models decreases with an increase in the number of stations. The coefficient of variance is large at the edge of the fault area and small in the large slip area. At the edge of the fault area, the slip is not constrained well by the data. When $N_s = 12$ or 16, the standard deviation is very small when compared to the final slip amounts, and the coefficient

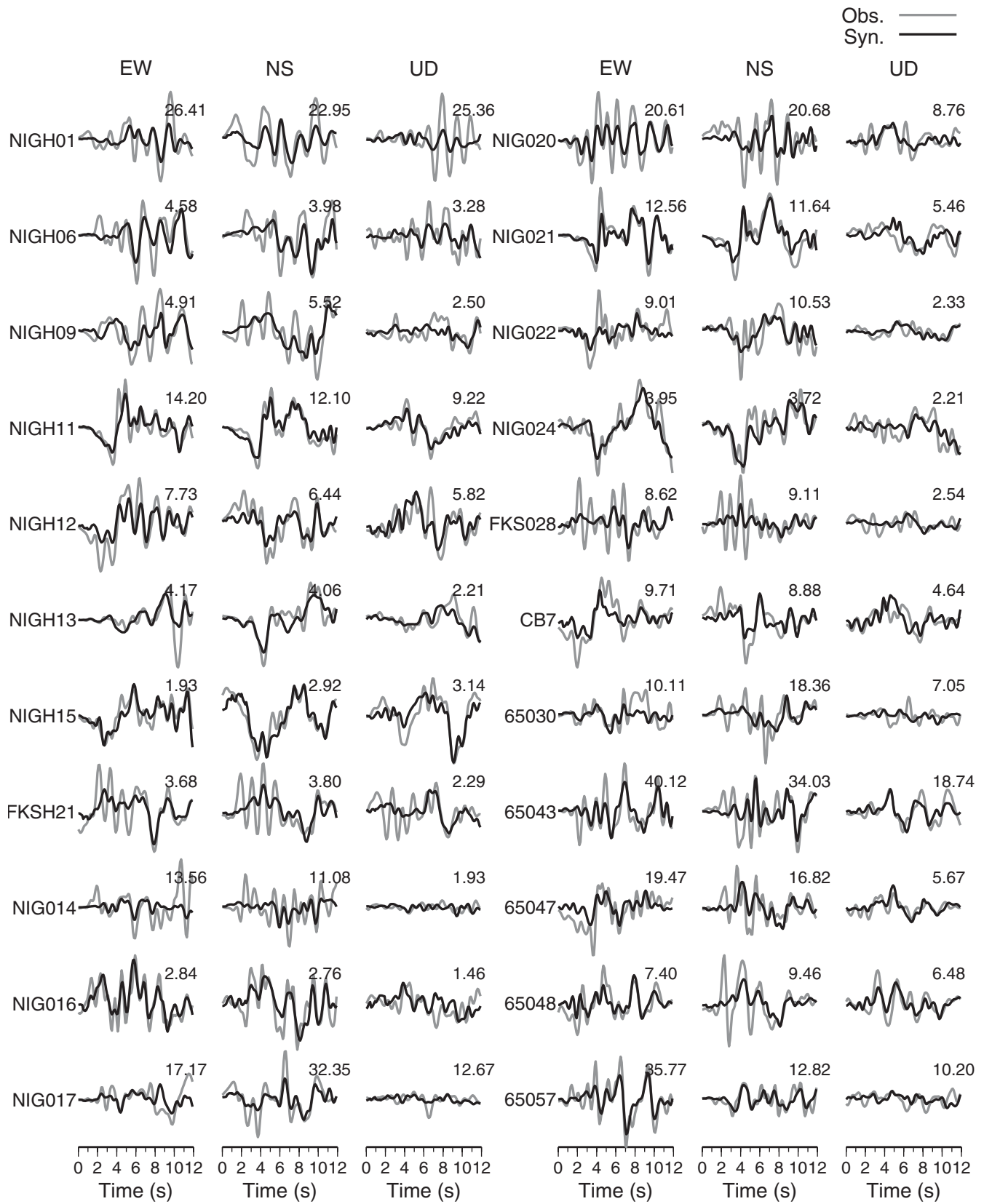


Figure 6. Comparison between observed velocity waveforms (gray line) and synthesized velocity waveforms (solid black line) obtained from the waveform inversion. Each waveform is band-pass filtered between 0.05 and 1 Hz. The maximum amplitude of each component of the observed waveforms is shown above each trace in cm/sec.

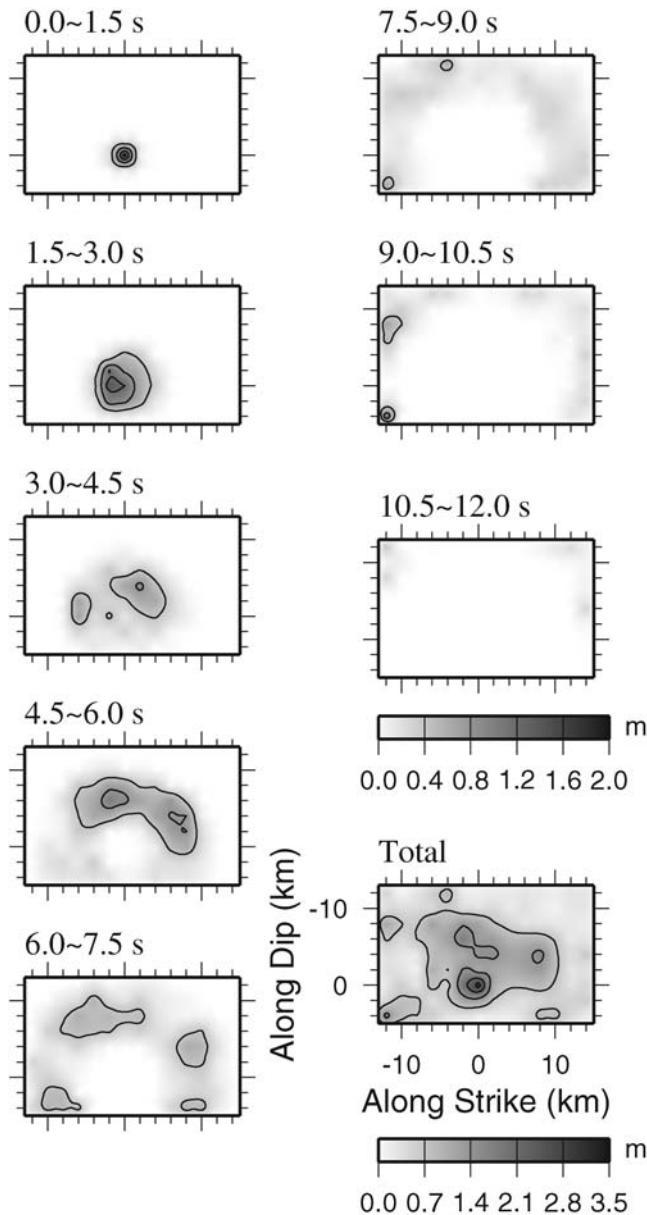


Figure 7. Snapshots of the temporal rupture progression at timesteps of 1.5 sec. The contour interval of the slip is 0.4 m. The open star indicates the rupture starting point.

of variance is less than 0.3 at most areas of the fault. Even for the case of $N_s = 8$, the coefficient of variance in the asperity area is less than 0.3. These facts imply that the pattern of slip distribution is stably estimated from these data sets, and the location of asperities does not change. For $N_s = 4$, because the standard deviation and coefficient of variance are large in the entire fault area, the amount of data is not sufficient to obtain a stable solution. Figure 10 is the histogram of the slip amount at four subfaults obtained for each model. The subfault (7, 7) corresponds to the rupture initiation point, where the maximum slip was observed for the reference slip model. The subfault (14, 1) is the subfault at the fault edge, where the variance is relatively large. For $N_s = 4$, some of the mod-

els have extreme slip amounts at (14, 1). These models would not be realistic. With an increase in the number of stations used in the inversion, the slip amount converged at the reference value and the standard deviation decreased. This feature is consistent with the result of Iida *et al.* (1990), in which the uncertainty of the slip amount decreased with an increase in the number of stations. Figures 9 and 10 suggest that it is necessary to use more than 12 uniformly distributed stations to retrieve a stable source model for the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake.

Effects of Target Wave Type and Velocity Structure Model

In our analysis, the time window beginning from one second prior to the *S*-wave onset of the ground motions is used as the input data set for the waveform inversion. The onset of the direct *S*-wave arrival is manually picked up. In the case of near-source strong ground motions, the later part of the direct *P* wave is contaminated by the large amplitude of the *S* wave because the *S*-*P* time in the near-source region is shorter than the source duration time of the target event. Kinematic waveform inversion study with strong-motion data has mainly utilized the *S*-wave part of the ground motions because it is interested in the generation process of strong ground motion in *S* wave and its later phases. Some previous studies simultaneously analyzed both *P* and *S* waves of ground motions (i.e., a time window beginning prior to the *P*-wave onset is used). However, to precisely achieve the simultaneous inversion of *P* and *S* waves, the careful treatment of the Green's function is quite important because error in *S*-*P* time in the Green's function will affect the resulting slip model. In this article, appropriate velocity structure models have already been constructed for each strong-motion station. In order to check the reliability of the source model deduced from the *S* wave, another inversion is demonstrated by using both the *P* and *S* waves. Hereafter, the term *S*-wave inversion indicates the waveform inversion using the time history of 12 sec from 1 sec before the direct *S*-wave arrival; the term *P*- and *S*-wave inversion indicates the waveform inversion using the time history of 20 sec from 1 sec prior to the direct *P*-wave arrival. The waveform inversion methodology and the Green's functions are the same in both analyses. Because the Green's function is a full Green's function, both *S*-wave inversion and *P*- and *S*-wave inversion include all of the phases in the targeted time window. The best rupture propagation velocity of the first time window is searched, changing by 5% of the *S*-wave velocity (3.46 km/sec) in a similar fashion to the *S*-wave inversion.

Figure 11 shows the comparison between the source model obtained from the *S*-wave inversion (Fig. 11a) and that obtained from the *P*- and *S*-wave inversion (Fig. 11b). The comparison between observed and synthetic waveforms is shown in Figure 12. The rupture propagation velocity of 1.90 km/sec was selected for *P*- and *S*-wave inversion. It was the same as the result of the *S*-wave inversion. The spa-

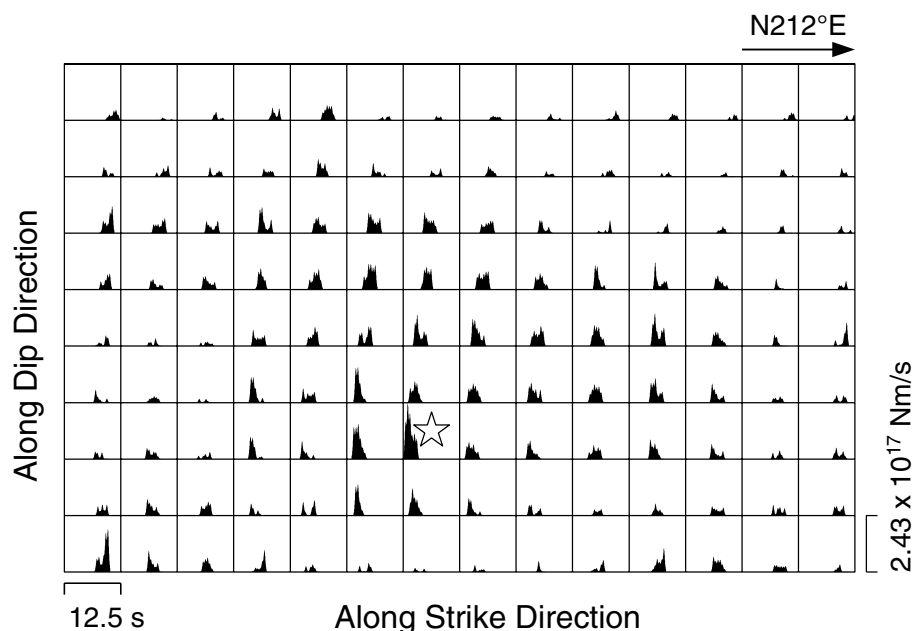


Figure 8. Moment-rate functions of each subfault. The open star indicates the hypocenter.

tial extent of large slip area in the source model of the P - and S -wave inversion is similar to that of the S -wave inversion. It should be noted that this kind of comparison is impossible when the velocity structure model and hypocenter location cannot explain the observed S - P time. If the number of stations is sufficient and the errors in picking up the S -wave phase are not systematic, then these errors could be compensated for in the S -wave inversion. Therefore, it could be concluded that both analyses could accurately locate the asperities when the appropriateness of the Green's function is verified in the target area.

In Figure 11c, the final slip distribution obtained using a single velocity structure model is also shown as a comparison. In this model, the velocity structure model for NIGH12 is used for all of the stations. Because NIGH12 has thin low-velocity sedimentary layers, this velocity model is close to a rock model, which is commonly used in the kinematic source inversion practices. The models obtained using calibrated velocity structure models show a clear image of high-slip area compared to the model obtained using a single velocity structure model. It reveals the importance of velocity structure calibration demonstrated in this article.

Discussions

Because of the strong heterogeneity and uncertainty of the velocity structure in this region, it is still difficult to infer the relationship between the fault rupture process of this earthquake and the geophysical and geological structures. Many ongoing studies are investigating the tectonic environment of this earthquake. According to the obtained slip distribution as shown in Figure 5, almost no slip was observed at the depth shallower than 3 km. In that depth, few after-

shocks occurred (e.g., Shibutani *et al.*, 2005; Okada *et al.*, 2006). That feature supports the result that the rupture of the mainshock did not extend to ground surface because after-shock distribution usually corresponds to the rupture area in terms of spatial coverage. The P - and S -wave velocity structure models obtained from the double-difference tomography by Okada *et al.* (2006) indicated thick low-velocity layers overlying the aftershock area of the mainshock. This low-velocity layer extends from the hanging-wall to the footwall side and spatially corresponds to the area with no slip and few aftershocks. That is, the asperities of this earthquake are located in the crust with high seismic wave velocity. Nishigami (2006) estimated the three-dimensional distribution of the relative scattering coefficients in the source region by the inversion of the coda energy fluctuation. The asperity obtained in our study seems to correspond to a relatively weak scattering region, and the asperity area is bounded by the strong heterogeneous zone with large scattering coefficients. The rupture area of this earthquake might be blocked by the geological segment structure.

As previously mentioned, the rupture near the ground surface is small; therefore, this earthquake could be categorized as a buried rupture earthquake. Kagawa *et al.* (2004) pointed out that buried rupture earthquakes have a larger stress drop on the asperity and generate stronger short-period (around 1 sec) ground motions as compared to surface breaking earthquakes. The static stress change of this earthquake is calculated from the source model obtained in this study according to the methodology developed by Ripperger and Mai (2004). Figure 13 shows the distribution of the static stress drop on the fault. The static stress drops on the asperities are locally higher than 10 MPa. Kamae *et al.* (2005) estimated the stress drop on the asperities by the forward modeling

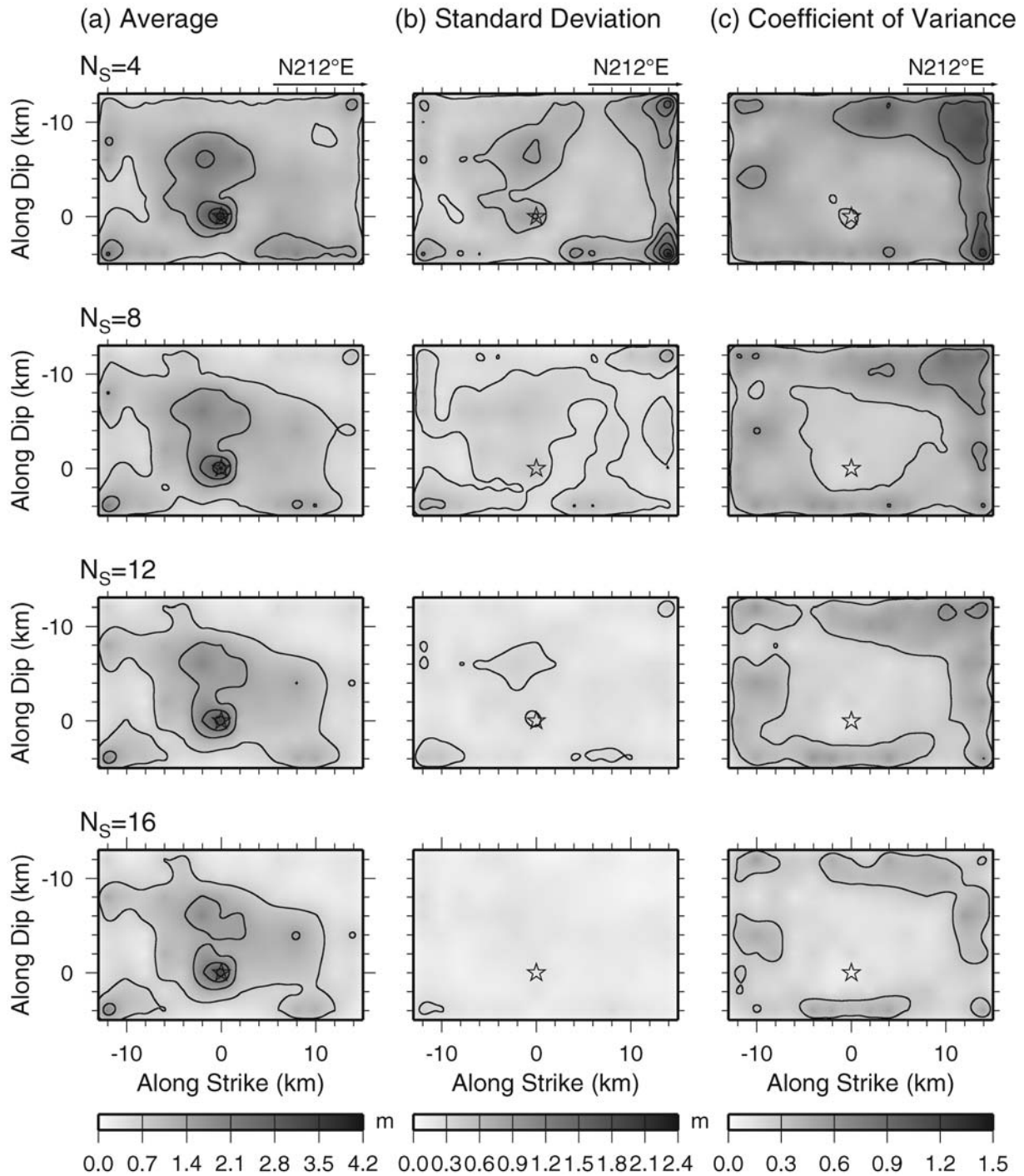


Figure 9. (a) The average slip amount of 200 models obtained with 200 data subsets, (b) the standard deviation, and (c) the coefficient of variance. N_s is the number of stations included in the subset.

of broadband strong ground motions using the empirical Green's function method. Their source model comprised two asperities, and their estimations of the stress drop on the asperities are 7 and 20 MPa, respectively. In Figure 13, the deeper asperity at the hypocenter has an especially high stress drop. The higher stress drop produces a large slip velocity, and the resulting near-source ground motions tend to be large. This feature is consistent with the conclusion of

Kagawa *et al.* (2004). The relatively slow rupture propagation velocity is also important to assess the rupture dynamics of this earthquake. Although the multiple-time-window method has some drawbacks in determining the precise rupture velocity, if the relatively slow rupture propagation actually occurs, then the fracture energy of this high-angle dipping fault might be large and the rupture might not propagate smoothly. This might occur because this reverse fault

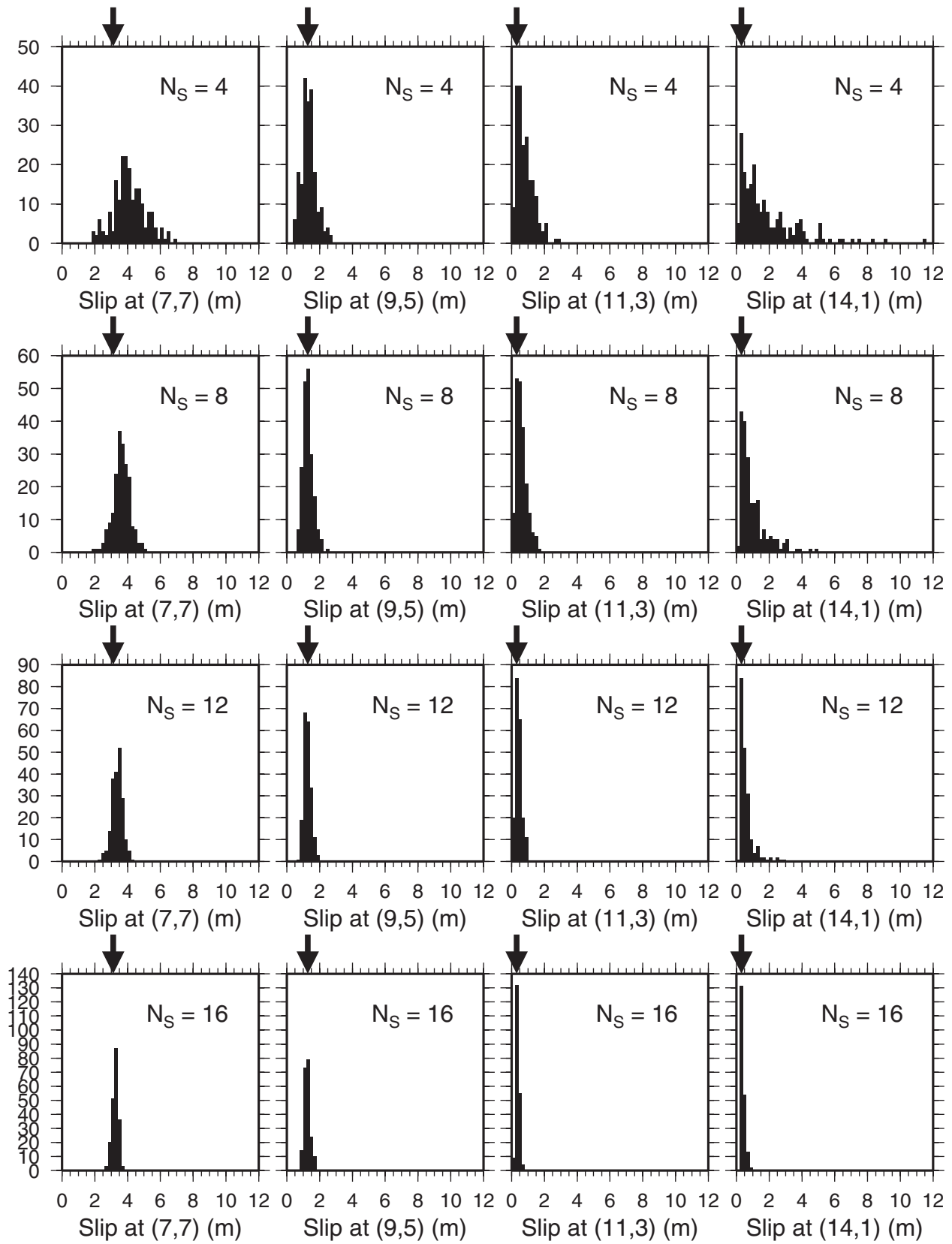


Figure 10. Histograms of slip amount at four subfaults obtained from the 200 inversions for each N_S . The arrow indicates the slip amount of the reference source model.

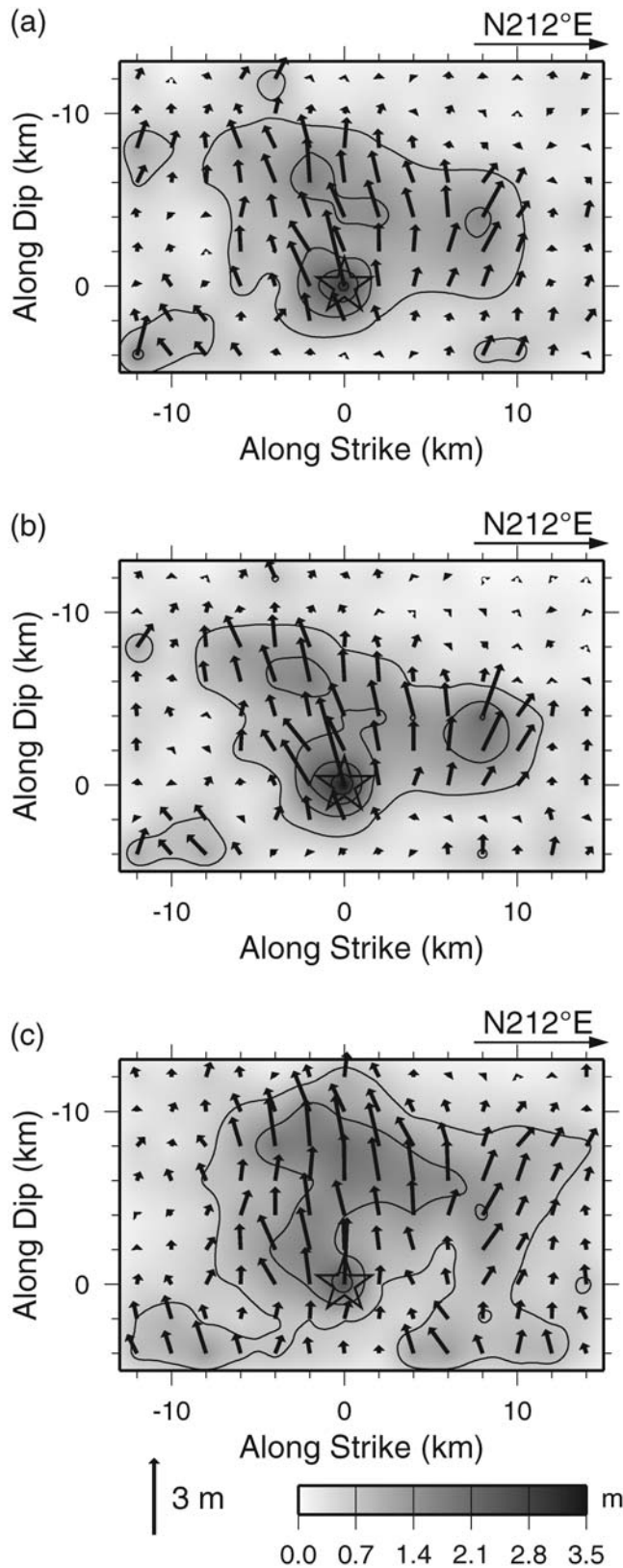


Figure 11. (a) Final slip distribution obtained from the *S*-wave inversion (same as Fig. 5). (b) Final slip distribution obtained from the *P*- and *S*-wave inversion. The contour interval is 0.7 m. (c) Final slip distribution obtained from the inversion using a single velocity structure model. The notations are the same as in Figure 5.

with a steep dip is formed by the reactivation of the normal fault. Fully dynamic rupture modeling might give us more insight on the relationship between the heterogeneous rupture process and the ground-motion generation process, but it might be beyond of the scope of this study.

The kinematic source models of the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake were also estimated using strong ground motions by Hikima and Koketsu (2005), Honda *et al.* (2005), and Miyazawa *et al.* (2005). Although these studies used a velocity structure model, a fault plane model, and a data set that differ from those used in this study, the models also have a large slip in the vicinity of the hypocenter, similar to the model obtained in this study. Miyazawa *et al.* (2005) used six stations of K-NET and KiK-net and a uniform one-dimensional velocity structure model obtained from the Joint Hypocenter Determination relocation by Shibutani *et al.* (2005). Honda *et al.* (2005) used nine stations of K-NET and KiK-net and three one-dimensional velocity structure models. Hikima and Koketsu (2005) used 11 KiK-net stations, and their velocity structure model depends on each station. The detail in the inversion techniques employed also differed from each other (in terms of the target frequency range, wave type, fault plane model, smoothing constraints, etc.). Because of these differences, the detailed characteristics of the resulting source models might differ. However, the main feature of the source model obtained in this study is similar to that of these source models. This was expected from the results of the test explained in the previous section. This study uses a large number of strong-motion stations, which are uniformly distributed within a radius of 50 km from the epicenter, and well-calibrated Green's functions, and the source model obtained in this study could explain the observed waveforms at many locations in and around the near-source region. The stability in locating asperities is also confirmed during the jackknife resampling test.

Conclusions

The spatial and temporal rupture process of the 2004 Chuetsu, mid-Niigata prefecture, Japan, earthquake was estimated in detail by kinematic waveform inversion using dense strong-motion data and well-calibrated Green's functions. In order to calibrate the Green's functions, the velocity structure for each station was modeled using aftershock records and the GA technique. The estimated one-dimensional velocity structures could approximate the wave propagation characteristics of these stations and were successful in simulating the aftershock waveforms. The estimated bedrock depth for each station spatially varies from 0.5 to 7.7 km. The obtained source model of the mainshock shows that the rupture originated from the deeper part of the fault and propagated toward the up-dip and southwest directions. The slip near the ground surface is small, and large slip and high moment rate are observed in and around the hypocenter. In this region, a relatively large stress drop was observed. From two kinds of tests on the effect of the data set, the stability of the

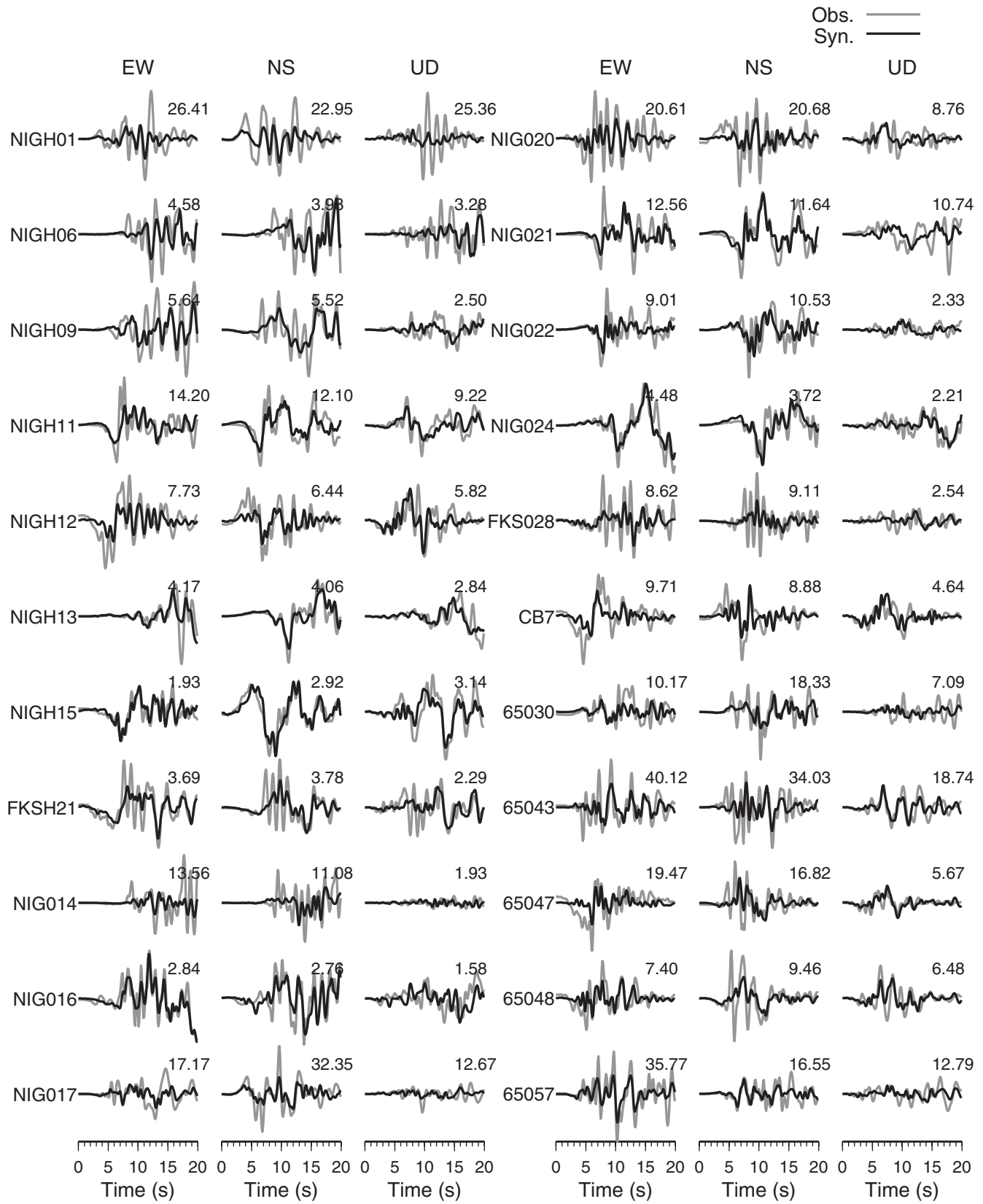


Figure 12. Comparison between observed velocity waveforms (gray line) and synthesized velocity waveforms (solid black line) obtained from the *P*- and *S*-wave inversion. The notations are the same as in Figure 6.

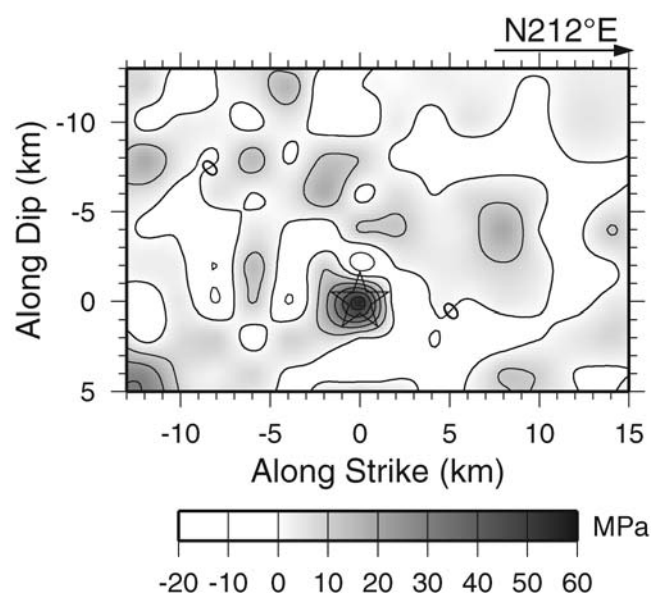


Figure 13. Spatial distribution of the static stress drop on the fault obtained from the final slip distribution. The open star indicates the hypocenter. The contour interval is 10 MPa.

source model obtained in this study is examined. The first test examined the effects of the number of available stations on the solution, and the second test examined how the difference in the target waveform type affects the solution. The number of stations affects the variation of slip amount. The underground structure is laterally heterogeneous in the target area; therefore, the use of more than 12 stations is desirable to retrieve a stable source model for the 2004 Chuetsu earthquake. The source model obtained only from the *S*-wave part of ground motions is quite similar to that obtained from the *P* and *S* waves. The *S*-wave inversion has a resolution comparable to the simultaneous inversion of *P* and *S* waves. Such a comparison is only possible when the number of stations is sufficient and the Green's functions are well calibrated.

Data and Resources

K-NET and KiK-net data can be obtained from the National Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention at www.kyoshin.bosai.go.jp (last accessed August 2008). Strong-motion data of JMA and Niigata Prefecture Government were collected from the Japan Meteorological Business Support Center by CD-ROM. The F-net moment tensor catalog was searched using www.fnet.bosai.go.jp/fnet/ (last accessed August 2008). The "Active Fault Shape File" by Nakata and Imaizumi (2002) was also used (product serial number: DAFM1483). Most of figures were drawn using the Generic Mapping Tools (Wessel and Smith, 1998).

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