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3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the 2016 Kumamoto, Japan, earthquake

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Abstract

Using 3-D dynamic rupture simulations, we investigated the 2016 M_w 7.1 Kumamoto, Japan, earthquake to elucidate why and how the rupture of the main shock propagated successfully, assuming a complicated fault geometry estimated on the basis of the distributions of the aftershocks. The M_w 7.1 main shock occurred along the Futagawa and Hinagu faults. Within 28 h before the main shock, three M_6 -class foreshocks occurred. Their hypocenters were located along the Hinagu and Futagawa faults, and their focal mechanisms were similar to that of the main shock. Therefore, an extensive stress shadow should have been generated on the fault plane of the main shock. First, we estimated the geometry of the fault planes of the three foreshocks as well as that of the main shock based on the temporal evolution of the relocated aftershock hypocenters. We then evaluated the static stress changes on the main shock fault plane that were due to the occurrence of the three foreshocks, assuming elliptical cracks with constant stress drops on the estimated fault planes. The obtained static stress change distribution indicated that Coulomb failure stress change (ΔCFS) was positive just below the hypocenter of the main shock, while the ΔCFS in the shallow region above the hypocenter was negative. Therefore, these foreshocks could encourage the initiation of the main shock rupture and could hinder the propagation of the rupture toward the shallow region. Finally, we conducted 3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock using the initial stress distribution, which was the sum of the static stress changes caused by these foreshocks and the regional stress field. Assuming a slip-weakening law with uniform friction parameters, we computed 3-D dynamic rupture by varying the friction parameters and the values of the principal stresses. We obtained feasible parameter ranges that could reproduce the characteristic features of the main shock rupture revealed by seismic waveform analyses. We also observed that the free surface encouraged the slip evolution of the main shock.

Keywords: The 2016 Kumamoto earthquake, Numerical simulation, Dynamic rupture propagation, Foreshocks

Introduction

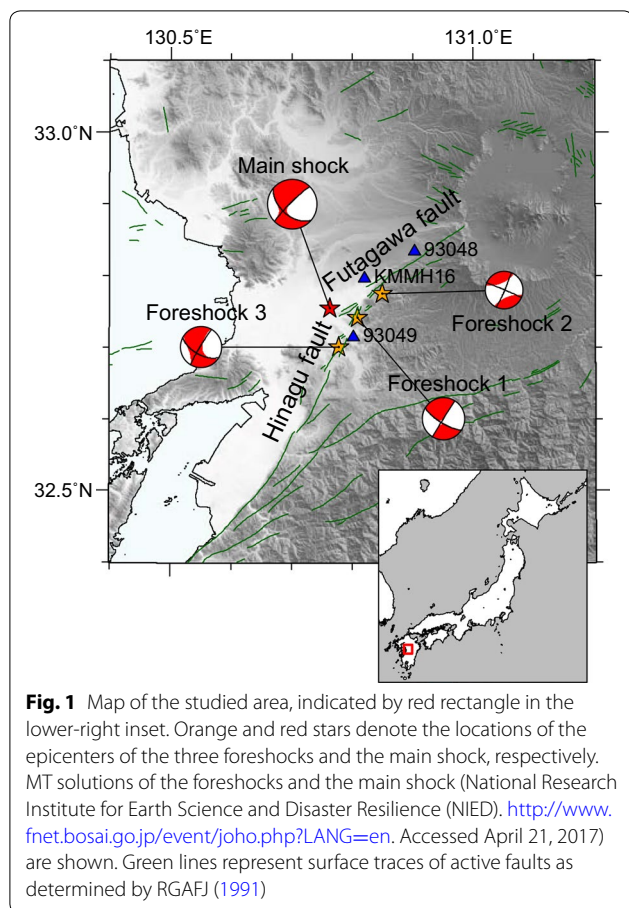
Earthquakes cause dynamic and static stress changes in the surrounding area. Both the dynamic and static stress changes can then trigger earthquakes, and a stress shadow appears where the Coulomb failure stress change (ΔCFS) is negative and subsequent seismicity tends to cease (e.g., King et al. 1994; Stein et al. 1997; Kilb et al. 2000; Toda et al. 2012).

On April 16, 2016, at 01:25 (JST, UT + 9 h), the M_w 7.1 main shock of the 2016 Kumamoto, Japan, earthquake sequence occurred along the Hinagu and Futagawa faults

(Fig. 1). The largest slip was shown to occur at a portion of the Futagawa fault shallower than 12 km by seismic waveform inversion analyses (Asano and Iwata 2016; Kubo et al. 2016; Uchide et al. 2016; Yagi et al. 2016; Kobayashi et al. 2017; Hao et al. 2017) as well as in the geodetic data (Himematsu and Furuya 2016). These studies reported the maximum slip amount was 4–6 m. The seismic waveform inversion results suggested that the slip of the main shock occurred on the Hinagu fault first and propagated to the Futagawa fault at a depth of 10–15 km at 2–4 s (Asano and Iwata 2016; Kubo et al. 2016; Uchide et al. 2016; Hao et al. 2017). Then, the large slip occurred on the Futagawa fault at a depth of 4–12 km for 6–10 s, and on the shallower region of the Futagawa fault later than 8 s (Asano and Iwata 2016; Kubo et al. 2016; Uchide

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et al. 2016; Hao et al. 2017). Yagi et al. (2016) and Hao et al. (2017) reported from the waveform inversion that the observed moment rate function was 6.3×10^{18} Nm/s at maximum at 8–9 s and became zero at 15–18 s. Field investigations showed that the main shock produced surface ruptures along the Hinagu and Futagawa fault zones, and the maximum slip (larger than 2 m) was observed in the Futagawa segment (Lin et al. 2016; Shirahama et al. 2016).

Within 28 h before the main shock, three M_w6-class foreshocks had occurred: an M_w6.1 foreshock on April 14 at 21:26 (JST, foreshock 1), an M_w5.4 foreshock on April 14 at 22:07 (JST, foreshock 2), and an M_w6.0 foreshock on April 15 at 00:03 (JST, foreshock 3). Their hypocenters were located along the Hinagu and Futagawa faults, and the moment tensor (MT) solutions of foreshocks 1 and 3 were similar to those of the main shock (Fig. 1). Therefore, an extensive stress shadow should have been generated on the main shock fault plane.

The purpose of this study is to investigate why and how the main shock rupture propagated successfully under such complicated stress conditions. We first estimate the fault planes of the three foreshocks and the main shock

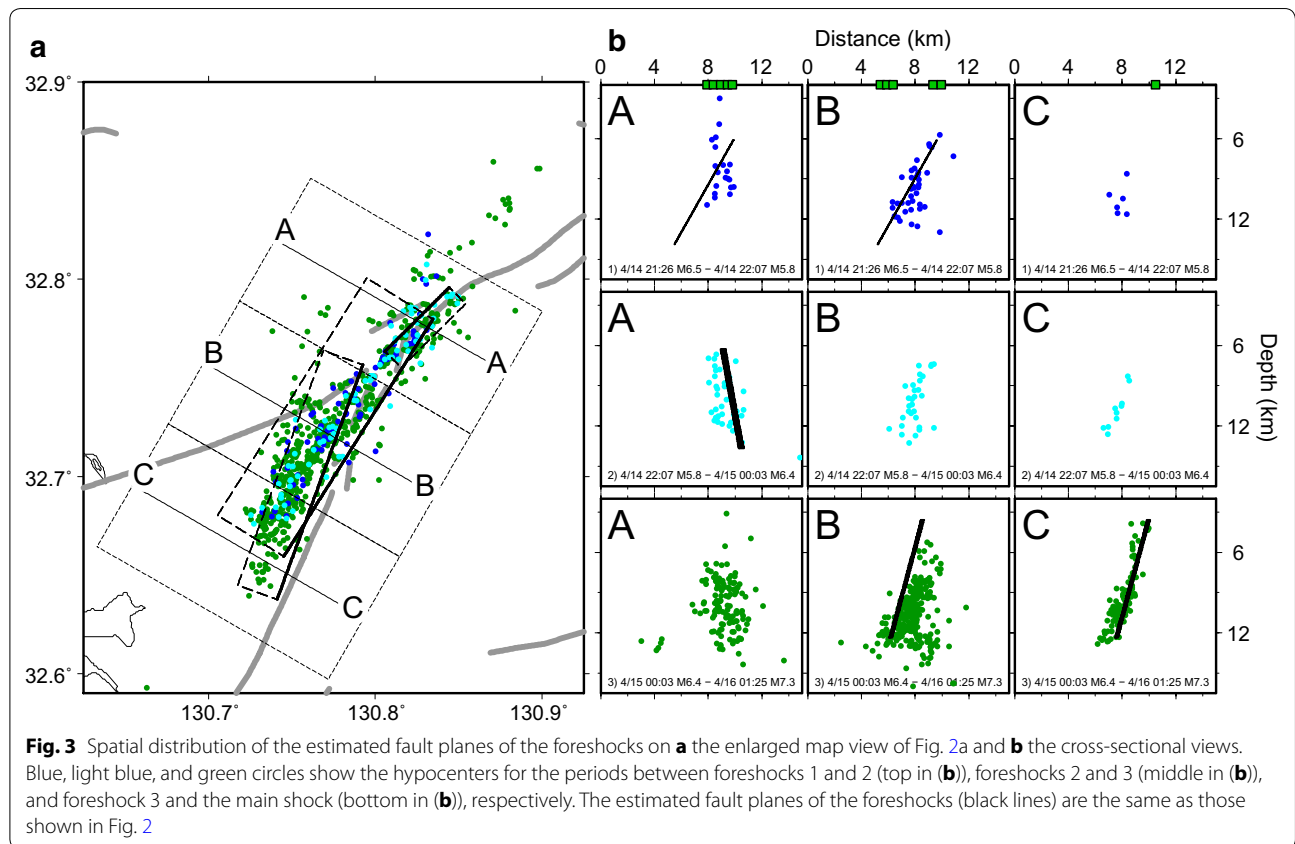
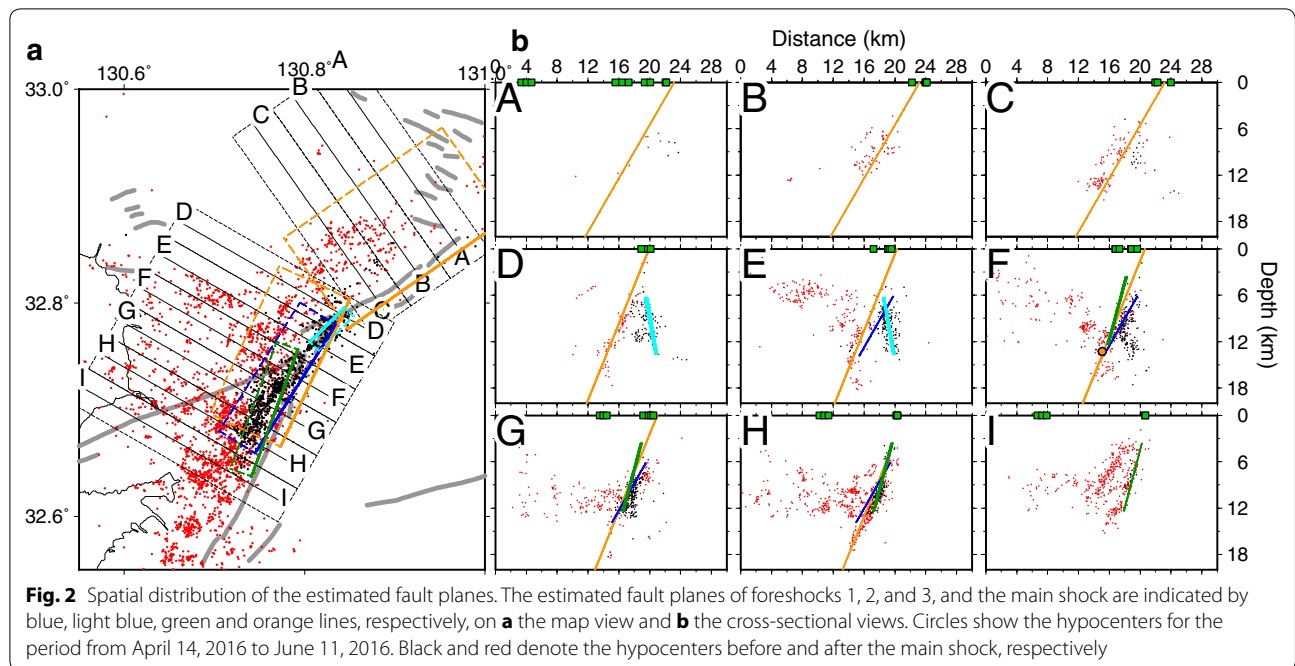
using the distributions of the aftershocks (“Estimation of fault planes” section). Then, taking into account the static stress changes induced by the three foreshocks (“Static stress changes by foreshocks” section), we conduct multiple 3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock (“3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock” section). In the simulations, we examine various values of the magnitudes of the maximum and minimum principal stresses, slip-weakening distance D_c , and the ratio of the yield stress and the stress drop on the Hinagu fault S_H , as a set of independent parameters, assuming a slip-weakening law. The S_H value controls the static coefficient of friction μ_s (i.e., the yield stress) because the dynamic coefficient of friction μ_d (i.e., stress drop) can be estimated from the observed seismic moment. Finally, we discuss the conditions to reproduce the features of the main shock rupture stated above (“Results” and “Discussion” sections).

Estimation of fault planes

We first estimate the locations of the fault planes of the three M₆-class foreshocks and the main shock. Since the relative hypocenter locations of aftershocks generally have much higher spatial resolution at depth than most other seismological and geodetic estimates, we utilized the aftershock distributions of those earthquakes obtained by Yoshida et al. (2016) based on the double-difference hypocenter relocation technique (Waldhauser and Ellsworth 2000).

The distribution of aftershock hypocenters estimated by Yoshida et al. (2016) is shown in Fig. 2 for the period from April 14, 2016, to June 11, 2016. Several alignments of the aftershock hypocenters corresponding to the fault planes of the main shock can be recognized. However, some ambiguities arose when determining a distinct fault plane because the aftershocks seemed to have occurred not only on the fault but also off of the fault. We then investigated the time evolution of the aftershock hypocenters in detail for the period between foreshock 1 and the main shock, as shown in Fig. 3.

After each foreshock, the alignments of the aftershock hypocenters corresponding to their fault planes appeared. To estimate the detailed locations of the fault planes of the three M₆-class foreshocks and the main shock, we started by assuming the initial fault planes whose centroids were located at the hypocenter of each main shock. The orientations of the fault planes were determined from the nodal planes of their F-net focal mechanisms determined by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) (Fukuyama et al. 2000), with reference to the aftershock distributions to determine the preferable plane (Fig. 3). The lengths and widths of the fault planes were derived



from the empirical scaling relations for magnitude, slip amount, fault length and fault width (Utsu 2001). We then adjusted the location and orientation of the initial

fault models to obtain better alignment with the hypocenter distribution of their aftershocks in Figs. 2 and 3. We manually fit the data with our own eyes to estimate

more robust and reliable fault geometry than that by fitting them with regression analysis because of the existence of events occurring off the main shock faults (Fig. 3). Furthermore, we constrained the shallow portions of the fault planes by referring to the observed surface ruptures of the main shock. This is because it was difficult to estimate the shallow portion (depths of less than a few kilometers) of the fault plane from the aftershock distribution due to very few aftershocks at the shallow depth as well as the uncertainties in the focal depth of very shallow events.

The obtained geometries of the fault planes of the three M6-class foreshocks and the main shock are shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and Table 1. We obtained two distinct fault segments of the main shock corresponding to ruptures along the Hinagu and Futagawa fault segments. The obtained fault planes of foreshocks 1 and 3 crossed the obtained Hinagu fault segment. In the following sections, we consider a non-planar fault surface (orange lines in Fig. 4a) connecting the two estimated fault planes, which is used for dynamic rupture simulations.

Static stress changes by foreshocks

In this section, we evaluate the static stress changes on the estimated fault planes of the main shock due to the occurrence of the three foreshocks. The integral of the slip (i.e., average of slip) of each foreshock was determined from the observed seismic moment shown in Table 1. The shape of the slip distribution was assumed, according to Eshelby (1957)'s solution for an elliptical crack with a constant stress drop. This slip model can avoid stress singularities around the edge of the fault with the uniform slip distribution. We used the analytical solution because the slip distribution was estimated only for the largest foreshock by waveform inversions initially (Kubo et al. 2016; Asano and Iwata 2016), although most recently the slip distribution of foreshock 3 was

estimated by Kobayashi et al. (2017). The details of the procedure are described in “Appendix 1” section. Figure 4b shows the obtained slip distributions. We assumed a Poisson's ratio of 0.25 and a rigidity of 31.46 GPa. These values were calculated from the P- and S-wave velocities by Saiga et al. (2010) and the rock density shown in Table 2. The static stress changes on the fault plane of the main shock were calculated using Okada (1992)'s solution. In this calculation, the slip distribution of the foreshocks was discretized into 100 m². Figure 5a shows ΔCFS ($= \Delta\tau^f - \mu_s \Delta\sigma_n^f$), where $\Delta\tau^f$ and $\Delta\sigma_n^f$ (compression is taken as positive) are the shear and normal components of the static stress changes due to the occurrence of the three foreshocks and μ_s is the static coefficient of friction. In the calculation of ΔCFS , the non-planar fault was assumed to be a pure strike-slip fault, and μ_s was assumed as 0.349, which will be used in some of dynamic rupture simulations. The obtained ΔCFS distribution showed that the ΔCFS was positive just below the hypocenter of the main shock obtained by Yoshida et al. (2016), while the ΔCFS was negative in the shallow region above the hypocenter. The large negative ΔCFS was produced by foreshocks 1 and 3. The positive ΔCFS values just below the hypocenter were produced dominantly by foreshock 1. Foreshock 2 changed the stresses in the Hinagu fault, the junction, and the shallow southern part of the Futagawa fault, but the changes were two orders of magnitude smaller than those produced by foreshocks 1 and 3. Therefore, foreshock 1 could have encouraged the initiation of the main shock rupture and foreshocks 1 and 3 could have hindered the rupture propagating toward the shallow region.

3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock

We conducted multiple 3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock under the initial stresses, which were determined as the sum of the static stress changes

Table 1 Estimated fault parameters and seismic moment of the foreshocks and the main shock

Event	Center position of fault			Length (km)	Width (km)	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	Rake (°)	Seismic moment (Nm) ^a
	Longitude (°E)	Latitude (°N)	Depth (km)						
Foreshock 1	130.7700	32.7300	10.0	15.8	8.9	212	60.5	−164 ^a	1.74×10^{18}
Foreshock 2	130.8300	32.7755	9.97	5.1	7.5	45	80.0	−178 ^a	1.27×10^{17}
Foreshock 3	130.7550	32.7007	7.97	14.1	9.1	200	75.0	−152 ^a	1.06×10^{18}
Main shock (Hinagu fault)	130.7725	32.7500	10.0	17.0	21.58	205	68.0	(−165) ^b	4.42×10^{19}
Main shock (Futagawa fault)	130.9000	32.8700	10.0	20.0	23.1	235	60.0	(−123) ^b	

^a The values were derived from the F-net moment tensor solutions

^b These values were calculated from the regional stress field. The slip direction of the main shock in dynamic rupture simulations is the same as the shear stress direction determined from the regional stress field, the static stress change due to the foreshocks, and the dynamic stress change during the rupture propagation

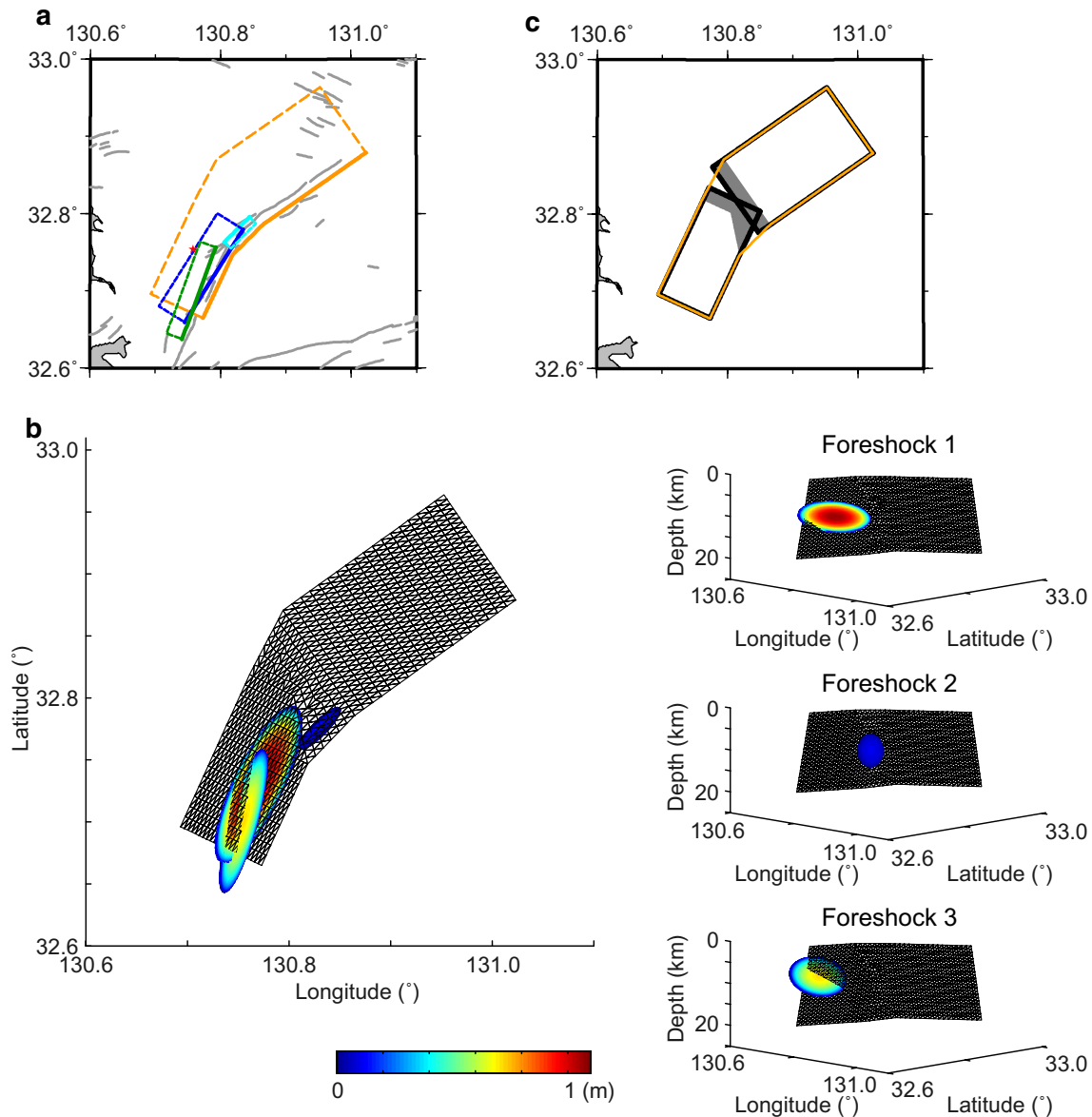


Fig. 4 **a** Estimated fault planes of the foreshocks (blue, light blue, and green lines) and a non-planar fault model of the main shock used in dynamic rupture simulations (orange lines). The fault planes of the foreshocks are the same as those shown in Fig. 2, and the main shock fault surface was built by connecting the estimated fault planes of the main shock shown in Fig. 2. Red star denote the epicenter of the main shock. **b** Assumed slip distributions of the three foreshocks in the map view (left panel) and in the view from the southeast (right panels). Black lines show triangular elements of a non-planar fault used in dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock. **c** How to generate the single fault interface (orange lines) from the two estimated fault planes of the main shock (black rectangles). The orange lines and the black rectangles are the same as the orange lines in (a) and the orange rectangles in Fig. 2a, respectively. The elements indicated by gray were removed at the connecting edges of the two fault planes, and fault elements were filled between both edges forming a non-planar fault segment

induced by the three foreshocks estimated in the previous section and the regional stress field based on the focal mechanism data by Yoshida et al. (2016) (Fig. 5b, c).

For spontaneous rupture simulations, we used the 3-D boundary integral equation method (BIEM) with

triangular elements by Hok and Fukuyama (2011) and a slip-weakening law with the Coulomb failure criteria (Ida 1972):

$$\tau = \begin{cases} \mu_s \sigma_n - (\mu_s \sigma_n - \mu_d \sigma_n) \Delta u / D_c & 0 \leq \Delta u < D_c \\ \mu_d \sigma_n & \Delta u \geq D_c \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Table 2 Parameters used in dynamic rupture simulations

Property	Value
Strike of the maximum principal stress, σ_1	N68.83°E ^a
Dip of the maximum principal stress, σ_1	3.69° ^{aa}
Strike of the intermediate principal stress, σ_2	N232.98°E ^a
Dip of the intermediate principal stress, σ_2	86.17° ^{aa}
Strike of the minimum principal stress, σ_3	N338.77° E ^a
Dip of the minimum principal stress, σ_3	1.04° ^{aa}
Stress ratio, $R = \frac{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_3}$	0.19 ^a
P-wave velocity	5912.5 m/s ^b
S-wave velocity	3413.6 m/s ^b
Rock density	2700 kg/m ³

^a The regional stress field was estimated by Yoshida et al. (2016)

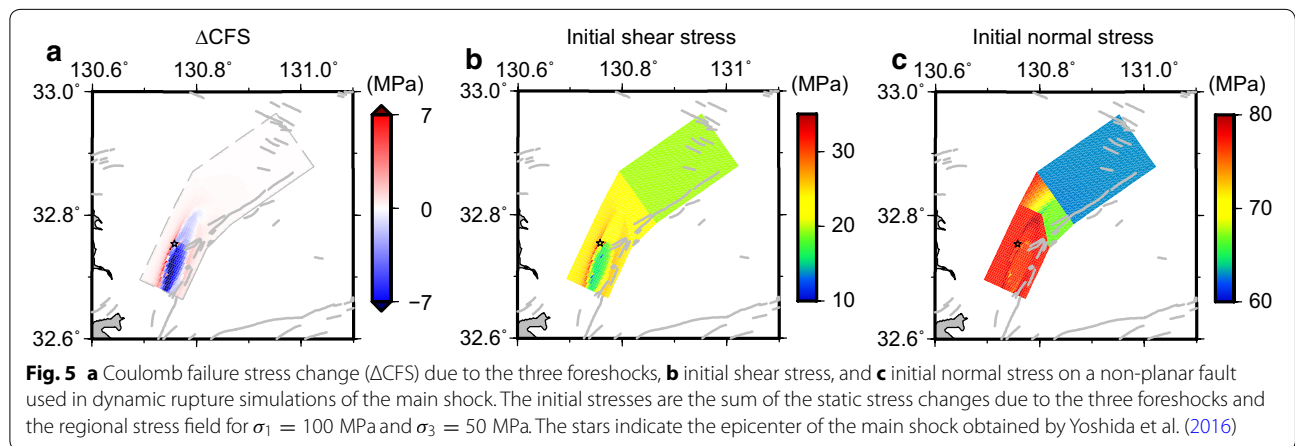
^b Averages of the velocities at depths from 0 to 20 km obtained by Saiga et al. (2010)

where τ is the shear stress, σ_n is the normal stress, μ_s and μ_d are the static and dynamic coefficients of friction, respectively, D_c is the slip-weakening distance, and Δu is the slip. For elements on the border of the fault, D_c is set to be infinite, that is, $\tau = \mu_s \sigma_n$, for the stability of the calculations. Except for these elements, the D_c values are assumed to be uniform, as are the friction coefficients. The slip direction is the same as the shear stress direction. The initial shear and normal stresses, τ^0 and σ_n^0 , are $\tau^r + \Delta \tau^f$ and $\sigma_n^r + \Delta \sigma_n^f$, respectively, where τ^r and σ_n^r are the regional shear and normal stresses, respectively. Note that τ^r , σ_n^r , $\Delta \tau^f$, $\Delta \sigma_n^f$, and the slip direction are functions of the location on the fault.

In some cases, a rupture initiated and propagated spontaneously from regions of high ΔCFS on the Hinagu fault (Fig. 5a). For the rest, the rupture was forced to be initiated by artificially increasing shear stress to $\mu_s \sigma_n^0 + 1$ kPa in a small elliptical patch at the hypocenter on the Hinagu fault, and it then propagated spontaneously. The

direction of the long axis of the ellipse was the same as the slip direction in the element nearest the hypocenter of the main shock. The aspect ratio of the ellipse was 4/3, which is equal to the ratio of critical lengths L_c (a half-crack length necessary for dynamic rupture propagation; Andrews 1976a, b) for modes II and III in a Poissonian medium. The artificial nucleation area was set to the minimum required to initiate a rupture. We assumed that the nucleation area should be < 1/3 of the Hinagu fault area, i.e., we excluded the cases where the nucleation area was equal to or larger than 1/3 of it.

We built a single fault interface composed of the 1664 triangular elements (orange line in Fig. 4a) from the two estimated fault planes of the main shock (Table 1) by connecting them with a non-planar fault. Figure 4c shows how to generate the single fault interface. The fault elements shown by gray in Fig. 4c were removed at the connecting edges of the two fault planes, and fault elements were filled between both edges forming a non-planar fault segment. Then, the single fault interface was generated. We refer the non-planar segment as a junction. The strike of the upper edge of the fault surface was consistent with the surface traces of active faults. Each triangular element except for the junction had a 0.5 km² area. The horizontal free surface was composed of 15,400 triangular elements whose area was 7700 km² (the distances along the NE–SW and SE–NW directions were 110 and 70 km, respectively). Each free surface element had a 0.5 km² area, which was the same as fault surface element size. The free surface was located at the upper margin of the non-planar fault. We first conducted many simulations for an infinite medium (i.e., without the free surface elements) to investigate the dependence of unknown parameters that will be described later. Then, we conducted simulations including the free surface elements for some parameters. The time interval for the dynamic rupture computation was 0.025 s, which satisfies the



Courant–Friedrichs–Lewy (CFL) condition (Tada and Madariaga 2001).

We set the directions of the principal stress axes, and the value of the stress ratio $R = (\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) / (\sigma_1 - \sigma_3)$, where σ_1 , σ_2 , and σ_3 are the maximum, intermediate, and

minimum principal stresses, respectively, of the regional stress field; we also set the P- and S-wave velocities by referring to previous studies, as listed in Table 2. We estimated the μ_d values (Table 3) from the regional stress field and the seismic moment using the relation between

Table 3 Estimated μ_d , assumed μ_s , and calculated S and L_c

Case name	σ_1	σ_3	σ_n^r (MPa)		τ^r (MPa)		μ_d	μ_s	S		L_c^{II} / D_c^d	
			Hinagu	Futagawa	Hinagu	Futagawa			Hinagu (S_H)	Futagawa	Hinagu	Futagawa
Case A	100	50	77.262	63.077	23.956	19.632	0.261	–	0.4 ^a	–	–	–
								0.349	0.8 ^b	0.758	6.3×10^3	7.4×10^3
								0.369	1.2 ^c	1.148	7.8×10^3	9.1×10^3
								0.389	1.6	1.539	9.2×10^3	1.1×10^4
Case B	100	70	86.357	77.846	14.373	11.779	0.116	0.187	0.4	1.000	4.3×10^3	9.7×10^3
								0.207	0.8	1.571	5.5×10^3	1.2×10^4
								0.227	1.2	2.143	6.7×10^3	1.5×10^4
								0.247	1.6	2.714	8.0×10^3	1.8×10^4
Case C	300	160	236.334	196.616	67.076	54.969	0.266	–	0.4 ^a	–	–	–
								–	0.8 ^a	–	–	–
								–	1.2 ^a	–	–	–
								0.312	1.6	2.413	8.2×10^3	1.7×10^4
Case D	300	260	281.810	270.462	19.165	15.705	0.050	0.0752	0.4	2.12407	3.7×10^3	1.9×10^4
								0.0824	0.8	3.016662	4.7×10^3	2.5×10^4
								0.0896	1.2	3.909253	5.8×10^3	3.0×10^4
								0.0968	1.6	4.801845	6.8×10^3	3.5×10^4
Case E	500	290	404.502	344.924	100.614	82.454	0.235	–	0.4 ^a	–	–	–
								–	0.8 ^a	–	–	–
								0.265	1.2	6.464	5.3×10^3	7.1×10^4
								0.271	1.6	7.822	6.2×10^3	8.4×10^4
Case F	500	400	454.525	426.154	47.912	39.264	0.090	0.112	0.4	9.106	2.7×10^3	1.5×10^5
								0.118	0.8	11.994	3.4×10^3	1.9×10^5
								0.124	1.2	14.881	4.2×10^3	2.3×10^5
								0.130	1.6	17.768	5.0×10^3	2.8×10^5
Case G	500	460	481.810	470.462	19.165	15.705	0.029	0.0441	0.4	2.442	3.6×10^3	2.2×10^4
								0.0484	0.8	3.426	4.6×10^3	2.9×10^4
								0.0527	1.2	4.409	5.7×10^3	3.5×10^4
								0.0570	1.6	5.393	6.7×10^3	4.1×10^4
								0.0613	2.0	6.376	7.7×10^3	4.8×10^4

^a We did not conduct simulations of these cases because μ_s is smaller than $\mu^t = \tau^r / \sigma_n^r$ in the junction elements

^b The case with D_c of 0.35 m is referred to as case A2 in the text and figures

^c The case with D_c of 0.75 m is referred to as case A1 in the text and figures

^d L_c^{II} is L_c for mode II

the stress drop and the average slip of an elliptical crack by Madariaga (1977), taking into account the free surface effect. The details are described in “Appendix 2” section.

We assumed the magnitudes of two principal stresses (among σ_1 , σ_2 , and σ_3), D_c , and μ_s . The maximum effective (i.e., after deducting the pore pressure) principal stress σ_1 was assumed to be either 100, 300, or 500 MPa. The lithostatic pressure became 260 MPa at a depth of 10 km assuming the rock density shown in Table 2. An excess of σ_1 over the lithostatic pressure corresponded to the tectonic loads. A σ_1 value of 100 MPa was possible if the effective stress value was lowered by overpressurized fluids (e.g., Sibson 1992). The minimum principal stress σ_3 was set to be either 50 or 70 MPa for cases with a σ_1 value of 100 MPa (cases A and B, respectively), either 160 or 260 MPa for cases with a σ_1 value of 300 MPa (cases C and D, respectively), and either 290, 400, or 460 MPa for cases with a σ_1 value of 500 MPa (cases E, F, and G, respectively). It should be noted that σ_3 values that were smaller or larger than these values were found to be unacceptable from static computations. Figure 6 shows the yield stress $\mu_s \sigma_n^r - \tau^r$ and stress drop $\tau^r - \mu_d \sigma_n^r$ without stress perturbation induced by the foreshocks as functions of σ_3 when an S value on the Hinagu fault (S_H) is 2.0, where $S = (\mu_s - \mu^r) / (\mu^r - \mu_d)$ (Andrews 1976b) and $\mu^r = \tau^r / \sigma_n^r$. For the small σ_3 value indicated by the light gray area in Fig. 6, τ^r was much higher on the Futagawa fault than that on the Hinagu fault, and thus, the moment release (i.e., stress drop) in the Futagawa fault should have been larger than the observed seismic moment even if the stress drop on the Hinagu Fault was zero. For the σ_3 value indicated by the dark gray area in Fig. 6, the yield stress became negative; that is, ruptures must start on the Futagawa fault and/or at the junction. It should be noted that the range of σ_3 for the negative yield stress should extend when S_H is smaller than 2.0. For the large σ_3 value indicated by the gray area in Fig. 6, τ^r became smaller than $\Delta \tau^f$; the slip direction must be opposite to the main slip direction in a part of the Hinagu fault. Therefore, we only considered the range of σ_3 values except those three regimes. D_c was assumed either 0.1, 0.35, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0, or 1.5 m. When $D_c = 0.1$ m, cohesive zone would not be resolved adequately because its size would be smaller than the element size, as stated in detail in “Discussion” section. The μ_s value was set to satisfy that the value of S_H was either 0.4, 0.8, 1.2, 1.6, or 2.0 (Table 3).

Results

Rupture processes in an infinite medium

Figure 7 shows whether or not a rupture propagated from the Hinagu to the Futagawa fault successfully. When σ_1 and σ_3 were 100 and 50 MPa, respectively (case A, Fig. 7a), the yield stress was negative (i.e., $\mu_0 > \mu_s$) in

junction elements for cases with an S_H value smaller than 0.58 (gray area in Fig. 7a). Therefore, a larger S_H was feasible. No rupture was initiated for a D_c value longer than 0.75 m, regardless of the value of S_H , because of the long L_c (longer than 4.7 km for mode II, Table 3) and of the stress shadow due to the foreshocks (i.e., the large negative ΔCFS). When D_c was 0.75 m and S_H was 1.2 (case A1), a rupture propagated on the Hinagu fault at depth, but it terminated on the Futagawa fault, as shown in Fig. 8a. The rupture terminated because of the stress shadow on the Hinagu fault caused by the foreshocks. It interfered with the rupture propagation toward the shallow part of the Hinagu fault. In addition, the rupture propagation on the Futagawa fault was prevented by a longer critical length L_c on the Futagawa fault than on the Hinagu fault, as shown in Table 3.

When D_c was shorter than 0.75 m, on the other hand, a rupture propagated successfully to the Futagawa fault, regardless of S_H values. Figure 8b shows the results for the case with D_c and S_H values of 0.35 m and 0.8, respectively (case A2). In this case, the rupture was initiated spontaneously at a slightly deeper part than the hypocenter on the Hinagu fault due to the high ΔCFS (Fig. 5a). It then propagated toward the Futagawa fault at depth and subsequently toward the shallow portion of the Hinagu fault. The small slip occurred in the large negative ΔCFS region of the Hinagu fault (Fig. 5a), but a part of the region was not ruptured. We will discuss the spontaneous initiation of the rupture and its depth in the next section.

When σ_1 and σ_3 were 100 and 70 MPa, respectively (case B, Fig. 7b), the yield stress was positive on the whole fault plane even for cases with an S_H value of 0.4, unlike case A. However, the high ΔCFS (Fig. 5a) due to the foreshocks triggered ruptures not only at the hypocenter of the main shock but also at a shallow part for cases with an S_H value of 0.4 (blue and light blue circles in Fig. 7b). Therefore, a larger S_H was feasible. The rupture propagated successfully from the Hinagu fault to the Futagawa fault when D_c was 0.5 m or shorter for $S_H = 0.8$ and 0.1 m for larger S_H values, although cohesive zone would not be resolved adequately in the cases with $D_c = 0.1$ m.

When σ_1 was 300 MPa, the rupture propagated successfully from the Hinagu fault to the Futagawa fault with less number of combinations of D_c and S_H . When σ_3 was 160 MPa (Case C, Fig. 7c), S_H values equal to or smaller than 1.24 were not feasible because of the negative yield stress in junction elements (gray area in Fig. 7c). The rupture propagated successfully for cases with D_c smaller than 0.5 m. When σ_3 was 260 MPa (Case D, Fig. 7d), the feasible parameter sets were D_c of 0.1 m and S_H of either 0.8 or 1.2, although cohesive zone would not be resolved adequately in these cases. An S_H value of 0.4 was not acceptable because

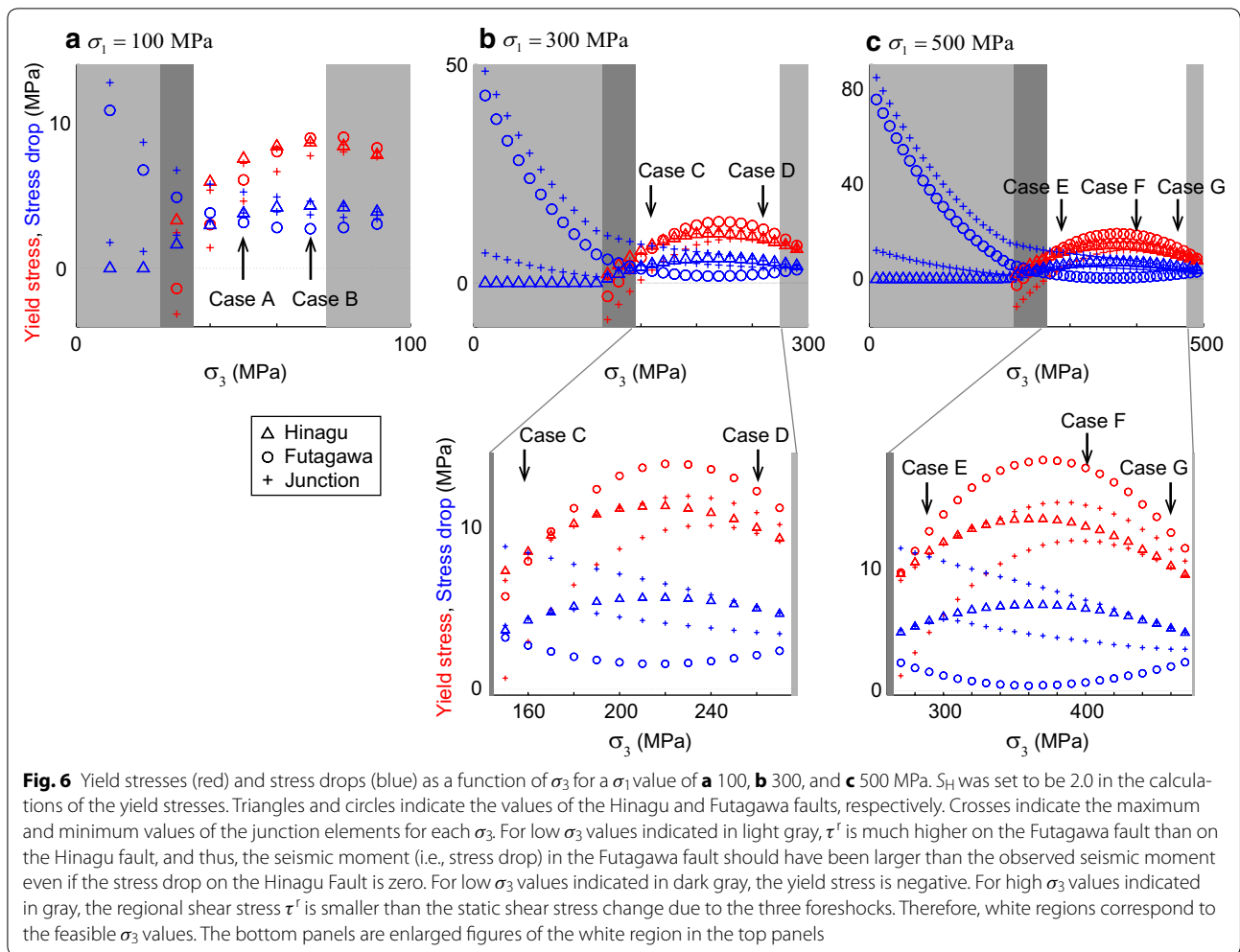


Fig. 6 Yield stresses (red) and stress drops (blue) as a function of σ_3 for a σ_1 value of **a** 100, **b** 300, and **c** 500 MPa. S_H was set to be 2.0 in the calculations of the yield stresses. Triangles and circles indicate the values of the Hinagu and Futagawa faults, respectively. Crosses indicate the maximum and minimum values of the junction elements for each σ_3 . For low σ_3 values indicated in light gray, τ^r is much higher on the Futagawa fault than on the Hinagu fault, and thus, the seismic moment (i.e., stress drop) in the Futagawa fault should have been larger than the observed seismic moment even if the stress drop on the Hinagu Fault is zero. For low σ_3 values indicated in dark gray, the yield stress is negative. For high σ_3 values indicated in gray, the regional shear stress τ^r is smaller than the static shear stress change due to the three foreshocks. Therefore, white regions correspond to the feasible σ_3 values. The bottom panels are enlarged figures of the white region in the top panels

the high ΔCFS (Fig. 5a) due to the foreshocks triggered ruptures not only at the hypocenter of the main shock but also at a shallow part of the Hinagu fault (blue and light blue symbols in Fig. 7d). If σ_3 is between these two values, the strength excess is higher and the stress drop is lower than cases C and D on the Futagawa fault (Fig. 6b); thus, the rupture is unlikely to propagate to the Futagawa fault.

When σ_1 was 500 MPa (cases E, F, and G; Fig. 7e, f, g), the rupture propagated successfully only for cases with σ_3 of 460 MPa (case G), D_c of 0.1 m, and S_H of either 0.8 or 1.2, although cohesive zone would not be resolved adequately in these cases. In all cases with a σ_3 of 290 and 400 MPa (cases E and F), a rupture was not initiated or it was initiated but terminated shortly. The rupture propagation on the Futagawa fault was prevented by the larger strength excess and the smaller stress drop, and thus the larger S and the longer L_c , on the Futagawa fault than on the Hinagu fault (Fig. 6c and Table 3). For the cases in which $300 \leq \sigma_3 \leq 440$ MPa

(including case F), the stress drop $\tau^r - \mu_d \sigma_n^r$ on the Futagawa fault was lower than 1.5 MPa (lower panel of Fig. 6b). Thus, the large slip on the Futagawa fault that was observed by the seismic waveform analyses (Asano and Iwata 2016; Kubo et al. 2016; Uchide et al. 2016; Yagi et al. 2016; Kobayashi et al. 2017; Hao et al. 2017) as well as in the geodetic data (Himematsu and Furuya 2016) would not be produced, even if the D_c and S_H values are smaller than those used in this study. If D_c is much smaller than 0.1 m in case E, the rupture might transfer to the Futagawa fault. However, $D_c \ll 0.1$ m is much smaller than the value (1 m) estimated from the near-fault seismic waveforms by Fukuyama and Suzuki (2016).

Thus, the feasible parameters with which to reproduce the dynamic rupture of this earthquake are as follows: $\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa, $40 \leq \sigma_3 \leq 70$ MPa, $D_c \leq 0.75$ m, $S_H \geq 0.8$; for $\sigma_1 = 300$ MPa, ($\sigma_3 = 160$ MPa, $D_c \leq 0.35$ m, $S_H \geq 1.6$) or ($\sigma_3 = 260$ MPa, $D_c = 0.1$ m, $0.8 \leq S_H \leq 1.2$);

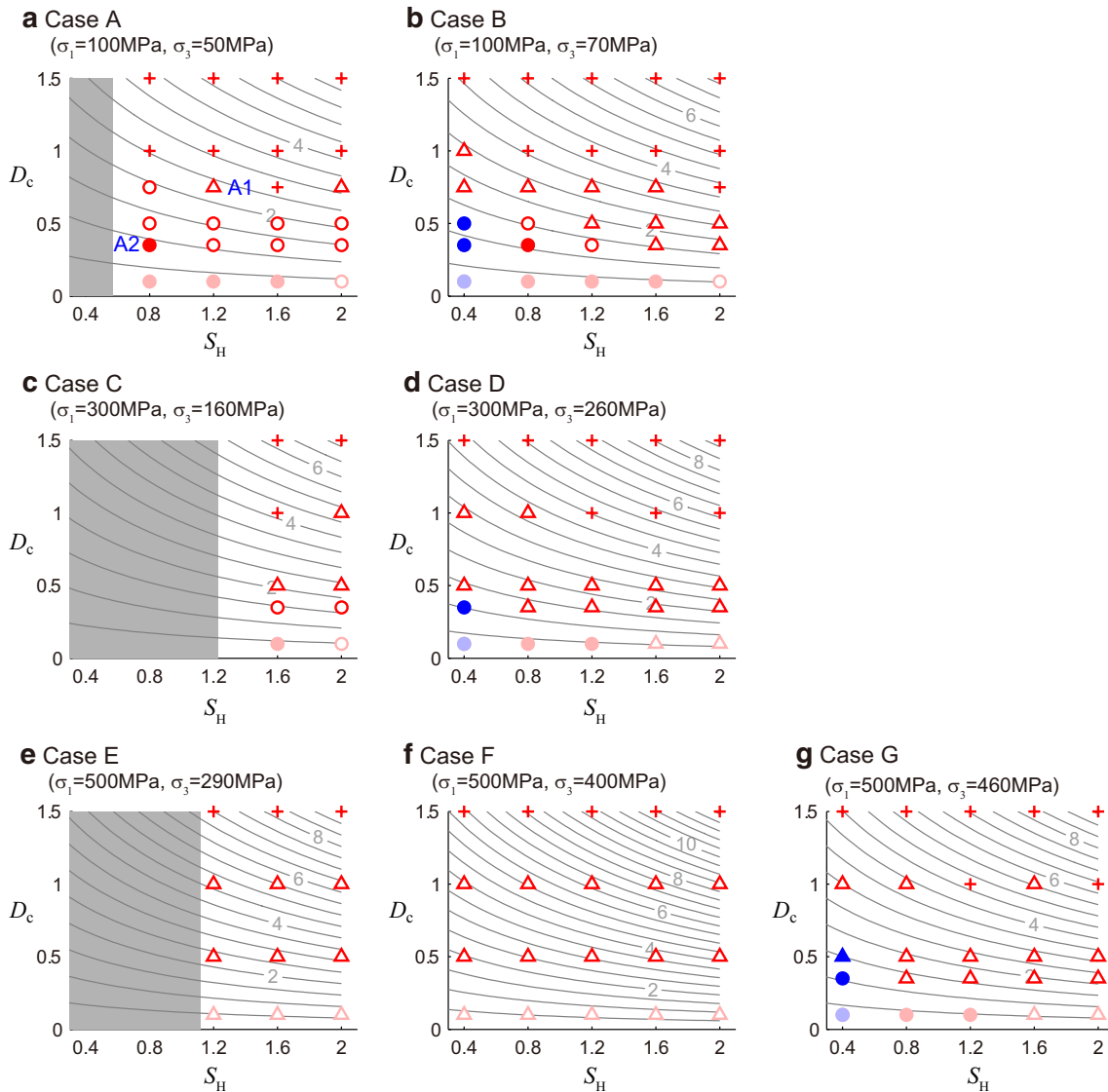


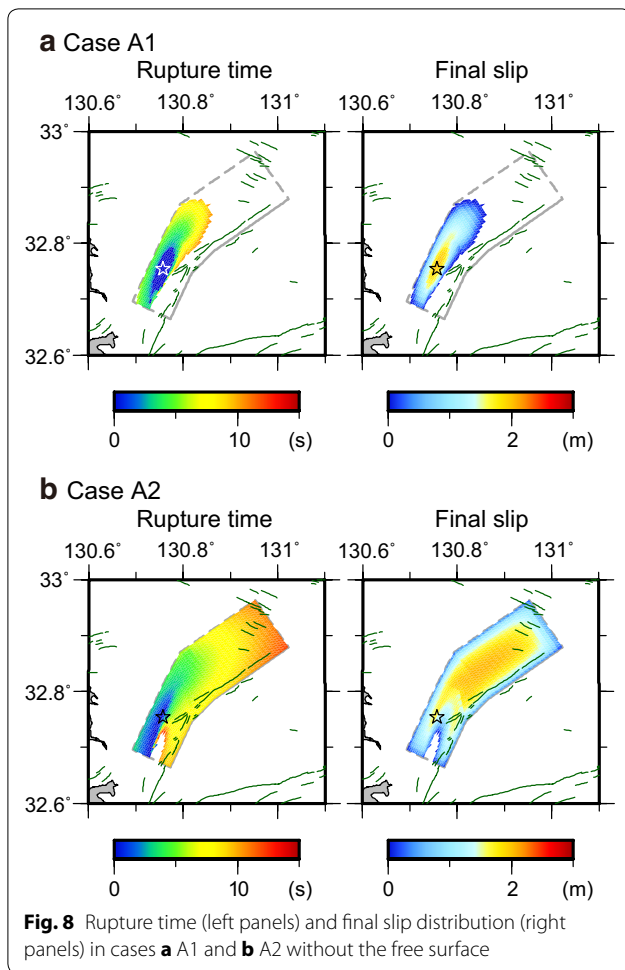
Fig. 7 Results of many numerical simulations with various friction parameters S_H and D_c . Circles indicate that a rupture propagated successfully. Triangles indicate that a rupture was initiated but terminated shortly. Crosses indicate that no rupture was initiated. A rupture started spontaneously from the high ΔCFS regions on the Hinagu fault without the artificial shear stress increase in the cases indicated by the solid symbols. Among these cases, the blue and light blue symbols indicate that the high ΔCFS triggered ruptures not only at the hypocenter of the main shock but also at a shallow part of the Hinagu fault. In the other cases, a rupture was forced to be initiated by artificially increasing shear stress. In the cases shown by the light red and light blue symbols, the cohesive zone may not be resolved. For small S_H values indicated by gray, μ_s is smaller than $\mu^f = \tau^f / \sigma_n^f$ in junction elements. Contours show the fracture energy G_c integrated on the whole fault plane (unit is 10^{15} Nm), calculated by using σ_n^0 values. In the computations, a non-planar fault is in the infinite medium (i.e., without a free surface). σ_1 is 100 MPa and σ_3 is **a** 50 MPa (case A) and **b** 70 MPa (case B), σ_1 is 300 MPa and σ_3 is **c** 160 MPa (case C) and **d** 260 MPa (case D), and σ_1 is 500 MPa and σ_3 is **e** 290 MPa (case E), **f** 400 MPa (case F), and **g** 460 MPa (case G)

$\sigma_1 = 500$ MPa, $\sigma_3 = 460$ MPa, $D_c = 0.1$ m, $0.8 \leq S_H \leq 1.2$.

Free surface effect

In this section, we investigate the free surface effect for case A2 ($\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa, $\sigma_3 = 50$ MPa, $D_c = 0.35$ m,

and $S_H = 0.8$). The rupture time was similar to that in the case without the free surface (Figs. 8b, 9a). The slip amount near the free surface initially became larger than that in the case without the free surface, as shown in the panel labeled “8–10 s” in Fig. 9b, and the final slip amount was larger and the maximum slip was observed



at a shallower depth than in the case without the free surface (Figs. 8b, 9c).

Thus, a free surface would have promoted the rupture propagation and played an important role in the rupture process of the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake.

Discussion

The features of the rupture propagation in case A2 with the free surface were consistent with the observations summarized in “Introduction” section. The seismic moment was 4.9×10^{19} Nm, similar to the observed one (Table 1). The maximum slip amount was ~ 4 m in the shallow region of the Futagawa fault (Fig. 9c), consistent with the results of the inversion analyses of the seismic waveform and geodetic data. The rupture propagated from the Hinagu fault to the Futagawa fault at a depth of ~ 15 km at 4 s. Then, the large slip occurred on the Futagawa fault at mid-depth for 6–10 s, and on the shallow region of the Futagawa fault for 9–12 s (Fig. 9b). These temporal evolutions of rupture were similar to the results of the seismic waveform analyses. The synthetic

moment rate function was 8.1×10^{18} Nm/s at maximum at 10 s with the duration of 18 s (Fig. 9d). The peak time and the duration were similar to the observed ones. The rupture on both the Hinagu and Futagawa faults reached the free surface, and the slip amount near the free surface was larger on the Futagawa fault than on the Hinagu fault and in the junction (Fig. 9c); these features were consistent with the field observations of the surface rupture. Thus, the parameter set of case A2 ($\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa, $\sigma_3 = 50$ MPa, $D_c = 0.35$ m, and $S_H = 0.8$) was feasible.

The combinations of the shorter D_c and the larger S_H than in case A2 under the same stress condition (case A) were also feasible. When D_c was 0.1 m, the features of the rupture propagation in cases with S_H of either 1.2 or 1.6 were similar to the observations summarized in “Introduction” section. We cannot obtain the unique combination of feasible D_c and S_H because there is a trade-off between S_H and D_c in L_c and in the fracture energy $G_c = \frac{1}{2} \int (\mu_s - \mu_d) \sigma_n D_c dA$ (Andrews 1976a, b), which controls the rupture velocity. G_c integrated on the whole fault plane is shown by the contours in Fig. 7, which was calculated under the assumption of temporary constant (but spatially non-uniform) σ_n .

The other parameter sets of D_c and S_H did not reproduce the observed features, as described in detail in Additional file 1: Text S1. A rupture did not propagate or evolve too slowly, compared to the observation, in case A with G_c larger than 10^{15} Nm. For example, in case A1 ($D_c = 0.75$ m and $S_H = 1.2$), the rupture propagated on the Hinagu fault at depth but terminated, even if the free surface was taken into account. When D_c was 0.35 m and S_H was 1.2, the rupture propagated more slowly than in the observation, as shown in Additional file 1: Figure S1. In the case with D_c of 0.1 m and S_H of 0.8, on the other hand, G_c was smaller than in the cases with the feasible parameters, and the rupture evolved faster than the observation (Additional file 1: Figure S2). Thus, these parameter sets were not feasible.

The same combinations of D_c and S_H were feasible in case B ($\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa and $\sigma_3 = 70$ MPa) as in case A ($\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa and $\sigma_3 = 50$ MPa). When σ_1 was either 300 or 500 MPa, on the other hand, final slip distribution was not similar to the observed one, as stated in detail in Additional file 1: Text S1. Thus, σ_1 was likely to be low (~ 100 MPa).

The slip amount in the stress shadow (the large negative ΔCFS in Fig. 5a) on the Hinagu fault was very small, and a part of the stress shadow was not ruptured in our simulations. Yagi et al. (2016) estimated very small shear stress change in the shallow region of the southwest of the hypocenter from their teleseismic slip inversion results. This is more or less consistent with the stress

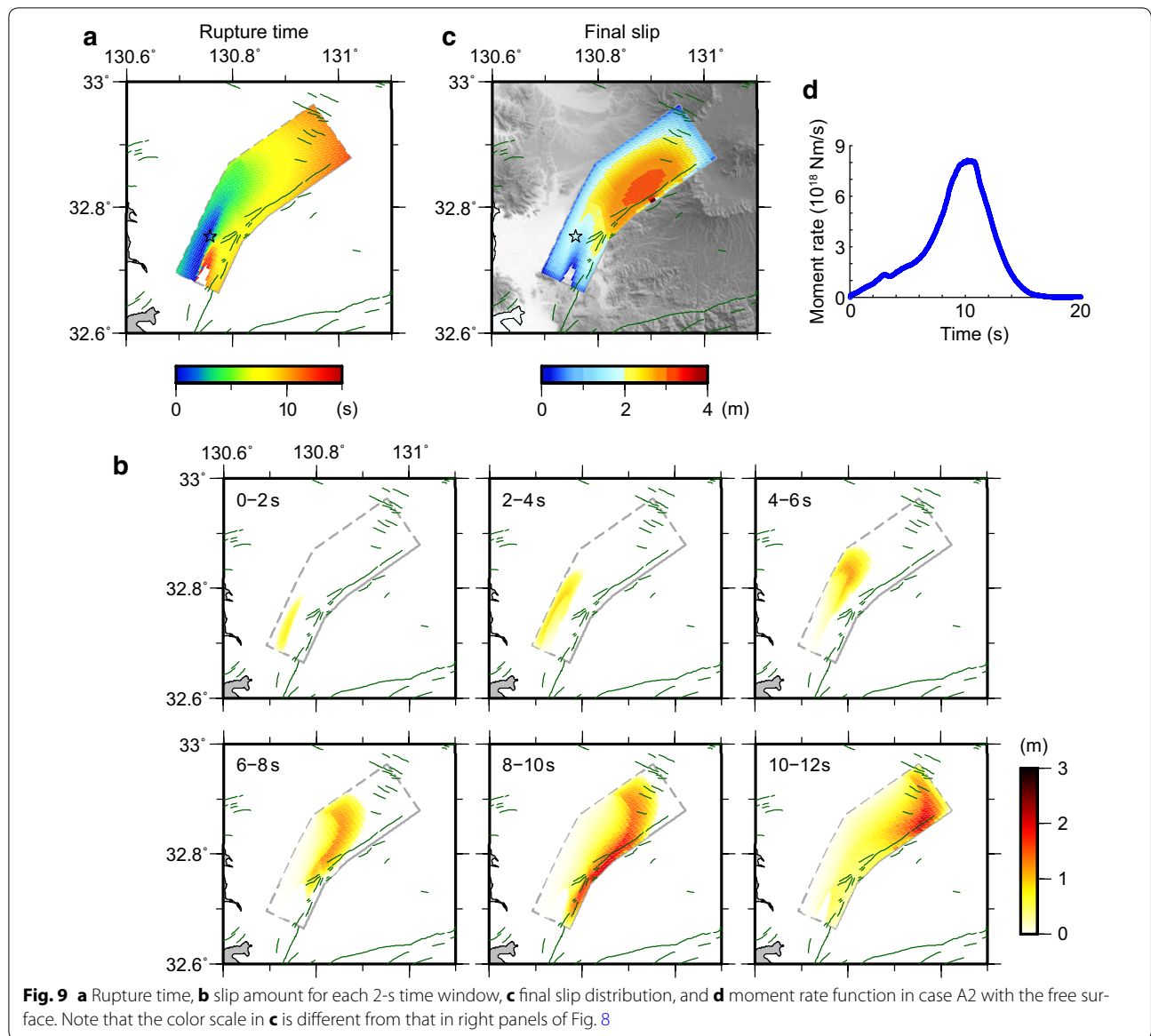


Fig. 9 **a** Rupture time, **b** slip amount for each 2-s time window, **c** final slip distribution, and **d** moment rate function in case A2 with the free surface. Note that the color scale in **c** is different from that in right panels of Fig. 8

shadow zone in this study. The other waveform inversion results also detected small slip in that region (Asano and Iwata 2016; Kubo et al. 2016; Uchide et al. 2016; Kobayashi et al. 2017). This could result from the small stress drop in that area.

The peak value of the moment rate function was $\sim 30\%$ higher in case A2 with the free surface than that obtained by Yagi et al. (2016) and Hao et al. (2017). The high peak value resulted from the large slip near the free surface in the panels labeled “8–10 s” and “10–12 s” in Fig. 9b. If a longer D_c , higher μ_s (i.e., higher yield stress), or higher μ_d (i.e., lower stress drop) in a shallow region is assumed, the peak value would become lower and consistent with the observed one.

A rupture started and propagated spontaneously from the high ΔCFS regions on the Hinagu fault, which were dominantly induced by the slip of foreshock 1, without the artificial shear stress increase, in some cases including case A2 as shown by the solid symbols in Fig. 7. However, the main shock occurred 28 h after foreshock 1. The contradiction might come from the estimation error of the geometry of the fault planes, from the assumption of the uniform regional stress, and from simpler slip distribution of foreshock 1 assumed in “Static stress changes by foreshocks” section than that estimated by waveform inversions (Kubo et al. 2016; Asano and Iwata 2016; Kobayashi et al. 2017). The delay of the main shock could be explained by aseismic slip, as suggested by Kato et al.

(2016a). We will discuss the effect of the aseismic slip later. The initiation point of the rupture was slightly deeper than the relocated hypocenter by Yoshida et al. (2016).

Fukuyama and Suzuki (2016) obtained a D_c'' of 1 m as a proxy for D_c from the analyses of the near-fault seismic waveforms. Their estimate could be related to the D_c value at shallow depth near the KMMH16 station. However, in our simulations for $D_c \geq 0.5$ m, the slip did not propagate to the Futagawa fault or evolved much more slowly compared to the seismic observation summarized in “Introduction” section. This discrepancy may partly come from the assumption of a constant D_c in our simulations. A D_c deeper than a few kilometers should be shorter than 0.5 m to reproduce the features of the rupture propagation as stated above, while a D_c in a shallow part could be larger.

A σ_1 value of 100 MPa is lower than the lithostatic pressure except near the free surface. The small σ_1 is consistent with the low magnitude of the shear stress suggested by rotation of the principal stress axes due to the main shock (Yoshida et al. 2016). A possible explanation for the small σ_1 is the existence of overpressured fluids (e.g., Sibson 1992), which lowered the effective stress value.

We compared the observed near-fault ground displacements at KMMH16 (KiK-net), 93048, and 93049 (deployed by the local government of Kumamoto prefecture) stations with the synthetic results of case A2 with the free surface, as shown in Additional file 1: Figure S4. The locations of the stations are shown in Fig. 1. The synthetic polarity of the fault-parallel and vertical components of the displacement waveforms at all the stations and of the fault-normal component at 93049 was consistent with the observation. The synthetic fault-normal displacement at KMMH16 was much smaller than the observed ones, and the synthetic polarity of the static fault-normal component at 93048 was opposite to the observation. These inconsistencies may arise from the small differences in the local fault geometry and in the location of large slip between the model and the real because the polarity of the fault-normal component is sensitive to the site location relative to the fault slip. We simply assumed a rectangular fault plane for each of the Hinagu and Futagawa fault segments (“Estimation of fault planes” section). The synthetic seismic waves arrived at 93049 for a few seconds later than the observed ones. This may be because the stress shadow effect was slightly overestimated and the rupture delayed in the stress shadow zone. We did not focus on the reproduction of the observed seismograms in this study because we assumed uniform P- and S-wave velocities in the simulations, but this assumption was too simple to reproduce the near-fault site effect mentioned in the

observations (Yamanaka et al. 2016). In addition, the element size (0.5 km^2) might be too large to represent the surface movement by the fault.

Cohesive zone size should be the order of $\left(\frac{\mu D_c}{\Delta\sigma}\right)^2 \frac{1}{L}$, where μ is the rigidity, $\Delta\sigma$ is the stress drop, and L is the distance that rupture has propagated, as shown by Andrews (2004). This size is longer than 10^3 m when L is 10 km in cases A1 and A2 ($D_c \geq 0.35$ m). Indeed, the cohesive zone was resolved adequately in these cases. However, the size is ~ 90 m in cases with $D_c = 0.1$ m, which is smaller than the element size; therefore, the cohesive zone may not be resolved. The results of these cases may correspond to cases with D_c longer than 0.1 m (but smaller than 0.35 m). Much smaller element size ($\sim 1/10$ of that in this study) is necessary for resolving the small cohesive zone. We could not conduct such simulations because of huge memory costs and computation time.

Kato et al. (2016a) reported the migrations of seismicity fronts along the directions of the fault strike and dip, starting immediately after foreshock 1. They interpreted these migrations to result from aseismic slip triggered by foreshock 1, propagating toward the nucleation point of the subsequent main shock rupture. They estimated a spatially uniform slip on a rectangular fault plane equivalent to an M_w 5.8 earthquake in order to reproduce the transient displacements observed in Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) data after foreshock 1 at two stations close to its fault plane, assuming the same fault geometry and slip direction as suggested by Kato et al. (2016b) for both foreshocks 1 and 3. To demonstrate the effect of the aseismic slip on the main shock rupture and on our results stated above, we first calculated the static stress changes due to the aseismic slip and then conducted the dynamic rupture simulations of case A2 with the free surface, taking into account the static stress changes due to the aseismic slip as well as the foreshocks. We assumed an elliptical crack for the aseismic slip in the same manner as for the foreshocks, and the same seismic moment of the aseismic slip as suggested by Kato et al. (2016a). The details of the model setup and of the results are shown in Additional file 1: Text S2. The results showed that the stress shadow was generated in the shallower portions of the Hinagu fault by the aseismic slip than by the foreshocks. The ΔCFS was positive at and near the hypocenter of the main shock; therefore, the aseismic slip would have encouraged the rupture initiation of the main shock and may be able to explain the delay for 28 h of the main shock from foreshock 1, as pointed out by Kato et al. (2016a). The static stress changes induced by the aseismic slip, however, were smaller than those by the foreshocks because of its smaller accumulated seismic moment until the main

shock. The features of the rupture propagation were similar between the cases with and without the static stress change induced by the aseismic slip. Thus, our results on the rupture propagation and on the feasible parameters stated above were not affected by the aseismic slip.

Conclusions

We conducted 3-D dynamic rupture simulations of the main shock of the 2016 Kumamoto, Japan, earthquake under an initial stress distribution constructed using the sum of the static stress changes induced by M6-class foreshocks and the regional stress field. We showed that the feasible parameter ranges that can reproduce the characteristic features of the main shock rupture revealed by seismic analyses were $\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa, $40 \leq \sigma_3 \leq 70$ MPa, $D_c = 0.35$ m, $\mu_s = 0.349$, and $\mu_d = 0.261$ ($S_H = 0.8$). The combinations of shorter D_c and larger μ_s were also feasible under the same stress condition. With the parameters defined as $\sigma_1 = 100$ MPa, $\sigma_3 = 50$ MPa, $D_c = 0.35$ m, $\mu_s = 0.349$, and $\mu_d = 0.261$ ($S_H = 0.8$) (case A2), a rupture started where ΔCFS was positive on the Hinagu fault at depth. The rupture then transferred to the Futagawa fault at depth and propagated toward a shallow part of the Hinagu fault. The largest slip occurred at a shallow part of the Futagawa fault. The slip in the stress shadow zone (a large negative ΔCFS) on the Hinagu fault was very small. These rupture propagation features were consistent with those obtained by the analyses of seismic waveforms and geodetic data, and by field investigations. We also demonstrated that the free surface encouraged the slip evolution of the main shock.

Additional file

Additional file 1. Text S1: Dynamic rupture propagation in cases with unfeasible parameters. **Text S2:** Effects of aseismic slip triggered by foreshock 1. **Figure S1:** Dynamic rupture propagation in the case with the free surface when is 100 MPa, is 50 MPa (case A), is 0.35 m, and is 1.2. **Figure S2:** Dynamic rupture propagation in the case with the free surface when is 100 MPa, is 50 MPa (case A), is 0.1 m, and is 0.8. **Figure S3:** Final slip distribution in cases C, D, and G. **Figure S4:** Observed and synthetic near-fault ground displacements at KMMH16 (KiK-net), 93048, and 93049 (deployed by the local government of Kumamoto prefecture) stations. **Figure S5:** Assumed slip distribution of the aseismic slip, ΔCFS due to the aseismic slip, and ΔCFS due to the combination of the aseismic slip and the foreshocks. **Figure S6:** Dynamic rupture propagation in case A2 with the free surface. The stress changes due to the aseismic slip and the foreshocks were taken into account in this simulation.

Authors' contributions

YU estimated the static stress changes due to the foreshocks and conducted the numerical simulations. KY analyzed the data to estimate the fault planes. EF participated in the design of the study and the discussion. EF and HK analyzed the seismic waveform data. YU and KY drafted the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Appendix 1: Assumption of the slip distributions of the foreshocks

Here we consider elliptical cracks with constant stress drops to obtain the slip distributions of the three foreshocks. The axes of the ellipse with an aspect ratio of a/b correspond to the x - and y -axes, respectively. The quantities $2a$ and $2b$ represent the length and width of each fault plane estimated in "Estimation of fault planes" section. The slip direction parallel to the x -axis is shown in Table 1. The slip distribution of the elliptical crack with the constant stress drop $\Delta\sigma$ (Eshelby 1957) is

$$D(x, y) = \frac{2b\Delta\sigma}{C_1\mu} \sqrt{1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2}}, \quad (2)$$

where μ is the rigidity, C_1 is

$$C_1 = E(k) + \frac{\nu}{1-\nu} \frac{K(k) - E(k)}{k^2}; \quad a > b, k = \sqrt{1 - (b/a)^2} \\ = \frac{b}{a} \left[E(k) + \frac{\nu}{1-\nu} \frac{K(k) - (a/b)^2 E(k)}{k^2} \right]; \quad b > a, k = \sqrt{1 - (a/b)^2}, \quad (3)$$

$E(k)$ and $K(k)$ are the complete elliptical integrals of the first and second kind, respectively, and ν is Poisson's ratio. We estimated the $\Delta\sigma$ value of each foreshock so that $\mu A \bar{D}$, where $A = \pi ab$ and \bar{D} is the average of D , is consistent with the seismic moment of each foreshock shown in Table 1. Figure 4b shows the slip distributions of the foreshocks obtained from Eq. (2).

Appendix 2: Estimation of the dynamic coefficient of friction

To estimate the stress drop of the main shock, we consider a half of an elliptical crack with a constant stress drop. The axes of the ellipse with an aspect ratio of a/b correspond to the x - and y -axes, respectively, and the slip direction is parallel to the x -axis. We set a and b to be the average length and width of those of the Hinagu and Futagawa fault planes estimated in "Estimation of fault

planes” section, considering mirror images to include the free surface effect.

Madariaga (1977) evaluated the constant stress drop $\Delta\sigma$ in terms of the average slip, \bar{D} :

$$\Delta\sigma = \frac{\mu}{C_2} \frac{\bar{D}}{W}, \quad (4)$$

where W is the minimum axis of the ellipse and C_2 is

$$C_2 = 4 \left/ \left[3E(k) + \frac{K(k) - (b/a)^2 E(k)}{k^2} \right] \right.; \quad a > b, k = \sqrt{1 - (b/a)^2}$$

$$= 4 \left/ \left[3E(k) + \left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^2 \frac{K(k) - E(k)}{k^2} \right] \right.; \quad b > a, k = \sqrt{1 - (a/b)^2}. \quad (5)$$

We assumed $\Delta\sigma$ is $\sum(\Delta\sigma_i A_i) / \sum A_i$ ($i = H, F$), where $\Delta\sigma_i$ is $\tau^r - \mu_d \sigma_n^r$ and the subscripts H and F correspond to the Hinagu and Futagawa faults, respectively, ignoring the stress changes due to the foreshocks. Note that τ^r and σ_n^r are uniform on each of the Hinagu and Futagawa planar faults. We determined the μ_d value, which is the same in the two faults, so that $\mu A \bar{D}$ is consistent with the observed seismic moment shown in Table 1, where $A = \pi ab/2$. The obtained μ_d values for cases A–G are listed in Table 3.

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