Observing multiscale temporal behavior on a megathrust: Transient behavior and the 2012 Mw7.6 seismic event

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The results presented here have been published on G3 in August 2015.
- A network of 18 CGPS and 23 EGPS
- Network installed between 2002 and 2006 to monitor the strain accumulation, slow slip events and eventually observe thrust earthquakes (funded by NSF).
- Different CGPS during the Sept. 5 2012 earthquake recorded the event at high rate.
- The network is located just above the seismogenic zone (near field)!
GPS Time Series

- The CGPS time series shows inter-seismic, co-seismic, and dynamic behavior in the post-seismic
Analysis of inter-seismic data show Slow Slip Events or locking patches

Jiang et al. 2012

Protti et al 2014
Slow Slip Events

SSE mainly in 2 areas:
A shallow and a deep one

Importance of near field network

Almost periodic with a periodicity of ~20 months
Slow Slip Events

SSE mainly in 2 areas:
A shallow and a deep one

Importance of near field network

Significant amount of slip deficit released at shallow depth by SSE

Cumulative slip 2003-2012

Dixon et al 2014
Co-seismic deformation computed as the average position a few days before the event (or for EGPS using the projected position before the event) and the position of the first available day after the event.

- Blue line coseismic from seismic data contours every 500 mm (Yue et al. 2013).

- Significantly more slip (1.5m vs. 1.1m) offshore in the geodetic inversion than seismic inversion. M7.7 vs M7.6.

Right: Interseismic coupling from Protti et al. 2014 Nature Geosciences
Left: Green lines left (dark >50% Light ~100%)
“Co-seismic” changes with time

- Co-seismic deformation computed as the difference from the average position before and after the event is dependent on time since the earthquake.

- Co-seismic deformation computed using 3 vs. 60 minutes after are smaller than the value 12 hours after the event (or the day after the event, i.e. the classical value for co-seismic).
“Early Afterslip”

- (left) Co-seismic measured from before the event to 3 minutes after the event.
- (right) “Co-seismic” measured from 3 minutes after the event to the next day.
Early afterslip

- Inverted postseismic afterslip in the first 300s
- Comparison with area of cumulative SSE slip (red line 1m of slip) and coseismic slip from seismic data Yue et al. 2013 (blue line) and interseismic locked region
Aftershock October 24th

Mw 6.6
Post-seismic

- Strong Post-seismic signal is seen in the entire network.
- An exponential decay fits the data.
- Need three relaxation times to fit the data:
  - a fast one (~7 days) (mixed, poroelastic and other)
  - intermediate (~70 days) (likely after slip)
  - slow (>420 days) (viscoelastic).
Aftershock October 24th

Coseismic estimated by interpolation!
9 days Post-seismic and seismicity

9 days slip on the fault assuming all deformation due to fault motion:
- From 70 days relaxation fit (left)
- Difference from position day 1 and day 9
- Fault interface aftershock

Seismicity fits better with relaxation model

Diffuse deformation on right suggests the total deformation at surface not limited to strain release only on fault plane
# Total slip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Geodetic Moment (N m)</th>
<th>Corresponding $M_w$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 h &quot;coseismic&quot;</td>
<td>$3.7 \times 10^{20}$</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early-afterslip 300 s–3 h</td>
<td>$3.9 \times 10^{19}$</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coseismic 300 s</td>
<td>$3.3 \times 10^{20}$</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October aftershock</td>
<td>$8.5 \times 10^{18}$</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afterslip ($\tau = 70$ days)</td>
<td>$6.9 \times 10^{19}$</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMT 5 September</td>
<td>$3.1 \times 10^{20}$</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMT 24 October</td>
<td>$5.3 \times 10^{18}$</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 days aftershock seismic moment</td>
<td>$5.65 \times 10^{17}$</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A slow slip event happened “regularly” in 2014 following the normal periodicity as if it was not affected by the main event.

2014 event presents slip only on the deep patch. It seems that the 2012 earthquake did not affect the deep SSE but affected significantly the shallower one.
A new one?

Starting new event?
Too early to say come to Nick Voss talk at AGU
Conclusions

The position of the geodetic network of Nicoya provides invaluable data to understand the mechanical behavior of the subduction mega-thrust. **NEAR FIELD STRAIN OBSERVATIONS ARE IMPORTANT!**

Coseismic surface displacement takes a few hours to get to the “static” deformation measured as average position of the next day (**EARLY AFTERSLIP**).

Strong post-seismic deformation evident in the full network with 3 relaxation times.

Cumulative slip on fault interface after the event releases a significant amount of strain from interseismic locking.

Cumulative afterslip and main slip seems to be spatially limited by areas of SSE.

The temporal evolution of the slip on the fault underneath Nicoya suggests the presence of different patches activated by different slip mechanisms.

Deep SSEs in Nicoya do not seem to be strongly affected by the main event. Shallow SSEs seem to be affected.
2012 SSE (happening during main shock)
2012 Slow Slip Event

Coulomb stress change for specified rake 128 deg. (bar graph)

Amount of net slip on each fault (m)