

# Interseismic loading and megathrust rupture potential in North Chile - South Peru

*Anne Socquet  
Juan Carlos Villegas  
Mohamed Chlieh*



*Tsunami in Arica, 1877*

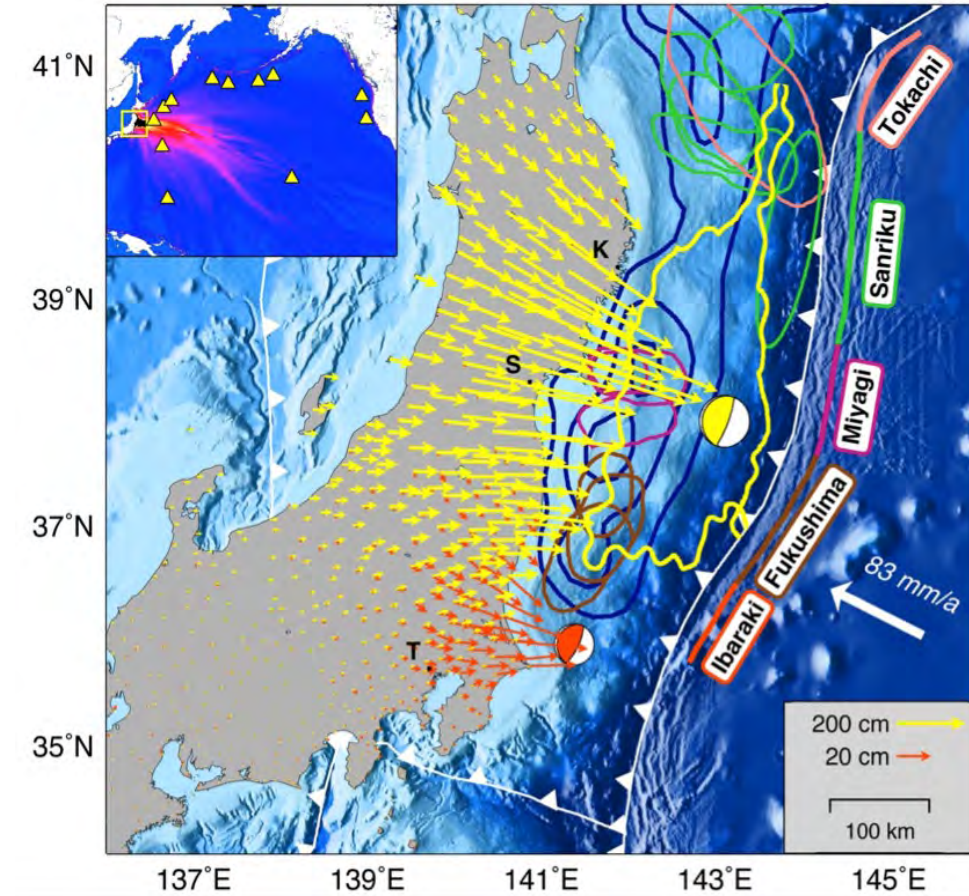
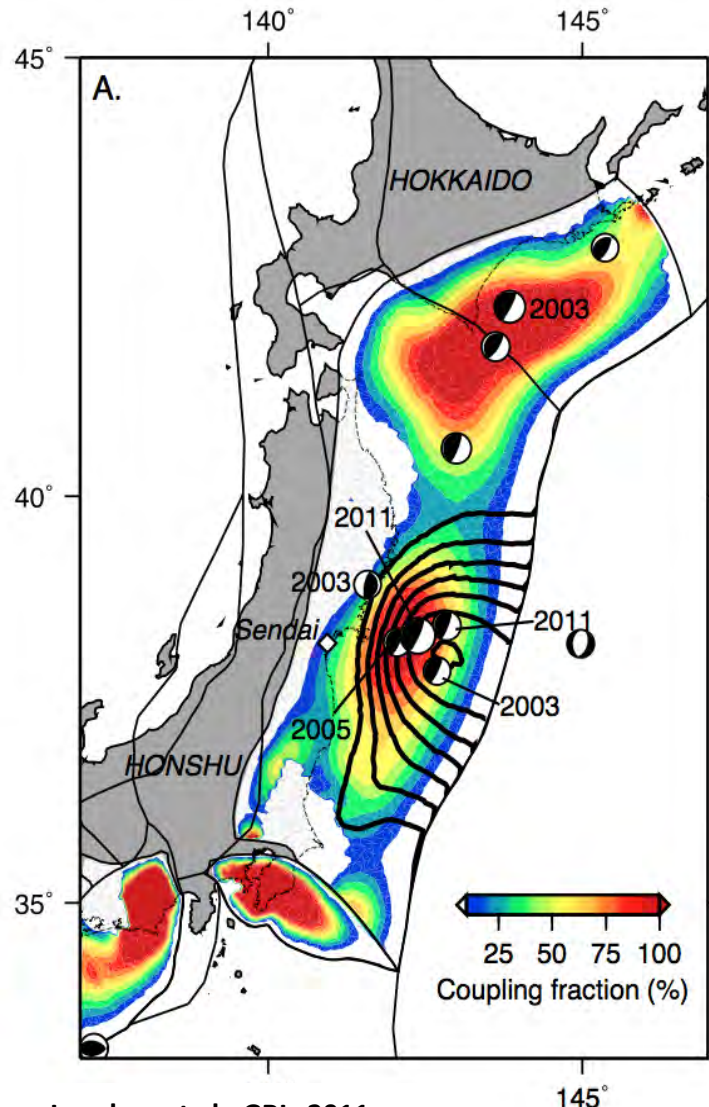


**unesco**

*Meeting of Experts on tsunami sources  
and hazard in southern Peru and northern Chile  
22-25 August 2023 -Arica, Chile*

# Last megathrust earthquakes ruptured fault sections that were interseismically locked

JAPAN 2011



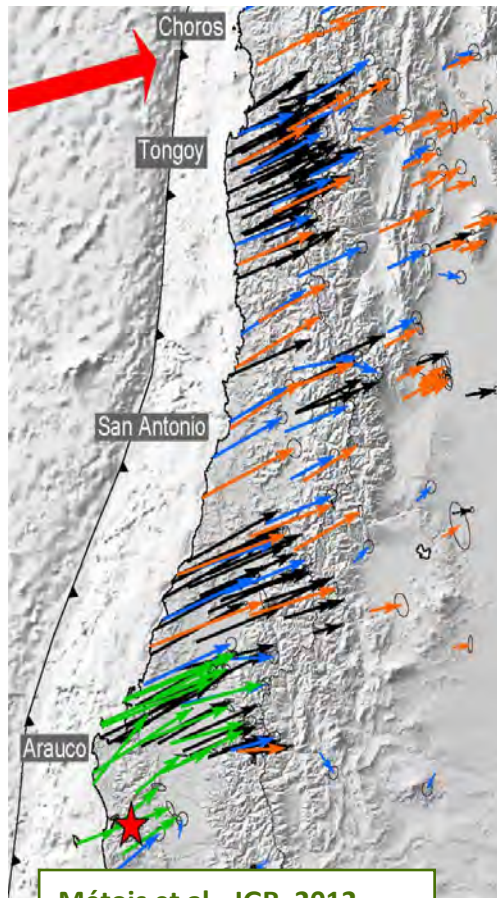
Simons et al., Science, 2011



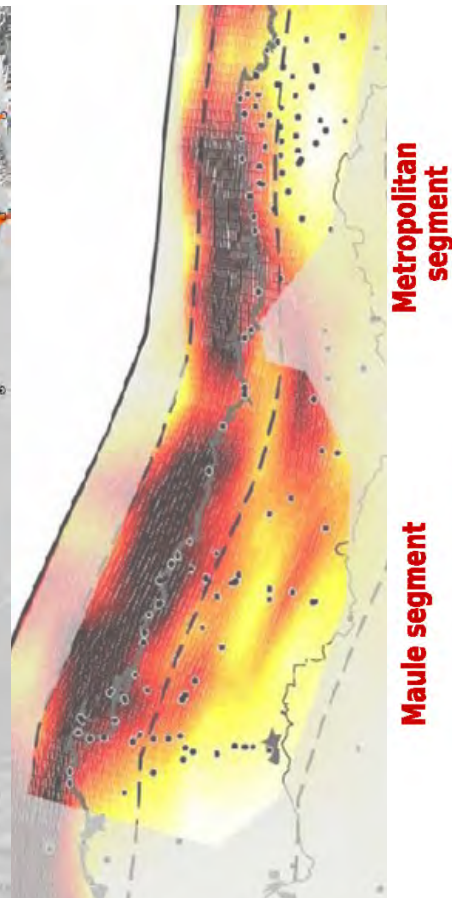
# Last megathrust earthquakes ruptured fault sections that were interseismically locked

## CHILE 2010

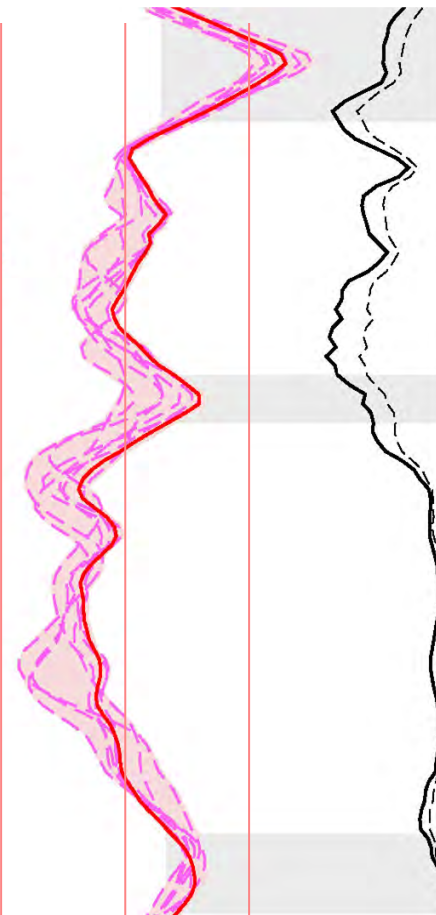
GPS data



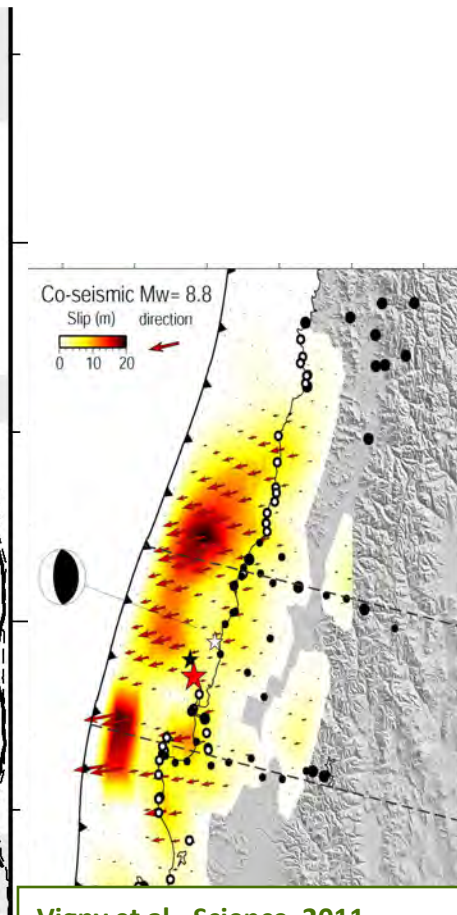
Coupling distribution



Average coupling & seismicity rate



Coseismic slip distribution



# Last megathrust earthquakes ruptured fault sections that were interseismically locked

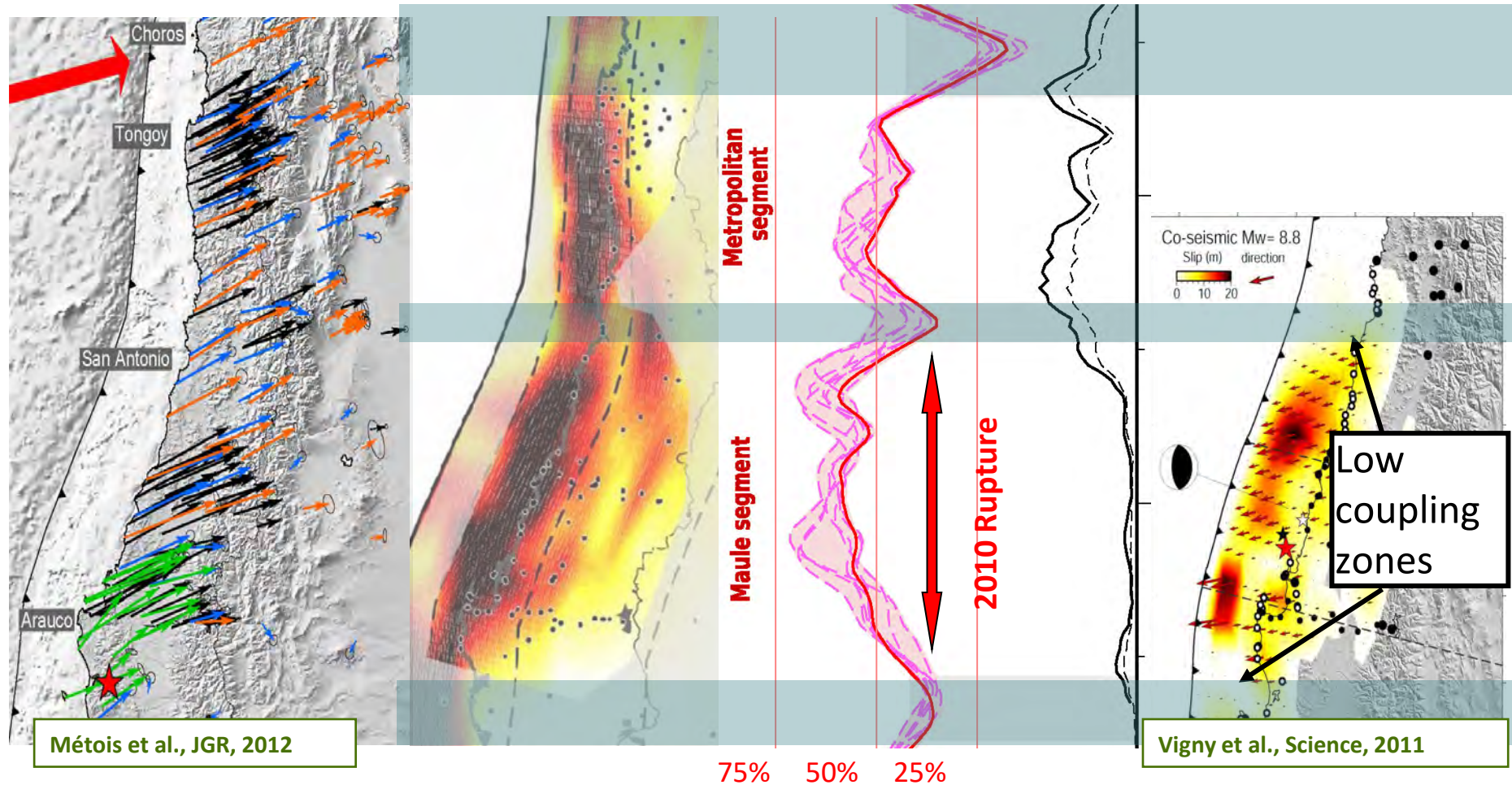
## CHILE 2010

GPS data

Coupling distribution

Average coupling & seismicity rate

Coseismic slip distribution

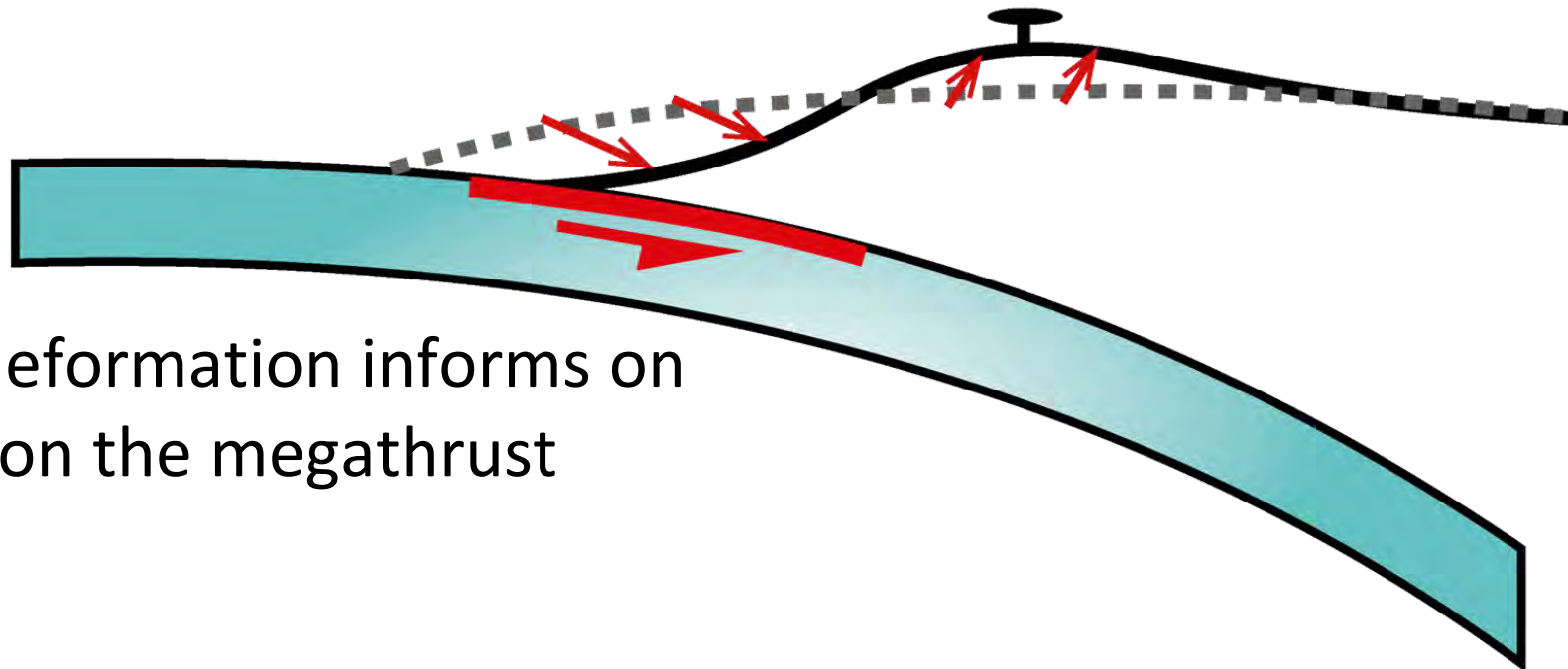




# → Mapping interseismic coupling from surface deformation can inform on seismic potential

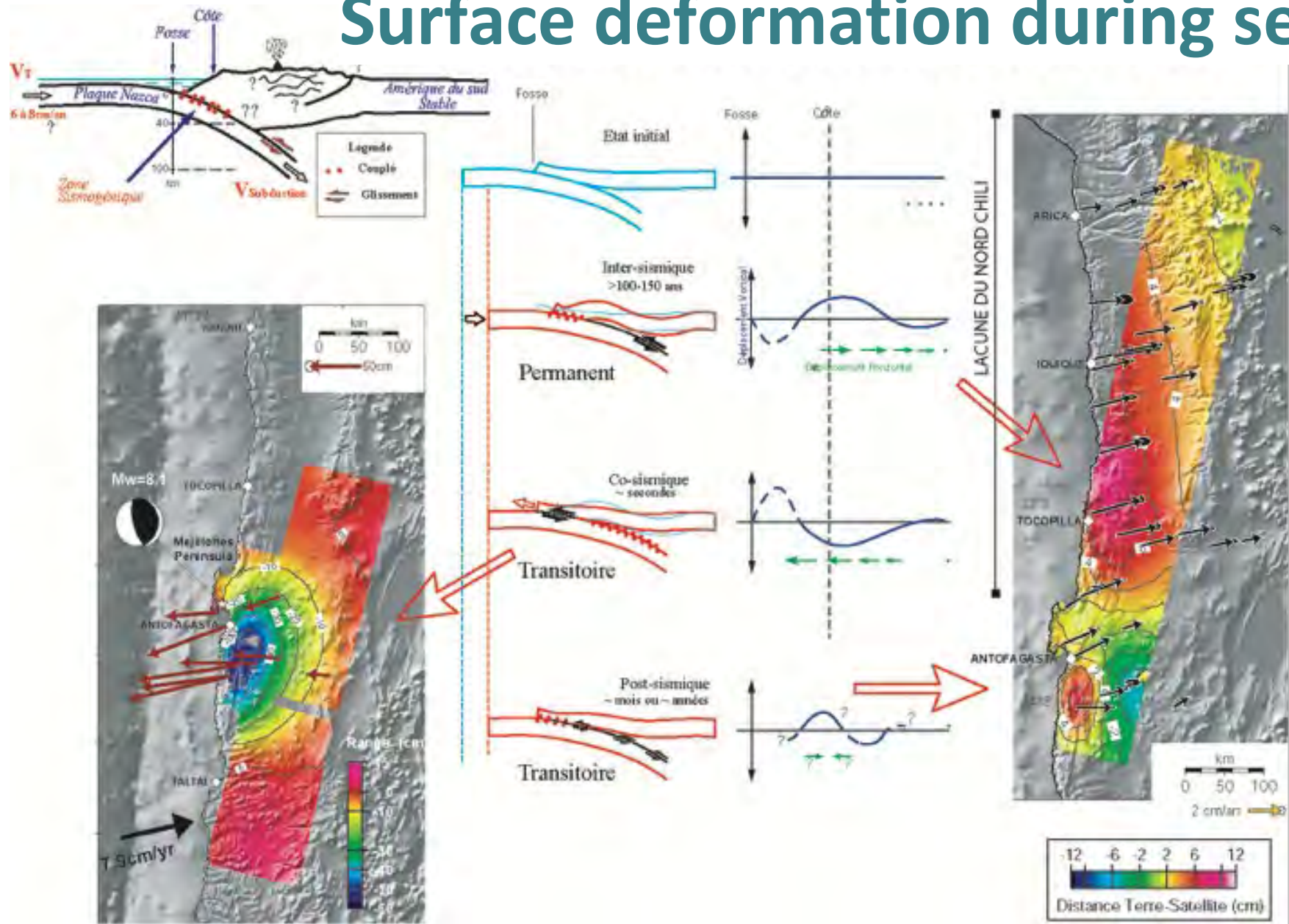


Space geodesy measures surface deformation



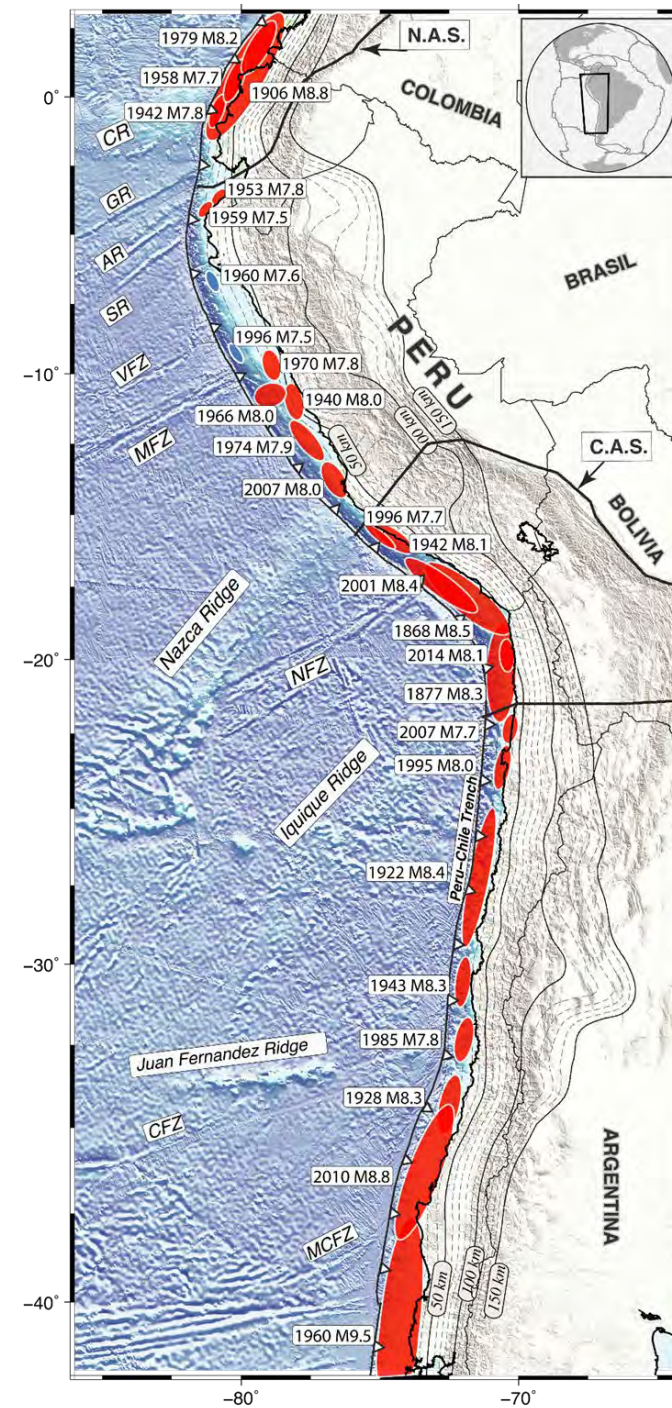
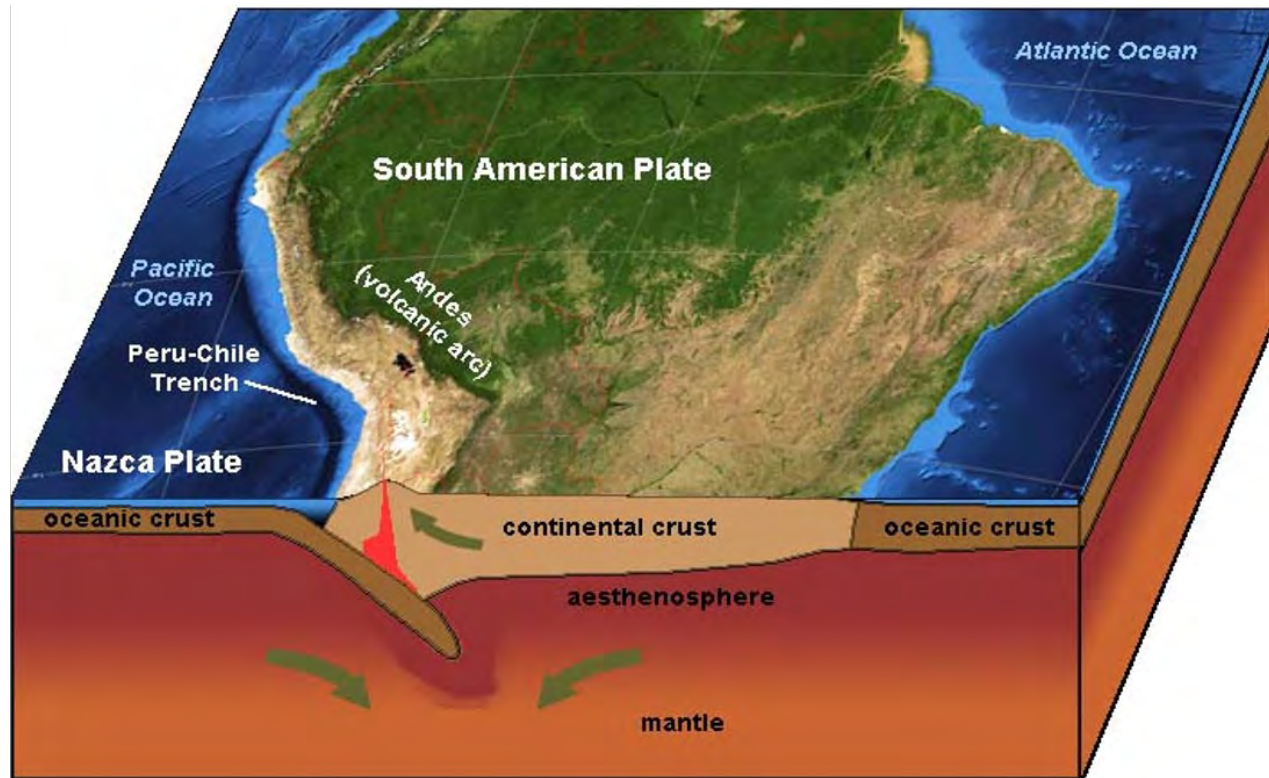
Surface deformation informs on coupling on the megathrust

# Surface deformation during seismic cycle



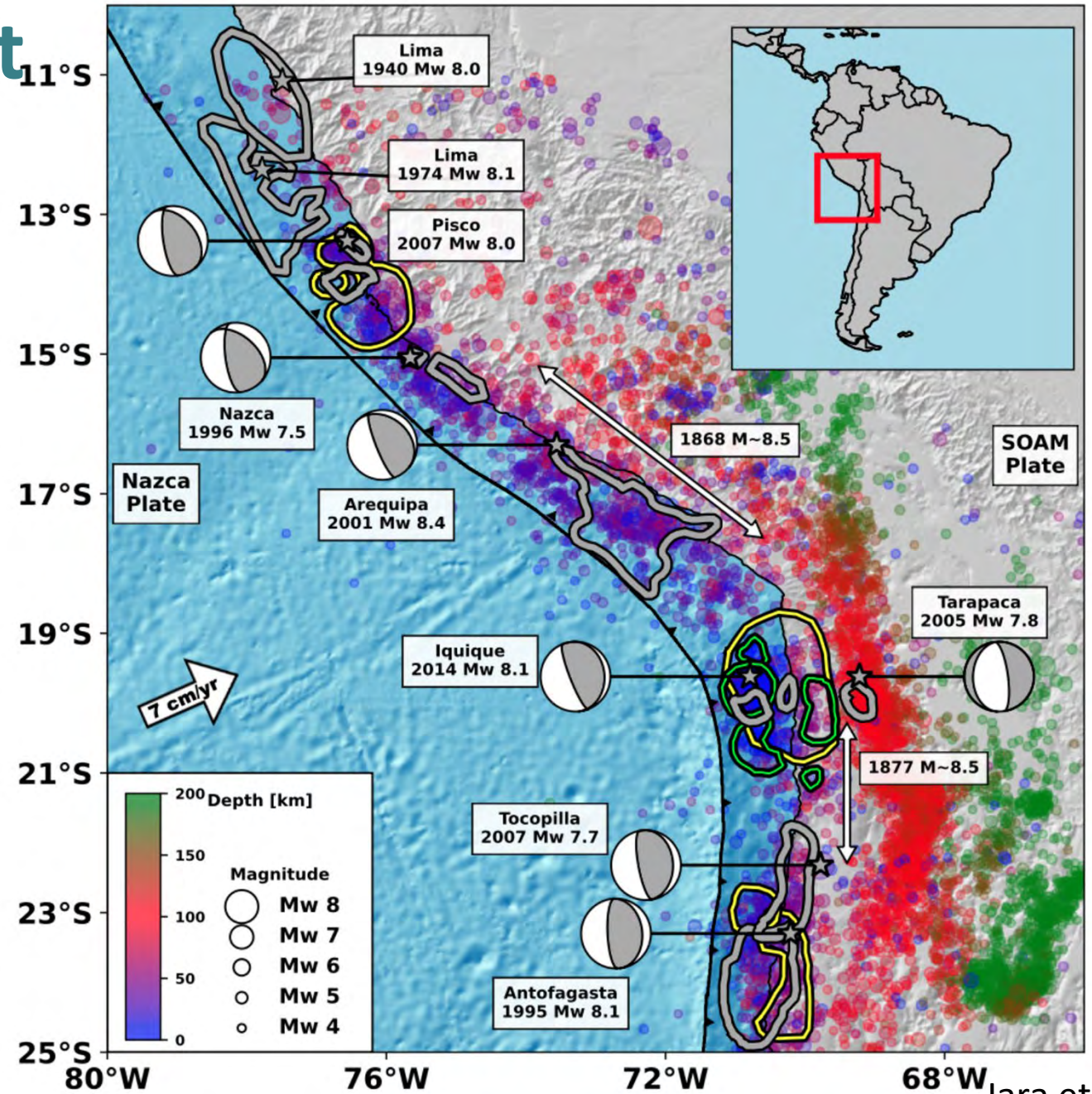


# Seismotectonic context





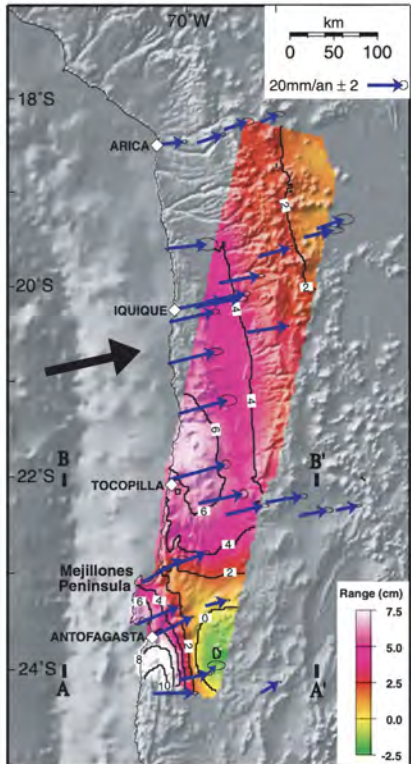
# Seismotectonic context



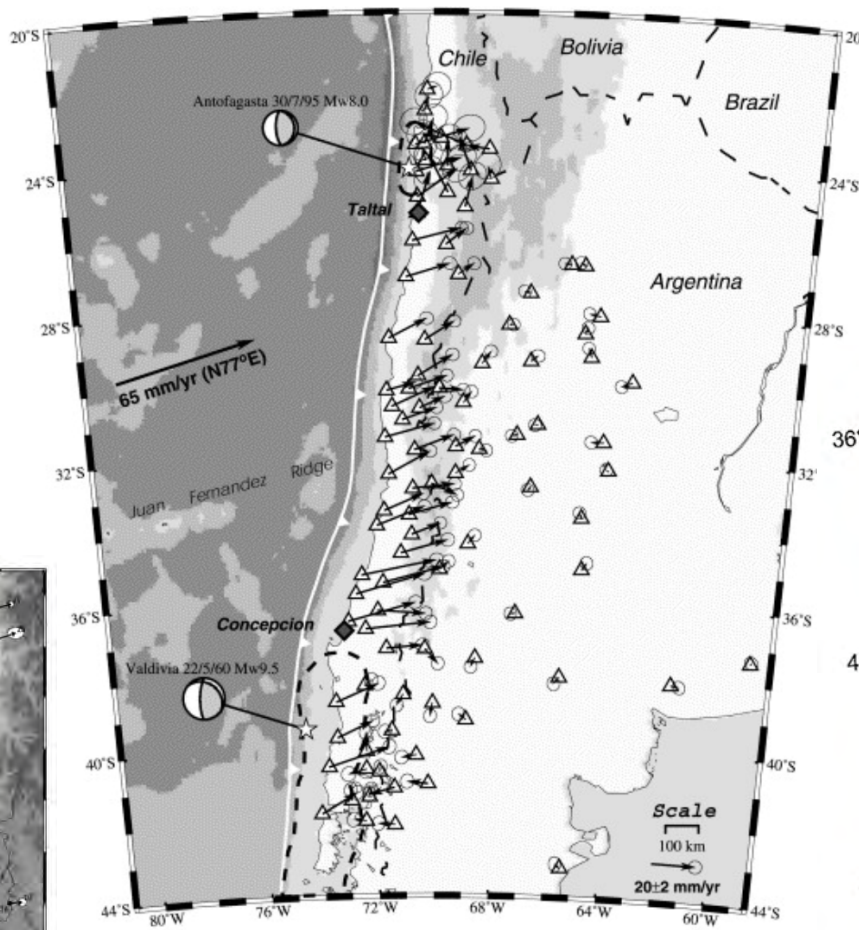


# Estimating active deformation in the Andes

A long term international effort that started in the 90s (groups from Chile, USA, Germany, France, Peru)

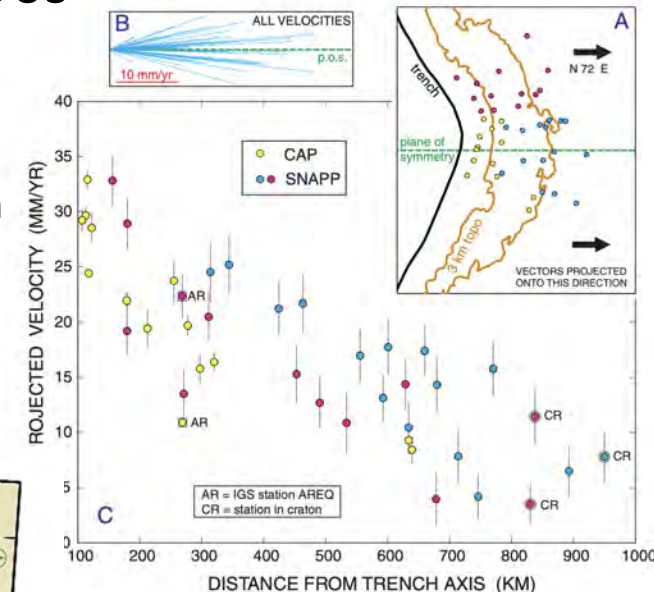
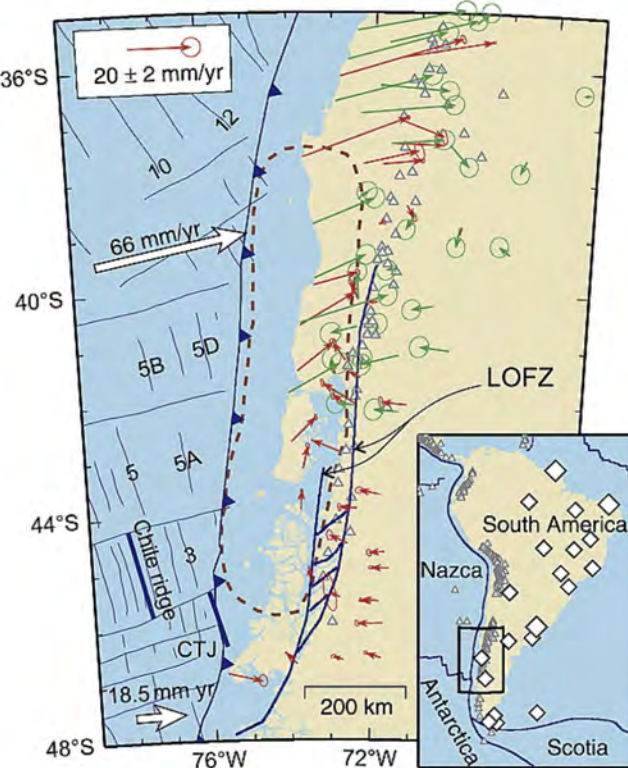


Chlieh et al. 2004



Ruegg et al. 2008  
Ruegg, Campos et al. 1996, 2002,

Klotz et al., 2001  
Khazaradze, Klotz, Angermann et al. 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003,...



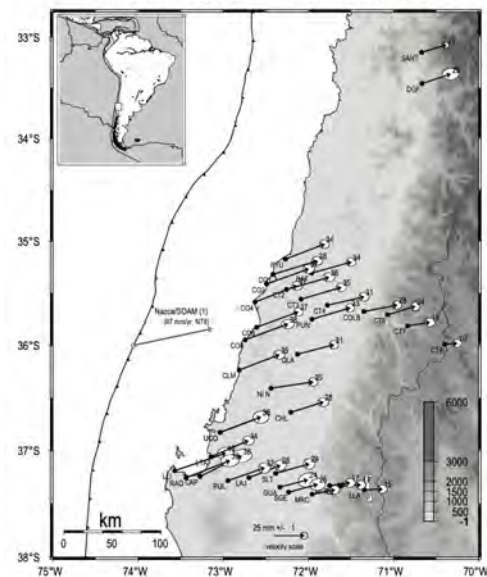
Norabuena et al., 1998

Bevis et al., 1999

Kendrick, Bevis et al. 2001

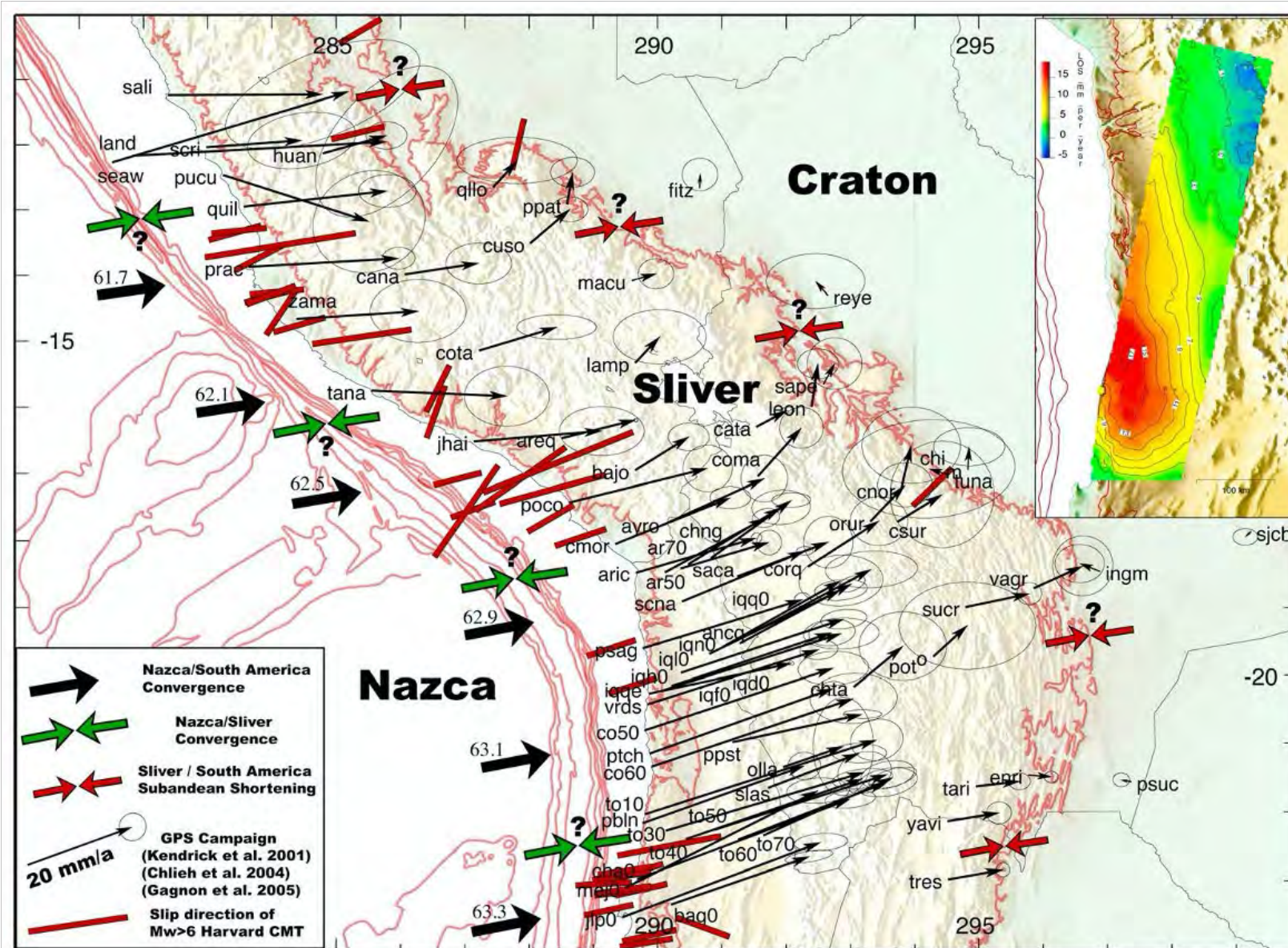
Brooks, Bevis, Smalley, Kendrick et al. 2000, 2001, 2003, ...2011,

Wang et al., 2007





# Combined velocity field in the Central Andes



GPS velocity field for central Andes (1994 - 2004)

Chlieh et al. 2011

Chlieh et al., (1998)  
 Norabuena et al., (1998)  
 Bevis et al., (1999)  
 Kendrick, Bevis et al., (2001)  
 Brooks, Bevis, Smalley, Kendrick et al., (2000, 2001, 2003, 2011)



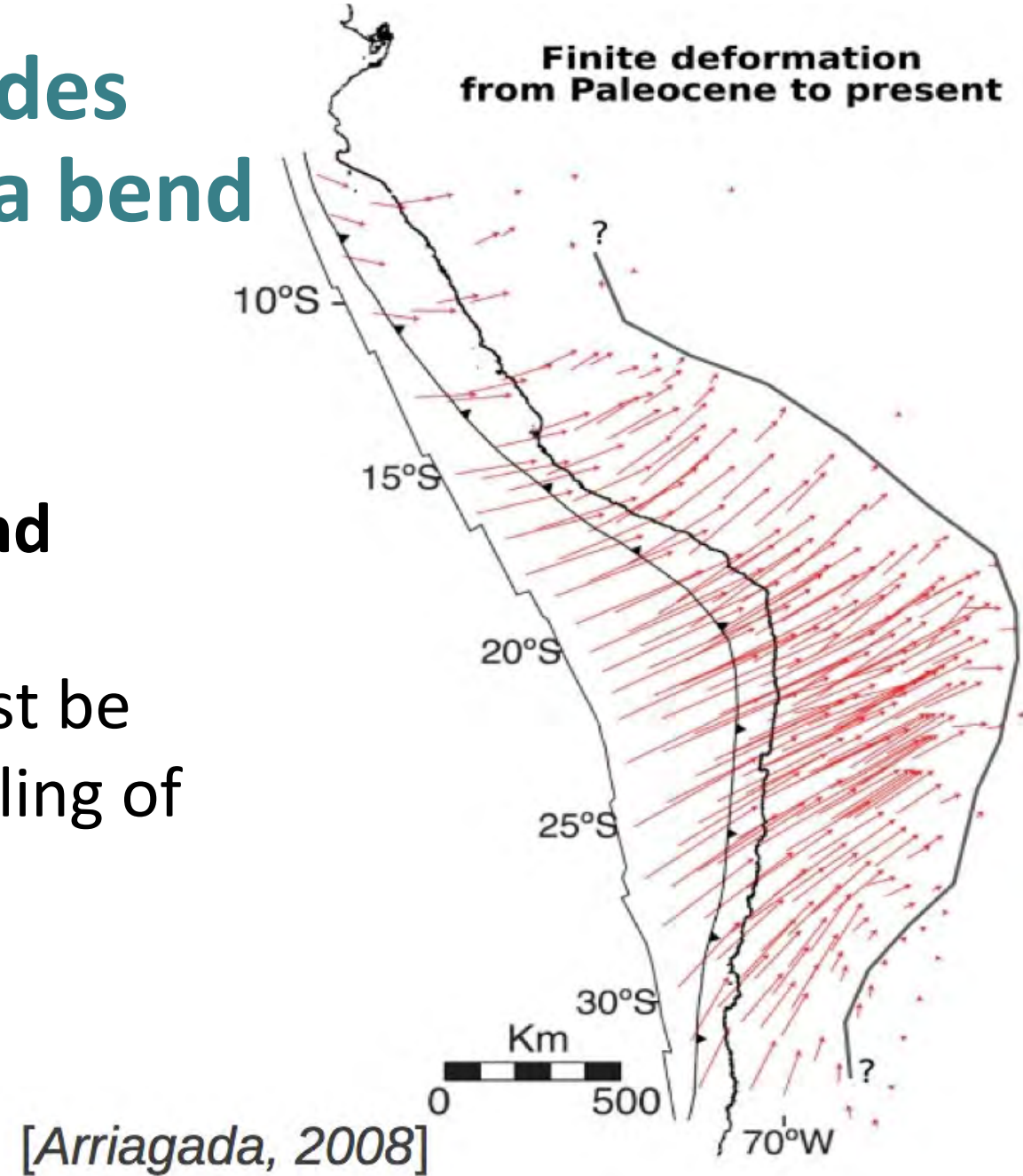
# Internal deformation of the Andes

## Rotations on both sides of Arica bend

**Clockwise rotation S. of Arica bend**

**Anticlockwise rotation N. of Arica bend**

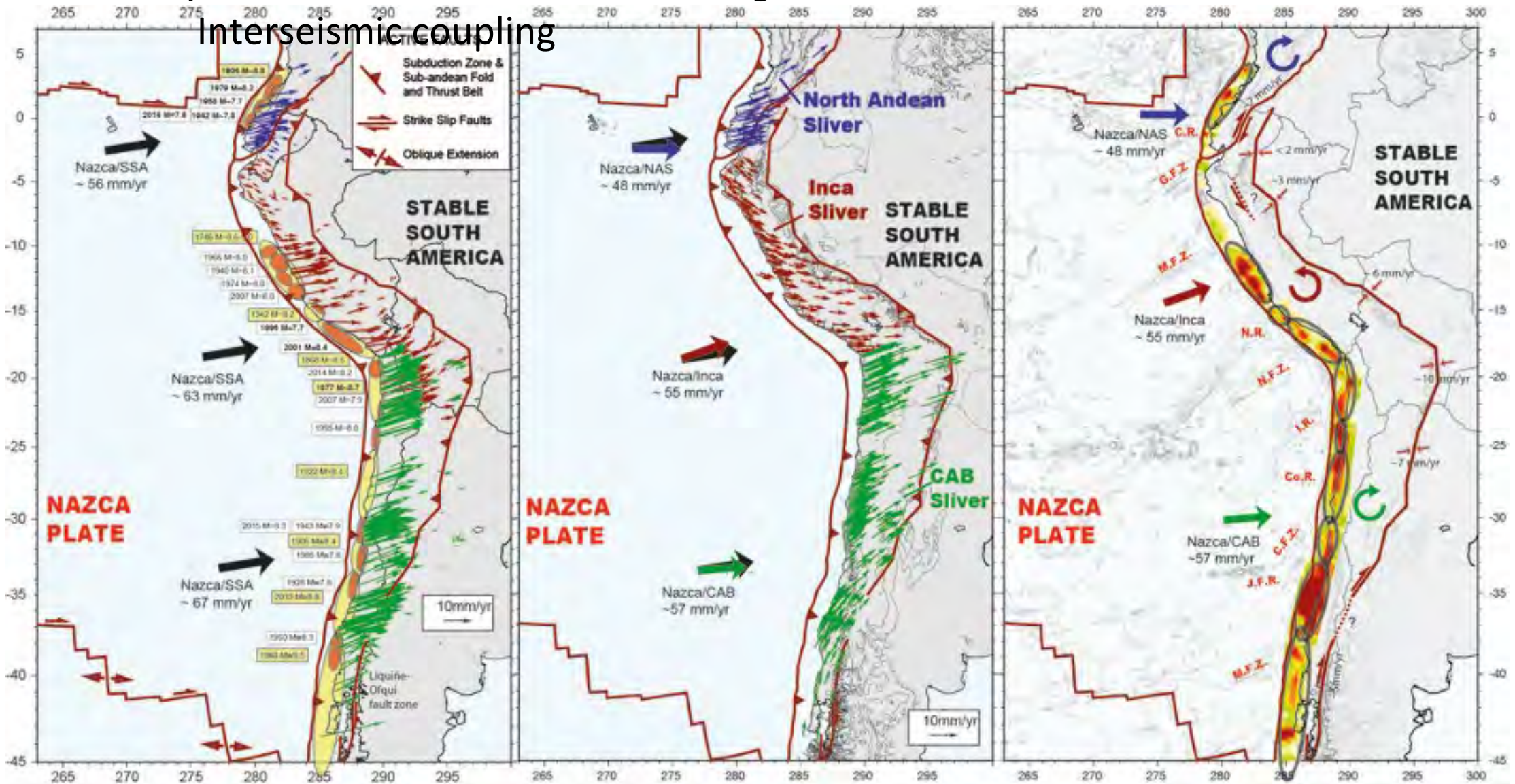
Internal deformation in the Andes must be taken into account for a proper modelling of interseismic loading



# Sliver motion in South America

Velocity field

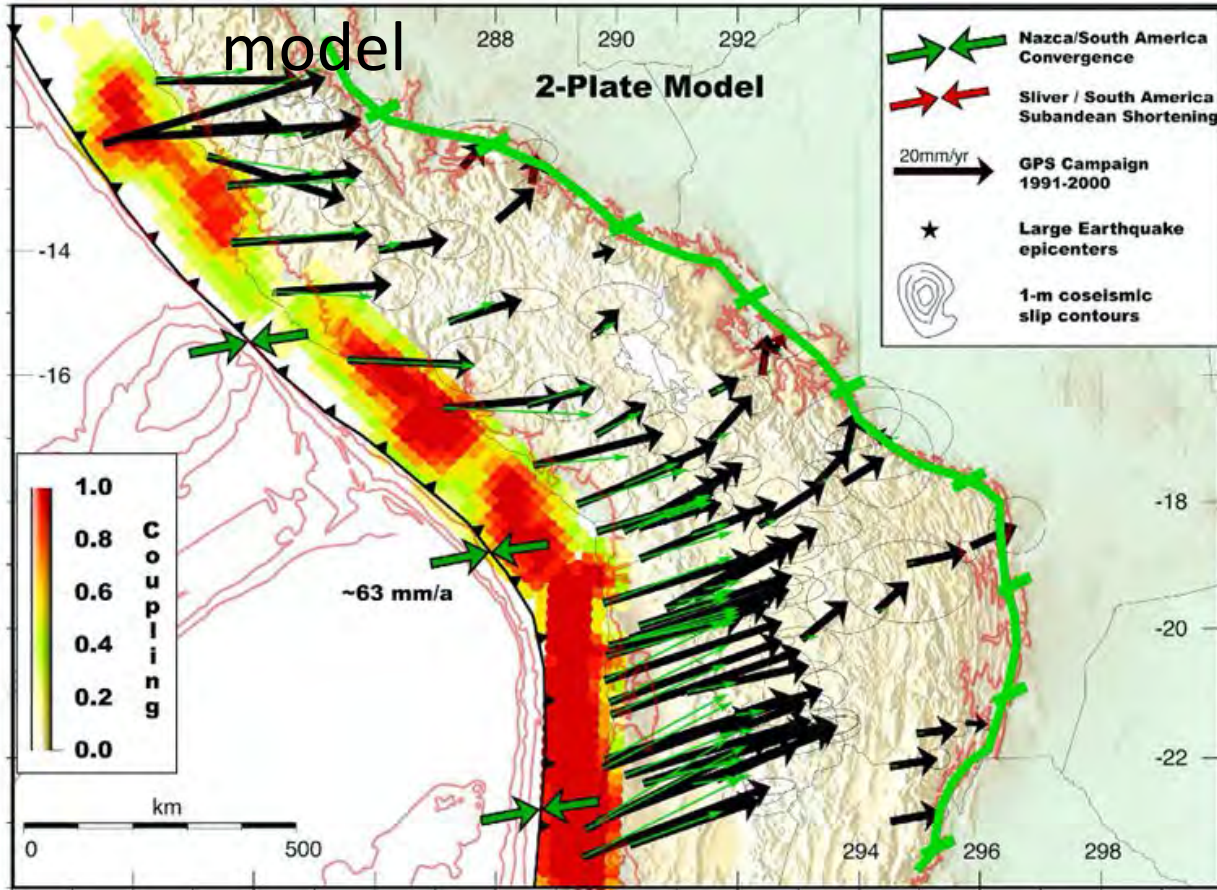
Rigid sliver motion



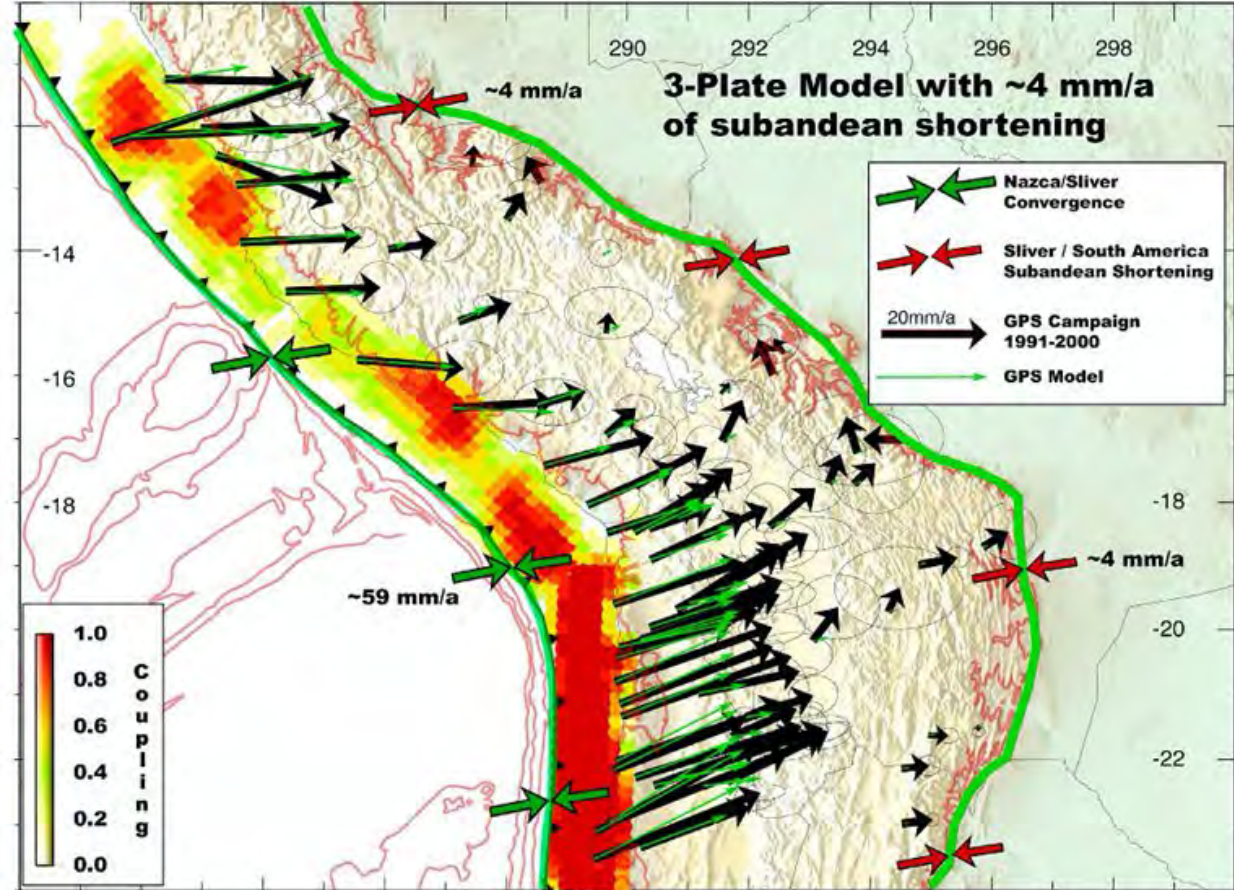


# Effect of sliver on coupling

## 2-plate model



## 3-plate



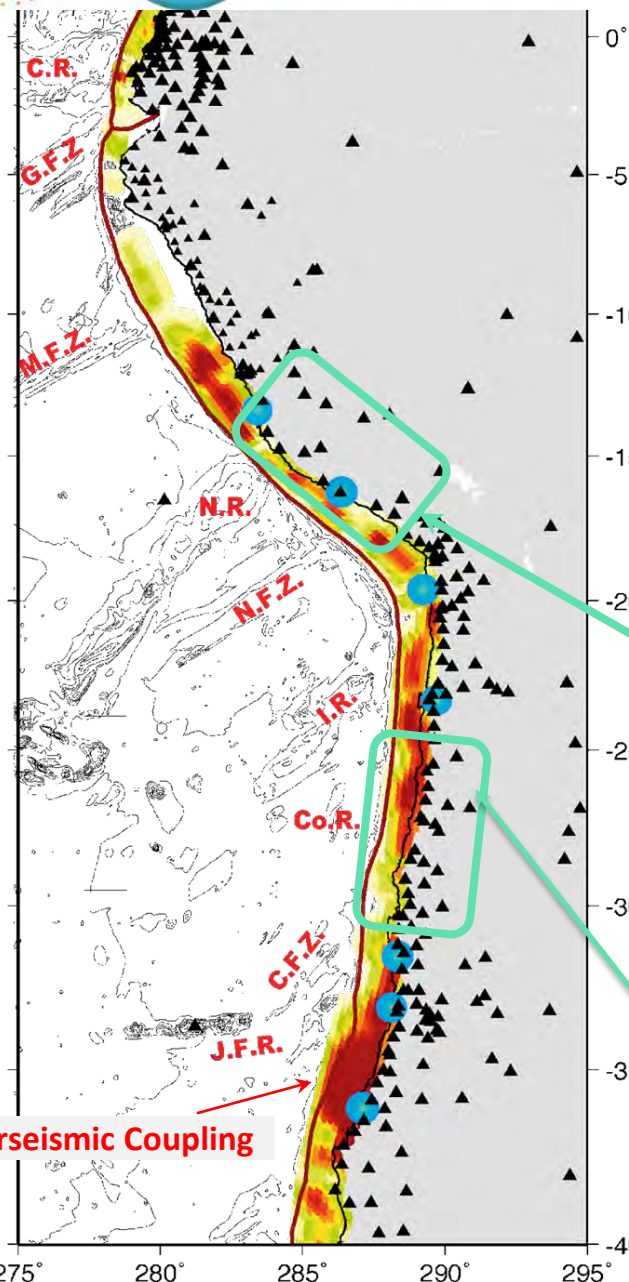


# Recent instrumentation efforts

2 targets along the South American subduction

that share the following characteristics:

- Gap of cGPS stations / sparse seismological network
  - Low interseismic coupling  steady creep or bursts of slow slip ?
  - 'seismic gaps'  is an earthquake being prepared there ?
  - Subduction of oceanic ridge
- barrier for earthquake propagation & rate strengthening behavior? (*prone to slow slip*)
- several large earthquakes have nucleated in similar geometric barriers



Interseismic Coupling

## South Peru / Nazca : 8 cGPS stations + 24 seismo

- Located in between 2001 & 2007 ruptures
- Subduction of Nazca oceanic ridge



## Atacama region (Tal-Tal - Copiapo – La Serena, 26-31°S):

9 cGPS stations + 25 seismo  
 + ANILLO project: 16 cGPS + 80 seismo

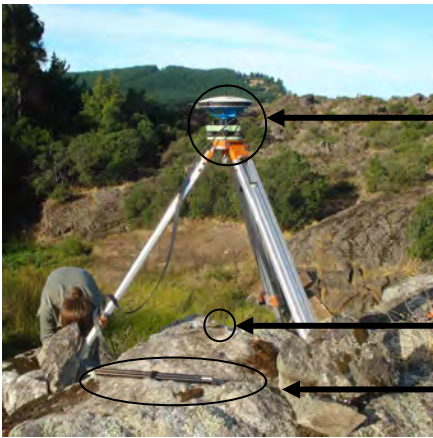
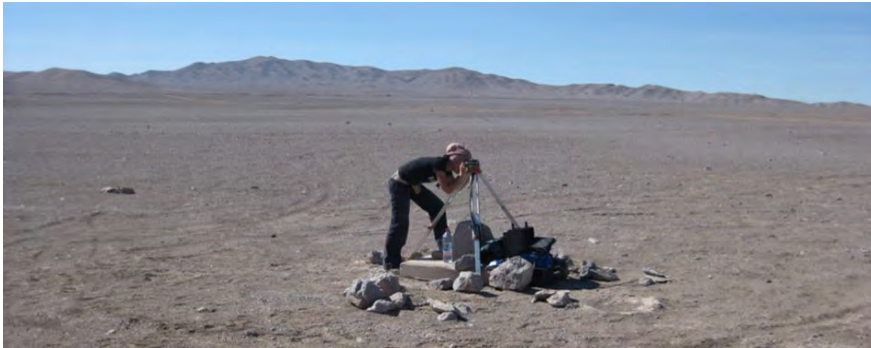
- Slow slip discovered (Klein 2018)
- last earthquakes Mw8.5+ 1819 et 1922
- Subduction of Copiapo oceanic ridge





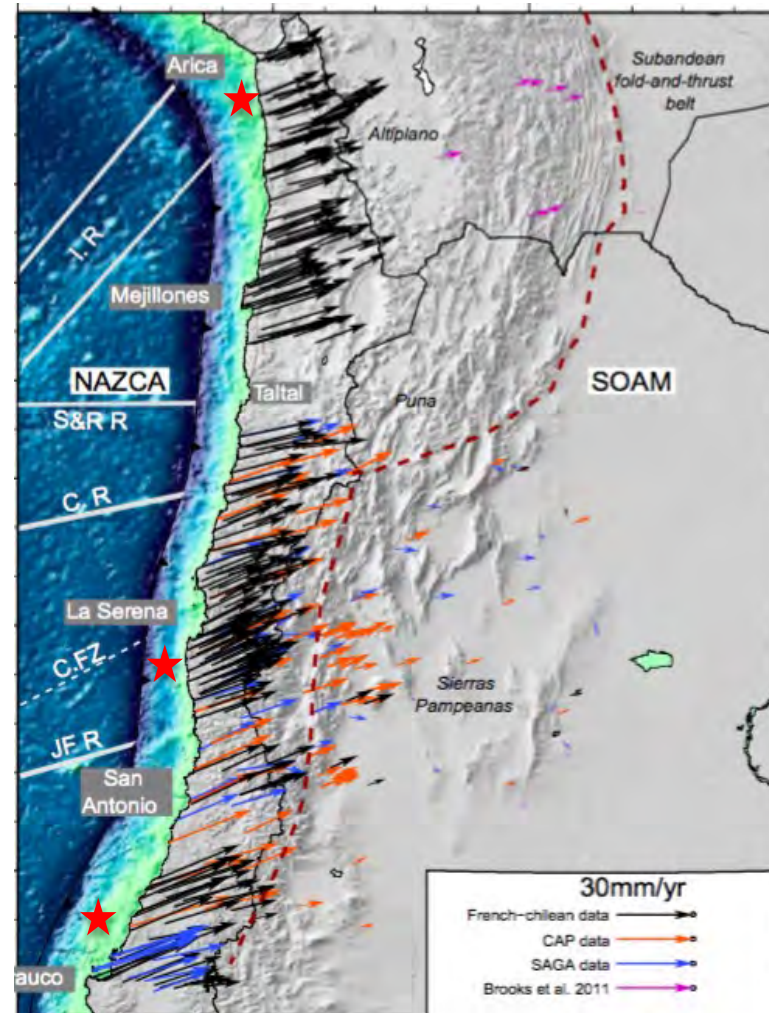
# Estimating interseismic coupling in Chile

Densification efforts in the decade following Maule



GPS antenna

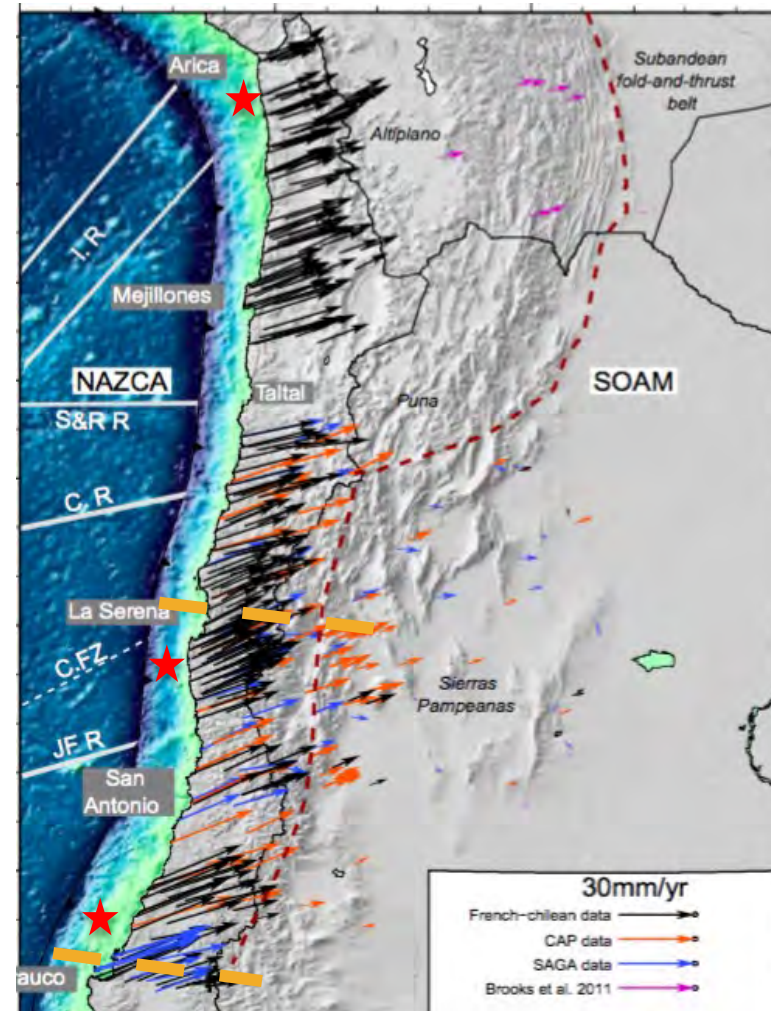
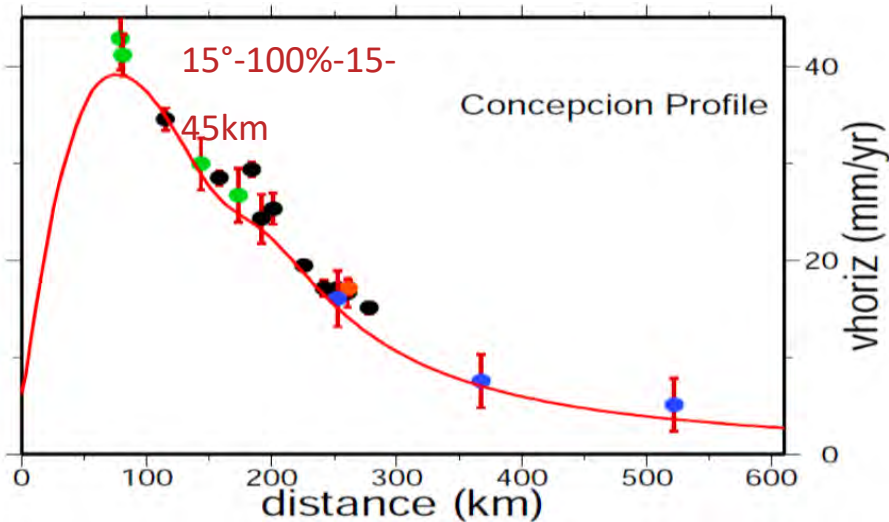
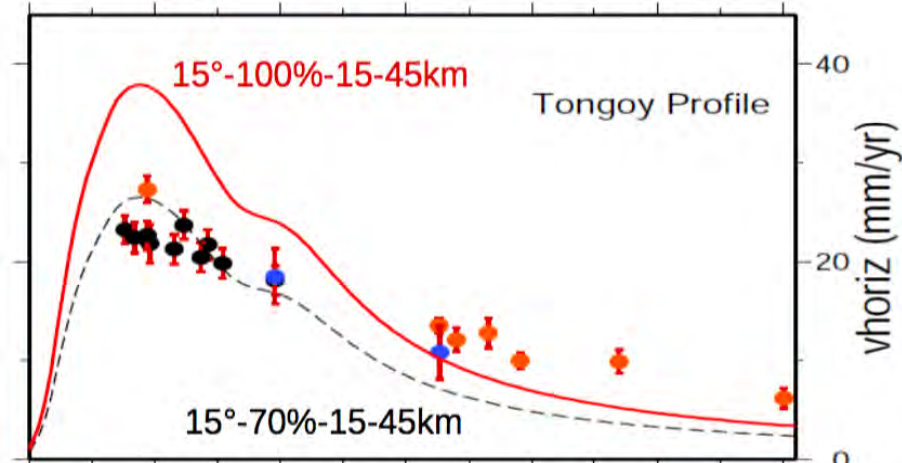
Geodetic marker sealed in bedrock  
Graduated rod to measure antenna height



Vigny, Socquet, Métois, Klein, et al. 2009, 2012, 2016, 2018 ...

Bedford, Moreno, Tassara, Baez et al. 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, ..

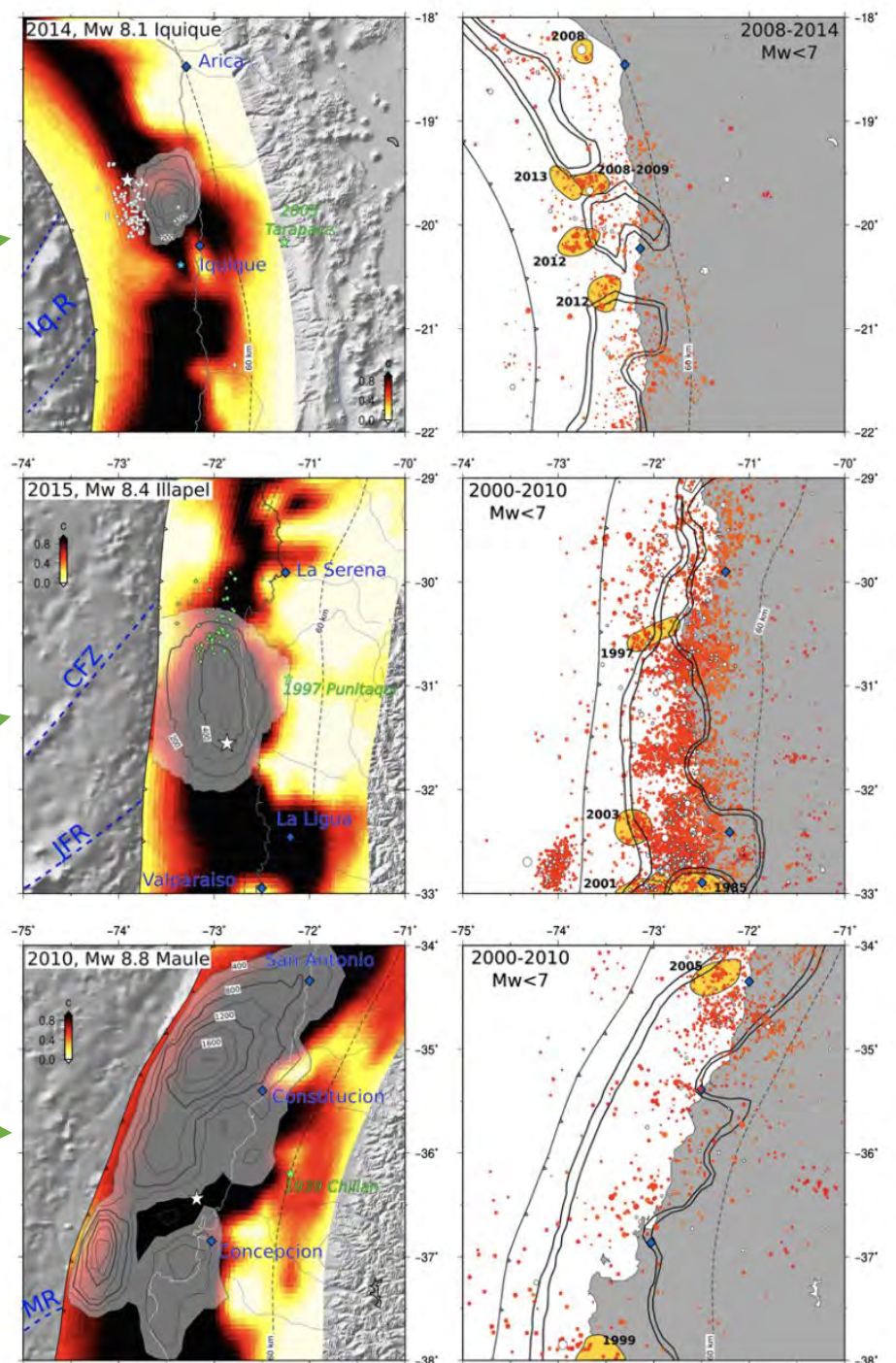
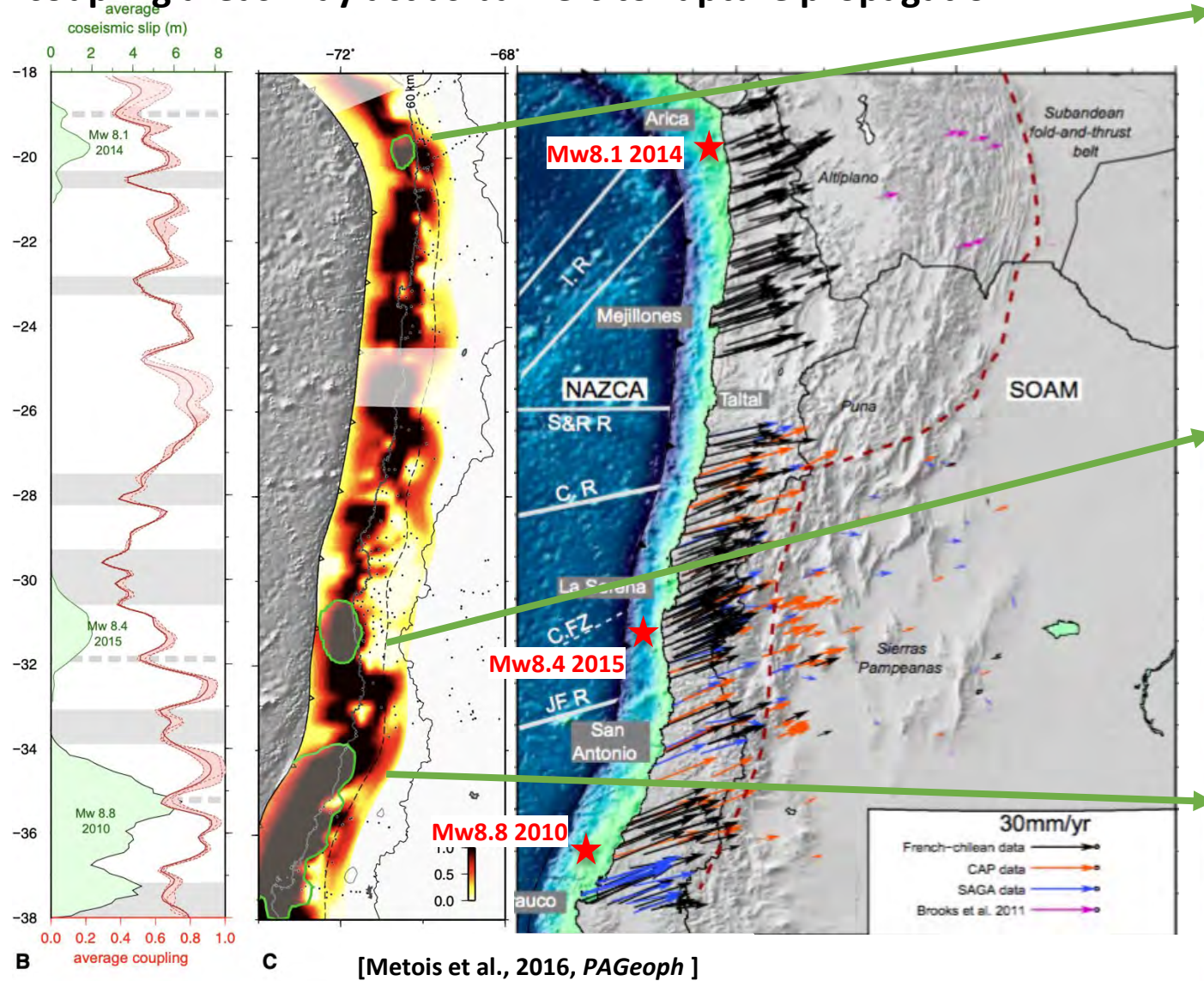
# Estimating interseismic coupling in Chile





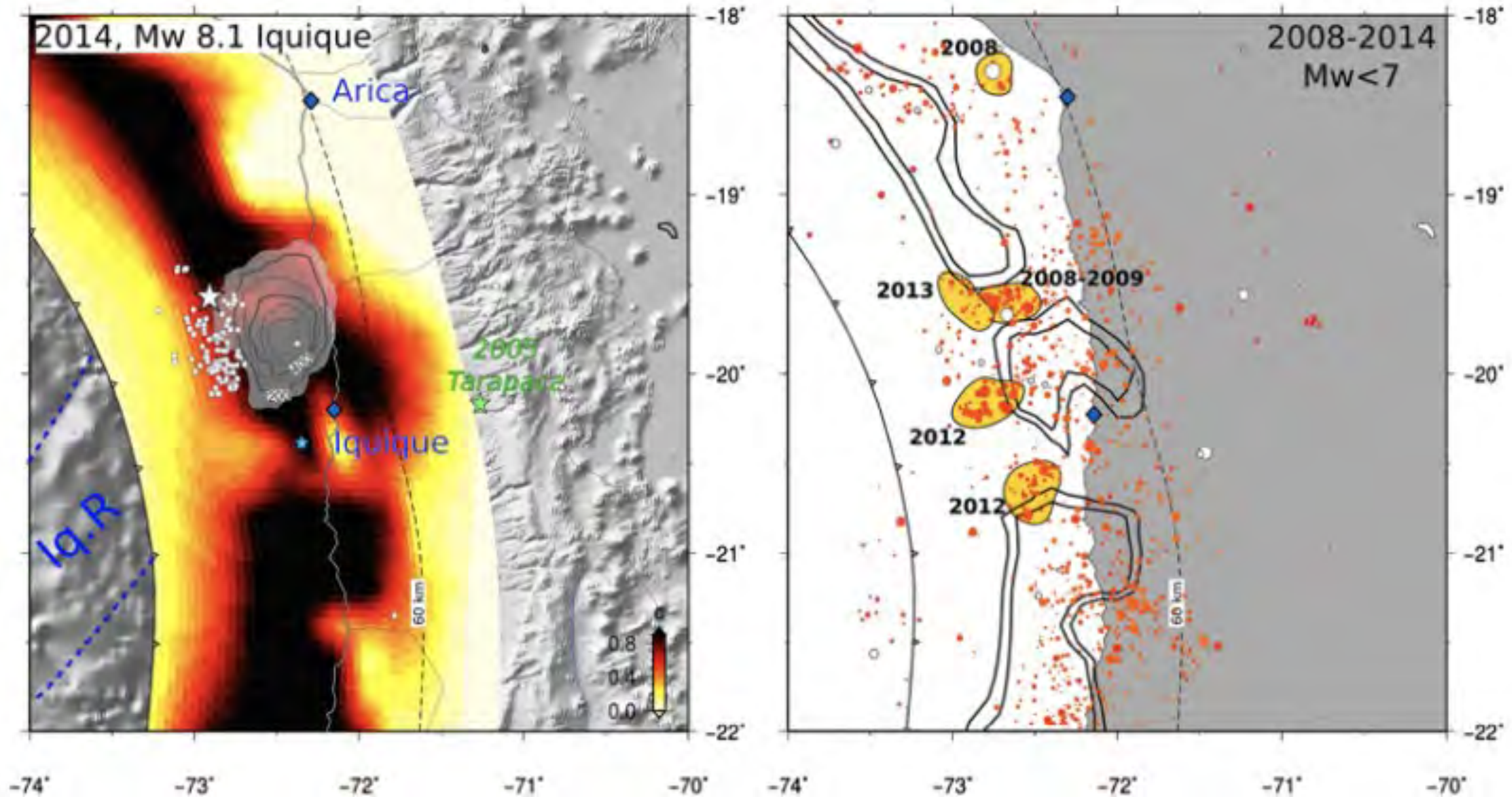
# Interseismic coupling in Chile

Large earthquakes occur in interseismically highly coupled areas and low coupling areas may act as barriers to rupture propagation





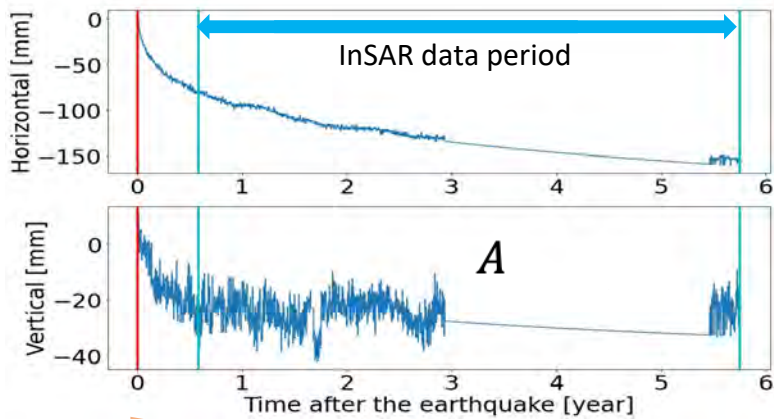
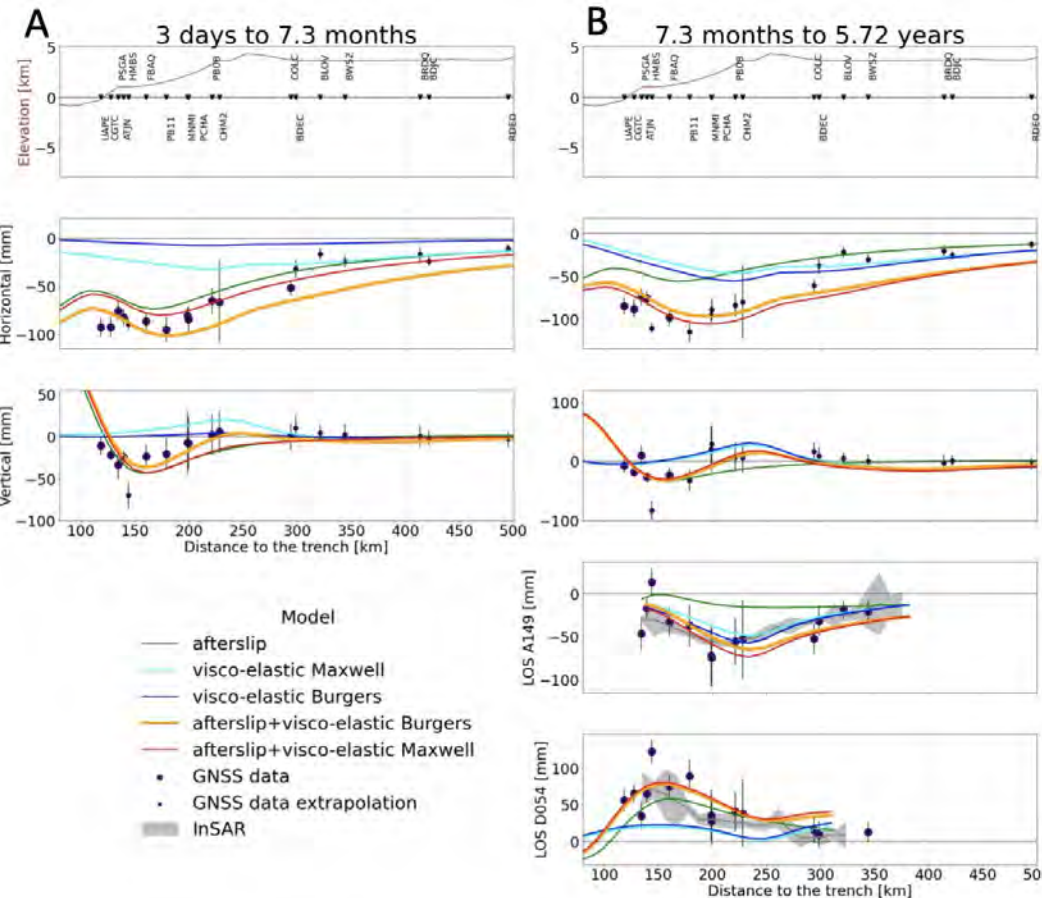
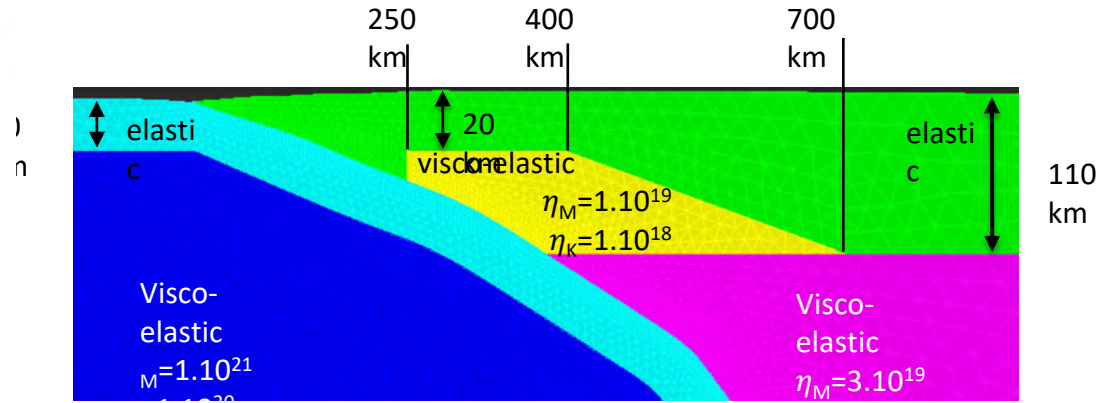
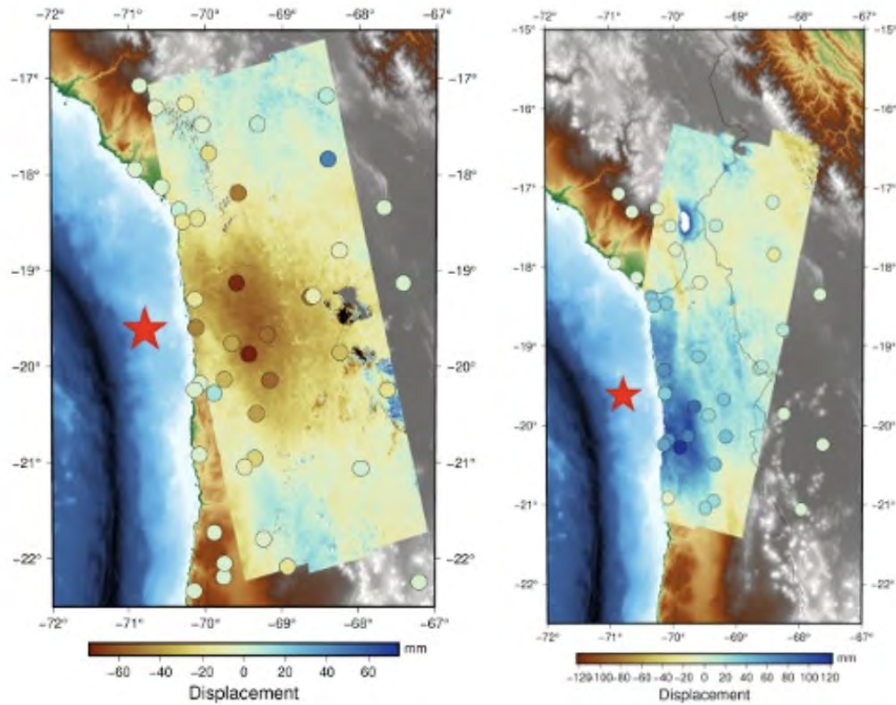
# Interseismic coupling in North Chile





# Viscoelastic relaxation in the mantle wedge following Iquique

InSAR A149 and GPS in LOS    InSAR D054 and GPS in LOS

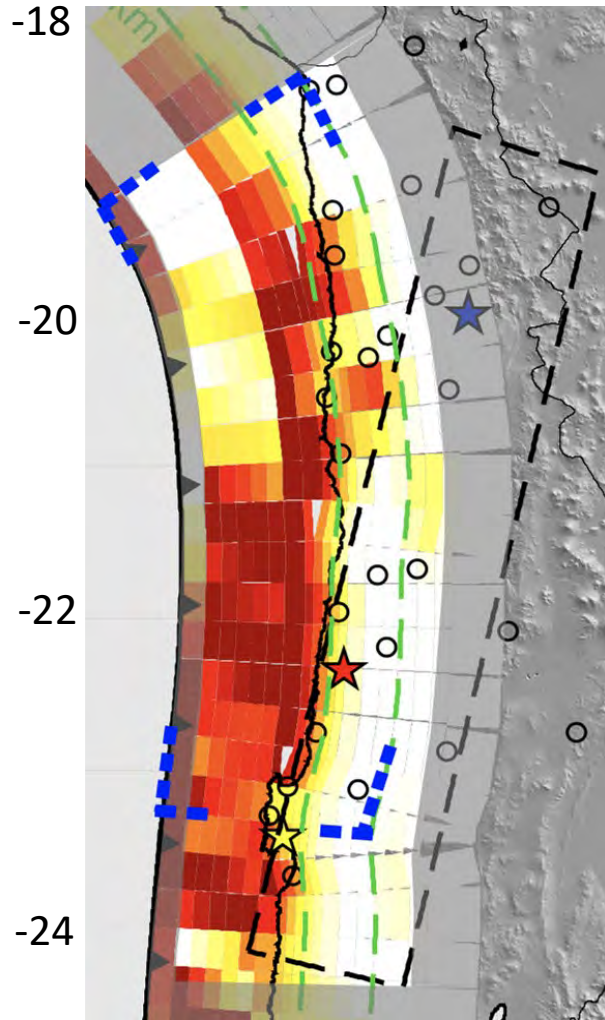


Afterslip

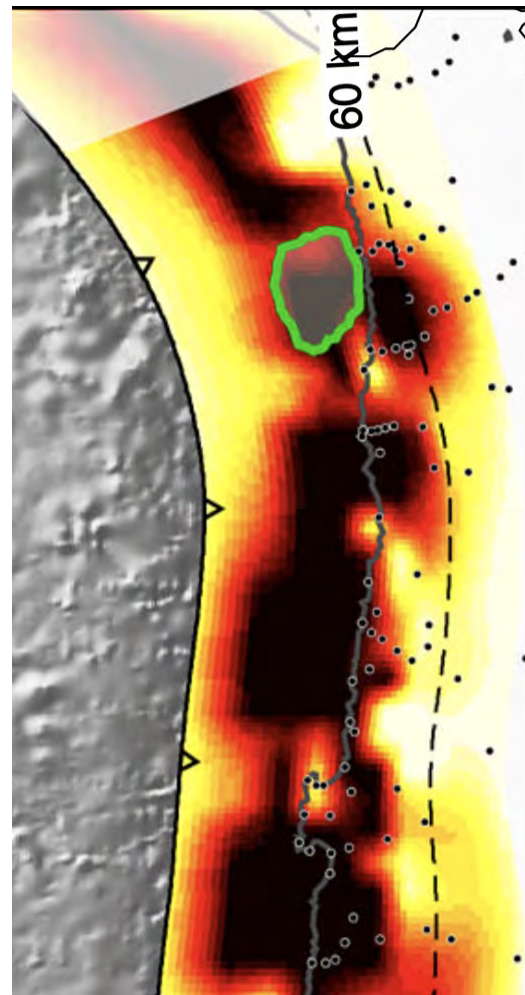
Visco-elastic



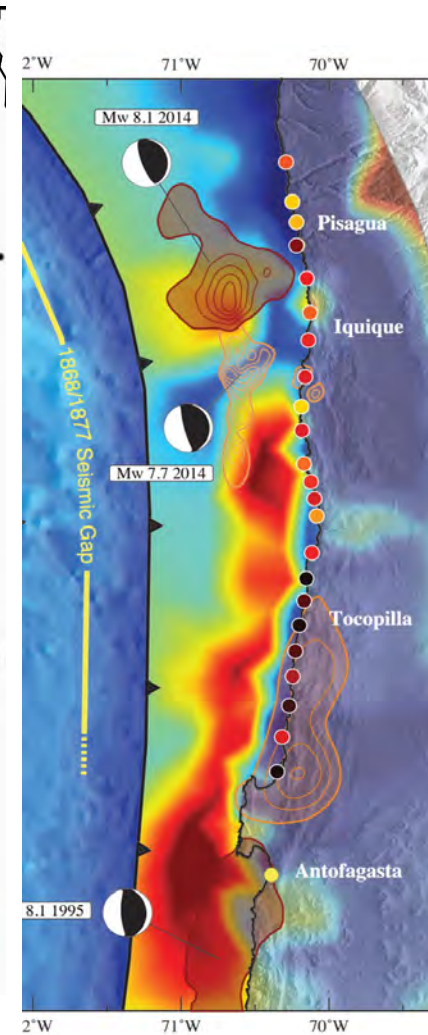
# Various interseismic coupling models in North Chile



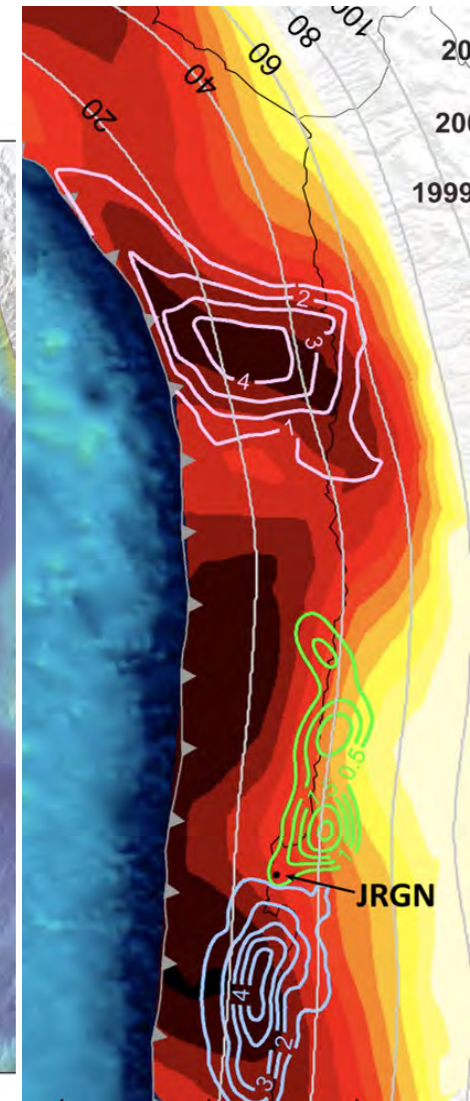
Bejar Plzarro et al. 2013



Metois et al. 2018



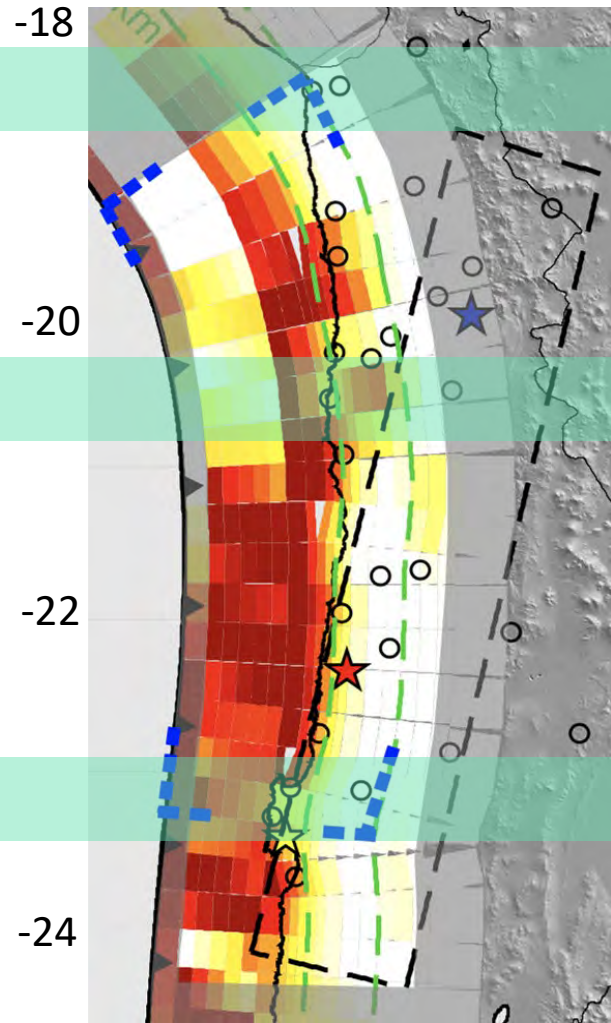
Jolivet et al. 2020



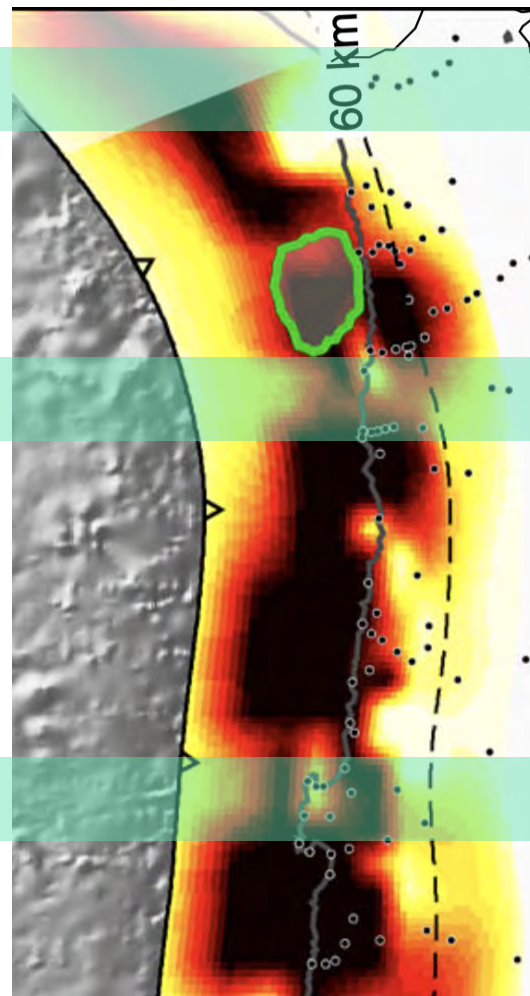
Li et al 2015



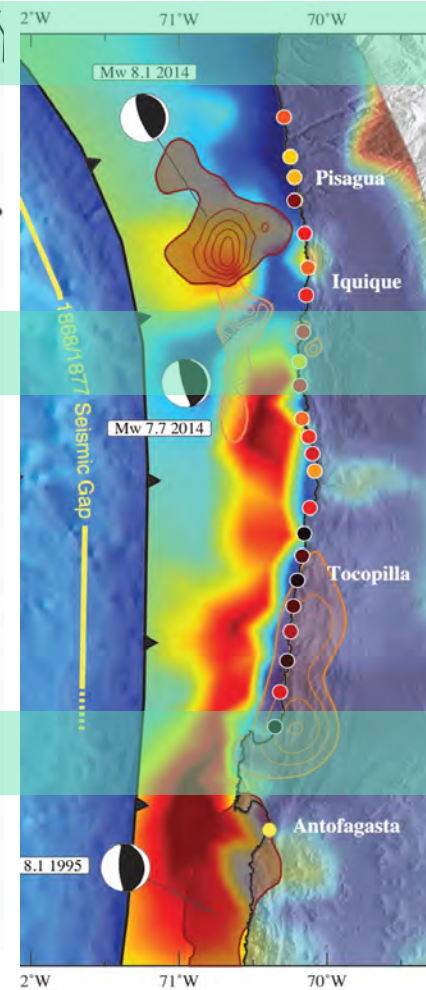
# Various interseismic coupling models in North Chile



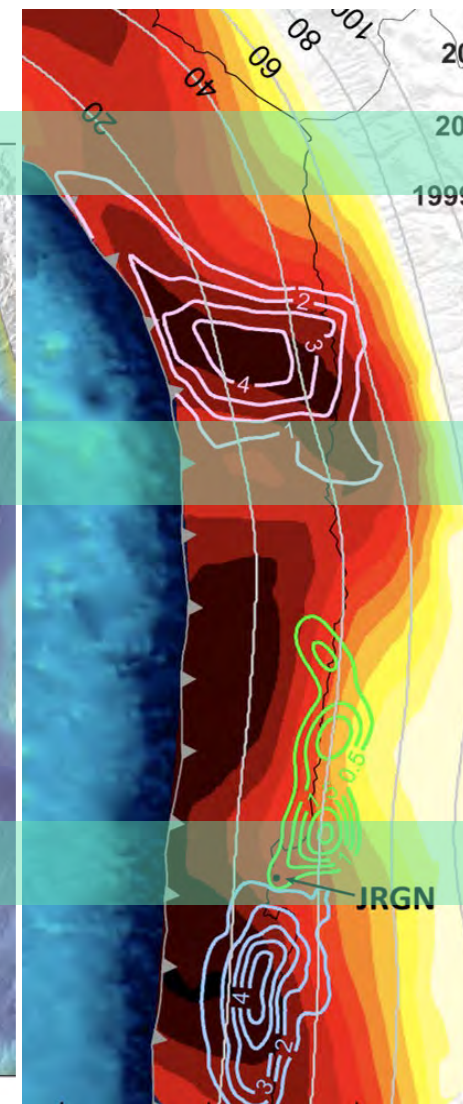
Bejar Plzarro et al. 2013



Metois et al. 2018



Jolivet et al. 2020



Li et al 2015

Low Coupling Zone  
at 18.5°S - Arica

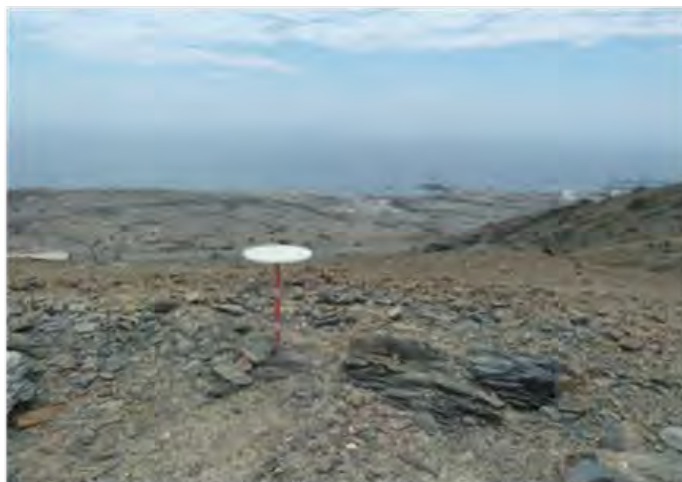
Low Coupling Zone  
at 20.5°S - Iquique

Low Coupling Zone  
at 23°S - Mejillones

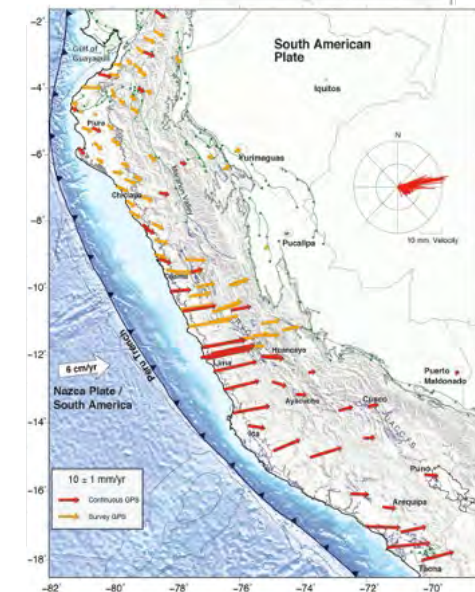
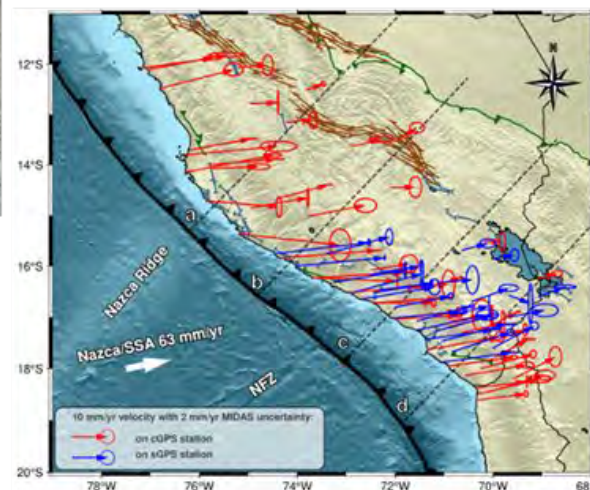


# Interseismic coupling in south Peru subduction zone

Juan Carlos Villegas



Norabuena et al (1998)  
 Chlieh et al (2011)  
 Quiroz (2015)  
 Villegas-Lanza, et al (2016)  
 Lovery et al (submitted)



- M. Chlieh, H. Perfettini, H. Tavera, J.P. Avouac, D. Remy, J-M. Nocquet, F. Rolandone, F. Bondoux, G. Gabalda, & S. Bonvalot
- J.C. Villegas, M. Chlieh, J.-M. Nocquet, H. Tavera, P. Baby, J. Chire-Chira, C. Sierra-Farfán, A. Socquet
- B. Lovery, M. Chlieh, E. Norabuena, J.C. Villegas, M. Radiguet, N. Cotte, M. Langlais, W. Quiroz, C. Sierra, M. Simons, J.M. Nocquet, H. Tavera, A. Socquet



# Seismotectonic setting of southern Peru subduction zone

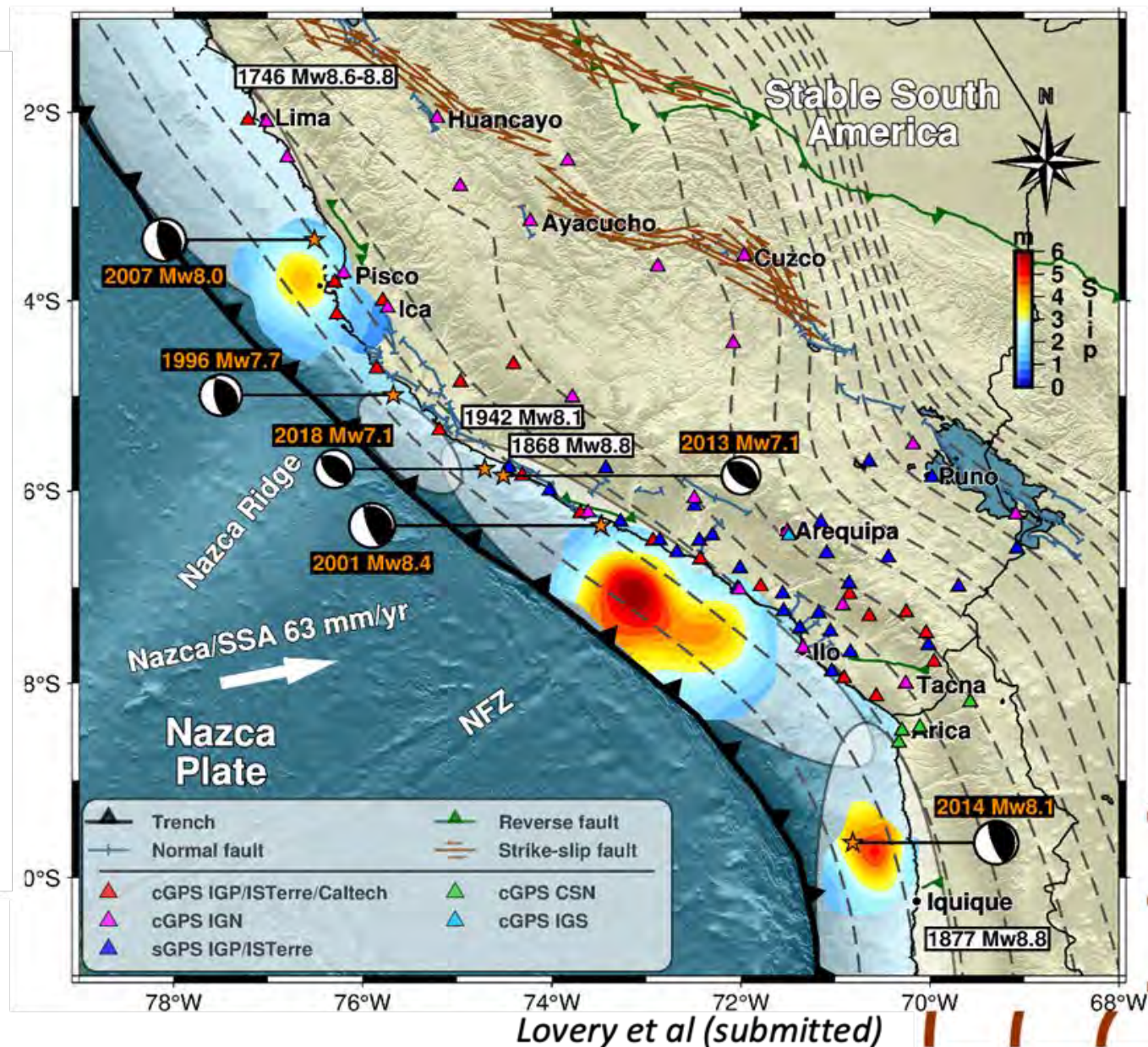
The Nazca plate is subducting the SOAM plate at an average rate of  $\sim 63$  mm/yr

Southern Perú is characterized by the occurrence of large megathrust EQs

- Acarí 2013 & 2018 (7.1Mw)
- Pisco 2007 (8.0Mw)
- Arequipa 2001 (8.4Mw)

Presence of oceanic & continental features

- Nazca Ridge / N. Fracture Zone
- Altiplano
- Fault systems in Forearc & Subandean

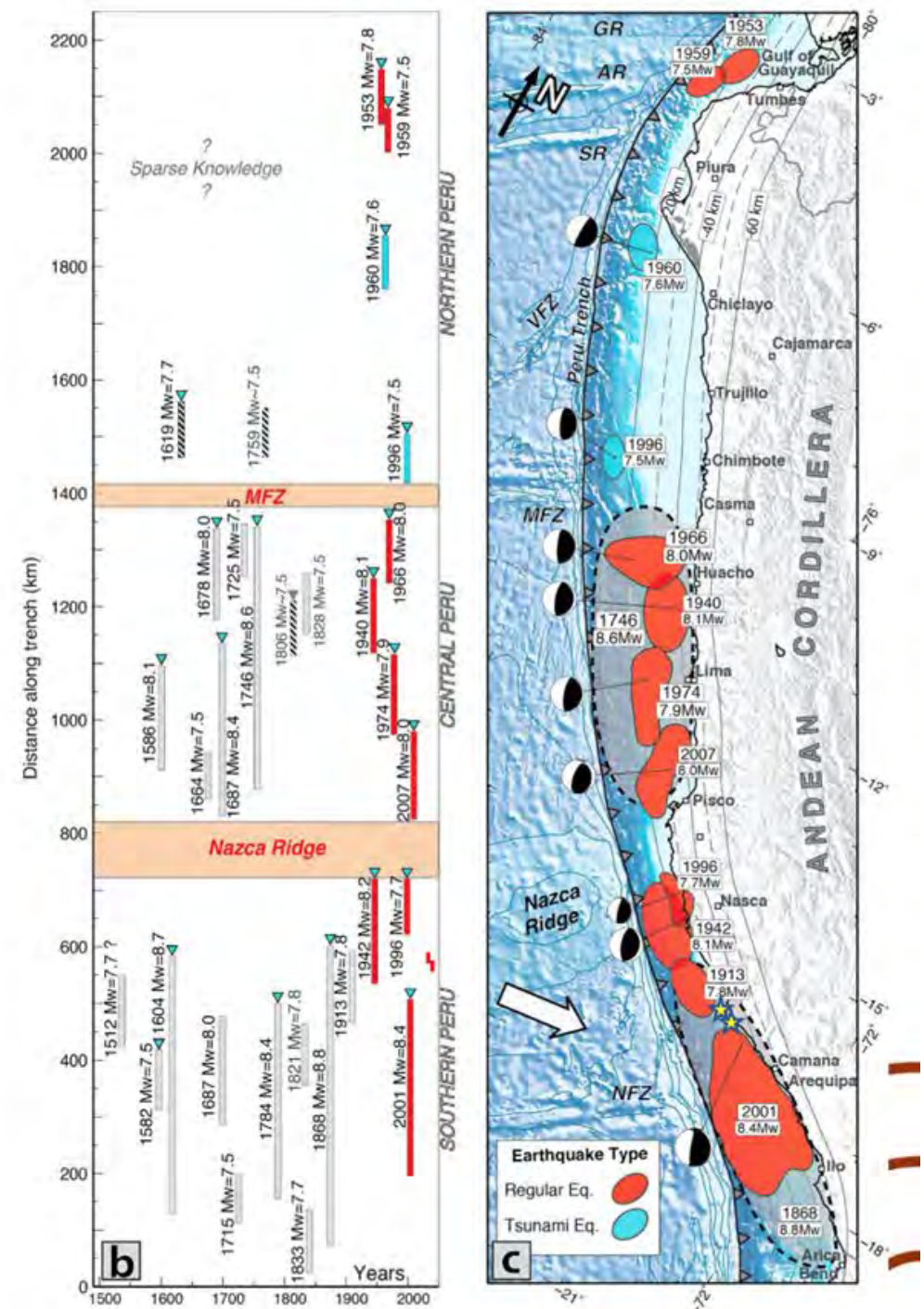




# Earthquake history, approximated rupture areas along the Peruvian subduction zone

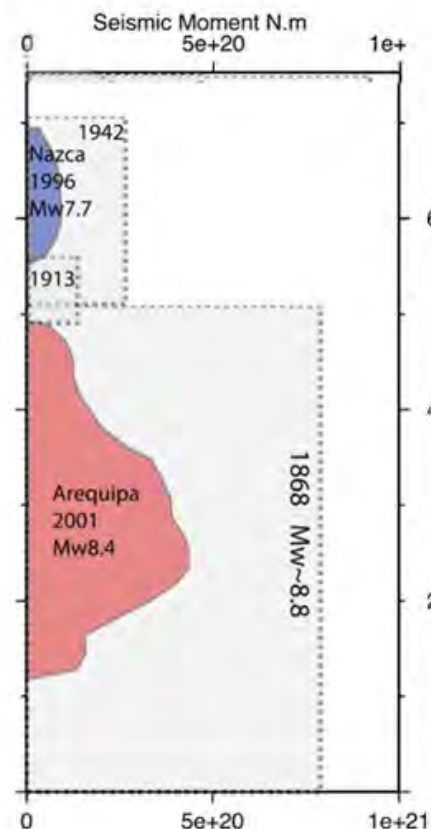
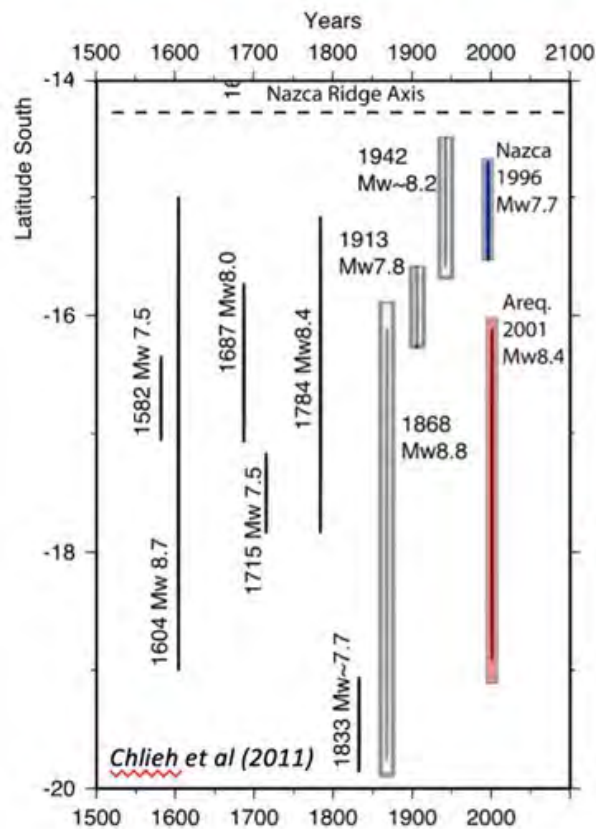
Earthquake history in Peru dates back to XVI century

Approximated ruptures areas

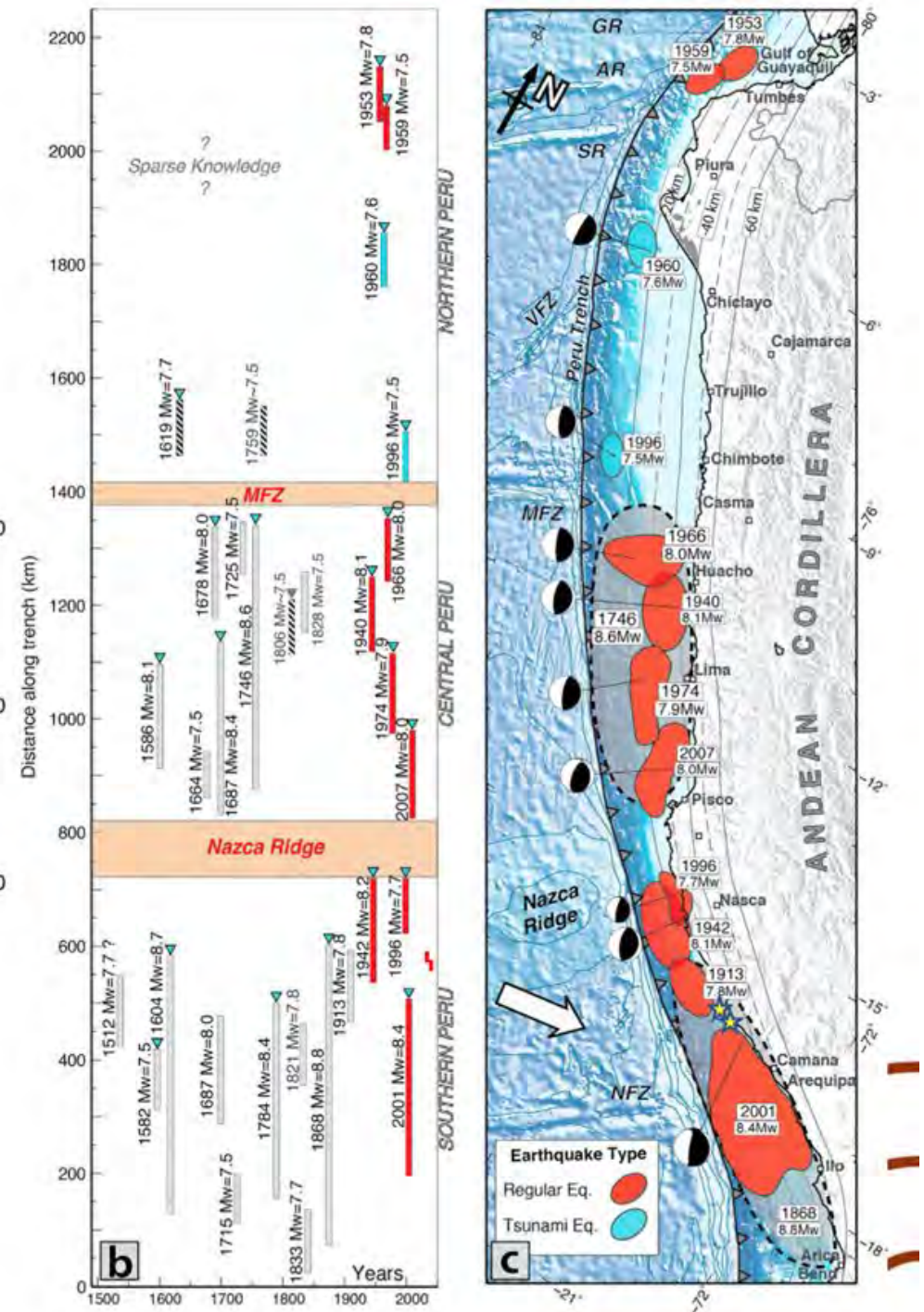




# Earthquake history, approximated rupture areas along the Peruvian subduction zone

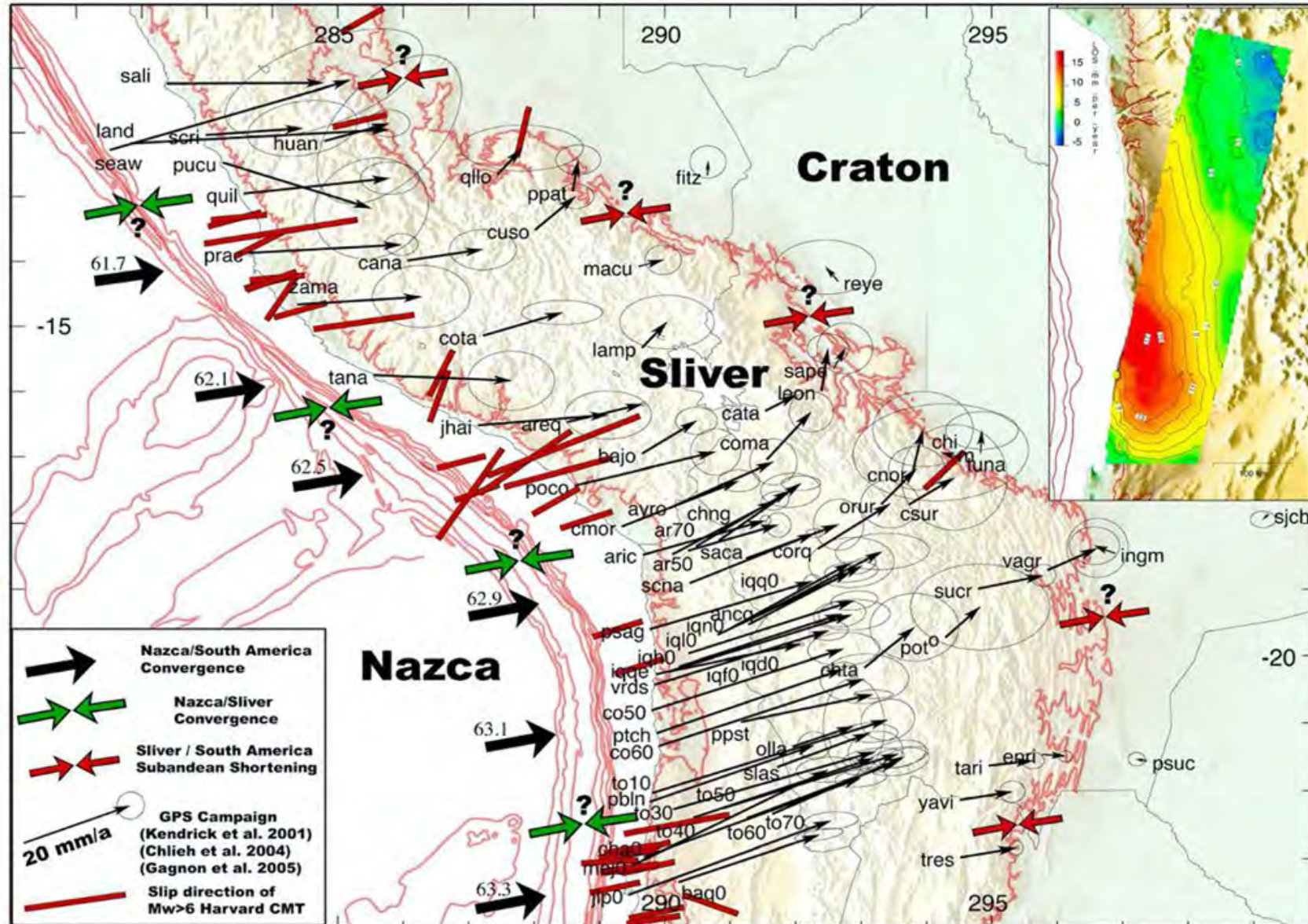


Along-trench variations of the seismic moment released associated to each earthquake





# Combined GPS& InSAR velocity field (1994-2011) for southern Peru



Norabuena et al., (1998)  
 Bevis et al., (1999)  
 Kendrick, Bevis et al., (2001)  
 Brooks, Bevis, Smalley, Kendrick et al., (2000, 2001, 2003, 2011)

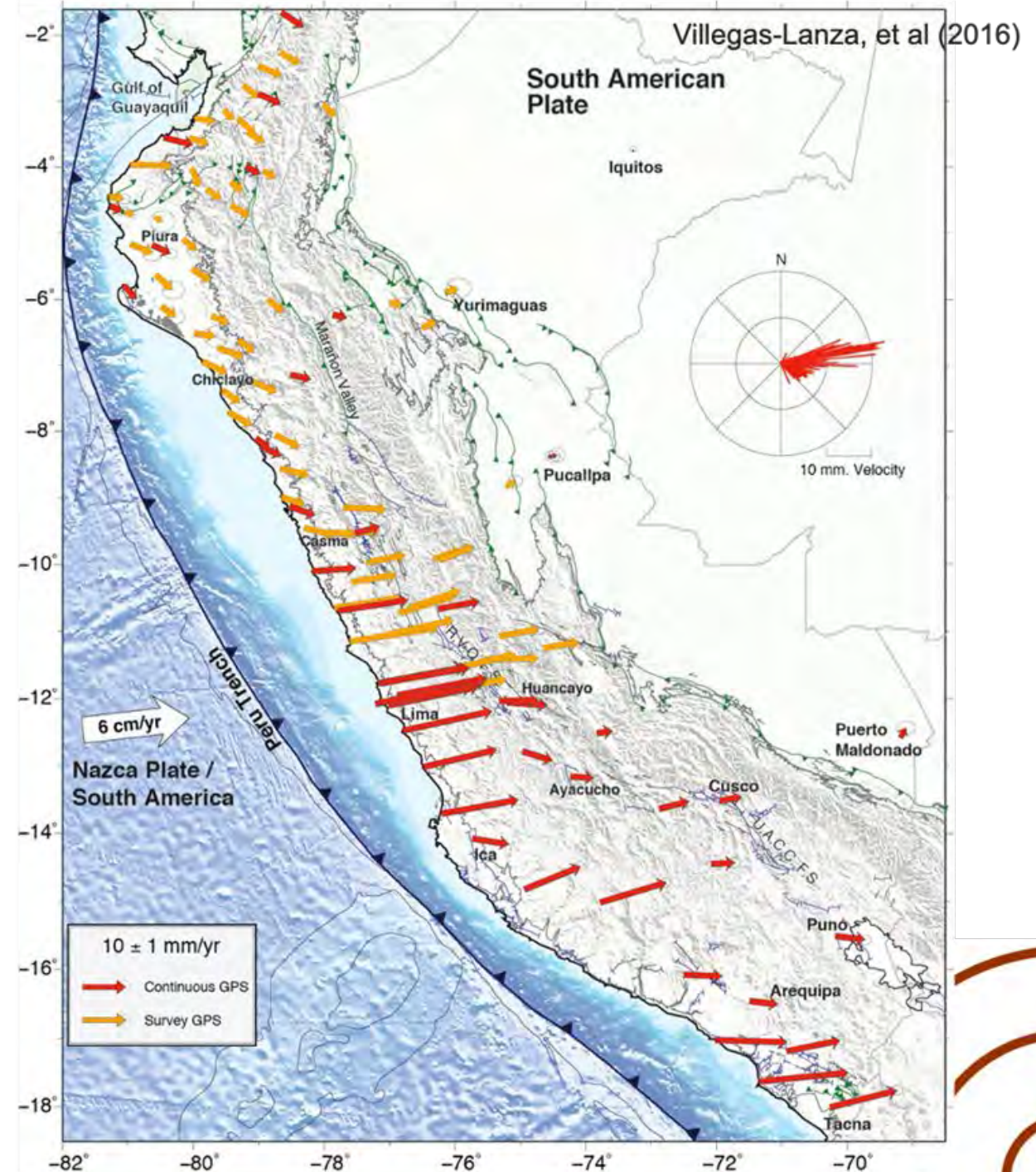
Chlieh et al., (2011)



# GPS velocity field (2007-2014 wrt SSA) for the entire PSZ

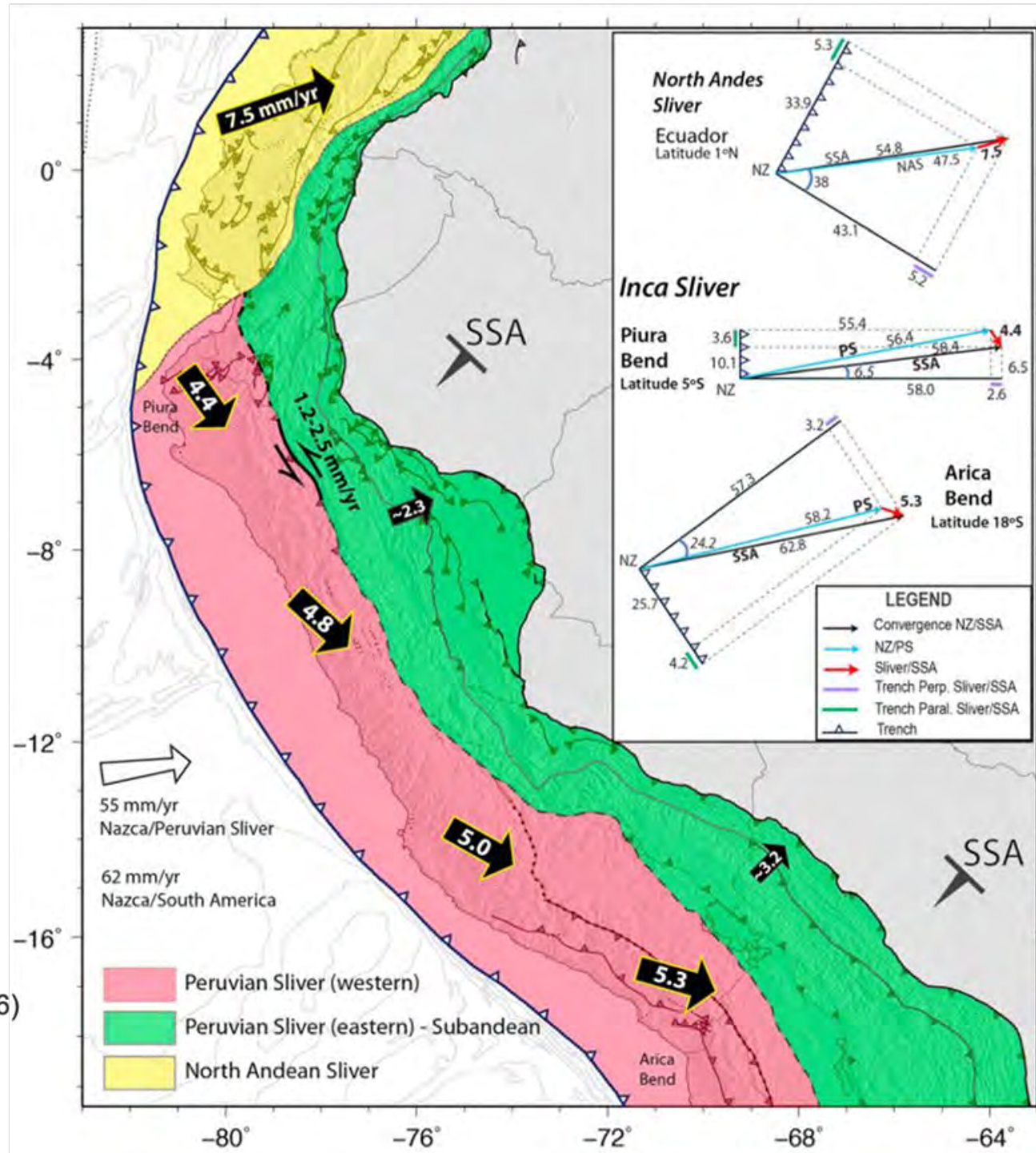
## Distinct patterns:

- High velocities in the convergence direction
- Consistent motion and velocities in northern Peru modeled by a rigid block motion.
- Subandean velocities show a consistent motion vel & direction (counterclockwise rotation)





# Continental slivers contributing to deformation partitioning of the peruvian margin



Villegas-Lanza, et al (2016)

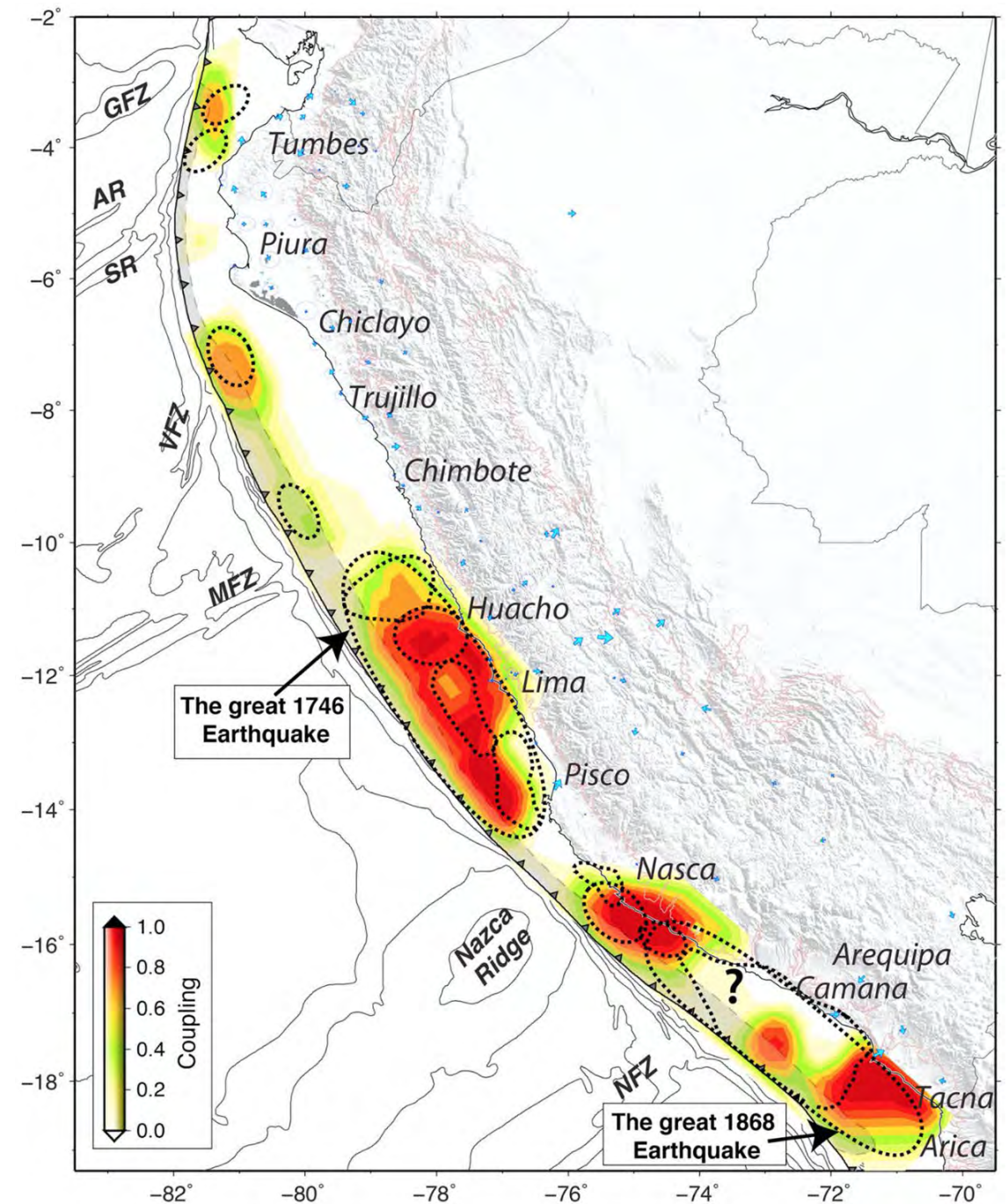


# Interseismic coupling along the Peruvian Subduction Zone

Heterogeneous high and deep coupling

1 in central Peru (400 km long)  
2 in south Peru (>100km)

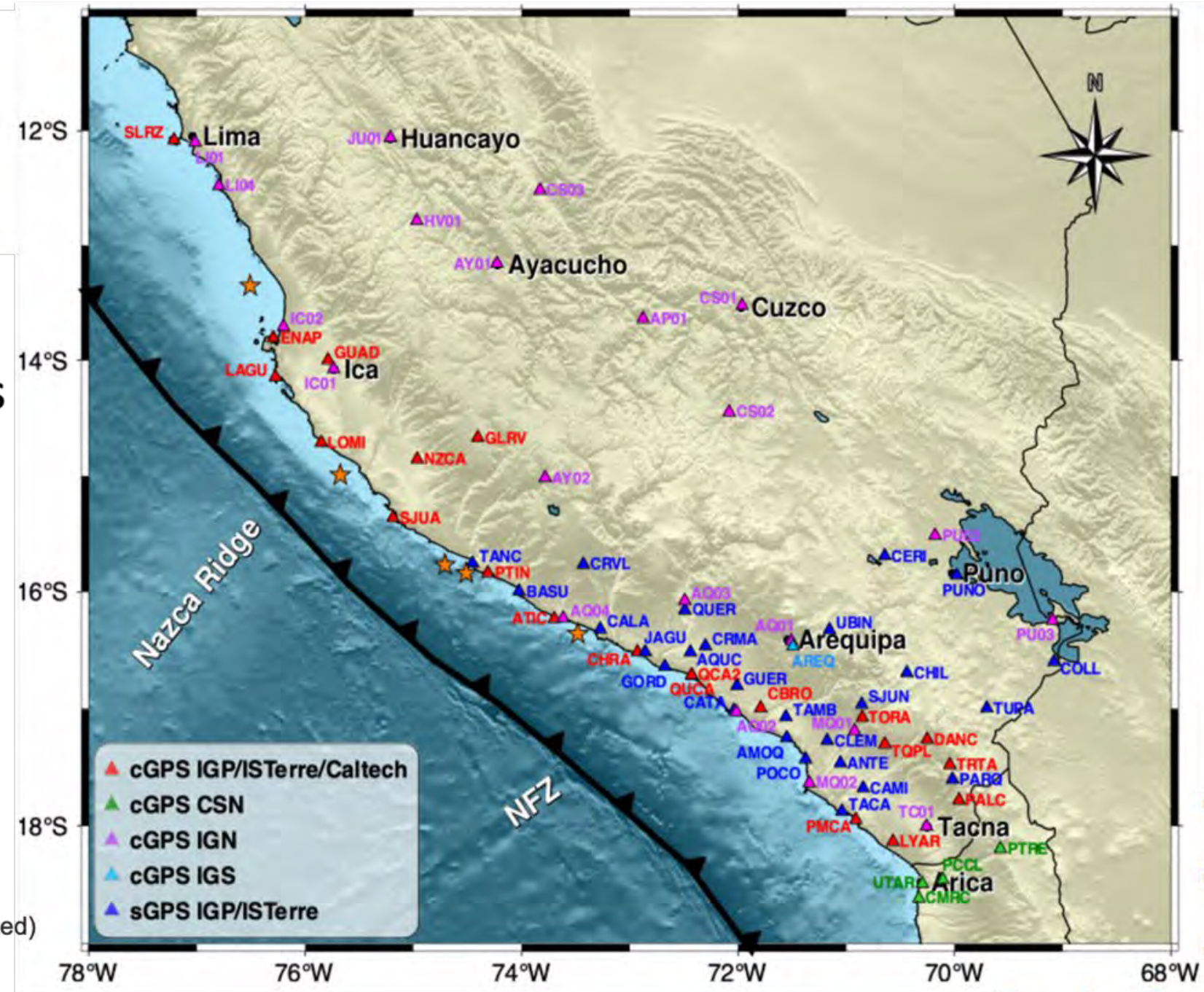
Model correlates with geomorphic structures on the subducting plate (fractures & ridge) and approximate rupture areas of large EQ + current seismicity





# Current GNSS network in south Peru

80 GNSS points:  
~ 50 continuous stations  
~ 30 survey sites  
from ~2007 to ~2023



Loverly, et al (submitted)

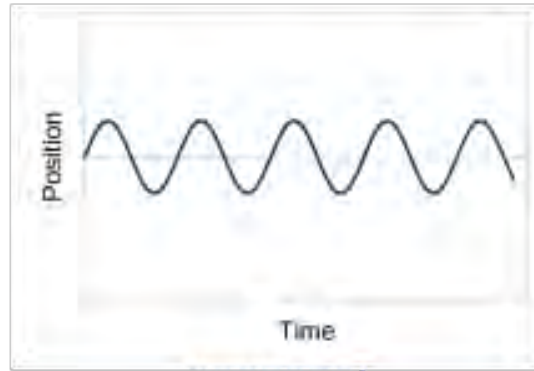


# Trajectory model on GNSS time series

We use the trajectory model from Bevis & Brown (2014), implemented in the ITSA software (Marill et al. 2021):



constant



seasonal  
(annual and semi-annual)



afterslip



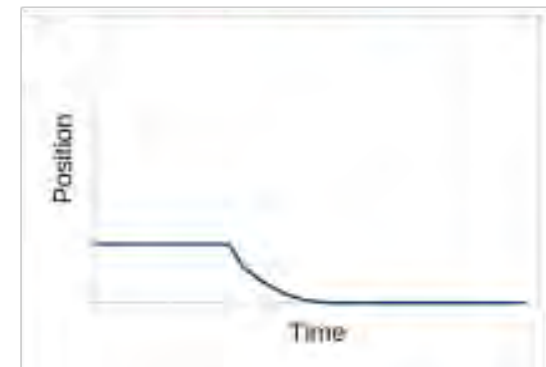
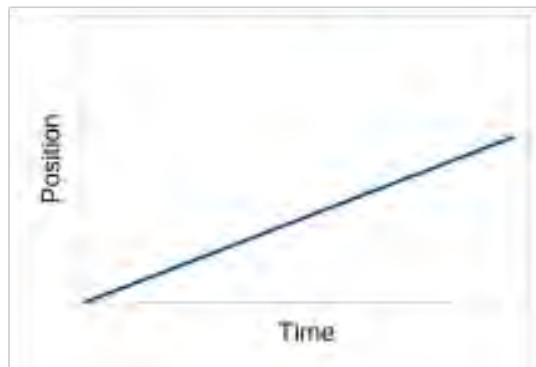
antenna changes

$$x(t) = x_R + v(t - t_R) + \sum_{k=1}^2 [s_k \sin(2k\pi(t - t_R)) + c_k \cos(2k\pi(t - t_R))] + \sum_{j=1}^{n_j} b_j H(t - t_j) + \sum_{i=1}^{n_i} a_i \log_{10} \left( 1 + \frac{t - t_i}{\tau_{R0i}} \right) + \sum_{l=1}^{n_l} a_l \left( 1 - \exp \left( -\frac{t - t_l}{\tau_{R0l}} \right) \right) + \sum_{a=1}^{n_a} b_a H(t - t_a)$$

interseismic

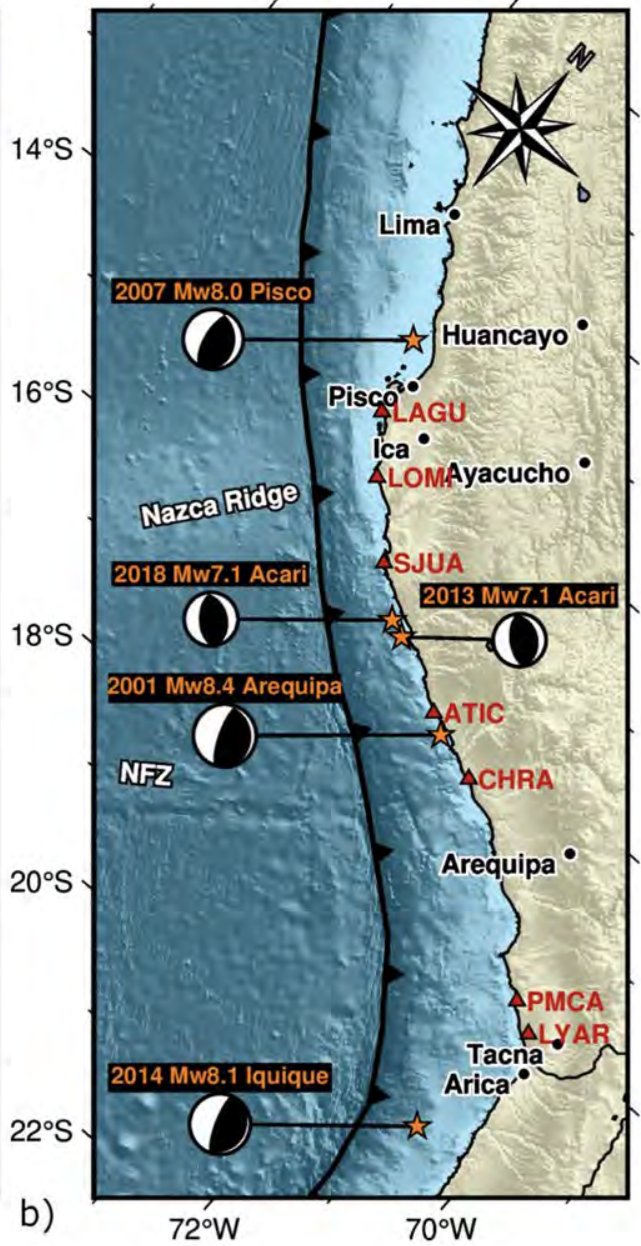
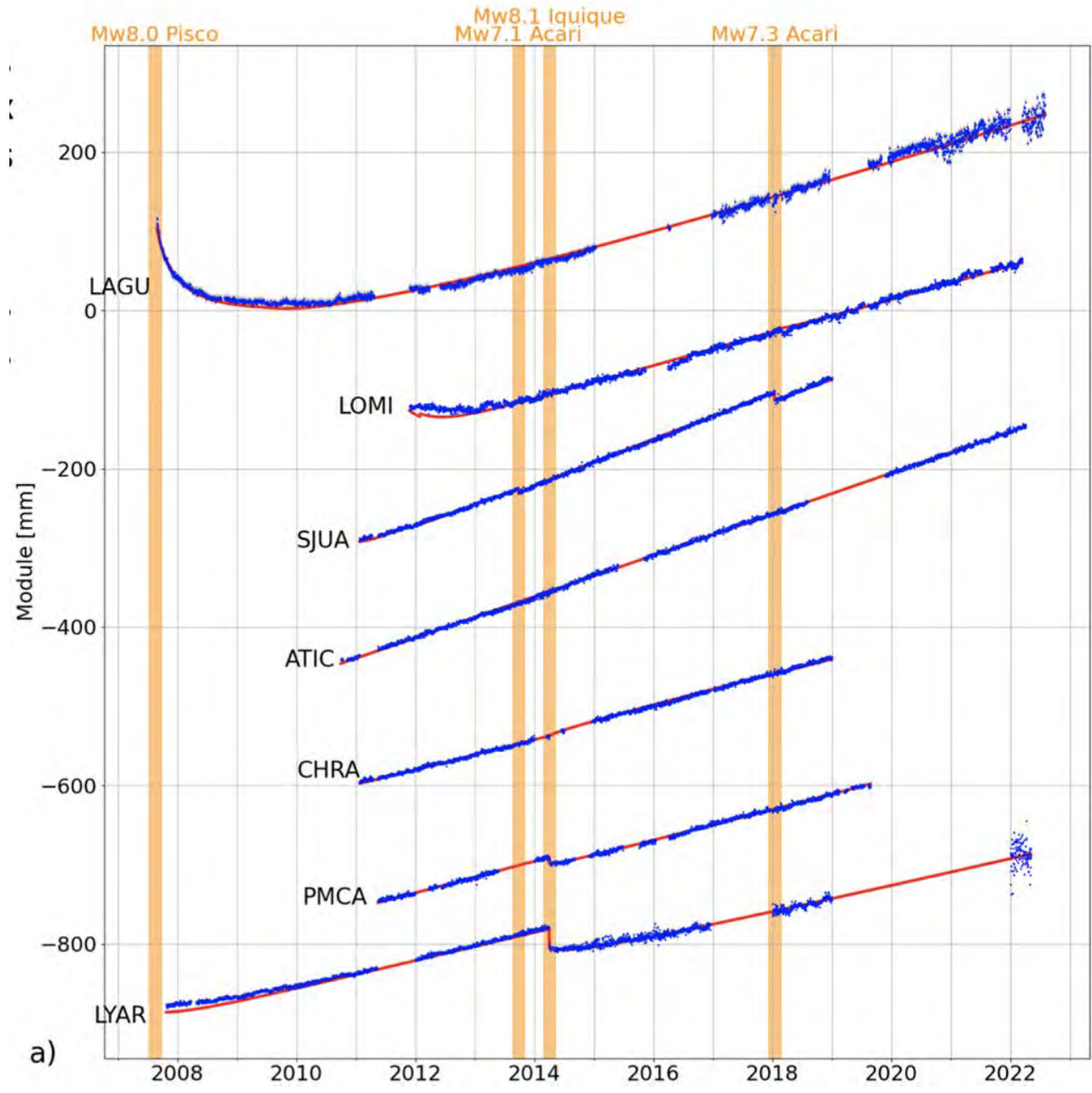
coseismic

viscoelastic





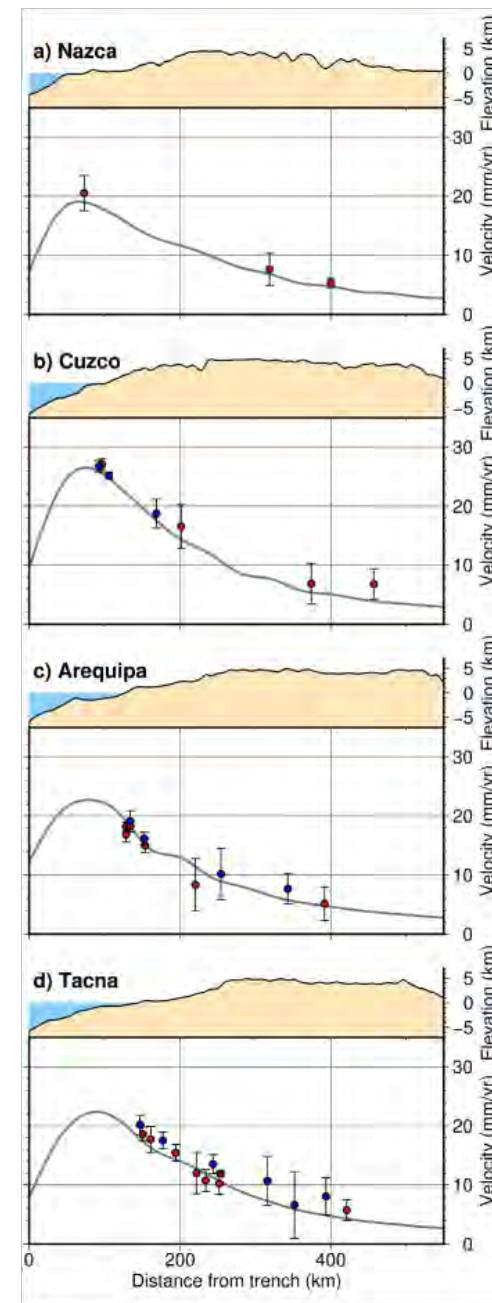
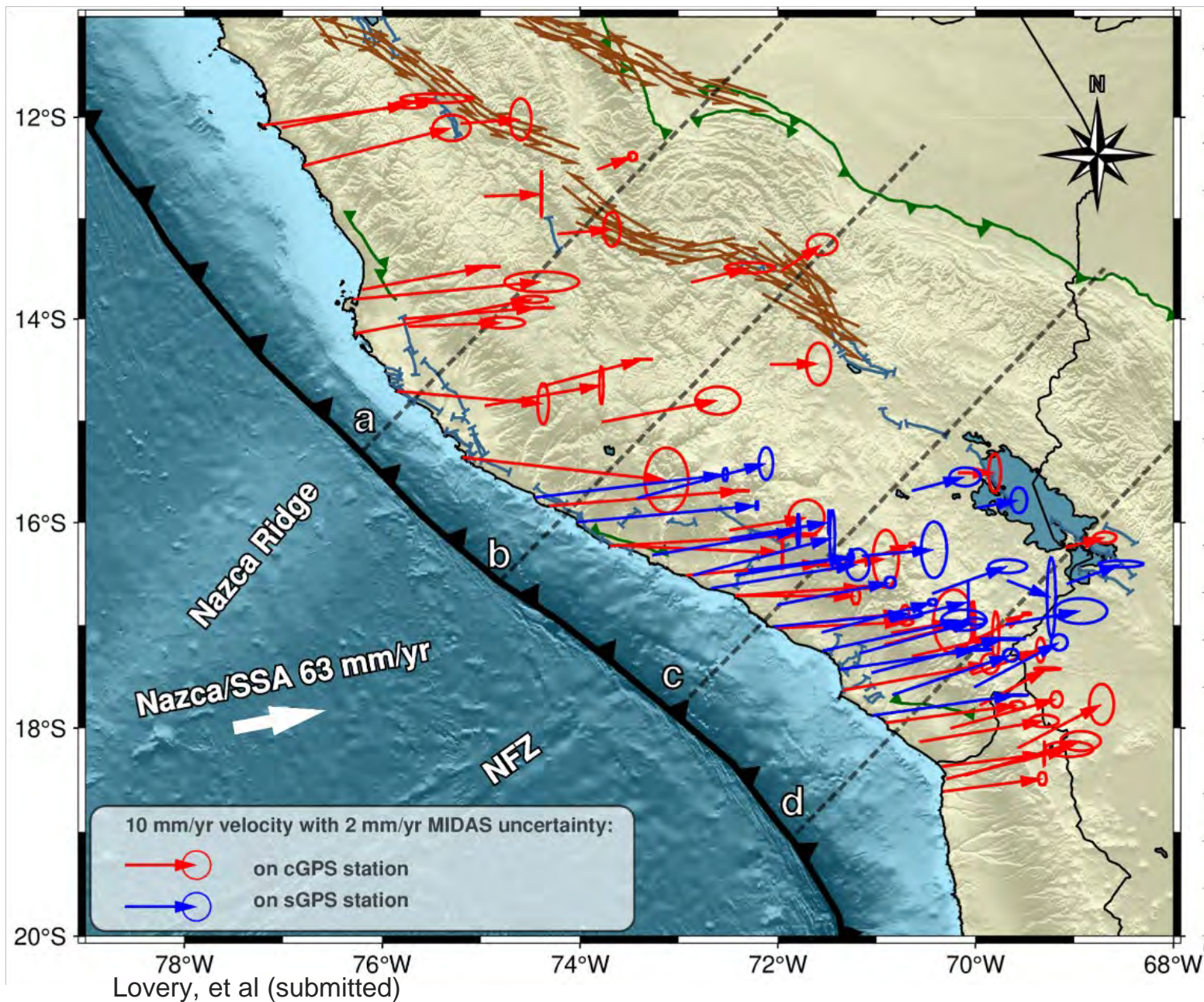
# GNSS position time series at coastal stations



Loverly, et al (submitted)

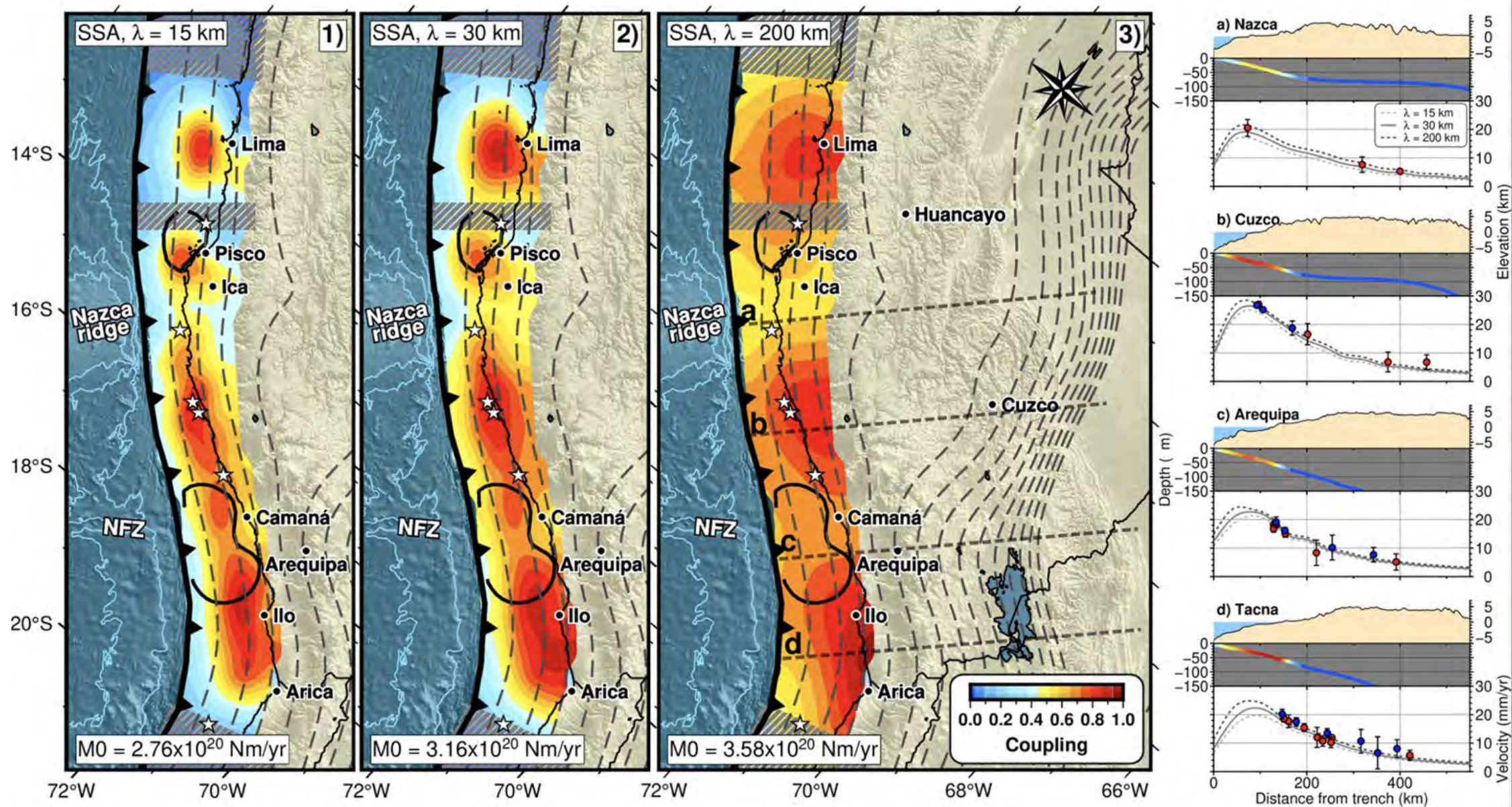


# New GNSS velocity field (2007-2023)





# Coupling models wrt SSA

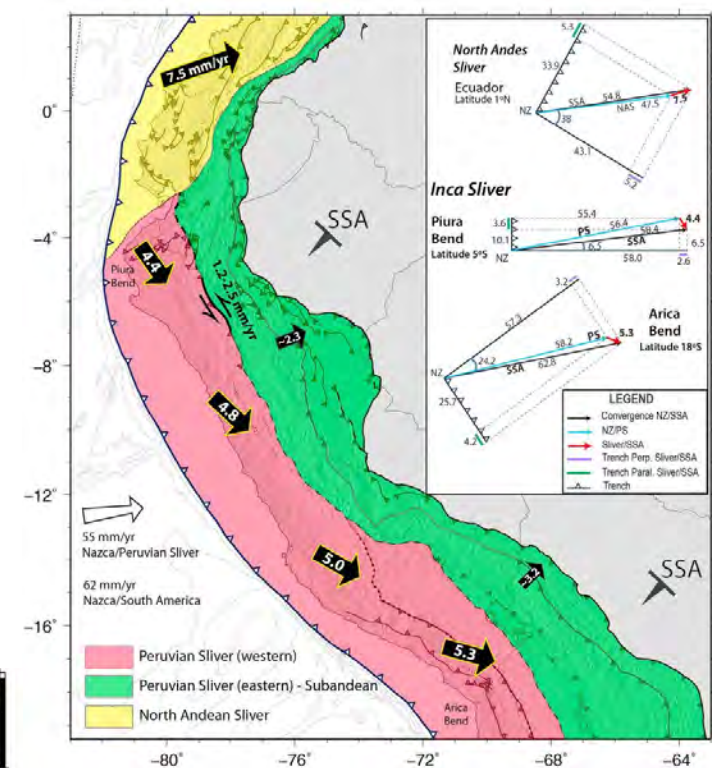
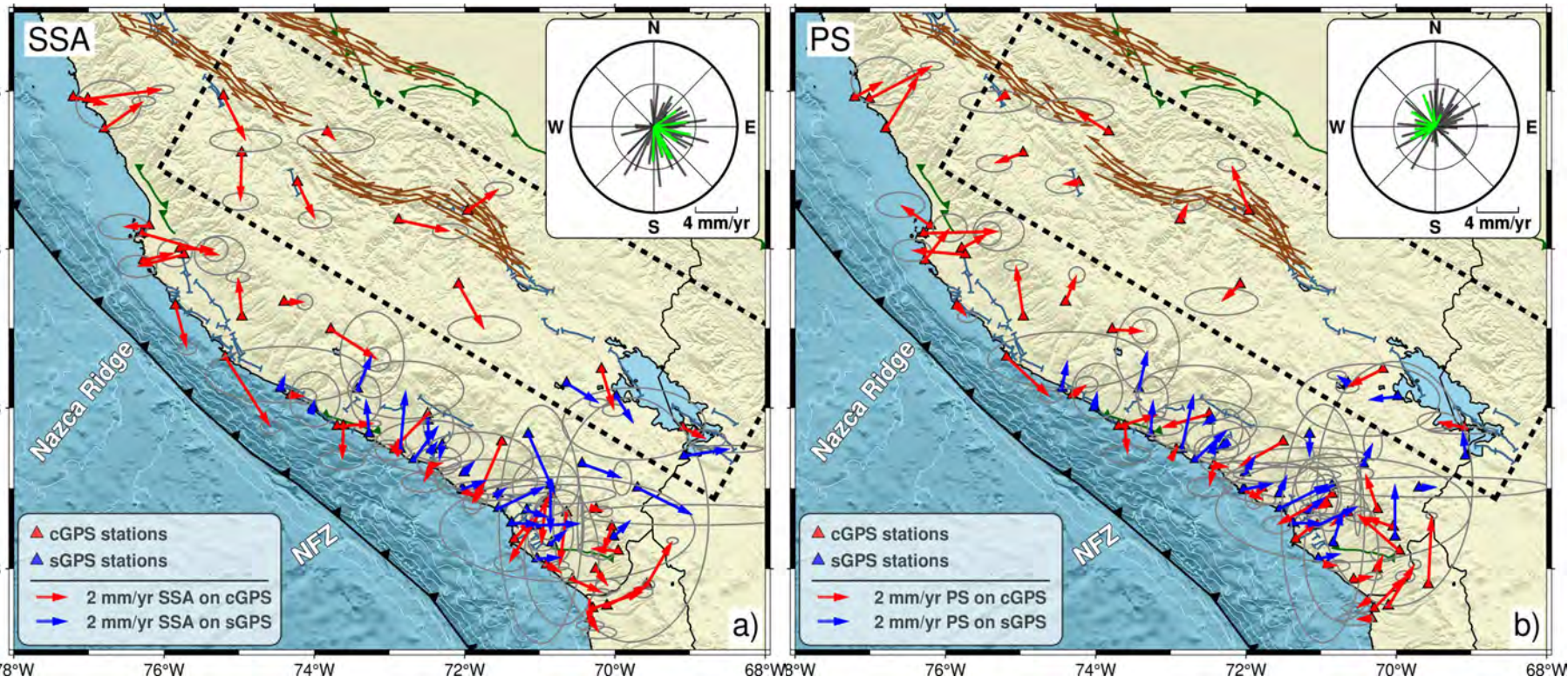




# Taking the peruvian sliver into account

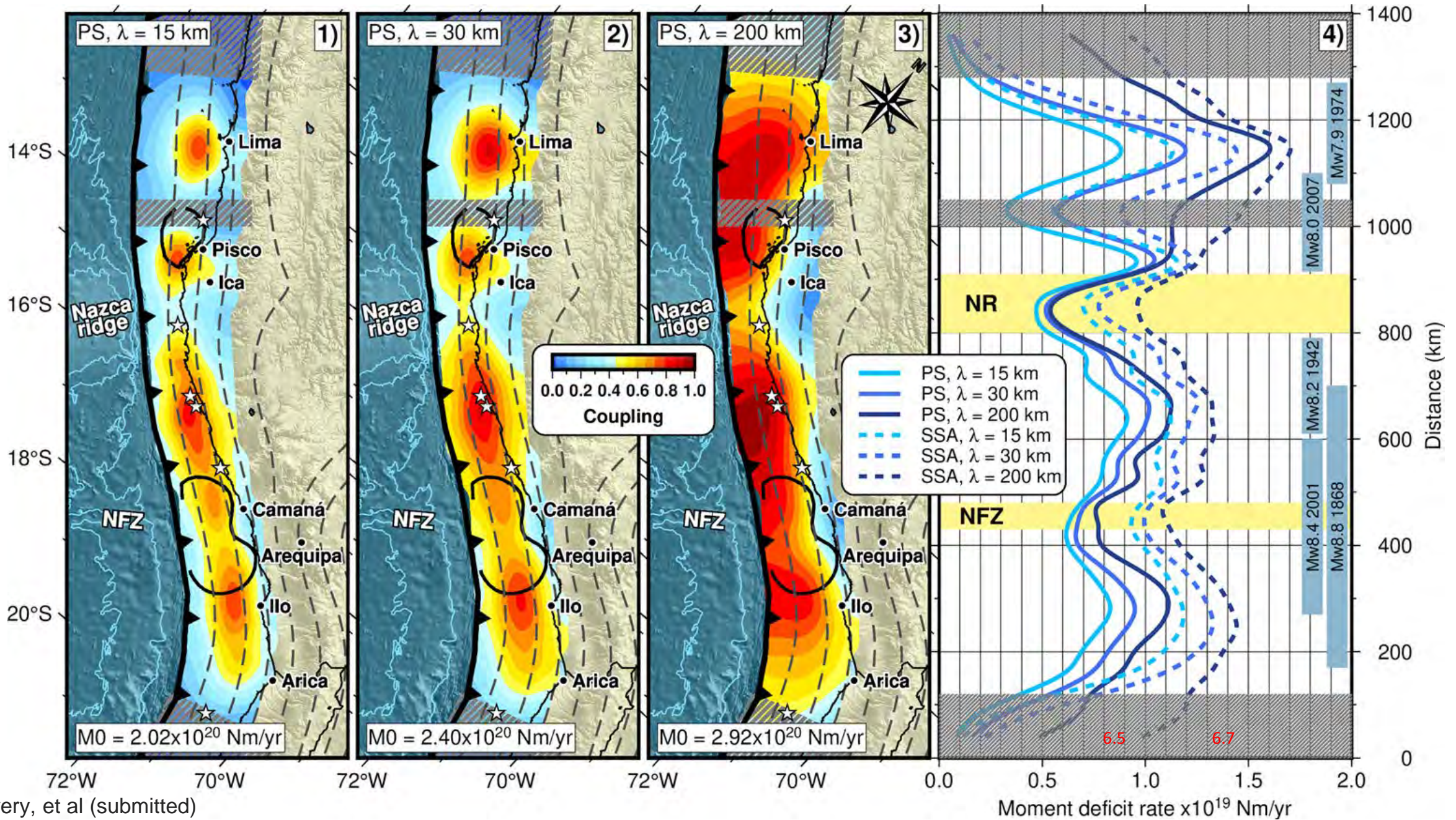
Data are better fit when the sliver's movement is used in the model

Loverly, et al (submitted)



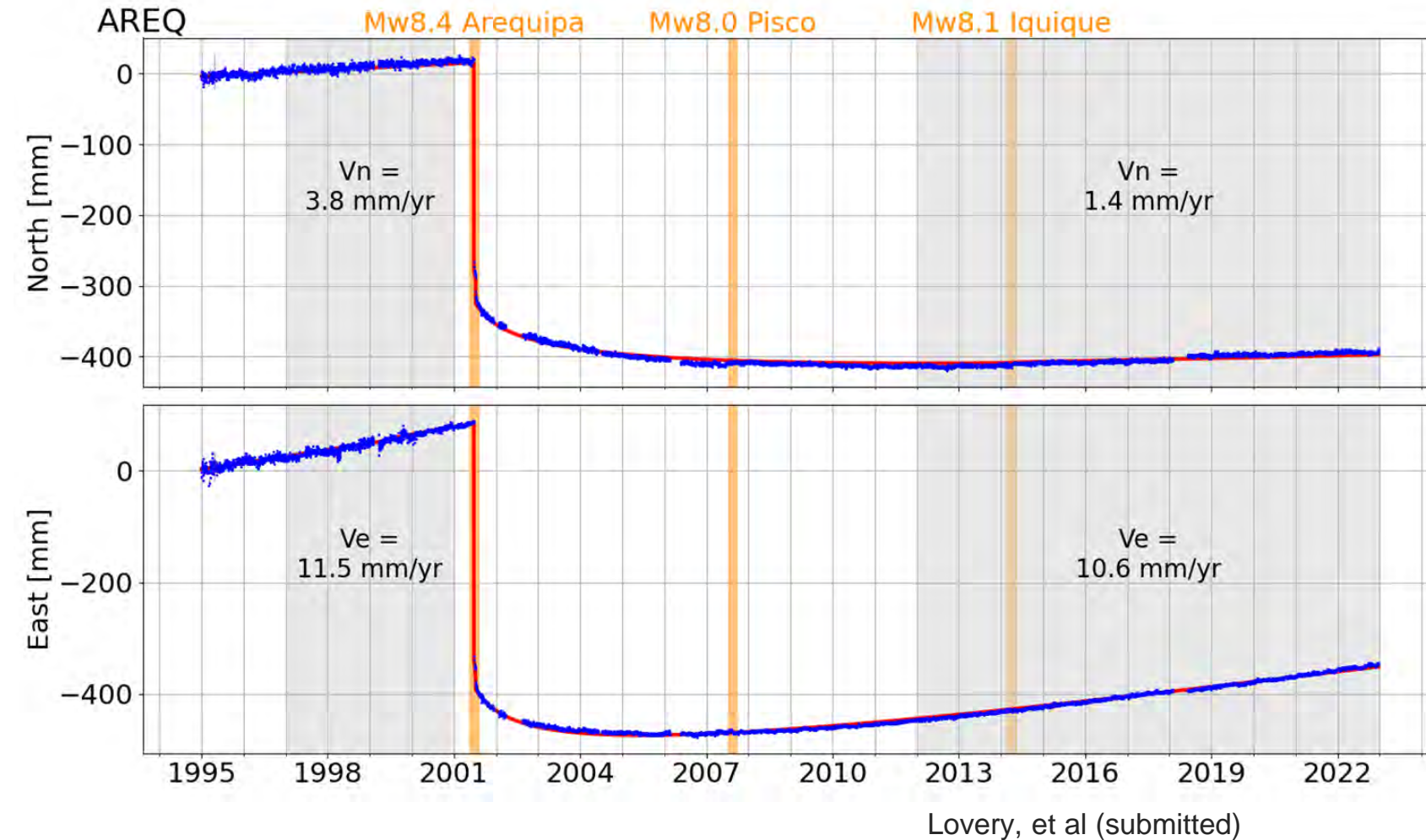


# Interseismic coupling wrt PS - Segmentation





# GNSS time series at Arequipa



- ❓ The return time is around 7 years after the 2001 earthquake.
- ❓ During the observation period of this study (2012-2022 for many stations), the interseismic velocity measured at the AREQ station is reduced by around 15% in the SSA reference frame and by around 30% in the PS reference frame, compared with its pre-2001 value.
- ❓ However, these estimates of 15% (SSA) and 30% (PS) should be interpreted as a maximum post-seismic effect on the moment deficit rate, as the AREQ station is close to the centroid (< 200 km).

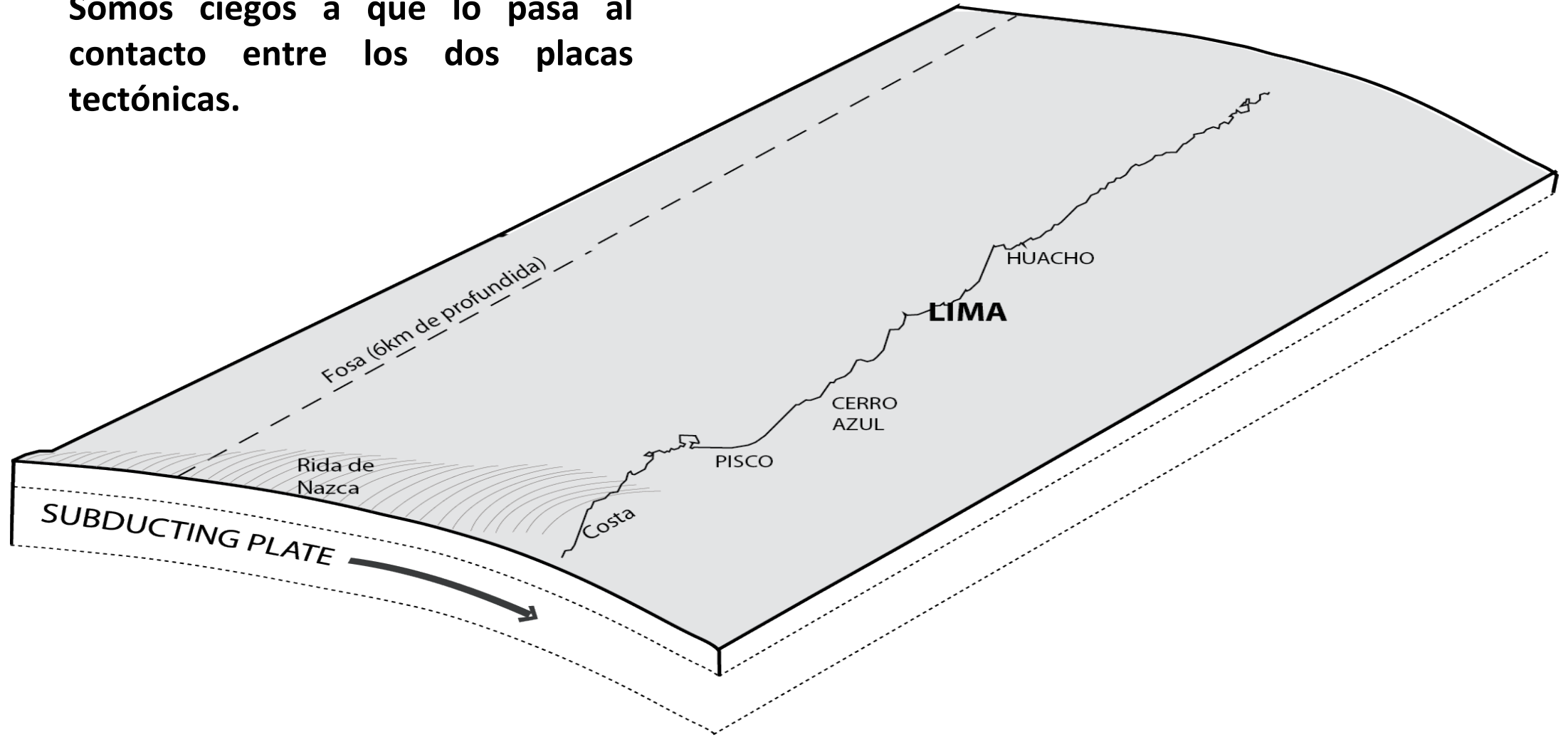


synthèse et budget de moment : mohamed



# Al contacto entre los dos placas tectónicas

Somos ciegos a que lo pasa al contacto entre los dos placas tectónicas.





Las Asperezas son escondidas al contacto entre los dos placas tectónicas

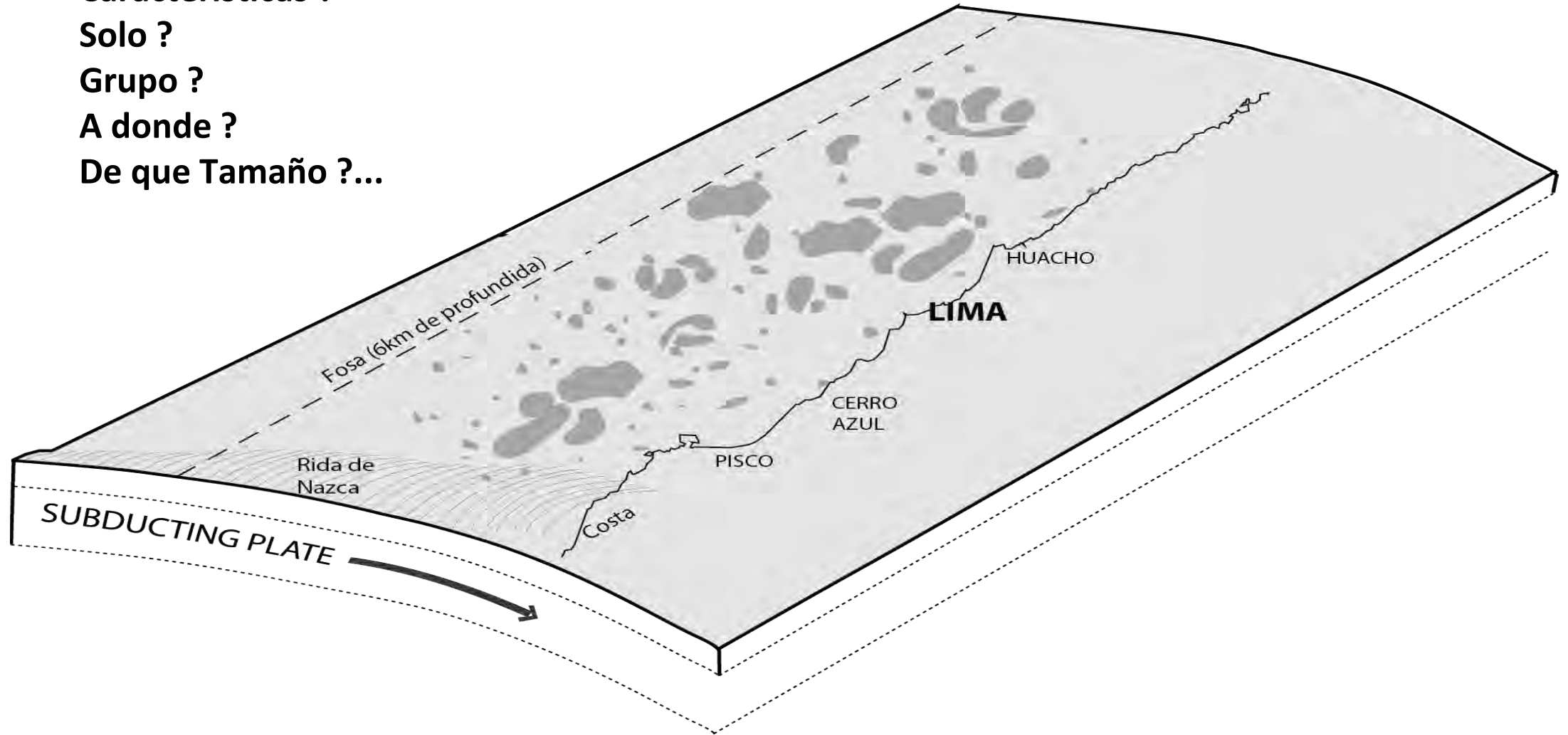
Características ?

Solo ?

Grupo ?

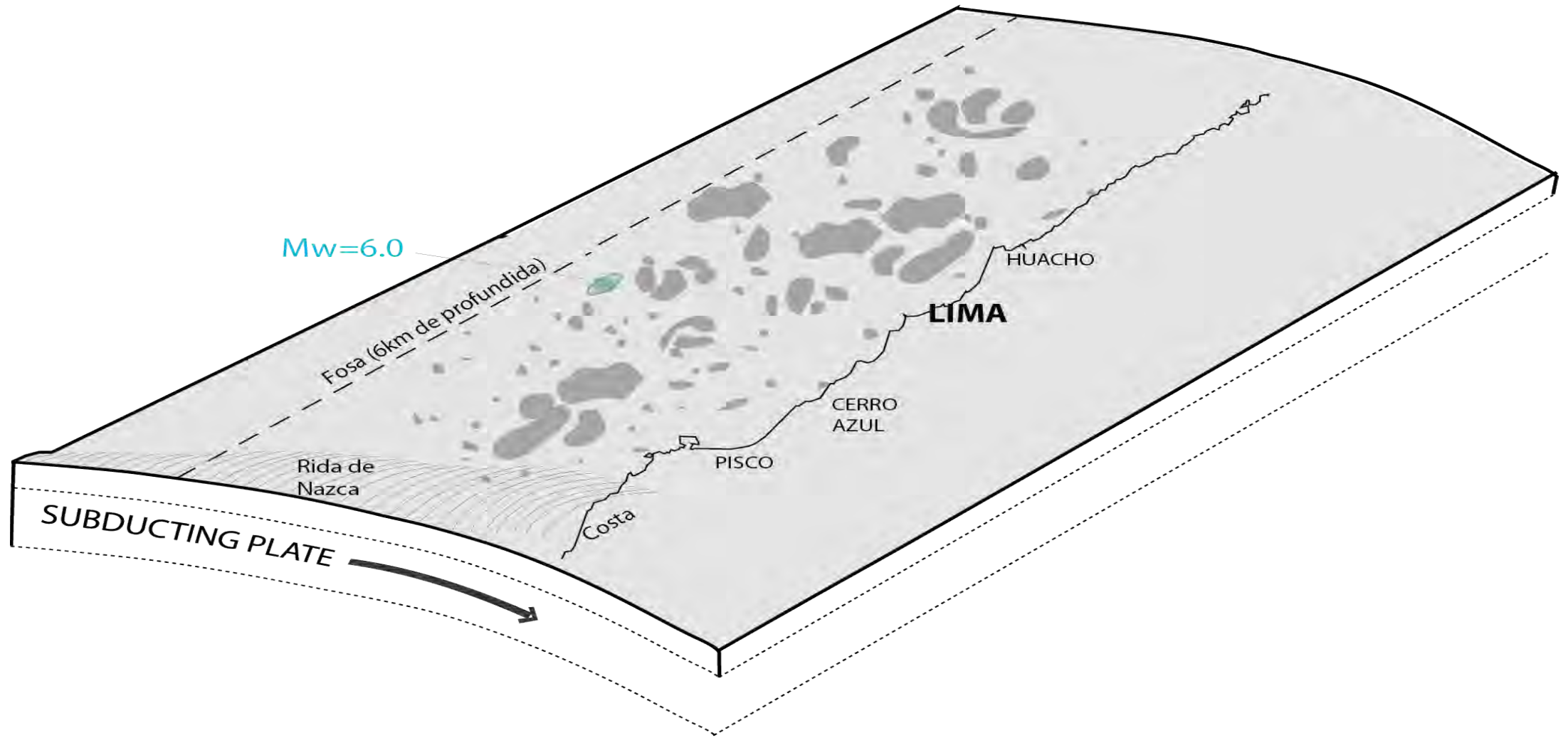
A donde ?

De que Tamaño ?...





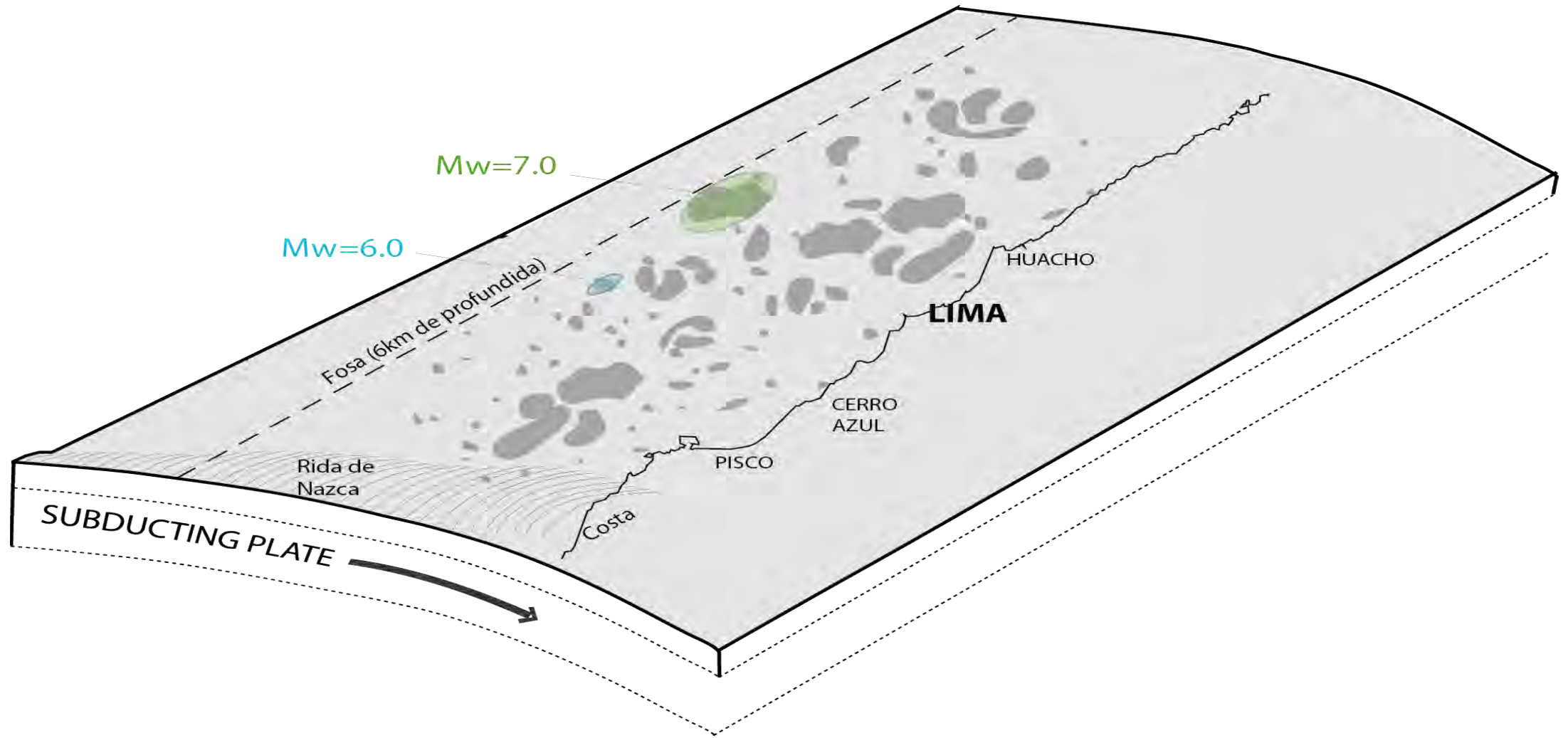
Mw ~ 6-7 ~ 10-50 km con 10cm-1m





Mw ~ 6-7 ~ 10-50 km con 10cm-1m

Mw ~ 7-8 ~ 50-200 km con 1m-5m

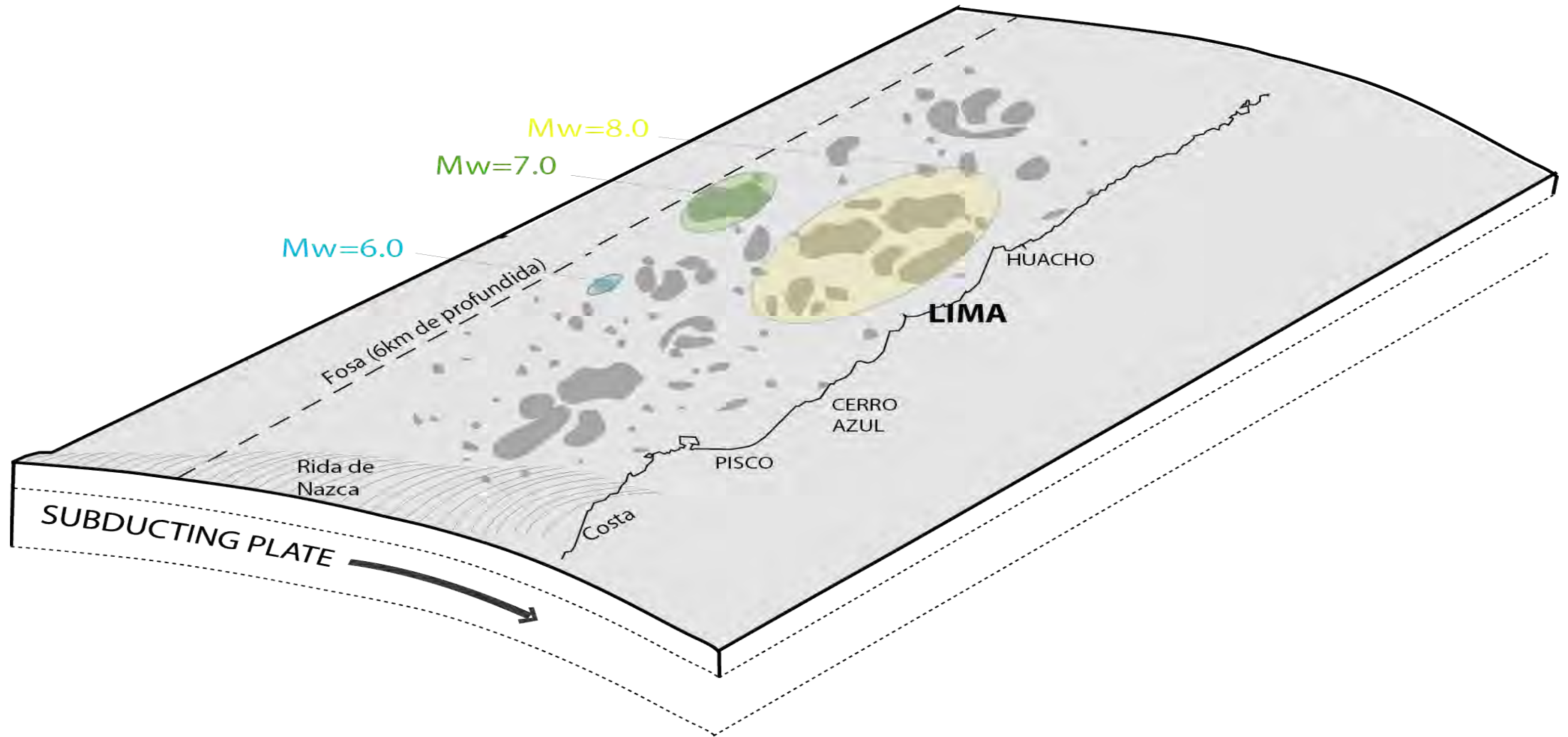




Mw ~ 6-7 ~ 10-50 km con 10cm-1m

Mw ~ 7-8 ~ 50-200 km con 1m-5m

Mw ~ 8-9 ~ 200-500 km con 5m-10m



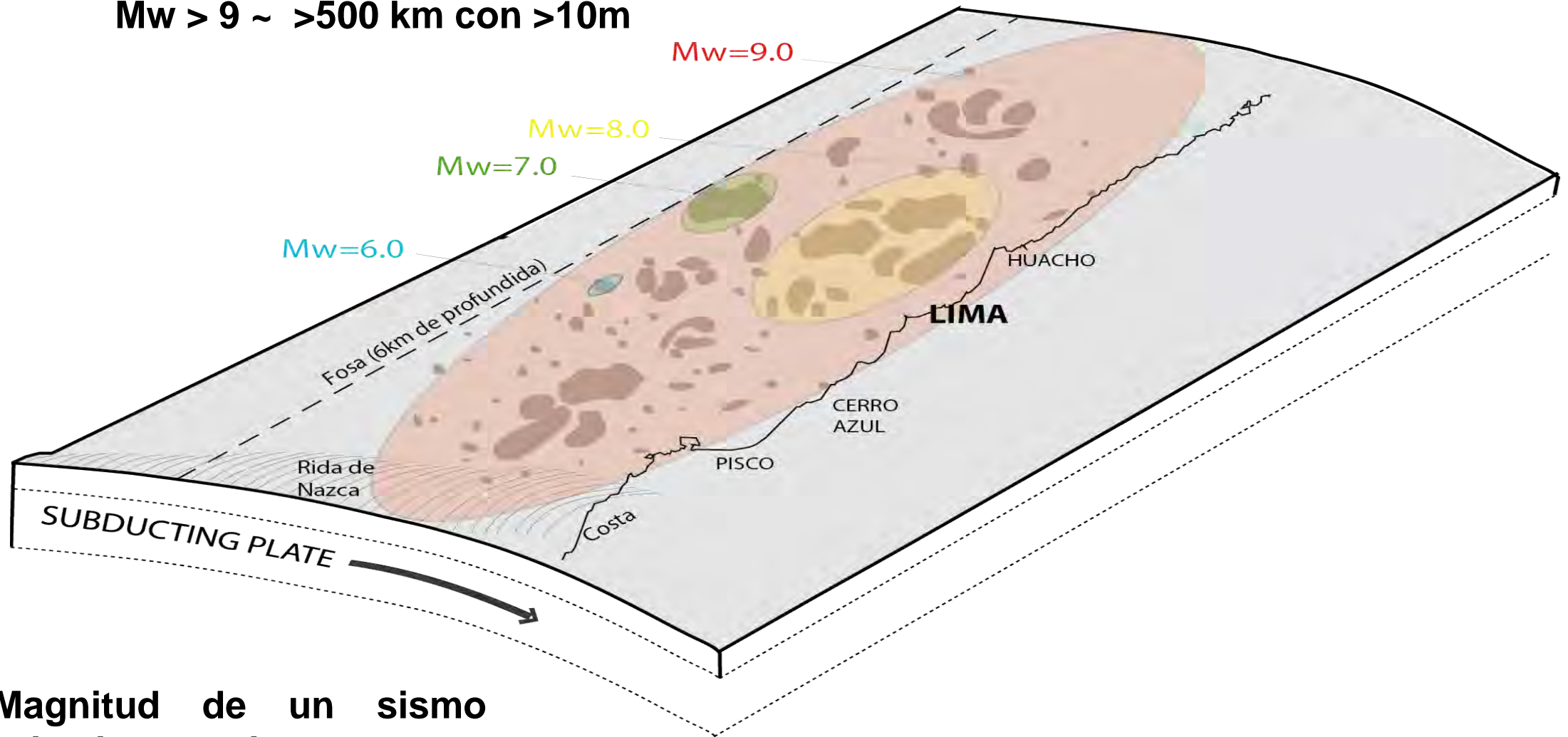


**Mw ~ 6-7 ~ 10-50 km con 10cm-1m**

**Mw ~ 7-8 ~ 50-200 km con 1m-5m**

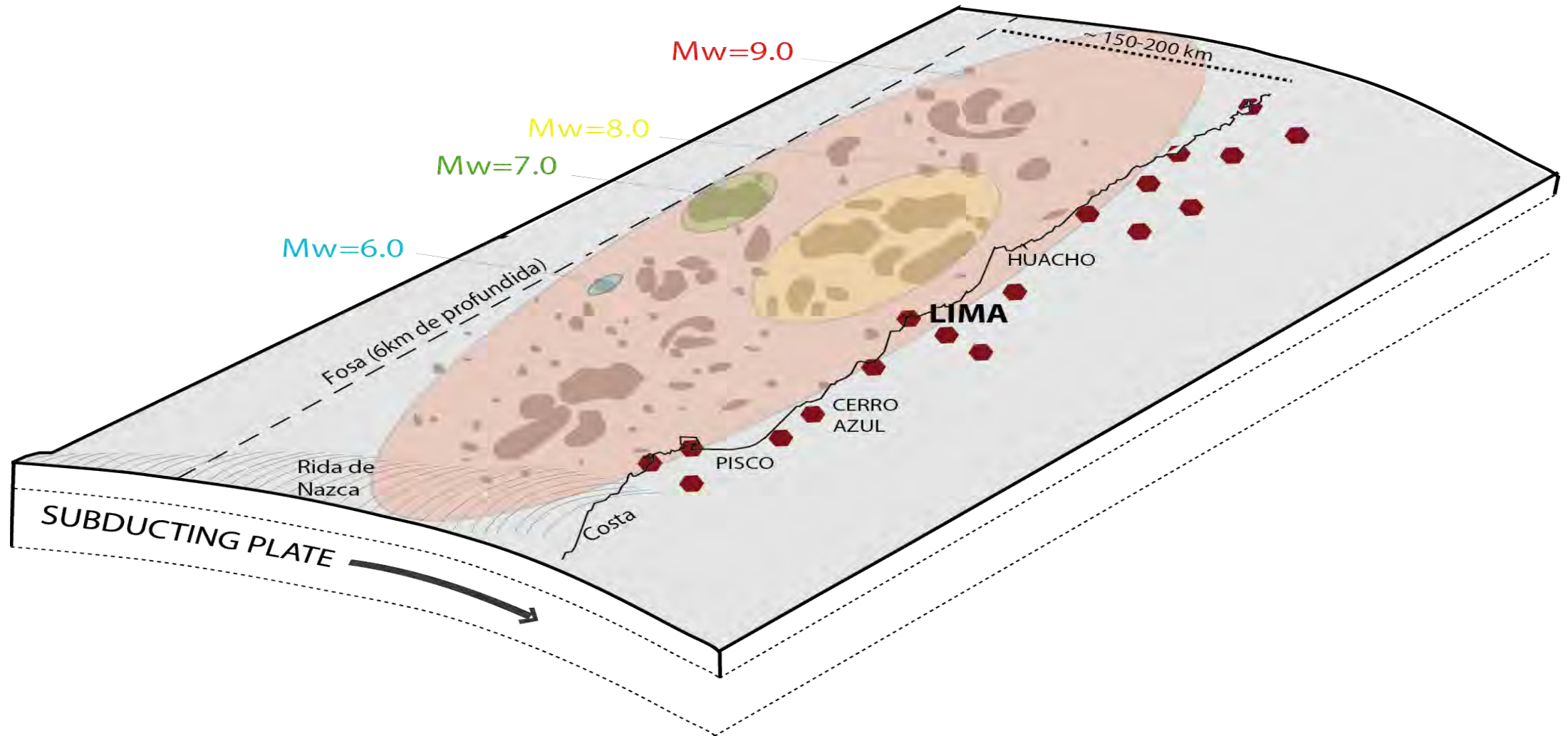
**Mw ~ 8-9 ~ 200-500 km con 5m-10m**

**Mw > 9 ~ >500 km con >10m**



**La Magnitud de un sismo depende de cuando asperezas se rompen al mismo tiempo y del desplazamiento de cada**

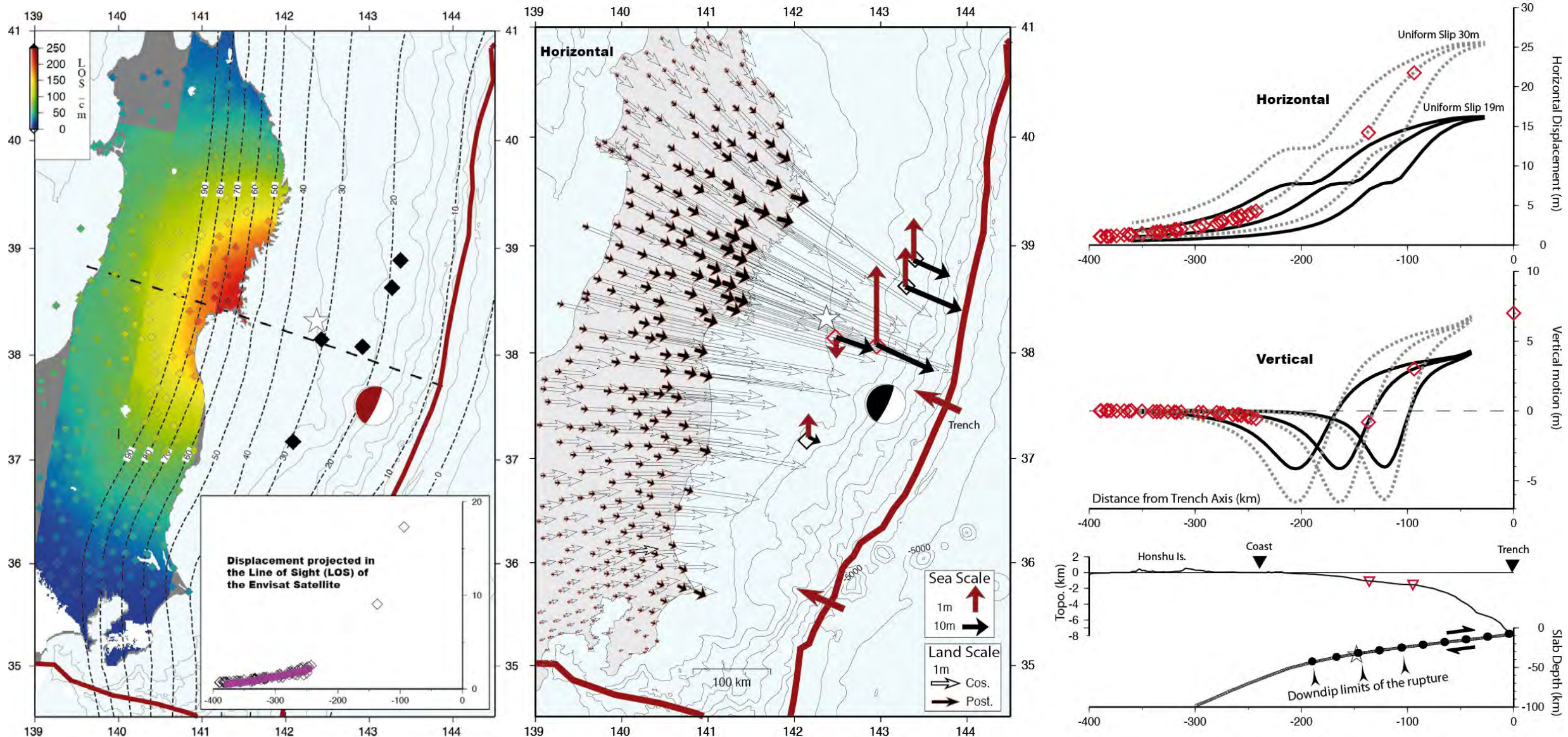
Es posible de conocer las características de las asperezas con bastante observaciones de sismología, de geodesia, ...



However difficult/impossible to provide a fine description without data on top of the asperities and close to the trench from observations at 100-200km !

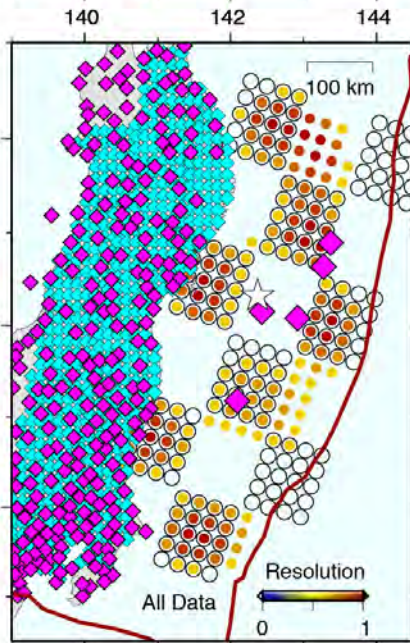
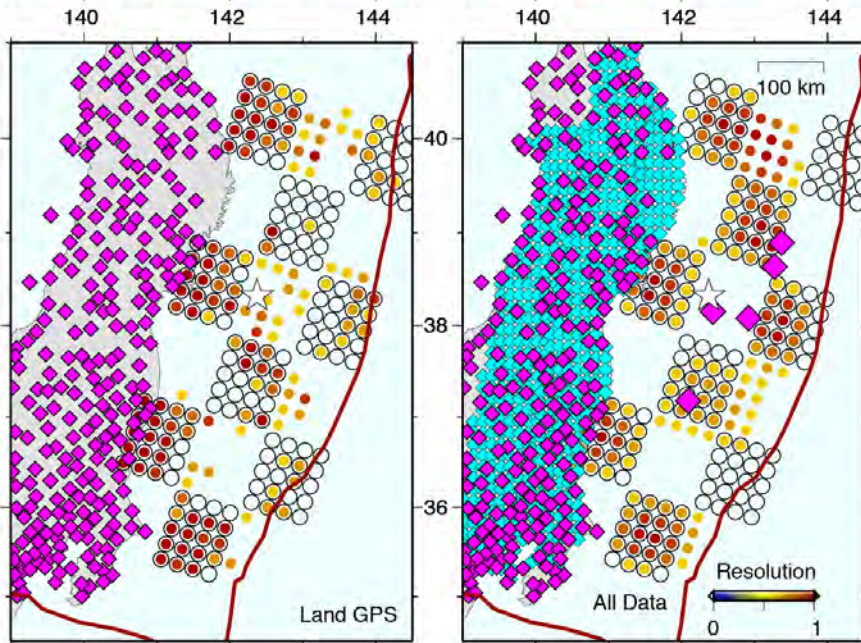
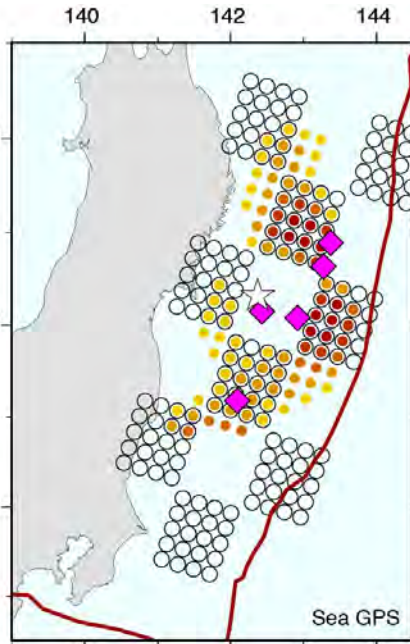
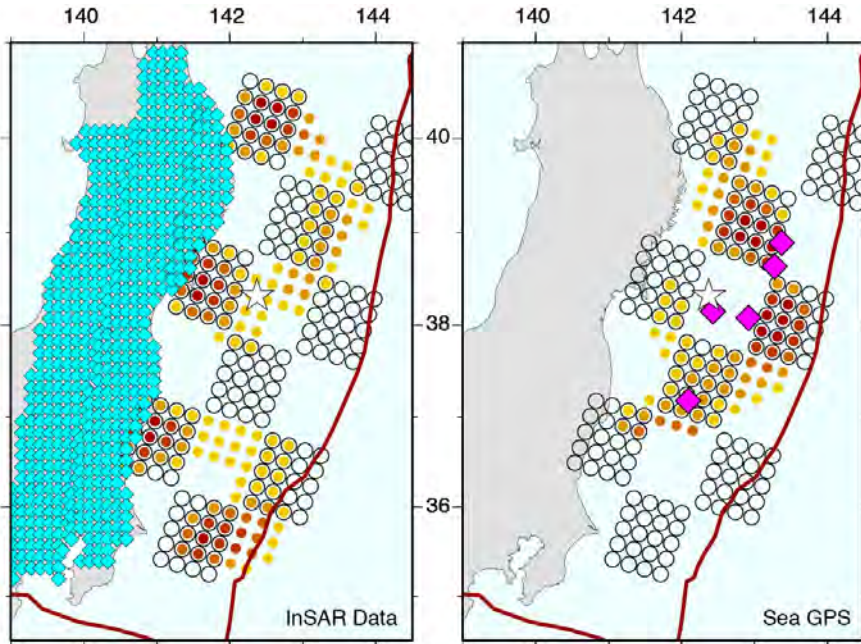


# 2011 Tohoku Coseismic Deformation from InSAR, Land GPS and Sea GPS





# Importance of seafloor data to improve the resolution



Checker-Board Resolution tests for InSAR, Seafloor GPS and Land GPS data of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake

**Homogeneous and Dense geodetic networks help to improve the resolution of slip on the megathrust interface**

**Need to increase seafloor geophysical observations, especially in Subduction Zones where the trench-coast distance is high !**



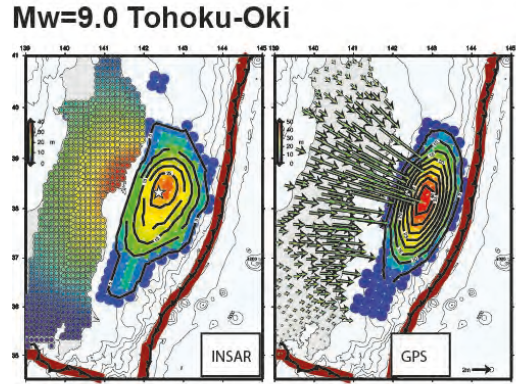
# Seismic Sources of large and great subduction earthquakes

2011, MW=9.0  
~400KM  
~50M

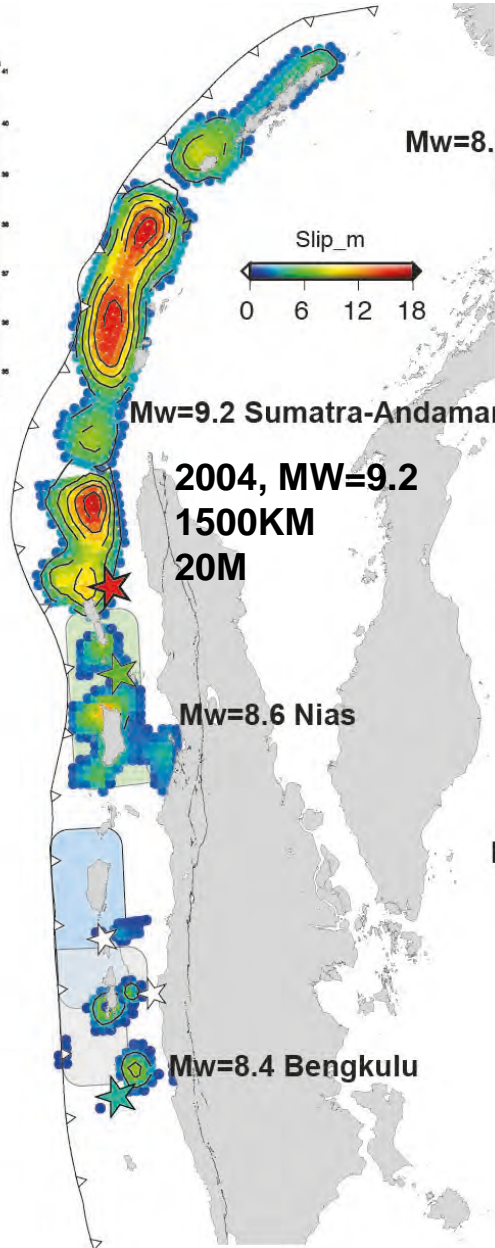
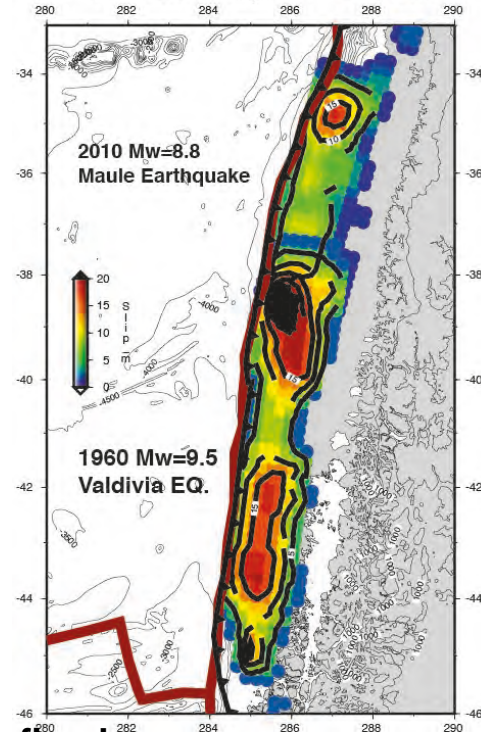
Scale  
200KM

2010, MW=8.8  
550KM  
15M

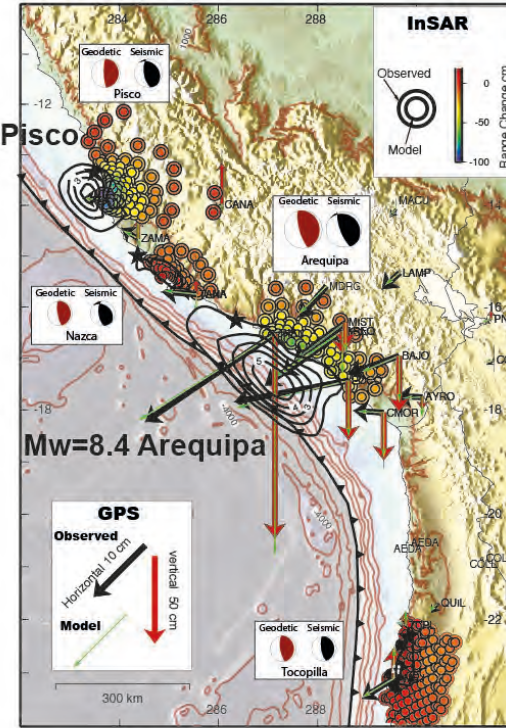
1960, MW=9.5  
1000KM  
30M



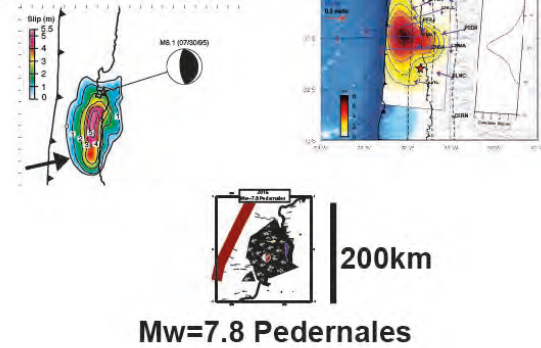
Mw=9.5 Valdivia, Mw=8.8 Maule



Mw=8.0 Pisco



Mw=8.0 Antofagasta



Mw=9.2 ~ 2 x Mw=9.0

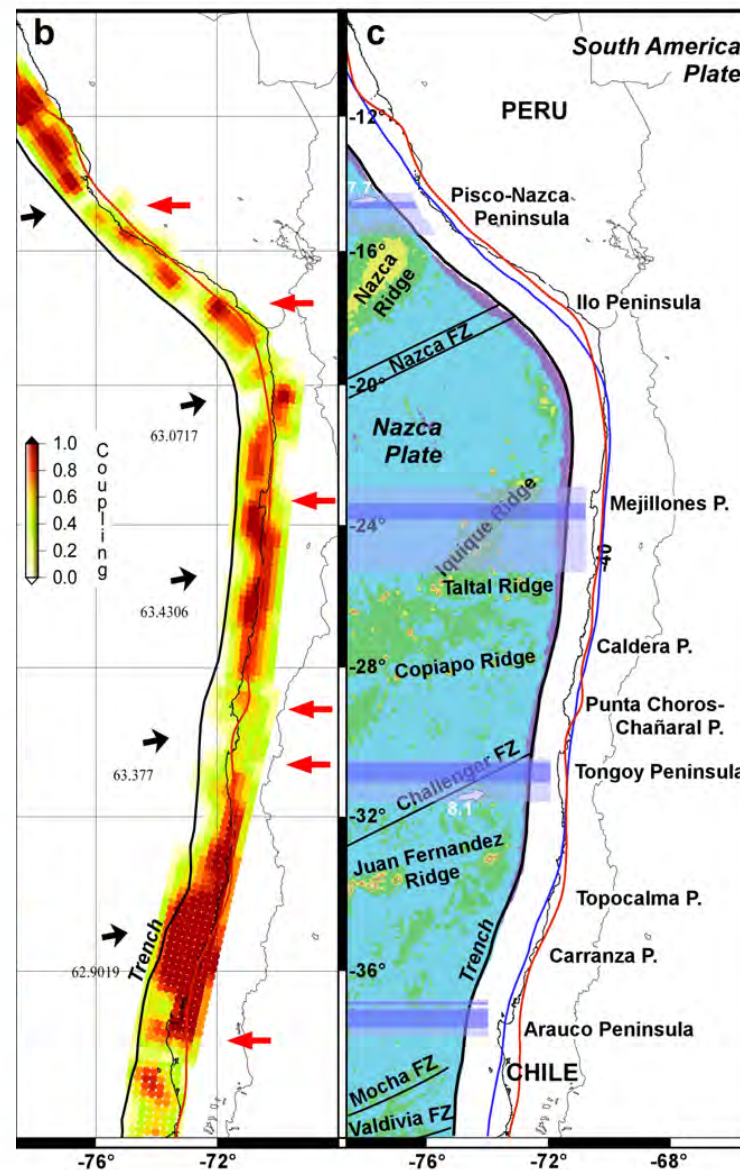
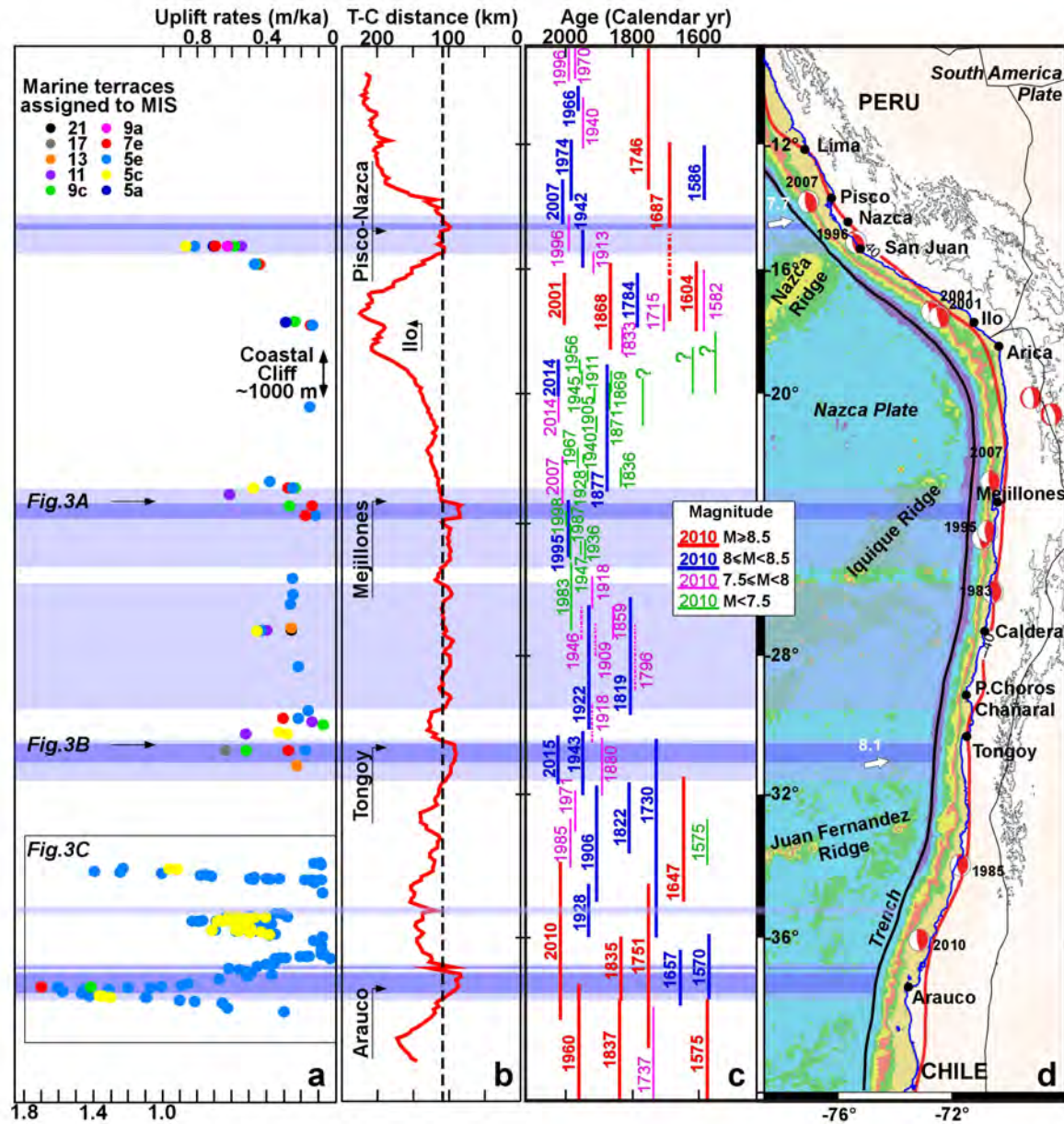
Mw=9.0 ~ 2 x Mw=8.8

Mw=9.0 ~ 30 x Mw=8.0

Seismic Moment is defined as:  
 $M_0 = \mu \times \text{Seismic Slip} \times \text{Rupture Surface}$



# Short-term vs long-term deformation

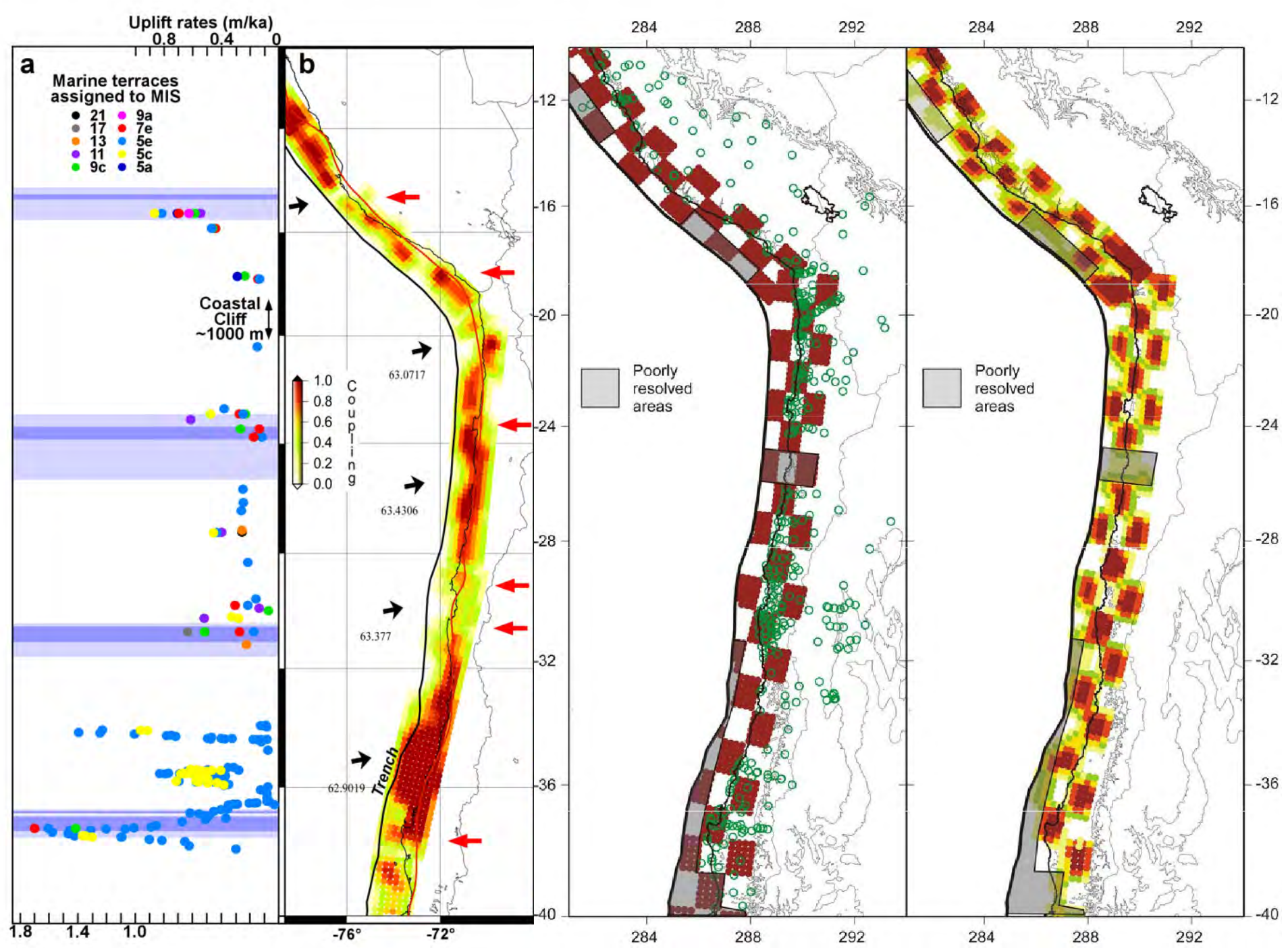


Spatial Correlation between Marine Terraces and low coupled regions

Spatial Correlation between subducting ridges and Fracture Zones with low coupled regions

Low coupled regions play the role of seismic barriers

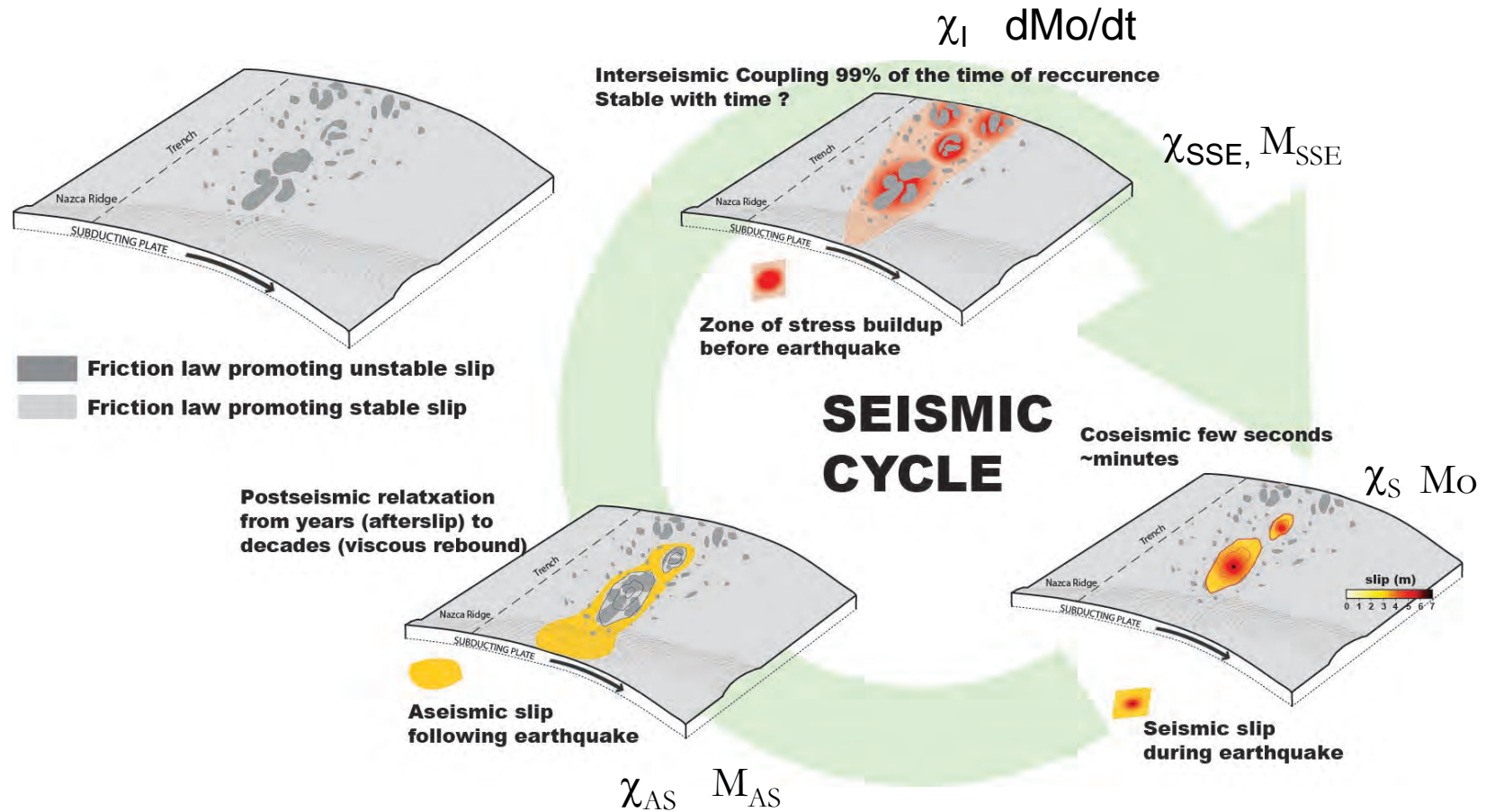




# Seismic cycle and slip/moment budget on the long term

Over the long-term, the partitioning of slip during the seismic cycle can be quantified using the following quantities:

- 1) Interseismic coupling,  $\chi_i$ , the ratio of the deficit of slip in the interseismic period to long-term slip, assumed to be stationary throughout the interseismic period.
- 2) Seismic coupling,  $\chi_s$ , the ratio of cumulative seismic slip to long-term slip
- 3) Aseismic coupling,  $\chi_a = \chi_{as} + \chi_{sse}$ , the ratio of cumulative aseismic transients (afterslip and SSEs) to long-term slip;



**Closure of the slip budget, the condition that seismic slip and aseismic slip to match long-term slip at any point on the fault, writes:**

$$\chi_i = \chi_s + \chi_{as} + \chi_{sse}$$



# Estimating the maximum magnitude ( $M_{w,max}$ ) Earthquake

Interseismic coupling:  $\chi_i = \chi_s + \chi_a = \chi_s + \chi_{as} + \chi_{SSE}$

Seismic

Aseismic

Afterslip

Slow-slip events

Number of earthquakes  
with a magnitude  $>M_w$ :

$$N = 10^{a-bM_w}$$

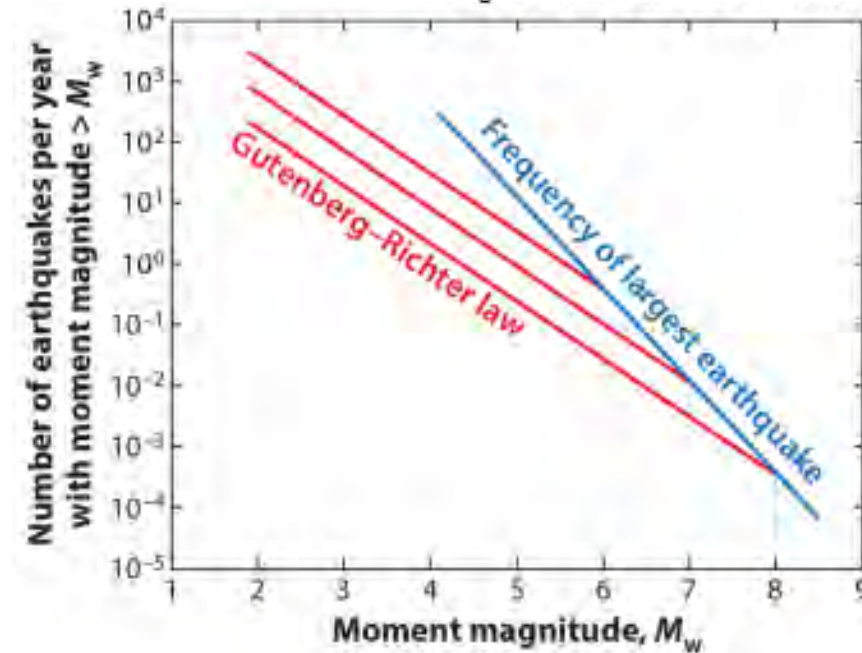
Moment deficit rate:  $\frac{dM_0}{dt} = \int \mu V \chi_i dS$

Return period of the  
maximum magnitude EQ:  $T(M_{max}) = \frac{1}{(1 - 2b/3)\alpha} \frac{M_{max}}{dM_0/dt}$

Ratio of the slip that is seismic  
over all transient slips:

$$\alpha = \frac{\chi_s}{\chi_s + \chi_{as} + \chi_{SSE}}$$

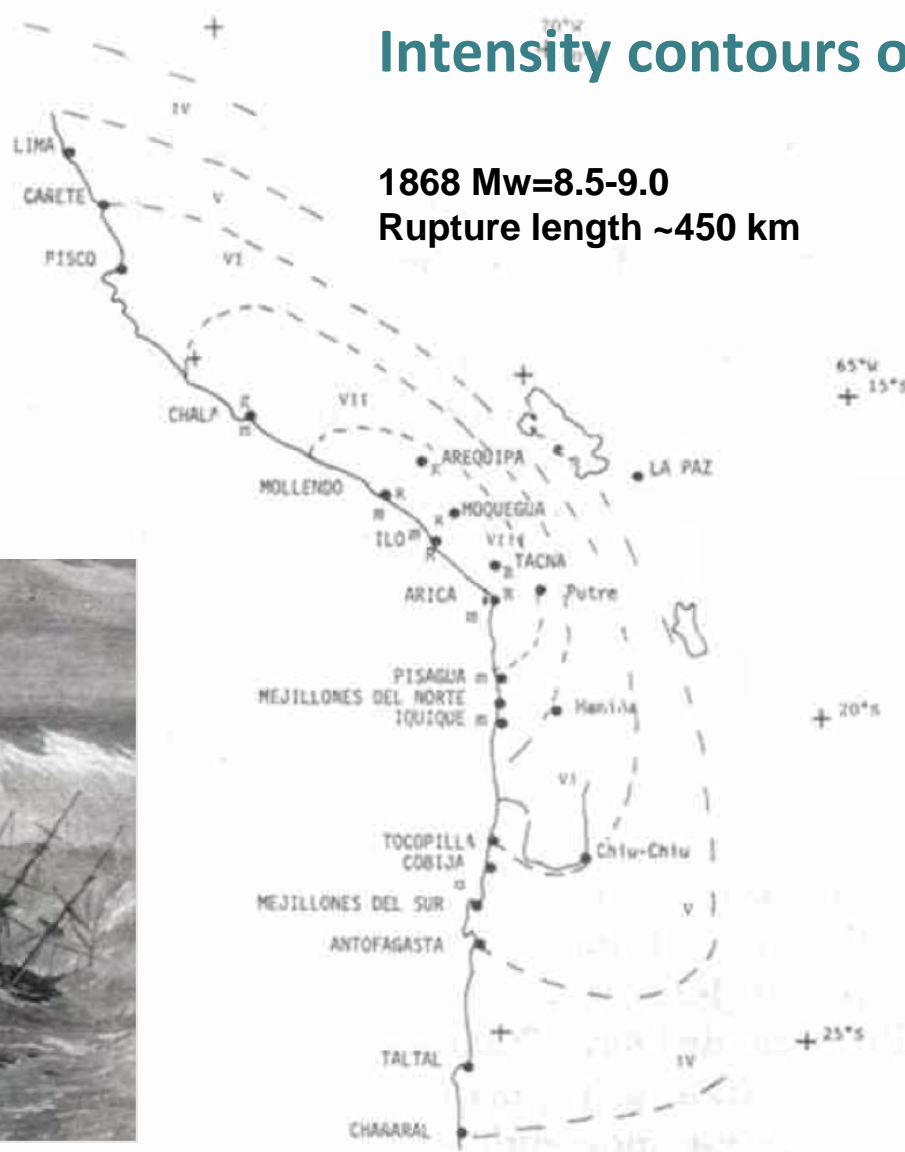
Figure from Avouac 2015



# Intensity contours of 1868 & 1877 earthquakes

1868 Mw=8.5-9.0  
Rupture length ~450 km

1877 Mw=8.5-9.0  
Rupture length ~450 km

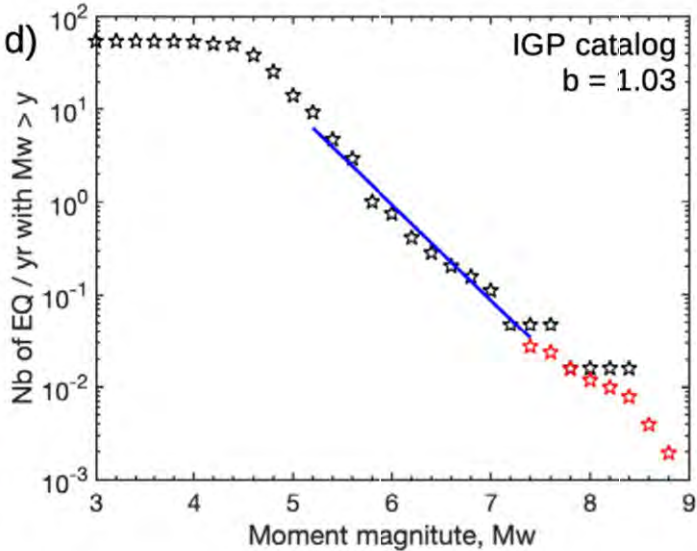
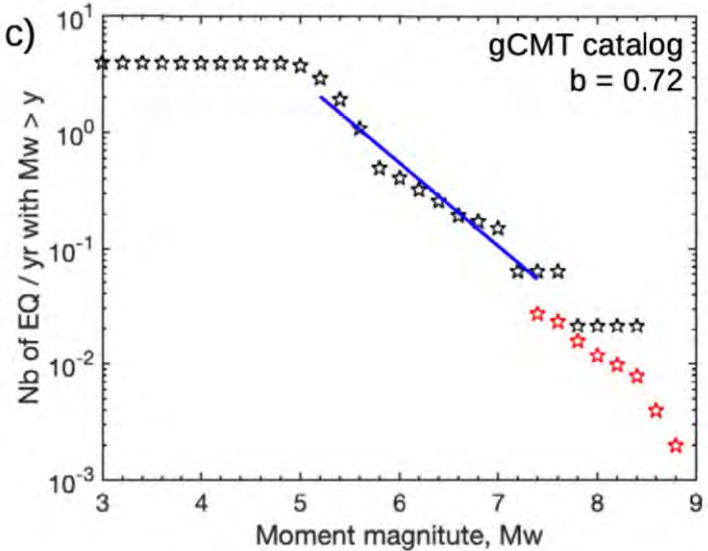
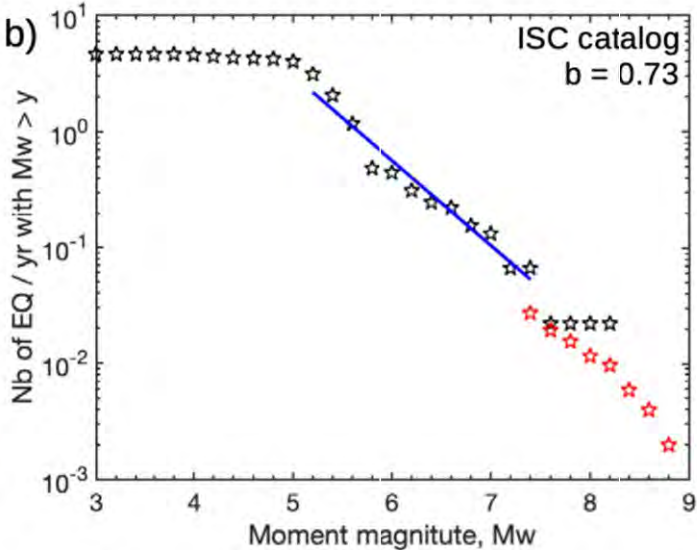
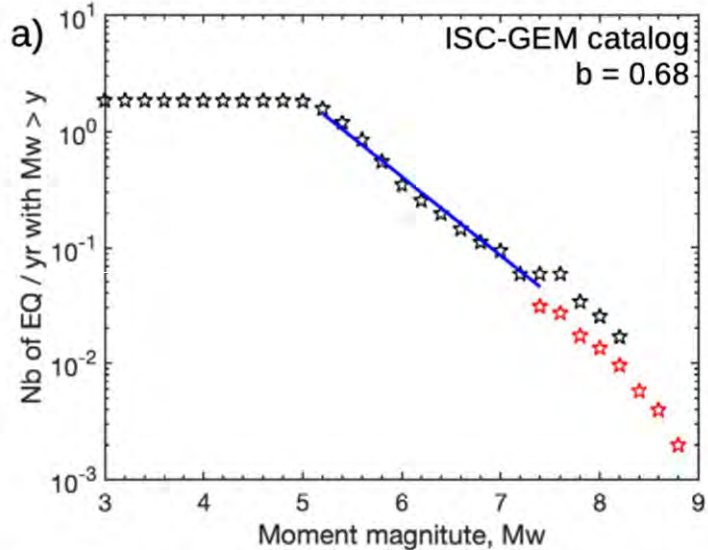


*Tsunami in Arica, 1877*



# Mwmax for the South Peru

Gutenberg-Richer Law for various seismic catalogs in South Peru (from Nazca Ridge to Arica)

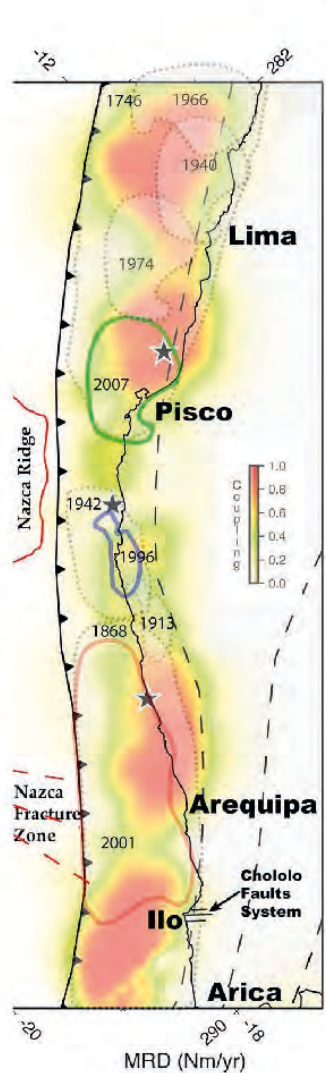


Classical statistical Methods used to determine the seismic hazard are strong mathematical tools but they have some limitations, because seismic catalogs are incomplete in the long term, missing small magnitudes, homogenized in magnitude scale

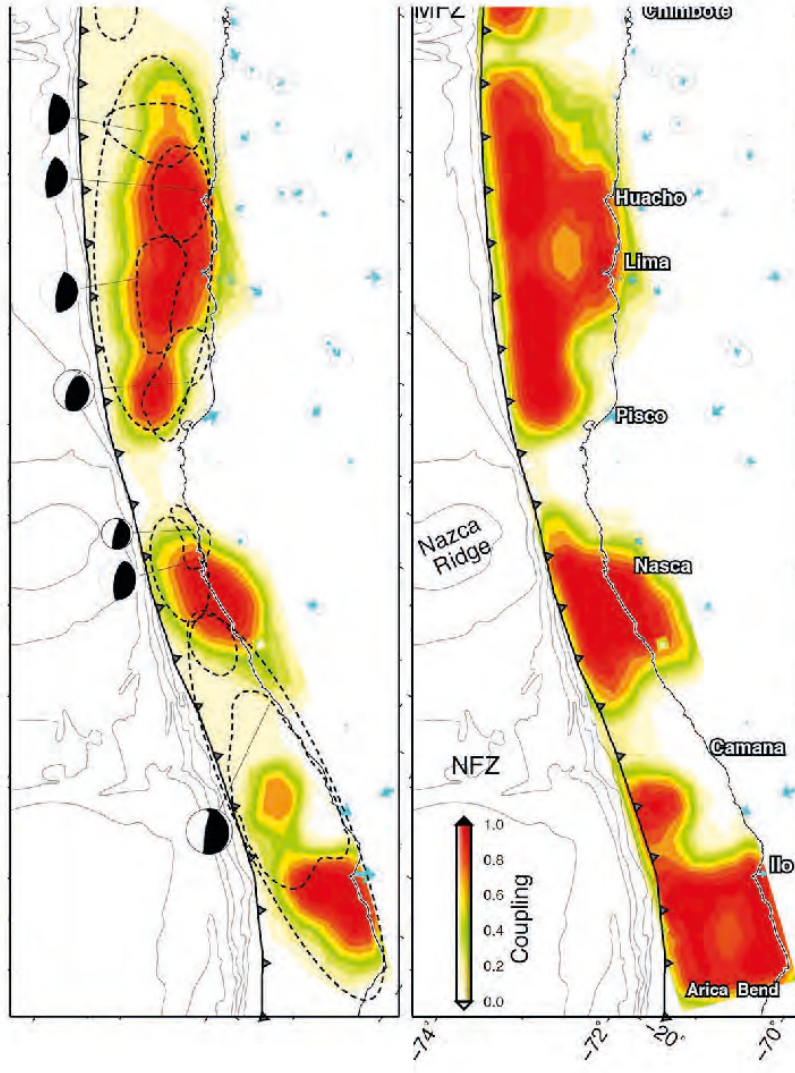
For instance such methods do not take into account:

- 1 – The velocity of loading of the system (coupling map and associated moment deficit rate)
- 2 – Aseismic slips that occur during the post-seismic period and slow slip events

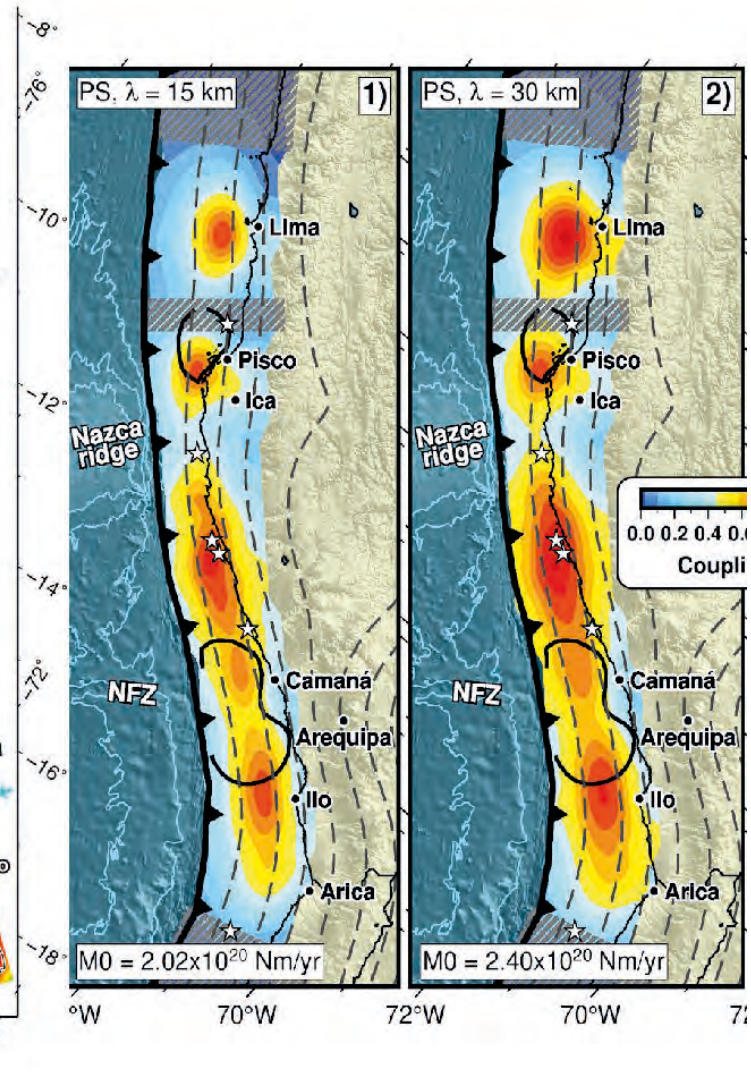
# Mwmax for the South Peru



Chlieh et al. 2011



Villegas-Lanza et al., 2016

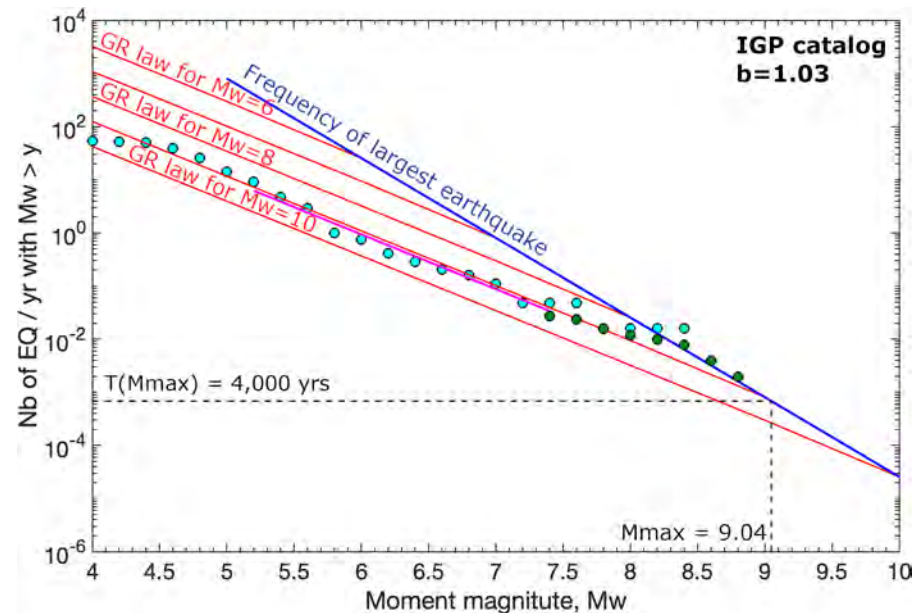
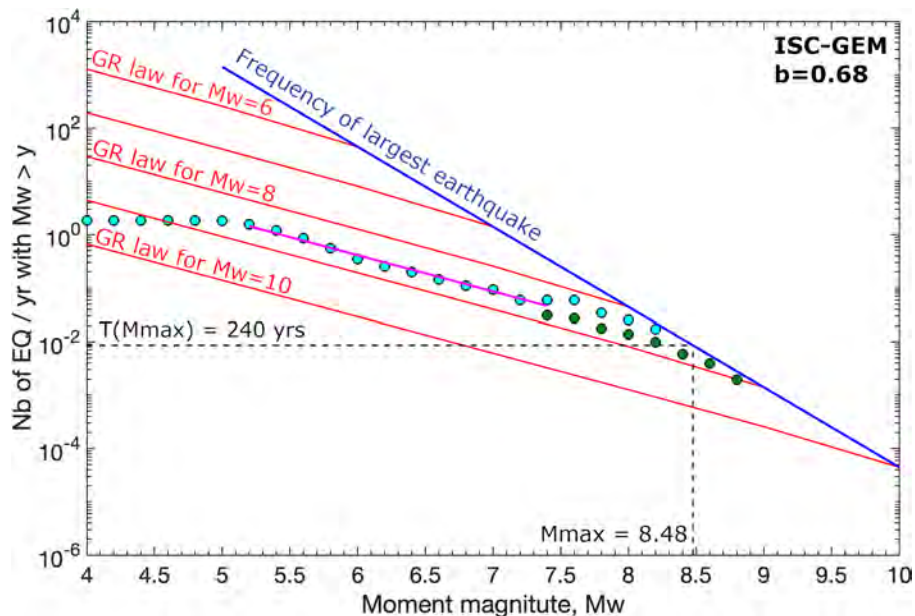


Lovely et al., in review 2023

The increase of GPS data improve relatively well the spatial location of asperities and barriers and our estimate of the annual Moment Deficit Rate (MDR in Nm/yr), Between Nazca Ridge and Arica, MRD ~ 2.4 +/- 0.4 x 10<sup>20</sup> Nm/yr



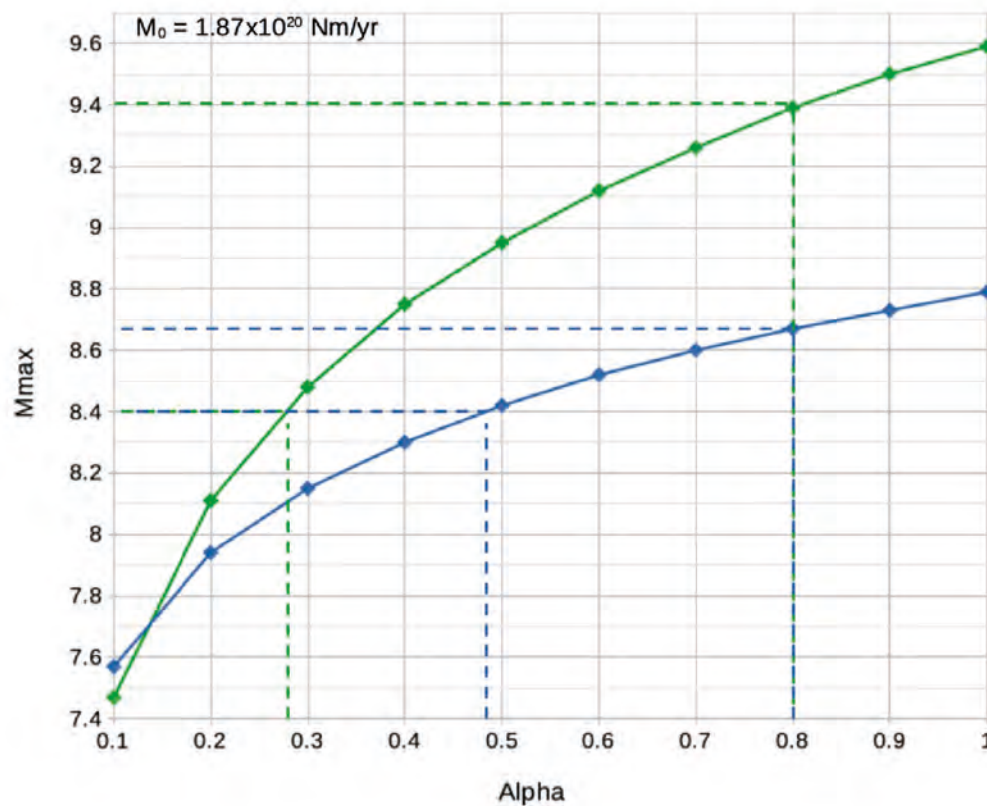
# Mwmax for the South Peru



$$\alpha = \chi_s / (\chi_s + \chi_{as} + \chi_{SSE})$$

$\alpha = 1$  transient slip is all seismic

$\alpha = 0$  transient slip is all aseismic



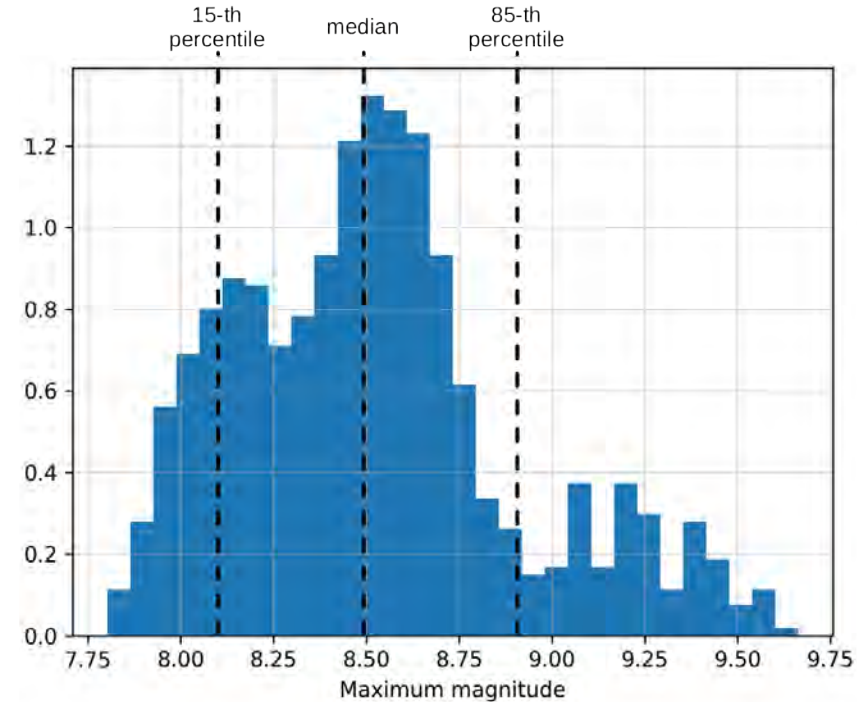
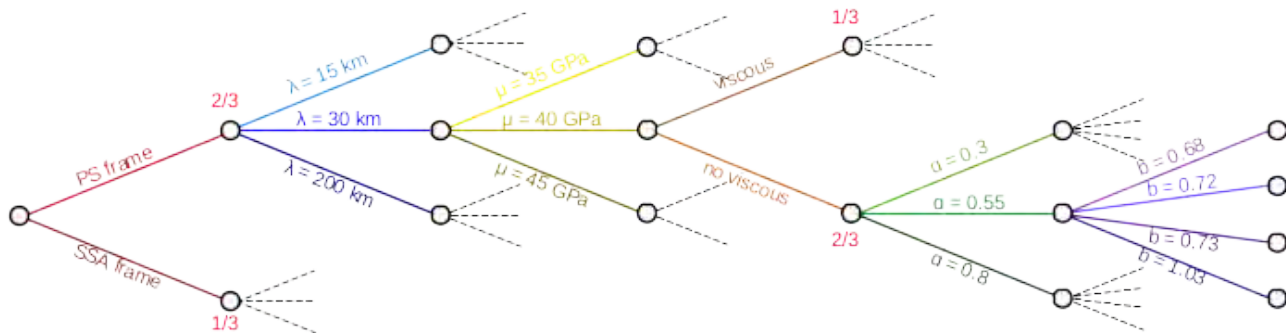
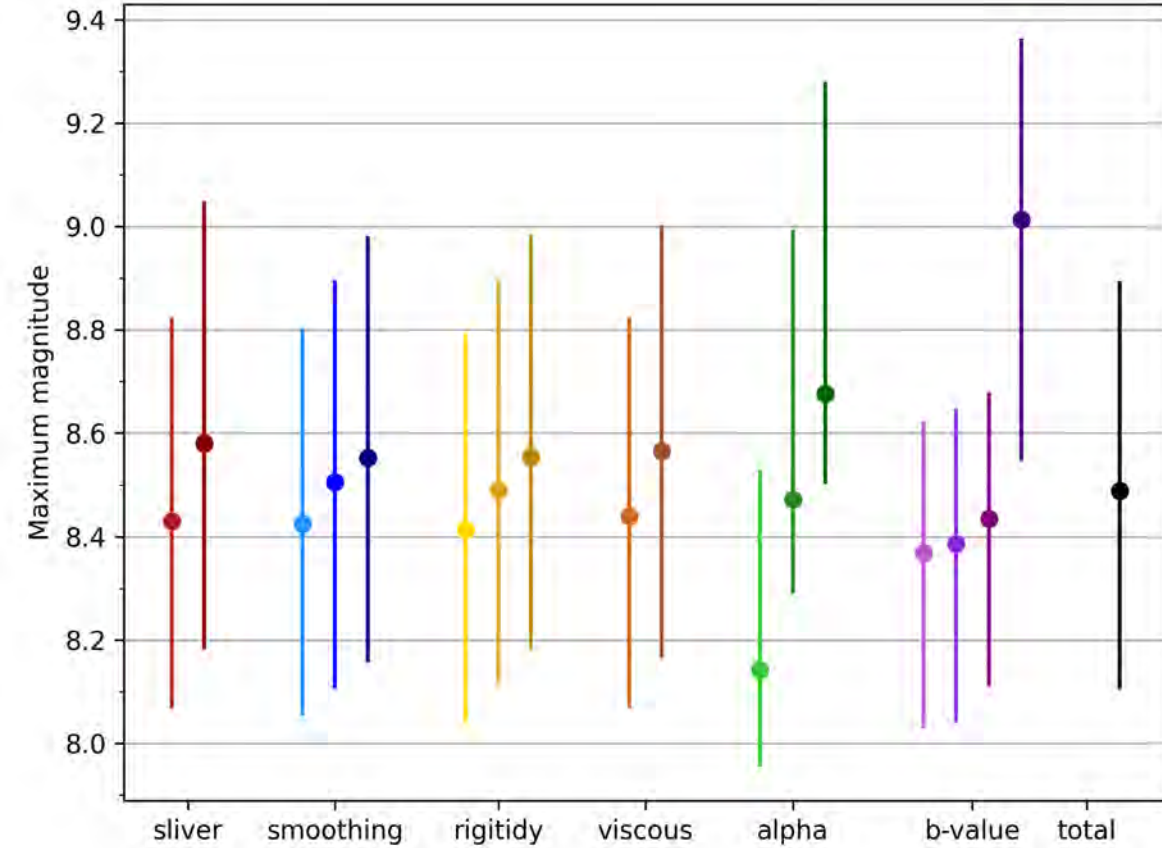
# Mmax for the South Peru

•432 combinations using various seismic catalogues (ISC, ISC-GEM, gCMT, IGP) and interseismic coupling models.

•**South Peru segment (Nazca ridge to Arica) could host:  
a Mw=8.4 earthquake every 100 years  
to a Mw=8.9 every 900 years**

•Main uncertainties are

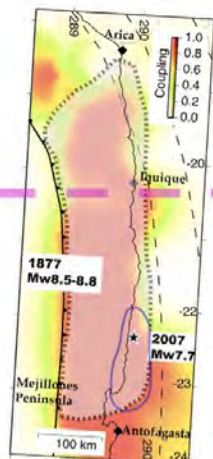
- The b-value of seismic catalogue
- Amount of aseismic slip in the long run



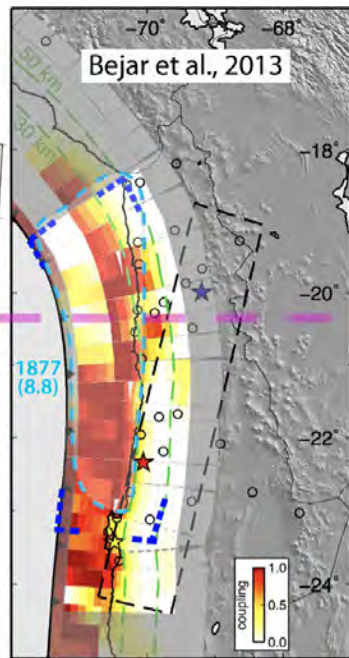


# Mmax for the North Chile

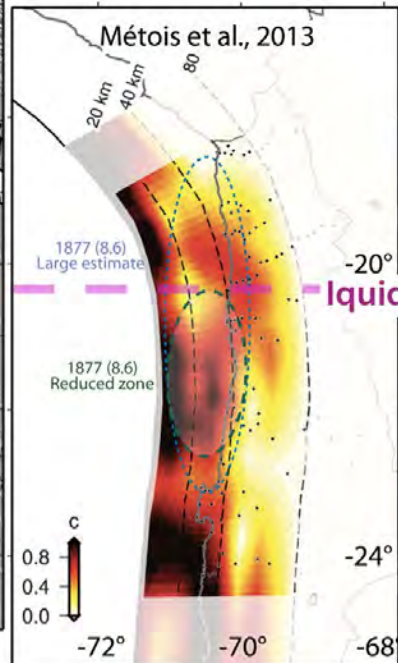
Chlieh et al., 2011



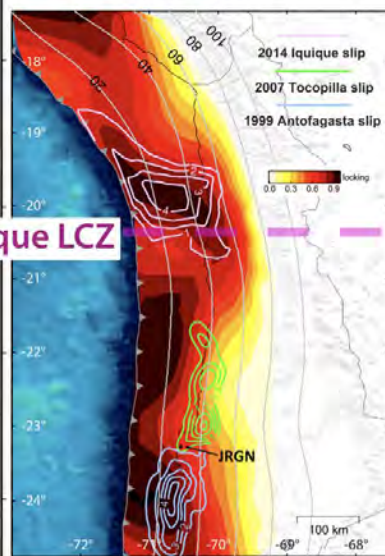
Bejar et al., 2013



Métouis et al., 2013

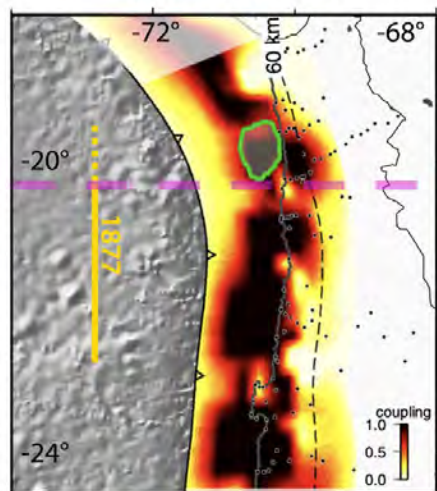


Li et al., 2015

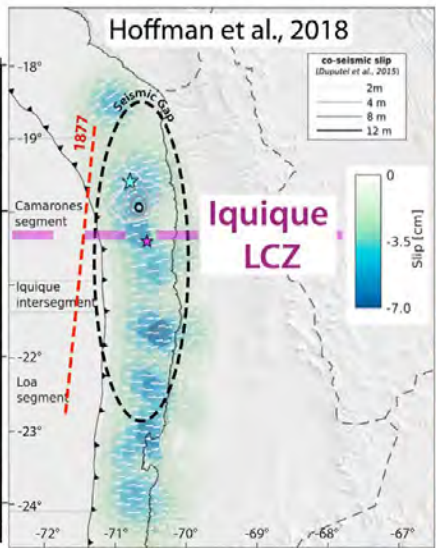


Iquique LCZ

Métouis et al., 2016

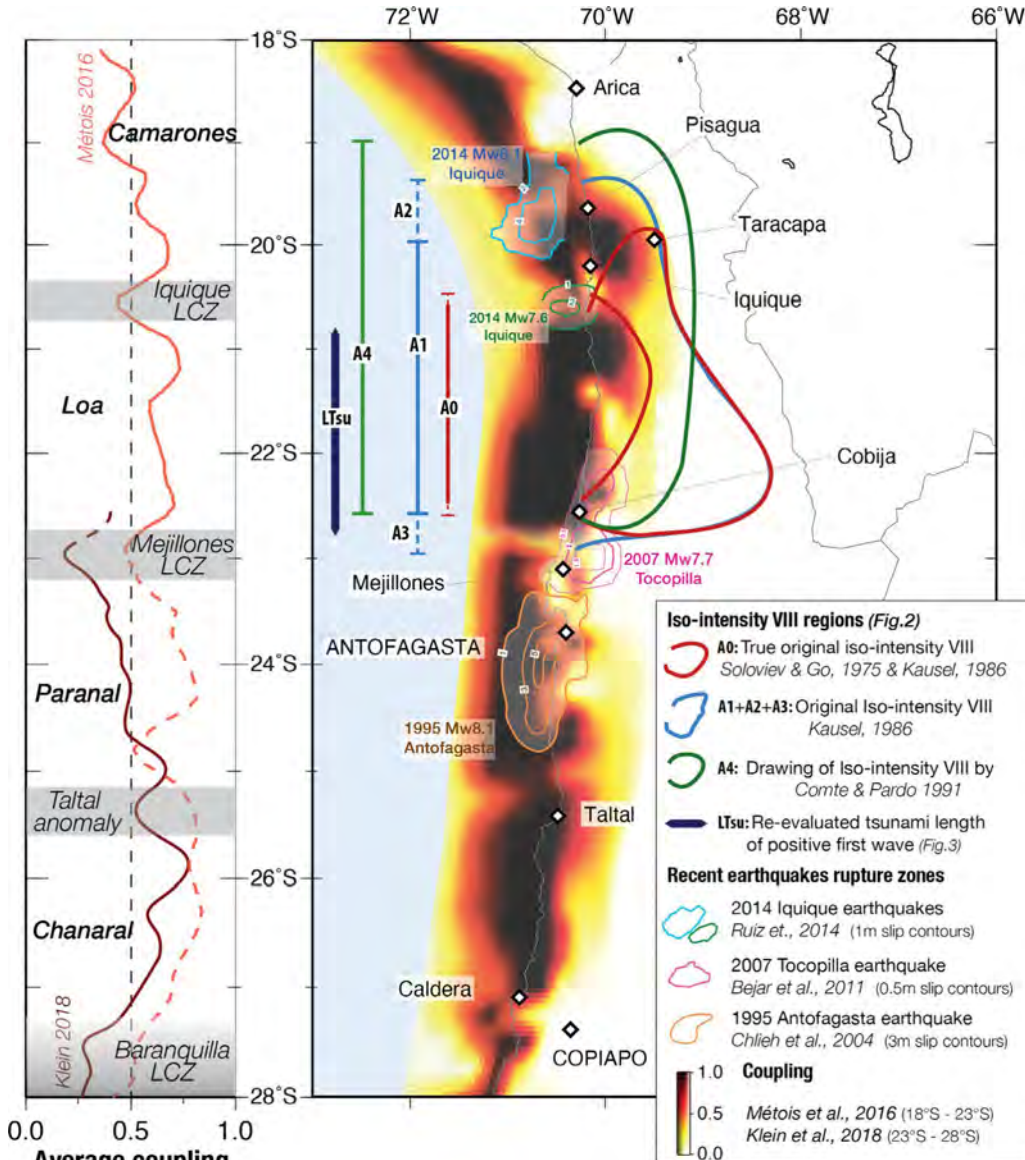
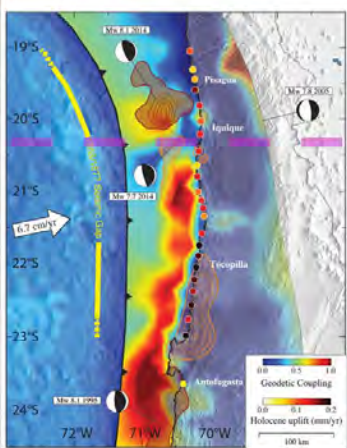


Hoffman et al., 2018



Iquique LCZ

Jolivet et al., 2020

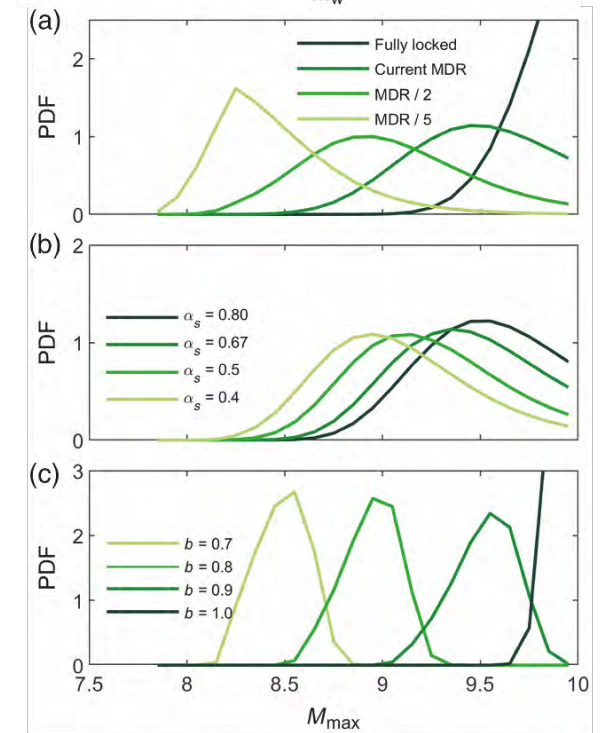
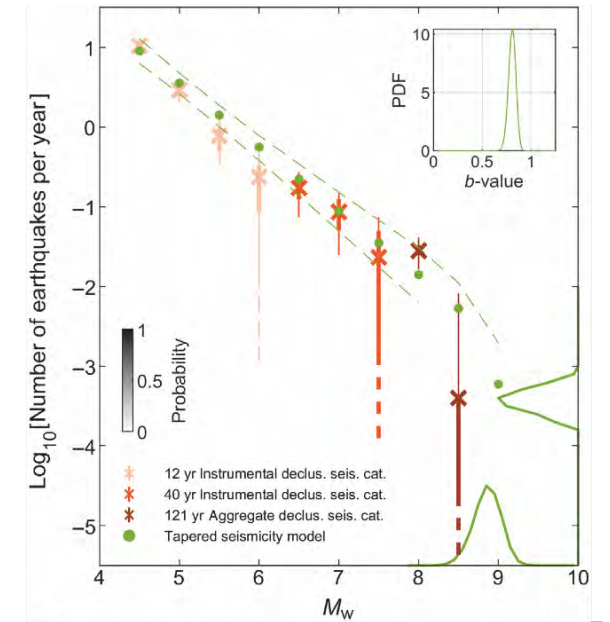
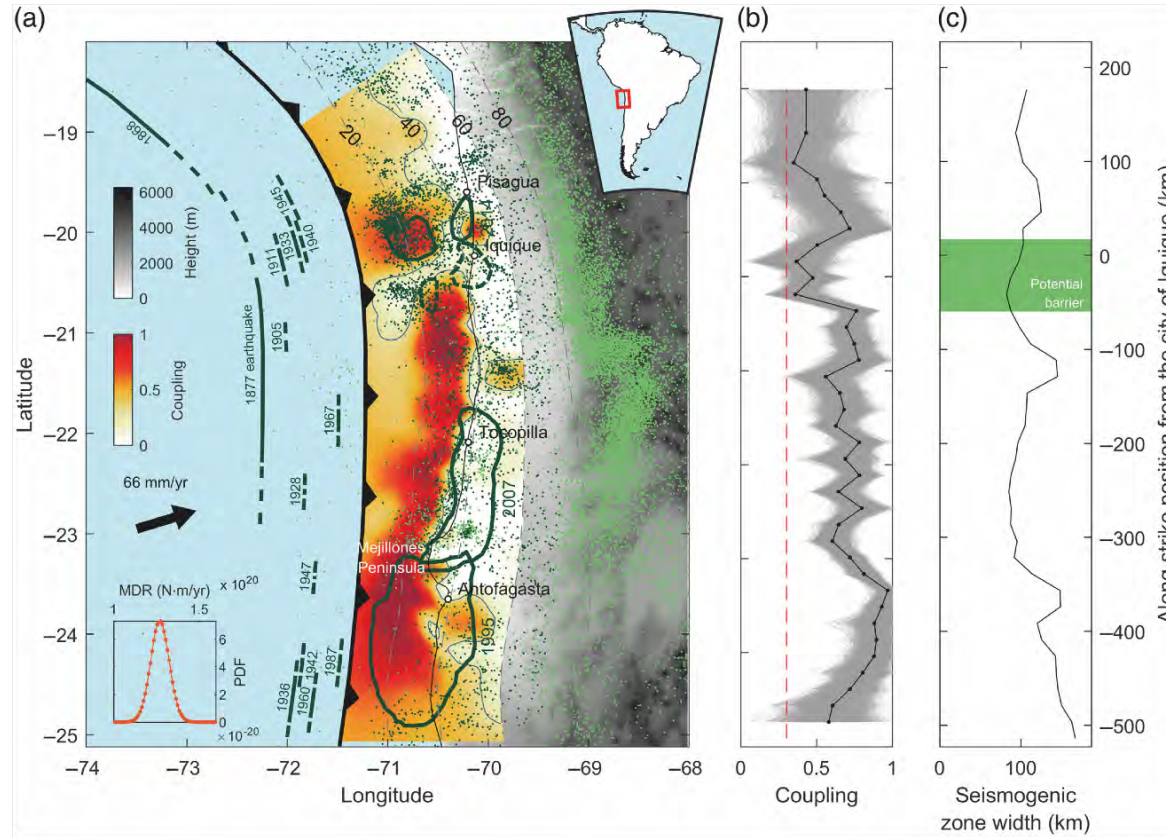


Average coupling  
1877 Mw=8.5 ?  
Rupture length ~225 km ??

- Iso-intensity VIII regions (Fig.2)**
- A0: True original iso-intensity VIII Soloviev & Go, 1975 & Kausel, 1986
  - A1+A2+A3: Original Iso-intensity VIII Kausel, 1986
  - A4: Drawing of Iso-intensity VIII by Comte & Pardo 1991
  - LTsu: Re-evaluated tsunami length of positive first wave (Fig.3)
- Recent earthquakes rupture zones**
- 2014 Iquique earthquakes Ruiz et al., 2014 (1m slip contours)
  - 2007 Tocopilla earthquake Bejar et al., 2011 (0.5m slip contours)
  - 1995 Antofagasta earthquake Chlieh et al., 2004 (3m slip contours)
- Coupling**
- Métouis et al., 2016 (18°S - 23°S)
  - Klein et al., 2018 (23°S - 28°S)



# Mmax for the North Chile



The  $b$ -value from ISC and historical catalogs peaks at about 0.8

**$M_{\text{wmax}}$  peaks at 8.8 with a recurrence time of ~2500 yrs (1000-6300 yrs)**

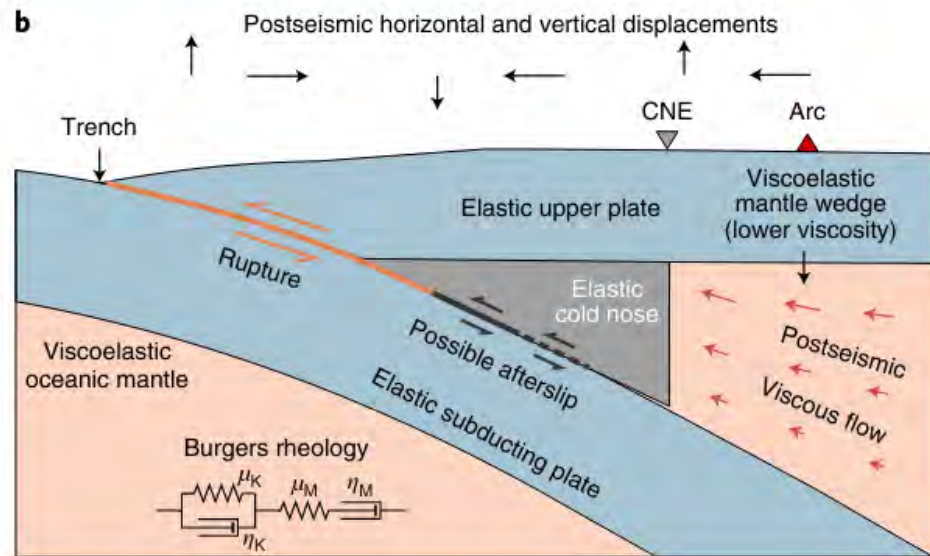
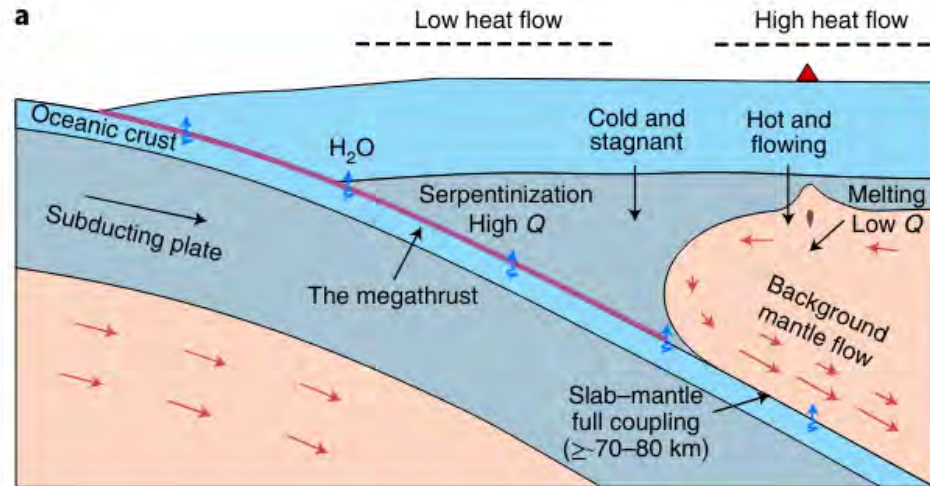
**Earthquakes larger than  $M_w$  9.1 are very improbable in the region (less than 2%)**

**The probability of having at least an  $M_w > 8.8$  in a 30, 100 and 1000 yr period is of ~ 1%, 4%, and 29%, respectively**

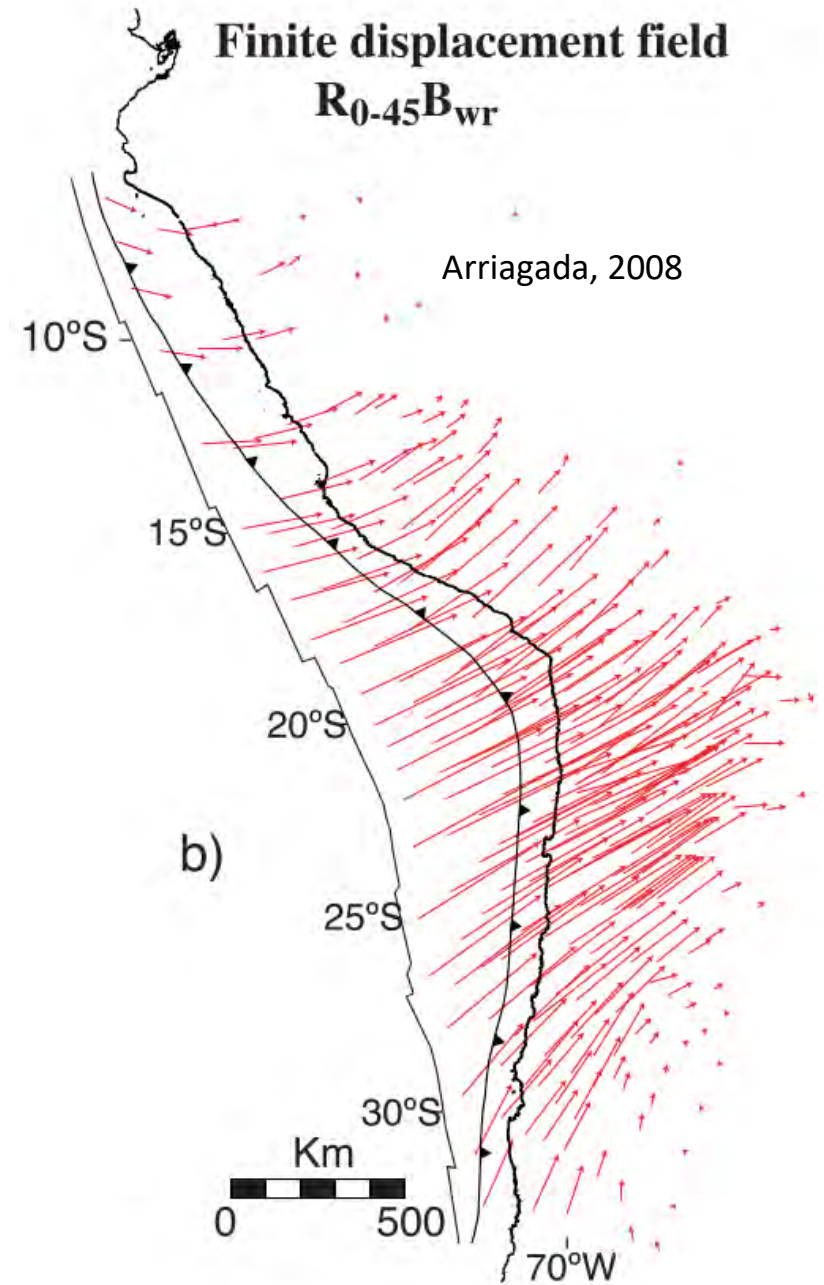


## Modelling Challenges

Take the rheology, seismic history and internal deformation into account  
To better quantify the time-dependent cumulative moment deficit



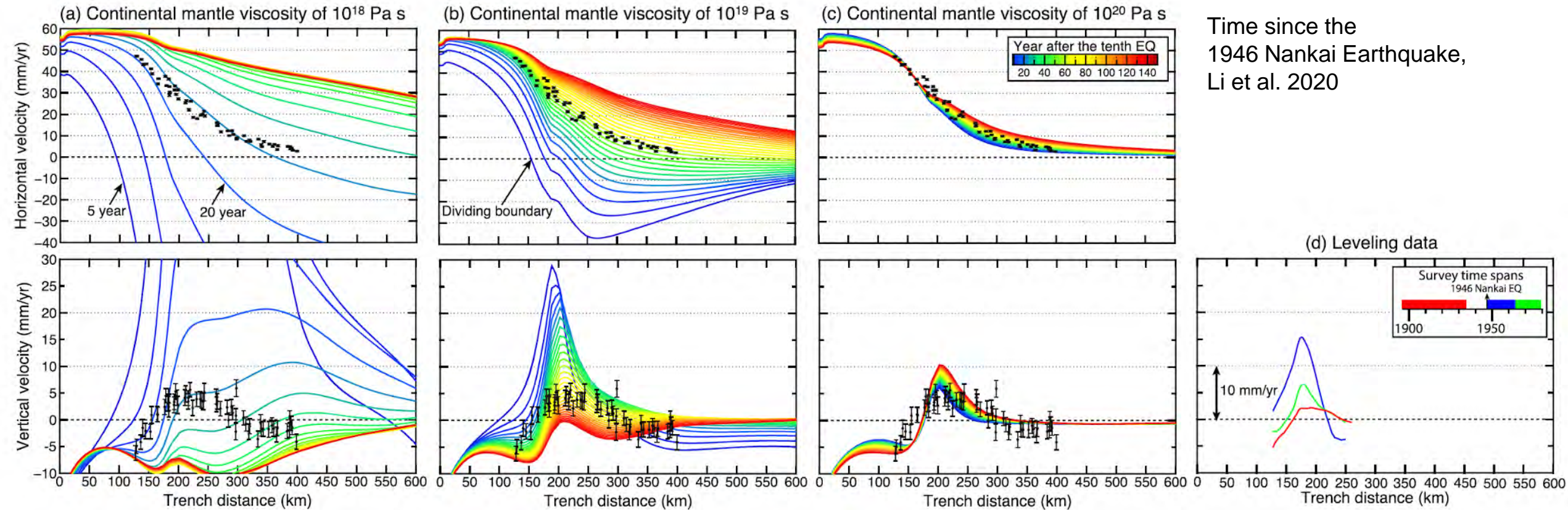
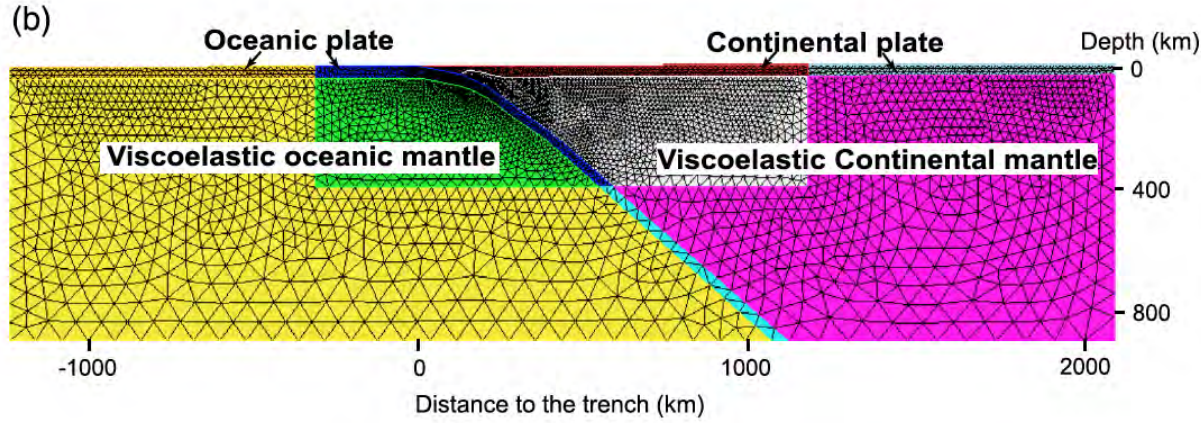
Luo & Wang 2021





## Viscoelastic effects on interseismic deformation

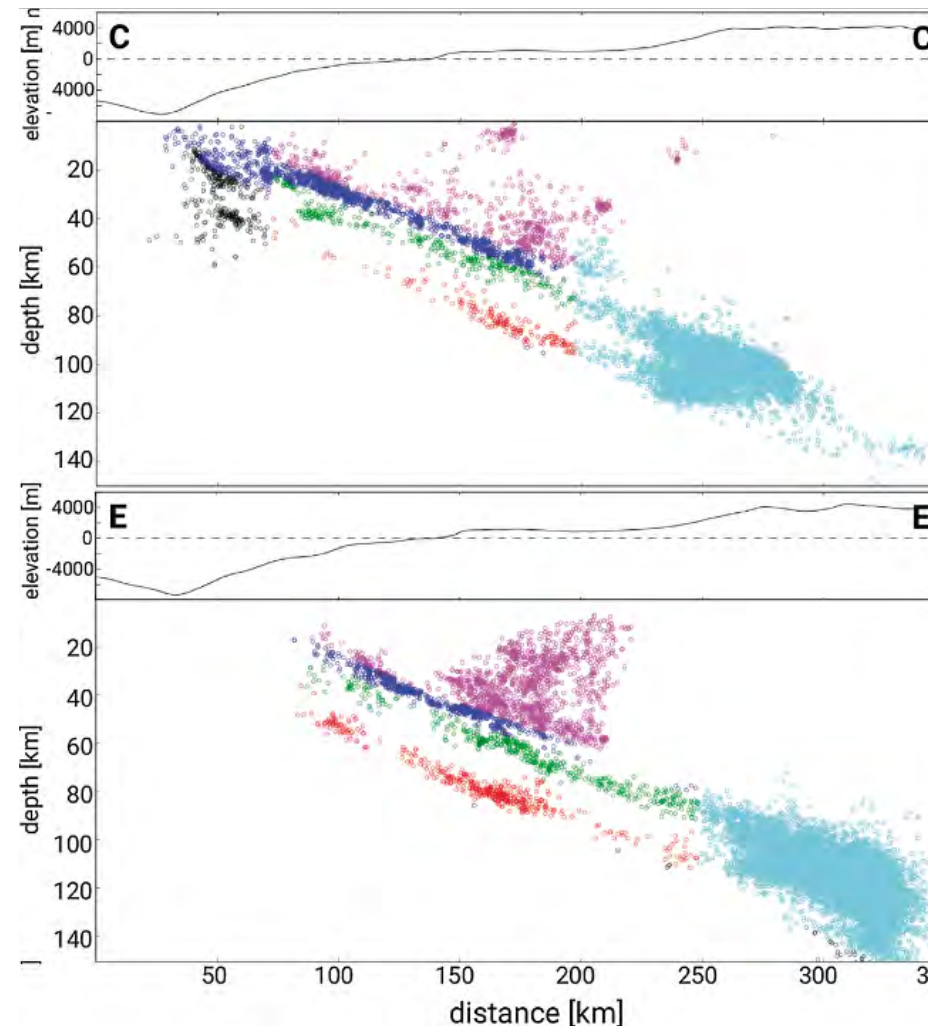
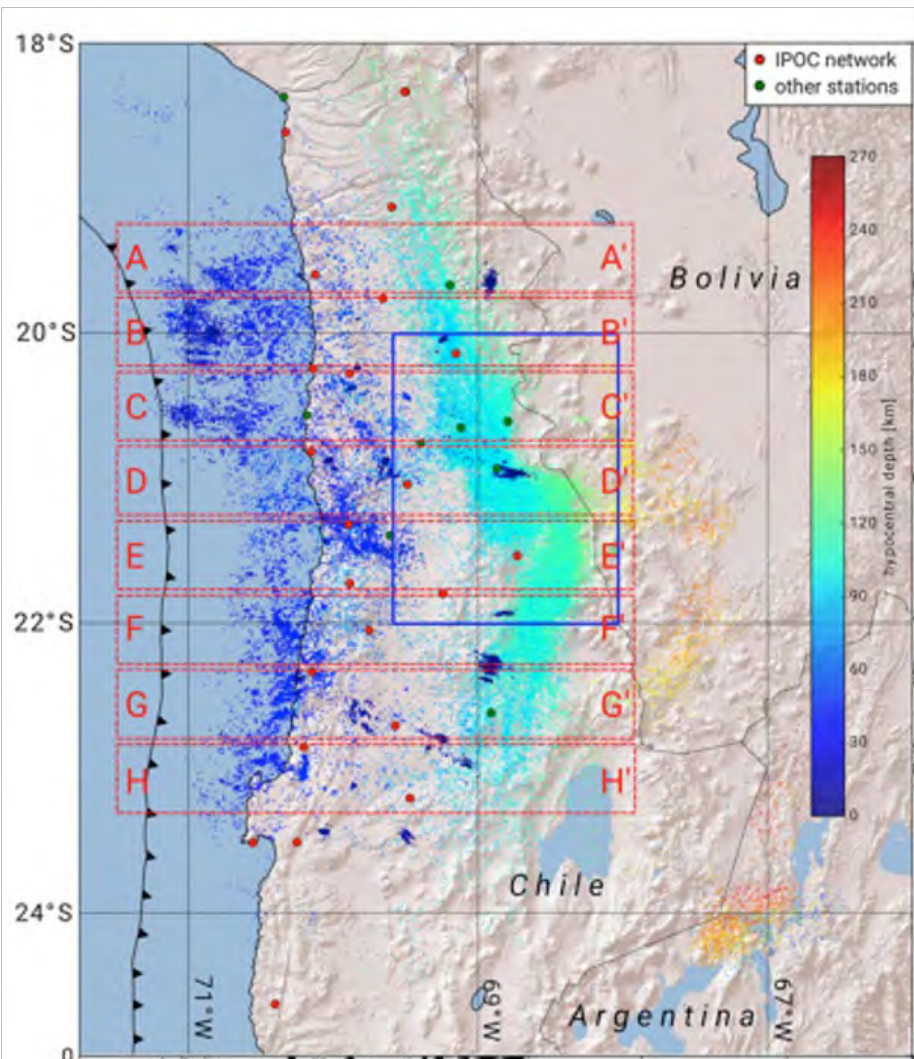
- Time-dependent modelling needed to take viscoelastic post-seismic relaxation into account



Time since the  
1946 Nankai Earthquake,  
Li et al. 2020



# IPOC seismic catalogue:



Improving seismic catalog with AI will provide better constraints on the b-value

But also on the slab geometry and then all models based on it !

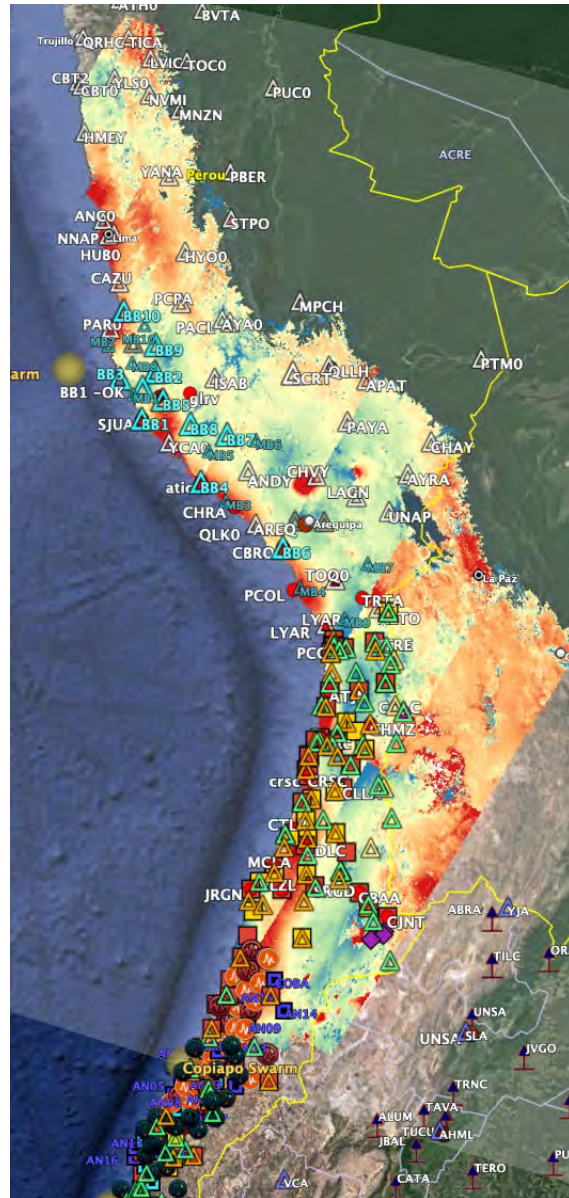
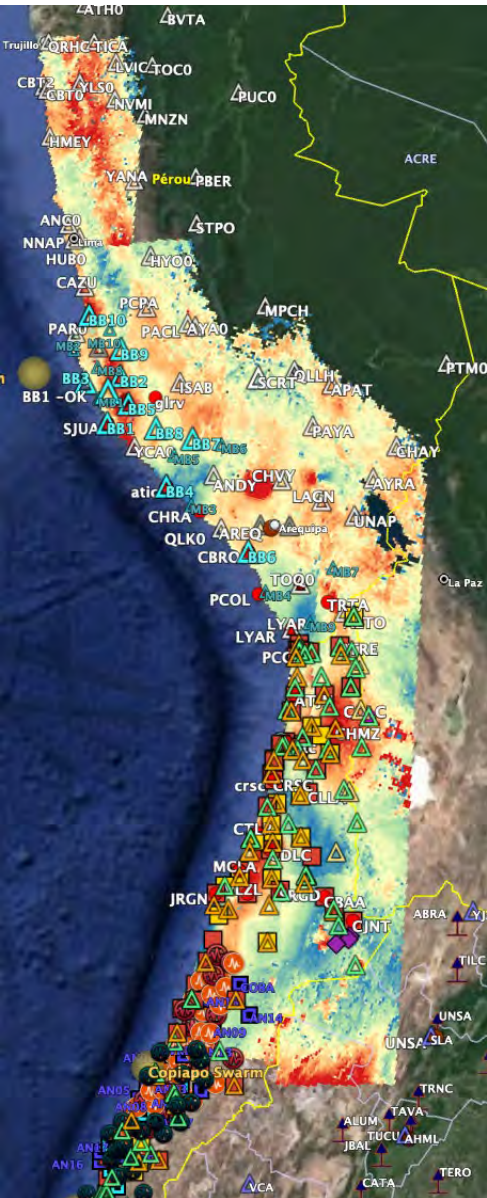
Schurr, Asch, & Kummerow (2018)  
Münchmeyer et al. (2020)



# New data: integrate Sentinel InSAR time series from FLATSIM service



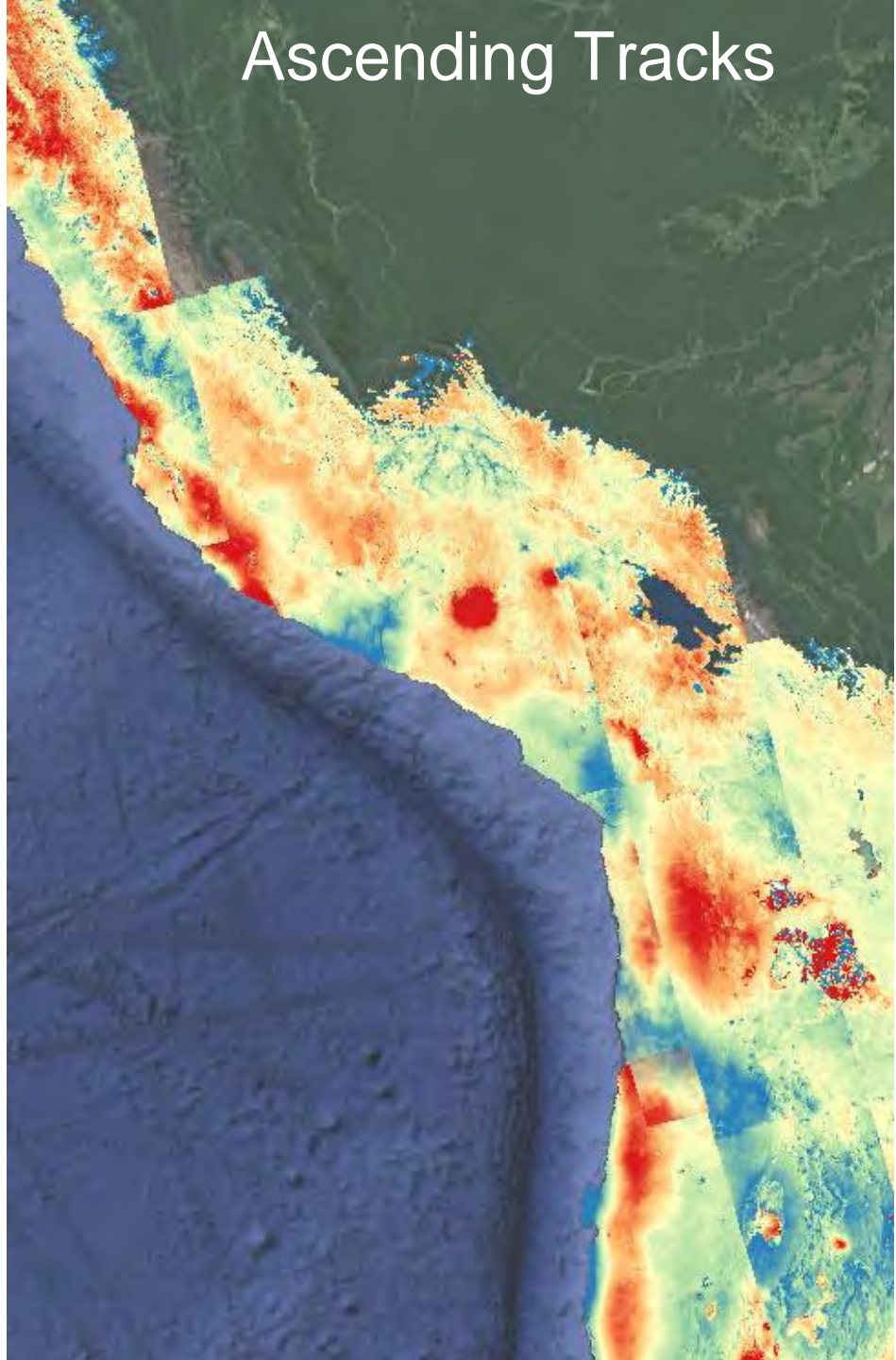
<https://www.poleterresolide.fr/projets/en-cours/flatsim/>



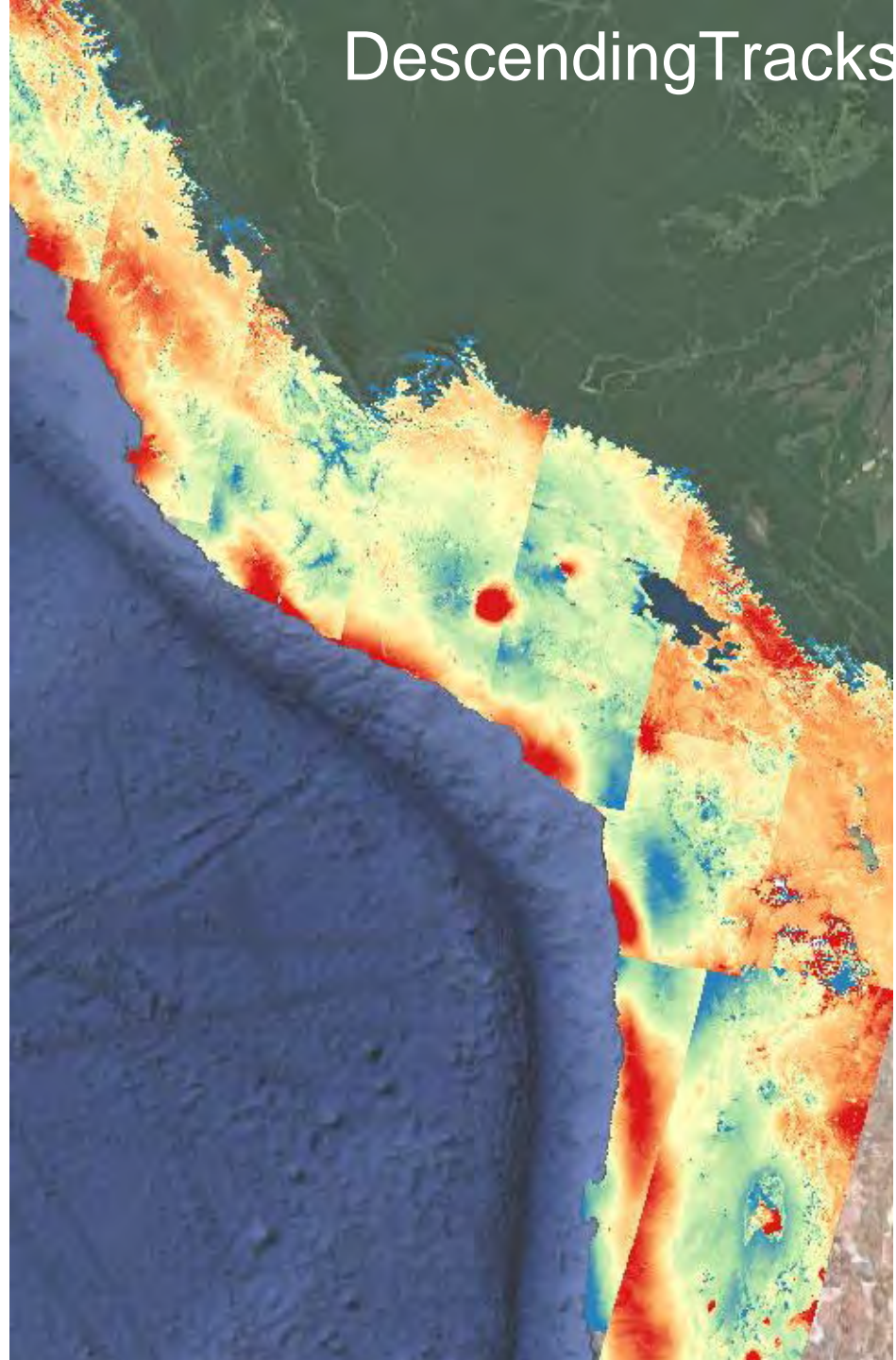
Processed with NSBAS (Marie-Pierre Doin et al. 2011)  
12 tracks recovering an Area : ~ 1 500 000 km<sup>2</sup>  
Time series between 2014 and 2021



Ascending Tracks

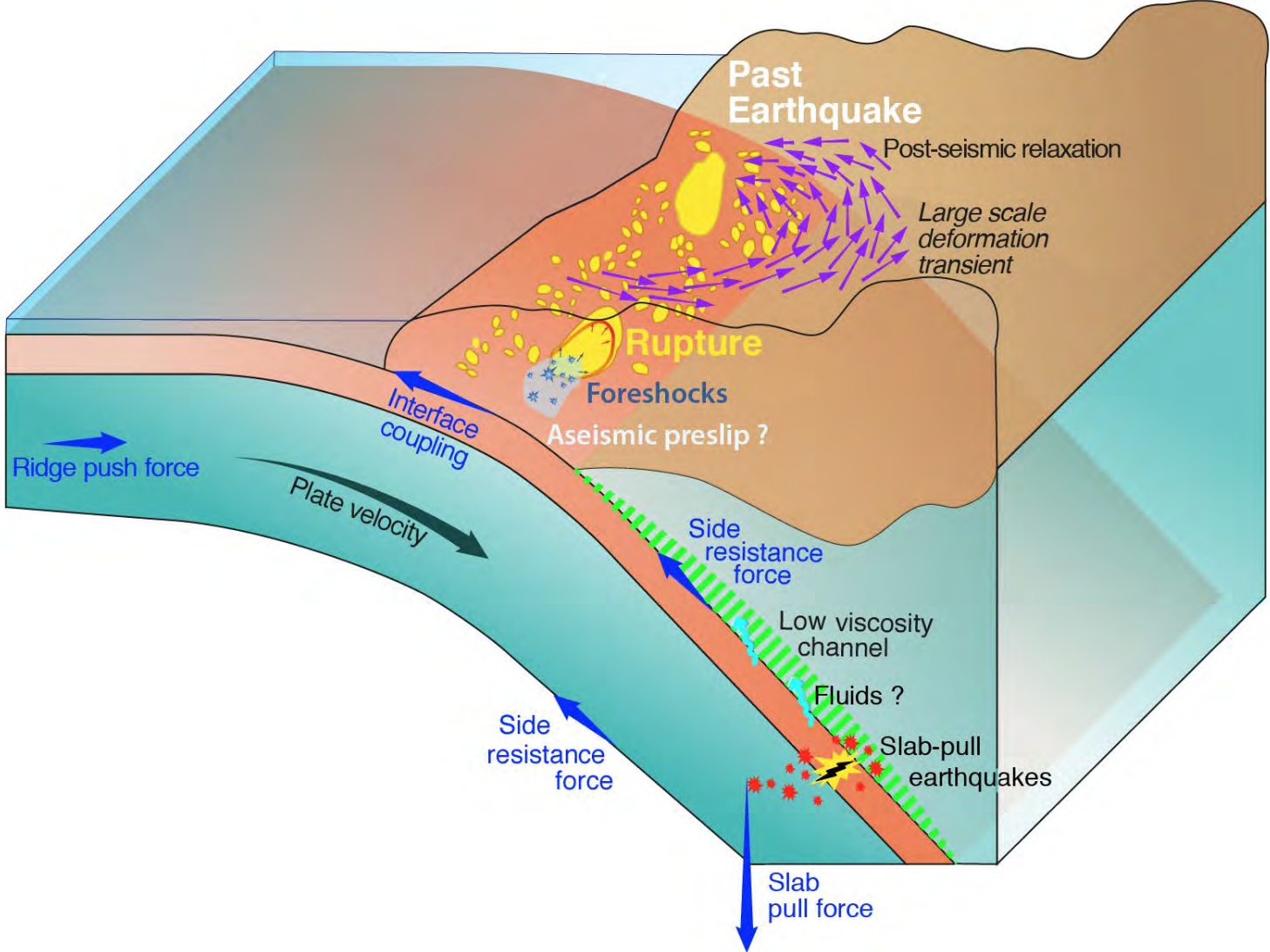


Descending Tracks



### Concluding remarks and take home message

- Patches with high locking indicate the location of seismic sources
- Patches with low locking suggest the presence of seismic barriers. Define a classification
- Strong Barriers ??? : Nazca Ridge, Arica bend, Mejillones Peninsula
- Weak Barriers ??? : Nazca fracture zone, Iquique-Pisagua ridge, ....
- Mwmax will depend on how many locked patches will break simultaneously

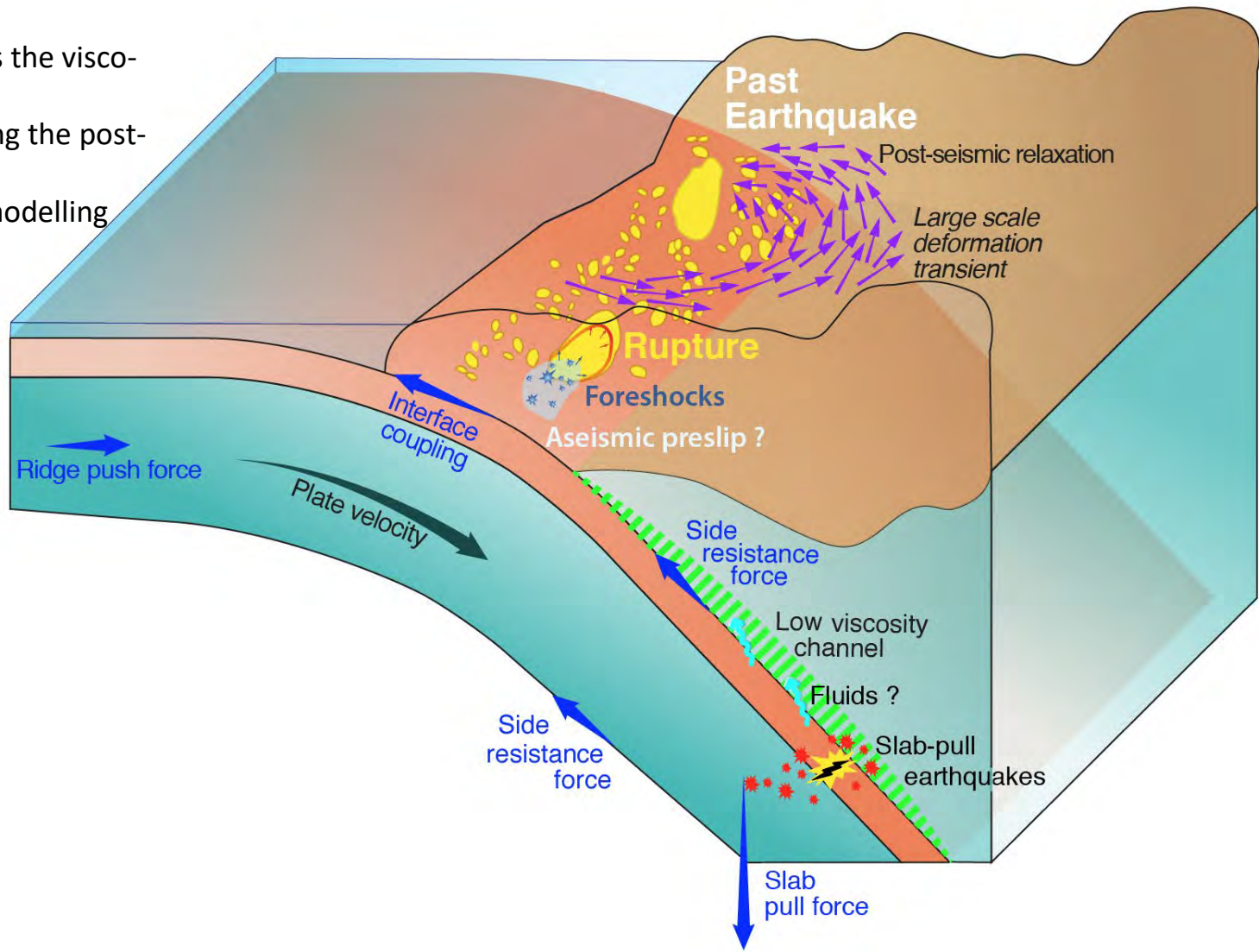




# Concluding remarks and take home message

Uncertainties and challenges:

- 1. Improve local seismic catalog and our knowledge of historical events → Better estimation of the b-value and slab geometry using IA
  - 2. Improve our knowledge of the local rheology and include in models the visco-elastic deformation and intracontinental deformation
  - 3. Quantify more precisely the transient aseismic slips that occur during the post-seismic and slow slip events
- coupling in Arica bend poorly constrained □ need for integrated modelling
  - New data to come (insar)





*Gracias*



*Arigatō*

