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### Key Points:

- We identify long, weak seismic radiation with enhanced high-frequency signals for the  $M_W$  7.5 and M5+ earthquakes in the Noto region
- Heterogeneous rupture with isolated asperities in the weak fluid-bearing fault zone is responsible for the abnormal seismic radiation
- The multi-asperity rupture model holds implications for seismic radiation of subduction zone large earthquakes and low-frequency earthquakes

### Supporting Information:

Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

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## Diverse Rupture Behaviors of M5 Earthquakes Reveal Heterogeneous Fluid Effects in Noto Peninsula, Central Japan

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**Abstract** The 15-s-long weak initial rupture of the 2024  $M_W$  7.5 Noto earthquake overlapped with a fluid-rich region of a preceding earthquake swarm and was accompanied by enhanced high-frequency seismic radiation. To understand the radiation and related source processes, we investigate rupture behaviors of four nearby M5+ events. We find that the 5 May 2023  $M_W$  5.7 event exhibits similar characteristic radiation, resulting in a relatively low source spectral decay rate. Apparent moment-rate functions and dynamic rupture simulations, constrained from near-source waveform data, consistently suggest a northeastward rupture with multiple asperities. Such rupture heterogeneities under a fluid-rich condition can explain the weak, long seismic radiation but with enhanced high-frequency signals in the  $M_W$  5.7 event and the initial rupture of the 2024  $M_W$  7.5 Noto earthquake. The multi-asperity model also holds implications for other observations, including the depth dependence of high-frequency radiation and the low spectral falloff rates observed for low-frequency earthquakes.

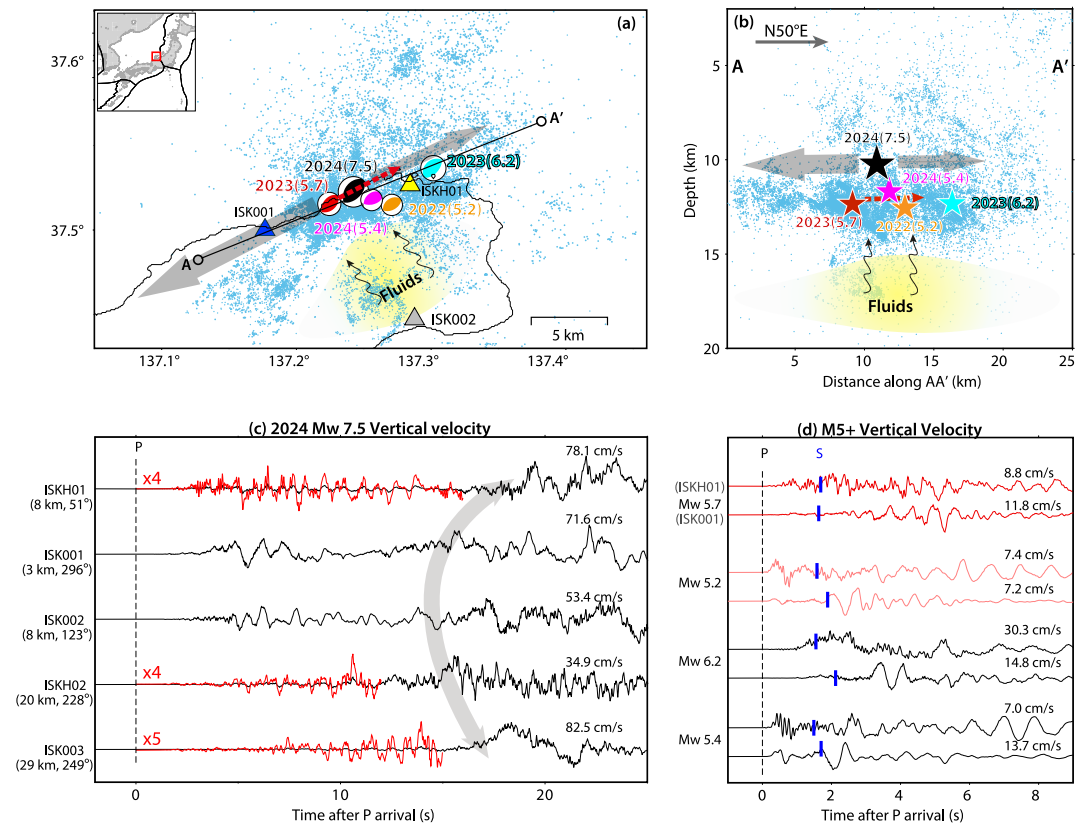
**Plain Language Summary** On 1 January 2024, an  $M_W$  7.5 event initiated beneath the Noto Peninsula in central Japan. A striking feature of this event is its strong high-frequency radiation during its 15-s-long weak initial rupture that spanned a fluid-rich region with an earthquake swarm persisting since 2022. To understand this weak, long seismic radiation with enhanced high-frequency content, we investigate 4 nearby M5+ earthquakes. We rule out the path effects with the empirical green function using nearby small earthquakes and confirm the enhanced high-frequency source radiation during the 5 May 2023  $M_W$  5.7 earthquake. Based on apparent moment-rate functions in the time domain and dynamic modeling, we propose a rupture model with multiple asperities for this  $M_W$  5.7 event. We deduce that ruptures of small isolated asperities could be responsible for the enhanced high-frequency radiation in the initial rupture of the 2024  $M_W$  7.5 event. Our study highlights rupture heterogeneities and the associated seismic observations under a fluid-rich condition.

## 1. Introduction

Since November 2022, an intense swarm has persisted within a reverse fault system beneath the northeastern Noto Peninsula, Japan. Multiple studies of the seismicity (Amezawa et al., 2023; Fukuoka et al., 2024; Hirose et al., 2024; Kato, 2024; Kumazawa & Ogata, 2024; Matsumoto & Yoshida, 2024; Ogata & Kumazawa, 2024; Peng et al., 2025; Takano et al., 2024; Yoshida et al., 2024), the velocity structure (Nakajima, 2022; Okada et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024; Yoshida, Uno, et al., 2023), the geodetic deformation field (Nishimura et al., 2023), and the geochemical signatures (Umeda et al., 2024) suggest that the swarm region has been experiencing fluid diffusion originating from downdip and possible aseismic slip. On 1 January 2024, an  $M_W$  7.5 event initiated from the swarm region and propagated bilaterally with a final extent of ~150 km (Fujii & Satake, 2024; Fukushima et al., 2024; Guo et al., 2024; Kutschera et al., 2024; Ma et al., 2024; Okuwaki et al., 2024; Shinohara et al., 2025; Xu et al., 2024; Yang et al., 2024), resulting in violent ground shaking and a tsunami (Suppasri et al., 2024; Yamanaka et al., 2024). A striking feature of this event is its 15-s-long weak and slow initial expanding (i.e., 0.5–1.0 km/s) within the swarm region (Aochi, 2024; Liu et al., 2024; Ma et al., 2024; Okuwaki et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2024; Yamada et al., 2025). Particularly, this weak and slow rupture stage is accompanied by rich high-frequency seismic signals as revealed by teleseismic back-projection (BP) analyses (Ma et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2024) and local strong-motion data (Figure 1c). The mechanism for this weak and slow seismic radiation with enhanced high-frequency content in the fluid-rich condition is intriguing.

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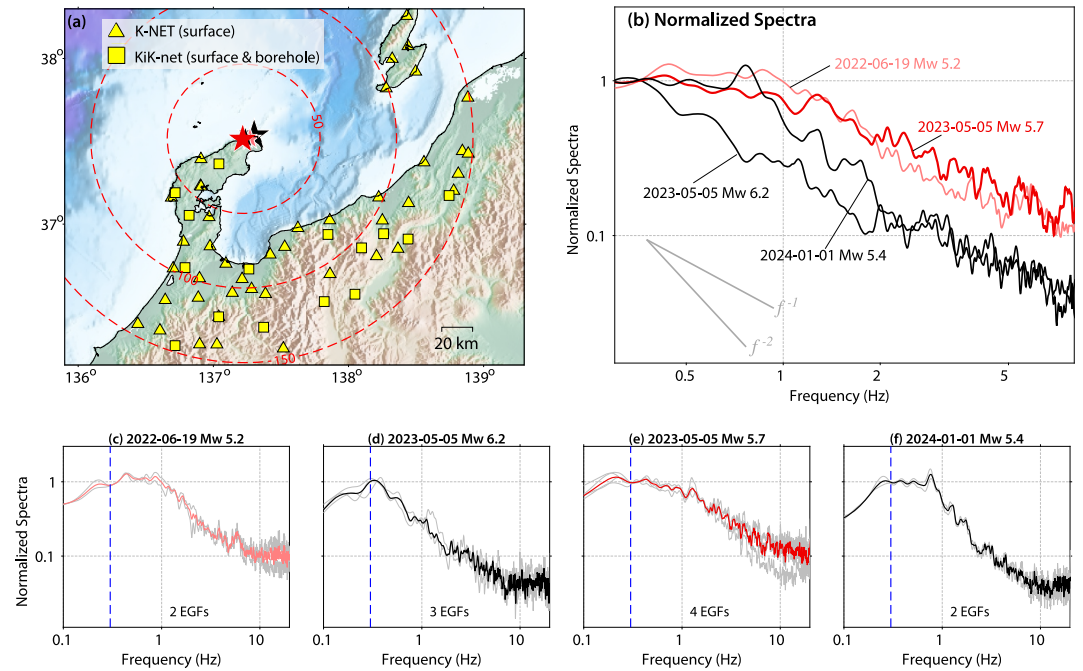


**Figure 1.** The distribution of M5.0+ events in the Noto region from 2022 to 2024 and nearby strong-motion observations. (a) Focal mechanisms of M5.0+ events from the NIED catalog with locations from Yoshida et al. (2024) and seismicity (blue dots) from March 2003 to the 2024  $M_w$  7.5 mainshock (Yoshida et al., 2024). The triangles show the locations of local strong-motion stations. The gray arrows indicate the rupture propagation of the 2024  $M_w$  7.5 event. The inset panel is the regional map with major plate boundaries (black lines). (b) A vertical cross-sectional view along the direction of N50°E (AA'). The stars denote the hypocenters of M5.0+ events. (c) Vertical velocity waveforms for the 2024  $M_w$  7.5 event at local strong-motion stations (station locations in Figure S1). (d) Vertical velocity waveforms for the four M5.0+ events at stations ISK001 and ISKH01. The waveforms are aligned by the manually picked P arrivals, with peak velocity amplitudes marked to the right.

Understanding high-frequency seismic signals is essential as it largely controls ground shaking intensity. However, given complexities of large earthquakes, elucidating the exact origins of high-frequency content remains challenging. Therefore, instead of the 2024  $M_w$  7.5 mainshock, here we focus on four nearby M5+ earthquakes (Figures 1a and 1b), including the 19 June 2022  $M_w$  5.2 event, the 05 May 2023  $M_w$  6.2 event, the 05 May 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event, and the 01 January 2024  $M_w$  5.4 foreshock that occurred 10 min prior to the mainshock. At two local strong-motion stations (ISKH01 and ISK001), we observe similar weak, prolonged high-frequency waves for the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event (Figure 1d). In this study, we investigate the source characteristics of the four M5+ events, with a particular focus on the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event.

## 2. Spectral Characteristics of M5+ Earthquakes

We conduct spectral analyses for the four M5+ events utilizing data from KiK-net and K-NET strong-motion networks operated by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, Japan (NIED) (Figure 2a). To obtain the source spectra, we apply nearby smaller earthquakes as empirical Green's functions (EGFs) to represent propagation and site effects. We consider EGF events featuring similar reverse faulting mechanisms with target events. Recordings at stations located 20–150 km from the sources are considered. Ultimately, we identify 2 EGF events for the 2022  $M_w$  5.2 event, 3 EGF events for the 2023  $M_w$  6.2 event, 4 EGF events for the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event, and 2 EGF events for the 2024  $M_w$  5.4 event (Figures S1–S11 in Supporting



**Figure 2.** Spectra analysis for the four  $M_{5.0+}$  events using  $S$  waves. (a) The distribution of four  $M_{5.0+}$  earthquakes (stars) and regional strong motion stations within 150 km (yellow triangles and squares). The hypocenters of the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 and the 2022  $M_w$  5.2 events are marked in red and light red, respectively. The hypocenters of the other two events are marked in black. (b) The average empirical Green's function (EGF)-corrected source spectra of the four  $M_{5.0+}$  earthquakes, with spectral amplitudes normalized against the corresponding average level in the frequency band of 0.3–0.4 Hz. (c–f) The source spectra corrected using different EGFs (gray) and their average spectra for the four  $M_{5.0+}$  events, respectively. The spectra of the  $M_w$  5.7 event and the  $M_w$  5.2 events are plotted in red and light red respectively to emphasize the potential abnormal falloff rates. The dashed blue lines mark the potential truncation frequency of 0.3 Hz.

Information S1). Consistent spectral ratios with different EGF events suggest that the first-order feature in the spectral shape is robust (Figure 2).

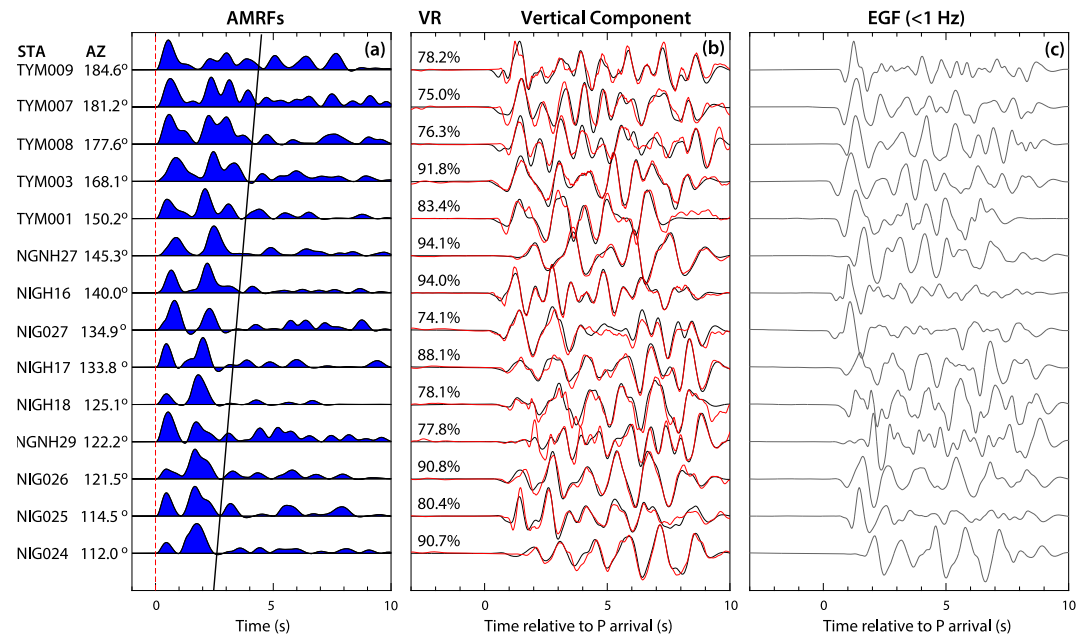
For each target event and each EGF event, we calculate the spectral ratios using  $P$ - and  $S$ -wave windows. We select data with signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) higher than 3 in the frequency band of 0.3–10 Hz. The  $P$  window starts 2 s before the  $P$  arrival and ends 1 s before the  $S$  arrival, and a minimum window length of 5 s is required to ensure that the entire  $P$  phase is captured. However, after applying this criterion, the qualified  $P$ -wave traces of EGF events are inadequate for a robust analysis. Consequently, we use  $S$  waves for the EGF corrections. The  $S$ -wave window starts 2 s before the  $S$  arrival with a length of 20 s. We then normalize the  $S$ -wave spectra according to their average amplitudes in the frequency band of 0.3–0.4 Hz. Finally, we take the average spectra corrected by different EGF events as the source spectra (Figures 2b–2f). Detailed spectral ratio calculation results are presented in Figures S1–S11 in Supporting Information S1.

Earthquake source spectra can be represented by a generalized Brune's model (Brune, 1970):

$$S(f) = \frac{M_0}{1 + (f/f_c)^n} \quad (1)$$

where the spectrum ( $S$ ) is characterized by the seismic moment ( $M_0$ ), the corner frequency ( $f_c$ ) related to the source duration, and the logarithmic falloff rate ( $n$ ). As shown in Figure 2b, it appears that all spectra fall off linearly to 8 Hz, above which the spectra start turning flat (Figures 2c–2f). This cutoff frequency corresponds to the corner frequencies of the EGF events. Below 8 Hz, the source spectra are nearly free of bias from EGF events.

We roughly determine the corner frequencies ( $f_c$ ) of the 2022  $M_w$  5.2 event and the 2024  $M_w$  5.4 event by fitting the spectra using Equation 1 in the frequency bin of 0.3–5 Hz, which covers the low-frequency plateau and avoids the high-frequency contributions of EGFs. The optimal  $f_c$  are 1.5 Hz and 1.0 Hz with falloff rates of 2.0 and 1.9 for



**Figure 3.** Apparent moment rate function (AMRF) deconvolution results for the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event. (a) AMRFs of the  $M_w$  5.7 mainshock using the empirical Green's function (EGF) event on 8 March 2022 ( $M_w$  4.7; EGF1), with station names (STA) and azimuths (AZ) labeled. The black solid line indicates the possible rupture directivity effect. (b) The synthetic (red) and observed (black) vertical  $P$  waves lowpass filtered with 1 Hz for the mainshock, respectively. (c) The vertical  $P$  waves of the EGF event, lowpass filtered with 1 Hz.

the  $M_w$  5.2 and the  $M_w$  5.4 events, respectively. Due to the poor instrumental response below 0.3 Hz, we do not obtain a clear low-frequency spectral plateau for the  $M_w$  5.7 and  $M_w$  6.2 events, indicating potential  $f_c$  close to or below 0.3 Hz. Previous studies using seismic and geodetic data suggest a total duration of  $\sim 10$  s with a 6-s-long major energy pulse for the  $M_w$  6.2 event (Asano & Iwata, 2025; Liu et al., 2024; Yoshida, Uchida, et al., 2023), while the source process of the  $M_w$  5.7 event remains unexplored.

Particularly, the source spectra of the M5+ events exhibit varying falloff rates (Figure 2b). The source spectrum of the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event decays obviously slower compared to the 2023  $M_w$  6.2 and the 2024  $M_w$  5.4 events, while the 2022  $M_w$  5.2 event falls between them (Figure 2b). Notably, the local strong-motion records for the  $M_w$  5.2 event also exhibit prolonged waves, though less pronounced than those in the  $M_w$  5.7 event (Figure 1d). To further validate the results of different falloff rates and its dependence on seismic phases (P and S), we calculate the spectral ratios between those M5+ events (Figures S12–S15 in Supporting Information S1) with the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event as the numerator using the  $P$ -wave window,  $S$ -wave window, and the window that includes both P and S phases (a 35-s-long window starting 2 s before the P arrival). As shown in Figure S15 in Supporting Information S1, the spectral ratios commonly feature a slope of  $f^1$  in the frequency band of 0.5–2 Hz no matter which time window is used. The spectral decay rates above 2 Hz in those 4 M5+ events are similar, as indicated by their nearly flat spectral ratios (Figure S15 in Supporting Information S1). The relative intensity of the high-frequency content above 2 Hz scales with the moment magnitude: the  $M_w$  5.7 event exhibits stronger radiation than the  $M_w$  5.2 and  $M_w$  5.4 events, but weaker than the  $M_w$  6.2 event.

### 3. Apparent Moment Rate Functions of the 2023 $M_w$ 5.7 Event

To investigate the rupture process of the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event, we adopt the EGF method to calculate the apparent moment-rate functions (AMRFs) through time-domain deconvolutions, following a similar procedure proposed by Ye et al. (2020) and Gong et al. (2022). The 8 March 2022  $M_w$  4.7 event is selected as the EGF event (EGF1) (Figure S16 in Supporting Information S1). We use vertical  $P$  acceleration waveforms windowed starting 5 s before the P arrivals and ending before the S arrivals for deconvolutions (Figures 3b and 3c). Waveforms are filtered to below 1 Hz. With a positivity constraint, we obtain 14 AMRFs in the azimuthal range from  $112^\circ$  to  $185^\circ$  with variance reductions exceeding 75% in waveform fitting (Figure 3).



The AMRFs feature 2 primary energy pulses with total durations of 2.5–4.5 s (Figure 3a). Stations located in the south tend to have more energy pulses and longer durations (Figure 3a). To examine the robustness, we perform deconvolutions using 3 other EGF events, including the 3 October 2021  $M_w$  3.9 (EGF2), 21 December 2021  $M_w$  3.9 (EGF3), and 4 April 2022  $M_w$  4.1 (EGF4). Although the numbers of AMRFs are limited, the results align well with the results using EGF1 regarding major energy pulses and durations (Figure S16 in Supporting Information S1). In addition, we test deconvolutions with lowpass filters of 0.5 Hz and 2 Hz. The results of 0.5 Hz exhibit 2 stable energy pulses (Figure S17 in Supporting Information S1), and the results of 2 Hz demonstrate instability characterized by multiple 0.5-s-long energy spikes (Figure S18 in Supporting Information S1), while the azimuthal dependence of the total duration remains. Overall, the AMRFs suggest a complex energy release process (Figure 3a).

We then conduct directivity analysis based on the AMRFs. We calculate the directivity parameters for each station,  $\zeta = p \cos(\theta_{\text{sta}} - \theta_{\text{rup}})$ , in which  $p$  is the ray parameter,  $\theta_{\text{sta}}$  is the station azimuth, and  $\theta_{\text{rup}}$  is the azimuth of the average rupture direction. The durations of AMRFs ( $T$ ) should be proportional to  $\zeta$ ,  $T = T_0 + \zeta L$ , in which  $T_0$  is the true rupture duration and  $L$  is the rupture length. Using the durations of AMRFs as the constraint, we search for the optimal  $L$  and  $\theta_{\text{rup}}$ . The minimum residual is achieved with  $\theta_{\text{rup}}$  of N60°E and  $L$  of 8 km (Figure S19 in Supporting Information S1). Due to the limited azimuthal coverage of AMRFs,  $\theta_{\text{rup}}$  in the range of N20°E–N100°E can fit the durations nearly equally with a rupture length of 8–12 km (Figure S19 in Supporting Information S1).

#### 4. Dynamic Rupture Models With Near-Source Observations

We further investigate the source process of the  $M_w$  5.7 event using near-source observations and dynamic rupture models. The two nearest strong-motion stations, ISK001 and ISKH01, are located within 10 km from the epicenter. We find atypical multiple wiggles and prolonged durations in recordings of the  $M_w$  5.7 event (Figure 1d). Such feature is absent in the recordings for other M5+ events (Figure 1d), ruling out strong site effects. Here, we conduct dynamic rupture simulations for the  $M_w$  5.7 event and constrain the models using data at stations ISK001 and ISKH01.

A 3-D elastic domain with an embedded reverse planar fault is constructed. The model domain extends 40 km along the strike, 40 km along the strike-normal direction, and 30 km in the vertical direction. The embedded fault extends 15 km along the strike and 20 km in the strike-normal direction with the strike (i.e., N50°E) and the dip angle (i.e., 40°) following the focal mechanism of the  $M_w$  5.7 event reported by NIED. The grid size is 50 m on the fault and gradually increases to 1 km at domain boundaries. A layered velocity model that combines the local shallow-5-km velocity structure (<https://www.j-shis.bosai.go.jp/map/JSNIS2/download.html?lang=en>) and the CRUST1.0 model (Laske et al., 2013) is adopted to prescribe material properties (Table S1 in Supporting Information S1).

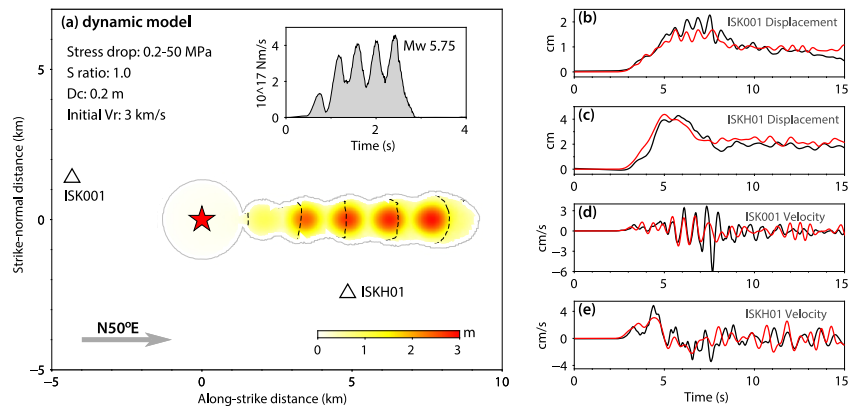
A linear slip-weakening law is adopted as the constitutive law on the fault, in which the frictional strength ( $\tau_f$ ) decreases linearly with the slip ( $\xi$ ) from the static friction ( $\tau_s$ ) to the dynamic friction ( $\tau_d$ ) within the critical weakening distance ( $D_c$ ):

$$\tau_f(\xi) = \begin{cases} \tau_s - \frac{\xi}{D_c} \times (\tau_s - \tau_d), & \xi < D_c \\ \tau_d, & \xi \geq D_c \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

We set  $D_c$  and  $\tau_d$  to be 0.1 m and 20 MPa, respectively. We prescribe the initial shear stress ( $\tau_i$ ) to be purely reverse with a background level of 20 MPa and extra stress inside asperities. The effective normal stress ( $\sigma_n$ ) is prescribed to be 100 MPa. The yield stress  $\tau_s$  is set according to the initial shear stress ( $\tau_i$ ) distribution, controlled by a stress ratio ( $S$ ):

$$(\tau_s - \tau_i) = S * (\tau_i - \tau_d) \quad (3)$$

We assume  $S$  to be 1. To confine the rupture extent, we set a high  $\tau_s$  of 200 MPa outside asperities. Ruptures are nucleated at the hypocentral depth of 12.3 km with an initial rupture speed of 3 km/s. A time step of 0.002 s is



**Figure 4.** A multi-asperity dynamic rupture model for the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 earthquake. (a) The final slip, nucleation site (red star), rupture contours every 0.5 s, and moment-rate function of the dynamic model. The triangles denote the locations of two near-source stations ISK001 and ISKH01. (b, c) The synthetic (red) and observed (black) vertical displacement at stations ISK001 and ISKH01. (d, e) The synthetic (red) and observed (black) vertical velocity waveforms at stations ISK001 and ISKH01. The time zero is the earthquake origin time. Both the data and synthetic waveforms are low-pass filtered below 2 Hz.

adopted. We use the open-source finite-element tool PyLith (Aagaard et al., 2013) to run the fully dynamic rupture simulations.

We first test two-asperity models (Figure S20 in Supporting Information S1) with rupture directions of  $N10^\circ E$ ,  $N50^\circ E$ , and  $N90^\circ E$  and rupture lengths of  $\sim 10$  km, as informed by the AMRFs. The moment magnitudes are 5.76 with total source durations of  $\sim 3.4$  s, comparable to the estimates from AMRFs. The average rupture speed is  $\sim 3$  km/s. The stress drop of the two asperities is 3 and 5 MPa, respectively, with a peak slip of  $\sim 0.9$  m. We find that the directivity controls the relatively amplitudes of displacement and velocity at stations ISKH01 and ISK001 (Figure S20 in Supporting Information S1). The comparison between synthetic waveforms and data suggests a preferred directivity of  $N50^\circ E$ , close to the strike direction. This preferred model can fit the long-period waveform signatures, including total deformation durations and static displacements, but fails to explain the multiple wiggles at ISK001 (Figure S20 in Supporting Information S1).

The AMRFs in Figure 3 commonly suggest two energy pulses. However, the results are obtained with a lowpass filter of 1 Hz applied, which may wipe out high-frequency details. Moreover, AMRFs below 2 Hz generally feature more energy pulses. Therefore, we test dynamic rupture models with more asperities. As shown in Figure 4, the synthetics in the 6-asperity model much improve in fitting the displacement and velocity waveforms at stations ISK001 with multiple wiggles (Figures 4b and 4d). In our models, the amplitudes of wiggles depend on the energy release intensity at asperities with higher stress drops leading to larger velocity amplitudes (Figure S21 in Supporting Information S1). Based on the observed mild deformation onsets at both stations and following large velocity wiggles, we suggest that the rupture should involve a weak asperity initially and then break several strong asperities (Figure 4 and Figure S21 in Supporting Information S1). The energy radiated from those asperities overlaps in the forward side of rupture propagation (ISKH01) while being more separated as multiple peaks in the backward side (ISK001) (Figures 4b–4e). It is important to note that our objective is not to achieve perfect fitting on the waveforms or resolve detailed dynamic parameters. Rather, we aim to recover the first-order characteristics. Overall, the dynamic models, informed by near source strong-motion records, suggest a north-eastward rupture with multiple asperities.

We further compare the source spectra of dynamic models with the observed source spectra of the  $M_w$  5.7 event. Due to the presence of multiple energy pulses, the 6-asperity dynamic model shows a similar low average falloff rate in the frequency band of 0.5–2 Hz (Figure S22 in Supporting Information S1).

## 5. Discussion

The rupture of the  $M_w$  5.7 event resides in the fluid-rich area. According to the catalog (Yoshida et al., 2024), the swarm had extended beneath the Noto peninsula before the occurrence of the 2023  $M_w$  5.7 event. The hypocenter

and the possible rupture zone of the  $M_W$  5.7 event are located inside the area of the persisting swarm (Figure S23 in Supporting Information S1). According to previous studies, the migration of the swarm seismicity has been commonly suggested to be associated with fluid diffusion in the fault system (e.g., Kato, 2024; Umeda et al., 2024; Yoshida et al., 2024). Therefore, we believe that the  $M_W$  5.7 occurred under a fluid-rich condition. After the 2023 M5+ sequence, the swarm area remained active with a further up-dip seismicity migration (Figure S23 in Supporting Information S1).

The swarm and the multi-asperity rupture of the  $M_W$  5.7 event suggest a heterogeneous stress condition in this fault system. Natural faults are inherently heterogeneous in fault geometry, material properties, and stress, which control fault slip behaviors. The involvement of fluids can further enhance the heterogeneity. Due to the intrinsic permeability variations, the distribution of fluids in the fault system is uneven, leading to spatially heterogeneous fault stress perturbation. Regions of elevated fluid pressure are weakened through a reduction of effective normal stress and frictional strength, which promotes aseismic or seismic fault slip (mostly as swarm events). Conversely, low-pore-pressure zones hold asperities that remain locked and accumulate stress. We interpret the  $M_W$  5.7 as the rupture of several asperities that had been progressively loaded by the preceding swarm activity. The rupture started with a relatively weak asperity and occasionally triggered the breaking of a neighboring critically stressed strong asperity, leading to intense coseismic stress loading and cascading rupture of more asperities. This heterogeneous rupture process resulted in the prolonged high-frequency signals and the abnormal spectral decay rate in the frequency band of 0.5–2 Hz. Considering the spatial proximity to the 2024  $M_W$  7.5 event, we deduce that the long, weak radiation with enhanced high-frequency signals of the  $M_W$  7.5 event may also be the manifestation of failures of small asperities under a similar local heterogeneous stress condition.

The small isolated multiple asperities have also been used to explain depth-dependent seismic radiation behaviors in subduction zones to reconcile the depth dependence of slip distribution and the high-frequency coherent radiators from teleseismic BP images for great megathrust events, such as in the 2011 Tohoku  $M_W$  9.0 and the 2010 Chile  $M_W$  8.8 events (Lay et al., 2012). The high-frequency content gets enhanced with depth according to spectral analyses for global large megathrust earthquakes (Ye et al., 2016) and for individual subduction zones (i.e., Ye et al., 2013). Such high-frequency enrichment has been proposed to be associated with consecutive breaking of isolated small-scale patches surrounded by the weak aseismic area (Lay et al., 2012; Ye et al., 2016). Similarly, the  $M_W$  5.7 event broke multiple asperities in a fault zone weakened by fluids. Our observations and dynamic models demonstrate how multiple asperities can influence the high-frequency seismic signals and provide a quantitative modeling of this effect, although the number of asperities involved is limited.

Tectonic low-frequency earthquakes (LFEs) and very-low-frequency earthquakes (VLFs) also feature relatively low spectral decay rates with relatively weak but pronounced high-frequency seismic radiation (e.g., Ide et al., 2007; Plourde et al., 2015; Shelly et al., 2007). But due to the relatively long source durations and low corner frequencies, their high-frequency radiation is overall depleted compared to normal earthquakes with similar moment magnitudes. Ando et al. (2010) and Gomberg et al. (2016) also propose source models composed of a cluster of smaller events and/or tremors, in which the spectra slowly decay between the frequencies corresponding to the entire cluster duration and the characteristic duration of individual subevents. Our proposed multi-asperity model for the 2023  $M_W$  5.7 event is an analog to such VLF and LFE source models. The identified critical frequency of 2 Hz, above which the source spectrum of the  $M_W$  5.7 event decays similarly to other M5+ events, corresponds to the rupture durations ( $\sim 0.5$  s) of individual asperities (Figure 4).

## 6. Conclusion

In this study, we identify enhanced high-frequency seismic signals and an abnormally low spectral falloff rate for the 2023  $M_W$  5.7 event in the Noto swarm region. With the apparent moment-rate functions in the time domain and the dynamic modeling, constrained by the near-source strong-motion data, we propose that the enhanced high-frequency seismic radiation is due to the rupture of multiple isolated asperities in the relatively weak fluid-bearing fault zone. Such multi-asperity rupture model can explain the weak, prolonged seismic radiation with enhanced high-frequency content in the swarm region during the 15-s-long initial rupture of the 2024  $M_W$  7.5 earthquake (Ma et al., 2024; Xu et al., 2024), the enrichment of high-frequency content and slow spectral decay for large downdip megathrust earthquakes (Ye et al., 2013, 2016), the enhanced downdip high-frequency radiation in great megathrust events (Lay et al., 2012), and the slow spectral decay rates of LFEs and VLFs (Ando et al., 2010; Gomberg et al., 2016).

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest relevant to this study.

## Data Availability Statement

The waveform data used in this study are strong-motion data recorded by networks of KiK-net and K-NET, which can be publicly accessed at [https://www.kyoshin.bosai.go.jp/kyoshin/quake/index\\_en.html](https://www.kyoshin.bosai.go.jp/kyoshin/quake/index_en.html). The focal mechanisms used in this study are from the NIED catalog, which can be accessed at <https://www.fnet.bosai.go.jp/event/search.php?LANG=en>.

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