

1 **Using Daily Observations from Planet Labs Satellite Imagery to**
2 **Separate the Surface Deformation Between the July 4th M_w 6.4**
3 **Foreshock and July 5th M_w 7.1 Mainshock During the 2019**
4 **Ridgecrest Earthquake Sequence.**

5

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8

9 **Abstract**

10 On July 4th 2019 the Ridgecrest earthquake sequence began with a series of foreshocks including
11 a M_w 6.4 event near Searles Valley, California. This was then followed 34 hours later by a M_w 7.1
12 mainshock located just 15 km to the north, with the earthquake sequence resulting in a complex
13 array of intersecting faults. This earthquake sequence poses several interesting questions including,
14 did the stress changes induced by the M_w 6.4 foreshock trigger the M_w 7.1 mainshock and what
15 possible mechanism(s) could explain the occurrence of widespread secondary faulting surrounding
16 both surface ruptures? However, most of the geodetic data (such as InSAR, lidar and optical
17 satellite imagery), were acquired after both events had occurred making it difficult to discern which
18 surface fractures happened when and their possible triggering mechanism. Here we provide a
19 dataset composed of high-resolution optical imagery, pixel-value difference maps, .kmz fracturing
20 mapping and horizontal deformation maps derived from subpixel image correlation, which can
21 uniquely separate the surface fracturing and deformation between the foreshock and mainshock
22 events that can help answer these questions. Separate imaging of the events is made possible by

23 the daily acquisition of optical imagery by the Planet labs cubesat constellation, which acquired
24 data between the two earthquakes, on the morning of July 4th and 5th, at 11.13 am and 17.12 pm
25 PST, respectively, with the images acquired just 40 minutes after the foreshock and 56 minutes
26 before the mainshock, respectively. Analysis from these optical imagery reveals the location of
27 surface faulting that allow us to map their spatial extent and determine their timing. These data
28 which we provide here can help guide and validate field survey observations to help understand
29 which faults ruptured when, and constrain slip inversion models for more accurate estimates of
30 stress changes induced by the foreshock imposed on the surrounding faults.

31

32 **Keywords:** Ridgecrest, surface deformation, fractures, displacement, triggering

33 **Introduction**

34 The 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake sequence initiated on the morning of July 4th, ~15 km east of the
35 city of Ridgecrest, California, within the Eastern California Shear Zone (ECSZ), a 160 km wide
36 region of NW-trending dextral shearing that accommodates ~10-20% of the Pacific-North
37 America plate boundary motion (McClusky et al., 2001; Rockwell et al., 2000). This region has
38 hosted three historical major events including the 1873 Owens valley earthquake located 45 km to
39 the north of the Ridgecrest rupture, and the 1992 M_w 7.3 Landers and 1999 M_w 7.1 Hector Mine
40 ruptures both located ~110 km to the SE in the Mojave Desert. The Ridgecrest earthquake
41 sequence began with a series of foreshocks that preceded a M_w 6.4 event which occurred at 10.33
42 am PST on July 4th, south of China Lake that was mostly left-lateral, but possibly also involved
43 rupture of north-west striking right-lateral faults (Fig. 1) (Chen et al., 2019). This was then

44 followed by a series of aftershocks (now designated as foreshocks to the mainevent), including a
45 M_w 5.0, and a M_w 5.4 on July 5th, at 4.07 pm, and 8.16 pm PST, respectively, that migrated along
46 a series of NW-trending faults (USGS, 2019). On July 5th, 34 hours after the initial M_w 6.4
47 foreshock, at 8.19 pm PST the M_w 7.1 mainshock occurred ~15 km north of the foreshock
48 epicenter, and ruptured mostly bilaterally along a NW-trending dextral fault system for a total
49 length of ~50 km. The rupture termination of the mainshock in the south occurred ~4.5 km north
50 of the Garlock fault, and in the north terminated within the Coso volcanic field, a region of diffuse
51 fracturing.

52 The 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake sequence has been imaged by a suite of optical and radar sensors
53 which have acquired detailed measurements of the surface deformation at various spatial
54 resolutions and sensitivities to ground displacement. These include, radar interferometry from
55 ESA's Sentinel-1 and JAXA's ALOS-2, terrestrial and aerial lidar, drone photogrammetry and
56 satellite optical imagery (e.g., WorldView, Sentinel-2 and Pleiades), as well as campaign and
57 continuous GPS (Chen et al., 2019; Donnellan et al., 2019; Fielding et al., 2019; Funning et al.,
58 2019; Hudnut et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2019). Although these data will provide measurement of
59 surface deformation in remarkable spatial detail, they do not offer sufficient temporal resolution
60 to separate the ground deformation of the closely timed foreshock and mainshock events. Here we
61 present a relatively new class of high-resolution optical satellite imagery from the commercial
62 satellite company Planet labs (with 3-m ground sampling distance), which due to its unique daily
63 revisit time capability allows us to measure changes in the co-seismic surface displacement field
64 through the Ridgecrest sequence. Imagery from this cubesat constellation have been used
65 previously with image correlation techniques to study surface changes to study river ice floes,
66 glacier migration, and earthquake deformation (Bao et al., 2019; Kääb et al., 2017, 2019). Here we

67 present and apply a new image correlation technique called OR-Corr (Outlier-Resistant
68 Correlator), that we have developed that provides a more stable correlation results that is less
69 sensitive to outliers than standard image correlation methods. We apply this correlation approach
70 to the daily Planet Labs imagery which allows us to separate the surface deformation of the closely-
71 timed foreshock and mainshock events and measure the amount of fault displacements. These
72 types of optical imagery which we provide here can be used to help validate and guide field survey
73 mapping, provide constraints for finite fault slip inversion models to better resolve and separate
74 slip at depth between these events and calculate the redistribution of stresses which may have
75 triggered the mainshock.

76 First, we describe the acquisition parameters of the images acquired before, between and after the
77 foreshock-mainshock sequence and their sources of noise. We then describe the new subpixel
78 correlation technique that we have developed and apply this to the optical imagery to quantify the
79 amount of horizontal ground deformation and magnitude of fault slip for each event. We then
80 create difference maps from the pre- and post- foreshock, mainshock image pairs to define the
81 temporal occurrence of fracturing and compare these to correlation and phase gradient maps from
82 Sentinel-1 radar data. Finally, we then attempt to validate our results with imagery acquired by
83 other optical and radar satellites.

84

85 **Planet Labs Satellite Constellation**

86

87 The constellation of satellites operated by the private entity Planet is composed of ~175 10 cm ×
88 10 cm × 30 cm cubesats known as “Doves.” These cubesats collectively acquire optical imagery

89 over continental areas on a daily basis, providing a product known as PlanetScope imagery. The
90 majority of the cubesats operate in a near-polar, sun-synchronous orbit of $\sim 8^\circ$ and $\sim 98^\circ$ inclination
91 at an altitude of ~ 475 km, acquiring imagery from both ascending and descending orbits. The
92 cubesats are optical frame cameras with the main sensor being a telescope and CCD area array,
93 which collects 4-band imagery (RGB and near-infrared) at $\sim 3\text{-}5$ m resolution depending on the
94 altitude. The PlanetScope images have a relatively narrow swath footprint of $\sim 24.6 \times \sim 16.4$ km,
95 and are acquired in near-nadir, with small variations of the look-angle in the across track direction
96 of $\sim 5^\circ$ (Planet Team, 2019). The cubesats are frame camera systems which acquire instantaneously
97 in one acquisition position, which is in contrast to more typical push-broom acquisition modes
98 which collect images line-by-line as the sensor array scans across the width of the swath
99 sequentially in the orbital direction. This difference of the cubesat image acquisition mode leads
100 to different distortions that will become apparent when attempting to validate our surface
101 deformation results from the PlanetScope imagery with ESA's Sentinel-2 optical push-broom
102 satellite.

103

104 **PlanetScope Imagery**

105

106 We used a total of 33 Planet Scope images with 3-m resolution that are the level 3B product, which
107 are orthorectified images that comes with radiometric, sensor and geometric corrections. The
108 sensor corrections include removal of optical distortions caused by the sensor optics and co-
109 registration of bands, where the lens model is known to have an accuracy of a fraction of a pixel
110 (better than 0.1) (Kääb et al., 2019, Planet Team, 2019). Radiometric corrections are applied to the
111 images using a mixture of calibration coefficients determined before launch and during orbit using

112 on-board calibration techniques. The orthorectification of the images corrects for topographic
113 distortions using the best available DEM (with posting ranging from 30 to 90 m), and are
114 coregistered using other available optical imagery (including aerial imagery, RapidEye and
115 Landsat 8), with ground control points (which provides the mapping between the reference and
116 warp images) located using a combination of phase correlation and mutual information techniques
117 (Planet Labs, 2019). To assess the quality of the surface deformation maps derived from the
118 PlanetScope imagery and the effects of these corrections, we compare them to similar image
119 correlation results derived from Sentinel-2 optical data (10 m pixel resolution), and correlation and
120 phase gradient maps from repeat-pass Sentinel-1 radar, the latter of which characterizes the
121 disturbance of the surface spectral properties (see Xu & Sandwell (in prep) for details).

122

123 In total we correlated 25 pairs of images across the foreshock and mainshock events, where 12 of
124 the images used for correlation were acquired from before the foreshock, eight images between
125 the foreshock and mainshock (with five collected on July 4th and three collected on July 5th), and
126 13 after the mainshock, (see Fig. 2 and Table 1 for details of dates). 29 of the images were captured
127 at 11.13 am and four between 17.12-18.14 pm PST (for the descending and ascending tracks,
128 respectively). We have made these orthoimages freely available for download from GeoGateway
129 (<http://geo-gateway.org/main.html>).

130

131 **Image correlation method**

132

133 To measure the 2D horizontal surface deformation we used a sub-pixel correlation algorithm
134 applied to the before and after optical images. We use a similar image correlation approach of

135 (Debella-Gilo and Kääb, 2011) in the spatial domain, which is applied to a stack of the three visible
 136 bands. The correlation method we have developed first calculates the Spearman rank correlation
 137 coefficient between image pairs to determine displacement at the integer level. We then fit a
 138 Gaussian function to the correlation function to determine its peak that defines the amount of sub-
 139 pixel motion. The Spearman rank correlation coefficient (ρ_w) is a nonparametric measure of the
 140 rank correlation, which correlates the n ranks of two random variables (in this case a subset of the
 141 before (x) and after (y) images), rather than the values of the variables themselves (i.e., the pixel
 142 values). Otherwise the correlation calculation (eq. 1) is similar to the Pearson correlation
 143 coefficient, which is the covariance of the ranks of the images (C_{xy} ,
 144 eq. 2, where C is the covariance matrix) normalized by the product of their standard deviations
 145 (σ , eq. 3, where \bar{x}_w is the weighted mean, eq. 4).
 146

$$\rho_w = \frac{C_{xy}}{\sigma(x)\sigma(y)} \quad 1)$$

$$C_{xy} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i (x_i - \bar{x}_w) \cdot w_i (y_i - \bar{y}_w)}{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i} \quad 2)$$

$$\sigma(x) = \sqrt{C_{xx}} \quad 3)$$

$$\bar{x}_w = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i} \quad 4)$$

154 In the correlation scheme we impose a Gaussian weighting (w) to the pixels within the correlation
 155 window, so that pixels located at the center are weighted higher than those at the edges. We use
 156 the Spearman rank as it is more resistant to outliers than a standard Pearson correlation coefficient
 157 when correlating patches of the images as the values of the outliers are limited to their rank value
 158 and as such we have named our correlation algorithm OR-Corr (Outlier-Resistant Correlator).
 159

160 Outliers may arise between the images due to changes from vegetation, building damage, or urban
161 development and we have found our approach produces more stable results in such regions. For
162 the deformation maps provided here we used correlation windows with dimensions of 33×33
163 pixels with a step size of 29 pixels, which results in a correlation map of 87 m resolution. In total
164 we produced 12 correlations for the foreshock and 13 for the mainshock, where we correlated each
165 image sub-swath separately due to the spatial overlap between image pairs which allows for more
166 reliable corrections of long-wavelength artifacts that we describe next.

167 Both the north-south and east-west deformation maps show long-wavelength (> 5 km)
168 artifacts that are up to ~ 0.7 pixel (~ 2 m) in amplitude (Fig. S1). To correct for these we fit and
169 remove quadratic and ramp functions, which we assume reflects errors in the original camera
170 sensor correction and mis-registration, respectively. This correction reduces the root-mean square
171 (RMS), of the foreshock deformation maps by 41% and 89% in the east-west and north-south
172 directions, respectively, and 42% and 91% for the mainshock deformation maps. Following
173 removal of the long-wavelength artifacts from the deformation maps we then stack the separate
174 correlation results using a uniform weighting. We do not use all of the individual correlation results
175 to produce the final correlation result (Fig. 3), as some exhibit large topographic artifacts, or have
176 unusually large noise levels which we could not correct for (see Table 1 for which image pairs
177 were used), which likely results from large differences in incidence angles between the images.
178 After stacking we then apply a median filter (3×3 pixels) that helps reduce noise in the
179 deformation maps.

180

181 **Image Correlation Results**

182

183 The horizontal deformation maps separated for the foreshock and mainshock (fig. 3a and 3b,
184 respectively) captures primary surface faults with large displacement (> 20 cm). For the foreshock-
185 only deformation map only the main NE-striking left-lateral rupture strand can be distinguished.
186 In contrast, the mainshock only deformation maps show the primary rupture strand and other major
187 NW striking secondary faults along the central segment of the rupture. In both deformation maps,
188 smaller wavelength artifacts exist such as linear features caused by roads which are translationally
189 invariant features (i.e., their spectral pattern looks similar across different regions), and
190 topographic artifacts resulting from use of a single DEM to orthorectify the images, that assumes
191 no advection of topography has occurred. These deformation maps can be used to help constrain
192 the magnitude of shallow fault slip (< 5 km depth) in fault slip inversion models, and are useful in
193 that they can separate the contribution of ground deformation due to slip at depth, which is
194 important for accurately forward calculating Coulomb stress changes and for understanding the
195 possible triggering effect of the foreshock to the surrounding faults (e.g., Chen et al., 2019; Xu, et
196 al., 2019).

197 To measure the fault slip distribution from the deformation maps we used profiles
198 orientated perpendicular to the fault strands, that stacks the surface motion in the fault-parallel
199 direction. We first project the surface motion from the north-south and east-west directions that
200 are output from the correlation into the fault trace direction. The fault offsets are then measured
201 using profiles with lengths of 7 km and stacked over widths of ~ 1.5 km. The total fault-parallel
202 displacement is calculated as the total amplitude of the offset across the fault-zone (Fig. 4), and
203 are provided as a supplementary data file. The fault displacement measurements provide an
204 estimate of how surface slip varies along the rupture and the overall slip distribution. The slip
205 profile of the foreshock shows an asymmetric shape that is skewed to the southwest, and has an

206 average displacement of $0.56 \text{ m} \pm 0.10$ (standard error), and a maximum of 0.89 ± 0.11 ($1-\sigma$). For
207 the mainshock slip profile we find a sample mean of 1.68 ± 0.19 m (standard error) and a
208 maximum of 3.92 ± 0.38 m ($1-\sigma$). We note the maximum slip value we observe is in good
209 agreement with the maximum value documented from field survey observations (currently
210 reported to range from 4.1-4.5 m, black marker shown in Fig. 4 (Kendrick et al., 2019)).

211

212 **Uncertainty Analysis of Deformation Maps**

213
214 Due to noise in the resulting deformation maps, surface fractures of smaller displacement are not
215 detected. To understand the threshold of observable displacement, we calculate the precision and
216 spatial correlations using the sample semi-variogram and covariogram, respectively (Chilbs and
217 Delfiner, 2000; Sudhaus and Sigurjón, 2009). Constraining the error structure is also useful for
218 incorporating these data into finite-fault slip inversions in order to generate meaningful and
219 consistent weights when used jointly with other datasets e.g., InSAR or GPS. In addition, the
220 empirical covariances can be used to generate sets of synthetic data errors that can be added to
221 perturb the observations and through a series of inversions derive distributions of the modeled fault
222 slip parameters (e.g., Sudhaus and Sigurjón, 2009). To estimate the error variance and
223 autocovariances we use a subset of pixels in a far-field stable region that are presumed to contain
224 minimal tectonic deformation. This implies the error is stationary and that the error structure of the
225 chosen region is representative of the rest of the deformation measurements. The semi-variogram
226 and covariogram are estimated as half the average squared difference and half the mean product
227 between points separated at distances h , respectively (Fig. 5). The data variance is estimated at the
228 sill point, where the semi-variogram plateaus at distances larger than the correlation length, which
229 we report as the standard deviation in eq. 5 and 6 at $h = 0$, which we found was similar for the

230 foreshock ($1\sigma = 20$ cm) and mainshock ($1\sigma = 15$ cm) deformation maps. To provide a continuous
231 description of the spatial dependence of the covariances we fit the sample covariogram with an
232 exponential model of the form shown in (eq. 5 and 6, and shown in Fig. 5).

233

234

$$C_{fore}(h) = \begin{cases} 20 \text{ cm}, & \text{for } h = 0 \\ 212 \cdot e^{-\frac{h}{549}}, & \text{for } h > 0 \end{cases} \quad 5)$$

235

236

$$C_{main}(h) = \begin{cases} 15 \text{ cm}, & \text{for } h = 0 \\ 87 \cdot e^{-\frac{h}{280}}, & \text{for } h > 0 \end{cases} \quad 6)$$

237

238 To assess the accuracy of the deformation maps and fault offsets we compare them to
239 measurements derived from correlation of Sentinel-2 optical imagery, which covers both the
240 foreshock and mainshock events (06/28/19-07/18/19) (Fig. S2). Although the Sentinel-2
241 deformation maps have horizontal, across-track striping artifacts resulting from jitter of the
242 spacecraft during the push-broom type acquisition of the images which we have attempted to
243 correct for, we find an overall good agreement with the PlanetScope result (Fig. 4). The slip
244 profiles have a very strong agreement in the overall magnitude and shape of the slip distribution
245 as shown by correlation coefficient of 0.95, giving confidence the PlanetScope imagery provides
246 robust estimates of the surface fault displacement for each event.

247

248 **Resolving Surface Disturbance**

249 The PlanetScope images that separately bracket the foreshock and mainshock allows for
250 assessment of which faults ruptured when. In addition to applying optical image correlation to

251 measure the ground displacement, we also analyzed the before-and-after images themselves and
252 calculate pixel-by-pixel differences between them, where the latter helps constrain areas of surface
253 disturbance. Although image correlation has the ability to resolve sub-pixel shifts between images,
254 the minimum resolvable displacement is limited by the radiometric noise (caused primarily by
255 thermal noise of the CCD array) and biases associated with orthorectification (where the variances
256 are provided in eq. 5 and 6). Difference maps can instead be useful for directly determining
257 disruption of the surface caused by fractures of smaller differential motion that may not be detected
258 by the image matching technique. In addition, another advantage of difference maps is that they
259 are applied at the pixel level which gives a result at the full image resolution that can help resolve
260 smaller scale details of fracturing that the spatially coarser deformation maps may miss (the final
261 correlation resolution is determined by the window skip size which is 29 pixels, or 87 m in this
262 case).

263 Visual inspection of just the post-foreshock July 4th optical image (i.e., that shown in Fig. 2 b)
264 shows new NE trending fractures directly east of the city of Ridgecrest traversing the 178 highway
265 and into the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station military base. However, to better isolate the
266 fractures from the images, we compute the difference between the before and after images which
267 helps highlight changes of the surface that could be produced where new scarps cause shadows or
268 distributed fracturing causes changes in the surface texture (Fig. 6). We note that caution must be
269 made in interpreting the difference maps as these include any changes that have occurred between
270 the image acquisitions including, rockfalls and landslides along steep topographic gradients,
271 shadows along topographic lineaments (although we expect this to be small as the maximum time
272 span of the difference maps are mostly 1-2 weeks), water spillage due to pipe leakages, sand boils
273 and liquefaction. To help understand whether the lineations found in the difference maps are

274 tectonic, we compare them to correlation and phase gradient maps from Sentinel-1 radar amplitude
275 images, which characterizes changes to the coherence of surface spectral properties and gradients
276 of the phase in the satellite look directions respectively, and current (but not complete) field
277 mapping observations (Kendrick et al., 2019). We note all of the supporting Sentinel-1 radar data
278 are not able to distinguish the timing of deformation between the foreshock and mainshock events,
279 but are useful to check of the location of fractures that we interpret from the difference maps.

280 The difference maps spanning just the foreshock period clearly delineate the primary trace of the
281 foreshock rupture, which is continuous for ~10 km in a NE direction. The difference maps also
282 clearly show a parallel NE-striking, 5.5 km long fracture that is located ~1.8 km directly north of
283 the primary M_w 6.4 rupture strand. Interestingly, south of the primary foreshock rupture strand we
284 observe a 3 km by 2.5 km wide zone of distributed fracturing that seems to be from a distinctly
285 different fault zone from the primary foreshock rupture. Although, we note surface disturbance in
286 this area could also reflect possible effects from sand boils and liquefaction. At the southwestern
287 most termination of the foreshock there are a series of fractures that form a NNW trending 2.5 km
288 long fracture that is conjugate and almost perpendicular to the foreshock rupture trace. At the
289 foreshock-mainshock intersection the location of the foreshock rupture becomes less clear and
290 possibly splay out. Unfortunately, determining any possible interaction of the foreshock faults
291 with the mainshock at this intersection is not possible due to the coarseness of the image resolution.
292 Northeast of the foreshock-mainshock intersection there is NE-striking fracturing that is
293 distributed over a 4.5 km by 5 km wide region. We note that these short fault segments traverse
294 multiple NW trending dykes, that from the pre-foreshock imagery clearly show previous offsets,
295 indicating the foreshock in this area had ruptured along pre-existing faults.

296 The difference maps that span the just mainshock period (Fig. 6b) show a clear, mostly single-
297 stranded NW-trending rupture trace along the central section near the foreshock-mainshock
298 intersection. However, it becomes more difficult to follow the rupture trace either farther south or
299 north towards both rupture terminations. This could be a result of i) a decrease of the overall
300 amount of displacement, ii) the rupture becoming increasingly more diffuse towards the rupture
301 terminations, and/or iii) the strike of the rupture at the terminations becomes almost parallel with
302 the illumination direction (115.4°), producing a less pronounced shadow and therefore less
303 pronounced signal in the difference maps than the NNW-SSE striking central rupture section
304 which is more oblique to the illumination direction. We note that we do not observe any re-rupture
305 of the foreshock strands during the mainshock, indicating most if not all of the deformation
306 observed along the NE-trending foreshock fractures occurred during the foreshock. Qualitatively
307 comparing the rupture fabric (or width) between the foreshock and mainshock ruptures, the
308 difference maps clearly show the foreshock is distinctly more complex in its geometry (excluding
309 sites where the mainshock rupture intersects with other secondary macroscopic faults), suggesting
310 it is a more immature fault system (Wesnousky, 1988).

311 From analysis of the images and difference maps we have provided a .kmz of fracture mapping as
312 a supplementary dataset, which we have classified into fractures that occurred during the foreshock
313 or mainshock. Our fracture mapping dataset is then further classified into high or low confidence
314 features. Fractures of high confidence are expressed as clear linear features in both the difference
315 maps and the optical images, and do not coincide with topography or possible changes in shadows.
316 Fractures of low confidence are features that appear as diffuse, quasi-linear features in the
317 difference maps and optical images, or are coincident with topography and possible shadowing.
318 We note that there are fractures observed by field surveys that are not included in our fracturing

319 mapping dataset. Such instances mostly occur in areas of high relief where topographic artifacts
320 and shadows may have masked any surface changes that occurred due to fractures, and an absence
321 of these features in our mapping dataset does not necessarily suggest that our interpretation is that
322 they did not occur in either the foreshock or mainshock events (e.g., by pre or post-seismic
323 fracturing). In addition, it is more difficult to discern fractures orientated in the NW direction, as
324 the sun illumination direction is almost parallel to these fractures (azimuth of 115.4° on July 5th at
325 11.20 am PST), which produces minimal shadows and therefore little signal in the image
326 difference maps. Therefore, it is slightly more difficult to provide complete rupture mapping
327 associated with the mainshock (mostly faults striking NW), than the foreshock (orientated NE and
328 almost perpendicular to the illumination direction).

329 To validate our fracture mapping from the optical images and difference maps we compare these
330 to field survey mapping made in the days-weeks following the ruptures, and correlation and phase
331 gradients from Sentinel-1 radar data. The field data were gathered by a collective team of field
332 geologists including the USGS, CGS, and other academic institutions (Kendrick et al., 2019). We
333 processed the radar correlation and gradient maps from a pair of descending Sentinel-1 images
334 using GMTSAR, with the correlation maps estimated as the correlation co-efficient between the
335 before (07/04/2019) and after (07/28/2019) amplitude maps, and gradient maps processed using
336 the method of Sandwell and Price (1998), which has the advantage of avoiding unwrapping errors.
337 Overall, we find very good qualitative agreement of the fracture locations imaged between these
338 different datasets (Fig. 6 and 7). However, in some areas there seems to be clear fracturing
339 observed in the optical difference and radar correlation maps but not in the field data, which
340 suggests that there are likely additional sites still to be ground-truthed. The fracture mapping from

341 just the radar correlation and phase gradients can be found as a .kmz file in the supplementary
342 dataset.

343

344 **Summary**

345

346 The 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake sequence poses several interesting questions including, what
347 triggering mechanism(s) could explain the occurrence of the widespread secondary fractures
348 surrounding both surface ruptures, and how was the mainshock rupture triggered by the foreshock
349 sequence? To help understand these problems we have provided data and analysis of optical
350 images acquired by the Planet Lab cubesat constellation. The data acquired by this platform are
351 distinct from other geodetic imaging datasets (e.g., InSAR, lidar or aerial photos) in that they
352 acquired images between the foreshock and mainshock events, allowing discrimination of which
353 fractures occurred when and with how much surface displacement. Here we describe products
354 derived from these images including, difference maps, fracture mapping and horizontal surface
355 deformation maps from subpixel image correlation. These datasets have potential use for
356 constraining slip inversion models and the calculation of static stress changes associated with the
357 foreshock and its effect on faults that later ruptured during the mainshock (e.g., Chen et al., 2019),
358 and assessment of its relative importance compared to other possible triggering mechanisms such
359 as poroelastic, aseismic postseismic and dynamic stress changes.

360

361 **Data and Resources**

362 All of the derived data products presented in this analysis can be downloaded from the Zenodo
363 data repository (<http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3546342>). This includes the difference maps (Fig.
364 6), the Planet Labs correlation maps (Fig. 3), kmz files of the fracture mapping, Sentinel-1 gradient
365 maps that was processed here (where additional results processed by David Sandwell's group at
366 UCSD, Scripps can be found at https://topex.ucsd.edu/SV_7.1/index.html), Sentinel-1 correlation
367 maps (where additional SAR data can be downloaded from ARIA, https://aria-share.jpl.nasa.gov/20190704-0705-Searles_Valley_CA_EQs/Interferograms/), and the fault
368 offsets illustrated by the along-strike slip profile (Fig. 4). GMTSAR and ISCE can be downloaded
369 by a number of package managers, see <http://gmt.soest.hawaii.edu/projects/gmt5sar/wiki> for
370 installation instructions. The Sentinel 1 and 2 imagery can be downloaded from ESA's open access
371 data hub from (<https://scihub.copernicus.eu/>) and Alaska's Satellite Facility UAF
372 (<https://www.asf.alaska.edu/>) [07, 2019]. The figures were made using Generic Mapping Tools
373 (Wessel and Smith, 1991) and QGIS (<https://qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>). MATLAB
374 is available at www.mathworks.com/products/matlab (last accessed August 2019). GDAL, which
375 was used for some of the image processing, can be freely downloaded through most library
376 package managers. Supporting information contains the corrections to the correlation results (S1)
377 and optical image correlation result from Sentinel-2 (S2), used to compare the slip distribution
378 shown in Fig. 4.

380

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392

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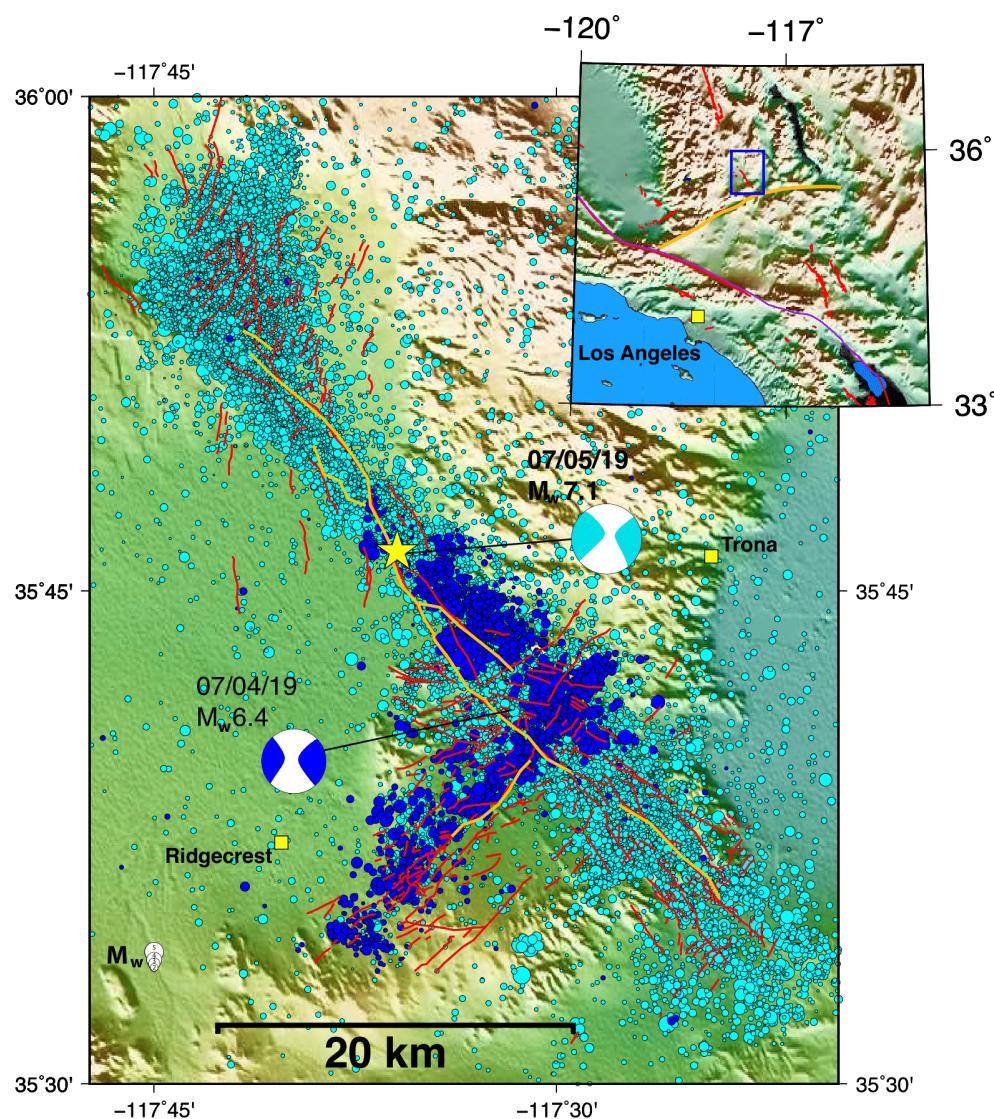
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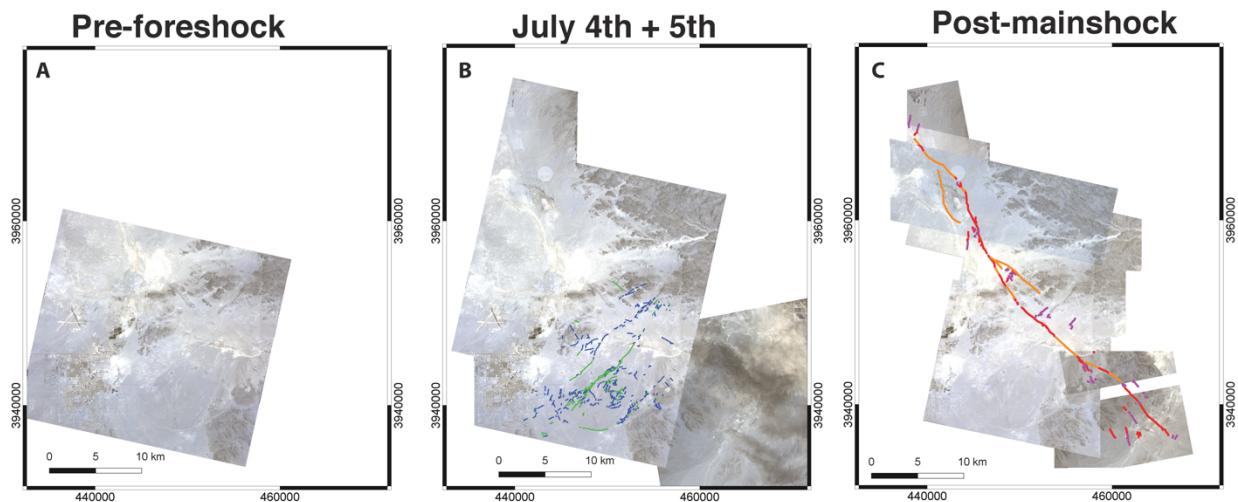
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479 **Fig. 1. Overview of the 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake sequence.** Inset map shows the location of
480 the Ridgecrest event within the Eastern California Shear Zone, CA, with historical events shown
481 by red lines (<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/qfaults/>), and the Garlock fault by the orange

482 line. Main figure, the M_w 6.4 July 4th foreshock focal mechanism is shown in dark blue with
483 seismicity that occurred following this and before the M_w 7.1 mainshock on July 5th, 17.12 pm
484 PST (shown as the cyan focal mechanism) (Dziewonski et al., 1981), shown as dark blue circles
485 with size indicating magnitude (SCEDC, 2013). Cyan circles show aftershocks following the
486 mainshock event. Orange lines show fault traces of the foreshock and mainshock rupture mapped
487 from optical image correlation (Fig. 3), and red lines mapped from Sentinel-1 correlation and
488 gradient maps (Fig. 6 c, d). For faults mapped separately for the mainshock and foreshock see Fig.
489 2b and c, 6, 7 and the supporting .kmz dataset.

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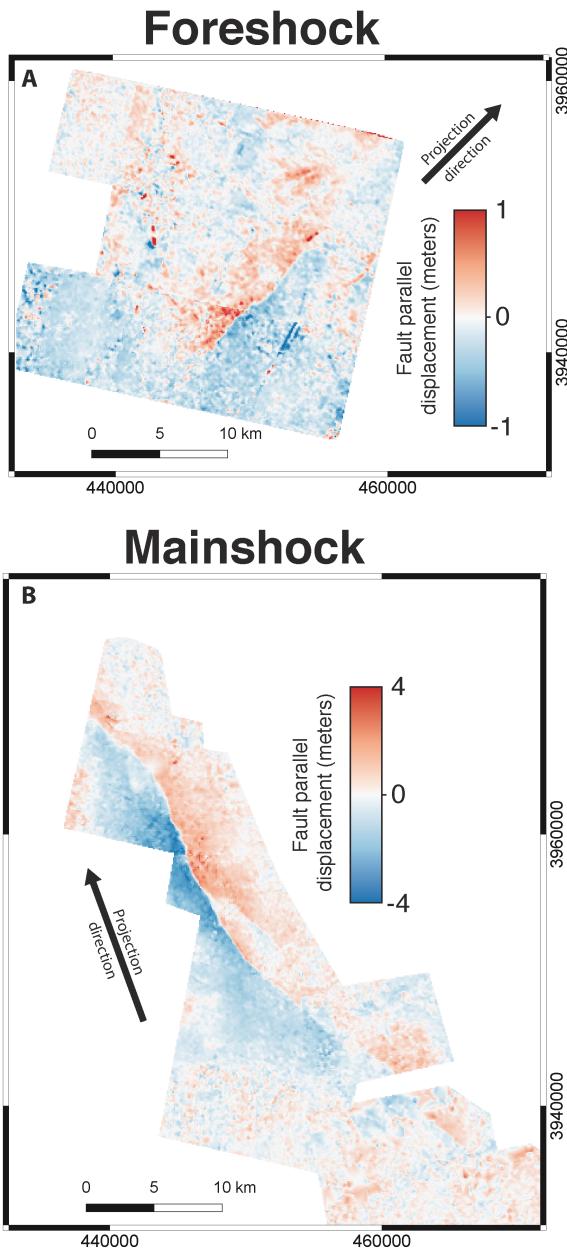
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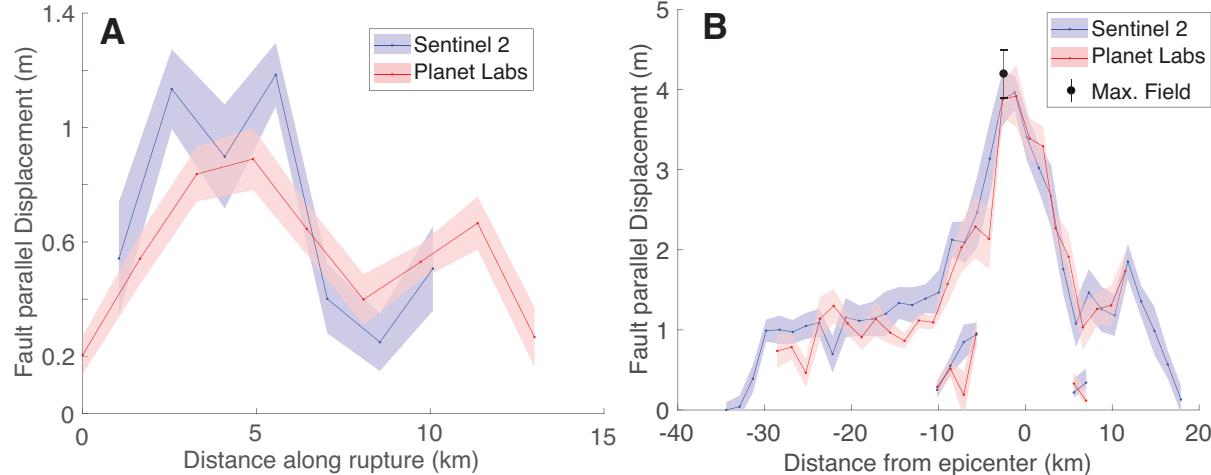
493

494 **Fig. 2 Overview optical data from Planet labs used in this analysis.** We used the 3-m
495 orthorectified PlanetScope imagery acquired before (a), between (b), and after (c), the foreshock
496 and mainshock events. For clarity we do not show all the imagery used prior to the foreshock in
497 (a), but Table 1 details the number of images used.



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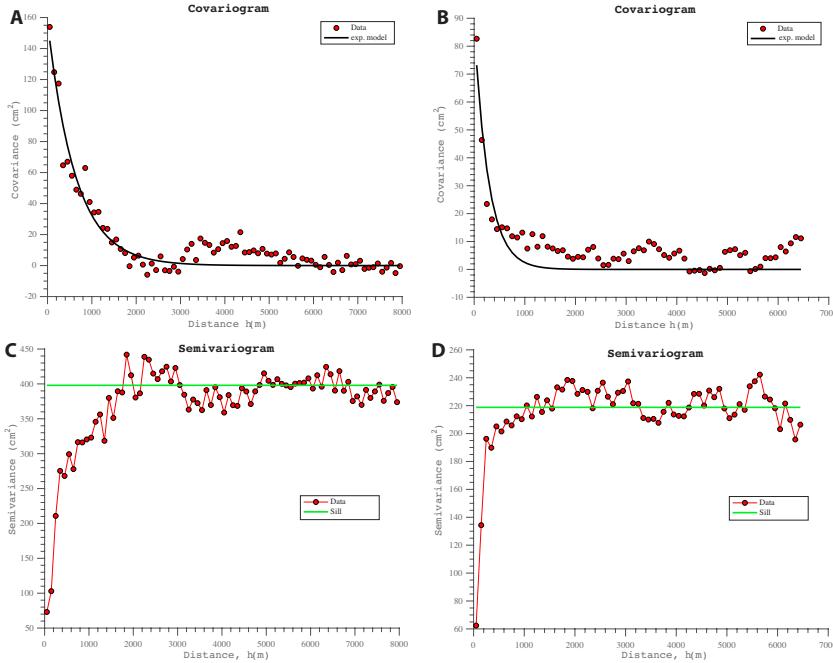
499 **Fig. 3. Deformation maps showing surface motion projected into fault parallel direction**
500 **(with direction shown by arrow) that are calculated from subpixel correlation of optical**
501 **images shown in Fig. 2. a) top, shows deformation map from correlating images spanning just**
502 **the foreshock, while b) shows the surface displacement estimated from images spanning just the**
503 **mainshock.**



504

505 **Fig. 4. Comparison of surface slip profiles for the foreshock (left) and mainshock (right),**
 506 **measured from the deformation maps from correlating PlanetScope and Sentinel-2 optical**
 507 **imagery with error bars denoting 1σ uncertainty (Fig. 3 and Fig. S2).** Left, shows surface
 508 slip profile for just the foreshock (viewing NW). Right, shows surface slip profile for just the
 509 mainshock plotted as a function of distance from the epicenter, viewing SW. Correlation result of
 510 Sentinel-2 optical images is shown in Fig. S2, which contains both the foreshock and mainshock.
 511 The agreement in surface displacement amount between the two datasets indicates it is unlikely
 512 there was significant triggering or re-rupture of faults.

513



514

515 **Fig 5. Error analysis of the deformation maps (shown in Fig. 3).** Top row shows covariogram,
 516 bottom shows semivariogram of the foreshock (left column) and mainshock (right column)
 517 deformation maps. A) and b) are fit with an exponential model (black line) with coefficients shown
 518 in eq. 5 and 6 that provides a continuous description of the spatial dependence of the surface
 519 displacement measurements (red dots). While c) and d) provides an estimate of the data variance
 520 (green line) that is independent of the spatial correlations.

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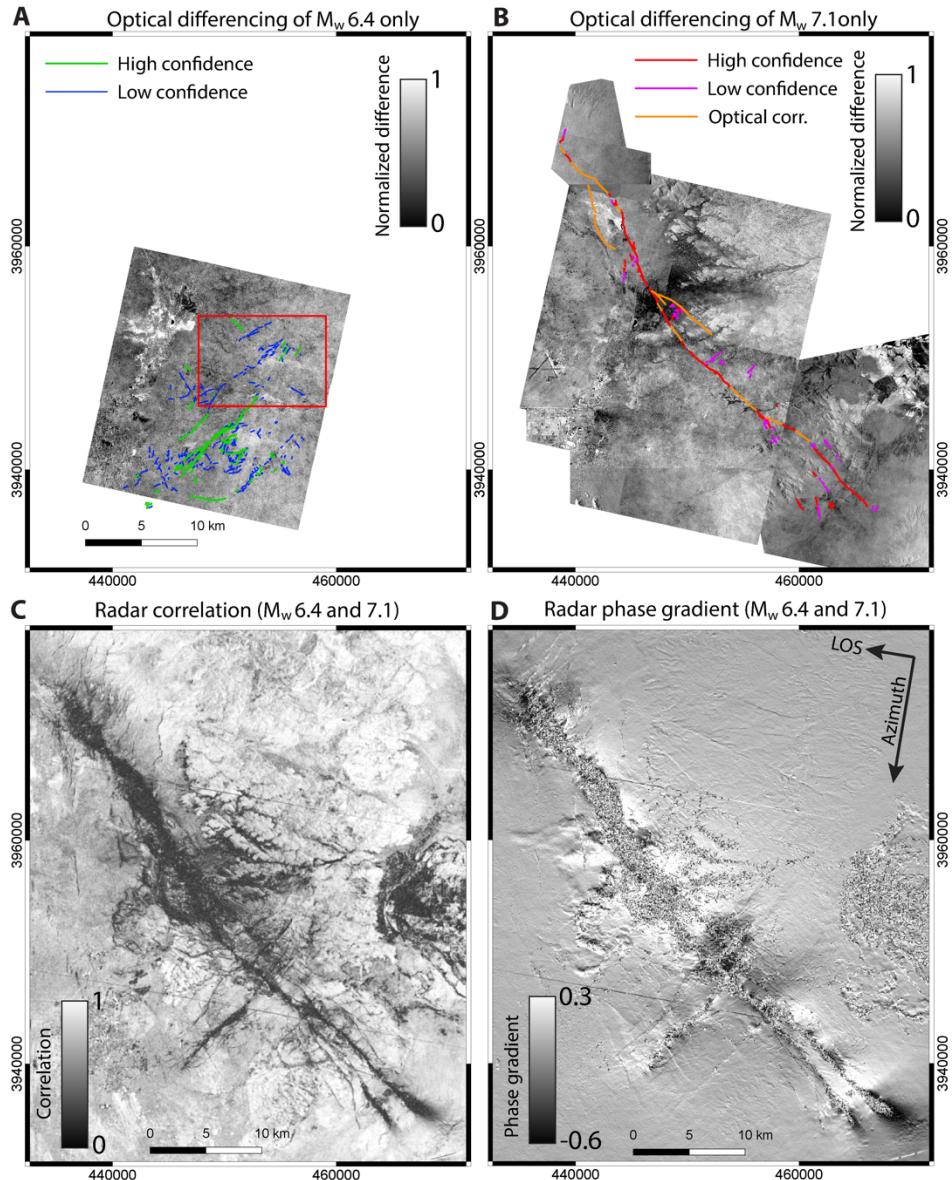
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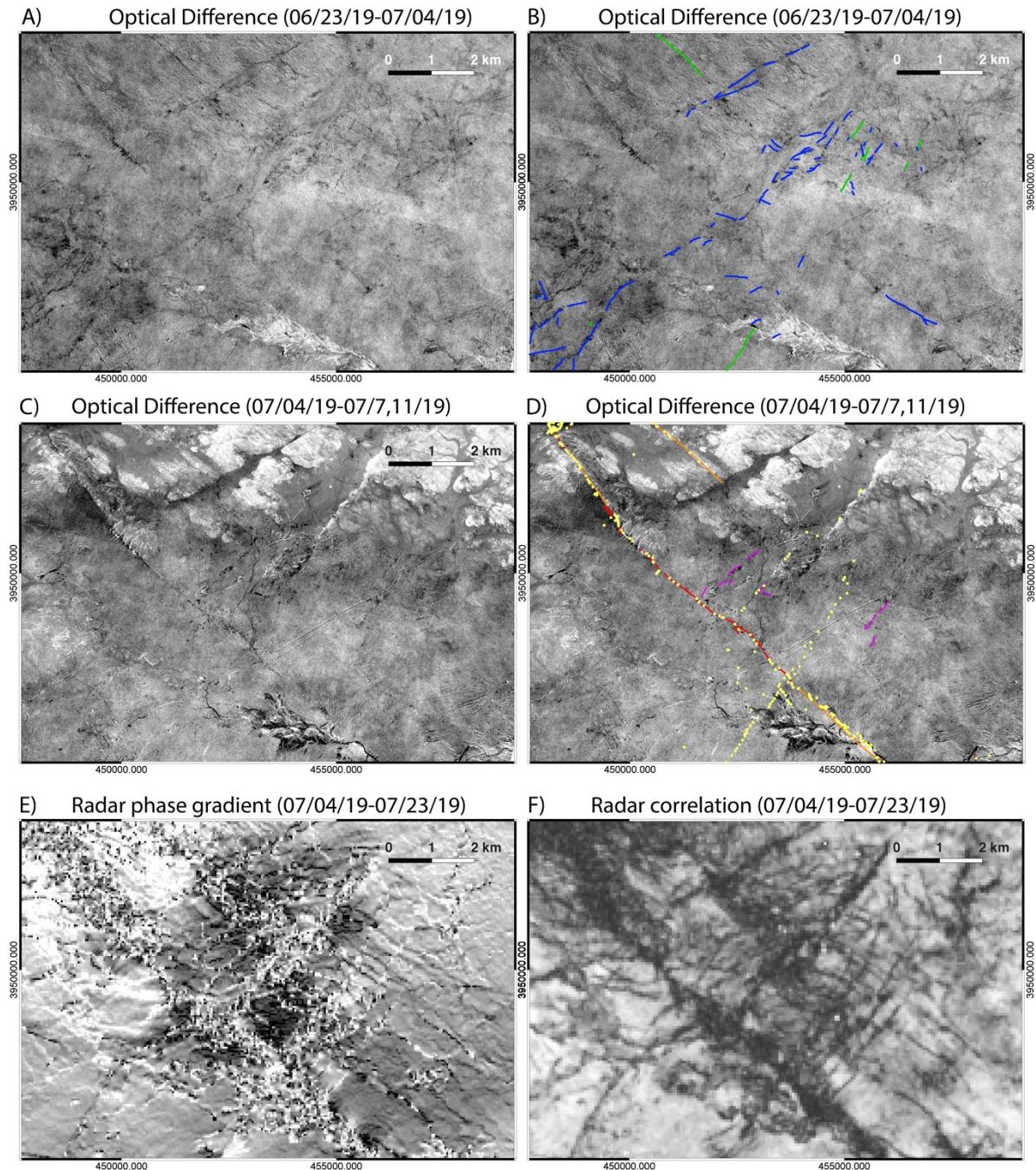


527

528 **Fig. 6. Optical difference maps constraining the timing of surface disruption (top row), with**
 529 **analysis from Sentinel-1 radar data for comparison (bottom row). a) and b), show difference**
 530 **maps estimated from optical images spanning just the foreshock and mainshock, respectively. a)**
 531 **illustrates fault mapping interpretations shown as green and blue lines that are traces mapped with**
 532 **high and low confidence, respectively. b) Red, purple and orange traces indicate fractures mapped**
 533 **with high and low confidence, and those mapped from the optical correlation dataset (Fig. 3b),**
 534 **respectively. These fault traces and difference maps are available as a supplementary dataset. Red**

535 box in a) shows location of Fig. 7. c) and d) show correlation of radar amplitude and phase gradient,
536 respectively, from a pair of descending Sentinel-1 images. c) Dark areas show disruption to the
537 surface, or changes in the spectral properties that cause decorrelation, while in d) discontinuities
538 indicate areas of large gradients in the phase in the azimuthal direction, with units of radians per
539 pixel (~30 m) and calculated using the method of Sandwell & Price (1998), also see Xu and
540 Sandwell (in prep) for additional details.

541



542

543 **Fig. 7. Sequence of surface fracturing captured during the foreshock (top row), and**
 544 **mainshock (second row), around the area of the fault intersection.** Top row shows difference
 545 maps from Planet labs generated from images spanning just the foreshock, where b) illustrates
 546 mapping interpretation of fractures, green and blue lines indicates traces that are of high and low

547 confidence respectively, values range are normalized differences and range from 0-1. c) and d)
548 show difference maps from images spanning just the mainshock, with d) showing mapping
549 interpretations with red, purple and orange colors indicating fractures mapped with high and low
550 confidence, and those mapped from the optical correlation dataset (Fig. 3b), respectively. Yellow
551 dots are observation points from field surveys of Kendrick et al. (2019). e) and f) show phase
552 gradient and correlation results from descending Sentinel-1 (shown in Fig. 6c and d), respectively,
553 which contains fracturing from both the foreshock and mainshock events.

554 **Table 1** Acquisition times and number of subswaths of PlanetScope images used in foreshock
555 and mainshock correlations.

Pre-Image	Post-Image	Foreshock (F), Mainshock (M)	Num. of subswaths used
05/13/19	07/04/19	F	2
06/07/19	07/04/19	F	3
06/20/19	07/04/19	F	2
06/30/19	07/04/19	F	2
07/01/19	07/04/19	F	3
07/04/19	07/06/19	M	4
07/04/19	07/07/19	M	1
07/04/19	07/11/19	M	3
07/04/19	07/11/19	M	1
07/05/19	07/08/19	M	2
07/05/19	07/14/19	M	2

556

557

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