

Muography as a new tool to study the historic earthquakes recorded in ancient burial mounds

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Abstract

Bidirectional muographic measurements were conducted at the Imashirozuka burial mound, Japan. The mound was built in the beginning of the 6th century as a megalithic tomb and was later collapsed after a landslide caused by the 1596 Fushimi Earthquake, one of the largest earthquakes that have occurred in Japan over last few centuries. The measurements were conducted in order to find evidence of this past disaster recorded in this historical heritage site. As a result, the vertical low-density regions were found at the top of the mound. These regions were interpreted as large-scale vertical cracks that caused the translational collapse process behind the rotational landslide that was already found in the prior trench-survey-based works. These results indicate that there was an intrinsic problem with the stability of the basic foundation of the Imashirozuka mound before the 1596 Fushimi Earthquake.

1. Introduction

By expanding our understanding of past large-scale natural disasters, such as tsunami, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, future hazards can be extrapolated and estimated. However, modern scientific records of these natural disasters only, for the most part, cover events from the last couple of centuries, which have been recorded by scientific instruments only in limited regions throughout the world. On the other hand,

34 geographical or topographical modifications are often physically recorded in the land
35 surface as a result of such large-scale natural disasters, and correct methodologies can
36 be deciphered to infer unknown details about these events. For example, a large-scale
37 volcanic eruption usually creates a large volume pyroclastic flow, which later remains
38 in the geological stratum as a sedimentation of volcanic products. By applying a
39 geological dating technique to these past remnants of the eruptions, we can infer the
40 timing and the magnitude of the past disasters. However, the geological timescale is
41 largely different from that of human history, and the dating precision by these
42 geochronological techniques is limited to an order of 100 years. On the other hand,
43 historical studies often provide records that can be verified with yearly or sometimes,
44 daily precision, depending on how far back the disaster occurred. Historical information
45 is more straightforward regarding affected sites and the year or date of the disaster. For
46 example, this information can come from literature, which describes destruction by
47 earthquakes or repairs after earthquakes, providing valuable evidence for the location of
48 earthquakes and the effects brought by these earthquakes. Therefore, if we can combine
49 the historian's knowledge with the analysis results of these past disaster remnants,
50 historical records become valuable information which can help to improve the accuracy
51 of these geological dating techniques by developing into an iteration process. The
52 derivation by scientists and engineers have been utilized as evidence of earthquakes and
53 which are later incorporated by historian to evaluate the dates of the events, and vice
54 versa.

55

56 Thus far, a combination of geological techniques and historical data have been applied
57 to historically well-studied objects to fill the gaps in our understanding of the historical
58 natural disaster record including tsunami (Daly et al., 2019; Dey et al. 2014),
59 earthquakes (Korjenkov and Mazor, 2003; Guidoboni et al., 1994; Ambraseys et al.
60 1983) and volcanic eruptions (Elson and Ort, 2018). The data are exploited mostly by
61 direct excavation of the historic site, and such anatomical techniques (similar in
62 principle to dissecting bodies to directly view organs within human bodies) allow us to
63 exploit regional, direct and detailed information; however, not all historical heritage
64 sites can be accessible and modified in this way. For example, due to the cultural
65 restriction, it is not always possible to conduct a trench survey to excavate the extant
66 historical structures such as the ancient monuments or public buildings to obtain the
67 geological knowledge about the past disaster remnants. Even when such a style of
68 investigation is approved, the exploitable information is usually localized. Thus, there is
69 a need for a non-invasive technique such as surface wave exploration, which would be

70 conducted to provide a more overall picture of targeted structures to increase the
71 possibilities of finding more physical evidence of past disasters.

72
73 Muography is a technique enabling us to "x-ray" gigantic (hectometric to kilometric)
74 objects. The surface of the Earth is constantly bombarded with muons, particles that
75 have decayed from cosmic rays arriving at the atmosphere from outside our solar
76 system, and these particles can be utilized as probes for muography. After traversing
77 targeted object, remnant muons are tracked with a particle detector located at lower
78 elevations than the region of interest inside the target. The result is a pattern of the
79 contrast in the density distribution inside the objects, which is projected on a
80 2-dimensional plane. Muography has been applied to image the internal structure of
81 volcanoes (Tanaka et al. 2007; Tanaka et al., 2009; Lesparre et al., 2012; Tanaka et al.,
82 2014; Olah et al., 2019), cultural heritages including Giza pyramids (Cheops and
83 Chephren), Egypt, Prambanan temples, Indonesia, Mt Echia, Italy and Santa Maria del
84 Fiore, Italy (Alvarez et al., 1970; Hanazato and Tanaka, 2016; Tanaka and Ohshiro,
85 2016; Morishima et al., 2017; Guardincerri et al. 2018; Cimmino et al. 2019), industrial
86 plants (Tanaka, 2013), and other natural (Tanaka et al., 2011; Olah et al. 2012; Schouten,
87 2018) and man-made structures (Mahon et al. 2018). Prior works have focused on
88 searching undiscovered chambers or the total weight of the heritage. Instead, in this
89 work, we applied muography to study ancient earthquakes for the first time. We focused
90 on the 1596 Fushimi Earthquake, one of the largest earthquakes that have occurred in
91 Japan over last few centuries and examine whether the technique of muography can
92 increase the possibilities of finding more physical evidence of past disasters recorded in
93 historical heritage sites.

94 95 **2. Observation**

96 Imashirozuka, an imperial burial mound in Japan was chosen as a target of the current
97 study. In Japan, imperial burial mounds have been well studied and a lot of knowledge
98 has accumulated. For the current study, this type of the burial mound has the following
99 advantages to study past earthquakes (Kamai et al., 2008). (A) The construction method
100 of the imperial mound is well studied by historians and thus, even if the mound has been
101 damaged by the past earthquakes, the original structure of the mound can be estimated.
102 (B) The imperial mound was built as a stable object, and thus collapsed areas inside the
103 mound would be likely to be records of past major earthquakes. (C) The imperial
104 mounds are in general situated in the urban area. Therefore, the collapsed mounds can
105 be used as an index to measure the past seismic disasters in urban areas long ago. (D) In

106 the recent human's history, various kinds of embankments have been built, but its
107 stability is discussed within the time scale of decades. The collapsed mounds offer us a
108 unique opportunity of geotechnical discussions within a time scale of centuries. (E) The
109 construction method of the mound was already well established when they were built.
110 The mounds built in the same era used the same construction method and thus it is
111 expected that the mechanical strength is the same. Therefore, the different collapsing
112 conditions among different mounds located near each other could infer different ground
113 conditions or different underwater conditions.

114

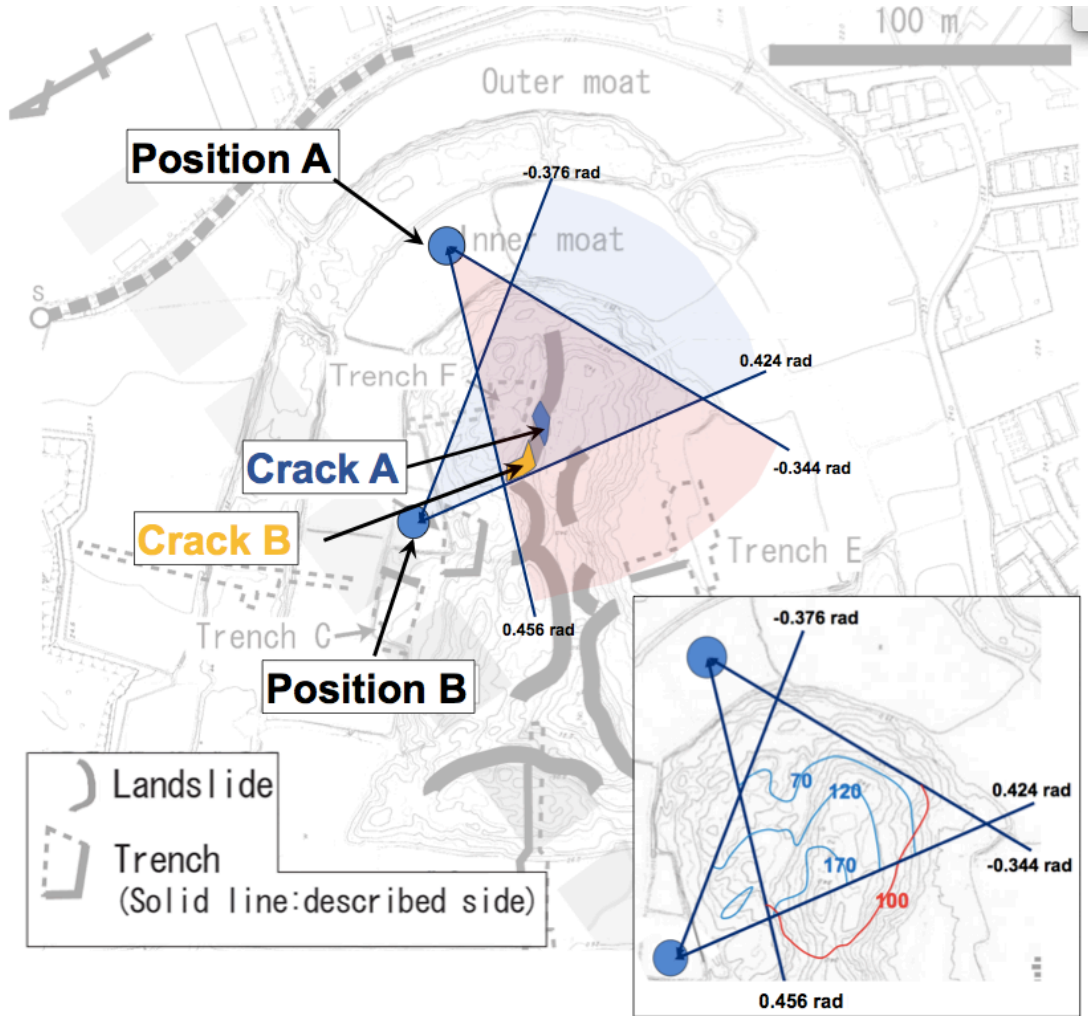
115 Imashirozuka is a keyhole-shaped imperial burial mound that was built in the beginning
116 of the 6th century in Japan. This burial mound is situated on one of the most active
117 faults in Japan, which is part of the Rokkou active fault system. This fault system
118 caused the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995. In 1596, it is thought that this Rokkou
119 active fault system and the next neighbor fault system called the Arima-Takatsuki
120 tectonic line were activated at the same time, and one of the largest earthquakes in the
121 last few centuries, Fushimi Earthquake, (Magnitude 7.25-7.75) occurred (Kamai et al.,
122 2008). The total length of the Imashirozuka mound is 190 m and the height is 11-12 m.
123 Although this burial mound was originally built in the triple-layered structure, the top
124 layer collapsed after a landslide. The collapse occurred more extensively in the northern
125 part of the mound. The level of damage depends, in general, on the ground motion
126 during an earthquake, which itself depends on its magnitude and distance from the site.
127 This extensive collapse is probably due to the existence of the Ai fault line, a part of the
128 Rokkou active fault system, is located closer to the northern part of the mound.
129 Currently, Imashirozuka mound consists of a base layer made of high bulk density
130 sandy clay (a soil particle density of 2.6 gcm^{-3} with a porosity of 52%), and a middle
131 layer made of lower bulk density granules (a soil particle density of $2.6\text{-}2.8 \text{ gcm}^{-3}$ with a
132 porosity of 76%) (Kamai et al., 2008). The s-velocity structure observed in the base
133 layer was faster (harder) in comparison to the middle layer (Kamai et al., 2008). For
134 the purpose of the archaeological studies, 6 trenches were excavated and landslide
135 remnants were observed in many of these trenches. The burial mound was originally
136 surrounded by a double moat, but most of this moat was buried in the past, and only a
137 part of it currently remains. The landslide deposits originated from the sediments in the
138 moat were dated, and the results were 1420-1510 AD with a method of the C^{14} dating
139 (Sangawa and Miyazaki 2001). Since it is known that Fushimi Earthquake occurred in
140 1596, this burial mound collapse was thought to have been triggered by this earthquake
141 (Sangawa and Miyazaki 2001).

142

143 The top view of the landslides generated by the 1596 Fushimi Earthquake is shown in
144 Figure 1 (Kamai et al., 2008). The results of the trench survey indicated that most of the
145 landslide types were represented by a combination of translational and rotational
146 landslides (Kamai et al., 2008). Movement was inferred with the following sequence: 1.
147 the landslide mass moved near horizontally for a few meters, 2. the transported
148 landslide mass reached the inner moat, 3. the landslide mass slid down and shifted from
149 translational to rotational landslide mode. Conversely, it was found that an
150 exceptionally large-scale rotational landslide occurred in the north side of the
151 round-shaped section of the burial mound. Whether the burial mound deformation
152 related to this rotational slide is connected to the translational landslide had continued to
153 be a mystery. The purpose of this work was to examine whether muographically found
154 evidence can be used to address this question.

155

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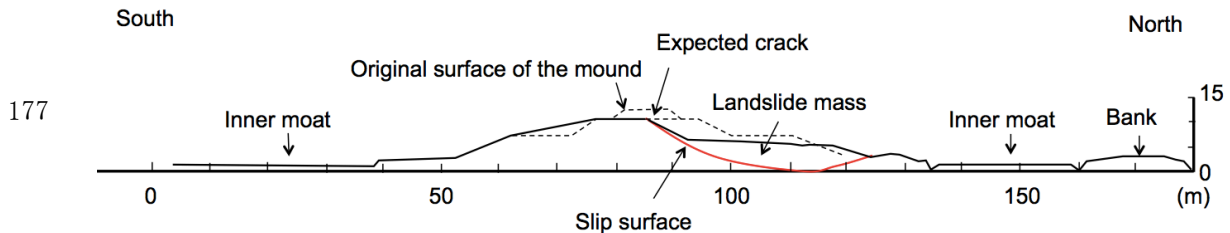
157

158 Figure 1. Top view of Imashirozuka burial mound. Positions A and B indicate the
 159 locations of the detectors for the current bidirectional muographic observations. The
 160 shaded areas in red and blue indicate the viewing angle of each measurement. The inset
 161 shows the geometrical information of the mound. The red and blue solid curves
 162 respectively indicate the cross sections of the mound at given elevation angles from
 163 Positions A and B. The red and blue numbers indicate the elevation angles in units of
 164 mrad.

165

166 In Figure 2, the cross-sectional view of the mound sliced along Line F in Figure 1 is
 167 shown. This structure has been modeled based on the trench surveys conducted in 2008
 168 (Kamai et al. 2008). Original surface of the mound (dashed lines in Figure 2) that was
 169 estimated from the past archaeological studies, was lost by the landslide triggered by the
 170 1596 Fushimi earthquake. The red lines indicate the slip surface of the landslide and at
 171 the top of this surface, the existence of near-vertical cracks was expected. From these

172 trench surveys, the region indicated between the red lines and the solid black lines in
173 this figure was interpreted as the landslide mass, and displayed lower density than the
174 other part of the mound and thus, it was expected that muons could penetrate more in
175 this region (in particular at the top of this region).
176



177
178 Figure 2. Cross-sectional view of the mound along Line F in Figure 1. The dashed lines
179 indicate the original surface of the mound, and the red lines indicate the slip surface of
180 the landslide triggered by the 1596 Fushimi earthquake. The authors drew this image
181 based on the work done by Kamai et al. (2008).
182

183 Mechanical fractures within rock and soil produce a significant amount of interparticle
184 space and these fractured zones are detected as lower-density-regions in muographic
185 images (Tanaka and Muraoka, 2013, Carbone et al. 2014). Likewise, when a landslide
186 occurs, various processes influence changes in the density distribution inside a burial
187 mound. When a crack is generated in the burial mound, the density is reduced along the
188 crack. If a large-scale collapse occurs, the collapsed landslide mass will contain a lot of
189 inter-particle voids, and the density will be reduced. If the geometrical arrangement is
190 altered between the high-density base layer and lower density middle layer due to the
191 ground motion such as a fault slip, the overall density distribution will be altered
192 accordingly. All of these variations can be imaged with muography.
193

194 3. Method

195 Bidirectional muographic measurements were conducted at the Imashirozuka burial
196 mound site so that the resultant images could be used for 3-dimensional interpretation of
197 the internal structure of the circular section of the mound. In particular, one of the
198 detector positions of the current bidirectional measurements were chosen on the
199 northern side of the round-shaped section (Position B) so that the area where the
200 extensive collapse occurred could be more closely observed. The positions chosen for
201 the current measurement are shown in Figure 1. The first measurement of the
202 Imashirozuka mound started at Position A on September 21, 2019. The data were taken
203 for 40 days, and subsequently the detector was moved to Position B to collect the data

204 for another period of approximately one month.

205

206 The detector employed for the current measurement was the multi-wire proportional
207 chambers (MWPC) based muographic observation system (MMOS) that consists of 6
208 layers of MWPCs and lead plates with a total thickness of 10 cm. A detailed description
209 of the MMOS can be found in elsewhere (Olah et al. 2018), and thus only the main
210 features are briefly introduced here. In between each of the MWPC, a 2-cm thick lead
211 plate accommodated in a 4 mm-thick-stainless steel case is inserted, thus the total
212 thickness of these radiation shields is equivalent to $\sim 130 \text{ gcm}^{-2}$. These radiation
213 shields function as an absorber or a scatterer of low energy background particles that
214 include muons or other electromagnetic particles. The wire distances were designed to
215 be 12 mm in MWPC detectors to provide a fair positional resolution of approx. 4 mm
216 even if lead plates were applied between the MWPCs (Varga, D. et al., 2015; Varga, D.
217 et al., 2016; Olah, L. et al., 2018). The angular resolution of 1.5 meter-length tracking
218 system was approx. 2.7 mrad (Olah, L. et al., 2018). Only the straight trajectories
219 throughout 6 detectors are employed and recorded as muons. The penetration of muons
220 and electrons were simulated in GEANT4 simulation framework (Olah, L. et al., 2019).
221 The analysis cut on the goodness of track fit was set to 1.5 to suppress the penetration of
222 muons down to 10 % those had the energy of $< 1 \text{ GeV}$. This simulation study showed
223 that the electromagnetic component did not create signal in the MMOS. In the current
224 measurements, the total weight of the MMOS was 600 kg including the case, batteries
225 and gas bottle. The total power consumption of the detector was $\sim 30\text{W}$, and the six
226 400-Wh lithium-ion batteries loaded into the case allowed us the continuous operation
227 for 80 hours, and the recurrent charging and replacements of the batteries further
228 extended the time of the continuous operation. The flow rate of the Ar-CO₂ gas mixture
229 (Ar:80, CO₂:20) through the chambers was 1–2 liters per hour to enable continuous
230 operation for a few months with a standard 40L type (6,000 liters) gas bottle. The
231 casters attached to the bottom of the case facilitated movements of the detector around
232 the mound. Moisture absorbent boxes were equipped inside the box in order to retain
233 the humidity at a constant level around the MWPCs. The size of the active area of the
234 detector was $80 \times 80 \text{ cm}^2$, and the distance between the uppermost and lowermost
235 stream detectors were 150 cm. The recorded muon tracks were stored and the numbers
236 of muon counts were directionally sorted out into a matrix with an angular binning
237 width of $8 \text{ mrad} \times 8 \text{ mrad}$. As is indicated in Figure 1, the azimuthal viewing angle was
238 $\pm 500 \text{ mrad}$, however, due to the smaller geometrical acceptance for larger angles, only
239 the data within $\pm 400 \text{ mrad}$ were used. The detector cost was $\sim 60\text{k}$ US dollars, but the

240 operational cost was suppressed to a few thousand US dollars for entire operation
241 including the transportation, human resources for battery replacements and data
242 download.

243

244 Since the current target size is an order of 100 m, the following simplified analytical
245 expression can be applied for derivation of the relative density variations inside the
246 target volume because the muon's cutoff energy (the minimum energy of the muons that
247 can escape from the target volume) is much lower than the critical energy, 708 GeV in
248 SiO₂, the continuous ionization process is the main energy loss process (Tanaka and
249 Ohshiro, 2016).

250

$$251 \quad I_0/I_1=(X_0/X_1)^{-\gamma}, \quad (1)$$

252

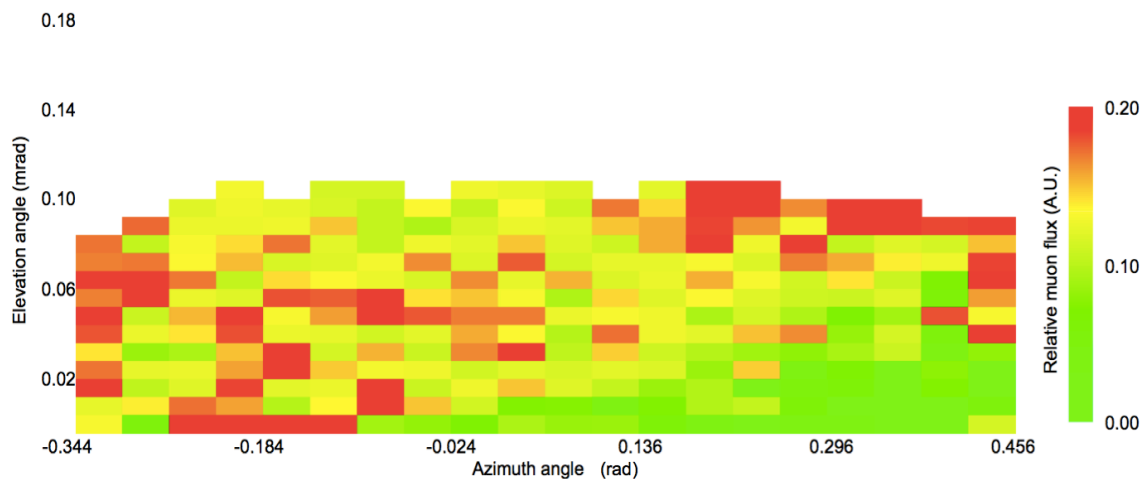
253 where I_0 and I_1 is the remnant muon flux after passing through different densimetric
254 thickness of rock X_0 and X_1 . The Greek symbol, γ , is the zenith-angular dependent index
255 of the power law of the integrated muon spectrum within 50-200 GeV. In this work,
256 only the “relative muon flux” was used for discussions of the density contrast inside the
257 mound. The obtained matrix has been normalized by the azimuthal distribution of the
258 open-sky flux so that the azimuthally angle-dependent acceptance has been canceled in
259 the image.

260

261 **4. Results**

262 Figure 3 shows the muographic image (Image A) taken at Position A that is indicated in
263 Figure 1. Corresponding azimuthal angles (-0.344 rad - 0.456 rad) are shown in Figure 1.
264 The distance between the detector and the peak of the mound was 70 m, and thus the
265 elevation angle of the mound peak was ~110 mrad (~6 degrees). Since the aspect ratio
266 of the mound, i.e., the ratio of its width to its height (10:1) was large, the matrix was not
267 re-binned in the elevational direction, but was re-binned in 40 mrad in the azimuthal
268 direction in order to increase the statistics. The total number of muons collected at
269 Position A in the elevational-angle-region below 180 mrad was 76,682. The number of
270 muons recorded in the bins at an azimuthal angle of 0 ranged from 30 to 500, depending
271 on the elevational angle. The data were normalized to the azimuthal distribution of the
272 open-sky muon tracks that was unaffected by the existence of the mound, which
273 corresponds to the elevational region between 300 and 360 mrad in order to derive the
274 “relative muon flux”. The bottom right green-colored region in Figure 3, where the

275 number of muons was counted less than other regions corresponds to the direction
 276 because in the positive azimuthal angular region at Position A, the rectangular section
 277 of the mound provided the additional path length for muons that arrived at lower
 278 elevation angles. It was expected that the region around landslide headscarps
 279 (arc-shaped lines in Figure 1) had cracks, and thus the average density along these
 280 cracks was significantly lower than the density around these. This density reduction
 281 effect is maximized in muographs when the muon's ray path is parallel to these cracks.
 282 From Position A, this direction corresponds to the azimuthal angular range between 200
 283 mrad and 300 mrad (see the position indicated by "Crack A" in Figure 1).
 284

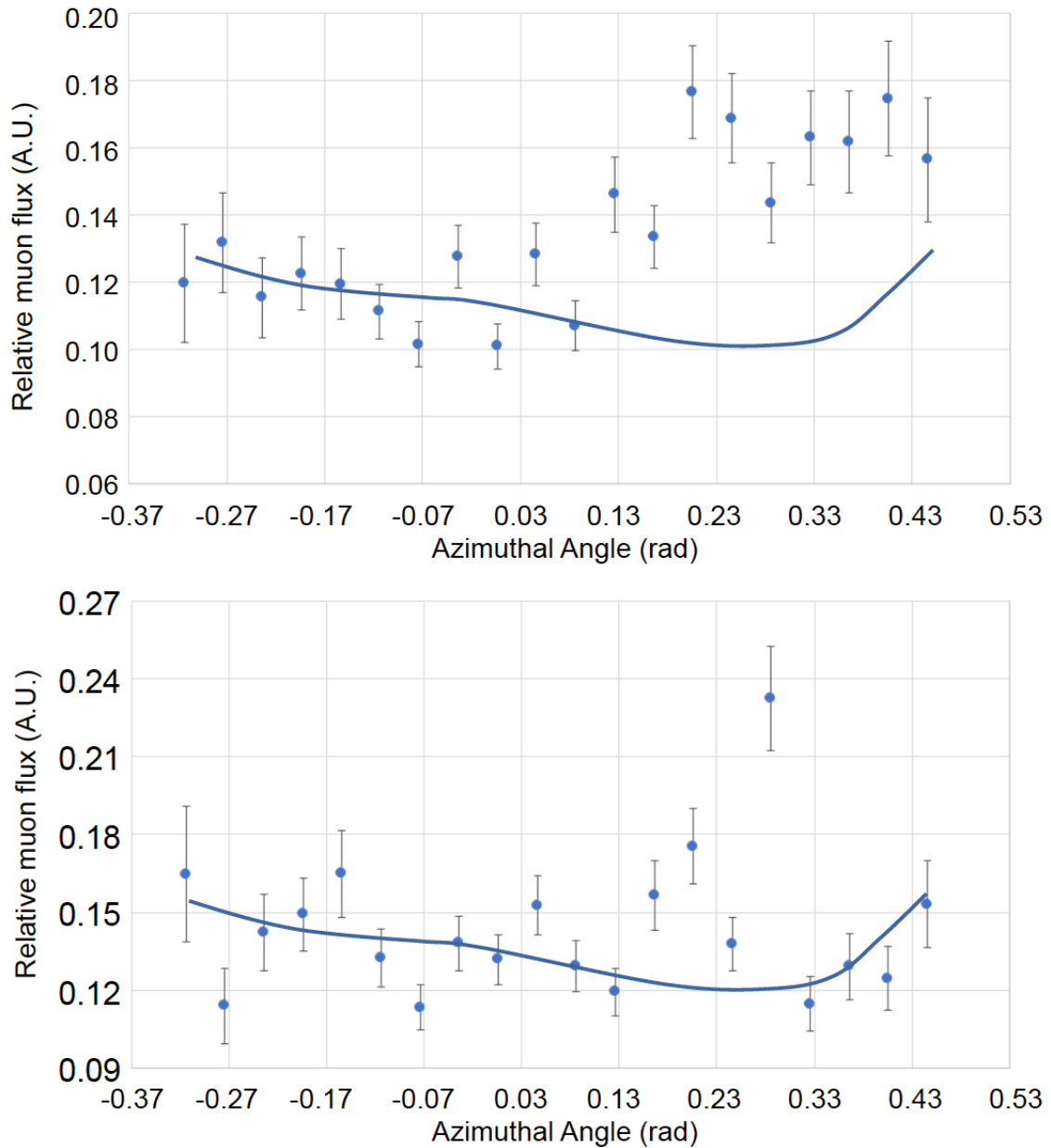


285
 286 Figure 3. Angular distribution of the relative muon flux, as was observed from the
 287 measurement at Position A. The horizontal and vertical bin widths are respectively 40
 288 mrad and 8 mrad. The azimuthal distribution of the relative muon flux was normalized
 289 to the total number of muons counted at each elevation angle.

290
 291
 292 Figure 4 shows the azimuthal distribution of the relative muon flux at shallow depths (at
 293 elevation angles of 108 mrad (Figure 4A) and 100 mrad (Figure 4B)). The solid lines
 294 are the expected muon flux. These lines were drawn based on the geometrical thickness
 295 of the mound along the muon paths (Figure 1) by assuming the uniform density
 296 distribution inside the mound. In these three images, the following three features can be
 297 found. (A) Overall, the excessive flux of muons was observed in the positive azimuthal
 298 angle region. This indicates that the average density in the positive azimuthal angle
 299 region is lower than that in the negative angle region. An overall density variation
 300 between them is 10-20%. (B) A strongly excessive muon flux can be found in the

301 azimuthal angle region between 176 mrad and 296 mrad in Figures 4A and 4B. The
302 statistical significance was more than 4σ . (C) In Figures 4A, there is also a low-density
303 region within the azimuthal angle range between 296-456 mrad. The position of this
304 low-density region corresponds to that of Trench F (dotted lines in Figure 1). From (A)
305 and (B), it was inferred that a large almost vertical crack exists in the shallow region,
306 however its existence was not clear when it's deeper than 2 m because of the effect of
307 overlapping the rectangular-shaped background mound (see the green-colored area at
308 the right bottom region of Figure 3). The density variations of this possible crack were
309 20-30% in comparison to the average density of the other part of the mound. The crack
310 width was 80-120 mrad that was equivalent to 6-8 m when considering the distance
311 between the detector and Crack A of 70 m.

312



313

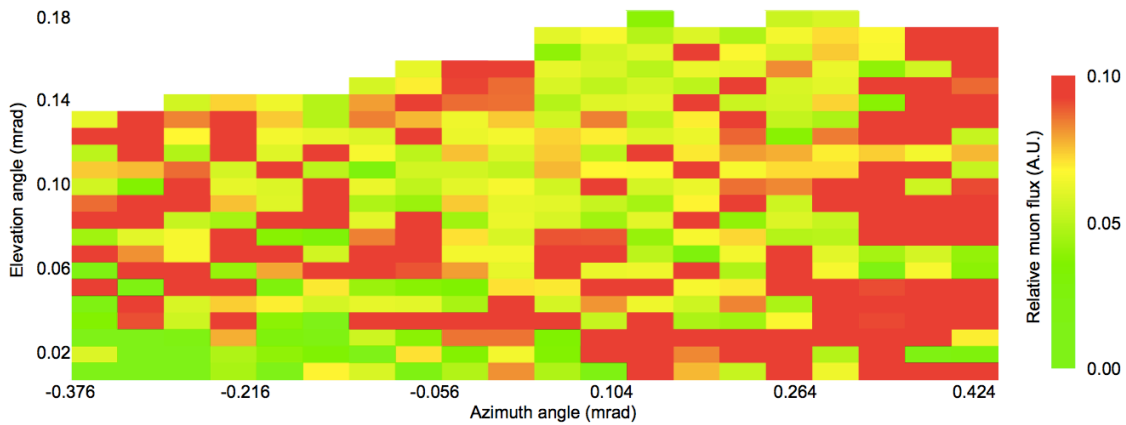
314 Figure 4. Azimuthal distribution of the relative muon flux for elevation angles of 100
 315 mrad (top) and 92 mrad (bottom). The solid curves indicate the expected horizontal
 316 muon flux variations.

317

318

319 Crack A was not parallel to the muon's ray path at Position B (Figure 1), however,
 320 Crack B was parallel to those in the azimuthal angle range between 300-420 mrad.
 321 Therefore, it was expected that the similar structure to Crack A would be observed in
 322 this angular region. Figure 5 shows the muographic image (Image B) taken at

323 Position B. Since the distance to the mound peak (50 m) was closer at Position B, the
 324 spatial resolution at the mound peak was improved for a given angular resolution of the
 325 tracker. The total number of muons collected at Position B in the
 326 elevational-angle-region below 180 mrad was 15,214. The number of muons recorded
 327 in the bins at an azimuthal angle of 0 ranged from 15 to 100, depending on the
 328 elevational angle. The data were normalized to the azimuthal distribution of the muon
 329 tracks recorded within the elevational range between 300 and 360 mrad in order to
 330 derive the “relative muon flux”. Corresponding azimuthal angles (-0.376 rad - 0.424
 331 rad) are shown in Figure 1.
 332

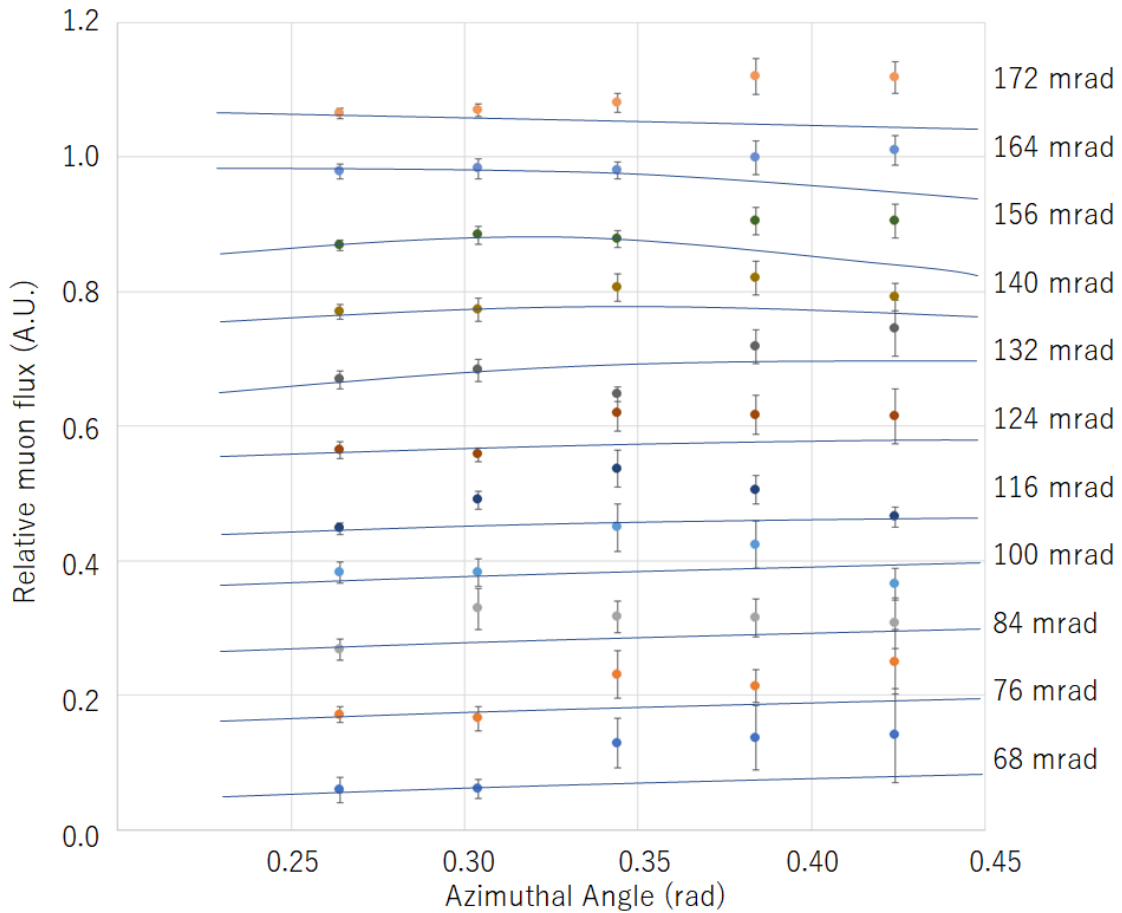


333
 334 Figure 5. Angular distribution of the relative muon flux observed at Position B. The
 335 horizontal and vertical bin widths are respectively 40 mrad and 8 mrad. The azimuthal
 336 distribution of the relative muon flux was normalized to the total number of muons
 337 counted at each elevation angle.
 338

339
 340 In Figure 6, the azimuthal distribution of the relative muon flux for elevation angles of
 341 68 mrad - 172 mrad are shown. In these images, the excessive muon flux was found
 342 within the azimuthal angle range between 264-424 mrad. The statistical significance
 343 was overall more than 1σ , but was increased to $2-3\sigma$ in the shallower region of the
 344 mound. This low-density region was interpreted as the combination of Cracks A and B,
 345 and it was found that the vertical extent of the crack was much deeper than what could
 346 be seen in Image A. The crack width was at least 80-160 mrad that was equivalent to
 347 4-8 m when considering the distance between the detector and Crack B. The reddish
 348 region in Figure 5 that can be seen on the left side of Crack B indicates low-density

349 collapsed landslide mass, with a mixture of the remnant of the past excavation at Trench
350 F.

351
352



353

354 Figure 6 Azimuthal distribution of the relative muon flux for various elevation angles.
355 The solid curves indicate the expected horizontal muon flux variations. The relative
356 muon flux values were multiplied for better visualization.

357

358

359

360 **5. Discussion**

361 From the bidirectional muographic images taken in the current measurements, the
362 following interpretations were derived.

363

364 The vertical low-density regions at the top of the mound in Images A and B show that
365 there is a large-scale vertical crack behind Landslide headscarp. The widths of these

366 vertical cracks were both 4-8 m thus it is reasonable to assume they are associated with
367 the same scarp.

368

369 In conclusion, the following picture was proposed. In prior trench-survey-based works,
370 most of the landslides that deformed this burial mound structure were found to have
371 been caused by a translational process. On the other hand, there was an exceptionally
372 large-scale rotational slide was found in the north region of the round-shaped section of
373 the mound, and the stone chamber was deformed and destroyed by this collapse process.
374 However, in the current muographic observations, a large-scale vertical crack was
375 discovered at the top of the round-shaped section, and it was found that the burial
376 mound deformation that connected to the translational collapse process also occurred
377 behind this rotational landslide. These data indicate that there was an intrinsic problem
378 with the stability of the basic foundation of the Imashirozuka mound before the 1596
379 Fushimi Earthquake. Changes in the foundation as a response to shaking from the
380 earthquake may have produced this large-scale burial mound collapse.

381

382 The burial mound seems to have a robust structure, more stable against earthquakes
383 than slender buildings like clock towers. However, a number of the ancient burial
384 mounds throughout Japan have collapsed from earthquakes and many modern buildings
385 are now built upon them. A small fraction has survived since early times, however, they
386 do not always indicate the earthquake-free sites. They represent an example of the final
387 designs of ancient Japanese construction since they have remained even after having
388 experienced a number of destructive earthquakes.

389

390 The technique of muography, which can probe seismically damaged ancient mounds is
391 similar to medical radiography which seeks to find the position, formation, and size of
392 the fractured zone inside the human body. In general, it is difficult to understand the
393 extent of damage, for example, of a patient's external wound without also understand
394 what is happening inside the body. The outside structure of ancient mounds is similar.
395 The surface of them has usually been naturally or artificially eroded with added
396 vegetation covering the shape during a long period of time it has existed. However, the
397 inside is more intact. For this reason, the trench survey technique (physically digging a
398 trench into the structure) to understand the "inside" can reveal valuable data.
399 However, similar to the manner in which x-ray photographs are usually applied to a
400 diagnosis before surgery is considered, muography is a more convenient and
401 noninvasive technique to effectively understand the overall inside structure to assess the

402 effect of time and natural disasters on the structure as a whole.

403

404 The current proof of concept measurement has attempted to show whether the technique
405 of muography increases the possibilities of finding more physical evidence related to
406 past earthquakes by selecting the Imashirozuka mound as an example. Obviously, the
407 specific earthquake damage of each burial mound is unique and cannot be generalized.
408 Its response depends not only on its material properties of the mound including its
409 mechanical properties of its foundations (strength and rigidity), but also on the ground
410 motion during an earthquake. Surveying and mapping various mounds that are thought
411 to be affected by the earthquake will provide a valuable data for us to verify and sort out
412 the factors that caused the damage.

413

414 Not only Imashirozuka mound but also other various burial mounds including the
415 Mishima mound group and the Kobo mound group are concentrated along the Rokkou
416 active fault system and its next neighbor Arima-Takatsuki tectonic line. The current
417 muographic results suggest that a combination of muography and the techniques of
418 trench survey or other conventional geophysical techniques can contribute towards the
419 construction of a more comprehensive understanding of the seismic response and
420 deformation of each burial mound. The characteristics of muography would allow
421 researchers to conduct an investigation of several sites quickly and efficiently to grasp
422 the general trend of the ensemble of these sites. Incorporating the muography
423 visualization technique into engineering expertise and in conjunction with historical
424 comparanda would utilize a new potential: by acquiring this new, valuable data from
425 these ancient burial mounds in Japan and other similar sites worldwide, we would
426 increase our ability to tackle future challenges of natural disaster preparation.

427

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