

[The Source Mechanism and Fault](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042/full) [Movement Characterization of the](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042/full) [2022 Mw6.7 Menyuan Earthquake](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042/full) [Revealed by the Joint Inversion With](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042/full) [InSAR and Teleseismic Observations](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042/full)

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Specialty section:

This article was submitted to Environmental Informatics and Remote Sensing, a section of the journal Frontiers in Environmental Science

> Received: 10 April 2022 Accepted: 23 May 2022 Published: 06 June 2022

Citation:

Bao X, Zhang R, Wang T, Shama A, Zhan R, Lv J, Wu R, Fu Y and Liu G (2022) The Source Mechanism and Fault Movement Characterization of the 2022 Mw6.7 Menyuan Earthquake Revealed by the Joint Inversion With InSAR and Teleseismic Observations. Front. Environ. Sci. 10:917042. doi: [10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042](https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2022.917042)

The characteristics of active fault movements are essential for estimating the earthquake potential on the Tibetan Plateau (TP) in a complex geological setting. The 2022 Menyuan Mw6.7 earthquake was studied by a joint seismological and geodetic methodology to deepen the scientific understanding of the source parameters and deformation mechanisms. Firstly, the entire InSAR co-seismic deformation field is obtained based on ascending and descending Sentinel-1A imagery. Subsequently, a Bayesian algorithm is applied in fault geometry and slip distribution determination by combining InSAR measurements and teleseismic data. And the fault movement characteristics of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake are analyzed. Finally, a comprehensive "surfacesubsurface" analysis of the effects caused by this earthquake was carried out by combining InSAR and fault data. The results demonstrate that the ground settlement and uplift induced by the 2022 Menyuan earthquake are significant, with a maximum relative deformation of 56 cm. The seismogenic fault is on the junction of the Lenglongling (LLL) and Tuolaishan (TLS) faults, and the main body is in the western part of the LLL fault, a high dip left-lateral strike-slip fault with NWW-SEE strike. The slip distribution results indicate that the largest slip of 3.45 m occurs at about 5 km below the ground, and the earthquake magnitude is Mw6.63. And further analysis by integrated geological structure and inversion results reveals that the earthquakes that occurred on the North Lenglongling Fault (NLLL) in 1986 and 2016 have contributed to the 2022 Menyuan earthquake.

Keywords: Menyuan earthquake, InSAR, co-seismic deformation field, finite fault model, fault movement characterization

1 INTRODUCTION

The China Earthquake Network Center (CENC) reported that an Ms6.9 magnitude earthquake occurred at 1:45 a.m. on 8 January 2022, in Menyuan County, China. The earthquake was felt significantly around the source, causing 1,662 households and 5,831 people affected, 9 people injured, and 4,052 houses damaged in Menyuan, Qilian, and Gangcha counties. As shown in [Table 1](#page-1-0), the fault

TABLE 1 | Source and fault parameters of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake.

	Our study	USGS	GCMT	CENC
Lon $(^\circ)$	101.29	101.282	101.31	101.26
Lat $(^\circ)$	37.78	37.825	37.8	37.77
Strike (°)	289.78	104/	104.11/	
		13	13.97	
Dip(81.88	88/	81.77/	
		75	89.02	
Rake (°)	1.88	15/	0.98/	
		178	171.77	
Magnitude	Mw 6.63	Mw 6.61	Mw 6.69	Ms 6.9

geometry and source mechanisms determined by various institutions have some discrepancies due to the different raw data applied. The epicenter of this earthquake (37.77° N, 101.26°E) was located in the Qilian Mountains of the TP. It is the third moderate intensity earthquake since the Mw5.9 (data from the GCMT) Menyuan earthquake in 1986 and 2016. The epicenter is within 40 km of the 1986 and 2016 earthquakes, indicating a high-stress accumulation and seismic hazard in the region. Therefore, co-seismic deformation observation studies of the latest Menyuan earthquake can further improve the understanding of the fault characteristics and reference the tectonic motion of the northeastern Tibet Plateau.

Researchers have conducted several studies using different datasets and methods to rapidly understand seismogenesis and its impact on the 2022 Menyuan earthquake. [Han \(2022\)](#page-12-0) converted the mainshock source mechanism and source depth using the generalized cut and paste algorithm (gCAP). It was concluded that this is a strike-slip earthquake of magnitude Mw6.7, and the optimal source depth is about 3 km. [Yang et al. \(2022\)](#page-13-0) derived a 3.5 m for the mainshock co-seismic using InSAR. In addition, the calculation for the b and h values of the earthquake sequence indicates that the 2022 Menyuan earthquake follows the mainaftershock sequence characteristics. [Li et al. \(2022\)](#page-12-1) used Sentinel-1A data for fault inversion and found that the maximum slip value of the seismogenic fault reached 3.5 m, which was about 4 km below the ground. It also clarifies the contribution of the 2016 Menyuan earthquake to the 2022 earthquake through static Coulomb stress triggering relations. [Wang Q et al., 2022](#page-13-1) investigated the deep tectonic setting of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake. The deep tectonic features of the Menyuan earthquake are discussed with information on crustal thickness, velocity structure, and anisotropy. It reveals that the 2022 Menyuan earthquake and its aftershock activity led to an adequate rupture of the LLL. [Xu et al., 2022](#page-13-2) inverted the source mechanism and the source moment center depth of the mainshock and Ms3.4 aftershock with the gCAP method. And based on the results of aftershock relocation, the relationship between earthquake magnitude and surface rupture, and shear stress, it can be found that there is partial stress accumulation in the Menyuan area, and the stress has not been fully released. There is still a risk of strong earthquakes in this region.

Related studies have applied a few methods to analyze the source mechanism, geological structure, aftershock sequences, and stress changes of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake. However,

relatively limited observation data affected the accurate identification of regional geological tectonics. For example, [Li](#page-12-1) [et al., 2022](#page-12-1) and [Yang et al., 2022](#page-13-0) used Sentinel-1A images with incomplete coverage of the deformation area, resulting in an inadequate establishment of the co-seismic deformation field precise source and fault parameters remaining undetermined. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that the contribution of single-type observation data to source information inversion is relatively limited. And the diversity of the data contributes to overcoming the challenges that occur in source imaging using just a one-type dataset [\(Melgar and Bock, 2015;](#page-12-2) [Zheng et al., 2020\)](#page-13-3). InSAR and teleseismic data of the Menyuan earthquake were published and provided after the incident. The conditions for the joint inversion of seismic parameters and fault distribution are complete with the release of the InSAR and teleseismic data sources.

This contribution first establishes the entire co-seismic deformation field with InSAR data. Subsequently, we suppose the fault is a rectangular plane and estimated the fault parameters using InSAR and teleseismic data based on the Bayesian algorithm. After that, we determine the specific slip distribution of each subfault from the distributed slip results. According to the movement characteristics of the earthquake faults, the deformation field was decomposed into two dimensions to explore the impact of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake.

2 GEOLOGICAL AND TECTONIC BACKGROUND

Menyuan is situated on the northeastern part of TP, subjected to continuous collision and extrusion between the NE-SW direction of the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate for a long time [\(Tapponnier and Molnar, 1977](#page-12-3); [Tapponnier et al., 2001;](#page-12-4) [Liu](#page-12-5) [et al., 2019](#page-12-5)). Many folds around this area, with active faults and complex geological structures [\(Yin et al., 2008\)](#page-13-4). The northeastern margin of the TP is one of the most complex areas in China in terms of geological conditions and environment. It has been affected by many strong earthquakes, for example, the Mw8.3 Haiyuan earthquake in 1920 [\(Liu et al., 2007\)](#page-12-6), the Mw7.7 Gulang earthquake under the Dongqingding Mountain [\(Xu et al., 2010\)](#page-13-5), and the Mw7.0 Shandan earthquake at the Longshushan Fault in 1954 ([Deng et al., 1986](#page-11-0)).

The Qilian-Haiyuan Fault (QH) consists of the TLS, Jinqianghe Fault (JQH), Maomaoshan Fault (MMS), Laohushan Fault (LHS), LLL, and Haiyuan Fault (HY) [\(Molnar and Qidong, 1984](#page-12-7); [Guo et al., 2019](#page-12-8)), which is about 1000 km long [\(Peltzer et al., 1988\)](#page-12-9). The QHF controls the geometry and tectonic pattern of the TP. It regulates the eastward movement of the northeast margin of TP towards the Gobi-Alashan platform ([Shi et al., 2020\)](#page-12-10). The LLL is the middle section of the QHF ([Zhang et al., 2020;](#page-13-6) [Yang et al., 2022\)](#page-13-0) and is recognized to have the highest slip rate of the HY. It is distributed along the watershed of the East Qilian Mountains, starting at Liuhuanggou and ending near Yangpanchang. ([Zhang](#page-13-7) [et al., 2012\)](#page-13-7). The LLL is mainly characterized by left-slip

FIGURE 1 | (A) Faults (lines) on the TP ([Deng et al., 2003](#page-11-7)). The blue rectangle represents the extent of (B). (B) Major faults in the study area. HLH: Hala Lake Fault. The white boxes are the image coverage area of the Sentinel-1A. (C) Focal mechanisms of 1986, 2016, and 2022 Menyuan earthquakes (data from the GCMT) and aftershock locations (blue dots). The Lanzhou-Xinjiang high-speed railway (LHSR) crosses the fracture zone.

([Gaudemer et al., 1995](#page-12-11)). [Figure 1](#page-2-0) provides an overview of the study area.

3 MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1 Co-Seismic Data Processing 3.1.1 InSAR Data

InSAR technology is widely used to monitor ground deformation and plays a significant role in acquiring co-seismic deformation fields ([Ganas et al., 2020](#page-12-12); [Taymaz et al., 2021\)](#page-12-13). As shown in [Table 2](#page-2-1), ascending and descending imagery obtained by Sentinel-1A were exploited in this paper for co-seismic displacement mapping. GMTSAR was used to process these two pairs of Sentinel 1A data. The phase delay propagated through the atmosphere is very slight compared to the co-seismic signal, so it is neglected ([Jin and Fialko, 2021\)](#page-12-14). Co-registration of sentinel images is completed by the BESD approach ([Sandwell et al., 2011](#page-12-15); [Wang K. et al., 2017\)](#page-12-16), and a modified Goldstein filter was utilized to filter the generated interferograms ([Goldstein and Werner,](#page-12-17) [1998](#page-12-17); [Li et al., 2008](#page-12-18)). We used the MCF (minimum cost flow) method for unwrapping the filtered interferogram [\(Chen and](#page-11-1) [zebker, 2002;](#page-11-1) [Bao et al., 2022\)](#page-11-2). The processed interferogram is shown in [Figure 2](#page-3-0).

3.1.2 Teleseismic Data

We selected the teleseismic data from 14 stations for the joint inversion. The epicenter distance was set between 30° and 90° to ensure and improve the azimuthal coverage ([Zheng et al., 2020;](#page-13-3) [Taymaz et al., 2022\)](#page-12-19). The raw P-wave recordings were filtered using a band-pass filter (0.01 \sim 0.1 Hz). We decomposed the P-wave into vertical displacements. And the waveform was tapered to a 120 s time window, including the initial 30 s of data that arrived. The global velocity model AK135 was used as the velocity model during the teleseismic calculation of Green's function [\(Bassin, 2000;](#page-11-3) [Xie et al., 2021\)](#page-13-8).

3.2 Fault Inversion and Modeling

Bayesian algorithm ([Bayes, 1763\)](#page-11-4) is widely used to study earthquake mechanisms and fault characterization [\(Tarantola](#page-12-20) [and valette, 1982;](#page-12-20) [Fukuda and Johnson, 2008;](#page-12-21) [Monelli and](#page-12-22) [Mai, 2008;](#page-12-22) [Duputel et al., 2012;](#page-11-5) Razafi[ndrakoto and Mai, 2014;](#page-12-23) [Dutta et al., 2018\)](#page-11-6). Seismic and geodetic data were applied to constrain the geometry of the faults. And we use Bayesian methods to assess the uncertainty of the model and the data.

Combined considering different multiple independent observations $d = \{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$ and multiple source parameters of the model $m = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k\}$, at this point, the observation equation of the error ε can be denoted as

FIGURE 2 | Co-seismic interferograms and the LOS deformation field of the Menyuan earthquake. (A) Interferogram and (B) LOS deformation of the ascending T128; (C) Interferogram and (D) LOS deformation of the descending T33.

$$
d = Gre(m) + \varepsilon \tag{1}
$$

where $Gre(m)$ is the Green function [\(Xie et al., 2021](#page-13-8)). According to the definition of the Bayesian algorithm, the posterior probability density function (PDF) of the model parameters can be expressed as

$$
P_{LL}(m|d) = \frac{P(d|m)P_{pri}(m)}{P(d)} \propto P_{pri}(m)P(d|m) \tag{2}
$$

 $P_{LL}(m|d)$ stands for likelihood function, which can measure the degree of fit of the predicted values to the observed values. $P_{pri}(m)$ is the prior information. $P(d)$ represents the constant normalization independent of m . The solution to the fault parameters is a nonlinear problem. For each subset of multiple data sets, we suppose a multivariate Gaussian distribution and estimate the distribution of the unknown residuals as hyperparameters.

In the Bayesian Earthquake Analysis Tool (BEAT), the prior case of the parameters is given as a range of possible values that are independent and uniform, and we can numerically constrain it by adding upper and lower bounds beyond $P_{pri}(m) = 0$ [\(Mai](#page-12-24) [et al., 2020](#page-12-24)). Then, the Sequential Monte Carlo algorithm is performed to assess the posterior probability distribution ([Minson et al., 2013;](#page-12-25) [Zheng et al., 2020](#page-13-3)). This algorithm can sample the probability distribution functions of multiple Markov chains in parallel, which enables to obtain the maximum a posteriori solution (MAP) of dip-slip and strike-slip in subfaults and reduce the computing time. The data needs to be regularized to ensure that the fault geometry is not overdecomposed. Finally, we can get stable distribution slip results.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Co-Seismic Deformation of the 2022 Event

Based on the Sentinel-1A IW wide ascending and descending SAR imagery data, the co-seismic deformation field of the 8 January 2022, Menyuan Mw6.7 earthquake in Qinghai was reconstructed as shown in [Figure 2](#page-3-0). The interference fringes in the area of this co-seismic deformation are apparent and show a butterfly shape (see [Figure 2A](#page-3-0) and [Figure 2C](#page-3-0)). Only a few places appeared to have a decoherence phenomenon caused by lakes, complex topography, and large-gradient deformation (e.g., the epicenter area). [Figure 2](#page-3-0) displays that the ground subsidence and uplift are both evident, where the deformation range is about −56 cm–39 cm for the ascending track and about −49 cm–56 cm for the descending path.

To further understand the distribution of the co-seismic deformation field of this earthquake, two profiles across the fault are extracted from the deformation field acquired by the ascending and descending imagery, respectively. The profile lines A1-A2 and B1-B2 are distributed perpendicular to the line of LHSR and along the long axis of the deformation field, respectively. [Figure 3](#page-4-0) illustrates prominent centers of subsidence and uplift in both deformation profiles. [Figure 3A](#page-4-0) indicates that the maximum deformation of the A1-A2 section in the ascending and descending images are 38 cm and 36 cm. And

the minimum deformation values are −45 cm and −47 cm, respectively. [Figure 3B](#page-4-0) illustrates that the deformation values of the B1-B2 section are in the range of −21 cm–15 cm.

The earthquake impact area monitored by the two tracks is about 30 km \times 15 km, and the long axis of the co-seismic deformation field is in the NWW-SEE direction. The footwall and hanging wall in [Figure 2B](#page-3-0) and [Figure 2D](#page-3-0) show opposite deformation patterns. At the same time, the footwall and hanging wall of the deformation field of the same track exhibit opposite movement (see [Figure 3](#page-4-0)). This phenomenon indicates that this ground deformation is dominated by horizontal movement, which agrees with the motion features of a strike-slip fault earthquake.

4.2 Fault Geometry and Slip Distribution

We down-sampling the LOS deformation field using the quadtree algorithm to suppress noise and speed up the inversion process ([Jónsson et al., 2002\)](#page-12-26). The quadtree algorithm has different threshold settings to perform encrypted sampling for nearfield deformation and sparse sampling for far-field areas according to the deformation gradient varying from near-field to far-field regions. The advantage of this algorithm is to preserve

the near-field deformation characteristics while reducing the negative impact of far-field errors and noise on the inversion to some extent.

The InSAR monitoring results were down-sampled to obtain 1072 data points, including 572 points for the ascending track and 500 points for the descending track. We used 16 CPUs for parallel processing and built 992 Markov chains (MCs) in this experiment, each MC sampling 100 steps and taking 35 stages to complete the computation. After all estimated sample values are ranked, we take the lower limit of the confidence interval as 0.5% and the upper limit as 99.5%, respectively. The values of 99% confidence interval for each parameter are obtained then. Seismic parameters obtained by the USGS show that the geometric planes of the two possible seismogenic faults are both highly dip angles (75° and 88°) and strikes of 13° and 104° , respectively. We determine the large strike angle plane by combining the geographical location of the earthquake source and the LLL fault strike to explain this event. Thus, we set the initial a priori parameter intervals for the strike, dip, and rake to (270° , 360°), $(50^\circ, 90^\circ)$, and $(0^\circ, 5^\circ)$. As illustrated in **[Figure 4](#page-4-1)**, most
teleseismic station data are well resolved. The MAP is selected as teleseismic station data are well resolved. The MAP is selected as the optimal fault parameter. And the MAP correlates well with

TABLE 3 | Fault geometry parameters of the Menyuan earthquake.

	MAP	Std	hpd 0.5	hpd 99.5
Depth (km)	1.43	0.17	1.26	2.02
Dip $(°)$	81.88	1.32	79.10	85.10
east shift (km)	-1.70	0.04	-1.78	-1.57
north shift (km)	-1.79	0.03	-1.96	-1.76
Rake $(°)$	1.88	0.43	0.92	3.04
Slip (m)	3.43	0.67	2.96	6.37
Strike (°)	289.88	0.19	289.31	290.28
Width (km)	4.96	0.70	2.41	5.86
Length (km)	17.93	0.13	17.52	18.19

the peak of Bayesian estimation (see [Figure 5](#page-5-0)). The length and width of the fault obtained by uniform inversion are 17.93 km and 4.96 km. The strike, dip, and rake are 289.78° , 81.88° , and 1.88° , respectively. East_shift and North_shift represent offsets relative to the reference point (101.31° E, 37.8°N, the epicenter location provided by GCMT) in the UTM coordinate system, geometrically representing the upper boundary of the fault centroid, transformed by coordinates to (101.29° E, 37.78° N). [Table 3](#page-6-0) presents the parameter information in detail.

After the fault geometry parameters inversion, the residuals obtained are shown in [Figure 6](#page-6-1). The light grey scattered points in [Figure 6](#page-6-1) indicate the sampling points, and the black and red straight lines indicate the lower and upper boundaries of the fault, respectively. Near the epicenter, the modeled values generally agree with the observed values. The residual range of the ascending and descending tracks was ±18 mm and ±25 mm. The large residuals near the epicenter are mainly due to the earthquake-induced ground rupture, causing partial decoherence, particularly in the descending track data. In summary, the data of both tracks are well fitted, indicating that the inversion results of the fault geometric parameters are accurate.

To obtain a complete description of the specific distribution of fault slip, we determine the parameters of the fault plane based on the optimal model evaluated by the Bayesian method. The fault plane was expanded to 40 km \times 17 km. Then the expanded fault was discretized into 680 subfaults with the size of 1 km \times 1 km. As shown in [Figure 7](#page-7-0), the fault inversion results match the monitored seismic deformation field conditions. The seismic deformation field conditions. The comparison between [Figur](#page-7-0)[e 6](#page-6-1) and [Figure 7](#page-7-0) shows that the inversion result of Figure 7 is better and more consistent with the actual deformation caused by the earthquake. The maximum residual error of [Figure 7](#page-7-0) is less than ±20 mm. Although the residual errors in Figure 7 still exist, they have been improved to a large extent. In summary, the inversion results of fault-distributed slip are relatively reasonable and acceptable.

[Figure 8](#page-7-1) shows the fault slip distribution obtained by distributed inversion. The movement direction of the subfaults indicates that the fault has left-lateral characteristics and belongs to the high dip strike-slip type of earthquake. The maximum slip of the subfault is 3.45 m, which occurs at about 5 km underground, and the main rupture area is concentrated at $3 \sim 9$ km underground. The estimated moment magnitude is $M_w = 6.63$ when the shear modulus is 36 GPa, which corresponds to the moment release of $M_0 = 9.77 \times 10^{18} Nm$. Overall, this moment magnitude estimation results are

consistent with seismological solutions from other institutions ([Table 1](#page-1-0)).

5 DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Fault Movement Characterization

InSAR monitoring results show that the LLL, TLS, Changma-Er'bo Fault, and North Qilian Mountains Fault are all located within the earthquake deformation area. Significantly, the LLL and TLS are close to the seismogenic fault. The existing geological structure shows that the LLL is about 127 km long, strikes from NW 60° to NW 70°, and is an active fault of Holocene time ([Lasserre et al., 2002](#page-12-27); [Han, 2022\)](#page-12-0). This fault is a branch of the North Qilian Mountains active fault, mainly showing thrust and left-slip characteristics ([Liang et al., 2017](#page-12-28)). The TLS is an active normal fault with a general trend in the WNW direction, and the LLL is connected to it [\(Qu et al., 2021\)](#page-12-29). The fault conditions of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake, determined by combining teleseismic and InSAR data, are in accordance with the movement characteristics of the LLL. Moreover, the fault geometry inversion results demonstrate that the fault strike is compatible with the character of the TLS. The above analysis can tentatively determine that the seismogenic fault of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake is at the junction of the LLL and TLS, and the main body is in the LLL.

[Yang et al. \(2022\)](#page-13-0) located and monitored the aftershocks of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake and found that the aftershocks extended more than 40 km long along the strike and more than 20 km deep. The early aftershocks occurred mainly in the west of the mainshock. Three days after the mainshock, the number of aftershocks decreased significantly. However, intense aftershock events occurred east of the mainshock, such as the Ms5.3 earthquake of 12 January 2022. This phenomenon means that the fault is in the stress accumulation stage during this time ([Wang Z. D. et al., 2022](#page-13-9)). The slip distribution results from [Figure 7](#page-7-0) also show that the rupture scale and slip are more severe on the east side of the mainshock than on the west side. Therefore, it is speculated that this asymmetry of co-seismic rupture may have influenced the distribution of aftershocks.

Menyuan had two moderate-intensity earthquakes on 26 August 1986, and 21 January 2016, with Mw5.9 (data from the GCMT). The similarity of the source mechanisms of these two earthquakes suggests that they may have occurred on the same fault [\(Li et al., 2016b;](#page-12-30) [Hu et al., 2016](#page-12-31)). Nevertheless, there is a significant difference between the 2022 Menyuan earthquake and the 1986 and 2016 earthquakes (see [Figure 1](#page-2-0)). The main reason is that the 2022 earthquake happened on the LLL, while the two previous earthquakes occurred on the NLLL ([Jiang et al.,](#page-12-32) [2017](#page-12-32)). The NLLL is a secondary fault of the LLL ([Li et al., 2016b;](#page-12-30) [Wang H. et al., 2017](#page-12-33); [Liu et al., 2018](#page-12-34)). It also indicates the complexity of tectonic movements in the region. Since all three earthquakes were near the LLL and the LLL is located in the famous Tianzhu seismic gap [\(Lasserre et al., 2002](#page-12-27)), concerns about a possible large earthquake have increased [\(Gaudemer](#page-12-11) [et al., 1995](#page-12-11); [Li et al., 2016a\)](#page-12-35). The GPS velocity field study shows that the shear stress rate near the epicenter can reach 2000 Pa·a⁻¹ ([Wang and Shen, 2020\)](#page-13-10), indicating a high degree of occlusion and significant stress accumulation. The 1986 and 2016 Menyuan earthquakes were thrust events. Such secondary thrust fault is likely to serve as an energy release channel for thrust crust deformation, where the LLL will absorb the strike-slip

deformation. Therefore, we conclude that the 1986 and 2016 earthquakes contribute to the 2022 Menyuan earthquake, which agrees with the inferences of [Qu et al. \(2021\)](#page-12-29) and [Li et al. \(2022\)](#page-12-1).

5.2 Impact of the 2022 Menyuan Earthquake

The 2022 Menyuan earthquake had a relatively shallow source depth of about 5 km ([Figure 8](#page-7-1)). Compared with previous earthquakes, a remarkable feature of this one is the large area of rupture on the ground. According to the site inspection, the ground rupture was about 22 km long, and the ground displacement can reach approximately 2.1 m [\(Han, 2022](#page-12-0)). It caused severe damage to the ground environment and surrounding facilities. We performed the ground rupture interpretation based on the Gaofen-7 (GF-7) satellite imagery. As shown in [Figure 9](#page-8-0), the interpreted results match the InSAR monitoring results in [Section 4.1](#page-3-1). The western part of the seismogenic region has a gentle topography, and the ground rupture is more continuous, with more obvious tension fissures and extrusion bulges. In the eastern part of the seismic region, the ground rupture is scattered because it passes through high mountains and is affected by snow and ice cover on the hills ([Li et al., 2022\)](#page-12-1).

To show the impact of this earthquake on the surrounding area more clearly, we used InSAR monitoring results and fault data to establish a comprehensive "surface-subsurface" deformation field in the study area. And the deformation components in near eastwest and vertical directions were obtained, respectively. [\(He et al.,](#page-12-36) [2020](#page-12-36)). The north-south component is neglected due to the insensitivity of the Sentinel-1A satellite to the north-south direction. As shown in [Figure 10](#page-9-0), due to the blocking effect of the Gulang nappe, the LLL becomes the core area where the NEdirectional extrusion expansion stress is transformed into SE-

directional migration and escape on the Tibetan Plateau. Such a dynamic process makes the LLL as a tectonic directional shift zone, which in turn becomes the power source of the Menyuan Mw6.7 earthquake, promoting the occurrence of ground rupture and causing severe damage to the environment and infrastructure around the earthquake. [Figure 10A](#page-9-0) displays a clear eastward and westward displacement of the ground with a roughly centrosymmetric shape and deformation range of -56 cm–57 cm. Regarding the vertical component shown in [Figure 10B](#page-9-0), the northern region exhibits settlement (with a maximum of 22 cm subsidence), while the southern region shows a significant ground uplift (with a maximum of 34 cm).

The 2022 Menyuan earthquake posed a considerable safety hazard along the railroad line because the LHSR crossed the ground rupture (see [Figure 10B](#page-9-0)). We extracted the deformation profile of the P1-P2 section of LHSR. As shown in [Figure 10C](#page-9-0), there is a significant uplift and subsidence center along the LHSR line in the east-west deformation component with a deformation range of \pm 48 cm. The ground uplift along the LHSR line is more evident in the vertical deformation component. The maximum uplift and subsidence deformations are approximately 33 cm and [−]16 cm (see [Figure 10D](#page-9-0)). [Figure 11](#page-9-1) shows the deformation map of the 5 km buffer zone along P1-P2 of the LHSR, which can be seen that the deformation is evident near the railroad line, especially in the north and south of the epicenter.

We conducted discrepancy detection, comparison, and analysis using multiple satellite optical images and photographs before and after the earthquake and rapidly monitored and assessed the damage. The monitoring results showed that the section of the LHSR from Menyuan to Minle, which passed through the epicenter

area, showed apparent collapse damage. In particular, in the Daliang Tunnel (see [Figure 1](#page-2-0)), the collapse of the tunnel entrance, cross-cutting misalignment of the railroad rails, and fracture of the bridge (see [Figure 12](#page-10-0)) were observed. In addition, considering the fragile geological conditions after the earthquake that could easily lead to the intensification of secondary geological hazards, it is necessary to focus on checking the dangers along the subsequent railroad lines to make timely responses.

6 CONCLUSION

We conducted a study on the co-seismic deformation field, source mechanism and fault movement characteristics of the 2022 Menyuan earthquake with InSAR and teleseismic data. A Bayesian method was employed to understand the specific slip of the left-lateral strike-slip fault. The main contributions are as follows.

- (1) InSAR monitoring results acquired from ascending and descending imagery respectively show that the co-seismic impact area of this earthquake is about 30 km \times 15 km. Both ground subsidence and uplift are apparent, where the deformation range of the ascending track is about −56 cm–39 cm; the deformation range of the descending data is about −49 cm–56 cm. The footwall and hanging wall of the co-seismic deformation field show opposite deformation patterns, indicating that the ground deformation is mainly horizontal movement, which is consistent with the movement characteristics of the strikeslip fault.
- (2) The inversion results of the fault geometry and slip distribution demonstrated that the length and width of the fault are 17.93 km and 4.96 km. The strike, dip, and rake of the fault are 289.78° , 81.88°, and 1.88°, respectively. The movement direction of the subfault indicates that the fault belongs to the high dip strike-slip type earthquake. The slip mainly appears from 3 to 9 km underground, while the maximum slip of about 3.45 m occurs at a depth of approximately 5 km. The earthquake magnitude is Mw6.63.
- (3) Combining the inversion results with the geological and tectonic background, we can tentatively determine that the seismogenic fault is at the junction of the LLL and TLS faults,

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and the central part is in the LLL. We can deduce that the previous twice earthquakes on the NLLL provided an energy release channel for the thrust crustal deformation in this region, while the strike-slip deformation was absorbed by the LLL, which prompted the Menyuan earthquake in 2022 to release energy further.

(4) The ground rupture was interpreted using GF-7 imagery. Moreover, the deformation components in the near eastwest and vertical directions were derived from decomposing the InSAR results of the ascending and descending tracks. The earthquake caused severe damage to the ground environment and infrastructures, especially the apparent east-west deformation. As the LHSR passes through the ground rupture, it also poses a huge safety hazard to the operation of the railroad.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

XB: Conceptualization, Methodology, Visualization. RZ: Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing—review and editing, Funding acquisition. TW: Resources, Investigation. AS: Writing—review and editing, RQZ: Conceptualization. JL: Resources, Writing—review and editing. RW: Resources, Validation. YF: Methodology, Software. GL: Writing—review and editing, Funding acquisition.

FUNDING

This research was jointly funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant 42171355 and 42071410); and the Sichuan Science and Technology Program (No. 2018JY0564, 2019ZDZX0042, 2020JDTD0003 and 2020YJ0322).

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