

南部マリアナ背弧拡大軸における海洋底玄武岩の自然残留磁化の減衰 Decay of natural remanent magnetization of oceanic basalt on the back-arc spreading axis in the southern Mariana

望月 伸竜^{1*}, 野木 義史², 浅田 美穂³, 吉河 秀郎⁴, 沖野 郷子⁴

MOCHIZUKI, Nobutatsu^{1*}, NOGI, Yoshifumi², ASADA, Miho³, YOSHIKAWA, Shuro⁴, OKINO, Kyoko⁴

¹ 熊本大学大学院先導機構, ² 国立極地研究所, ³ 海洋研究開発機構, ⁴ 東京大学大気海洋研究所

¹Priority Org. for Innovation and Excellence, Kumamoto University, ²National Institute of Polar Research, ³Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, ⁴Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

Magnetic anomaly high on a spreading axis has been a well-known character of the magnetic anomalies in the ocean, which is mainly related to magnetization intensity reduction of oceanic basalt due to alteration (low-temperature oxidation of titanomagnetite). For a better understanding of natural remanent magnetization (NRM) of oceanic basalt, we studied NRMs of basaltic rocks in the back-arc spreading axis in the southern Mariana. One to four meter cores were drilled from the seafloor by using a BMS in the cruise of TAIGA project (Taiga10M). Block samples were also collected during the dives of SHINKAI6500 in the cruise YK10-11. NRM intensities of these samples show a clear decrease within 2 km from the ridge axis. This value is consistent with a reported value in East Pacific Rise. These data suggest that the alteration has completed within 2 km distance from the ridge axis. Consistent scales from different ridges suggest that the NRM intensity reduction, which can be also observed as magnetic anomaly variation, may be related to the structure of ridge axis, for example, active hydrothermal circulation zone. Discussions of previous studies assume that the alteration process of ocean basalt is associated with age.

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