Mechanical Process of 1933 Sanriku Earthquake at outer-rise of Japan

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The 1933 Sanriku earthquake occurred March 3, 1933 (Mj=8.1). It was followed by a large tsunami, which caused devastating damages on the Sanriku coastal areas. This earthquake was located beneath the Japan trench and was characterized by normal faulting (Kanamori, [1971]: L=185[km],W=100[km],strike=180[degrees],dip=45[degrees]). The earthquake has been recognized as the tensional outer-rise event that ruptured the Pacific plate. We decided to investigate details of the source rupture process of this earthquake, based on inversion analyses of seismic-wave and tsunami-wave data.

We used the seismic-wave data at Mito and Hongou, and the tsunami-wave data at 7 tidal stations. We obtained the fault dimension of about 140 km x 100 km, which was smaller than that by Kanamori [1971]. From the inversion analysis of the seismic-wave data, we got the following results: the seismic moment of 0.97 x 10²1 Nm (Mw=7.9) and the maximum dislocation of 5.44 m. The following results were obtained from the tsunami-wave analysis: the seismic moment of 0.59 x 10²1 Nm (Mw=7.8) and the maximum dislocation of 3.19 m. When the dip angle was assumed to be 45 degrees, there were disagreements between the observed and calculated initial motions of tsunami-waves at Hachinohe, Kesennuma, Ishinomaki, and Shiogama. Therefore, we assumed the dip angle of 30 degrees [Abe,K. 1978] to explain these initial motions.