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2011年東北地方太平洋沖地震震源上空で観測されたプラズマ減少と音波共鳴 Acoustic resonance and plasma depletion detected above the epicenter of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake

齊藤 昭則^{1*}, 津川 卓也², 大塚 雄一³, 西岡 未知³, 家森 俊彦⁴, 松村 充¹, 齋藤 享⁵, 陳 佳宏¹, 五井 紫¹
Akinori Saito^{1*}, Takuya Tsugawa², Yuichi Otsuka³, Michi Nishioka³, Toshihiko Iyemori⁴, Mitsuru Matsumura¹, Susumu Saito⁵, Chia Hung Chen¹, Yukari Goi¹

¹ 京都大学大学院理学研究科, ² 情報通信研究機構, ³ 名古屋大学太陽地球環境研究所, ⁴ 京都大学地磁気世界資料解析センター, ⁵ 電子航法研究所

¹Kyoto University, Dept. Geophysics, ²National Institute of Information and Co, ³Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, ⁴DACGSM, Kyoto University, ⁵Electronic Navigation Research Institute

Two-dimensional structures of the ionospheric variations generated by the acoustic resonance, and plasma depletion were firstly observed above the epicenter after the M9.0 Tohoku earthquake on March 11, 2011. A short period oscillation of total electron content was observed by a GPS receiver array after the earthquake for four hours in the vicinity of the epicenter. The frequency of the dominant mode of the oscillation was 4.5mHz, 222 seconds of period, while there were minor oscillations whose frequency were 3.7mHz and 5.3mHz. These periods are consistent with the periods of the acoustic resonance between the ground surface and the lower thermosphere, predicted by a numerical model. The amplitude of the TEC oscillation showed gradual change of the amplitude. This would be generated by the beat of two modes of the resonance. The two-dimensional distributions of TEC variations generated by this resonance showed wave frontal structures that stretched from northwest to southeast, and traveled to the southwest direction. Besides the oscillation, plasma depletion was observed above the epicenter after the earthquake. The earliest variation was observed about seven minutes after the earthquake. The amplitude of the depletion was several TEC unit, and continued for longer than 60 minutes. The area of this depletion was centered the epicenter but larger than that of the resonant oscillation. The ionospheric variations above the epicenter after the earthquake will be presented.

Keywords: Ionosphere, GPS, TEC, Acoustic wave, Atmospheric gravity wave, Earthquake