

Detection of tsunami-induced deformation caused by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake using on-land GPS network

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The 2011 Tohoku earthquake on March 11 caused massive tsunami. We first detect a land-deformation signal due to the tsunami using on-land GPS network. We focus on GPS stations along the Sanriku coast, and stack the GPS data at seven coastal stations and seven landward stations respectively. The data show that relative subsidence at the coastal stations to the landward stations had occurred on the order of 1 cm until almost 30 minutes after the Tohoku earthquake. We check whether the subsidence signal corresponds to simulated land deformation based on a tsunami simulation model, and confirm the tsunami hypothesis for the subsidence. We find that a popular elastic model with a stratified velocity structure (Gutenberg-Bullen earth model) for the Green's function leads to underestimation of the subsidence amount about 1/2-1/3. Effect of compliant materials near the surface may be important to estimate tsunami-induced land deformation.

Keywords: The 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, land deformation, comparison between observation and simulation

