Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-01 Room:101B Time:May 24 09:00-09:15

Spatial distribution of snow chemistry in the Japanese Alps region

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The Japanese Alps region is one of the heaviest snowy regions in Japan. In this area winter precipitation is observed mainly two patterns such as winter monsoon pattern and low pressure pattern. Therefore, the chemical characteristics of the snowpack are different by snowfall types. We conducted a snow pit study immediately after snowfall, on the route from Itoigawa, Joetsu and Iida to Matsumoto. We collected only fresh snow samples in winter season. In this study we aimed to clarify spatial distribution of chemical components in fresh snow at the Japanese Alps region. The samples were melted, then pH, electric conductivity and major ions (Na^+, K^+, Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Cl^-, NO_3^- and SO_4^{2-}) were analyzed in clean room. The Na+ concentration correlates well with Cl^- concentration. These ions are considered to be sea-salt components. On the other hand, SO_4^{2-} concentrations included non-sea-salt components.

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-02 Room:101B Time:May 24 09:15-09:30

Reduce of water contaminated radioactive substance by freezing method

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Reduce of water contained radioactive substance by freezing method
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Accident of Fukushima 1st Nuclear power plant broke out a lot of radioactive substance. The power plant made tremendous amount of contaminated water by radioactive substance. Many tanks were made to store the contaminated water. We tought to apply glaciological technique in order to reduce the contaminated water. It is well known that the water contains every substances and elements, but freezing removes every contaminants.

Experiments were carried out for city water, water contained NaCl or H2SO4. Relative concentration was measured by electric conductivity meter. When contaminated water is frozen in vessel of 5 ? in cold room of -10C, obtained ice contained concentration of 1/10˜1/100 to mother liquid. In these case, ice contained air bubble which become origin of contamination. Next, as an another experiment, cooling pipe immesed in contaminated water and ice formed. This freezing attained clear ice and concentration became smaller to 1/1000 compared for mother liquid. We believe that freezing method can apply for reduce of contaminated rarioactive water.

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-03 Room:101B Time:May 24 09:30-09:45

The physical and chemical factor of snow coverage related to breeding of snow algae during the thaw season in Japan

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It is known that the phototrophic microorganism called snow algae breed on the surface of the snow coverage in thawing season. When snow algae breed, the reflectance of a snow surface decreases and melting snow coverage is promoted. Therefore, it is important to reveal factors of their breeding in order to predict melting of snow coverage. As for breeding of snow algae, it is mentioned that solar radiation required for photosynthesis, the existence of the water in snow coverage, CO2, pH, and nutrient. However, it is not revealed what the most direct related factor is. Therefore, in this study, it aimed at revealing factors of snow algae breeding. In the melting snow coverage of Tohkamachi Experimental Station, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute in Niigata Prefecture (altitude is 200 m) and Murodou in Tateyama in Toyama Prefecture in Japan (altitude is 2400 m), the seasonal variation of snow alagae was quantitatively revealed using the chlorophyll-a in snow coverage, and the chlorophyll-a was compared with the weather, snow coverage, and snow physics model data.

As a result of measuring the chlorophyll-a concentration on the surface of snow coverage, chlorophyll-a concentration increased notably between in February to march in Tohkamachi Experimental Station, and between in May to July in Tateyama. It is revealed that the time of snow algae breeding differs in both areas. This difference of their breeding time indicates that snow algae does not breed at a specific season, but breeding time is decided by environmental conditions, such as temperature of each area, and conditions of snow coverage.

When the chlorophyll-a concentration was compared with result of the snow coverage conditions is calculated by the snow physics model in Tohkamachi Experimental Station, it was suggested that all layers of the snow coverage change granular snow and snow coverage is melting four days or more through day and night is the conditions on which snow algae starts breeding. It is thought that to change granular snow is conditions for snow algae in the ground under snow coverage swim to the snow surface. It is thought that melting of snow coverage period four days or more through day and night is the conditions for snow algae which arrived at the snow surface breed stably.

When increment of the chlorophyll-a concentration was compared with the melting period through day and night in Tohkamachi Experimental Station, it was thought that the amount of snow algae breeding increased rapidly only by the case melting of snow coverage period over four days through day and night. In case of melting of snow coverage period four days or more through day and night, Chlorophyll-a concentration increased 15 [ug / m2] or more. However, in case of melting of snow coverage period three days or less through day and night, the value of Chlorophyll-a concentration is not more than 15 [ug / m2]. These results indicate that steady breeding of snow algae in snow surface may require four days or more periods, as mentioned above. Furthermore, when Chlorophyll-a concentration was compared with climate conditions, in year with the more amount of rainfall than the amount of solar radiation (2010), the values of Chlorophyll-a concentration became larger. This result indicates a possibility that rain is promoting breeding of snow algae.

From the above result, conditions to start breeding of snow algae on the snow surface in Japan were considered that all layers of snow coverage change granular snow and the continuous melting period of snow surface through day and night is specific or more days. Furthermore, the factors which determines the amount of snow algae breeding were considered to be the length of melting period of snow surface through day and night, and rain.

Keywords: snow algae, consentration of chlorophyll a, snow physics model, water content of snow

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-04 Room:101B Time:May 24 09:45-10:00

Snow algal commiunity on glaciers in Suntar Khayata region, Russia Siberia

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Snow algae are cold tolerant algae adapted to cold environments. They are observed on glaciers worldwide, they photosynthesize and bloom during melting season.

According to previous studies, the structure of snow algal community varied with regions of the world. It is important to clarify geographic distribution of snow algal community, for understanding the influence on the ecology, evolution and a dispersion process of snow algae, and also frozen snow dissolution.

The Suntar Khayata region, Russia is a mountain range located in the north side in the Sea of Okhotsk. There are about 200 glaciers. In this area, observation about snow algae has not done yet. So, we aim to reveal the snow algal community of this area with quantitative analysis. Investigation places are four glaciers of this area. Sampling carried out twice, July and August.

In this area, two taxa of green algae and five taxa of cyanobacteria were observed. It was thought that these snow algae were common taxa in the ablation period of this area. The total algal biomass was large in the bare ice area, and it fell in the snow coverage area. Within bare ice area, The total biomass shows a tendency to become smaller by the lower stream side. Moreover, the altitudal distributions of each species of snow algae were mostly in agreement between glaciers. Anc. nordenskioldii was dominant species in bare ice area and Chloromonas sp. was dominant species in snow covered area. These features were common among four glaciers which investigated.

On the other hand, it also became clear that there is the different feature for every glacier. At the glacier which flows through the southern slope of a mountain range, the total algal biomass became larger than other glaciers.

With advance of ablation period, it also was observed that the structure of snow algal community on the glacier surface changed. When ablation progressed at a certain point of the glacier and the surface condition changed from snow to ice, the dominant species also changed from Chloromonas sp. to Anc. nordenskioldii. Moreover, filamentous cyanobacteria were not observed in early stages of ablation period at a glacier but, 1 month later, these cyanobacteria observed at same glacier. It revealed that the seasonal change of snow algal community is late for other glaciers in some glaciers.

The result obtained from this research was compared with other glaciers where the previous study already done. The glacier of Suntar Khayata region was dominated by green algae and Anc. Nordenskioldii is observed. These were the features which are common to the glacier of many North Pole regions.

By this research, the feature of the snow algal community of Suntar Khayata region became clear quantitatively for the first time. The structure of snow algal community of this area had a tendency which shows the feature which is common to the glacier of the North Pole region. Moreover, it was confirmed that snow algal community in the same area not only shows common features such as altitudal distribution and dominant species, but also shows characteristic feature such as pattern of the biomass and seasonal variation by glaciers. The possibility that a difference occurred for the process of detailed ablation at the glaciers in the same area and the possibility that the influence to glacier melting by snow algae changes during ablation period were suggested.

Keywords: snow algae, community structure, mountain glacier, arctic, Saiberia, Suntar Khayata

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-05 Room:101B Time:May 24 10:00-10:15

Comparison study on effect of infiltrated water on snowpack on a flatland and on a slope

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The infiltration of water into the snowpack is an important factor for wet avalanche formation. Several observations of infiltration of the water were carried out on flatland. However it is consider that the difference of water infiltration is exist between the flatland and the slope where avalanches occur. Therefore, we carried out snow pit observations both of in a flatland and in a slope same time and compared the effect of water infiltration into the snowpack. The study sites were set at Tohkamachi Experimental Station, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Tohkamachi, Niigata, Japan. Both of study sites on the flatland and the slope (incline: 40 degrees) were selected at the place where are less effected by the wind erosions and deposition of snow. In addition, we selected the northeast aspect slope to avoid the strong influence of the solar radiation. We found the notable difference on the ratio that the total thickness of the layers consisted of melt form for the thickness of all layers of the snowpack (melt form ratio) between snowpack on the slope and it on the flatland. Average melt form ratio of five times observation results from the early January to the late March 2012 on the slope was 26% higher than it on the flatland. The melt form ratios which were shown the greatest difference were 99% on the slope and 54% on the flatland. It was thought that the cause of the difference of melt form ratio was less formation of vertical water channels on the slope and water infiltrated more uniformly on the slope than the flat land, from our snow pit observations. Then we analyzed it by using the multiple snow layer model including a parameterization of vertical water channel process in snowpack proposed by Katsushima et al., (2009). As results, it was shown that the rate of infiltrated water into vertical water channel for total infiltrated water was 14% at the slope whereas it was 47% at the flatland. Our study has shown the importance of the difference of water infiltration process as a factor in the difference of snowpack between the slope and flatland.

<Reference>
Katsushima, T., Kumakura, T., Takeuchi, Y., 2009. A multiple snow layer model including a parameterization of vertical water channel process in snowpack. Cold Regions Science Technology 59(2-3), 143-151.

Keywords: avalanche, snowpack on the slope, water infiltration, vertical water channel

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-06 Room:101B Time:May 24 10:15-10:30

Water vapor transportation and change of water stable isotopes of snow due to snow temperature gradient

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In the snow, isotopic composition could change by growth depth hoar, because water vapor transportation and condensation within the snow due to large snow temperature gradient at near-surface snow. However, quantity of change of isotopic composition of low isotopic composition (condition of inland Antarctica) by water vapor transportation is not well known. We try to indicate change of isotopic composition of snow by water vapor transportation within the snow by experiment of snow temperature gradient. We observed isotopic change by water vapor transportation between side by side snow blocks which are different isotopic composition. Snow sample has temperature gradient from 86 to 166 degree C m^{-1} over 7 days in the cold room. We estimated quantity of water vapor transportation and isotopic composition change by isotope fractionation.

Keywords: snow, vapor, water stable isotope, Antarctica

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-07 Room:101B Time:May 24 10:30-10:45

Energy dissipating effect of forests on the flowing avalanches -Numerical simulation over the terrain of Makunosawa-

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Energy dissipating effect of forests on the flowing avalanches is considered to depend on such as type and scale of the snow-avalanches, kinds, ages, stem diameters, and stand density of trees consisting of the forests, and topographies. But, the relationships among them have not been investigated. Then, the forest effects on the disaster reduction for avalanches have been known empirically but are not known quantitatively. The large-scale dry slab avalanche occurred in the Makunosawa valley in Myoko in February, 2008 and damaged many trees. It was found that the avalanche seemed to stop in the forest and not pass through the forest. Then we could obtain a dataset of an avalanche with forest damage.

In this study, avalanche flow was simulated over the terrain of the Makunosawa valley using the numerical model TITAN2D, in order to verify the effect of forests on reducing velocity and stopping the avalanche of the Makunosawa valley. In the simulations, forest was distinguished from open area without forest by giving the larger bed friction angle. The bed friction angle were regarded as 25 degrees in the forest and 13 - 14 degrees without forest through trial and error according to the actual position of the farthest reach of avalanche, avalanche paths and avalanche velocity estimated from the bending stress of the broken trees. In result of the simulation, if the forest had not existed, the avalanche might have reach 200 m farther than the actual reach in the forest. The distinct effect of forest was shown.

Keywords: snow-avalanche, forest, numerical simulation, Makunosawa-valley

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-08 Room:101B Time:May 24 11:00-11:15

Behavior of snow glide observed on shrubby slope in early winter

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Snow glide observations were made on shrubby slope during the period from December 7, 2012 to January 16, 2013 at Ojiya, Niigata prefecture. Full-depth avalanche occurred twice on December 17 and January 16, and the glide velocity of not less than 300 mm/h was observed immediately before avalanche release in both cases. Thus, it is considered appropriate to adopt 100 mm/h of glide velocity as an alarm standard in Niigata prefecture in view of the factor of safety. Since the glide velocity was found to be very sensitive to variation in air temperature, it is necessary to solve the rapid decreasing process of resistance force at the interface between snow and ground. Finally, we applied the obtained data to the model of snow glide acceleration, proposed by Nohguchi (1989), to estimate the unknown parameters of the model. Consequently, the estimated values were comparatively close to Nohguchi's values.

Keywords: full-depth avalanche, snow glide

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(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-09 Room:101B Time:May 24 11:15-11:30

The snow avalanche experiment and its simulation with TITAN2D.

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In mountainous regions, snow avalanches occasionally cause the traffic hazard on the road. For the disaster prevention, the development of the accurate avalanche model is an essential task. Although numerous models have been launched so far, their accuracies are not always satisfactory.

In this study we applied the mass flow model TITAN2D, which assumes that the flow is an incompressible Coulomb continuum and a depth-averaged, 'shallow water'. And, key parameters involved in are the internal friction angle and the bed friction angle. In order to evaluate the model performance, first all, we carried out the chute flow experiments with two types of granules; size, shape and friction angles are different. Experiments gave us a variety of data, such as flow height, velocities, and width. Substituting the internal and basal friction angles of two granules, we carried out the flow simulation with the TITAN2D and compared with the experimental ones. In addition, the effects of internal friction angle were evaluated in reference to the flow width. Same procedures are planned for the snow flow experiment with the same chute and, then, will be applied to the real avalanches recorded in Hiziori , Yamagata.

Keywords: snow avalanche, titan2d

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-10 Room:101B Time:May 24 11:30-11:45

Permafrost distribution and its temporal variation on Mt. Fuji: A preliminary assessment

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We started a research project to understand permafrost on Mt. Fuji (3776 m asl.), to monitor its change and to evaluate the impact from changes of climate and volcanic activity on surrounding environments from the summer of 2008. In 2012, we continued to maintain the monitoring systems of ground temperatures and micrometeorological parameters in the summit area. Permafrost temperatures in the 10 m-deep borehole dug in 2010 were successfully monitored through the second year, while the data logger failed in the first winter by lightning. This is the first record of permafrost temperature through one year on Mt. Fuji, although the presence of permafrost had already been suggested until the 1970s.

Contrary to the assumption of the previous studies, permafrost absence was also confirmed in several other boreholes at the summit area. The highly permeable debris allows heat transportation by rain-water infiltration, which prevents the ground from being frozen throughout a year. Permafrost is supposed to exist only below an impermeable layer near the surface on Mt. Fuji. However, the distribution of impermeable layers is difficult to be evaluated because the degree of volcanic welding is largely heterogeneous. In contrast, the ground surface temperatures measured at 20 sites simply reflected air temperature and solar radiation. This indicates that the permafrost which only maintained at the locations less affected rain-water infiltration mainly responds long-term variation in air temperature. Thus, 0.7 deg.C warming from the 1970s to the 2000s recorded at the summit station has a potential to shift the lower boundary of the permafrost up to 100 m in elevation. In addition, according to the measured relationships between the surface temperatures and altitudes both on the north- and south-facing slopes, the monitored ground surface temperatures were spatially extrapolated for whole area of Mt. Fuji using a GIS software. For this calculation, the bench mark data were those of the permafrost monitoring site on the summit. The potential lower boundary of permafrost lies at 3050-3150 m asl. on the north-facing slope and at 3450-3600 m asl. on the south-facing.

Keywords: permafrost, distribution, climate warming, Mt. Fuji

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-11 Room:101B Time:May 24 11:45-12:00

Glaciological Activities of 54th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition Inland team

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By the 54th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, we carried out the observations from coast to inland Dome Fuji area, Antarctic Ice Sheet. The main observational items are, 1. deep borehole logging, 2. GPS observation, 3. radar echo soundings, 4. shallow ice coring, 5. surface mass balance, 6. automatic weather station, 7. snow pit and surfae snow sampling. We introduce the summary of the observations and some topics.

Keywords: Antarctic ice sheet, Dome Fuji, surface mass balance, borehole logging, radar echo sounding, surface snow sampling

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-12 Room:101B Time:May 24 12:00-12:15

Recent changes in physical, chemical, and biological conditions on the surface of Tyndall Glacier of the Patagonia

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Melting and shrinkage of glaciers have been recently reported in the many part of the world. The shrinkage is not caused only by global warming but also by surface albedo reduction due to surface dust on glaciers (cryoconite). In this study, we analyzed surface albedo, cryoconite amounts and snow and ice algae collected on Tyndall Glacier in 2012 and these results were compared with those from studies in 1999. Moreover, a satellite image was analyzed to estimate of recent variations in surface albedo in entire surface of the bare ice area.

The surface albedo and amounts of cryoconite were measured at the 3 site on the bare ice surface on Tyndall glacier in 2012, and then were compared with the result of same measurements in 1999. However, there was statistically no significant difference between the two years, indicating that surface albedo and the amounts of cryoconite did not significantly change in the last decade. The analysis of community structure of snow algae on glacier surface showed that there were various snow algae on the ice surface in 2012, however there were statistically no significant differences in their biomass and community structure between in 2012 and 1999. These results suggest that there was no significant physical and biological change on the ice surface of the glacier in the last decade. The analysis of Landsat-7/ETM+ satellite image of the Tyndall Glacier reveals that there was no significant change in surface albedo between 2001 and 2010. Thus, the entire bare ice surface of the Tyndall glacier did not significantly changed in the last decade.

Recent years, the bare ice surface of the Greenland ice sheet has been darkened probably due to increase of cryoconite on the surface, however, our studies showed that that of Patagonia Icefield has not changed significantly. The shrinking on Patagonia Icefield is unlikely due to surface darkening, but to calving effect of glacier margin by marine and lake water. The reason why the Patagonia Icefield is not darkened is uncertain, however, it is important to clarify the reason in order to understand the differences of glacial variations in the world.

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-13 Room:101B Time:May 24 12:15-12:30

Short to medium-term ice sheet mass changes and long-term mass trends in Antarctica revealed by GRACE

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Antarctic ice sheet mass balance is one of the most concerned topics because it directly affects global sea level changes. It had been a difficult problem to measure the mass changes for a long time. But thanks to the recent satellite observations, the accuracy of the Antarctic ice sheet mass trends has been improved significantly in a couple of past decades. According to the studies based on satellite altimetry, SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) interferometry and satellite gravimetry, the mass trends in East and West Antarctica show slightly positive and negative, respectively, for the period from 1992 to 2011. However, due to the limited data periods of the satellite observations, these results may depend on the time spans of the data employed, because the estimated linear mass trends may suffer from the influence of short to medium-term climate anomalies. For a better estimation of the long-term ice sheet mass trend, which connects to century-scale global sea level changes or global warming, it is important to estimate and remove such short to medium-term mass fluctuations. In this study, using the most updated GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment) satellite gravity data for the period from 2002 to 2012, we assessed the effects of short to medium-term climate anomalies on the Antarctic ice sheet mass trend. We first divided Antarctic area into 27 drainage systems in consideration with regionally different mass change mechanism. And then we statistically evaluated the uncertainties of the mass trend values caused by the differences of the data time spans for each area. Further, the estimated mass variations were compared with climate indices and global hydrological/meteorological data sets to identify the dominant sources of the short to medium-term mass anomalies. Finally we discussed the effects of the short to medium-term anomalies on the estimations of the long-term ice sheet mass trends in East and West Antarctica and the global mass balance as well.

Keywords: GRACE, Antarctic ice sheet, mass balance, global sea level changes

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-14 Room:101B Time:May 24 12:30-12:45

Winter acceleration of the glacier flow in Yukon territory: detection and interpretation

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We examined spatial and temporal changes of the glacier surface velocities at Yukon territory, applying offset-tracking technique to the synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imageries. The SAR images we used are mostly derived from Phased Array-type L-band SAR (PALSAR) sensor on the Advanced Land Observation Satellite (ALOS) launched by JAXA in 2006.

We discovered that many glaciers revealed acceleration signals in winter. No similar signals have been reported so far, and are counter-intuitive in comparison to the well-known spring/summer speed-up signals at many other glaciers in the world. The winter acceleration signals are thus intriguing and could have important implications for the dynamics of surge-type glaciers. Thus, we discuss a possible interpretation for the signal on the basis of field-based studies at Trapridge glacier, Yukon.

Kavanaugh (2009) performed in-situ water pressure change measurements at Trapridge Glacier, and reported that pressure pulse events increased from autumn to winter during 2005-2006. He interpreted this signals resulted from episodic basal motion caused by the till deformations that follows Coulomb-plastic rheology, in which the strain rate increases infinitely when shear stress exceeds the yield stress (Kavanaugh and Clarke, 2006). The yield stress depends linearly on the effective pressure that can vary seasonally. If we follow Kavanaugh's observation and interpretation, we may regard our observed winter acceleration signals as the episodic sediment deformations that occurs more frequently in winter. From summer to winter, the surface-melt water is reduced, and the drainage systems will gradually evolve from efficient well-connected to inefficient ill-connected drainage system. Then, basal water pressure will become locally higher and the yield stress in the sediment get smaller, which could generate more frequent till deformation in winter.

It is known that glacier surges tend to occur from autumn to winter. Our discovery has the probability mini-surges occurred every year. More frequently observations in winter season could be a key to reveal surge generation mechanisms.

Keywords: winter acceleration, Yukon, surge-type glaciers, SAR, offset tracking

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(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-15 Room:101B Time:May 24 14:15-14:30

Glacier surface velocity measurement of Pobeda - Khan Tengry massif, Tien Shan, by ALOS/PALSAR

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Pobeda (Chinese Tuomuer) - Khan Tengry massif is the largest glacial area in Tien Shan, located at the northern periphery of central Aisa. Sporadically, research activities have been carried out since 1903 (Glazirin, 2010). The glaciers are the major source of principal rivers in arid region. Many glaciers have been retreating since Little Ice Age, especially since 1970's (Liu & Han, 1992; Holch & Marchenko, 2009). Also, GLOF (Glacier Lake Outburst Flood) occur regularly in summer at Lake Merzbacher, the proglacial lake of Inylchek glacier (Glazirin 2010). For these reasons, the glacier dynamics in this region gathered researcher's attention. Many researches based on field and remote sensing technique have been carried out (Aizen et al., 1997; Mayer et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2011; Han et al., 2010; Li et al., 2013)

Li et al. (2013) detected 2-D velocity map of glaciers based on SAR technique using ALOS/PALSAR archive data (Path 514, Row 830, 8 scenes). They discussed spatio-temporal velocity changes, such as seasonal and annual velocity changes. However, some glaciers were not covered and they did not use all archive data.

We used three path and all PALSAR archive data (Path 513-515, Row 830, total 46 scenes) to cover major glaciers in the massif. Usually, SRTM4 Digital Elevation model (DEM) and ASTER GDEM are applied for co-registration of two SAR image. There are discontinuities on the glacier surface in SRTM4 DEM. We used ASTER GDEM for co-registration. We used offset tracking (feature tracking) method and detected surface velocity field, assumed that glaciers flow parallel to surface topography.

First of all, we paid attention to Inylchek glacier. Inylchek glacier is the largest valley glacier in the massif, covers from 2900 to 7450m a.s.l and has two major branches (Southern and Northern Inylchek glacier). The area of the glacier is 794 km^2 and there are two proglacial lakes between South and North branch. The lower lake is dammed by Southern Inylchek and regularly releases lake water in summer (Glazirin 2010). Also, Northern Inylchek glacier caused glacier surge in 1997 (Mavlyudov, 1999). We will discuss the interaction of glacier velocity change with the drainage of the lake water and glacier surge.

Keywords: SAR, Mountain glacier, Tien Shan, Surface velocity, PALSAR, Offset tracking

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ACC32-16 Room:101B Time:May 24 14:30-14:45

Status of Glacier Area Mapping for Discharge in Asian Mountains Project

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The mean sea level has been risen in recent decades as a result of global warming. The largest contributions to sea level rise are come from thermal expansion and the melting of mountain glaciers and icecaps. And mountain glacier is significant role for water resources in particular arid regions.

Altitudinal distribution of glacier area is required to estimate glacier volume change, although, the information on glacier distribution are limited only glacier area or location at present. Large difference, therefore, can be found between actual glacier volume change and calculated value assuming the altitudinal distribution of glacier area.

Then, the purpose of this project is to estimate contribution of glacier runoff to river runoff would be elucidated by establishing data set of altitudinal distribution of glacier area in the Asian High Mountains.

In this presentation, we will introduce the status of our glacier mapping and the result of the analysis of altitudinal distribution of glacier area.

Keywords: glacier, discharge

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ACC32-17 Room:101B Time:May 24 14:45-15:00

Glacier variation since 1960s in Lunana region, Bhutan Himalaya, using declassified satellite imagery (Corona, Hexagon)

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Corona and Hexagon satellite imagery declassified in 1995 are stereo imagery theoretically enables photogrammetry. And it has been used only for qualitative topographic classification. However, complicated distortion of the imagery hamper digital elevation model (DEM) by photogrammetry softwares. Research group of Europa and U.S. have developed method for correcting the complicated distortion of Corona and Hexagon and generated DEM recently.

In this study, we used the correction method to generate DEMs in 1960s in Lunana region, Bhutan Himalaya for evaluating glacier surface elevation change for long time period. We also use carrier-phased differential GPS data for calibrating and validating generated DEMs.

Keywords: Glacier, Himalaya, DEM, Declassified satellite, Photogrammetry

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ACC32-18 Room:101B Time:May 24 15:00-15:15

Characteristic of glacier lakes and glacier lake outburst floods

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Analyzing satellite data revealed that extensive glacier shrinkage occurred between 1971 and 2007 in the outer ranges of the Tien Shan, where large cities are located. Most of the glacier lakes in this region have appeared since the 1980s, with the shrinkage of glaciers. The GLOF of Tien Shan is small compared to those that occur in the Himalayas. Nevertheless, with the recent development of glacier lakes, floods are becoming an increasing threat to local residents. We report the characteristic of glacier lakes and glacier lake outburst floods in Tien Shan, Central Asia.

Keywords: glacier lake, short-lived glacier lake, satellite data, GLOF, Tien Shan

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ACC32-19 Room:101B Time:May 24 15:15-15:30

Rapid evolution of supra-glacial ponds on Hinku Glacier, eastern Nepal Himalaya: prospect for a larger lake development

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An understanding of the recessional behavior of debris-covered glaciers, especially lake formation, is necessary for hazards assessment and mitigation because glacial lakes that form on them sometimes produce devastating glacier lake outburst floods (GLOFs) which are often several times bigger than normal climatic floods. Generally, a large glacial lake on a debris-covered glacier is formed by expansion and coalescing of supra-glacial ponds. Supra-glacial ponds existing on debris-covered glaciers at present are a precursor to a large glacial lake in the near future; however, not necessarily all supra-glacial ponds turn into a large lake. Glacier surface gradient in the ablation area, greatly dictates whether such ponds expand or coalesce to form a large lake. However, there are limited studies in the Nepal Himalaya on early recognition of potential sites for a large lake formation with scrutinizing lake expansion track and detailed topographic mapping of glacier surface. Objective of this paper is to present formation and growth of supra-glacial ponds on the debris-covered Hinku Glacier in the Nepal Himalaya from 1964 to 2010 and to recognize prospective sites and size for future lake development. We used Corona KH-4A (in 1964), Landsat TM5 (in 1992) and ALOS ANVIR-2 (in 2010) with spatial resolution 2.7-7.6 m, 30 m and 10 m respectively to map supra-glacial ponds for the years while ALOS PRISM data with spatial resolution 2.5 m (in 2006) to produce detailed topographic map with Leica Photogrammetric Suite. There was only one supra-glacial pond in 1964 and 1992 which rose to ten in 2010 with surface area of approx. 5,102, 5,818 and 183,972 m^2 for the respective years as revealed by the satellite data of the years. Rapid evolution of supra-glacial ponds (in numbers and surface areas) on the ablation area of the Hinku Glacier from 1992 to 2010 and spatial proximity of the ponds to coalescing suggest possibility of development of a larger glacial lake in the area. Detailed topographic maps, and subsequently derived digital elevation data and surface profiles of the glacier indicate that the glacier has very low surface gradient (less than or equal to 2 degree) at the terminus part about 3 km long and 0.4 km wide stretch, and has slightly higher surface gradient (2 to 5 degree) in the immediately up-glacier area for about 2.5 km long. After the upper 2.5 km stretch, there exists a rock cliff which separates 5.5 km long down-glacier area from further up-glacier area. Hence, our results suggest that the lowermost terminus part (approx. 3 x 0.4 km) of the glacier can be of highly possible sites to develop a larger lake while the upper stretch (approx. 2.5 x 0.4 km) also remains as potential sites to further lake expansion in later time.

Keywords: Supra-glacial pond, glacial lake development, debris-covered glacier, Hinku Glacier, Nepal Himalaya

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ACC32-P01 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Ecological analysis of glacial biology on tropical glaciers of Ruwenzori mountains,Uganda,Africa

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Introduction

Ruwenzori mountains are located at the westernmost of uganda, tropical africa. Although in the equatorial area(0N, 29E), there are glaciers(4700-5000m a.s.l.) In africa, only three mountains have glaciers, Kilimanjaro, Mt.Kenya, and Ruwenzori, and some scientists said that all of these glaciers will disappear during 2020s. So, it is urgent to research this area as soon as possible.

On glacier's surface, there are some psychrophylic microorganisms like snow algae. And almost no glacial biological research was carried out on tropical region. So, we took researches on Ruwenzori mountains on Feb.2012 and Feb.2013.

We analyzed altitudinal distribution and biomass of snow algae and also analyzed optimum temperature of yeasts which were collected in Ruwenzori mountains.

Methods

Sampling was held on 4 sites, the one one the Mt.Speke and the others on the Stanley Plateau Glacier(S1=4714m,S2=4740m,S3=4850m) We sampled glacier surface ice by a stainless scoop rinsed with ice around the site. After melting, we put formalin into sample. Volume of formaline is about 3% of melting ice4.

First, we counted snow algae in this sample by a fluorescence microscope and calculated algal biomass.

Second, we analyzed the optimum temperature of yeasts which was picked on Ruwenzori glaciers. We put the yeasts into YEPD liquid culture medium and cultivated it on different temeperature(5-30 degrees Celsius, with 5 degree interval). After cultivation, we measured optical density by absorption photometer(filter:660nm).

Results

On first experimental work, 5 kinds of snow algae are found.

These are; Cylindrocystis brebissonii, Ceratodon purpureus(The mosses), green round unicellular organisms, red round unicellular organisms, and protonema algae, which has never reported on other glacial biological research.

Cylindrocystis brebissonii are found all altitude. It was found at only lower ablation area of glacier in himalaya and patagonia, so that suggest all of Ruwenzori glacier has become ablation area. Ceratodon purpureus are found only ST-S1. It is also no report that mosses inhabit on glacier surface.

On second experimental work, we analyzed several kinds of yeasts, but for all yeasts, their optimum temperature is 20-30 degrees Celsius, not cold but middle-high temperature, although they are picked at glacier surface, which is considered as cold environment.

It suggest that there are positive feedback effect on melting glaciers. If glacier surface are becoming warm by some trigger such as global warming, glacial microorganisms which has middle-high optimum temperature are increasing and reducing glacier surface albedo. After that, because of reducing surface albedo, glacier surface has more heating energy and becoming warm, so some microorganisms are more increasing... it is positive feedback.

We suggest that glacier melting will occur more rapidly than we expected because of this positive feedback.

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
(May 19-24 2013 at Makuhari, Chiba, Japan)

ACC32-P02 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Measurement of snow depth distribution in the Kamikochi-Azusa river basin using an airborne laser scanning

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For the purpose of surveying the distribution of snow depth in the Kamikochi-Azusa river basin, airborne laser scanning was conducted. Snow depth was estimated as the difference in elevation between the snow and the ground surface.

Keywords: snow depth, Kamikochi-Azusa river, airborne laser scanning

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ACC32-P03 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Comparison investigation of contribution of the sublimation to the air by blowing snow

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If a strong wind blows in a snow cover region, snow particles which once lay move in the air and are transported to the leeward with energy exchange between the air and the snow cover. Since this blowing snow is generated not only in land but in the vast snow cover region including the sea ice, the influence of the energy exchange will reach far and wide.

On the other hand, according to climate models, temperature rising is predicted in the snow cover region of high latitude which blowing snow also occurs, and the uncertainty of warming prediction has been widely discussed.

Therefore, in this research, the mean stress falls on the influence of the water vapor in the snow cover region. The water vapor has the greatest contribution as greenhouse gas. If blowing snow occurs, the snow particles moving in the air sublimate and change the water vapor amount of the air. Little attention has been given to the point. It is because the field observation under a fixed climate condition is difficult, observation using instruments which measures blowing snow correctly is hardly carried out in windy regions where sublimation is produced, and so on. In this presentation, the past blowing snow research carried out in the snow cover region is compared, the estimate of the amount of sublimation is arranged, and the contribution of the sublimation to the atmosphere by blowing snow is investigated.

Keywords: sublimation, snow cover, blowing snow, climate change

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ACC32-P04 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Dynamics and GPR stratigraphy of the Ikenotan-migimata perennial snow patch in Mt. Tsurugi, the northern Japanese Alps,

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We have investigated surface flow velocity and ice thickness of the Ikenotan-migimata perennial snow patch in Mt. Tsurugi (2999 m asl) in the northern Japanese Alps, central Japan since 2012.

We found the thick ice mass (about 40 m in thickness) in the lower part of the Ikenotan-migimata perennial snow patch based on the GPR sounding in the autumn of 2012. We measured that the ice mass had flowed 10-15 cm month-1 in the autumn of 2012. Thus, we regard the snow patch as small active glacier.

Keywords: glacier, perennial snow patch, Mt. Tsurugi, glacier flow, GPR

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ACC32-P05 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Surface Velocities and Ice-Front Positions of Eight Major Glaciers in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, South America,

Minami Muto[1], Masato Furuya[1*]

[1]Hokkaido University, Graduate School of Science

The Patagonian Ice Field is known to have undergone rapid retreat of frontal positions and significant thinning of its glaciers over the past decades. However, surface velocities have been measured at only a few of these glaciers. Thus, it remains uncertain if and to what extent the glacier dynamics have changed over time and contributed to ice loss in these ice field. In this study, we examine the temporal evolution of flow velocities and ice-front positions at eight major glaciers in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

In this study, we measured flow velocity fields of 8 large calving glaciers in Southern Patagonia Icefield (Jorge Montt, Occidental, Pio XI, O'Higgins, Viedma, Upsala, Perito Moreno, and Grey), applying pixel-offset (feature tracking) technique to the radar images derived from ALOS/PALSAR and Envisat/ASAR. We assumed that glacier flows parallel to surface slope based on SRTM4 digital elevation model. In addition, we measured positions of glacier front using SAR intensity images, and compared with the temporal changes of flow velocities.

Of the 8 glaciers we examined, Glacier Upsala, Jorge Montt and Occidental experienced significant speed-up and terminus retreat. These glaciers showed large accelerations near the glacier fronts, which indicates that they underwent longitudinal strain accelerations. It will increase the crevasse-depth, and drive the speed-up of calving. This result seems to support a calving model based on crevasse-depth criteria (Benn et al., 2007; Nick et al., 2010). Meanwhile, Glacier Pio XI revealed large spatial and temporal changes in the flow velocity without significant retreat.

Keywords: SAR, Patagonia, calving glaciers

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ACC32-P06 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Surface mass balance of Potanin Glacier, Mongolian Altai, since 2005

Keiko Konya[1*], Tsutomu Kadota[1], Hironori Yabuki[1], Fumio Nakazawa[2], Davaa Gombo[3], Purvdagwva Kalzan[3], Tetsuo Ohata[1]

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The Mongolian Altai area has undergone few glaciological surveys and glacier balance studies. In this study, stake observations and pollen analysis with pit observations were used for the estimation of the surface mass balance of the Potanin glacier in the Mongolian Altai. The mass balance was estimated to be -0.58 and -1.03 and -0.17 m w.e. for the mass balance years of 2005, 2008 and 2009. The observed less negative mass balance in 2005 and 2009 and more negative mass balance in 2008 were due to higher solid precipitation in 2004-2005 and 2008-2009 than in 2007-2008 and high summer temperatures in 2008 than in 2005 and 2009. A comparison with Maliy Aktru Glacier in the Russian Altai demonstrated that the two glaciers share the same tendency in mass balance fluctuation from 2005 to 2009. Potanin Glacier has a smaller accumulation area ratio (AAR) and higher equilibrium line altitude (ELA) than Maliy Aktru Glacier. We concluded that the higher negative mass balance at Potanin Glacier compared to Maliy Aktru glacier is due to 1) small AAR due to higher ELA against glacier-existing altitude range, 2) drier and warmer climate of the region and 3) the longer response time to climate change.

Keywords: glacier, mass balance, Altai

Japan Geoscience Union Meeting 2013
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ACC32-P07 Room:Convention Hall Time:May 24 16:15-17:30

Spatial debris-cover effect on the maritime glaciers of Mount Gongga, south-eastern Tibetan Plateau

Yong ZHANG[1*], Yukiko Hirabayashi[1], Koji Fujita[2], Shiyin Liu[3], Qiao Liu[3]

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The Tibetan Plateau and surroundings contain a large number of debris-covered glaciers, on which debris cover affects glacier response to climate change by altering ice melting rates and spatial patterns of mass loss. Insufficient spatial distribution of debris thickness data makes it difficult to analyze regional debris-cover effects. Mount Gongga offers an opportunity to study a monsoonal maritime glacier system with debris-covered and debris-free glaciers in the south-eastern Tibetan Plateau, where specific, though incomplete, information is available for both the glaciology and meteorology. Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER)-derived thermal property of the debris layer reveals that 68% of Mount Gongga glaciers have extensive mantles of supraglacial debris in the ablation zones, where the debris-covered proportions of the total glacier area vary from 1.74% to 53.0%. These glaciers show a general downglacier increasing trend in debris thickness with significant spatial inhomogeneity at each site. High-resolution in situ measurements of debris thickness indicate that thin debris thicknesses of $<$ 0.03 m are widely distributed on the glaciers. Against the background of global warming, we find that although the presence of supraglacial debris has a significant insulating effect on the trend of greater negative mass balance on the debris-covered glaciers, especially on the glaciers with debris-covered proportions $>$ 20%, it accelerates the trend of faster ice melting on ˜ 10.2% of the total ablation area and produces a more negative mass balance, which is primarily caused by temperature rise, on ˜25% of the debris-covered glaciers on Mount Gongga, with the consequence that regionally averaged mass balance of debris-covered glaciers is not statistically different from that of debris-free glaciers, all showing an intensive negative mass balance trend on Mount Gongga. Also, the intensely inhomogeneous ice melting caused by widespread debris cover in association with high ice velocities and relatively steep surface leads to active terminus regions of the debris-covered glaciers, of which the terminus retreat rates are faster than those of the debris-free glaciers. In addition, regional differences in the debris-cover effect are apparent, highlighting the importance of debris cover for understanding glacier status and hydrology in both the Tibetan Plateau and other mountain ranges around the world.

Keywords: debris, melting, effect, Tibetan Plateau

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Full Stokes dynamics at the Shirase Drainage Basin, Antarctica and comparison to the shallow ice approximation

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Covering an area of 2 x 105 km^2, the Shirase Drainage Basin is located in East Antarctica (37-50^o E, 70-78^o S). The basin is characterized by the convergence of the ice flow towards the Shirase glacier, one of the fastest flowing glacier in Antarctica. The Shirase glacier flows at a speed of 2.3 km a^{-1} at the grounding line (Rignot, 2002; Pattyn and Derauw, 2002; Nakamura and others, 2008) and drains about 10 Gt a^{-1} of ice through a narrow outlet into the Lutzow-Holm Bay (Fujii, 1981). With nearly 90% of total ice discharge from the basin being calved by the glacier, the fast flowing nature of the Shirase glacier is important for the investigation of the ice sheet mass budget in this region.

The dynamics of the Shirase glacier is investigated by means of the full Stokes equations and the shallow ice approximation. The model Elmer/Ice (http://elmerice.elmerfem.org) is applied to the Shirase Drainage Basin and employs the finite element method to solve the full Stokes equations, the temperature evolution equation and the evolution equation of the free surface. The shallow ice approximation is also implemented into Elmer/Ice so that both the full Stokes and the shallow ice approximation are computed on the same mesh. Data for the present geometry (surface and basal topographies with no shelf) are obtained from the BEDMAP2 data set (Fretwell and others, 2012) and a mesh of the computational domain is created using an initial footprint which contains elements from 15 km to 500 m horizontal resolution. The footprint is vertically extruded to form a 3D mesh of 240720 elements with 21 equidistant, terrain-following layers.

The approach taken in this study is to compare the response of the glacier to dynamical and climate forcings when separately the full Stokes and the shallow ice approximation are employed. The sensitivity experiments are modeled after the SeaRISE 2011 experiments (http://tinyurl.com/srise-lanl, http://tinyurl.com/srise-umt). Set C (three experiments) applies a change to the surface precipitation and temperature, Set S (three experiments) applies an amplification factor to change the basal sliding velocity and Set T (one experiment) combines the forcings. The experiments are compared to a constant climate control run beginning at present (epoch 2004-1-1 0:0:0) and running up to 100 years holding the climate constant to its present state. The present state of the glacier velocities and temperature field is obtained by computing a steady-state configuration for both the full Stokes as well as the shallow ice model.

Keywords: Shirase drainage basin, Antarctica, full Stokes, ice sheet modeling