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# Viscous relaxation after the Tohoku Oki Earthquake by heterogeneous rheological structure of the NE Japan

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Deployment of dense network of geodetic observations has illuminated the heterogeneous crustal deformation associated with the Mw 9.0 2011 Tohoku Oki earthquake. Ohzono et al. (2012) showed the heterogeneity of coseismic strain fields likely reflecting heterogeneity in rheological (viscoelastic) properties of the NE Japan lithosphere (Yabe et al., in prep). Moreover, viscoelastic relaxation after the earthquake that lasts longer than other mechanisms (e.g., afterslip and poro-elastic rebound) has also known to be affected by viscosity structures of the island arc-trench system such as elastic thickness variation, spatial and depth-dependent viscosity. Therefore, the viscosity structure of the NE Japan trench-arc system must be estimated in order to evaluate the viscous relaxation component accurately in the observed post-seismic deformation field. To this end, two-dimensional viscosity profiles of the northeastern (NE) Japan island arc-trench system were created using laboratory derived constitutive laws of various minerals. The calculated profiles based on temperature, pressure and water contents dependent rock rheology predict viscosities of the mantle wedge and oceanic mantle to be $10^{19}$ Pa s and $10^{20}$ Pa s, respectively. These values agree well with the recent estimate of the viscosities after the post-seismic deformation of the 2004 Sumatra earthquake (Mw 9.2). This indicates that the steady-state flow laws of rocks can be used to infer post seismic deformation field. However, our calculations reveal significant lateral variations in viscosities across the northeastern Japan arc: thick, high viscous lithosphere in the colder forearc and thin and low viscous lithosphere in the hotter volcanic front. Preliminary two-dimensional finite element modeling (FEM) on post-seismic deformation of the Tohoku Oki earthquake revealed that the incorporation of the lithosphere structures have significant effects to the stress relaxation process compared with widely used uniform layered model. In the presentation, we will furthermore examine stress relaxation process of the lithosphere from FEM modeling taking into account of temperature- and depth-dependent heterogeneous rheology.

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