

Spatial relationship between the volcanic chain and high gravity anomalies in subduction zones

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The most conspicuous features of arc-trench systems are active seismicity, characteristic topography and gravity anomalies, and volcanism. The topography and gravity anomalies are low in the trench and high in the arc, which can be theoretically explained by mechanical interaction between the subducting oceanic plate and the overriding plate (Sato & Matsu'ura, 1993, GJI; Hashimoto et al, 2004, PAGEOPH). Because the topography is more complicated to be understood, free-air gravity anomaly is more suitable to be compared to the theoretical model. Free-air gravity anomalies with long wave length basically represent the effect of tectonic force, which disturbs gravity equilibrium.

Volcanoes align along the volcanic front in most arcs. Since both of the high free-air gravity anomalies and volcanic front have a subparallel strike to the trench, it should be possible to classify arc-trench systems according to the spatial relationship between them. Based on such an idea, Fukahata (2008, JPGU meeting) classified arc-trench systems, but there was a problem that the recognition of the location of high gravity anomalies was quite subjective. So, in this study, I improved this process.; the location of high gravity anomalies were more quantitatively recognized. As a result, the location of high gravity anomalies relative to the volcanic front did not change for most arcs, but I found that it was difficult to define its location in some arcs (mostly tensile). Using the result, I discuss the spatial relationship between the volcanic chain and high gravity anomalies in subduction zones and consider causes of topographic evolution of island arcs.

Keywords: island arc, subduction zone, gravity anomaly, volcanic front

Uplift and denudation history of the Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains: Constraints from apatite FT thermochronology

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The Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains are fault block mountains distributed along the Isewan-Tsurugawan Tectonic Line, a tectonic boundary between the Kinki and Chubu districts. The Kinki district on the west of the mountains is characterized by predominance of reverse faults and alternation of N-S trending mountain ranges and basins (Kinki Triangle; Huzita, 1962), whereas the Chubu district on the east of the mountains has predominance of strike-slip faults and westerly tilting landforms (Chubu tilting block; Kuwahara, 1968). Miyoshi & Ishibashi (2008) mentioned that the Philippine Sea Plate slab beneath the region around the Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains has shallow subduction angle and form a convex shape (Isewan-Kohoku slab) and proposed this shallow slab resulted in the tectonic boundary between the Kinki and Chubu districts in the region. On the eastern and western sides of the Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains, two major subsidence areas have formed and moved northward since the end of the Miocene as recorded by deposition of the Tokai group and Kobiwako group (e.g., Yokoyama, 1995; Yoshida, 1990). On the other hand, there is some debate over the formation process and mechanism of the Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains; Okada (2004) speculated the mountains have uplifted from south to north generally corresponding to the northward moving of the subsidence areas, whereas Ohta and Takemura (2004) proposed the formation of the mountains were still later and independent from the formation of the subsidence areas.

We are attempting revealing uplift and denudation history of the Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains in the past few million years by using apatite fission-track (AFT) thermochronology. We have obtained AFT ages and length distribution data in one site for the Yoro Mountains, eight sites for the Suzuka Range, and one site for the Nunobiki Mountains. Highlights of the results are as below: 1) the AFT ages range 47-30 Ma, 2) the ages were youngest in the middle to south parts of the Suzuka Range and get older to the north and south, 3) thermal histories calculated from the AFT ages and length distributions indicate rapid cooling events in the past few million years in the middle to south parts of Suzuka Range, but not in the Yoro and Nunobiki Mountains and the north part of the Suzuka Range, 4) the rapid cooling events in the past few million years are attributable to the uplift of the Suzuka Range since ~1.3 Ma (Yokoyama, 1995). We are conducting additional AFT analyses in seven sites of the Nunobiki Mountains to expand our results to the south. In this presentation, we are planning to provide progressed discussions containing the results of the additional data.

Keywords: Yoro-Suzuka-Nunobiki Mountains, apatite fission-track thermochronology, denudation, eastern margin of the Kinki Triangle

Self-affinities for Amplitude and Wavelength of Folds

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In general, many folds are apparently curved or jagged on a wide range of scales, so that their geometries appear to be similar when viewed at different magnifications. By Matsushita and Ouchi (1989a, b)'s method, we also analyzed the self-affinities of folds in the North Honshu Arc, Japan (Kikuchi et al., 2013). Based on this analysis, geometries were found to be self-affine and can be differently scaled in different directions. We recognize the self-affinities for the amplitude and the wavelength of folds and a crossover from local to global altitude (vertical) variation of the geometries of folds in the Northeast Honshu Arc.

Buckingham's Pi-theorem is sufficient to the first problems of fold systems (Shimamoto, 1974). However, the complete similarity cannot give us the self-affinities of folds. A general renormalization-group argument is proposed to the applicability of the incomplete self-similarity theory (Barenblatt, 1979). Based on the general renormalization-group argument, we derive the self-affinities for the wavelength (L) and the amplitude (a) of folds:

$$L^{(1-d)} \propto a.$$

The relationship between Hurst exponents H of fold (Kikuchi et al., 2013) and d are equation:

$$1-d=H,$$

where H is index of the continuity of a given fold curve and obtained by the ratio between horizontal scaling exponent and vertical scaling exponent. d is an exponent of a given incomplete self-similarity theorem.

In $d \neq 0$ case, the Hurst exponent $H \neq 1$ indicates self-affinities for the given fold curve. In this case, scale invariance of the fold might be affected by a variety of tectonic processes under the anisotropic stress field. In $d = 0$ particular case, the Hurst exponent $H = 1$ indicates self-similarity for the given fold curve. In this case, scale invariance of the fold might not be affected by a variety of tectonic processes under the anisotropic stress field. These results imply that anisotropic stress fields by gravitation and tectonic stresses might cause self-affinities of folds. Self-similarity and self-affinities of the fold might be affected and by a variety of tectonic processes under the isotropy or anisotropic stress field.

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Keywords: Fold, Self-affinity, Buckingham's Pi-theorem, Incomplete self-similarity theory

