

Basement structure beneath the Tokyo metropolitan area as revealed with the MDRS method

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We applied the multi-dip reflection surfaces (MDRS) method to seismic data originally acquired by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and successfully revealed the shape of basin floor and geological structure above the basin floor. The resultant seismic image is interpreted as rift geometry with imbricated normal faults. Moreover, the active Tachikawa fault seemingly has a high dip angle.

The Kanto region that includes the Tokyo Metropolitan area is located near the boundary between the northeastern Japan and the southwestern Japan, and has complicated tectonic history. Moreover, the region is covered with thick sediment of Neogene to Quaternary. Seismic profiling has contributed to revealing the structure such as concealed half-graben and tectonic history.

The MDRS method is an improvement on the common reflection surface stacking (CRS) method in that the MDRS method can deal with conflicting dipping events. The CRS method can detect subtle reflection events by stacking the data along a specific reflection surface. However, complex geological structure often yields a seismic wave field that contain events from various surfaces with different geometry, and the CRS method has difficulty in resolving such complicated reflection events. The MDRS method seeks subtle reflected events, repeatedly applying the CRS method with various sets of parameters that govern the character of reflection surfaces, and superimposes the derived seismic images with high values of semblance. Consequently, the MDRS method can provide a clear image of such complex geological structure.

Seismic data reprocessed in this study was acquired in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The seismic survey was conducted in order to clarify the depth of the top of pre-Neogene basement and the sedimentary structure above the basement. data processing with the conventional common mid-point stacking was performed in the original survey, and provided an image with vertical offset of the top of the basement that corresponds to the active Tachikawa fault, but it generated a poor image for the overall shape of the basin floor; we can only recognize that the basin floor is not flat.

On the contrary, the MDRS method successfully generated a clear image of the basin floor and the stratification of sediments just above the basin floor. The sediments are in a wedge shape, and contain reflectors with a fanning and upward shallowing of dips. The wedge-shaped sediments are aligned horizontally. We interpret this structure as rift system with imbricated normal faults. In fact, rift system has been recognized beneath the Kanto region that is believed to be formed during the Miocene associated with opening of the Sea of Japan. Moreover, we have newly found that the top of the basement extends further beneath the Tachikawa fault. This suggests that the Tachikawa fault has high dip angle.

Acknowledgement

The Civil Engineering Center of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government provided the seismic data reprocessed in this study.

Keywords: multi-dip reflection surfaces method, basement structure, seismic reflection survey, common reflection surface stacking

Seismic velocity structure in Ou backbone range by using a dense seismic array

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Ou backbone range is a strain concentration zone with E-W contraction along NE Japan arc, hence forms one of the most active reverse-faulting zone in Japan. Some destructive earthquakes, such as the 1896 Rikuu earthquake (M7.2) and the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi nariku earthquake (M7.2), have occurred there for this century. Fault rupture of the 1896 Rikuu earthquake which occurred along the eastern margin of the Yokote Basin fault zone did not reach all over the fault zone but limited to its northern part. The purpose of this study is to find some crustal structures which could control a termination of fault rupture. In this presentation, we will discuss a property of seismic velocity structure which might terminate the fault rupture of some historical earthquakes based on seismic tomography using a dense arrayed micro-earthquake observation data.

Keywords: Ou backbone range, Seismic velocity structure, Rupture termination, Micro-earthquake observation, Seismic tomography

Relation between the resistivity structure around Hakone volcano and seismicity induced by the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake

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Seismicity around the Hakone volcano was activated just after the arrival of surface waves caused by the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake. Most of these triggered earthquakes had similar distribution to prior occasional swarm activities. In order to image electrical properties around such seismic events, we carried out audio-frequency magnetotelluric (AMT) measurements at 39 sites in December 2011 (Yoshimura et al., 2012). In this study, we conducted 3D modeling of dense AMT (Yoshimura et al., 2012) and MT (Ogawa et al., 2012) data, to figure out electrical characteristics around the triggered seismicity. In spite of careful treatments for noise reduction, the effects of noise were still seen on the longer parts of the responses (<1 Hz) at the several measurement sites. Thus we determined to have use of the frequency range from 320 Hz to 1.02 Hz. The full components the impedance tensors at 51 sites in total were inverted using the code developed by Siripunvaraporn et al. [2005]. The model space consists of 64(x-)×46(y-)×36(z-direction; including 7 air layers) blocks. The minimum horizontal size of blocks was 400m×400m. Significant characteristics of the obtained three-dimensional resistivity model are: (1) the most of the triggered earthquakes, which occurred shallower than a depth of 4km, seem to align along edges or areas just inside the relatively resistive block; (2) surface conductive blocks, in which there were very few earthquakes, were observed beneath not only fumarolic areas but geothermal non-active regions.

Keywords: magnetotellurics, three-dimensional resistivity structure, Hakone volcano, triggered earthquake

Three-dimensional seismic velocity structure around the Neodani fault

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The joint research project started in 2007 to enhance our knowledge on the deep structure around the Neodani fault, along which the largest crustal earthquake, the Nobi earthquake (M8.0), occurred in 1891. As a part of the project, 73 seismograph stations were installed around the fault, resulting in a dense seismograph network with a spatial separation of ~10 km.

We performed a travel-time tomography to reveal a detailed 3D velocity structure around the Neodani fault. The tomographic method of Zhao et al. (1992) was applied to arrival-time data of earthquakes (N=3027) that occurred from 2002 to January 2013. The total number of arrival-time data was 248,354 for P waves and 215,034 for S waves. Horizontal grid nodes spaced at intervals of 0.1 degrees were set in the study area and vertical grid nodes were set at intervals of 5°/30.

The obtained results show interesting features in terms of heterogeneity structures beneath the source area of the Nobi earthquake.

1. The lower crust beneath the Nobi plain shows low Vp and Vs compared to surrounding areas.
2. A low Vp and Vs area is imaged continuously from the Philippine Sea slab and the mid crust beneath the Nobi earthquake.
3. The lower crust beneath the Neodani fault shows an along-fault variation in seismic velocities, with moderate- to high-velocity crust to the southeast and low-velocity crust to the northwest.

Stress tensor inversion in the Nobi fault area, Central Honshu, Japan

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A stress tensor inversion method was applied to 702 focal mechanism solutions in the Nobi fault area, Central Honshu, Japan, which are obtained by using HASH (Hardebeck and Shearer, 2002) that is a method using a first motion polarity of P-wave as data. The study area, 35.3-36.1N and 136.0-137.0E, is gridded with 0.1 X 0.1 spacing in the east-west and north-south directions, respectively. The focal mechanisms are divided into three groups according to the depth of hypocenter: 2-7 km, 5-10km, and 8-13km. From each group the focal mechanisms are selected that the epicenters are located within a radius of 15 km centered at each grid. The SATSI is applied to the data at each group of depth, which is a stress tensor inversion method developed by Hardebeck and Michael (2006). The spatial pattern of stress is obtained at each depth: 2-7 km, 5-10km, and 8-13km. We find that (1) the maximum principal stress (σ_1) is oriented east-west direction almost all over the study area, and (2) the σ_1 direction rotates clockwise by some tens degrees around the Nobi fault.

Keywords: Nobi fault, joint seismic observations, focal mechanism, stress tensor inversion, inland earthquake, active fault

Strain concentration zone recognized from GNSS data in the San-in region

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Introduction

In the San-in region, southwest Japan, there were many large earthquakes including the 1943 M7.2 Tottori and the 2000 M7.3 Western Tottori prefecture earthquakes in the shallow crust. It is well-known that an active zone of microseismicity exists parallel to the coastline of Sea of Japan. On the other hand, recent geodetic data acquired by the GEONET (GNSS Earth Observation Network) suggest that a rate of contemporary deformation is small in the Chugoku district including the San-in region (e.g., Sagiya *et al.*, 2000). We study a detailed pattern of crustal deformation using the GEONET data to clarify a relation between contemporary deformation and microseismicity.

Method

We used daily coordinates of the GEONET GNSS stations published by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (F3 solution). We fit a function of linear, annual, and semi-annual components to time-series of site coordinates relative to site 950462 (Fukue) to estimate secular site velocities. We also estimate strain distribution at grid points (Shen *et al.*, 1996) and in Delaunay triangles using the site velocities.

Result

We identify a concentration zone of deformation corresponding to the active zone of microseismicity in an eastern part of the San-in region during April 2005 and December 2009. Distribution of maximum shear strain rate shows that an eastern inland part of the Chugoku district has the lowest strain rate (10^{-8} yr⁻¹) in the Japanese Islands and that the high strain rate (10^{-7} yr⁻¹) is distributed in a band along the coast of Sea of Japan. High strain rate is also observed in a vicinity of the source area of the 2000 Western Tottori prefecture earthquake, which suggests postseismic deformation of the 2000 earthquake is still continuing.

Velocity profile across the active zone of microseismicity shows a velocity component parallel to the active zone (N80°E) has an offset of 2 mm/yr in and around the active zone. Movements across the offset suggest a right-lateral strike slip, which is consistent with a typical focal mechanism of shallow crustal earthquakes in the zone. The 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake affects crustal deformation in the San-in region. In a postseismic period from January 2012 to December 2013, the strain rate in the San-in region became twice as large as that before 2011.

The deformation can be roughly explained by a right-lateral block motion across the active zone of microseismicity. The used GNSS network is too sparse to estimate a locking depth of a fault between the blocks. A dense GPS array is necessary for more detailed analysis.

Concluding remarks

Analysis of the GEONET data identifies a strain concentration zone corresponding to the active zone of microseismicity along the coast of Sea of Japan in an eastern part of the San-in region. This zone with a width of ~10 km accommodates right-lateral strike-slip movement of 2 mm/yr, which is concordant with a focal mechanism of shallow earthquakes. The observed strain rate doubled after the 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake. More detailed distribution of deformation in the strain concentration zone is important to clarify the deformation mechanism. We need to study with both observation and model calculation.

Reference

- Sagiya *et al.*, PAGEOPH, 147, 2303-2322, 2000
Shen *et al.*, JGR, 101(B12), 27957-27980, 1996

Keywords: Crustal deformation, Strain concentration zone, GNSS, the San-in region

HV frictional strength of wet Longmenshan fault gouge and its comparison with the temperature anomaly in WFSD drill hole

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Estimation of frictional strength from temperature anomaly along coseismic fault in a drill hole after a large earthquake has received much attention recently (e.g., J-FAST project in Japan Trench after the Tohoku-oki earthquake. Surface ruptures more than 250 km long formed along existing Yingxiu-Beichuan fault, a major fault in the Longmenshan fault system, during the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake (Mw = 7.9). Drilling was conducted at Hongkou in Dujiangyan city, a western part of the fault, as a part of Wenchuan Earthquake Fault Scientific Drilling (WFSD). Temperature monitoring is an important task in the project, and WFSD-1 hole was drilled within one year after the earthquake (fastest drilled hole after a large earthquake in the world). Drilling revealed a large scale fault zone for the depth range of 580~760 m, consisting of cataclasites (about 10 m wide), many thin fault gouge zones and fault breccia (Li et al., 2013, Tectonophysics). Temperature anomaly of only 0.15 degrees Centigrade was recognized at a depth of 590 m along a presumed coseismic slip zone (evidence for coseismic slip zone is not so strong though). Mori et al. (2010, AGU) report friction coefficient less than 0.03 from this temperature anomaly. This friction coefficient was even lower than low friction coefficients (typically 0.05~0.2) at high slip rates, reported in the last two decades.

We have conducted wet gouge experiments on foliated fault gouge containing 25 wt% of water with Teflon sleeve at slip rates to 1.3 m/s and at normal stresses of 1.0~4.8 MPa, and compared the results with those on dry gouge with room humidity. Sample was collected from the Hongkou outcrop (see Togo et al., 2011a, EQS), only several hundred meters from the WFSD-1 drill site. Wet gouge has peak friction coefficient of 0.1~0.36 and steady-state friction coefficient of 0.03~0.14, as compared with 0.65~0.8 and 0.15~0.2 for dry gouge (Togo et al., 2011b, EQS). Wet gouge is substantially weaker than dry gouge, but its frictional strength is still somewhat greater than expected from the near absence of temperature anomaly. However, normal stress expected at the depth of temperature anomaly is expected to be more than twice as high as those of our experiments (experiments could not be done at higher normal stresses due to gouge leak). Both peak and steady state friction coefficients of wet gouge tend to decrease by a power law with increasing normal stresses and the extrapolated steady state friction coefficient at the drilling depth reached from 0.028 to 0.022, which results are consistent with the result by Mori et al. (2010). Thus wet gouge has frictional strength fairly close to that expected from the temperature anomaly.

Wet and dry gouges have completely different deformation textures. Deformed dry gouge is characterized by ultrafine-grained slip zones (typically several to a few tens of microns thick) and weakly deformed gouge. Overlapped slip-zone structures are very common in sheared dry gouge. On the other hand, slight grain-size refinement occurs in wet gouge, and the whole wet gouge zone remains only weakly deformed. We consider that the build-up of pore pressure due to compaction induced and/or thermal pressurization separated grains and suppressed grain crushing in wet gouge.

Keywords: High-velocity friction experiment, Longmenshan fault, Wenchuan earthquake, Frictional heating, Bore hole temperature measurement

Numerical simulation of shear bands formation in ground due to strike-slip fault

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When a strike-slip fault occurs, flower structures denoting petaloid patterns of shear bands appear inside the ground above the fault, and also the Riedel shear structures showing en-echelon shear bands appear on the surface of the ground. Ueda¹⁾ conducted model experiments accounting a strike-slip fault and showed evolution process of shear bands inside the model ground using X-ray CT scan system. Also, Sawada and Ueda²⁾ numerically simulated evolution of flower structures etc., using a large-deformation analysis where an elasto-perfectly plastic model with the Mohr Coulomb failure criteria was used.

In this study, referring the research work by Sawada and Ueda²⁾, evolution of shear bands was numerically investigated by using a soil-water coupled finite deformation analysis code **GEOASIA**³⁾ on which the SYS Cam-clay⁴⁾ was mounted as an elasto-plastic soil model. In the analysis, since the rate-type equation of motion is precisely time-integrated, progressive failure will be analyzed as a nonlinear dynamic problem, and then generation and/or propagation of waves induced by shear bands formation⁵⁾ will also naturally be developed in the analysis. The constitutive model used is capable of describing a wide variety of soils within the same theoretical framework. Here are shown numerical examples in which soil is taken as a non-coupled material with liquid.

First considered was a 3D FE mesh with one element in strike direction of a fault (i.e. y-direction) shown in Fig.1. The right-lateral strike-slip fault was assumed to be located below the three elements at the mid bottom of the ground. As for the boundary conditions, periodic boundary was taken directly above the fault on the x-z planes of the ground, and displacement was applied to the y-direction on the other parts of the x-z planes with a constant rate of 10^{-6} m/s on the opposite side across the fault. Also, x-z and y-z planes were frictionless. In this case, the ground exhibited localization of deformation and the shear bands grow from the bottom in a logarithmic spiral manner (" flower structures "). Then, the formation was attributed to plastic swelling behavior of soil element.

Next used were the other 3D meshes with forty elements in the strike direction (Fig.2) so as to investigate evolution of shear bands and effect of homogeneity/initial-imperfection in ground on the evolution. Here, as the boundary conditions, periodic boundary was assumed on the mutually opposite x-z planes and displacement was applied to the nodes located at the bottom with the same rate on the opposite side across the fault, while the same material constants were used. The imperfection was given to some elements directly above the fault by slightly altering a material constant of them. In the imperfection case, flower structures occurred inside the ground, thereafter Riedel shear structures appeared on the surface. The parts of the Riedel shear exhibited more significant upheavals than its surroundings. Furthermore, in the other numerical cases, angle between the Riedel shear and the strike varied with the different material constant.

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2) Sawada, M. & Ueda K.(2009): Numerical simulation for evaluation of structure zone distribution due to strike-slip fault, CRIEPI Rep.No.N08028, in Japanese.

3) Noda, T. et al.(2008): Soil-water coupled finite deformation analysis based on a rate-type equation of motion incorporating the SYS Cam-clay model, Soils and Foundations, 48(6), 771-790.

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Keywords: strike-slip fault, shear bands, Riedel shear, flower structure, numerical analysis

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Room:502

Time:April 30 16:30-16:45

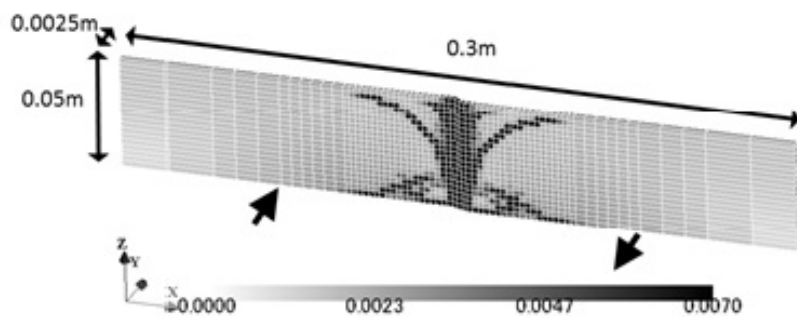


Fig.1. Occurrence of flower structure

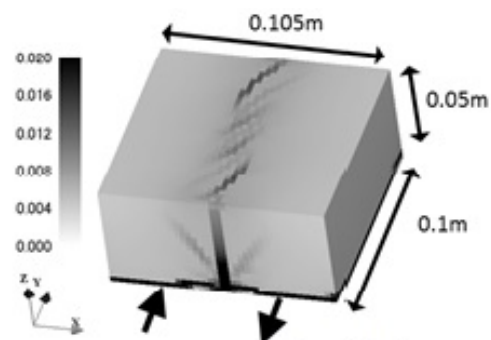


Fig.2. Occurrence of Riedel shear after flower structure, ground with initial material imperfection

Spatially inhomogeneous stress field in the source area of the 2011 Fukushima Hamadori earthquake sequence

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After the 2011 great Tohoku-Oki earthquake, many earthquakes occurred near Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, including Mw6.8 event of April 11. This 2011 Fukushima Hamadori earthquake sequence is characterized by normal faulting, with T-axis oriented in the NW-SE, E-W and NE-SW directions for events in the northern, central and southern parts of the source area, respectively.

In order to understand the cause of such a remarkable spatial variation of focal mechanisms, we investigated the stress field in the source area of this earthquake sequence. First, we relocated hypocenters of events that occurred during the period from 1997 to 2012 by the double-difference location method. Relocated hypocenters show that events near the 3/19 Mw 5.8 earthquake in the southern area, those near the 3/23 Mw 5.7 earthquake in northern area and those near the 4/11 Mw 5.9 earthquake in central area are aligned along planes dipping westwards corresponding to one of nodal planes, respectively.

Then, we estimated the stress field in the source area of the sequence by a stress tensor inversion of focal mechanisms reported by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention and Japan Meteorological Agency. Results show that the stress field is very heterogeneous in space with normal fault stress regime after the occurrences of the main-shock of each part of the source area. In the northern, central, southern and east parts of the source area, the minimum principal stress (σ_3) axes are oriented in the NW-SE, E-W, NE-SW and NNE-SSW directions, respectively. As a whole, σ_3 axis shows the concentric circle-like distribution. In contrast, before the occurrence of the main-shock of each part, σ_3 axis is oriented homogeneously in space in the E-W direction.

This observation suggests the possibility that the remarkable heterogeneity in stress field is caused by the static stress change of large earthquakes. We estimated the static stress changes caused by the 2011 Fukushima Hamadori earthquake sequence. A slip model estimated by Hikima (2012) using strong motion waveforms was used for the Mw6.8 earthquake. Furthermore, we made fault models of the 3/19 Mw 5.7, 3/23 Mw 5.8 and 4/12 Mw 5.7 events using hypocenter locations and the scaling relation between moment magnitude, fault length, width and slip amount for estimating their static stress changes.

Spatial distribution of σ_3 axis direction of the static stress change is approximately the same as that of the observed stress field after the occurrences of the main-shock of each part of the source area. This strongly suggests that σ_3 axis rotated after the 2011 Fukushima Hamadori sequence and the stress magnitude in the focal area before the sequence was smaller than the static stress change (<~several MPa). We estimated the differential stress magnitude assuming that the difference in the stress tensor before and after the earthquakes is equal to the static stress change associated with the large earthquakes. Estimated magnitude of the differential stress was <20 MPa.

Keywords: crustal stress, focal mechanism, weak fault

To what degree can rocks become weak during deformation?: Fracturing-dissolution-mass transfer-precipitation creep

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The megaquake underneath the Pacific Ocean off the northeast Japan revealed important facts on crustal dynamics of the Japanese island. Among them, a new suggestion on the magnitude of differential stress in the crust is important. After the megaquake, peculiar earthquakes occurred in places, where earthquakes do not frequently occur. A typical example was an earthquake caused by normal faulting near the Iwaki-city, northeast Japan, where the stress field of a weak E-W compression was changed to that of an E-W extension. Based on the facts, Yoshida et al. (2012) estimated that the magnitude of differential stress was on the order of 1 MPa in upper crust. In this presentation, we will discuss the newly arising problems of crustal dynamics in Japanese islands, and also whether or not rocks can be deformed by such low differential stresses (i.e. c. 1 MPa), if this estimate of flow stresses is in fact correct.

We have been studying deformation processes and mechanisms in rocks at brittle ductile transition conditions, which seem to control the strength of upper crust, based on microstructural analyses in naturally deformed rocks. Deformation behaviors at the conditions of brittle-ductile conditions can be observed in metamorphic rocks formed at great depths, because these are elevated from ductile to brittle regions across the depth of brittle-ductile transition. For example, pervasive semi-brittle micro-faulting occurred in quartz schist from the Sambagawa metamorphic rocks at brittle ductile transition conditions. Here, although quartz layers were truncated by micro-faults, very-fine grained dynamically recrystallized quartz grains were also formed along them (i.e. micro-shear zone), suggesting components of ductile deformation. Further, very-fine-grained white mica was formed along the micro-faults, suggesting fluid percolation. With increasing deformation, the density of micro-faults increased, accompanied by the widening of micro-shear zones and associated decrease of the volume fraction of undeformed lenses. Perhaps, dissolution-precipitation creep dominated in micro-shear zones, having led to stress concentration in undeformed lenses, which were subsequently fractured. It is inferred that the rocks became softened with the increasing volume fraction of micro-shear zones.

Similarly, broken and displaced quartz detrital grains are observed in meta-sandstones deformed at brittle-ductile conditions from the Kamuikotan metamorphic rocks, northern Japan. Fibrous overgrowth of quartz occurred between the broken and displaced fragments of quartz, which appears as if these grains themselves restore the original shape. On the other hand, embayment occurred toward quartz grain sides at the boundary between quartz and white mica grains, suggesting dominant dissolution of quartz at this type of boundaries. Further, cataclasites formed along the Median Tectonic Line at the conditions of brittle-ductile conditions in the Cretaceous, and new minerals precipitated from fluids in the space created by fracturing and displacement of protolith forming minerals. The fracturing is accompanied by element migration via fluids, thus the degree increases with increasing degree of fracturing. In conclusion, deformation occurred by dissolution-mass transfer-precipitation assisted by fracturing under the conditions of brittle-ductile transition, by which significant weakening can be generated in rocks.

Keywords: differential stress in the upper part of crust, strain softening, micro-fracturing, dissolution, mass transfer, precipitation of minerals

Detecting the stress condition at a fault from focal mechanism: application to the 2013 Awaji Island earthquake (M6.3)

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One of the approaches used to evaluate potential of an earthquake occurrence is the detection of stress concentration at an earthquake fault. Stress fields in stages for pre- and post-seismic event will be different from one another. However, this change cannot provide information regarding the potential for an earthquake to occur. Here, we propose a detection method for stress conditions that uses focal mechanism data. The condition can be defined both by background stress and by a moment tensor equivalent to the stress concentration. We apply this method to actual focal mechanism data from the Awaji Island earthquake (M6.3), Japan, and show the presence of stress concentration around the earthquake fault before the mainshock. In addition, the regional shear stress is shown to be ~ 25 MPa in the area, implying that the stress level is still high, thus the potential for further seismicity in the area could be high.

Keywords: stress field, earthquake fault, focal mechanism

A friction to flow constitutive law and its application to a two-dimensional modeling of earthquake cycles

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Establishment of a constitutive law from friction to high-temperature plastic flow has long been a task for solving problems such as modeling earthquakes and plate interactions. A linear combination of friction and flow laws disagrees with experimental data. Here we propose an empirical constitutive law that describes this transitional behavior with good agreements with experimental data on halite shear zones. A complete spectrum of properties including steady-state and transient behaviors can be predicted if friction and flow parameters are known. We show numerical models of seismic cycles of a fault across the lithosphere as an application. Our friction-to-flow law merges brittle-plastic Christmas-tree strength profiles of the lithosphere and rate-dependency fault models used for earthquake modeling on a unified basis. Conventionally strength profiles were drawn assuming a strain rate for the flow regime, but we emphasize that stress distribution evolves reflecting the fault behavior. Previous fault models are revised based on our earthquake modeling. Seismic fault motion is followed by fault creep in the transitional regime and this explains pseudotachylites overprinted by mylonitic deformation, reported at various places in the world.

Keywords: Friction to flow constitutive law, Earthquake cycle modeling, Fault model, Lithosphere rheology, Mylonite, Pseudotachylite

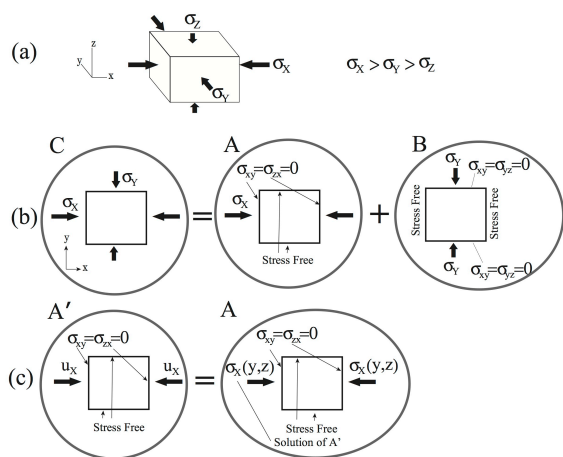
A consideration about computation of tectonic stress field for inland thrust earthquake

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In the case of pure thrust earthquake, the driving stress system is expected to have been as shown in Fig. 1a. The stress in this figure is tectonic stress; thus, the lithostatic pressure $\sigma_V (= \rho gh)$ must be added. The tectonic system (Fig. 1a) can be decomposed into two systems (Fig. 1b): A and B. The functional forms of σ_X and σ_Y are unknown. The assumption that that σ_X is uniform in system A causes almost uniform shear and normal stresses on the fault. Strength (peak stress) and dynamic friction can be estimated when $\sigma_V (= \rho gz)$ is added to the fault normal stress and the resultant normal stress is multiplied by static and dynamic frictional coefficients. Under these conditions, we found a large stress drop in the shallower parts and minimum strength excess at the free surface. This suggests that the earthquake rupture must have started at the surface and that the stress drop must have been the highest at the ground surface. These results can be avoided if the stress σ_X is assumed to increase with depth. The depth dependency is related to variations in elastic constants. The stress field in this region likely originated primarily from plate motions. Therefore, we selected the displacement boundary condition $u_X = u_0$, which correspondings to system A' in Fig. 1c. It should be noted that other displacement components were not fixed, but free stress conditions (except the σ_{xx} component) were imposed according. After solving the stress field imposing the above boundary condition, the resultant stress component σ_{xx} was added on the boundary of $x = \pm L_X$ as a further boundary condition. The solution is the same as the problem in which the boundary condition is imposed. Taking the linear elasticity into account, the target solution can be estimated by superposing solutions A and B in Fig. 1b. System A is equivalent to system A'. The effect of system B on fault normal and shear stress is expected to be negligible, because these stresses are exactly zero for a uniform structure. We estimated such effects in a heterogeneous structure by assuming that the value of $\sigma_{yy} = \sigma_{yy}(z)$ on the boundary of $y = \pm L_y$ is the same as $\sigma_{xx}(z)$ on the boundary of $x = \pm L_x$. We found system B to exert little effect (less than 5%) on the stress components of σ_{zx} , σ_{xx} , and σ_{zz} . Thus, B had little effect on fault normal and shear stress on the fault plane, where $\sigma_{xx}(z)$ is the averaged stress component along the y-axis on the corresponding boundaries. Based on the condition of thrust earthquake that $|\sigma_X| > |\sigma_Y| > |\sigma_Z|$ (Fig. 1a), the above mentioned σ_{zx} , σ_{xx} , and σ_{zz} were overestimated in our study. Thus, we can ignore the effects of system B.

Keywords: inland earthquake, stress field



Aftershock activity of the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi inland earthquake suppressed by stress shadow of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake

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The 2011 Tohoku-oki M9 earthquake has increased seismicity rates in many areas in eastern Japan. Several papers already sought the triggering mechanism to static stress change (Toda et al., GRL, 2011), dynamic stress change (Miyazawa et al., GRL, 2011) and pore fluid pressure change (Terakawa et al., EPSL, 2013). In contrast, areas where seismicity rate evidently dropped are restricted to the vicinity of the 2011 rupture zone (Kato & Igarashi, GRL, 2012), the 2004 Chuetsu aftershock zone (Hirose & Toda, SSJ fall meeting, 2011) and the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi inland earthquake aftershock zone (Suzuki & Toda, AGU fall meeting, 2013). Suzuki and Toda (2013) claim that the cause of seismic quiescence is Coulomb failure stress (CFF) decrease due to the 2011 event. However, a small quantity of focal mechanisms prevents them to confirm the mechanism.

In this study, we determine 4106 newly focal mechanisms in the area and develop a model to explain spatio-temporal seismic evolution. To estimate the focal mechanisms, we employ the method of Hardeback & Shearer (BSSA, 2002) using first motion of P-wave, provided by the campaign data by the Group for the Aftershock Observations of the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi inland Earthquake and Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) in addition to the stationary data from Hi-net and F-net by NIED. Besides, we use F-net moment tensor solutions (VR?80%) and JMA focal mechanisms together with our estimates. Most of the focal mechanisms are strike-slip or thrust fault type and the distribution of ratio of strike-slip type to thrust type is spatially heterogeneous. We find several distinctive seismic clusters from all the distribution. Seismicity in two clusters in southern rupture zone of the 2008 event has been clearly decreased by the 2011 event. We calculate Δ CFF on all nodal planes as a proxy for background faults using a Tohoku-oki coseismic slip model given by Iinuma et al. (JGR, 2012) in an elastic half-space of Okada (BSSA, 1992). Apparent friction coefficient, μ' , is assumed to be 0.0, 0.4 or 0.8. In the case of $\mu' = 0.0$, 80% of Δ CFF resolved on all nodal planes are negative and over 50% Δ CFF are negative in the case of $\mu' = 0.8$. In the distinctive clusters mentioned above, ratios of the negative Δ CFF far exceed above overall average.

Seismic response to Δ CFF is formulated by Dieterich (JGR, 1994) based on the rate-and state-dependent friction law. The physics-based model can reproduce the empirical Omori's aftershock decay after a stress step controlled by several parameters. In this study, we estimate reference seismic rate from an average number of earthquakes from 2000 to the 2008 mainshock, Δ CFF associated with the 2008 mainshock, stressing rate, product of constitutive parameter and normal stress on a fault plane ($A\sigma$) estimated from the aftershocks occurred until the Tohoku-oki earthquake. Using these parameters, we calculate seismic time series from all the calculated Δ CFF by the Tohoku-oki earthquake, and then compare the observation with the average of all time-series curves. As a result, the models increase seismicity rate at the Tohoku-oki earthquake, which is inconsistent with the observation. We seek that reasons for mismatch between our model and observation to (i) the paucity of aftershock hypocenter data because of detectability decrease immediately after the Tohoku-oki earthquake, (ii) change in stressing rate due to the post-seismic deformation of the Tohoku-oki earthquake, (iii) reduction of friction coefficient due to fluid injection and/or pore pressure change on fault planes.

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Keywords: induced earthquake, static Coulomb failure stress change, rate-and state-dependent friction law, seismic quiescence

Improvement of gas medium triaxial apparatus derived from thermal fluid analysis

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A huge amount of effort has used to be required for trial productions during the development of experimental apparatus. Since such trial productions generally consume vast time period and cost, the reduction of them is now a significant issue. Numerical modeling such as the finite element simulation (FE) is widely used to reduce them in various engineering fields.

Gas medium triaxial apparatus is widely used to determine the mechanical properties of rocks precisely at higher temperature. However, there has been a limitation for the use at the higher temperature in Japan due to the thermal design. In this presentation we plan to improve the gas-medium triaxial apparatus derived from thermal fluid analysis based on the finite element simulation.

Here, the governing equations for thermal fluid analysis consist of the heat conduction equation, the Navier-Stokes equation and the equation of state. By solving those equations simultaneously, we obtain important physical quantities such as temperature distribution, fluid velocity field, delay of heating, etc. The knowledge derived from the computer simulations are: (1) The argon gas flow hardly has any relation with the temperature distribution on solid materials. (2) The temperatures of adiabatic materials placed near the heat sources are below the maximum operating temperature. (3) A large thermal gradient is observed close to the plastic O-ring.

Based on above results, we have attained valuable improvement policies such as replacement of materials, improvement of radiation factor on the copper jig, etc.

Keywords: heat, fluid, Navier-Stokes, equation of state, gas medium triaxial apparatus

The crustal structure beneath northern Mino region, central Japan revealed by seismic reflection survey

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The Nobi earthquake, the largest inland earthquake in Japan, occurred in 1891 in northern Mino district, central Japan. In that region, most active faults run nearly parallel to the NW-SE trending hinge of megakink structure of the Mino belt (Kano et al., 1990). It is remarkable that the upper surface of the subducting Philippine Sea Plate (PSP) also shows a NW-SE trending broad anticlinal form whose axial zone is deeply situated almost below the hinge of the megakink. However we don't have sufficient information about seismic structure of whole crust and the uppermost mantle beneath this region to discuss influence of subducting plate on surface deformation.

To elucidate the seismic structure, a seismic reflection survey was carried out in October in 2009 (Komada et al., 2010). The survey line intersected at high angle with Neodani faults zone. We applied the seismic reflection method to the shot records of this survey and got seismic profiles of whole crust and the uppermost mantle.

We found reflectors having 2 s duration around 10 s two way travel time (TWT) in the seismic profiles. These waves occurred at TWT 9 - 11 s in the southwestern part of the study area, and at TWT 10 - 12 sec in the northeastern part. Applying depth conversion, the reflectors are located in the depth of 28 - 37km in the southwestern part, and of 32 - 39km in the northeastern part. We can clearly see that the depth of the reflection waves in the southwestern side of the Neodani fault zone are shallower than that in the northeastern side. Further the depth varies just beneath the Neodani fault zone. These feature correspond with the result of velocity analysis in the study area (Emoto et al., 2012).

Those reflection waves are interpreted as a lower crustal lamination by comparing with the result of previous seismic profiles. The geometry of laminated lower crust is consistent with the trend of the displacement on Nodani Fault Zone of Nobi earthquake. The fact might show that the difference of the reflectors depths between the southwestern and the northeastern side is caused by fault displacement and it might reach the whole crust. In southwestern part of study area, the depth of top boundary of the Philippine Sea plate (PSP) was estimated from travel time tomography in the previous studies. Its depth is equivalent in the lower limit of the lower crustal lamination. Then it might show that the crust of the land plate contacts on the subducting PHP beneath the northern Mino district.

Keywords: lower crust, Neodani fault, reflection seismic survey, Philippine Sea Plate, northern Mino region

Temporary observation of micro earthquakes in the northern Ibaraki prefecture by using commercially-supplied IC recorder

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In case of estimate focal mechanism solutions by using P-wave first-motion polarity data, a dense seismic observation network is required. In this study we propose a new seismic observation system to record a P-wave first-motion polarity. The system consists of a seismometer with a vertical component that price is approximately ten thousand yen and a commercially-supplied IC recorder that price is approximately ten thousand yen. According to the specification of the IC recorder, the recordable frequency band is from 60 to 3400 Hz. We compare frequency characteristic of waveforms recorded in stations of National Research Institute for Earth Science and disaster Prevention (NIED Hi-net) and those recorded by using IC recorder. As a result we find that the IC recorder is able to record seismic waves that frequency band is from about 20 to 3400 Hz.

In this study, we conducted a temporary observation of micro-earthquakes for one month from August to September 2012 in the northern Ibaraki prefecture where many normal-faulting type events occur, and we addressed the effectiveness of the seismic observation system. The 29 seismic stations were deployed along a road so that it allows a deployment of many stations for a short time. After collecting the temporary stations, based on the P-wave first motion polarity, we estimated the focal-mechanisms by using HASH program (Hardebeck and Shearer, 2002). As a result, we obtain the 87 focal-mechanisms for micro-earthquakes occurred in the study area.

To test the accuracy of the focal mechanisms obtained in this study, we compared those with focal-mechanisms determined by Earthquake Research Institute, The University of Tokyo (ERI) temporary stations. We compared focal-mechanisms determined by ERI and Hi-net stations and focal-mechanisms determined by using IC recorder and Hi-net stations. We compare P axis and T axis for focal-mechanisms determined by ERI and Hi-net stations and determined by using IC recorder and Hi-net stations. As a result, nothing is difference of accuracy about focal-mechanisms between determined by ERI and Hi-net stations and determined by using IC recorder and Hi-net stations, because of P axis T axis has almost same distribution on the focal sphere. We conclude that focal mechanisms determined by using IC recorder stations has almost same accuracy as those determined by a traditional three component seismometer.

Modeling the viscoelastic deformation of the NE Japan arc after the 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake

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The rheological structure of the Northeastern Japan arc crust and the upper mantle is heterogeneous along and transverse to the arc. Shibazaki et al. (2014) developed a model of the stress state of the Northeastern Japan island-arc crust using a finite element method with viscoelasticity and elastoplasticity. They reproduced several elongated low-stress regions transverse to the arc with viscous deformation that corresponds to hot fingers (high-temperature regions in the mantle wedge). The viscous relaxation process after the 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake could be affected by the existence of low-viscosity regions caused by hot fingers. A three-dimensional (3D) finite element model was developed to investigate the viscoelastic deformation processes with heterogeneous viscosity distribution after the 2011 Tohoku-oki earthquake. The model considers the realistic crustal and mantle structures, viscoelasticity (Maxwell or Burgers rheology), and coseismic fault slip distribution obtained by Iinuma et al. (2012). For simplicity, only the elastic crust and viscoelastic mantle structure were considered. The westward movement near the trench and eastward movement in the inland region due to viscoelastic relaxation were reproduced, which are consistent with the observations. We also consider the local low viscosity region in the Northeastern Japan arc crust. In this case, extensional viscous strain concentrates on this region. We report the numerical results that take into account the realistic 3D heterogeneous viscosity distribution in the crust and the upper mantle beneath the Northeastern Japan island arc.

Keywords: 2011Tohoku-oki earthquake, NE Japan arc, Viscoelastic deformation