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Development of fault activity in Japan estimated from the response of the faults to the tectonic stress field

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The regional tectonic stress of the NE Japan arc continues from around 3.5 Ma to present (Sato, 1994). On the other hand, the initiation age of active faulting increased after 1.5 Ma (Doke et al., 2012). These results suggests that the response of the fault activity to the tectonic stress field takes long time (i.e. a few Ma). Then we study the maturity of the response of the fault activity to the regional tectonic stress field. In this study, we discuss the maturity of the field according to the present stress field and the present fault activity with the geodetic and geologic deformation.

The regional tectonic stress was estimated from the focal mechanisms of F-net by stress tensor inversion. The responses of the active faults and geological faults to the tectonic stress are calculated by using the slip tendency (Morris et al., 1996). The calculation results show that the most of high activity faults becomes active faults in the Tohoku region. On the other hand, some high activity faults have been geological faults in the Chubu and Kinki region. This difference of the response of faults to the tectonic stress in different regions is coherent with the geodetic and geologic deformation.

Sato, H. The relationship between late Cenozoic tectonic events and stress field and basin development in northeast Japan Journal of Geophysical Research, 1994, 99, 22261-22274

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