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Some features of strong ground motions and structural damage during the 2011 Mw 9.0 Off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake

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Today's Topics

- Some features of structural damage during the 11 March 2011 Mw 9.0 Tohoku earthquake
- 2. Short-period source model estimated from strong motion data
- 3. Period-dependence of rupture processes
- 4. Recipe of predicting strong ground motions for subduction megathrust earthquakes
- 5. Estimation of strong ground motions at damaged sites during 2013 Tohoku earthquake for fragility curves of buildings

Outline of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake

2011/03/11, 14:46. Depth=24km, Interplate









2. Short-period source model estimated from strong motion data
Five distinctive wavapackets were detected on strong motion sesimograms at stations near the source fault.
The arrival azimuths of those wavepackets were estimated using the semblance analysis in several small arrays.
The locations of strong motion generation areas (SMGAs) are coincident with the origins of those wavepackets.



Simulation of Strong Ground Motions during the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake Using the Empirical Green's Function Method

■ Strong Motion Generation Areas are relocated using the semblance analysis of the wave-packets in small arrays.

■ The observed data from medium-sized earthquakes occurring near each strong motion generation area are adopted as the empirical Green's functions.

■ Strong motion records of the 2005 Miyagi-Oki earthquake (Mw 7.2) are used as the empirical Green's functions for SMGA1 (WP1) and SPGA3 (WP2).















Period range of ground motions generated from the SMGAs

- Longer-period motions from the Strong Motion Generation Areas (SMGAs) are estimated using numerical Green's functions: the Discrete Wavenumber method (Bouchon, 1981) and the Reflection/Transmission coefficient matrix method (Kennet, 1983) using a stratified medium.
- Effective period range of ground motions generated from the SMGAs are confirmed by comparing simulated motions with observed motions.
- Verification of the fault parameters are made, mainly inner fault parameters of Strong Motion Generation Areas (SMGAs) estimated using the empirical Green's function method











- 3. Period-dependence of rupture processes
 - Comparison of short-period source model and long-period source models inverted long-period strong motion data, tsunami waveforms, geodetic data -

■ Short-period source models using backprojection of teleseismic short-period P-waves (e.g. Ishii, 2011; Honda et al., 2011)

■ Long-period source models inverted from tsunami data (Fujii et al., 2012), geodetic data (linuma et al., 2012) and joint data (Yokota et al.)







4. Recipe of predicting strong ground motions for subduction-zone megathrust earthquakes

■ Rupture process of subduction-zone megathrust earthquakes show period-dependence.

■ New source image for period-dependent source process is expressed as multi-step heterogeneous-source-model.

■ Strong ground motions of engineering interest in the period-range from 0.1 to 10 sec are estimated using the basic characteristic source model with outer-fault parameters and inner fault parameters, that is, just one step heterogeneity source model.





Heterogeneous Model for Broad-band Motions from 0.1 to 10 s



5. Estimation of strong ground motions at damaged sites during 2013 Tohoku earthquake

■ Velocity structures beneath strong motion stations are identified by use of earthquake H/V spectral ratios (Kawase et al., 2011).

Empirical Green's functions at bedrock beneath the strong motion station are calculated with observed ground motions on the surface from small events and transfer functions between surface and bedrock.

■ The transfer functions at damaged sites are calculated from velocity structures beneath the sites using microtremor H/V (Arai and Tokimatsu, 2000; Sanchez-Sesma, et al, 2011).

Ground motions at damaged sites during the mainshock are calculated the transfer functions, the empirical Green's functions and the short-period source model of the mainshock.







Summary

- 1. The 2011Tohoku earthquake (Mw 9.0) produced devastating tsunami waves, causing 16,500 fatalities (including missing) and serious damage to nearby Fukushima nuclear power plants. Extremely strong and long-duration ground motions were also generated, but damage due to strong ground motions were relatively less.
- 2. Short-period source model of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake (Mw 9.0) have five distinctive strong –motion-generation areas (SMGAs) fitting observed acceleration and velocity records to synthetic motions. The SMGAs are located west of the hypocenter and along the down-dip edge of the source fault. Synthetic motions from the SMGAs match well with observed motions in the period-range from 0.1 to 10 sec.
- 3. Period-dependence of rupture process was found, that is large slips in shallow zones of the source fault near the trench west of the hypocenter and short-period generation in deeper zones west of the hypocenter.
- 4. Strong ground motions of engineering interest in the period-range from 0.1 to 10 sec are estimated using the characteristic source model with outer-fault parameters and inner fault parameters as the recipe of predicting strong ground motions for subduction earthquakes.





