

Coseismic fault model of the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake deduced by a dense GPS network

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A large earthquake of M_j 7.2 occurred on June 14, 2008, beneath the border between Iwate and Miyagi prefectures in northeastern Japan. We propose a simple rectangular fault model based on a dense GPS network, including continuous GPS sites run by four agencies, to describe the coseismic deformation. The coseismic displacements are estimated by kinematic PPP (precise point positioning) analysis. Near the hypocenter, co-located independent instruments (integrated accelerogram and kinematic PPP) measure the same large displacement caused by the mainshock. The fault model explains the observations well and reproduces the observed complex spatial pattern, especially around the northern part of the focal area, which is the focus of a debate on whether or not the coseismic slip occurred on the Dedana fault system. Our results show that no major slip on the Dedana fault system occurred. The estimated amount of moment release was equivalent to M_w 6.9, and the maximum slip reached 3.5 m on the southern sub-fault.

Key words: 2008 Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake, kinematic GPS, coseismic fault model.

1. Introduction

The 2008 Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku (inland) earthquake (hereafter IMEQ) occurred beneath the border between the Iwate and Miyagi prefectures in northeastern (NE) Japan at 08:43 JST, 14 June 2008. The focal mechanism proposed by the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED) suggests that a reverse fault motion occurred with a west-northwest (W-NW) to east-southeast (E-SE) compression axis (Fig. 1). Miura *et al.* (2002, 2004) found the existence of a notable strain concentration zone with an E-W contraction along the Ou backbone range (OBR), where the Volcanic Front runs through, using continuous GPS measurements. This E-W contraction zone also shows a higher shallow earthquake activity, with most activity occurring in the upper crust, similar to the focal areas of large inland earthquakes, such as the 1896 Riku-u earthquake (M 7.2; see Matsuda *et al.*, 1980), the 1970 Southeastern Akita earthquake (M 6.2; Hasegawa *et al.*, 1974, 1975), Shizukuishi earthquake (M 6.1; Umino *et al.*, 1998; Miura *et al.*, 2000), and so on. The main shock of the IMEQ and its many aftershocks were located within this tectonically active region. Furthermore, an active fault, denoted the Kitakami-Teichi Seien Fault Zone (KTSFZ) exists close to the IMEQ focal area. The KTSFZ is composed of several small active faults and the southernmost fault is called the Dedana Fault (DF). In this paper, we describe the coseismic displacement field observed with our dense GPS network and GEONET sites, and we discuss the characteristics of the coseismic fault model and its relationship to the

fault systems around the rupture area.

2. Data and Analysis

GEONET, a nationwide GPS network composed of more than 1,200 stations, was established by the Geographical Survey Institute (GSI) (e.g. Hatanaka, 2003). There are not enough GEONET sites near the OBR because of the area's mountainous topography. For moderately sized inland earthquakes with magnitudes between 6 and 7, the spatial density of GEONET is insufficient for determining detailed coseismic fault motion. Between 1994 and 2003, Miura *et al.* (2006) established 13 new continuous GPS stations in Miyagi and Iwate prefectures to complement GEONET and improve sampling resolution of the inter-plate slip expected during the predicted Miyagi-oki earthquake. In addition, in October 2007, the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) established a new continuous GPS array along an E-W traverse running through the northern end of the IMEQ focal area and across the DF (Fig. 1) with the aim of studying methodology for improving the seismic safety of nuclear installations through seismic risk evaluation. The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAO) also operated three GPS sites in Mizusawa, to the east of KTSFZ on the same traverse as JNES stations.

We have aggregated the data from the continuous GPS stations from four different institutions, including Tohoku University (TU), GSI, JNES, and NAO. The GPS data were sampled at 1-s, 30-s, or 1-min intervals, depending on the receiver type and telemetry system. Dual-frequency receivers were deployed at all stations. Data from the TU and JNES networks are transmitted on a public telephone line or broadband Internet every day.

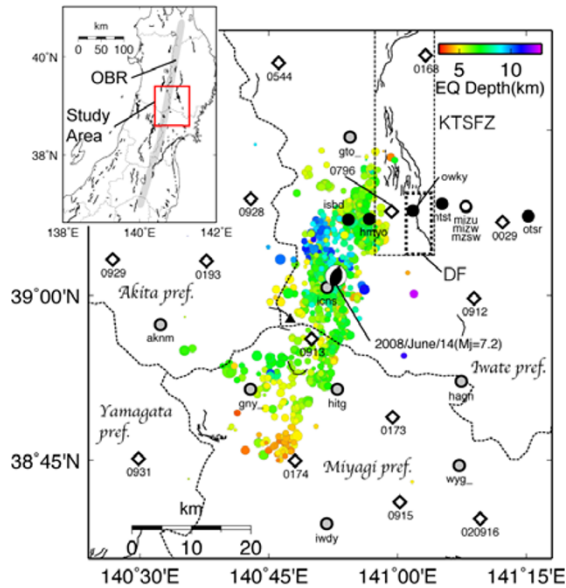


Fig. 1. Location map of GPS sites around focal area. OBR denotes the Ou Backbone Range. Red rectangular represents the study area. The aftershocks measured by the group for the aftershock observations of the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake in 2008 (GIMNE2008) between 14–17 and 20 June 2008 are shown by colored circles. The sizes of each circle are proportional to the magnitude of the earthquake. Gray, black, and open circles denote GPS sites operated by Tohoku University, JNES, and NAO, respectively. Open diamonds represent GEONET GPS sites. The earthquake mechanism is determined by NIED. Black triangle denotes Mt. Kurikoma. The thin dashed rectangle and the thick rectangle indicate the Kitakami-Teichi Seien Fault Zone (KTSFZ) and the Dedana Fault (DF), respectively. Thin dashed lines denote prefecture borders.

Precise point positioning (PPP; Zumberge *et al.*, 1997) kinematic analysis coupled with GPS measurement has recently become one of the preferred methods for observing dynamic crustal deformations (e.g. Kouba, 2003; Takasu, 2006). We used GPSTools version 0.6.3. (Takasu and Kasai, 2005), which is a GPS processing suite developed in Japan, to process the data using the kinematic PPP strategy. The PPP method uses data such as precise ephemerides, GPS satellite clock corrections, and earth rotation parameters provided by various analysis centers, such as International GNSS Service (IGS), to precisely estimate the site coordinates without any reference sites. We processed 14 and 15 June for kinematic PPP solutions by dual frequency analysis. The time-dependent unknown parameters (three-component coordinate, zenith tropospheric delay, and station clock) are estimated using an extended Kalman filter (forward/backward). Carrier phase ambiguities were not resolved. The GPS receiver coordinates were estimated using a strictly constrained random walk stochastic model (random walk sigma is $10 \text{ mm s}^{-1/2}$) every 5 min (required because data from each GPS site were sampled at different intervals). Most kinematic earthquake studies adopted for the independent (white noise) stochastic model because of these studies seek unbiased dynamic displacements, such as seismic wave passing (Larson *et al.*, 2003; Ohta *et al.*, 2006). In this study, our aim was to detect the coseismic step. Therefore, some level of correlation between the positions is negligible. The strictly constrained random walk

model also produces a low-scatter time series. The N-S, E-W, and up-down component for the root mean square (rms) error for five epochs of all GPS stations before the earthquake are 5.2, 4.3, and 10.4 mm, respectively. In this study, we adopted the IGS final products (Dow *et al.*, 2005). The IGS final orbits and clocks are provided in the IGS05 reference frame. Consequently, the position solutions are also defined within the IGS05 reference frame. Following kinematic PPP processing, we chose GEONET site 950154 (Iwasaki), located about 200 km NW of the epicenter (not shown in Fig. 1), as the reference site to remove the satellite origin's common-mode noise.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Coseismic displacement detection by kinematic GPS analysis

Kinematic or sub-daily GPS processing can detect exact co-seismic displacements, whereas daily analyses can be contaminated by a mixture of true coseismic and short-term postseismic signals (Miyazaki and Larson, 2008). Figure 2 shows an example of the kinematic GPS coordinate time series with a 5-min interval at the ICNS station located 2.5 km southwest of the epicenter (see also Fig. 1), which is the nearest GPS site to the hypocenter. It is clear that the kinematic PPP strategy successfully detects the large coseismic step of the mainshock. We defined the coseismic displacement as the difference averaged over 25 min (five epochs) before and after the mainshock. If any GPS station experienced a power outage after the main shock (shortest power outage was for 2 h, and the longest power outage reached 3 days), we defined the coseismic displacement as the difference averaged over 25 min before and after the power outage. We summarize the coseismic displacements in Table 1 for all GPS sites used in this study and show the coseismic displacements for nearby GPS stations in Fig. 3.

Near the hypocenter, co-located independent instruments measure the same displacements. As shown in Fig. 2, the ICNS station clearly undergoes horizontal and vertical displacements, with magnitudes of 44 cm (east), 34 cm (north), and 156 cm (up). NIED (2008) also reported co-

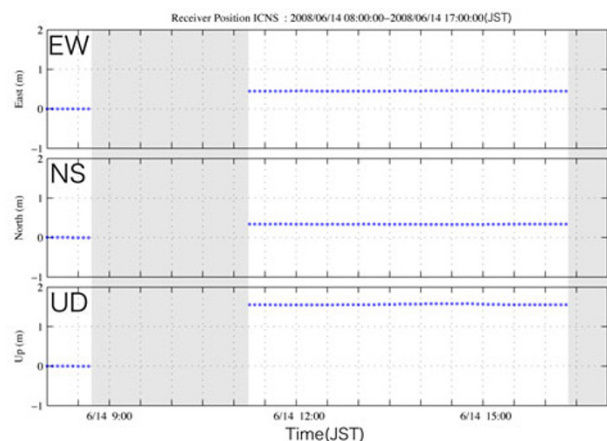


Fig. 2. Time series of coordinates at the ICNS GPS station with respect to 0154 (Iwasaki), estimated every 5 min using kinematic PPP analysis. Shaded areas denote power outages. Notable coseismic displacements of 44 (east), 34 (north), and 156 cm (up) are clearly recorded.

Table 1. Coseismic displacements estimated by kinematic PPP analysis at each GPS station used to develop the coseismic fault model in this study. Stations were ordered in increasing longitude through the network. Some sites are located outside of the figures. TU: Tohoku University GPS network, JNES: Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES) GPS array, NAO: National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAO), GEONET: GEONET sites operated by Geographical Survey Institute (GSI).

	Site name	Longitude (deg)	Latitude (deg)	Height (m)	de (cm)	dn (cm)	du (cm)
	hoj_	140.16798	39.34335	135.6	2.4	-1.3	0.1
	omn_	140.38059	39.28874	122.4	4.7	-1.9	1.1
	nnn_	140.39173	39.47618	72.2	3.7	-2.1	3.6
	aknm	140.53976	38.95604	420.8	16.2	-0.3	-0.4
	hrn_	140.62729	39.25821	182.0	6.1	-4.9	-0.2
	gny_	140.71488	38.85795	453.2	28.0	-2.2	-0.4
	iwdy	140.86257	38.65338	123.1	-0.5	0.9	-0.7
	icns	140.86314	39.01206	468.5	43.9	33.9	155.7
TU	hitg	140.88311	38.85800	359.8	-19.5	25.3	-7.3
	gto_	140.90800	39.23970	653.8	3.3	1.1	0.3
	nam_	140.99393	39.46811	277.4	-0.5	0.2	-0.5
	wyg_	141.11979	38.74221	59.4	-5.9	3.9	1.4
	hagn	141.12408	38.86978	119.8	-11.7	5.3	-0.1
	dit_	141.42169	39.06466	442.1	-4.9	0.5	-2.9
	tygw	141.42656	38.84869	214.7	-3.9	1.3	-0.8
	natr	141.55474	38.72233	66.6	-1.6	1.1	-0.8
	kgj_	141.56144	39.38918	415.4	0.5	0.0	0.4
	kmi_	141.69501	39.29848	599.8	-1.2	-2.0	2.6
	srhn	140.62827	39.15275	251.5	14.3	-8.2	1.1
	isbd	140.90437	39.11496	350.9	23.2	31.5	38.0
JNES	hmyo	140.94555	39.11592	287.6	17.2	25.2	16.2
	owky	141.03033	39.12859	192.0	-8.9	0.5	-2.4
	ntst	141.08678	39.13907	137.1	-8.8	-0.7	-1.8
	otsr	141.25388	39.12021	220.2	-5.3	-0.1	0.4
	idek	141.32259	39.16618	276.1	-3.4	-0.2	0.3
	mizw	141.13282	39.13523	117.5	-7.3	-0.7	0.3
NAO	mizu	141.13283	39.13517	117.0	-7.2	-1.0	-0.8
	mzsw	141.13345	39.13396	105.7	-8.2	-0.4	-0.9
	0154	139.92812	40.57764	48.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	0192	140.16198	39.16421	298.4	3.9	-0.8	2.6
	0930	140.18347	38.93810	174.0	5.0	-0.1	1.4
	0927	140.27893	39.29674	179.7	2.8	-1.7	0.6
	0033	140.31874	38.75860	181.5	3.4	0.4	-1.8
	0929	140.44733	39.05438	199.8	10.5	-2.3	0.6
	0931	140.49726	38.75216	236.1	3.6	0.0	-0.1
	0554	140.50669	39.19910	138.6	7.3	-4.0	0.6
	0190	140.55978	39.32700	104.3	3.2	-2.5	0.3
	0193	140.62959	39.05190	345.0	27.5	-8.6	-2.0
	0928	140.71505	39.14620	322.0	20.5	-13.1	-0.1
	0544	140.76918	39.35130	300.9	2.3	-1.3	0.2
	0174	140.80164	38.74894	343.4	-3.2	1.8	-4.4
	0913	140.83318	38.93403	690.7	93.1	-116.6	209.0
GEONET	0796	140.98846	39.12701	228.0	-0.8	2.2	0.0
	0173	140.99058	38.81534	108.5	-13.8	12.6	-0.7
	0915	141.00433	38.68613	105.4	-4.0	3.6	-1.1
	0912	141.14852	38.99546	131.7	-13.6	3.1	-0.2
	0916	141.16072	38.66063	51.0	-1.9	2.4	0.2
	0029	141.20392	39.11062	172.1	-7.1	5.1	1.6
	0909	141.29300	39.46469	244.6	-0.4	0.6	-1.5
	0910	141.31167	39.23538	222.4	-2.2	-0.3	0.2
	0914	141.31786	38.74322	58.3	-3.7	2.0	-0.7
	0911	141.40085	39.01211	212.2	-4.2	0.4	0.1
	0175	141.44937	38.68270	84.0	-2.0	1.5	0.1
	0169	141.53416	39.33806	317.0	-0.6	-0.3	0.3
	0172	141.57259	38.90286	82.6	-2.6	0.5	-0.3
	0546	141.57549	39.14309	124.8	-1.6	0.0	0.3
	0171	141.73985	39.02378	106.8	-0.7	0.0	0.7

seismic displacements, which were obtained by integrating the accelerogram at the Ichinoseki-nishi seismic station, which was located 200 m away from the ICNS GPS station. NIED found displacements of 45 cm east, 44 cm north, and 140 cm up (NIED, 2008). Integrated seismogram records are possibly contaminated by biases during the integral operation, which may degrade the signal-to-noise ratio. Within this context, the fact that these two independent data sets show approximately the same coseismic displacements suggests that the displacements observed are independent of instrument type and are caused by actual ground motion

associated with the mainshock.

3.2 Fault model of the mainshock

A detailed aftershock distribution was obtained by the dense temporal aftershock observation network. This temporal seismic network is operated by group for the aftershock observations of the Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake in 2008 (GIMNE2008, hereafter). GIMNE2008 (2008) determined the precise aftershock distribution using the double-difference hypocenter determination technique (Zhang and Thurber, 2003) to reveal a coseismic fault dipping west-northwestward in the northern part of the focal

Table 2. Model fault parameters consisting of two rectangular faults. Longitude, latitude, and depth denote the location of the upper-left corner of each rectangular fault plane, looking down from the hanging wall side.

Fault plane	Longitude (degree)	Latitude (degree)	Depth (km)	Length (km)	Width (km)	Strike (degree)	Dip (degree)	Rake (degree)	Slip (m)
North	140.979	39.109	0.46	20.57	12.06	195.2	44.9	105.5	1.83
South	140.907	38.927	0.40	12.57	10.10	225.3	25.0	80.9	3.53

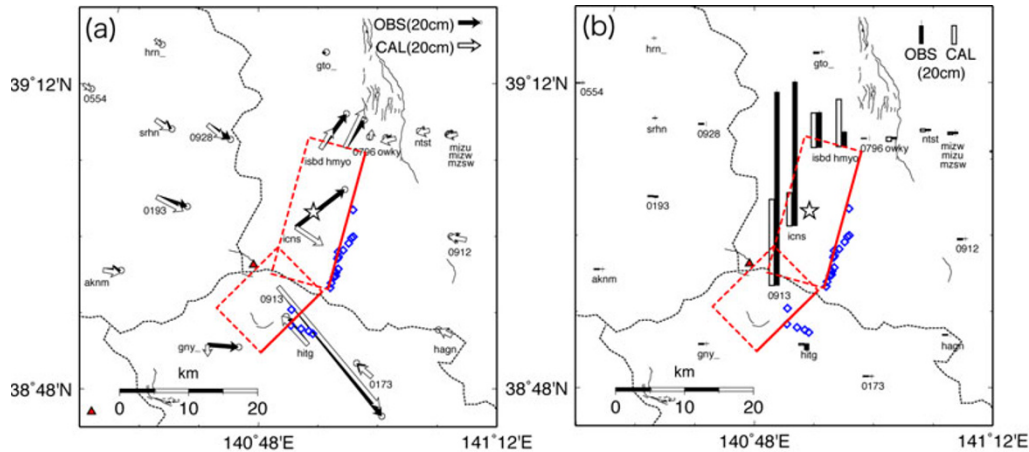


Fig. 3. Comparisons between observed and calculated coseismic displacements. (a) Horizontal displacements and (b) vertical displacements. Black arrows and bars denote observed displacements caused by the IMEQ main shock with their associated error ellipses. White arrows and bars indicate calculated displacements from the estimated fault model. The model fault geometry is shown by the red rectangles with broken and solid lines indicating the lower and upper edges of the faults, respectively. The blue diamonds denote significant surface ruptures and deformations found by AIST (2008). The red triangle represents Mt. Kurikoma. The white star denotes the mainshock epicenter.

area. In contrast, the southern part shows a slightly lower dip angle relative to that of the northern part (Fig. 1). The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology of Japan (AIST) (2008) found significant surface ruptures and deformation based on field surveys. These surface ruptures were formed coseismically and are characteristic in thrust faulting around the eastern edge of the focal area (Fig. 3). These observations also suggest that coseismic fault motion generates ground rupture and deformation. Based on the aftershock distribution and surface deformations, we assume that the W-NW dipping fault planes also apply for the coseismic deformations. The rectangular fault parameters in an elastic half space (Okada, 1992) were estimated by inversion analysis with a priori information. It is well known that inversion results depend on a priori information. We constrained the fault plane location (latitude and longitude, 0.01° limitation to change), length (5 km limitation), and dip angle (5°) for the inversion analysis, and we changed the initial value by trial and error process.

The estimated fault parameters are listed in Table 2. Our very simple model explains the data well and reproduces the complex spatial pattern, especially in the northern part of the focal area (Fig. 3). The vertical component also basically successfully reproduces the observed one. At the ICNS station, however, the model fails to explain the NW horizontal displacement, and the vertical component of 0913 and the ICNS station are not consistent with the observed one. These discrepancies may have been caused by slip heterogeneity along the fault. The estimated seismic moment of the mainshock was 2.70×10^{19} N m, which corresponds to M_w 6.9. The coseismic slip reaches 3.5 m on

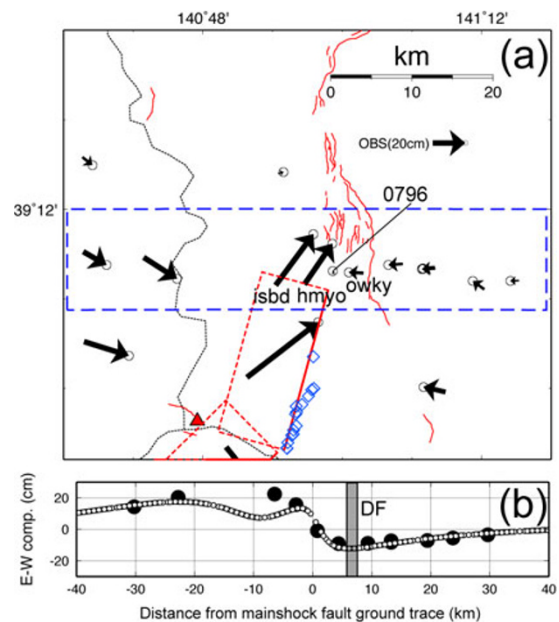


Fig. 4. (a) GPS displacements identified in Fig. 3. The red diamonds denote significant surface ruptures and deformations found by AIST (2008). Red rectangles denote the coseismic fault model. The dashed blue rectangle denotes the approximately area of the E-W displacement profiles shown in (b). Red triangles represent Mt. Kurikoma. (b) The E-W profile of eastward displacements. Solid circles represent observed displacements at each GPS station. Open circles represent calculated displacements from the coseismic fault model. Shadow belts denote the surface trace of the DF.

the southern fault, but on the northern fault, it is less than 2 m.

3.3 Relationship between the Dedana fault and the mainshock

The JNES sites provide a strong constraint for estimating the coseismic fault parameters. It is clear that the HMYO (JNES) and ISBD (JNES) stations are located on the hanging wall side and near the edge of the fault plane because of the horizontal displacement vectors showing NE displacements. In contrast, OWKY (JNES) and 0796 (GEONET) are located on the footwall sides of the fault plane because of the horizontal vectors directed north-northwest with small displacements (Fig. 3(a), 4). Figure 4(b) compares the observed eastward displacements with the theoretical ones calculated from our fault model. The location of the upper edge of the model fault is obviously different from the surface trace of the Dedana fault. The GPS data suggest that the upper edge of the coseismic fault is located several kilometers west of the surface trace of the Dedana fault (Fig. 4). The estimated depth of the northern part's upper edge is less than 1 km (Table 2). We can therefore conclude that IMEQ occurred on an unidentified fault system, and not that of the Dedana fault. This result has provided an important constraint for investigating the process of strain accumulation around the Dedana fault.

4. Conclusion

We propose a coseismic fault model for the 2008 Iwate-Miyagi Nairiku earthquake (M_j 7.2) deduced using data from a dense GPS network. The coseismic displacements were estimated by the PPP kinematic approach. The results indicate that a simple rectangular fault model could explain observations, except for the data at the ICNS station, probably because of heterogeneity in the slip distribution. The amount of moment release was estimated to be M_w 6.9. The coseismic slip reached 3.5 m on the southern fault. Based on the GPS data, we conclude that the coseismic slip of the mainshock did not occur on the Dedana fault system.

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