A Robust Method for Imaging Asperities of Large Earthquakes



Shunroku Yamamoto¹, Kimitoshi Ashiya¹, Shinji Sato¹, Masahiro Korenaga¹, Shunta Noda¹, Mitsuyuki Hoshiba² Kojiro Irikura³, and Yoshimitsu Fukushima⁴

1 Railway Technical Research Institute, 2 Meteorological Research Institute 3 Aichi Institute of Technology, 4 Shimizu Corp. Outlines

1. Background of this study

2. Objective

3. Method

4. Analysis (blind test)

5. Conclusions

1. Background of this study

Earthquake Early Warning system (EEWs) became operation in 2007 in Japan

The EEWs in Japan provides...
1) hypocenter location
2) magnitude
3) origin time

We need... 1. More rapidness 2. More accuracy

1. Background of this study (cont.)

To have more rapidness, we need

More seismometers

- Faster data transmission
- Faster location algorithm

• Faster method to determine magnitude

To have more accuracy, we need...

More proper parameters (method) to estimate strong-motion
More underground information
More information on seismic fault for very large earthquakes

We are developing (applying...)

home-seismometer (Horiuchi et al., 2007)

ocean bottom seismometer data (Wu et al., 2008)

tau-P (Allen and Kanamori, 2003)

seismic intensity magnitude (Yamamoto et al., 2007)

> 3-D Q structures (Wu et al., 2007)

near-source classification (Yamada and Heaton, 2007)

this study

 To image asperities (≒centroid of intensity) of large earthquakes in real-time with high stability

2. To estimate accurate seismic intensity in an EEWs by using the asperity information



1. The targets are very large (M>8) earthquakes

2. Seismic intensity is determined by incoherent high-frequency waves
(=Waves from the most influential source region for the site determine seismic intensity)

3. Attenuation relation of seismic intensity magnitude (MI) is applicable

4. Network data can be used in real-time

3. Method (cont.)



attenuation relation of MI (Yamamoto et al., 2007) MI=I/2+log(r)+0.012ts+2.73MI can be calculated from P or S-wave

What is the best grid point and the best MI for each sub-net?



The best grid point and the best MI (MI_{opt}) to explain intensity distribution of the blue sub-net

The best grid point and the best MI (MI_{opt}) to explain intensity distribution of the red sub-net

Data of each sub-net determine the most influential source for the sub-net region.

3. Method (cont.)

Asperity imaging system 2



4. Blind test (data)



4. Blind test (condition)

amplification factor ← from the digital national land information of Japan

grid-point \leftarrow 0.1 degree as a horizontal interval (depth is fixed to 25km)

Sub-net consists of 15 neighboring stations

Maximum value of MIp is set to be 7.6 ←Seismic intensity is saturated

Possible estimation residuals?

4. Blind test (condition)

Possible estimation residuals calculated from observed Hi-net data



Estimation residuals of less than 0.7 are possible values for real asperities for 15-station sub-net

4. Blind test (result)

98 stations (r<250km), 98 sub-nets



4. Blind test (result)

estimation error stack (vsn<250km)





1. We develop a robust method to image asperity areas (centroid of seismic intensity) for large earthquake

2. Seismic intensities at sites are calculated by the asperity location obtained above.

3. This method could be very effective for the next-generation EEWs