

EM Monitoring of Crustal Processes Including the Use of the Network-MT Observations

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Abstract There are several kinds of coupling mechanisms which can convert mechanical, chemical or thermal energies due to seismic or volcanic activities into electromagnetic energies. As a result of concentrated efforts in laboratory and theoretical research, the basic relationship between the intensity of electromagnetic sources and changes in mechanical, chemical and thermal state is becoming established. Also with the progress of the electromagnetic simulation techniques, it has been possible to evaluate in situ sensitivity. Based on this progress and also due to extensive improvement in measuring techniques, many field experiments have been performed to elucidate subsurface geophysical processes underlying the preparation stage, onset, and subsequent healing stage of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In volcanic studies, many studies have reported the measurement of electromagnetic signals which were successfully interpreted in terms of various driving mechanisms. Although there have been numerous reports about the existence of precursory electromagnetic signals in seismic studies, only a few of them could be successfully explained by the proposed mechanisms, whereas coseismic phenomena are often consistent with those mechanisms including the absence of detectable signals. In many cases, one or two orders of higher sensitivity were required, especially for precursory signals. Generally, electromagnetic methods are more sensitive to near-surface phenomena. It will be necessary to discriminate electromagnetic signals due to these near-surface sources, which often possess no relationship with the crustal activities. Further efforts to enhance in situ sensitivity through improvements in observation techniques and in data processing techniques are recommended. At the same time, multi-disciplinary confirmation against the validity of electromagnetic phenomena will inevitably be necessary. A Network-MT observation technique has been developed to determine large-scale deep electrical conductivity structure. In the method, a telephone line network or purpose-built long baseline cables are utilized to measure voltage differences with long electrode separations. Because of the averaging effect of the electric fields, static shift problems due to small-scale, near-surface lateral heterogeneities can be alleviated. Several field experiments revealed regional scale deep electrical conductivity structures related to slab subduction or its

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stagnation, which enable us to elucidate underlying physical processes caused by the slab motion. The technique can also be applied to monitor the electric potential field related to crustal activities. The annual variation of the potential field and electrical conductivity in the French Alps were interpreted to be caused by the annual variation of lake water level. The method was also used to monitor the regional scale spatio-temporal variation of the SP field and electrical conductivity before and at the onset of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Keywords Electromagnetic methods · Earthquake · Volcano · Monitoring · Network-MT method

1 Introduction

Electromagnetic methods have long been applied to elucidate underlying geophysical mechanisms in seismic activity or volcanic eruptions, to monitor or to predict them. This is because electromagnetic methods possess the potential to detect temporal variations of underground geophysical states such as temperature, strain, stress and the existence, flow, salinity and connectivity of subsurface fluids, with the aid of resistivity, electrokinetic effects, thermal magnetic effects, piezo-electromagnetism and other solid state charge generation mechanisms. The time scales of EM temporal variations are primarily dependent on the time scales of the relevant geophysical mechanisms that drive the respective EM disturbances. Accumulation of stress and strain between main shocks or main volcanic eruptions, and variation of temperature due to thermal conduction are rather slow processes whose time scales are longer than years. Time scales of stress–strain variations due to the intrusion of magma before volcanic eruption or nucleation just before a main shock are from hours to several days. Variations of temperature or of the content of interstitial fluids due to the movement of fluids possess similar time scales. Coseismic phenomena including the generation of fracture or co-eruptive phenomena take place on a more rapid time scale, shorter than hours. Another factor in the determination of time scales of EM disturbances is the dissipation of EM waves in the conducting earth. Even if rapid phenomena occur in a very deep part of the earth, EM disturbances cannot reach the earth's surface due to the Joule losses. Electric (or SP) field monitoring is useful in deriving information related to electric sources such as piezoelectricity, other solid state charge generation mechanisms, electrokinetic phenomena, and the variation of electrical conductivity. From magnetic field monitoring, we can derive information related to magnetic sources and the distribution of electric current, such as thermal magnetic effects, piezomagnetic phenomena, electrokinetic phenomena, and electrical conductivity. Electromagnetic field monitoring can afford us information about electromagnetic waves that are generated in the earth and can be propagated to the surface, besides information related to electrokinetic phenomena and variation of electrical conductivity. Another category of electromagnetic monitoring is based on a variety of controlled source EM methods, which are mainly useful in monitoring variations in the electrical conductivity structure.

After several key observations of electromagnetic phenomena, e.g. ULF emissions at great Chilean and Loma Prieta earthquakes (Warwick et al. 1982; Fraser-Smith et al. 1990), resistivity variations in China and Japan (e.g. Yamazaki 1975; Zhao and Qian 1994; Chu et al. 1996), SP anomaly and variations at the La Fournaise and Unzen volcanoes (Zlotnicki et al. 1994; Hashimoto and Tanaka 1995), seismic electric signals (SES) in Greece (Varotsos and Alexopoulos 1984a, b), the importance of the electromagnetic

monitoring captured the attention in the world-wide geophysical community, even though some of the phenomena are still debatable, and several big projects were established. These key observations were summarized in previous review papers (Park et al. 1993; Park 1996; Johnston 1997) and later, many contributions reporting the results of the projects were published in several proceedings or special issues (e.g. Hayakawa 1999; Biagi et al. 2000; Hayakawa and Molchanov 2002; Uyeda and Park 2002; Hayakawa et al. 2004; Parrot 2006; Harinarayana and Zlotnicki 2006), as well as in independent research papers.

In this article, I review recent progress in EM-monitoring research. There are several different kinds of driving mechanisms which can be monitored electromagnetically. I shall review the contributions based on these respective driving mechanisms. Although there have been many papers reporting precursory electromagnetic radiations in a rather high frequency range (higher than the ELF bands) together with precursory ionosphere-terrestrial coupling, I will not describe them in detail here, since not all of their driving mechanisms have been clarified yet. Concerning these phenomena, the reader is referred to contributions in the proceedings or the special issues listed above. After the EM-monitoring research, I will briefly introduce the Network-MT observation technique, where long baseline telluric measurements are performed by using a telephone line network. The technique can be used both to determine regional scale deep electrical conductivity structure and the spatial distribution of the telluric potentials, and to monitor their temporal variation.

2 EM Monitoring

2.1 General Considerations

Macroscopic electromagnetic fields in a conductive substance are described by Maxwell's equations in the form,

$$\nabla \times \vec{H} = \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} + \sigma \vec{E} + \vec{i}_s \quad (1a)$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} \quad (1b)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0 \quad (1c)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho_e, \quad (1d)$$

where \vec{H} , \vec{B} , \vec{E} , \vec{D} , and ρ_e represent magnetic field, magnetic induction, electric field, electric displacement, and electric charge density, respectively. In Ampere's law (Eq. 1a), the source electric current \vec{i}_s and the electrical conductivity σ are related to the subsurface thermal, mechanical and chemical properties or their temporary variations through their respective coupling relationships, as will be seen in Sect. 2.2. If some source electric current is generated in the earth, some associated variation of the electromagnetic fields will occur. If the electrical conductivity structure varies, some variation in the electromagnetic responses will be expected. Thus what we should do in electromagnetic monitoring is first detect such electromagnetic field or response variations, and then estimate the spatial and temporal variation of the respective subsurface

electromagnetic sources or the electrical conductivity structure. The ultimate goal is to elucidate the variation of subsurface thermal, mechanical and chemical properties. Since dissipation due to conducting currents plays a main role in estimating electromagnetic wave propagation in the earth, determination of the electrical conductivity structure is also very important.

In ideal cases, we can uniquely estimate the spatio-temporal distribution of the source currents merely from the electromagnetic observations. Although this has not been realized yet, a candidate for the ideal case in the future will be determination of electrical conductivity structure such as that in Utada (2003). In most of the actual experiments, however, the number of sites and the acquired frequency range are often insufficient for such a direct estimation. As in the case of the potential problem in static problems, we cannot uniquely determine the source current solely from surface observations (e.g. Blakely 1995). In some cases we do not know whether observed electromagnetic disturbances are truly related to crustal activities (e.g. Pham et al. 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002; Utada et al. 1998, 2000). Thus normally we first make a thermal or mechanical model to estimate, for example, the stress distribution based on a specific fault model, as in piezomagnetic investigations reviewed by Sasai (1994, 2001). Next, the corresponding electromagnetic source and electromagnetic fields at the observation sites are estimated. By comparing synthetic and observed fields, we can derive the parameters of the fault model in the above piezomagnetic studies, and can also guarantee that the observed field really is caused by certain crustal activities. When some electromagnetic sources are generated by crustal activities, the resultant electromagnetic field must, in turn, affect the crustal activities at the same time. In most of the cases, however, such electromagnetic osmotic forces are much weaker than the mechanical forces that drive the original crustal activities. Then the forward modeling becomes kinematic. Kinematic modeling is exactly the same as modeling in controlled source prospecting. In modeling controlled source problems, the source current i_s in Ampere's law in Eq. 1a is a specified artificial current.

2.2 Electromagnetic Sources

2.2.1 Magnetic Polarization (Magnetization)

Thermal Magnetic Effects. A ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic substance, such as iron or magnetite, is characterized by its spontaneous magnetization. As the temperature is increased, its magnetization is eventually lost at the Curie temperature. The Curie temperature of magnetite is 580°C. When igneous rocks with such magnetic minerals are cooled down below the Curie temperature, they acquire magnetization parallel to the geomagnetic field at that time. This temperature dependence of the magnetization was investigated long ago and its physical mechanism was also well established (e.g. Nagata 1943; Néel 1949; Merrill et al. 1996). Subsurface temperature variations, especially in volcanic areas, can produce geomagnetic temporal variations due to this thermal magnetic effect.

Since the change of temperature field is rather slow (from days to years), the problem is treated as static. The magnetic field is irrotational and is described by a magnetic potential. The magnetic field $\vec{H}(\vec{x}, t)$ at an observation point \vec{x} at time t , due to a spatial distribution of the magnetization $\vec{M}(\vec{x}', t)$, is expressed as

$$\vec{H}(\vec{x}, t) = -\nabla \int_V \vec{M}(\vec{x}', t) \frac{(\vec{x} - \vec{x}')}{4\pi|\vec{x} - \vec{x}'|^3} dV', \quad (2)$$

where $\vec{M}(\vec{x}', t)$ is defined as

$$\vec{M}(\vec{x}', t) = \chi(\vec{x}', t)\vec{H}(\vec{x}', t) + \vec{M}_s(\vec{x}', t). \quad (3)$$

The first and second terms of the right-hand side of Eq. 3 are, respectively, induced and spontaneous magnetization. χ is the magnetic susceptibility. Equation 2 can be also recognized as evaluating the temporal variation of the magnetic field $\vec{H}(\vec{x}, t)$ due to the variation of the magnetization $\vec{M}(\vec{x}', t)$. Generally speaking, we cannot uniquely determine the source in the potential problem (e.g. Blakely 1995). In practical applications, magnetization is assumed to be uniformly distributed in some elementary shape such as a sphere (equivalent to a single magnetic dipole), a cylinder, a prism or their aggregates. Then its depth position, its size and the intensity of the magnetization variation are determined. Temperature variation is estimated from these model parameters by referring to the temperature dependence of the magnetization (e.g. Tanaka 1993; Del Negro and Ferrucci 1998, 2000; Sasai et al. 2001a, b; Hurst et al. 2004). As an example, temporal variations of the geomagnetic total force intensity prior to the 2000 Miyake-jima volcanic island eruption, Japan, is shown in Fig. 1 (Sasai et al. 2001a). The eruption started on June 26, 2000 with swarm activity near the summit. Subsequently, a large sinkhole was suddenly formed at the summit area on July 8, and a series of major summit eruptions took place during July and August. After that, a large amount of SO₂ gas was emitted from the summit, which forced local people to evacuate the island. At OYM station close to the summit, the total intensity continued to increase from the middle of 1996, whereas at TRK about 2 km south of OYM, the total intensity decreased. At other stations, there were almost no temporal variations. These total intensity variation indicated that thermal demagnetization took place about 700 m beneath between OYM and TRK. The radius of the demagnetized sphere is estimated to be 130 m if perfect demagnetization ($T > 580^\circ\text{C}$ by magma) is assumed, and to be 280 m if partial demagnetization ($\Delta T \sim 100^\circ\text{C}$ by hydrothermal activity) is assumed. Similarly, the movement, extinction and generation of the magnetic body can also be sensed by geomagnetic observations. Prior to and during the generation of the sink hole on July 8, an intense magnetic field variation was observed. This is because the magnetized body was crushed or replaced by air. On the other hand, a formation of magnetic particles and/or magnetization during faulting or due to thunder strikes has been reported (e.g. Enomoto and Zheng 1998; Nakamura et al. 2002; Fukuchi 2003; Verrier and Rochette 2002). Moreover, the remanent magnetization provides a means of determining the electric current intensity of a thunder strike or the amplitude of electric phenomena during faulting (e.g. Verrier and Rochette 2002; Enomoto and Zheng 1998; Ferré et al. 2005).

Another example concerns the cooling history of the dike at Mt. Etna, Italy after the major eruption between September 11 and October 9, 1989 (Del Negro and Ferrucci 1998). From October 23, just after the cessation of the eruption, repeated total force intensity surveys along the same profile across the fracture at the SSE foot of Mt. Etna were performed for 2 years. Until March 1990, there were no significant magnetic changes. However, after a small anomaly of about 30 nT was first observed at the fracture on July 4, 1990, the intensity of the anomaly gradually grew and finally reached 130 nT on June 8, 1991. After that, no significant variation was observed until September 1991. In order to

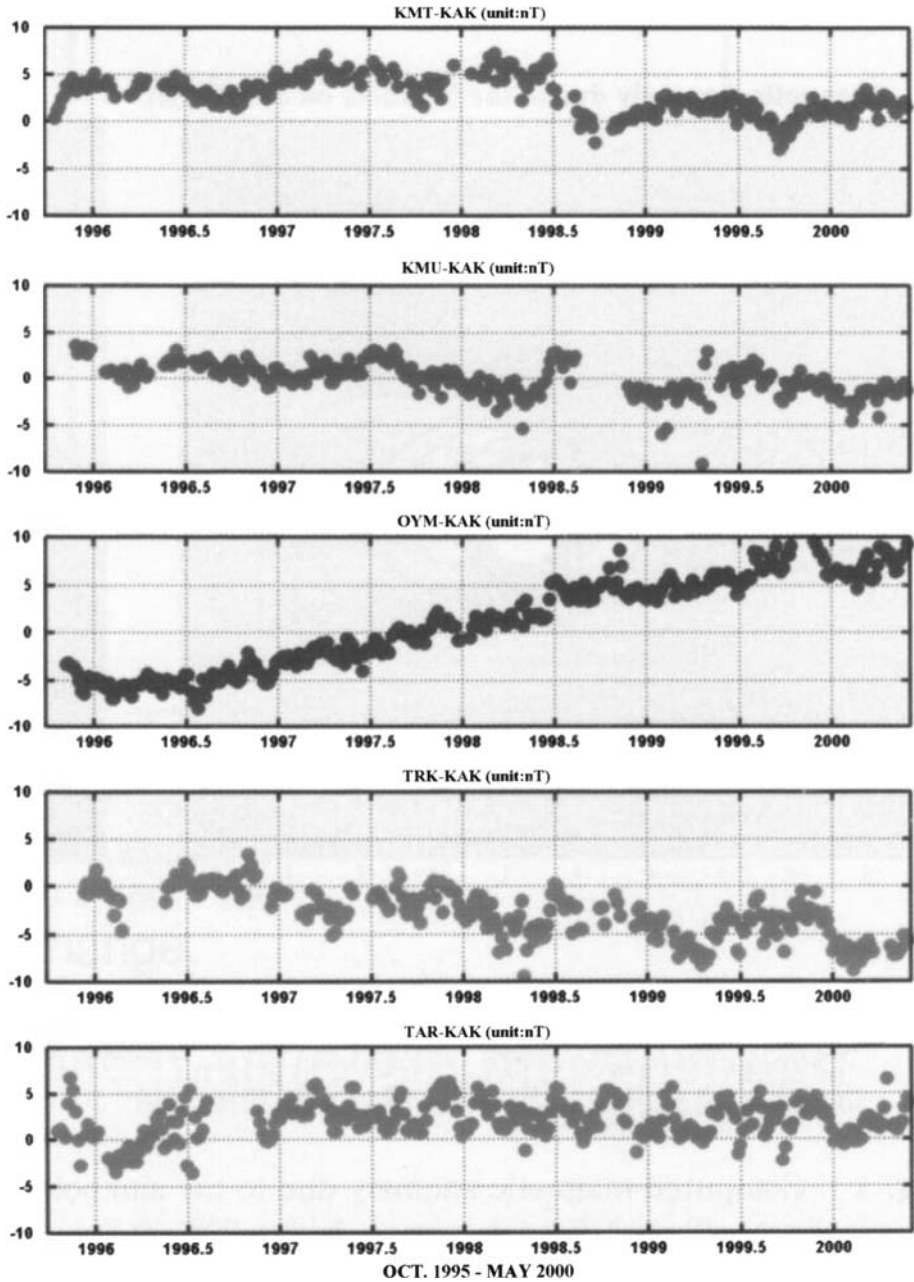


Fig. 1 Changes in magnetic total force intensity at stations along the central N–S line on Miyake-jima island, central Japan. Five-day means of simple differences relative to Kakioka geomagnetic observatory, JMA, are plotted (Sasai 2001a)

explain this spatio-temporal total force change, the authors devised a model of the cooling dyke which gradually acquired magnetization, as shown in Fig. 2. The model shows that the dike acquired 25 and 50% magnetization on July 4, 1990 and September 23, 1990,

respectively. The magnetizations correspond, respectively, to 380°C and to 240°C. Thus they confirmed that magma intrusion occurred even at the SSE flank of Mt. Etna, where no gaseous emission was observed on the surface. The magnetization model shown in Fig. 2 was refined later by a sophisticated inversion scheme using the genetic algorithm (Currenti et al. 2005).

Magnetic total force records often contain annual variations. This annual variation is characterized by a diversity of amplitude, phase and polarity from site to site even in one target region. Thus, this variation is likely to be caused by local or near-surface sources. In order to test whether this variation is the result of a small fluctuation of local magnetization due to the annual temperature variation, Utada et al. (2000) conducted a local geomagnetic

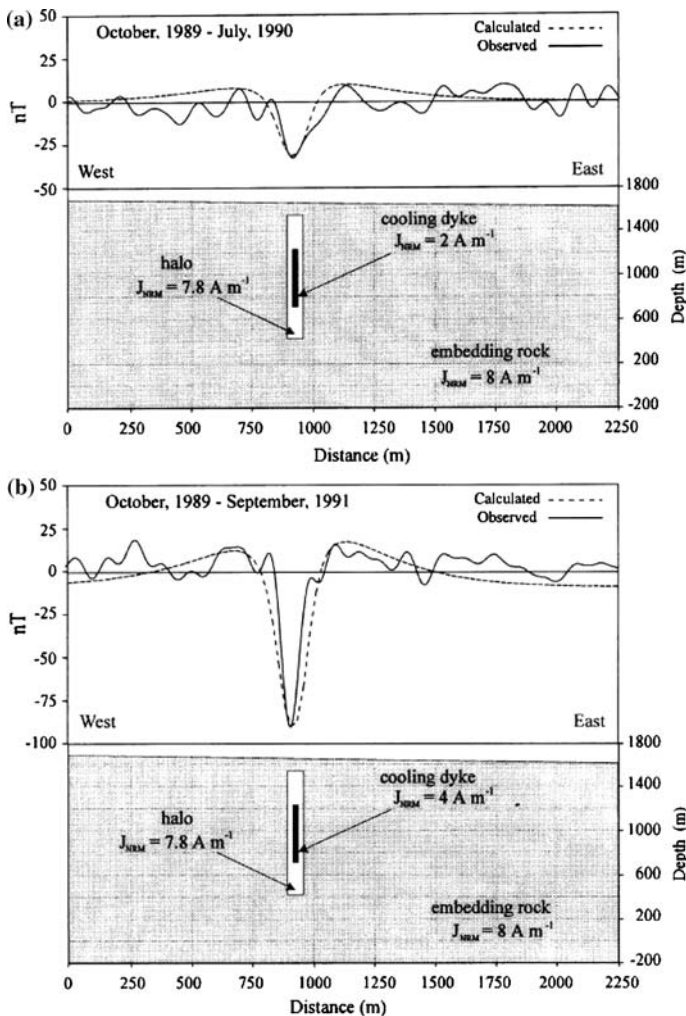


Fig. 2 Spatial distribution of total force intensity change (upper) and its thermomagnetic model of dyke (lower) on (a) Jul. 4, 1990, and (b) on Sep. 23, 1990. In the upper panel, observed change (solid line) is compared with calculated change from the model in the lower panel (broken line) (Del Negro and Ferrucci 2000)

survey around various sites. At sites located on a relatively positive anomaly, the total force tends to decrease in summer, whereas at sites located on a relatively negative anomaly, it tends to increase in summer. This fact strongly suggests that the annual variation is caused by near-surface thermal magnetic effects, since a local magnetic anomaly tends to fade as temperature increases. Since the spatial wavelength of the magnetic anomaly corresponds to the depth of the magnetized body causing the geomagnetic anomaly at the surface, phase variation is also explained by a downward thermal diffusion process and the depth of the magnetized body which controls the local magnetic anomaly. This annual variation is sometimes seen as an obstacle when interpreting the monthly variation of the total force. Thus temperature measurements at respective magnetic sites are now desirable and it is necessary to remove this effect before interpretation (e.g. Del Negro and Currenti 2003; Hashimoto et al. 2003).

In addition to the conventional thermal magnetic effects described above, a sharp increase in magnetic susceptibility at temperatures just below the Curie temperature (the so-called Hopkinson peak (Hopkinson 1889)) will be another source for EM monitoring studies. As Kiss et al. (2005) argued, the magnetic permeability increase just below the Curie temperature is caused by the second order magnetic phase transition, which, on the basis of the theory and recent experiments referred to in the paper, is one or two orders of magnitude greater than the normal permeability for igneous rocks with high magnetite contents. If this enhancement is relevant in the real earth, conventional interpretations of magnetotelluric soundings and magnetization mappings should be re-interpreted in terms of this increasing permeability. In addition, since the thickness of the layer with high permeability and its intensity are controlled by the thermal state of the layer just below the Curie temperature, we will also be able to monitor variation of the thermal state by monitoring the depth of the layer, its thickness and intensity, especially in the volcanic fields.

Piezomagnetic Effects. Another mechanism which alters the magnetization is the piezomagnetic effect where changes in subsurface stress cause changes in magnetization. The piezomagnetic effect in rocks was discovered in the 1950's (e.g. Kalashnikov and Kapitsa 1952). Basic experimental results on the stress-magnetization relationship were summarized by Nagata (1970). For reversible changes, piezomagnetization is proportional to stress below a few 10 MPa. As with the thermal magnetic effect, when the time scale of the physical process under investigation is very long (hours to years), as with stress accumulation related to slab subduction or fluid intrusion, or in the intervals before and after coseismic fault motions, we can treat the problem as static. Hence, exactly the same formula as Eq. 2 can also be applied to the piezomagnetic problems (e.g. Stacey 1964). The piezomagnetic magnetization variation $\Delta\vec{M}$ is expressed as,

$$\Delta\vec{M} = \frac{3}{2}\beta\vec{T}'\vec{M}, \quad (4)$$

where \vec{T}' and \vec{M} are the deviatoric stress tensor and original magnetization with no stress (Sasai 1980; Hao et al. 1982). The coefficient β is called the stress sensitivity and typically has an order of 10^{-3} MPa^{-1} . The most generalized piezomagnetic constitutive law should include the full stress tensor as was proposed by Zlotnicki et al. (1981). Equation 4 is valid only in a special case of an isotropic medium (Sasai 1980), which, however, explains the results from laboratory experiments well (e.g., Nagata 1970).

Solutions for the elastic field due to elementary mechanical sources in an elastic half space, such as a point dilatation source (Mogi model; Mogi 1958), or a point dislocation

source (Maruyama 1964), have been obtained analytically. Hence we can estimate the magnetic field variation due to such mechanical sources by using a linear piezomagnetic relationship (Eq. 4) and the integral Eq. 2. Although the solution for stress-induced magnetization involves a singularity which is difficult to treat, Sasai (1991) finally obtained accurate solutions to the integral Eq. 2. The road to the accurate solutions and their applications are summarized in a review paper by Sasai (1994). Subsequent progress in modeling techniques such as the inclusion of 2-D topography (Sakanaka et al. 1997), or generalization of the fault model (based on the stress field of an inclined strike-slip, or dip-slip or tensile fault (Okada 1992)) by Utsugi et al. (2000), are reviewed in Sasai (2001). The effects of non-uniform elasticity were investigated in Okubo and Oshiman (2004).

The advantage of piezomagnetic research is that it is almost the only way to probe the spatial distribution of the subsurface stress changes directly, and that it enables us to compare the elastic source parameters with those derived from geodetic and seismic studies. Once accurate solutions have been derived, researchers can use them to elucidate elastic source mechanisms due to magma intrusions or volcanic inflations (Sasai et al. 2002; Del Negro and Currenti 2003; Del Negro et al. 2004; Currenti et al. 2005). In seismic research, the method is used to monitor preseismic stress accumulation and its fluctuation, and to determine coseismic stress change (Johnston et al. 1994; Stuart et al. 1995; Sasai and Ishikawa 1997; Nishida et al. 2004).

Since the magnetization of igneous rocks can be up to 10 A/m, a fairly large amplitude of magnetic field change of piezomagnetic origin can also be expected due to the relatively shallow locations of the mechanical sources. Del Negro et al. (2004), for example, recorded up to 10 nT temporal variations accompanying the onset of the 2002–2003 volcanic eruptions of Mt. Etna, Italy. However, the magnetization in areas with seismic activity is often ten times smaller than that of volcanoes. In addition, the location of a seismic fault for a main shock cannot normally be predicted exactly before the onset of the main shock, whereas the position of a volcanic eruption can be predicted more accurately from the history of volcanic eruptions. Furthermore, the epicenter is normally much deeper than the depth of magma intrusions. Even the detection of coseismic piezomagnetic signals is much more difficult than with volcanic eruptions. Since uniform magnetization in a layer produces no net magnetic field on the surface (e.g. Blakely 1995), it is the spatial variation of the magnetization and/or stress field that produces the observable magnetic field on the surface (Banks et al. 1991). Thus the magnetic field variation on the surface is confined near the edges of the seismic faults where significant spatial variations of stress exists, and/or near the edges of the magnetized body. Even for the Landers earthquake of Mw 7.3 in 1992, for example, the coseismic geomagnetic variation is only about 1 nT within 20–30 km of the seismic fault. This coseismic change was well reproduced by the synthetic model of Johnston et al. (1994).

Several large geomagnetic secular variations of order 1 nT/year have been reported, however, which are possibly due to stress accumulation accompanying a subduction process. Nishida et al. (2004) detected such a temporal variation as long as 30 years in Hokkaido, at the SW end of the Kuril Arc, as shown in Fig. 3. They examined whether this variation could be explained by the piezomagnetic effect. Since some of the stations are located on a significantly magnetized body and the spatial variation can cause a magnification of the temporal variation of the piezomagnetic field, they first determined the magnetization structure by performing a detailed magnetic survey of the area. Then, based on the magnetization structure, they estimated spatio-temporal variation of the synthetic surface field due to an estimated uniform strain accumulation of 4×10^{-7} /year based on geodetic surveys (Ishikawa and Hashimoto 1999). As a result, the stress sensitivity of

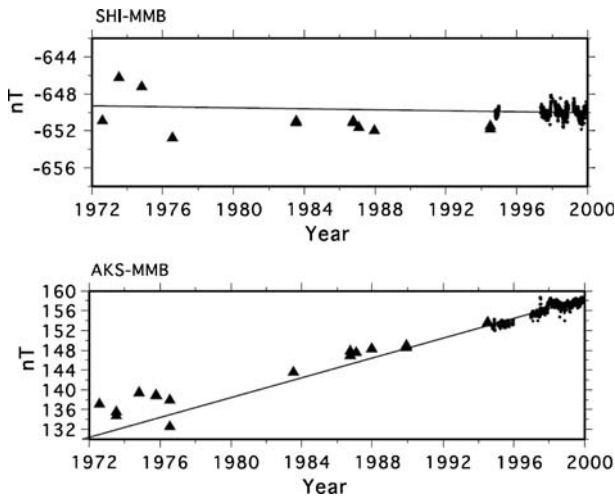


Fig. 3 Temporal changes of the total force intensity at AKS and SHI (reference: Memambetsu geomagnetic observatory, JMA). The changes obtained by repeated measurements are shown by solid triangles, while whole-day mean simple differences calculated from the continuous monitoring records are plotted by solid circles. Linear least-squares regression lines applied for the periods from August 1996 to November 1999 are extrapolated to 1972 (Nishida et al. 2004)

10^{-2} MPa, one order higher than normal sensitivity, was necessary to explain the spatio-temporal distribution of the observed magnetic field (Fig. 4). A similar discrepancy is also detected in research aimed at determining the in-situ stress sensitivity using the loading variation due to seasonal change of water level in artificial lakes (e.g. Davis and Stacey 1972; Abdullabekov et al. 1979; Brennan and Hastie 1979; Zhan 1989; Oshiman et al. 1991). Although stress sensitivity is high for some porous rocks (Hamano 1983), those rocks are not commonly distributed. Further research will be necessary to explain this enigma. A key seems to lie in the time scale of the deformation, since coseismic changes and rather rapid changes near volcanoes are well explained by the stress sensitivity determined from laboratory experiments, whereas a higher sensitivity is necessary to reproduce the secular variation.

2.2.2 Electric Polarization

Piezoelectric Effects. Piezoelectricity is caused by an asymmetric lattice structure in some rock forming minerals such as quartz. Due to the asymmetric lattice orientation, a temporal stress variation alters the electrical polarization of those minerals. In the theory of linear piezoelectricity, the electric polarization \vec{P} is expressed as

$$\vec{P} = \vec{d}\vec{T}, \quad (5)$$

where \vec{T} is a vector composed of six independent components of the stress tensor and \vec{d} represents the piezoelectric coefficients expressed by a 3×6 matrix, which characterizes the symmetry type of the medium (e.g. Ikeda 1990). Equation 5 includes all the components of the full stress tensor, which is different from the piezomagnetic case (Eq. 4). The electric polarization, however, also vanishes under hydrostatic pressure for many kinds of crystals, including quartz, or aggregates of piezoelectric crystals with specific symmetries.

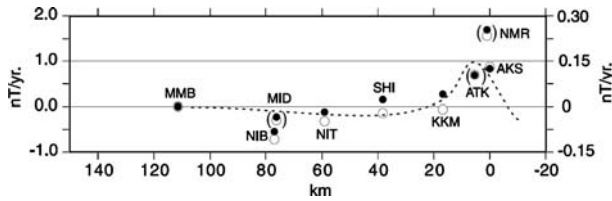


Fig. 4 Observed secular changes (open circles) and corrected ones for the orientation effect (Davis and Johnston 1983, solid circles) are plotted against the horizontal distance from AKS to MMB. Amplitudes are referred to the left-side ordinate. For convenience of comparison, the values at NMR, ATK and MID are also projected onto the measurement line. Calculated piezomagnetic field is shown by a dashed curve (right-side ordinate). Both the stress sensitivity of remanence and susceptibility are assumed to be $2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ MPa}^{-1}$ for the calculation (Nishida et al. 2004)

Although a typical magnitude of the elements of the piezoelectric coefficient matrix for a single crystal quartz is 10^{-12} (C/N) , that of a quartzite (aggregates of quartz) is typically 10^{-15} (C/N) due to the cancellation effect of the rather randomly oriented crystal axes that control the piezoelectricity (e.g. Tuck et al. 1977; Bishop 1981). Since the electric displacement \vec{D} is written by

$$\vec{D} = \epsilon \vec{E} + \vec{P}, \quad (6)$$

an effective external current source term $\vec{i}_s^{p.e.}$ in Ampere's law (Eq. 1a) due to piezoelectricity is expressed by

$$\vec{i}_s^{p.e.} = \vec{d} \frac{\partial \vec{T}}{\partial t}. \quad (7)$$

Piezoelectricity was considered to be a leading mechanism to explain the coseismic or even preseismic electromagnetic phenomena (e.g. Nitsan 1977; Warwick et al. 1982). Laboratory experiments to monitor electromagnetic potential changes associated with the stick-slip events of dry granite (Yoshida et al. 1997) also suggested that the electric potential changes both in the precursory rupture nucleation stage (e.g. Ohnaka 1992; Dietrich 1992) and in the subsequent main event were due to piezoelectricity. The amplitude of the precursory signal was 30 times smaller than that of the co-slip signal and this difference could be attributed to the difference of the stress rate as suggested by Eq. 7. The absence or weakening of the signal in the case of non-piezoelectric basalt and wet rocks also supported this view.

Johnston (1997) pointed out two main difficulties with piezoelectricity. Any charges generated in the conductive earth will relax very rapidly with a typical time scale of $2\pi\epsilon/\sigma \approx 10^{-6} \text{ s}$, assuming that the electrical permittivity ϵ and electrical conductivity σ are respectively $\epsilon \approx 10^{-10} \text{ (F/m)}$ and $\sigma \approx 10^{-3} \text{ (S/m)}$. Any electromagnetic fields propagated from the current source will lose their power very rapidly by Joule dissipation of the conduction current. In order to examine those difficulties, the coseismic electromagnetic amplitude or the waveform due to piezoelectricity, was estimated by evaluating the electromagnetic fields derived from the Green function in the frequency domain (Ogawa and Utada 2000b; Yoshida and Ogawa 2004), or in the time domain (Ogawa and Utada 2000a). Ogawa and Utada (2000a, b) based their estimate of the spatial distribution of the current source due to piezoelectricity on the stress field solution coincident with seismic wave propagation given by Aki and Richards (1980). If a somewhat resistive ($\sigma < 10^{-3} \text{ S/m}$) host medium is considered, the estimated electromagnetic field due to a 1 C m electric

dipole (Yoshida and Ogawa 2004), and the first (almost cofracture) electromagnetic signal received before the arrival of the seismic P-wave from an earthquake of magnitude $M_w \geq 7$ (Ogawa and Utada 2000a), are both marginally detectable at 1–10 km distances from the source, assuming a general noise level of 1–10 mV/km or 0.01–0.1 nT for a period range of 1–10 s (Johnston 1997). Here the 1 C m electric dipole corresponds to a quartzite body of volume 10^8 m^3 , subjected to a stress change of 10 MPa. A coseismic stress drop ranges from 1 MPa for inter-plate earthquakes to 10 MPa for intra-plate earthquakes. Yoshida and Ogawa (2004) also argued that detectability of the signals is somewhat enhanced at frequencies higher than 10^6 Hz, mainly due to the non-relaxation of the piezoelectric polarization in this high frequency range. As a matter of fact, in the laboratory experiment, high frequency electromagnetic emissions could be detected coincident with high frequency acoustic emissions before the main fracture both for dry and wet conditions, whereas low frequency signals died out as reported by Yoshida et al. (1997). But true detectability of the electromagnetic field of piezoelectric origin on the earth's surface may not be very high because of the high conductivity of the earth and the probably small intensity of the stress variation (or that of piezoelectric polarization) in this high frequency range.

Other Charge Generation Mechanisms. Besides piezoelectricity, numerous charge generation mechanisms in solid materials have been suggested as potential current sources for electromagnetic signals in association with the crustal activities. These include pressure (stress) stimulated currents with negative activation volume (Varotsos and Alexopoulos 1986; Varotsos et al. 1992), charged dislocations mechanism (Slifkin 1993, 1996; Teisseyer 2001; Stavrakas et al. 2003; Vallianatos et al. 2004), a phase transition associated with large-scale motion of lattice defects (Lazarus 1996), deformation of induced charged flow (Varotsos et al. 2001), a peroxy defects model (Freund 2000, 2002) and rock shearing/triboelectricity (Takeuchi and Nagahama 2002a, b; Roder et al. 2002). All these mechanisms have a physical basis and are respectively supported by related laboratory experiments. However, unless we can explicitly define and determine stress or stress sensitivity as in Eqs. 4, 5 or 7, we cannot easily evaluate the validity of these mechanisms in the real earth.

After the probable charge generation in the seismogenic zone has been estimated in some way, the surface electromagnetic fields due to those charges are calculated. For example, Sarlis et al. (1999) examined the amplification effect due to the existence of the conductivity channel which connects the observation site and the hypocentral region with the aid of the multiple thin sheet code originally developed by Hoversten and Becker (1995) for controlled source methods in electromagnetic prospecting. By putting a 2.26 Am AC current dipole of 0.01 Hz at the hypocentral region, they tried to estimate the amplification effect of a conductive channel of 500 m wide and 200 km in length with a conductance (conductivity times thickness) of 50 S. The host structure was a 2 layered 1-D model with a 50 m surface layer of conductivity 5×10^{-3} S/m and a 2.5×10^{-4} S/m layer beneath it. As shown in Fig. 5, the signal amplitude is large directly above the source and in a restricted area just above the edge of the conductive channel. In this way, they tried to prove detectability of their seismic electric signals (SES) emitted from the remote hypocentral region and, at the same time, validate the selectivity rule in their earthquake prediction method (e.g. Varotsos 2005; Varotsos et al. 1993; Kondo et al. 2002). But the existence of such a one to one connection between a sensitive site and its sensitive areas is somewhat unreliable given the rather complicated selectivity rules. It is necessary to prove the existence of such structure by performing extensive MT or controlled source EM surveys.

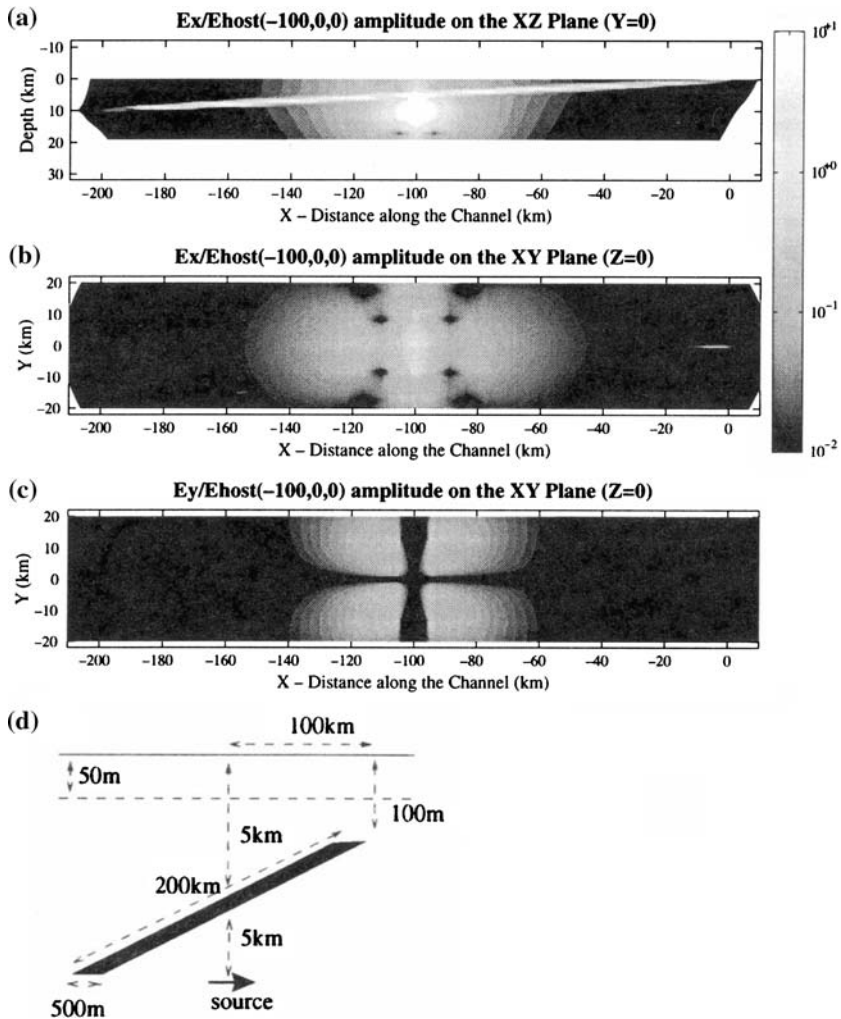


Fig. 5 Calculated values of the amplitude of horizontal components of the electric field reduced by the value just above the source (at its epicenter on the surface). (a) a vertical cross section. (b) and (c) a plan view. (d) a schematic cross section indicating the model (Sarlis et al. 1999)

Both detectability and the selectivity rule have long been matters of controversy together with the origin of their SES (Bernard 1992; Gruszow et al. 1996; Johnston 1997; Uyeshima et al. 1998; Kanda et al. 2000; Pham et al. 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002). As was pointed out by Pham et al. (2002), we must be careful about the existence of abundant charge generators of anthropological origin on the surface. As was also suggested by Chirkov (2004), it will be necessary to determine the spatial distribution of the electromagnetic field and its possible source location, before we can directly connect those signals with crustal activities. We also have to establish the electromagnetic-mechanical coupling equations, such as Eq. 5 or 7, for the respective charge generation mechanisms. Having done that, we can evaluate the stress change that drives charge generation based on these mechanisms. If, coincident with the electromagnetic signals, persuasive geodetic or

seismic evidence also exists to support the determined stress change, then the validity of the existence of the signal will be significantly enhanced. It is, however, important to note that a precise electromagnetic monitoring array (Davis and Johnston 1983; Bakun 1987; Park 1997), located just above the M_w 6.0 Parkfield earthquake, occurring on 28 September, 2004 at a depth of 8.8 km, failed to record any preseismic signals other than coseismic magnetic field steps of between 0.2 and 0.5 nT, and a telluric potential field of 1–2 mV (Langbein et al. 2005; Bakun et al. 2005). This is because the epicentral area directly above the hypocenter is the most sensitive area regardless of the existence of a current channel, as shown by Sarlis et al. (1999).

Electrokinetic Effects. Electric polarization occurs on the interface between interstitial water and rock silicates. Under ordinary conditions, negative ions stick to the rock surface leaving an excess of positive ions in the fluids. If fluid motion is driven by a pressure gradient, a flow of the positive ions, i.e. an electric current, is also induced. This is known as the electrokinetic (EK) effect, and has been well investigated for a long time (e.g. Overbeek 1952; Ahmad 1964; Mizutani and Ishido 1976; Ishido and Mizutani 1981). Investigations of the EK effect have been much more activated recently due to its omnipresence and its ability to delineate the sub-surface fluid's motion in association with thermal and mechanical crustal activities. Morphological investigations of the self-potential (SP) anomaly in volcanic areas together with several mechanisms generating SP anomalies were summarized in a recent review paper by Zlotnicki and Nishida (2003).

Since the motion of interstitial fluids is governed by Darcy's Law and its speed is rather slow, problems involving EK effects are normally treated as static. In this case, the macroscopic governing equations describing the relationship between electrical current density \vec{i} , fluid volume flux \vec{j} , gradients of electrical potential ϕ and fluid pressure P , are expressed by

$$\vec{i} = -\frac{\sigma_f}{F_1} \nabla \phi + \frac{\varepsilon \zeta}{F_2 \mu} \nabla P \quad (8a)$$

$$\vec{j} = \left(\frac{\varepsilon \zeta}{F_2 \mu} \nabla \phi \right) - \frac{k}{\mu} \nabla P, \quad (8b)$$

where σ_f , ε , and μ denote respectively the electrical conductivity, dielectric constant and viscosity of the fluid, and k is the permeability of the fractured rock. F_1 is a formation factor representing the ratio σ_f/σ_r where σ_r is the whole rock conductivity including the fluids. If surface conduction is ignored, F_2 is equal to F_1 , and is expressed by the porosity and tortuosity in the capillary model (Ishido and Mizutani 1981). ζ is the zeta potential, the potential at the slipping plane near the fluid/rock interface. It is a very important parameter characterizing the EK effects. Pride (1994) rigorously derived the time-dependent macroscopic equations which combine Maxwell's equations (Eqs. 1a–d), and the acoustic equations of porous media (Biot 1956).

Revil et al. (1999a, b) derived an analytical equation representing dependence of the zeta potential on mineral/fluid interaction geochemistry (the kinds of mineral lattice and ions in the fluid), pore fluid pH, salinity and temperature. They also derived a similar equation describing the specific surface conductance. The intensity of the zeta potential is shown to increase with increasing temperature and pH (greater than the isoelectric point (IEP), at which the zeta potential is zero (Parks 1965)), and to decrease with increasing salinity. Their equation successfully predicts zeta potentials determined by several laboratory experiments (e.g. Ishido and Mizutani 1981; Tosha et al. 2003; Reppert and Morgan 2003a, b).

The first and second terms of the right-hand side of Eq. 8a represent, respectively, a conduction electric current density due to Ohm's law and a drag electric current density due to the EK effect. The second and first terms of the right-hand side of Eq. 8b, represent, respectively, fluid volume flux due to Darcy's law and fluid volume flux induced by the electric osmotic effect. Since the contribution of the electric osmotic term is smaller by far than the Darcy term, the first term in Eq. 8b is normally neglected, as was also the case in the piezomagnetic and piezoelectric problems. In order to estimate the spatial distribution of SP due to the EK effect, the fluid volume flux is first found and then the electric potential is evaluated by solving an equation such as

$$\vec{i} = -\sigma_r \nabla \phi - \frac{\varepsilon_\zeta}{F_2 k} \vec{j} \quad (9)$$

(e.g. Ishido and Pritchett 1999). Since conservation of charge requires the total current \vec{i} to be divergence-free, Eq. 9 becomes

$$\nabla \cdot (\sigma_r \nabla \phi) = - \left(\nabla \frac{\varepsilon_\zeta}{F_2 k} \right) \cdot \vec{j} - \frac{\varepsilon_\zeta}{F_2 k} (\nabla \cdot \vec{j}), \quad (10)$$

which takes exactly the same form as an equation used in the DC resistivity method, except that the current source on the right-hand side of Eq. 10 is not of artificial origin. It is clear from Eq. 10, that the electrical current source appears when the fluid flows parallel to the gradient of the material constants (or across a material boundary), or when the fluid flux is not divergence-free. If we have to solve the problem with rather rapid fluid flow, as is sometimes the case in volcanic environments or in fluid motions induced by seismic wave propagation, we also have to solve for the induction effect as we did in the piezoelectric problems.

The zeta potential is negative when $\text{pH} > \text{IEP}$ and positive when $\text{pH} < \text{IEP}$. IEP of SiO_2 is about 2. Thus the zeta potential is normally negative and the fluid flux carries positive ions. But volcanic rocks collected around Mt. Takadake in the Aso caldera, SW Japan, show significantly high IEP values up to 8 (Hase et al. 2003). The reason why IEP of some group of rocks is very high has not been fully understood from just the chemical composition of the rocks. Since the polarity of the zeta potential is essential for determining the direction of fluid flow, laboratory experiments to measure the characteristics of the zeta potential are inevitably necessary before an interpretation of the SP anomaly in the field can be made. For example, Hase et al. (2005) found a positive SP anomaly at Mt. Takadake where rocks with positive zeta potential are collected. In the usual case when the zeta-potential is negative, a positive SP anomaly indicates subsurface upward fluid flow due to hydrothermal activity. But Mt. Takadake is rather old and inactive now, and since the zeta-potential is positive, a downward flow turns out to be dominant at that specific peak. The center of present day eruptions is Mt. Nakadake, adjacent to Mt. Takadake, At Mt. Nakadake, there exists an equally positive SP anomaly. But since the zeta potential of the rocks collected around Mt. Nakadake is negative as usual, the positive SP anomaly is interpreted as an indication of upward flow due to hydrothermal activity as seen below.

As is easily recognized from the Eq. 10, determination of the electrical conductivity structure is also very important in interpreting the SP anomaly. In the volcanic area, there often exist W-shape SP anomalies, e.g., at the Miyake-jima volcano, Japan (Sasai et al. 1997), the La Fournaise volcano in Reunion Island, Indian Ocean (Michel and Zlotnicki 1998), Mt. Fuji, Japan (Fig. 6, Aizawa 2004), the Stromboli volcano, Italy (Revil et al. 2004), and the Aso volcano, Japan (Hase et al. 2005). The W-shape SP anomaly is

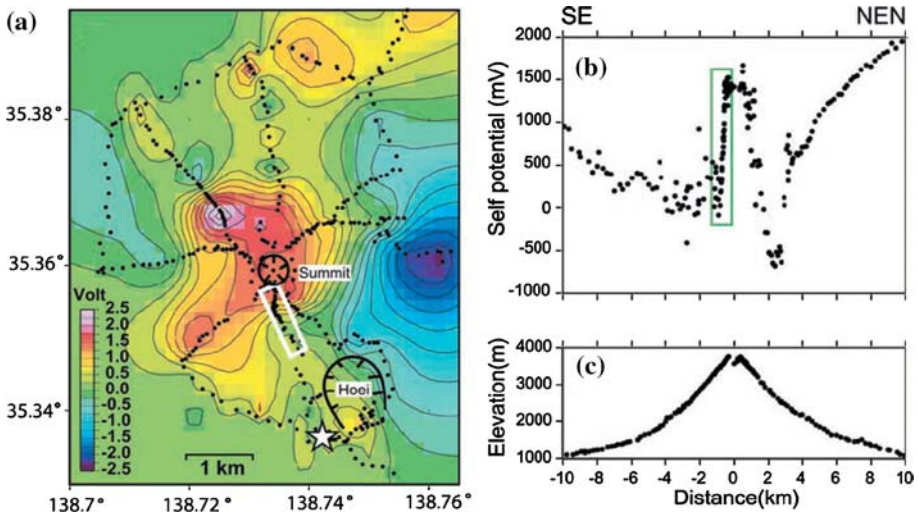


Fig. 6 Spatial distribution of SP at Mt. Fuji (a, b) together with its topography (c) (Aizawa 2004)

interpreted as a combination of a V-shape anomaly, which is inversely proportional to the altitude of the mountain (topographic effect), with a Λ -shape anomaly whose center is located at the center of the geothermal area. The V-shape anomaly is due to a down-going fluid flow along the slope, and the central Λ -shape anomaly was assumed to be due to hydrothermal convection or vaporization. However, based on numerical computations (Ishido and Pritchett 1999), Ishido (2004) proposed that, in addition to the existence of the hydrothermal convections, an additional area of high electrical conductivity, just beneath the central peak, is necessary to explain the intense central Λ -shape anomaly. A key point in his claim is that the primary cause of the SP pattern is downward liquid motion in the unsaturated thick layer between the surface and the water table in the volcanic body. The EK effect of the downward flow in the unsaturated layer (Guichet et al. 2003) and the underlying saturated layer, results in the shallow and deep regions in the volcanic body having respectively low and high electric potentials. Thus the region of high conductivity beneath the summit acts as a conduit from the region of high potential at depth to the surface. Indeed conductive regions are found just beneath almost all volcano summits (Zlotnicki et al. 2003; Revil et al. 2004; Hase et al. 2005; Aizawa et al. 2005). As an example, Fig. 7 shows such a highly conductive region just beneath Mt. Fuji (Aizawa et al. 2005). Although most authors interpreted the conductive anomaly as an indication of the existence of hydrothermal activity, it could also be due to the presence of clay minerals, for example, after Ishido's (2004) interpretation. Although these different interpretations are still controversial, it is obvious that we need to determine the conductivity structure before interpreting the SP anomaly. Another possible mechanism for generation of the intense central Λ -shape anomaly is the rapid fluid disruption (RFD) effect, recently re-proposed by Johnston et al. (2001) and discussed by Johnston et al. (2002) and Revil (2002). Results suggest that when liquids are vaporized or removed as droplets by gas transport away from hot dike intrusions, charge generation occurs. However, in the case of Mt. Fuji, even though there is no fumarolic activity, the intense central Λ -shape anomaly still exists. Thus, at least in Mt. Fuji area, we can rule out the RFD effect as an explanation of the SP anomaly. In addition to electrical conductivity, temperature is another important parameter

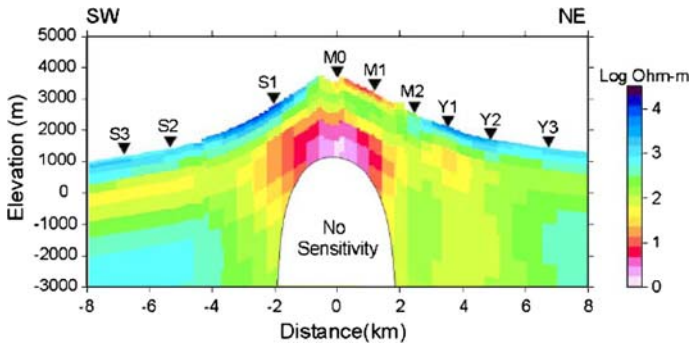


Fig. 7 Resistivity cross-section at Mt. Fuji determined by wideband MT surveys (Aizawa et al. 2005)

to interpret the SP anomaly. This is because thermal electric coupling can cause the SP anomaly (Corwin and Hoover 1979). For this reason, Lewicki et al. (2003), Revil et al. (2004) and Friedel et al. (2004), for example, measured temperature variation in addition to SP. Lewicki et al. (2003) and Revil et al. (2004) also measured the CO_2 gas flux and compared it with the SP and thermal anomalies.

EK effects are also considered to be the main source of electromagnetic signals associated with seismic phenomena. There are several research topics involving seismic phenomena. The first concerns electromagnetic variations due to the vibration of the seismic wave (Russel et al. 1997). This is mainly studied as a potential tool in geophysical exploration (Butler et al. 1996; Mikhailov et al. 1997, 2000; Beamish 1999; Garambois and Dietrich 2001). Based on the macroscopic equations of Pride (1994), Haartsen and Pride (1997) and Garambois and Dietrich (2002) developed full waveform numerical simulation codes of seismo-electromagnetic wave conversions in fluid-saturated stratified porous media. The numerical sensitivity analysis showed that EM waves generated at depth by the passage of seismic waves through an interface are particularly sensitive to contrasts in porosity, permeability, fluid salinity and fluid viscosity. At the surface, the amplitude of electromagnetic waves generated at an interface (at a depth of ~ 100 m) is 500 times smaller than that of electromagnetic waves contained in the seismic wave reflected at the interface. Thus these phenomena can also be a candidate for the driving mechanism of the coseismic electromagnetic disturbances that are extensively observed (e.g., Skordas et al. 2000; Matsushima et al. 2002; Zlotnicki et al. 2006). Other source mechanisms, such as the electromotive forces induced by vibration of the conductive ground in the presence of the geomagnetic main field, have also been considered (Honkura et al. 2002; Matsushima et al. 2002). The second area of research is monitoring the change in subsurface hydrological parameters and determining in situ EK parameters by injecting water through borehole wells (Wurmstich and Morgan 1994; Murakami et al. 2001; Pignettes et al. 2002; Marquis et al. 2002; Rizzo et al. 2004). The seasonal water level change in artificial lakes or the change of water flux in springs or geysers can also be used for the same purpose (Perrier et al. 1998, 1999; Trique et al. 1999, 2002). The third topic concerns the EK effect as a possible source of seismic precursory electromagnetic phenomena. Mizutani et al. (1976) first proposed that water injection into the dilatant region with low pressure before the main shock—the dilatancy model of Scholz et al. (1973)—can cause electromagnetic disturbances through the EK mechanism. Several model studies (e.g. Fenoglio et al. 1995; Ishido and Prichett 1999; Fujinawa et al. 2002; Simpson and Taflove 2005) have been performed to explain precursory and coseismic electromagnetic

perturbations (Fraser-Smith et al. 1990; Nagao et al. 1996; Fujinawa et al. 2000). In laboratory experiments using a triaxial apparatus, some EK related data have also been collected during rock deformation up to failure (Jouniaux and Pozzi 1995; Yoshida et al. 1998; Lorne et al. 1999; Yoshida 2001). These authors inferred that current sources are generated due to fluid injection into the dilatant region which is formed before the main fracture as a result of the generation of micro cracks. But as the experiment of Yoshida (2001) clearly indicated, the intensity of the electric signal together with the dilatancy grows toward the onset of the main fracture, with the most significant signal being obtained at the time of the main fracture itself, as was the case with the piezoelectric experiments (Yoshida et al. 1997). Although some field results show such features (e.g. Fraser-Smith et al. 1990; Hattori et al. 2004), isolated signals often reported well before earthquake onset are not concordant with these laboratory experimental results. Furthermore, it is not easy to monitor fluid motion at depth unless some special condition is considered. For example, in order to explain the amplitude of the SP variation observed by Nagao et al. (1996), Ishido and Prichett (1999) needed vaporization in the dilatancy area and a conductive fault zone connecting the dilatancy area and the near surface. Even in the above mentioned fluid injection experiments using boreholes, a clear signal could be detected on the surface when a metal casing was inserted in the borehole (e.g. Murakami et al. 2001; Marquis et al. 2002). Otherwise, as is argued by Pinettes et al. (2002), it is not easy to detect streaming potentials generated at depth, because the injection induced flow generates dipolar current sources at depth.

2.2.3 Electrical Conductivity

Electrical conductivity is especially sensitive to the existence of interstitial fluids, their connectivity and temperature. The electrical conductivity of dry rocks in the temperature range in the crustal condition is very low in comparison with the high conductivity of interstitial fluids, clay minerals or carbon films in the same low temperature range (e.g., Kariya and Shankland 1983; Nesbitt 1993; Frost et al. 1989). Almost all the electrical conductivity values determined from the field surveys range between those of resistive dry rocks and interstitial highly conductive phases, and the connection rule of the highly conductive phase is important in determining whole rock electrical conductivities (e.g. Glover et al. 2000b; Bahr 2000; Bahr et al. 2002). Thus electrical conductivity is likely to be very sensitive to the temporal variation of the connection rule due to strain changes (Glover et al. 2000a; Hautot and Tarits 2002). Graphitization during fracture (Roberts et al. 1999) is also a possible mechanism for changes in electrical conductivity.

Laboratory experiments have shown that the stress sensitivity of electrical conductivity in saturated rocks is 0.025%/bar (2.5×10^{-9} /Pa) (Brace and Orange 1968a, b), which is 75 in strain sensitivity ($\Delta\sigma/\Delta\ell\ell$) if a rigidity of 3×10^{10} Pa is assumed. For porous rocks such as tuffs, strain sensitivities are much enhanced, ranging from several hundreds (Yamazaki 1965, 1966) to as large as 10^4 (Morrow and Brace 1981) in partially saturated cases. Since tidal strain amplitude is in the order of 10^{-7} , and the inter-seismic strain accumulation rate in Japan, revealed by GPS measurement, is of order 10^{-7} /year (e.g. Sagiya et al. 2000), the corresponding conductivity changes are, respectively, 10^{-3} (0.1%) and 10^{-3} /year (0.1%/year) at most. Even considering localized acceleration of the strain accumulation rate before the earthquake, realistic conductivity changes are likely to be a few percent at most. Park and Fitterman (1990), Park (2002) and Hanekop and Simpson (2006) have all argued that it is difficult to detect such a small-localized conductivity

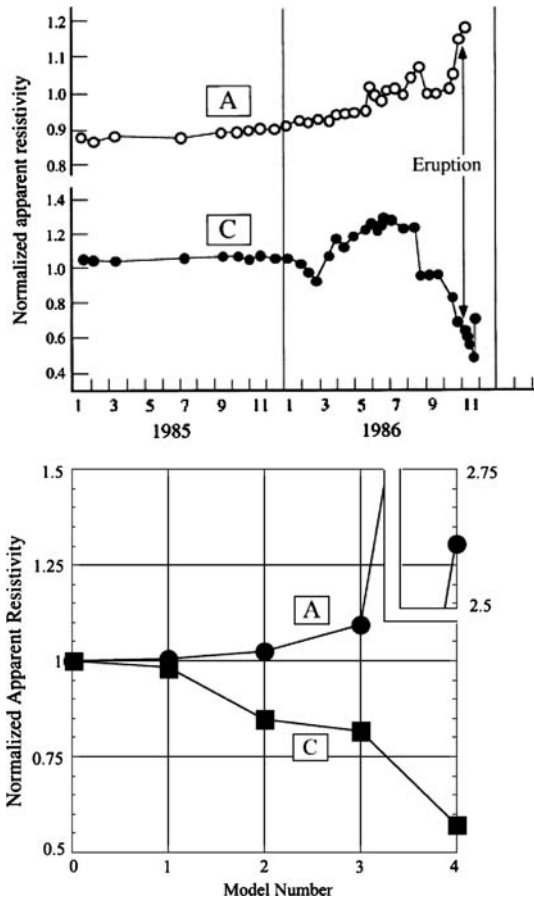
change by using the natural source MT method, unless observations are made in close proximity to the seismogenic zone with an accurate measurement technique.

In contrast, electrical conductivity changes reported in field experiments spanning scales of kilometers are enigmatic because the strain amplification factors should be much larger than those obtained from the laboratory experiments. Changes in telluric responses of 0.2% per year beginning in 1986 are attributed to a 50% decrease in the resistivity along deep portions of the San Andreas fault (Madden et al. 1993). Results from China show a gradual increase in the electrical conductivity of the shallow crust at multiple sites spanning an area of square kilometers (Zhao and Qian 1994; Chu et al. 1996). These changes began 4 years prior to the 1976 Tangshan earthquake, peaked at an approximate 4% decrease in apparent resistivity, and then recovered in the 4 years after the event.

Conductivity changes monitored by the DC resistivity method in a vault at Aburatsubo, central Japan, spanning a scale of meters (Yamazaki 1967) were also enigmatic. Although the daily variation of order 10^{-4} can be explained by tidal strain, the annual variation of order 10^{-2} , together with coseismic steps of order 10^{-4} , cannot be explained by the strain effect on the electrical conductivity. Utada et al. (1998) proposed that these last two temporal variations can be explained as electrical conductivity variations due to, respectively, a temporal change of temperature ($10^{-4}/0.01^{\circ}\text{C}$), and a temperature change resulting from a mixing of fluids on the arrival of the S-wave. In this model, the vertical gradient of temperature just around the vault is a key parameter and the seasonal variation of the temperature gradient was confirmed by subsequent thermal measurements (Perrier et al. 2004). Although a number of preseismic conductivity changes were also reported by Rikitake and Yamazaki (1976), Utada et al. (1998) recognized no clear precursory change when irregular changes due to bad weather or instrumental instability were properly eliminated.

In comparison with seismic phenomena, the temporal variation of electrical conductivity in volcanic and geothermal areas is much larger because of the large variation in temperature and water content (or vaporization) associated with magma intrusion. Magma or melts are themselves also several orders of magnitude more conductive than igneous rocks (e.g. Tyburczy and Waff 1983). The presence of an interstitial aquifer also controls a variety of volcanic activities through the interaction of water and hot materials (e.g. Kagiya et al. 1999). Therefore, it is very important to monitor the temporal variation of the electrical conductivity structure in volcanic environments. Monitoring is also desirable in interpreting the temporal variation of the SP anomaly, as was discussed before. The technical difficulty of maintaining long-term operations involving measurements of high accuracy in the difficult environmental conditions of volcanic areas, however, has prevented most researchers from detecting the time evolution of the conductivity structure in volcanic regions. Exceptions are the conductivity monitoring on Oshima volcanic island, Japan (Fig. 8; Yukutake et al. 1990) from 1975 to the present, and on Miyake volcanic island, Japan (Zlotnicki et al. 2003) from 1999 until the formation of the large sink-hole in the 2000 eruption. In both cases, the DC resistivity method was applied in the vicinity of the summit and the temporal variation of the apparent resistivities measured on several sets of transmitter–receiver combinations were continuously monitored. Based on the records of the 1986–1987 activity on the Oshima volcano, Utada (2003) proposed a model of the temporal evolution of the magma intrusion before the first eruption on November 15, 1986, as shown in Fig. 9. Zlotnicki et al. (2003) found a drastic apparent resistivity change on July 3, 2000, only 5 days before the generation of the sinkhole. The apparent resistivity decreased to 20% of its initial value in 1999 on the 600 m line while it had reached more than three times its original value on the 1,400 m line. This suggests the possibility that the

Fig. 8 Observed temporal changes in the apparent resistivities for receivers 'A' and 'C' in 1985 and 1986 (Yukutake et al. 1990) are shown in the upper panel, where apparent resistivity values are normalized by corresponding values at the first measurement. The vertical line with arrowheads indicates the onset of the summit eruption. Synthetic apparent resistivities based on the models in Fig. 9 are shown in the lower panel (Utada 2003)



area of the future sinkhole turned resistive before the onset of its generation. The variation of total magnetic intensity also indicated that demagnetization occurred from deeper to shallower regions, and is interpreted as the generation of a magnetically void area due to the magnetized body being crushed (Sasai et al. 2002).

3 Network-MT Observations

3.1 Introduction of the Network-MT Observation Method

Due to recent remarkable progress in determining MT response functions, which is both due to improvements to instrumentation and to the robust processing method (e.g. Egbert and Booker 1986; Chave et al. 1987), all of the elements of the impedance tensor can be determined with sufficient accuracy such that full-tensor interpretation has become feasible. Considerable efforts have been aimed at decomposing observed MT responses into the component caused by local three-dimensional (3-D) galvanic distortion and that induced by regional one- or two-dimensional (1-D or 2-D) structures (Bahr 1988; Groom and Bailey 1989; Groom and Bahr 1992; Chave and Smith 1994). Phase tensor analysis

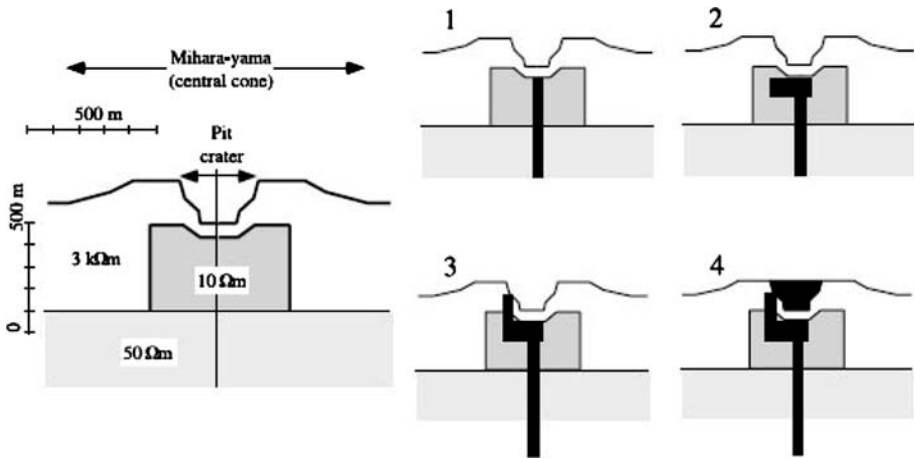


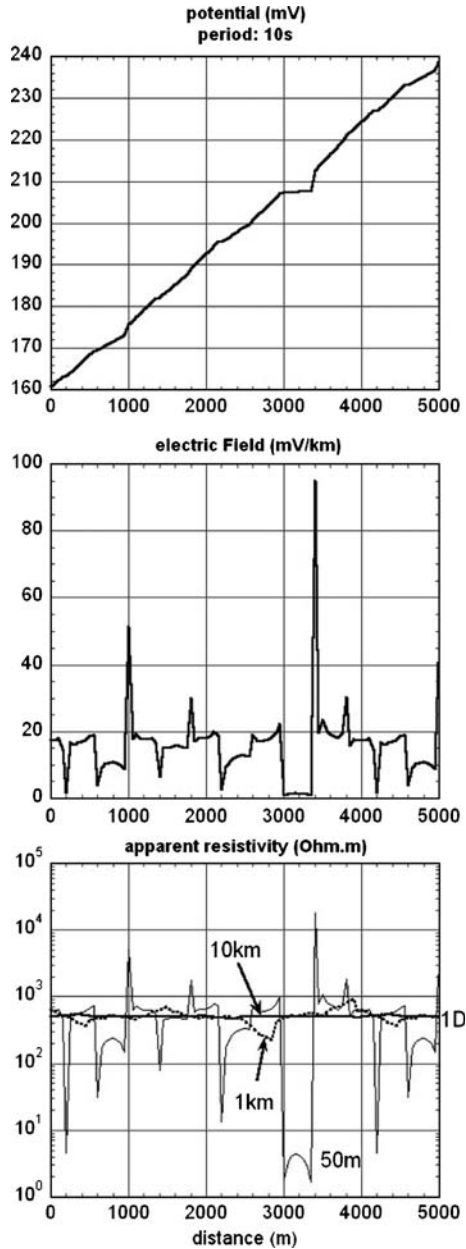
Fig. 9 Cross-section of the subsurface resistivity structure for numerical forward modeling. As a background structure, a two-layered model was assumed with a localized anomalously conducting zone beneath the pit crater (model 0 shown in left-hand side). The ascent of the magma and the formation of lava lake were simulated by adding conducting ($0.5 \Omega\text{m}$) bodies in Models 1 to 4 (Utada 2003)

(Caldwell et al. 2004) and tensor invariants analysis (Weaver et al. 2000; Martí et al. 2005) can discriminate dimensionality of regional structure. Together with the progress of 2-D inversion algorithms combined with static shift correction (e.g. deGroot-Hedlin 1991; Ogawa and Uchida 1996), MT tensor decomposition coupled with this hybrid 2-D interpretation is the currently accepted procedure for interpreting MT responses (see the review paper by Ogawa 2002). Furthermore, with developments of 3-D forward/inversion codes and faster computer facilities, 3-D modeling has become more common (see the review paper by Avdeev 2005).

Even with this progress, the problem of the static shift correction still remains in determining deep large-scale structures. As far as we deploy conventional MT measurements with short electric dipoles (~ 100 m electrode spacing), the respective voltage difference records are inevitably contaminated by galvanic effects due to small-scale near-surface lateral heterogeneities of electrical conductivity. This inherent short wavelength spatial variation of the electric field, however, cannot be represented in observations unless we sample the electric field with sufficiently high spatial density. Therefore, static shift is often corrected in the inversion process based on some statistical assumption. Because of the non-uniqueness of its determination, however, especially when the spatial sampling density or the quality of the MT responses are not sufficient, we sometimes encounter cases where models exist with different sets of static corrections, but with almost comparable RMS values. Structure models with different static shift corrections possess different length scales together with different spatial contrasts in electrical conductivity. One way to alleviate this difficulty is to estimate the static shift correction levels by referring to the magnetic transfer functions, since rotation of the static shift free impedances should be equivalent with the static shift free magnetic transfer functions (Utada and Munekane 2000). Another approach is to obtain spatially integrated electrical potential differences either by using long dipoles or by deploying an array of dipoles whose scale lengths fit those of the target structure (Jones 1988; Torres-Verdin and Bostick 1992a, b; Singer 1992).

Figure 10 demonstrates the effect of spatial filtering in the TM mode of 2-D problem. As a test model, a simple 1-D 2 layer host structure (0.002 S/m down to 400 km and 1 S/m

Fig. 10 A 2-D TM-mode model study to demonstrate effect of long-baseline electric field measurements. As a test model, a simple 1-D 2 layer host model is assumed and randomly changed conductivity values are assigned in the surface top layer with 5 m thickness. Spatial distribution of electric potential (top), electric field (center), and apparent resistivity from measurements with various dipole lengths (bottom) are shown



beneath 400 km) is assumed, and 10 conductivity values between 0.0002 S/m and 1 S/m are randomly assigned to blocks 400 m wide and 5 m thick in the top surface layer. EM fields with plane wave excitation are first computed with the aid of the FEM 2-D forward modeling scheme of Wannamaker et al. (1986) and plotted in the middle of Fig. 10. Then voltage differences between a reference point and various locations are estimated by integrating the relevant electric fields. From the voltage difference (or electric potential) profile shown in the top of Fig. 10, voltage differences for 50 m, 1 km and 10 km

electrode spacings, average electric fields, and finally apparent resistivities for respective dipole lengths are calculated and plotted in the bottom of Fig. 10. Due to charges on the vertical boundaries in the top layer, the electric fields, and therefore the impedances, are significantly scattered, whereas the overall linear trend of the electric potential is little affected by the charges. Then, as the baseline lengths for the electric field measurements increase, the effects of the boundary charges are reduced, and the static shift problem can be alleviated. It is, however, noteworthy that even the Network-MT impedances contain a static effect. The quasi-static Maxwell equations yield exactly the same solution with a scale change given by the relationship $\sigma \times \mu \times L^2 / T = \text{const}$, where σ , μ , L and T are scales of electrical conductivity, magnetic permeability, length and period respectively. Thus, for example, a scaling factor of 1/200 for conductivities and 200 for periods and lengths gives the same solution. This means that static shifts prominent with 50 m dipoles in Fig. 10 are also prominent with 10 km dipoles under this scale change. In this sense, we cannot escape from static shift effects. An important point is that surface blocks with a typical horizontal scale length of 400 m cannot be incorporated especially in 3-D regional modeling, whereas surface blocks with 80 km scale length can be.

3.2 Regional Scale Network-MT observation

Thus, to determine the 3-D structure of deep electrical conductivity on a nationwide scale, e.g. over an area several hundreds of km², the electric field had better be measured with a typical dipole length of 10 km or more. In order to estimate the spatial variation of the structure on this scale, all the electrodes are ideally mutually connected by the observation network. Recently, referring to the pioneering works in employing telephone lines for electric dipoles (e.g., Rooney 1949; Egbert and Booker 1992; Egbert et al. 1992; Madden 1983; Madden et al. 1993; Mori 1985, 1987; Tournerie and Chouteau 1998), Uyeshima et al. (2001) have developed an observation technique named “Network-MT method”. In this method, the telephone line network is fully used to determine the horizontal distribution of voltage differences with long electrode spacings. Figure 11 illustrates a typical (and ideal) configuration of the Network-MT experiment. The dipoles in this illustration are telephone lines connected to electrodes, which are either earths installed for telecommunication facilities by the telephone company, or electrodes purpose built for the experiment. Dipole lengths range from ten to several tens of kilometers. As a reference magnetic field, magnetic records obtained by three-component magnetometers at

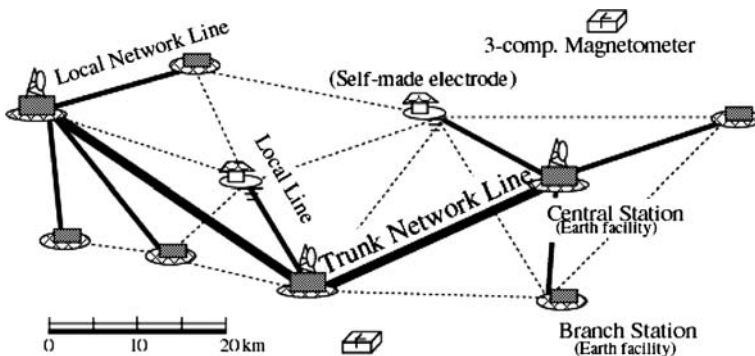


Fig. 11 A sketch of Network-MT observation

geomagnetic observatories or at purpose-built stations are used. The spatial distribution of the electric fields in the target region is obtained by combining two types of observation. One uses local telephone lines directly. The other links local telephone line observations using network trunk connection lines. Since the local telephone lines, as well as the network trunk connection lines, are connected to the central telephone station within a particular telephone toll area, data loggers are installed at the central telephone station. In an actual field survey, voltage measurements are performed at several toll areas at once for a few months and then moved to other toll areas because of the restricted number of instruments. Another way to measure the spatial distribution of long baseline voltage differences is to measure the Geomagnetically Induced Currents (GIC) in power line networks or pipeline networks (see, for example, review papers by Viljanen and Pirhola 1994 and Campbell 1986). If we deploy long dipoles, the S/N ratio of the electrical records will be enhanced. This enhancement will enable us to extend the experiment both in the space and frequency domain (especially toward the lower frequency range).

After the telluric voltage difference records are obtained, response functions between each voltage difference and 2-component horizontal magnetic fields are estimated. The period range is from several seconds to 10^5 or 10^6 s. Assuming that the response functions $Y_x(\omega)$ and $Y_y(\omega)$ are expressed as

$$V(\omega) = Y_x(\omega)H_x^r(\omega) + Y_y(\omega)H_y^r(\omega), \quad (11)$$

where for an angular frequency ω , $V(\omega)$, $H_x^r(\omega)$ and $H_y^r(\omega)$ are respectively the voltage difference along a dipole and two component horizontal magnetic fields at a reference site, and $Y_x(\omega)$ and $Y_y(\omega)$ are the voltage differences occurring when a unit magnetic variation occurs respectively in the x (NS)-direction and the y (EW)-direction at the reference site. If all the electrode points are connected by the observation network as shown in Fig. 11, the virtual voltage difference between any pairs of electrodes can be estimated by a linear combination of the response functions for real (or measured) dipoles. In this way, after selecting three electrode points in the observation area, the voltage differences along two sides of the triangle formed by the selected electrode points can be estimated, and then, the average 2-component electric fields in the triangle, when a unit magnetic variation occurs in the x - or y -direction at the reference site, can be estimated by linear combination of the response functions $Y_x(\omega)$ or $Y_y(\omega)$, respectively. Thus the average impedance tensor for the triangle can be estimated. In Fig. 12, the spatial distributions of the vectors $(\text{Re}(Z_{xx}), \text{Re}(Z_{yx}))$, $(\text{Im}(Z_{xx}), \text{Im}(Z_{yx}))$, $(\text{Re}(Z_{xy}), \text{Re}(Z_{yy}))$ and $(\text{Im}(Z_{xy}), \text{Im}(Z_{yy}))$ in the central and eastern parts of Hokkaido, Japan, are plotted (Uyeshima et al. 2001), where Z_{ij} is the ij -th element of the impedance tensor estimated by the above procedure. The period is 3840 s. The vector $(\text{Re}(Z_{xx}), \text{Re}(Z_{yx}))$ can be recognized as the electric field in the time domain due to a unit sinusoidal magnetic field variation in the N–S direction when the magnetic field at the reference station (Memambetsu geomagnetic observatory of the Japan Meteorological Agency) points to the north with maximum amplitude. The vector $(\text{Im}(Z_{xx}), \text{Im}(Z_{yx}))$ can be recognized as the electric field in the time domain due to a unit sinusoidal magnetic field variation in the N–S direction when its direction is changing from southwards to northwards, with its amplitude being zero. Likewise, the respective vectors $(\text{Re}(Z_{xy}), \text{Re}(Z_{yy}))$ and $(\text{Im}(Z_{xy}), \text{Im}(Z_{yy}))$ represent the electric fields due to a unit E–W magnetic field variation when the magnetic field points to the east with maximum amplitude, and when its direction is changing from westwards to eastwards with its amplitude being zero. Given a 1-D subsurface structure, and an impedance phase between 0 and $\pi/2$, all the electric field vectors of $(\text{Re}(Z_{xx}), \text{Re}(Z_{yx}))$ and $(\text{Im}(Z_{xx}), \text{Im}(Z_{yx}))$

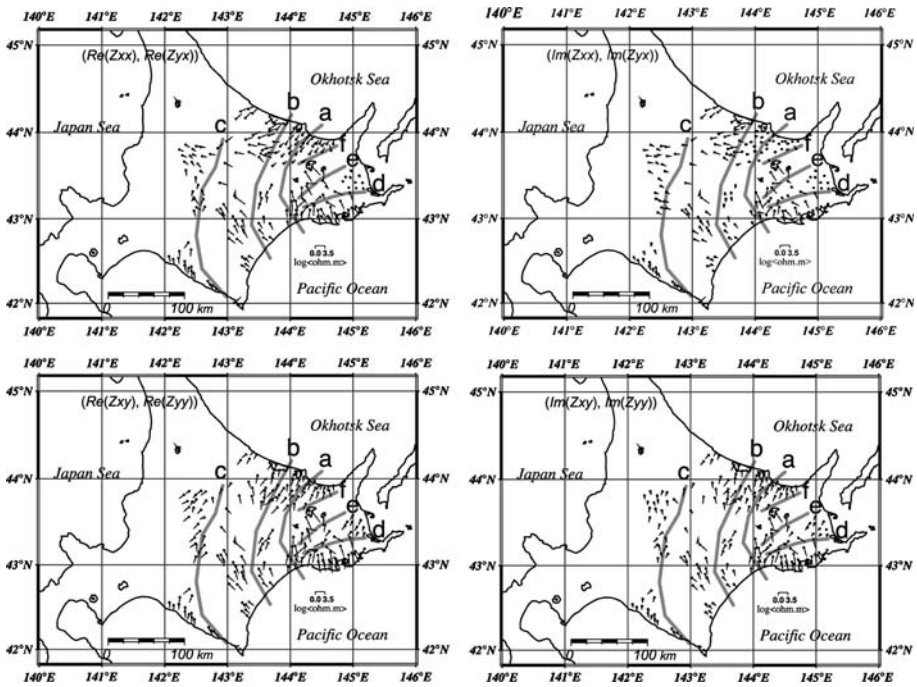


Fig. 12 Spatial distribution of impedance tensors for a period of 3840 s. Vectors ($\text{Re}(Z_{xx})$, $\text{Re}(Z_{yx})$), ($\text{Im}(Z_{xx})$, $\text{Im}(Z_{yx})$), ($\text{Re}(Z_{xy})$, $\text{Re}(Z_{yy})$) and ($\text{Im}(Z_{xy})$, $\text{Im}(Z_{yy})$) are shown, respectively. The vectors are plotted in lines with arrow heads indicating the azimuth of the vector. The length of the line is proportional to the logarithm of the vector's absolute value in the unit of apparent resistivity. No vectors are indicated if the apparent resistivity value is less than $1 \Omega\text{m}$. Geoelectrical structure boundaries interpreted from the maps are also shown by thick shaded lines

would point westwards, and those of ($\text{Re}(Z_{xy})$, $\text{Re}(Z_{yy})$) and ($\text{Im}(Z_{xy})$, $\text{Im}(Z_{yy})$) would point northwards. In the present target region, however, the electric field vectors are not uniformly distributed as mentioned above, but are significantly distorted. Note that each vector in Fig. 12 represents the averaged impedance tensor for triangular sections of typically 10 km length scale. Then it is also noteworthy that the electric field vectors, which were derived directly from the respective elements of the impedance tensors, point in similar directions for adjacent sections, so some regional trend can be detected. This result shows that the Network-MT responses are relatively free from the effects of small-scale near-surface structures. The figures also show geoelectrical structure boundaries (thick shaded lines), which were obtained by interpreting the spatial distributions of the intensity and azimuth of the vectors. These boundaries correspond either to major tectonic lines (a, b and c) or to boundaries of a geological unit (d, e and f) in the region.

In order to obtain regional 2-D or 3-D structures from the Network-MT data, several methods were developed. One way is to first compose averaged impedance tensors for triangles formed by three electrode points, as mentioned above, and then, conventional inversion schemes are applied to those impedance tensors (Yamaguchi et al. 1999; Shiozaki et al. 1999; Satoh et al. 2001). In Satoh et al. (2001), Network-MT and conventional MT impedances were jointly inverted by a 2-D inversion code (Ogawa and Uchida 1996) with the static shift correction determined in the inversion. Although the static shift parameters are set to be freely determined in the inversion, the resultant static shifts for

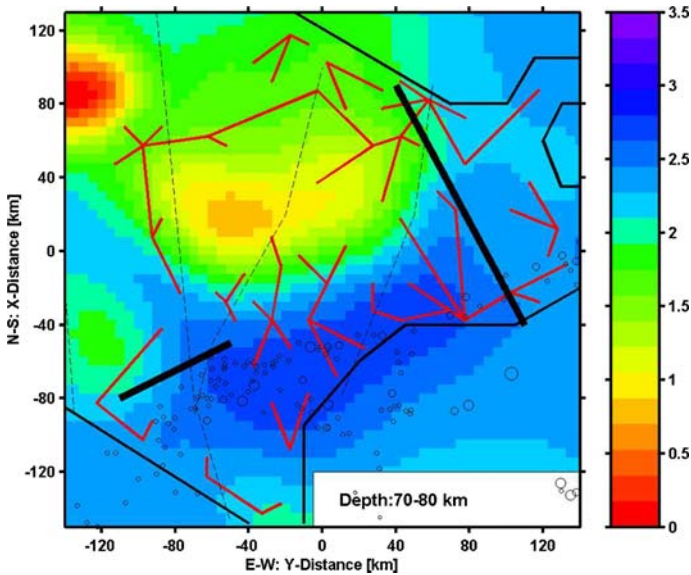


Fig. 13 Electrical conductivity distribution at depths of 70–80 km beneath eastern part of Hokkaido, SW end of Kuril arc. Red lines are dipoles used in the 3-D inversion (Uyeshima et al., in preparation)

Network-MT data turn out to be almost unity. This also suggests that static shift in Network-MT data can be expressed in the regional model. In Uyeshima et al. (2001, 2002), the response functions between the respective voltage difference and magnetic field are directly reproduced in the 2-D or 3-D forward calculations. This method has been adopted in a subsequent 3-D inversion scheme by Siripunvaraporn et al. (2004), which is based on 2-D and 3-D data space Occam inversions designed for inverting conventional MT datasets (Siripunvaraporn and Egbert 2000; Siripunvaraporn et al. 2005). Figure 13 shows a resistivity structure at depths of 70–80 km beneath the eastern part of Hokkaido, at the SW end of the Kuril arc, which is determined from a full 3-D inversion code (Uyeshima et al., in preparation). The seismically active part of the subducting Pacific slab is imaged by a resistive belt, and the conductive back arc wedge mantle is imaged in the model.

3.3 Local Scale Network-MT observation

The concept of the original large-scale Network-MT observation is also applicable to local studies, typically on a scale of 10 km². In this case, electrodes are distributed with, on average, several hundred meters to 1 km spacings in the target area. Examples of such studies are telluric monitoring networks in Parkfield, USA (e.g. Park and Fitterman 1990), in Miyake Island, Japan (e.g. Sasai et al. 1997), and in the French Alps (e.g. Perrier et al. 1998). Although the first two experiments also use the telephone lines to connect electrodes, in the French Alps the observation network was constructed by the researchers' own efforts. In relation to the large-scale Network-MT survey described above, the triangular sections of typically 10 km size where the regional impedance tensor (e.g. as shown in Fig. 12) is estimated, are further subdivided by sets of electrodes, (e.g., 5, 9 and 14 electrode points respectively for the Parkfield, Miyake and French Alps experiments). All the voltage difference recordings on this scale may contain galvanic effects from near

surface heterogeneities on a local scale, in addition to information on a regional scale as shown in Fig. 12. In order to obtain the regional scale impedance in the French Alps experiment, a single averaged impedance tensor was estimated by using all the response functions, as expressed by Eq. 11, for all the dipoles (Tarits et al. 2004). Furthermore, they determined a 1-D impedance free from static effects with the aid of GDS responses over a longer period range. Once such a regional 1-D impedance has been estimated, the galvanic distortion parameters for the respective dipoles can be estimated. Since the galvanic parameters are determined by the locally uniform induced current and the near surface lateral variation of the electrical conductivity, the near surface electrical conductivity structure can be estimated in some way with the aid of a 3-D DC code (e.g. Spitzer 1995). In this way, Hautot (2005) determines a shallow 3-D electrical conductivity structure, also referring to an electrical conductivity model previously obtained from 2-D and 3-D analyses of the VLF and AMT data (Hautot et al. 2002). Thus, in addition to monitoring the temporal variation of the SP field in a target area, the temporal variation of the galvanic parameters can be used to monitor the temporal variation of the shallow electrical conductivity structure, as discussed in the next section.

Recently, since trunk and local network lines, as shown in Fig. 11, have been almost completely replaced by optical fiber cables, it has been necessary to make measurements using only local lines. Therefore, when we want to determine a large-scale structure, an assemblage of local observations has to be made, and voltage recording instruments are installed both at central telephone stations and branch repeater stations. A Network-MT survey in the NE part of China by Ichiki et al. (2001) is one example of this type, where four long baseline dipoles of length 20–40 km were used in a target area 200 km square. In order to determine the deep structure, they first estimated mutually perpendicular impedances from Eq. 11 and rotation of the magnetic field coordinates. After static shift correction with the aid of the GDS responses, and by using the $\rho+$ inversion scheme (Parker and Booker 1996), they determined four 1-D structures as shown in Fig. 14.

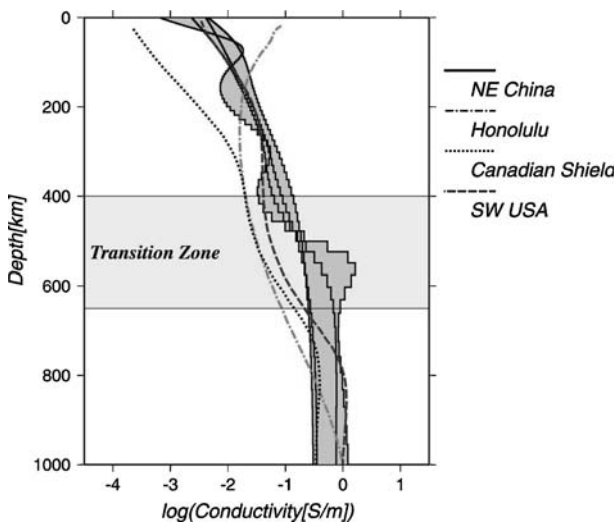


Fig. 14 Comparison of 1-D conductivity profiles in NE China (solid line with shaded area) with those at Honolulu (chain line), Canadian Shield (dotted line) and SW USA (broken line) (Neal et al. 2000). The mantle transition zone is shown by thinly hatched area (Ichiki et al. 2001)

The 1-D structures obtained by Neal et al. (2000) are also shown in the figure. NE China is located in the area where seismic tomography has revealed a stagnant Pacific Plate with high seismic velocity on the boundary between the upper mantle and the lower mantle (Fukao et al. 2001). The size of the stagnant slab in this region is several thousands of kilometers. Probably due to a fluid supply from the stagnant slab, the electrical conductivity in and above the transition zone is higher than the conductivities determined by Neal et al. (2000), although the temperature is low due to the existence of the slab (Ichiki et al. 2006). Tarits et al. (2004) also determined a deep 1-D structure by inverting the average 1-D impedance, as was described in the previous paragraph. A similar relatively conductive feature is obtained above the stagnant slab beneath the French Alps.

3.4 Network-MT Observation as a Tool to monitor Crustal Activities

Since Network-MT observations record continuous telluric voltage differences together with the magnetic field, the datasets can also be used to monitor electromagnetic phenomena related to crustal activities. Network-MT observations in Japan by Kinoshita et al. (1989) and Uyeshima et al. (1989) were initially aimed at detecting seismic electric signals (Varotsos and Alexopoulos 1984a, b). Several coseismic signals were obtained at multiple electrode points, so that its spatial field pattern could be drawn, as reported by Kinoshita et al. (1989), Sumitomo et al. (1997) and Nagao et al. (2000). Possible preseismic signals reported by Uyeshima et al. (1989), Nagao et al. (1996) and Uyeda et al. (2000, 2002), however, are enigmatic, because they were almost always detected in the vicinity of a single electrode point. One exception was that Uyeda et al. (2000) simultaneously acquired anomalous signals of similar boxcar shape at three widely separated independent stations, approximately 100 km apart, in central Japan, 11 days before onset of a small swarm activity which occurred almost at the center of these three sites. However, they could not trace the origin of the signals.

Analysis of datasets from the long baseline array monitoring the telluric field near two artificial lakes in the French Alps, clearly shows that annual SP variations were detected at electrodes near the bank of the artificial lakes. The water level of both lakes was high in the summer and low in the winter due to the seasonal variation of the electric power supply. These SP variations were interpreted to be caused by electrokinetic effects associated with alterations to the pattern of underground fluid flow induced by the change of water level in the lakes (Perrier et al. 1998; Trique et al. 1999, 2002). In addition, Hautot (2005) found an annual variation in the galvanic parameters, which are separate from the response functions expressed by Eq. 11. Based on the DC 3-D model mentioned in the previous subsection, it was inferred that a resistivity variation of 20% in the bedrock could account for the observed annual variation in the galvanic parameters. This resistivity variation was ascribed to a change of strain resulting from the change of lake water loading as the water level changed. But even if the highest amplification factor of 10^4 (Morrow and Brace 1981) is assumed, a strain variation of order 10^{-5} seems necessary to explain the resistivity variation, whereas the annual strain variation is estimated to be of order 10^{-7} . It has been argued that a further large increase in sensitivity can be expected when the saturation of the rock is near the percolation threshold (Hautot and Tarits 2002). However, the resistivity variation due to temperature change may be another candidate, as mentioned in the previous monitoring section. A similar attempt was made by Park (1991, 1997, 2002) in Parkfield, California with kilometer scale telluric arrays. After determination of the conductivity structure by an active DC resistivity survey at Parkfield, sensitivities of the

telluric array to various model blocks were calculated (Park and Fitterman 1990). Since the telluric array reportedly could not detect any significant preseismic fluctuation before the M_w 6.0 Parkfield earthquake on 28 September 2004 at a depth of 8.8 km (Langbein et al. 2005; Bakun et al. 2005), resistivity changes before the earthquake should be less than those detectable limits.

Network-MT observations have also been performed in volcanic areas such as the Oshima, Unzen, Aso and Miyake-Jima volcanoes in Japan. In a series of volcanic activities during the 2000 eruption on Miyake-Jima volcanic island, several kinds of electric signals were acquired by the Network-MT observation, which are probably associated with electrokinetic effects (Sasai et al. 2001a, b, 2002). Coincident with the generation of the large sinkhole on July 8, 2000 and during the subsequent tilt step events—very long period (~ 40 s) seismic activities which represent inflations (Ukawa et al. 2000; Kumagai et al. 2001)—until August 18, 2000, the variation of the electric field was observed to be very similar to the velocity waveform of the seismograms, with almost the same field pattern over the whole island. Since the SP variation near the summit was negative, these signals were interpreted as a result of ground water flow away from the pressure source at a depth of about 3 km. A similar SP variation coincident with long period seismic activity was observed at the Merapi volcano (Byrdina et al. 2003). Subsequently, a significant enhancement of SP at one electrode near the summit was observed during an intense eruption on August 18. This indicated that the eruption had caused some drastic changes in the hydrothermal system.

4 Conclusion

Recent progress in the development of electromagnetic methods aimed at monitoring volcanic and seismic activities has been reviewed with reference to the various driving mechanisms that can generate electromagnetic sources at depths. Intensive laboratory and theoretical research is advancing our understanding of the basic relationships between the intensity of the respective electromagnetic sources and changes in the mechanical, chemical and thermal states. Also with the progress being made in electromagnetic simulation techniques, it has become possible to evaluate in situ sensitivity. Based on this progress and with extensive developments having been made in techniques of measurement and data processing, many field experiments have been conducted to elucidate temperature variation, stress or strain change, water content variation and its movements at depth related to crustal activities. The usefulness of electromagnetic methods, however, seems to be more established in volcanic research than in seismic research. This is probably due to the difference in recurrence time of volcanic and seismic activities, as well as with their intensity and variation speed, and difference in depths of sources. Observations in the proximity of the activity can be realized in volcanic research but is normally difficult in seismic research, and further refinements in observation and data processing techniques will be necessary in order to capture the much smaller seismic signals. At the same time, we must be more careful about the sources near the surface which have no causal relationship with crustal activities.

A Network-MT observation technique has been developed to determine a regional scale deep electrical conductivity structure over a region several hundreds of km^2 , in which a telephone line network is fully utilized to measure telluric potential differences with long electrode separations. Due to the averaging effect, the response functions in the method are relatively free from static shift caused by complicated near-surface small-scale lateral

heterogeneities. The method was first utilized to determine regional scale 2-D structures with the aid of conventional 2-D inversion codes. Owing to recent progress in inversion schemes, 3-D regional structures can now be determined. Several field experiments have been performed to obtain from 1-D to 3-D deep and regional electrical conductivity structures in target areas where slab subduction or its stagnation occurs. All the structures have some relationship with existing slabs and they will be useful to elucidate mechanisms of large-scale tectonic activity related to plate subduction. The technique can be applied also to monitor regional or local scale temporal variation of the telluric fields together with the electrical conductivity structures related to the crustal activities. In the French Alps, annual variations of voltage difference and conductivity were interpreted in terms of respectively the electrokinetic phenomenon and strain change due to annual variation of the lake water level. The method was also used to monitor variation of the voltage differences and the electrical conductivity structure in the preparation stage and onset of the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

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