
 [JJ] Evening Poster | S (Solid Earth Sciences) | S-CG Complex & General

[S-CG67] Ocean area observation to detect crustal activity under the seafloor: Present and future

convener: Kazuro Hirahara (Department of Geophysics, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Graduate School of Sciences, Kyoto University), Ryota Hino (Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University), Takane Hori (独立行政法人海洋研究開発機構・地震津波海域観測研究開発センター)

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Recent progress of seafloor observations for earthquake and crustal deformation, such as deployment of submarine cable networks of S-net and DONET, and repeated observations of GNSS/A and acoustic extensometer (direct path acoustic ranging), enable us to evaluate on-going crustal activities in the megathrust regions along the Japan trench and the Nankai trough. We review the present status and the future plans of such seafloor observations, and discuss the future directions of seafloor observation networks, especially for real-time monitoring of crustal activities. Toward these directions, we welcome papers introducing the present status of novel approaches and systems such as optical fiber, laser ranging or seafloor SAR and real-time geodetic observations using mooring buoys or wave glider, and so on. We also welcome future plans to integrate observation for the crustal activity under the seafloor with observation for ocean and climate changes.

[SCG67-P08] Reducing and correcting long-term drift of pressure sensors used for ocean bottom pressure measurements

*Hiroaki Kajikawa¹, Tokihiko Kobata¹ (1.National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology)

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Ocean bottom pressure (OBP) data provide useful information about the vertical crustal movements. There are a large number of observation points in offshore area of Japanese islands, and other earthquake zones in the Circum-Pacific earthquake belt. In addition to the vertical crustal movements of interest, however, OBP data are influenced by several factors, such as tsunamis, tidal fluctuations, seasonal variations in the amount of seawater, and instrumental drifts.

In this study, we focus on the long-term drift of pressure sensors used for OBP measurements. Quartz Bourdon-tube pressure sensors manufactured by Paroscientific, Inc. have commonly been used for OBP measurements due to its high resolution and stability. During seafloor pressure measurements, however, various types of long-term drift have been observed depending on individual products and pressure conditions. The drifts of the sensors are typically equivalent to the depth variation by several centimeters per year, which is similar to the variation caused by slow crustal movements. Thus, we need to reduce and correct the long-term drift to extract the reliable data.

The drift characteristics of Quartz Bourdon-tube pressure sensors have been evaluated at the pressure calibration laboratory in the National Metrology Institute of Japan (NMIJ/AIST). We continuously applied a target pressure to test sensors for a long time period, and repeatedly calibrated the sensors with a reference pressure balance. The long-term drift was evaluated from the variation in the calibration results according to time. The influential factors on the long-term drift, such as applied pressure, preliminary pressure conditions, and surrounding temperatures, were also investigated.

Based on the experimental results, we discuss practical measures to appropriately reduce and correct the

long-drift of pressure sensors used for OBP measurements. One idea is preliminarily applying the measurement pressure to the sensor before an actual OBP measurement. It eliminates the initial large drift during the actual measurement. Another idea is internal calibrations at zero pressure during the OBP measurement. If the long-term drift can be attributed to the drift of zero-reading of the sensor, the drift at the seafloor pressure can be corrected in-situ by tracing the drift at zero pressure. We will introduce current activities for these ideas.