

Educational view of the simple seismometer recordable by an optical mouse

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Using an optical PC-mouse, the simple seismograph is developed for secondary education.

Within 1 hour, the mechanical one modeled on Omori-type seismograph can be made from a piece of paper clay, a polypropylene straw and a pair of disposable chopsticks. Using an optical mouse as sensor, the displacement of its pendulum is recorded without friction.

The classical seismograph shows a principle of a seismometer system, and its output can also be utilized as digital data. Students can learn a mechanism of seismometer through their handmade of this, and observe the real seismic wave by themselves. Therefore, this remarkable seismograph brings with actual feelings to the scientific understanding of earthquake.

Examples of educational practice and future's educational view using this seismometer will be reported.

Keywords: optical mouse, seismometer, secondary education

