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Long and short term nucleation of the 2011 Tohoku-Oki earthquake

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Precursory activity prior to the 2011 M9.0 Tohoku earthquake :

- Long term (> years) changes in slip deficit rate
- Swarm activity (months)
- M7.3 foreshock with co & post-seismic slip (days)
- But no immediate precursory slip (hours minutes)





Cubas et al. (2015)



Yokota and Koketsu (Nat. Comm., 2015)



Yokota and Koketsu (Nat. Comm., 2015)













Linde and Sacks (2002)



Obara & Kato (2016)









1st PHASE (2 months)





~ 2.5 days (9/3/2011 - 11/3/2011)

2nd PHASE (2.5 days)





Eleven 4.0 \leq m \leq 5.5 earthquakes between 14/1/2011 and 27/2/2011













First day after M7.3

Second day after M7.3





0

143

0

143.2

longitude

0

143.4

143.6

38.2

38.1

38 142.8



Second day after M7.3





Second day after M7.3

Ohta et al. (2012)

Completeness $M_c = 4.2$ for these 2.5 days

143.4

143.6

143.2

longitude

38 142.8

143

Changes in magnitude of completness (many large shocks):

Following Peng et al. (JGR, 2007):

- We detect new, small earthquakes in the continuous broad-band recordings
- We quantify the level of noise at all time and prior to all JMA and new earthquakes $v(t) = \log of stacked envelopes$ (4 closest F-net stations), f>20 Hz, smoothed at 100s





ETAS model + (non-linear) convolution by enveloppe function

Time series is simply one of a « normal » aftershock sequence

Marsan and Enescu (2012)

10 days before mainshock
0 - 0.5 days after mainshock
0.5 - 2 days after mainshock



Three M7.3 mainshocks in the same zone (2011 - 2012)



Kato et al. (2012)



Ito et al. (2013)







No immediate pre-slip (resolved at Mw6.0 - 6.2)



Hino et al. (2014)

Seismic moment of slow slip?



• Repeating earthquakes (1 month) $\rightarrow M_{w} = 7.1$ (Kato et al. 2012)

• Pressure gauges
$$\implies$$
 M_w=7.0 (Ito et al. 2013)



$M_w = 6.7 - 7.1$ in 1 week to 1 month

M_w=7.8 in 1 day (Linde & Sacks 2002)



Kinematics



Slow slip can be **identified** & **characterized** (using seismicity + GPS + deformation data)

Dynamics



What causes this transient slow slip?



Cubas et al. (2015)





Swarms of Marsan et al. (2013) (excluding the outer-rise swarms)

Marsan et al. (2013)



Large co-seismic slip, large stress drop





Ikari et al. (2015)

Slow slip at shallow depth in subduction zones :

- Trigger swarms
- Can repeat over many years
- Near large coupling gradients
- Can trigger intermediate (M7.3) and megathrust (M9.0) earthquakes
- Could mark low friction zones (\Rightarrow high tsunamigenic hazard)