

Scaling of characterized slip models for plate-boundary earthquakes

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We characterized source rupture models with heterogeneous slip of plate-boundary earthquakes in the Japan region. The slip models are inferred from strong-motion, teleseismic, geodetic, or tsunami records. For the identification of asperities in the slip models, we found that the area of subfaults retrieved with slips of >1.5 times the total average slip provides a size approximately equivalent to the characterized asperity by Somerville *et al.* (1999). We then carried out regression analyses of the size and slip for the rupture area and asperity. The obtained scaling relationship to the seismic moment indicates that rupture area S , average slip D , and combined area of asperities S_a are 1.4, 0.4, and 1.2 times larger, respectively, than those of crustal earthquakes. In contrast, the ratios of the size and slip between the asperities and rupture area (S_a/S and D'_a/D) are the same for plate-boundary earthquakes as for crustal earthquakes. The above analyses indicate that plate-boundary and crustal earthquakes share similar source characteristics.

Key words: Plate-boundary earthquake, asperity, source characterization, source inversion, source scaling.

1. Introduction

Scaling properties of heterogeneous slip distributions provide essential information on the physics of earthquake source. Recent studies have clarified systematic features of earthquake source via the scaling of slip distributions (Somerville *et al.*, 1999; Mai and Beroza, 2000) or via slip complexity (Mai and Beroza, 2002; Lavallee and Archuleta, 2003). Waveform inversions and strong motion simulations show that asperities within the rupture area control the ground motion characteristics. Therefore, quantitative estimation of the size and slip of the asperities is important to source modeling for ground motion prediction.

Somerville *et al.* (1999) examined asperities inferred from long-period seismograms, collecting slip models of 15 crustal earthquakes, and estimated the size and slip for the asperities as well as rupture area. The authors then derived the scaling relationships of asperity area and total rupture area to the seismic moment. Miyakoshi (2002) added seven slip models to this dataset, including crustal earthquakes in Japan and the 1999 Izmit and 1999 Chi-Chi earthquakes. These models were in good agreement with the scaling relationship of Somerville *et al.* (1999).

Beresnev and Atkinson (2001a, b) examined asperities based on short-period seismograms by determining the subfault size of 25 crustal earthquakes and the 1985 Michoacan earthquake using ground motions with high-frequency recordings. Miyake *et al.* (2003) also used broadband ground motions to determine the strong motion generation areas of 12 crustal earthquakes in Japan using the empirical

Green's function method. The above analyses indicate that the subfault size or strong motion generation area of a moderate crustal earthquake is equivalent to the combined area of the asperities and follows a scaling law similar to that described by Somerville *et al.* (1999). A characterized source model that consists of rupture area and asperities works well for broadband ground motion prediction (e.g., Miyake *et al.*, 2003); however, quantitative estimation of the size and slip of asperities is mostly limited to crustal events.

In terms of plate-boundary earthquakes, the pioneering work of Kanamori and Anderson (1975) revealed the macroscopic source scaling of the rupture area to the seismic moment. The influence of slip heterogeneities, which cannot be ignored in the prediction of strong ground motion within a subduction zone, has not yet been thoroughly investigated except by Somerville *et al.* (2002). Japan is surrounded by plate boundaries, and large numbers of source inversions of subduction-zone earthquakes are performed. Recent studies of plate-boundary earthquakes have reported that significant asperities have ruptured repeatedly over time (e.g., Nagai *et al.*, 2001; Okada *et al.*, 2003; Yamanaka and Kikuchi, 2003, 2004). This feature of the asperities may help to advance source modeling of plate-boundary earthquakes.

The objective of this study is to perform source characterization of inverted heterogeneous slip models for plate-boundary earthquakes in the Japan region. We estimate the source scaling and stress drop of plate-boundary and crustal earthquakes and investigate the source properties of two different classes of earthquakes.

2. Characterizing Slip Models

We collected published slip models of 26 plate-boundary earthquakes that occurred from 1923 to 2003 (Table 1), where the moment magnitudes range from M_w 6.7–8.4.

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Table 1. Fault parameters retrieved from the heterogeneous slip models*.

No.	Earthquake	Reference	data	M_0 (N m)	M_w	S (km ²)	S_a (km ²)	S'_a (km ²)	S_a/S	D (m)	D'_a (m)	D'_a/D	$\Delta\sigma$ (MPa)
1.	2003 Tokachi-oki	Yamanaka and Kikuchi (2003)	T	1.0e+21	8.0	8800	3100	3200	0.35	2.05	3.78	1.84	3.0
2.	2003 Tokachi-oki	Honda <i>et al.</i> (2004)	S	2.9e+21	8.3	22400	3100	4800	0.14	2.41	4.64	1.93	2.1
3.	2003 Tokachi-oki	Koketsu <i>et al.</i> (2004)	S, G	2.2e+21	8.2	12000	1500	1700	0.13	3.09	5.54	1.79	4.1
4.	2003 Tokachi-oki	Tanioka <i>et al.</i> (2004)	Tu	1.0e+21	8.0	9600	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.53	N/A	N/A	2.6
5.	2003 Tokachi-oki	Yagi (2004)	S, T	1.7e+21	8.1	22100	5700	4900	0.26	1.46	3.44	2.36	1.3
6.	1996 Hyuga-nada Oct.	Yagi <i>et al.</i> (1999)	S, G	2.3e+19	6.8	1032	128	153.5	0.12	0.54	1.37	2.54	1.7
7.	1996 Hyuga-nada Dec.	Yagi <i>et al.</i> (1999)	S, G	1.5e+19	6.7	853	179	153.5	0.21	0.42	0.92	2.19	1.5
8.	1994 Sanriku-haruka-oki	Tanioka <i>et al.</i> (1996)	Tu, G	3.1e+20	7.6	9000	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.89	N/A	N/A	0.9
9.	1994 Sanriku-haruka-oki	Nakayama and Takeo (1997)	S	4.0e+20	7.7	17000	5200	4600	0.31	0.64	1.66	2.59	0.4
10.	1994 Sanriku-haruka-oki	Nagai <i>et al.</i> (2001)	S, T	4.4e+20	7.7	15400	2800	2800	0.18	0.71	1.93	2.72	0.6
11.	1993 Hokkaido-nansei-oki	Tanioka <i>et al.</i> (1995)	Tu, G	4.9e+20	7.7	4440	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.15	N/A	N/A	4.0
12.	1993 Hokkaido-nansei-oki	Mendoza and Fukuyama (1996)	S, T	3.4e+20	7.6	13300	2800	2600	0.21	0.65	2.60	4.00	0.5
13.	1983 Nihonkai-chubu	Fukuyama and Irigura (1986)	S	3.0e+20	7.6	2700	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.17	N/A	N/A	5.2
14.	1968 Hyuga-nada	Yagi <i>et al.</i> (1998)	T	2.5e+20	7.5	4536	1377	1053	0.30	1.32	2.90	2.20	2.0
15.	1968 Tokachi-oki	Nagai <i>et al.</i> (2001)	S, T	3.5e+21	8.3	31200	6800	5600	0.22	2.31	5.49	2.38	1.5
16.	1946 Nankai	Satake (1993)	Tu, G	3.9e+21	8.3	59400	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.32	N/A	N/A	0.7
17.	1946 Nankai	Kato and Ando (1997)	Tu, G	4.0e+21	8.3	54000	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.47	N/A	N/A	0.8
18.	1946 Nankai	Tanioka and Satake (2001a)	Tu	5.3e+21	8.4	52650	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.98	N/A	N/A	1.1
19.	1946 Nankai	Baba <i>et al.</i> (2002)	Tu	4.9e+21	8.4	52650	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.87	N/A	N/A	1.0
20.	1944 Tonankai	Satake (1993)	Tu, G	2.0e+21	8.1	48600	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.84	N/A	N/A	0.5
21.	1944 Tonankai	Kato and Ando (1997)	Tu, G	2.8e+21	8.2	43200	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.28	N/A	N/A	0.8
22.	1944 Tonankai	Tanioka and Satake (2001b)	Tu	2.0e+21	8.1	42525	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.93	N/A	N/A	0.6
23.	1944 Tonankai	Ichinose <i>et al.</i> (2003)	S, T	2.4e+21	8.2	30800	4000	4800	0.13	1.05	1.78	1.70	1.1
24.	1944 Tonankai	Kikuchi <i>et al.</i> (2003)	S	1.0e+21	7.9	11200	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.36	N/A	N/A	2.1
25.	1923 Kanto	Wald and Somerville (1995)	T, G	7.6e+20	7.9	9100	2340	2210	0.26	2.54	5.60	2.20	2.1
26.	1923 Kanto	Kobayashi and Koketsu (2005)	S, T, G	1.1e+21	8.0	9100	2210	1690	0.24	3.97	7.78	1.96	3.1

*T: teleseismic data, S: strong motion data, G: geodetic data, Tu: tsunami data, M_0 : seismic moment, M_w : moment magnitude, S : rupture area, S_a : combined area of asperities retrieved by the procedure of Somerville *et al.* (1999), S'_a : combined area of asperities retrieved by the procedure in this study, D : average slip in S , D'_a : average slip in S'_a , $\Delta\sigma$: average stress drop for the rupture area.

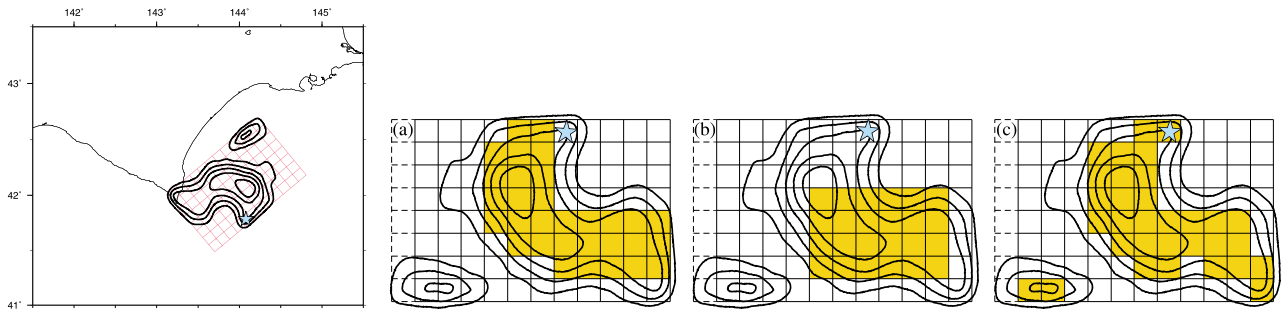


Fig. 1. Asperities (shadow zones) identified from Yamanaka and Kikuchi's (2003) slip models of the 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake using the (a) column-wise and (b) row-wise procedures of Somerville *et al.* (1999). (c) is from the procedure of this study. Stars indicate hypocenters.

Slip models were constructed by waveform inversions of strong-motion or teleseismic data, or by source inversions of geodetic or tsunami data. Joint inversions are adopted to more than half of models to explain geophysical data as much as possible.

We characterized the heterogeneous slip models following the procedure of Somerville *et al.* (1999) and trimmed and extracted the rupture area and asperities as large slip areas. The obtained fault parameters are listed in Table 1. In some slip models, we failed to characterize asperities because of rough mesh or strong smoothing (see N/A in Table 1).

3. Identification of Asperities

To characterize asperities, Somerville *et al.* (1999) noted that “An asperity is initially defined to enclose fault elements whose slip is 1.5 or more times larger than the average slip over the fault and was subdivided if any row or column has an average slip less than 1.5 times the average slip. The asperity is then trimmed until all of the edges have an average slip equal to or larger than 1.25 times the slip averaged over the entire rupture area”. However, plate-boundary earthquakes are so large that they have two or more asperities in the rupture area, and the size and shape of the asperities vary significantly. For asperities of complex shape, the procedure of Somerville *et al.* (1999) can generate contrasting solutions depending upon whether we start with row-wise or column-wise operations. Figure 1(a) and (b) illustrates this situation for the Yamanaka and Kikuchi (2003) slip model of the 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake. In the case of multiple solutions, we mostly make subjective selection of the best solution based on our knowledge of the earthquake. This subjective selection generally works well and produces a reasonable value for the combined area of asperities; however, resultant rectangles are sometimes a poor fit to the actual shapes of the asperities. It is even possible that subfaults composed of the largest slip are not recognized within an asperity.

To avoid such a subjective bias in the identification of asperities, we propose to retrieve subfaults with slip >1.5 times larger than the average slip over the entire rupture area. The results of this retrieval for the 2003 Tokachi-oki earthquake are shown in Fig. 1(c). The obtained asperity area better represents the actual shape of the zone of large slip than those in Fig. 1(a) and (b). S_a and S'_a in Table 1 show the resultant combined area of asperities identified by

Somerville *et al.*'s (1999) procedure and our method, respectively. We checked the validity for recent well-recorded earthquakes (1994–2003) in Table 1. The zones of slips that are >1.5 times larger than the average slip occupy almost the same area as that of the rectangular asperities characterized by the procedure of Somerville *et al.* (1999).

4. Source Scaling

We carried out regression analyses of the obtained fault parameters for the plate-boundary earthquakes listed in Table 1, where the moment magnitudes range from M_w 6.7–8.4. We compared fault parameters with those for crustal earthquakes of M_w 5.8–7.6 summarized by Somerville *et al.* (1999) and Miyakoshi (2002).

The relationship between rupture area S (km²) and seismic moment M_0 (N m) fitting the slope 2/3 is

$$S = 1.48 \times 10^{-10} M_0^{2/3}, \quad (1)$$

which is shown in Fig. 2(a). Comparison of Eq. (1) with the relationship provided by Somerville *et al.* (1999) indicates that the estimated rupture area of a plate-boundary earthquake is 1.4 times larger than that of a crustal earthquake. We next analyzed the average slip D (m) over the total rupture area as a function of seismic moment M_0 (N m), constraining the slope to 1/3 (Fig. 2(b)).

$$D = 1.48 \times 10^{-7} M_0^{1/3}. \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) indicates that the estimated average slip of a plate-boundary earthquake is approximately half that of the crustal earthquakes determined by Somerville *et al.* (1999). The greater rigidity of the plate-boundary earthquake as well as the slightly larger rupture area act to decrease the average slip.

The scaling law of combined area of asperities S_a (km²) to seismic moment M_0 (N m) with the slope of 2/3 is

$$S_a = 2.89 \times 10^{-11} M_0^{2/3}, \quad (3)$$

which is shown in Fig. 2(c). The estimated combined area of asperities of a plate-boundary earthquake is 1.2 times larger than that of the crustal earthquakes determined by Somerville *et al.* (1999). As this factor of 1.2 is almost the same as the above factor of 1.4 for rupture area, the S_a/S of plate-boundary and crustal earthquakes—20 and 22%, respectively—are also similar (Fig. 2(d)).

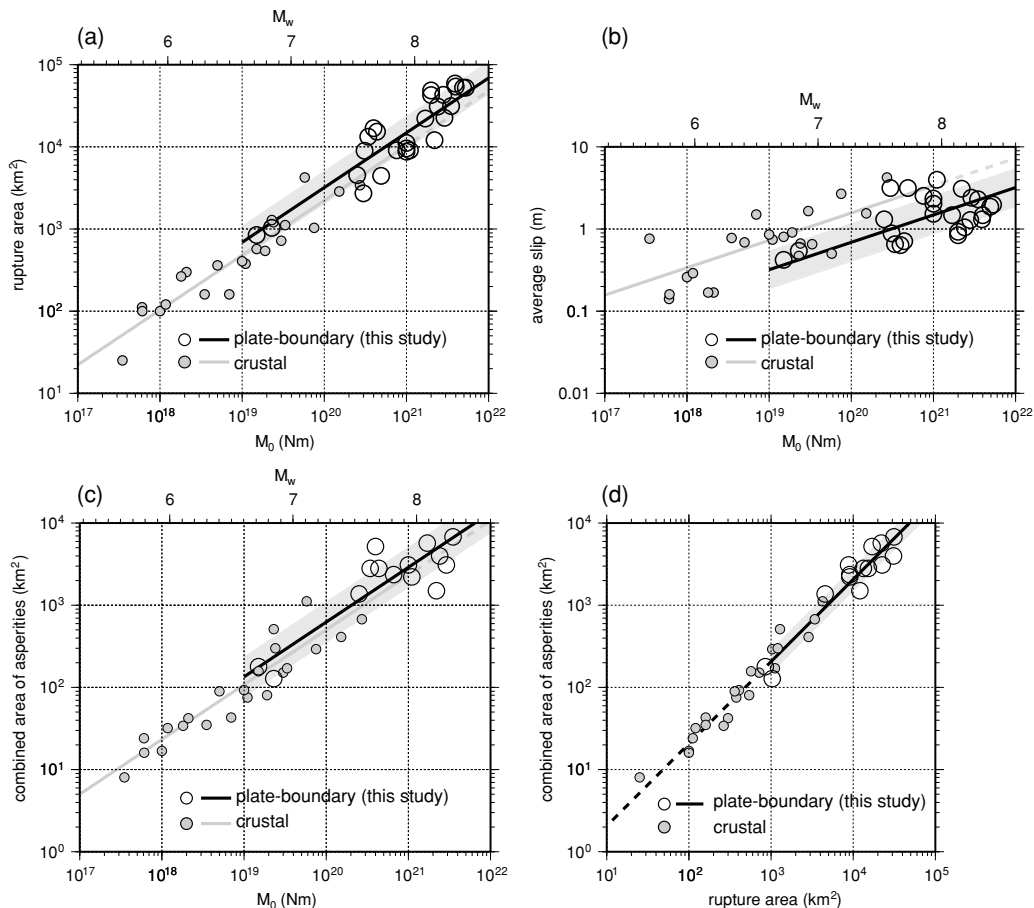


Fig. 2. Scaling relationships of (a) rupture area, (b) average slip, and (c) combined area of asperities with respect to the seismic moment. (d) Relationship between combined area of asperities and rupture area. Shadow zones indicate standard deviations of (a) 1.61, (b) 1.72, (c) 1.78, and (d) 1.41.

We then compared the average slip of asperities D'_a (m) to the total average slip D (m). Note that D'_a is calculated only for recent well-recorded earthquakes (1994–2003) in Table 1. This comparison yields the relationship

$$D'_a = 2.2D. \quad (4)$$

The factor of 2.2 derived from Eq. (4) is similar to the factor of 2.01 for crustal earthquakes determined by Somerville *et al.* (1999).

The scaling relationships for rupture area and average slip lead to an average stress drop $\Delta\sigma$ of 1.4 MPa, assuming a circular crack (Eshelby, 1957). This is 61% of 2.3 MPa, which was calculated for a crustal earthquake in Somerville *et al.* (1999). Kanamori and Anderson (1975) and Yamanaka and Shimazaki (1990) derived $\Delta\sigma$ values of 3.0 and 4.9 MPa, respectively, from homogeneous slip models of inter-plate earthquakes. The estimated stress drops in this study are smaller than those estimated for homogeneous slip models. As homogeneous and heterogeneous slip models generally provide similar estimates of seismic moment, heterogeneous slip models in this study may have a larger rupture area that produces a smaller stress drop.

5. Conclusions

We collected the heterogeneous slip models of plate-boundary earthquakes in the Japan region and investigated their systematic features and source scaling. As a method

of identifying asperities in a slip model, we found that the retrieval of the subfaults with slip values >1.5 times larger than the total average slip provides a good fit for complex asperities of a plate-boundary earthquake. The obtained size of combined asperities is close to that determined using the procedure of Somerville *et al.* (1999).

The scaling relationships of the resultant rupture area S and combined area of asperities S_a to seismic moment indicate that S and S_a of the plate-boundary earthquakes are respectively 1.4 and 1.2 times larger than those of the crustal earthquakes, while the ratio S_a/S is similar in both studies at approximately 20%. The total average slip D of the plate-boundary earthquakes is about a half of that of the crustal earthquakes, while the ratio of D and slip averaged in asperities D'_a is similar in both studies, at approximately two. Therefore, regarding the area of fault covered by asperities and the average asperity slip contrast, plate-boundary and crustal earthquakes share the similar source characteristics. This similarity comes from the fact that none of fault length, width, and slip values are saturated in the moment range for our dataset of plate-boundary earthquakes.

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