

Volume change of the magma reservoir relating to the 2011 Kirishima Shinmoe-dake eruption—Charging, discharging and recharging process inferred from GPS measurements

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(Received November 20, 2012; Revised May 28, 2013; Accepted May 29, 2013; Online published July 8, 2013)

Using GPS data, we evaluate the volume change of the magma reservoir associated with the eruption of Kirishima Shinmoe-dake volcano, southern Kyushu, Japan, in 2011. Because ground deformation around Shinmoe-dake volcano is strongly affected not only by regional tectonic movement but also by inflation of Sakurajima volcano located approximately 30–40 km to the southwest, we first eliminate these unwanted contributions from the observed data to extract the signals from Shinmoe-dake volcano. Then, we estimate the source locations and volume change before, during, and after the highest eruptive activity occurring between January 26 and 31. Our model shows that the magma began to accumulate about one year prior to the sub-Plinian eruption, with approximately 65% of the accumulated magma being discharged during the peak of the eruptive activity, and that magma accumulation continued until the end of November 2011. An error analysis shows that the sources during the three periods indicated above are located in almost the same position: 5 km to the northwest of the summit at a depth of 8 km. The 95% confidence interval of the estimated source depth is from 7.5 to 13.7 km.

Key words: Magma reservoir, GPS observation, ground deformation, the 2011 Kirishima Shinmoe-dake eruption.

1. Introduction

Shinmoe-dake volcano is a part of the Kirishima volcano group located in southern Kyushu, Japan, and is one of the most active volcanoes in the group. Prior to the 2011 eruption, phreatic explosions occurred in August 2008, and March, April, May, June, and July, 2010. A series of magmatic eruptions started on January 19, 2011, with a phreatomagmatic eruption with a trace of juvenile magma (Suzuki *et al.*, 2013b). This was the first major eruption since the 1716–1717 eruption that evolved from a phreatic to a magmatic eruption (Imura and Kobayashi, 1991). A sub-Plinian eruption started in the afternoon of January 26, 2011 (local time), and two other sub-Plinian eruptions occurred, one at midnight and one in the afternoon of January 27. After the eruptions, lava started to be extruded through the conduit, and accumulated inside the summit crater between January 29 and January 31. Tiltmeters installed around the volcano showed that significant ground deflation started on January 26 and ended on 31 (Japan Meteorological Agency: JMA,

2011). The activity was most explosive during these six days, and we define this activity as the “climax event” in this paper. Vulcanian eruptions followed the climax event and lasted until September 2011. A detailed chronology of the eruptions is given by Nakada *et al.* (2013).

The volcano edifice started to inflate about a year prior to the climax event (GSI, 2011). At the same time, seismicity around the Kirishima volcano group increased and was maintained at an elevated level (JMA, 2011). To monitor the magma accumulation process, we installed GPS sites before the climax event, and added some sites after the event. In this paper, we infer the volume change of the magma reservoir associated with the 2011 Kirishima Shinmoe-dake eruption from GPS data. We processed all available dual-frequency GPS data around Shinmoe-dake volcano and detected the inflation and deflation processes before, during and after the climax event. Details of the data processing are shown in Section 2. To extract precisely the volcanic deformation which originated from Shinmoe-dake, we needed to pay close attention to the ground deformation of tectonic origin and that which originated from a nearby volcano, details of which will be described in Section 3. In Section 4, we estimate the source location and the volume change as well as their uncertainties before, during,

Table 1. GPS sites used in this study.

Station name	Location (latitude, longitude, altitude)			Available data
950485* ¹	32.05750	130.59782	215.733	Whole period
960714* ¹	32.04772	130.86563	287.376	Whole period
950486* ¹	31.85553	130.75967	254.584	Whole period
021087* ¹	31.87780	130.97694	400.700	Whole period
021089* ¹	31.74378	130.73569	54.561	Whole period
970837* ¹	31.82406	130.59959	314.664	Whole period
950481* ¹	31.96505	131.07857	215.905	Whole period
109078* ¹	31.99280	130.81976	519.566	after February 3, 2011
KRMV* ²	31.93004	130.81007	971.709	after April 9, 2010
KRHV* ²	31.92970	130.93938	694.518	after April 10, 2010
KVO* ³	31.94731	130.83908	1229.858	after June 21, 2007
KKCD* ³	31.98165	130.90240	539.282	after October 6, 2010
YMNK* ³	31.95613	130.95296	335.800	after March 2, 2007
KRSP* ³	31.84888	130.86256	394.107	after April 20, 2007
YOSG* ³	32.01019	130.76512	363.642	after August 15, 2010
KRNO* ³	31.95298	130.72569	228.128	after January 31, 2011
KRYK* ³	31.94047	130.77867	753.644	after February 8, 2011
MNZS* ³	31.90185	130.74884	224.703	after January 29, 2011
TKCH* ³	31.88531	130.81902	553.972	after January 31, 2011

*¹ Stations operated by GSI.

*² Stations operated by NIED.

*³ Stations operated by universities.

and after the climax event using the GPS data corrected using the method described in Section 3. Then we compare the model estimated in this study with geological insights and petrological analyses of melt inclusion of the lava and ash emitted during the climax event.

2. Observations and Data Analysis

In southern Kyushu, GSI installed dual-frequency GNSS receivers as a part of a nationwide GNSS network (GEONET) (e.g., Sagiya, 2004) with an average spacing of around 20 km, which provides RINEX formatted data to researchers online. Because most of the stations were constructed prior to 2002, we can analyze long-term ground deformation in relation to volcanic activity in southern Kyushu. In addition, the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED) constructed two GPS stations at points several kilometers away from the summit of Shinmoe-dake volcano in 2010. Furthermore, researchers at various universities installed five GPS stations around the volcano before the eruption and added six stations after the climax event. At all the stations mentioned above, dual-frequency phase data are recorded continuously at a sampling interval of 30 seconds. The locations of these GPS stations are shown in Fig. 1 and Table 1.

We combined all available dual-frequency GPS data surrounding Shinmoe-dake volcano, and estimated the daily positions of each station using Bernese GPS Software Ver. 5.0 with the Bernese Processing Engine (Dach *et al.*, 2007). We used the International GNSS Service for Geodynamics (IGS) precise ephemerides and the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) Earth rotation parameters (Altamimi *et al.*, 2011). The coordinates of the GPS sites were estimated with respect to ITRF2008 (Altamimi *et al.*, 2011). We also estimated tropospheric

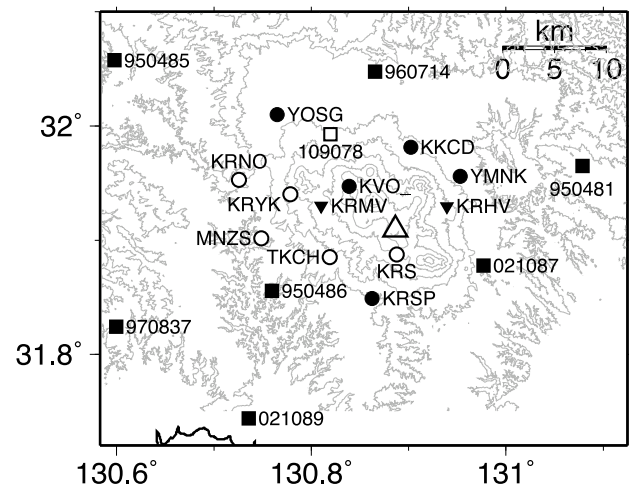


Fig. 1. Distribution of continuous GPS sites used in this study. Solid and open symbols represent stations installed before and after the climax eruption, respectively. Circles, inverse triangles and squares indicate that the stations are operated by universities, NIED, and GSI, respectively. The large open triangle shows the location of the summit of Shinmoe-dake volcano.

delays every hour and their horizontal gradients every six hours to improve the accuracies of the station coordinates. The correction of tropospheric delay is important because rainfalls are abundant and humidity is high in the area from June to the first half of August. We used the mapping function by Boehm *et al.* (2006), which is based on a numerical weather model.

Table 3. Optimum location with 95% confidence intervals of the pressure source for the period before, during and after the climax event.

Period	Latitude (deg.)	Longitude (deg.)	Depth (km)	Volume (10^6 m^3)
(Inflation process before the climax event)				
2010 Aug. 20–	31.932N	130.830E	9.18	7.92
2011 Jan. 25	(31.923–31.940)	(130.814–130.845)	(7.49–13.66)	(5.80–14.49)
(Deflation process during the climax event)				
2011 Jan. 15–	31.942N	130.831E	8.35	–13.35
2011 Feb. 11	(31.934–31.946)	(130.825–130.840)	(7.36–10.84)	(–10.42––17.69)
(Inflation process after the climax event)				
2011 Feb. 25–	31.937N	130.829E	8.18	10.17
2011 Nov. 25	(31.926–31.942)	(130.824–130.842)	(7.09–9.88)	(7.96–13.82)

pling (Fig. 5) and the slow inflation of Sakurajima volcano (Fig. 7). The ground deformation caused by these two factors during the period would be smaller than the example shown in Fig. 8. Nevertheless, we emphasize that we need to remove these unwanted displacement components.

4. Volume Change of the Magma Reservoir beneath Shinmoe-dake Volcano

From the temporal changes of the corrected baseline shown in Fig. 2(b), we can infer the entire process of accumulation and discharge of magma related to the 2011 Kirishima Shinmoe-dake eruption. Here, we use the GPS data corrected using the model mentioned in the previous section. The volcano inflated slowly before the climax event, it deflated rapidly during the climax event, and then inflated again after the event. In this study, we divide the period of activity into three parts: (1) inflation period prior to the climax event, from the beginning of inflation (the end of December 2009) to just before the sub-Plinian eruption (January 25, 2011); (2) the deflation period during the climax event, from the beginning of the sub-Plinian eruption (January 26, 2011) to the time when magma extrusion to the summit crater terminated (January 31, 2011); and (3) the secondary inflation period after the climax event, from February 1 to the end of November when the inflation stopped. We estimated the source location and volume change during the three periods, independently.

We model the deformation field assuming a single isotropic source, or the Mogi source (Mogi, 1958), embedded in an elastic, isotropic, and homogenous half space. These assumptions might be too simple and unrealistic. For example, the subsurface structure is layered, and the magma reservoir is not a point. Nevertheless, considering the limited number of stations, we did not introduce a complex source model and realistic underground structure.

We calculated the temporal evolution of three-dimensional ground deformation by computing averages over the first 10 days and the last 10 days of the time window, and subtracted the latter from the former. We defined the uncertainty as a standard deviation of the estimated positions. The time windows were selected so that the number of available stations was maximized, because the GPS data were sometimes lost due to electric power failures at the sites. We also checked the quality of the data within the specified time window. Finally, we selected the periods listed in Table 3. Using the simulated annealing inversion

method (Kirkpatrick *et al.*, 1983), we estimated the source location and volume change for the three periods. We weighted the data according to the uncertainties, which were 1 mm or less for the horizontal components and 3–5 mm for the vertical component. We took the differential displacement for all the station pairs to eliminate the effect of uniform deformation over the whole network. Because the tectonic deformation and the inflation generated by Sakurajima volcano vary spatially (see Fig. 8), we obtained different results with different reference sites even after the data were corrected as described in the previous section.

Firstly, we show the source location after the climax event, because we can use many GPS stations to estimate it. Then, we show the source location before the climax event, for which we can use fewer GPS stations. Figures 9(a) and (b) compare the observed and calculated displacements after the climax event. The star is the location of the pressure source. The observed horizontal displacements are radial from the estimated source location and fit well with the calculations (see Fig. 9(a)). This pattern is consistent with an isotropic point source. Figure 9(b) shows that large uplifts are observed just above the source, which is also consistent with the point source model. Figures 9(c) and (d) show displacements and the source location before the climax event. There are fewer GPS stations before the climax event (Figs. 9(c) and (d)) than after the climax event (Figs. 9(a) and (b)), but their azimuthal coverage around the source is good, so the horizontal location of the source prior to the climax event was also constrained well. However, the depth was not so well constrained as the source after the climax event.

We also evaluated errors in the estimated parameters (the source location and the volume change) using the bootstrap method (e.g., Wang and Taguri, 1996). This method is often used for evaluating errors when the statistical properties of the observation errors are not well known. We calculated the residuals between the observed and calculated displacements derived from a best-fit model, and added randomly re-sampled residuals to form an artificial dataset. We then performed the same inversion using the artificial dataset. We repeated the inversion 500 times and checked the probability distribution of the estimated parameters, which represents the uncertainties and trade-offs between parameters (Wang and Taguri, 1996). Figure 10 shows the correlation between the estimated source location and volume change for the period after the climax event, exhibiting a distinct

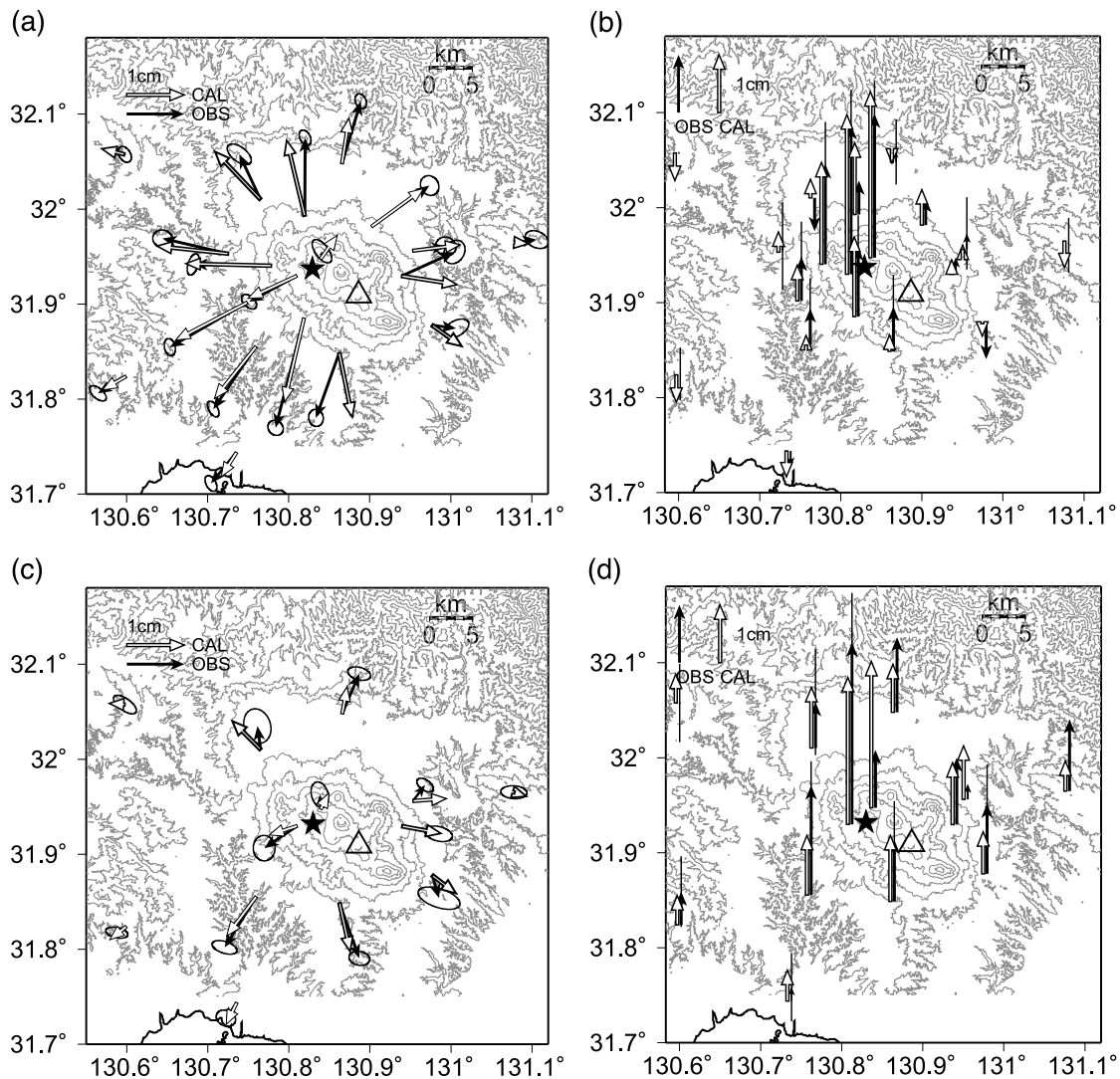


Fig. 9. (a) Observed (solid arrows) and calculated (open arrows) displacements after the climax event. The location of a spherical inflation source is depicted by a star. The ellipsoids at the tips of solid arrows indicate observation errors. The scale is shown in the upper left of the figure. (b) Vertical displacements. Thin lines show observation errors. (c) Same as (a), before the climax event. (d) Same as (b), before the climax event.

trade-off between the estimated source depth and volume change. At the same time, almost no trade-offs are seen between other parameters. We also find similar trade-offs between the source depth and volume change in the models of other periods (Fig. 11).

Figure 12 shows the distribution of the source depths derived from the bootstrap analysis, indicating that the source depth is estimated at 8–9 km as the optimum value. Figure 13 depicts the horizontal location of the sources during the three periods derived by the bootstrap analysis. All three sources are located close to each other approximately 5 km to the northwest of the Shinmoe-dake summit. The detailed source locations and volume changes are summarized in Table 3 as optimum values and their 95% confidence intervals. The addition of GPS stations after the climax event reduced uncertainties.

Accumulation and the discharge rate of magma are important parameters that control whether an eruption is explosive or effusive. Table 4 shows that the total magma accumulation before the climax event is $21 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ and that the accumulation rate is $0.6 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$. During the climax erup-

tion, the total volume of magma extrusion is $13 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ at a rate of $25.8 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$, and the total accumulation after the eruption is about $11 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ at a rate of $0.4 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$. These values are based on several assumptions such as simplified source geometry and material. Therefore, although the estimated values can safely be used for comparisons within the three periods, it is inappropriate to compare them with the actual quantity of the erupted magma without any consideration of the limitations of the assumptions used here. This will be discussed in the next section in detail. Also note that the temporal resolution of GPS data is low, and so the estimated rates of volume changes just represent temporal averages. Rapid temporal variation of the discharge rate during a climax event has been demonstrated by Kozono *et al.* (2013) using high time-resolution tilt data, but it is impossible with our GPS data.

5. Discussion

Several phreatic explosions were observed prior to the sub-Plinian eruption in January 2011, the largest of which occurred on August 22, 2008 (Geshi *et al.*, 2010). Figure

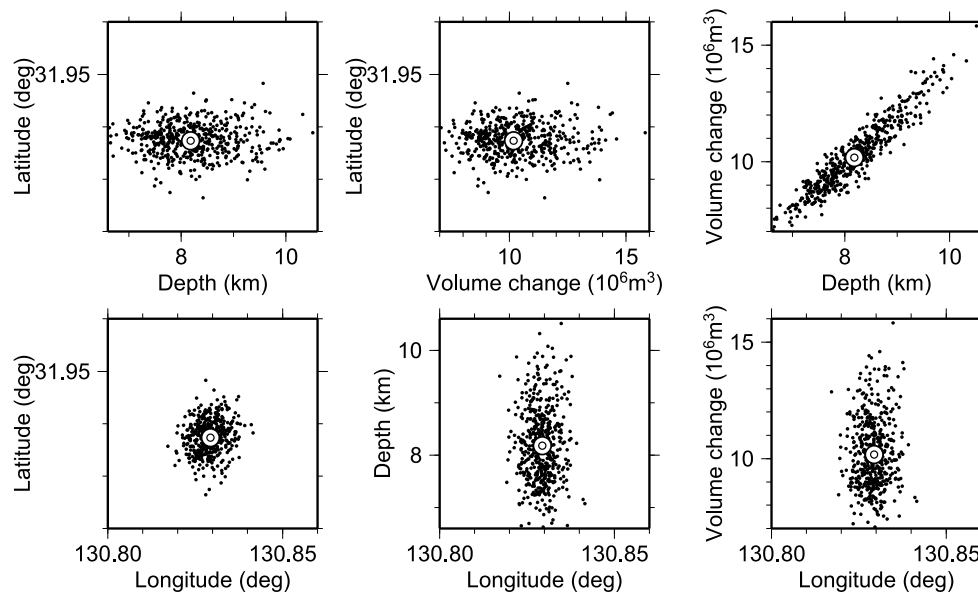


Fig. 10. Trade-offs between estimated source parameters for the period after the climax event. The open double circle shows the best fit model. Dots indicate estimates of bootstrap tests. Estimated source volume and depth have a strong trade-off, while other parameters show little correlation.

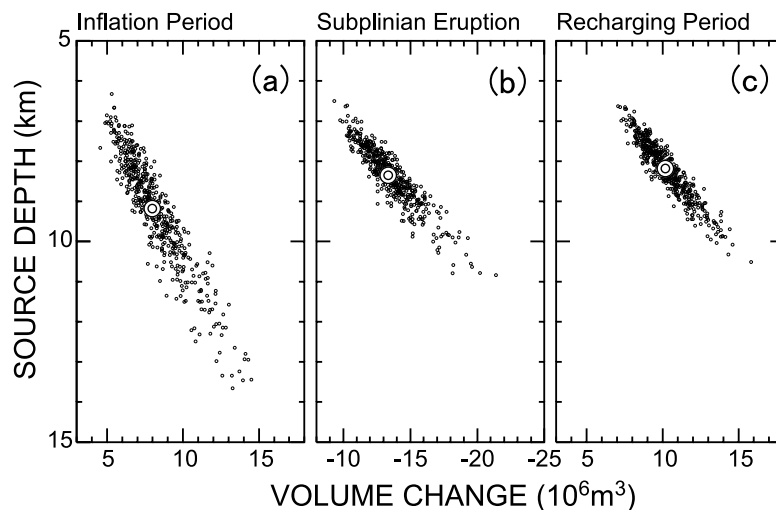


Fig. 11. Trade-offs between estimated source depth and volume change for the period before, during and after the climax event. Double open circles show the values of the optimum model and dots represent estimates of bootstrap tests.

Table 4. Estimated total volume and accumulation or discharging rate of magma for the period before, during and after the climax event and their 95% confidence intervals.

Period	Time interval (days)	Total volume (10^6 m^3)	Accumulation rate in average (m^3/s)
(Inflation process before the climax event)			
From Dec. 25, 2009	396	20.6	0.60
Till Jan. 25, 2011		(15.1–37.7)	(0.44–1.10)
(Deflation process during the climax event)			
From Jan. 26, 2011	6	13.4	25.8
Till Jan. 31, 2011		(10.42–17.69)	(20.1–34.1)
(Inflation process after the climax event)			
From Feb. 2, 2011	297	11.2	0.43
Till Nov. 25, 2011		(8.6–15.0)	(0.33–0.58)

2(b) indicates that the magma was not stored in the reservoir estimated here prior to the 2008 eruption. On the other hand, Takagi *et al.* (2011) found an inflation source localized near the summit of Shinmoe-dake between 2006 and

2008 from the data of three single-frequency continuous GPS stations (installed by JMA) within 2 km from the summit of Shinmoe-dake volcano and four campaign GPS sites on the rim of the summit crater. The source location was es-

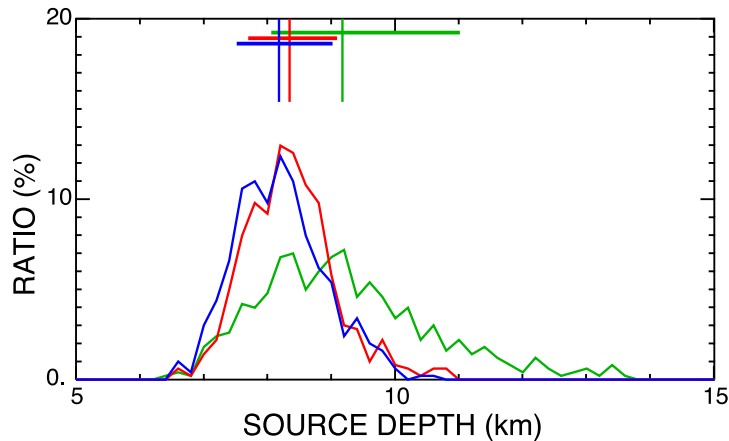


Fig. 12. Probability distribution of the estimated source depths derived from bootstrap tests. The optimum depths are shown as vertical lines with ranges of standard deviations as horizontal lines. The green, red and blue curves show the distribution of the estimated depths before, during and after the climax event, respectively.

estimated as being several hundred meters beneath the summit, indicating that the pressure source at a shallow depth may also have been inflated during the 2011 eruption. However, the GPS network used in this study is sparse and cannot detect the inflation of magma sources in shallow depths close to the summit crater. Our results do not rule out the presence of shallow and small magma sources during the 2011 eruption. Joint analysis of regional GPS sites used in this study and those installed close to the summit crater is required to reveal the more detailed process of the eruption to address the behavior of the shallow source.

In this study, we assumed that the source is an isotropic point source embedded in a homogenous and elastic half-space. The real magma reservoir is not an infinitesimal sphere, and the crust has heterogeneous and layered structures. Many previous studies have tried to model ground deformation by using a complex source geometry (e.g., Hashimoto and Tada, 1988; Segall *et al.*, 2001; Ueda *et al.*, 2005), or heterogeneous crustal structures (e.g., De Natale and Pingue, 1993; Fernandez and Rundle, 1994; Trasatti *et al.*, 2003). We acknowledge that the models used in this study are too simple to represent real phenomena, the limited station distribution does not allow us to introduce a complex source model or heterogeneous crustal structure. Here, we just show how our results will change by assuming a heterogeneous crustal structure. Hautmann *et al.* (2010) estimated the effect of a realistic underground structure using a finite-element method. Their model involves a single discontinuity and a Young's modulus increasing with depth, which is more realistic than the homogeneous half-space assumed in this study. Hautmann *et al.* (2010) showed that the source depth tends to be underestimated by incorrectly assuming a uniform half-space. This reflects an enhancement of the horizontal component of surface displacement relative to the vertical component caused by the presence of a low-rigidity layer near the ground surface. However, this effect becomes minor if the source depth is greater than around 10 km. Therefore, our study may have underestimated the source depth to some extent, i.e., the source may be deeper than 8 km and volume changes may be larger. However, such differences are not serious, because the esti-

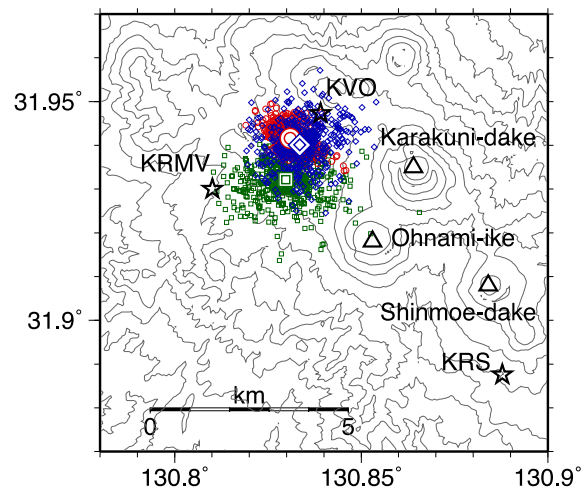


Fig. 13. Bootstrap realizations of horizontal locations of pressure sources for the period before the climax event (green rectangles), during the climax event (red circles) and after the climax event (blue diamonds). The optimum locations are plotted as large open marks. Stars are the locations of GPS sites used in this study.

mated source depth is deep enough.

Nakada *et al.* (2013) estimated the total amount of magma erupted during the climax eruption from the ejected tephra and the volume of lava accumulated in the summit crater. They concluded that the total amount was $21\text{--}27 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ DRE (dense rock equivalent). Our analysis shows that the reservoir deflated $13.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ (with the 95% confidence interval between 10.4 and $17.7 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$), and this is smaller than the magma volume extruded to the surface during the climax event. The ratio of the extruded magma volume to the deflation volume (Rv) is 1.8 ± 0.5 . The value is affected not only by the magma compressibility (Rivalta and Segall, 2008) but also by the shape of the magma reservoir (Amoruso and Crescentini, 2009). Rivalta and Segall (2008) pointed out that the ratio should be greater than one if the magma within the reservoir is compressible. They presented observed facts that $Rv = 3.8 \pm 0.8$ for the 1997 intrusion/eruption at Kilauea volcano, and $Rv = 5 \pm 1$ for

the 2005 dike intrusion at Afar. The value estimated here is smaller than the values mentioned above, and it may reflect the fact that the magma within the reservoir beneath Shinmoe-dake is less compressible than the above cases.

Next, we again discuss the magma source location prior to the climax event. The source depth of 9.2 km prior to the climax event is slightly deeper than those during (8.3 km) and after (8.2 km) this event. Considering the confidence intervals, it cannot be proved that the source depth became shallower after the climax event. Nevertheless, we point out the possibility that the source actually became shallower after the climax event. From petrological analyses of the melt inclusions in lava and ash ejected during the climax eruption, Suzuki *et al.* (2013a) asserted that the eruption involved two separate magma reservoirs: a silicic andesitic magma reservoir as deep as 5 km or so (125 MPa), and a basalt andesitic reservoir as deep as 10 km or so (250 MPa). They demonstrated that a small amount of basalt andesite magma at a high temperature migrated upward and partly melted the silicic andesite magma reservoir prior to the sub-Plinian eruption. This process led to a reduction in viscosity of the silicic andesite magma and gave rise to a sub-Plinian eruption. According to their model, magma accumulated mainly in the deeper part of the reservoir prior to the climax eruption. If the magma recharged in the region where both silicic magma and basalt andesite magma remained after the climax event, the source would have become shallower than the depth prior to the climax event.

6. Conclusions

To understand the relation between magma accumulation and volcanic eruption in the 2011 Kirishima Shinmoe-dake eruption, we analyzed GPS data and evaluated ground inflation and deflation quantitatively. Because the ground deformation near Shinmoe-dake volcano was strongly affected by regional tectonic deformation as well as dilatational deformation generated by Sakurajima volcano, we subtracted these effects from the GPS measurements and reduced the effects from observed GPS data to extract the signals caused by magma emplacement at Shinmoe-dake volcano.

From long-term deformation data, we saw that magma began to accumulate during a one-year period, and was then discharged rapidly over 6 days during the climax event, and was recharged during the post-eruption period of around 10 months. The edifice began to inflate at the end of November 2009 and continued until just before the sub-Plinian eruption. The charging rate was $0.6 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ on average and the total amount of magma reached $21 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$. The estimated location of the reservoir was about 5 km to the northwest of the summit crater of Shinmoe-dake volcano at a depth of 8–9 km. During the climax event, the magma reservoir shrank by $13 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ in volume, which is smaller than the amount of erupted magma volume estimated from geological surveys ($24 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ DRE). This mismatch would reflect the compressible property of magma. The magma was stored again at the same place just after the climax event and the recharging process continued until the end of November. The total amount of the recharged magma was $11 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$, with an average recharging rate of $0.4 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$. Using the bootstrap method, the source location for the three periods is

presented with confidence intervals.

Acknowledgments. The authors express great thanks to the anonymous reviewers and the editor whose suggestions were very helpful in improving this manuscript. They pointed out the incompleteness of our analysis. We are also greatly indebted to Prof. Kosuke Heki for improving the manuscript. We are grateful to Dr. Kazuhiko Goto, Mr. Shuichiro Hirano, Mr. Yasuhiro Hirata, and Mr. Masayoshi Ichianagi for helping to construct GPS stations after the sub-Plinian eruption. We are also grateful to Kirishima Primary School, Nation Livestock Breeding Center Miyzaki Station, Kita-Kirishima Cosmo Dome, Takachiho Primary School, Manzen Primary School, Kurino Primary School, and Kirishima Open-air Museum for providing us with the GPS observation sites. We express great thanks to the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention for providing GPS data. We also wish to express our gratitude to Prof. S. Nakada for letting us join the research group of the 2011 Kirishima Shinmoe-dake eruption. This research was supported by MEXT/JSPS KAKENHI grant 22900001.

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