桜島大正溶岩コアを用いた古地磁気強度のテスト測定

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Testing determinations of paleointensity from the Sakurajima Taisho lava drilled core

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During the past decade a number of techniques have been proposed to obtain reliable paleointensity data from volcanic rocks and archeological materials. Volcanic rocks have been generally believed to reliably record ancient magnetic field both in direction and intensity, because their stable and intense remanence was acquired during rapid cooling from the molten state. However, the magnetic properties are quite variable from sample to sample even in a single lava flow. It is hard to expect a single paleointensity technique applicable to any kind of sample with different magnetic properties.

Here we report a pilot study to apply a classical double-heating Thellier paleointenity technique to samples from various lithological units in a single vertical core penetrated into the andesitic Taisho lava erupted in 1914 from the Sakurajima volcano, Japan. The drilled core contains a complete section of the Taisho lava in a length of 27.3 m, which reveals the upper oxidized clinker, the upper massive part, the central vesicular part, the lower massive part and the lower non-oxidized clinker in the vertical order.

To infer the magnetic mineralogy, we performed thermomagnetic analyses and found that the magnetic phase with Curie temperature (Tc) of about 500 deg.C is ubiquitously present in almost all samples. In addition, another phase with Tc^400 deg.C is common and sometimes dominant and also titanohematite was detected in the upper oxidized clinker. The hysteresis properties showed a large dispersion on the Day diagram, but did not seem to have any relation with lithology. Thellier paleointensity experiments with systematic pTRM checks provided linear segments on the Arai diagram with different temperature ranges for about 60% of measured samples. However, only several samples from the upper and lower clinker-massive boundaries did yield paleointensities close to the expected value of 45.7 microT for the Taisho eruption.

This pilot study for the Thellier paleointensity behaviors in relation to lithology implies that whether the Thellier method is applicable or not depends on sample even in a single lava flow with the same rock chemistry. Massive or central porous part, which are volumetrically dominant and easily found in outcrops, are not suitable for Thellier paleointensity experiments. Quenched upper and lower clinkers are sometimes expected to give reliable paleointensities, but this is not necessarily the case.

火山岩と考古試料から信頼性の高い古地磁気強度を得るために過去約10年間に数多くの方法が提案された.火山岩はその安定で強い残留磁化をマグマから冷却される過程で獲得するため,一般的に過去の地球磁場の方向と強度を確実に記録していると考えられている.しかし,磁気的性質は1つの溶岩流の中でも変化を示す.様々な磁気的性質をもつ試料が古地磁気強度測定においてどのような振舞を示すかを系統的にテストする必要がある.

1914年に桜島火山から噴出した安山岩質の大正溶岩の掘削コア試料に,通常のテリエ法を適用したテスト結果を報告する.掘削コアは厚さ27.3mの大正溶岩の完全なセクションを含み,岩相は上から,上部の酸化クリンカ,上部塊状部,中央の発泡部,下部塊状部,下部の非酸化クリンカである.全ての岩相から計64個の試料を得た.

磁性鉱物を推測するために熱磁気分析を行い,約500 のキュリー温度をもつ相が普遍的に含まれることが分かった.キュリー温度が約400 である相を含む試料もあり,またチタノヘマタイトが上部の酸化クリンカに検出された.ヒステリシス特性は Day プロット上で大きな分散を示すが,岩相と明瞭な関係をもっていないようである.pTRM チェック付きのテリエ法は,測定した試料の約60~%がアライ図上で直線に載る温度区間をもつことを示した.しかし,上下のクリンカ-塊状部境界からの試料のみしか,大正噴火時の地球磁場強度である $45.7~\mu$ Tに近い古地磁気強度を示さなかった.

今回の岩相とテリエ法での振舞を関連づけたテスト測定では,テリエ法が適用可能であるか否かは同一の化学組成を持つ単一の溶岩流の中でも異なることがわかった.塊状部や中央の発泡部は体積として圧倒的に大きくテリエ法の測定に使われることが多いが,テリエ法に適しているとは言えない.クリンカは急冷相であるため信頼性の高い古地磁気強度を与えるとしばしば期待されるが,この仮定も必ずしも当てはまらない.