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Magnetic fabric evidence for rapid, characteristic changes in the dynamics of the 2011 Tohokuoki tsunami

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Abstract

Low field anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) and rock magnetic measurements were applied to sediments deposited by the 2011 Tohoku-oki tsunami to reveal the dynamic of the tsunami run-up and the character of the sedimentation along the Misawa coast, Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan.

In the tsunami deposits studied, elongated, coarse-grained, multi-domain titanomagnetite and magnetite minerals were the carriers of the AMS signal.

Two main types of sedimentary environment are described: a higher energy, tangential stressdominated environment with imbrication and traction/rolling transportation and a calmer, postpeak wave environment ruled by gravitational stress.

Rapid characteristic changes in the tsunami dynamics are also described. The tsunami began with erosion of the pre-tsunami surface caused by rapidly increasing energy. Bedload features such as ripple stratification were developed by the repeated accelerations and decelerations of the Download English Version:

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