Observing posteruptive deflation of hydrothermal system using InSAR time series analysis: An application of ALOS-2/PALSAR-2 data on the 2015 phreatic eruption of Hakone volcano, Japan

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Key Points:

- Posteruptive deflation beneath the central cones of Hakone volcano was detected by radar interferometry after the 2015 phreatic eruption

- Our model inversion suggests that deflation of a hydrothermal system confined by a sealing layer beneath the volcano has been taking place

- The hydrothermal system deflation is likely attributable to rupture of the sealing layer and system depressurization due to the eruption

Abstract

From 29 June to 1 July, 2015, a phreatic eruption occurred in Owakudani, the largest fumarole area in Hakone volcano, Japan. In this study, an interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) time series analysis of the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 (ALOS-2)/Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar-2 (PALSAR-2) data was performed to detect posteruptive deflation after the eruption. The results show that the central cones of the volcano have subsided since the eruption and its deflation source is located beneath the previously estimated bell-shaped conductor, which is considered as a sealing layer confining a pressurized hydrothermal reservoir. Therefore, the InSAR results demonstrate the deflation of the hydrothermal system beneath the volcano. One possible cause of this deflation is compaction due to a decrease in pore pressure caused by rupture and fluid migration during and after the eruption.

Plain Language Summary

From 29 June to 1 July, 2015, an eruption occurred in Owakudani, the largest steaming area in Hakone volcano, Japan. Our analysis using satellite radar demonstrates that the central part of Hakone volcano has subsided since the eruption and that the deflation source is located in the reservoir of hot water beneath the volcano. One possible cause of this deflation is compaction due to a pressure drop produced by rupture and fluid migration during and after the eruption.

1 Introduction

Measurements of crustal deformation in volcanic regions play an important role in volcano monitoring. With the recent development of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) technology, posteruptive deflation has been observed after phreatic eruptions in various volcanoes (e.g., Hamling et al., 2016; Himematsu et al., 2020; Narita & Murakami, 2018). Volcanic deflation, which occurs at different temporal and spatial scales, is explained by various factors, such as decreases in pore pressure resulting from fluid migration (e.g., Todesco et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2019) and thermoelastic responses with cooling (e.g., Furuya, 2005; Wang & Aoki, 2019). Constraining the source of posteruptive deflation is important when evaluating the structure and physical properties of hydrothermal systems beneath volcanoes and assessing the risk of future phreatic eruptions and signals during volcanic unrest. However, the relationship between the deflation source and the structure of the hydrothermal system based on preexisting subsurface surveys has not been sufficiently discussed in previous studies. Recent magnetotelluric surveys have revealed the structure of the hydrothermal system beneath Hakone volcano, the focal point of this study, providing an appropriate context within which to discuss this topic.

Hakone is a caldera volcano located approximately 100 km west of Tokyo, the capital of Japan (Figure 1). This volcano has been active for more than 400 ky, and effusive eruptions of andesitic magma in the past 40 ky have formed its central cones (CCs) (e.g., Mts. Kamiyama and Komagatake in Figure 1) (Geological Society of Japan, 2007). Since its latest magmatic eruption (3 ka), several phreatic eruptions have occurred near Owakudani, the largest fumarole area of the volcano, which was formed on the foot of the latest edifice (Kobayashi et al., 2006; Kobayashi, 2008; Tsuchiya et al., 2017). Since the beginning of the 21st century, volcanic unrest has occurred every few years. The unrest that began in April 2015 was the largest in terms of seismicity in the history of modern observation since 1960. The 2015 unrest culminated in a small phreatic eruption on 29 June in Owakudani, which released 80–130 tons of ash and

59 ballistic clasts (Furukawa et al., 2015). Although the 2015 phreatic eruption was small in scale, a
60 dense network of instrumental observation sites detected detailed processes of earthquake
61 activity and crustal deformation during the unrest (e.g., Harada et al., 2018; Honda et al., 2018;
62 Yukutake et al., 2017).

63   The observation during the preeruptive unrest suggests a deep (>6 km) supply of fluid,
64 which was detected as an inflation of the volcanic edifice and a swarm of deep low-frequency
65 events, initiated in early April 2015 (Harada et al., 2018; Yukutake et al., 2019). Then shallow
66 (<6 km) pressurization of the hydrothermal system was implied from an earthquake swarm that
67 occurred beneath the CCs from the end of April, and abnormal steaming activity from a steam
68 production well (SPW) in Owakudani (500 m deep with a well mouth elevation of 1000 m)
69 occurred in early May (Mannen et al., 2018; Yukutake et al., 2017). The area within 200 m of
70 the SPW showed local swelling, which was detected by an interferometric SAR (InSAR)
71 analysis of Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2 (ALOS-2)/Phased Array type L-band Synthetic
72 Aperture Radar-2 (PALSAR-2) data (Doke et al., 2018; Kobayashi et al., 2018). The phreatic
73 eruption occurred near the southern edge of the swelling area from 29 June to 1 July 2015
74 (Kobayashi et al., 2018). The InSAR analysis of ALOS-2/PALSAR-2 pairs before and after the
75 phreatic eruption has demonstrated surface displacements caused by the opening of an NW–SE-
76 trending crack formed deeper than 830 m above sea level and the closing of a sill beneath the
77 crack, approximately 225 m above sea level (Doke et al., 2018). Although InSAR has poor time
78 resolution, Honda et al. (2018) also estimated an NW–SE-trending crack from a rapid tilt change
79 over the course of 2 min starting at 07:33 JST on 29 June 2015. These lines of evidence indicate
80 that the phreatic eruption was triggered by hydrothermal fluids stored approximately 225 m
81 above sea level, which migrated toward the shallower part of the edifice through the crack during
82 the eruption. Since the 2015 phreatic eruption, fumarolic activity in Owakudani has been higher
83 than before (Mannen et al., 2021). This higher steaming activity during and after the eruption
84 suggests the rupturing of the sealed and pressured hydrothermal system beneath the volcano
85 during the 2015 eruption, as indicated by general modeling of hydrothermal systems (e.g.,
86 Fournier, 1999; Stix & de Moor, 2018).

87   Regarding the location of Hakone volcano, there are residential areas within 1 km of
88 Owakudani, the possible eruption center, so even a small-scale eruption would cause significant
89 damage. Although forecasting phreatic eruptions is known to be challenging, it may be possible
90 to monitor the hydrothermal system located in the shallow regions of the volcano using InSAR.
91 In this study, we performed an InSAR time series analysis of the ALOS-2/PALSAR-2 data to
92 clarify the surface velocities after the 2015 phreatic eruption of Hakone volcano. Applying the
93 inversion technique to the surface velocities, we modeled the deflation sources, and the cause of
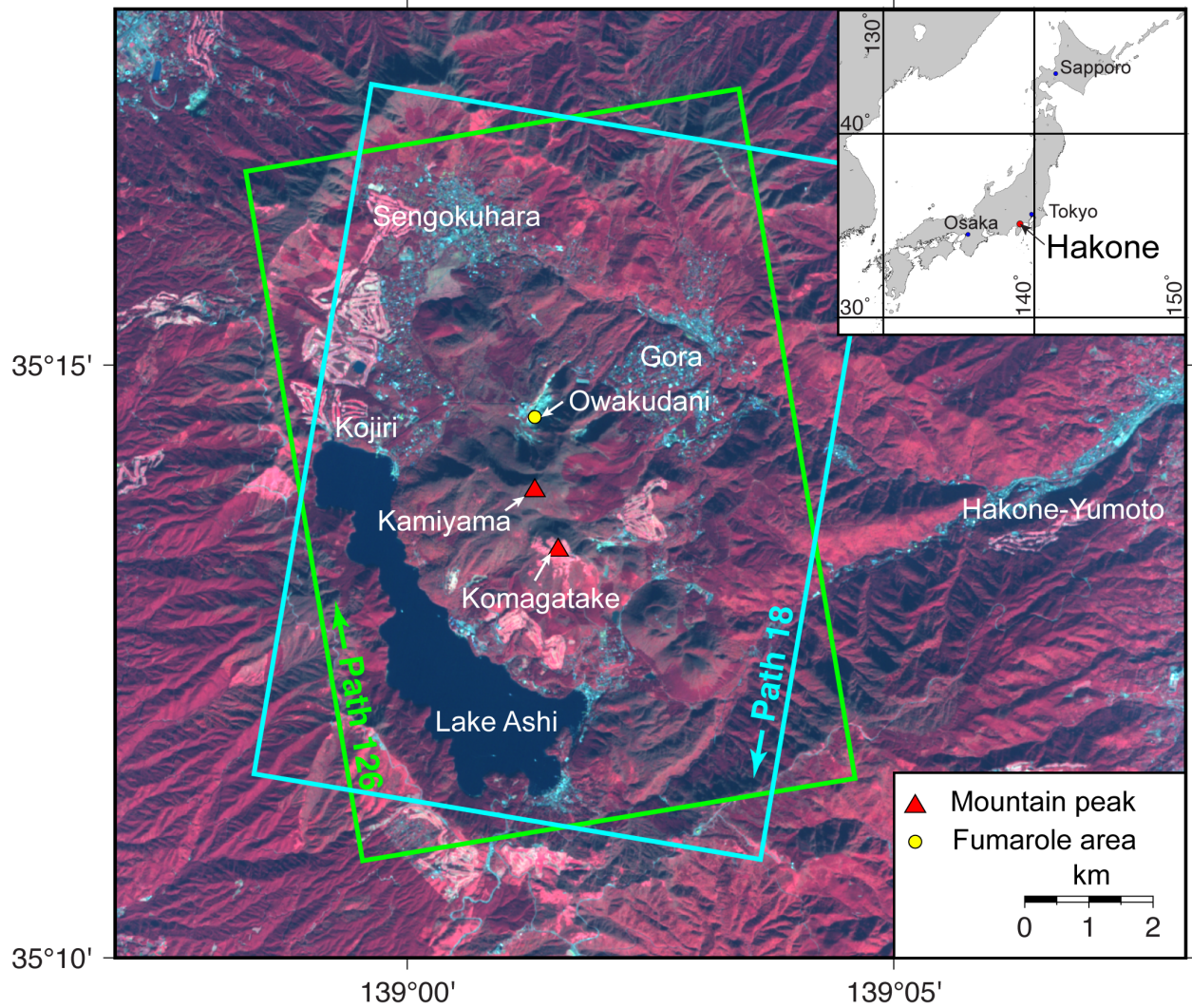94 this deflation is discussed here.

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Figure 1. Index map of Hakone volcano. The base map is a false-color image captured by ALOS/AVNIR-2 on 10 November 2006, and the red tones indicate vegetated areas. The areas enclosed by the rectangles indicate the analysis areas in this study.

2 Data and Methods

The PALSAR-2 is a multi-mode and right- and left-looking SAR sensor aboard the ALOS-2 launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) (Rosenqvist et al., 2014). Its wavelength is 23.8 cm (L-band). The datasets selected for this study are path 126 (ascending orbit, right-looking) and path 18 (descending orbit, right-looking), which include observations of Hakone volcano. These paths have the largest number of observation data of any ascending or descending orbit, respectively, from 2 July 2015 to 1 April 2021, which is the period after the phreatic eruption. Thus, it is expected that many interference pairs can be obtained, allowing for greater precision in the analysis. Paths 126 and 18 represent observations from the west and east sides of the sky, respectively, and their off-nadir angles are 38.7° and

111 38.9°, respectively. The data extracted for this study are given in Table S1. InSAR time series
112 analysis based on the small baseline subset (SBAS) method (Berardino et al., 2002) was used to
113 remove noise, such as atmospheric effects. For the SBAS-InSAR time series analysis,
114 interference pairs, whose time intervals are within 365 days, were extracted for each path. Path
115 126 has 21 extracted scenes and 74 pairs, whereas path 18 has 24 extracted scenes and 85 pairs.
116 The time–position plots are shown in Figure S1.

117 ENVI SARscape software was used for the SBAS-InSAR time series analysis. The
118 analysis area was cut out from the original data to focus on Hakone volcano and reduce the
119 analysis time (Figure 1). The data were averaged over 11 by 14 looks in the range and azimuth
120 directions, respectively (corresponding to an area of approximately 25 m by 25 m), to improve
121 the signal-to-noise ratio. The influence of the topography in initial interferograms was removed
122 using ellipsoidal height, generated from a 10-m digital elevation model (DEM) released by the
123 Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and Earth Gravitational Model 2008 geoid heights
124 (Pavlis et al., 2012). An adaptive filter (Goldstein and Werner, 1998) was used to reduce the
125 noise, and the interferograms were unwrapped by the minimum-cost flow approach (Costantini,
126 1998) with a 0.2 coherence threshold. For the removal of orbital residuals, 150 points of ground
127 control point were set as good coherence points in the area, except at the CCs of Hakone
128 volcano, in which significant displacements were observed, and a polynomial surface was
129 assumed. For the inversion of the SBAS-InSAR time series analysis (Berardino et al., 2002), a
130 linear displacement model was used. Atmospheric effects were eliminated by applying a spatial
131 low-pass filter with a cutoff of 1,200 m and a temporal high-pass filter with a cutoff of 365 days.
132 Finally, the estimated surface velocities were geocoded to the geographic coordinates in WGS-
133 84, and surface velocity maps were obtained with a resolution of 25 m by 25 m.

134 **3 Results**

135 Figure 2 shows surface velocity maps after the 2015 phreatic eruption estimated by the
136 SBAS-InSAR time series analysis. The velocities are indicated in the line-of-sight (LOS)
137 directions, and positive and negative values indicate velocities toward and away from the
138 satellite, respectively. An area of 2 km in diameter, located at the CCs of the volcano, shows
139 velocities in the negative LOS direction along both paths 126 and 18 (Figure 2). Moreover, these
140 velocities are below −10 mm/yr on both paths (Figure 2). These results indicate that the CCs
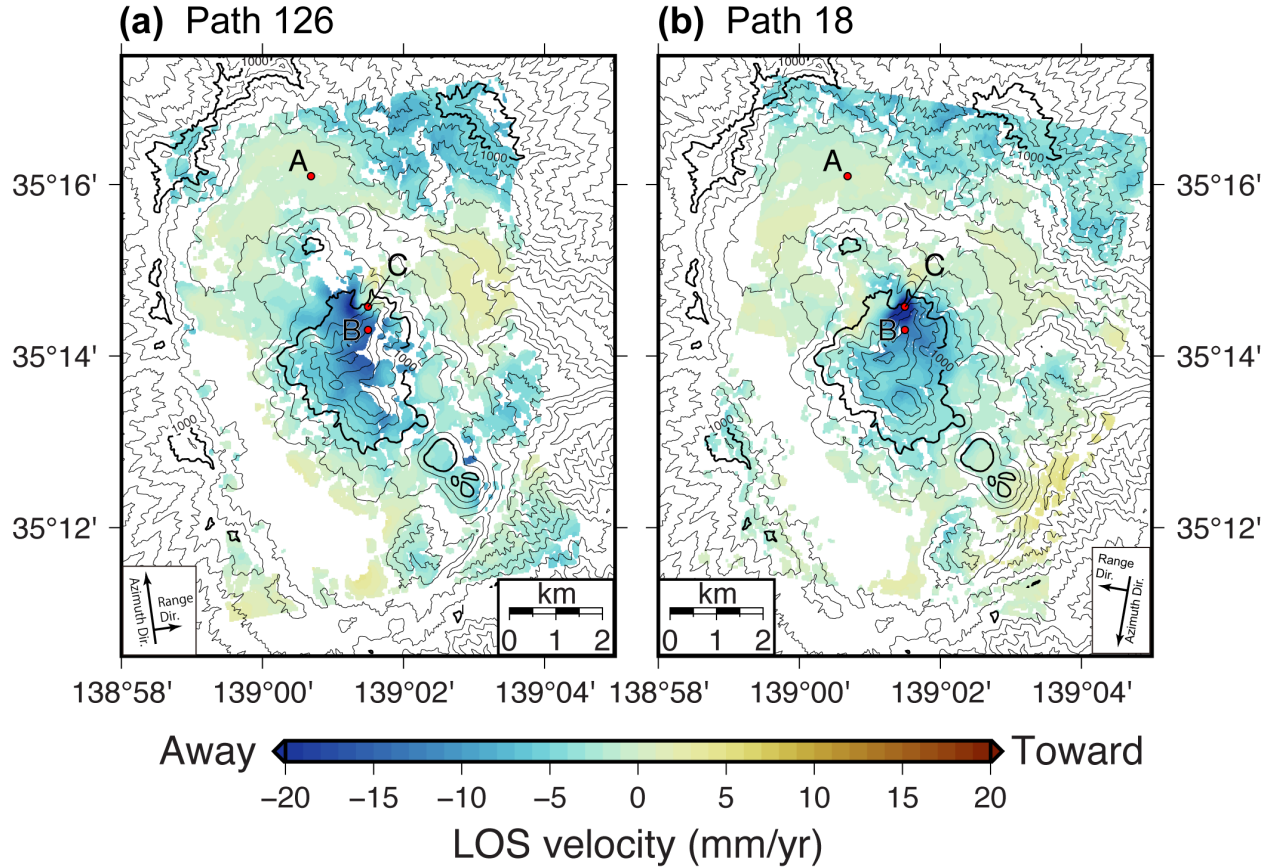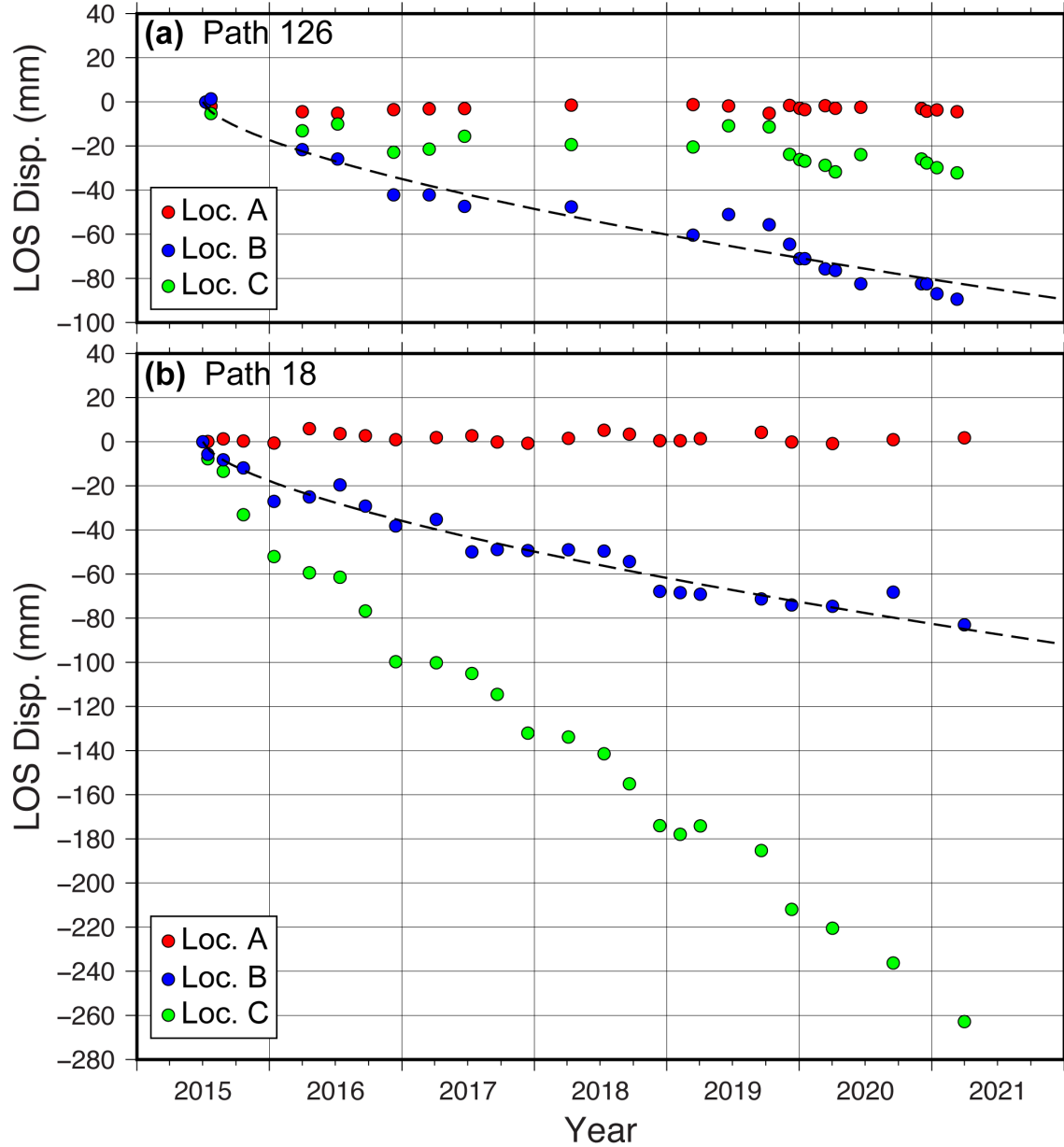141 subsided after the 2015 phreatic eruption.

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Figure 2. Distribution of LOS velocities estimated from SBAS-InSAR time series analysis of ALOS-2/PALSAR-2 data from (**a**) path 126 and (**b**) path 18. Positive and negative values indicate velocities toward and away from the satellite in the LOS direction, respectively. The contour lines represent intervals of 100 m in height. The red circles represent locations mentioned in the text and Figure 3.

Figure 3 shows the time variation of displacements at the arbitrarily selected locations A and B in Figure 2. Location A was selected in the Sengokuhara area (Figure 1), located on the caldera floor far from the CCs of the volcano, and location B was selected near the CCs. Although location A did not show any significant displacement, location B was displaced in the negative LOS direction (away from the satellite) during the analysis period. These results show that the CCs (location B) had significantly subsided with respect to location A. Assuming that the LOS displacements are entirely vertical, the vertical displacement velocity at location B is estimated to be approximately −18 to −19 mm/yr.

Significant displacement was detected near Owakudani, and this area was evaluated as location C. Location C showed the maximum velocity in the negative LOS direction on path 18 with a velocity of approximately −43 mm/yr (Figures 2(b) and 3(b)). However, the equivalent displacement was not detected on path 126 (Figure 3(a)). This velocity was considered to be due to a landslide because it shows the local displacement near Owakudani and is located on a slope steeply inclined toward the northwest (the negative LOS direction on path 18).

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Figure 3. Time variation of the displacements at locations A–C for (**a**) path 126 and (**b**) path 18 in Figure 2. Locations A and B were arbitrarily selected on the caldera floor and the CCs of Hakone volcano, respectively. Location C is the site that shows the maximum velocity away from the satellite along the LOS in path 18. Positive and negative values indicate displacements toward and away from the satellite, respectively. Dashed lines are the lines of best fit assuming that compaction due to the pore pressure decreases (see text).

Model inversion was conducted to explain the surface velocity distributions obtained from the SBAS-InSAR time series analysis (see Text S1 and Figures S2-4). Two deflation source

175 models were used: a point pressure source model (Mogi, 1958) and a rectangular sill model
176 (tensile fault model by Okada, 1985) in a semi-infinite elastic crust. The optimal parameters for
177 each model are given in Table 1 with their standard errors. Moreover, the root mean square
178 (RMS) and Akaike's information criterion (AIC) values for each model are also given in Table 1.
179 The point source deflation model, which had a volume change rate of -5.96×10^4 m^3/yr, was
180 estimated beneath the CCs of Hakone volcano at an altitude of 211.0 m above sea level.
181 Additionally, the rectangular sill deflation model with a long side along the NW–SE direction
182 was estimated at 95.0 m above sea level, and its opening rate was -0.111 m/yr (closing). The
183 volume change rate of the sill deflation model was calculated to be -6.54×10^4 m^3/yr. Although
184 the RMS and AIC values for the sill deflation model are slightly smaller than those for the point
185 source deflation model, both models can explain the patterns of the surface velocities (Figure
186 S2).

187

188 **Table 1**. *Estimated Model Parameters*.
189

	Model A [Point source deflation]	Model B [Sill deflation]
Longitude (°) [a]	139.0242 (0.0007)	139.0289 (0.0005) [b]
Latitude (°) [a]	35.2372 (0.0006)	35.2250 (0.0006) [b]
Altitude (m) [c]	211.0 (64.7)	95.0 (42.9)
Volume change rate (m^3/yr)	-5.96×10^4 (2.76×10^4)	-6.54×10^4 (5.78×10^3) [d]
Length (m)	–	2392.2 (94.0)
Width (m)	–	246.2 (15.4)
Strike (°)	–	339.1 (1.2)
Opening rate (m/yr)	–	-0.111 (0.005)
RMS Path 126 (mm/yr)	2.525	2.305
RMS Path 18 (mm/yr)	2.358	2.255
RMS Total (mm/yr)	2.444	2.280
AIC	3662	3574

190 Note: Standard errors are given in parentheses.

191 [a] The longitude and latitude are given in WGS-84 coordinates.

192 [b] The coordinates for Model B indicate the southernmost point of the sill model.

193 [c] The altitude is the height above sea level, corrected from the originally estimated ellipsoidal height.

194 [d] The volume change rate for Model B was calculated from the length, width, and opening of the sill model.

195

196 **4 Discussion and Conclusion**

197 Recent magnetotelluric surveys of Hakone volcano have reported the existence of a bell-
198 shaped conductor (<10 Ωm) beneath the CCs of the volcano (Mannen et al., 2019; Seki et al.,

199   2020; Yoshimura et al., 2018). Similar bell-shaped conductors have been detected in other
200   volcanoes (e.g., Komori et al., 2013; Nurhasan et al., 2006; Usui et al., 2017) and interpreted as
201   impermeable layers that contain smectite, a very conductive altered mineral formed by
202   hydrothermal activity (e.g., Lévy et al., 2018; Pellerin et al., 1996). Moreover, these
203   impermeable layers are considered to be sealing layers that confine pressurized hydrothermal
204   systems beneath volcanoes, which can cause phreatic eruptions (e.g., Stix & de Moor, 2018).
205   Based on a controlled-source audio-frequency magnetotellurics (CSAMT) survey and geological
206   analysis, Mannen et al. (2019) indicated that a portion just beneath the bell-shaped conductor
207   forms a vapor–liquid coexisting hydrothermal system. Seki et al. (2021) showed that the bottom
208   of the bell-shaped conductor beneath the CCs of Hakone volcano is approximately 600–700 m
209   above sea level so that the posteruptive deflation source is located beneath the bell-shaped
210   conductor (about 100–200 m above sea level; Figure 4). Therefore, the results of this study
211   demonstrate that deflation has been occurring in the hydrothermal system beneath the volcano.

212   Based on the heat flux of 20 MW before the 2015 phreatic eruption in Owakudani
213   (Mannen et al., 2018), the release rate for water vapor is estimated to be 2.8×10^8 kg/yr (1 atm,
214   100 °C). Alternatively, the deflation rates (5.96×10^4–6.54×10^4 m^3/yr) for the models in this
215   study can be converted to water loss rates of 4.1×10^7–4.5×10^7 kg/yr, assuming the water
216   density (690 kg/m^3) at the boiling point (311 °C) for the pore pressure at the given depth (10
217   MPa). This means even preeruptive water release at Owakudani was at least 6–7 times larger
218   than the water loss of the hydrothermal system implied from our InSAR time series analysis.
219   After the eruption, the release of water vapor can be considered to be several times greater than
220   the preeruptive release. Therefore, the posteruptive deflation source was not regarded as the
221   principal source of posteruptive fumarole activity, and the hydrothermal fluids are supplied from
222   a deeper part.

223   So what is the cause of the posteruptive deflation in Hakone volcano? One possible cause
224   of posteruptive deflation is compaction due to a decrease in pore pressure (Todesco et al., 2014;
225   Wang et al., 2019). Because the behavior of crustal deformations during the 2015 phreatic
226   eruption suggests fluid migration from the hydrothermal reservoir to a shallower edifice (Doke et
227   al., 2018), the preeruptive pore pressure could have been released during and after the migration
228   (Figure 4). Moreover, in the shallow part of Owakudani, a posteruptive enlargement of the high-
229   resistivity zone (>10 Ωm) was detected (Mannen et al., 2019). This result suggests a phase
230   change from water to vapor within the shallowest part of the hydrothermal system due to a
231   pressure decrease after the phreatic eruption. An effect of compaction, which depends on the
232   rheologies of subsurface rocks, can continue for a long time after a pressure drop. Todesco et al.
233   (2014) described the process of compaction Δh with the following equation:

234
$$\Delta h = h_0 \frac{P_c A^{-1} t^b}{1 - \phi_0 + P_c A^{-1} t^b} \qquad (1)$$

235   where h_0 is the initial thickness of the compacting layer, ϕ_0 is the porosity, P_c is the pressure
236   change, and t is the elapsed time in days. Additionally, A and b are empirically derived
237   parameters that express the rheological properties of the compacting layer: A is a scalar
238   associated with the magnitude of creep compaction, and b is related to the apparent viscosity of
239   the system (Todesco et al., 2014). The initial thickness h_0 was set to 500 m, considering the
240   structure beneath the bell-shaped conductor where the posteruptive deflation source is located
241   (Seki et al., 2021; Figure 4), and the porosity ϕ_0 was set to 0.1 as a typical value used for

242 simulations of hydrothermal systems (e.g., Tanaka et al., 2018). The other parameters were
243 estimated by fitting, assuming that the LOS displacements were entirely in the vertical direction.
244 The values of the parameters estimated in this way are P_c = 0.91 MPa, A = 596,514 MPa·day^b,
245 and b = 0.64, which are similar to the values estimated in Campi Flegrei (Todesco et al., 2014).
246 The obtained curves (dashed lines in Figure 3) fit well with the pattern of subsidence after the
247 2015 phreatic eruption. Although the validity of these parameters remains to be verified, the
248 results indicate that compaction due to a decrease in pore pressure is a plausible process to
249 explain subsidence at the ground surface. Kobayashi et al. (2018) estimated a pressure increase
250 of 0.7 MPa from the preeruptive surface displacement, which is comparable to the pressure drop
251 during the eruption estimated in this study. Therefore, it may be that the increased pressure
252 before the eruption was released during the eruption. However, if there are multiple
253 hydrothermal systems in Hakone, the preeruptive pressure increase may be distinct from the co-
254 or posteruptive pressure drop. Even so, an important point is that the InSAR observations suggest
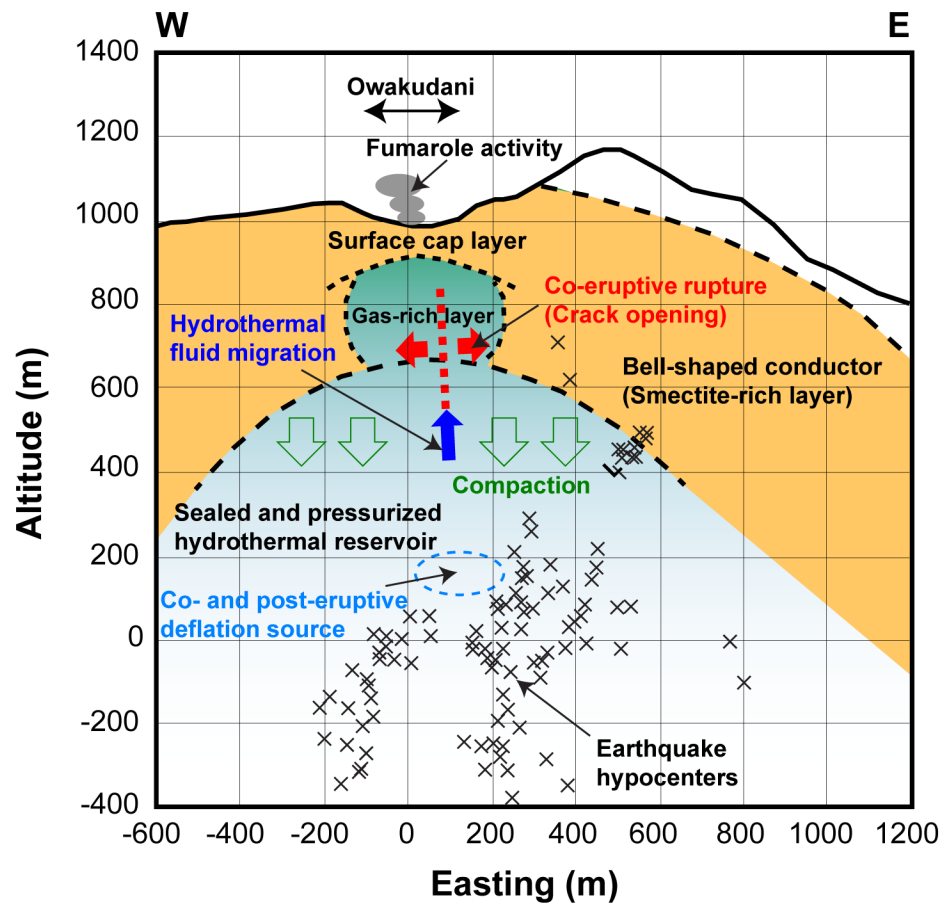255 that the hydrothermal system is capable of holding this level of excess pressure.

256

257

258 **Figure 4**. Schematic illustration of the shallow hydrothermal system beneath the CCs of Hakone
259 volcano. The subsurface model is based on the conductivity structure and interpretation shown in
260 Figure 4 of Seki et al. (2021), previous deformation sources proposed by Doke et al. (2018), and
261 the results of the present study. During the 2015 phreatic eruption, the sealing layer was
262 ruptured, and pressurized hydrothermal fluids migrated toward the shallower edifice.

263 Posteruptive deflation might be caused by a pore pressure decrease in the hydrothermal reservoir
264 due to fluid migration.

265

266 Another possible cause of deflation is a thermoelastic response with cooling (e.g.,
267 Furuya, 2005; Wang and Aoki, 2019). However, most examples of thermoelastic responses are
268 related to the cooling of intruding magma bodies. Narita et al. (2019) demonstrated that the
269 temperature change in the thermoelastic response expected from the posteruptive deflation after
270 the 2014 phreatic eruption of Ontake volcano, Japan, was too large for the shallow part (500 m in
271 depth) of the volcano. They concluded that the thermoelastic response is not a major factor
272 contributing to deflation in Ontake volcano. The 2015 phreatic eruption of Hakone volcano was
273 very small in scale, and significant temperature changes were unlikely to have happened in the
274 coexisting vapor–liquid hydrothermal system, where the temperature change was buffered by the
275 release of latent heat due to the condensation of water vapor (e.g., Ingebritsen et al., 2006).
276 Therefore, the thermoelastic process is unlikely to be a major factor in the deflation of Hakone
277 volcano.

278 When considering compaction due to a decrease in pore pressure, this deflation process is
279 expected to continue for a long period, in accordance with Equation (1), unless there is a
280 particular change in pressure conditions. However, if the sealing ability is restored as a result of
281 mineral crystallization or other factors and the pressure starts to increase, this deflation will stop
282 early. Therefore, it is important to monitor the displacement at the ground surface to assess the
283 pressure conditions of the hydrothermal system and the risk of future phreatic eruptions.

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