GEOPHYSICS





advancing our understanding of Earth's structure and evolution

The wide variety of research in Geophysics at the University of Alberta includes both fundamental and more applied geophysical science projects. Current research focuses on the field of geophysical data processing, theoretical and applied seismology, earthquake studies, geodynamics, geomagnetism and paleomagnetism, magnetotellurics, environmental geophysics, geothermal energy, climatology and planetary geophysics.



Claire Currie, Professor Geophysics & Geodynamics

Geophysics – geodynamics; convergent plate margins: subduction zones and mountain belts; continental structure, strength, and dynamics; numerical modelling of lithosphere and upper mantle dynamics; controls on earthquake distribution.

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Dr. Dumberry's research focuses on the physics of planetary interiors, including the study of flows in the fluid core of planets, the generation and evolution of planetary magnetic fields, the rotational dynamics of planetary bodies and fluid-solid interactions at interior boundaries. His work is mainly theoretical, including numerical simulations, with an emphasis on relating specific observations to simple models of the dynamics.

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Jeff Gu, Professor Crust and Mantle Seismic Structure

Dr. Gu's main research area is earthquake seismology, including regional crust and mantle seismic structure analysis, induced earthquakes, and global seismic imaging.

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Moritz Heimpel, Associate Professor Dynamics of Planetary Interiors

Dr. Heimpel's main research interest is dynamics of planetary interiors. This involves theoretical and numerical modelling of fluid dynamics and magnetohydrodynamics applied to planetary atmospheres and interiors. Work on planetary dynamos have implications for the dynamical evolution of several of the solar system planets, particularly Mercury, Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, as well as exoplanets.

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Vadim Kravchinsky, Professor *Paleomagnetism & Petromagnetism*

Dr. Kravchinsky uses paleomagnetism and petromagnetism as tools (1) to reconstruct past climate and environmental changes, (2) to perform plate tectonic reconstructions, (3) to study evolution of Earth and mass extinctions, and (4) to determine ages of geological and archeological objects.



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David Potter, Professor Petrophysical & Geophysical Techniques

Dr. Potter studies petrophysical and geophysical techniques: both fundamental research and applied studies for the oil and gas industry.

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Mauricio Sacchi, Professor Seismic Data Processing and Imaging

Dr. Sacchi's lab conducts research in the area of statistical and transform methods for seismic data processing, waveform imaging and inversion with an application to applied and global seismology. His group has become recognized for the development of algorithms for multi-dimensional seismic data reconstruction, de-noising and the application of sparsity promoting and dimensionality reduction methods to seismic data processing.

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Bruce Sutherland, Professor Geophysics & Fluid Dynamics

Atmospheric, oceanic and environmental fluid dynamics; stratified flows, internal waves, plumes and gravity currents; particle-bearing and particle-laden flows.

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Martyn Unsworth, Professor Electromagnetic Geophysics

Dr. Unsworth's research is in the field of electromagnetic geophysics, primarily using the magnetotelluric method to image Earth structure in 3-D. His research includes using magnetotellurics in (1) exploration for mineral and geothermal resources (2) studying plate tectonic processes and earthquakes and (3) imaging magma beneath active volcanos to better understand eruptions and hazards.

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Mirko van der Baan, Professor Seismic Wave Propagation & Geomechanics



My research interests span signal processing, seismic wave propagation, geomechanics and microseismicity. Some research questions my students and I are tackling: Does fracking cause earthquakes? How can we mitigate human-induced seismicity? Can we model rock deformation during hydraulic fracturing treatments? How can we enhance data quality and resolution to detect weak events and features? Can machine learning algorithms predict failure? I collaborate extensively with the hydrocarbon industry and many of my students have found positions there.

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