



Daniel B. Peter

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RESEARCH  
INTERESTS

COMPUTATIONAL SEISMOLOGY

Numerical methods for seismic wave propagation, applications to High-Performance Computing

GEOPHYSICAL INVERSE PROBLEMS

Waveform-based seismic adjoint tomography, validation of global and regional seismic models

EARTHQUAKE SEISMOLOGY

Seismic source verification and 3D source inversions

EDUCATION

**Swiss Federal Institute of Technology**, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Ph.D., Geophysics, Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Geophysics, May 2008

- Thesis: *Finite-frequency effects in global seismology: forward modeling and implications on tomographic imaging*
- Advisor: Prof. Domenico Giardini

Diploma, Physics, Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science, August 1998

- Thesis: *Strategies for ensemble predictions*
- Advisor: Prof. Huw C. Davies

ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE

**Università della Svizzera italiana**, USI Lugano, Switzerland

**Swiss Federal Institute of Technology**, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Senior scientist, *September 2013 – today*

research activities at the the Department of Computer Science, USI, and Institute of Geophysics, ETH Zurich:

- High-performance computing (HPC) application support for geophysics network "Solid Earth Dynamics"
- 3D multi-scale adjoint tomography
- Implementation of hardware-accelerated computing

**Swiss Federal Institute of Technology**, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Research associate, *January 2013 – August 2013*

research activities at the Institute of Geophysics ETH Zurich:

- 3D adjoint tomography
- Implementation of hardware-accelerated computing

teaching activities:

- Assistant, Global seismology, graduate level

#### **Princeton University**, Princeton NJ, USA

Associate research scholar, *2011 – 2012*

Post-doctoral research associate, *2008 – 2011*

research activities accomplished at the Department of Geosciences, Princeton University:

- 3D seismic source inversion and adjoint tomography for regional events in the Middle East
- Seismic model validation for the Middle East
- Implementation of a finite-element ray tracing code for optical rays in deformable media

teaching activities accomplished:

- Assistant, Computational geophysics, graduate level
- Assistant, Quantitative seismology, graduate level

Seminar organizer, *2008 – 2010*

for the Department of Geosciences, Princeton University:

- Organization of the Solid-Earth brownbag seminar, weekly cycle

#### **Swiss Federal Institute of Technology**, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Ph.D work, *2004 – 2008*

research activities accomplished at the Institute of Geophysics ETH Zurich:

- Implementation of a finite-difference software package to model the propagation of membrane waves on a spherical shell as an analogue to surface waves
- 2D and 3D sensitivity kernel computations for phase anomaly measurements of surface waves
- Administration of a Linux Beowulf research cluster and an Apple Xgrid super-computer

Teaching activities, *2004 – 2007*

activities accomplished at the Institute of Geophysics ETH Zurich:

- Assistant, Introduction to seismic networks, undergraduate level
- Assistant, Geothermics, field work for undergraduate level

activities accomplished at the Kantonsschule Zug for the certificate of teaching ability:

- College teacher, Physics, classes taught August 2006 - May 2007, college level

Diploma work, *May 1998 – October 1998*

research activities accomplished at the IACETH (Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science, ETH Zurich):

- Implementation of a Lorenz-63 model with non-linear dynamics approaches for short- and medium range weather predictions, 6-month research work
- *Snowflake recognition*, software detection algorithms, 2-month course work, Institute for Atmospheric Physics, ETHZ, Mai 1997
- Exchange year studies at the Département de Physique, EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne), Switzerland, 1995–1996

- Rietmann, M., P. Messmer, T. Nissen-Meyer, **D. Peter**, P. Basini, D. Komatitsch, O. Schenk, J. Tromp, L. Boschi and D. Giardini, 2012. *Forward and adjoint simulations of seismic wave propagation on emerging large-scale GPU architectures*, SC '12 Proceedings of the International Conference on High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis, Article No. 38.
- H.J. Zhu, E. Bozdag, **D. Peter** and J. Tromp, 2012. *Seismic wavespeed images across the Iapetus and Tornquist suture zones*, Geophys. Res. Lett., 39 (18), doi:10.1029/2012GL053053.
- H.J. Zhu, E. Bozdag, **D. Peter** and J. Tromp, 2012. *Structure of the European upper mantle revealed by adjoint tomography*, Nature Geoscience, 5, 493-498, doi:10.1038/NGEO1501.
- Epstein, M., **D. Peter** and M.A. Slawinski, 2012. *Combining ray-tracing techniques and finite-element modelling in deformable media*, QJMAM, 65 (1), 87-112.
- Peter, D.**, D. Komatitsch, Y. Luo, R. Martin, N. Le Goff, E. Casarotti, P. Le Loher, F. Magnoni, Q. Liu, C. Blitz, T. Nissen-Meyer, P. Basini and J. Tromp, 2011. *Forward and adjoint simulations of seismic wave propagation on unstructured hexahedral meshes*, Geophys. J. Int., 186 (2), 721-739.
- Savage, B., **D. Peter**, B.M. Covellone, A.J. Rodgers and J. Tromp, 2011. *Next Generation, Waveform Based Three-Dimensional Models and Metrics to Improve Nuclear Explosion Monitoring in the Middle East*, in Proceedings: 33rd Monitoring Research Review (MRR 2011), 1-17, p. 161-167.
- Tromp, J., Y. Luo, S. Hanasoge and **D. Peter**, 2010. *Noise Cross-Correlation Sensitivity Kernels*, Geophys. J. Int., 183 (2), 791-819.
- Tromp, J., D. Komatitsch, V. Hjörleifsdóttir, Q. Liu, H. Zhu, **D. Peter**, E. Bozdag, D. McRitchie, P. Friberg, C. Trabant and A. Hutko, 2010. *Near real-time simulations of global CMT earthquakes*, Geophys. J. Int., 183 (1), 381-389.
- Savage, B., **D. Peter**, B. Covellone, A. Rodgers and J. Tromp, 2010. *Next Generation, Waveform Based Three-Dimensional Models and Metrics to Improve Nuclear Explosion Monitoring in the Middle East*, in Proceedings: 32nd Monitoring Research Review (MRR 2010), 2-20, p. 207-213.
- Savage, B., **D. Peter**, B. Covellone, A. Rodgers and J. Tromp, 2009. *Progress towards next generation, waveform based three-dimensional models and metrics to improve nuclear explosion monitoring in the Middle East*, in Proceedings: 31th Monitoring Research Review of Ground-Based Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Technologies (MRR 2009), LLNL-PROC-414451, 1-21, p. 194-200.
- Peter, D.**, L. Boschi and J.H. Woodhouse, 2009. *Tomographic resolution of ray and finite-frequency methods: a membrane-wave investigation*, Geophys. J. Int., 177, 624-638.
- Peter, D.**, L. Boschi, F. Deschamps, B. Fry, G. Ekström and D. Giardini, 2008. *A new finite-frequency shear-velocity model of the European-Mediterranean region*, Geophys. Res. Lett., 35, L16315, doi:10.1029/2008GL034769.

- Peter, D.**, C. Tape, L. Boschi and J.H. Woodhouse, 2007. *Surface wave tomography: global membrane waves and adjoint methods*, Geophys. J. Int., 171, 1098-1117.
- Boschi, L., J.-P. Ampuero, **D. Peter**, P.M. Mai, G. Soldati and D. Giardini, 2007. *Petascale computing and resolution in global seismic tomography*, Phys. Earth planet. Inter., doi:10.1016/j.pepi.2007.02. 011

#### PUBLICATIONS

*Articles in non-refereed journals, non-refereed reports, abstracts:*

- Peter, D.**, M. Rietmann, J. Charles, P. Messmer, D. Komatitsch, O. Schenk, J. Tromp, 2012. *Accelerating forward and adjoint simulations of seismic wave propagation on large GPU-clusters*, AGU, poster presented in San Francisco, USA.
- Peter, D.**, B. Savage, A. Rodgers, C. Morency and J. Tromp, 2011. *Adjoint tomography of the Middle East*, AGU, invited presentation, San Francisco, USA.
- Peter, D.**, M. Rietmann, D. Komatitsch and J. Tromp, 2011. *Advances in high-performance spectral-element solvers for seismic tomography*, AGU, invited presentation, San Francisco, USA.
- Peter, D.**, B. Savage, A. Rodgers and J. Tromp, 2010. *Adjoint tomography of the Middle East*, AGU, paper presented in San Francisco, USA.
- Peter, D.**, B. Savage, B. Covellone, A. Rodgers and J. Tromp, 2010. *Adjoint tomography of the Middle East for nuclear explosion monitoring*, QUEST workshop, poster presented in Alghero, Italy.
- Peter, D.**, 2010. *Toward seismic adjoint tomography for local to global scale problems*, IPRPI Workshop, invited presentation, Troy, USA.
- Savage, B., **D. Peter**, B. Covellone, A. Rodgers, and J. Tromp, 2009. *Progress towards next-generation, waveform-based, three-dimensional Models and Metrics to Improve Nuclear Explosion Monitoring in the Middle East*, in Proceedings of the 31th Monitoring Research Review of Ground-Based Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Technologies, poster presented in Tucson, USA.
- Peter, D.**, A. Rodgers, B. Savage and J. Tromp, 2008. *Adjoint tomography for the Middle East*, AGU, paper presented in San Francisco, USA.
- Savage, B., B. Covellone, **D. Peter**, A. Rodgers, and J. Tromp, 2008. *Initial steps towards next-generation, waveform-based, three-dimensional Models and Metrics to Improve Nuclear Explosion Monitoring in the Middle East*, Proceedings of the 30th Monitoring Research Review of Ground-Based Nuclear Explosion Monitoring Technologies, poster presented in Portsmouth, USA.
- Peter, D.**, L. Boschi and J.H. Woodhouse, 2007. *Surface wave tomography: where does ray theory break down on a global scale?*, AGU, paper presented in San Francisco, USA.
- Peter, D.**, L. Boschi and Y. Capdeville, 2007. *Finite-frequency kernels for surface waves based upon adjoint methods*, SPICE workshop, paper presented in Cargèse, France.
- Peter, D.** and L. Boschi, 2006. *Surface wave tomography: membrane waves and adjoint methods*, SPICE workshop, paper presented in Kinsale, Ireland.

AWARDS	American Geophysical Union (AGU) Outstanding Student Paper Award, Fall meeting 2007
PROFESSIONAL PROFILE	<p>Independent programmer with training and expertise in feed-forward backpropagation networks and genetic algorithms, 3D-visualisations of complex user interfaces and Computer Telephony Integration</p> <p>Possess solid understanding of non-linear dynamics with Runge-Kutta and finite-difference solving algorithms and Monte Carlo ensemble generation especially with consideration of probabilistic densities and singular vectors</p> <p>Experienced in international projects of software development, strong team worker with troubleshooting and problem-solving skills</p>
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p><b>Petersvild</b>, St.Gallen, Switzerland</p> <p>Software Programmer, <i>2001 – 2004</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented genetic algorithms for optimisation of feed-forward backpropagation neural networks in Econophysics,</li> <li>• 3D-visualisation applications for corporate communication.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enterprise Communications AG / Ansid AG</b>, Winterthur, Switzerland</p> <p>Software Programmer, <i>2000 - 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performed trouble shooting in the development of Computer Telephony Integration (CTI) software products, mainly in system-analysis and program design.</li> <li>• Implemented core components and test environments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enterprise Communications AG</b>, Zurich, Switzerland</p> <p>Software Programmer, <i>1999 – 2000</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researched system-analysis and modelled telephony interfaces of Microsoft (TAPI) and ECMA (TSAPI).</li> <li>• Analyzed and designed core modules of the application package within outsourcing projects, studied technical feasibility and controlled the implementation in collaboration with the quality management.</li> </ul>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	<p>Languages: German (mother language), English fluent, French fluent</p> <p>Programming &amp; Scripting Languages: Fortran, C/C++, CUDA, Python, Perl, Matlab</p>