

Hilary Chang

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	ORCID: 0000-0002-9402-6089	
Education	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Cambridge, MA, USA
	Ph.D in Geophysics and Seismology.	May 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thesis title: Characterizing microearthquakes and shallow structure with dense array and optical fibers. Advisors: Nori Nakata, Rachel E. Abercrombie.	
	Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN)	St. John's, NL, Canada
	B.S in Earth Sciences - Applied Geophysics (Honours). GPA 4.0/4.0	June 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thesis title: Automatic microearthquake locating using characteristic functions in a source scanning method. Advisor: Alison Malcolm.Double-Minors in Physics and Mathematics.	
	National Taiwan University (NTU)	Taipei City, Taiwan
	BBA in Finance.	June 2009
	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO)	Palisades, NY, USA
	Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Aug 2025 to Present
Research Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) to research near-surface structure and earthquake source characterization. Collaborator: Felix Waldhauser.	
	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)	Berkeley, CA, USA
	Research Affiliate	Oct 2023 to Present
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed borehole DAS data to understand slow slips and microearthquakes during stimulation at Utah Forge and at Mont Terri, Switzerland. Collaborator: Nori Nakata.	
	Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN)	St. John's, NL, Canada
	Research Assistant in geophysics	2018 to 2019
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed an algorithm for locating microearthquakes in the geothermal field at the Reykjavik Peninsula, Iceland. Advisor: Alison Malcolm.	
	Research Assistant in biogeochemistry	Summer 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigated CO₂ emissions along aquatic and terrestrial interfaces in the boreal environments. Advisor: Sue Ziegler.	
	Research Assistant in geochemistry	Summer 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed the thermal history of hydrocarbon reservoirs using fluid inclusions. Advisor: Karem Azmy.	
	Research Assistant in a medical lab	Summer 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quantified images and practiced lab experiments. Advisor: Noriko Daneshtalab.	

Research Interests	<p>My broad research interests are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source characterization for small to moderate earthquakes • Near-surface structure • Ambient noise seismology • Fiber-optic seismology • Applications in reservoir and fault monitoring, geothermal exploration, and carbon storage
Awards Highlights	<p>2025 The Lamont-Doherty Postdoctoral Research Fellowship</p> <p>2024 The MathWorks Science Fellowship</p> <p>2022 AGU Outstanding Student Presentation Award</p> <p>2019 The Captain Robert A. Bartlett Science Award</p> <p>2019 The H.R. (Pete) Peters Award for Best B.Sc. (Honours) Thesis in Earth Sciences</p> <p>2019 The Professional Engineers and Geologists in Newfoundland and Labrador Award for Excellence in Geoscience</p> <p>2019 The University Medal for Academic Excellence in Earth Sciences</p> <p>2019 Best Student Presentation at the Newfoundland and Labrador Annual Technical Meeting, Geological Association of Canada</p>
Teaching Experience	<p>Undergraduate Introduction to Geophysics and Planetary Science at MIT</p> <p>Teaching Assistant <i>Spring 2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching assistant for the undergraduate introductory class in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences at MIT. Topics included plate tectonics, earthquakes, seismic waves, rheology, impact cratering, gravity and magnetic fields, heat flux, thermal structure, mantle convection, deep interiors, planetary magnetism, and core dynamics. • Led discussion groups in the class. Hosted weekly office hours for students. Prepared for laboratory experiments. Graded assignments and exams. <p>Graduate Mechanics of Earth at MIT</p> <p>Teaching Assistant <i>Spring 2022</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching assistant for the graduate geophysics mechanics class. Topics included anelasticity, granular mechanics, poroelasticity, rate-and-state friction, transport properties of Earth materials, brittle-ductile transitions, creep of polycrystalline materials, stored energy and dissipation, and convection. • Facilitated discussions in the class. Hosted weekly office hour for students. Prepared for laboratory experiments. Graded assignments.
Industry Experience	<p>ExxonMobil Spring, TX</p> <p>Geoscience Intern <i>Summer 2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimized injection plans for mitigating the risk of induced seismicity. • Used pumping data to analyze subsurface permeability.

Publications

Chang, H., Nakata, N., Abercrombie, R. E., Dadi, S. & Titov, T. (in prep.). Characterizing shallow attenuation and microearthquake source parameters using downhole DAS array at the Cape Modern geothermal field.

Chang, H., Qiu, H., Zhang, Z., Nakata, N., & Abercrombie, R. E. (2025b). Investigation of site amplifications using ambient-noise-derived shallow velocity structures under a dense array in Oklahoma. *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America* 2025. doi: [10.1785/0120240074](https://doi.org/10.1785/0120240074)

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R. E., & Nakata, N. (2025a). Importance of considering near-surface attenuation in earthquake source parameter estimation: Insights from Kappa at a dense array in Oklahoma. *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America* 2025; doi: [10.1785/0120240137](https://doi.org/10.1785/0120240137)

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (2024). Urban site characterization using DAS dark fibers on the MIT campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *The Leading Edge*, 43 (11): 747–756.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R. E., Nakata, N., Pennington, C. N., Kemna, K. B., Cochran, E. S., & Harrington, R. M. (2023). Quantifying site effects and their influence on earthquake source parameter estimations using a dense array in Oklahoma. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, 128(9), e2023JB027144.

O’Ghaffari, H., Peč, M., Mittal, T., Mok, U., **Chang, H.**, & Evans, B. (2023). Microscopic defect dynamics during a brittle-to-ductile transition. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120(42), e2305667120.

White, M. C., Zhang, Z., Bai, T., Qiu, H., **Chang, H.**, & Nakata, N. (2023). HDF5eis: A storage and input/output solution for big multidimensional time series data from environmental sensors. *Geophysics*, 88(3), F29-F38.

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (2022). Investigation of time-lapse changes with DAS borehole data at the Brady Geothermal Field using deconvolution interferometry. *Remote Sensing*, 14(1), 185.

Pennington, C. N., **Chang, H.**, Rubinstein, J. L., Abercrombie, R. E., Nakata, N., Uchide, T., & Cochran, E. S. (2022). Quantifying the sensitivity of microearthquake slip inversions to station distribution using a dense nodal array. *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, 112(3), 1252-1270.

Randell, A., Chokshi, K., Kane, B., **Chang, H.**, Naiel, S., Dickhout, J. G., & Daneshtalab, N. (2016). Alterations to the middle cerebral artery of the hypertensive-arthritic rat model potentiates intracerebral hemorrhage. *PeerJ*, 4, e2608.

Invited Seminar Talks

Chang, H. (Oct 2025). Challenges in microearthquake source parameter modeling: Are the observations source variabilities or site effects? Invited seminar speaker at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades, NY, USA.

Chang, H. (June 2025). Challenges in microearthquake source parameter modeling: Are the observations source variabilities or site effects? Invited seminar speaker at National Central University, Taoyuan County, Taiwan.

Chang, H. (June 2025). Applications of distributed acoustic sensing in urban seismic hazard assessment and reservoir monitoring. Invited seminar speaker at the Academia Sinica, Taipei City, Taiwan.

Chang, H., Nakata, N., Abercrombie, R.E, Dadi, S. and Titov, T. (May 2025). Induced earthquake characterization using distributed acoustic sensing. Invited presentation at the *MIT ERL Annual Meeting*, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Chang, H. (Mar 2025). Optical fibers as seismic dense arrays: Opportunities and limitations. Invited seminar speaker at Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

Chang, H. (Feb 2025). Optical fibers as seismic dense arrays: Opportunities and limitations. Invited seminar speaker at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Palisades, NY, USA.

Chang, H. (May 2024). How do site effects influence source parameter measurements? Insights from microearthquakes recorded by a dense array in Oklahoma. Invited seminar speaker at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA, USA.

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (May 2024). Urban site characterization for seismic hazard assessment using DAS dark fiber on the MIT campus. Invited presentation at the *MIT ERL Annual Meeting*, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Chang, H., Qiu, H., Zhang, Z., Nakata, N., & Abercrombie, R. E. (May 2023). Ambient noise subsurface structure imaging for investigating site effects of induced earthquakes. Invited presentation at the *MIT ERL Annual Meeting*, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (May 2022). The DAS experiment using MIT telecommunication dark fibers. Invited presentation at the *MIT ERL Annual Meeting*, Cambridge, MA, USA.
<http://10.22541/essoar.170689040.06555486/v1>

**Conferences
(Lead Author)**

Chang, H., Nakata, N., Abercrombie, R.E, Dadi, S. and Titov, T. (Aug 2025). Induced earthquake source parameter estimation using downhole DAS at the Cape Modern geothermal field. Oral presentation at the *IMAGE 2025 post-convention workshop: Distributed Fiber-Optic Sensing (DFOS): New Frontiers in Geophysical Applications*, Houston, TX, USA.

Chang, H., and Nakata, N. (Aug 2025). Site characterization for seismic hazard assessment using telecom cables on the MIT campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Invited presentation at the *SEG/AAPG International Meeting for Applied Geoscience & Energy (IMAGE)*, Houston, TX, USA.

Chang, H., Nakata, N., Abercrombie, R.E, Dadi, S. and Titov, T. (Apr 2025). Characterizing microearthquake and shallow attenuation with downhole optical fibers in the Cape Modern geothermal field. Invited presentation at the SSA Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, USA.

Chang, H., Nakata, N., Abercrombie, R.E, Dadi, S. & Titov, T. (Dec 2024). Toward reliable estimation of source parameters using Distributed Acoustic Sensing for microearthquakes in the Cape Modern geothermal field, Utah. Poster presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, USA.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R. E., & Nakata, N. (Dec 2024). Importance of considering site effects for estimating source parameters: Insights from shallow attenuations at the Large-n Seismic Survey in Oklahoma. Poster presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, USA.

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (Dec 2024). Urban site characterization using ambient noises captured by dark fibers in the telecommunication cables on the MIT campus. Poster presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, USA.

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (Oct 2024). Characterizing near-surface velocity structure and site responses at the MIT campus using telecommunication dark fibers with DAS. Poster presentation at the *SSA Photonic Seismology*, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R., Nakata, N. Qiu, H., Zhang, Z., Pennington, C., Kemna, K., Cochran, E., & Harrington, R. (May 2024). Understanding the contribution of site effects to variability in microearthquake source parameter measurements using a large, dense array in Oklahoma. Invited presentation at the SSA Annual Meeting, Anchorage, AK, USA.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R., Nakata, N. Qiu, H., Zhang, Z., Pennington, C., Kemna, K., Cochran, E., & Harrington, R. (Dec 2023). Quantifying the structural and site effects on microearthquake source parameter variability in a sedimentary basin across a dense array in Oklahoma. Poster presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA, USA.10.22541/essoar.170224442.21795734/v2.

Chang, H., Qiu, H., Zhang, Z., Nakata, N., & Abercrombie, R. E. (Dec 2022) Determining shallow structure beneath the dense LASSO array to improve ground motion prediction and source-parameter estimation. Oral presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, USA.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R. E., Nakata, N., Pennington, C. N., Kemna, K. B., Cochran, E. S., & Harrington, R. M. (Dec 2021). Quantifying earthquake source parameter uncertainties associated with local site effects using a dense array in Oklahoma. Oral presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Chang, H., Ghaffari, H., Mok, U., Evans, J. B., & Pec, M. (Dec 2021). Acoustic constraints on semi-brittle deformation of Carrara marble. Poster presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R. E., Nakata, N., Pennington, C. N., Kemna, K. B., Cochran, E. S., & Harrington, R. M. (Aug 2021). Quantifying earthquake source parameter uncertainties associated with local site effects using a dense array in Oklahoma. Poster presentation at the *SCEC Annual Meeting*. Online.

Chang, H., Abercrombie, R. E., Nakata, N., Pennington, C. N., Kemna, K. B., Cochran, E. S., & Harrington, R. M. (Apr 2021). Investigating the influence of site effects and spatial stacking on source parameter estimation for induced earthquakes using a large-N Array. Oral presentation at the *SSA Annual Meeting*. Online.

Chang, H., & Nakata, N. (2020). Investigation of the time-lapse changes with the DAS borehole data at the Brady geothermal field using deconvolution interferometry. In *SEG Technical Program Expanded Abstracts 2020* (pp. 3417-3421). Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

Chang, H., Malcolm, A., Massin, F., and Grigoli, F. (May 2019). Automatic earthquake locating by stacking characteristic functions in a source scanning method. Invited poster presentation at the *JpGU Annual Meeting*, Chiba, Japan.

Chang, H., Malcolm, A., Massin, F., and Grigoli, F. (Apr 2019). Automatic earthquake locating by stacking characteristic functions in a source scanning method. Poster presentation at the *EGU General Assembly*, Vienna, Austria.

Chang, H., Malcolm, A., Massin, F., and Grigoli, F. (Feb 2019). Automatic microearthquake locating using characteristic functions in a source scanning method. Oral presentation at the *GACNL Annual Technical Meeting*, St John's, NL, Canada.

**(Contributing
Author)**

Nakata, N., **Chang, H.**, Zhengfa Bi, Soom, F., Hopp, C., Nayak, A., Titov, A., & Dadi, S. (Oct 2025). Fracture characterization and stress communication revealed by induced seismicity at the Cape Modern Geothermal Field, Utah. *Geothermal Rising Conference (GRC) Transactions 2025* (Vol. 49), Reno, NV, USA.

Bhutwala, R., **Chang, H.**, Babu, N., Curry, B., Hussenoeder, S., & Dutta, S. (Jun 2025). Quantifying subsurface connectivity: comparative study of pressure pulse analysis for induced seismicity management. Oral presentation at the *SEG–Beneath the Surface: Innovations in Geoscience Symposium*, Hyderabad, India.

Hussenoeder, S., Curry, B., **Chang, H.**, Dutta, S., & Babu, N. (Jun 2025). Using pressure pulses to understand subsurface connectivity: A Midland Basin multi-company case study. Oral presentation at the *Unconventional Resources Technology Conference (URTeC)*, Houston, TX, USA.

Nakata, N., **Chang, H.**, Wu, S.M., Zhengfa Bi, Chen, L.W., Soom, F., Gao, H., Titov, A., & Dadi, S. (Feb 2025). Fracture characterization revealed by microseismicity at Cape Modern Geothermal Field, Utah. *Proceedings of the 50th Stanford Geothermal Workshop*, Stanford, CA, USA.

Mittal, T, O'Ghaffari, H., **Chang, H.**, & Pec, M. (Dec 2024). Using active acoustic sources to constrain the rheology across the Brittle-Ductile transition in Carrara marble. Poster presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC, USA.

Pec, M., O'Ghaffari, H., Mok, U., **Chang, H.**, Evans, B., Bernabe, Y., Mittal, T., & Cross, A. (Jun 2024). Microscopic defect dynamics during a brittle-to-ductile transition. In *ARMA US*

Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics Symposium, Golden, Colorado, USA. p. D031S036R003. ARMA.

Harrington, R. M., Liu, Y., Yu, H., Verdecchia, A., Kemna, K. B., Bocchini, G. M., Dielforder, A., Roth, M. P., Kirkpatrick, J., Cochran, E. S., **Chang, H.**, & Abercrombie, R. E. (May 2023). Deciphering earthquake source observations to motivate questions for physics-based models of earthquake simulation. In *EGU General Assembly*, Vienna, Austria. pp. EGU-7207.

Pec, M., O’Ghaffari, H., Mittal, T., Mok, U., **Chang, H.**, & Evans, B. (Dec 2022). Microscopic defect dynamics of a Brittle-to-Ductile transition. Oral presentation at the *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, USA.

Pennington, C., **Chang, H.**, Rubinstein, J., Abercrombie, R., Nakata, N., Uchide, T., & Cochran, E. (Dec 2021). Quantifying the sensitivity of microearthquake slip inversions to station distribution using the LASSO nodal array in Oklahoma. In *AGU Fall Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, USA. Vol. 2021, pp. S44C-06.

Pennington, C., **Chang, H.**, Rubinstein, J., Abercrombie, R., Nakata, N., Uchide, T., & Cochran, E. (Sep 2021). Quantifying the sensitivity of microearthquake slip inversions to station distribution using the LASSO nodal array in Oklahoma. Poster presentation at the *SCEC Annual Meeting*. Online.

Skills

Language: Fluent in English and Mandarin

Computer: Python, MATLAB, LaTeX, Linux, SLURM, Adobe Illustrator