

Department of Geology
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Education

California Institute of Technology, *Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences*

Ph.D. Geophysics, 2010

Dissertation: Mechanical Models for Interseismic Deformation in Subduction Zones

Advisor: Prof. Mark Simons

University of Kentucky, *Department of Geological Sciences*

M.S. Geology, 2003

Thesis: Nonlinear Asperity-Scale Frictional Melting Model

Advisors: Prof. Kieran O'Hara (Geol.), Prof. Jim McDonough (Mech. Eng.)

University of Cincinnati, *Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering*

M.S. Environmental Engineering, 1997

Thesis: A Model for Urban Ozone Dynamics in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area

Advisors: Prof. Pratim Biswas, Prof. Shafiq Islam

Indian Institute of Technology – Bombay, *Department of Mechanical Engineering*

B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering, 1994

Senior Thesis: Experimental & Theoretical Study of Gas-Liquid Slug Flows in Horizontal Channels

Thesis Advisor: Prof. Kannan Iyer

Professional Experience

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|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------|
| Adj. Assistant Professor | Utah State University | | 2016 - Present |
| Post-doctoral Associate | Utah State University | Mentor: Tony Lowry | 2014 - 2016 |
| Post-doctoral Fellow | National Taiwan University | Mentor: John Suppe | 2010-2014 |
| Teaching Assistant | California Institute of Technology (<i>Geodynamics, Inverse Theory, Field Geophysics</i>) | | 2005-2007 |
| Research Assistant | California Institute of Technology | Advisor: Mark Simons | 2004-2010 |
| Research Assistant | University of Kentucky | Advisor: Kieran O'Hara | 2001-2003 |
| Teaching Assistant | University of Cincinnati (<i>Fluid Mechanics</i>) | | 1995-1996 |
| Environmental Engineer | Science Applications International Corporation | | 1997-2002 |

Grants, Awards and Honors

Grants Pending, Utah State University

NSF-Earthscope/Tectonics, PI: Modeling post-Laramide geodynamic evolution of the Colorado Plateau and its Basin and Range margin: connections from the mantle to the surface; with Joel Pederson (USU) and Sean (Wash. State U.); \$168,946 to USU. 2016-2018

Gutenberg Fellowship, Seismological Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
 Department-wide competitive award given to the best incoming PhD student 2003-2004

Pirtle Fellowship, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Kentucky 2001-2003

Research Interests

Crustal and lithospheric dynamics: 3D/4D numerical modeling of regional tectonic deformation over timescales for mountain-building/orogenesis (tens of million years), incorporating plate-motion history, as well as realistic material properties (rheology) and Earth structure.

Developing spatio-temporal constraints for numerical models (i.e., initial and boundary conditions): new plate-motion histories; lithospheric/mantle structure inferred from tomography; present-day 3D lithospheric stress field from focal-mechanisms; gridding geologic datasets.

Seismic hazards: Complete seismic-cycle simulations ($\sim 10^2$ - 10^3 yr scale) of fault creep following seismic ruptures along realistic 3D faults, using high resolution geodetic, seismic, and neotectonic datasets to constrain fault/off-fault rheology.

Professional Service

Session co-convener, American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (T51F/T53C) 2010

Linking Geodetic Observations to Mechanical Properties of the Lithosphere: New Methods & Models

Peer review: NSF-EAR, *Geophys. J. Intl. (GJI)*, *Earth Planets Space (EPS)*, *Seismol. Res. Lett. (SRL)*

Publications

- [7] Wu, J., J. Suppe, Lu R.-Q., **R.V. S Kanda** (2016), Philippine Sea and East Asian plate tectonics since 52 Ma constrained by new subducted slab reconstruction methods, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *121*, 4670–4741, doi: [10.1002/2016JB012923](https://doi.org/10.1002/2016JB012923).
- [6] Lu R.-Q., J. Suppe, D.-F. He, J. Wu, **R.V. S Kanda**, B. Liu, Y.-G. Chen (2013), Deep subducting slab reconstruction and its geometry, kinematics: a case study for the Tonga-Kermadec slab from tomography, *Chinese J. Geophys.*, *V56* (11), p.3837-3845.
- [5] **Kanda, R. V. S.**, E. A. Hetland, and M. Simons (2013), Asperity model for fault creep and interseismic deformation in northeastern Japan, *Geoph. J. Intl.*, *192*, p.38-57, doi: 10.1093/gji/ggs028.
- [4] **Kanda, R. V. S.**, and M. Simons (2012), Practical implications of the geometrical sensitivity of Elastic Dislocation models for field geologic surveys, *Tectonophysics*, *560–561*, p. 94–104, doi: 10.1016/j.tecto.2012.06.040.
- [3] **Kanda, R. V. S.**, and M. Simons (2010), An elastic plate model for interseismic deformation in subduction zones, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *115*, B03405, doi:10.1029/2009JB006611.
- [2] Thomas, W. A., **R. V. S. Kanda**, K. D. O'Hara, D. M. Surles (2008), Thermal footprint of an eroded thrust sheet in the Southern Appalachian Thrust Belt, Alabama, USA, *Geosphere*, *4*(5), p. 814-818, doi 10.1130/GES00168.1.
- [1] **Kanda, R. V. S.**, and D. J. Stevenson (2006), Suction mechanism for iron entrainment into the lower mantle, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, *33*, L02310, doi:10.1029/2005GL025009.

Manuscripts in Preparation (4)

Kanda, R. V. S., Lowry, A. R., Onset and stability of flat-slab subduction using thermo-mechanical geodynamic models and laboratory based rheological flow laws

Kanda, R. V. S., Suppe, J., Y.-J. Hsu, Y.-M. Wu, Multi-scale characterization of the present day 3D stress field based on focal mechanisms and tomographic structure in the vicinity of Taiwan

Kanda, R. V. S., Suppe, J., Constraints on lithospheric rheology of the Taiwan region based on comparisons of geodynamic models with present day tomographic structure and stress field.

C. D. Lin, J. E. Wu, J. Suppe, **R. V. S. Kanda**, The trajectory of India towards Eurasia recorded by subducted slabs: implications for the fate of NeoTethys.

Selected Conference Abstracts

- Kanda, R. V. S.**, A. R. Lowry, S. Buiter, S. Ellis (2015), Causes for the Onset and Stability of Flat Slabs and Associated Overriding Plate Deformation Inferred from Numerical Thermo-Mechanical Models, *EOS Trans AGU*, 96, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T33B-03
- Berry, M., A.R. Lowry, D. Schutt, **R.V. S. Kanda**, J. Buehler (2015), Cold and Wet at the Roots of US Cordilleran High Elevation, *EOS Trans AGU*, 96, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T11C-2907
- Suppe, J.; J. Wu, C. D. Lin, **R. V. S. Kanda** (2014), The trajectory of India towards Eurasia recorded by subducted slabs: evidence for southward subduction of the Tethys Ocean under India after 130 Ma, *EGU General Assembly*, Abstract 15713.
- Wu, J., R.-Q. Lu, J. Suppe, **R. V. S. Kanda** (2014), The East Asian Sea: A vanished Cenozoic ocean between the Pacific and Indian oceans revealed by subducted slab constraints, *EGU General Assembly*, Abstract 11339.
- Liu, H.-F., J. Wu, J. Suppe, R.-Q. Liu, **R. V. S. Kanda** (2014), Seismic tomographic constraints on the Antarctic-Eastern Australian margin of Gondwanaland in the Mesozoic, *EGU General Assembly*, Abstract 10350
- Kanda, R. V. S.**, J. Suppe J. E. Wu (2013) 2D/3D Numerical Models of the Taiwan Orogen: Oblique Arc-Continent Collision overlying Orthogonal Subduction Systems, *EOS Trans AGU*, 94, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T51F-2524.
- Suppe, J., S. Carena, **R. V. S. Kanda**, Y.-M. Wu, H.-H. Huang, J. E. Wu (2013), Kinematics of subduction and plate convergence under Taiwan and its geomorphic, geodetic and seismic expressions, *EOS Trans AGU*, 94, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T21G-07.
- Wu, J.E., J. Suppe, **R.V. S. Kanda** (2013), Plate tectonic reconstruction of South and East Asia since 43 Ma using seismic tomographic constraints: role of the subducted 'East Asia Sea', *EOS Trans AGU*, 94, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T21G-01.
- J. E. Wu, J. Suppe, R. Lu, C. D. Lin, **R. V. S. Kanda** (2013), Constraints of subducted slab geometries on trench migration and subduction velocities: flat slabs and slab curtains in the mantle under Asia, *EOS Trans AGU*, 94, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T51F-2532.
- Kanda, R..V. S.**, J. Suppe, S. M. Ellis, S. Buiter (2012), 3D Numerical Models of Slab-Mantle Interactions: Implications for Eurasia Philippine Sea Arc-Continent Collision, *EOS Trans AGU*, 93, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T43F-2739.
- Suppe, J., **R..V. S. Kanda**, Y.-M. Wu (2012), The 3D lithospheric structure and plate tectonics of the on-going Taiwan arc-continent collision and delamination: a context for understanding patterns of geomorphic uplift and contemporary stress and geodetic displacement fields, *EOS Trans AGU*, 93, Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T41E-05.
- Kanda, R. V. S.**, E. A. Hetland, M. Simons (2010), Persistence of Coseismic Rupture Asperities as Inferred from Interseismic Geodetic Observations from Northeastern Japan, *EOS Trans AGU*, 91(53), Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T51F-04.
- Kanda, R. V. S.**, E. A. Hetland, M. Simons, S. E. Owen, and F. W. Webb (2008), Can Interseismic Geodetic Observations Resolve Persistent Rupture Asperities? A study of the Japan trench off Tohoku. *EOS Trans AGU*, 89(53), Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T23A-1989.
- Kanda, R. V. S.** and M. Simons (2006), Simple Elastic Dislocation Models for Interpreting Interseismic Deformation in Subduction Zones, *EOS Trans AGU*, 87(52), Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract T12C-02.
- Kanda, R. V. S.** and D. J. Stevenson (2004), A suction mechanism for iron entrainment from the outer core into the lower mantle, *EOS Trans AGU*, 85(47), Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract MR43A-0880.
- Kanda, R. V. S.**, and K. O'Hara (2002), Nonlinear Modeling of Frictional Melting at Asperity Tips, *EOS Trans AGU*, 83(47), Fall Meet. Suppl., Abstract S52B-1078.

Teaching Experience

- Dept. of Geology, Utah State University:** *Adjunct Faculty* 2014
- **Numerical Geodynamic Modeling** (*Graduate/Undergraduate mini-course, Fall 2014*): Prof. Tony Lowry
- Division of Geological & Planetary Sciences, Caltech:** *Graduate Teaching Assistant* 2005-07
- **Geodynamics** (*Graduate, Spring 2007*): Prof. Mike Gurnis
 - **Inverse Theory** (*Graduate, Winter 2007*): Prof. Malcolm Sambridge (visiting from ANU)
 - **Field Geophysics** (*Graduate/Undergraduate*): Profs. Rob Clayton, Mark Simons, Joann Stock.
Spring 2006: GPS, gravity, magnetic, seismic, & resistivity surveys: Chalfant Valley, E. California.
Summer '2005: Developed Matlab-based graphical user interface for field seismic refraction studies
- Dept. of Civil & Environmental Eng., Univ. of Cincinnati:** *Graduate Teaching Assistant* 1996
- **Fluid Mechanics** (Hydraulic Systems) (*Undergraduate, Spring 1996*): Prof Shafiq Islam
- University of Cincinnati - Educational Services:** *Undergrad Math/Physics Tutor* 1994-95

Computational Experience

- Numerical Methods** *Forward modeling*: Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian (ALE), particle-in-cell, finite element & finite difference formulations;
Inverse modeling: linear/non-linear optimization, Markov chain Monte-Carlo (MCMC) Bayesian formulations.
- Scientific Programming** Python (Numpy/Scipy/Matplotlib/VTK), Fortran 95/90/77, C
- Software Applications** GMT, Matlab/Octave, CUBIT, Paraview, gOcad, Move, SAC
- System Administration** Linux/OS-X administration; shell-scripting; remote desktop management
 Currently, sole system administrator for:
- 48-core RHEL Linux workstation (NTU)
 - 12-core Ubuntu Linux workstation (USU)

Selected Invited Talks

- Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences (GNS-Science), Lower Hutt, New Zealand
- Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
- National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
- National Central University, Jongli, Taiwan