

- **Lecture Overview**

- Application of earthquake faulting, seismic waves, magnitude, and intensity scales to real case studies.
- Focus on:
 - Subduction zone case study: Tohoku megathrust earthquake (Japan, March 2011, magnitude 9.0).
 - Continental collision zone case study: Bam earthquake (Iran, 2003, magnitude 6.6).
 - Intraplate earthquakes: Occurring within tectonic plates.

- **Tohoku Megathrust Earthquake (March 2011)**

- Magnitude: 9.0, second largest of our lifetimes.
- Death Toll: Approximately 20,000 people due to triggered tsunami.
- Comparison: Largest earthquakes (by magnitude) are not always the most damaging.

- **Bam Earthquake (2003)**

- Magnitude: 6.6, death toll up to twice that of Tohoku.
- Reflection of regional patterns: Occurrence in Mediterranean, Middle East, South and East Asia.

- **Categories of Earthquakes in Subduction Zones**

- **Megathrust Earthquakes**

- Shallow fault interface, can exceed moment magnitudes of 8 or 9.

- **Crustal Events**

- Smaller magnitudes (up to ~7), occur directly beneath continents, potential for severe damage.

- **Intermediate-Depth Earthquakes (Intra-slab Earthquakes)**

- Focal depths: 50 to 300 km, may reach magnitudes ~7, often normal faulting.

- **Deep Earthquakes**

- Depths > 300 km, rarely damaging.

- **Outer Rise Earthquakes**

- Occur at shallow depths due to flexing oceanic lithosphere.

- **Volcanic Earthquakes**

- Triggered by rising magma, typically low magnitude.

- **Case Study Examples**

- 2017 Puebla Earthquake: Intermediate depth, caused extensive damage in Mexico City.
- 2018 Anchorage Earthquake: Example of liquefaction effects in Alaska.
- 2001 Nisqually Earthquake: Magnitude 6.8, caused \$1-\$4 billion in damages in Washington State.

- **Earthquake Cycle at Subduction Zones**
 - Inter-seismic period: Oceanic plate converges with overriding plate, megathrust fault is locked.
 - Co-seismic phase: Sudden slip restores position, triggers tsunami.
- **Tohoku Earthquake Tectonic Setting**
 - Subduction of Pacific Plate below Japan along Japan Trench.
 - Triple junction: convergence of Pacific and Philippine Sea Plates.
- **GPS Monitoring and Inter-seismic Contraction**
 - East coast of Honshu moving towards the west at 2-3 cm/year.
 - Contraction rate indicates strain buildup.
- **Rupture Pattern and Slip Distribution**
 - Estimated fault length: 300-400 km.
 - Deepest rupture: Extended from 40 km to seafloor.
 - Peak slip: 40m, potentially up to 60m.
- **Tsunami Characteristics**
 - Tohoku tsunami height: Average 10-20m, maximum recorded height of 39m.
 - Previous tsunamis did not exceed around 6m height.
- **Paleoseismology and Historical Tsunami Evidence**
 - Study of sediment layers reveal past events similar to Tohoku.
 - Evidence suggests large tsunamis occur on average every 500-1,000 years.
- **Cascadia Megathrust Considerations**
 - Potential behavior of Cascadia similar to Japan Trench observed in Tohoku.
 - Research focuses on the shallow part of the megathrust and its implications for tsunami height.
- **Models of Potential Cascadia Earthquake**
 - Scenarios include varying peak slips (not reaching trench, reaching trench).
 - Impact on tsunami run-ups and shaking experienced in coastal regions like Victoria.
- **Final Thoughts**
 - Ongoing uncertainties in predicting impact magnitude and tsunami behavior.
 - Importance of active research and monitoring in the region.

Part 1: Continental Plate Boundary Earthquakes

- **2003 Ban Earthquake:** Main case study.
- **Types of Continental Plate Boundaries:**
 - **Convergent Collision Zones:** Example: India-Eurasia collision (Himalayas).
 - **Continental Shear Zones:** Example: San Andreas Fault, California.

- **Divergent Continental Rifts:** Illustrated in a cartoon depiction.
- **Earthquake Types:**
 - Continental collision zones: Reverse or thrust faults, strike-slip faults, normal faults (e.g., Tibet).
 - Continental shear zones: Primarily strike-slip faults, but may contain reverse and normal faults.
 - Continental rifts: Mostly normal faulting, some strike-slip faults.
- **Seismogenic Zone:**
 - Thickness: About 15 km.
 - Earthquake depth: Typically do not exceed 30-40 km.
 - Magnitude: Large earthquakes of 7-8 common; >8 very rare.
- **Faulting Characteristics:**
 - Generally spread over wide plate boundary zones rather than focused on major faults.
- **Examples of Notable Earthquakes:**
 - **2016 Kaikoura Earthquake, New Zealand:** 20 individual faults, including strike-slip and reverse faults.
 - **2019 Ridgecrest Earthquake, California:** Occurred in eastern California shear zone.
 - **2016 Norcia Earthquake, Italy:** Normal faulting in Apennine Mountains.

Part 2: 2003 Bam Earthquake Case Study

- **Location:** Southern Dasht-e Lut desert, Iran.
- **Event Date:** December 26, 2003, at 5:30 AM local time.
- **Impact:**
 - Destruction of the medieval citadel (UNESCO site).
 - Casualties: 26,000 - 40,000 fatalities (approximately 50% of Bam's population).
 - Damage: 60% of modern buildings, 90% of older adobe structures.
- **Faulting and Analysis:**
 - Bam does not lie on any mapped fault line.
 - Satellite remote sensing (INSAR) used to reveal fault responsible.
 - Result: Identification of a main right-lateral strike-slip fault and a secondary reverse fault.
- **Geological Features:**
 - Bam-Barabat Ridge: Uplifted by repeated earthquakes.
 - Importance of **Canats**: Ancient underground irrigation tunnels reliant on raised water tables due to active faults.

Part 3: Earthquake Preparedness in Iran

- **Seismic Hazard in Iran:**

- Extensive active fault network indicated by mapped faults.
- High earthquake history leading to significant fatalities.
- **Major Cities and Earthquake Risks:**
 - Tehran's location adjacent to active faults (North Tehran Fault).
 - Historical earthquake occurrences in Tehran (855, 958, 1177, 1830 CE).
- **Fatal Attraction:**
 - Urban centers situated along active faults for water access.
 - Ongoing risk of destructive earthquakes due to increasing populations in fault-prone areas.

Part 4: Intraplate Earthquakes

- **Definition:** Earthquakes occurring within tectonic plates, not at plate boundaries.
- **Causes:**
 - Tectonic stresses from boundaries transmitting through plate interiors.
 - Internal stresses from geological processes (e.g., post-glacial rebound).
- **Notable Areas:**
 - Charlevoix seismic zone in eastern Canada, associated with ancient faults.
 - Labrador Sea and Grand Banks: Sites of significant intraplate earthquakes historically.
- **Human-Induced Seismicity:**
 - Activities causing induced earthquakes (fluid injection, mining, reservoir impoundment).
 - **Fracking's Impact:** Dramatic increase in recorded seismicity in the US since 2009.
- **Canadian Context:**
 - Induced seismicity linked to fracking in northeast British Columbia and Alberta.
 - Observations of delayed seismic response to increased fracking activity.

Conclusion

- **Understanding Earthquake Dynamics:**
 - Essential for hazard assessment and urban planning along active faults, particularly in regions like Iran and the continental margins.