



**Course** GEOS 6396 Seismic Inversion  
**Professor** George McMechan  
**Term** Fall 2006  
**Meetings** WT 2.210, Tuesday 2:00 – 5:00

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### **Professor's Contact Information**

**Office Phone** 972-883-2419  
**Other Phone**  
**Office Location** WT 2.204  
**Email Address** Mcmec@utdallas.edu  
**Office Hours** Monday 2:00 – 5:00 pm, or by appointment  
**Other Information**

### **General Course Information**

**Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions** At least 2 prior graduate courses in seismology

**Course Description** Theory and application of the major techniques for inversion of seismic data. Topics include linear and non-linear matrix methods, Wiechert-Herglotz integration, extremal inversion for velocity models, migration, wavefield imaging of body and surface waves, tomography, imaging of VSPs, and Born inversion.

There is no textbook for this course; readings are drawn from the literature.

**Learning Outcomes** To explain and carry out the main procedures for extracting information from seismic data. To be able to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of alternative procedures and thereby choose an appropriate one for any particular problem or data set. To demonstrate these abilities by doing them in the term project.

**Required Texts & Materials** There is no textbook for this course; readings are drawn from the literature.

**Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials**

### **READING LIST**

The papers on this list give both a historical perspective (via the earliest papers on the topic) and a state-of-the-art perspective

(via recent papers). You are expected to read some, but not all of these. Read enough on each topic that you are confident that you understand it well; read more than those on this list on the topics that are related to your term project (enough that you feel 'expert' on that subject).

#### Linear Inversion Methods

- Golub & Kahan (1965) *J. SIAM Numer. Anal.* 2, 205-224  
Lee & Stewart (1981) *Principles & Applications of Microearthquake Networks*, Academic Press  
Lawson & Hanson (1974) *Solving Least Squares Problems*, Prentice-Hall  
Bjorck (1996) *Numerical Methods for Least Squares Problems*, SIAM  
Jackson (1972) *G.J.*, 28, 97-109  
Jackson & Matsu'ura (1985) *J. Geophys. Res.*, 90, 581-591  
Menke (1984) *Geophys. Data Analysis*, Academic Press  
Franklin (1970) *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* 31, 682-716  
Shewchuk (1994) anonymous FTP to WARP.CS.CMU.EDU (128.2.209.10 ) file quake-papers/painless-conjugate-gradient.ps

#### Linear Inversion Applications

- Wiggins (1972) *Rev. Geophys. Space Phys.* 10, 251-285  
Grechka & McMechan (1996) *Geophysics* 62, 1884-1895  
Crossen (1976) *J.G.R.*, 81, 3036-3046  
Hileman (1979) *BSSA* 69, 387-396  
Novotny (1981) *J. Geophys.* 69, 7-15  
Aki et al. (1977) *J.G.R.* 82, 277-296  
Pavlis & Booker (1980) *J.G.R.*, 88, 4801-4810  
Spencer & Gubbins (1980) *G.J.* 63, 95-116  
Wiggins et al. (1976) *Geophysics* 41, 922-938  
Sun & McMechan (1988) *Geophysics* 53, 1295-1303  
McAuley (1986) *Geophysics* 51, 1789-1800  
Marsden (1993) *TLE* 43-49 and 115-120

#### Non Linear Inversion (Simulated annealing, genetic) Applications

- Rothman (1985) *Geophysics* 50, 2784-2796  
Rothman (1986) *Geophysics* 51, 332-346  
Calderon et al. (2000) *Geophys. Prosp.* 48, 21-48

Sen & Stoffa (1991) *Geophysics* 56, 1624-1638  
Stoffa & Sen (1991) *Geophysics* 56, 1794-1810

#### Acoustic Inversion

Walker & Ulrych (1983) *Geophysics* 48, 1338-1350  
Aki & Richards, *Quantitative Seismology* 659-669  
Claerbout (1976) *Fund. Geophys. Data Proc.*  
Robinson (1967) *Multichannel Time Series Analysis*  
Holden-Day  
Oldenburg et al (1983) *Geophysics* 48, 1318-1337  
Newton (1981) *G.J.* 65, 191-215  
Hildebrand & McMechan (1994) *Geophysics* 59, 782-800  
Lu & McMechan (2002) *Geophysics* 67, 582-593

#### Body Wave Inversions

Gerver & Markushevich (1966) *G.J.* 11, 165-173  
McMechan & Wiggins (1972) *G.J.* 28, 459-473  
Aki & Richards, *Quantitative Seismology* 459-473  
McMechan (1979) *BSSA* 69, 379-385  
Garmann (1979) *G.R.L.* 6, 277-279  
McMechan (1979) *BSSA* 69, 1439-1444

#### Surface Wave Inversions

Dziewonski & Hales (1972) *Methods in Comp. Phys.* 12,  
39-85  
McMechan & Yedlin (1981) *Geophysics* 46, 869-874  
Lee & McMechan (1987) *G. J. R Astr. Soc.* 90, 649-667

#### Source Functions

Langston & Helmberger, *Geophys. J.* 42, 117-130  
Stump & Johnson *BSSA* 67, 1489-  
Burridge & Knopoff *BSSA* 54, 1875-1888  
Mendiguren (1977) *J.G.R.* 82, 889-894  
Romanowicz & Suarez (1983) *BSSA* 73, 1513-1526  
Hu & McMechan (1988) *Geophys. J.RAS* 95, 303-313  
Chang & McMechan (1991) *G.J. Int.* 106, 85-98  
Fehler & Phillips (1991) *BSSA* 81, 553-575  
Ramos-Martinez and McMechan (2001) *BSSA* 91, 276-291

## Tomography

- Kjartansson (1979) PhD Thesis, Stanford  
Mason et al. (1980) *Geophysics* 45, 1131-1143  
Mason (1981) *Geophysics* 46, 298-308  
McMechan (1983) *G.J.* 74, 601-612  
Dines & Lytle (1979) *Proc, IEEE* 67, 1065-1073  
Menke W. (1980) notes  
Tanabe (1971) *Numer. Math.* 17, 203-214  
Ivansson (1983) *G.J.* 75, 855-860  
Censor (1981) *SIAM Rev.* 23, 444-466  
McMechan et al. (1987) *BSSA* 77, 1945-1960  
Stewart (1988) *Geophysics* 53, 1613-1615  
Gilbert (1972) *J. Theor. Biol* 36, 105-117  
Zhu & McMechan (1989) *BSSA* 79, 873-887  
Brzostowski & McMechan (1992) *Geophysics* 57, 396-403  
Zhang & McMechan (1994) *Geophysics* 59, 1620-1630  
Pratt & Worthington (1990) *Geophys. Prosp.* 38, 287-310  
Liao & McMechan (1997) *Geophysics* 62, 1804-1811  
Fei & McMechan (2006) *Geophysics* 71, U21-U28  
Fei & McMechan (2006) *Geophysics* 71, S161-S167

## Migration

- Gazdag (1978) *Geophysics* 43, 1342-1351  
Lowenthal & Mufti (1983) *Geophysics* 48, 627-635  
Claerbout (1976) *Fund. Geophys. Data Proc.* 236-246  
Levin (1984) notes  
Stolt (1978) *Geophysics* 43, 23-48  
Hubral (1984) *Prakla-Seismos* report  
McMechan (1983) *Geophys. Prosp.* 31, 413-420  
Berkhout et al. (1980) *Geophys. Prosp.* 28, 372-383  
Berkhout (1983) *Seismic Migration*, Elsevier  
Clayton & Engquist (1980) *Geophysics* 45, 895-904  
Western Geophysical (brochures)  
Schneider (1978) *Geophysics* 43, 49-76  
Sun & McMechan (1986) *Proc. IEEE* 74, 457-465  
Rajasekaran & McMechan (1995) *G.J. Int.* 121, 255-266  
Chang et al. (1998) *Geophysics* 63, 546-556.  
Hua & McMechan (2005) *Geophys. Prosp.* 53, 507-522  
Hua & McMechan (2003) *Geophysics* 68, 1043-1051

## Slant Stacking

McMechan & Ottolini (1980) BSSA 70, 775-789  
Clayton & McMechan (1981) Geophysics 46, 860-868  
McMechan & Yedlin (1981) Geophysics 46, 869-874  
Tatham et al. (1982) notes  
McMechan et al. (1982) J.G.R. 87, 927-935  
Trietel et al. (1982) Geophysics 47, 1375-1401  
Chapman (1981) Geophys. J. 66, 445-453  
Hu & McMechan (1987) Geophysics 52, 307-321  
Hua & McMechan (2001) Geophysics 66, 1497-1503

## Born Inversion

Bleisein & Cohen (1979) Geophysics 44, 1034-1040  
Cohen & Bleistein (1979) Geophysics 44, 1077-1087  
Cohen & Bleistein (1977) SIAM J Appl. Math 32 787-799  
Clayton & Stolt (1981) Geophysics 46, 1559-1569  
Newton (1981) Geophys. J. 65, 191-215

## Full Wave Inversion

Jurkevics & Wiggins (1980) Geophys. J. 63, 75-93  
Tarantola (1984) Geophysics 49, 1259-1266  
Stolt & Weglein (1985) Geophysics 50, 2458-2472  
Pan & Phinney (1989) Geophysics 54, 368-380  
Martinez & McMechan (1990) Geophys. Prosp. 39, 141-156  
Bourgeois et al. (1989) Geophys J. 99, 435-445  
Sun & McMechan (1991) G.J. Int. 106, 67-75  
Mora (1989) Geophysics 54, 1575-1586  
Sun & McMechan (1992) G.J. Int. 111, 1-10  
Xu et al. (1995) Geophysics 60, 1805-1818  
Liao & McMechan (1996) Geophysics 61, 1371-1378  
Madiba & McMechan (2003) Geophysics 68, 837-848

## **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

*[Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates]*

- 1) Introduction, linearized inversion
- 2) reflection statics
- 3) simulated annealing
- 4) earthquake moment tensor inversion
- 5) estimation of acoustic impedance
- 6) Wiechert-Herglotz inversion, including low velocity zones
- 7) slant stacking for refraction velocity imaging
- 8) tomography for velocity and attenuation
- 9) diffraction tomography
- 10) migration methods (Kirchhoff, reverse time, F-K)
- 11) estimation of phase and group velocities
- 12) full wave inversion
- 13) elastic inversion
- 14) 3-D earthquake source imaging
- 15) Born inversion

**Insert Week Number  
OR Range of Dates  
for week**

**Insert Exam Date(s),  
Time(s)**

Aug 22      First class  
 Oct 10      Quiz # 1  
 Nov 21      Term Project Due  
 Nov 21      Last Class  
 Nov 28      Quiz # 2

**Course Policies**

<p><b>Grading (credit) Criteria</b></p>	<table> <tr> <td><b>Aug 22</b></td> <td><b>First class</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Oct 10</b></td> <td><b>Quiz # 1</b></td> <td><b>20%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Nov 21</b></td> <td><b>Term Project Due</b></td> <td><b>60%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Nov 21</b></td> <td><b>Last Class</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Nov 28</b></td> <td><b>Quiz # 2</b></td> <td><b>20%</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>----</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>100%</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Aug 22</b>	<b>First class</b>		<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>Quiz # 1</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Term Project Due</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Last Class</b>		<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>Quiz # 2</b>	<b>20%</b>			----		<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
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	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>																				
<p><b>Final grades will be adjusted depending on exam difficulty and the overall performance of the class; there is not a predetermined specific % need to obtain a specific grade level.</b></p> <p><b>Material covered by quizzes is not cumulative; each will cover only topics since the previous quiz.</b></p> <p><b>The term project is on any topic of your choice related to seismic inversion or imaging. It should involve operating on synthetic or real seismic data to solve a problem or investigate a phenomenon. It should be of a research nature, not just a repetition of a text-book problem, and should demonstrate your understanding of the technique(s) you have chosen to use. IDEALLY, THE TOPIC SHOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO YOUR THESIS.</b></p> <p><b>This is a term project, not a weekend project; grading will reflect an assumption that three months work are involved. The project MUST involve writing some software and SHOULD IDEALLY run with more than one processor on the cluster 'miraclon'. The format for the term project report is like a research paper (consult your favorite research journal for examples). Make sure that you clearly state your assumptions and conclusions as well as describing the method and testing it with examples.</b></p>																						
<p><b>Make-up Exams</b></p>	<p><b>Only for legitimate non-academic reasons</b></p>																					

<b>Extra Credit</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Late Work</b>	<b>Accepted only for legitimate non-academic reasons</b>
<b>Special Assignments</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Class Attendance</b>	<b>Expected, but not mandatory (at student's own risk of not understanding and not having an opportunity to ask questions for clarification)</b>
<b>Classroom Citizenship</b>	<b>Civil interaction is expected</b>
<b>Field Trip Policies</b>	<b>No field trips</b>
<b>Student Conduct and Discipline</b>	<p>The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the <i>Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).</p> <p>A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.</p>
<b>Academic Integrity</b>	<p>The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.</p> <p>Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.</p>

	<p>Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.</p>
<b>Email Use</b>	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.</p>
<b>Withdrawal from Class</b>	<p>The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.</p>
<b>Student Grievance Procedures</b>	<p>Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>.</p> <p>In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.</p> <p>Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the</p>

	Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.
<b>Incomplete Grades</b>	As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of <b>F</b> .
<b>Disability Services</b>	<p>The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  PO Box 830688  Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)</p> <p>Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.</p> <p>It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.</p>
<b>Religious Holy Days</b>	<p>The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.</p> <p>The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student,</p>

	<p>so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.</p> <p>If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.</p>
<p><b>Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities</b></p>	<p>Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at <a href="http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm">http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm</a>. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.</p>

*These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*