

## Yuan-Kai Liu

Ph.D. candidate

Seismological Laboratory

California Institute of Technology

[ykliu@caltech.edu](mailto:ykliu@caltech.edu)

<https://yuankailiu.github.io>

MC 252-21, Pasadena CA 91125

### Education

- 2019 – Ph.D. candidate, Geophysics, California Institute of Technology  
(minor in Computational Science and Engineering)
- 2016 – 2018 M.S., Earth Science & Engineering,  
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia  
Thesis: [Ground deformation related to caldera collapse and ring-fault activity](#)  
Advisor: Sigurjón Jónsson
- 2010 – 2015 B.S., Geosciences, Civil Engineering, National Taiwan University, Taiwan

### Research Interests

Deformation in seismic cycles, geodetic observations of tectonic/volcanic systems, interferometric synthetic aperture radar, time-series analysis, inverse theory, repeating earthquakes, earthquake statistics

### Academic Positions

- 2019 – Graduate Research, Caltech Seismological Laboratory, Caltech
- 2016 – 2018 Graduate Research, Crustal Deformation and InSAR Group, KAUST
- 2014 – 2015 Research Assistant, Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica
- 2014 Visiting Research, Department of Earth Sciences, Tohoku University
- 2013 Project Intern, Carbon Capture and Storage Project, Taiwan Power Company
- 2012 Project Intern, Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica

### Publications and Presentations

<sup>†</sup> equal contribution, \* corresponding author

- [5] **Liu, Y.-K.\***, Yunjun, Z., Simons, M. (in prep). On inferring plate rotations from InSAR decadal velocities. *To be submitted to Geophysical Research Letters*.
- [4] Stephenson, O. L.<sup>†</sup>, **Liu, Y.-K.\***, Yunjun, Z., Simons, M., Rosen, P., & Xu, X. (2022). The impact of plate motions on long-wavelength InSAR-derived velocity fields. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 49, e2022GL099835. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2022GL099835>
- [3] **Liu, Y.-K.\***, Ross, Z. E., Cochran, E. S., & Lapusta, N. (2022). A unified perspective of seismicity and fault coupling along the San Andreas Fault. *Sci. Adv.* **8**, eabk1167(2022). <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abk1167>
- [2] Aldaajani, T., Simons, M., Yunjun, Z., Bekaert, D., Almalki, K.A., **Liu, Y.-K.** Using InSAR Time Series to Monitor Surface Fractures and Fissures in the Al-Yutamah Valley, Western Arabia. *Remote Sens.* **2022**, 14, 1769. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs14081769>
- [1] **Liu, Y.-K.**, Ruch, J., Vasyura-Bathke, H., & Jónsson, S. (2019). Influence of ring faulting in localizing surface deformation at subsiding calderas. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 526, 115784. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2019.115784>

*Invited Talks:*

[A unified perspective of seismicity and fault coupling along the San Andreas Fault](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Ross, Z. E., Cochran, E. S., Lapusta, N.

USGS Southern California Earthquake Hazards Assessment project, Pasadena, CA.

*Conference Abstracts*

[High-Resolution Interseismic Deformation of the Southern Dead Sea Transform Fault](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Yunjun, Z., Zheng, Y., Liang, C., Alotaibi, T., Simons, M.

American Geophysical Union (AGU), 2023 Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

[Imaging Deformation Processes along the Southern Dead Sea Transform using 8 years of InSAR](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Stephenson, O. L., Yunjun, Z., Simons, M.

GAGE/SAGE 2023 Community Science Workshop, Pasadena, CA.

[The Impact of Plate Motions on Long-Wavelength InSAR-Derived Velocity Fields](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Stephenson, O. L., Yunjun, Z., Simons, M., Rosen, P., & Xu, X.

American Geophysical Union (AGU), 2022 Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.

[High-Resolution Interseismic Deformation of the Southern Dead Sea Transform Fault](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Stephenson, O. L., Yunjun, Z., Simons, M.

American Geophysical Union (AGU), 2022 Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.

[A unified perspective of seismicity and fault coupling along the San Andreas Fault](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Ross, Z. E., Cochran, E. S., Lapusta, N.

American Geophysical Union (AGU), 2021 Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

[A unified perspective of seismicity and fault coupling along the San Andreas Fault](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Ross, Z. E., Cochran, E. S., Lapusta, N.

Poster #089, SCEC Contribution #11496. 2021 SCEC Annual Meeting, Palm Springs, CA.

[The problem of ghost magma chambers under calderas](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Ruch, J., Vasyura-Bathke, H., Jonsson, S.

Cities on Volcanoes 10 Meeting (2018), Naples, Italy.

[Ring-fault activity at subsiding calderas studied from analogue experiments and numerical modeling](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Ruch, J., Vasyura-Bathke, H., Jonsson, S.

American Geophysical Union (AGU), 2017 Fall Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

[Contemporaneous ring fault activity and surface deformation at subsiding calderas studied using analogue experiments](#)

**Liu, Y.-K.**, Ruch, J., Vasyura-Bathke, H., Jonsson, S.

European Geosciences Union (EGU), General Assembly 2017, Vienna, Austria.

Numerical simulation study of Changhua and Chelungpu faults earthquake scenarios,  
Lin, C.-H., T.-C. Lin, Y.-R. Chang, **Y.-K. Liu**, S.-J. Lee, Twin of Chi-Chi earthquake?  
2012 Undergraduate summer project, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

## Fellowships and Awards

2022	J. Yang Scholarship, Caltech
2019 – 2020	Caltech C Scholarship, Caltech
2019 – 2020	Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences Fellowship, Caltech
2017	Outstanding Student Poster Award (OSPP), European Geosciences Union
2016 – 2018	Graduate Program Fellowship in Earth Science and Engineering, KAUST
2014	National Taiwan University Dean's Award
2012	National Taiwan University Undergraduate Scholarship
2012	National Taiwan University Presidential Award

## Professional Activities

2021 – 2022	Organizing Committee, Caltech Seismological Laboratory Seminar
2022 –	Journal Reviewer: JGR Solid Earth, EPSL
2021	Student Poster Judge, Southern California Earthquake Center Meeting

## Teaching and Outreach

2023	Mentor of Caltech Seismolab Earthquake Fellows: High school summer program
2022	Mentor of Caltech WAVE Fellows: Undergraduate research program
2021	Mentor of Caltech SURF Fellows: Undergraduate research program
2021 – 2022	TA at Caltech: Ge 271 – Dynamics of Seismicity (Zachary Ross) Ge 193 – Imaging Radar and Applications (Howard Zebker)
2014 –	Science communication in geophysics, Archilife Research Foundation, Taiwan
2012 – 2014	Middle School Science and Math tutor

## Software Contributions

- [4] [Python Plate Motion Model \(PyPMM\)](#). *Liu et al.*, in prep.
- [3] [Python-based Atmospheric Phase Screen estimation \(PyAPS\)](#). *Jolivet et al.*, 2011
- [2] [Miami InSAR Time-series software in Python \(MintPy\)](#). *Yunjun et. al.*, 2019
- [1] [Interferometric synthetic aperture radar Scientific Computing Environment \(ISCE\)](#). *Rosen et. al.*, 2012