Special Issue

Rock Mass Characterization: A Focus on Geometrical Features of Discontinuities

Message from the Guest Editors

Discontinuities are an intrinsic characteristic of rock masses, and they appear at every scale of a technical survey. Discontinuity geometry is mainly characterized by location, orientation, spacing, and persistence. Since discontinuities have essential effects on rock mass behavior, it is crucial to estimate their mean geometry.

The automatization of the non-contact survey of discontinuity orientation is a recurrent topic in the research community. On the other hand, spacing and persistence are still the most challenging characteristics to be determined. The natural variability of discontinuity spacing in a rock mass leads to difficulties in collecting enough data to properly describe its statistical distribution.

This Special Issue aims to collect all research developments related to non-contact survey methods devoted to rock mass characterization, with a special focus on geometrical features of discontinuities, combining multidisciplinary approaches coming from rock mechanics, geology, remote sensing, and numerical simulations, to provide a comprehensive update of the state-of-the-art findings in this field.

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Understanding the Earth's origin and its bio-geological evolution, the multiple implications of the geosciences (as a coherentset of interconnected disciplines), and the sociocultural and ethical interdisciplinary approaches, will be crucial for a better understanding of Nature, and also for undertaking scientificallybased political decisions.
We are committed to drive *Geosciences* to a position in which it is recognized for its high-quality, cutting-edge research and scientific influence, and strongly encourage and invite your participation and manuscripts.

Editor-in-Chief

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