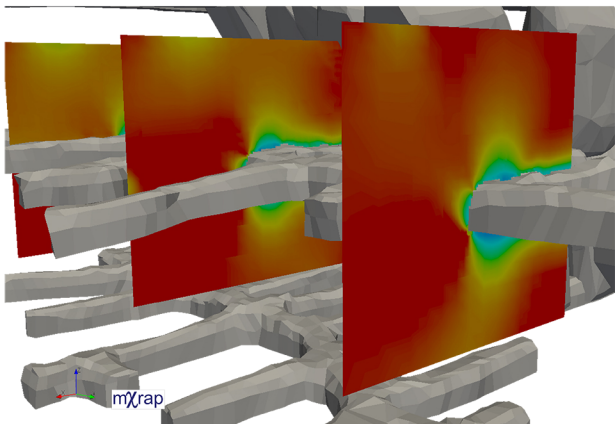


# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DESIGN METHODS IN UNDERGROUND MINING

17–19 November 2015 | Perth, Western Australia



EDITOR Yves Potvin

# Underground Design Methods 2015

Proceedings of the International Seminar on  
Design Methods in Underground Mining

17–19 November 2015, Perth, Australia

*Editor*

**Yves Potvin**

Australian Centre for Geomechanics, Australia



CSIRO | The University of Western Australia | Joint Venture

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# Australian Centre for Geomechanics

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics was formally established in 1992 as a University of Western Australia research centre in order to promote research excellence and continuing education in geomechanics, with particular emphasis on its application to the mineral and energy extraction sections of Australia's resource industry.

The Australian Centre for Geomechanics is an unincorporated Joint Venture involving:

- CSIRO Earth Science and Resource Engineering
- The University of Western Australia — School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering

The Centre draws together its staff knowledge and experiences with the expertise within the two groups forming the Centre and facilitates a multi-disciplinary approach to research and education in geomechanics. Research undertaken by the ACG attracts both national and global support and the outcomes of the projects are utilised to promote safer mining and environmental geomechanics practices, operating efficiencies and to meeting community expectations for sustainable mining practices.

With the guidance of strong industry representation on the Board of Management and close collaboration with senior representatives of the mining industry, research, training and further education activities are tailored directly to the needs of industry. The ACG Board expects the Australian Centre for Geomechanics to be the focal point for industry on geomechanics issues and to address the needs of industry through a collaborative interdisciplinary approach.



# Technical Reviewers

The dedicated efforts of the peer reviewers have resulted in the high quality of the technical programme and the papers compiled for this publication. The editor thanks the following people who contributed their time and expertise as reviewers of manuscripts for the proceedings of the International Seminar on Design Methods in Underground Mining held in Perth, Western Australia. A technical and critical review of each paper was undertaken by a minimum of two reviewers for the production of this volume.

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# Preface

The creation of the inaugural Seminar on Design Methods in Underground Mining was inspired by my attendance at a specialised conference on Applied Empirical Design Methods in Peru last year, organised by the International Society for Rock Mechanics. The conference offered a unique opportunity for attendees to discover some of the intricacies of applying empirical design methods to a variety of worldwide projects. The success of and interest generated by this conference convinced me that this topic should be further explored. However, considering an Australian audience, I felt the need to broaden the main conference theme beyond the empirical design framework and, at the same time, concentrate on its application to underground mining.

Recognising the leadership of Canadians in the field of underground mine design, two professors and practitioners from Canada were invited to deliver keynotes: Professor Emeritus Rimas Pakalnis, who is well known for his involvement in the development of several empirical design techniques; and Professor Emeritus Will Bawden, who has extensive experience with empirical and numerical approaches and is a strong promoter of geotechnical instrumentation and technology in underground mines. Emeritus Professor Dick Stacey from South Africa was also invited to present a keynote. He outlined his views on the significant topic of design process. Paul Harris, MMG's Dugald River mine manager, presented the fourth keynote on one of the most exciting and challenging new underground mining projects in Australia.

These proceedings feature forty-three high quality technical papers with submissions from more than 10 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, UK and the USA), which address a wide spectrum of themes that are central to the application of design methods in underground mines. The first section focusses on the numerical modelling approach, which is one of the most prominent design methods. Sections are also dedicated to specific components of underground mine design, such as pillar design, support design and orepass design. Three sections directly address parts of the design process, including input data, planning and optimisation of design. These proceedings further comprise sections on specific design challenges such as dilution control and seismicity.

It is intended that further seminars on design methods in different mining countries will be organised in years to come, with the goal of stimulating authorship and producing important references on this significant topic.

## **Professor Yves Potvin**

Director, Australian Centre for Geomechanics

Chair, International Seminar on Design Methods in Underground Mining



# Table of Contents

iii	Australian Centre for Geomechanics
v	Technical Reviewers
vii	Preface

## KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

---

3	The expanding impact of technology on underground geomechanical mine design and operations — advances, limitations and future needs <i>WF Bawden, Mine Design Engineering, Canada</i>
21	Dugald River case study — the importance of understanding your orebody and designing your mine for maximum value <i>P Harris, MMG Limited, Australia</i>
37	Empirical design methods in practice <i>R Pakalnis, Pakalnis &amp; Associates and the University of British Columbia, Canada</i>
57	Rock engineering design — the importance of process, prediction of behaviour, choice of design criteria, review and consideration of risk <i>TR Stacey, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa</i>

## NUMERICAL MODELLING

---

79	Discrete analysis of open stope stability <i>B Sainsbury, Monash University, Australia; D Sainsbury, A Vakili, Mining One Pty Ltd, Australia</i>
95	Room and pillar stability analysis using linear elastic modelling and probability of failure — a case study <i>EJ Walls, P Mpunzi, WC Joughin, SRK Consulting (SA) (Pty) Ltd, South Africa</i>
107	Defining the role of elastic modelling in underground mine design <i>BJ Barsanti, Newmont Asia Pacific, Australia; FRP Basson, Newmont Asia Pacific, Australia</i>

## DESIGNING FOR SEISMICITY

---

123	Seismic hazard assessment using apparent stress ratio <i>LG Brown, MR Hudyma, Laurentian University, Canada; P Turcotte, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, Canada</i>
135	Design and management processes involved with extracting regional pillar stopes in a seismic setting at Darlot Gold Mine <i>C Moulding, P Andrews, Gold Fields Australia Pty Ltd, Australia</i>
149	Study of stress conditions at Williams Mine using underground observations and microseismic monitoring data <i>PJ Earl, Global Mine Design Ltd, UK; D Malovichko, Institute of Mine Seismology, Australia; D Rebuli, Institute of Mine Seismology, Canada</i>

## OPTIMISATION OF DESIGN

---

167	Geotechnical design considerations for Dugald River — from slot to sequence <i>R de Vries, R Hassell, MMG Limited, Australia; J Player, MineGeoTech, Australia</i>
185	Dugald River trial stoping, overall hanging wall behaviour <i>R Hassell, R de Vries, MMG Limited, Australia; J Player, MineGeoTech, Australia; A Rajapakse, MMG Limited, Australia</i>
199	Short-term solutions to squeezing ground at Agnew Gold Mine, Western Australia <i>CE Woolley, P Andrews, Gold Fields Australia Pty Ltd, Australia</i>

- 215 Geotechnical approach to stope and pillar optimisation at Granny Smith Mine  
*L Machuca, M Sutton, R Grow, P Andrews, Gold Fields Australia Pty Ltd, Australia*
- 233 Establishing geotechnical processes for improved mine design at Bulyanhulu  
*RM Stephenson, AMC Consultants Pty Ltd, Australia; GC Chilala, R Harris, Acacia Mining plc, Tanzania; O Watson, AMC Consultants Pty Ltd, Australia*
- 241 Initial effects of improved drill and blast practices on stope stability at Acacia's Bulyanhulu Mine  
*GC Chilala, J de Assuncao, R Harris, Acacia Mining plc, Tanzania; RM Stephenson, AMC Consultants, Australia*

## PILLAR DESIGN

---

- 257 Pillar design around mullock-filled stopes in the 3500 Orebody, Mount Isa Mines  
*D Matthews, Glencore Mount Isa Mines, Australia*
- 273 Work conducted in preparation for partial extraction of X41 shaft pillar at Mount Isa Mines  
*GS Potgieter, Glencore Mount Isa Mines, Australia*

## DESIGN IN NARROW VEIN MINING

---

- 293 Design and application of an efficient mining method for gentle-dipping narrow vein at Kafang Mine  
*F Gao, KP Zhou, HW Deng, NG Yang, JL Li, Central South University, China*
- 307 Suitability of the overhand cut-and-fill mining method for narrow vein graphite extraction — a case study  
*K Ekanayake, C Ekanayake, Bogala Graphite Lanka PLC, Sri Lanka*

## INPUT DATA FOR DESIGN

---

- 317 Unravelling structural fabric — a necessity for realistic rock mass characterisation for deep mine design  
*TG Carter, SF Rogers, JLL Taylor, J Smith, Golder Associates Ltd., Canada*
- 339 Contribution to drift design using discrete fracture network modelling at the Éléonore Mine in Canada  
*M Grenon, A Landry, Laval University, Canada; J Hadjigeorgiou, University of Toronto, Canada; PL Lajoie, Goldcorp Inc., Canada*
- 351 Statistical characterisation of intact rock properties at a Canadian underground mining project  
*M Grenon, C Boudreau, G Bruneau, Laval University, Canada; R Caumartin, Glencore Raglan Mine, Canada*
- 367 How reliable are your design inputs?  
*MJ Dunn, Evolution Mining Ltd, Australia*

## GROUND SUPPORT

---

- 385 Empirical ground support and reinforcement design at Challenger Gold Mine  
*PB Hills, pitt&sherry, Australia; N Raymond, M Doyle, Challenger Gold Mine, Australia*
- 399 Evaluation of the adjusted rockburst damage potential method for dynamic ground support selection in extreme rockburst conditions  
*W Duan, The University of Western Australia, Australia; J Wesseloo, Y Potvin, Australian Centre for Geomechanics, The University of Western Australia, Australia*
- 419 Empirical ground support design of mine drives  
*Y Potvin, Australian Centre for Geomechanics, The University of Western Australia, Australia; J Hadjigeorgiou, University of Toronto, Canada*

## PLANNING, DESIGN, PRODUCTION AND FINANCIAL INPUT

---

- 433 Mine design impact on operating and capital costs  
*D Morrison, R Webb, A Akerman, H Parsons, Centre for Excellence in Mining Innovation, Canada*
- 443 Discrete event simulation — a tool to support the design of complex production and logistic processes; its application in underground mine design  
*K Quan, G King, T Schrimpf, Amec Foster Wheeler, Australia*
- 463 Cost estimates as a design tool — the impact of mine design on ventilation costs for a variety of underground mining scenarios  
*S Stebbins, Aventurine Mine Cost Engineering, Inc., USA*

## PLANNING AND GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN

---

- 477 Development of an integrated platform for stability analysis and design in sublevel stoping mines — MineRoc®  
*JA Vallejos, O Miranda, C Gary, A Delonca, University of Chile, Chile*
- 489 Design approach for squeezing ground  
*RP Varden, MineGeoTech, Australia; MJ Woods, BHP Billiton, Australia*
- 505 Practical long-term planning in narrow vein mines — a case study  
*MM Khani, Mandalay Resources Costerfield Operations, Australia*

## DILUTION CONTROL

---

- 515 Simulate waste rock flow during co-disposal for dilution control  
*FRP Basson, NJ Dalton, BJ Barsanti, AL Flemmer, Newmont Asia Pacific, Australia*
- 527 A methodology for predicting dilution of cemented paste backfill  
*RL Veenstra, Glencore Mount Isa Mines, Australia*
- 541 A dilution model for narrow vein mine design — a case study  
*F Marco, JA Vallejos, R Castro, A Hekmat, University of Chile, Chile*
- 553 Ore dilution control practised at Sindesar Khurd Mine of Hindustan Zinc Ltd  
*S Dutta, A Lal, V Chittora, L Chordia, D Tailor, Hindustan Zinc Ltd, India*

## OREPASS DESIGN

---

- 571 Input to orepass design — a numerical modelling study  
*J Sjöberg, A Bolin, Itasca Consultants AB, Sweden; A Sánchez Juncal, University of Alberta, Canada; T Wettainen, LKAB, Sweden; D Mas Ivars, F Perman, Itasca Consultants AB, Sweden*
- 585 Guidelines for orepass design in a sublevel cave mine  
*KA Bunker, AD Campbell, Ernest Henry Mining, Australia; D O'Toole, pitt&sherry, Australia; A Penney, AMC Consultants Pty Ltd, Australia*
- 601 Author Index