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EDITORIAL

Editorial to Special Issue: Including Selected Papers from the 48th US Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics Symposium on "Rock Mechanics Across Length and Time Scales" held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, June 1–4, 2014

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This special issue of *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering* contains ten papers and two technical notes that were invited contributions from the 48th US Rock Mechanics/Geomechanics Symposium held at the University of Minnesota, MN, June 1–4, 2014. The symposium is the focal event of the American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA), and the manuscripts in this special issue are revised and expanded versions of the proceedings papers.

The theme of the symposium was Rock Mechanics Across Length and Time Scales to focus on the role of scaling in a variety of natural and engineered processes, ranging from the very fast, such as acoustic emission, to the very slow, such as deformation of an underground salt cavern, and from the very small, such as microcracks due to mechanical stress, to the very large, such as hydraulic fracturing of a reservoir for enhanced geothermal energy. It is fitting that the 12 contributions to this special issue are associated with the theme of the symposium.

The objective of the symposium was to bring together international researchers and practitioners dealing with natural and engineered processes in rock. The scope of the symposium included analytical solutions, numerical methods, experimental techniques, and case histories, and these areas are reflected in the papers and notes published in this issue. Besides the presentation of fundamental research findings, these contributions also highlight applications in geoengineering from the civil, mining, and petroleum fields.

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