

Report from the *Aussois* conference

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The conference organized by ALERT geomechanics group is a yearly important event of importance for geomechanics. There is traditionally strong participation of researchers from UJF Grenoble and Politecnica di Milano (due to spatial proximity, but also activity in conference organization); EPFL Lausanne, TU Dresden, and other universities.

The conference consistent of many 20-minutes presentations, of which quality was varying. Due to large audience of about 100 participants, choice of unifying topic is understandably difficult. It could be observed that there are 3 hot topics in last years:

1. diffuse failure of granular media, analyzed using network-theory approaches, homogenization techniques and bifurcation theory;
2. experimental work on microscale level, such as tomograph/sonograph analysis of sand during triaxial tests;
3. CO₂ sequestration in rocks (apparently heavily funded by grant agencies).

Detailed program can be found on <http://alert.epfl.ch/Workshop/workshop.html>.

Social dimension of the conference is high. I had the occasion to meet old colleagues from UJF Grenoble, discuss future work on a simulation code which started several years ago and publications we could write together. As my contract in Innsbruck is ending in December, it was an opportunity to look for future work possibilities.

The conference takes place in nice natural environment of Alps, which is particularly inspiring for scientific and non-scientific discussions alike.

