

Emeritus Senior Scientist in Geosciences

NATAF Henri-Claude

ISTerre, CNRS,

Univ Grenoble Alpes, France

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69 years, married, 2 children



Education

1986

Thèse d'Etat, University Paris-South, "Elements of anatomy and physiology of the Earth's mantle: seismic tomography and experimental convection"

1980

Thèse de 3^{ème} cycle, University Paris-South, "Convection in the Earth's mantle: experimental study of the effect of the lateral cooling produced by the subducting oceanic lithosphere on sub-continental convection", Dissertation advisor: C. Froidevaux

1978

Master in Physics (Geophysics specialty), University Paris-South

Research Positions

2021-

Institut des Sciences de la Terre, University Grenoble Alpes, France

CNRS Emeritus Senior Scientist

2011-2021

Institut des Sciences de la Terre, University Grenoble Alpes, France

CNRS Research Director

Collaborations with: N. Schaeffer, D. Schmitt, D. Jault, T. Alboussière, P. Cardin, D. Cébron

02/2011-
05/2011

IREAP, University of Maryland, USA

CNRS Researcher in residence

Collaborations with: D.P. Lathrop, D. Zimmerman, S. Triana

1996-2010

Laboratoire de Géophysique Interne et Tectonophysique, University of Grenoble, France

CNRS Research Director

Collaborations with: P. Cardin, D. Brito, D. Jault, T. Alboussière, D. Schmitt

Laboratoire de Géologie de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

CNRS Research Director (1991-)

Collaborations with: Y. Ricard, P. Olson, V. Maupin

1991-1992

Institute of Earth Sciences, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

CNRS Researcher in residence

Collaborations with: J. VanDecar

1982-1988

Laboratoire de Géophysique et Géodynamique Interne, University Paris-South, Orsay, France

CNRS Research Associate

Collaborations with: J-P. Montagner

1981-1982

Seismological Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

Research Assistant

Collaborations with: Don L. Anderson, I. Nakanishi, T. Lay, B. Hager, R.F. Scott, E.A. Okal

1980

Department of Geophysical Sciences, The University of Chicago, USA

Research Associate

Collaborations with: F.M. Richter, S.F. Daly

Main Administrative Positions

2012-2018

President of the Council of the Observatory Midi-Pyrénées

2006-2010

Director of the Observatory of Sciences of the Universe of Grenoble

2004-2006

President of the Commission of Specialists in Earth and Environment Science, University of Grenoble

2000-2004

President of the French National Evaluation Committee "Earth: physics and chemistry"

1999-2002

Director of the Graduate School "Earth, Universe, Environment" of the University of Grenoble

Other Service

Journals	Editor of eEarth EGU Journal (2005-2008), Member of the Editorial Boards of "Earth & Planetary Science Letters" (1987-2007), and "Physics of the Earth & Planetary Interiors" (1992-2015)
International	Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of "Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden Rossendorf" (2018-2022) Vice-President of the International Group "Study of the Earth Deep Interior" (1999-2003)

Awards

2021	Ampère Prize of the French Academy of Science (as a member of the Geodynamo team)
2011	Paul Doistau-Émile Blutet Prize of the French Academy of Science
1997	Barrabé Prize of the French Geological Society
1985	CNRS Bronze medal
1981	Guinier Prize of the French Physical Society

Doctoral Research Direction

2021-	Thomas FRASSON	"How does the mantle influence magnetic reversals?", <i>University Grenoble Alpes</i> (S. Labrosse co-advisor)
2014	Simon CABANES	"Contributions of turbulent fluctuations to the induced magnetic field in a liquid sodium experiment", <i>University Grenoble Alpes Thesis</i> . (N. Schaeffer co-advisor)
2009	Nadège GAGNIÈRE	"Experimental study of the magnetostrophic regime with DTS (Derviche Tourneur Sodium)", <i>University Joseph Fourier Grenoble Thesis</i> .
2004	Nathanaël SCHAEFFER	"Instabilities, turbulence and dynamo in a sheared fluid layer in rapid rotation", <i>University Joseph Fourier Grenoble Thesis</i> . (P. Cardin advisor)
2001	Julien AUBERT	"Experimental and numerical models of convection on the Earth's core", <i>University Joseph Fourier Grenoble Thesis</i> . (P. Cardin advisor)
1998	Daniel BRITO	"Experimental and theoretical approaches of the dynamics of the Earth's core", <i>Ecole Normale Supérieure Thesis & Johns Hopkins University PhD</i> . (P. Olson co-advisor)
1997	Valérie EMERY	"Diffracted S waves at the base of the mantle: modeling diffusion by the heterogeneous D" layer", <i>Ecole Normale Supérieure Thesis</i> . (V. Maupin co-advisor)
1996	Ji Ying	"Diffraction tomography and detection of plumes in the lower mantle", <i>Ecole Normale Supérieure Thesis</i> .
1995	Bruno LAFaurie	"Modeling convection by a lattice-gas method and interface tracking technique", <i>Ecole Normale Supérieure Thesis</i> . (S. Zaleski advisor)
1993	Sylvain HOUARD	"Structure of the D" layer, study of the caustic of the PKP waves", <i>University Paris 6 Thesis</i> .
1992	Philippe CARDIN	"Aspects of convection in the Earth: coupling of the upper and lower mantles, thermal convection in the liquid core", <i>University Paris 6 Thesis</i> . (P. Olson co-advisor)
1989	Valérie ANSEL	"Mantle anisotropy deduced from shear wave splitting", <i>University Paris-South Thesis</i> .

Main Research Achievements

<i>Core dynamics, MHD and dynamo</i>	* first experimental observation of geostrophic Alfvén waves * introduction of τ - t diagrams for turbulence in planetary cores * experimental discovery of negative turbulent magnetic diffusivity * first experiment exploring the magnetostrophic regime * experimental evidence of zonal motions in rotating convection * co-invention of Modal Acoustic Velocimetry * adaptation of Ultrasound Doppler Velocimetry to liquid metals
<i>Experimental Fluid Dynamics</i>	* diffraction tomography and detection of mantle plumes * construction and diffusion of the 3SMAC model * characteristics of the D" discontinuity * first tomographic anisotropic model of the upper mantle * properties of convection with temperature-dependent viscosity
<i>Seismology</i>	
<i>Mantle dynamics</i>	

Main Courses Taught

Geophysical fluid dynamics

* From the Lab, up and down (Master class for graduate students and postdocs in Kyoto, Japan) (FDEPS program. On line course at: <http://www.gfd-dennou.org/seminars/fdeps/2018-11-27/index.htm.en>)

Core dynamics, MHD and dynamo

* core dynamics and dynamo (Master and PhD levels)

Seismology

* seismic waves and modes (Bachelor and Master levels)
* properties of the D'' layer (post-doctoral Les Houches)
* exploration geophysics (Bachelor level)

Mantle dynamics

* geochemistry and mantle convection (Master level and PhD levels)

Geophysics

* Earth dynamics, Physics of the Earth (Master level)

Books and Chapters

- 2015 **Nataf H-C.** and N. Schaeffer, Turbulence in the core, in *Treatise on Geophysics, second Edition*, Vol. 8 Core Dynamics, P. Olson and G. Schubert Eds, Elsevier B.V., p. 161-181, 2015.
- 2000 **Nataf H-C.** et J. Sommeria, coordinators, *La physique et la Terre*, Collection Croisée des Sciences, Belin-CNRS-Editions, 144 pp.
- 1998 Jolivet L. et **H-C. Nataf**, *Géodynamique*, Collection Geosciences, Dunod, 226 pp, Paris.

Articles in Refereed Journals

- Frasson T., N. Schaeffer, **H-C. Nataf** and S. Labrosse, Geomagnetic dipole stability and zonal flows controlled by mantle heat flux heterogeneities, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **240**, 1481-1504, [DOI](#), 2025.
- Nataf H-C.** and N. Schaeffer, Dynamic regimes in planetary cores: tau-ell diagrams, *CR Geosciences*, **356**, 1-30, 2024.
- Tomasetto L., P. Boué, L. Stehly, F. Arduhin and **H-C. Nataf**, On the stability of mantle-sensitive P-wave interference during a secondary microseismic event, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **51**, e2023GL108018, 2024.
- Frasson T., S. Labrosse, **H-C. Nataf**, N. Coltice and N. Flament, On the impact of true polar wander on heat flux patterns at the core–mantle boundary, *Solid Earth*, **15**, 617–637, [DOI](#), 2024.
- Nataf H-C.**, Tidally synchronized solar dynamo: a rebuttal, *Solar Physics*, **297**, 107, 2022 + Response to Comment on “Tidally Synchronized Solar Dynamo: a Rebuttal”, *Solar Physics*, **298**, 33, 2023.
- Landeau M., A. Fournier, **H-C. Nataf**, D. Cébron and N. Schaeffer, Sustaining Earth’s magnetic dynamo, *Nature Reviews Earth & Environment*, 2022.
- Su S., D. Cébron, **H-C. Nataf**, P. Cardin, J. Vidal, M. Solazzo and Y. Do, Acoustic spectra of a gas-filled rotating spheroid, *European J. Mech. B/Fluids*, **84**, 302-310, 2020.
- Tigrine Z., **H-C. Nataf**, N. Schaeffer, P. Cardin and F. Plunian, Torsional Alfvén waves in a dipolar magnetic field: experiments and simulations, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **219**, S83-S100, 2019.
- Kaplan E.J., **H-C. Nataf** and N. Schaeffer, Dynamic domains of DTS: simulations of a spherical magnetized Couette flow, *Phys. Rev. Fluids*, **3**, 034608, 2018.
- Schaeffer N., D. Jault, **H-C. Nataf** and A. Fournier, Turbulent geodynamo simulations: a leap towards Earth’s core, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **211**, 1–29, 2017.
- Cabanes S., N. Schaeffer and **H-C. Nataf**, Turbulence reduces magnetic diffusivity in a liquid sodium experiment, *Physical Review Letters*, **113**, 184501, 2014 + *Erratum*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, **115**, 189901, 2015.
- Cabanes S., N. Schaeffer and **H-C. Nataf**, Magnetic induction and diffusion mechanisms in a liquid sodium spherical Couette experiment, *Phys. Rev. E*, **90**, 043018, 2014.
- Triana S.A., D.S. Zimmerman, **H-C. Nataf**, A. Thorette, V. Lekic and D.P. Lathrop, Helioseismology in a bottle: Modal acoustic velocimetry, *New Journal of Physics*, **16**, 113005, 2014.
- Zimmerman D.S., S.A. Triana, **H-C. Nataf** and D.P. Lathrop, A turbulent, high magnetic Reynolds number experimental model of Earth’s core, *J. Geophys. Res. Solid Earth*, **119**, doi:10.1002/2013JB010733, 2014.
- Nataf H-C.**, Magnetic induction maps in a magnetized spherical Couette flow experiment, *Comptes Rendus Physique*, **14**, 248-267, 2013.
- Figueroa A., N. Schaeffer, **H-C. Nataf** and D. Schmitt, Modes and instabilities in magnetized spherical Couette flow, *J. Fluid Mech.*, **716**, 445-469, 2013.
- Schmitt D., P. Cardin, P. La Rizza and **H-C. Nataf**, Magneto-Coriolis Waves in a spherical Couette flow experiment, *European J. Mech., B/Fluids*, **37**, 10-22, 2013.
- Brito D., T. Alboussière, P. Cardin, N. Gagnière, D. Jault, P. La Rizza, J-P. Masson, **H-C. Nataf** and D. Schmitt, Zonal shear and super-rotation in a magnetized spherical Couette flow experiment, *Phys. Rev. E*, **83**, 066310, 2011.
- Nataf H-C.** and N. Gagnière, On the peculiar nature of turbulence in planetary dynamos, *Compte Rendus Physique*, **9**, 702-710, 2008.
- Schmitt D., T. Alboussière, D. Brito, P. Cardin, N. Gagnière, D. Jault, and **H-C. Nataf**, Rotating spherical Couette flow in a dipolar magnetic field: experimental study of magneto-inertial waves, *J. Fluid Mech.*, **604**, 175-197, 2008.
- Nataf H-C.**, T. Alboussière, D. Brito, P. Cardin, N. Gagnière, D. Jault, and D. Schmitt, Rapidly rotating spherical Couette flow in a dipolar magnetic field: an experimental study of the mean axisymmetric flow, *Phys. Earth Planet. Inter.*, **170**, 60-72, 2008.
- Gillet N., D. Brito, D. Jault and **H-C. Nataf**, Experimental and numerical studies of convection in a rapidly rotating spherical shell, *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **580**, 83-123, 2007.
- Gillet N., D. Brito, D. Jault and **H-C. Nataf**, Experimental and numerical studies of magnetoconvection in a rapidly rotating spherical shell, *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, **580**, 123-143, 2007.
- Nataf H-C.**, T. Alboussière, D. Brito, P. Cardin, N. Gagnière, D. Jault, J-P. Masson and D. Schmitt, Experimental study of super-rotation in a magnetostrophic spherical Couette flow, *Geophysical and Astrophysical Fluid Dynamics*, **100**, 281-298, 2006.

- Nataf H-C.**, Dynamo and convection experiments, in *Earth's core and lower mantle* (Eds. C.A. Jones, A.M. Soward and K. Zhang), Taylor and Francis, pp 153-179, 2003.
- Cardin P., D. Brito, D. Jault, **H-C. Nataf** and J.-P. Masson, Towards a rapidly rotating liquid sodium dynamo experiment, *Magnetohydrodynamics*, **38**, 177-189, 2002.
- Brito D., **H-C. Nataf**, Ph. Cardin, J. Aubert and J-P Masson, Ultrasonic Doppler velocimetry in liquid gallium, *Experiments in Fluids*, **31**, 653-663, 2001.
- Aubert J., D. Brito, Ph. Cardin, **H-C. Nataf** and J-P. Masson, A systematic experimental study of rapidly rotating spherical convection in water and gallium, *Phys. Earth Planet. Inter.*, **128**, 51-74, 2001.
- Nataf H-C.**, Seismic imaging of mantle plumes, *Ann. Rev. Earth Planet. Sci.*, **28**, 391-417, 2000.
- Nataf H-C.**, Inner core takes another turn, (*news and views*), *Nature*, **405**, 411-412, 2000.
- Emery V., V. Maupin and **H.-C. Nataf**, Scattering of S waves diffracted at the core-mantle boundary: forward modelling, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **139**, 325-344, 1999.
- Ji Ying and **H-C. Nataf**, Detection of mantle plumes in the lower mantle by diffraction tomography: Hawaii, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, **159**, 99-115, 1998.
- Ji Ying and **H-C. Nataf**, Detection of mantle plumes in the lower mantle by diffraction tomography: theory, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, **159**, 87-98, 1998.
- Nataf H-C.** and Y. Ricard, 3SMAC: an a priori tomographic model of the upper mantle based on geophysical modeling, *Phys. Earth Planet. Inter.*, **95**, 101-122, 1996.
- Ricard Y., **H-C. Nataf** and J-P. Montagner, The three-dimensional seismological model a priori constrained: confrontation with seismic data, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **101**, 8457-8472, 1996.
- Brito D., Ph. Cardin, **H-C. Nataf** and P. Olson, Experiments on Joule heating and the dissipation of energy in the Earth's core, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **127**, 339-347, 1996.
- Brito D., Ph. Cardin, **H-C. Nataf** and G. Marolleau, Experimental study of a geostrophic vortex of gallium in a transverse magnetic field, *Phys. Earth Planet. Inter.*, **91**, 77-98, 1995.
- Busse F., U. Christensen, R. Clever, L. Cserepes, C. Gable, E. Giannandrea, L. Guillou, G. Houseman, **H-C. Nataf**, M. Ogawa, M. Parmentier, C. Sotin and B. Travis, 3D convection at infinite Prandtl number in Cartesian geometry - a benchmark comparison, *Geophys. Astrophys. Fluid Dyn.*, **75**, 39-59, 1994.
- Nataf H-C.** and J. VanDecar, Seismological detection of a mantle plume?, *Nature*, **364**, 115-120, 1993.
- Houard S., **H-C. Nataf**, Laterally varying reflector at the top of D'' beneath northern Siberia, *Geophys. J. Int.*, **115**, 168-182, 1993.
- Nataf H-C.**, S. Houard, Seismic discontinuity at the top of D'': a world-wide feature?, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **20**, 2371-2374, 1993.
- Houard S., J-L. Plantet, J-P. Massot and **H-C. Nataf**, Amplitudes of core waves near the PKP caustic, from nuclear explosions in the South Pacific recorded at the L.D.G. network, in France, *Bull. Seis. Soc. Am.*, **83**, 1835-1854, 1993.
- Houard S. and **H-C. Nataf**, Further evidence for the 'Lay discontinuity' beneath northern Siberia and the North Atlantic from short-period P-waves recorded in France, *Phys. Earth Planet. Inter.*, **72**, 264-275, 1992.
- Nataf H-C.**, Mantle convection, plates, and hotspots, *Tectonophysics*, **187**, 361-371, 1991.
- Cardin Ph., **H-C. Nataf** and Ph. Dewost, Thermal coupling in layered convection: evidence for an interface viscosity control, from mechanical experiments and marginal stability analysis, *J. Phys. II*, **1**, 599-622, 1991.
- Cardin Ph. and **H-C. Nataf**, Non-linear dynamical coupling observed near the threshold of convection in a two-layer system, *Europhysics Lett.*, **14**, 655-660, 1991.
- Ansel V. and **H-C. Nataf**, Anisotropy beneath 9 stations of the Geoscope broadband network as deduced from shear-wave splitting, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **16**, 409-412, 1989.
- Montagner J.-P and **H-C. Nataf**, Vectorial tomography - I. Theory, *Geophys. J.*, **94**, 295-307, 1988.
- Nataf H-C.**, S. Moreno and Ph. Cardin, What is responsible for thermal coupling in layered convection?, *J. Phys. France*, **49**, 1707-1714, 1988.
- Montagner J.-P. and **H-C. Nataf**, A simple method for inverting the azimuthal anisotropy of surface waves, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **91**, 511-520, 1986.
- Nataf H-C.**, I. Nakanishi and Don L. Anderson, Measurements of mantle wave velocities and inversion for lateral heterogeneities and anisotropy. 3. Inversion, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **91**, 7261-7307, 1986.
- Nataf H-C.**, I. Nakanishi and Don L. Anderson, Anisotropy and shear-velocity heterogeneities in the upper mantle, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **11**, 109-112, 1984.
- Nataf H-C.**, B.H. Hager and R.F. Scott, Convection experiments in a centrifuge and the generation of plumes in a very viscous fluid, *Annales Geophysicae*, **2**, 303-310, 1984.
- Richter F.M., **H-C. Nataf** and S.F. Daly, Heat transfer and horizontally averaged temperature of convection with large viscosity variations, *J. Fluid Mech.*, **129**, 173-192, 1983.
- Nataf H-C.** and F.M. Richter, Convection experiments in fluids with highly temperature dependent viscosity and the thermal evolution of the planets, *Phys. Earth Planet. Int.*, **29**, 320-329, 1982.
- Richter F.M., S.F. Daly and **H-C. Nataf**, A parameterized model for the evolution of isotopic heterogeneities in a convecting system, *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, **60**, 178-194, 1982.

Froidevaux C. and **H-C. Nataf**, Continental drift: what driving mechanism?, *Geologische Rundschau*, **70**, 166-176, 1981.

Nataf H-C., C. Froidevaux, J.-L. Levrat and M. Rabinowicz, Laboratory convection experiments: the effect of lateral cooling and generation of instabilities in the horizontal boundary layers, *J. Geophys. Res.*, **86**, 6143-6154, 1981.

Nataf H-C., T. Lay, Don L. Anderson and E.A. Okal, Reassessment of a reported S-delay under Trinidade, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, **8**, 1027-1030, 1981.

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