

# A possible recipe for a friction law to describe seismic and aseismic faulting

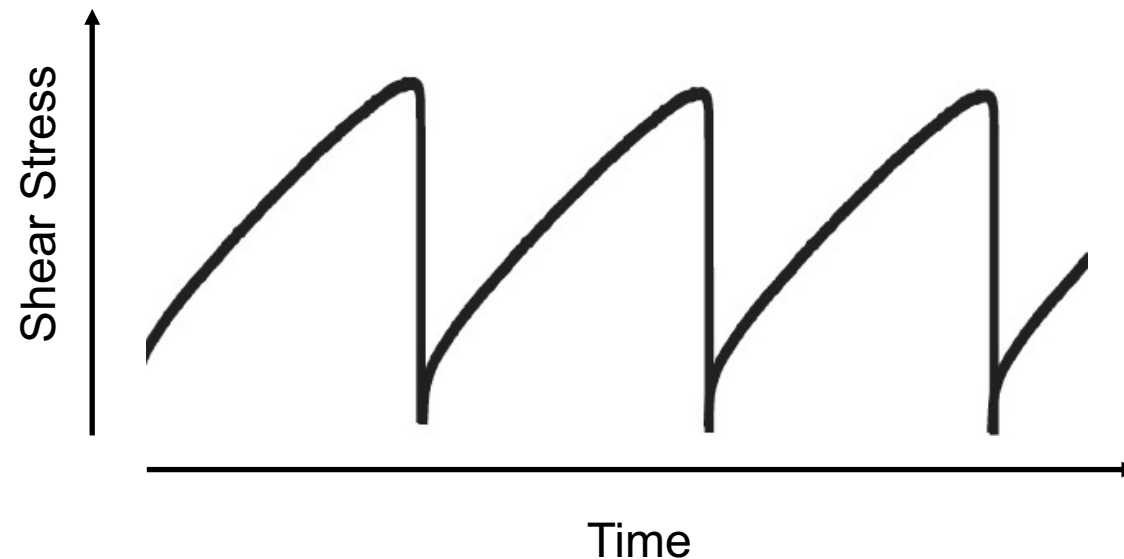
Marco M. Scuderi

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SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

Advanced Workshop on Earthquake Fault Mechanics: Theory, Simulation and Observations  
ICTP, Trieste 02 September 2019 - 14 September 2019



A good recipe should include



Microphysical  
framework  
(Adhesion theory of  
friction)

Slip dependent friction  
(static vs. kinetic)

Time dependent  
recovery of shear  
strength

Velocity dependent  
friction



# Outline:

## First slot:

- Historical introduction to friction
- Overview of experimental apparatuses
- Adhesion theory of friction
- Fault healing and frictional aging
- Slip and Velocity dependence of friction

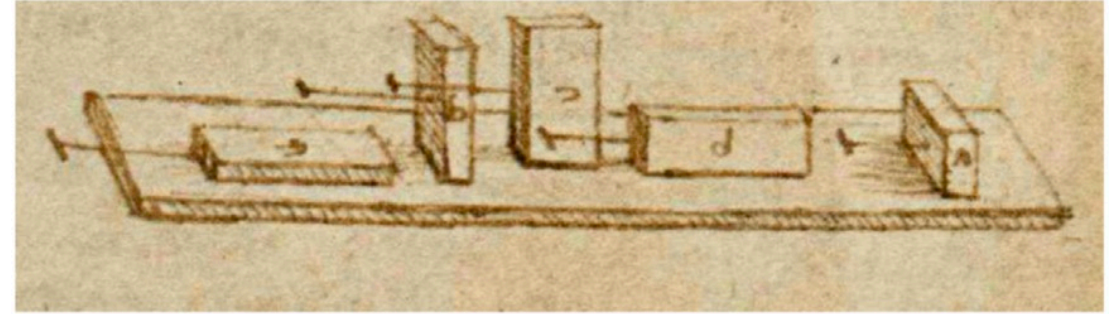
## Second slot:

- Stability of frictional sliding
- Play with the spring-slider system
- From stable sliding to stick-slip in the laboratory  
(a.k.a. how theory meets the experiments)

# Historical introduction to friction

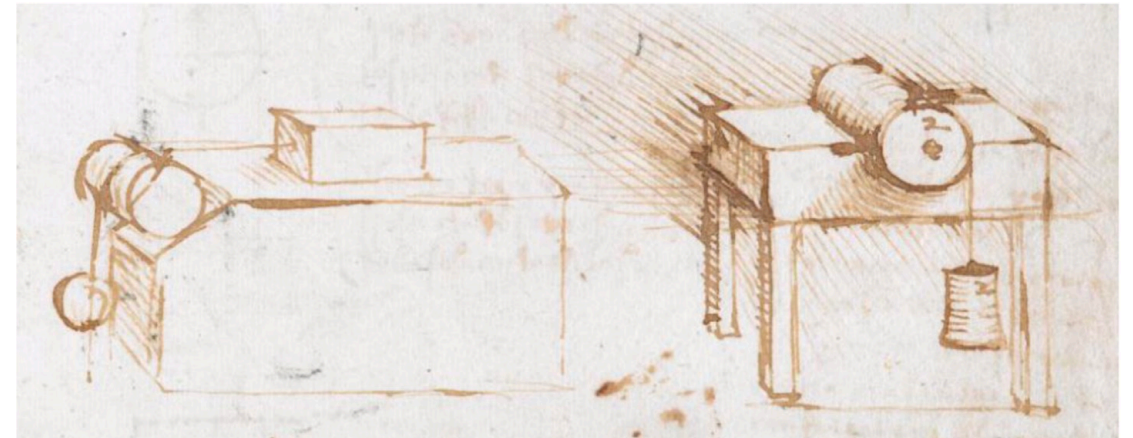


Leonardo Da Vinci  
1452–1519



‘friction produces double the amount of effort if the weight be doubled’,

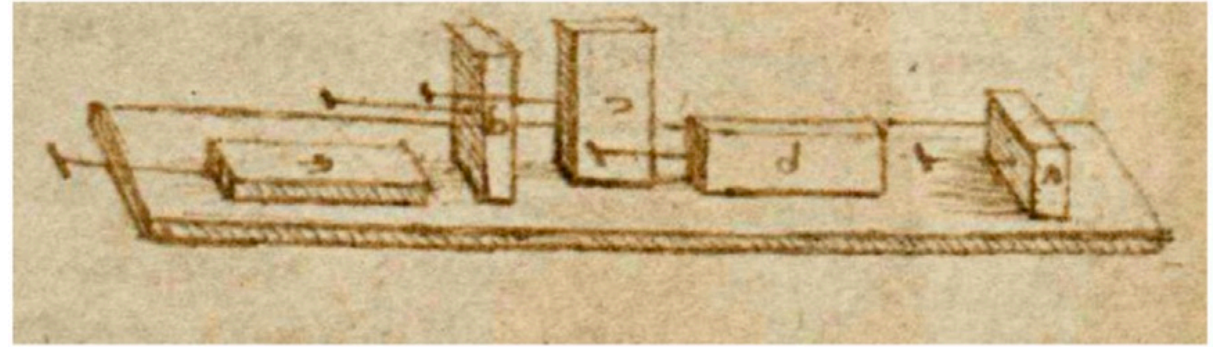
‘friction made by the same weight will be of equal resistance at the beginning of the movement though the contact may be of different breadths or lengths’



# Historical introduction to friction



Guillame Amontons  
(1699)



- Amontons's first law: The frictional force is independent of the size of the surfaces in contact.
- Amontons's second law: Friction is proportional to the normal load.

# Historical introduction to friction

**Coulomb failure criterion:** Failure in a rock will take place along a plane due to shear stress acting on that plane.



C.A. Coulomb  
(1736-1806)

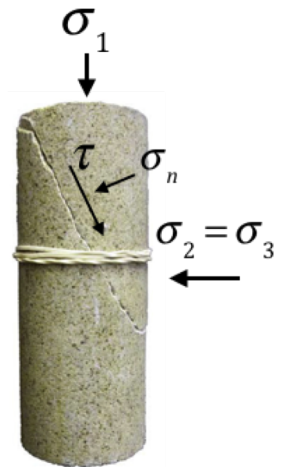
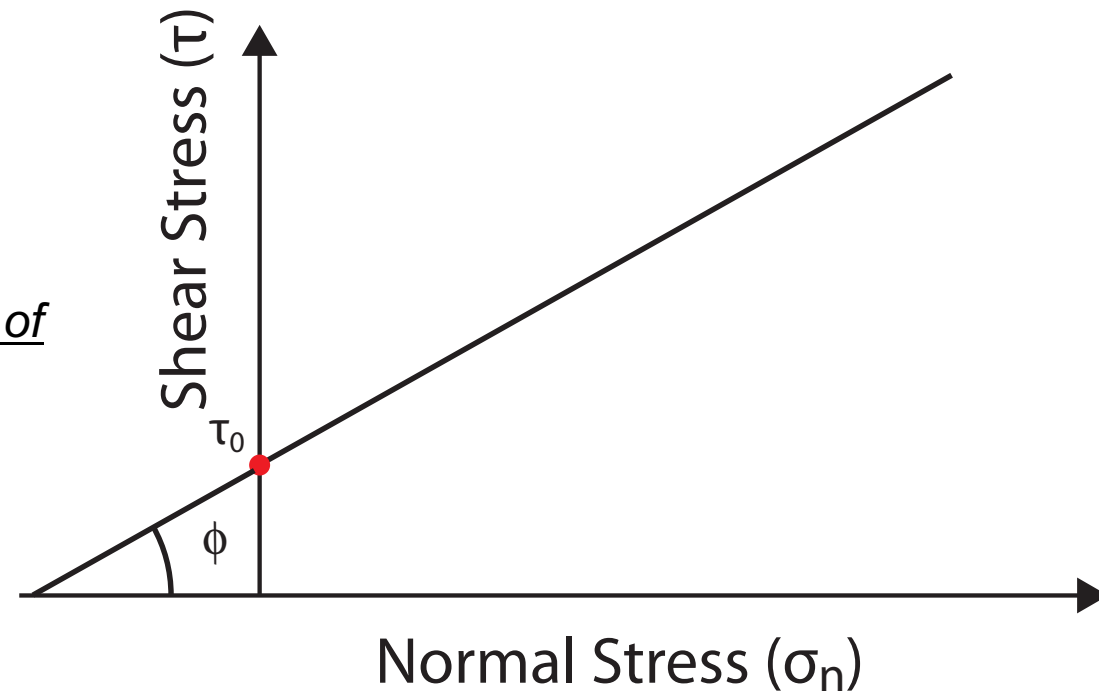
$$\tau = \tau_0 + \mu_i \sigma_n$$

$\tau_0$  Represent the cohesion

$\mu_i$  Represent the coefficient of internal friction

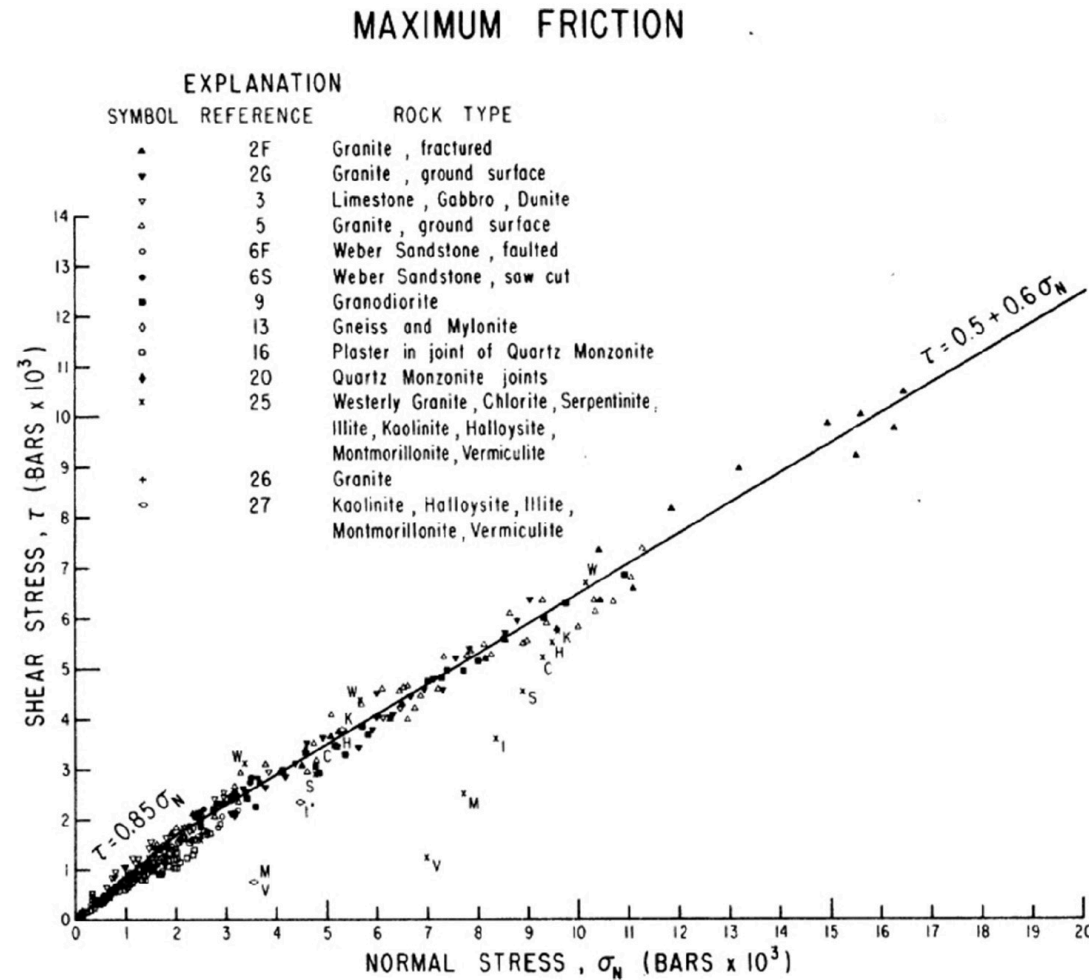
It is commonly related to the angle of internal friction by the relation:

$$\mu_i = \tan \phi$$



# Historical introduction to friction

Byerlee's Rule for Rock Friction (1978)  $\tau = 50[MPa] + 0.6\sigma_n$

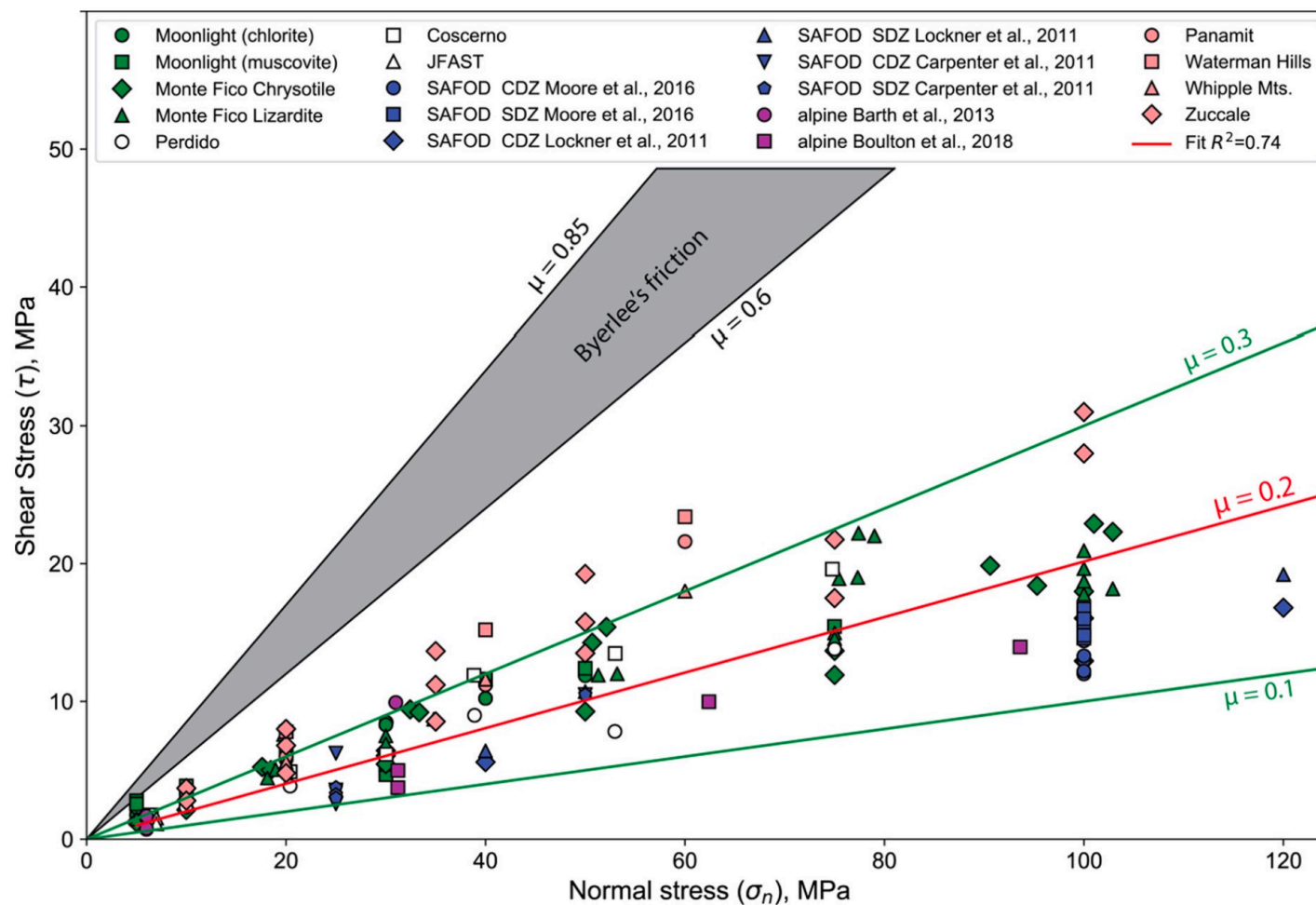


Note that Byerlee's law is just Coulomb Failure. It's simply a statement about brittle (pressure sensitive) deformation and failure.

# Historical introduction to friction

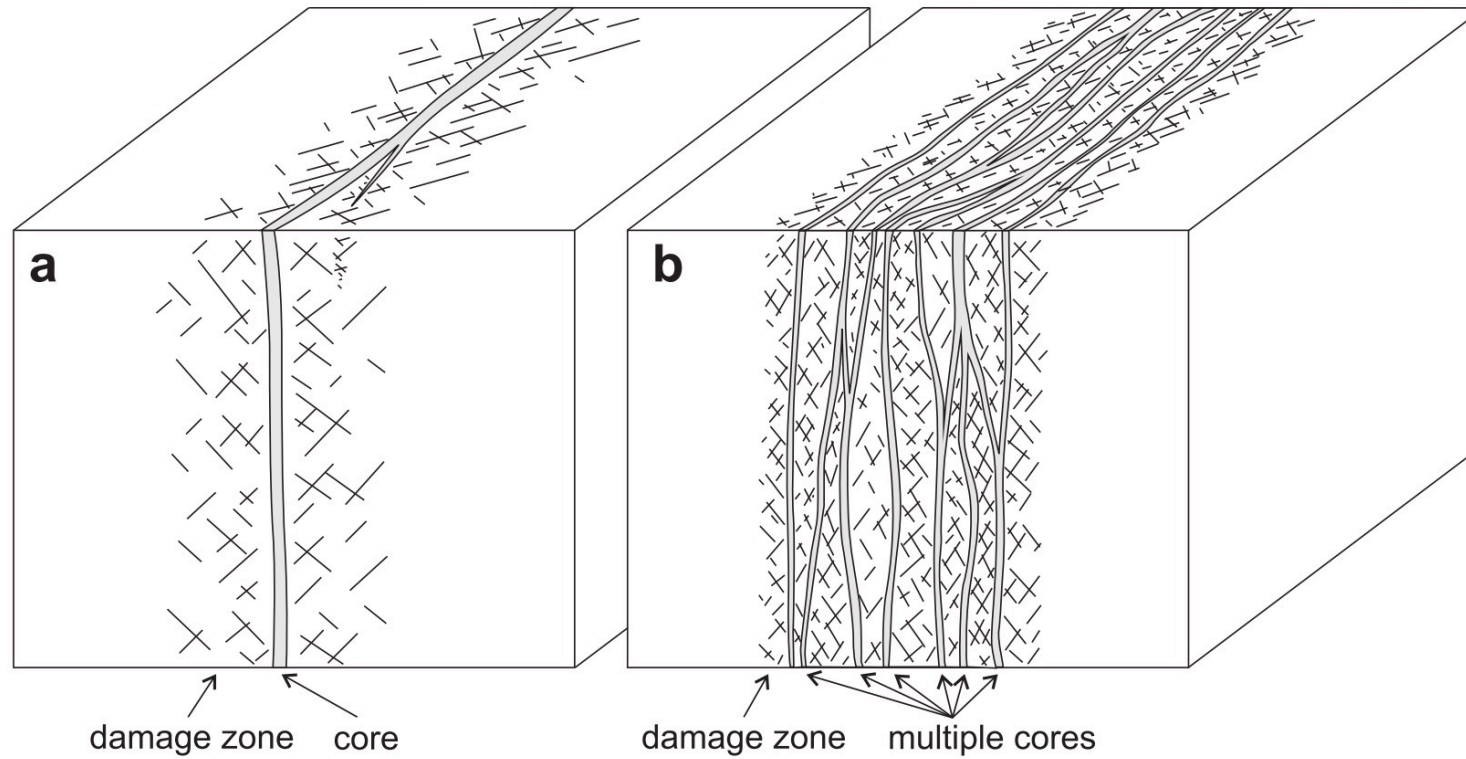
Strong vs. weak faults

However a great amount of fault zones show values of friction well below Byerlee's rule

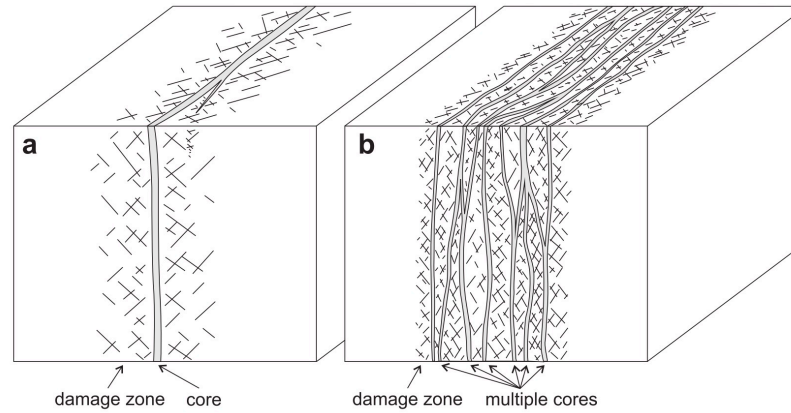




# Natural fault zones and shear localization

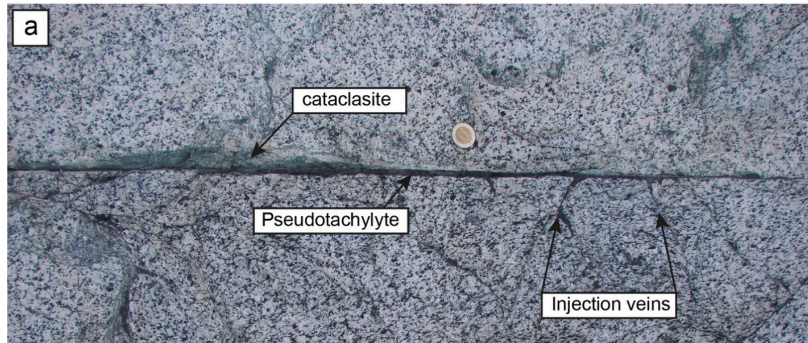


# Natural fault zones and shear localization

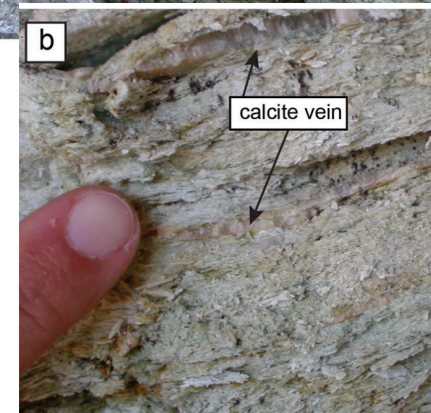
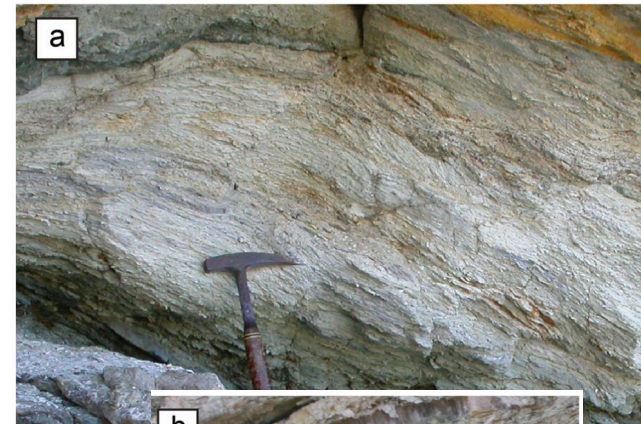


The fault core can be extremely different from fault to fault

Highly  
localized  
shear  
zone

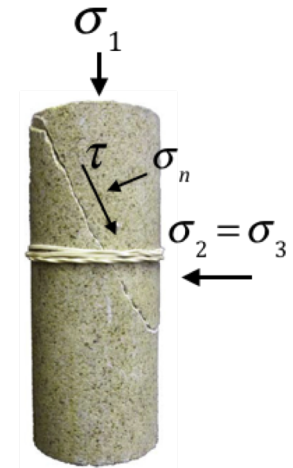
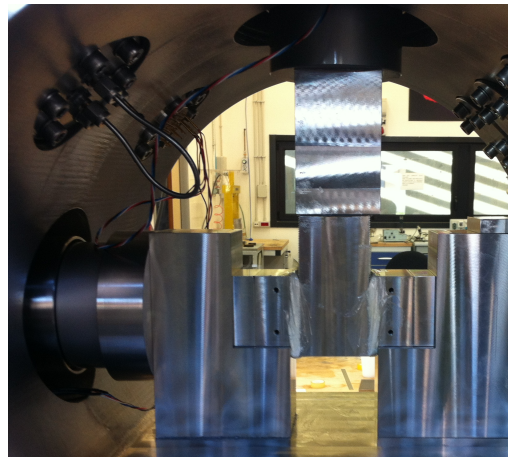
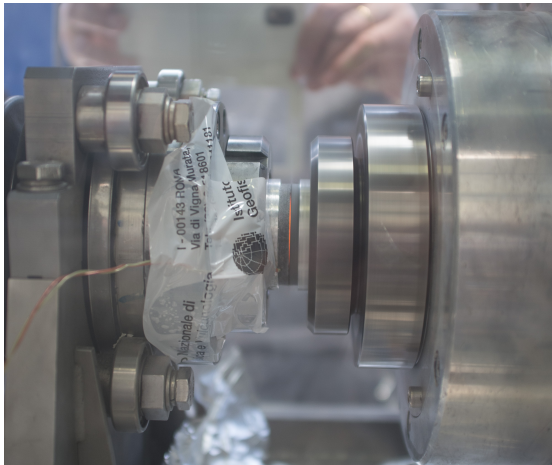


Distributed  
deformation





## nm/s

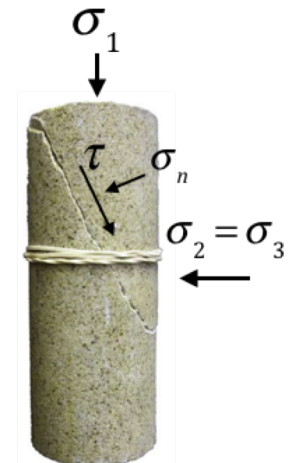
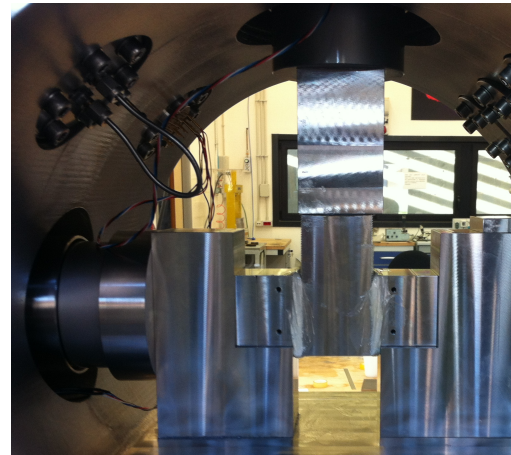
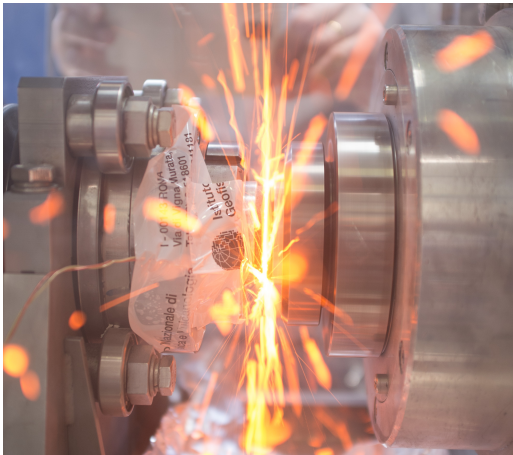
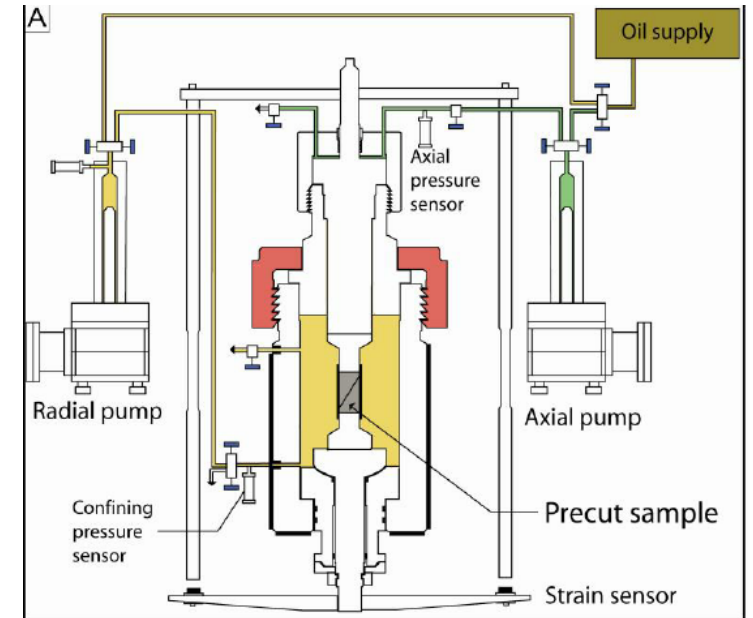
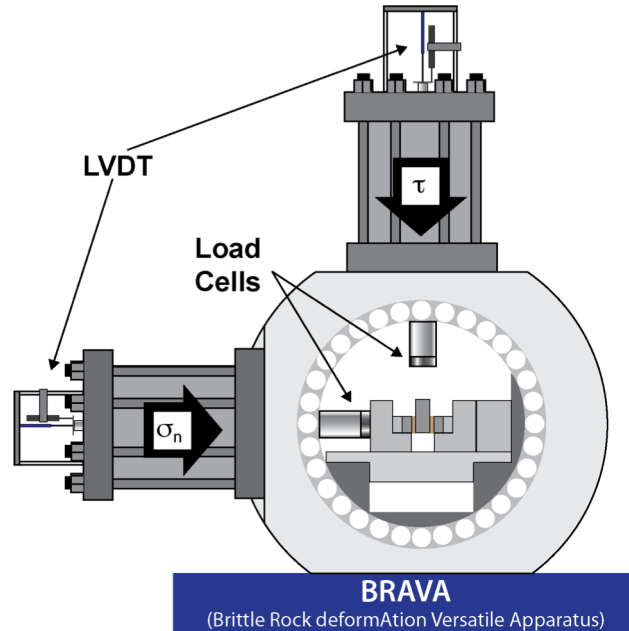
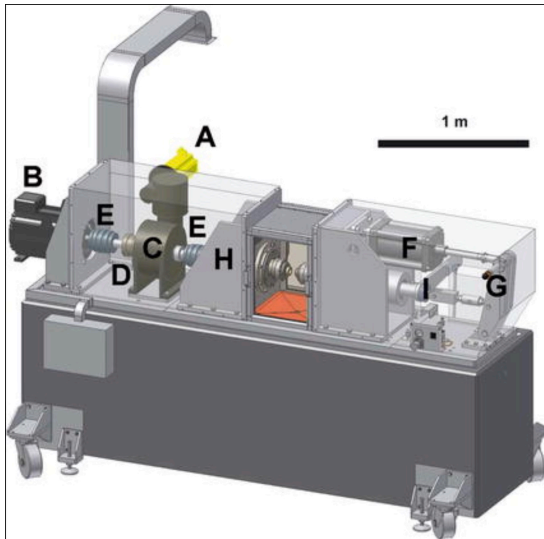


# Empirical nature of friction laws – Laboratory experiments

m/s

Displacement rate increases

nm/s





# Empirical nature of friction laws – Laboratory experiments

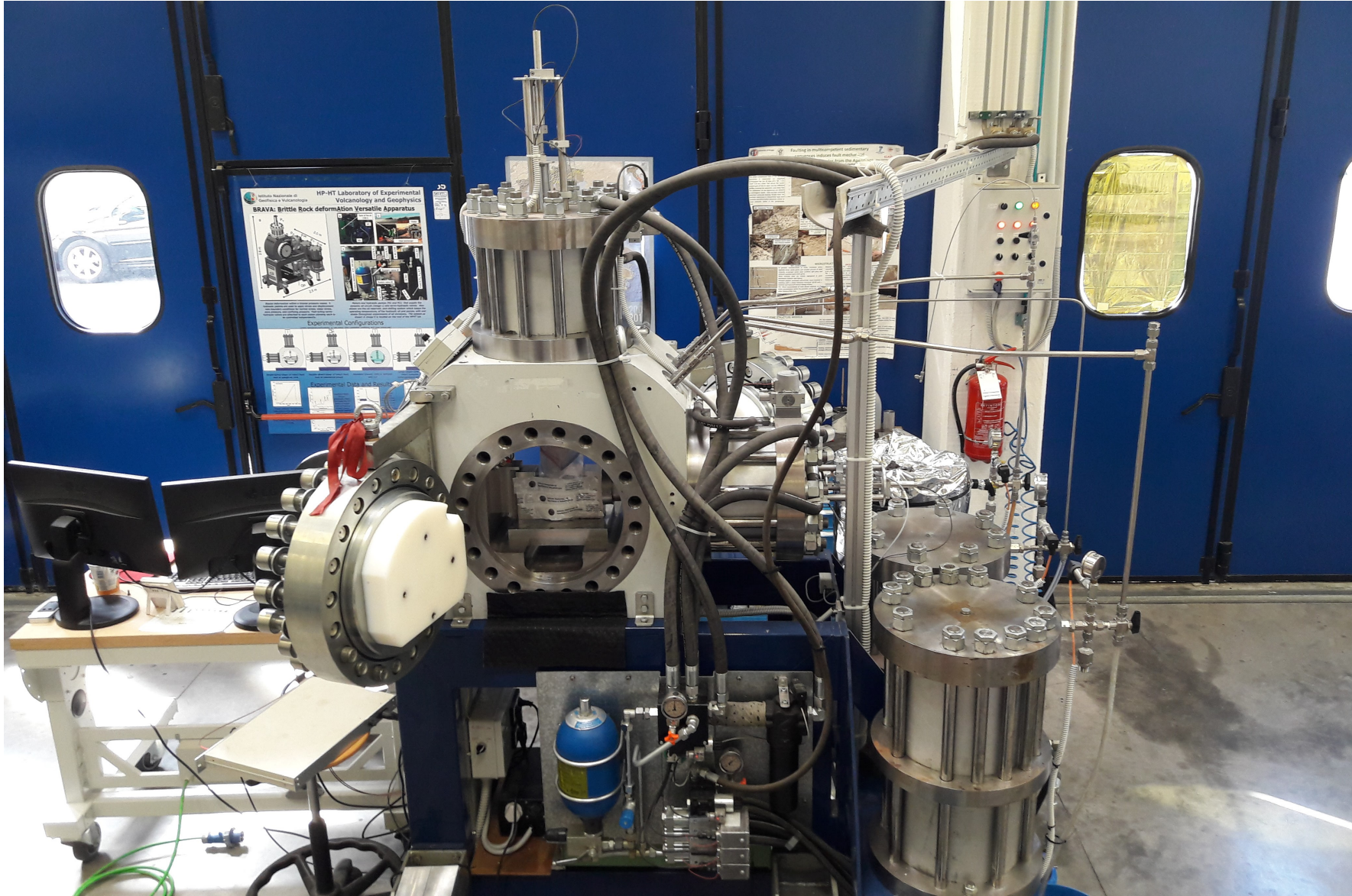
The “Biax” Penn State University, USA





# Empirical nature of friction laws – Laboratory experiments

BRAVA (Brittle rock deformation versatile apparatus) Rome, Italy





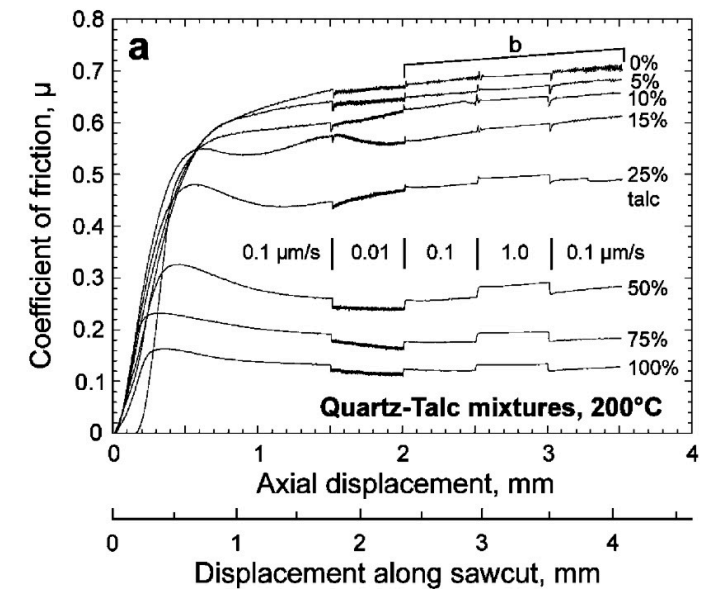
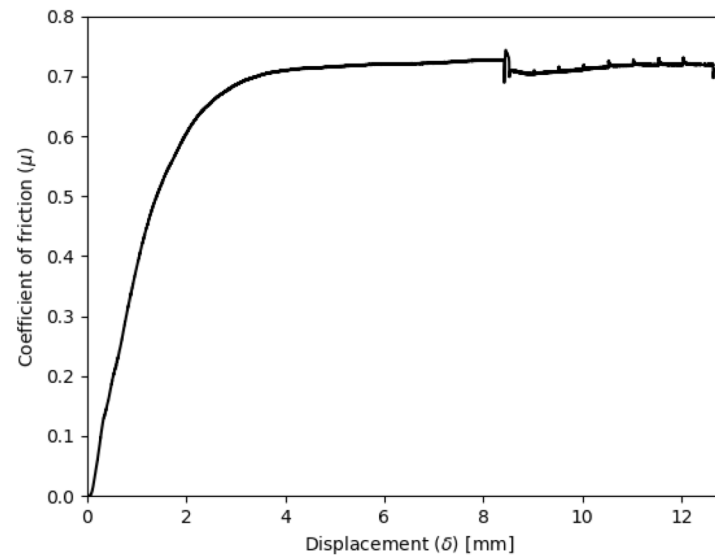
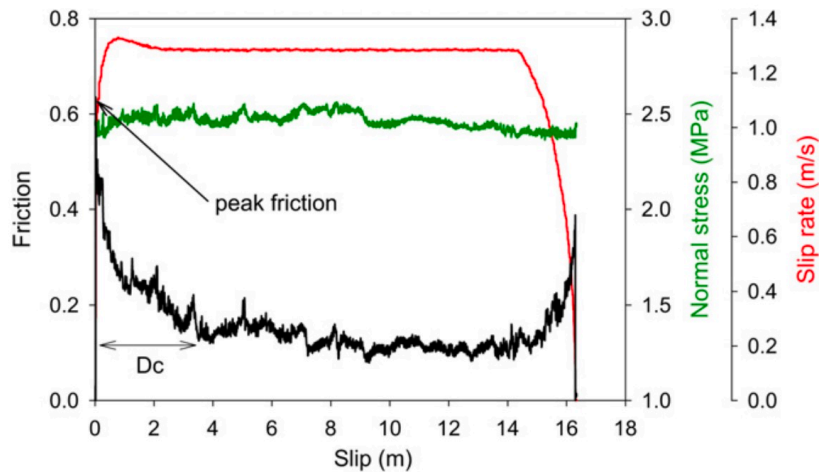
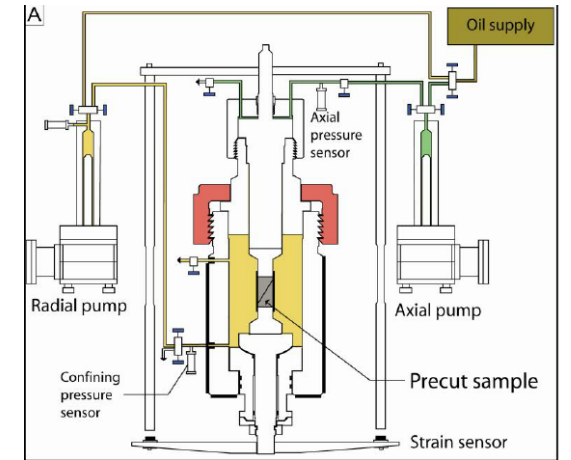
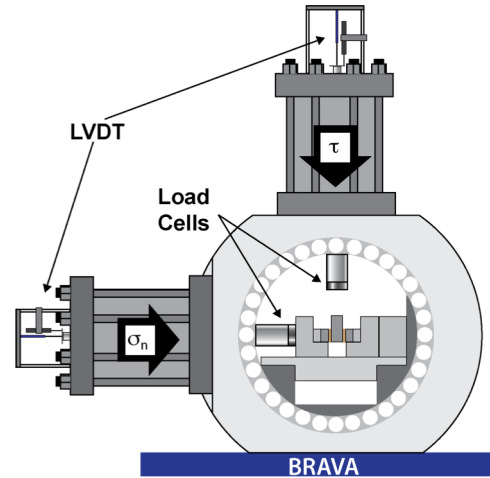
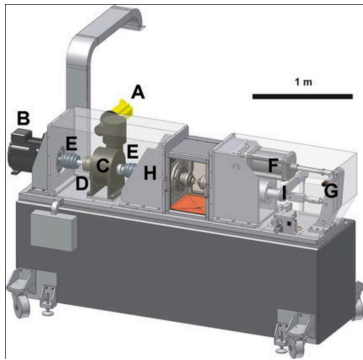


# Empirical nature of friction laws – Laboratory experiments

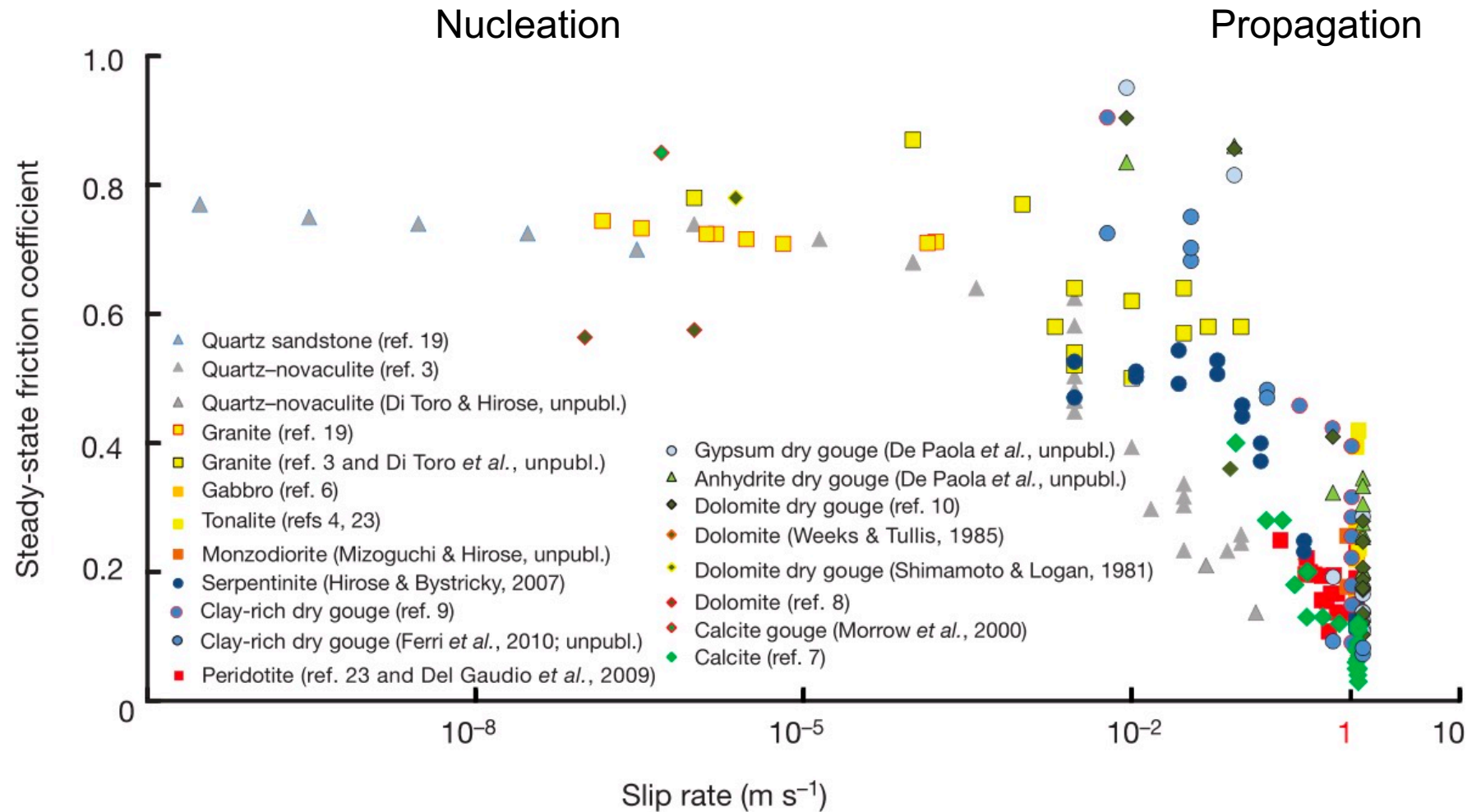
m/s

Displacement rate increases

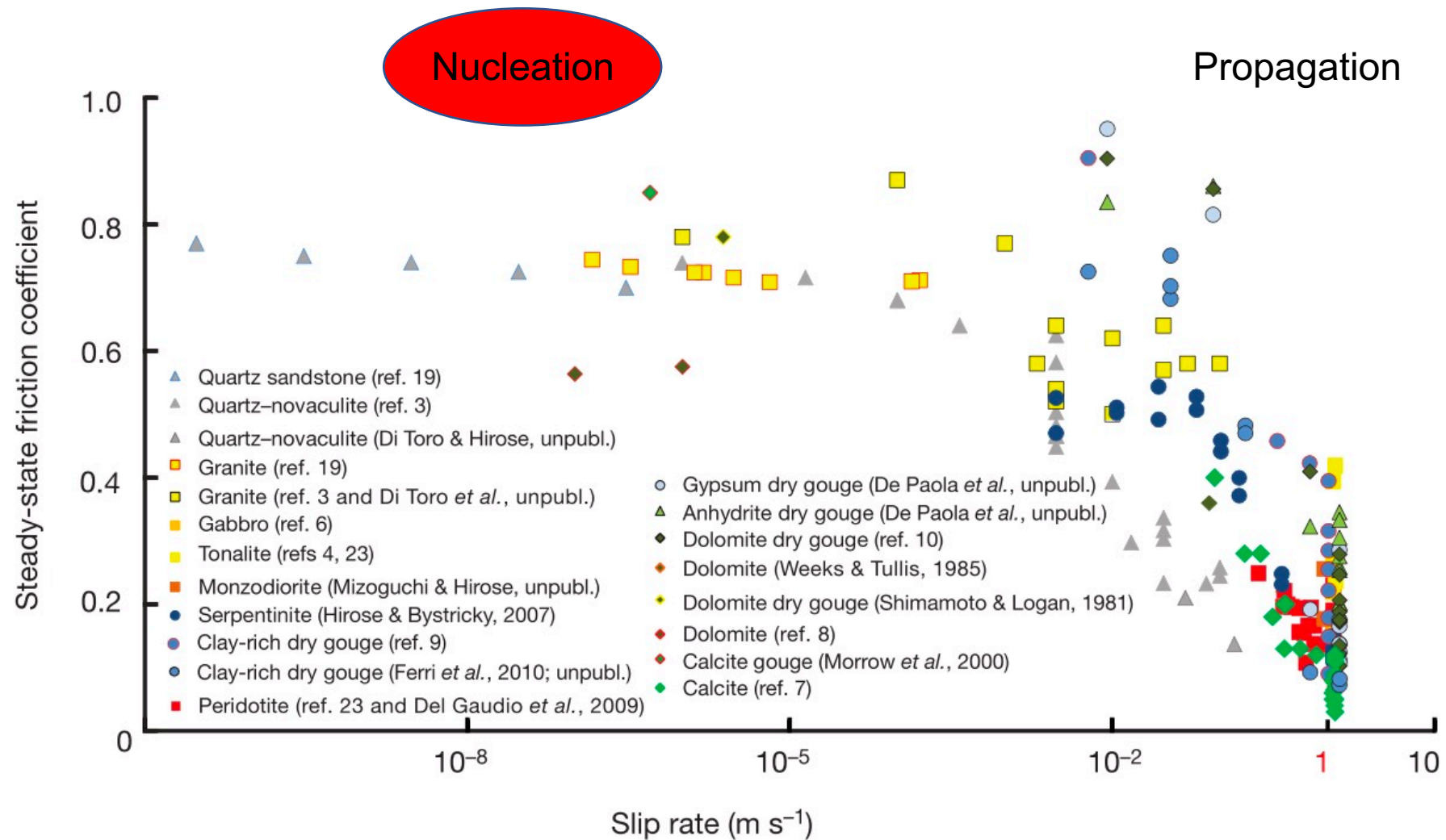
nm/s



# Empirical nature of friction laws – Laboratory experiments



# Empirical nature of friction laws – Laboratory experiments





A good recipe should include



Microphysical  
contact evolution  
(Adhesion theory of  
friction)

Slip dependent friction  
(static vs. kinetic)

Time dependent  
recovery of shear  
strength

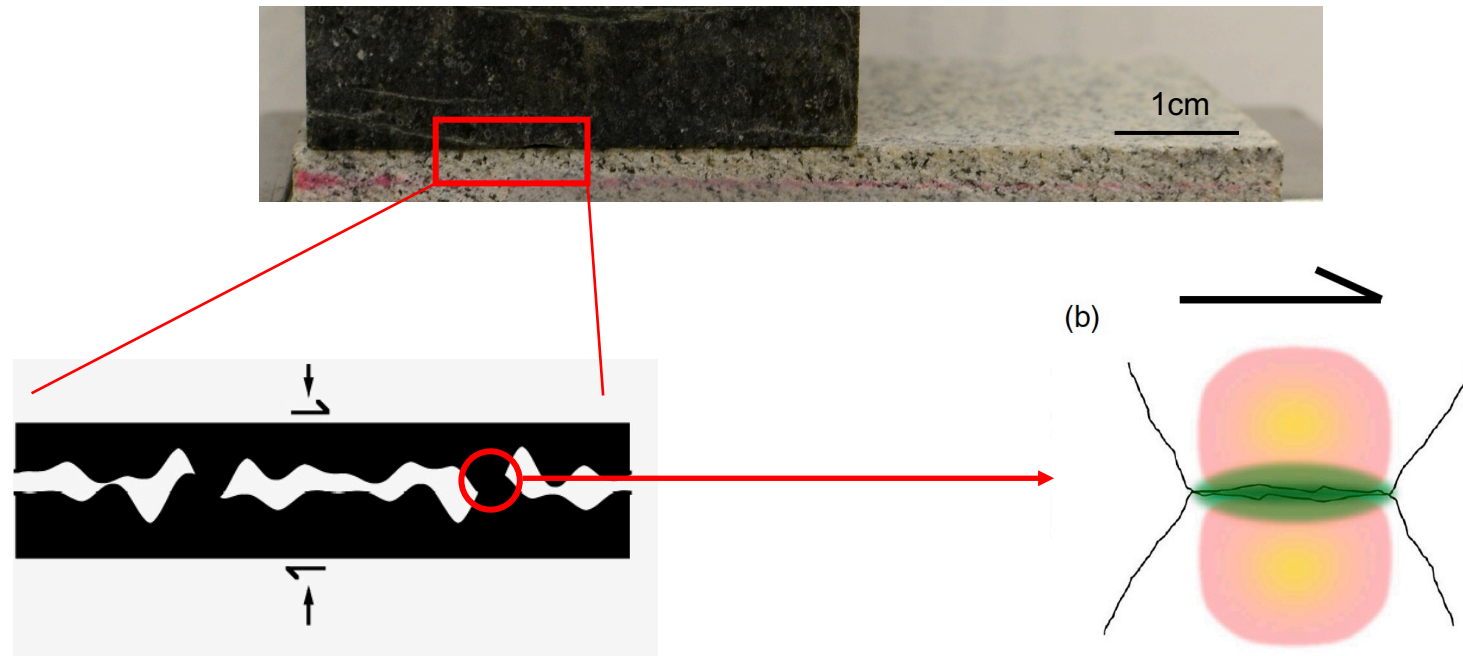
Velocity dependent  
friction

# Micromechanics of contacts – Adhesion theory of friction

Bowden and Tabor (1964)

Real area of contact between surfaces,  $A_r$ , is much smaller than the apparent area of the surface,  $A$ .

$$A \gg A_r$$



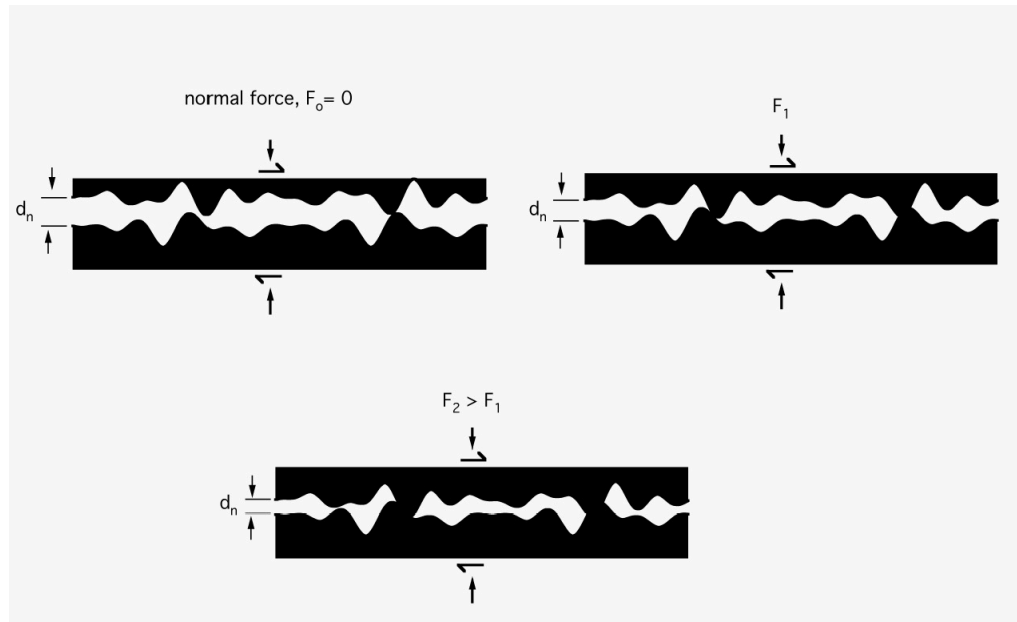
$$A_r \sim 10\% \text{ of } A$$

# Micromechanics of contacts – Adhesion theory of friction

Bowden and Tabor (1964)

$$A \gg A_r$$

Stress at contact junctions



$$\sigma_c A_r = \sigma_n$$

Where:

$\sigma_n$  is the normal load

$\sigma_c$  is the indentation hardness of the material

Each contact is under a much higher normal stress than the nominal stress  $\sigma_n$

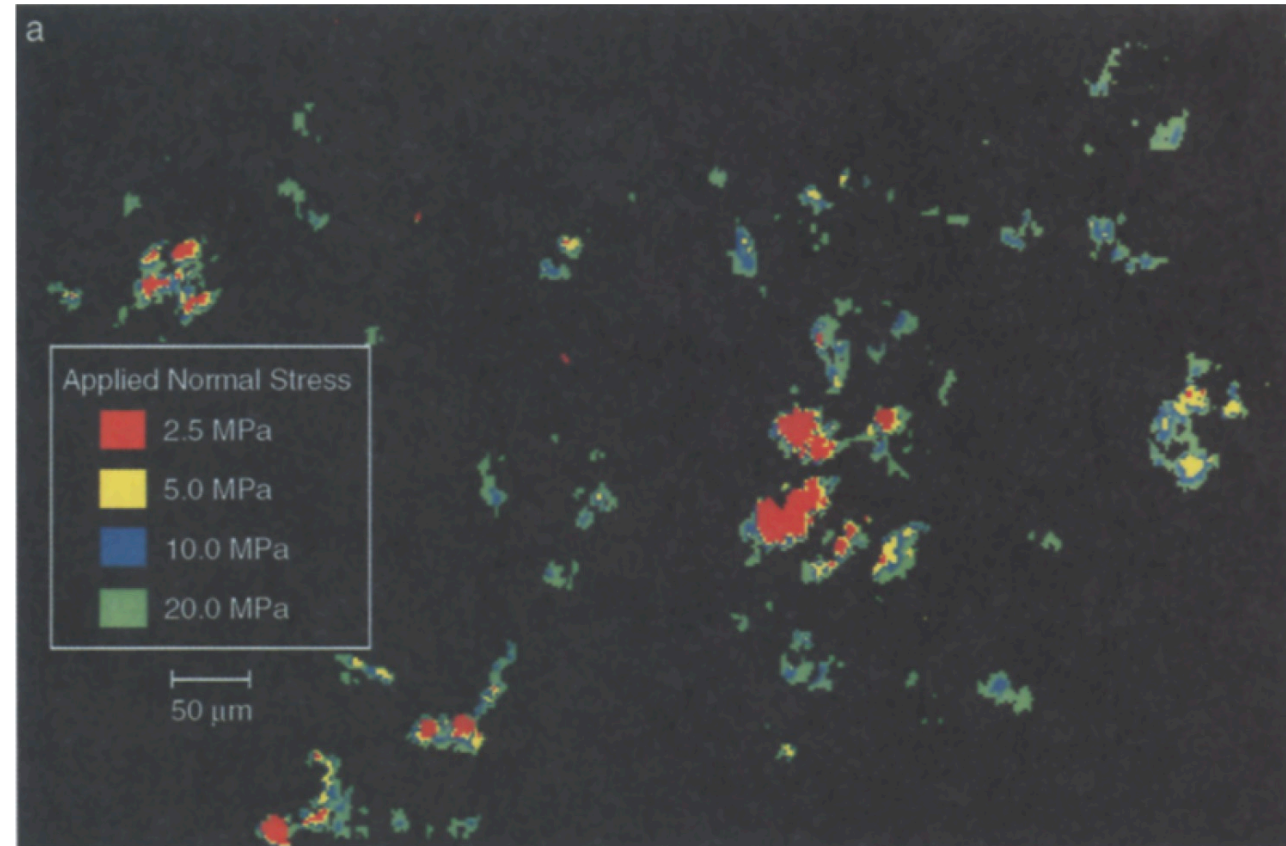
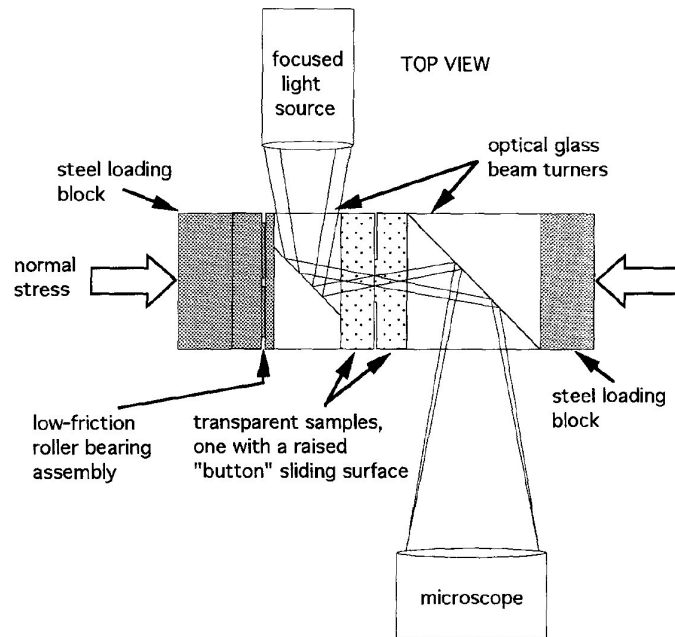
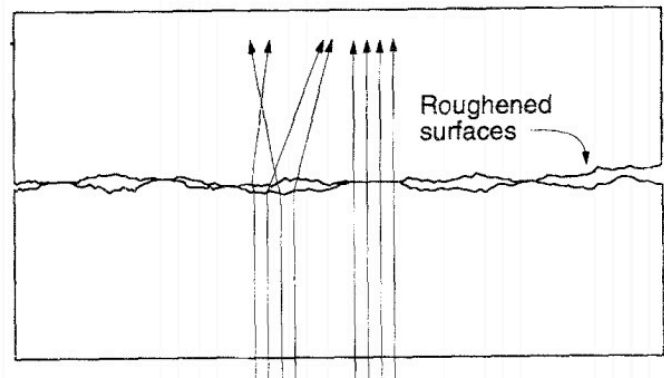
contact stress is:

$$\sigma_c = \sigma_n \frac{A}{A_r}$$

# Micromechanics of contacts – Adhesion theory of friction

Bowden and Tabor (1964)

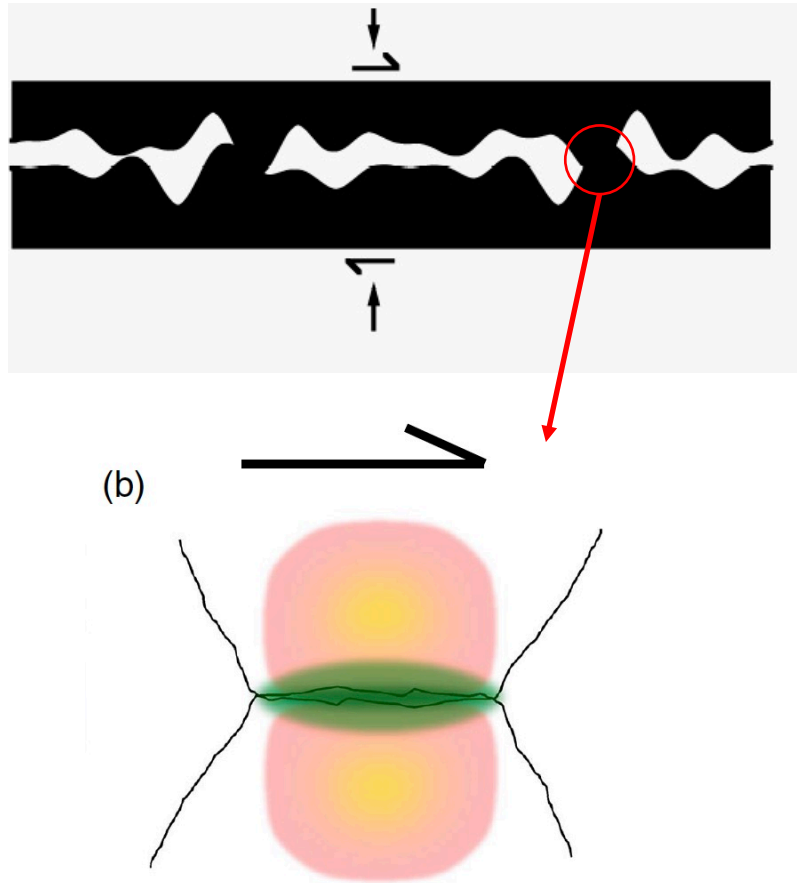
$$A \gg A_r$$



contact stress is: 
$$\sigma_c = \sigma_n \frac{A}{A_r}$$

# Micromechanics of contacts – Adhesion theory of friction

Bowden and Tabor (1964)



$$A \gg A_r$$

Normal force:

$$\sigma_c A_r = \sigma_n$$

Shear force needed to shear the asperities is:

$$\tau = \tau_c A_r$$

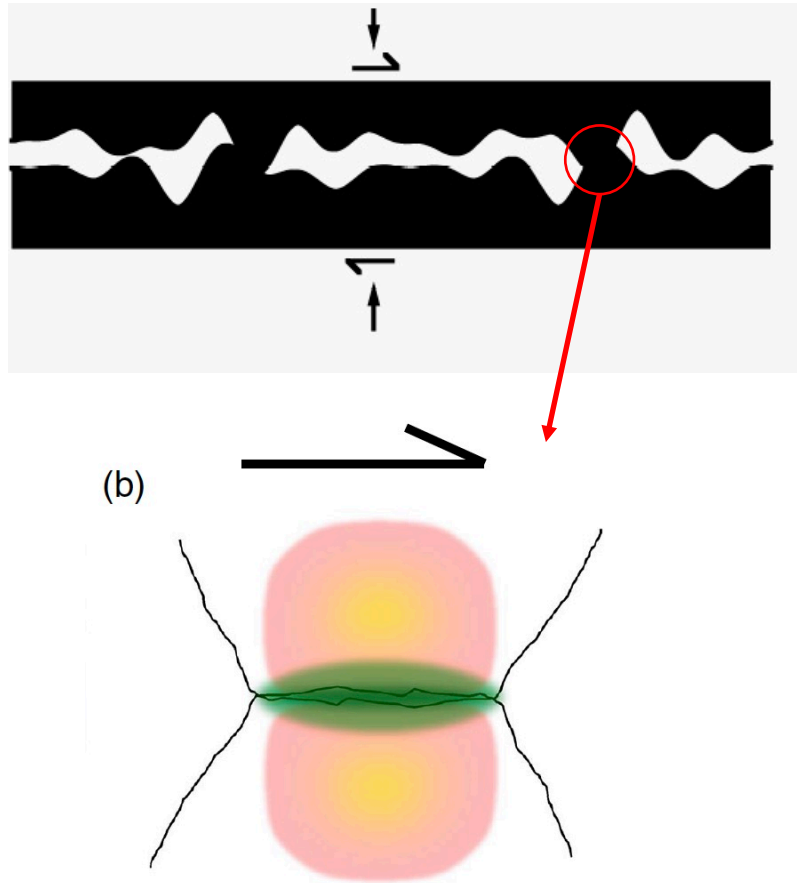
$\tau_c$  is a specific shear stress

The resulting coefficient of friction is:

$$\mu = \frac{\tau}{\sigma_n} = \frac{\tau_c A_r}{\sigma_c A_r} = \frac{\tau_c}{\sigma_c}$$

# Micromechanics of contacts – Adhesion theory of friction

Bowden and Tabor (1964)



$$A \gg A_r$$

Normal force:

$$\sigma_c A_r = \sigma_n$$

Shear force needed to shear the asperities is:

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$\tau_c$  is a specific shear stress

The resulting coefficient of friction is:

$$\mu = \frac{\tau}{\sigma_n} = \frac{\tau_c A_r}{\sigma_c A_r} = \frac{\tau_c}{\sigma_c}$$

This idea, of existence and yielding of microscopic contacts as the origin of macroscopic friction, is one of the pillars of present-day understanding of friction.

## Micromechanics of contacts – Adhesion theory of friction

- Although the adhesion theory of friction conceptualizes the physical essence of the frictional interaction, in most cases it does not predict the correct value for  $\mu$ .
- This is because overcoming junction adhesion is usually not the only work done in friction. Other processes such as interlocking, wear, surface production, ploughing and dilational work (and many other) can contribute to the measured friction.
- Furthermore,  $A_r$  is a minimum value, and it may increase and evolve with time, shear and shear rate.
- The adhesion theory of friction therefore can be used only as a conceptual framework.
- It is **especially important** for geological applications, where, in order to scale from laboratory to geological conditions, we must understand the micromechanisms involved in the process.

A good recipe should include



Microphysical  
contact evolution  
(Adhesion theory of  
friction)

Slip dependent friction  
(static vs. kinetic)

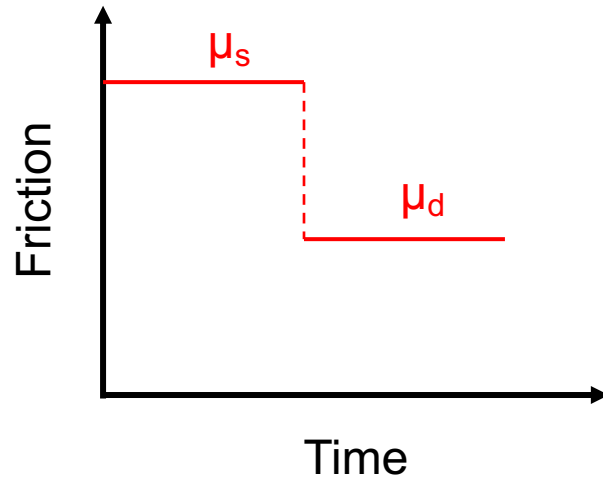
Time dependent  
recovery of shear  
strength

Velocity dependent  
friction



# Slip dependence of frictional strength from static to kinetic friction

Classical view



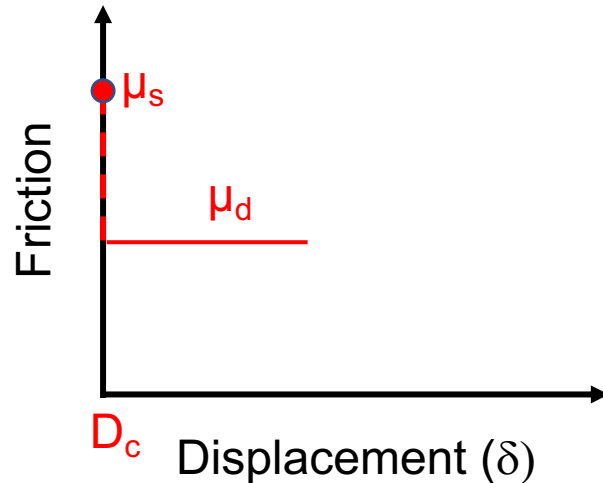
$\mu_s$  Static friction (force to start motion)

$\mu_d$  Dynamic friction (Force to keep a surface moving)

$$\mu = \mu_s \text{ for } \delta < D_c$$

$$\mu = \mu_d \text{ for } \delta > D_c$$

$D_c$  critical slip distance



# Slip dependence of frictional strength from static to kinetic friction

E. Rabinowicz 1951, 1956, 1958

JOURNAL OF APPLIED PHYSICS

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1951

## The Nature of the Static and Kinetic Coefficients of Friction

ERNEST RABINOWICZ

*Lubrication Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

(Received May 23, 1951)

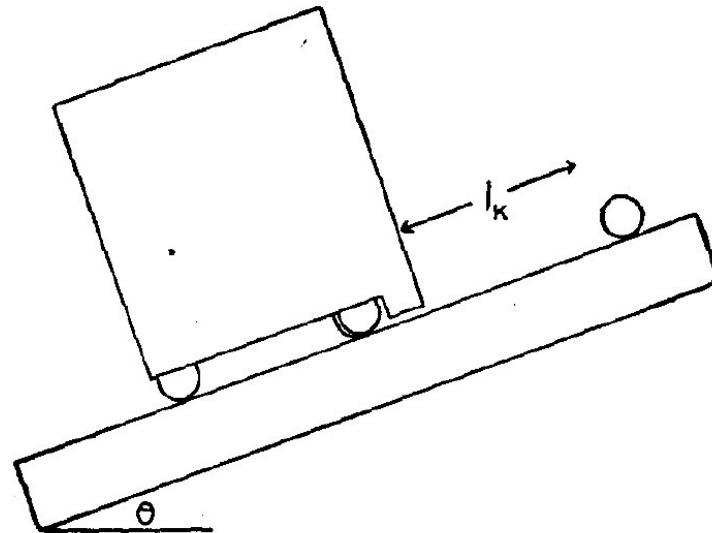


FIG. 5. Sketch of the apparatus.

# Slip dependence of frictional strength – from static to kinetic friction

Rabinowicz's work solved a major problem with friction theory: he introduced a way to deal with the singularity in going from  $\mu_s$  to  $\mu_d$

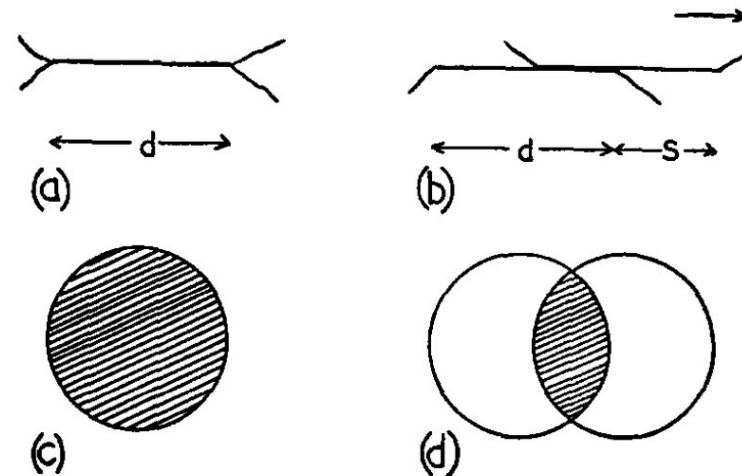
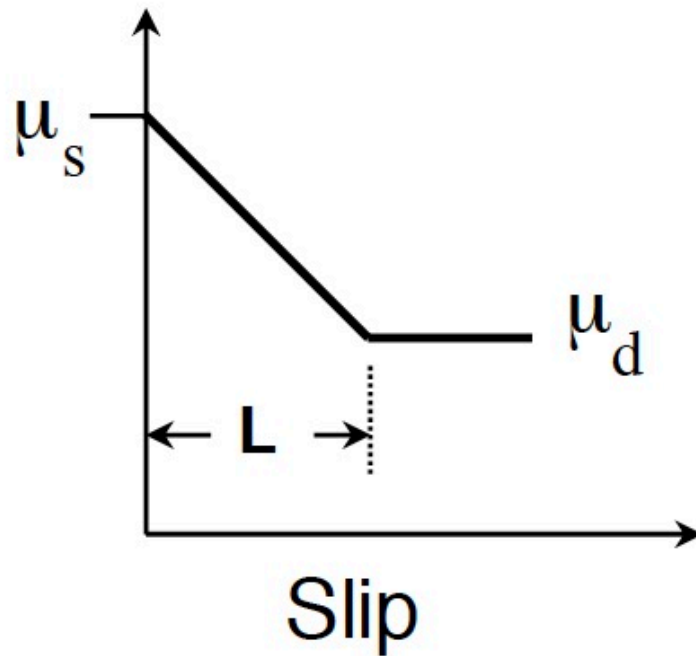
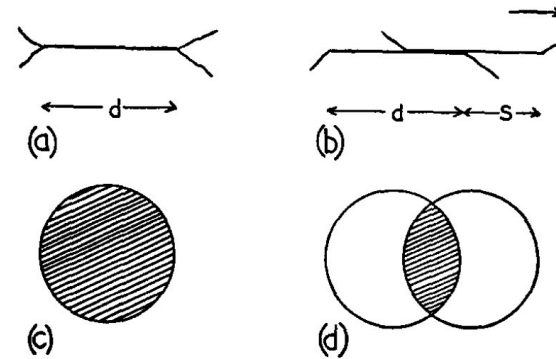
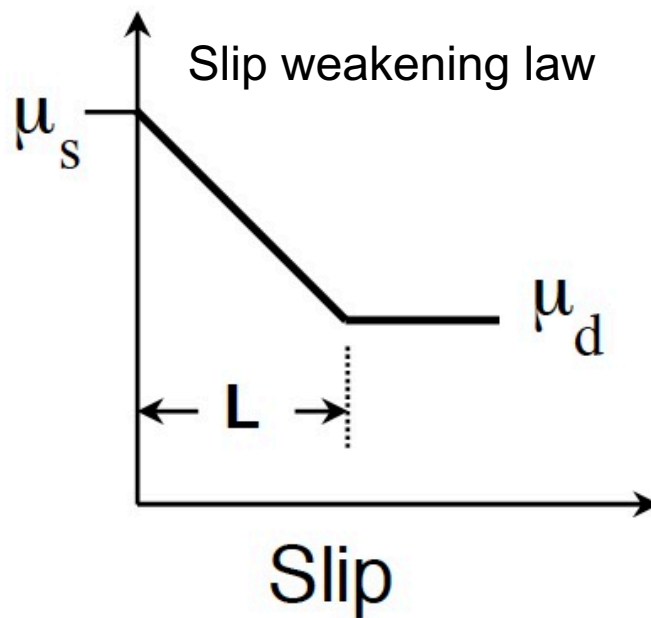


FIG. 12. Idealized representation of a typical metallic junction in elevation and plan, the shaded region being the true area of contact. (a) and (c):—as formed during static loading. (b) and (d):—after sliding a distance  $s$ .

For solid surfaces in contact (without wear materials), the critical slip  $L$  represents the slip necessary to break down adhesive contact junctions formed during 'static' contact and create a new population.

# Slip dependence of frictional strength – from static to kinetic friction

Rabinowicz's work solved a major problem with friction theory: he introduced a way to deal with the singularity in going from  $\mu_s$  to  $\mu_d$



$$\mu(x) = \mu_s - \frac{x}{L} \Delta\mu \quad (\text{for } L > x > 0)$$

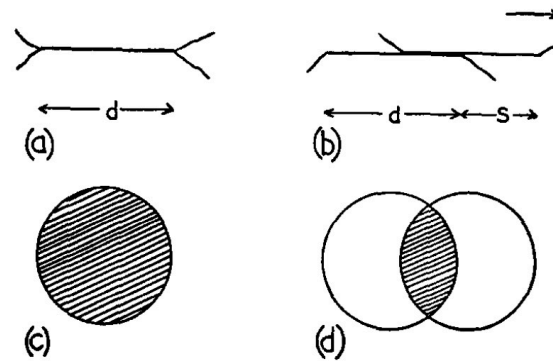
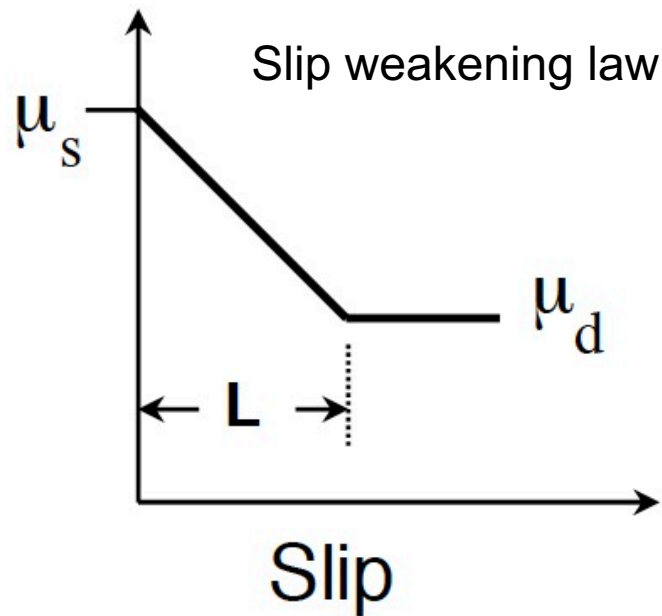
$$\mu(x) = \mu_s - \Delta\mu \quad (\text{for } x > L)$$

Palmer and Rice, 1973  
 Ida, 1972 JGR  
 Rice, 1980 JGR  
 Ohnaka, 2003 JGR (Review)

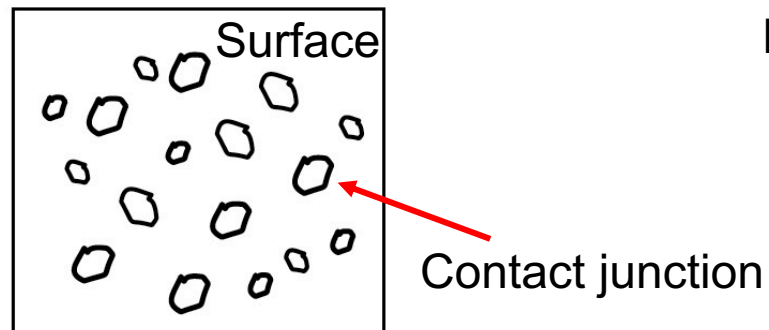
For solid surfaces in contact (without wear materials), the critical slip  $L$  represents the slip necessary to break down adhesive contact junctions formed during 'static' contact and create a new population.

# Slip dependence of frictional strength – from static to kinetic friction

Rabinowicz's work solved a major problem with friction theory: he introduced a way to deal with the singularity in going from  $\mu_s$  to  $\mu_d$



Critical distance scales with surface roughness



For a surface with distribution of contact junction sizes,  $L$ , will be proportional to the average contact dimension.

# A good recipe should include



Microphysical  
contact evolution  
(Adhesion theory of  
friction)

Slip dependent friction  
(static vs. kinetic)

Time dependent  
recovery of shear  
strength

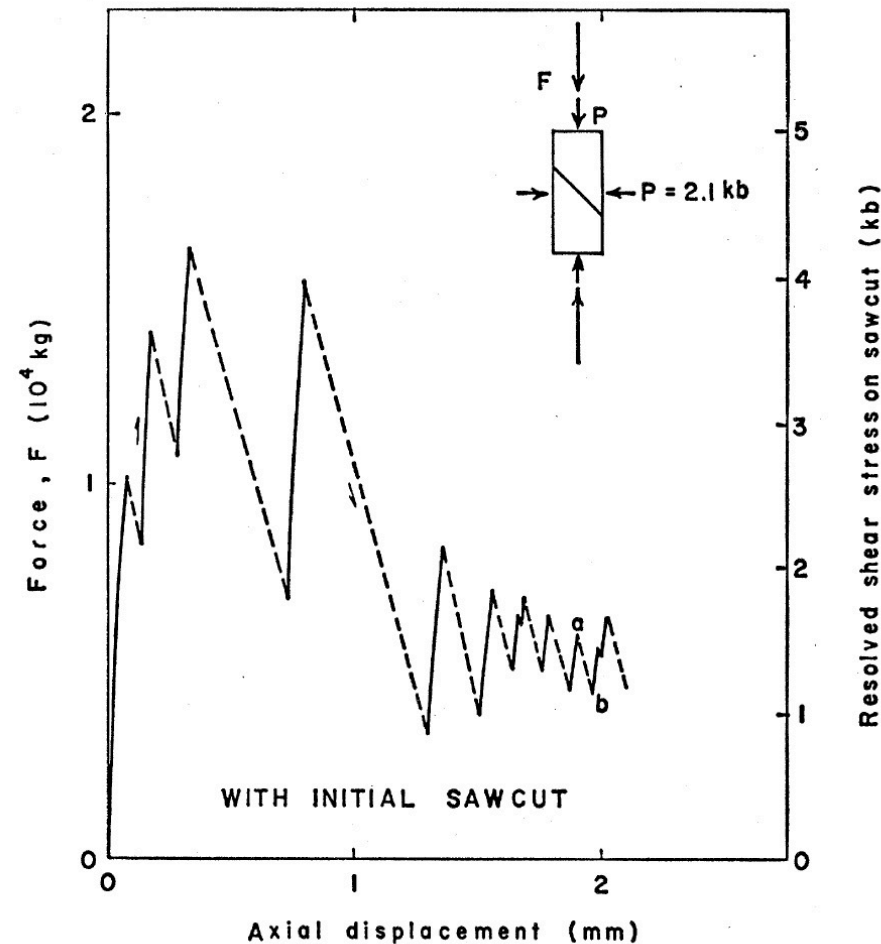
Velocity dependent  
friction

# What all of these talking of asperities has to deal with earthquakes?

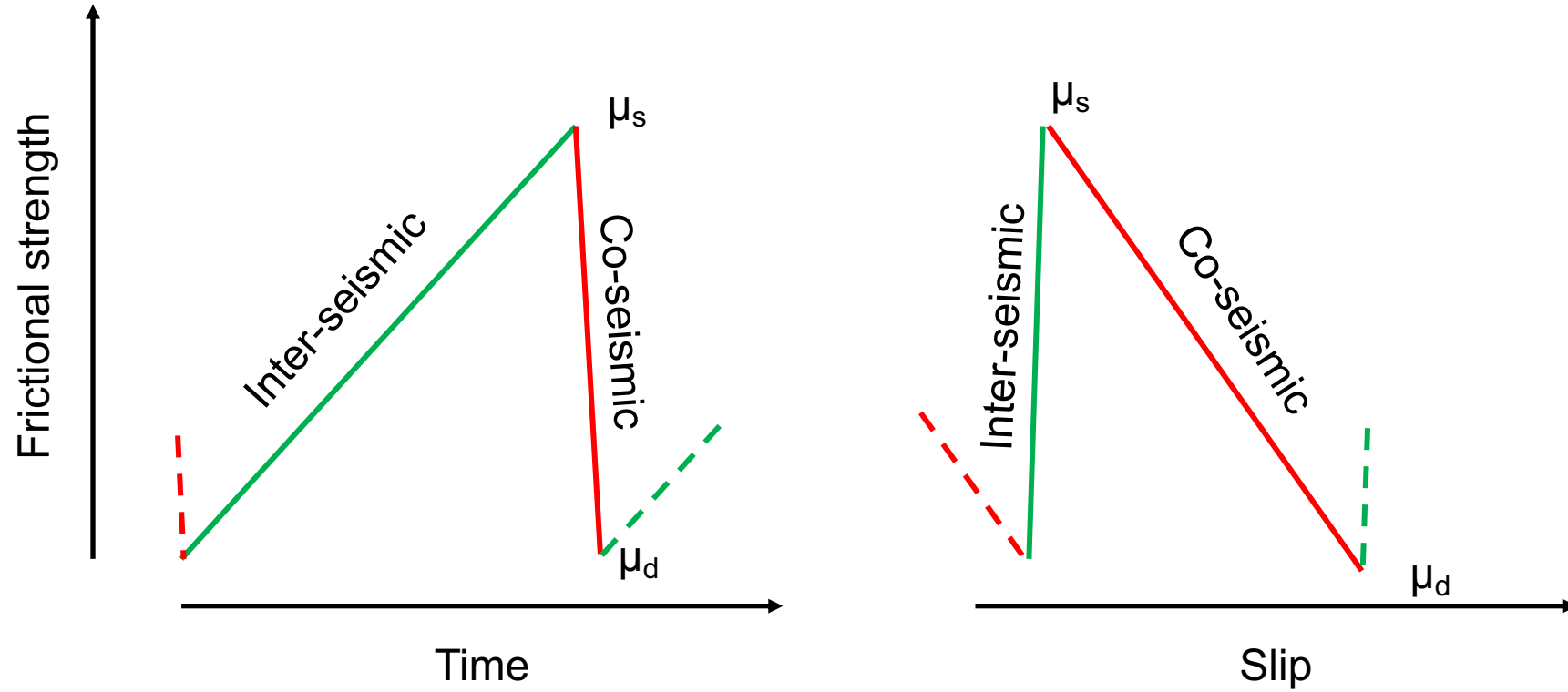
Brace and Byerlee, 1966

## Stick-Slip as a Mechanism for Earthquakes

*Abstract. Stick-slip often accompanies frictional sliding in laboratory experiments with geologic materials. Shallow-focus earthquakes may represent stick-slip during sliding along old or newly formed faults in the earth. In such a situation, observed stress drops represent release of a small fraction of the stress supported by the rock surrounding the earthquake focus.*



# The seismic cycle

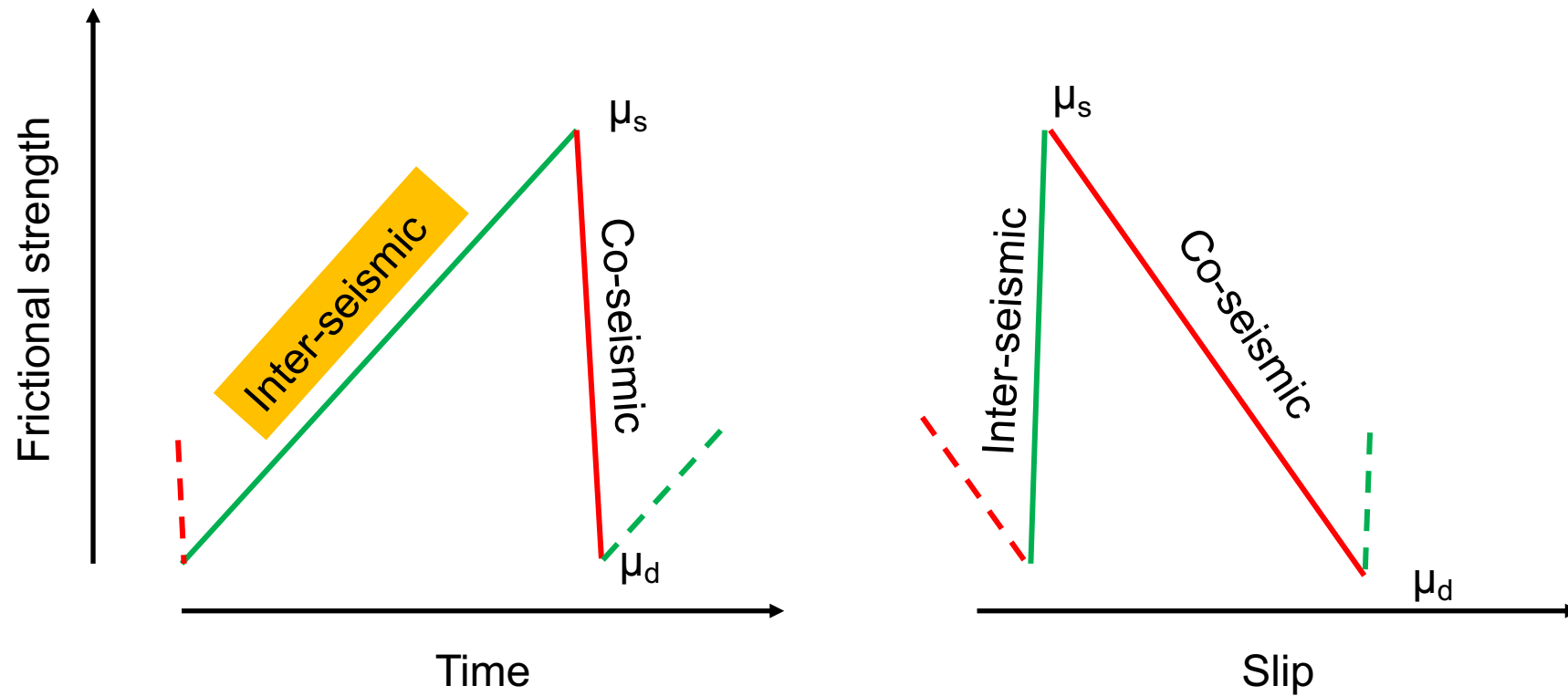




# The seismic cycle

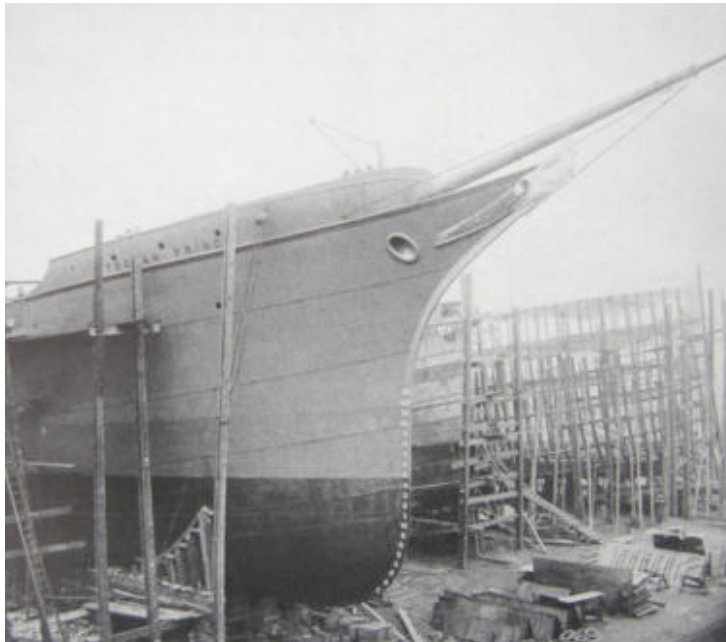
## Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

We need a mechanism to reset frictional strength between two seismic events



# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Time dependence of “static” friction  
Aging of frictional contacts

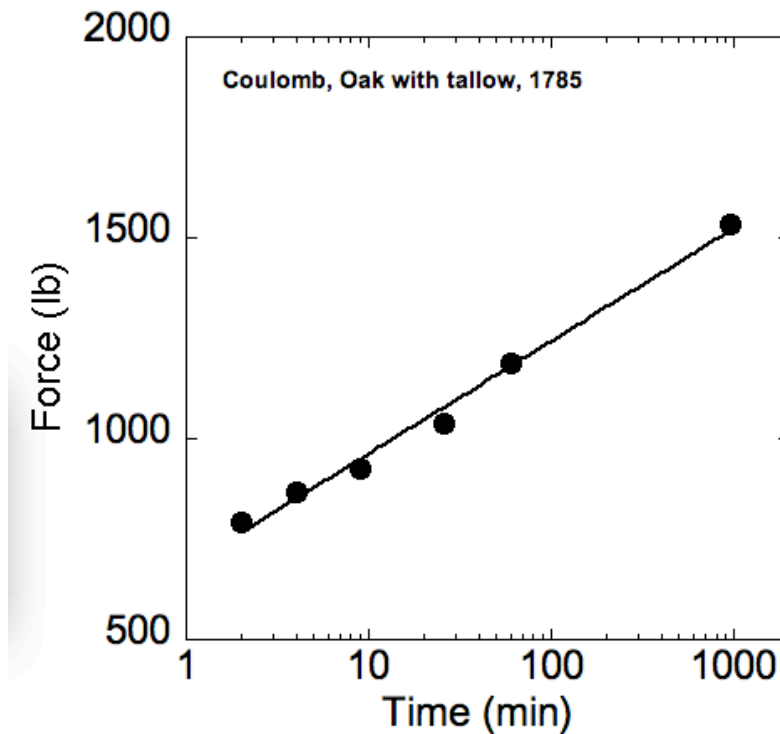


Coulomb, 1785

Table 9.1

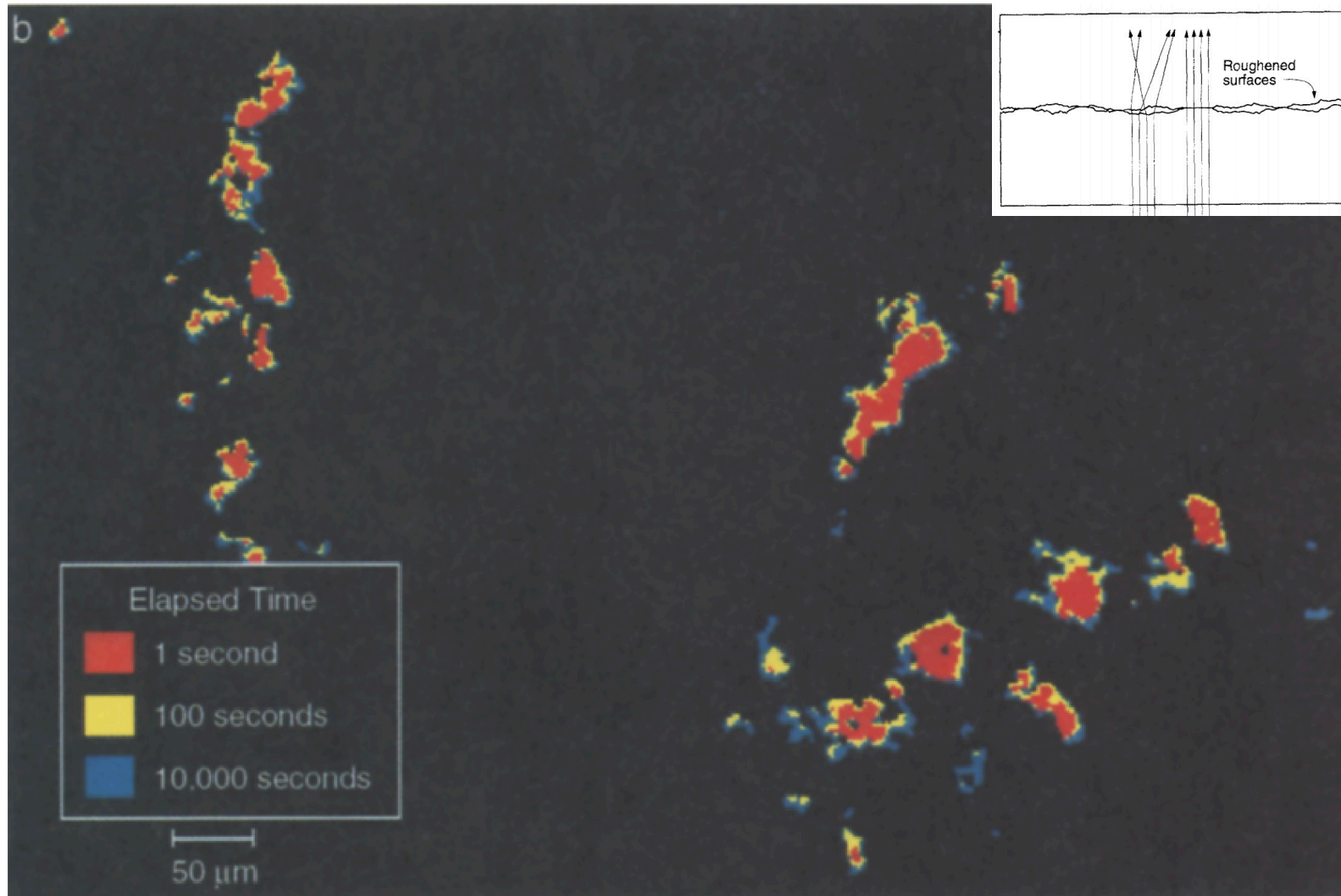
	$T$ (time of repose, min)	$A + mT^m$ (static friction force, lbf)
I <sup>st</sup> observation	0	$A = 502$
II <sup>c</sup>	2	790
III <sup>c</sup>	4	866
IV <sup>c</sup>	9	925
V <sup>c</sup>	26	1,036
VI <sup>c</sup>	60	1,186
VII <sup>c</sup>	960	1,535

static friction of two pieces of well-worn oak lubricated with tallow.



# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

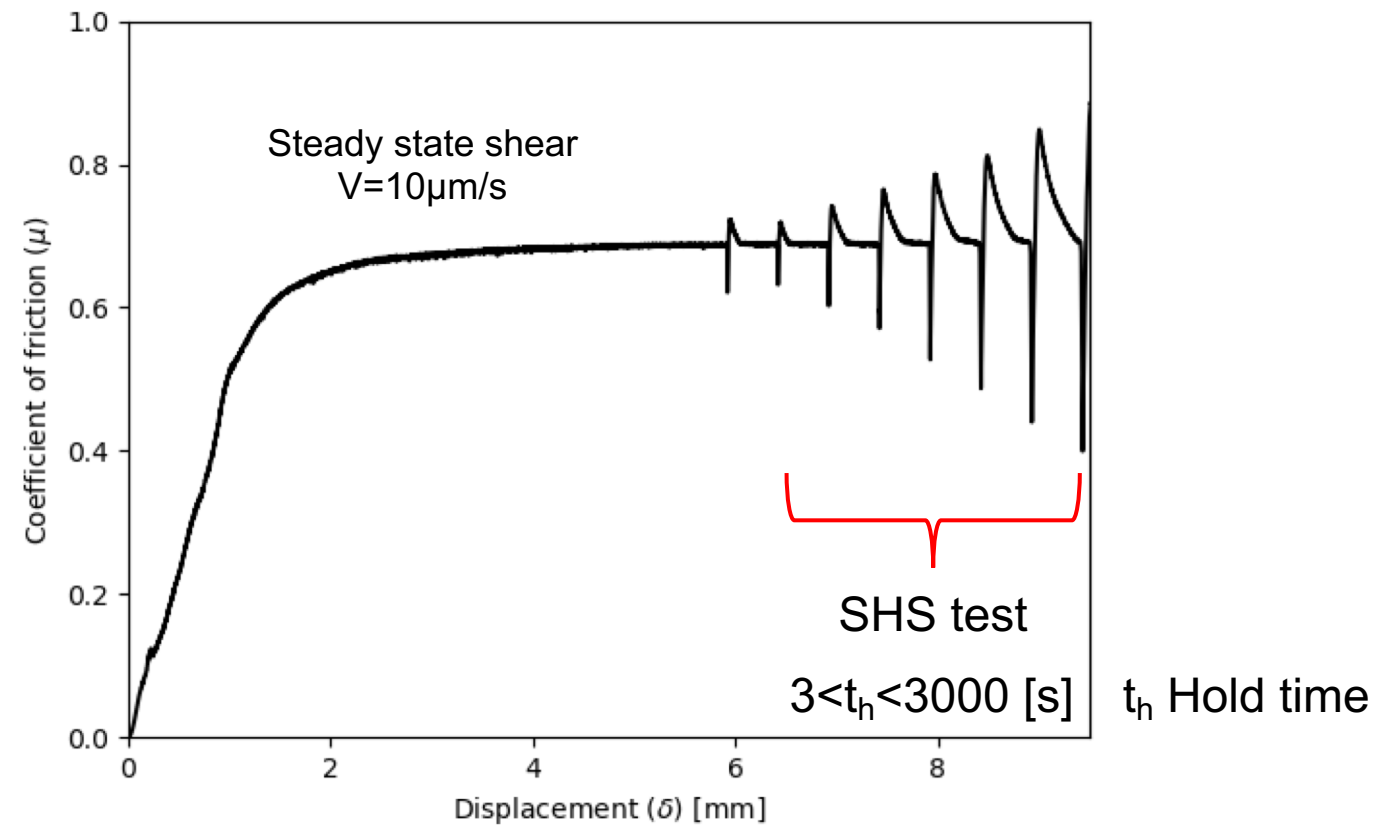
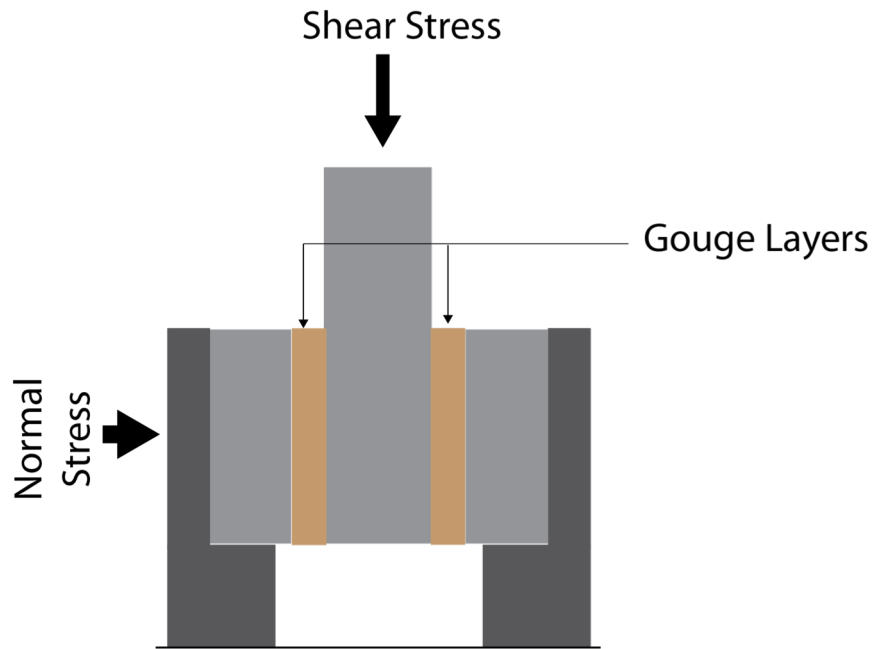
Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time



# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

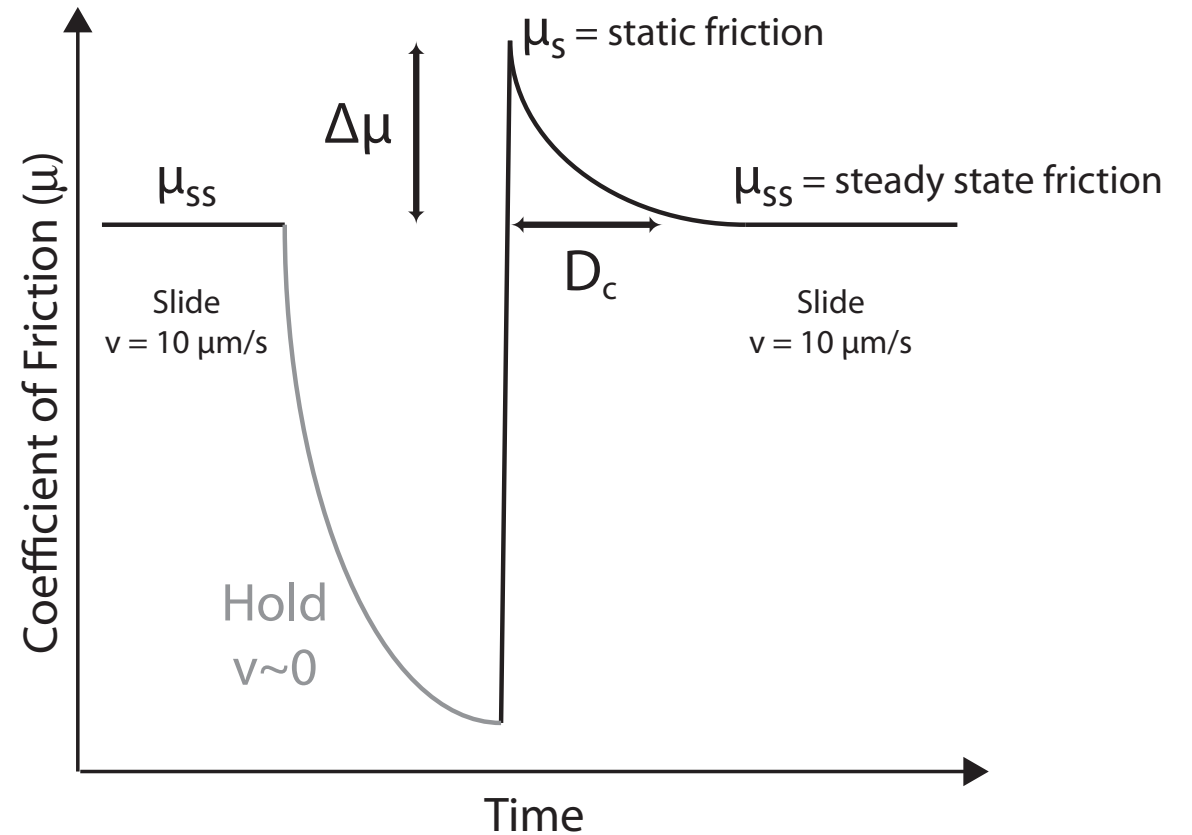
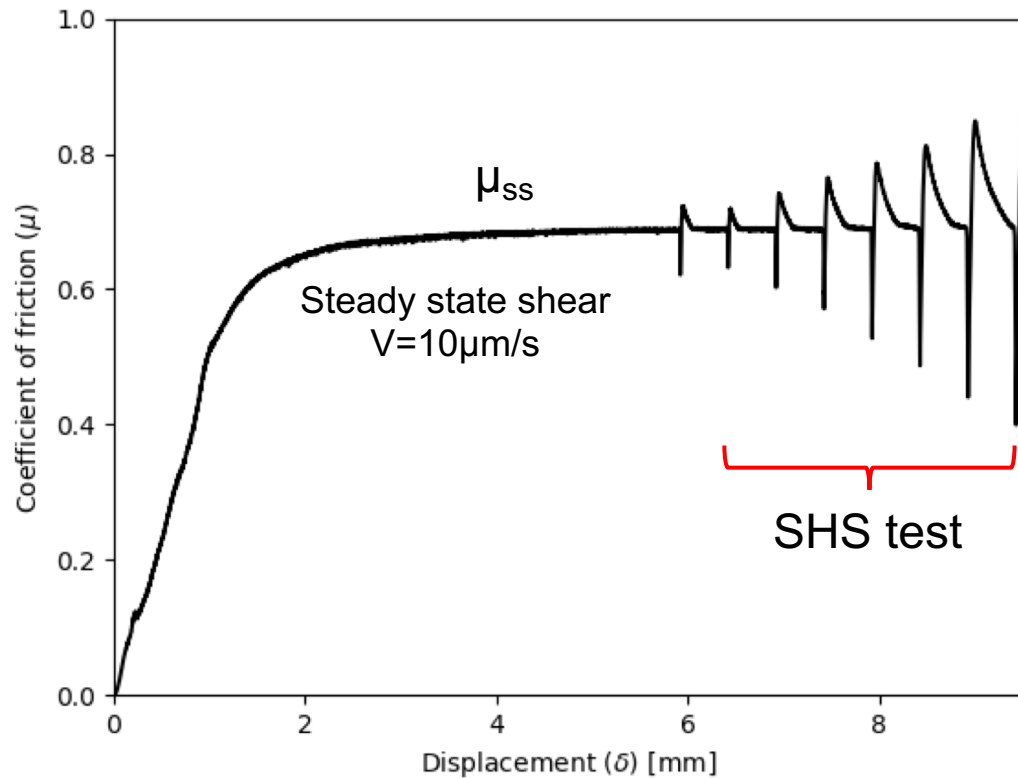
Slide – hold – slide test in the laboratory



# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

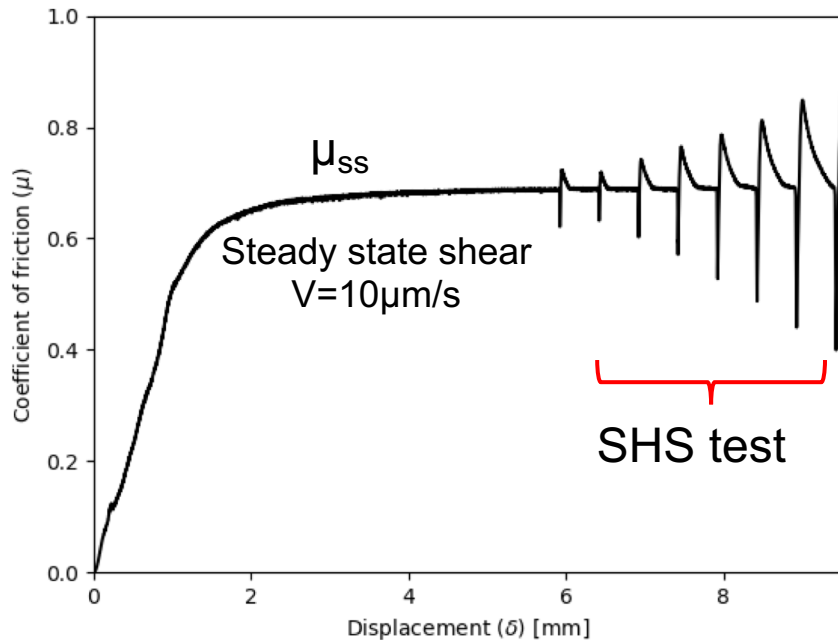
Slide – hold – slide test in the laboratory



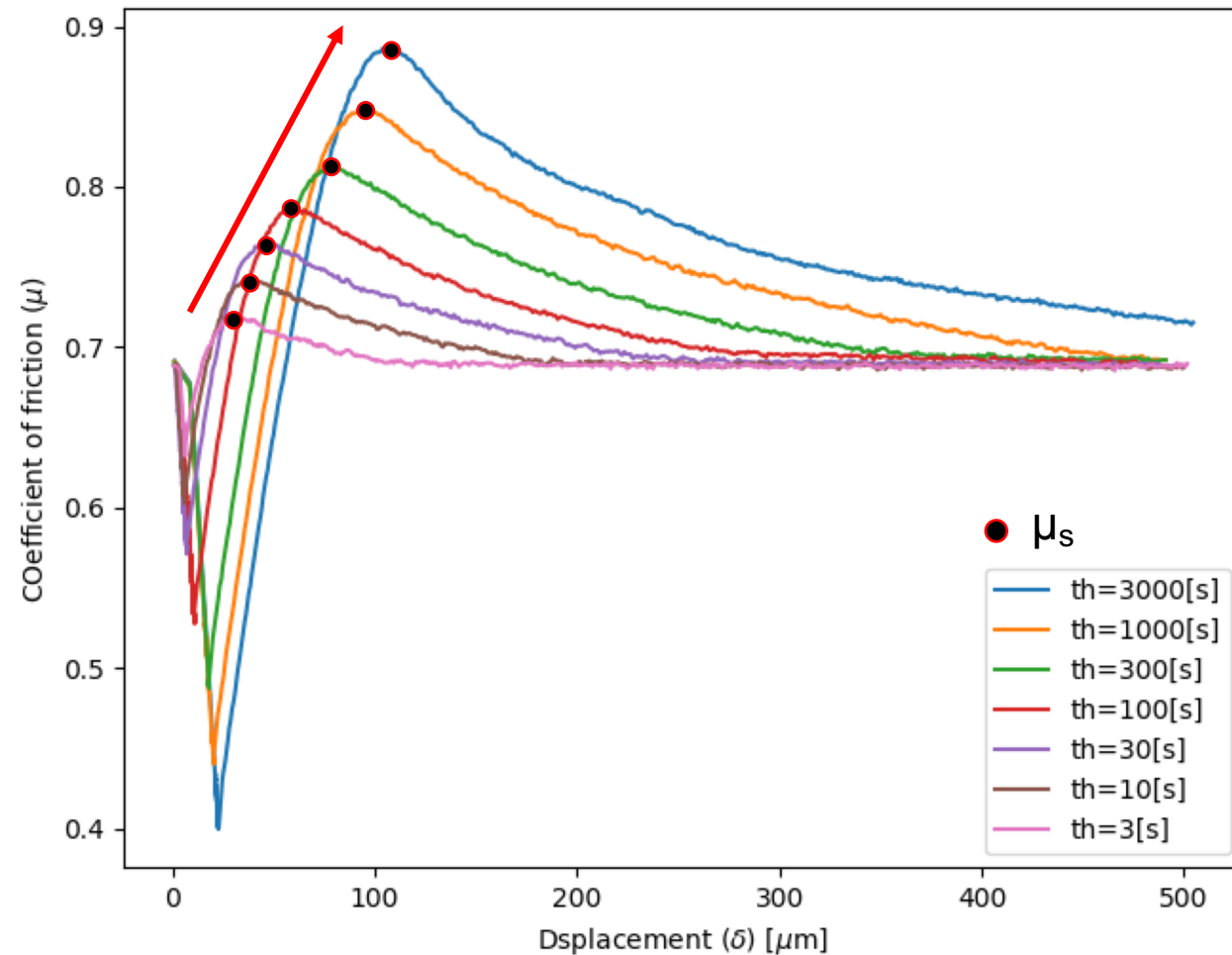
# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

Slide – hold – slide test in the laboratory



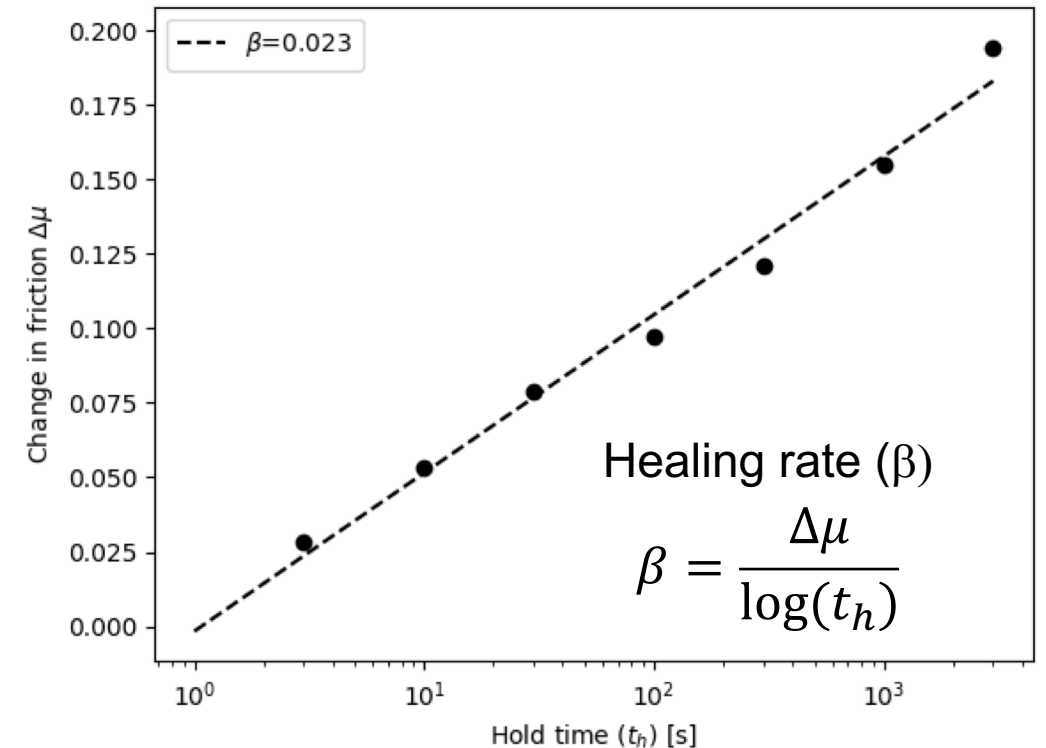
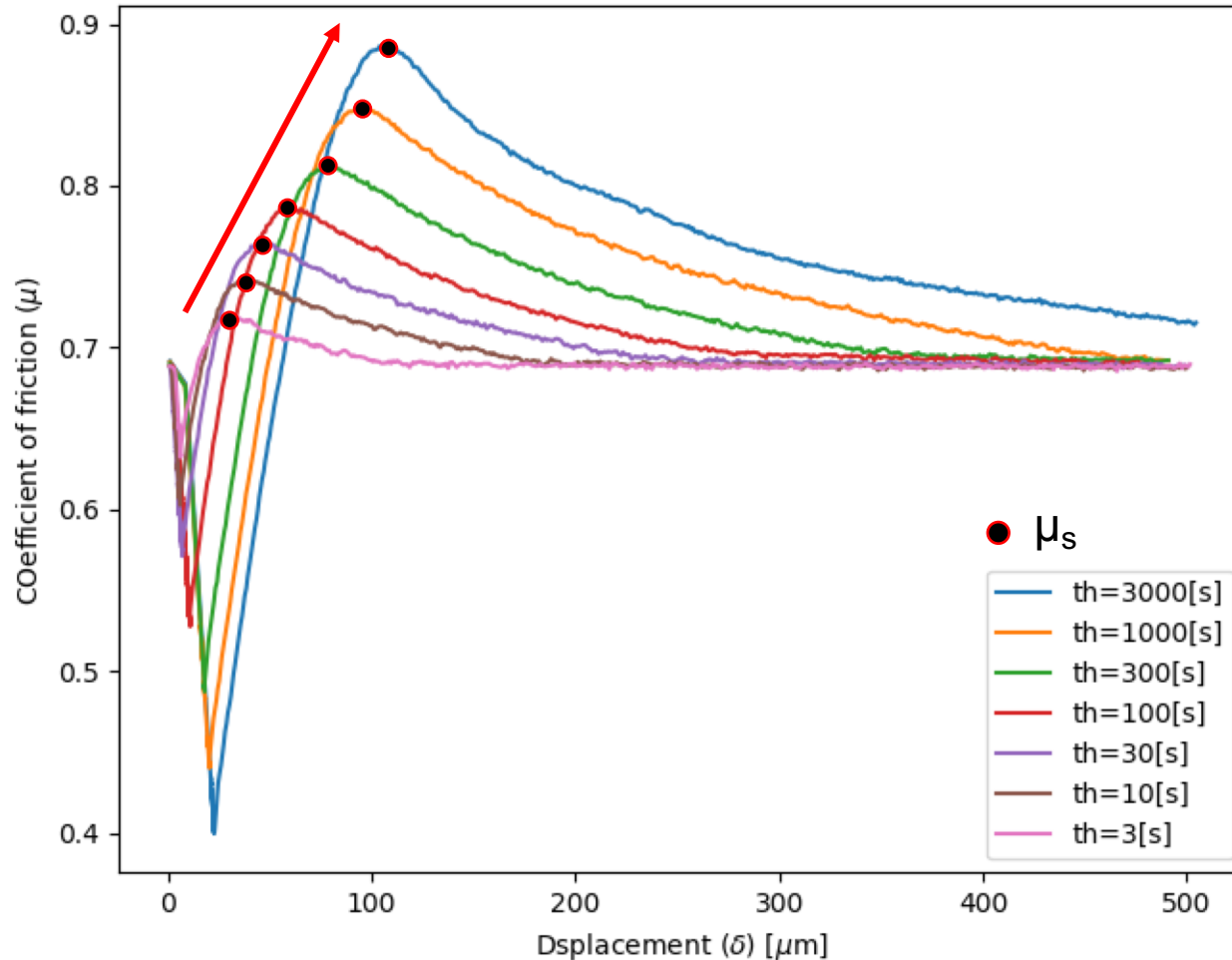
Static friction ( $\mu_s$ )  
increases as a function  
of hold time ( $t_h$ )



# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

Slide – hold – slide test in the laboratory



## 4.05 The Mechanics of Frictional Healing and Slip Instability During the Seismic Cycle

C Marone and DM Saffer, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA

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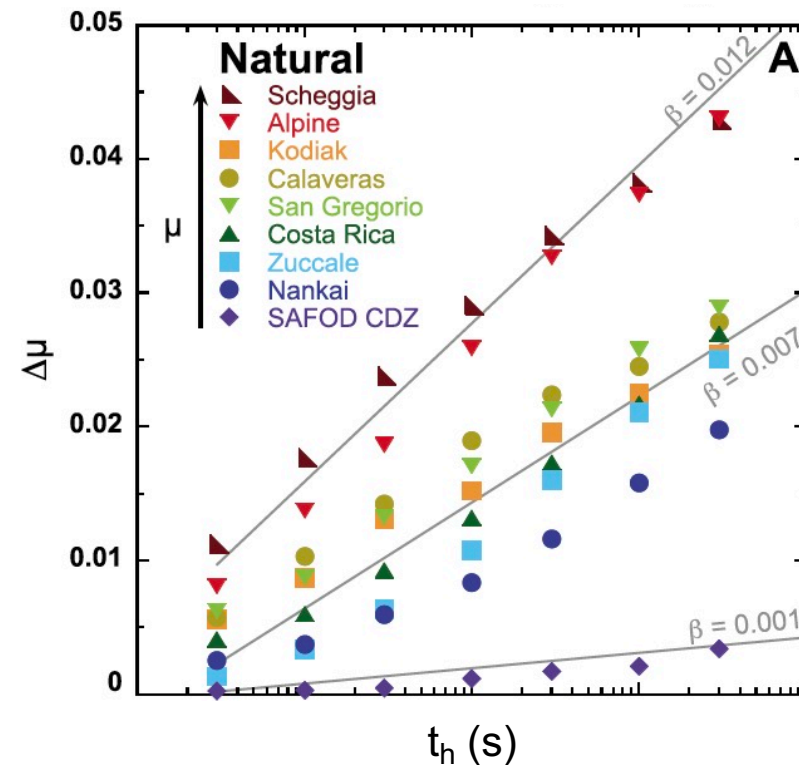
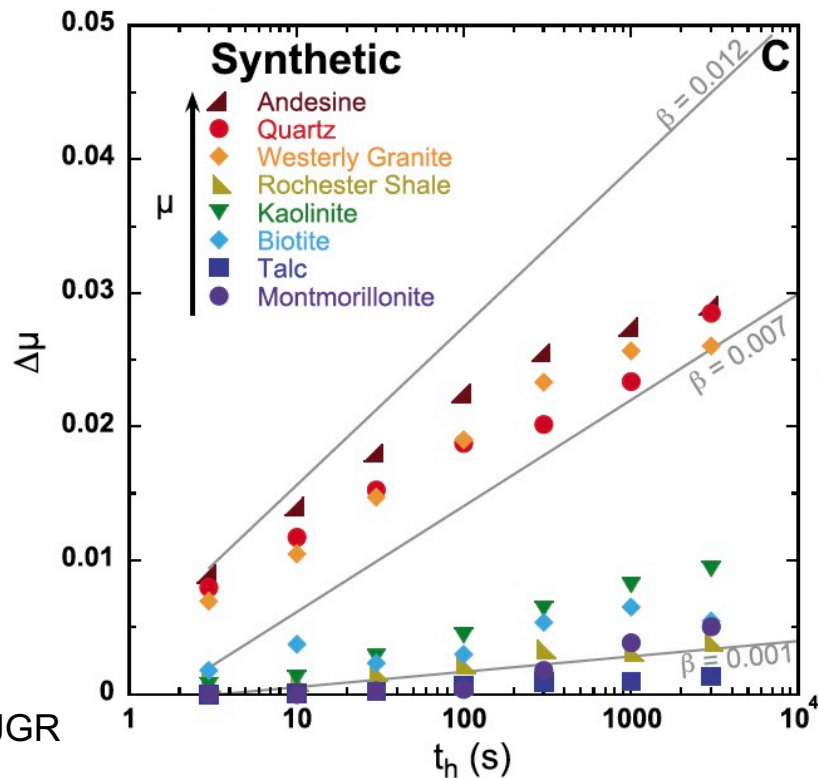


# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

Major factors that controls frictional healing:

Fault gouge mineralogy, in other words the shape of minerals (platy vs. granular)

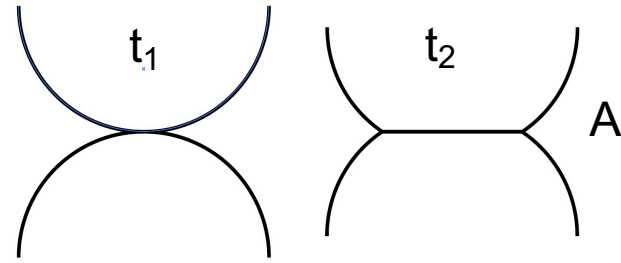


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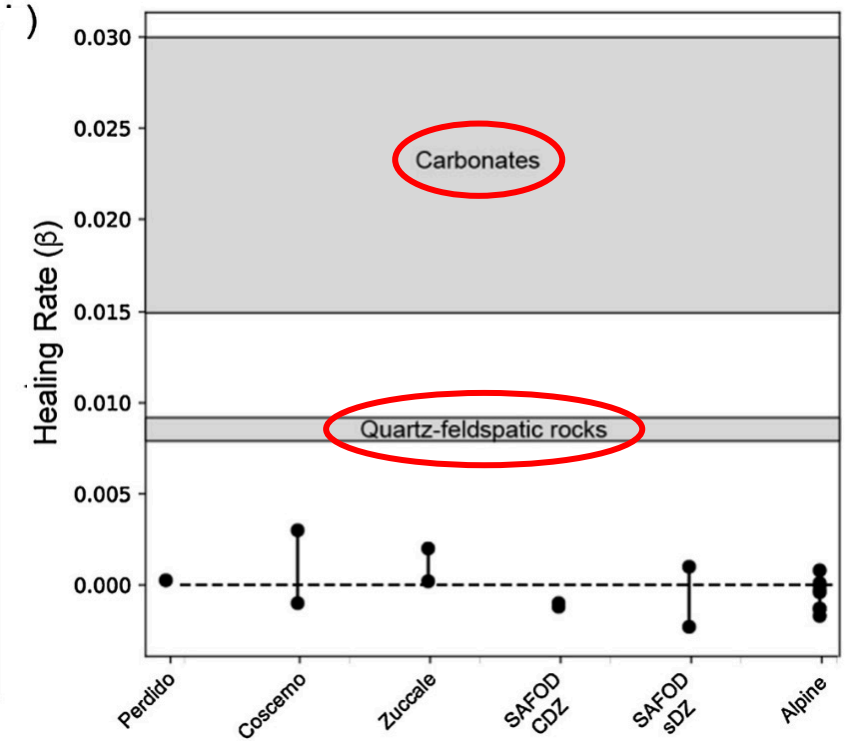
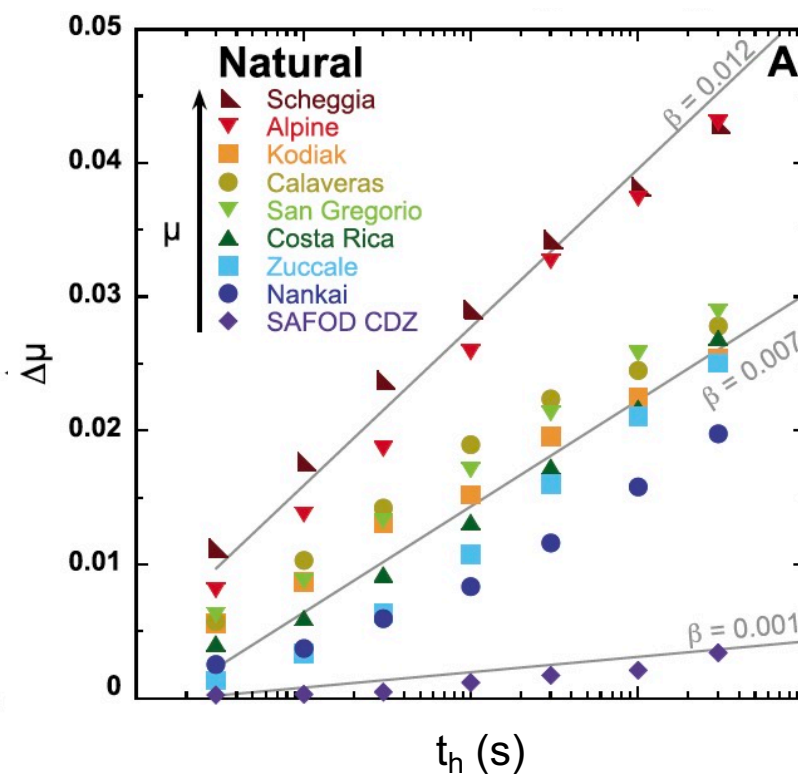
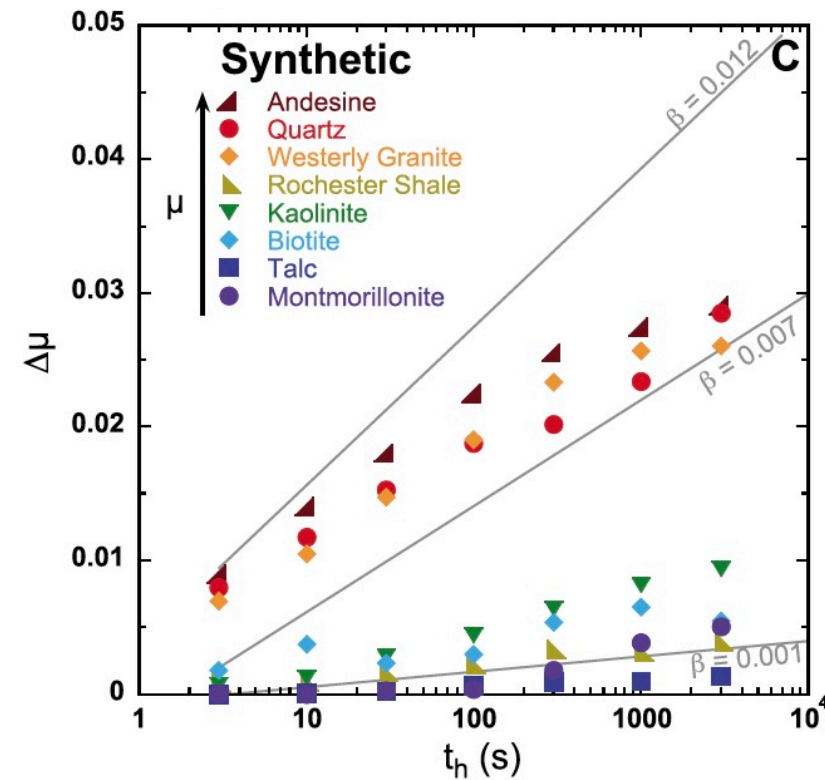
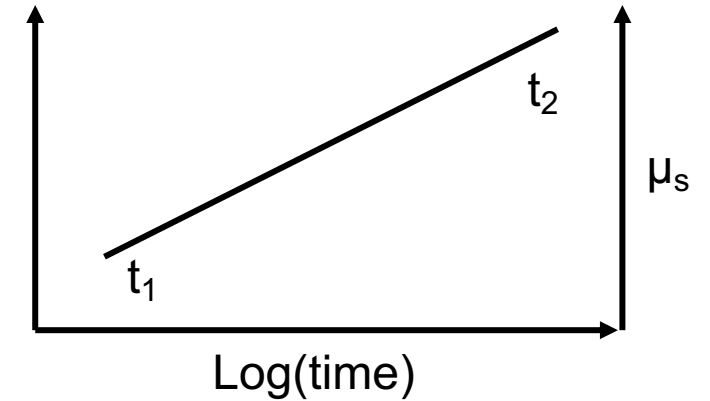
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Contacts grow with time

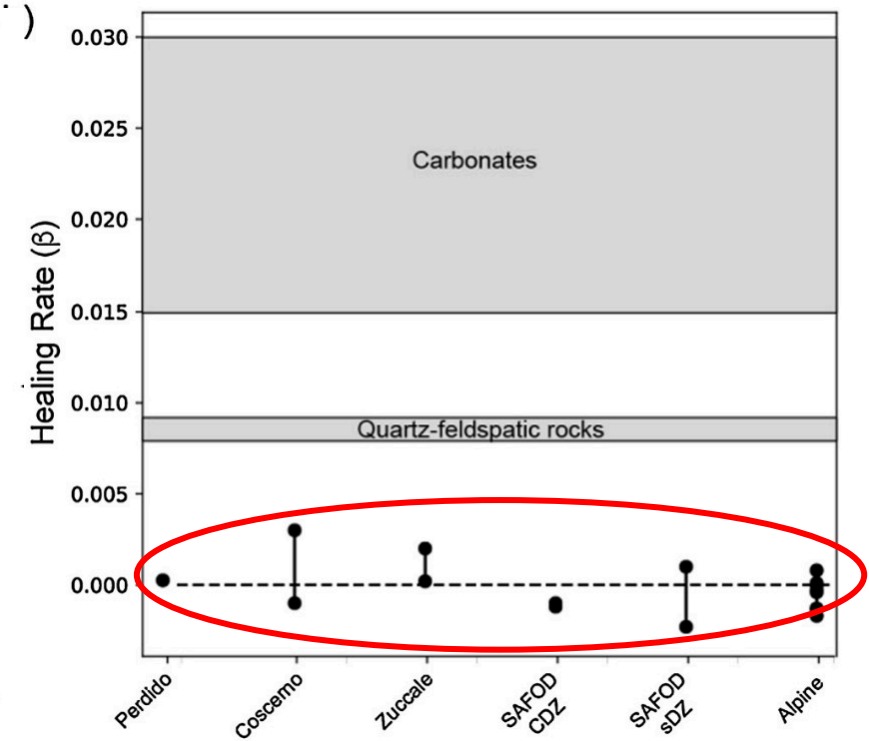
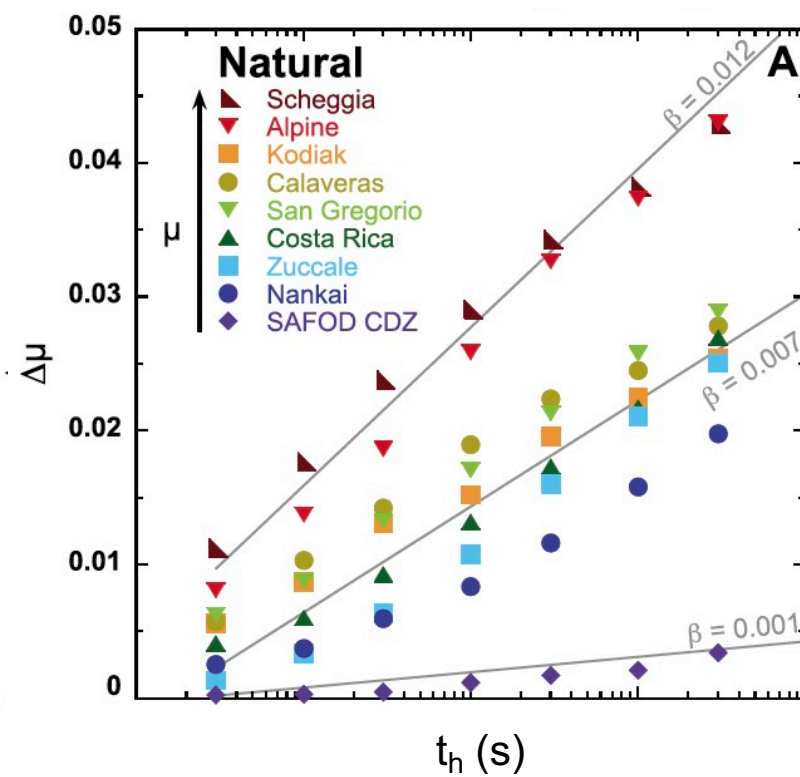
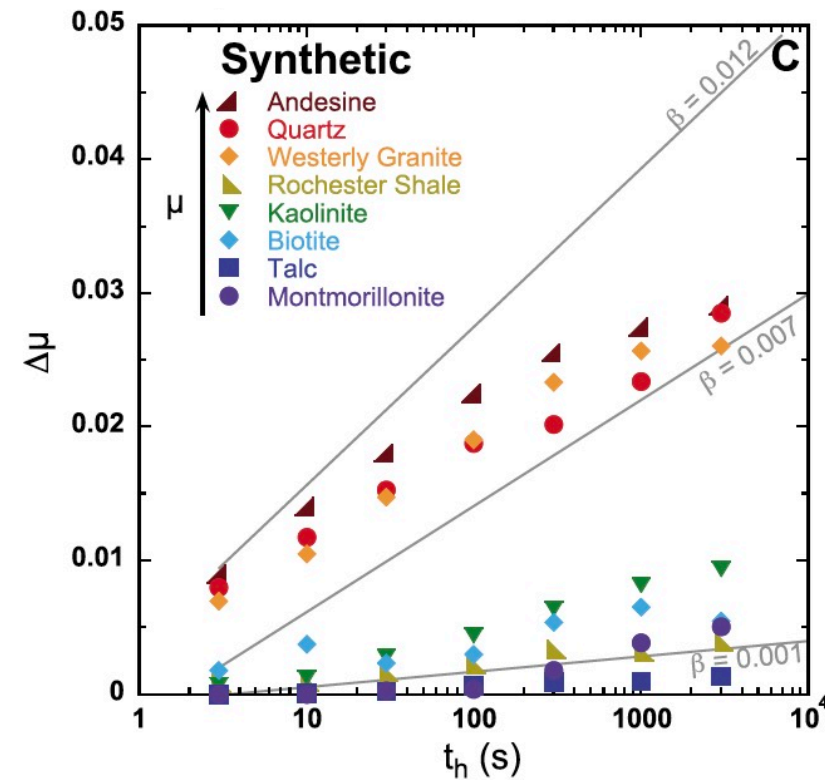
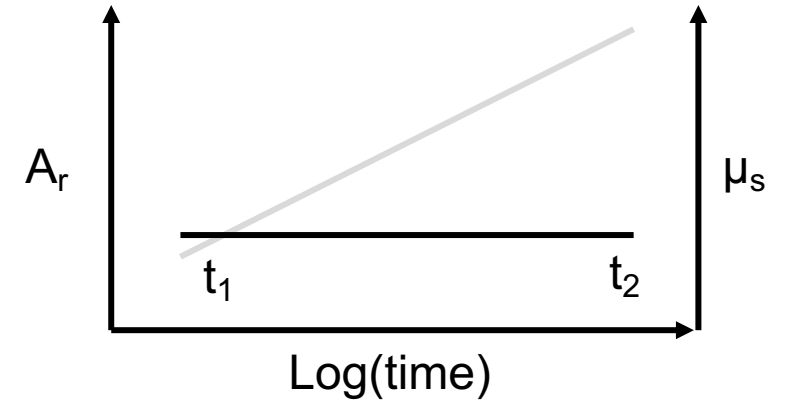
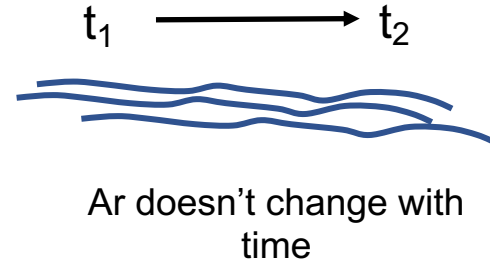


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Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

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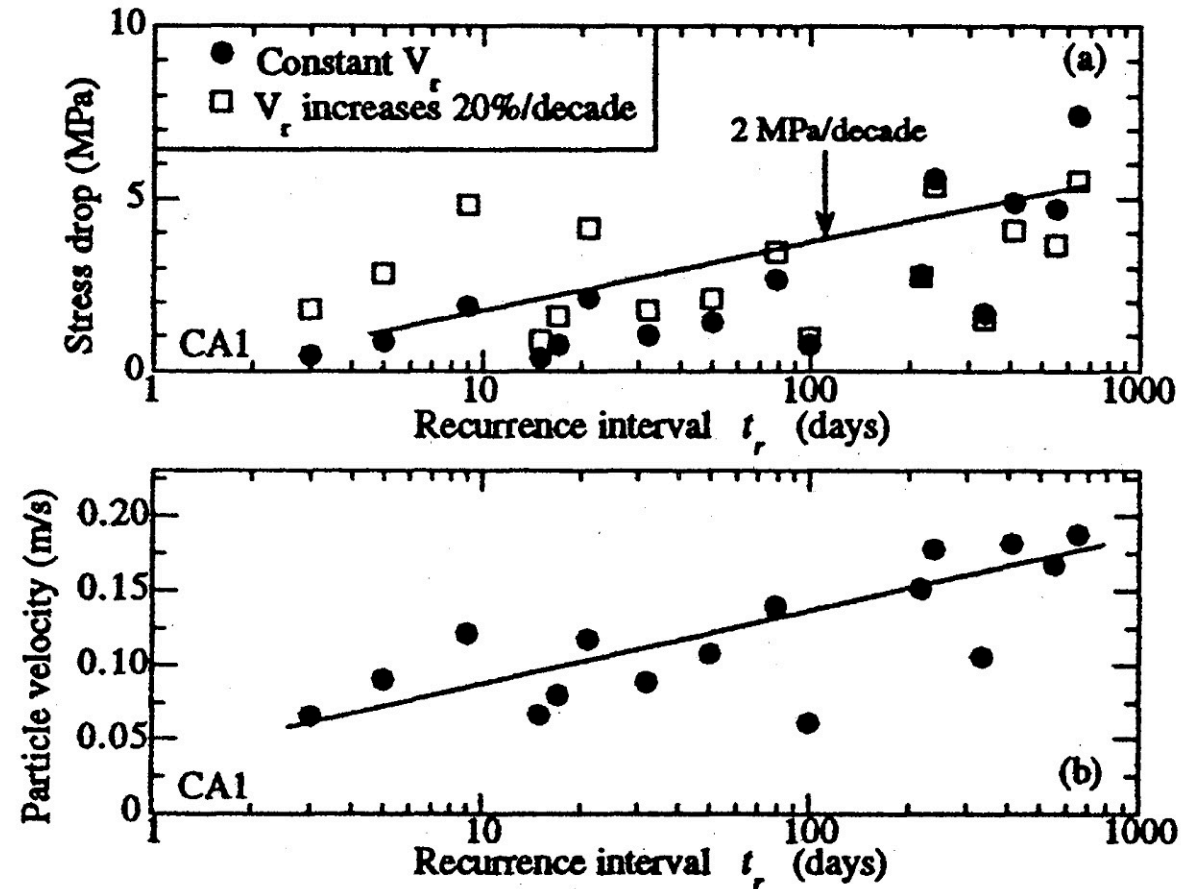
- Shear stress (Karner and Marone, 2001)
- Humidity and fluids (e.g. Frye, 2002)
- Dynamic changes in normal stress (Richardson 1999)
- Shear velocity (Marone 1998)
- Physico-chemical reactions (e.g. Scuderi et al., 2014)
- Degree of granular consolidation (e.g. Bos and Spiers, 2002; Niemeijer et al., 2008)
- And much more

# Time dependence of frictional strength – Frictional aging

Contacts grow (age) with elapsed time

Nonetheless, this theoretical framework it is consistent with observations repeating earthquakes

Calaveras Fault (CA, USA) repeating earthquakes



A good recipe should include



Microphysical  
contact evolution  
(Adhesion theory of  
friction)

Slip dependent friction  
(static vs. kinetic)

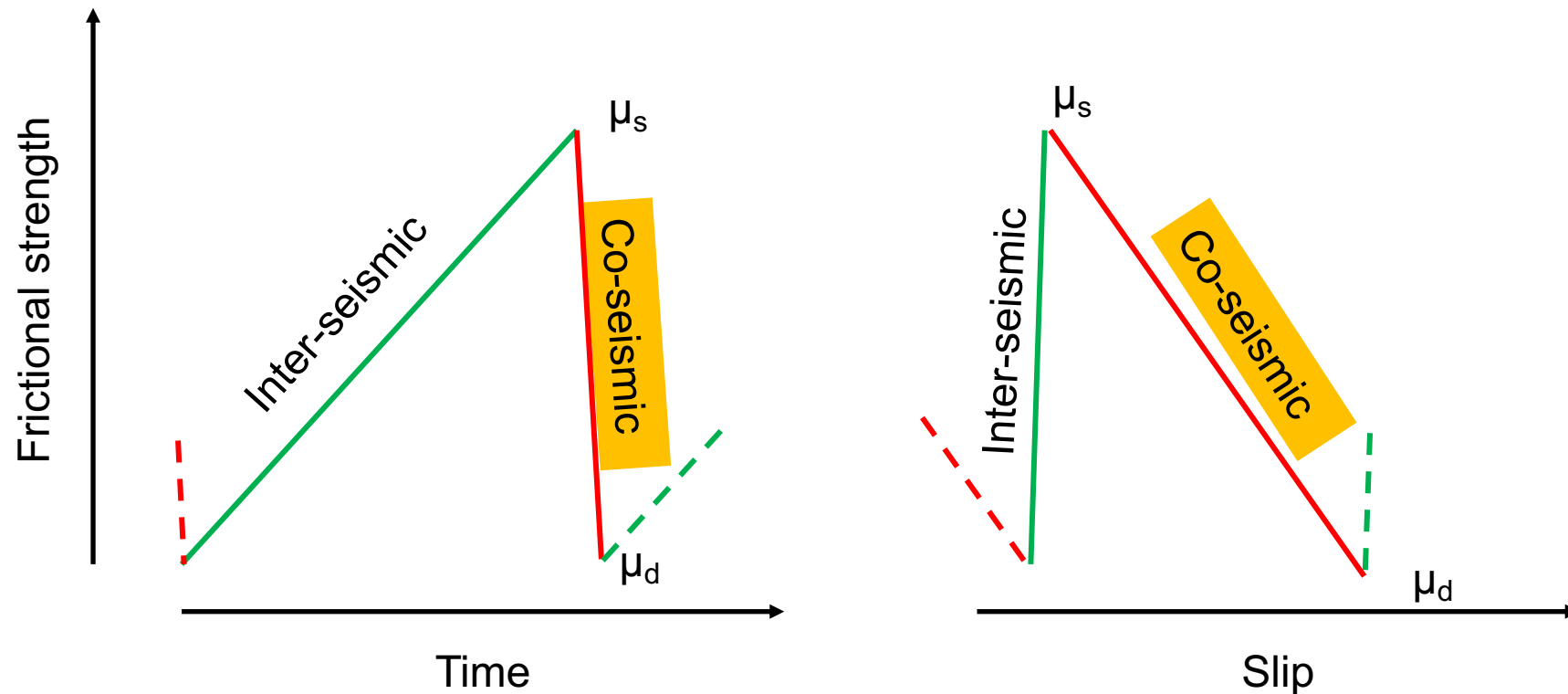
Time dependent  
recovery of shear  
strength

Velocity dependent  
friction

# The seismic cycle

## Velocity dependence of frictional strength

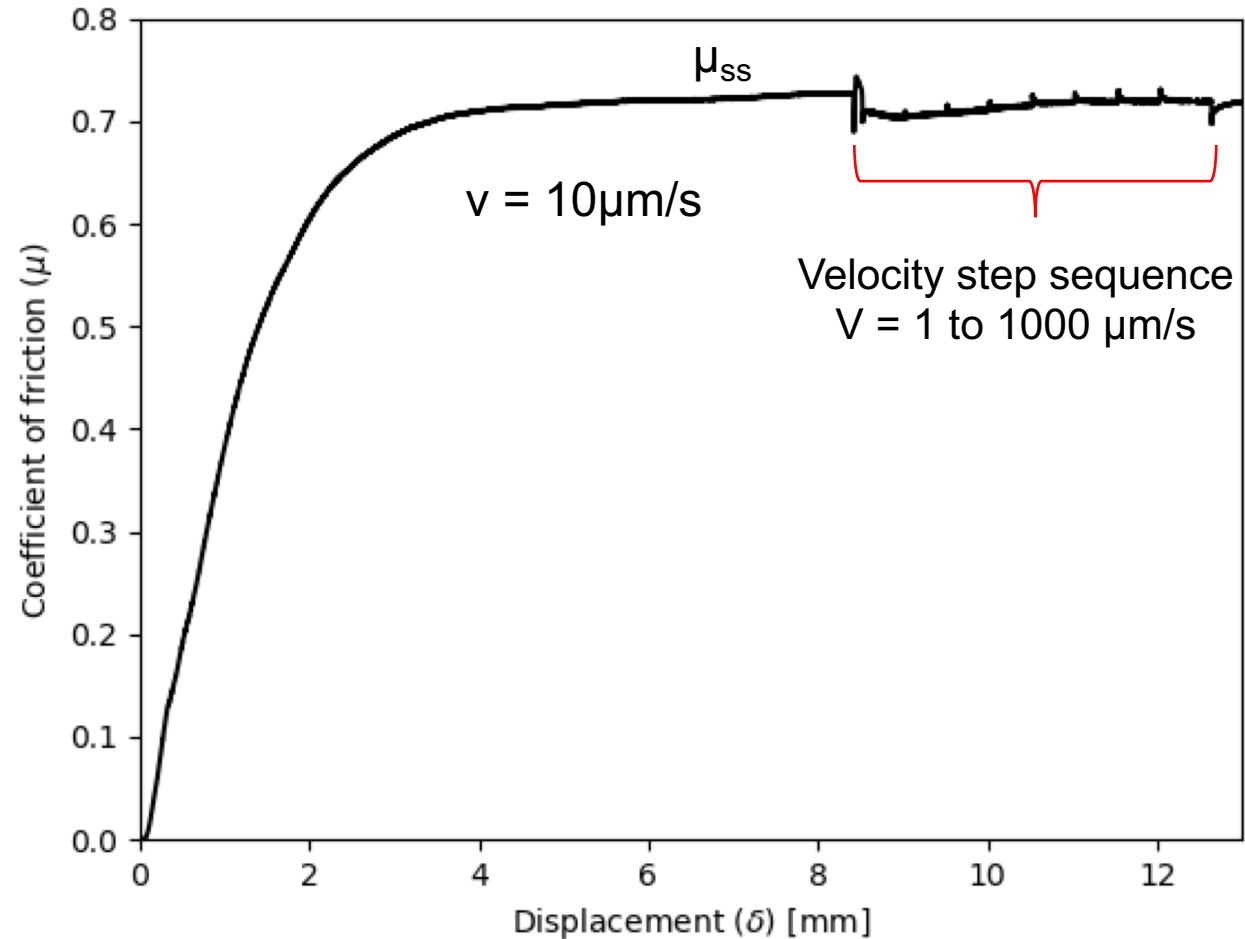
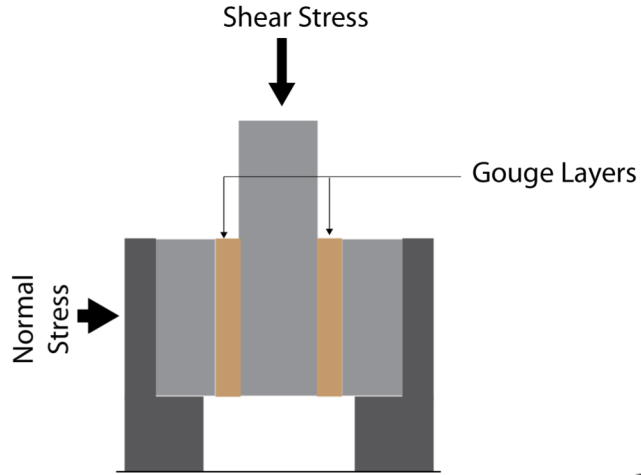
We need a mechanism to allow frictional weakening during slip acceleration to allow earthquake nucleation





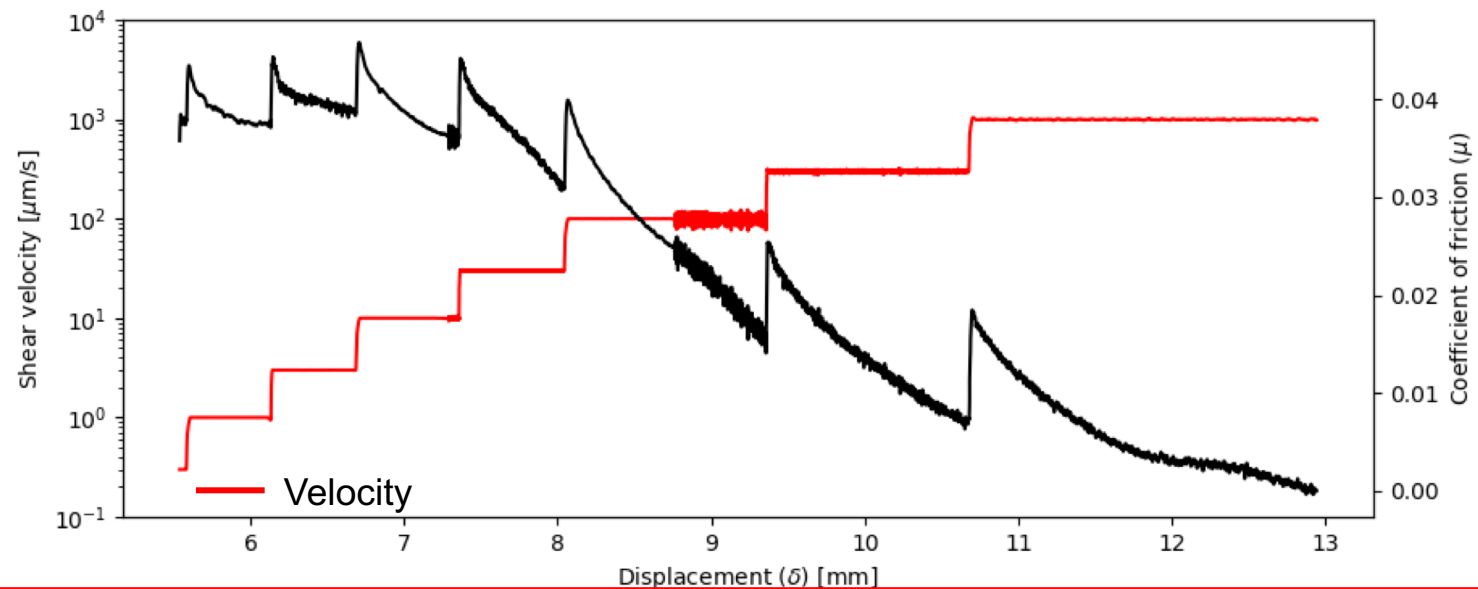
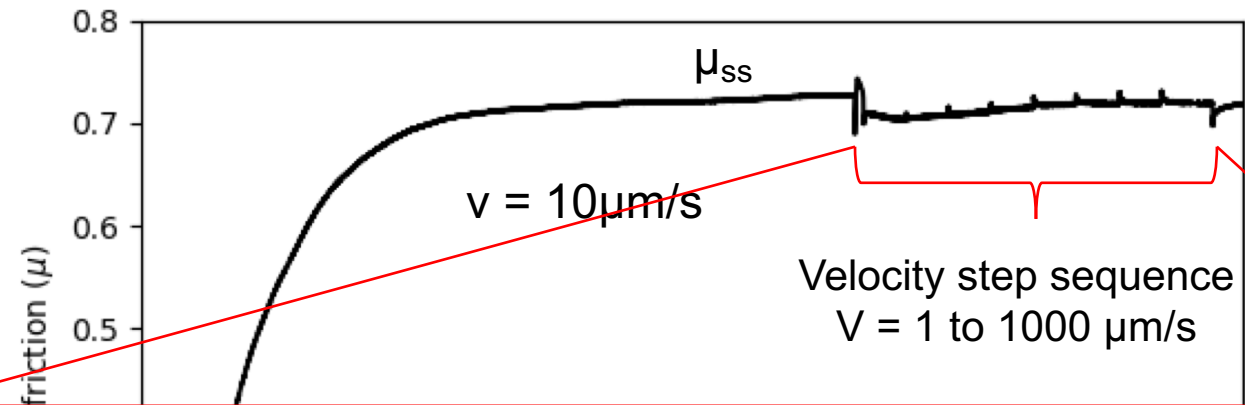
# Velocity dependence of sliding friction

## Velocity step experiments



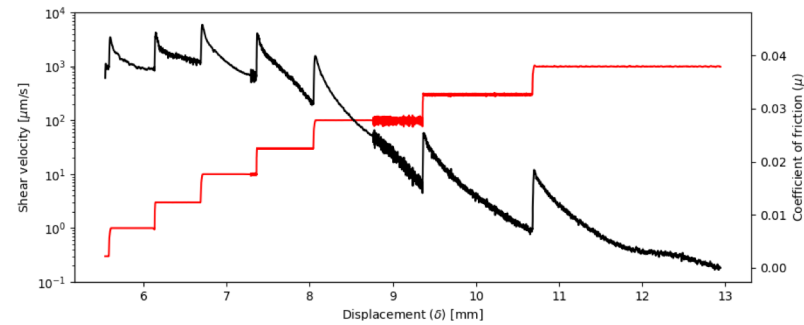
# Velocity dependence of sliding friction

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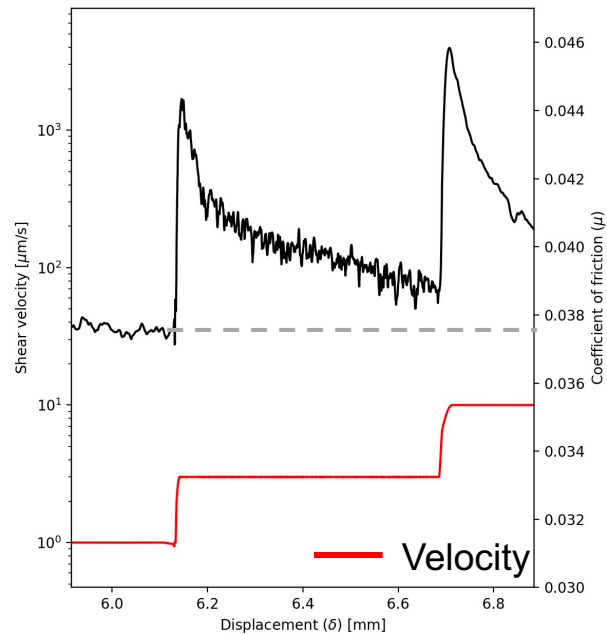
# Velocity dependence of sliding friction

## Velocity step experiments



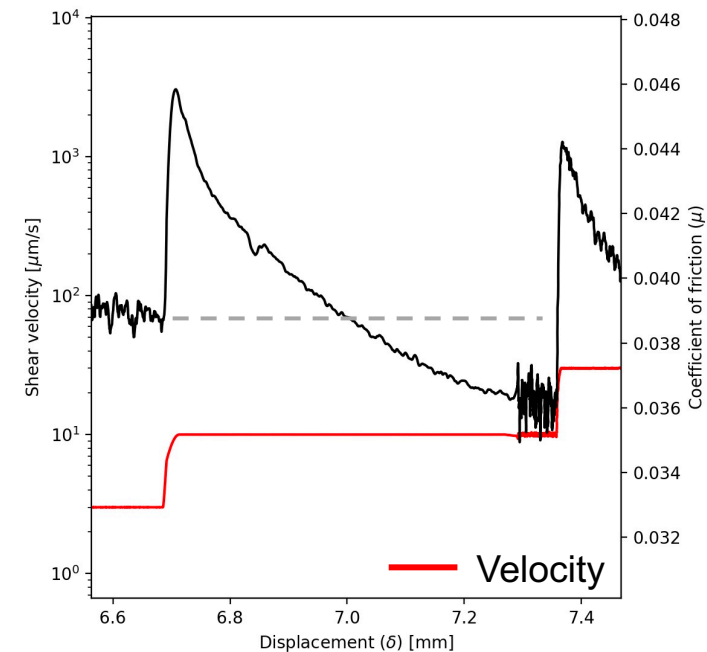
## Velocity strengthening

Friction increases with increasing velocity, indicative of aseismic creep.



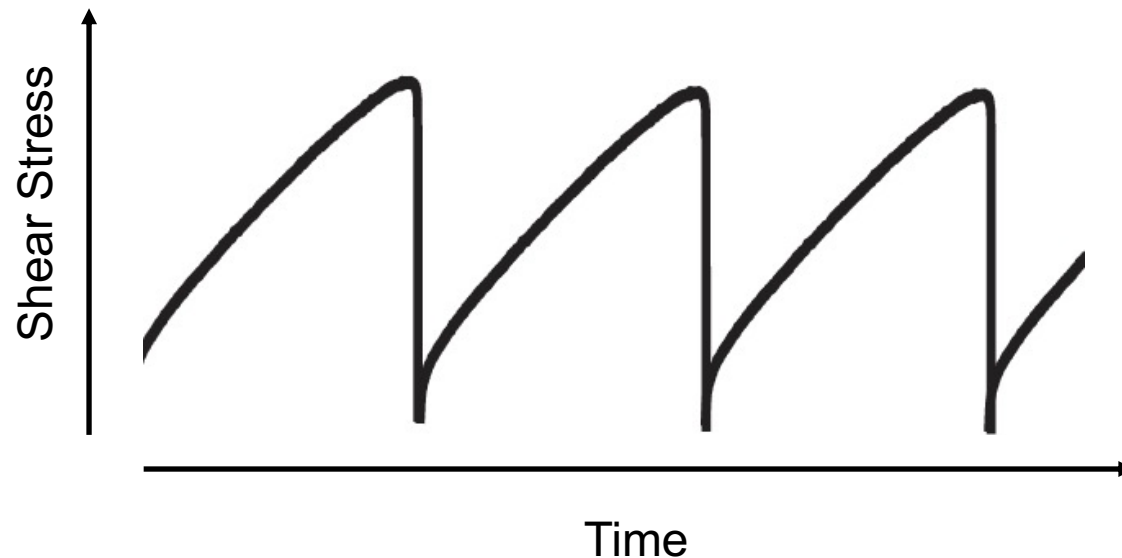
## Velocity weakening

Friction decreases with increasing velocity, setting the stage for an instability.



How can we relate measurement of:

- (1) Static friction that increases with time
- (2) Kinetic friction that changes with velocity



To model repetitive stick-slip frictional sliding we need a constitutive law that can describe slip weakening to promote unstable failure, but also frictional healing to reset strength between events.

# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

## 1) Friction law

$$\frac{\tau(\theta, v)}{\sigma_n} = \mu_0 + a \ln\left(\frac{v}{v_0}\right) + b \ln\left(\frac{v_0 \theta}{D_c}\right)$$

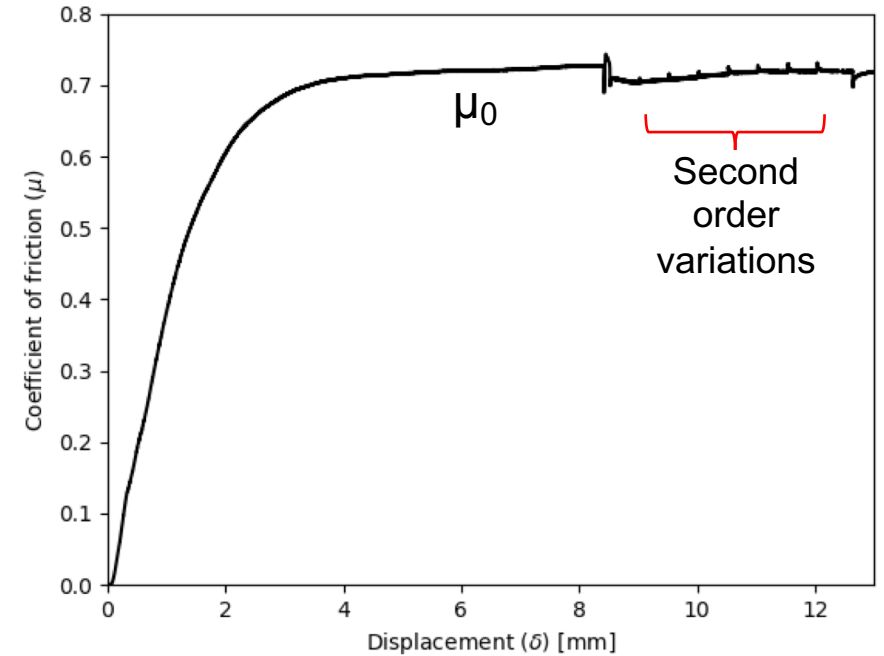
Dieterich, 1978 PAGEOPH , 1979a,b JGR

Ruina 1983 JGR

Review of:

Scholz, 1998 Nature

Marone, 1998 Reviews of Geophysics

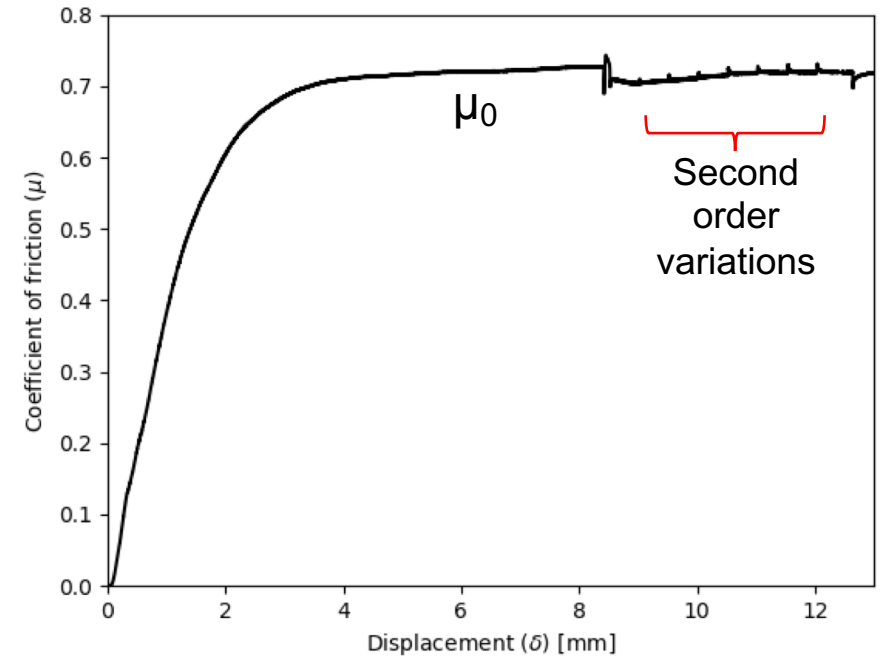


# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

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$$\frac{\tau(\theta, v)}{\sigma_n} = \mu_0 + \overbrace{a \ln\left(\frac{v}{v_0}\right) + b \ln\left(\frac{v_0 \theta}{D_c}\right)}^{\text{Second order variations}}$$

To the first  
order friction is  
constant



# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

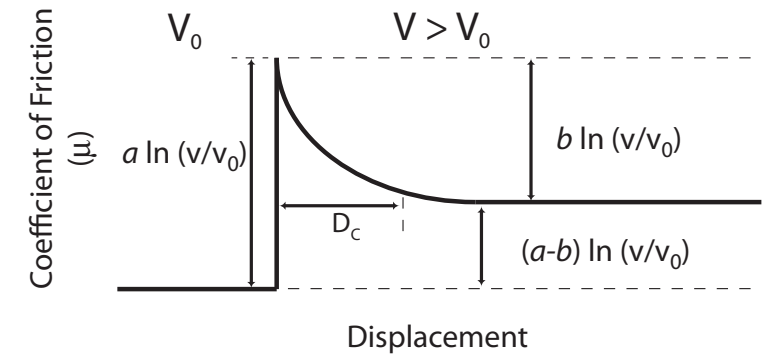
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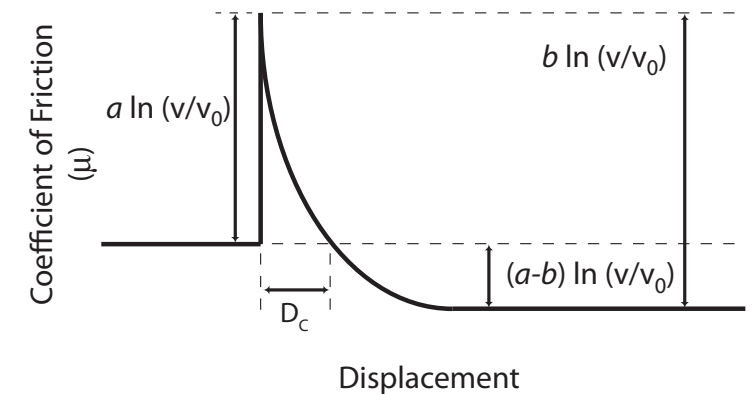
Direct effect ( $a$ )

Slip rate dependent increase in shear resistance (non-linear viscous).

## Velocity Strengthening (aseismic creep)



## Velocity Weakening (potentially unstable)





# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

## 1) Friction law

$$\frac{\tau(\theta, v)}{\sigma_n} = \mu_0 + \overbrace{a \ln\left(\frac{v}{v_0}\right) + b \ln\left(\frac{v_0 \theta}{D_c}\right)}^{\text{Second order variations}}$$

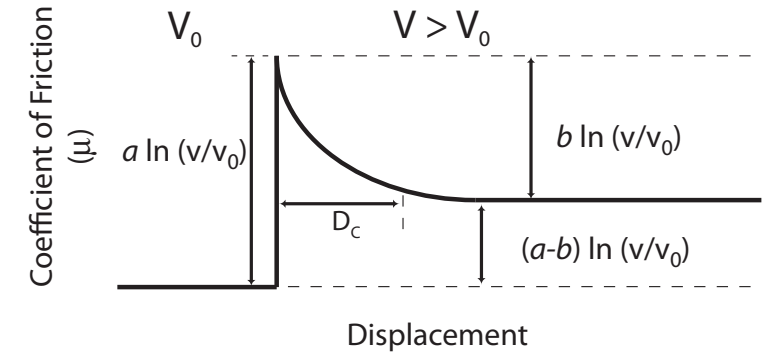
Evolution effect ( $b$ ):

- Slip dependent evolution in contact area
- Time dependent increase in contact area

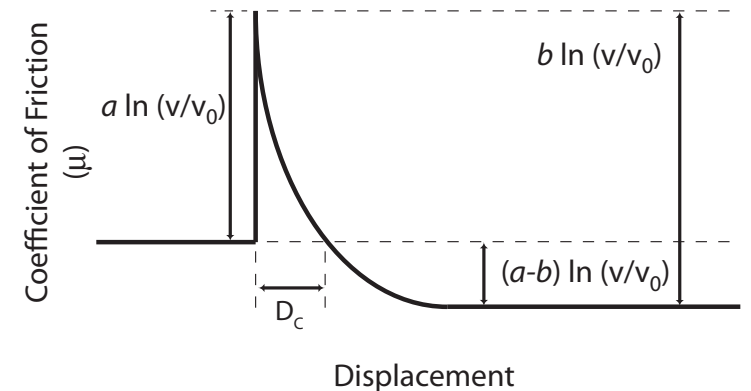
$D_c$  = Critical slip distance, defined as the distance required to renew a population of asperity contacts.

$\theta$  = State variable, describes the “state” of the contacts and it is related with the characteristic contact lifetime (it has units of time).

## Velocity Strengthening (aseismic creep)



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# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

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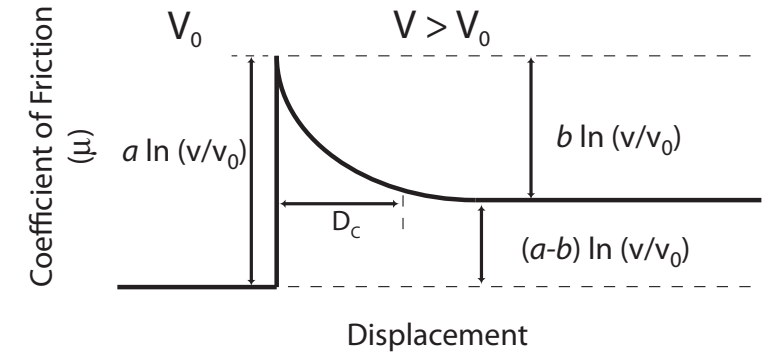
## 2) Evolution law

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 1 - \left(\frac{v\theta}{D_c}\right)$$

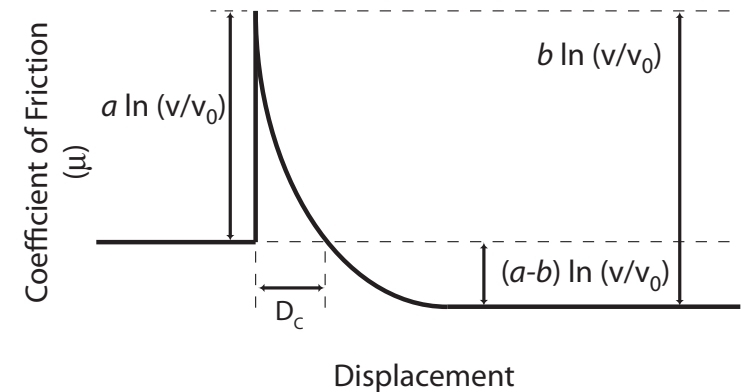
Aging Law (or Dieterich law)

This formulation allow the state ( $\theta$ ), and thus friction, to evolve even for truly stationary contact, when  $V=0$ . That is, it can be used to model frictional healing.

## Velocity Strengthening (aseismic creep)



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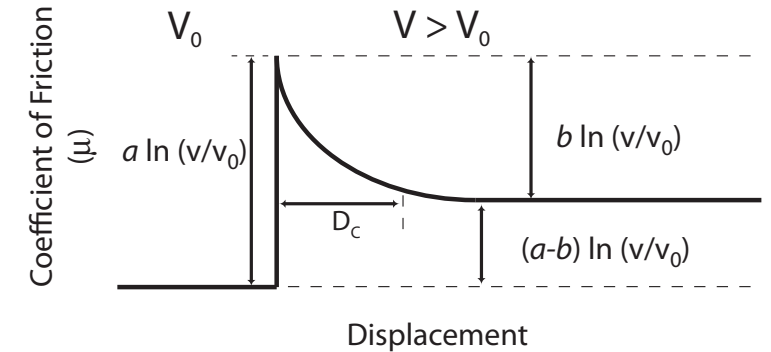
Aging Law (or Dieterich law)

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = -\frac{v\theta}{D_c} \ln\left(\frac{v\theta}{D_c}\right)$$

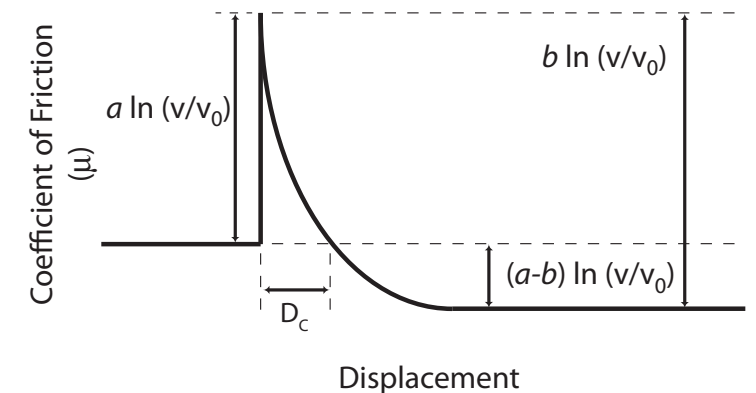
Slip Law (or Ruina law)

Emphasize the importance of slip and slip velocity in the evolution of friction rather than time.

## Velocity Strengthening (aseismic creep)



## Velocity Weakening (potentially unstable)



# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

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$$\frac{\tau(\theta, v)}{\sigma_n} = \mu_0 + \overbrace{a \ln\left(\frac{v}{v_0}\right) + b \ln\left(\frac{v_0 \theta}{D_c}\right)}^{\text{Second order variations}}$$

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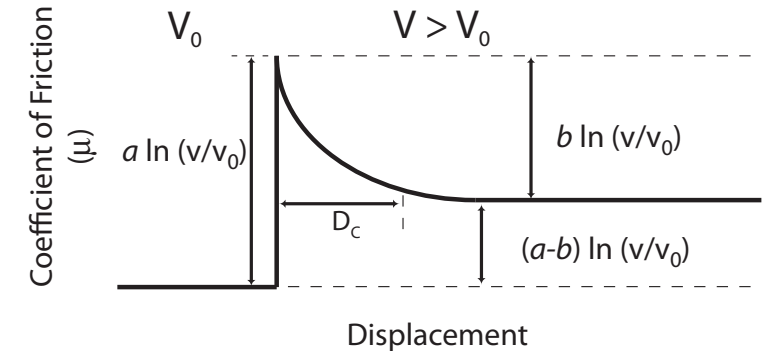
Aging Law (or Dieterich law)

Which one ?

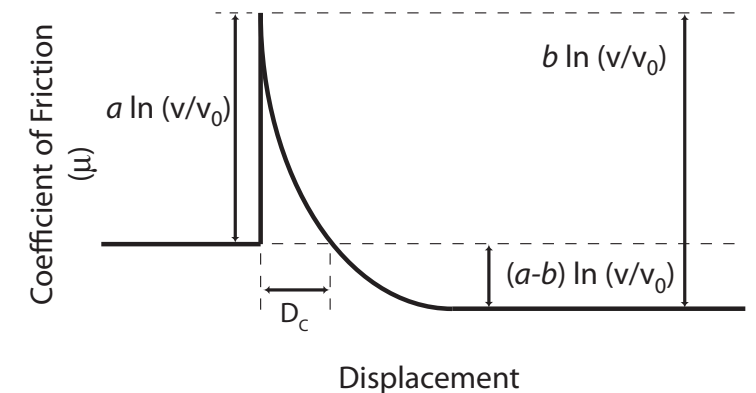
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Slip Law (or Ruina law)

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## 2) Evolution law

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 1 - \left(\frac{v\theta}{D_c}\right)$$

Aging Law (or Dieterich law)

For steady state shear  
(i.e. shear at constant velocity)

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 0$$

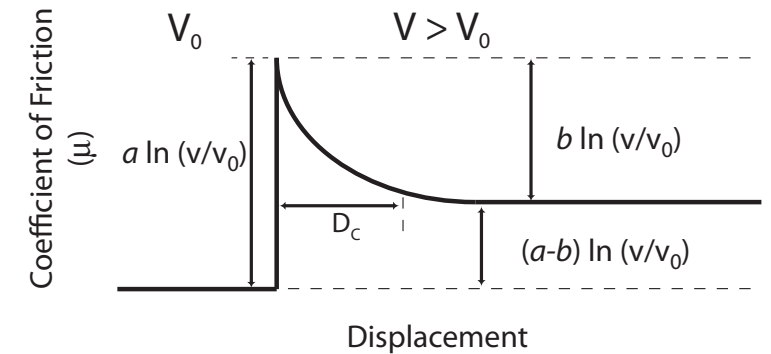
Resulting in

$$\theta_{ss} = \frac{D_c}{v}$$

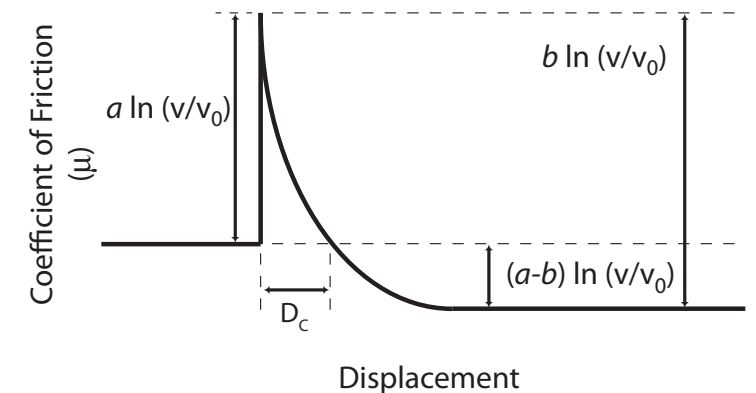
Stability parameter

$$(a - b) = \frac{\Delta\mu_{ss}}{\log(v/v_0)}$$

## Velocity Strengthening (aseismic creep)



## Velocity Weakening (potentially unstable)



# Rate( $v$ ) and state( $\theta$ ) friction constitutive equations

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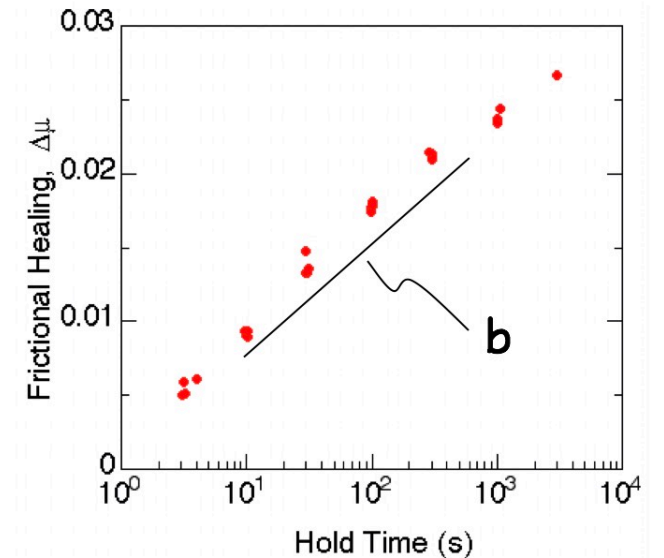
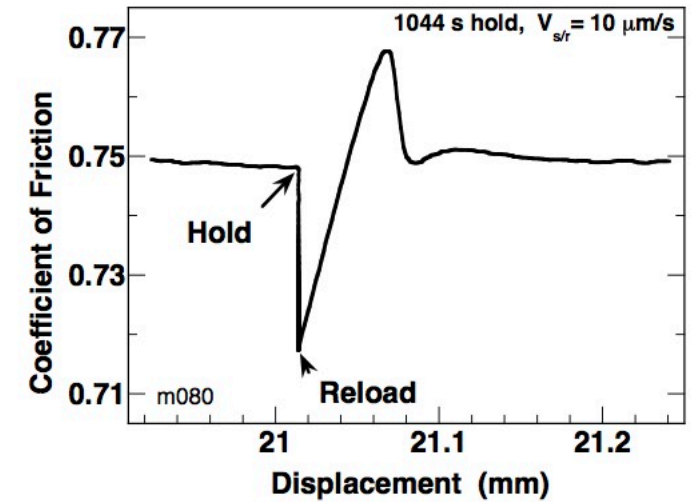
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## 2) Evolution law

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 1 - \left(\frac{v\theta}{D_c}\right) \quad \text{Aging Law (or Dieterich law)}$$

During quasi-stationary contact

$$\Delta\mu \approx b \ln \frac{\theta}{\theta_o} \quad \frac{\Delta\mu_s}{\Delta \log(t_h)} = b$$





Is  $(a-b)$  a universal parameter?

Is it a material property?

The answer is NO.

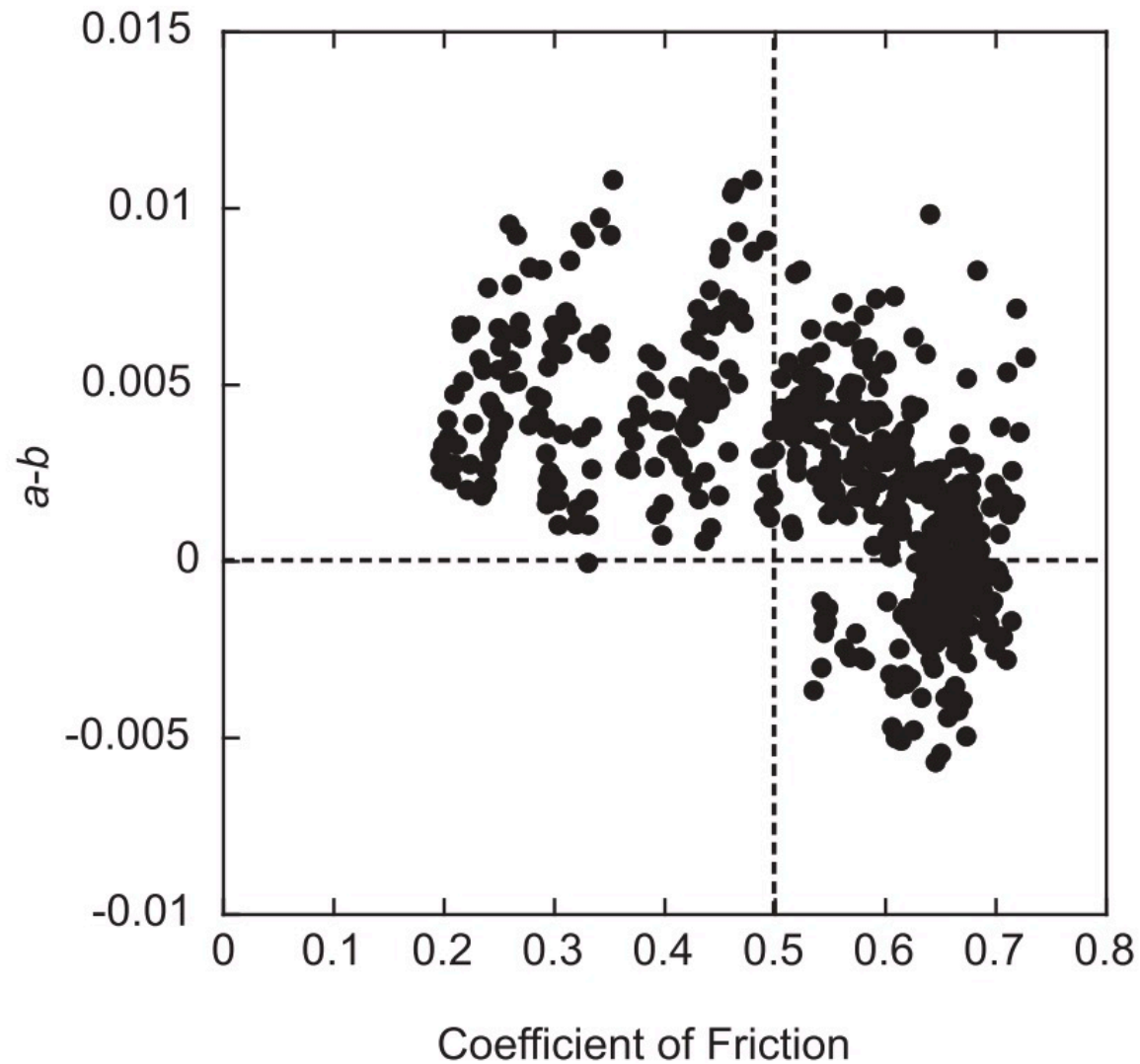
$(a-b)$  greatly varies depending on a variety of boundary conditions, fault mineralogical composition and fault maturity (i.e. strain localization)

Scaling of rate parameters derived in the laboratory to seismic faulting

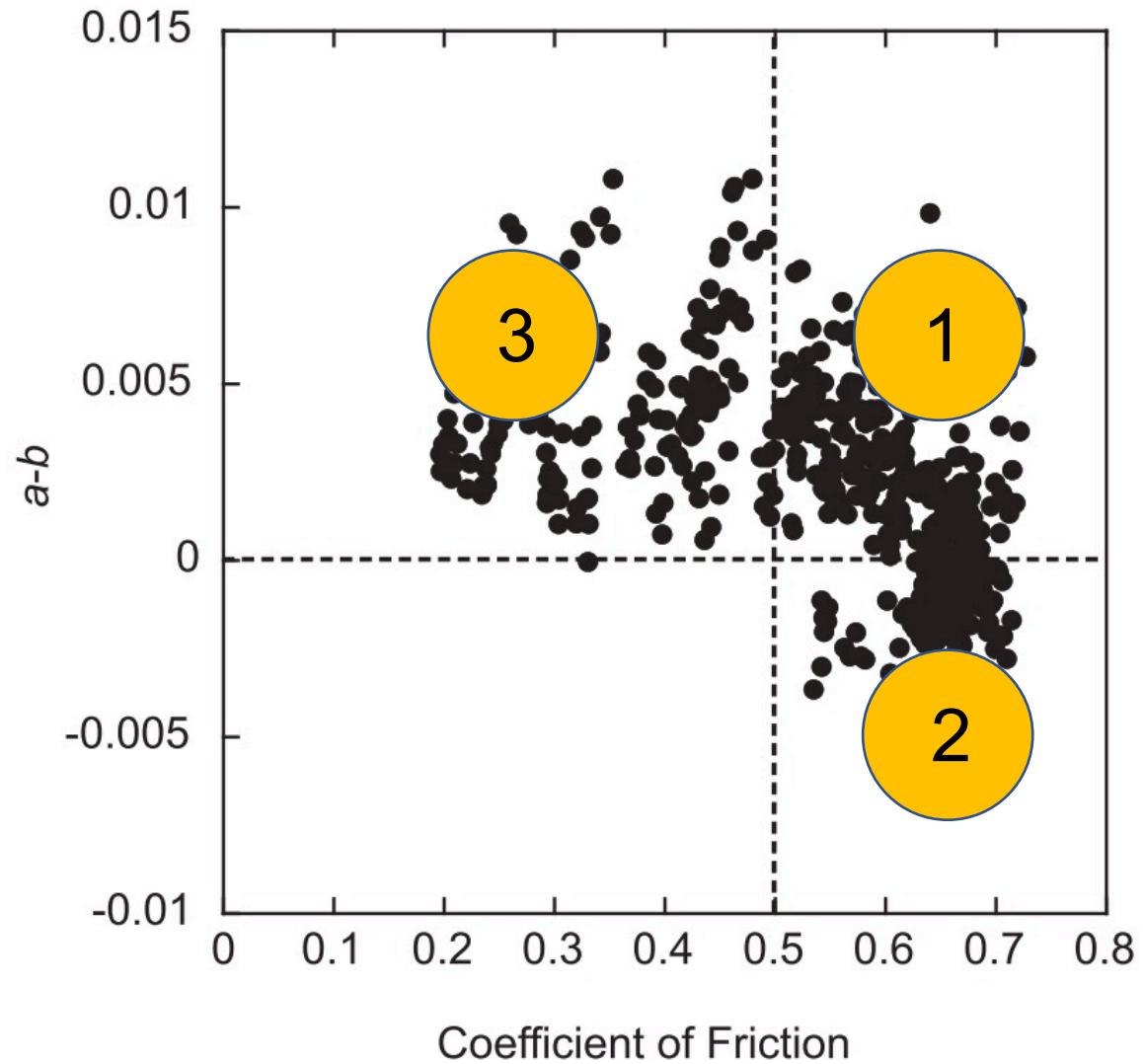
Identify the mechanical conditions and constitutive properties that distinguish stable from unstable sliding.

Determine these friction parameters for a range of conditions, with the hope that key processes can be identified and appropriate scaling relations can be derived to connect the laboratory data with field observations

## Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability

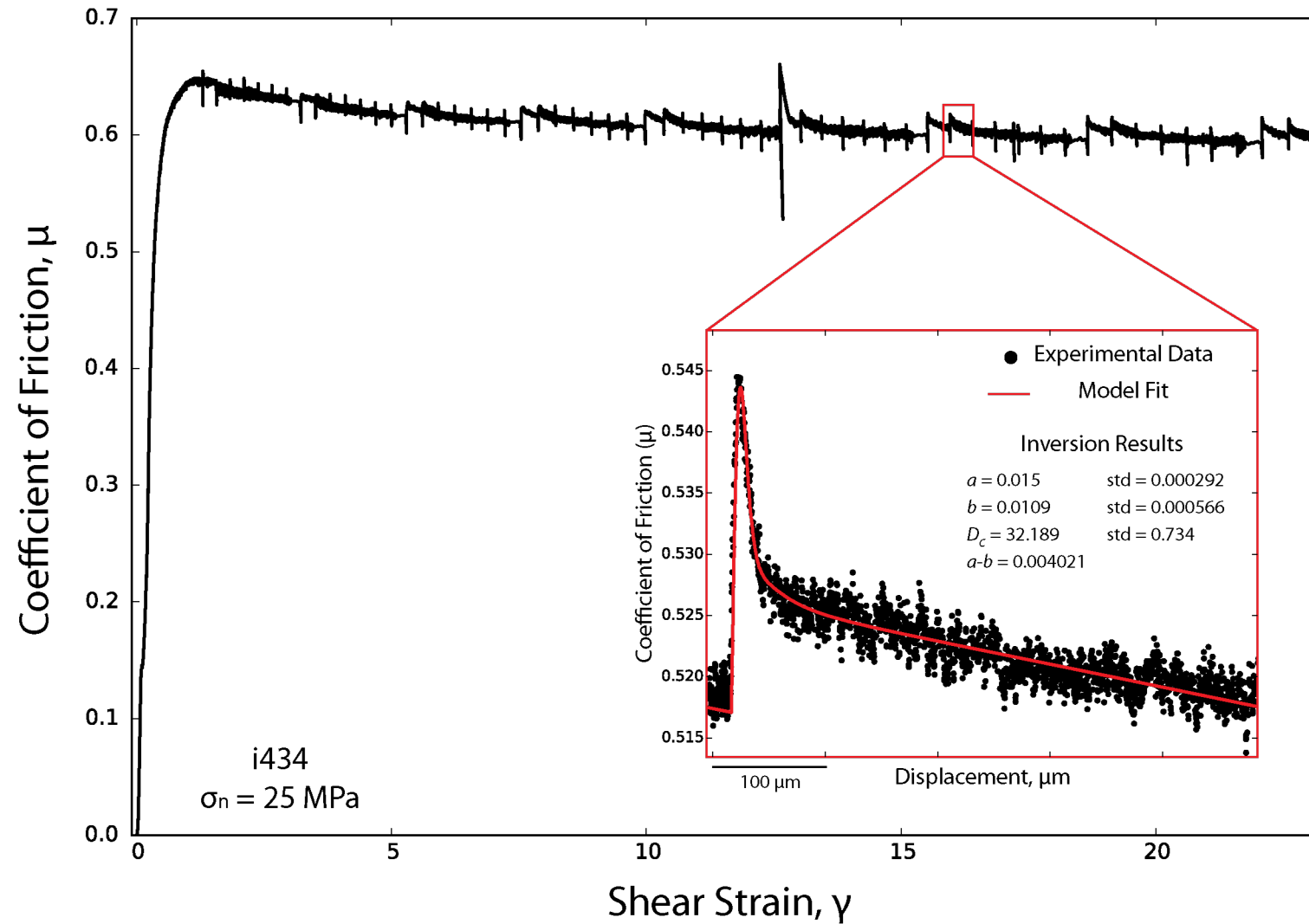


## Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability



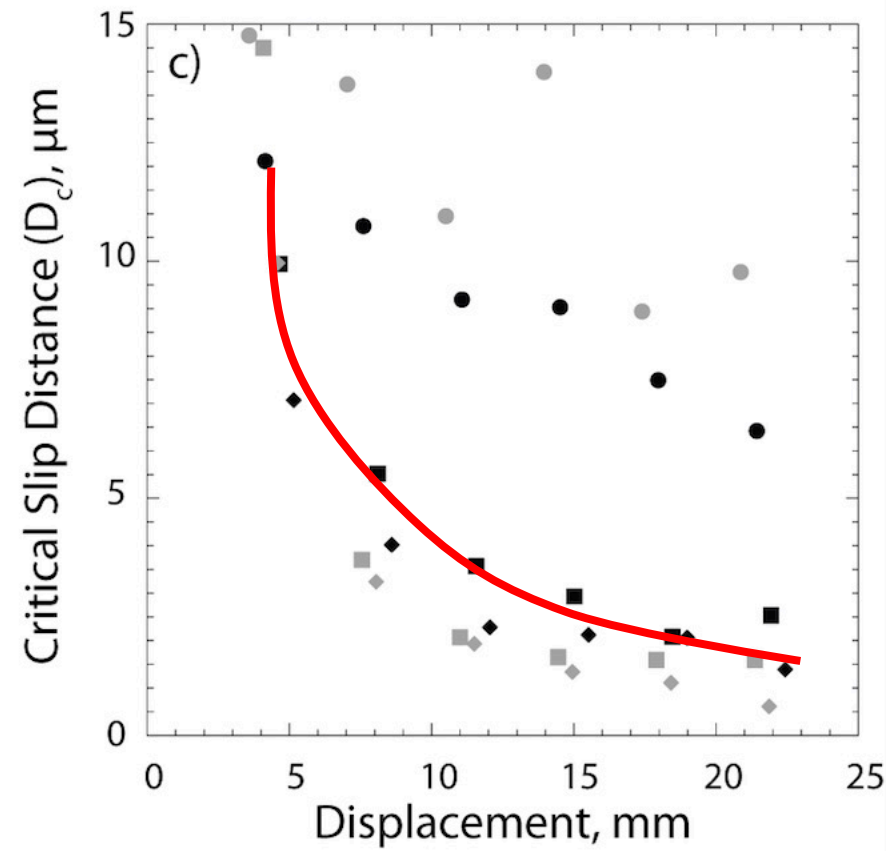
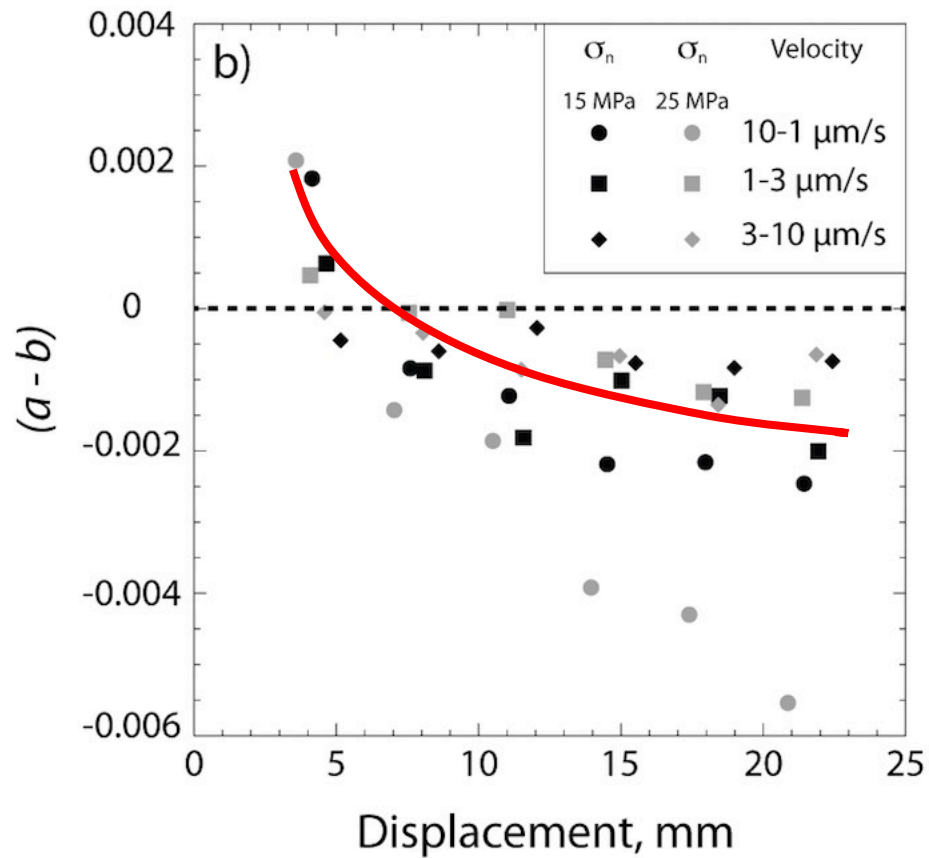
# Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability

## The effect of strain localization – regimes 1 to 2 (quartz fault gouge example)



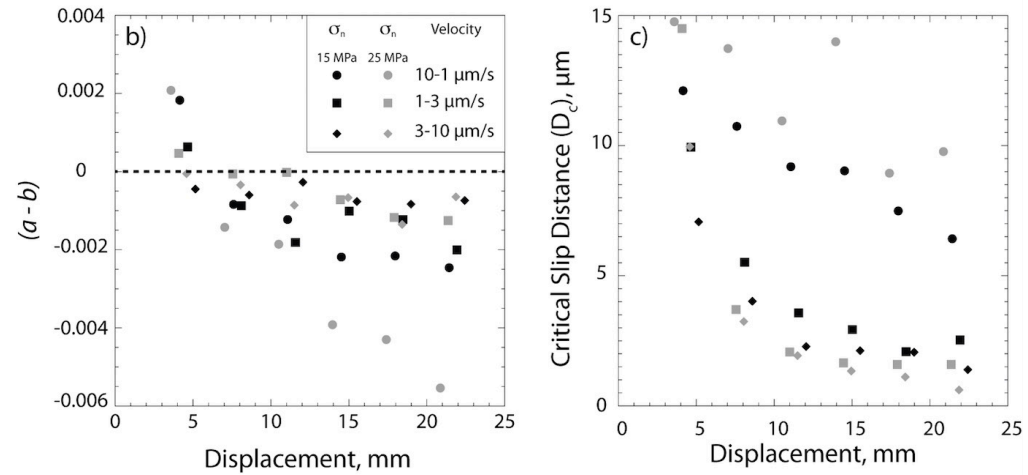
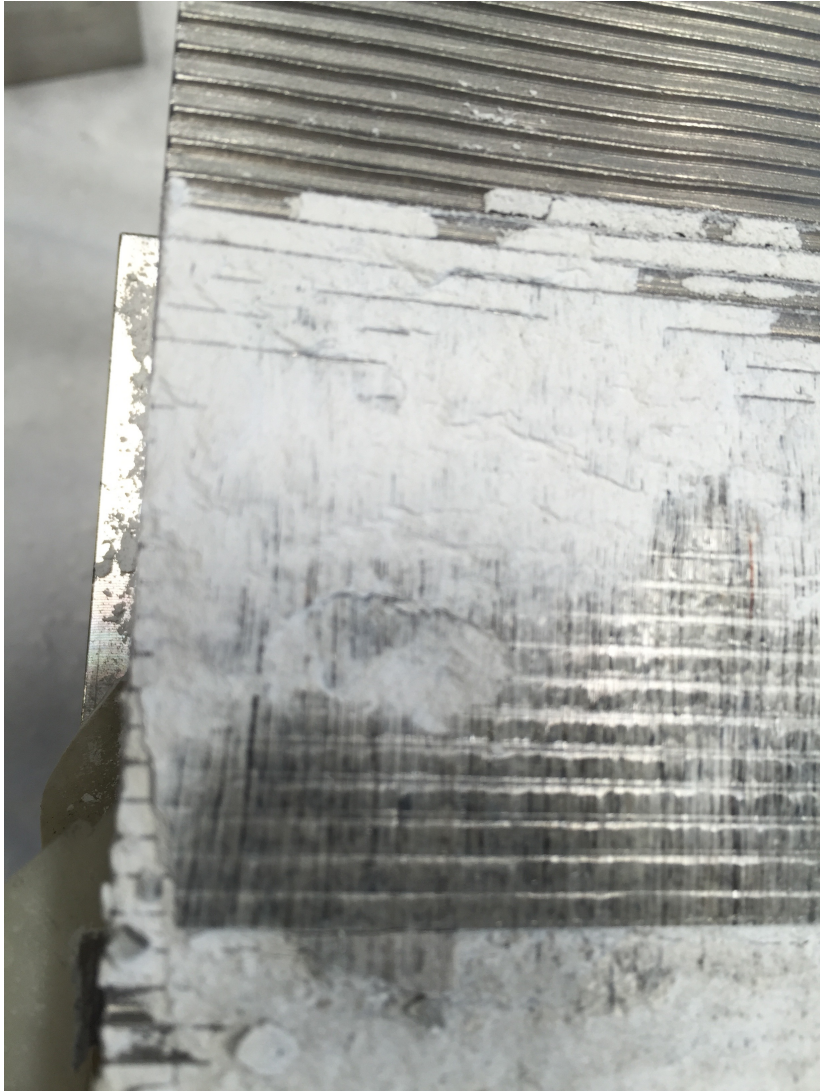
## Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

### The effect of strain localization – regimes 1 to 2 (quartz fault gouge example)

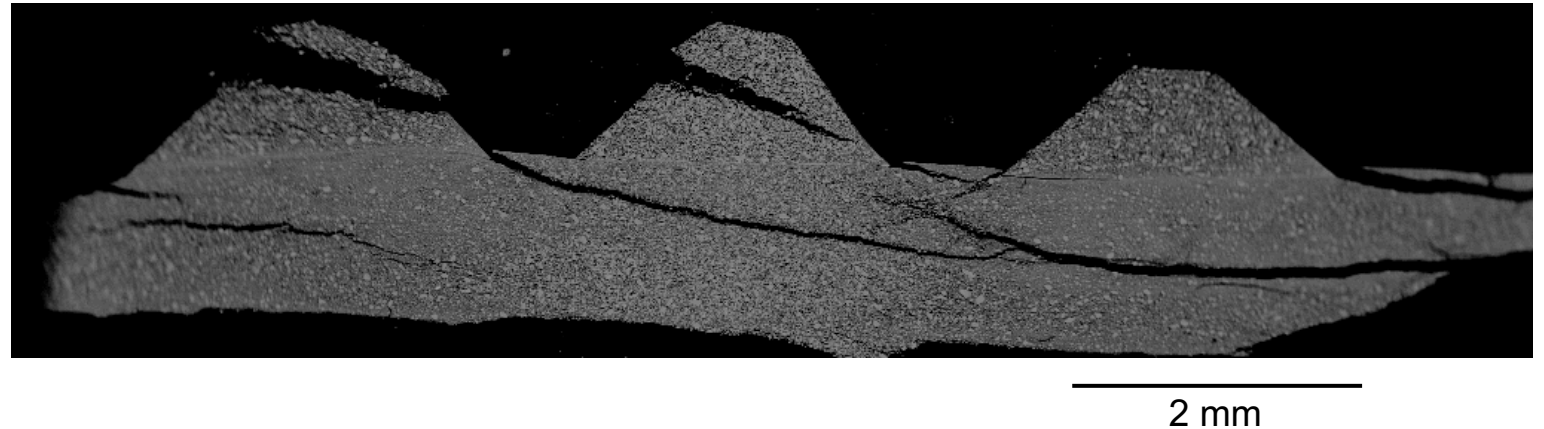


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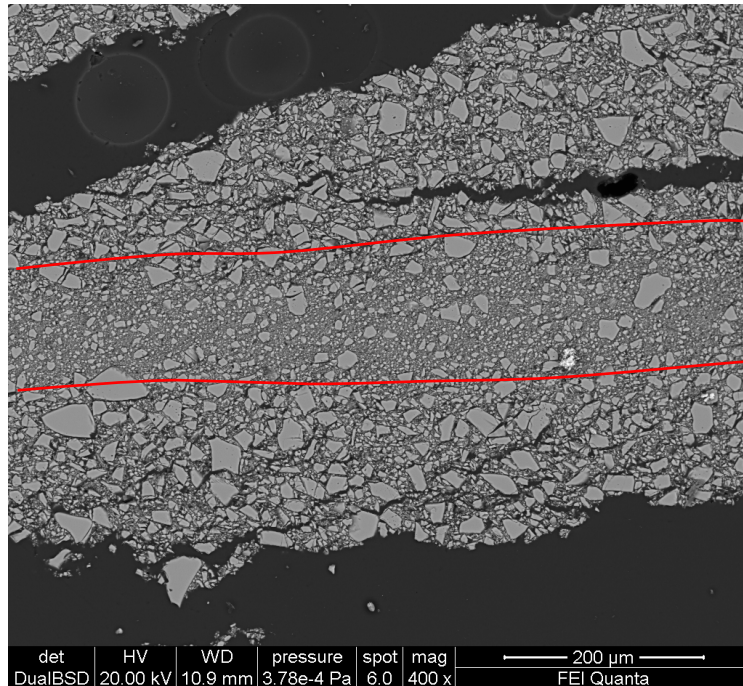
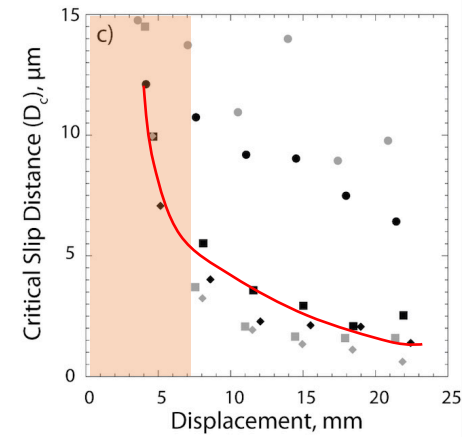
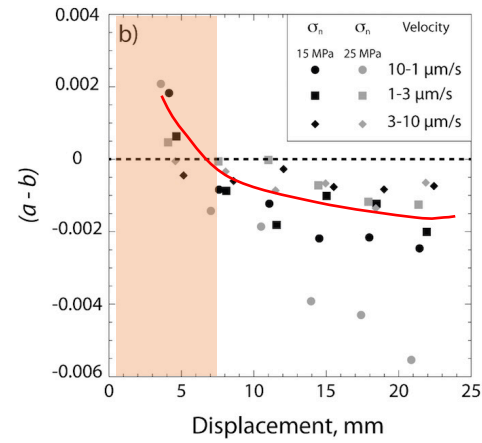
### Microstructural observations of the resulting fault zone





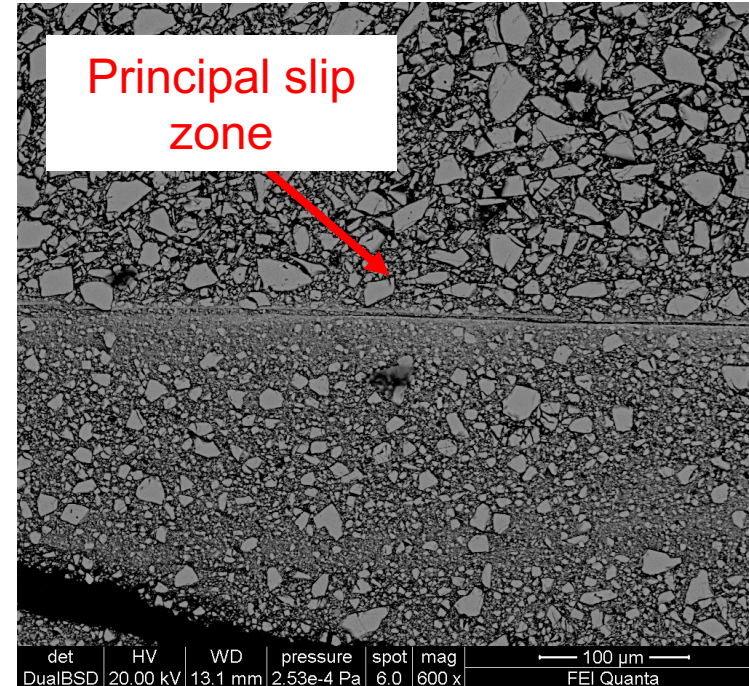
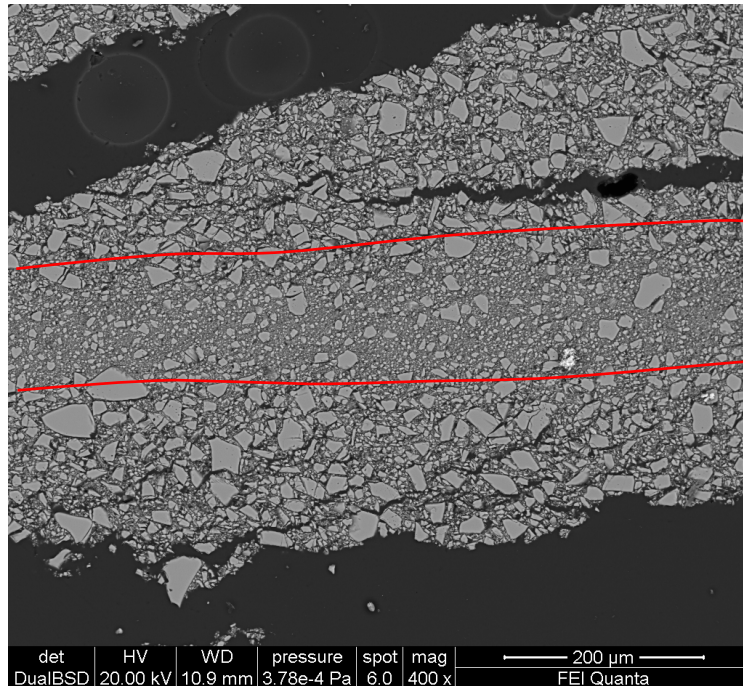
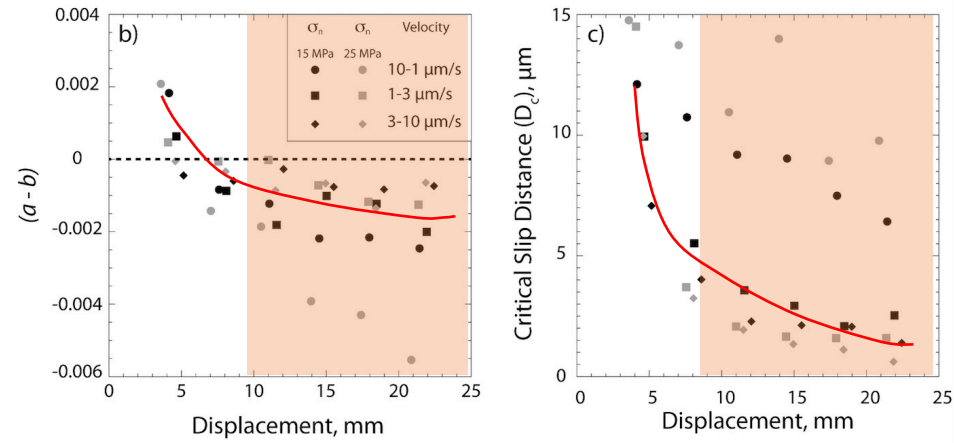
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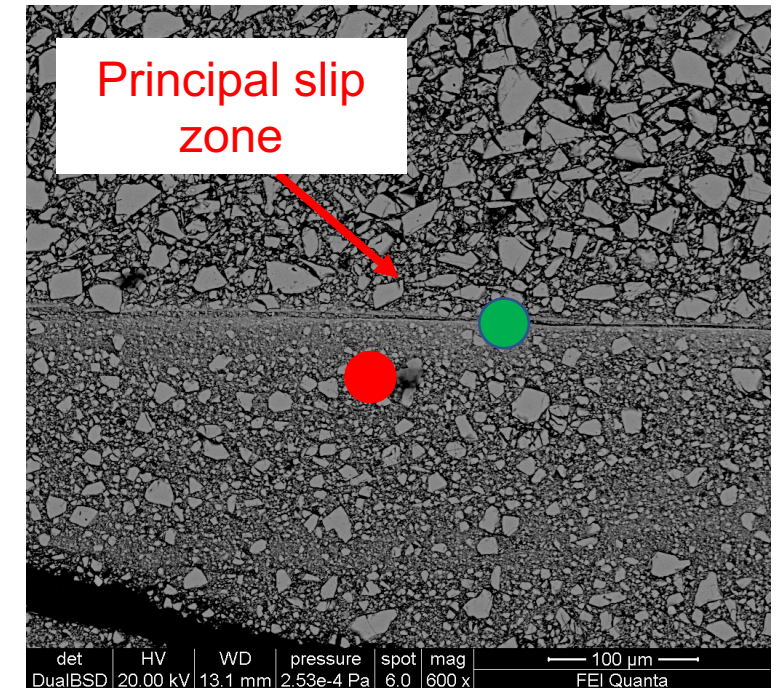
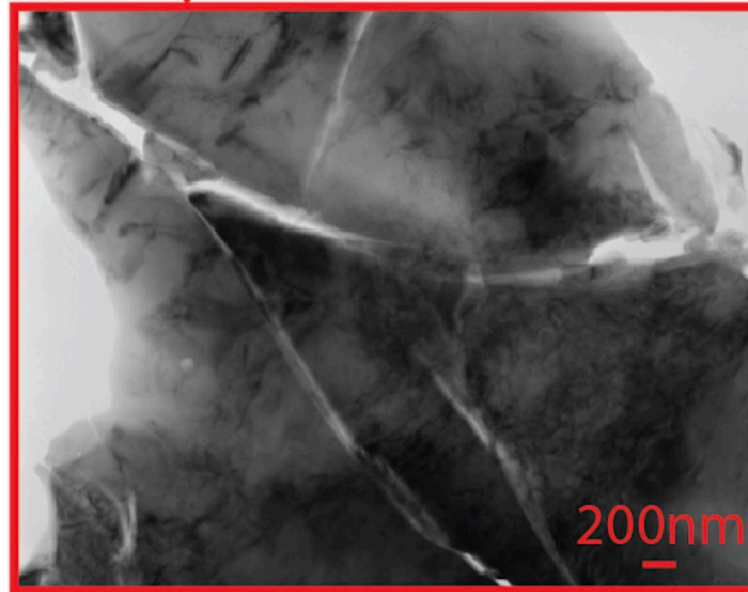
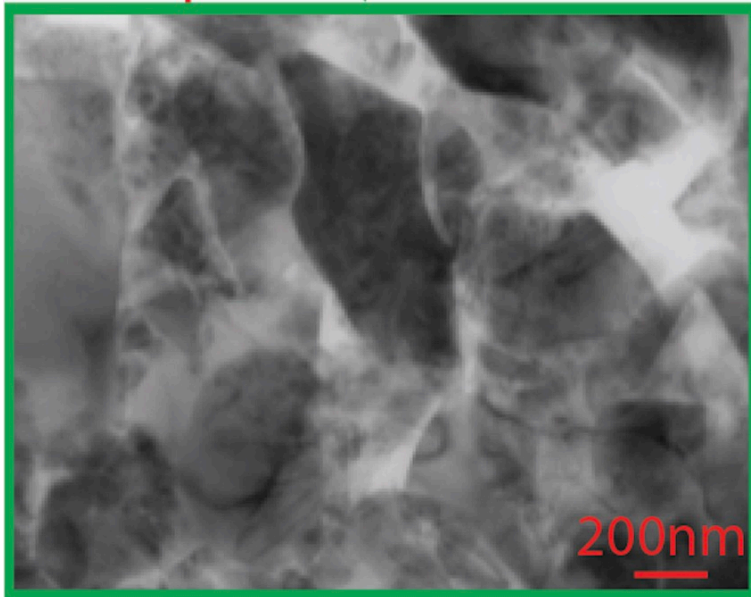
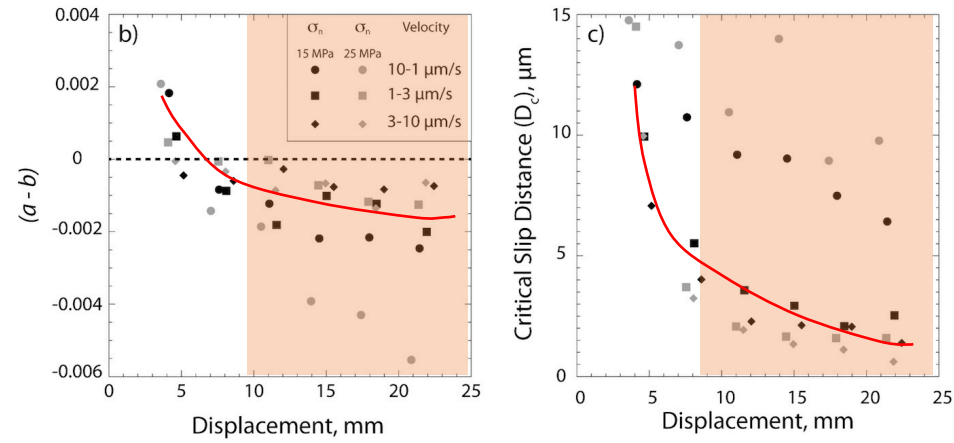
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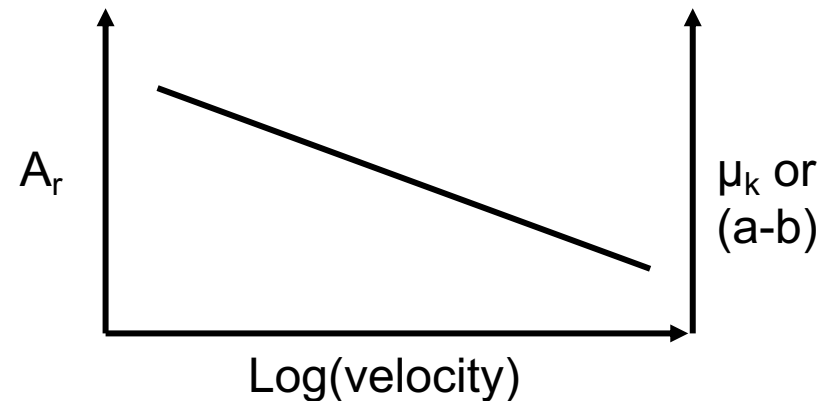
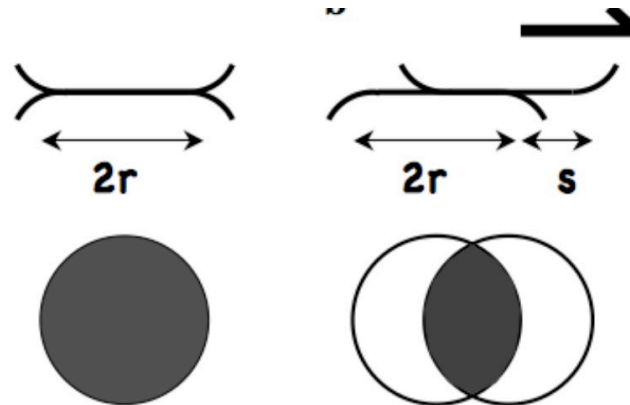
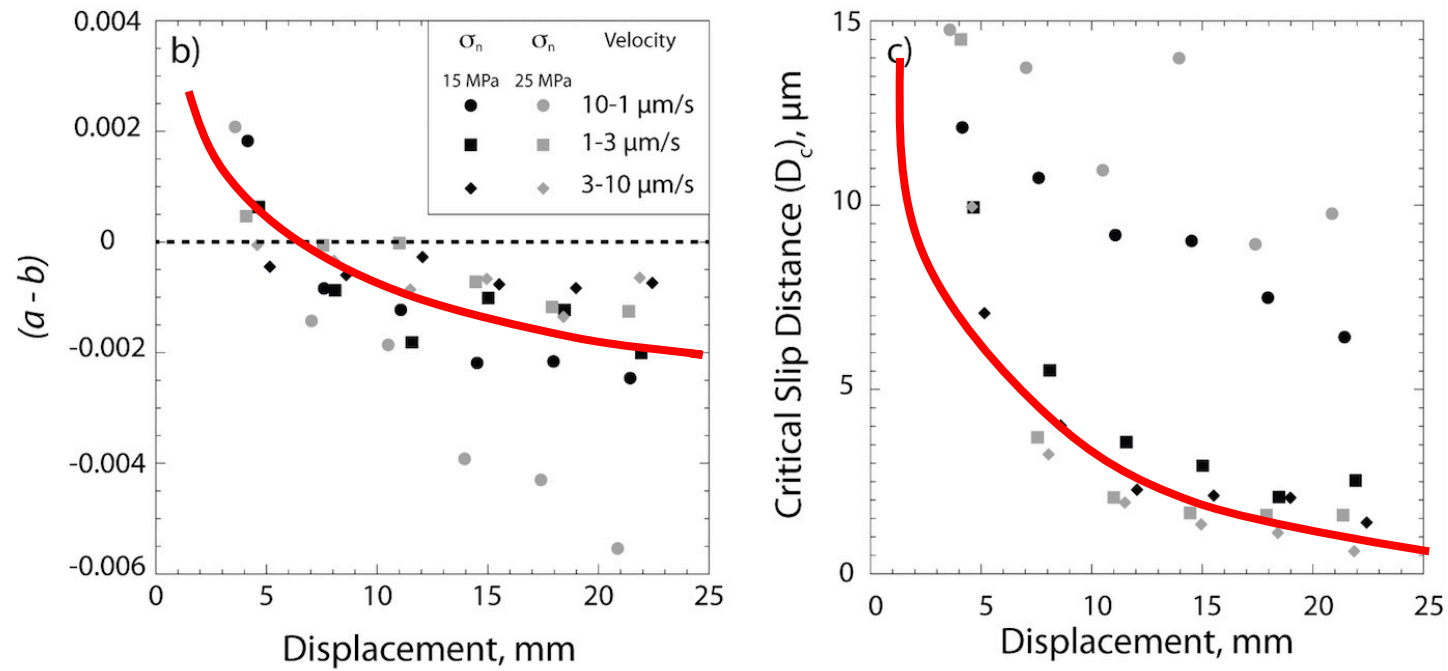
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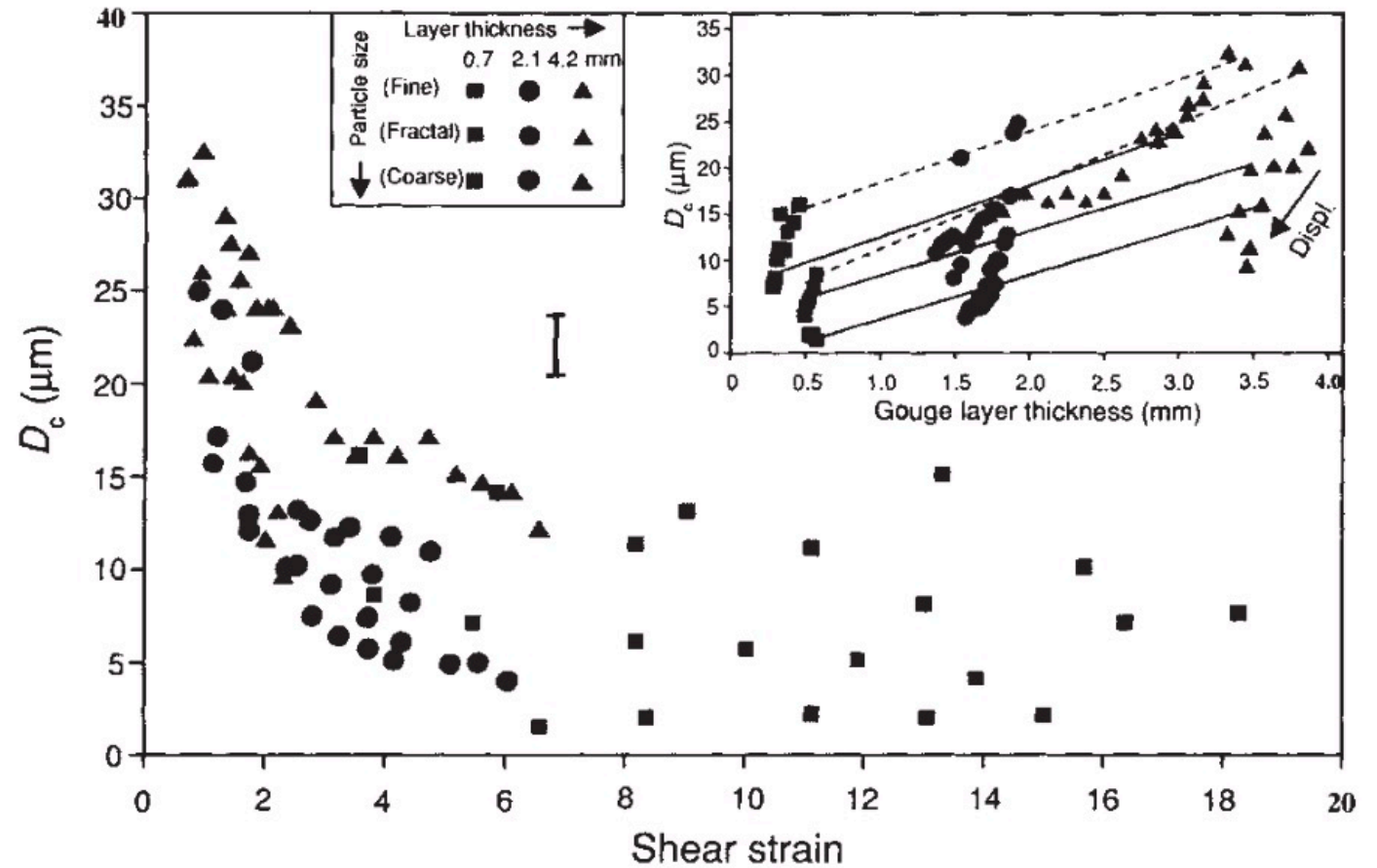
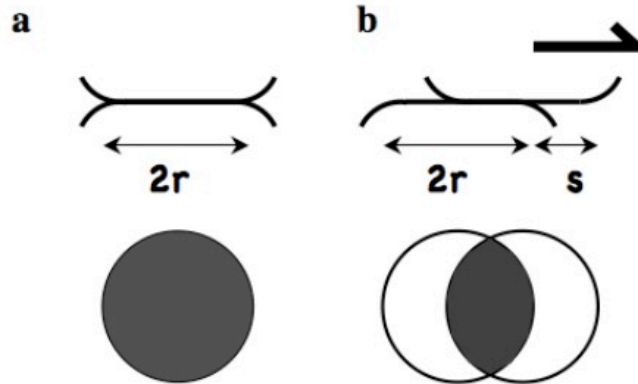
Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

The effect of strain localization – regimes 1 to 2  
(quartz fault gouge example)

## Scaling of the critical slip distance for seismic faulting with shear strain in fault zones

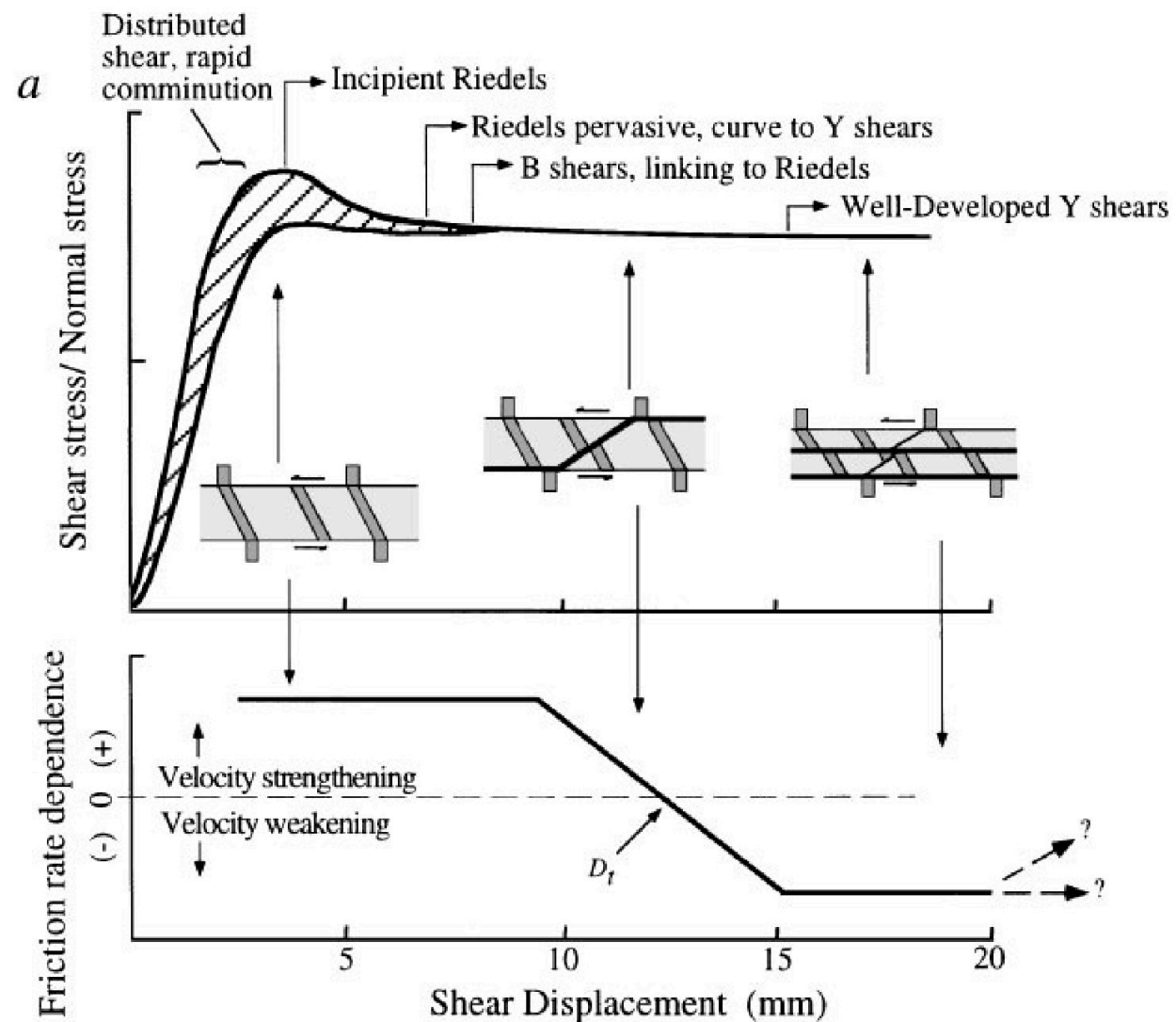
Chris Marone\* & Brian Kilgore†

1993, Nature



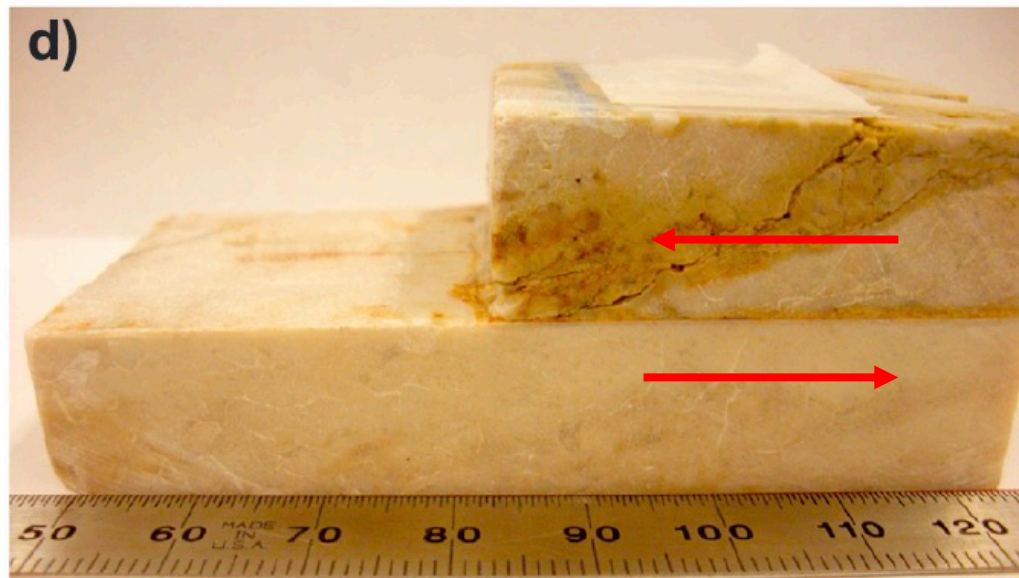
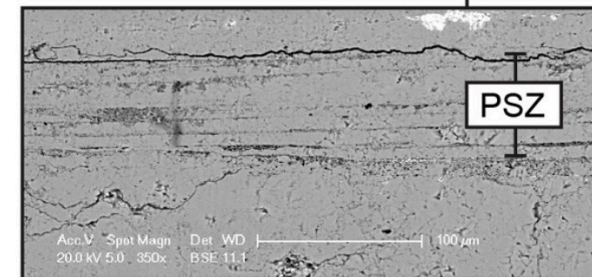
## Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

### The effect of strain localization – regimes 1 to 2

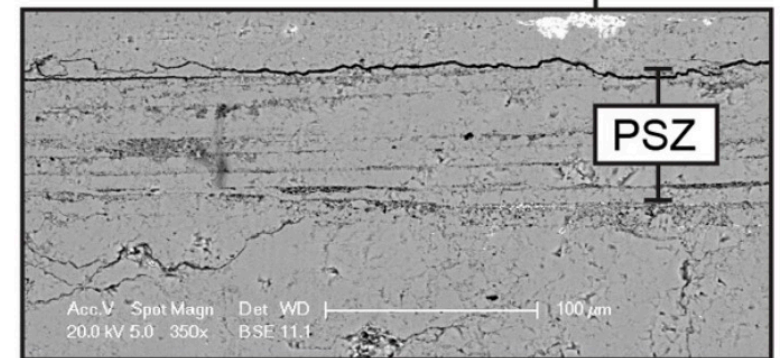
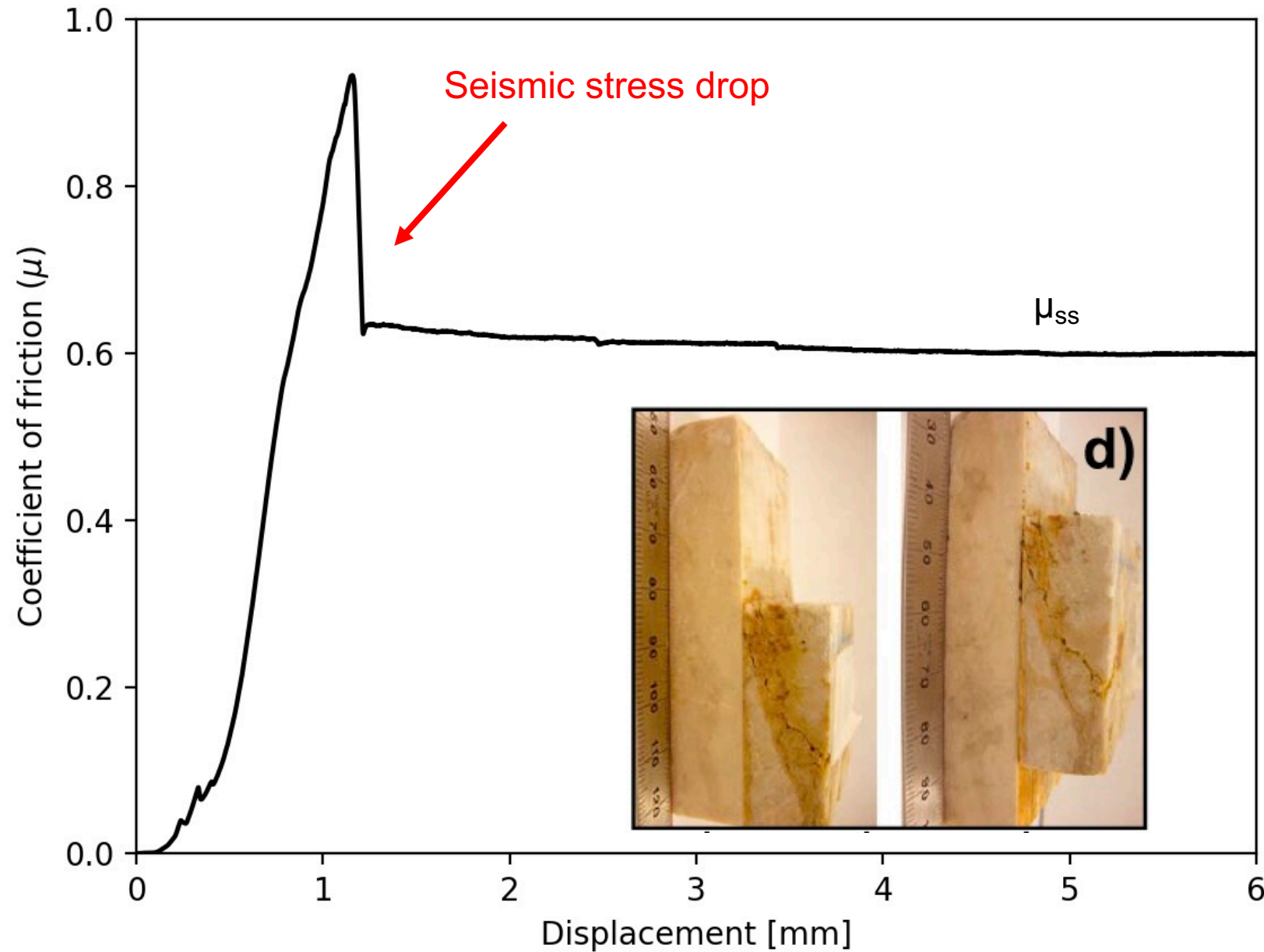




# Rocchetta fault zone, Italy

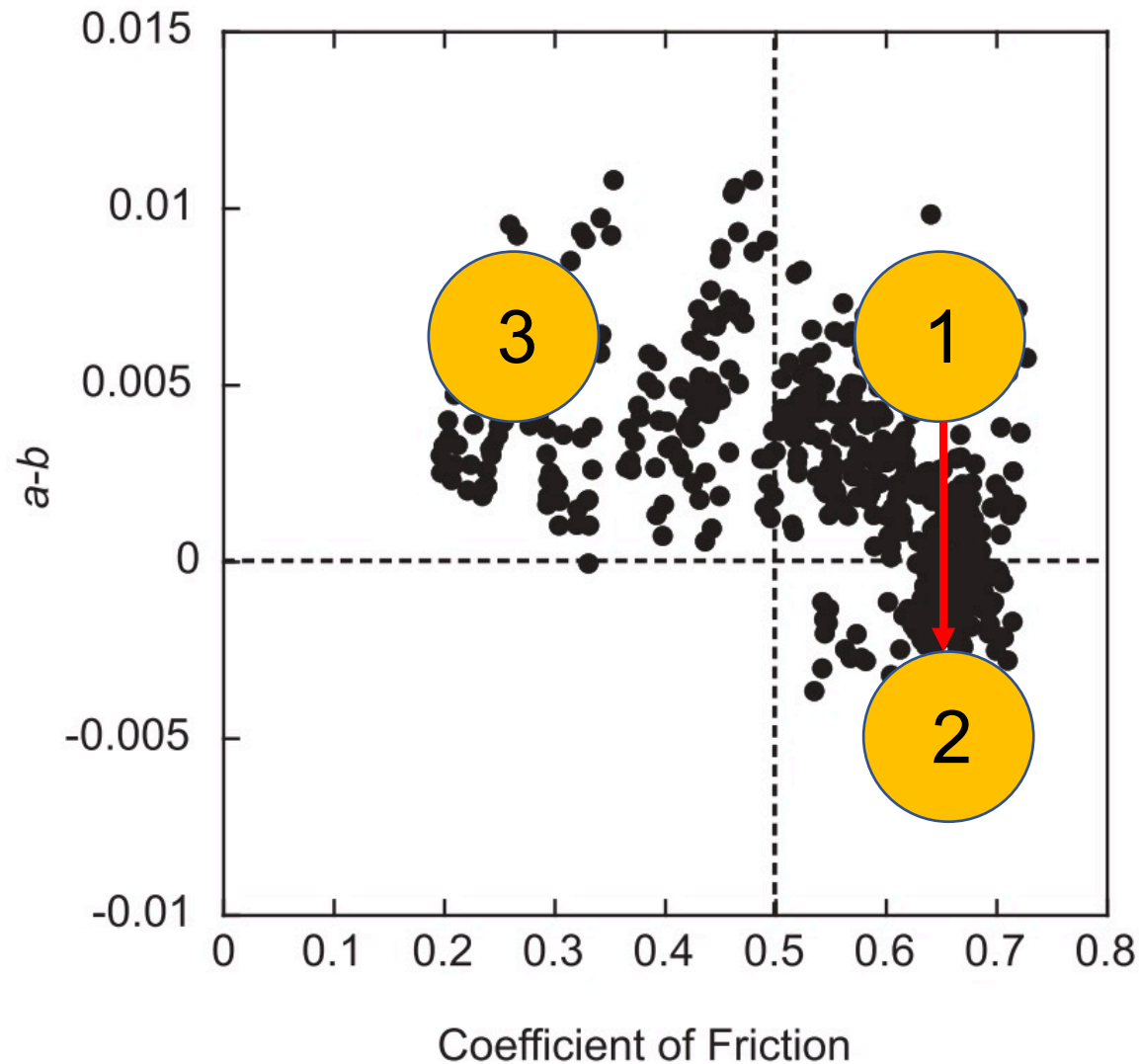


# Rocchetta fault zone





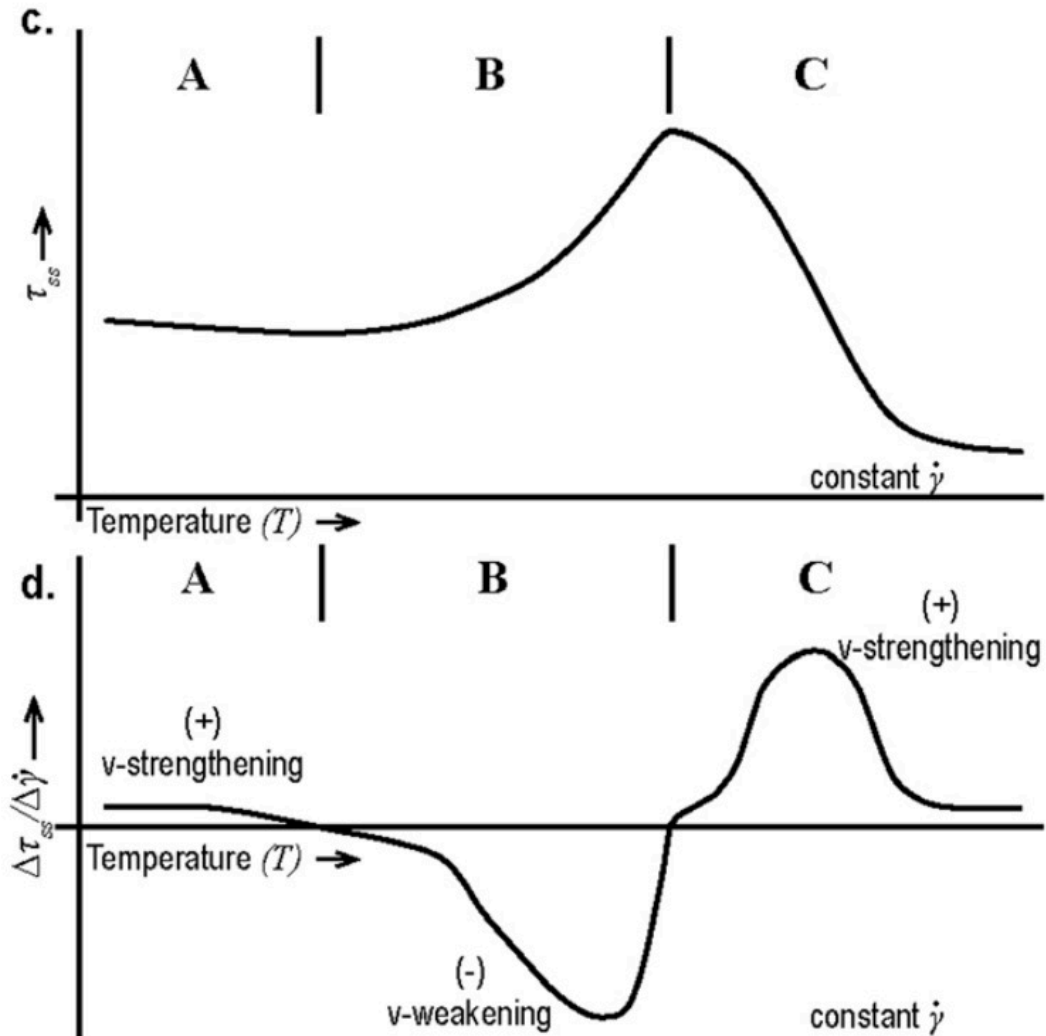
## Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability



One of the main mechanisms to pass from velocity strengthening to weakening is associated to shear localization in quartzo-feldspatic and carbonate rocks. By no means this is the only mechanism.

# Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability

## Temperature

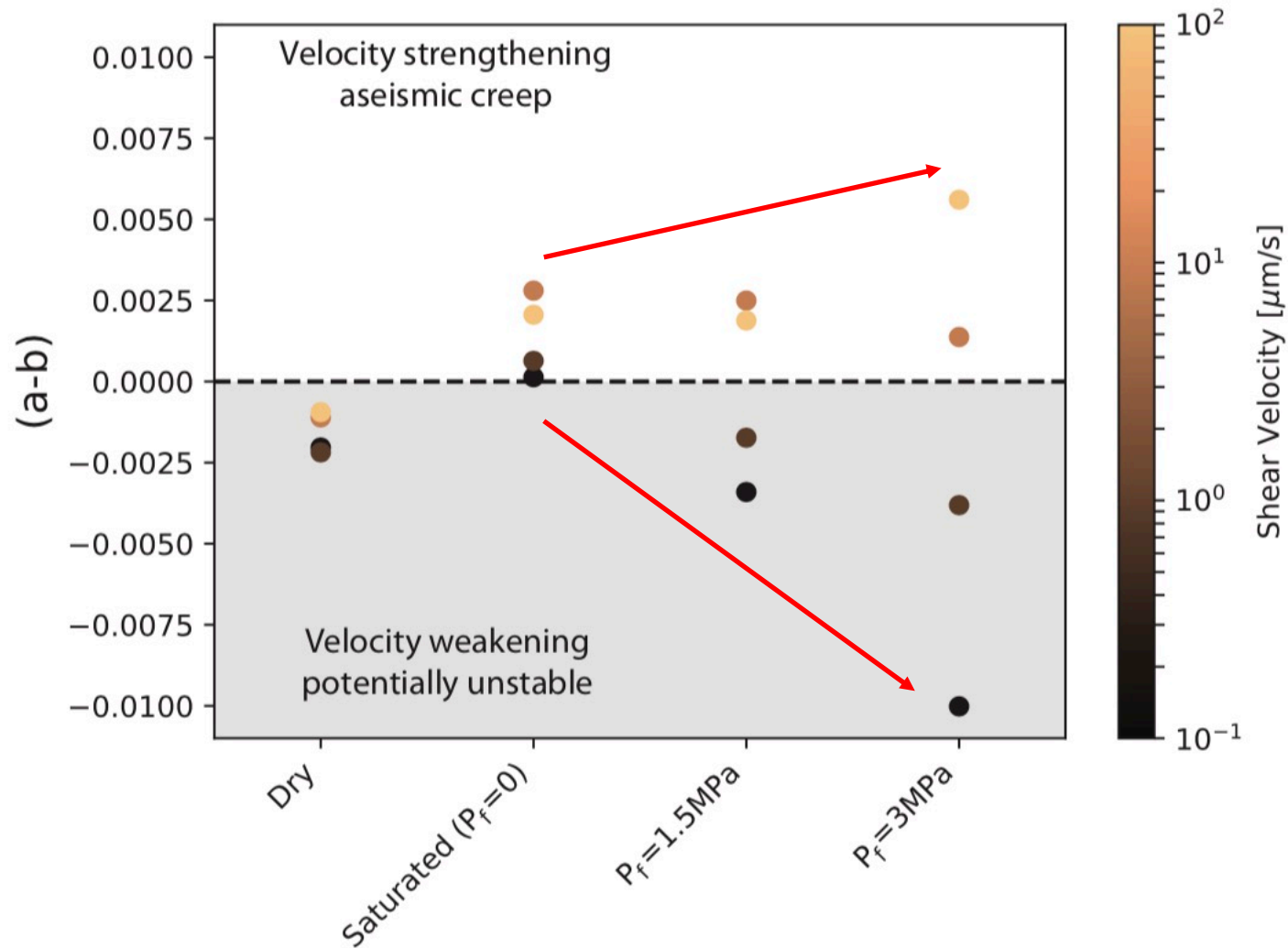


Increasing in temperature usually causes a transition from velocity strengthening to velocity weakening. As temperature continues to increase ductility kicks in and frictional stability comes back to velocity strengthening

Chester and Higgs, 1992  
Banpied et al., 1995  
Verberne et al., 2015  
Niemeijer and Spiers, 2007

# Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability

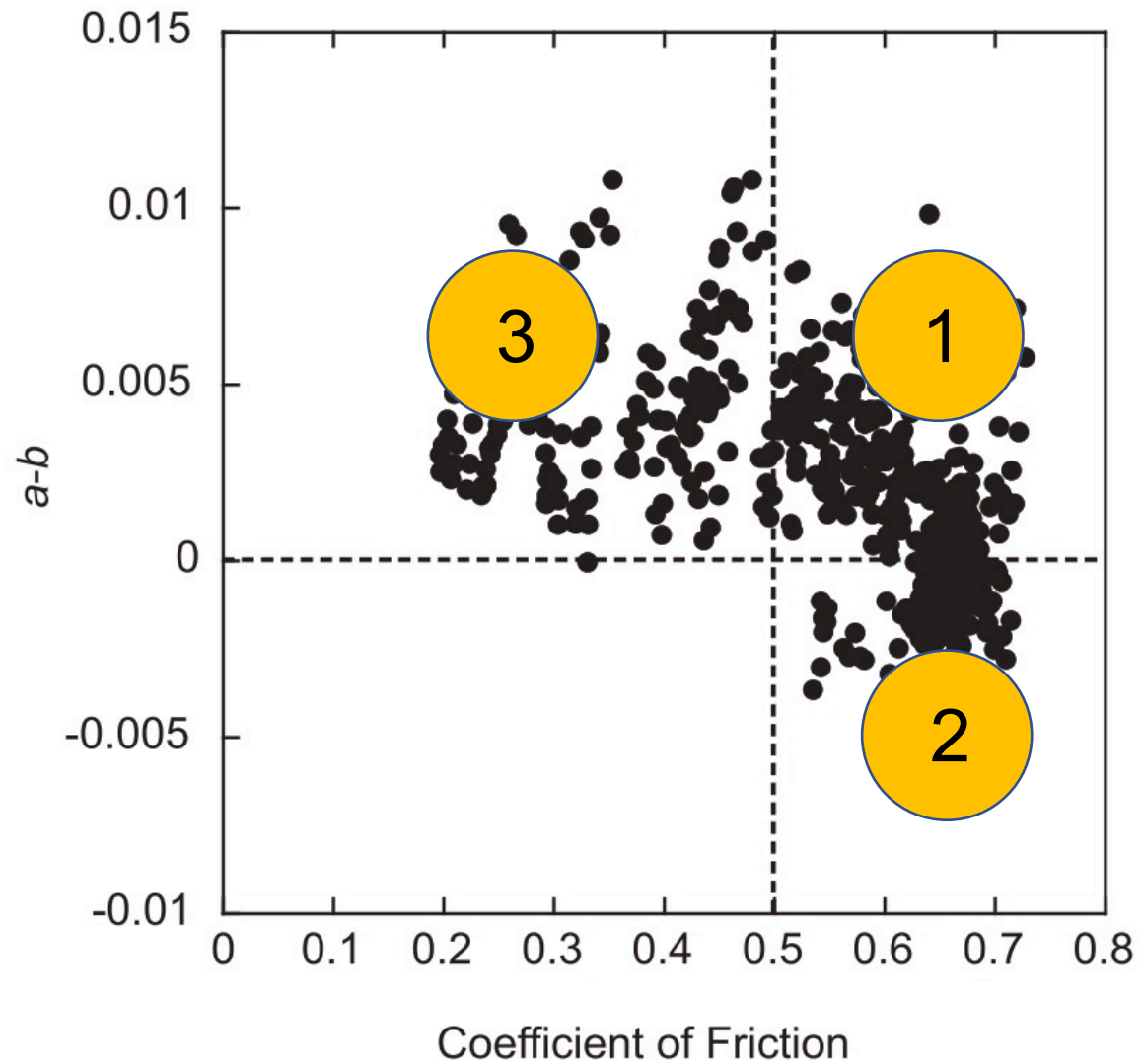
## Fluid pressure



Increasing fluid pressure causes a transition from velocity strengthening to weakening in carbonate bearings rocks. We also observe a strong dependency on shear velocity.

However, data are scarce !!

## Major factors controlling (a-b) and frictional stability

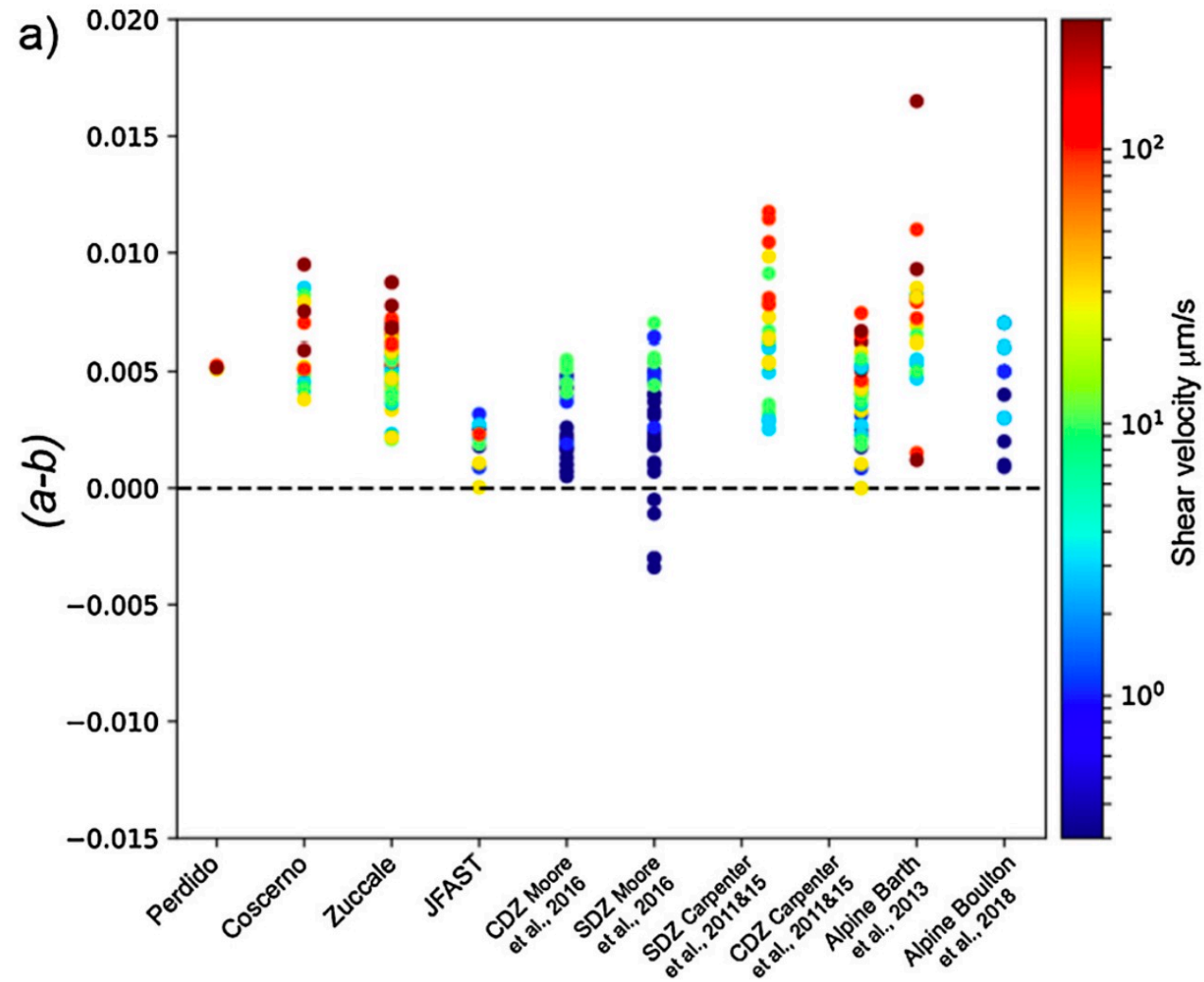




## Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

### The effect of strain localization – regime 3

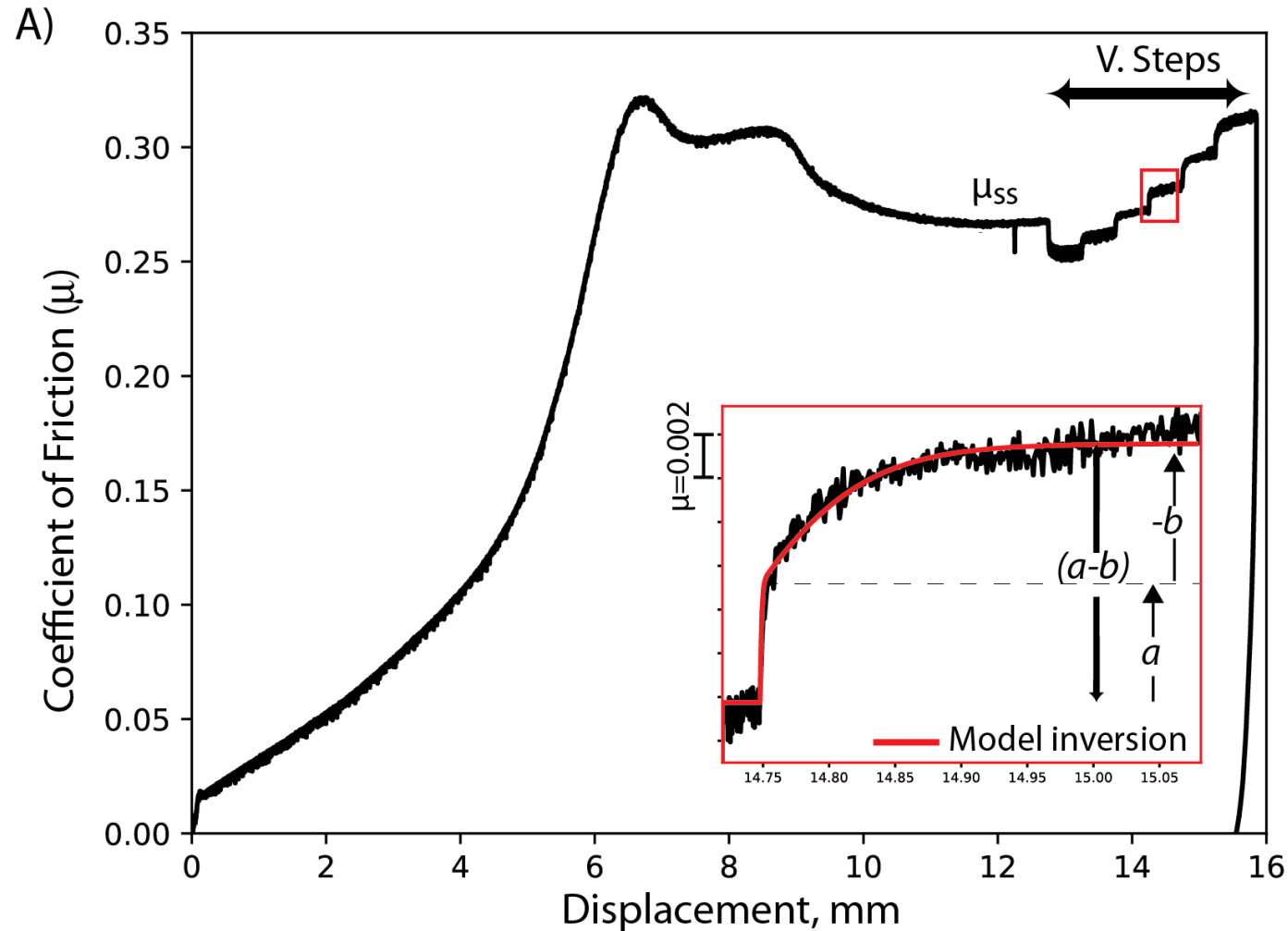
#### Phyllosilicate rich fault zones



## Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

### The effect of strain localization – regime 3

Illite rich fault gouge

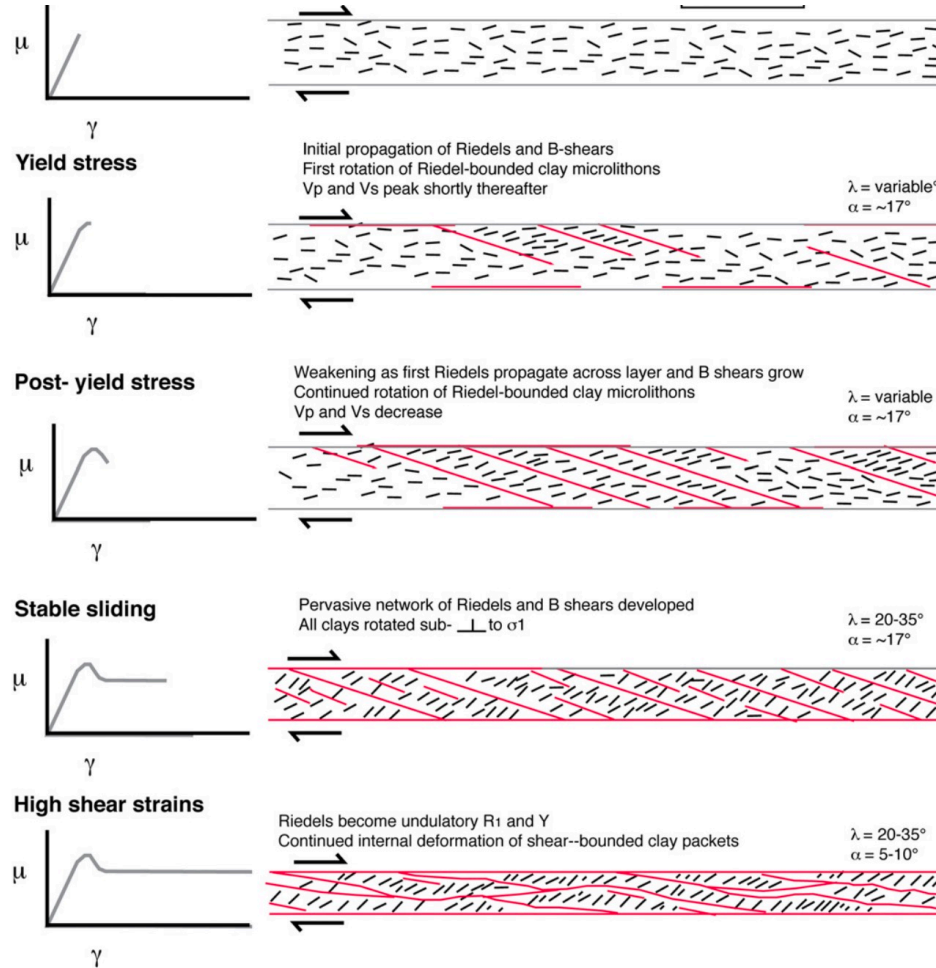


- (1) Strain weakening to reach steady state friction ( $\mu_{ss}$ )
- (2) During velocity step test friction strongly increases with velocity.

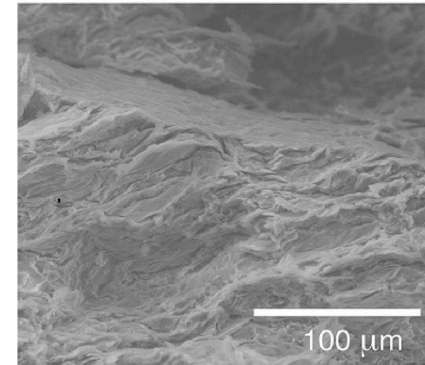
# Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

## The effect of strain localization – regime 3

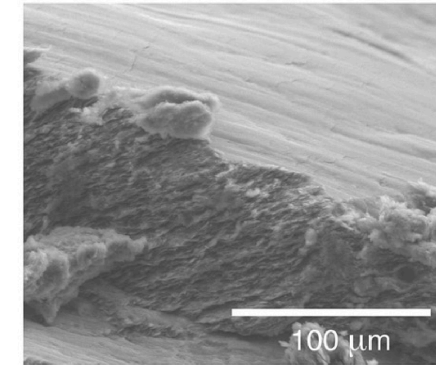
### Fault strength and shear fabric



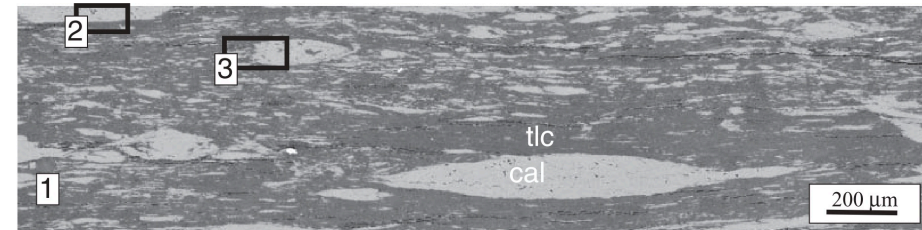
Crushed chlorite schist (p2448)



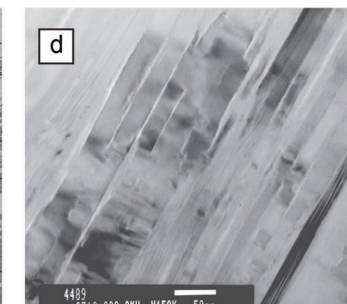
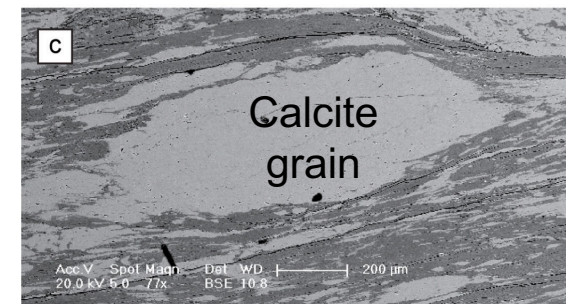
Fault zone chlorite (p2516)



3D view of the resulting fault zone

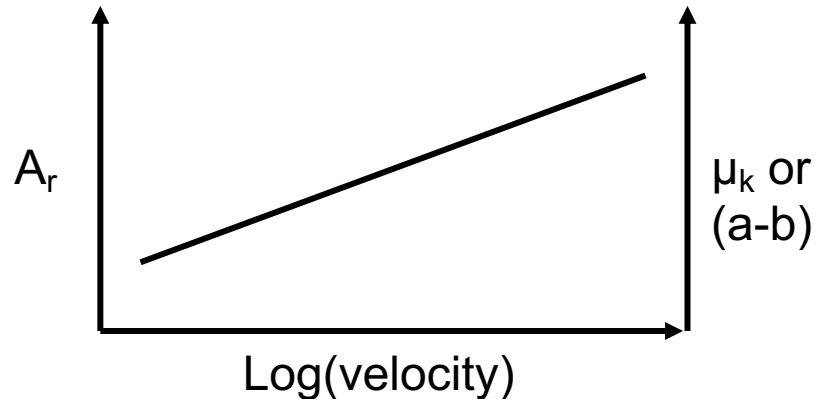


2D section view of the resulting fault zone

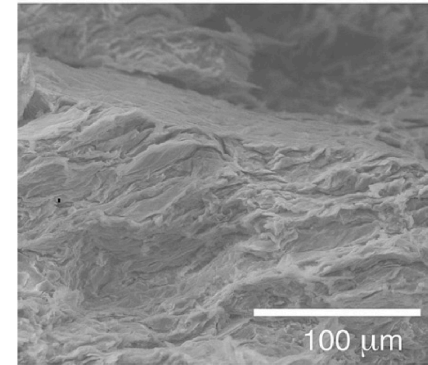


# Major factors influencing (a-b) and frictional stability

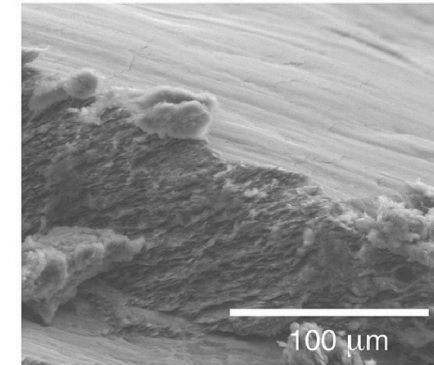
## The effect of strain localization – regime 3



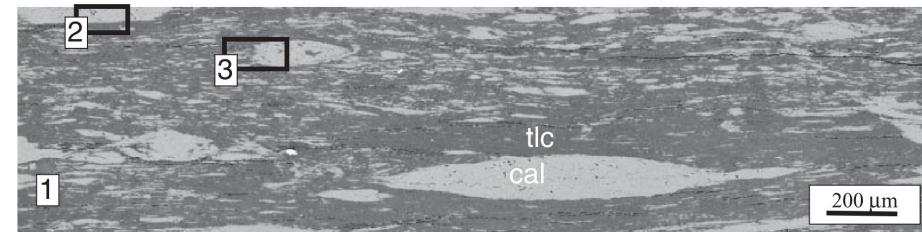
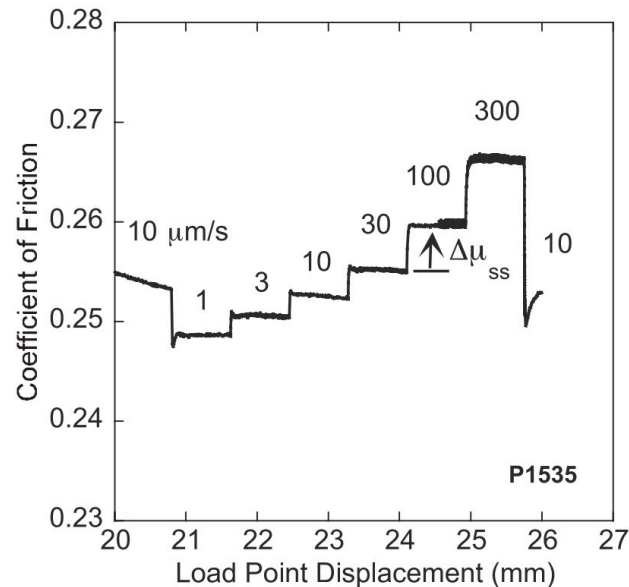
Crushed chlorite schist (p2448)



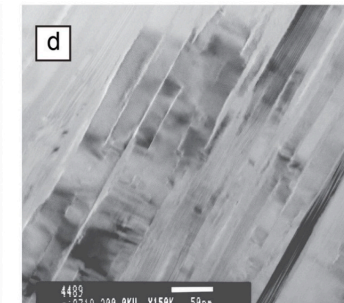
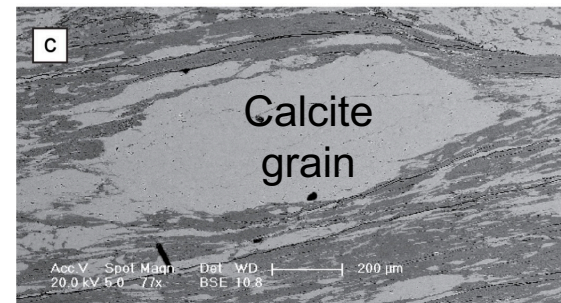
Fault zone chlorite (p2516)



3D view of the resulting fault zone

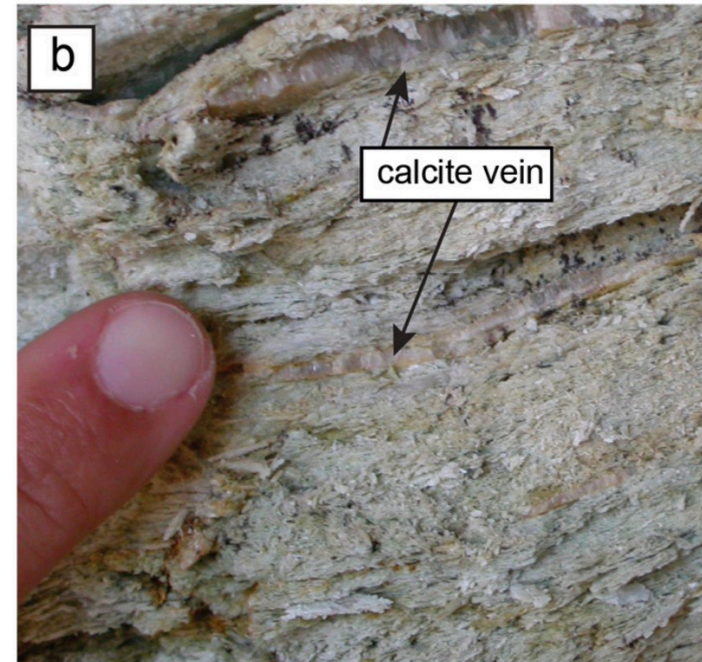
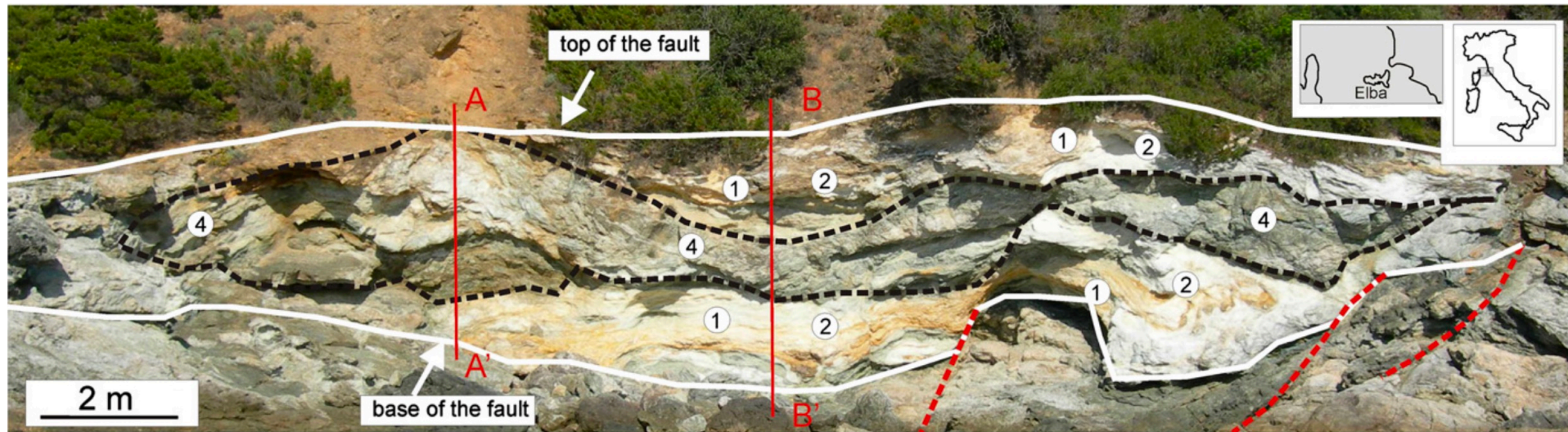


2D section view of the resulting fault zone



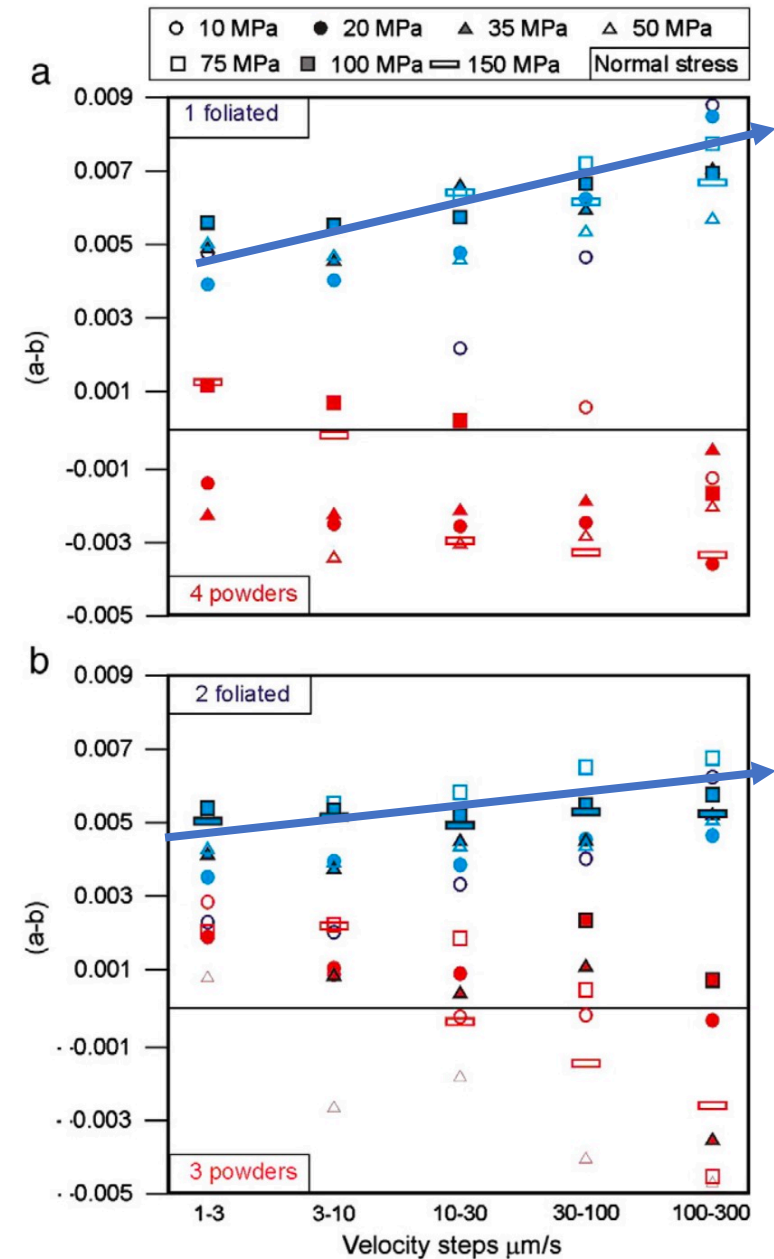
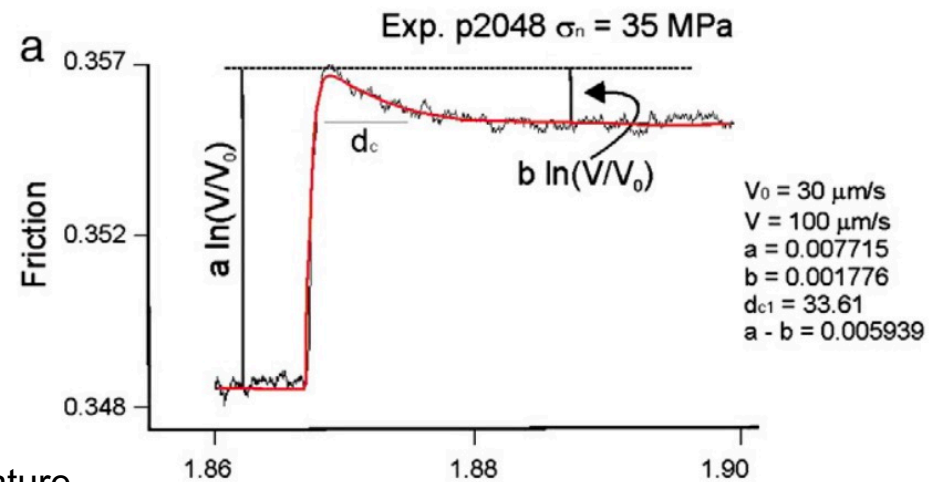
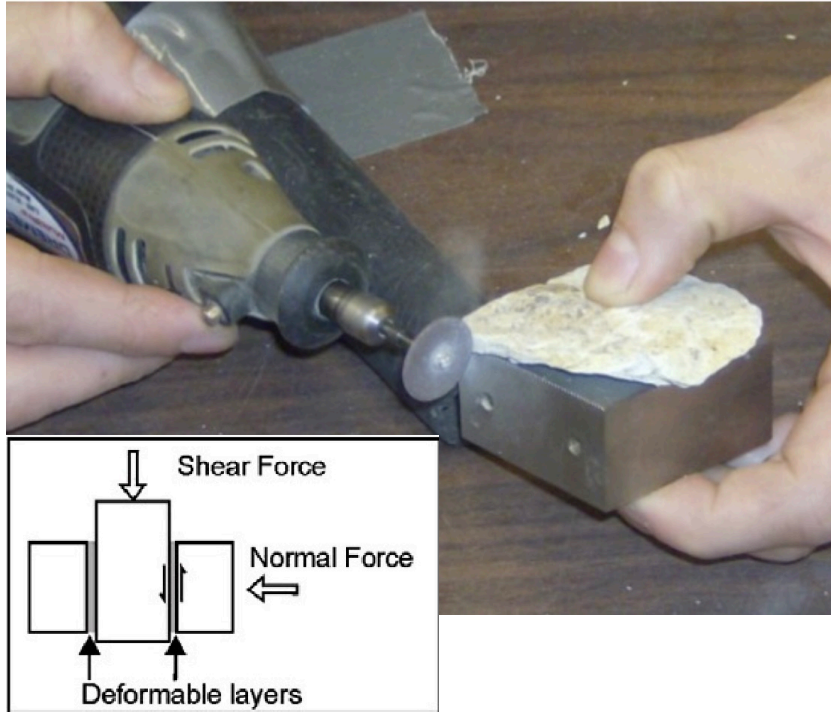


# Zuccale fault zone, Elba Island, Italy

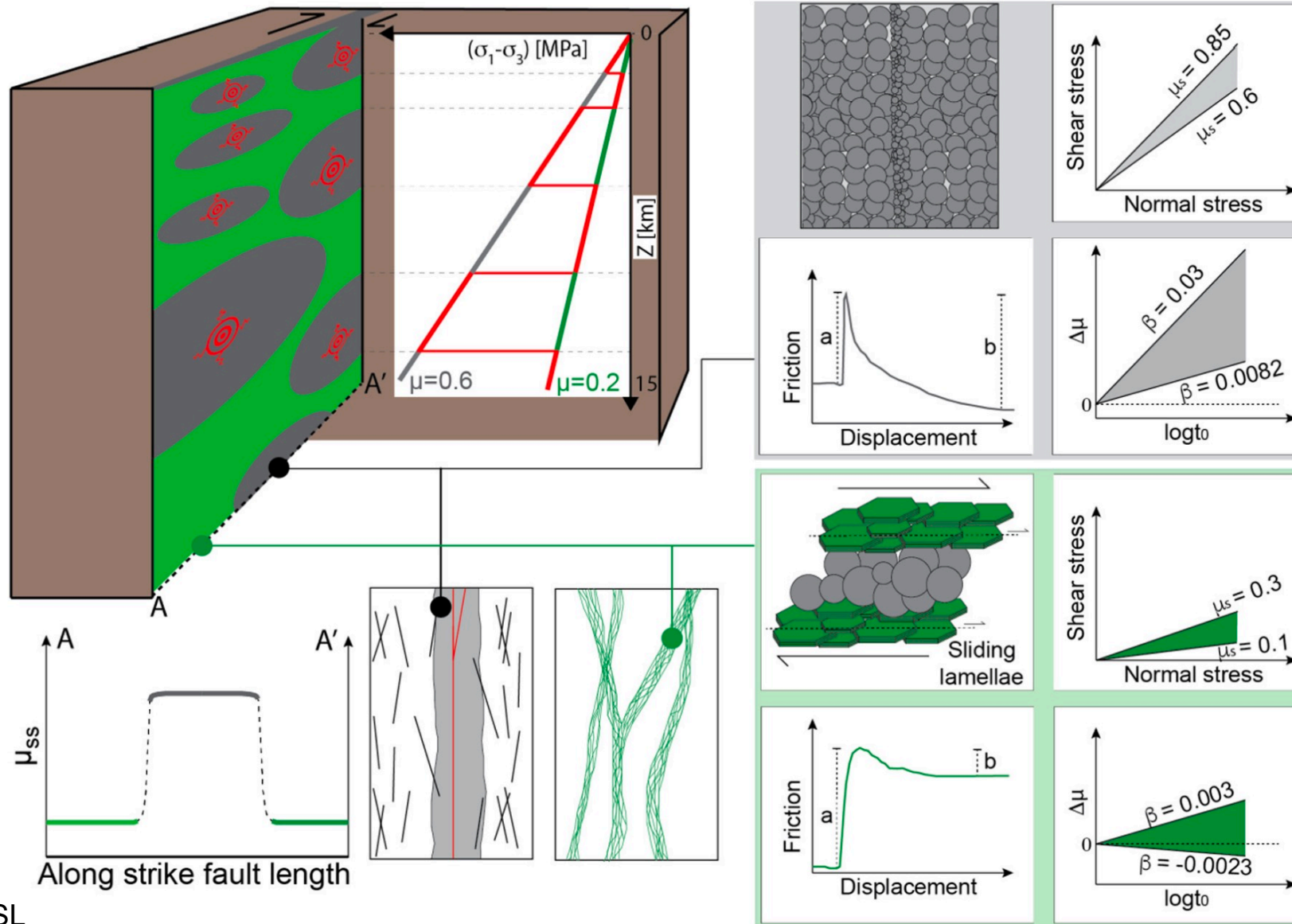




# Zuccale fault zone



# Synoptic view of fault zone strength and slip behavior

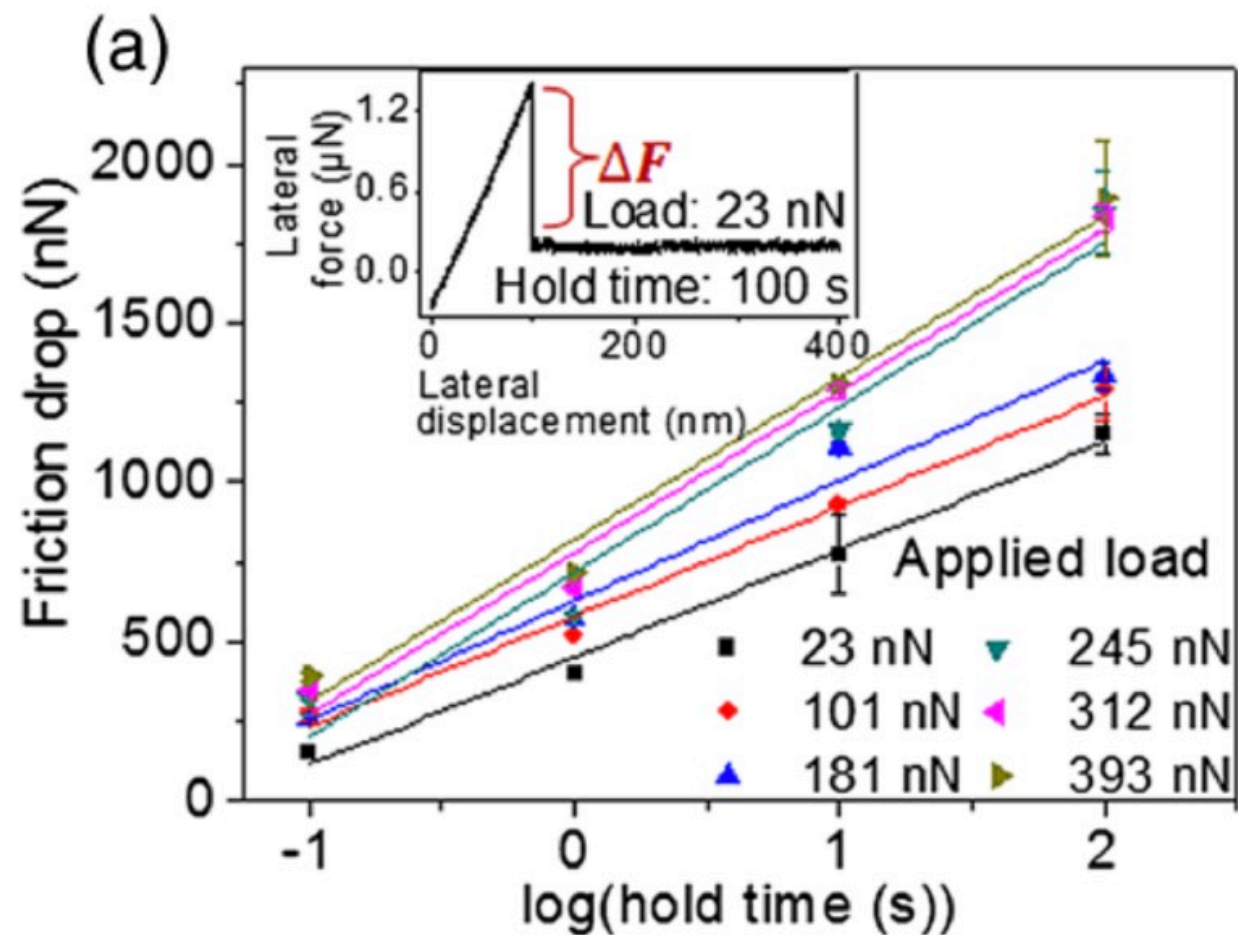




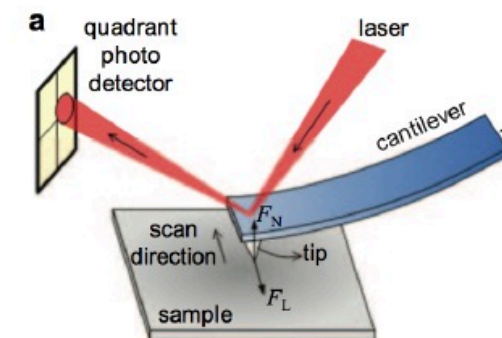


## Load and Time Dependence of Interfacial Chemical Bond-Induced Friction at the Nanoscale

Kaiwen Tian,<sup>1</sup> Nitya N. Gosvami,<sup>2,†</sup> David L. Goldsby,<sup>3</sup> Yun Liu,<sup>4</sup> Izabela Szlufarska,<sup>5</sup> and Robert W. Carpick<sup>2,\*</sup>



### Friction force microscopy (FFM)



# Stick–Slip Instabilities for Interfacial Chemical Bond-Induced Friction at the Nanoscale

Kaiwen Tian,<sup>†,||</sup> Nitya N. Gosvami,<sup>‡,⊥</sup> David L. Goldsby,<sup>§</sup> and Robert W. Carpick<sup>\*,‡,||</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, United States

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, United States

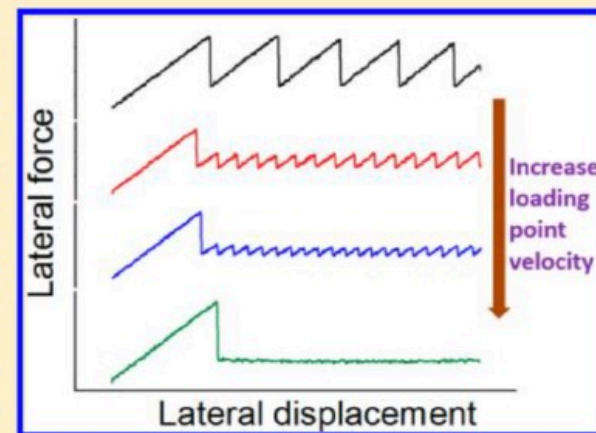
<sup>§</sup>Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, United States

<sup>||</sup>School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, United States

<sup>⊥</sup>Department of Applied Mechanics, IIT Delhi, Hauz Khas, New Delhi, Delhi 110016, India

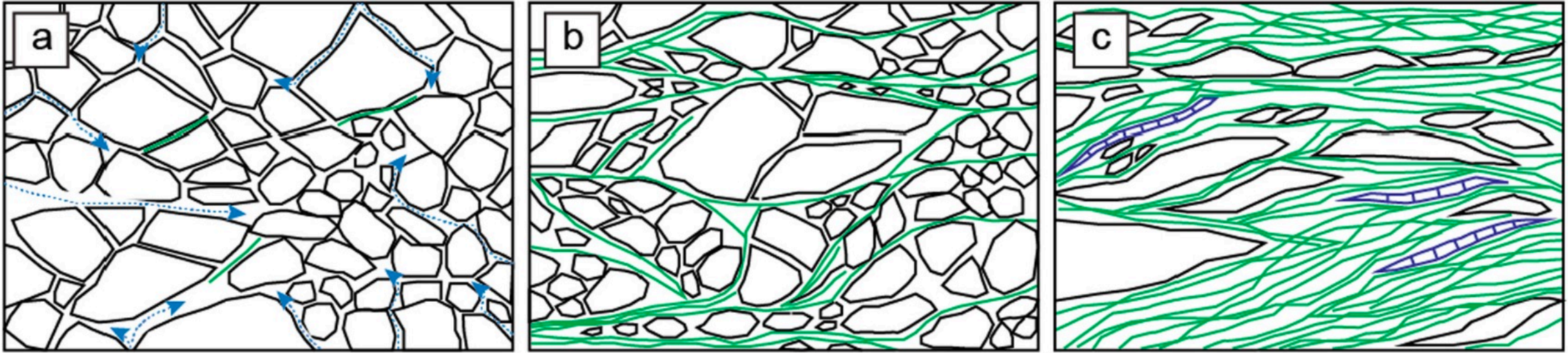
## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Earthquakes are generally caused by unstable stick–slip motion of faults. This stick–slip phenomenon, along with other frictional properties of materials at the macroscale, is well-described by empirical rate and state friction (RSF) laws. Here we study stick–slip behavior for nanoscale single-asperity silica–silica contacts in atomic force microscopy experiments. The stick–slip is quasiperiodic, and both the amplitude and spatial period of stick–slip increase with normal load and decrease with the loading point (i.e., scanning) velocity. The peak force prior to each slip increases with the temporal period logarithmically, and decreases with velocity logarithmically, consistent with stick–slip behavior at the macroscale. However, unlike macroscale behavior, the minimum force after each slip is independent of velocity. The temporal period scales with velocity in a nearly power law fashion with an exponent between  $-1$  and  $-2$ , similar to macroscale behavior. With increasing velocity, stick–slip behavior transitions into steady sliding. In the transition regime between stick–slip and smooth sliding, some slip events exhibit only partial force drops. The results are interpreted in the context of interfacial chemical bond formation and rate effects previously identified for nanoscale contacts. These results contribute to a physical picture of interfacial chemical bond-induced stick–slip, and further establish RSF laws at the nanoscale.





## Mass transfer Reaction softening decrease friction



**Fig. 8.** Schematic representation of reaction softening with increasing strain. a) At the onset of deformation fracturing associated to cataclasis increases permeability favoring the influx of fluids (blue arrows) into the fault zone. b) Fluids react with the fine-grained cataclasite promoting dissolution of the strong granular phases and precipitation of phyllosilicates (green lines). c) At high strains the microstructure consists of an interconnected phyllosilicate-rich network where the deformation is predominantly accommodated by frictional sliding along the (001) phyllosilicate lamellae. The phyllosilicate network is also a low-permeability horizon for transversal fluid flow favoring the development of fluid overpressure testified by foliation parallel veins with crack-and-seal texture (dark-blue). Key-references on the processes highlighted in this picture are reported on the main text.