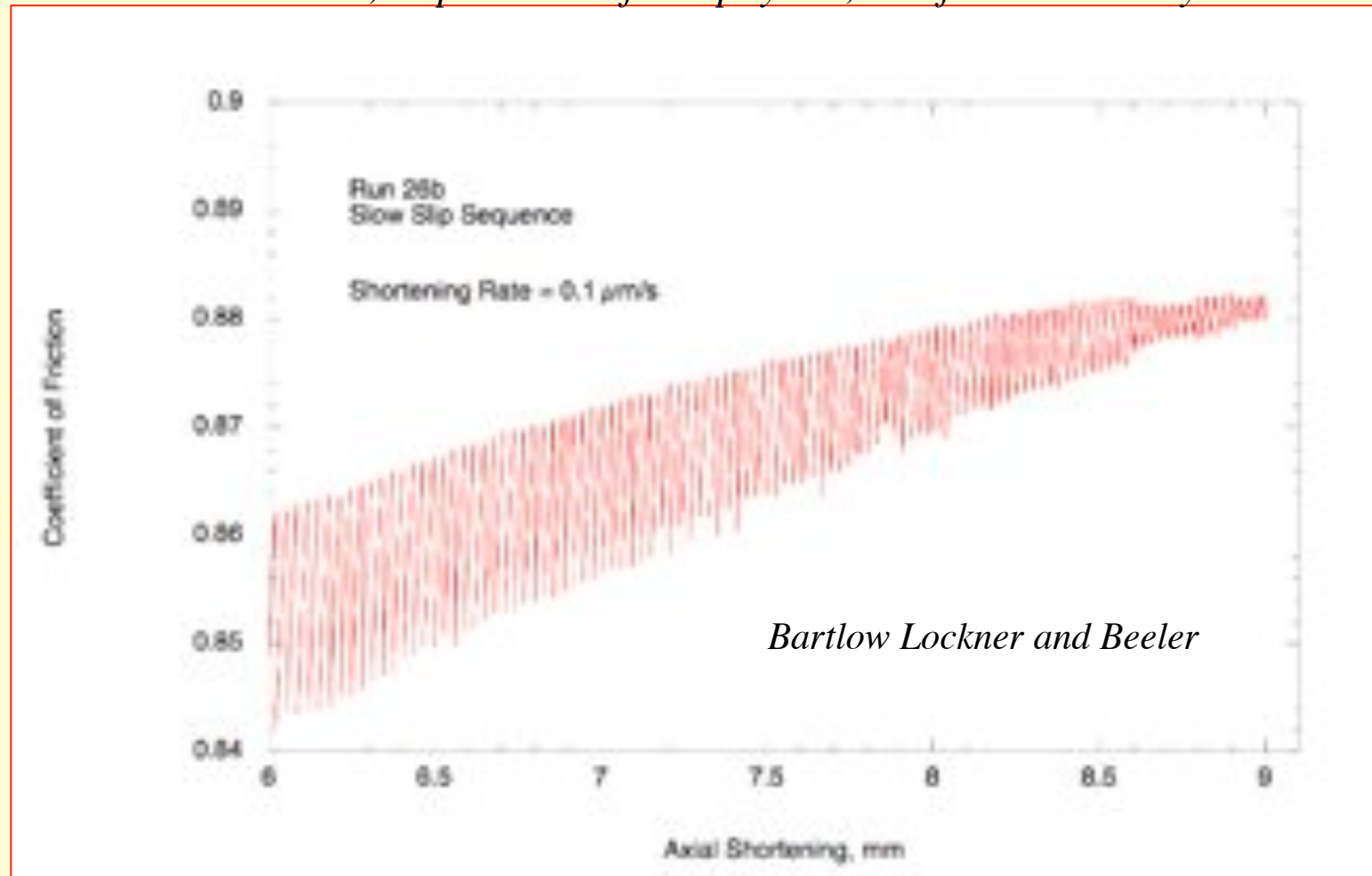


*Revisiting lab observations of the deep stable-unstable
faulting transition, dilatancy, and the poromechanics of fault
zones - Earthscope Mtg Portland - 10/2010*

Nick Beeler, David Lockner, US Geological Survey

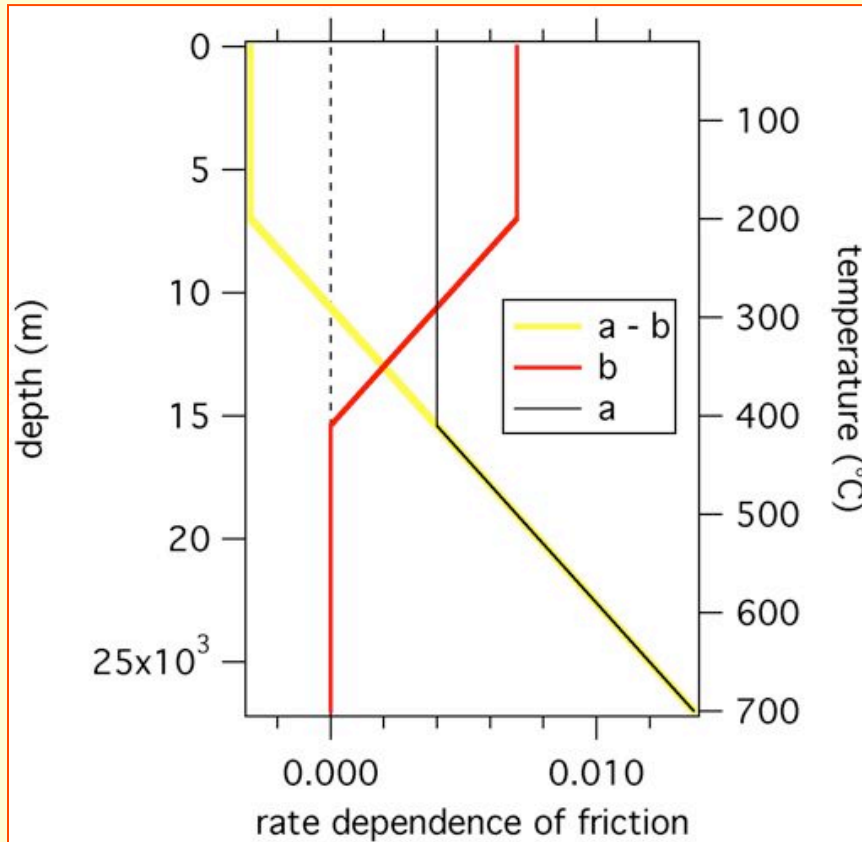
Noel Bartlow, Department of Geophysics, Stanford University



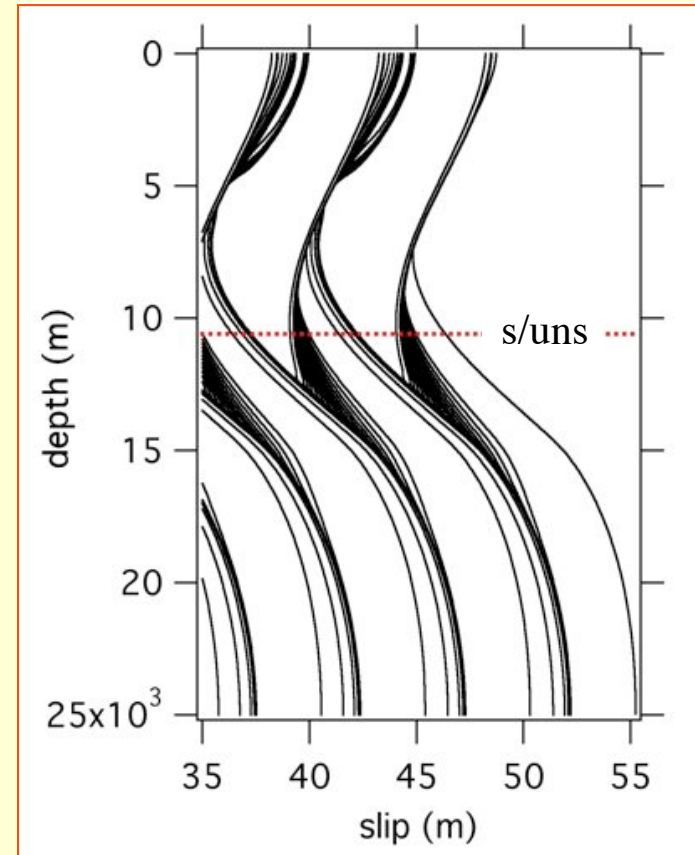
Revisiting lab observations relevant to deep periodic rapid slip and tremor

- 1) *the deep stable - unstable friction transition*
 - rate dependence
- 2) *the high speed cutoff - what is it (what it is)*
 - expectations at high temperature
 - implications for dilatancy
- 3) *stress- slip - dilatancy relations*
 - inconsistencies
 - near failure behavior
 - poroelastic effects?
- 4) *new experiments - failure with pore pressure + slow slip events in the lab*

what does friction rate dependence have to do with the extent of the transition zone?



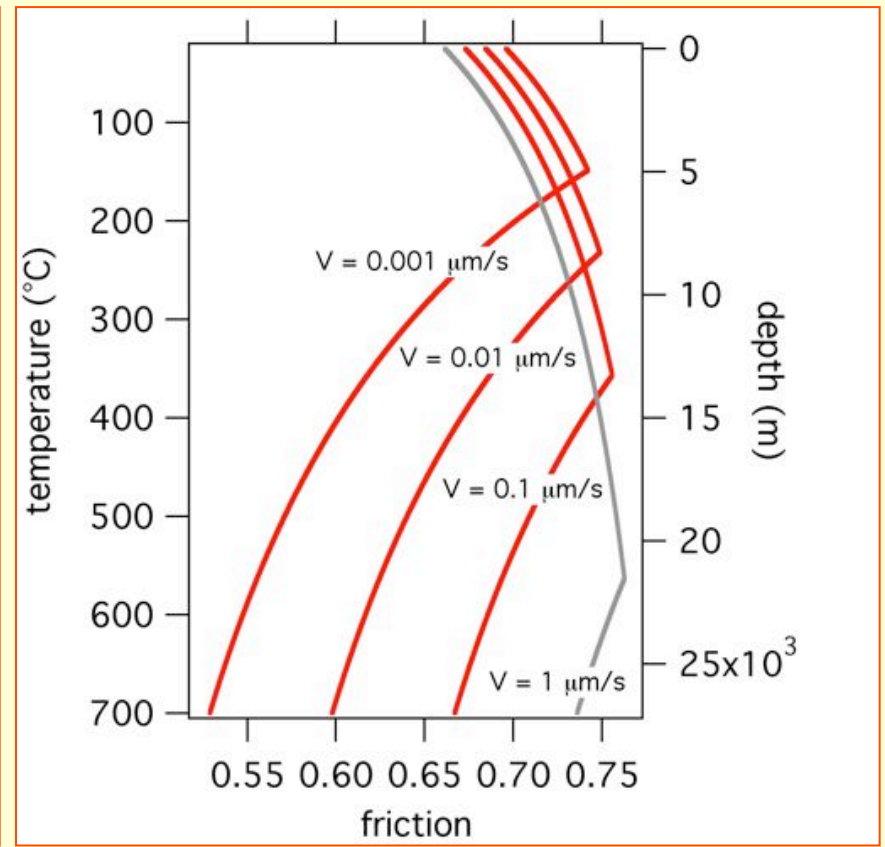
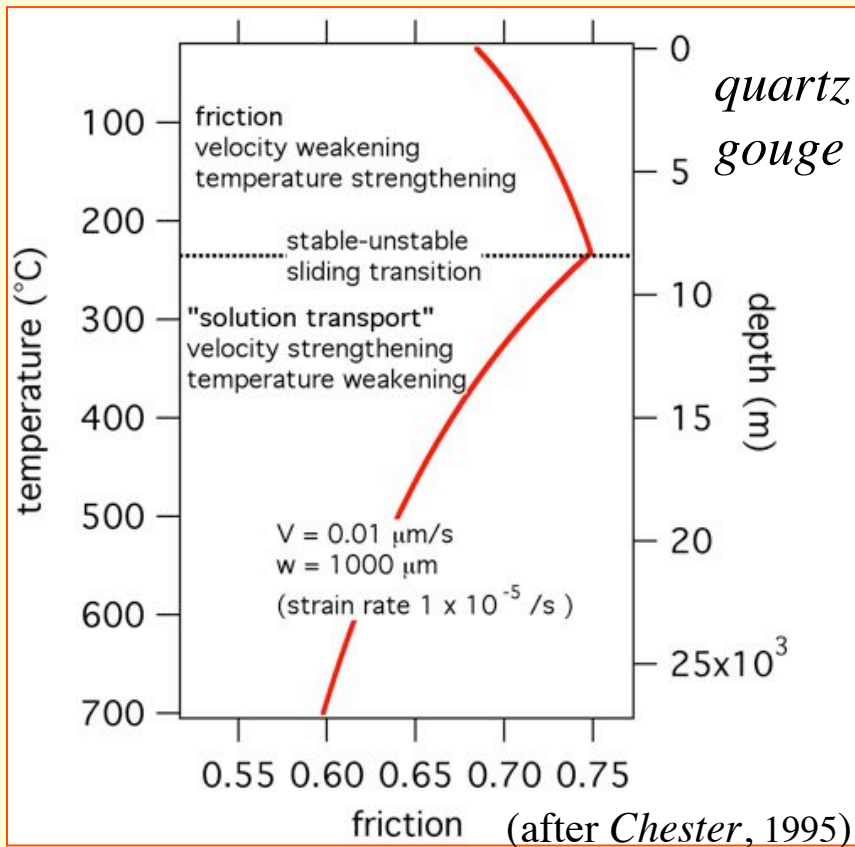
(Stetsky, 1978; Tse and Rice, 1986)



(after Tse and Rice, 1986)

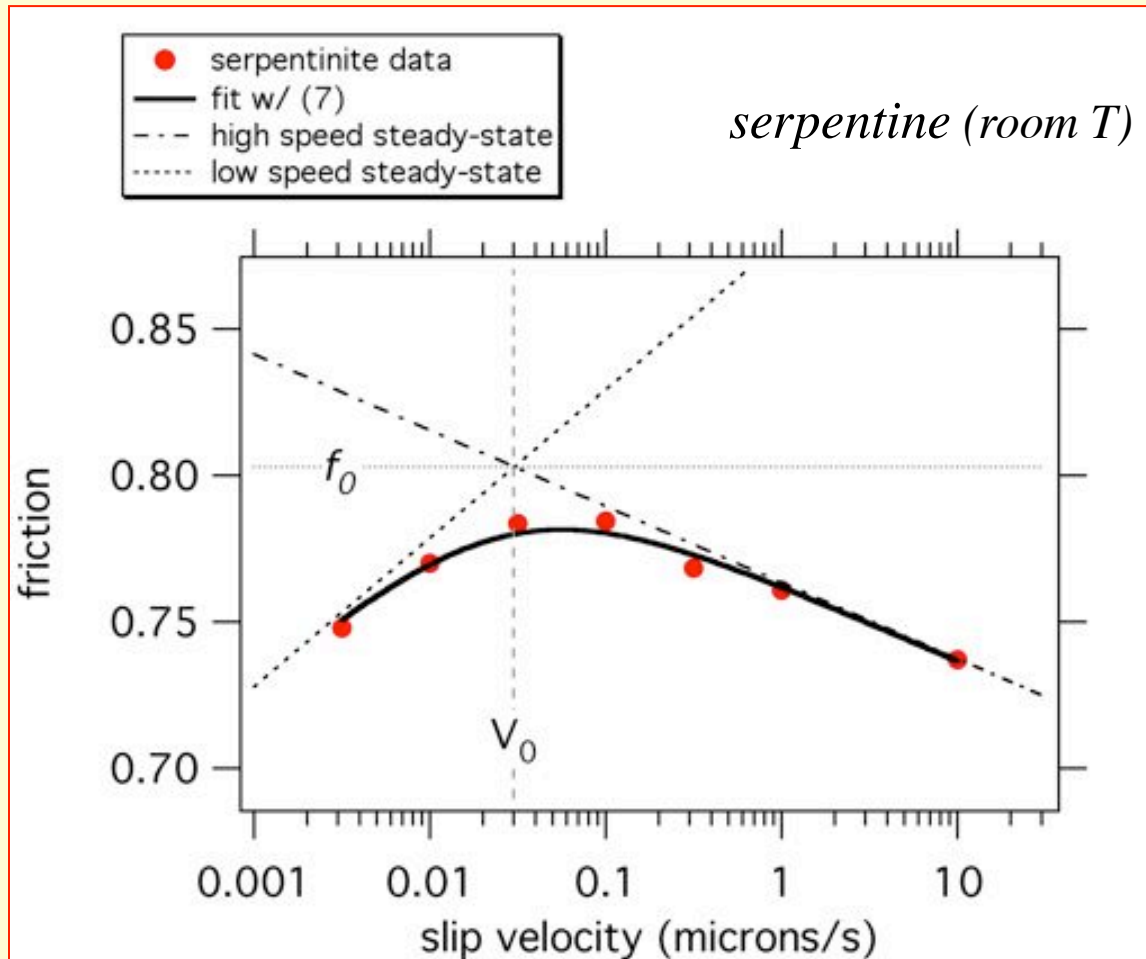
- ‘a transition zone’ is between *s/uns* boundary and ‘completely plastic’ ($b=0$) - defines deep extent of large rupture)
- in the context of rate dependent friction, tremor and deep slip require negative rate dependence, at great depth

are our models of rate and temperature dependent friction an over-simplification of the lab data?



- s/uns transition depth depends on velocity - this is one way to produce deep, transient brittle behavior*

The slow low speed transition to rate strengthening (2 mechanisms)

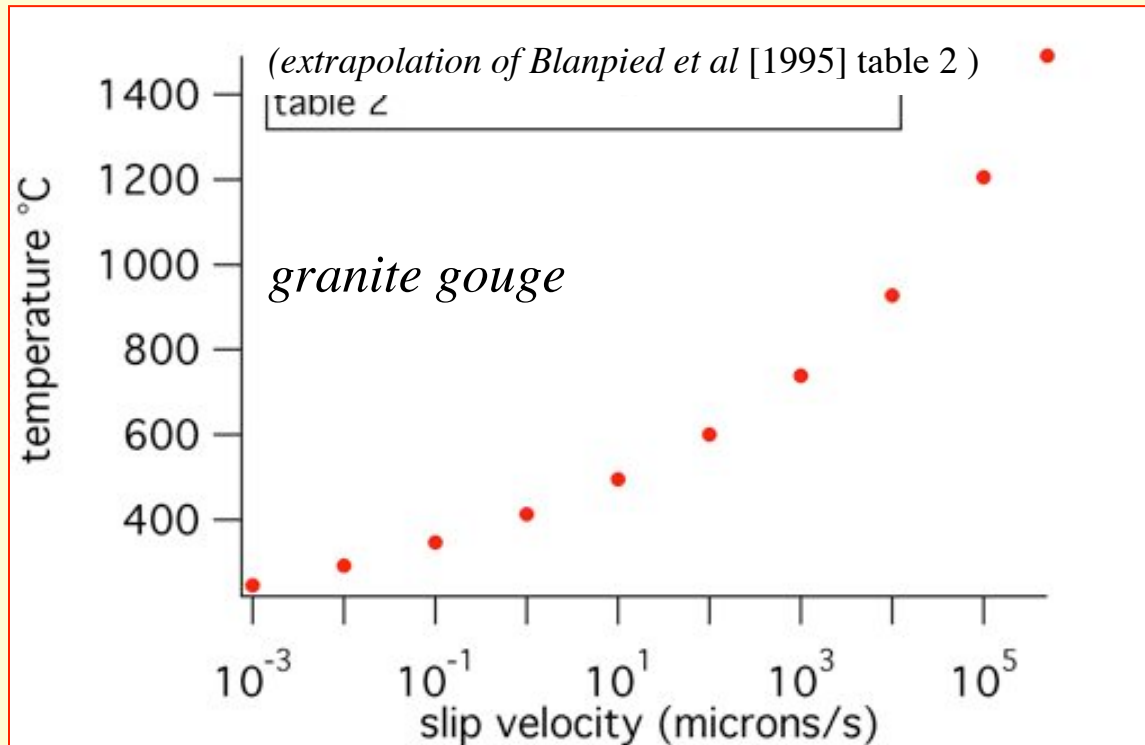


(data from *Reinen et al. 1994*)

$$V_0 \quad \text{---} \quad w/T \quad \text{---} \rightarrow$$

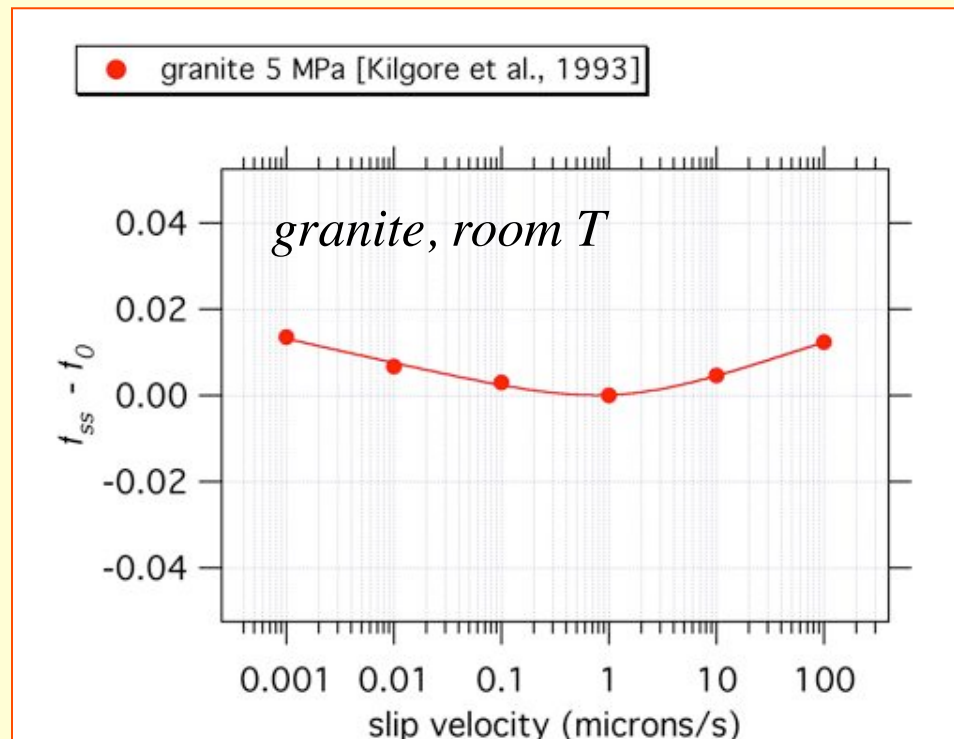
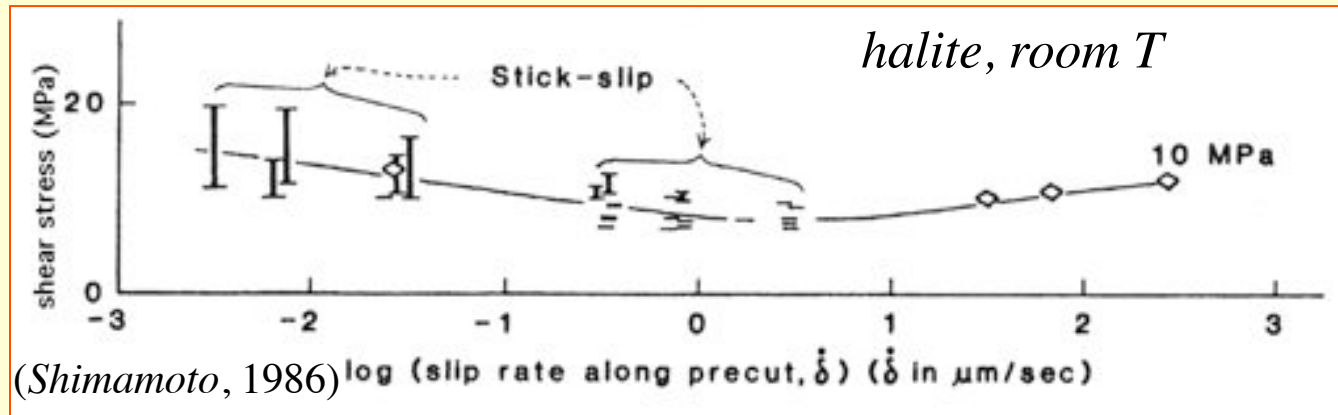
- $V_0 = f(T)$ should be in models of the transition zone

s/us transition extrapolated in temperature.....



- *extrapolation of existing data to seismic speeds suggests possible transient brittle behavior to great depth*
- *this is probably not reasonable because of the high speed cutoff*

expected transition back to rate strengthening at higher slip speed: ‘the high speed cutoff’ (e.g., Shibazaki and Iio, 2003)



what's a high speed cutoff?

*Nakatani and Scholz
(2006) also see
Dieterich (1978; 1979)*

*high speed cutoff is slip speed above which there is
effectively no change in contact area*

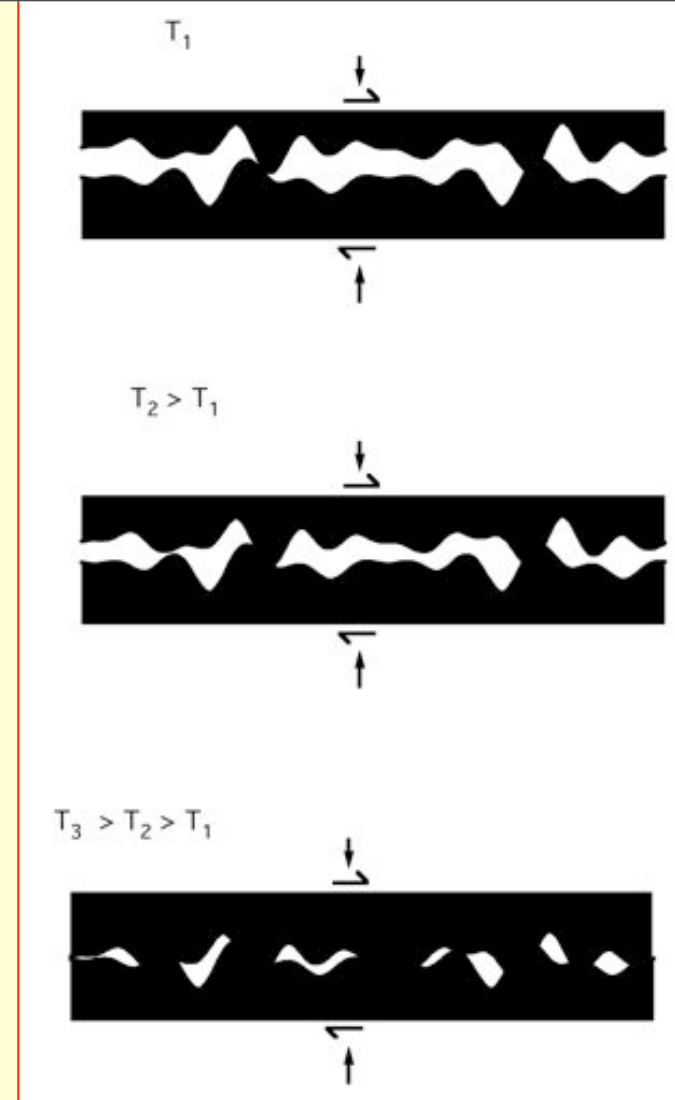
$$V_c = \frac{d_c}{t_c}$$

contact dimension

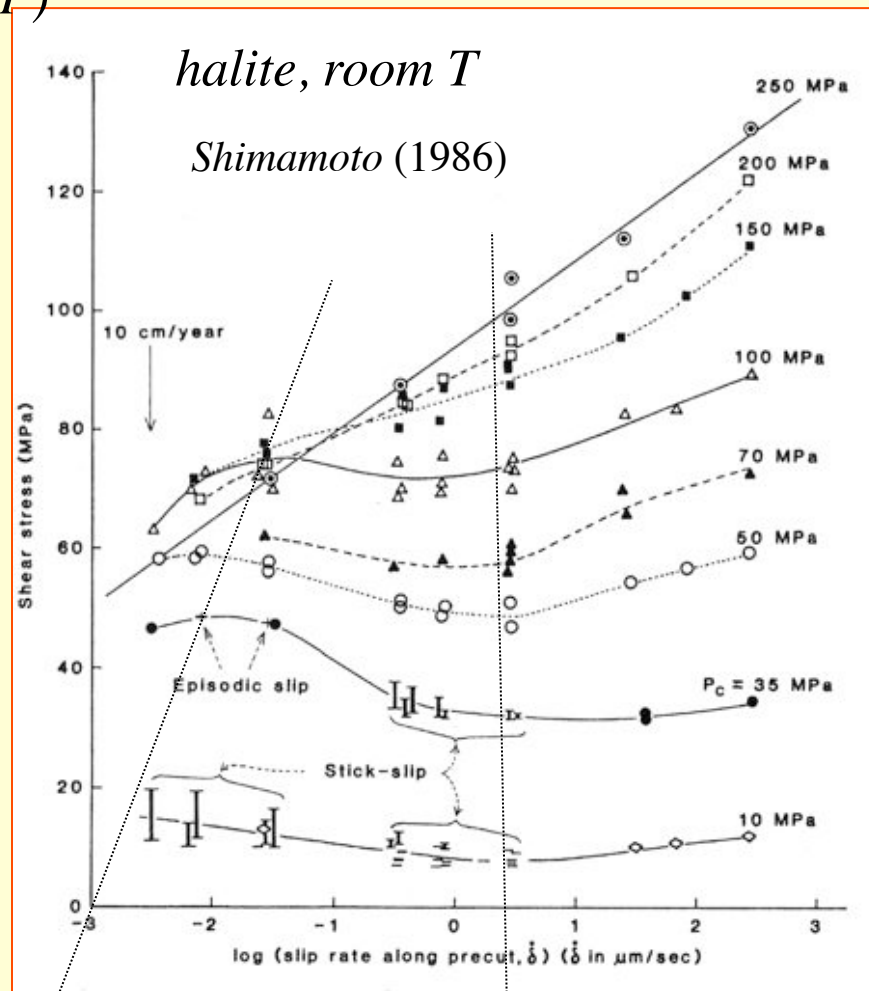
*time constant of contact
scale yielding*

*For transition zone models the issue is at what
slip speed is the cutoff at high T and P?*

*there's no lab data at temperature - the cutoff is
treated as something like a free parameter in
slow slip models*

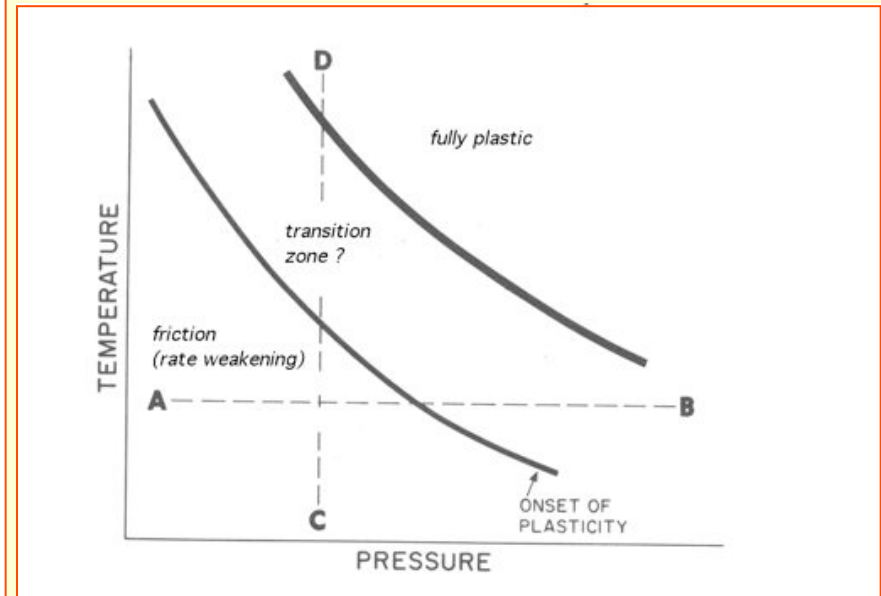


more complete friction model of transition zone might include high speed cutoff (V_c) and s/uns transition (V_0), both depending on T (and perhaps on P)



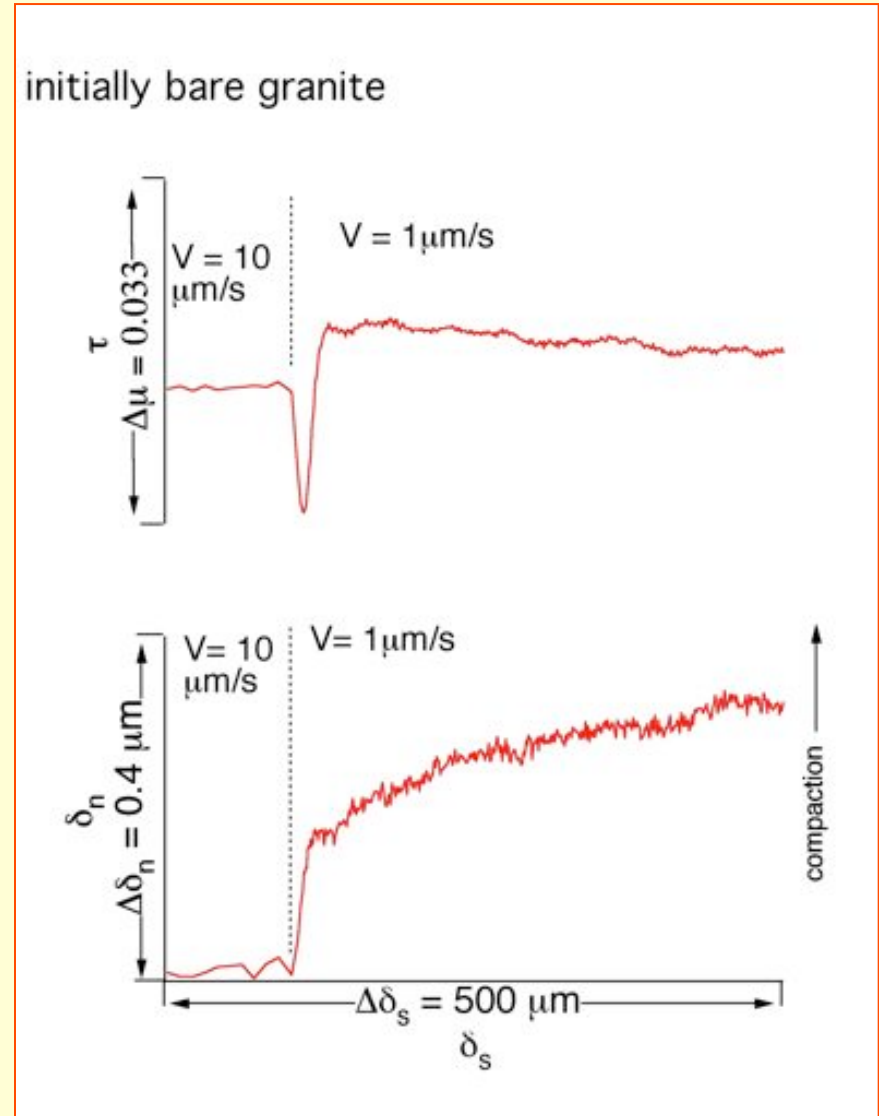
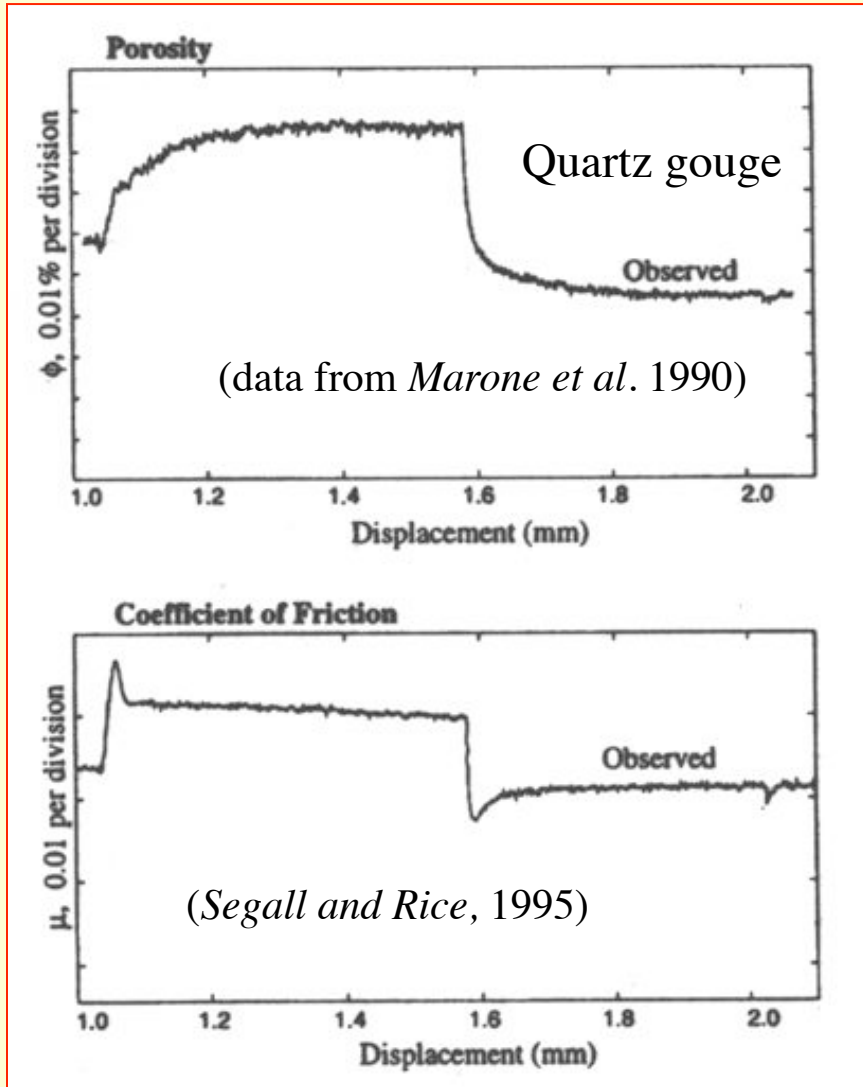
V_0

V_c



modified from Scholz (1990)

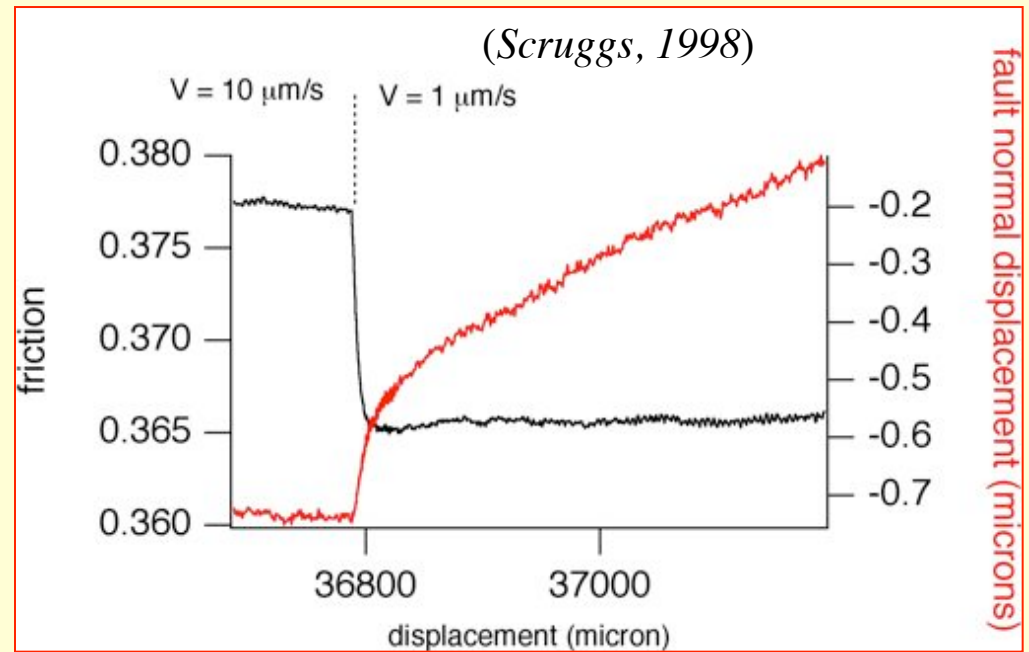
friction dilatancy relationship used in models of slow slip (Segall and Rice)- from rate step



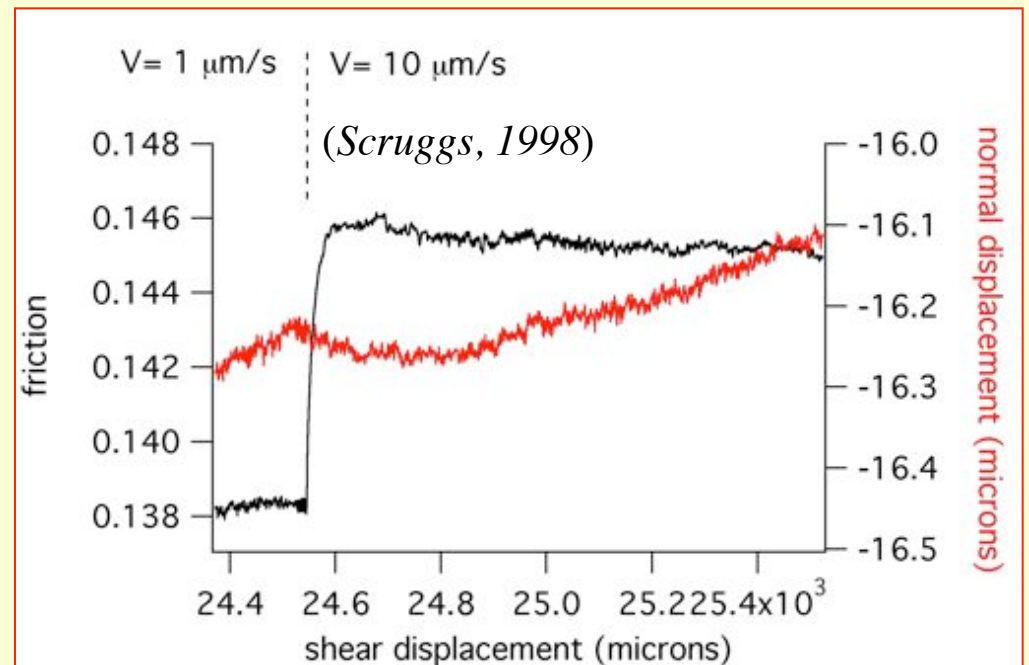
- porosity is rate dependent - its another manifestation of the state variable (of the evolution effect)

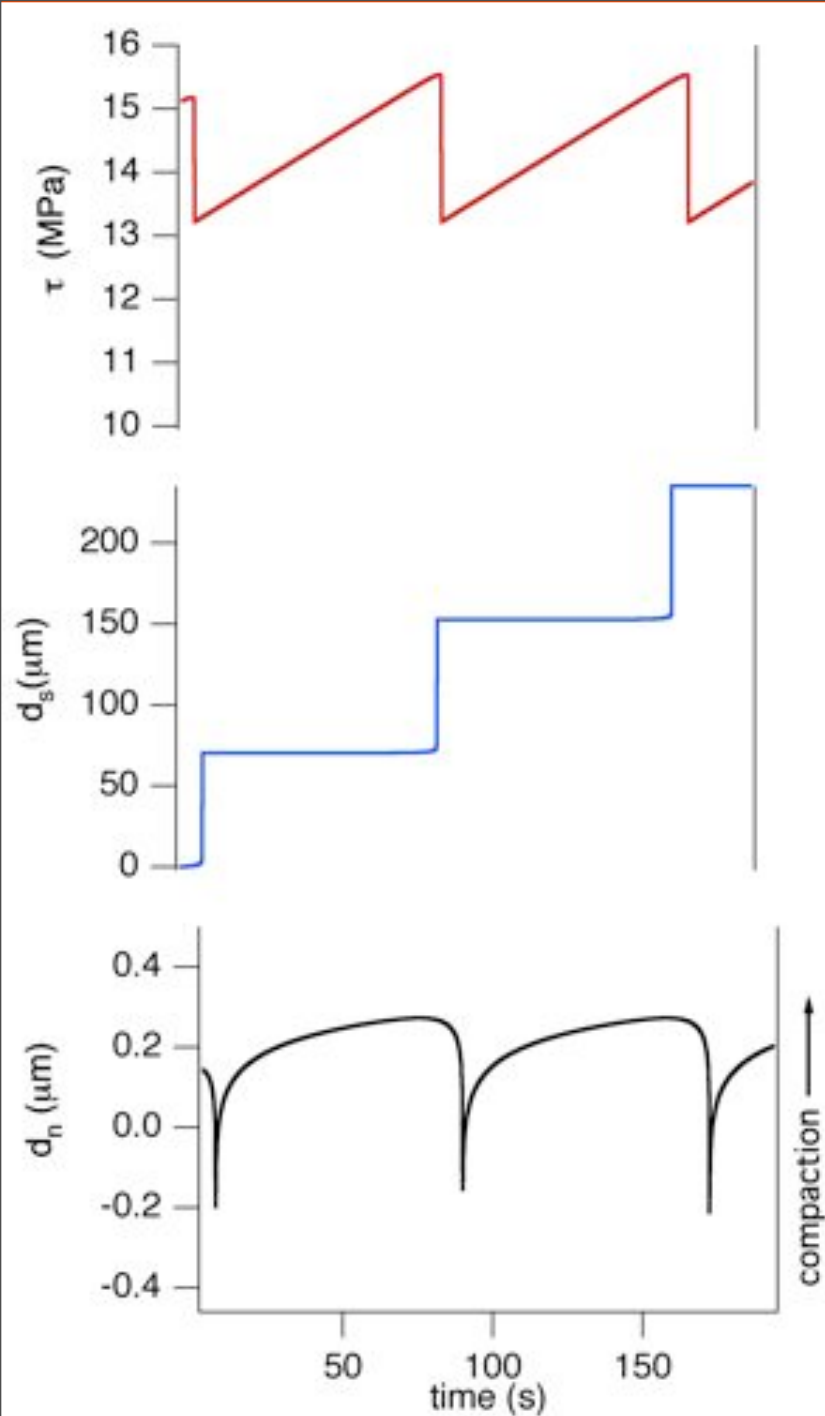
dilatancy in materials without a pronounced evolution effect:

muscovite gouge, room T



talc gouge, room T





step-test based formulation in simulation of periodic failure (dry or drained)

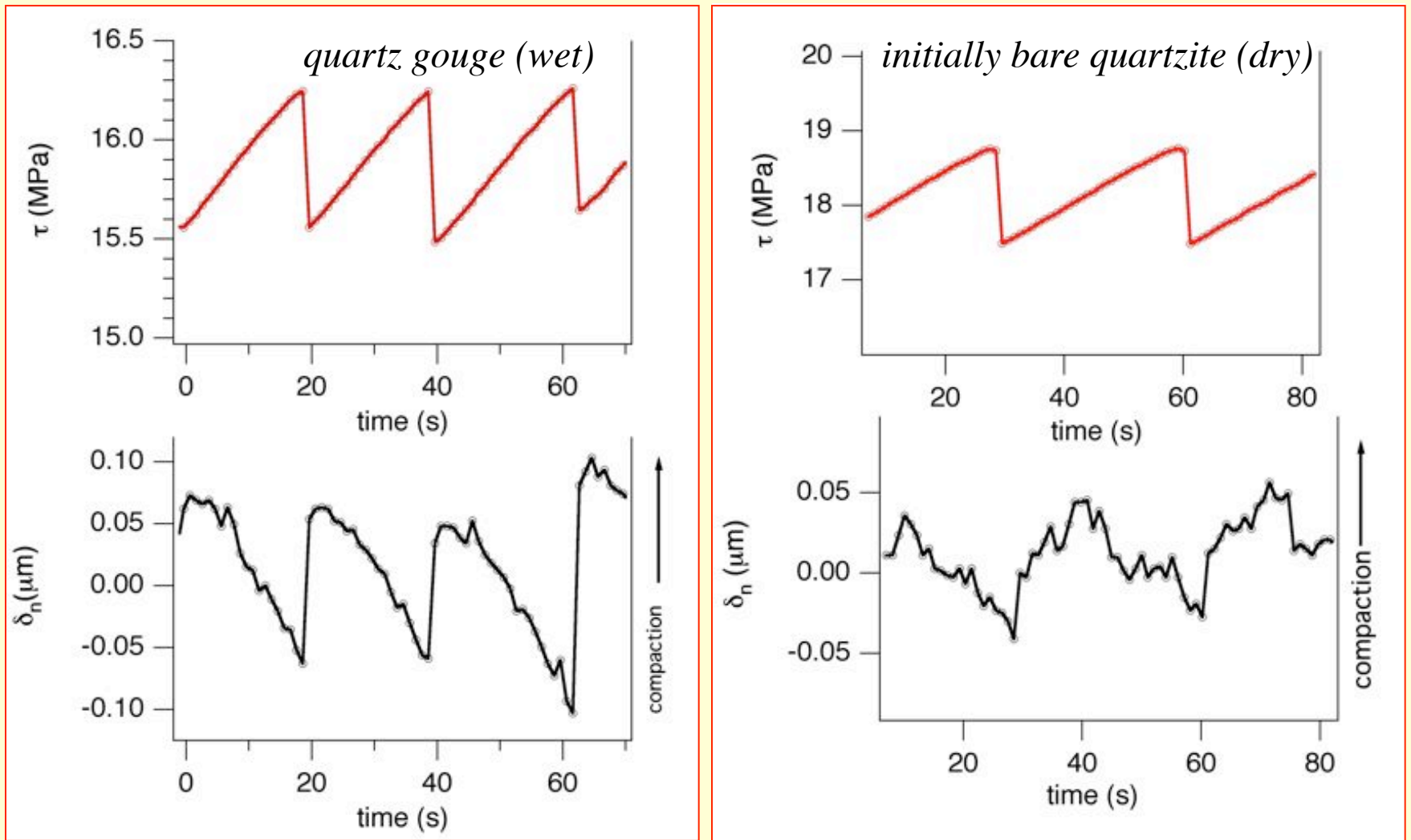
periodic stress drop

very small amounts of precursory slip

'co-seismic' slip-induced dilatancy

inter-event time dependent compaction

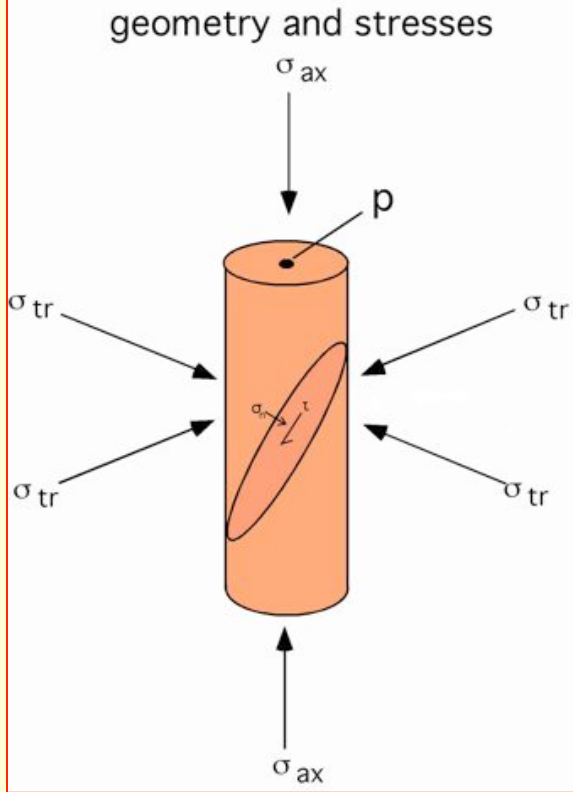
actual periodic failure experiments



- *'co-seismic' compaction rather than dilation in experiments*

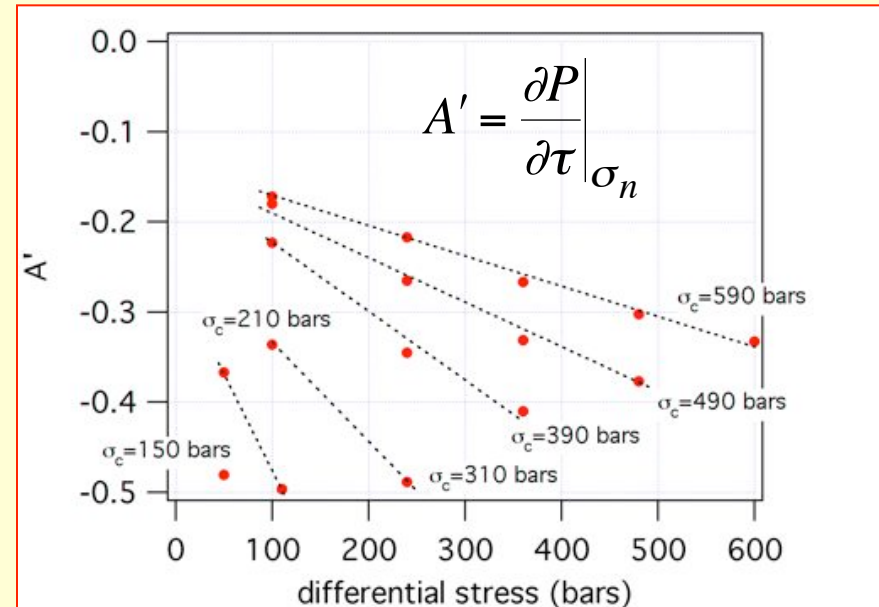
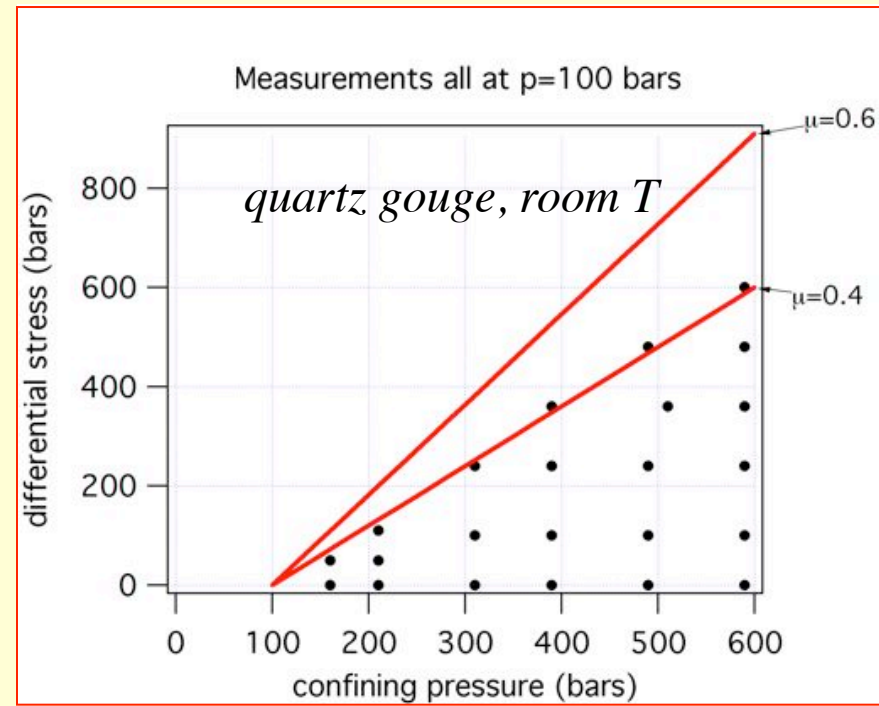
are poroelastic effects important in gouge layers?

strong stress-induced anisotropy



- pore pressure increase (compaction) w/ shear stress drop

- this effect is largest at low effective stress



(Lockner and Beeler, unpublished)

nmb's to do list:

stable - unstable - stable transitions are rate and temperature (and pressure) dependent (explore implications in fault models)

more experiments at higher speeds at a wider range of T and P

more experiments on relevant compositions

dilatancy in fault zones approaching and during failure is not understood

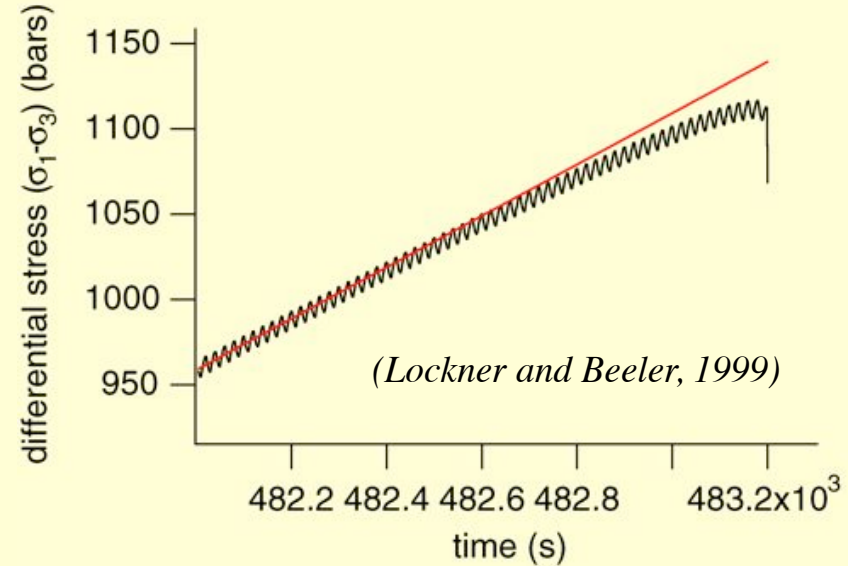
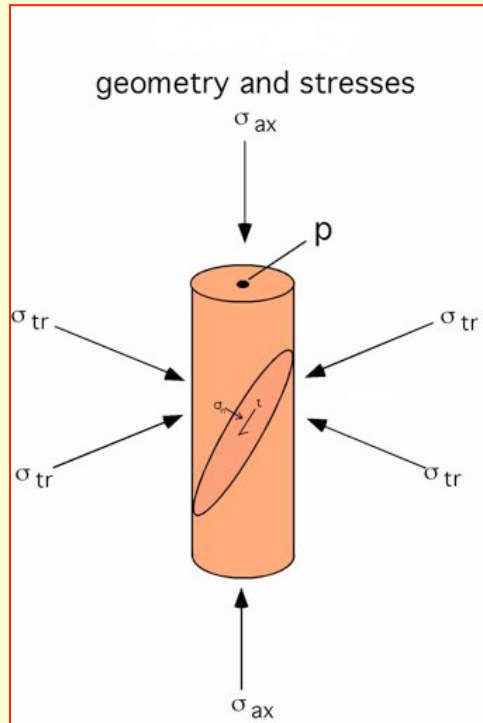
stickslip experiments with and without pore fluid

experiments at elevated T

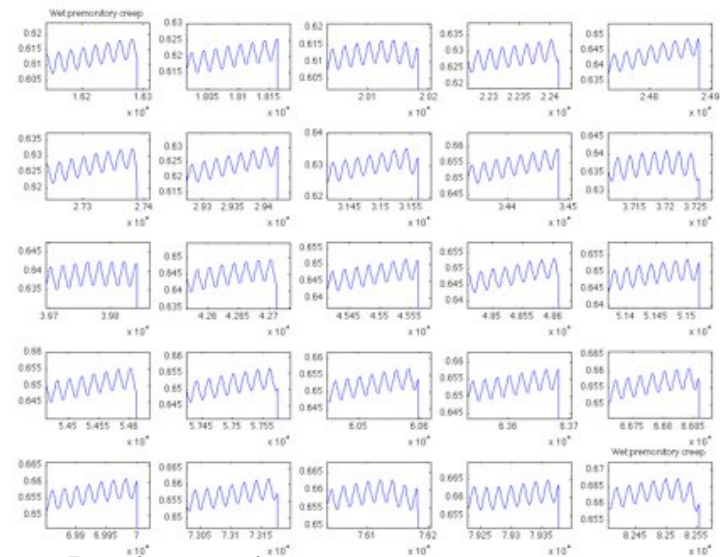
poroelastic properties of fault zones are unexplored

experiments nearer failure - more relevant compositions

new experiments: periodic failure, initially bare granite w/ pore fluid

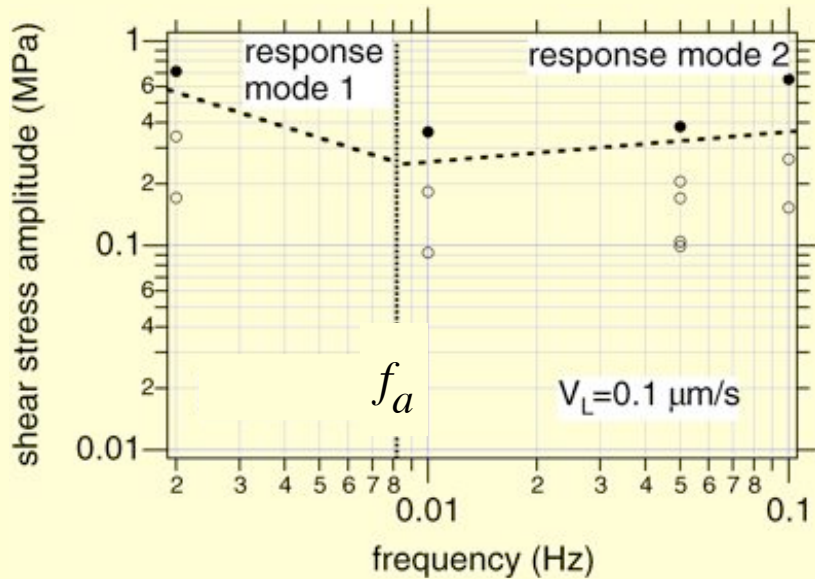


*loading: constant rate +
small amplitude sine wave*



Bartlow et al

previous results: dry (Lockner and Beeler, 1999)



objective: determine influence of pore fluid pressure on triggered failure

two frequencies of interest:

$$f_a = \frac{\dot{\tau}}{2\pi a \sigma_e} \quad \text{1/ nucleation duration}$$

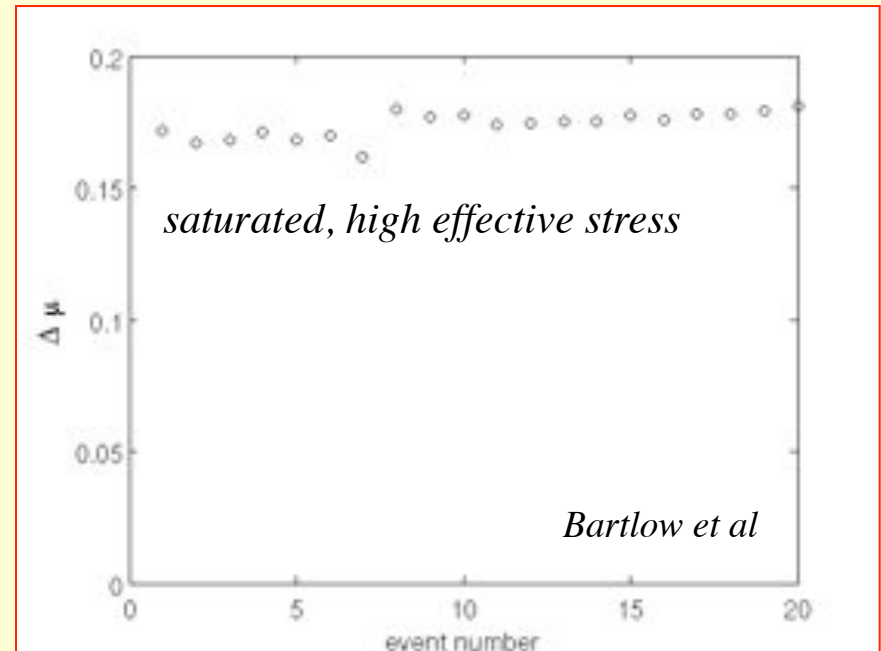
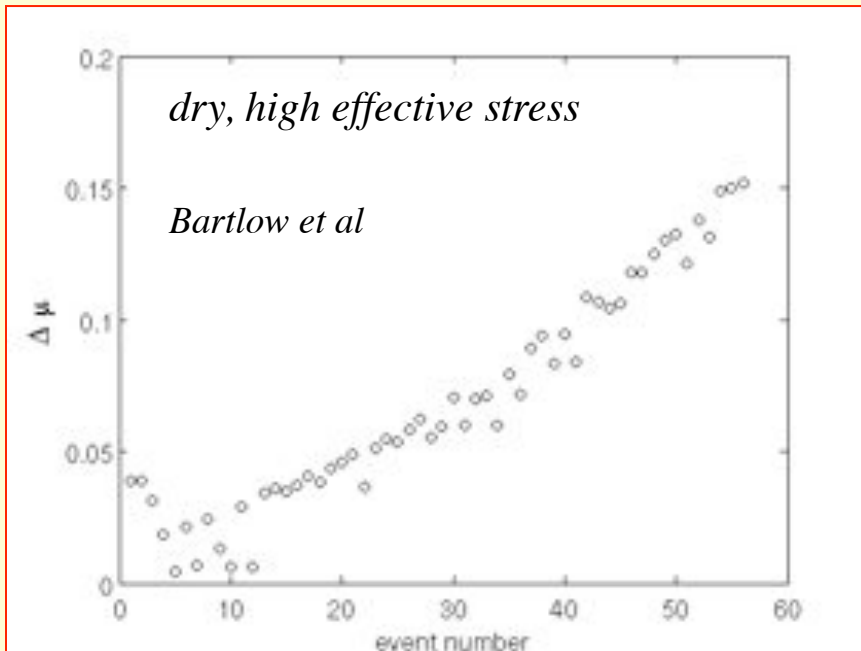
(Dieterich, 1992)

f_{fluid} undrained/drained

new results (Bartlow et al):

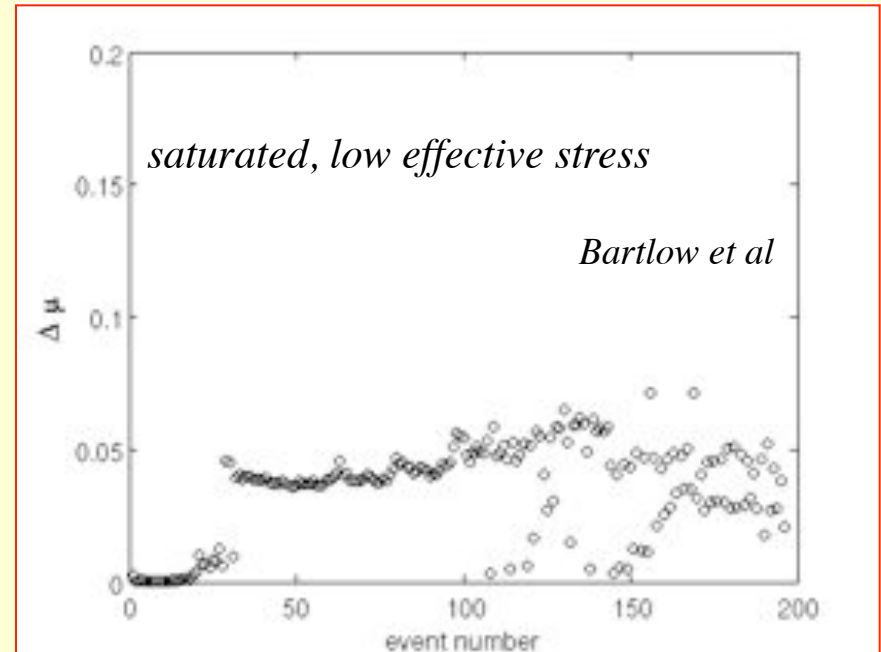
- f_a is larger at lower effective stress as expected
- correlations deviate from the dry results at frequencies of ~ 20 s dilatancy hardening?

more new results (no oscillating stress): static stress drops

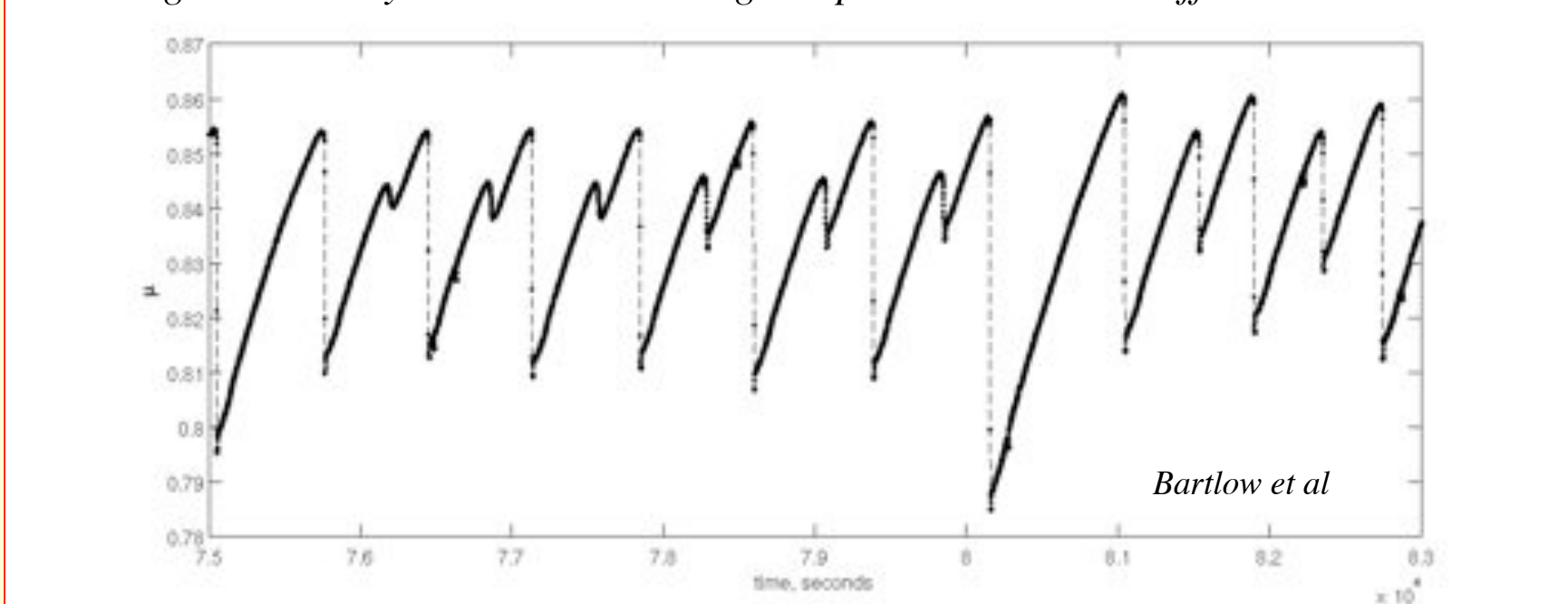


different behavior at lower effective stress:

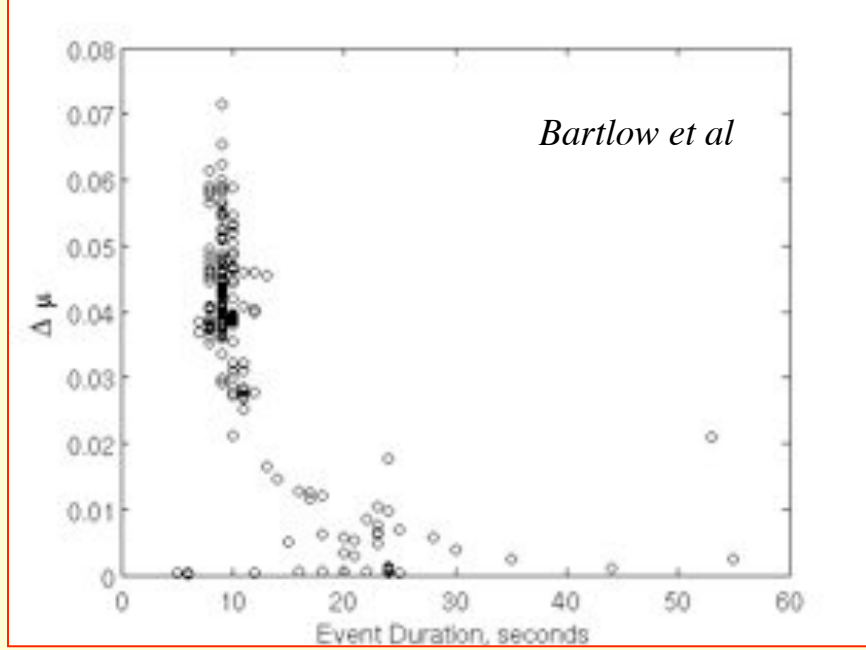
- *unusually low stress drops at lower effective stress*
- *complex stress drop history at largest displacements*
- *slow events*



alternating slow and dynamic events at large displacements at low effective stress:



duration:

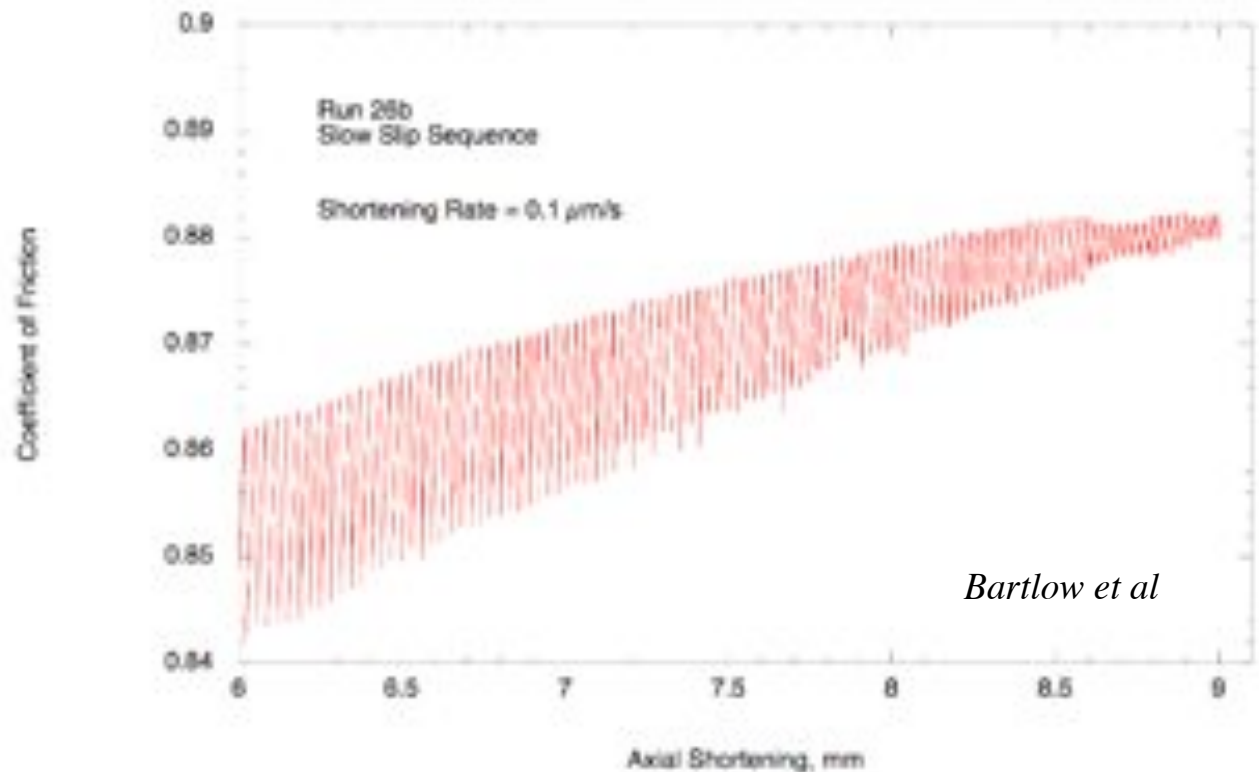


summary of new stick-slip experiments with pore pressure (bare granite, room temperature)

f_a increases with decreasing effective stress

pore fluid affects triggered failure at frequencies of ~ 20 s (undrained/dilatancy effect?)

slow events at elevated pore pressure -



end