

Solid Earth Dynamics

Bill Menke, Instructor

Lecture 20

Faults and earthquakes

Seismotectonics

Faults and earthquakes

What can be learned from P wave

Angular behavior of P wave: Focal mechanism,
fault is one of two possible
planes

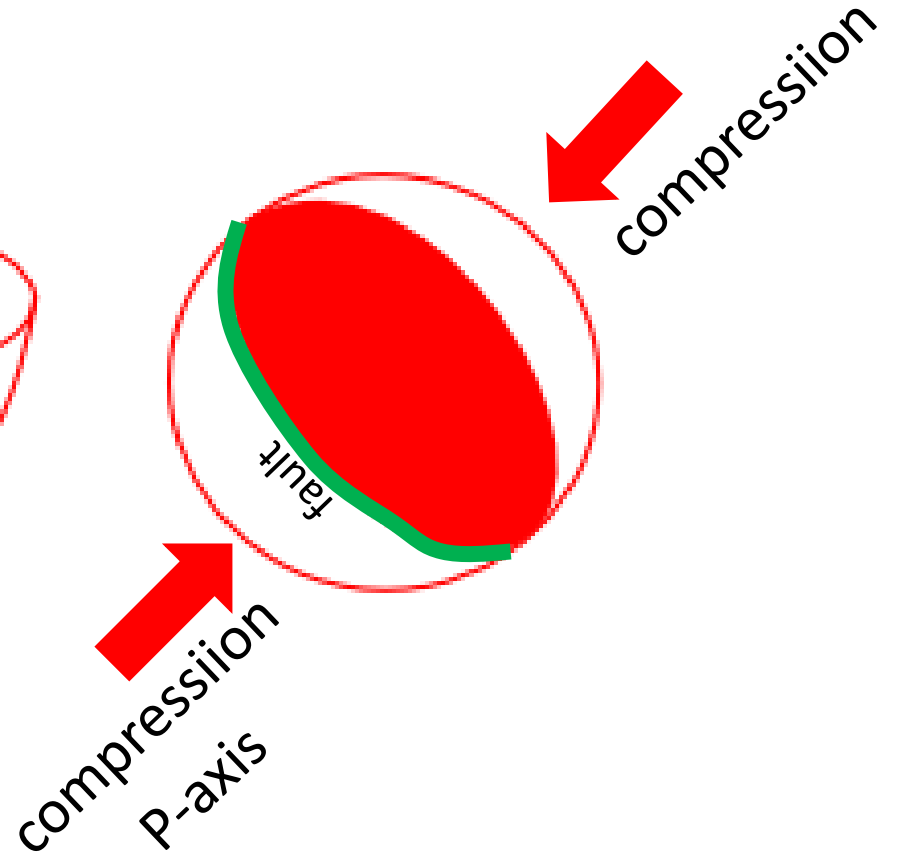
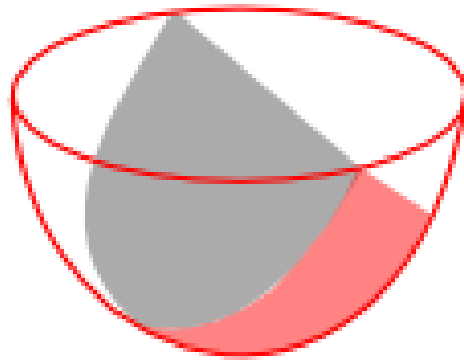
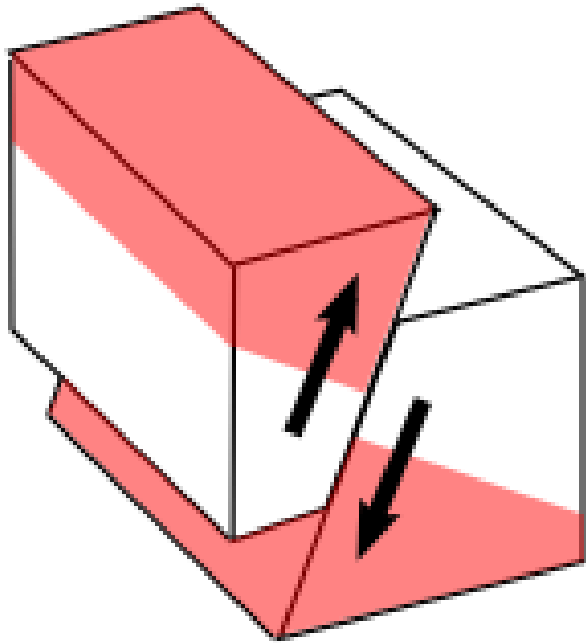
Area under the P wave

(after correcting for distance & focal mechanism):

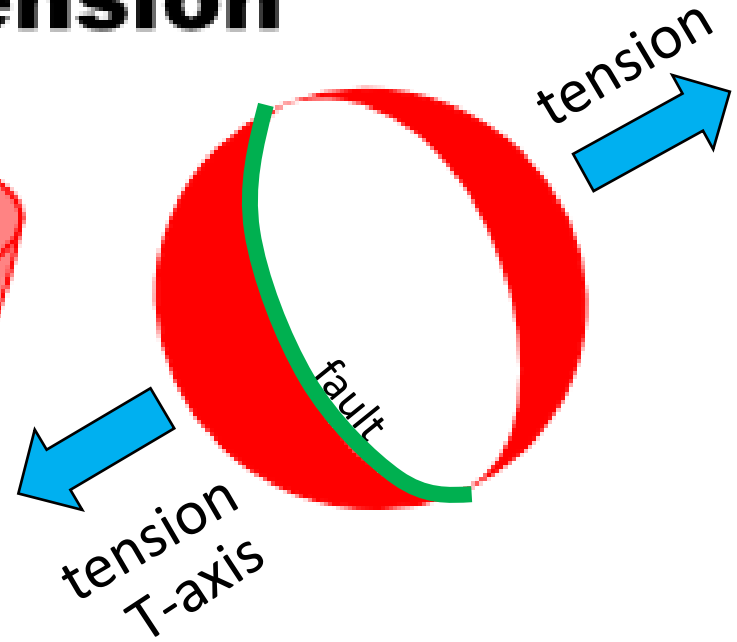
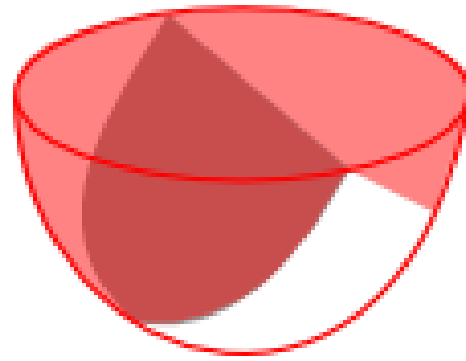
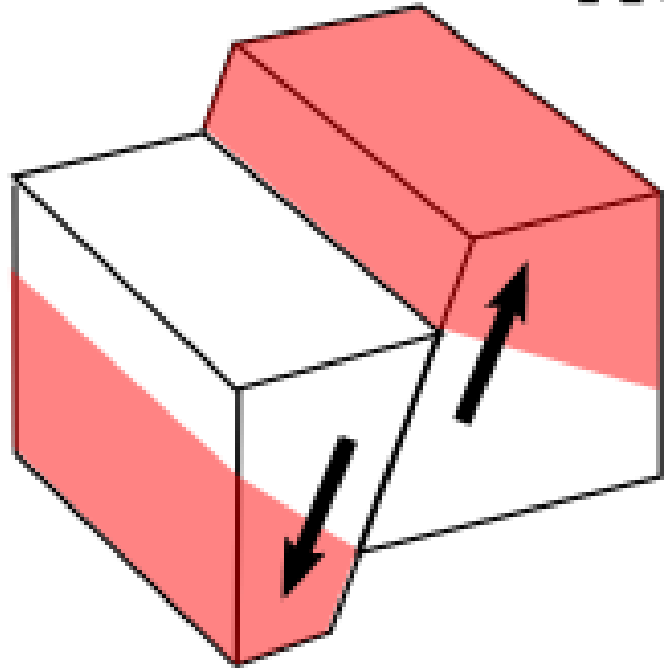
Moment = slip x area x rigidity

Duration of the P wave: Duration of rupture

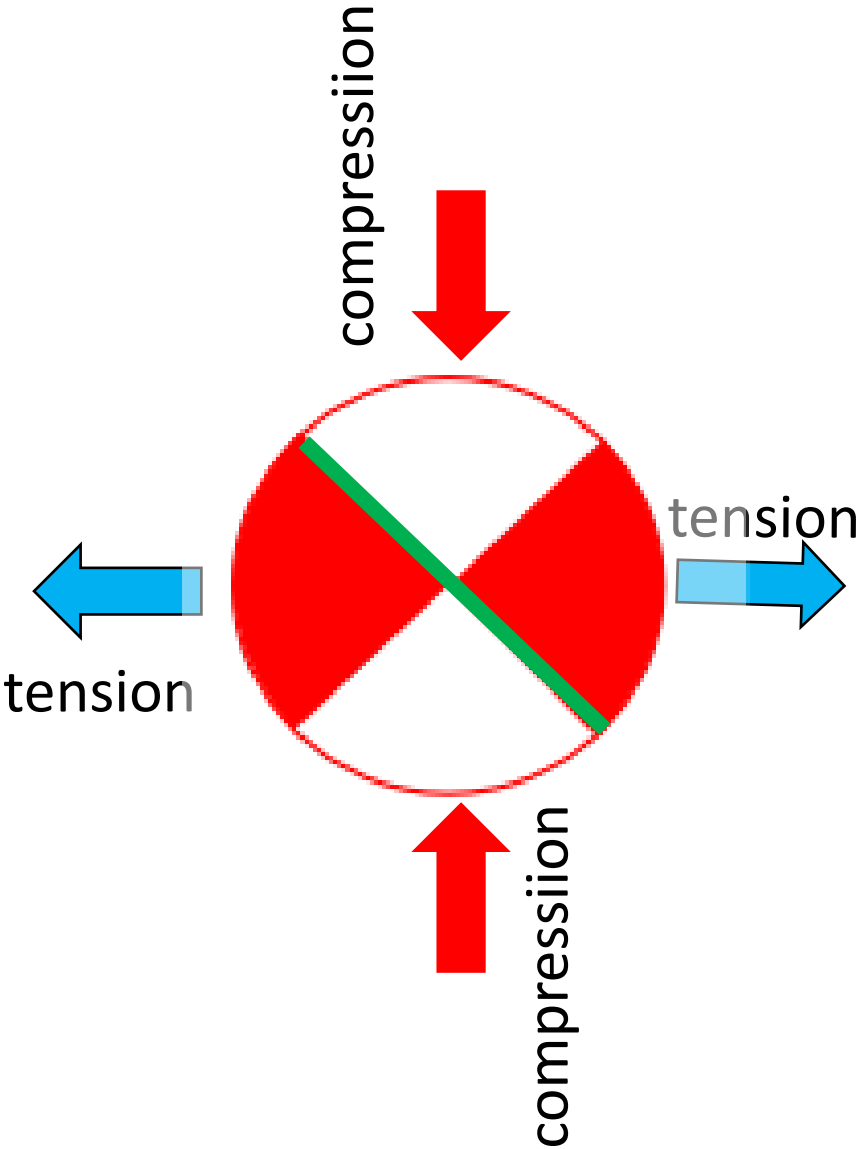
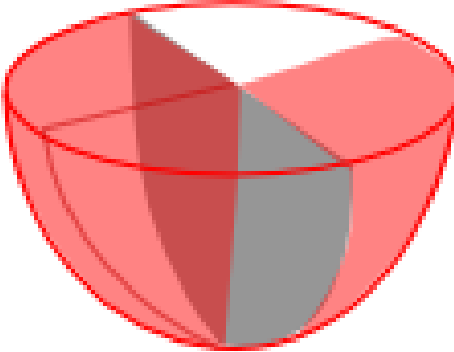
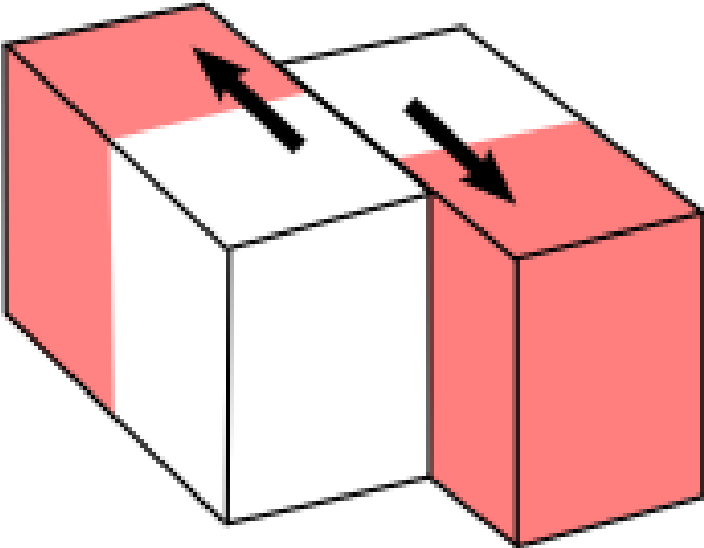
Reverse/Thrust/Compression



Normal/Extension



Strike-Slip



Moment of a very large earthquake

Rigidity x slip x length x width

$$3 \times 10^{10} \text{ pa} \quad 1 \text{ m} \quad 10^5 \text{ m} \quad 10^5 \text{ m}$$

$$3 \times 10^{20} \text{ pa m}^3$$

$$\frac{N}{m^2} m^3$$

$$M_0 = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ N m} \quad (\text{annoyingly big number})$$

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$$3 \times 10^{20} \text{ pa m}^3$$

typical ratio 1:10⁵

$$\frac{N}{\text{m}^2} \text{m}^3$$

$$M_0 = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ N m} \quad (\text{annoyingly big number})$$

$$M_0 = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ N m}$$

$$M = (\log_{10} M_0 - 9.05)/1.5$$

$$M = 7.6 \quad \text{Moment magnitude}$$

or colloquially, the magnitude of the earthquake

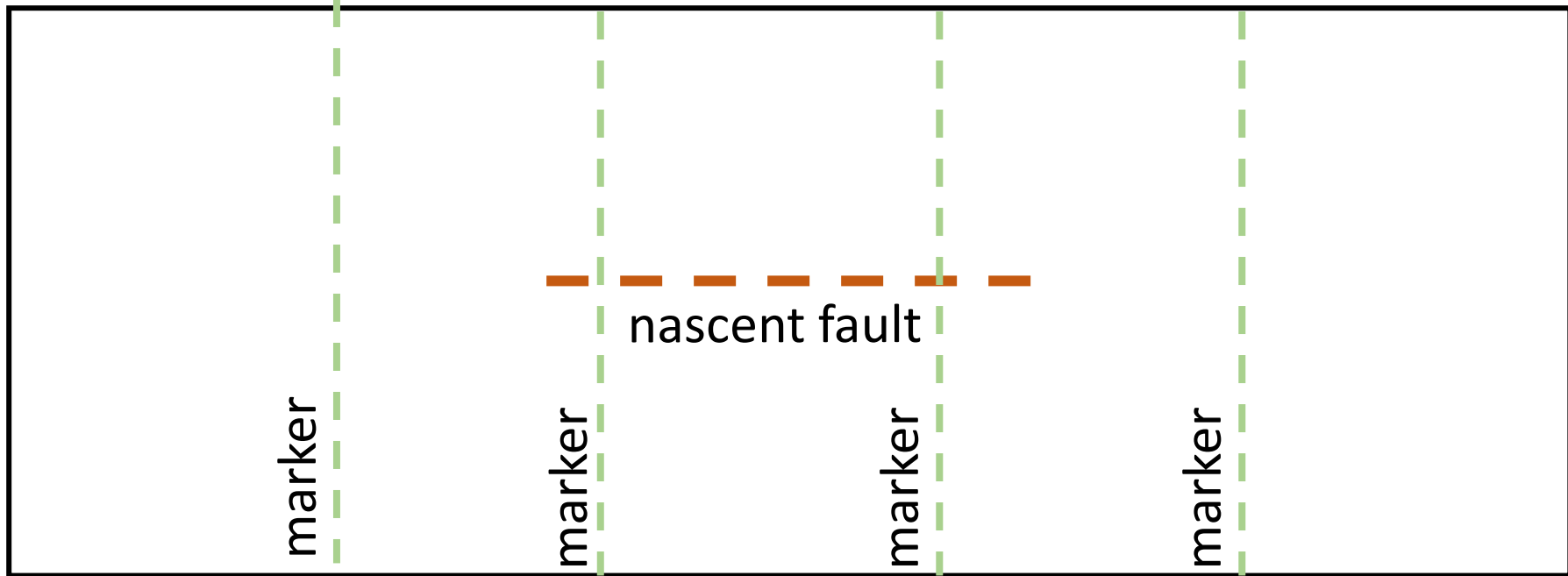
Tiny earthquake
1 millimeter of slip
on a fault 100 m long
magnitude 1.5

Moderate earthquake
1 meter of slip
on a fault 10 km long
magnitude 4.8

Huge earthquake
100 m of slip
on a fault 1000 km long
magnitude 9.7

Earthquake: Releases shear stress near the fault

no slip, no stress



no slip, stress

plate tectonic motion

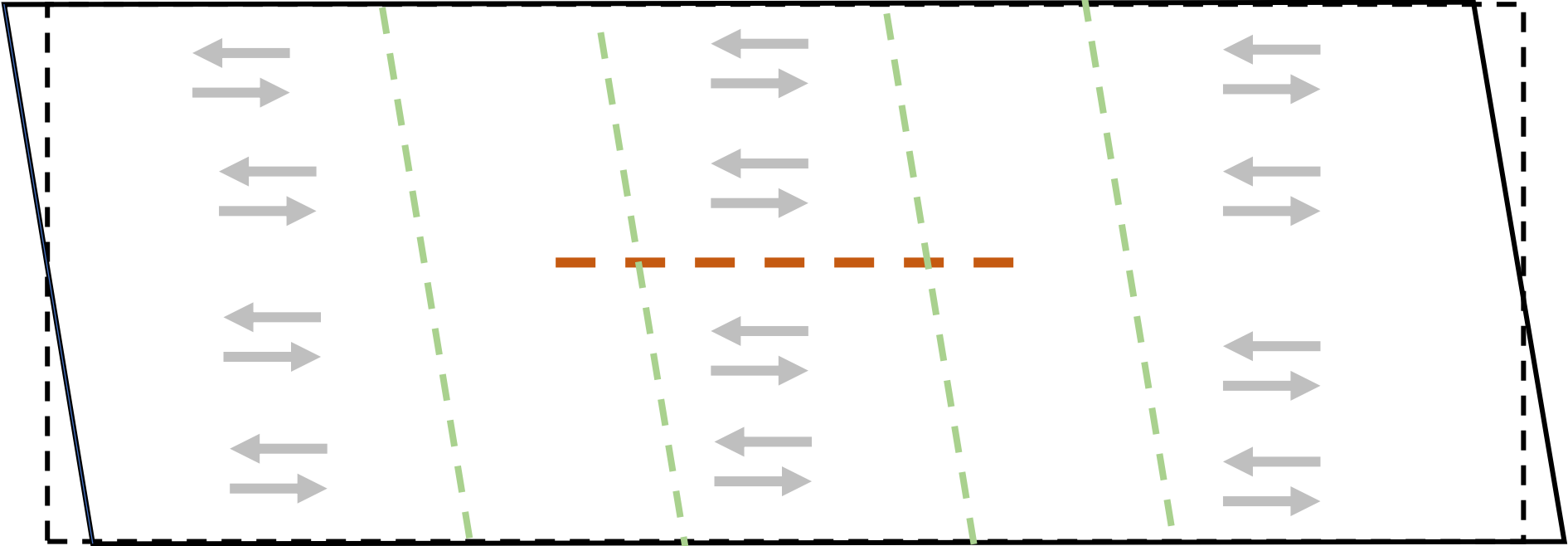
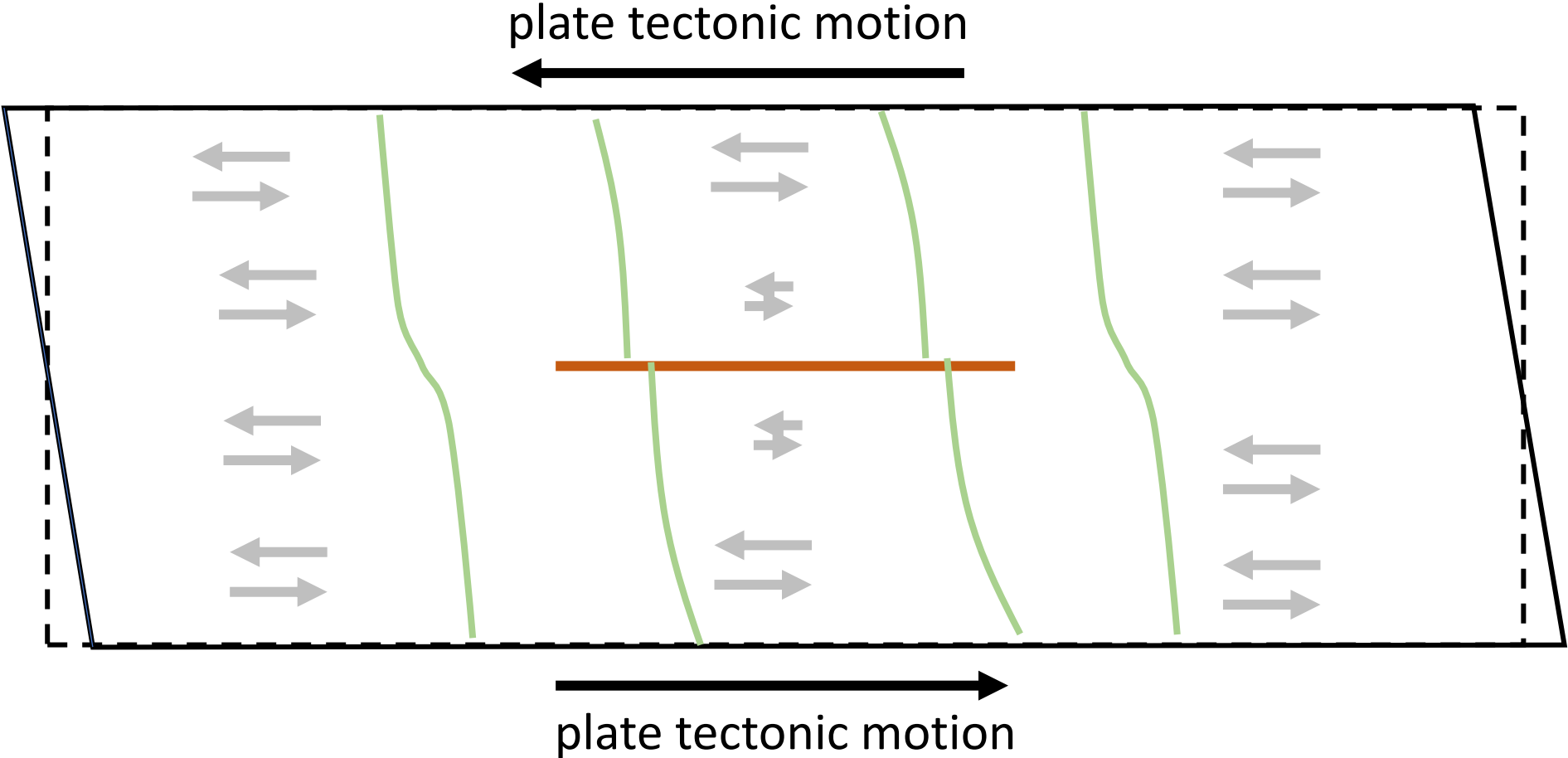


plate tectonic motion



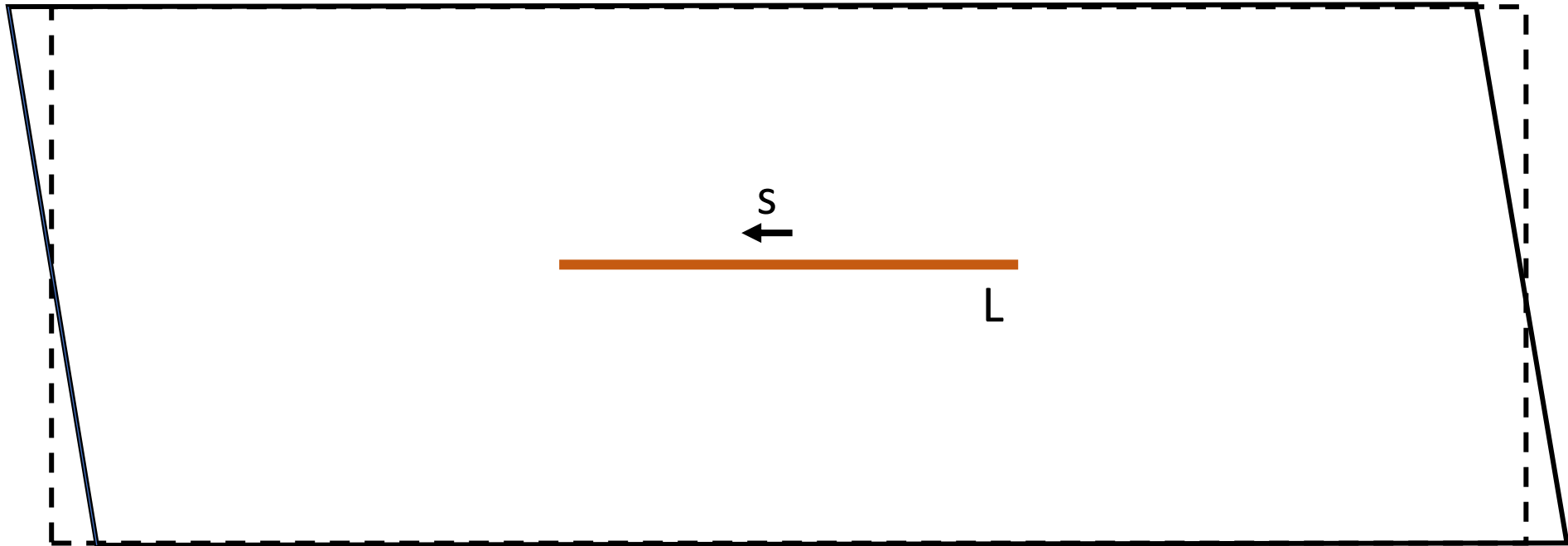
slip, reduced stress



(roughly)

drop in strain: s/L

drop in shear stress: $\mu s/L$

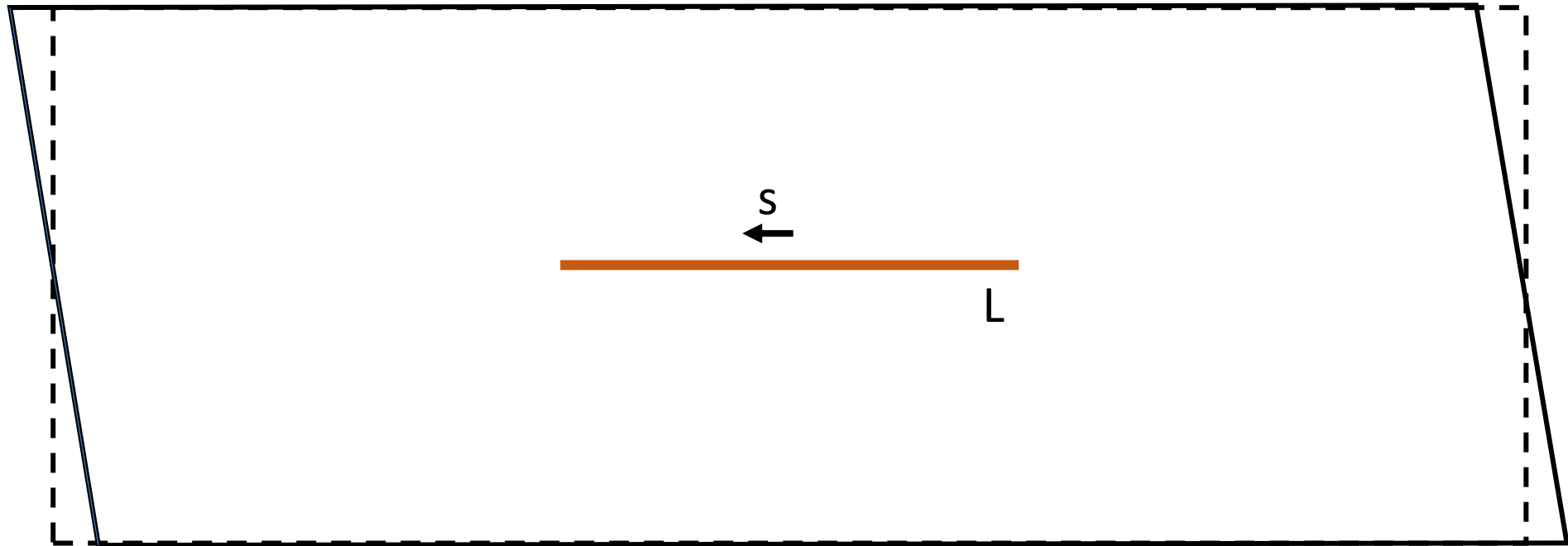


(roughly)

drop in shear stress: $\mu s/L$

$$M_0 \approx \mu s L W \approx \mu s L^2 \quad (\text{if } L \approx W)$$

$$L \approx T/V_r$$

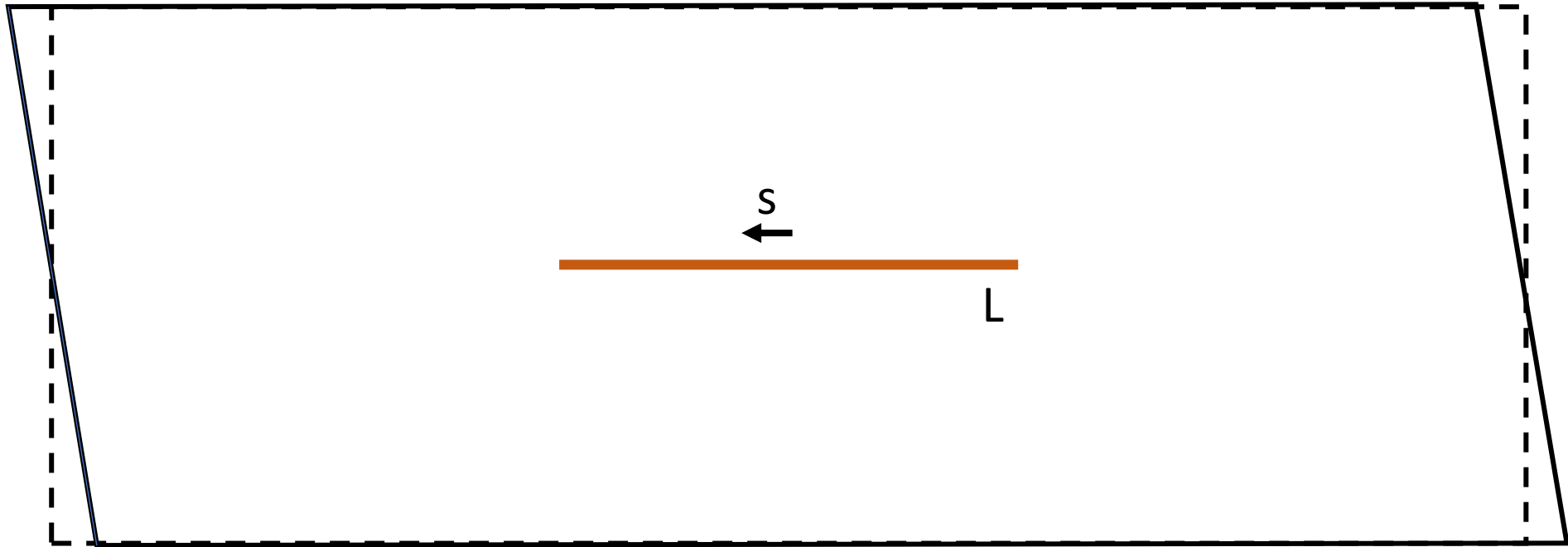


(roughly)

drop in shear stress: $\mu s/L$

$$\mu s \approx \frac{M_0}{L^2}$$

$$L \approx T/V_r$$

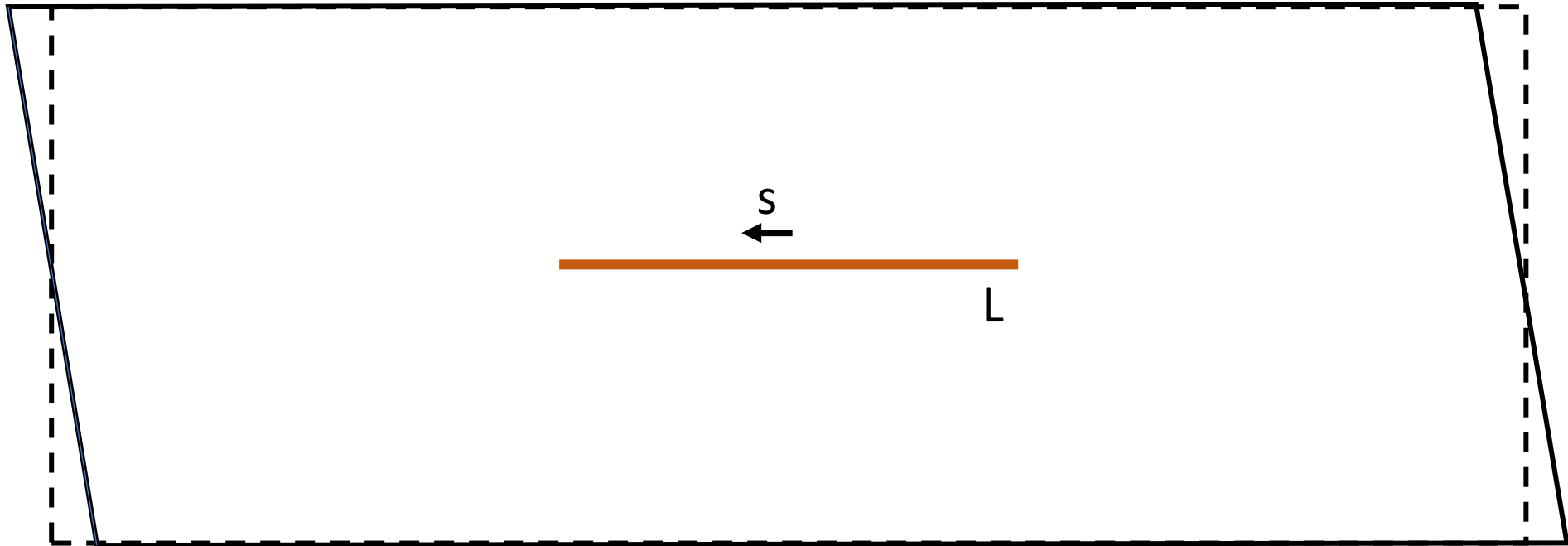


(roughly)

drop in shear stress: $\mu s/L$

$$\frac{\mu s}{L} \approx \frac{M_0}{L^3}$$

$$L \approx T/V_r$$

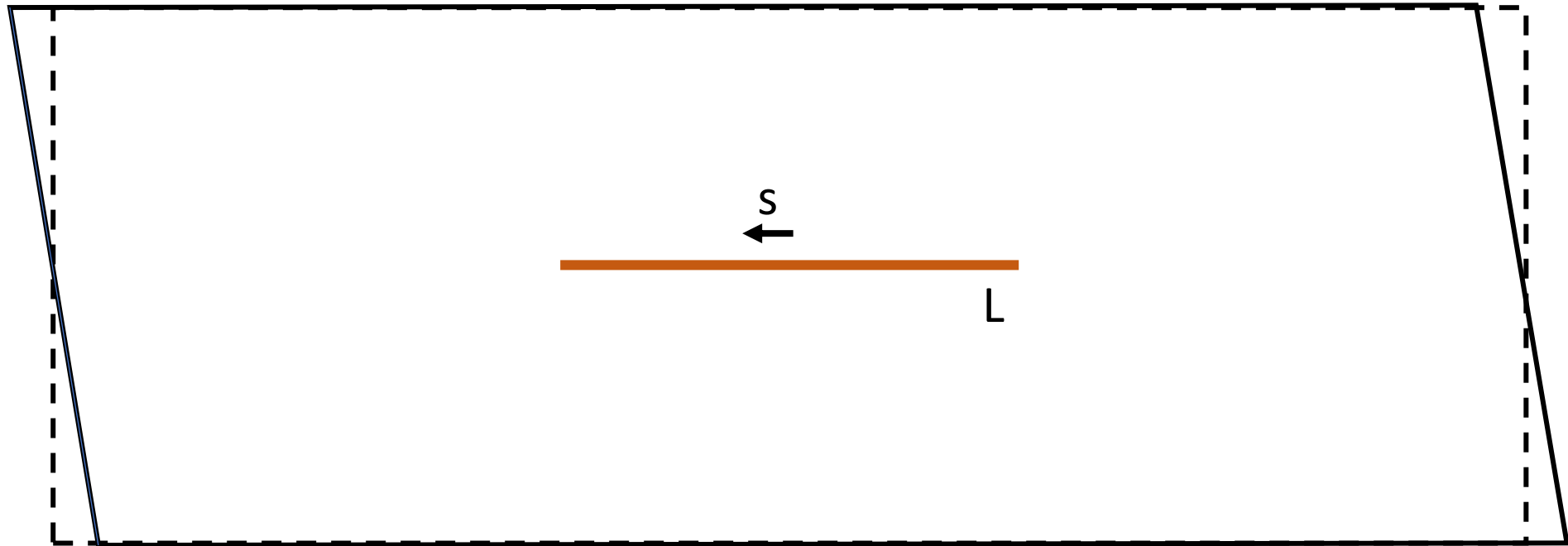


(roughly)

drop in shear stress: $\mu s/L$

$$\frac{\mu s}{L} \approx \frac{M_0}{(T/V_r)^3} \approx \frac{M_0}{(T/\beta)^3} \quad (\text{if } V_r \approx \beta)$$

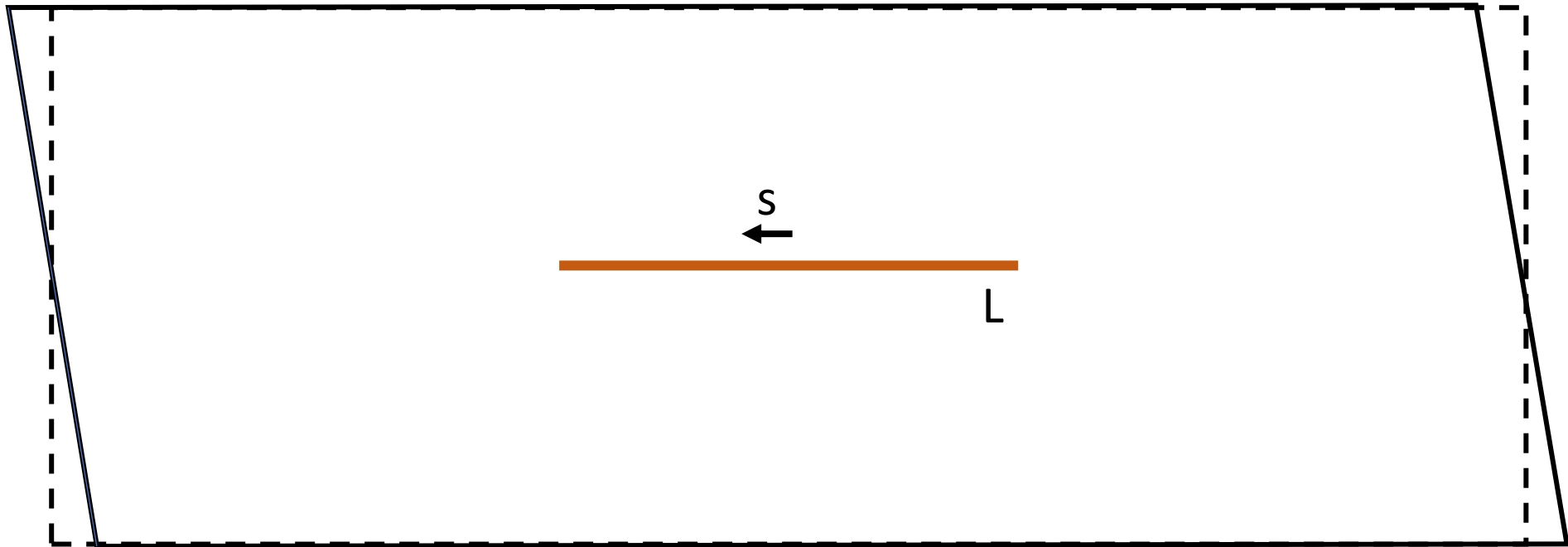
$$L \approx T/V_r$$

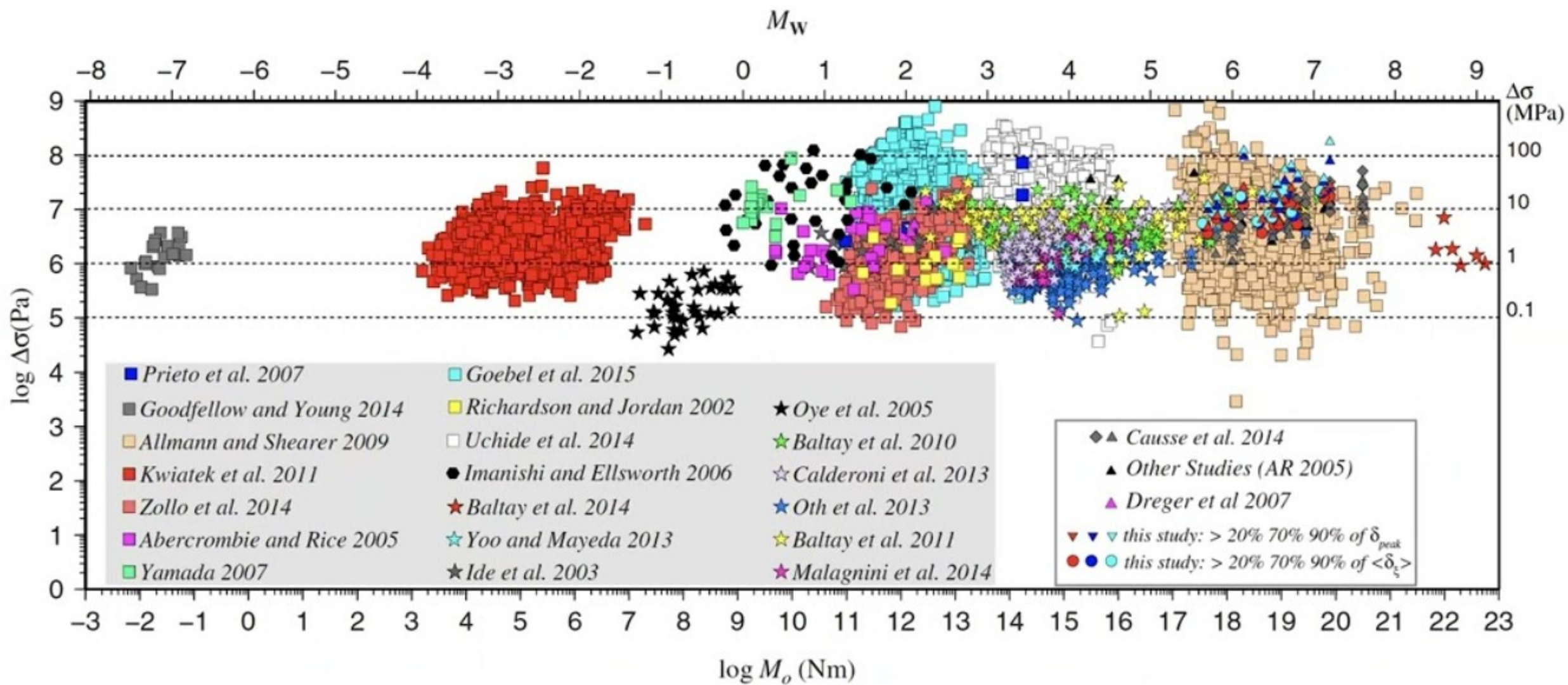


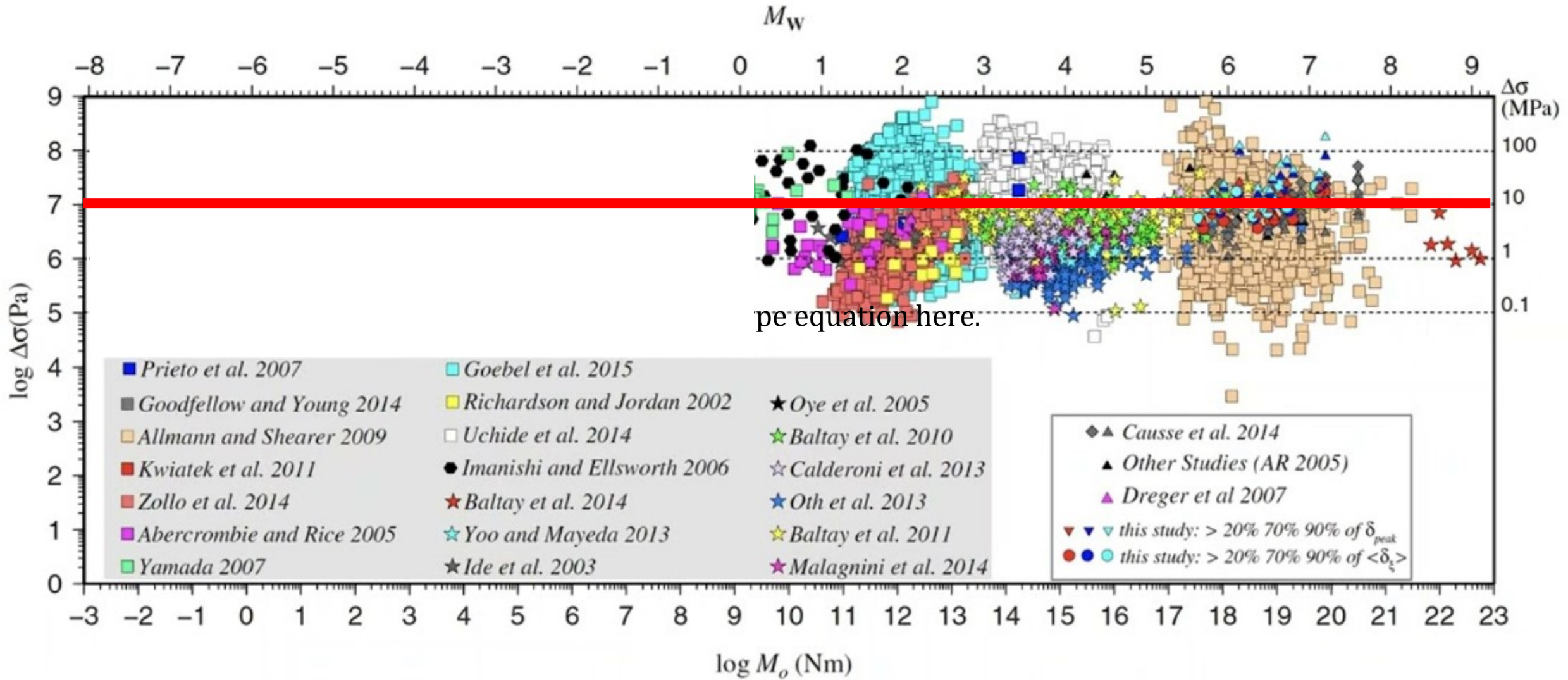
(roughly)

drop in shear stress can be measured seismologically

$$\Delta\sigma \approx \frac{M_0}{(T/\beta)^3}$$







1×10^7 Pa \approx 100 atm (relatively low stress, relatively constant with earthquake size)

Another interesting tidbit

earthquake is releasing stress from plate tectonic motion that has
already happened

and GPS measurements show that plate tectonic motions
(away from the plate edges)

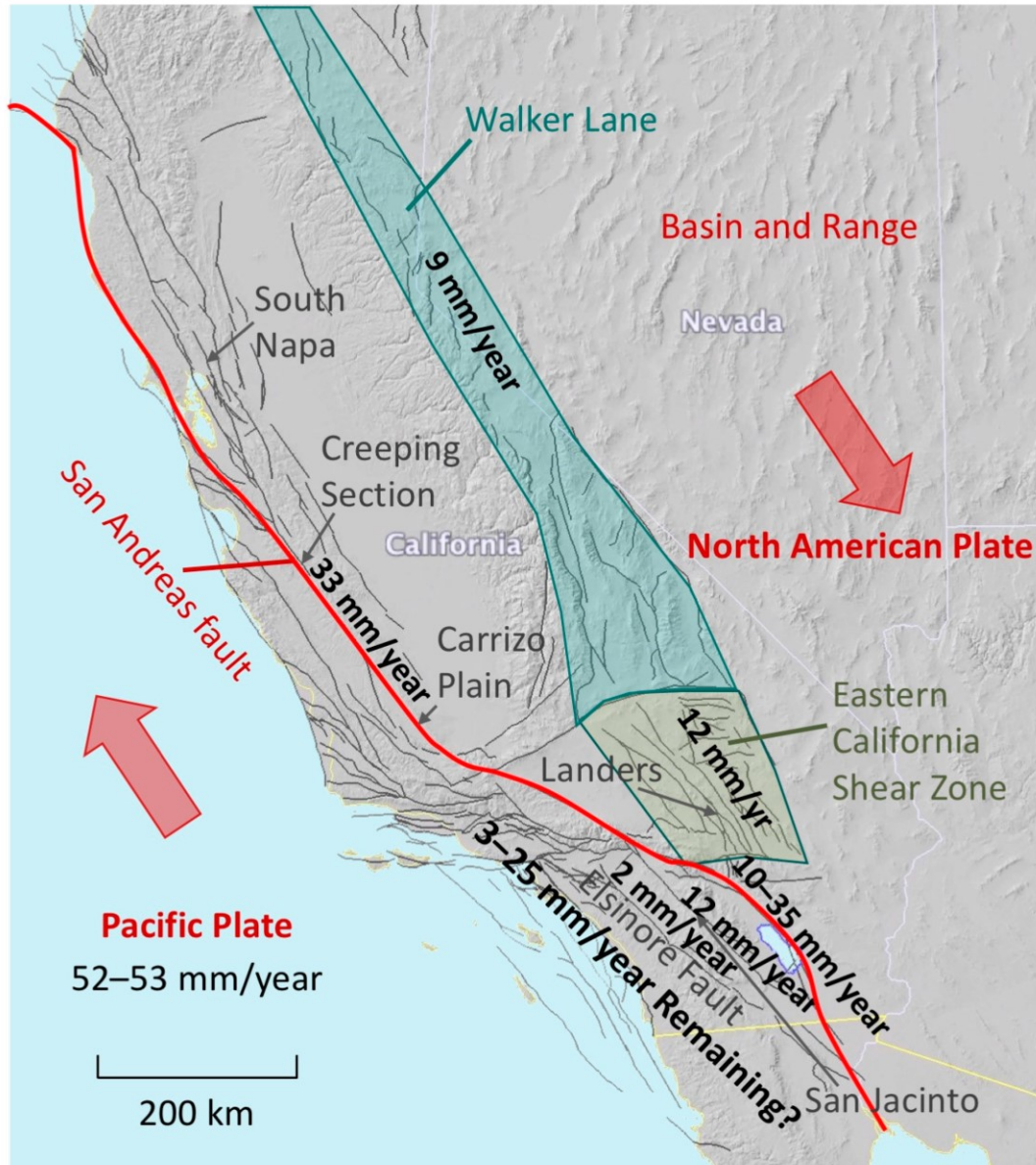
are occurring at a near-constant rate

Mean Recurrence Time of Earthquakes

typical slip for the fault in question

divided by

rate of plate motion



northern San Andreas Fault (SAF)

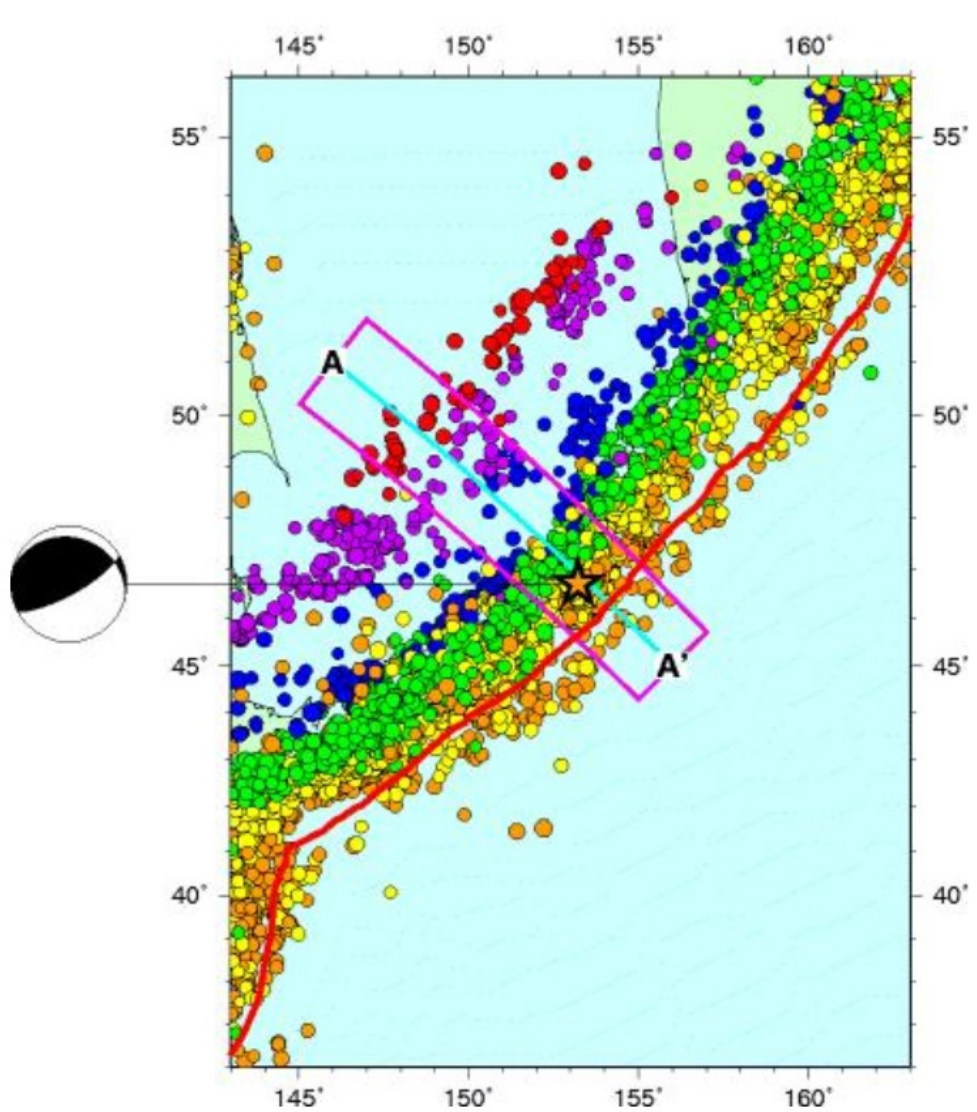
*North-American Pacific 52 mm/yr
but some accommodated east of SAF
about 33 for SAF*

*1906 Magntude 7.7 earthquake
maximum slip 9.7 m
but average is less, say 5 m
(= 5000 mm)*

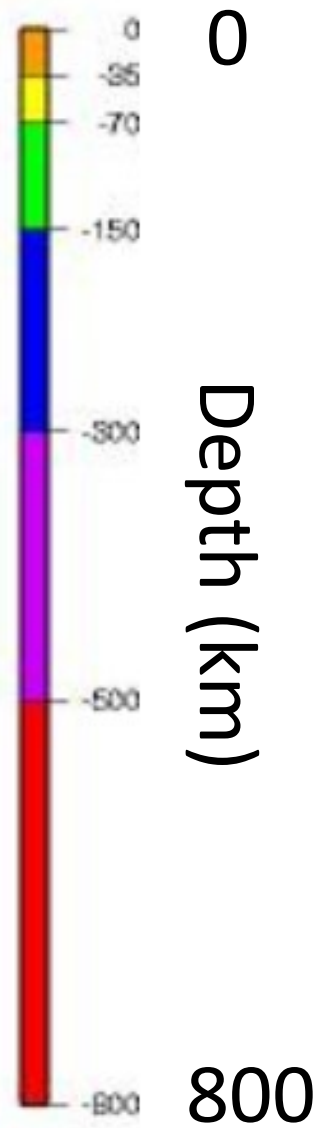
*Recurrence time
 $5000/33 = 151$ years*

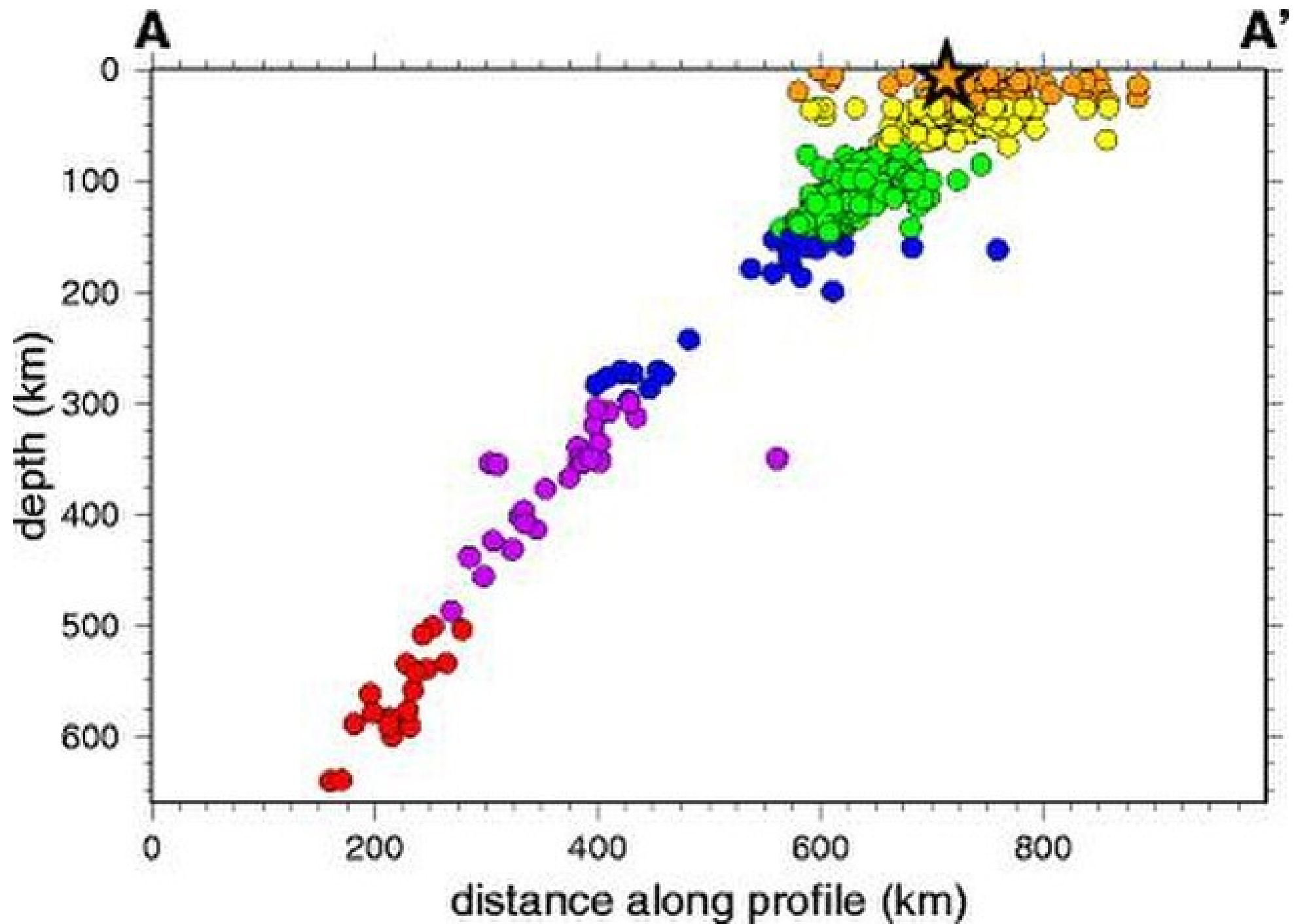
Seismotectonics

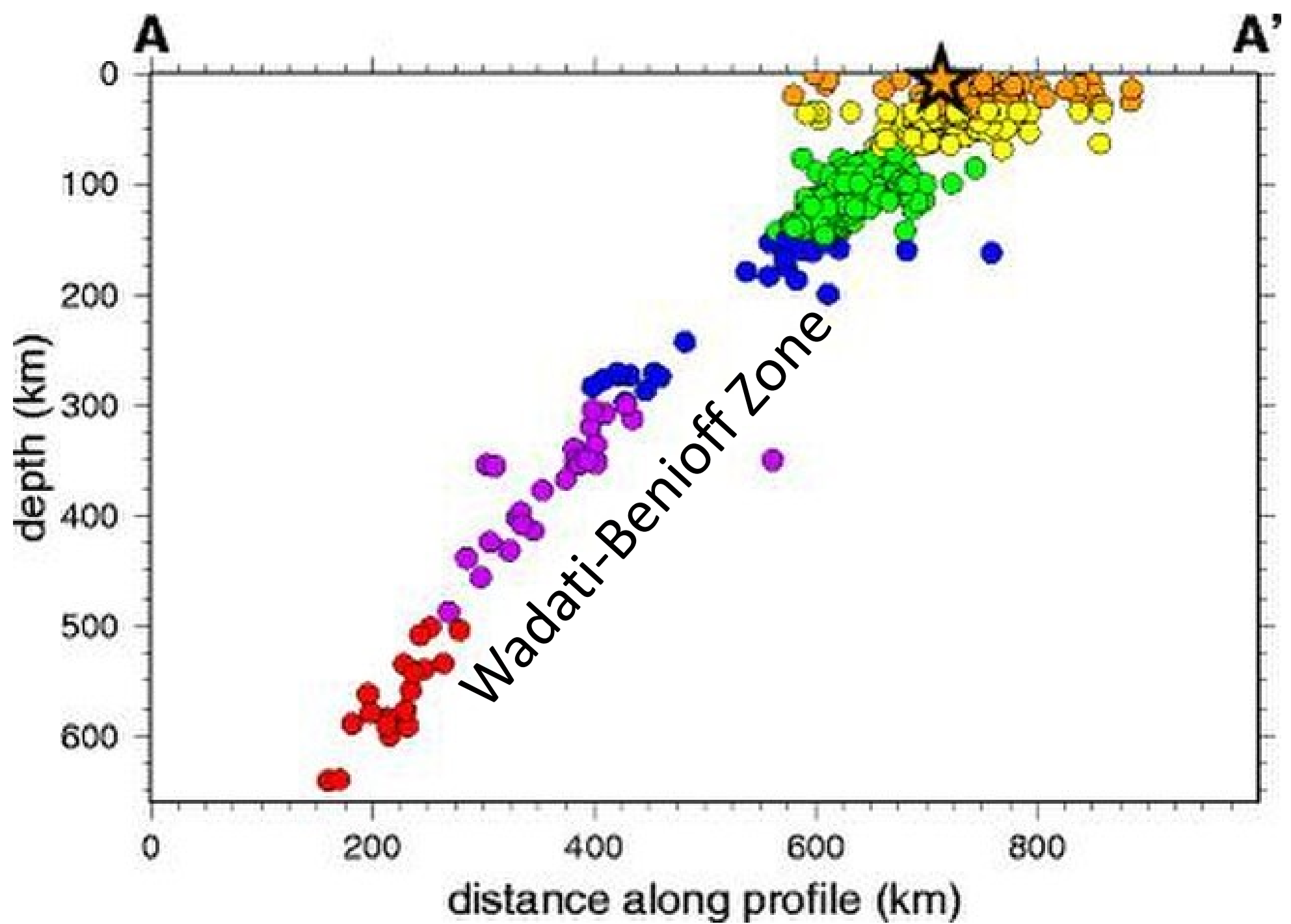
subduction zones

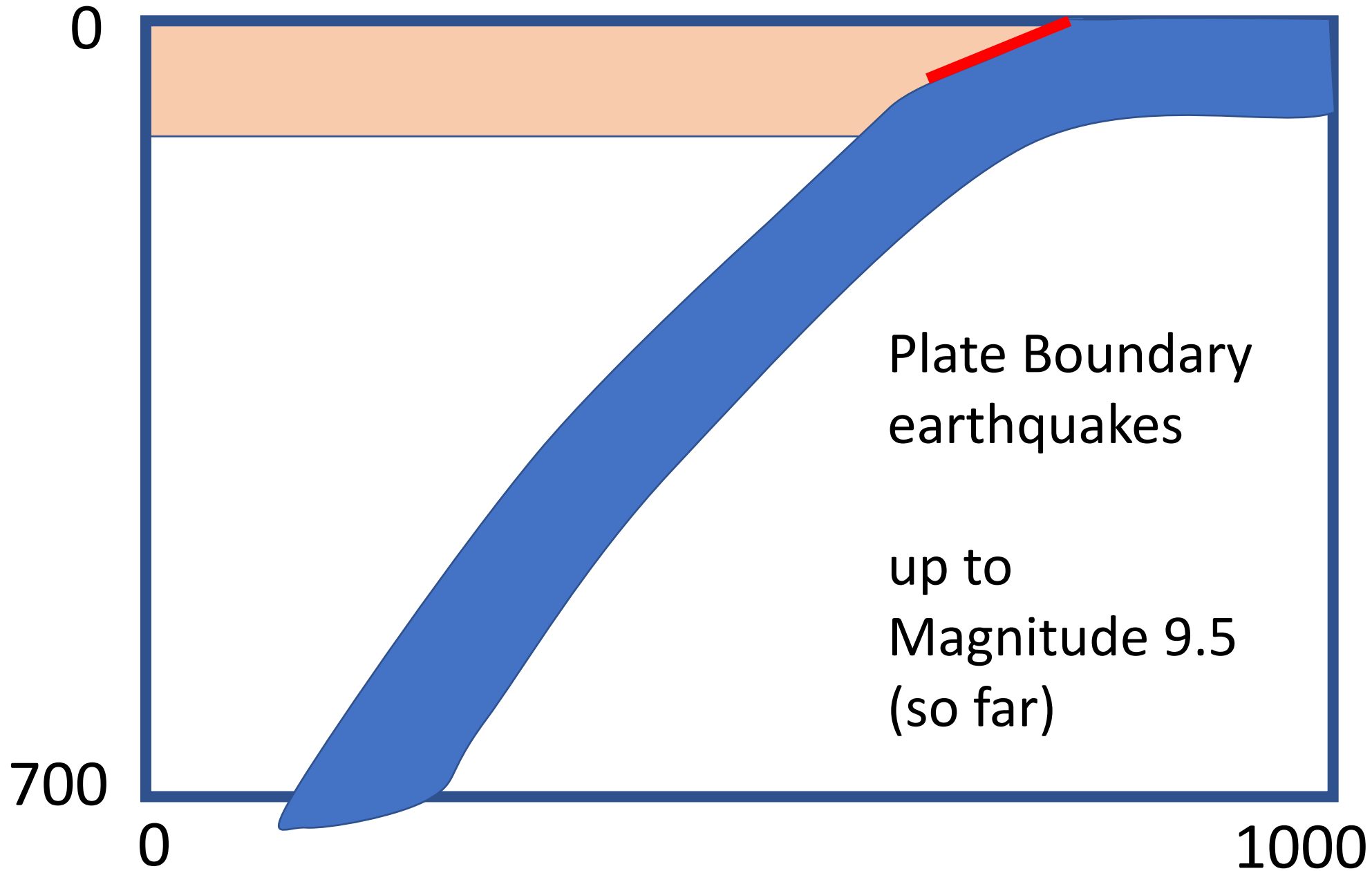


No higher resolution available.

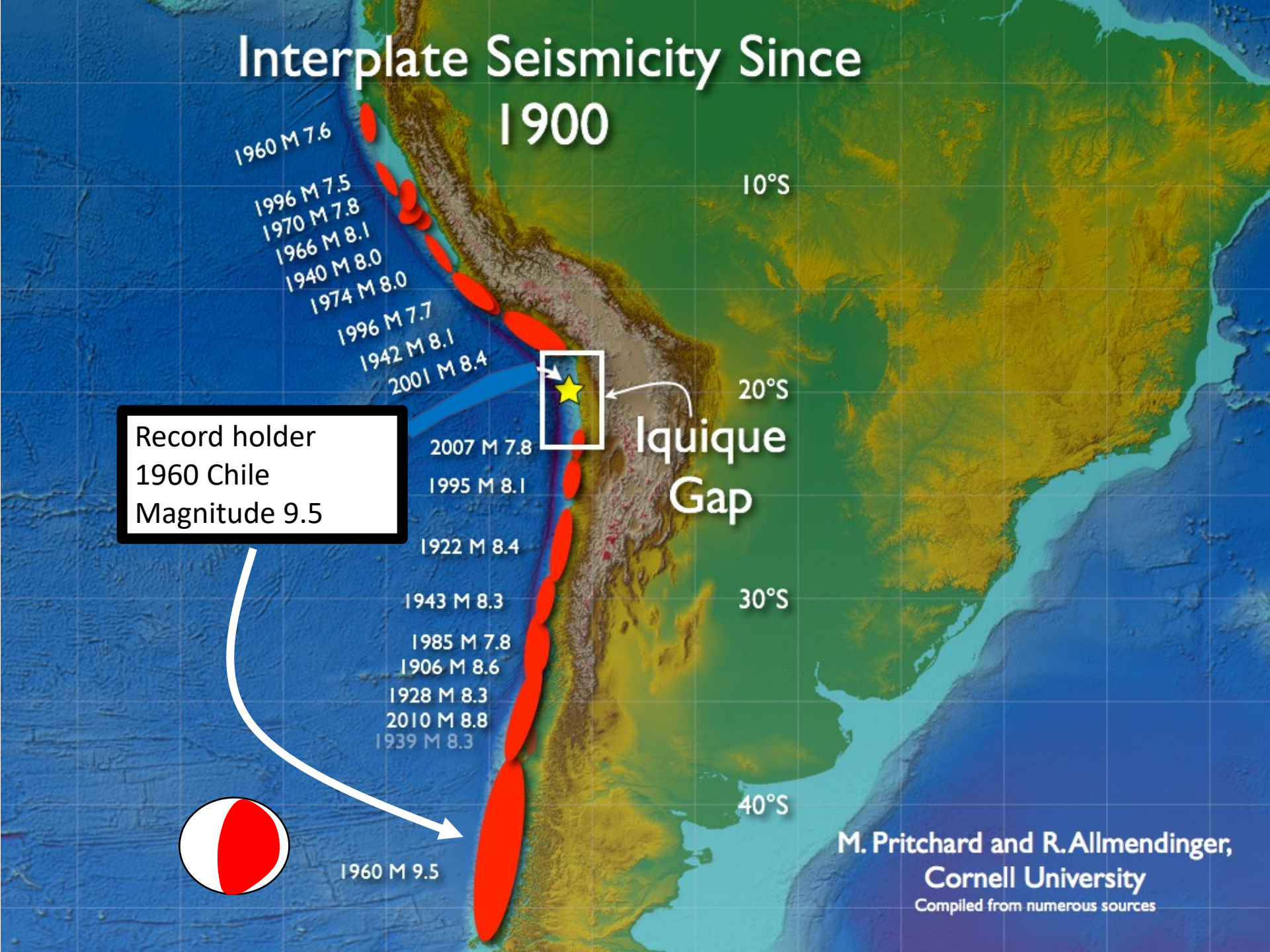


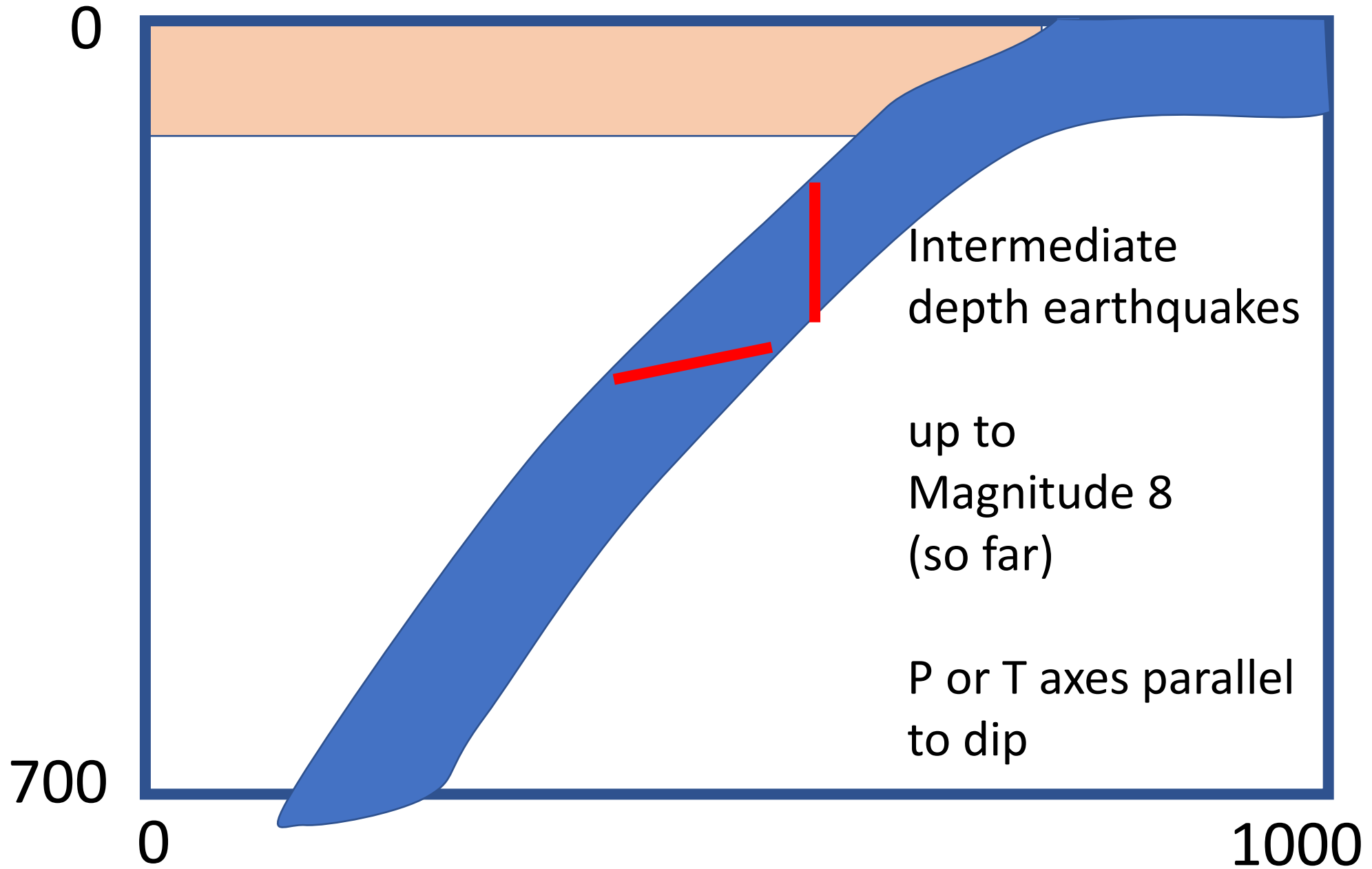


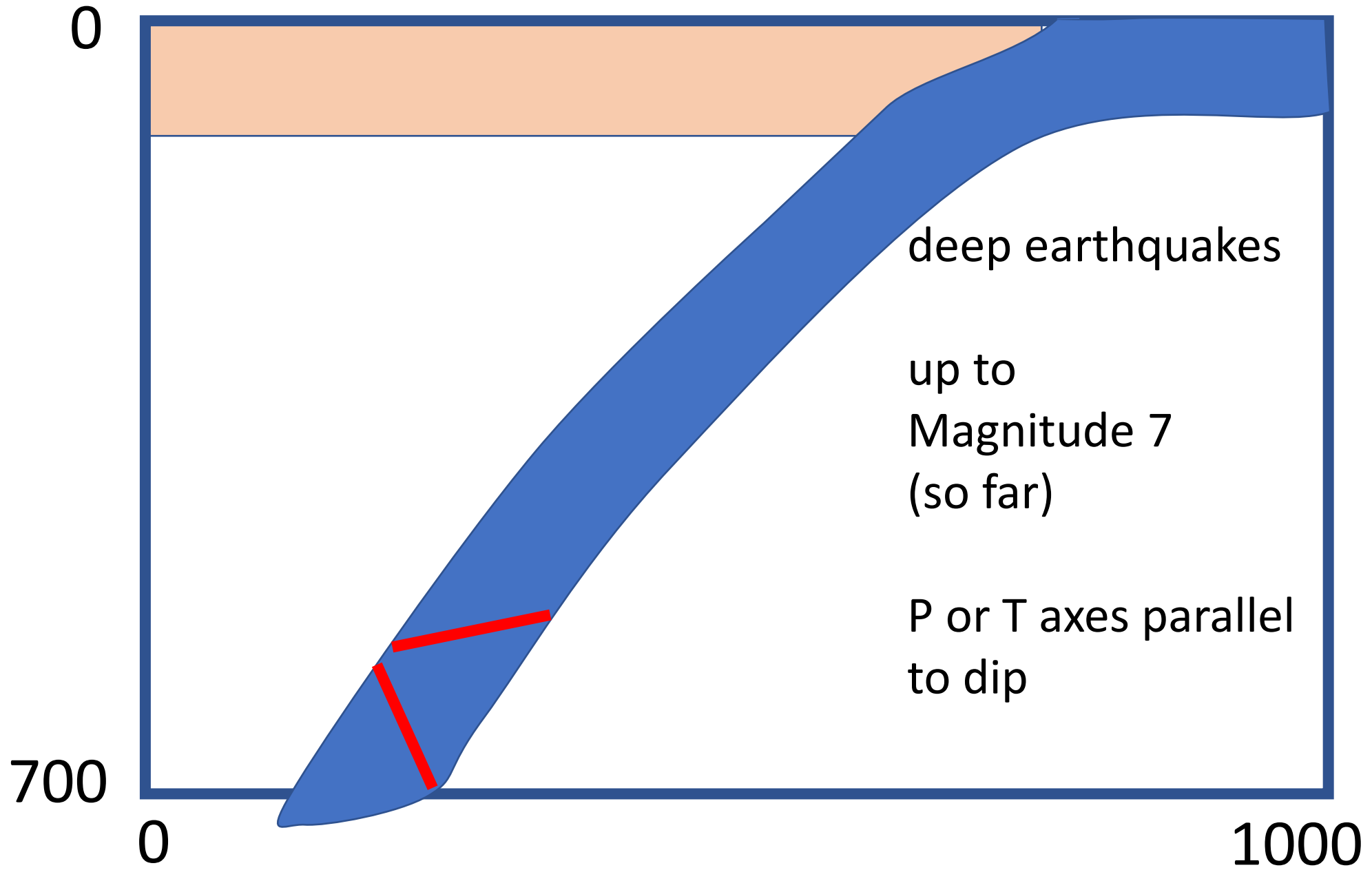


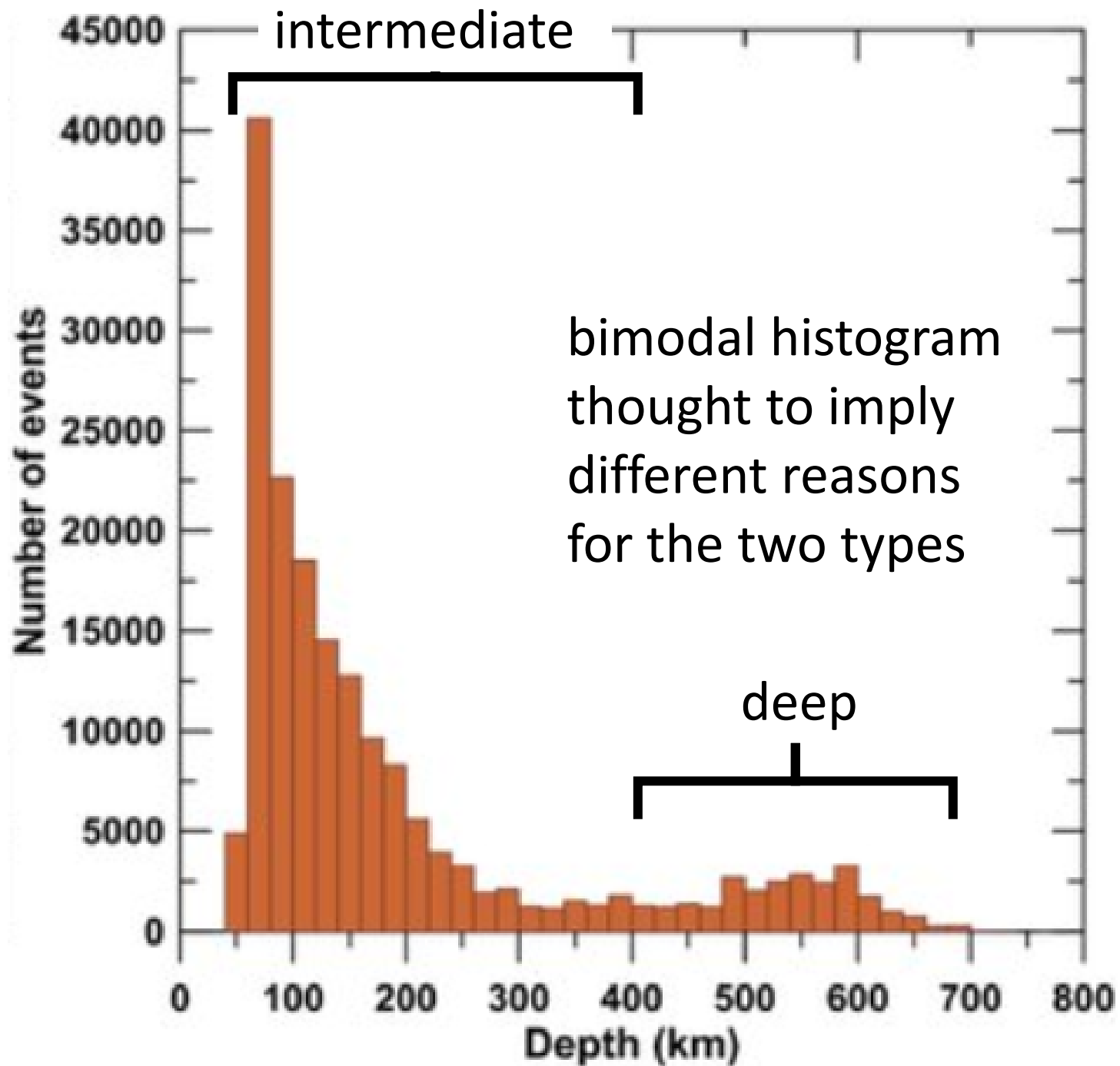


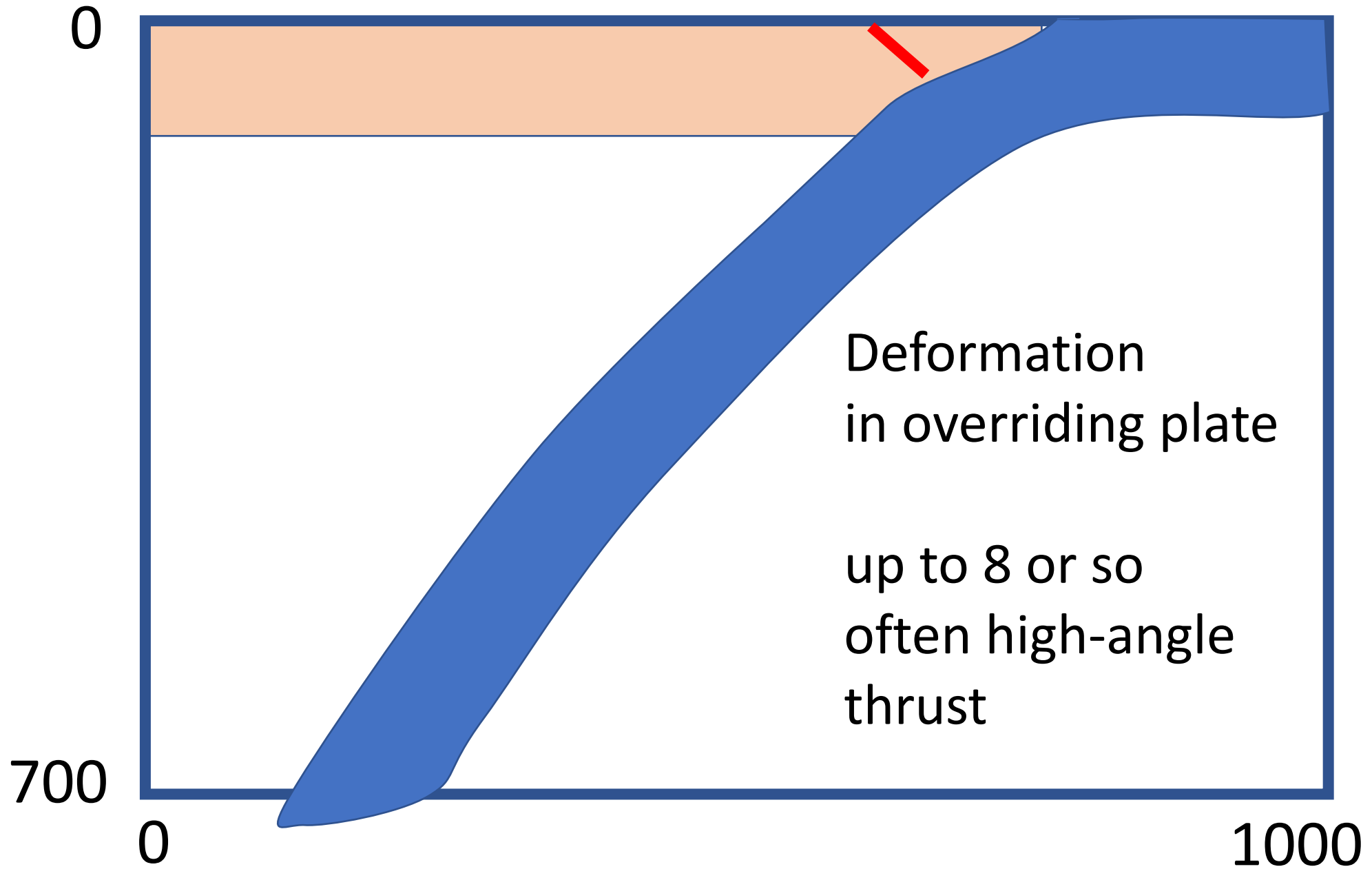
Interplate Seismicity Since 1900

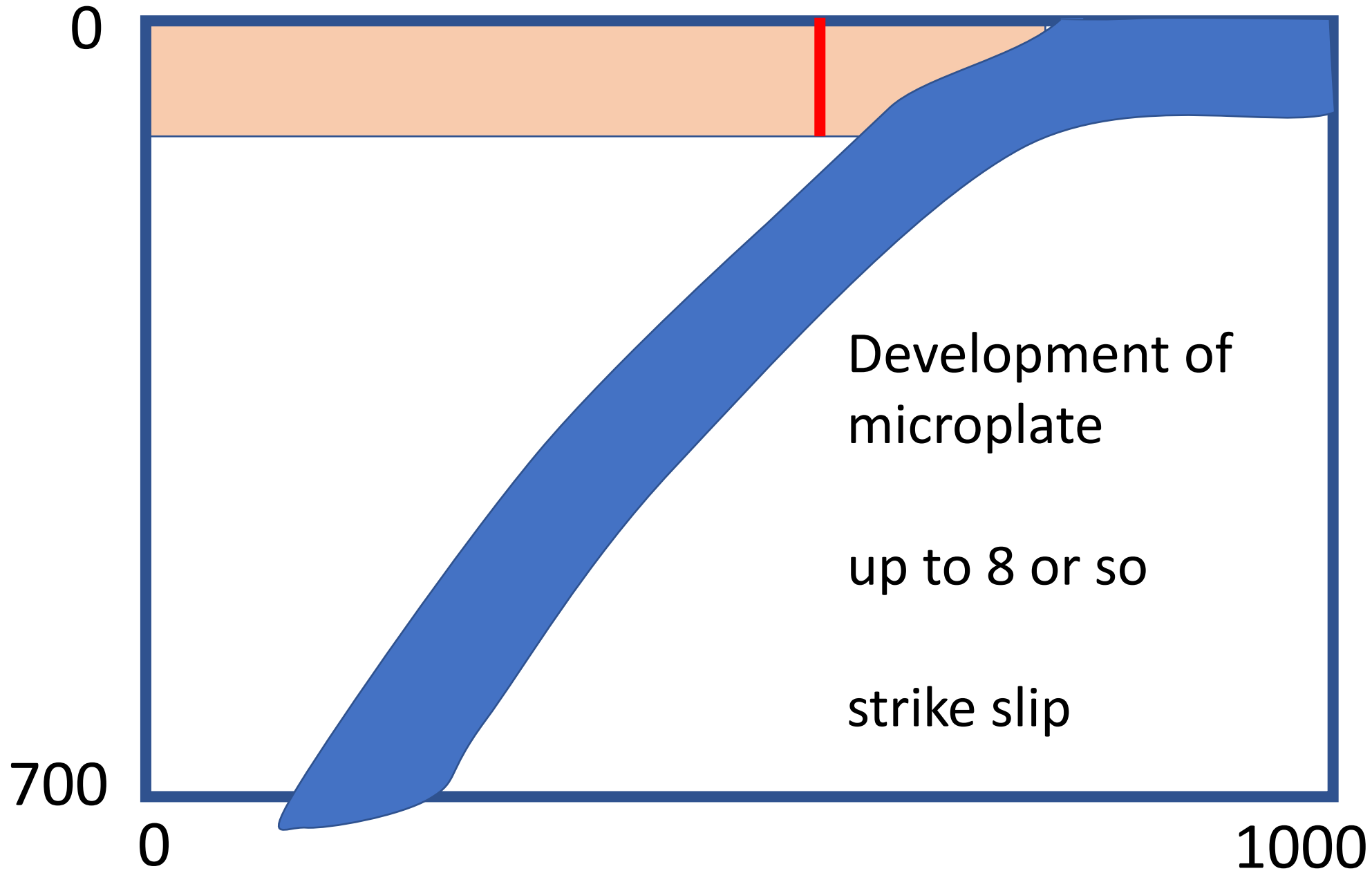


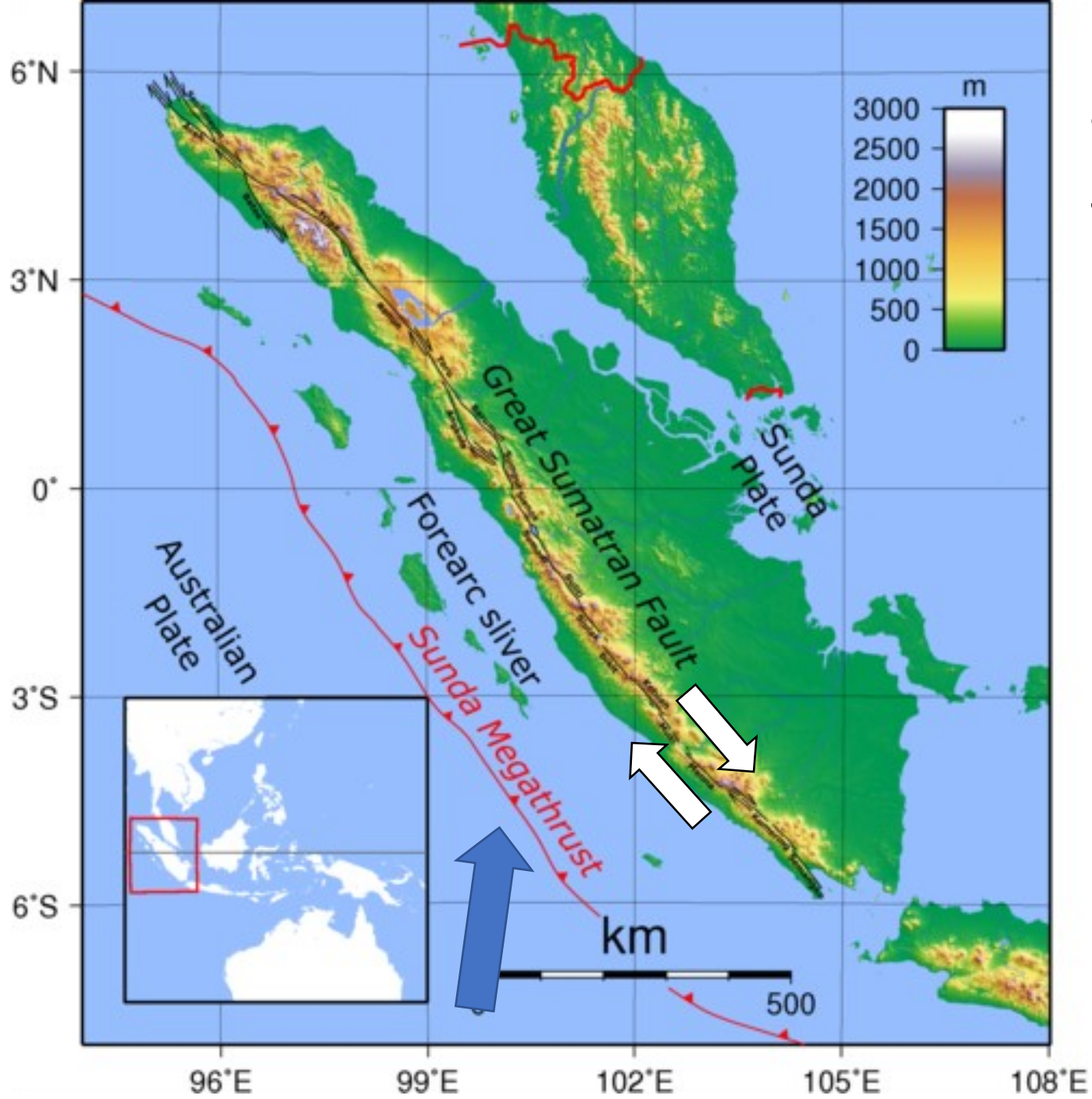




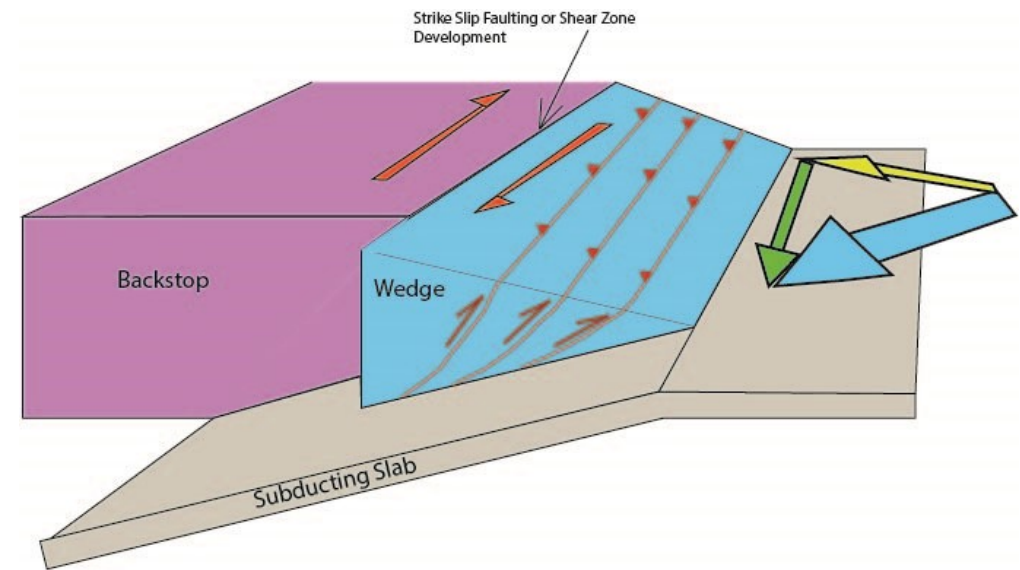


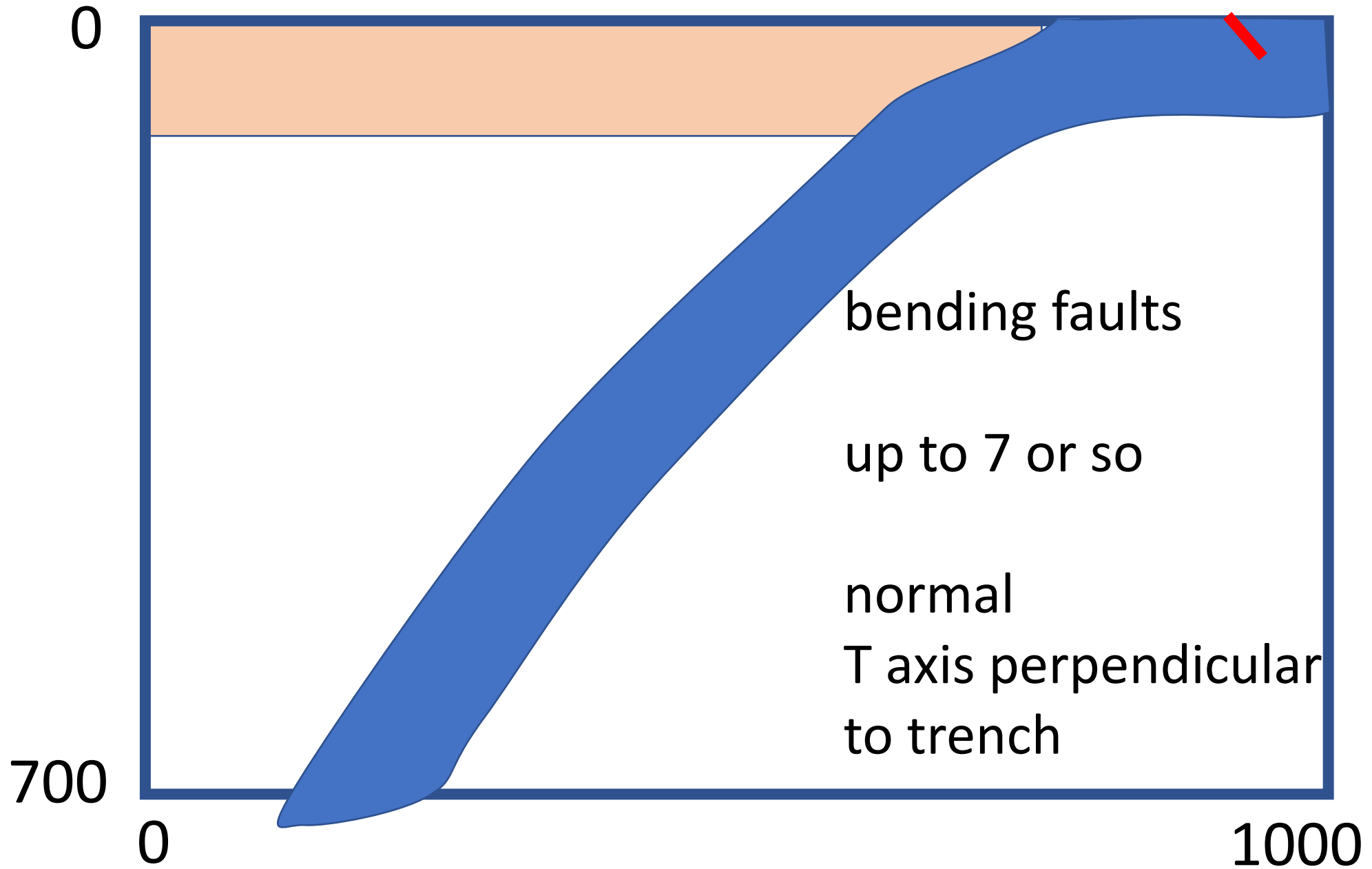




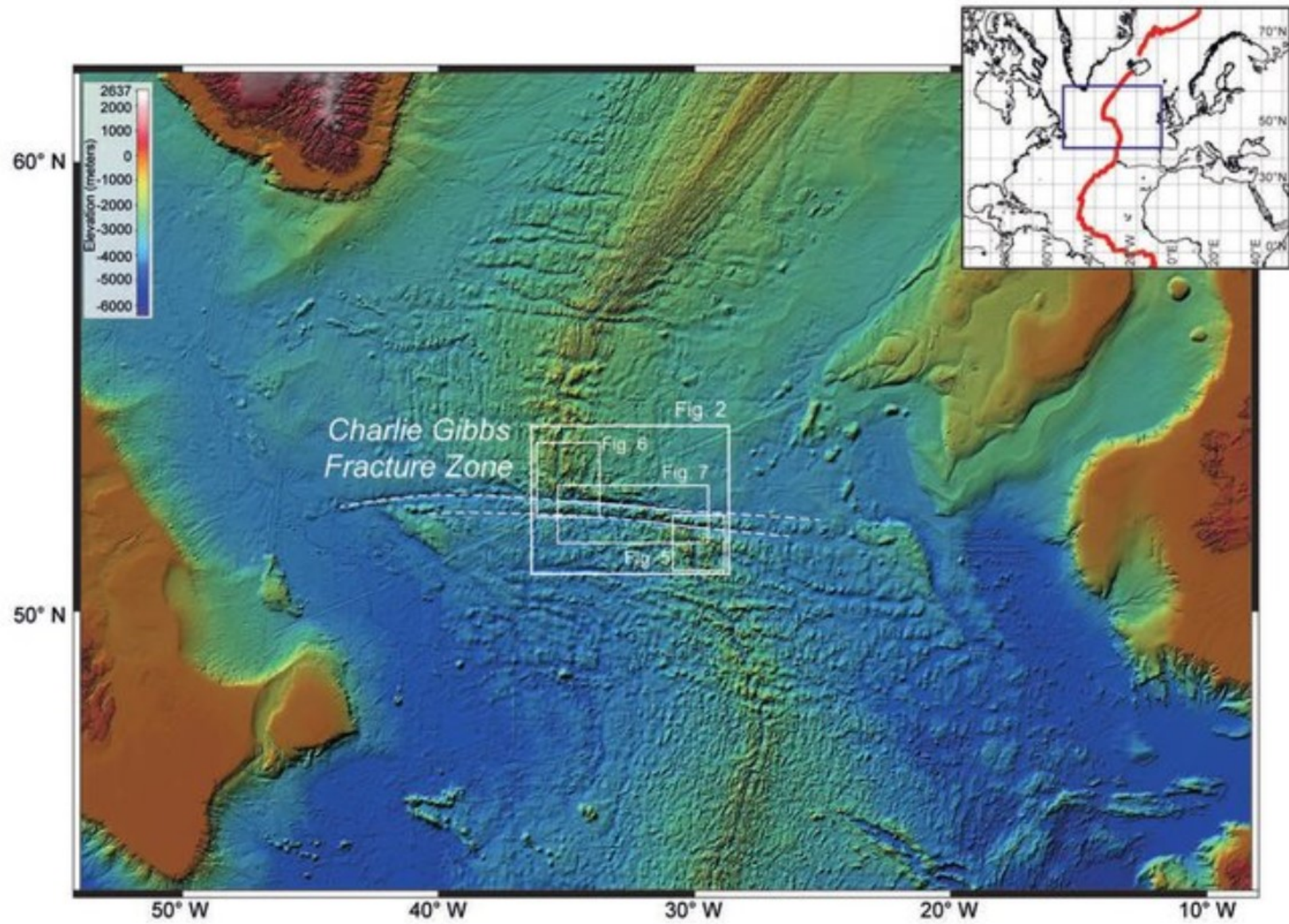


accommodates oblique subduction (strain partitioning)

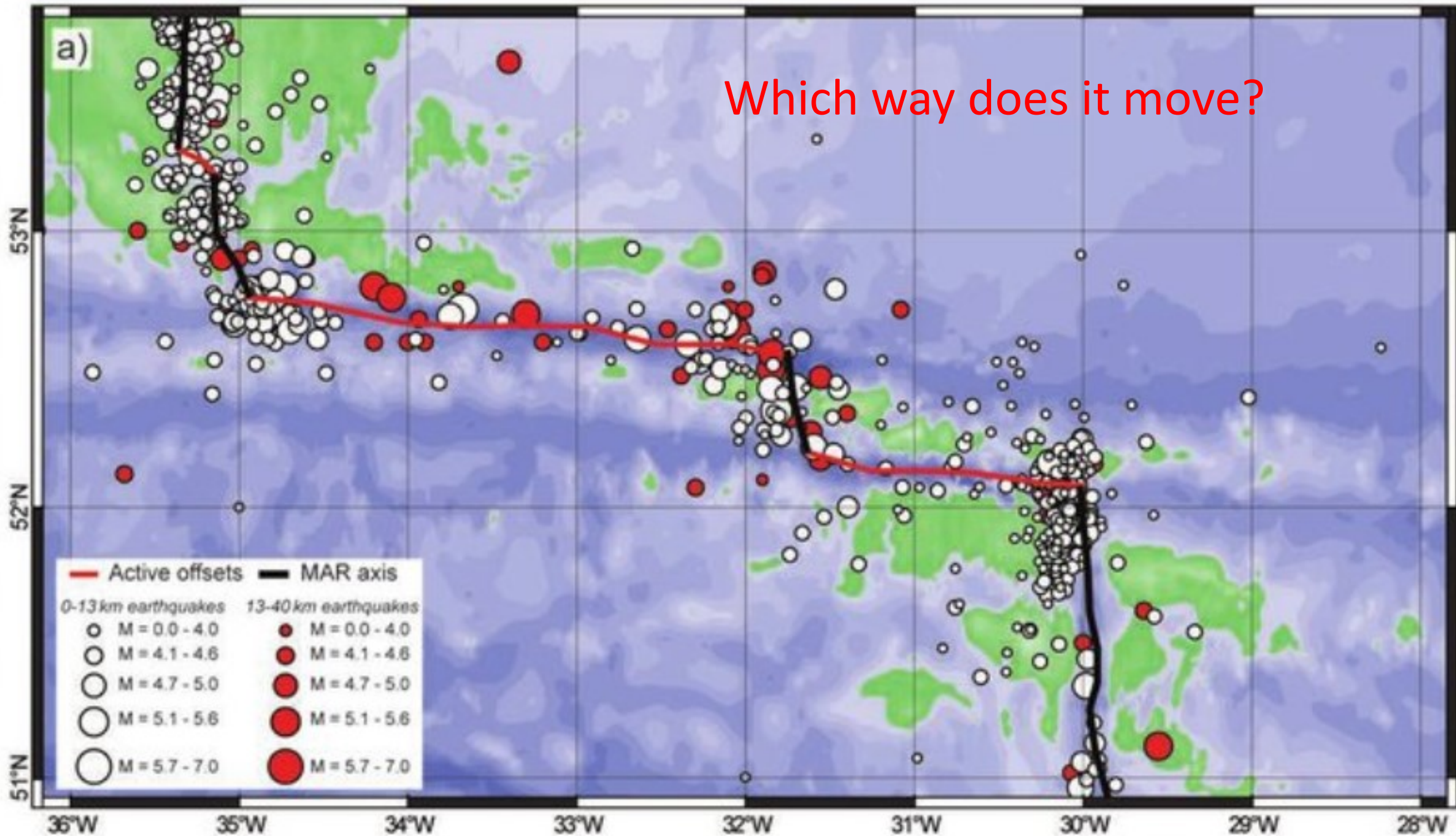


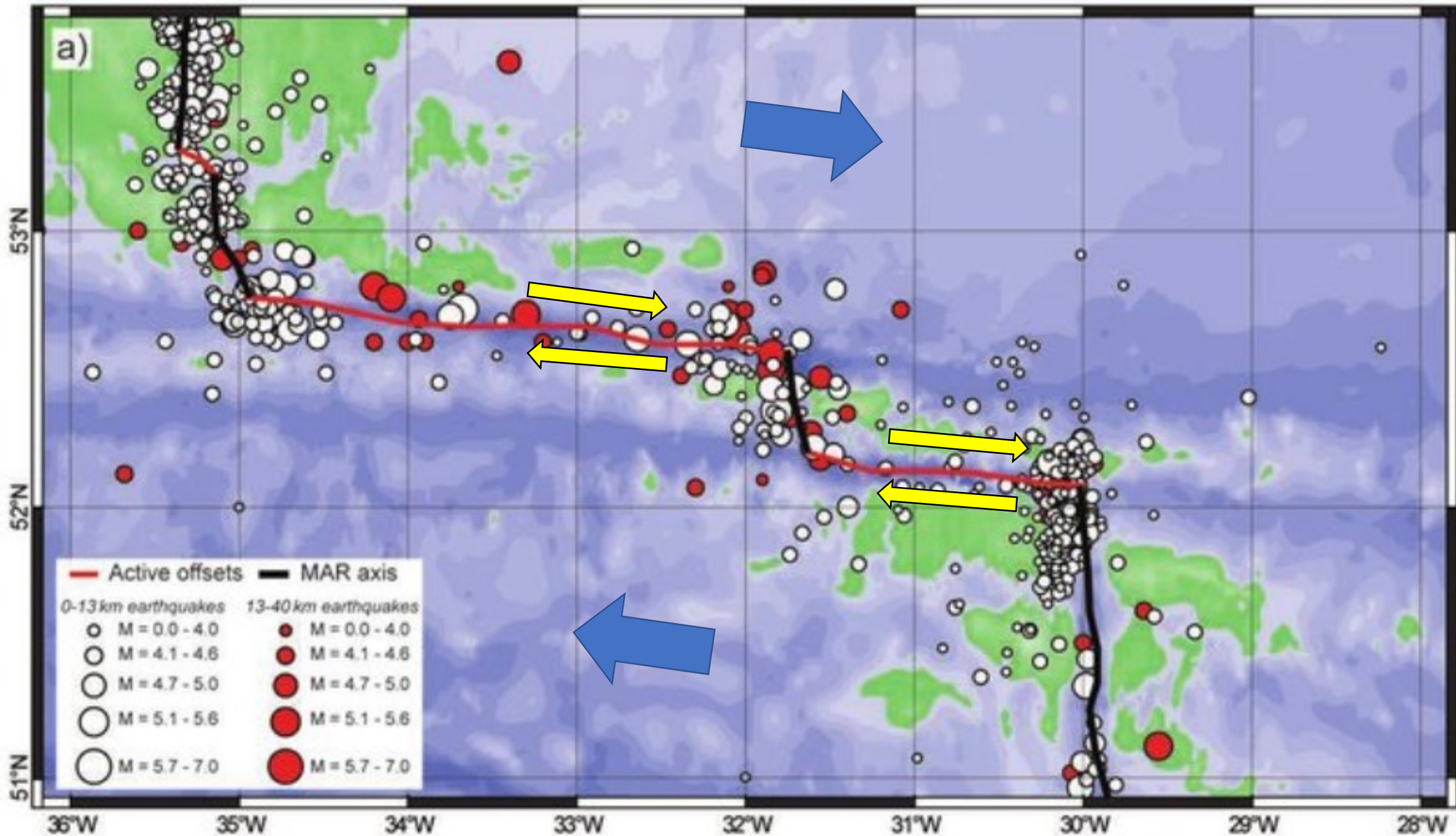


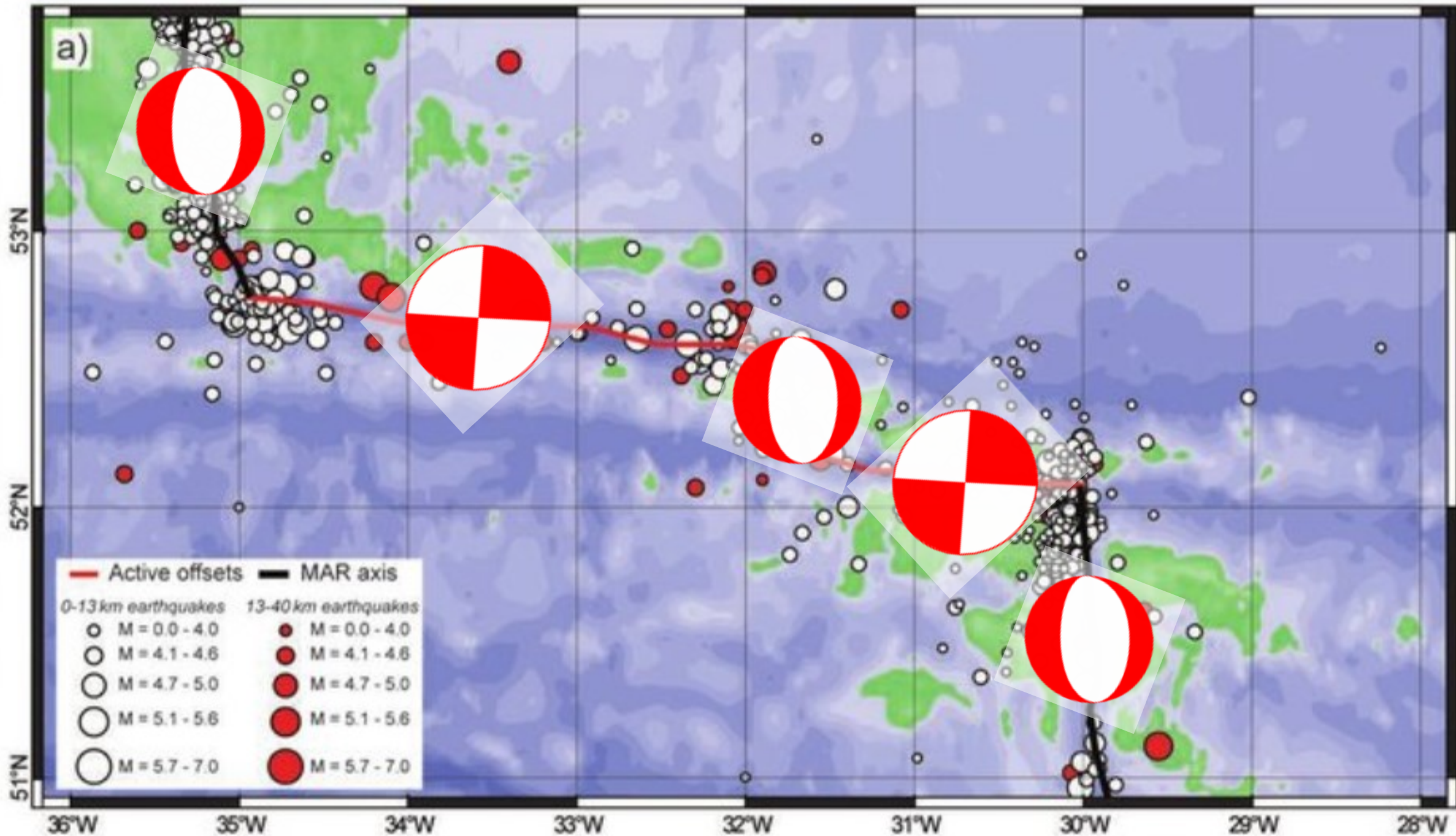
oceanic ridge - transform

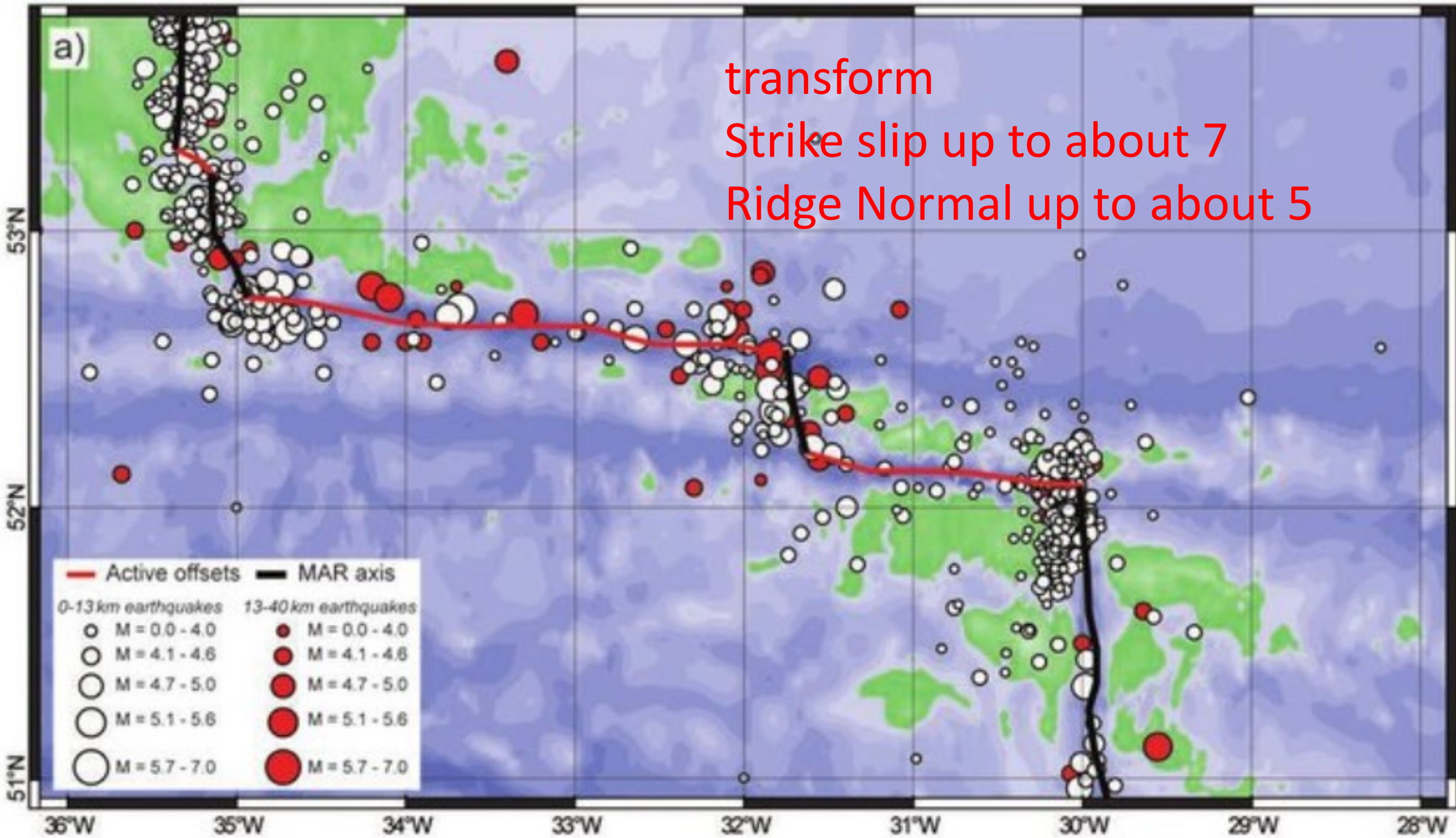


Which way does it move?







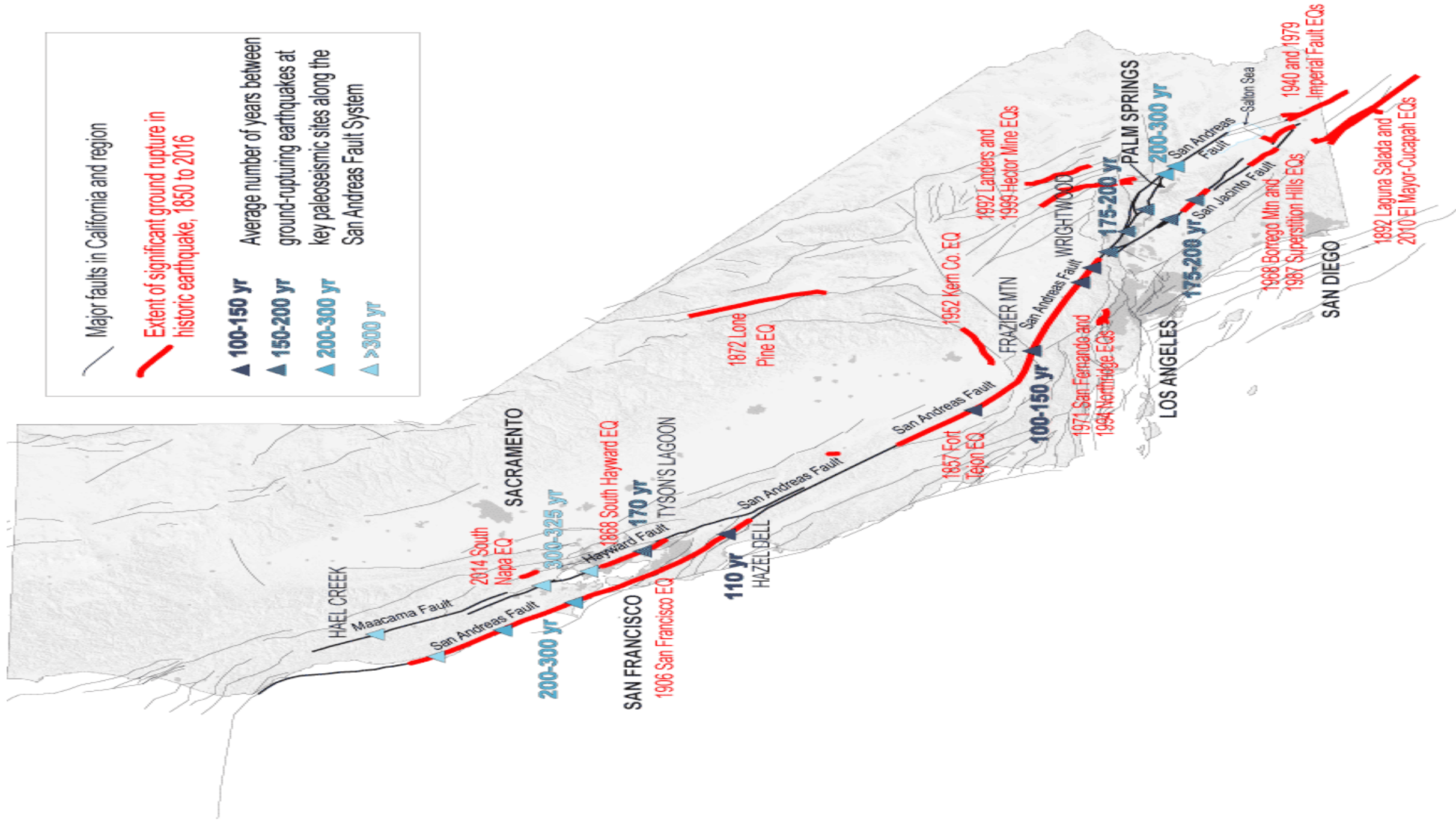


continental transform

California's San Andreas Fault



Map copyright © 2006 David K. Lynch





SACRAMENT

HAEL CREEK

Maacama Fault

San Andreas Fault

2014 South Napa EQ

200-300 yr

300-325 yr

1868 South Hayward EQ

Hayward Fault

SAN FRANCISCO

1906 San Francisco EQ

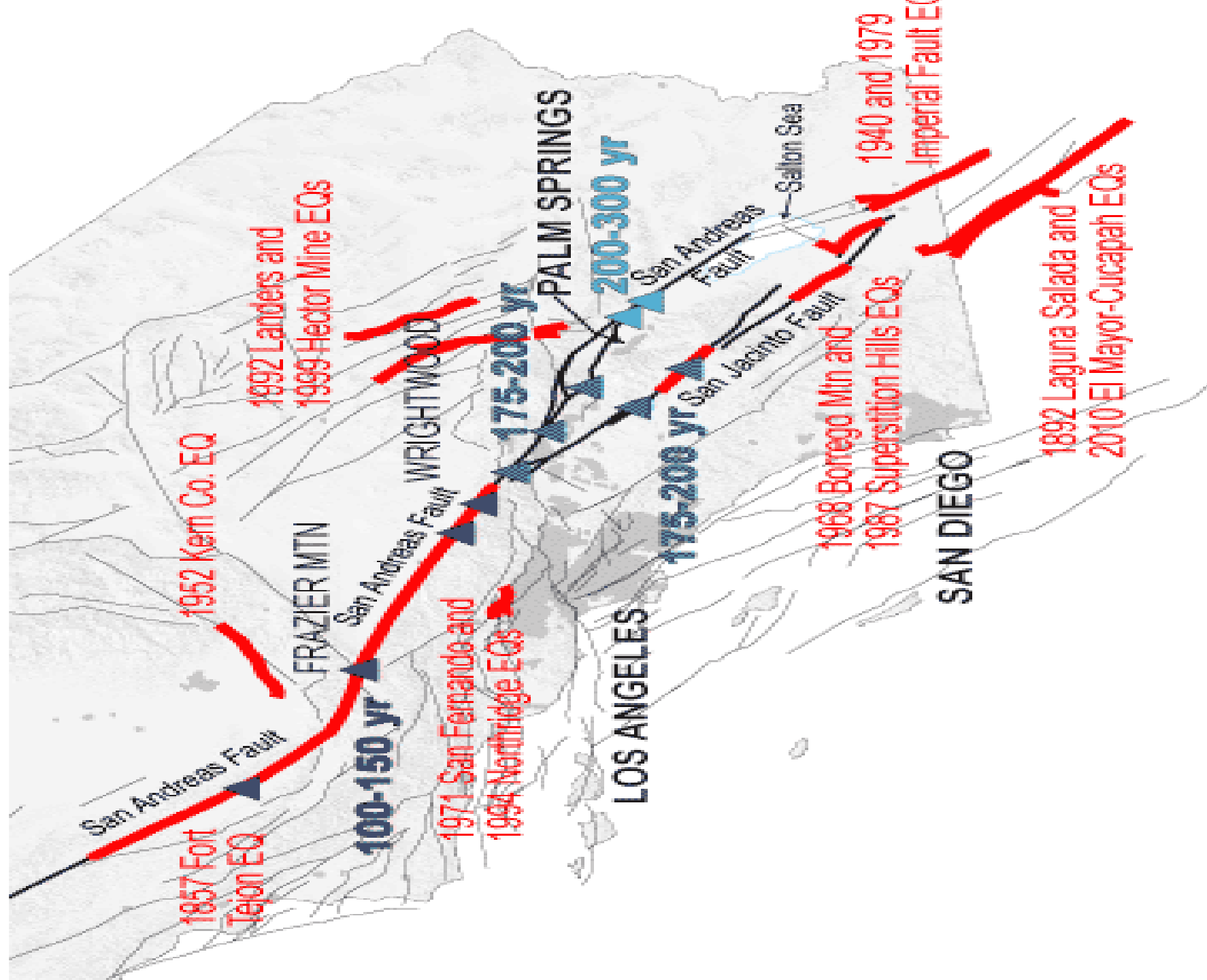
170 yr

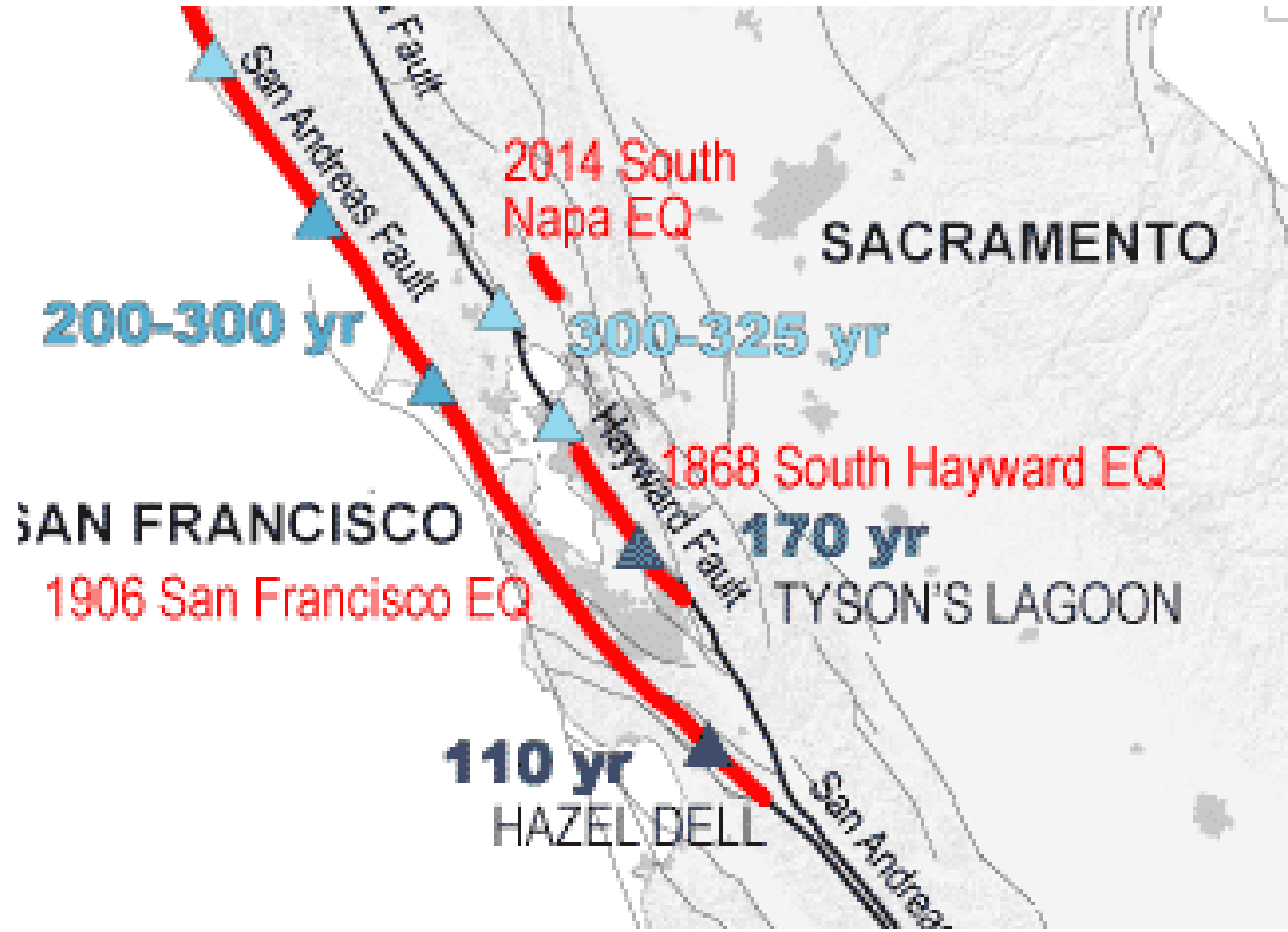
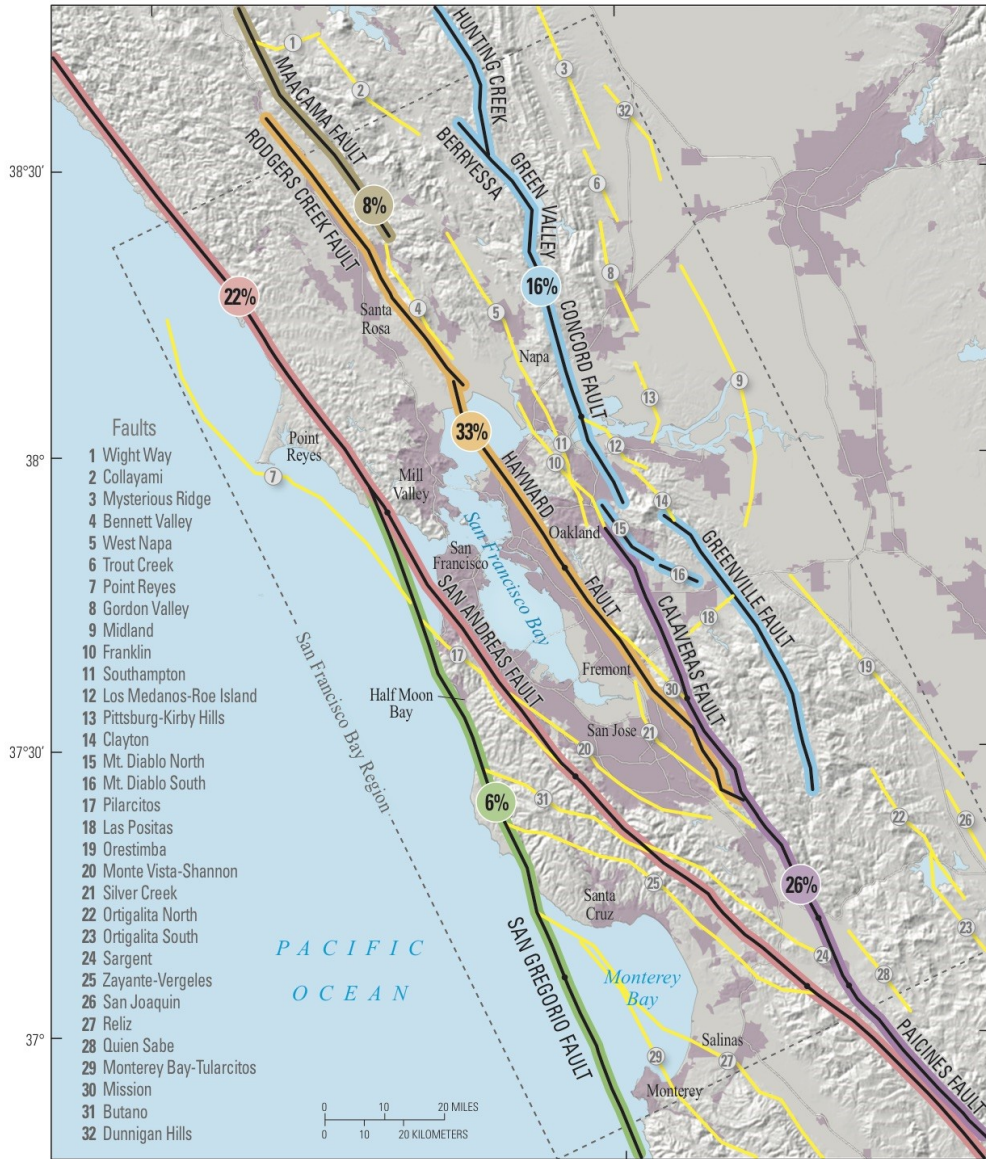
TYSON'S LAGOON

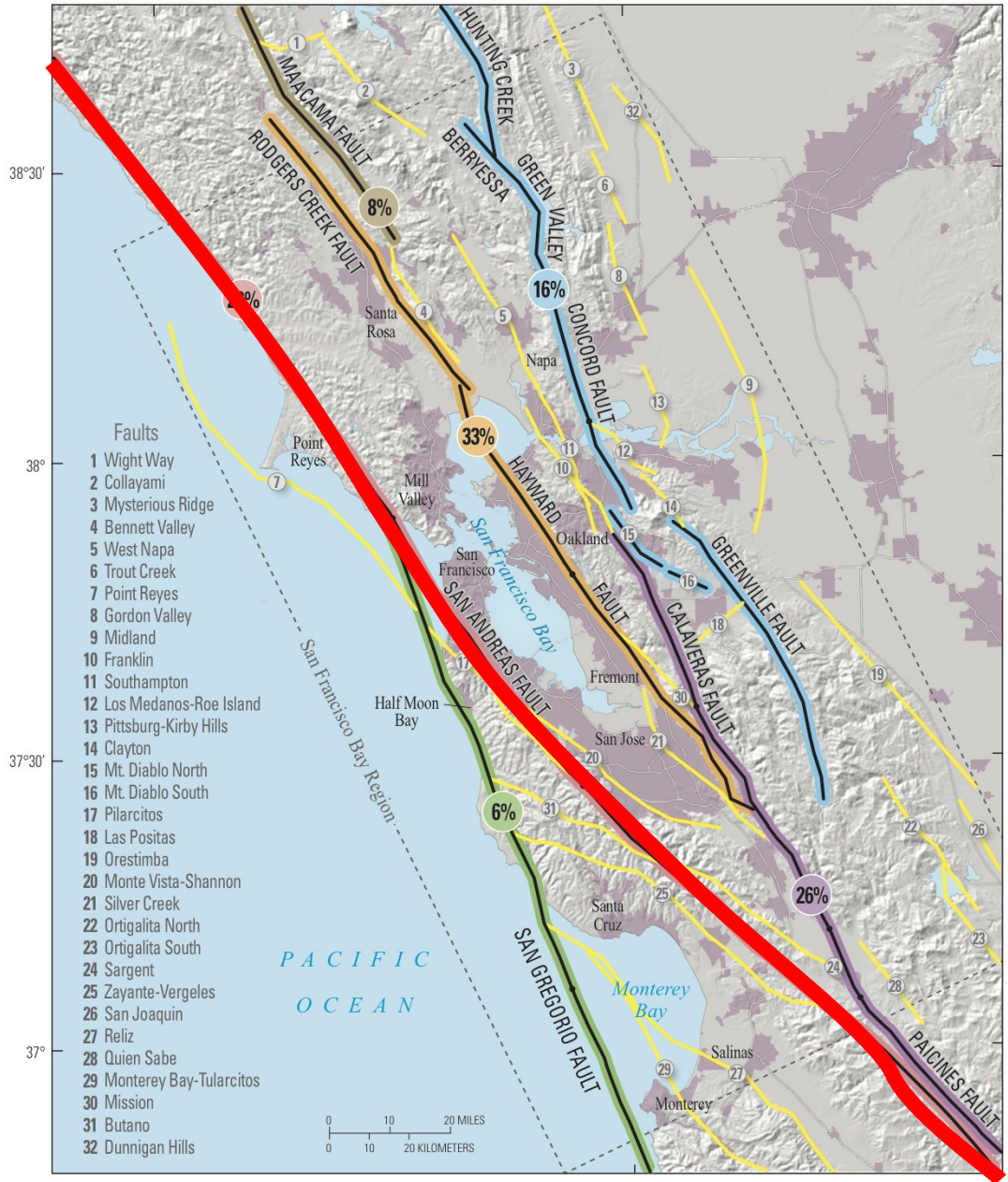
110 yr

HAZEL DELL

San Andreas Fault



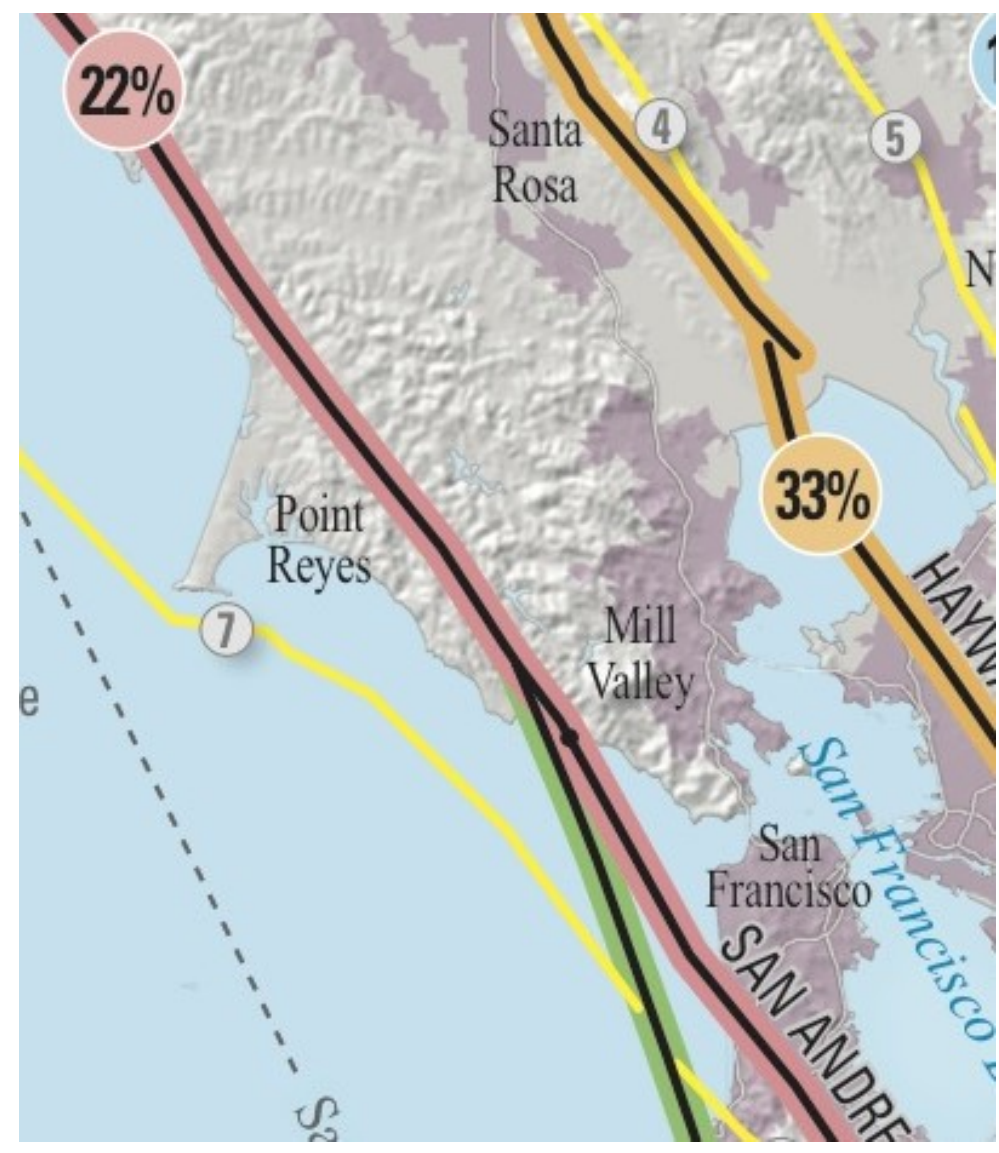
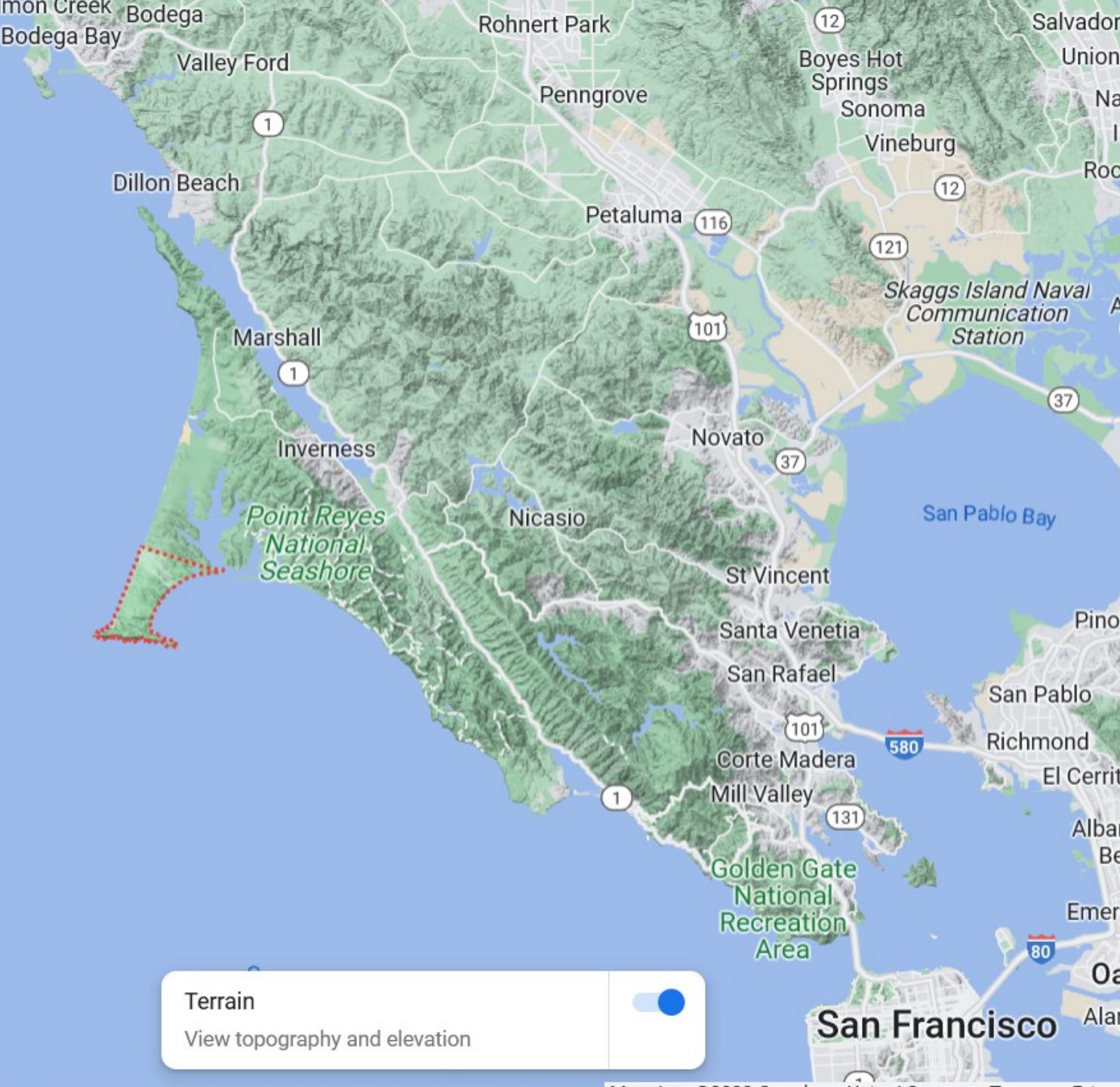


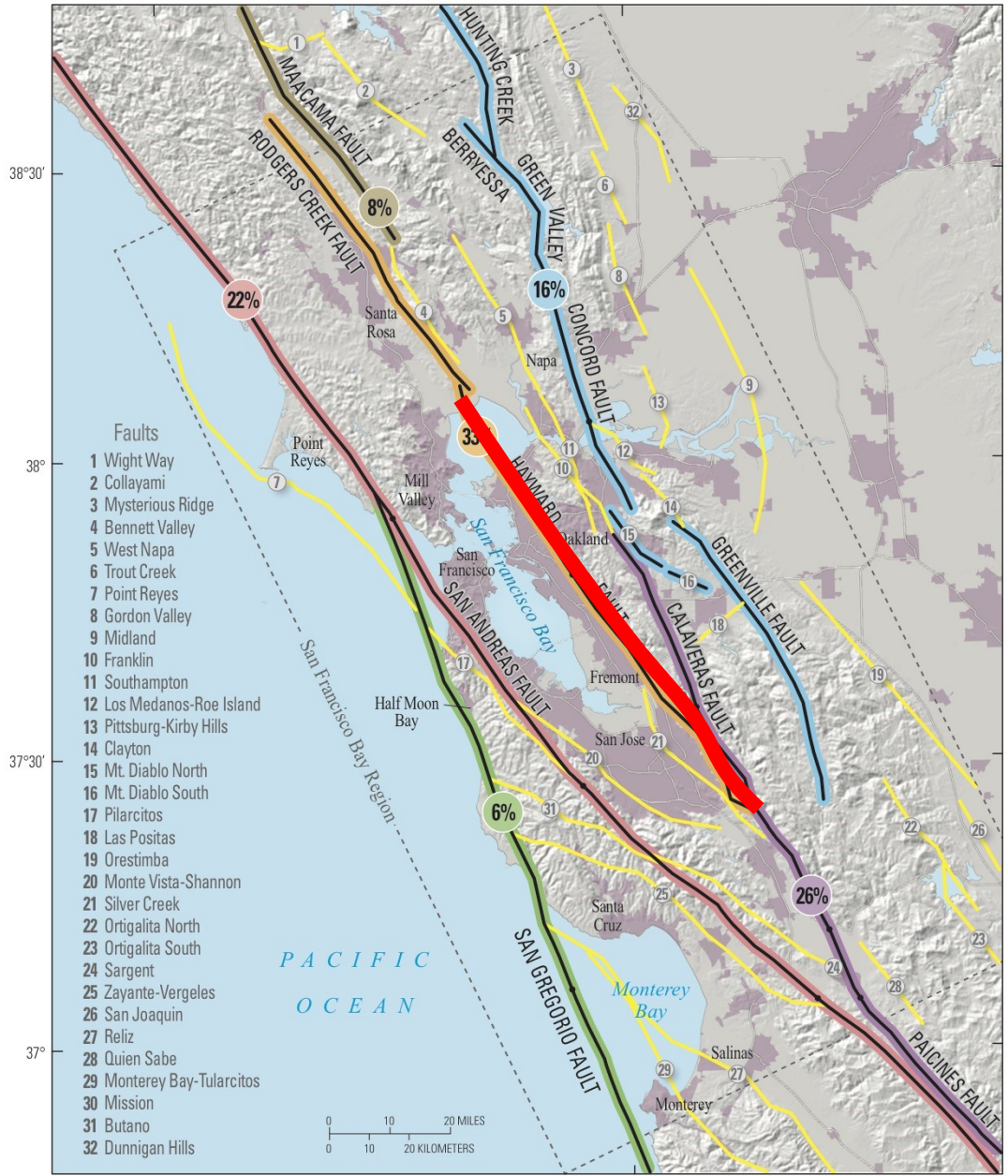


San Andreas Fault

strike slip

eqs up to about magnitude 8



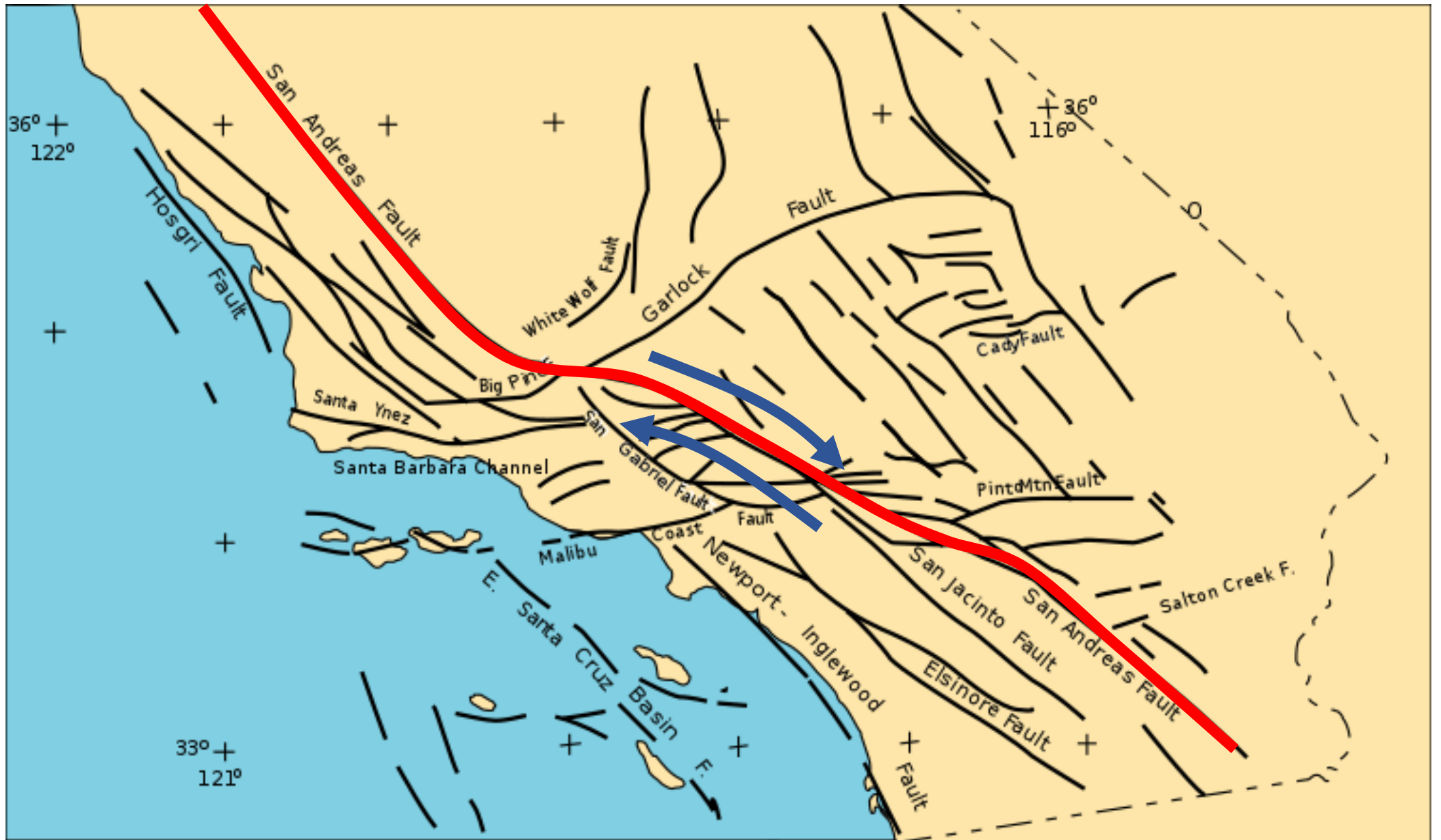


Hayward Fault

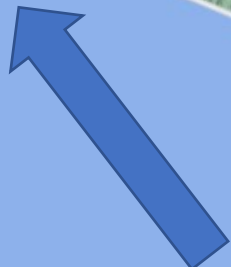
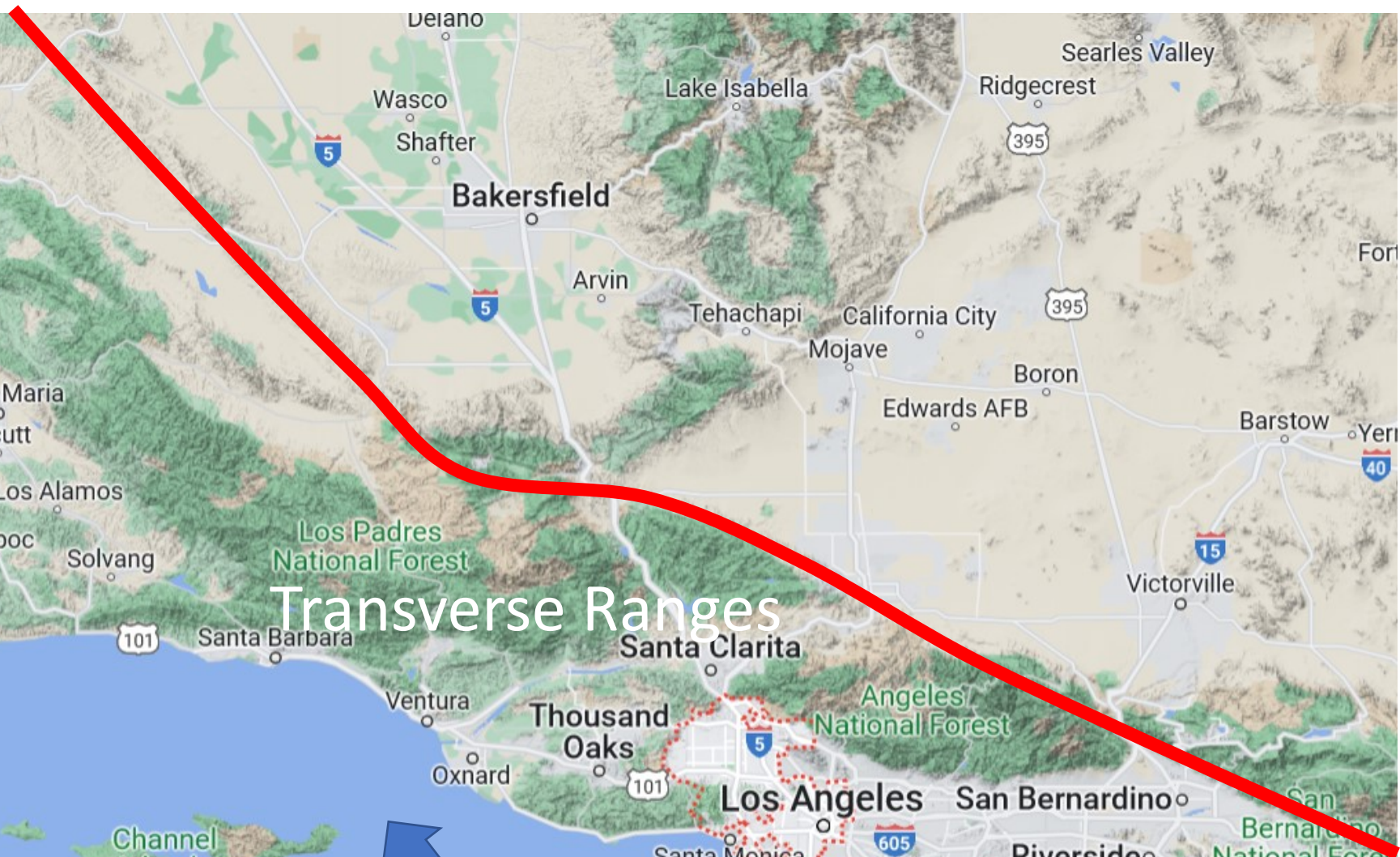
strike slip

eqs up to about magnitude 7





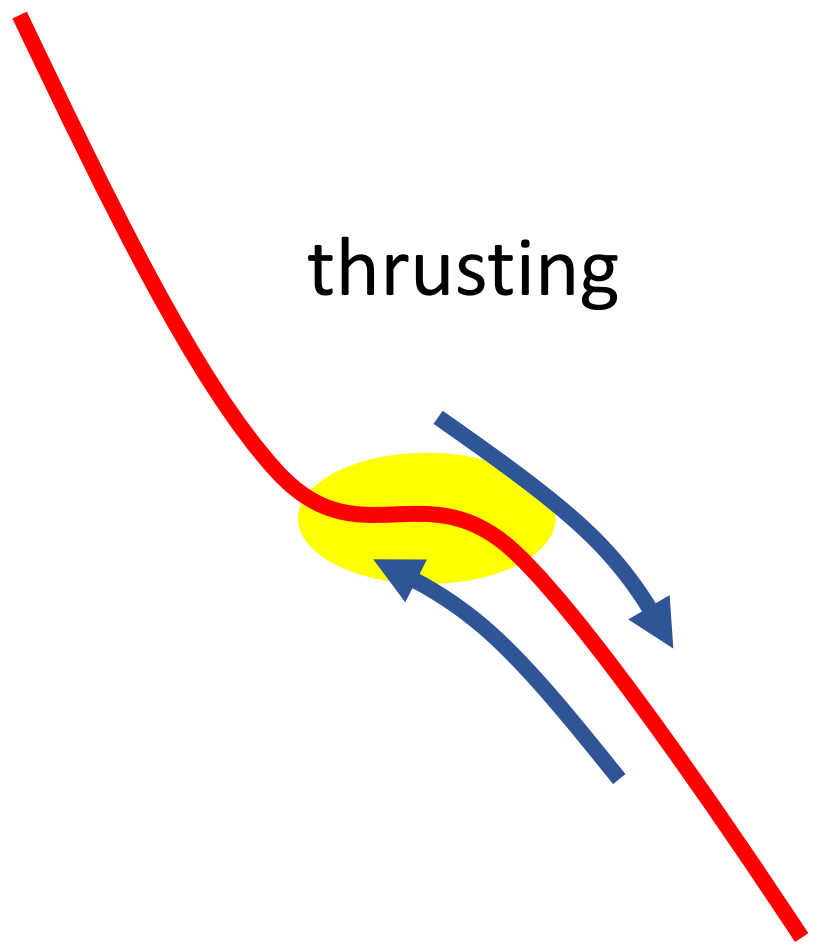
Transverse Ranges



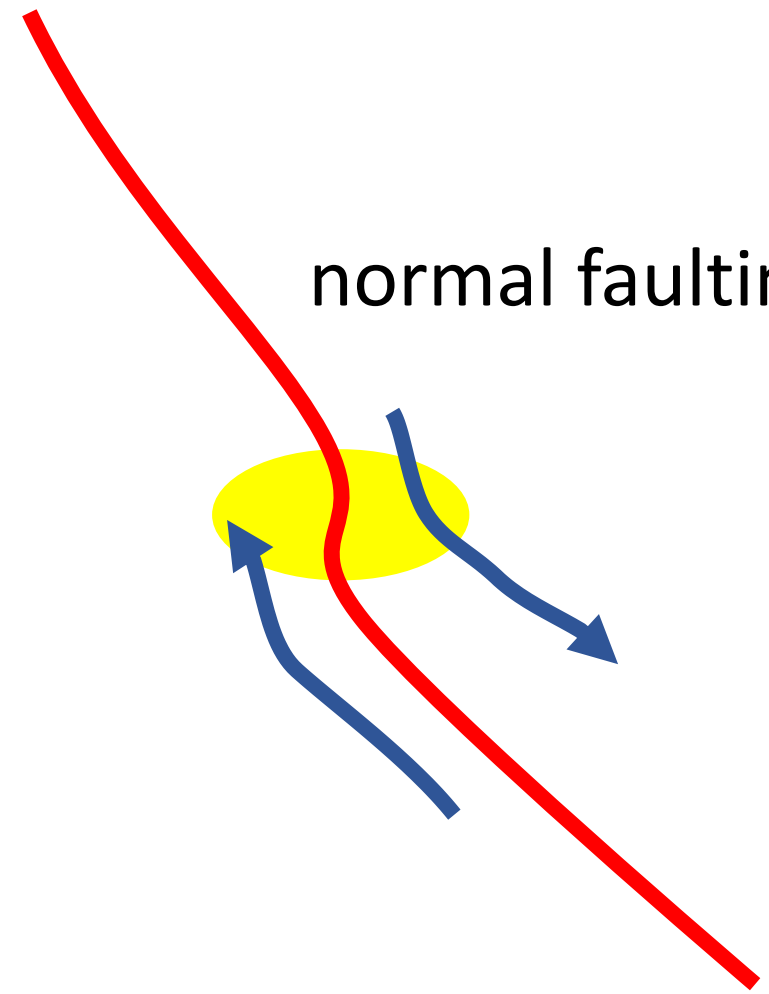
Terrain
View topography and elevation



Island
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tat...

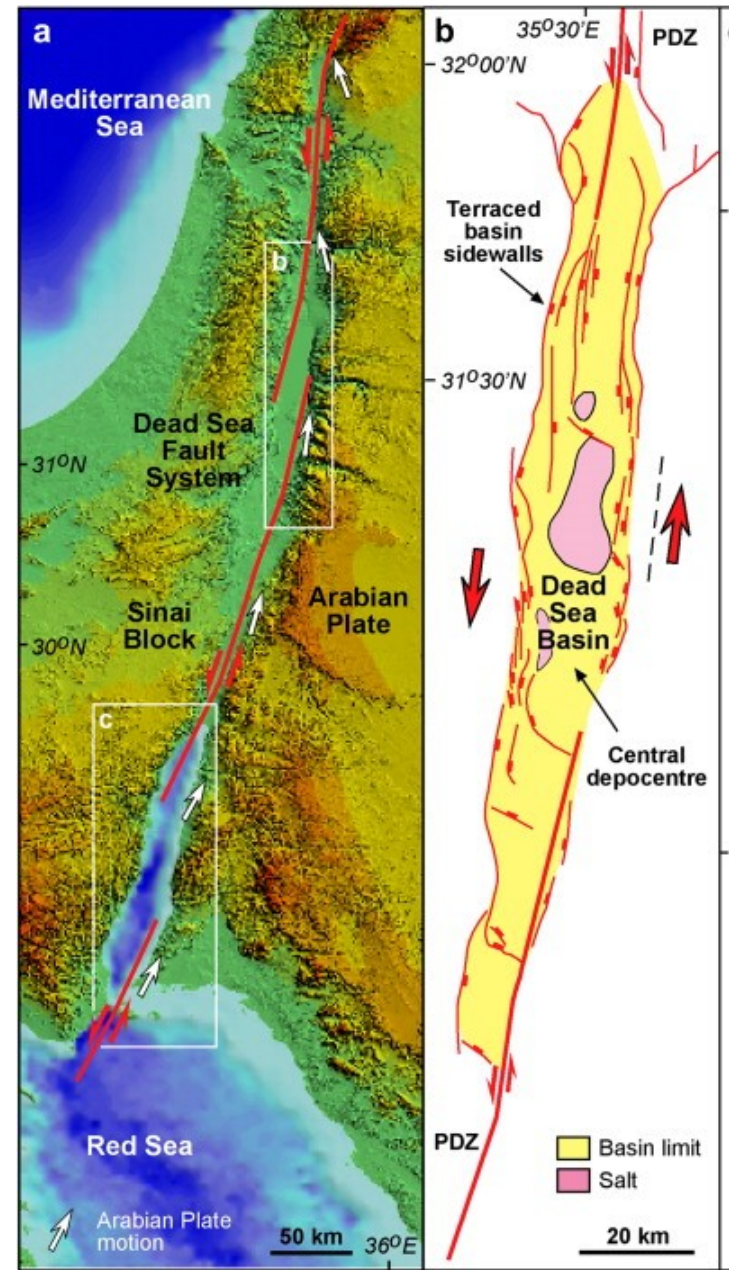


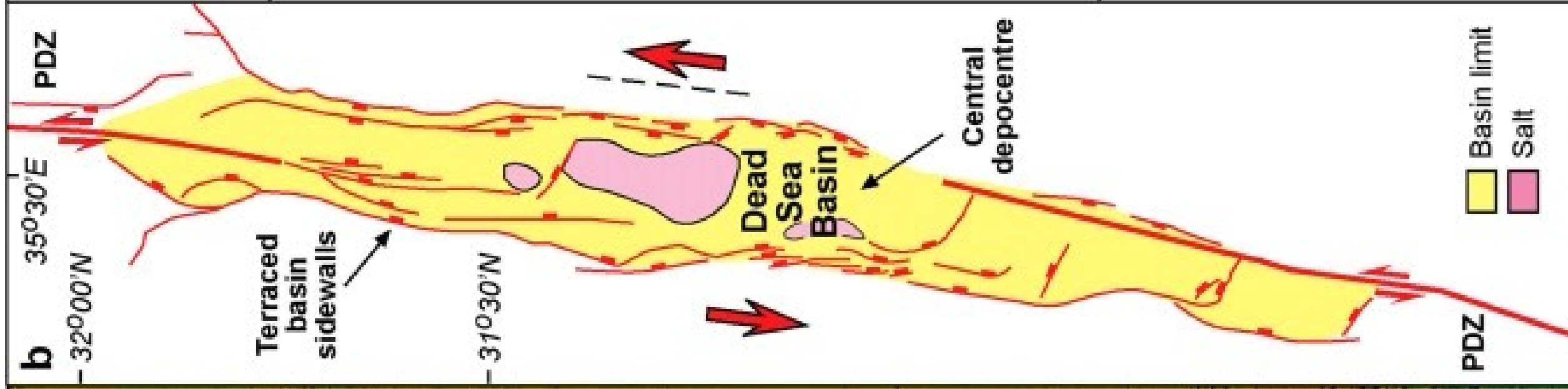
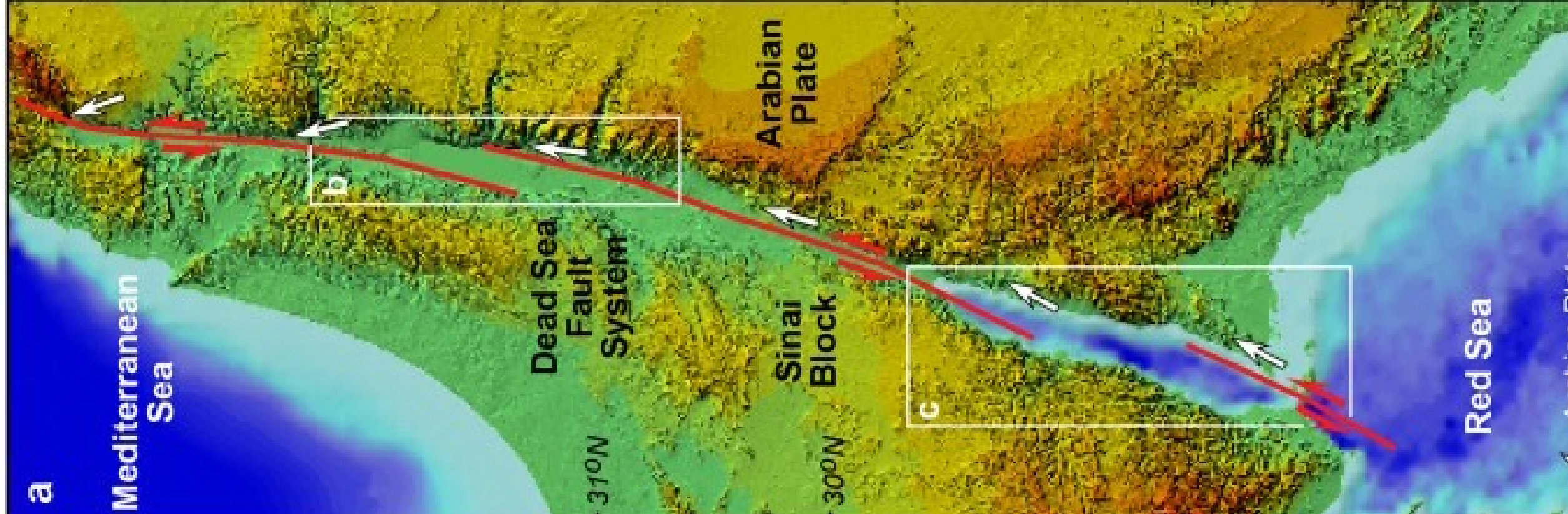
thrusting



normal faulting

pull-apart basin





The **1927 Jericho earthquake** was a devastating event that shook [Mandatory Palestine](#) and [Transjordan](#) on July 11 at 15:04 local time. The epicenter of the earthquake was in the northern area of the [Dead Sea](#). The cities of Jerusalem, Jericho, Ramle, Tiberias, and Nablus were heavily damaged and at least 287 were estimated to have been killed.

Earthquake [\[edit \]](#)

Vered and Striem (1977) located the earthquake epicenter to be near the

1927 Jericho earthquake M=6.3

