

# 1 Frictional power dissipation in a 2 seismic ancient fault

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## 15 Highlights

- 16 • Frictional power per unit area  $\dot{Q}$  [ $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ] is the product of shear stress and slip  
17 rate during faulting
- 18 •  $\dot{Q}$  controls on-fault temperature increase and possibly dynamic weakening  
19 during earthquakes
- 20 •  $\dot{Q}$  cannot be estimated by seismological methods
- 21 • We use microstructural observations calibrated by experiments to estimate  $\dot{Q}$
- 22 •  $\dot{Q}$  ranges from 4 to 60  $\text{MW m}^{-2}$  in an upper crustal fault patch

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24

## 25 **Abstract**

26 The frictional power per unit area  $\dot{Q}$  (product of frictional traction  $\tau$  and slip rate  
27  $\dot{u}$  in MW m<sup>-2</sup>) dissipated during earthquakes triggers fault dynamic weakening  
28 mechanisms that control rupture nucleation, propagation and arrest. Although of  
29 great relevance in earthquake mechanics,  $\dot{Q}$  cannot, with rare exceptions, be  
30 determined by geophysical methods. Here we exploit theoretical, experimental and  
31 geological constraints to estimate  $\dot{Q}$  dissipated on a fault patch exhumed from 7-9  
32 km depth. According to theoretical models, in polymineralic, silicate rocks the  
33 amplitude (< 1 mm) of the grain-scale roughness of the boundary between frictional  
34 melt (pseudotachylyte) and host rock decreases with increasing  $\dot{Q}$ . The dependence  
35 of grain-scale roughness with  $\dot{Q}$  is due to differential melt front migration in the host  
36 rock minerals. This dependence is confirmed by friction experiments reproducing  
37 seismic slip where pseudotachylytes were produced by shearing tonalite at  $\dot{Q}$   
38 ranging from 5 to 25 MW m<sup>-2</sup>. In natural pseudotachylytes across tonalites, the grain-  
39 scale roughness broadly decreases from extensional to compressional fault domains  
40 where lower and higher  $\dot{Q}$  are expected, respectively. Analysis of the natural dataset  
41 calibrated by experiments yields  $\dot{Q}$  values in the range of 4-60 MW m<sup>-2</sup> (16 MW m<sup>-2</sup>  
42 average value). These values, estimated in small fault patches, are at the lower end  
43 of broad estimates of  $\dot{Q}$  (3-300 MW m<sup>-2</sup>) obtained from frictional tractions (30-300  
44 MPa) and fault slip rates (0.1-1 m/s) assumed as typical of upper crustal  
45 earthquakes.

## 46 1. Introduction

47 Frictional power dissipation per unit area ( $\dot{Q}(t) = \tau(t) \dot{u}(t)$  in  $\text{W m}^{-2}$ , or  $\text{Nm s}^{-1}\text{m}^{-2}$  in  
48 units commonly used in geodesy and seismology, with:  $\tau$  frictional traction or shear  
49 stress;  $\dot{u}$  on-fault slip rate) is a relevant earthquake source parameter (Sibson,  
50 1980). In fact,  $\dot{Q}(t)$  results in temperature increase and grain comminution in  $\mu\text{m}$ - to  
51 cm-thick slipping zones (Sibson, 2003), that activate dynamic weakening  
52 mechanisms promoting propagation of seismic ruptures (Rice, 2006; Di Toro et al.,  
53 2011; Tullis et al., 2015; Pozzi et al., 2021). However,  $\tau(t)$ , or the absolute value of  
54 frictional traction during seismic slip is transparent, with notable exceptions, to  
55 measurements from the Earth's surface (Guatteri and Spudich 2006; Udias et al.,  
56 2014). In fact, only the stress drop, not  $\tau(t)$ , has direct impact on  $\dot{u}(t)$  and therefore  
57 influences the seismological signature in the radiated waves (Udias et al., 2014).  
58 Instead, the absolute stress levels, and hence  $\tau(t) \dot{u}(t)$ , could be estimated by  
59 inversion analysis (1) from seismic waves if there is a visible rake rotation during  
60 seismic slip (Spudich, 1992) and, (2) as recently proposed, with geodetic techniques,  
61 from coseismic slip vectors measured along earthquake surface ruptures (Milliner et  
62 al., 2022). However, the two above remain exceptional cases. As a consequence,  
63 values of  $\dot{Q}(t)$  ranging from 3 to 300  $\text{MW m}^{-2}$  have been proposed assuming  $\tau$  and  $\dot{u}$   
64 for ideal earthquakes in the continental crust and ranging from 30 to 300 MPa and  
65 0.1 to 1  $\text{m s}^{-1}$ , respectively (Fig. 2 in Sibson, 1980). In this study we aim to obtain  
66 more rigorous estimates of  $\dot{Q}(t)$ , which controls the fault strength evolution during  
67 the earthquake in the presence of thermal weakening processes, from  
68 microstructural analysis of tectonic pseudotachylytes.

69 Tectonic pseudotachylytes are solidified friction melts produced during seismic  
70 faulting (Sibson, 1975). Pseudotachylytes have been used to estimate several  
71 earthquake source parameters, including the magnitude of frictional traction, rupture  
72 directivity, slip weakening distance, energy budgets, focal mechanisms, stress drops,  
73 apparent stress, fracture energy, measures of efficiency and hypocentral depths  
74 (Sibson, 1975; Maddock et al., 1987; Di Toro et al., 2005; 2006; Hirose and  
75 Shimamoto, 2005; Andersen et al., 2008; Pittarello et al., 2008; Beeler et al., 2016;  
76 Petley-Ragan et al., 2019; Ferrand et al., 2021; Johnson et al., 2021;  
77 Hosseinzadehsabeti et al., 2021). During earthquakes, seismic rupture propagation  
78 (at a few km/s) induces intense and abrupt near-tip stress perturbations that result in  
79 host rock fracturing, grain comminution and flash heating (Reches and Dewers,  
80 2005; Rice, 2006). In silicate rocks, fault slip may result in temperature increase and  
81 frictional melting of the comminuted materials and their host rocks close to the fault  
82 surface (Swanson, 1992; Spray, 1995). At this stage and in the few seconds  
83 following seismic slip, the melt-rock boundary migrates into the host rocks (Fialko  
84 and Khazan, 2006; Nielsen et al., 2008). The melt intrudes fractures in the host rocks  
85 (injection veins) or flows along the fault towards dilatational jogs and reservoirs (fault  
86 veins) (Sibson, 1975). In the case of granitoid rocks, made of feldspars, quartz and  
87 biotite, this ultra-fast melting occurs under non-equilibrium conditions (Shand, 1916).  
88 Along the migrating melt-rock boundary, minerals with low melting temperature  $T_m$   
89 (biotite,  $T_m \sim 650^\circ\text{C}$ , Navrotsky, 1995) melt faster than high  $T_m$  minerals (for andesine  
90 feldspar,  $\text{An}_{45}$ , and quartz,  $T_m \sim 1250^\circ\text{C}$  and  $T_m \sim 1730^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively, Navrotsky,  
91 1995; Spray, 2010). Differential mineral melting results in a grain-scale roughness of  
92 the melt-rock boundary (or pseudotachylyte-host rock boundary, from now on PST-  
93 HR, once the melt solidifies): embayments and protrusions form in spatial relation

94 with HR biotite and quartz/feldspar grains, respectively (Magloughlin and Spray,  
95 1992, and references therein) (Fig. 1). The grain-scale roughness is related to (i)  
96 mineral physical properties ( $T_m$  and thermal shock properties: Papa et al., 2018) and  
97 grain size; (ii) melt temperature; and (iii) rate of the temperature increase in the  
98 slipping zone, proportional to  $\dot{Q}$ . Theoretical analysis, tested by experiments on  
99 gabbro, indicates that the higher the  $\dot{Q}$ , the smoother the PST-HR boundary (Nielsen  
100 et al., 2010) (Fig. 1). Here we measure the grain-scale roughness of the PST-HR  
101 boundary of natural pseudotachylytes within the Adamello granitoids (tonalite) along  
102 the Gole Larghe Fault Zone (Italian Southern Alps; Di Toro and Pennacchioni, 2005).  
103 After calibration with dedicated experiments, we estimate  $\dot{Q}$ .

## 104 **2. Methods**

105 Experimental pseudotachylytes were produced by shearing hollow cylinders (50/30  
106 mm external/internal diameter) of non-altered Adamello tonalite with the rotary  
107 machine SHIVA installed at the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia in  
108 Rome (Di Toro et al., 2010; for sample preparation see Nielsen et al., 2012). Three  
109 experiments (S422, S423 and S475) were conducted at room humidity conditions,  
110 target equivalent slip rates  $V_{eq}$  of 6.5 m s<sup>-1</sup> and normal stresses of 40, 20, 30 MPa,  
111 respectively (Figure 2, Table 1). During the experiments, normal stress, torque  
112 (converted into  $\tau$ ), angular rotations and speeds (converted into equivalent slip  
113 distances and slip rates, respectively), and sample shortening were measured at  
114 acquisition rates of 2.5 kHz (see Niemeijer et al., 2011 for details about the  
115 calibration and data acquisition). We also examined a fourth pseudotachylyte  
116 produced in previously published experiments performed on the same Adamello  
117 tonalite. This pseudotachylyte was obtained by shearing full cylinders, 25 mm in

118 diameter, at equivalent slip rate of  $1.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and 20 MPa normal stress using a rotary  
119 apparatus at Kyoto University (HVR377 in Di Toro et al., 2006). The temperature  
120 evolution with slip displacement in the slipping zone was estimated with 2-  
121 dimensional numerical modelling (Supplementary Materials SM1, Cornelio et al.,  
122 2019).

123 Natural pseudotachylytes. 22 samples were collected from eight pseudotachylyte-  
124 bearing wavy faults from the dextral strike-slip Gole Larghe Fault Zone (Di Toro and  
125 Pennacchioni, 2005) within the Adamello batholith (Callegari and Brack, 2002). The  
126 granitoid rock (tonalite) consists of plagioclase (i.e., andesine,  $\text{An}_{45}$ , 48% modal  
127 composition), quartz (29%), biotite (17%) and K-feldspar (6%) with an average grain  
128 size of 2 mm (Di Toro and Pennacchioni, 2004; 2005). The fault zone was exhumed  
129 from 7-9 km depth and is made of ~200 main sub-parallel, exceptionally exposed  
130 faults (Di Toro and Pennacchioni, 2005; Mittempergher et al., 2021; Smith et al.,  
131 2013). Pseudotachylytes were collected from extensional, neutral and compressional  
132 structural domains along wavy fault veins and from injection veins (opening mode  
133 cracks) (Fig. 3a). The injection veins are asymmetrically distributed and mostly  
134 intruded the south-facing wall rock (Di Toro et al., 2005).

135 Thin sections. 22 natural and three experimental pseudotachylytes were cut  
136 perpendicular to the slip zone and parallel to the slip direction (see Supplementary  
137 Materials SM2 for the digital scans of the thin sections). The derived ~30  $\mu\text{m}$  thick  
138 thin sections were Syton®-polished for high resolution FESEM and EMPA analysis.

139 Microstructural analysis was performed with an optical petrographic microscope and  
140 with a high-resolution Tescan Solaris Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope  
141 (FESEM) at the Dept. of Geosciences in University of Padova. Back Scatter

142 Electrons (BSE) and Cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging were performed at the  
143 FESEM with operating conditions of: 14 mm working distance; 10 keV acceleration  
144 voltage; and 3 nA beam current.

145 Elemental analysis (composition of the pseudotachylyte matrix) was performed with  
146 electron wavelength-dispersive microprobe analysis (EMPA) on Syton®-polished thin  
147 sections at the Dept. of Geosciences in University of Padova. Data were collected  
148 using 15 kV as accelerating voltage and 15 nA as beam current. The analyzed  
149 volume of the thin section was 2-3  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. Sodium and potassium were  
150 analyzed first to prevent alkali migration effects. The precision of the microprobe was  
151 measured through the analysis of well-characterized synthetic oxide and mineral  
152 secondary standards and was better than 5% for all cations.

153 Grain-scale fault roughness analysis. High resolution images (10  $\mu\text{m}$  pixel) of the  
154 entire thin section were obtained by optical (natural pseudotachylytes) and FESEM-  
155 BSE (experimental pseudotachylytes) imaging. The PST-HR boundaries of both  
156 natural and experimental pseudotachylytes were manually drawn with Inkscape®  
157 over a length ranging from 6.7 to 34.5 mm and with resolution of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  (see  
158 Supplementary Materials SM2). The resolution of the measurements (10  $\mu\text{m}$ , well  
159 below the average mineral grain size,  $\sim 2$  mm) and the length of the digitized PST-  
160 HR boundaries (greater than mineral grain size) allowed us to test whether the  
161 mineral grain size, together with  $\dot{Q}(t)$ , controls the grain-scale roughness of the PST-  
162 HR boundaries. The grain-scale roughness of the PST-HR boundaries was then  
163 analyzed with a MATLAB script to determine the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)  
164 spectra,  $\omega_0$  (characteristic asperity height which corresponds to the root mean



165 square, RMS, of the PST-HR boundary height) and  $\lambda_{ave}$  (average asperity radius),  
166 defined as:

$$167 \quad \omega_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N z_i^2}{N}} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

$$168 \quad \lambda_{ave} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i}{N} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

169 where  $z_i$  is the height of every point  $i$  of the PST-HR boundary with respect to  $z = 0$ ,  
170 defined so that  $\sum_{i=1}^N z_i = 0$  (with  $N$  the number of points along the boundary);  $\lambda_i$  are  
171 the radii of the circles that approximate the curvature of the surface boundary around  
172 the maxima of the topography (e.g., embayments) calculated from finite differences  
173 at points  $i-1, i, i+1$  (Nielsen et al., 2010) (Fig. 1). The roughness of the PST-HR  
174 boundary is described by a series of continuous trigonometric functions where, for  
175 each function, the maximum amplitude  $z_i$  is  $\sqrt{2} \omega_0$  (Panzarasa & Tribulato, 1989)  
176 and the length  $\sqrt{2} \omega_0$  corresponds to the maximum depth of the embayments (Fig.  
177 1). The MATLAB script, the thin section scans and the drawn PST-HR boundaries  
178 are available at <https://researchdata.cab.unipd.it/id/eprint/725> and in Supplementary  
179 Materials SM2.

## 180 **3. Results**

### 181 *3.1 Experimental pseudotachylytes*

182 In S422, S423 and S475 experiments,  $\tau$  decreased from a peak value at initiation of  
183 slip towards an approximately constant residual value (called “steady-state” shear  
184 stress,  $\tau_{ss}$ ) of 2.70 MPa (at 20 MPa normal stress), 3.92 MPa (at 30 MPa) and 3.44  
185 MPa (40 MPa) (Fig. 2a). These  $\tau_{ss}$  correspond to  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  ( $\tau_{ss} V_{eq_{ss}}$  with  $V_{eq_{ss}} = 6.5 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ;  
186 Fig. 2b) of 17.55, 25.50 and 22.36 MW m<sup>-2</sup>, respectively (Table 1). HRV376

187 experiment, performed at  $1.3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , had  $\tau_{ss} = 3.86 \text{ MPa}$  (Di Toro et al., 2006) that  
188 correspond to  $\dot{Q}_{ss} = 5.02 \text{ MW m}^{-2}$ . In all the experiments, the PST-HR boundary is  
189 similar on both sides of the slip zone, with embayments at HR biotite grains (Fig. 2c).  
190 The experimental pseudotachylyte consists of abundant angularly shaped quartz  
191 clasts and few rounded plagioclase clasts immersed in a uniform gray in color or, in  
192 correspondence of biotite grains in the host rock, bright in color glassy-like matrix  
193 (BSE-SEM images, Fig. 2d-e). Biotite clasts were not found in the pseudotachylyte  
194 matrix. The most common gray in color matrix (“Ca-rich”) is enriched in Ti, Fe, Mn,  
195 Mg, and K and depleted in Si, Al, Ca and Na compared to the composition of  
196 plagioclase (the reverse is true of the composition of biotite) (Table 2). The less  
197 common bright in color matrix (“Fe-rich”) is found next to the biotite grains in the wall  
198 rocks and has a composition very similar to that of biotite (Table 2).

199

### 200 *3.2 Natural pseudotachylytes*

201 In many individual faults of the Gole Larghe Fault Zone, the pseudotachylytes  
202 overprint cataclasites with sub-greenschists facies assemblage made of quartz,  
203 plagioclase and K-feldspar clasts within a chlorite-epidote-rich matrix (Di Toro and  
204 Pennacchioni, 2005; Supplementary Materials SM3). Only pseudotachylyte-bearing  
205 fault segments across non-altered tonalite free of a precursor cataclasite (Di Toro et  
206 al., 2006; Pittarello et al., 2008; Griffith et al., 2010) are considered here (Fig. 3). In  
207 pseudotachylyte fault veins, the PST-HR boundary shows embayments at biotite  
208 grains (Fig. 3b-d) and at preexisting microcracks and (pressure) dissolution seams in  
209 the wall rock (Supplementary Materials SM3). Some embayments are filled by a  
210 quartz-rich portion of the pseudotachylyte formed by abundant quartz clasts welded

211 by devitrified glassy matrix and microlites of biotite and plagioclase (Fig. 3b-c and  
212 inset). This ultrafine aggregate is interpreted as a clast-laden melt filling the  
213 embayment. However, most embayments in biotite are filled by the pseudotachylyte  
214 matrix rich in biotite acicular microlites (Fig. 3d). With respect to the north-facing  
215 PST-HR boundary, the southern one commonly shows (1) higher roughness (Fig.  
216 3e), (2) more numerous injection veins (Di Toro et al., 2005) and, (3) more extensive  
217 and scattered shattering of quartz and plagioclase grains (in contrast with discrete  
218 microcracks sub-parallel to the main fault in the northern block: Fig. 3f). In injection  
219 veins (Mode I cracks), the PST-HR boundaries are rougher than in fault veins (Fig.  
220 3g).

221

### 222 *3.3 Grain-scale roughness of the pseudotachylyte-host rock (PST-HR) boundary*

223 *In experimental pseudotachylytes*, the magnitude and the slope of the FFT spectra  
224 are unrelated to  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  (Figs. 4a and c). Moreover,  $\lambda_{ave}$  has a weak inverse relation with  
225  $\omega_0$  (Fig. 5a) and is unrelated to  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  (Fig. 5c) and,  $\omega_0$  decreases with increasing  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$   
226 (Fig. 5e, Table 3). This negative trend of  $\omega_0$  with  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  is due to the high  $\omega_0$  values of  
227 the grain-scale roughness of the PST-HR boundary from experiment HVR376, which  
228 was performed with a much lower  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  (5.02 MW m<sup>-2</sup>) than the other experiments  
229 (17.55÷25.50 MW m<sup>-2</sup>) (Table 1). The  $\omega_0$  values plot along the FFT spectra of their  
230 respective PST-HR boundaries (Fig. 4a), as expected by geometrical  
231 argumentations (this is the case also for the spectra of the natural pseudotachylytes)  
232 (Beeler, 2023).

233 *In natural pseudotachylytes*, the magnitude of the FFT spectra is higher in injection  
234 veins and extensional domains, and lower in neutral and compressional domains

235 (Fig. 4b), the slopes of the FFT spectra are unrelated to the structural domain (Fig.  
236 4d). The  $\lambda_{ave}$  has a weak inverse relation with  $\omega_0$  (Fig. 5b) and is unrelated to the  
237 structural domain (Figs. 5d) (Table 3). The value of  $\omega_0$  is higher in the injection veins  
238 than in the other structural domains with the lowest value measured in a  
239 compressional domain (L05-06N) (Fig. 5f).

## 240 **4. Discussion**

241 We first discuss the geometry of the PST-HR boundary in both experimental and  
242 natural pseudotachylytes. Then, by using the grain-scale roughness as correlating  
243 factor, we estimate  $\dot{Q}$  from the samples collected in fault L05 that cuts non-altered  
244 tonalite. In fact, PST-HR boundaries from natural faults with preexisting microcracks  
245 and dissolution seams in their wall rocks were excluded from the analysis (see  
246 Supplementary Materials SM3).

247 Experimental pseudotachylytes were produced by sliding pre-cut cylinders.  
248 Therefore, the large stress perturbations expected during propagation of the seismic  
249 rupture tip in natural faults (e.g., Reches and Dewers, 2005) can be assumed  
250 negligible. We assume that the grain-scale roughness of experimental  
251 pseudotachylytes is mainly related to preferential melting of biotite. Once “steady-  
252 state” slip conditions are achieved in the experiment (Fig. 2a), the isotherms are  
253 approximately fixed in space (Nielsen et al., 2008). As a consequence, the solid rock  
254 specimen (1) passes through the isotherms during sample rotation, (2) heats up, (3)  
255 melts, (4) the melt is expelled because of the applied normal stress and centrifugal  
256 forces, and (5) the sample shortens at a constant rate (Nielsen et al., 2008) (Fig. 1).  
257 Under “steady-state” conditions the temperature  $T_z$  in the host rocks can be  
258 calculated by combining Eq. 4 and Eq. 70 in Nielsen et al. (2008):

259 
$$T_z = (T_{melt} - T_i) \exp\left(-\frac{z\tau\dot{u}}{\kappa\rho(L+c(T_m-T_i))}\right) + T_i \quad \text{Eq. 3.}$$

260 By looking at the exponential in Eq. 3, for a given isotherm  $T_z$ , the thermal gradient in  
261 the host rocks perpendicular to the fault increases with increasing  $\dot{Q}$  ( $= \tau\dot{u}$ ). The  
262 formation of embayments is controlled by preferential melting of biotite (Fig. 1). In the  
263 experiments the following parameters apply: melt temperature  $T_{melt} = 1450^\circ\text{C}$ ; rock  
264 density  $\rho = 2600 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ; latent heat  $L = 3.32 * 10^5 \text{ J/kg}$  (Di Toro and Pennacchioni,  
265 2006); ambient temperature  $T_i = 20^\circ\text{C}$ ; thermal diffusivity  $\kappa = 5 * 10^{-7} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  for the  
266 temperature range 650-1450°C of host rock melting (considering the nominal melting  
267 temperature of biotite as the lower end and the melt temperature as the higher end  
268 of this temperature range; Whittington et al., 2009); and specific heat capacity  $c =$   
269  $1500 \text{ J/kg/K}$  (Waples and Waples, 2004).

270 In the experiments presented here, the temperature in the slip zone during frictional  
271 sliding was not measured because of technical limitations of the most used  
272 techniques (e.g., high speed infra-red camera or thermocouples, see discussion in  
273 Aretusini et al., 2021). However, the estimated melt temperature of  $1450^\circ\text{C}$  is  
274 consistent with the microstructural observations (Fig. 2d-e) and with the chemical  
275 composition of the pseudotachylyte glass (Table 2). In fact, (1) though the host rock  
276 tonalite is made by 49% plagioclase ( $\text{An}_{45}$ ), 29% quartz, 16% biotite and 6% K-  
277 feldspar, the clasts that survived from melting are mostly made of quartz (melting  
278 point  $1730^\circ\text{C}$ ), while there are few plagioclase  $\text{An}_{45}$  clasts (melting point  $1250^\circ\text{C}$ ,  
279 Spray, 2010; Deer et al., 1992) and none of biotite (Fig. 2d) and (2) melting of biotite  
280 and plagioclase melting largely contributes to the formation of the friction melt (see  
281 rounding of plagioclase grains and incipient melting of biotite in Figs.2d-e). This  
282 interpretation is supported by the elemental composition of the glassy matrix which

283 has a SiO<sub>2</sub> concentration slightly lower than the one of plagioclase but higher than  
284 that of biotite and by the presence of FeO, K<sub>2</sub>O, CaO, MgO, etc. which is consistent  
285 with selective melting of plagioclase and biotite (and probably K-feldspar) (Table 2).  
286 We infer that the frictional melt temperature was larger than the melting point of  
287 plagioclase (1250°C estimated from the solidus of plagioclase melting T at ambient  
288 pressure for An<sub>45</sub> content, see Deer et al., 1992 and references therein) but lower  
289 than that of quartz (1730°C, Navrotsky, 1995). The above temperature estimates, in  
290 the range of 1450°C and constrained by microstructural observations and  
291 geochemical investigations, are in the range of temperature estimates obtained from  
292 numerical models (Supplementary Materials SM1). The temperature increase in the  
293 slip zone due to shear heating was estimated using Finite Element Analysis to solve  
294 time dependent thermal diffusion in 2 dimensions (Cornelio et al., 2019). In the  
295 model, the heat source is the measured  $\tau(t) V_{eq}(t)$  and it is assumed that all the  
296 mechanical energy is dissipated as heat, a condition that appears to be satisfied in  
297 this experimental configuration (Niemeijer et al., 2011; Aretusini et al., 2021).  
298 According to numerical modeling results, temperatures of at least 1450°C were  
299 reached in all experiments, and for longer times in experiments performed with  
300 higher  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  (Fig. SM1).

301 Lastly, we introduce  $z = \sqrt{2} \omega_0$ , with  $\omega_0$  calculated for each experimental PST-HR  
302 boundary. The length  $\sqrt{2} \omega_0$  is the distance of the bottom of the embayments from  
303 the reference plane  $z = 0$  and should correspond to the maximum penetration depth  
304 of the isotherm responsible for biotite melting (Fig. 1). Therefore, from Eq. 3, the  
305 effective melting temperature of biotite is  $T_{m\,eff} = 870^\circ\text{C} \pm 180^\circ\text{C}$ . This  $T_{m\,eff}$  is  
306 higher than the value  $T_m = 650^\circ\text{C}$  reported in the literature (Navrotsky, 1995). There

307 are several possible explanations for this discrepancy. One is that because of  
308 kinetics effects, during the short time of the coseismic frictional heat pulse, biotite is  
309 not melted down to its nominal melting temperature  $T_m$ , but to a higher temperature  
310  $T_{m\ eff}$ . A second explanation is related to the tribo-mechanical processes  
311 responsible for the formation and evolution of grain-scale roughness. For instance,  
312 (1) frictional melting may include more complex poly-phase quasi-equilibrium melting  
313 processes at the asperity scale (Lee et al., 2017) or, (2) the higher asperities made  
314 of quartz or feldspar may undergo continuous frictional wear, particularly where the  
315 friction melt is freely extruded and melt layer is thus thin. These two tribo-mechanical  
316 processes contribute to smoothing the grain-scale roughness by melting or wearing  
317 out those minerals that have a higher individual melting point than biotite. Therefore,  
318 the assumption that the grain-scale roughness of experimental pseudotachylytes is  
319 related only to preferential melting of biotite at  $T_m = 650^\circ\text{C}$  should be relaxed to  
320 include other micro-scale processes. In any case, the contribution of these second-  
321 order tribo-mechanical processes in defining the grain-scale roughness does not  
322 substantially alter the outcomes of our analysis as discussed below.

323 In natural pseudotachylyte-bearing faults, the extensional, neutral and compressional  
324 structural domains should correspond to domains of low, intermediate and high  
325 normal (effective) stresses  $\sigma_n$ , respectively. The nearby domains of fault L05 (Fig.  
326 3a) should have recorded a similar slip history under comparable average coseismic  
327 slip rates (Griffith et al., 2010). When the fault is lubricated by friction melts, the  
328 frictional traction  $\tau$  and, therefore,  $\dot{Q}$  are expected to be higher in the compressional  
329 structural domains ( $\tau \propto \sigma_n^{0.25}$ , Nielsen et al., 2008) than in neutral and extensional  
330 ones. In the case of injection veins (mode I cracks) the frictional traction is negligible  
331 and the PST-HR boundary should be mainly affected by fracturing and by melt-rock

332 interaction. In fact, in injection veins the melt temperature is independent of the  
333 frictional power (here,  $\dot{Q} = 0$ ) and, the melt, once injected, cools slowly to ambient  
334 temperature as the melting front propagates in the wall rocks ("*Stefan problem*", Ch.  
335 XI in Carslaw and Jaeger, 1959). This type of melt-rock interaction results in a lower  
336 temperature gradient in the wall rocks and in a higher grain-scale roughness at the  
337 PST-HR boundary. Consistent with this interpretation, the  $\omega_0$  values are  
338 systematically higher in injection veins than in fault veins (Fig. 5f). In fault veins, the  
339 grain-scale roughness of the PST-HR boundary is affected by:

340 1. Asymmetric and intense damage associated with the transient stress  
341 perturbation during the propagation of the seismic rupture front at some  $\text{km s}^{-1}$   
342 (Poliakov et al., 2002). For eastward propagating ruptures of the Gole Larghe  
343 right-lateral strike slip faults, stress perturbation induced intense fracturing  
344 and wall-rock spallation especially in the southern block of individual faults (Di  
345 Toro et al., 2005) (Fig. 3f bottom). In contrast, the orientation of the  
346 microcracks in the northern wall rock is sub-parallel to the E-W strike of the  
347 fault (Fig. 3f top). This orientation is consistent with the direction of the  
348 maximum transient compressive stress associated with eastward rupture  
349 propagation along a right-lateral strike slip fault (Fig. 4 in Di Toro et al., 2005).  
350 According to this interpretation, the northern and southern blocks were  
351 located on the transient compression and tension stress fields, respectively, of  
352 the ancient rupture that propagated along this fault segment. The grain-scale  
353 roughness resulting from the stress perturbation at the rupture-tip is not  
354 included in the theoretical model which relates the grain-scale roughness to  $\dot{Q}$   
355 (Nielsen et al., 2010);



- 356 2. Reworking of the PST-HR boundary due, for instance, to filling of  
357 embayments by the clasts carried by the melt (Figs. 3b-c). The resulting grain-  
358 scale roughness should be excluded from our analysis (see black in color line  
359 in Fig. 3b).
- 360 3. Preferential melting of biotite with respect to the other host rock-forming  
361 minerals due to non-equilibrium frictional melting. This would result in the  
362 grain-scale roughness related to the  $\dot{Q}$  in the process zone that is considered  
363 in the theoretical analysis by Nielsen et al. (2010). We note here that grain-  
364 scale roughness will thus reflect not only the heating rate of the slipping zone  
365 and the associated thermal gradient in the wall rocks but also the relative  
366 melting points of the various mineral phases and their grain sizes. We make  
367 also the assumption that steady-state conditions during frictional melting were  
368 achieved. This assumption might be partly relaxed by the evidence that in the  
369 selected natural faults the pseudotachylyte matrix at the contact with the  
370 biotite grains in the wall rock includes biotite microlites precipitated from the  
371 melt (Fig. 3d). In addition, the embayments are laterally confined by well-  
372 rounded plagioclase grains (Fig. 3d). The above microstructural evidence is  
373 consistent with progressive migration of the isotherms and associated melting  
374 front in the wall rock tonalite (Fig. 1), followed by crystallization of biotite  
375 microlites during cooling and solidification of the melt (Fig. 3d).

376 Based on the above analysis of the physical processes that shape the PST-HR  
377 boundary, we decided to use  $\omega_0$  to estimate  $\dot{Q}$  within the several parameters  
378 (magnitude and slope of FTT,  $\omega_0$  and  $\lambda_{ave}$ ) that describe the grain-scale roughness  
379 (Table 3). In fact, the FFT magnitude of the PST-HR boundary is affected by  $\dot{Q}$  only  
380 in the natural pseudotachylytes (Figs. 4a-b). Instead, the slope of the FFT is a

381 measure of roughness scaling across the scale of measurements (10  $\mu\text{m}$  – 10's of  
382 mm) and thus is not necessarily affected by  $\dot{Q}$  (Beeler, 2023). Moreover, there is not  
383 a clear dependence of  $\lambda_{ave}$  with  $\dot{Q}$  or the structural domain (Figs. 5c-d). In fact, while  
384 the value of  $\omega_0$  represents the roughness at the profile scale (6.7÷34.5 mm)  
385 spanning ~3-17 grains and may thus be particularly sensitive to grain-scale  
386 roughness,  $\lambda_{ave}$  is a local measure comparing neighboring profile points (across 30  
387  $\mu\text{m}$ ), which is much smaller than the grain scale. The poor dependence of  $\lambda_{ave}$  with  
388  $\dot{Q}$  is due to the fact that melting along sliding surfaces is the primary driver of the  
389 grain-scale roughness, and, consequently,  $\lambda_{ave}$  depends on both grain size and  
390 melting point of the individual minerals. Since the tonalites discussed here that host  
391 the natural and experimental pseudotachylyte have the same average grain size,  
392  $\lambda_{ave}$  is poorly dependent of  $\dot{Q}$ . In contrast,  $\omega_0$ , although like  $\lambda_{ave}$  varies with grain size  
393 and melting point of the host rock minerals (e.g., the maximum value of  $\omega_0$  will be  
394 limited by the size of the mineral with the lowest melting point), it depends also on  
395 the heating rate of the slipping zone and the associated thermal gradient in the wall  
396 rocks, which are proportional to  $\dot{Q}$  (Fig. 1).

397 Because of the effect of the processes listed at points 1 and 2 above, to estimate  $\dot{Q}$   
398 we consider the northern PST-HR boundary of the samples from fault L05. In these  
399 pseudotachylytes, (1) there is no evidence for sub-greenschists facies cataclastic  
400 precursors (Fig. 3), and (2) the northern block was less affected by the coseismic  
401 stress perturbation because located in the compression field of the eastward  
402 propagating rupture (Fig. 3f, see Di Toro et al., 2005). We can reasonably assume  
403 that in these samples the grain-scale roughness is mainly related to the preferential  
404 melting of biotite (Fig. 3d). From the analysis of the experimental pseudotachylytes

405 the calculated melting temperature for biotite is assumed to be  $T_{meff} = 870\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Fig.  
406 5e); substituting it as  $T_z$  in Eq. 3 and rearranging the equation we obtain:

$$407 \quad \tau \dot{u} = \frac{\kappa \rho (L + c(T_m - T_i))}{\sqrt{2} \omega_0} \ln \left( \frac{T_m - T_i}{870^{\circ}\text{C} - T_i} \right) \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

408 where  $T_i = 250^{\circ}\text{C}$  is ambient temperature during seismic faulting (Di Toro and  
409 Pennacchioni, 2006). The estimated  $\dot{Q}$  ( $\tau \dot{u}$ ) for the natural pseudotachylytes of the  
410 northern boundary of fault L05 are reported in Fig. 6. On this diagram, we also plot  
411 the  $\omega_0$  vs.  $\dot{Q}$  measurements for the experimental pseudotachylytes. According to this  
412 analysis, natural pseudotachylytes are the result of  $\dot{Q}$  ranging from 4 to 60  $\text{MW m}^{-2}$ ,  
413 with an arithmetic mean value of 16  $\text{MW m}^{-2}$ .

414 These first  $\dot{Q}$  estimates obtained from field and microstructural observations are in  
415 the lower range of the broad  $\dot{Q}$  range from 3 to 300  $\text{MW m}^{-2}$  proposed in the literature  
416 (Fig. 2 in Sibson, 1980). But these latter estimates were based on a range of  
417 possible coseismic shear stress ( $30 < \tau < 300\text{ MPa}$ ) and on-fault slip rate ( $0.1 < \dot{u} <$   
418  $1.0\text{ m/s}$ ) achieved at crustal seismogenic depths of about 10 km (i.e., these  
419 hypocentral depths are about the same as in our study). The proposed  $\dot{Q}$  estimates  
420 of  $> 100\text{ MW m}^{-2}$  would have been excessive because they would have induced very  
421 high temperatures in the slip zone ( $> 10.000^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), unless a relevant reduction in  $\tau$   
422 during coseismic slip was considered (see Fig 4 in Sibson, 1980). Though our field  
423 estimates of  $\dot{Q}$  (mean value 16  $\text{MW m}^{-2}$ ) were determined in a fault patch and may  
424 not be representative of the entire fault, they are supported by experimental  
425 evidence and are in agreement with the hypothesis by Sibson (1980) of large  
426 reduction in  $\tau$  during seismic slip (Fig. 2a). In addition, the estimates of  $\dot{Q}$  proposed  
427 here are based on microstructural observations associated with the effects of

428 temperature increase in the slip zone (Figs. 1-3) rather than on approximate  
429 estimates of deformation conditions during coseismic slip.

## 430 **5. Conclusions**

431 What is the magnitude of the frictional power ( $\dot{Q}$ ) dissipated on a fault during an  
432 earthquake? We address this question by exploiting a theoretical model which  
433 relates the grain-scale roughness of the pseudotachylyte-host rock boundary  
434 described by the characteristic asperity height  $\omega_0$  to  $\dot{Q}$  (Nielsen et al., 2010) (Fig. 1).  
435 In experimental pseudotachylytes produced under known  $\dot{Q}$  (Fig. 2),  $\omega_0$  decreases  
436 with increasing  $\dot{Q}$  (Fig. 5e), as predicted by the model (Fig. 1). In natural  
437 pseudotachylytes from the Gole Larghe Fault Zone within the Adamello tonalites,  $\omega_0$   
438 is higher for injection veins (where  $\dot{Q}$  should be negligible) than for extensional,  
439 neutral and compressional fault domains (Fig. 5f). These domains should correspond  
440 to low, intermediate and high  $\dot{Q}$ , respectively (Figs. 5e-f). Contrary to experimental  
441 pseudotachylytes, produced by shearing pre-cut samples, the grain-scale roughness  
442 of natural pseudotachylyte PST-HR boundary is also affected by the intense damage  
443 associated with the propagation of the seismic rupture tip. In the Gole Larghe Fault  
444 Zone, this host rock damage is especially developed in the southern wall block.  
445 Therefore, to estimate  $\dot{Q}$  we considered six samples of the northern boundary of fault  
446 L05. In fact, the interpretation of the microstructures (Fig. 3) suggests that the grain-  
447 scale roughness of the northern side of fault L05 mainly resulted from preferential  
448 melting of biotite (Fig. 3d). From the experimental dataset we estimate with Eq. 3 the  
449 (effective) melting temperature  $T_{m\,eff} = 870^\circ\text{C}$  of biotite during frictional melting. This  
450 estimate is based on the depth  $z = \sqrt{2} \omega_0$  of the embayments, which should  
451 correspond to the maximum penetration depth of the isotherm responsible for biotite

452 melting. Finally, by inserting  $z = \sqrt{2} \omega_0$  in Eq. 4 for the samples from fault L05, we  
453 estimate  $\dot{Q}$  which ranges from 4 to 60 MW m<sup>-2</sup>, with an average value of 16 MW m<sup>-2</sup>.  
454 These  $\dot{Q}$  values are in the lower range of very broad estimates (3-300 MW m<sup>-2</sup>)  
455 based on typical average seismic slip rates and frictional tractions inferred for the  
456 upper continental crust (Sibson, 1980). In addition, these low estimates of  $\dot{Q}$  would  
457 suggest that the pseudotachylytes studied, at least at the scale of the fault patch  
458 investigated (a few m<sup>2</sup>), may be representative of earthquakes that have excess  
459 radiated seismic energy (Beeler et al., 2016). Actually, our estimates of  $\dot{Q}$  based on  
460 field and microstructural observations, although valid for fault patches of few m<sup>2</sup> in  
461 size, could be compared with  $\dot{Q}$  values obtained in the rare cases where absolute  
462 stress levels, and hence  $\tau(t) \dot{u}(t)$ , can be estimated (Spudich, 1992; Milliner et al.,  
463 2022). However, our field-based estimates of frictional power per unit area  
464 dissipated during earthquakes, although independent of assumptions about the  
465 magnitude of seismic slip rates and shear tractions, may suffer from a number of  
466 other assumptions as discussed above. For instance, the theoretical model does not  
467 include (1) non-steady-state conditions and second order effects (e.g., latent heat of  
468 melting, mineral and temperature-dependent thermal conductivity variations) which  
469 may perturb the curvature of the isotherms migrating in the wall rocks (i.e., we  
470 assumed planar isotherms in Fig. 1) or (2) other tribo-mechanical processes that  
471 may contribute to the shaping of the grain-scale roughness. Nevertheless, the  
472 approach presented here can be applied to pseudotachylytes produced in other  
473 geodynamic settings and at deeper crustal levels and will help determine this  
474 relevant but elusive parameter of the earthquake source.

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## 483 Contributions

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485 analysis, Investigation, Data Curation. **A. Castagna:** Conceptualization, Writing -  
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496

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627

## 628 Figure & Tables Captions

629 **Figure 1:** *Conceptual model of the relation between frictional power dissipation*  
630 *( $\dot{Q}$ ) and grain-scale roughness of the boundary between melt (PST, pseudotachylyte*  
631 *once solidified) and host rock (HR) during seismic slip in a granitoid (Qz = quartz:*  
632  *$T_m \sim 1730^\circ\text{C}$ ; Bt = biotite:  $T_m \sim 650^\circ\text{C}$ ; Pl = plagioclase  $An_{45}$ :  $T_m \sim 1250^\circ\text{C}$ ; Navrotsky,*  
633 *1995; Spray, 2010; Deer et al., 1992). Red lines represent isotherms with decreasing*  
634 *spacing with increasing  $\dot{Q}$ . (a) High  $\dot{Q}$ : the thermal gradient is high; the host rock*  
635 *minerals melt almost at the same rate resulting in a relatively smooth PST-HR*  
636 *boundary. (b) Low  $\dot{Q}$ : the thermal gradient is low and biotite is more affected by*  
637 *melting than the other minerals; as result deep embayments (Emb) and a rugged*  
638 *PST-HR boundary develop. The grain-scale roughness of the PST-HR boundary is*  
639 *described by  $\omega_0$  (characteristic asperity height, Eq. 1) and  $\lambda_{ave}$  (average radius of*  
640 *the asperities, Eq. 2). The distance  $z = \sqrt{2} \omega_0$  corresponds to the depth of the*  
641 *embayments (see also methods section). In this conceptual model, the thermal*  
642 *diffusivity of melt and wall rocks is the same and latent heat of fusion is not*  
643 *considered; the isotherms are approximated as planes for simplicity. In reality,*  
644 *different thermal diffusivities and the latent heat of fusion exchanged during mineral*  
645 *melting may perturb the parallelism of the isotherms. Modified from Nielsen et al.*  
646 *(2010).*

647

648 **Figure 2:** *Experimental pseudotachylytes and experimental data. (a) Evolution of*  
649 *frictional traction  $\tau$  vs. slip distance during experiments. The black in color segment*  
650 *defines  $\tau_{ss}$  for experiment S475. (b) Velocity function imposed to the samples in the*

651 four experiments. **(c)** Photomosaic of BSE-FESEM images of experiment S475  
652 performed at 30 MPa normal stress. The ~3 mm long embayment is in  
653 correspondence of the biotite grain. **(d)** Pseudotachylyte of experiment HVR376 with  
654 abundant angular clasts of quartz and few rounded clasts of plagioclase (andesine or  
655  $An_{45}$  in composition) immersed in a Ca-rich glassy matrix. **(e)** Pseudotachylyte-host  
656 rock (PST-HR) boundary of experiment HVR376 with evidence of melting and  
657 dehydration (elongated vesicles) of biotite grains. A Fe-rich glassy matrix departs  
658 from the biotite (c to e, BSE-FESEM images. PST, pseudotachylyte; Bt, Biotite; HR,  
659 host rock; Pl, plagioclase; Qz, quartz).

660

661 **Figure 3: Natural pseudotachylytes. (a)** Drawing of the right lateral fault L05 (GPS  
662 point N46 10' 348" E10 34' 864") with sample location (blue dots). The  
663 compressional, neutral and extensional structural domains are evidenced by dark,  
664 intermediate and light gray-colored areas, respectively. **(b)** Southern  
665 pseudotachylyte-host rock (PST-HR) boundary from an extensional domain with two  
666 embayments on biotite grains (Bt. The embayments are partially filled by a whitish  
667 quartz-rich pseudotachylyte (sample L05-02). **(c)** Detail of the quartz-rich portion of  
668 the pseudotachylyte in (b). The PST is formed by abundant quartz clasts welded by  
669 devitrified glassy matrix and microlites of biotite and plagioclase (see also inset;  
670 white arrow = Pl microlites). This ultrafine aggregate is interpreted as a clast-laden  
671 melt filling the embayment. **(d)** Typical embayment in biotite at the PST-HR  
672 boundary (see profile in Fig. 3b for location). The PST matrix at the contact with the  
673 biotite grain includes microlites of biotite crystallized from the melt, indicative of  
674 progressive melting of the biotite grain followed by crystallization of biotite microlites  
675 during cooling and solidification of the melt. **(e)** Detail of the two PST-HR boundaries

676 from a compressional domain. The northern boundary is smoother ( $\omega_0 = 31 \mu\text{m}$ ) than  
677 the southern one ( $\omega_0 = 89 \mu\text{m}$ ) (sample L05-06). **(f)** Host rocks located to the north  
678 (top, poorly damaged) and south (bottom, highly damaged) boundary of a neutral  
679 domain (sample L05-08). **(g)** PST-HR boundaries of an injection vein (sample W05-  
680 S01). IV, injection vein; Qz, quartz; Kf, K-feldspar; Pl, Plagioclase). (3b,e,g: Micro-  
681 images collected with polarized petrographic microscope, plane polarized light; 3c,d:  
682 BSE-FESEM images; 3f: FESEM-CL images).

683

684 **Figure 4:** Results of the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) spectral analysis in  
685 experimental and natural pseudotachylytes. **(a)** FFT spectra of the experimental  
686 PST-HR boundaries (colored lines) with their respective  $\omega_0$  (= RMS, colored dots) vs.  
687 PST-HR boundary length. The  $\omega_0$  values plot along the FFT spectra of their  
688 respective PST-HR boundaries (Beeler, 2023). There are no substantial differences  
689 between the spectra of the four experimental pseudotachylytes. **(b)** Natural faults:  
690 FFT spectra of natural PST-HR boundaries (colored lines) with their respective  $\omega_0$  (=   
691 RMS, colored dots). For displaying purposes, only one spectrum from each structural  
692 domain is reported (See Supplementary Material SM2 for the entire dataset). The  
693  $\omega_0$  values plot along the FFT spectra of their respective PST-HR boundaries. The  
694 FFT magnitude is higher in injection veins and extensional domain and lower in  
695 neutral and compressional domains. **(c)** Slope of the FFT spectra regression line of  
696 experimental PST-HR boundaries. There is no significant variation of the slope with  
697 increasing dissipated power. **(d)** Slope of the FFT spectra regression line of natural  
698 PST-HR boundaries of this study. As for the experiments, there is no clear  
699 correlation between the slopes and the structural domains. The stress normal to the

700 *fault increases from extensional to compressive structural domains. Hence, in*  
701 *natural faults,  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  should also increase toward the right on the x-axis (see*  
702 *discussion).*

703

704 **Figure 5:** *Grain-scale roughness of the PST-HR boundary in experimental and*  
705 *natural pseudotachylytes (see Fig. 1 and Eqs. 1 and 2 for definition of  $\omega_0$  and  $\lambda_{ave}$ ).*  
706 *Sample locations and structural domains of the natural pseudotachylytes from the*  
707 *northern PST-HR fault L05 (black circles, see also discussion about these*  
708 *highlighted data) are reported in Fig. 3a. (a)  $\lambda_{ave}$  vs.  $\omega_0$  in experimental*  
709 *pseudotachylytes. (b)  $\lambda_{ave}$  versus  $\omega_0$  in natural pseudotachylytes. (c)  $\lambda_{ave}$  as*  
710 *function of  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  in experimental pseudotachylytes. (d)  $\lambda_{ave}$  plotted for different*  
711 *structural domains in natural pseudotachylytes from this study. (e)  $\omega_0$  as function of*  
712  *$\dot{Q}_{ss}$  in experimental pseudotachylytes. The solid black line is the distance*  
713  *$z_{T=870^\circ\text{C}}/\sqrt{2}$ .  $T=870^\circ\text{C}$  corresponds to the calculated melting temperature  $T_{m\text{eff}}$  for*  
714 *biotite, derived from the depth of the embayments (see discussion); gray in color*  
715 *dashed lines denote the standard deviation. The values of experimental  $\dot{Q}_{ss}$  are*  
716 *reported in Table 1. (f)  $\omega_0$  estimates for injection veins and for the different structural*  
717 *domains of fault veins in natural pseudotachylytes from this study.*

718

719 **Figure 6:** *Frictional power dissipation ( $\dot{Q}$ ) range estimated for the fault segment L05*  
720 *using the grain-scale roughness of the northern pseudotachylyte-host rock boundary*  
721 *(gray dots) together with the calculated frictional power dissipation derived from the*  
722 *experimental pseudotachylytes of this study (black dots) and of Di Toro et al. (2006)*



723 (diamonds). The estimate is based on the melting temperature of biotite derived from  
724 the experimental pseudotachylytes ( $870\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 180\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Fig. 5d).

725

726 **Table 1:** Experimental data: target velocity, imposed normal stress, measured peak  
727 and steady-state shear stress and calculated power per unit area. (\*) experiment  
728 published in Di Toro et al., 2006.

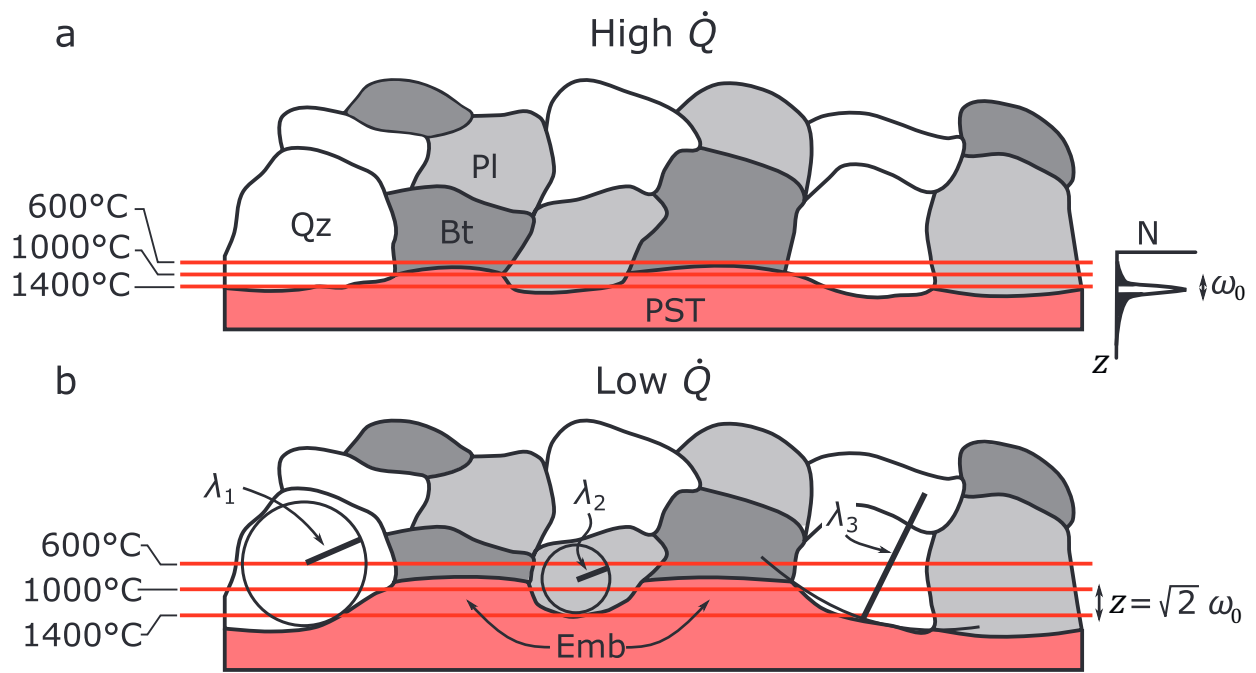
729

730 **Table 2:** Electron microprobe analysis (EMPA) of experimental pseudotachylytes:  
731 (s.d. = standard deviation). Plagioclase and biotite compositions are from Di Toro and  
732 Pennacchioni, 2004) and were obtained with the same electron microprobe and  
733 working conditions.

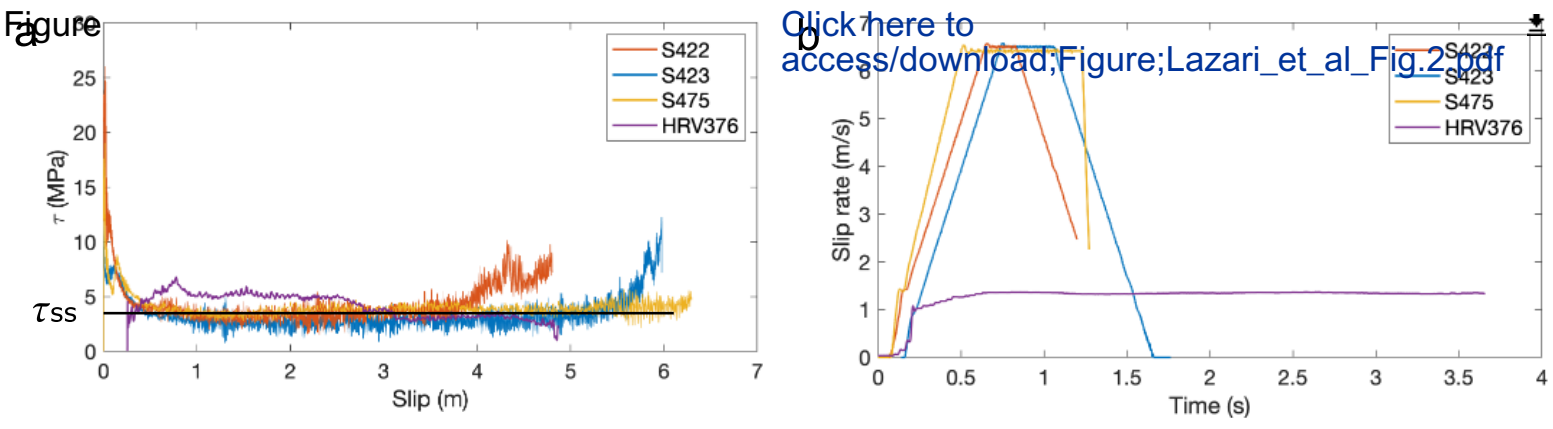
734

735 **Table 3:** Grain-scale roughness parameters of the experimental and natural samples  
736 analyzed in this study.

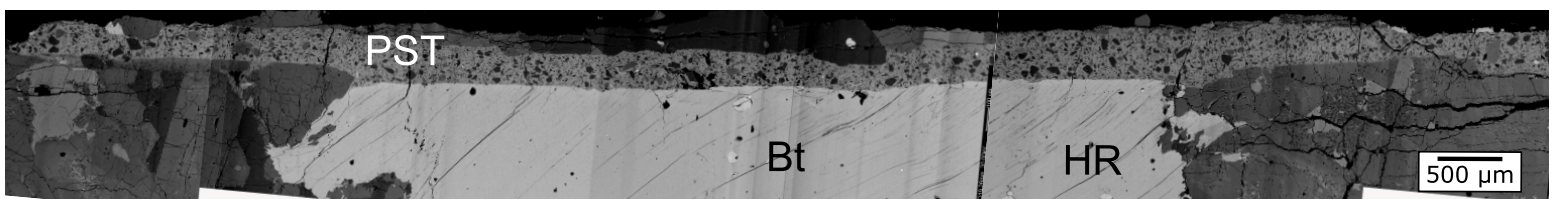
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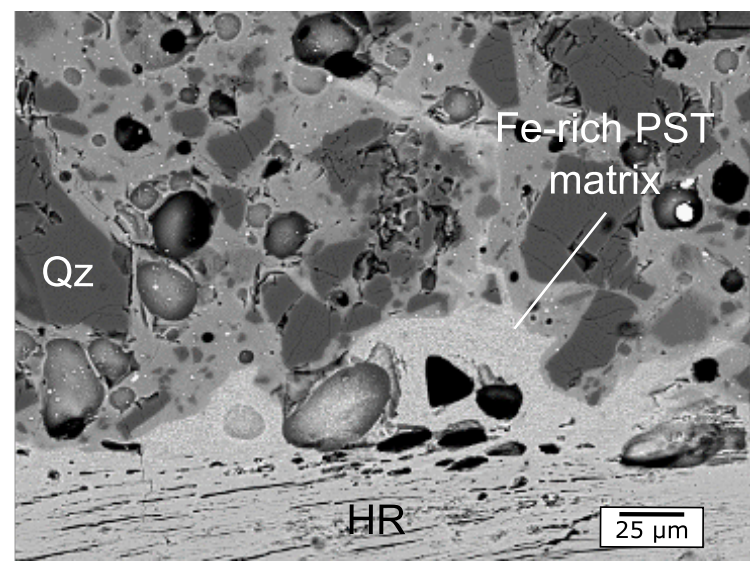
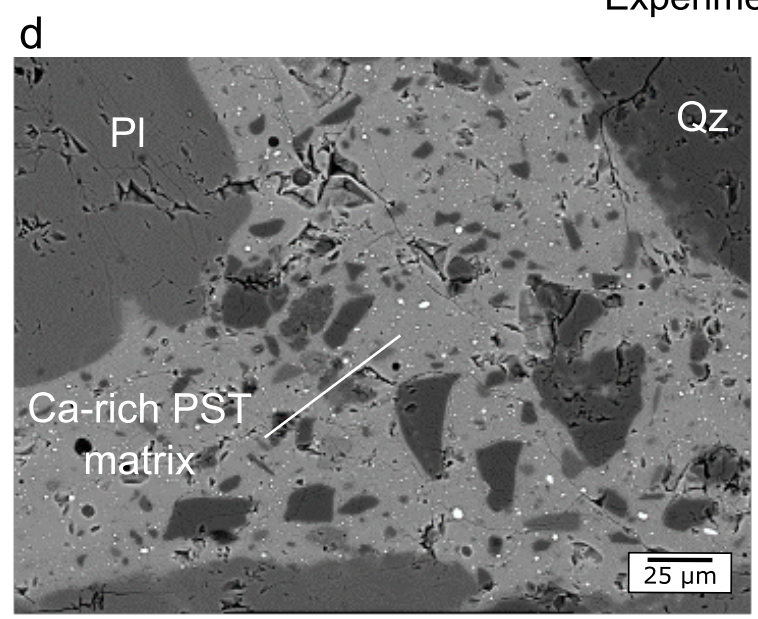
Lazari et al. Figure 1



C Experiment S475

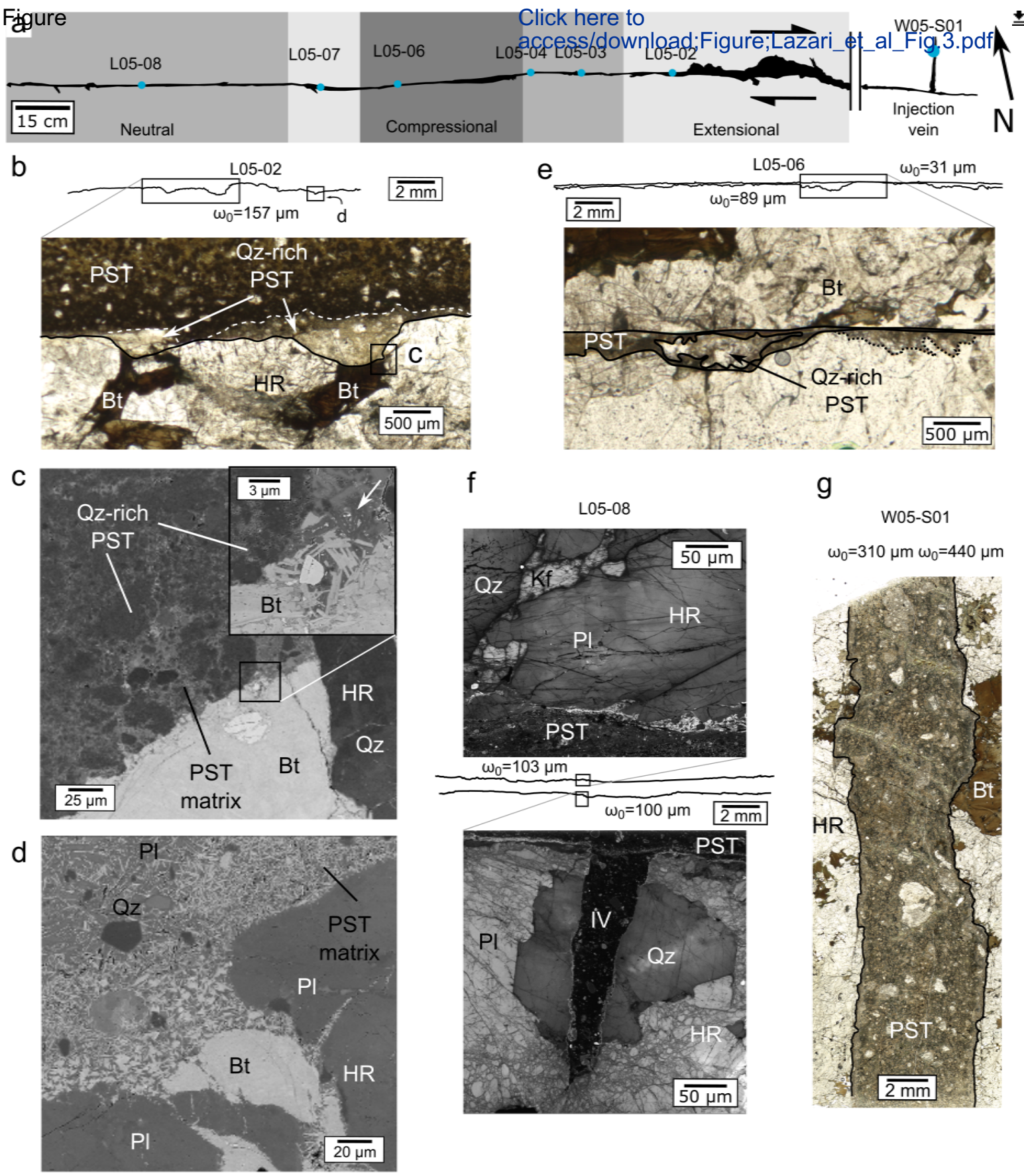


Experiment HRV376



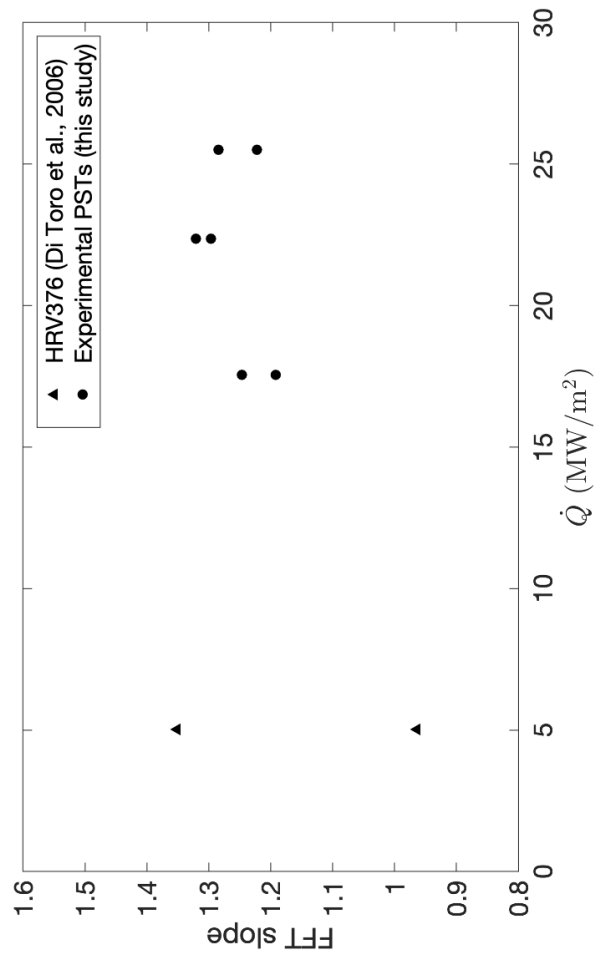
Lazari et al. Fig. 2



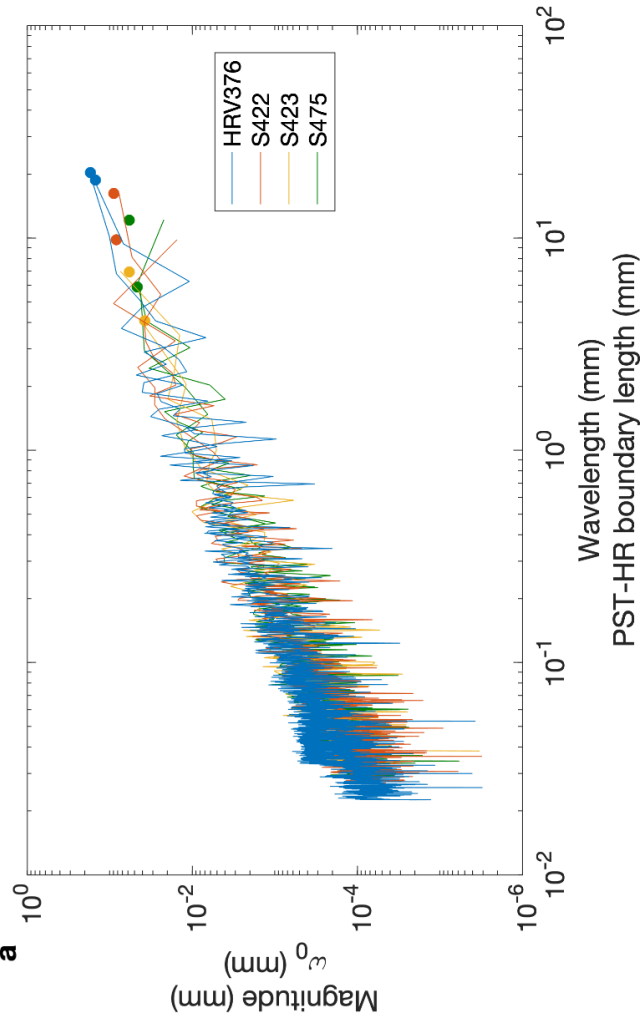


Lazari et al. Fig.3

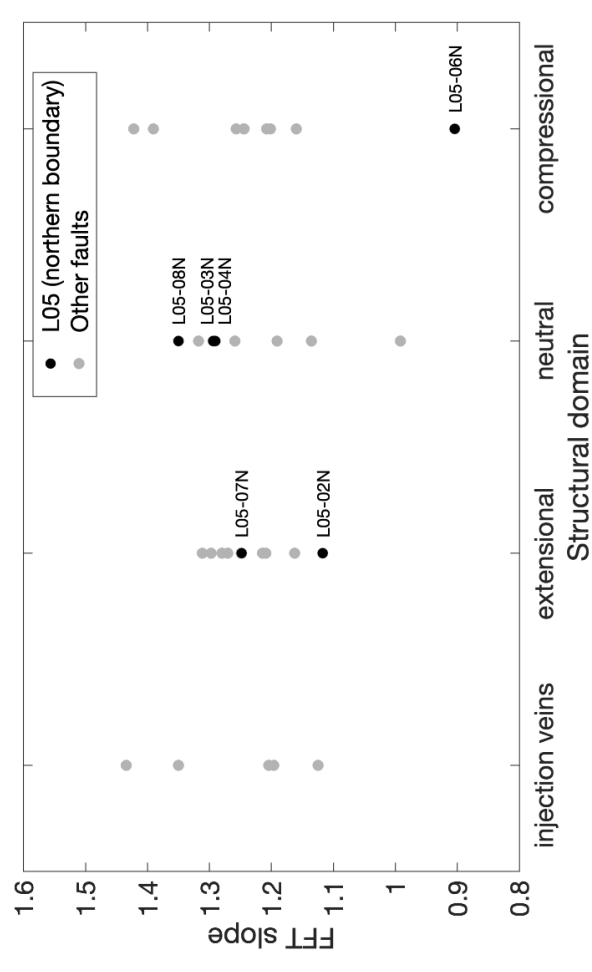
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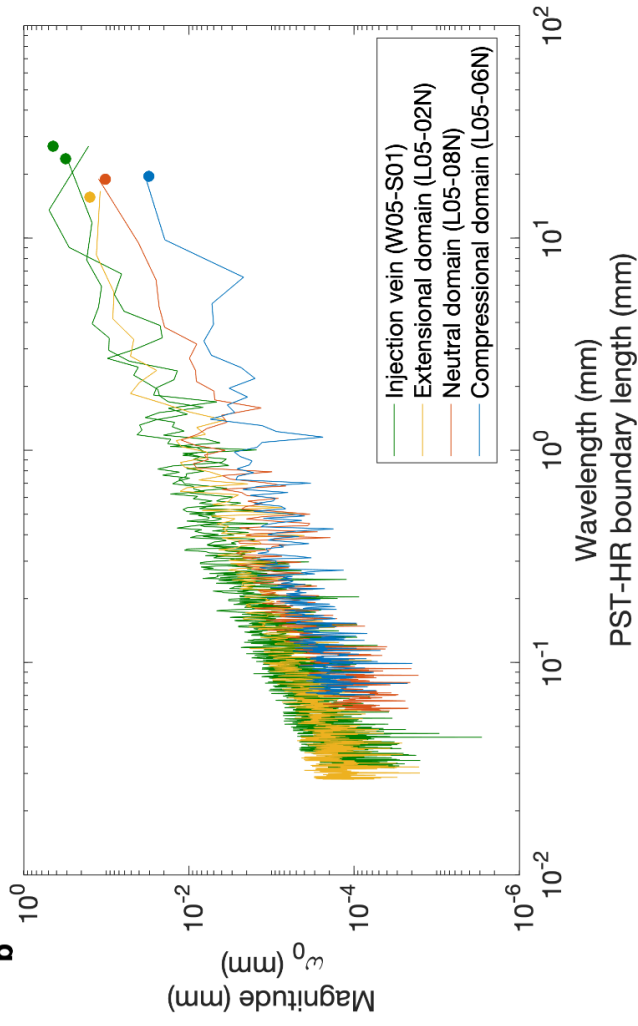
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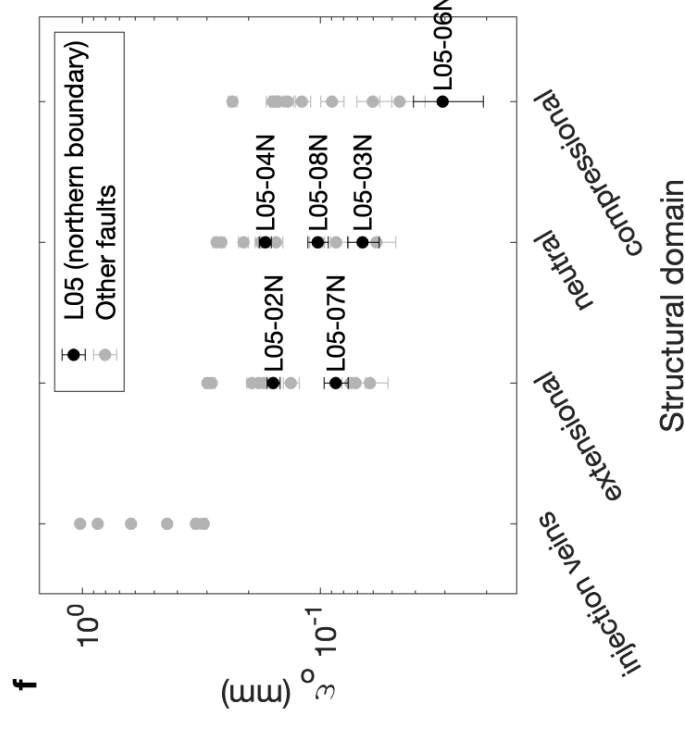
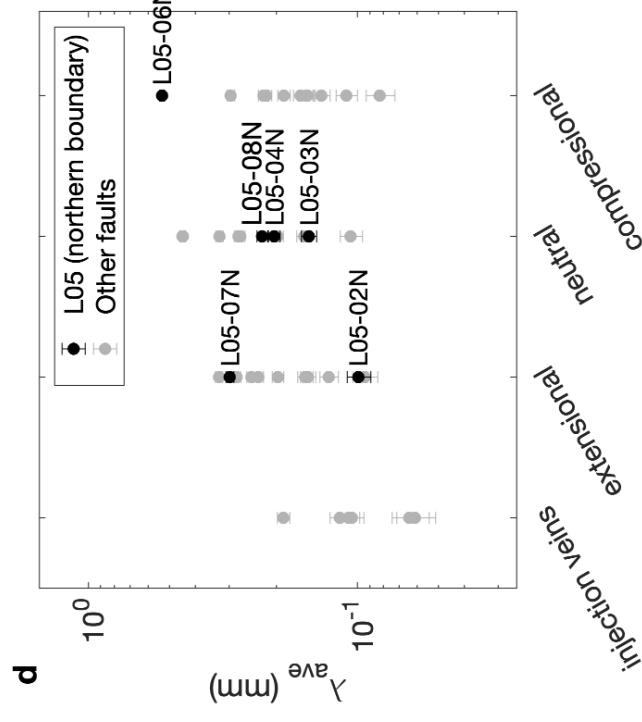
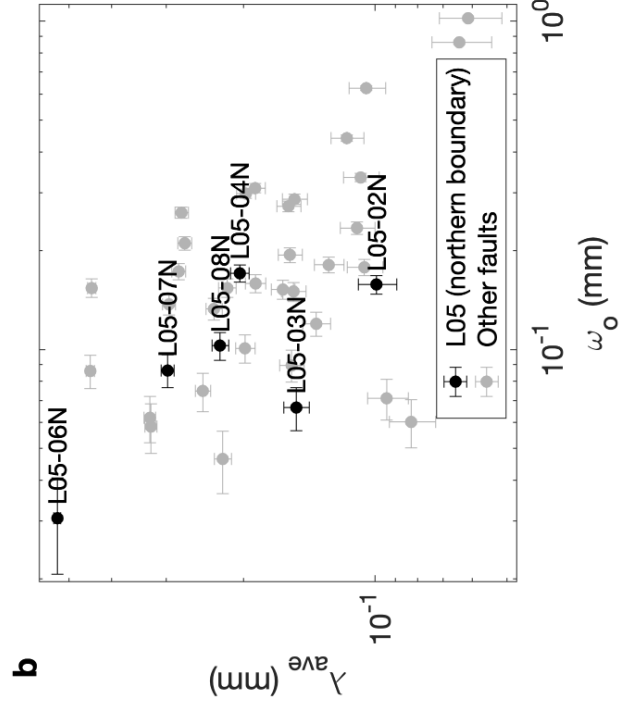
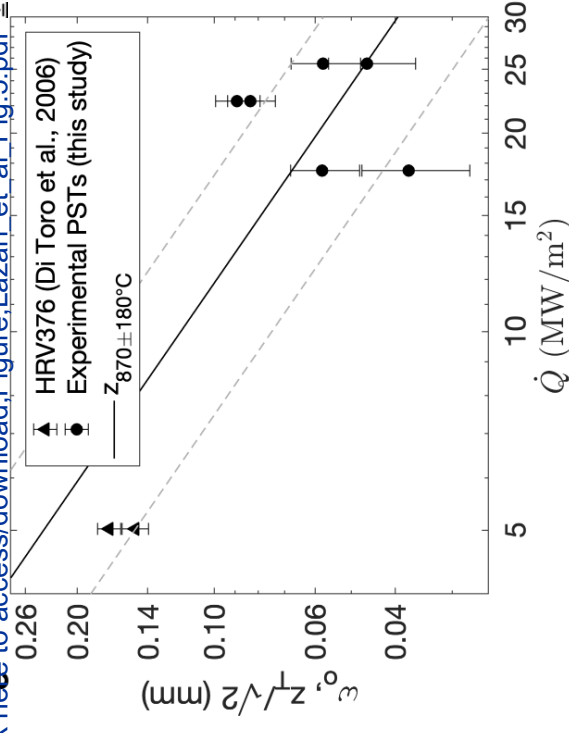
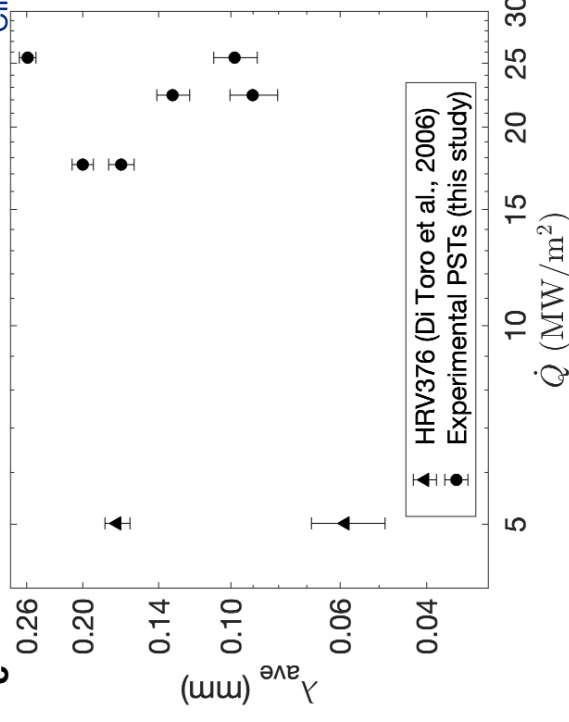
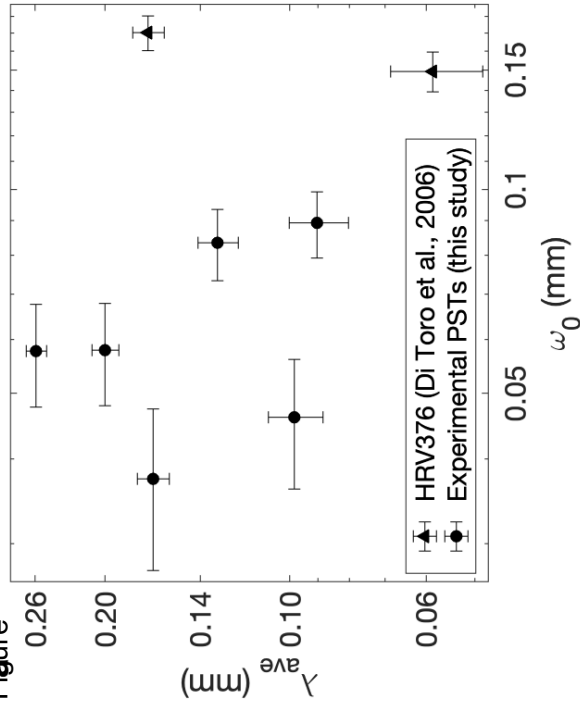


**d**



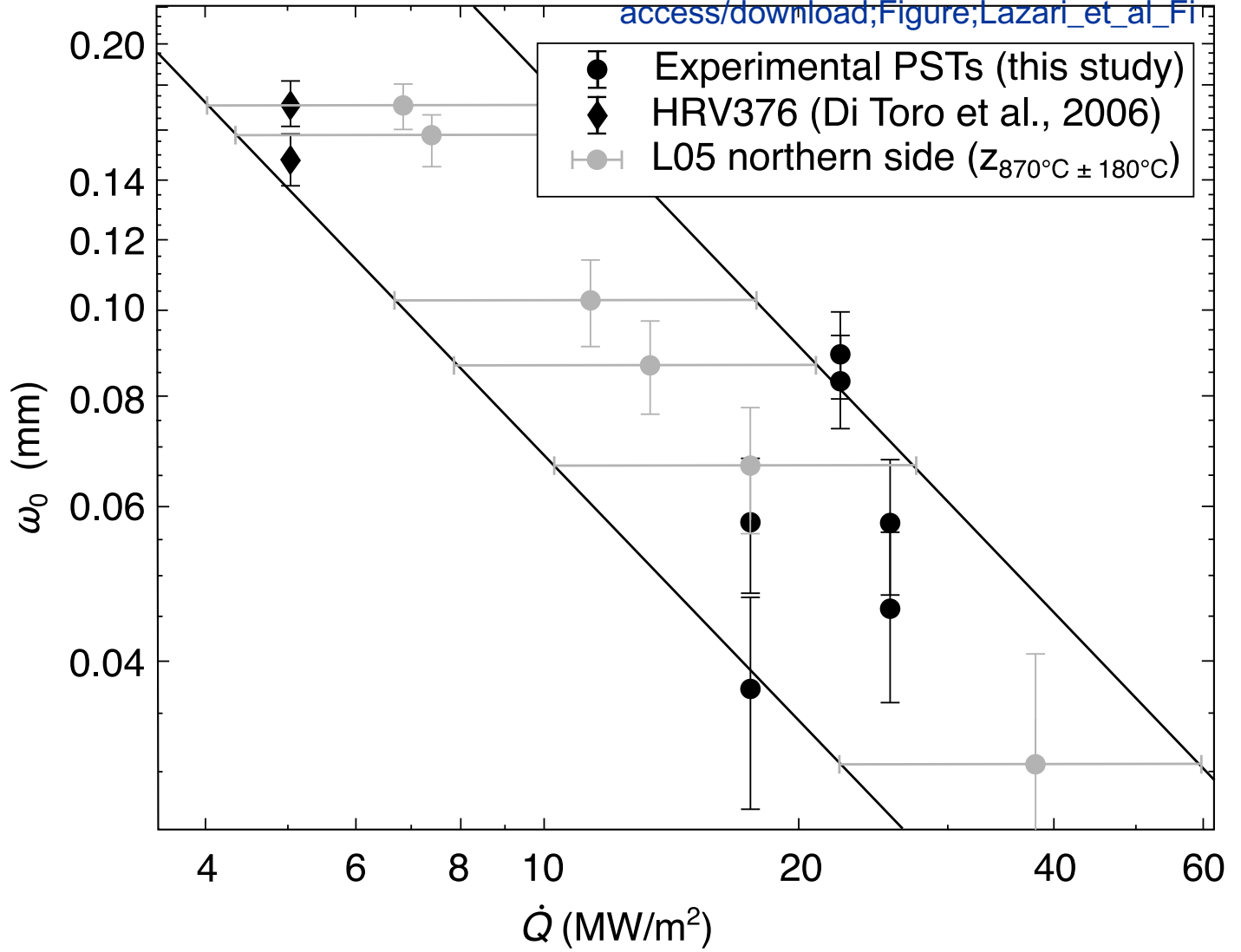
**b**





Figure

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Lazari et al. Fig. 6

**Table 1:** Experimental data: target velocity, imposed normal stress, measured peak and steady-state shear stress and calculated power dissipation per unit area. (\*) experiment published in Di Toro et al., 2006.

Experiment	Target velocity $V_{eq\_ss}$ (m s <sup>-1</sup> )	Normal stress $\sigma_n$ (MPa)	Peak shear stress $\tau_p$ (MPa)	Steady-state shear stress $\tau_{ss}$ (MPa)	Power per unit area $\dot{Q}_{ss} = \tau_{ss} V_{eq\_ss}$ (MW m <sup>-2</sup> )
HRV376*	1.3	20	6.784	3.86	5.02
S422	6.5	40	26.04	3.44	22.36
S423	6.5	20	12.29	2.70	17.55
S475	6.5	30	19.05	3.92	25.50



**Table 2:** Electron microprobe analysis (EMPA) of experimental pseudotachylytes: (s.d. = standard deviation). Plagioclase and biotite compositions are from Di Toro and Pennacchioni, 2004) and were obtained with the same electron microprobe and working conditions.

	<b>PST matrix (Ca-rich)</b>		<b>PST matrix (Fe-rich)</b>		<b>Plagioclase*</b>		<b>Biotite*</b>	
	6 data	s.d.	2 data		15 data	s.d.	12 data	s.d.
SiO <sub>2</sub>	52.21	0.39	37.58		56.20	1.28	35.45	0.19
TiO <sub>2</sub>	1.16	0.07	2.73		0.02	0.01	2.55	0.50
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	22.11	0.30	17.82		26.96	0.94	17.33	0.20
FeO <sub>tot</sub>	7.71	0.27	21.53		0.38	0.29	20.59	0.42
MnO	0.26	0.04	0.59		0.12	0.11	0.01	0.01
MgO	3.92	0.20	9.73		0.02	0.01	9.04	0.46
CaO	4.84	0.19	0.08		9.33	1.02	0.03	0.04
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.88	0.18	0.62		5.98	0.62	0.08	0.02
K <sub>2</sub> O	4.18	0.14	8.27		0.53	0.22	9.33	0.44
Tot	99.26	0.11	98.94		99.54	0.76	94.43	0.88

\*Data from Di Toro and Pennacchioni (2004)

**Table 3:** Grain-scale roughness parameters of the experimental and natural samples analyzed in this study.

Sample	$\lambda_{ave}$ (mm)	$\lambda_{ave}$ deviation (mm)	$\omega_0$ (mm)	$\omega_0$ deviation (mm)	FFT slope (adimen.)	FFT intercept (mm)	$\dot{Q}_{ss}$ (MW m <sup>-2</sup> ) or structural domain
HRV376 top	0.1702	0.1714	0.1703	0.1768	0.9639	-5.2620	5.020
HRV376 bot	0.0586	0.0511	0.1493	0.1463	1.3516	-4.5176	5.020
S422 top	0.1312	0.1540	0.0833	0.0772	1.3211	-4.6116	22.36
S422 bot	0.0903	0.0796	0.0892	0.0865	1.2966	-5.1414	22.36
S423 top	0.1671	0.1398	0.0374	0.0341	1.2463	-4.7004	17.55
S423 bot	0.2000	0.2039	0.0579	0.0578	1.1918	-5.2449	17.55
S475 top	0.0983	0.0538	0.0461	0.0481	1.2846	-4.7907	25.50
S475 bot	0.2590	0.2705	0.0577	0.0606	1.2220	-5.1841	25.50
A1E	0.1047	0.1319	0.6252	0.6059	1.4345	-3.7856	injection vein
A1W	0.1080	0.1357	0.3346	0.3595	1.2042	-4.3912	injection vein
A02-02N	0.2474	0.2072	0.0747	0.0797	1.2144	-5.4969	neutral
A02-02S	0.0941	0.0999	0.0710	0.0702	1.2975	-4.4707	neutral
A02-04N	0.1364	0.1522	0.1197	0.1156	1.2074	-5.2784	compressional
A2E	0.0642	0.0641	0.8621	0.8853	1.1964	-4.4267	injection vein
A2W	0.0613	0.0831	1.0217	1.0851	1.3500	-4.5118	injection vein
A4N	0.2769	0.2175	0.2613	0.2588	1.3176	-5.5750	neutral
A4S	0.1578	0.1396	0.2729	0.2554	1.1910	-4.9211	neutral
A5N	0.1277	0.1259	0.1812	0.1848	1.2490	-5.4868	extensional
A5S	0.2333	0.2149	0.1331	0.1431	1.2801	-5.2390	extensional
A7N	0.1625	0.1625	0.1525	0.1396	1.2450	-5.4098	compressional
A7S	0.2957	0.1966	0.1374	0.1376	1.2016	-5.5869	compressional
L05-02N	0.0992	0.1138	0.1577	0.1601	1.1171	-4.8767	extensional
L05-03N	0.1515	0.1470	0.0666	0.0643	1.2943	-5.0969	neutral
L05-04N	0.2039	0.2184	0.1707	0.1552	1.2910	-5.0811	neutral
L05-04S	0.1059	0.1073	0.1780	0.1750	1.2922	-4.3669	neutral
L05-06N	0.5323	0.2699	0.0307	0.0341	0.9041	-6.3854	compressional
L05-06S	0.1553	0.2183	0.0895	0.0773	1.1598	-5.1893	compressional
L05-07N	0.2979	0.2356	0.0864	0.0816	1.2482	-4.8399	extensional
L05-07S	0.3271	0.2671	0.0619	0.0584	1.1624	-4.6570	extensional
L05-08N	0.2260	0.1991	0.1027	0.0955	1.3502	-5.4975	neutral
L05-08S	0.1982	0.1682	0.1008	0.0945	1.2591	-5.6017	neutral
L09-01aN	0.1527	0.1740	0.2870	0.2872	1.2703	-4.9312	extensional
L09-01aS	0.1974	0.1759	0.2986	0.3298	1.2092	-4.9801	extensional
L09-02aN	0.1877	0.1522	0.1589	0.1578	1.2573	-5.1675	compressional
L09-02aS	0.2178	0.2046	0.1540	0.1408	1.2445	-5.3854	compressional

L09-02bN	0.2230	0.2191	0.0464	0.0429	1.1145	-5.9520	compressional
L09-02bS	0.0827	0.0883	0.0602	0.0544	1.2487	-4.8847	compressional
L09-03aN	0.2723	0.3508	0.2109	0.1974	1.1890	-5.6802	neutral
L09-03aS	0.4446	0.2220	0.1541	0.1720	0.9918	-5.5594	neutral
L09-03bN	0.3253	0.2289	0.0582	0.0554	1.1462	-5.5622	neutral
L09-03bS	0.4476	0.4125	0.0859	0.0798	1.1353	-5.0145	neutral
W05-S01E	0.1162	0.1509	0.4403	0.4540	1.3453	-4.6167	injection vein
W05-S01W	0.1882	0.1789	0.3100	0.2837	1.1248	-4.3834	injection vein
W05-S04N	0.1565	0.1735	0.1941	0.1963	1.2653	-5.5436	extensional
W05-S04S	0.2812	0.2011	0.1728	0.1752	1.3115	-4.5132	extensional
W09-S01N	0.1100	0.1293	0.2344	0.2318	1.3903	-4.8358	compressional
W09-S01S	0.1537	0.1201	0.1502	0.1541	1.4221	-5.1237	compressional