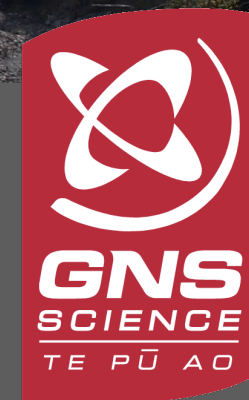


# Models meet Data, Earth Surface meet Geodynamics

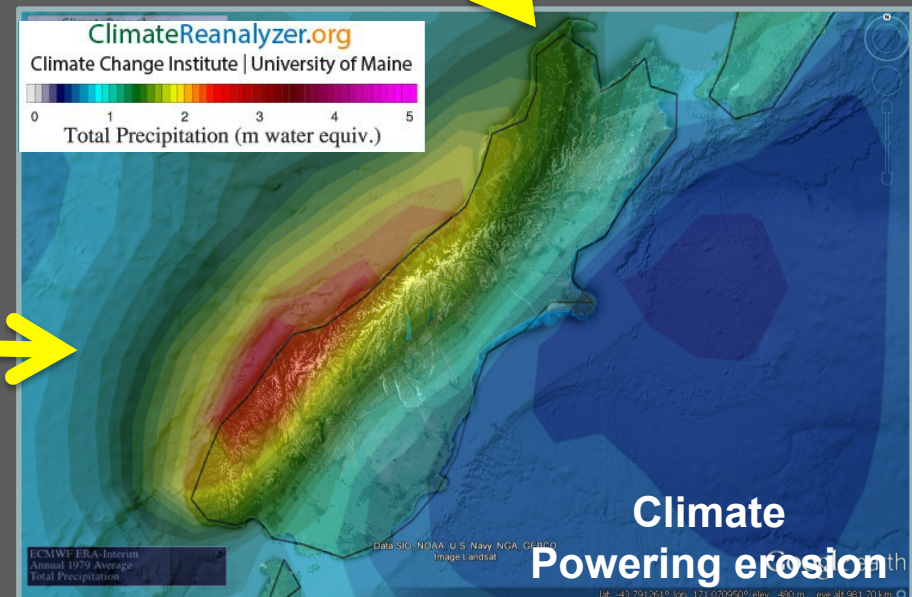


Phaedra Upton<sup>1</sup>,  
Peter Koons<sup>2</sup>, Sam Roy<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>GNS Science, <sup>2</sup>University of Maine,



# Geodynamics:Earth Surface Processes:Climate





# Geodynamics:Earth Surface Processes:Climate

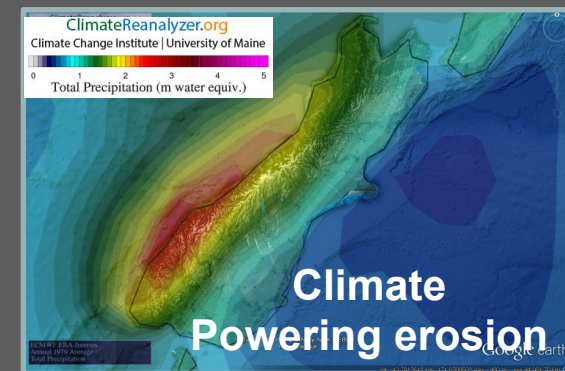
tectonic uplift and subsidence  
earthquakes, volcanic eruptions  
deformation induced weakening  
erosion  
sediment/glacial loading/unloading  
tectonic stresses  
topographic stresses  
fluvial/glacial stresses



fluid pressures  
orographic rainfall  
glaciations  
silicate weathering



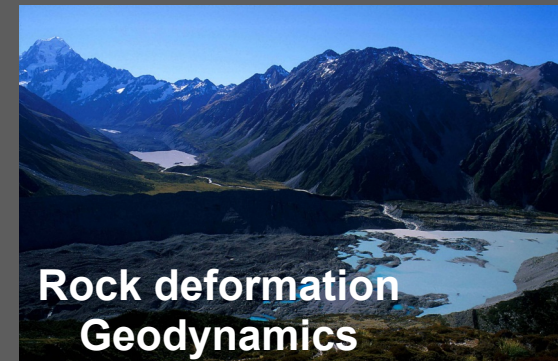
precipitation – water and ice  
weathering rates



# Geodynamics:Earth Surface Processes



tectonic uplift and subsidence  
earthquakes, volcanic eruptions  
deformation induced weakening  
erosion  
sediment/glacial loading/unloading  
tectonic stresses  
topographic stresses  
fluvial/glacial stresses



**No code or formulation can model all these features**

**Three approaches that cover most current attempts**

Add surface processes to geodynamics codes

Add geodynamic features to LEMs

Coupling existing geodynamic and surface process codes

**What we are aiming for:**

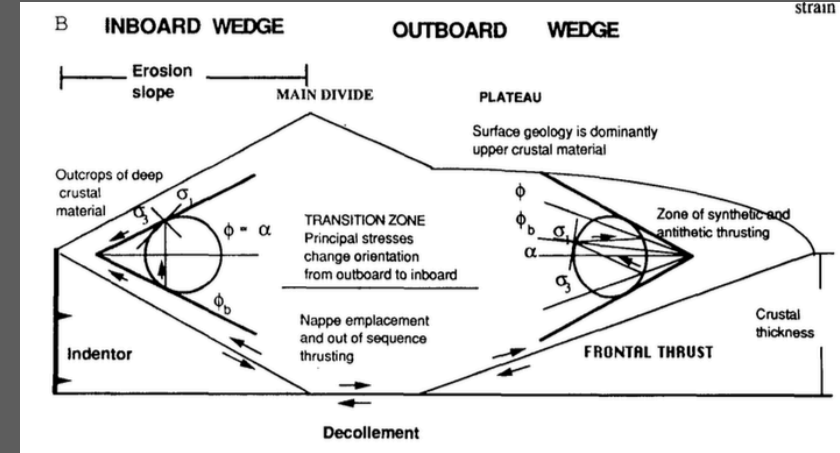
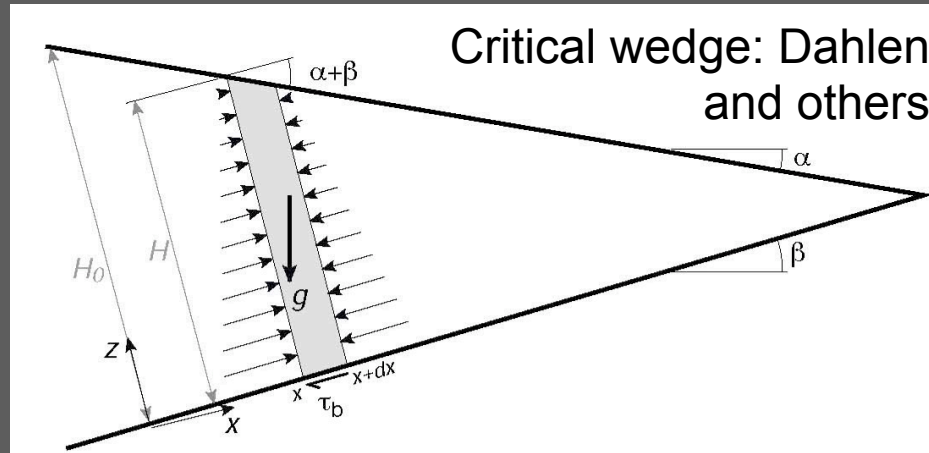
New conceptual framework and new codes with enhanced functionality



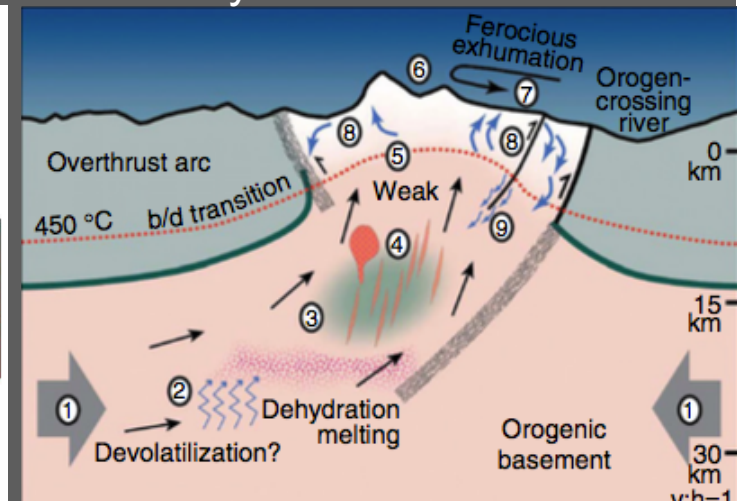
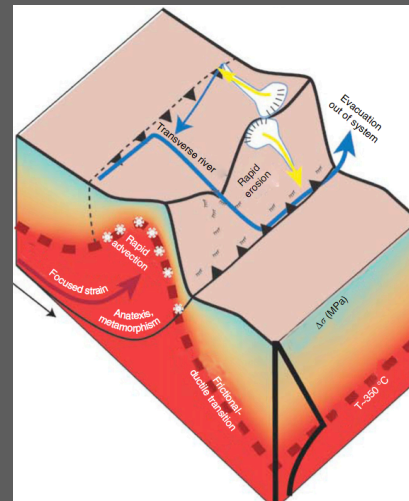
# Adding surface processes to geodynamic codes:

e.g. simple erosion and/or sediment loading  
inclusion of thermal effects

(Koons 1990)



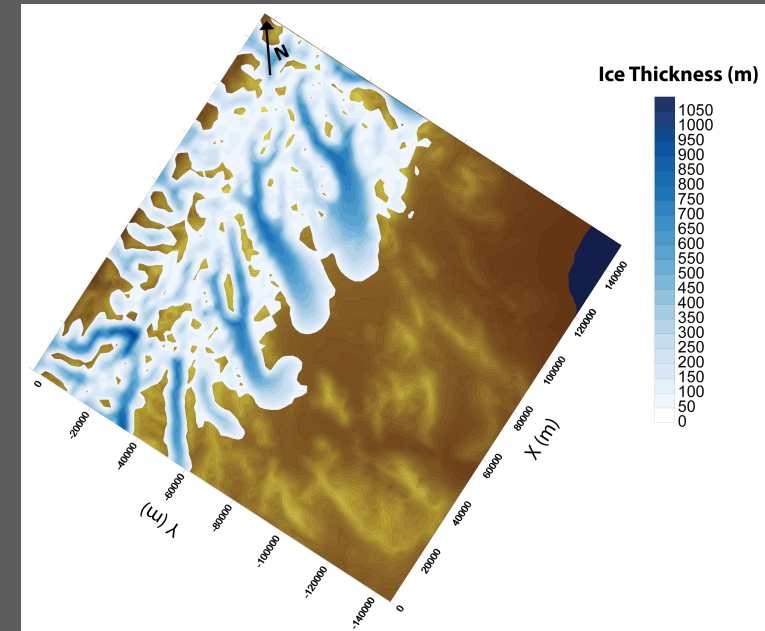
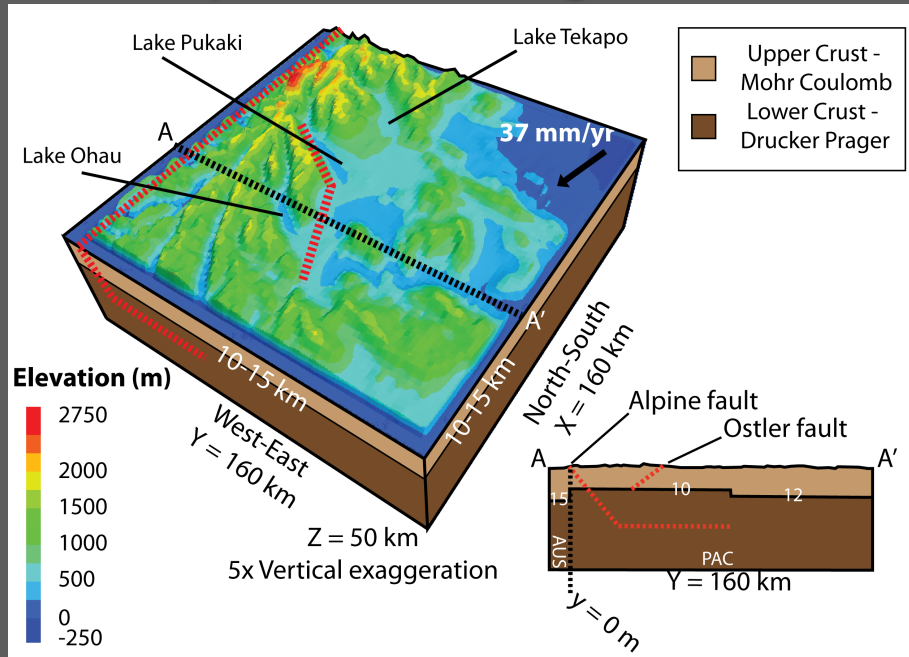
## Tectonic aneurysm



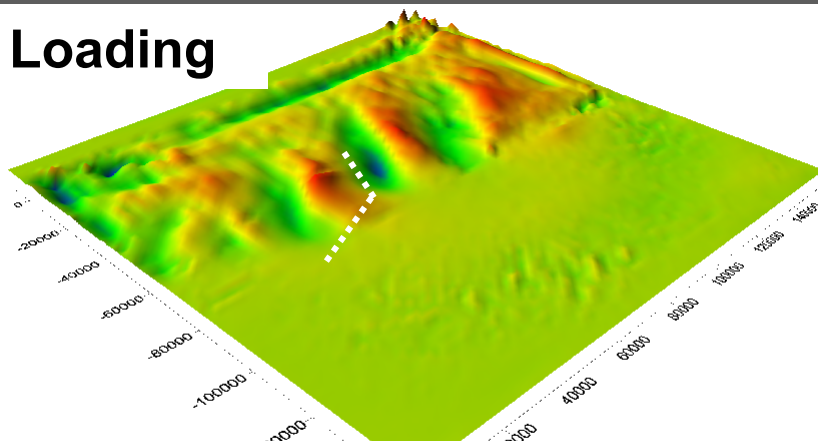
(Koons et al. 2013)

GNS Science

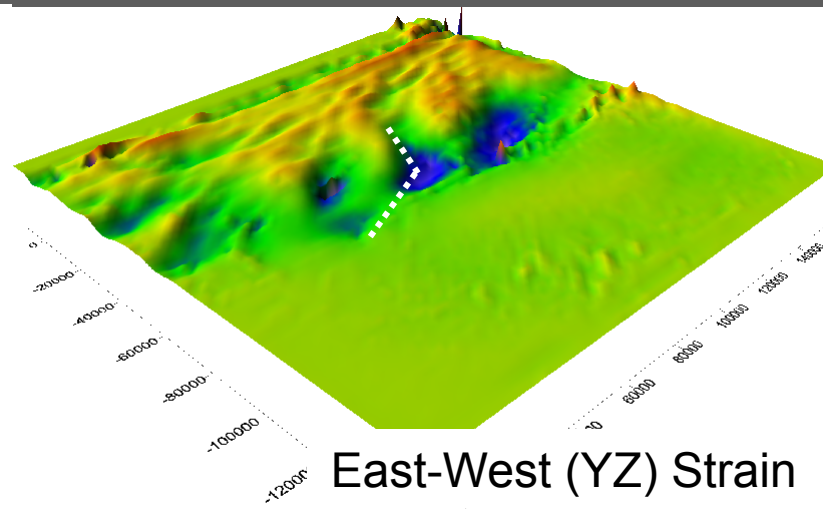
# Model setup and LGM glacial load



## Loading



North-South (XZ) Strain

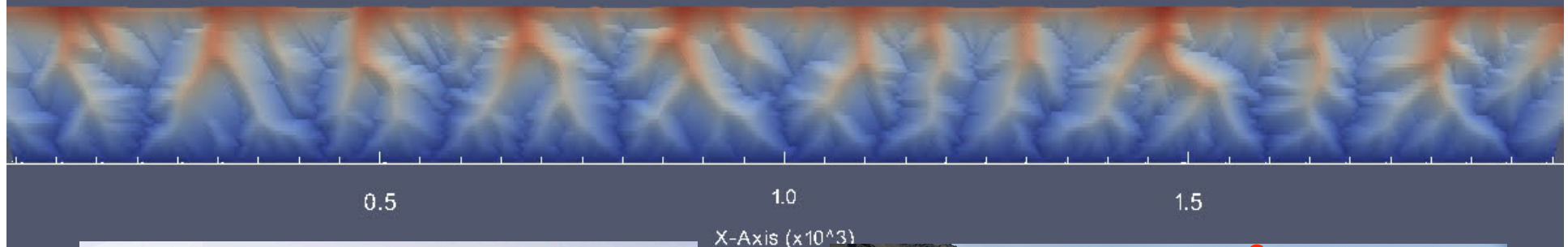


East-West (YZ) Strain



# Adding geodynamic features to surface process codes:

CHILD + lateral fault motion – from Sarah Harbert, University of Washington



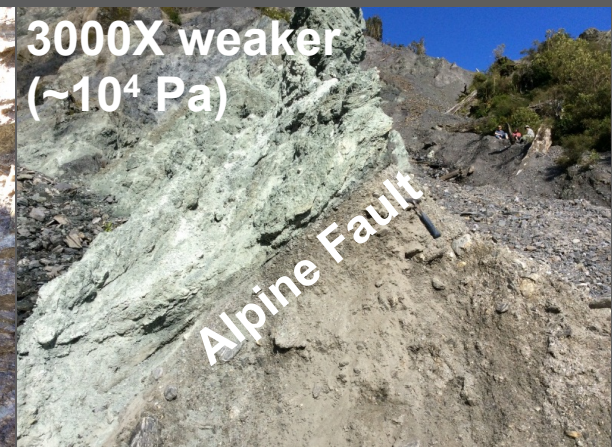


# Adding geodynamic features to surface process codes:

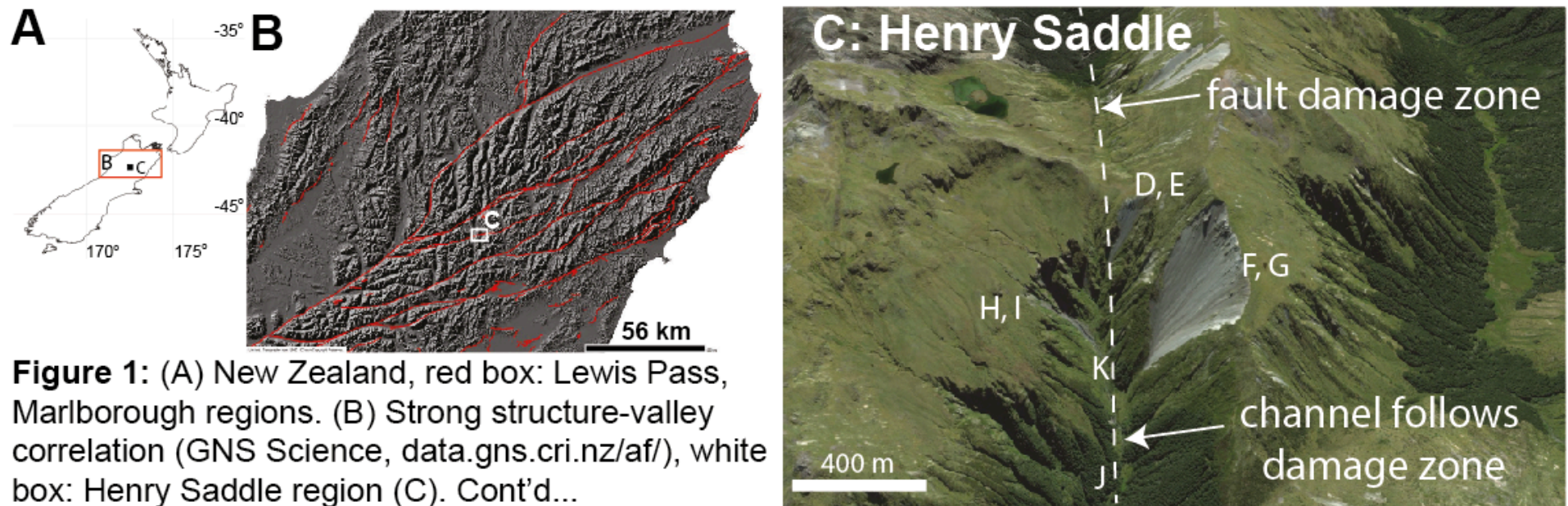
KCHILD: Sam Roy, University of Maine

“K” – kinematics and “K” – **K<sub>b</sub>, bedrock erodibility derived from cohesion**

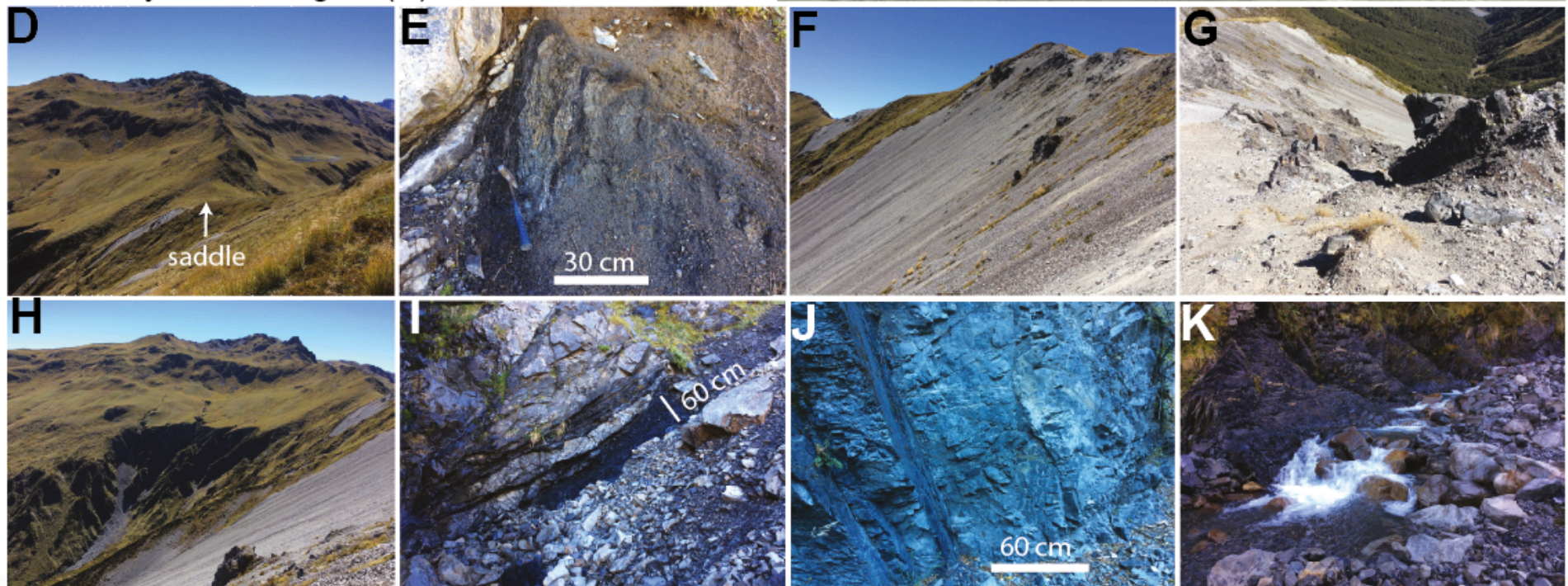
Fault damage → Erodiability link → put into CHILD







**Figure 1:** (A) New Zealand, red box: Lewis Pass, Marlborough regions. (B) Strong structure-valley correlation (GNS Science, [data.gns.cri.nz/af/](http://data.gns.cri.nz/af/)), white box: Henry Saddle region (C). Cont'd...

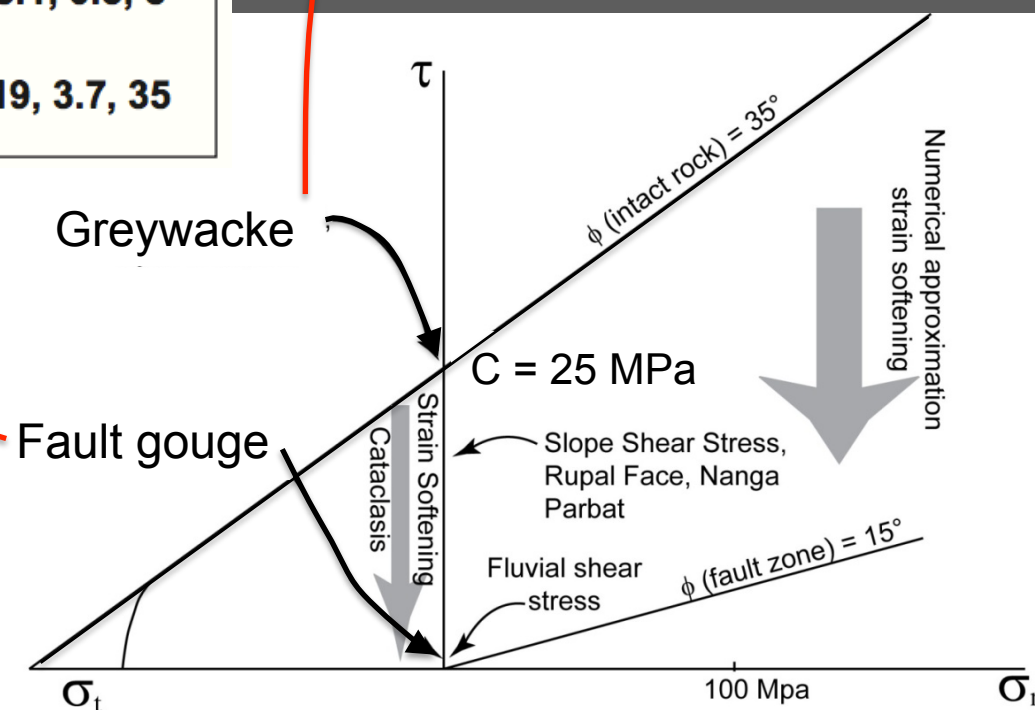
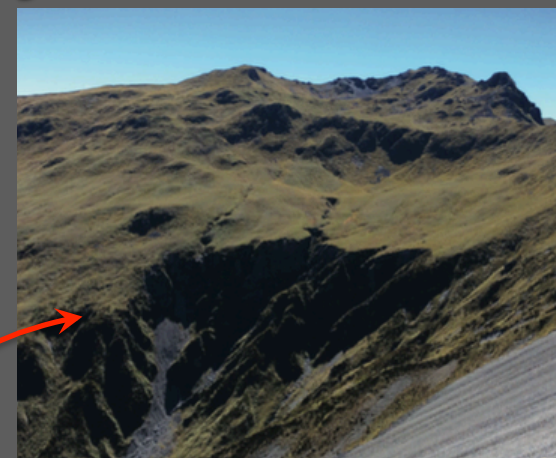




# Model parameters constrained by field data

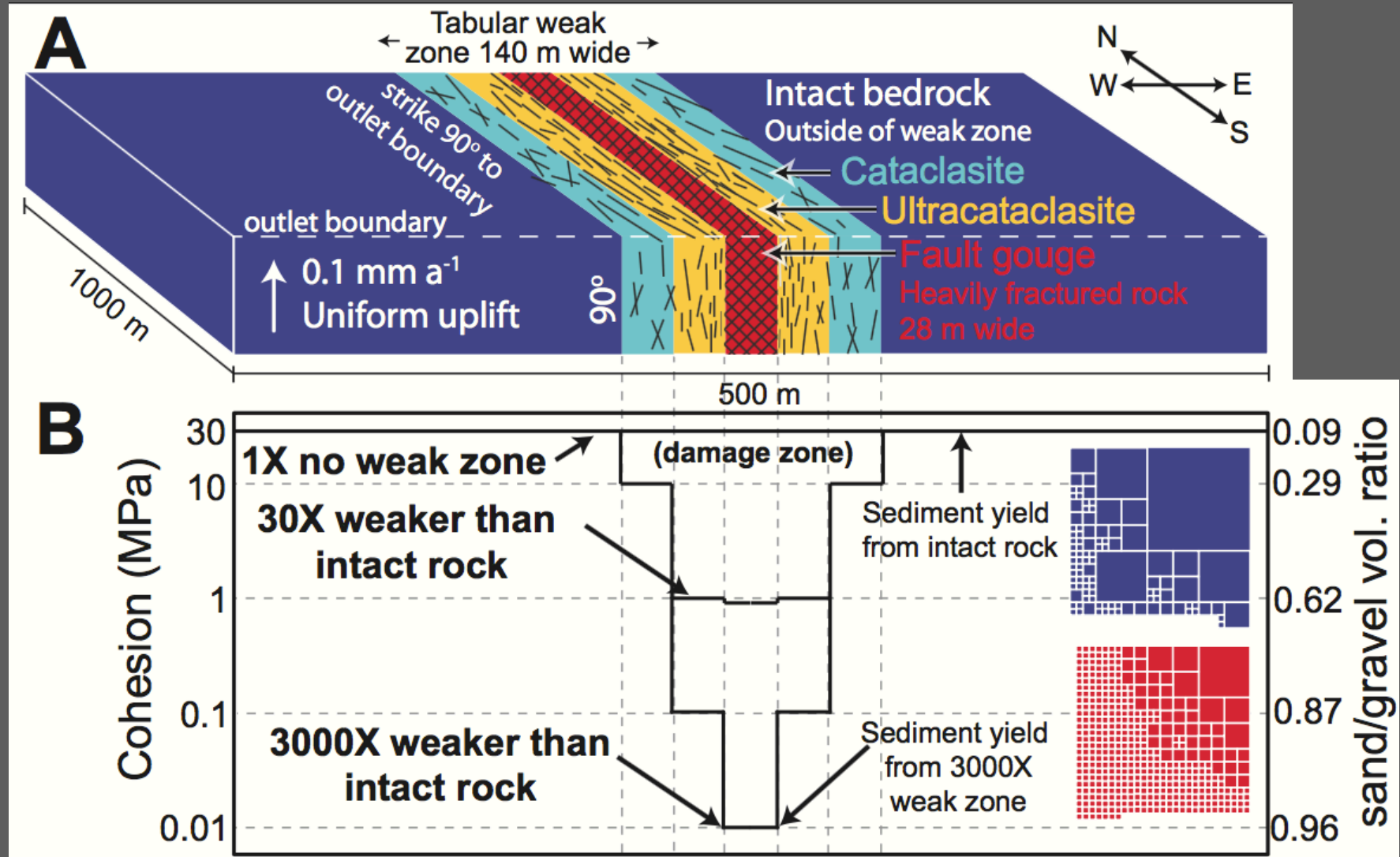
**Table1: Mechanical parameters measured from outcrop**

Sample	Cohesion (MPa)	Joint spacing range (mm)	$D_{50}$ , $D_{16}$ , $D_{84}$ (mm)
Jointed greywacke	8.5-25	200-800	189, 60, 318
Cataclasite	0.1-0.9	5-100	8.8, 1.9, 18.9
Gouge	0.003-0.02	<1	5.1, 0.3, 8
Downstream alluvium	n/a	n/a	19, 3.7, 35

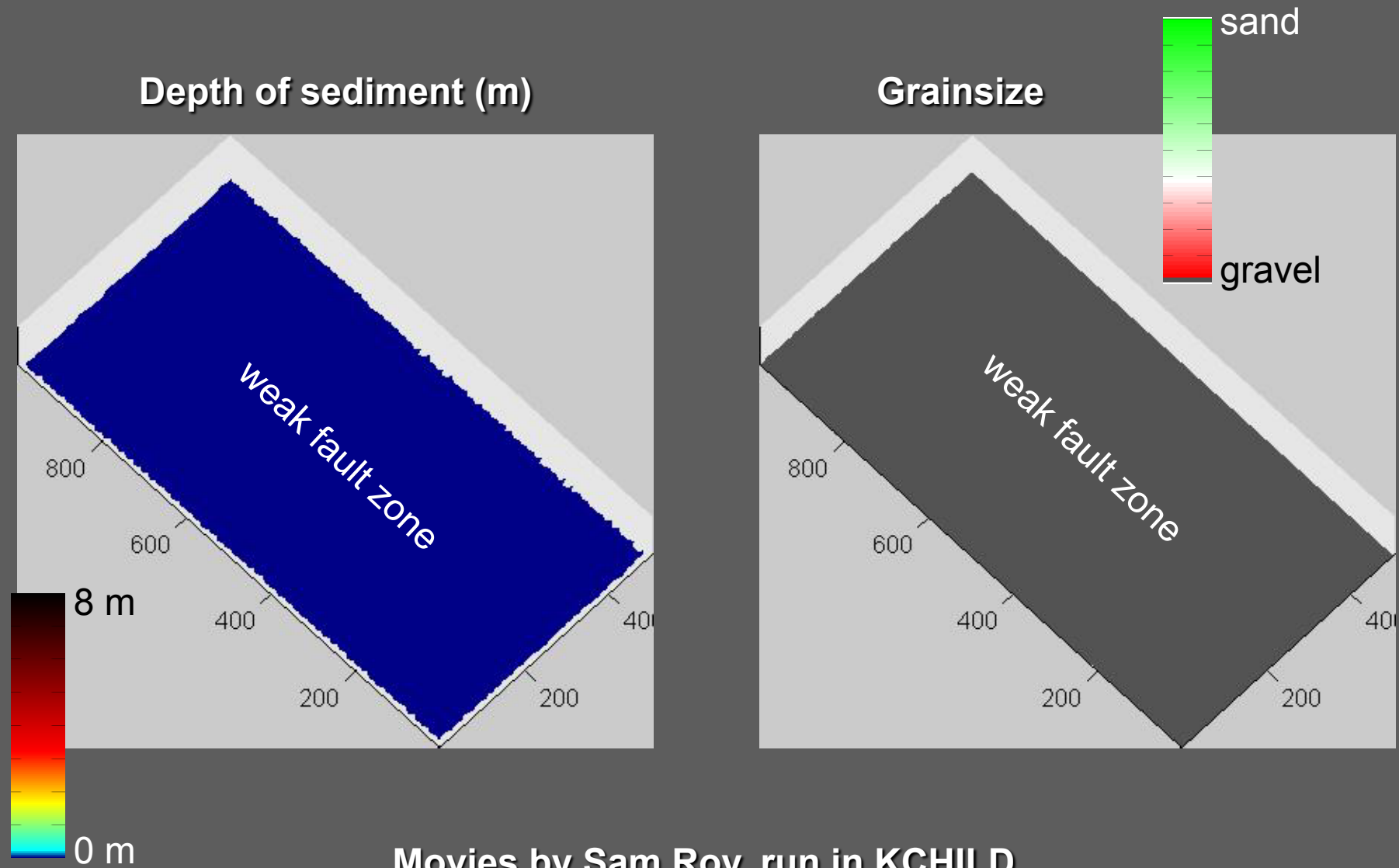




# Model constrained by field data



# Fluvial incision with sediments



Movies by Sam Roy, run in KCHILD



# Coupling existing geodynamic and surface process codes:

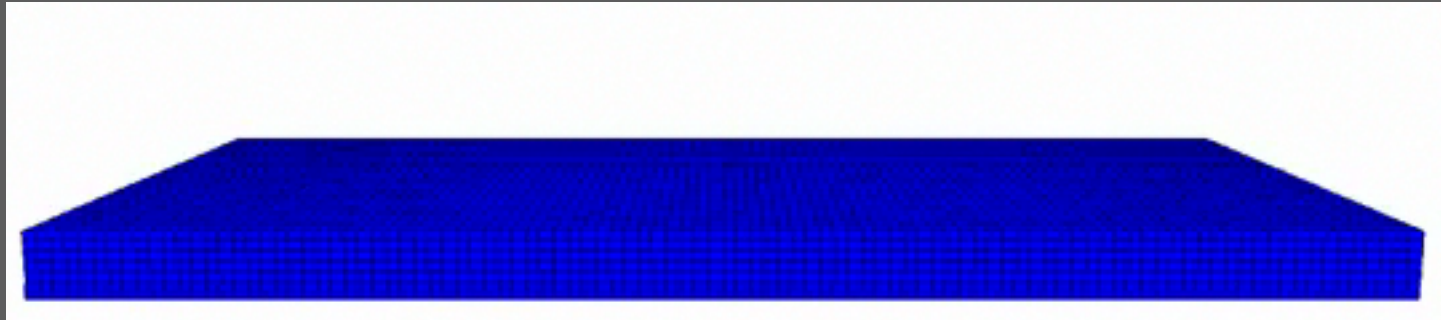
For example:

FLAC<sup>3D</sup> and CHILD (Roy, Upton, Tucker, Koons)

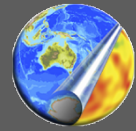


Uniform  
erodibility

Erodibility is  
a function of  
cohesion  
Incl. strain  
softening



# Geodynamics with Underworld



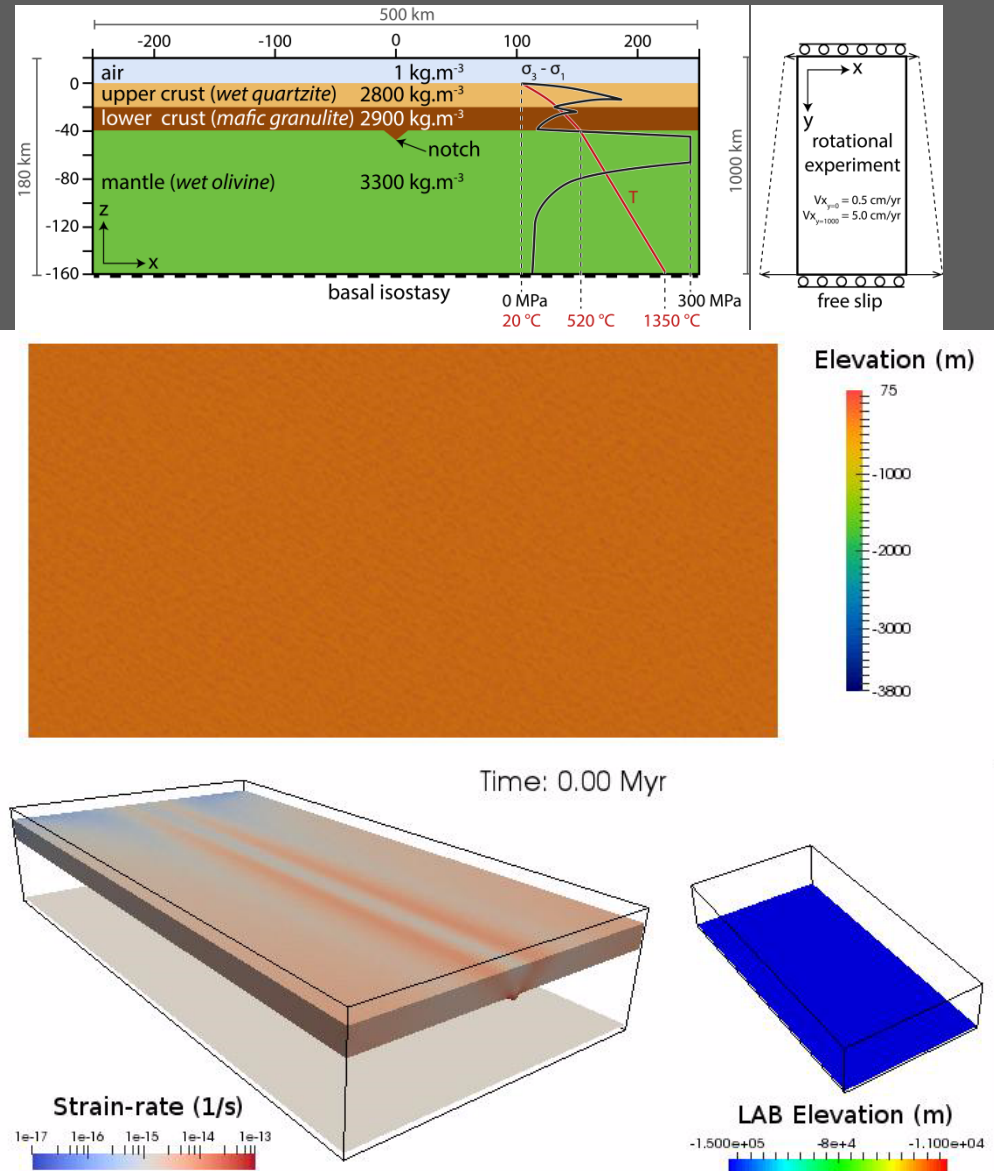
## Underworld:

- Designed to model lithospheric and mantle scale deformation processes,
- Supports complex rheologies,
- Open source,
- Parallel computing and capable of modelling at high resolutions,

Underworld allows us to have a thermally and mechanically realistic lithosphere.

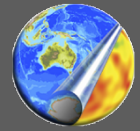
This allows us to study how landscapes influence tectonics, and vice versa.

## Continental Rifting near an Euler Pole



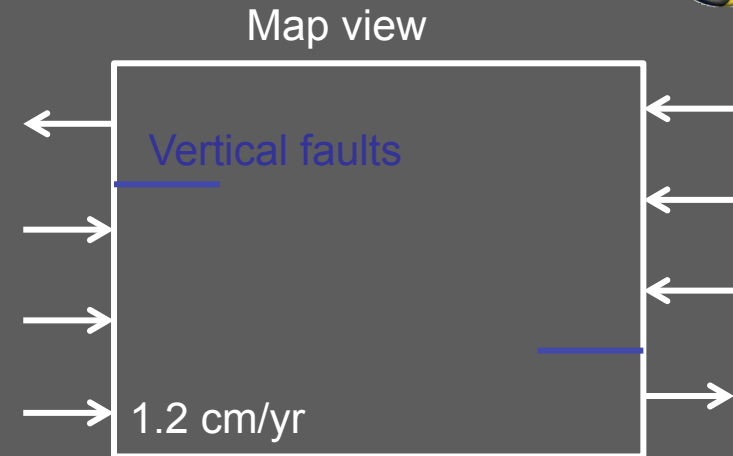
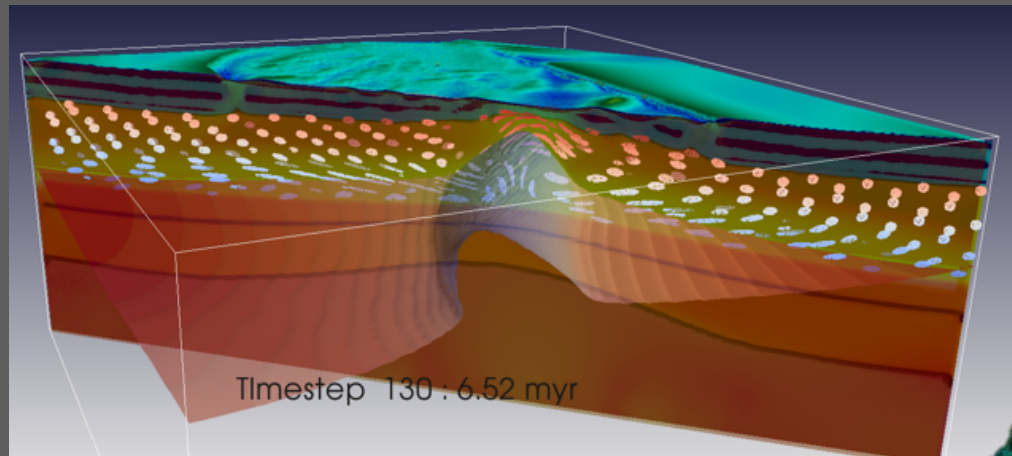


# Coupling Underworld to BadLands



## Pull-apart Metamorphic Core Complex experiment

Underworld output showing surface topography, strain-ellipsoids, and a melt contour after 6.5 Myr.

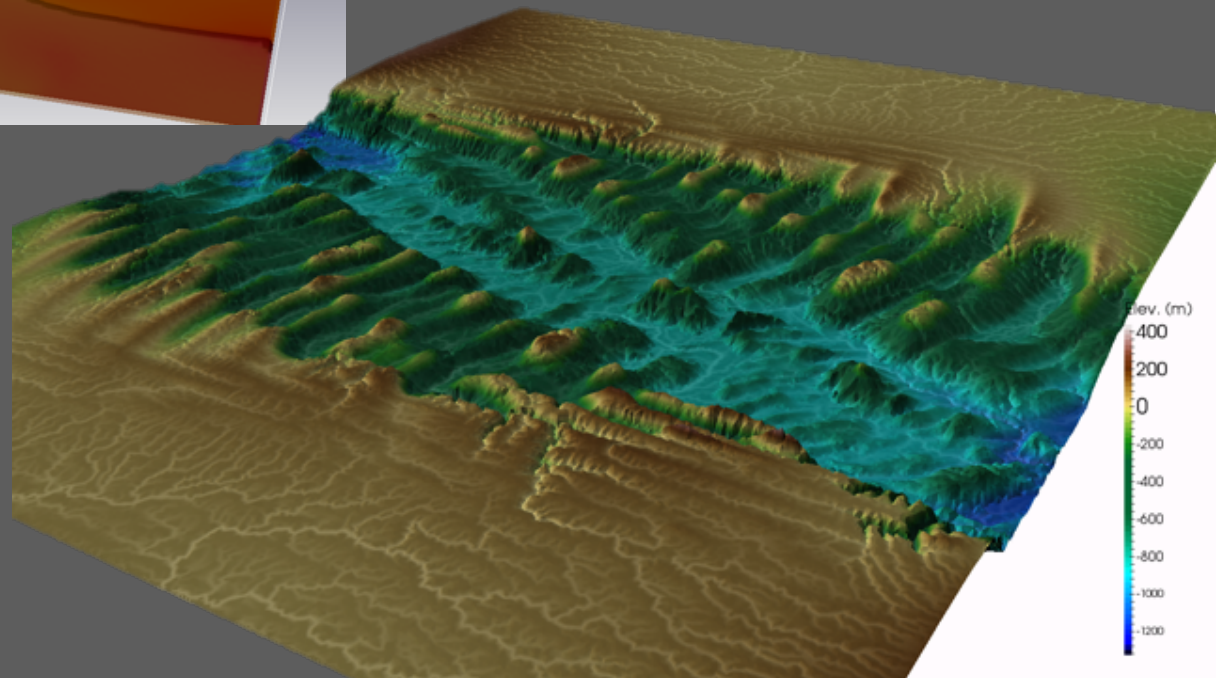


## BadLands

BadLands is an open-source basin and landscape dynamics code.

BadLands advects surface nodes based on the velocity field from Underworld.

BadLands fills sinks/erodes highs to model the geodynamic influence of landscape evolution.



Compilation of tests and documentation on the use of Badlands

11 commits

1 branch

0 releases

3 contributors

branch: master Badlands-doc / +

update manual

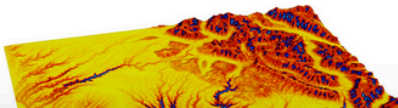
t-salles authored 19 days ago

latest commit 99d79684e

example1	update XSD	a month
example2	update XSD	a month
example3	update XSD	a month
example4	update XSD	a month
README.md	Update README.md	2 months
manual.pdf	update manual	19 days
riseofthephoenix.png	get doc	2 months

README.md

## Compilation of tests and documentation on the use of Badlands



&lt;&gt; Code

Issues

0

Pull requests

0

## Overview

**Basin and landscape dynamics (Badlands)** is a parallel TIN-based landscape evolution model, built to simulate topography development at various space and time scales. The model is presently capable of simulating hillslope processes such as **linear & nonlinear** diffusion, fluvial incision (**detachment-limited & under-capacity** laws), spatially varying surface uplift which can be used to simulate changes in base level, as well as effects of climate changes and sea-level fluctuations.

## The specs...

The model is mainly written in fortran and takes advantage of the Earth Surface Modelling Framework (ESMF).

- The finite volume approach from Tucker et al. (2001) based on the dual Delaunay-Voronoi framework is used to solve the continuity equation explicitly,
- Node ordering is performed efficiently based on the work from Braun & Willett (2013),
- A Hilbert Space-Filling Curve method algorithm (Zoltan) is used to partition the TIN-based surface into subdomains,
- Drainage network partitioning is generated through METIS library.

## Community driven

The code is conceived as an open-source project, and is an ideal tool for both **Research** and **Learning** purposes.

## Getting the source code

The source code is available on github: [here](https://github.com/badlands-model/badlands)



# New conceptual framework: a single system for modeling Earth materials:

- Topography and the stress state
- Topography and strain partitioning
- FERM – Failure Earth Response Model



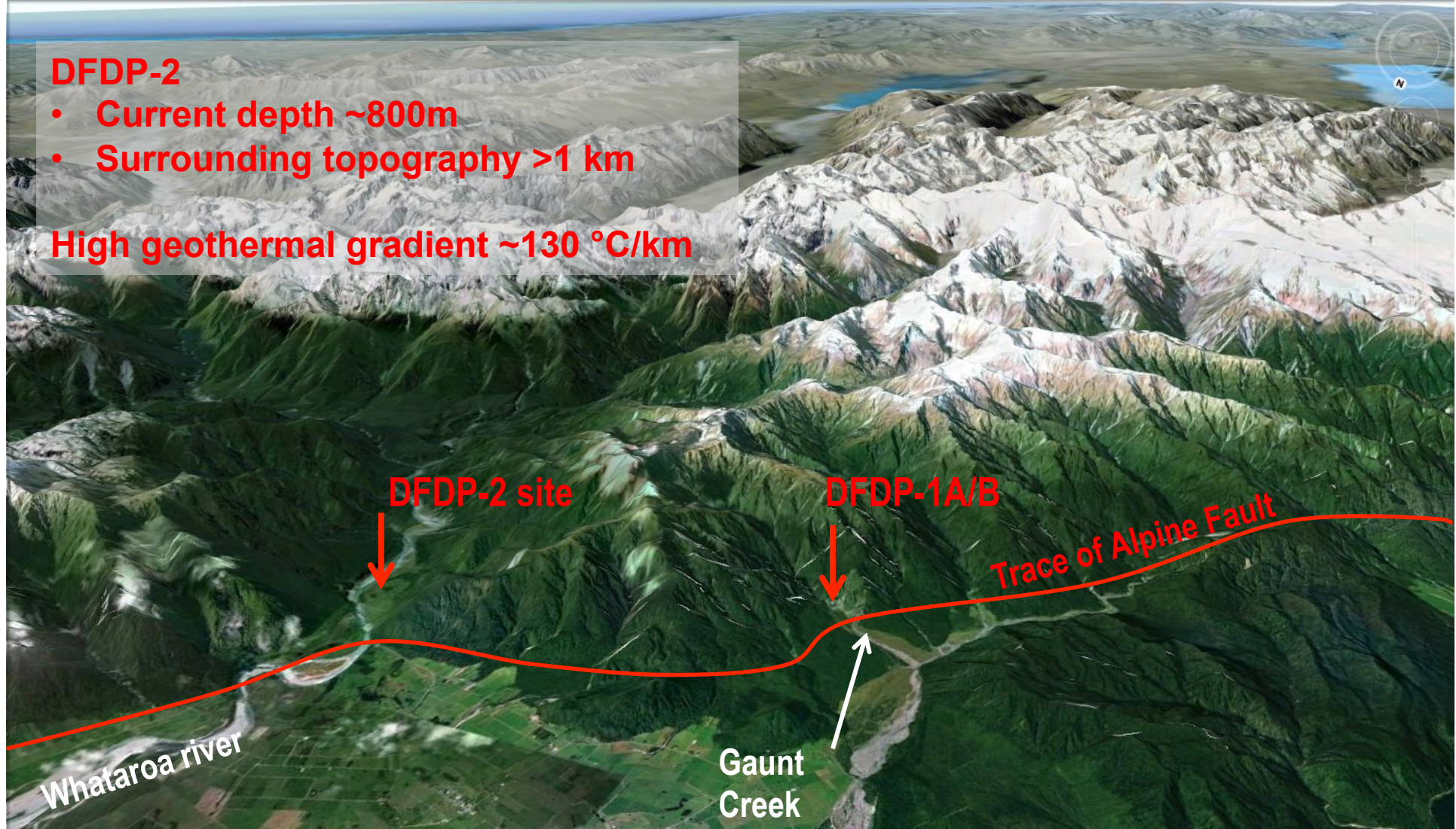


# Importance of topography and relief to stress state – Deep Fault Drilling

## DFDP-2

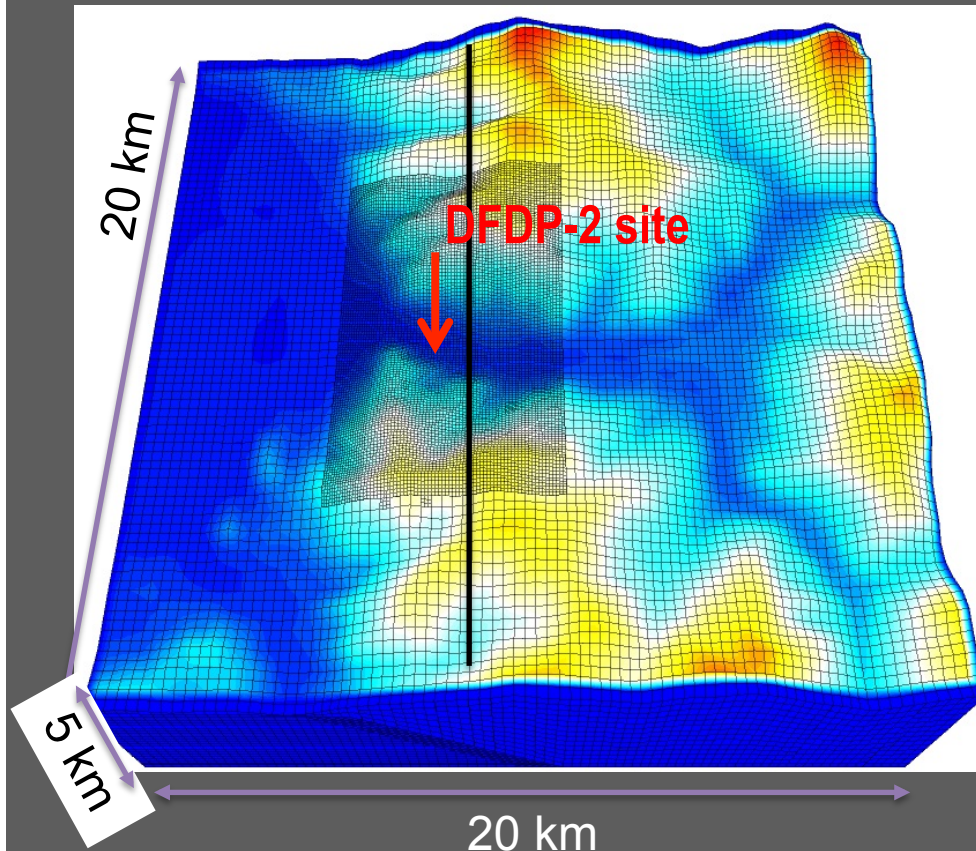
- Current depth ~800m
- Surrounding topography >1 km

High geothermal gradient ~130 °C/km





# Importance of topography and relief to stress state – Deep Fault Drilling



## 3D thermal/fluid flow model

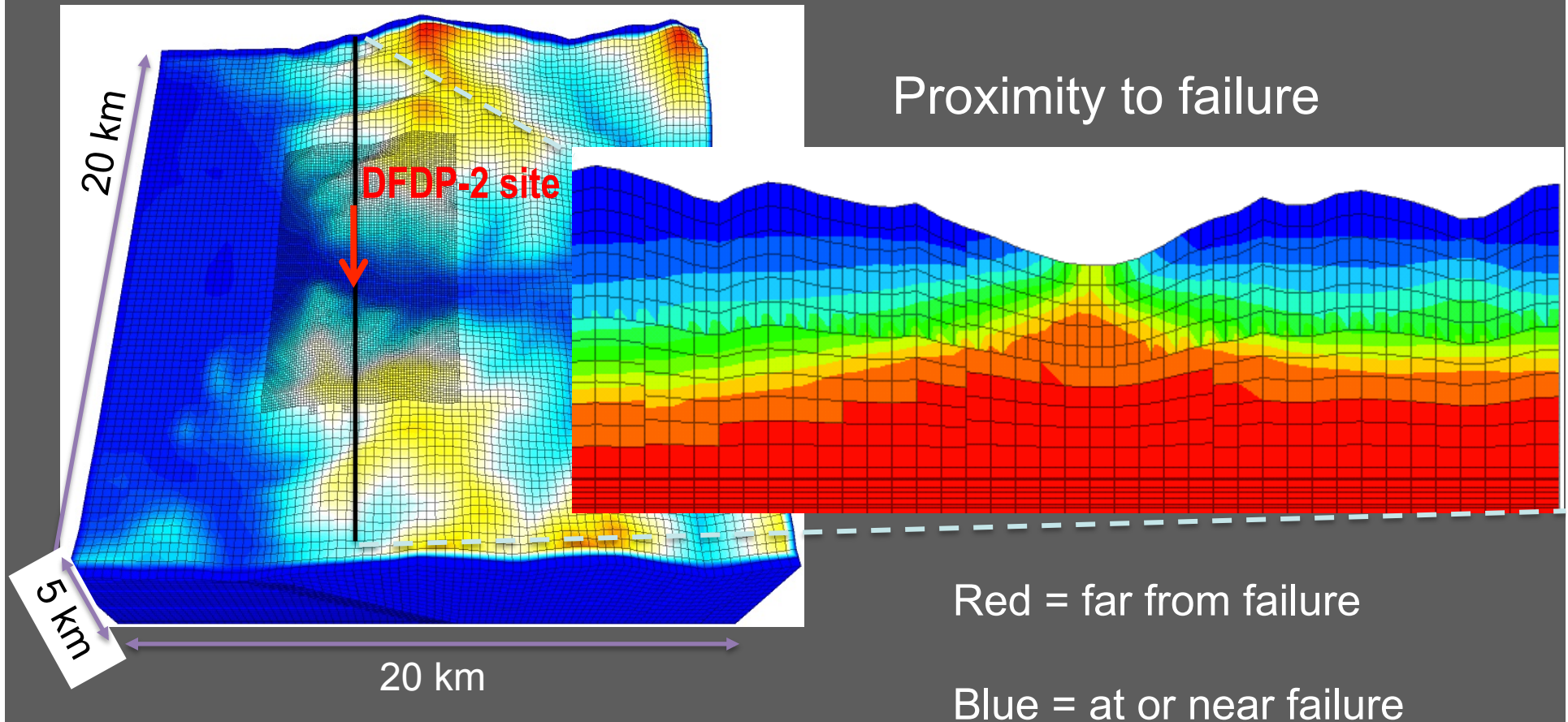
Work in progress:

Exploring the permeability structure required to produce a  $130^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{km}$  geotherm in the near surface.

Previous work showed that the permeability structure in actively deforming regions is related to the stress state, or more specifically, the proximity to failure

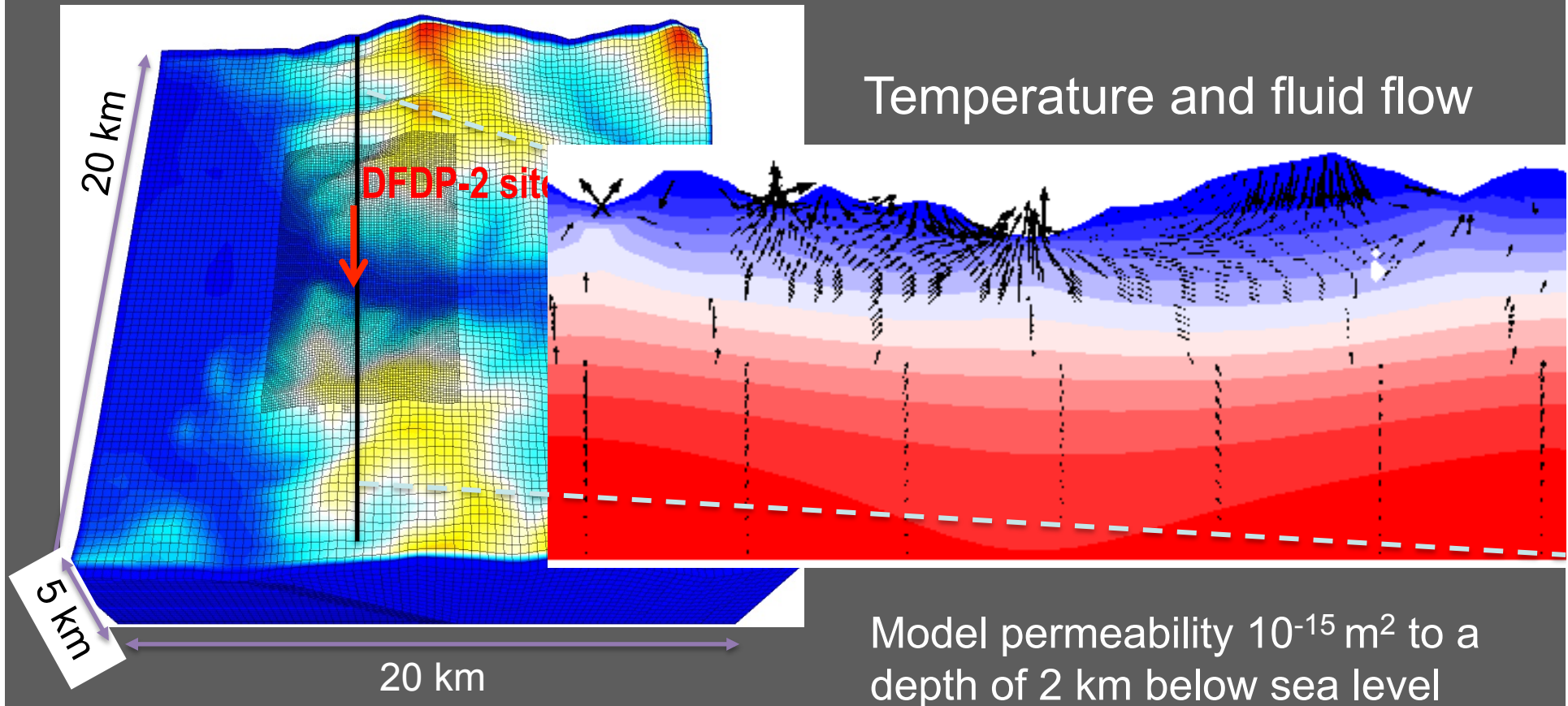
(Upton & Sutherland, 2014, EPSL)

# Importance of topography and relief to stress state – Deep Fault Drilling

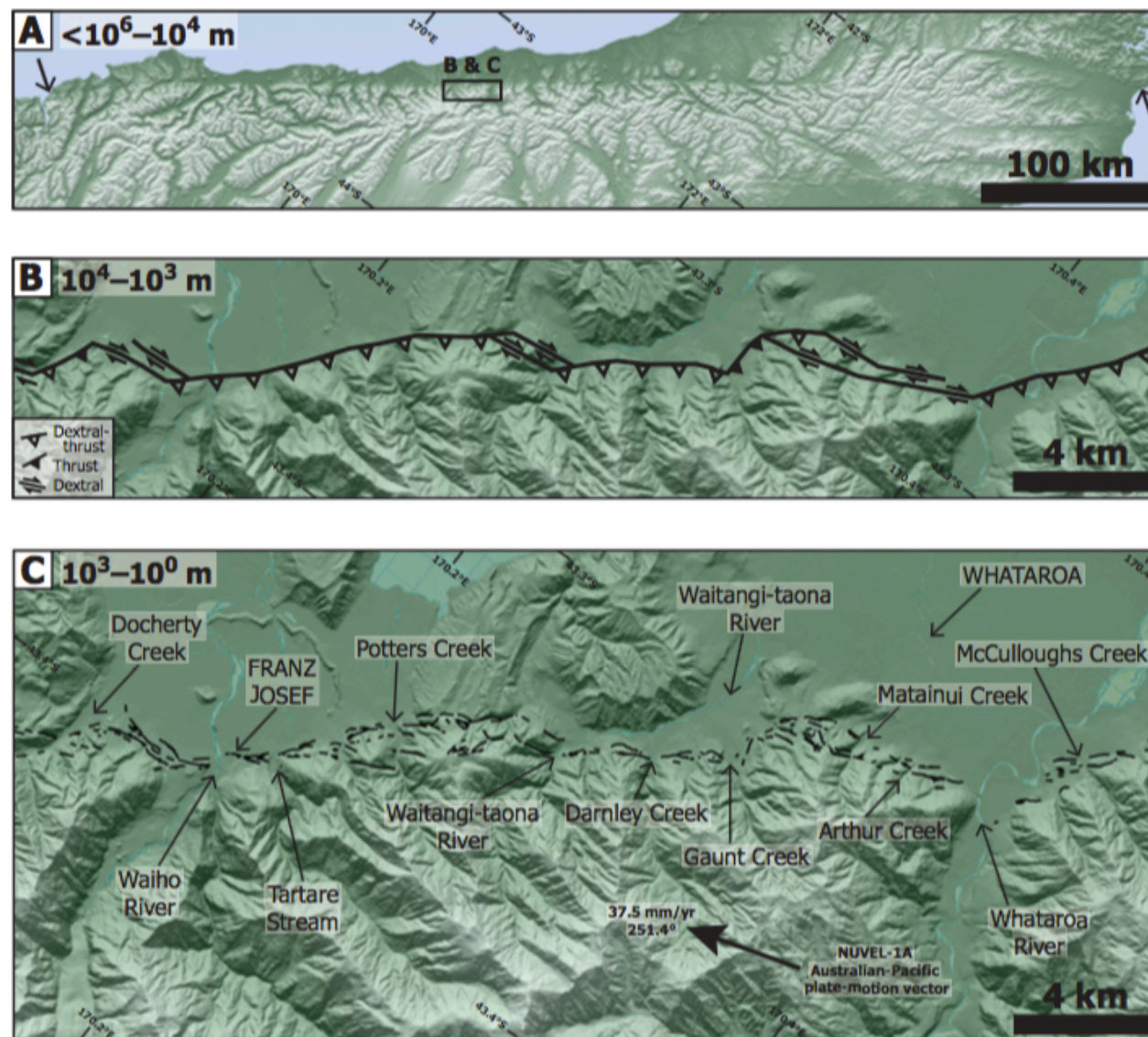




# Importance of topography and relief to stress state – Deep Fault Drilling



# Importance of topography and relief to stress state – strain partitioning





# Importance of topography and relief to stress state – strain partitioning

- Alpine Fault fixed below 2 km
- Strain softening rheology
- Based on  $\phi$  reducing from  $30^\circ$  to  $5^\circ$
- Constraint of AF @ 2 km reflected in these results

DFDP-2

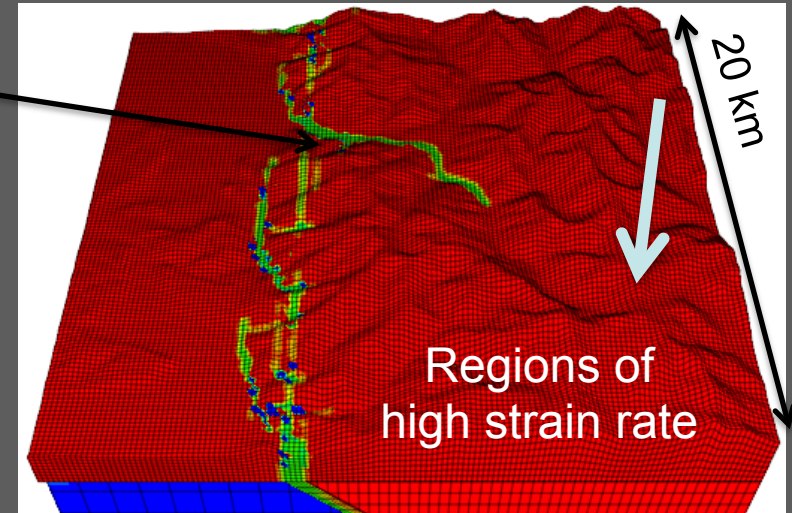


Plate normal velocity component

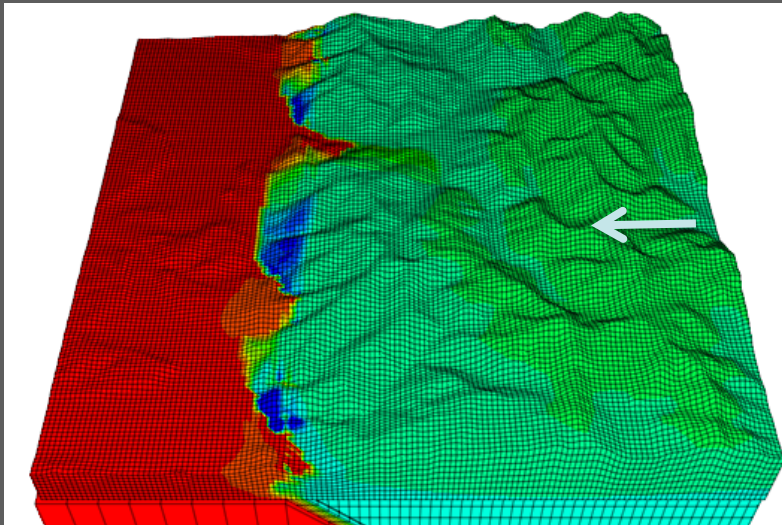
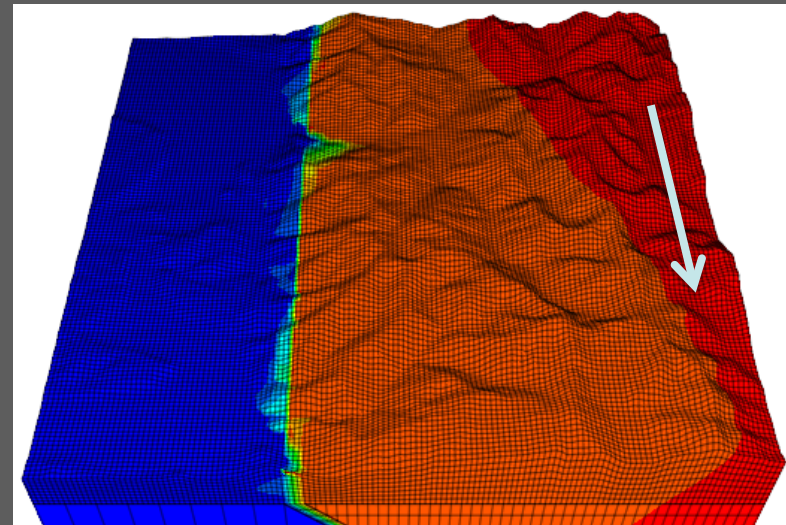


Plate parallel velocity component



# FERM – failure earth response model

- 1: Material displacement, whether tectonic or geomorphic in origin, at or below Earth's surface, is driven by local forces overcoming local resistance.
- 2: Large displacements, whether tectonic or geomorphic in origin, irreversibly alter Earth material properties enhancing a long term strain memory mapped into the topography.
- 3: To implement we need the total stress state at each point on the Earth's surface



# Determining the *Total Stress State*

$$\Sigma = \sigma_{\text{fluvial}} + \sigma_{\text{glacial}} + \sigma_{\text{slope}} + \sigma_{\text{tectonic}} + \sigma_{\text{dynamic}}$$



Photo : Graham Leonard, GNS

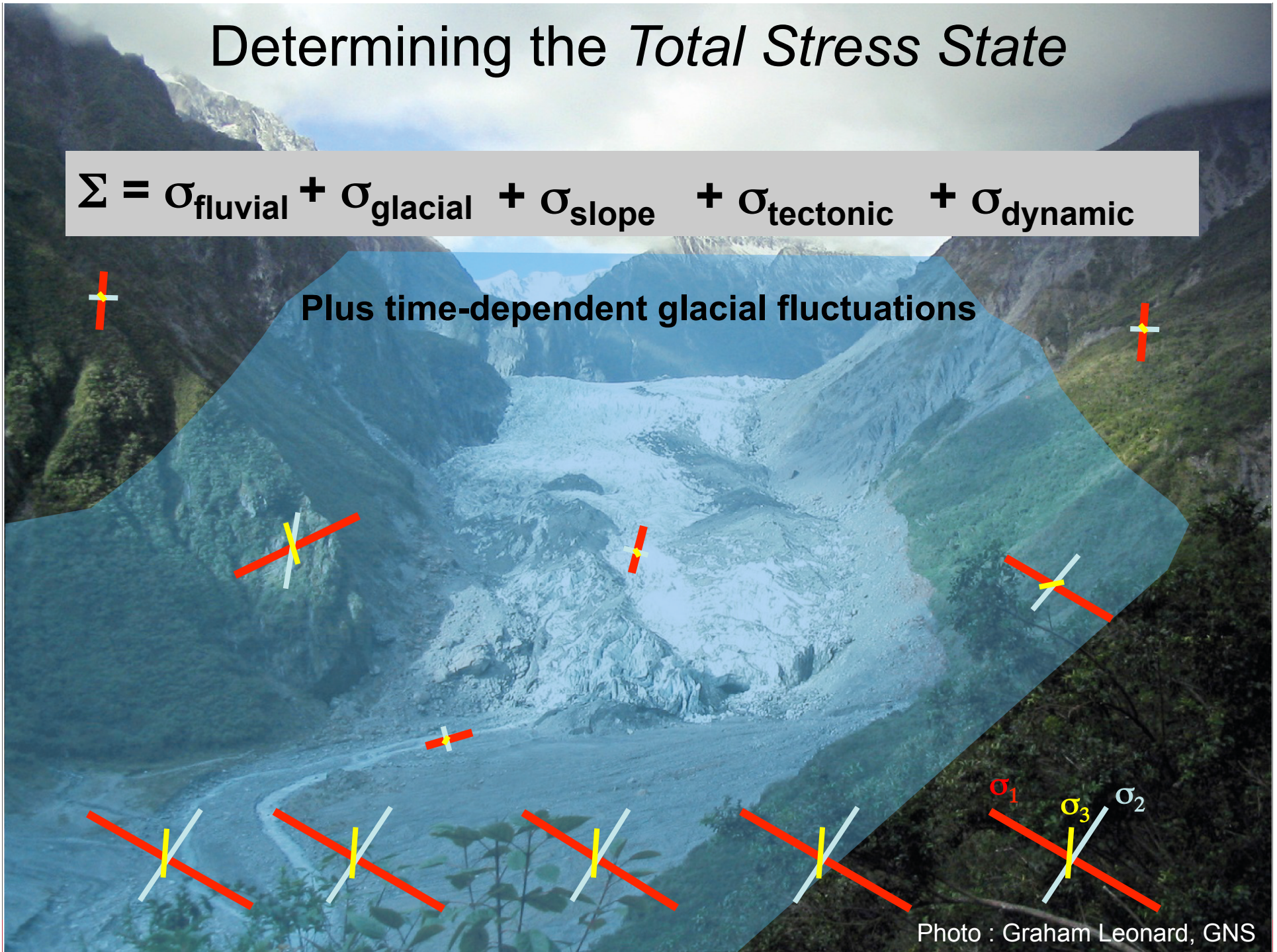


# Determining the *Total Stress State*

$$\Sigma = \sigma_{\text{fluvial}} + \sigma_{\text{glacial}} + \sigma_{\text{slope}} + \sigma_{\text{tectonic}} + \sigma_{\text{dynamic}}$$

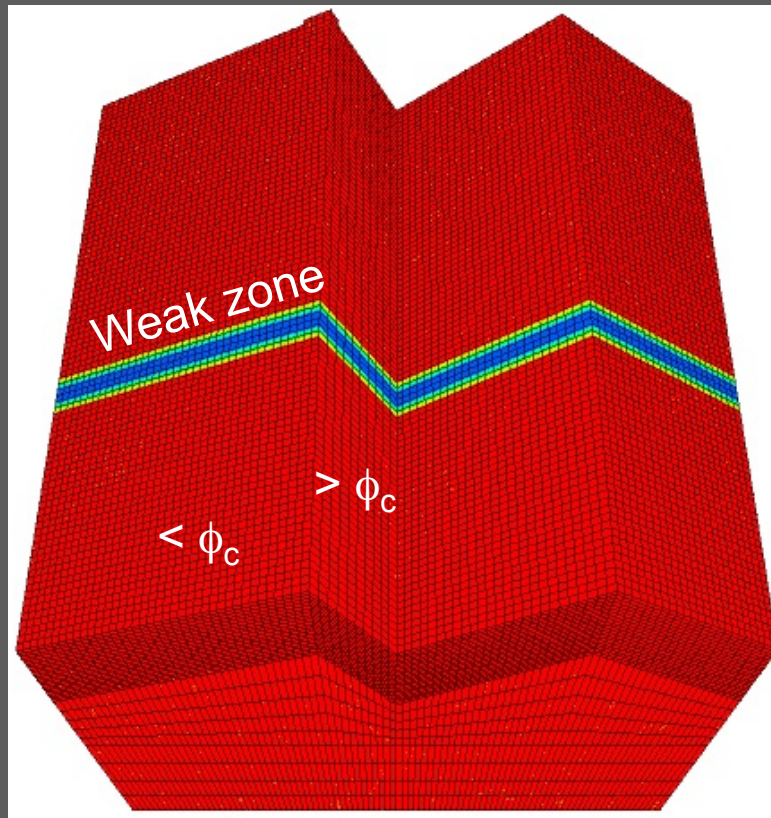
Plus time-dependent glacial fluctuations

Photo : Graham Leonard, GNS





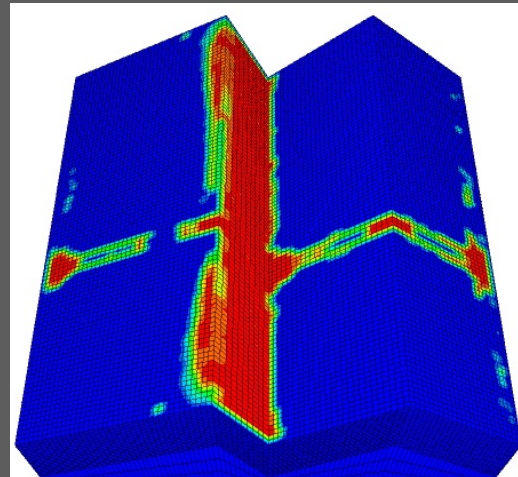
# FERM – failure earth response model



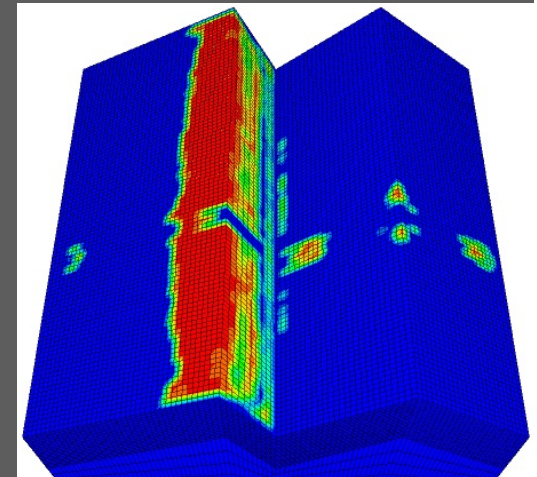
For each point:

1. Sum all stresses: Geomorphic (slope and inertial), Tectonic (Static and potentially Dynamic ) into a single **Total Stress** tensor
2. Describe Earth failure using effective stress formulation (potential to include local fluid pressure)
3. We can distinguish shear and tensile failure states
4. Solve in 3D using FLAC<sup>3D</sup> in these examples. *(no transport yet)*

# FERM – failure earth response model



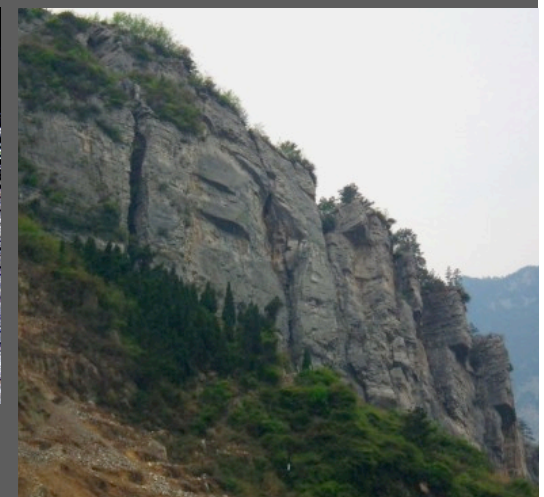
shear failure



tensile failure



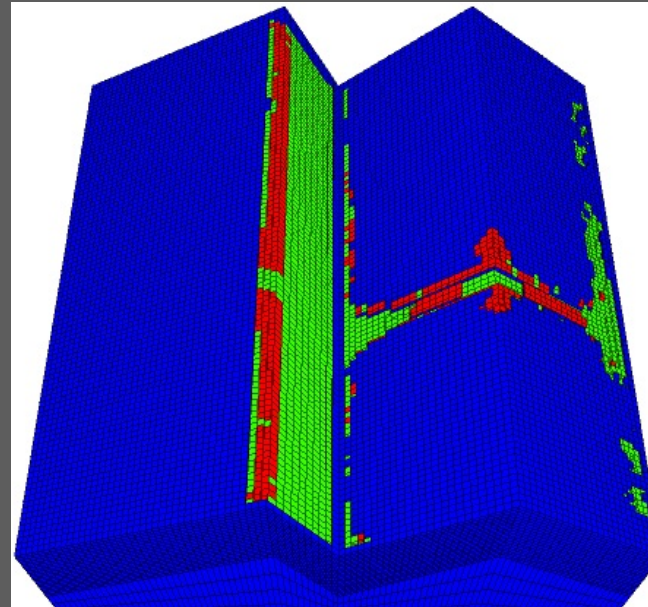
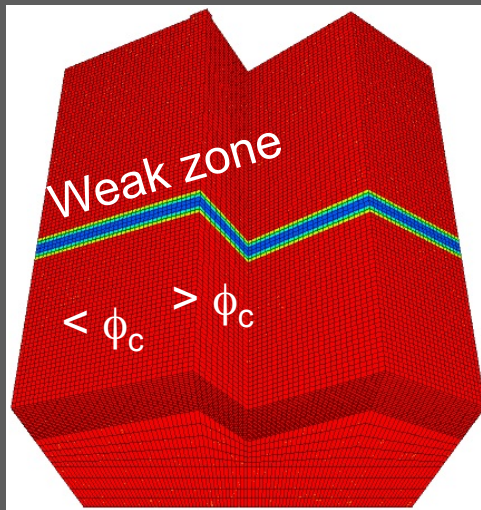
<http://commons.wvc.edu/rdawes/>



<http://blogs.agu.org/landslideblog/>

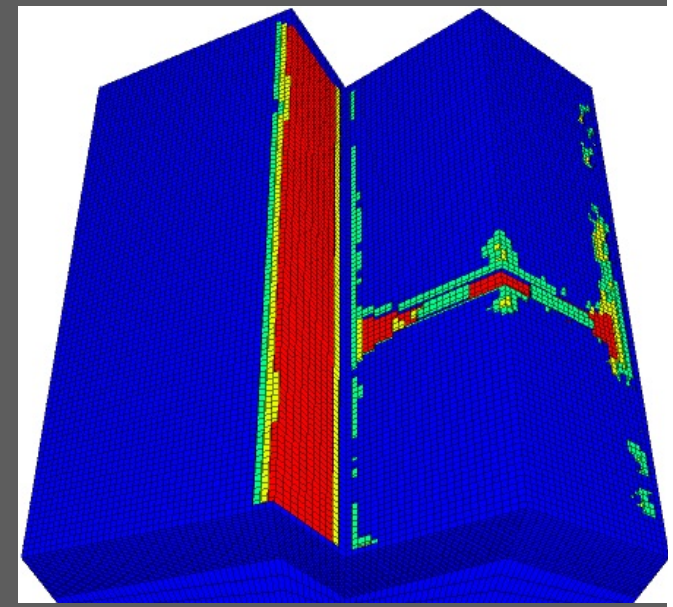


# FERM – failure earth response model



Different failure modes

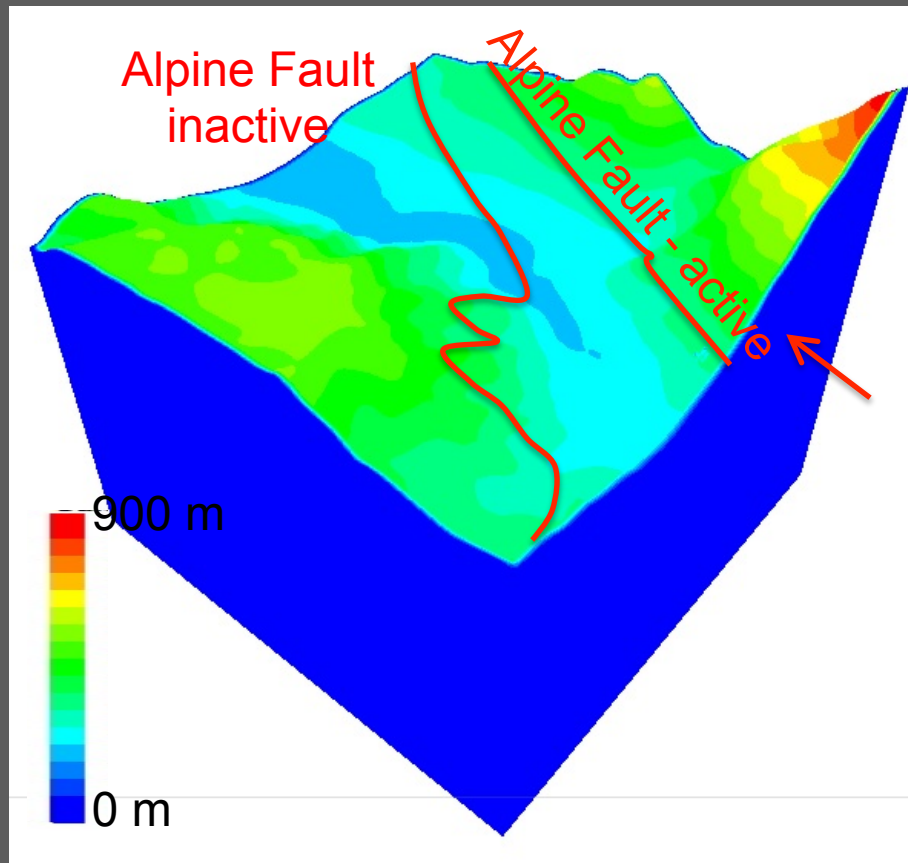
Green = shear  
Red = tensile  
Blue = none



Amount of material removed

Red = maximum  
Blue = zero

# FERM – example from the Waikukupa segment of the Alpine Fault





5/3/2006  
2006 2013



Image © 2015 DigitalGlobe

Google earth



Tour Guide

2006

Imagery Date: 5/3/2006 43°27'03.48" S 170°04'27.47" E elev 519 m eye alt 1.89 km



10/17/2012  
2006 2013



Image © 2015 DigitalGlobe

Google earth

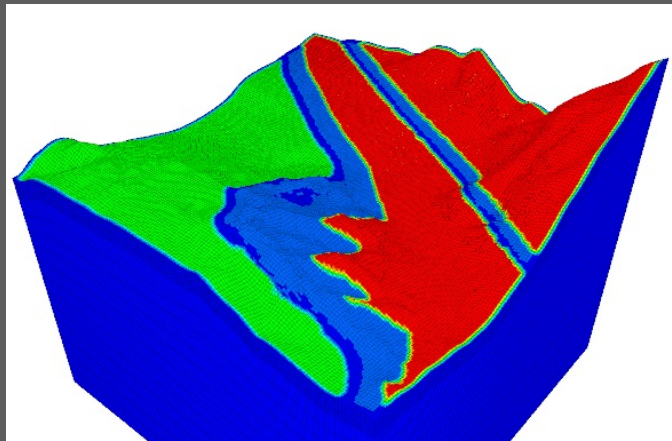
292 m

Tour Guide 2006

Imagery Date: 10/17/2012 43°28'29.73" S 170°04'33.95" E elev 221 m eye alt 1.89 km



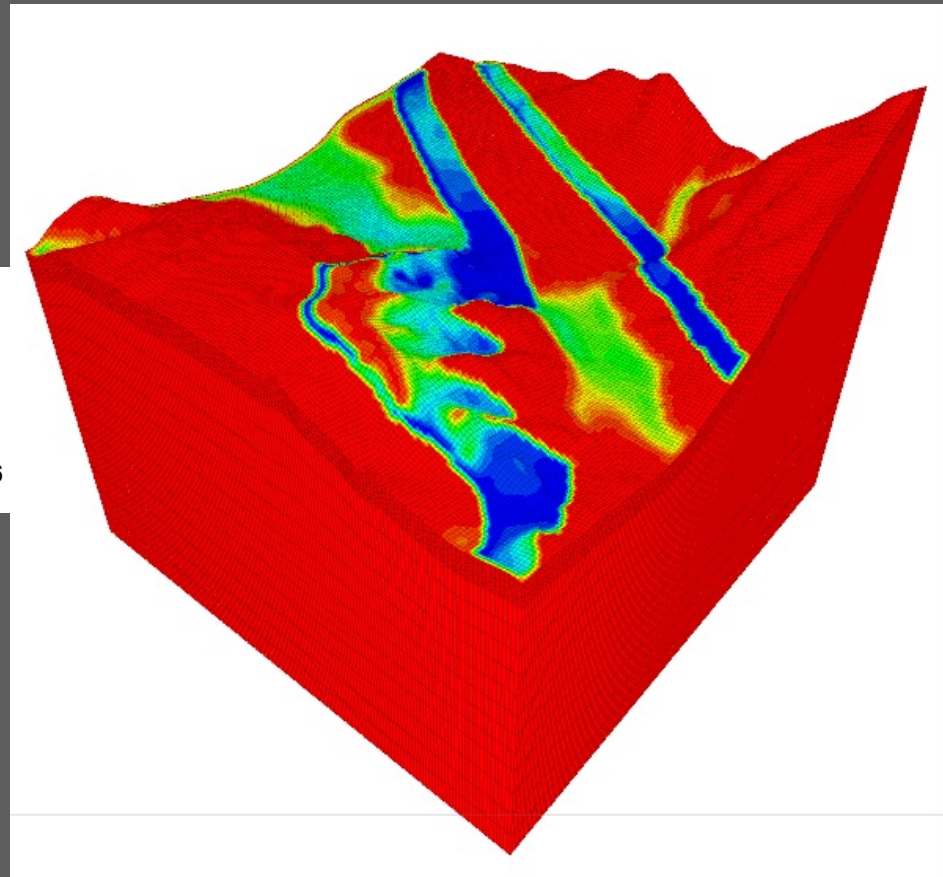
# FERM – example from the Waikukupa segment of the Alpine Fault



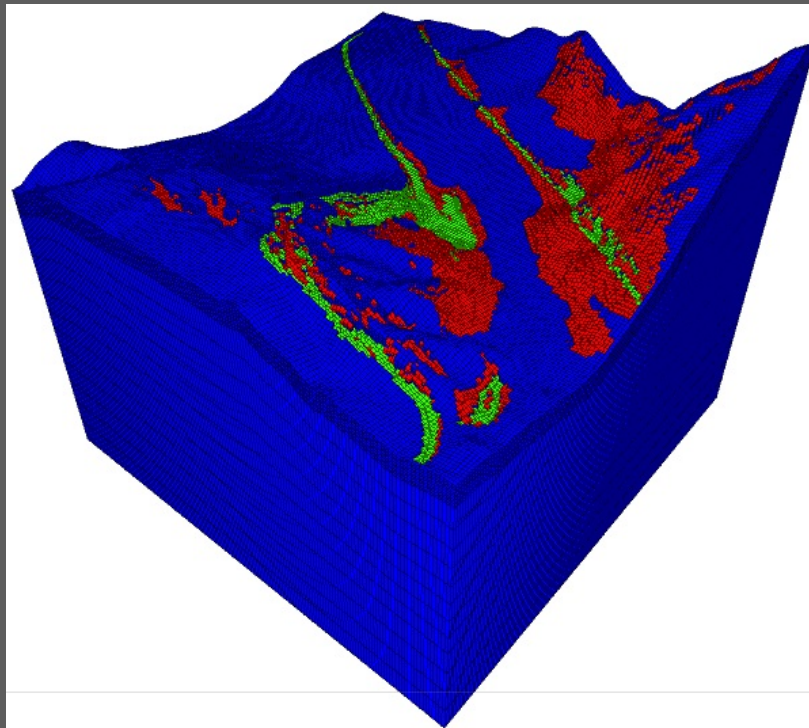
**Cohesion (Pa)**  
Dark blue = gouge  $10^5$   
Blue = cataclasite  $10^6$   
Red = mylonite  $10^7$   
Green = greywacke  $5 \times 10^6$



Proximity to failure: dark blue at failure  
topographic stresses only (no tectonic)

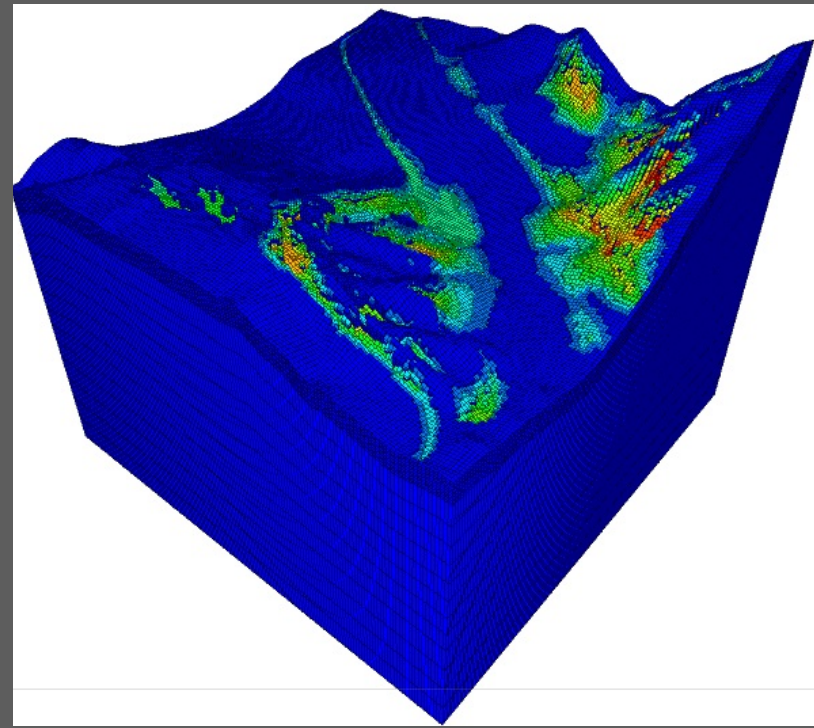


# FERM – example from the Waikukupa segment of the Alpine Fault



Different failure modes

Green = shear  
Red = tensile  
Blue = none

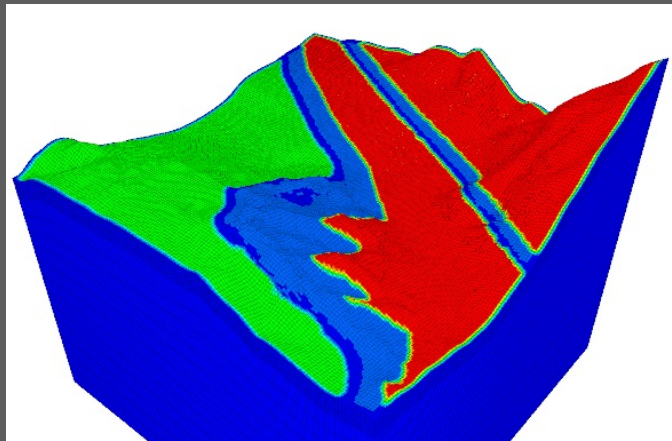


Amount of material removed

Red = maximum  
Blue = zero

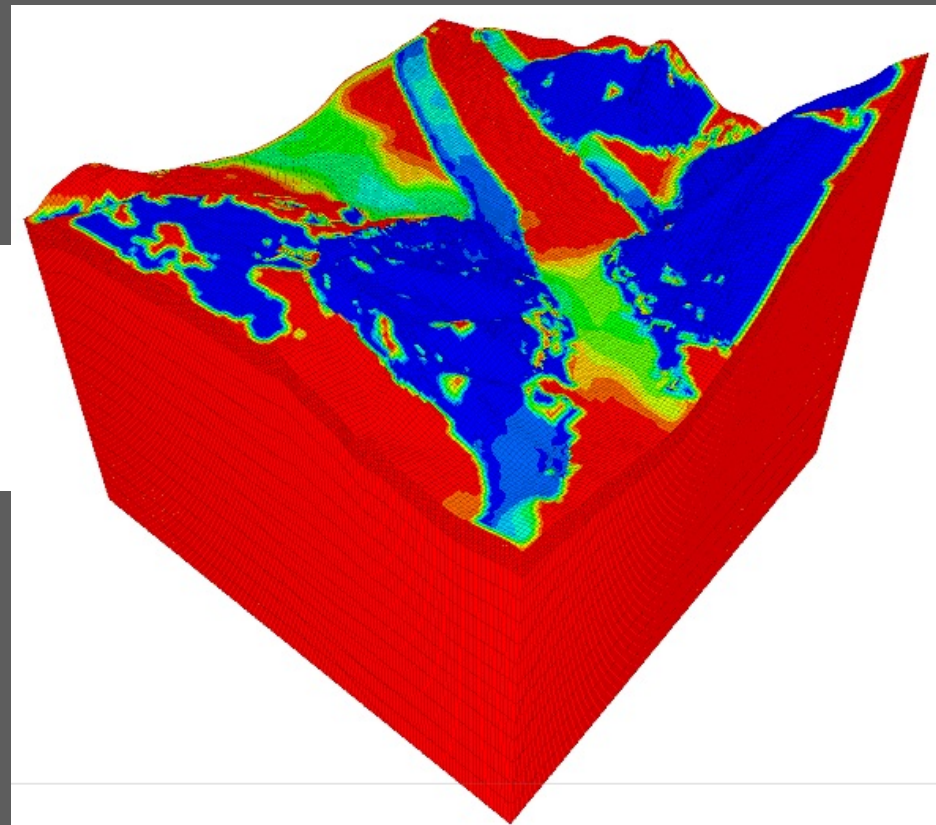


# FERM – example from the Waikukupa segment of the Alpine Fault – **add pore pressure**



Proximity to failure: dark blue at failure  
topographic stresses only (no tectonic)

**Cohesion (Pa)**  
Dark blue = gouge  $10^5$   
Blue = cataclasite  $10^6$   
Red = mylonite  $10^7$   
Green = greywacke  $5 \times 10^6$





2006



2008



2009



# Challenges

Tectonics:  
 $10^2$  to  $10^6$  years

Extreme events at surface:  
seconds, days, decades





# Geodynamics:Earth Surface Processes

## Challenges cont.

Communication between the communities (see next slide)

Software:

Extending FERM to realistically model surface processes

Meshless methods

Hydrodynamics, describing particle transport

Hardware





# Clarence River, New Zealand

## Tectonics and geomorphology by raft

