



# Viscoelastic ruptures unbounded by classical speed limits

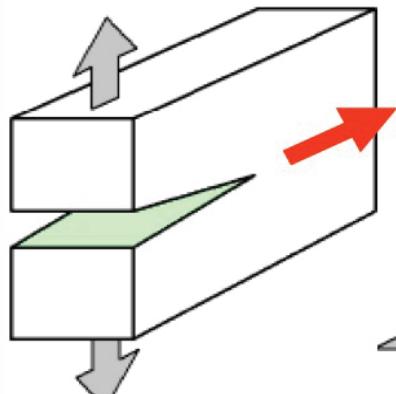
Huihui Weng

Monday, June 24, 2024  
Smolenice Castle, Slovakia

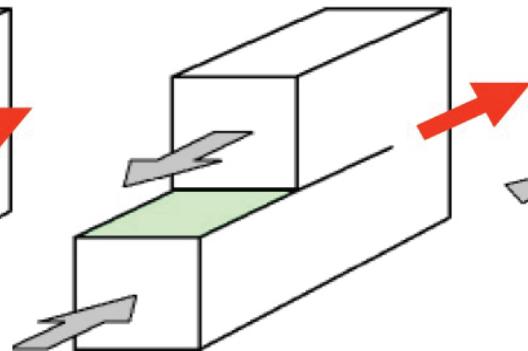
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# Rupture modes

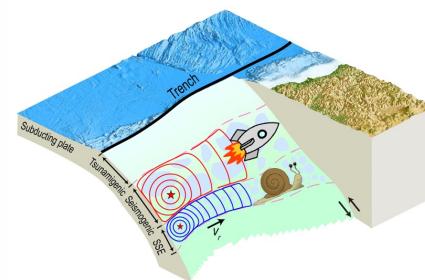
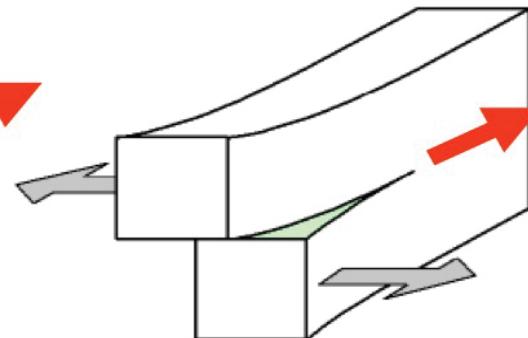
Mode I



Mode II

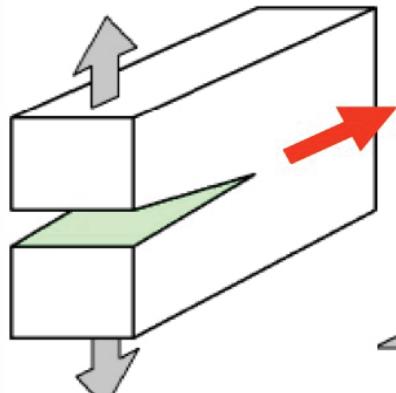


Mode III

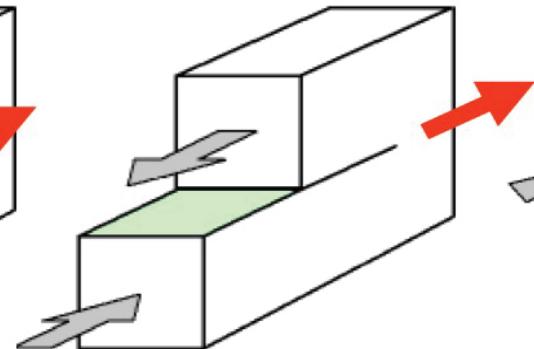


# Rupture modes

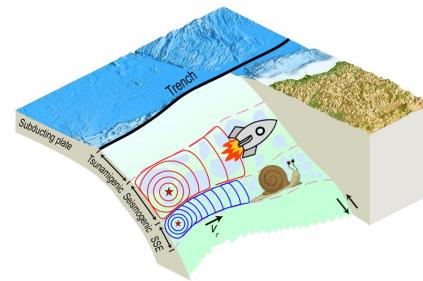
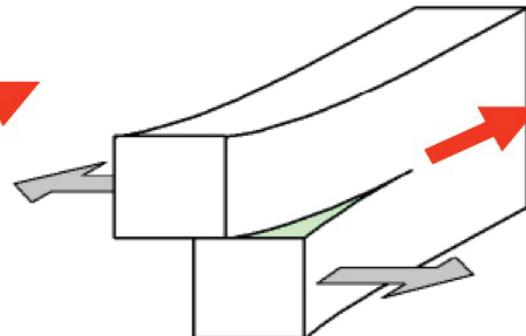
Mode I



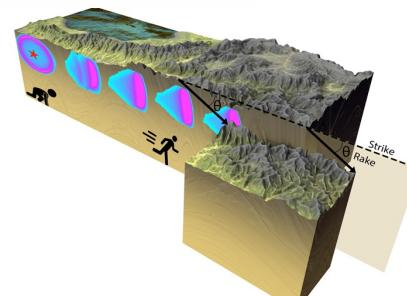
Mode II



Mode III

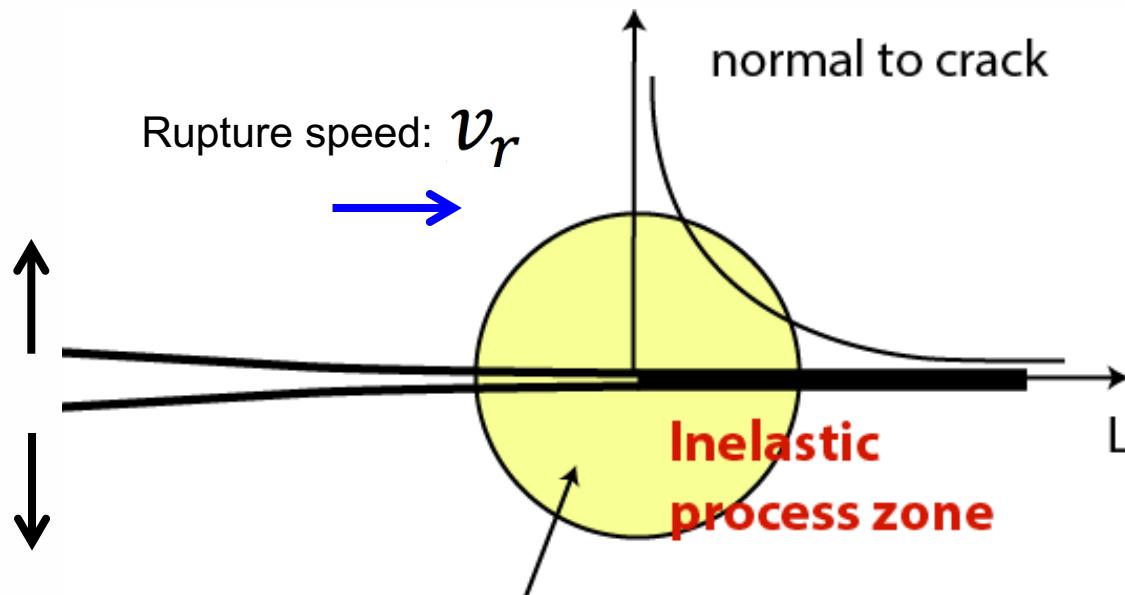
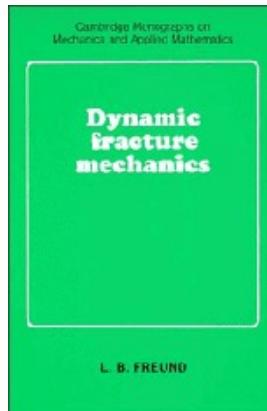


Mode -I + Mode II



Mode II + Mode III

# 2D Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics



G: the elastic energy flowing into process zone

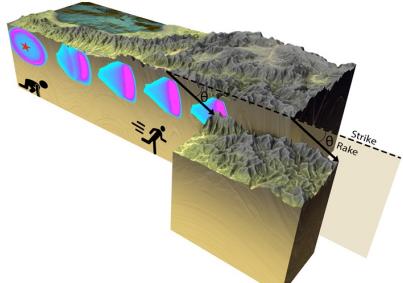
2D equation-of-motion:  $G_c = G(v_r, L, \Delta\tau) \propto L$

Fracture energy      Energy release rate

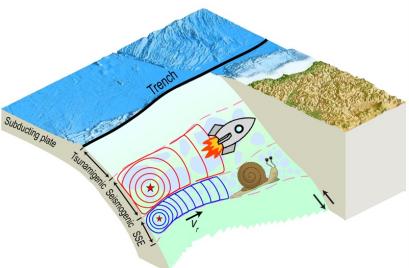
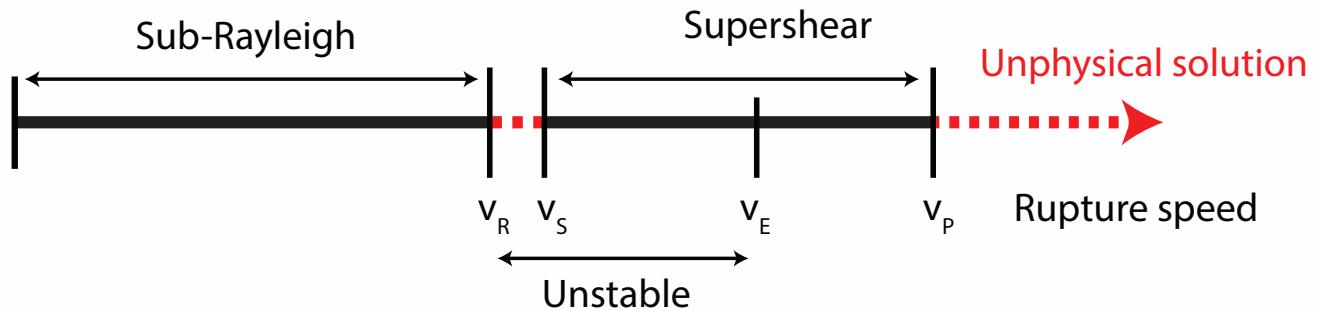
# Classical speed limits



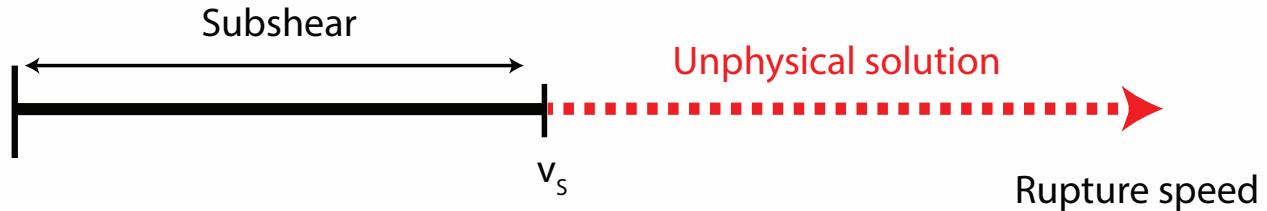
## Modes I (dike)



## Modes II (strike slip)

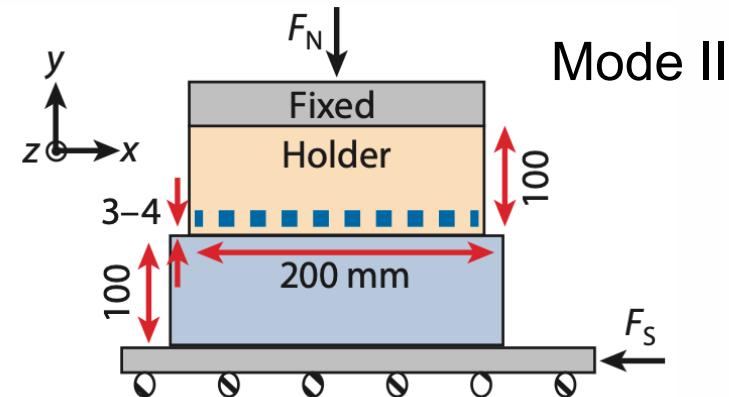
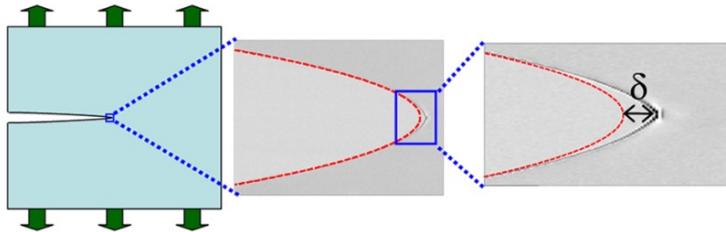


## Modes III (dip slip)

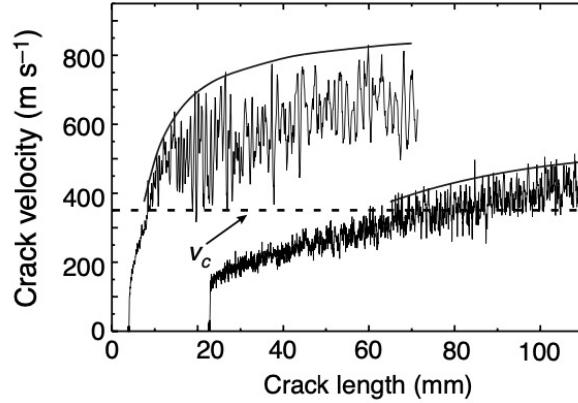


# Validated speed limits in laboratory

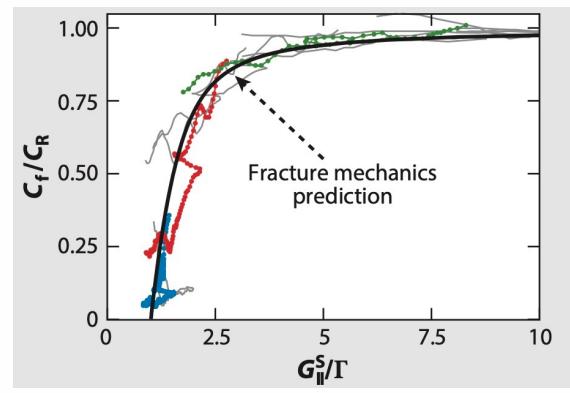
Mode I



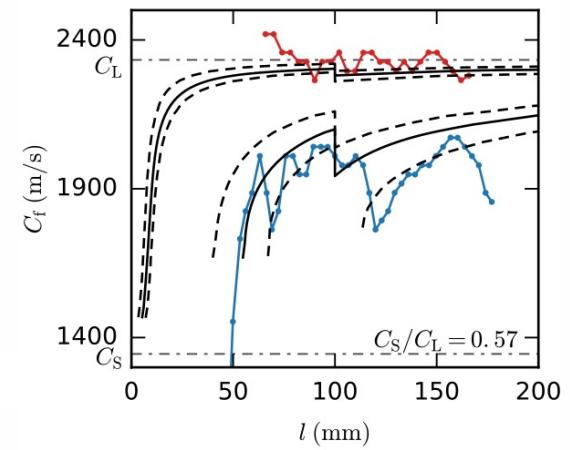
Subshear ( $v < v_R$ )



Subshear ( $v < v_R$ )



Supershear ( $v < v_P$ )

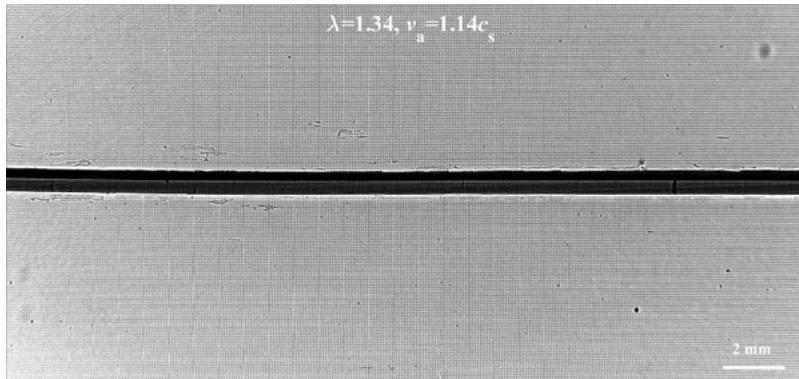


# Beyond classical speed limits in 2D



Mach cones

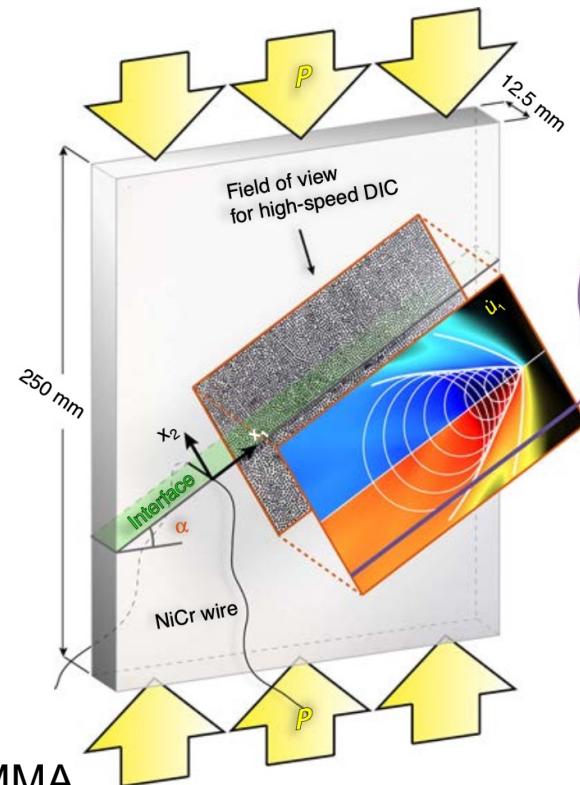
Supershear crack in Mode I



Hydrogel  
Hyperelastic behavior

Wang et al, 2023

Supersonic crack in Mode II

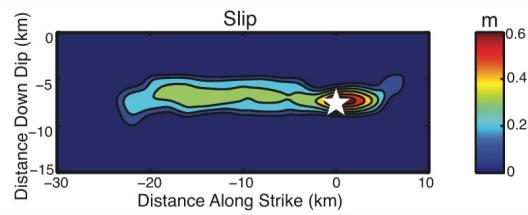


PMMA  
Viscoelastic behavior

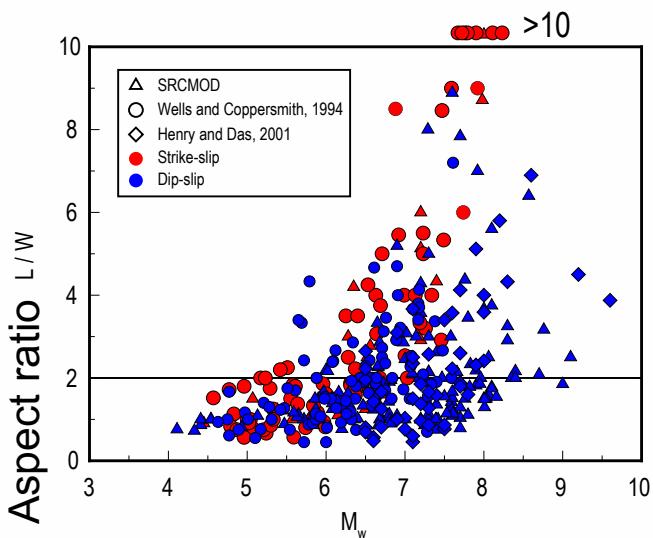
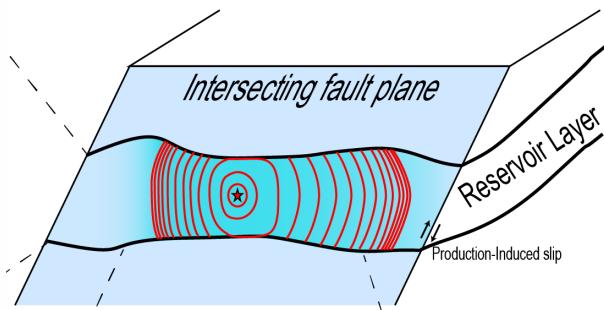
Gori et al, 2018

# Finite rupture width in 3D

2004 Mw 6 Parkfield

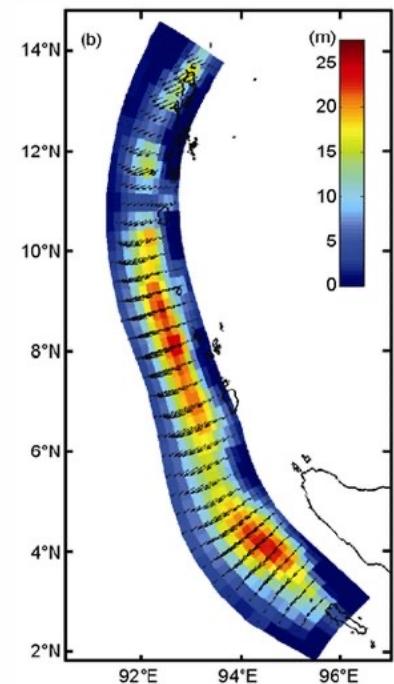


Ma et al 2008



Weng and Yang, 2017

2004 Mw 9.3 Sumatra



Wang et al 2011

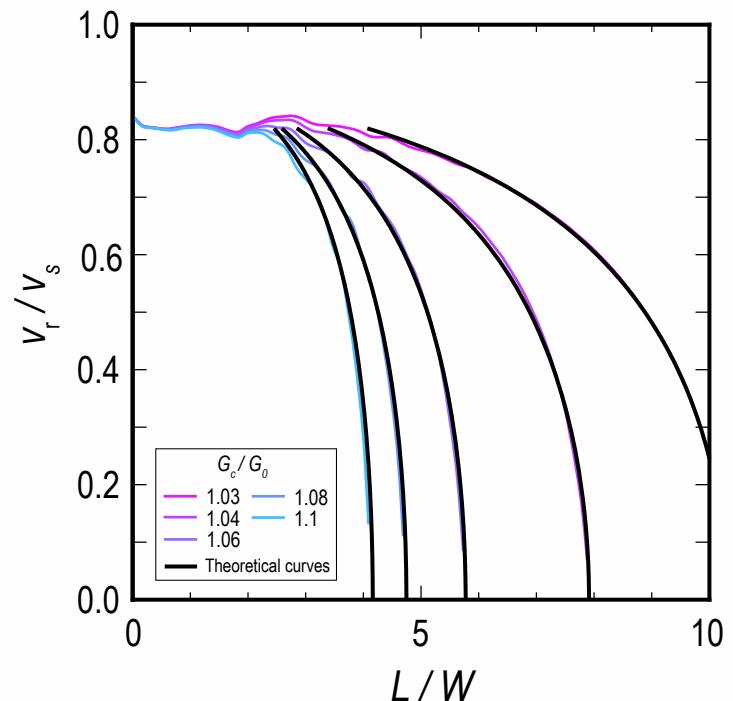
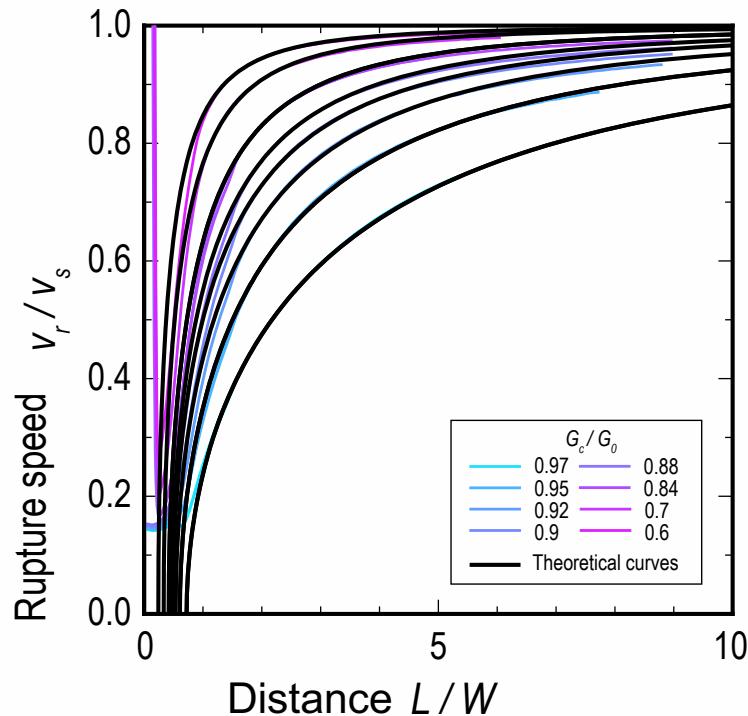
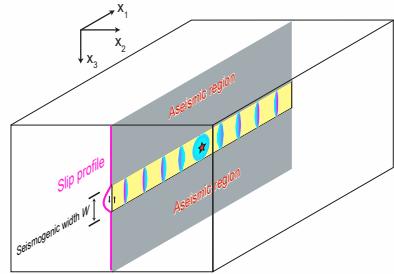
Induced seismicity

# Extended 3D LEFM theory

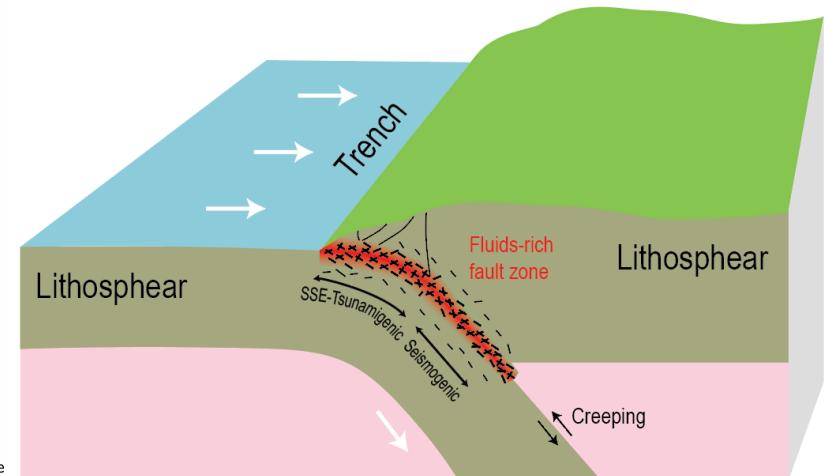
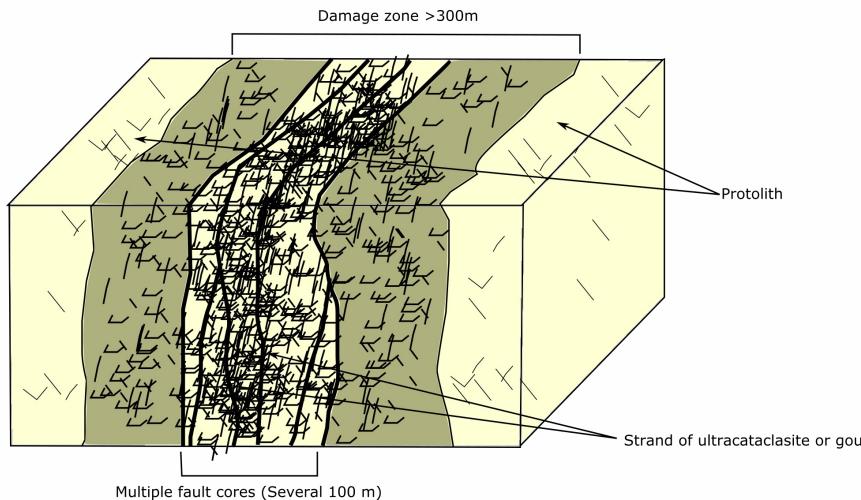
3D equation-of-motion:

$$F(G_c/G_0) = M(v_r) \cdot \dot{v}_r$$

“Force”      “Mass”      Acceleration



# Highly damaged fault zone

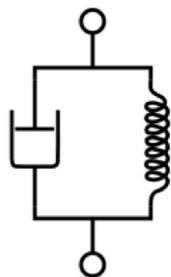


WordPress.com

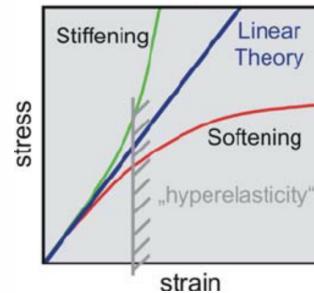
Elasticity?



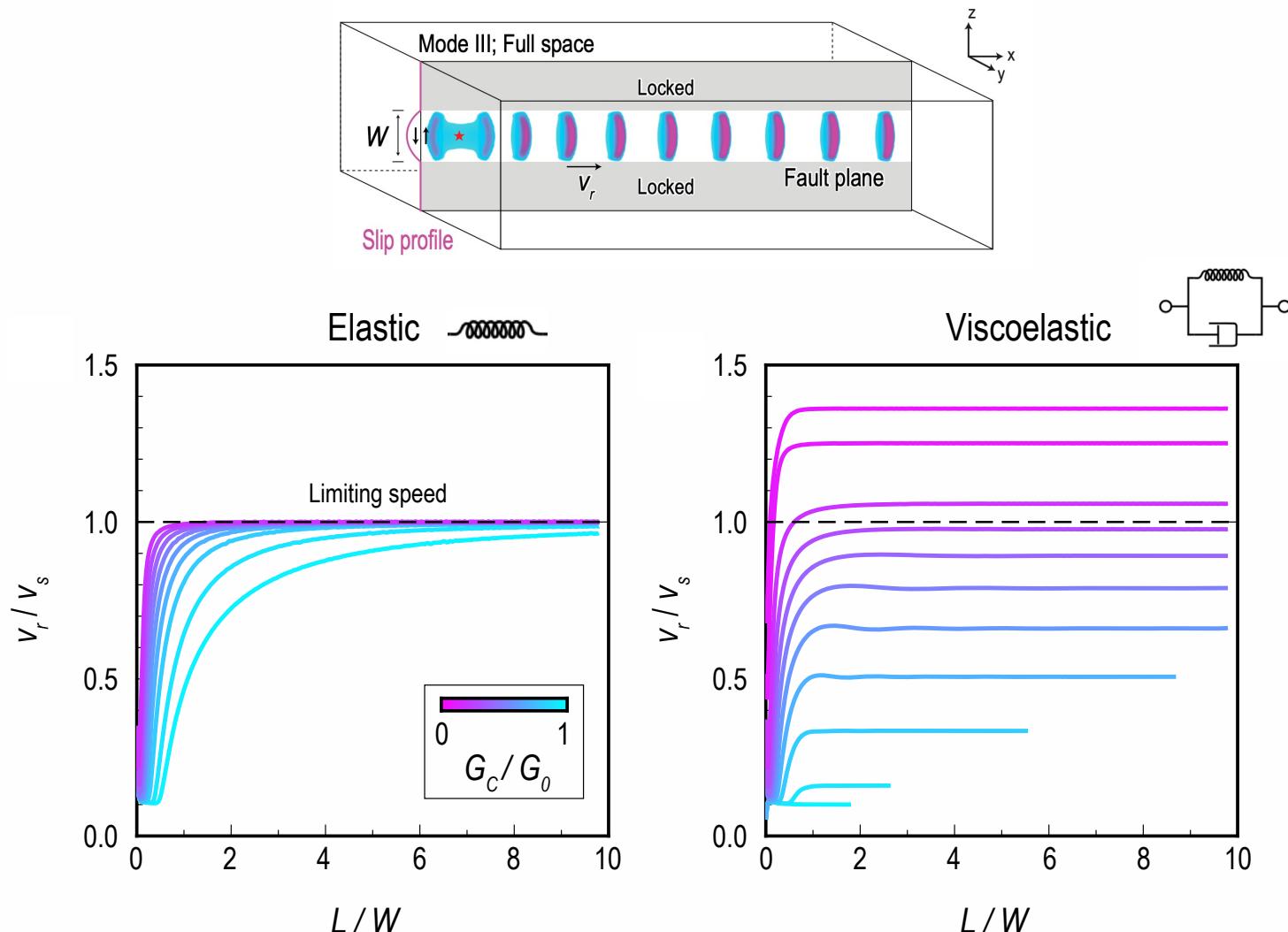
Viscoelasticity?



Hyperelasticity?

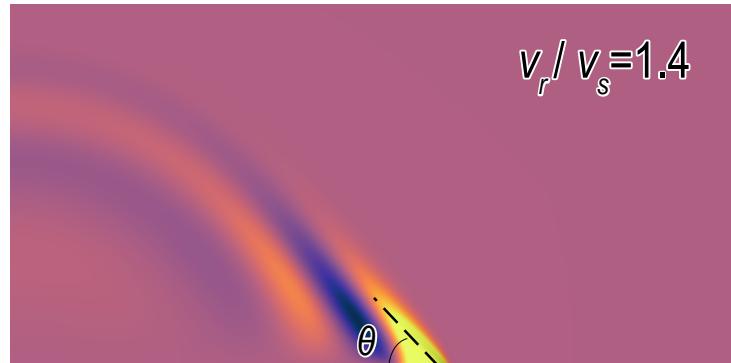
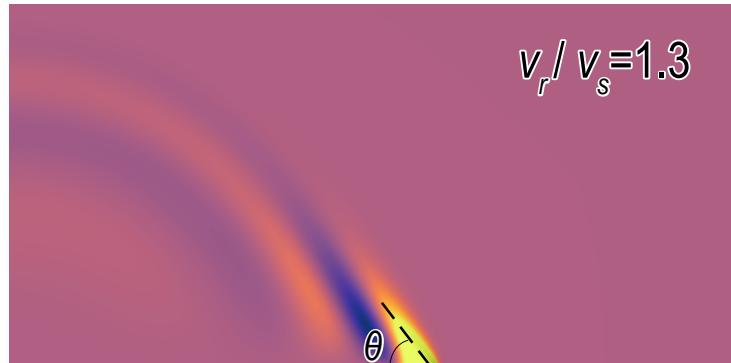


# Unbounded ruptures in numerical simulations

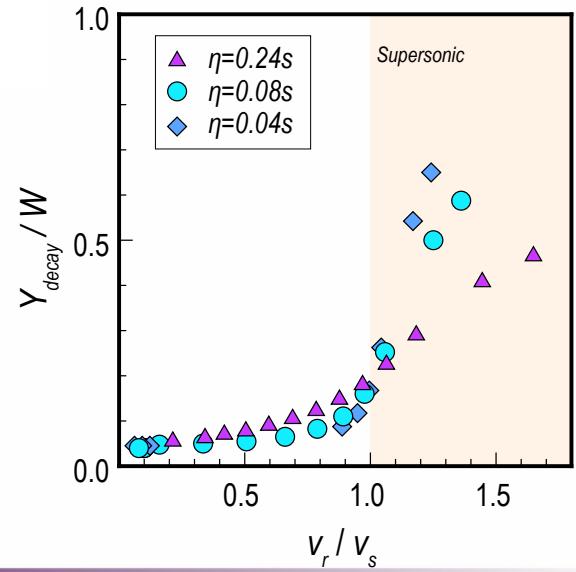
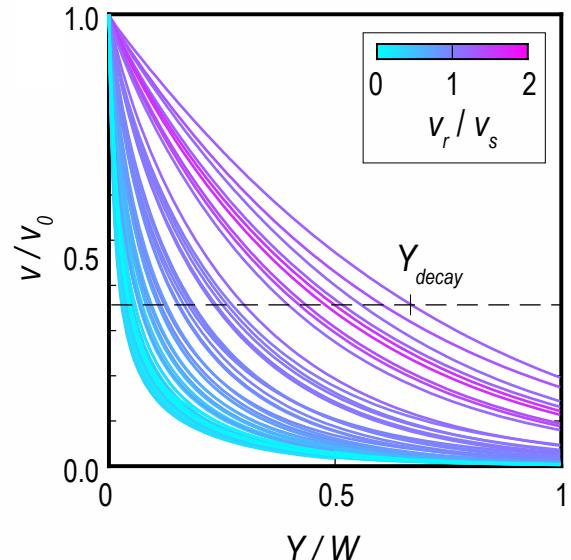
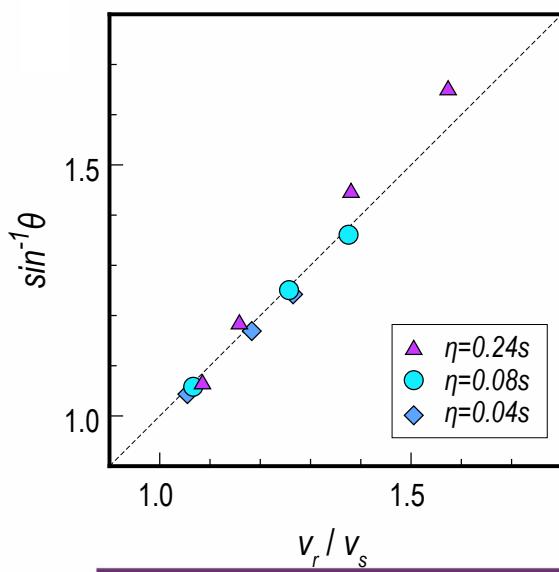
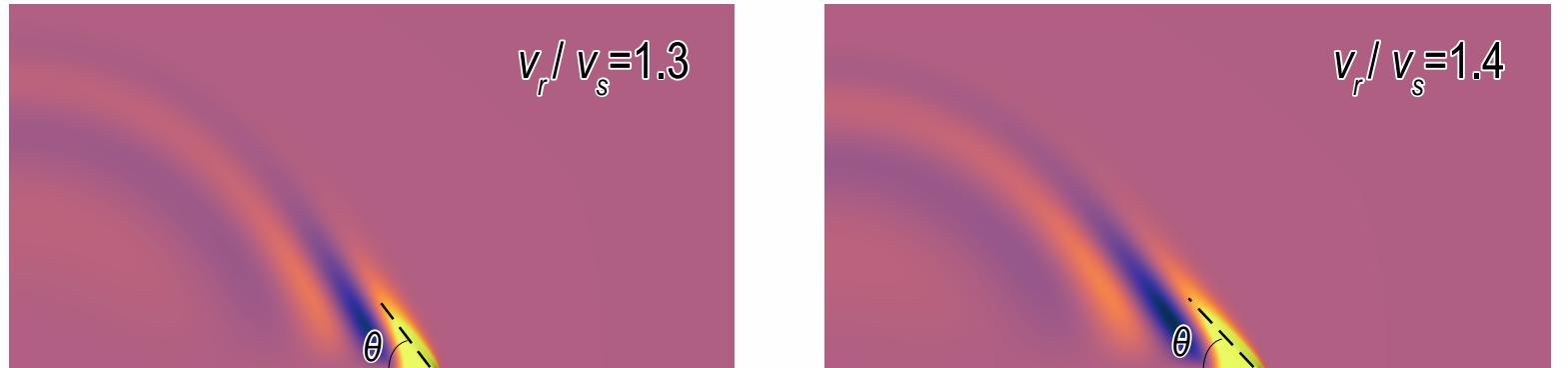


# Mach fronts in mode III

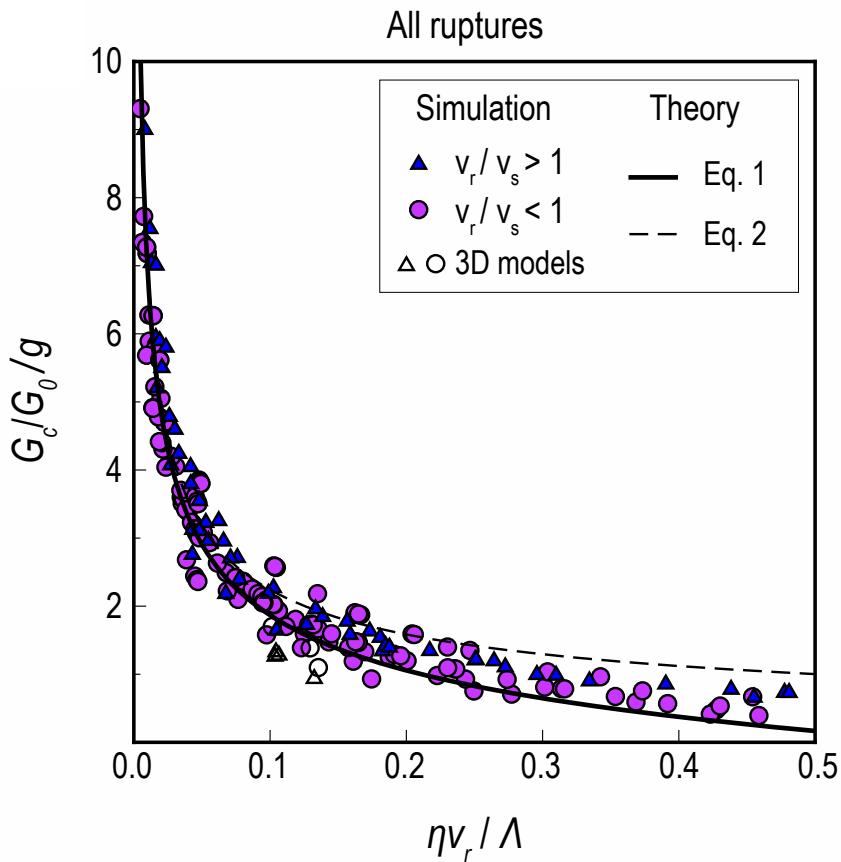
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# Mach fronts in mode III



# Theory for viscoelastic ruptures



Elastic model

$$F(G_c/G_0) = M(v_r) \cdot \dot{v}_r$$

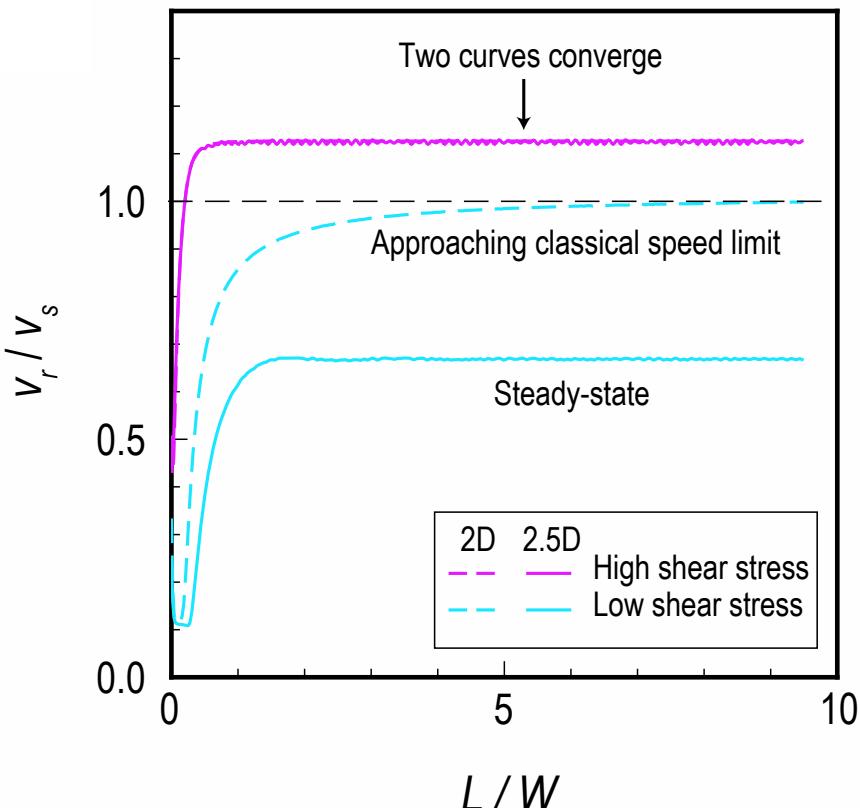
Extended

Viscoelastic model

$$\frac{G_c}{G_0} = \Theta\left(\frac{\eta v_r}{\Lambda}\right) \cdot g\left(\frac{\eta v_r}{W}\right)$$

# Theory for viscoelastic ruptures

Also valid in 2D

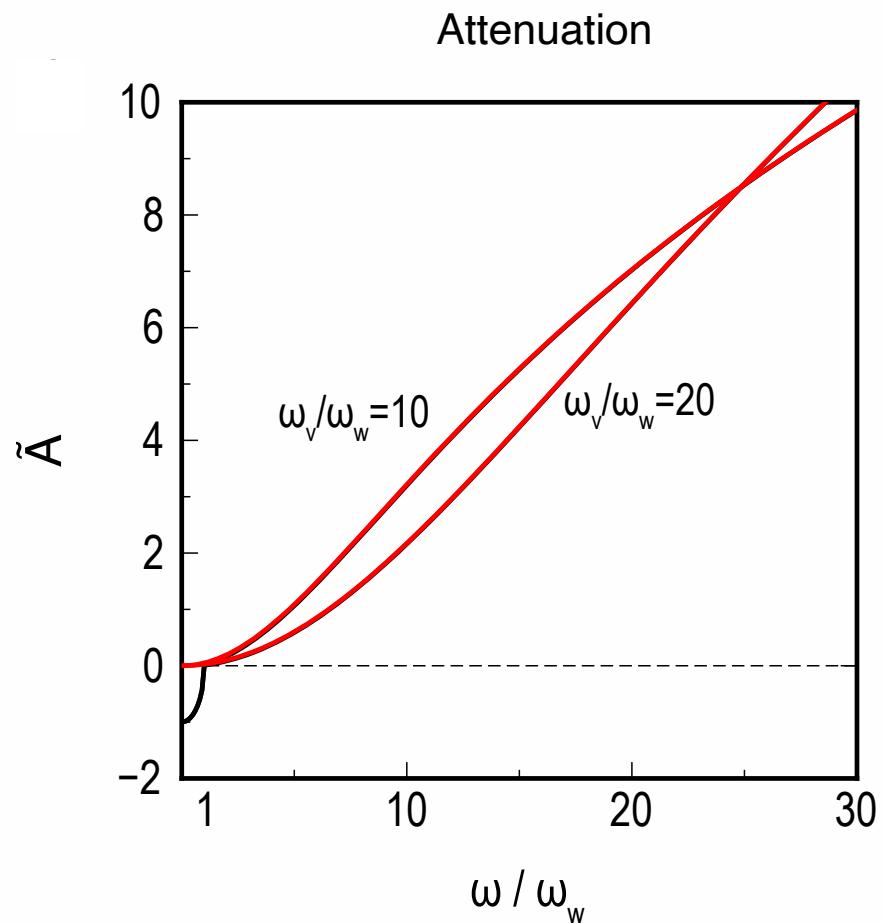
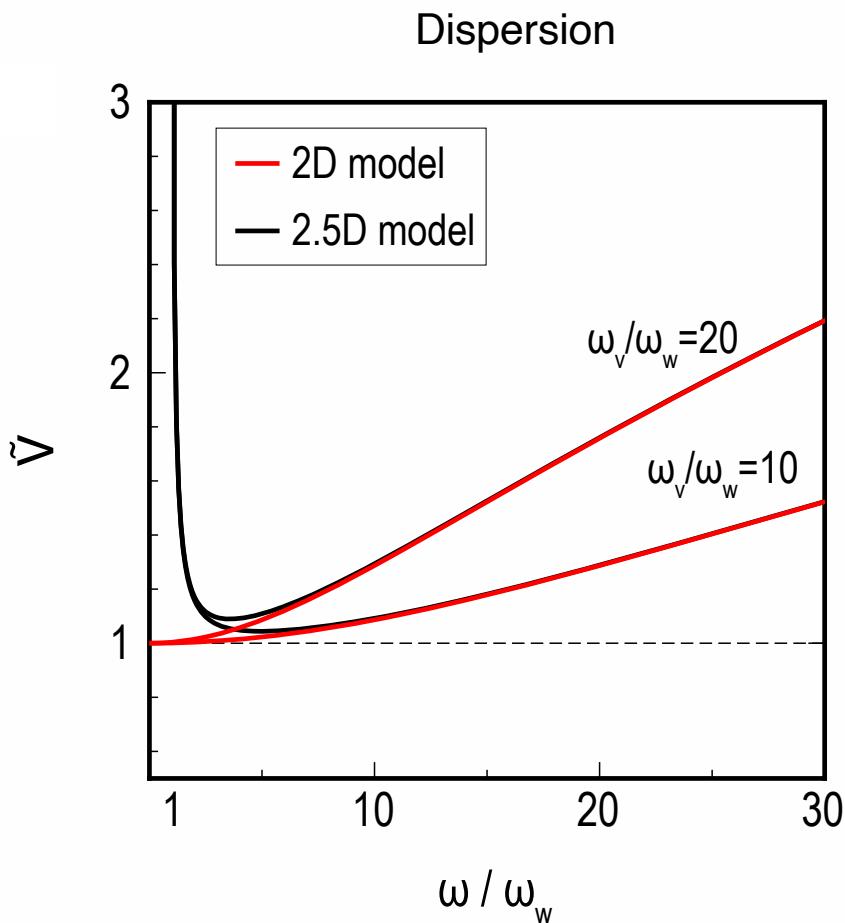


Asymptotically solution for supershear ruptures:

$$G_c \propto \frac{\Delta\tau^2 \sqrt{\eta v_r \Lambda}}{\hat{\alpha}_s \mu}$$

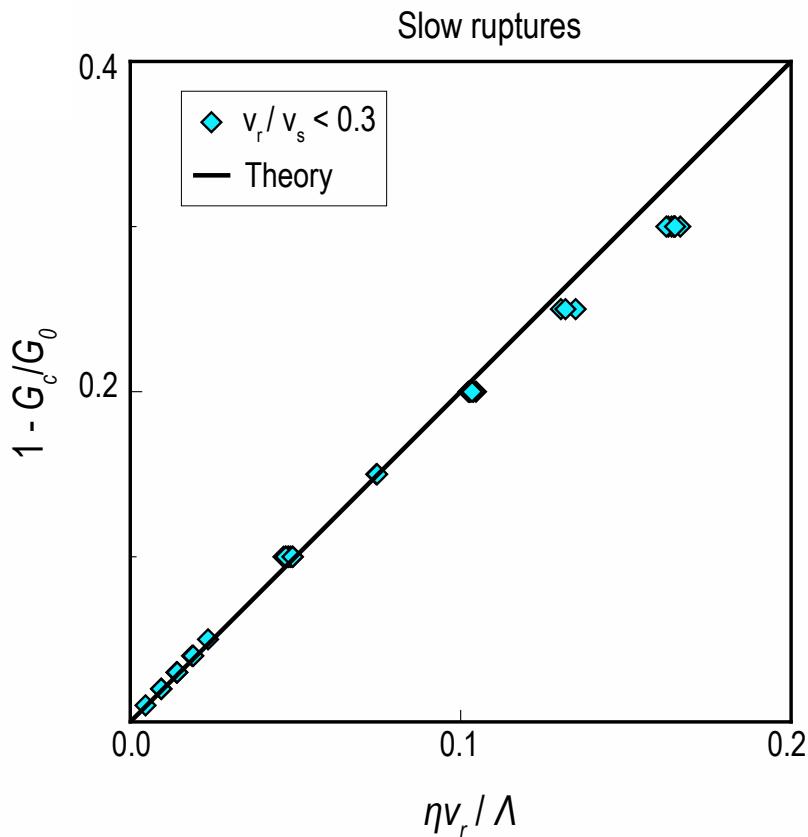
$$\hat{\alpha}_s = \sqrt{(v_r/v_s)^2 - 1}$$

# Velocity dispersion and attenuation



# Theory for viscoelastic ruptures

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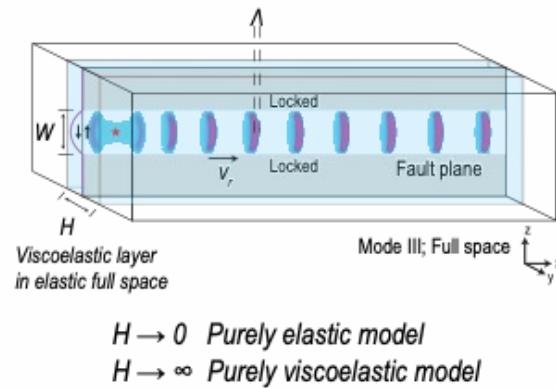


Asymptotically solution for very slow ruptures:

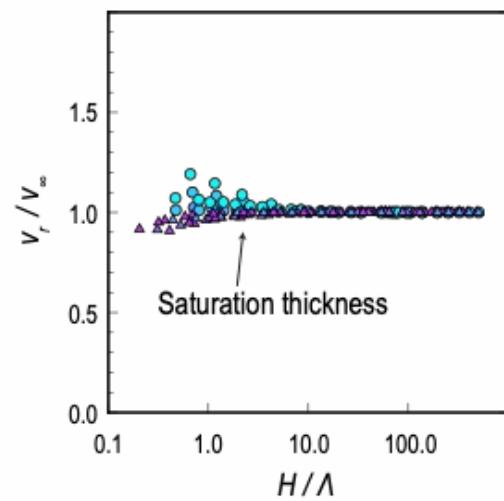
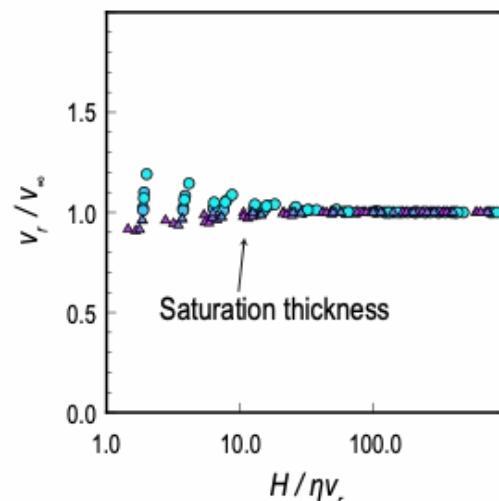
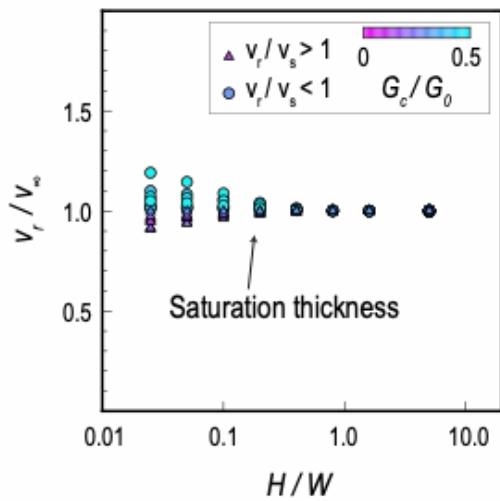
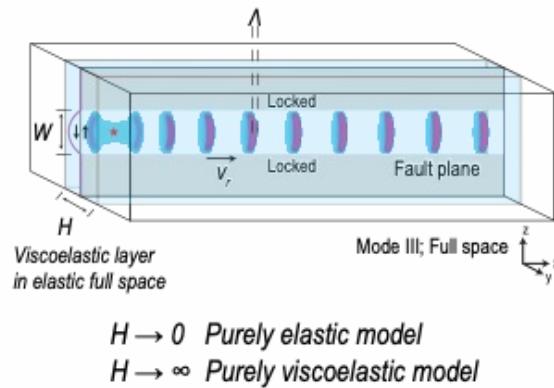
$$G_0 = G_{equiv} \approx G_c \left(1 + 2 \frac{\eta v_r}{\Lambda}\right)$$

# Finite thickness of viscoelastic layer

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# Finite thickness of viscoelastic layer



# Take-home messages

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- Viscoelastic ruptures can propagate at a continuum of terminal speeds not bounded by classical speed limits.
  - All simulated speeds are predicted by the new theory incorporating viscoelasticity.
  - Beyond classical speed limits, rupture dynamics are independent of any macroscopic length and is controlled only by local properties around the rupture tip.
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