



# Imaging laboratory rupture nucleation at the source:

## A friction experiment using ultrafast ultrasound:

#### Aichele Johannes<sup>1,2</sup>; Catheline, Stefan<sup>1</sup>; Roux, Philippe<sup>2</sup>; Latour, Soumaya<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>LabTAU, INSERM, University of Lyon

<sup>2</sup>ISTerre, University of Grenoble

<sup>2</sup>IRAP, University of Toulouse III







## **Ultrafast Ultrasound Imaging - Imaging Principles**



#### Sonography / Echography



## **Ultrafast Ultrasound Imaging - Imaging Principles**



Sonography / Echography





• Plane waves





- Plane waves
- 10000 FPS





- Plane waves
- 10000 FPS
- Motion tracking















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-30

0 III -10 -20

#### Understanding rupture nucleation

- Concentrated on fault zones
- Complex dynamics
- Devastating elastic wave radiation



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## **Rupture Imaging - Introduction**



#### km-scale



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#### km-scale





Latour (2011)

























#### Probe above gel

- Vertical particle velocity retrieved
- Bulk wavefield













Kinematic simulation Green's function Single shear force

**Dynamic experiment** 

Event at 18ms

Near field and shear wave field well reproduced





#### Rupture propagation

#### Supershear rupture

• Straight wavefront (Mach cone)





#### Supershear rupture

- Straight wavefront (Mach cone)
- $\sin \beta = \frac{c_s}{v_r}$



#### Supershear rupture

- Straight wavefront (Mach cone)
- $\sin \beta = \frac{c_s}{v_r}$
- Constant average angle for all ruptures  $\Longrightarrow v_{\text{R}} \approx [17\text{-}20] \mathrm{m} \, \mathrm{s}^{-1} \quad v_{\text{S}} \approx 7 \, \mathrm{m} \, \mathrm{s}^{-1}$



Elastic effects highlighted  $\rightarrow$  slip not reproduced





#### **Kinematic simulation Shear force**

Source: Gaussian shaped force; Snapshots: Displacement field  $(\int_0^t (v_p) dt)$ 

$$u(t) = \int_0^t (F * G) dt$$
 fits better than  $v_p(t) = F * G$ 

Gaussian shear force misses continuous displacement of source





#### **Kinematic simulation DC**

Source: Displacement ramp; Snapshots: Particle velocity field

Qualitative fit better, but wavefield in DC-solution appears more complex



#### **Bimaterial contrast - Precursory event**

- well reproduced by single shear force
- does not exhibit radiation pattern of double-couple
  - $\Rightarrow$  We interpret the events either as microslips or grain rearrangements in the sand layer.

#### **Bimaterial contrast - Breaking of asperity**

- Double-couple source of a displacement ramp is more appropriate
- The full analytical DC solution shows a wavefield that exposes terms not identifiable in the experiment
- Either those terms are hidden due to limitations of the method or the true source mechanism is not an ideal double-couple.

 $\Rightarrow$  For the natural bimaterial system of glacial sliding, DC moment tensor inversion has been shown to be inaccurate<sup>1</sup>.  $\Rightarrow$  The softness of the gel in combination with the poly-layer of grains could also lead to off-fault contributions.





#### Snapshot

- 2D x-z data
- $> 100\,000$  data points



















Hydrogel physics **Rock physics** x-Position 3.25 cm0.2Dpl [mm] 0.180.70 0.160.68 Goupe layers 0.66 750850 1000 300 0.64 t [ms] Onset of rapid 200 Normal stress acceleration 100 30 20 10 15 25 Time (s)



Leeman, Marone et al. (2016)



#### Probe above gel

- Two elastic halfspaces
- Vertical particle velocity











## Rupture Imaging - Gel on Gel - Precursory event

#### 3 Snapshots - dt pprox 0.3 ms



#### Experiment

#### Point source simulation

Quadripole of a single force reproduced



## Rupture Imaging - Gel on Gel - Precursory event

#### 4 Snapshots - dt pprox 0.1 ms



#### Experiment

# DC superposition simulation

Coherent polarization in upper and lower halfspace reproduced



#### **Precursory events**

- Single shear force qualitatively reproduces radiation pattern
- Long rise time of 3ms

#### **Rupture events**

- Single shear force insufficient for radiation pattern
- DC reproduces coherent polarization in upper and lower halfspace
- Experiment does not show the complete radiation pattern of the analytic DC solution
  ⇒ might be hidden in noise and global movement of the gel blocks ⇒ neither the pure
  double-couple nor the simple shear force might reproduce the gel-on-gel sliding. We
  hypothesize that off-fault terms are likely due to the setup of two soft, not perfectly
  homogeneous gels with a hard grain layer in-between.



## Rupture Imaging - Gel on Gel - Sub-shear



#### Sub-shear rupture

- Right-traveling
- Complex source mechanism



### Observed

- Super- and sub-shear rupture
- Precursors
- Reproducible ruptures  $\rightarrow$  statistics



#### Observed

- Super- and sub-shear rupture
- Precursors
- Reproducible ruptures  $\rightarrow$  statistics

## Work in progress

- Cross-plane acquisition
- $\bullet \ \ \text{Improve detection} \rightarrow \text{statistics}$







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Strong bimaterial contrast
 → Analog to glass-gel



- Strong bimaterial contrast
  → Analog to glass-gel
- Smaller scale than fault



- Strong bimaterial contrast
  → Analog to glass-gel
- Smaller scale than fault
- Recently equipped study site -Dense seismic array







#### Probe parallel - side view

- Horizontal particle velocity
- Near-field of rupture











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