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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Division of High-Level Waste Repository Safety  
Mail Stop 7 C6  
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Revised journal article and response to review comments: "Fault-Zone Deformation in Welded Tuffs at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, U.S.A." by M.B. Gray, J.A. Stamatakos, D.A. Ferrill, and M.A. Evans.

Dear Dr. Justus:

The journal article "Fault-Zone Deformation in Welded Tuffs at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, U.S.A." has been reviewed by the *Journal of Structural Geology*. We received reviews and comments via email from the journal editor, Dr. Thomas Blenkinsop, on September 3, 2004, and the complete review package via the post on September 9, 2004. The reviews from the journal are favorable, and we expect that the paper will be accepted for publication once we respond to the review comments and complete suggested revisions.

Per our commitment, as stated in my February 17, 2004 email to you, we herein submit as attachments to this letter: (i) our final revision of the paper; (ii) detailed responses to the *Journal of Structural Geology* review comments, including information on how the paper has been reorganized and shortened; and (iii) detailed responses to all NRC comments. As agreed to in the same February 17, 2004 email, we will not return our revised paper to the *Journal of Structural Geology* until we gain approval from NRC and you place the paper in the Public Document Room.



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Should you have any questions, please contact me at 210-522-5247.

Sincerely



Dr. John A. Stamatakos  
Principal Investigator  
General information

JAS/slo

Enclosures/Attachment

*[revised and re-submitted 12/9/04 - P. Justus]*

cc: CNWRA Directors/EMs  
M.B. Gray  
M.A. Evans  
D.A. Ferrill

## Attachment 3. Response to NRC Review Comments

### 1.0 General Response

The paper has received favorable reviews from the *Journal of Structural Geology*. Although not formally accepted by the journal, we fully anticipate acceptance pending our revisions. In the following sections, we address all the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) comments, following the format of your comment number and recommendation number you used in your January 14, 2004 Transmittal of Attachments 3–6. We appreciate the detailed comments from the NRC staff because they provided us with constructive criticism that ultimately helped us improve the paper. Where appropriate, we made the suggested changes. The one exception is the interpretation of the calcite deformation temperatures. We remain convinced that our interpretation of the twin data as indicative of relatively high deformation temperatures is correct and have provided detailed rebuttal to Mr. Coleman and Dr. Leslie's assertions to the contrary.

Although most of the NRC comments were of a technical nature, some of the comments provided by Mr. Coleman seemed to suggest that we should programmatically advocate in favor of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) position with regard to the ongoing debate over the thermal-chronologic history at Yucca Mountain (including possible seismic pumping and hydrothermal activity). Mr. Coleman repeatedly suggested that we should simply interpret our results to be consistent with the existing DOE "integrated structural-hydrologic-geochemical model" rather than as independent evidence not well explained by the DOE model. First, we do not share Mr. Coleman's opinion that the issue is as clearly resolved as his comments imply. Important technical questions remain unanswered: most notably the source of heat that could have produced the elevated temperatures in the vadose zone, as recorded by the fluid inclusion data, or the timing of secondary mineral growth, as interpreted from the carbon and oxygen isotopic data. Second, the scope of our paper is limited to an evaluation of fault zones at Yucca Mountain. We did not intend to provide the NRC with a comprehensive evaluation of the upwelling/hydrothermal controversy or the technical basis necessary to resolve it. To do so would necessitate a more complete evaluation of all the data, including appropriate evaluation and analyses from a broad range of geologic disciplines such as volcanology, stable-isotope geochemistry, geochronology, geohydrology, geothermometry, and seismology. In this paper we document our observations of fault zone characteristics in the Exploratory Studies Facility and Cross Drift. Because the Class B Fault zones are unusual and may be related to the larger upwelling/hydrothermal controversy, we discuss these faults in terms of the existing structural-hydrologic-geochemical models. Third, because we want to explicitly maintain our objectivity in the upwelling/hydrothermal controversy and are mindful of our regulatory responsibility not to prejudge the potential for Yucca Mountain to serve as a geologic repository, we avoided an explicit endorsement of one side or the other.

Notwithstanding these objections to Mr. Coleman's comments, his review and that from other NRC staff raised several important questions related to the validity and veracity of the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) isotopic data and how these data are used by the USGS to quantify ages and temperatures of secondary mineralization (see for example Mr. Coleman's comments concerning the scatter and possible sampling problems related to the USGS carbon and oxygen isotopic data used to develop a relative age progression of secondary minerals and Dr. Bradbury's comments concerning his "lack of confidence in the use of stable isotopes as evidence for temperature of formation"). These appear to be important questions that warrant further consideration by the technical experts working on these topics, topics that are beyond

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the scope of this paper. We recommend that these comments be conveyed to the USGS and DOE.

#### **2.0 Comments by Mr. Coleman**

##### ***(Comments 1 and 2)***

We have provided detailed point-by-point responses to all prior NRC comments. We held meetings with the NRC staff, including Mr. Coleman, at the request of the NRC (including at least one here in San Antonio that lasted more than one day) to discuss the calcite twin data and related issues. We have also provided all the supporting information and documentation requested by the NRC. Second, the comment that “we focused on the Class B faults with little or no regard for the wealth of data that are available to support an integrated structural-hydrologic-geochemical interpretation of the Class B faults,” is factually incorrect. We clearly state that the scope of the paper is limited to fault zone characteristics, with brief discussion of the implications of the results to the larger upwelling/hydrothermal controversy. Discussion in the paper includes an objective evaluation of the calcite twin data in comparison to other peer-reviewed published papers on calcite twins. Nowhere do we advocate a model that ignores the existing data in favor of our own calcite twin data. To the contrary, we readily conclude that the structural-hydrologic-geochemical interpretation of Yucca Mountain remains uncertain, a conclusion that is true even in the absence of the calcite twin data.

Recently, Bechtel SAIC, LLC came to the same conclusion, as discussed in Appendix H to Technical Basis Document 2. In that document, the Bechtel reviewers note significant lack of knowledge about the thermal history of Yucca Mountain in their assessment of the USGS thermal models used to explain the fluid inclusion data. In their opinion, no thermal-volcanic model adequately accounts for the heat necessary to generate the relatively high temperatures as recorded by the fluid inclusions at Yucca Mountain. The interpretation of the geochemical data is also not well “integrated.” The University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) geochemists (as reported in Wilson, et al., 2003), disagree with the USGS application of the stable isotope data in developing an age progression of secondary mineralization based on carbon/oxygen isotope ratios. Those age progression data form an integral part of the USGS concept of steady-state mineral growth over millions of years. This steady-state mineral growth model is important because it is used to support the supposition that unwelded Tiva Canyon Tuff effectively buffers fluxes of infiltration caused by climatic changes.

#### **2.1 Paleothermal Interpretation**

##### **(Comment 3, Recommendation 1 and “Separate Recommendation”)**

This comment states that “the temperature ‘boundaries’ in Figure 10 appear to be invalid”, citing data from experimentally deformed Indiana Limestones reported by Ferrill (1998; Figure 2 and Table 1).

We respectfully disagree. The compilation of data by Ferrill, et al. (2004) is based on the available data sets for naturally deformed rocks that were collected with a consistent measurement and calculation approach, such that a direct comparison with the calcite twin data

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from Yucca Mountain could be made. As described in the next two paragraphs, the experimental data were not analyzed under this protocol, and thus, substantial re-analysis would be necessary before the experimental data can be used to draw any conclusions about temperature and calcite twin width. We consider the record of naturally deformed twin data is now complete enough that we do not need to rely on these less certain experimental data.

The average twin width and density data for the experimentally deformed Indiana Limestone were provided to Ferrill by Rick Groshong (see the acknowledgments section of Ferrill, 1998). The key point made by Ferrill (1998) using those experimental data was that:

“Differential stress and twin density both increase with strain. Twin width varies slightly, but does not correspond directly to increasing strain.”

The absolute twin widths were not critical to that analysis, but rather the fact that twin width was relatively unaffected by increasing strain. Subsequent analysis of those twin parameters and the strain data indicates that the reported average twin widths are incompatible with the reported strain and twin density (intensity) values. Twin strain is a function of twin volume and twin orientation with respect to the principal strain directions. Twin volume is determined by measuring the number of twins over the twin-perpendicular width of the host crystal (from which density is derived) and the twin widths. Although the reported densities (intensities) are perfectly consistent with the reported strains, the twin widths used with the reported densities would result in higher strains than measured. The logical explanation is that the twin width values were not measured in a way that is consistent with the subsequent natural twin data. We suspect that the reported experimental values may be off by a factor of two. Unfortunately, we don't possess the raw data needed to recalculate the mean twin widths for these samples. Note that because Ferrill (1998) relied on relative twin width values, the conclusions from this analysis remains valid—specifically, that in experimental deformation of Indiana Limestone conducted dry, at room temperature 100 MPa confining pressure, and a strain rate of  $10^{-4}\text{s}^{-1}$ , strain increased by addition of new twins.

Further exploration of this issue is beyond the scope of the present paper. If required, however, CNWRA staff could attempt to acquire the raw data for the experimentally deformed Indiana Limestone from Groshong and to recalculate the mean twin widths and intensities for the experimentally deformed samples. Furthermore, with NRC funding we could undertake an experimental deformation study to more fully explore the relationships between calcite twin geometry and strain in carbonate rocks experimentally deformed at a range of temperatures, confining pressure, and fluid saturation conditions of interest for investigations at Yucca Mountain. CNWRA staff have already discussed this possibility with faculty of the Center for Tectonophysics at Texas A&M University, and we believe that a project could begin and complete within a reasonable time frame.

#### (Comments 4 and 5)

As discussed above, the twin width data for Indiana Limestone samples experimentally deformed at room temperature are considered suspect, and thus should not be used to either define or evaluate temperature boundaries in the mean twin width versus twin strain graphical comparison. The assessments detailed in comments 4 and 5 are, therefore moot.

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#### (Comment 6)

Mr. Coleman's statement that "...Figure 10 of Gray et al. excludes data from calcite twins with average widths in excess of 5 $\mu$ m" is incorrect. No reliable data were excluded from this figure. Figure 10 of Gray, et al. is based on Figure 2c of Ferrill, et al., 2004, and represents the most complete compilation of reliable data that could be made.

Mr. Coleman goes on to say "Earlier papers (Ferrill, 1991; 1998) described 5 microns as a "general" boundary to delineate thin vs. thick twins." This is a misrepresentation of statements of Ferrill (1991) and Ferrill (1998). Ferrill (1991; p. 667) states that "Twins in calcite deformed at low temperature are thin, generally less than 5  $\mu$ m wide (Groshong 1974, Friedman, et al., 1976, Groshong, et al., 1984a)." This statement is in reference to individual twins, and there is no suggestion whatsoever that this is referring to mean twin width. Ferrill (1998) states that "Twins in calcite deformed at temperatures below 200 C are thin, generally less than 5  $\mu$ m thick, and appear in thin section as thin black lines that have no recognizable width of twinned calcite under the optical microscope (Groshong, 1972, 1974; Spang, et al., 1974; Friedman, et al., 1976; Groshong, et al., 1984; Ferrill, 1991)." Again, 5  $\mu$ m is a semi-quantitative reference to the largest individual twin widths expected at temperatures <200 °C. Because there is variability in twin widths within samples, which increases with increasing temperature, we do not rely on individual twin measurements but instead use measurements of multiple twins from numerous grains (commonly 50 grains) in a sample to calculate mean twin widths, and these mean twin widths are compared and related to the deformation temperatures. To our knowledge, 5  $\mu$ m is not used by anyone to delineate a boundary between 'thin' versus 'thick' twins that have clear definitions. Definitions are provided below in a quote from Ferrill, et al. (2004; p. 1521-1522):

"Working definitions of thin versus thick calcite twins are given by Groshong (1974). In crossed polarized light, both thin and thick twins oriented at a high angle to the microscope axis produce obvious parallel color fringes. When the twins are rotated to parallel the microscope axis, the color fringes disappear and what is seen is either a finite width of twinned material (thick twin) or a black line of measurable width (thin twin)." .... "Thin twins appear in thin sections as black lines when observed using a universal stage at 200 to 320x magnification. Spang, et al. (1974) demonstrated using scanning electron-microscope observations that thin twins did, in fact, include visible amounts of twinned material. The thin-twin black line width includes a combination of twinned material and the optical effects due to the twin boundaries. Using measured and calculated strains from experimentally deformed twinned calcite in limestone, Groshong (1974) determined that approximately 50% of the black line width represents twinned calcite (also see Groshong, et al., 1984b). Thick calcite twins can be resolved optically from the untwinned host. Under cross-polarized light, the calcite within a thick twin can be seen to go to extinction in a different position from that in the untwinned host calcite. Widths of thick twins measured as the distance between the inner edges of the visible twin boundaries range from approximately 1 to >10 microns."

These definitions should be used for thin versus thick calcite twins.

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#### **(Comment 7)**

This comment states that “No explanation was given to explain why data for twins  $>5 \mu\text{m}$  were excluded from Fig. 10.” As noted above, no data were excluded.

#### **(Comment 8)**

We reject this comment, because the twinning evidence for elevated paleotemperatures is deemed reliable, as discussed in Ferrill, et al., (2004) and summarized in Section 2.2.2 of the manuscript.

#### **(Recommendation 1)**

As discussed in response to Comment 3, no action is required.

#### **(Recommendation 2)**

Detail is added to Appendix A on Calcite twin analyses to discuss measurement accuracy of twin thickness and grain width (which influences accuracy of intensity values) measurements.

#### **(Recommendation 3)**

The data speak for themselves. We do not feel that we have overstated the observations in any way.

#### **(Recommendation 4)**

Earlier publications are cited in the paper (see Leslie, recommendation 2). We have not changed our interpretation so no further discussion is warranted.

### **2.2 Interpretation of Carbon and Oxygen Stable Isotopic Data**

#### **(Comment 9 and Recommendation 5)**

We do not agree with the assertion that Class B fault zone isotopic data “cover the entire range from early- to late-stage range.” None of the Class B fault zone isotopic data show  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values below about 12‰ and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values above about 2‰, which is characteristic of nearly all the interpreted “early calcite” from the USGS data.

However, per the comments of Dr. J. Rubenstone, we now agree that comparison of the Oxygen and Carbon isotopic signatures of the calcite in the Class B faults with those from the lithophysal calcite may not be straightforward and that “the overlap with the lithophysal calcite data is likely coincidental and has no significance for correlation given the different mechanisms by which the calcites formed.” We have deleted this figure from our paper and substantially modified the text. We no longer derive any inferences of the age of the Class B fault zone calcite from their isotopic signature. The USGS is presently conducting additional and more comprehensive geochemical analyses to examine the isotopic signatures of the Class B fault

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zones. We look forward to their more comprehensive characterization of the calcite geochemistry in the Class B Fault zones.

#### (Recommendation 6)

We note however, that the questions raised by Mr. Coleman regarding the isotopic data collected by the USGS and the USGS interpretation that the  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}$  values are indicative of mineralization age are important because much of the USGS information of age and timing of secondary mineralization at Yucca Mountain relies on these data. Given Mr. Coleman's lack of confidence in these data because of "difficulties in discretely sampling calcite of the various stages," and lack of statistically quantified methods to reach conclusions about the "apparent" age relationship shown in the USGS figure, we agree that the "sampling problems should be discussed ... along with other plausible reasons for the data scatter." We recommend that these questions be forwarded to the USGS and DOE by Mr. Coleman and that NRC staff remain skeptical of the ages of secondary minerals at Yucca Mountain based on these data until these questions have been adequately addressed.

### 2.3 Paleohydrologic Explanation of Calcite Textures in Class B Faults

#### (Comment 10)

"The idea that Type B fault mineralogy could have been deposited long after deposition of the tuffs through a combined mechanism of thermal/seismic pumping is inconsistent with the areally abundant evidence of vadose zone mineral textures (Whelan, et al., 2002)."

This is exactly why recognition of the fabrics and textures identified in the Class B Fault Zones is so compelling. What this comment fails to recognize is the evidence cited by Whelan, et al., (2002) among other similar studies, was developed primarily from secondary minerals in the open cavities (lithophysae and fractures). The faults were avoided because they did not readily yield the kinds of secondary mineral growth textures necessary for the USGS analyses. The intricate layering of mineral growth necessary for history of mineralization in the Whelan, et al. (2002) study was thought to be best (only) expressed in the lithophysal cavities. Thus, we suggest that the Whelan, et al., (2002) conclusions concerning thermal/seismic pumping or some other mechanism for the development of the Class B Fault Zones are incomplete not based on a comprehensive understanding of the secondary mineralization history at Yucca Mountain.

Note that we do not claim that Yucca Mountain was invaded by hydrothermal fluids or was ever completely saturated. We are careful in the paper to limit our discussion to our own observations to the texture and morphology of the Class B Faults. We attempt to discuss our understanding of the larger seismic pumping/hydrothermal controversy as objectively as possible, and then we present our results within the context of that discussion. In our conclusions we clearly state that "The age and origin of the Class B fault zones is unknown," and that "At present, this lack of age control (relative or absolute) limits our ability to interpret their origin within existing tectonic-thermal models."

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#### **(Comment 11)**

“Hydrothermal deposits are lacking at Yucca Mountain (Craig, 1997).”

Isn't this conclusion the focus of dispute between the USGS/DOE and the researchers working for the State of Nevada?

In this paper we do not state that we prefer a hydrothermal or seismic pumping model, only that the Class B Fault Zones could be explained by “circulating hot fluids related to contemporaneous volcanic-geothermal activity” or “an episode of tectonic-thermal activity.” These are the same concepts proposed by the DOE to explain the fluid inclusion results (see the lengthy discussion of the thermal-volcanic-tectonic models presented in Appendix H of Technical Basis Document 2).

The larger controversy of the age, timing, duration, mechanism of heating the rocks at Yucca Mountain is simply beyond the scope of this study and the current limitations of our data (e.g., lack of reliable ages to constrain the Class B Fault Zone calcite). The lack of a complete answer should not, however, prevent us, or anyone, from publishing important observations that will ultimately lead to a clearer understanding of the geologic history of Yucca Mountain.

#### **(Comments 12 ,13, and 14 and Recommendation 7) Calcite Textures**

The notion that our textural evidence for secondary mineral growth is invalid because many of these interpretations of texture are based on observation from carbonate host rocks rather than volcanic host rocks is incorrect. The carbonate rock analog is appropriate because the secondary minerals are calcite and calcite textures were developed in the tuff strata at Yucca Mountain because of sedimentary processes and thus, geologists would naturally look to the carbonate literature for appropriate comparisons.

This issue was discussed at length by the entire group of researchers involved in the UNLV fluid inclusion study (including USGS, UNLV, and State of Nevada), at the November 7–9, 1999 meeting. Dr. Bob Goldstein (Carbonate Geology Professor at the University of Kansas and leading expert on carbonate petrology) was asked by the group to specifically discuss carbonate mineral textures that would differentiate between vadose and phreatic zone deposition. Based on this discussion, which is entirely consistent with the information in Flügel (1982), Land (1970), Beach (1995), and Chafetz, et al. (1985), the working group developed a set of criteria that would be used in their analyses of secondary calcite deposits at Yucca Mountain (see attachments 2 and 3 to the UNLV Yucca Mountain DOE Project November 9, 1999 meeting minutes). We rely on those same criteria in our interpretations of calcite textures in the Class B Fault Zones, as described in Section 2.2.1 of the manuscript and including references to important published papers on calcite textures.

The additional implication that fault zones at Yucca Mountain represent a “special environment of secondary mineral” forming “in such a zone of high pressure and gradual, plastic deformation” is incorrect. These faults are dilational, formed by hybrid failure under regional tension (see our discussion at the end of Section 3).

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Finally, Mr. Coleman asks that we “Add discussion to document the widespread occurrences of saturated or nearly-saturated conditions in the vadose zone at Yucca Mountain, which could readily contribute...”

We did not make the recommended change because we do not see how this improves the interpretation. In the paper we state that “Either Class B fault zones once served as fluid-saturated conduits while the surrounding rocks remained unsaturated or the faults and surrounding rocks were once saturated at some point in their history.” Saturated or nearly-saturated zone vadose zone conditions clearly fall into this characterization. We are unsure what additional information would allow one to differentiate between the possibility of saturated or nearly-saturated vadose zone conditions leading to the poikilotopic and other textures from other ways the faults could have become saturated. We do not have a basis to infer that present conditions at Yucca Mountain existed when the Class B Fault Zone textures formed. As noted many times in the paper and in this response, we do not know the age of the Class B Fault Zone textures or timing of the Class B Fault zone genesis relative to other tectonic-volcanic-thermal events. At present, we do not have a reliable method to date the Class B Fault Zones. To rely on the current conditions at Yucca Mountain would require us to first establish their age and then develop evidence that would show that the present-day saturated or nearly-saturated vadose zone conditions Mr. Coleman describes are appropriate for that age.

#### **2.4 Evidence for Hydrothermal Activity at Yucca Mountain**

##### **(Recommendation 8 )**

We disagree with the conclusion that the inferred deformation temperatures are questionable (see prior responses in Section 2.1). We see no need to document that “no secondary hydrothermal deposits of any kind have been discovered through surface mapping, drilling, or tunnel construction,” nor do we feel it necessary to document the trench 14 results because all that information is readily available in the references we cite when we discuss the larger controversy. The scope of this paper is to document the features and characteristics of faulting at Yucca Mountain, including the Class B fault zones, and simply “discuss the ramifications of these findings in light of ongoing studies of secondary mineralization, paleohydrology, and groundwater thermochronology at Yucca Mountain.”

#### **2.5 Location of Samples 02016200 and 02016201 Needs to be Documented**

##### **(Recommendations 9)**

None of the G-2 samples formed the basis conclusions presented in this manuscript. We rechecked all our samples and, although we looked at the G-1 Core, we did not sample from it. The two cores samples explicitly mentioned in this manuscript are both from USW G-1. We added the Spenger, et al., 1981 reference to position the samples in G-1.

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### (Recommendations 10)

Core samples #02016200 and #02016201 are from USW G-1 in Drill Hole Wash. Requested information is below:

#02016200 is from the interval 3586.3 - 3587.5 ft in depth.

#02016201 is from the interval 3587.9 - 3588.2 ft in depth.

[note: values are not true vertical depths. True vertical depths are shallower than reported above by less than 13.3 ft (Spengler, et al., 1981)]

Both samples are from flow breccia immediately beneath the Tram (Spengler et al., 1981). According to Spengler, et al. (1981), the 56.3 ft interval that included these samples consists of:

"Breccia, flow, light-olive-gray, medium-dark-gray, and grayish-red, devitrified to glassy, poorly sorted; 50-60 percent brownish-gray volcanic dacitic lithic fragments, commonly 2-9 cm in length, angular to subangular, crackled; devitrified groundmass, lower 0.5 ft argillic"

Carr (1992) reports a "tight" fault at between 3586 and 3587 ft in depth in the USW G-1 drill hole. The fault is reported to dip 70 degrees. Secondary calcite occurs in irregular fractures in this interval (Carr, 1992). Another "tight" fault is found at 3588-3590 ft depth and dips 70-80 degrees (Carr, 1992). Secondary calcite seals the fault zone in this interval (Carr, 1992).

Fault zone classes are assigned based on fault zone architecture. It is difficult in most cases to assign a fault zone class to a fault observed in a core because a core does not adequately capture the spatial relationships of the fault zone. We felt confident about our class assignment of #02016200 and #02016201 because we had made previously made extensive field observations in the ESF on the distinctive mineralogical associations of Class B fault zones. It is inappropriate to add the description of these samples to our table because we know little about their fault zone width, fault zone orientation and shear sense. We do not have much more to add about their nature other than the secondary mineral details already discussed. Also, all of the observations we report in our table are our own. Any contextual information on the USW G-1 cores comes from available non-Q reports. Finally, if we add these samples to our table, we would then have to add all of our core samples to our table (despite the fact that we do not classify the fault zones contained in them).

### 3.0 Comments by Dr. B. Leslie

#### 3.1 Main Comments

##### (Comments 1, 2, 3, and 4)

As stated in prior responses in Section 2.1, we disagree with the assertion that this is a "questionable technique that leads to geologic interpretations that are inconsistent with other available evidence that contradicts the author's interpretations." We remain convinced of the calcite twin deformation temperatures. We also assert that the other available evidence is not as well-accepted or robust as suggested in Dr. Leslie's comment (see for example the

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comments provided by Mr. Coleman and Dr. Bradbury concerning the isotopic data). In addition, we have already noted the ongoing debate between the State of Nevada researchers and this prevailing view and the differences in age interpretations between the USGS and UNLV researchers.

While Dr. Leslie may be correct in his discussion about the temperature limits derived from the oxygen isotopic data, he misses a main point (and one that, thanks to his comment, we have also tried to keep clear in the revised paper). The calcite twin data document a temperature at which the calcite was deformed, not the temperature of the waters from which it was precipitated. We never say that the water was at greater than 170 °C, only that the calcite crystals, once precipitated, were subjected to these temperatures during deformation. One could speculate that the calcite was precipitated in the faults from warm waters soon after Topopah Spring Tuff deposition, and the rocks were then heated to even higher temperatures during fault deformation associated with subsequent tuff deposition (i.e., Tiva or Ranier Mesa, or even Ammonia Tanks). The key is to obtain reliable ages for the calcite and calcite twins. Better isotopic information on the fault breccias would also help constrain the interpretation (data which according to the discussion in Appendix H of TBD 2, the USGS is presently collecting).

Per Dr. Rubenstone's recommendations, we have deleted comparison and discussion of the calcite isotopic in relationship to the USGS isotopic data and the USGS figure (former Figure 11). The paper is now more focused on fault genesis and evolution of fault structures.

#### **(Recommendations 1 and 2)**

We have provided the requested information about the samples. We have deleted this figure and modified the paper to de-emphasize any conclusions we previously drew with regard to the age of the Class B calcite with respect to ages derived from the isotopic data.

#### **(Recommendation 2B)**

References below have been added to the manuscript as recommended. However, we stand by our original conclusions that the secondary mineralization was polygenic and that the twins indicate relatively high temperatures of deformation.

Gray, Mary Beth, Stamatakos, J. A., and Ferrill, D. A., 2000, Polygenetic secondary calcite mineralization in Yucca Mountain, NV. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, v. 32, p. A-260

Gray, M.B., Stamatakos, J.A., Ferrill, D.A, and Evans, M.A., 1999, Fault behavior and fault zone architecture in Miocene volcanic tuffs at Yucca Mountain, NV. Presented at Special Session S03: "Internal Fault Structure", 1999 American Geophysical Union Meeting in San Francisco, CA., EOS, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, v. 80, no. 46, p. F741.

Gray, M.B., Stamatakos, J. A., and Ferrill, D. A., 1998, Microstructural and microtextural analyses of faulting at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, American Geophysical Union Meeting in San Francisco, CA, EOS, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union, v. 79, no. 45, p. F823.

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#### **(Comment 5)**

We do not explicitly state that the Class B Fault Zones are implosion breccias, only that they have characteristics of implosion breccias. We cite the 500 m limit from Sibson (1986), and note that we are at a depth less than that. We also state several times in the paper that the origin of the Class B Fault Zones is not known.

“Class B fault zone textures have textural features that are characteristics of implosion breccias described elsewhere (Sibson, 1986, 1994; Muech and Sintubin, 1998; Seront, et al., 1998). Implosion breccias form during faulting by rapid decrease in pore fluid pressure at dilational jogs with a resulting fluid pressure differential that exceeds the tensile strength of the rock (Sibson, 1986, Fig. 2c). Implosion breccias are known to have exploded jigsaw puzzle breccia textures; wall rock clasts have little internal deformation and are commonly matrix supported (Sibson, 1986, 1994; Seront, et al., 1998). Implosion breccias may form in a variety of structural settings (e.g., Zhang and Sanderson, 1996; Muech and Sintubin, 1998; Seront, et al, 1998) but, according to Sibson (1986), are not expected to form at depths less than approximately 500 m.”

We are unconvinced that the 500 m is a hard limiting depth if the rocks are over pressured and relatively hot. Nor are we convinced that these rocks were not buried by post-Tiva volcanic deposits long since eroded. As with other aspects of this work, we do not fully resolve the observations in terms of how the Class B Fault Zones originated. We simply have observations of geologic processes that seem to be incongruous with the current interpretations of the geologic setting. That does not detract from the importance of making these observations nor our obligation as scientists to draw reasonable geologic inferences from them.

#### **(Comments 6 and 7 and Recommendations 3 and 4)**

We disagree. The section describing the generalities of the fault zones is important because it provides a structural geology context for hydrologic interpretations, especially in cases where hydrologic experiments are specifically designed to examine how faults influence groundwater flow. For example, Nye County has hinted at an experiment to drill and then pump-test a horizontal borehole drilled in the saturated zone across a major fault. Our observations could provide a useful context that helps explain results of such an experiment. Note however, that we have modified, shortened, and at the request of the Journal of Structural Geology reviewer, added some qualifying language to this section that may address some of Dr. Leslie's concerns.

### **3.2 Other Comments**

#### **(Recommendation 5A - G)**

Accepted. Recommended changes made.

#### **(Recommendation 5H)**

Section 4.1.3 has been deleted, as recommended.

### **Attachment 3. Response to NRC Review Comments**

#### **(Recommendation 5I)**

Accepted. Recommended changes made.

#### **(Recommendation 5K-M)**

Accepted. Recommended changes made.

#### **(Recommendation 5N)**

The Finkbeiner reference is cited in the text. Goldstein and Reynolds, 1994 reference has been removed. Spelling correction has been made to Mongano reference.

#### **(Recommendation 5O)**

Accepted. Recommended changes made.

#### **(Recommendation 6)**

Accepted. Sentence deleted.

### **4.0 Comments by Dr. J. Rubenstone**

#### **(Recommendation 1)**

We have not added a table summarizing the characteristics. However, because of comments from one of the Journal of Structural Geology reviewers, we have restructured the paper and added a summary figure that should help clarify the "similarities and differences among the classes."

#### **(Recommendation 2)**

The reorganization of the material in the discussion should also help delineate the Class B Fault Zones from the other fault classes.

#### **(Comments 1 and 2 and Recommendation 3)**

We do not agree that adding a discussion of the experimental twin data is necessary. The "in press paper" has been published (Ferrill, et al., 2004), and that paper documents the comprehensive evaluation of the **natural** twin data. As stated in our prior response to Mr. Coleman's comments, we conclude that the natural calcite twin data are the appropriate gauge against which we can compare the twin data at Yucca Mountain. We do not think this paper would benefit from an added discussion of the experimental data.

### **Attachment 3. Response to NRC Review Comments**

#### **(Comment 3 and Recommendation 4)**

We agree and have modified the paper such that we no longer use or cite the oxygen and calcite isotopic data.

#### **(Comment 4)**

We agree and have tried to remain neutral in terms of the larger seismic pumping and upwelling/hydrothermal controversy at Yucca Mountain. See, for example, our response to Mr. Coleman's comment 11.

#### **(Recommendation 5)**

We have deleted this detailed discussion of the isotopic data from the paper.

#### **(Recommendation 6)**

There is nothing official and public that we are aware of after the Mongano, et al. report.

### **5.0 Comments by Dr. John Bradbury**

#### **(Comments 1 and 2)**

These other factors play a role and very high strain rates have been suggested as a possible contributing factor in the experimental twin data. However, the rate-governing process is twin nucleation, and hence the number and thickness of twins depends mostly on temperature.

#### **(Comment 3 and Recommendation 1)**

We deleted the discussion of the isotopic data and correlation to an inferred age or temperature based on the oxygen/carbon isotopic ratios.

#### **(Comment 4)**

It is reasonable because these rocks were at least 300 m and possibly deeper in the recent geologic past. Under certain geologic conditions, the rocks (and thus the water) may also have been over-pressured.

#### **(Recommendation 2)**

It is logical to assume that the fluid inclusions are primary, but we did not undertake a detailed analysis of the fluid inclusions to be able to make definitive statements about their origin. The UNLV group decided to avoid the fault-related fluid inclusions because they claimed the results would be suspect due to the possibility that the fluid inclusions themselves were deformed. However, the USGS is currently investigating the fluid inclusion and geochemistry of some of the Class B fault sites. We do not have any of the new USGS data, but expect (hope) that this new data will help us understand the nature, timing, and origin of the Class B Fault Zones.

Revised 12/9/04 (P. Justus)

## Fault-zone deformation in welded tuffs at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, U.S.A.

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### Abstract

Field and microstructural analysis of faults with millimeters to hundreds of meters of displacement within welded tuffs at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, has led us to identify four different fault zone architectures. We designate these fault zones as Classes A, B, C, and D. We conclude that Classes A, C, and D are genetically related and that observed differences in their morphology and deformation mechanisms are related to differences in displacement magnitude and changes in the rheology of faulted rocks. We show that Class A, C, and D fault zones were formed by progressive cataclasis, leading to the development of a foliated gouge core and wide damage zone at the highest displacement magnitudes. By inference, displacement variations across individual high displacement faults are expected to produce significant lateral changes in fault zone architecture. The broad range of fault rock textures and architectures found on the Class A, C, and D continuum may produce important corresponding variability in hydrologic properties in ignimbrites.

By contrast, Class B fault zones have unique mineralogies and microtextures relative to other Yucca Mountain fault zones. Most notable is the occurrence of distinctive jigsaw puzzle texture within fault core breccias, which consists of angular wall rock fragments floating in a coarsely crystalline secondary calcite cement matrix. The calcite cement constitutes more than

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65% of the Class B fault zones. Comparisons to other occurrences of secondary minerals within open lithophysal cavities, which appear to have formed in unsaturated conditions, indicate that the secondary mineralization history at Yucca Mountain was complex and likely polygenetic. The age and origin of the secondary calcite minerals in the Class B fault zones remain undetermined.

## 1. Introduction

Yucca Mountain, Nevada (Fig. 1a), the potential site for a high-level nuclear waste repository, consists of a ridge of welded and nonwelded pyroclastic flows and air-fall tuffs that erupted from the Southwest Nevada Volcanic Field calderas in the Late Miocene, between approximately 11 and 15 Ma (Sawyer et al., 1994). Tuffs exposed at Yucca Mountain include units of the Crater Flat and Paintbrush Groups as well as the Calico Hills Formation. The repository is currently planned to be housed within moderately to densely welded members of the Topopah Spring Tuff, which is one of the main tuff units of the Paintbrush Group.

Yucca Mountain lies within the southern Great Basin of the central Basin and Range Physiographic Province (Fig. 1b). It is part of the Crater Flat Basin, a half-graben bounded on the west by the east-dipping Bare Mountain fault and on the east by a series of mostly west-dipping faults that are antithetic to the Bare Mountain fault (Fig. 1c). Within this structural framework, Yucca Mountain is a tilted fault block that dips approximately 5-10° to the east (Figs. 2a and 2b). Yucca Mountain is bounded on the west by the Solitario Canyon fault and on the east by the Bow Ridge and Paintbrush Canyon faults (Potter et al., 2004) (Fig. 2b). Most faults within the Yucca Mountain block are steeply dipping normal faults; however, oblique slip, strike-slip, high-angle reverse, and low-angle thrust faults are also present. Growth strata in the Paintbrush Group adjacent to some of the faults indicate faulting initiated before or during tuff deposition (e.g., Day et al., 1998). Faulting activity was most prominent in the Late Miocene

between 11 and 12 Ma (Fridrich et al., 1999). Faulting has remained active to the present, as indicated by offset Quaternary deposits across many large faults at Yucca Mountain (e.g., Stepp et al., 2000) and historic seismicity (e.g., Rogers et al., 1991).

The U. S. Code of Federal Regulations at 10 CFR Part 63 requires the potential Yucca Mountain repository to safely contain high-level radioactive waste. The unprecedented long design life of the facility and the technical challenge of permanently disposing high-level radioactive waste in a geologic repository have prompted the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a 10.4-km-long network of tunnels at a maximum depth of 300 m within Yucca Mountain. The Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF) is a 7.6-m diameter, 7.8-km-long tunnel from which the 6.1-m diameter, 2.6-km-long Enhanced Characterization of the Repository Block or Cross Drift tunnel was bored (CRWMS M&O, 1998). Miocene volcanic tuffs of Yucca Mountain have sufficient strength to allow nearly continuous three-dimensional exposures of rock (CRWMS M&O, 1997).

Our analyses of faults and fault zones in the ESF and Cross Drift were initiated in 1998, mainly to refine models of faulting used in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) repository performance assessment codes. Such models help evaluate uncertainties in the performance estimates from potential direct disruption of the emplaced waste by fault movements. Accurate models of faulting require a detailed description and understanding of faults at the repository host-horizon level (Gray et al., 1998; 1999). Results of our fault studies from the ESF and Cross Drift also bear on other components potentially affecting repository performance. In particular, our study provides important constraints for hydrologic models and interpretations of thermochronology at Yucca Mountain (Gray et al, 2000).

The ages, origins, and significance of secondary mineralization at Yucca Mountain have been the subject of debate for more than a decade. Much of the most recent research has centered on the textures, isotope geochemistry and fluid inclusion microthermometry in mineral occurrences within lithophysae and fractures (e.g., Paces et al., 2001; Whelan et al., 2002; Wilson et al., 2003). Based on these occurrences, Paces et al. (2001) concludes that the

repository horizon has been within the vadose zone since deposition of the tuffs. They point out that most lithophysal cavities are unfilled or only partially filled with secondary minerals and that mineralization is generally restricted to the floors of the cavities. Strontium, oxygen, and carbon isotopic signatures have been interpreted by these researchers to indicate the source of calcium carbonate was meteoric water from above throughout the postdepositional history of the tuffs (Whelan and Moscati, 1998; Paces et al., 2001; Whelan et al., 2002; Wilson et al., 2003). A comprehensive fluid inclusion microthermometry study on samples collected in the ESF and Cross Drift yielded homogenization temperatures (equivalent to trapping temperatures in this case) for two-phase primary fluid inclusion assemblages within calcite averaging between 45 and 60°C and reaching a maximum of 83°C. In contrast, Dublyansky et al. (2001) conclude that at least some of the secondary minerals found in lithophysal cavities were precipitated from water with elevated temperature derived from below Yucca Mountain. They suggest that warm water invaded the repository horizon several times in the past and potentially in the recent past. Dublyansky et al. (2001) pointed out that two-phase fluid inclusion assemblages, some containing evidence of hydrocarbons, are present in calcite. Our observations of fault-related mineralization must be examined in light of existing conflicting interpretations of the history and significance of secondary mineralization at Yucca Mountain. Although our results do not resolve the ongoing debate, they provide additional information that should be addressed and incorporated in models of secondary mineralization at Yucca Mountain.

Our approach for gaining a better understanding of faulting was to examine, in detail, the fault rocks that comprise the fault zones. Fault-zone deformation in the upper crust produces a wide variety of morphologies indicative of the conditions and history of faulting. Idealized faults consist of two textural zones, a fault core and a damage zone (Caine et al., 1996; Seront et al., 1998). The fault core is a zone of relatively high strain that typically accommodates most of the fault displacement by shear in gouge, cataclasite, breccia, or mylonite. The surrounding damage zone is less deformed, accommodates less displacement, and contains subsidiary structures such as joints, veins, and minor faults. The dimensions of a fault zone are typically expressed in terms

of thickness (measured normal to the fault zone boundaries) or width (measured horizontally between fault zone boundaries).

Deformation mechanisms govern the behavior, textural morphology, and ultimately, the gross architecture of fault zones. At Yucca Mountain, the protolith (welded volcanic tuff) has undergone brittle deformation dominated by cataclasis at shallow levels in the upper crust. Changes in deformation mechanisms with time and increased fault displacement, the presence or absence of fluids in the fault zone, mineral transformations, and syndeformational mineralization affect the rheology of the fault zone, causing the active parts of the faults to widen or narrow with increasing displacement. Two-end member possibilities exist (Wojtal and Mitra, 1986), (1) deformation produces fault rocks that inhibit further slip in the fault core (i.e., strain hardening) so additional fault displacement causes the protolith to fracture and the fault zone to widen with time, and (2) the fault rocks become progressively easier to deform (i.e., strain localization or strain softening) so deformation is localized to a progressively narrower portion of the fault zone. In strain softening, the intensely deformed fault core incrementally accommodates more of the deformation, and there is no further increase in fault-zone width. Investigations of faulting at Yucca Mountain, especially studies of fault zones exposed in the ESF, reveal that all of these deformation processes and related features are present, and subsets of fault zones with common architecture may be defined on the basis of this approach.

In this paper, we present results from detailed observations of fault zones exposed within Yucca Mountain. In particular, we present our findings of four different fault zone architectures, which we denote as Classes A, B, C, and D. Based on those observations, we interpret the genetic relationships between different fault zone types. The ramifications of these findings are then discussed in light of ongoing studies of secondary mineralization, paleohydrology, and thermochronology at Yucca Mountain.

## **2. Fault zones exposed in the underground excavations**

Our study examined faults on the ground surface, in trenches, in cores (VH2, USW-G1, and USW-G2), and in the ESF and Cross Drift. Our sampling strategy sought to document the variability of fault zone architecture. As a result, the proportions of different fault zone classes in our sample collections are not representative of the relative abundances of these fault zone classes within Yucca Mountain. Most fault rock samples were vacuum impregnated with epoxy prior to thin-section preparation. Samples were precisely oriented and cut along two mutually perpendicular directions. Transverse thin sections were cut normal to the fault plane and parallel to the dip direction of the fault. Longitudinal thin sections were cut parallel to the strike of the fault and normal to the fault plane.

We prepared and examined 32 core, 32 surface and trench, and 117 ESF and Cross Drift thin sections. Thin sections from core samples provided useful ancillary information but because of their small size and limited orientation information, the larger scale fault architecture could not be deciphered from the cores alone. Samples from the surface and trench exposures are typically indurated with caliche, opal, and sepiolite (Hill et al., 1995; Dublyansky et al., 1998; Stuckless et al., 1992). Mineralization dominates the fault rocks, making it difficult to determine the original fault rock fabrics or distinguish cemented surficial deposits from fault rock breccias. Some mineralization is clearly caused by pedogenic surficial processes (e.g., root traces are present in some samples) although the total extent of pedogenic overprint is unclear and disputed (e.g., Hill et al., 1995; Stuckless et al., 1998). ESF and Cross Drift fault samples are further from the surface and less likely to contain a pedogenic overprint. For all of the reasons outlined above, this paper principally relies on the ESF and Cross Drift thin-section analyses and field observations.

We recognize four broadly defined classes of fault zone architecture (Fig. 3). For ease of discussion, we refer to these as Class A, B, C, and D fault zones, in order of generally increasing displacement. We recognize that displacement can vary with position along a single fault and that it is possible that fault zone architecture within a given fault zone may be different if observed at the surface or in cores from deeper in Yucca Mountain. In general, fault zone thickness increases as faults approach the ground surface at Yucca Mountain. For example, the

Ghost Dance fault core is 1 m wide in the ESF and >10 m wide (measured along a horizontal transect) 300 m above at the surface. Displacement changes dramatically (1 to 30 m) along strike (Mongano et al., 1999). Narrow fault zones (<1 m wide) and faults with displacements of <3 m constitute the majority of the faults in the Yucca Mountain ESF (CRWMS M&O, 1998; Fig. 4).

### *2.1. Class A*

Class A fault zones are discrete slickensided fractures with minor displacements and little or no damage zone. Class A fault zones have displacements of millimeters to a few centimeters. Slickenlines and slickensides (Fleuty and Weaver, 1975) are common. Damage zones are <2 cm wide, and if present, fault cores do not exceed 1 cm in width (Figs. 3a and 5a). Secondary minerals, such as chalcedony, are present in thin films in the fault cores of some Class A fault zones. Microscopic examination of Class A damage zones confirm that the damage zone is composed of subsidiary, discontinuous microfractures and microfaults with submillimeter scale offsets. In those Class A fault zones that contain secondary minerals, the minerals do not appear to be offset by displacements of the core/damage zone boundary. The crystals show no evidence of deformation, and the deposits simply fill in the relief formed by submillimeter scale subsidiary fault offsets. Class A fault zones appear to have been formed by brittle fracture of the protolith, frictional sliding, and propagation of subsidiary fractures and faults. Some Class A fault cores are partially to completely mineralized while other Class A fault cores remain unmineralized. Where secondary minerals are present, there is no indication of brittle fracturing, crystal plastic deformation, or pressure solution of the secondary minerals that would indicate fault slip after mineralization. We therefore interpret the secondary minerals in Class A fault zones to be post-kinematic.

### *2.2. Class B*

#### *2.2.1 Description*

Class B fault zones are characterized by thin, mineralized, brecciated cores and poorly developed damage zones. The boundaries between Class B cores and damage zones are slickensided. Class B fault zones (Fig. 3b) have displacements of <1 m with the notable exception of one of the two main splays of the Drill Hole Wash fault (Appendix A). Based on extrapolation from slickenline orientations and fault dip separation, the Drill Hole Wash fault splay may have 14 m oblique net slip in the ESF North Ramp. Faults containing Class B fault zone architecture generally strike NW-SE. Class B fault zones are similar to Class A fault zones in that they have either poorly developed damage zones, limited to a few centimeters wide, or in some cases, have no damage zone at all. Class B fault zones contain a well-developed fault core between 2 and 30 cm thick, averaging 7 cm in thickness (Fig. 5b). Core thickness varies laterally and vertically both up and down dip. Thickness variations are most commonly associated with dilational jogs.

The fault core boundaries are typically discrete, slickensided, and can contain multiple slickenline orientations, among which low- and high-rake slickenlines are most common. One fault core sample from ESF Station 43+39 contains two slickenline orientations on the core-damage zone boundary, one oblique and one horizontal. The oblique slickenlines emanate from and are localized by ridges formed by the strike-parallel set, indicating that the strike-parallel set predates and localized the formation of the younger, oblique set. Calcite strain gauge analysis (Groshong 1972, 1974; Evans and Groshong, 1994) of this core sample indicates a right-lateral strike-slip history for the Class B fault at ESF Station 43+39 (Fig. 6a), consistent with the observed strike-slip slickenlines. Apparently, the younger, oblique-slip event was localized along the core damage zone boundary and did not involve crystal plastic deformation of calcite in the fault core. The nearly vertical intermediate principal extension and nearly horizontal maximum and minimum principal extensions in the fault sample from drill core samples 02016200 (Fig. 6b) are consistent with deformation in a strike-slip strain field. The nearly horizontal maximum principal extension and oblique maximum and intermediate principal extensions in the fault from drill core sample 02016201 (Fig. 6c) imply a transitional strain field

between extensional and strike slip.

Class B fault cores consist of angular rock fragments and as much as 65% or more calcite matrix (Fig. 7a). The clasts are relatively intact and show little evidence of comminution. Most wall rock tuff fragments contain undisturbed eutaxitic foliation, indicating that little progressive cataclasis occurred after initial brecciation of the tuff fragments and entrainment in calcite. Tuff fragments are commonly angular and elongate, creating tabular- or rectangular-shaped clasts (Fig. 7a). Despite the strong mechanical anisotropy created by the eutaxitic foliation (CRWMS M&O, 1997), the flat planar boundaries of the clasts are commonly at high angles to the eutaxitic foliation within the clasts (Figs. 8a and 8b). This angular relationship suggests faulting initiated by closely spaced brittle fracturing subparallel to the fault zone boundaries. The dispersion of rock fragments is perhaps best described as an exploded jigsaw puzzle breccia (Sibson, 1986) or jigsaw breccia (Seront et al., 1998). Some clasts can be graphically restored to fit into one another by simple rigid body translation and/or rotation. This fault rock texture requires significant dilation across the fault zones (beyond that needed during initial fault brecciation) but is not restricted to the dilational jogs within exposed Class B fault zones.

Tuffaceous wall rock clasts are supported by calcite matrix with crystals ranging from coarse (e.g., 0.5-cm diameter) to microcrystalline. The large patches of crystallographically continuous calcite are similar to poikilotopic cements observed elsewhere in carbonate rocks (e.g., Folk, 1974; Scholle and Ulmer-Scholle, 2003). Low-temperature crystal-plastic deformation of calcite caused development of abundant mechanical twins and intragranular fractures that offset twins and grain boundaries (Figs. 7a, 7b, and 7c). A calcite strain gauge analysis of one Class B fault core indicates deformation by mechanical twinning accommodated a 2.24% extension (Appendix A). Calcite crystals are offset by less common transcrySTALLINE fractures. TranscrySTALLINE shear fractures are confined to the crystalline matrix and do not crosscut wall rock clasts. Although intercrystalline shear fractures and crystal plastic deformation is evident within fault cores, much of the deformation appears to have been localized by frictional slip at the fault core boundaries. Initiation and development of the calcite

matrix textures in Class B fault cores are problematic. Wall rock inclusion trails, abundant transcrystalline shears, and closely spaced planes of secondary fluid inclusions indicative of a crack-seal mechanism of fracture dilation were not observed. The calcite is not cathodoluminescent and does not appear to be growth zoned. Class B fault zone textures have textural features that are characteristics of implosion breccias described elsewhere (Sibson, 1986, 1994; Muechez and Sintubin, 1998; Seront et al., 1998). Implosion breccias form during faulting by rapid decrease in pore fluid pressure at dilational jogs with a resulting fluid pressure differential that exceeds the tensile strength of the rock (Sibson, 1986, fig. 2c). Implosion breccias are known to have exploded jigsaw puzzle breccia textures; wall rock clasts have little internal deformation and are commonly matrix supported (Sibson, 1986, 1994; Seront et al., 1998). Implosion breccias may form in a variety of structural settings (e.g., Zhang and Sanderson, 1996; Muechez and Sintubin, 1998; Seront et al., 1998) but are not expected to form at depths less than approximately 500 m (Sibson, 1986). The matrix-supported crystalline breccia texture and dearth of crack seal textures suggest that initial crystallization of the calcite matrix in Class B fault cores accompanied fault rupture and may have occurred rapidly. In this interpretation, the  $\text{CaCO}_3$ -saturated fluid would be integral to the faulting process, and mineralization of the crystalline matrix would be synkinematic.

Poikilotopic cements in sedimentary rocks are attributed to slow nucleation and growth rates (Folk, 1974; Tucker and Wright, 1990) or cement recrystallization (Friedman, 1965; Chafetz et al., 1985). Because the textural evidence supports rapid crystallization of a synkinematic calcite matrix, we interpret the poikilotopic texture we observe in some Class B faults to indicate recrystallization of the matrix. Because the poikilotopic calcite contains abundant deformation twins, the recrystallization was probably synkinematic as well. Class B fault cores also contain rare (< 5 mm thick) veins, partially or entirely filled with relatively strain-free calcite (Fig. 7d). These veins cut across the recrystallized, deformed core matrix and are, therefore, interpreted to be postkinematic. Veins are subparallel to the fault zone boundaries, indicating late-stage dilation at a high angle to the fault zone boundaries.

### 2.2.2 Mechanical twinning of calcite matrix and temperatures of deformation

Experimental and field-based studies demonstrate that the thickness of mechanical twins (sometimes referred to as “deformation twins”) on the *e* plane in calcite correlates with the temperature at which calcite deformed (Ferrill, 1991, 1998; Burkhard, 1993). Mechanical e-twinning of calcite is the dominant crystal-plastic deformation mechanism in coarse-grained limestone and marble deformed at temperatures below approximately 400 °C (Turner, 1953; Carter and Raleigh, 1969; Groshong, 1988). Definitions of thin-versus-thick calcite twins are given by Groshong (1974). Thin twins appear in thin sections as black lines when observed using a universal stage at 200 to 400× magnification. The black line that constitutes a thin twin in an optical microscope includes a combination of twinned material and the optical effect of the twin boundaries (see Appendix A for further discussion). Thick calcite twins can be resolved optically from the untwinned host. Under cross-polarized light, the calcite within a thick twin can be seen to go to extinction in a different position from that in the untwinned host calcite. Widths of thick twins are measured as the distance between the inner edges of the visible twin boundaries.

As described by Ferrill (1991) and Ferrill et al. (2004), deformation microstructures in calcite are dominated by thin twins <170°C and thick twins >200°C. Calcite deformed at temperatures <170°C accumulates strain by the formation of new thin twins rather than by twin enlargement or the formation of thick twins. At higher temperatures, a larger proportion of thick twins forms to accommodate increased strain, and thermally activated twin boundary migration further increases the mean observed twin width. At >200°C, most twins are large enough to be classified as thick twins (Burkhard, 1993), and mean twin widths are commensurately larger. Strain accumulation at temperatures >200°C is accomplished by the formation of thick twins and the enlargement of existing twins rather than by thin twin formation. Twin intensities in rocks deformed above 200°C rarely exceed 40 per millimeter (Fig. 9).

Calcite twin analysis was performed on three samples of Class B fault rock containing coarsely crystalline calcite from Yucca Mountain. This analysis was performed following

methodologies outlined in Ferrill (1991) and Ferrill et al. (2004) (Appendix A). Comparing twin strain determined from the calcite strain gage technique, mean twin widths, and mean twin intensities from the three calcite twin samples from Yucca Mountain fault rocks with data from the Alps and Appalachians (described by Ferrill et al., 2004) shows that the Yucca Mountain samples plot in the general field with rocks deformed at temperatures of 170–200°C, or >200°C (Fig. 9). Individual twins in the Yucca Mountain samples are in many cases quite thick (as much as 12 microns), and 83% of the measured twins from the three Yucca Mountain samples are classified as thick twins, having measurable widths of twinned material at 400× magnification using an optical microscope. The twin data suggest that deformation twinning occurred at relatively elevated temperatures (above 170°C).

### 2.3. Class C

Class C fault zones are found in faults with a wide range of displacements (spanning four orders of magnitude) and comprise correspondingly variably thick, well developed brecciated cores and intensely fractured damage zones. Class C fault zones (Fig. 3c) have displacements of a few centimeters to tens of meters and have correspondingly well-developed fault cores ranging from tens of centimeters to 1 meter thick. These fault zones are from all slip classifications (normal, strike slip, and reverse). The Ghost Dance fault exhibits Class C fault zone characteristics, as do thrust faults found within the ESF (Fig. 5c). Minor slickensided fractures typically bound Class C fault zone cores. Damage zones range from 1 to 10 m thick. Fault cores consist of noncohesive to poorly cohesive, unfoliated cataclasite and breccia (Fig. 7e and 7f). Fault cores contain antithetic and synthetic faults that connect floor to roof of the cores or tie into other minor faults, giving a macroscopic appearance of slickensided blocks of cataclasite/breccia within the fault core. In thin section, fault cores are composed of unfoliated cataclasite bounded by discrete intergranular sliding surfaces. The cataclasite is composed of tuffaceous wall rock fragments and clasts of cataclasite ranging from submicroscopic to several centimeter in diameter. Tuff fragments are angular to subrounded and slightly elongate to equant. In contrast

to Class B faults (Fig 8a), the modal orientation of the long dimension of the clasts in Class C faults is subparallel to the eutaxitic foliation (Fig. 8c). Fractures that bound clasts exhibit a wide variety of orientations relative to the primary foliation in the clasts (Fig. 8d). When compared to the Class B fault zone clasts, Class C fault zone clasts appear to have a higher proportion of clast-bounding fractures subparallel to the primary foliation (Fig. 8b and 8d). Secondary mineralization in Class C faults is volumetrically minor. In contrast to the postkinematic mineralization in Class A faults, small chalcedony veins within Class C fault zones are offset by transgranular shears (Fig. 7g).

Class C fault zones appear to have formed by cataclasis and frictional sliding between clasts in the fault core. Progressive clast size reduction occurred by frictional wear, brittle fracturing of clasts, preferentially subparallel to the eutaxitic foliation, and by transgranular sliding between irregular packets of cataclasite.

#### *2.4. Class D*

Class D fault zones are found in high displacement fault zones and comprise a composite core of foliated gouge and breccias surrounded by a wide, well-developed damage zone. Class D fault zones (Fig. 3d) have 10 m to hundreds of meters in displacements. These fault zones have wide fault cores and damage zones up to tens of meters in width. Examples of Class D fault zones are the Solitario Canyon fault zone in the cross drift (~300-m dip separation, Mongano et al., 1999) and the Dune Wash fault zone in the South Ramp of the ESF (52-m dip separation, Eatman et al., 1997). Fault cores are composed primarily of poorly cohesive breccia with a cohesive, foliated gouge at or near the center of the core (Fig. 5d). The breccia surrounding the gouge varies from being partially mineralized with silica phases and calcite to being unmineralized. The breccia clasts are composed of comminuted fault rock and may be enveloped by slickensided surfaces. X-ray diffraction analyses confirm the Solitario Canyon fault gouge contains smectite, possibly the product of translocated, altered tuffs (Levy et al., 1999). This gouge is 2 to >8 cm thick and contains a composite foliation (Fig. 7g). One foliation lies parallel

to the gouge boundary and one lies at 40° and is synthetic to the main shear direction. Gouge in the Dune Wash fault zone has three foliations: one fault-parallel set of shears, one very prominent phyllosilicate-preferred orientation foliation at 30° to the fault [dihedral angle opens in the direction of shear; "P-foliation," (Rutter et al., 1986)], and a more widely spaced, well-developed synthetic foliation at 20° to the fault [Riedel shear or R-foliation (Rutter et al., 1986)]. The P-foliation is asymptotic into the Riedel shears and fault-parallel shears. The foliations wrap around survivor grains and exhibit both  $\sigma$ - and  $\delta$ -type tails (Passchier and Simpson, 1986), indicating clasts underwent rotations during shear of the gouge. Field and microstructural relationships suggest Class D fault zones underwent cataclastic flow in the fault core and brittle fracture accompanied by some polymineralic secondary mineralization in the damage zone.

Some cooling joints elsewhere in the ESF and Cross Drift have 2–4-cm-thick fillings of translocated swelling clays. These cooling joints have been reactivated and have undergone minor amounts of displacement (Sweetkind and Williams-Stroud, 1996). The clays are organized in a similar fashion to Class D gouge containing a well-developed P-foliation, suggesting that large displacements are not required to develop a P-foliation in the clay-rich fracture fill.

### 3. Origin and significance of fault zone classes

#### 3.1 Class A, C and D fault zones

We interpret that Class A, C, and D fault zones are genetically linked and represent progressive stages of fault zone development (Fig. 10a and b). This progression includes progressive grain size reduction and clay development associated with increased fault displacement.

Class A fault zones accommodated deformation by brittle fracturing and cataclastic flow within their narrow cores. We interpret that, with increased displacement in a Class A fault zone, clast size was reduced. The fault core underwent strain hardening, and the Class A fault zone

widened to form a Class C fault zone (Fig. 10a and 10b). Further displacement then promoted alteration of volcanic rocks to smectite and translocation and recrystallization of clays in part of the fault core, as observed in the Class D fault zones. The smectite weakened the fault core, localizing most of the subsequent displacement to a narrow zone of foliated gouge. Although cataclastic flow in Class A, C, and D fault zones may intrinsically require a small component of fault zone dilation because of rigid body rotation of tuff fragments in the fault core and disorganization of the rock because of cataclasis, we do not consider these fault zones to be significantly dilational.

A positive correlation between fault displacement and fault zone thickness is observed in the ESF and Cross Drift at Yucca Mountain. This general relationship conforms with compilations of field data from other localities (e.g., Hull, 1988; Evans, 1990; Knott, 1994). Because individual faults at Yucca Mountain have variable displacements both with depth and along strike (CRWMS M&O, 1998), it is reasonable to assume that faults with large maximum displacements would exhibit a range of fault zone architectures that correspond with lateral variations in displacement (Fig. 10a and 10b). Within one such large fault, we envision the fault zone might have Class D characteristics in the area of greatest displacement and laterally or vertically transition to Class C and Class A architectures with decreasing displacement toward the fault tip line. Examples of lateral variations in fault zone architecture along individual faults are well documented in the literature (e.g., Sibson, 1986; Kim et al., 2003). Lateral variations in fault zone architecture in ignimbrites may also be produced by spatial heterogeneities in the degree of welding (Wilson et al., 2003).

### *3.2 Class B fault zones*

Because the characteristics of Class B fault zones are sufficiently different from all other classes, it is difficult to conceptualize their having formed within the same evolutionary sequence as Class A, C, and D fault zones. Class B fault zones are significantly dilational and highly mineralized. Fault zone textures and architecture do not support evolution of Class B fault zones

from Class A fault zones with increased displacement. Class C and D fault cores do not contain any recognizable characteristic elements of Class B fault cores and, therefore, do not appear to be part of the same genetic continuum as Class B fault zones. There is a possibility or even likelihood, that the steep fault dips (70–90°) and degree of dilational slip observed in the Class B fault zones resulted from hybrid failure (Ferrill and Morris, 2003) [e.g., failure that is transitional between tensile and shear failure (Ramsey and Chester, 2004)]. Typical hybrid failure is observed at shallow depths with relatively low differential stress consistent with the shallow depths where Class B fault zones have been found at Yucca Mountain.

The mineralization in Class B fault zones is distinctive when compared to other occurrences in Yucca Mountain. Lithophysal cavities contain diverse crystal forms of calcite and other minerals interpreted to record a protracted history of characteristically polymineralic secondary mineralization (e.g., Neymark and Paces, 2000; Paces et al., 2001; Neymark et al., 2002). Initial calcite growth occurred at elevated temperatures ( $\leq 83^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and was followed by growth of minerals that reflect gradual cooling (Wilson et al., 2003). Many of these workers interpreted the lithophysal cavities to record vadose conditions (Cline and Wilson, 2001; Paces et al., 2001; Whelan et al., 2002; Wilson et al., 2003). In contrast, secondary minerals in Class B fault zones have coarse sparry or mosaic calcite matrix textures more indicative of phreatic conditions (Land, 1970; Flugel, 1982; Beach, 1995). Poikilotopic textures exhibited in Class B fault rocks are not known to develop within the vadose zone (Chafetz et al., 1985). Partially filled, postkinematic calcite veins that transect fault cores exhibit void-filling, drusy textures, also indicative of saturated conditions (e.g., Flugel, 1982). Further, the coarse sparry, unzoned, nonluminescing calcite textures in Class B fault rocks do not easily match descriptions given for any of the stages of mineralization previously recognized at Yucca Mountain (e.g., Wilson et al., 2003). Class B fault cores have sparry calcite with poikilotopic texture suggestive of recrystallization.

As described in the preceding sections, contrasts between calcite mineralization in Class B fault zones and lithophysal cavities lead us to conclude that the hydrologic, mechanical, and thermal history of secondary minerals at Yucca Mountain was complex and that the origin of the

secondary calcite in faults, fractures, and lithophysal cavities was polygenetic. Textural evidence of the Class B fault zone calcite suggests that Class B fault zones once served as fluid-saturated conduits. This is in contrast to hydrologic conditions suggested by the secondary calcite in the lithophysal cavities, which apparently developed under vadose zone conditions (e.g., Whelan et al., 2003). Textural evidence, especially the observation of poikilotopic calcite with single sparry calcite crystals housing multiple wall rock fragments, also indicates that during early stages of faulting, the Class B fault zones underwent rapid calcite crystallization followed by recrystallization. The volume of calcite matrix in Class B fault breccias and later stage, low-strain calcite-filled veins subparallel to the fault zone boundaries indicate that these narrow fault zones underwent significant dilation during faulting. Subsequent mechanical deformation of the faults involved mechanical deformation twinning of the calcite crystals with deformation temperatures in excess of 170°C.

Hydrologic, mechanical, and thermal processes that can explain this complex and polygenetic mineral history remain elusive. The lack of age control for the Class B Fault zones prevents us from being able to fully understand their thermal history in light of other thermochronologic information. At present, the absolute age of faults containing Class B fault zones, or their age relative to other faults or secondary minerals in lithophysal cavities, is relatively unknown. We observed a very limited set of crosscutting relationships in the ESF and Cross Drift. Of the five crosscutting relationships noted, only three suggest that NW-trending faults (such as the majority of faults with Class B fault zones) predate N-S or NE trending faults. Analytical methods to directly measure of the age of mineralization or timing of displacement are not apparent.

One possibility is that faults with the Class B fault zone textures formed shortly after caldera eruptions and deposition of the tuffs (11–15 Ma). In this interpretation the fault-related mineralization observed in Class B fault cores and elevated deformation temperatures could be explained by the circulation of hot fluids related to contemporaneous volcanic-geothermal activity and subsequent cooling of the calderas. Alternatively, seismically activated episodes of hydrothermal activity have been proposed by others to explain secondary mineralization and fluid

inclusion temperatures as high as 85 °C (e.g., Hill et al., 1995; Dublyansky et al., 2001). The possibility of past hydrothermal activity subsequent to caldera eruptions and cooling is, however, highly controversial (c.f., Dublyansky et al., 2001, with Paces et al., 2001). Geologic evidence of hydrothermal activity at Yucca Mountain within the past 10 Ma sufficient to develop the Class B fault zones with calcite-twin deformation temperatures above 170 °C is at best, equivocal (cf. Dublyansky et al., 2001, with Wilson et al., 2003).

#### *4.0 Hydrologic considerations*

A primary control on the permeability structure of stratified rocks is the difference in permeability of sequential rock layers. If the stratigraphic sequence is undeformed, the vertical heterogeneity and anisotropy will dominate the permeability structure. However, groundwater temperature variations (Brikowski, 1997) and hydraulic head differences in the deep aquifer beneath Yucca Mountain (Bredehoeft, 1997) indicate that faults significantly affect the present-day hydrology of Yucca Mountain (Painter and Winterle, 2003). Faulted aquifers, such as those at Yucca Mountain, are influenced by; (i) aquifer communication between fault blocks (Allan, 1989), (ii) fault rock fluid barriers and pathways (Caine et al., 1996; Bredehoeft, 1997; Seront et al., 1998; Caine and Forster, 1999; Ferrill et al., 2000; Ferrill and Morris, 2003), (iii) permeability anisotropy caused by minor fault arrays (Eichhubl and Boles, 2000; Ferrill et al., 2000), and (iv) enhanced permeability caused by dilation of faults responding to contemporary stress (Finkbeiner et al., 1997; Ferrill et al., 1999; Ofoegbu et al., 2001).

The precise architecture of a fault zone may have a significant impact on permeability (Evans et al., 1997). Fault cores may have lower permeability than the protolith because they can form by grain-size reduction, primary porosity reduction, mineral transformations, and secondary mineralization. At shallow levels of the crust, the gouge or cataclasite, therefore, is expected to have relatively low permeability and may effectively form a barrier to fluid flow (Goddard and Evans, 1995; Caine et al., 1996). In contrast, damage zones may have enhanced permeability caused by fracturing and subsidiary faulting (Evans et al., 1997). Coarse-grained, unmineralized

fault cores and/or damage zones consisting of open fractures may have greater permeability than the protolith and behave as fluid conduits (Chester and Logan, 1987).

Our four classes of fault zone architecture can be placed within a hydrologic classification scheme devised by Caine et al. (1996). Class A fault zones, with their discrete sliding surfaces and narrow damage zones may be localized conduits. Class C faults zones have intensely fractured damage zones, and cores consisting of unfoliated cataclasite and gouge. These characteristics may constitute a distributed conduit for fluid flow both across and along the faults. Class D fault zones are the most complex. Their well-developed damage zone is likely to have enhanced permeability relative to the intact host rock while the foliated smectitic gouge is likely to have significantly reduced permeability (Rowling et al, 2001). The net effect is a combined conduit-barrier system (Caine et al, 1996). Bulk anisotropy in fault zone permeability arises as fault-parallel flow is focused in the damage zone between the clay-rich core and relatively intact welded tuff protolith (Evans et al., 1997). Class B fault zones have well-developed mineralized cores and poorly-developed damage zones. Textures suggestive of saturated conditions within the fault core indicate Class B fault zones were fluid conduits when they formed. Fluids may have assisted the faulting process by initiating fault rupture and subsidiary fracture propagation by hydraulic means. Once crystallized, the calcite served to weaken the fault rock as the calcite underwent mechanical twinning and fracturing. These fault cores may now serve as localized barriers to fault-normal flow because they are so heavily mineralized and are associated with poorly-developed to absent damage zones. Experimental results show that in other rock types, fault cores with similar textures to Class B fault cores have an order of magnitude lower permeability than fault cores composed of cataclasites (Seront et al., 1998).

The developmental sequence of these hydrologic components can be incorporated into paleohydrologic models. Class B fault zones appear to represent a minor population of the total fault zone population, and they are not likely to have large aerial extent considering their minor average displacements. However, because the DOE Active Fracture Model presupposes that as many as 20% of fractures are transmissive in the unsaturated zone at Yucca Mountain, it is possible that Class B fault zones may have measurable impact on groundwater flow at the local

or broader scale. Class A and C fault zones developed sequentially, and as hydrologic components, they would cause increased fault-parallel permeability with increased fault-related strain. Faults with high displacement (associated with Class D fault zones) developed into combined conduit-barrier systems acting to impede aquifer communication between blocks and enhance fault-parallel flow. Because each class of fault zone has a characteristic range of fault thickness and different architecture potentially leading to differences in permeability (Seront et al., 1998), fault zone classification may aid in assigning hydrologic properties to faults in groundwater flow models (e.g., Caine and Forster, 1999). Furthermore, the hydrologic properties of major faults are likely to change along a given fault plane as displacement varies, both along strike and up and down dip (Evans et al., 1997; Caine and Forster, 1999). Because faults lose displacement near the tip line of the fault, the clay-rich cores of Class D fault zones are likely to give way to the distributed conduit characteristics of Class C fault zones near the fault tip. A future slip event in a Class D fault zone could potentially change its hydrologic properties. Although the detailed architecture of the fault zones we studied at Yucca Mountain are expected to influence the movement of groundwater, only direct measurements would be able to conclusively demonstrate effects of this kind.

## 5. Conclusions

Detailed examination of fault zones exposed in the ESF and ECRB of Yucca Mountain reveals four architectural classes. Three of these fault zone classes (Class A, C, and D) may represent a continuum of fault deformation related to increasing displacement and associated mechanical response of the welded tuffs. Faulting initiated along joints or fractures as discrete shears (Class A) is followed by progressive cataclasis (Class C), eventually leading to the development of a foliated gouge core and intensely fractured damage zone (Class D).

The fourth class of fault zones at Yucca Mountain (Class B) represents an unusual faulting style in which faults of generally minor displacement are heavily mineralized with blocky calcite during the period of fault activity. Continued displacement after fault rupture was

accommodated by crystal plastic deformation and transcrystalline fracture and sliding of the calcite and by discrete sliding along the core/damage zone boundaries. Class B fault zones are especially significant because they constitute a secondary mineral occurrence that appears to be distinctly different from secondary mineralization found in lithophysae and fractures. In particular, they contain textures indicative of calcite mineralization in a fluid-saturated environment and subsequent deformation at elevated temperatures. The age, origin, and deformation history of faults containing the Class B fault zones is unknown. At present, this lack of age control (relative or absolute) limits our ability to interpret their origin within existing tectonic, thermal, and paleohydrologic models.

The diversity of fault zone architecture found in Yucca Mountain is important to paleohydrology and present-day hydrologic framework of Yucca Mountain and may be applicable to welded ignimbrites elsewhere. Class D fault zones have architecture that is conducive to fault parallel flow and impedes fault-normal flow. The hydrologic properties of smaller displacement faults within blocks should not be overgeneralized. Three distinct architectures exist with potentially different hydrologic properties ranging from discrete (Class A) to distributed conduits (Class C) and localized barriers (Class B). These three fault classes may be laterally gradational on high displacement faults and may produce lateral variations in the hydrologic properties of faults.

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## Appendix A. Calcite twin analyses

### A.1. Methodology

We used the calcite strain gauge technique (Groshong 1972, 1974; Evans and Groshong, 1994) to calculate calcite twinning strains in calcite grains from two mutually perpendicular thin sections from each sample. For each twin set measured, the average twin width, number of twins, grain width normal to twins, and the orientations of the c-axis and the e-twin plane were measured using a U-stage (Evans and Groshong, 1994). Widths of thin and thick twins were measured separately. The black line that constitutes a thin twin in an optical microscope includes a combination of twinned material and the optical effects of the twin boundaries. Using measured and calculated strains from experimentally deformed twinned calcite in limestone, Groshong (1974) determined that approximately 50% of the black line width represents twinned calcite (also see Groshong et al., 1984b). Typically, approximately 50 twin sets were measured from two perpendicular thin sections per sample. The principal strains ( $e_1$ ,  $e_2$ , and  $e_3$  expressed in % as + or - changes in length) and their orientations were calculated and output with the values of negative expected value (twin sets with sense of shear inconsistent with calculated strain tensor) and error. Cleaning was performed by removing of some portion, typically 20%, of twin sets with largest deviations from ideal orientations (often referred to as "largest deviations removed" or LDR). The square root of the second invariant of strain ( $\sqrt{J2}$ ) is used as a measure of the total distortion by twinning (Jaeger and Cook, 1979).  $J2$  is calculated from the three principal strains as follows:  $J2 = -(e_2e_3 + e_3e_1 + e_1e_2)$ , where  $e_1$ ,  $e_2$ , and  $e_3$  are expressed as percent elongation.

The "mean twin width" for a sample was determined (following the approach of Ferrill, 1991) by first calculating the average twin width for each twin set (twin-set average) and then averaging the twin-set averages for the sample. Each twin-set average was calculated by summing the width of twinned material in a twin set, including both thick and thin twins, and dividing this by the total number of twins in the set. The standard twin-width sample average only includes twin sets used in the final twin-strain calculation and does not include sets removed during cleaning.

The twin intensity (twin planes/mm) for each twin set was calculated (following the approach of Ferrill, 1991) by dividing the number of twins in a set (including both thick and thin twins) by the width of the host grain (to the nearest micron) measured perpendicular to the twins. The "mean twin intensity" for a sample was calculated by averaging the twin-set averages for all twin sets measured in the sample. As with the twin width data, the mean twin intensity values only include twin sets used in the final twin-strain calculation.

In the Yucca Mountain rock samples, 28, 45, and 49, twin sets were measured in the three

samples (Table A1). Following the standard cleaning procedure, we discarded the 20% of measurements with the largest deviations. Twin thickness was measured using an eyepiece micrometer calibrated to a stage micrometer. Unless visibly thicker, thin twins were estimated to be 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (microns) thick, with one half of that thickness (0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ ) twinned material. Each of the 965 twins larger than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (thick twins) was measured individually, and the histogram distribution of twin thicknesses for each sample is presented in Figure A1.

### *A.2. Results*

Only three samples from fault zones in the Miocene volcanic tuffs at Yucca Mountain yielded a sufficient number of twinned calcite grains to perform a strain analysis. Total strain accommodated by twinning in the three samples was low, with values of 1.75, 0.29, and 2.09% (Table A1). Of the three samples, only sample SPC00530198 was oriented, and it featured a minimum extension direction approximately N-S and horizontal (Fig. 6a). The remaining two samples (02016200 and 02016201) were only oriented with respect to vertical and not with respect to north. However, in sample 02016200, the minimum extension direction was near the periphery of the stereonet (Fig. 6b), similar to sample SPC00530198, indicating a subhorizontal shortening. The maximum extension axis for sample 02016201 was located near the periphery of the stereonet as in the other two samples, but the minimum extension axis had a greater inclination than in the other samples. Based on the low strain in this sample, and the low relative difference between the minimum and intermediate extension values, such angular differences from other samples was to be expected. However, Figure 6 shows that the contoured minimum extension was close to the periphery of the stereonet.

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## Figure Captions

**Figure 1.** Location and geologic setting of a potential Yucca Mountain high-level radioactive waste repository within the Basin and Range physiographic province. Geology in (a) is from Frizzell and Schulters (1990) and Day et al. (1998). Digital elevation model in (b) is from the United States Geological Survey Digital Line Graph Data Set. Geologic cross section in (c) is from Ferrill et al. (1995).

**Figure 2.** (a) Geologic map and (b) cross section of Yucca Mountain showing the location of the Exploratory Studies Facility and Cross Drift relative to mapped faults. Map and cross section are modified from Day et al., (1998). Site coordinates are latitude-longitude and Nevada State Plane, in feet.

**Figure 3.** Illustration of the main features in cross section of the four main fault zones classes observed in the Exploratory Studies Facility and Cross Drift at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Class A fault zones are discrete slickensided fractures with minor displacements and little or no damage zone. Class B fault zones have thin, mineralized brecciated cores and poorly developed damage zones. The boundaries between Class B cores and damage zones are slickensided. Class C fault zones are composed of well developed brecciated cores and intensely fractured damage zones. Class D fault zones have a composite core comprising foliated clay gouge and surrounding breccia. Class D damage zones are well developed and correspondingly thick. See text for further description of fault zone classes.

**Figure 4.** Fault width data for faults mapped in the Exploratory Studies Facility (ESF). The data are from the 112 fault zones identified in the data set that have recorded fault-zone widths. Fault data are from the EFS; (U.S. Department of Energy to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses, August, 1998, U.S. Department of Energy Data Tracking Number numbers GS960708314224.008, .101, .011, .014, .003, .008, .010, .012, .020, .021, .022, .023, .024, .025, .026, and .028; Technical Data Information Form numbers 305556, 305554, 305624, 306645, 306017, 306284, 306298, 306299, 306509, 306510, 306511, 306512, 306513, 306514, 306515, 306516, 306517).

**Figure 5.** Photographs of the fault zones that represent the four fault classes at Yucca Mountain. (a) Class A fault zone exposed near Station 0+34 in Alcove 5 of the ESF. (b) Class B fault zone exposed near ESF Station 76+17.8. The heavily mineralized fault core has well-defined slickensided boundaries flanked by an intensely fractured, relatively narrow damage zone. Note the rock hammer for scale. (c) Class C thrust fault zone that crops out in Alcove 6, at Station 00+86. Note the rock chisel for scale. (d) Class D fault zone that crops out in the Cross Drift. The view is looking north at the Solitario Canyon fault core. The foliated smectitic gouge is surrounded by breccia with patchy opal/calcite mineralization and oxidized matrix.

**Figure 6.** Equal-area, lower-hemisphere projections showing the distribution of calculated

compression axes (small filled circles), contours of the compression axes in standard deviation (increments of 1, 2, 3, etc., standard deviations), and orientation of the axes of the calcite twin strain ellipsoid [solid square = minimum extension axis (e3), solid triangle is the intermediate extension axis (e2), and solid circle is the maximum extension axis (e1)]. ESF sample SPC00530198 at Station 43+39 (a) is precisely oriented and shows the orientation of the fault sampled. Principal strain axes for this sample are consistent with right-lateral strike-slip deformation in the calcite matrix. Core samples 02016200 and 02016201 (b and c) are from flow breccia in USW G-1 at depths of 1086.8–1087.1 and 1087.2–1087.3 m, respectively (Spengler et al., 1981). Core samples are not oriented with respect to north. North is somewhere on the periphery of the stereonet. Sample 02016200 in (b) shows principal strain axes that are also consistent with deformation in a strike-slip strain field, while principal strain axes for sample 02016201 in (c) imply a strain field that is transitional between extension and strike-slip.

**Figure 7.** Photomicrographs of features observed in the faulted tuffs. (a) Calcite matrix from a sample at ESF Station 43+39 (SPC00530198) that shows characteristic poikilotopic texture (cross-polarized light). Elongated wall rock clasts are opaque. Calcite strain gauge data collected from this fault are presented in Fig. 8a. (b) Calcite crystals (cross-polarized light) that contain intra- and intercrystalline fractures along which sliding has taken place. The sample is from Station 54+73.5 (SPC00552524). (c) Photomicrograph of slightly bent thick twins (dark bands in central crystal, white bands in upper right crystal) in sample SPC00530198. Thin twins are also visible in central crystal. (d) A postkinematic vein, shown in cross-polarized light, that transects strained calcite matrix in a sample from ESF Station 43+39 (SPC00530198). (e) Cataclasite within the Sundance fault (plane-polarized light), SPC00552529B (ESF Station 35+92.5). (f) Cataclasite within the Ghost Dance fault (plane-polarized light), SPC00534024A (Alcove 6), showing transgranular shear that offset a chalcedony vein. (g) Solitario Canyon fault gouge (SPC00543706B) with sigmoidal P-foliation is asymptotic into shear planes subparallel to shear zone boundary. Photomicrograph is plane-polarized light. Thin section is necessarily overly thick to avoid plucking during section preparation. Asymmetry is consistent with hanging wall down-to-the-west sense of shear.

**Figure 8.** Data on the effect of primary anisotropy on the orientation of the long axis of clasts and the clast bounding fractures in a Class B fault core (SPC00530198G at Station 43+39).. (a) and (b), respectively, and a Class C fault core from SPC 00552529B at ESF Station 35+92.5 (the Sundance Fault) (c) and (d), respectively. (a) Most clasts are elongated subperpendicular to the eutaxitic foliation, indicating that Class B fault zones did not undergo significant clast comminution and the faults were initiated by rupture at a high angle to layering. (b) Most clasts are bounded by fractures at high angles to the eutaxitic foliation. (c) Class C fault zones underwent more comminution than Class B fault zones resulting in more clasts with long axes subparallel to the eutaxitic foliation. (d) Fractures subparallel to the eutaxitic foliation (primary anisotropy) are most common, and other orientations are evenly distributed, indicating comminution of wall rock clasts by cataclastic flow. Data were gathered from thin sections cut parallel to transport direction and normal to the fault plane.

**Figure 9.** Calcite twin strain data replotted from Ferrill et al. (2004). The twin data from our Yucca Mountain sample is also shown as yellow stars.

**Figure 10.** Conceptual model of the genetic and spatial relationships between Class A, C and D fault zones. (a) Increasing displacement causes strain hardening of fault cores and fault core growth. Highest displacement faults (Class D) develop a zone of foliated gouge in their cores. (b) Fault displacement gradients are expected to correspond with spatial changes in fault zone architecture. See text for discussion.

**Figure A1.** Histograms showing the distribution of measured thick twin widths in the three samples studied. Note that sample SPC00530198 has a higher number of twins larger than 1 micron wide.

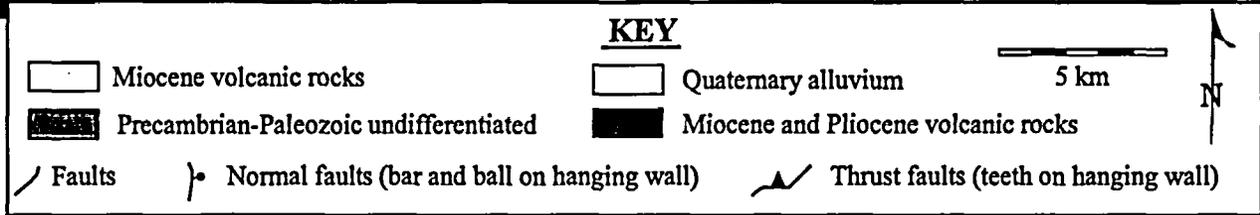
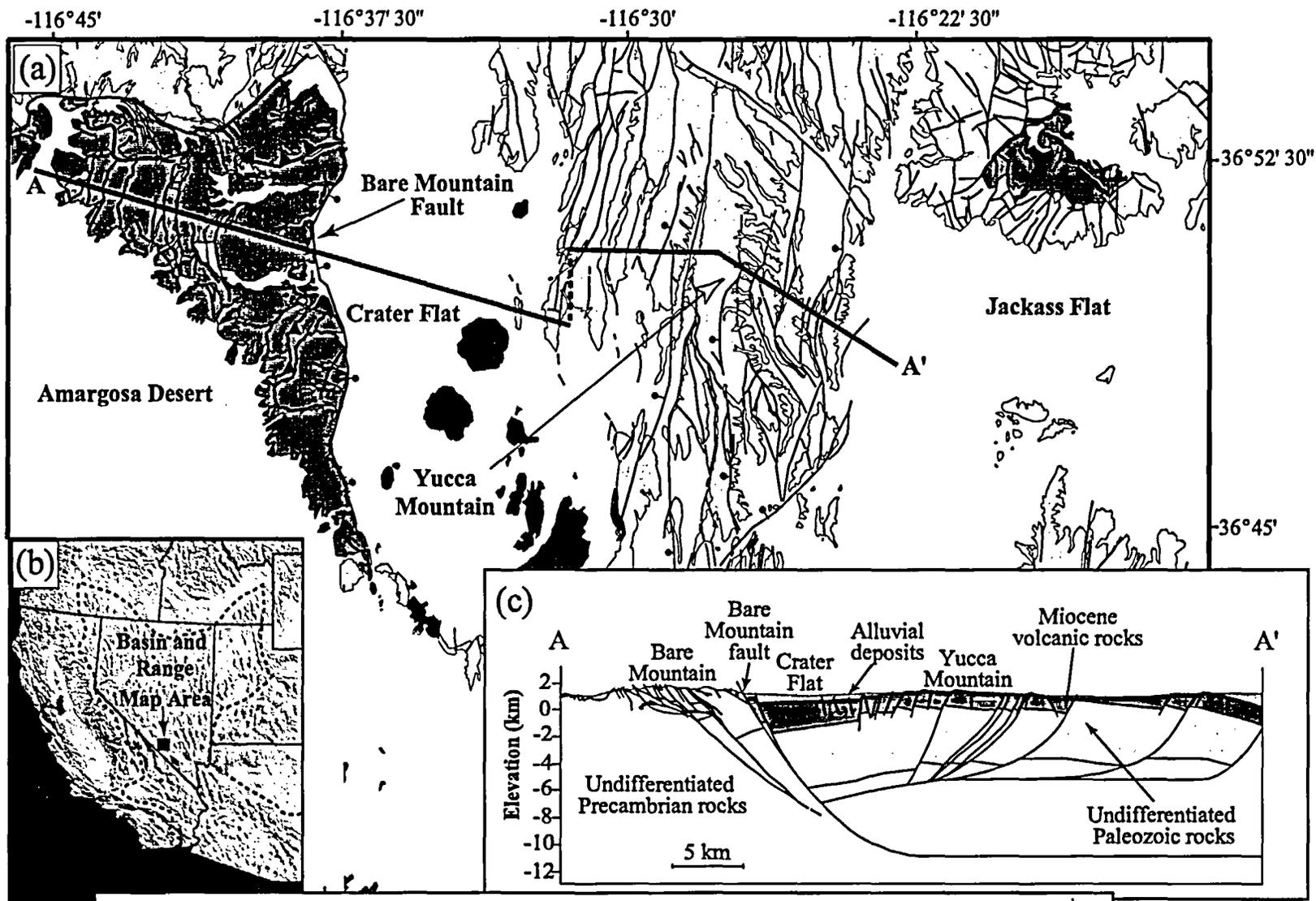


Figure 1  
Gray et al., 2004

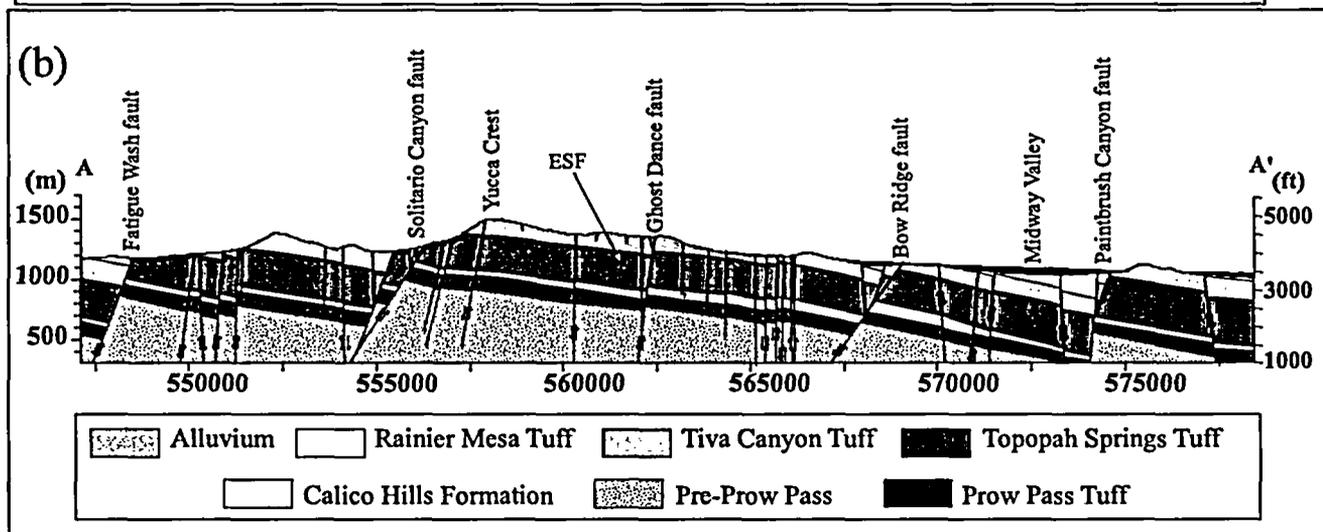
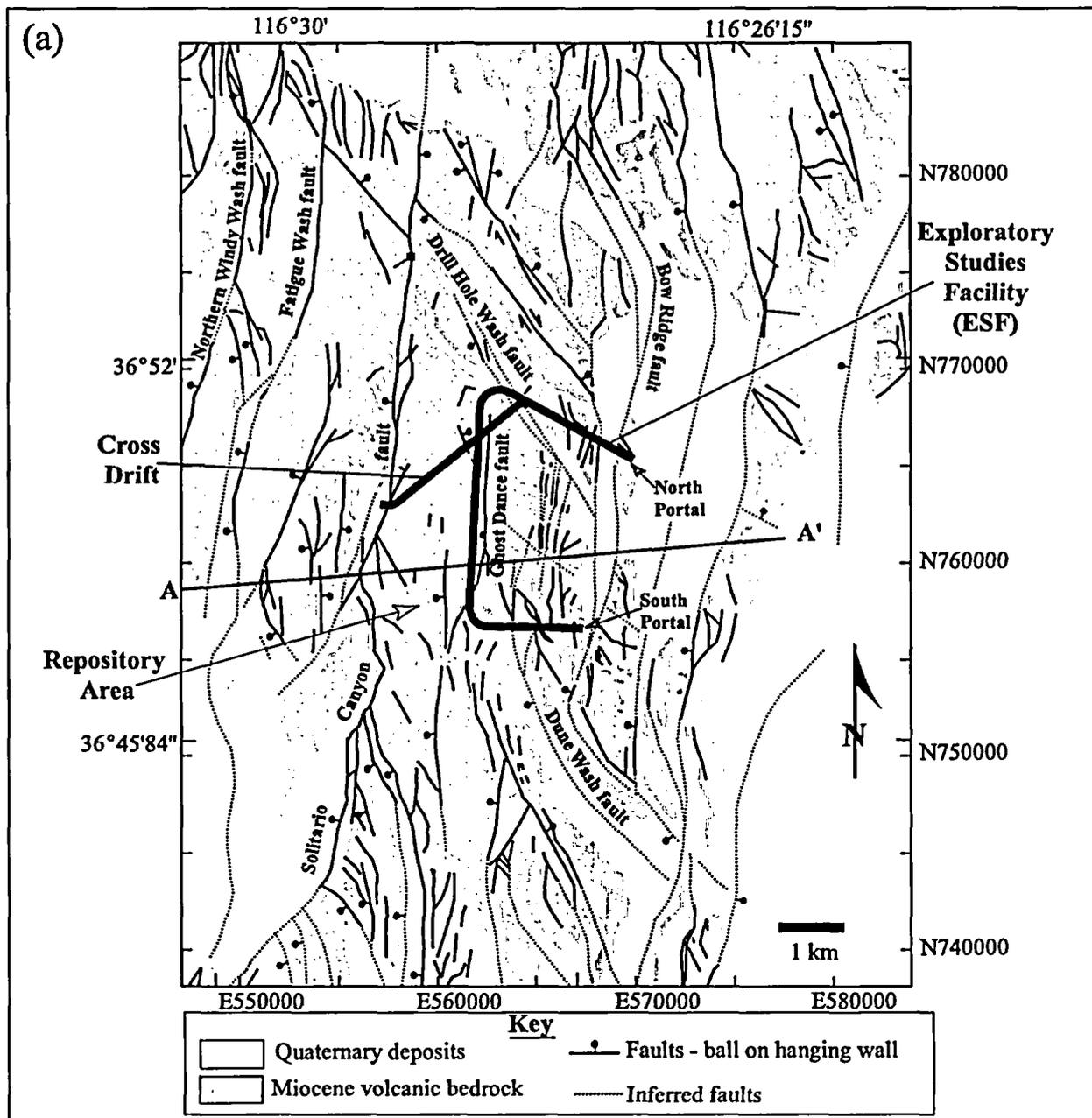


Figure 2  
Gray et al., 2004

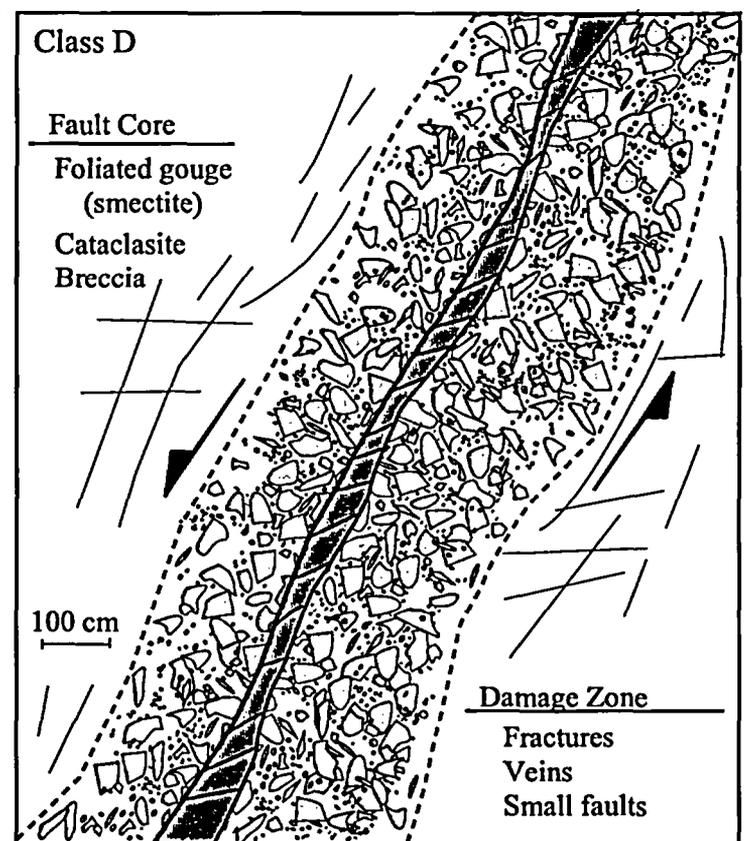
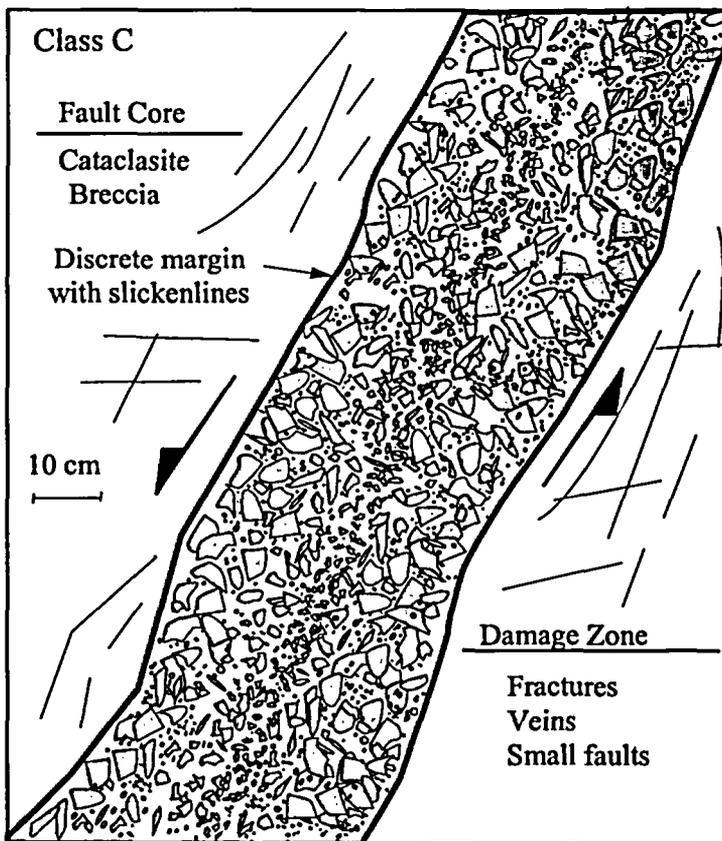
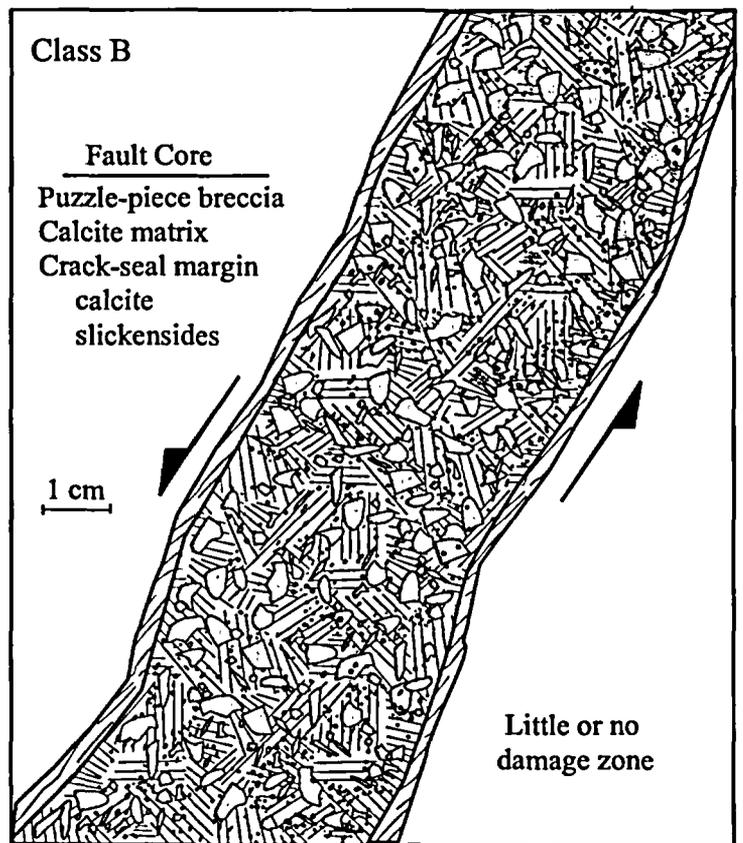
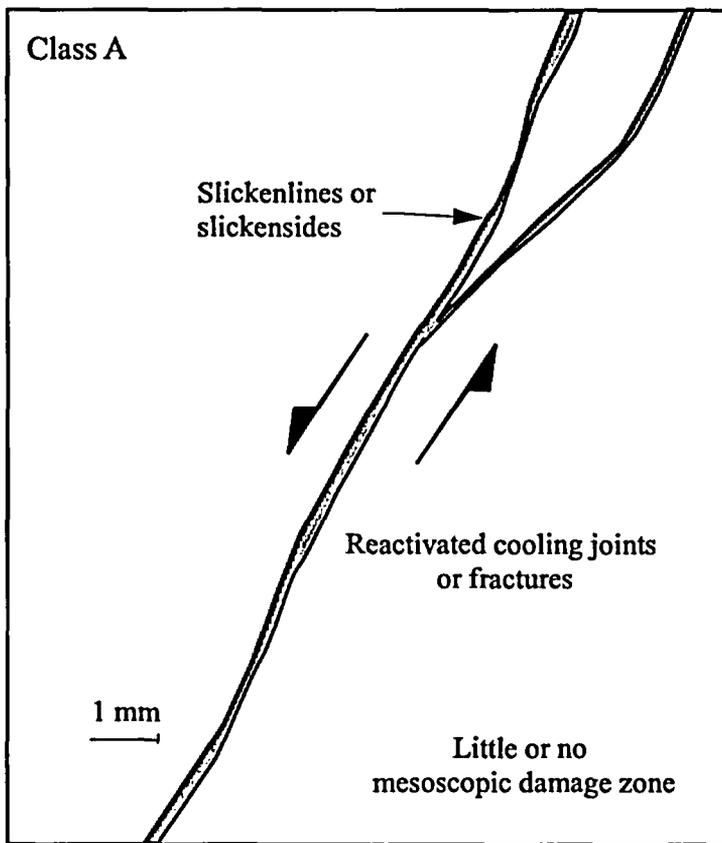


Figure 3  
Gray et al., 2004

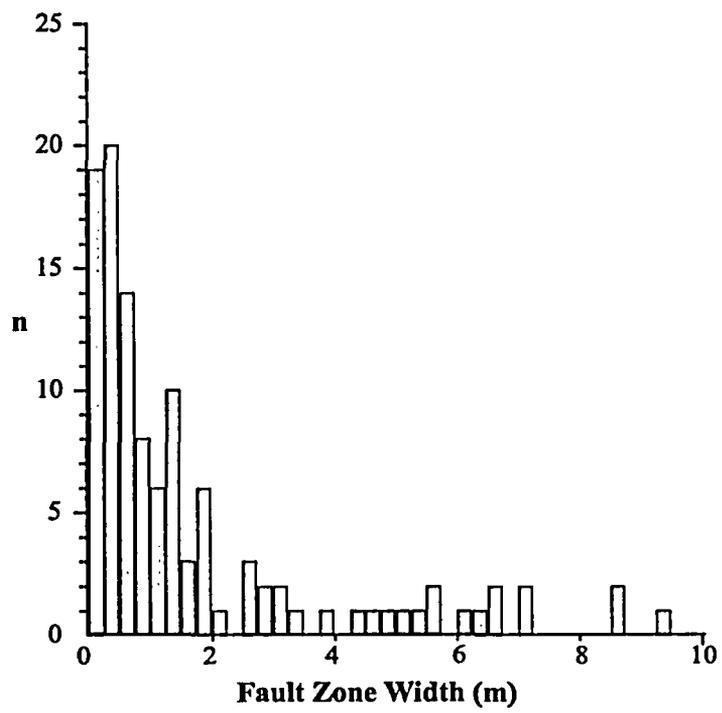


Figure 4  
Gray et al., 2004

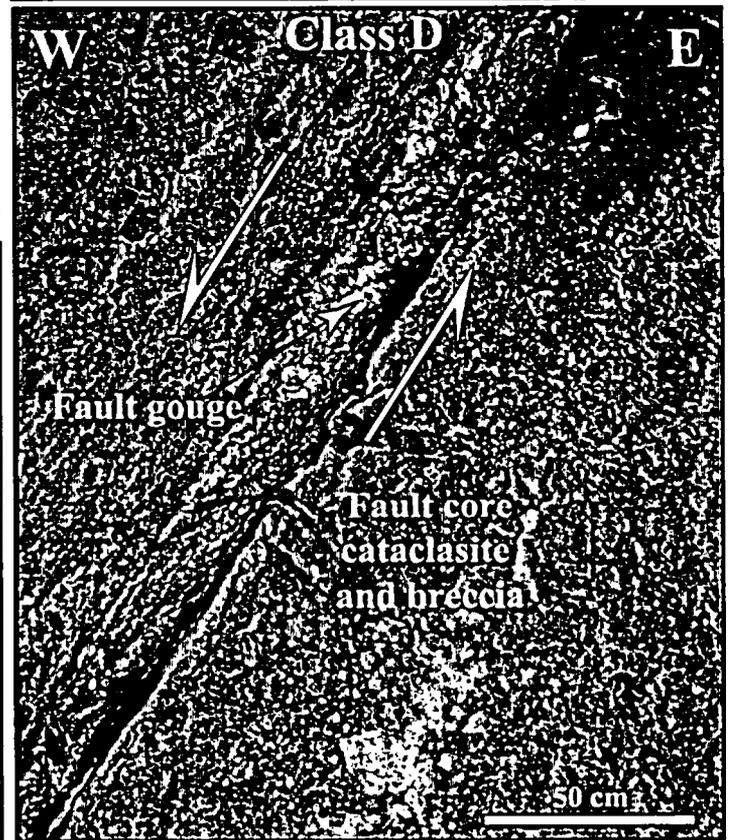
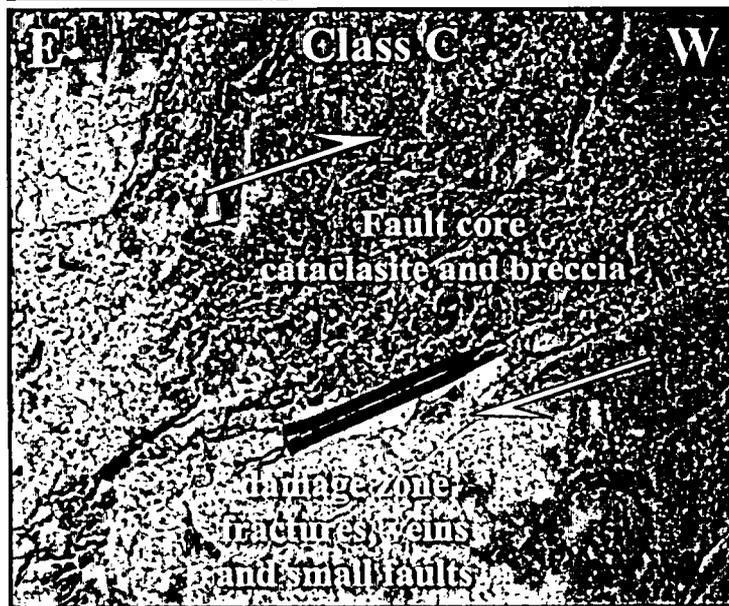
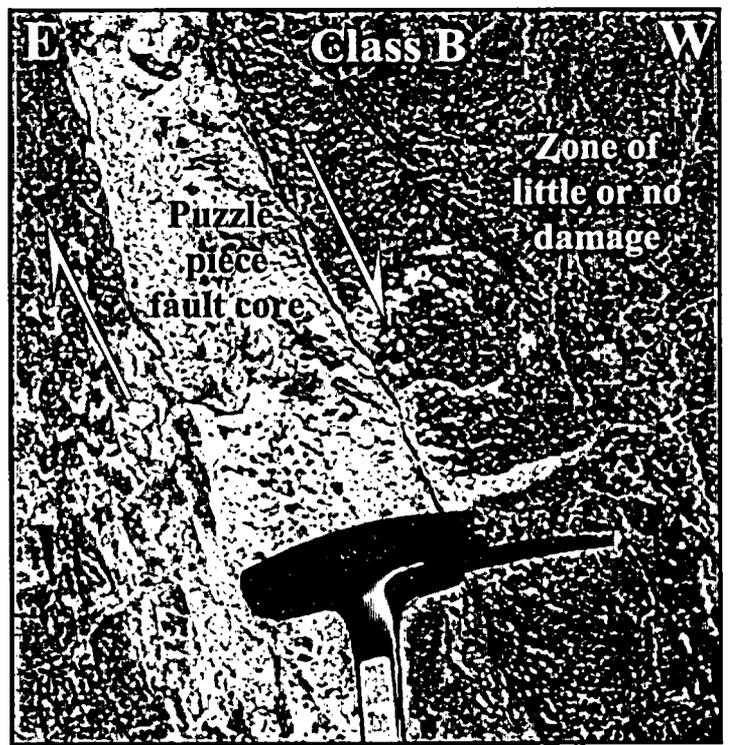
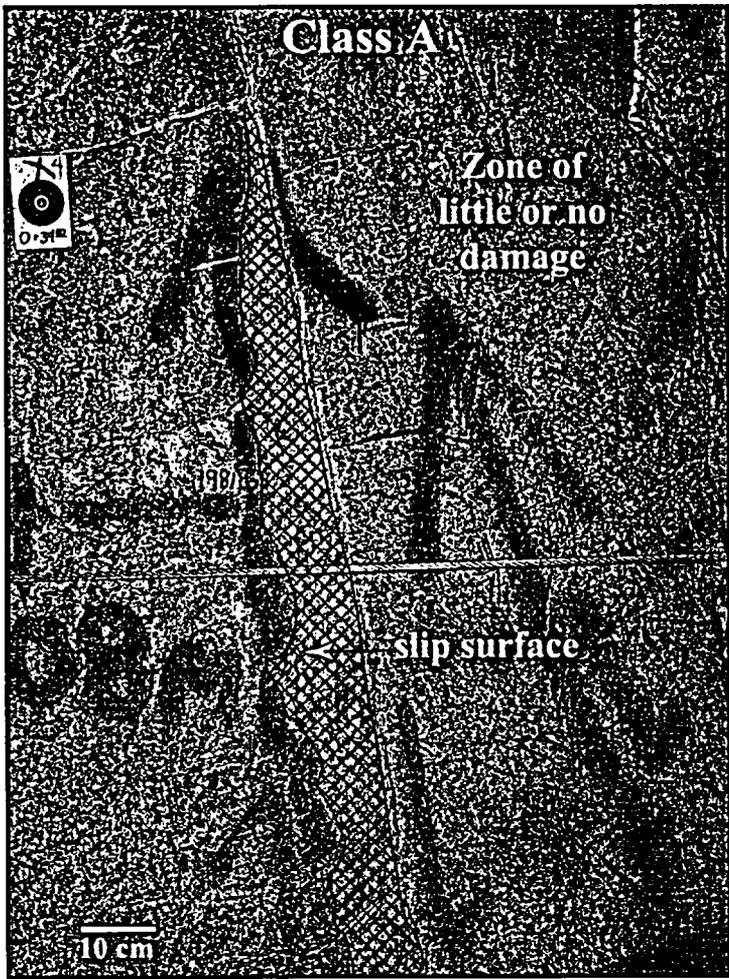


Figure 5  
Gray et al., 2004

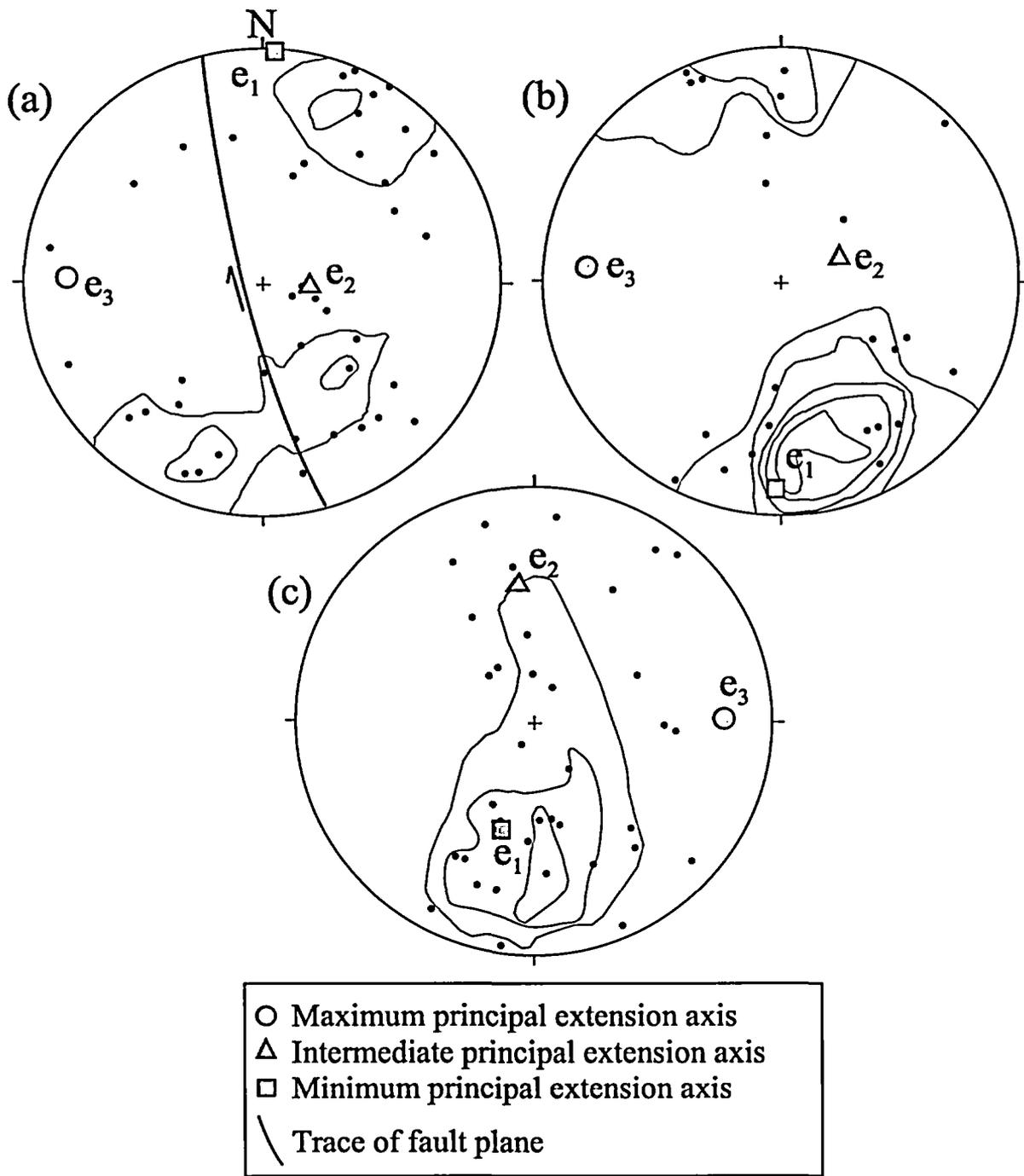


Figure 6  
 Gray et al., 2004

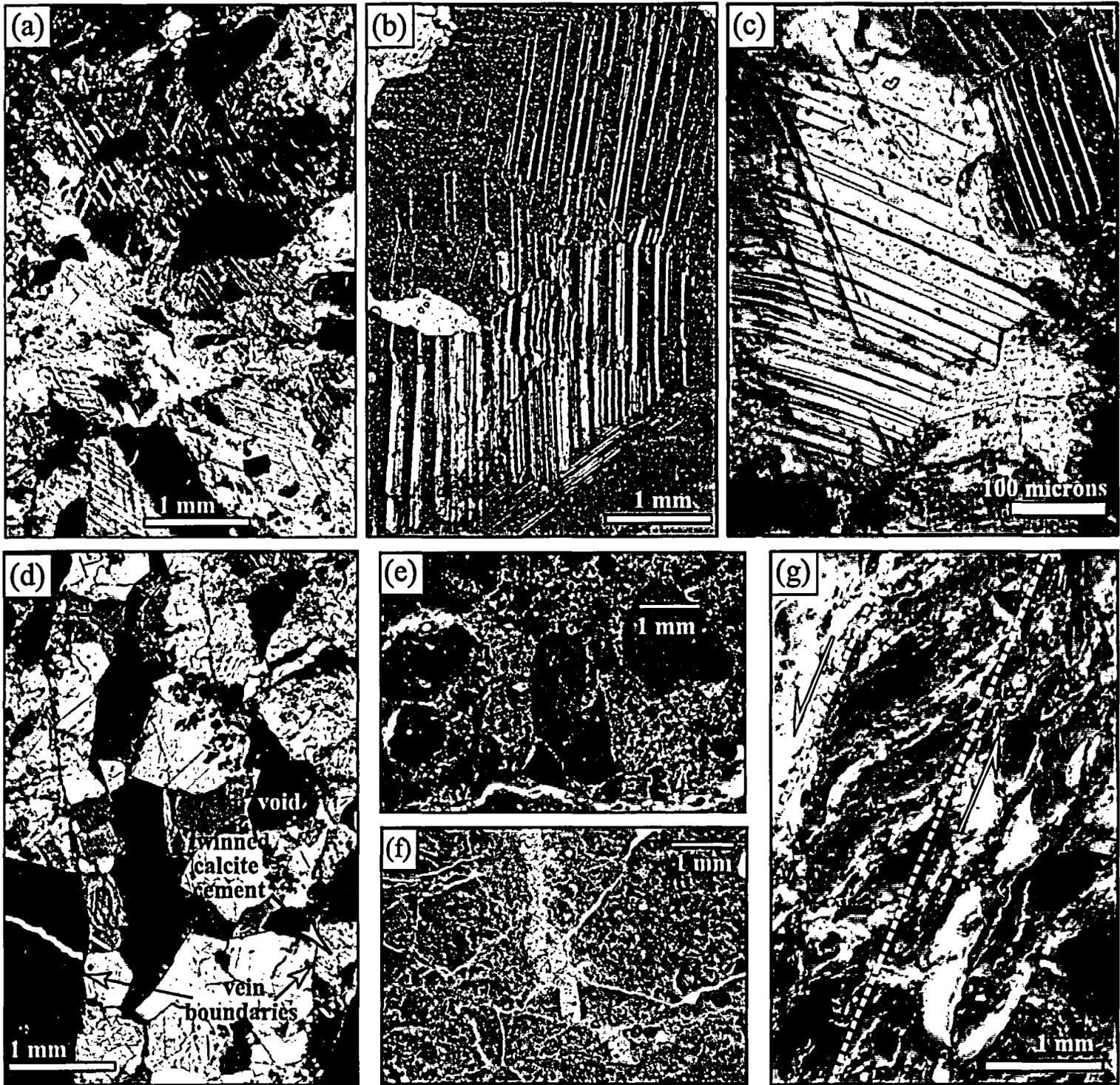


Figure 7  
Gray et al., 2004

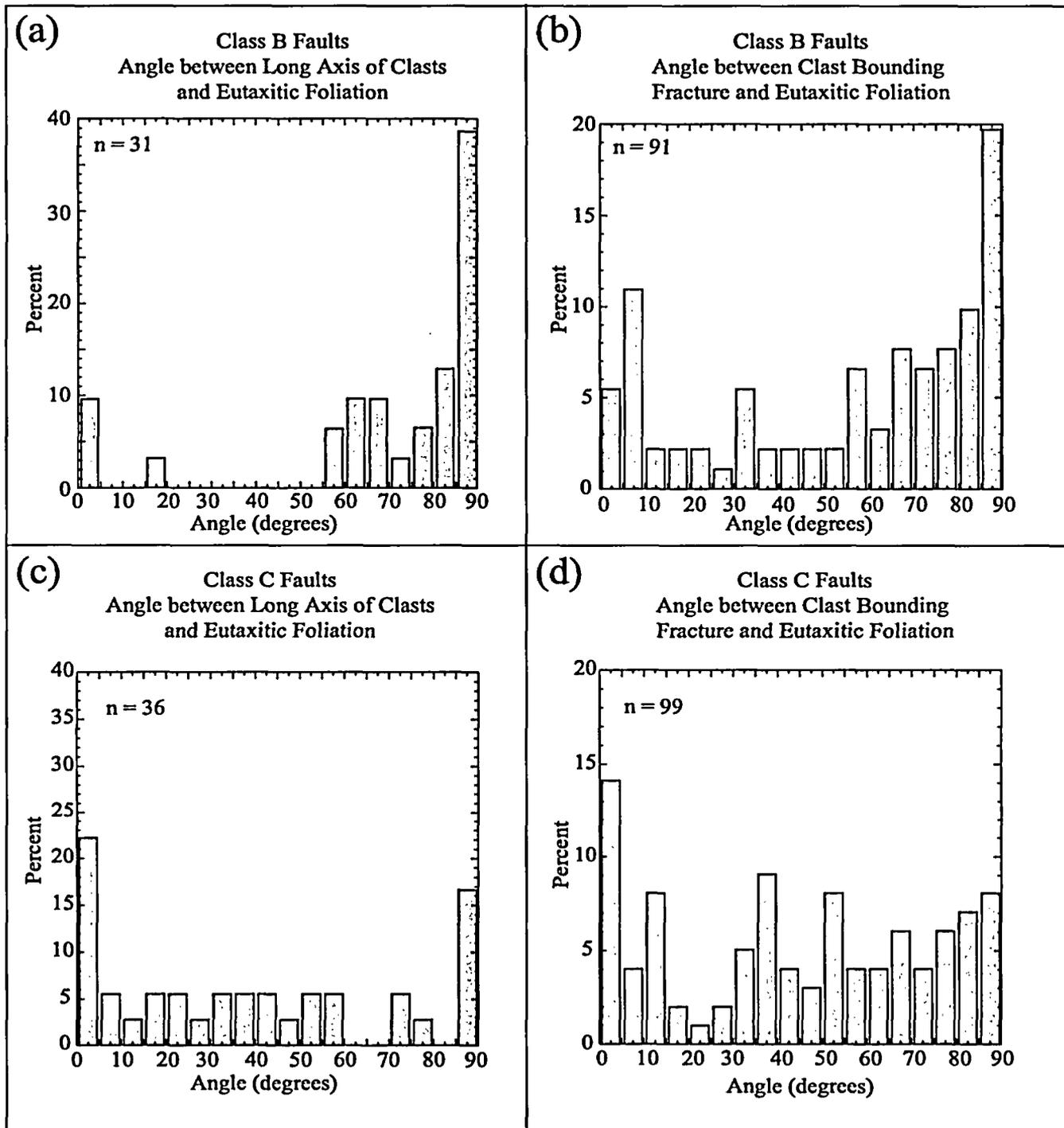


Figure 8  
 Gray et al., 2004

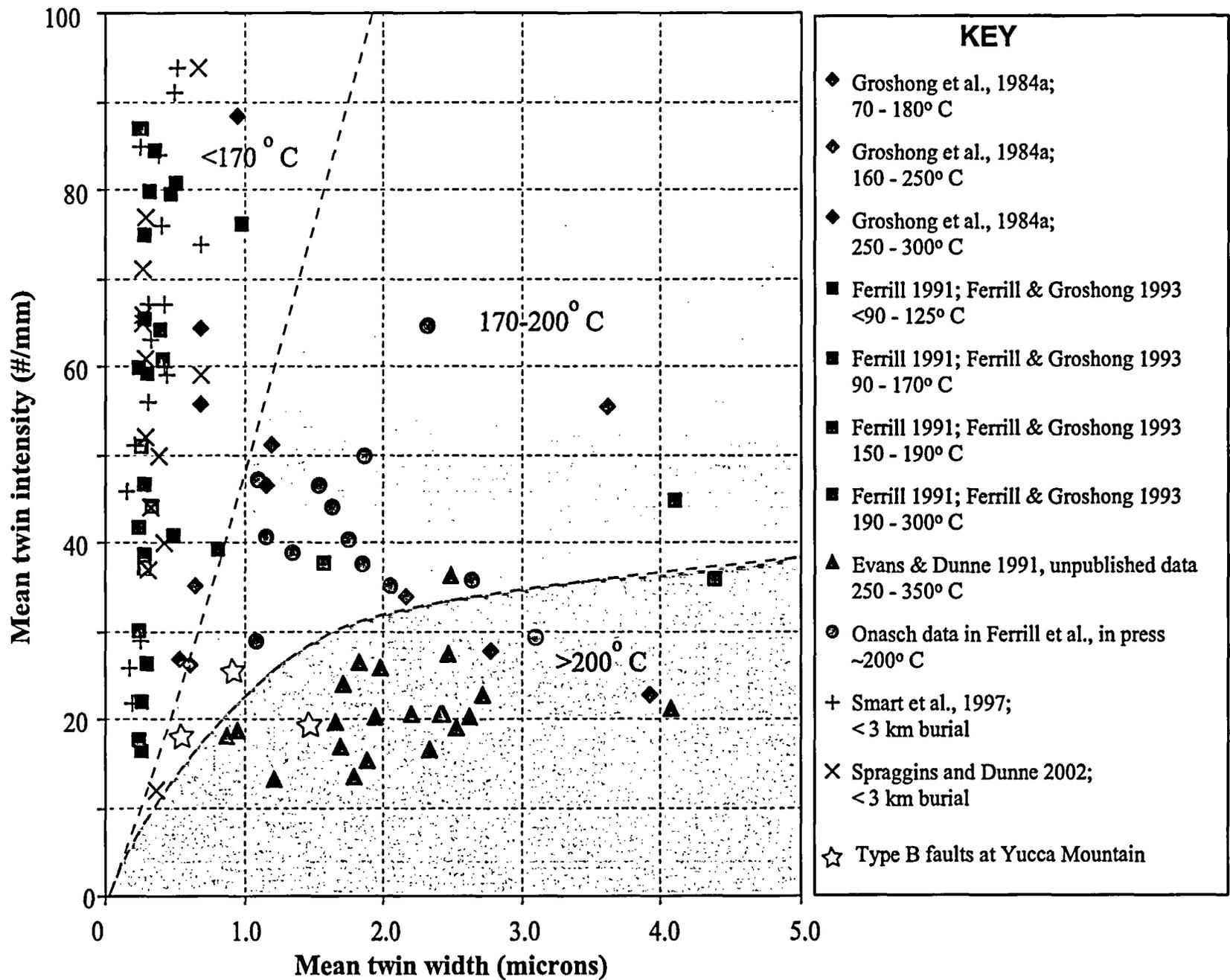


Figure 9  
 Gray et al., 2004

# Increasing Fault Displacement

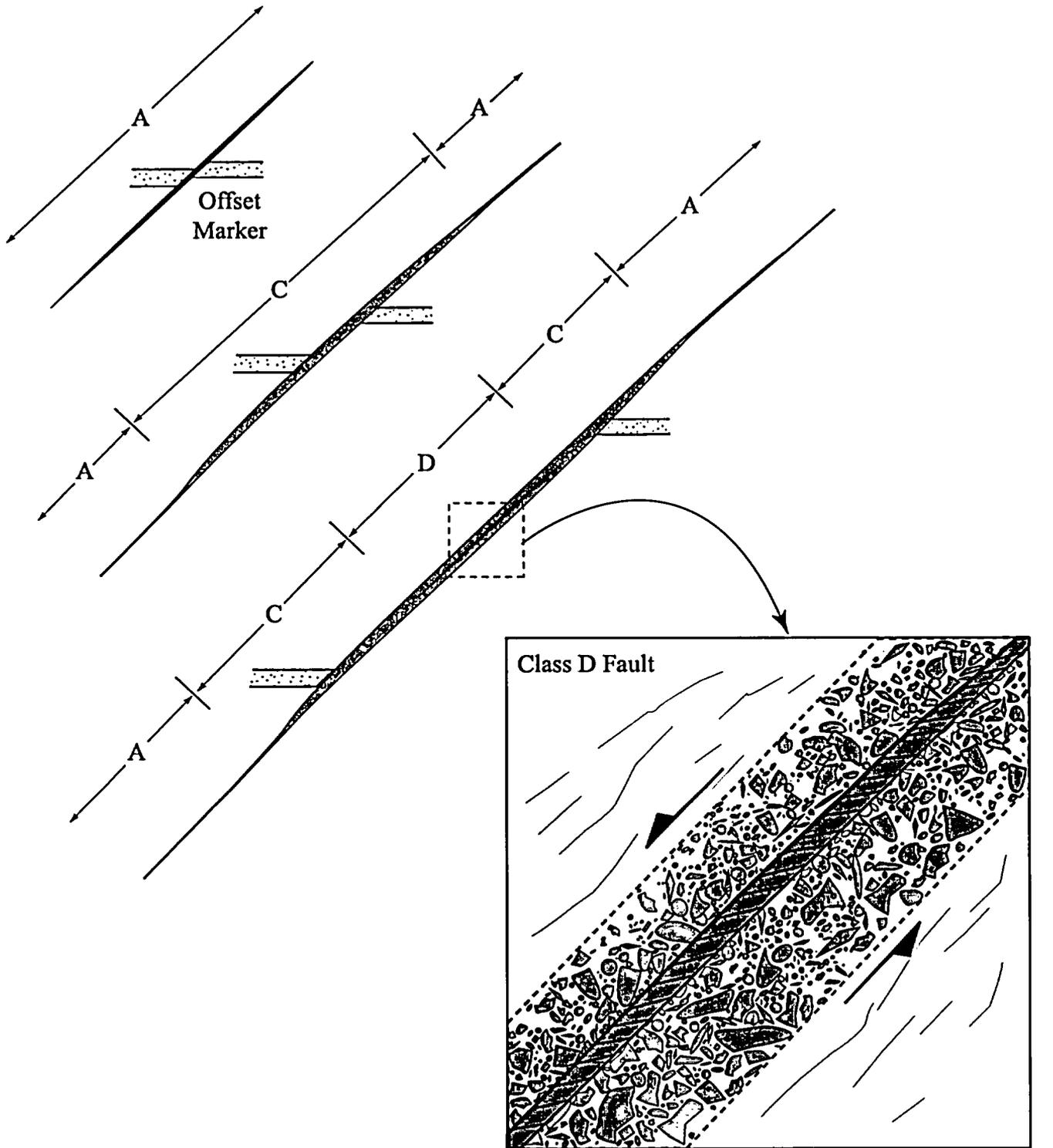


Figure 10  
Gray et al., 2004

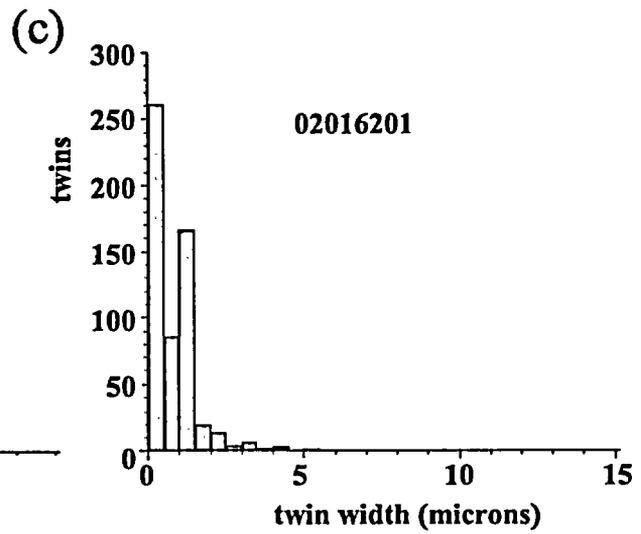
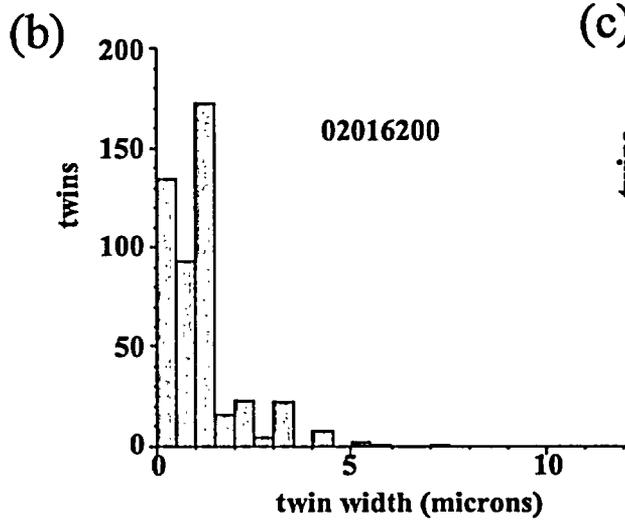
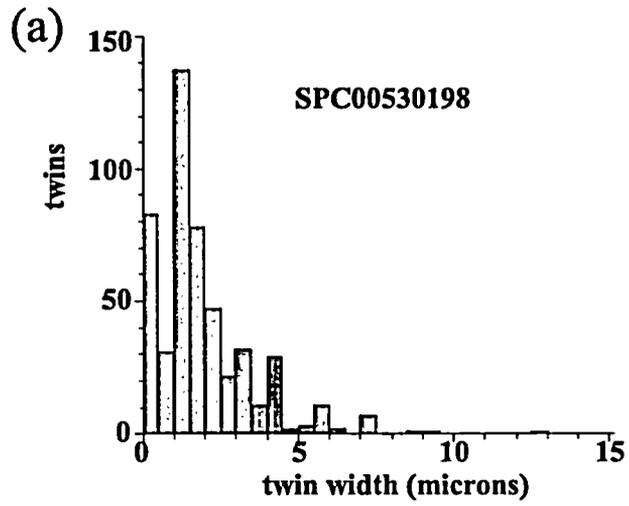


Table A1. Results of calcite e-twin analysis

Sample	02016200	02016201	SPC00530198
N/n	28/23	45/36	49/40
Thick N	324	235	406
Thin N	135	262	82
Width ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	0.90	0.51	1.41
Density (mm)	25.62	18.26	19.75
$\sqrt{J_2}$	1.747	0.286	2.090
Principal Strains (% elongation)	$e_1$	1.491	0.300
	$e_2$	0.431	-0.031
	$e_3$	-1.923	-0.269
error	0.302	0.191	0.437
%NEV	4.34	25	17.5

N is the number of measured twin sets and n is the number of twin sets analyzed after removing those with large deviations from expected values. Thick N and Thin N are the total number of measured thick and thin twins, within the twin sets. Width is mean twin width. Density is number of twins per mm. ( $\sqrt{J_2}$ ) is the square root of the second invariant of the strain tensor. %NEV is the percent negative expected values with strains expressed as %.

Intensity