Friction on faults and scaling laws: hypotheses, dynamic models, and comparisons against lab experiments

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Self-Similar Earthquake Scaling



Implicit $\Delta \sigma$ and V are constant

$$M_o \sim \Delta \sigma L^3 \sim \Delta \sigma V^3 \tau^3 \sim (\Delta \sigma V^3) f_c^{-3}$$

Product $\Delta \sigma V^3$ is constant



(see also Prieto et al 2004; Kanamori and Rivera, 2004)

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Non-self-similar earthquake scaling: Case of same spectral shape but different corner frequency behavior

1) Changes in $\Delta \sigma$ and/or V with size (e.g. large have higher $\Delta \sigma$ and/or V than small)

Kanamori and Rivera (2004): $M_o \sim f_c^{-(3+\varepsilon)}$ $\tilde{e} \sim M_o^{\varepsilon/(3+\varepsilon)} \sim (\Delta \sigma V^3)$

2) Changes in efficiency with size

(large more efficient than small)

Constant moment shear crack spectra for different seismic efficiencies Displacement Amplitude (cm-s) Mo~low freq. (max) level = 0.5 $\frac{E_R}{\Delta W} = \frac{\left(\Delta W - E_F - C\right)}{\Lambda W}$ E_s~Area (velocity-spectra)² (after Walter and Brune, JGR 1993 10⁻⁵ 8 2 6 8 100 10 10 Frequency (Hz)







Central Apennines: observed and predicted ground motions of two events of the Colfiorito sequence (M_W 5.91 & 4.29). A regional attenuation (geometric & anelastic) and a magnitude-dependent stress parameter ($\Delta \sigma_{\rm B}$) are used to match the observed ground motion through RVT (from Malagnini et al., 2008).







Here is what happens when you try to predict the ground motion using self-similar scaling (Wells, NV)...



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How can we relate seismic observations to fault dynamics? Hypothesis of constant rupture velocity... Increased stress drop means:

a) more energy available for radiation;b) less dynamic friction on fault...

Defining the fracture energy, G:



S

slip (s)

а

stress (o)

σο

σ·

0

Es/A

$$G(S) = \int_0^S \left(\sigma_F(u) - \sigma_d\right) du$$
$$G(S) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\Delta \sigma - 2\sigma_a\right) S$$

From now on, we assume no overshoot or undershoot, and that peak stress is equal to initial stress...

From Abercrombie and Rice (2005)



$$\sigma_F(S) = \sigma_0 - \frac{n}{n-1}G_0S^{n-1}$$



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From fracture energy to stress history... (two weakening models)

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$$\frac{dG(S)}{dS} = -s\frac{d\sigma_F(S)}{dS}$$
$$\sigma_F(S) = -\int \frac{1}{S} \frac{\partial G(S)}{\partial S} dS$$

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2) Exponential weakening (e.g., Rice, Sammis & Parson, 2005): $\sigma_F = \sigma_{S-S} + (\sigma_0 - \sigma_{S-S}) \exp\left(-\frac{S}{D_C}\right)$ $G(S) = \int_0^S (\sigma_F(u) - \sigma_F(S)) du$ $G(S) = \left[D_C - \exp\left(-\frac{S}{D_C}\right)(D_C + S)\right] \Delta \sigma$

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Computing normalized shear stress for earthquakes...

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Weakening curves...

Polynomial weakening:

$$\frac{\sigma_F(S)}{\sigma_0} = 1 - \frac{n}{\sigma_0(n-1)} G_0 S^{n-1}$$

Exponential weakening:

$$\frac{\sigma_F(S)}{\sigma_0} = \frac{\sigma_{S-S}}{\sigma_0} + \frac{\Delta\sigma}{\sigma_0} \exp\left(-\frac{S}{D_C}\right)$$

Comparison against lab experiments...

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Summary & Conclusions

We computed fracture energy vs. slip(G(S)) for ~300 earthquakes from 20 seismic sequences occurred worldwide;

Within an individual sequence:

- Fracture energies of small events: power law & polynomial weakening $\left(G(S) = G_0 S^n; \sigma_F(S) = \sigma_0 - \frac{n}{n-1}G_0 S^{n-1}\right);$
- Fracture energies of large earthquakes suggest shear stress saturation;
- Polynomial stress-slip function: first approximation of exponential weakening $\left(\sigma_F = \sigma_{S-S} + (\sigma_0 - \sigma_{S-S}) \exp\left(-\frac{S}{D_C}\right)\right);$

Seismology & Lab:

• Interesting comparison...

Magnitude-dependent correction parameter...

Wells: evidence of non self-similar scaling from ground motion analysis

