

## **The Mechanics of Earthquakes and Faulting**

3rd Edition

This essential reference for graduate students and researchers provides a unified treatment of earthquakes and faulting as two aspects of brittle tectonics at different timescales. The intimate connection between the two is manifested in their scaling laws and populations, which evolve from fracture growth and interactions between fractures. The connection between faults and the seismicity generated is governed by the rate- and state-dependent friction laws – producing distinctive seismic styles of faulting and a gamut of earthquake phenomena, including aftershocks, afterslip, earthquake triggering, and slow slip events. The third edition of this classic treatise presents a wealth of new topics and new observations. These include slow earthquake phenomena; friction of phyllosilicates and at high sliding velocities; fault structures; relative roles of strong and seismogenic versus weak and creeping faults; dynamic triggering of earthquakes; oceanic earthquakes; megathrust earthquakes in subduction zones; deep earthquakes; and new observations of earthquake precursory phenomena.

CHRISTOPHER H. SCHOLZ is an emeritus professor at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, where, over his 50-year career, he has published more than 300 papers on rock mechanics, fault mechanics, and the physics of earthquakes. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and has been awarded the Murchison Medal by The Geological Society of London, and the Harry Fielding Reid Medal by the Seismological Society of America.



A photograph by G. K. Gilbert of the surface rupture produced by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. (Photo courtesy of the US Geological Survey.)

# THE MECHANICS OF EARTHQUAKES AND FAULTING

3rd Edition

CHRISTOPHER H. SCHOLZ

*Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, New York*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781316615232](http://www.cambridge.org/9781316615232)  
DOI: 10.1017/9781316681473

© Christopher H. Scholz 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019  
First paperback edition 1990  
Reprinted 1992, 1994, 1997, 2000  
Second edition 2002  
Seventh printing 2012  
Third edition 2019

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Names: Scholz, C. H. (Christopher H.), author.

Title: The mechanics of earthquakes and faulting / Christopher H. Scholz  
(Columbia University, New York).

Description: 3rd edition. | Cambridge ; New York, NY: Cambridge  
University Press, 2018. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018021900 | ISBN 9781107163485

Subjects: LCSH: Seismology. | Earthquakes. | Faults (Geology)

Classification: LCC QE534.3 .S37 2002 | DDC 551.22-dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018021900>

ISBN 978-1-107-16348-5 Hardback  
ISBN 978-1-316-61523-2 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or  
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in  
this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is,  
or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

... and then there would not be friction any more, and the sound would cease, and the dancers would stop...

Leonardo da Vinci

From a notebook dated September, 1508

MacCurdy, E. 1958. *The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*, p. 282, New York: George Braziller

“When graduate students or postdocs ask what to read to improve their background in fault mechanics, Chris Scholz’s book has always been at the top of my list. This much awaited third edition has been thoroughly updated with the latest findings and insights, from as recent as 2018, and will continue to be an important resource for all geophysicists and geologists interested in active faults.”

Professor Roland Bürgmann, University of California, Berkeley

“On first publication in 1990, *The Mechanics of Earthquakes and Faulting* immediately became ‘The Book’ on the topic. This major revision presents all the new findings from the last fifteen years, including episodic tremor and slip phenomena, the complexity of seismic rupture processes, the mechanics of megathrust faults and associated tsunamis, and lubrication of faults. With its state-of-the art content and rich bibliography of more than 2,000 references, this third edition is a must-read for everyone interested in earthquakes and faults – from undergraduate to the senior research level.”

Professor Giulio Di Toro, Padua University, Italy

Contents

<b>Preface to the first edition</b>	<i>page xi</i>
<b>Preface to the second edition</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>Preface to the third edition</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>List of symbols</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>1 Brittle fracture of rock</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Theoretical concepts	1
1.1.1 Historical	1
1.1.2 Griffith theory	3
1.1.3 Fracture mechanics	7
1.1.4 Crack models	12
1.1.5 Macroscopic fracture criteria	14
1.1.6 Laws of effective stress	17
1.2 Failure processes in rock	18
1.2.1 Tensile failure of rock	19
1.2.2 Shear failure in compression	22
1.2.3 Effect of scale on strength	29
1.2.4 Time dependence of strength of brittle rock	30
1.3 The brittle–plastic transition	35
1.3.1 General principles	36
1.3.2 The transition induced by pressure	37
1.3.3 The transition induced by temperature	38
1.3.4 Extrapolation to geological conditions	41

<b>2</b>	<b>Rock friction</b>	<b>43</b>
2.1	Theoretical concepts	43
2.1.1	Historical	43
2.1.2	The adhesion theory of friction	44
2.1.3	Elastic contact theory of friction	46
2.1.4	Other frictional interactions	50
2.2	Experimental observations of rock friction	53
2.2.1	Friction of bulk-structure rocks and minerals	53
2.2.2	Friction of lamellar minerals	53
2.2.3	Effects of ambient temperature, pressure, and pore pressure on friction	57
2.2.4	Wear	61
2.2.5	Friction at high sliding velocities	64
2.3	The stability of friction: stick-slip and stable sliding	71
2.3.1	Introduction	71
2.3.2	Rate effects on friction: the rate and state variable friction laws	74
2.3.3	Frictional stability regimes	80
2.3.4	Frictional stability properties of rocks and minerals	83
2.3.5	Dynamics of stick-slip	89
2.4	The friction–plastic transition	91
2.5	Friction under geological conditions	94
<b>3</b>	<b>Mechanics of faulting</b>	<b>97</b>
3.1	Mechanical framework	97
3.1.1	Anderson’s theory of faulting	97
3.1.2	Hubbert–Rubey theory of overthrust faulting	100
3.1.3	Fault rotation, reactivation, and friction	102
3.2	The formation and growth of faults	105
3.2.1	The problem of fault formation	105
3.2.2	Fault formation and growth	106
3.2.3	Fault interactions	117
3.2.4	Fault populations	123
3.3	Fault rocks, structures, and their evolution	127
3.3.1	Brittle fault structures	127
3.3.2	Ductile fault rocks and structures	137
3.4	Strength and rheology of faults	147
3.4.1	A synoptic shear zone model	148
3.4.2	Fault strength and stability	151
3.5	Fault morphology and mechanical effects of heterogeneity	159
3.5.1	Fault segmentation and maturity	159
3.5.2	Effect of fault segmentation on earthquakes	161



Contents	ix
<b>4 Mechanics of earthquakes</b>	<b>166</b>
4.1 Historical development	166
4.2 Earthquake physics	168
4.2.1 The dynamic energy balance	168
4.2.2 Dynamic rupture propagation	171
4.3 Earthquake phenomenology	175
4.3.1 Earthquake scaling relations	175
4.3.2 Earthquake size distributions	183
4.3.3 Quantifying heterogeneity: the fractal nature of earthquakes	188
4.4 Observations of earthquakes	188
4.4.1 Case studies of continental earthquakes	188
4.4.2 Earthquake sequences	197
4.5 Earthquake interactions	200
4.5.1 Static triggering: Coulomb stress loading	201
4.5.2 Mechanisms for the time delay	204
4.5.3 Dynamic triggering	210
4.6 Slow earthquake phenomena	214
4.6.1 Quasi-periodic slow slip events and tremor in subduction zones	214
4.6.2 Other slow slip events and tremor	221
4.6.3 Mechanics of slow slip events	224
<b>5 The seismic cycle</b>	<b>228</b>
5.1 Historical	228
5.2 The crustal deformation cycle	230
5.2.1 Geodetic observations of strain accumulation	231
5.2.2 Models of strain accumulation	238
5.2.3 Postseismic phenomena	241
5.3 The earthquake cycle	248
5.3.1 Earthquake recurrence	248
5.3.2 Paleoseismology: geological observations of recurrence times	255
5.4 Segmentation and cycles: concepts and models	263
5.4.1 Fault segmentation and rupture barriers	264
5.4.2 Variations on cycles	269
5.5 Earthquake recurrence models	274
<b>6 Seismotectonics</b>	<b>278</b>
6.1 Introduction	278
6.2 Seismotectonic analysis	280
6.2.1 Qualitative analysis	280
6.2.2 Quantitative analysis	282
6.3 Subduction zone earthquakes	286
6.3.1 Case studies of megathrust earthquakes	286

x	Contents
6.3.2	Tsunami earthquakes 296
6.3.3	Seismogenic properties of subduction zones 298
6.3.4	Seismic coupling of subduction zones 303
6.4	Oceanic earthquakes 307
6.4.1	Mid-ocean ridge seismicity 309
6.4.2	Oceanic transform fault seismicity 312
6.4.3	Oceanic intraplate earthquakes 318
6.5	The mechanism of deep earthquakes 321
6.5.1	Intermediate-focus earthquakes 322
6.5.2	Deep-focus earthquakes 324
6.6	Induced seismicity 326
6.6.1	Seismicity induced by fluid injection 326
6.6.2	Reservoir-induced seismicity 330
6.6.3	Mechanisms of reservoir-induced seismicity 332
6.6.4	Mining-induced seismicity 335
6.6.5	Induced seismicity as a stress gauge 335
<b>7</b>	<b>Earthquake prediction and hazard analysis 337</b>
7.1	Introduction 337
7.1.1	Historical 337
7.1.2	Types of earthquake prediction 338
7.1.3	Is earthquake prediction possible? 340
7.2	Preseismic phenomena 341
7.2.1	Preinstrumental observations 341
7.2.2	Seismicity patterns and precursors 343
7.2.3	Aseismic deformation rate changes prior to earthquakes 352
7.2.4	Other types of reported precursors 357
7.3	Preseismic processes 362
7.3.1	Earthquake nucleation 362
7.3.2	Preseismic dilatancy 364
7.4	Earthquake forecasting in practice 372
7.4.1	Earthquake prediction experiments 372
7.4.2	Earthquake early warning 373
7.4.3	Operational earthquake forecasting 374
7.5	Earthquake hazard analysis 376
7.5.1	Traditional methods 376
7.5.2	Long-term earthquake hazard analysis 377
<b>References</b>	<b>381</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>487</b>

Color plate section to be found between pp. 266 and 267

---

# Preface to the first edition

---

It has now been more than thirty years since the publication of E. M. Anderson's *The Dynamics of Faulting* and C. F. Richter's *Elementary Seismology*. Several generations of earth scientists were raised on these texts. Although these books are still well worth reading today for their excellent descriptions of faults and earthquakes, the mechanical principles they espoused are now well understood by the undergraduate student at the second or third year. In the meantime a great deal has been learned about these subjects, and the two topics, faulting and earthquakes, described in those books have merged into one broader field, as earthquakes have been more clearly understood to be one manifestation of faulting. During this period of rapid progress there has not been a single book written that adequately fills the gap left by these two classics. As a result it has become increasingly difficult for the student or active researcher in this area to obtain an overall grasp of the subject that is both up-to-date and comprehensive and that is based firmly on fundamental mechanical principles. This book has been written to fill this need.

Not least among the difficulties facing the researcher in this field is the interdisciplinary nature of the subject. For historical reasons earthquakes are considered to be the province of the seismologist and the study of faults is that of the geologist. However, because earthquakes are a result of an instability in faulting that is so pervasive that on many faults most slip occurs during them, the interests of these two disciplines must necessarily become intertwined. Moreover, when considering the mechanics of these processes the rock mechanist also becomes involved, because the natural phenomena are a consequence of the material properties of the rock and its surfaces.

It is a consequence of the way in which science is organized that the scientist is trained by discipline, not by topic, and so interdisciplinary subjects such as this one tend to be attacked in a piecemeal fashion from the vantage of the different specialties that find application in studying it. This is disadvantageous because progress is hindered by lack of communication between the different disciplines, misunderstandings can abound, and different, sometimes conflicting, schools of thought can flourish in the relative isolation of separate fields. Workers in one field may be ignorant of relevant facts established in another, or, more likely, be unaware of the skein

of evidence that weights the convictions of workers in another field. This leads not only to a neglect of some aspects in considering a question, but also to the quoting of results attributed to another field with greater confidence than workers in that field would themselves maintain. It is not enough to be aware, secondhand, of the contributions of another field – one must know the basis, within the internal structure of the evidence and tools of that field, upon which that result is maintained. Only then is one in a position to take the results of all the disciplines and place them, with their proper weight, in the correct position of the overall jigsaw puzzle. Because the literature on this topic has become both large and diverse, a guide is useful in this process, together with some unifying mechanical principles that allow the contours of the forest to be seen from between the trees.

Although I have dabbled, to one degree or another, in the various different disciplinary approaches to this problem and therefore have a rudimentary working knowledge of them, my own specialty is rock mechanics, and so this approach is the one most emphasized in this book. Faults are treated as shear cracks, the propagation of which may be understood through the application of fracture mechanics. The stability of this fault movement, which determines whether the faulting is seismic or aseismic, is determined by the frictional constitutive law of the fault surface, and so that is the second major theme applied throughout this treatment. The application of these principles to geology is not straightforward. One cannot actually do a laboratory experiment that duplicates natural conditions. Laboratory studies can only be used to establish physical processes and validate theories. To apply the results of this work to natural phenomena requires a conceptual jump, because of problems of scale and because both the nature of the materials and the physical conditions are not well known. In order to do this one must have constant recourse to geological and geophysical observations and, working backwards, through these physical principles determine the underlying cause of the behavior of faults. For this reason, much of this book is taken up in describing observations of natural cases.

Because rock mechanics is not taught universally in earth science curricula, the first two chapters present an account of brittle fracture and friction of rock, beginning from first principles. These chapters provide the basis for the later discussion of geological phenomena. The subsequent chapters assume a beginning graduate level understanding of the earth science disciplines involved. In these chapters the results of geology, seismology, and geodesy are presented, but the techniques employed by the various specialties are not described at any length. The emphasis is on providing an overall understanding of a scientific topic rather than teaching a specific craft. A goal was to describe each topic accurately, but at such a level that it could be understood by workers in other fields.

A book may be structured in many different ways. In this case, I found it difficult to choose between organizing the book around the physical mechanisms or around the natural phenomena in which they are manifested. The latter scheme would be more familiar to the earth scientist, the former to the mechanist. Ultimately, I adopted a system arranged around mechanics, but which still retains many of the more familiar traditional associations. Because some mechanisms are important in a number of different phenomena, which might otherwise be considered quite distant, and some earthquakes provide examples of several phenomena, there are often more than two connections to other topics. Therefore, it was not always possible to present the subject matter in a serial sequence. I consequently adopted a system of cross-referencing that allows the reader to traverse the book in alternative paths. I hope this system will be more helpful than confusing.

When I first entered graduate school twenty-five years ago, most of the material described in this book was not yet known. The first generation of understanding, outlined in Anderson's

and Richter's books, has been augmented by a second generation of mechanics, much more thorough and quantitative than the preceding. This has been a most productive era, which this book celebrates. I owe my own development to associations with many people. My first mentor, W. F. Brace, set me on this path, and the way has been lit by many others since. I have also been a beneficiary of an enlightened system of scientific funding during this period, which has allowed me to pursue many interesting topics, often at no little expense. For this I particularly would like to thank the National Science Foundation, the US Geological Survey, and NASA.

Many have helped in the preparation of this book. In particular I acknowledge the assistance of my editor, Peter–John Leone; Kazuko Nagao, who produced many of the illustrations; and those who have reviewed various parts of the manuscript: T.–F. Wong, W. Means, J. Logan, S. Das, P. Molnar, J. Boatwright, L. Sykes, D. Simpson, and C. Sammis. Particular thanks are due to T. C. Hanks, who offered many helpful comments on the text, and who, over the course of a twenty–year association, has not failed to point out my foibles. I dedicate the book to my wife, Yoshiko, who provided me with the stability in my personal life necessary for carrying out this task.

---

## Preface to the second edition

---

When the first edition of this book was completed in 1989 the study of earthquakes and faulting was still developing rapidly and has continued to do so in the intervening years. It thus seemed necessary, in order to keep this work useful, that an extensively revised and updated new edition be prepared.

Progress during these dozen years has not, of course, been uniform. There have been rapid developments in some areas whereas others have been relatively static. As a result, some sections and chapters have been extensively revised while others remain almost the same, undergoing only minor updating. A goal in this revision was to retain the same overall length, and this has been largely successful. This necessitated the removal of material which in hindsight no longer seemed as vital as it once did or which had been superseded by more recent results.

The two major themes of the first edition have been further developed in the interim. The first of these is the intimate connection between fault and earthquake mechanics. Fault mechanics in 1989 was still in a primitive state, but rapid progress during the 1990s has brought the discovery of the main fault scaling laws, the nature of fault populations, and how these result from the processes of fault growth and interaction. This new knowledge of fault mechanics provides a fuller appreciation of faulting and earthquakes as two aspects of the same dynamical system: the former its long-timescale and the latter its short-timescale manifestation. One major development along these lines is the realization that neither faulting nor earthquakes behave in an isolated manner but interact with other faults or earthquakes through their stress fields, sometimes stimulating the activity of neighboring faults, sometimes inhibiting it, the totality of such interactions resulting in the populations, of both faults and earthquakes, that are formed.

The second major theme is the central role of the rate-state friction laws in earthquake mechanics. These friction laws are now known to not only produce the earthquake instability itself but to result in a gamut of other earthquake phenomena: seismic coupling and decoupling, pre- and postseismic phenomena, earthquake triggering, and the relative insensitivity of earthquakes to transients such as earth tides. Thus the friction laws provide a unifying strand

for understanding the commonality of many phenomena previously thought to be disparate. Meanwhile the physics behind these friction laws has become better understood, rendering them less opaque than previously.

The development and deployment of telemetered networks of broadband digital seismometers and of space-based geodesy with GPS and InSAR has provided far more detailed descriptions of earthquakes and the earthquake cycle than ever before. These observations have allowed for their inversion for the internal kinematics of large earthquakes in well monitored regions like California as well as detailed descriptions of interseismic loading and postseismic relaxation, all of which has improved our understanding of the underlying dynamics.

Many people have helped in my preparation of this revised edition. I am particularly indebted to Masao Nakatani, who offered many comments on shortcomings of the first edition and who helped me to better understand the physical basis of the rate-state-variable friction laws.

*Palisades, New York, April, 2001*  
C. H. S.

---

## Preface to the third edition

---

It has been almost 30 years since I put the finishing touches on the first edition of this book. Since that time there has been enormous progress made on many aspects of the study of earthquakes and faulting. This has required major revisions to be made of all but the first chapter of this book. It is gratifying that these many developments have provided a deeper and broader understanding of brittle tectonics under the unifying application of the principles of rock mechanics. Many of the gaping holes in our understanding that were obvious in the first edition have now been filled and new phenomena have been discovered.

Extensive study has been made of the friction of lamellar minerals such as phyllosilicates. This work has revealed why and under what conditions friction of such materials may be anomalously low compared to the friction of bulk-structure rocks and minerals. This provides a framework for understanding why there are two classes of faults: those that are weak and creeping, and those that are strong and seismogenic. This work also provides a better understanding of the seismogenic properties of subduction zones.

The widespread implementation of the space-based geodetic technologies CGPS and InSAR have provided unparalleled new observations of all stages of the crustal deformation cycle, as well as the discovery of slow slip events in subduction zones and elsewhere. Seismological imaging of earthquakes in the digital age has provided details of the statics and dynamics of earthquakes in greater detail than ever before. These technical developments have come to fruition within a period of the strongest flurry of great subduction earthquakes since the 1960s. The result has been a re-evaluation of the mechanics of these greatest of all earthquakes. Oceanic earthquakes have also been the subject of renewed attention, both through global teleseismic studies and, with the advent of OBS and hydrophone deployments, close-in studies. Whereas the seismogenic properties of continental faults are largely determined by the frictional properties of quartzo-feldspathic rocks and that of subduction zones by friction of metamorphosed phyllosilicates, the distinctive seismogenic properties of oceanic faults can be understood as consequences of friction of mafic and ultramafic rocks.

The preparation of this book has been greatly assisted by reviews of various chapters by colleagues who are experts in those subject areas. Many thanks to Emily Brodsky, Roland



Bürgmann, Mark Anders, Jeff McGuire, and Giulio Di Toro for those reviews. Many thanks also to Maureen Anders, who has drafted many of the new figures in this edition. I particularly am indebted to my wife, Yoshiko, who has supported me in many ways during the preparation of this book.

*New York, January, 2018*  
C. H. S

# Symbols

A listing is given of the most important symbols in alphabetical order, first in the Latin, then in the Greek alphabets. The point of first appearance is given in brackets, which refers to an equation unless otherwise noted. In some cases the same symbol is used for different meanings, and vice versa, as indicated, but the meaning will be clear within the context used. Arbitrary constants and very common usages are not listed.

$a$	atomic spacing [(1.1)], direct frictional velocity parameter [(2.28)]
$a(\text{H}_2\text{O})$	chemical activity of water [(1.55)]
$a\text{-}b$	combined frictional velocity parameter [(2.28)]
$A_r$	real area of contact [(2.1)]
$b$	steady-state frictional velocity parameter [(2.28)], stress dependence of sub-critical crack velocity [(1.55)], exponent in Gutenberg-Richter relation [see below (4.19)]
$B$	exponent in earthquake size distribution in moment [(4.19)], Skempton's coefficient [paragraph following (4.23b)]
$c$	crack length [(1.5)]
$C$	exponent in fault size distribution [(3.9)]
$C_0$	uniaxial compressive strength [(1.37)]
$d$	contact diameter [(2.18)]
$d_s$	jog offset [Section 3.5.1]
$D$	sliding displacement [(2.21)], specimen size [(1.51)], fault displacement [see below (3.6)]
$D_{max}$	maximum fault displacement [(3.5)]
$D_{ave}$	average fault displacement [Figure 3.12]
$D_C$	critical slip distance [(2.27)]
$E$	Young's modulus [(1.2)]
$\bar{E}$	effective modulus [(1.9)]
$E^*$	activation energy [(1.55)]
$E_F$	frictional work in earthquake [(4.5)]
$E_G, G$	fracture energy [(4.5)]
$E_R$	seismic radiated energy [Section 3.3.1]
$F_{ij}(\theta)$	stress function [(1.19)]

xx	List of symbols
$F_l(\theta)$	displacement function [(1.20)]
$F$	shear force [(2.2)]
$F_{SA}$	sea anchor force [(6.16)]
$F_{SU}$	slab suction force [(6.16)]
$G$	energy release rate [(1.21)], fracture energy [(3.6)]
$G_C$	fracture energy [(1.24)]
$h$	hardness parameter [(2.18)]
$k, K$	stiffness [(2.27)], aftershock productivity [(4.20)]
$K_m, K$	stress–intensity factor [(1.19)]
$K_C$	critical stress–intensity factor [(1.24)]
$L$	length of fault or earthquake rupture, length of slipping patch [(2.36)]
$L_C$	nucleation patch length [(2.37)]
$M_o$	seismic moment [(4.1a,b)]
$M$	magnitude [(4.21)]
$M_W$	moment magnitude [(4.2)]
$n$	stress–corrosion index [(1.52)]
$N$	normal force [(2.1)]
$N(L)$	size distribution of lengths [(3.9)]
$N_A$	Avogadro's number [(2.32)]
$p, p_p$	pore pressure [(1.46)], [(6.26)], exponent in Omori law [(4.20)]
$p$	penetration hardness [(2.1)]
$P_S$	seismic flux [(6.9)]
$P_T$	tectonic flux [(6.11)]
$P_G$	seismic flux accumulation [(6.12)]
$Q$	activation energy [(2.32)]
$R$	gas constant [(2.32)]
$s$	shear strength [(2.2)]
$s$	breakdown zone length [Figure 3.10]
$t_h$	healing time [Section 4.2.2]
$t_r$	rise time [(2.41)]
$T$	temperature [(1.55)], thickness of gouge layer [(2.22)], earthquake recurrence time [Section 5.2.2]
$T_o$	uniaxial tensile strength [(1.39)]
$T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4$	transition temperatures in crustal strength model [Section 3.4.1]
$u, u_i$	displacements [(1.20)]
$\Delta \bar{u}$	mean slip in earthquake [(4.1a)]
$\Delta u_i$	slip in earthquake [(4.1b)]
$v$	subcritical crack tip velocity [(1.52)], load point velocity [(2.32)], particle velocity [(2.40)]
$v_r, V_R$	rupture velocity [Section 2.3.5, (4.14)]
$v_{pb}, v_p$	plate velocity [Figure 5.11, (6.11)]
$\Delta V/V$	volumetric strain [Figure 1.17]
$U$	total energy [(1.6)]
$U_e$	strain energy [(1.6)]
$U_s$	surface energy [(1.6)]
$V$	sliding velocity [(2.28)], volume of wear material [(2.21)]
$W$	work [(1.6)]
$W_F$	work of faulting [(4.5)]
$V_p, \alpha$	p wave velocity [Section 4.2.2]
$V_s, \beta$	shear wave velocity [Section 4.2.2]
$\beta$	shear wave velocity [Section 4.2.2]
$\gamma$	specific surface energy [(1.4)]
$\Gamma$	Irwin's energy dissipation factor [(1.27)]

$\delta$	joint closure [(2.7)]
$\delta_{ij}$	kronecker delta [(1.45)]
$\epsilon_{ij}$	strain [(6.2)]
$\nu$	Poisson's ratio [(1.38)]
$\eta$	seismic efficiency [(4,7)], viscosity of plastosphere [Section 5.2.2]
$\eta_R$	radiation efficiency [(4.9)]
$\zeta$	scaled energy [(4.8)]
$\theta$	state variable [(2.28)]
$\theta_s$	angle of jog [Section 3.5.1]
$\kappa$	wear coefficient [(2.22)]
$\mu$	friction coefficient [(2.3)], shear modulus [(1.28)], coefficient of internal friction [(1.34)]
$\mu_o$	base friction coefficient [(2.28)]
$\mu_d$	dynamic friction coefficient [(2.31a)]
$\mu_s$	static friction coefficient [(2.31b)]
$\mu_{ss}$	steady-state friction coefficient [(2.30)]
$\rho$	radius of curvature [(1.5)], density [(3.2)]
$\lambda$	pore-pressure ratio [(3.2)]
$\sigma, \sigma_{ij}$	stress [(1.1)]
$\sigma_t$	theoretical strength [(1.1)]
$\sigma_f$	Griffith strength [(1.12)]
$\sigma_c$	contact normal stress [(2.33a)], critical normal stress [(2.35)]
$\sigma_1$	Initial stress [(4.6)]
$\sigma_2$	final stress [(4.6)]
$\sigma_A$	apparent stress [(4.10)]
$\sigma_F$	frictional stress [see below (4.5)]
$\sigma_n$	normal stress [(1.33)]
$\overline{\sigma}_{ij}$	effective stress [(1.45)]
$\Delta\sigma_s$	static stress drop [(4.3)]
$\tau$	shear stress [(1.33)], asthenospheric relaxation time [Section 5.2.2]
$\tau_o$	cohesion [(1.34)]
$\tau_c$	contact shear stress [(2.33b)]
$\chi$	seismic coupling coefficient [(6.11)]
$\phi$	angle of internal friction [(1.35)], dip of subduction interface [(6.16)]
$\Omega$	activation volume [(2.32)]