Constructing constitutive relations for faulting at high and low sliding speeds

Nick Beeler, US Geological Survey - INGV- 032210



outline

- 1) introduction standard lab friction + why it's not good enough
- 2) constitutive equations with transitions in rate dependence at low speeds

low speed transition to rate strengthening ('brittle-ductile')

the high speed cutoff

- 3) constructing constitutive equations for high speed slip
 - a) shear weakening (fixed weakening distance, onset velocity fixed)

'true' shear weakening

b) thermal weakening (weakening distance and onset speed depend on normal stress, average slip speed)

phase changes (melting, other reactions)

low speed quartzofeldspathic friction, labbased earthquake faulting models strength at high speed (lab)







$$a \text{ low speed transition}$$

$$f = f_0 + a \ln \frac{V}{V_0} + \Delta a \ln \frac{V}{V + V_0} + b\psi$$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \frac{V_0}{d_c} \left(\exp[-\psi] - \frac{V_0 + V}{V_0} \right)$$

$$f_{ss} = f_0 + a \ln \frac{V}{V_0} + \Delta a \ln \frac{V}{V + V_0} + b \ln \frac{V_0}{V + V_0}$$

$$\frac{df_{ss}}{d \ln V} = a + \Delta a - \frac{V(\Delta a + b)}{(V_0 + V)}$$



low speed summary:

it's relatively easy to construct semi-empirical constitutive equations for slow slip rates - examples :

• the low speed transition to pure rate strengthening - follow dieterich, use a low speed cutoff on state while turn on stronger rate strengthening

for some phyllosilicates (serpentine, micas, clays) at room temperature, presumably for more brittle materials at higher temperatures

• two transitions (high speed cutoff and low speed transition) - use a state variable with limits

perhaps all for brittle rocks near the base of the seismogenic zone?, analogs such as halite at room T

problems: there are temperature dependence and hidden rate dependencies not properly studied....⁷





background



generic form for dynamic weakening

$$f = f_0, \qquad V < V_0$$

$$f = (f_o - f_w)\psi + f_w, \quad V > V_0$$

1.0 0.8 friction 0.6 -0.4 -0.2 V_0 0.0 0.5 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 0.0 1.0 slip velocity (m/s)

see Rice (1999); B (2006); BGT (2008)

general weakening constitutive relation

V₀ - phase transition threshold (may depend on normal stress)

 f_0 - low speed friction (may be rate and state or worse)

 $f_{\rm w}$ - residual shear resistance (the transformed strength, may be zero)

 ψ - some function to be determined (by experiment and by theory)

11

shear weakening: true shear weakening

mechanical characteristics:

• strong negative rate dependence

• large slip weakening distance (~1 - 10 m) ? independent of velocity or normal stress ?

• strength recovery independent of temperature (in some cases)

materials:

bare surfaces of quartzite, granite, feldspar (Goldsby and Tullis, 2002) (DiToro et al., 2004) 'gel weakening'

? clay fault gouge (Sone and Shimamoto, 2009)?

? gabbro low normal stress (Mizoguchi et al., 2007) 'moisture related weakening?

? granite (Reches and Lockner, unpublished) 'solid lubrication' ?





shear weakening: true shear weakening mechanisms: shear of Chelungpu fault gouge [Sone and Shimamoto, 2009]



no dependence of slip weakening distance on slip rate

physical mechanism: unknown shear weakening: true shear weakening mechanisms: a constitutive equation

 $f = (f_0 - f_w)\psi + f_w$ general

general weakening constitutive relation

evolution equation for shear and time dependent effects:

- shear induced weakening
- time dependent strengthening

start w/ Ruina (1983):

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = G(V,\psi) = g_1 + g_2$$

 $g_2 = -\psi V/d_c$

true slip weakening (exponential)

 $g_1 = (1 - \psi)/t_c$

true time dependent strengthening (first order chemical reaction rate equation)

 $V_c = d_c / t_c$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \frac{V_c}{d_c} (1 - \psi) - \frac{V\psi}{d_c}$$

$$\psi_{ss} = \frac{V_c}{V_c + V}$$

shear weakening: true shear weakening mechanisms: steady state general weakening constitutive relation $f = (f_0 - f_w)\psi + f_w$ $f_{ss} = (f_0 - f_w) \frac{V_c}{V + V_c} + f_w \qquad \psi_{ss} = \frac{V_c}{V_c + V_c}$ 'gel' weakening Chelungpu Sone and Shimamoto [2009] 0.8 - \Diamond • Goldsby and Tullis [2002] 0.8 ◆ Sone et al [2005] fit 0.7 fit 0.6 -0.6 friction 0.5 friction 0.4 -0.4 -0.3 -0.2 -0.2 -0.0 0.1 10⁻³ 10⁻² 10⁻⁵ 10⁻⁴ 10^{-1} 10^{0} 10^{-7} 10^{-5} 10^{-3} 10^{-1} slip velocity (m/s) slip velocity (m/s) 16







see Nielsen et al [2008] for better steady-state melt relation!

thermal weakening: weakening distance should depend on velocity, normal stress and shear resistance

$$\overline{\tau} = \overline{f}\sigma_n \qquad \Delta d = \frac{\pi\alpha}{V} \left(\frac{\rho \hat{c}\Delta T}{\overline{f}\sigma_n}\right)^2$$

B (2006) also see Brantut et al (2009)



thermal weakening: an idea on how to incorporate in constitutive relations

 $f_{ss} = f_0 \qquad V < V_0$ $f_{ss} = (f_0 - f_w)\psi + f_w \qquad V > V_0$ general weakening constitutive relation

> evolution equation for shear for which the slip weakening distance decreases with increasing slip velocity

start w/ *Ruina* (1983): $\frac{d\psi}{dt} = G(V,\psi) = g_1 + g_2$

 $g_2 = -\psi V/d_c$ true slip weakening (exponential)- like ruina's 'slip' relation $d_c = \frac{d_0 V_0}{V}$ slip weakening distance scales inversely with velocity $g_2 = -\psi V^2/(V_0 d_0)$ assume $\psi_{ss} = \sqrt{\frac{V_0}{V}}$ solve for $g_1 = V^{3/2}/d_0\sqrt{V_0}$

$$\frac{d\psi}{dt} = \frac{V}{d_0} \left(\sqrt{\frac{V}{V_0}} - \frac{V\psi}{V_0} \right)$$

21



• slip weakening distance scales inversely with slip rate (also with normal stress w/ appropriate modification)

- perfect exponential slip weakening
- (also onset slip velocity scales with normal stress not shown)



thermal weakening: strength recovery

added an explicit strength recovery term to the evolution equation



summary of high speed

the differences in slip weakening distance - small and constant (flash weakening), large and constant (true shear weakening), large and variable with normal stress and slip rate (thermal weakening)

• these differences can be indicative of mechanism type

it's relatively easy to construct semi-empirical constitutive equations for the different mechanism types. examples from this talk:

- shear weakening relation balances true slip weakening against time strengthening
- thermal weakening relation has the slip weakening distance depend on velocity and normal stress (also onset slip speed)

problem: strength recovery poorly constrained by lab data [this is changing, see Sone and Shimamoto (2009), Nielsen et al (in press?)]

25

