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1 Recent and future trends in paleopiezometry in the diagenetic domain: insights  
2 into the tectonic paleostress and burial depth history of fold-and-thrust belts  
3 and sedimentary basins

4

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12 and-thrust belt; basin; calcite twinning; stylolites.

13 Abstract

14 Paleopiezometry provides an access to the past stress magnitude, key to better understand the  
15 behaviour of the earth's crust over long period of time. This contribution presents a review of some  
16 paleopiezometric techniques that can be used in the diagenetic domain, in fold-and-thrust belts and  
17 sedimentary basins. Calcite twinning and stylolite roughness techniques have been selected and are  
18 presented through a critical description of their methodologies, along with approaches to further  
19 reconstruct the complete effective stress tensor. Major geological lessons learned over the past  
20 decades from published studies are summarized and discussed along with a way forward to  
21 potential breakthroughs.

22

23 1. Introduction

24 The implication of stress in geological and societal phenomena such as earthquake tectonics,  
25 georesources distribution or mechanical behaviour of materials involves different time scales  
26 (Barton and Zoback, 1994; Mourgues et al., 2011; Sanderson and Zhang, 1999, 2004; Sibson, 1994;  
27 Zoback and Zoback, 1989). To complement current stress measurement unravelling the short-term  
28 mechanical behaviour of the upper crust (e.g., Cornet and Burlet, 1992), it is of prime interest to  
29 characterize not only the orientation, but also the magnitude of stress - should it be of tectonic,  
30 burial or hydrological origin - over long-term time scale (>million years). Past stress magnitude and  
31 its evolution during the geological history is however inherently extremely challenging to infer.

32

33 Determination of past stress magnitude associated with the tectonic history of rock masses  
34 relies upon establishing a close relationship between the stress magnitude and the development of a  
35 conspicuous, commonly encountered structural feature in the rock itself, and calibrating it  
36 experimentally. So-called paleopiezometry developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a  
37 response to the need of picturing the long-term evolution of crustal stress magnitude and of better  
38 constraining the mechanical behaviour of geological materials. A paleopiezometer is fundamentally  
39 different from the measurement of the instantaneous, local ambient stress in that it potentially  
40 records a longer, space- and time-averaged, ancient state of stress that prevailed locally or regionally  
41 in the rock during deformation (Lacombe, 2007).

42 Numerous dynamic paleostress studies were dedicated to reconstruct the succession of past  
43 stress in various tectonic contexts using features the development of which could be linked to a  
44 stress tensor, with 3 orthonormal principal stresses characterised by orientations (usually one close  
45 to vertical) and magnitudes ( $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \sigma_3$ ). This paper reviews the few paleopiezometers that (1) can  
46 be extensively applied to fold-and-thrust belts (FTBs) and sedimentary basins (SBs), (2) have been  
47 calibrated in the diagenetic (P,T) domain, and (3) yield the magnitude of the past stress -should the  
48 latter be the differential stress or the absolute magnitude of one or more of the principal stresses-  
49 along with information on the orientation. Our review therefore excludes paleopiezometric  
50 techniques that miss at least one of these criteria, such as dynamic recrystallization of calcite and  
51 quartz (Twiss, 1977), dislocation density in calcite (Pfiffner, 1982), crystal subgrain size of halite  
52 crystal (Carter and Hansen, 1983), but also approaches calculating stress magnitude from joint  
53 interaction geometry (Dyer, 1988) or at the tip of heterogeneities (Gudmundsson, 2003; Olson and  
54 Pollard, 1991) or those reconstructing vein opening histories and pressures (Becker et al. 2010; Fall  
55 et al., 2016; English & Laubach, 2017).

56 This contribution therefore focuses on two paleopiezometers: calcite twinning inversion  
57 (Etchecopar, 1984) and stylolite roughness inversion (Schmittbuhl et al., 2004). Because the last  
58 reviews on calcite twinning and its potential in tectonic studies date back to Burkhard (1993) and  
59 Lacombe (2010), and because the recent developments and outcomes of stylolite roughness  
60 inversion and the combined use of both techniques have never been critically discussed, it is timely  
61 to present an overview of the principles and limitations of each of these paleopiezometers and how  
62 we can go further to reach principal stress magnitudes. We then illustrate what lessons were drawn  
63 from paleopiezometric reconstructions of compressional/strike-slip stress regimes as encountered in  
64 FTBs and SBs over the past decades, and further discuss the next steps that may lead to  
65 breakthroughs in the understanding of the upper crustal stress.

## 66 2. Paleopiezometers applying in the diagenetic domain

### 67 2.1. Calcite twinning paleopiezometry

68 Twinning of minerals depends on the magnitude of the applied shear stress. One can make  
69 use of this property for evaluating the stress which has been supported by a rock during its history  
70 (Tullis, 1980). Calcite is the most sensitive mineral for twinning and the most likely to record tectonic  
71 stress history in foreland settings where the outcropping formations are mainly sedimentary rocks.  
72 E-twinning is a low-temperature plastic deformation mechanism in calcite. Twinning occurs with a  
73 change of form of part of the host crystal by an approximation to simple shear in a particular sense  
74 and direction along specific crystallographic planes e {01-12}. The resulting twinned portion of the  
75 crystal bears a mirrored crystallographic orientation to the untwinned portion across the twin plane  
76 (Fig.2a-b). Twinning is not thermally activated and is poorly sensitive to either strain rate or  
77 confining pressure, and therefore fulfils most requirements for paleopiezometry.

78 The basis of the widely used Jamison and Spang (1976) technique is that in a sample without  
79 any preferred crystallographic orientation, the relative percentages of grains twinned on 0, 1, 2 or 3  
80 twin plane(s) depend on the applied ( $\sigma_1-\sigma_3$ ) value. Consequently, knowing these relative  
81 percentages in a sample, and assuming a constant Critical Resolved Shear Stress (CRSS) value of 10  
82 MPa for twinning, the magnitude of ( $\sigma_1-\sigma_3$ ) can be estimated. This technique does not take into  
83 account the grain size dependence of twinning and assumes uniaxial stress. The technique of Rowe  
84 and Rutter (1990) relies on the experimental observation that twinning incidence, twin volume  
85 fraction and twin density are sensitive to differential stress; the two first parameters also being  
86 grain-size dependent. Such a technique returns the differential stress in a range of temperature from  
87 200 to 800°C, recently extended down to 20°C (Rybacki et al., 2011). None of these  
88 paleopiezometers provides the stress orientations and regimes, thus they do not check the mutual  
89 compatibility of measured twin systems that may result from a polyphase tectonic history. This  
90 limitation turns those techniques in providers of an arguably meaningful maximum bulk differential  
91 stress.

92 Although new techniques of inversion of calcite twins for stress have recently been released  
93 (Parlangeau et al., 2018; Yamaji, 2015), the most widely used to date is the Calcite Stress Inversion  
94 Technique (CSIT, Etchecopar, 1984). This inversion process assumes that twin gliding along the  
95 twinning direction within the twin plane is geometrically comparable to slip along a slickenside  
96 lineation within a fault plane (Fig. 1b), and that twinning occurs along a twin plane if the resolved  
97 shear stress was greater than the CRSS. The inversion provides the stress tensor that best fits the  
98 distribution of measured twinned and untwinned planes (Fig. 1c). The outcome is a reduced stress  
99 tensor, *i.e.* 4 parameters among the 6 of the absolute stress tensor: principal stress orientation and



100 stress ratio  $\phi$  (defined as  $(\sigma_2 - \sigma_3) / (\sigma_1 - \sigma_3)$ ), as well as a dimensionless differential stress. The access to  
101 the actual differential stress is provided by the knowledge of the actual value of the CRSS,  $10 \pm 4$   
102 MPa, varying with grain size and strain hardening. The isotropic component of the tensor is not  
103 retuned with CSIT (Fig. 1d-e). CSIT has been successfully applied to experimentally and naturally  
104 deformed samples and has shown its ability to decipher superimposed twinning events (Lacombe  
105 and Laurent, 1996; Laurent et al., 2000; Lacombe, 2010 and references therein). Note that the timing  
106 of twinning events has only been inferred to date in the light of a (micro)structural sequence, by  
107 linking the reconstructed stress orientation to the documented fracture sets (e.g. Amrouch et al.,  
108 2010).

109

## 110 2.2. Stylolite roughness paleopiezometry

111 Stylolites are rough surfaces of localized dissolution in the rock (Fig. 1f). The presence of  
112 oriented teeth supports genetic models where compaction-related (vertical) or tectonic-related  
113 (horizontal) maximum principal stress  $\sigma_1$  triggers dissolution of the surrounding rock (Alvarez et al.,  
114 1978; Fletcher and Pollard, 1981; Merino et al., 1983). During dissolution the stylolite accumulates  
115 the less soluble portion of the host, typically clays, that can enhance the dissolution (Bjorkum, 1996;  
116 Renard et al., 2001). Stylolites are common features in carbonates where kilometre-length stylolites  
117 have been documented (Laronne Ben-Itzhak et al., 2014), but also exist in sandstones, marls and  
118 salts, and similar dissolution cleavage can be found in metamorphic rocks (Bell and Cuff, 1989). The  
119 typical roughness of a stylolite shows teeth parallel to the  $\sigma_1$  axis and results from the competition  
120 between roughening force, *i.e.* Zenner pinning where non-soluble heterogeneities (e.g. oxides) resist  
121 dissolution (Brouste et al., 2007; Ebner et al., 2010a; Koehn et al., 2007), and smoothing forces:  
122 the elastic energy at large-scale and the surface energy at small-scale (Schmittbuhl et al., 2004).

123 Empiric studies of single-trace stylolites show that stylolite roughness is a signal that displays  
124 self-affine properties, the log-log graphical representation of which returns two slopes, defined each  
125 by a specific roughness coefficient (Hurst Coefficient) that relates to the scale of observation (Fig. 1g,  
126 Schmittbuhl et al., 2004). The two distinct roughness coefficient are linked to the regimes of growth,  
127 dominated by the surface energy at small-scale (typically below 1 mm) and by the elastic energy at  
128 large-scale (above 1 mm)(Fig. 2b; Ebner et al., 2009ab; 2010b; Rolland et al., 2014; 2012;  
129 Schmittbuhl et al., 2004). Stylolite Roughness Inversion Technique (SRIT) builds on the spatial scale  
130 at which the roughness growth regime switches from elastic energy to surface energy dominated.  
131 This switch, or cross-over length ( $L_c$ ), is related to chemical (surface energy at the solid-fluid interface)  
132 and mechanical (Poisson ratio and Young modulus) properties of the host, and to the applied  
133 differential and mean stresses (Schmittbuhl et al., 2004).

134 Sedimentary stylolites are used to quantify the principal stress closer to the vertical axis that  
135 is related to burial, assuming the stress is isotropic in the stylolite plane (e.g. Ebner et al., 2009a).  
136 Along tectonic stylolite planes, the stress is anisotropic and a periodic  $L_c$  is observed and can be  
137 reconstructed (Beaudoin et al., 2016; Ebner et al., 2010b). Then, if the vertical stress is known,  
138 tectonic stylolites yield principal stress orientations and absolute magnitudes of horizontal principal  
139 stresses.

140 The chemo-mechanical model assumed for SRIT considers that the dissolution occurs on a  
141 pressurized plane at the fluid-rock interface, making this paleopiezometer independent on  
142 surrounding fluid pressure, hence unable to constrain the complete effective stress tensor (Fig. 1h-i).  
143 Although the underlying growth model is independent on the kinetics of dissolution and on  
144 temperature (Schmittbuhl et al., 2004), SRIT relies upon strong mechanical assumptions, especially  
145 the Young modulus that can evolve during diagenesis. Some physical statistic studies of natural  
146 stylolite roughness show that some stylolites do not yield the self-affine properties (Karcz and  
147 Scholz, 2003) predicted by the SRIT growth model. Yet, a recent study has shown that most of the  
148 stylolites of which the morphology belongs to classes 2 (seismogram pinning type) and 3 (suture and  
149 sharp peaks) of the latest classification (Koehn et al., 2016) are consistent with the SRIT growth  
150 model (Beaudoin et al., submitted).

### 151 3. Use of paleopiezometers for burial estimates

152 Assessing the burial depth during deformation is a challenging but vital information to constrain  
153 depositional, thermal and tectonic histories of FTBs and SBs. In the literature, methods to assess the  
154 burial depth (e.g. thermochronology, vitrinite reflectance) and so the vertical stress rely on assuming  
155 the past geothermal gradient. Simpler approaches reconstruct the thickness of the past sedimentary  
156 column by assuming deformation timing, amount of rock compaction and thickness of eroded strata.  
157 Using fluid precipitation temperature reconstructed from Fluid Inclusion Microthermometry (FIM)  
158 on mode I microveins, one can assess the depth and timing of the related deformation providing a  
159 reliable burial model exists for the considered strata (Anders et al., 2014; Becker et al., 2010; English  
160 and Laubach, 2017; Fall et al., 2012; Lespinasse, 1999). Lacombe et al. (2009) used CSIT to estimate  
161 maximum burial depth under the assumptions that the LPS-related differential stress prevailed at  
162 the maximum burial depth and that the stress in the upper crust is in frictional equilibrium (see  
163 section 6.2).

164 Alternatively, the application of SRIT on sedimentary stylolites in various settings (Jura  
165 Mountains: Schmittbuhl et al., 2004; Massif Central: Ebner et al., 2009b; Paris Basin: Rolland et al.,  
166 2014; Apennines: Beaudoin et al., 2016; Potiguar Basin, Brazil: Bertotti et al., 2017) yielded  $\sigma_v$  values  
167 straightforwardly converted into paleodepth independently from the past geothermal gradient.

168 Sedimentary stylolite grows as long as the maximum principal stress is vertical, and its roughness  
169 records the vertical stress prevailing at the time the growth stops, as it equilibrates with stress in  
170 about 200 years (Aharonov and Katsman, 2009). Growth can also halt either because of saturation of  
171 the stylolite plane, or because the maximum vertical stress was reached. Andrews and Railsback  
172 (1997) suggested that very serrate stylolites form earlier than others, and a recent study of a  
173 stylolite population in cores from the Paris basin supports that stylolites with localized, large  
174 amplitude peak, imprint a lower vertical stress than the stylolites where no such large-amplitude  
175 peak occurs and which tend to record the maximum burial vertical stress (Beaudoin et al.,  
176 submitted). Those examples show that SRIT applied on single-trace sedimentary stylolites provides  
177 an accurate access to  $\sigma_v$ , with a potential to decipher a polyphase burial history when considering  
178 morphology. This is of prime interest to finer basin burial/uplift history reconstruction (Bertotti et  
179 al., 2017), and can also be used in FTBs to reconstruct the maximum depth prevailing before the  
180 magnitude of the horizontal stress overcomes the magnitude of the vertical stress (typically at the  
181 onset of LPS). It is also possible to distinguish sedimentary stylolites predating or postdating strata  
182 tilting, so to reconstruct steps of burial/uplift history at fold-scale.

183

#### 184 4. Reconstruction of the complete paleostress tensor

185  
186

187 As none of the paleopiezometers returns the effective magnitude of all principal stresses at once,  
188 it is important to find another way to access the complete stress tensor. A first way is to combine  
189 SRIT on coeval sedimentary stylolites and tectonic stylolites, which provides the absolute  
190 magnitudes for  $\sigma_v$ ,  $\sigma_H$  and  $\sigma_h$ . This combination implies either (1) that burial variation during the LPS  
191 phase remains negligible, as sedimentary stylolites may record the maximum burial depth until  $\sigma_1$   
192 switches from vertical to horizontal as a result of tectonic stress build-up ; or (2) that LPS-related  
193 tectonic stylolites developed at the very onset of the LPS phase. SRIT can further help reconstructing  
194 the effective stress tensor ( $\sigma' = \sigma - Pf$ ) if an independent estimate of fluid pressure, as derived from  
195 hydrocarbon bearing fluid inclusions, is available.

196

197 An established approach to the reconstruction of the effective stress tensor consists in the  
198 combination of paleopiezometers with the mechanical properties of rocks that we propose to call  
199 the coupled Mohr approach. This approach (Fig. 2) is a graphical / analytical way to combine (1) data  
200 about magnitude of differential stress / magnitude of absolute stress / fluid pressure and (2) the  
201 orientation of faults / veins with the mechanics of the host rock, i.e. rupture and reactivation criteria  
202 derived from mechanical tests. The coupled Mohr approach has been first used on a population of  
203 coeval neoformed and reactivated faults, the  $(\sigma_1 - \sigma_3)$  Mohr circle fitting the failure curve at the point  
204 that corresponds to the angle between  $\sigma_1$  and the neoformed fault plane, while reactivated fault

203 planes plot above the Byerlee's friction line (Fig. 2a). This approach allowed reconstructing the  
204 absolute effective stress tensor at the Hoover Dam, USA (Angelier, 1989) and in the Gyeongsang  
205 Basin, Korea (Choi et al., 2013). Necessity of coeval neoformed and reactivated faults limits this  
206 approach, but one of the two fault populations can be substituted by the differential stress  
207 magnitude obtained from CSIT applied on features consistent with the faults (Fig. 2b). This  
208 combination returned the complete effective stress tensor in Burgundy, France (Lacombe and  
209 Laurent, 1992), in Taiwan (Lacombe, 2001) and in the Bighorn Basin, USA (Amrouch et al., 2011). The  
210 fluid pressure can even be derived if the burial depth at the time of twinning is known independently  
211 (Amrouch et al., 2011; Beaudoin et al., 2014b). Only one fault populations can be used if combined  
212 with the fluid pressure estimates from FIM on oriented tectonic microveins consistent with the  
213 faulting (Lespinasse et al., 1995). Fluid pressure estimate can also be combined to rock mechanics  
214 and to independent determination of stress orientation and regime to reconstruct the complete  
215 stress tensor prevailing during vein reopening (André et al., 2000). This method first uses the angular  
216 relationships between the reopened vein planes and the orientation of principal stresses that are  
217 assumed to trigger the reopening ( $\theta$  on figure 2c) to represent the stress ratio  $\phi$ . Measured angle  $\theta$   
218 (e.g.  $\theta_1$ , between average fracture plane and  $\sigma_1$ ) is represented as the angle between the  
219 intersection ( $\sigma_1$ - $\sigma_3$ ) Mohr circle and the value of the fluid pressure  $P_f$  (Upper blue point on Fig. 2c;  
220 Jolly and Sanderson, 1997). Second, the Mohr circle is scaled by respecting that the reopened vein  
221 poles plot either above the frictional reactivation curve (e.g. Byerlee, grey area on Fig. 2c) and/or  
222 that their corresponding normal stress is lower than the fluid pressure (blue area on Fig. 2c). Such a  
223 combination of faulting/fracturing, rock mechanics and FIM was used to assess the effective stress  
224 tensor in the Rhine graben, France (André et al., 2001) and in Dharwar craton, India (Lahiri and  
225 Mamtani, 2016). The use of FIM also potentially allows determination of the depth and relative  
226 timing of stress events (Anders et al., 2014; Becker et al., 2010; Fall et al., 2012; 2016).

227

## 228 5. Lessons from paleopiezometry applied to fold-and-thrust belts and sedimentary basins

229

### 230 5.1 Paleopiezometry at fold-and-thrust belt-scale: evidence of forelandward orogenic stress 231 attenuation?

232 At the scale of an orogen, it is hard to document the way orogenic stresses are transmitted  
233 from the hinterland to the foreland. Yet stress magnitude is a key factor controlling fracture  
234 distribution hence large-scale geofluid migration (Beaudoin et al., 2014a). Calcite twinning  
235 paleopiezometry has been used in various ranges to quantify differential stress magnitude across the  
236 foreland, either deformed (*i.e.* FTB) or stable. Several studies show a rapid decrease of the

237 differential stress magnitude in the first hundreds kilometres forelandward from the  
238 hinterland/foreland boundary, as for instance in the Sevier and Appalachian forelands (Craddock et  
239 al., 1993; van der Pluijm et al., 1997), where the authors concluded that the similarity of stress  
240 patterns observed in different forelands supports that the range acts as a filter for the stress  
241 regardless of the tectonic style in the orogen. A decreasing trend of the differential stress is also  
242 documented in the Ouachita range across the Tennessee salient (Fig. 3a, Hnat and van der Pluijm,  
243 2011), in the Hellenides range (Xypolias and Koukouvelas, 2005; Fig.3c) and in the north Pyrenean  
244 foreland (Lacombe et al., 1996; Rocher et al., 2000). In the Zagros range, yet, differential stress was  
245 instead rather low and constant across the deformed foreland and in part of the hinterland (Fig. 3b,  
246 Lacombe et al., 2007), supporting 1- a regional decoupling between the basement and the  
247 sedimentary cover and fold development at very low differential stresses (buckling) and 2- that the  
248 differential stress attenuation observed in other orogenic forelands may not be a general rule.

## 249 5.2 Paleopiezometry at the fold-scale: evidence for stress compartmentalization and 250 horizontal stress anisotropy?

251 Long-term evolution of stress magnitudes and regimes during folding has been addressed  
252 through numerical modelling (Albertz and Sanz, 2012; Guiton et al., 2003; Sassi et al., 2012; Smart et  
253 al., 2012). Yet, there are few tectonic paleostress reconstructions on natural folds (Amrouch et al.,  
254 2011; Arboit et al., 2017; Beaudoin et al., 2012; Lacombe, 2001). The application of CSIT and of the  
255 coupled Mohr approach in the well-constrained fracture history frame of the Sheep Mountain  
256 Anticline (USA) was pioneer in reconstructing the evolution of stress magnitudes during the  
257 Laramide tectonic history (Amrouch et al., 2011). The stress evolution highlights some local stress  
258 perturbation effects, such as at the tip of the propagating underlying basement thrust (Fig 4a). The  
259 study also shows how the coupled Mohr approach helps quantify past fluid (over) pressure  
260 (Beaudoin et al., 2014b), offering an alternative approach to classical barometric techniques such as  
261 FIM (e.g Hooker et al., 2015). The combination of CSIT on veins and SRIT on both sedimentary and  
262 tectonic stylolites from the Monte Nero Anticline (Central Apennines, Beaudoin et al., 2016)  
263 documents that stress may vary in a more complex way than previously documented (Fig. 4b). Upon  
264 the assumption that during a given tectonic stage (e.g. LPS), calcite twins and tectonic stylolites  
265 sharing a common orientation of  $\sigma_1$  developed in a sequence occurring at similar depth (fig. 4b),  
266 then the Monte Nero case shows an anisotropic variation of the stress in the horizontal plane during  
267 stress build-up, even prior to folding. The results also demonstrate how erosion and local sediment  
268 redistribution or structural burial in the overturned forelimb can locally switch the stress regime  
269 from contractional to extensional (Fig. 4b). These two examples illustrate how powerful is the  
270 combination of paleopiezometers to better capture and understand the stress and burial history

271 during folding, but also raise questions about the timing and the significance of the stress record by  
272 the distinctive paleopiezometers.

## 273 6. Discussion and way forward

### 274 6.1. Unlocking methodological limitations

275 The paleopiezometers we presented are likely to improve by better constraining the process  
276 of stress record through monitored experiments, both in numerical or laboratory environments. As  
277 an example, CSIT is based on the assumption of a CRSS for twinning, which value has never been  
278 calibrated for a full range of grain size and is still a matter of debate (De Bresser et al., 1997, Ferrill,  
279 1998; Covey-Crump et al., 2017). Also, the extension of SRIT to multi-trace stylolites, or to  
280 anamostosis network, will be possible once the physical meaning behind these phenomena  
281 (merging, saturation, reactivation of stylolite planes) will be understood in a mechanical way. Recent  
282 imagery techniques, such as Electron Back Scatter Diffractometer or Xray MicroComputed  
283 tomography, can slightly improve data acquisition, but they are mainly promising tools to observe  
284 the live deformation phenomenon under controlled conditions, paving the way to a better  
285 calibration of the stress-deformation relationship, reduction of uncertainty and possible separation  
286 of the various components of the recorded stress tensor. New paleopiezometers can also be  
287 developed, as illustrated by the recent study of rhythmically-spaced textures found in some  
288 dolostones (Zebra Dolomite), of which the banding spacing has been related to the applied  $\sigma_v$  and  
289 the permeability during crystallisation (Kelka et al., 2017).

### 290 6.2. From local paleopiezometric record to long-term crustal rheology

291 Figure 5 presents a new compilation of differential stress estimates from orogenic contexts  
292 (horizontal  $\sigma_1$ , strike-slip or compressional stress regimes) as a function of paleodepth of  
293 deformation, regardless of the paleopiezometers used and of their own limitations (Table S1); it is an  
294 update of the previous release by Lacombe (2007) and includes as such most of the stress estimates  
295 published over the last 10 years while widening the range of encompassed paleopiezometers.

296 At the first order, differential stress increases with depth, which supports a long-term frictional  
297 behavior of the upper crust, with higher stress, hence higher crustal strength, in compressional  
298 regime than in strike-slip regime. In addition, most differential stress data plot along, or close to, the  
299 stress-depth curves predicted for a critically stressed crust for a range of friction coefficients and  
300 pore pressure ratios, while only few reflect stress level beyond the frictional yield (Lacombe, 2007).  
301 This clear increase of differential stress with depth casts doubt onto the interpretation of  
302 forelandward orogenic stress attenuation (section 3.b) unless the reported magnitudes of  
303 differential stress have been properly normalized to the depth of deformation. If the decreasing

304 trend is true, it could well reflect a forelandward orogenic stress attenuation as proposed or,  
305 alternatively, a constant (intraplate) background stress level significantly disturbed by the stress  
306 accumulation near the crustal thrust at the hinterland-foreland boundary (Lacombe et al., 1996).  
307 This debate emphasizes the need for combining such data with new numerical modelling of how the  
308 stress is transmitted from the orogen to the (variably coupled) foreland. Also, it illustrates that  
309 assessing the depth at the time of the deformation is a key parameter in paleopiezometry.

### 310 6.3. Timing and time-scale of the paleopiezometric record

311 A central point of discussion concerns the timing of paleopiezometric record. This point  
312 encompasses the time-scale at which the various paleopiezometers record stress (i.e., duration and  
313 rate, progressive vs instantaneous stress record), but also the timing of the stress event within the  
314 geological history (i.e., dating).

315 Paleopiezometers such as CSIT and to a greater extent the coupled Mohr approach likely  
316 return a maximum stress value possibly following a long-lasting stress build-up during a given tectonic  
317 event. In contrast, SRIT grants a potential access to different time of deformation when applied  
318 to a population, as individual stylolites act as pseudo-snapshots of stress. The  
319 comparison/combination of the different paleopiezometers offers a glimpse of that access to stress  
320 to various time-scales, which can lead to a better recognition of the effect of transient phenomena  
321 on the recorded stress such as seepage forces (e.g., Cobbold and Rodrigues, 2007; Mourgues and  
322 Cobbold, 2003).

323 Concerning the timing of the stress record - a blind spot for most present paleopiezometers-  
324 recent development in absolute dating of vein calcite cements using U/Pb technique (Hansman et  
325 al., 2018; Parrish et al., 2018) can well be one next breakthrough in paleostress studies. Indeed,  
326 absolute dating can be conducted on calcite cement from (1) veins from which stress magnitudes  
327 can be characterized using CSIT, and (2) veins developing at the tip of the coeval stylolites, likely  
328 from the deposition of the dissolved material. Such developments would be a major addition to the  
329 inference of deformation age by integrating cement precipitation temperature from FIM to burial  
330 models that rely on past geothermal gradient (Anders et al., 2014; Laubach et al., 2016).

331 Accessing the absolute timing of deformation would help solve some of the remaining  
332 questions, for example about the mechanical-based 4D models that govern stress distribution in  
333 reservoirs and at a larger scale in orogenic forelands, stress perturbations related to faults, or to  
334 discuss the paradigm of the averaged isotropic effect of the fluid pressure on the stress tensor.  
335 Future breakthrough should come with the multiplication of data acquisition combining

336 paleopiezometers, with the coupling to absolute dating, and with a better calibration and  
337 understanding of the microstructures paleopiezometry is based on.

338

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570  
571 Figure captions

572

573 Figure 1 – Summary of the selected paleopiezometers valid in the diagenetic domains. a-e) Calcite  
574 twinning inversion technique CSIT (Etchecopar, 1984): a) microphotograph of twinning in calcite  
575 crystals, black bar is 0.1 mm, b) sketch of a twin lamella ( $C/C'$  : optical axis of host crystal/twin  
576 lamella, respectively), c) Distribution of twinned and untwinned planes measured in a calcite crystal  
577 population regarding the normalized resolved shear stress (RSS) vs the normal stress  $\sigma_n$ ,  $RSS/CRSS$  :  
578 Resolved shear stress /Critical RSS, d) Outcome of CSIT in term of stress magnitude represented on a  
579 schematic Mohr diagram ( $\tau$ = tangential vs  $\sigma_n$ = normal stress), red arrows represent uncertainty  
580 about the values of the effective principal stresses, e) outputs and remarks. f-i) Stylolite roughness  
581 inversion technique SRIT (Schmittbuhl et al., 2004): f) microphotograph of a stylolite, black bar is 5  
582 mm, g) top: ideal roughness signal split into a sum of large wavelength signal and small wavelength  
583 signal, bottom: corresponding signal analysis by Fast Fourier Transform (Fourier Power Spectrum  
584 ( $P(k)$ ) vs Spatial Frequency  $k$  ( $\text{mm}^{-1}$ )) that shows two different slopes with coefficient factor typical  
585 for elastic energy at large scale and surface energy at small scale, and a Crossover Length  $L_c$  used to

586 calculate the magnitude of the principal stress parallel to the peaks, h) Outcome of SRIT in term of  
587 stress magnitude represented on a schematic Mohr diagram, i) outputs and remarks.

588 Figure 2 – Illustration of the coupled Mohr approach to obtain the complete effective stress tensor.  
589  $\alpha$  represents the measured angle between  $\sigma_1$  and the considered fracture plane, the red square  
590 correspond to the tangency to the failure criterion. a) Original method using populations of  
591 neoformed and reactivated faults (Angelier, 1989); b) Use of CSIT on oriented veins (Amrouch et al.,  
592 2011); c) combination of fluid pressure estimate from fluid inclusion microthermometry, frictional  
593 reactivation curve and reopened vein orientation (André et al., 2001).  $\theta_{1\text{ or }2}$  represents the angle  
594 between reopened veins strike and the  $\sigma_{1\text{ or }2}$ , blue points correspond to the intersection between  
595 the Mohr circles and the measured fluid pressure, grey and blue areas correspond to the domain  
596 wherein veins can be reopened.

597 Figure 3 – Case studies illustrating the reconstructed evolution of differential stress ( $\sigma_1 - \sigma_3$ ) vs  
598 distance to the hinterland/foreland boundary using calcite twinning paleopiezometry. a) Exponential  
599 decrease of the differential stress in the Ouachita foreland using Jamison and Spang technique  
600 (triangles from Hnat et al., 2013, squares from van der Pluijm et al., 1997); b) Nearly stable  
601 differential stress in the hinterland and FTB of the Zagros using CSIT (Lacombe et al., 2007). An  
602 alternative interpretation suggesting a decrease is also proposed; c) Decreasing differential stress in  
603 the first 100 km of External Hellenides FTB, using Jamison and Spang technique (Xypolias and  
604 Koukouvelas, 2005).

605 Figure 4 – Case studies illustrating the reconstruction of the evolution of the principal stress  
606 orientations and effective or absolute stress magnitudes at the fold scale, along with schematic  
607 representation of the deformation pattern at each stage of deformation (including folding), with  
608 neoformed/reactivated features in red, and corresponding Mohr circle aligned. a) case of the Sheep  
609 Mountain Anticline, USA (Amrouch et al., 2011), where the coupled Mohr approach allows  
610 reconstruction of the effective stress tensor at each stage of deformation ( $\sigma' = \sigma - Pf$ ) in the strata  
611 from fold limbs. b) case of the Monte Nero Anticline, Italy, where SRIT and CSIT are combined and  
612 depth is derived from SRIT on sedimentary stylolites (values re-evaluated after Beaudoin et al.,  
613 2016). Paleostress results are reported on the Mohr diagram (SRIT, grey ; CSIT, white) as absolute  
614 stress magnitudes ( $\sigma_H$ , maximum horizontal principal stress;  $\sigma_h$ , minimum horizontal principal stress ;  
615  $\sigma_v$ , vertical stress;  $\sigma_{xc}$ , CSIT;  $\sigma_{xs}$ , SRIT).

616 Figure 5 – Log-log plot of differential stress (MPa) obtained from paleopiezometry in orogenic  
617 forelands and basins versus independent estimates of the depth (km) at the time of deformation,  
618 from data available in the literature. The frictional stress equilibrium curves according to the stress

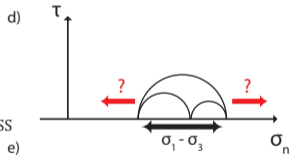
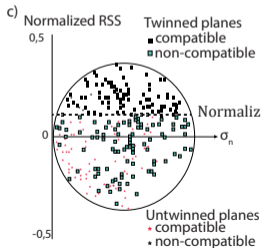
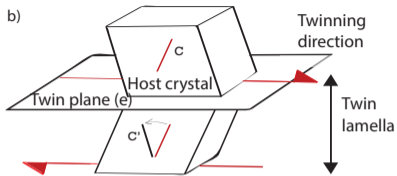
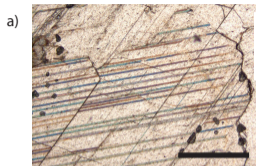
619 regime, friction coefficient ( $\mu$ ) and pore fluid ratio ( $\lambda$ ) are reported as solid (dry,  $\lambda=0$ ) or dashed  
620 (hydrostatic fluid pressure,  $\lambda=0.38$ ) lines, the colour of which refers to the stress regime and  $\mu$  value.  
621 The number next to the black square is the case study ID and refers to table S1. ID colour refers to  
622 the paleopiezometric technique used. The error bars correspond either to the range of stress/depth  
623 values reported in the literature for each case study or to an arbitrary 10% of the value if a range  
624 was not available, the colours are related to the stress regime. Frames (SS : strike-slip, SS/R : strike-  
625 slip /compressional, i.e., transpressional ; R : compressional) correspond to the stress regime  
626 domains as derived from the plot.

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628

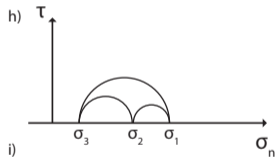
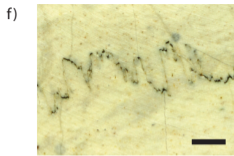
# Figure 1

## Calcite Twinning Inversion

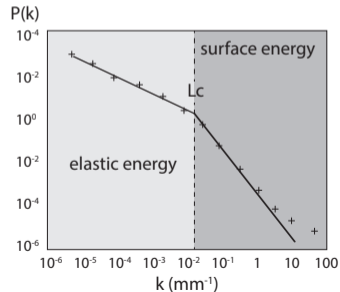
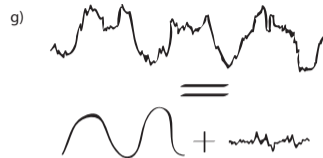


- Principal stress orientations
- Stress ratio (shape of the stress ellipsoid)
- Differential stress magnitudes ( $\sigma_1 - \sigma_3$ )
- Missing isotropic component of the tensor
- Missing  $P_f$

## Stylolite Roughness Inversion



- Principal stress orientations
- Absolute magnitudes of  $\sigma_H$  and  $\sigma_h$  if  $\sigma_v$  is known, for instance from sedimentary stylolites
- Missing  $P_f$

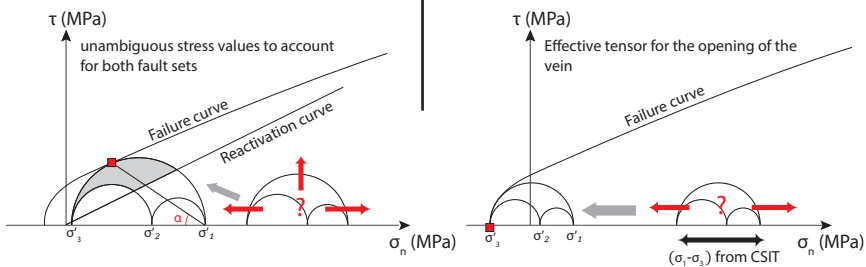




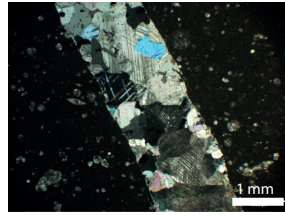
a)



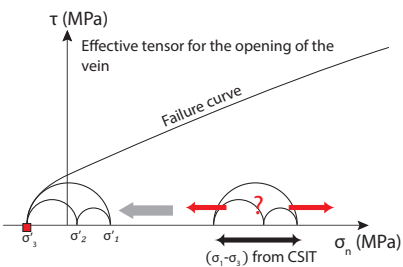
Striated faults  
Neoformed + reactivated  
+  
rock mechanics



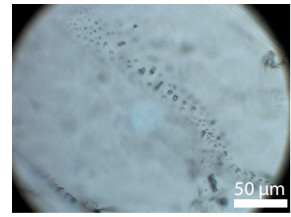
b)



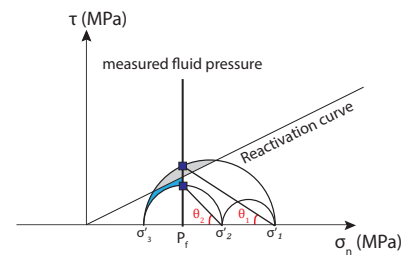
Calcite twins (CSIT) from veins  
+  
rock mechanics

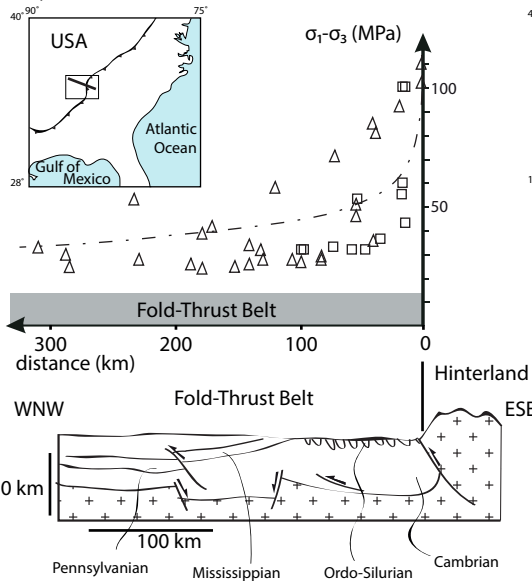
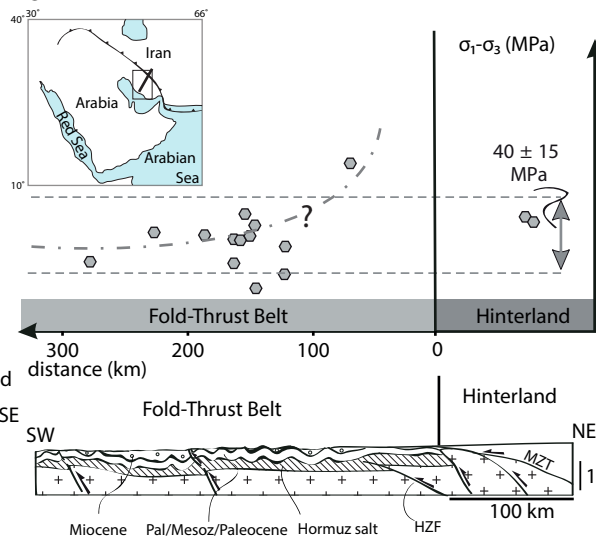
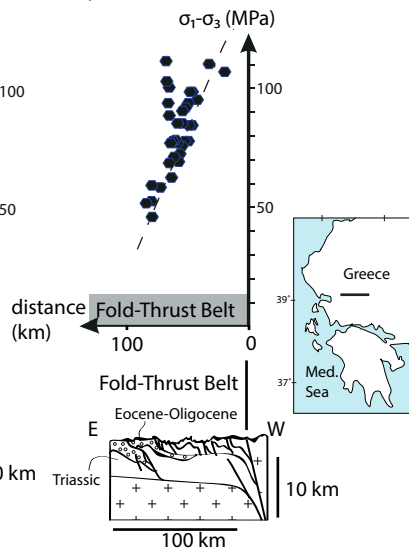


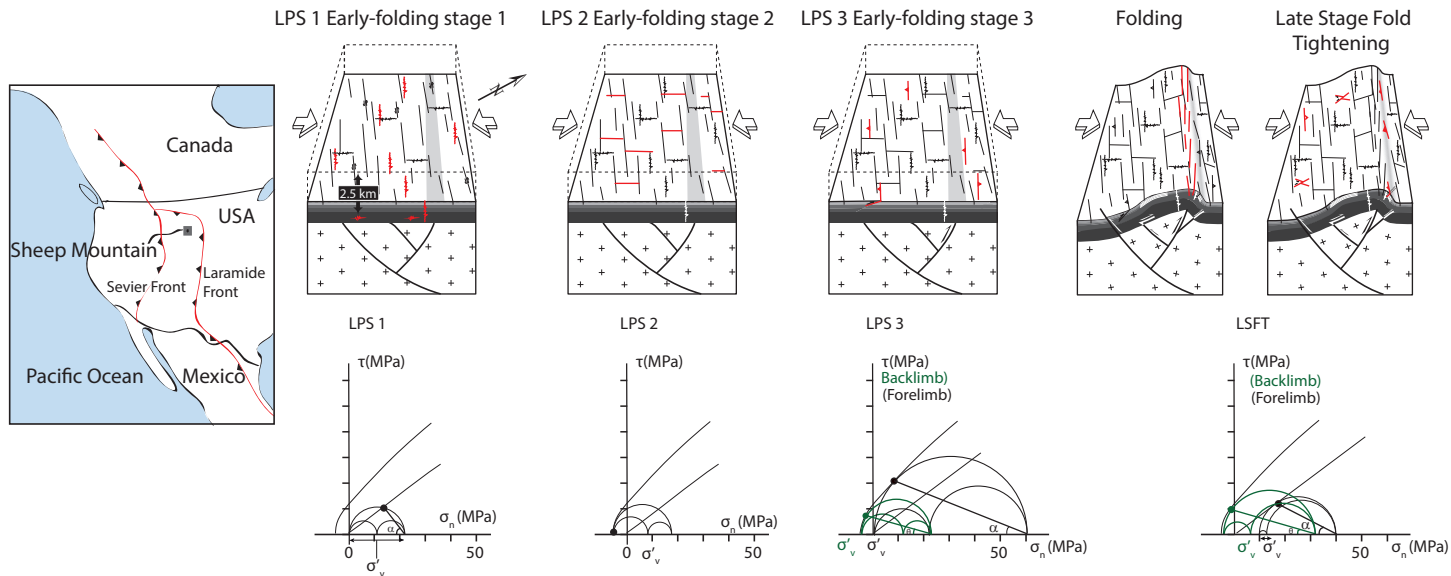
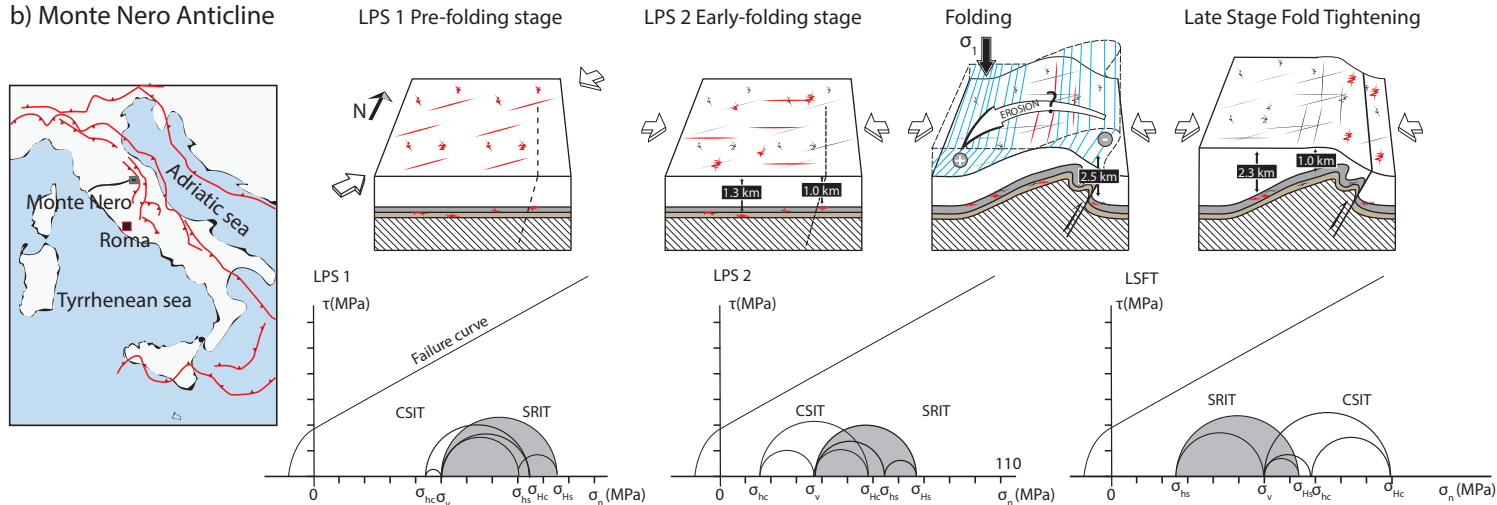
c)



Pressure estimate from fluid inclusion  
microthermometry  
+  
Stress orientation and regime estimate  
+  
rock mechanics



**Figure 3****a) Ouachita belt****b) Zagros belt****c) External Hellenides**

**Figure 4****a) Sheep Mountain Anticline****b) Monte Nero Anticline**

**Figure 5**

Differential stress magnitudes ( $\sigma_1 - \sigma_3$ ) (MPa)

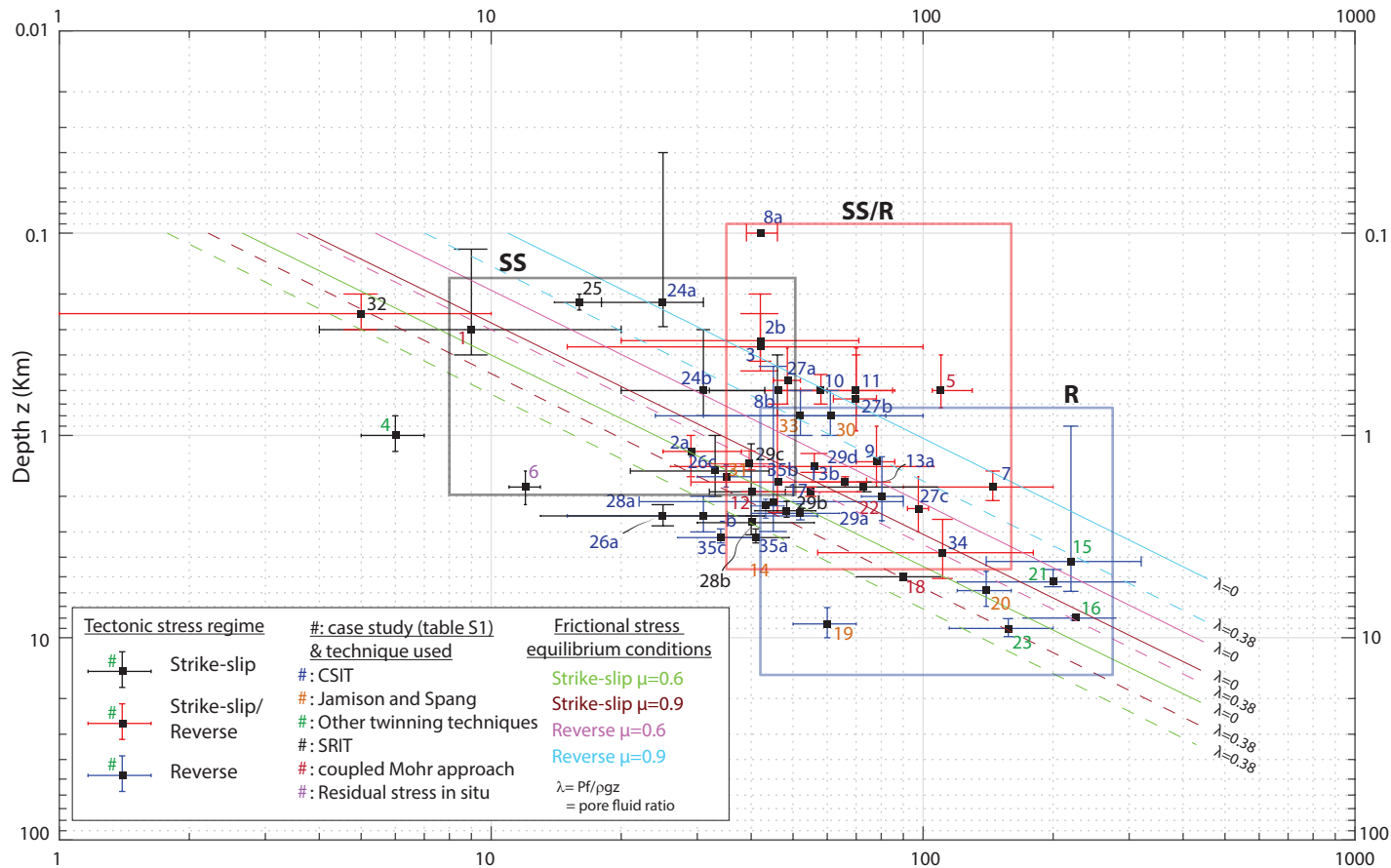


Table S1. Literature review of paleopiezometric studies in the fold-and-thrust belts and sedimentary basin.

#	Case studies	Paleopiezometric Techniques	Differential stress (Mpa)		Depth estimates (m)		Regime	Authors <sup>1</sup>
			mean ( $\sigma_1-\sigma_3$ )	range ( $\sigma_1-\sigma_3$ )*	mean depth	range depth*		
1	Causses (France)	Mohr Approach (Faults)	9	[4-20]	300	[200-480]	SS	Rispoli & Vasseur, 1983
2a	Zagros (Oman)	CSIT	29	[25-38]	1200	[800-1400]	R/SS	Lacombe et al., 2007
2b	Zagros (Oman)	CSIT	42	[20-71]	340	[250-480]	R/SS	Lacombe et al., 2007
3	Taiwan	CSIT	42	[15-100]	365	[250-480]	SS	Lacombe, 2001
4	Appalachian Plateau (USA)	DD	6	[5-7]	1000	[800-1200]	SS	Engelder, 1982
5	Germany	Mohr Approach (Faults)	110	[105-130]	600	[470-800]	R/SS	Bergerat et al., 1985
6	Appalachian Plateau (USA)	Residual stress in situ	12	[11-13]	1800	[1400-2100]	SS	Engelder and Geiser, 1984
7	Taiwan W	CSIT	145	[90-200]	1800	[1500-2100]	RR/SS	Lacombe, 2001
8a	Burgundy (France)	CSIT	42	[39-46]	100	[0-200]	R/SS	Lacombe and Laurent, 1992
8b	Burgundy (France)	CSIT	46	[32-60]	600	[400-800]	SS	Lacombe and Laurent, 1992
9	Pyrenees (France)	CSIT	78	[70-86]	1350	[900-1800]	R/SS	Tourneret and Laurent, 1990
10	Provence	CSIT	58	[43-86]	600	[500-700]	R/SS	Lacombe et al., 1991
11	Taiwan W	CSIT	70	[52-85]	600	[400-800]	R/SS	Lacombe, 2001
12	Morocco	Mohr Approach (Faults)	40	[32-48]	1900	[1300-2700]	SS	Petit, 1976
13a	Paris basin (France)	CSIT	73	[48-108]	1800	[1700-1900]	SS	Lacombe et al., 1994
13b	Paris basin (France)	CSIT	66	[55-84]	1700	[1600-1800]	R/SS	Lacombe et al., 1994
14	Subalpine chain (France)	JS	45	[22-90]	4200	[2500-7500]	R	Ferrill, 1998
15	Subalpine chain (France)	RR	220	[140-320]	4200	[2500-7500]	R	Ferrill, 1998
16	Cantabrian (Spain)	RR	225	[170-280]	8000	[7800-8200]	R	Rowe and Rutter, 1990
17	Thailand	CSIT	55	[38-72]	1900	[1800-2000]	R/SS	Arboit et al., 2017
18	Massif Central (France)	Mohr Approach (Faults and FIP)	90	[70-110]	5000	[4800-5200]	SS	Lespinasse & Cathelineau, 1995
19	Pyrenees (Spain)	JS	60	[50-68]	8550	[7100-10000]	R	Holl and Anastasio, 1995
20	Rocky (Canada)	JS	140	[125-155]	5850	[4700-7000]	R	Jamison and Spang, 1976
21	Alps (Switzerland)	DD	200	[120-310]	5300	[5000-6000]	R	Pfiffner, 1982
22	South Korea	Mohr Approach (Faults)	80,6	[72-88]	2000	[1300-2700]	R	Choi et al., 2013
23	Pioneer landing (USA)	Dolomite twins JS/RR	157,5	[115-200]	9000	[8000-10000]	R	Newmann, 1994
24a	Lorraine (France)	CSIT	25	[18-31]	220	[150-400]	SS	Rocher et al., 2004
24b	Lorraine (France)	CSIT	31	[20-43]	600	[400-900]	SS	Rocher et al., 2004
25	Swabian Jura (Germany)	SRIT	16	[14-18]	220	[200-240]	SS	Ebner et al., 2010
26b	Bighorn Basin (USA)	CSIT	31	[18-45]	2500	[2000-3000]	R/SS	Amrouch et al., 2010
26c	Bighorn Basin (USA)	CSIT	33	[21-44]	1500	[1000-2000]	SS	Amrouch et al., 2010
26a	Bighorn Basin (USA)	CSIT	25	[13-43]	2500	[2200-2800]	SS	Amrouch et al., 2010
27a	Hellenides (Greece)	CSIT	48,5	[45-52]	535	[370-700]	R	Xypolias & Koukouvelas, 2005
27b	Hellenides (Greece)	CSIT	70	[62-78]	660	[370-950]	R	Xypolias & Koukouvelas, 2005
27c	Hellenides (Greece)	CSIT	97,5	[92-103]	2300	[1600-3000]	R	Xypolias & Koukouvelas, 2005
28a	Monte nero (Italy)	CSIT	40	[30-56]	2100	[1600-2500]	SS	Beaudoin et al., 2016
28b	Monte nero (Italy)	SRIT	44	[40-48]	2100	[1600-2500]	R	Beaudoin et al., 2016
29a	Monte nero (Italy)	CSIT	52	[40-64]	2500	[2000-2500]	R	Beaudoin et al., 2016
29b	Monte nero (Italy)	SRIT	48	[44-52]	2500	[2000-2500]	SS	Beaudoin et al., 2016
29c	Monte nero (Italy)	SRIT	39	[34-43]	1600	[1000-1700]	R/SS	Beaudoin et al., 2016
29d	Monte nero (Italy)	CSIT	56	[26-106]	1600	[1000-1700]	R/SS	Beaudoin et al., 2016
30	Ouachita (USA)	JS	61	[24-82]	800	[600-1000]	R	Craddock et al., 1993
31	Appalachian (USA)**	JS	35	[30-40]	1600	[1400-1800]	R	Craddock et al., 1993
32	Paris basin (France)	SRIT	5	[1-10]	250	[200-300]	SS	Rolland et al., 2014
33	Appalachian (USA)	JS	52	[31-100]	800	[600-1000]	R	Hnat and van der Pluijm, 2011
34	Albania	CSIT	111	[57-180]	3800	[2500-5000]	R/SS	Lacombe et al., 2009
35a	Bighorn Basin (USA)	CSIT	41	[34-49]	3200	[3000-3500]	SS	Beaudoin et al., 2012
35b	Bighorn Basin (USA)	CSIT	46	[29-74]	1700	[1000-2700]	R/SS	Beaudoin et al., 2012
35c	Bighorn Basin (USA)	CSIT	34	[27-41]	3200	[3000-3500]	R	Beaudoin et al., 2012

\*a 10% range has been calculated for data from literature provided without error; \*\* Some data from this study were discarded in accordance to the technique's limitations; 28b, 29b & c reevaluated after Beaudoin et al., 2016

CSIT: Calcite Stress Inversion Technique; JS: Jamison and Spang; RR: Rowe and Rutter; DD: Dislocation Density in Calcite; SRIT: Stylolite Roughness Inversion Technique

<sup>1</sup> By order of appearance: Rispoli & Vasseur, 1983. *Tectonophysics*, 93, 169-184; Lacombe, 2007. *Journal of Structural Geology*, 29, 86-99; Lacombe, 2001. *Tectonics*, 20, 834-849; Engelder, 1982. *Tectonics*, 1, 161-177; Bergerat et al., 1985. *Geologische Rundschau* 74, 311-320; Engelder & Geiser, 1984. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, 89, 9365-9370; Lacombe & Laurent, 1992. *Tectonophysics* 202, 83-93; Tourneret & Laurent, 1990. *Tectonophysics*, 180, 287-302; Lacombe et al., 1991. *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des sciences. Série 2, Mécanique, Physique, Chimie, Sciences de l'univers, Sciences de la Terre*, 313, 1187-1194; Petit, 1976. PhD thesis. Université des Sciences et Techniques du Languedoc; Lacombe et al., 1994. *Peri-Tethyan Platforms*, 197-210; Ferrill, 1998. *Tectonophysics*, 285, 77-86; Rowe & Rutter, 1990. *Journal of Structural Geology*, 12, 1-17; Arboit et al., 2017. *Tectonophysics*, 710, 266-276; Lespinasse & Cathelineau, 1995. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, 100, 3895-3904; Holl & Anastasio, 1995. *Journal of Structural Geology*, 17, 357-369; Jamison & Spang, 1976. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, 87, 868-872; Pfiffner, 1982. *Journal of Structural Geology*, 4, 429-442; Choi et al., 2013. *Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France* 184, 467-484; Newman, 1994. *Journal of Structural Geology* 16, 1589-1601; Rocher et al., 2004. *Tectonophysics*, 387, 1-21; Ebner et al., 2010. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 115, B06403; Amrouch et al., 2010. *Geophysical Journal International*, 182, 1105-1123; Xypolias & Koukouvelas, 2005. *Episodes*, 28, 245-251; Beaudoin et al., 2016. *Tectonics*, 35, 1687-1712; Craddock et al., 1993. *Tectonics*, 12, 257-264; Rolland et al., 2014. *International Journal of Rock Mechanics and Mining Sciences*, 67, 212-225; Hnat & van der Pluijm, 2011. *Lithosphere*, 3, 317-327; Lacombe et al., 2009. *Tectonophysics*, 475, 128-141; Beaudoin et al., 2012. *Tectonophysics*, 576-577, 20-45.