

## ***Interactive comment on “Polyphase evolution of a crustal-scale shear zone during progressive exhumation from ductile to brittle behaviour: a case study from Calabria, Italy” by E. Fazio et al.***

**E. Fazio et al.**

efazio@unict.it

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Dear reviewer #1, we appreciated your criticism about our manuscript and we would like to thank you for the time spent on it. Nevertheless, we would like to have the opportunity to re-organize its overall structure after a restyling of the English expressions. We could revise the form by a native speaker in order to clarify the concepts. We agree with you about the possibility to focus the paper on the viscous deformation of the Montalto shear zone (MSZ) rather than describe the entire evolution avoiding to treat also the fragile history. Of course, as suggested by you, we will give the appropriate kinematic and geometric framework. Probably the whole manuscript will benefit of

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this choice resulting more linear and clear. The MSZ is a good example of structures forming a continuum from a clear viscous to regime to a fragile one and for this reason we decided to illustrate the entire exhumation process. Please sorry for the misunderstanding arisen in the chapter 5 entitled "Discussion and timing of deformational phases" which is due to the fact that we have named erroneously "phases" instead of "orogenic cycles" (reported in Fig. 15 as Late Alpine, Early Apennine, and Late Apennine) the three main stages of the MSZ history. In our opinion there are a lot of good structural data both at meso- and micro-scale, probably them have been illustrated without a valid organization. We could re-organize the manuscript according to reviewers suggestions if the Editor will give us such opportunity. We hope there is enough time to re-arrange the manuscript and prepare a revised version of it by following your suggestions. Thank you for your kind attention. Best regards, Eugenio Fazio on behalf of co-authors

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