

1 **Controls on fault zone structure and brittle fracturing in the foliated hanging-**
2 **wall of the Alpine Fault**

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16
17 **Abstract**

18 Three datasets are used to quantify fracture density, orientation, and fill in the foliated
19 hanging-wall of the Alpine Fault: (1) X-ray computed tomography (CT) images of drill-core
20 collected within 25 m of its principal slip zones (PSZs) during the first phase of the Deep
21 Fault Drilling Project that were reoriented with respect to borehole televiewer images, (2)
22 field measurements from creek sections up to 500 m from the PSZs, and (3) CT images of
23 oriented drill-core collected during the Amethyst Hydro Project at distances of ~0.7-2 km
24 from the PSZs. Results show that within 160 m of the PSZs in foliated cataclasites and

ultramylonites, gouge-filled fractures exhibit a wide range of orientations. At these distances, fractures are interpreted to have formed at relatively high confining pressures and/or in rocks that had a weak mechanical anisotropy. Conversely, at distances greater than 160 m from the PSZs, fractures are typically open and subparallel to the mylonitic or schistose foliation, implying that fracturing occurred at low confining pressures and/or in rocks that were mechanically anisotropic. Fracture density is similar across the ~500 m width of the field transects. By combining our datasets with measurements of permeability and seismic velocity around the Alpine Fault, we further develop the hierarchical model for hanging-wall damage structure that was proposed by Townend et al., (2017). The wider zone of foliation-parallel fractures represents an ‘outer damage zone’ that forms in the near-surface. The distinct <160 m wide interval of widely oriented gouge-filled fractures constitutes an ‘inner damage zone.’ This zone is interpreted to extend towards the base of the seismogenic crust given that its width is comparable to: (1) the Alpine Fault low-velocity zone detected by fault zone guided waves, and (2) damage zones reported from other exhumed large-displacement faults. In summary, a narrow zone of fracturing at the base of the Alpine Fault’s hanging-wall seismogenic crust is anticipated to widen in the near-surface, which is consistent with fault zone flower structure models.

Keywords: fractures, anisotropy, Alpine Fault, Deep Fault Drilling Project, damage zone

1. Introduction

Conceptual models of fault zone structure in the upper crust often invoke a relatively narrow “fault core” that accommodates most displacement, surrounded by a halo of heavily fractured rock termed the “damage zone” (Caine et al., 1996; Chester et al., 1993; Chester and Logan, 1986; Faulkner et al., 2010). These models have been successfully applied in a variety of tectonic settings and for a wide range of fault displacements and exhumation depths (e.g. Choi et al., 2016; Faulkner et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2004; Mitchell and Faulkner, 2009; Savage and Brodsky, 2011). However, the term “damage zone” has been applied by

geologists and geophysicists to describe a variety of fault-related features, such as fractures and faults at stepovers and bends (Chester and Chester, 2000; Kim et al., 2004; Mitchell and Faulkner, 2009; Wilson et al., 2003), the volume of inelastic deformation that is induced by dynamic stresses during earthquake rupture propagation (Andrews, 2005; Cowie and Scholz, 1992; Rice et al., 2005; Templeton et al., 2008; Vermilye and Scholz, 1998), and the volume of rock in which earthquake swarms or foreshock and aftershock sequences are localised (Kim and Sanderson, 2008; Savage et al., 2017; Sibson, 1989; Yukutake et al., 2011). Furthermore, though damage zones are typically reported to be <1 km wide (Faulkner et al., 2011; Savage and Brodsky, 2011), co-seismic ground shaking can modify fracture permeability many hundreds of kilometres away from the fault source (Cox et al., 2015; Muir-Wood and King, 1993; O'Brien et al., 2016).

Brittle faults often develop in mylonite sequences or other (e.g. jointed) rocks that contain compositional and mechanical anisotropies (Bistacchi et al., 2012; Chester and Fletcher, 1997; Massironi et al., 2011). Evidence from field studies (Bistacchi et al., 2010; Peacock and Sanderson, 1992), experiments (Donath, 1961; Misra et al., 2015; Paterson and Wong, 2005), and numerical modelling (Chester and Fletcher, 1997) demonstrates that such anisotropy can significantly affect the orientation and density of brittle fractures. Despite this, “fault core-damage zone” models are based largely on field observations from relatively isotropic host rocks, and there have been comparatively few field studies (a notable exception being, Bistacchi et al., (2010)) that document the influence of mechanical anisotropy on patterns of brittle fracture damage in large-displacement faults.

In this contribution, multiple datasets across a range of scales were used to analyse fracture densities, orientations, and mineral fills across the hanging-wall of the Alpine Fault’s central section. Measurements from within 25 m of the Alpine Fault principal slip zones (PSZs) were made from shallow (depths <130 m) drill-cores and wireline logs obtained during the first

phase of the Deep Fault Drilling Project (DFDP-1). These are combined with field studies at distances <500 m from the PSZs and analyses of drill-core recovered at 0.7-2 km from the PSZs during the Amethyst Hydro Project (AHP). Results are then compared to measurements of hydraulic conductivity (Cox et al., 2015; Townend et al., 2017) and geophysical studies (Boese et al., 2012; Chamberlain et al., 2017; Eccles et al., 2015) around the Alpine Fault. In doing so, we critically assess the application of “damage zone” models to a plate-boundary-scale structure. Furthermore, the Alpine Fault is an active fault that rapidly exhumes ductile-to-brittle fault rock sequences from depths of up to 35 km (Little et al., 2005; Norris and Toy, 2014). Fracturing in its hanging-wall therefore overprints a 1-2 km wide mylonite sequence containing a pervasive foliation (Cooper and Norris, 1994; Norris and Cooper, 1997, 2007; Toy, 2008), and so can provide new insights into the relationships between fracturing and mechanical anisotropy.

2. Tectonic setting of the Alpine Fault

The Alpine Fault is a crustal-scale (along strike extent ~850 km, depth ~35 km) transpressive discontinuity accommodating ~70% of Pacific-Australian plate motion in the South Island of New Zealand (DeMets et al., 1994; Norris and Cooper, 2001, Figure 1a). This study focuses on the central section between the Toharoa and Martyr Rivers (Barth et al., 2013) where it currently accommodates dextral strike-slip at a rate of 27 ± 5 mm/yr and dip-slip at a rate of 6-10 mm/yr (Little et al., 2005; Norris and Cooper, 2001).

In the central section at depths greater than 8-12 km, the Alpine Fault accommodates motion via viscous creep across a >1 km wide ductile shear zone in which the hanging-wall “Alpine Schist” protolith is progressively mylonitised (Norris and Cooper, 2007; Toy et al., 2010). Shear strains increase with proximity to the Alpine Fault and are recorded by protomylonites,

mylonites and ultramylonites, which occur in spatial sequence towards the fault (Figure 2; Norris and Cooper, 2003; Reed, 1964; Toy et al., 2008). Foliation in the mylonite sequence is mainly defined by alternating quartzofeldspathic and mica-rich layers (Figure 2). Bottle-green hornblende-rich metabasic mylonites, and purple-dark grey mylonites that are comparatively mica rich are also present. Their presence reflects variations in protolith lithology (Cooper and Norris, 2011; Norris and Cooper, 2007; Sibson et al., 1981; Toy, 2008). As the mylonites in the hanging-wall are exhumed to depths of less than 8-12 km, temperatures drop below those at which quartz plasticity occurs and brittle structures start to overprint the mylonitic shear zone (Norris and Cooper, 2007; Toy et al., 2010, 2015). This brittle overprint is reflected in the formation of a ~20 m thick layer of green, indurated and often foliated cataclasite (Allen et al., 2017; Toy et al., 2015), and a 10-50 cm thick clay-rich PSZ that is preserved adjacent to the currently-active fault trace (Boulton et al., 2017, 2012; Ikari et al., 2014; Mitchell and Toy, 2014).

To the first-order (i.e. at scales >10 km), the trace of the Alpine Fault is remarkably linear, with an average strike of 055° (Norris and Cooper, 2007). On the basis of geophysical imaging and measurements of the mylonitic foliation -which is thought to parallel the fault- it is estimated to dip at ~45° in its central section (Sibson et al., 1981; Stern et al., 2007), though this may locally exceed 60° (Little et al., 2005; Toy et al., 2017). At scales of 1-10 km, perturbations in the regional stress field induced by hanging-wall topography results in segmentation of the Alpine Fault. Segmentation is rooted to depths of 0.5-4 km and comprises km-long, approximately E-W striking and steeply-dipping strike-slip fault strands, which adjoin NE-SW striking, gently-dipping (~30°) thrust segments (Barth et al., 2012; Langridge et al., 2014; Norris and Cooper, 1995, 2007; Simpson et al., 1994; Upton et al., 2017).

3. Methods

3.1 Fracture orientations from DFDP-1 drill-core

Hanging-wall fracture orientations immediately adjacent to the Alpine Fault's PSZ were assessed through analysis of datasets arising from the first phase of the Deep Fault Drilling Project (DFDP-1, <http://alpine.icdp-online.org>). DFDP-1 successfully sampled the Alpine Fault in two boreholes (DFDP-1A and DFDP-1B, Figure 3) at depths of less than 150 m at Gaunt Creek (Figure 1b, Sutherland et al., 2012). The geophysical properties of the DFDP-1 boreholes were characterised by a full suite of wireline logs (Townend et al., 2013). These were combined with visual descriptions of ~70 m of core recovered across the two boreholes to construct a lithological classification scheme for DFDP-1 drill-core (Figure 3, Toy et al., 2015).

Abundant fractures were observed in X-ray computed tomography (CT) scans of DFDP-1 drill-core (Williams et al., 2016). The true orientations of these fracture were obtained by generating 'unrolled' CT images of individual core sections (Mills and Williams, 2017), which are directly analogous to geographically referenced - but lower resolution - borehole televiewer (BHTV) images. Where fractures could be matched between the two images, a rotation could be derived to transform all fracture orientations in the CT scans from a local core reference frame to their true geographic orientation (Figure 4). Depending on the number of fractures matched, core was rotated with a high, moderate, or low degree of confidence. In DFDP-1A, the quality of BHTV imaging was insufficient to attempt matching fractures, whereas in the Alpine Fault's relatively intact footwall (Townend et al., 2013), too few fractures (<1 fracture/core-section) could be imaged to attempt core reorientation. Therefore, the true orientation of fractures was only determined for the depth interval 94-126 m in the DFDP-1B borehole (Figure 3). Given the orientation of the PSZ-1 (which separates hanging-wall and footwall cataclasite) sampled in DFDP-1 (015/43 E; Townend et al., 2013), this

spans an orthogonal distance of ~25 m. A full methodology is provided in Appendix A, the rotations applied to DFDP-1 core sections are listed in Table S1, and a complete CT-BHTV image comparison is given in Williams et al. (2017b).

3.2 Field observations of fracture orientations and densities

At orthogonal distances of up to 150-250 m from the PSZs, fracture orientations and densities were measured in four creeks (Gaunt Creek, Stony Creek, Hare Mare Creek and Havelock Creek, Figure 1b) that cut across the hanging-wall sequence approximately perpendicular to the main fault trace (Figure S1). Along each creek, fracture orientations and densities were measured at 3 or 4 stations. This information was also gathered from approximately 500 m from the Alpine Fault at Bullock Creek (Figure 1b). Each creek transect cuts across a thrust segment of the Alpine Fault, so the orthogonal distance between the measuring stations and the PSZs was calculated assuming a fault dip of 30° (Norris and Cooper, 1995, 1997). The mylonite lithology for each station was classified using the scheme presented by Toy (2008).

The outcrops encountered along these transects are typically sub-vertical and may be covered by debris except at their bases where they are frequently cleaned by flood events (Figure S2). They are therefore poorly-suited for fracture density analysis using circular scanlines (e.g. Mauldon et al., 2001). Instead, the fracture density was calculated from the number and orientation of fractures that intersected a linear transect along the base of each outcrop (Priest, 1993; Schulz and Evans, 2000). This technique has the tendency to under-sample fractures oriented at low angles to the scan-line. Therefore, a weighting (w) factor calculated using a modified version of the Terzaghi correction (Massiot et al., 2015; Terzaghi, 1965) was applied to each fracture, and results are shown as ‘corrected’ fracture density.

3.3 Fracture orientations in the Amethyst Hydro Project boreholes

The Amethyst Hydro Project (AHP) was developed to divert water from the Amethyst Ravine down a 1040 m-long tunnel to a powerhouse on the floodplain of the Wanganui River. Prior to the main phase of tunnelling, four exploratory boreholes (BH1-4; Figure 1b and S3) were completed between 2005-2006, resulting in the recovery of ~890 m of drill-core at depths of 50-200 m. The boreholes are situated 1-2 km southeast of a thrust segment of the Alpine Fault, where it may conceivably dip at a range of 30-60° (Norris and Cooper, 1995; Toy et al., 2017). The drill-cores are therefore at orthogonal distances of ~0.7-2.0 km from the PSZs.

To provide a dataset analogous to the DFDP-1 CT scans, a total of 31.9 m of drill-core from the AHP boreholes was CT scanned at the Southern Cross Hospital in Wellington, New Zealand. Initial descriptions of the drill-core found that the Rock Quality Designation (RQD, the % of intact core lengths >100 mm/1 m of drill-core) varied considerably due to intense fracturing adjacent to the Tarpot Fault and other minor faults that intersect the AHP boreholes (Geotech Consulting Limited, 2006; Savage, 2013). However, for practical reasons scanning was focussed on intervals of high RQD (Figure S3). The CT scanner was operated at 100 mA and an X-ray tube voltage of 120 kVp. Slice spacing was 1.25 mm, field of view 250 mm, and the image size was 512 x 512 pixels. Therefore, the size of one voxel is 0.488 x 0.488 x 1.25 mm in the x, y, z directions respectively. Reconstruction of two-dimensional CT slices into three-dimensional images of the drill-core was performed using OsiriX Imaging Software (<http://www.osirix-viewer.com/>).

AHP drill-core was not oriented. However, the orientation of the schistosity is noted in the drill-core logs to an accuracy of $\pm 5^\circ$ (Geotech Consulting Limited, 2006), where it is consistent with the schistosity orientation measured in the Amethyst Tunnel itself (Savage, 2013). It can thus be used as a reference to reorient drill-core CT scans back into a geographic

reference frame. For BH2 and BH3 drill-cores, which are vertical, this required only a single transformation. For the inclined BH1 and BH4 drill-cores, this required first rotating the core with respect to the foliation. These orientations were then corrected for the inclination of the drill core using the Planes from Oriented and Navigated Drillcore (POND) Excel spreadsheet (Stanley and Hooper, 2003).

3.4 Statistical analysis of fracture orientations

The clustering intensity of fracture orientations was quantified using the resultant vector method of Priest, (1993), where the vector for each fracture was weighted by the Terzaghi correction for misorientation bias (Massiot et al., 2015; Terzaghi, 1965). This analysis was performed only for the DFDP-1 and AHP datasets, which sampled a large population (>100) of fractures. Field measuring stations sampled too few (<30) fractures to reliably perform this analysis, and so their clustering is described in a qualitative sense only.

4. Results

4.1 Fracture orientations in DFDP-1 drill-core within 25 m of the Alpine Fault

In the DFDP-1 CT images, a total of 637 fractures were rotated into their true geographic orientation where they show a weak cluster about the orientation of the foliation and Alpine Fault PSZs at Gaunt Creek (015/43 E, Figures 5a, Appendix B; Townend et al., 2013). Features in DFDP-1B BHTV images are also aligned about this orientation, but with a higher cluster intensity than fractures noted in the CT images (Figure 5b, Table 1). This may reflect: (1) features observed at the resolution of the BHTV are more likely to be aligned subparallel to the fault plane and foliation than those visible in CT, and/or (2) some of the planar features identified from the BHTV images were the mylonitic foliation itself. The clustering of fractures hosted in foliated ultramylonites and cataclasites (Units 1, 2 and 4 of Toy et al., 2015) is the same as fractures hosted in relatively homogenous unfoliated cataclasites (Unit 3

of Toy et al., 2015; Figures 5c and d, Table 1). We also observed no clear relationships between fracture fill (Table 1 of Williams et al., 2016) and fracture orientation (Figure 5a).

4.2 Fracture orientations, densities, and fill in field transects within 500 m of the Alpine Fault

The orientations and densities of fractures observed in the four field transects are summarised in Figure 7. In these transects, similar fractures to those observed in the CT scans of DFDP-1 core are identified (Figure 8). Total fracture density in the transects varies between 3-30 fractures/metre, and there is no clear decrease in fracture density with increasing distance from the Alpine Fault in any of the transects (Figure 7a). Gouge-filled fractures (Figure 8a-c) are observed at all distances from the Alpine Fault but are relatively abundant (>1 fracture/metre, Figure 7a, Table S2) within 100-160 m of the PSZs (Figure 7a). The thicker gouge-filled fractures (>1 cm) commonly juxtapose different lithologies or offset markers (Figure 8d-f). Thinner gouge-filled fractures (<1 cm) are localised within 160 m of the Alpine Fault. Open fractures (Figure 8g-i) are present at all stations, though are most prevalent at those furthest from the fault (Figure 7b).

The composition of the mylonites can also affect fracture density. When they are juxtaposed together, micaceous mylonites and ultramylonites are observed to contain relatively high densities of gouge-filled fractures compared to quartzofeldspathic mylonites and ultramylonites (Figures 9). Localities that showed the widest range in fracture orientations tend to be less than 160 m from the PSZs within the ultramylonites (Figure 7b). Within mylonite units, fracture orientations tend to be more aligned to the foliation (Figure 7b), although gouge-filled fractures can sometimes cut across it (e.g. Bullock Creek).

4.3 Fractures in AHP drill-core, 0.7-2.0 km from the Alpine Fault

The AHP sampled grey, well-foliated Alpine Schist (Figure 10), a subgroup of the Haast Schist (textural zone III-IV, Turnbull et al., (2001); Cox and Barrell., (2007)). Fracture orientations are clustered about the orientation of the host rock schistosity in agreement with the findings during initial drill-core descriptions and observations within the Amethyst Tunnel itself (Figure 11; Geotech Consulting Limited, 2006; Savage, 2013). The clustering of these fracture orientations is stronger than in the DFDP-1 datasets (Table 1). Fractures that cut across the schistosity are most frequent in BH4 (Figure 10d and 11).

Though fractures are predominantly open, it is conceivable that the original fill may have been lost during the subsequent core handling processes. This means that standard schemes to differentiate between natural and induced fractures (Kulander et al., 1990; Williams et al., 2016) cannot be applied to this dataset. Nevertheless, some open fractures must be natural as they show alteration haloes (Figure 10a) implying that they were once conduits for fluid-flow. Furthermore, packer tests conducted in these boreholes indicate hydraulic conductivities of $\sim 10^{-6}$ - 10^{-5} ms⁻¹, which is equivalent to permeabilities of 10^{-13} - 10^{-12} m² (Cox et al., 2015; Geotech Consulting Limited, 2006). No permeability measurements have been made in the schist protolith at greater distances from Alpine Fault, however, these measurements are orders of magnitude higher than has been reported in other metamorphic rock terranes ($\sim 10^{-20}$ - 10^{-17} m²; Manning and Ingebritsen, 1999) and for typical continental crust ($\sim 10^{-17}$ m²; Townend and Zoback, 2000).

5 Discussion

5.1 Fracture orientations in anisotropic wall rocks in the Alpine Fault hanging-wall

Two styles of fracturing are evident in the foliated Alpine Fault cataclasite, mylonite and schist sequence (Figure 12). Within DFDP-1 drill-core, fractures are predominantly gouge-

filled and exhibit a range of orientations (Figure 5 and 6) with only a small proportion (11%) of fractures in foliated cataclasites and ultramylonites clearly foliation-parallel (Williams et al., 2016). However, in schists sampled by the AHP drill-core, the fractures are more clustered about the foliation than in DFDP-1 drill-core (Figure 11, Table 1). The difference in fracture clustering between the DFDP-1 and AHP drill-cores is qualitatively replicated by the field transects, where fractures show variable orientations immediately adjacent to the Alpine Fault but are typically foliation-parallel at the sites furthest from the fault (Figure 7). Furthermore, field transects show that the variably oriented fractures have a gouge-fill, whilst foliation-parallel fractures further from the fault tend to be open (Figures 7 and 8).

Experimental studies on foliated rocks demonstrate that mechanical anisotropy will exert the greatest control on rock failure when: (1) the angle between the maximum principal stress (σ_1) and the anisotropy (α) is $\sim 30^\circ$, (2) confining pressure is low (< 35 MPa), and (3) the mechanical ‘strength’ of the anisotropy is high (Donath, 1961; Misra et al., 2015; Nasser et al., 2003; Paterson and Wong, 2005). The first factor can be approximated for the Alpine Fault given the mylonite’s average orientation of 055/45SE (Norris and Cooper, 2007) and the stress tensor orientation within the surrounding crust, determined from focal mechanisms of microseismicity in the fault’s hanging-wall (Boese et al., 2012). This yields a value of α of approximately 44° , when measured in the plane containing the maximum and minimum principal stresses. This can be considered an intermediate value of α , since in deformation experiments fractures may form parallel or non-parallel to the foliation depending on the combination of confining pressure and lithology (Donath, 1961; Nasser et al., 2003; Paterson and Wong, 2005).

Foliation-parallel fractures are least common in the ultramylonites and foliated cataclasites. Indeed, in the DFDP-1 datasets, there is no difference in fracture clustering between foliated and unfoliated units (Table 1). Lithology may control mechanical anisotropy depending on

mineralogy, porosity, grain size, and the nature of the foliation surfaces (Donath, 1961; Nasser et al., 2003). It is notable that phase mixing and grain size reduction in the ultramylonites reduces the intensity of the foliation, compared to the relatively coarse-grained schists, protomylonites, and mylonites (Figure 2; Norris and Cooper, 2007; Toy et al., 2010, 2008). These data suggest that this lithological change could have a marked effect on the orientation of fractures. Compositional variations between relatively quartzofeldspathic and relatively micaceous mylonites can also influence the density of fractures (Figure 9). These observations highlight that fracturing in the upper crust may be influenced by lithological variations developed within an underlying linked, and synkinematic, shear zone. However, at other localities (e.g. Stony Creek, Figure 7), variations in dominant fracture characteristics are confined within units of similar composition and texture. This suggests that variations in confining pressure may also be important in controlling the relationship between fractures and foliation, as discussed in the next section.

5.2 Fracture damage around the Alpine Fault

Field transects across the Alpine Fault's hanging-wall show that fracture density remains roughly constant (>3.5 fractures/m, corrected for orientation bias) for at least 500 m from the fault (Figure 7a). Furthermore, the AHP (Cox et al., 2015) and DFDP-2B boreholes (Sutherland et al., 2017; Townend et al., 2017) demonstrate an interval of enhanced permeability (10^{-16} - 10^{-13} m²) that extends for at least 2 km into the Alpine Fault's hanging-wall. Permeability in this rock mass is controlled by open fractures (Cox et al., 2015; Sutherland et al., 2017; Townend et al., 2017) that are generally foliation-parallel (Massiot, 2017), and so directly analogous to the fractures sampled in the field (Figure 8g-i) and in AHP drill-core (Figure 10). Conventional definitions of fault structure, that use fracture density and permeability as criteria for damage zone width (e.g. Berg and Skar, 2005; Caine et al., 1996; Faulkner et al., 2010; Savage and Brodsky, 2011; Schulz and Evans, 2000),

would therefore suggest that the Alpine Fault's damage zone extends for at least 500 m, and possibly 2 km, into its hanging-wall.

Nevertheless, within the field transects we also note a distinct interval adjacent to the Alpine Fault's PSZs that contains a relatively high density of gouge-filled fractures (>1 fracture/metre, Figure 7a). The width of this interval is <147 m (i.e. station 4) from the PSZs at Gaunt Creek, <103 m at Stony Creek (i.e. station 3), <151 m at Hare Mare Creek (at station 2, Figure 8c) and <160 m at Havelock Creek (i.e. stations 4). These width estimates are based on assumption that the Alpine Fault dips at 30° below the measuring stations (see the methods section). However, the fault dip may locally vary (for example, the fault dip sampled by DFDP-1 was 43° ; Townend et al., (2013)), and there is also uncertainty in the depth extent of its near-surface segmentation (Barth et al., 2012; Norris and Cooper, 1995; Upton et al., 2017). Nevertheless, even if the fault dipped at 45° (Norris and Cooper, 2007) beneath the measuring stations, the zone of higher-density gouge-filled fractures would be <205 m wide (Table S3) and so is still appreciably closer to the Alpine Fault than the intervals sampled by the AHP and DFDP-2 boreholes.

It is this ~ 100 - 160 m wide interval with a high density of gouge-filled fractures that Norris and Cooper (1997, 2007) interpreted as the extent Alpine Fault's central section hanging-wall damage zone. Furthermore, the width of this zone is comparable to damage zones widths estimated elsewhere on the Alpine Fault (e.g. Barth et al., 2013 along the southern section; Wright, 1998 at the northern end of the the central section, Figure 13a) and to other crustal-scale fault zones that have accommodated hundreds of kilometres of displacement (Figure 13b; Faulkner et al., 2011; Savage and Brodsky, 2011).

Interpretations of damage zone width within the Alpine Fault's hanging-wall may therefore differ by an order of magnitude depending on what criteria is used. To reconcile this, Townend et al., (2017) suggested that the ~2 km wide interval of enhanced permeability and foliation-parallel fracturing can be considered as an 'outer damage zone' (Figure 12). Fractures within this zone may have formed by co-seismic shaking and slip on critically-stressed fractures (Cox et al., 2015; Townend et al., 2017), or by the release of confining pressure (Engelder, 1985; Price, 1959; Zangerl et al., 2006) during rapid exhumation (6-9 mm/yr) of the hanging-wall (Little et al., 2005; Tippet and Kamp, 1995). Rare gouge-filled fractures (<1 fracture/metre) in this interval (e.g. Figure 8e) may also be the structures accommodating the diffuse, low to moderate magnitude ($M_w < 6$) seismicity that has been recorded in a ~5 km wide zone within the Alpine Fault's hanging-wall (Boese et al., 2012; Chamberlain et al., 2017; Eberhart-Phillips, 1995).

Conversely, the <160 m wide zone with a relatively high density of gouge-filled fractures defines a narrower 'inner damage zone' (Figure 12; Townend et al. 2017). Microstructural and compositional analysis of these fractures indicates that they formed in response to wear and shearing of the wall rock and were subsequently mineralised due to circulation of hydrothermal fluids (Warr and Cox, 2001; Williams et al., 2017a). Offset markers across gouge-filled fractures (particularly those <1 cm thick) are rarely observed in DFDP-1 core and field transects, but where they are present, reverse offset is most frequently noted (Figure 8d; Norris and Cooper, 1997; Toy et al., 2015). "Gouge-filled shears" that accommodated strike-slip (Norris and Cooper, 1997), normal dip-slip (Cooper and Norris, 1994), or a combination of both (Barth et al., 2012) have also been observed.

Cooper and Norris, (1994) interpreted that dip-slip fractures facilitated imbrication, tectonic thickening and rotation of Alpine Fault thrust sheets as they moved across the irregular topography of the footwall gravels. Dextral shears are interpreted to reflect the partitioning of

strike-slip movement away from shallowly dipping PSZs (Barth et al., 2012). The diverse range of fracture orientations and shear senses in gouge-filled fractures therefore indicates complex internal deformation of Alpine Fault thrust sheets in the near-surface (<500 m), as they facilitate transpressional motion under the influence of km scale along-strike variations in stress induced by the topography (Norris and Cooper, 1995; Upton et al., 2017).

Fractures may have also formed due to dynamic off-fault stresses (Ma, 2009; Rice et al., 2005) during $M_w > 7.5$ Alpine Fault earthquake ruptures (Sutherland et al., 2007). The relatively thin seismogenic crust in the Alpine Fault's hanging-wall (10 ± 2 km, Boese et al., (2012)) will limit the generation of dynamic co-seismic damage to within ~100-200 m of the fault (Ampuero and Mao, 2017). To the first order, this is comparable to the width of the inner damage zone reported here.

5.3 Comparison to geophysical data

A 60-200 m wide low-velocity zone (LVZ) that extends to depths of ~8 km has been documented around the Alpine Fault from the detection and character of Fault Zone Guided Waves (FZGWs; Eccles et al., 2015). FZGWs are commonly regarded as an *in situ* indicator of fault damage zone width (Ben-Zion and Sammis, 2003; Eberhart-Phillips et al., 1995; Ellsworth and Malin, 2011; Li et al., 2014). Given the comparable widths of the Alpine Fault LVZ (60-200 m) and the inner damage zone described here (100-160 m), we speculate that the inner damage zone may trap FZGWs in the Alpine Fault hanging-wall. If this is true, it implies that the inner damage zone extends to depths of ~8 km, consistent with the relatively high-temperature (<400 °C) mineralising phases (calcite and chlorite) present in the gouge-filled fractures (Williams et al., 2017a).

Though the boundary between the mylonites and ultramylonites is also ~100 m from the Alpine Fault (Norris and Cooper, 2003; Toy et al., 2008), these two units have roughly similar seismic velocities (Adam et al., 2016; Allen et al., 2017; Christensen and Okaya, 2007) and so are unlikely to channel FZGWs. We also note that since FZGWs are an indicator of total fault zone width, our interpretation implies that most of the Alpine Fault's LVZ is located in its hanging-wall. Western Province basement rocks to the west of the Alpine Fault are rarely exposed (Lund Snee et al., 2014; Norris and Cooper, 2007), and so it remains unknown if its footwall damage zone is indeed relatively narrow.

That the FZGWs are not being channelled by the margins of the ~2 km wide outer damage zone leads us to conclude that this is a near-surface feature only (i.e. fractures are not kept open at depth by pressurised fluids). If correct, this model of the Alpine Fault's hanging-wall structure conforms to the expectations of fault zone flower structure models, which predict a narrow inner damage zone that extends through the seismogenic crust, surrounded by a wider zone of fractures in the near-surface at low confining pressures ($\sim < 3$ km, Figure 12; e.g. Finzi et al., 2009; Sylvester, 1988).

6. Conclusions

Fracture orientations and densities in the foliated hanging-wall of the Alpine Fault's central section were quantified in drill-core from the Deep Fault Drilling Project (DFDP-1), field transects in four creek sections, and drill-core recovered from the Amethyst Hydro Project. At distances greater than approximately 160 m from the Alpine Fault principal slip zones (PSZs), open and foliation-parallel fractures dominate. These are interpreted to form at low confining pressures in mechanically anisotropic schist and mylonites. At distances less than ~160 m from the PSZs, gouge-filled fractures with a wide range of orientations predominate. Fracture density and orientation are locally influenced by changes in host rock lithology, but overall

fracture density is approximately constant at distances of up to ~500 m from the PSZs (Figure 12).

Following Townend et al., (2017), we interpret that the ~2 km wide zone of open foliation-parallel fractures within the hanging-wall represents an “outer damage zone” that forms at low confining pressures and relatively shallow depths. Conversely, the 160 m-wide zone of gouge-filled fractures represents an “inner damage zone.” The width of this zone is similar to estimates for the low-velocity zone (LVZ) around the Alpine Fault made by Fault Zone Guided Waves. We therefore interpret that the inner damage zone is the geological manifestation of the LVZ, which if true, implies that the inner damage zone also extends to depths of ~8 km. Overall, our interpretations are compatible with a flower structure model for damage in the Alpine Fault’s hanging-wall, with a relatively narrow zone of damage extending towards the base of the seismogenic crust, which broadens upwards towards the surface.

Code availability

The code to generate ‘unrolled’ circumferential CT images is available from the GFZ data service (<http://pmd.gfz-potsdam.de/panmetaworks/review/7f1b114f11b67f540bb1360ead692dc578a66e3d0935c7fef6ffe210db285300-icdp/>).

Data availability

In the supplementary information, we include detailed field maps and cross sections (Figure S1), photos of outcrops used for quantifying fracture density (Figure S2), a cross section through the Amethyst Tunnel and location of boreholes (Figure S3), and an example of AHP CT scans (Figure S4). The following tables are also provided, a list of rotations applied to DFDP-1B core (Table S1), a summary of field transects (Table S2), and estimates of the

distance of field measuring stations from the Alpine Fault for different fault dips (Table S3).
Lithological distribution and Alpine Fault location as per University of Otago fault zone
mapping program, which is available at: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/geology/research/structural-geology/alpine-fault/af-maps.html>. DFDP-1 and AHP CT scan ‘core logs’ and CT-BHTV
image comparison are available on the GFZ data service (<http://pmd.gfz-potsdam.de/panmetaworks/review/52b75045a30f1bd60f7fd5b841e69c468885e2a10dfc3704e50b236df2ef8608-icdp>).

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Appendix A: DFDP-1B core rotation methodology

The technique employed to reorient core DFDP-1 here is similar to that described in Jarrard et al., (2001), Paulsen et al., (2002) and Shigematsu et al., (2014), however, instead of comparing DFDP-1 BHTV data to DMT CoreScan system® unrolled core scans, we compare

BTHV images to ‘unrolled’ CT core images. The acquisition and interpretation of the DFDP-1 BTHV logs has been previously described by Townend et al., (2013) and McNamara, (2015). DFDP-1 CT scans consist of a stack of core-axial perpendicular image slices with a pixel size of 0.244 mm and a spacing of 1 mm. The CT stack for each core section was loaded into Fiji (<http://fiji.sc/Fiji>) and a circle was manually defined around the irregular boundary of drill-core in a core axial-perpendicular image slice using the code available at Mills and Williams, (2017). This circle was then used to define the path of the image in all other slices. Generation of the unrolled images accounts for the fact that the spacing between individual CT slices (1 mm, i.e. the core-axial parallel pixel size) is greater than the pixel size within the slices (0.244 mm). Unrolled images were then reflected around the borehole axis as an image of the outer surface of the core and a BTHV image are reflections of each other. This technique has benefits over methods using the DMT CoreScan system®, since drill-core does not have to be physically rotated and so can be used without the risk of damaging fragile core sections.

Unrolled CT images were imported into the composite log viewing software WellCAD® (<http://www.alt.lu/wellcad.htm>) along with the BTHV images, where they are placed side-by-side to allow matching of structures (Figure 4, see also Williams et al., (2017b)). When correlating the two datasets, it was first necessary to account for possible depth shifts between recorded drill-core depths and BTHV imagery due to factors such as stretching of the logging cable and intervals from which no drill-core was recovered (Haggas et al., 2001; Jarrard et al., 2001). In this study, a depth shift of no more than ± 30 cm was allowed.

The orientation of fractures in the DFDP-1 CT images had previously been measured within a local core reference frame (see Figure 4 in Williams et al., 2016). Since the DFDP-1 boreholes were vertical, corrections to reorient the drill-core back into a geographic reference frame required only a single rotation about the core axis to correct for the dip direction. When

correlating structures, errors may be introduced by: (1) the internal BHTV magnetometer ($\pm 2^\circ$), (2) the manual picking of sinusoidal curves on BHTV and unrolled CT images that can be $\pm 10^\circ$ for shallowly dipping ($< 30^\circ$) structures (Jarrard et al., 2001), and (3) the fact that the DFDP-1B BHTV data imaged the open borehole, which has a larger diameter (127 mm) than the drill-core (85 mm). To mitigate against the cumulative effect of these errors, Jarrard et al., (2001) stitched unrolled images of many different core sections together that spanned intervals of 5-30 m, prior to the matching with BHTV imagery. This meant that only a single rotation was necessary for all core sections across the entire stitched interval, which could be based on identifying ~20-30 matching structures between the BHTV and unrolled core images.

In DFDP-1 it was not possible to stitch unrolled CT images of core section together as no prominent reference marker across different sections were identified. Consequently each < 1 m long core section had to be reoriented individually, within which we never identified more than 3 matching structures. Therefore, compared to the methodology described by Jarrard et al., (2001), the degree of confidence on the applied reorientation was strongly dependent on the quality of individual matches for each core section and the range of rotations that they indicated. We recorded this qualitatively for each core section using the scheme outlined below.

- High degree of confidence: images matched with one very prominent structure (e.g. Figure 4d), or matched with two or more structures whose range of suggested rotations are within 10° of each other (Figure 4b and c).
- Moderate degree of confidence: images matched with one prominent feature or two features that indicate rotations that range 10 - 19° (e.g. Figure 4a) or three features whose range of suggested rotations are within 20 - 30° of each other.

- Low degree of confidence: images matched with one feature or two features whose range of suggested rotations are within 20-30° of each other.

In this scheme, a core reorientation is deemed unreliable if the range of rotations suggested by different structures is $\geq 30^\circ$, i.e. equivalent to the cumulative effect of possible errors listed above. For those core sections where more than one matching structure was identified, the rotation that was applied was derived from the average of that required for each match. If one of the matched structures was more prominent, then the applied rotation was biased towards that structure.

Appendix B: DFDP-1B core rotation validity

Based on the criteria presented in Appendix A, of the 40 core sections from DFDP-1B in which there was suitable quality of unrolled CT and BHTV images to attempt reorientation (Figure 3), 31 were reoriented (Table S1). Prior to reorientation, fractures in these sections exhibit no clustering (Figure A1a), however, a weak one does develop after reorientation (Figure 5a). Since fractures in nature typically exhibit non-random orientations, this is evidence that the reorientation of the CT scans was successful (Kulander et al., 1990; Paulsen et al., 2002). In addition, fractures within some individual core sections (Figure A1b), and fractures rotated based on a high degree of confidence (Figure A1c) contain a wide range of orientations.

The recognition of fractures in unrolled CT images that are not observed in BHTV can be readily explained by the higher resolution of the CT images. However, structures are also observed in the BHTV logs, but not interpreted as fractures in the CT images (Figure 4). This

may represent noise in the BHTV images, or in the case of foliation-parallel structures, the ultramylonitic foliation itself since it can be difficult to differentiate these structures. The subordinate north-dipping set of fractures in the BHTV images (Figure 5b) is not recognised in the orientations gathered from CT images (Figure 5a). A similar north dipping fracture set was also recognised in DFDP-2B BHTV images (Massiot 2017), and their causation and relevance is the focus of ongoing work.

Competing Interests

Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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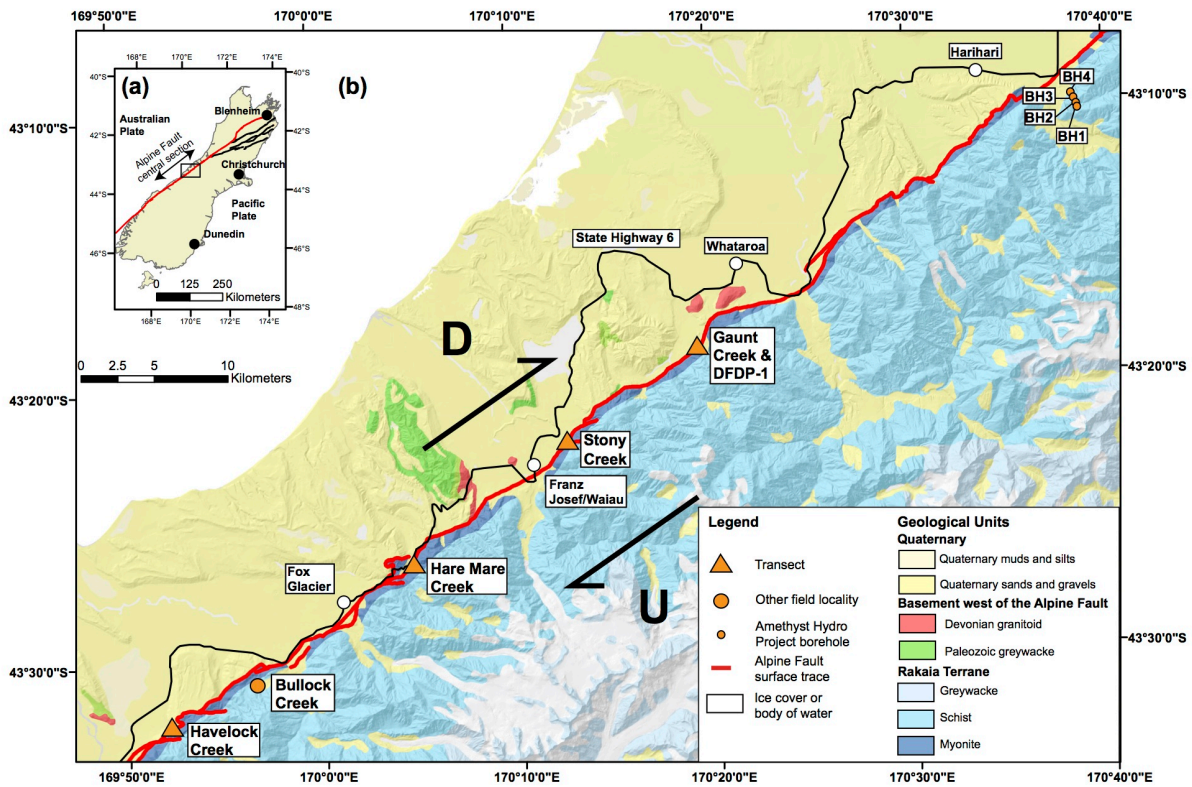
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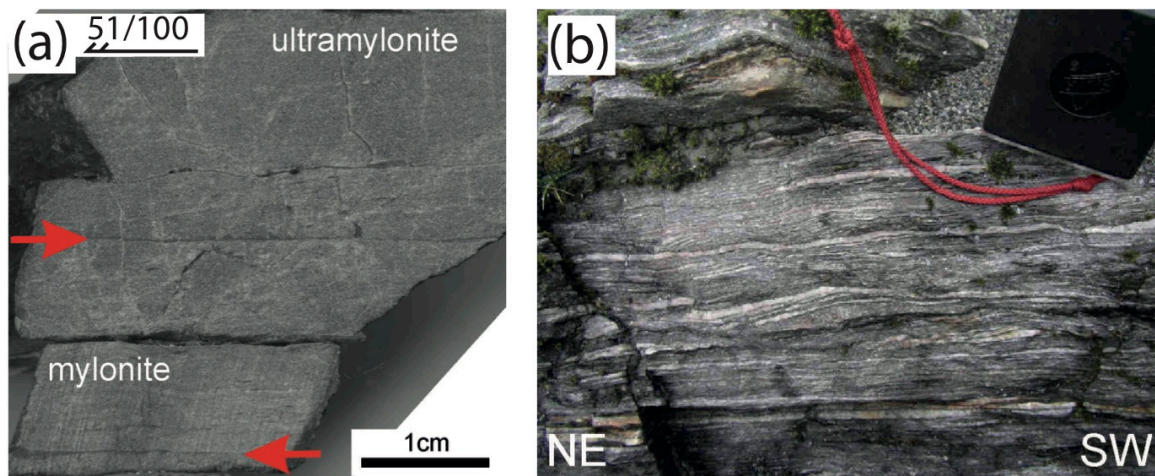
914 **List of Figures**

915 **Figure 1**



917 Figure 1: (a) Location map for Alpine Fault (red line) and Marlborough Faults (black line) in the
918 South Island of New Zealand. Box shows extent of (b), a location map for the DFDP-1 and AHP
919 boreholes, and field transects. The generalised underlying geology is derived from the GNS Science
920 1:250000 QMAP project (Rattenbury and Isaac, 2012) and has been draped over a digital elevation
921 model (Columbus et al., 2011).

923 **Figure 2**

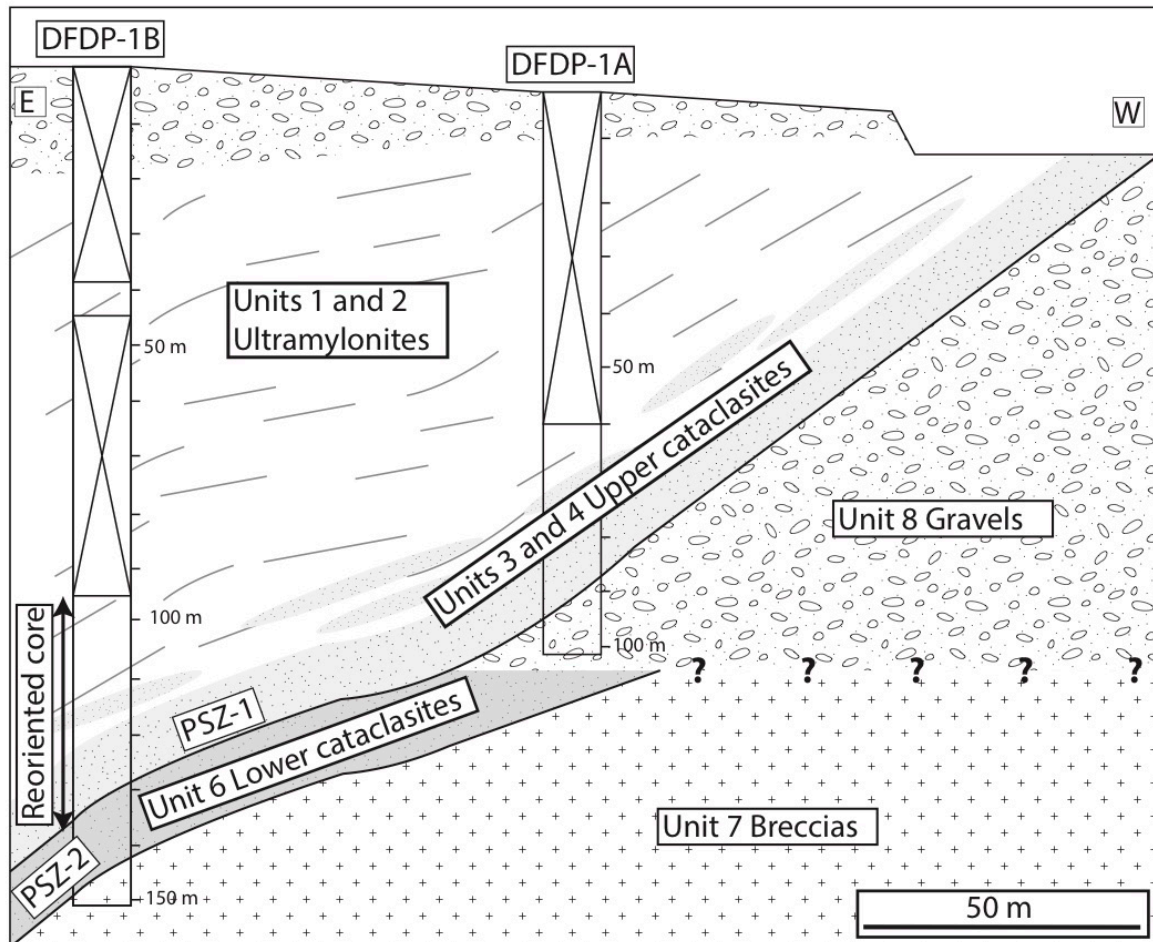


924

925 Figure 2: (a) Quartzofeldspathic Alpine Fault ultramylonite that gradually grades to mylonite at the
926 base of the image. A foliation defined by alternating white quartzofeldspathic bands and dark grey
927 mica bands is hard to distinguish in the ultramylonite but is more apparent in the mylonite. (b) The
928 well foliated Alpine Fault protomylonite-mylonite transition. Compass is 5 cm wide. Both images
929 previously presented in Toy, (2008). The sample in (a) was taken from Gaunt Creek, as was the photo
930 in (b).

931

932 **Figure 3**

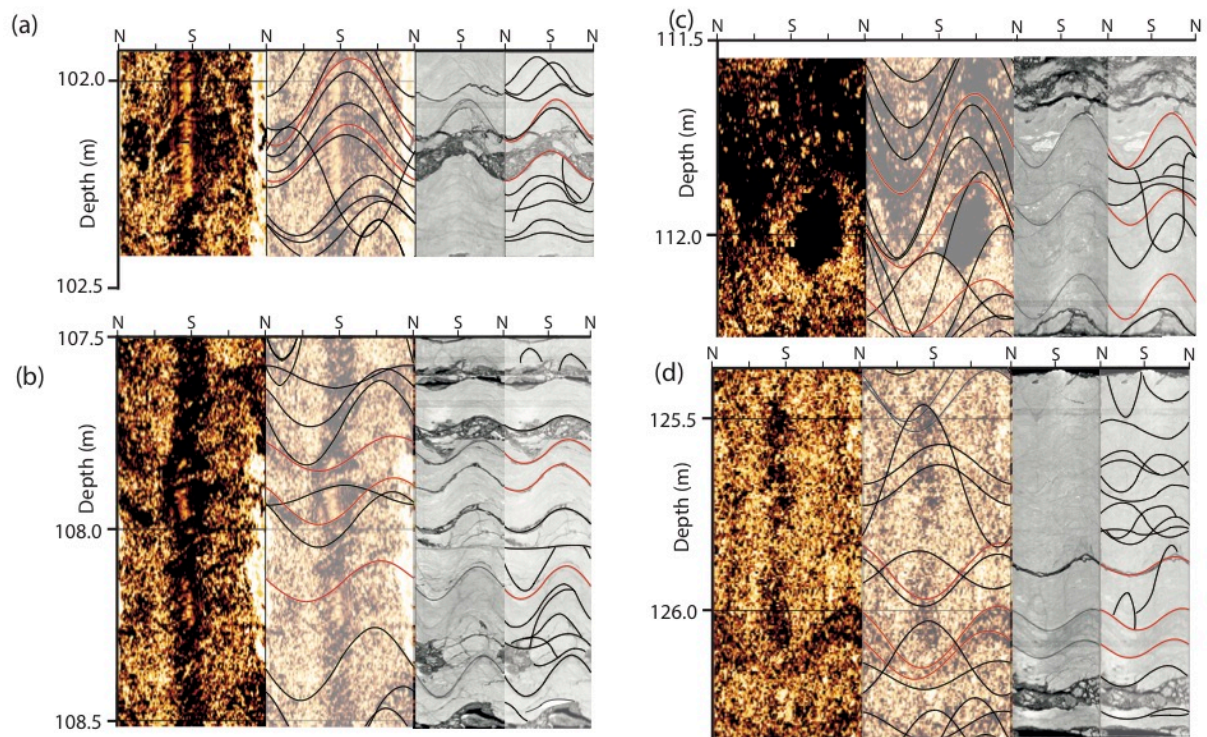


933

934 Figure 3: Cross section through the DFDP-1 boreholes, showing interval where reoriented drill-core is
 935 located. Boxes with diagonal lines depict intervals in borehole with no core recovery, grey lines
 936 represent mylonitic foliation. Modified from Sutherland et al., (2012), with lithological units
 937 previously defined by Toy et al., (2015).

938

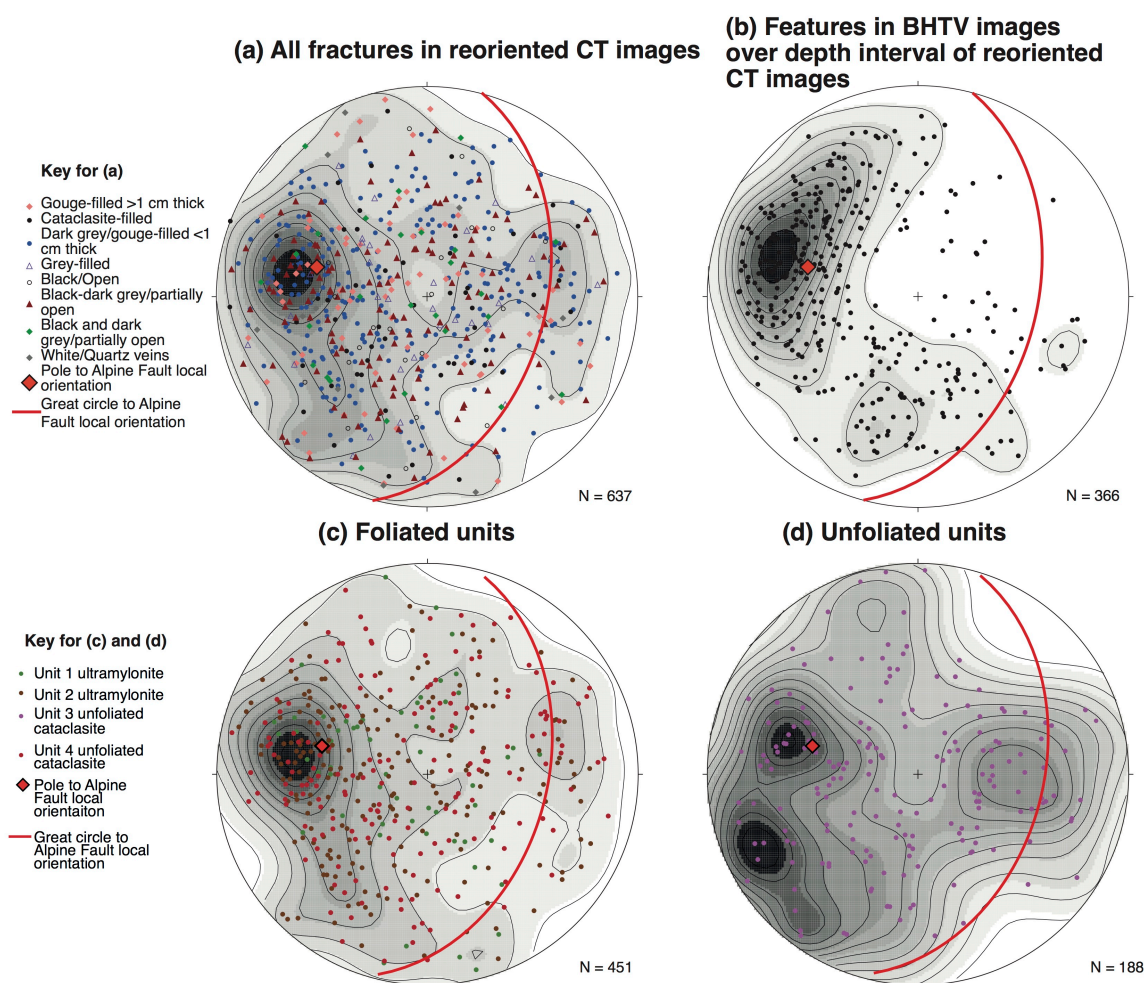
939 **Figure 4**



940

941 Figure 4: Examples of matching structures between BHTV images and unrolled CT images. In each
 942 image, the first two columns are the BHTV amplitude image, without and with interpretations
 943 respectively, whilst the third and fourth columns depict the unrolled CT image over the same interval,
 944 also without and with interpretations. Fractures that have been traced in red indicate those that were
 945 matched to reorientate core.

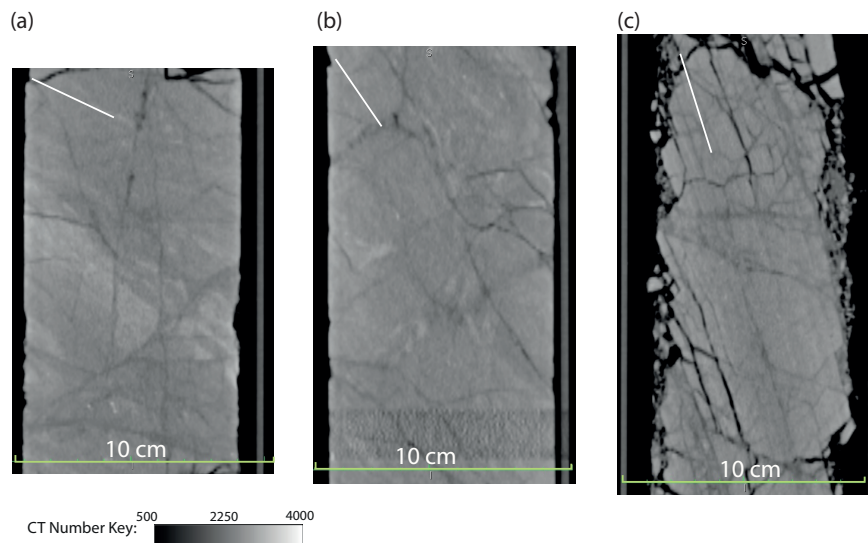
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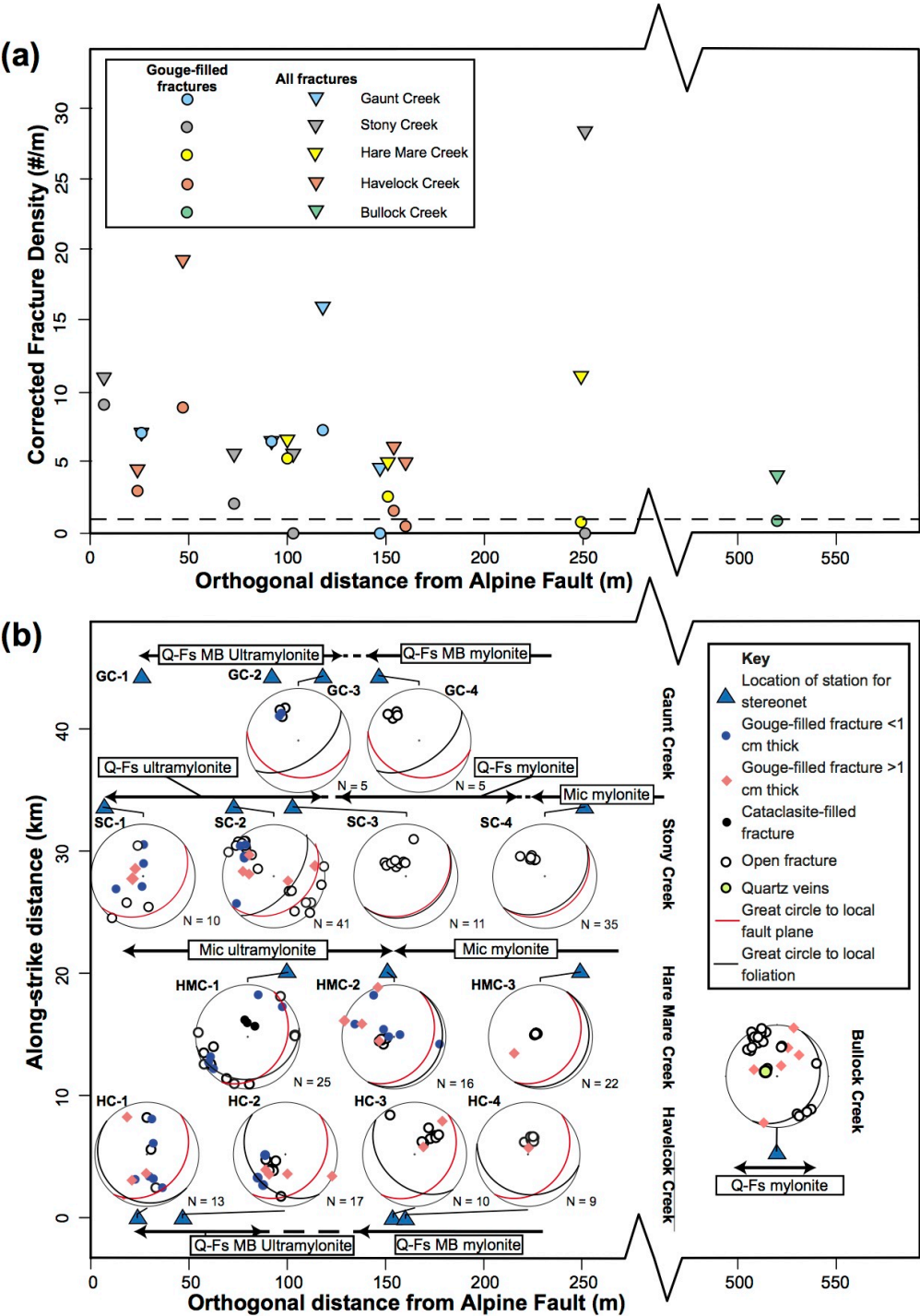
949 Figure 5: Lower hemisphere equal area stereoplots depicting orientation of fractures in DFDP-1.
 950 Contouring on stereoplots was applied to poles that are weighted depending on their orientation
 951 correction w (see Sect. 3.2), and that are rounded to the nearest whole number. Contours were then
 952 generated for the weighted poles using a probability distribution calculated by a Kernel function in the
 953 RFOC package for R (Lees, 2014). Great circle represents orientation of Alpine Fault plane and
 954 foliation at DFDP-1 site (Townend et al., 2013). (a) Orientation of all fractures that were reoriented by
 955 matching structures between unrolled CT images and BHTV images, sorted by fracture type (Williams
 956 et al., 2016). (b) Orientation of features recognised in the BHTV images over the interval of reoriented
 957 core (94-126 m in DFDP-1B). Fracture orientations extracted from reoriented DFDP-1 CT images in
 958 (c) foliated units and (d) unfoliated units, using the DFDP-1 lithological classification scheme (Toy et
 959 al., 2015).

960 **Figure 6**



961

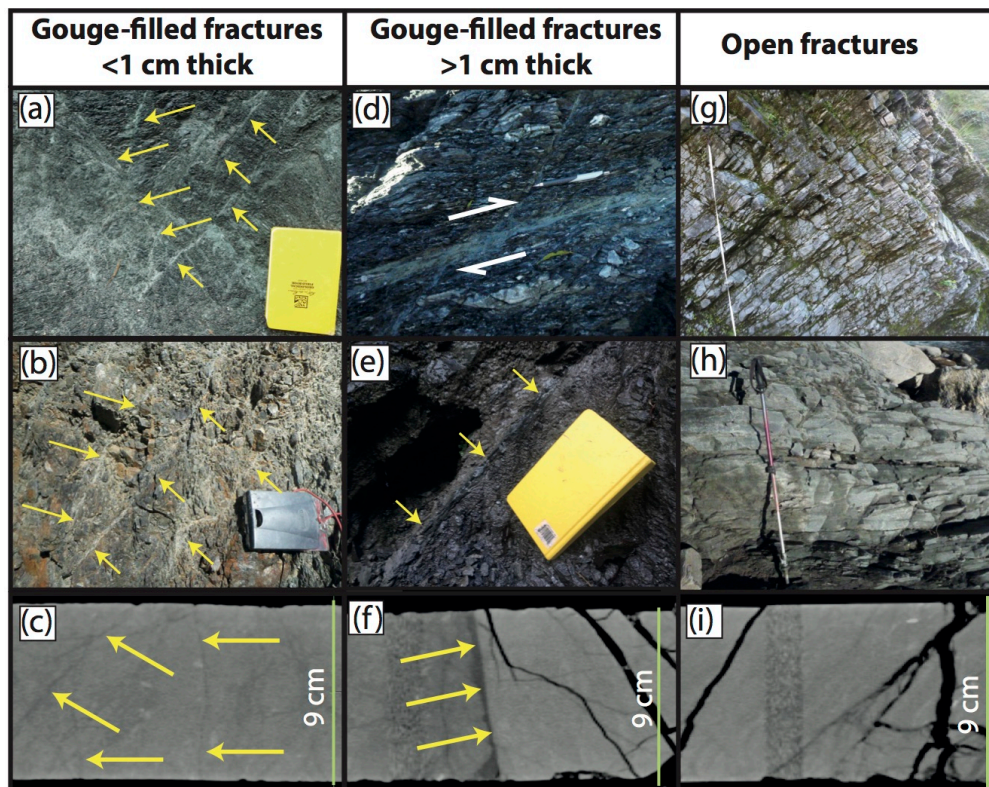
962 Figure 6: The relationship between foliation and fracture orientations in Alpine Fault ultramylonite, as
 963 observed in 2D CT image slices of DFDP-1 drill-core. Intervals are (borehole, core section and run,
 964 depth interval): (a) DFDP-1A 55-1 75.45-75.62 m, (b) DFDP-1B 35-1 102.49-102.64 m, and (c)
 965 DFDP-1B 25-2, 44.80-45.20 m. In (a) and (b) fractures tend to cross-cut the ultramylonitic foliation
 966 (orientation represented by white line in top left corner of each image). (c) Fractures show a greater
 967 preference to be aligned parallel to the foliation. Note that (c) was previously shown in Williams et al.,
 968 (2016), and is not included in the reorientation analysis in Figure 5, as there was no BHTV imagery
 969 for this interval.



971
972 Figure 7: (a) Corrected fracture density at all stations for gouge-filled fractures and all fractures.
973 Dashed line indicates a corrected fracture density of 1 fracture/metre. No orientation data was
974 collected at Gaunt Creek stations 1 and 2, so fracture density is calculated from the two perpendicular
975 transects. (b) Compilation of stereoplots for fracture orientations at each field station. Stations have

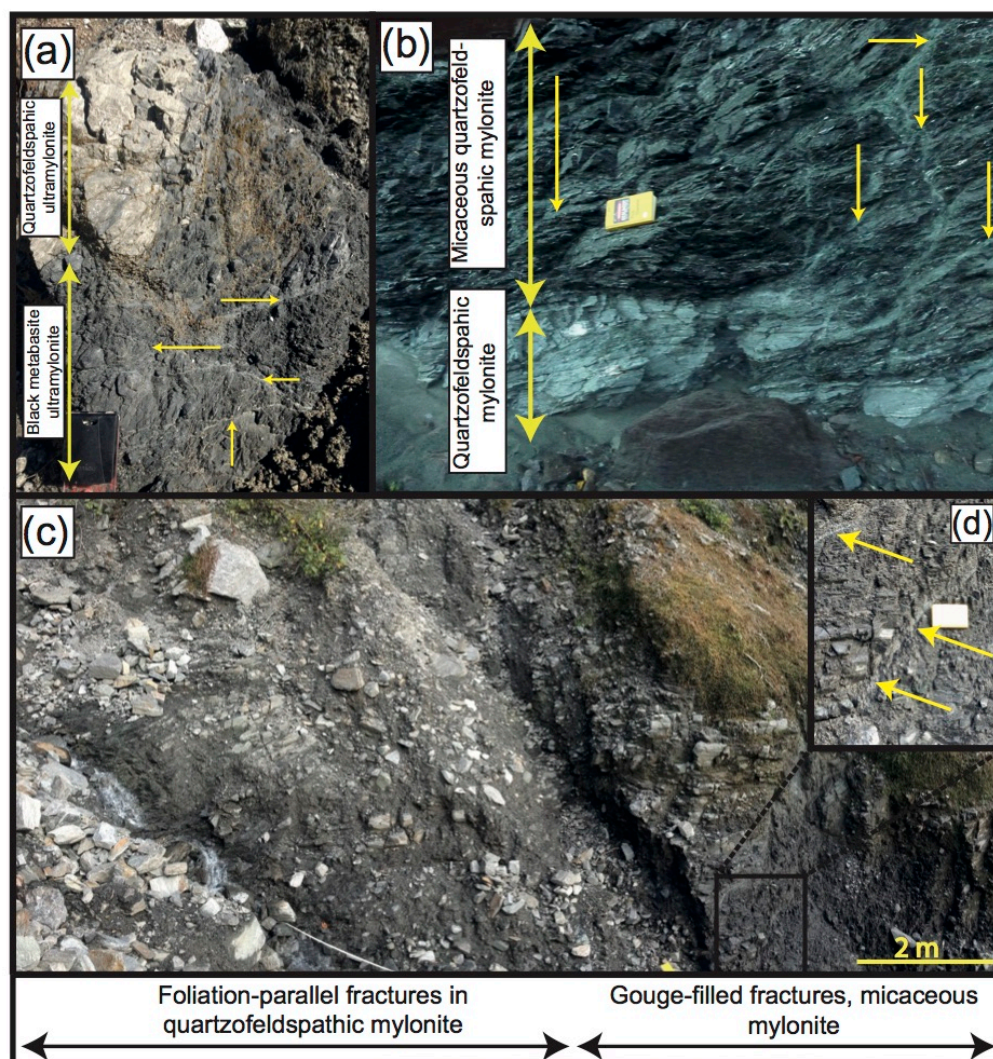
976 been plotted as a function of distance from the fault and distance along-strike (with respect to
977 Havelock Creek) along within fault rock lithologies. Dashed lines indicate gradational or obscured
978 lithological boundaries. Qfs, Quartzofeldspath; MB, metabasic; Mic, Micaceous. For field cross
979 sections and location of stations, see Figure S1. Results are also summarised in Table S2.

980 **Figure 8**



981

982 Figure 8: Examples of the three main types of fractures observed in the field around the Alpine Fault,
 983 and correlative fractures in DFDP-1 CT scans. (a-c) Thin gouge-filled fractures (yellow arrows) have a
 984 range of orientations and found exclusively within 160 m from the fault. They are equivalent to type
 985 iii of fractures from Williams et al., (2016). (d-f) Thicker gouge and cataclasite filled fractures are
 986 equivalent to type i and ii fractures of Williams et al. (2016) and may be observed at all distances from
 987 the Alpine Fault. Offset markers can be observed across these fractures (e.g. the vein indicated by the
 988 pen and white arrows in (d)). (g-i) Open fractures are mainly foliation-parallel. Equivalent to type v
 989 fractures of Williams et al., (2016). Location of field photos: (a) Waikukupa thrust, (b) and (g) Stony
 990 Creek, (d) and (h) Havelock Creek, (e) Bullock Creek. Compass clinometer 8 cm and yellow notebook
 991 20 cm in length. Measuring tape in (e) 1.1 m long, walking pole in (g) 1 m in length. DFDP-1 CT scan
 992 intervals: (c) DFDP-1B 56-2 125.35-125.49 m, (f) DFDP-1B 35-1 102.00-102.15 m, (i) DFDP-1B 33-
 993 2 99.45-99.60 m



995

996 Figure 9: Field observations of changes in fracture density at lithological contacts. (a&b) Intervals of
 997 micaceous and metabasite mylonite containing a relatively high proportion of gouge filled fractures
 998 (denoted by yellow arrows) compared to interlayered quartzofeldspathic mylonite. (c) Transition from
 999 micaceous mylonite to quartzofeldspathic mylonite coincides with furthest extent of intensive gouge-
 1000 filled fractures, as shown by yellow arrows in (d). Taken at (a) Gaunt Creek, (b) Havelock Creek,
 1001 (c&d) Hare Mare Creek. Compass clinometer 8 cm and yellow notebook 20 cm in length.

Figure 10

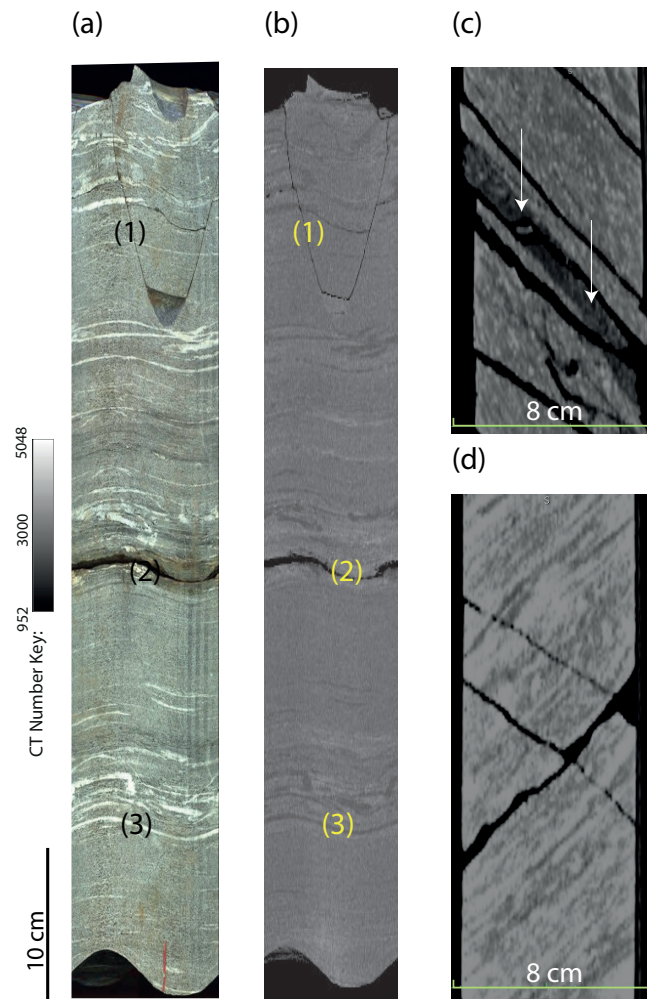
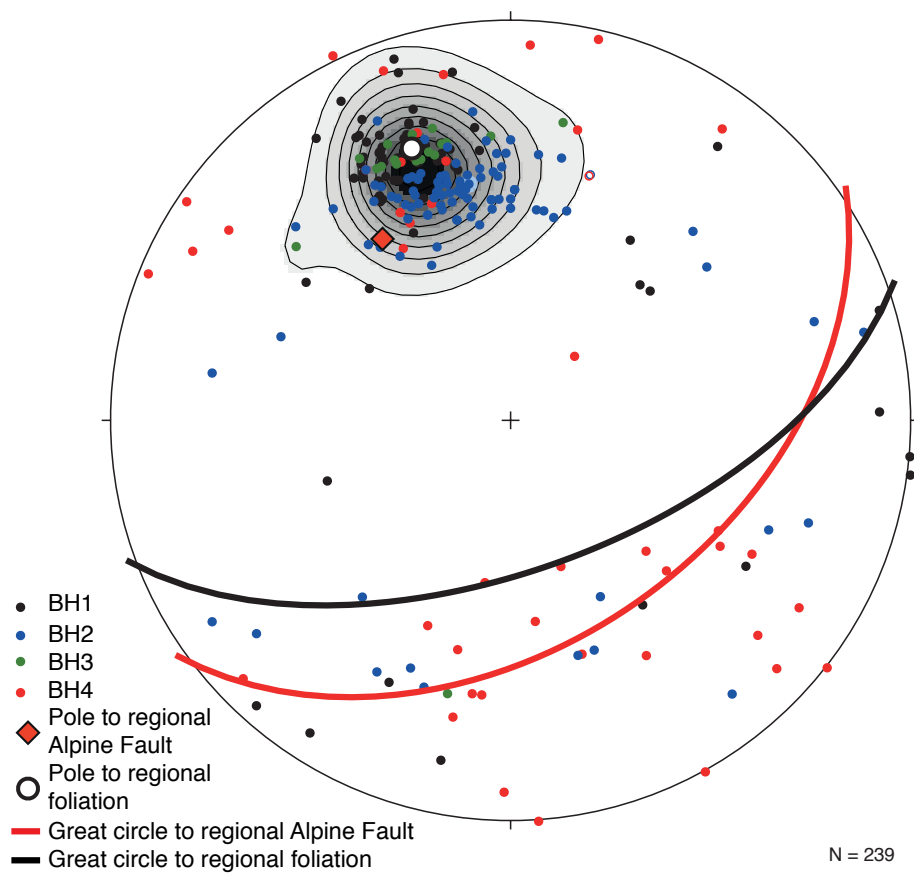


Figure 10: Fractures in the Amethyst Hydro Project (AHP) drill-core. Unrolled images of AHP drill-core (BH1 45-2 124.3-124.9 m) taken by (a) DMT core scanner and (b) generated from a CT image. (1) Identifies fracture cutting across foliation, (2) foliation-parallel fracture with alteration halo, (3) foliation defined by quartzofeldspathic bands that have low CT numbers. (c&d) Core-axial parallel CT image slices of AHP drill-core. In (c) white arrows point to a ‘crush zone’ sub parallel to foliation (BH2 75-2 155.92-156.04 m). (d) more variable fracture orientations identified in BH4 (Section 70-4 196.62-196.80 m).

1012 **Figure 11**



1014 Figure 11: Equal area, lower hemisphere projection of fracture orientations recognised in CT scans of
1015 AHP drill-core separated by borehole. Contours plotted with weighted poles (see Figure 5).

1016

Figure 12

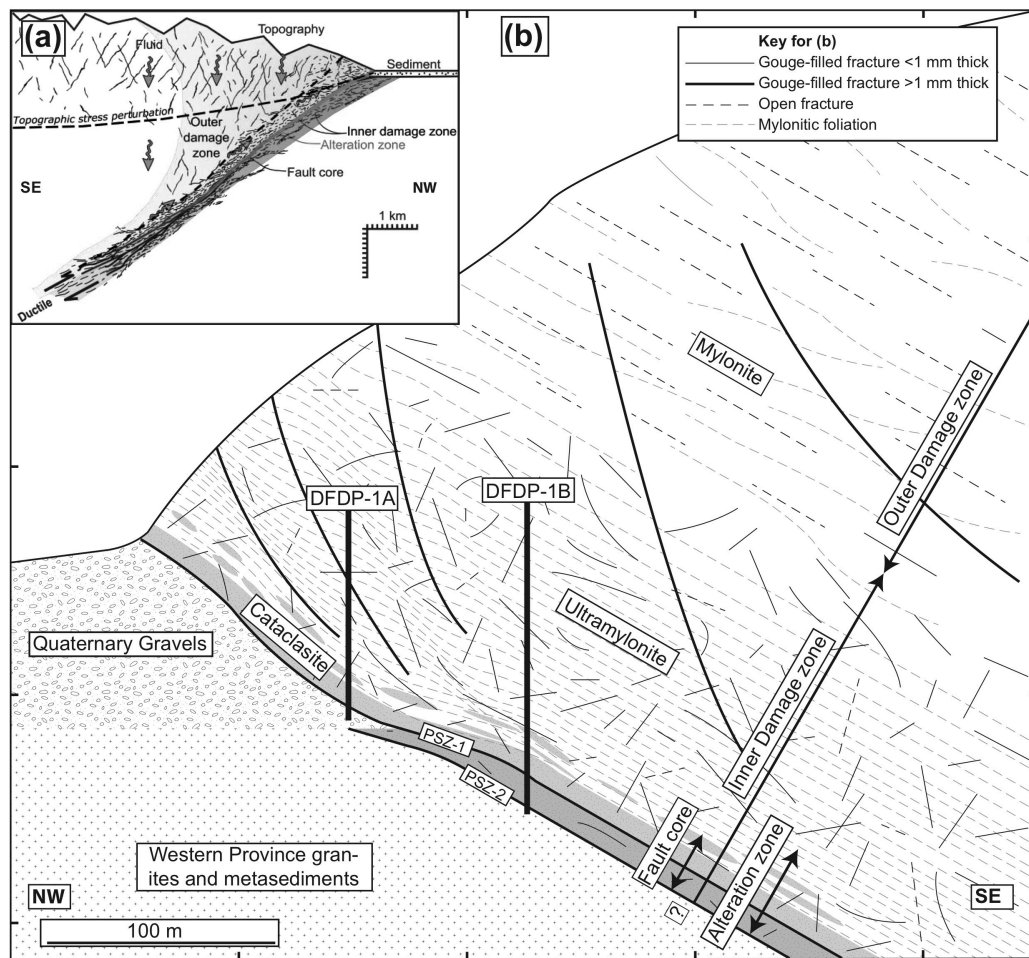


Figure 12: Schematic cross sections through the Alpine Fault illustrating its hanging-wall structure. (a) Crustal-scale cross section illustrating the flower shaped geometry of the outer damage zone (after Townend et al., (2017)). (b) A thrust section within the central section of the Alpine Fault, depicting fracture network, its relationship to foliation, and the distribution of subsidiary faults. Respective position of DFDP-1 boreholes also shown. Constructed from cross sections previously presented in Norris and Cooper, (2007) and Sutherland et al., (2012).

Figure 13

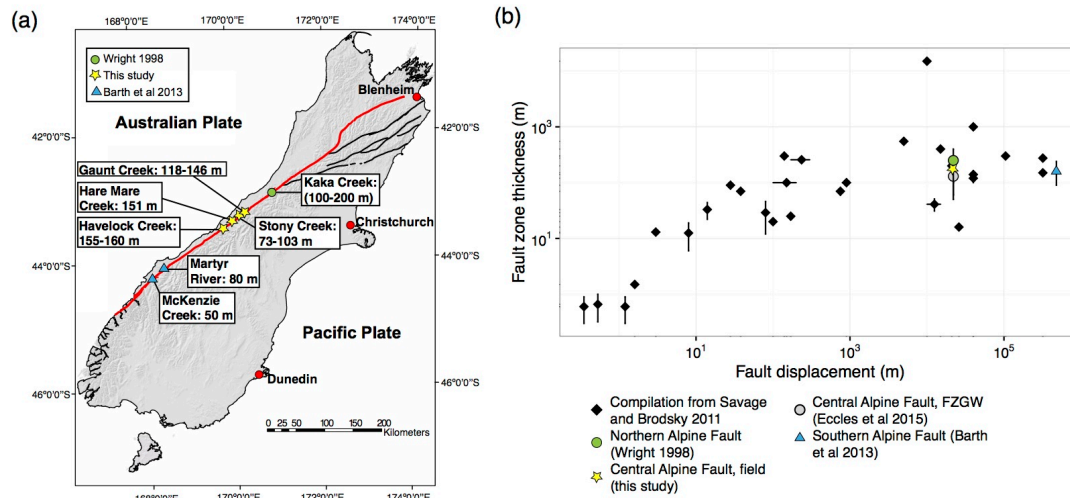


Figure 13: (a) Compilation of estimates of the ‘inner damage zone’ width on the Pacific Plate side of the Alpine Fault (red line) from four creek sections in this study (Gaunt Creek, Stony Creek, Hare Mare Creek and Havelock Creek). This is combined with other along-strike estimates of damage zone thickness for the Pacific Plate side of the Alpine Fault: McKenzie Creek and Martyr River (Barth et al., 2013) and Kaka Creek (Wright, 1998). (b) Log-log plot of fault zone thickness as a function of fault displacement previously presented in Savage and Brodsky, (2011), combined with estimates made for the Alpine Fault assuming footwall damage is no more extensive than in the hanging-wall. Displacement for the Alpine Fault is 480 km (Norris and Cooper, 2007; Wellman, 1953). However, convergence along the Alpine Fault’s central section requires that it erodes its own fault rocks so these points are plotted to reflect only the brittle displacement the rocks themselves have accommodated as they are exhumed through the seismogenic zone (22 km, Barth et al., (2012)). Error bars reflect uncertainty in constraining fault zone width (as for example, footwall damage is largely unknown), not necessarily variability in fault zone thickness.

Figure A1

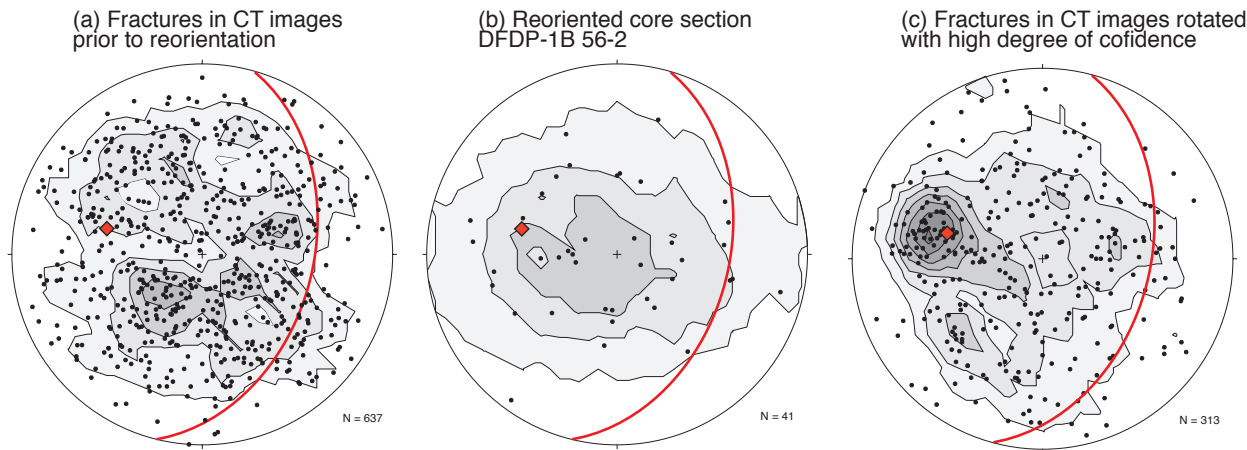


Figure A1: Stereoplots to tests the confidence in reorientations applied to rotate DFDP-1 CT

scan fracture orientations into geographic coordinates. Red great circle and diamond in each

plot represents plane and pole to the Alpine Fault orientation measured in DFDP-1B. Plotted

with Kamb contours with intervals of two standard deviations. (a) Orientation of fractures

shown in Figure 5a before rotation, (b) orientation of reoriented fractures within a single core

section (DFDP-1B 56-2), and (c) orientation of fractures in CT images from core sections that

were oriented with a high degree of confidence with BHTV images.

1053 **List of Tables**

1054 **Table 1**

	Number of fractures	Resultant Plane dip direction	Resultant Plane dip	Resultant vector length (Cluster intensity, 2 s.f.)
All reoriented	637	80	58	0.58
DFDP-1 CT fractures				
Reoriented	451	87	58	0.58
DFDP-1 CT fractures, foliated units				
Reoriented	188	71	61	0.58
DFDP-1 CT fractures, unfoliated units				
DFDP-1B BHTV	365	103	47	0.72
features (depth interval 94-126 m)				
AHP Fractures	239	164	58	0.76

1055 Table 1: Clustering analysis of the different fracture datasets documented in this study, using
 1056 the resultant vector methodology outlined by Priest, (1993). DFDP-1 foliated units comprise
 1057 ultramylonites and foliated cataclasites (Units 1, 2 and 4 of Toy et al., (2015)). DFDP-1

1058 unfoliated units comprise unfoliated cataclasites (Unit 3 of Toy et al., (2015)). The resultant
1059 vector orientation for each dataset, which has been converted to spherical coordinates, is also
1060 reported. See text for full details.