GLG494/598 (ASU) and GEOL 701J (UNR): Mapping tectonic faults from geomorphology

Refining fault zone mapping approaches and examples

Ramón Arrowsmith

ramon.arrowsmith@asu.edu



Arizona State University

Outline for today's lecture

- Review example of California Geological Survey Fault Evaluation Report results
- Reminder of the main motivations of the course and activity
- Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps
- Workflows and database schema examples

California Geological Survey Fault Evaluation Report FER-264

THE RAYMOND FAULT in the Mt. Wilson and El Monte Quadrangles Los Angeles County, California

> by Jerome A. Treiman April 20, 2017 (revised)

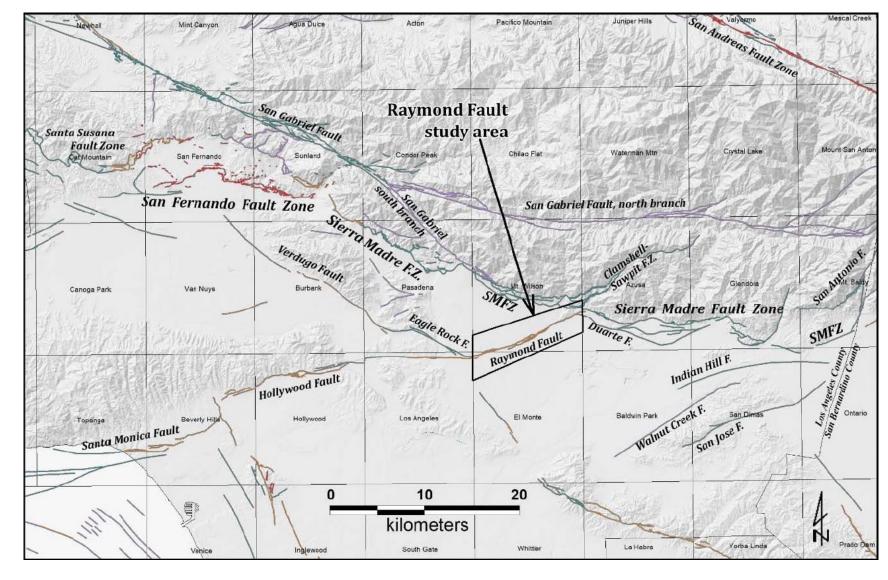
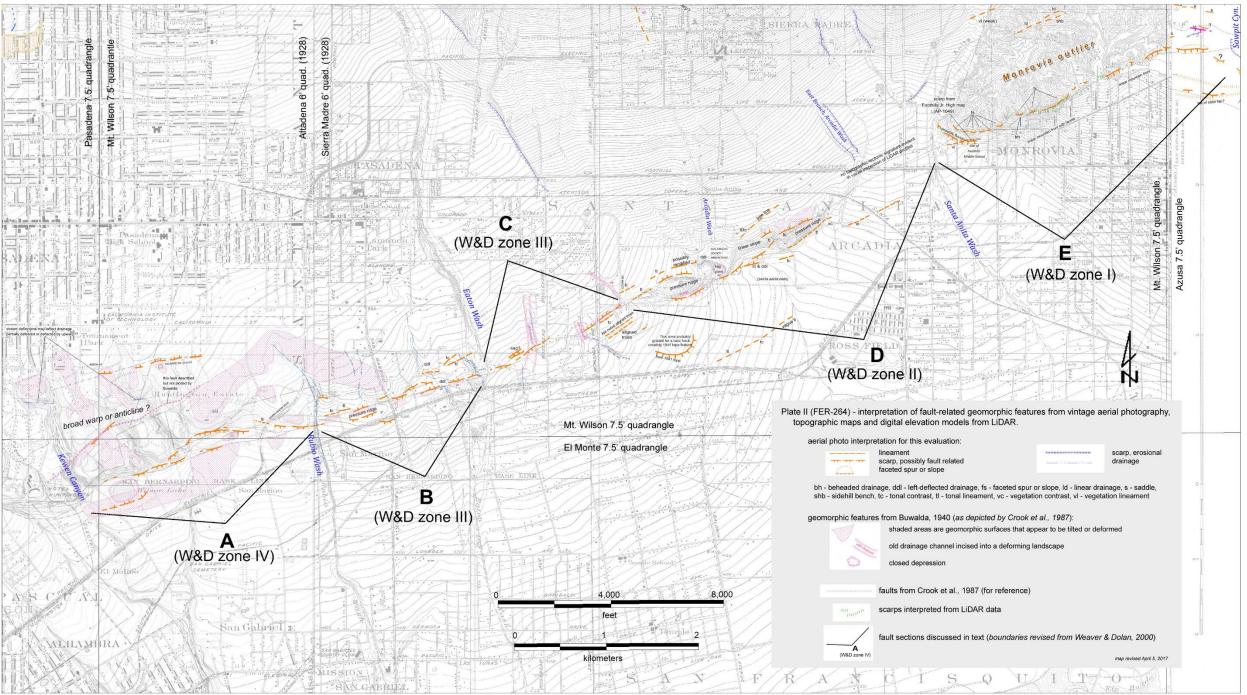
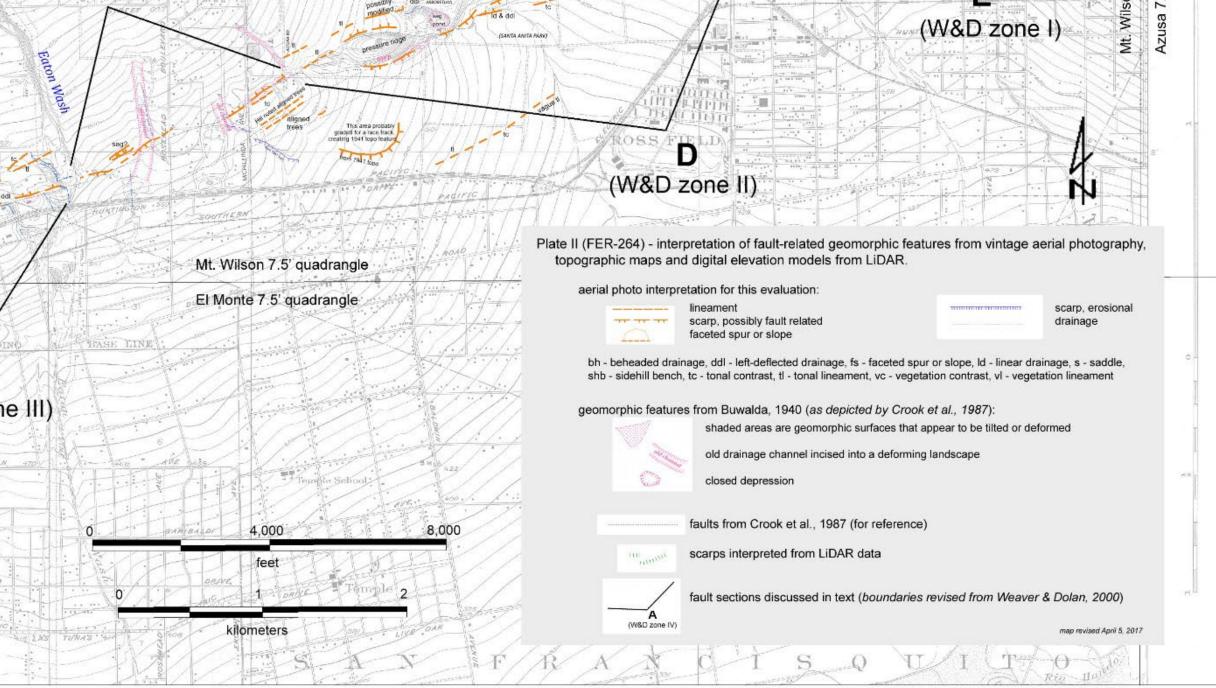


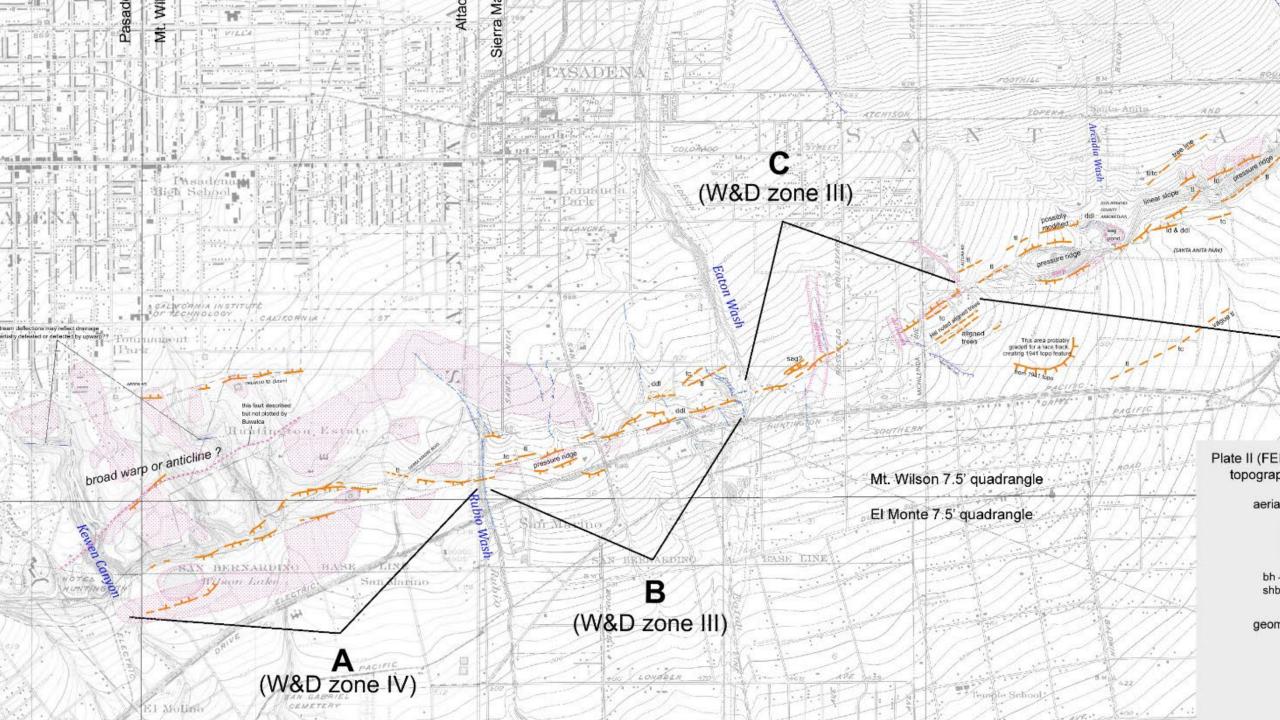
Plate 2 is useful for the class – A tectonic geomorphic map that Jerry produced, mostly from older airphotos (although the topo base shows many of the features pretty well). I think Plate 3 helps illustrate the evolution of many pieces of data into a unified fault map.



base map is a composite of portions of the Altadena and Sierra Madre 6-minute quadrangles, published in 1928 at a scale of 1:24,000



base map is a composite of portions of the Altadena and Sierra Madre 6-minute quadrangles, published in 1928 at a scale of 1:24,000



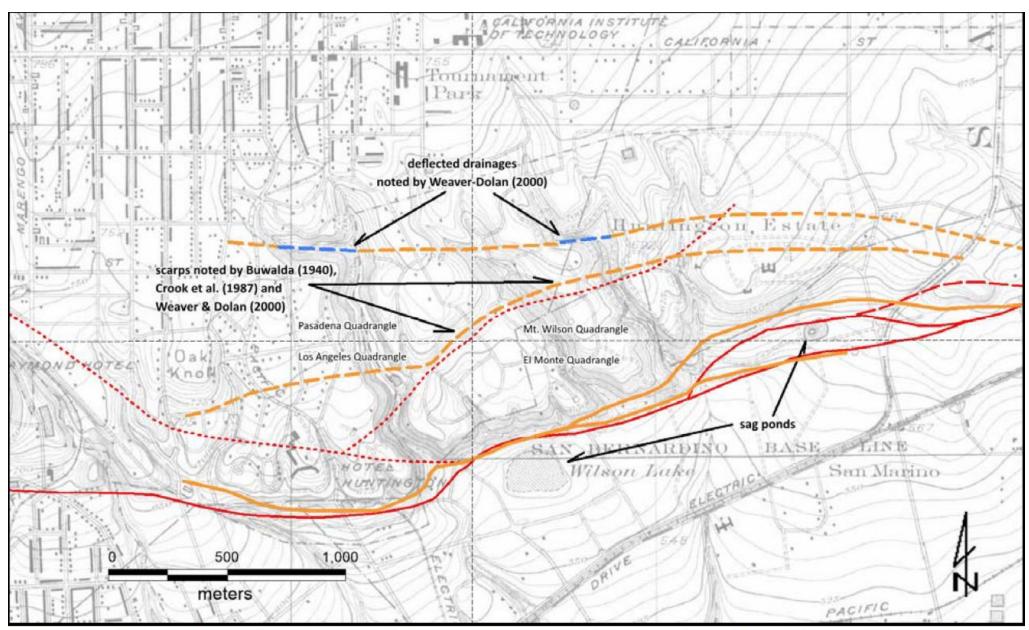
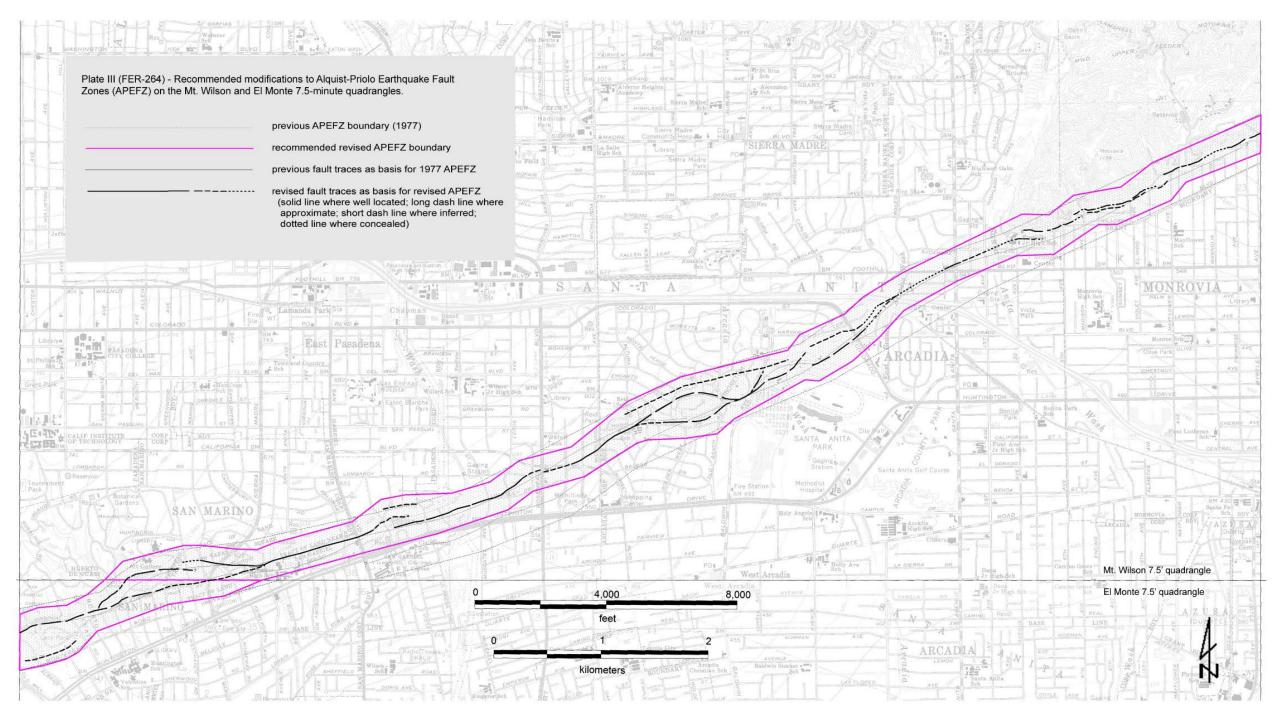


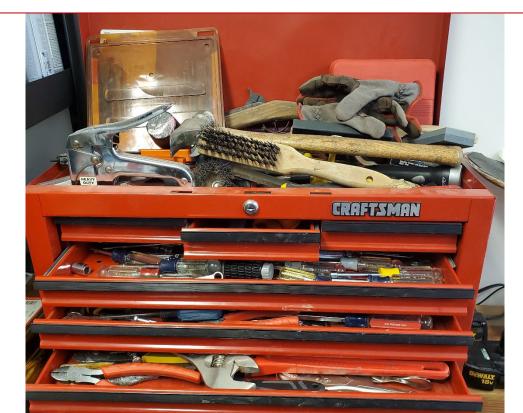
Figure 8 – Detail of San Marino area, showing interpreted features from Buwalda (1940), Crook *et al.* (1987; red lines) and Weaver and Dolan (2000; orange lines). The two later interpretations were very close to that of Buwalda, for the main fault trace. Base map is part of 1928 Altadena 6' quadrangle map.



What is the fault rupture hazard at sites near active faults?

First step is what we are doing in our class which is to MAP fault traces and deformation zones active in the recent geologic past.

We are helping you fill your toolbox: morphologic mapping, surficial geologic mapping, geomorphic indicator ranking, fundamental structural geology and geomorphology, Quaternary climate drivers, QGIS, etc.



From the standpoint of improving PFDHA models for hazard, it will be most helpful to have the pre-rupture maps reflect the *current standard of practice* for mapping fault location, location uncertainty, etc. This standard of practice does pay attention to reasonable geologic constraints and follows well-traveled heuristics ["rules-of-thumb"] about which features are good proxies for active faulting versus differential erosion/not active faulting.

The comparison of pre- and post-rupture mapping should be the objective test for us all to learn how well the fault mapping—following current best practices—serves as a predictive tool for future surface-fault rupture. We want to use this comparison to develop additional data for calibration of the PFDHA models, as well as assess the best approaches for producing useful map data. The challenge for us then is to balance moving our mapping closer to the standards of practice without also introducing too much additional bias, or too much reliance on prior knowledge. [somewhat generic educational challenge for many situations]

We have a great opportunity with our motivated group of geoscientists to address these issues

Mapping Strategies, Guidance, Considerations

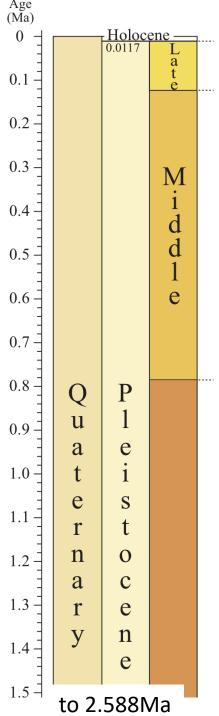
- Generic geologic, geomorphic, morphologic mapping standards
- California Geological Survey active fault guidelines
- McCalpin flow chart
- Controls by slip rate, fault type, vegetation and anthropogenic changes, active and paleosurface processes
- Many examples (heuristics by demonstration)

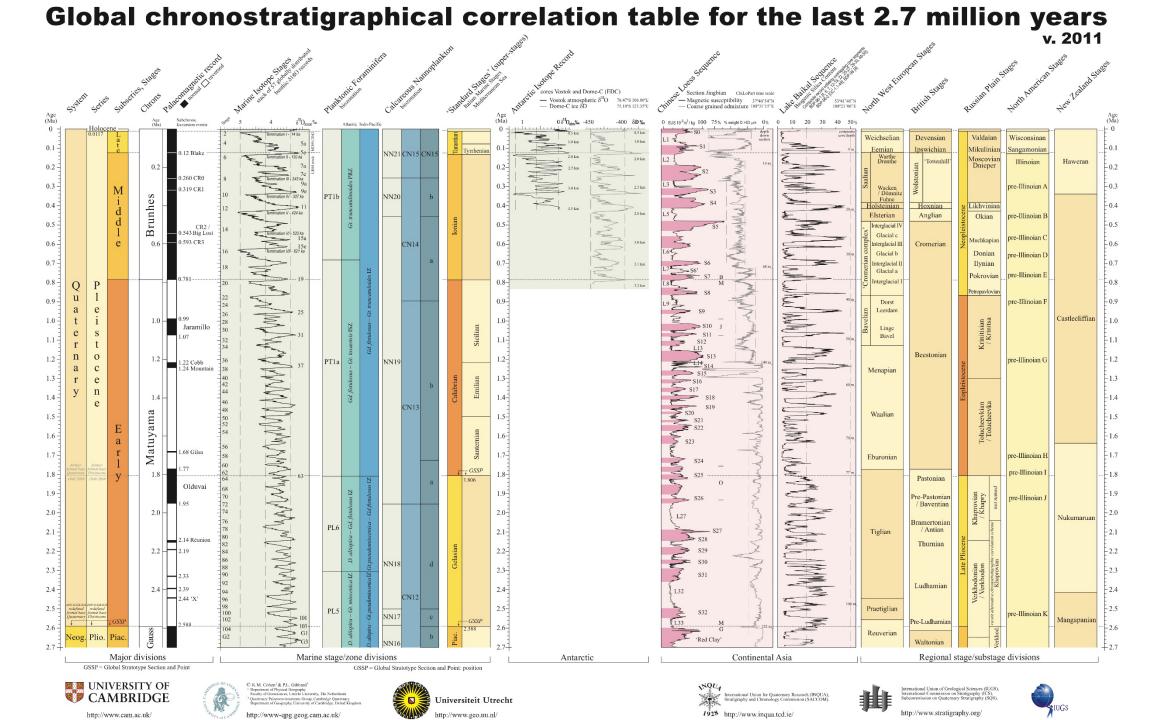
Quality rating for our maps

- Basic rules
 - Bedrock and Quaternary geology correctness
 - Missing features & Uneven coverage
 - Consistency
- How to document your decision making? Is the feature related to active faulting
- Are the features you have drawn supported by the observations?

Active faults—defined by recency of last ground deformation

- USGS Quaternary faults 5 classes: Historic, Holocene to Latest Pleistocene, Late Quaternary, Mid-Late Quaternary, Quaternary (https://www.usgs.gov/naturalhazards/earthquake-hazards/faults)
- California Geological Survey maps: Holocene (<12ka)
- California Division of Dams: Late Pleistocene (<35ka)
- Holocene is post Last Glacial Maximum





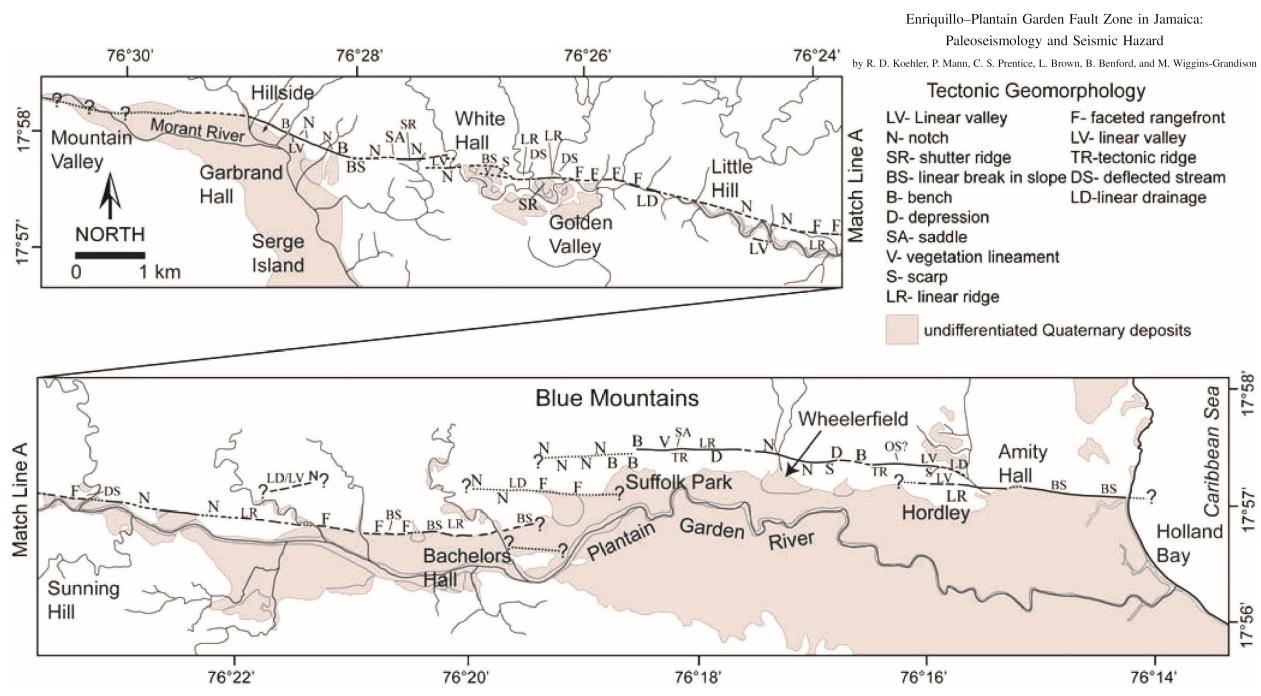
http://quaternary.stratigraphy.org/charts,

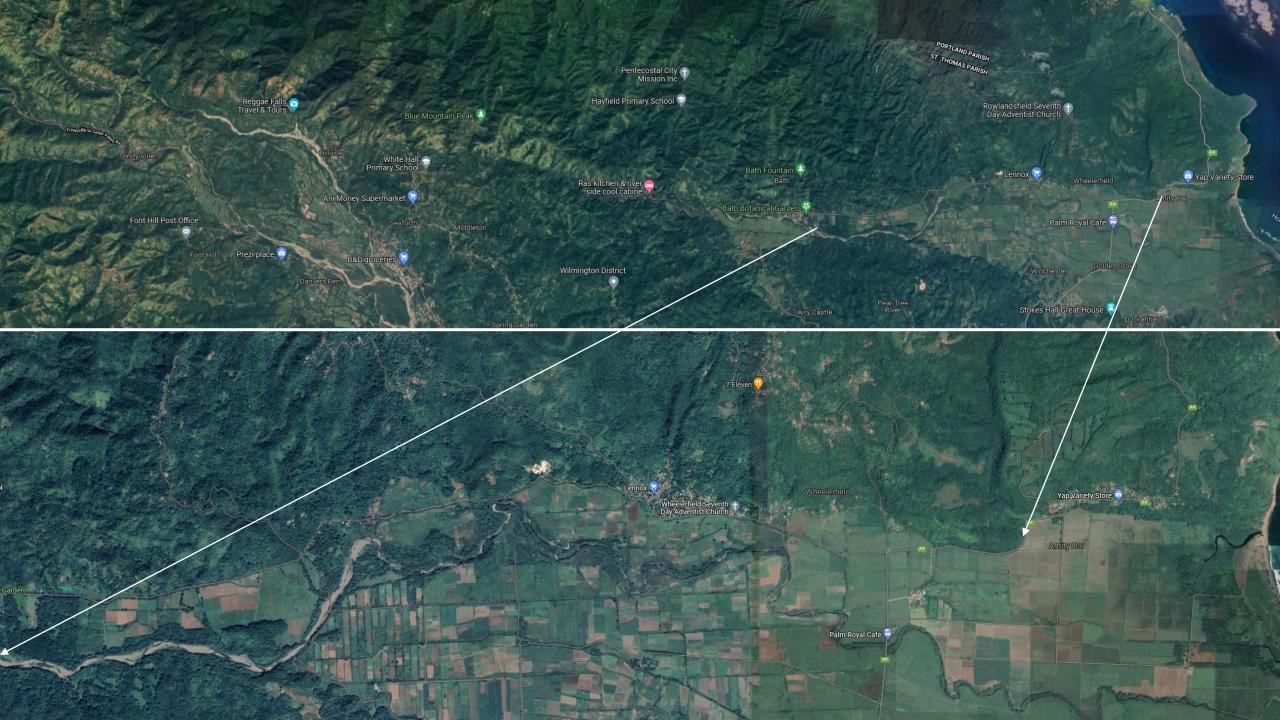
Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps Let's see how other groups have solved these problems This is not exhaustive

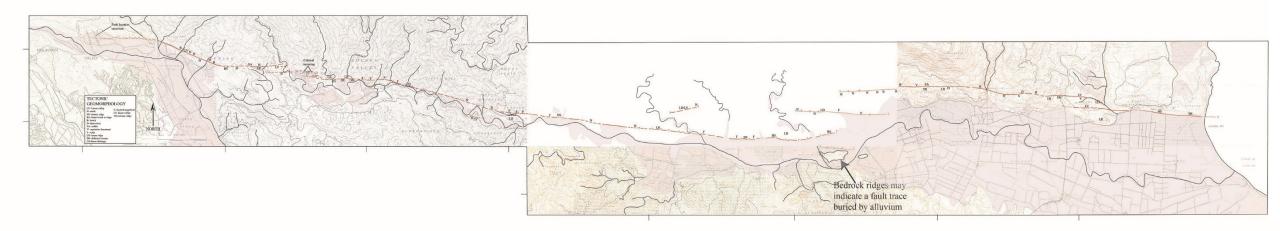
Let's look for

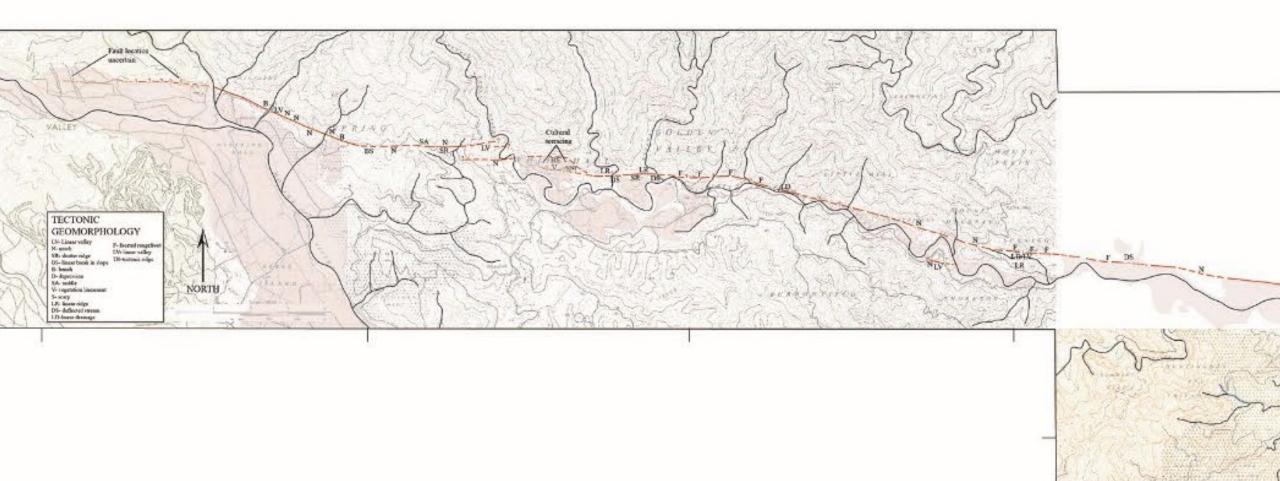
- Morphologic features
- GIR
- Surficial Geologic mapping
- Primary vs. secondary
- How well are the mapped features supported by the data?

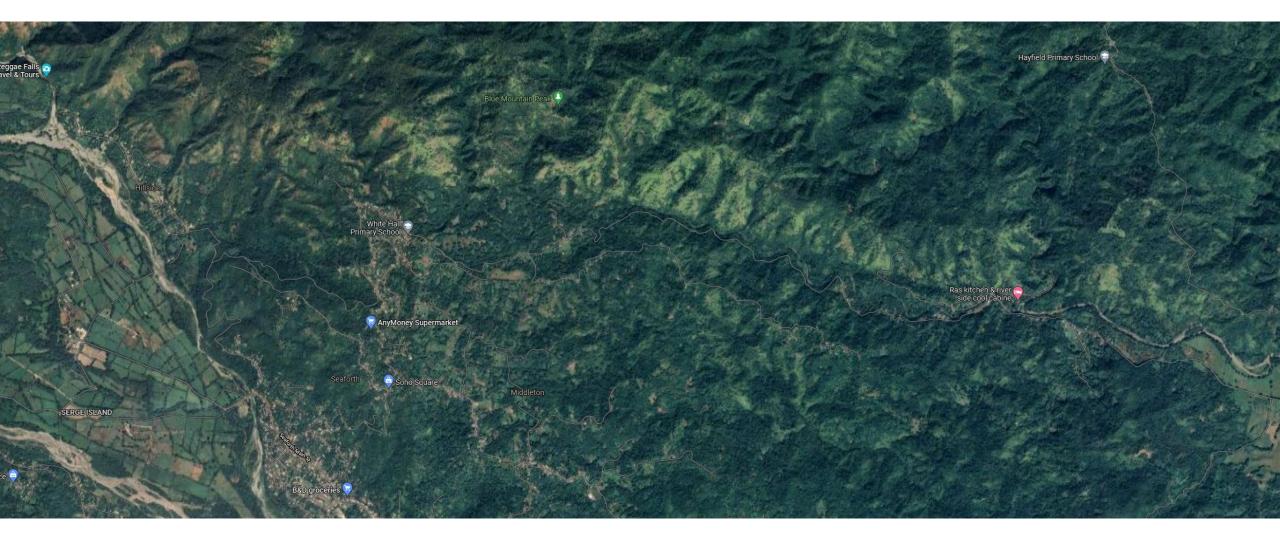
Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps: Enriquillo-Plaintain Garden Fault, Jamaica

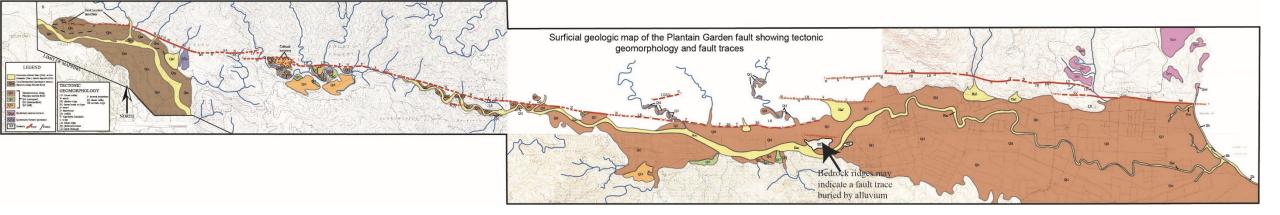


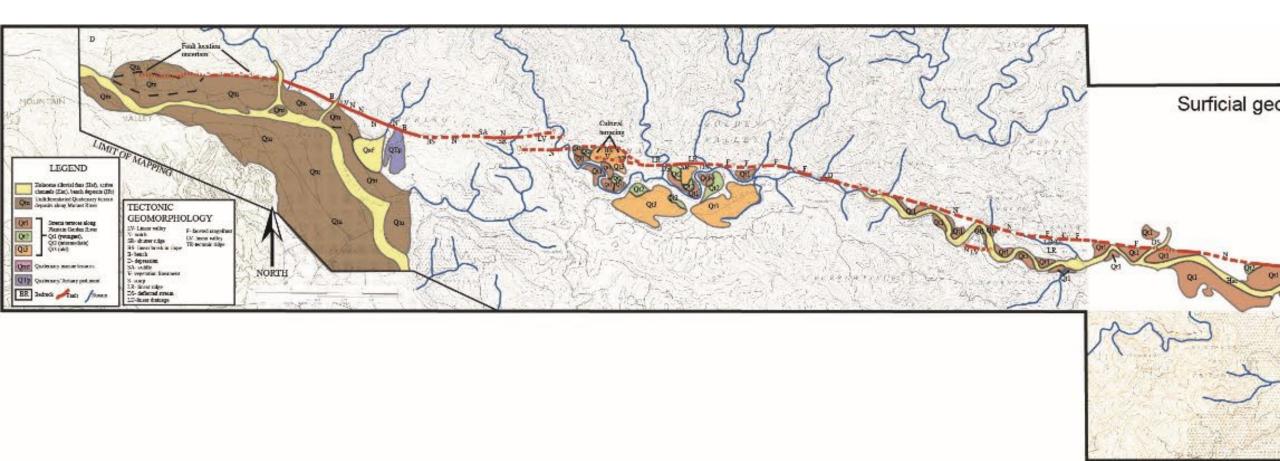












Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps: Hayward Fault prototype GIR And two other Northern California examples Geomorphic features are ranked according to a scale of clarity by using the following codes:

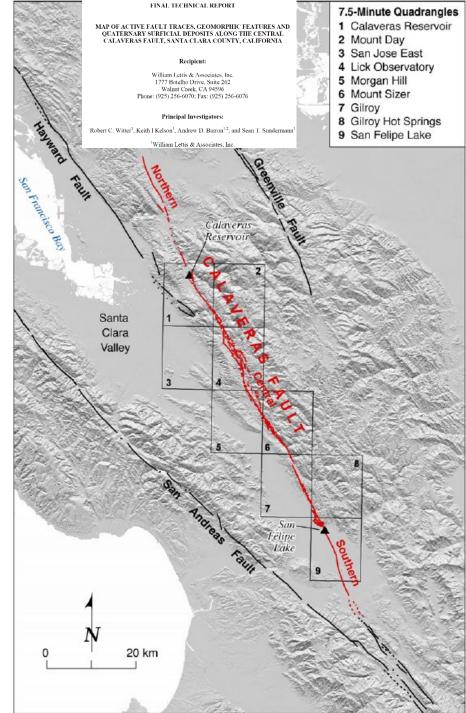
- G1 indicates strongly pronounced features;
- G2 indicates distinct features;
- G3 indicates features with weaker expression.
- Features of uncertain tectonic origin are queried.

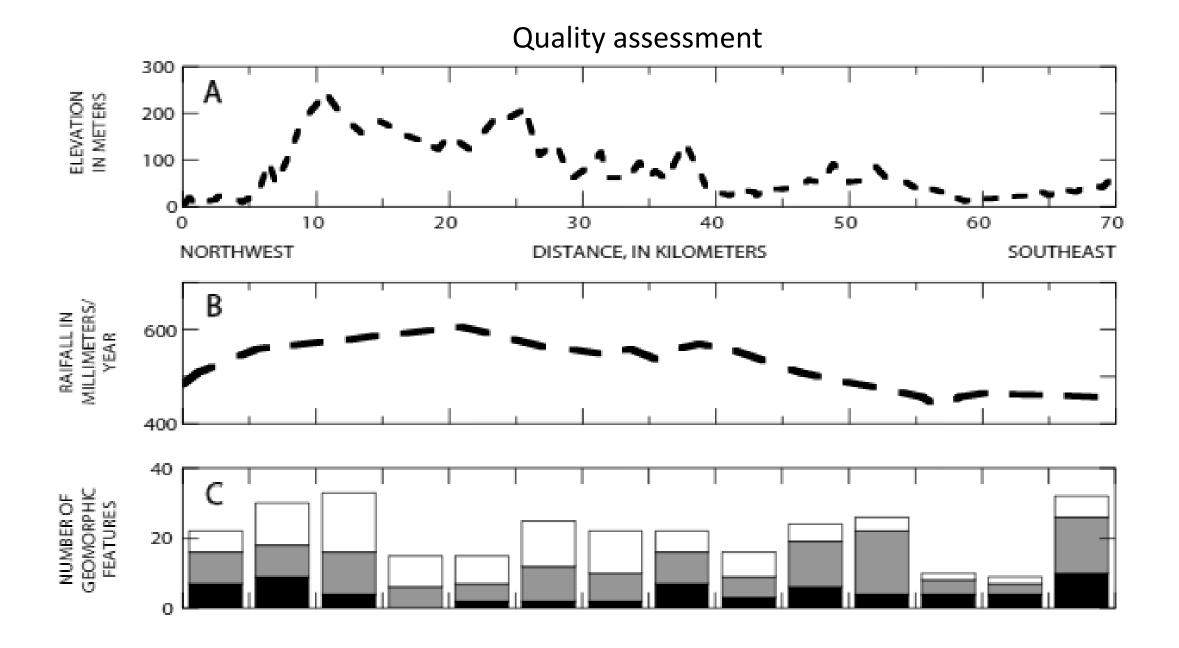
The geomorphic codes do not reflect the degree of confidence in the judgement that particular fault traces are of Holocene age. Instead, where evidence for Holocene displacement is less certain, the map delineates the fault trace as a dotted line or queried dotted line.

The accuracy of active fault locations relates to the clarity of geomorphic expression as well as any additional lines of evidence that accurately delineate the fault. For example, sections of the fault characterized by strongly pronounced and distinct features (G1 or G2) that coincide with creep evidence and/or geological evidence for Holocene displacement can be more accurately located than ambiguous fault traces defined by weakly expressed features that lack evidence for creep or geologic information derived from paleoseismic trenches.

Uncertainty in the location of fault traces is expressed by varying line types in the following way: (1) solid lines indicate well located traces ($\leq \pm 25$ m); (2) dashed lines indicate traces located with less certainty ($\leq \pm 50$ m); and (3) dotted lines indicate concealed or inferred fault traces ($\leq \pm 75$ m).

Follows Lienkaemper, J.J., 1992, Map of recently active traces of the Hayward Fault, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California: U.S. Geological Survey Miscellaneous Field Studies Map MF-2196, map scale 1:24,000, 13 p.





Hayward fault-related geomorphic features (black, G1; dotted, G2; white, G3) (Lienkaemper, 1992)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237789684_Map_of_recently_active_traces_of_the_Hayward_fault_Alameda_and _Contra_Costa_counties_California

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

DIGITAL COMPILATION OF NORTHERN CALAVERAS FAULT DATA FOR THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MAP DATABASE: COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH WILLIAM LETTIS & ASSOCIATES, INC., AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVE

Recipient:

William Lettis & Associates, Inc. 1777 Botelho Drive, Suite 262 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Principal Investigators:

Keith I. Kelson and Sean T. Sundermann

121°55'9"W Explanation

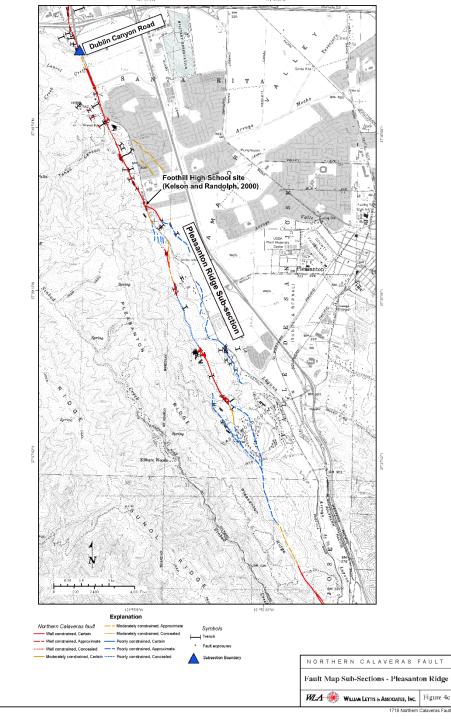
Subsection Boundary

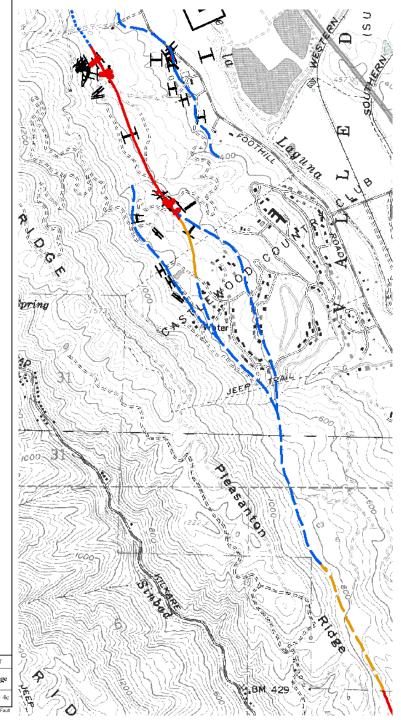
- Northern Calaveras fault
 Moderately constrained, Approximate
 Symbols

 Well constrained, Certain
 Moderately constrained, Concealed
 Trench

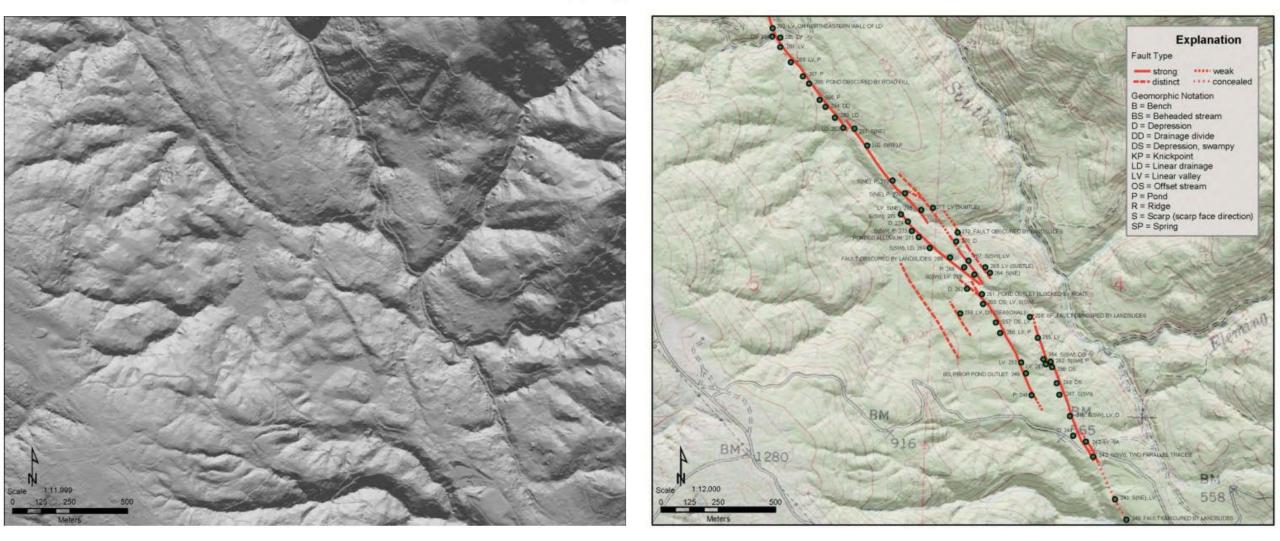
 Well constrained, Approximate
 Poorly constrained, Certain
 Fault exposures

 Well constrained, Concealed
 Poorly constrained, Approximate
 Fault exposures
- ----- Moderately constrained, Certain ------ Poorly constrained, Concealed





line types and geomorphic indicators Lidar and field mapping, northern San Andreas fault

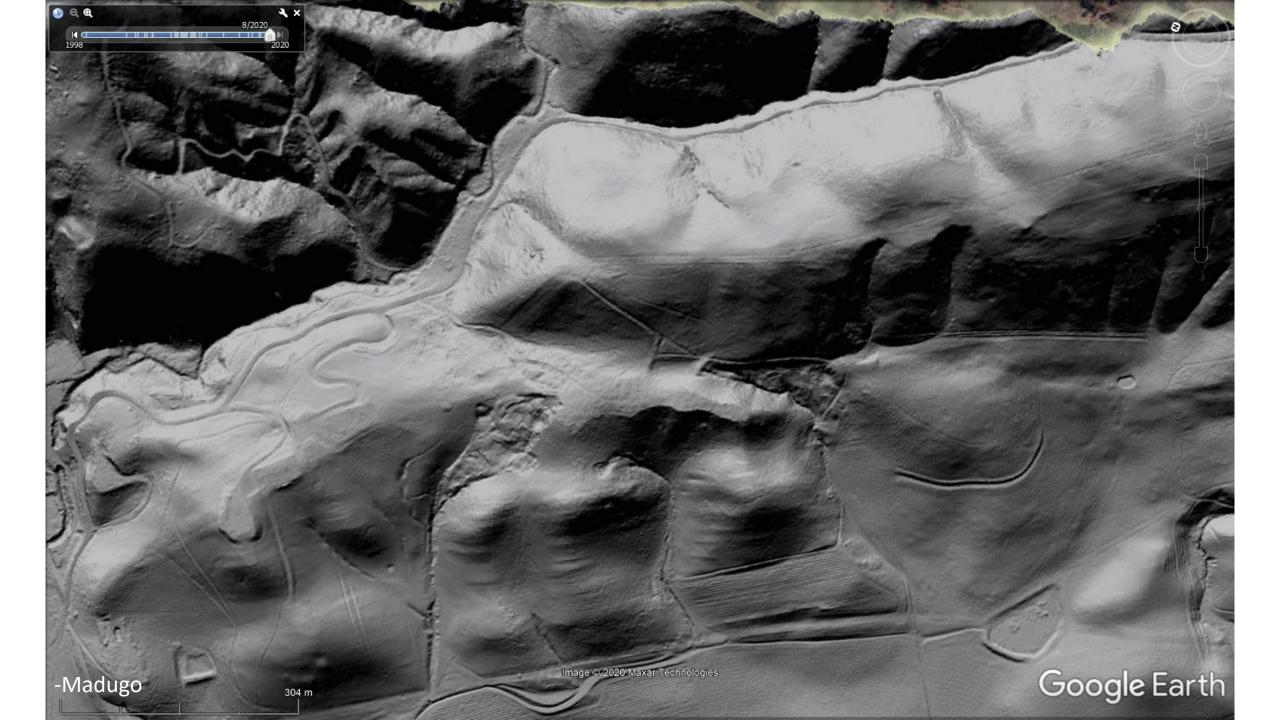


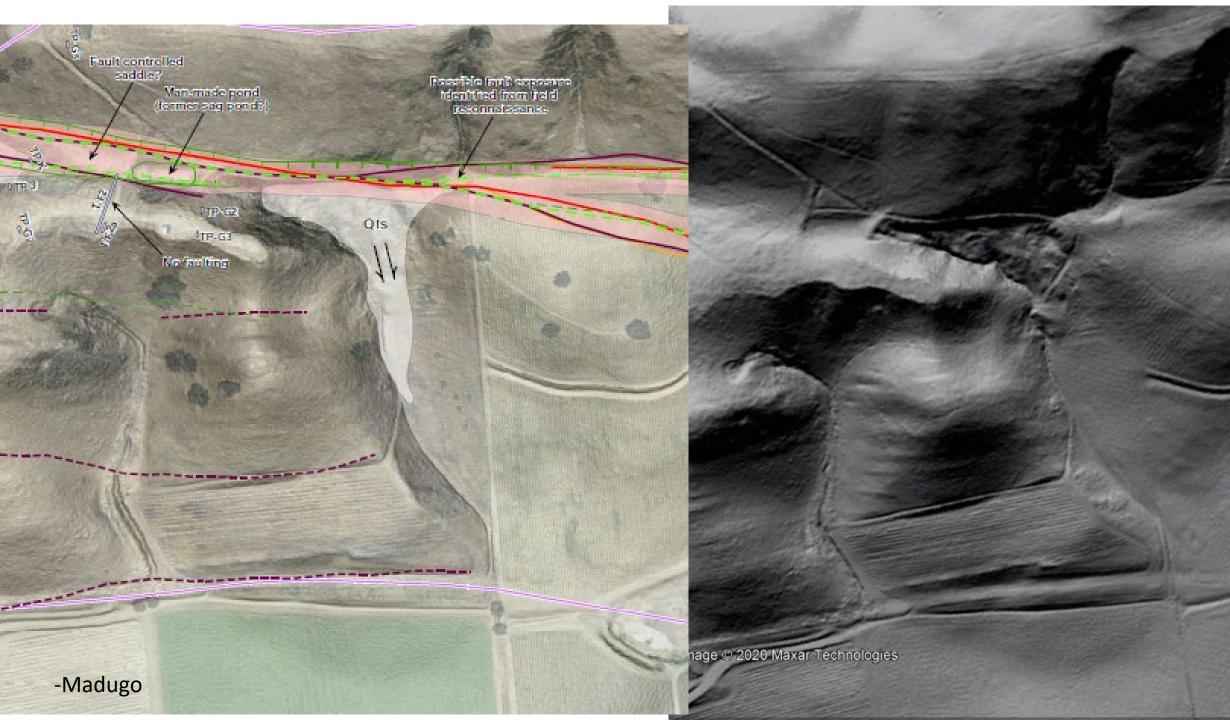
http://activetectonics.asu.edu/mapping_active_faults/Lectures/Strike_slip_koehler_2_10_22.pdf

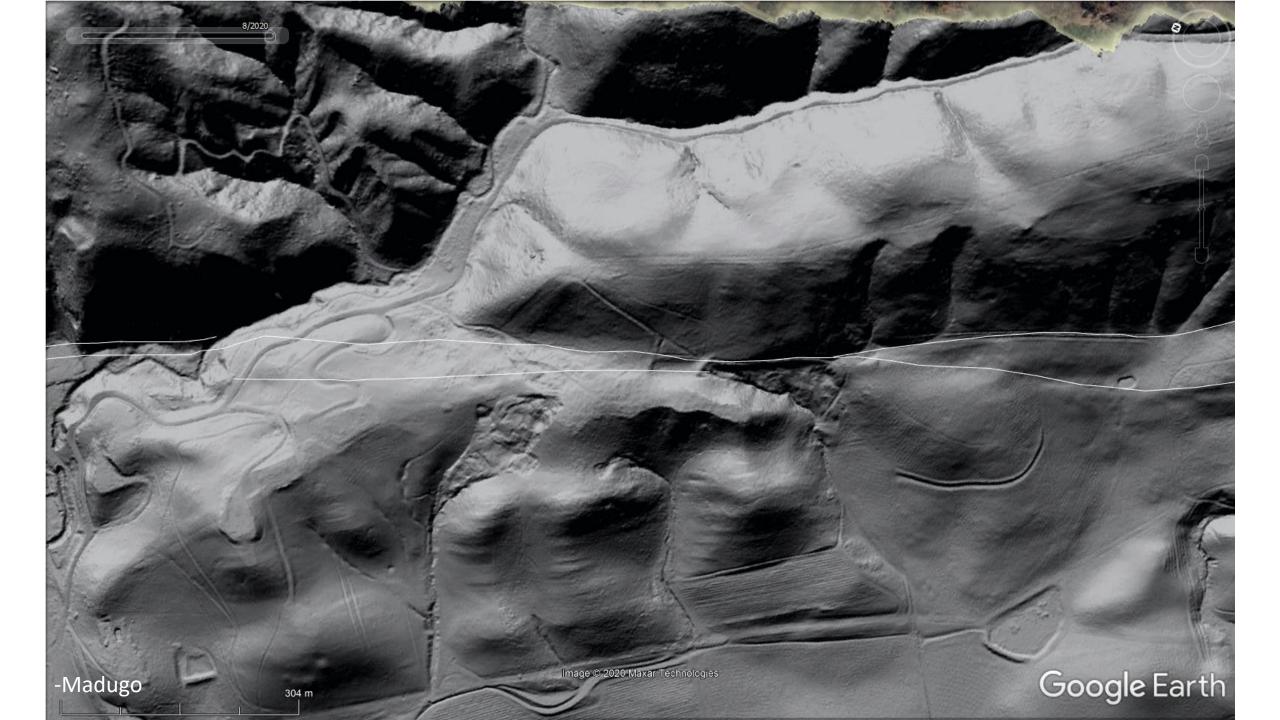
Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps: Calaveras Fault Consistency of features observed along strike at different scales, yet still have good examples of uncertainty (e.g. which side of a trough or valley does the main strand go).

Calaveras Fault 9-20 mm/yr Creeping



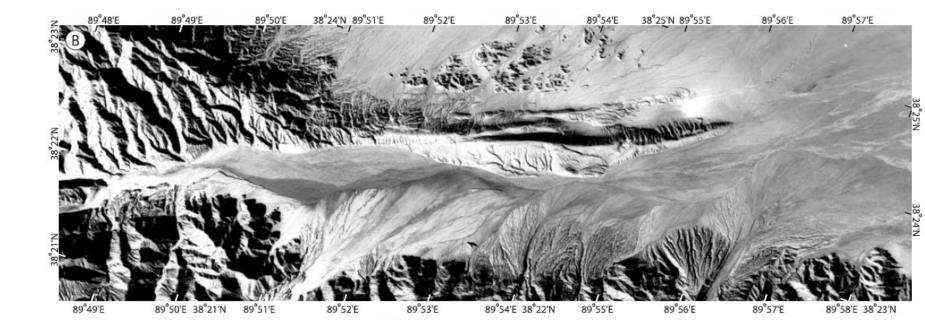




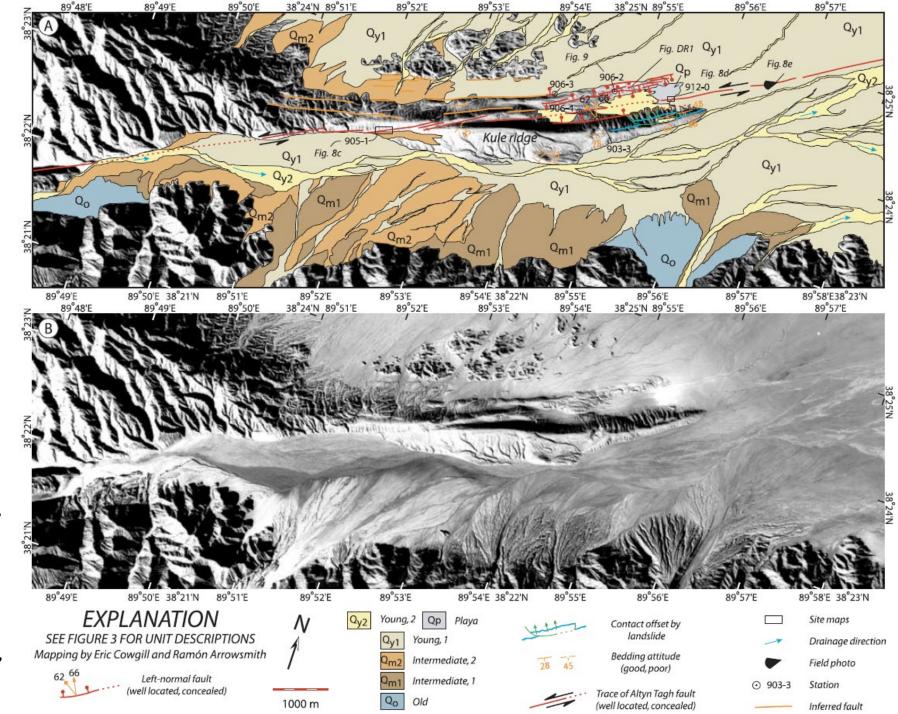




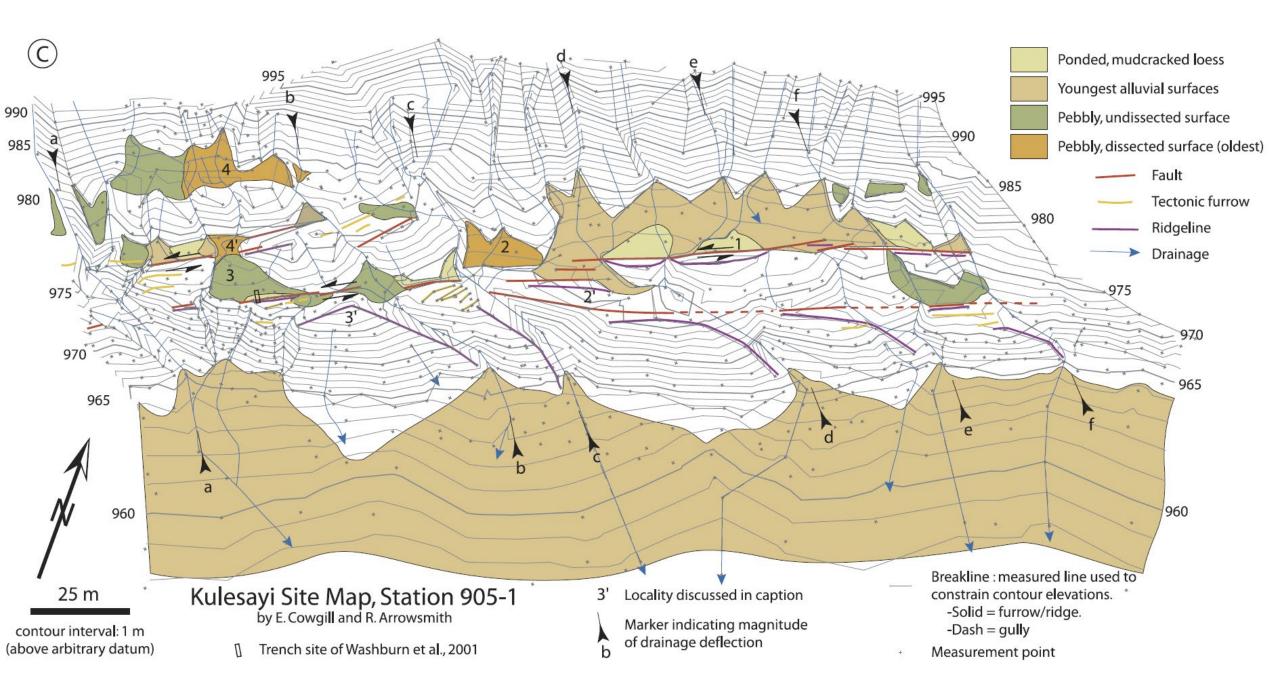
Altyn Tagh Fault, Xinjiang China



Cowgill, E. Arrowsmith, J R., Yin, A., Xiaofeng, W., Zhengle, C., The Akato Tagh bend along the Altyn Tagh fault, NW Tibet 2. Active deformation and the importance of transpression and strain-hardening along the Altyn Tagh system, Geological Society of America Bulletin, 116, p. 1443--1464, 2004.







Mapping flow charts, workflow, schemas

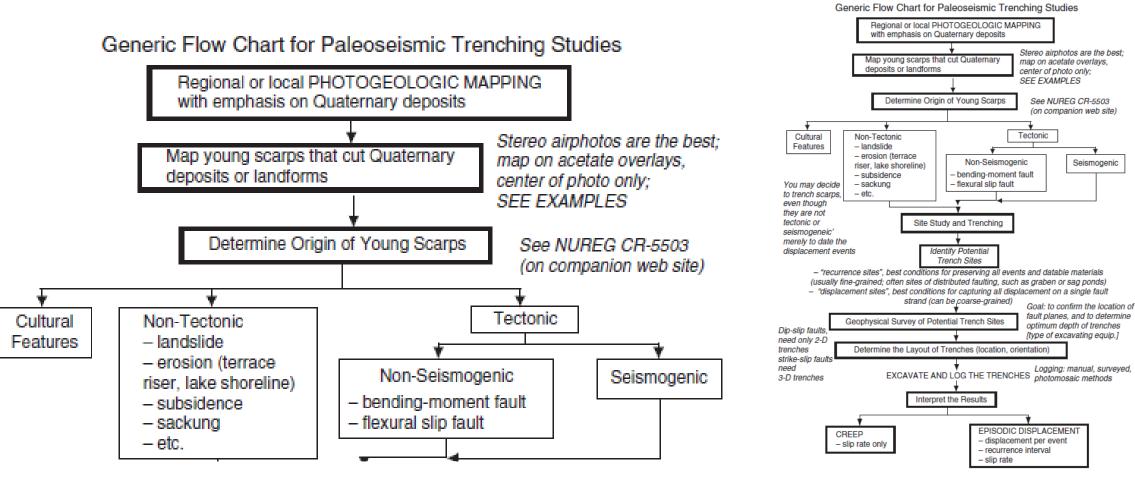


Figure 2A.1: A generic sequence of paleoseismic investigations that ends in trenching a young fault scarp. NUREG CR-5503 refers to Hanson *et al.* (1999).

McCalpin textbook

Locational Accuracy and Scientific Confidence

 Terms come from USGS geologic mapping standards (See Soller et al. (2002) – USGS OFR 02-370)

Scientific confidence:

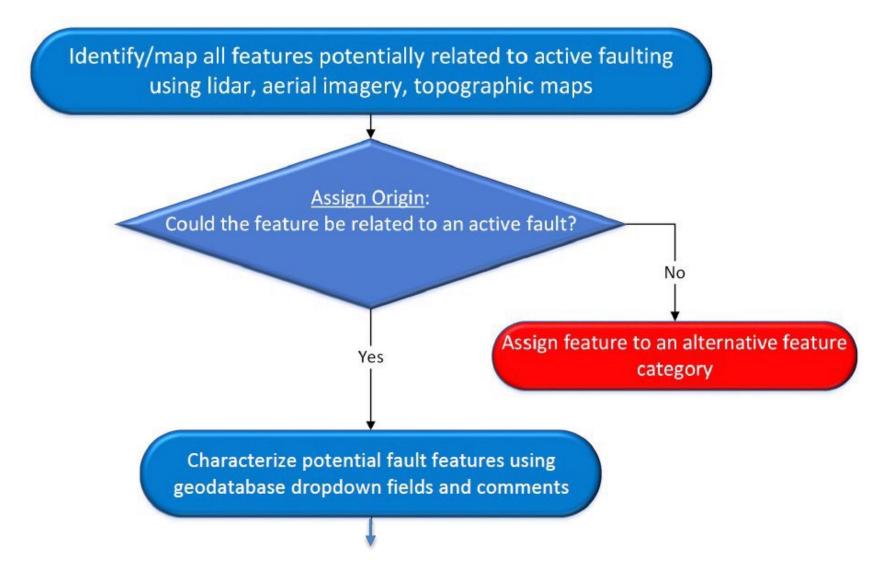
- Identity: What is the feature?
- Existence: How confident are we what it is?
- Locational accuracy: Can I plot with feature accurately?
- <u>Inferred</u> and <u>concealed</u> categories are more interpretive.

Symbol	Scientific confidence	Examples
·	Identity and Existence certain	"I am certain that the planar feature I see in this outcrop is a fault."
? ?? ??? ??	Identity or Existence questionable	"I can see some kind of planar feature in this outcrop, but I can't be certain if it's a contact or a fault."

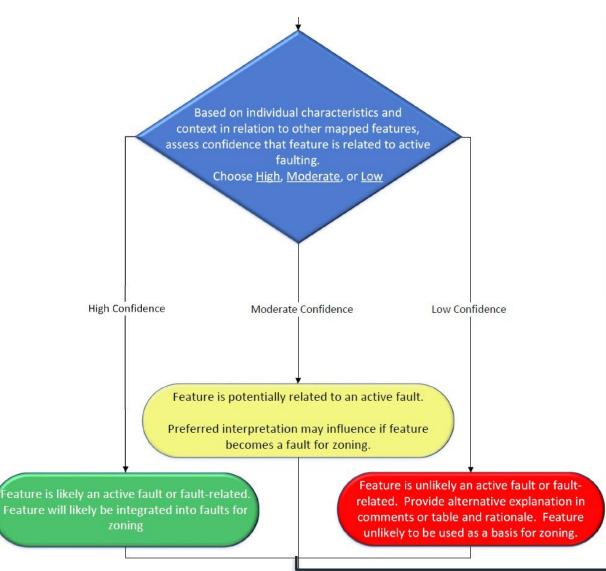
Symbol	Locational accuracy	Examples
	accurately located	"I can clearly see this contact in outcrop, and can accurately plot its position on the map."
	approximately located	"I can see this contact in outcrop, but the poor quality of my base map prohibits me from accurately plotting its position."
	inferred	"I can see by the change in debris materials visible around these gopher holes that a contact runs through here, but I can't locate it very precisely."
	concealed	"I can see that a contact is present on both sides of this lake, but I can't tell where it is located beneath the water."







Typical CGS Workflow for Active Fault Mapping



- High, moderate, low categories are relative.
 - Advisable to have some examples from the project area illustrating how you, as the mapper, assign the categories.

Department of Conser

 Context is important. A single feature, for example, a spring may have a lowconfidence rating that it is fault related. However, put into the context with other features (on-trend vegetation lineaments), the same feature may be assigned a high-confidence rating.

Result: Geomorphic Mapping Plate Next Step: Evaluate and reconcile geomorphic features with other data (e.g., subsurface data)

California Department of Conservation | conservation.ca.gov

Geodatabase Schema



• Geodatabase can be as simple or as complex as desired. The level of complexity depends on what the geodatabase will be used for and should consider what is practical in terms of time and effort to populate. Fields with specified values typically reserved for DB queries and symbology.

	Туре	Specifies the kind of feature represented by the line. For example, "fault", "scarp" "vegetation lineament", "linear ridge", etc. Can be populated with dropdown values. Nulls not permitted
	Location Confidence	Half-width in meters of positional uncertainty envelop; position is relative to other features in database. Null values not permitted. Recommend value of -9 if value is not available. Suggested distances qualitatively described in "Feature-level metadata" document
	Existence Confidence	Values = "certain", "questionable", "unspecified". Null values not permitted. Suggest setting default value to "certain"
	Identity Confidence	Values = "certain", "questionable", "unspecified". Alternative: "High", Moderate", "Low". Null values not permitted. Suggest setting default value to "certain"
	Data Source	Imagery used for interpretation, e.g. NCALM lidar, NAIP, 1:5,000 airphotos
	Mapping scale	Mapping scale of either linework, or project (if set mapping scale used).
	Comments	Optional. Free text for additional information specific to this feature. Null values permitted.
	Mapper	Name of mapper
California De	Mapper Affiliation	Affiliate of mapper, commonly recognized abbreviations (e.g. CGS, USGS, UNR) acceptable.



What feature class to use is often scale-dependent.

- Lines: Linear features such as faults, tonal lineaments, linear valleys, deflected drainages
- Points: Smaller features such as springs, saddles, small depressions, places that you want to annotate with a comment
- Polygons: Larger features such as pull-apart basins, triangular facets, linear ridges/pressure ridges, offset surfaces.

Attribute fields



ArcGIS (not sure about QGIS) has the ability to have dropdown lists in the attribute fields that help enforce consistence and aids in filling out attributes.

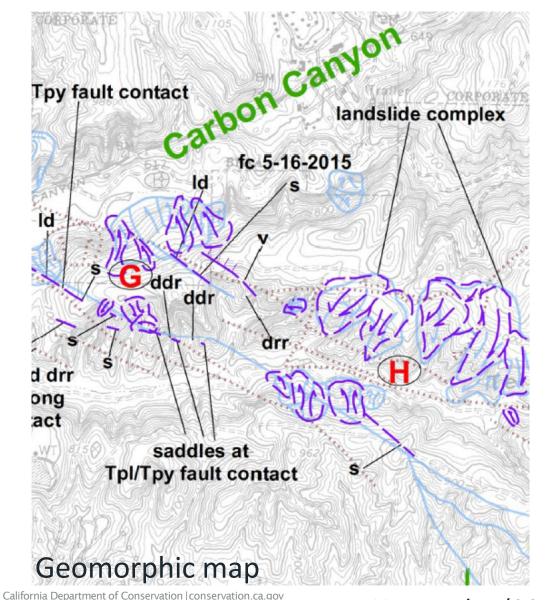
Some examples of what CGS uses:

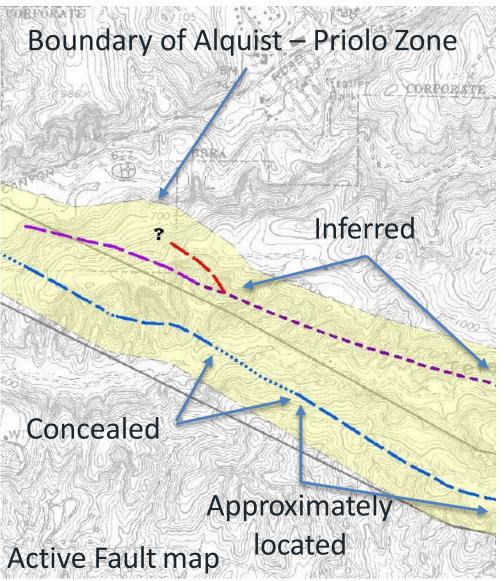
• Type (Origin)

Feature type Dropdown list
Uphill-Facing Scarp
Beheaded Drainage
Break in Slope
Closed Depression
Deflected Drainage, left lateral
Deflected Drainage, right lateral
Drainage Knickpoint
Faceted Spur
Linear Drainage
Linear Trough
Notch
Offset Cultural Feature
Ponded Alluvium
Pressure Ridge
Offset Ridge, left lateral
Offset Ridge, right lateral
• Saddle
• Scarp
Shutter Ridge
Side-Hill Bench
Spring
Swale
Tonal Lineament
Trough
Vegetation Lineament
Sag Pond
Mole Track
Linear Front
Offset Drainage, right lateral

Example of CGS FER geomorphic map and A-P Zone map







From Hernandez (2017) CGS FER 258

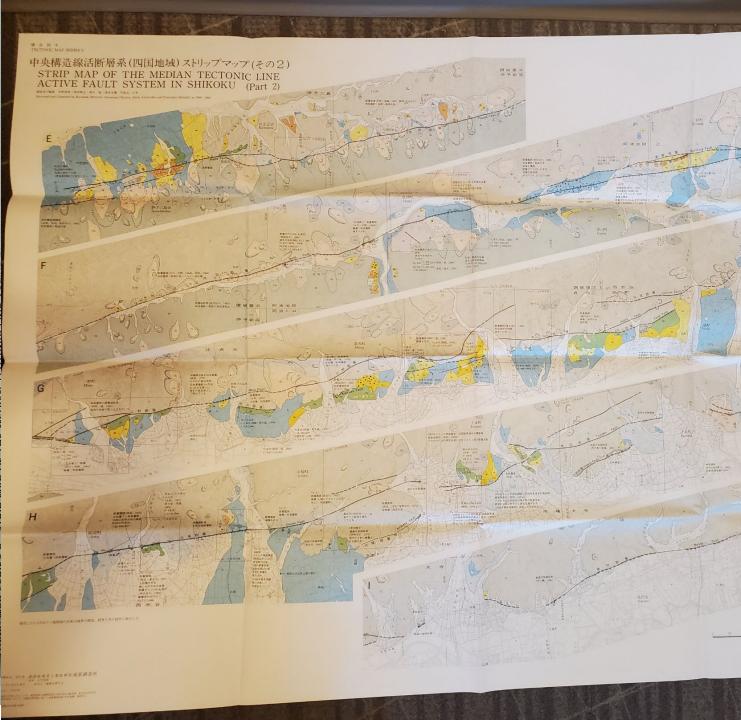
Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps: Geological Survey of Japan 中央構造線活断層系(四国地域) ストリップマップ STRIP MAP OF THE MEDIAN TECTONIC LINE ACTIVE FAULT SYSTEM IN SHIKOKU

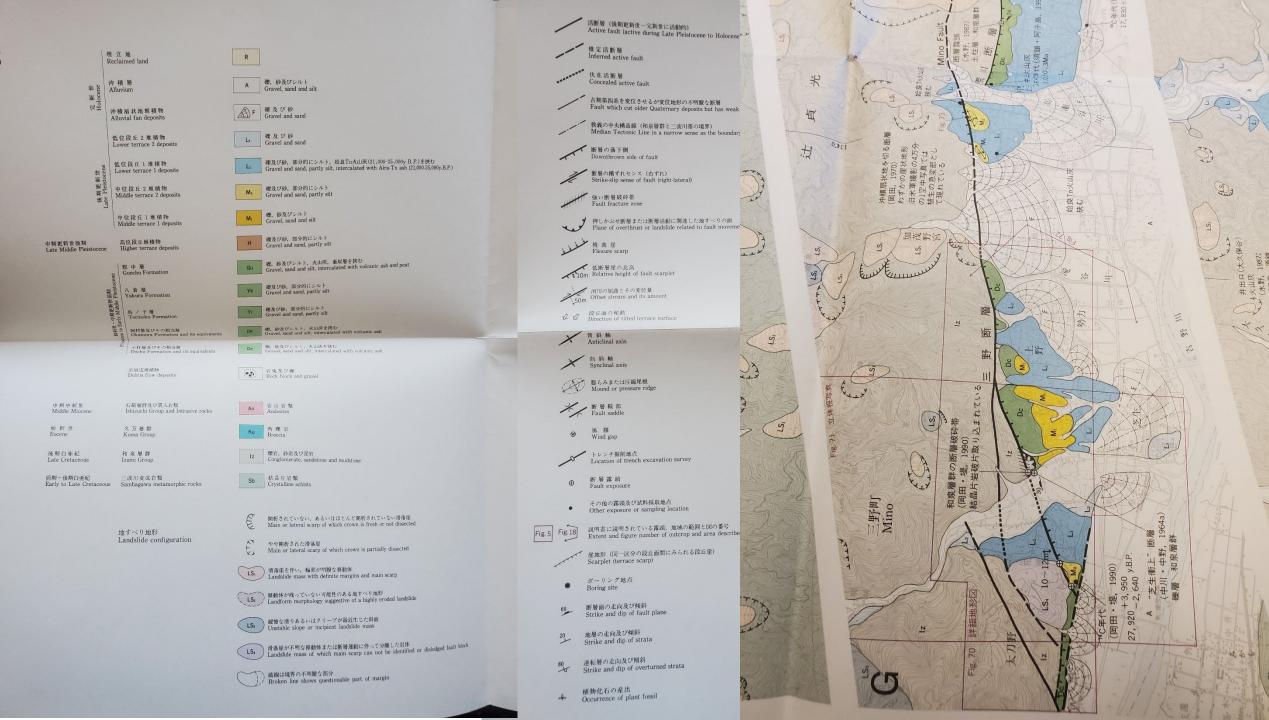
1:25,000

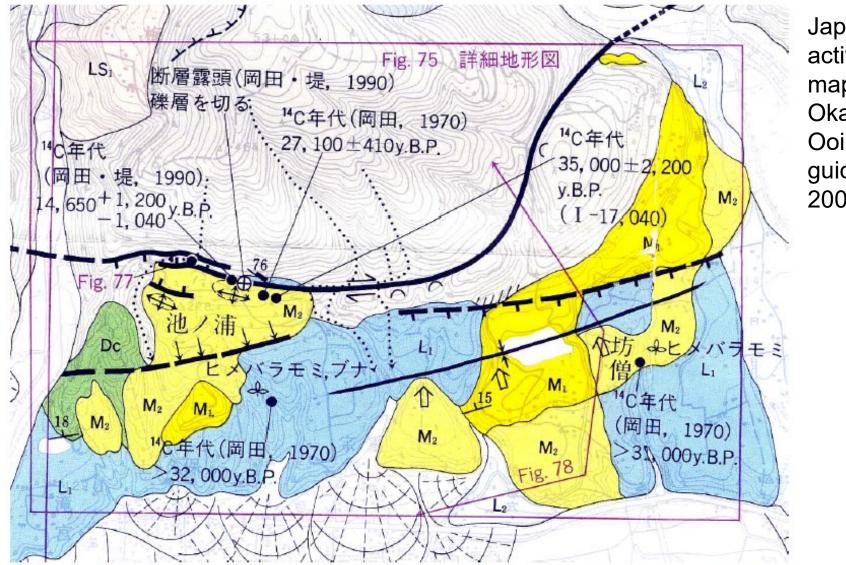
地 質 図 2 凡 例 1 説 明 書 1

地 質 調 査 所

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF JAPAN 1-3, Higashi 1-chōme, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, 305 Japan

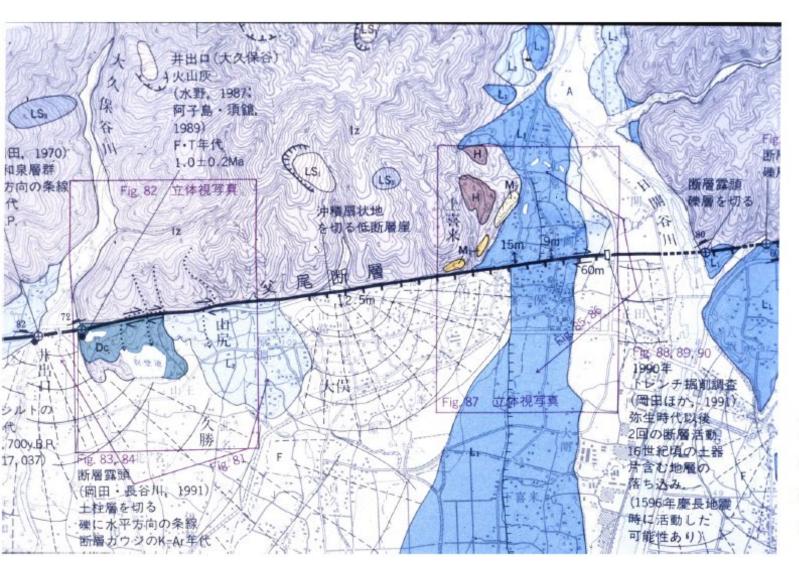






Japanese active fault map (from Okada and Ooi field trip guide, 2006)

Fig. 4-2 Part of fault strip map (Mizuno and others, 1993), showing the location of trench site at Ikenoura, Mima City, along the Mino fault. Synclinal axis and monoclinal scarp are also described on this map.

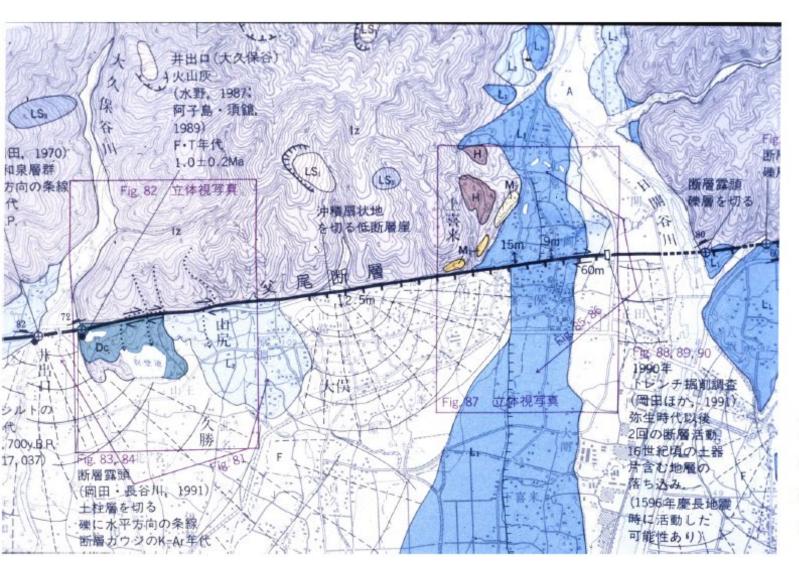


Japanese active fault map (from Okada and Ooi field trip guide, 2006)

Fig. 5-2 Part of fault strip map (Mizuno and others, 1993), showing the location of Ideguchi to Kamigirai, Ichiba Town, Awa City, along the Chichio fault. Japanese active fault map overview for prior slide (from Okada and Ooi field trip guide, 2006)

Fig.5-3 Oblique aerial photograph of fault scarp and fault outcrop along the Chichio fault, Awa City. View is to the northeast. Photo taken by A.Okada.





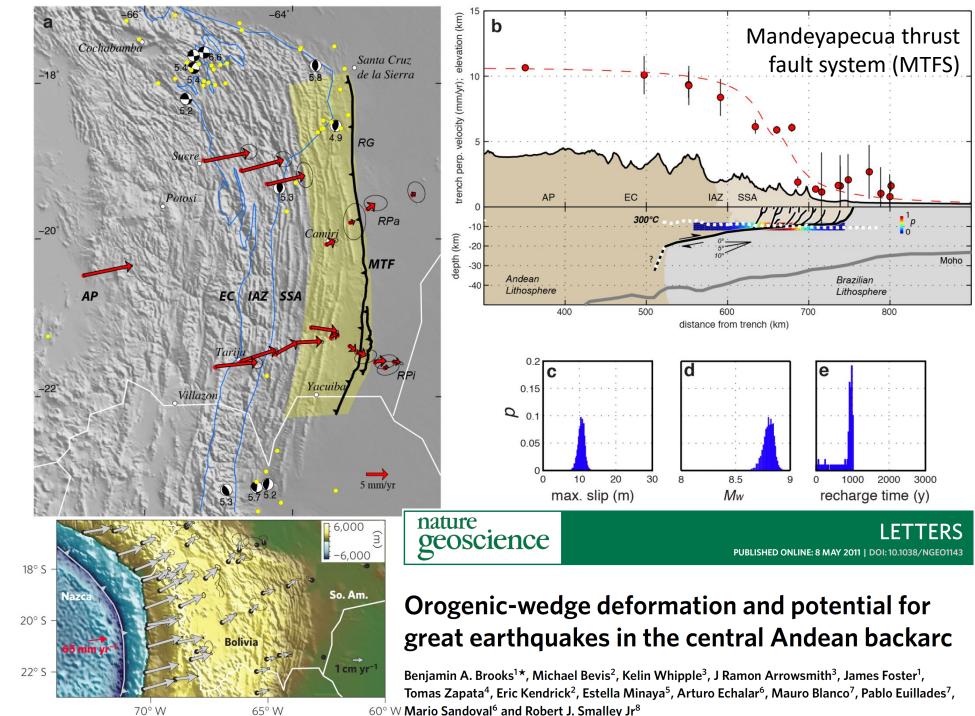
Japanese active fault map (from Okada and Ooi field trip guide, 2006)

Fig. 5-2 Part of fault strip map (Mizuno and others, 1993), showing the location of Ideguchi to Kamigirai, Ichiba Town, Awa City, along the Chichio fault. Japanese active fault map stereopair for prior slide (from Okada and Ooi field trip guide, 2006)

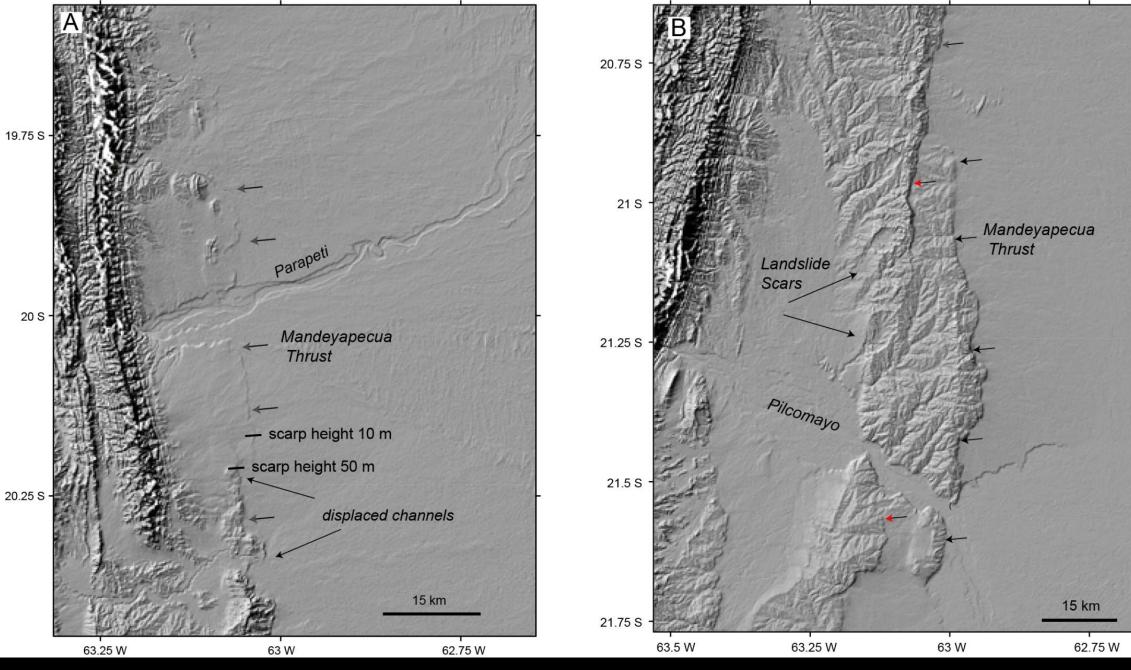


Fig.5-4 Right-laterally offset streams and fault notches at Ideguchi, Awa City, Tokushima Prefecture. Stereo-pair of aerial photographs by Geographical Survey Institute.

Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps: Bolivia eastern Andean foreland thrust fault

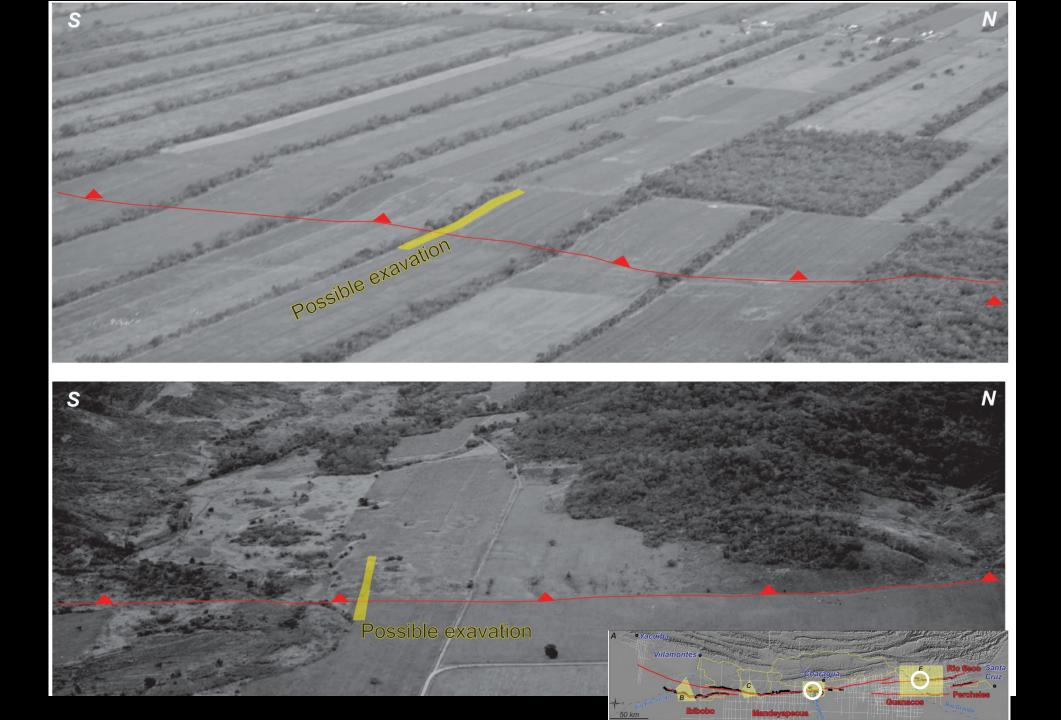


60° W Mario Sandoval⁶ and Robert J. Smalley Jr⁸

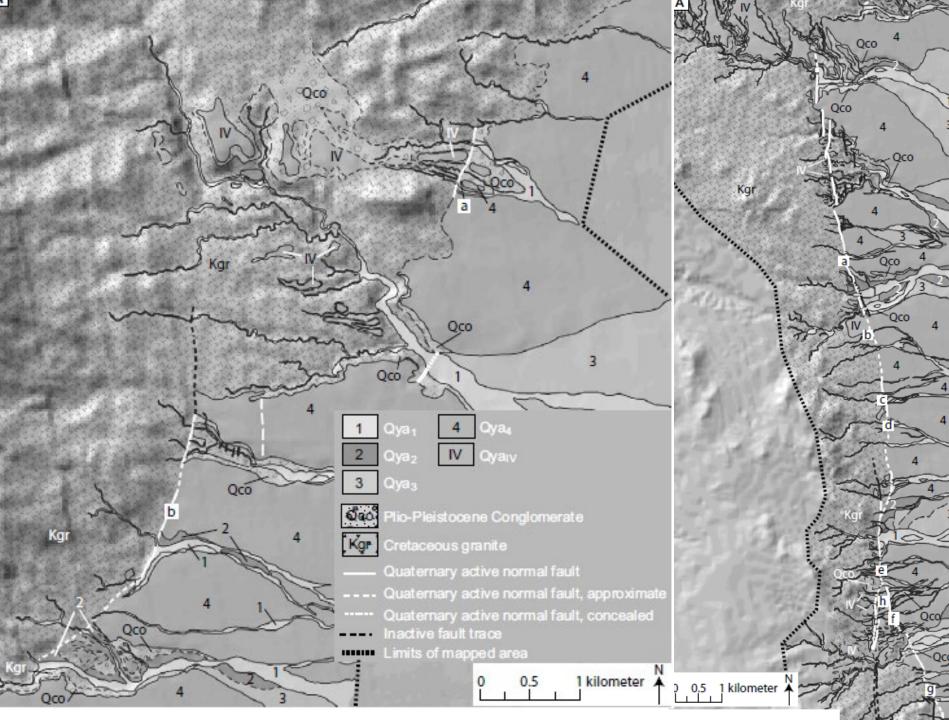


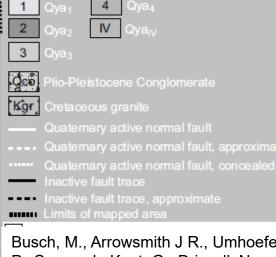
Big fault scarps in SRTM 90 m DEM!





Heuristics by demonstration: examples of fault maps: Baja California normal fault scarps



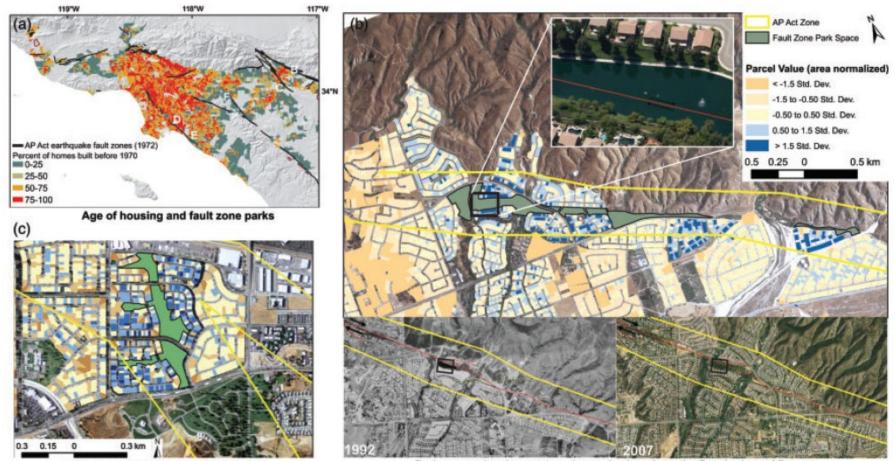


3

ALL STREET

Busch, M., Arrowsmith J R., Umhoefe P., Coyan, J., Kent, G., Driscoll, N., Martinez Gutierrez, G., Geometry, segmentation, and Quaternary slip behavior of the San Juan de los Plane and Saltito fault zones, Baja California Sur, Mexico: Characterization of riftmargin normal faults, Geosphere, v. 9 p. 426-443, doi:10.1130/GES00806.1, 2013. Unexpected consequences of fault zone delineation and regulation

Toke, N. A., Boone, C. G., Arrowsmith, J R., Fault Zone Regulation, Seismic Hazard, and Social Vulnerability in Los Angeles, California: Hazard or Urban Amenity? Earth's Future, Volume 2, Issue 9, Pages: 440-457, DOI: 10.1002/2014EF000241, 2014.



Park space, development, and parcel value along the San Andreas AP zone.



Parcel value near San Jacinto AP park

Hilltop Development on Newport-Inglewood Fault





Park space along the Newport-Inglewood Fault

Golf course along CF

Mapping and image interpretation

Basic considerations for interpretation

- Shape: general form, configuration, outline of individual objects.
- Size: consider in context of image scale
- Pattern: spatial arrangement of objects (e.g., orchard)
- Tone: relative brightness or color of objects on an image
- Texture: frequency of tonal change (smoothness or coarseness)
- Shadows: gives profile view of object and implies relative heights
- Site: refers to geographic or topographic location; what do you expect to be there?
- Association: occurrence of certain features in relation to others
- Resolution: what is the finest thing you can see?
- Targets: identify main features you want to emphasize on your map

Mapping

• Geomorphic mapping

- Important means of establishing landforms, their distributions and relations to each other, process distributions, and history
- Quaternary geologic mapping
 - Emphasis on young deposits and landforms that are usually lumped into one unit in bedrock mapping. Uses both the deposit characteristics as well as the landform shape and position in the landscape as criteria for unit designation.

I cannot work on anything unless I map it first!

Ramón's Mapping Mantras

- 1. Scale: If your pencil is 0.5 mm in diameter, how big on the ground is it if you are mapping on a 1:24,000 scale map? How about on a 1:500,000 map?
- 2. Even coverage: if there is blank space, you did not look there.
- 3. Strive to provide detail. Do not generalize.

Ramón's Mapping Mantras

- 4. All lines mean something.
- 5. Consistent notation and symbology.
- 6. Quality control. Use dashing, variable line weights, queries. If something is uncertain or approximate, indicate so.
- Data/ink ratio-> 1. Put emphasis on important things (data) by putting relatively more ink in them—greater line weights, larger text., etc.
- 8. Neatness counts.

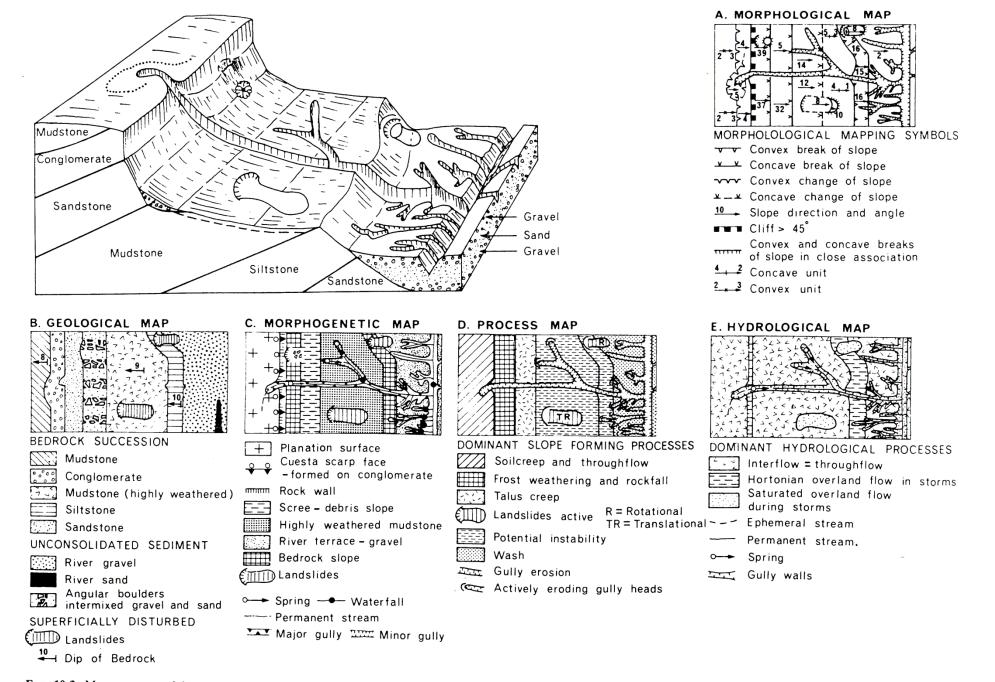


FIG. 10.3. Maps are some of the most common landscape models. These maps show various features and interpretations of one landscape represented in a block diagram. Such maps are very useful for recording field observations. (Modified and extended from Brunsden *et al.* 1975.)