# Deformation of the lithosphere and what microstructures can tell you about it 

Renée Heilbronner



Basel University<br>Tromsø University



EGU Stefan Müller medal lecture

## mammoth and lithosphere



## deformation $\leftrightarrow$ weakening



Win Means: Stress and Strain (1976)
www.unavco.org
Our vision of the mechanisms of lithosphere dynamics and mantlelithosphere interactions becomes less and less blurred. Yet, many key questions remain open due to the (principally) insufficient observational and experimental constraints.

Evgueni Burov (Stephan Mueller Medal Lecture 2015)

## the eye of the needle



## how to observe by watching ...



## what we see in an image


microstructure is... 2D section of 3D body? deformed geometry? particles? patterns?

applies to... statistics mechanics (rheology) geology geophysics

## learning from stereology



Achille Ernest Oscar Joseph Delesse (I8I7-I88|)

$$
V V=A A
$$

August Karl Rosiwal (1860-1923)

$$
V V=A A=L L
$$

Andrei Aleksandrovich Glagolev (1894-1969)

$$
V V=A A=L L=P P
$$



Glagolev and Goldmann (I934)


## getting into digital image analysis



Wayne Rasband


I987 NIH Image (Pascal) 1997 Image J (Java) $2007 \rightarrow$ Fiji ('Fiji is just ImageJ')



Steve Barrett
1993 Image SXM (Pascal)

Lazy Macros


## shape and strain of particles



John G. Ramsay


Edwin A. Abbott

$R_{f}-\varphi$ method



## orientation imaging

AVA (Achsenverteilungsanalyse)


Bruno Sander


## lithosphere deformation in the lab



I Carrara marble triaxial gas apparatus Texas A\&M University $\gamma<3$

2 Black Hills Quartzite solid medium apparatus Brown University $\gamma<8$

3 Olivine-Orthopyroxene torsion apparatus
University of Minnesota $\gamma<30$

## motivation



## kilometers of displacement



Alber Heim (1929)


## from twinning to superplasticity






Stefan Schmid


Steve Bauer
regime 1
regime 2


## displacement in - shear strain out?



CTI $600^{\circ} \mathrm{C} \quad 500 \mu \mathrm{~m}$

$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}$



CT3 $700^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}$



CT2 $800^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

$\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{f}}$


## particles and surfaces






SURFOR


## describing 'shape'


lobate boundaries


## what do we learn?

- every grain bçundary is a strain marker
- one mineralogi, al phase implies one rheology
- grain boundary s'/ding implies straight boundaries
- texture and micros fucture go together



## lithosphere deformation in the lab



I Carrara marble triaxial gas apparatus Texas A\&M University $\gamma<3$

2 Black Hills Quartzite solid medium apparatus Brown University $\gamma<8$

3 Olivine-Orthopyroxene torsion apparatus
University of Minnesota $\gamma<30$

## "... der freche Gassenjunge



## Quartz

"....the cheeky street urchin"

- regime I, 2, 3 (lab) versus
- bulging - sgr - gbm (field)

The eastern Tonale fault zone: a 'natural laboratory' for crystal plastic deformation of quartz over a temperature range from 250 to $700^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

Michael Stipp*, Holger Stünitz, Renée Heilbronner, Stefan M. Schmid

Department of Earth Sciences, Basel University, Bernoullistrasse 32, 4056 Basel, Switzerland Received 30 November 2000; received in revised form 24 January 2002; accepted 26 February 2002

## - quartz piezometer

The recrystallized grain size piezometer for quartz
Michael Stipp and Jan Tullis
Department of Geological Sciences, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
Received 18 August 2003; revised 24 September 2003; accepted 30 September 2003; published 4 November 2003.

## BHQ - texture and grain size



Jan Tullis and ...

her Grigg's apparatus

Dislocation creep regime 3

$$
\mathrm{Pc}_{\mathrm{c}}=1.5 \mathrm{GPa} \mathrm{~T}=850-915^{\circ} \mathrm{C}
$$



$$
\dot{\gamma}=1-2 \cdot 10^{-5} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}
$$

$$
\text { up to } \gamma \sim 7 \text { !!!! }
$$

Heilbronner \& Tullis (2006)


## do the CIP - get the texture

## Dislocation creep regime 3


circular polarization

c-axis coloring

## from texture to grain size


w935 COI

w 935 grain boundary map w 935 grain map


## why stripstar?



## regime 3 ... 2 ... I - go EBSD!

- $100 \mu \mathrm{~m}$



## put the CIP glasses on



## comparing CIP and EBSD

## regime I (wl092)



## optical microscopy in the SEM



## do the stripstar again!




CIP grain boundaries RMS of 2D sections
Stipp \& Tullis (2003) original data

EBSD grain boundaries mode of 3D grains
Heilbronner \& Tullis $(2002,2006)$ re-measured

## re-measure piezometer in EBSD

quartz piezometer


CIP grain boundaries RMS of 2D sections
Stipp \& Tullis (2003) original data

EBSD grain boundaries mode of 3D grains
Heilbronner \& Tullis $(2002,2006)$ re-measured

EBSD grain boundaries mode of 3D grains
Stipp \& Tullis (2003) original data re-measured by Prior

## difference $\neq$ measuring artefact

quartz piezometer


CIP grain boundaries RMS of 2D sections published piezometer $\mathrm{d}(\mu \mathrm{m})=363 \mathrm{I} \Delta \sigma^{-1.26}$
EBSD grain boundaries mode of 3D grains
shear
$D(\mu \mathrm{~m})=1473 \Delta \sigma^{-0.86}$
EBSD grain boundaries mode of 3D grains
coaxial (piezo samples)
$\mathrm{D}(\mu \mathrm{m})=3325 \Delta \sigma^{-1.13}$

## check the grain size in the $Y$ domain

Evolution of caxis pole figures and grain size
during dynamic recrystallization:
Results from experimentally sheared quartzite
Renée Heilbronner ${ }^{1}$ and Jan Tullis ${ }^{2}$
"...the recrystallized grain size of the rhomb domain is approx. $12 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ and that of the prism domain is approx. $19 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, corresponding to shear stresses of 93 and $64 \mathrm{MPa} . . . "$




## Y domain $=2$ subdomains



## we actually got it right !



## what do we learn?

- orientation images "... says more than a thousand pole figures"
- EBSD grains $\approx$ optical grains (CIP grains)
- 3D grain size distributions are not what we see in 2D
- shear piezometer $\neq$ coaxial piezometer
- recrystallized grain size depends on CPO
- one mineralogical phase $\neq$ one rheology


## lithosphere deformation in the lab



I Carrara marble triaxial gas apparatus Texas A\&M University $\gamma<3$

2 Black Hills Quartzite solid medium apparatus Brown University Y<8

3 Olivine-Orthopyroxene torsion apparatus University of Minnesota $Y<30$

## getting weak in the knees

from dislocation creep to diffusion creep


## how diffuse is diffusion creep?



## going to high strains



Gas medium High pressure Torsion apparatus (UMN)


Miki Tasaka


Mark Zimmerman


David Kohlstedt
powder mixture $70 \%$ iron-rich olivine 30\% orthopyroxene hotpressed @ $1200^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$

$\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{c}}=300 \mathrm{MPa}$
$\mathrm{T}=1200^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$
$\dot{\gamma}=2.6 \cdot 10^{-5}$ to $6.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \mathrm{~s}^{-1}$
$\mathrm{T}=35$ to 226 MPa
up to $\gamma \sim 26$

## diffusion creep $\neq$ random





## what do we learn

- random does not 'look random'
- diffusion process does not always create random distribution
- starting material is not randomly mixed


## so what do microstructures tell us?

more than you want
not what you expected
confusing stories

Slow Food ${ }^{\circ}$...for thought

## "Finally..."



## "Finally..."




