Fault Stepover Benchmarks TPV22 and TPV23

Michael Barall Invisible Software, Inc.

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TPV22 — Extensional Stepover (1600 m).



Right-lateral strike-slip faults in a linear elastic half-space:

Density $\rho = 2670 \text{ kg/m}^3$

Shear-wave velocity $V_s = 3464 \text{ m/s}$

Pressure-wave velocity $V_p = 6000 \text{ m/s}$

TPV23 — Compressional Stepover (1000 m).



Linear slip-weakening friction.

Right-lateral faults.

Requested resolutions: 100 m and 50 m.

Issues in Dynamic Rupture Simulations of Fault Stepovers

Stepover Distance and Coulomb Stress — 3D is Different than 2D.



Harris, Archuleta, and Day (1991) — 2D simulations.

- Maximum stepover distance ~ 5 km.
- Figure above shows Coulomb stress on a hypothetical parallel fault.
- Fault in the figure is left-lateral, so extensional side is on the top

Stepover Distance — 3D is Different than 2D.



Harris and Day (1999) — 3D simulations (extensional stepover and subshear rupture).

- Maximum stepover distance ~ 1 km.
- Rupture on fault #2 begins at the earth's surface.

Movie — Coulomb Stress Surrounding the End of a Fault, in 3D.



Movie shows where Coulomb stress on a hypothetical second fault would exceed a threshold value.

- The fault extends from the left edge to -5000 m along-strike.
- The compressional side is in back, the extensional side is in front.

(The movie is from a test run, which does not have the same parameters as TPV22-23).



Movie — Coulomb Stress Surrounding the End of a Fault, in 3D.

Movie shows where Coulomb stress on a hypothetical second fault would exceed a threshold value.

- The fault extends from the left edge to -5000 m along-strike.
- The compressional side is on top, the extensional side is on bottom.

(The movie is from a test run, which does not have the same parameters as TPV22-23).

Nucleation Follies on Fault #2.





Loss of Numerical Precision.

Compressional Stepover 1000 m

Compressional Stepover 1400 m

Finite Element (FaultMod) 100 m Finite Element (FaultMod) 50 m Finite Difference (DayFD) 100 m Finite Difference (DayFD) 50 m



TPV22-23 Design

$$\begin{split} \mu_s &= 0.548 \\ \mu_d &= 0.373 \\ d_0 &= 0.30 \text{ m} \\ C_0 &= \begin{cases} (0.0014 \text{ MPa/m})(5000 \text{ m} - \text{depth}), & \text{if depth} \leq 5000 \text{ m} \\ & 0.0 \text{ MPa}, & \text{if depth} \geq 5000 \text{ m} \end{cases} \end{split}$$

Cohesion tapers from 7.0 MPa at the earth's surface, to 0 at depths of 5000 m or greater.

Cohesion in the upper 5 km suppresses the tendency of the rupture on fault #2 to nucleate at the earth's surface.

Initial Stress.

 $\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\rm ini} &= 60.00 \; {\rm MPa} \\ \tau_{\rm ini} &= \begin{cases} 29.38 \; {\rm MPa} \;, & \text{if depth} \leq 15000 \; {\rm m} \\ 29.38 \; {\rm MPa} - (0.002938 \; {\rm MPa}/{\rm m})({\rm depth} - 15000 \; {\rm m}), & \text{if depth} \geq 15000 \; {\rm m} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$

Stresses are chosen to produce a supershear rupture, so the rupture is energetic enough to make the jump.

Initial shear stress tapers down from 29.38 MPa at a depth of 15000 m, to 14.69 MPa at the bottom of the fault at depth 20000.

Reducing the initial shear stress in the lower 5 km creates a "soft" barrier at the bottom of the fault, and prevents nucleation on fault #2 from occurring at the bottom of the fault.



On-Fault Stations.

Modelers are asked to submit slip, slip rate, and stress as a function of time, for 7 stations on fault #1 (top) and 11 stations on fault #2 (bottom).

In addition, modelers are asked to submit the time at which each point on the fault begins to slip, from which we construct rupture contour plots.



Off-Fault Stations.

Modelers are asked to submit displacement and velocity as a function of time, for 6 stations on the earth's surface.

Distance along-strike = **x**

TPV22 Results — 50 vs. 100 Meters











TPV22 Comparisons (1600 m Extensional Stepover)







fault1st-100dp100 (hypocenter)



















5 Hz low-pass filter applied to all time series.



5 Hz low-pass filter applied to all time series.

TPV23 Comparisons (1000 m Compressional Stepover)





fault2st200dp100













5 Hz low-pass filter applied to all time series.



5 Hz low-pass filter applied to all time series.

Conclusions

Our stepover benchmarks are:

- TPV22 = Extensional 1600 m stepover.
- TPV23 = Compressional 1000 m stepover.

These multi-fault benchmarks must be carefully designed to avoid:

- Loss of numerical precision, which may occur when shear stress is near the minimum required to sustain a rupture.
- Nucleation at the top or bottom of fault #2, and other bad nucleation patterns.

Our stepover distances are relatively large for 3D dynamic rupture simulations, so we need supershear rupture conditions to get a jump.

Comparison of 50 m and 100 m results shows good agreement, indicating the benchmarks are well resolved at the requested resolutions.

Comparison between different codes shows good agreement.