

# Whole-lithosphere shear during oblique rifting

See more: [BrandonLutzGeology.com](http://BrandonLutzGeology.com)

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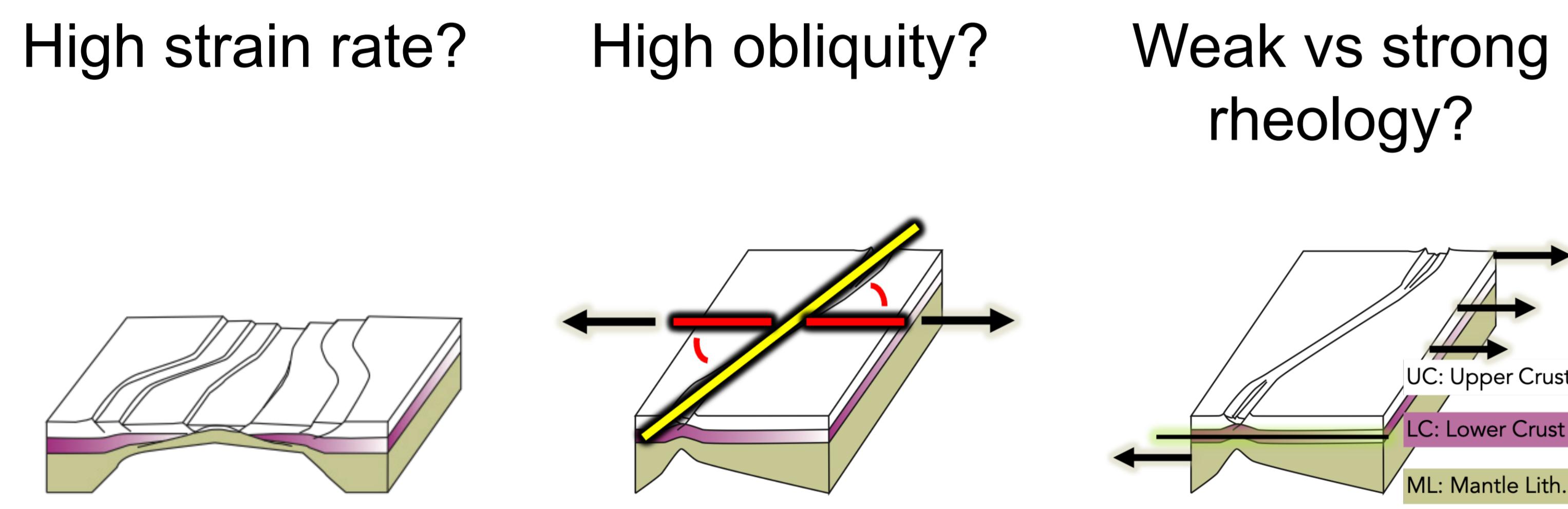
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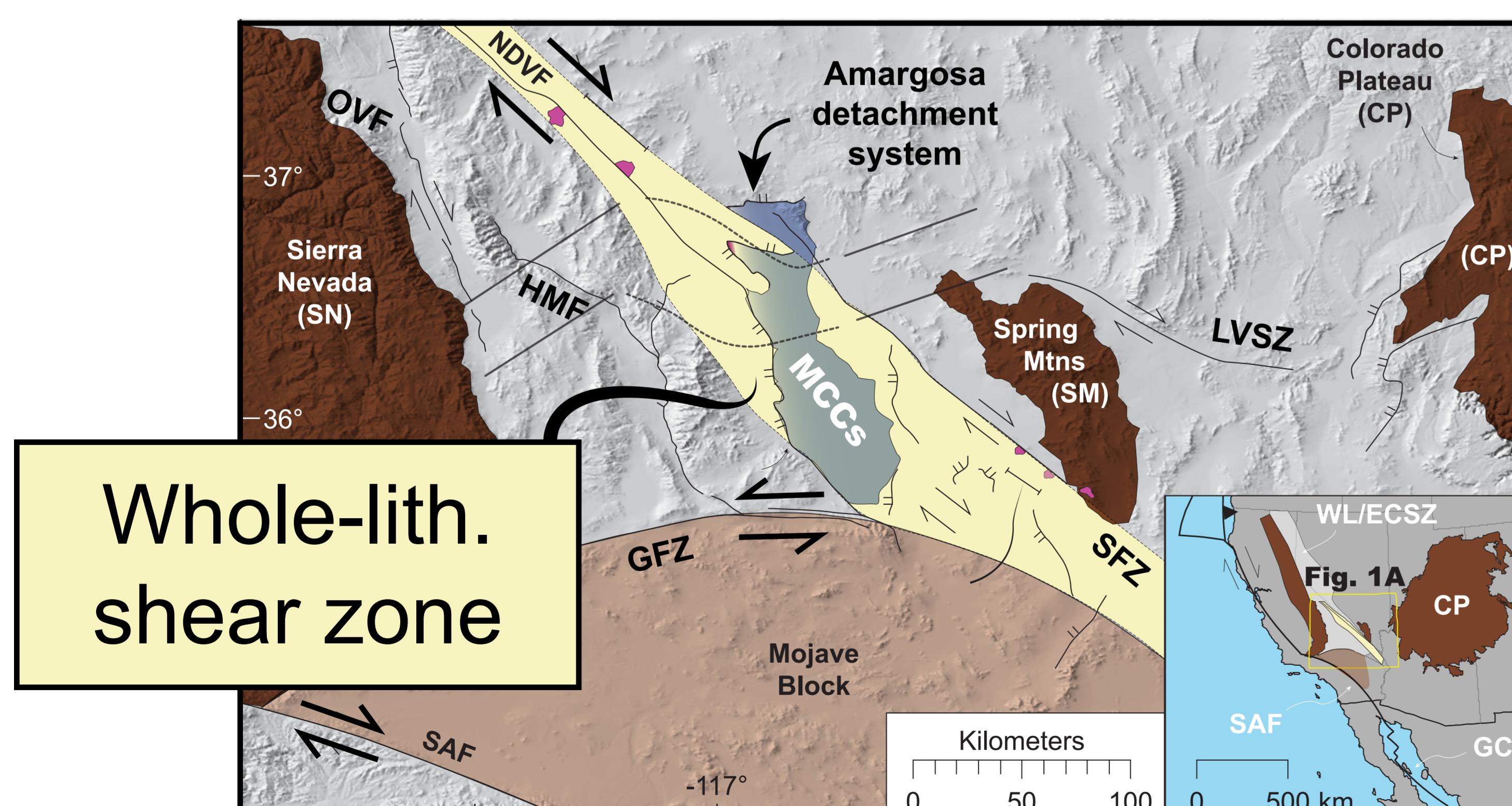
Kinematic reconstruction (view at [BrandonLutzGeology.com](http://BrandonLutzGeology.com)) generated using open source GPLates software

## How to rupture a continent?



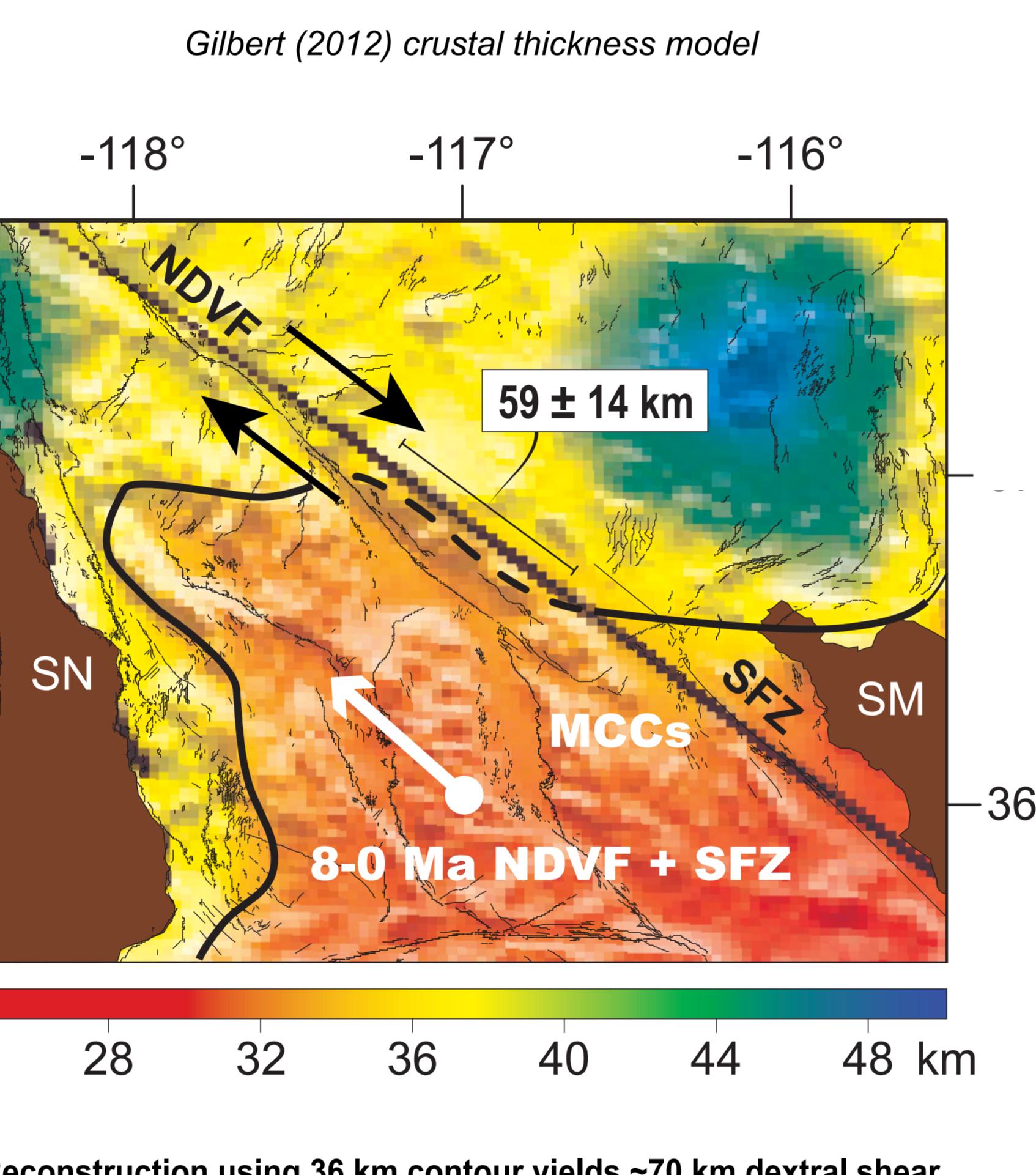
## ECSZ / Basin & Range

### Shear zone co-located with MCCs

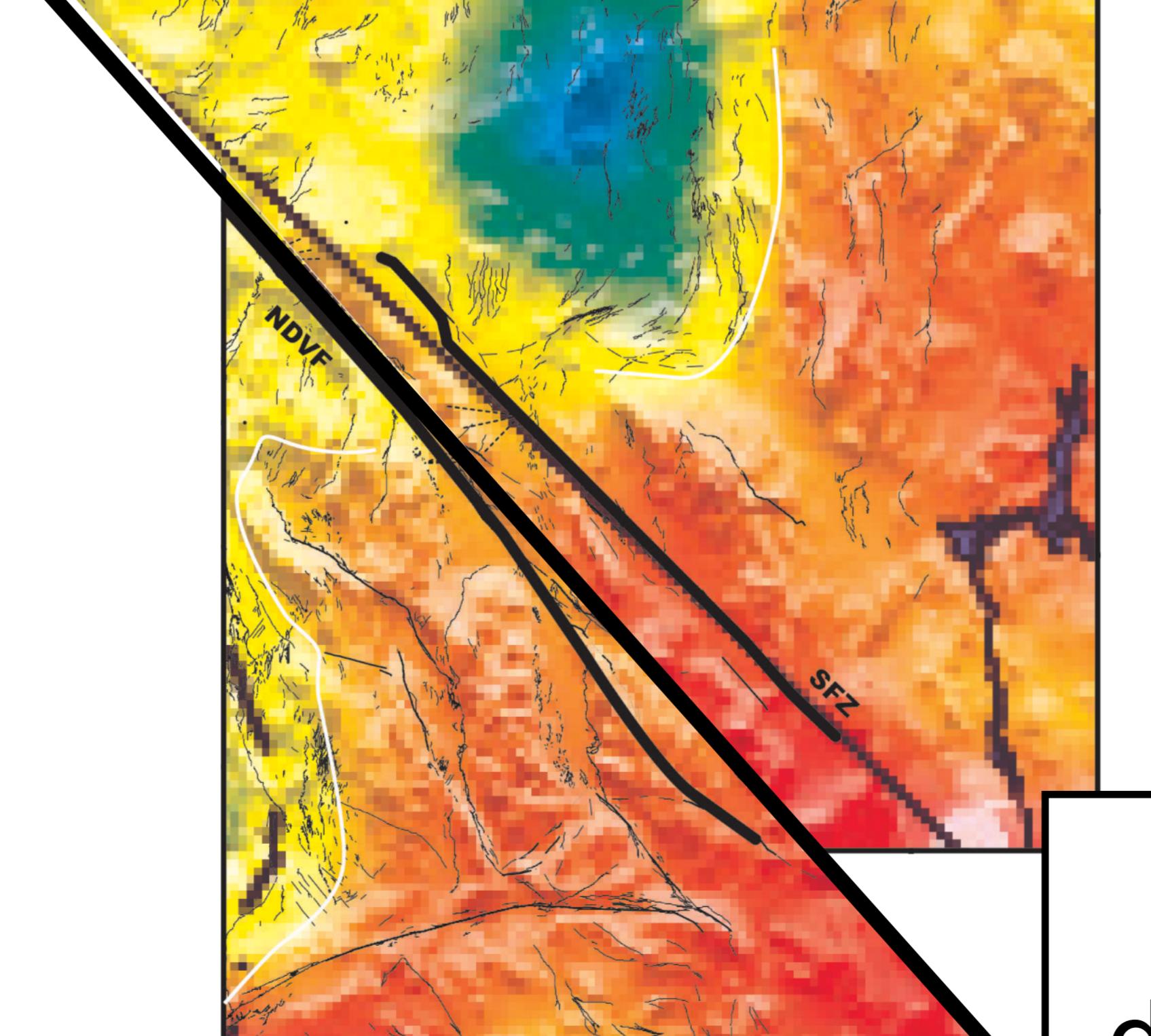
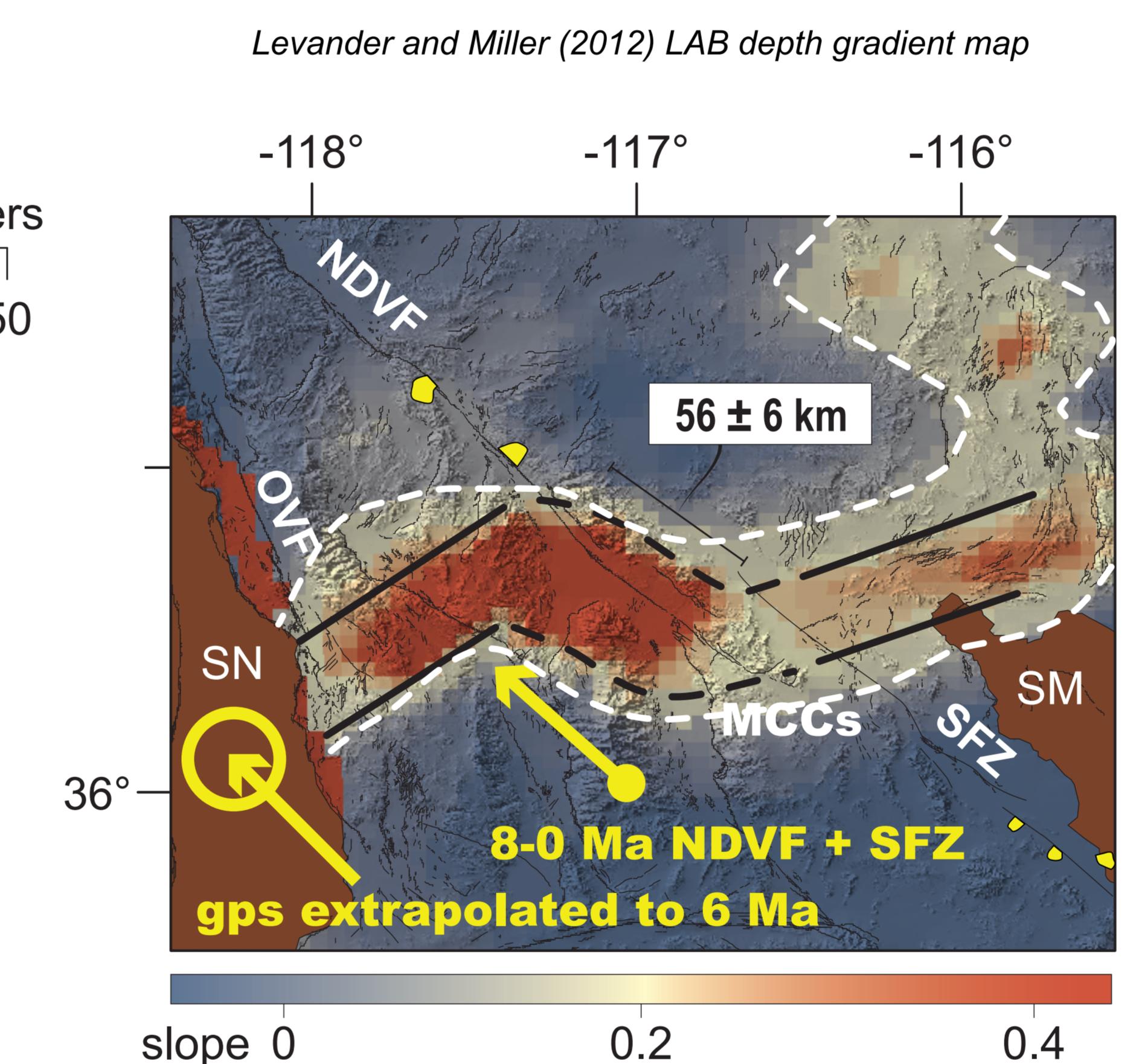


GC: Gulf of California. GFZ: Garlock fault zone. HMF: Hunter Mountain fault zone. LVSZ: Las Vegas Valley shear zone. MCC: Metamorphic core complex. NDVF: Northern Death Valley fault zone. OVF: Owens Valley fault zone. SAF: San Andreas fault. SFZ: Stateline fault zone. WL/ECSZ: Walker Lane Belt/Eastern California Shear Zone.

## Moho Reconstruction

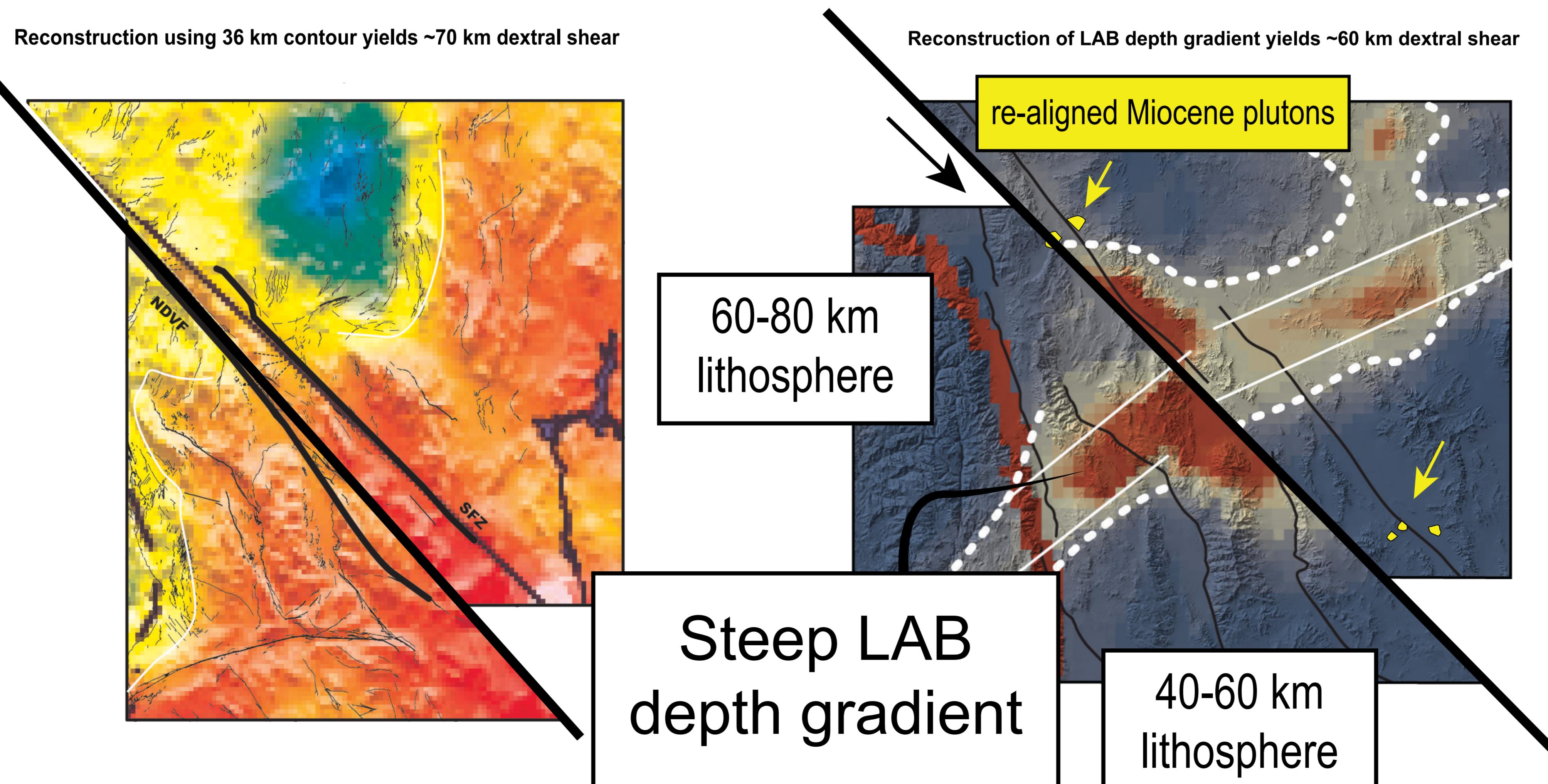


## LAB Reconstruction

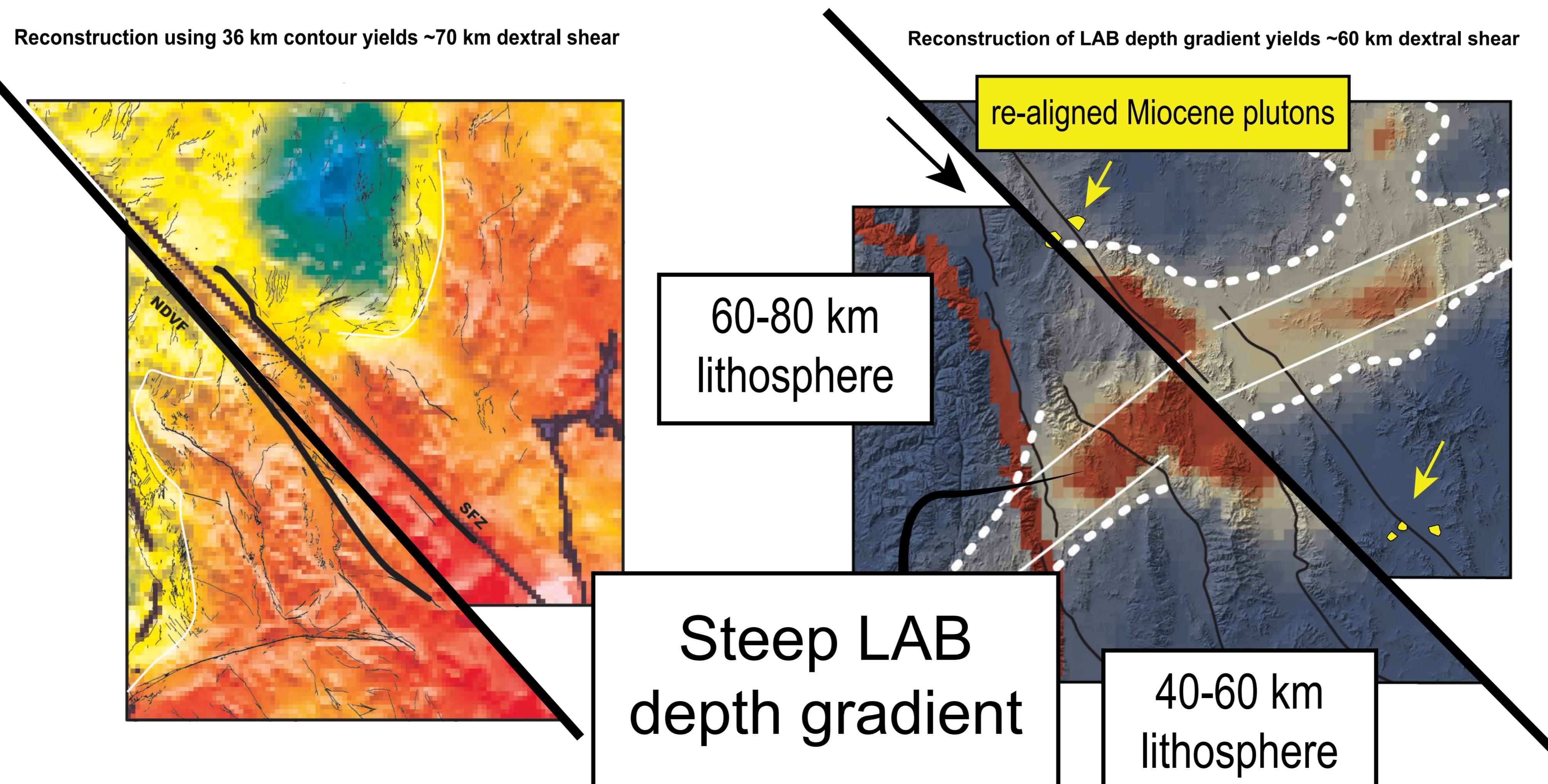


Steep LAB depth gradient

40-60 km lithosphere

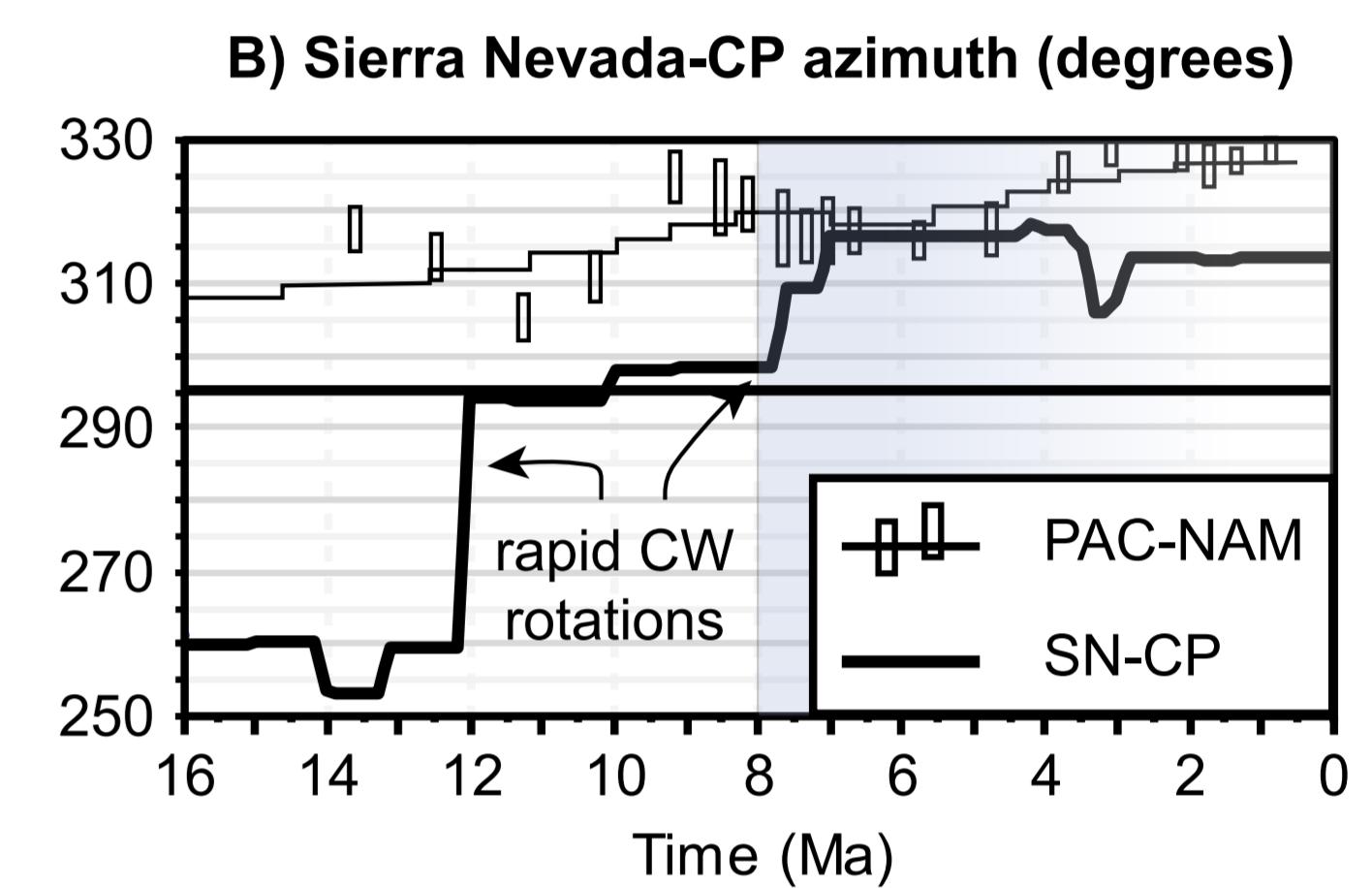
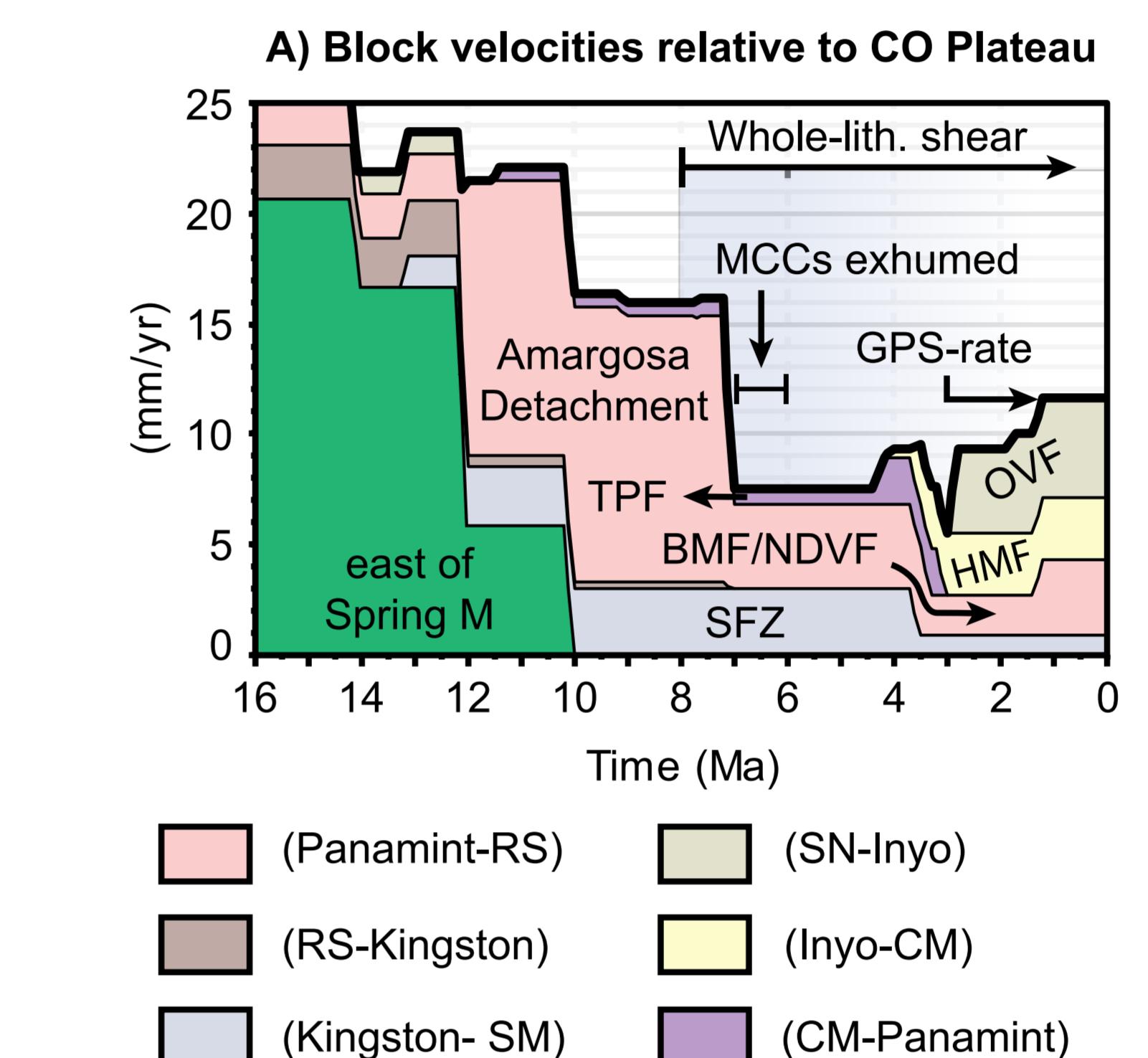


Reconstruction of LAB depth gradient yields ~60 km dextral shear



Reconstruction of LAB depth gradient yields ~60 km dextral shear

## Upper Crustal Kinematics



BMF: Black Mtns fault zone. CM: Cottonwood Mtns. CW: Clockwise. PAC-NAM: Pacific-North American. RS: Resting Spring Rng.

**lithosphere vertically-decoupled by a weak mid-crust**

**mid-crustal strengthening causes coupling of upper crust to lower crust/mantle**

**extension direction rotates to become || with PAC-NAM motion**

**whole-lithosphere shear beneath MCC belt**

