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Deformation structures associated with the Trachyte Mesa intrusion, Henry Mountains, Utah: Implications for sill and laccolith emplacement mechanisms

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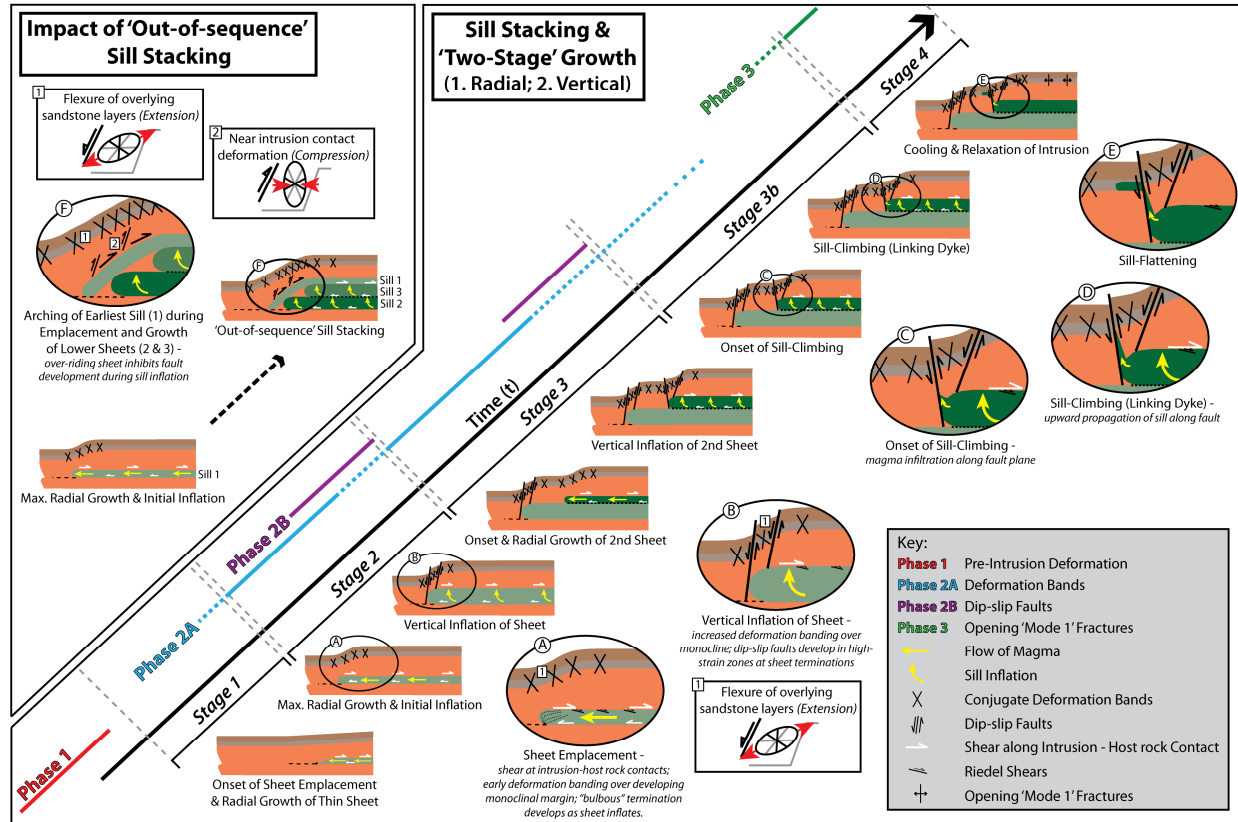
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1 **Deformation structures associated with the Trachyte Mesa intrusion, Henry Mountains,**
2 **Utah: implications for sill and laccolith emplacement mechanisms.**

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10

11 **Abstract**

12 Deformation structures in the wall rocks of igneous intrusions emplaced at shallow crustal
13 depths preserve an important record of how space was created for magma in the host rocks.
14 Trachyte Mesa, a small Oligocene age intrusion in the Henry Mountains, Utah, is composed
15 of a series of stacked tabular, sheet-like intrusions emplaced at 3–3.5 km depth into
16 sandstone-dominated sedimentary sequences of late Palaeozoic–Mesozoic age. New
17 structural analysis of the spatial distribution, geometry, kinematics and relative timings of
18 deformation structures in the host rocks of the intrusion has enabled the recognition of
19 distinct pre-, syn-, and late-stage-emplacement deformation phases. Our observations
20 suggest a two-stage growth mechanism for individual sheets where radial growth of a thin
21 sheet was followed by vertical inflation. Dip-slip faults formed during vertical inflation; they
22 are restricted to the tips of individual sheets due to strain localisation, with magma
23 preferentially exploiting these faults, initiating sill (sheet) climbing. The order in which sheets
24 are stacked impacts on the intrusion geometry and associated deformation of wall rocks.

25 Our results offer new insights into the incremental intrusion geometries of shallow-level
26 magmatic bodies and the potential impact of their emplacement on surrounding host rocks.

27

28 **Keywords:**

29 *Deformation bands; Faults; Intrusion; Sill; Laccolith; Emplacement mechanism*

30

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31 1. Introduction

32 Shallow-level (<5 km depth) sill and laccolith complexes typically consist of a series of sub-
33 horizontal tabular sheet-like intrusions and form an integral part of sub-volcanic plumbing
34 systems (Cruden and McCaffrey, 2001). Understanding the formation of these networks of
35 sub-horizontal intrusions is, therefore, key to assessing volcanic and sub-volcanic processes
36 such as magma supply and storage in the upper crust (Bachmann and Burgantz, 2008). To-
37 date, significant insights into sill and laccolith emplacement have been made through the
38 characterisation of their geometry and internal architecture using field- and seismic-based
39 data (Du Toit, 1920; de Saint Blanquat and Tikoff, 1997; Thomson, 2004; Thomson and
40 Hutton, 2004; Horsman et al., 2005; Stevenson et al., 2007a, b; Thomson and Schofield,
41 2008; Magee et al., 2012). A number of studies have examined the important role played by
42 active faults and shear zones and pre-existing host rock structures in controlling the
43 emplacement and growth of mid-crustal granitic intrusions (e.g. Hutton et al., 1990;
44 McCaffrey, 1992; Neves et al., 1996; Holdsworth et al., 1999; Passchier et al., 2005). Several
45 studies have examined emplacement-related deformation structures associated with the
46 intrusions of the Henry Mountains (Johnson and Pollard, 1973; Pollard et al., 1975; Morgan
47 et al., 2008), but a complete analysis of the geometry, kinematics and sequential
48 development of the wall rock structures has not yet been published.

49

50 The Henry Mountains, located in SE Utah on the Colorado Plateau (Fig. 1a), are a type
51 locality for the study of shallow-level igneous intrusions and their emplacement. It was here
52 that Gilbert (1877) famously first described and named laccoliths (coining the term
53 “laccolite”; Gilbert, 1896). Since then, a number of studies have examined the geometries,
54 geochronology and emplacement of intrusions in the Henry Mountains (e.g., Hunt, 1953;

55 Johnson and Pollard, 1973; Jackson and Pollard, 1988; Nelson and Davidson, 1993; Habert
56 and de Saint Blanquat, 2004; Horsman et al., 2005; Morgan et al., 2005; de Saint-Blanquat et
57 al., 2006; Wetmore et al., 2009; Wilson and McCaffrey, 2013).

58

59 Following numerous field studies of the Henry Mountains, Hunt (1953) proposed three
60 general emplacement models for shallow level intrusions (Fig. 2 a–c):

61 (1) Radial growth only, with magma emplaced at a constant thickness, and country rocks
62 displaced both vertically and laterally (i.e. Model I, a “bulldozing” mechanism; Fig. 2a);

63 (2) Simultaneous vertical and horizontal growth (Model II, Fig. 2b);

64 (3) Radial growth of a thin sill, followed by dominantly vertical growth and associated
65 vertical uplift of the overlying host rocks (i.e. Model III, a “two-stage growth” mechanism;
66 Fig. 2c).

67

68 Increasingly, evidence suggests that shallow-level crustal intrusions are emplaced and grow
69 through the incremental addition of small volumes of magma, with the amalgamation and
70 stacking of sill-like sheets (e.g. Pitcher, 1970; Mahan et al., 2003; Glazner et al., 2004;
71 Menand, 2008; Morgan et al., 2008). Therefore, the two-stage growth model (Hunt, 1953,
72 Model III) appears most applicable for many larger shallow-level intrusions (i.e. vertical
73 inflation with stacking of sill sheets through under- and over-accretion; Annen et al., 2008;
74 Menand, 2008; Menand et al., 2011). However, for the emplacement of individual sills, all
75 three of Hunt’s models (1953) may still be viable.

76

77 Corry (1988) highlighted that deformation structures associated with emplacement are
78 potentially strongly linked to the mechanism of emplacement (Fig. 2 d–f). A number of

79 studies of emplacement-related host rock deformation have focused on intrusions of the
80 Henry Mountains; these include Johnson and Pollard (1973), Jackson and Pollard, (1988),
81 and Morgan et al. (2008). However, little consideration has been given to the kinematic
82 pathways and associated strains in the wall rocks that can potentially preserve information
83 concerning emplacement mechanisms of individual sills and magma movement (i.e. flow
84 directions).

85

86 In this paper, we present a new structural analysis of the geometry, spatial distribution,
87 kinematics, and relative time sequences of host-rock deformation structures surrounding
88 the Trachyte Mesa intrusion, a small satellite intrusion adjacent to the Mount Hillers
89 intrusive complex, Henry Mountains, Utah, USA (Fig. 1b, intrusion 11). By integrating
90 observations of the host-rock structures with the sequential intrusion history, we have
91 created an improved model for the emplacement of Trachyte Mesa that builds on the
92 pioneering studies of Gilbert (1877), and the more recent work of Johnson and Pollard
93 (1973), Morgan et al. (2008) and Wetmore et al. (2009). The results offer new insights into
94 the incremental evolution of intrusion geometries in shallow-level magmatic bodies and how
95 their emplacement leads to deformation of the surrounding sedimentary host rocks.

96

97 **2. Geological Setting**

98 *2.1. Henry Mountains*

99 The Henry Mountains Complex consists of five intrusive centres that form the principal
100 mountain peaks in the area. From north to south these are: Mt Ellen; Mt Pennell; Mt Hillers;
101 Mt Holmes; and Mt Ellsworth (Fig. 1a). Most of the intrusions have an intermediate (dioritic)
102 composition (58–63% SiO₂; Hunt, 1953; Engel, 1959; Nelson et al., 1992) and a porphyritic

103 texture, with dominant feldspar (An₂₀–An₆₀; 20–40%) and hornblende (5–15%)
104 phenocrysts. The intrusions are Oligocene in age (31.2–23.3 Ma K–Ar ages; Nelson et al.,
105 1992), and were emplaced into a 3–6 km thick section of late Palaeozoic–Mesozoic
106 predominantly aeolian to shallow-marine sandstones, siltstones and mudstones that overlie
107 Precambrian crystalline basement (Jackson and Pollard, 1988; Hintze and Kowallis, 2009).
108 Although Laramide structures (Davis, 1978; Bump and Davis, 2003) occur nearby, the strata
109 into which the Henry Mountains intrusions were emplaced are relatively flat lying (Jackson
110 and Pollard, 1988). The intrusions post-date the locally intense, but more generally weak
111 Late Cretaceous to Palaeogene Laramide orogenic activity on the Colorado Plateau (Davis,
112 1978, 1999). The lack of significant regional tectonism aids the identification of
113 emplacement-related deformation structures and means that the original magmatic and
114 solid-state fabrics are preserved without modification within the intrusive bodies.

115

116 2.2. *Trachyte Mesa Intrusion*

117 The Trachyte Mesa intrusion, referred to as the “Howell laccolith” by Gilbert (Hunt, 1988), is
118 the most distal satellite intrusion of the Mount Hillers intrusive complex, located 12 km to
119 the NE of the central complex (Fig. 1b). The intrusion has an elongate (~2.2 km long and 0.7
120 km wide) laccolithic geometry, trending c. NE–SW (Fig. 3). Thicknesses observed in cliff
121 exposures range from 5–50 m (Morgan et al., 2008), with an average thickness, estimated
122 from magnetic and resistivity studies, of ~15 m (Wetmore et al., 2009). The intrusion is
123 generally concordant with the Jurassic (Callovian) Entrada Sandstone Formation within
124 which it is emplaced (Johnson and Pollard, 1973; Morgan et al., 2008; Wetmore et al., 2009).
125 Emplacement depths for the intrusion are not accurately constrained, although thickness
126 estimates of Hintze and Kowallis (2009) in the area of the Henry Mountains suggest 3–3.5

127 km of overburden may have been likely. The Entrada Sandstone Formation comprises a
128 mixture of white cross-bedded sandstones, reddish-brown silty sandstones, siltstones, and
129 shales (Aydin, 1978).

130

131 Various models have been proposed for the geometry and internal architecture of the
132 intrusion, ranging from a single domal “laccolitic” body (Gilbert, 1887; Hunt, 1953; Wetmore
133 et al., 2009), to a series of stacked intrusive sheets and lobes (Figs. 4 and 5; Johnson and
134 Pollard, 1973; Morgan et al., 2005, 2008).

135

136 Detailed mapping of the well-exposed multiple intrusion–host-rock contacts on the top and
137 NW margins of the intrusion suggest that the near-surface form of the magma body strongly
138 influences the present day geomorphology (Morgan et al., 2008). The mesa has a relatively
139 flat top with steeper NW and SE lateral margins. Where exposed, the base of the overall
140 intrusion appears to be relatively concordant with the underlying sandstones, dipping $<10^\circ$
141 to the NW. Wetmore et al. (2009) suggested that the elongate geometry and trend of the
142 intrusion was controlled by a series of NE–SW trending pre-existing folds, with the central
143 axis of the intrusion located within a synform. NE–SW structures and fabrics are also a key
144 basement trend across the region (Marshak and Paulsen, 1996). Pre-existing structures may,
145 therefore, have played an important role in the trend and geometry of a number of satellite
146 intrusions to the Mt Hillers complex (Fig. 1b; Wilson, 2015), and based on the hypothesis of
147 Wetmore et al. (2009), this may have been important in constraining the planform of the
148 Trachyte Mesa intrusion.

149

150 In contrast to the sub-horizontal stratigraphy below the intrusion, the host-rock units above
151 show significant distortion and deformation (Johnson and Pollard, 1973; Morgan et al. 2008).
152 At the NW margin of the intrusion monoclinal bending of the overlying beds is apparent
153 (Figs. 4 and 5a) and has previously been interpreted to be the result of intrusion
154 emplacement (Gilbert, 1887; Hunt, 1953; Johnson and Pollard, 1973; Morgan et al., 2008).

155

156 **3. Field Observations**

157 The present study focused on the southern end of the NW lateral intrusion margin (outlined
158 in Fig. 3) as this area offers the best exposure of the intrusion contacts with the host rocks
159 (Figs. 4 and 5a). Wider reconnaissance (Fig. 3a) of the intrusion found a lack of significant of
160 continuous host rock outcrop over the remainder of the intrusion margins. Furthermore,
161 host rocks exposed on the top surface of the intrusion display a distinct lack of deformation
162 structures (Wilson, 2015).

163

164 Detailed observations, sampling and structural measurements were carried out on
165 numerous outcrops regularly spaced along two structural transects across the NW margin
166 (Fig. 3b; for individual field localities see .kmz file in Supplementary Information). These
167 traverses are referred to here as Trachyte Mesa Transect East (TMTE) and West (TMTW);
168 further observations were made at additional outcrops close to intrusion contacts (including
169 area TMT3; Fig. 3b). At each structural station, a representative structural dataset
170 (deformation type; geometry; kinematics; relative age relationships) was collected with a
171 minimum of 30 measurements per station and >50 in areas of higher intensity deformation.

172

173 **3.1. Intrusion Geometry**

174 Figure 4 provides an overview of the intrusion contact relationships on the NW margin
175 where structural transects were performed (TMTE and TMTW; Fig. 3b; also see cross-
176 sections in Supplementary Information). Multiple stacked sill sheets and sheet terminations
177 may be observed here (Figs. 4 and 5a; see also Morgan et al., 2008). A minimum of 7 and 4
178 sheets can be observed along TMTE and TMTW respectively (Fig. 4a). It is not possible to
179 map individual sill sheets laterally between the margins along TMTE and TMTW (Fig. 4).
180 Along the eastern transect (TMTE; Fig. 3b) from the NW to SE, the upper sill sheets and the
181 overriding sandstone beds display a distinct monoclinial geometry with maximum dips of
182 $\sim 40^\circ$ NW (Figs. 4b and 5a). Lower sub-horizontal sill sheets are also apparent (Fig. 4b).
183 Sandwiched between these upper and lower sill sheets is a zone of highly deformed
184 sandstone with few depositional characteristics preserved. Some sill sheets exhibit
185 “bulbous” terminations (Fig. 4b, c), whilst others display more planar, sub-vertical sheet
186 terminations (Fig. 4d).

187

188 The marginal monocline is not developed continuously on the NW intrusion edge. Along the
189 western transect (TMTW; Fig. 3b), ~ 200 m SW of where the monocline is well exposed,
190 multiple sub-horizontal sills can be seen to be stacked one on top of the other (Fig. 4a, d),
191 with terminations stepping back onto the top of the overall intrusive body, forming a
192 “staircase geometry”. Here, the morphology of the bedding in the overlying sandstone
193 appears more complex and step-like, mimicking the sill sheet geometry below (Fig. 4d). An
194 upward-inclined sheet can also be seen here and likely represents an example of sill climbing
195 during emplacement (Fig. 4c). In area TMT3 (Fig. 3b), intrusion contacts are less well
196 exposed, but bedding in the overlying sandstone units has a step-like geometry similar to
197 that seen along transect TMTW.

198

199 Terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) techniques (e.g. McCaffrey et al., 2005; Jones et al., 2009;
200 Seers and Hodgetts, 2013) were also used to capture the 3D architecture and spatial
201 distribution of the deformation structures (Fig. 5). High-resolution laser scans were acquired
202 over the intrusion margin in the vicinity of both transects (Fig. 5). The resulting 3D
203 photorealistic models were used to help interpret inaccessible outcrops and to visualise the
204 wider outcrop geometry. See Supplementary Information for a fly through movie over the
205 'stepped' western transect (TMTW).

206

207 3.2. Deformation Structures

208 3.2.1. Structural types and geometry

209 Locally deformed bedding forming the monoclinical folds located along the NW lateral margin
210 of the intrusion have dips ranging from sub-horizontal to $\sim 40^\circ$ NW (Figs. 3b and 6a).
211 Associated small-scale deformation structures in the Entrada Sandstone host rock here
212 include: prolific deformation bands; dip-slip faults; and tensile (Mode 1; Price, 1966) joints
213 (Figs. 6b–d and 7). Most of the deformation bands are porosity-reducing and cataclastic in
214 character (Fig. 8), showing small (mm- to cm-scale) offsets. There is a wide variation in
215 deformation band orientation, with a dominant NE–SW trend, paralleling the margin of the
216 underlying intrusion (Figs. 3a and 6b). Dip-slip faults displaying dm- to m-scale offsets (Figs.
217 6c and 7d) trend parallel to the local intrusion margins (dominantly NE–SW, and locally ESE–
218 WNW around a small lobe on the NW margin). A more widely distributed system of tensile
219 joints, striking both parallel and perpendicular to the intrusion margin, is also observed (Figs.
220 6d and 7e, f). These structures commonly show evidence for fluid migration, with fine-

221 grained white carbonate precipitates and/or crystalline calcite spar fills on joint surfaces (Fig.
222 7g, h).

223

224 3.2.2. Structural phases and cross-cutting relationships

225 Host rock deformation structures observed can be sub-divided into three distinct phases
226 according to deformation structure characteristics and cross-cutting relationships (Figs. 6e–
227 h, 7 and 9).

228

229 *Phase 1 (P1) structures* consist of deformation bands and extensional faults that trend
230 generally oblique (ENE–WSW) to the NE–SW intrusion margin (Figs. 6e and 7a). They are
231 observed over a wide region, extending well beyond the limits of the underlying intrusions.
232 P1 deformation bands are discrete and are often identified by offsets on bedding and cross-
233 beds. Where significant offsets (cm- to m-scale) are seen, the sense of shear is extensional
234 (Fig. 7a). P1 structures are mostly low- to moderate-intensity structures, with spacings
235 between 50 cm to 100 cm, although high intensity (cm-scale spacing) deformation corridors
236 also occur locally.

237

238 *Phase 2 (P2) structures* are also deformation bands and faults (Figs. 6f–g, 7b–d and 10) that
239 consistently overprint P1 structures (Fig. 9). Both deformation bands and faults trend NE–
240 SW, parallel to the NW lateral margin of the intrusion (Figs. 6f, g and 11). Characteristically,
241 P2 deformation bands commonly form resistant ridges standing proud of the host Entrada
242 Sandstone (Fig. 7c). Microstructural analysis shows them to be largely created as a result of
243 cataclasis and compaction, with significant (almost 100%) porosity reduction (Fig. 8b). The
244 intensity (fracture density) of P2 deformation bands is significantly higher than that of P1,

245 with fracture spacing in the order of 0.5 to 5 cm, although this decreases rapidly moving
246 away from the intrusion margin. P2 deformation bands typically form conjugate sets with
247 extensional offsets (Fig. 10a, b). Exposed slickenlines on P2 faults suggest dip-slip
248 movements with offsets showing both normal and reverse senses of movement (Fig. 6c, g);
249 NW-side-down offsets are most common (Fig. 10c–e). Unlike P1 extensional faults, distinct
250 principal slip surface (PSS; Fig. 10e) and slickenlines are commonly observed (Figs. 6g, 7d and
251 11). In most cases, P2 deformation bands (Phase 2A) are consistently cross-cut by the dip-
252 slip faults (Phase 2B), as well as by steeply dipping intense deformation corridors (Fig. 10e).

253

254 *Phase 3 (P3) structures* are systems of tensile joints (Figs. 6h and 7e–h), often infilled with
255 sparry calcite, which overprint all other deformation features (Fig. 9c, d). Two sets of joints
256 are recognised trending NW–SE and NE–SW, perpendicular and sub-parallel to the intrusion
257 margin, respectively (Figs. 6 and 7e, f). No systematic cross-cutting relationship is apparent
258 between these two joint sets.

259

260 **4. Spatial distribution of structures**

261 *4.1. Structural transects*

262 The three phases of deformation structure described above have very distinctive
263 distributions relative to the location of the igneous intrusions along the western and eastern
264 transects (TMTW and TMTE; for structural cross sections see Supplementary Information).

265 P1 deformation structures are only clearly recognised at structural stations distal to the
266 intrusion margin. These are progressively overprinted by Phase 2A, 2B and 3 deformation
267 structures with increased proximity to the intrusion. P2 structures increase in intensity from
268 just outboard of the intrusion margin, and onto the top surface of the intrusion.

269

270 Bedding along the western transect displays a “staircase geometry” with each step
271 appearing to be associated with a new intrusive sill sheet below (Figs. 4d and 10d).
272 Deformation structures vary across these ‘stepped’ zones: P2A deformation bands are
273 widely distributed across the entire margin; while P2B structures (faults and steep
274 deformation corridors) are localised to the “step” zones at sill sheet terminations (Fig. 10d,
275 e). In contrast, bedding geometry appears simpler along the eastern transect where a clear
276 monoclinical structure can be observed. P2B faults are not observed along this transect. P2A
277 conjugate deformation bands occur along both transects and rotate about a horizontal axis
278 in the vicinity of stepped-zones and across the flanking monocline (Fig. 10a).

279

280 4.2. Variations in deformation structures with intrusion margin trend

281 P2B faults are observed both along the western transect and also in study area TMT3 (<200
282 m east of transect TMTE; Fig. 3b). Along the western transect these are associated with the
283 tips/ terminations of intrusive sheets (Fig. 10d, e), while in area TMT3 the intrusion does not
284 crop out, but may be inferred using magnetic data collected by Wetmore et al. (2009).
285 Mapping of P2B along strike reveals an arcuate trend that appears to match the proposed
286 curved nature of the ‘lobe’/ promontory of the underlying stacked intrusive sheets (Morgan
287 et al., 2008; Wetmore et al., 2009) emanating from the main NE–SW intrusion trend (Fig.
288 11).

289

290 4.2.1. Deformation structures at the intrusion contact

291 Distinctive shear zones are observed within and on the top surface of the intrusion, a
292 number of which were described by Morgan et al. (2008). Within the host-rock these are

293 restricted to a reddish-brown silty sandstone and shale unit that is commonly observed
294 immediately above the intrusion, and are not observed in the overlying more massive red
295 sandstones (Fig. 7b). In the upper few centimetres of individual intrusive sheets, and at the
296 interface between the intrusive sheets, a strongly foliated (sub-horizontal foliation) zone
297 occurs with significant stretched plagioclase phenocrysts (Fig. 12).

298

299 Thin section analyses of the deformation microstructures within the sheared upper contact
300 of the intrusion show predominantly brittle, and to a lesser extent brittle-ductile,
301 deformation structures (Fig. 12). Where the contact between intrusive sheets and the host
302 rock can be observed, three distinct layers can be defined (Fig. 12; from top to bottom): (1) a
303 5–10 cm thick baked sandstone layer; (2) a <1 cm thick chilled intrusion margin; and (3) a 1–
304 2 cm zone of aligned (NW–SE) stretched plagioclase phenocrysts, beneath which mineral
305 alignment decreases significantly. Low-angle fracture planes bisect the baked sandstone
306 horizon (Fig. 12a) but do not extend into the intrusion. These fracture planes trend parallel
307 to the intrusion margin (NE–SW), and dip shallowly ($\sim 20^\circ$) to the SE (Fig. 12a). Slickenlines
308 consistently show SE-side-down kinematics.

309

310 These low-angle structures are interpreted to be Riedel shear (R_1) fractures consistent with a
311 top-to-the-SE shear sense. Microstructural analysis of the stretched feldspar phenocrysts
312 developed on the top surface of the intrusive sill sheets (Fig. 12b) reveals brittle shearing of
313 the phenocrysts along multiple fracture planes (Fig. 12c, d). The kinematics of these fracture
314 planes are also consistent with Riedel shear fractures associated with top-to-the-SE (140°)
315 shear (Fig. 12d–f).

316

317 Exposed sill terminations fall into two categories: those with more rounded, “bulbous”
318 terminations; and those with steeper, “fault-controlled” terminations. Microstructural
319 analysis of samples collected at the tip and frontal edge of the intrusion contact reveal the
320 presence of sub-vertical fractures and shear bands (with NW-side-down kinematics)
321 consistent with the larger dip-slip faults observed in outcrop (Fig. 13). Stepped intrusion
322 geometries are observed at the micro-scale (Fig. 13c), with steps appearing to be associated
323 with sub-vertical shear-fractures within the host rock (Fig. 13b–e). These fractures can
324 sometimes be seen to extend for a small distance (~500 μm) into the intrusion. Furthermore,
325 magma can also be seen exploiting these sub-vertical shear-fractures (Fig. 13e).

326

327 **5. Kinematic analysis**

328 Kinematic indicators on P2B dip-slip faults include offsets of bedding plane markers, and
329 steps on slickenlines preserved on fault surfaces (Figs. 6g, 10 and 11). The dip-slip faults
330 record both normal and reverse shear sense, with a predominant NW-side-down movement,
331 consistent with NW–SE extension or flexure across the margin of the intrusion (Fig. 10c–e).
332 Senses of slip on P2A deformation bands mirrors the kinematics of the P2B faults (Fig. 10a,
333 b), although they are distributed more widely across the intrusion margin. Conjugate sets of
334 extensional deformation bands commonly have an inclined acute bisector axis, consistent
335 with either an original moderately inclined σ_3 axis dipping towards the NW, or alternatively
336 with rotation of an originally more flat-lying bisector about a broadly horizontal axis post-
337 formation (Fig. 10a, b).

338

339 Stress inversion has been carried out following the Minimized Principal Stress Variation
340 method developed by Reches (1987) using MyFault™ software. This method assumes that

341 the stress required to cause fault slip obeys a Coulomb yield criterion. It is reasonable to use
342 such an approach as the overall finite strains recorded here are low, meaning that any
343 rotations of stress axes will be relatively minor (e.g. De Paola et al. 2005). Bulk inversion
344 suggests that the main stress acting on these faults was extensional (i.e. sub-vertical σ_1),
345 with NW–SE (margin perpendicular) oriented extension (Fig. 11). Inclination of the stress
346 axes likely reflects the flexural component of this extension due to rotation of the host rocks
347 during magma emplacement ($\sigma_3 = 338/20$; $\sigma_1 = 160/70$), with extension inclined down
348 towards the NW. Spatial variations are observed in the orientation of dip-slip faults, and the
349 stress inversion of these individual fault populations reveals a change in the local extensional
350 directions along the intrusion margin (extension varying from NW–SE to NNE–SSW; Fig. 11c).
351 These changes in the stress field mimic changes in the orientation of the intrusion margin.

352

353 **6. Discussion**

354 *6.1. Significance and origin of the deformation phases*

355 Since P1 structures do not show any significant spatial or geometric affinity to the Trachyte
356 Mesa intrusion, we suggest that they are likely to have developed prior to emplacement.
357 This is also supported by the consistent cross-cutting relationship observed in the field (i.e.
358 P2 overprinting P1). P1 deformation structures could be attributed to one or more of a
359 number of late Cretaceous to early Tertiary Laramide uplift deformation events observed
360 locally (e.g. see Bump and Davis, 2003).

361

362 The strong spatial, geometric and kinematic relationship between the P2 structures and the
363 location and orientation of the intrusion margins suggests that this deformation is related to
364 the emplacement of the Trachyte Mesa intrusion. P2B faults and steep deformation

365 corridors overprint the more widespread P2A deformation bands. As observed along the
366 western transect, P2A deformation bands are distributed across the entire intrusion margin,
367 whereas P2B faults are predominantly localised at sill sheet terminations. We suggest that
368 this is a result of strain localisation within the overburden during vertical inflation of the
369 underlying sill sheet. We therefore interpret that P2B structures are accommodation
370 structures associated with vertical inflation of individual sill sheets. The observed monoclinial
371 geometry, and the distribution and style of deformation, matches closely to mechanical
372 models of steeply dipping (extensional) forced folds (Withjack et al., 1990; Johnson and
373 Johnson, 2002).

374

375 P3 tensile joints overprint all other structures. We propose that the joints are most likely
376 associated with deflation and possibly cooling of the host rocks as the magma body beneath
377 cooled, crystallised and contracted. This origin for the P3 joints fits with their wide spatial
378 distribution over the intrusion, in contrast to the P2B faults, which are entirely localised
379 around sill terminations. A late-stage emplacement timing for the formation of the joints,
380 rather than post-emplacement, is supported by the presence of calcite crystals on joint
381 surfaces (Fig. 7g), and hydrothermal fluid escape structures (Fig. 7h) observed on the top
382 surface of some intrusive sheets, suggesting that these joint sets must have developed while
383 hydrothermal fluids associated with the intrusion were still circulating.

384

385 *6.2. Faults at sill terminations*

386 A significant observation from this study, previously undocumented at Trachyte Mesa, is the
387 presence of dip-slip faults associated with individual sill terminations (i.e. P2B structures).

388 Thomson and Schofield (2008) suggested that the main control on the development of faults

389 at sill sheets terminations is the depth of emplacement. At shallower depths, cohesive
390 strength along bedding planes is less, and so favours the development of flexural slip folds.
391 At greater depth, higher shear stresses are required for flexural slip, thus potentially
392 favouring mechanical failure of the rock through fracture/ faulting (Stearns, 1978). The
393 overburden thickness estimated for the Trachyte Mesa by Hintze and Kowallis (2009)
394 suggests that the Entrada Sandstone would have been at a paleodepth of ~3 km at the time
395 of magma emplacement, therefore placing it within the brittle zone (as defined by Schofield
396 et al., 2012).

397

398 Pollard and Johnson (1973) presented a conceptual model for the formation of peripheral
399 dykes located at the tips of laccolith bodies from field observations. It was suggested that
400 the dykes formed at the periphery of the intrusions as a result of flexural/ elastic bending of
401 the overburden layers (contractional over the centre and extensional over the periphery).
402 The observed sill-climbing structures at Trachyte Mesa fit with the development of
403 extensional strains at the intrusion periphery. However, instead of the strain being
404 accommodated by simple opening 'Mode 1' joints, it is proposed here that the mostly
405 extensional P2B faults were exploited by the magma (Figs. 4b and 5c).

406

407 6.3. Modes of Emplacement

408 If the magma in a sill sheet intrudes radially at a constant thickness ('bulldozing'), the
409 resulting host rock deformation will be predominantly compressional and should be
410 distributed over the entire extent of the intrusion (i.e. margins and top surface; Fig. 1a;
411 Corry, 1988). A two-stage model, comprising lateral spreading of a thin sheet followed by
412 vertical inflation, will lead to deformation being localised within the high-strain hinge zones

413 located at the intrusion margins, and to a mixture of compressional and extensional strains
414 (Fig. 1c). This latter model is consistent with the kinematics and spatial distribution of
415 deformation structures described here, suggesting that these features are closely related to
416 the mode of emplacement. Our observations support a stacked sill sheet growth model for
417 the overall intrusion with a two-stage growth model for individual sheets. We prefer this
418 model as there is no evidence for remnant hinge zones on the top surface of the intrusion,
419 which would be expected for both ‘bulldozing’ and simultaneous sill intrusion growth
420 models.

421

422 We envisage that individual sill sheets were emplaced close to their full radial extent as thin
423 sheets that then vertically inflated through additional magma influx. The contrasting
424 deformation styles observed likely reflect different deformation processes taking place in
425 the intrusion-contact zone (simple shear dominated strain) and the surrounding host rocks
426 (pure shear extension dominated deformation) during emplacement. Simple shear fabrics
427 and deformation at the intrusion contact are most likely driven by magma flow and
428 associated flattening, whilst the wider extensional deformation accommodates the
429 additional rock volumes required during sill sheet inflation.

430

431 6.4. *Emplacement and structural evolution*

432 Based on the work of previous authors (Corry, 1988; Morgan et al., 2008) and our new field
433 observations of intrusion geometries and deformation structures, a new multistage model
434 for the emplacement of the Trachyte Mesa intrusion is proposed (Fig. 14).

435

436 6.4.1. *Stage 1 - Onset of sheet emplacement and radial growth of a thin “proto-sill” sheet*

437 It is proposed that a magma feeder system propagated vertically through the sedimentary
438 pile until it reached a suitable interval for a horizontal sheet to propagate laterally. In the
439 case of Trachyte Mesa, this interval corresponds to a thin, mechanically weak, reddish-
440 brown silty sandstone and shale layer occurring between thicker, massive sandstone units
441 (Fig. 7b; Morgan et al., 2008). The “proto-sill” propagated as a thin sheet (poorly
442 constrained, but assumed to be <25 cm), with minor inflation, to its maximum lateral extent
443 (Figs. 14 and 15a). The extent of lateral propagation of magma is controlled by a number of
444 factors, including host rock fracture toughness, magma supply and flux, and freezing
445 processes in the sill tips (Bunger and Cruden, 2011). Bunger and Cruden (2011) showed
446 through mechanical modelling that magma viscosity is not a major influence on sill
447 dimensions. The presence of blunt and bulbous terminations at Trachyte Mesa indicate such
448 freezing processes in the sill tips, and with this an increase in fracture toughness (Johnson
449 and Pollard, 1973; Morgan et al., 2008; Bunger and Cruden, 2011).

450

451 Deformation associated with early emplacement is likely to have been minor, and
452 dominated by shear at the proto-sill sheet contacts. As magma flowed in a NE direction,
453 spreading out radially to the NW and SE, shear zones developed on the top and base
454 surfaces of the intrusion and its contacts with the surrounding host rock. These shear
455 structures show both brittle and plastic deformation characteristics due to the effects of hot
456 magma being emplaced into a cold host rock. Vergence on these shear structures is opposite
457 to the flow direction of the magma sheet (i.e. on the NW margin, top-to-the-SE-verging
458 shear fabrics occur on the top surface of the intrusion). These shear fabrics can be seen both
459 at outcrop and in thin section (Fig. 12), and have also been defined by AMS (Anisotropy of
460 Magnetic Susceptibility) studies (Morgan et al., 2008). According to this model, shearing at

461 the intrusion margin is the first-formed accommodation structure related to the onset of
462 sheet emplacement.

463

464 6.4.2. Stage 2 - Vertical inflation of sill sheet

465 Once the magma had reached its maximum radial extent, vertical inflation commenced as
466 magma supply continued. The thickness of the sill will be governed by the thickness of the
467 overburden (i.e. lithostatic pressure) and the magma pressure (Corry, 1988; Thomson and
468 Schofield, 2008).

469

470 Pollard and Johnson (1973) showed that for similar Henry Mountains laccoliths (e.g.
471 Buckhorn Ridge and Black Mesa intrusions) the effective overburden thickness was
472 somewhere between 300 to 500 m, significantly less than the true overburden thickness (figs
473 6 and 25 in Pollard and Johnson, 1973). This is due to the effect of stratification, the elastic
474 moduli of different formations, and how well these bond together. Taking into consideration
475 all of the above, once the horizontal length is roughly equal to the effective thickness of the
476 overburden, a change to laccolith intrusion mechanisms would be expected with continued
477 magma flux (Cruden and McCaffrey, 2006; Bungler and Cruden, 2011). Therefore vertical
478 displacements would take over from horizontal propagation. Using the planform horizontal
479 extent of the Trachyte Mesa intrusion, and assuming that sill sheets radiate outwards from a
480 central NE–SW trending intrusion axis (Morgan et al., 2008), the intrusion half-width is ~250
481 m. In order for laccolithic processes to take over, an equivalent ~250 m effective overburden
482 thickness would be required. This corresponds closely to base of the Morrison Formation
483 (Johnson and Pollard, 1973; Hintze and Kowallis, 2009). As this defines a significant change in
484 lithostratigraphy, a corresponding change in elastic moduli would be expected.

485

486 Thickening of the sill sheet resulted in roof uplift and deformation (e.g. P2 fractures and
487 deformation bands associated with forced folding and flexural bending) of the overlying
488 strata (cf. Sterns, 1978; Cosgrove and Hiller; 1999; Galland et al., 2009; Magee et al., 2014).
489 Conjugate sets of extensional cataclastic deformation band structures (P2A; Figs. 6, 7, 10 and
490 11) formed in the overlying massive sandstone beds, localised in the region of the
491 developing lateral margin, increasing in intensity around the monoclinial flank above the sill
492 termination (Fig. 14). This is consistent with extensional deformation structures forming in
493 the outer arc areas of monoclinial flexural folds, while contractional structures will be
494 dominant in the inner arc areas (Frehner, 2011). This extension and contraction in the outer
495 and inner arcs, respectively, may help to explain the observation that deformation within the
496 blocky sandstone units is predominantly extensional, while in the more shaley units at the
497 intrusion contact, reverse faults occur (Fig. 7b; also noted by Morgan et al., 2008).

498

499 Although lateral propagation of the sill is likely to have ceased during this inflation phase of
500 emplacement, shear structures may still have continued to develop on the top surface of the
501 intrusion due to magma flow. Figure 12 shows examples of shear structures on the intrusion
502 top surface. As these brittle structures clearly deform already cooled rock, this shear
503 deformation is post-initial emplacement. However, in order to accommodate the additional
504 volume of magma, shear strain on the top surface will have become dominated by flattening
505 (vertical shortening). This is apparent in the stretching and flattening of plagioclase crystals
506 within the upper 2–5 cm of the sill sheet (Fig. 12c, d).

507

508 As vertical inflation continued, strain became localised at the sill sheet terminations resulting
509 in the formation of P2B structures (Figs. 10, 11 and 14). This strain localisation led to the
510 development of steep deformation corridors cross-cutting earlier conjugate deformation
511 bands (Fig. 10c) and, eventually, the development of principal slip surfaces and dip-slip faults
512 (Figs. 10d, e and 15b). These P2B dip-slip faults observed at Trachyte Mesa therefore played
513 a significant role in accommodating the extra volume of magma within the crust.

514

515 It is proposed that the smooth, curved nature of the “bulbous” sill sheet terminations (Fig.
516 4c; Morgan et al., 2008) are the result of inflation (Fig. 15b). This rounded geometry is only
517 observed for sill terminations that formed within clay-rich, shaley red sandstones (weaker),
518 whilst more abrupt, “fault-controlled” vertical terminations are found in closer proximity to
519 the overlying competent red and bleached sandstones (stronger). The differences in
520 lithology and their mechanical properties are therefore likely to have played a significant
521 role in the type of sill sheet termination.

522

523 An igneous sill propagating in an elastic/ brittle medium, as is the case here, should have a
524 tapered or wedge-shaped tip (Fig. 15a). Both the “bulbous” and “fault-controlled” tip
525 terminations are, therefore, likely to be secondary features that modify originally tapered
526 tips. This modification likely occurs during the inflation stage (Fig. 15b). In the “fault
527 controlled” terminations the vertical edge represents a new contact, while “bulbous”
528 terminations are modified top surfaces. The bulbous shape forms if a small amount of lateral
529 expansion also occurs due to the high magma pressure required for vertical growth. The
530 bulbous geometry would also be consistent with the tip region containing solidified but still
531 plastic material (e.g. similar to the leading edge of basalt pillows).

532

533 Using finite element modelling, Smart et al. (2010) examined the strain distribution in
534 monoclinally deformed beds overlying a steeply dipping extensional fault, noting the
535 development of outer and inner arc strain domains in the folds (e.g. Frehner, 2011). They
536 also identified a zone of high sub-horizontal extensional strain within the footwall block (see
537 fig. 11 in Smart et al., 2010). This local extensional strain domain may provide a mechanism
538 for the inflation at the sill tip to form the observed bulbous terminations. However, the
539 formation of extensional faults at the sill tips will tend to impede the development of
540 bulbous terminations, as this extensional strain will instead be accommodated by fault
541 extension. It is therefore significant that sill sheets with a bulbous character show little
542 evidence for fault development (Morgan et al., 2008), while those with faults at their tips do
543 not exhibit bulbous terminations (e.g. Fig. 4d; this study).

544

545 *6.4.3. Stage 3a - Emplacement of additional sill sheets*

546 Successive sheets were emplaced by the same two-stage process (i.e. radial followed by
547 vertical growth) as for the first sill sheet. Along the western transect (TMTW), the sequence
548 of sill sheet stacking was largely from the bottom of the intrusion upwards, as each
549 successive sill sheet was emplaced on top of the underlying sheet, i.e. over-accretion
550 (Menand, 2008). Along the western transect (TMTW) we see evidence for at least four
551 stacked sill sheets (Fig. 4a). However, on the eastern transect (TMTE), the sequence and
552 level at which successive sheets were emplaced varies significantly with under- and mid-
553 accretion of sheets (see section 6.5); field observations indicate ~5 parallel sheets intruding
554 beneath two inclined sheets.

555

556 6.4.4. *Stage 3b - Onset of sill-climbing/transgression*

557 Following the formation of P2B faults during the vertical inflation stage, magma was able to
558 utilise these faults and sill-climbing commenced (Fig. 14; Thomson and Schofield, 2008).
559 Dilation of the fault allows magma ingress along the fault plane (Figs. 14 and 15c). At
560 Trachyte Mesa, examples of sill climbing can be observed at both outcrop (Figs. 4c and 5c)
561 and in thin section (Fig. 12e). This process preferentially exploited reverse dip-slip faults (Fig.
562 15c) for two likely reasons. The first is that the geometry of the reverse faults, dipping
563 towards the sill termination, allowed the magma to continue its outward radial flow up
564 along the fault plane and up through the host stratigraphy. The second factor controlling sill
565 climbing along these faults is the stress induced on the fault due to roof uplift (Fig. 15c). If
566 the P2B faults have a normal geometry (i.e. dipping away from the sill sheet), vertical
567 compressive stress associated with uplift of the underlying footwall block (i.e. vertical
568 inflation of sill sheet) will keep the plane closed and prevent migration of magma along its
569 path (Fig. 15c). In contrast, if the fault has a reverse geometry (i.e. dipping towards the sill
570 sheet) uplift of the hangingwall block reduces the vertical normal stress, thus enabling
571 magma to exploit the fault plane (Fig. 15c). Interestingly, such sill climbing processes
572 associated with the exploitation of peripheral faults are likely to play a significant role in the
573 development of the saucer-shaped sills widely imaged in offshore seismic reflection data
574 from sedimentary basins (Thomson and Schofield 2008; Galland et al., 2009).

575

576 6.4.5. *Stage 4 - Cooling and relaxation of intrusion*

577 As the intrusive sheets (and overall intrusive body) started to cool and contract with the
578 cessation of magma flow, the host rocks above also relaxed. During this relaxation phase,

579 tensile joints developed in response to changes in both flexural and thermal stresses in the
580 vicinity of the intrusion, allowing hydrothermal fluids to circulate (Figs. 7g, h and 14).

581

582 6.5. *Sequence of stacking*

583 The sequence in which intrusive sill sheets are stacked plays a significant role in the resulting
584 geometry of the intrusion as well as the types of deformation structures observed in the
585 overlying host rocks. In the two structural transects carried out here (Fig. 3; also see cross-
586 sections in Supplementary Information), contrasting styles of intrusion geometry are
587 observed that are the result of different orders of sill stacking. The lack of continuity of sills
588 sheets between the two transects likely reflects a complex morphology of stacked lobate
589 geometries (see Fig 4b; see also fig. 14 in Morgan et al., 2008) with different accretion
590 histories. On the western transect, the margin of the intrusion is characterised by a series (\geq
591 4) of sub-horizontal sill sheets of varying thickness (0.5–3 m) stacked one on top of the
592 other, i.e. over-accretion (Menand, 2008; Fig. 14). In contrast, on the eastern transect the
593 order of sill stacking appears out-of-sequence (under- and/ or mid-accretion; Menand,
594 2008). As discussed by Morgan et al. (2008), it appears here that the lower sub-horizontal
595 sheets were emplaced later than upper sheets. The main evidence for this out-of-sequence
596 stacking is the fact that the upper sill sheets have been arched and rotated into a similar
597 monoclinial geometry to the overlying sandstone beds due to the emplacement of sub-
598 horizontal sheets beneath. Not only does the sequence of stacking affect the geometry of
599 the intrusion, it also has a significant impact on the style of deformation occurring in the
600 overlying host rock. In a sequentially stacked sequence (e.g. TMTW) a “stepped” bedding
601 profile is developed (i.e. terraces associated with individual sill sheets), and dip-slip faults
602 (2B) occur at the tips of successive intrusive sheets. In areas where out-of-sequence

603 emplacement occurs (e.g. TMTE), the intrusion margin is distinctly monoclinal (i.e. one single
604 smooth step) and, due to the presence of the overlying sill sheets, the development of P2B
605 faults is inhibited (Fig. 14). Close to the intrusion contact, compressional deformation
606 structures including small reverse faults are observed, although in the more competent
607 sandstone beds, extension-dominated deformation structures still prevail (Fig. 7b).

608

609 **7. Conclusions**

610 The Trachyte Mesa intrusion comprises a series of stacked sill sheets. Deformation
611 structures associated with the emplacement of the intrusion are very well preserved and
612 vary in style and intensity along the intrusion margin. Detailed analysis of these host rock
613 deformation structures and their cross-cutting relationships enables the recognition of three
614 distinct phases, interpreted to represent pre- (P1), syn- (P2), and late-stage (P3)
615 emplacement deformation stages. The close spatial and kinematic association of P2
616 structures indicate extensional strain normal to the intrusion margin during emplacement,
617 with the inclination of the σ_3 axis reflecting the flexure during vertical inflation
618 episodes along the margin. Strain localisation and extensional faulting at sill sheet
619 terminations, and sill climbing, support a “two-stage growth” history for both individual
620 sheets and the overall intrusion. These observations are analogous to models of sill
621 emplacement (e.g. Pollard and Johnson, 1973; Thomson and Schofield, 2008).

622

623 Deformation structures record the strain evolution, and thus provide a valuable pool to
624 understand the mode of emplacement of the intrusion. The order in which the sill sheets are
625 stacked (i.e. under-, mid-, over-accretion) has a significant impact both on the intrusion
626 geometry and associated deformation. Consequently, the presence or absence of specific

627 deformation structures (e.g. 2B faults) may be key to discriminating the sequence of sill-
628 stacking.

629

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638

639

Figure Captions

640 **Figure 1.** Simplified regional geological maps of the Henry Mountains. (a) The Henry
 641 Mountains region (adapted from Morgan et al., 2008) and its location within Utah (inset
 642 map). (b) Mount Hillers and its satellite intrusions (modified from Larson et al., 1985). In (b),
 643 the various intrusions that comprise the Mt Hillers intrusive complex are numbered, using
 644 the names given by Hunt (1953) : 1 – Mt Hillers central complex; 2 – Bulldog Peak intrusion;
 645 3 – Stewart Ridge intrusion; 4 – Specks Ridge intrusion; 5 – Chaparral Hills Laccolith; 6 –
 646 Specks Canyon; 7 – speculated feeder system to the Trachyte Mesa intrusion; 8 – Sawtooth
 647 Ridge intrusion; 9 –Black Mesa intrusion; 10 - Maiden Creek intrusion; 11 – Trachyte Mesa
 648 intrusion.

649

650 **Figure 2.** Growth models for laccolith intrusions (modified from Hunt, 1953, and Corry,
 651 1988). (a), (b) and (c) correspond to Models B, C and A of Hunt (1953) respectively, and show
 652 three different mechanisms of laccolith growth: (a) bulldozing; (b) simultaneous growth; and
 653 (c) ‘two-stage’ growth. Based on the three models of Hunt (1953), (d), (e) and (f) correspond
 654 to Models 1, 2, and 3 of Corry (1988) for laccolith growth and expected deformation of the
 655 country rock.

656

657 **Figure 3.** Maps of the Trachyte Mesa intrusion study area. (a) Contoured and georeferenced
 658 aerial image of the Trachyte Mesa area showing the intrusion outline (modified from
 659 Morgan et al., 2008). Dashed lines in the SW depict the subsurface extent of the intrusion
 660 defined using magnetic resistivity data (after Wetmore et al., 2009). Locations of structural
 661 stations are shown by the dark blue filled circles; additional sample stations are shown in
 662 light blue. (b) Contoured (heights in metres) and georeferenced aerial photograph (source:

663 <http://gis.utah.gov/data/aerial-photography/>) of field study area, located on the southern
 664 end of the NW margin of the intrusion. Structural station localities, bedding measurements,
 665 structural transect lines (TMTE, TMTW), and detailed study area (TMT3) are shown. Also see
 666 the .kmz file in the Supplementary Information for locations of structural stations mentioned
 667 within the paper.

668

669 **Figure 4.** Photographs and interpretative sketches showing outcrop geometries of stacked
 670 sill sheets on the NW margin of Trachyte Mesa. (a) Aerial photograph (Google Earth™) of
 671 intrusion margin outcrops. Note contrasting intrusion margin geometries along strike of the
 672 intrusion margin (dashed white lines show location of observed sill sheet terminations);
 673 vertically stacked-sheets (1.1 – 1.7) in east of study area (i.e. around TMTE), and stepped
 674 stacked sheets (2.1 – 2.4) in the west (TMTW). Structural stations shown by dark blue filled
 675 circles. Note viewpoint locations for photos (b) to (d). (b) View looking SE from structural
 676 station TMTE-6 along structural transect TMTE. (c) View looking NE from structural station
 677 TMTW-2 onto structural transects TMTW (foreground) and TMTE (in distance). (d) View of
 678 structural station TMTW-3, looking NW from viewpoint (d). Key observations to note are:
 679 monoclinial geometry of overriding sandstone units, (b) and (c); flexed/ monoclinial upper sill
 680 sheets (b) vs. sub-horizontal stacked sill sheets (c, d); sub-horizontal lower sill sheets with
 681 “bulbous” terminations (b) and (c); and sill climbing in upper sill sheet, propagating along
 682 reverse dip-slip fault (c).

683

684 **Figure 5.** Terrestrial laser scanning of Trachyte Mesa study area. (a) Field photograph
 685 showing monoclinial geometry of the NW intrusion margin along structural transect TMTE
 686 (see Fig. 3b for location). Note blocky, red Entrada Sandstone units concordant with the

687 underlying intrusion top surface and stacked intrusive sheets below. Inset (top right),
 688 schematic cross section (NW–SE) across the Trachyte Mesa intrusion, showing stacked sill
 689 sheets (from Morgan et al., 2008). Inset (bottom right), schematic model of observed
 690 intrusion geometries (this study). (b) and (c) Example laser scan interpretations from the
 691 Trachyte Mesa intrusion study area showing: (b) a structurally complex zone (structural
 692 station TMTW-3; see photo in Fig. 4d for comparison) showing dip-slip faults associated with
 693 sill sheet terminations; and (c) a climbing sill sheet, propagating along a syn-emplacement
 694 fault (see Fig. 4c for comparison).

695

696 **Figure 6.** Summary stereoplots of field structural data. Equal area, lower hemisphere
 697 stereoplots of data showing poles to planes (contoured) sorted by structural type: (a)
 698 bedding, (b) deformation bands, (c) faults, (d) opening ‘Mode 1’ joints; and structural phase:
 699 (e) Phase 1 (P1; deformation bands and faults), (f) Phase 2A (P2A; deformation bands), (g)
 700 Phase 2B (P2B; faults), (h) Phase 3 (P3; joints). Mean planes for distinct cluster populations
 701 are shown for each plot. Plots (c) and (g) also show fault slip lines with movement direction
 702 indicated (red circles with solid fill = normal fault slip; white fill = reverse slip). Contouring
 703 intervals are calculated using the ‘Schmidt method’ (Schmidt, 1925; Robin and Jowett, 1986)
 704 of grid cell counting (counting circles equal 1% of the area). Contour intervals are percentage
 705 values $(n(100)/N = \%)$, where n is the number of data points in the cell and N is the total
 706 number of data points).

707

708 **Figure 7.** Annotated field photographs showing examples of Phase 1 (a), Phase 2 (b–d), and
 709 Phase 3 (e–h) deformation structures. (a) Background deformation bands cutting the
 710 Entrada Sandstone distal (~500 m to the NW; TMTE-0) to the intrusion (0.2–2m spacing). (b)

711 Deformation structures at intrusion contact, locality TMTE-9 in Fig. 4. Low angle shear and
 712 reverse faults (top-to-the-SE) on top surface of the intrusion and within the highly deformed
 713 shaley red sandstone layer adjacent to the contact. Extensional conjugate deformation
 714 bands in massive red sandstone (also see fig. 10 in Morgan et al., 2008). (c) Closely spaced
 715 porosity reducing deformation bands in massive red sandstone, localised to intrusion margin
 716 and host-rock overlying the top surface of the intrusion (0.5–5cm spacing). (d) Dip-slip
 717 normal fault (down-to-the-NW) with well-preserved slickenlines on principal slip surface. (e)
 718 Opening ‘Mode I’ joints trending perpendicular to the intrusion margin (NW–SE), 0.5–2m
 719 spacing. (f) Opening ‘Mode I’ joints trending parallel to the intrusion margin (NE–SW), 1–2m
 720 spacing. (g) Calcite crystals precipitated on margin parallel joint surfaces in (f). (h) Highly
 721 altered (hydrous minerals) plagioclase-hornblende porphyry (note, original phenocrysts still
 722 identifiable) exploiting joints on top surface of intrusion. Also note the sub-horizontal
 723 foliation of the magma on the intrusion top surface.

724

725 **Figure 8.** Photomicrographs of Entrada Sandstone (blue resin infilling pore space). (a)
 726 Relatively undeformed parent host rock showing significant pore space; 18–20% porosity.
 727 Photograph taken using plane polarized light (ppl). (b) Section across deformation band
 728 showing two distinct zones: a narrow (0.5 mm) cataclastic deformation zone characterised
 729 by a wide range of grain sizes, angular grains and a fine-grained matrix resulting from grain
 730 size reduction; and a wider compactional zone. Porosity reduction is nearly 100% within the
 731 cataclastic deformation zone, while within the compactional zone reduction ranges from 75–
 732 90% (i.e. <5% porosity). Photograph taken under ppl.

733

734 **Figure 9.** Cross-cutting relationships between structural phases. (a) Example of large P1
 735 deformation band observed at structural station TMTE-4. (b) Close-up view of deformation
 736 band shown in (a), note the second system of deformation bands (P2A) cross-cutting the
 737 steeply dipping P1 set. (c) Conjugate deformation bands (P2A) cross-cut by steeply-dipping
 738 P3 joints (TMTE-9). (d) Steeply dipping extensional faults (P2B) cross-cut by P3 joints (TMTW-
 739 3).

740

741 **Figure 10.** Annotated field photographs showing additional examples of P2A (a–b) and P2B
 742 (c–e) structures and kinematics. (a) Monoclinical bedding geometries in sandstone units ~30
 743 m above the intrusion, showing conjugate fault/ deformation band geometries consistent
 744 with flexure (note offset on bedding in paler sandstone unit). (b) Outcrop example (~5 m
 745 above intrusion) of conjugate deformation banding showing consistent offsets to those seen
 746 in (a). (c) Steep deformation corridor/ ladder zone (down-to-the-NW shear) overprinting
 747 conjugate deformation bands. Note kinematics of background deformation bands and ladder
 748 zone are the same. (d) Outcrop example of normal faults developed at the termination of sill
 749 sheets. Note total throw on normal faults is consistent with the thickness of the individual
 750 sill sheet, implying that the faults may be induced by sill sheet inflation. (e) Close-up of area
 751 outlined in (d) showing ~75 cm normal (down-to-the-NW) offset of bedding contact (PSS –
 752 Principal Slip Surface; DZ – Damage Zone).

753

754 **Figure 11.** Structural data and map demonstrating the arcuate trend of Phase 2B faults. (a),
 755 (b) Equal area lower hemisphere stereoplots showing all fault trends of P2B faults. Faults
 756 show dip-slip normal and reverse movements, consistent with NW–SE extension (note
 757 inclination of σ_3 , associated with flexure along the intrusion margin). (c) Map showing the

758 distribution of the main outcrop localities at which P2B fault data were collected. The
759 change in geometry and kinematics of the faults with the changing trend of the intrusion
760 margin can be seen from the equal area lower hemisphere plots for each outcrop showing
761 poles to planes, slickenlines and interpreted kinematics. Solid white lines depict areas where
762 intrusion margin is exposed, dashed white lines show inferred continuation of margin
763 beneath sandstone beds [magnetic data from Wetmore et al. (2009) was used to guide this
764 subsurface geometry]. See Fig. 3b for location in context of wider area.

765

766 **Figure 12.** Flow generated fabrics at the intrusion margin. (a) Outcrop photograph showing
767 low-angle brittle extensional faults (see inset stereoplot) cutting baked sandstone unit on
768 top surface of an intrusive sheet. These are interpreted to be equivalent to R_1 Riedel shear
769 planes, depicted in (d). The faults are only apparent in the baked sandstone and appear to
770 terminate at the intrusion-host rock interface. (b) Stretched plagioclase phenocrysts within a
771 strongly sub-horizontal foliated zone (2–3 cm) on the top surface of an intrusive sheet. Note
772 also the thin (<1 cm) chilled margin zone above the stretched phenocryst/ foliated layer. (c)
773 Photograph of thin section (ppl) across sheared intrusion top surface. (d) Photomicrograph
774 (ppl) of deformed, elongate plagioclase phenocryst within the uppermost 2–3 cm of an
775 intrusive sheet (note section is cut along a vertical plane oriented parallel to the stretching
776 direction, 140° – 320°). The phenocryst is deformed mainly by brittle deformation and a series
777 of preferred deformation planes, with offset, can be identified. The movement and
778 orientation of these planes are consistent with Riedel fractures associated with top-to-the-
779 right (SE) sub-horizontal shear. (e) Diagram illustrating incremental strain associated with
780 simple-shear deformation. Image on left shows initial configuration of Riedel shear fractures,
781 while image on right shows orientations after continued simple shear and flattening (20%

782 pure shear). Note clockwise rotation of fractures. (f) Schematic cartoon depicting the
 783 deformation structures observed at outcrop and in thin section on the top surface of an
 784 intrusive sheet. The structures and kinematics are consistent with top-to-the-SE sub-
 785 horizontal shear. This shearing is likely driven by magmatic flow within the underlying sheet,
 786 leading to sub-horizontal shortening and shear at the intrusion contact.

787

788 **Figure 13.** Photomicrographs of microstructures observed at the intrusion – sandstone
 789 contact. (a) Oriented sample highlighting area of thin section and location of images (b) – (f).
 790 (b) Thin section and annotated sketch highlighting key structures. (c) Stepped vertical
 791 contact at the tip of an intrusive sill sheet. (d) Sub-vertical fracture within host rock adjacent
 792 to contact, showing down-to-the-NW movement. (e) Magma injecting upwards along an
 793 extensional fracture. (f) Top surface of intrusion showing sharp contact and narrow altered
 794 margin.

795

796 **Figure 14.** Schematic diagram outlining a two-stage growth model for sill emplacement at
 797 the Trachyte Mesa intrusion and associated deformation structures. Over-accretion stacking
 798 model (as observed at TMTW study area; see cross-section in Supplementary Information).
 799 Stages of emplacement, as discussed in text, are: Stage 1 - Sill initiation and radial growth as
 800 a thin “proto-“ sill sheet; Stage 2 - Thickening of the sill sheet, resulting in roof uplift and
 801 strain localisation in the host rock at the sill sheet termination; Stage 3 - Emplacement of a
 802 second sill sheet (repetition of stages 1 and 2 for 2nd sheet); Stage 3b - Sill climbing through
 803 the exploitation of faults developed during Stage 2; Stage 4 – Sill flattening (not observed at
 804 Trachyte Mesa) and late stage cooling and relaxation of the intrusion. Schematic illustration
 805 (top left) highlighting the impact of out-of-sequence (under- and mid-accretion) stacking

806 [equivalent to Stage 2 in (a)] on margin geometry and deformation structures (as observed
807 in TMTE study area; see cross-section in Supplementary Information).

808

809 **Figure 15.** Transition from horizontal propagation to vertical growth of sill sheets. (a) Lateral
810 propagation of a thin “proto” sill sheet. Note the wedge-shaped tip geometry. Bedding is
811 moderately deformed by flexure and distributed deformation. No fault development, i.e. no
812 strain localisation. (b) Vertical inflation of sill sheets. The development of “bulbous” versus
813 “fault-controlled” terminations is controlled by overlying host-rock lithology and their
814 mechanical properties. (c) Development of dip slip faults at sill tips during two-stage growth
815 model and implications for sill climbing and vertical propagation. Normal faults inhibit
816 magma propagation (due to vertical stress associated with uplift of underlying footwall
817 block). Reverse faults permit sill-climbing (uplift of the hangingwall block reduces the vertical
818 normal stress allowing magma to exploit and propagate along the fault).

819

820 **Supplementary Information**

821

822 **Appendix 1. (Digital)**

823 Google Earth™ project (.kmz file) with locations of structural stations.

824

825 **Appendix 2.**

826 (a) Structure along Trachyte Mesa transect TMTW. Cross section (for location see Fig. 3b)
827 constructed in 2D Move™. Equal area, lower hemisphere plots of poles to planes highlight
828 deformation structure populations collected at each station (white stars). Topography is
829 shown by the bold white line. Conceptual Bedding planes (5 m spacing) highlighted in yellow,

830 extrapolated from bedding dip measurements depicted by the black segments and numbers.
831 Note the stepped/ terraced geometry of the margin. Colour bars across the lower part of the
832 section show the spatial distribution of the different deformation phases. (b) Structure along
833 Trachyte Mesa transect TMTE. Cross section (for location see Fig. 3b) constructed in 2D
834 Move™. Key as in (a). Note the main intrusion is in the SE (to the right) of the section, while a
835 smaller distal intrusion can be seen further outboard. (Inset) Close-up of the area around the
836 intrusion margin and corresponding field photograph of the same outcrops. Numbers 1–5
837 indicate the possible timing of sheet emplacement, with 1 being the earliest sheet. Note the
838 monoclinical geometry of the upper sill sheets and overriding massive sandstone.

839

840 **Appendix 3. (Digital)**

841 Fly through movie of terrestrial laser scan (TLS) model showing ‘stepped’ intrusion margin,
842 fault localisation at sill sheet terminations and sill-climbing observed on the western transect
843 (TMTW).

844

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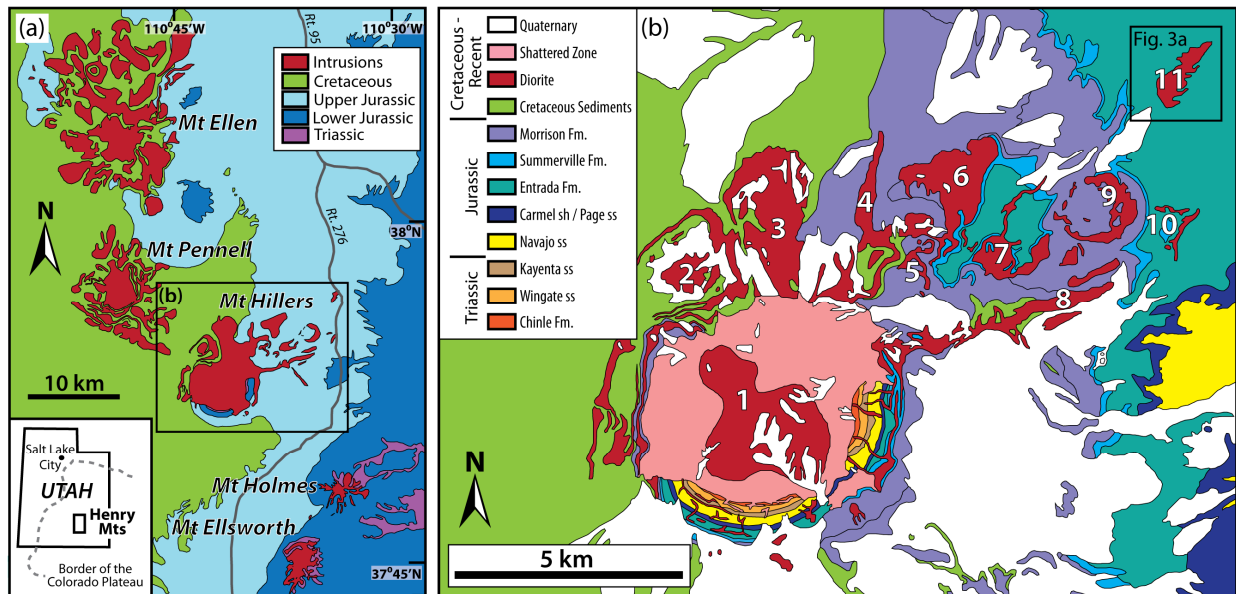
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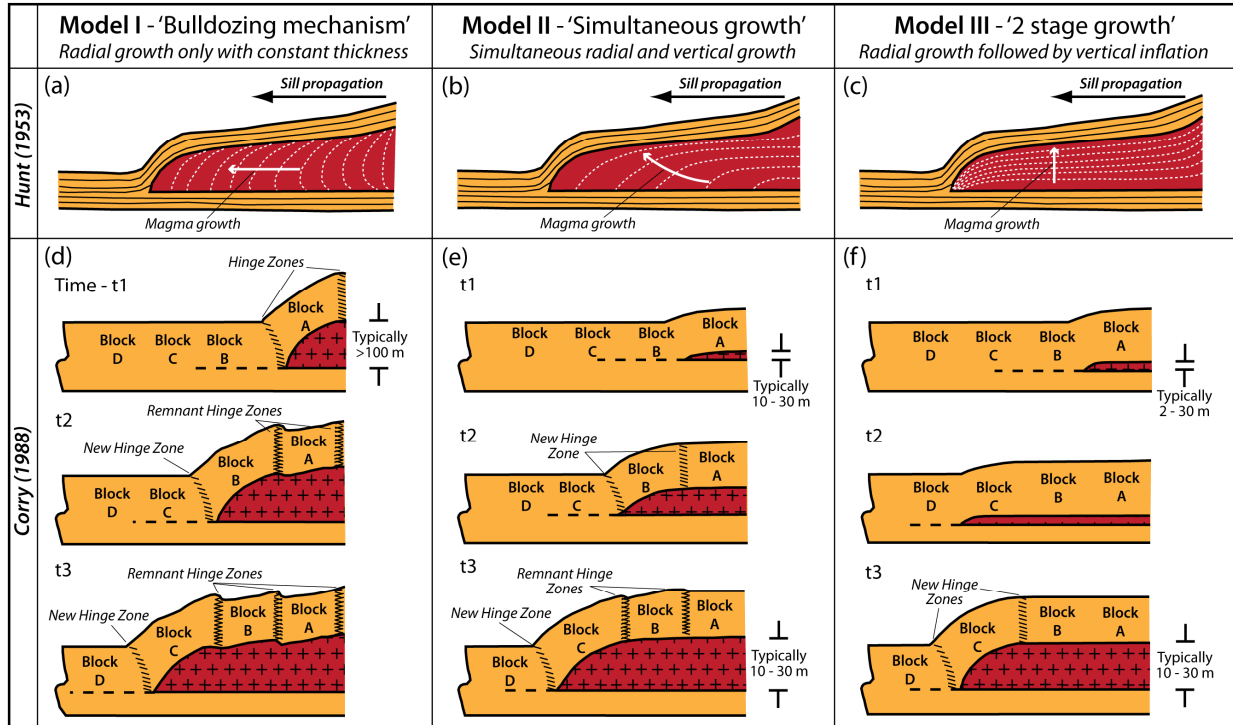
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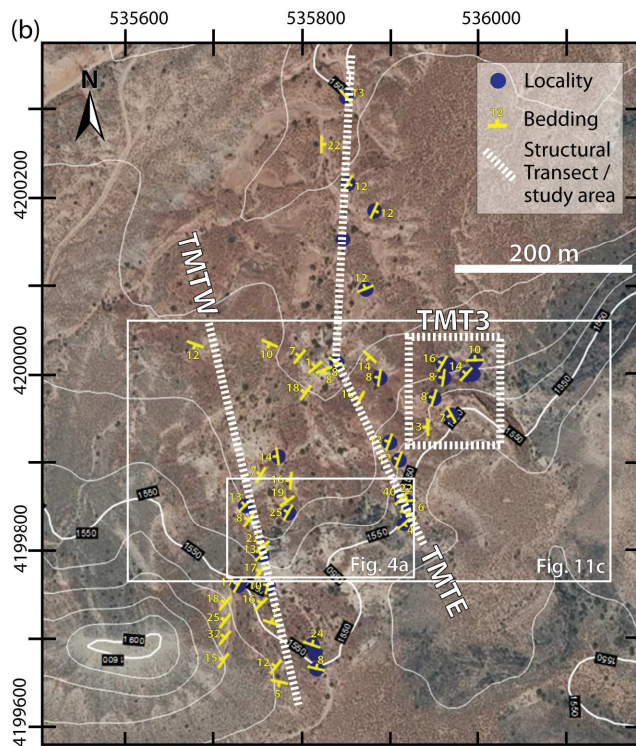
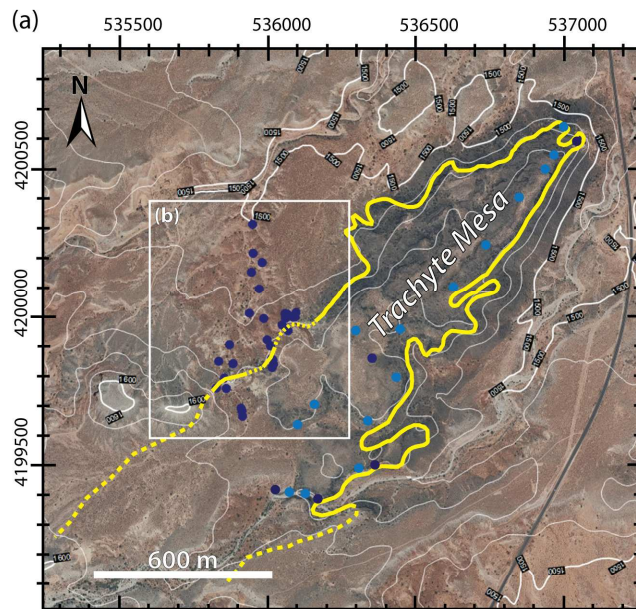
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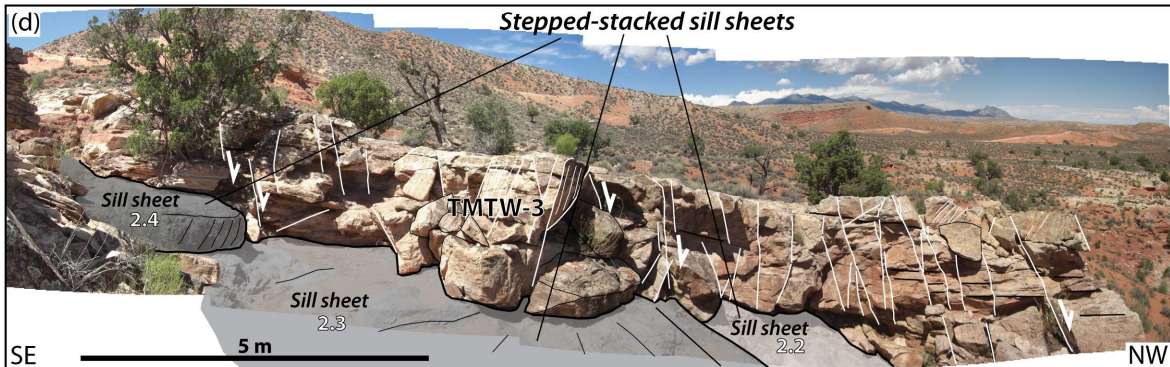
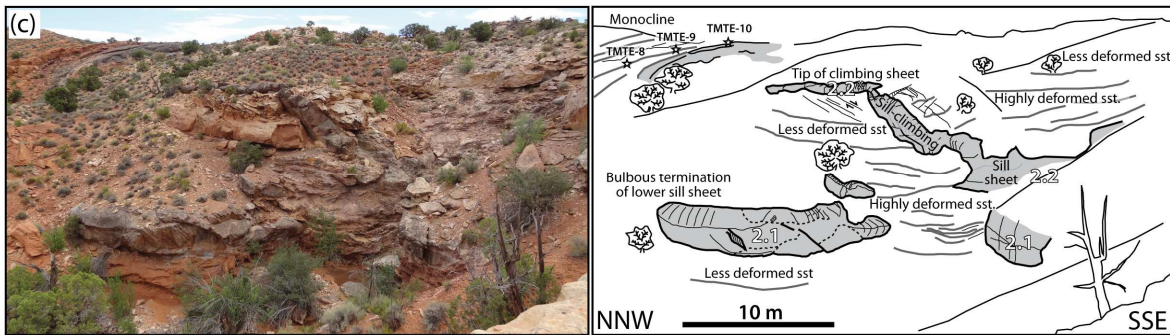
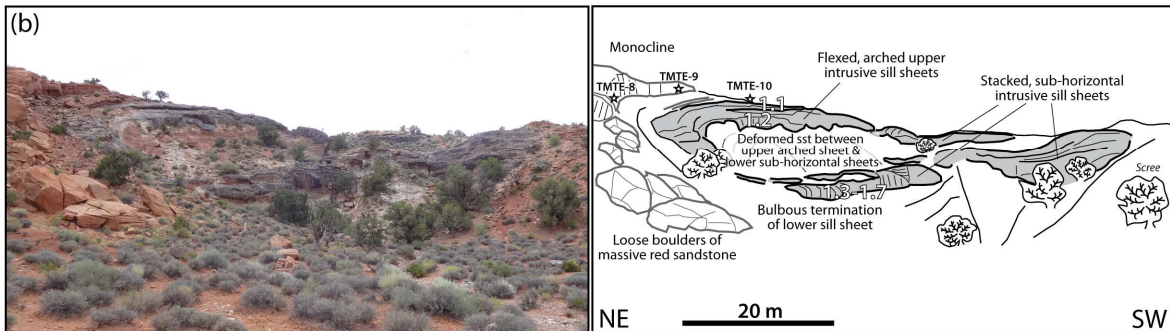
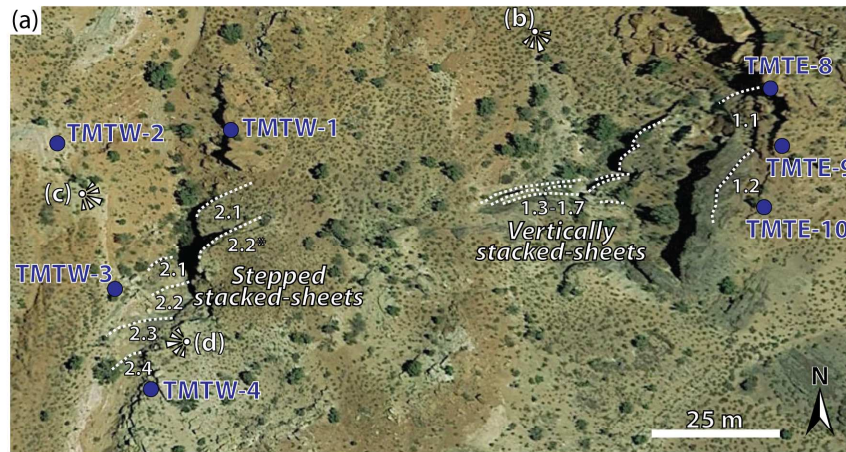
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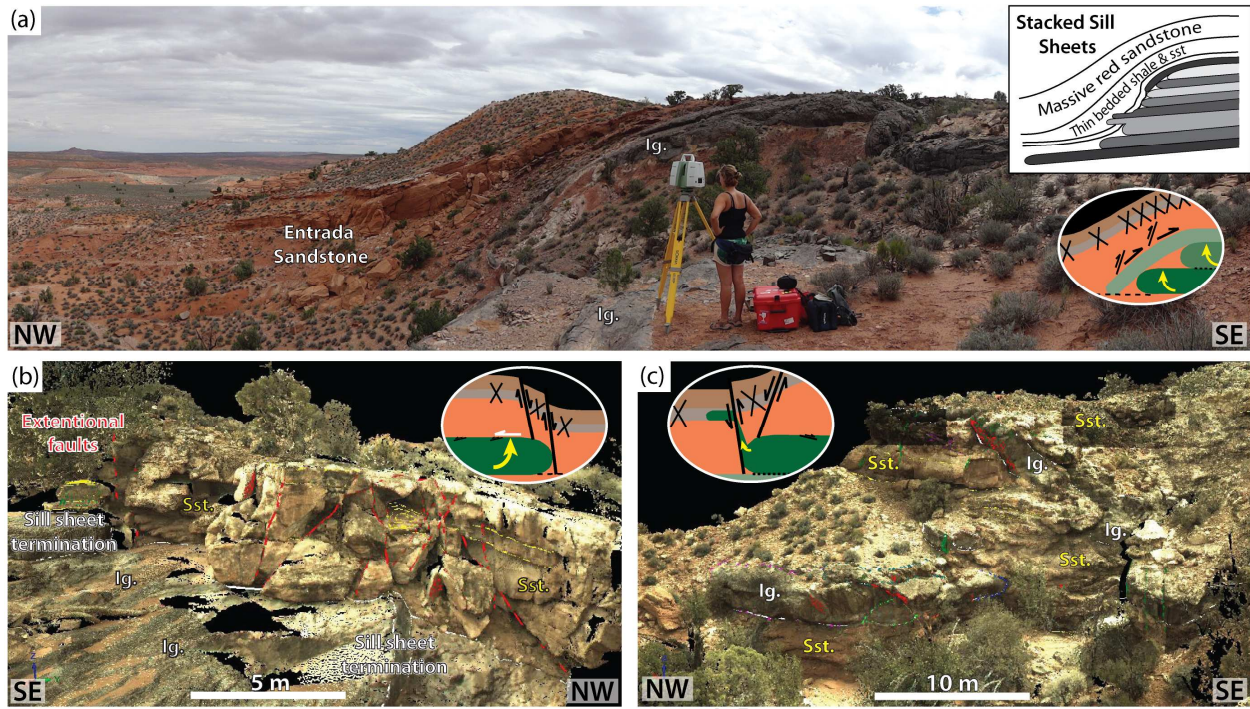
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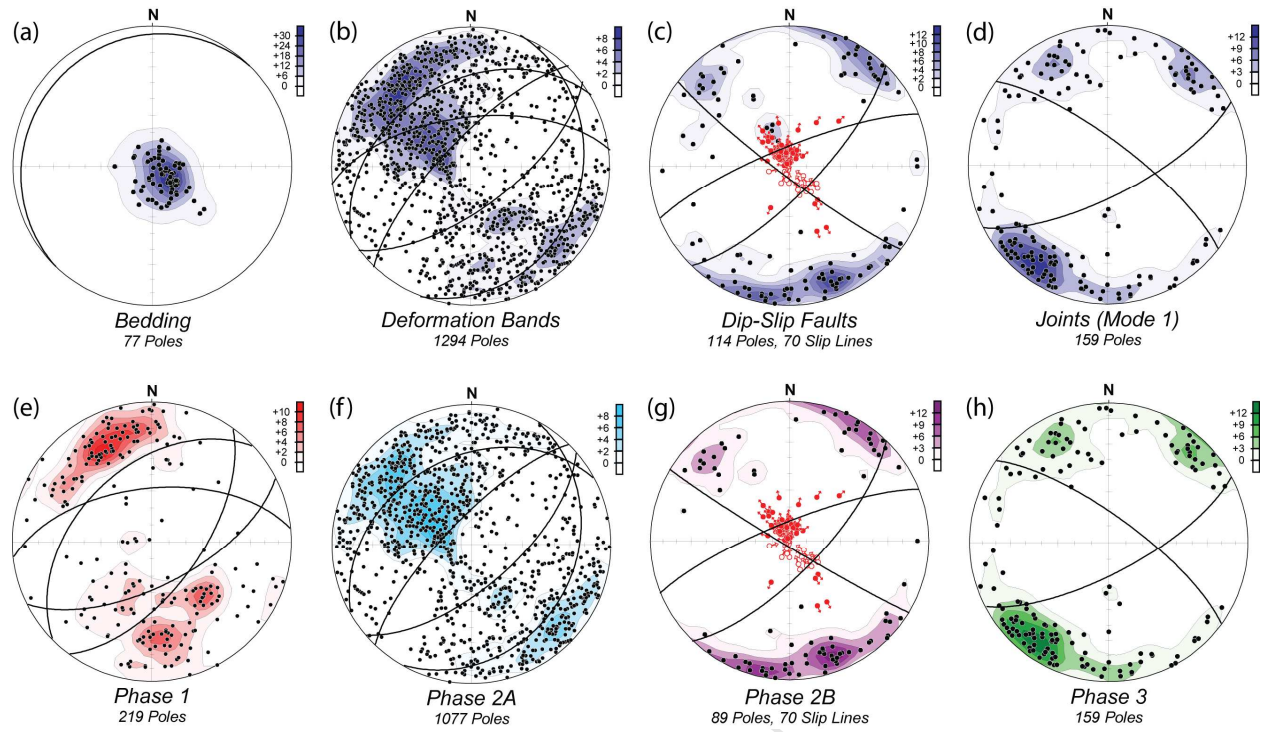




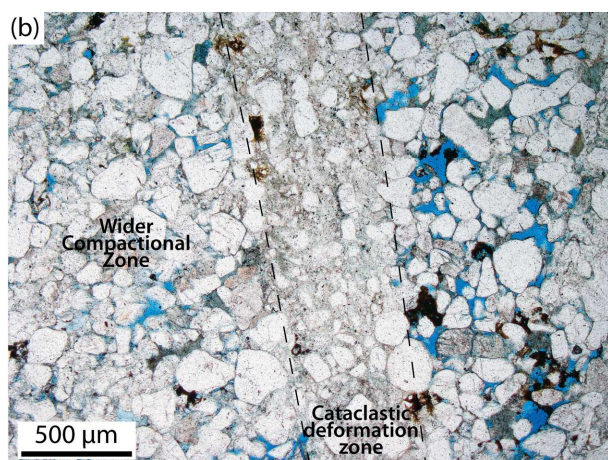
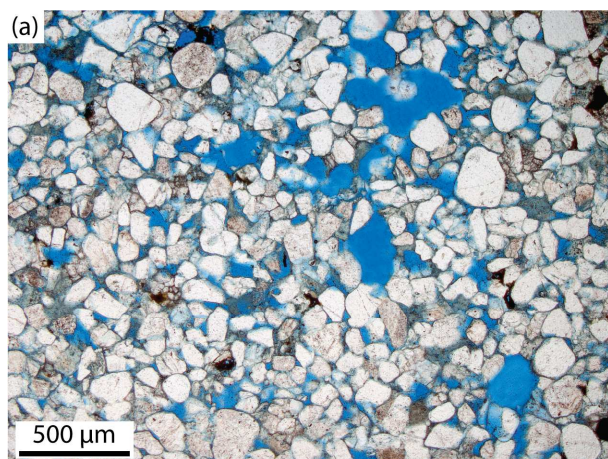


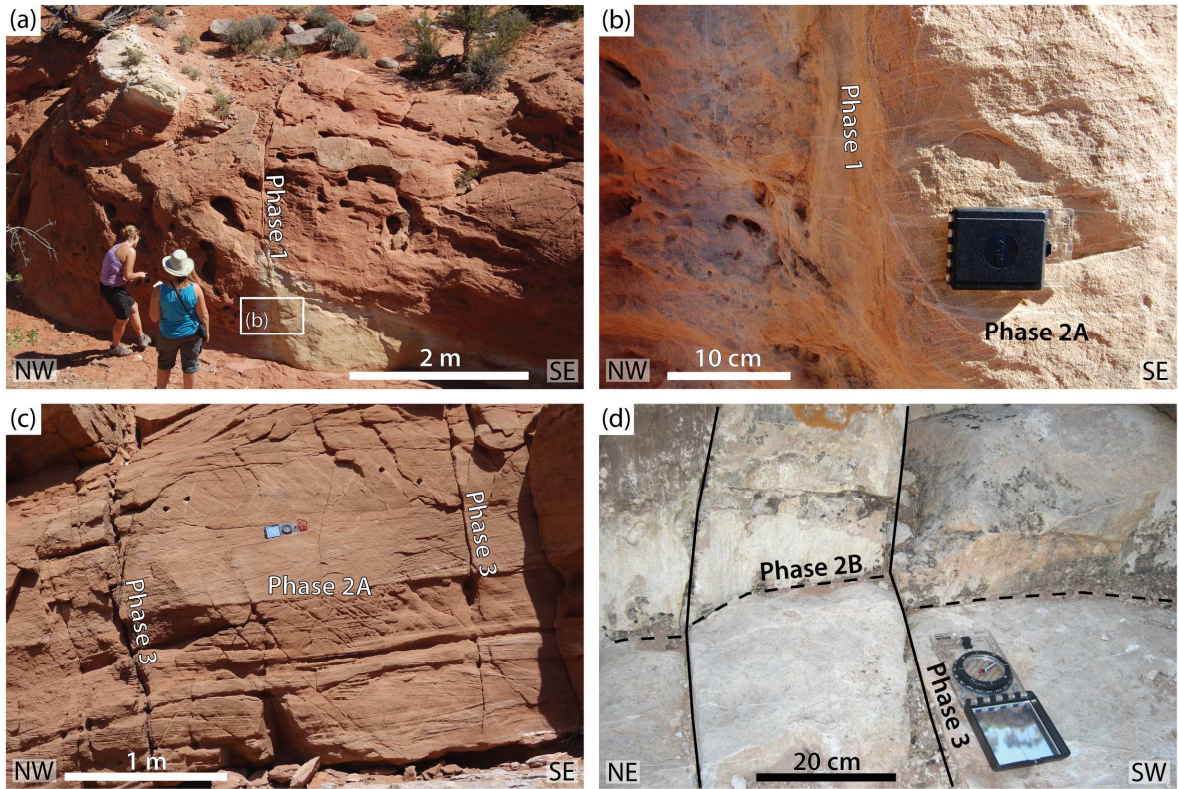




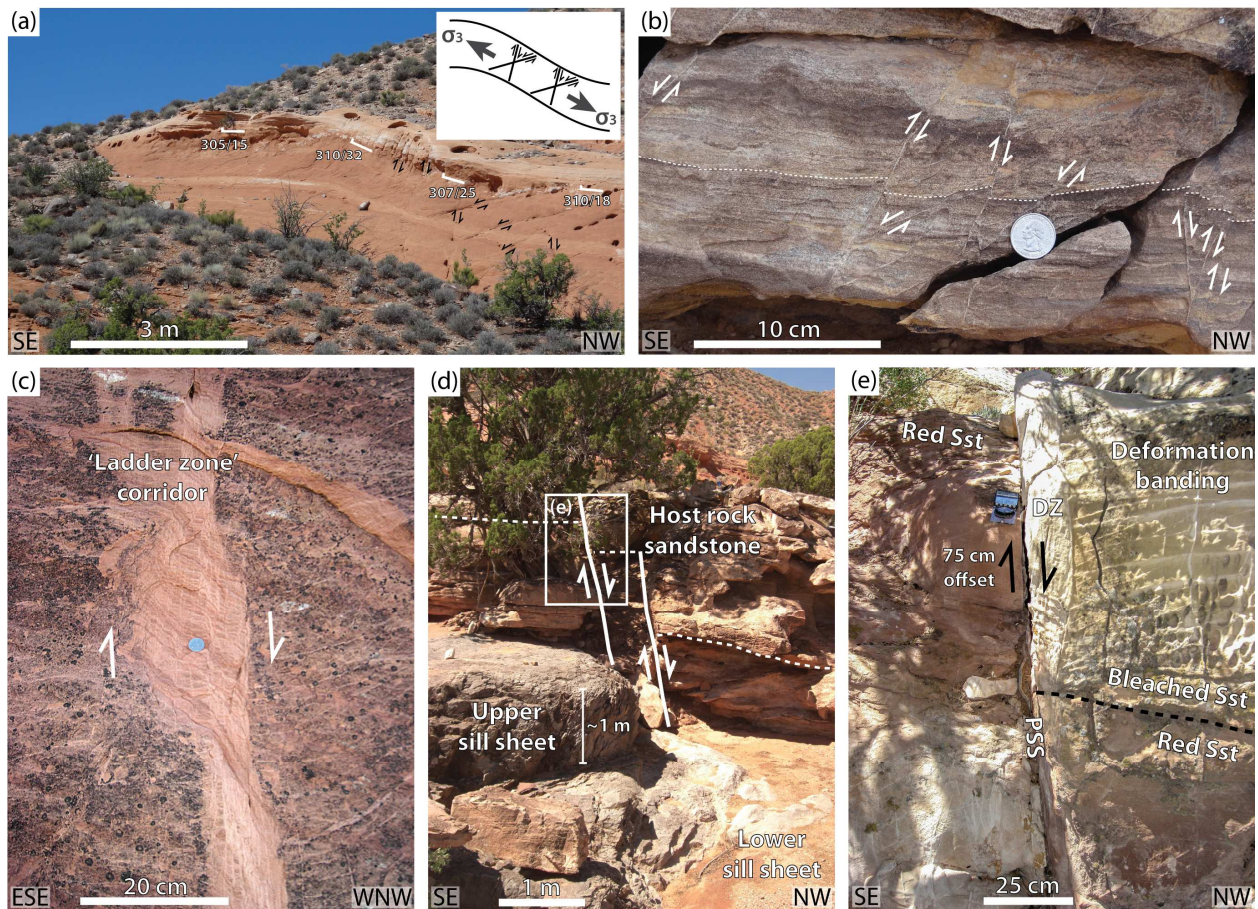




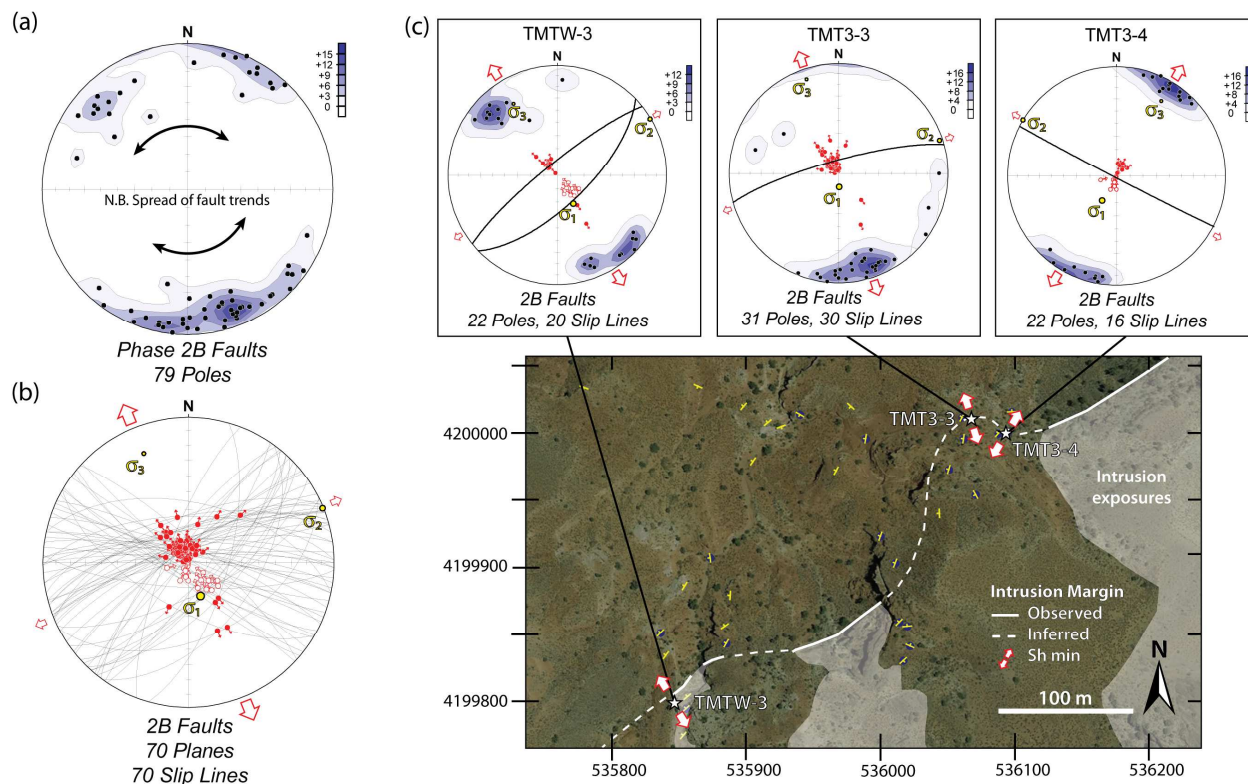


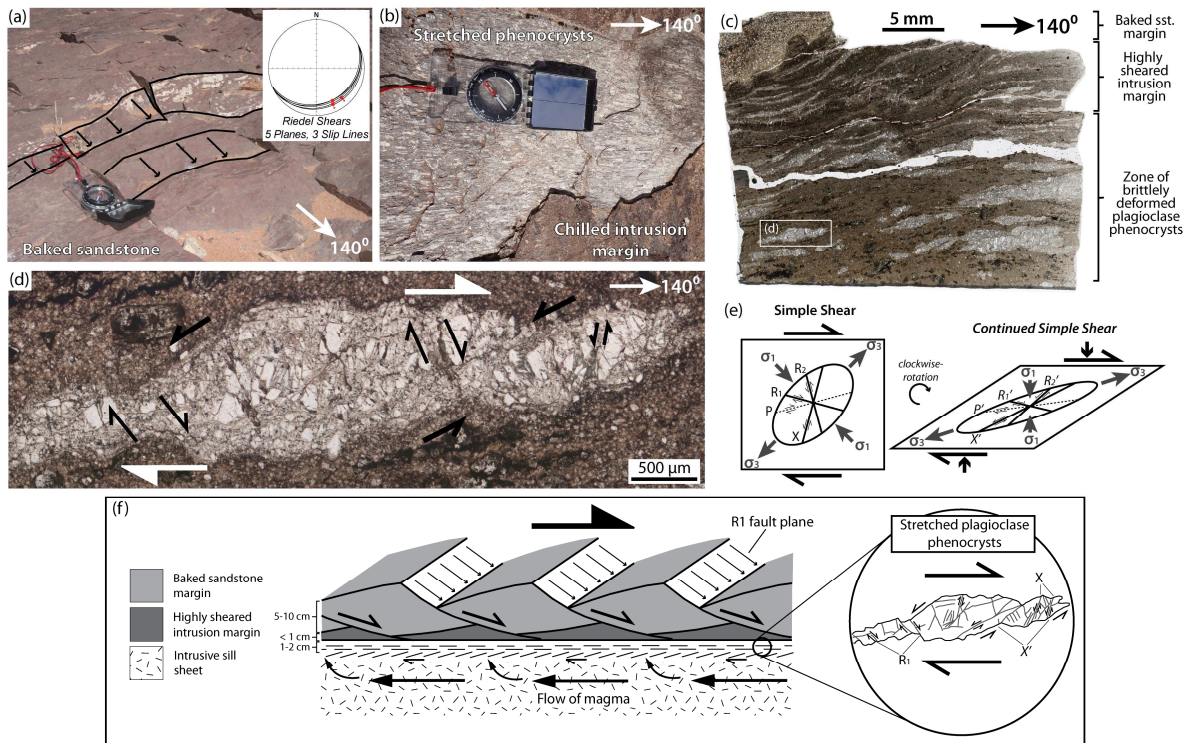


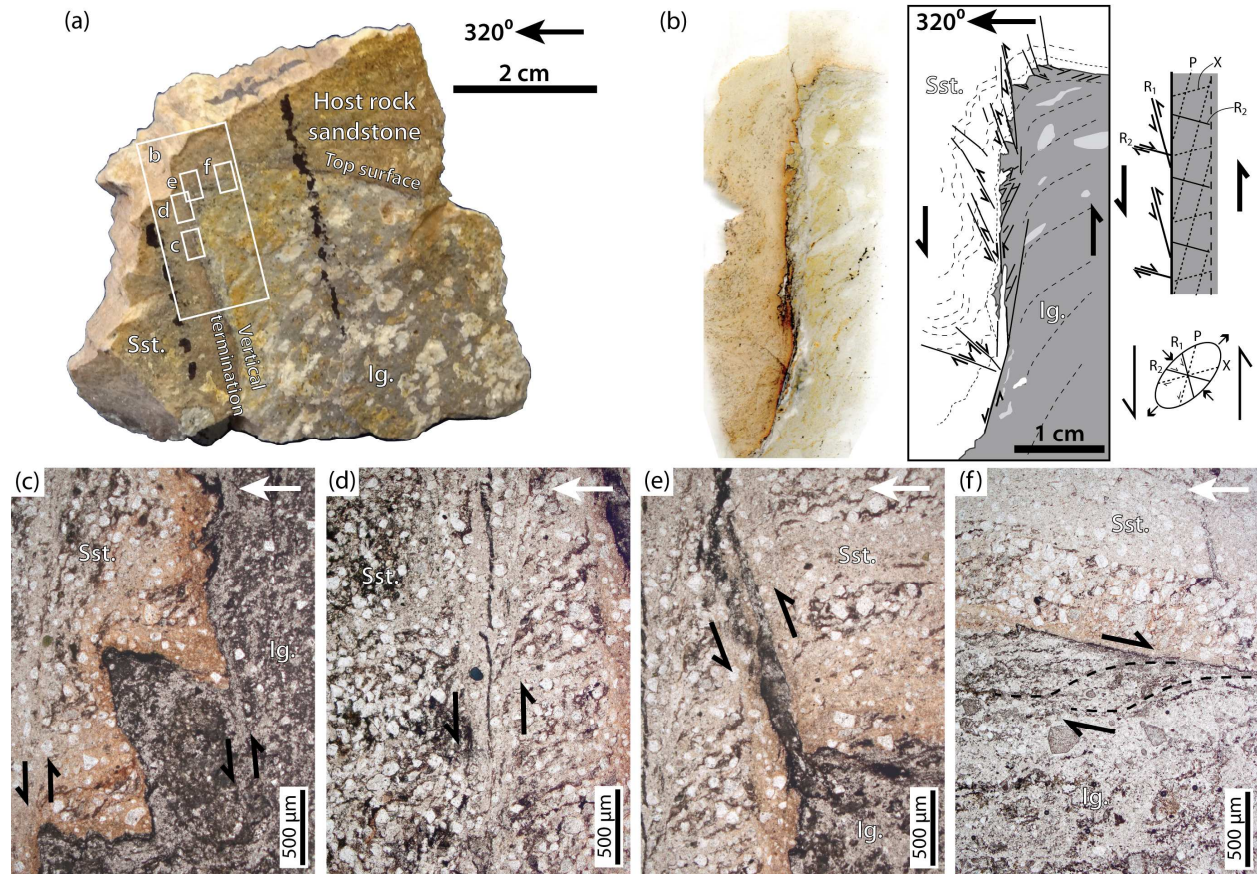
ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT



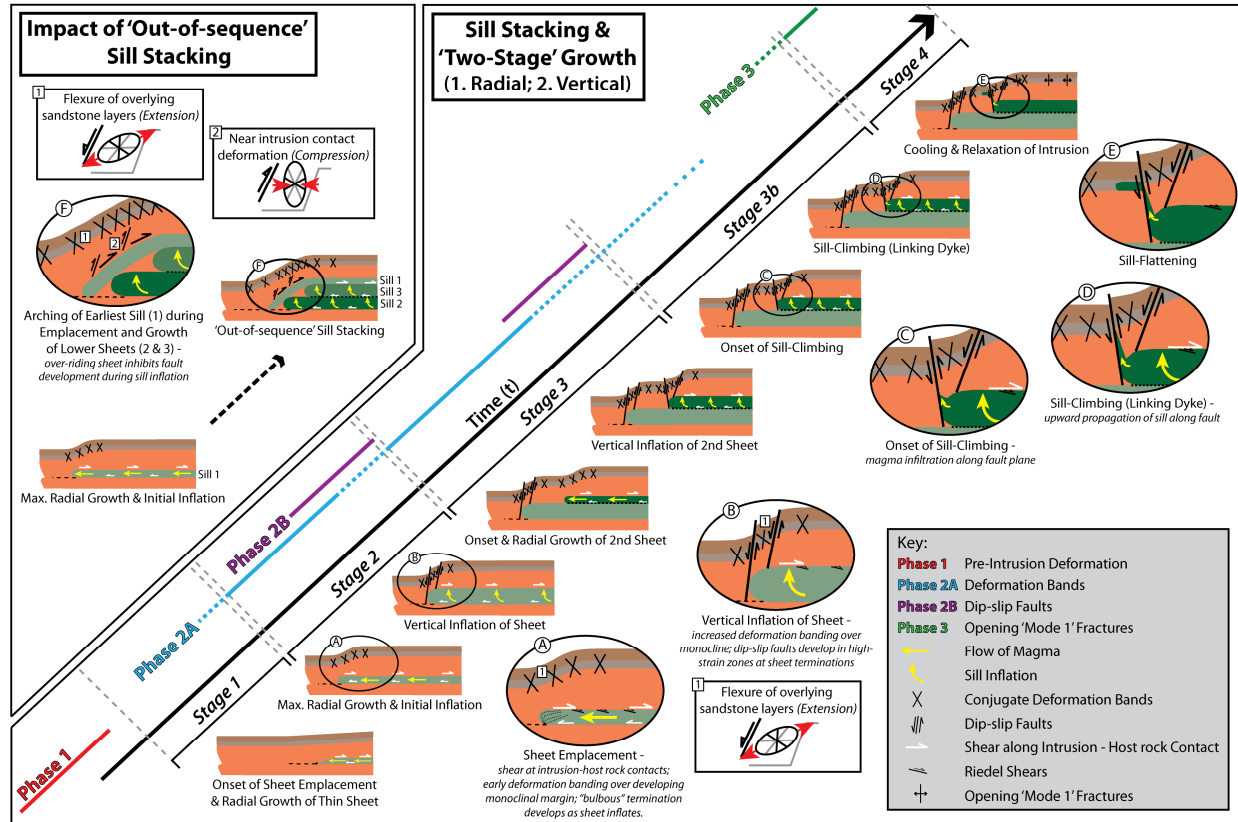
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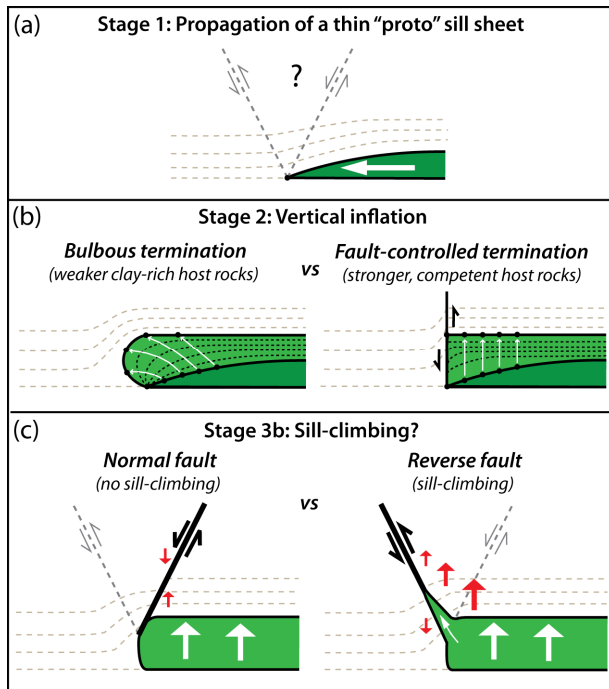






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Highlights

- Deformation structures in host rocks to intrusions record emplacement mechanism
- New 4 stage model for emplacement of stacked intrusions
- Deformation restricted to lateral margin during “two-stage growth” mechanism
- Dip-slip faults at sheet tips due to strain localisation during vertical inflation
- Order of sheet stacking impacts on intrusion-host rock geometry and deformation