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### 4 **The Kyaukkyan Fault**

5 SOE MIN<sup>1\*</sup>, IAN M. WATKINSON<sup>2</sup>, SOE THURA TUN<sup>3</sup> & WIN NAING<sup>4</sup>

6  
 7 <sup>1</sup>*Department of Geology, Taungoo University, Bago Division, Myanmar.*

8 <sup>2</sup>*Department of Earth Sciences, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX,*  
 9 *United Kingdom.*

10 <sup>3</sup>*Myanmar Earthquake Committee, Myanmar Engineering Society Building,*  
 11 *Hlaing Universities Campus, Yangon, Myanmar.*

12 <sup>4</sup>*Monywa University, Sagaing Division, Myanmar.*

13 \*Corresponding author (email: soemin07@gmail.com)

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#### 15 **Abbreviated title:** Kyaukkyan Fault

16 The Kyaukkyan Fault is an active dextral strike-slip structure that passes 510 km N-S across the  
 17 western Shan Plateau (e.g. Chibber, 1934; Le Dain *et al.* 1984; Wang *et al.* 2014) (Fig. 1a). It lies  
 18 broadly parallel to and about 100-150 km east of the central Sagaing Fault. Unlike the rather discrete  
 19 Sagaing Fault, the Kyaukkyan Fault is characterised by a broad array of splaying segments and basins,  
 20 dominated by the Inle Lake releasing bend and associated extensional fault systems (Fig. 1b). In the  
 21 north the fault terminates within the complex intersection between the sinistral Kyaukme and Momeik  
 22 faults, the largely inactive Shan Scarp Fault Zone and the Sagaing Fault. In the south the fault curves  
 23 to the SW and links with the Mae Ping Fault in Thailand, which itself terminates as it passes east into  
 24 Cambodia and offshore into the Gulf of Thailand (e.g. Lacassin *et al.* 1997; Morley 2004; Morley *et*  
 25 *al.* 2011). Like the Kyaukkyan Fault, several other faults of the western Shan Plateau, such as the  
 26 Nampun and Taungoo faults, also converge with the western Mae Ping Fault in the region of Papun,  
 27 indicating that the Mae Ping Fault dissipates or transfers much of the dextral strain of the western  
 28 Shan Plateau.

29 Although it has been devoid of large seismic events for over 100 years, the Kyaukkyan Fault lies close  
 30 to the focus of the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1912 *Maymyo* (the former name of Pyin Oo Lwin city) earthquake,  
 31 initially estimated at magnitude 8 (Gutenberg & Richter 1954); making it the largest instrumentally  
 32 recorded earthquake in Myanmar and amongst the largest recorded strike-slip earthquakes on earth.  
 33 More recent re-evaluation of records from 1912 suggest that  $M_s$  7.6-7.7 was more likely (e.g. Abe &  
 34 Noguchi 1983; Pacheco & Sykes 1992; Wang *et al.* 2009). Regardless of its exact magnitude, the  
 35 large Maymyo event likely led to the Kyaukkyan Fault being recognised much earlier than other  
 36 major faults in the region. La Touche (1913) introduced the name *Kyaukkyan Fault* for the northern

37 part of the fault near Nawngkhio. Coggin Brown (1917) proposed that movement along the  
38 Kyaukkyan Fault caused the 1912 Maymyo earthquake. Chhibber (1934) described a deep-seated  
39 structure related to subsidence near Kyaukkyan village. More recently, related structures further south  
40 such as the Pindaya-Kaungpo Fault (Myint Lwin Thein 1973) and the Taunggyi Fault (Bender 1983)  
41 have been associated with a wider Kyaukkyan fault zone. Around the centenary of the Maymyo  
42 earthquake, Soe Min (2006) and Soe Thura Tun (2007) used satellite imagery to identify the  
43 Kyaukkyan Fault as a tectonically important, continuous, active dextral structure passing ~500 km  
44 from northern Shan State to Kayah State. More recently, Wang *et al.* (2014) evaluated the fault's  
45 seismic potential. However, many important questions remain about the fault's origin, kinematic  
46 history, relationship to regional tectonics, earthquake history and seismic behaviour.

47 This contribution aims to synthesise what is currently known about the Kyaukkyan Fault with new  
48 field observations and satellite image interpretation (including Shuttle Radar Topography Mission  
49 (SRTM) data) to document the current state of knowledge of this important structure. We anticipate  
50 such a synthesis will be of value for future tectonic studies and simulations of seismicity in  
51 Myanmar's eastern highlands and beyond.

## 52 **Geologic setting**

### 53 *Shan Plateau*

54 The Kyaukkyan Fault lies on the western Shan Plateau. The fault is the easternmost of a series of  
55 major, broadly N-S trending Cenozoic structural features within Myanmar, including the Indo-  
56 Myanmar Ranges, the Central Basin, the Sagaing Fault and the Shan Scarp fault zone (e.g. Hla Maung  
57 1987; Pivnik *et al.* 1998; Bertrand & Rangin 2003). It cuts through the Gondwana-derived Sibumasu  
58 terrane, within which long-lived N-S trending structural fabrics have been inherited from Late  
59 Paleozoic rifting and Early Mesozoic suturing episodes (e.g. Ridd 1971, 2009; Bunopas 1981;  
60 Metcalfe 1984; Metcalfe 2011).

61 The Shan Plateau has an average elevation of almost 1km, and occupies eastern Myanmar, western  
62 Laos and part of NW Thailand (Fig. 1a). Stratigraphically above presumed Precambrian Chaung  
63 Magyi metasediments the plateau is largely composed of Paleozoic metamorphic and sedimentary  
64 rocks, notably an Upper Cambrian to mid-Devonian sequence dominated by quartzites and  
65 carbonates, unconformably overlain by the mid-Permian to mid-Triassic Plateau Limestone (reviewed  
66 in Boucot 2002). Upper Triassic to Cretaceous marine clastics, carbonates and continental red beds  
67 are deformed and locally preserved above the Plateau Limestone (e.g. Mitchell *et al.* 2012). The  
68 western edge of the plateau is marked by the Slate Belt - a sliver of Late Palaeozoic glacial marine  
69 pebbly mudstones that comprise the Karen-Tenasserim Unit of Bender (1983) or the Mergui Group of  
70 Mitchell *et al.* (2002, 2007), and the Mogok Metamorphic Belt (e.g. Searle & Ba Than Haq 1964;  
71 Mitchell *et al.* 2007), whose protolith may be the Cambrian to Devonian succession and Plateau  
72 Limestone (Mitchell *et al.* 2012). Mesozoic and Early Cenozoic granitoids are intruded across the  
73 Shan Plateau and scarp region (e.g. Barley *et al.* 2003).

### 74 *Structural evolution of the Shan Plateau*

75 A zone of thrusting, folding and dextral strike-slip, the Shan Scarp fault system lies between the  
76 Kyaukkyan Fault and the Sagaing Fault, and marks the main topographic break of the Shan Plateau  
77 (e.g. Khin Maung Latt 1991; Bertrand & Rangin 2003) (Fig. 1a). The principal bounding structure is  
78 the steeply-dipping Panlaung Fault (e.g. Garson *et al.* 1976; Mitchell *et al.* 2004), which separates  
79 distinctive Plateau stratigraphy in the east from a thin strip of Mesozoic sedimentary rocks

80 (Paunglaung Mawchi Zone of Mitchell *et al.* (2004)) and the linear Slate Belt and Mogok  
81 Metamorphic Belt in the west. The Shan Scarp fault system has been considered to form an important  
82 terrane boundary (Mitchell *et al.* 2002) and may have formed part of the eastern boundary of the  
83 Phuket-Slate Belt Terrane, likely translated to its present position during the Late Cretaceous to  
84 Paleocene (Ridd & Watkinson 2013). A major phase of metamorphism in the Mogok Metamorphic  
85 Belt, sealed by an unfoliated biotite granite dyke emplaced at  $59.5 \pm 0.9$  Ma (Searle *et al.* 2007) may  
86 be associated with terrane emplacement.

87 The Shan Scarp fault system, the Kyaukkyan Fault and other N-S trending faults of the western Shan  
88 Plateau such as the Nampun Fault make up a 250 km wide system of splays and strike-slip duplexes at  
89 the western end of the Mae Ping Fault (Morley 2004) (Fig. 1a). The initially sinistral Mae Ping Fault  
90 has long been associated with Oligocene-Recent escape tectonics in response to India-Asia collision  
91 (e.g. Tapponnier *et al.* 1986; Polachan *et al.* 1991; Huchon *et al.* 1994; Lacassin *et al.* 1997).  
92 However, more recent studies suggest that the Mae Ping Fault and others along the western margin of  
93 Sibumasu initiated much earlier, during Late Cretaceous to Paleogene transpression along the pre-  
94 collision Andean-type margin of Sundaland (e.g. Barley *et al.* 2003; Morley 2004; Morley *et al.* 2007;  
95 Searle & Morley 2011; Watkinson *et al.* 2011; Morley 2012; Palin *et al.* 2013). It remains to be  
96 demonstrated that the Kyaukkyan Fault was involved with this early deformation.

97 Monazite Th-Pb ages of  $44.5 \pm 6.1$  to  $37.1 \pm 1.5$  Ma (Mid Eocene) and biotite  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ - $^{40}\text{Ar}$  plateaux from  
98  $33.1 \pm 0.4$  to  $30.6 \pm 0.3$  Ma (Early Oligocene) from mylonitic gneisses within the Mae Ping Fault in  
99 Thailand indicate that sinistral shear occurred after  $\sim 37$  Ma and was complete by  $\sim 30$  Ma (Lacassin *et al.*  
100 1997; Palin *et al.* 2013). Late Oligocene to Early Miocene strike-slip basins are associated with  
101 subsequent dextral shear along the Mae Ping Fault (Morley *et al.* 2011), which may be coeval with  
102 onset of dextral shear along the Kyaukkyan Fault. At the same time, mica  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ - $^{40}\text{Ar}$  plateau ages of  
103  $26.9 \pm 0.9$  to  $15.8 \pm 1.1$  Ma associated with ductile dextral shear within the Mogok Metamorphic Belt  
104 (Bertrand *et al.* 2001; Bertrand & Rangin 2003; Socquet & Pubellier, 2005) may record dextral  
105 transpression distributed across structures of the western Shan Plateau including the Kyaukkyan Fault.  
106 Dextral shear later became focused further west along the Sagaing Fault during the Mid to Late  
107 Miocene (e.g. Socquet & Pubellier 2005; Soe Thura Tun & Watkinson, *this volume*).

108 Other prominent faults of the Shan Plateau include NE-SW trending structures such as the Kyaukme,  
109 Momeik (Nanting), Nam Ma and Mae Chan faults which show clear geomorphic evidence of sinistral  
110 shear (e.g. Zhu *et al.* 1994; Wang & Burchfiel 1997; Wang *et al.* 2014) (Fig. 1a). Ongoing sinistral  
111 motion is supported by coseismic offsets formed during the 2011 Tarlay earthquake (e.g. Soe Thura  
112 Tun *et al.* 2014). These NE-SW trending faults curve around the eastern Himalayan syntaxis, and are  
113 related to gravitational crustal flow from the eastern Tibet Plateau (e.g. Royden 1996; Niu *et al.* 2005;  
114 Copley & McKenzie 2007; Rangin *et al.* 2013). Previously proposed as conjugate to NW-SE trending  
115 faults such as the Mae Ping (e.g. Tapponnier *et al.* 1986; Polachan *et al.* 1991), there is no clear  
116 kinematic, mechanical or temporal relationship between these sets of fault systems, so a conjugate  
117 origin seems unlikely (e.g. Morley *et al.* 2011).

### 118 *Active tectonics*

119 Despite its position surrounded by major active structures and evidence of Late Quaternary tectonic  
120 activity (Wang *et al.* 2014), the Kyaukkyan Fault experiences little significant modern seismicity (Fig.  
121 1b) and there is little geodetic evidence of motion across it (e.g. Vigny *et al.* 2003; Socquet *et al.*  
122 2006). Global Positioning System (GPS) models suggest that at the latitude of Myanmar there is  
123 presently 35-36 mm/yr of motion between stable India and Sundaland along an azimuth of  $011^\circ$ - $014^\circ$   
124 (Socquet *et al.* 2006). The Sagaing Fault accommodates 18-20 mm/yr of this motion both at the

125 latitude of Mandalay and further north at Indawgyi Lake (Vigny *et al.* 2003; Socquet *et al.* 2006;  
126 Maurin *et al.* 2010). The remainder is accommodated on strike-slip structures within the Indo-  
127 Myanmar Ranges and by highly oblique slip within or elastic loading of the Andaman Trench (Le  
128 Dain *et al.* 1984; Hla Maung 1987; Pivnik *et al.* 1998; Nielsen *et al.* 2004; Socquet *et al.* 2006; Wang  
129 *et al.* 2014), leaving little residual to be accommodated on the Shan Plateau. Nonetheless, at  
130 Mandalay the position of maximum modelled shear stress is 17 km east of the Sagaing Fault trace,  
131 suggesting the possibility of dextral strain across the Shan Scarp fault system (Vigny *et al.* 2003) or  
132 possibly even further east across the Kyaukkyan Fault.

133 By assuming the Kyaukkyan Fault has been dextral for ~5 Ma, and using their maximum observed  
134 geomorphic offset of 5 km, Wang *et al.* (2014) calculated a slip rate of ~1 mm/yr across the fault. This  
135 figure is similar to other intraplate faults (e.g. Walker *et al.* 2006; Densmore *et al.* 2007), though the  
136 seismic hazard from such slow faults should not be underestimated (Zhang 2013). By assuming  
137 complete segment rupture, Wang *et al.* (2014) estimated maximum earthquake magnitudes of 6.8 to  
138 8.4 for the three main segments of the Kyaukkyan Fault.

### 139 **Data sources**

140 Field observations were made along the Kyaukkyan Fault between the latitudes of Kyaukkyan village  
141 and Inle Lake during 2006-2008. Structural and geomorphological data collected during those  
142 campaigns forms the basis for this chapter. We also report remote observations made using the 30 m  
143 ASTER Global Digital Elevation Model (jspacesystems.or.jp), 90 m Shuttle Radar Topography  
144 Mission data (Farr *et al.* 2007), the ESRI World Imagery compilation (www.arcgis.com), which  
145 includes 2.5 m SPOT and <1 m DigitalGlobe imagery, and Google Earth imagery. Digital data were  
146 processed and integrated using ArcGIS. Geomorphic offsets were measured from these data. Stated  
147 offsets are averages of maximum and minimum measurements, and offset uncertainties ( $\pm$ ) represent  
148 half the measured range.

### 149 **Tectonic geomorphology – overview**

150 Tectonic geomorphology is the study of landscape and its formative processes resulting from tectonic  
151 uplift, subsidence and lateral motion (Bull 2007). It has been used to study the structural evolution of  
152 major strike-slip faults (e.g. Wallace 1991) and their earthquake history (Grant & Sieh 1994).  
153 Geomorphic features such as drainage offset, linear valleys and ridges, scarps, benches, springs,  
154 shutter ridges (Vedder & Wallace 1970) and offset alluvial fans (e.g. Bellier *et al.* 2001) are critical to  
155 recognise strike-slip faults and assess their activity. Availability of high quality digital elevation data  
156 such as the 90 m Shuttle Radar Topography Mission enable complete, detailed geomorphic studies of  
157 otherwise inaccessible structures (e.g. Lin *et al.* 2008; Spencer 2011) such as the Kyaukkyan Fault.

158 The Kyaukkyan Fault can be divided into three domains on the basis of geomorphic characteristics.  
159 The northern domain is marked by narrow linear valleys, flat topped plateaux and mountain ranges  
160 formed by folded sediments. Topographic offsets, particularly of river valleys and palaeo-plateau tops,  
161 are common. Right-lateral offsets of up to  $6.4 \pm 1.0$  km are preserved, and can be related to  
162 neotectonic fault activity. Rectangular shaped plateau tops, deeply incised valleys and preservation of  
163 active fault scarps indicate progressive and widespread uplift and localised subsidence.

164 The central domain is characterised by extension: rhomboidal basins are separated by elongate  
165 mountain ranges bounded by normal fault scarps. Right-stepping strike-slip segments along the NNW-  
166 trending ranges indicate that this topography represents a wide shear zone comprising nested strike-



167 slip basins subsiding from the elevated Shan Plateau level. For example, the rhomboidal Heho Basin  
168 is bounded by a NNE-trending range and a N-S trending normal fault, forming a releasing geometry  
169 under dextral shear; similarly, the low-lying Inle Basin and its bounding ranges and normal faults  
170 define a releasing geometry under dextral shear along the Kyaukkyan Fault.

171 The southern domain is characterised by linear basins and a prominent, deep curvilinear fault valley.  
172 Tectonically inactive fault valleys following the same trend as the active fault valley, rotation of all  
173 structural elements into parallelism with the wide fault zone and the convergence of several other fault  
174 systems (e.g. Papun and Taungoo faults, Fig. 1a) indicate that a long-lived strike-slip regime  
175 dominates the southern part of this domain where the Kyaukkyan Fault merges, via a series of  
176 restraining bends, with the Mae Ping Fault.

## 177 **Structural observations**

178 By integrating the new structural observations with geomorphic evidence of tectonic activity,  
179 historical seismicity and the three geomorphic domains outlined above, the Kyaukkyan Fault can be  
180 divided into three structural segments (Fig. 1b). From north to south these are: the Kyaukkyan-Indaw  
181 segment, the Yaksawk-Inle segment, and the Moby-Hpansang segment.

### 182 *Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment*

183 In the north the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment, equivalent to the Myint Nge segment of Wang *et al.*  
184 (2014), is expressed by a linear and relatively narrow surface fault zone, including a spectacular west-  
185 facing fault scarp 1.2 km high and prominent river offsets (Fig. 2a). This segment originates amidst  
186 splaying NW-SE trending thrust faults in the Yadana Theingi mine area immediately south of Mogok.  
187 The restraining splay terminates the Kyaukkyan Fault within the Mogok Metamorphic Belt, in a zone  
188 of intensely folded and faulted rocks close to the intersection between the Momeik, Kyaukme, Shan  
189 Scarp and Sagaing faults (Fig. 1a). East of the termination splay, and considered to be a normal fault  
190 on the basis of its straight, steep scarp, the southwest-facing Goteik Fault shows little evidence of  
191 neotectonic activity. To the west, the N-S trending Sedawgyi Fault (La Touche 1913) immediately  
192 south of the splay is parallel to the main fault system. From the northern splay to Indaw village in the  
193 south, the mainly NNW-SSE trending Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment is about 145 km long, and south of  
194 the termination splay it is uniformly narrow, composed of few closely-spaced strands and rarely  
195 greater than 1 km wide. The localised strike-slip zone is bounded by a wider system of associated  
196 normal and strike-slip faults (e.g. the Goteik Fault) up to 40 km wide.

197 The Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment cuts mainly through the poorly dated and largely unfossiliferous  
198 Permo-Carboniferous Plateau Limestone Group and low-grade metasediments of the presumed  
199 Precambrian Chaung Magyi Group (e.g. Mitchell *et al.* 2012; Win Swe 2012; Myanmar Geosciences  
200 Society 2014). These rocks have experienced significant folding, faulting (Fig. 3a, b), low grade  
201 metamorphism and shearing (Fig. 3c), much of which may have occurred prior to Cenozoic  
202 Kyaukkyan Fault activity. Therefore exhumed fault rocks in the region must be analysed with caution.  
203 Nonetheless, a number of faults exposed along the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment display kinematic  
204 indicators consistent with the neotectonic regime of NNW-trending dextral shear. All observed  
205 structures indicate upper crustal brittle shearing – the absence of mylonitic rocks may simply be a  
206 result of insufficient exhumation, or may indicate that the Kyaukkyan Fault is an entirely thin-skinned  
207 structure.

208 In the region of Kyaukkyan village the fault is expressed by a line of low hills (Fig. 3d), where fault  
209 breccia is developed in Ordovician limestones, together with slickenfibres lineations showing top-to-

210 the-NW oblique thrusts and folded strata, which may pre-date Cenozoic Kyaukkyan Fault activity.  
211 The Mandalay-Lashio railway curves ~2 m to the right where the line orthogonally crosses the  
212 Kyaukkyan fault near the eastern foot of the linear hills (Fig. 3e). This curvature was first described  
213 by Coggin Brown (1917) and attributed to the 1912 Maymyo earthquake (described below). It  
214 remains unclear whether the railway was straight prior to 1912, so the offset must be treated with  
215 caution. Between Kyaukkyan village and the deep Myitnge River gorge there are prominent west-  
216 facing fault scarps, best developed in Gelaung valley, which is bounded to the east by a 1.2 km high  
217 scarp below Nyawngkhio Plateau (Fig. 2a). The scarp preserves a number of geomorphic features  
218 characteristic of active strike-slip faults, including drainage consistently offset to the right, beheaded  
219 streams, shutter ridges, linear valleys, landslides and rock falls, springs and stacked triangular facets  
220 (Fig. 4a).

221 Significant down-to-the-west extension across the fault bounding the Gelaung valley is indicated by  
222 the scarp's 900 m modern topographic relief, and migration of the valley's axial drainage (Paungaw  
223 stream) towards the basin-bounding fault (Fig. 4a). To estimate the minimum total dip-slip  
224 displacement across the fault a pre-kinematic palaeotopographic datum was assumed to be defined by  
225 an enveloping surface bounded by modern topographic highs, after the method of Ufimsev (1990)  
226 and Dawers *et al.* (1993). Projection of this enveloping surface towards an upward projected fault  
227 eliminates compromising effects such as footwall crest erosion. Domino-style fault block rotation is  
228 assumed in construction of the enveloping surfaces. Three such profiles were drawn across the  
229 Gelaung valley and another three across the Kyaukkyan Fault immediately to the south (Fig. 5).  
230 Although subject to large uncertainties, the profiles show a maximum of  $1.2 \pm 0.2$  km dip-slip  
231 displacement. Profiles 2 to 5 show a crudely elliptical displacement profile across the fault, while  
232 profiles 1 and 6, characterised by down-to-the-east extension, show the rapid along-strike changes in  
233 geometry characteristic of a transtensional strike-slip fault.

234 South of Gelaung valley, the deeply incised (and hence laterally confined) Myitnge river is offset  $5.3$   
235  $\pm 0.8$  km to the right from the apex of a  $180^\circ$  hairpin bend (Fig. 6a). It is interesting to note that  
236 restoration of  $5.3 \pm 0.8$  km dextral offset leaves a distinct  $10.2 \pm 1.3$  km offset to the left along a  
237 valley immediately west of the modern Kyaukkyan Fault (Fig. 6b), hinting at an earlier phase of  
238 sinistral shear. If the antecedent river was entrenched enough to have been offset to the left during an  
239 earlier phase of sinistral shear, then any subsequent dextral offset of the same river must represent  
240 total fault displacement during the younger dextral phase of activity. The possibility of a pre-dextral  
241 phase of sinistral shear is discussed further below. When interpreted as representing lateral fault  
242 displacement, both sinistral and dextral offsets rely on the assumption that the antecedent river  
243 traversed the plateau in a straight line before becoming incised during a pre-kinematic episode of  
244 uplift or base-level fall, and has not avulsed since then.

245 South of Myitnge River, a gentle restraining bend takes the fault trace through meta-sedimentary  
246 rocks of the Chaung Magyi Group. A simple topographic lineament is absent in this area, perhaps  
247 because the fault is expressed more by low-angle thrusts within the restraining system. Immediately to  
248 the south, Indaw valley is bounded in the west by a NNW-trending linear fault scarp that rises up to  
249 500 m above the valley floor; despite this the valley's drainage exits westwards across the scarp via  
250 the deeply incised Zawgyi River valley (Fig. 2a). Along Zawgyi River the Kyaukkyan Fault is marked  
251 by faulted brecciated limestone, polished shear planes and sub-horizontal slickenside lineations  
252 showing both dextral and sinistral shear senses (Fig. 3 f). The Zawgyi River is offset to the right by  
253  $7.2 \pm 0.5$  km along the basin-bounding fault (Fig. 6c). If this offset is taken as recording right-lateral  
254 fault displacement, it is the largest such offset observed along the Kyaukkyan Fault. However,  
255 development and subsidence of the prominent central depocentre in the Indaw Basin (now occupied

256 by Zawgyi Reservoir) may also have caused southward migration of the river upstream of the  
257 Kyaukkyan Fault, distorting the apparent fault displacement and making the offset uncertainty  
258 difficult to quantify.

259 The Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment is famously considered responsible for the 1912 Maymyo earthquake,  
260 largely based on the seismic intensity map and interpretations of Coggin Brown (1917), which placed  
261 the epicentre close to Kyaukkyan village. Iseismals of the Rossi-Forel scale peaked at intensity XI  
262 in a narrow zone along the Kyaukkyan Fault, while intensity VIII extended from Yamethin almost to  
263 Bhamo, and extended west to Mandalay and Sagaing. Based on the likely earthquake size ( $M$  8.0  
264 (Gutenberg & Richter 1954); or  $M_s$  7.6-7.7 (e.g. Abe & Noguchi 1983; Pacheco & Sykes 1992; Wang  
265 *et al.* 2009)), the fresh geomorphic appearance of the fault segment and the isoseismals of Coggin  
266 Brown (1917), it is likely that the entire Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment ruptured during the 1912  
267 Maymyo earthquake (Wang *et al.* 2009, 2014).

268 Seismicity records (Fig. 1b) show more recent earthquakes of  $M_w$  3.4 to 4.9 distributed around the  
269 periphery of the shear zone and a  $M_w$  5-5.9 event close to the Kyaukkyan Fault itself (NEIC and IRIS  
270 catalogues 1972-2010). Historical records from Myinpyu Pagoda (10 km south of Kyaukkyan village)  
271 describe collapse of the top part of the pagoda during the 1912 earthquake. The pagoda was restored  
272 in 1953, but in July 1959 it was damaged again and there was a large landslide west of the pagoda's  
273 hill as a result of another earthquake. Oral accounts from local people suggest 3 to 10 small  
274 earthquakes each year are felt in this area.

### 275 *Yaksawk-Inle Segment*

276 About 10 km south of Zawgyi reservoir the clearly defined linear trace of the Kyaukkyan Fault is lost  
277 as the fault enters the broad Yaksawk Basin. This transition defines the boundary between the  
278 Kyaukkyan-Indaw and Yaksawk-Inle segments (Figs. 1b & 2b). The Yaksawk-Inle segment,  
279 equivalent to the Taunggyi segment of Wang *et al.* (2014), continues 135 km south to the southern  
280 termination of the Inle basin at about 20.25° N. It is characterised by a broad transtensional system of  
281 releasing bends and steps that forms a rhomboidal zone of subsidence and linear ranges up to 55 km  
282 wide (Fig. 2b), bounded in the west by the Pindaya normal fault and in the east by the Taunggyi listric  
283 normal fault. Observed bedrock faults within the segment are variably orientated, dominantly strike-  
284 slip or normal, locally overprinting older fault fabrics and folded bedding (Fig. 7a, b, c), supporting a  
285 long-lived strike-slip tectonic setting. Fault systems range from dispersed arrays of en-echelon tension  
286 gashes (Fig. 7d) to thick zones of foliated gouge and regions of bedding transposition into parallelism  
287 with major fault strands (Fig. 7e).

288 The segment originates where the Kyaukkyan Fault branches into three splays at the northern tip of  
289 the Yaksawk basin. The eastern splay trends NNW and is the focus of considerable instrumental  
290 seismicity (Fig. 1a). The western splay trends NNE, parallel to the major basin-bounding Pindaya  
291 east-facing oblique normal fault in the west. In this region Ordovician limestones contain reactivated  
292 shear planes showing both normal and strike-slip lineations (Fig. 7c) and thrust faults reactivated as  
293 dextral-normal faults. The central splay is the through-going strike-slip Kyaukkyan Fault. Although its  
294 surface trace forms a more discontinuous, wider and less clearly expressed fault zone than the  
295 Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment, the strike-slip element of the Yaksawk-Inle segment clearly follows a  
296 more pronounced N-S trend, consistent with its overall releasing geometry. Steeply dipping fault  
297 planes recording sub-horizontal lineations with evidence of dextral (Fig. 7f) and sinistral (Fig. 7g)  
298 strike-slip are common. The fault passes through young sedimentary basins and so some portions are  
299 obscured by alluvium and lacustrine deposits. Elsewhere it can be readily identified by morphologic  
300 features such as small pressure ridges, sag ponds formed in alluvial soil, sub-recent fault scarps,

301 terraces and offset stream channels. Brick-cored embankments representing the remains of the ancient  
302 Pawritha (Kawthanbi) city wall between Shwenyaung and Nyaungshwe appear to be offset to the right  
303 by  $12.2 \pm 1.2$  m, and vertically offset  $\sim 2$  m down-to-the-east (Fig. 8a-c). The line of offset is marked  
304 by darkly mottled surface deposits and localisation of the Nam Latt stream, supporting fault activity in  
305 the surficial deposits.

306 In the Taunggyi area there is pronounced partitioning between the main strike-slip Kyaukkyan Fault  
307 strand and a series of structurally controlled terraces that climb vertically 500 m from the valley floor  
308 to the plateau top at Taunggyi city, via an intermediate terrace at Ayethayar. Field observations suggest  
309 a series of down-to-the-west synthetic listric normal faults plus antithetic structures. Outcrop-scale  
310 listric faults and bedding-parallel extension within limestones are exposed within the Taunggyi scarp  
311 (Fig. 7h). The west-dipping faults may root into the Kyaukkyan Fault below the basin, forming an  
312 asymmetric negative flower structure.

313 The rhomboidal zone of transtensional subsidence defined by the Yaksawk-Inle segment is strongly  
314 asymmetric overall, with the through-going Kyaukkyan Fault consistently close to or lying along its  
315 eastern margin (Fig. 2b), where there are also strong geomorphic signals of neotectonic activity. The  
316 western margin is dominated by a series of east-dipping normal faults and nested pull-apart basins  
317 such as the Heho basin, separated by linear mountain ranges (Fig. 1b). The outer-most normal fault is  
318 the down-to-the-ESE Pindaya Fault, expressed by an eroded scarp marked by well developed  
319 triangular facets.

320 The Pindaya scarp is flanked by a wide alluvial fan-bajada complex, obscuring the true throw of the  
321 fault. To estimate throw along the fault a similar method was applied as described above for the  
322 Gelaung valley, after Ufimtsev (1990) and Dawers *et al.* (1993). In the Pindaya Fault case, topography  
323 of the pre-kinematic hangingwall blocks was also projected below the bajada to an intersection with a  
324 planar fault projected to depth, to account for thicker sedimentation against the Pindaya scarp than  
325 against the Gelaung scarp (Fig. 9). Maximum apparent throw along the Pindaya Fault determined by  
326 this method was  $1.2 \pm 0.22$  km. Displacement along the fault length is broadly symmetric about a  
327 maximum at its midpoint declining to zero at its tips (Fig. 9) as observed in other empirical studies  
328 (e.g. Dawers *et al.* 1993). Maximum normal displacement is also similar to a maximum value  
329 calculated in the same way for the Taunggyi Fault on the east side of the basin, although the listric  
330 nature of that fault reduces the reliability of the method.

331 South of Taunggyi and along the western shore of Inle Lake, a strand of the Taunggyi Fault develops a  
332 prominent linear scarp marked by spectacular triangular facets as it approaches the southern closure of  
333 the Inle pull-apart system (Fig. 7i). Alluvial fans crossing southern fault strands are offset to the right  
334 from their source streams (Fig. 4b), indicating active strike-slip tectonics. At the southern end of Inle  
335 Lake the western, eastern and any residual cross-basin fault systems converge into a narrow fault zone  
336 that marks the southern boundary of the Yaksawk-Inle segment (Figs. 1b & 2b).

337 The USGS earthquake catalogue positions the May 1912 earthquake on the Yaksawk-Inle segment;  
338 however, as described above, contemporary accounts (e.g. Coggin Brown 1917) and geomorphic  
339 evidence suggest that only the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment ruptured (e.g. Wang *et al.* 2009), and that  
340 the major faults of the Yaksawk-Inle segment, though likely active in the Late Holocene, do not  
341 display evidence of very recent activity. Oral reports from local people recount large ground cracks  
342 forming during the 1912 earthquake west of Inyar village, on the west shore of Inle Lake, though it is  
343 conceivable that these were related to landslips. A number of smaller instrumental events ( $M_w$  4-5.9)  
344 from the NEIC and IRIS earthquake catalogues are located throughout the pull-apart system (Fig. 1b),  
345 but these are unlikely to have been surface-rupturing.

346 *Moby-Hpansang segment*

347 The Moby-Hpansang segment, equivalent to the Salween segment of Wang *et al.* (2014), passes 220  
348 km south from the southern end of Inle Lake to south of Hpansang, where it is crossed by the  
349 Thanlwin River several times and links with the Mae Ping Fault along the Myanmar/Thai border (Fig.  
350 1a, b). Much of the Moby-Hpansang segment lies within inaccessible terrain and in parts of Kayah  
351 State where the security situation remains unstable, so observations of this segment come solely from  
352 satellite image interpretation. The segment has a distinctive kinked geometry (Fig. 2c). A NNE-SSW-  
353 trending fault system in the north passes through the broad rhomboidal basin containing Moby  
354 reservoir. A complex restraining bend marks a more pronounced change in trend to a long N-S section  
355 in the south. Features such as triangular facets, offset streams and alluvial fans (Fig. 4c), asymmetric  
356 basins and drainage reversals indicate that this segment is tectonically active. Several shallow focus  
357 earthquakes have occurred along the fault trace, including three of  $M_w > 5$  at the restraining bend  
358 (NEIC 1972-2010) (Fig. 1b).

359 In the Moby basin the fault is expressed by hot springs, linear ridges and streams and a series of  
360 small modern and dry linear lakes, likely sag ponds. A number of prominent low ridges occur within  
361 and adjacent to Moby reservoir, parallel to the trace of the Kyaukkyan Fault. Apparent dextral offset  
362 of a linear ridge by  $4.6 \pm 0.2$  km (Fig. 10a) supports dextral slip along the cross-basin fault strand, but  
363 it is also possible that the two ridges are separate elements of a pop-up system and not a bisected  
364 single uplift. Further south at Hpansang the Thanlwin River shows a possible  $6.4 \pm 1.0$  km dextral  
365 offset where the river passes west into the Kyaukkyan Fault valley at the intersection between the  
366 Kyaukkyan and Nampun faults (Fig. 10b). The river either side of the bend is deeply incised and  
367 laterally constrained, though in the area of the bend itself there is the possibility that the river may  
368 have previously followed a more southerly route before a forced avulsion.

369 Southern parts of the Moby-Hpansang segment converge with the dextral Nampun and Shan Scarp  
370 faults south of Hpansang to define a series of branching splays, part of what Morley (2004) termed a  
371 nested strike-slip duplex. Close to its convergence with the Taungoo Fault, the Moby-Hpansang  
372 segment occupies a 26 km long narrow, linear and steep-sided V-shaped valley flanked on its eastern  
373 side by triangular facets and wine glass canyons, indicating active down-to-the-west normal faulting  
374 in addition to strike-slip. Indications of tectonic activity on adjacent fault strands and distributed  
375 seismicity indicates that deformation along this segment is accommodated along a shear zone  
376 approximately 11 km wide.

377 **Discussion**

378 Based on its prominent geologic and geomorphic expression, the Kyaukkyan Fault is clearly a long-  
379 lived structure. Modern seismicity and the notable 1912 Maymyo earthquake show that it is still  
380 active, and represents a significant seismic hazard to Myanmar and northern Thailand despite its  
381 apparently small geodetic slip rate. In order to understand the seismic hazard posed by the Kyaukkyan  
382 Fault it is necessary to place bounds on its age of onset, finite displacement and Late Neogene slip  
383 rate.

384 *Fault displacement and rate of displacement*

385 Finite displacement across the Kyaukkyan Fault is poorly known – there are few demonstrably offset  
386 pre-kinematic markers, though the contact between Ordovician and Permo-Triassic carbonates has  
387 been mapped with an ~8 km right-lateral offset across the fault near Pyin Oo Lwin (Myanmar  
388 Geosciences Society, 2014). Along strike to the south, the Mae Ping Fault is known to have a pre-

389 Neogene sinistral displacement of at least 40-50 km, based on boudinage restoration (Lacassin *et al.*  
390 1993), and probably up to 150-300 km, based on offset magmatic-metamorphic belts (Tapponnier *et*  
391 *al.* 1986; Lacassin *et al.* 1997). Its subsequent dextral offset is as poorly known as that of the  
392 Kyaukkyan Fault, and has been reported as ‘a few kilometres’ (Morley *et al.* 2007) up to a few tens of  
393 kilometres (Morley *et al.* 2011) based on opening of the Mae Sot dextral pull-apart basin (Fig. 1a). To  
394 what extent post-Late Oligocene dextral displacements along the Mae Ping Fault can be extrapolated  
395 to the Kyaukkyan fault is unclear.

396 Dextral geomorphic offsets are well developed along the Kyaukkyan Fault. The largest is the possible  
397  $7.2 \pm 0.5$  km offset of the Zawgyi River along the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment, although as discussed  
398 above, the dip-slip component of this segment may have exaggerated any tectonic displacement. More  
399 robust offsets of rivers that are laterally constrained by their incised valleys include the Myitnge River  
400 ( $5.3 \pm 0.8$  km) and Thanlwin River ( $6.4 \pm 1.0$  km). Since the Myitnge River preserves an apparent  
401 older sinistral offset, it can be assumed that its incised valley is antecedent to onset of dextral shear –  
402 it is effectively a pre-kinematic marker with respect to the dextral phase and thus records the full  
403 dextral slip offset. Fault-parallel topographic ridges within the Moby reservoir display a similar  
404 offset ( $4.6 \pm 0.2$  km), which may be a genuine fault displacement of an originally wide ridge, or may  
405 simply represent separate elements of a pop-up system. Numerous smaller stream and fan offsets  
406 support continued right-lateral faulting into the Holocene. Minimum apparent dip-slip across the  
407 Kyaukkyan fault is  $\sim 1.2$  km, measured in the Gelaung valley, Pindaya and Taunggyi normal fault  
408 scarps and separately also in Nampun valley.

409 As yet no displaced natural features along the Kyaukkyan Fault have been dated to determine a Late  
410 Neogene slip rate. However, the ancient city wall of Pawritha (Kawthanbi), which straddles the fault  
411 between Swenyaung and Naungshwe (Fig. 8) and is known from historical records to be 800-1200  
412 years old, has been offset by  $12.2 \pm 1.8$  m, yielding a range of modern slip rates from 9-18 mm/yr.  
413 These are surprisingly high given the very small geodetic rate predicted from GPS measurements (e.g.  
414 Socquet *et al.* 2006). If the 1912 earthquake is typical, it may be that the Kyaukkyan Fault slips in  
415 infrequent large earthquakes, such that an 800-1200 year average is not representative of the long-  
416 term slip rate.

#### 417 *An Early Cenozoic phase of sinistral shear*

418 A key offset marker along the Kyaukkyan Fault, Myitnge River, has a hairpin geometry that could  
419 suggest  $10.2 \pm 1.3$  km of sinistral offset prior to  $5.3 \pm 0.8$  km of dextral offset across the active fault  
420 trace (Fig. 6a, b). This pattern is similar to examples of hairpin bends identified from the NE-SW  
421 trending faults of the Shan Plateau, including the remarkable  $12 \pm 2$  km sinistral offset and  $\sim 30$  km  
422 residual dextral offset of the Mekong River across the Nam Ma Fault along the Lao-Myanmar border  
423 (Lacassin *et al.* 1998) (Fig. 1a). Many other major strike-slip faults of the Shan Plateau and elsewhere  
424 in Indochina are considered to have experienced such a late shear sense reversal, generally dextral to  
425 sinistral for NE-SW trending faults like the Nam Ma, Momeik (Nanting), Dien Bien Phu, Khlong  
426 Marui and Ranong, and sinistral to dextral for NW-SE trending faults like the Mae Ping, Three  
427 Pagodas and Ailao Shan-Red River (e.g. Le Dain *et al.* 1984; Tapponnier *et al.* 1986; Polachan *et al.*  
428 1991; Huchon *et al.* 1994). It therefore seems reasonable to propose an early sinistral history for the  
429 broadly NNW-trending Kyaukkyan Fault, along strike from the Mae Ping, as well.

430 In many of the fault examples outlined above, the early phase of shear is associated with large  
431 displacements, up to tens to hundreds of kilometres for the Mae Ping and Ailao Shan-Red River  
432 faults, and is recorded by exhumed metamorphic rocks that are either developed synchronously with  
433 or are overprinted by ductile mylonitic fabrics (e.g. Tapponnier *et al.* 1990; Lacassin *et al.* 1993;

434 Leloup *et al.* 2001; Akciz *et al.* 2008; Watkinson *et al.* 2008; Morley *et al.* 2011). These rocks provide  
435 excellent opportunities to unravel the earlier shear history, and have facilitated attempts to place  
436 absolute constraints on the timing of shear sense reversal (e.g. Lacassin *et al.* 1997; Zhang & Schärer  
437 1999; Searle 2006; Morley *et al.* 2007; Watkinson *et al.* 2011; Palin *et al.* 2013).

438 Exhumed mylonitic rocks recording an earlier kinematic history have not been identified along the  
439 Kyaukkyan Fault. This may indicate either that the fault is a thin-skinned feature that does not  
440 penetrate to mid/lower-crustal depths, or that vertical motions have been insufficient to exhume rocks  
441 from such levels. However, 250 km along strike from the southern Kyaukkyan Fault, gneisses  
442 exposed within and adjacent to the Mae Ping Fault record a long history of deformation. The  
443 Umphang gneiss adjacent to the Mae Ping Fault-bounded Chainat duplex in NW Thailand (Fig. 1a)  
444 was exhumed between ~50-40 Ma, and cooling ages appear to increase towards the west, hinting at an  
445 Early Paleogene phase of shearing (Morley *et al.* 2007). The Thabsila gneisses within the parallel  
446 Three Pagodas Fault, to the south of the Mae Ping Fault, have yielded zircon U-Pb ages of  $57 \pm 1$  to  
447  $51 \pm 7$  Ma (Nantasin *et al.* 2012). Further south, zircon rim U-Pb ages from deformed granitoids  
448 within the Ranong Fault ( $80.5 \pm 0.6$  to  $47.6 \pm 0.8$  Ma) and Khlong Marui Fault ( $55 \pm 3$  to  $45.6 \pm 0.7$   
449 Ma) also support Early Paleogene and even older metamorphism and shearing (Watkinson *et al.* 2011;  
450 Kanjanapayont *et al.* 2012). All these fault systems probably formed part of a pre-escape tectonics  
451 Paleogene transpressional/metamorphic belt along the western margin of Sundaland (e.g. Morley  
452 2004, 2012; Watkinson *et al.* 2008; Searle & Morley 2011; Palin *et al.* 2013) that could have included  
453 a proto-Kyaukkyan Fault.

454 The Lansang gneisses (Fig. 1a) include a 5-6 km wide belt of metamorphic and igneous rocks  
455 overprinted by well developed sinistral mylonitic fabrics within the Mae Ping fault zone (e.g.  
456 Lacassin *et al.* 1993; Morley *et al.* 2011). Monazite Th-Pb ages of  $44.5 \pm 6.1$  to  $37.1 \pm 1.5$  Ma from  
457 protolith gneisses indicate Mid Eocene metamorphism (Palin *et al.* 2013). Sub-horizontal stretching  
458 lineations and evidence of simple shear under greenschist facies conditions (e.g. Lacassin *et al.* 1993)  
459 is commonly attributed to northward-migrating escape tectonics related to India-Asia collision,  
460 coinciding with  $33.1 \pm 0.4$  to  $30.6 \pm 0.3$  Ma (Early Oligocene) mica  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ - $^{40}\text{Ar}$  plateau ages (e.g.  
461 Lacassin *et al.* 1997). Slightly older mica  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ - $^{40}\text{Ar}$  and K-Ar cooling ages of  $36 \pm 1$  to  $33.4 \pm 0.4$  Ma  
462 have been determined from the Three Pagodas Fault (Lacassin *et al.* 1997), and still older mica  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ -  
463  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  ages of  $47.6 \pm 0.8$  to  $40.33 \pm 0.47$  Ma from the Ranong Fault and Khlong Marui Fault further  
464 south (Watkinson *et al.* 2011).

465 Peak high temperature metamorphism from ~37.4 to ~29.3 Ma (Late Eocene-Early Oligocene) in the  
466 Mogok Metamorphic Belt near Mandalay (Searle *et al.* 2007) may record the northwesternmost  
467 effects of the same phase of escape tectonics-driven deformation (Morley 2004; Searle & Morley  
468 2011), where sinistral shear along the Ailao Shan-Red River/Chong Shan/Mae Ping/Three Pagodas  
469 fault systems in the east became transferred into the broad N-S trending belt of dextral shear along the  
470 Mogok trend (Fig. 11a. Also see discussion in Soe Thura Tun & Watkinson, *this volume*, and Morley  
471 & Searle *In Press*). It remains unclear whether N-S faults in the position of the Kyaukkyan Fault, near  
472 the intersection of these Eo-Oligocene sinistral and dextral domains, would have experienced sinistral  
473 shear at all.

#### 474 *Late Cenozoic dextral shear*

475 Unlike any poorly preserved sinistral offset, there is abundant geologic and geomorphic evidence for  
476 Late Cenozoic dextral shear along the Kyaukkyan Fault (e.g. Fig. 4), but there is no direct timing of  
477 its onset. However, three regional events form the basis of a first-pass estimate. Oligocene to Mid  
478 Miocene ductile dextral shear within the Mogok Metamorphic Belt gneisses along the western margin

479 of the Shan Plateau is recorded by  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ - $^{40}\text{Ar}$  cooling ages of  $26.9 \pm 0.9$  to  $15.8 \pm 1.1$  Ma (Bertrand *et al.* 2001; Bertrand & Rangin 2003; Socquet & Pubellier, 2005). The Kyaukkyan Fault, parallel to the  
480 Mogok belt, may have been a thin-skin expression of this event on the Shan Plateau. Further east, the  
481 timing of Mae Ping Fault slip sense reversal and dextral shear onset may be constrained by rapid  
482 cooling of the Bhumibol Dam metamorphics at  $\sim 23.5$  Ma (latest Oligocene) adjacent to normal faults  
483 north of the Lansang Gneiss in Thailand (Lacassin *et al.* 1997) (Fig. 11b).  
484

485 Finally, a reduction in dextral activity further east in Thailand (Morley 2004; Morley *et al.* 2011) led  
486 to relaxation-driven metamorphic core complex exhumation in northern Thailand during the Early-  
487 Mid-Miocene and intermittent dextral slip along the Mae Ping Fault (Smith *et al.* 2007; Searle &  
488 Morley 2011). This westward migration of a wave of dextral transpression that was initially  
489 distributed across the Shan Plateau, but ultimately became focused further west along the Sagaing  
490 Fault during the Mid to Late Miocene (e.g. Socquet & Pubellier 2005; Soe Thura Tun & Watkinson,  
491 *this volume*) presumably involved the Kyaukkyan Fault. These regional events show that there was  
492 widespread dextral shear along structures parallel to and related to the Kyaukkyan Fault starting from  
493  $\sim 26.9$  Ma (Late Oligocene) to  $\sim 15.8$  Ma (Mid Miocene). Dextral shear became localised along the  
494 onshore Sagaing Fault during the Mid to Late Miocene (e.g. Bertrand & Rangin 2003, Soe Thura Tun  
495 & Watkinson *this volume*), intermittent dextral shear continued along the Mae Ping Fault (e.g. Smith  
496 *et al.* 2007; Morley *et al.* 2011) and dextral shear apparently clearly continues along the Kyaukkyan  
497 Fault to the present day (Fig. 11c).

#### 498 *River incision and kinematic evolution of the Kyaukkyan Fault*

499 Although a correlation between the Cenozoic kinematics of the Kyaukkyan Fault and the more well-  
500 studied Mae Ping Fault along strike is appealing, as discussed above there remains little evidence or  
501 necessity for Cenozoic sinistral shear along N-S faults in the western Shan Plateau. The only evidence  
502 of sinistral shear along the Kyaukkyan Fault is localised kinematic indicators on minor faults within  
503 Paleozoic carbonates, and the apparent  $10.2 \pm 1.3$  km sinistral offset preserved when dextral offset  
504 across the deeply incised Myitnge River is restored.

505 When interpreted as preserved sinistral fault displacement, the Myitnge River residual offset relies on  
506 the assumption that a straight antecedent river became incised before or during sinistral shear and  
507 before dextral shear. Both the Myitnge and similarly offset Thanlwin rivers occupy gorges  
508 characterised by spectacularly steep sides and narrow floors, typically indicative of geomorphic  
509 youthfulness (e.g. Bull & McFadden 1977). Quantifying this youthfulness is complicated by poorly  
510 constrained controlling parameters during the Neogene such as tectonic uplift, relative base level  
511 changes, lithology, sediment load and local climate (e.g. Clauzon 1978; Stock & Montgomery 1999;  
512 Garcia-Castellanos *et al.* 2003). Further north, the SE Tibetan Plateau, like the Shan Plateau, is deeply  
513 incised by rivers such as the upper Thanlwin, Yangtze and Yalong, all of which occupy similarly  
514 steep-sided canyons cut into a plateau uplifted during the Late Miocene ( $\sim 13$  Ma to  $\sim 9$  Ma) (Clark &  
515 Royden 2000; Clark *et al.* 2005). Similar geomorphology in the Myitnge River valley could therefore  
516 have been maintained for several million years, perhaps long enough to record all or part of the  
517 inferred pre-Late Oligocene to Mid Miocene sinistral shear phase.

518 However, if the post-sinistral phase dextral offset of  $5.3 \pm 0.8$  km described above is taken as finite  
519 dextral displacement, then the slip rate since the Oligocene/Mid Miocene becomes extremely small,  
520 less than the 1 mm/yr proposed by Wang *et al.* (2014), and far less than the 9-18 mm/yr indicated by  
521 the offset Pawritha city wall. There are four possibilities to explain this disparity:

522 1) The Kyaukkyan Fault has indeed slipped at  $\ll 1$  mm/yr since the Late Oligocene/Mid Miocene, and  
523 the Pawritha wall offset is false or due to several anomalously large Late Holocene coseismic offsets;



524 2) The fault has slipped at a higher rate than  $\ll 1$  mm/yr since the Late Oligocene/Mid Miocene, but it  
525 has experienced geologically significant periods of inactivity during its Neogene dextral shear phase,  
526 like the Mae Ping Fault;

527 3) The dextral fault is much younger than the dextral Mae Ping Fault, and younger than regional  
528 correlations appear to indicate – it became dextral since the end of the Miocene, and has slipped at  $\sim 1$   
529 mm/yr since then. The  $10.2 \pm 1.3$  km sinistral Myitnge River offset was preserved during the entire  
530 Miocene period of fault inactivity;

531 4) River offsets of  $5.3 \pm 0.8$  km,  $6.4 \pm 1.0$  km and  $7.2 \pm 0.5$  km are not finite dextral offsets –the rivers  
532 were incised during continued dextral shear. The total Neogene dextral displacement is larger –  
533 implying that the apparent earlier sinistral offset preserved by the Myitnge River is false. Late  
534 Holocene slip rates could be as high as 9-18 mm/yr.

535 Determining which of these models is correct will require further structural study of the Kyaukkyan  
536 Fault, and robust dating of deformation, uplift and river incision events.

### 537 **Concluding remarks**

538 The Early Cenozoic history of the Kyaukkyan Fault remains poorly constrained. However, given the  
539 fault's position, considerable length, width and connection to important structures such as the Mae  
540 Ping Fault, it is likely that it can be counted amongst other structures involved in the Early Paleogene  
541 transpressional deformation event proposed for western Sibumasu (e.g. (Morley 2004, 2012; Morley  
542 *et al.* 2007; Watkinson *et al.* 2011; Palin *et al.* 2013) as well as subsequent Late Paleogene escape  
543 tectonics (e.g. Tapponnier *et al.* 1986; Lacassin *et al.* 1997). Whether this early kinematic history  
544 involved sinistral shear along the Kyaukkyan Fault, and whether it is preserved by river offsets cannot  
545 yet be confirmed.

546 Regional correlations support a Late Oligocene to Mid Miocene dextral shear onset, at about the same  
547 time as the Mae Ping Fault and Mogok Metamorphic Belt experienced dextral shear, and overlapping  
548 with post-dextral relaxation and metamorphic core complex exhumation in northern Thailand (e.g.  
549 Lacassin *et al.* 1997; Bertrand *et al.* 2001; Bertrand & Rangin 2003; Socquet & Pubellier, 2005.  
550 Searle & Morley 2011). Geomorphic offsets show that dextral shear likely continues to the present  
551 day.

552 Important questions about Late Neogene/Holocene slip rates follow from the discussion of offset  
553 markers such as the Myitnge River and the ancient city wall of Pawritha (Kawthanbi). If the fault slips  
554 at the lower rate ( $\ll 1$  mm/yr) indicated if the Myitnge River preserves sinistral shear, then only  $\ll 10$   
555 cm of displacement has accumulated since the 1912 Maymyo earthquake, and the seismic hazard must  
556 be low. If the city wall offset is representative of the Late Holocene slip rate (9-18 mm/yr) then 0.94-  
557 1.87 m of displacement has already been accumulated across the fault, having the potential to yield a  
558 highly damaging M6.6-M6.9 earthquake according to the empirical relationships of Wells &  
559 Coppersmith (1994).

560 This study shows that there are three clearly defined geomorphic domains along the Kyaukkyan Fault,  
561 but that structural domains – i.e. segments bounded by distinct structural discontinuities, are less clear.  
562 The more youthful geomorphic expression of the northern domain has previously been related to more  
563 recent tectonic activity along the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment compared to the other segments (e.g.  
564 Wang *et al.* 2014), supported by the apparent location of the 1912 earthquake near this segment.  
565 Additionally the basin-bounding faults of the Inle and associated basins in the central domain lack  
566 evidence of recent rupture and are in places rather poorly defined, suggesting reduced activity of the

567 Yaksawk-Inle segment. However, we caution against this conclusion, in the light of evidence that  
568 through-going fault strands underlie the central part of the basin. Analogue models and natural  
569 examples show that transtensional basins such as the Inle Basin commonly develop a cross-basin fault  
570 as they evolve, and sidewall faults can become abandoned (e.g. Mann *et al.* 1995, Mann 2007; Wu *et*  
571 *al.* 2009). It is likely that, although the segmented basin bounding faults are presently becoming  
572 inactive, the through-going fault may be highly active, but because it experiences pure strike-slip,  
573 there is little coseismic vertical offset and it is rapidly buried following rupture.

574 Therefore, factors to consider in any seismic hazard assessment of the Kyaukkyan Fault include: the  
575 great uncertainty in slip rate and interseismic strain accumulation; poorly consolidated and water  
576 saturated basin fill; the presence of a linear, shallow buried cross-basin fault system which may be  
577 continuous with fault segments to the north and south; the long time elapsed since a previous rupture  
578 south of the 1912 event; and intensive human development within the Inle Basin. The booming towns  
579 of Shwenyaung and Nyaungshwe lie squarely on the projected trace of this cross basin fault system,  
580 and are especially vulnerable. Paleoseismic investigations along this section are essential to identify  
581 the timing and size of historical seismicity.

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846 **Figure captions**

847 **Fig. 1:** Kyaukkyan Fault location and overview. a) Tectonic setting of the Kyaukkyan Fault. Modified  
848 after Morley *et al.* (2011); Soe Thura Tun & Maung Thein (2012); Wang *et al.* (2014); Morley &  
849 Alvey (2015) and Soe Thura Tun & Watkinson (*this volume*). b) Main faults making up the  
850 Kyaukkyan Fault. Solid line: confident interpretation; dashed line: uncertain interpretation; dotted  
851 line: other related faults. Earthquake locations from the NEIC and IRIS catalogues 1972-2010. Map  
852 location shown in Fig. 1a.

853 **Fig. 2:** Detail of Kyaukkyan Fault structural segments. a) Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment. b) Yakswak-  
854 Inle segment. c) Moby-Hpansang segment. GF: Goteik Fault; SF: Sedawgyi Fault; TF: Taunggyi  
855 Fault. Map locations shown in Fig. 1b.

856 **Fig. 3:** Field observations of the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment. a) Bedding and tectonic foliation  
857 measured in rocks exposed along the fault zone. Great circles, lower hemisphere equal area  
858 projection. b) Measured fault planes (great circles) and slickenside lineations (red: sinistral; green:  
859 dextral; black: unknown). Lower hemisphere equal area projection. c) Weakly metamorphosed  
860 sheared Plateau Limestone (?) near Yaksawk, showing prominent north-dipping foliation. d) View of  
861 linear uplifted ridge along the Kyaukkyan Fault. Inferred fault trace marked by break of slope (white  
862 arrows). View to SW from Kyaukkyan village. e) View to ENE along the Mandalay-Lashio railway  
863 just west of Kyaukkyan village, showing prominent dextral bend where the line crosses the  
864 Kyaukkyan Fault. f) Brecciated dolomite of the Plateau Limestone Group near Zawgyi Reservoir,  
865 showing a steeply east-dipping fault plane, sub-horizontal slickenside lineations and dextral steps.  
866 Photo locations shown in Fig. 2a.

867 **Fig. 4:** 3-D perspective Google Earth images showing geomorphic characteristics along the  
868 Kyaukkyan Fault. a) Tectonic geomorphology of the Gelaung Valley, view to SE. b) Two-stage  
869 alluvial fan offset along from its source valley along the Yaksawk-Inle segment. View to W. c)  
870 Triangular facets, drainage and alluvial fan offset along the Moby-Hpansang segment. View to E.  
871 View locations shown in Fig. 2a.

872 **Fig. 5:** Topographic profiles across the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment, showing variation in vertical  
873 offset. Profile locations shown in inset map. Green lines show upper (dotted) and lower (dashed)  
874 limits on inferred palaeotopography. Graph shows total offsets down to west (positive) and east  
875 (negative) plotted along the fault's length. Map location shown in Fig. 2b.

876 **Fig. 6:** Major river offsets along the Kyaukkyan-Indaw segment. a) Myitnge River dextral offset of  
877  $5.3 \pm 0.8$  km. b) Apparent residual sinistral offset of  $10.2 \pm 1.3$  km after restoration of 5.3 km along  
878 the main fault strand. c) Zawgyi River offset of  $7.2 \pm 0.5$  km, highlighting the potential impact of low  
879 ground to the east of the fault on this measurement. Base maps are 90 m Shuttle Radar Topography  
880 Mission data. Map locations shown in Fig. 2a.

881 **Fig. 7:** Field observations of the Yaksawk-Inle segment. a) Bedding and tectonic foliation measured in  
882 rocks exposed along the fault zone. Great circles, lower hemisphere equal area projection. b)  
883 Measured fault planes (great circles) and slickenside lineations (red: sinistral; green: dextral; blue:  
884 normal; black: unknown). Lower hemisphere equal area projection. c) Fault plane showing both  
885 normal and strike-slip slickenside lineations, in argillaceous limestone of the Wunbye Fm. near



886 Yaksawk. d) Calcite-filled veins, including en-echelon tension gashes in Plateau Limestone, near  
887 Heho. e) Bedding transposition into parallelism with major fault. Linwe Fm., near Taunggyi. f)  
888 Dextral fault plane in argillaceous limestone of the Wunbye Fm. near Yaksawk. g) Calcite  
889 slickenfibres-covered sinistral fault plane in argillaceous limestone of the Wunbye Fm. near Yaksawk.  
890 h) NW-dipping listric normal faults within the Taunggyi fault zone exposed on the scarp west of  
891 Taunggyi city. i) Triangular facets developed along the prominent section of the main Kyaukkyan  
892 Fault strand where it marks the western shore of Inle Lake. White arrows delineate the approximate  
893 break of slope and inferred position of the fault. Photo locations shown in Fig. 2b.

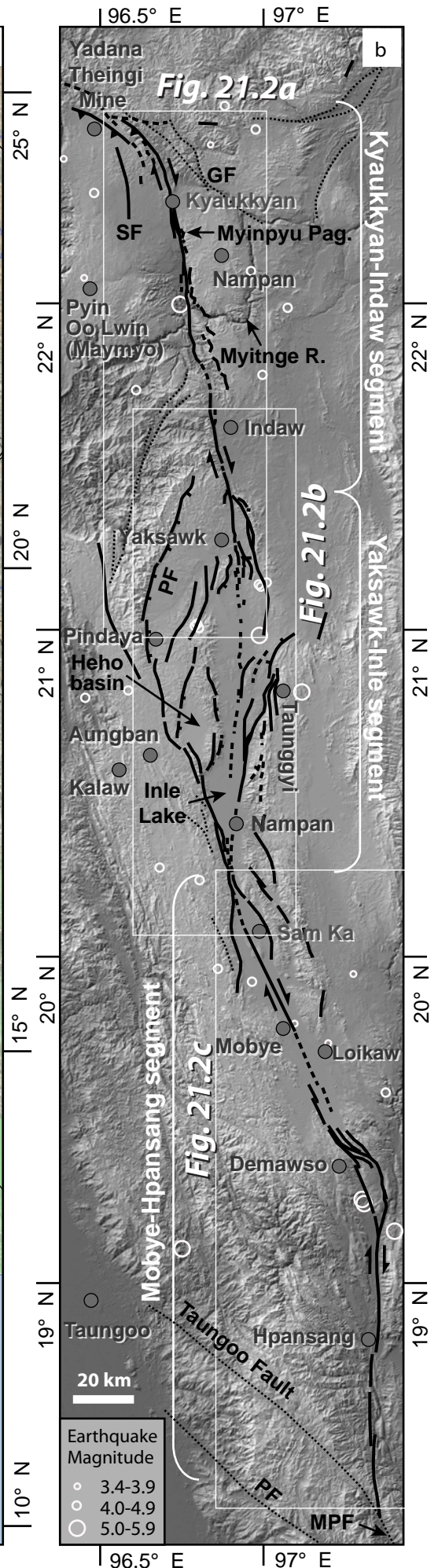
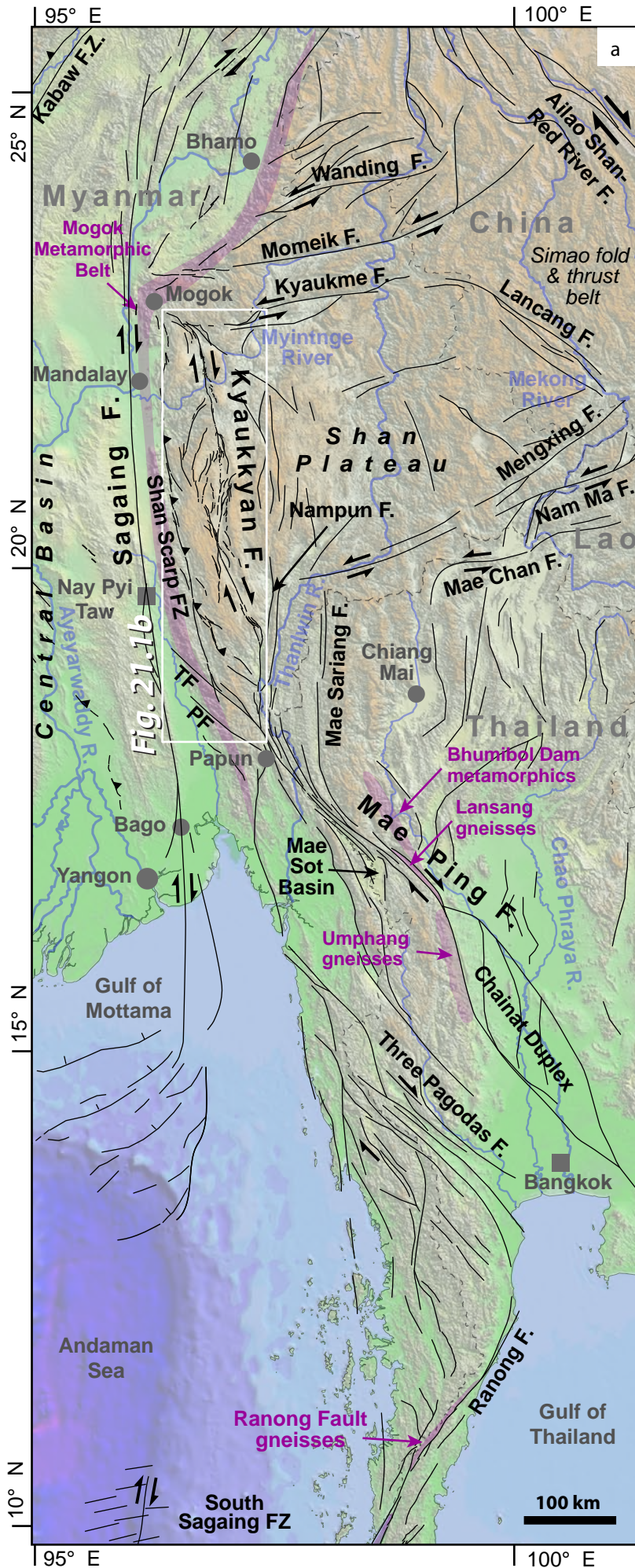
894 **Fig. 8:** Apparent lateral offset of brick-cored embankments (highlighted in red) representing the  
895 remains of the ancient Pawritha (Kawthanbi) city wall between Shwenyaung and Nyaungshwe. Base  
896 maps from ESRI World Imagery compilation, which includes <1 m DigitalGlobe imagery. a) A  
897 shallow buried Kyaukkyan Fault strand is revealed by linear zones of darkly mottled surface deposits,  
898 and coincides with the Nam Latt stream and loci of wall offsets. Dextral offset is  $12.2 \pm 1.2$  m, and  
899 vertical offset is ~2 m down-to-the-east. b) Detail of the offset northern wall. c) Detail of the offset  
900 southern wall. Map location shown in Fig. 2b.

901 **Fig. 9:** Topographic profiles across the Pindaya Fault, showing variation in vertical offset. Profile  
902 locations shown in inset map. Green lines show upper (dotted) and lower (dashed) limits on inferred  
903 footwall palaeotopography. Red lines show inferred hangingwall palaeotopography, projected (dashed  
904 line) below alluvial fans where they are present. Graph shows total offsets down to east plotted along  
905 the fault's length. Map location shown in Fig. 2b.

906 **Fig. 10:** Major river offsets along the Moby-Hpansang segment. a) Apparent lateral offset of  
907 prominent low ridges (highlighted in red) adjacent to Moby reservoir, parallel to the trace of the  
908 Kyaukkyan Fault. Apparent dextral offset is  $4.6 \pm 0.2$  km. Base map from Google Earth. b) Apparent  
909 lateral offset of the Thanlwin River at Hpansang by  $6.4 \pm 1.0$  km. Base map is 90 m Shuttle Radar  
910 Topography Mission data. Map locations shown in Fig. 2c.

911 **Fig. 11:** Schematic evolutionary maps showing the development of the Kyaukkyan Fault since Late  
912 Eocene times, modified after Soe Thura Tun and Watkinson (*this volume*) and synthesised largely  
913 from ideas presented in Bertrand & Rangin (2003); Socquet & Pubellier (2005); Morley *et al.* (2011);  
914 Searle & Morley (2011); Morley & Alvey (2015). See text for explanation and additional references.  
915 No attempt is made to show finite displacement across the fault systems because of the large  
916 uncertainty involved. The modern coastline is for reference only.

917



**Fig. 21.1**



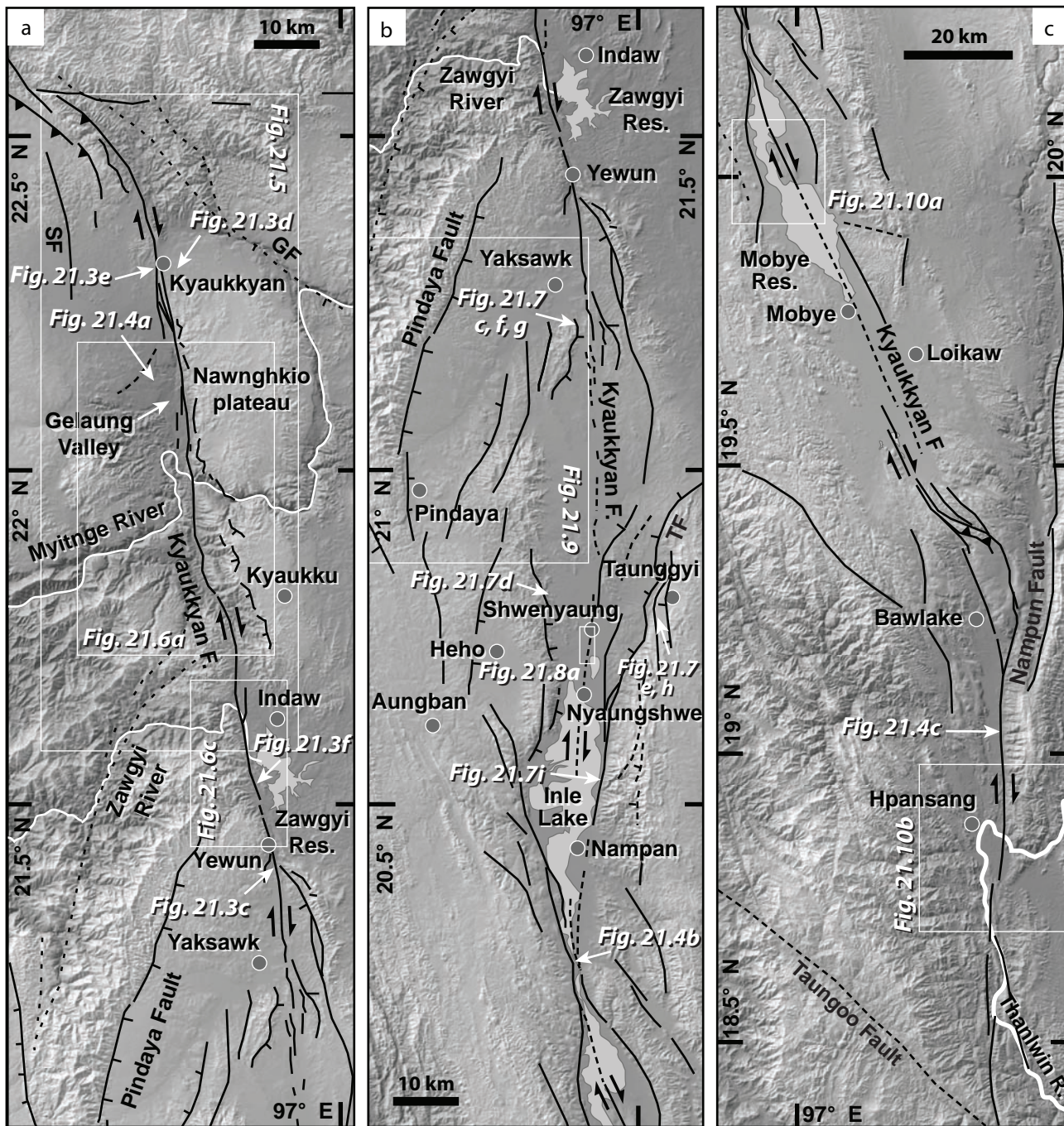
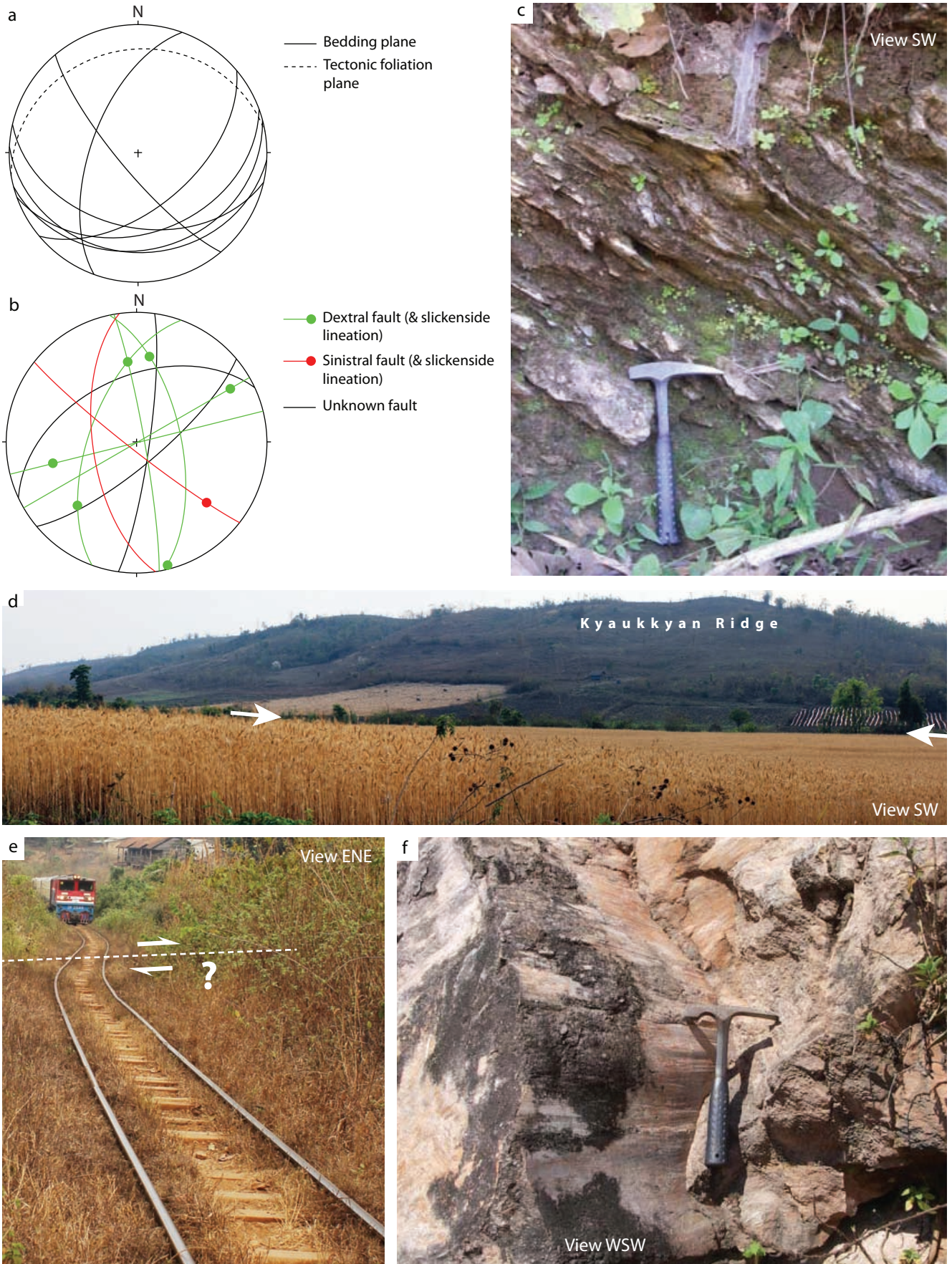


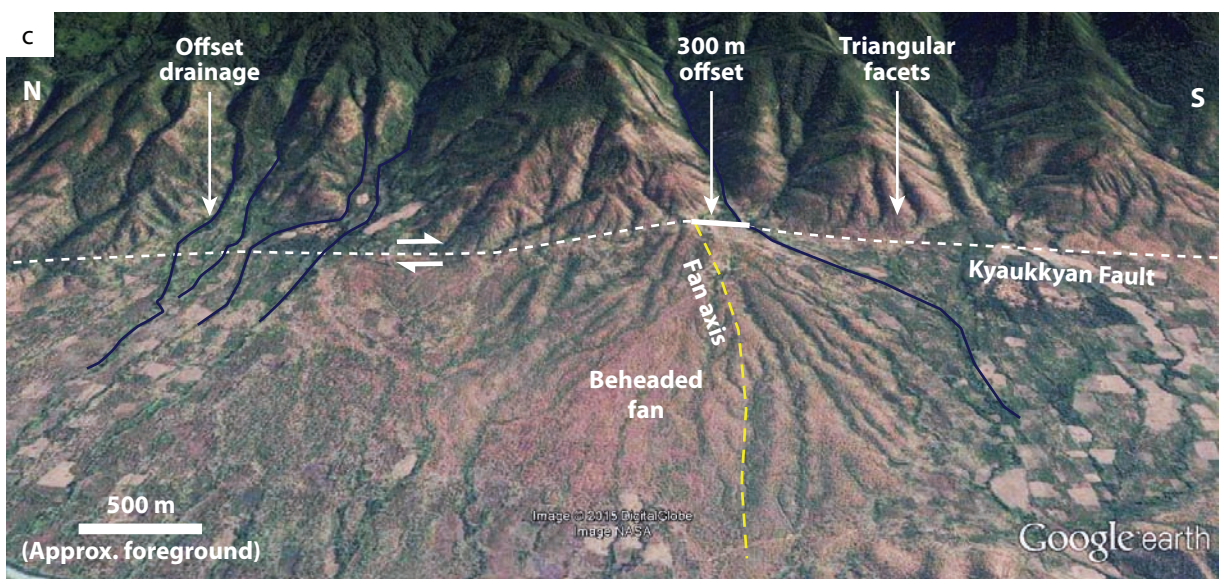
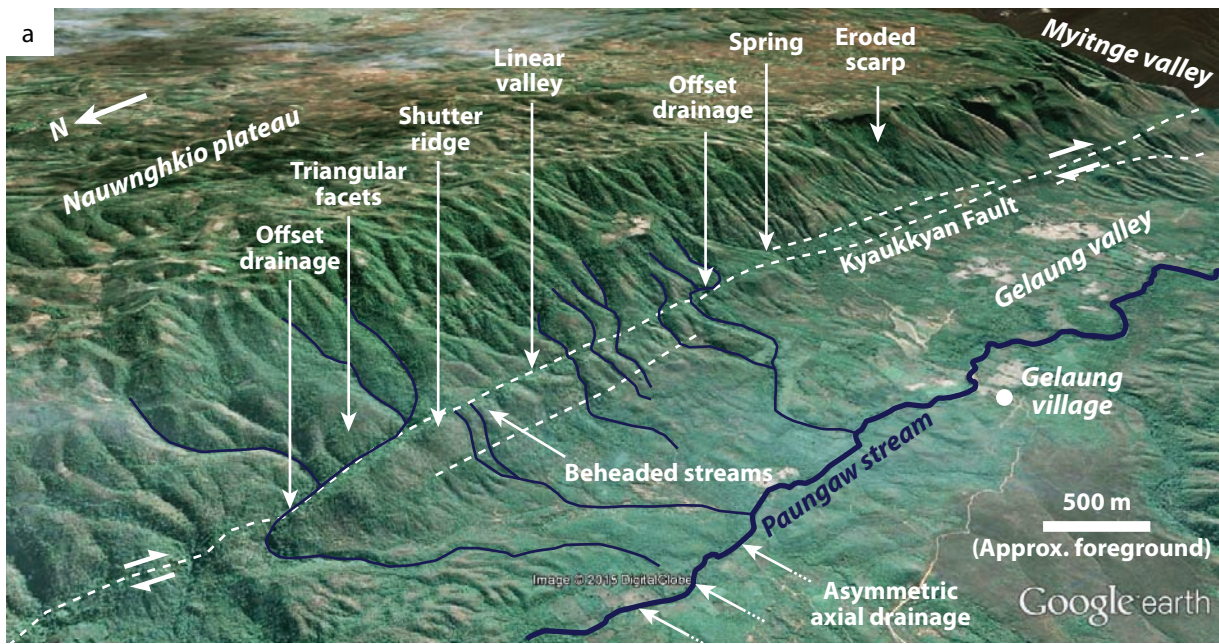
Fig. 21.2





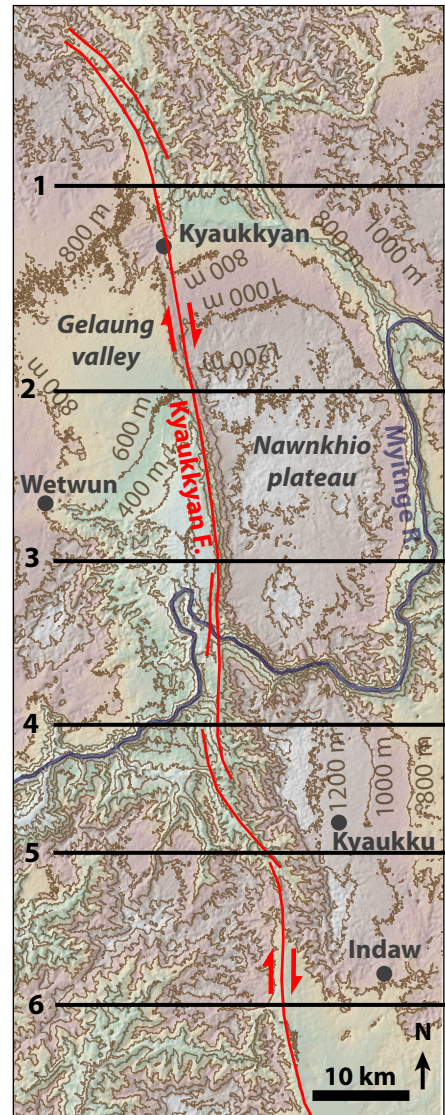
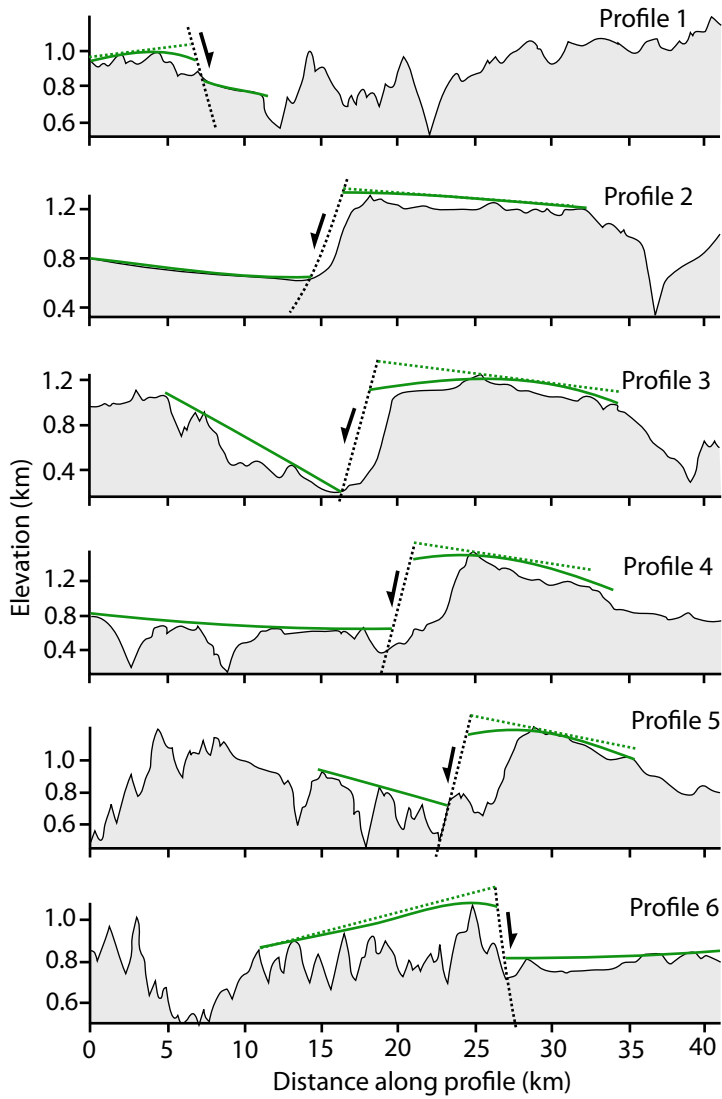
**Fig. 21.3**





**Fig. 21-4**





Apparent normal displacement across the Kyaukkyan Fault

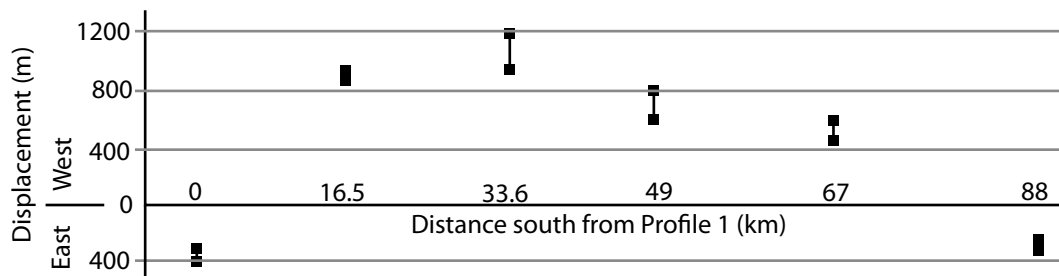


Fig. 21-5

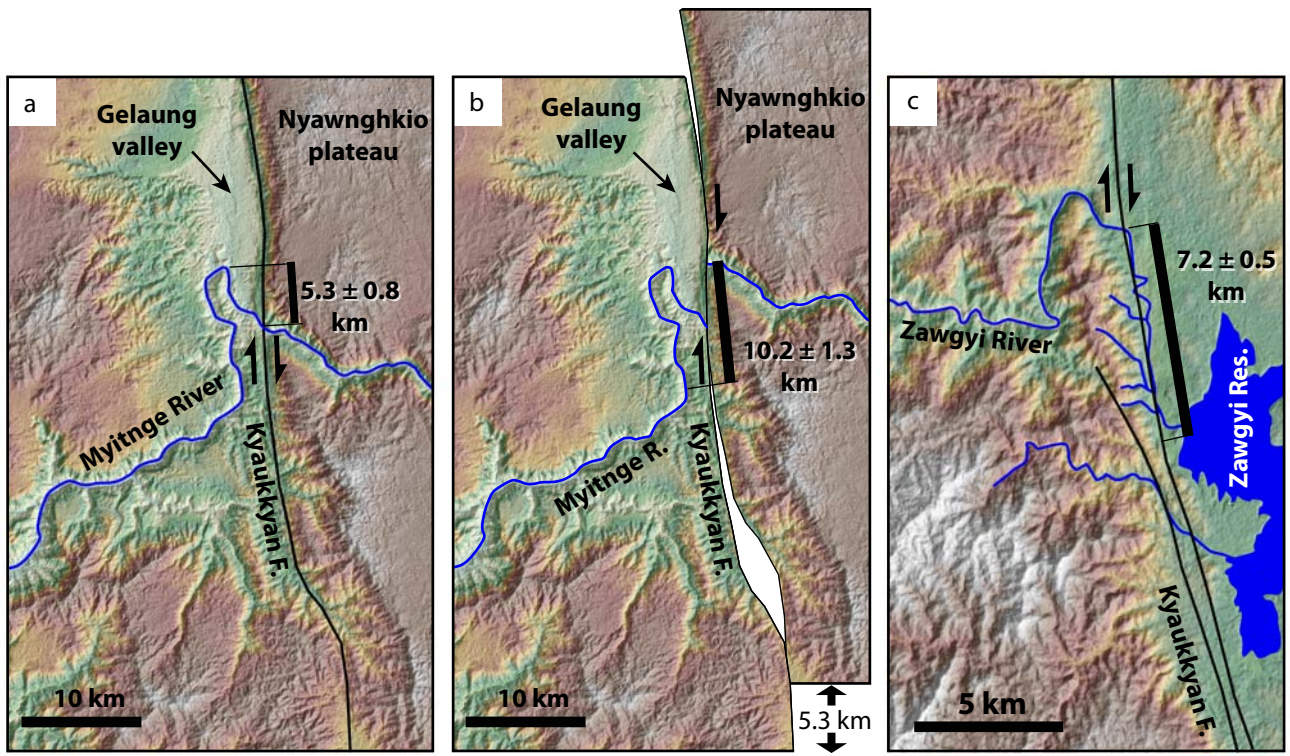
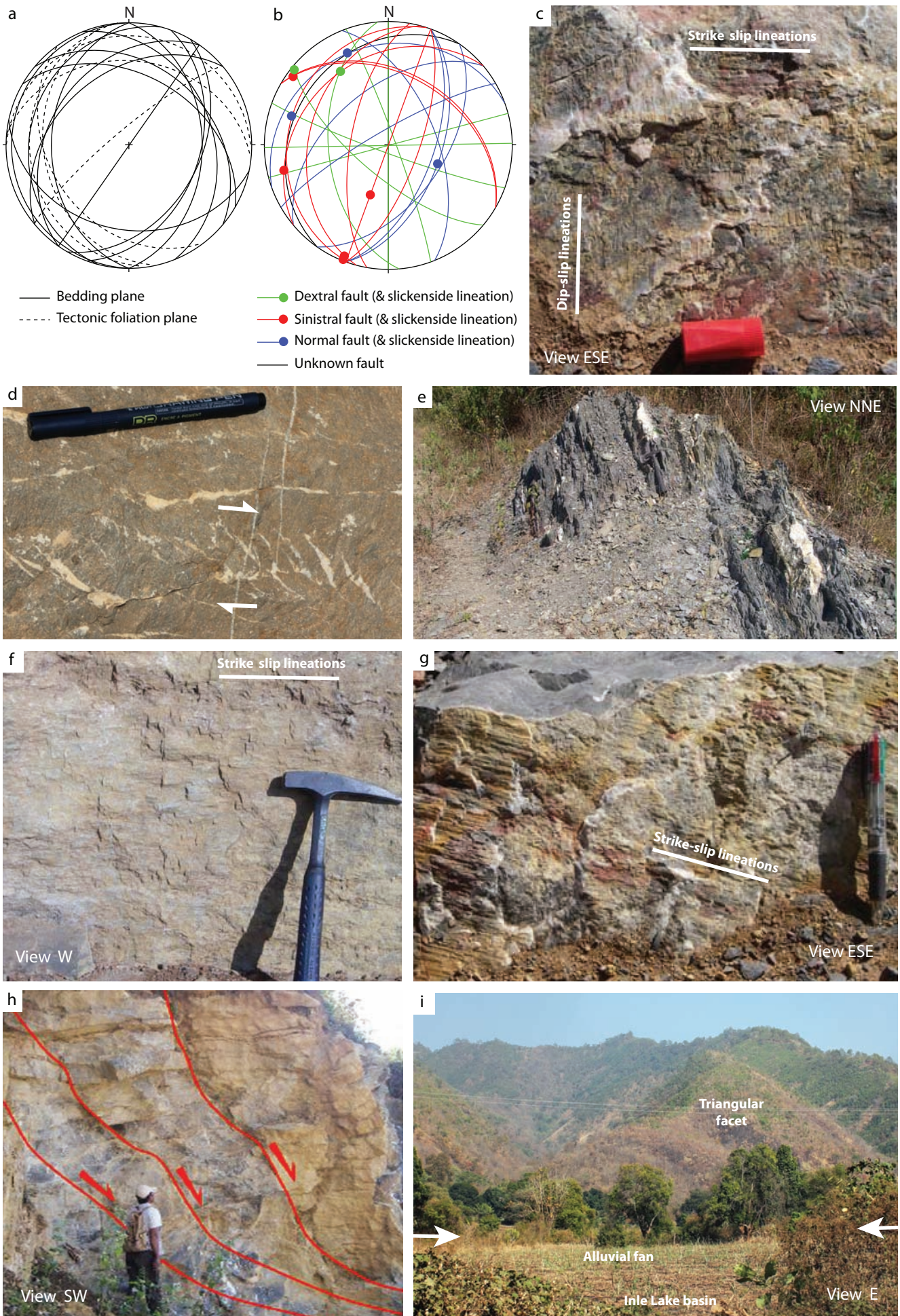


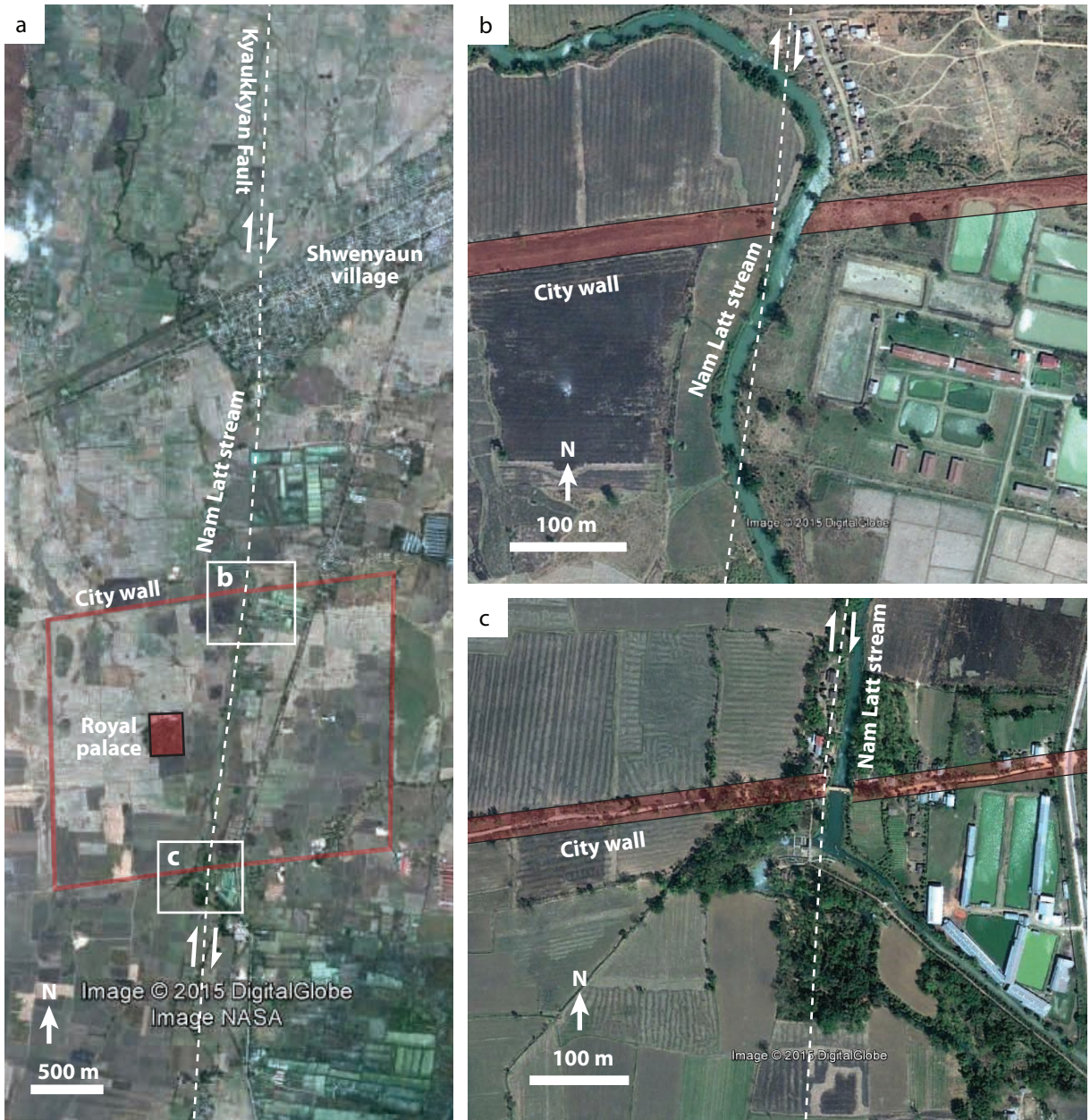
Fig. 21.6



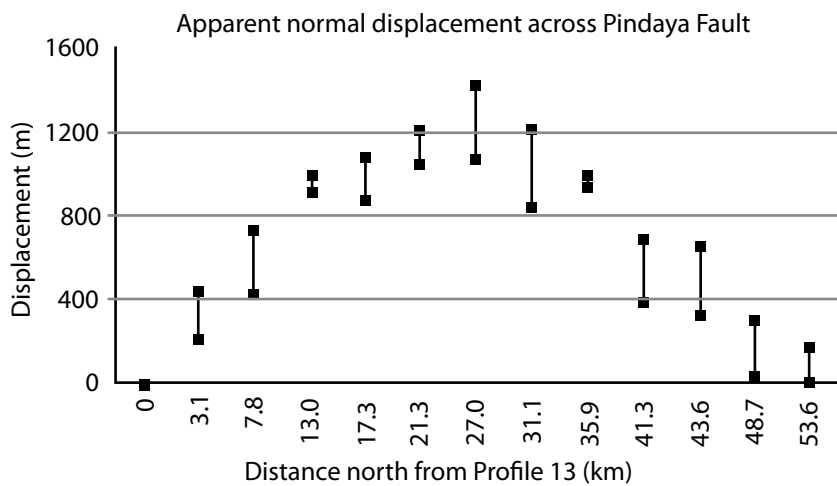
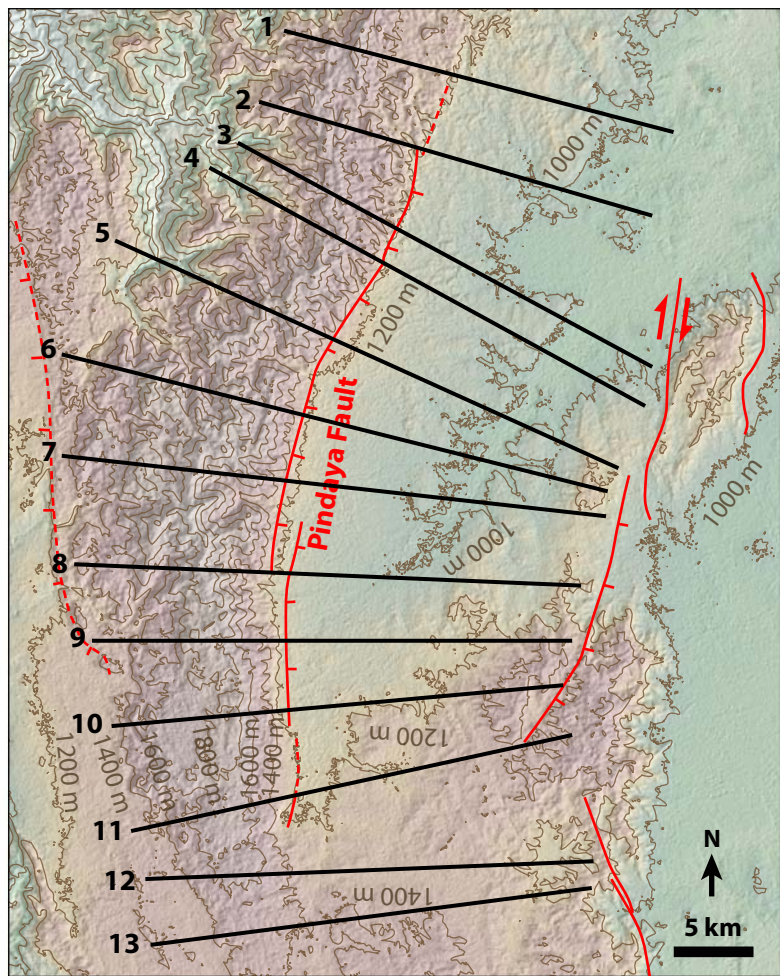
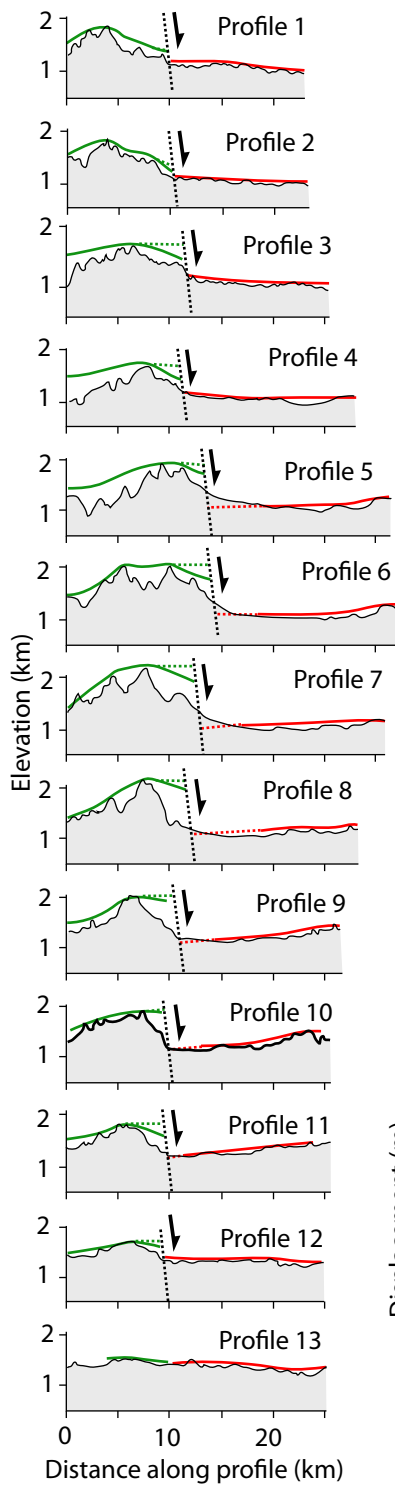


**Fig. 21-7**



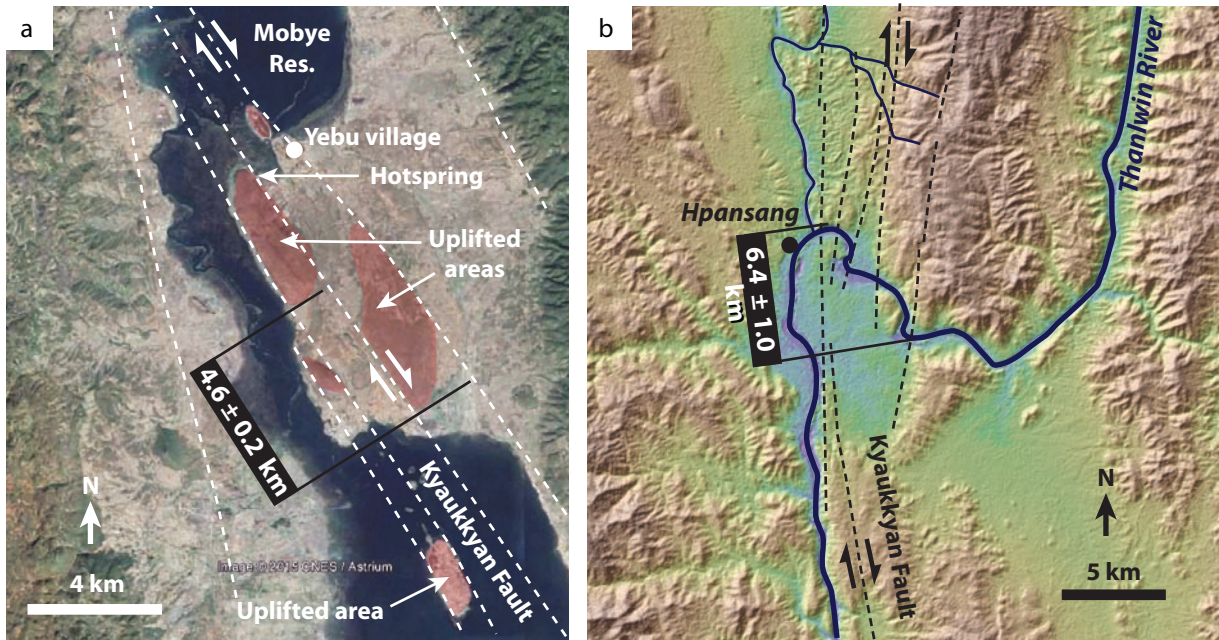


**Fig. 21-8**

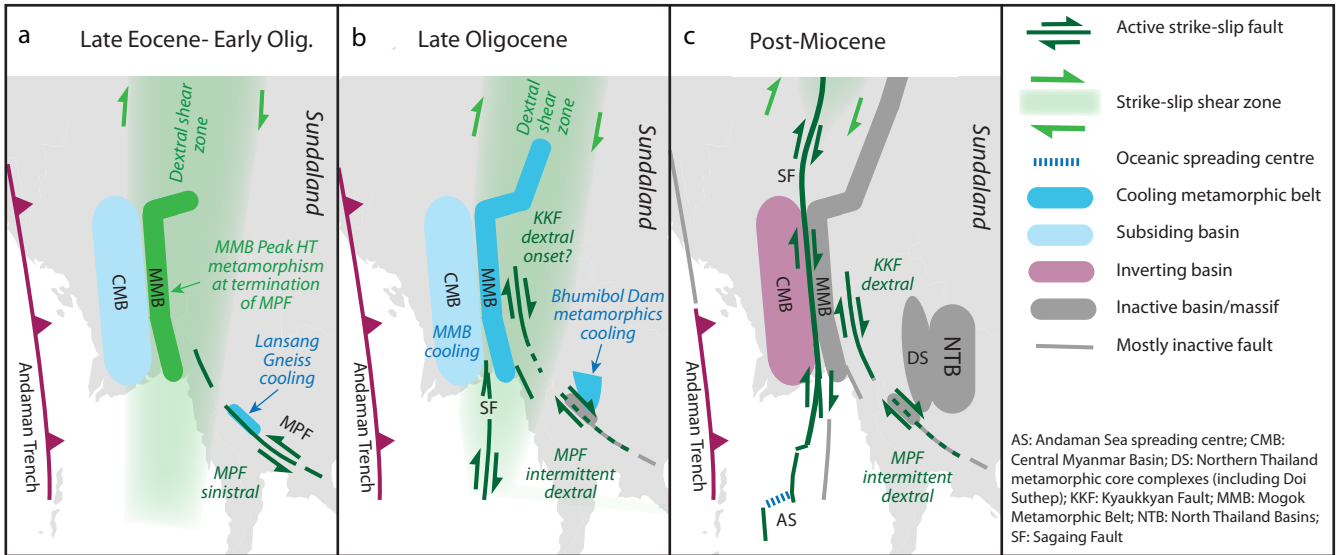


**Fig. 21.9**





**Fig. 21.10**



**Fig. 21.11**