

Single crystal plasticity modelling of precipitate hardened alloys

Citation for published version (APA):

Ertürk, I., Dommelen, van, J. A. W., & Geers, M. G. D. (2010). *Single crystal plasticity modelling of precipitate hardened alloys*. Poster session presented at Mate Poster Award 2010 : 15th Annual Poster Contest.

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2010

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of Record (includes final page, issue and volume numbers)

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

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Single Crystal Plasticity Modelling of Precipitation Hardened Alloys

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Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems

RF-MEMS, a class of MEMS (Fig.1), are tuneable parallel plate capacitors (Fig.2a) that are used as switches in high-tech wireless network systems.

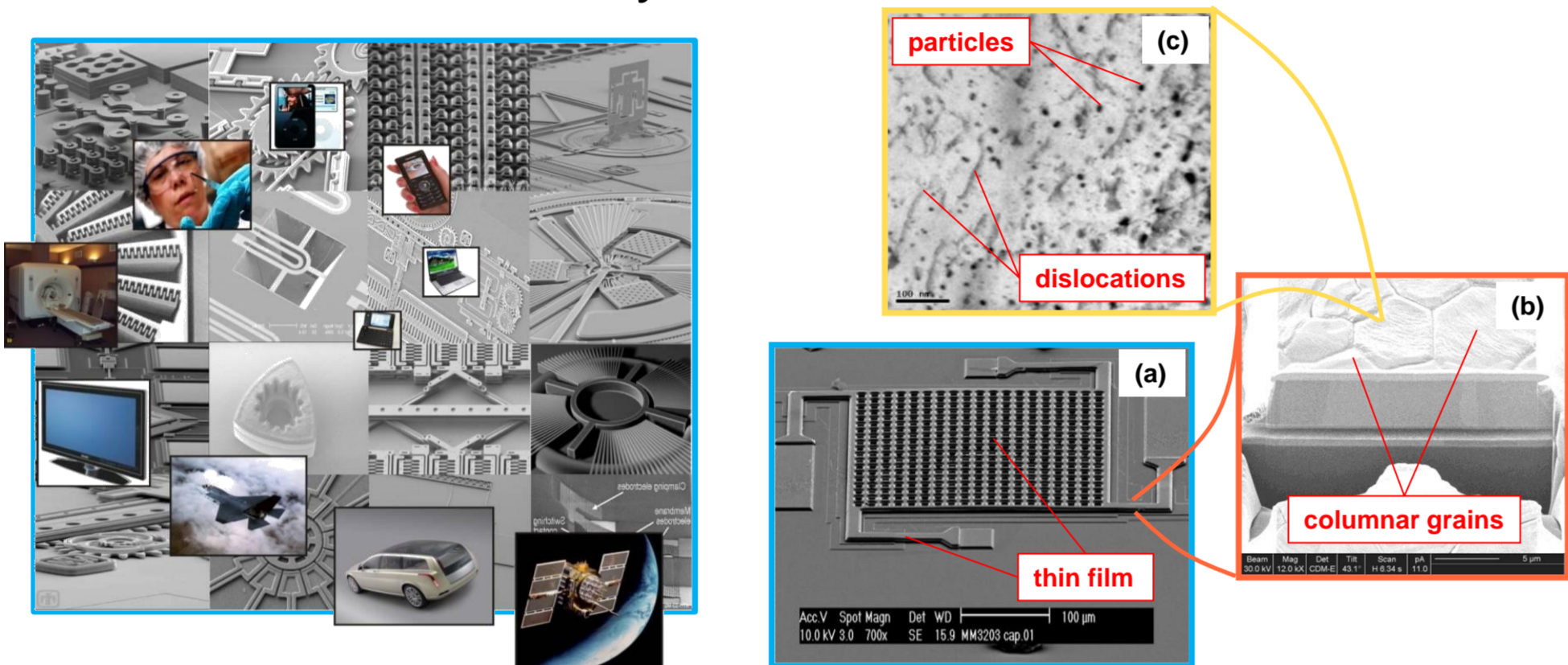


Fig.1: MEMS applications.

Fig.2: a) An RF-MEMS. b-c) SEM pictures of metal film's microstructure.

Reliability of an RF-MEMS switch (Fig.3) depends on the **time** and **scale dependent** mechanical behavior of its thin metal film arms, which is heavily influenced by the **microstructure**, Fig.2b-c.

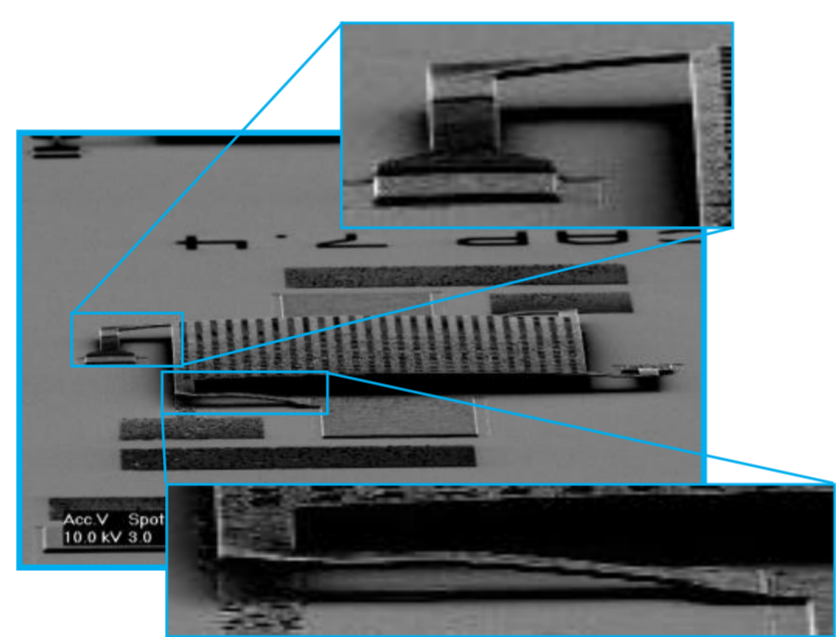


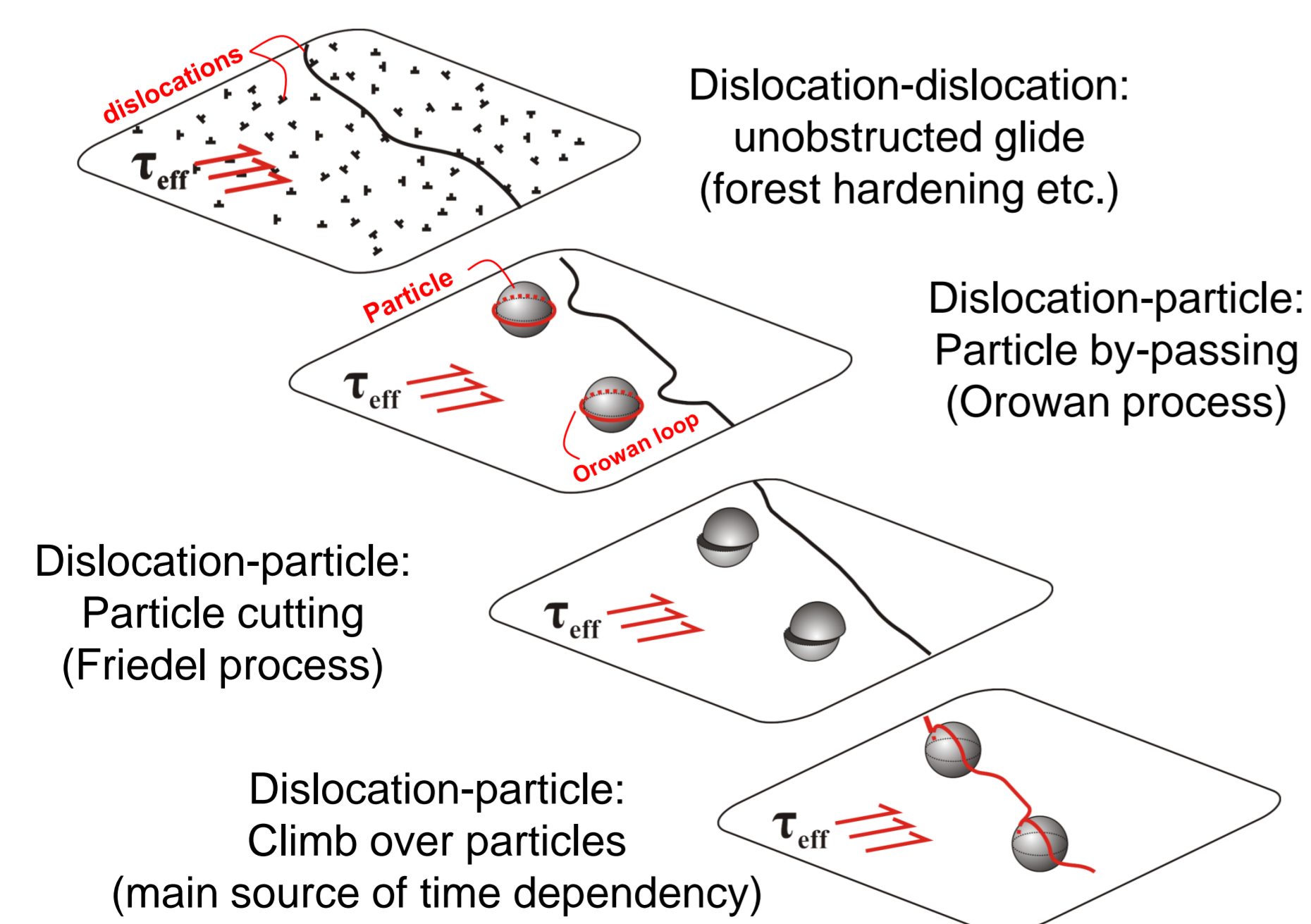
Fig.3: a) An RF-MEMS irreversibly deformed after voltage loading.

Scope

The purpose of this work is the development of a strain gradient crystal plasticity framework for **particle hardened alloys** in order to be used in the design and analyses of RF-MEMS devices.

Model development

The following types of interactions between the gliding dislocations and various obstacles are considered:



A constitutive relationship between slip rate $\dot{\gamma}$ and shear stress τ_{eff} is constructed by combining individual flow rules (1) of four different interaction mechanisms, Fig.4.

$$\dot{\gamma}_{i,j} = \rho_m(\tau_{k,j}(\nabla\rho), \hat{\tau}_{i,j}) \cdot b \cdot v(\tau_{k,j}(\nabla\rho), \hat{\tau}_{i,j}, T) \quad (1)$$

$\dot{\gamma}_{i,j}$: slip rate
 ρ_m : mobile dislocation density
 $\tau_{k,j}$: shear stress in branch
 $\hat{\tau}_{i,j}$: threshold stress
 b : Burgers vector
 v : dislocation velocity
 T : temperature
 i : u. glide, orowan, friedel, climb
 j : edge, screw dislocation
 k : branch 1, 2

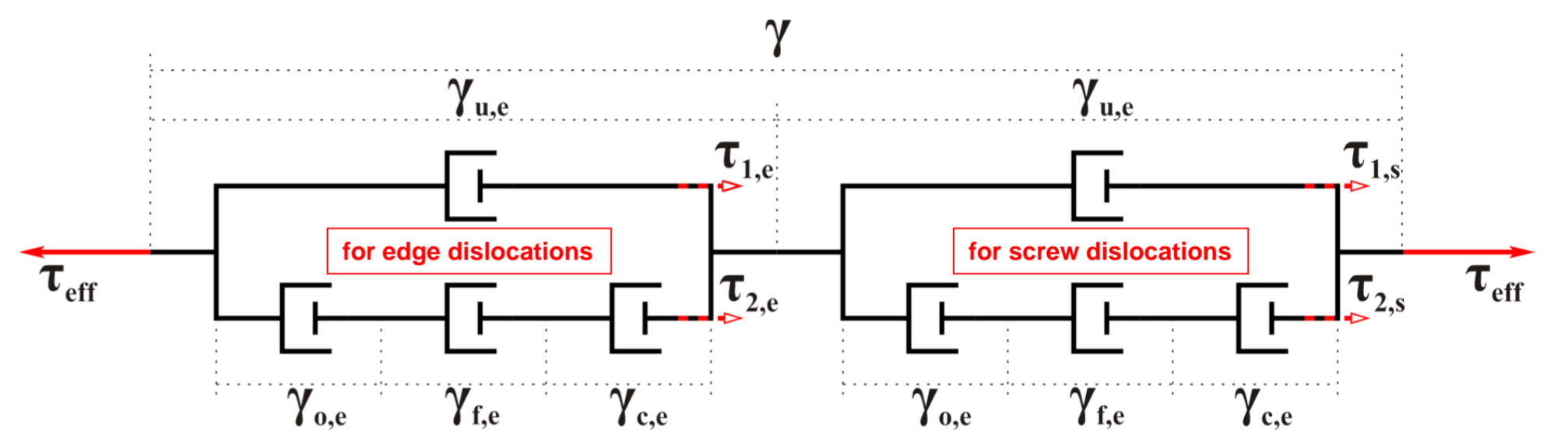


Fig.4: Schematic representation of the new constitutive law.

Results

For an AlCu alloy with an average particle size of 12 μ m and volume fraction of 1.2%, the model predicts (Fig.5):

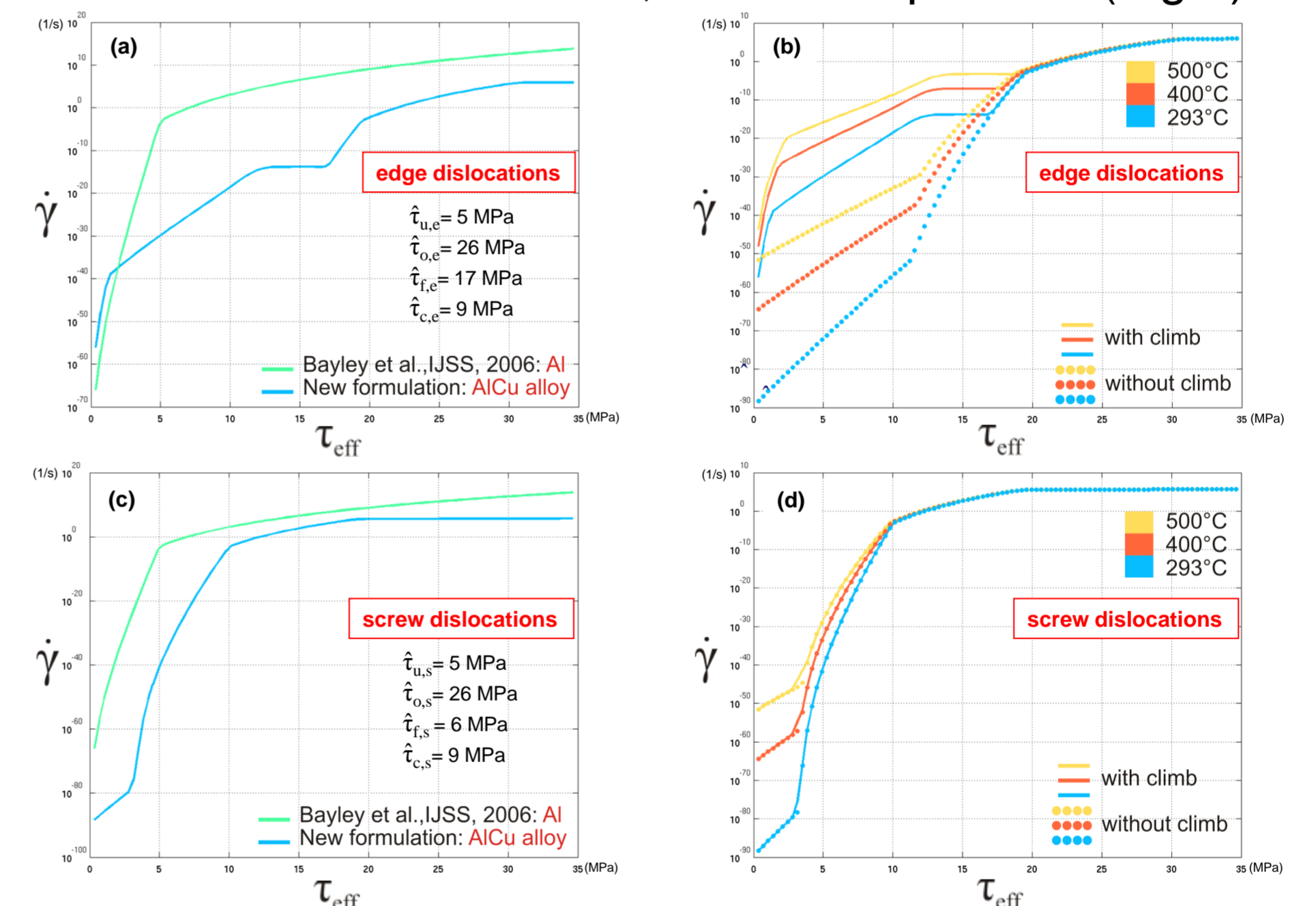


Fig.5: Numerical experiments with the new model. (a)&(c) Comparisons to Bayley et al., 2006. (b)&(d) Effect of climb and temperature sensitivity.

- increased strength due to particles
- larger slip rates for screw dislocations than edge type
- larger slip rates at higher temperatures
- increased slip rate of edge dislocations due to influence of climb, which vanishes at larger stresses
- almost no effect of climb on slip rate of screw dislocations

Conclusion

The new strain gradient crystal plasticity model is promising as being complementary to the multiphysical simulations of RF-MEMS by quantitatively describing the time and scale dependent material behavior.