The mechanical and microstructural behaviour of calcite-dolomite composites: An experimental investigation

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A B S T R A C T

The styles and mechanisms of deformation associated with many variably dolomitized limestone shear systems are strongly controlled by strain partitioning between dolomite and calcite. Here, we present experimental results from the deformation of four composite materials designed to address the role of dolomite on the strength of limestone. Composites were synthesized by hot isostatic pressing mixtures of dolomite (Dm) and calcite powders (% Dm: 25%-Dm, 35%-Dm, 51%-Dm, and 75%-Dm). In all composites, calcite is finer grained than dolomite. The synthesized materials were deformed in torsion at constant strain rate (3 × 10^{-4} and 1 × 10^{-4} s^{-1}), high effective pressure (262 MPa), and high temperature (750 °C) to variable finite shear strains. Mechanical data show an increase in yield strength with increasing dolomite content. Composites with <75% dolomite (the remaining being calcite), accommodate significant shear strain at much lower shear stresses than pure dolomite but have significantly higher yield strengths than anticipated for 100% calcite. The microstructure of the fine-grained calcite suggests grain boundary sliding, accommodated by diffusion creep and dislocation glide. At low dolomite concentrations (i.e. 25%), the presence of coarse-grained dolomite in a micritic calcite matrix has a profound effect on the strength of composite materials as dolomite grains inhibit the superplastic flow of calcite aggregates. In high (>50%) dolomite content samples, the addition of 25% fine-grained calcite significantly weakens dolomite, such that strain can be partially localized along narrow ribbons of fine-grained calcite. Deformation of dolomite grains by shear fracture is observed; there is no intracrystalline deformation in dolomite irrespective of its relative abundance and finite shear strain.

1. Introduction

The styles and mechanisms of deformation associated with many variably dolomitized limestone shear systems are strongly controlled by strain partitioning between dolomite and calcite. Furthermore, the mechanical behaviour of shear zones that form in calcite–dolomite composites is likely a function of external parameters (e.g. P, P, T, and γ), the mineralogy (calcite/dolomite content; (Delle Piane et al., 2009a)), and texture (e.g. grain size and porosity) of the rock. Carbonate fault rocks can have heterogeneous distributions and variable contents of calcite and dolomite. For instance, fluid flow during thrusting can result in partial dolomitization (i.e. calcite formation) of carbonates resulting in heterogeneous distribution of calcite and dolomite in fault rocks (Erikson, 1994). Conversely, shear strain, in tandem with fluid flow, may result in a more dolomite-rich fault rock than the protolith due to the dissolution of calcite and subsequent passive enrichment of dolomite along thrust faults (Kennedy and Logan, 1997). Fault rocks derived from carbonate rocks can therefore be composed of variable amounts of dolomite and calcite, and grain size distributions within these rocks can be heterogeneous. In many shear zones, dolomite is demonstrably stronger than calcite, but the amount of dolomite required to significantly change the rheological behaviour of carbonate shear zones is poorly understood. Field observations suggest that dolomite may lead to the embrittlement of limestone

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(Viola et al., 2006). However, despite the common occurrence of calcite-dolomite composites, the influence of dolomite content on the strength of limestone under both ambient and high temperature conditions is poorly understood.

The deformation response of pure calcite and, to a lesser extent, pure dolomite under a variety of crustal conditions is well understood. Field observations suggest that under similar conditions of deformation, below amphibolite facies metamorphism, dolomitic rocks are stronger than limestone of similar grain size and porosity. During deformation, dolomite generally becomes highly fractured whereas calcite undergoes dislocation creep and dynamic recrystallization (Bestmann et al., 2000; Erikson, 1994; Woodward et al., 1988). Under similar experimental deformation conditions, dolomite rock is stronger and less ductile than limestone (Davis et al., 2008; Griggs et al., 1951, 1953; Handin and Fairburn, 1955; Higgs and Handin, 1959; Holyoke et al., 2013). At high temperatures (>700 °C), coarse grained dolomite is still stronger than calcite; however, fine-grained dolomite rocks (grains less than 15 μm in diameter) weaken significantly and can be weaker than calcite-rich rocks deformed under the same conditions (Davis et al., 2008; Delle Piane et al., 2009a; Delle Piane et al., 2008; Holyoke et al., 2013).

In this study, we address the role of coarse-grained dolomite on the strength and microstructural evolution of calcite–dolomite composites. Synthetic, hot isostatically pressed (HIP) calcite–dolomite (Cc-Dm) composites of four unique compositions – 1) 25%Dm:75%Cc, 2) 35%Dm:65%Cc, 3) 51%Dm:49%Cc, 4) 75%Dm:25%Cc (hereafter designated by their dolomite content (%): Dm25, Dm35, Dm51, and Dm75) – were deformed in a torsion apparatus at elevated temperature and confining pressure to determine their rheological behaviour and to evaluate the effect of dolomite content and grain size on rock strength. A total of 13 rock deformation experiments were conducted at the following conditions: temperature (T) of 750 °C, effective pressure (Peff) of 262 MPa, imposed maximum shear strain rates (γ) of $1 \times 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$ and $3 \times 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, and total shear strains (γ) between 0.16 and 5.5. We observe that 1) in carbonate composites, even low dolomite contents greatly affect rock strength; 2) coarse-grained dolomite accommodates strain by brittle deformation in high dolomite content samples; and 3) calcite deforms by dislocation glide and diffusion creep assisted grain boundary sliding. Finally, we compare the experimental results to other studies and comment on their application to natural deformation environments.

2. Starting material

2.1. Starting powders and sample preparation

Two end member powders (coarse-grained dolomite and fine-grained calcite, described below) were mixed in varying proportions to produce four distinct compositions: Dm25, Dm35, Dm51, and Dm75. Reagent-grade calcite powder (Minerma *®*) (supplied by Alberto Luisoni AG, Mineral- & Kunststoffe) is characterized by equiaxed calcite grains exhibiting rare growth twins. The powder has a modal grain size of 9 μm (Fig. 1A), as measured with a Mastersizer 2000 laser diffraction particle size analyser (Malvern Instruments Ltd., Rietveld refinement of XRD spectra (Raudsepp et al., 1999) of the calcite powder confirms its composition to be 99% CaCO$_3$; the remaining constituents are Mg, Al, Fe, and Si oxides.

A 4 kg block of Badshot marble, a natural dolomite marble from the Selkirk Mountains of British Columbia, was crushed to produce a powder with a broad grain size distribution and modal grain size of ~120 μm (Fig. 1A). Badshot dolomite is characterized by coarse dolomite grains (mean grain size of 477 μm, (Austin and Kennedy, 2005)) featuring lobate grain boundaries and fine, polygonal grains. Cleavage and twinning are prevalent in most grains (Austin, 2003; Austin et al., 2005). XRD analysis of the powder indicates a mineralogy that is ~99.8% dolomite. Thin section analysis reveals trace quantities (<<1%) of pyrite, apatite, calcite, tremolite, and white mica; these accessory phases are sufficiently low in abundance to be undetected by XRD analysis.

The powder mixtures were mechanically shaken to create homogeneous mixtures; the grain size distributions of the mixed powders are shown in Fig. 1B. The mixed starting powders have a bimodal grain size distribution, reflecting the dolomite proportion. The powder mixtures were then dried at 120 °C for a minimum of 24 hours before being cold pressed into stainless steel, cylindrical canisters. The canisters were filled and pressed in 20g increments to produce homogenous packing of the powder along the canister length. This was done to avoid pressure shadow development during heat treatment. Pressing was done with an Enerpac-H-Frame 50 ton press up to a load of 40 tons, corresponding to a vertical stress of 200 MPa. A small volume of alumina powder with a porosity of ~30% was placed at the top and bottom of the canisters to act as a CO$_2$ sink for decarbonating dolomite. This ensured the migration of the emitted CO$_2$ to the storage areas, allowing the porosity to remain reduced in the rest of the canister.

All canisters were welded shut and, subsequently, hot isostatic pressed (HIP) to produce synthetic composite rock samples. The HIP was performed in a large volume, internally heated, argon gas apparatus under a confining pressure of 170 MPa (Delle Piane et al.,...
and temperature of 700 °C for 4 hours. The resultant products form a suite of coherent, sintered materials of known compositions and consistent grain size. Rietveld refinements of XRD spectra collected on the composite samples did not detect periclase (MgO) nor lime (CaO), indicating that there was no detectable decarbonation of dolomite or calcite during the HIP process. Rietveld refinements also confirm the four starting material compositions as containing 25%, 35%, 51%, and 75% dolomite.

2.2. Microstructural and textural analyses

Starting materials were thin sectioned normal to the canister long axes (i.e. normal to the pressing direction) and polished using a rotary polishing wheel and 200 nm silica bead colloidal solution. Backscatter electron (BSE) and secondary electron (SE) SEM images were collected using a thermal field emission type Zeiss Sigma SEM with 1.3 nm resolution at 20 kV acceleration voltage. Probe current was 1.37 nA.

Electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) analysis was completed to map the crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) of the starting materials and the evolution of the CPO of subsequently deformed materials. EBSD measurements were made using an EDAX DigiView EBSD camera. Samples were inclined to the electron beam at 70° to produce clear diffraction patterns for automated identification using Orientation Imaging Microscopy (OIM™) Data Collection and Data Analysis software. The average crystallographic orientation for each individual grain was used to generate pole figures using PF.Euler_PC.exe (Pera et al., 2003). CPO strength is characterized by the J-texture index (the density distribution of the crystallographic orientations (Miyazaki et al., 2013)); we use both the pole figure J-index (pfJ) and the J-index (J). Indices vary from 1 (random crystallographic orientations; no CPO) to infinity (one discrete crystallographic orientation). The J-index (calculated using mtex-3.5.0 (Bachmann et al., 2010)) incorporates all slip systems, while the pfJ-index (calculated using PF.Euler_PC.exe) is a measure of the strength of the CPO along a defined slip axis (e.g. c-axis).

Energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) was performed on all analysed samples using an Apollo XL Silicon Drift Detector (SDD) at a typical working distance of 14 mm. EDS data were collected in conjunction with EBSD diffraction patterns and used to identify dolomite based on the apparent relative concentrations of Mg:Ca. EDS spectra suggesting Ca:Mg ratios ~1 were interpreted as indicating the presence of dolomite.

2.3. Starting material characterization

The skeletal and isolated pore space volume, \( V_{\text{si}} \), of each sample was determined prior to deformation using a Micrometrics Multivolume Pycnometer 1305 helium pycnometer. Connected porosity, \( \phi \), was calculated from the geometric bulk volume, \( V_b \), and skeletal and isolated pore volume:

\[
\phi = \left( 1 - \frac{V_{\text{si}}}{V_b} \right) \times 100\%
\]

The final composition, porosity, and density of the starting materials are given in Table 1.

Calcite grains are approximately equiaxed, generally have straight grain boundaries, and are closely packed with triple junction grain boundaries (Fig. 2A and C). Porosity is isolated along grain boundaries and at triple junctions and therefore may not be accessed by the helium gas; the porosity data obtained by pycnometry are considered lower limits.

Dolomite grains are generally distributed homogeneously in all synthetic starting materials (Fig. 2B and D); rarely, coarser grains of dolomite may cluster together. Dolomite grains are angular to subangular and contain intragranular fractures; straight fractures appear to follow cleavage planes but curved fractures also exist. Since these fractures do not continue into the calcite matrix, they are attributed to the crushing process used to produce the starting dolomite powder. Intergranular porosity is greatest at dolomite–calcite interfaces (Fig. 2C).

Observations of the Dm25 and Dm35 starting materials made by SEM reveal randomly distributed circular concentrations of calcite up to ~500 μm in diameter (Fig. 3A). These concentrations are spherical and likely accreted during mechanical shaking of the starting powders. The margins of these calcite aggregates are accentuated by edge-parallel oriented dolomite grains (Fig. 3B). Similarly, coarse dolomite grains can also be encased in a halo of predominantly fine-grained calcite.

Individual calcite grains within the starting materials are undeformed, showing little to no undulose extinction. Lower hemisphere stereographic projections for calcite obtained from EBSD analysis indicate a weak CPO of the calcite c-axis (Fig. 2B and D). The c-axis is oriented perpendicular to the load direction during cold pressing, as observed by Rutter et al. (1994), and regardless of calcite content does not vary significantly. Dolomite in the starting materials shows no CPO along any of the common dolomite glide planes (Fig. 2B and D). The CPO peaks on the dolomite stereonets are artefacts caused by the relatively small number of dolomite grains in the scanned area (a result of their large grain size) and cause erroneously high pfJ-indices, indicating strong textures focused around single grains.

<p>| Table 1 Properties of HIP samples: dolomite content (Dm%), connected porosity (( \phi )), density (( \rho )) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dm (%)</th>
<th>( \phi ) (%)</th>
<th>( \rho ) (kg m(^{-3}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3.3 ± 0.2</td>
<td>2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>3.3 ± 0.2</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.2 ± 0.3</td>
<td>2.85</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grain size distributions based on two-dimensional images for Dm25 and Dm75 were calculated using OIM™ Data Analysis software by fitting a model ellipse to each crystallographically identified grain (Fig. 4). Both starting compositions show similar calcite grain size distributions; Dm25 and Dm75 have modal calcite grain sizes of 5.5 μm and 4.5 μm, respectively (Fig. 4A). Dolomite grain size distributions are shown in Fig. 4B. These estimates are less precise than for calcite because there are fewer dolomite grains in the scan areas, but we observe a broad grain size distribution ranging between 0 and 100 μm.

3. Deformation apparatus and techniques

The HIP materials were cored into 10 mm and 15 mm diameter cylinders. The core ends were flattened and polished perpendicular to the cylinder sides. Samples were dried in an oven at 100 °C then mounted between alumina and partially stabilized zirconia spacers and encased in iron jacketing. A jacket thickness of 0.25 mm was used for 15 mm diameter samples. Jackets for 10 mm diameter samples were swaged to the correct inner diameter resulting in thickening of the jacket wall to 0.4 mm.

All experiments were performed using an internally heated, argon-confining medium pressure vessel equipped with torsion actuator, described by Paterson and Olgaard (2000) (Fig. 5A). The experiments were performed in torsion at constant angular displacement rates, corresponding to constant maximum shear strain rates of \( 1 \times 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1} \) and \( 3 \times 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1} \). Confining pressure and temperature were held constant at 300 MPa and 750 °C.
respectively. Sample temperature was monitored using a K-type thermocouple placed 3 mm above the sample. The thermal profile along the sample was calibrated to be consistent within 1 °C. All samples were heated and cooled at 10 °C/min.

The applied torque was measured using an internal load cell equipped with a pair of pre-calibrated linear variable differential transformers (LVDTs). Measured torque was corrected for the strength of the iron jacket (Barnhoorn, 2003) and converted to shear stress at the sample surface:

$$\tau = \frac{4(3 + \frac{1}{n})M}{\pi d^3}$$

(2)

where $\tau$ is shear stress, $M$ is internal torque, $d$ is the diameter of the sample, and $n$ is the stress exponent (Paterson and Olgaard, 2000). In this study, the power law creep relationship used is:

$$\dot{\gamma} = A\tau^n e^{Q/RT}$$

(3)

where $A$ and $Q$ are constants, $n$ is the stress exponent, $T$ is the temperature in Kelvin, and $R$ is the gas constant (Paterson and Olgaard, 2000). $n$ is experimentally determined for a given composition by conducting a strain rate stepping experiment and plotting the total torque response ($M$) to changing strain rate ($\dot{\gamma}$). As $M$ is linearly related to $\tau$, the slope of the log–log plot $\dot{\gamma}$ vs. $M$ yields $n$ according to:

$$n = \frac{d \ln \dot{\gamma}}{d \ln M}$$

(4)

Comparison between torsion and axial experiments is necessary for comparing our data to studies of other carbonate systems. At the same nominal strain rates ($\dot{\epsilon} = \dot{\gamma}$), differential stress ($\sigma_1 - \sigma_3$) is calculated:

$$\sigma_1 - \sigma_3 = 3\frac{3n^2}{1+n^2} \tau$$

(5)

where $\sigma_1$ is the calculated maximum compressive stress, $\sigma_3$ is the minimum compressive stress, and $\tau$ is shear stress (Paterson and Olgaard, 2000).

4. Mechanical results

To maintain the stability of dolomite, we performed all experiments under unvented conditions and within the stability field of calcite and dolomite (Goldsmith, 1959). XRD analysis revealed no evidence of decarbonation products; we conclude that the low porosity of our starting materials allowed equilibrium pore pressures to be reached by the dissociation of trace amounts of dolomite (Davis et al., 2008; Delle Piane et al., 2009a; Holyoke et al., 2013). We have accounted for the effective pressure caused by parallel to the canister length and into the page. A, Dm25; Equiaxed calcite grains, closely packed with straight grain boundaries forming triple junctions. There is significant residual intergranular porosity at calcite grain boundaries. B, Dm25; Lower hemisphere contoured stereoplots for the c slip system for calcite (left) and dolomite (right). $N$ is the number of grains used to produce the pole figures, $J$ is the J-texture index, and $p J$ is the pole figure J-texture index, reflecting texture strength of the c-slip system. Pole figure contours are inverse log. C, Dm75; Equiaxed calcite grains, closely packed with straight grain boundaries forming triple junctions. Residual porosity is concentrated at dolomite boundaries. D, Dm75; Lower hemisphere contoured stereoplots for the c slip system for calcite (left) and dolomite (right). $N$ is the number of grains used to produce the pole figures, $J$ is the J-texture index, and $p J$ is the pole figure J-texture index, reflecting texture strength of the c-slip system. Pole figure contours are inverse log. Note the large variation in dolomite grain size that is also common in naturally formed dolomitic limestones.
calcite dolomite grains are oriented such that their long axes are tangential to the circumference of the aggregate. The dashed white line identifies the boundary between pure calcite and calcite–dolomite. Porosity within the aggregate is homogeneously distributed and occurs along calcite grain boundaries, specifically at triple junctions.

All experiments performed in this study, including experimental conditions and sample compositions, are summarized in Table 2. Dm25, Dm35, and Dm75 samples were deformed in strain rate stepping experiments to empirically determine the stress exponent n (see Table 2, Fig. 6). All mechanical data are fit using Eq. (2) and are shown in Fig. 7A (high strain rate experiments) and Fig. 7B (low strain rate experiments). High strain rate experiments were conducted for all four compositions (experiments P1522, P1525, P1527, P1528, P1537, and P1538) at T = 750 °C and P<sub>c</sub> = 300 MPa. The shear strain for these experiments exceeded \( \gamma = 5 \) (Fig. 7A). Experiment P1537’s (Dm51) heating history is not confidently known beyond \( \gamma \approx 2 \); only the mechanical data up until this point is used and this sample was not used for microstructural analysis. Low strain rate experiments were conducted for compositions Dm35 (P1543), Dm51 (P1523), and Dm75 (P1533) at T = 750 °C and P<sub>c</sub> = 300 MPa (Fig. 7B). The maximum shear strain for these experiments was approximately \( \gamma = 2 \).

Yield and peak strength of the synthetic composite samples increases with increasing dolomite content (Table 2; Fig. 7C). Yield strength was taken as the departure from the elastic response of the material. Experiments P1527 (Dm25) and P1524 (Dm35) were halted manually. Experiments P1533 (Dm51), P1543, and P1545 were halted due to jacket ruptures resulting from the inherent strength of the Dm51 and Dm75 materials at 15 mm sample diameters. To mitigate this behaviour, Dm51 (P1537) and Dm75 (P1538) sample diameters were reduced to 10 mm so that these compositions could be deformed to high strain. P1537 (Dm51) reached a tenuous steady-state at \( \gamma = 140 \) MPa and \( \gamma = 0.4 \) (Fig. 7A). The mechanical behaviour of the Dm75 sample evolves throughout deformation: after attaining a peak strength of \( 178 \) MPa, dramatic strain weakening at \( \gamma \approx 1 \) is recorded (Fig. 7A). Strain hardening and subsequent strain weakening is observed between \( 3 < \gamma < 4 \). Experiments P1533 and P1543 were halted manually.

5. Microstructure and texture of deformed materials

5.1. Analytical methods

After deformation, all samples were cut along the longitudinal tangential section of the core (Fig. 5B) and doubly-polished petrographic thin sections were prepared with Crystalbond© adhesive. This plane shows the maximum shear strain attained in the sample.

In addition to SEM, EBSD, and EDS analyses (see Section 2.2), microstructures for transmission electron microscopy (TEM) were selected. After having been mounted on 3 mm copper discs, the areas were thinned by Ar-ion bombardment in a Gatan PIPS thinning unit. TEM examination was performed with a JEOL 2011 STEM apparatus operated at 200kV.

Electron-probe micro-analyses of selected deformed samples were done to confirm exact grain composition. Data were collected on a Cameca SX-50 instrument, operating in the wavelength-dispersion mode using: excitation voltage: 15 kV; beam current: 10 nA; peak count time: 20 s; background count-time: 10 s; spot diameter: 10 μm. Data reduction was done using the ‘PAP’ \( \phi(pZ) \) method (Pouchou and Pichoir, 1985).

5.2. Microstructure: low dolomite content samples

The circular calcite aggregates identified in starting materials Dm25 and Dm35 (Fig. 3) are deformed non-coaxially into thin bands (ellipsoids) of pure calcite with aspect ratios ranging from 19 to 23 (Fig. 8A). These thin layers of pure calcite, interlaced with the calcite–dolomite mixture, define a compositional layering in the low dolomite content samples (Dm25 and Dm35; Fig. 8A and B). As these aggregates were originally circular in cross-section and assuming there was no loss of volume during deformation, the shear strain by simple shear can be calculated:

\[
\gamma = \cot \alpha' - \cot \alpha
\]

where \( \alpha \) is the initial angle between a line and the direction of shear, and \( \alpha' \) is the same angle after deformation. For the torsional simple shear assumption, the instantaneous stretching axis is oriented in the \( xz \)-plane at \( 45^\circ \) to the direction of shear and is equal to \( \alpha \) for the initially circular aggregates. Accumulation of strain with increasing imposed sample twist produces the maximum stretching direction preserved by the long axis of the elliptical calcite aggregates. The angle between this orientation and the direction of shear is \( \alpha' \) (Fig. 8A). These features record shear strains of 5.14 and 6.11 for Dm25 and Dm35, respectively.

Calcite layers are sheared and rotated nearly parallel to the shear direction, while the surrounding dolomite–calcite mixture defines a shape foliation oblique to the shear direction (Fig. 8B), defining a global s-c mylonite fabric. Dolomite grains with high aspect ratios...
(i.e. aspect ratios >1) are subject to rigid body rotation and their long axes are aligned subparallel to the layering, inclined to the shear direction; these are interpreted as shape (s-) fabrics (Fig. 8B and C). Accessory pyrite is elongated and passively marks the local fabric (Fig. 8C) while thin, discontinuous zones of relative high shear strain are oriented nearly parallel to the shear direction and are interpreted as c-surfaces (Fig. 8D).

Calcite grains are generally polygonal, equiaxed to tabular, and closely packed with straight grain boundaries meeting at triple junctions (Fig. 8E). The more tabular shaped calcite grains are aligned parallel to the shape foliation (inclined to the shear direction; Fig. 8E). Calcite grains comprising the pure calcite layers are also mostly equiaxed, with straight grain boundaries exhibiting triple junctions. Two dimensional grain size distributions for Dm25 show possible calcite grain growth during deformation from 6 µm to 7.5 µm (Fig. 4A). The dolomite grains show little to no evidence of internal strain nor is there any evidence of grain size reduction due to fracture (Fig. 8A and C). Dolomite grains do not appear to have sustained any additional fracture (e.g. microcracking and shear fracturing), as fracture density is qualitatively the same as in the starting material. Rounding of dolomite grains less than approximately 50 µm in diameter is observed in all dolomite-poor deformed samples. While dolomite grains <100 µm show some rounding (Fig. 8B and E), there is no significant rounding of grains above ~100 µm.

Porosity is visibly reduced with respect to the starting material and is typically preserved at triple junctions of calcite grains (Fig. 8E). Locally, there are regions of higher porosity within the calcite matrix aligned along foliation (Fig. 8F). These regions are located in pressure shadow-like geometries along the peripheries of some dolomite grains that are >70 µm in diameter (Fig. 8F).

5.3. Microstructure: high dolomite content samples

In high dolomite content (>50%) samples, a poorly developed compositional layering is defined by crude variations in grain size and fine-grained, high aspect ratio dolomite (Fig. 9A and B). Locally, a shape fabric inclined to the shear direction is defined by rotated dolomite grains <20 µm in diameter (Fig. 9B). Areas of localized
strain in the patchy calcite layers are common. Thin, interconnected networks of fine-grained calcite form ribbons that define a discontinuous and irregular foliation that is deflected around more rigid coarse-grained dolomite (Fig. 9A and C). Sheared pyrite grains wrap around dolomite grains (Fig. 9A and C).

The calcite microstructure is similar to the low dolomite samples; calcite grains are locally equiaxed to tabular, bounded by straight grain boundaries, and form triple junctions with neighbouring calcite grains (Fig. 9B). In areas of high dolomite content, irrespective of the overall shape fabric, calcite grain are oriented parallel to the dolomite grain boundaries (especially in narrow regions between dolomite grains; Fig. 9B). Two dimensional grain size distributions for P1538 (Dm75) show possible calcite grain size reduction during deformation (from 4.5 to 3.5 μm) in Dm75 (Fig. 4A).

Brittle deformation of dolomite is evident in all high dolomite content samples; intragranular shear fractures are common in the larger dolomite grains and are lined with fine grained calcite (Fig. 9A). These fractures do not propagate into the surrounding calcite matrix. Locally, dolomite is fragmented by domino-style and antithetic shear fractures (Fig. 9A and D).

5.4. Deformation textures

EBSD analyses of samples Dm25, Dm35, and Dm75 taken to high strain show a strong crystallographic preferred orientation of calcite crystals (Fig. 10). The c-axes define double maxima with the bisecting line normal to the direction of maximum stretching, indicating basal slip activation. With increasing dolomite content, the c-axis CPOs become more diffuse, though pfJ- and J-indices are indicating basal slip activation. With increasing dolomite content, bisecting line normal to the direction of maximum stretching, the effect of the second phase (dolomite) on calcite fabric development.

The calcite layer has higher pfJ- and J-indices (Fig. 12E), indicating a stronger texture than the surrounding dolomite–dolomite matrix (Fig. 12B, C, and D). The CPO of a region scanned ~600 μm away from the calcite layer (Fig. 12C) shows the ‘background’ CPO of the matrix: both the c and a axes are well defined and asymmetrically distributed around the SZB and normal to the SZB, respectively. Adjacent to the calcite layer (~100 μm away from the calcite band; Fig. 12D), which still contains dolomite grains, calcite has a similar CPO to that shown in Fig. 12C. Within the calcite layer (Fig. 12E), the CPOs show the tightest clusters. The c-axis is symmetrically distributed perpendicular to the shear zone boundary (SZB).

To illustrate the evolution of fabric with increasing shear strain, thin sections were cut along different longitudinal axial sections (see Fig. 5B) from the same core for each experiment, and CPOs were measured using EBSD (Fig. 13). The calcite c-axes are inclined to the shear zone boundary and define tighter maxima with increasing shear strain. The pfJ- and J-indices also increase with increasing strain. For the Dm75 experiment, the c-axis maxima are more diffuse than for the Dm25 and Dm35 experiments.

There is no well-developed CPO in dolomite from deformed samples (Fig. 10C and F), nor is there pervasive undulose extinction, though Dm75 shows minor undulose extinction in coarse-grained dolomite. The pfJ- and J-indices do not vary significantly from the starting material, although they are higher than the same indices for calcite. We interpret this to be, in large part, due to the limited number of data points used to calculate these values.

6. Chemical changes attending deformation

EDS analysis of calcite and dolomite grains in deformed samples highlights changes in composition with increasing shear strain. In particular, the magnesium contents of calcite grains increase with increasing strain. This is most pronounced in calcite grains proximal to fine-grained dolomite phases. Fig. 14 demonstrates the evolution of magnesium transfer from γ = 0 (Fig. 14A) to the largest strains (Fig. 14C) for P1527 (Dm25). At γ = 0, magnesium is restricted to dolomite grains, but with increasing strain magnesium becomes more mobile and defines a foliation between dolomite grains (white streaks in Fig. 14C).

Electron microprobe analysis was used to quantify the extent of Mg²⁺ migration from dolomite to calcite during deformation in high strain experiments P1527 (Dm25) and P1538 (Dm75). Microprobe analysis confirms depletion of Mg²⁺ in fine-grained dolomite proximal to Mg²⁺ enriched calcite in Dm25; however, calcite

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Table 2: List of deformation experiments performed and results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>Dm (%)</th>
<th>T (°C)</th>
<th>Pc (MPa)</th>
<th>Peff (MPa)</th>
<th>γ (s⁻¹)</th>
<th>γmax</th>
<th>τyield (MPa)</th>
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n.d. not determined, Dm – dolomite content (%), T – temperature (°C), Pc – confining pressure (MPa), Peff – effective pressure (MPa), γ – shear strain rate (s⁻¹), γmax – maximum shear stress, τyield – yield strength (MPa), τpeak – peak strength (MPa), τγ−1.5 – strength at a shear strain of 1.5 (MPa), n – stress exponent.
removed from dolomite grain boundaries is not enriched. Mg-enrichment of calcite is pervasive in Dm75, regardless of proximity to thin ribbons of plastically deformed calcite, owing to the abundance of dolomite throughout the system. Microprobe data can be found in the Supplementary Materials.

7. Discussion

7.1. The role of dolomite

In all our experiments, peak shear stress is higher than that determined for 100% calcite of the same grain size and deformed under similar experimental conditions (Fig. 7C). For example, the peak shear stress for pure, synthetic calcite aggregates with an average grain size of 7 µm deformed in torsion at 727 °C, \( P_c = 300 \text{ MPa} \), and \( \dot{\gamma} = 3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1} \) is 15 MPa (Barnhoorn et al., 2005a). Peak shear stresses for Solnhofen limestone (grain size ~5 µm) under the same conditions were ~40 MPa (Barnhoorn et al., 2005a). Predicted equivalent shear flow stresses for diffusion creep in Mg-rich calcite (Herwegh et al., 2003) and pure calcite (Walker et al., 1990) are 6 MPa and 13 MPa, respectively (see Herwegh et al. (2005) for flow law parameters used). All these peak stresses are significantly lower than the peak shear stress attained during the Dm25 dolomite content experiments (79 MPa for P1522 and 82 MPa for P1527) in this study. These larger recorded shear stresses may be symptomatic of an increased strain rate in the calcite phase as it deforms around rigid dolomite. Indeed, assuming all deformation in our samples is accommodated within the calcite phase, the predicted shear strain rates calculated using the peak shear stresses recorded for P1527 (Dm25) are over one order of magnitude faster (\( 6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \)) and \( 4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1} \) for pure and Mg-rich calcite, respectively; see Herwegh et al. (2005) for flow laws and flow law parameters used) than the imposed strain rate of \( 3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1} \).

In our low-dolomite content experiments (Dm25 and Dm35), coarse-grained dolomite grains show no evidence of extensive
Fig. 8. SEM images. Deformed material: Dm25, P1527; γ-5; 750 °C; 3 = 10⁻⁴ s⁻¹. Dolomite is the larger, dark grey phase. Calcite makes up the light grey matrix. Pyrite is white. Longitudinal tangential plane (refer to Fig. 5B). The shear zone boundary is horizontal in all images. A. Foliation is defined by elongate calcite aggregates (dashed ellipses). Shear strain is calculated by \( \gamma = \cot \alpha - \cot \beta \). B. The foliation in the bulk calcite–dolomite matrix is deflected and converges with the higher strained pure-calcite band (oriented sub-parallel to the shear zone boundary). Dashed white lines delineate the bulk foliation within the sample. Dashed black lines delineates the boundaries of the pure calcite band. C. C-s mylonite texture. Foliation is defined by surfaces of apparent localized strain (black rectangle), elongate pyrite grains, and rotated, high aspect ratio dolomite grains. Dolomite grains are organized along both s- and c-foliation and are not obviously rounded. D. Localised c-surfaces appear as thin, dark, discontinuous layers defined by ultrafine-grained material. A selection of c-surfaces are highlighted by arrows. E. Closely packed, equiaxed to tabular calcite-grains. Grain boundaries form triple junctions and are generally straight. Note significant isolated porosity. F. Considerable isolated porosity located within ‘pressure shadow’-like regions of dolomite grains.
brittle or intracrystalline deformation. However, finer grained dolomite (<50 μm) with aspect ratios >1 are rotated into the foliation, suggesting their active role as rotating rigid bodies. We propose that most shear strain was partitioned into the fine-grained calcite layers and that although the dolomite grains are not internally strained or highly fractured, the distribution of these rigid bodies acts to create anastomosing, connected networks of calcite grains. In effect, the dispersed dolomite grains provide local resistance to flow and this resistance results in an increase in the flow stresses necessary for steady state deformation.

Although we observe a moderate increase in strength in the 51% dolomite experiment relative to Dm25 and Dm35 (Fig. 7A), the Dm75 sample shows a two-fold increase in strength over compositions Dm25 (P1522 and P1527) and Dm35 (P1524). We interpret the high yield stress of Dm75 as a result of the load being supported by dolomite–dolomite contacts. We propose that the significant shear stress drop in experiment P1538 (Dm75) represents fracture of dolomite grains by shear fracture and subsequent grain size reduction (refer to Fig. 9A and D). A short-lived steady state is attained once a temporary grain boundary network is established within the fine-grained calcite (Fig. 9C), permitting flow. In essence, disruption of the calcite network leads to strain hardening while re-establishment of the calcite networks leads to the final strain weakening (Fig. 7A). Similar behaviour is suggested for the strong phases in other multi-phase systems (e.g. Rybacki et al. (2003)). For instance, in quartz–calcite composites, the addition of quartz (the strong phase, analogous to dolomite in our system) significantly increases the flow stress needed for steady state deformation (Rybacki et al., 2003).

In our experiments, the high dolomite content (75%) samples are strongest, yet they are significantly weaker than 100% coarse-grained dolomite deformed under similar elevated pressure-temperature conditions (Fig. 7C; Davis et al., 2008; Holyoke et al., 2013). The peak shear stress of 167 MPa achieved in experiment P1538 (Dm75) is lower than the reported strengths for Madoc dolomite (grain size of 240 μm) at 700 °C (equivalent yield shear stress of 241 MPa; equivalent shear stress at 5% strain of 377 MPa; equivalent γ = 2 × 10^{-4} s^{-1}) and 800 °C (equivalent peak shear stress of 257 MPa for an equivalent γ = 1.7 × 10^{-5} s^{-1}). We attribute the relative weakness in our Dm75 sample to the role of calcite
networks in weakening the rocks. Coarse-grained dolomite does not undergo any significant intracrystalline plasticity and deforms, instead, by fracture. We interpret that shear strain is partitioned into thin, fine-grained, interconnected calcite–dolomite layers that are developed during shear strain and are deflected around large dolomite clasts (Fig. 9C). This shear strain-induced configuration results in a weaker rock.

Our data suggest that for dolomite contents below a minimum of 35%, dolomite does not actively deform, but its presence is rate-controlling given the strength of the composites compared to micritic limestone (Figs. 7C and 15A). Only when dolomite, the ‘strong’ phase, is present in sufficient quantities (>51%) to inhibit the flow of calcite and/or restrict calcite flow to narrow, localized bands does brittle fracture of dolomite grains become mechanically significant in accommodating strain, indeed, leading to the initial embrittlement within the system.

We propose that in shear systems containing <75% dolomite (with the remaining being calcite), rocks will have the ability to...
accommodate significant shear strain at much lower shear stresses than pure dolomite. Conversely, even at low concentrations (i.e. 25%), the presence of coarse-grained dolomite in a micritic calcite matrix will have a profound effect on the strength of composite materials; the strength increases with respect to a pure calcite system since dolomite grains inhibit the flow of calcite. Eventual embrittlement of dolomite within the system may be required to re-establish plastic networks of fine-grained calcite.

### 7.2. The case for grain boundary sliding

Contrasting stress exponents determined from the strain rate stepping experiments of Dm25, Dm35, and Dm75 suggest the influence of more than one deformation mechanism. For the adopted relationship, $\dot{\gamma} \propto \dot{\varepsilon}^n$, calcite-rich samples give $n = 1.7 \pm 0.23$ (Dm35; P1529) and $2.0 \pm 0.43$ (Dm25; P1711), while dolomite-rich sample gives $n = 3.6 \pm 0.12$ (Dm75; P1713). Broadly interpreted, a $n \geq 3$ reflects dislocation creep related flow (Weertman, 1957), while $1 < n < 3$ correlates with a grain-size-sensitive (GSS) rheology (Schmid et al., 1977). GSS deformation involves a component of independent grain boundary sliding that is accommodated by grain boundary diffusion ($n = 1$; Coble, 1963) or movement of grain boundary dislocations ($n = 2$, Gifkins, 1976).

In this study, the $n = 1.7$ and 2.0 determined for low dolomite experiments (Dm25 and Dm35) suggest a component of GSS rheology. The low dolomite composites attain mechanical steady state immediately following yield shear stress, which suggests the development of a stable microstructure. Microstructurally, the calcite matrices comprise small, equidimensional, polygonal grains that are strain free at the optical microscope and EBSD scale: a microstructure typically associated with GSS creep (Rutter, 1974; Schmid, 1976; Schmid et al., 1977; Walker et al., 1990). In addition, we do not observe any subgrains and there is no evidence for dynamic recrystallization. Furthermore, grain size distributions of the starting and deformed materials show limited change in calcite grain size; the grain size data calculated from EBSD analysis record neither significant grain growth nor grain size reduction in the deformed samples.

Preliminary TEM observations of the calcite aggregates show that dislocations are abundant while subgrains are absent (Fig. 11). The dislocation density and the absence of subgrains in tandem with polygonal grains meeting at triple junctions are consistent with shear strain accommodated by independent grain boundary displacements (Langdon, 2006). Reconciliation of the experimental and textural data is accomplished by considering mixed-mode deformation of the calcite aggregates including: independent grain boundary sliding, intracrystalline dislocation glide, and diffusion creep (Casey et al., 1997). This behaviour is characterized by near Newtonian flow ($n = 1$; typically $1 < n < 3$ for constitutive equations of the form $\dot{\gamma} \propto \dot{\varepsilon}^n$) and is observed for temperatures $>0.5$ the material’s homologous temperature (Langdon, 2006). We expect grains to be equiaxed, polygonal, strain free, and generally less than 10 microns in diameter. As a result of irregularities at grain boundaries and, especially, at the junctions where more than two grains meet, independent grain boundary sliding is accomplished by Rachinger sliding resulting in strain free, equiaxed grains. Grain boundary sliding also encourages chemical exchange between phases, such as the transfer of Mg$^{2+}$ between phases observed in our experimental run-products, since neighbouring grains are constantly moving past one another (Herwegh et al., 2003).

Critically, small quantities of Mg$^{2+}$ in calcite limit grain growth, thereby keeping grain size sensitive diffusion creep and grain boundary sliding operative during deformation (Herwegh et al., 2003), even under high homologous conditions. Herwegh et al. (2003) found that calcite grain size is inversely proportional to Mg-content, resulting in an extrinsic control on strength as calcite grain growth is inhibited. In our experiments, Mg$^{2+}$ migration from dolomite to calcite confirms that diffusion creep processes occurred during deformation. Diffusion processes likely contributed to maintaining the small calcite grain size throughout the experiments (Davis et al., 2008; Delle Piane et al., 2008a; Delle Piane et al., 2008; Holyoke et al., 2013). Rybacki et al. (2003) suggest that in the quartz–calcite system, Si incorporated into the dislocation cores of
Fig. 12. Crystallographic preferred orientation development near calcite aggregates. The shear zone boundary (SZB) is horizontal in all BSE images and EBSD maps. N is the number of grains used to produce the pole figures, J is the J-texture index, and pJ is the pole figure J-texture index, reflecting texture strength of the individual slip systems. Pole figure contours are inverse log. All pole figures are lower hemisphere projections. A. BSE image of Dm25 sample deformed to γ = 5.5 (see Table 2; P1527). A calcite sphere that has been sheared into an ellipsoid is delineated by the black dashed lines. B. EBSD map and stereonet projection of the c and a slip systems in calcite across the deformed calcite band. C. EBSD map and stereonet projection of calcite in a region removed from the calcite band. D. EBSD map and stereonet projections of a region adjacent to the calcite band, but including dolomite grains. E. EBSD map and stereonet projection of a region within the calcite band.
Cooper, 2008). Our J-indices are similar to those calculated for creep as the dominant deformation mechanism (Sundberg and mobility; grain boundary sliding may be favoured in systems where creep can lead to CPO development despite little dislocation boundary sliding (GBS) frequently occurring on specific orientations is often crystallographically controlled with grain boundary displacements (Ashby and Verrall, 1973; Langdon, 2006). However, Miyazaki et al. (2013) show that grain boundary orientation is often crystallographically controlled with grain boundary sliding (GBS) frequently occurring on specific planes. CPO development can, therefore, be by-product of grain rotation by GBS (Miyazaki et al., 2013). Critically, interface-controlled diffusion creep can lead to CPO development despite little dislocation mobility; grain boundary sliding may be favoured in systems where grain boundary anisotropy is significant thus precluding dislocation creep as the dominant deformation mechanism (Sundberg and Cooper, 2008). Our J-indices are similar to those calculated for Solnhofen limestone (Barnhoorn et al., 2005a) and fine-grained calcite–dolomite composites (Delle Piane et al., 2009a) deformed to high shear strains; they are significantly lower than those reported in synthetic, fine-grained calcite aggregates deformed to high shear strains (Barnhoorn et al., 2005a). This likely results from the presence of a second phase in our samples that curtails grain growth in the material, keeping the grain size small (Barnhoorn et al., 2005a; Herwegh and Kunze, 2002; Olggaard, 1990) and hindering pervasive dislocation mobility. Indeed, even nano-scale second phases are sufficient to pin grain boundaries (Herwegh and Kunze, 2002); the fine-grained dolomite and minor accessory phases in our samples are likely sufficient to pin grain boundaries, hampering grain growth and keeping grain boundary sliding a dominant mechanism. The strength of the CPO for the calcite aggregates and the lack of subgrains are consistent with grain boundary sliding assisted by limited dislocation glide/creep (Rutter et al., 1994; Schmid et al., 1987). Increased Mg$^{2+}$ mobility from dolomite to calcite (see Fig. 14 and Supplementary Material) suggests that diffusion processes are also active during deformation of our samples.

The microstructure and texture of calcite aggregates in all run products in this study supports grain boundary sliding accommodated by diffusion creep and possible dislocation glide/creep (Ashby and Verrall, 1973; Casey et al., 1997; Langdon, 2006; Mukherjee, 1975; Schmid et al., 1977). Grain boundary diffusion results in the subtle elongation of calcite grains and the solid-state diffusion processes that accommodate Mg$^{2+}$ movement from dolomite into calcite (Delle Piane et al., 2009a; Langdon, 2006). This is consistent with the more pronounced grain elongation and Mg$^{2+}$ movement observed in Dm75. Similar microstructures and textures have been published on both 100% fine-grained calcite (Casey et al., 1997; Schmid et al., 1977) and fine-grained dolomite–calcite composites (Delle Piane et al., 2009a) and the same deformation mechanisms have been proposed.

The most dolomite-rich experiment (P1538; Dm75) shows a mixed response to deformation: fracture in dolomite and plastic flow of calcite. Mechanically, the Dm75 composite is the strongest and the most complex: the material sustained a stress drop followed by the attainment of stable flow after a shear strain of –1, followed by an episode of strain hardening and strain softening (Fig. 7A). The rheological behaviour of Dm75 is better described by power law creep of calcite with Mohr Coulomb behaviour in dolomite. The stress drop in Dm75 may have been a result of fracture of dolomite and reconfiguration of the material to attain an interconnected network of calcite, thereby attaining stable flow.

### 7.3. Deformation of two-phase aggregates

In our study, calcite is the weak phase. The addition of a second phase to a calcite matrix can both strengthen (Austin et al., 2014; Barnhoorn et al., 2005b; Delle Piane et al., 2009a; Delle Piane et al., 2009b; Rybacki et al., 2003) and weaken (Austin et al., 2014; Delle Piane et al., 2009a) the composite aggregate. In fine-grained calcite aggregates that accommodate shear strain primarily by grain boundary sliding, the addition of fine-grained dolomite strengthens the aggregates at 700 °C, but significantly weakens them at 800 °C (Delle Piane et al., 2009a). This strength inversion results from a loss of competence in fine-grained dolomite at high temperatures and both dolomite and calcite deform by grain sensitive flow (Delle Piane et al., 2009a). Our samples show significant strengthening with increasing dolomite content. This is, in large part, due to the significant size of the dolomite grains, which act as rigid bodies and restrict calcite flow in our samples. Initially homogeneous, fine-grained, two-phase aggregates (e.g. anhydrite–calcite, forsterite–pyroxene, and forsterite–diopside) develop compositional layering at high strain (Barnhoorn et al., 2005a; Hiraga et al., 2013; Miyazaki et al., 2013). In fine-grained dolomite (Casey...
forsterite-pyroxene aggregates, grain boundary sliding was shown to encourage ‘demixing’ of the mineral phases through grain switching events, giving rise to compositional layering (Hiraga et al., 2013). In our samples, the low-dolomite content (Dm25 and Dm35) aggregates show compositional layering at high strains. We attribute this layering to the deformation of the spherical calcite aggregates present in the starting material and the segregation of coarse-grained dolomite. We do not observe convincing ‘demixing’ of phases within our aggregates, probably due to the large grain size of dolomite, which precludes the dolomite from participating in grain boundary sliding. The 75% dolomite content sample has a crude compositional foliation (because of dolomite grain size differentiation) defined by predominantly calcite and finer-grained dolomite grains, alternating with coarse-grained dolomite. Because of their bimodal grain size distribution (fine-grained calcite and coarse-grained dolomite) the behaviour of our samples is not consistent with the ‘demixing’ of phases via grain switching events but instead by mechanical sorting based on grain size.

7.4. Calcite aggregates: analogues for veins in nature?

EBSD analysis of the compositionally homogeneous calcite bands present in P1527 and P1524 (Fig. 8A, B, and 12) show stronger CPOs in these regions than in the surrounding calcite–dolomite matrix. This suggests that these layers record more
applied shear strain (Rutter et al., 1994). Additionally, the presence of deflected foliations suggests strain partitioning and localization (refer to Fig. 8B): areas rich in dolomite accommodated less displacement (i.e. are less sheared) than monomineralic calcite layers. Strain partitioning may occur because compositionally homogeneous regions are more easily deformed as grain boundary pinning is not encouraged (Olgaard, 1990). This results in the maintenance of the initial compositional zoning of the samples.

These calcite regions provide an interesting analogue for calcite veins in nature that are observed to absorb more strain than the surrounding host rock (Kennedy and White, 2001). Low chemical potential gradients between single phase grains inhibit diffusion processes, leading to the activation of dislocation glide and, ultimately, back-stressing from the pileup of dislocations at grain boundaries, resulting in a population of strain free grains with similar CPO (Kennedy and White, 2001; Molli et al., 2011). This effect is more pronounced in pure calcite regions of Dm25 and Dm35 because the chemical potential gradients between grains are such that diffusion processes are curtailed (Kennedy and White, 2001).

8. Conclusions

The styles and mechanisms of deformation associated with many variably dolomitized limestone shear systems are strongly controlled by strain partitioning between dolomite and calcite. The contrasting deformation behaviour of dolomite and calcite aggregates in our experiments is fundamentally related to grain size. Fine-grained calcite (and possibly dolomite) deform by grain boundary sliding assisted by diffusion creep and possible limited dislocation glide. In low dolomite composites, dolomite grains act to increase the strength of shear zones relative to 100% calcite, presumably because the fine-grained calcite must flow around rigid dolomite grains.

In high dolomite content samples, two deformation mechanisms likely occur concomitantly (either in parallel or in series) during shear: brittle failure of dolomite and superplastic flow of calcite. We infer that strain hardening occurs until dolomite grains fracture permitting interconnected, fine-grained calcite to form crude layers such that grain boundary sliding of fine-grained calcite accommodates displacement. This results in extreme localization of shear strain into thin, discontinuous calcite layers. These calcite layers are periodically obstructed by clusters of coarse-grained dolomite leading to further locking of the system. With increased dolomite content, a stress exponent greater than 3 indicates that 75% dolomite can still be described by power-law models, however, based on the microstructure, brittle deformation (Mohr–Coulomb) should be considered to act intermittently during shear strain.

These observations are critical to the interpretation of fault systems where dolomite may periodically inhibit flow in calcite networks, thereby locking the fault system and resulting in the build up of shear stresses. We speculate that the embrittlement of dolomite within these zones may be necessary in the re-establishment of grain boundary sliding networks in calcite leading to a continued ductile response of such systems.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsg.2014.12.006.

References


