

# Numerical Models of Shear-Induced Melt Band Formation with Anisotropic Matrix Viscosity

S.L. Butler<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*Department of Geological Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, 114 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5E2, Canada*

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## Abstract

When a system of partial melt is subjected to an externally driven strain-rate, an instability can occur whereby bands of low and high porosity form. Theory and numerical simulations have shown that if the matrix viscosity is isotropic and strain-rate independent, the bands grow fastest when parallel to the direction of maximum compression of the externally imposed flow. However, experiments indicate that bands form at angles that differ by roughly  $25^\circ$  from the direction of maximum compression even when the matrix viscosity is strain-rate independent. Recently, *Takei and Holtzman* (2009c) have argued that the matrix viscosity is likely to be anisotropic when partial melt is present because of the anisotropic arrangement of melt at the grain scale. These authors also presented a theoretical expression for the stress tensor in the presence of this anisotropy and a linear theory of band formation that indicated that bands would form at angles that are in accord with the results of experiments. In this contribution, I present the results of linear theory and full nonlinear simulations of band formation under simple shear with anisotropic viscosity. I show that, even when the viscosity is strain-rate independent, the resulting bands form at low angles in accord with experiments if the anisotropy reflects a distribution of melt in pockets aligned parallel to the direction of maximum compression. If instead the anisotropy represents melt that is aligned at low angles to the shear plane, as seen in highly deformed experiments, the melt bands rapidly rotate to high angles. In that case, another mechanism is required to maintain the bands at low angles. The effects of buoyant melt are also investigated and bands are shown

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\*Corresponding author. Fax:+1-306-966-8593

*Email address:* sam.butler@usask.ca (S.L. Butler)

to grow at the same rate as when buoyancy is absent, but with an additional secondary preferred orientation.

*Keywords:* viscous anisotropy, compaction, melt band

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## 1. Introduction

A porosity-localizing instability will occur in a partially molten system that is subjected to an externally imposed strain rate if the solid matrix is modeled as a very viscous fluid whose viscosity decreases with porosity and if the system size is greater than the compaction length of the material. This instability was first predicted theoretically by *Stevenson* (1989) and was demonstrated numerically for a system undergoing pure shear by *Richardson* (1998). Laboratory experiments in which partially molten samples undergo simple shear have demonstrated that porosity bands form at an angle of roughly  $20^\circ$  to the shear plane (*Holtzman et al.*, 2003; *Holtzman and Kohlstedt*, 2007; *Kohlstedt et al.*, 2009; *King et al.*, 2010) regardless of the strain-rate dependence of viscosity (*Kohlstedt and Holtzman*, 2009). This is in contrast to the predictions of linear theory (*Spiegelman*, 2003; *Rabinowicz and Vigneresse*, 2004; *Katz et al.*, 2006) and numerical simulations (*Katz et al.*, 2006; *Butler*, 2009) that indicate that when viscosity is strain-rate independent, bands grow fastest at  $45^\circ$  to the shear plane (parallel to the direction of maximum compression) and occur at lower angles when viscosity is strongly strain-rate dependent.

When partially molten samples are sheared, melt at the grain scale becomes aligned in large aspect ratio pockets in orientations that are controlled by the stress field (*Daines and Kohlstedt*, 1997; *Zimmerman et al.*, 1999; *Kohlstedt and Holtzman*, 2009). In experiments approximating pure shear, the melt pockets become aligned parallel to the direction of maximum compression (*Takei*, 2005, 2010). As a result, there will be less contact and hence less resistance to grain-boundary diffusion between grains in the direction perpendicular to the direction of maximum compression leading to viscosity that depends on the orientation of the stress field. However, at larger strains in simple shear experiments, the melt pockets become aligned at roughly  $20^\circ$  to the shear plane leading to a different orientation of viscosity anisotropy (*Zimmerman et al.*, 1999).

The melt extracted at mid-ocean ridges emerges within roughly 1 km of the ridge axis (*Vera et al.*, 1990) while seismic evidence indicates that there

33 is melt over a lateral distance of roughly 100 km at 60 km depth (*Forsyth et*  
34 *al.*, 1998). Also, the melt extracted at mid-ocean ridges is not in equilibrium  
35 with the rock through which it has passed (*Kelemen et al.*, 1997). These  
36 observations require a mechanism to both focus the melt towards the ridge  
37 axis and carry it rapidly. *Katz et al.* (2006) showed that if melt bands are  
38 rotated relative to the orientation for maximum compression, as they are in  
39 laboratory experiments, then they are in a good orientation to act as high  
40 permeability conduits to carry melt towards the ridge axis. As a result, it is  
41 potentially very important to our understanding of Earth’s interior that we  
42 understand why bands in experiments are found at low angles to the shear  
43 plane.

44 When the melt is buoyant compared with the matrix, the fluid can rise,  
45 leading to oscillations and waves (*Spiegelman*, 1993). *Butler* (2009) simulated  
46 the formation of melt bands in the presence of buoyancy-induced oscillations  
47 and found that bands continued to form and grew at essentially the same rate  
48 as in the absence of buoyancy. When the matrix viscosity used was strain-  
49 rate dependent, a second set of higher angle bands also became apparent.  
50 However, *Katz* (2010) modeled melt extraction at a mid-ocean ridge and melt  
51 bands were not observed despite the fact that porosity weakening viscosity  
52 was used in his model.

53 In what follows, I first describe the matrix viscosity model used here which  
54 employs the formulation of *Takei and Holtzman* (2009c). Subsequently, I de-  
55 scribe the numerical model and outline the linear theory that predicts the  
56 growth rate and oscillation frequency as a function of melt band orientation.  
57 In section 5, I present the results of the numerical modeling and the predic-  
58 tions of linear theory first for static anisotropy and then for anisotropy that  
59 changes with time. I then investigate the effects of buoyancy with viscous  
60 anisotropy. I end with a discussion of the significance of these results.

## 61 2. Viscosity Model

62 *Takei and Holtzman* (2009c) derived the following expression relating the  
63 components of the deviatoric stress tensor,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ , to the components of the  
64 strain-rate tensor,  $\dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}$ ,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{xy} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi + \eta + \zeta_1 + 2\zeta_2 & \xi - (\eta + \zeta_1) & 2\zeta_3 \\ \xi - (\eta + \zeta_1) & \xi + \eta + \zeta_1 - 2\zeta_2 & 2\zeta_3 \\ \zeta_3 & \zeta_3 & 2(\eta - \zeta_1) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\epsilon}_{xx} \\ \dot{\epsilon}_{yy} \\ \dot{\epsilon}_{xy} \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

65 Here,  $\epsilon_{xx} = \frac{\partial U}{\partial x}$ ,  $\epsilon_{yy} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}$  and  $\epsilon_{xy} = \frac{1}{2}(\frac{\partial U}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial x} + 1)$  where  $U$  and  $V$  are  
66 the velocities of the solid matrix in the  $x$  and  $y$  directions. In what follows,  
67 gravitational acceleration is assumed to act in the direction of increasing  
68  $-y$ . The bulk and shear viscosities are represented by  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  while the  
69 anisotropy components are represented by  $\zeta_1$ ,  $\zeta_2$  and  $\zeta_3$ .

70 A 2D circular grain model was developed by *Takei and Holtzman (2009c)*,  
71 and parameters  $\Theta_k$  characterized the angular extent of eight regions around  
72 the grain as to whether they were in contact with the neighboring grain.  
73 The total angular extent of the outer boundary of the grain that is in contact  
74 with its neighbours is referred to as the total contiguity. This model is shown  
75 conceptually in figures 1a and b for type A and B anisotropy which will be  
76 defined shortly. Full contact implies  $\Theta_k = \pi/8$  while the mean contact angle  
77 for an isotropic case as given by these authors is  $\Theta_1^0 = \pi/8(1 - 2\phi_0^{0.5})^{0.5}$ .  
78 When the initial porosity,  $\phi_0 = 0.01$ , as is assumed here,  $\Theta_1^0 = 0.3512$ . The  
79  $\Theta_k$  are then used to derive expressions  $\eta$ ,  $\xi$ ,  $\zeta_1$ ,  $\zeta_2$  and  $\zeta_3$ . The symmetry  
80  $\Theta_k = \Theta_{k+4}$  for  $k = 1$  to 4, is also assumed.

81 In the following analysis, the porosity dependence of all of the viscosity  
82 components will be assumed to be the same. The shear viscosity takes the  
83 form  $\eta = \eta^0 \exp[\alpha(\phi - \phi_0)]$ , where  $\alpha = -25$  (*Mei et al., 2002*) and  $\phi$  is the  
84 porosity. All of the other viscosity components are assumed to be propor-  
85 tional to  $\eta$ , i.e.,  $\xi = \xi^0 \eta$  and  $\zeta_i = \zeta_i^0 \eta$  for  $i = 1 - 3$ . All of the viscosity  
86 components are nondimensionalized by the initial shear viscosity,  $\eta^0$ . The  
87 dimensionless bulk and anisotropic viscosity coefficients then become (*Takei*  
88 *and Holtzman, 2009c*)

$$\xi^0 = \frac{\frac{2}{3} \sum_{k=1}^4 (2\Theta_k)^3}{\sum_{k=1}^4 (2\Theta_k - \frac{1}{2\Theta_k} \sin^2(2\Theta_k))}, \quad (2)$$

$$\zeta_1^0 = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^4 (-1)^{k+1} (\sin(4\Theta_k) - \frac{1}{\Theta_k} \sin^2(2\Theta_k))}{\sum_{k=1}^4 (2\Theta_k - \frac{1}{2\Theta_k} \sin^2(2\Theta_k))}, \quad (3)$$

$$\zeta_2^0 = \frac{4\Theta_2 \cos(2\Theta_2) - 2 \sin(2\Theta_2) - 4\Theta_4 \cos(2\Theta_4) + 2 \sin(2\Theta_4)}{\sum_{k=1}^4 (2\Theta_k - \frac{1}{2\Theta_k} \sin^2(2\Theta_k))}, \quad (4)$$

91

$$\zeta_3^0 = \frac{-4\Theta_1 \cos(2\Theta_1) + 2 \sin(2\Theta_1) + 4\Theta_3 \cos(2\Theta_3) - 2 \sin(2\Theta_3)}{\sum_{k=1}^4 (2\Theta_k - \frac{1}{2\Theta_k} \sin^2(2\Theta_k))}. \quad (5)$$

92 The superscript 0 indicates a quantity evaluated at the initial porosity,  
93  $\phi_0$ .

94 When an external stress is imposed, melt around grains becomes dis-  
95 tributed preferentially in large aspect ratio pockets with long axes parallel  
96 to the direction of maximum compression (*Takei, 2005, 2010*). In all of  
97 the numerical simulations presented here, a background velocity of the form  
98  $\mathbf{U}_0 = \dot{\gamma}y\hat{i}$  is imposed, where  $\dot{\gamma}$  is the strain rate and  $\hat{i}$  is a unit vector in the  
99 horizontal direction. The equation above describes a simple shear flow for  
100 which the direction of maximum compression,  $\sigma_1$ , is in the  $(1/\sqrt{2}, -1/\sqrt{2})$   
101 direction if the viscosity is constant. When this happens, contact is reduced  
102 between grains with tangent in the direction of maximum extension,  $\sigma_3$ , so  
103  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_5$  become less than  $\Theta_1^0$  while all other contacts are unchanged for the  
104 imposed flow geometry. This situation is represented graphically in figure 1a  
105 for the case of  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_5 = 0$ . *Takei and Holtzman (2009c)* referred to this as  
106 type A anisotropy and this term will be maintained here. Using the formulas  
107 above and taking the extreme case that  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_5 \ll \Theta_1^0$ , I get values for  
108 the bulk viscosity at the initial porosity,  $\xi^0 = 2.1357$ , and for the anisotropy  
109 coefficients,  $\zeta_1^0 = 0.3115$ ,  $\zeta_2^0 = 0$  and  $\zeta_3^0 = -0.6774$ .

110 *Zimmerman et al. (1999)* found in their simple shear experiments that  
111 melt pockets had become aligned at roughly  $20^\circ$  to the shear plane. These  
112 experiments were sheared to 200% but it is likely that the change in melt  
113 alignment happened at a much smaller total shear. Again, I will follow *Takei*  
114 *and Holtzman (2009c)* and refer to this as type B anisotropy. This case is  
115 illustrated in figure 1b where contact is reduced for the grain boundaries  
116 with tangents dipping at shallow angles to the right. In the case shown,  
117  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = \Theta_5 = \Theta_6 = 0.2$  while the other contact angles have value  
118  $\Theta_1^0 = 0.3512$ . For these values,  $\zeta_1^0 = 0$ ,  $\zeta_2^0 = 0.6891$  and  $\zeta_3^0 = -0.6891$ .

119 In figure 2a, the viscosity coefficients are shown as a function of  $\Theta_1/\Theta_0^1$ .  
120 All other  $\Theta_k = \Theta_0^1 = 0.3512$  and this represents the type A anisotropy case.  
121 The viscosity components have been normalized by the value of  $\eta^0$  when  $\Theta_1$   
122 approaches 0 and the values of the viscosity used in the simulations with  
123 type A anisotropy are taken from the  $\Theta_1 = 0$  axis of this graph. As can be  
124 seen, the viscosity coefficients do not change significantly once  $\Theta_1 < 0.3\Theta_0^1$ .

125 Also,  $\zeta_2^0 = 0$  for all type A anisotropy cases while  $\zeta_1^0$  is always positive  
 126 and  $\zeta_3^0$  is always negative. The variation of the viscosity coefficients with  
 127  $\Theta_1/\Theta_1^0 = \Theta_2/\Theta_1^0$  is shown in figure 2b. The thin vertical solid line indicates  
 128 the value of  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = 0.2$  used in the type B simulations. The coefficients  
 129 have been normalized by the value of  $\eta^0$  at  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = 0.2$ . As can be seen,  
 130  $\zeta_1$  is always 0 for type B anisotropy while  $\zeta_2$  and  $\zeta_3$  have equal magnitude  
 131 but opposite sign.

132 In some simulations, the viscosity anisotropy was rotated continuously  
 133 from type A to type B resulting in continuous changes in the viscosity coef-  
 134 ficients. In all other simulations the viscosity coefficients were held constant  
 135 throughout the simulation.

136 The axis of the imposed viscous anisotropy was fixed with respect to  
 137 the simulation coordinates and did not rotate with a change in the stress  
 138 orientation with viscous heterogeneity. As we will show, the orientations of  
 139 the principle stress directions did not change very much over the course of  
 140 a simulation from the orientations of principle strain-rate of the background  
 141 simple shear flow indicating that this is a reasonable approximation for these  
 142 calculations.

### 143 3. Governing Equations

144 Equations are scaled for length by the compaction length,  $\delta_c = [k_0\eta^0(1 +$   
 145  $\xi^0)/\mu]^{0.5}$ , for time by the inverse background strain-rate,  $\dot{\gamma}^{-1}$ , and for pressure  
 146 by  $p_0 = \eta^0(1 + \xi^0)\dot{\gamma}$ . Here,  $k_0$  is the permeability at the initial porosity and  $\mu$   
 147 is the liquid viscosity. Note that the porosity,  $\phi$ , is not scaled. I employ the  
 148 form of the equations of force balance and mass conservation for a compacting  
 149 porous medium first derived by *McKenzie* (1984) which are similar to those  
 150 of *Scott and Stevenson* (1984) and can be shown to be a special case of those  
 151 given by *Ricard et al.* (2001).

$$\nabla \cdot \{\mathbf{U} - k_\phi[\nabla p - (1 - \phi_0)B_u\hat{j}]\} = 0, \quad (6)$$

$$152 \quad -\nabla p(1 + \xi^0) + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\phi_0 - \phi)B_u(1 + \xi^0)\hat{j}, \quad (7)$$

153 and

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot [(\mathbf{U} + y\hat{i})(1 - \phi)]. \quad (8)$$

154 Here,  $\mathbf{U}$  represents variations of the solid velocity from the background  
 155 while  $p$  is the fluid pressure,  $\hat{j}$  is a unit normal in the vertical direction

156 and  $t$  represents time. The permeability is taken to be isotropic with the  
 157 form  $k_\phi = (\phi/\phi_0)^3$  (Wark and Watson, 1998). In the equations above,  
 158 the transformed pressure,  $p$ , is related to the fluid pressure,  $p_{fluid}$ , by  $p =$   
 159  $p_{fluid} + B_u[(1 - \phi_0)\rho_s + \phi_0\rho_l]y$  where  $\rho_s$  and  $\rho_l$  are the solid and liquid densi-  
 160 ties made dimensionless by dividing by the dimensional difference in density  
 161 between the solid and liquid.

162 The buoyancy parameter,  $B_u = (\Delta\rho g\delta_c)/(\dot{\gamma}\eta^0(\xi^0 + 1))$ , characterizes the  
 163 ratio of buoyancy to strain forces. Here  $\Delta\rho$  is the density difference between  
 164 the solid and fluid phases, and  $g$  is acceleration due to gravity.

165 Equations 7 with 1, as well as equations 6 and 8 were solved using the  
 166 commercial finite element modeling package Comsol using the General PDE  
 167 solver mode. For all calculations, a square domain with side lengths of 2 was  
 168 used and 6282 triangular elements were used to mesh the box. The top and  
 169 bottom boundaries were specified to be no-slip ( $\mathbf{U} = 0$ ) and  $p = 0$  while the  
 170 side boundaries were periodic for the calculations with no buoyancy ( $B_u = 0$ ).  
 171 For the calculations with non-zero  $B_u$ , the top and bottom boundaries were  
 172 specified to be periodic as well. Equation 8 can be expanded as

$$\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial t} + y\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} + \mathbf{U} \cdot \nabla\phi = (1 - \phi)\nabla \cdot \mathbf{U}. \quad (9)$$

173 where the second term on the left-hand side represents the advection of the  
 174 porosity field by the background velocity field and the term on the right-  
 175 hand side represents compaction (Spiegelman, 2003). The third term on the  
 176 left represents the advection of the porosity field by the velocity variation  
 177 from the background and it tends to be small. Because of the simple shear  
 178 background flow, there is a discontinuity in the advection rate of the porosity  
 179 field by the background flow going from the top boundary to the bottom  
 180 one. For calculations with  $B_u$  of 1 or greater, the effects of compaction  
 181 dominate those due to advection by the background flow and equation 8  
 182 remains satisfied on the boundary despite the discontinuity in the advection  
 183 rate.

184 The initial porosity was of the form  $\phi = \phi_0 + \Delta\phi f(x, y)$  where  $\phi_0$  and  $\Delta\phi$   
 185 were 0.01 and  $10^{-8}$  for all calculations. The perturbation function,  $f(x, y)$ ,  
 186 was calculated as the inverse fourier transform of a gaussian function with  
 187 a standard deviation of  $10\sqrt{2}$  and random phase. This created a random  
 188 initial condition with wavelengths significantly greater than the grid spacing.

#### 189 4. Linear Theory

190 Equations 6, 7 and 8 can be expanded keeping only terms of first order.  
 191 Gravity is assumed to act in the  $-\hat{j}$  direction. The 0th order variables in-  
 192 clude the velocity due to the background strain-rate, as well as  $\phi_0$  and the  
 193 initial viscosity coefficients,  $\xi^0$ ,  $\zeta_1^0$ ,  $\zeta_2^0$  and  $\zeta_3^0$ . Due to the normalization,  
 194 the 0th order shear viscosity and permeability are both 1. The first order  
 195 shear viscosity coefficient is  $\alpha\phi'$ , while, to first order, the remaining viscosity  
 196 coefficients are  $\xi^0\alpha\phi'$ ,  $\zeta_1^0\alpha\phi'$ ,  $\zeta_2^0\phi'$  and  $\zeta_3^0\alpha\phi'$  where  $\phi'$  is the first order per-  
 197 turbation of the porosity from  $\phi_0$ . The first order permeability perturbation  
 198 is of the form  $k'_\phi = n\phi'/\phi_0$ . The porosity perturbation is assumed to take the  
 199 form  $\phi' = \exp(ik_x x + ik_y y + s(t) - i\Omega(t))$  where  $k_x$  and  $k_y$  are wavenumbers  
 200 in  $x$  and  $y$  directions,  $s(t)$  characterizes the amplitude and  $\Omega(t)$  is the phase  
 201 of oscillations. Following *Spiegelman* (2003), the wavenumbers are taken to  
 202 be time-dependent and of the form  $k_x = k_{0x}$  and  $k_y = k_{0y} - k_{x0}t$ . The ve-  
 203 locity and pressure perturbations are assumed to be of the form  $U' = \tilde{U}\phi'$ ,  
 204  $V' = \tilde{V}\phi'$  and  $p' = \tilde{p}\phi'$  where a tilde indicates a constant value. With these  
 205 substitutions, equation 8 can be written

$$\frac{ds}{dt} - i\frac{d\Omega}{dt} = (1 - \phi_0)(ik_x\tilde{U} + ik_y\tilde{V}). \quad (10)$$

206 Equations 6 and 7 can then be written in the following matrix form

$$\begin{pmatrix} k_x & k_y & k^2 \\ -k_y^2(1 - \zeta_1^0) - k_x^2\vartheta_1 - 2k_xk_y\zeta_3^0 & -k_xk_y(\xi^0 - 2\zeta_1^0) - k^2\zeta_3^0 & k_x(1 + \xi^0) \\ -k_xk_y(\xi^0 - 2\zeta_1^0) - k^2\zeta_3^0 & -k_x^2(1 - \zeta_1^0) - k_y^2\vartheta_2 - 2k_xk_y\zeta_3^0 & k_y(1 + \xi^0) \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} i\tilde{U} \\ i\tilde{V} \\ \tilde{p} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -ik_y n B_u \frac{1-\phi_0}{\phi_0} \\ \alpha(k_y(1 - \zeta_1^0) + k_x\zeta_3^0) \\ \alpha(k_x(1 - \zeta_1^0) + k_y\zeta_3^0) - iB_u(1 + \xi^0) \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

207 where  $\vartheta_1 = (1 + \xi^0 + \zeta_1^0 + 2\zeta_2^0)$  and  $\vartheta_2 = (1 + \xi^0 + \zeta_1^0 - 2\zeta_1^0)$  and  $k^2 = k_x^2 + k_y^2$ .  
 208 Equation 11 can be inverted to find  $\tilde{U}$  and  $\tilde{V}$  which can be entered into  
 209 equation 10 to get expressions for the growth rate,  $\frac{ds}{dt}$ , and instantaneous  
 210 oscillation frequency,  $\frac{d\Omega}{dt}$ ,  
 211

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{-2\alpha k_x k_y k^2 (1 - \phi_0) [(1 + \zeta_1^0)(k^2(1 - \zeta_1^0) + 2k_x k_y \zeta_3^0) + (1 - \zeta_1^0)\zeta_2^0(k_x^2 - k_y^2)]}{A + B + C} \quad (12)$$



212 and

$$\frac{d\Omega}{dt} = \frac{1 - \phi_0}{\phi_0} B_u (1 + \xi^0) [(n(1 - \phi_0) - \phi_0)(1 - \zeta_1^0) k_y k^4 + 8\zeta_1^0 k_x^2 k_y^3 n(1 - \phi_0) - 2\phi_0 k^2 k_x^2 k_y (2\zeta_1^0 + \zeta_2^0) + \zeta_3^0 \phi_0 k_x (k_x^4 - k_y^4)] / (A + B + C). \quad (13)$$

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$$A = k^6 [(1 - \zeta_1^0)(1 + \xi^0 + \zeta_1^0) - (\zeta_3^0)^2] + 4k_x^2 k_y^2 k^2 [(\zeta_3^0)^2 + 2\xi^0 \zeta_1^0]$$

215

$$B = k^4 (1 - \zeta_1^0)(1 + \xi^0) + 8\zeta_1^0 (1 + \xi^0) k_x^2 k_y^2 + 4k_x k_y k^4 (1 + \zeta_1^0) \zeta_3^0$$

216

$$C = 2\zeta_2^0 (1 - \zeta_1^0) (-k_y^6 + k_x^6 + k_x^4 k_y^2 - k_x^2 k_y^4) - 4(\zeta_2^0)^2 k_x^2 k_y^2 k^2 + 4k_x k_y \zeta_2^0 \zeta_3^0 (k_x^4 - k_y^4) \quad (14)$$

217

Equation 12 reduces to the form for the growth rate for melt bands with isotropic viscosity which was first derived by *Spiegelman* (2003) when  $\zeta_1^0 = \zeta_2^0 = \zeta_3^0 = 0$  if the terms  $(1 + \xi^0)$  are replaced by  $(\xi^0 + 4/3)$ . *Takei and Holtzman* (2009a) argued that the former is more appropriate in two dimensions. *Takei and Holtzman* (2009c) also derived a growth rate for melt bands with anisotropic matrix viscosity. They used as a length scale a compaction length of the form  $\delta_c = [k_0 \eta^0 (1 + \xi^0 - 3\zeta_1^0) / \mu]^{0.5}$  rather than  $\delta_c = [k_0 \eta^0 (1 + \xi^0) / \mu]^{0.5}$ . Their expression gives identical results to equation 12 when either  $\zeta_1^0 = 0$ , as in type B anisotropy, or when  $|k| \gg 1$  since in this limit the growth rate becomes independent of the wavelength or length scale. For rapidly growing bands,  $|k| > 1$ , so the expressions give very similar results for most cases of interest.

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Equation 13 for the oscillation frequency also reduces to the form for isotropic viscosity (*Spiegelman*, 1993; *Butler*, 2009) when the anisotropy coefficients are 0.

231

## 232 5. Results

233

Near the beginning of the simulations, random heterogeneity with orientation close to the orientation of maximum growth rate increased in magnitude at the expense of the heterogeneity with other orientations. These bands form with wavelength set by the initial heterogeneity. As the simulation progresses, the bands are rotated by the background simple shear flow. While they are in an orientation for growth, the wavelength of the bands increases. When the bands rotate to high angles, where they are no longer growing or are growing more slowly, new bands nucleate on portions of the old bands that are in orientations for rapid growth. This process, and the

241

242 increase in wavelength with time or strain is described in *Butler* (2010). The  
243 simulations were terminated when the porosity reached 0 or  $2\phi_0$  somewhere  
244 in the domain.

245 In figure 3a, the porosity field at a strain of 2.4 for a simulation with  
246 isotropic viscosity is shown while in b, a similar plot is shown for a simulation  
247 calculated with type A anisotropy at a strain of 5.  $B_u = 0$  for all of the  
248 simulations shown in this section. At these times, the maximum porosity is  
249 roughly twice the initial porosity while the minimum porosity is close to 0.  
250 As can be seen, the bands in the simulation with isotropic matrix viscosity  
251 are well formed but are at an angle to the shear plane that is slightly greater  
252 than  $45^\circ$ . While the growth rate of bands is maximal at  $45^\circ$ , bands are  
253 rotated by the background simple shear flow to higher angles. In figure 3b,  
254 it can be seen that the bands with type A anisotropic matrix viscosity form  
255 at much shallower angles, similar to what is seen in experiments (*Holtzman*  
256 *et al.*, 2003; *Holtzman and Kohlstedt*, 2007).

257 Power spectra, integrated over all wavelengths, are plotted as a function of  
258 angle in figures 4a and b for simulations with isotropic and type A anisotropic  
259 viscosity, respectively. Solid black lines give the spectra of the porosity fields  
260 shown in figures 3a and b while dotted lines show the growth rate predicted by  
261 linear theory. The dash-dot lines show the final amplitude ( $\exp(s)$ ) predicted  
262 by linear theory. All curves have been normalized so that their maximum  
263 value is 1. The growth rate predicted by linear theory is maximal when  
264  $\theta = 45^\circ$  for the isotropic case but the peak amplitude predicted by linear  
265 theory is rotated to roughly  $70^\circ$  by the background flow at a total strain of  
266 2.4. The power spectrum from the numerical simulation shows a peak at  
267 roughly  $60^\circ$  at time 2.4.

268 When the viscosity is anisotropic with type A anisotropy, there are two  
269 peaks in the growth rate at  $15.1^\circ$  and  $74.9^\circ$  to the shear plane. Bands at low  
270 angles to the shear plane are rotated much more slowly than bands at high  
271 angles in simple shear flow and the higher angle bands are rapidly rotated  
272 past vertical into an orientation where they decay with time while the lower  
273 angle bands stay in an orientation for rapid growth for longer. As a result,  
274 linear theory predicts that the maximum amplitude at a total strain of 5 will  
275 have only a single peak which is rotated to only  $20^\circ$ . As can be seen, the  
276 power spectrum calculated from the numerical simulation is very similar to  
277 the linear theory prediction.

278 In figure 4c, I show the power spectrum as a function of angle for a cal-  
279 culation with type B matrix viscosity anisotropy. As can be seen, the power

280 spectrum calculated from the porosity field for the end of the calculation has a  
 281 peak at  $60^\circ$  which closely matches the peak growth rate. The peak amplitude  
 282 predicted by integrating the growth rate for linear theory is at significantly  
 283 higher angles indicating that nonlinear effects are acting to reduce the angle  
 284 of the bands so that they are closer to the orientation for maximum growth  
 285 rate. Repeats with different random initial conditions for each of the above  
 286 model runs were performed and the angular spectra were similar. For the  
 287 high angle bands that obtain for the isotropic viscosity calculations and the  
 288 calculations with type B anisotropy, new sets of bands formed when old ones  
 289 rotated to high angles where they would start to decay. The growth of these  
 290 new bands caused rapid shifts in the angular spectra. As a result, it was  
 291 found to be better to display only single calculations rather than average  
 292 over many calculations.

293 As in *Butler (2009)*, I define the amplitude of the porosity heterogeneity  
 294 as

$$Amp = \left[ \frac{\int (\phi_t - \phi_0)^2 dV}{\int (\phi_{t=0} - \phi_0)^2 dV} \right]^{0.5}. \quad (15)$$

295 In figure 5,  $\log(Amp)$  is shown as a function of time for the numerical simula-  
 296 tions (solid lines) while the dashed lines show the logarithm of the maximum  
 297 amplitude as predicted by linear theory and the dotted lines show the maxi-  
 298 mum growth rate times time. Except for a short time near the beginning of  
 299 the simulations when the amplitude of the numerical simulations increases  
 300 very slowly, the linear theory predicts the time evolution of the amplitude  
 301 reasonably well and the calculation with anisotropic viscosity grows much  
 302 more slowly than the case with isotropic viscosity.

303 Eigenvectors of the stress tensor were calculated for all times and all po-  
 304 sitions throughout the calculations in order to determine the directions of  
 305 maximum compression and extension when the matrix was strained. The  
 306 maximum deviation from  $\pm 45^\circ$  was found to increase with increasing strain  
 307 but the maximum value at the final time was only  $4^\circ$ , indicating that the  
 308 variations in direction of maximum compression and extension from the back-  
 309 ground case were small.

### 310 5.1. Transition from A to B type anisotropy

311 In order to model the effect of a changing grain scale melt alignment, some  
 312 simulations were undertaken for which the viscous anisotropy transitioned  
 313 continuously from A to B type anisotropy. In figure 6a, I show the viscosity

314 anisotropy coefficients as a function of time for one of these simulations.  
 315 The anisotropy coefficients were varied by continuously changing  $\Theta_1$  from  
 316 0 to 0.2 and  $\Theta_2$  from  $\Theta_0^1$  to 0.2. In figure 6b I show the power spectrum  
 317 as a function of time. The power spectrum has been normalized by the  
 318 maximum power at each time. Although there is a gradual change in the  
 319 viscous anisotropy coefficients between times of 1 and 2, the power spectrum  
 320 shows an abrupt change from low angle bands to high angle ones and the  
 321 final porosity looks very similar to the calculation with type B anisotropy  
 322 throughout the simulation. Simulations were also undertaken in which the  
 323 viscous anisotropy transition was very abrupt and the power spectrum as a  
 324 function of angle and time and the final porosity field were very similar to  
 325 the case with a gradual transition. Some other simulations were undertaken  
 326 in which  $\Theta_1 = 1/3$  while  $\Theta_2$  was decreased continuously from  $\Theta_0^1$  to various  
 327 final values. It was found that as long as  $\Theta_2$  was decreased to roughly  $2/3\Theta_0^1$   
 328 that the bands rotated as shown above, indicating that almost any type B  
 329 anisotropy near the end of a simulation will result in high angle bands in the  
 330 final state.

### 331 5.2. Effects of Buoyancy

332 The instantaneous oscillation frequency,  $d\Omega/dt$ , predicted from equa-  
 333 tion 13 is plotted in figure 7 for  $n = 3$ ,  $\phi_0 = 0.01$  and  $B_u = 1$  for calcu-  
 334 lations with isotropic viscosity (dotted line) as well as type A (solid line) and  
 335 type B (dashed line) viscosity anisotropy. The oscillation frequency scales  
 336 linearly with  $B_u$ . For the sense of shear flow calculated, positive  $\theta$  indicates  
 337 a band dipping to the right while negative  $\theta$  indicates a band dipping to the  
 338 left. Porosity waves occur as fluid flow is retarded and enhanced at verti-  
 339 cal changes in permeability and the resulting change in fluid pressure opens  
 340 and closes pore space. As can be seen, for isotropic viscosity, the oscillation  
 341 frequency peaks for horizontal bands but the peak is shifted to positive an-  
 342 gles for the anisotropic viscosity cases and the curves become asymmetric  
 343 about  $\theta = 0$ . Unlike the growth rate which is essentially independent of the  
 344 magnitude of the wavenumber once these are greater than 1, the oscillation  
 345 frequency depends on the wavenumber magnitude. The magnitudes of the  
 346 wavenumbers used to calculate the curves in figure 7 were chosen to give the  
 347 same maximum oscillation frequency and had values  $2.15\pi$ ,  $12.76$ , and  $4\sqrt{2}\pi$   
 348 for the isotropic case, and the type A and type B anisotropic viscosity cases,  
 349 respectively.

350 In figure 8, the quantity  $\log(|\phi - \phi_0|)$  at the centre of the solution domain  
351 for two simulations is shown. The curves have been offset by 5 in order to  
352 separate them. The upper solid curve is from a calculation using type B  
353 anisotropy with initial condition  $\phi = \phi_0 + \Delta\phi \cos(4\pi x + 4\pi y)$  (i.e. bands  
354 oriented at  $45^\circ$  to the shear plane with wavenumber  $4\sqrt{2}\pi$ ). The lower solid  
355 curve is from a simulation with type A anisotropy with plane waves oriented  
356 at  $10^\circ$  to the shear plane with wavenumber magnitude 12.76 as the initial  
357 condition. The dotted lines indicate curves of  $s + \log(|\cos(\Omega)|)$  for  $s$  and  $\Omega$   
358 calculated from numerical integration of equations 12 and 13 with the same  
359 viscosity parameters and initial conditions as the numerical simulations. As  
360 can be seen, for the calculation with type A anisotropy, the increase of the  
361 amplitude of the porosity deviation from  $\phi_0$  is well approximated by linear  
362 theory throughout the simulation while the oscillations for the linear the-  
363 ory and numerical simulations are in phase for roughly the first 0.8 of the  
364 simulation. For the type B anisotropy calculation, the initial plane wave  
365 perturbation was at a steeper angle which was rotated by the background  
366 flow to vertical at time 1. When bands are rotated beyond vertical, the  
367 porosity heterogeneity will decrease with time as can be seen by the linear  
368 theory prediction. The bands in the numerical simulation continue to grow  
369 in amplitude because the bands break and new bands nucleate on hetero-  
370 geneity that is at an orientation for rapid growth in a manner similar to  
371 the “pumping” mechanism described by *Holtzman and Kohlstedt (2007)* and  
372 seen also in the models of *Katz et al. (2006)*. As can be seen, roughly the  
373 first four oscillations are well predicted by the numerical model for the type  
374 B viscosity anisotropy case. The oscillation frequency depends on both the  
375 orientation of the bands as well as their wavelength. For the type A viscosity  
376 anisotropy, it can be seen from figure 7 that the initial oscillation frequency  
377 was 35 and would increase as the band was rotated to steeper angles, until it  
378 reaches a maximum at  $24^\circ$ . In the calculation shown in figure 8, the bands  
379 only rotate to  $15^\circ$ . The magnitude of the wavenumber is also decreasing  
380 which also increases the oscillation frequency. These effects can be seen in  
381 the decreasing period of oscillation for the type A case seen in figure 8. For  
382 the type B case, the initial oscillation frequency at the initial orientation of  
383  $45^\circ$  is 28 and will decrease as the bands are rotated to higher angles. This  
384 is particularly evident in the linear calculation where bands get rotated to  
385  $135^\circ$ . Although the period of oscillation clearly increases in the nonlinear  
386 simulation, the increase is not as large since the bands break and reform at  
387 angles more favorable for growth.

388 In figure 9a the porosity and fluid velocity (magenta arrows) fields are  
 389 shown at time 4.23 for a calculation run with  $B_u = 10$ , a random initial  
 390 condition, and type A viscous anisotropy. Rapid oscillations of the porosity  
 391 bands were seen in the time evolution of this calculation. The growth rate  
 392 of the porosity localization was similar to calculations without buoyancy as  
 393 was found by *Butler* (2009) for isotropic viscosity calculations. As can be  
 394 seen, the low angle bands are still present but they have a shorter wave-  
 395 length than those with no buoyancy (compare to figure 3b) and a second set  
 396 of bands at higher angles is also seen. The dashed line in figure 4b gives  
 397 the amplitude spectrum as a function of angle for the porosity field seen in  
 398 figure 9a and the power at the high-angle band can be clearly seen and is  
 399 in rough agreement with the high angle for rapid growth predicted by linear  
 400 theory. This is similar to what is seen for strain-rate dependent isotropic  
 401 viscosity calculations with buoyancy (*Butler*, 2009). *Butler* (2010) showed  
 402 that buoyancy induced oscillations reduce the increase of band wavelength  
 403 with time for calculations with isotropic viscosity. Bands increase in wave-  
 404 length because their wavelength increases during rotation by the background  
 405 flow when they are in an orientation for growth (*Butler*, 2010). Similarly,  
 406 the high angle bands for the type A viscosity anisotropy and for the strongly  
 407 strain-rate dependent isotropic calculations are not seen when buoyancy is  
 408 not present because these are rapidly rotated to an orientation where they will  
 409 decay with time (*Katz et al.*, 2006). When there is strong buoyancy, many  
 410 little pockets of high and low porosity form because of the waves. As a result,  
 411 there are many new nucleation sites for bands and new bands are constantly  
 412 forming in directions favorable for growth. As a result, when buoyancy is  
 413 strong, high angle bands are present and the increase in band wavelength  
 414 due to rotation by the background flow does not occur. Calculations with  
 415  $B_u \leq 1$  showed behaviour that was very similar to the  $B_u = 0$  cases.

416 In figure 9b, the porosity field at time 1.8 is shown for a calculation with  
 417 type B anisotropy and  $B_u = 10$ . For this type of anisotropy, there is a single  
 418 peak in the growth rate at around  $60^\circ$  (see figure 4c) and the observed bands  
 419 are close to this angle. The spacing of the bands in this calculation also is  
 420 reduced compared with another calculation with no buoyancy (not shown)  
 421 and the growth rate of these bands is very close to the prediction of linear  
 422 theory and to the growth rate for bands with no buoyancy. Because the  
 423 bands are close to vertical in this case, the fluid velocity can be seen to be  
 424 channelized into the high porosity bands.

## 425 6. Discussions and Conclusions

426 The numerical modeling results indicate that melt bands form at low  
427 angles to the shear plane if the matrix viscosity is anisotropic as would occur  
428 if the grain-scale melt were aligned in long pockets parallel to the direction  
429 of maximum compression. If the grain-scale melt pockets reorient to low  
430 angles themselves, as is observed in laboratory experiments at high strain,  
431 then the simulated bands are seen to rapidly reorient to high angles. As a  
432 result, anisotropic viscosity can explain why bands start to form at low angles  
433 but another mechanism is required to keep them at low angles in highly  
434 strained experiments. *Takei and Holtzman (2009c)* came to essentially the  
435 same conclusion based on their linear theory.

436 When the melt is buoyant, the wavelength of the bands is reduced and  
437 when the matrix viscosity has type A anisotropy, a second orientation of  
438 bands is seen that is at an angle that is similar to the second direction of  
439 maximum growth rate. As was shown for strain-rate dependent isotropic vis-  
440 cosity by *Butler (2009)*, this second set of bands would reduce the efficiency  
441 of melt channelization towards the ridge axis.

442 In the current study, the viscous anisotropy is set based on experimental  
443 observations of the orientation of melt at the grain scale. Although *Takei and*  
444 *Holtzman (2009b)* were able to predict the occurrence of type A anisotropy  
445 self consistently, a complete self consistent model that can predict viscous  
446 anisotropy as a function of the stress field has still not been obtained (*Takei*  
447 *and Holtzman, 2009c*). It will also be noted that in our model, the magnitude  
448 of the viscous anisotropy is assumed to be constant, which is consistent with  
449 the viscous anisotropy being “stress-saturated”. Future studies may also  
450 consider the effects of rotation of the axis of viscous anisotropy as the viscosity  
451 becomes more heterogeneous.

452 In the simulation results shown here, and those of *Katz et al (2006)* as  
453 well as *Butler (2009,2010)*, the bands for any given simulation at any given  
454 time have similar wavelengths and do not form networks. In contrast, in ex-  
455 perimental investigations (e.g. *Holtzman et al., 2003*) bands of many different  
456 wavelengths form an interconnecting network. In the experiments of *Holtz-*  
457 *man et al. (2003)* strain markers were seen to be significantly offset at the  
458 positions of the bands and *Holtzman et al. (2003, 2005)* have proposed that  
459 strain is concentrated in the porosity-rich bands and that the connections be-  
460 tween different bands allows for strain partitioning. That the eigenvectors of  
461 the stress tensor only deviated by  $4^\circ$  from the principle strain-rate axes of the

462 background flow is an indication that the stress field was not strongly affected  
463 by the viscosity heterogeneity in our calculations and that strain-partitioning  
464 was not taking place. Another way of determining whether strain partition-  
465 ing is taking place is to look at the perturbation vorticity field ( $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial U}{\partial y}$ ). If  
466 strain is concentrated in high porosity bands then the perturbation vorticity  
467 field should correlate with the high porosity bands. *Katz et al.* (2006) plotted  
468 these fields for a calculation with strongly-strain rate dependent viscosity and  
469 found that they did not strongly correlate. Similar calculations with type A  
470 anisotropy were carried out during this investigation (not shown). Although  
471 the perturbation vorticity field tended to be high within the melt-rich bands,  
472 it was also high in the melt-poor lenses. A few simulations were undertaken  
473 with initial porosity of 0.1. When the initial porosity is increased, the final  
474 difference in viscosity between the melt-rich bands and the melt-poor lenses  
475 is increased. In these calculations, the perturbation vorticity was signifi-  
476 cantly correlated with the melt rich bands indicating that strain-partitioning  
477 was occurring. An interconnecting network of bands did not form, however.  
478 *Holtzman and Kohlsted* (2007) showed experiments where the porosity was  
479 as high as three times its initial value in the bands while in the calculations  
480 shown here the final maximum porosity was roughly two times the initial  
481 value. It is possible that a higher amplitude of melt segregation is necessary  
482 in order for strain partitioning to occur. Alternatively, it is possible that the  
483 physics in the experimental systems that allows them to create connected  
484 networks that strongly partition strain is not present in the continuum simu-  
485 lations. Strong strain partitioning may also be what is needed to stabilize the  
486 bands at low angles once the grain-scale melt pockets realign at low angles.

487 In a future study, I will investigate how anisotropic matrix permeability  
488 affects band formation. *Hier-Majumder* (2011) estimated that permeability  
489 would be greater by a factor of ten in a direction parallel to melt pockets as  
490 compared with perpendicular to them at stresses appropriate to the upper  
491 mantle. When melt pockets are parallel to the direction of maximum com-  
492 pression, this should impede melt band development since fluid flow that is  
493 necessary to produce bands would need to occur in the direction of reduced  
494 permeability. I expect that this will reduce the growth rate of bands and  
495 may lead to lower angle bands. This effect might be expected to be greater  
496 for the greater stresses associated with laboratory experiments.



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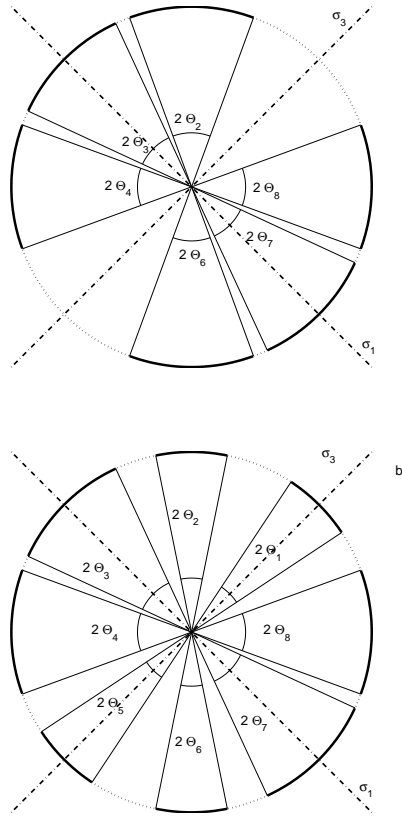


Figure 1: a) The regions of contact around a circular grain as characterized by the angles  $\Theta_k$ . For this case representing type A anisotropy,  $\Theta_1 = 0$  describing long melt pockets parallel to the  $\sigma_1$  direction. b) The regions of contact around a circular grain for type B anisotropy with reduced  $\Theta_1$  and  $\Theta_2$  describing long melt pockets at  $20^\circ$  to the shear plane.  $\sigma_1$  is the orientation of maximum compressive stress for the simple shear flow used here while  $\sigma_3$  is the orientation of maximum extension.

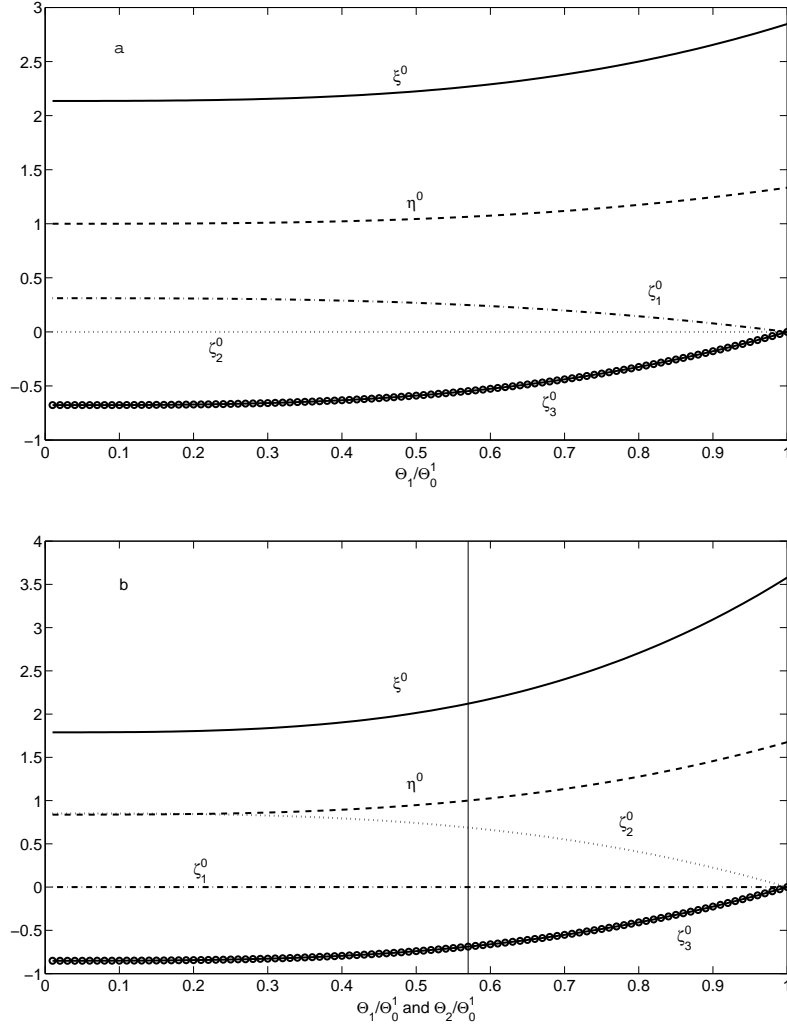


Figure 2: a) The variation of the viscosity coefficients with  $\Theta_1/\Theta_0^1$  (type A anisotropy). Curves have been normalized by the value of  $\eta^0$  at  $\Theta_1 = 0$ . b) The variation of the viscosity coefficients with  $\Theta_1/\Theta_0^1 = \Theta_2/\Theta_0^1$  (type B anisotropy). Curves have been normalized by the value of  $\eta^0$  at  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 = 0.2$  when  $\Theta_0^1 = 0.3512$ .

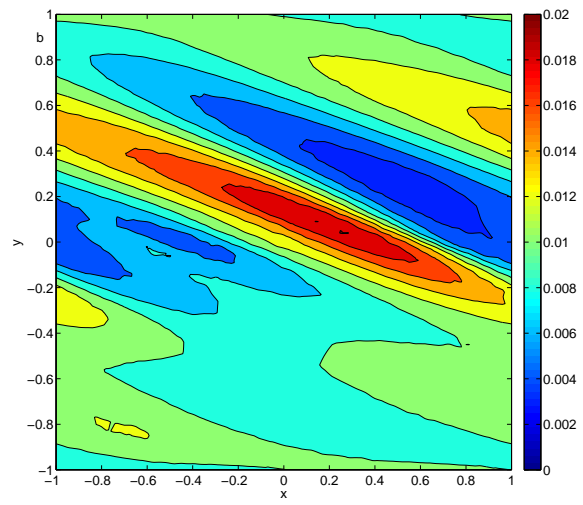
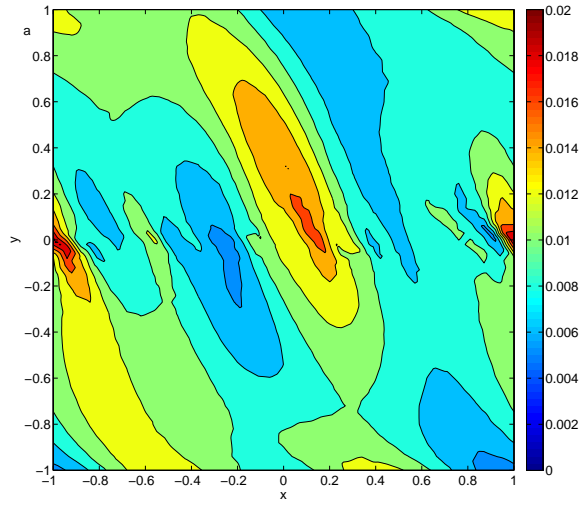


Figure 3: Color plots of the final porosity field for calculations with  $B_u = 0$  and a random initial condition. Part a) shows the results for isotropic matrix viscosity at time 2.4 while part b) shows the results of a simulation with type A anisotropic viscosity at time 5.

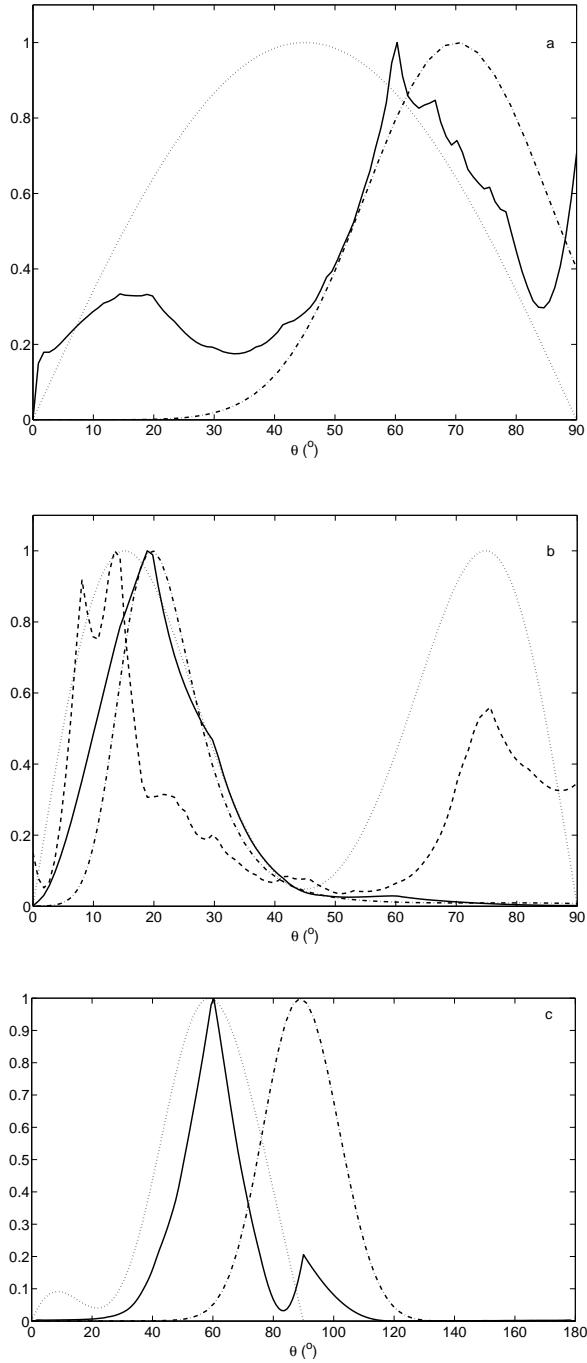


Figure 4: Dotted and dash-dotted lines show the growth rate and final amplitude as a function of angle as predicted by linear theory. Figure a shows the power spectrum as a function of angle for the calculation with isotropic viscosity at the final time (solid line) b shows the power spectrum as a function of angle for the simulation with anisotropic viscosity of type A at the final time with  $B_u = 0$  (solid line) and  $B_u = 10$  (dashed line). c the power spectrum for a calculation with type B anisotropy.

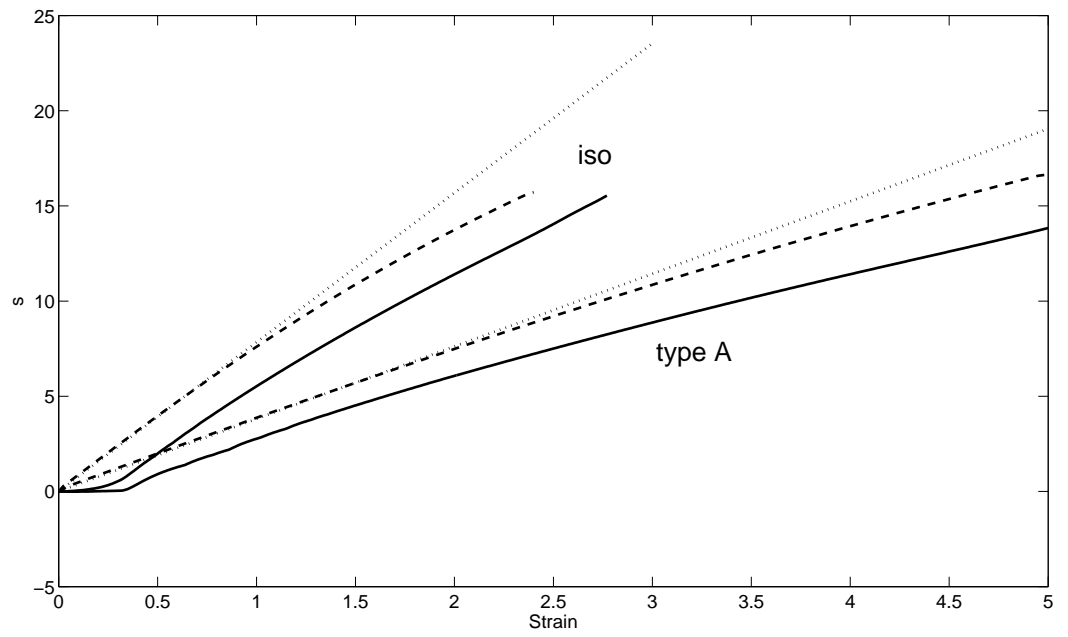


Figure 5: The maximum growth rate as predicted by linear theory times time (dotted line), the maximum logarithmic amplitude as predicted by linear theory (dashed line) and the logarithmic amplitude computed from the numerical simulations (solid line). The upper set of curves are for the simulation with isotropic viscosity while the lower set are for simulations with type A anisotropic viscosity.



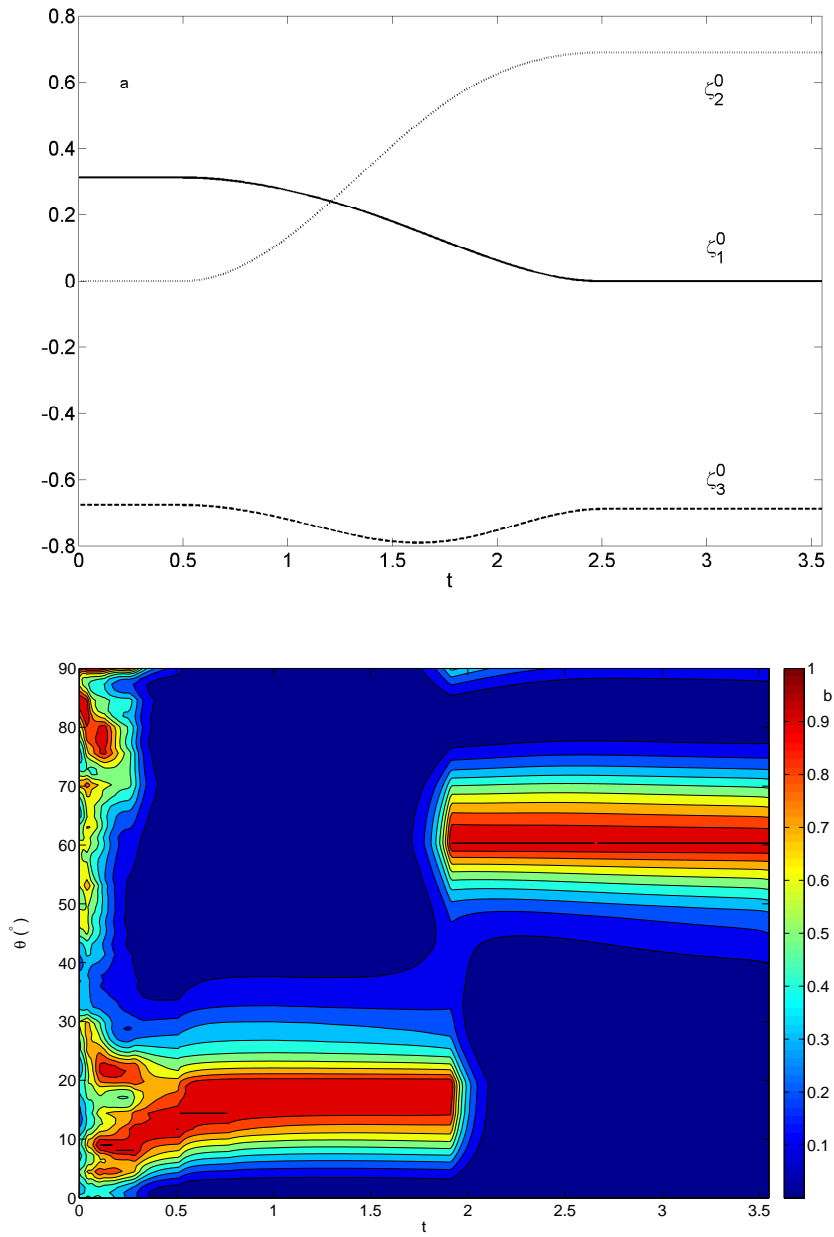


Figure 6: a) Viscosity coefficients as a function of time for a calculation where the matrix viscosity changes from type A to type B anisotropy. b) The power spectrum as a function of angle and time for a calculation employing the viscosity anisotropy coefficients shown in part a.

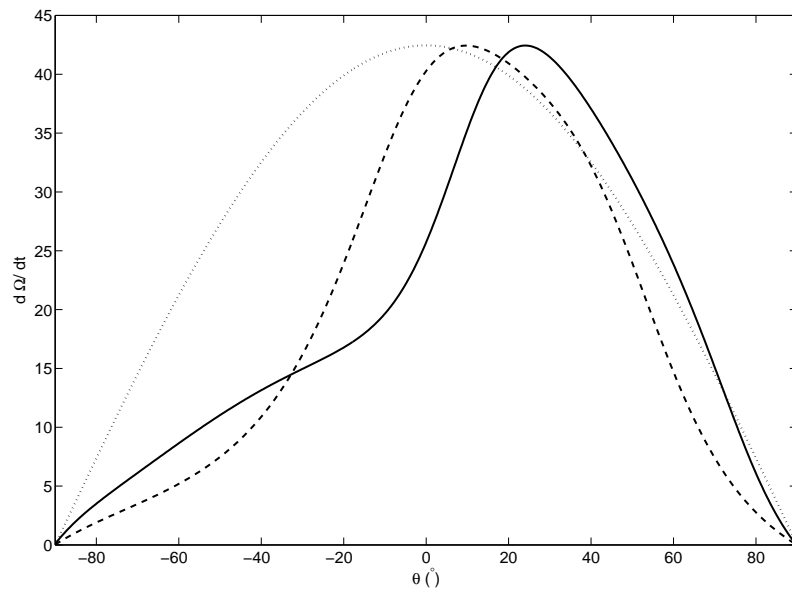


Figure 7: The oscillation frequency as a function of band orientation for the isotropic (dotted line), type B anisotropy (dashed line) and type A anisotropy (solid line) cases. The initial magnitude of the wavenumber was  $2.15\pi$ ,  $12.76$  and  $\sqrt{24}\pi$  for the isotropic viscosity, type A and type B viscous anisotropy calculations. For all of these calculations,  $B_u = 1$ ,  $\phi_0 = 0.01$  and  $n = 3$ .

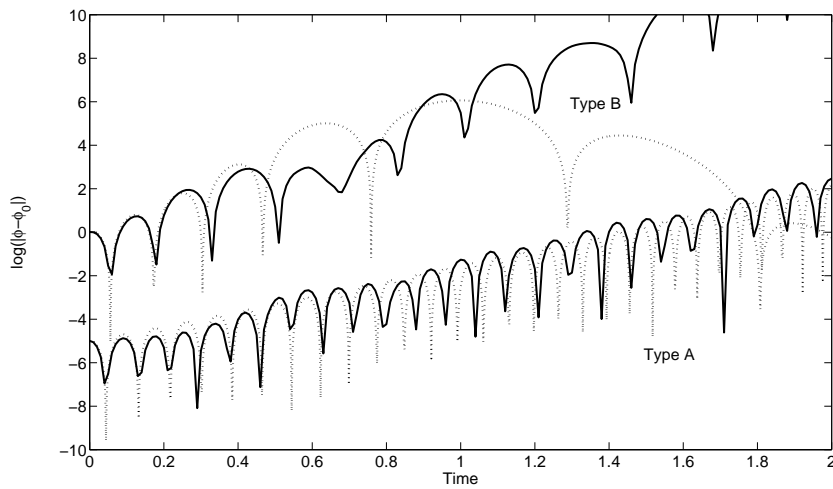


Figure 8: Logarithmic change in the porosity field at the centre of the calculation domain for a calculation with type B viscous anisotropy,  $B_u = 1$ , and with initial condition  $\phi - \phi_0 = \Delta\phi \cos(4\pi x + 4\pi y)$  (upper solid curve) and with type A anisotropy,  $B_u = 1$ , starting with a plane wave perturbation at  $10^0$  to the shear plane (lower solid curve). The dotted curves show the results calculated from the expression  $s + \log(|\cos(\Omega)|)$  with  $s$  and  $\Omega$  calculated from numerical integration of equations 12 and 13 for the same parameters as the numerical solutions.

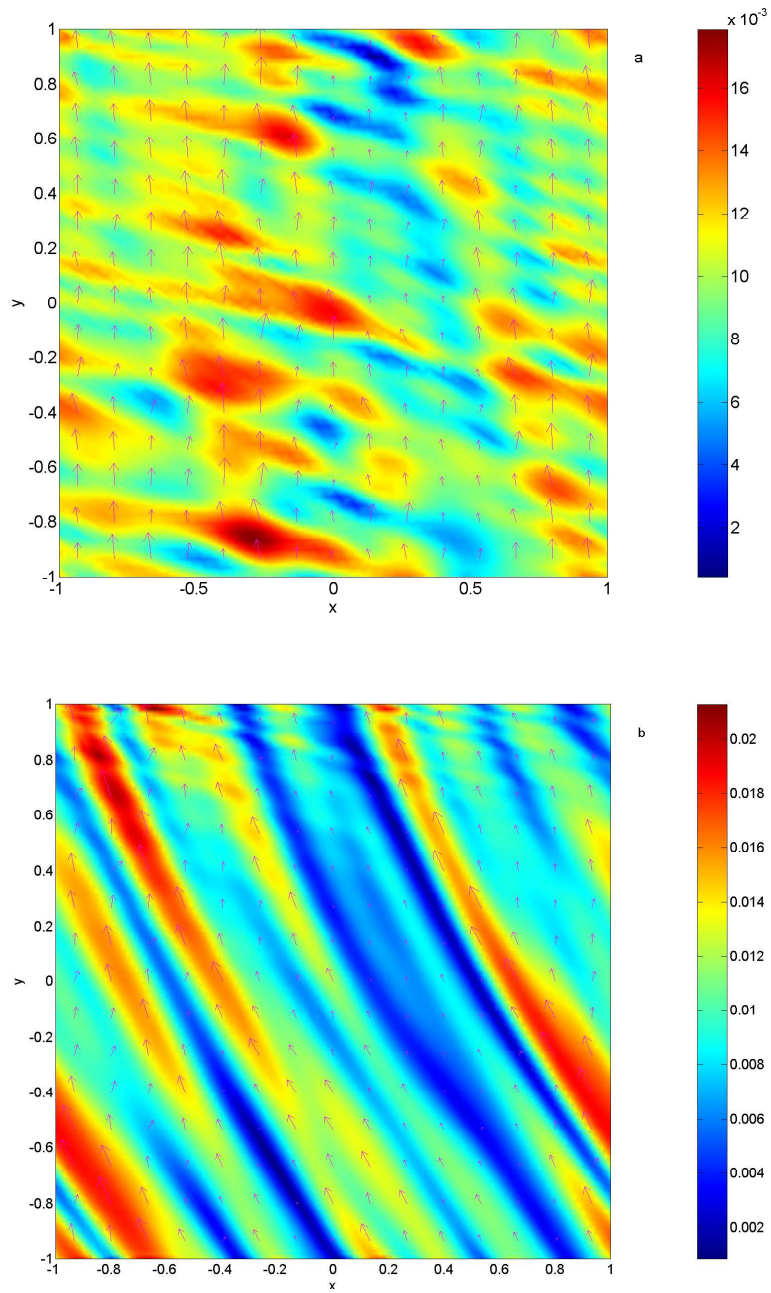


Figure 9: a) Porosity field at time 4.23 for a calculation with type A matrix viscosity anisotropy with  $B_u = 10$  and a random initial condition. b) Porosity field at time 1.8 for a calculation with type B anisotropy with  $B_u = 10$  and a random initial condition. The magenta arrows indicate the fluid velocity.