Dislocation in Elastic Halfspace Model of the Earthquake Cycle

Interseismic: Slip below depth D

Coseismic: Region above D “catches up”
Displacements from Earthquakes, Fault Slip, etc

Consider a strike-slip fault with displacement $S$, independent of depth – a screw “dislocation” – i.e., a slip discontinuity. Original ring (dashed) becomes helix (solid).

Figure 16.3. Section across a mathematical model of a transcurrent fault.

“Dislocations” are used to describe defects in crystals, as well as fault motions. A crystal disrupted by a screw dislocation is shown in the figure below.
Figure 16.4. A screw dislocation in a cubic lattice constitutes a deformation that is out of the plane of atoms illustrated. The two atoms denoted by solid circles are essentially part of a second plane. The Burgers circuit indicated by the numbered steps naturally moves into this second plane. Therefore in order to close the circuit the Burgers vector $b^*$ must be perpendicular to the plane of atoms shown.

Types:
Dislocation motion helps crystals deform (don’t all have to slip at one time). Also helps Earth deform!
Figure 16.8 Upper group: Slip by propagation of an edge dislocation EE. Lower group: Slip by propagation of a screw dislocation SS.

Figure by MIT OCW.
Figure 16.9 Displacement as a function of distance from a transcurrent fault.

Figure by MIT OCW.