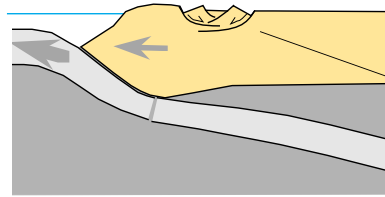


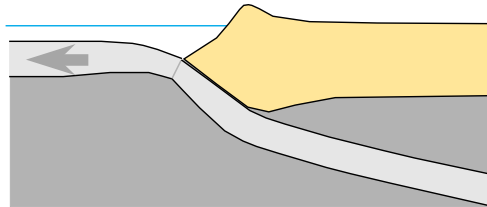
The southwestern United States today



Roots of the magmatic arc exhumed (the Sierra Nevadas)

Extension (Basin & Range) as western North America travels with Pacific Plate

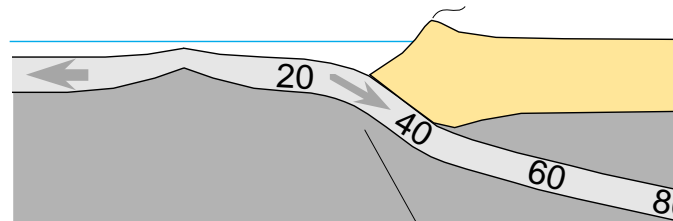
Northern California today



A cartoon history of the eastern Pacific and western Americas

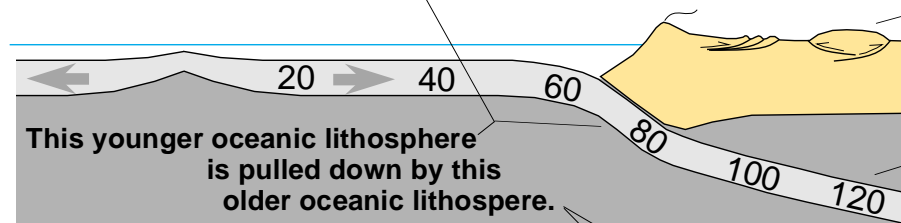
presented only as a hypothetical explanation of the subduction of young buoyant oceanic lithosphere, and neither as the result of original research nor as the result of direct observation.

The Cascades today



Inland compression (Laramides, Pampeans) with lesser dip of slab

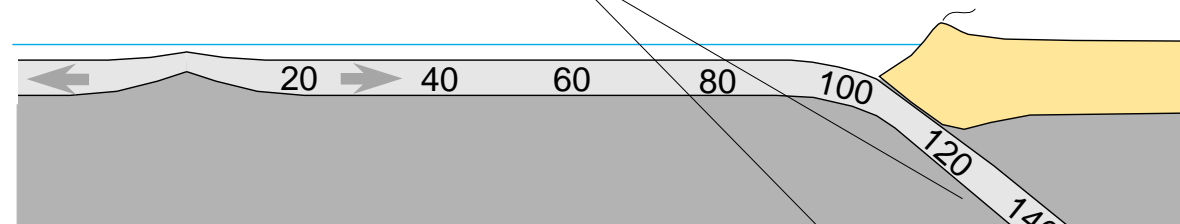
The Andes today; western North America 50 mya



This younger oceanic lithosphere is pulled down by this older oceanic lithosphere.

Dip of the increasingly young and thus increasingly buoyant slab lessens.

The eastern Pacific long ago - old oceanic lithosphere subducted



The eastern Pacific long, long ago - old oceanic lithosphere subducted

