Deriving the slip-front propagation velocity with slip-dependent and slip-velocity-dependent friction laws via the use of the linear marginal stability hypothesis

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We investigate analytically and numerically the determining factors of the slip front propagation (SFP) velocity. The slip front has two forms characterized by an intruding or extruding front. We assume a one-dimensional viscoelastic medium on a rigid and fixed substrate, and we employ the friction law depending on the slip and slip velocity. Despite this dependency potentially being nonlinear, we use the linear marginal stability hypothesis, which linearizes the governing equation for the slip, to investigate the intruding and extruding front velocities. The analytically obtained velocities are found to be consistent with the numerical computation where we assume the friction law depends nonlinearly on both the slip and slip velocity. This implies that the linearized friction law is sufficient to capture the dominant features of SFP behavior.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Slip front propagation (SFP) is an important phenomenon in several scientific and technological fields, including frictional sliding on the interface between two media and crack tip propagation in a medium. From a theoretical viewpoint, researchers have investigated SFP using both discrete [1–4] and continuum [5,6] models. Furthermore, laboratory experiments have also been performed to investigate SFP [7]. Geophysical studies have also contributed to the understanding of the SFP behavior because fault tip propagation can be modeled as SFP. The SFP velocity has attracted considerable research interest. For example, ordinary and slow earthquakes are widely known to exist [8,9], and they have different SFP velocities; the SFP velocities for the former category are much higher than those for the latter. The origin of this difference remains an important open research question.

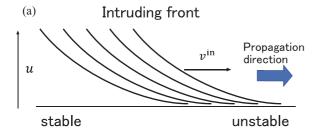
The friction law plays an important role in the understanding of SFP. For example, a friction stress depends on the state variable in the rate-and-state dependent friction model [3,5,10]. Bar-Sinai et al. [10] investigated the SFP velocity using a semi-infinite continuum model and the rate-and-state friction law. Furthermore, we note that friction stress can also depend on quantities such as the slip and slip velocity. For example, Myers and Langer [11] employed a springblock model with a slip-velocity-weakening law to study the SFP velocity. The rate-and-state-dependent friction law with the shear stiffness of the contacts can be interpreted as slip-strengthening behavior [12]. Moreover, the friction law depending on the slip and slip velocity is realized for elastoand viscodampers [13,14]. The slip- and slip-velocity dependences of friction stress are important in geophysical studies [15,16].

Additionally, the viscosity of the medium is important in understanding the SFP behavior [6,11,17]. Our previous study [6] analyzed an infinitely long viscoelastic block on a rigid substrate and achieved the systematic understanding of the SFP velocity in terms of the viscoelasticity and the friction law depending on the slip velocity in a quadratic manner. Despite these studies, a thorough investigation of the SFP velocity with a viscoelastic medium and a friction law that depends on the slip and slip velocity has not yet been undertaken.

Spontaneous SFP velocity has been widely understood by regarding the phenomenon of SFP as the evolution of a solution of the governing equation from a stable state into an unstable state and employing the linear marginal stability hypothesis (LMSH) [6,11,18]. The LMSH has been widely used to investigate the dynamics of fronts or domain walls that propagate spontaneously into an unstable state in a model with a nonlinear governing equation [19,20]. This approach has been used to obtain the solidification front speed [21], the chemical reaction front speed [19,20], and the slip front velocity between blocks and substrates [6,11,18]. This hypothesis asserts that even if the governing equations are nonlinear, a linearized model yields sufficiently accurate front behavior, including the correct front propagating velocity. This hypothesis has been applied to the slip front behavior via the linearization of the friction law; the friction laws adopted in such studies have been limited, e.g., the slip-velocity weakening [18]; the systematic treatment of various types of friction law has not been performed.

This paper is organized as follows. A brief introduction to the LMSH is provided in Sec. II A, and the model setup is defined in Sec. II B. Analytical treatment of the problem is presented in Sec. III; in this section, several SFP velocities are obtained based on the LMSH, and a discussion of their physical implications is presented. The numerical treatment and implications for slip behavior are discussed in Sec. IV,

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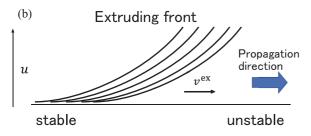


FIG. 1. Schematic illustrations of the intruding and extruding fronts.

and the treatment of the LMSH is justified there. A summary and discussion are presented in Sec. V.

II. MODEL WITH VELOCITY-DEPENDENT LOCAL FRICTION LAW

A. Linear marginal stability hypothesis

The linear marginal stability hypothesis (LMSH) has been widely used to investigate the dynamics of fronts or domain walls that propagate spontaneously into an unstable state where the phenomena are described by nonlinear governing equations [19,20]. This approach has been used to obtain the solidification front speed [21], the chemical reaction front speed [19,20], and the SFP velocity [6,11,18]. We briefly summarize this approach here. The LMSH requires linearizing the governing equation, the plane-wave approximation of the solution near the propagating front, and the two conditions associated with the stability of growth of the disturbance and that of propagation. This hypothesis states that the characteristic frequency, the wave number, and the propagating velocity of a front can be derived even after these approximations.

To understand the details of LMSH further, we define u as a variable characterizing the state of the system (in the case of motion of a continuum, this variable could be slip); we consider the dynamics of the spontaneous propagation of u. Here we assume an infinite and one-dimensional (1D) system. We consider two cases: (i) u = 0 is unstable and the stable region with u > 0 intrudes into this unstable region, and (ii) u = 0 is stable and this region intrudes into the unstable region with u > 0. The front in the former case is referred to as an "intruding front," whereas that in the latter case is called an "extruding front" (Fig. 1). Notably, if the governing equation of u is a wave equation, the cases are symmetric and the propagation velocity is equal in magnitude. However, if the governing equation includes additional terms, such as a diffusion term, the symmetry vanishes, and different propagation velocities are expected for the two fronts.

The front is mathematically defined to be located where terms of O(|u|) dominate and terms of $O(|u|^2)$ become negligible in the governing equations. For the solution of u, we assume the plane-wave solution, $u \sim \exp\left(\pm i(kx-\omega t)\right)$, whose frequency ω and wave number k are complex in the region close to the front. The upper (lower) sign corresponds to the intruding (extruding) front propagation. To understand this propagation, we rewrite this plane-wave solution of u as

$$\exp(\pm i(kx - \omega t))$$

$$= \exp(\pm i[(k_r + ik_i)x - (\omega_r + i\omega_i)t])$$

$$= \exp(\pm i(k_r x - \omega_r t))\exp(\mp (k_i x - \omega_i t)), \quad (1)$$

where k_r and k_i are the real and imaginary parts of k, respectively, and ω_r and ω_i are the real and imaginary parts of ω , respectively. Notably, the absolute value of Eq. (1) can determine the front, i.e., $\exp\left(\mp\left(k_ix-\omega_it\right)\right)$ is used to define the front. The value of $\exp\left(\pm\left(i(k_rx-\omega_rt)\right)\right)$ describes the oscillation within the envelope $\exp\left(\mp\left(k_ix-\omega_it\right)\right)$, and it is not used to determine the position of the front. Equation (1) and Fig. 1 clearly indicate that the upper (lower) sign corresponds to the intruding (extruding) front. In the above expression, k_r , k_i , ω_r , and ω_i are four unknown parameters, and the LMSH determines them via four independent equations: the real and imaginary parts of the dispersion relation and the expressions for growth and propagating stabilities. With these values, the primary goal of this study is obtaining an analytical form for the intruding and extruding front velocity.

The growth stability condition mentioned above is given by

$$\frac{\partial \omega_i}{\partial k_r} = 0, \tag{2}$$

whereas the propagating stability is given by the relationship

$$\frac{\partial \omega_i}{\partial k_i} = \frac{\omega_i}{k_i} = c,\tag{3}$$

where c is a positive constant. The remaining equations are given by

$$\frac{\partial \omega_r}{\partial k_i} = 0 \tag{4}$$

and

$$\frac{\partial \omega_r}{\partial k_r} = \frac{\omega_r}{k_r} = c,\tag{5}$$

which are obtained from the Cauchy-Riemann relationship.

Equation (2) represents the condition that the disturbance will not grow with increasing time. Equation (3) indicates that the phase velocity $c_p \equiv \omega_i/k_i$ is equal to the group velocity $c_g \equiv \partial \omega_i/\partial k_i$. Given that the disturbance propagates with the group velocity, this condition dictates that the disturbance and the front propagate with the same velocity. It is important to note that for stability, the relationship $c_p \geqslant c_g$ is sufficient because the disturbance is overtaken by the front with $c_p \geqslant c_g$. Nonetheless, Ref. [19] mathematically showed that Eq. (3) is satisfied for spontaneous front propagation. For more details regarding these conditions, see Ref. [6].

B. Model setup

In this work, we consider a semi-infinite viscoelastic medium that is assumed to be on the rigid and fixed substrate. We apply a loading stress on the left end of the medium in the direction tangential to the substrate surface, i.e., an end-loading stress. We employ the nondimensionalization of the variables based on Ref. [6]. The end-loading stress is denoted $p_e(<0)$, and this constant stress is applied along the x axis for a time $t \ge 0$. We also consider additional loading conditions. Among the loading conditions, we evaluate in this work the continuum limit of the Burridge-Knopoff model, which includes a driving stress from the upper block connected to the upper plate [11]. We refer to this loading stress as "upper-loading stress." The upper-loading stress is denoted $p_u(>0)$, and this constant stress is applied along the x axis for the time $t > -\infty$. We assume that p_u is less than the macroscopic maximum static friction stress, which is assumed to be the same for all the blocks considered. We treat the two models (with the different loading conditions) in the single framework: the model subject to the end-loading stress is referred to as the EL model, whereas the model with endand upper-loading stresses is called the EUL model. In these models, the system is considered to be 1D along the x axis, and the slip distance, u(x, t), at position x and time t is zero throughout the whole system for t < 0.

We can consider the nondimensionalized governing equation:

$$\ddot{u} = u'' + \dot{u}'' + F(u) - \tau_{v}(\dot{u}) - \tau_{s}(u), \tag{6}$$

where F(u) is a slip-dependent function describing the loading condition, $\tau_v(\dot{u})$ and $\tau_s(u)$ describe the local friction stresses that depend on \dot{u} and u, respectively, and the dot and prime represent differentiation with respect to t and x, respectively. The loading conditions can be treated systematically via the function F(u). We can select F(u) = 0 for the EL model [6], and $F(u) = p_u - u$ for the EUL model [11]. The terms \ddot{u} , u'', and \dot{u}'' have a physical interpretation; they represent the inertia, elastic, and viscous terms, respectively. This viscous term is employed in several previous studies [6,11].

Several forms of $\tau_v(\dot{u})$ and $\tau_s(u)$ have been considered in the analysis of SFP (e.g., [6,11,18]), and the SFP velocity has been analytically investigated previously [6]. The purpose of the present paper is to derive a more universal expression for SFP velocity, which is independent of the details of friction laws; such an analysis enables us to understand the SFP behavior in the single framework.

III. ANALYTICAL TREATMENT

We now linearize the terms $F(u) - \tau_v(\dot{u}) - \tau_s(u)$ from Eq. (6). We take

$$F(u) - \tau_{v}(\dot{u}) - \tau_{s}(u) = C_{1}\dot{u} - C_{2}u, \tag{7}$$

where C_1 and C_2 are constants. To undertake the linearization (7), we assume that the system is in a critical state before the end-loading in the EUL model, which leads to

$$p_u = \tau_{\rm v}(0) + \tau_{\rm s}(0). \tag{8}$$

Analyses without the critical state assumption have been performed in previous studies [11,12]. However, those treatments only provide approximations for the SFP velocities. With the assumption of the critical state, an analytical treatment is possible here.

We note that if the slip direction reverses (u turns to be negative) with increasing time, Eq. (7) cannot be applied. The reason for this is twofold: first, the friction stress, $\tau_v(\dot{u}) + \tau_s(u)$, changes its sign if slip reversal occurs, and thus the linearization of Eq. (7) cannot be employed. Second, if the slip reversal occurs, the absolute value of the stress acting on the slip-reversal point will exceed the maximum static friction stress. This slip criterion is not considered in the linearization of Eq. (7). We do not consider the slip reversal in the following analytical treatment, as is done in seismology [22].

Using the linearization of Eq. (7), we rewrite the governing equation [Eq. (6)],

$$\ddot{u} = u'' + \dot{u}'' + C_1 \dot{u} - C_2 u. \tag{9}$$

We note that positive and negative values for C_1 and C_2 are permitted.

We assume the plane-wave solution for Eq. (9), i.e., $u \sim \exp(\pm i(kx - \omega t))$. The upper (lower) sign describes the intruding (extruding) front propagation, as noted in Sec. II A. Based on this assumption and using Eq. (9), the dispersion relation is found to be

$$-\omega^2 = -k^2 \pm i\omega k^2 \mp iC_1\omega - C_2. \tag{10}$$

Considering the real and imaginary parts of the dispersion relation in Eq. (10), we obtain

$$(\mp \omega_i - 1)(k_r^2 - k_i^2) \mp 2\omega_r k_r k_i + (\omega_r^2 - \omega_i^2) \pm C_1 \omega_i - C_2 = 0,$$
(11)

$$(\mp \omega_i - 1)2k_rk_i \pm \omega_r(k_r^2 - k_i^2) + 2\omega_r\omega_i \mp C_1\omega_r = 0,$$
 (12)

respectively. We first note that the solutions $k_r \neq 0$ and $\omega_r \neq 0$ exist. In the case of C_1 and C_2 being positive and $k_i = \omega_i = 0$, the solution set $(k_r, \omega_r, k_i, \omega_i) = (\sqrt{C_1}, \sqrt{C_1 + C_2}, 0, 0)$ exists. The solutions $k_r \neq 0$ and $\omega_r \neq 0$ describe an oscillating solution. The slip reversal occurs with these solutions; such solutions cannot be treated in a framework based on Eq. (9). Thus, this solution set is excluded from the following discussion. We therefore assume $k_r = \omega_r = 0$ in the analytical treatment. With such an assumption, considering Eq. (11), we have

$$k_i^2 \pm \omega_i k_i^2 - C_2 \pm C_1 \omega_i - \omega_i^2 = 0.$$
 (13)

Combining this equation, the expression for growth stability [Eq. (2)], and the condition for propagation stability [Eq. (3)], we obtain a cubic equation for ω_i ,

$$\omega_i^3 \mp 2C_1\omega_i^2 - (C_1 - 3C_2)\omega_i \pm 2C_2 = 0, \tag{14}$$

and a relationship between k_i and ω_i :

$$k_i^2 = \frac{\mp 2C_2 + C_1\omega_i}{\omega_i}. (15)$$

We begin by categorizing the solutions of Eq. (14) in terms of the numbers of positive and negative real solutions. Combining the results with Eq. (15), we are able to investigate the numbers of SFP velocities that the above equations yield.

We start by defining $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)$ as being equal to the left-hand side of Eq. (14) with the upper sign; such a definition permits us to study the intruding front velocity. It is noted that the discussion performed in this section is also directly applicable to the extruding front propagation. To confirm this statement, we define $f_{\rm ex}(\omega_i)$ as the left-hand side of Eq. (14) with the lower sign. We then have the relationship

$$f_{\text{in}}(-\omega_i) = -\omega_i^3 - 2C_1\omega_i^2 + (C_1 - 3C_2)\omega_i + 2C_2$$

= $-f_{\text{ex}}(\omega_i)$. (16)

Thus, we see that the number of the real solutions for $f_{\rm ex}(\omega_i)=0$ is exactly the same as the number of real solutions for $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)=0$, and the positive (negative) solutions for the former correspond to the negative (positive) solutions for the latter. We therefore investigate only the numbers of real solutions for $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)$ in this work.

To categorize the numbers of the real solutions for $f_{\text{in}}(\omega_i) = 0$ in terms of C_1 and C_2 , we require an expression for D, $f_{\text{in}}(0)$, $f_{\text{in}}(\omega_+^{\text{in}})$, and ω_+^{in} , where

$$D \equiv 4C_1^2 + 3(C_1 - 3C_2), \tag{17}$$

and $\omega_{\pm}^{\rm in}$ is defined as the solution of

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \omega_i} f_{\text{in}}(\omega_i) \Big|_{\omega_i = \omega_{\pm}^{\text{in}}} = 3\omega_{\pm}^{\text{in}^2} - 4C_1 \omega_{\pm}^{\text{in}} - (C_1 - 3C_2) = 0,$$
(18)

which leads to the solution

$$\omega_{\pm}^{\rm in} = \frac{2C_1 \pm \sqrt{4C_1^2 + 3(C_1 - 3C_2)}}{3} \tag{19}$$

(double signs in the same order). We observe that if D is positive, ω_+^{in} is real. Additionally, we can obtain

$$f_{\rm in}(0) = 2C_2 \tag{20}$$

and

$$f_{\rm in}(\omega_+^{\rm in}) = \omega_+^{\rm in^3} - 2C_1\omega_+^{\rm in^2} - (C_1 - 3C_2)\omega_+^{\rm in} + 2C_2.$$
 (21)

We define ω_1^{in} , ω_2^{in} , and ω_3^{in} as the solutions for $f_{\text{in}}(\omega_i)=0$; ω_1^{in} is defined to always take real values, as described in Appendix A. We number the various cases based on the diagram shown in Fig. 2(a). In cases 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 8, only ω_1^{in} is real, and ω_1^{in} is positive in cases 1, 3, and 4, whereas it is negative in cases 2, 7, and 8. Though the numbers of the positive (negative) solutions are the same for cases 1, 3, and 4 (2, 7, and 8), we differentiate the cases because the numbers of the real positive solutions for k_i , which is 1 or 0, may be different in each case. The solutions ω_1^{in} , ω_2^{in} , and ω_3^{in} are real in cases 5, 6, 9, and 10. All the solutions are positive in case 5, two are positive and one is negative in case 9, two are negative and one is positive in case 6, and all the solutions are negative in case 10.

We now obtain the analytical forms of the boundaries dividing cases 1-10 in C_1 - C_2 phase space. These equations are obtained based on the diagram Fig. 2(a) as follows:

$$D = 0, (22)$$

$$f_{\rm in}(0) = 0,$$
 (23)

$$D < 0 \begin{cases} f_{\text{in}}(0) < 0 & (1) \\ f_{\text{in}}(0) > 0 & (2) \end{cases}$$

$$D > 0 \begin{cases} f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (2) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (3) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (5) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (6) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (6) \end{cases}$$

$$f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 \begin{cases} f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (4) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (6) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (6) \end{cases}$$

$$f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 \begin{cases} f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (8) \\ f_{\text{in}}(\omega) > 0 & (6) \end{cases}$$

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FIG. 2. (a) Depicting the various cases examined in this work. (b)–(k) Various forms of $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)$ for the cases listed in (a).

$$f_{\rm in}(\omega_+^{\rm in}) = 0, \tag{24}$$

$$f_{\rm in}(\omega_-^{\rm in}) = 0, \tag{25}$$

$$\omega_{+}^{\rm in} = 0, \tag{26}$$

$$\omega_{-}^{\rm in} = 0. \tag{27}$$

First, using Eqs. (17) and (22), we obtain a boundary referred to as boundary A, which reduces to the parabolic form

$$C_2 = \frac{4}{9} \left(C_1 + \frac{3}{8} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{16}. \tag{28}$$

From Fig. 2, boundary A represents a boundary between a region in which solutions are characterized as cases 1–2 and a region containing solutions that fall into cases 3–10 in the C_1 - C_2 space. Next, from Eqs. (20) and (23), we can conclude that $C_2 = 0$ represents a boundary, which we will call boundary B. Boundary B divides regions of solutions that are represented as case 1 from case 2, and the solutions in cases 3–6 from cases 7–10. Further, we consider the cubic equation for C_2 from Eqs. (21), (24), and (25):

$$3C_2^3 - (C_1^2 - 3C_1 - 3)C_2^2 - (C_1^2 + \frac{10}{9}C_1^3)C_2 - \frac{C_1^3}{9} - \frac{C_1^4}{9} = 0.$$
 (29)

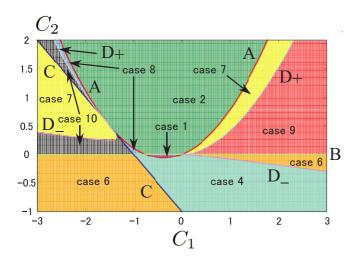


FIG. 3. Phase space for the solutions for $f_{in}(\omega_i) = 0$.

We can factorize this equation to obtain

$$(C_2 + C_1 + 1)\left(3C_2^2 - C_1^2C_2 - \frac{C_1^3}{9}\right) = 0, (30)$$

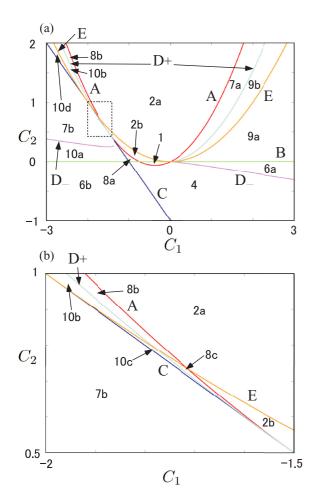


FIG. 4. Phase space with the boundaries A - E. The numbers and letters refer to the case of the solution. The region enclosed by a dotted line in (a) is enlarged in (b).

TABLE I. Values of C_1 and C_2 as examples, and the resulting intruding and extruding front velocities for the various cases. The velocities in parentheses describe the optical modes.

Cases	C_1	C_2	Velocity
1	-0.375	-0.031 25	$v_1^{ m in}$
2a	1	2	(v_1^{ex})
2b	-1	0.2	•
4	1	-0.5	$v_1^{ m in}$
6a	1	-0.05	$v_1^{\text{in}}, v_2^{\text{ex}} (v_{32}^{\text{ex}})$
6b	-2	-0.05	v_1^{in}
7a	1	0.5	(v_1^{ex})
7b	-2	0.5	•
8a	-1	0.05	
8b	-3	2.75	(v_1^{ex})
8c	-1.7	0.71	. 1
9a	1	0.1	$v_1^{\rm in},v_2^{\rm ex}$
9b	1	0.3	$v_1^{\text{in}}, v_2^{\text{ex}} (v_3^{\text{in}})$
10a	-2	0.1	1 2 3
10b	-3	2.5	(v_1^{ex})
10c	-1.75	0.755	. 1 /
10d	-3	2.125	$(v_1^{\mathrm{ex}},v_{31}^{\mathrm{ex}})$

which we can evaluate to find that

$$C_2 = -C_1 - 1, \quad \frac{C_1^2}{6} \pm \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{\frac{C_1^4}{4} + \frac{C_1^3}{3}}$$
 (31)

are boundaries. The former will be referred to as boundary C, and the latter will be referred to as boundary D_\pm , respectively (double signs in the same order). Boundary C is a boundary for regions where solutions are of case 3, case 4, and cases 5–6, and D_\pm divides the regions in which solutions in case 7, case 8, and cases 9–10 exist. Additionally, we can confirm analytically that the boundaries A, C, and D_+ all pass through the point $(C_1, C_2) = (-1.5, 0.5)$, and that the boundary C is tangential to the boundaries A and D_+ at this point.

Using the boundaries $A-D_\pm$, we obtain the phase space that categorizes the behavior of the solutions for $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)=0$ (see Fig. 3). Figure 3 shows that cases 6, 7, 8, and 10 are further divided into two disconnected regions. Actually, from Eqs. (19), (26), and (27), we can obtain the relationship $C_2=C_1/3$ for $C_1>0$ [Eq. (27)] and for $C_1<0$ [Eq. (26)]. This forms a boundary between regions in which solutions for $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)=0$ fall into cases 5 and 6, and cases 9 and 10. However, we can see that the case 5 does not appear in the phase space (see Fig. 3), and case 9 is not adjacent to case 10. Therefore, this straight line does not appear as a boundary in Fig. 3.

The solutions for $f_{\rm in}(\omega_i)=0$ have been categorized in C_1 - C_2 space. We now categorize the solutions for k_i . Notably, the solution for k_i is obtained from Eq. (15); thus we see that the solution does not exist when the right-hand side of Eq. (15) is negative, even if real and positive solutions for ω_i exist. Therefore, we see that the curve $k_i=0$ is another boundary in C_1 - C_2 space. We refer to this boundary as boundary E, and the analytical form of boundary E is obtained here. If we

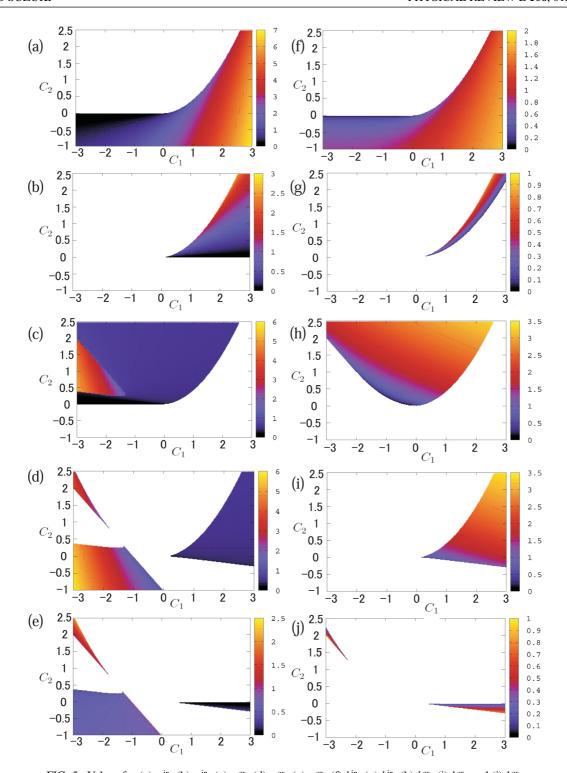


FIG. 5. Values for (a) $\omega_1^{\rm in}$, (b) $\omega_3^{\rm in}$, (c) $\omega_1^{\rm ex}$, (d) $\omega_2^{\rm ex}$, (e) $\omega_3^{\rm ex}$, (f) $k_1^{\rm in}$, (g) $k_3^{\rm in}$, (h) $k_1^{\rm ex}$, (i) $k_2^{\rm ex}$, and (j) $k_3^{\rm ex}$.

substitute $k_i = 0$ into Eq. (13) with the upper sign, we obtain

$$\omega_i = \frac{C_1}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{C_1^2}{4} - C_2},\tag{32}$$

where the sign of the second term on the right-hand side is arbitrary. Substituting $k_i = 0$ in Eq. (15) with the upper sign

yields

$$\omega_i = \frac{2C_2}{C_1}. (33)$$

From the two previous expressions, an equation describing boundary E can be obtained:

$$C_2 = \frac{C_1^2}{4}. (34)$$

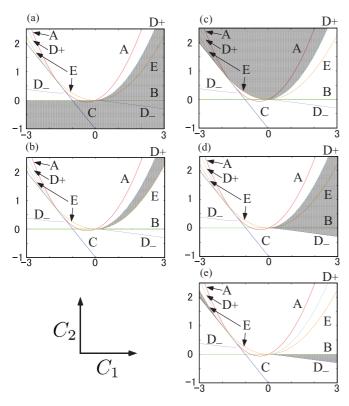


FIG. 6. The parameter regions for the front velocities. The shaded areas indicate the regions in which (a) v_1^{in} , (b) v_3^{in} , (c) v_1^{ex} , (d) v_2^{ex} , and (e) v_{31}^{ex} and v_{32}^{ex} are found to exist.

It can also be confirmed that boundary C is a tangent to boundary E at the point $(C_1, C_2) = (-2, 1)$. The phase space is shown in Fig. 4. This figure shows 17 subdivided regions of the cases, and they are named as shown in the figure (see Table I for details).

We show the values of ω_j^{in} , ω_j^{ex} , k_j^{in} , and k_j^{ex} (j=1,2,3) in Fig. 5, where ω_j^{ex} , k_j^{in} , and k_j^{ex} are defined in Appendix. Note that ω_2^{in} and k_2^{in} do not exist. The values of k_3^{in} , k_1^{ex} , and k_3^{ex} are zero on boundary E. Note that since Eq. (34) is a necessary and not a sufficient condition for $k_j^{\text{in}} = 0$ or $k_j^{\text{ex}} = 0$, nonzero values (k_1^{in} and k_2^{ex}) are allowed on boundary E.

values $(k_1^{\text{in}} \text{ and } k_2^{\text{ex}})$ are allowed on boundary E. Using the values of ω_j^{in} , ω_j^{ex} , k_j^{in} , and k_j^{in} corresponding to solutions of $f_{\text{in}}(\omega_i)=0$, we also investigate the intruding front velocity, v^{in} , and the extruding front velocity, v^{ex} . We define the jth intruding and extruding front velocity as v_i^{in} and v_i^{in} , respectively, as in Appendix, and the velocities v_1^{in} , v_3^{in} v_1^{ex} , v_2^{ex} , and v_3^{ex} exist. The regions where v_1^{in} , v_3^{in} , v_1^{ex} , v_2^{ex} , and v_3^{ex} exist are shown in Figs. 6(a)-6(e), respectively, in C_1 - C_2 space. We note that the region where v_3^{ex} exists is separated into two disconnected regions. We refer to $v_3^{\rm ex}$, which corresponds to values of negative C_1 , as $v_{31}^{\rm ex}$, and that which corresponds to positive values of C_1 , as $v_{32}^{\rm ex}$. We have three velocities in cases 6a and 9b $(v_1^{\text{in}}, v_2^{\text{ex}}, v_{32}^{\text{ex}})$ for case 6a and $v_1^{\text{in}}, v_3^{\text{in}}, v_1^{\text{ex}}$ for case 9b). There exist two velocities in cases 9a and 10d (v_1^{in} and v_2^{ex} for 9a and v_1^{ex} and v_{31}^{ex} for 10d). For cases 1, 4, and 6b, we obtain the single velocity v_1^{in} , whereas in cases 2a, 7a, 8b, and 10b, only a single velocity v_1^{ex} is found to exist. Finally, we note that no solutions for v^{in} or v^{ex} exist in cases 2b, 7b, 8a, 8c, 10a, and 10c.

The values of the front velocities v_1^{in} , v_3^{in} , v_1^{ex} , v_2^{ex} , v_3^{ex} , v_3^{ex} , and v_{32}^{ex} are shown in Fig. 7. It is found that v_3^{in} , v_1^{ex} , and v_{31}^{ex} diverge close to boundary E. This divergence is because the values of k_3^{in} , k_1^{ex} , and k_3^{ex} are equal to zero, while ω_3^{in} , ω_1^{ex} , and $\omega_3^{\rm ex}$ take nonzero values on the boundary. We can therefore conclude that these velocities describe optical modes and represent unphysical propagations. In addition, we confirmed that the velocities v_1^{in} and v_2^{ex} take the values $\sqrt{1+C_1}+\sqrt{C_1}$ and $\sqrt{1+C_1} - \sqrt{C_1}$, respectively, on the C_1 axis for $C_1 > 0$. These values are consistent with those found in Ref. [6] because the slip dependence of the friction stress was neglected in that work, i.e., $C_2 = 0$. The value of v_{32}^{ex} is not consistent with $\sqrt{1+C_1}-\sqrt{C_1}$. We therefore conclude that v_1^{in} and v_2^{ex} represent the physical SFP velocities for the intruding and extruding fronts, respectively. We can also suggest that v_1^{in} and v_2^{ex} are an extension of the intruding and extruding front velocities obtained in Ref. [6] to the model with the friction law depending on the slip and slip velocity.

IV. NUMERICAL TREATMENT: IMPLICATIONS FOR SLIP BEHAVIOR

In this section, we show the spatiotemporal evolutions of the slip velocity found via numerical computations using the values shown in Table I. We confirm that the values of $v_1^{\rm in}$ and $v_2^{\rm ex}$ obtained using the LMSH are accurate.

A. Intruding front propagation

In this section, we numerically consider the intruding front velocities. We consider v_1^{in} because v_2^{in} does not exist and v_3^{in} describes an optical mode, which represents an unphysical propagation. As such, we treat the cases 1, 4, 6a, 6b, 9a, and 9b (see Table I). We consider the EUL model, i.e., $F(u) = p_u - u$. In the following, we assume $p_u = 1$.

For the numerical computations, a friction law must be determined. There are few restrictions on the choice of friction laws provided they are reduced to the form of Eq. (7) via linearization. Here, we adopt the following expression for $\tau_{\rm v}(\dot{u}) + \tau_{\rm s}(u)$:

$$\tau_{v}(\dot{u}) + \tau_{s}(u) = 1 - \frac{C_{1}}{2|C_{1}|} [1 - \exp(-2|C_{1}|\dot{u})] + \frac{C_{2} - 1}{2|C_{2} - 1|} [1 - \exp(-2|C_{2} - 1|u)].$$
(35)

In this model, the system is in a critical state at the onset of end-loading, i.e., $F(0) - \tau_v(0) - \tau_s(0) = 0$, as assumed in Sec. III. Additionally, it is possible to show that the right-hand side of Eq. (35) is always positive for any positive values of u and \dot{u} , which is a required condition for the friction laws. We define the slip front as the region where u and \dot{u} are sufficiently small that only their linear terms exist in Eq. (35), and with this assumption, we can derive the relation

$$F(u) - \tau_{v}(\dot{u}) - \tau_{s}(u) \sim C_{1}\dot{u} - C_{2}u$$
 (36)

from Eq. (35), which is seen to be equivalent to Eq. (7). Though the friction law (35) looks artificial, we emphasize that this expression is an example that permits numerical

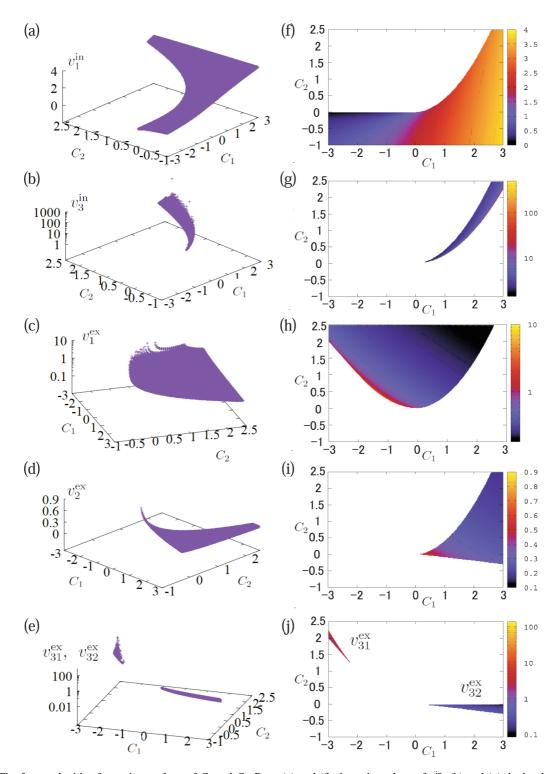


FIG. 7. The front velocities for various values of C_1 and C_2 . Parts (a) and (f) show the values of v_1^{in} , (b) and (g) depict the values of v_3^{in} , (c) and (h) show the values of v_1^{ex} , (d) and (i) show the values of v_2^{ex} , and (e) and (j) indicate the true values of v_{31}^{ex} and v_{32}^{ex} . The 3D plots are shown in (a)–(e), while the contour maps are illustrated in (f)–(j). The log scale is used for the z axes in (b), (c), and (e), and the color bars in (g), (h), and (j). Note that the direction of the axes differs between the subfigures (a)–(e), and the range of values associated with the color bar also differs between the subfigures (f)–(j).

calculations and allows us to confirm the validity of the analytical treatment presented in this work.

To permit numerical calculations, the system must be finite, whereas an infinite system was assumed in the analytical

treatment. We assume that the end-loading point is located at the position x=-500 for the finite system employed for the numerical calculations, and we use the value of $p_{-500} \equiv \partial u/\partial x|_{x=-500} = -0.05$ as the end-loading stress, instead of

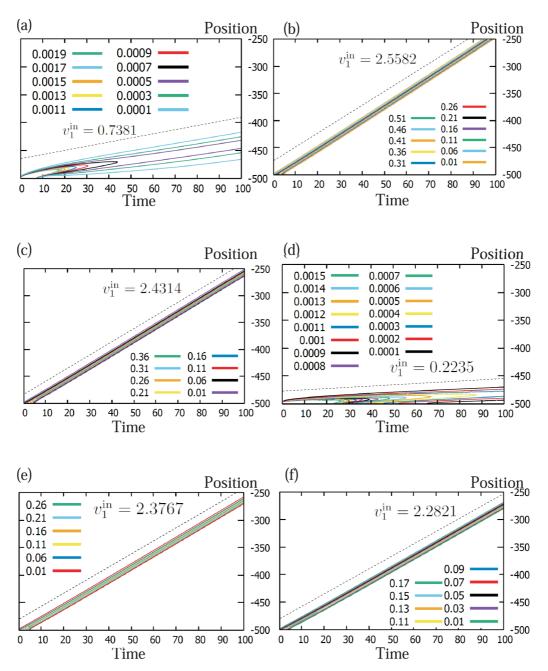


FIG. 8. The slip-velocity profiles obtained in this work. The color curves are isolines of the slip velocities, and the values with short color lines describe the values of the slip velocity on the isolines. The parameter values are (a) $C_1 = -0.375$ and $C_2 = -0.03125$ (case 1), (b) $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = -0.5$ (case 4), (c) $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = -0.05$ (case 6a), (d) $C_1 = -2$ and $C_2 = -0.05$ (case 6b), (e) $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = 0.1$ (case 9a), and (f) $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = 0.3$ (case 9b). The gradients of the dotted lines represent the analytically obtained values of the SFP velocities, which are described for each subfigure.

 p_e in the analytical work. In the numerical work, the Runge-Kutta method with fourth-order accuracy is used.

We can then numerically obtain the spatiotemporal evolutions of the slip velocities, which are shown in Fig. 8. Figure 8 shows that all the cases considered here generate intruding front velocities which are in agreement with those obtained analytically. This indicates that the LMSH is effective and that the linearized form of the governing equation accurately determines the SFP behavior. We note that the slip velocity profile is pulselike in Fig. 8, which is clearly shown in Fig. 9.

This result indicates that the slip velocity is always positive, and that the slip reversal does not occur when the stated friction law is considered [Eq. (35)].

The supersonic front propagation is observed in Figs. 8(b), 8(c), 8(e), and 8(f); the shear wave velocity is unity in the present framework. These cases correspond to the slip-and/or slip-velocity-weakening behaviors with the critical condition just before the slip. Though the treatment in this study is not the same as that of the crack-tip propagation, the front propagation obtained here may be consistent with

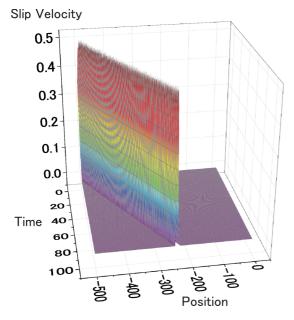


FIG. 9. The 3D plot for the spatiotemporal evolution with the case 4 [Fig. 8(b)].

the supersonic crack-tip propagations addressed in previous studies [23–26].

B. Extruding front propagation

Here we consider the extruding front velocities. We consider only $v_2^{\rm ex}$ because $v_1^{\rm ex}$ and $v_{31}^{\rm ex}$ correspond to the optical modes, and the value of $v_{32}^{\rm ex}$ is not consistent with that of previous study. To simulate the extruding front, we consider the EL model [6].

In this numerical work, we assume the following friction laws:

$$\tau_{v}(\dot{u}) = C_{v}\dot{u}(C'_{1} - \dot{u})[H(\dot{u}) - H(\dot{u} - C'_{1})] \tag{37}$$

and

$$\tau_s(u) = C_s u(C_2' - u)[H(u) - H(u - C_2')], \tag{38}$$

where C_v , C_s , C_1' , and C_2' are positive constants. The friction laws given in Eqs. (37) and (38) assume a quadratic dependence of the friction stress on the slip velocity and slip, respectively. The quadratic dependence of the slip velocity was assumed in Ref. [6], and this dependence is now extended to the slip dependence. In the following discussion, it is shown that the friction laws in Eqs. (37) and (38) generate the extruding front.

First, we demonstrate that the friction laws (37) and (38) do not generate the intruding front propagation. These friction laws state that the system corresponds to $C_1 < 0$ and $C_2 > 0$ when $u \ll 1$ and $\dot{u} \ll 1$. As shown in Fig. 6(a), v_1^{in} does not exist in the region in which $C_1 < 0$ and $C_2 > 0$. Therefore, under these conditions, we do not have an intruding front propagation.

Here we demonstrate how the extruding front velocity is determined with the friction laws given in Eqs. (37) and (38). We first introduce the variable

$$\dot{w} \equiv C_1'' - \dot{u},\tag{39}$$

where C_1'' is a positive constant. From the definition in Eq. (39), we obtain

$$w = C_1''t + W(x) - u, (40)$$

where W(x) is an arbitrary function of x. We consider the region near the slip front propagating with a constant velocity. Therefore, if we assume that C_1'' is equal to the extruding front velocity, we can see that $C_1''t + W(x)$ is a constant, which results in

$$w = C_2'' - u, \tag{41}$$

where C_2'' is a positive constant. We assume that w and \dot{w} are sufficiently small to mean that the terms of order w^2 and \dot{w}^2 and higher can be neglected. Using Eqs. (6), (37)–(39), and (41), considering only the linear terms of w and \dot{w} , we obtain the governing equation:

$$\ddot{w} = w'' + \dot{w}''$$

$$+ C_v (C_1' - 2C_1'') \dot{w} [H(C_1'' - C_1' - \dot{w}) - H(C_1'' - \dot{w})]$$

$$+ C_s (C_2' - 2C_2'') w [H(C_2'' - C_2' - w) - H(C_2'' - w)].$$
(42)

From these expressions, we conclude that the values C_1 and C_2 in Eq. (9) are given by

$$C_1 = C_v(C_1' - 2C_1'') (43)$$

and

$$C_2 = -C_s(C_2' - 2C_2''). (44)$$

Here, we demonstrate a method determining the values of C_1'' and C_2'' . First, we write $v_2^{\rm ex}$ as a function of C_1 and C_2 , i.e., $v_2^{\rm ex}(C_1,C_2)$. This function is illustrated in Fig. 7(i). We then define the values of $C_1'''\equiv -\partial \tau_{\rm v}(\dot{u})/\partial \dot{u}|_{\dot{u}=C_1''}$ and $C_2'''\equiv \partial \tau_{\rm s}(u)/\partial u|_{u=C_2''}$. Since the quantities $-C_1'''$ and C_2''' are the gradients of $\tau_{\rm v}(\dot{u})$ and $\tau_{\rm s}(u)$, respectively, at $\dot{u}=C_1''$ and $u=C_2''$, we obtain

$$\tau_{v}(\dot{u}) = -C_{1}^{""}(\dot{u} - C_{1}^{""}) = C_{1}^{""}\dot{w} \tag{45}$$

and

$$\tau_{\rm s}(u) = -C_2'''(u - C_2'') = -C_2'''w, \tag{46}$$

around $\dot{u} = C_1''$ and $u = C_2''$. Therefore, the equation

$$v_2^{\text{ex}}(C_1^{"'}, C_2^{"'}) = C_1^{"} \tag{47}$$

yields a relation between C_1'' and C_2'' . Since C_1''' depends on C_1'' , the above expression represents a self-consistent equation. However, we cannot determine the two unknown quantities, C_1'' and C_2'' , uniquely from this single equation. We obtain a second expression relating the two parameters via consideration of p_e . We assume that the single relation

$$G(C_1''', C_2''', p_e) = 0$$
 (48)

exists, whereas obtaining the analytic form of G is impossible. However, we can expect that a larger value of $|p_e|$ induces a larger value of $v_2^{\rm ex}$. Equations (47) and (48) determine the extruding front velocity $v_2^{\rm ex}(=C_1'')$ for a given p_e . Finally, if these equations do not have the solution, the steady SFP does not exist.

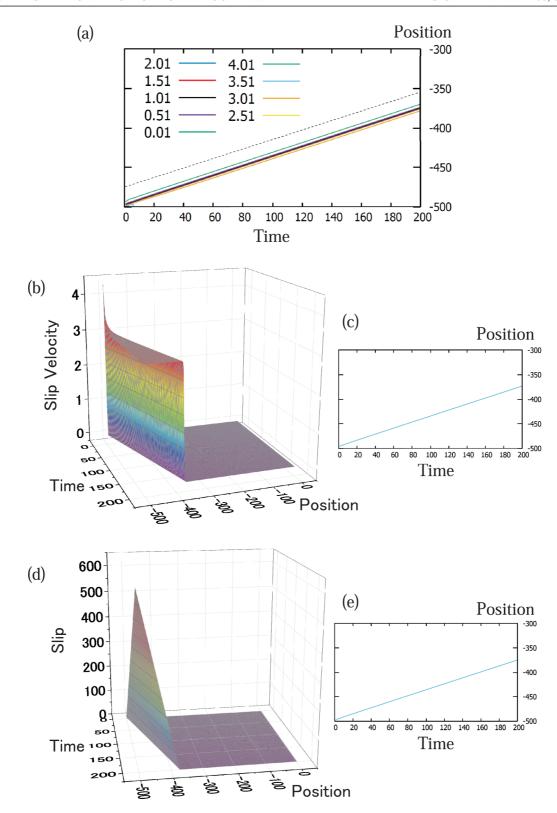


FIG. 10. Spatiotemporal evolution of the slip and slip velocity in the case of $C_v = 1$, $C_s = 0.2$, $C_1' = 1$, $C_2' = 5$, and $p_{-500} = -5$. (a) A contour map showing lines of constant slip velocity. The estimated SFP velocity (the gradient of the dotted straight line) is taken to be 0.604. (b) 3D plot for the spatiotemporal evolution of the slip velocity. (c) Plot for the point with $\dot{u} = 0.3$. (d) 3D plot for the spatiotemporal evolution of the slip. (e) Plot for the point with u = 2.5.

Here, we show how the analytical treatment and numerical calculations are consistent with Eqs. (37) and (38). First, we set the values of C_v , C_s , C_1' , C_2' , and p_{-500} . We then numerically compute the spatiotemporal evolutions of the slip, and the slip front is roughly determined from the slip-velocity profile. We also roughly evaluate the slip and slip velocity at the front; these values correspond to C_2'' and C_1'' , respectively. With C_1'' , C_2'' obtained, using Eqs. (37) and (38) we obtain the values of C_1''' and C_2''' ; thus we can obtain $v_2^{\rm ex}$ because it is a function of C_1''' and C_2''' . We then estimate the SFP velocity at the determined front from the numerical computations; the velocity obtained using this estimate is denoted $v_{\rm est}$. We finally confirm that $v_{\rm est}$ is approximately equal to $v_2^{\rm ex}(C_1''', C_2''')$.

It remains, however, to confirm another condition: as observed, in the analytical treatment, the inequalities $0 \le \dot{u} \le C_1'$ and $0 \le u \le C_2'$ must be satisfied at the slip front. These conditions are satisfied when $0 \le C_1'' \le C_1'$ and $0 \le C_2'' \le C_2'$, in the numerical treatment. It should be confirmed that these relations are satisfied in the numerical calculations.

We consider an example with $C_v = 1$, $C_s = 0.2$, $C'_1 =$ 1, $C'_2 = 5$, and $p_{-500} = -5$, and we apply the procedure described above (Fig. 10). In this case, as shown in Fig. 10(b), the gradient of the slip velocity profile along the x axis is so large that it is not possible to determine the precise values of C_1'' and C_2'' . Therefore, we can only use an estimate for their values based on the profiles of the slip and slip velocity; in this case, we take $C_1'' = 0.3$ and $C_2'' = 2.5$ [see Figs. 10(b)–10(e)]. The SFP velocity is relatively insensitive to variations around the values of C_1'' and C_2'' adopted here. These C_1'' and C_2'' values together with Eqs. (37) and (38) give the values $C_1''' = 0.4$ and $C_2^{\prime\prime\prime}=0$, which lead to $v_2^{\rm ex}(0.4,0)=0.55$. The SFP velocity obtained from the gradient of the dotted line in Fig. 10(a) is estimated to be $v_{\rm est} = 0.604$. This almost coincides with the value of $v_2^{\text{ex}}(0.4, 0) = 0.55$ obtained above. Additionally, the conditions $0 \leqslant C_1'' \leqslant C_1'$ and $0 \leqslant C_2'' \leqslant C_2'$ are satisfied in this calculation. Thus, we have found good agreement between the analytic and numerical approaches in the obtained values of the extruding front velocity. Finally, we note that the slip profile shown in Fig. 10(b) leads to the conclusion that the slip reversal does not occur in this case.

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we have considered an infinite 1D viscoelastic block on a substrate subject to end-loading stress and the endand upper-loading stresses together with a friction law that depends on the slip and slip velocity. The two intruding front velocities and three extruding front velocities were analytically obtained based on the LMSH, which requires only the linearized governing equation. Of these five velocities, three represent the optical modes, and the unique intruding and extruding front velocities were found to exist for physically meaningful SFPs. Via numerical calculations, the intruding front velocity was obtained for the EUL model, and the extruding front velocity was realized for the EL model; these results indicated that the details of the dependence of the friction stress on the slip and the slip velocity do not affect the front velocity, and that the linearized governing equation is sufficient to obtain accurate results.

Our framework is found to be quantitatively consistent with the results of previous studies. For example, the dependences of $v_1^{\rm in}$ and $v_2^{\rm ex}$ on C_1 for $C_2=0$ are consistent with those of $v^{\rm in}$ and $v^{\rm ex}$ in Ref. [6], respectively, as mentioned in Sec. III. Additionally, the form of $v_1^{\rm in}(C_1)$ for $C_2=1$ is consistent with that obtained in Myers and Langer [11]. Though they obtained only an approximate solution, the exact analytical solution has been obtained here. Furthermore, note that their model corresponds to the case $C_2=1$, and they changed parameters η and α , where η is the viscosity and α corresponds to C_1 . Therefore, both their and our models have two parameters. However, our model is superior because we can treat both positive and negative C_2 in a single framework. Moreover, we were successful in explaining the variation in SFP velocities using only friction laws with constant viscosity.

We have also shown the regions in which the SFP velocities exist in the C_1 - C_2 phase space; we also have presented the analytical forms of the boundaries of these regions in the C_1 - C_2 phase space. This phase space may be useful to predict, e.g., whether ordinary or slow earthquakes are likely in natural faults, if the friction law is determined.

Since LMSH linearizes the governing equations, it cannot give an estimation of the macroscopic slip profile. Note that the pulselike slip was observed in Fig. 9, and the step-function-like slip emerged in Fig. 10. These are consistent with previous laboratory experiments [27] or seismological observations [28,29]. Nonetheless, predicting these slip behaviors is difficult with the present framework.

Finally, the critical state was assumed for the EUL model. Based on this assumption, we can proceed with the analytical treatment. In reality, the SFP in a noncritical state has been analyzed [11,12], and the SFP velocities have been obtained. They are, however, approximations. Though the current treatment cannot be directly applied to the noncritical case, we anticipate that it will be an important step in analytically treating SFP velocities with the noncritical state.

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APPENDIX: EXACT SOLUTIONS OF $f_{in}(\omega_i) = 0$

Here, we present details of the analytical treatment of $f_{in}(\omega_i) = 0$. This is the cubic equation, and we can solve it analytically. We first define the variables D_1 and D_2 :

$$D_1 = -\left(\frac{16C_1^3}{27} + \frac{2C_1}{3}(C_1 - 3C_2) - 2C_2\right)$$
 (A1)

and

$$D_2 = -\frac{1}{27} \left(-\frac{4C_1^2}{3} - C_1 + 3C_2 \right)^3.$$
 (A2)

Using Eqs. (A1) and (A2), we define

$$S_{\pm} = \frac{-D_1 \pm \sqrt{D_1^2 - 4D_2}}{2} \tag{A3}$$

(double signs in the same order), which can take complex values. With these values and the cubic root of unity, $\omega_0 = (-1 + i\sqrt{3})/2$, we obtain

$$\omega_1^{\text{in}} = S_+^{\frac{1}{3}} + S_-^{\frac{1}{3}} + \frac{2C_1}{3},\tag{A4}$$

$$\omega_2^{\text{in}} = \omega_0 S_+^{\frac{1}{3}} + \omega_0^2 S_-^{\frac{1}{3}} + \frac{2C_1}{3},\tag{A5}$$

$$\omega_3^{\text{in}} = \omega_0^2 S_+^{\frac{1}{3}} + \omega_0 S_-^{\frac{1}{3}} + \frac{2C_1}{3}.$$
 (A6)

If S_{\pm} is real and negative, $S_{\pm}^{1/3}$ is defined as $-|S_{\pm}|^{1/3}$. Therefore, $\omega_1^{\rm in}$ always gives a real-valued solution. With Eqs. (A4)–(A6) and (15), we can define $k_j^{\rm in} \equiv [(-2C_2 + C_1\omega_j^{\rm in})/\omega_j^{\rm in}]^{1/2}$ and $v_j^{\rm in} \equiv \omega_j^{\rm in}/k_j^{\rm in}$ (j=1,2,3). We note that if $(k_j^{\rm in})^2 < 0$, we can conclude that $v_j^{\rm in}$ does not exist. We can use exactly the same method to solve $f_{\rm ex}(\omega_i) = 0$ and to define $\omega_j^{\rm ex}$, $k_j^{\rm ex}$, and $v_j^{\rm ex}$.

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