

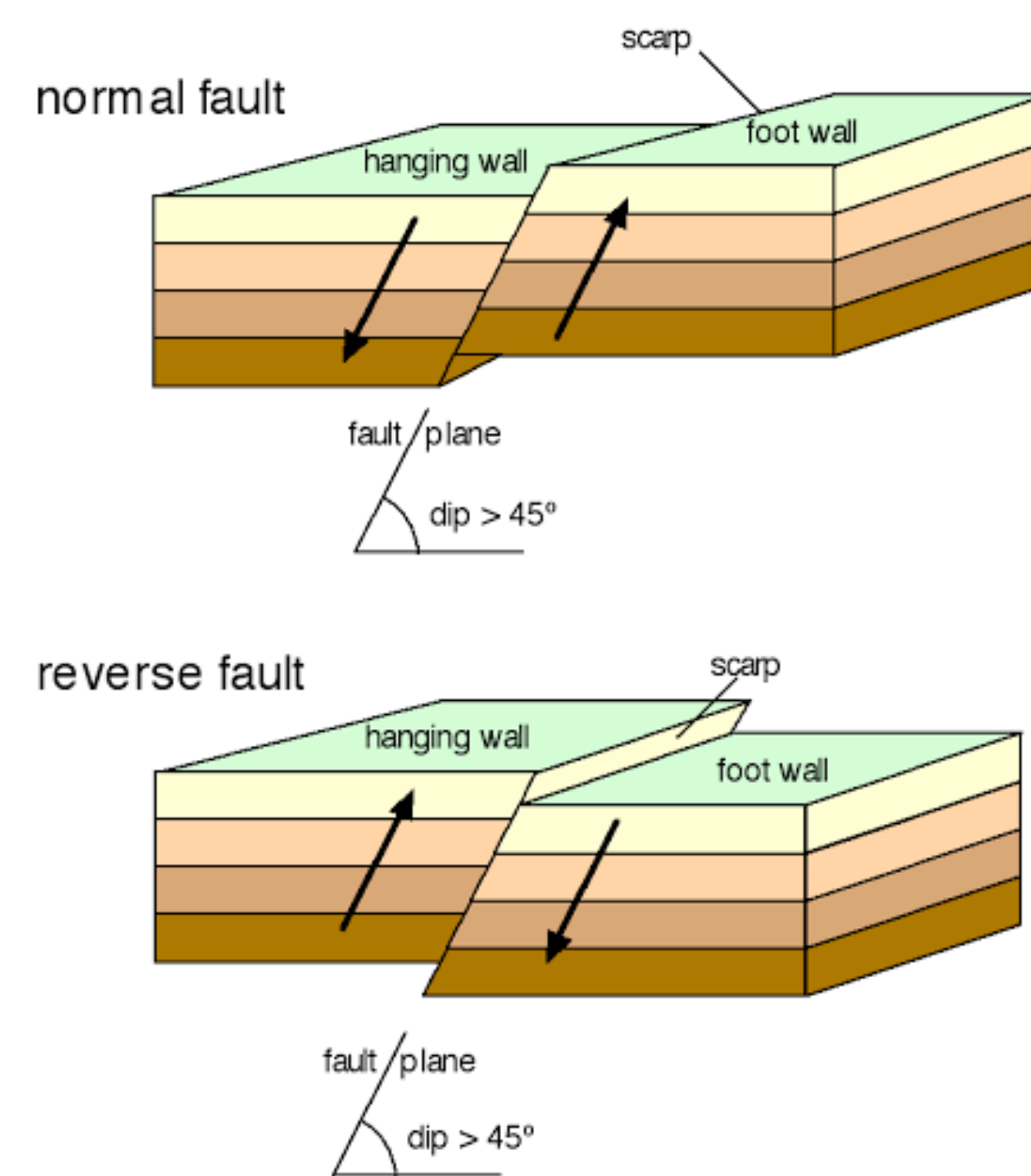
Faulty physics in a geological setting

THE LANDSCAPE



WHOSE FAULT IS IT?

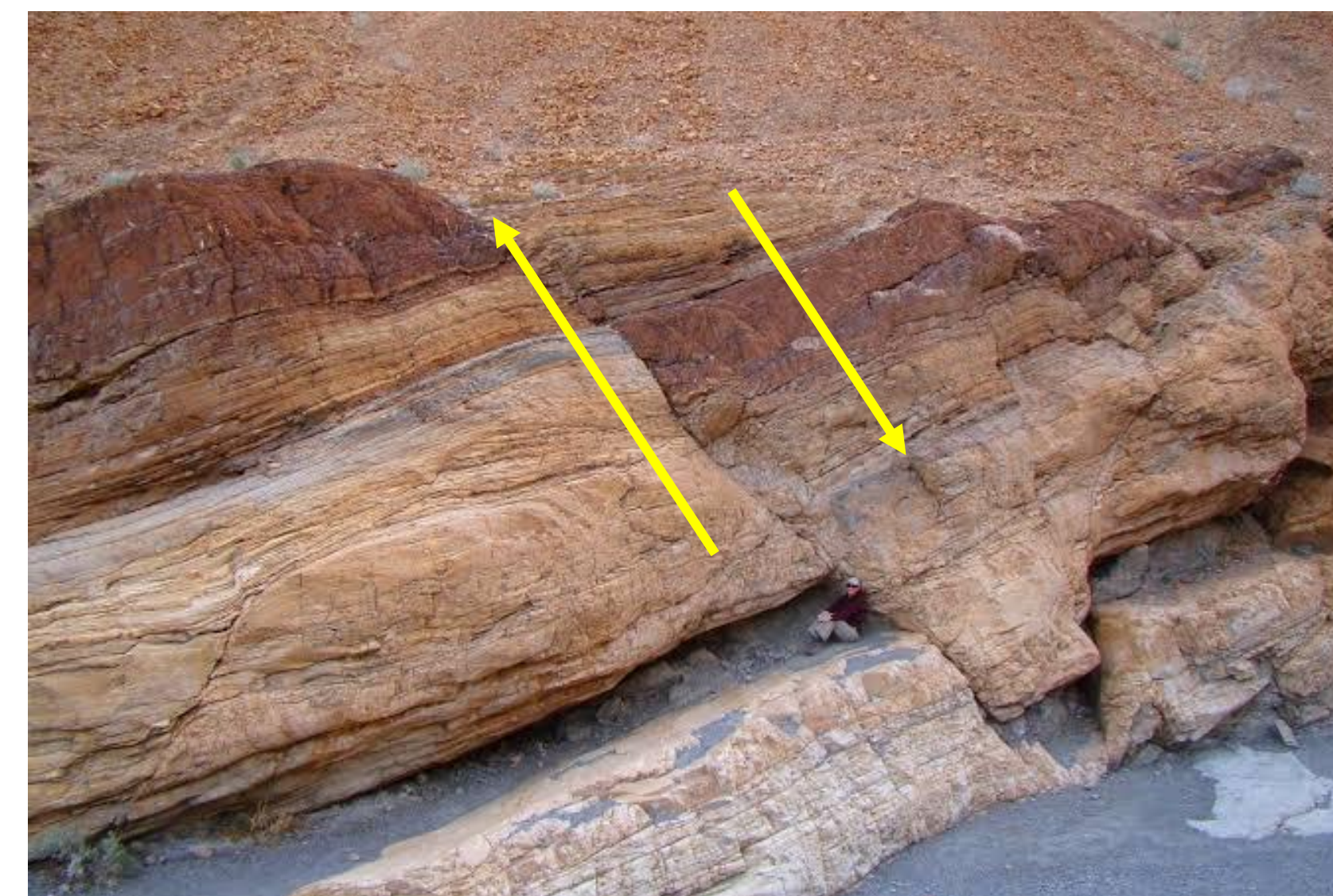
dip slip faults - normal and reverse



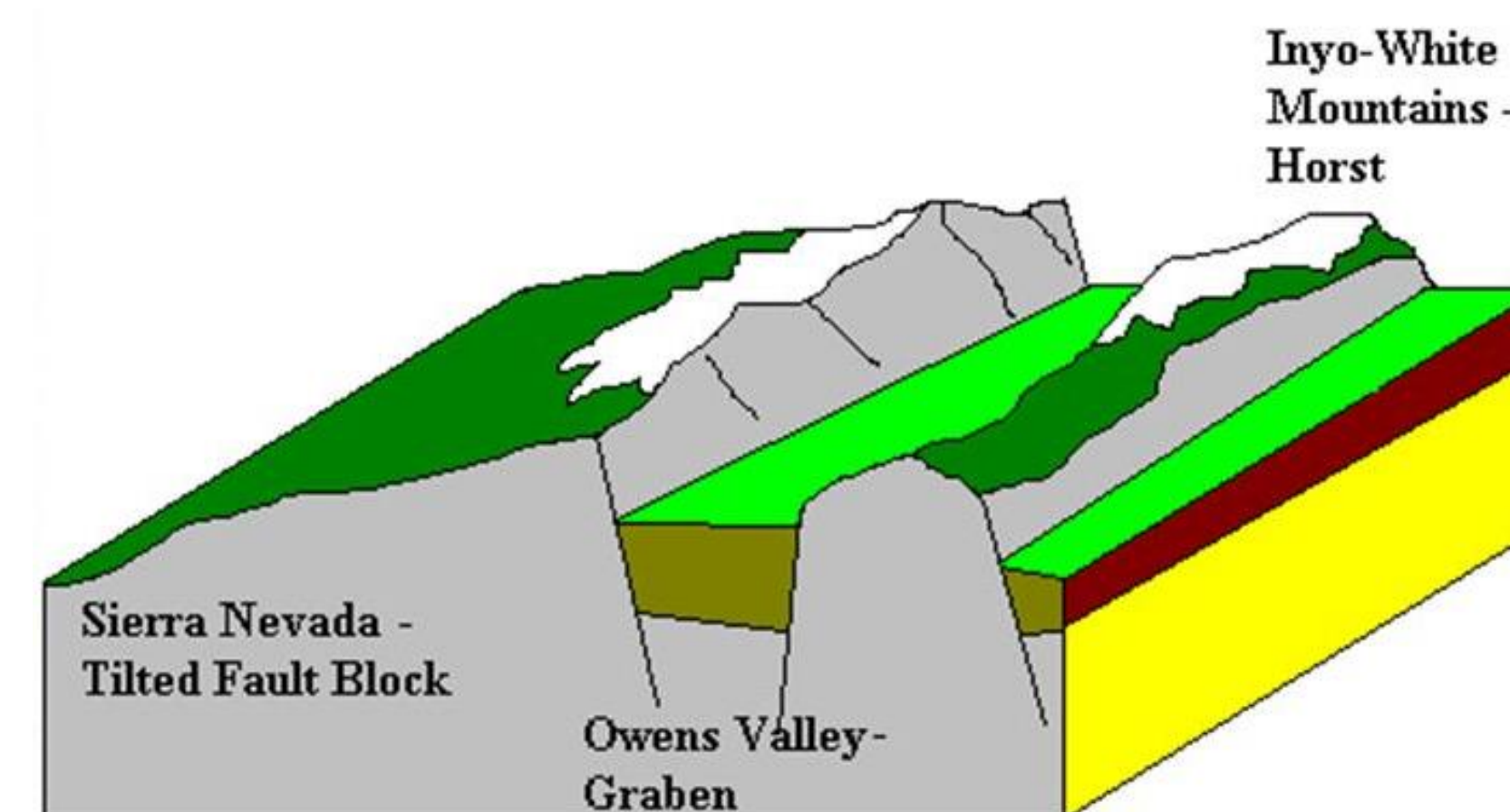
Source: David K. Lynch

A WILD FAULT APPEARS!

Person-sized fault in Mosaic Canyon, Death Valley (US).



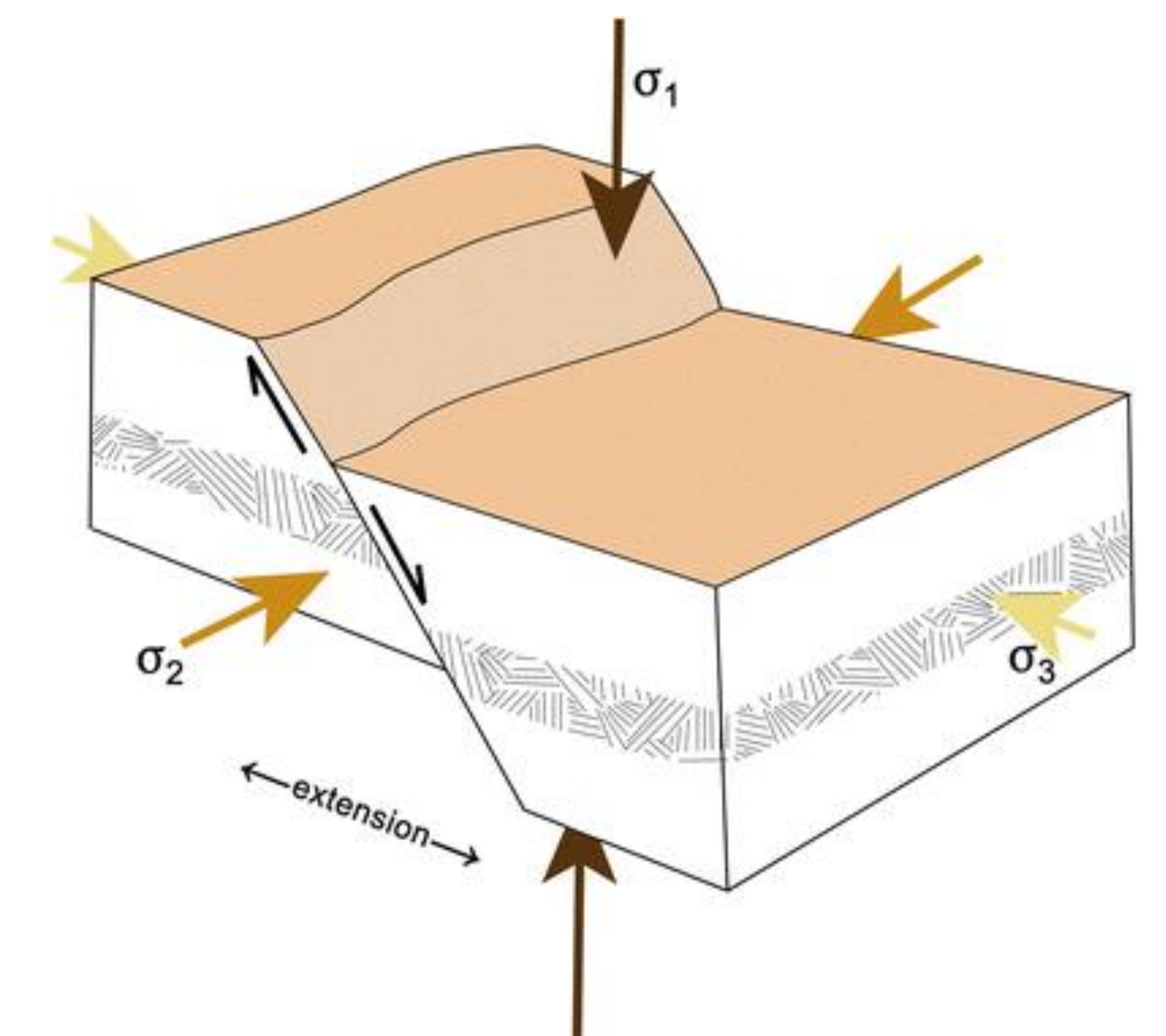
Larger scale normal faults can make fault-block mountains such as the Sierra Nevada mountains.



PHYSICS AT FAULT?

Normal faults occur when the Earth's crust is subjected to extensional stress (being pulled apart), particularly in situations with diverging tectonic plates.

Under this stress, brittle rock layers can break and 'fall down' into the gap that would otherwise be made by the movement.



A CROSS SECTION



A SCIENCE HAIKU

"NOT YOUR FAULT"

Under time and stress,
Diverging plates decompress.
Normal faults impress.