

» **Edward Isaacs responds:**

I am grateful to Bruce Armstrong for his letter responding to my recent article “Hydroplate Theory—problems for trench formation in the Pacific Basin.”¹ In his letter, he displays two primary concerns that: 1) Hydroplate Theory (HPT) neither predicts a Pacific Central Trench Complex (CTC) nor expects any correlation between trench formation and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR); and 2) the orientation of the predicted trenches in my figures 6 and 8 should be reversed North-South. I believe he has some misunderstanding regarding my critique, as my focus was on trench formation and not Pacific oceanic ridges.²

Correlation between MAR and Pacific Trench formation

Armstrong opines that Dr Walt Brown³ makes no correlation between trench formation and the MAR, stating that instead it correlates to the “middle of the Atlantic floor”. However, this assertion does not consider Brown’s multiple statements contrary to Armstrong’s position.⁴ Armstrong’s publication of Brown’s figure 85 also counters his claims by showing a Pacific Trench mirroring the MAR. HPT postulates the Atlantic floor rose *because* of the MAR.⁵ Thus, up-buckling of the Atlantic floor will centre around the MAR, the MAR constituting the area of greatest deformation and uplift and primary cause of the Pacific hydroplate’s subsidence.

The CTC—postulate of HPT

Armstrong also misses statements by Brown identifying the two distinct processes believed to have produced trenches. First, “Portions of the Pacific crust *directly opposite* the centre of the rising Atlantic floor buckled inward, forming [CTC] trenches.”^{6,7} Because of the resulting instability, the Pacific plate “rapidly subsided and sheared

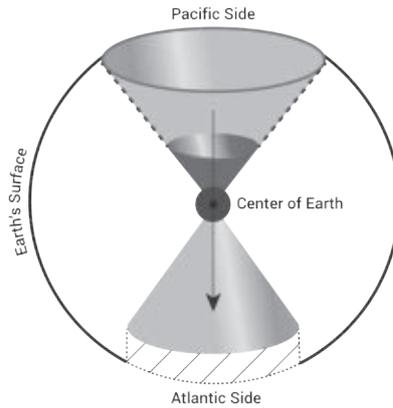


Figure 1. Diagram portraying Hydroplate Theory’s mechanism for producing the Ring of Fire and associated trenches. Brown’s original caption explains that, “shrinkage within the yellow cone region caused the sides of the gray [sic] Pacific cone (marked by the dashed red line) to shear. This produced the Ring of Fire [the Boundary Trench Complex], shown in green ...”. Thus, HPT predicts a Mid-Pacific Central Trench Complex, despite the challenges against such a position.¹ (From Brown, ref. 3, figure 89, p. 160.)

around its perimeter”, producing the Ring of Fire or the Boundary Trench Complex (figure 1).⁸ Thus, HPT predicts both the CTC and Boundary Trench Complex (BTC).

My figure 8 showing the location of a Mid-Pacific CTC is an important graphic defending the idea that the Western Pacific Trenches cannot comprise HPT’s predicted CTC

because: 1) the Eastern and Western BTC should be equidistant from the CTC, thus a Western Pacific CTC would cause the BTC to extend 260° across Earth; 2) the Tonga Trench tomography shows a pattern more consistent with shearing along the hydroplate’s perimeter than with fracturing resulting from intra-plate down-buckling; and 3) Brown states the Ring of Fire formed from peripheral shearing (figure 1).⁸ Thus, the Western Pacific Trenches must comprise the Western BTC. Because the CTC would be approximately equidistant from the Western and Eastern BTC, a Mid-Pacific CTC would be required, despite the serious challenges against it.¹

CTC—rotated image of MAR

It is true that if my plotted points were true antipodes⁹ to specific points corresponding to the MAR, then the predicted location of the trench region would have to be inverted North-South. However, my figure 6 shows the MAR rotated 180° latitudinally because HPT states that Pacific Trenches were formed by *subsidence* and not antipodal lateral force. Additionally, any antipodal movement

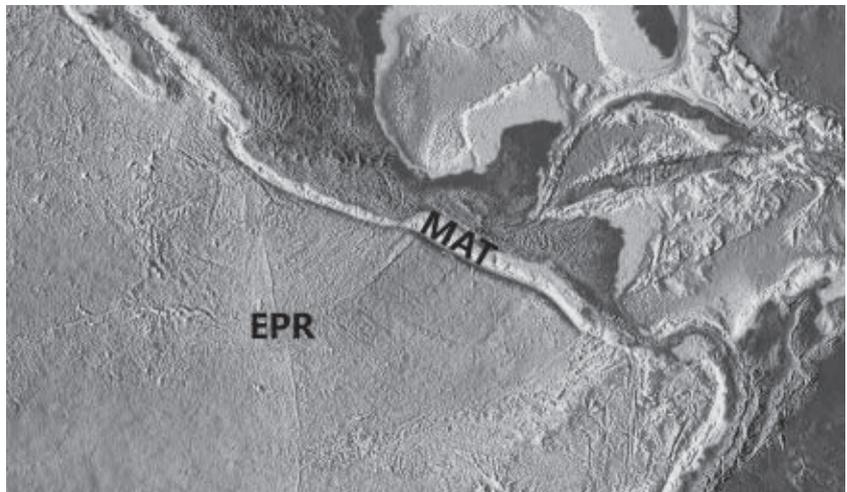


Figure 2. Depiction of the East Pacific Rise (EPR) and its near proximity to the Middle America Trench (MAT). Observe that the EPR is located west of the MAT on Hydroplate Theory’s predicted Pacific hydroplate. Adapted from an image in the public domain.

would cancel into unidirectional horizontal motion. Thus, the CTC will necessarily be a rotated image of the MAR.

Misstatements and more challenges to HPT

I contend that Armstrong's letter contains several misstatements. He states the configuration of the Pacific Basin is "exactly as one would expect if a large three-sided 'flap' of the crust subsided [to form trenches] and then later was lifted [to form oceanic ridges]." However, this disregards HPT's claim that oceanic ridges such as the MAR resulted from the chamber floor up-buckling from the removal of overlying hydroplates. An oceanic ridge cannot transfer onto a hydroplate because the hydroplates are detached from the chamber floor, and any surface expression of a ridge underlying the hydroplate would be minimal. HPT proposes the North American hydroplate slid away from the rising MAR and overrode an even larger oceanic ridge in the Pacific (the East Pacific Rise), despite the lack of both a demonstrated mechanism and any surface expression of an underlying ridge evident on the hydroplate.¹⁰ Additionally, the chamber floor supposedly up-buckled from the loss of overburden, in spite of the Pacific hydroplate being weighted by extrusives. Thus, no oceanic ridge should have formed on the Pacific hydroplate. Nevertheless, this is also contradicted in the Pacific, because the East Pacific Rise off Central America is west of the Middle America Trench (a BTC¹¹) on HPT's predicted hydroplate, contradicting HPT expectations (figure 2). Therefore, the Pacific Basin is even more challenging to HPT than noted in my original paper.

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References

1. Isaacs, E., Hydroplate Theory—problems for trench formation in the Pacific Basin, *J. Creation*, 32(3):58–63, 2018.
2. The only mentions of Pacific oceanic ridges were on the incorrect association of the Pacific Trenches to oceanic ridges. See Isaacs, ref. 1.
3. Brown, W.T., *In The Beginning: Compelling evidence for creation and the Flood*, 9th edn, Center for Scientific Creation, Phoenix, AZ, 2018.
4. For example: "As the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and Atlantic floor rose, mass had to shift within the earth toward the Atlantic" (p. 135); "the Mid-Atlantic Ridge started to buckle up... This steadily removed gigantic amounts of weight from what would become the Atlantic floor, so the ridge and chamber floor rose even faster. Material within the earth then had to shift toward the Atlantic side" (p. 153); "the bulging of the chamber floor in what was to become the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, this bulging produced movements deep within the earth that resulted in deep faulting (shearing), frictional heat, and melting ... [causing] the resulting subsidence of the Pacific plate" (p. 166). See Brown, ref. 3.
5. "... one portion of the exposed chamber floor will buckle up before all the others ... Liff[ing] the adjacent portions of the exposed chamber floor". See Brown, W., *The Flood Science Review*; in: Bardwell, J. (Ed.), Jesus Name Productions, p. 440, 2011.
6. Brown, ref. 3, p. 153. Italics mine.
7. This is corroborated by similar statements that: "A corresponding depression [to the rising MAR] had to occur on the opposite side of the earth", HPT's answer to the question of how trenches were primarily concentrated in the western Pacific. See Brown, ref. 3, p. 177.
8. Brown, ref. 3, p. 157.
9. On Earth, an antipode is a point that is colinear with a second point such that the line transects the centre of Earth.
10. HPT proposes that the rising of the MAR coupled with the lubricating effects of the underlying supercritical water caused the hydroplates to slide toward the Pacific away from the MAR. However, it would be impossible for the North American hydroplate to override a Pacific Ridge (the East Pacific Rise) that is larger than the one it slid off (the MAR).
11. "Therefore, the Pacific plate, lacking support, rapidly subsided and sheared around its perimeter—now called the Ring of Fire." Brown, ref. 3, p. 157.