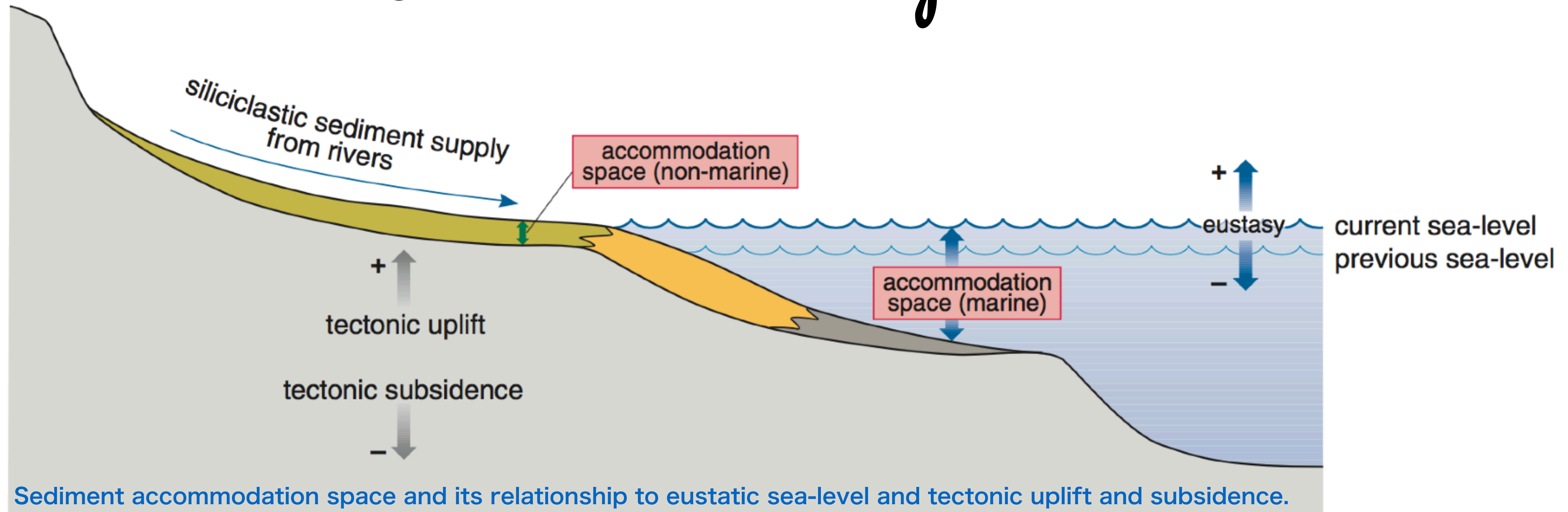


Accommodation space



Zero accommodation space available = sediments transported to an area of (positive) accommodation.

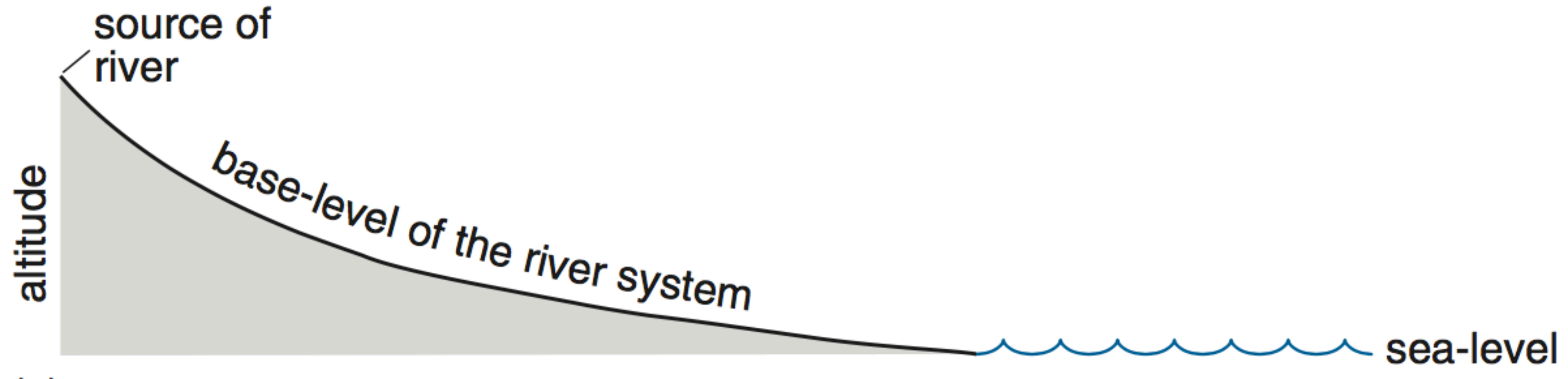
areas of zero accommodation space are sites of sediment by-pass

Negative accommodation space = previously deposited sediments are **eroded** and **transported**

Sedimentary systems are trying to achieve and preserve an **equilibrium profile**:

available accommodation space is balanced by the amount of sediment supplied.

Equilibrium profile



The ideal equilibrium profile of an alluvial system (longitudinal profile) is an exponentially curved topographical gradient from the source area to sea-level.

In order to maintain the equilibrium profile, erosion or deposition of alluvial sediments will take place if there is a relative sea-level change and/or tectonic movement in the source area.