



The role of structural heterogeneity in avalanche statistics :

Deformability bridges universality classes in numerical granular assemblies under deviatoric loading.

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K. Daniels & R. Munroe What Makes Sand Soft?, The New York Times Nov 9, 2020



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Jamming transition



Stable Evolution Surface (SES)



- $Z \equiv$ average coord. number (*n. contacts*)
- $\Gamma \equiv$ rigidity ratio (*contact deformation*)
- $a_c \equiv \text{fabric anisotropy (cont. orientation)}$

[M. Pouragha & R Wan Granular Matter (2016)]

Stable Evolution Surface (SES)



Non-linear dynamics at SES



Non-linear dynamics at SES



- Are these avalanches?
- Can we define states from SES instead of $\{\sigma, T, \phi\}$ or $\sigma(\epsilon)$?
- $\bullet \ SES \rightarrow avalanche \ statistics?$

Summary:

- 1. Discrete Element (DEM) simulations.
- 2. Avalanche statistics.
- 3. Origin of Mean Field (MF) exponents.
- 4. Comparison with acoustic emission (a.e.).

Quasistatic driving of elastic ($f_c = k_c \delta$) particles



Method by [K. Salerno, M. Robbins PRE 2013]







$$dU \qquad \left(=\frac{1}{2}\sum \frac{f_c}{k_c}df_c\right) +$$

 $(= dD_f + dD_d)$ (no heat)

$$lW_{\chi}$$
 $(=V\sigma_{\chi}d\epsilon_{\chi})$

+

+



Avalanches as point process: $\mu(\epsilon_y, \sigma_y; T, K, \Delta \sigma_y, \Delta U, W_x)$

- Duration: T := time of first rebound in U(t)
- Stress drop: $\Delta \sigma_y := \sigma_y(t_0) \sigma_y(t_0 + T)$
- Potential E. drop: $\Delta U := U(t_0) U(t_0 + T)$

• Kinetic energy:
$$K = E_K^{\max} - K_D$$

• Lateral work:
$$W_x = \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} V_0(1+\epsilon_v)\sigma_x \dot{\epsilon}_x dt$$

Avalanche Sizes and Energies



Avalanche from vel. profile v(t):

• Size:
$$S := \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} v(t) dt$$

• Duration *T* starting at time t_0

• Energy
$$E := \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} v^2(t) dt$$

• Energy peak $E_m := v_{\max}^2(t) dt$

In terms of *internal* avalanche measures ...?

Avalanche Sizes



Avalanche Sizes

Elastic E. vs Dissipation



$$\Delta U \propto NZ^{-1}(1-\phi)^{-2}\sigma_x^2 \frac{\Delta\sigma_y}{\sigma_x}$$

• Prop.
$$\Delta U \propto \Delta \sigma_y$$
:

$$\Delta U \propto N \sigma_x^{1.85(5)} \Delta \sigma_y / \sigma_x$$

• No prop.
$$D \propto \Delta \sigma_y$$
:

$$D = \Delta U - W_x \nsim \Delta U$$

Avalanche Sizes



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• Prop. $\Delta U \propto \Delta \sigma_y$:

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• No prop. $D \propto \Delta \sigma_y$:

 $D = \Delta U - W_x \nsim \Delta U$

- Two pop. of avalanches in W_x
- $W_x \propto \Delta U$ if expanding (< 0)



Avalanche Energies



$$K \propto E := \int v^2(t) dt$$
 or $E_m := v_{\max}^2(t) dt$?

• Low dissipation between t_0 and T



$K \propto E := \int v^2(t) dt$ or $E_m := v_{\max}^2(t) dt$?

• Low dissipation between t_0 and T

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$$v(t) \propto \dot{U} \Rightarrow \dot{v}^2(t) \propto \dot{U}^2$$



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• Low dissipation between t_0 and T

• If
$$v(t) \propto \dot{U} \Rightarrow \dot{v}^2(t) \propto \dot{U}^2$$

• $K \propto \Delta(U^2) := \int_{t_0}^{t_0+T} \dot{U}^2 dt$

$$\Rightarrow K \propto E$$



• Stationary (exp. decay at long $\Delta \epsilon$)



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- Regularity (missing short $\Delta\epsilon)$



- Stationary (exp. decay at long $\Delta \epsilon$)
- Regularity (missing short $\Delta \epsilon$)
- Pseudo-gap from dynamic fields:

$$P(\Delta \epsilon) = \frac{1+\theta}{\langle \Delta \epsilon \rangle} \left(\frac{\Delta \epsilon}{\langle \Delta \epsilon \rangle} \right)^{\theta} e^{-\left(\frac{\Delta \epsilon}{\langle \Delta \epsilon \rangle} \right)^{\theta+1}}$$

 $Regularity \rightarrow \text{Time-predictability}.$

More persistent σ_y (*rigidity* Γ) at avalanche **onset**.



Regularity \rightarrow Time-predictability.

- More persistent σ_y (*rigidity* Γ) at avalanche **onset**.
- Minimum loading gap from last avalanche:

$$\Delta \epsilon_y \sim \Delta \sigma_y^{0.36}$$

● ⇒ SES is a stability limit, triggering avalanches.



Size & Energy dist. stationary at SES



Size & Energy dist. stationary at SES



Effective modulus $\hat{E}_y := \Delta \sigma_y / \Delta \epsilon_y$ within the SES is non-stationary. *How*?

 $\rho_{\hat{E}_y, \text{ activity rate}} = 0.37 \quad \rho_{\hat{E}_y, \text{ inter-event reload in } \sigma_y} = 0.30 \quad \rho_{\hat{E}_y, \text{ avalanche size}} = 0.058$ (* $\Delta \epsilon_y = 0.005$)





$$P(x)dx = x^{-\tau_x} \Phi_x(x/x^*)dx$$
$$x^*(N, \sigma_x, \dot{\epsilon_y}) = \tilde{x}^* N^{\gamma_N^x} \sigma_x^{\gamma_e^x} \dot{\epsilon}_y^{\gamma_e^x}$$

 x^*



$$P(x)dx = x^{-\tau_x} \Phi_x(x/x^*) dx$$
$$x^*(N, \sigma_x, \dot{\epsilon_y}) = \tilde{x}^* N^{\gamma_N^x} \sigma_x^{\gamma_\sigma^x} \dot{\epsilon_y}^{\gamma_e^x}$$





Estimated exponents by Max. Lik.

2.2	â	$\epsilon(\hat{\kappa},\hat{\gamma}) \mapsto \epsilon_{m} = 4/3$		$\frac{\sigma_x}{k_n} (\sim \Gamma)$	#	κ	ε	$2 - \varsigma \nu z$
2.0	-Â 🖂	$\kappa(\hat{\epsilon}\hat{\gamma}) \mapsto \kappa_m \neq 3/2$		10^{-4}	1684	1.62(10)	1.32(10)	1.95(5)
	ΪŦ			" "	979	1.60(7)	1.34(5)	1.85(10)
1.8			-	" "	788	1.71(8)	1.33(6)	1.83(4)
H 1 6			_	" "	130	1.77(17)	1.45(6)	1.85(15)
	<u>I</u>			" "	236	1.49(11)	1.36(4)	1.69(6)
ਨੂੰ 1.4			-	" "	1215	1.46(6)	1.36(4)	1.71(5)
0	±22	Ť.		10^{-3}	396	1.41(8)	1.14(11)	1.65(8)
1.2	- 1	Φ	ŦŦ	" "	851	1.32(5)	1.14(6)	1.71(4)
1.0	_	-	₫ [10^{-2}	633	1.08(3)	1.02(8)	1.48(7)
0.0		±	T	SMFT ⁽¹⁾		1.5	$1 + \frac{\kappa - 1}{2 - \varsigma \nu z} = 1.33$	1.5
0.8	10^{5}	10 ⁶	10^{7}	2D EPM		1.25-1.28	~1.2 [*]	${\sim}1.45~[*]$
	10	$\sigma_{\rm x}$	10				[*] [Budrikis et

Results:

Avalanches at SES are scale-free.

Within SES critical exponents depend (*at least*) on rigidity Γ : *Stiff* particles \rightarrow MF *Soft* particles \rightarrow EPM

Discussion:

Why mean field in granular and a.e.?



Random Field Ising (RFIM) [J. Sethna PRL (1993)]



Slip Mean Field Theory (SMFT) [K. Dahmen PRL (2009)]

Democratic Fiber Bundle Model (DFBM) [JB, J. Davidsen, PRE (2018)] **Avalanches** in **mean-field models**: E.g. RFIM: $\mathcal{H}(\{S\}) = \sum_{i} S_i \left(J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} S_j + H_{\text{ext.}} + \mathbf{h}_i \right) \qquad \sum_{\langle j,i \rangle} J_{j,i} S_j \to JM$

≡ Random Thresolds (*shell model* [*Sethna PRL,* 1993]). when **one** element h_1 is activated: $H_{\text{ext}}(t) + M \rightarrow H_{\text{ext}}(t) + M + 2J/N$





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$$\mathcal{L}(\{S\}) = \sum_{i} S_{i} \left(J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} S_{j} + H_{\text{ext.}} + \mathbf{h}_{i} \right) \qquad \sum_{\langle j,i \rangle} J_{j,i} S_{j} \to J \mathcal{M}_{i}$$

≡ Random Thresolds (*shell model* [*Sethna PRL,* 1993]). when **one** element h_1 is activated: $H_{\text{ext}}(t) + M \rightarrow H_{\text{ext}}(t) + M + 2J/N$



- Avalanches grow as a **branching** process.
- For $N \to \infty$: **MF-avalanche size** \equiv **tree-size** in **Poisson G.W.**:

$$D(\Delta; n) = \frac{(n\Delta)^{\Delta - 1} \exp(-n\Delta)}{\Delta!} \sim \boxed{\Delta^{-3/2} \mathcal{D}(n\Delta)}$$



Avalanches in loopless trees: E.g. RFIM:

$$\mathcal{H}(\{S\}) = \sum_{i} S_{i} \left(J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} S_{j} + H_{\text{ext.}} + \mathbf{h}_{i} \right) \qquad \sum_{\langle j,i \rangle} J_{j,i} S_{j} \quad ;j \text{ random}$$

- Avalanches grow as a **percolation** process.
- For $N \to \infty$: cluster size \approx tree-size in Binomial G.W.:

$$D(\Delta; n) \sim \Delta^{-3/2} \mathcal{D}(n\Delta)$$

• Similar in a BTW version: [HM Brker, P Grassberger, EPL (1995)] [P. Grassberger, EPL (2022)]

Structure of force chains in granular materials

short range vs. long-range



Nonlinear Force Propagation During Granular Impact

Abram H. Clark,^{1,*} Alec J. Petersen,¹ Lou Kondic,² and Robert P. Behringer¹

Structure of force chains in **porous** materials



Hadrien Laubie,1.* Farhang Radjai,2.3,† Roland Pellenq,1.2.4,‡ and Franz-Josef Ulm1.2.8





\downarrow $E \sim \int |\text{Signal}(t)|^2 dt$ $N \sim 10^4 \text{ pairs: } \{t_i, E_i\}$

[JB, et al., PRL (2013)]



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$$N \sim 10^4$$
 pairs: $\{t_i, E_i\}$

 $E \sim$

0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.3 0.35 0.4

[JB, et al., PRL (2013)]

 $\rho(E)dE = \frac{E^{-\varepsilon}}{\zeta(\varepsilon)}dE$







Stationary E :
$$\mu(t, E) = \rho(E, t)\mu_t(t)$$
 with

Foreshocks preceding failure $\mu(t) \approx (t - t_f)^m$

$$\rho(E)dE = \frac{E^{-\varepsilon}}{\zeta(\varepsilon)}dE$$

$$\downarrow E \sim \int |\text{Signal}(t)|^2 dt$$
$$N \sim 10^4 \text{ pairs: } \{t_i, E_i\}$$

[JB, et al., PRL (2013)] [JB, et al., PRL (2018)]

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[JB & Davidsen, PRE (2018)]

10⁰





$$\downarrow E \sim \int |\text{Signal}(t)|^2 dt$$
$$N \sim 10^4 \text{ pairs: } \{t_i, E_i\}$$

[*JB*, et al., *PRL* (2013)] [*JB*, et al., PRL (2018)]

10⁻² 10^{6} 3ks<t<6ks $< E_{AE} >$ 36ks<t<9ks 9ks<t<12ks 10^{2} 12ks<t<15ks (also 10¹⁰ 5ks<t<18ks 10⁻⁶ 18ks<t =1.39 dE_{AE}/dt 10 10⁻⁸ 10 10⁻¹⁰ $10^{-1} 10^{0} 10^{1} 10^{2} 10^{3} 10^{4} 10^{5} 10^{6} 10^{7} 10^{8}$ 10^{-1} 10^{-2} 10^{-3} 10^{-4} 10^{-5} 10^{-6} $f_k = 1 - P/P_c^{\ k}$ E(aJ) V32 G26 SR2 slip MF fracture MF

all

0s<t<3ks

 10^{8} (aJ)

				1	
$\gamma *$	3.0 (4)	3.4 (4)	3.2 (4)	3	3
ε	1.40 (5)	1.40 (5)	1.50 (5)	4/3	4/3
т	1.02 (13)	1.11 (20)	0.99 (8)	1	1/2
$\varsigma \nu z$	0.50 (6)	0.45 (6)	0.48 (5)	1/2	1/2
κ	1.60 (8)	1.62 (8)	1.76 (8)	3/2	3/2

@IBcritical

k=5 🝽

k=2 ⊮ k=4 ⊮





 \downarrow $E \sim \int |\text{Signal}(t)|^2 dt$ $N \sim 10^4 \text{ pairs: } \{t_i, E_i\}$

[JB, et al., PRL (2013)] [JB, et al., PRL (2018)]

Jordi Baró jbaro@crm.cat @JBcritical



- Internal measures and theory: $\Delta U \propto S$, $K \propto E$.
- SES behaves as an state-attractor with SOC properties.
- Non-universal exponents depend on rigidity ($\Gamma \sim \sigma_x$)



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Ongoing research:

- Understand behavior expanding, contracting avalanches.
- MF \leftrightarrow EPM: Smooth transition? sharp transition? finite size effect (only exact at $\Gamma = 0$)? *Hidden universal function? New finite size scaling techniques?*
- Determine avalanche properties in terms of SES (*different from classic avalanche statistics*). *Relation between avalanches at SES and potential energy landscape and kinematics.*
- Archaeology: Can we translate legacy results to SES? *Additional effects of friction, kinematics, rate, temperature, etc..*



Mark O. Robbins (1956-2020)

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Stable Evolution Surface:

• M. Pouragha and R. Wan, Granular Matter 18, 38 (2016).

Experiments a.e.:

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Mean Field from loopless tree:

- H.M. Brker, P. Grassberger, EPL 30 319 (1995)
- P. Grassberger, EPL, 136 26002 (2022)

Force chains in granular and porous mat .:

- A.H. Clark A.J. Petersen, L. Kondic, R.P. Behringer, PRL 114 144502 (2015)
- H. Laubie, F. Radjai, R. Pellenq, F.J.Ulm, PRL 119 075501 (2017)

Amorphous & LJ:

- K.M. Salerno, M.O. Robbins PRE, 88, 062206 (2013).
- Z. Budrikis, et al., Nat. Commun. 8, 15928 (2017).

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← More on SES: talk by M. Pouragha: https://youtu.be/JclTxuJspQk?t=10650 (2:57:30 s)

$$\kappa = 2 - \frac{\theta}{\theta + 1} \frac{d}{d_f}$$

$$\langle T|S \rangle \sim S^{\varsigma \nu z} \quad \text{where} \quad \varsigma \nu z = 1/2 \langle E|S \rangle \sim S^{2-\varsigma \nu z} \quad \text{where} \quad 2 - \varsigma \nu z = 3/2$$

$$\langle E_m|S \rangle \sim S^{2\varsigma \rho} \quad \text{where} \quad 2\varsigma \rho = 1 .$$

$$(1)$$

$$P(S) \sim S^{-\kappa} \qquad \text{where} \quad \kappa = 3/2$$

$$P(E) \sim E^{-1 - \frac{\kappa - 1}{2 - \varsigma \nu z}} \qquad \text{where} \quad 1 + \frac{\kappa - 1}{2 - \varsigma \nu z} = 4/3 \qquad (2)$$

$$P(E_m) \sim E_m^{-\frac{1+\mu}{2}} \qquad \text{where} \quad \frac{1 + \mu}{2} = 3/2 .$$

$$P(\Delta U) \, d\Delta U = \Delta U^{-\kappa} \, \Phi_{\Delta U}(\Delta U / \Delta U^*) \, d\Delta U,$$
$$P(K) \, dK = K^{-\varepsilon} \, \Phi_K(K/K^*) \, dK,$$

(3)

	stiffness	#	κ	ε	γ
D2kSc5	(stiff)	1684	1.62(10)	1.32(10)	1.95(5)
L5kSc5	,, ,,	979	1.60(7)	1.34(5)	1.85(10)
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SMFT ⁽¹⁾			1.5	$1 + \frac{\kappa - 1}{2 - \varsigma \nu z} = 1.33$	$2 - \varsigma \nu z = 1.5$
2D EPM			1.25-1.28	~1.2 [?]	~1.45[?]

name	num. of particles N	confining pressure $\sigma_x(N/m)$	driving rate $\dot{\epsilon}_y(\times 10^{-9}s^{-1})$	initial porosity ϕ_0
D20kSc5	19520	10^{5}	2.3	0.156
L20kSc5	19353	10^{5}	2.3	0.190
D5kSc5	6374	10^{5}	2.4	0.159
L5kSc5	5504	10^{5}	2.4	0.192
D2kSc5	1593	10^{5}	1.3	0.165
D5kSc6	6374	10^{6}	2.4	0.154
D5kFc5	6374	10^{5}	7.0	0.159
D5kFc7	6374	10^{6}	7.0	0.154
D5kFc7	6374	10 ⁷	7.0	0.120

σ_x	σ_x/k_n	\approx porosity
1e5	1e-4	0.1685
1e6	1e-3	0.1644
1e7	1e-2	0.1233

Figures PRL2018

Magnitude Relations:

$$\int D_{AE} = t - t_i | V < V_{th}$$

• AE magn.
$$\begin{cases} A_{AE} = \max(V(t)) \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{AE} = \int_{t_i}^{t_i + D_{AE}} |V(t)|^2 dt \end{bmatrix}$$

• Signal Hypothesis:

$$V(t) = G \int_{-\infty}^{t} v(t) e^{i\omega_0 t - \frac{t-t'}{\tau}} dt'$$

• Parabolic shape:

$$\tilde{v}(t/T) = 4\left(t/T - \left(t/T\right)^2\right)$$



• Acceleration and energy exponent before failure:



2.0G26 h c V32 1.8 1.6 ω 1.4 1.2 1.0 10^{8} (a)k=3 ⊮ ю k=5 ю k=5 k=1 н k=3k=3ю k=1k=2 ⊮ k=4 ⊮ 10^{6} k=2 ⊮ k=4 ⊨ k=6 k=2 ⊮ k=4 ⊮ $\overset{10}{\stackrel{}_{}_{}}^{\times} \overset{10}{10^4} \\ \overset{10}{\stackrel{}_{}}^{\times} \overset{10^4}{10^2}$ 10^{2} g)h) $m^* = 1.13(50)$ $\frac{dE_{AE}}{dE} / \frac{dE_{AE}}{dt} / \frac{dE$ $10^{-6} \ 10^{-5} \ 10^{-4} \ 10^{-3} \ 10^{-2} \ 10^{-1} \ f_k^* = P/P_c^{\ k} - I$ $10^{-6} \ 10^{-5} \ 10^{-4} \ 10^{-3} \ 10^{-2} \ 10^{-1}$ $f_k^* = P/P_c^{\ k} \cdot I$ $10^{-6} \ 10^{-5} \ 10^{-4} \ 10^{-3} \ 10^{-2} \ 10^{-1}$ $f_k^* = P/P_c^{\ k} - 1$

• Deceleration and energy exponent after failure:



	V32	G26	SR2	slip MF	fracture MF
γ	3.0 (4)	3.4 (4)	3.2 (4)	3	3
ε	1.40 (5)	1.40 (5)	1.50 (5)	4/3	4/3
т	1.02 (13)	1.11 (20)	0.99 (8)	$1^{a} 2^{b}$	$1/2^{a} 1^{b}$
$\sigma \nu z$	0.50 (6)	0.45 (6)	0.48 (5)	1/2	1/2
κ	1.60 (8)	1.62 (8)	1.76 (8)	3/2	3/2
σ^{a}	0.40 (9)	0.34 (9)	0.24 (8)	1/2	1
σ^b	0.88 (12)	0.80 (16)	0.76 (7)	1/2	1
β^{a}	3.7 ± 0.8	4.6 ± 1.2	6.3 ± 2.1	3	3/2
β^b	1.67 (24)	1.83 (37)	2.00 (25)	3	3/2

Table: First three top rows: fitted exponents in experimental data, compared to the MF exponents for slip and fracture MF models. Bottom rows: fundamental exponents estimated from MF theory. Superscripts *a* and *b* denote two different interpretations of ASR in terms of MF theory.

	area	height	driving rate	Th	Ν
	$A (mm^2)$	<i>h</i> (mm)	dP/dt (kPa/s)	(dB)	
Vycor (V32)	17.0	5.65	5.7	23	34138
Gelsil (G26)	46.7	6.2	0.7	26	5412
Sands. (SR2)	17.0	4.3	2.4	23	27271

Table: Sample details: crossectional area A; height h; compression rate dP/dt; number N of recorded signals above threshold Th.



when one element is activated: $\sigma_l \rightarrow \sigma_l + \Delta \sigma_l$ (increment $\Delta \sigma_l \approx \text{constant}$)



 $\land \land$



when one element is activated: $\sigma_l \rightarrow \sigma_l + \Delta \sigma_l$ (increment $\Delta \sigma_l \approx \text{constant}$)





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... mean-field exponent 3/2 ?

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when one element is activated: $\sigma_l \rightarrow \sigma_l + \Delta \sigma_l$ (increment $\Delta \sigma_l \approx \text{constant}$)



- The MF avalanche grows as a **branching** process.
- All elements can trigger a number of elements with the same **Poisson** distribution:



when one element is activated: $\sigma_1 \rightarrow \sigma_1 + \Delta \sigma_1$ (increment $\Delta \sigma_l \approx \text{constant}$)



... mean-field exponent 3/2



- The MF avalanche grows as a **branching** process.
- All elements can trigger a number of elements with the same **Poisson** distribution:
- MF-avalanche size \equiv tree-size in Poisson Galton-Watson:

 $D(\Lambda, M$

$$(n\Delta)^{\Delta-1}\exp(-n\Delta)$$



@IBcritical