

The LabQuakes project: from a granular fault to earthquake statistics

Osvanny Ramos



Avalanche 2022, Debrecen, Hungary, 30/08/22

Scale-invariant avalanches



Stock markets

Superconducting vortices

Amorphous solids

Scale-invariant avalanches



Stock markets

Superconducting vortices

Amorphous solids





Some open questions in scale-invariant avalanches



Elastic line in a disordered landscape

PHYSICAL REVIEW E 79, 051106 (2009)

Size distributions of shocks and static avalanches from the functional renormalization group

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Interfaces pinned by quenched disorder are often used to model jerky self-organized critical motion. We study static avalanches, or shocks, defined here as jumps between distinct global minima upon changing an external field. We show how the full statistics of these jumps is encoded in the functional-renormalizationgroup fixed-point functions. This allows us to obtain the size distribution P(S) of static avalanches in an expansion in the internal dimension d of the interface. Near and above d=4 this yields the mean-field distribution $P(S) \sim S^{-3/2} e^{-S/4S_m}$, where S_m is a large-scale cutoff, in some cases calculable. Resumming all one-loop contributions, we find $P(S) \sim S^{-\tau} \exp(C(S/S_m)^{1/2} - \frac{B}{4}(S/S_m)^{\delta})$, where B, C, δ , and τ are obtained to first order in $\epsilon = 4 - d$. Our result is consistent to $O(\epsilon)$ with the relation $\tau = \tau_{\zeta} = 2 - \frac{2}{d+\zeta}$, where ζ is the static roughness exponent, often conjectured to hold at depinning. Our calculation applies to all static universality classes, including random-bond, random-field, and random-periodic disorders. Extended to long-range elastic systems, it yields a different size distribution for the case of contact-line elasticity, with an exponent compatible with $\tau = 2 - \frac{1}{d+\zeta}$ to $O(\epsilon = 2 - d)$. We discuss consequences for avalanches at depinning and for sandpile models, relations to Burgers turbulence and the possibility that the relation $\tau = \tau_{\ell}$ be violated to higher loop order. Finally, we show that the avalanche-size distribution on a hyperplane of codimension one is in mean field (valid close to and above d=4) given by $P(S) \sim K_{1/3}(S)/S$, where K is the Bessel-K function, thus $\tau_{\rm hyper \ plane} = \frac{4}{3}$.

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PACS number(s): 05.40.-a, 05.10.Cc

Aτ

Exponent values in avalanche size distributions

$$P(s) \sim s^{-\tau}$$



Renormalization group in elastic lines

Avalanches in branching processes



Preben Alstrøm. Mean-field exponents for self-organized critical phenomena. Phys. Rev. A, 38:4905–4906, 1988.

dissipation *G* < 0

$$\begin{array}{|c|}\hline P(s) \sim s^{-3/2} exp(-s/\lambda) \\ \hline \lambda < L \end{array}$$



Exponent values in avalanche size distributions

$$P(s) \sim s^{-\tau}$$



Renormalization group in elastic lines

Exponent values in avalanche size distributions $P(s) \sim s^{-\tau}$



Avalanche size

Which is the "right" variable to measure ?

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⁶⁷ Which is the "right" variable to measure? Let us consider a power law $P(s) = \frac{1}{N} s^{-b}$, where *N* is a normalization constant. The variable *s* can be written as $s = s_1^{D_A}$ (the most common case is $E \sim A^2$, where *E* and *A* are the energy and the amplitude respectively).

$$P(s)ds = P(s_l)ds_l \tag{21}$$

$$\frac{1}{N}s_{l}^{-bD_{A}}D_{A}s_{l}^{D_{A}-1}ds_{l} = P(s_{l})ds_{l} \quad (22)$$

$$P(s_{l}) = \frac{D_{A}}{N}s_{l}^{-\beta} \quad (23)$$

with
$$\beta = (b-1)D_A + 1$$
 (24)

As a result, we have two power laws, with two different exponents, describing the same process. In the case of critical phenomena, the standard manner to define the size of an event is by measuring its volume [Stauffer and Aharony, 2003] (in a n-dimensional space). Therefore, in order to analyze the critical properties of a given process, the variable to choose is the one proportional to the volume. In the case of earthquakes, we introduced the energy and the amplitude: $P(E) \sim E^{-5/3}$, $P(A) \sim A^{-2}$; and it is the energy the one proportional to the area of the two-dimensional event. Notice that the relation between the two is given by $E \sim A^{D_A}$ with $D_A = (2-1)/(5/3-1) = 3/2$ (instead) of the common $E \sim A^2$).

Which is the "right" variable to measure: the volume of the avalanche





Exponent values in avalanche size distributions $P(s) \sim s^{-\tau}$



Avalanche size distributions

Getting familiar with exponent values









Exponent values

What to compare with ?

Exponent values in avalanche size distributions $P(s) \sim s^{-\tau}$





In seismology, these models have been fairly successful in reproducing the Gutenberg and Richter (1944) statistics of earthquakes. This empirical law states that the frequency of earthquakes of (energy) magnitude

$$M_e = \frac{2}{3}\log(E) - 2.9, \tag{11}$$

where E is the energy release, in a given region obeys the power-law relation $\log P(m \ge m_0) \simeq -bm_0 + \text{const}$, where $b \simeq 0.88$, or equivalently

$$p(E) \sim E^{-\tau}$$
, with $\tau = 1 + \frac{2}{3}b \approx 1.5$.

For accuracy, we ought to say that there exist several earthquake magnitude scales besides that of Eq. (11). They roughly coincide at not too large values; in fact, M_e is not the initial Richter scale. More importantly, the value of the exponent $b \in [0.8, 1.5]$ depends on the considered earthquake catalog and notably on the considered region. For sandpilelike

Earthquakes as a Self-Organized Critical Phenomenon

PER BAK AND CHAO TANG

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The Gutenberg-Richter power law distribution for energy released at earthquakes can be understood as a consequence of the earth crust being in a self-organized critical state. A simple cellular automaton stick-slip type model yields $D(E) \approx E^{-\tau}$ with $\tau \approx 1.0$ and $\tau \approx 1.35$ in two and three dimensions, respectively. The size of earthquakes is unpredictable since the evolution of an earthquake depends crucially on minor details of the crust.

INTRODUCTION

The distribution of energy released during earthquakes has been found to obey the famous Gutenberg-Richter law [Gutenberg and Richter, 1956]. The law is based on the empirical observation that the number N of earthquakes of size greater than m is given by the relation

$$\log_{10} N = a - bm \tag{1}$$

The precise values of a and b depend on the location, but generally b is in the interval 0.8 < b < 1.5. The energy released during the earthquake is believed to increase exponentially with the size of the earthquake,

$$\log_{10} E = c - dm \tag{2}$$

so the Gutenberg-Richter law is essentially a power law connecting the frequency distribution function with the energy release E (or other physical quantities such as the "seismic moment")

$$dN/dE \propto m^{-1-b/d} = m^{-\tau} \tag{3}$$

with $1.25 < \tau < 1.5$.

Despite the universality of the Gutenberg-Richter relation,

model must necessarily be grossly simplified. The immediate goal is not to produce an accurate model but to point out a general mechanism leading to the power law distribution of earthquakes. In the following section an effort will be made to connect the concept of self-organized criticality to earthquakes.

SELF-ORGANIZED CRITICALITY AND MODEL CALCULATIONS

It is generally assumed that the dynamics of earthquakes is due to a stick-slip mechanism involving sliding of the crust of the earth along faults [*Stuart and Mavko*, 1979; *Sieh*, 1978; *Choi and Huberman*, 1984]. When slip occurs at some location, the strain energy at that position is released, and the stress propagates to the near environment. While this picture is rather well established, no connection between stick-slip models and the actual spatial and temporal correlations has been demonstrated. It has been suggested that the stick-slip picture can be modeled as a branching process [Kagan and Knopoff, 1987]. The observed power law behavior is then rather remarkable since one would naively expect some exponential distribution, e.g., $D(E) \approx e^{-E/E_0}$, where E_0 is roughly the energy released at a single slip.

r First First stands First

Size distributions of earthquakes

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/ 1990-01-01 00:00:00 to 2019-12-31 23:59:59 (30 years period)

3/2 (Magnitude + 6.07) = Log (Seismic Moment)

 $b = 3/2(\beta - 1)$



We can do rely on recent earthquake data !

Get updated.



U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/search/



Southern California Earthquake Data Center https://scedc.caltech.edu/data/QTMcatalog.html



https://www.hinet.bosai.go.jp

Our experiment



Measurements



Granular structure





Real Earthquakes





Inter-event time distribution:

$$f(\theta) \sim \theta^{-0.3} \exp(-\theta/1.5)$$

 $\theta = \tau_{M \geqslant M_0} / \langle \tau \rangle_{M \geqslant M_0}$







Real Earthquakes



Landers (1992) M=7.3

Variations before *Large* events

Log (PDF)

2.2

2

1.8

1.6

1.4

Local PL exponent

 $-\alpha$

Log (energy of de events)

 $P(E) \sim E^{-\alpha}$







Why is this analog experience (to earthquakes) relevant?

- **Quantitative** similarities strongly suggest a common physics

We are currently trying to understand its dynamics:

- Parameter dependences (robustness) & origin of the dynamics
- Memory effets
- Possibilities of predicting large events
- Separating common ("universal") features of the dynamics vs. specific ones to earthquakes or to our granular fault.



- A relevant difference: R = 17.35 quakes/s

A **48h experiment** brings a similar number of events as **150 years of seismicity** with magnitude ≥2 in California (very suitable for *Artificial Intelligence* analysis).

Some open questions in scale-invariant avalanches



Machine Learning Predicts Laboratory Earthquakes



Bertrand Rouet-Leduc^{1,2}, Claudia Hulbert¹, Nicholas Lubbers^{1,3}, Kipton Barros¹, Colin J. Humphreys², and Paul A. Johnson⁴

140

focusing on predictability:

Machine Learning analysis of LabQuakes time series



focusing on predictability:

Machine Learning analysis of LabQuakes time series



Take-away messages

- Different exponent values can reflect a very different physics

- We can rely on recent earthquake data, and it is an excellent tool to test and better understand our methods and actual data. Get updated !

- We are working on generating reliable and high quality data with controlled experiments, and so far the results look quite promising.

THANK YOU!

People







O. Cochet-Escartin

S. Deschanel



G. Simon

S. Lherminier



R. Planet

L. Vanel



T. Hatano









K. J. Måløy











Fundings



dissipation *G* < 0

$$P(s) \sim s^{-3/2} exp(-s/\lambda)$$
$$\lambda < L$$



$$\fbox{\xi \sim \lambda} \longrightarrow \fbox{\xi \sim s_{max}^{1/d_A}}$$

Preben Alstrøm. Mean-field exponents for self-organized critical phenomena. Phys. Rev. A, 38:4905–4906, 1988.

OFC model: changing the exponent value with dissipation



PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

Subcritical Statistics in Rupture of Fibrous Materials: Experiments and Model

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We study experimentally the slow growth of a single crack in a fibrous material and observe stepwise growth dynamics. We model the material as a lattice where the crack is pinned by elastic traps and grows due to thermally activated stress fluctuations. In agreement with experimental data we find that the distribution of step sizes follows subcritical point statistics with a power law (exponent 3/2) and a stress-dependent exponential cutoff diverging at the critical rupture threshold.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.93.095505

PACS numbers: 62.20.Mk, 46.50.+a, 81.40.Np

week ending

27 AUGUST 2004



FIG. 2. Probability distribution of step sizes for various values of stress intensity factor. Choosing $\lambda = 50 \ \mu$ m, the different curves are the best fits of Eq. (3) giving an average value $V = 5 \pm 1 \ \text{Å}^3$.

Local Waiting Time Fluctuations along a Randomly Pinned Crack Front

Knut Jørgen Måløy,¹ Stéphane Santucci,¹ Jean Schmittbuhl,² and Renaud Toussaint²

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The propagation of an interfacial crack along a heterogeneous weak plane of a transparent Plexiglas block is followed using a high resolution fast camera. We show that the fracture front dynamics is governed by local and irregular avalanches with very large size and velocity fluctuations. We characterize the intermittent dynamics observed, i.e., the local pinnings and depinnings of the crack front by measuring the local waiting time fluctuations along the crack front during its propagation. The deduced local front line velocity distribution exhibits a power law behavior, $P(v) \propto v^{-\eta}$ with $\eta = 2.55 \pm 0.15$, for velocities v larger than the average front speed $\langle v \rangle$. The burst size distribution is also a power law, $P(S) \propto S^{-\gamma}$ with $\gamma = 1.7 \pm 0.1$. Above a characteristic length scale of disorder $L_d \sim 15 \ \mu$ m, the avalanche clusters become anisotropic providing an estimate of the roughness exponent of the crack front line, H = 0.66.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.96.045501

PACS numbers: 62.20.Mk, 05.45.Df, 61.43.-j, 81.40.Np





FIG. 3 (color). Burst size S distribution $P(S/\langle S \rangle)$, normalized by the average burst size $\langle S \rangle$, for different experimental conditions (the various symbols correspond to those on Fig. 2). The bursts detected for each experiment correspond to clusters of velocities 3 times larger than the average crack front speed. A fit on all the data (dashed line) gives a slope equal to 1.71. Inset: Normalized bursts size distribution $P(S/\langle S \rangle)$ averaged over all the different experimental conditions, for a wide range of different threshold levels C. A fit to all the data, cutting the largest clusters at which a cutoff appears due to the lack of statistics (solid line), gives a slope equal to 1.67.

communications

earth & environment

ARTICLE

https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-021-00147-1

OPEN

Micro-slips in an experimental granular shear band replicate the spatiotemporal characteristics of natural earthquakes

David Houdoux¹, Axelle Amon¹, David Marsan², Jérôme Weiss³ & Jérôme Crassous ¹[∞]







Fig. 3 Scaling law of events. a Probability density dN/dM of events of moment *M*. Dotted line is a power-law $\sim M^{-2.1}$.

JGR Solid Earth

Micro-Seismic Monitoring of a Shear Fault Within a Floating Ice Plate

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Abstract The deformation of a circular fault in a thin floating ice plate imposed by a slow rotational displacement is investigated. Temporal changes in shear strength, as a proxy for the resistance of the fault as a whole, are monitored by the torque required to impose a constant displacement rate. Micro-seismic monitoring is used to study the relationship between fault average resistance (torque) and micro-ruptures. The size distribution of ruptures follows a power-law scaling characterized by an unusually high exponent ($b \approx 3$), characteristic of a deformation driven by small ruptures. In strong contrast to the typical brittle dynamics of crustal faults, an 'apparently aseismic' deformation regime is observed in which small undetected seismic ruptures, below the detection level of the monitoring system, control the slip budget. Most ($\approx 71\%$) of the detected ruptures are organized in bursts with highly similar waveforms, suggesting that these ruptures are only a passive by-product of apparently aseismic slip events. The seismic signature of this deformation regime has strong similarities with crustal faulting in settings characterized by high temperature and with non-volcanic tremors.



Figure 7. Probability density function of the relative magnitude, M_w , (symbols) and the best linear fits (dashed lines) taking into account all the ruptures (black), ruptures not included in a multiplet only (blue) and ruptures in a multiplet only (red).

Magnitude M

W



ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-03559-4 OPEN

Aftershock sequences and seismic-like organization of acoustic events produced by a single propagating crack

Jonathan Barés^{1,2}, Alizée Dubois¹, Lamine Hattali^{1,3}, Davy Dalmas⁴ & Daniel Bonamy¹

а 10 TO COROLOGICAL COLORIDA COLORI 10² 10¹ 10⁰ P (E) 10^{-1} 10^{-2} 10^{-3} Current AE Past AE 10-4 10^{-5} 10^{-4} 10^{-3} 10^{-2} 10^{-1} 10⁰ 10¹ 10² 10³ E (a.u.)

The Gutenberg–Richter law and self-similarity. We now turn to the global statistical characterization of the AE time series. In all the experiments, the probability density function, P(E), decays as a power-law over nearly five decades up to an upper corner energy (Fig. 2a). It is well-fitted by:

$$P(E) \propto E^{-\beta} \exp(-E/E_0), \qquad (1)$$

with $E \ge E_{\min}$. The lower cutoff, $E_{\min} = 10^{-4}$, is the same in all our experiments. It is set by the sensitivity of the acquisition system. Conversely, the exponent β and the upper corner energy E_0 depend on both crack speed (slightly) and material microstructure (more importantly). We will return at the end of this section to the analysis of these dependencies. Equation 1 is reminiscent of the Gutenberg-Richter law. Note, however, that the energy distributions observed in seismology often take the form of a pure power-law. Then, earthquake sizes are more commonly quantified by their magnitude, which is linearly related to the logarithm of the energy²⁸: $\log_{10}E = 1.5M + 11.8$. The energy distribution takes the classical Gutenberg-Richter frequency–magnitude relation: $log_{10}N(M) = a - bM$, where N(M)is the number of earthquakes per year with magnitude larger than M and a and b are constants. The b-value relates to the exponent β involved in Eq. 1 via: $\beta = b/1.5 + 1$.

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-03559-4 www.nature.com/naturecommunications

Fig. 2 The Gutenberg–Richter law and time–energy self-similarity. a Distribution of AE energy in one of the experiments (microstructure length-scale: d = 583 µm, crack speed: "v 1/4 2:7 µms1). Solid magenta line is a gamma function P(E) \propto E- β exp(-E/E0) for E \geq Emin = 10-4 (vertical magenta dashed line), with fitted parameters β = 0.96 ± 0.02 and E0 = 38 ± 9.

Seismicity in sheared granular matter

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Received 13 November 2018; revised manuscript received 11 April 2019; published 20 May 2019)

We report on experiments investigating the dynamics of a slider that is pulled by a spring across a granular medium consisting of a vertical layer of photoelastic disks. The motion proceeds through a sequence of discrete events, analogous to seismic shocks, in which elastic energy stored in the spring is rapidly released. We measure the statistics of several properties of the individual events: the energy loss in the spring, the duration of the movement, and the temporal profile of the slider motion. We also study certain conditional probabilities and the statistics of mainshock-aftershock sequences. At low driving rates, we observe crackling with Omori-Utsu, Båth, and waiting time laws similar to those observed in seismic dynamics. At higher driving rates, where the sequence of events shows strong periodicity, we observe scaling laws and asymmetrical event shapes that are clearly distinguishable from those in the crackling regime.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevE.99.052902





III. CRACKLING DYNAMICS

When the slider is pulled very slowly, we observe crackling dynamics, as evidenced for c = 0.1 mm/s by the two decades of power-law decay in P(S) shown in Fig. 1(d). The PDF is well fit by the Gutenberg-Richter form

$$P(S) \sim S^{-\beta} e^{-\frac{S}{S_{\text{max}}}},$$
 (1)
with $\beta = 1.22 \pm 0.07$ and $S_{\text{max}} = (6.1 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-4}$ J.

Philip W. Anderson

1977

More Is Different

Science (04/08/1972)

"The ability to reduce everything to simple fundamental laws does not imply the ability to start from those laws and reconstruct the universe."

Emergence of new properties resulting from the interaction of the elementary parts.





D. Turcotte

P. Bak

SOC & Earthquakes models (Bak, Sornette,

Friction & Dissipation affect (remove) the critical properties in SOC models

Carlson, Langer, Shaw, Olami, Feder, Christensen, Main...-1989-92)

"Complexity" ---- Earthquakes 1985-90

Self-organized Criticality (SOC)

as an attempt to explain scale-invariance in nature



1988







REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 82, JANUARY–MARCH 2010

Mean-field theory of hard sphere glasses and jamming

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(Published 16 March 2010)

It is worth noting that in experiments on granular systems and powders the role of friction is important (Dauchot et al., 2005; Schröter et al., 2005; Abate and Durian, 2006; Daniels and Behringer, 2006; Pica Ciamarra et al., 2007; Shundyak et al., 2007; Somfai et al., 2007; Lechenault et al., 2008), for instance, in determining the existence of loose packings (Onoda and Liniger, 1990; Jerkins et al., 2008; Song et al., 2008). Friction complicates a lot of the theoretical analyses of the packing problem since the system is intrinsically out of equilibrium and standard equilibrium statistical mechanics is, in principle, useless. Nevertheless, since the pioneering work of Edwards (Edwards and Oakeshott, 1989; Edwards, 1998), statistical mechanics ideas have been used to describe frictional systems, leading to remarkable results (Goldbart et al., 2005). Comparison with experimental results is made difficult by the fact that in most experiments samples are polydisperse, often with a large range of particle sizes as in the case of many granulars.

For reasons of space, this paper is focused on our approach, that we will discuss in full detail; therefore, in the following we will consider mainly the statistical properties of a system of frictionless spheres, since our method is based on equilibrium statistical mechanics. We will not discuss in detail neither the geometrical properties (unless needed to compare numerical data with our results) of amorphous packings nor how their properties are influenced by the presence of friction. Physics of disordered systems using hard & frictionless spheres



Spatial frustration (Jamming)

¥

Physics of **actual granular** (disordered) **systems**,

friction plays an essential role (Jamming)

Models of Avalanches

• cellular automata



Mesoscopic approaches (elastoplastic models)





Exponent values in avalanche size distributions

$$P(s) \sim s^{-\tau}$$

• Renormalization group in elastic lines



Exponent values in avalanche size distributions



