

Elementary mechanisms of plastic deformation in amorphous materials

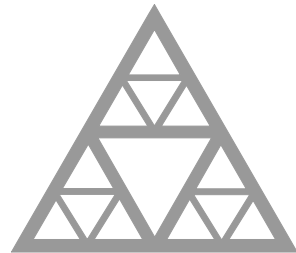
UNIVERSITÉ —
— PARIS-EST

Anaël Lemaître



Navier

Rhéophysique



École des Ponts

ParisTech



Length and energy scales in amorphous materials

Hard glasses

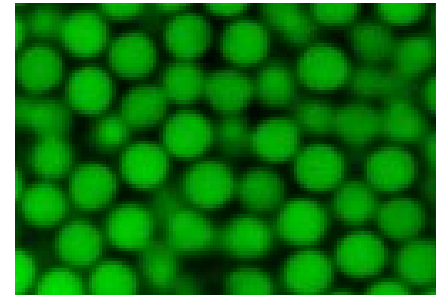
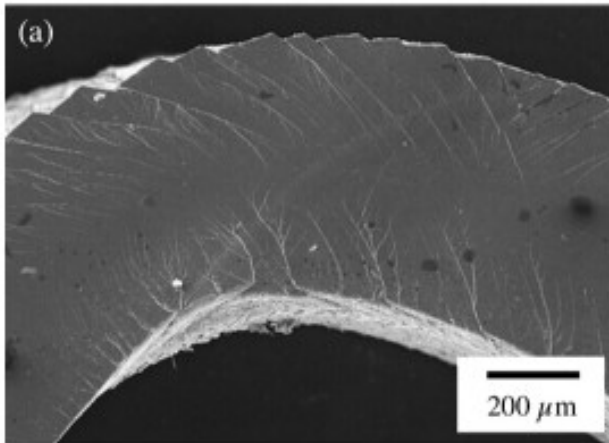
Soft glasses

Metallic/oxyde
glasses

Polymers

Colloids

Foams



Length scales \leq nm

Energies \sim 0.1—1 eV

Stresses \sim GPa

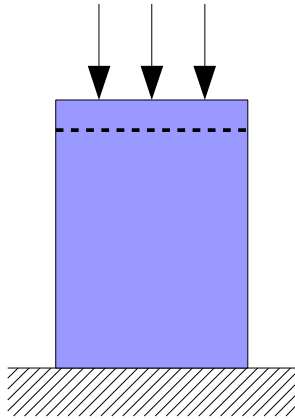
Length scales \geq 0.1 μ m

Energies \sim kT = 1/40 eV

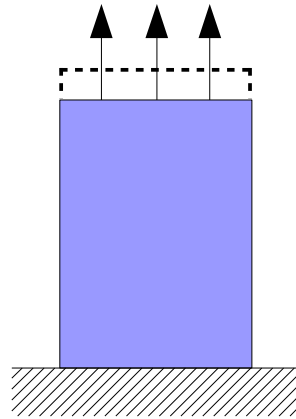
Stresses \sim Pa—kPa

Can we identify some mechanisms of deformation,
at least for broad classes of materials,
independently on time-, energy-, length-scales?

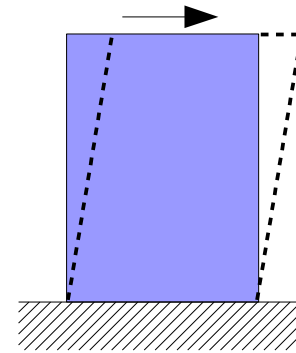
Compression



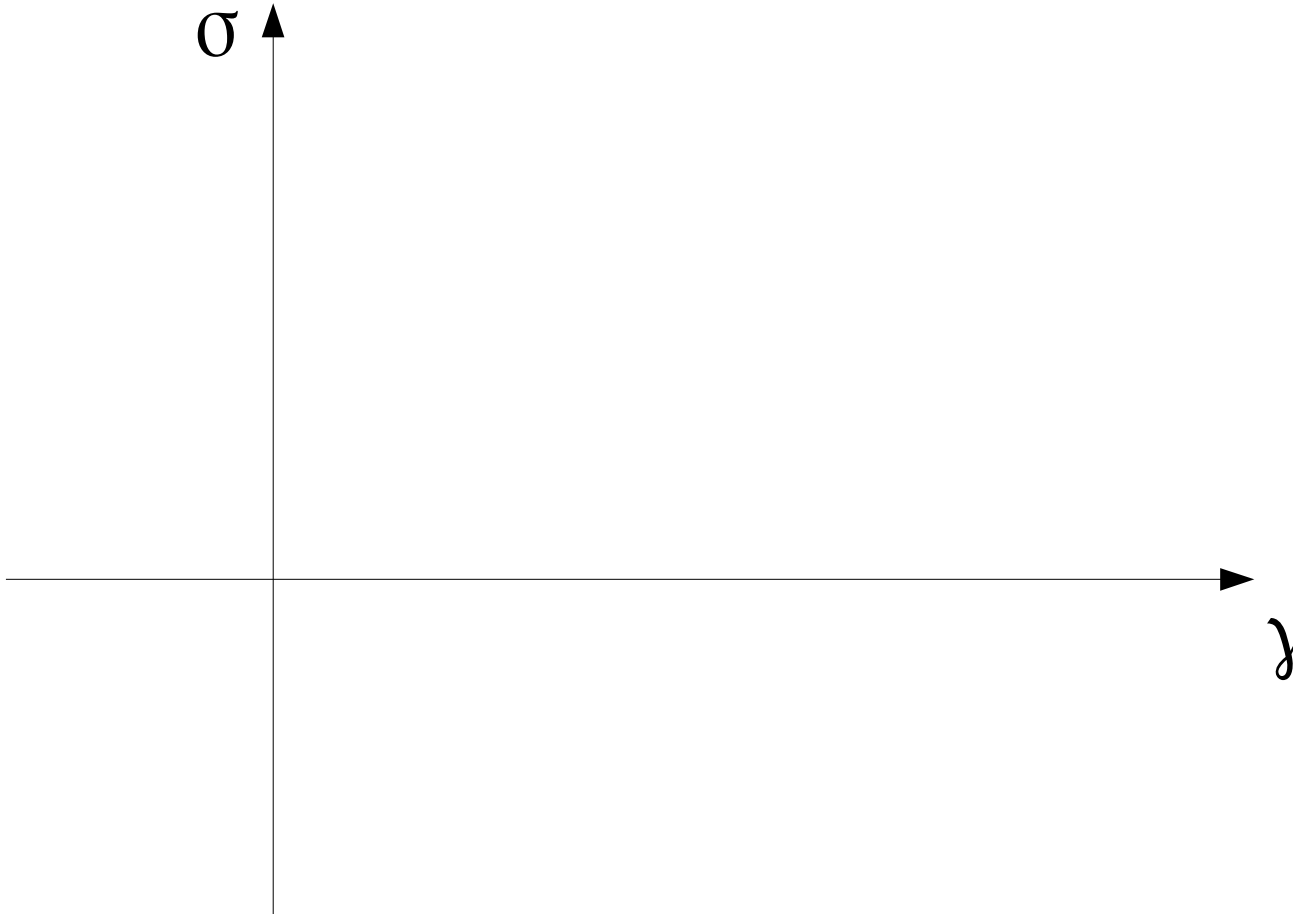
Tension

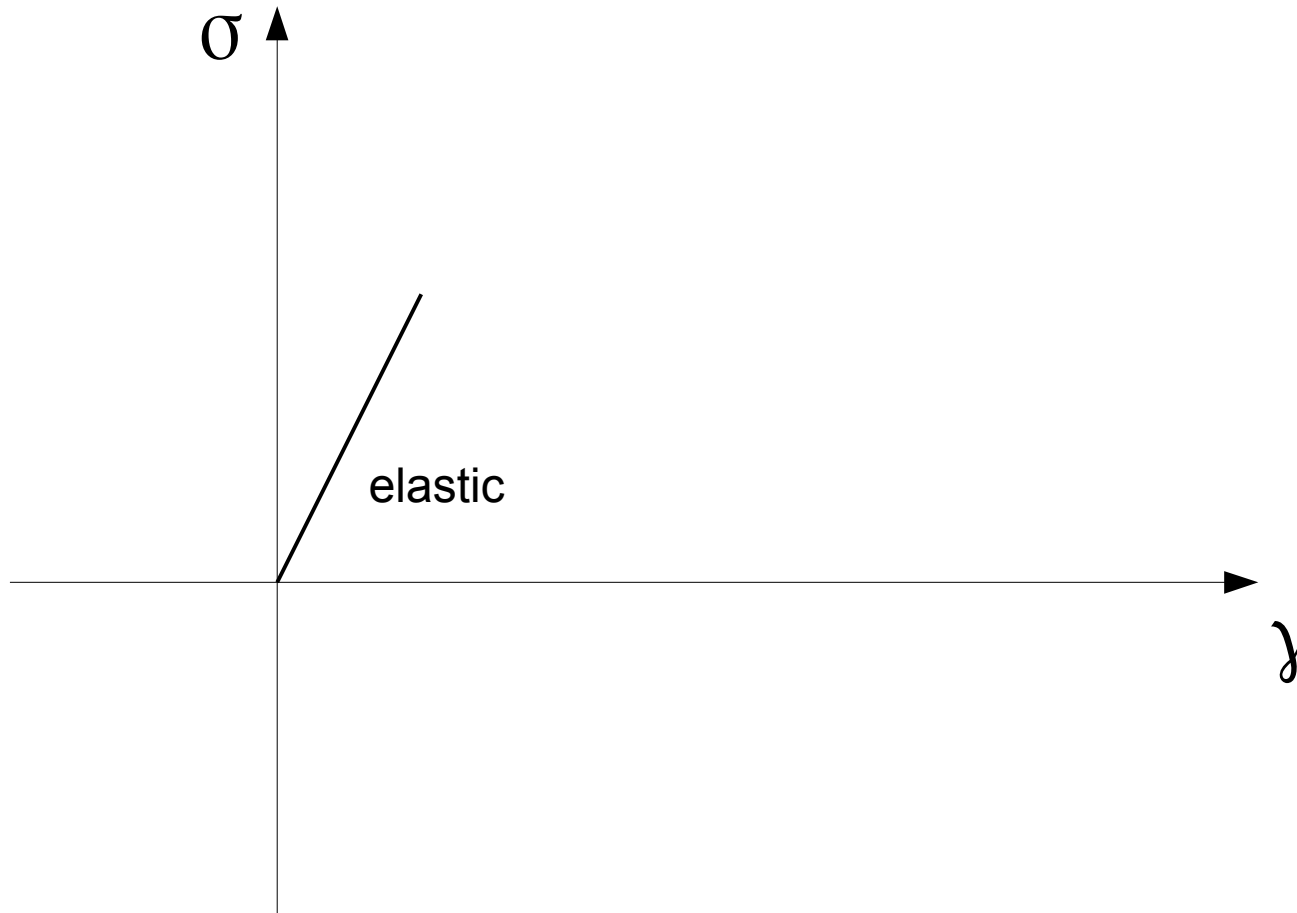
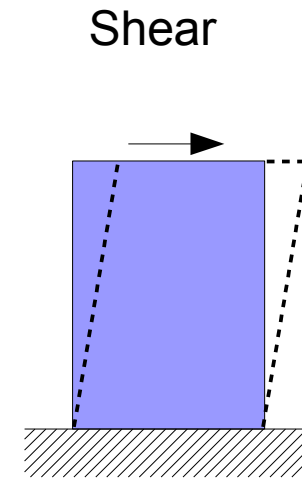
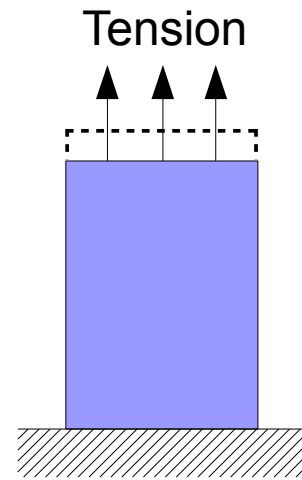
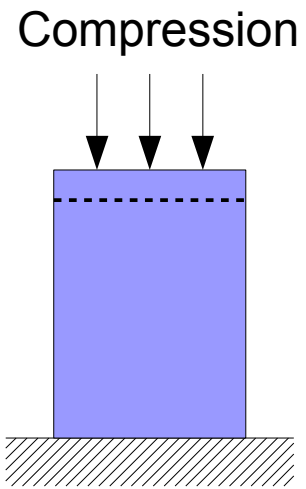


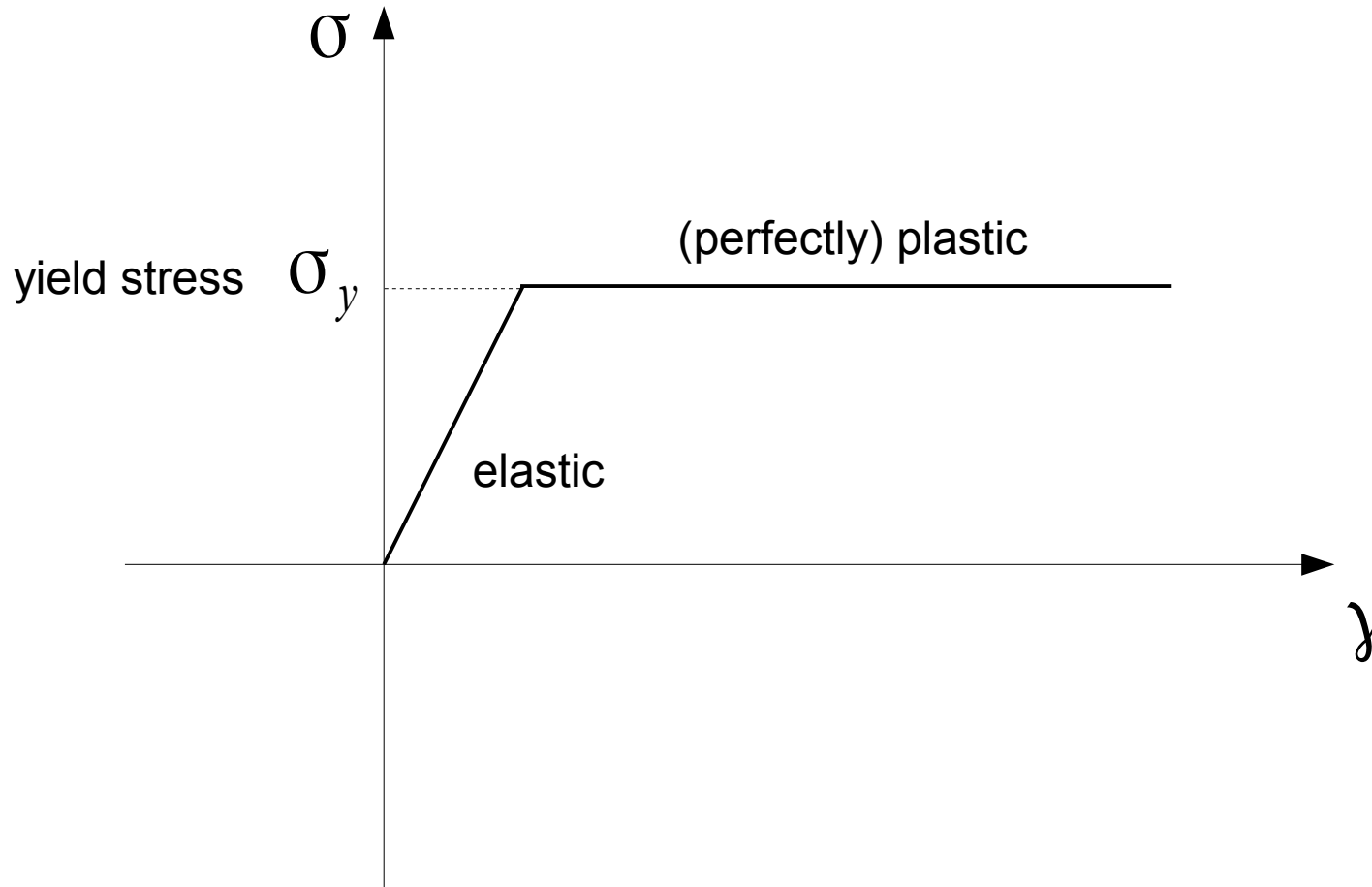
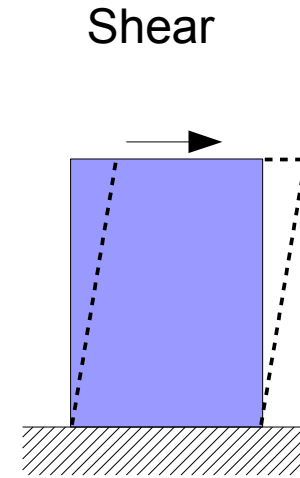
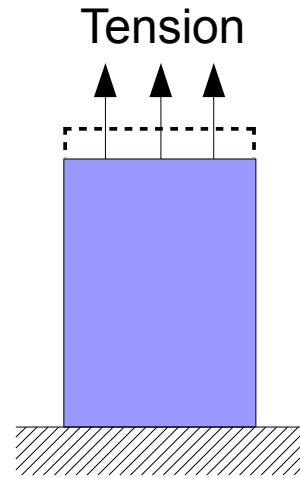
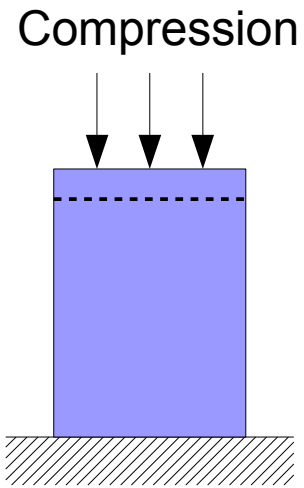
Shear

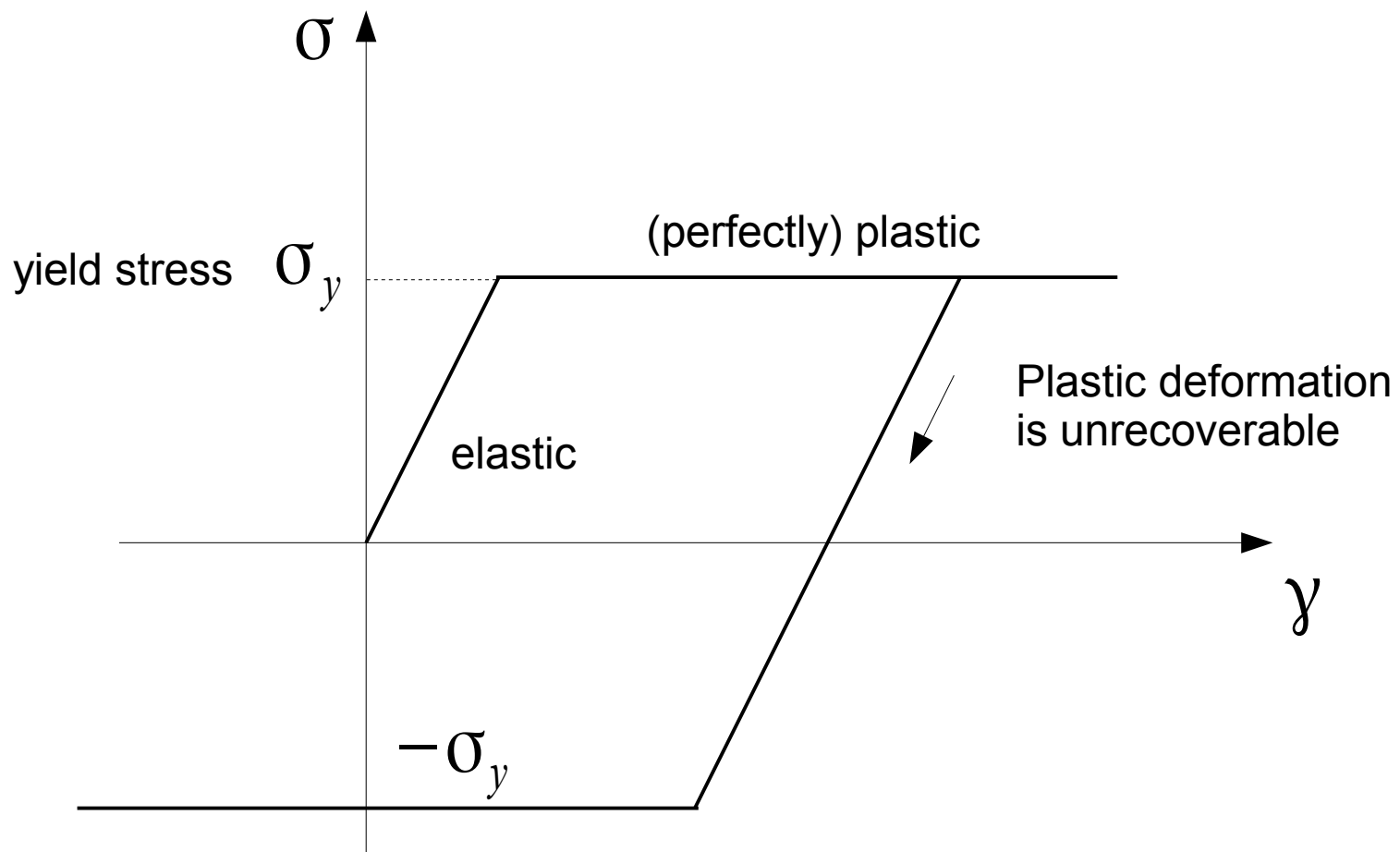
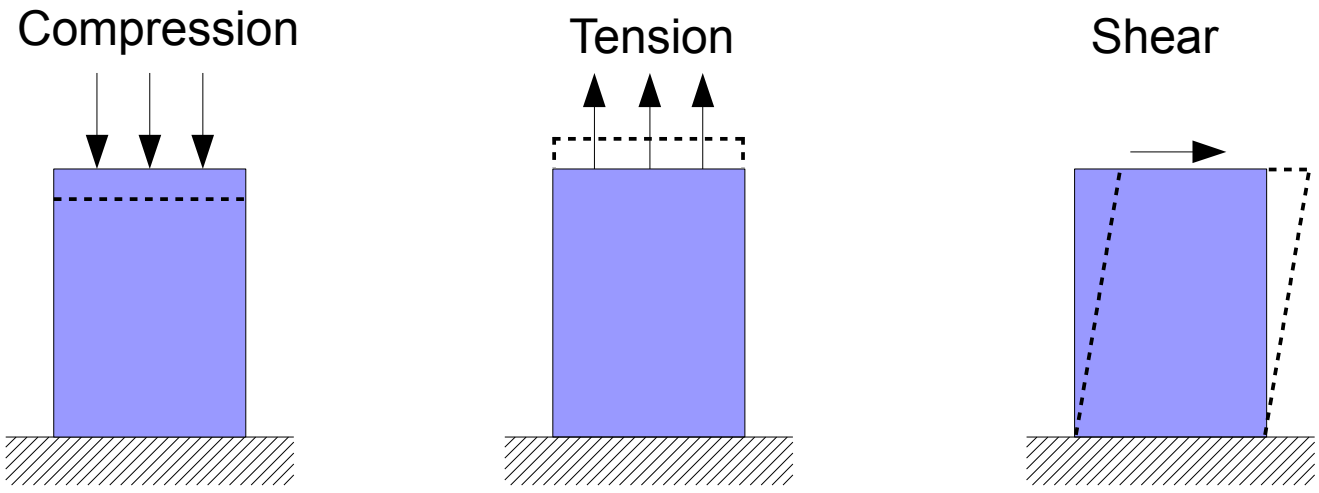


σ

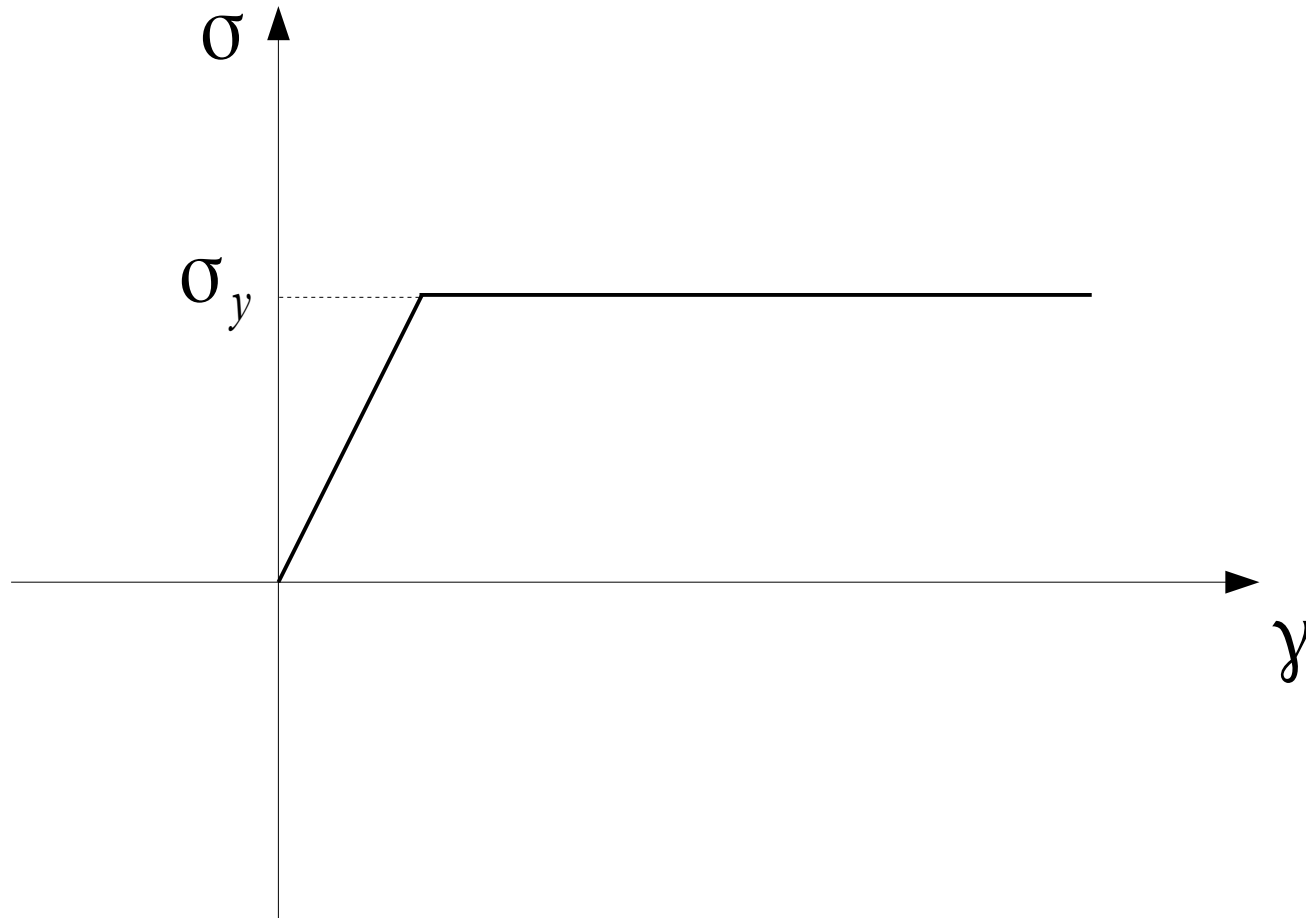




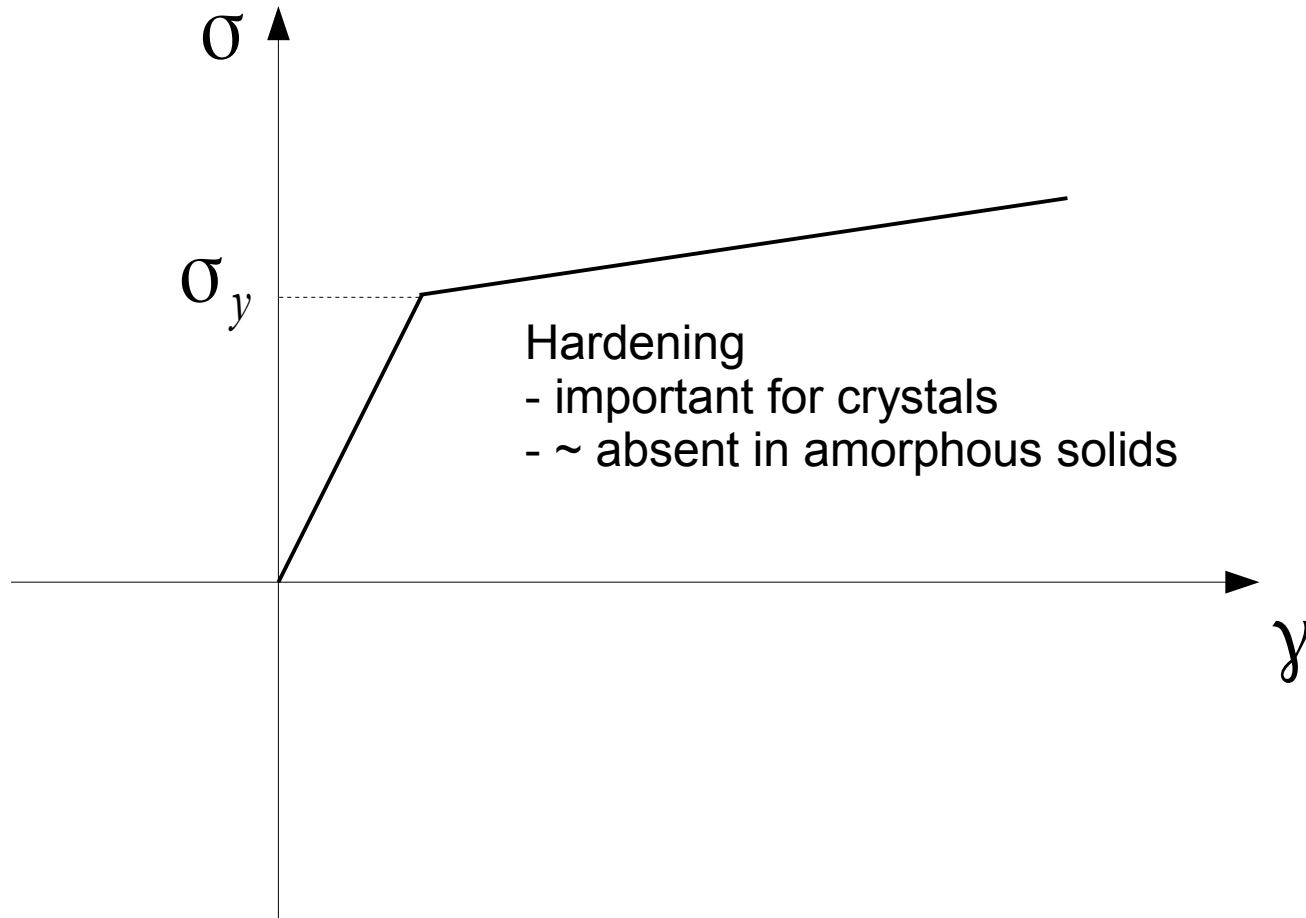




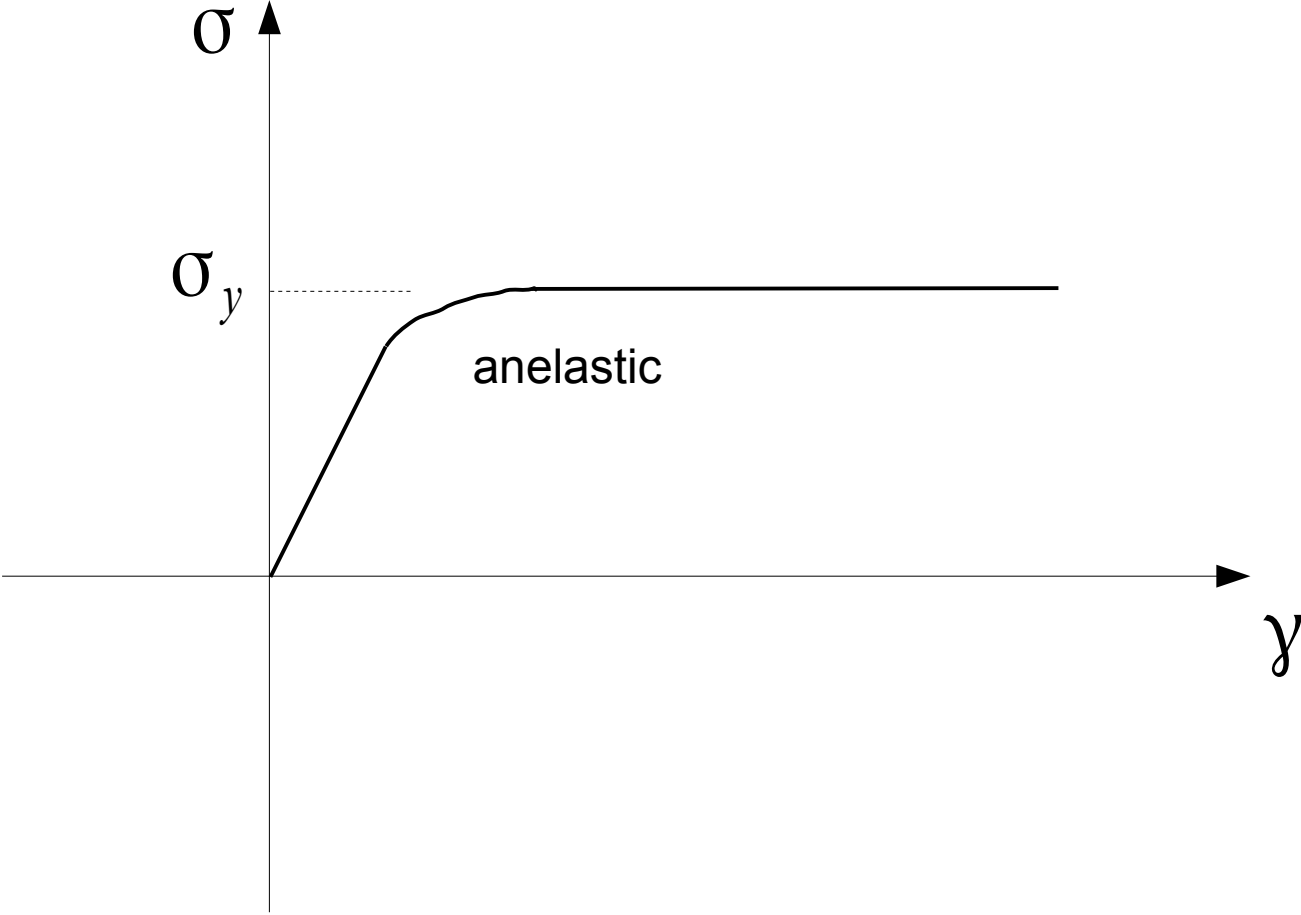
Departures from elastic-perfectly-plastic behavior



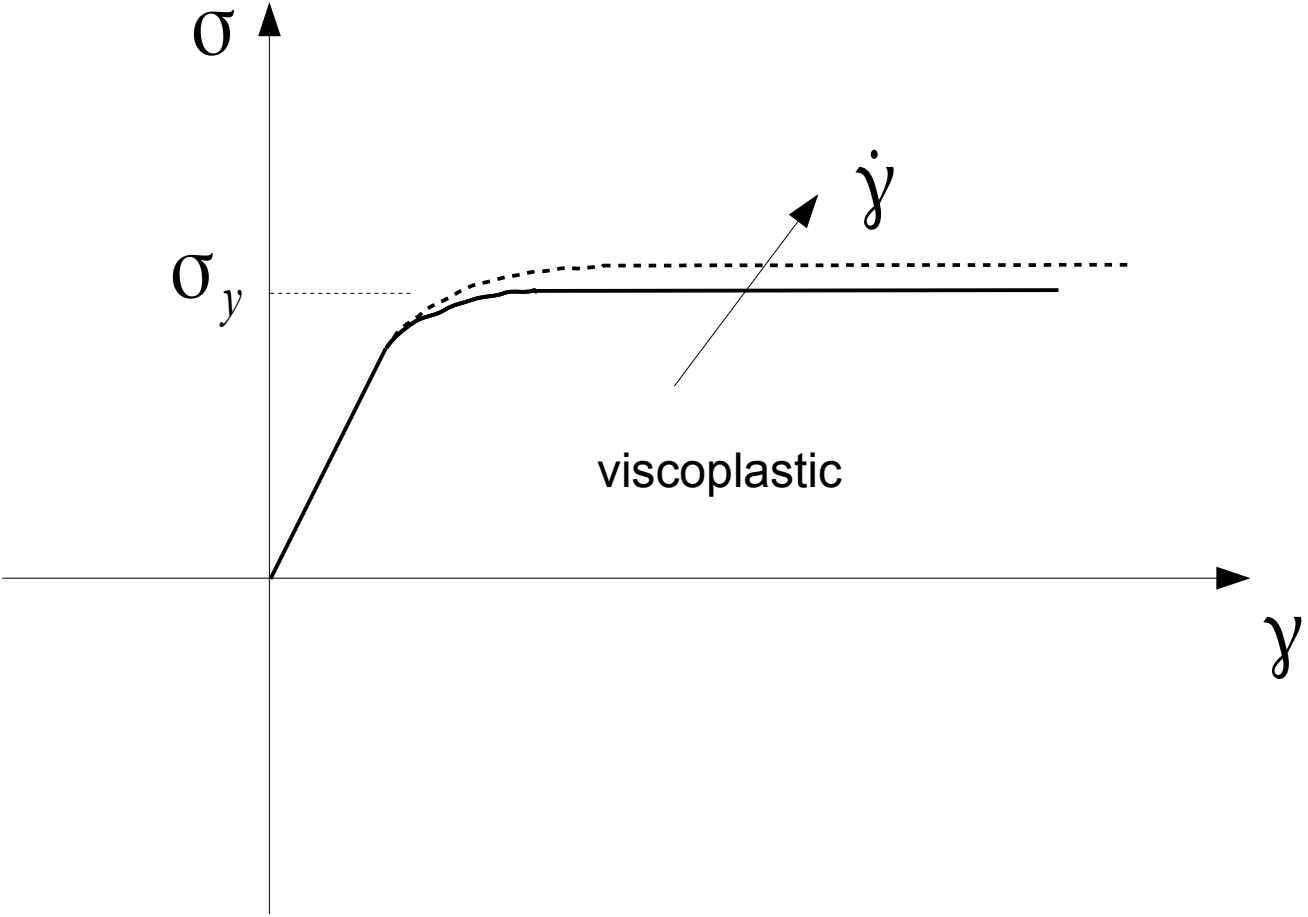
Departures from elastic-perfectly-plastic behavior



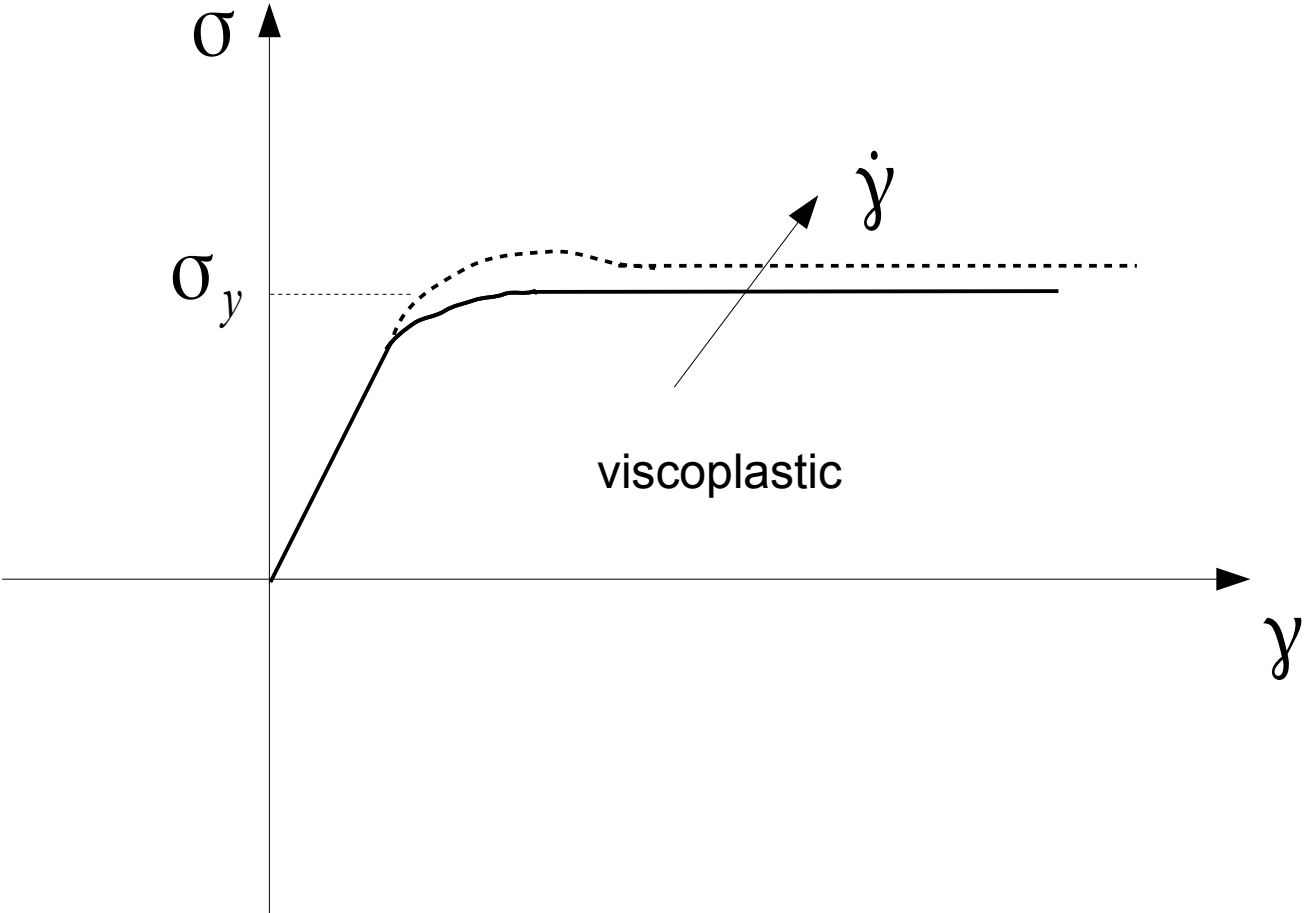
Departures from elastic-perfectly-plastic behavior



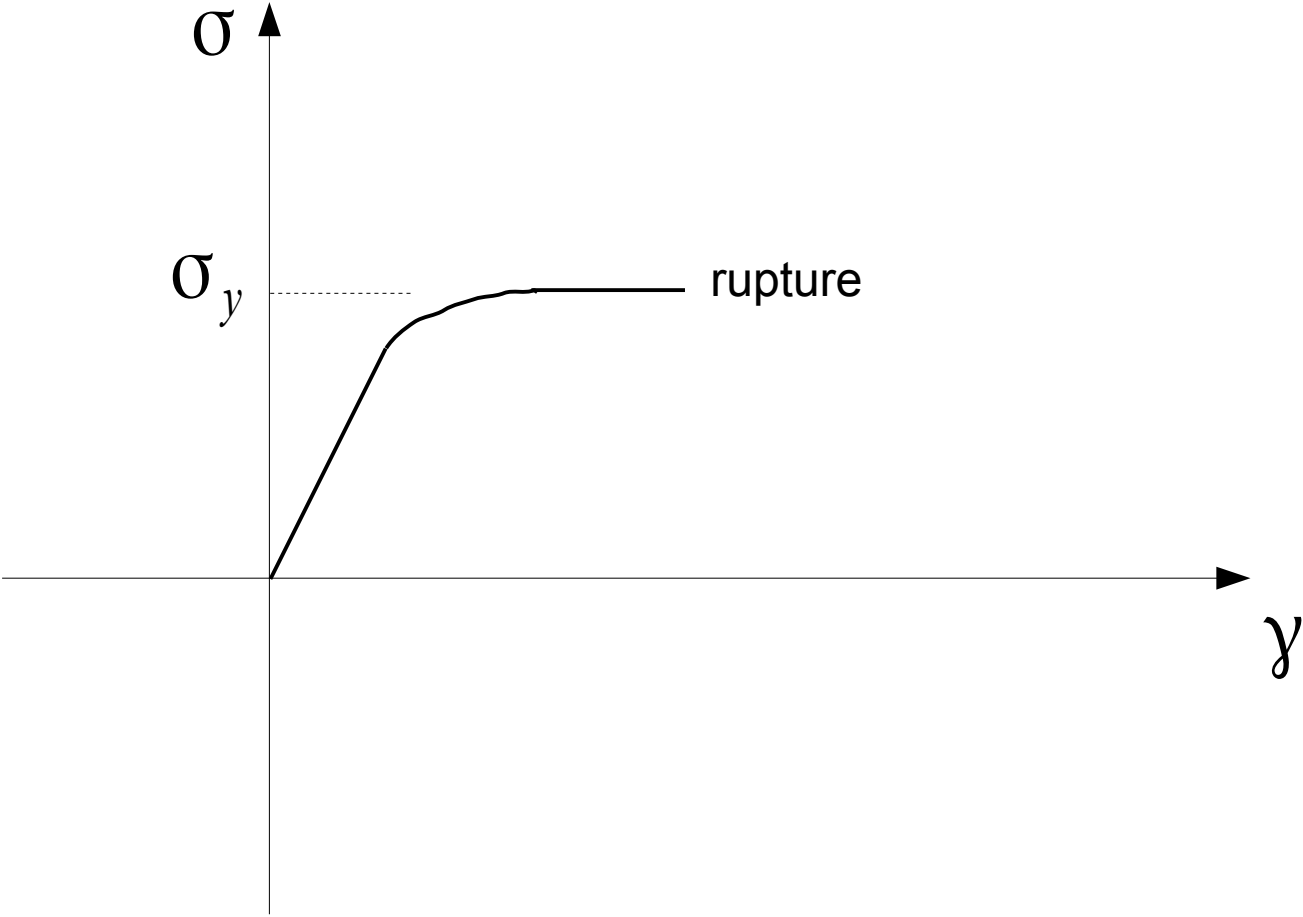
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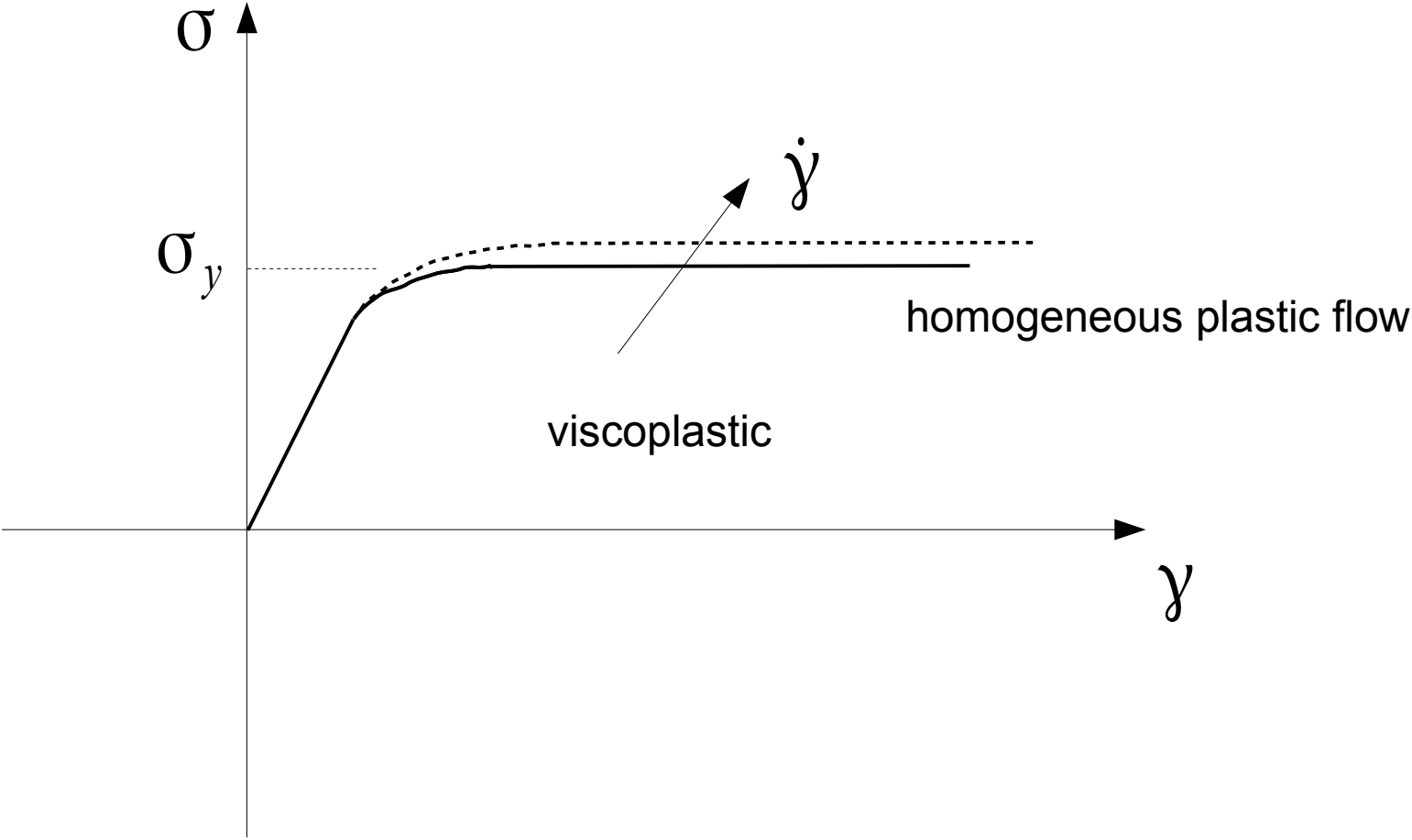
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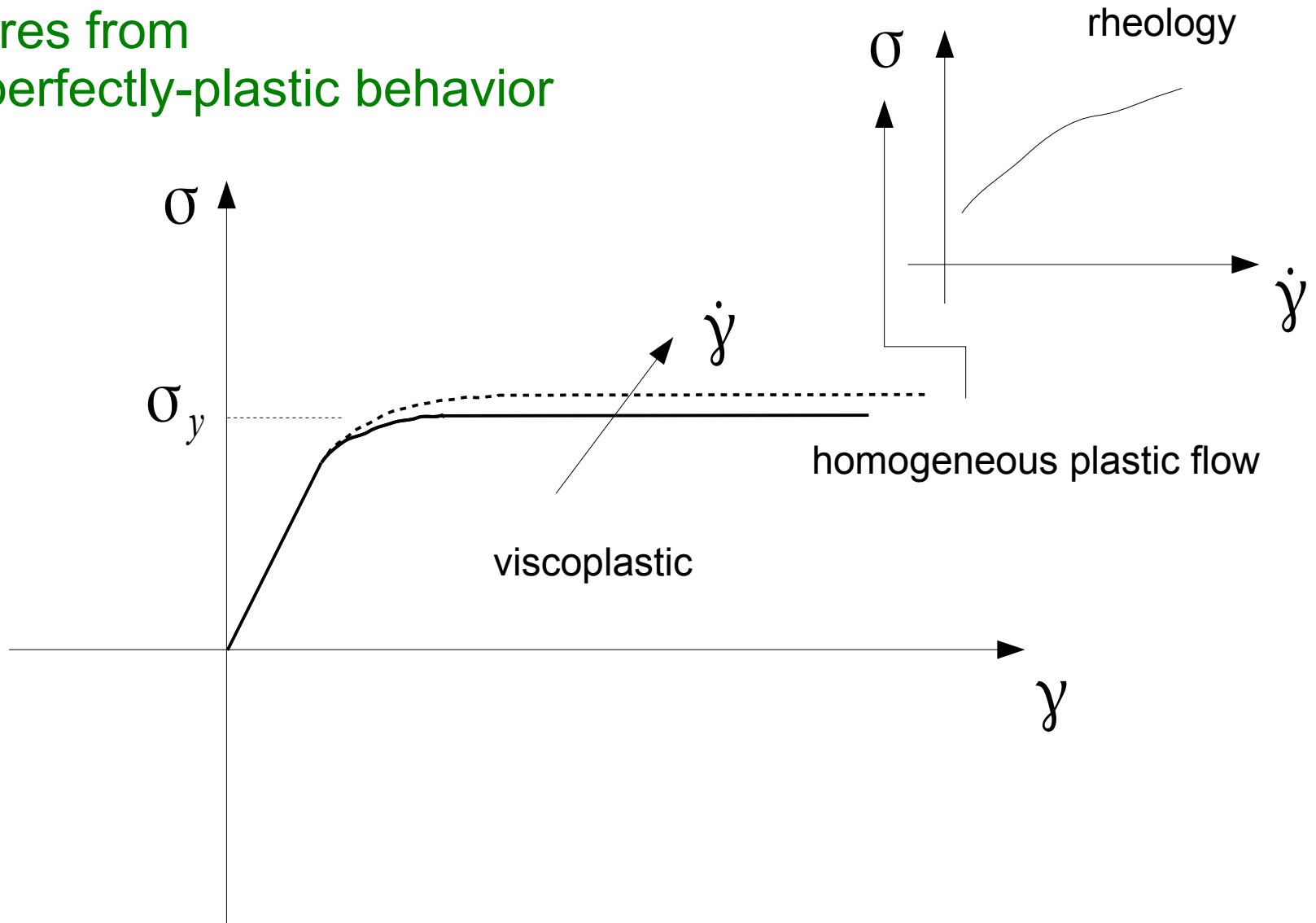
Departures from elastic-perfectly-plastic behavior

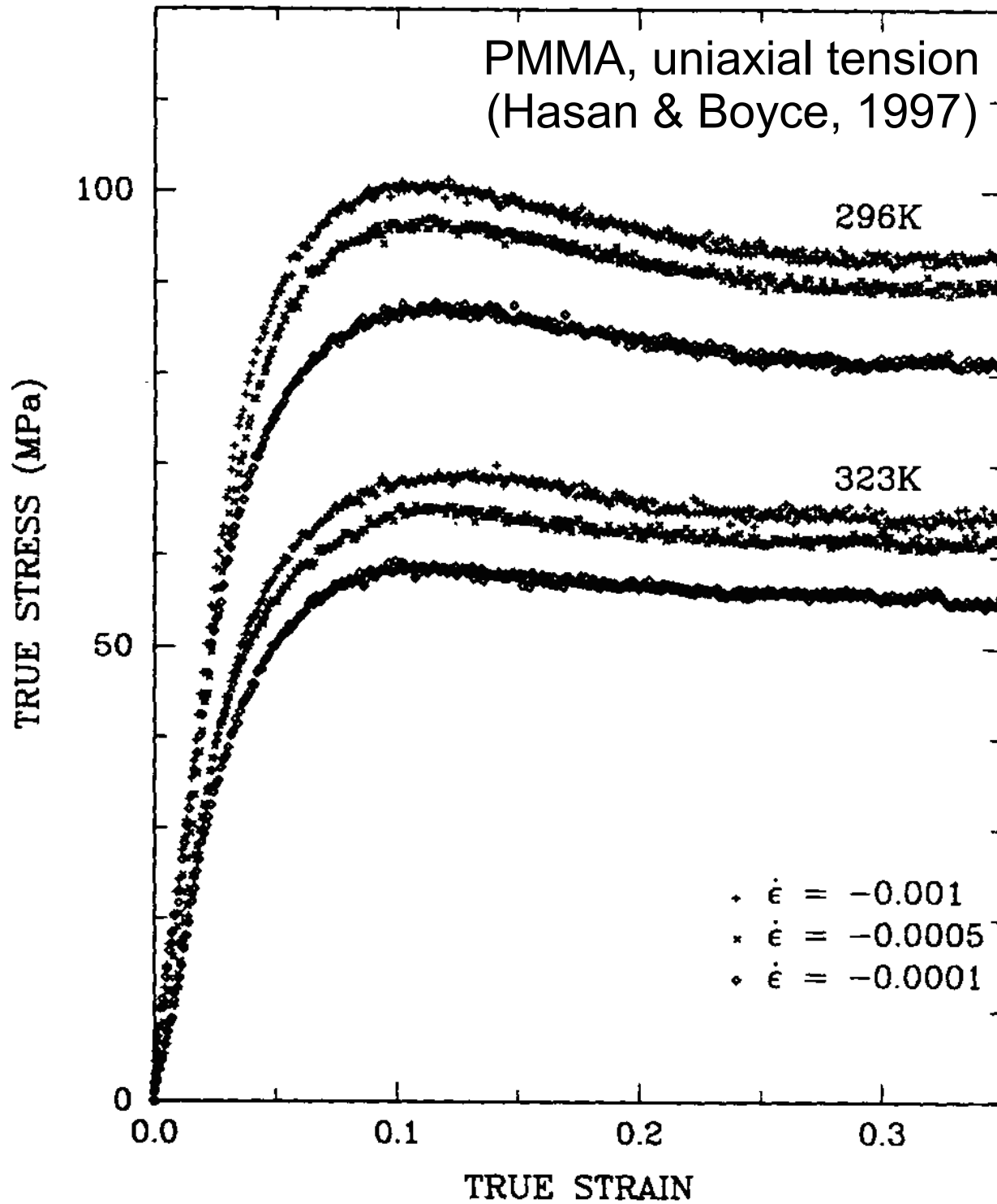


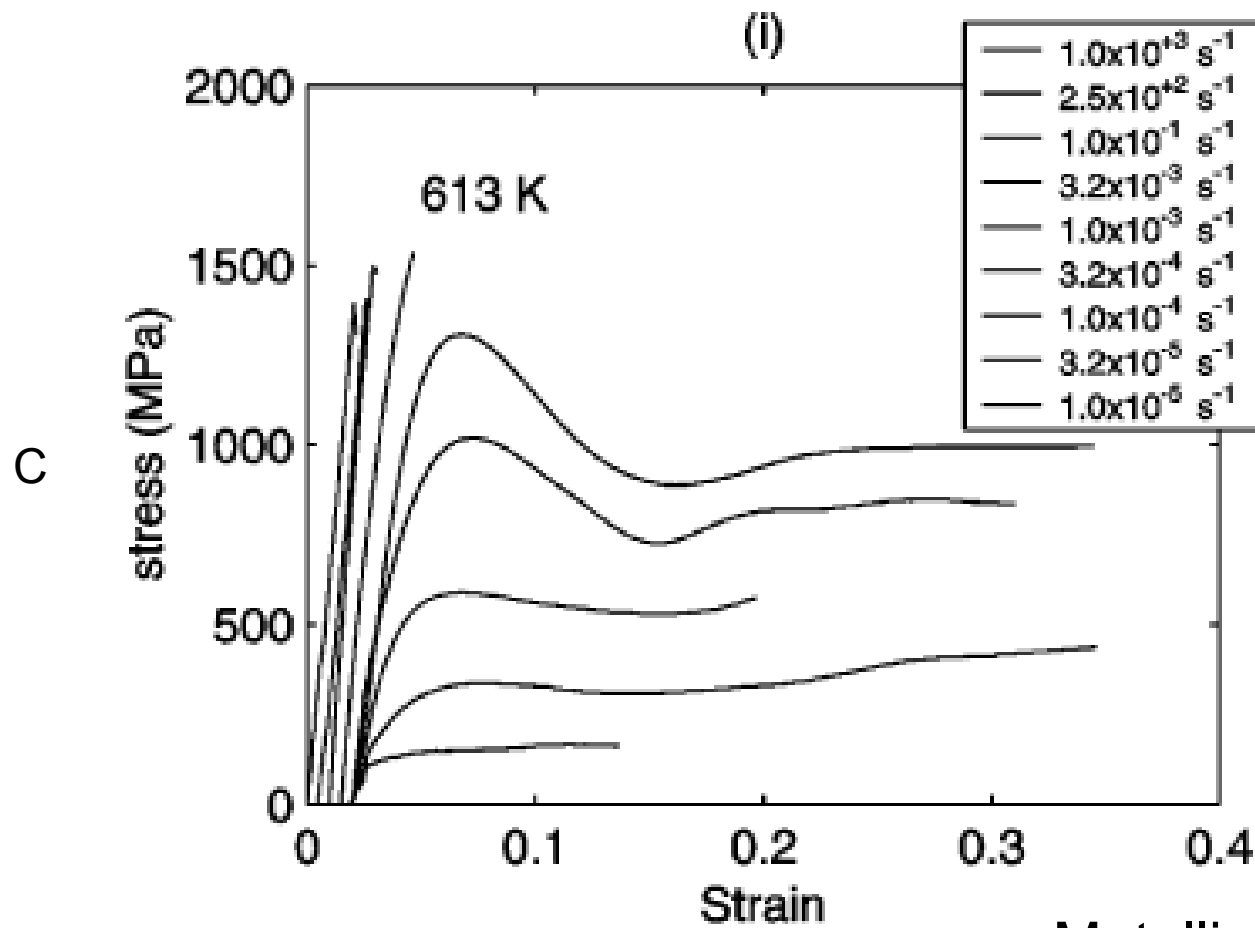
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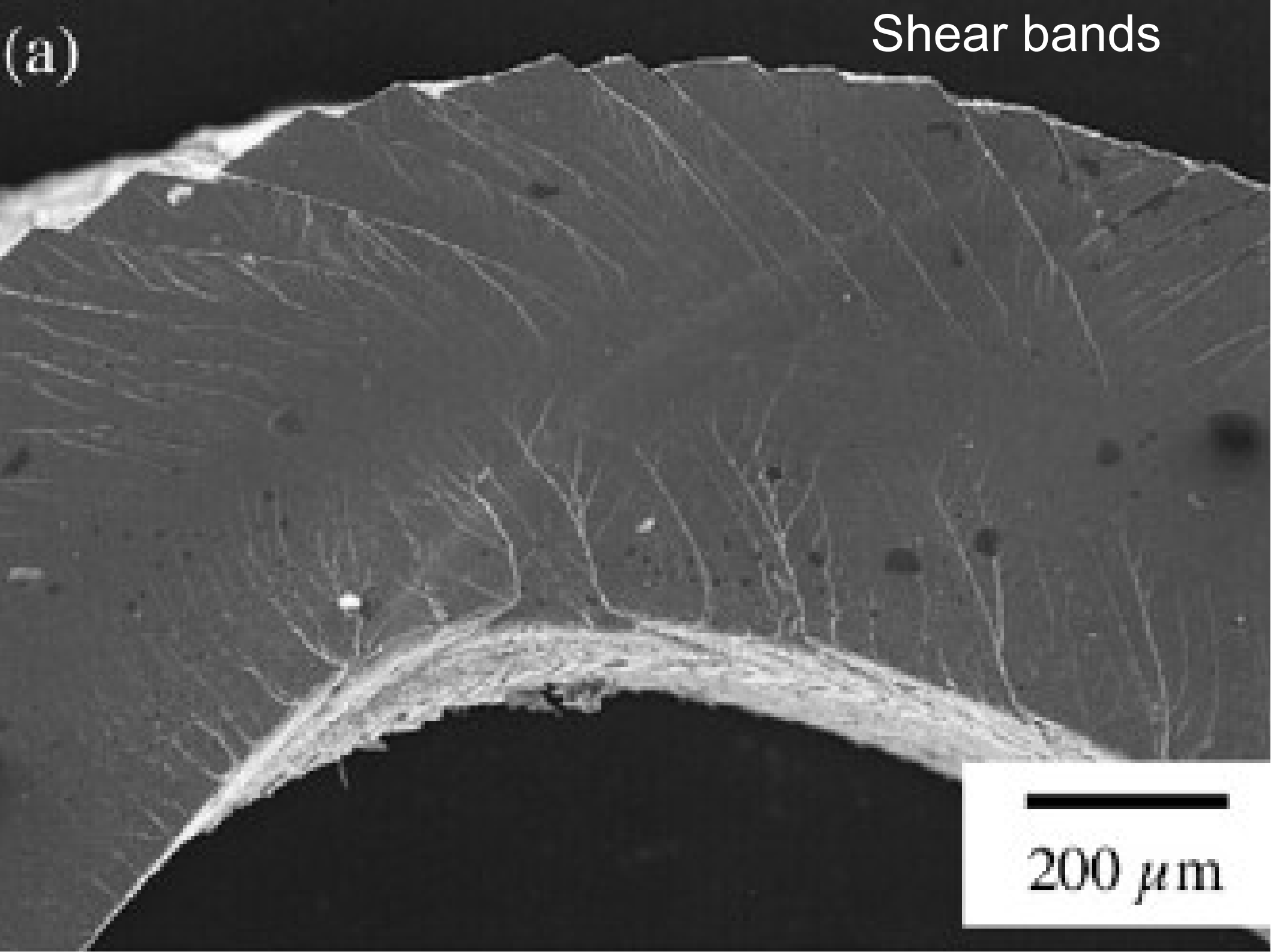
Departures from elastic-perfectly-plastic behavior







Metallic glass
(Johnson, Caltech)



(a)

Shear bands

—
200 μm

Heating?

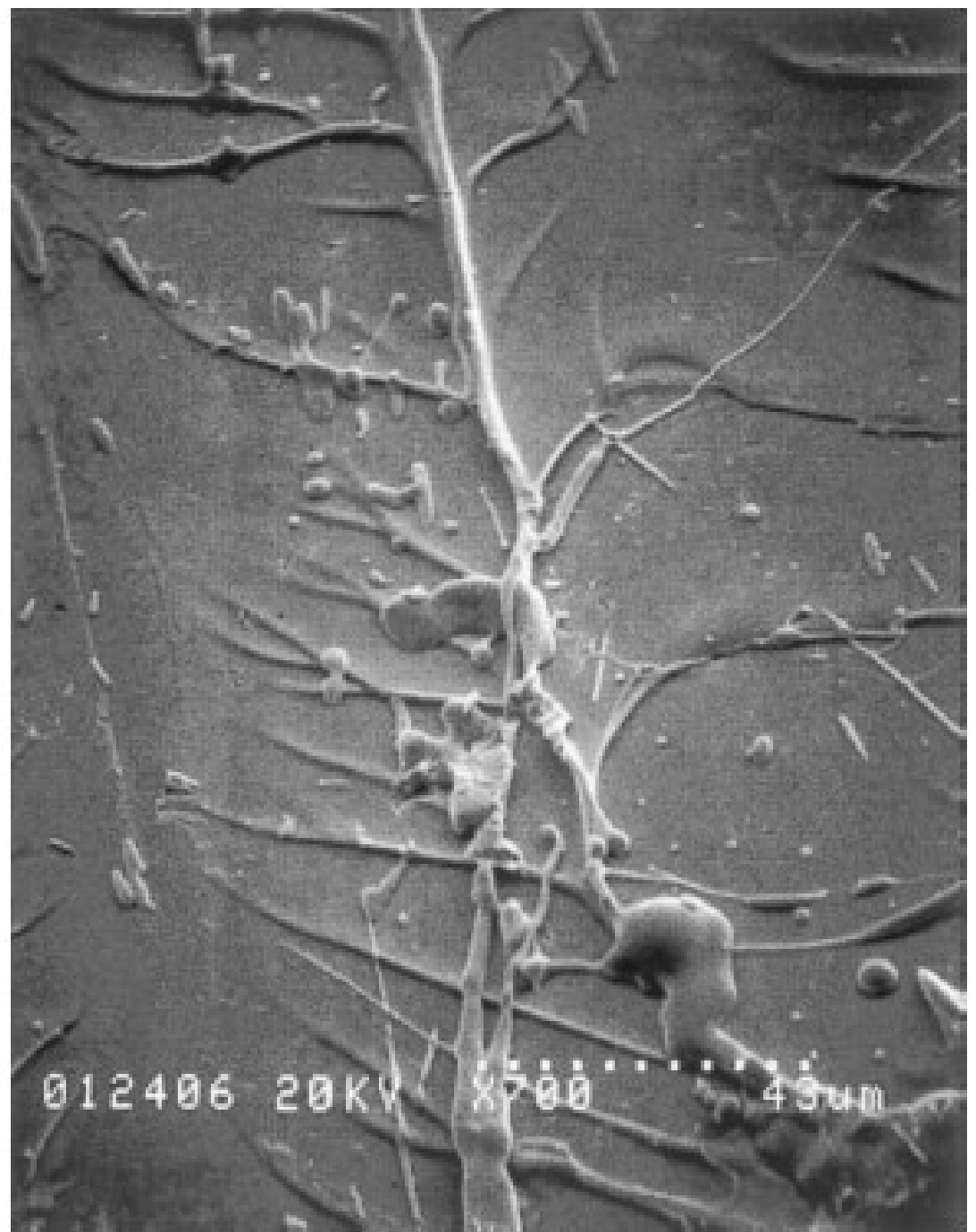
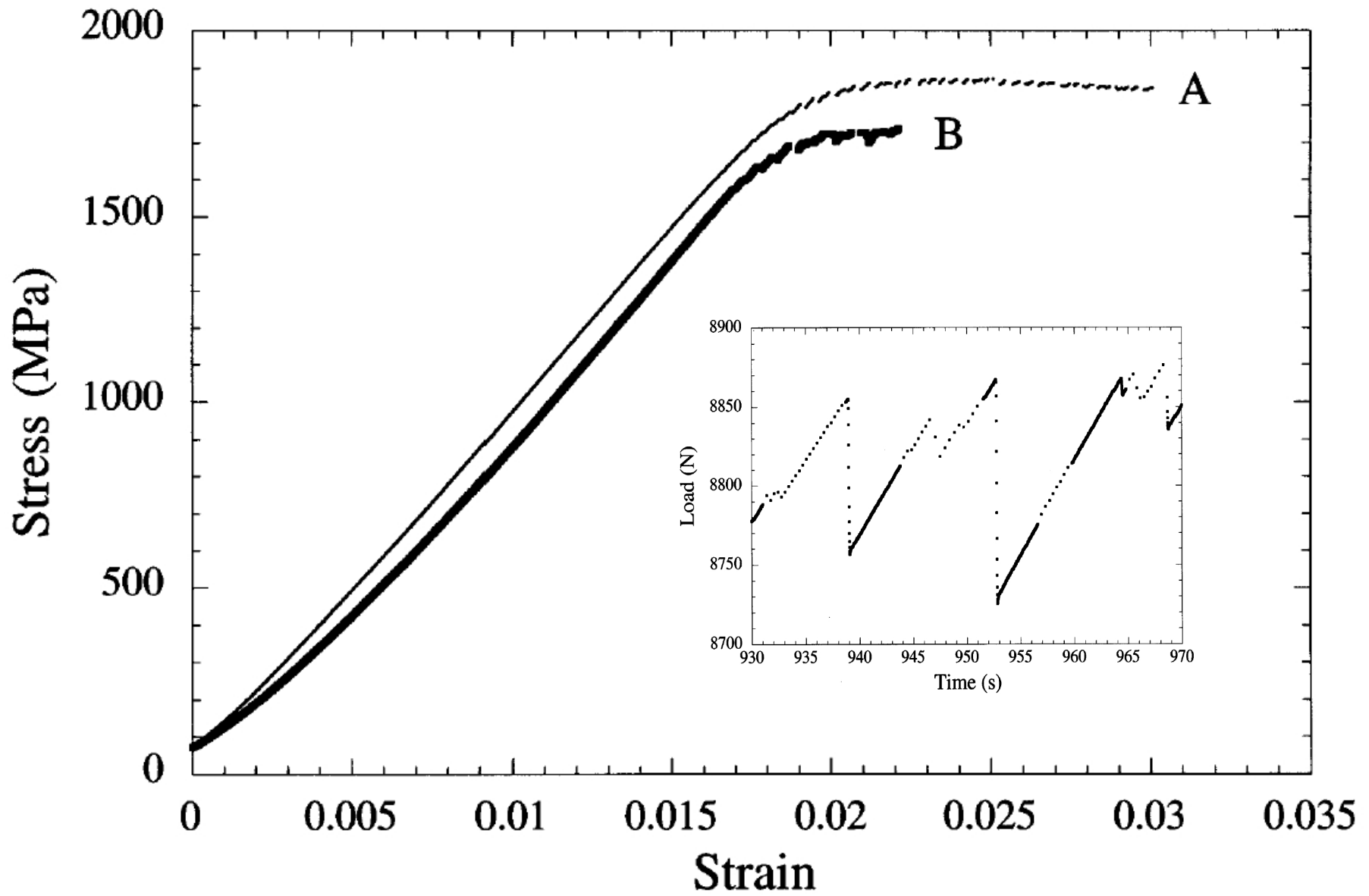
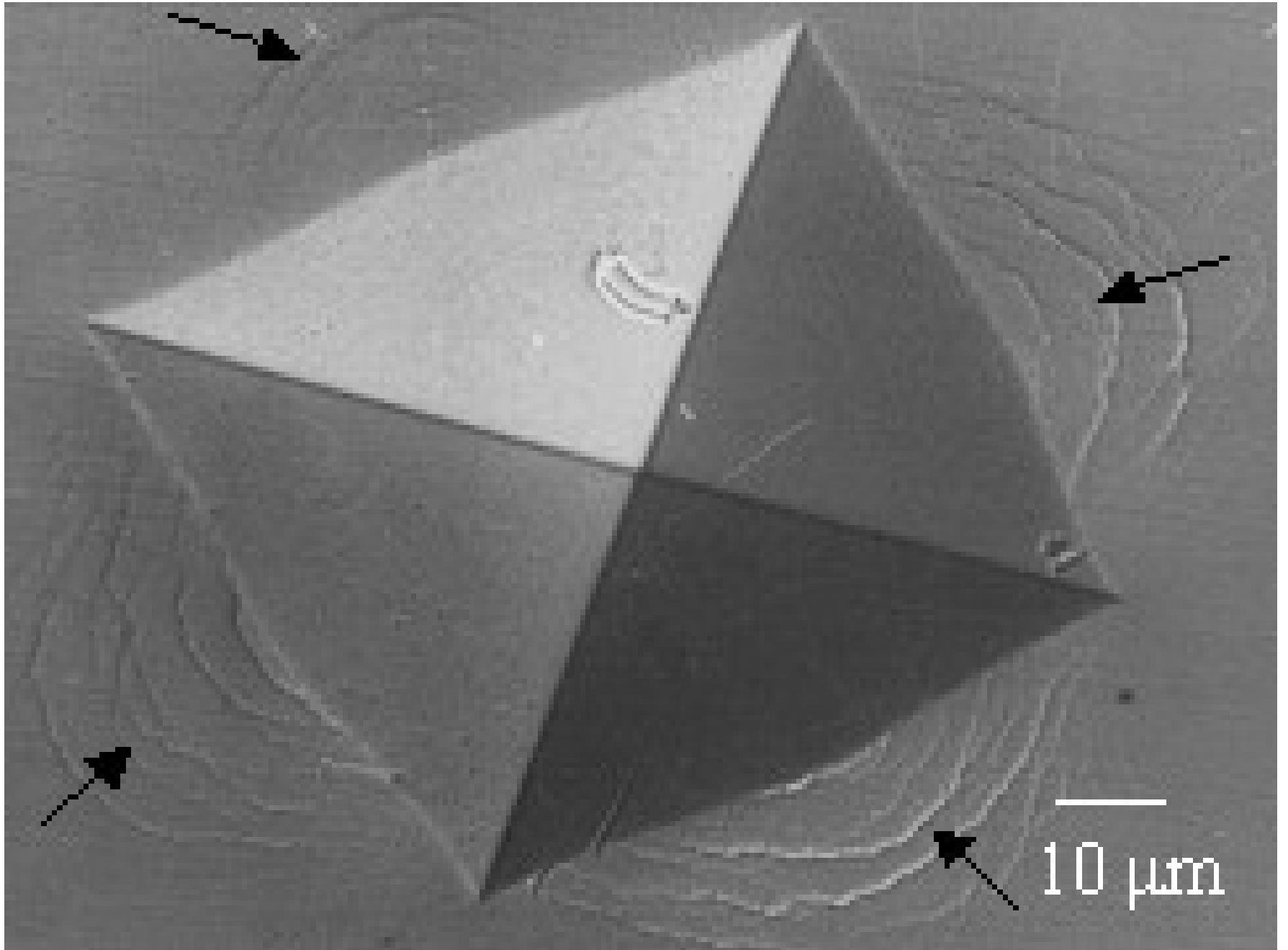


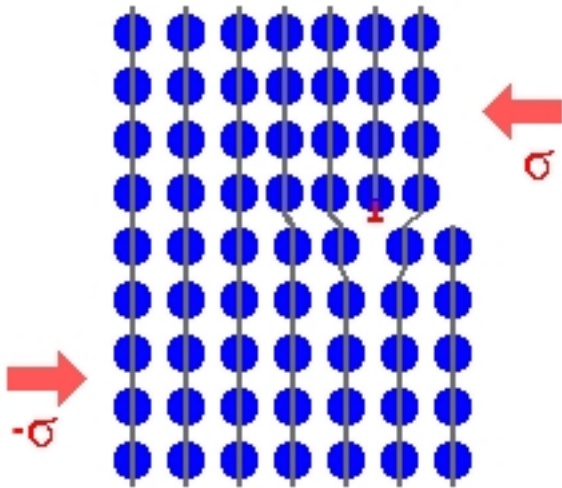
Fig. 5. Scanning electron micrograph of the fracture surface of a Pd₄₀Ni₄₀P₂₀ sample failed in uniaxial compression.





In crystals

defects = dislocations
(Volterra, 1930; SEM, 1960)



Interaction and motion understood
(Peierls, Nabarro, Friedel, 1950's)

Dislocation dynamics in computer
codes since the 1980's

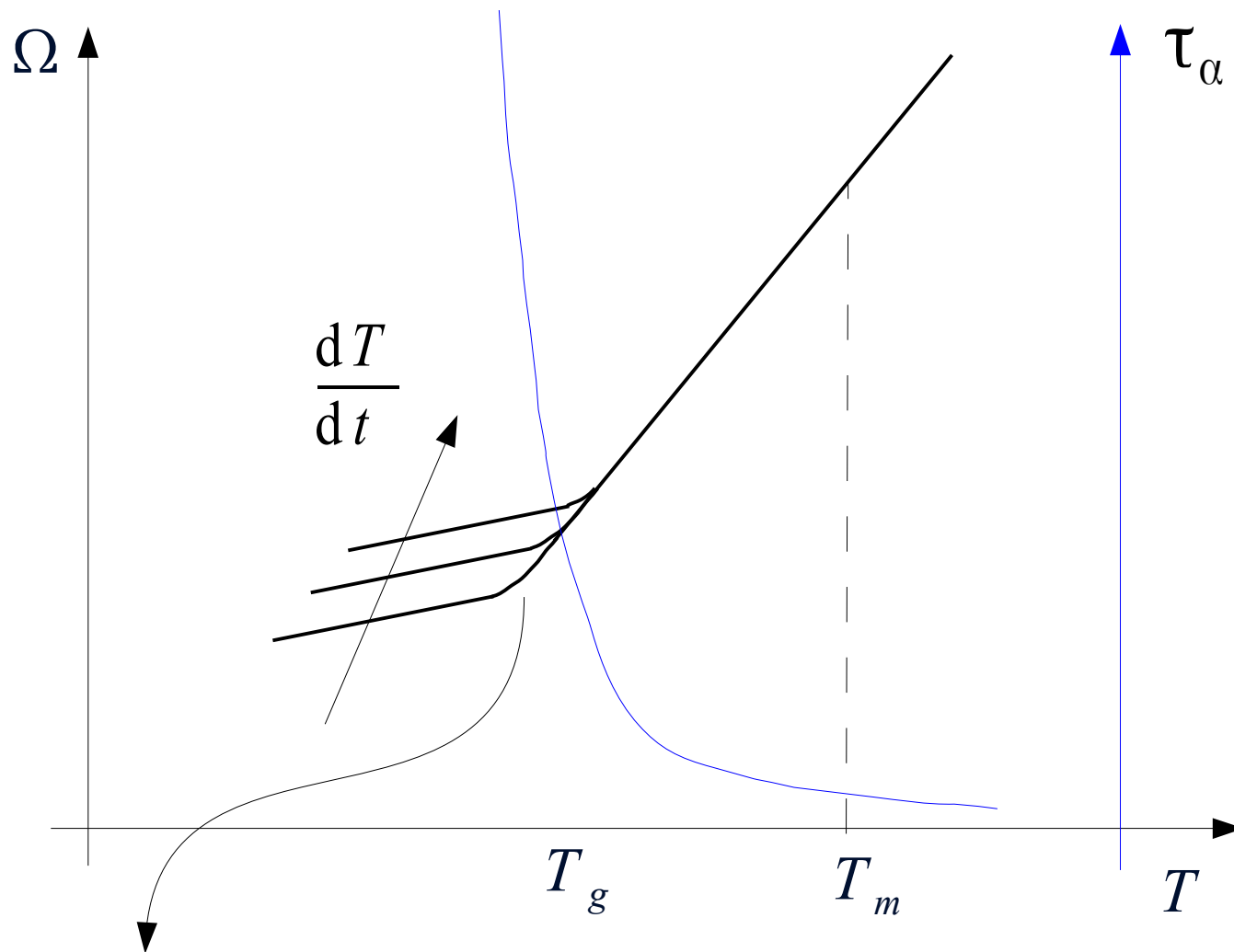
In disordered materials

No topological order => defects?



?

The glass transition

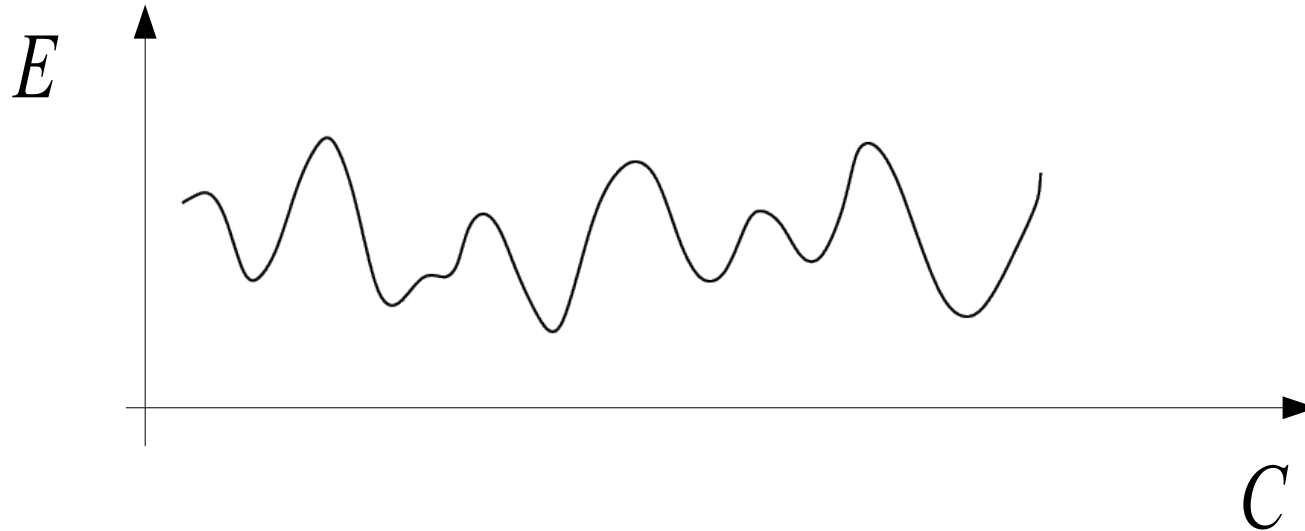


slow down of relaxation dynamics

The potential energy landscape picture

Goldstein (1969)

Stillinger & Weber (1982)



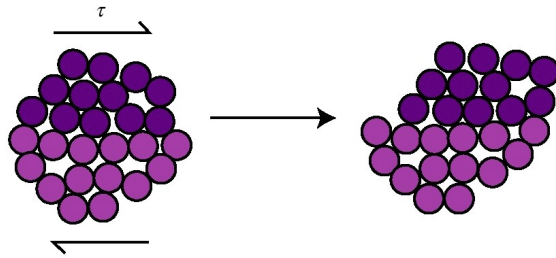
high T: relaxation = hopping among local minima (inherent states)

low T: glass = the system is trapped in IS

What are the elementary mechanisms of deformation in amorphous solids?

Argon (1979):

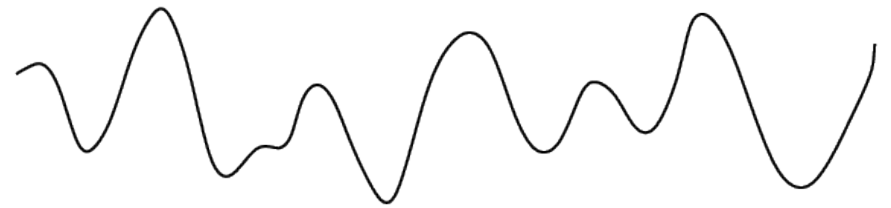
local shear transformations



= flips

In real space

stress-induced
hopping among inherent states

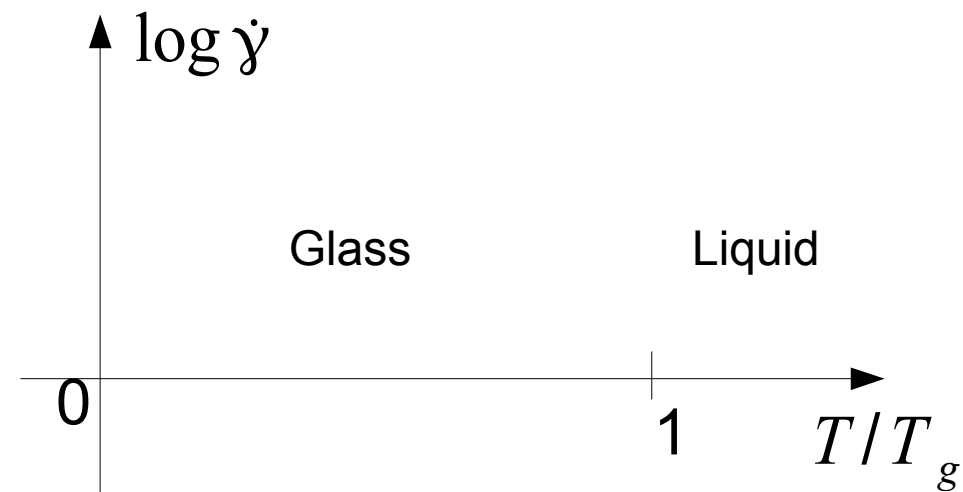


In PEL

When a glass is sheared...

Low temperature: $T < T_g$
 $\tau_\alpha \gg 1/\dot{\gamma}$

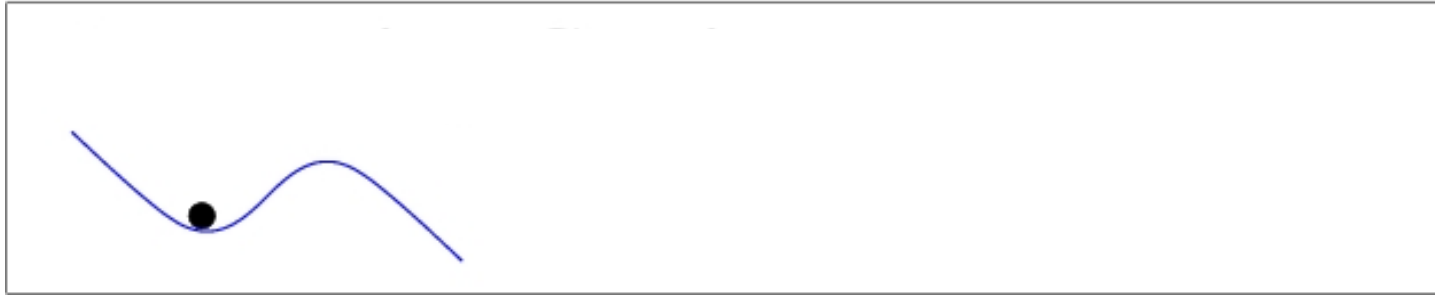
Neglect any thermally activated process



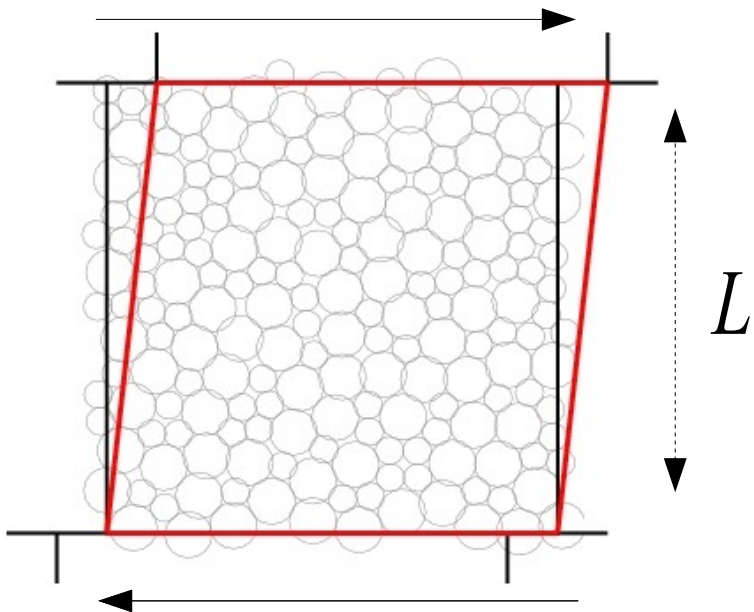
Athermal
quasi-static
limit

$$\tau_\alpha^{-1} \ll \dot{\gamma} \ll \tau_{\text{irr.}}^{-1}$$

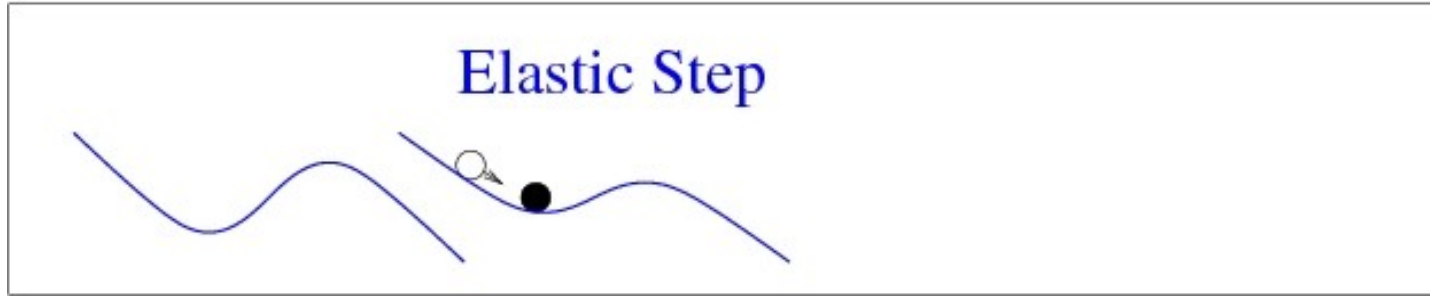
Plasticity in a low-T (finite-sized) glass:



The system resides at all times in local energy minima

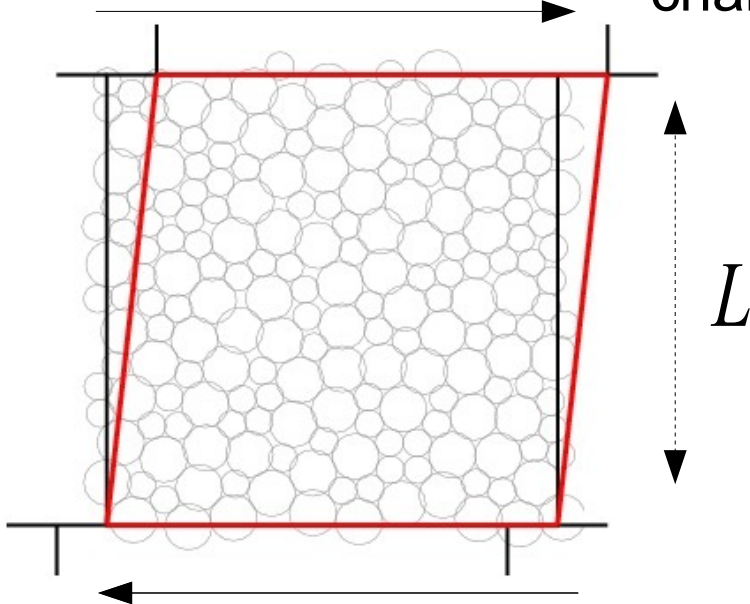


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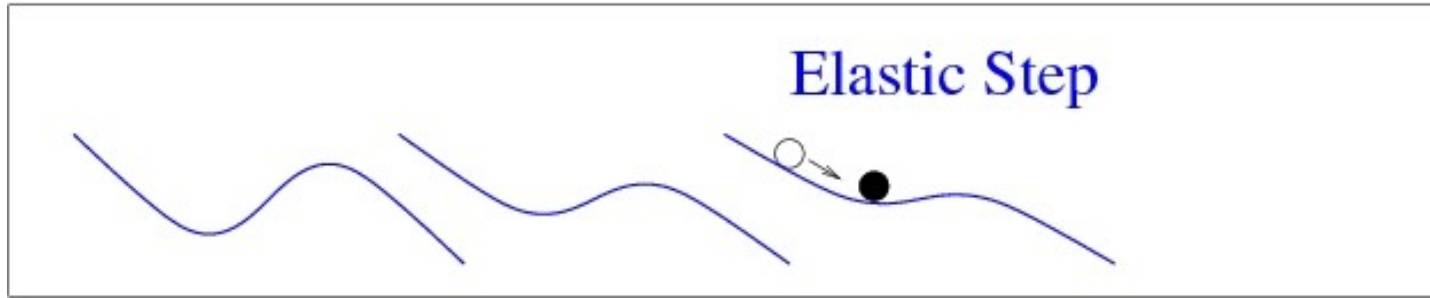


The system resides at all times in local energy minima

It track **reversibly** strain-induced changes in minima

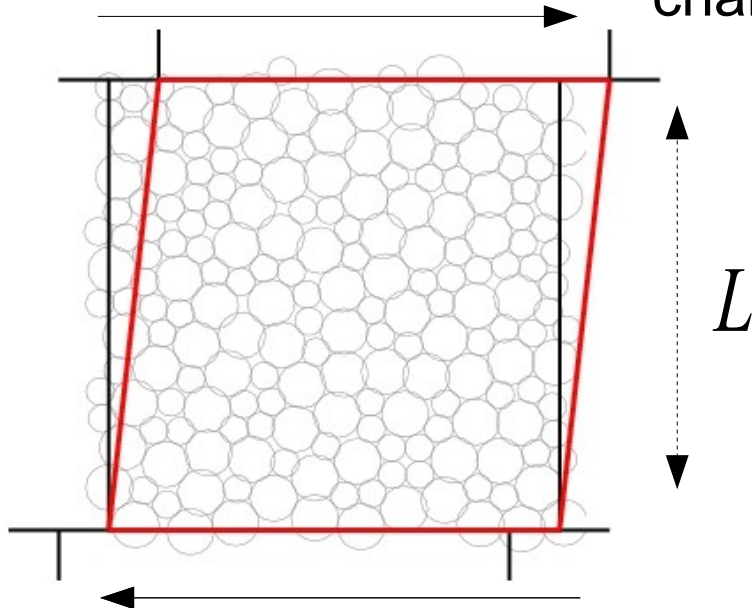


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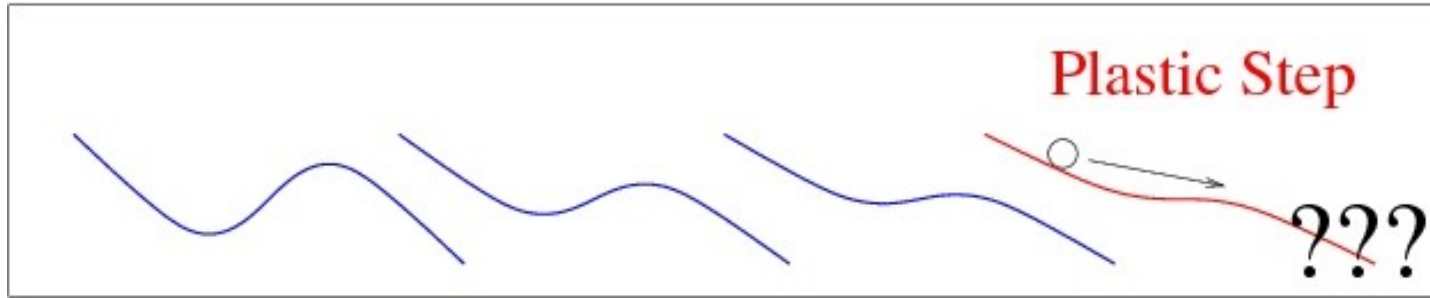


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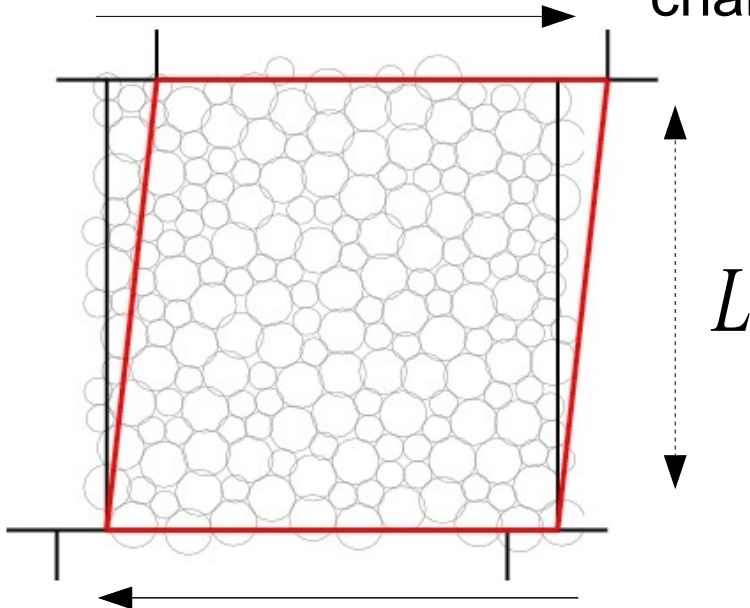


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Occasionally the occupied minimum becomes unstable:

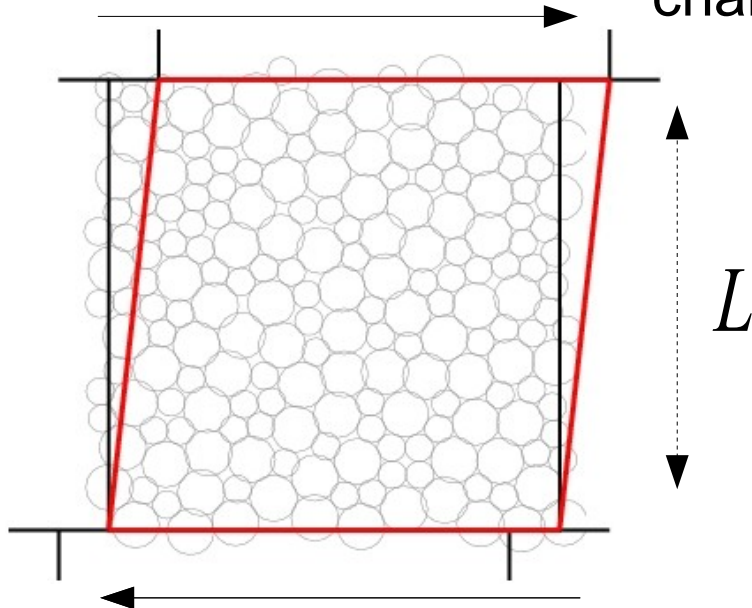
A **plastic event** then occurs leading to a new local minimum

Athermal, quasi-static protocol:

- Minimize energy
- Apply a small increment of strain (homogeneously)
- Repeat

The system resides at all times in local energy minima

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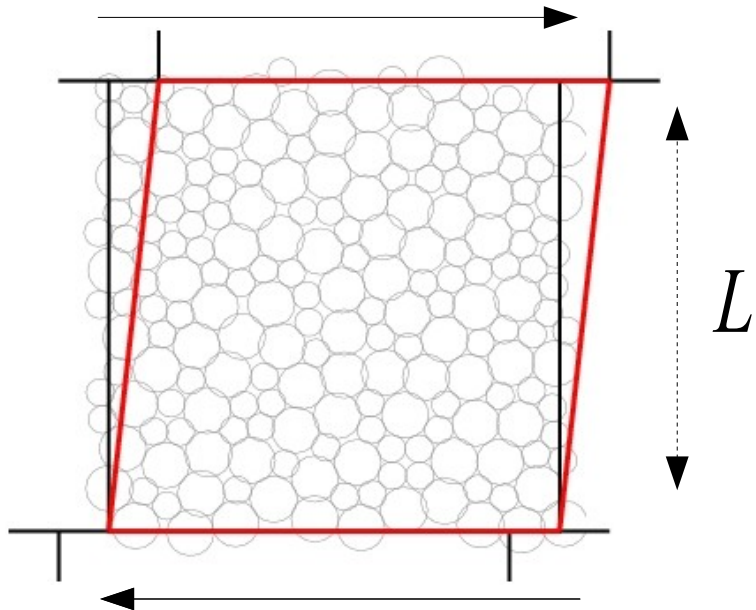


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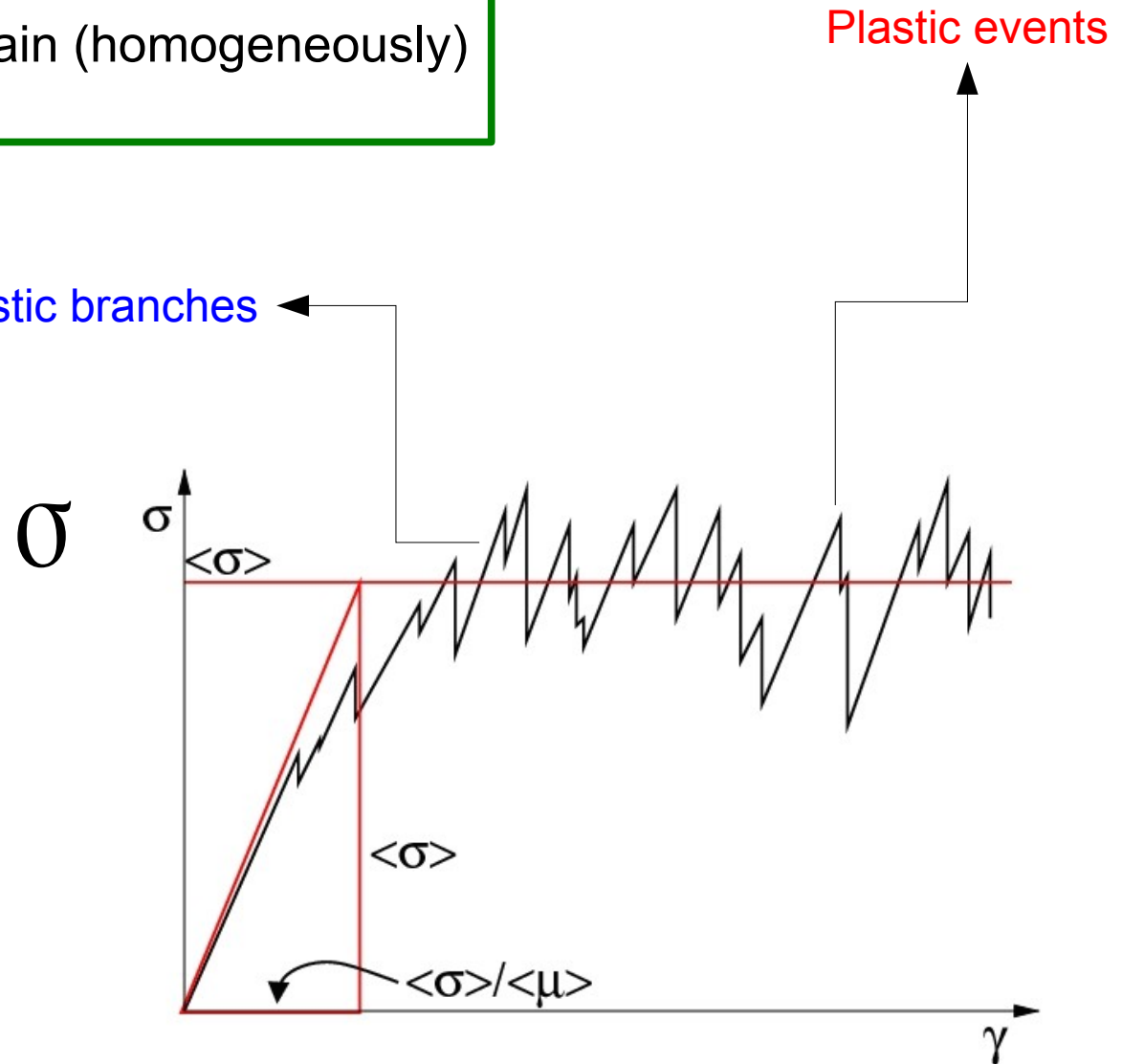
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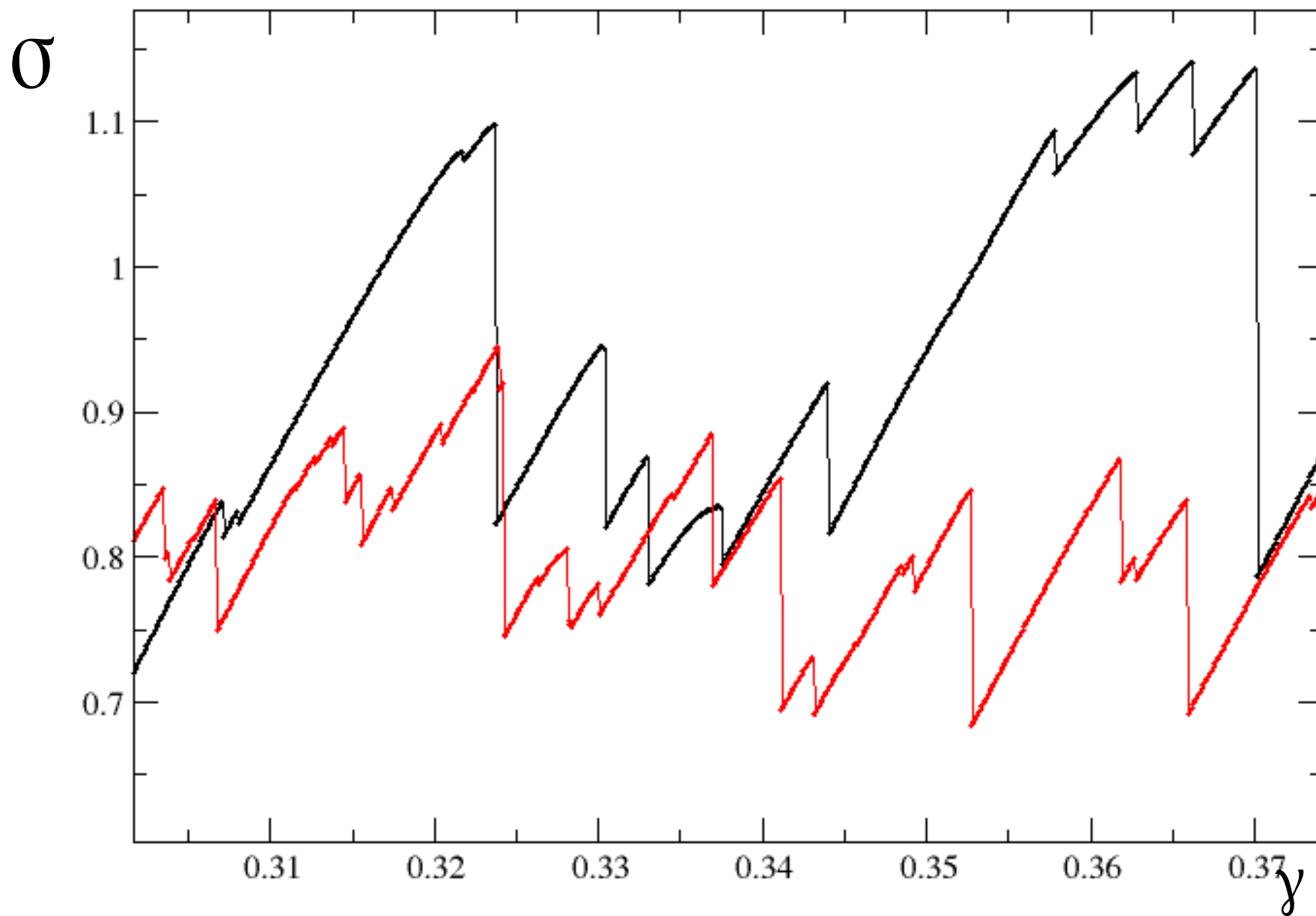
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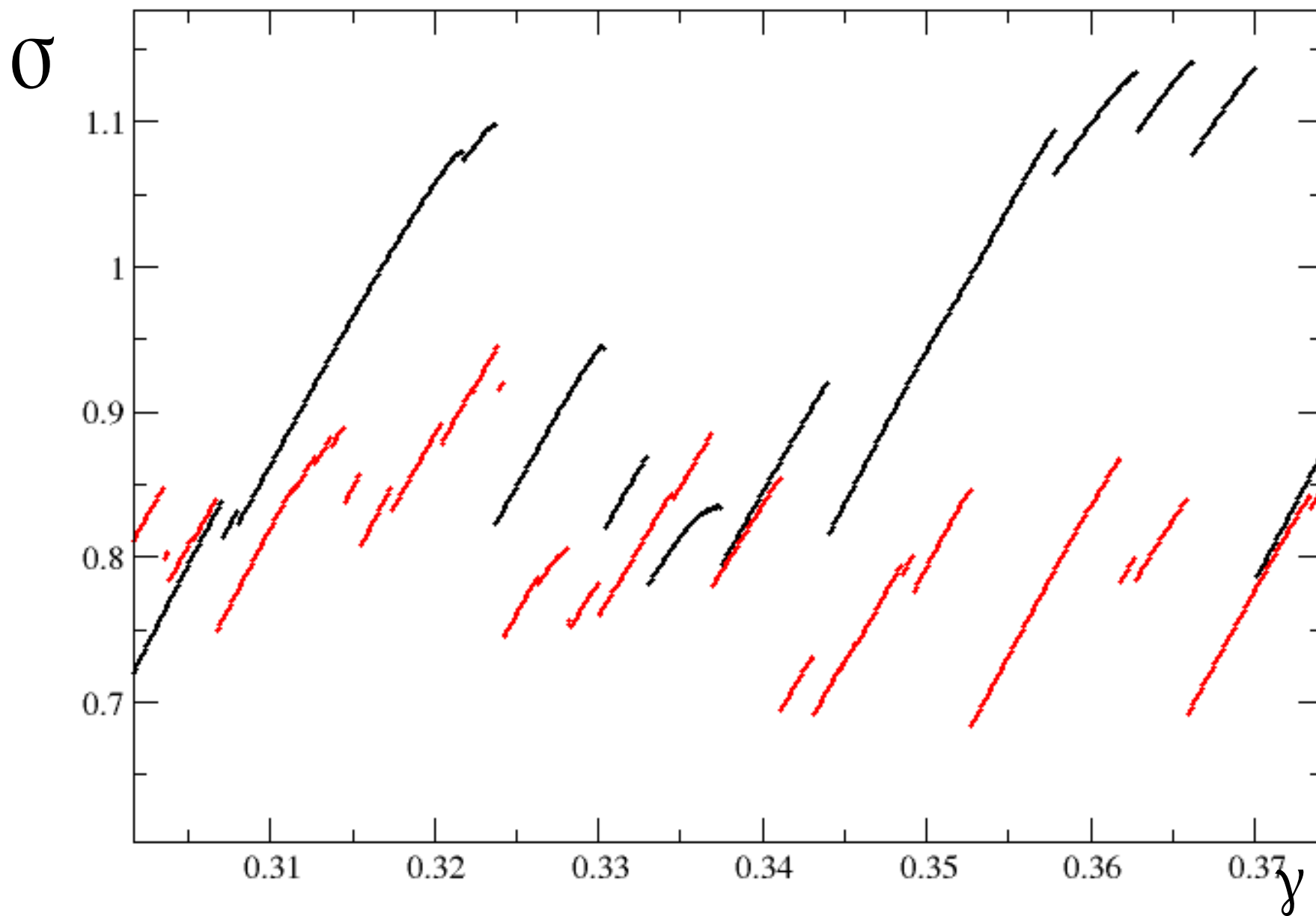
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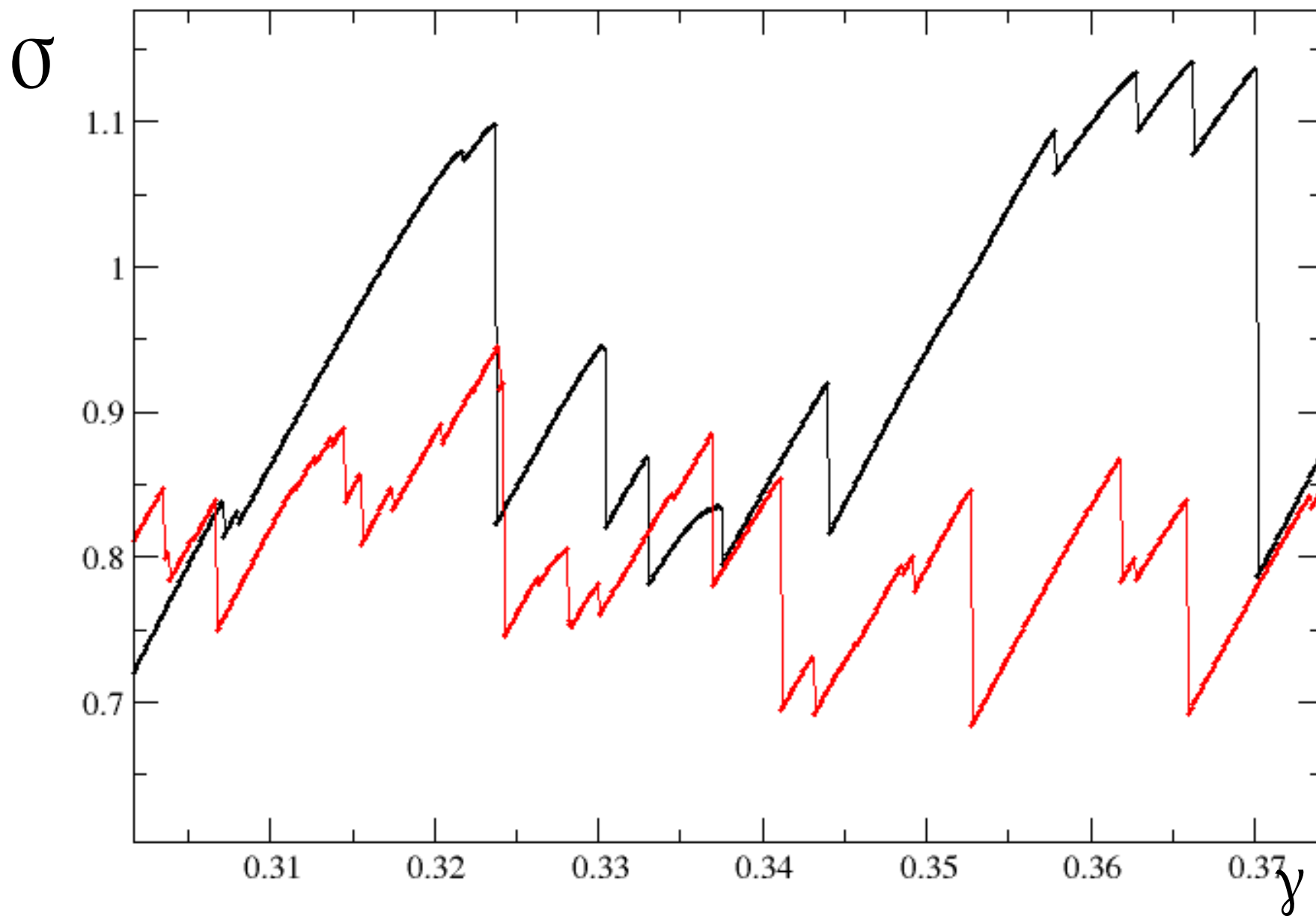


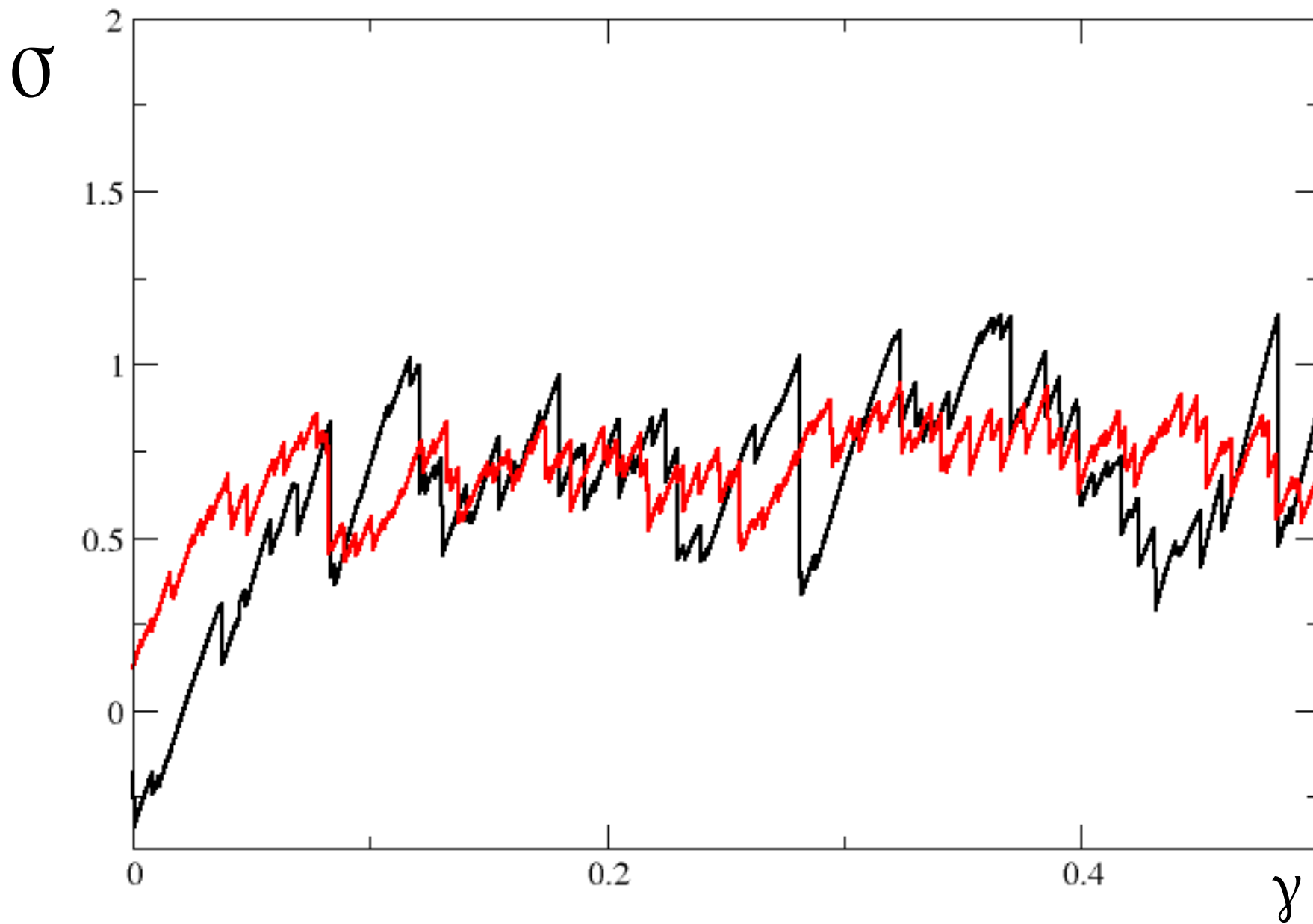
Elastic branches



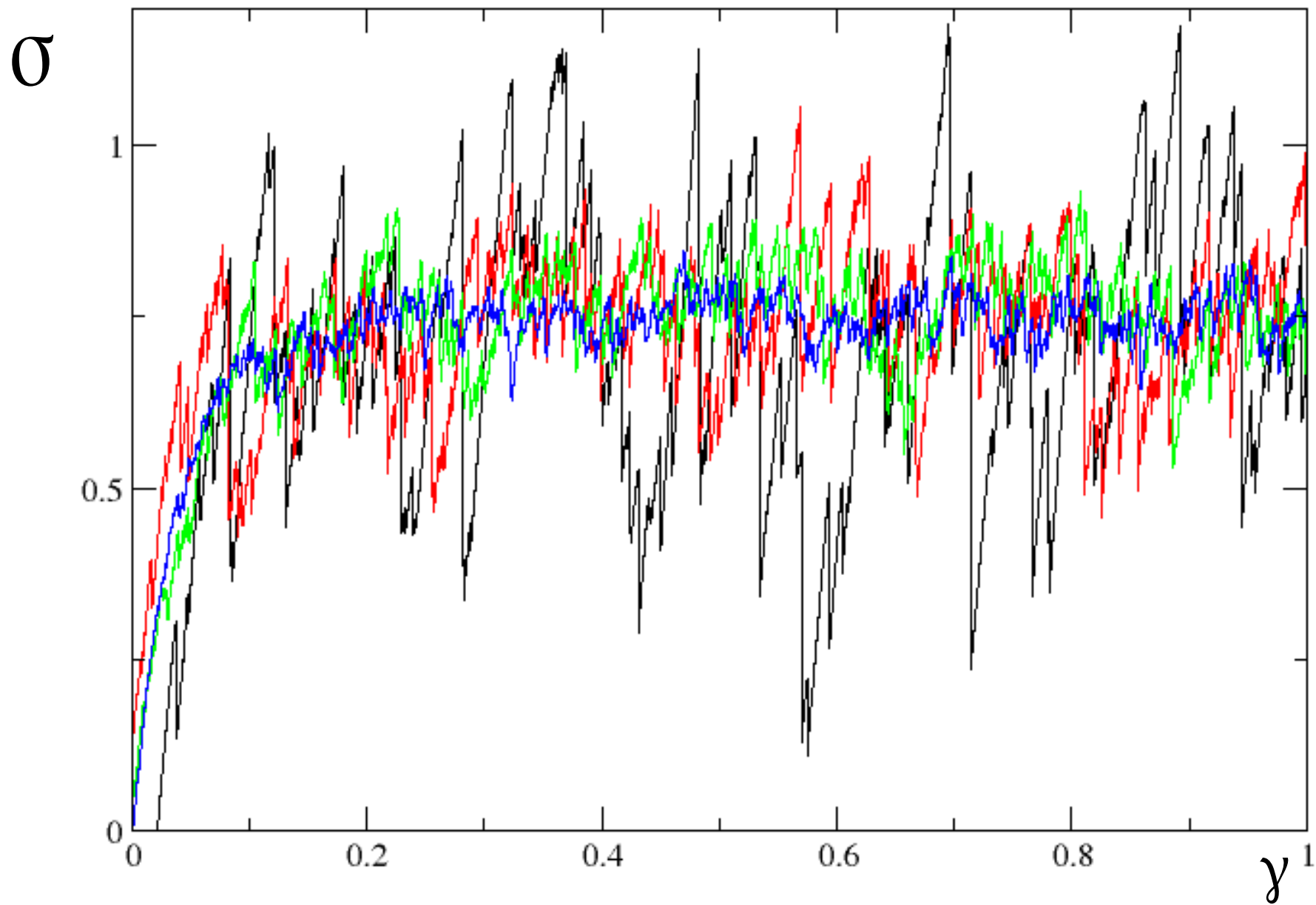
$L=20$ $L=40$ 

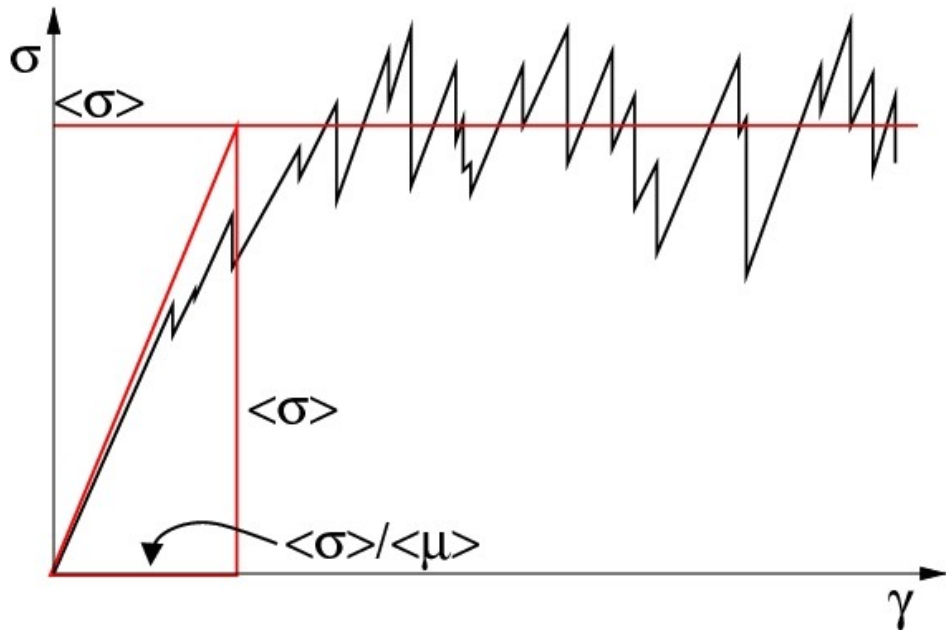
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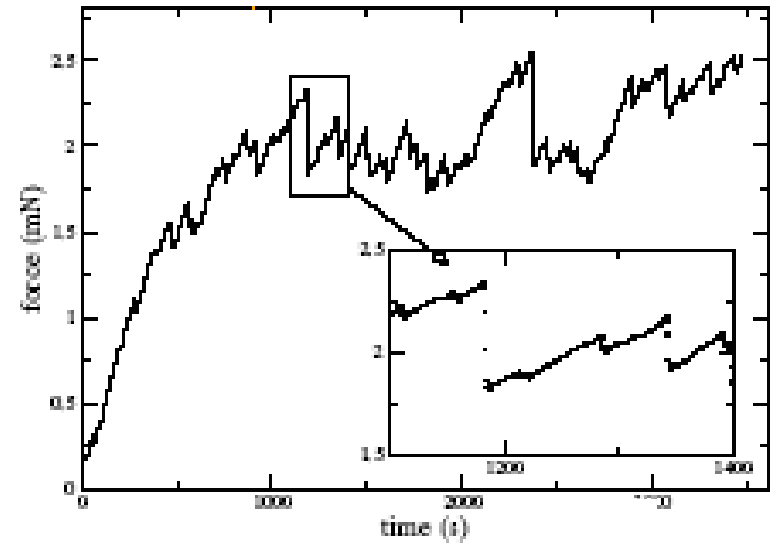
$L=20$ $L=40$ 

$L=20,40,80,160$

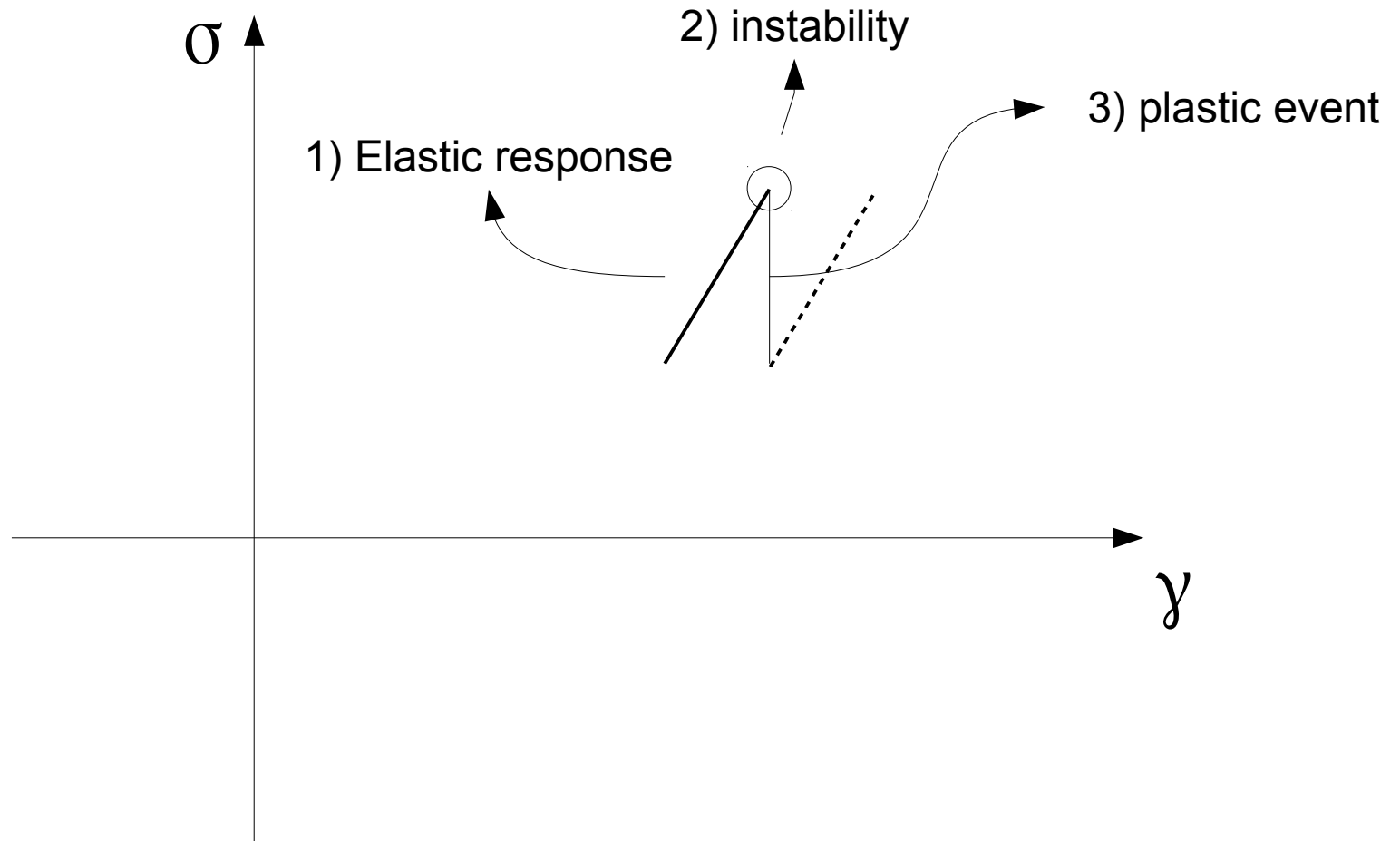




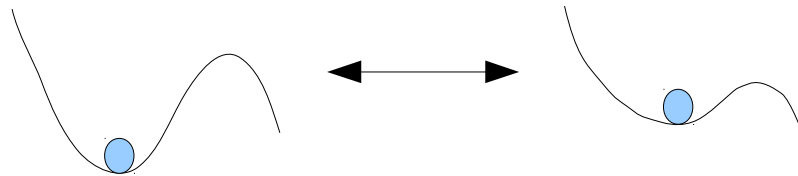
I. Cantat, O. Pitois, Phys. Fluids (2006)



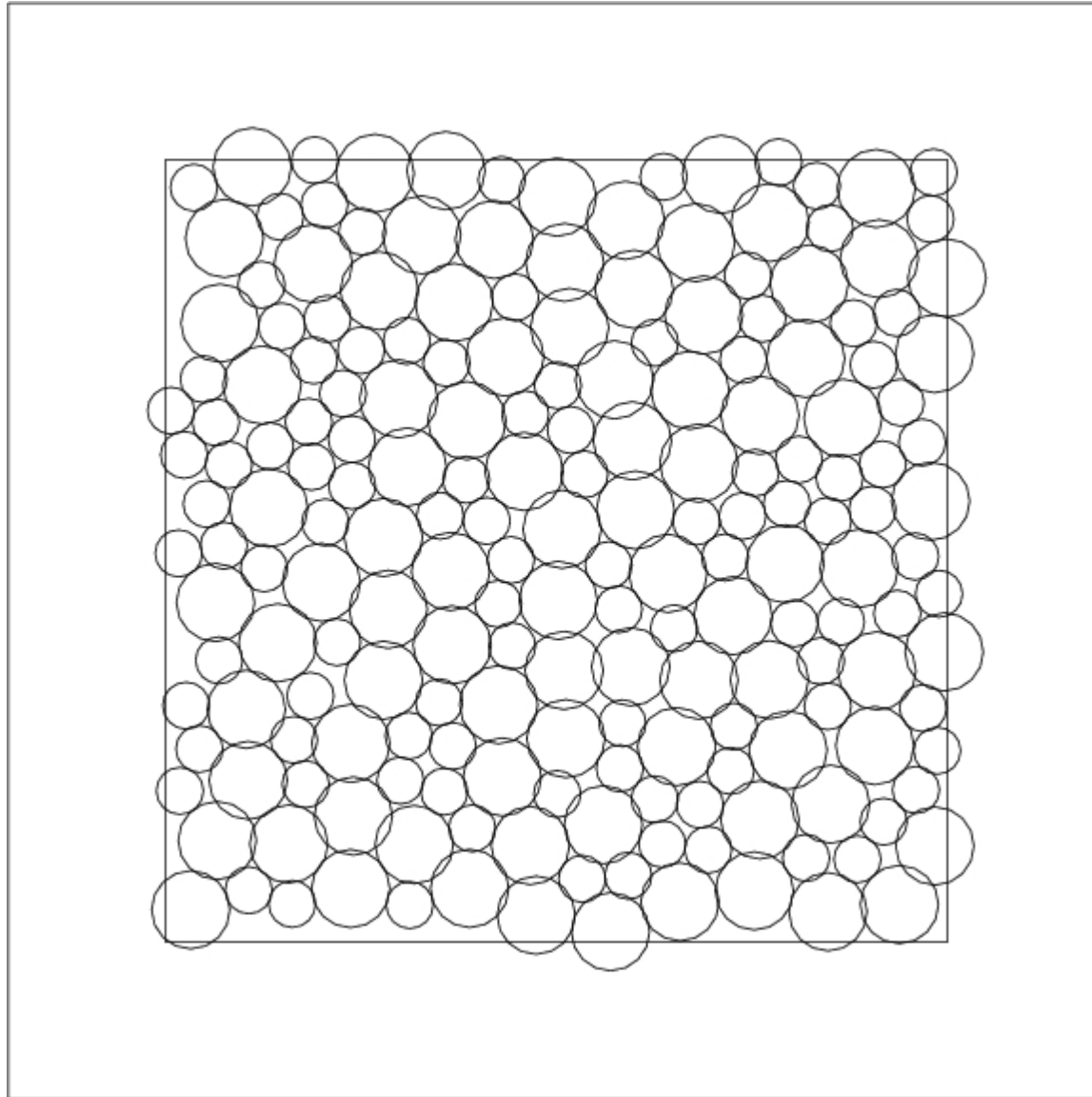
Life and death,... and birth of an elastic branch



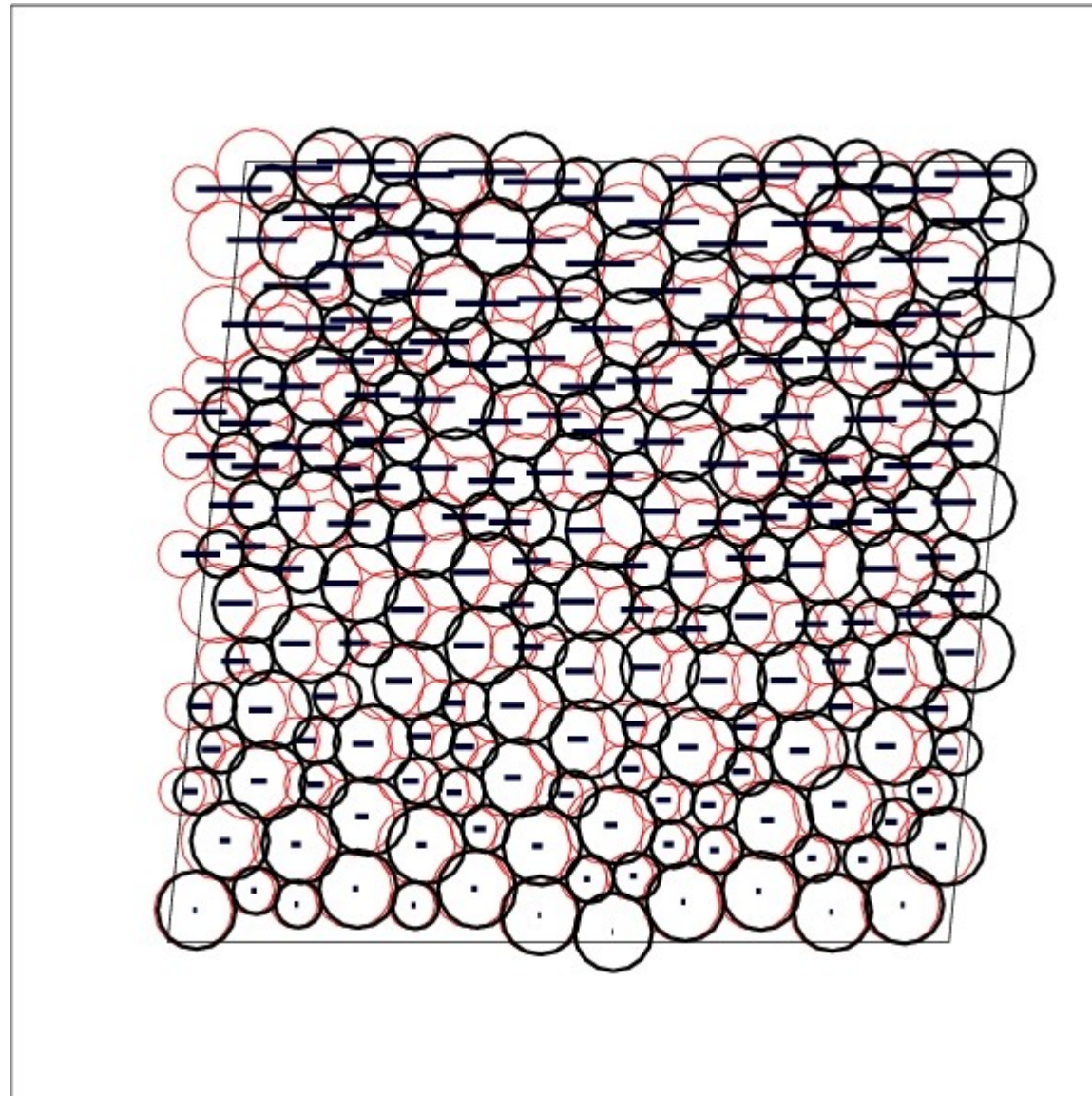
1) Elastic response



Subject a $T=0$ amorphous system to homogeneous deformation

 γ_0 $\underline{r}_i(\gamma_0)$

Subject a $T=0$ amorphous system to homogeneous deformation

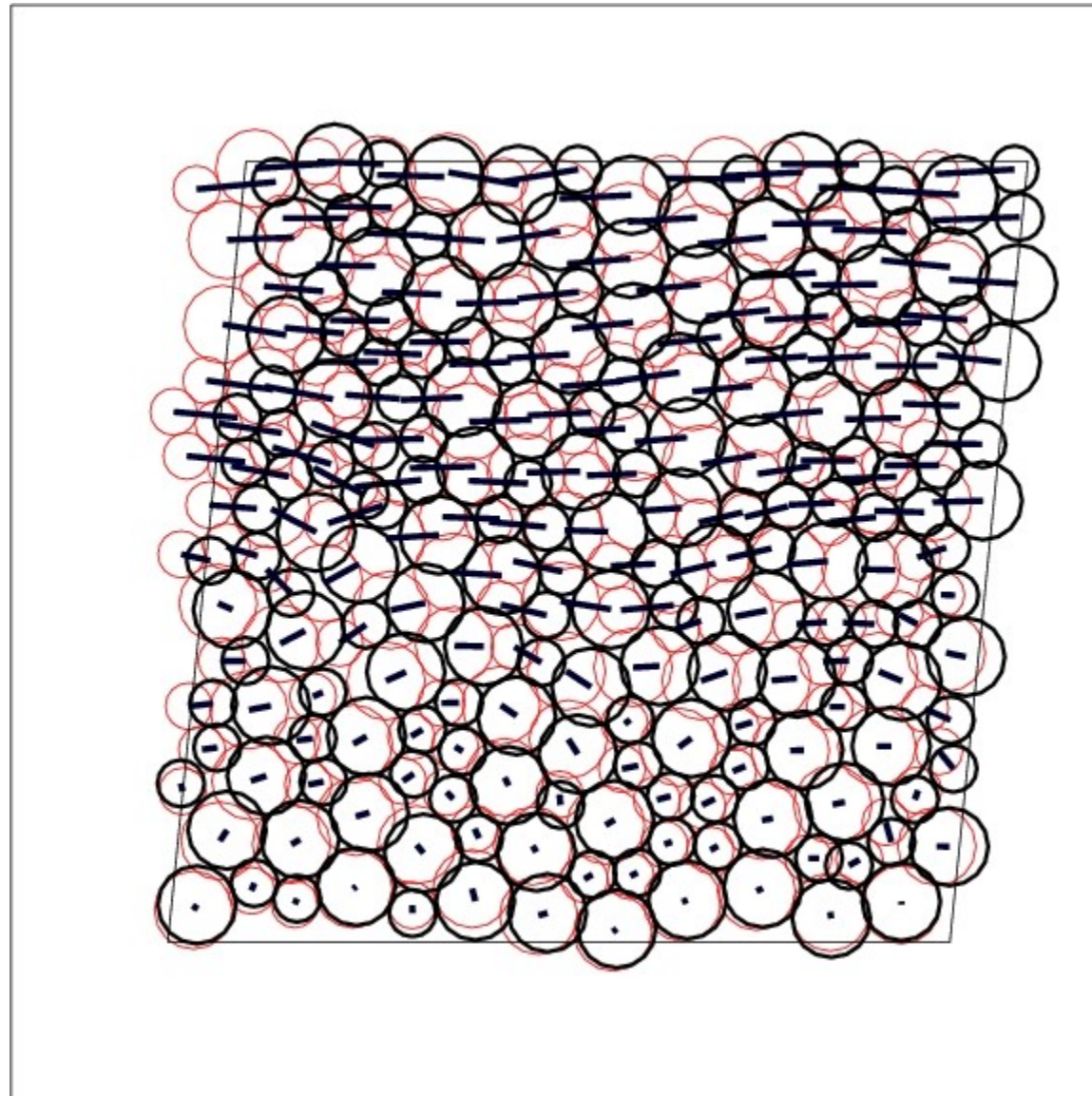


γ_1

$\underline{\underline{E}} \cdot \underline{\underline{r}}_i(\gamma_0)$

Subject a $T=0$ amorphous system to homogeneous deformation

Non-affine
displacements

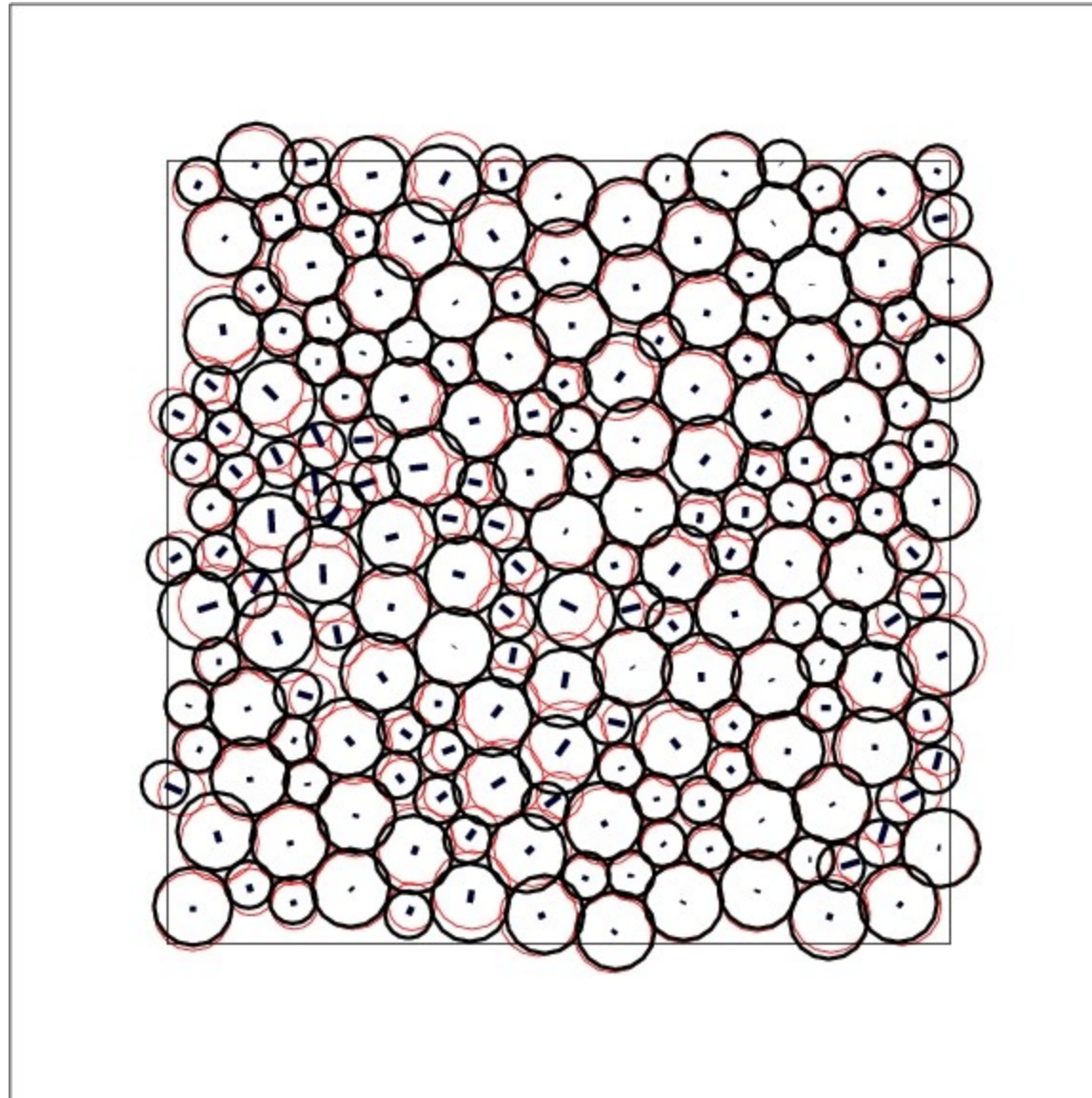


γ_1

$$\underline{r}_i(\gamma_1) \neq \underline{F} \cdot \underline{r}_i(\gamma_0)$$

Subject a T=0 amorphous system to homogeneous deformation

Non-affine
displacements

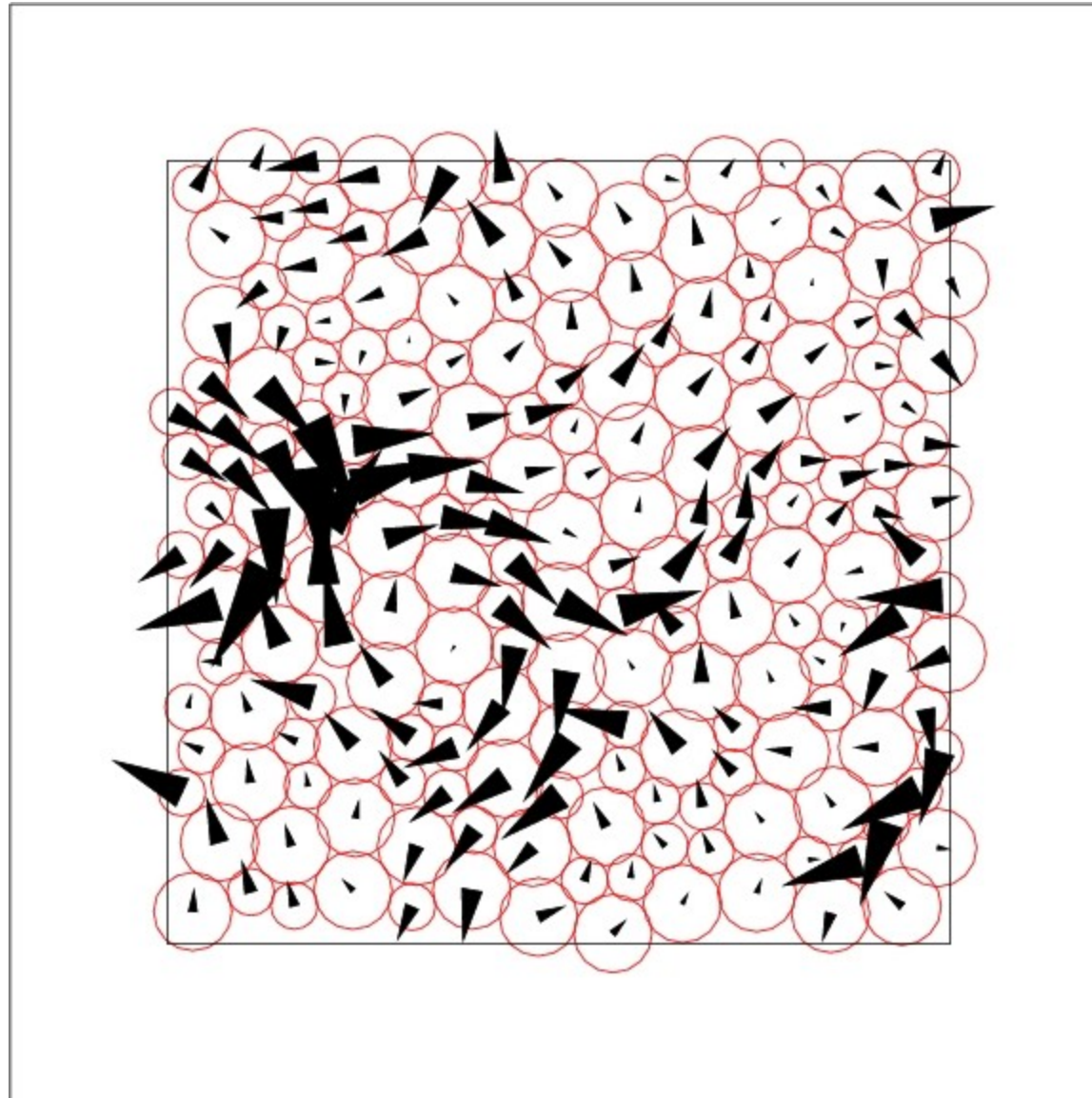


γ_1

$$\underline{\underline{F}}^{-1} \cdot \underline{r}_i(\gamma_1)$$

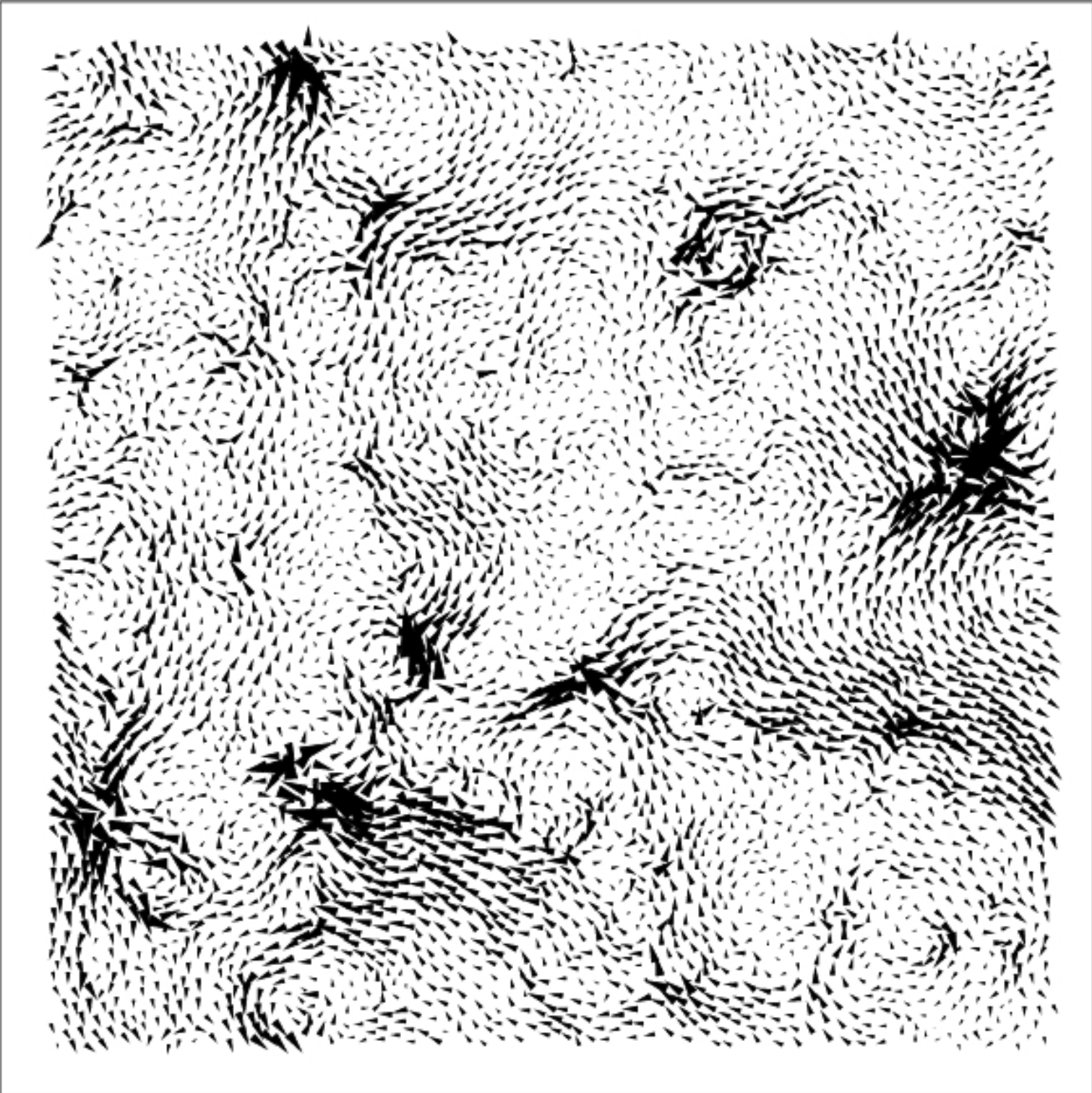
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Non-affine
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$$\gamma_1$$

$$\underline{\underline{E}}^{-1} \cdot \underline{r}_i(\gamma_1)$$



Non-affine
displacements

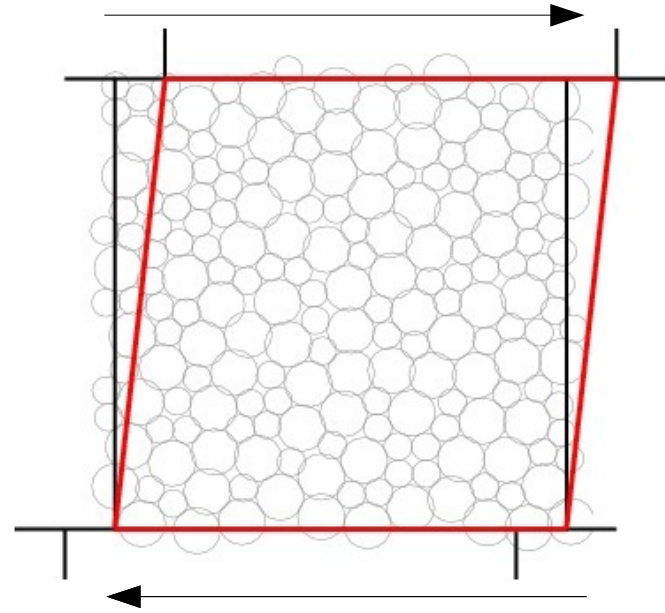
How can we predict these non-affine fields?

J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)

$$U(\{\underline{r}_i\}; \underline{\underline{F}})$$

Given any reference configuration, $\{\underline{r}_i = \underline{\underline{F}} \cdot \underline{r}_i^0 + \underline{u}_i\}$

$$U(\{\underline{u}_i\}; \underline{\underline{F}})$$



How can we predict these non-affine fields?

J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)

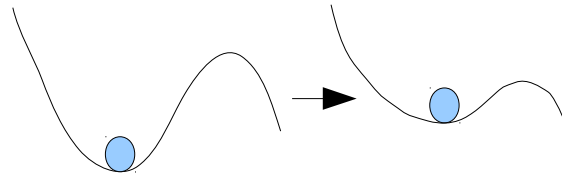
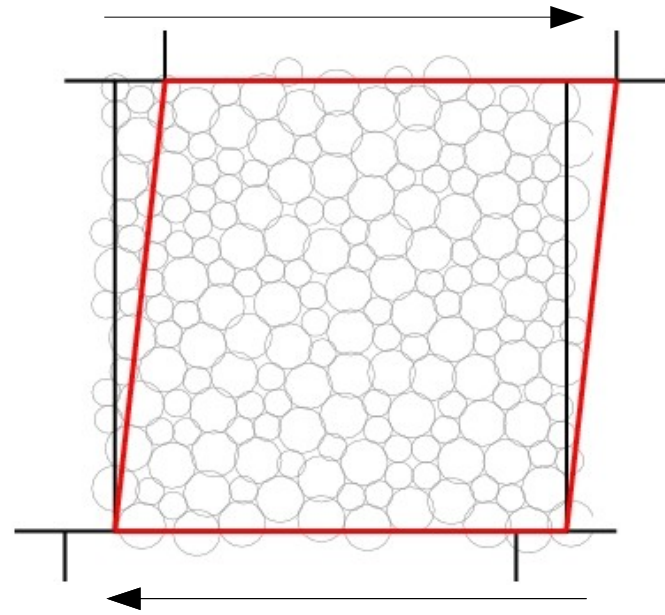
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$$U(\{\underline{u}_i\}; \underline{\underline{F}})$$

$$\left. \frac{d \underline{u}_i}{d F_{\alpha\beta}} \right|_{\underline{F}_i = 0} \quad \text{Mechanical equilibrium}$$

It's an implicit problem!



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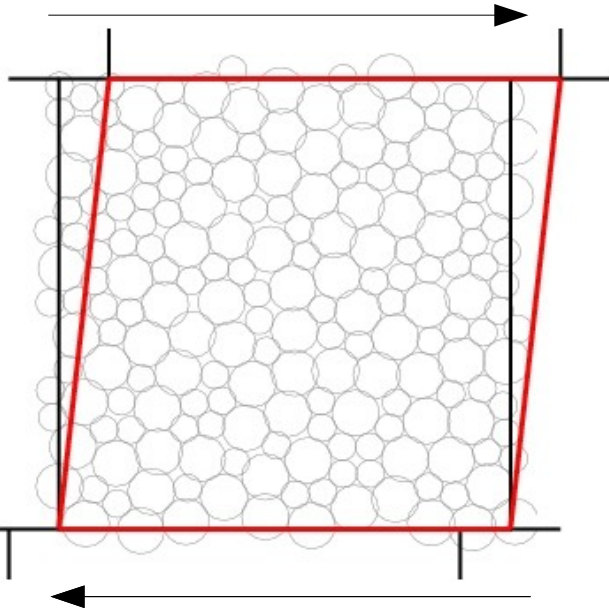
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It's an implicit problem!

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{u}_i} = \frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{r}_i} = 0$$

How can we predict these non-affine fields?

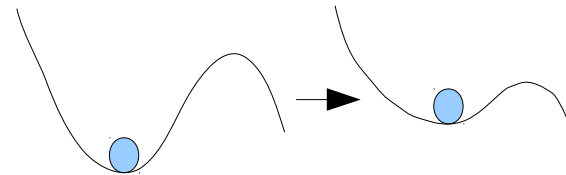
J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)



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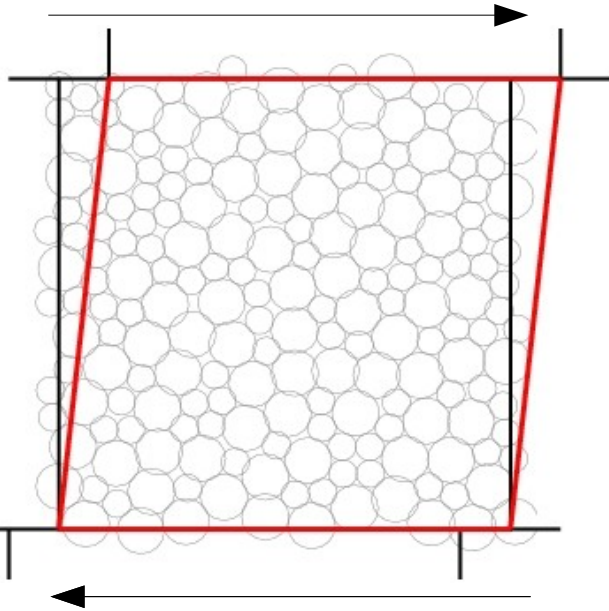
It's an implicit problem!

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{u}_i} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial \underline{u}_j} \cdot \frac{d\underline{u}_j}{dF_{\alpha\beta}} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial F_{\alpha\beta}} = 0$$

How can we predict these non-affine fields?

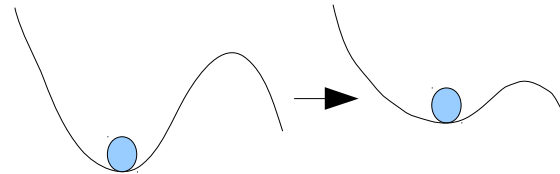
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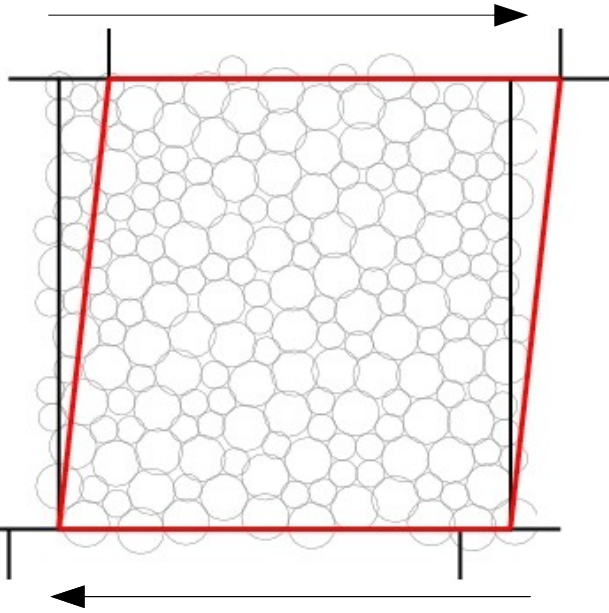
$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{u}_i} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial \underline{u}_j} \cdot \frac{d\underline{u}_j}{dF_{\alpha\beta}} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial F_{\alpha\beta}} = 0$$

$$= \mathbf{H}_{ij}$$

How can we predict these non-affine fields?

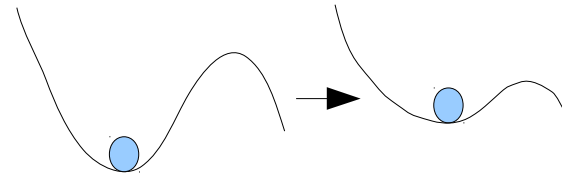
J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)



$$U(\{\underline{r}_i\}; \underline{\underline{F}})$$

Given any reference configuration, $\{\underline{r}_i = \underline{\underline{F}} \cdot \underline{\underline{r}}_i^0 + \underline{u}_i\}$

$$U(\{\underline{u}_i\}; \underline{\underline{F}})$$



$$\left. \frac{d\underline{u}_i}{dF_{\alpha\beta}} \right|_{\underline{F}_i=0} \quad \text{Mechanical equilibrium}$$

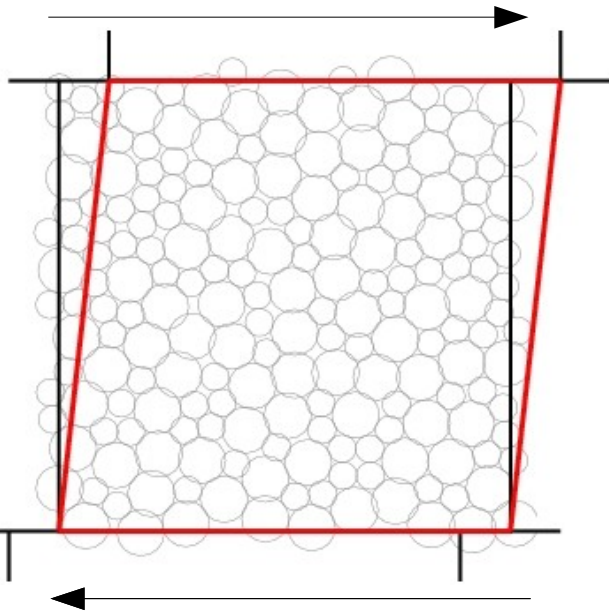
It's an implicit problem!

$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{u}_i} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial \underline{u}_j} \cdot \frac{d\underline{u}_j}{dF_{\alpha\beta}} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial F_{\alpha\beta}} = 0 \\ & = \mathbf{H}_{ij} \quad \equiv -\mathbf{E}_{\alpha\beta,i} = \frac{\partial \underline{F}_i}{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}} \end{aligned}$$

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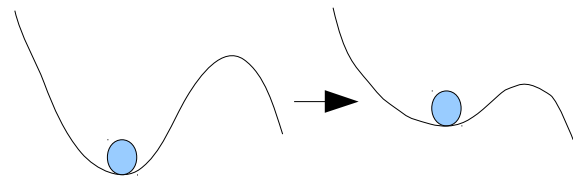
J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)



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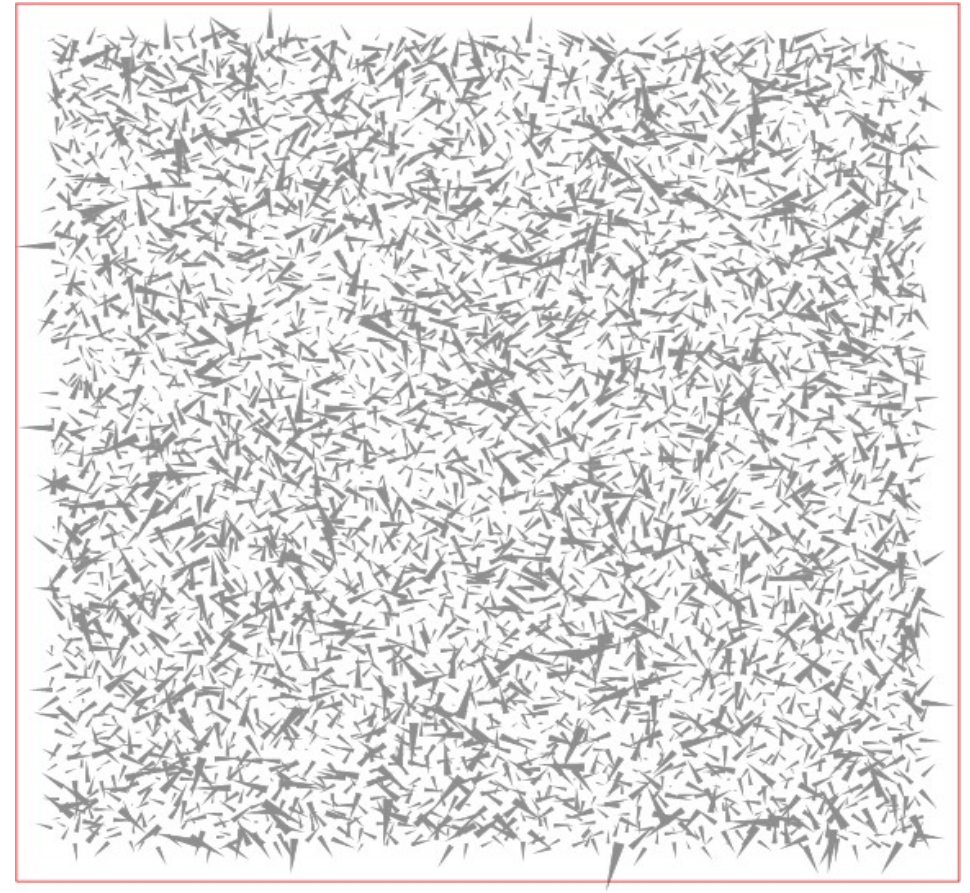
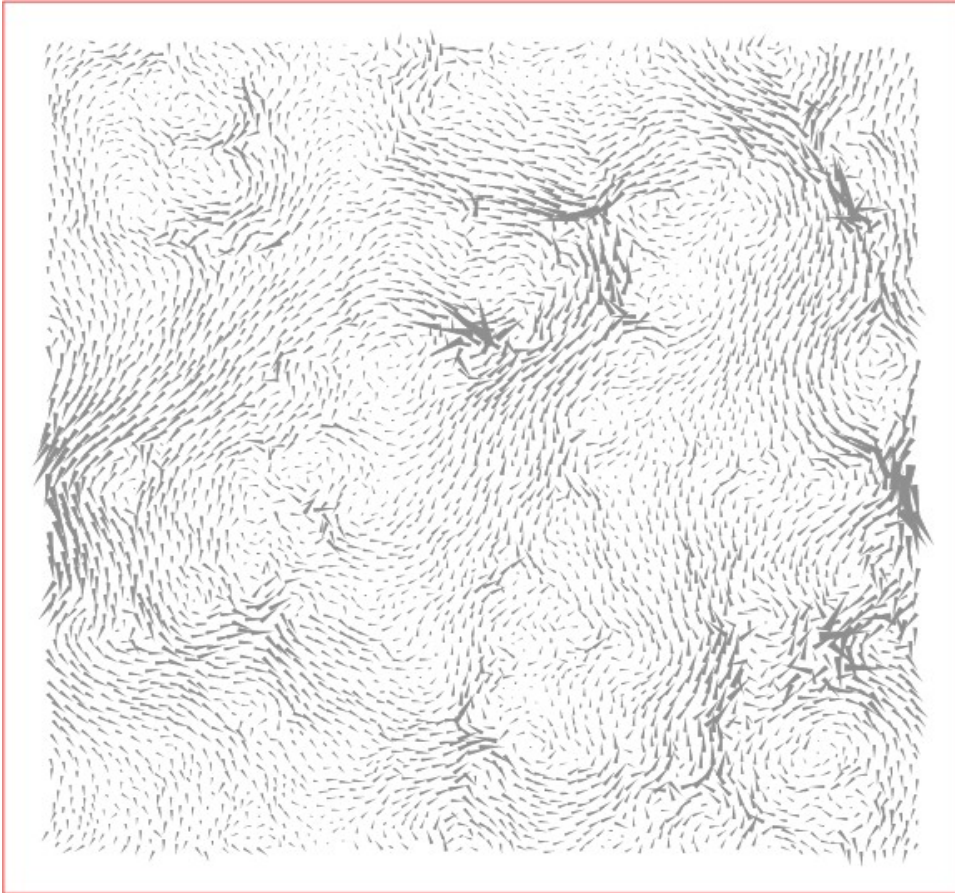
$$\mathbf{H}_{ij} \cdot \frac{d\underline{u}_j}{dF_{\alpha\beta}} = \mathbf{E}_{\alpha\beta,i}$$

Analytical expression for elastic moduli

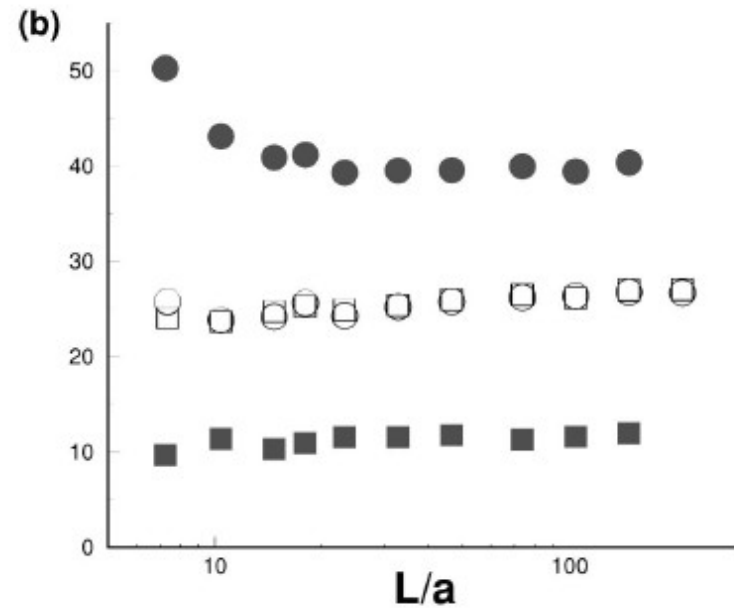
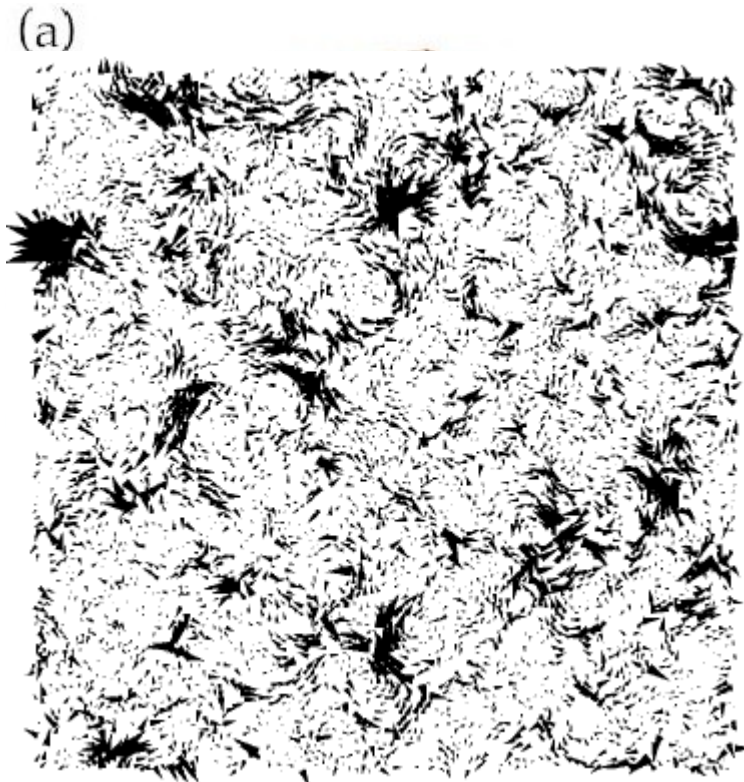
$$\frac{d u}{d \gamma} = H^{-1} \cdot \mathbb{E}$$

$$H_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial r_i \partial r_j}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_j = -\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \gamma \partial r_j} = \frac{\partial F_j}{\partial \gamma}$$



Size-dependence of Lamé constants



Tanguy *et al*, PRB **66**, 174205 (2002)

How can we compute elastic moduli?

J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)

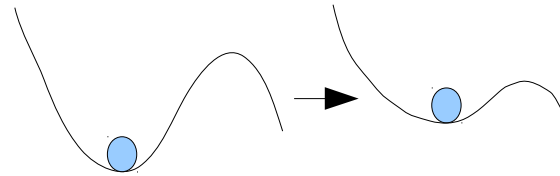
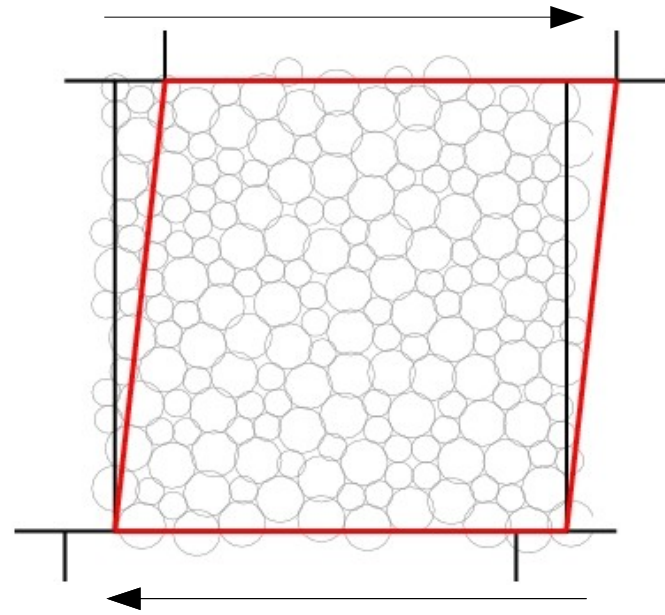
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$$\left. \frac{d \underline{u}_i}{d F_{\alpha\beta}} \right|_{\underline{F}_i = 0} \quad \text{Mechanical equilibrium}$$

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J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)

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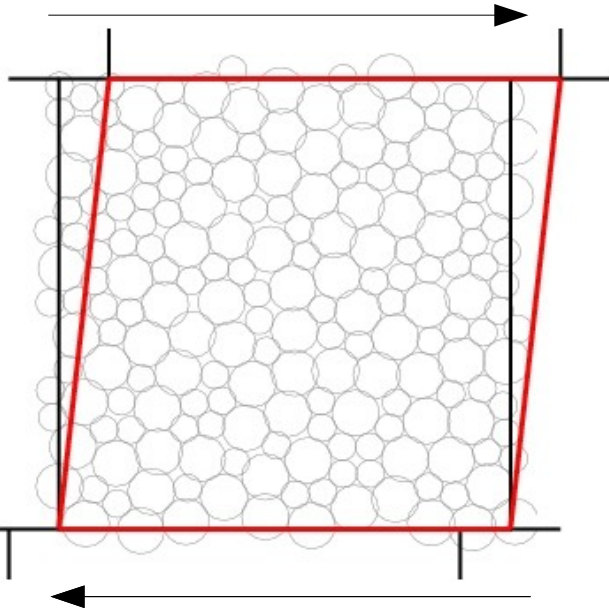
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$$\frac{dU}{dF_{\alpha\beta}} = \frac{\partial U}{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}} + \frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{u}_i} \cdot \frac{d \underline{u}_i}{d F_{\alpha\beta}}$$

How can we compute elastic moduli?

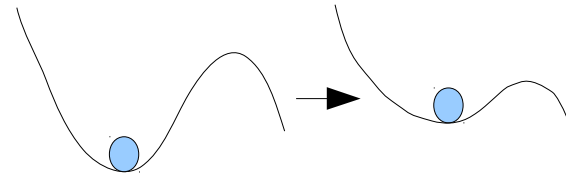
J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)



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$$\frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{u}_i} = \frac{\partial U}{\partial \underline{r}_i} = 0$$

How can we compute elastic moduli?

J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)

$$U(\{\underline{r}_i\}; \underline{\underline{F}})$$

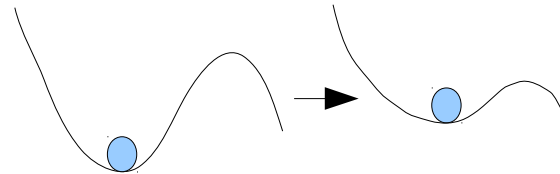
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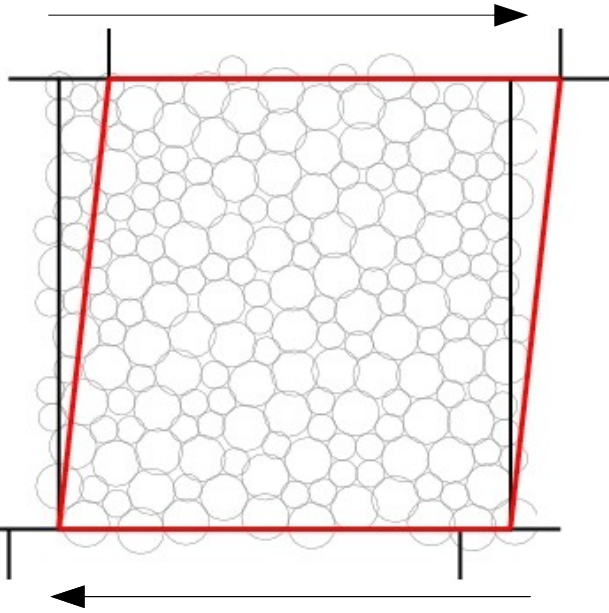
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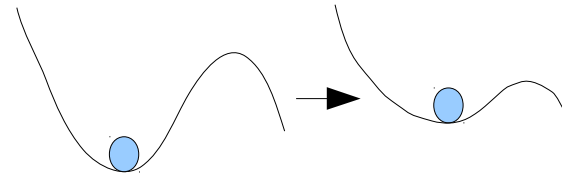
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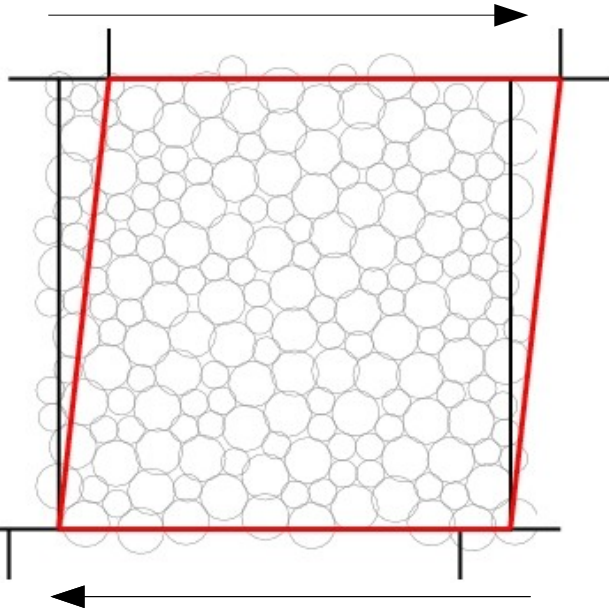
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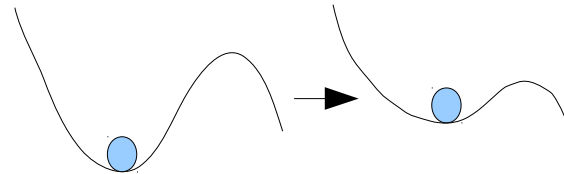
J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)



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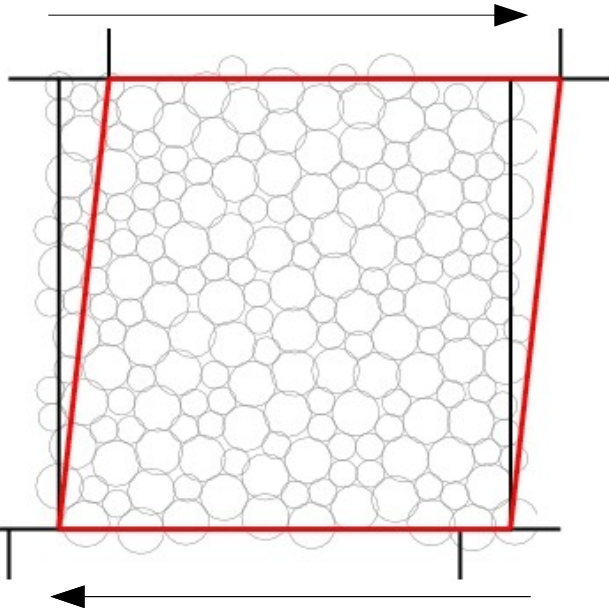
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$$-\underline{\underline{\mathbf{E}}}_{\alpha\beta, i} = \frac{\partial \underline{F}_i}{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}$$

How can we compute elastic moduli?

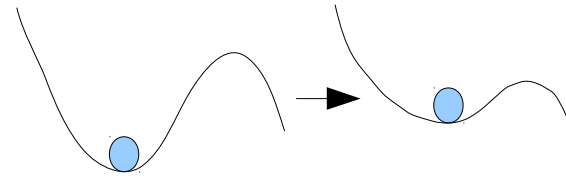
J. Stat. Phys. **123**, 415 (2006)



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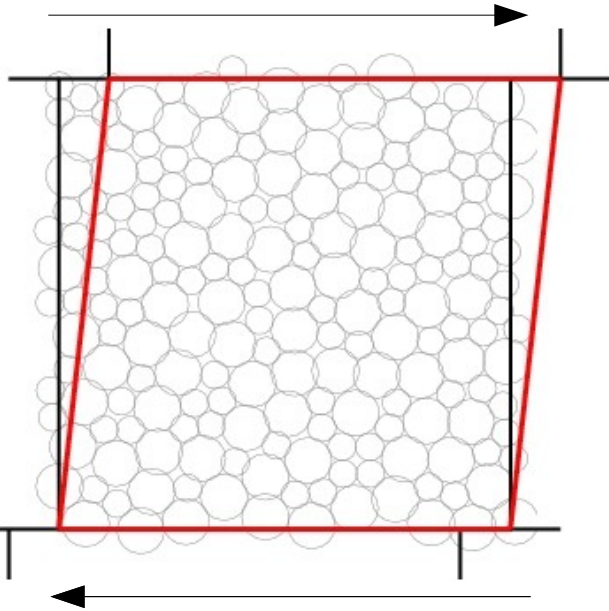
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$$-\underline{\mathbf{E}}_{\alpha\beta, i} = \frac{\partial \underline{F}_i}{\partial F_{\alpha\beta}}$$

$$\frac{d\underline{u}_i}{dF_{\kappa\chi}} = \underline{H}_{ij}^{-1} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{E}}_{\kappa\chi, j}$$

How can we compute elastic moduli?

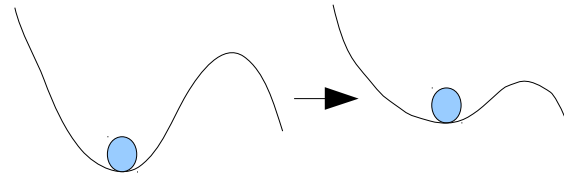
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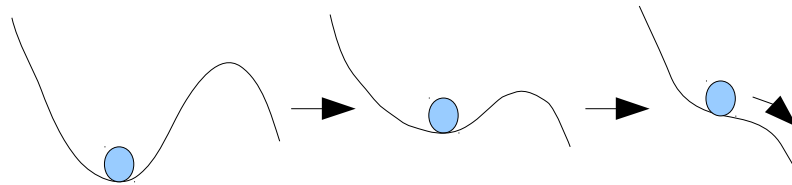
$$\frac{d^2U}{dF_{\alpha\beta} dF_{\kappa\chi}} = \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial F_{\alpha\beta} \partial F_{\kappa\chi}} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \underline{u}_i \partial F_{\alpha\beta}} \cdot \frac{d\underline{u}_i}{dF_{\kappa\chi}}$$

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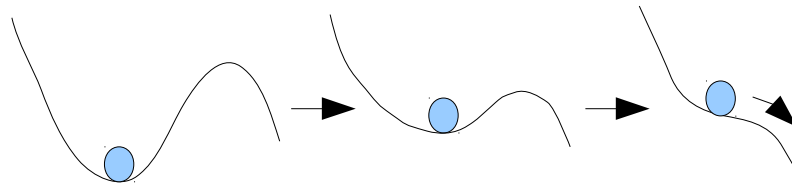
$$\frac{d^2U}{dF_{\alpha\beta} dF_{\kappa\chi}} = \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial F_{\alpha\beta} \partial F_{\kappa\chi}} - \underline{\mathbf{E}}_{\alpha\beta, i} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{ij}^{-1} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{E}}_{\kappa\chi, j}$$

$$\frac{d\underline{u}_i}{dF_{\kappa\chi}} = \mathbf{H}_{ij}^{-1} \cdot \underline{\mathbf{E}}_{\kappa\chi, j}$$

2) Instability



2) Instability



At instability: one eigenmode has 0 eigenvalue

Numerics: instability occurs via the vanishing of a single eigenvalue
= saddle-node bifurcation

Exercise

$$U(x; \gamma) = -\frac{1}{3}x^3 - \gamma x$$

Draw U for: $\gamma < 0$

$\gamma > 0$

When relevant determine local maxima & minima of U

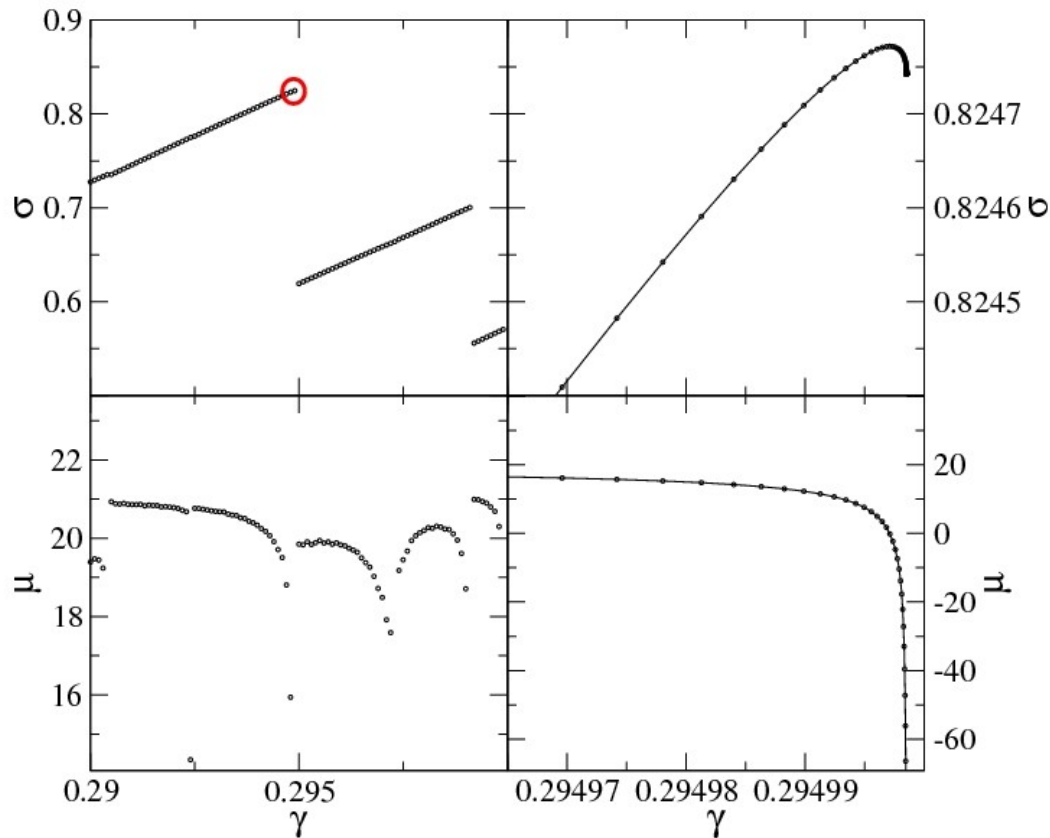
Explain what happens when γ increases from < 0 values

At the minimum, determine U' and U''

What would be the energy barrier limiting activation from the local minimum?

Plasticity is governed by saddle-node bifurcations

The onset of a plastic event is controlled by the vanishing of a single eigenvalue



C. Maloney et al, PRL 93, 195501 (2004)

$$\sigma \sim -A \sqrt{\gamma_c - \gamma}$$

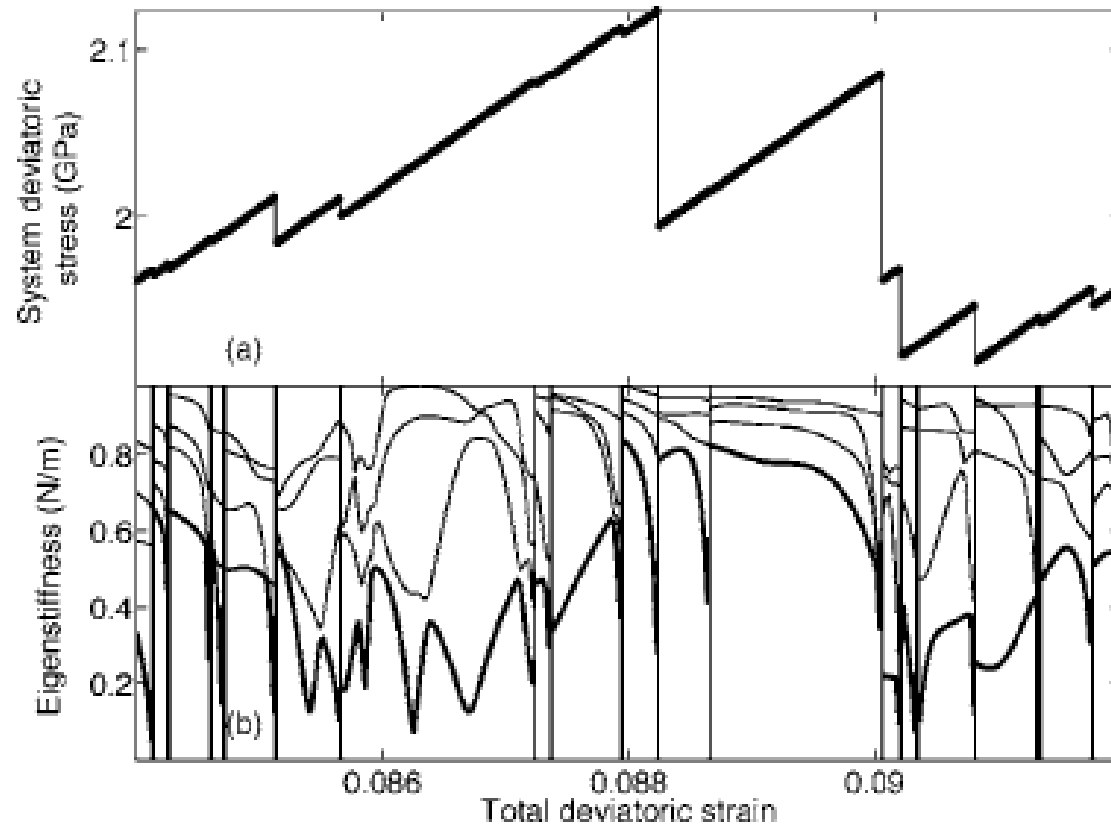
$$\mu \sim -A/\sqrt{\gamma_c - \gamma}$$

$$\Delta E \sim (\gamma_c - \gamma)^{3/2}$$

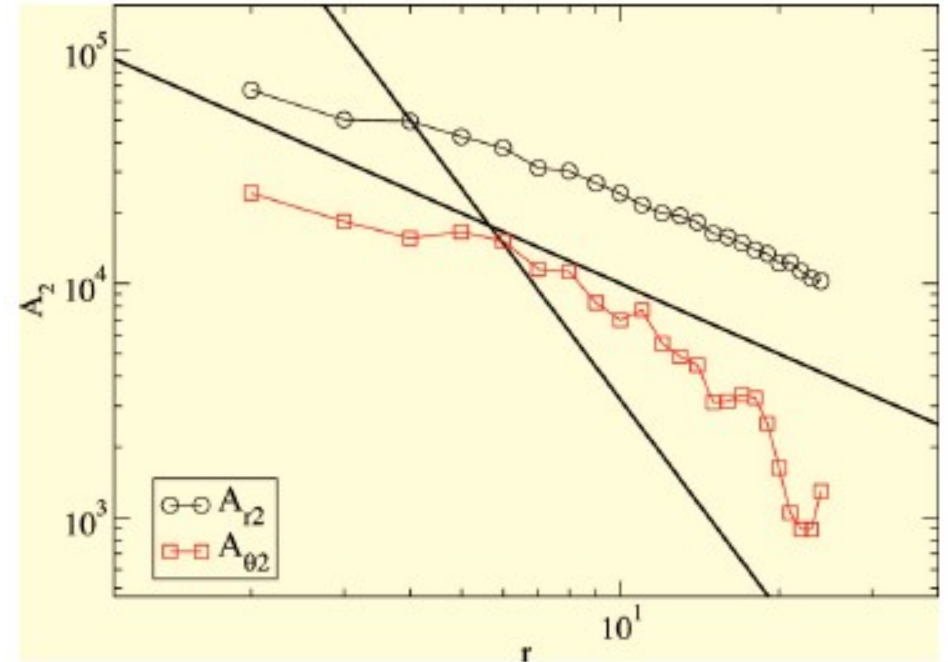
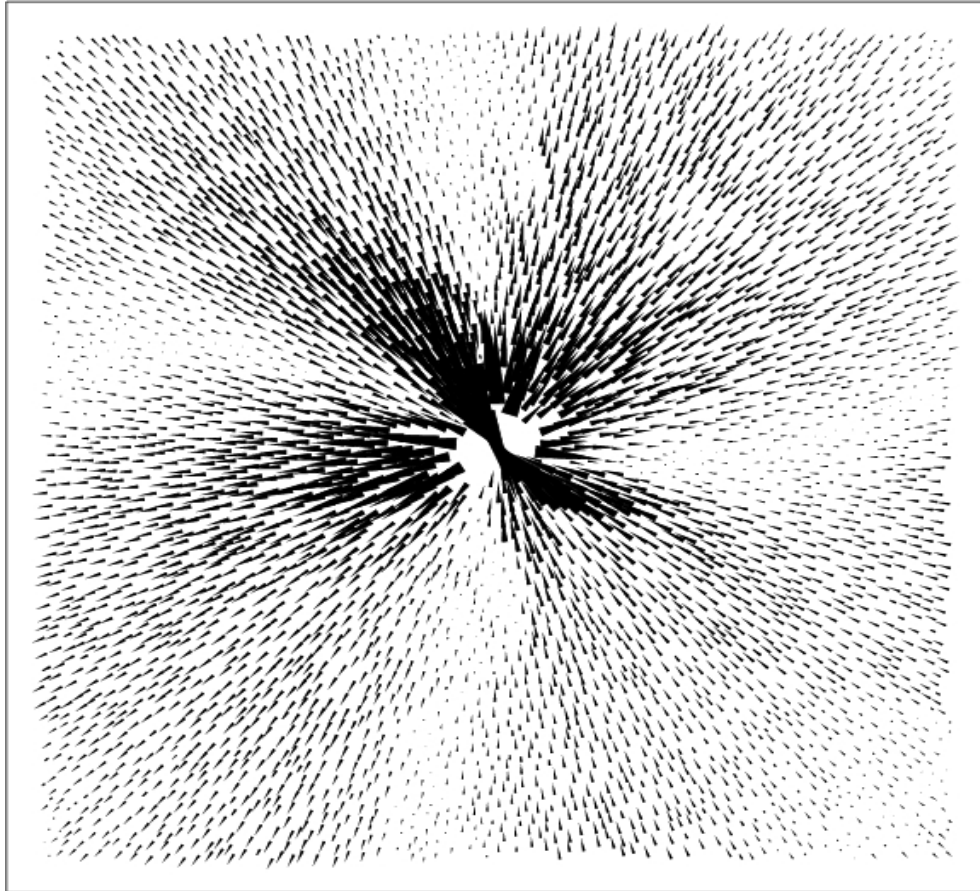
$$\frac{dr}{d\gamma} \rightarrow \infty$$

Dynamics of eigenvalues

Demkowicz and Argon, PRB 72, 255206 (2005)



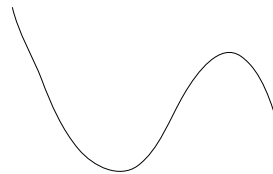
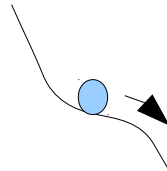
Zero-modes present slow decay ~ Eshelby fields



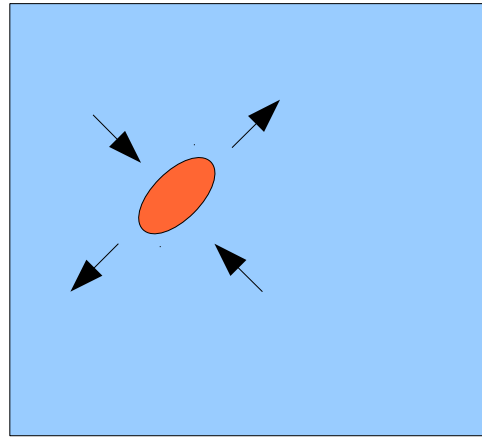
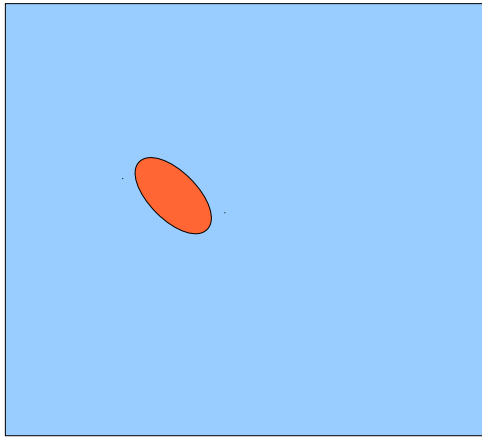
PRE 74, 016118 (2006)

$$\vec{u} = \frac{2 a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{\pi} \frac{x y}{r^4} \vec{r}$$
$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{2 \mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{\pi} \frac{\cos(4 \theta)}{r^2}$$

3) Plastic event



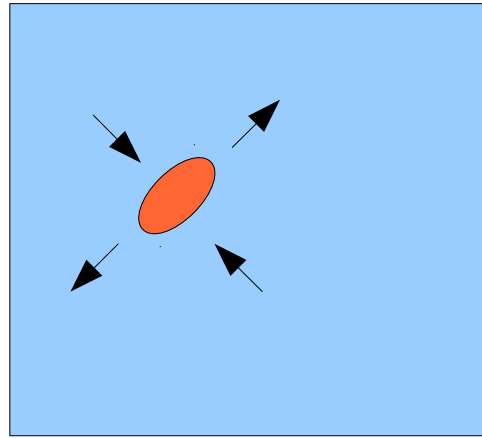
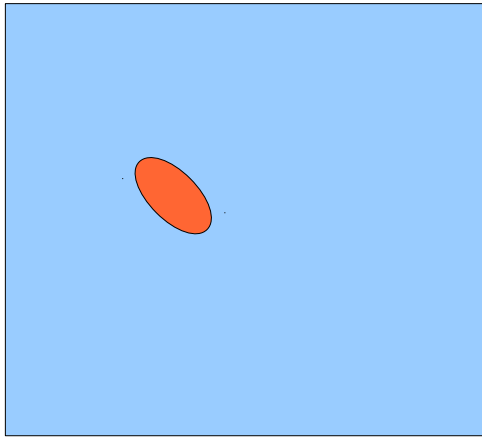
The Eshelby problem



Eshelby (1957): the effect of the transformation can be modeled by forces lying at the boundary

A transforming zone is embedded in an elastic medium

The Eshelby problem

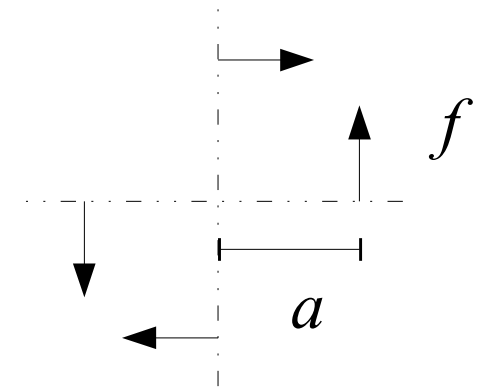


Eshelby (1957): the effect of the transformation can be modeled by forces lying at the boundary

Picard *et al*, EPJE, **15**, 371 (2004)

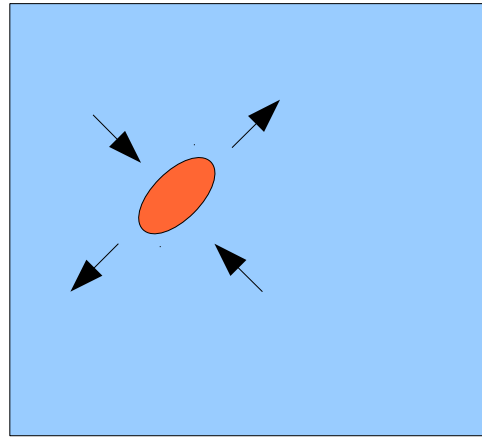
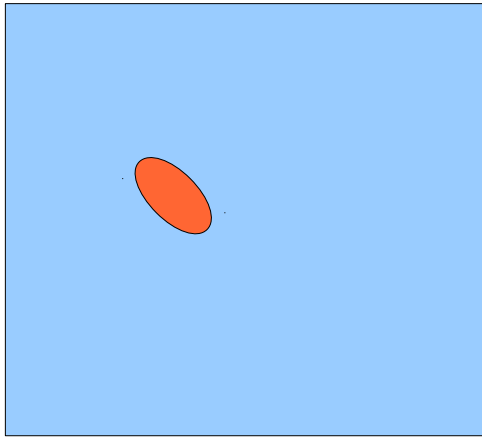
$$\mu \Delta \vec{u} - \nabla p = \sum_i \vec{f}_i \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_i)$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$



Dipolar strength: $f a = \mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0$

The Eshelby problem

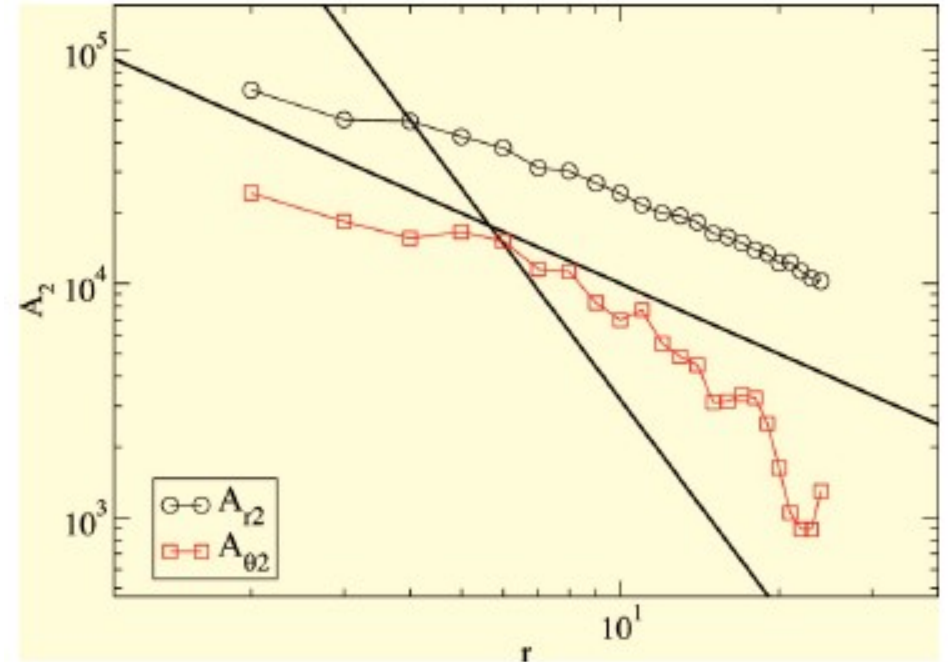
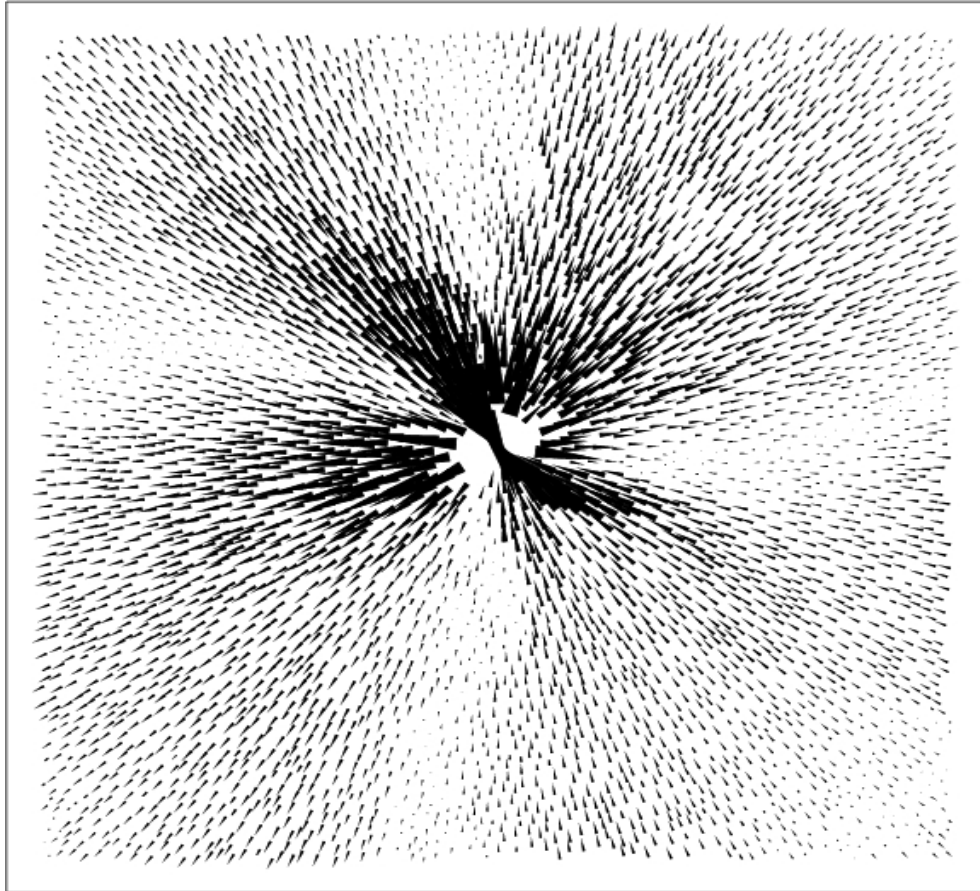


Eshelby (1957): the effect of the transformation can be modeled by forces lying at the boundary

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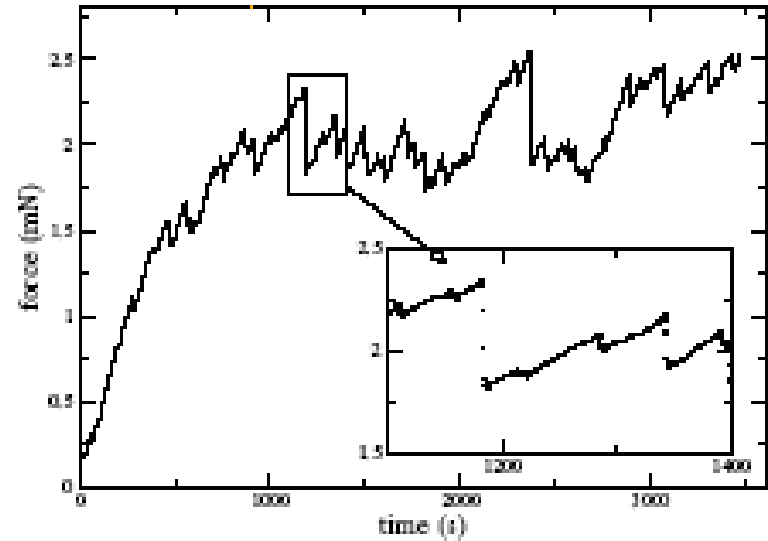
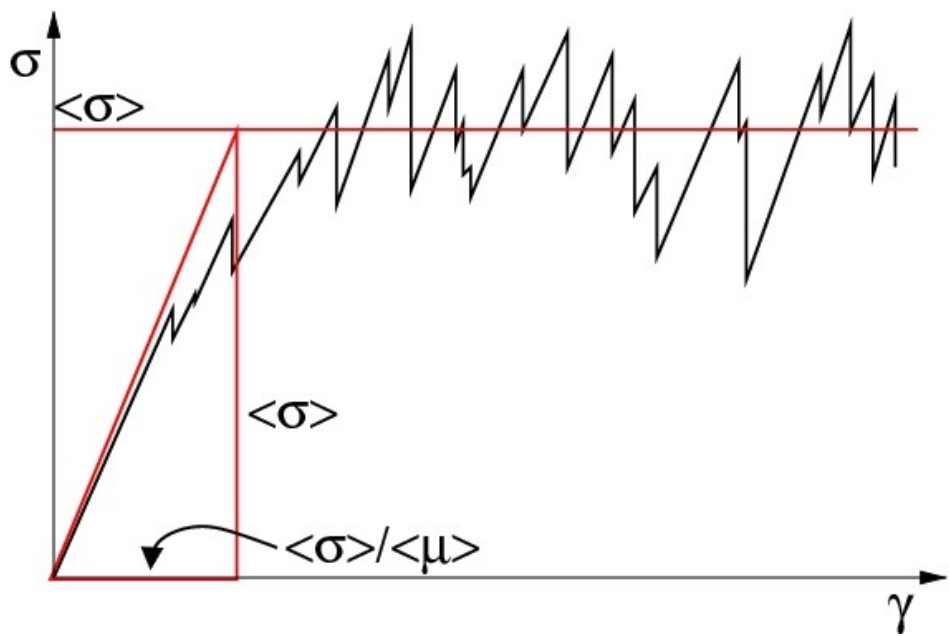
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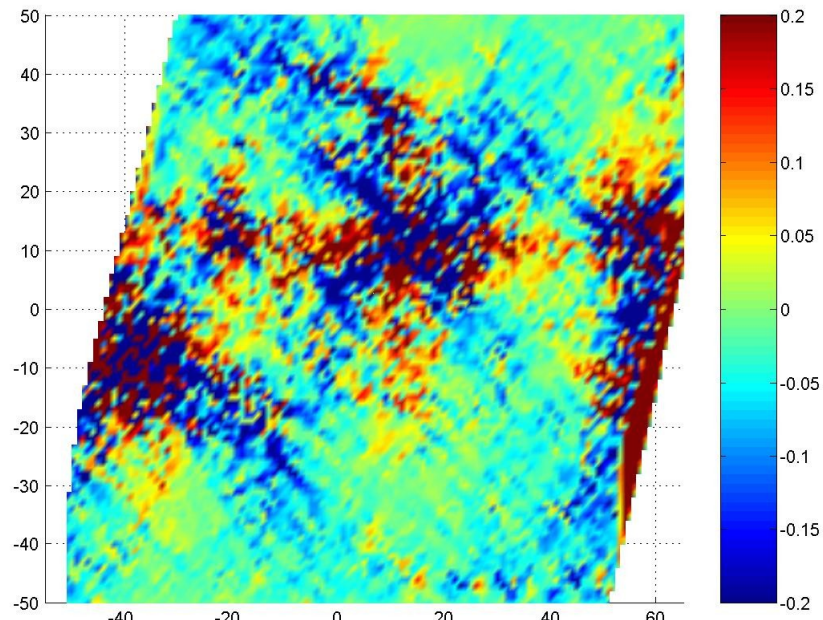


PRE 74, 016118 (2006)

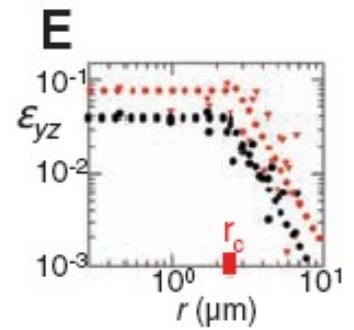
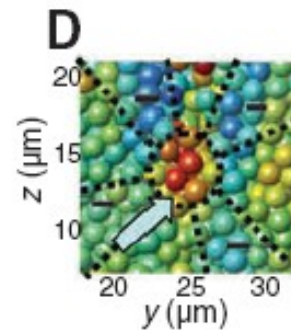
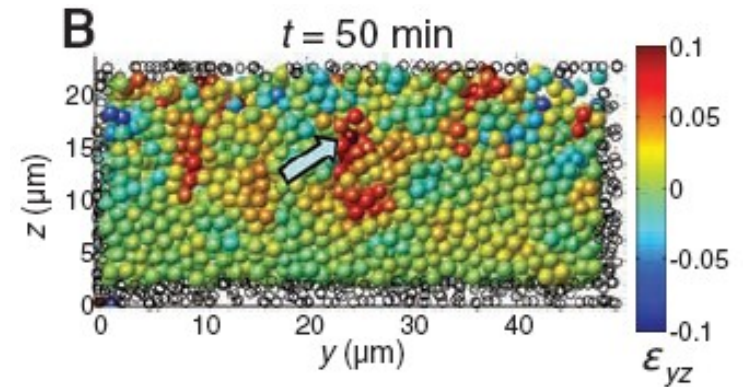
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I. Cantat, O. Pitois, Phys. Fluids (2006)

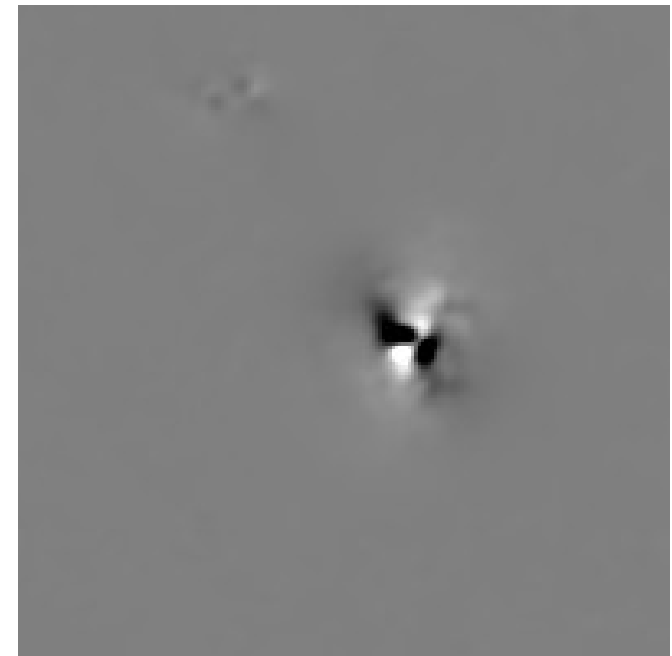
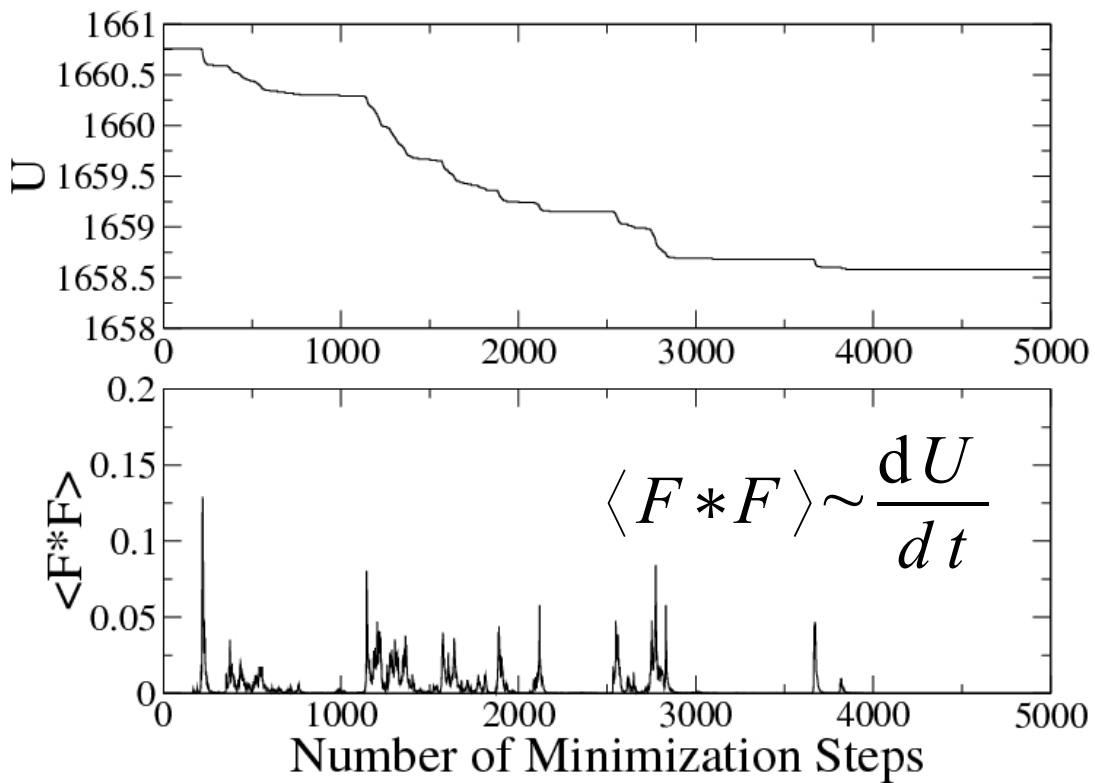
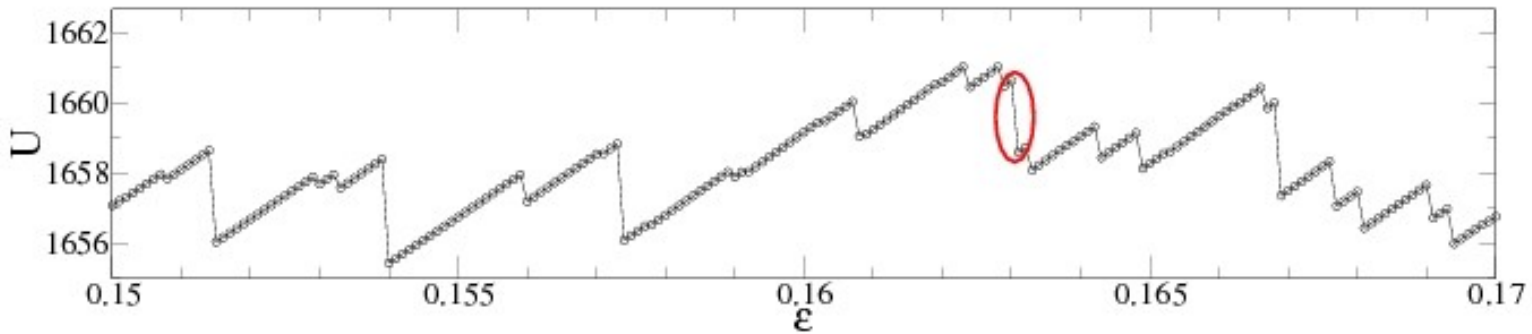


Tanguy *et al* PRE (2006)

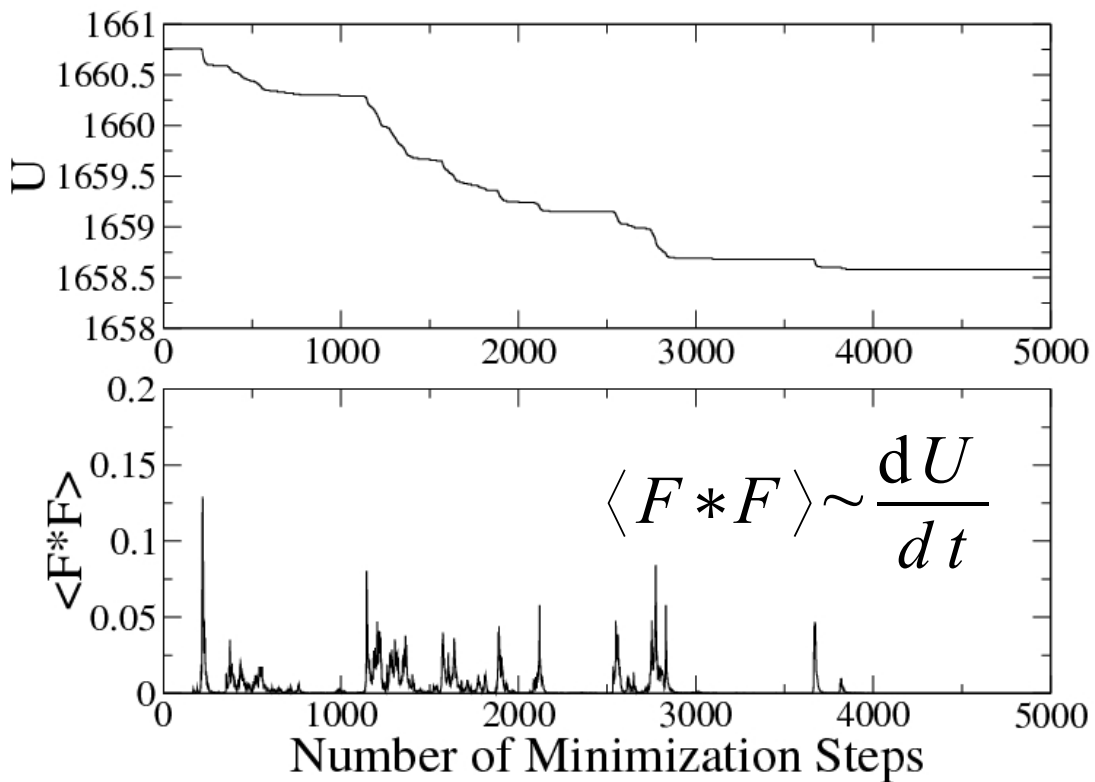
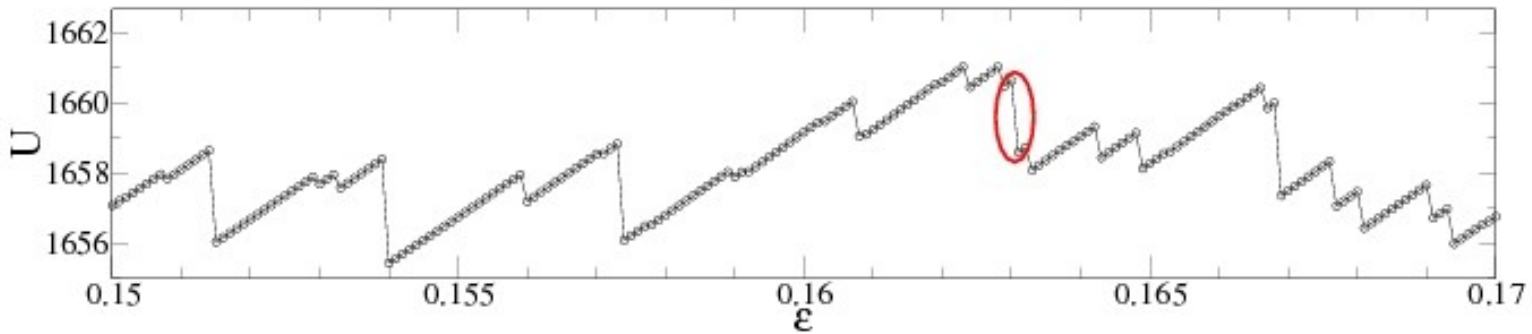


Schall, Spaepen & Weitz (2007)

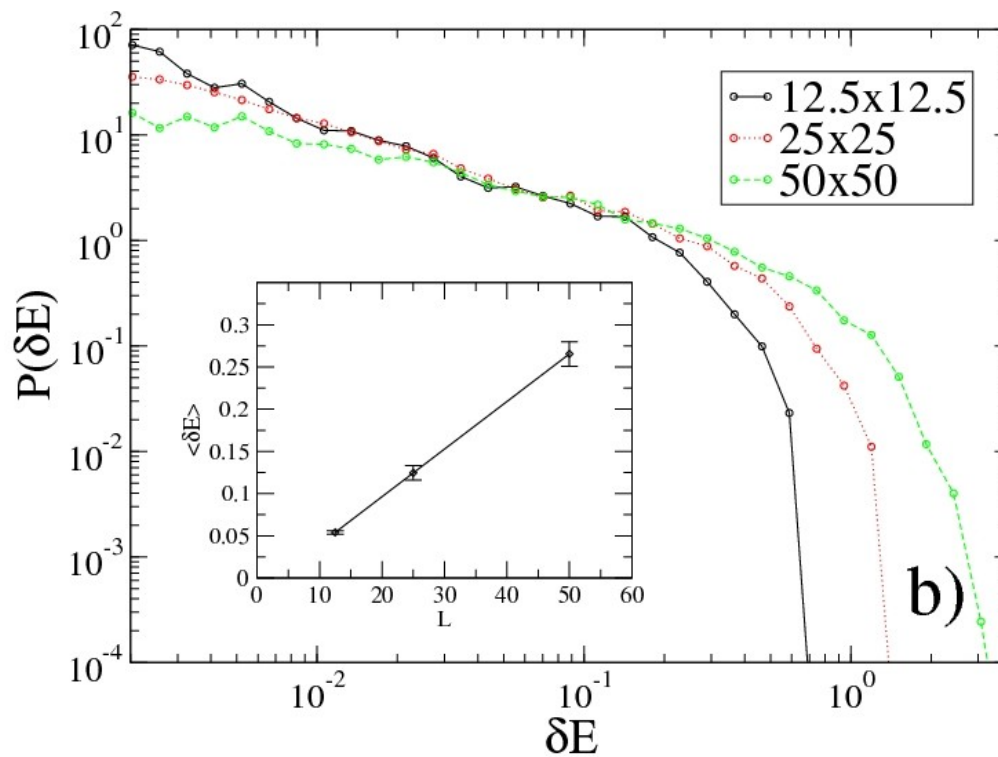
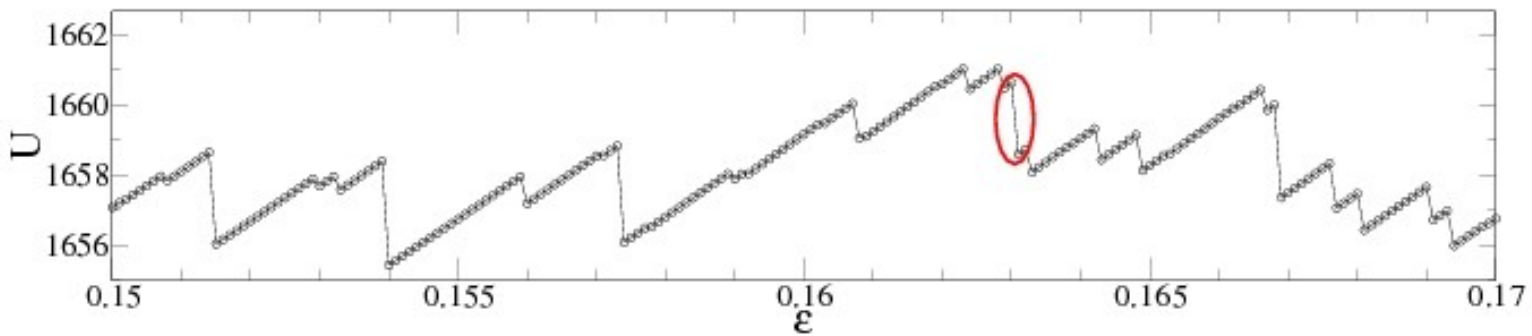
Focus on steady state



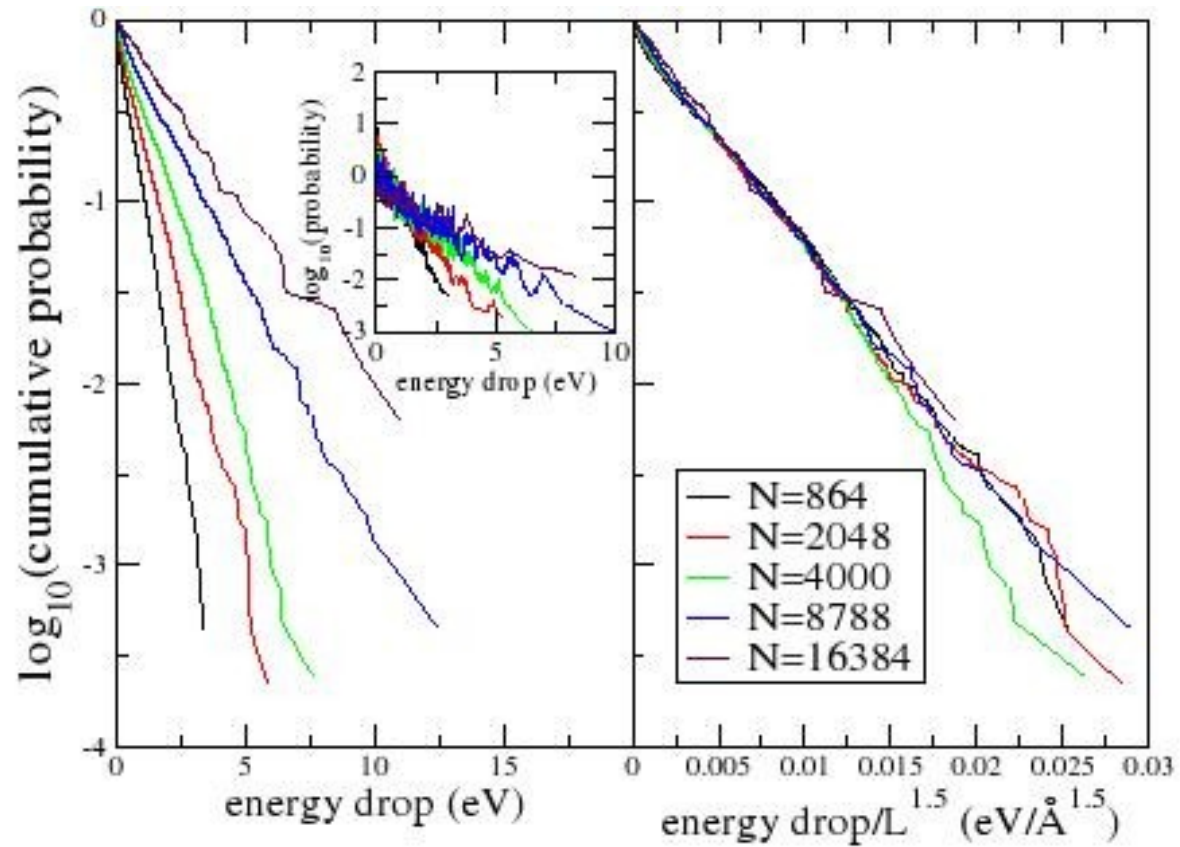
Focus on steady state



Focus on steady state



3D simulations: $\text{Mg}_{0.85}\text{Cu}_{0.15}$



Average event sizes

In 2D

C. Maloney and AL,
PRL 93, 016001 (2004);
PRE 74, 016118 (2006)

$$\Delta E \sim L$$

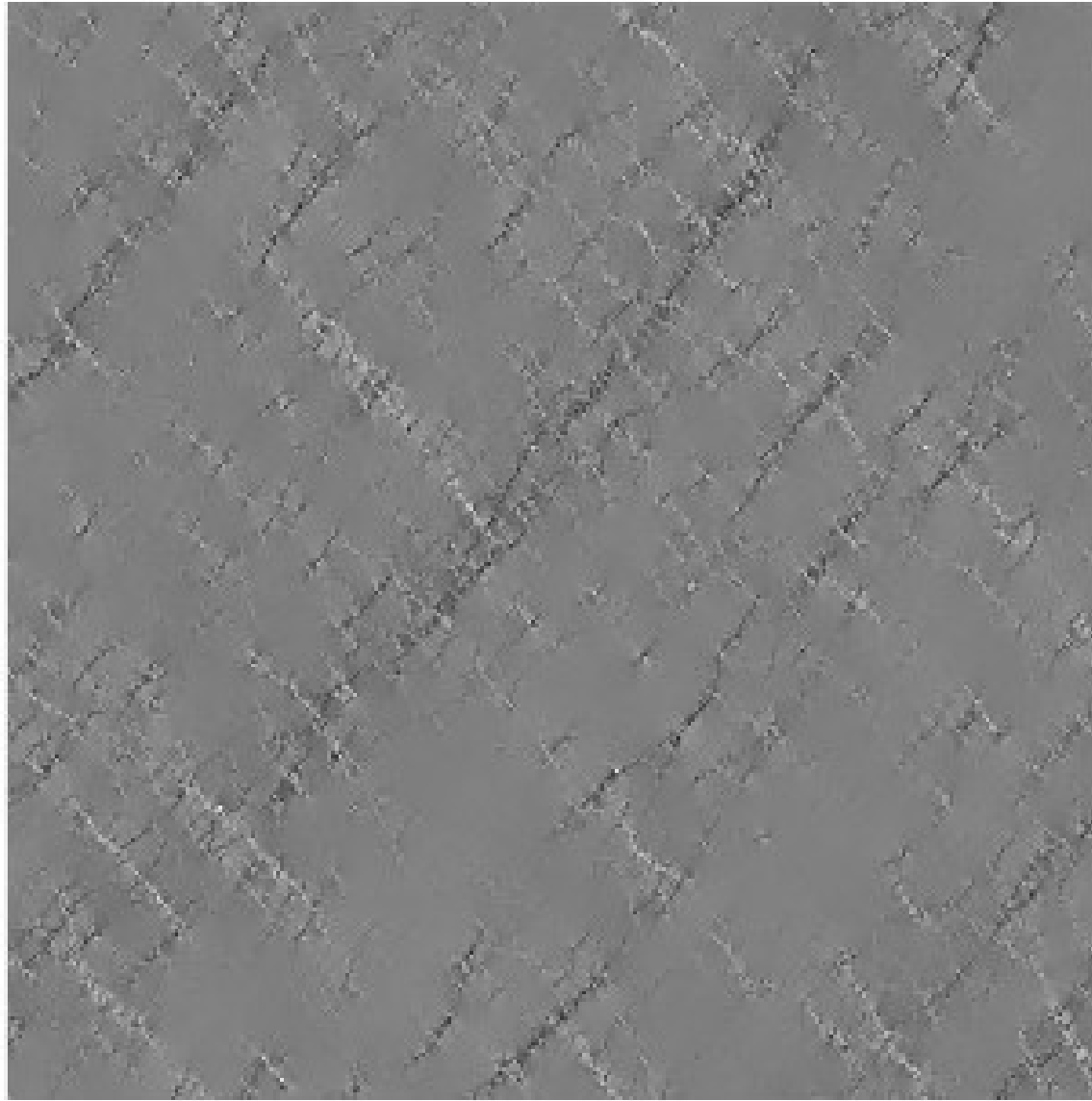
E. Lerner and I. Procaccia,
PRE 79, 066109 (2009)

$$\Delta E \sim L^{\alpha'}, \alpha' = 0.74$$

In 3D

N. Bailey et al
PRL 98, 095501 (2007)

$$\Delta E \sim L^{1.4}$$

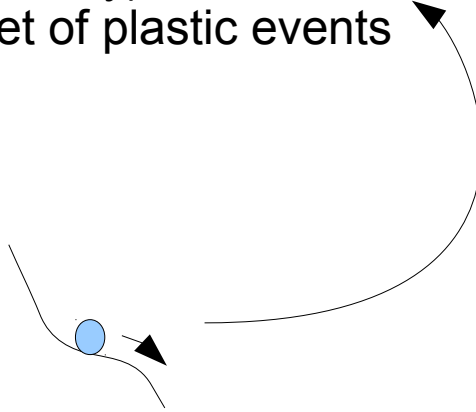


$$\omega = \partial_y u_x - \partial_x u_y$$

Maloney & Robbins, J. Phys. Cond. Mat. 20, 244128 (2008)

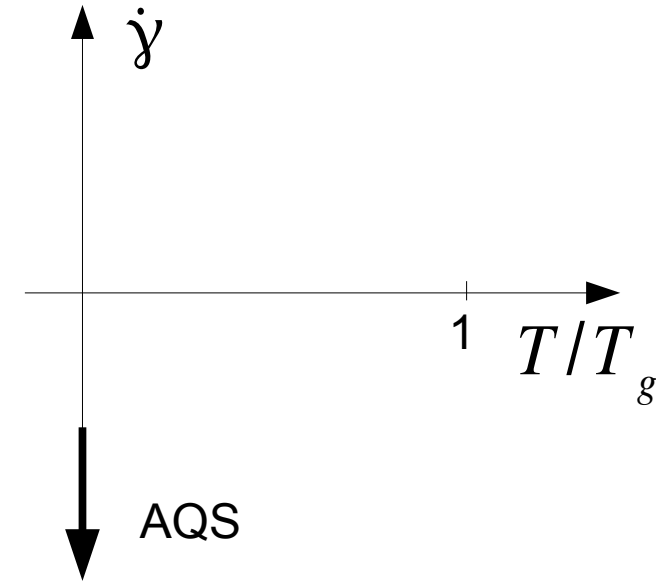
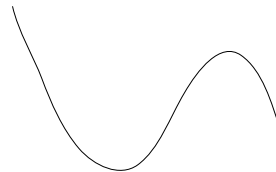
Partial conclusion

Elementary quadrupolar (Eshelby) fields
can be observed at the onset of plastic events



Plastic events are avalanches
- power law distribution
- size of largest events $\sim L$

Yet, it is difficult to isolate
zone flips during avalanches



What causes avalanche behavior?

Origin of avalanche behavior

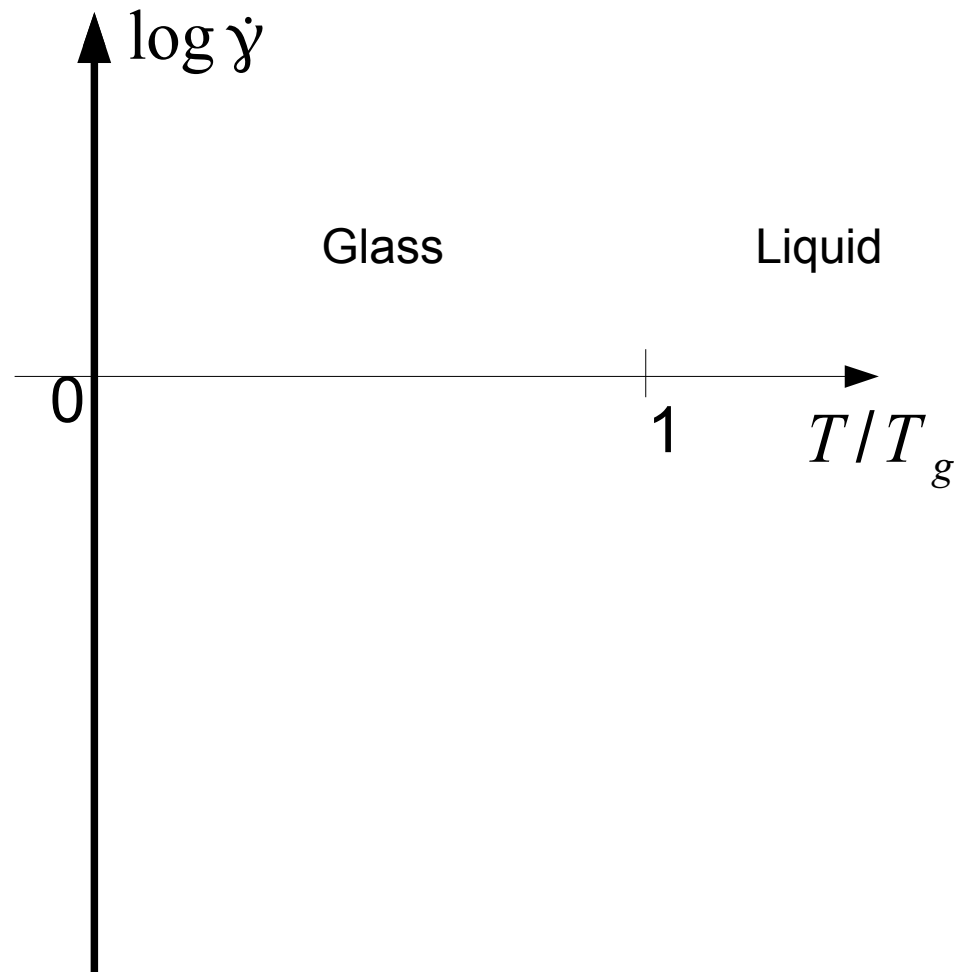
Advection by external drive in elastic regime:

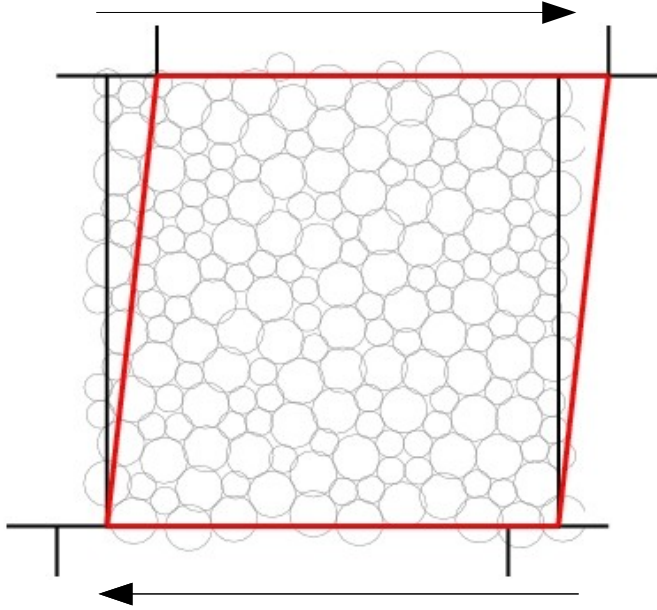
- progressive softening
- brings weak zones near threshold

Zone flips produce long-ranged Eshelby fields

- modify the internal strain of neighboring already weak zones
- which hence may trigger their flipping
 - = secondary events
- chain rule.... avalanche behavior

Athermal deformation





Athermal, finite strain-rate simulations: $T = 0 \quad \dot{\gamma} \neq 0$

- Standard MD simulation
- Damping forces

$$f_{ij} = \frac{m}{\tau} \phi(r) (\vec{v}_j - \vec{v}_i)$$

$$U = k (r^{-12} - 2r^{-6})$$

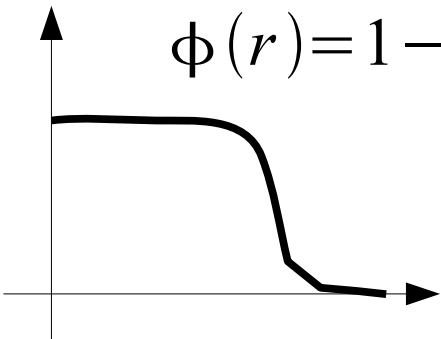
Binary Lennard-Jones

This form of dissipation guarantees that:

- long wavelength are not damped
- short wavelength are, for:

$$\lambda < \lambda_c = \frac{\pi d^2}{\tau c_s}$$

$$\phi(r) = 1 - 2(r/2)^4 + (r/2)^8$$



$$\lambda_c = 5d$$

$$\tau = 0.2 \tau_{LJ}$$

Non-affine velocity

$$\vec{v}_i - \dot{\gamma} y_i \vec{e}_x$$

$$L = 160$$

$$\dot{\gamma} = 5 \cdot 10^{-5}$$

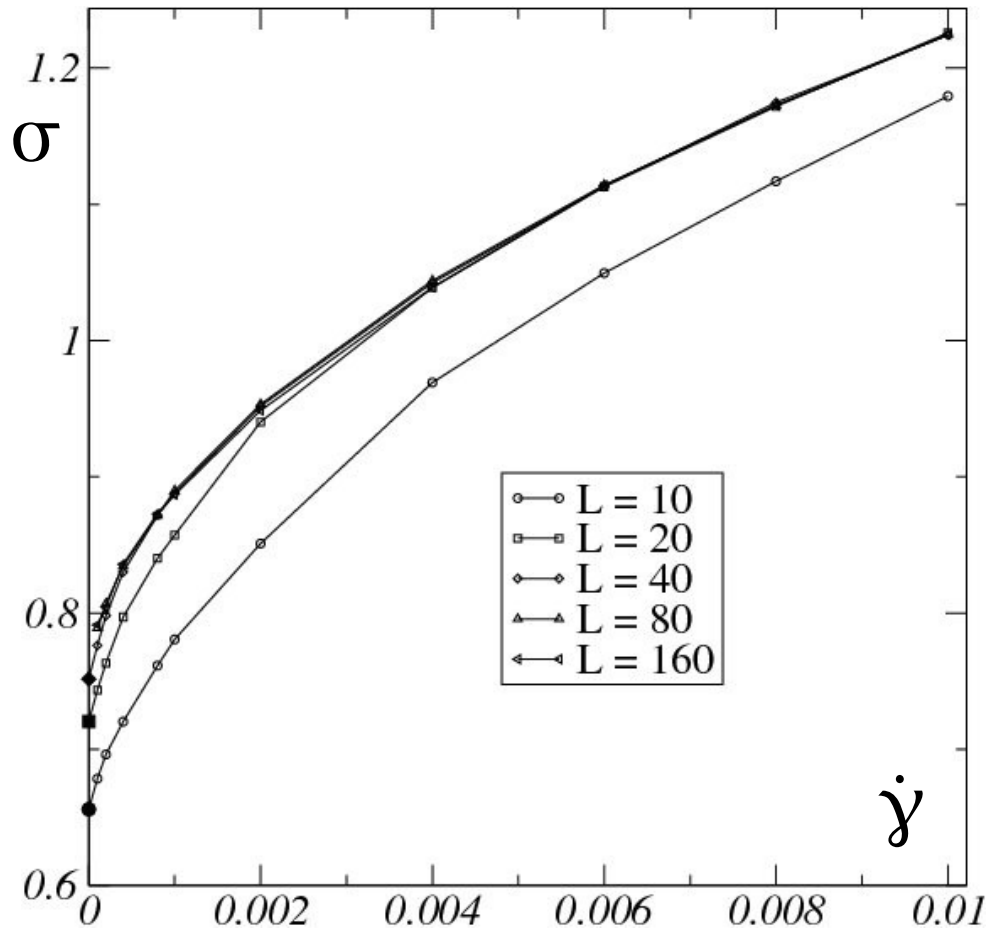
PRL 103, 065501 (2009)

$$T < 10^{-4}$$



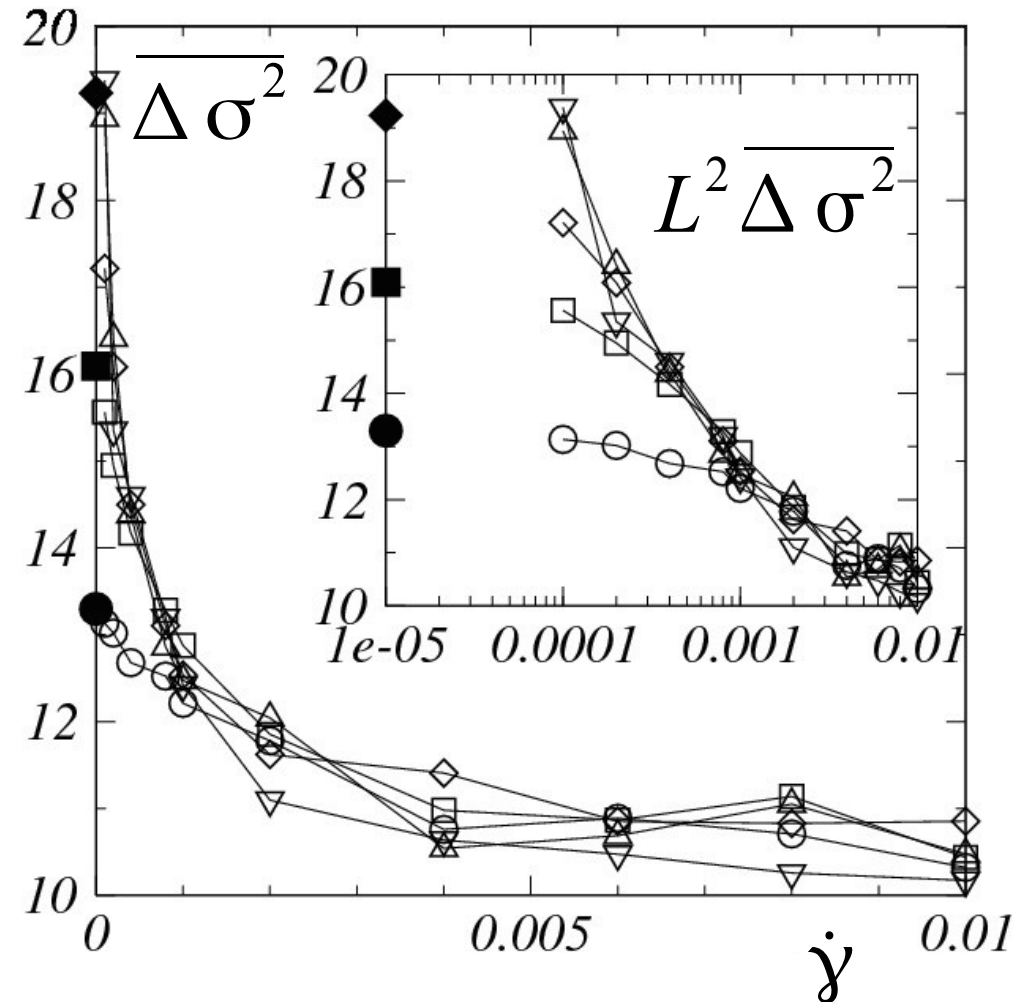
Stress and stress fluctuations

PRL 103, 065501 (2009)



Herschel-Bulkley rheology

$$\sigma = \sigma_y + A \sqrt{\dot{\gamma}}$$



The stress fluctuations:

- converge to QS values when $\dot{\gamma} \rightarrow 0$
- present normal statistics when $\dot{\gamma} > 10^{-3}$

The strain field

From the dynamics of non-affine velocity field, we see that:

- flips generate quadrupolar displacement fields \sim shear transformations
- acoustic propagation of long range signals

so, the AQS picture seems to remain valid

yet:

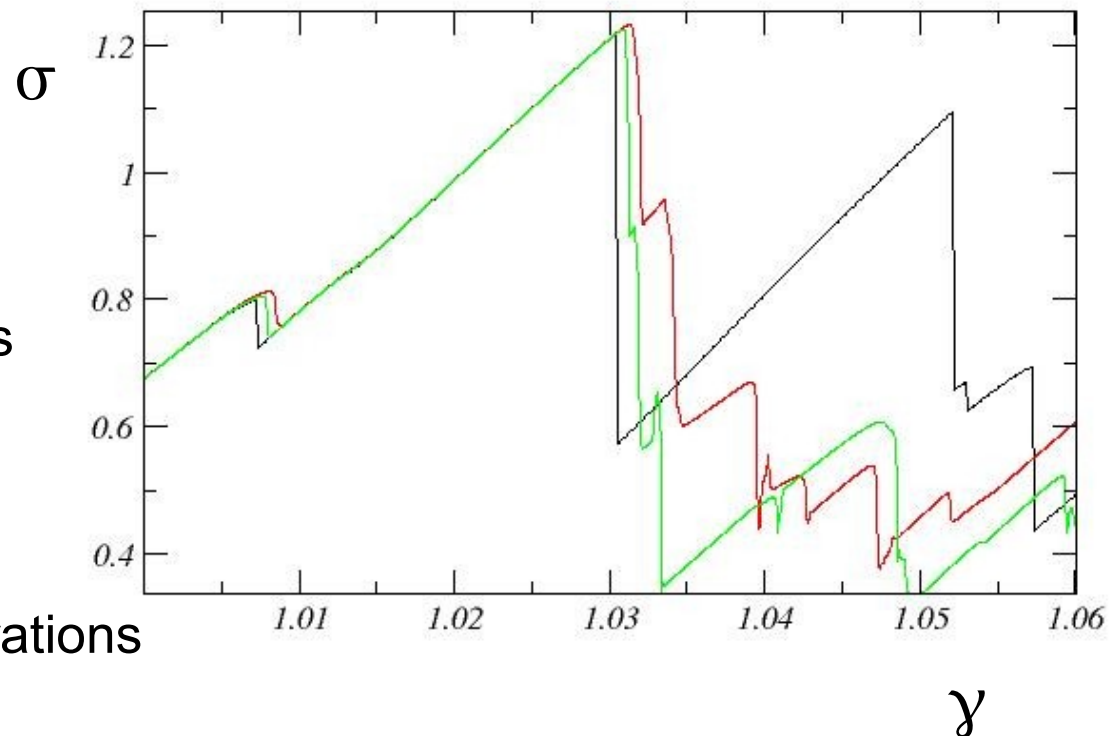
- are flips correlated?
- are there avalanches?

In the AQS limit:

Plastic events = discontinuous drops
= avalanches

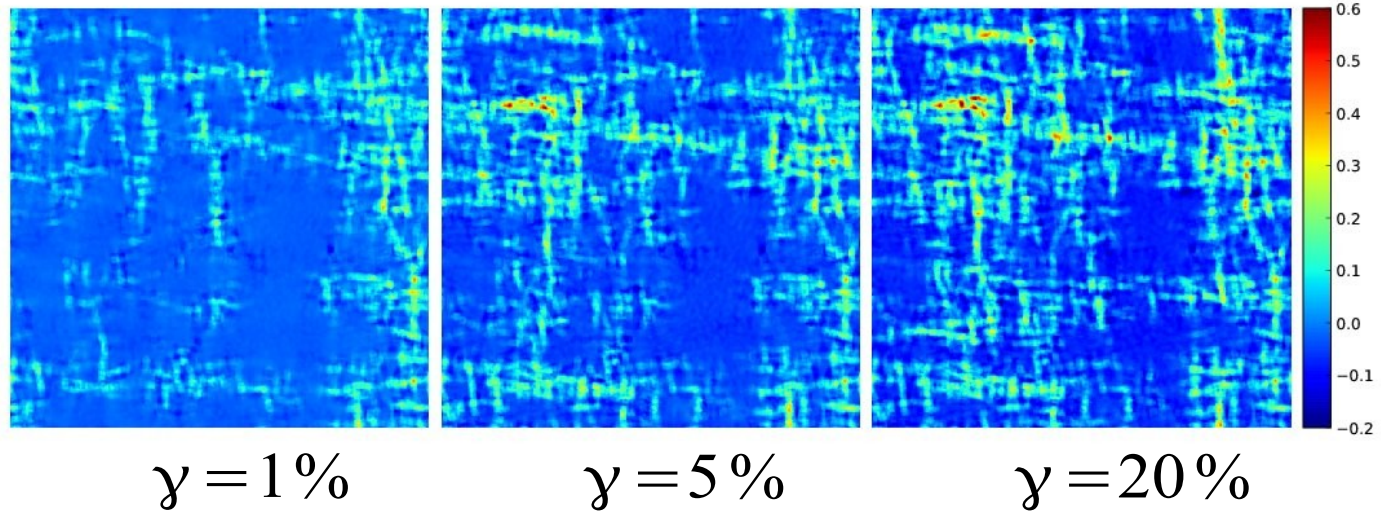
At finite strain-rates:

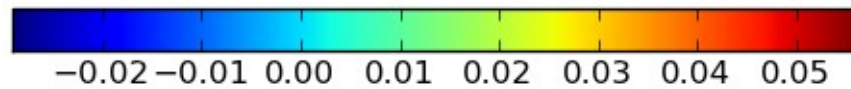
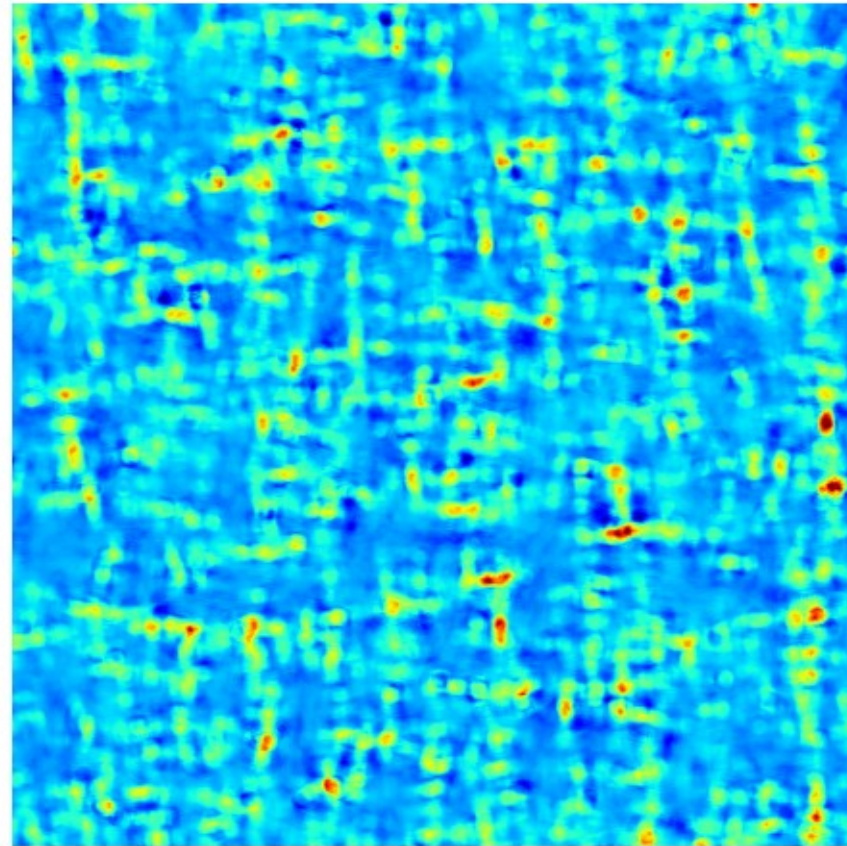
Flips and avalanches have finite durations



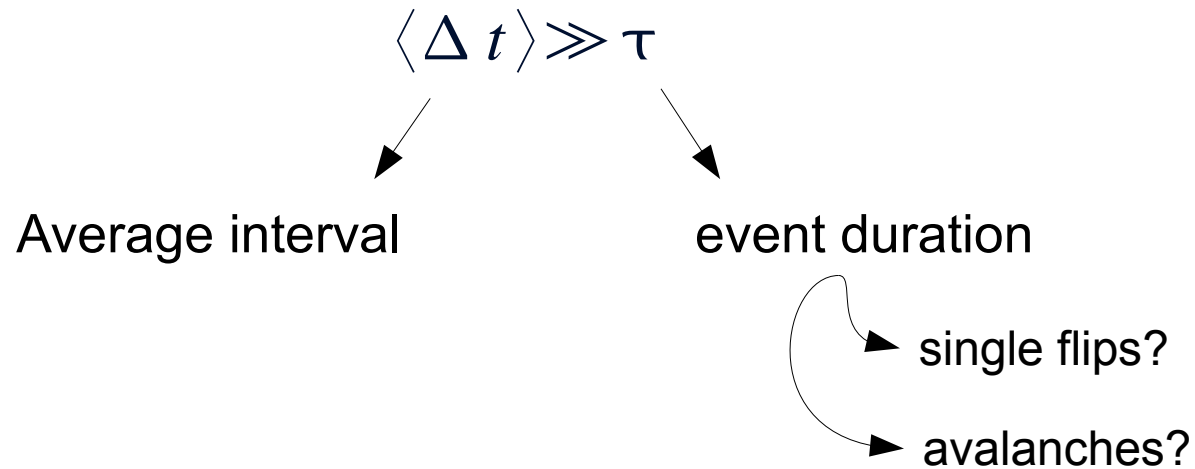
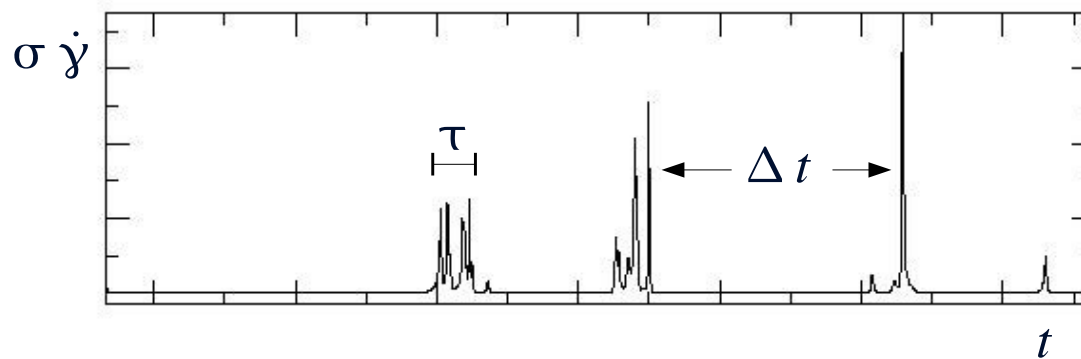
Deformation
maps

$$\epsilon_{xy}(\vec{r})$$





How slow should we drive an athermal system to reach the AQS limit?



Estimating the flip rate...

Each flip releases on average:

a strain $\Delta \epsilon_0$

in a region of size a^2

In steady state, over a large strain interval:

$$N_f(\Delta \gamma)$$



Average number of flips?

Each Eshelby flip induces:

$$\vec{u} = \frac{2 a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{\pi} \frac{x y}{r^4} \vec{r}$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{2 \mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 \cos(4 \theta)}{\pi r^2}$$

$$\Delta \overline{\sigma}_{xy} = \frac{2 \mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{L^2}$$

Estimating the flip rate...

Each flip releases on average:

a strain $\Delta \epsilon_0$

in a region of size a^2

In steady state, over a large strain interval:

$$N_f(\Delta \gamma) \left(2\mu \Delta a^2 \frac{\epsilon_0}{L^2} \right) = 2\mu \Delta \gamma$$

Average number of flips

Each Eshelby flip induces:

$$\vec{u} = \frac{2a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{\pi} \frac{xy}{r^4} \vec{r}$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{2\mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 \cos(4\theta)}{\pi r^2}$$

$$\Delta \bar{\sigma}_{xy} = \frac{2\mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{L^2}$$

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Average number of flips

Each Eshelby flip induces:

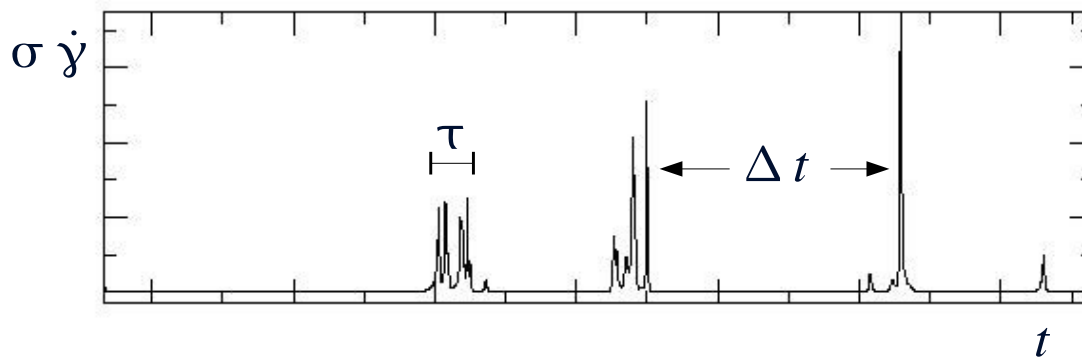
$$\vec{u} = \frac{2a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{\pi} \frac{xy}{r^4} \vec{r}$$

$$\sigma_{xy} = \frac{2\mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 \cos(4\theta)}{\pi r^2}$$

$$\Delta \bar{\sigma}_{xy} = \frac{2\mu a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{L^2}$$

$$R_f = \frac{N_f(\Delta \gamma)}{\Delta t} = \frac{L^2 \dot{\gamma}}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$$

How slow should we drive an athermal system to reach the AQS limit?



$$\dot{\gamma} \ll \dot{\gamma}_c \approx \Delta \epsilon_0 a c_s / L^2$$

$$\langle \Delta t \rangle \gg \tau$$

Average interval

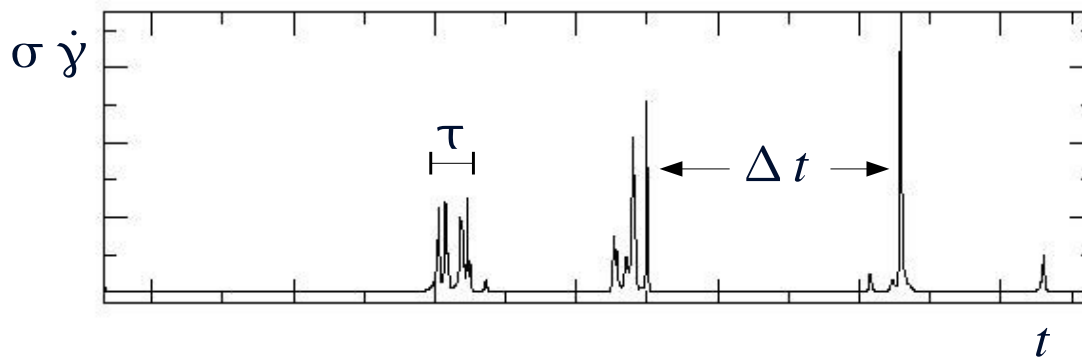
event duration

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \tau_{\text{flip}} \sim a/c_s \\ \langle \Delta t_{\text{flip}} \rangle = \frac{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{L^2 \dot{\gamma}} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{single flips?} \\ \text{avalanches?} \end{array}$$

Atomic glass:

$$a \sim 1 \text{ nm} \quad L \sim 1 \text{ mm} \rightarrow \dot{\gamma}_c \sim 4 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

How slow should we drive an athermal system to reach the AQS limit?



$$\dot{\gamma} \ll \dot{\gamma}_c \approx \Delta \epsilon_0 a c_s / L^2$$

$$\langle \Delta t \rangle \gg \tau$$

Average interval

event duration

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{single flips?} \\ \text{avalanches?} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \tau_{\text{flip}} \sim a/c_s \\ \langle \Delta t_{\text{flip}} \rangle = \frac{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{L^2 \dot{\gamma}} \end{array}$$

$$\dot{\gamma} \ll \dot{\gamma}_c a / L$$

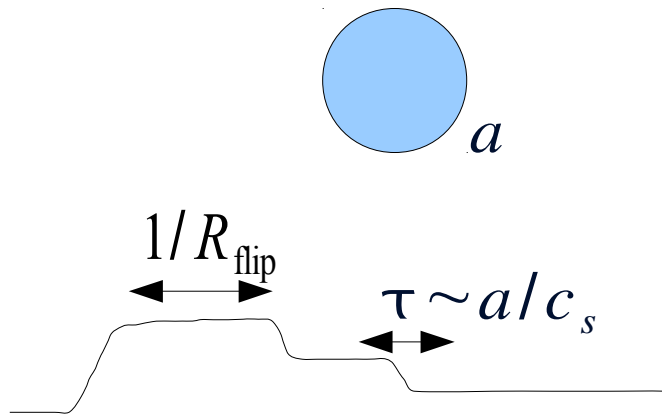
Atomic glass:

$$a \sim 1 \text{ nm} \quad L \sim 1 \text{ mm} \rightarrow \dot{\gamma}_c \sim 4 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

What is the noise received by a weak zone?

System size: L

$$\text{Total flip rate: } R_{\text{flip}} = \frac{L^2 \dot{\gamma}}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$$



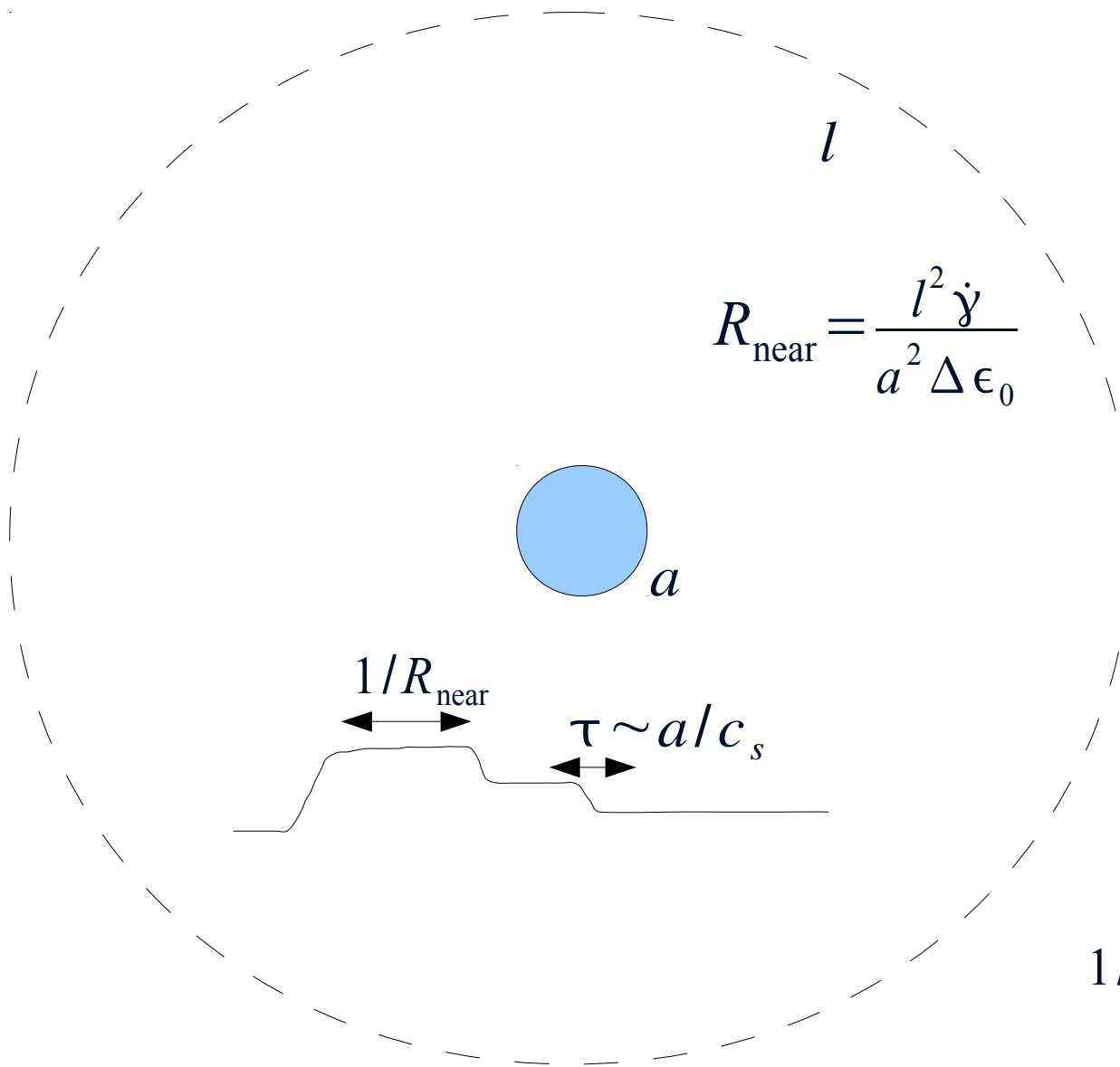
Previous estimate provides condition
when signals
originating from the whole system
overlap

yet, are all signals equal?





What is the noise received by a weak zone?



System size: L

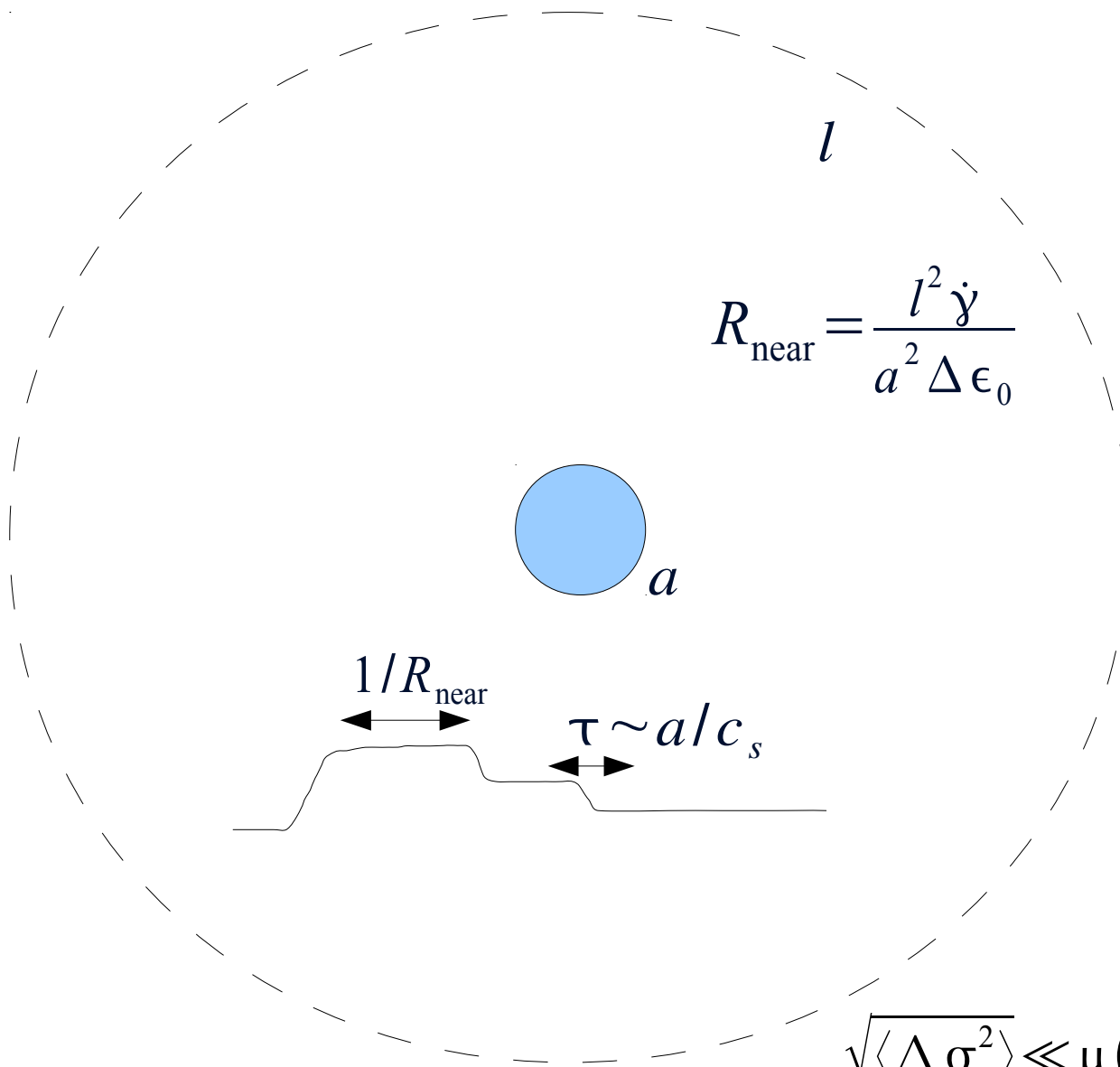
Total flip rate: $R_{\text{flip}} = \frac{L^2 \dot{\gamma}}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$

Now isolate a nearby region of size l

Near field signals are separated iff:

$$1/R_{\text{near}} \gg \tau \Leftrightarrow l \ll \sqrt{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 / \dot{\gamma} \tau_{\text{flip}}}$$

What is the noise received by a weak zone?



System size: L

Total flip rate: $R_{\text{flip}} = \frac{L^2 \dot{\gamma}}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$

$$R_{\text{near}} = \frac{l^2 \dot{\gamma}}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$$

Background noise:

$$R_{\text{back}} = \frac{(L^2 - l^2) \dot{\gamma}}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$$

During time τ

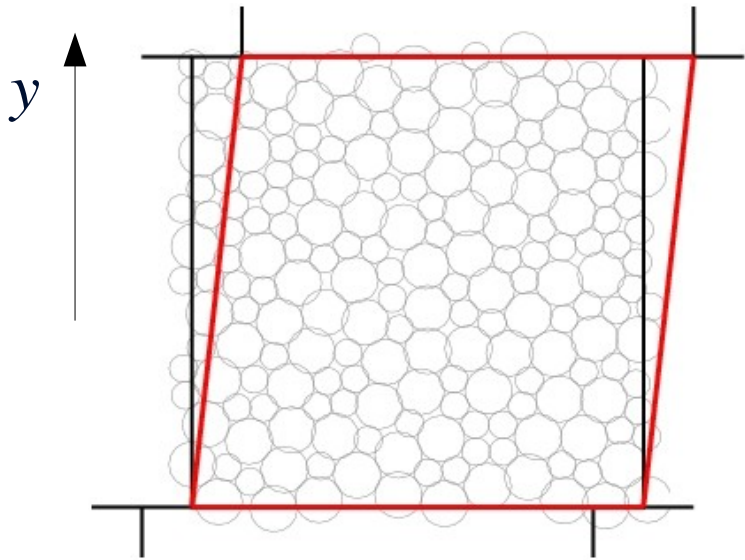
Local stress diffuses by:

$$\langle \Delta \sigma^2 \rangle \sim \dot{\gamma} \tau (\mu^2 a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 / l^2)$$

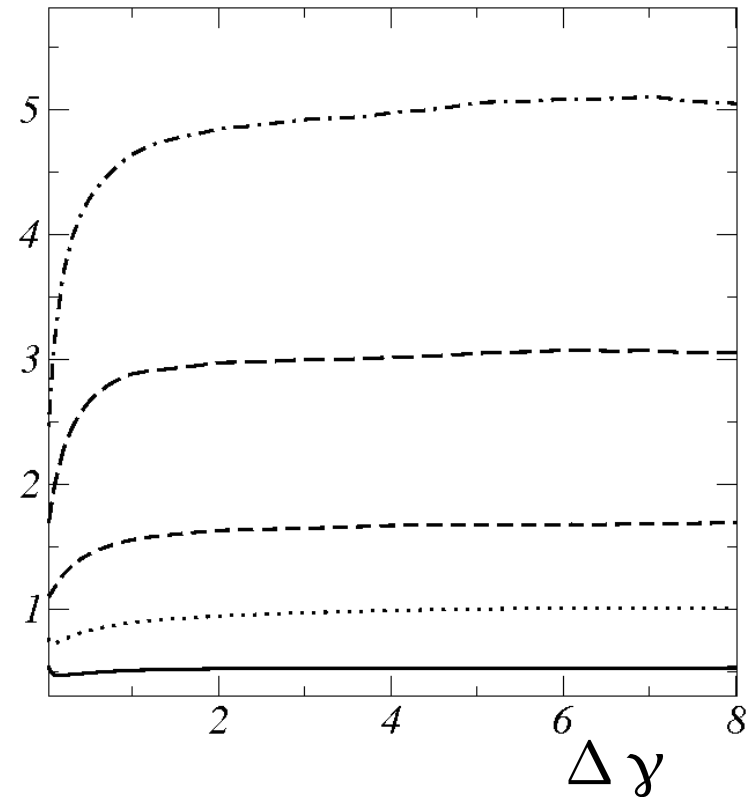
$$\sqrt{\langle \Delta \sigma^2 \rangle} \ll \mu (a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 / l^2) \Leftrightarrow l \ll \sqrt{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0 / \dot{\gamma} \tau_{\text{flip}}}$$

How to characterize avalanches?

Transverse diffusion coefficient



$$\frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta \gamma}$$



L=160

L=80

L=40

L=20

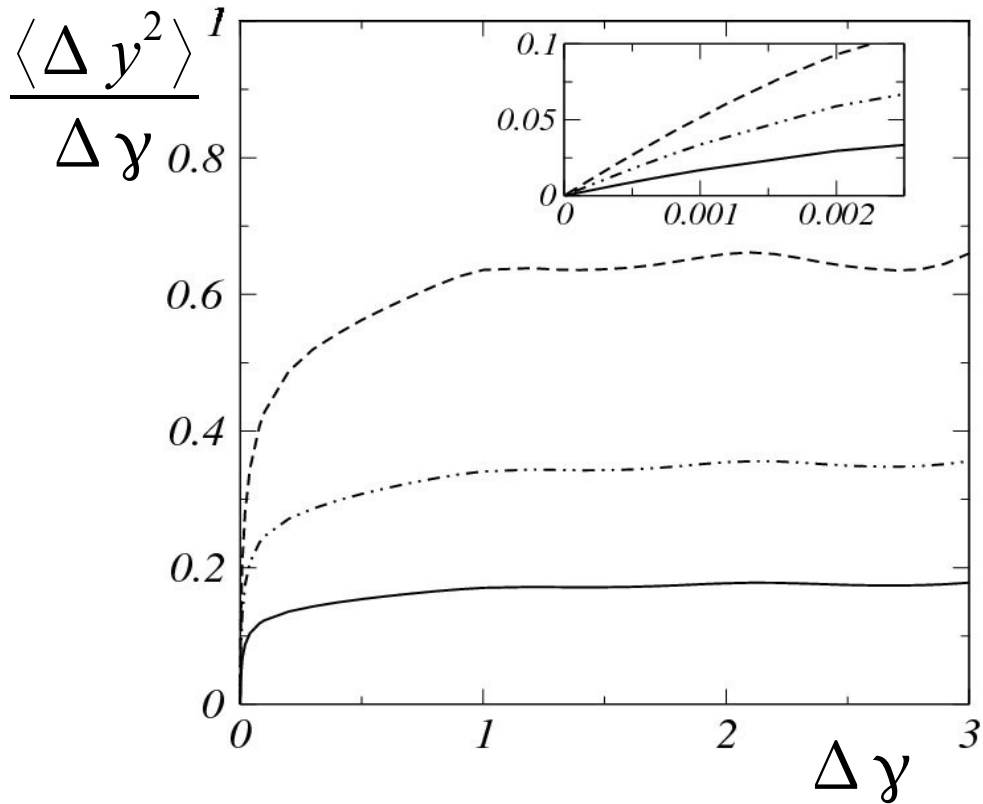
L=10

$$\frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta \gamma} \longrightarrow \hat{D} = D/\dot{\gamma}$$

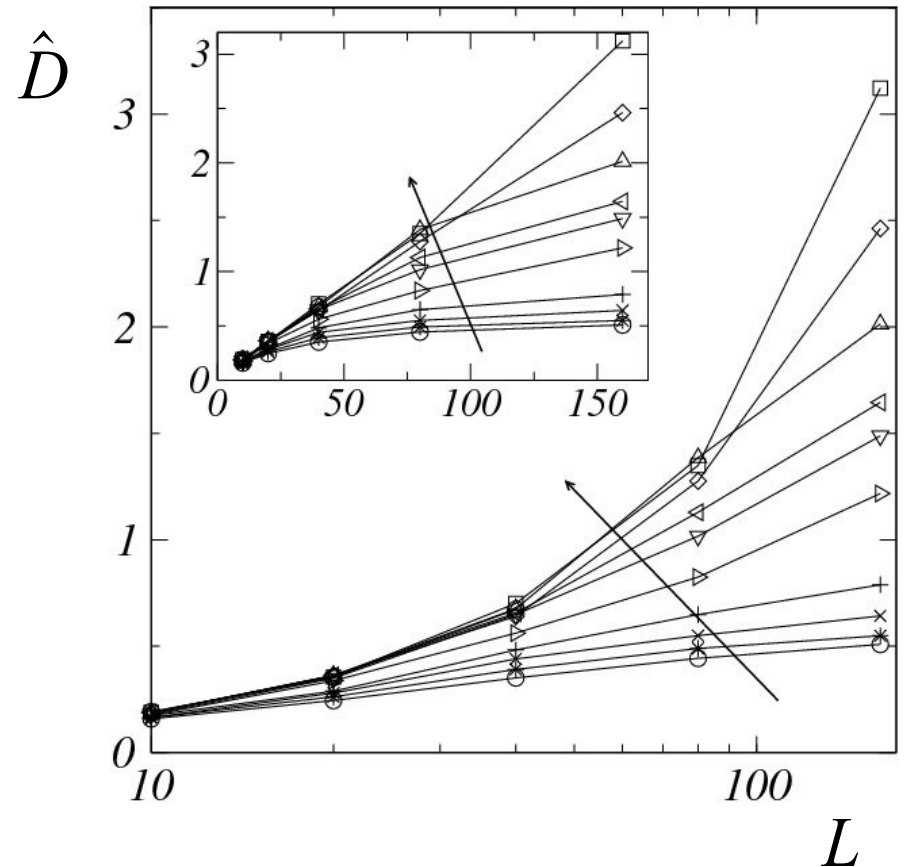
with L

Transverse diffusion at finite strain rate

Track the transverse motion of particles:



$$\frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta \gamma} \rightarrow \hat{D} = D/\dot{\gamma}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \hat{D}(\dot{\gamma}, L) &\sim \ln L && (\dot{\gamma} = 10^{-2}) \\ &\sim L && (\dot{\gamma} = 10^{-4}) \end{aligned}$$

Plasticity-induced diffusion

Over a large strain interval: $\Delta y_i = \sum_f u_y^e(\vec{r}_i - \vec{r}_f) \Rightarrow \langle \Delta y^2 \rangle = N_e(\Delta \gamma) \langle u_y^2 \rangle_e$

Events = single flips

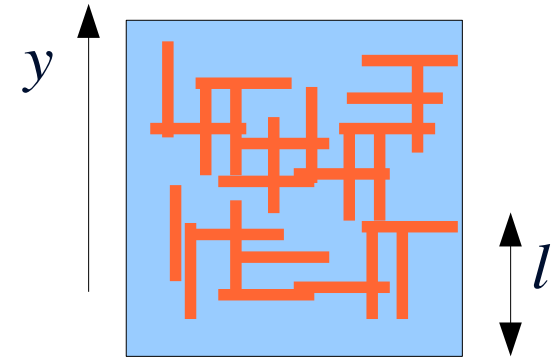
$$N_f(\Delta \gamma) = \frac{L^2 \Delta \gamma}{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}$$

Eshelby:
$$\vec{u} = \frac{2 a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{\pi} \frac{x y}{r^4} \vec{r}$$

$$\langle u_y^2 \rangle_f = \frac{a^4 \Delta \epsilon_0^2}{4 \pi} \ln(L/a)$$

$$\frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta \gamma} = \frac{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{4 \pi} \ln(L/a)$$

Events = linear avalanches



$$N_a(\Delta \gamma) = N_f(\Delta \gamma) / \nu l$$

$$\langle u_y^2 \rangle_a = \frac{a^4 \Delta \epsilon_0^2 \nu^2}{2 \pi} \left(\frac{l}{L} \right)^2 \ln(L/l)$$

$$\frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta \gamma} = \frac{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{4 \pi} \nu l \ln(L/l)$$

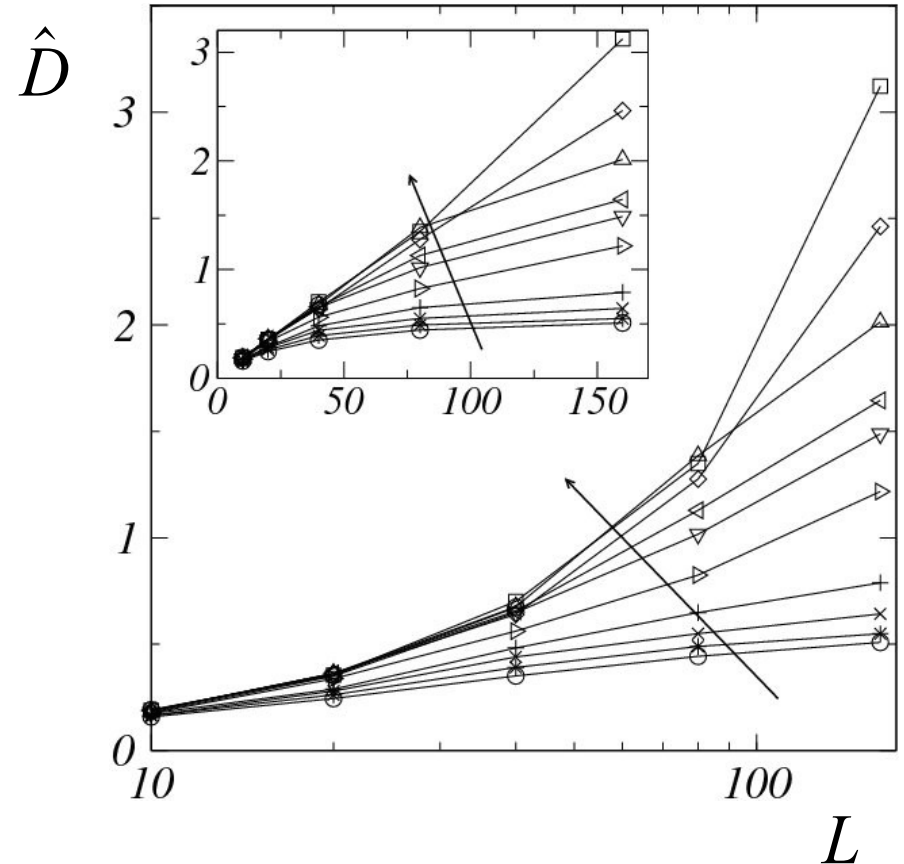
Athermal, finite strain rate: transverse diffusion

$$\hat{D} \equiv \frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta \gamma} = \frac{a^2 \Delta \epsilon_0}{4\pi} \nu l \ln(L/l)$$

Large $\dot{\gamma} \Rightarrow l \sim a \quad \hat{D} \sim \ln L$

$\dot{\gamma} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow l \sim L \quad \hat{D} \sim L$

QS regime



Using $l(\dot{\gamma}) \propto 1/\sqrt{\dot{\gamma}} \Rightarrow \hat{D}/L = f(L\sqrt{\dot{\gamma}})$

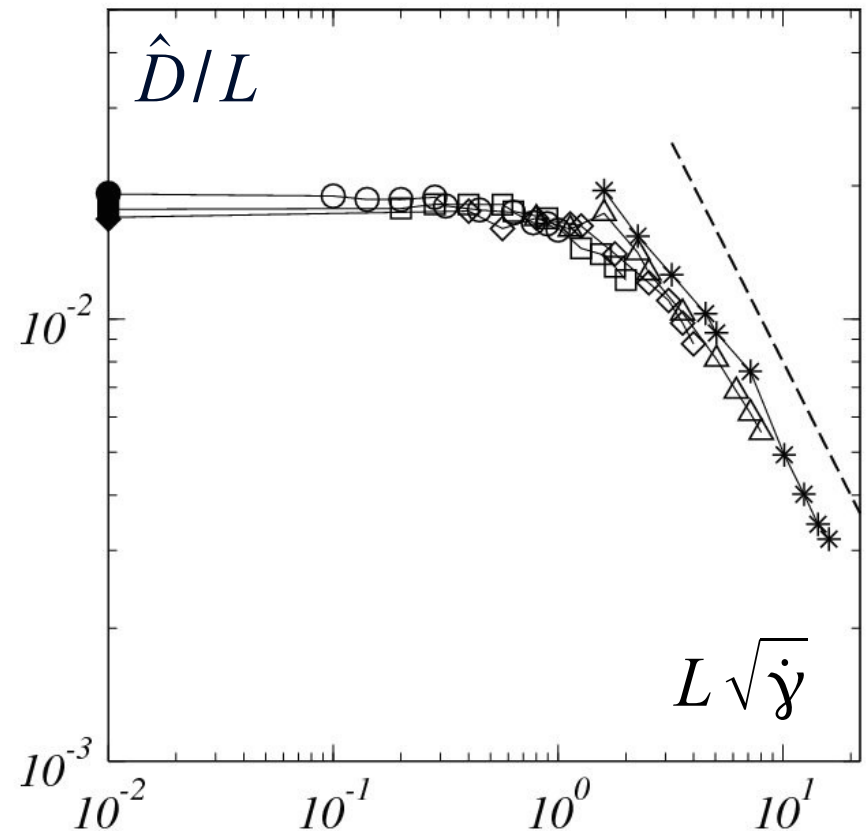
Athermal, finite strain rate: transverse diffusion

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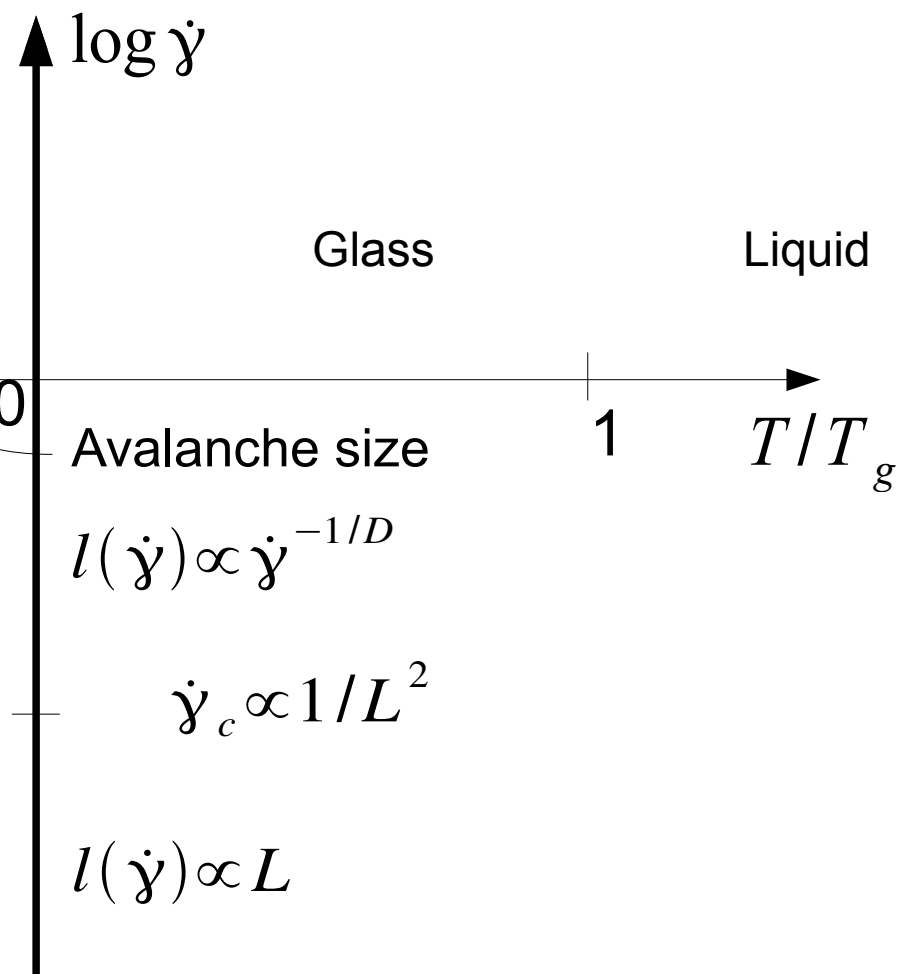
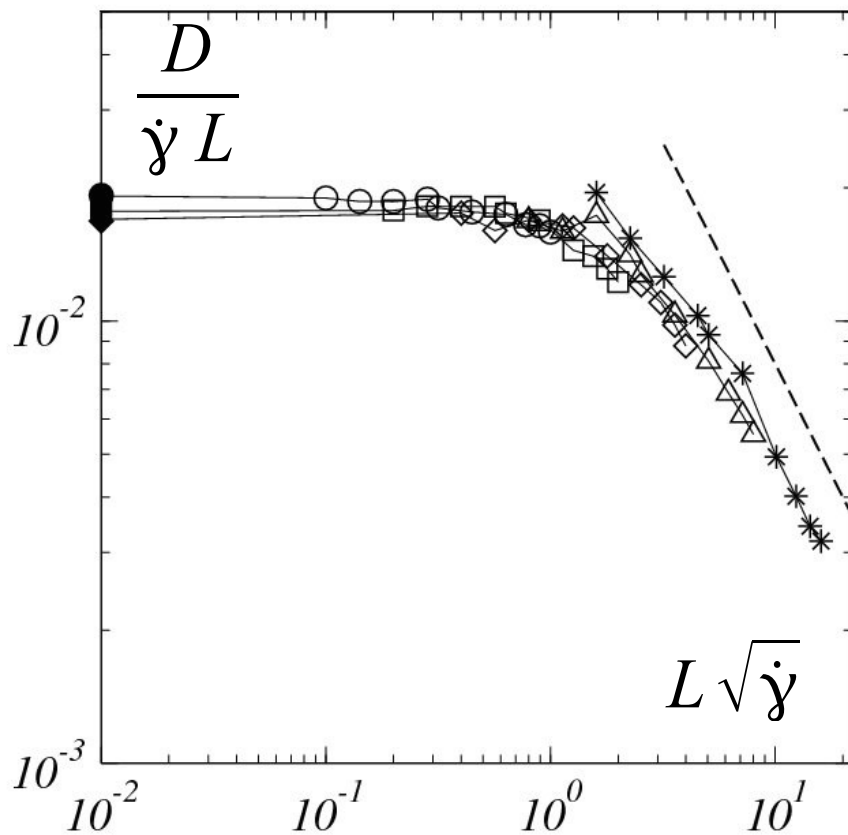
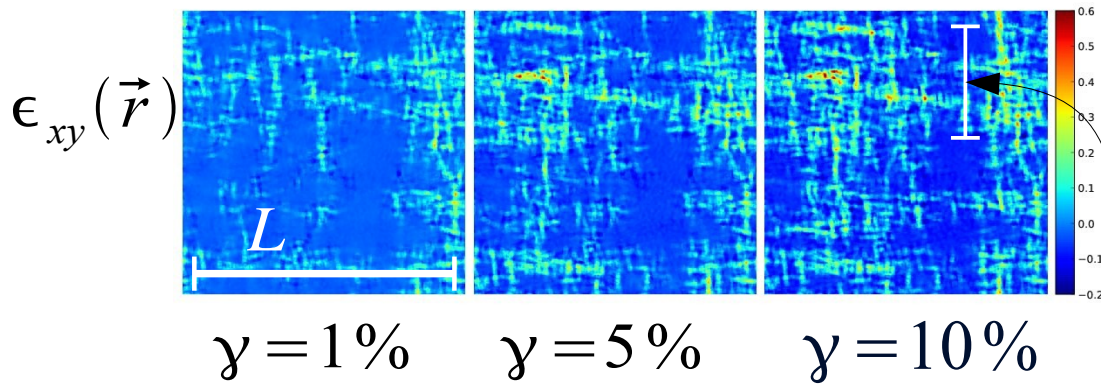
$\dot{\gamma} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow l \sim L \quad \hat{D} \sim L$

QS regime



Using $l(\dot{\gamma}) \propto 1/\sqrt{\dot{\gamma}} \Rightarrow \hat{D}/L = f(L\sqrt{\dot{\gamma}})$

Athermal, finite-strain rate



Inferences

- Extension to 3D $l(\dot{\gamma}) \sim a(\Delta \epsilon_0 / \dot{\gamma} \tau_{\text{flip}})^{1/3}$

⇒ For atomic glass, with $\tau_{\text{LJ}} \sim 10^{-13}$ sec, $a \sim 1$ nm, $\Delta \epsilon_0 \sim 5\%$

For $\dot{\gamma} \leq 1 \text{ sec}^{-1}$, $l \geq 10 \mu\text{m}$

- 2D flow curve $\sigma(\dot{\gamma})$

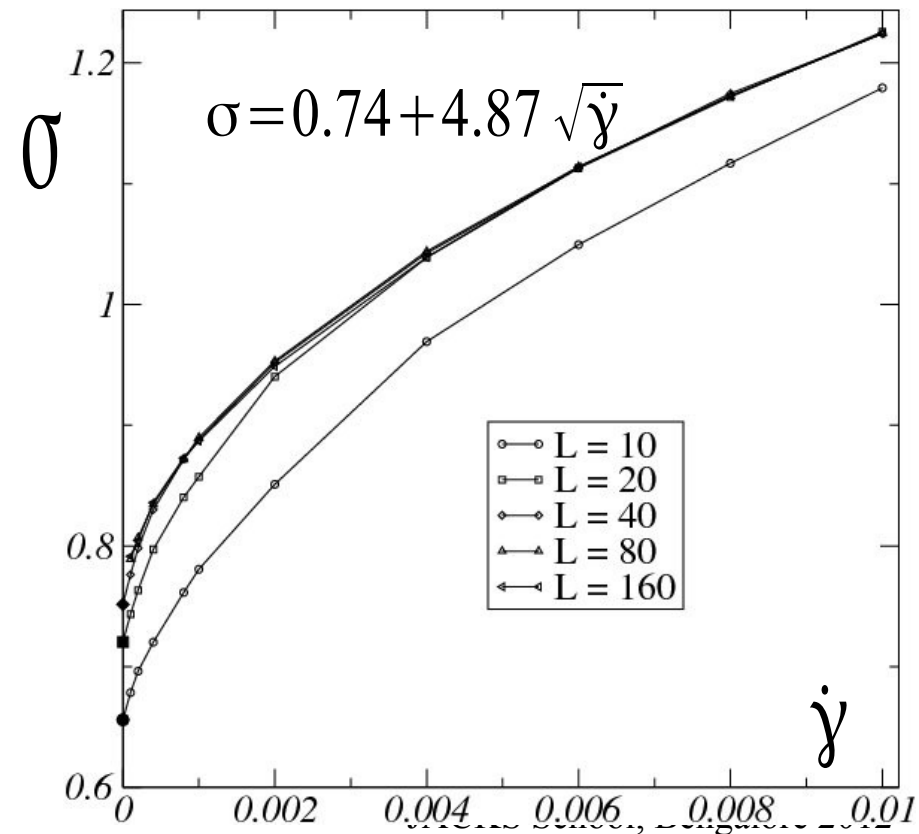
guess: $\sigma - \sigma_y \approx \mu \dot{\gamma} \tau_{\text{av}}$

event duration: $\tau_{\text{av}} \sim l / c_s$
(domino-like avalanches)

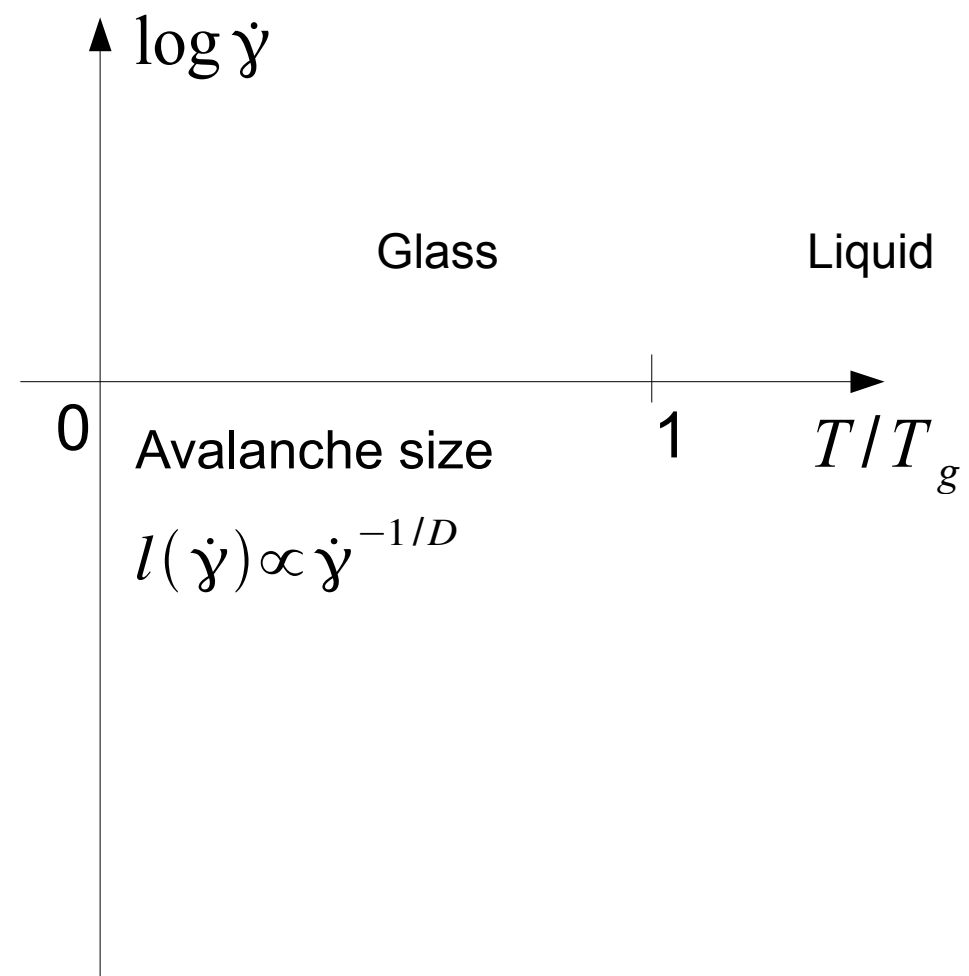
⇒

$\sigma = \sigma_y + C \sqrt{\dot{\gamma}}$

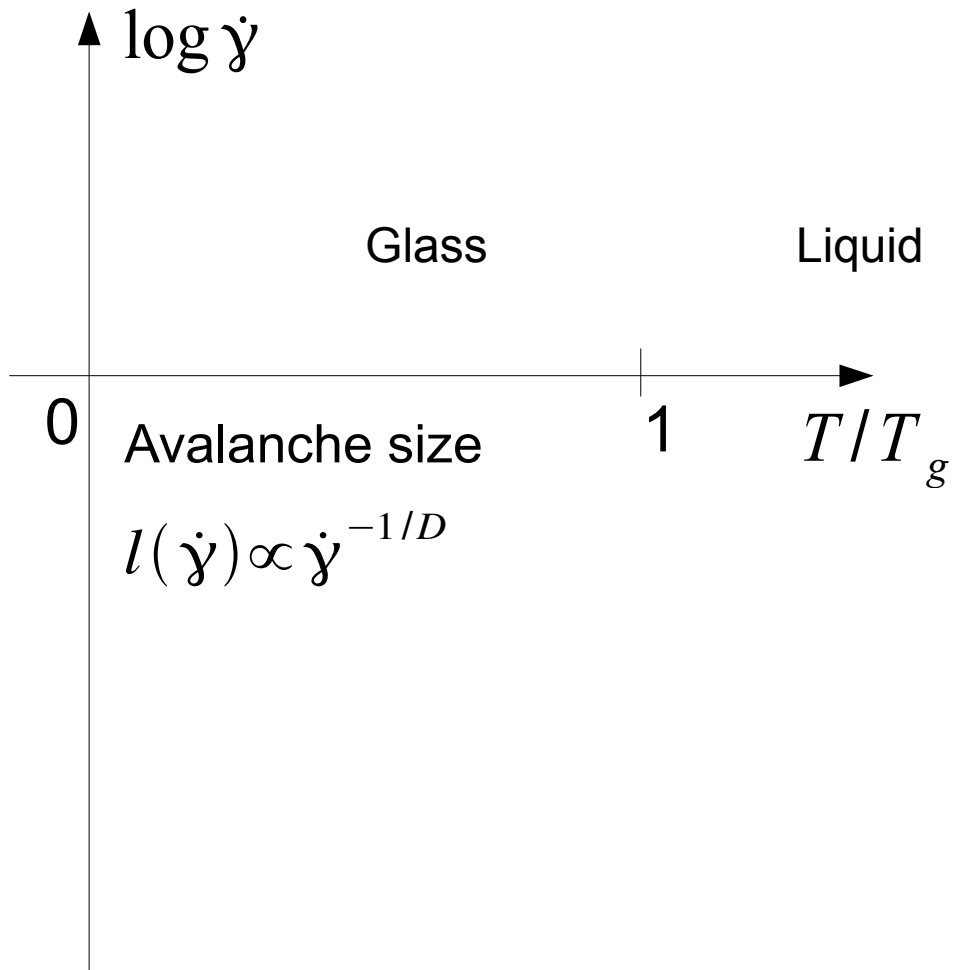
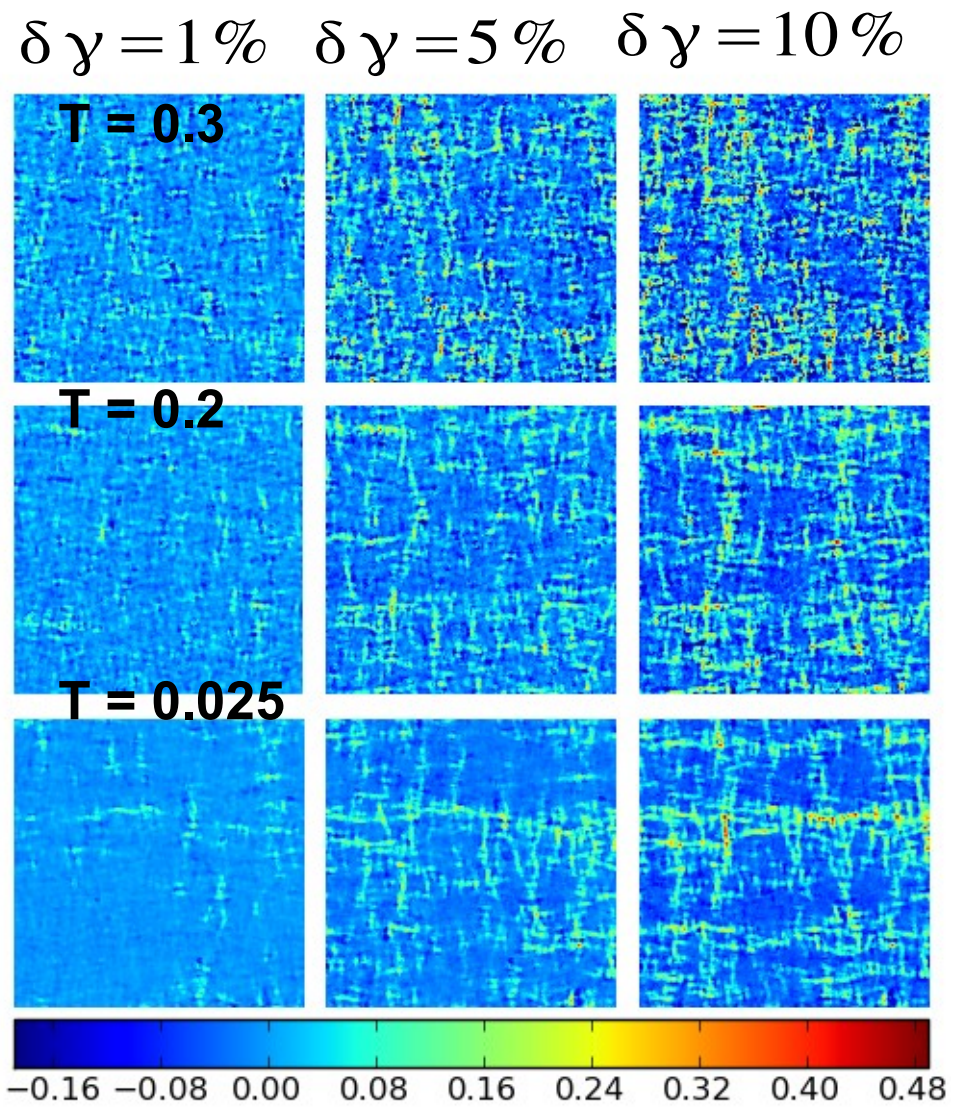
$$C = \frac{\mu}{2c_s} a^2 \frac{\Delta \epsilon_0}{\tau} \approx 6.5$$



At finite temperature



At finite temperature

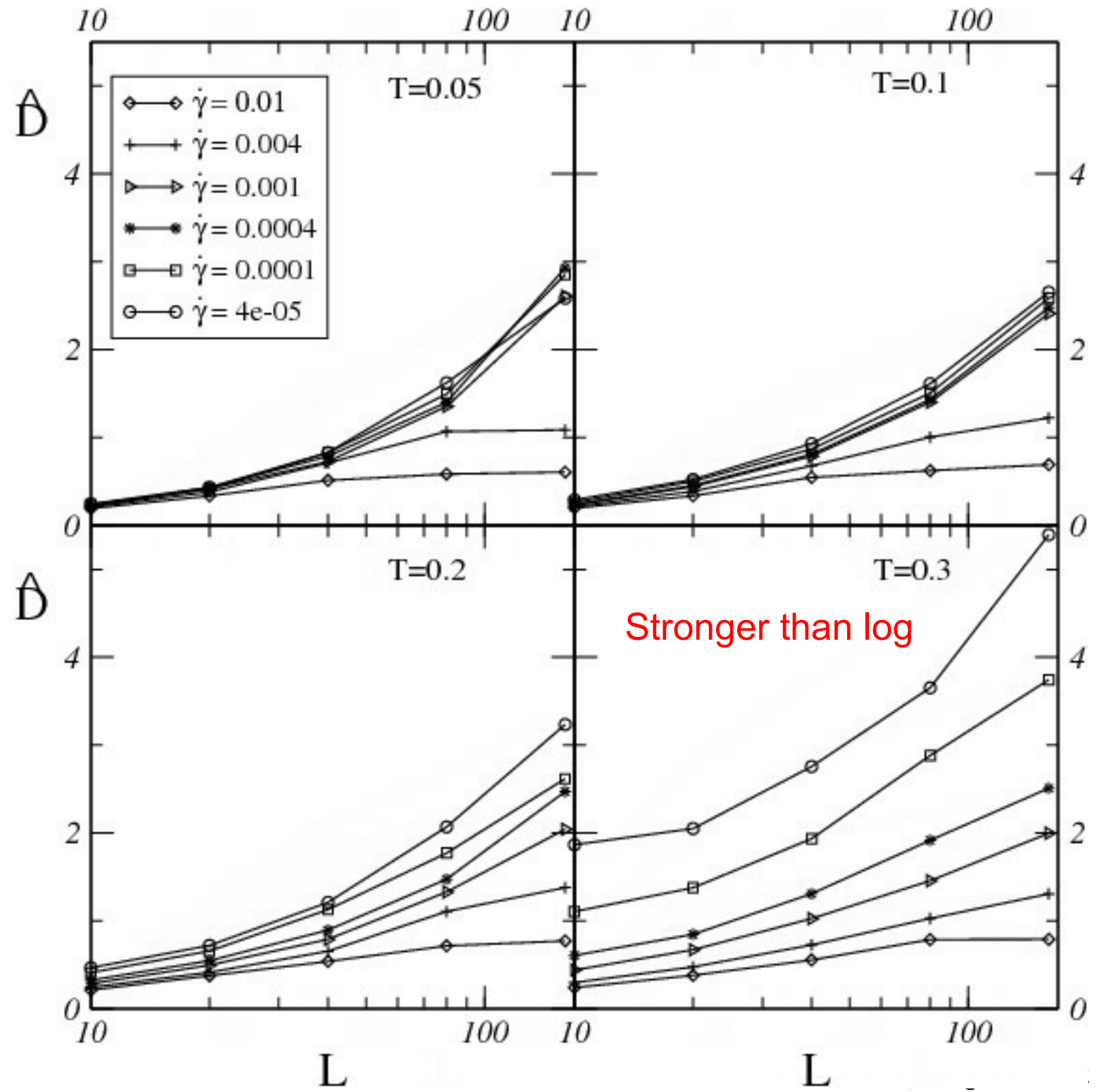


Chattoraj *et al* PRL 105, 266001 (2010)

Finite T, finite strain-rate simulations: $T \neq 0$ $\dot{\gamma} \neq 0$

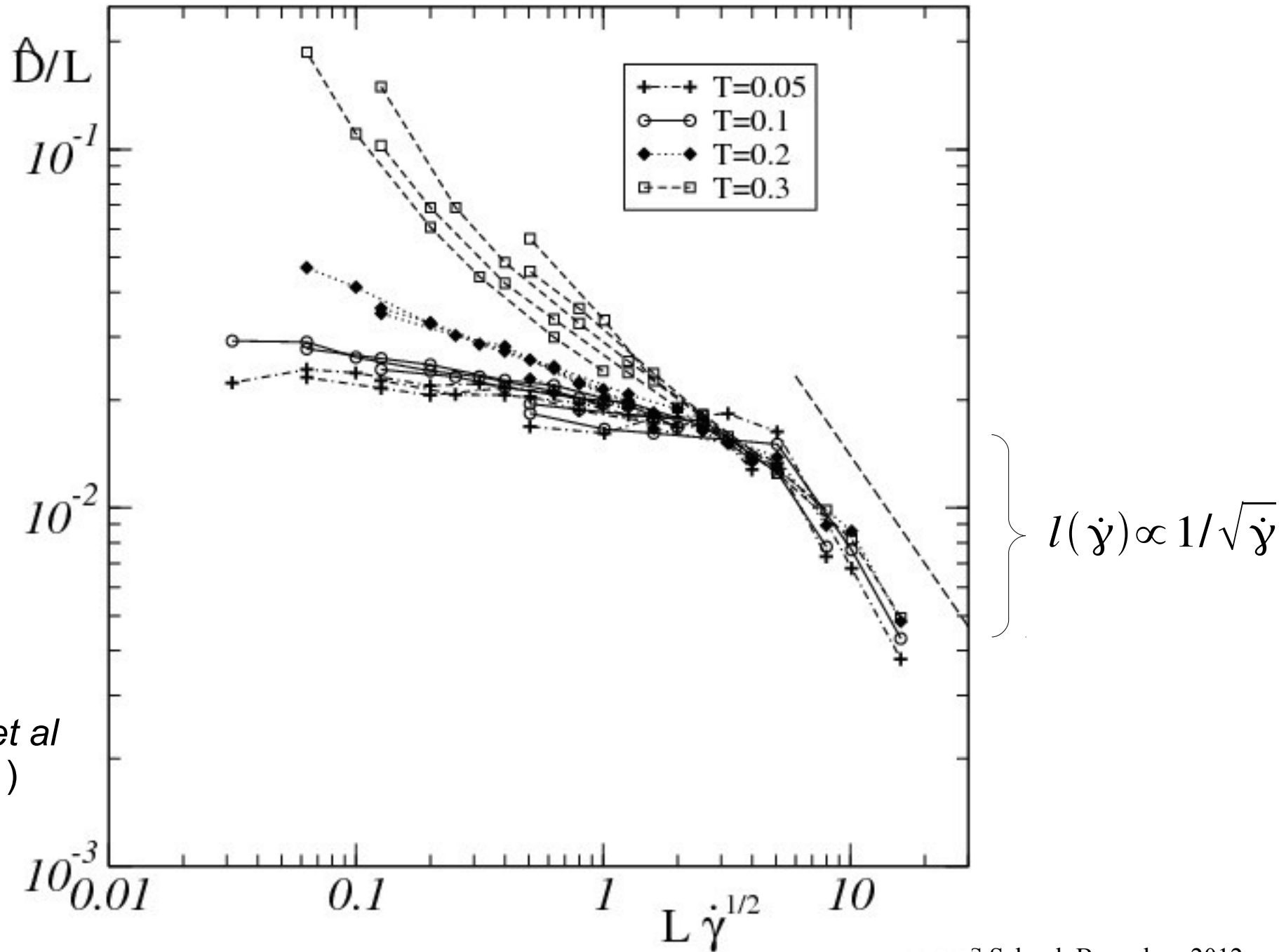
- Standard MD simulation
- Velocity rescaling

For independent events:
 $\hat{D} \sim \ln L$

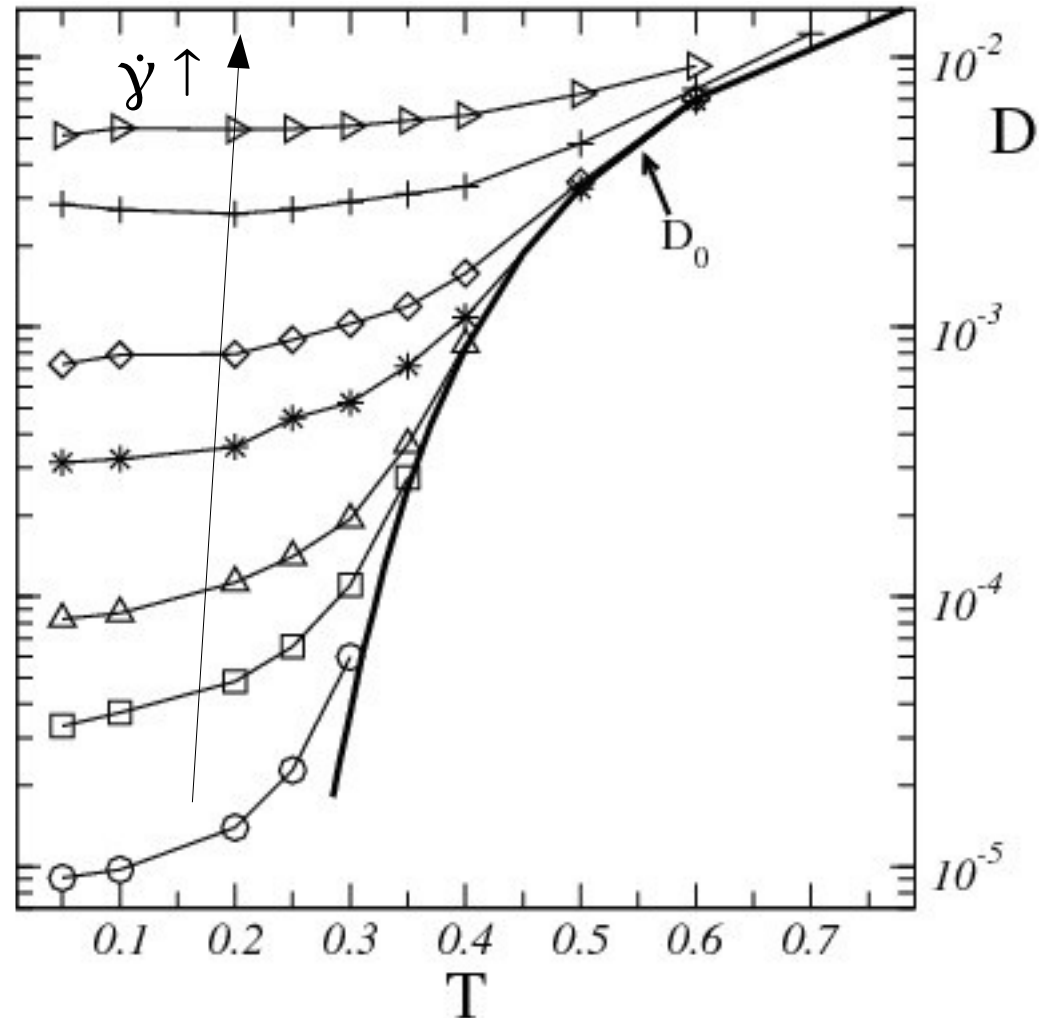


Chattoraj *et al*
PRE (2011)

At finite T



$$D = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta t}$$

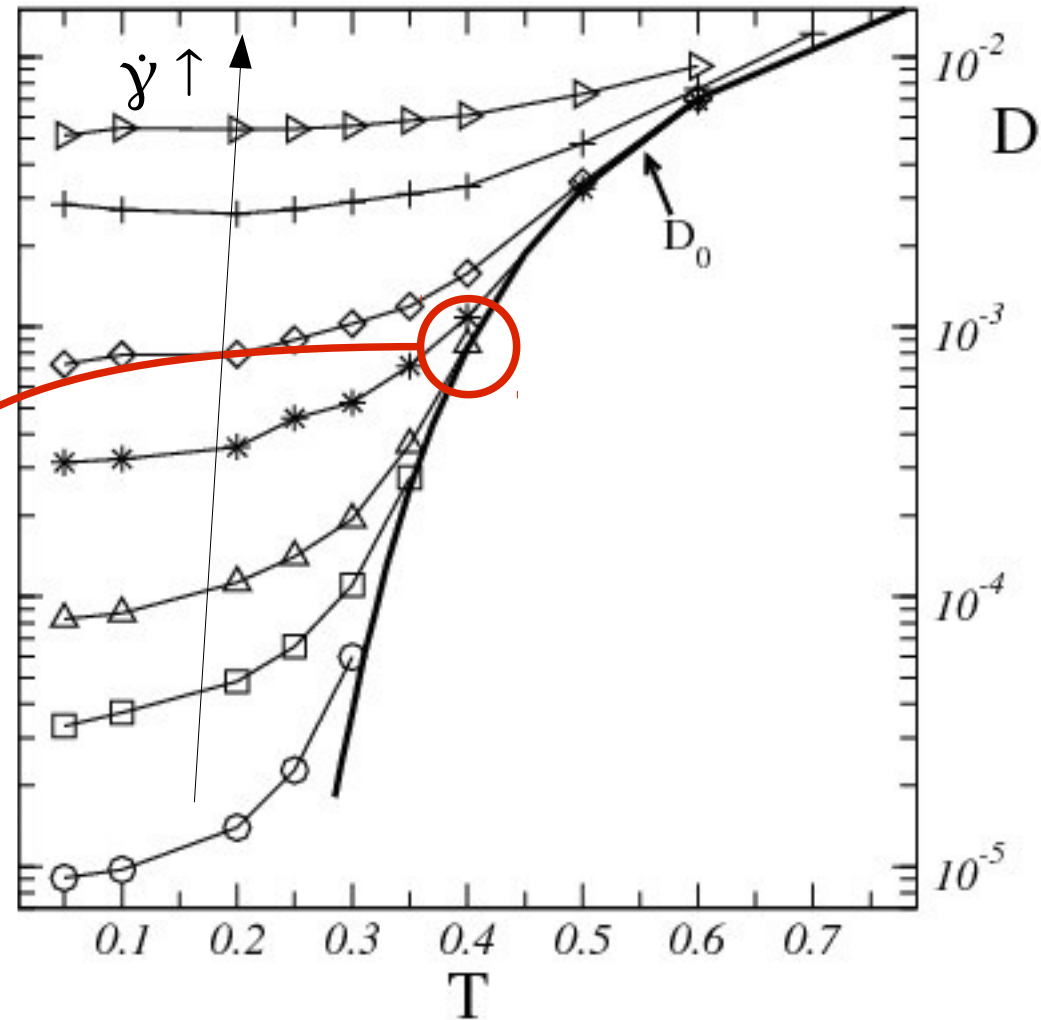
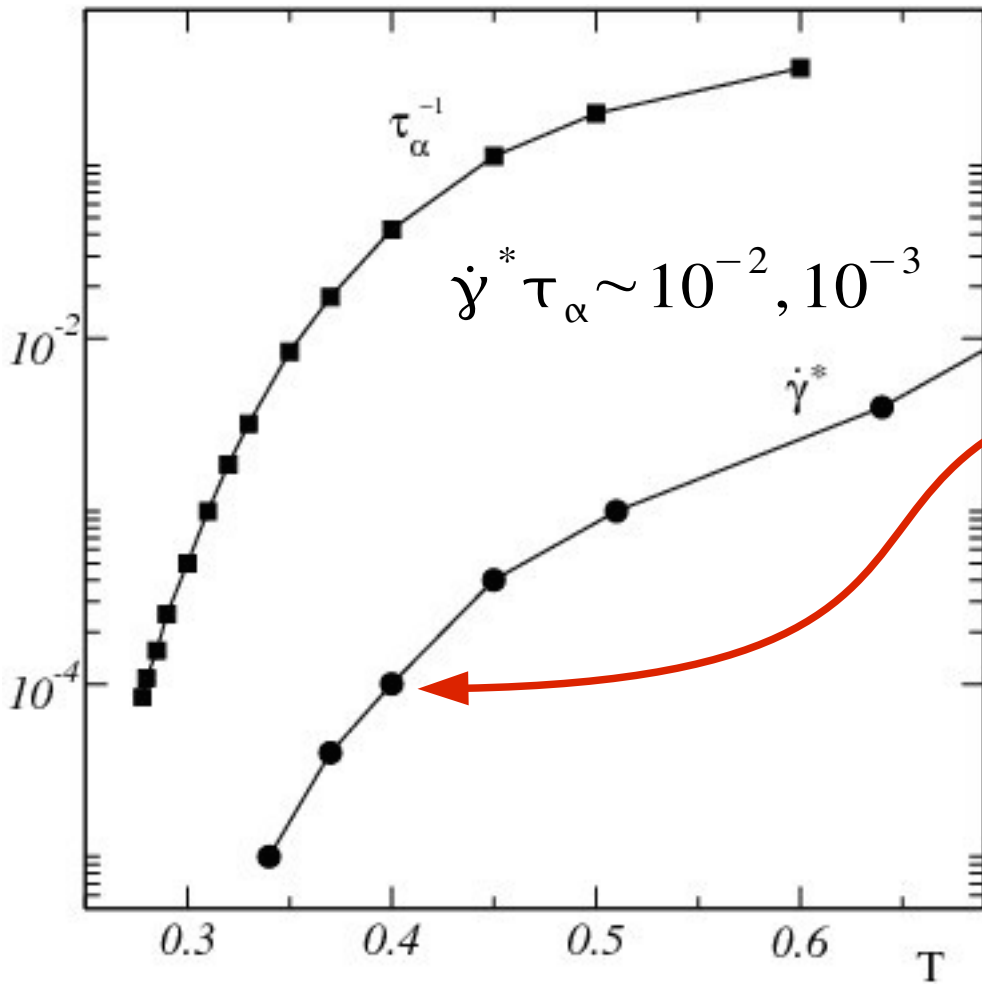


Finite T, finite strain-rate simulations: $T \neq 0$ $\dot{\gamma} \neq 0$

- Standard MD simulation
- Velocity rescaling

Chatteraj et al, *PRE* 2011

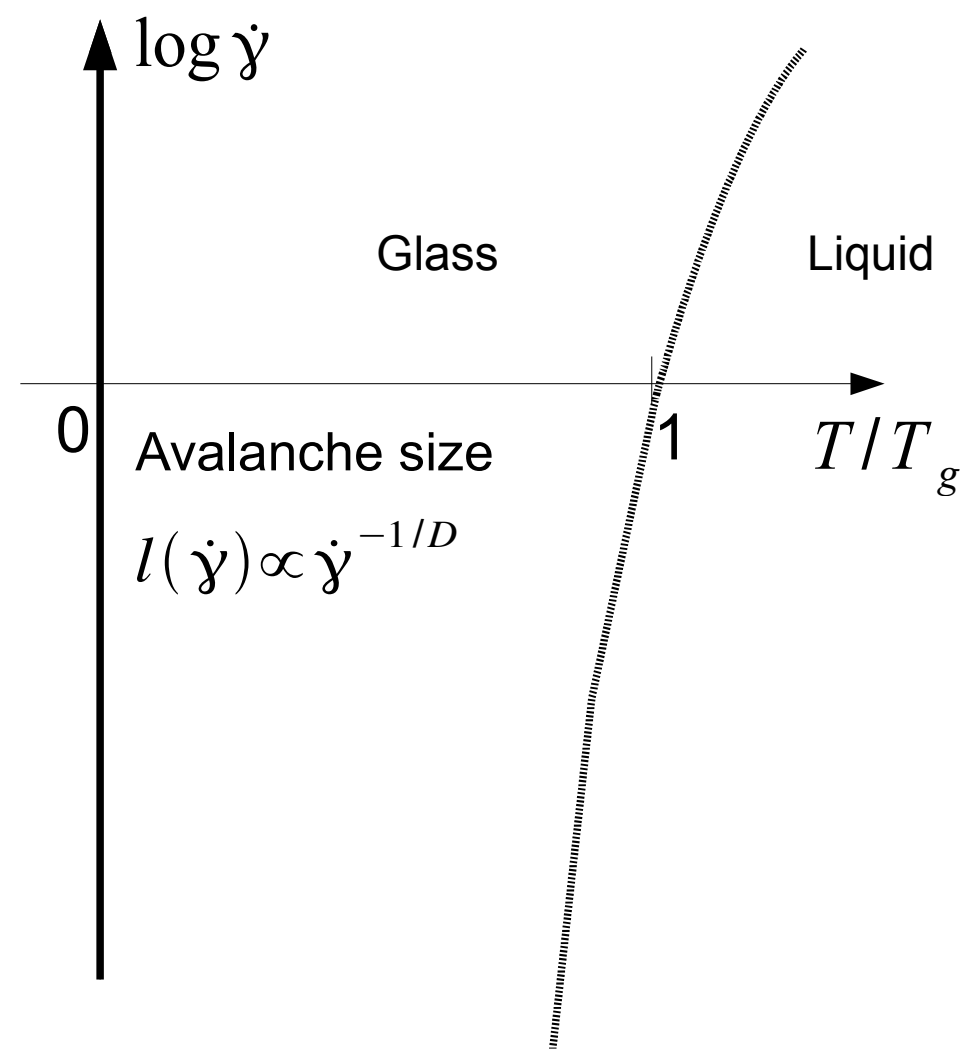
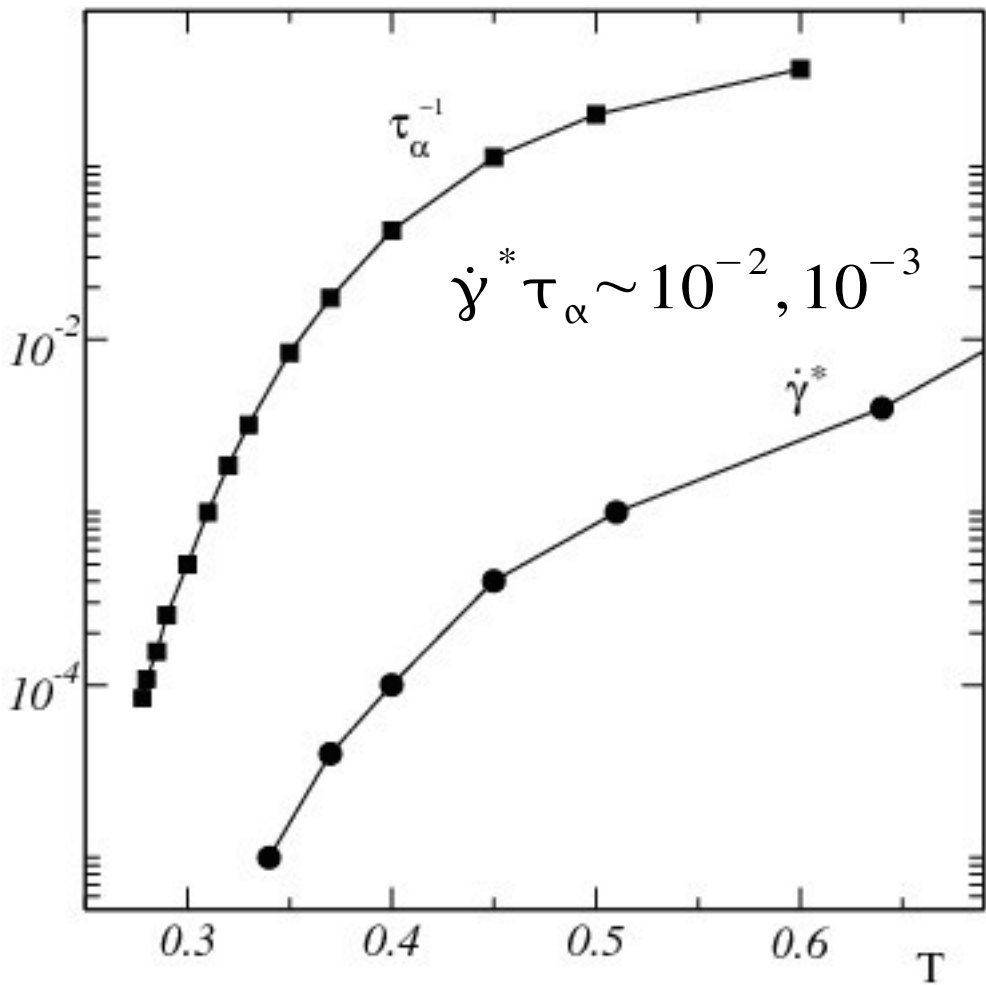
$$D = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \Delta y^2 \rangle}{\Delta t}$$



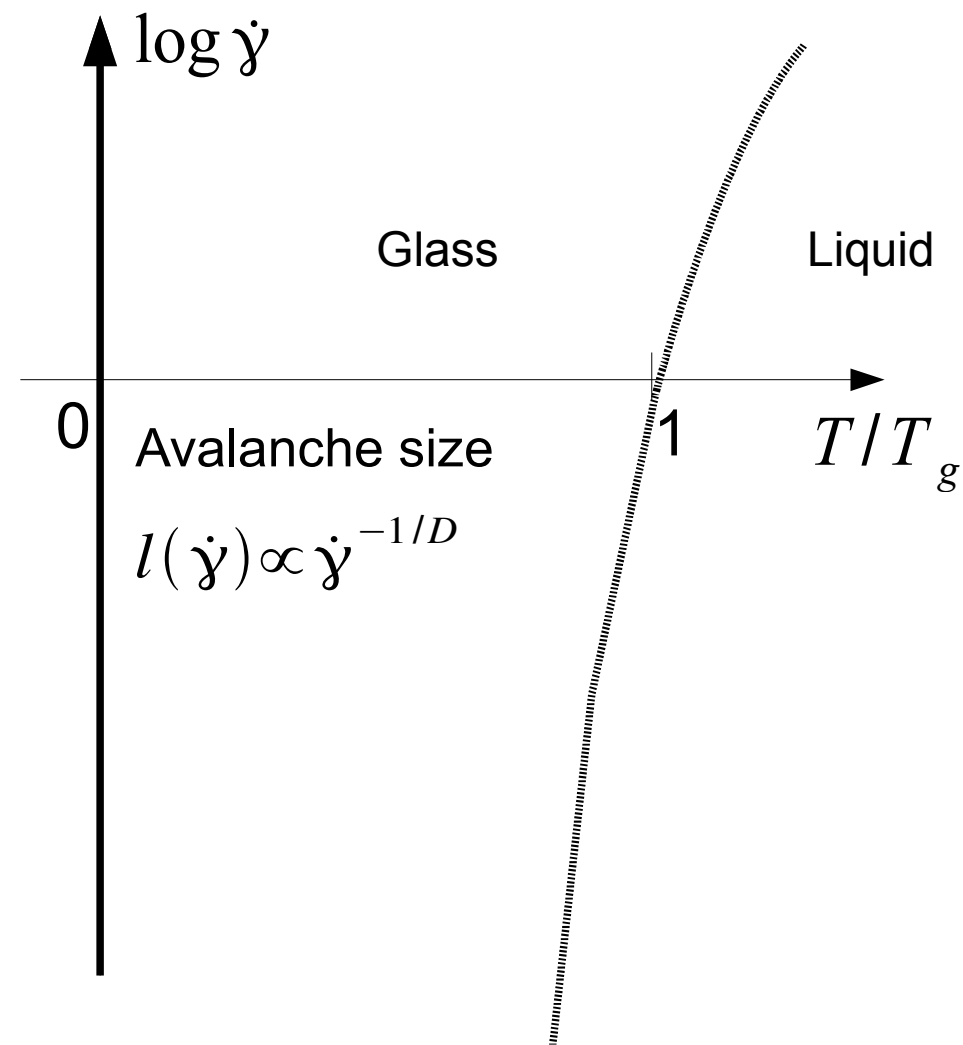
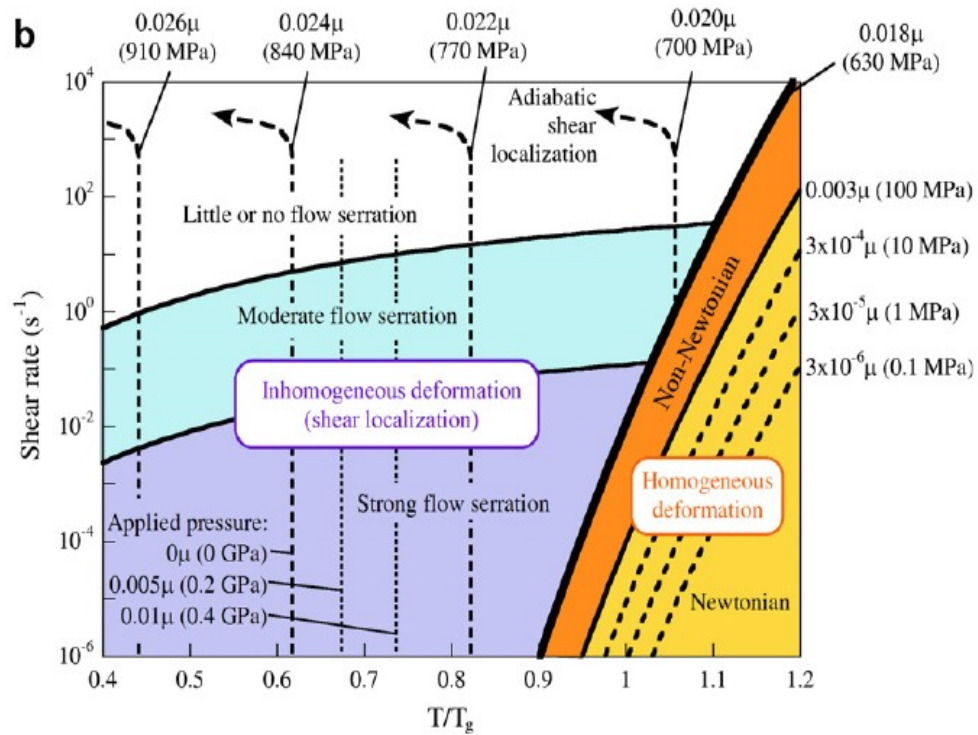
Consistent with
Furukawa et al,
PRL (2009)

Finite T, finite strain-rate simulations: $T \neq 0$ $\dot{\gamma} \neq 0$
 - Standard MD simulation
 - Velocity rescaling

Chattoraj et al, PRL 2011



Schuh *et al*,
Acta Mat. 55, 4067 (2007)



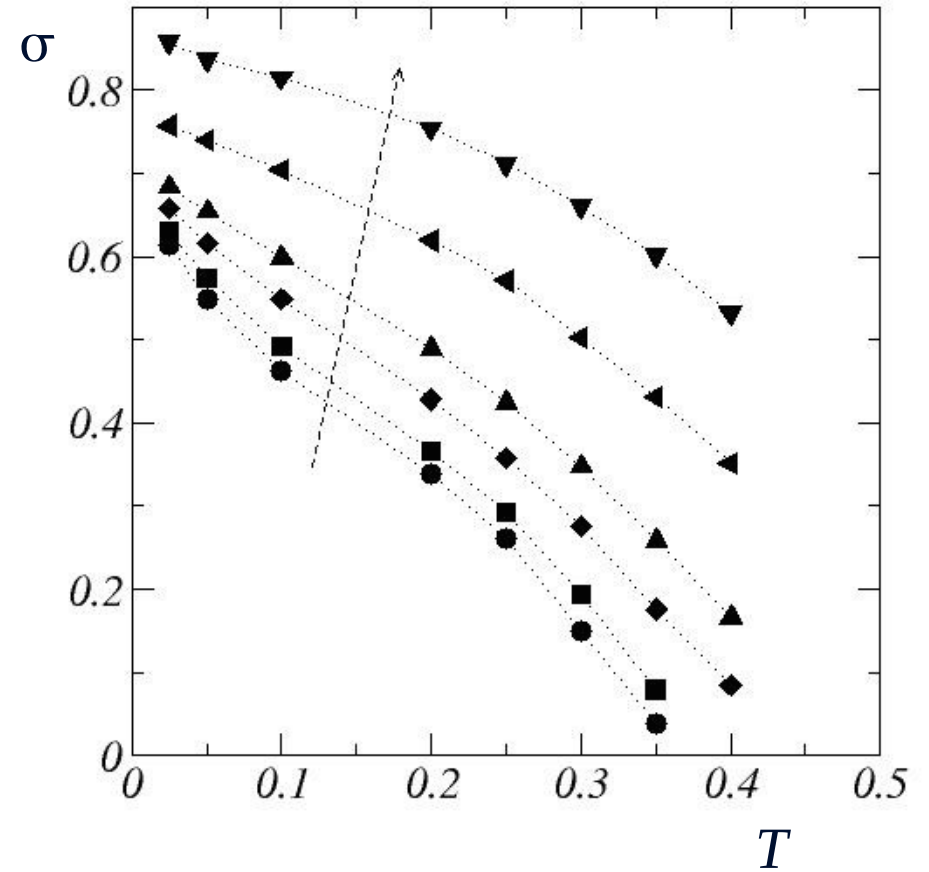
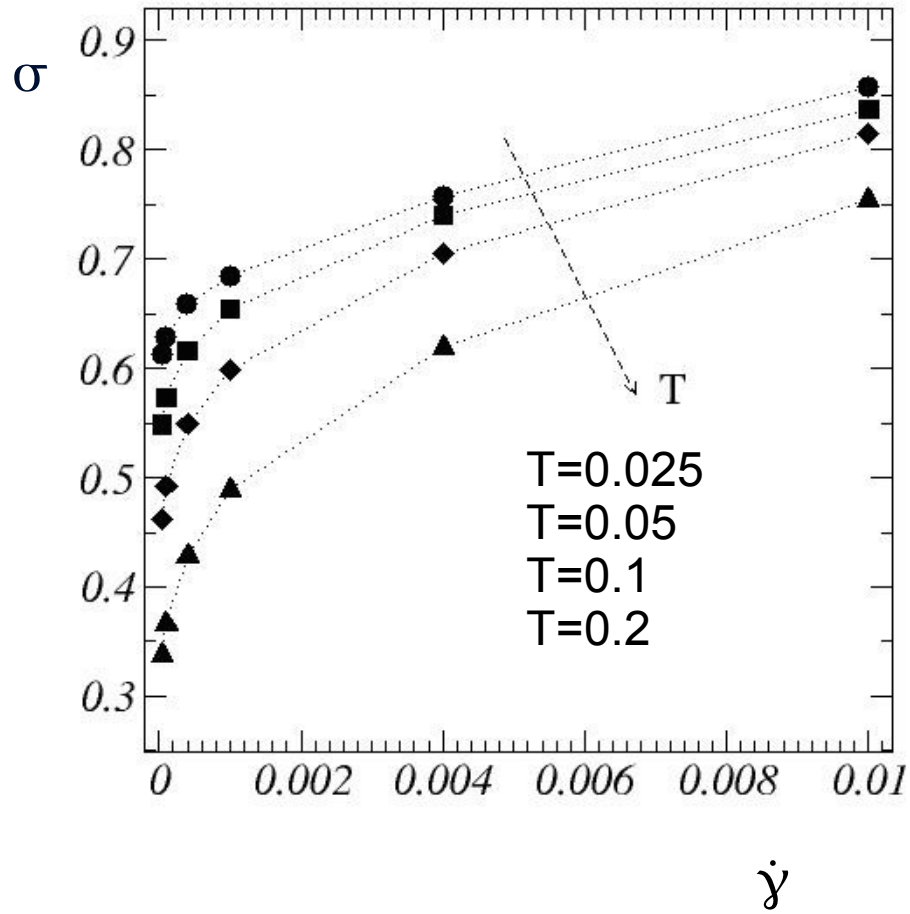
Partial conclusion: elements of a phenomenology

- AQS simulations support the following phenomenology:
 - Plasticity results from local shear transformations (as Argon proposed)
 - Zones are progressively convected towards instability
 - Each flip produces an Eshelby-like field likely to trigger secondary flips

This shows up as system-spanning avalanches

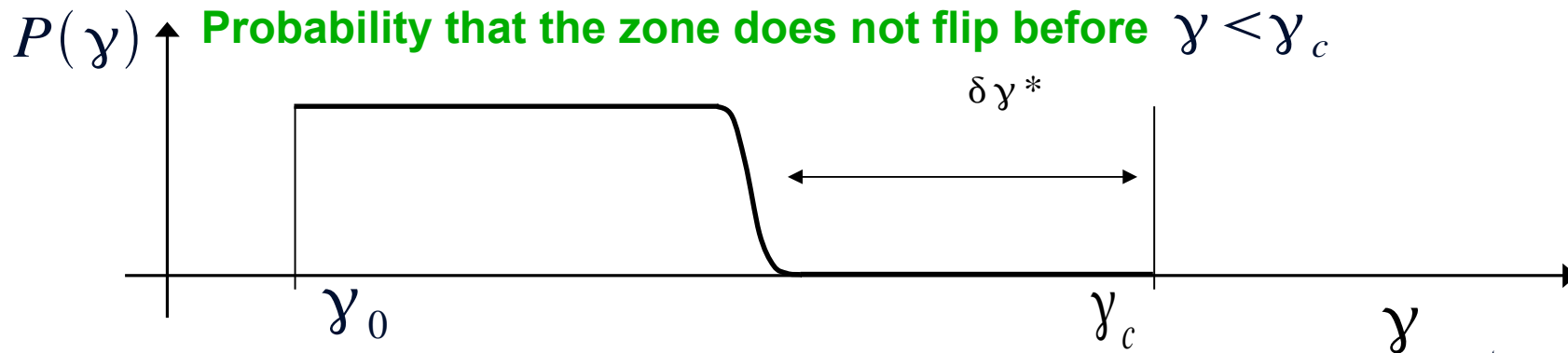
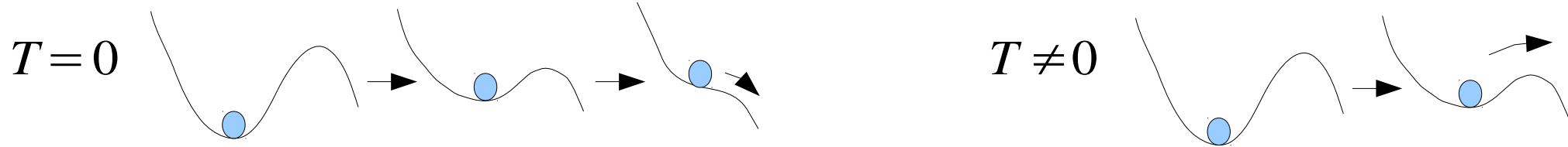
- At usual finite $\dot{\gamma}$, the same phenomenology continues to govern plasticity
 - The size of avalanches $l \sim \dot{\gamma}^{-1/D}$
 - With normal cross-over behavior when $l \sim L$
 - We propose these changes govern stress/strain-rate relation
- At finite $T < T_g$:
 - Avalanches continue to be present and are only progressively blurred when approaching T_g

Stress data



- $\sigma(\dot{\gamma})$
- Decreases strongly with T
 - No longer fits Hershel Bulkley law

Activation and driven zones



$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial \gamma} = -\frac{1}{\dot{\gamma}} P R(\gamma)$$

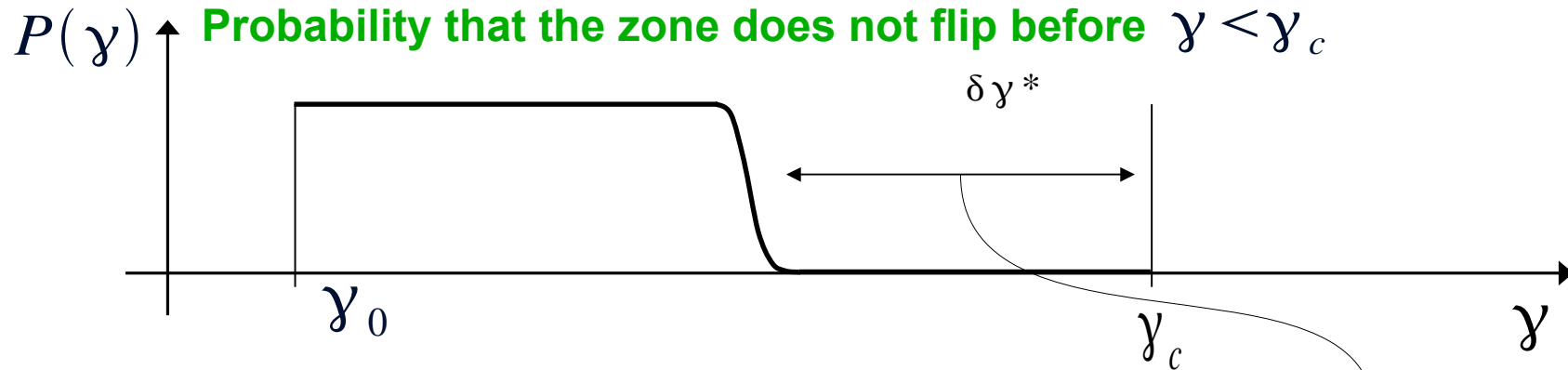
rate of activated jumps:

$$R = \omega \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta E}{T}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow P(\gamma; \gamma_0) = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\dot{\gamma}} \int_{\gamma_0}^{\gamma} R(\gamma') d\gamma'\right)$$

with: $\begin{cases} \omega \propto (\gamma_c - \gamma)^{1/4} \\ \Delta E \propto (\gamma_c - \gamma)^{3/2} \end{cases}$

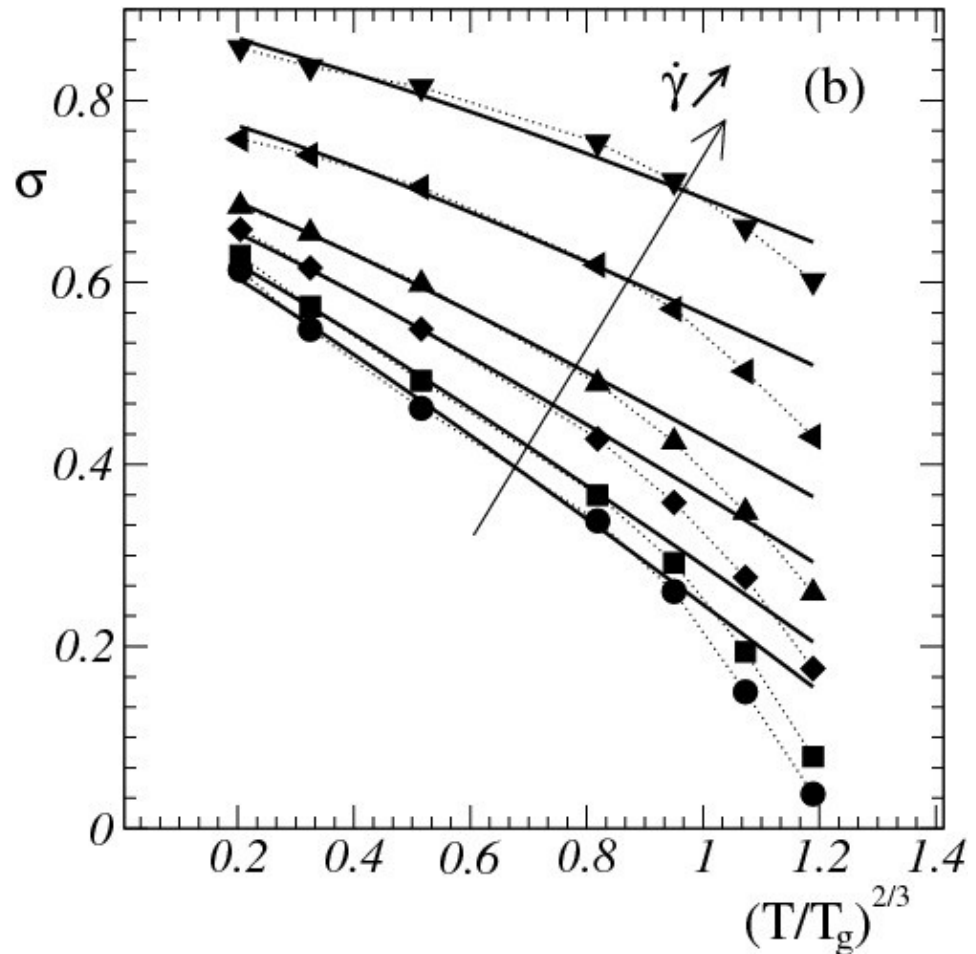
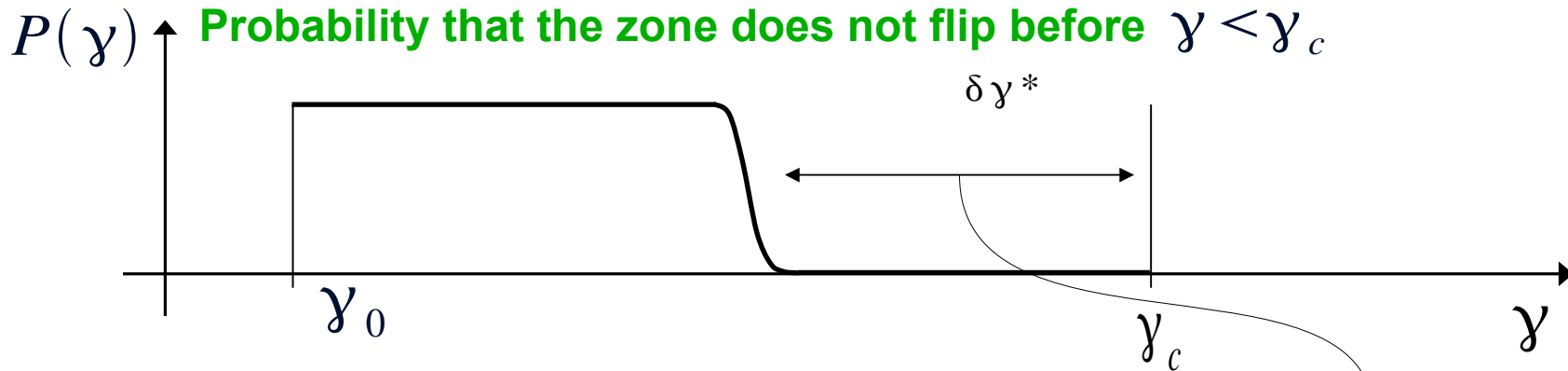
$$P(\gamma) = \exp\left(-\frac{2}{3} \frac{\nu}{\dot{\gamma}} \left(\frac{T}{B}\right)^{5/6} (Q(\delta\gamma) - Q(\delta\gamma_0))\right) \quad Q(\delta\gamma) = \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{6}; \frac{B}{T} \delta\gamma^{3/2}\right)$$



- Argue: Mechanical noise and thermal noise can be separated
- Yields: Average shift of occurrence of plastic events

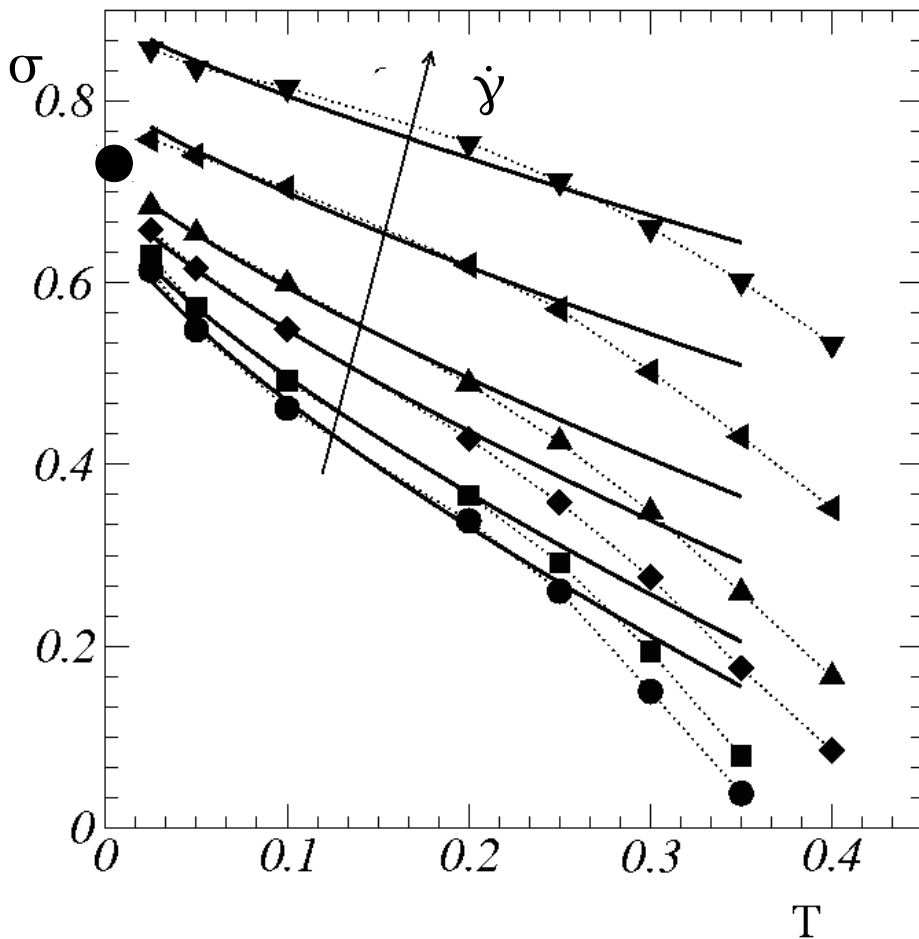
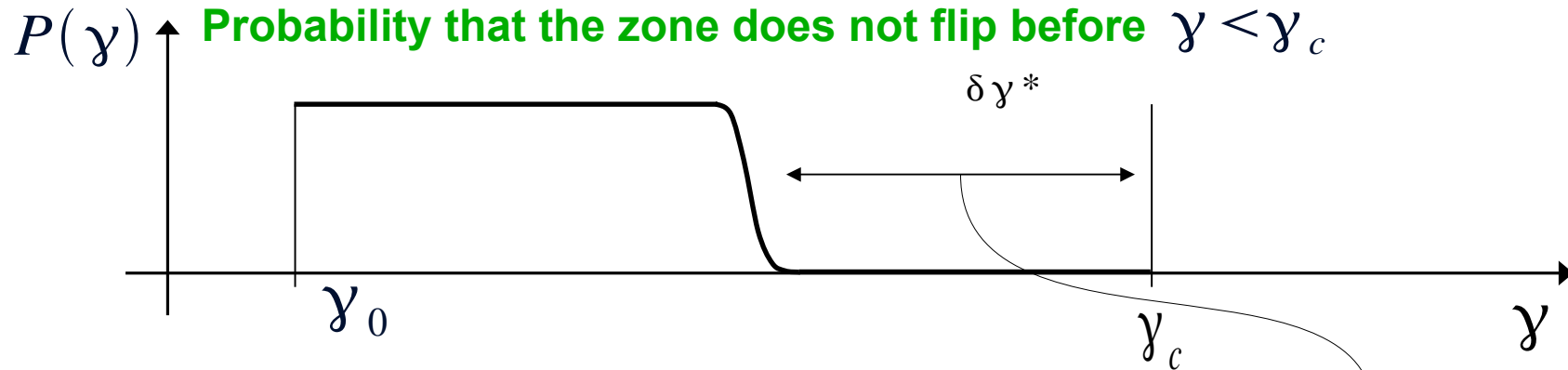
$$\delta \gamma^* \sim \left[\frac{T}{B} \ln \left(\frac{2}{3} \frac{\nu}{\dot{\gamma}} \left(\frac{T}{B} \right)^{5/6} \right) \right]^{2/3}$$

$$\sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T) = \sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T=0) - 2 \mu \overline{\delta \gamma^*}$$



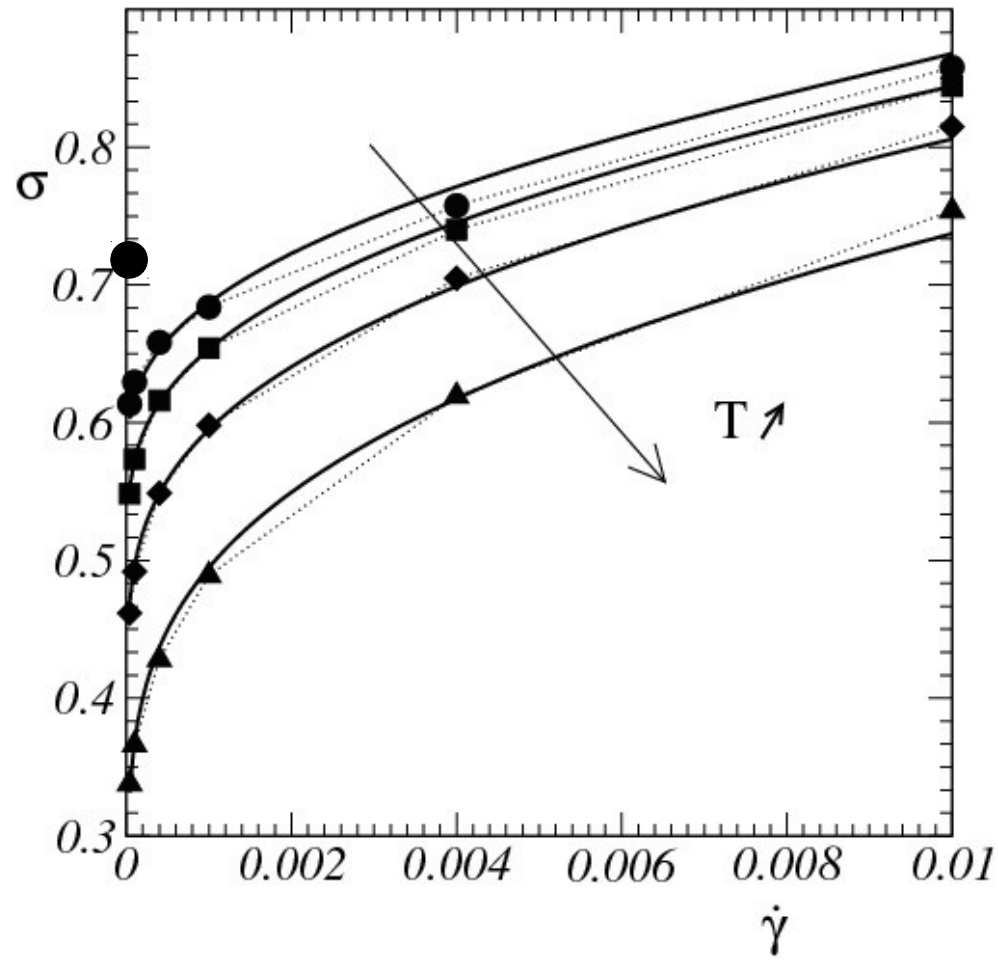
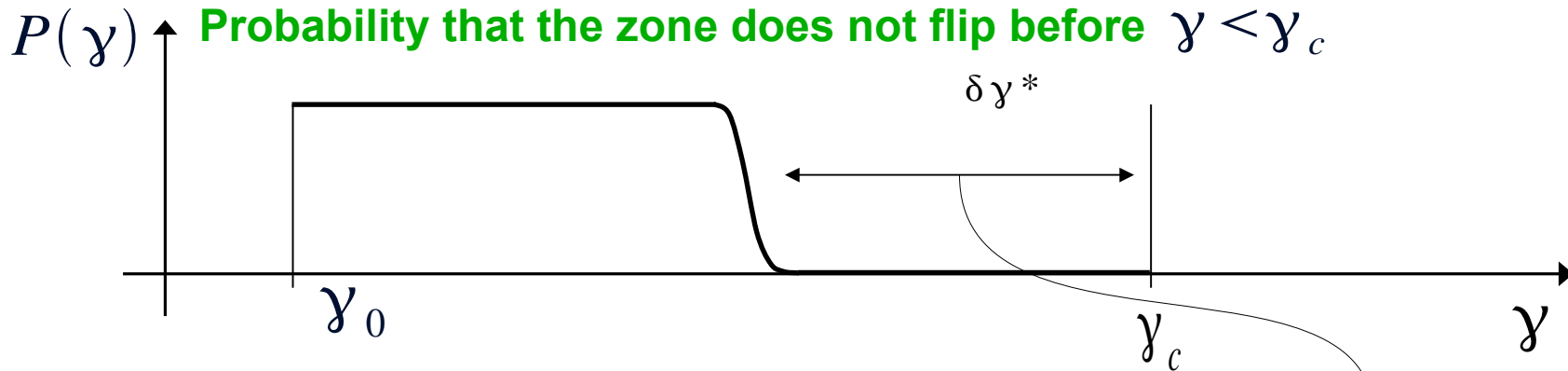
$$\delta\gamma^* \sim \left[\frac{T}{B} \ln \left(\frac{2\nu}{3\dot{\gamma}} \left(\frac{T}{B} \right)^{5/6} \right) \right]^{2/3}$$

$$\sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T) = \sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T=0) - 2\mu \overline{\delta\gamma^*}$$



$$\delta\gamma^* \sim \left[\frac{T}{B} \ln \left(\frac{2}{3} \frac{\nu}{\dot{\gamma}} \left(\frac{T}{B} \right)^{5/6} \right) \right]^{2/3}$$

$$\sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T) = \sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T=0) - 2\mu \overline{\delta\gamma^*}$$



$$\delta\gamma^* \sim \left[\frac{T}{B} \ln \left(\frac{2}{3} \frac{\nu}{\dot{\gamma}} \left(\frac{T}{B} \right)^{5/6} \right) \right]^{2/3}$$

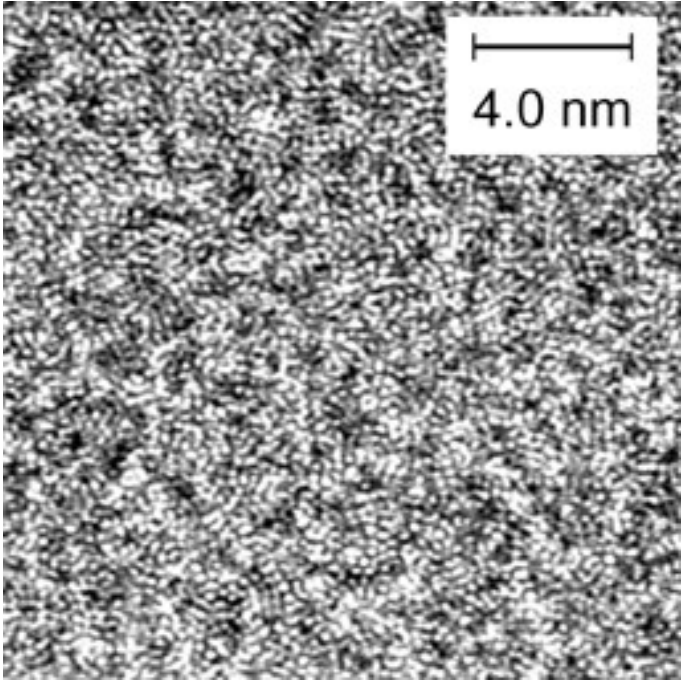
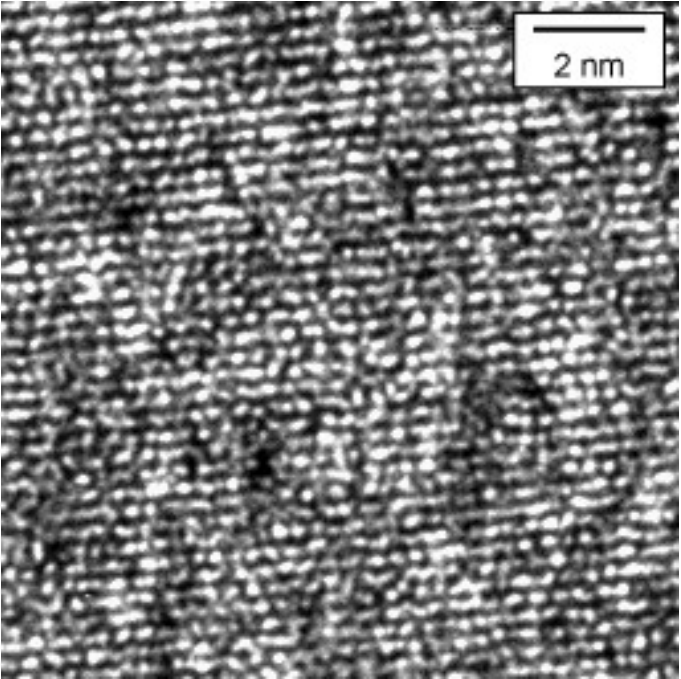
$$\sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T) = \sigma(\dot{\gamma}; T=0) - 2\mu \overline{\delta\gamma^*}$$

Metallic glasses

Zr-Ti-Cu-Ni-Al Alloy



TEM Hufnagel



Fabrication: avoiding cristallization

Examples of Critical Cooling Rates ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{s}$) for Glass Formation

Material	Homogeneous nucleation	Heterogeneous nucleation contact angle (deg)		
		100	60	40
SiO_2 glass ^a	9×10^{-6}	10^{-5}	8×10^{-3}	2×10^{-1}
GeO_2 glass ^a	3×10^{-3}	3×10^3	1	20
$\text{Na}_2\text{O} \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$ glass ^a	6×10^{-3}	8×10^{-3}	10	$3 \times 10^{+2}$
Salol	10			
Water	10^7			
Ag	10^{10}			
Typical metal ^a	9×10^8	9×10^9	10^{10}	5×10^{10}

^a After P. I. K. Onorato and D. R. Uhlmann, J. Non-Cryst. Sol., 22(2), 367–378 (1976).

Fabrication:
avoiding cristallization

AuSi, NbNi, ZrCu, FeB,... 1959

10^5 - 10^6 K/s

Bulk metallic glasses,
Ni-Pd-P, La-Al-Ni,
Mg-Cu-Y, Zr-Al-Ni-Cu

100 K/s

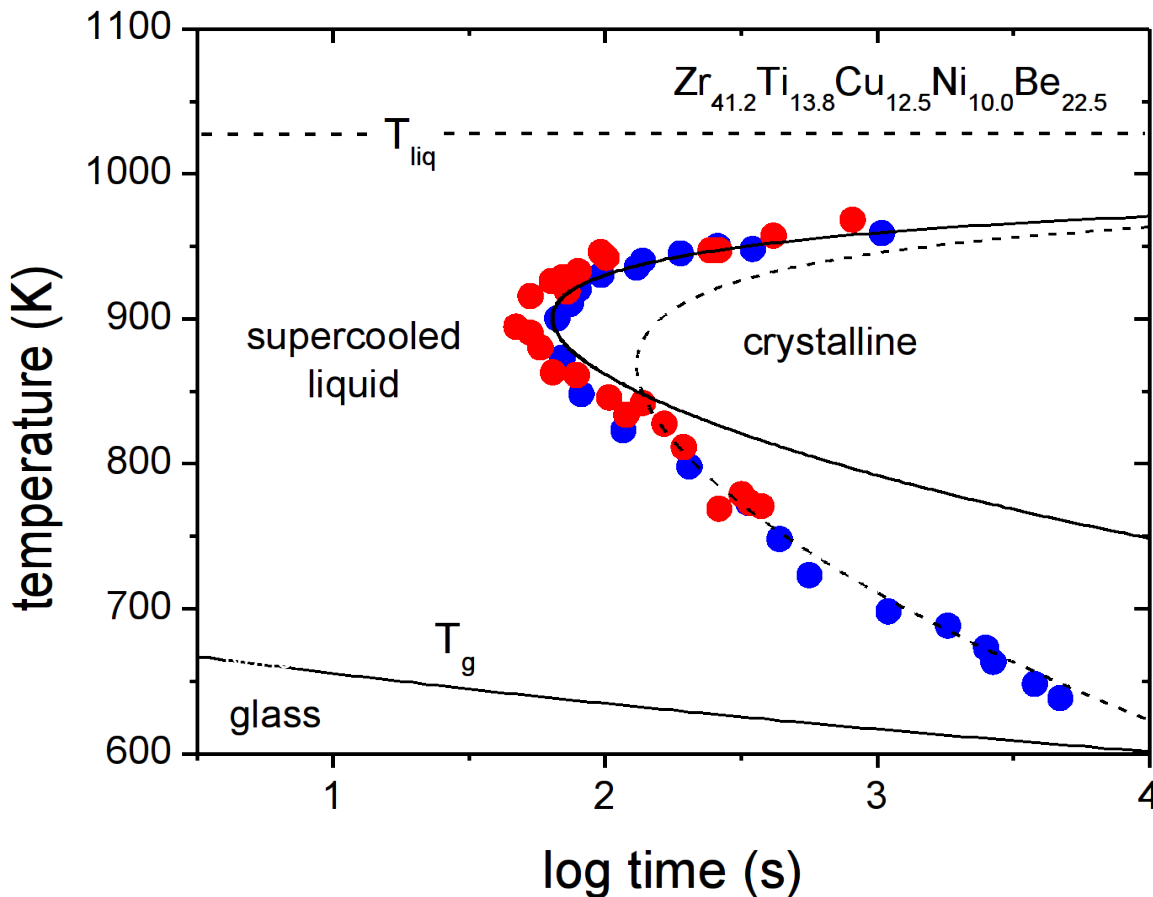
Zr-Ti-Cu-Ni-Be,
Zr-Ti-Al-Cu-Ni,...

1 K/s

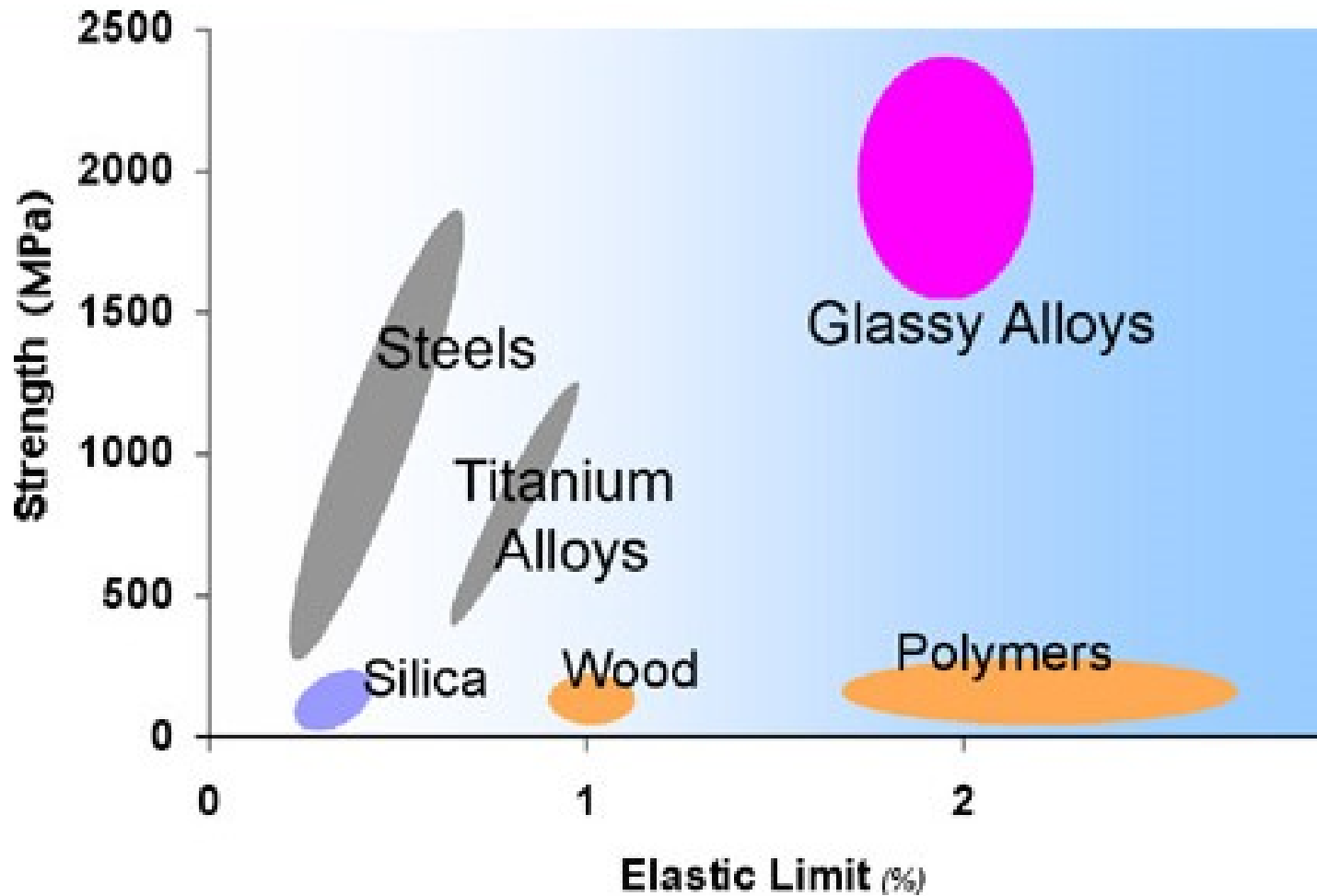
1984

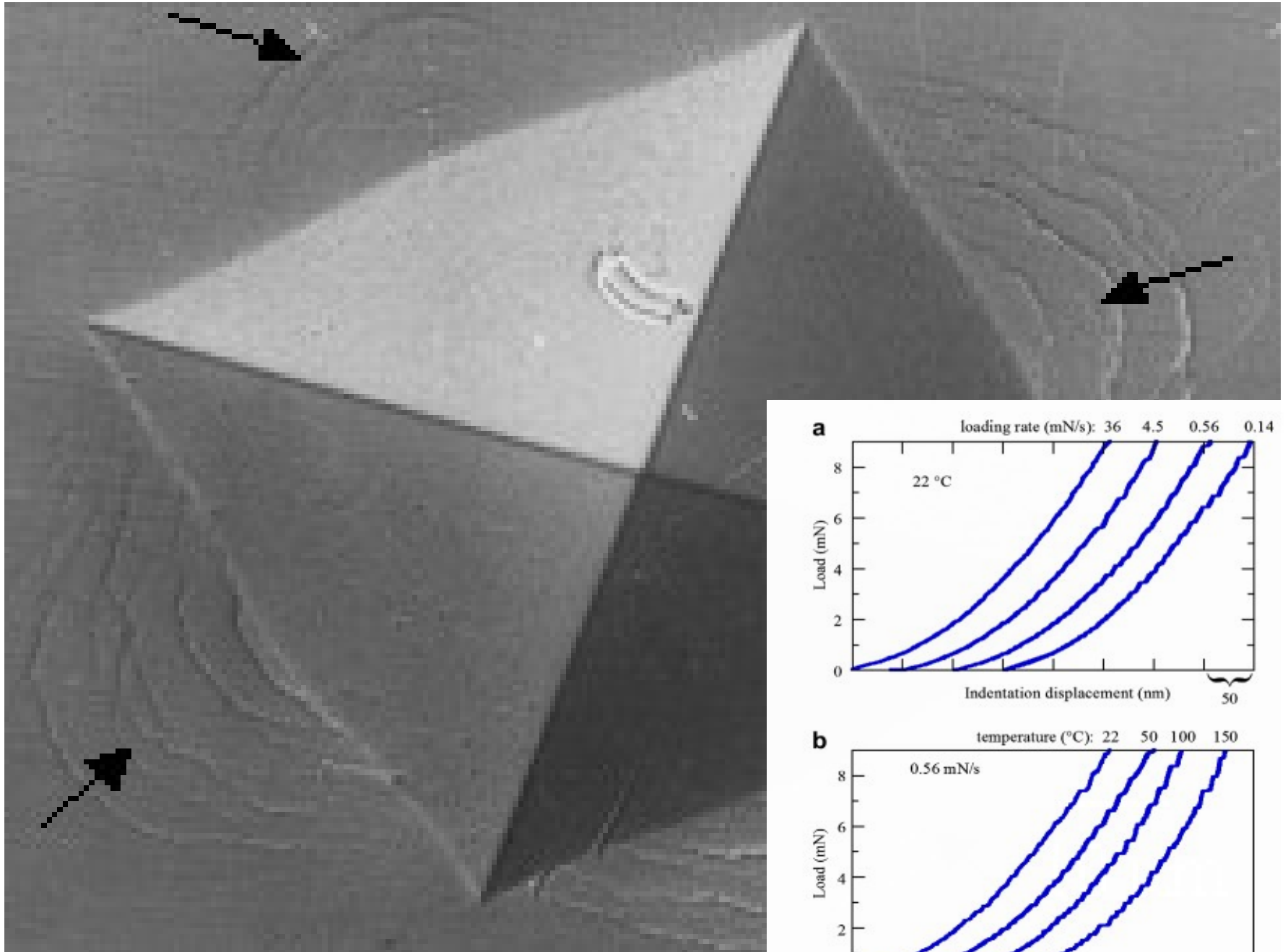
1991

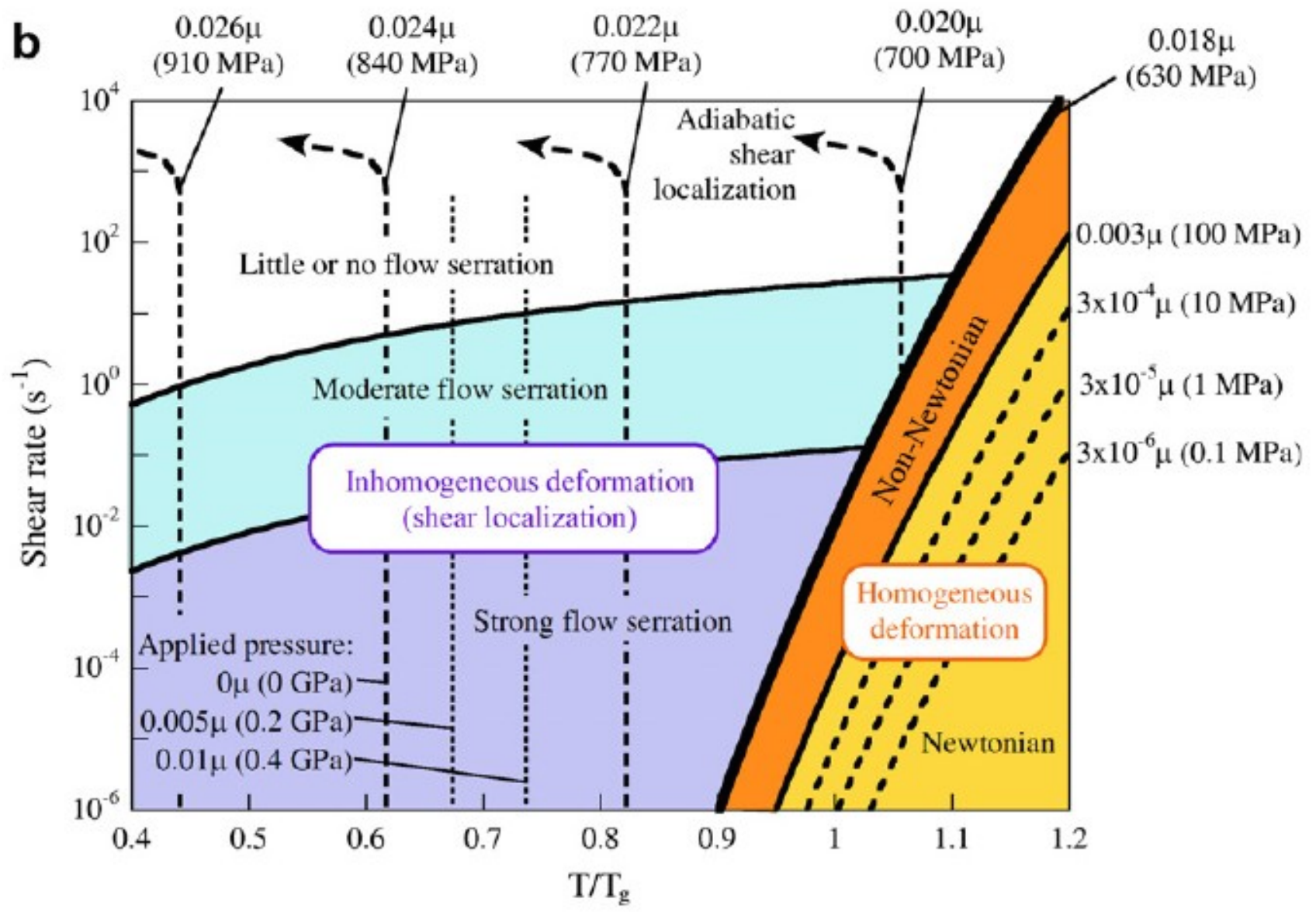
1993



Metallic glasses: high strength







Schuh *et al*,
 Acta Mat. 55, 4067 (2007)
 JACKS School, Bangalore 2012

TABLE I. Summary of data on alloy compositions and properties used in this Letter.

Alloy	ρ (g/cc)	Y (GPa)	G (GPa)	B (GPa)	Property				Ref.
					ν	σ_y (GPa)	T_g (K)	σ_y/Y	
1. Zr _{41.2} Ti _{13.8} Ni ₁₀ Cu _{12.5} Be _{22.5}	5.9	95	34.1	114.1	0.352	1.86	618	0.0196	[13–15]
		97.2	35.9	111.2	0.354	1.85	613	0.0190	
2. Zr ₄₈ Nb ₈ Ni ₁₂ Cu ₁₄ Be ₁₈	6.7	93.9	34.3	118	0.367	1.95	620	0.0208	[15]
3. Zr ₅₅ Ti ₅ Cu ₂₀ Ni ₁₀ Al ₁₀	6.62	85	31	118	0.375	1.63	625	0.0192	[15]
4. Zr _{57.5} Nb ₅ Cu _{15.4} Ni ₁₂ Al ₁₀	6.5	84.7	30.8	117.6	0.379	1.58	663	0.0187	[15]
5. Zr ₅₅ Al ₁₉ Co ₁₉ Cu ₇	6.2	101.7	37.6	114.9	0.352	2.2	733	0.0216	[16]
6. Pd ₄₀ Cu ₃₀ Ni ₁₀ P ₂₀	9.28	92	34.5	151.8	0.399	1.72	593	0.0187	[17]
7. Pd ₄₀ Cu ₃₀ Ni ₁₀ P ₂₀	9.28	92	33	146	0.394	1.72	593	0.0187	[18]
8. Pd ₄₀ Cu ₃₀ Ni ₁₀ P ₂₀	9.30	92	35.8	144.7	0.394	1.75	595	0.0190	[17]
9. Pd ₆₀ Cu ₂₀ P ₂₀	9.78	91	32.3	167	0.409	1.70	604	0.0187	[15]
10. Pd ₄₀ Cu ₄₀ P ₂₀	9.30	93	33.2	158	0.402	1.75	548	0.0188	[15]
11. Ni ₄₅ Ti ₂₀ Zr ₂₅ Al ₁₀	6.4	109.3	40.2	129.6	0.359	2.37	791	0.0217	[19]
12. Ni ₄₀ Ti ₁₇ Zr ₂₈ Al ₁₀ Cu ₅	6.48	127.6	47.3	140.7	0.349	2.59	862	0.0203	[19]
13. Ni ₆₀ Nb ₃₅ Sn ₅	8.64	183.7	66.32	267	0.385	3.85	885	0.0210	[20]
14. Ni ₆₀ Sn ₆ (Nb _{0.8} Ta _{0.2}) ₃₄	9.24	161.3	59.41	189	0.357	3.50	875	0.0217	[16]
15. Ni ₆₀ Sn ₆ (Nb _{0.6} Ta _{0.4}) ₃₄	9.80	163.7	60.1	197.6	0.361	3.58	882	0.0219	[16]
16. Cu ₆₄ Zr ₃₆	8.07	92	34	104.3	0.352	2.0	787	0.0217	[21]
17. Cu ₄₆ Zr ₅₄	7.62	83.5	30.0	128.5	0.391	1.40	696	0.0168	[22]
18. Cu ₄₆ Zr ₄₂ Al ₇ Y ₅	7.23	84.6	31	104.1	0.364	1.60	713	0.0189	[23]
19. Pd _{77.5} Cu ₆ Si _{16.5}	10.4	89.7	31.8	166	0.409	1.5	550	0.0167	[24]
20. Pt ₆₀ Ni ₁₅ P ₂₅	15.7	96.1	33.8	202	0.420	1.4	488	0.0146	[25]
21. Pt _{57.5} Cu _{14.7} Ni ₅ P _{22.8}	15.2	95.7	33.4	243.2	0.434	1.45	490	0.0151	[26]
22. Pd ₆₄ Ni ₁₆ P ₂₀	10.1	91.9	32.7	166	0.405	1.55	452	0.0169	[24]
23. MgGd ₁₀ Cu ₂₅	4.04	49.1	18.6	46.3	0.32	0.98	428	0.020	[16]
24. La ₅₅ Al ₂₅ Cu ₁₀ Ni ₅ Co ₅	6.0	41.9	15.6	44.2	0.342	0.85	430	0.0203	[15]
25. Ce ₇₀ Al ₁₀ Ni ₁₀ Cu ₁₀	6.67	30.3	11.5	27	0.313	0.65	359	0.0215	[27]
26. Cu ₅₀ Hf ₄₃ Al ₇	11.0	113	42	132.8	0.358	2.2	774	0.0195	[16]
27. Cu _{57.5} Hf _{27.5} Ti ₁₅	9.91	103	37.3	117.5	0.356	1.94	729	0.0188	[16]
28. Fe ₆₁ Mn ₁₀ Cr ₄ Mo ₆ Er ₁ C ₁₅ B ₆	6.89	193	75	146	0.280	4.16	870	0.0216	[28]
29. Fe ₅₃ Cr ₁₅ Mo ₁₄ Er ₁ C ₁₅ B ₆	6.92	195	75	180	0.32	4.2	860	0.0215	[28]
30. Au _{49.5} Ag _{5.5} Pd _{2.3} Cu _{26.9} Si _{16.3}	11.6	74.4	26.5	132.3	0.406	1.20	405	0.0141	[29]
31. Au ₅₅ Cu ₂₅ Si ₂₀	12.2	69.8	24.6	139.8	0.417	1.00	348	0.0143	[29]

Conclusion

- Activation over driven barriers

- thermal fluctuations primarily trigger activation above driven barriers
- the avalanche dynamics is unchanged: mere shift of the occurrence of plastic events
- permits to predict $\sigma(\dot{\gamma}, T)$

- Diffusion measurements

- particle displacements dominated by shearing effect when $\dot{\gamma} > \dot{\gamma}^*$ with $\dot{\gamma}^* \tau_\alpha \sim 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}$
- in this region and for $\dot{\gamma} > \dot{\gamma}_c(L)$

$$l(\dot{\gamma}) \propto 1/\sqrt{\dot{\gamma}}$$

