
Transition in the dense granular flow down an inclined plane.

V. Kumaran, S. Maheshwari and S. Bharathraj.

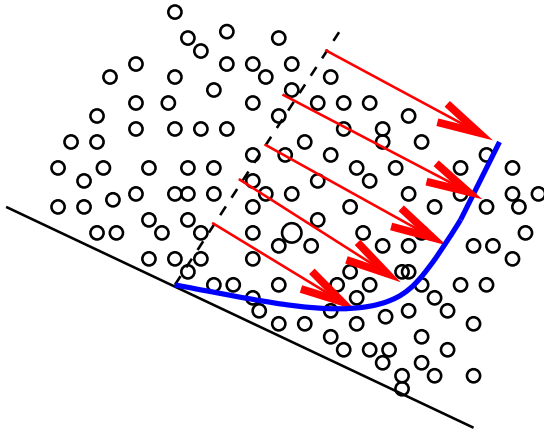
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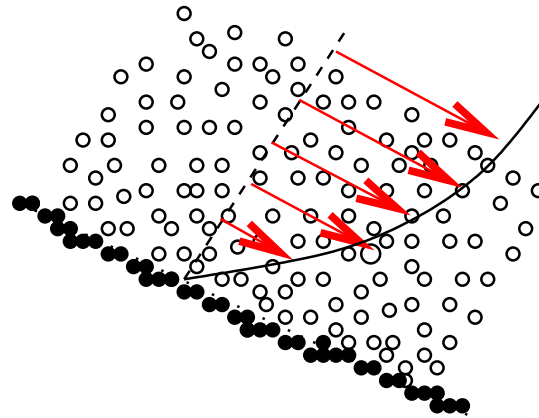
Flow regimes:

Flat frictional:



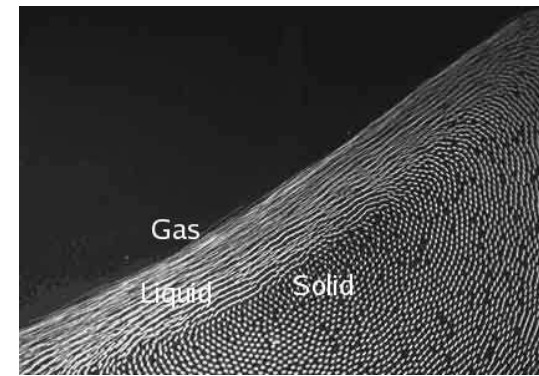
Plug + Shear layer.

Bumpy:



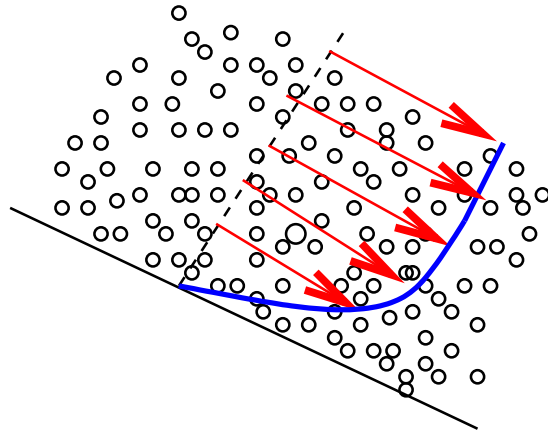
Homogeneous shearing.

Erodible:



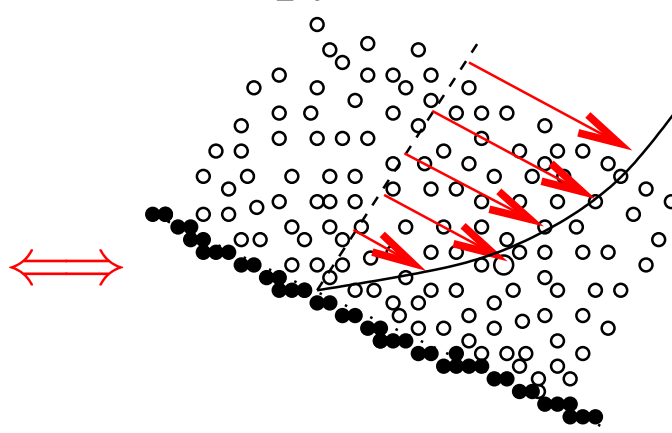
Flow regimes:

Flat frictional:



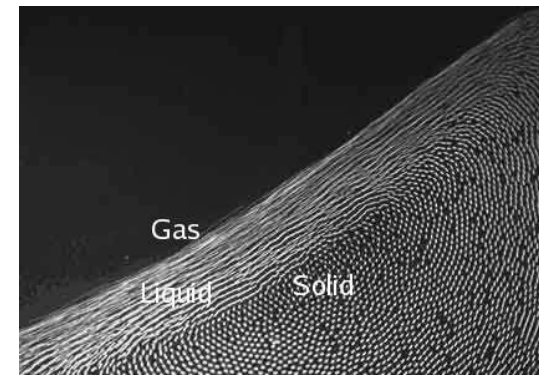
Plug layer. + Shear layer.

Bumpy:



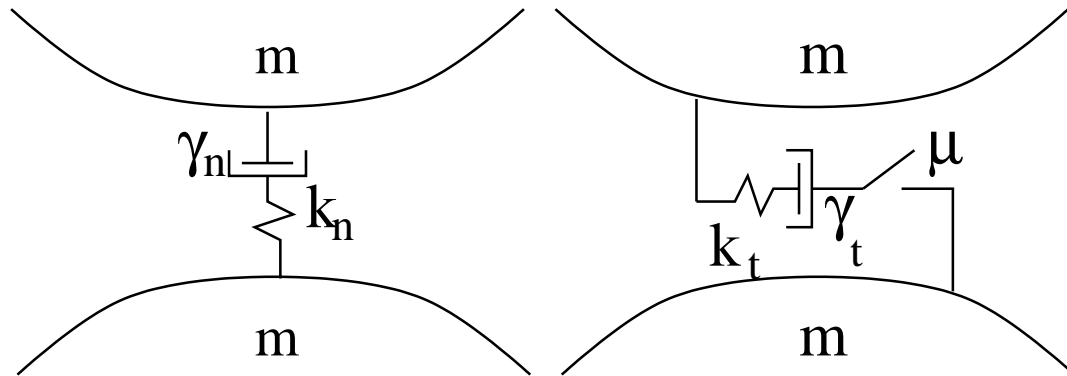
Homogeneous shearing.

Erodible:



Flow down inclined plane (DEM simulations):

Particle interaction: **Linear Spring-dashpot-slider model**



$$\mathbf{F}_{ij}^n = k_n \delta_{ij} \mathbf{n}_{ij} - \gamma_n m_{eff} \mathbf{v}_{ij}^n$$

$$\mathbf{F}_{ij}^t = \text{Min} \left(k_t \mathbf{u}_{t_{ij}} - \gamma_t m_{eff} \mathbf{v}_{ij}^t, \mu F_{ij}^n \right)$$

$$t_{col} = (\pi / \sqrt{2k_n/m - \gamma_n^2/4}),$$

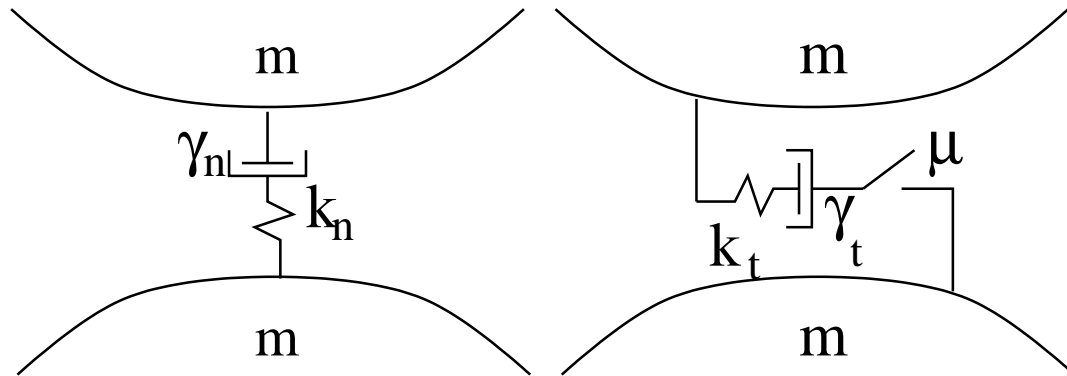
$$\text{Restitution coeff, } e = \exp(-\gamma_n t_{col}/2).$$

$$\text{Simulations: } (k_n/(mg/d)) = 10^6, e = 0.6, \mu = 0.4$$



Flow down inclined plane (DEM simulations):

Microscopic contact models: Hertzian spring-dashpot:



$$F_n = \sqrt{(\delta/d)}(-k_n\delta - \gamma_n m_{eff} v_n)$$

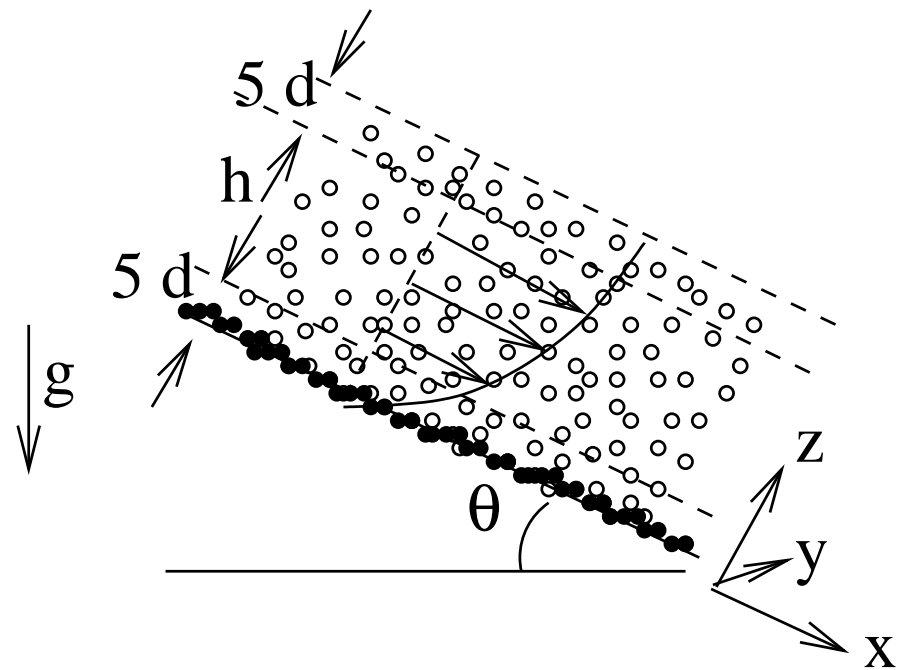
$$\mathbf{F}_{ij}^t = \text{Min} \left(k_t \sqrt{\delta_{ij}/d} \mathbf{u}_{t_{ij}} - \gamma_t m_{eff} \mathbf{v}_{ij}^t, \mu F_{ij}^n \right)$$

Simulations: $(k_n/(mg/d^{1/2})) = 10^6$, $\gamma_n/\sqrt{g/d} = 454$, $\mu = 0.4$



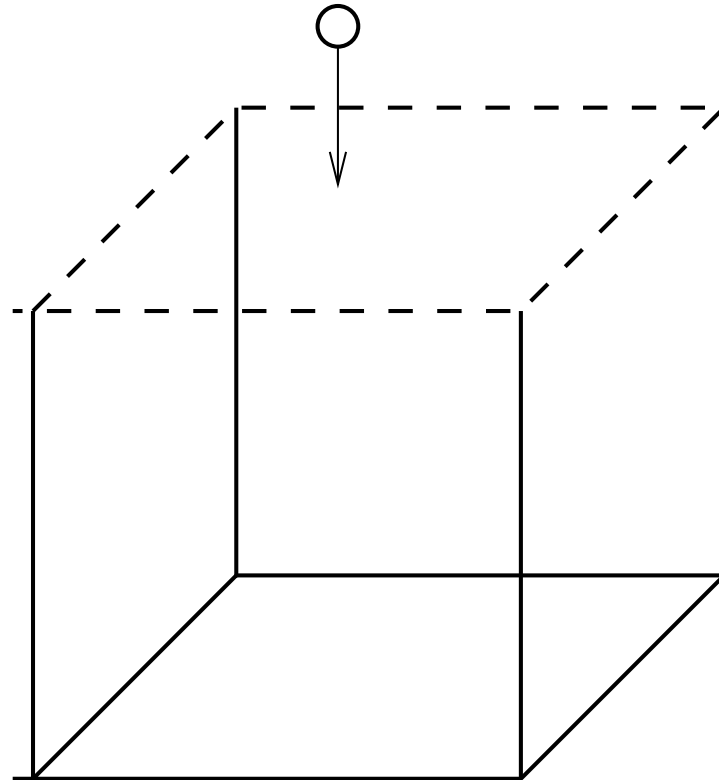
Flow down inclined plane: Configuration.

- Simulation box
 $x : y = 40d : 20d; 80d : 40d;$
 $160d : 80d.$
- Periodic streamwise (x)
and spanwise (y).
- Bottom rough base, top free
surface.
- Two system sizes
32000, 64000 particles
($\approx 35d, 70d$ height)
- Random base configuration.



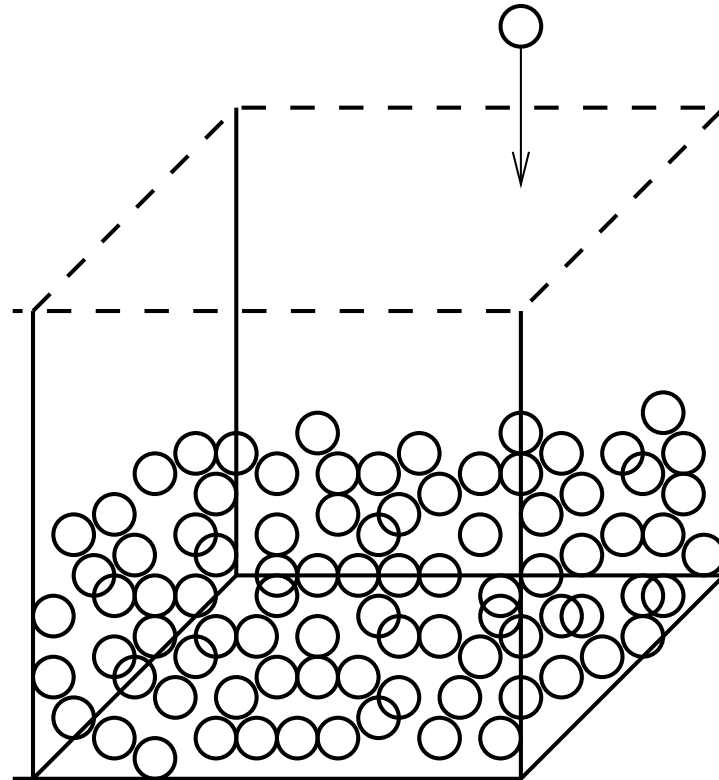
Flow down inclined plane: Initial state.

- Vertical box of desired base dimensions.
- Sequentially drop particles into box to desired height.



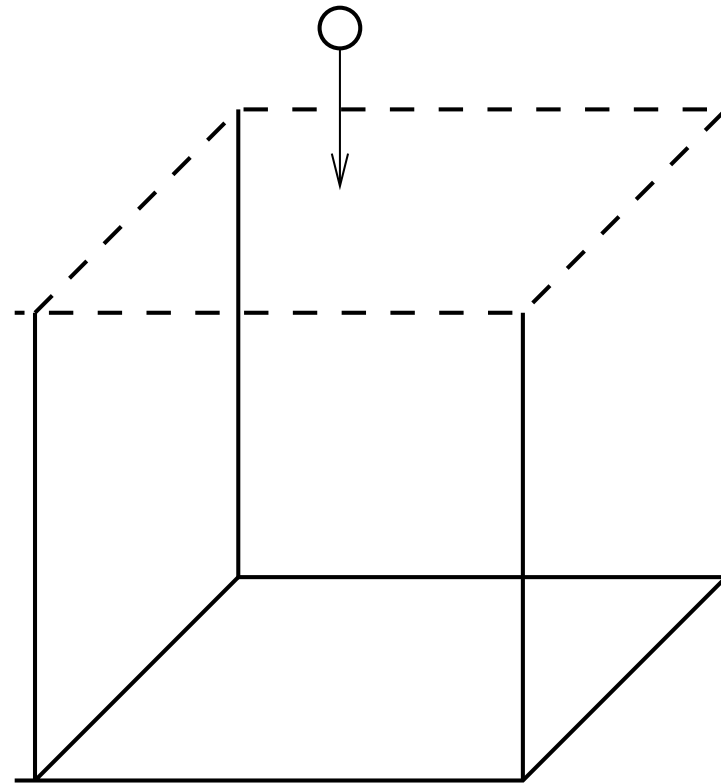
Flow down inclined plane: Initial state.

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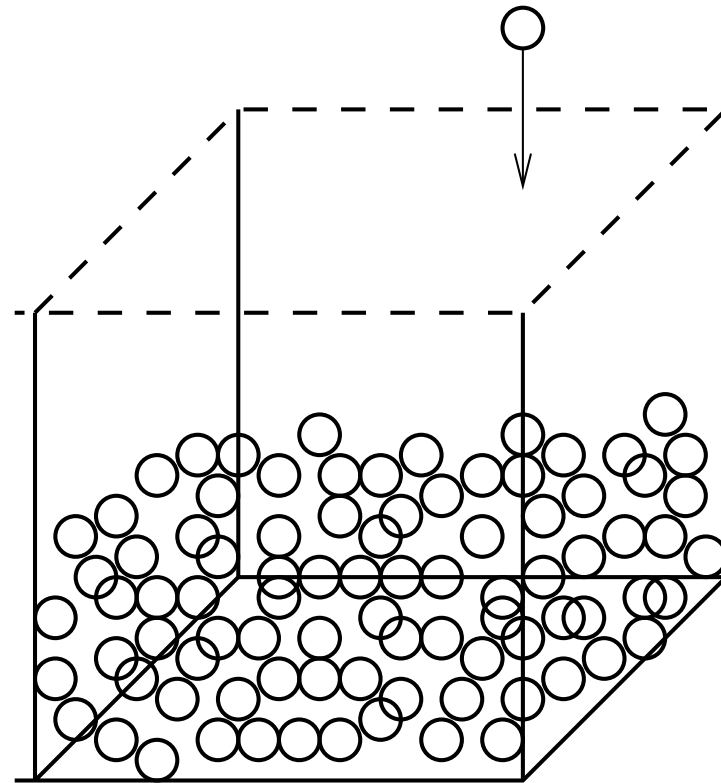
Flow down inclined plane: Base particle roughness.

- Vertical box of desired base dimensions.
- Sequentially drop particles into box.
- Select a layer of particles with centers within height d_b .
- Use this as frozen base.
- Vary ratio of diameters of base and moving particles, (d_b/d_f) .



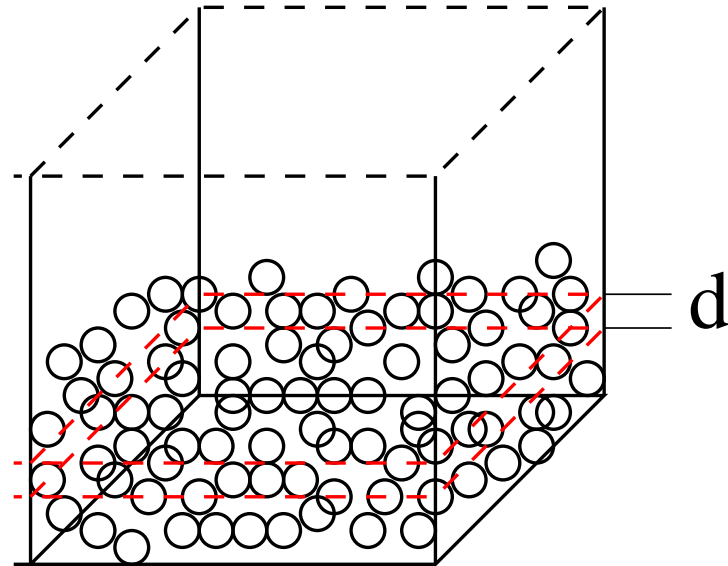
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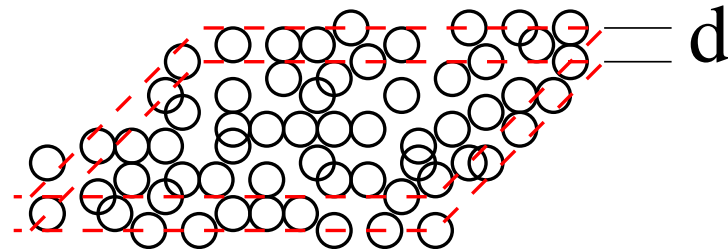
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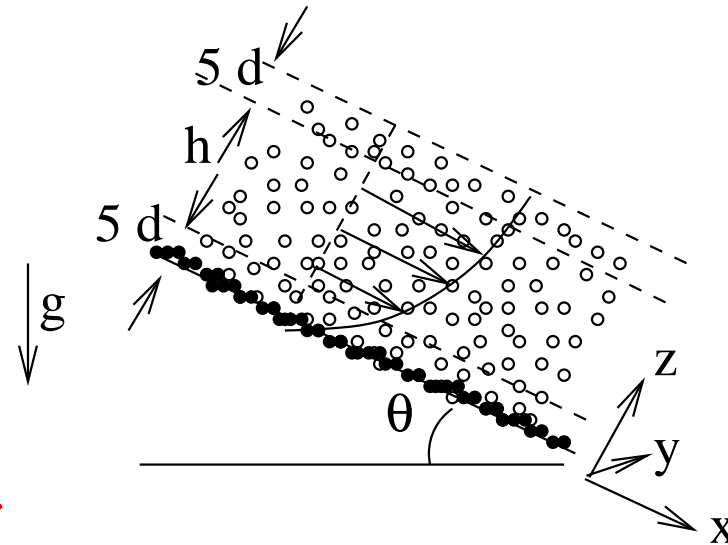
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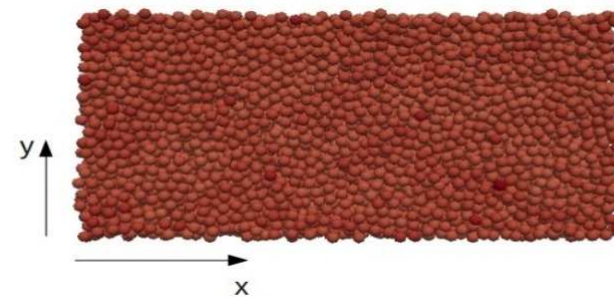
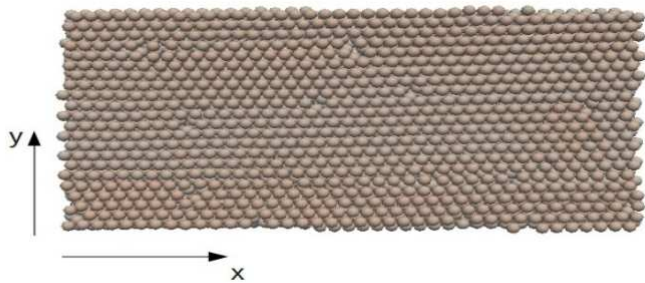
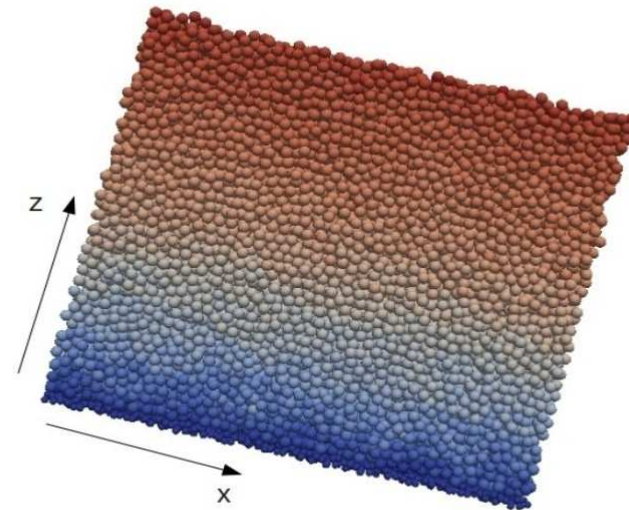
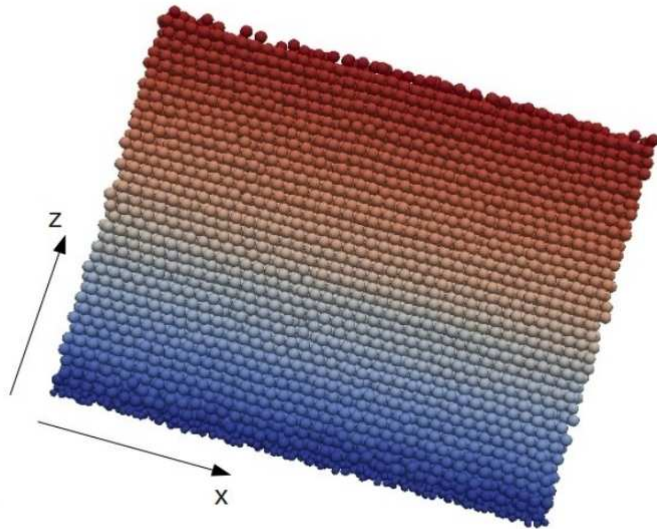


Flow down inclined plane: Base particle roughness.

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- Sequentially drop particles into box.
- Select a layer of particles with centers within height d_b .
- Use this as frozen base.
- Vary ratio of diameters of base and moving particles, (d_b/d_f) .



Flow down inclined plane: Flow regimes.



$(d_b/d_f) = 0.61$
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$(d_b/d_f) = 0.62$

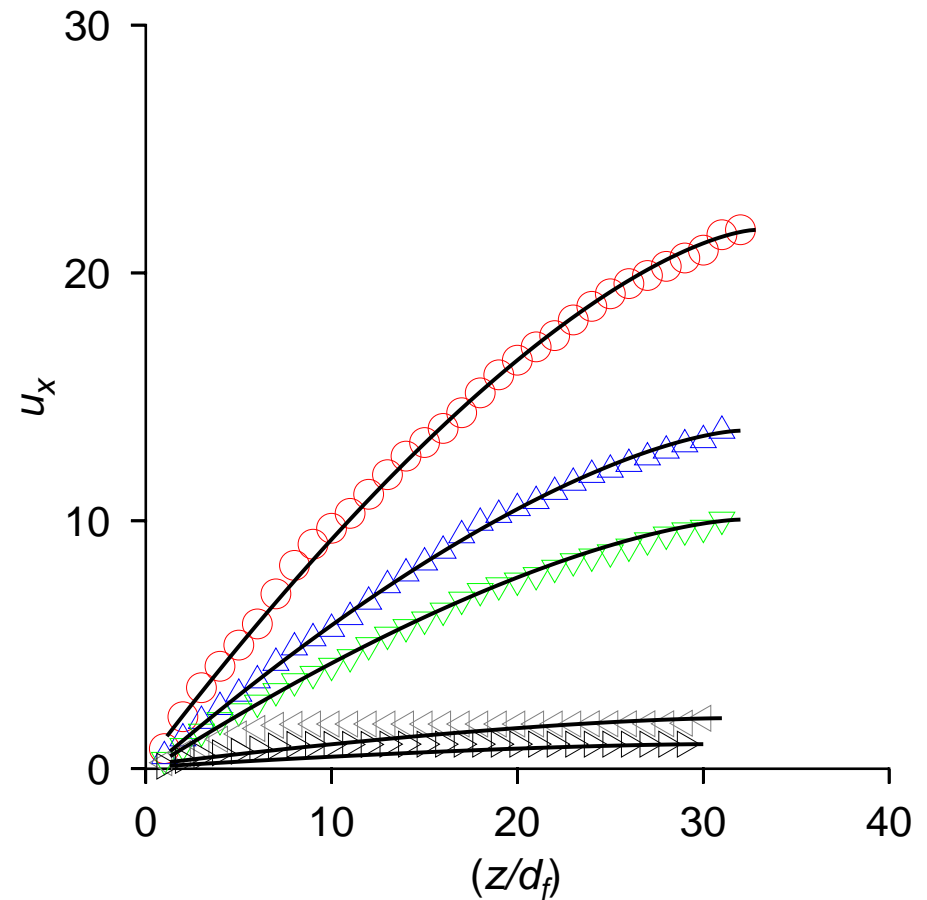
Flow down inclined plane: Order

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous



Flow down inclined plane: Inclination for flow

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous



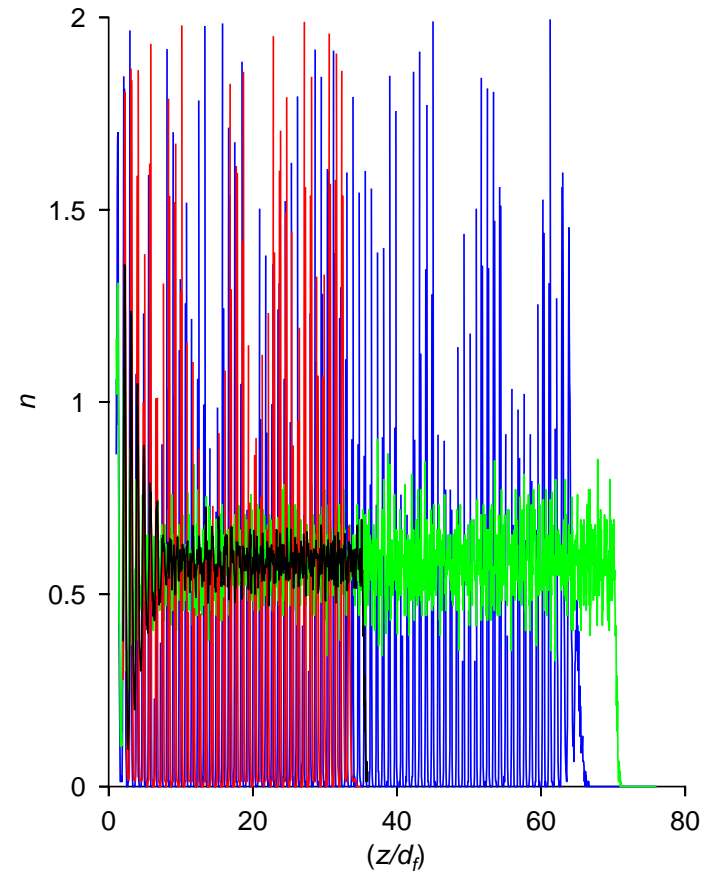
$(d_b/d) = 0.5$
 $\theta = 18^\circ, 16^\circ, 15^\circ, 14^\circ, 13^\circ.$



Flow down inclined plane: Layering

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

$n(z)A\Delta z = (\# \text{ of particles with centers in } \Delta z).$



$(d_b/d) = 0.61, (32000); 0.62, (32000)$

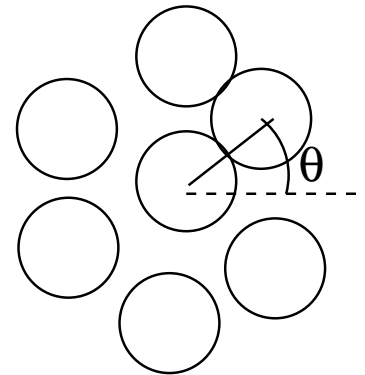
$(d_b/d) = 0.62, (64000) \quad 0.63, 64000$

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Flow down inclined plane: In-layer order

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous



- 2D: $q_6 = \sum_{i=1}^N \exp(6i\theta)$
- $q_6 = 1$ hexagonal packing.
- 3D Icosahedral order parameter:

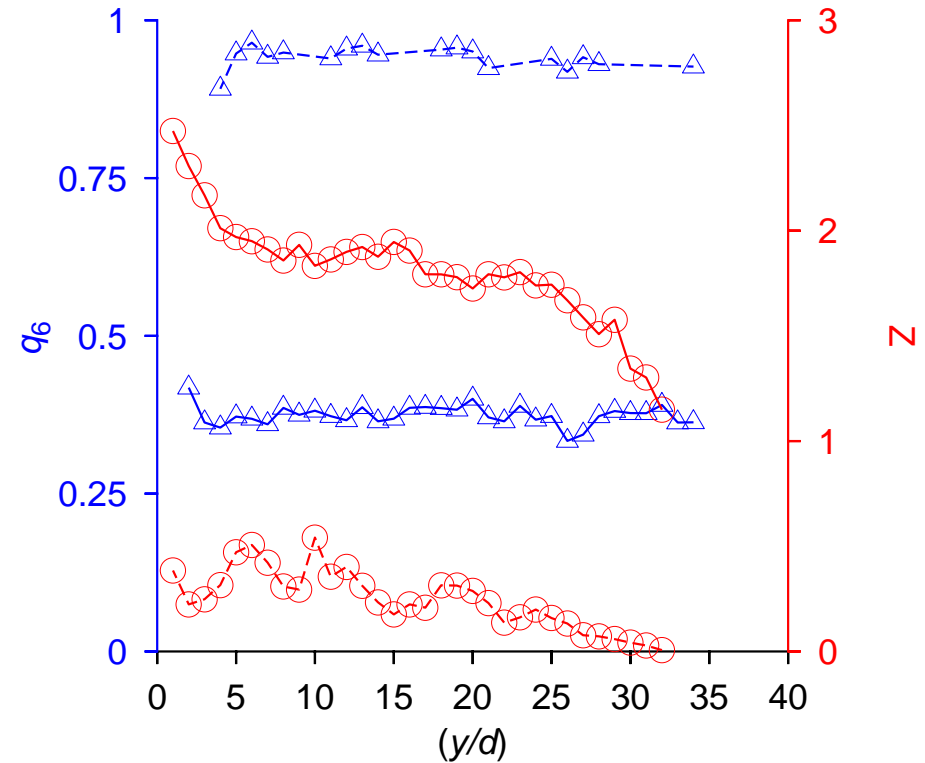
$$Q_l = \left(\frac{2l+1}{4\pi} \sum_{m=-l}^l |\langle Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \rangle|^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

- $Q_6 = 0.6$ for FCC/HCP.



Flow down inclined plane: In-layer order

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

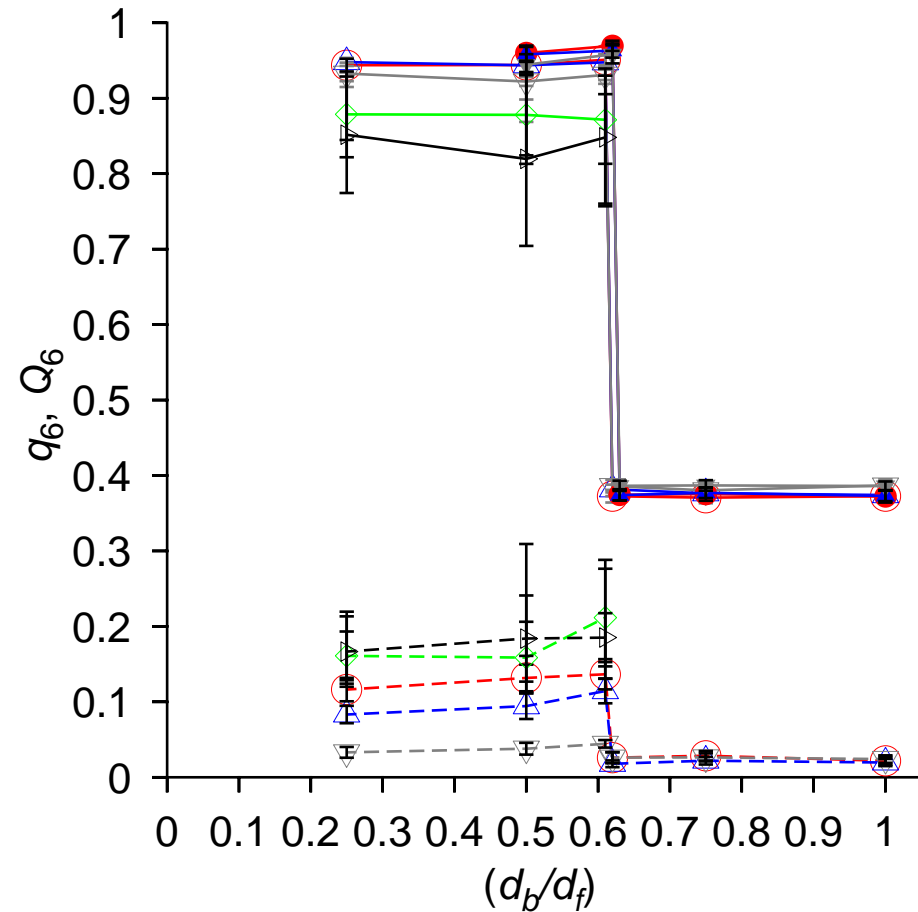


Angle = 22° ,
 $(d_b/d) = 0.5$ (dashed line).
 $(d_b/d) = 1.0$ (solid line).



Flow down inclined plane: In-layer order

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

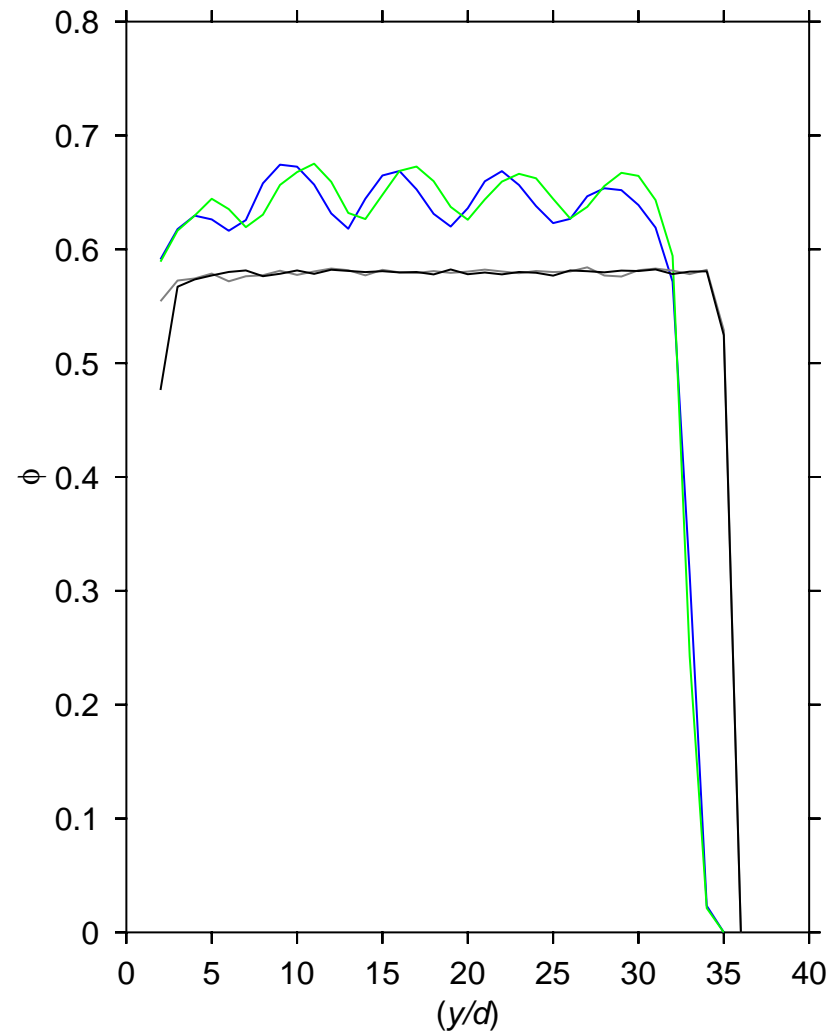


Angle = 15° , 18° , 20° , 22° , 25° .



Flow down inclined plane: Volume fraction

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous



Angle = 22° $h \approx 35$,

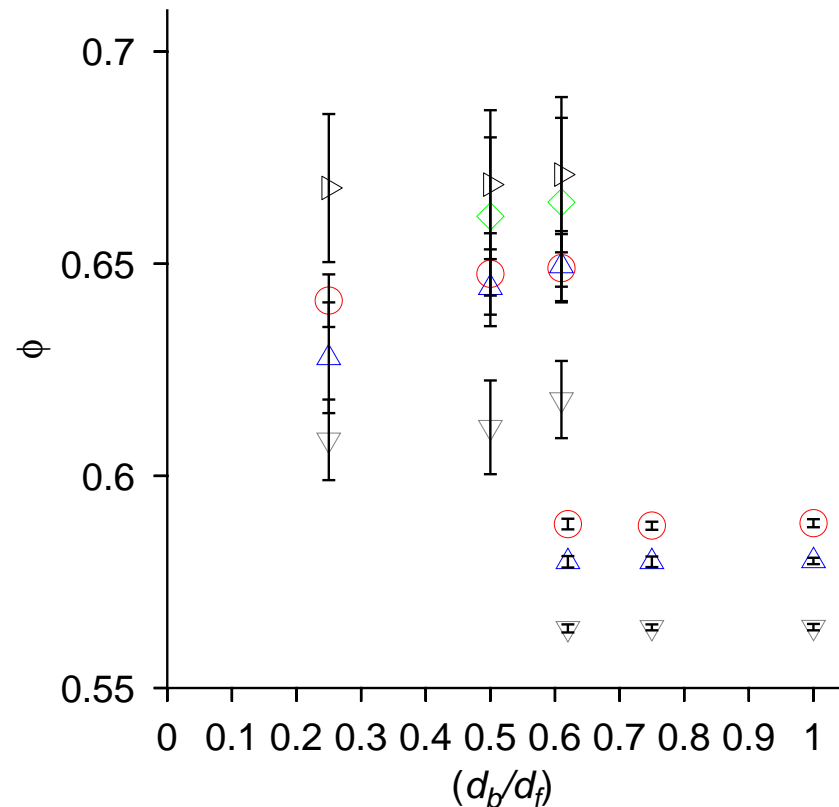
$(d_b/d) = 0.5, 0.61, 0.62, 1.00$.

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Flow down inclined plane: Volume fraction

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

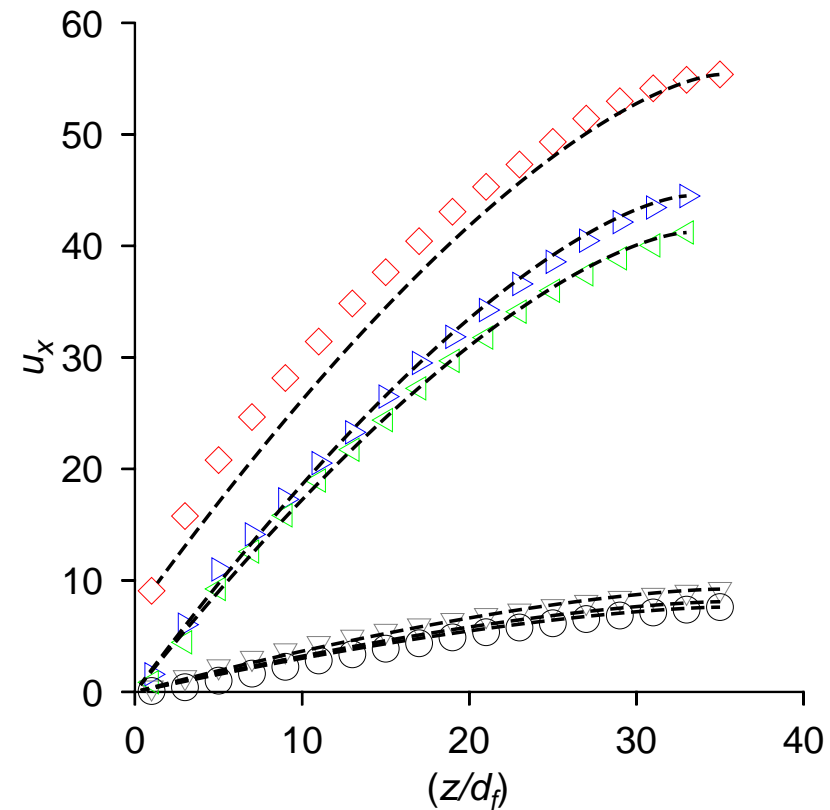


Angle = 15° , 18° , 20° , 22° , 25° .



Flow down inclined plane: **Bagnold law**

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

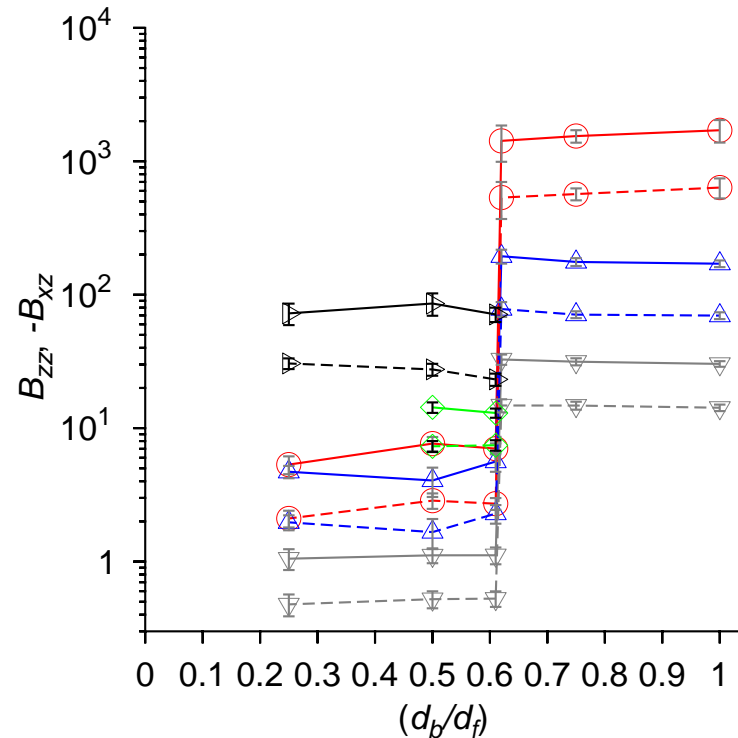


$(d_b/d) = 0.25, 0.5, 0.61, 0.62, 1.00.$



Flow down inclined plane: Bagnold coefficients

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous



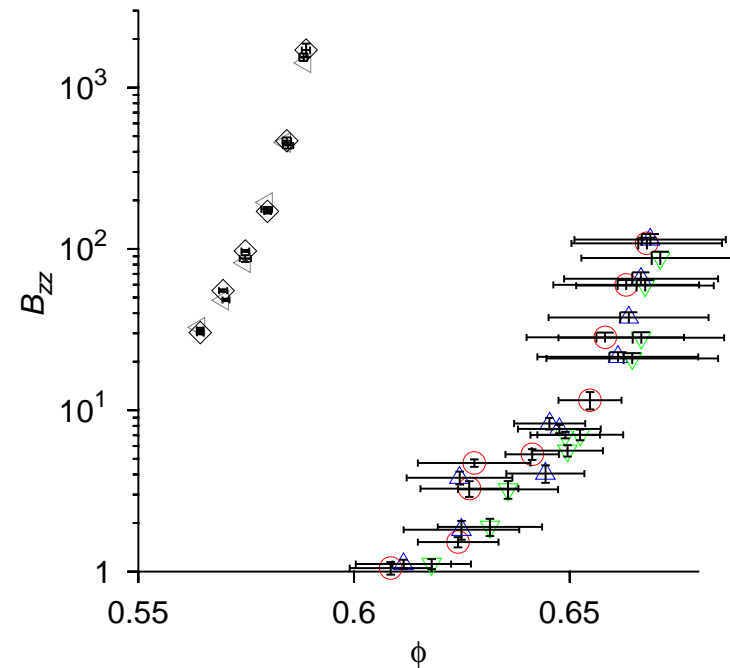
B_{zz} —, $-B_{xz}$ - - -
 Angle = 15° , 18° , 20° , 22° , 25° .
 0.61, 0.62, 1.00.



Flow down inclined plane: Bagnold coefficients

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

Bagnold coeff vs. ϕ



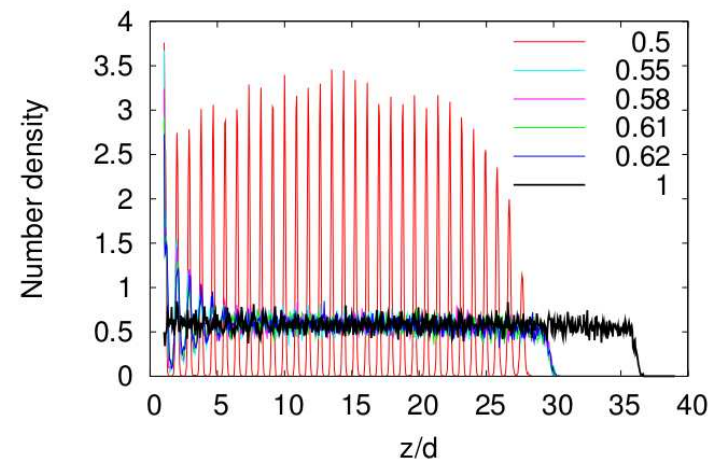
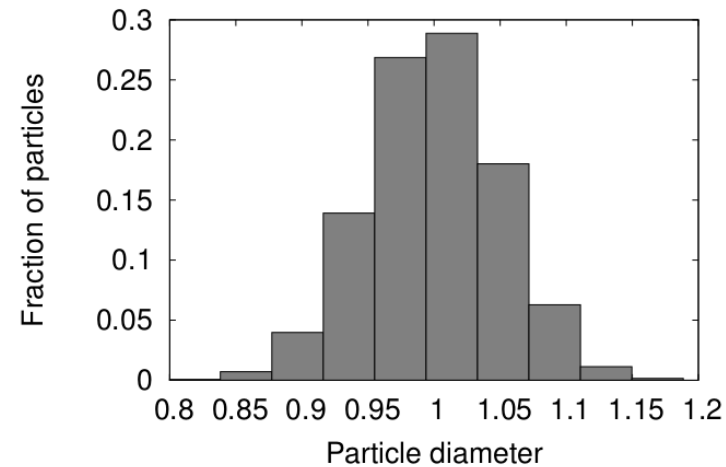
$(d_b/d) = 0.25, 0.5, 0.61, 0.62, 1.00.$



Flow down inclined plane: Polydispersity

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

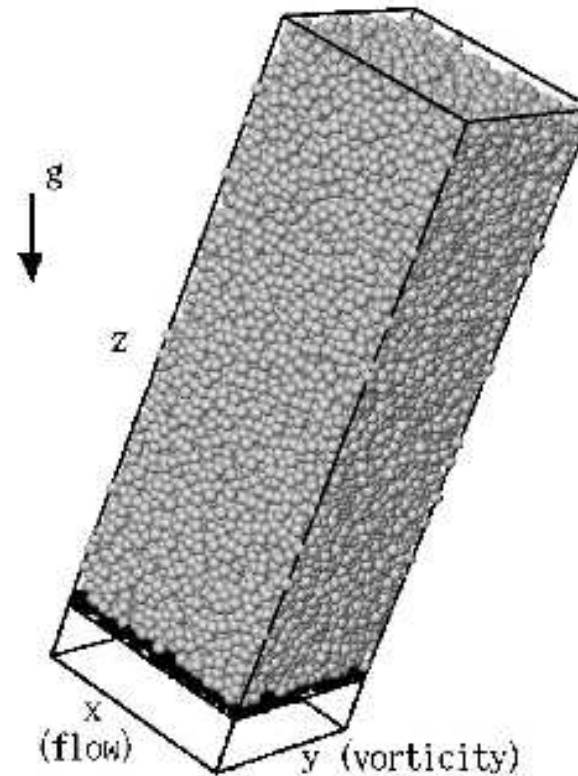
5% Polydispersity:



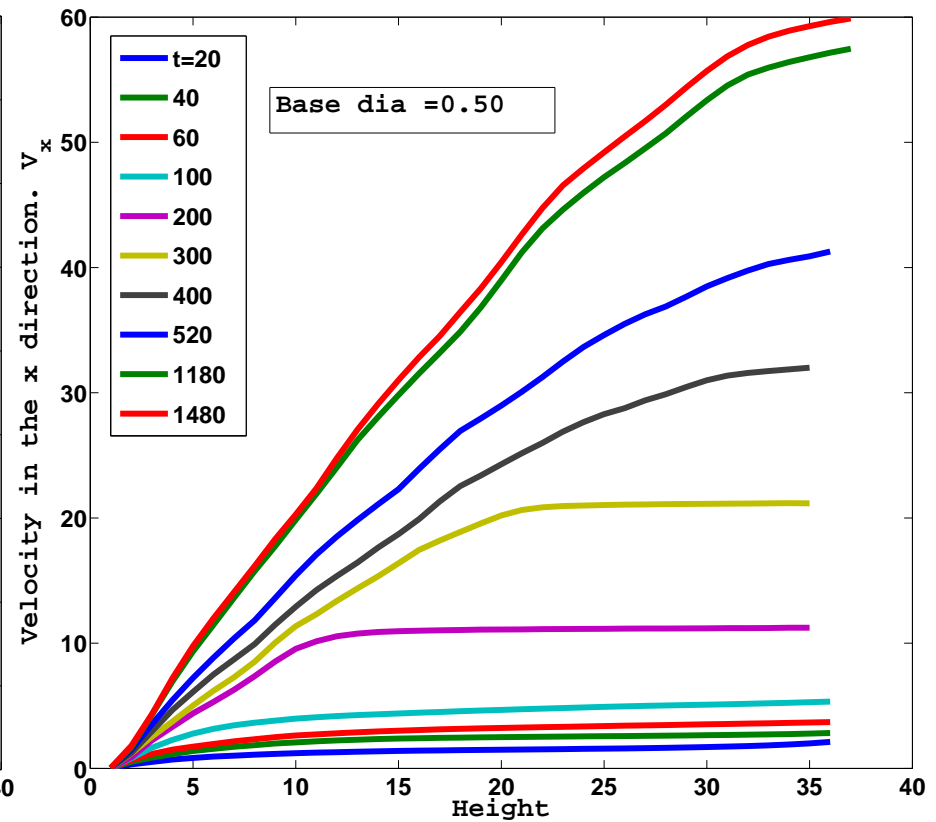
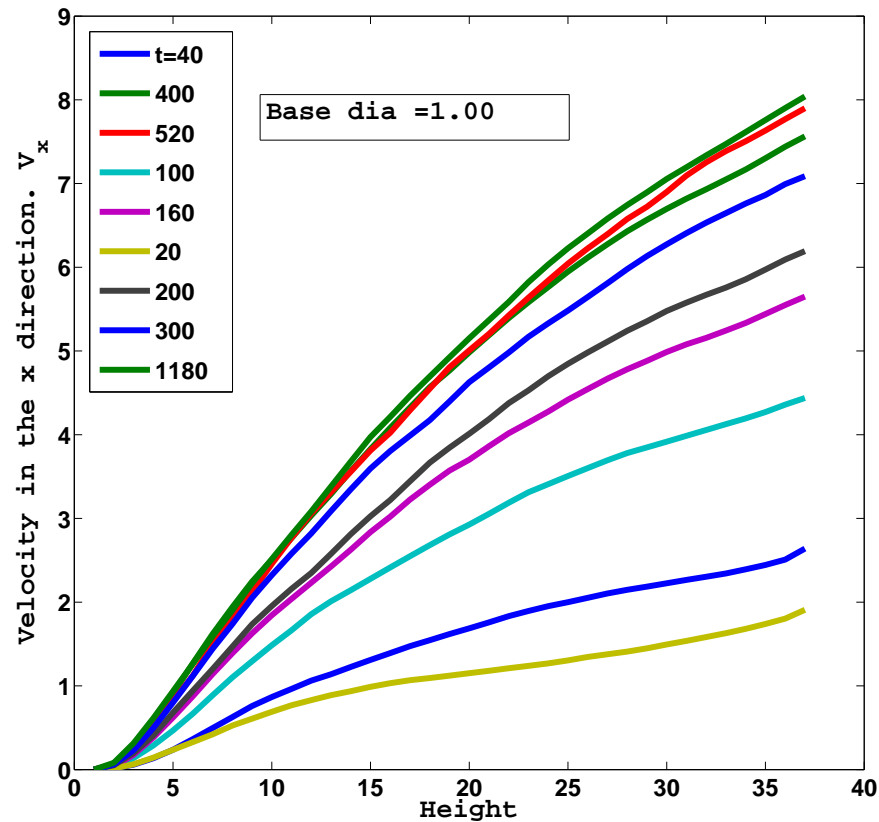
Flow down inclined plane: **Developing flow**

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

Velocity evolution
(Zero initial velocity)



Flow down inclined plane: Developing flow



Angle = 22° .



Flow down inclined plane: Developing flow

Momentum equations:

$$\rho \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial \sigma_{xz}}{\partial y} + \rho g_x$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial \sigma_{zz}}{\partial z} + \rho g_z$$

Bagnold law:

$$\sigma_{xz} = B_{xz}(\phi) \left(\frac{du_x}{dz} \right)^2$$

$$\sigma_{zz} = B_{zz}(\phi) \left(\frac{du_x}{dz} \right)^2$$

Steady solution:

$$\bar{u}_x = (5\bar{u}/3) \left(1 - (1 - (z/h))^{3/2} \right)$$

$$\bar{u} = \frac{2h^{3/2}}{5} \left(\frac{\rho g_x}{B_{xz}} \right)^{1/2}$$

Unsteady flow:

$$u_x = \bar{u}_x(z) + u'_x(z, t)$$

$$\phi = \bar{\phi}(z) + \phi'(z, t)$$

$$B_{ij}(\phi) = \bar{B}_{ij} + B_{\phi ij} \phi'(z, t)$$

Linearise in u'_x, ϕ' .



Flow down inclined plane: **Disordered flow**

$$\rho \frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(B_{\phi xz} \phi' \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_x}{\partial z} \right)^2 + \bar{B}_{xz} \left(2 \frac{\partial \bar{u}_x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial z} + \left(\frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right) \right)$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(B_{\phi zz} \phi' \left(\frac{\partial \bar{u}_x}{\partial z} \right)^2 + \bar{B}_{zz} \left(2 \frac{\partial \bar{u}_x}{\partial z} \frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial z} + \left(\frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right) \right)$$

Combine to give:

$$\tau \frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial t} = h^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\sqrt{1 - (z/h)} \frac{\partial u'_x}{\partial z} \right) \quad \tau = \left(\frac{5\bar{u}}{\rho h^3} \left(\bar{B}_{xz} - \frac{B_{\phi xz} \bar{B}_{zz}}{B_{\phi zz}} \right) \right)^{-1}$$

Can show $\tau > 0$ if $\phi \downarrow$ as $\theta \uparrow$.



Flow down inclined plane: **Disordered flow**

Solution for u'_x :

$$u'_x = \sum C_n e^{(-\alpha_n t / \tau)} (1 - (z/h))^{1/4} \times J_{-1/3}((4\sqrt{\alpha_n}(1 - (z/h))^{3/4}/3))$$

Discrete eigenvalues α_n :

$$\begin{aligned} u'_x &= 0 \text{ at } z = 0 \\ \frac{du'_x}{dz} &= 0 \text{ at } z = h \end{aligned}$$

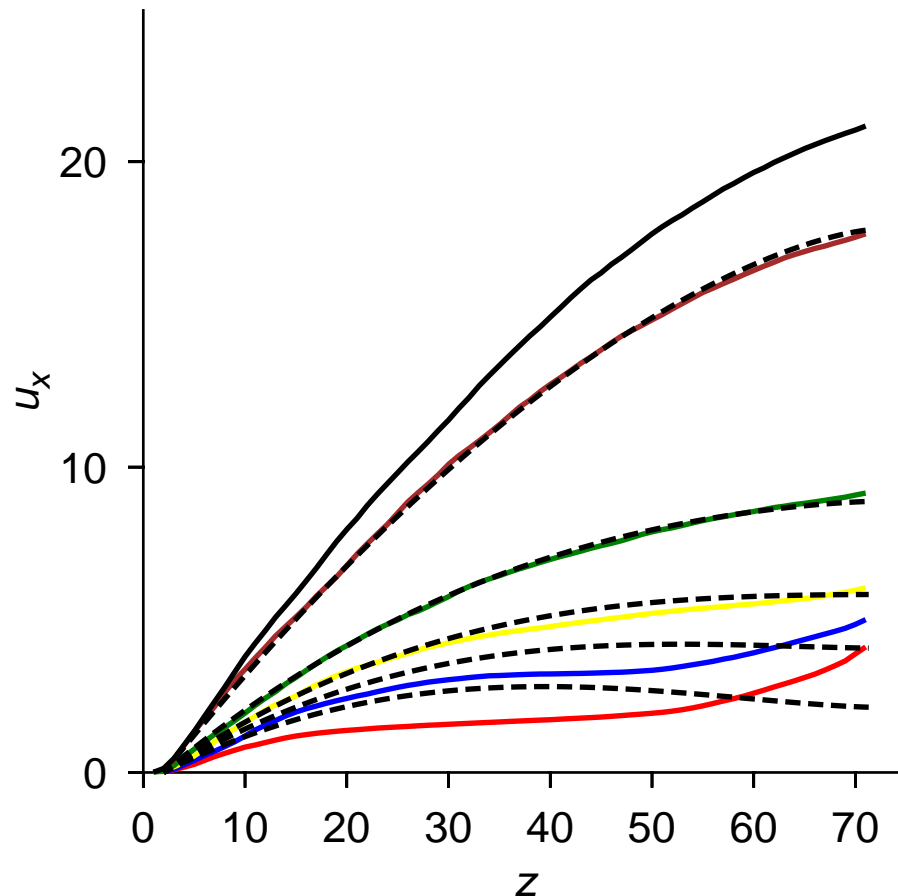
Orthogonality relation C_n from initial condition $u'_x = -\bar{u}_x$.

n	1	2	3	4
α_n	1.95934	13.9943	37.1371	71.363
(C_n/\bar{u})	-2.32322	0.200244	0.059188	0.026166



Flow down inclined plane: **Disordered flow**

Rough base, 22° , $d_b = 1$:

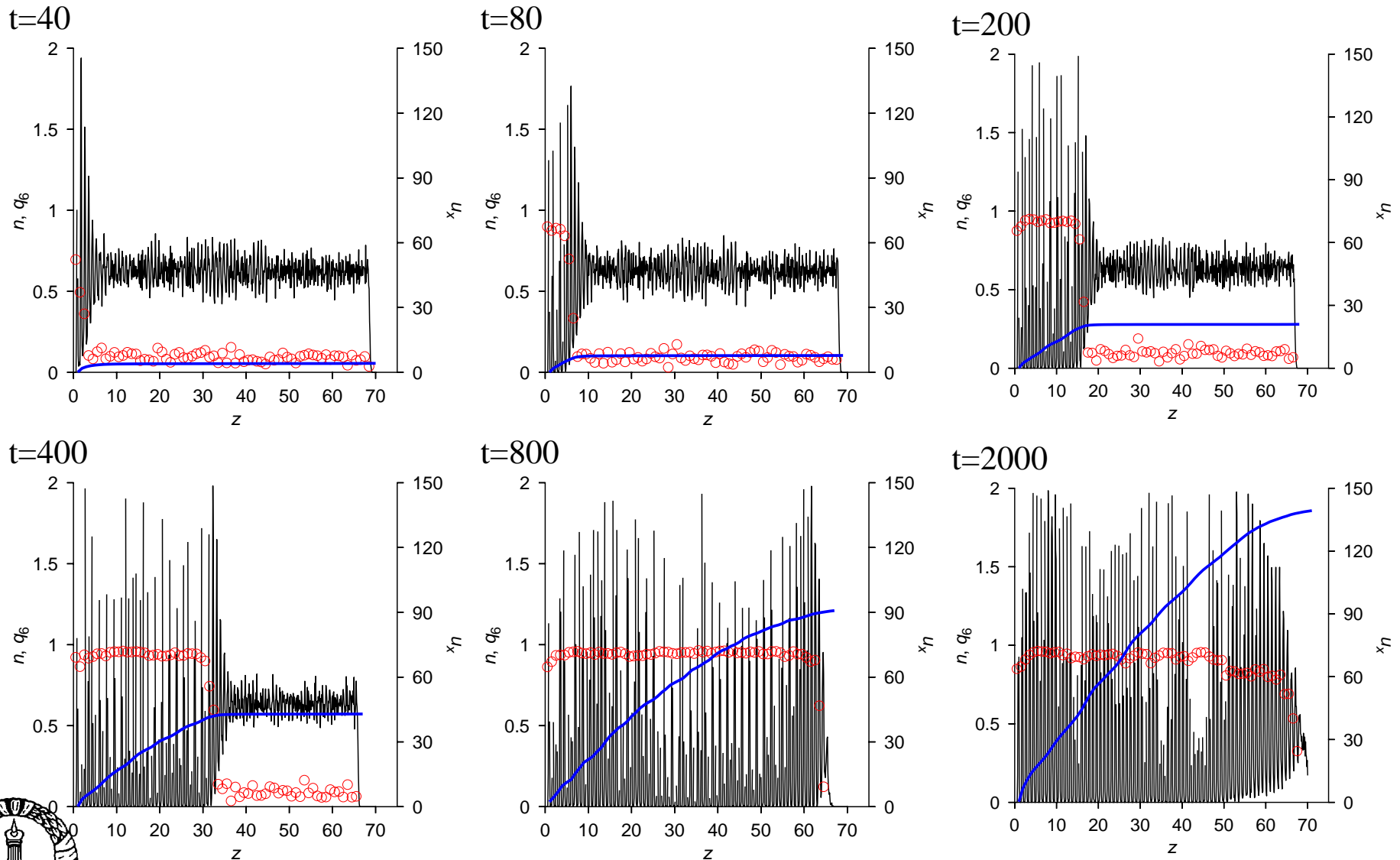


- Unsteady momentum equation; Bagnold law.
- Linearise & use separation of variables.
- Retain first term in the expansion.

— $t=40$; — $t=80$; — $t=120$; — $t=200$; — $t=600$; — $t=1000$.

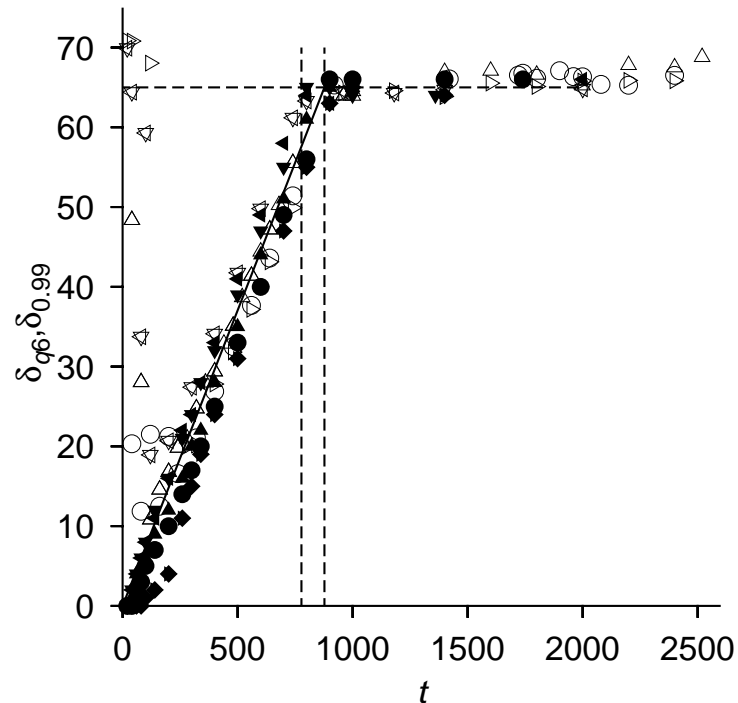


Flow down inclined plane: Ordered flow: \mathbf{n} , q_6 u_x



Flow down inclined plane: Ordered flow:

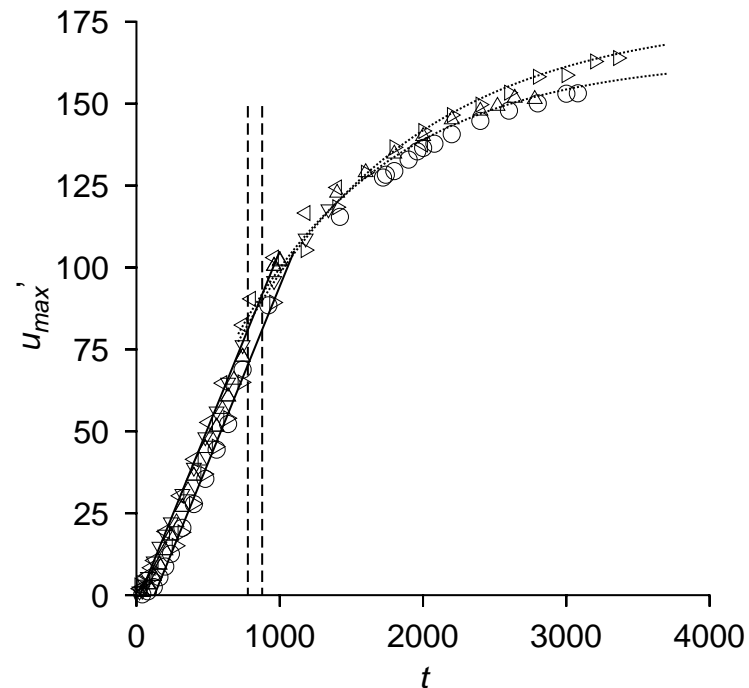
Shear layer height $\propto t$:



$d_b = 0.15$ (\triangle), 0.25 (∇), 0.35 (\triangleleft), 0.50 (\triangleright)

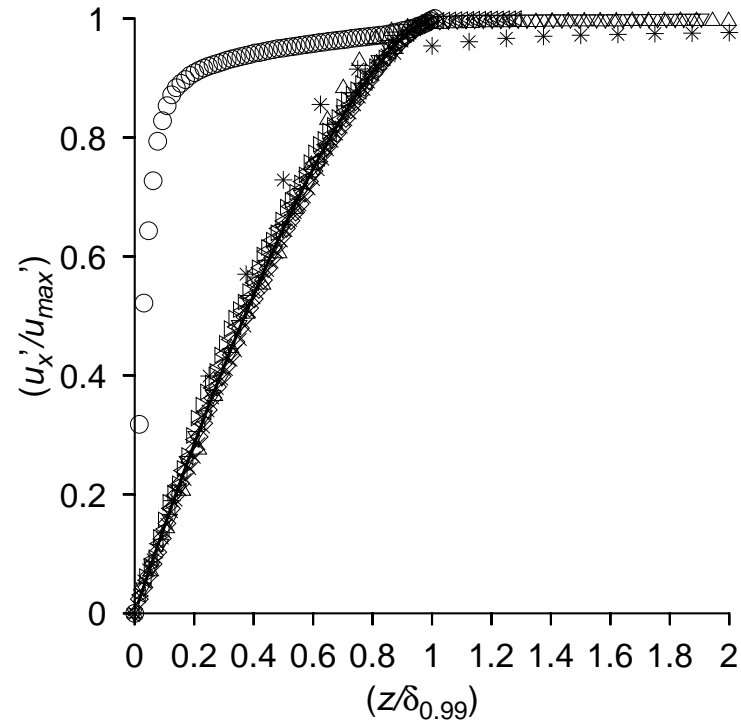
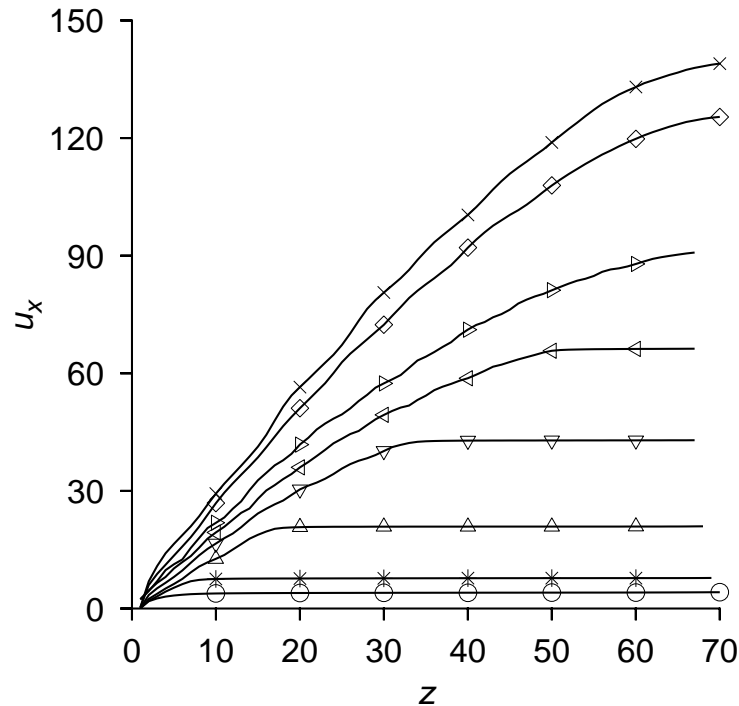
Independent of d_b , height. Depends only on θ .

Max velocity $\propto t$ (shear layer);
Exp (homogeneous flow).



Flow down inclined plane: Ordered flow:

$$\theta = 22^\circ, (d_b/d) = 0.35, u'_x = u_x - u_{slip}, u'_{max} = u_{max}/u_{slip}.$$



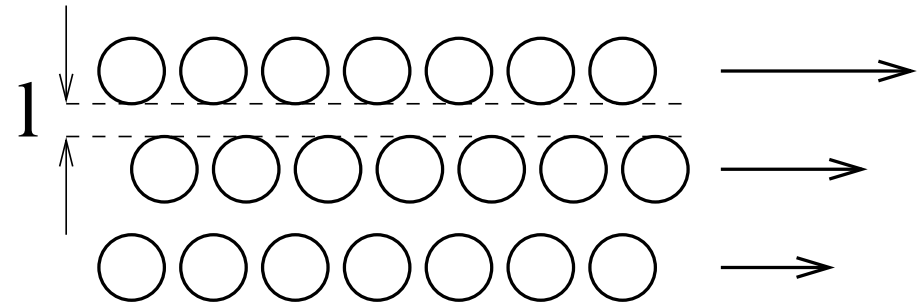
$t = 40$ (\circ), 80 ($*$), 200 (\triangle), 400 (∇), 600 (\triangleleft), 800 (\triangleright), 1400 (\diamond), 2000 (\times).

Velocity in shearing zone well described by Bagnold law!



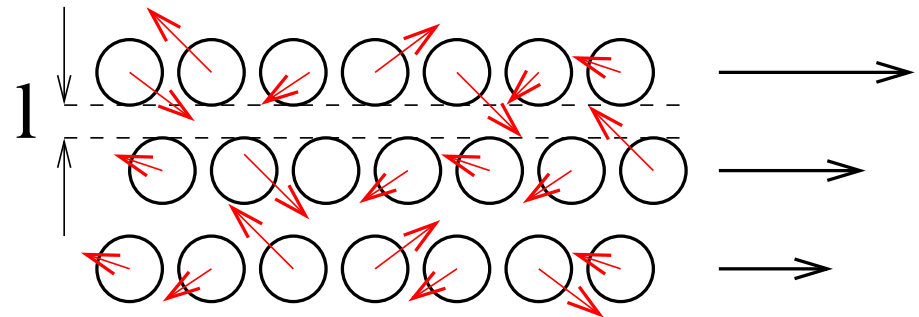
Layered fluid:

- Layered fluid with spacing l between particles.
- Spacing maintained by interactions with particles above and below.
- Granular temperature T nearly constant.
- Collision frequency
 $\nu \propto l^{-1}T^{1/2}$.
- Average **force** ($\nu \times$ impulse)
 $\propto mTl^{-1}$.



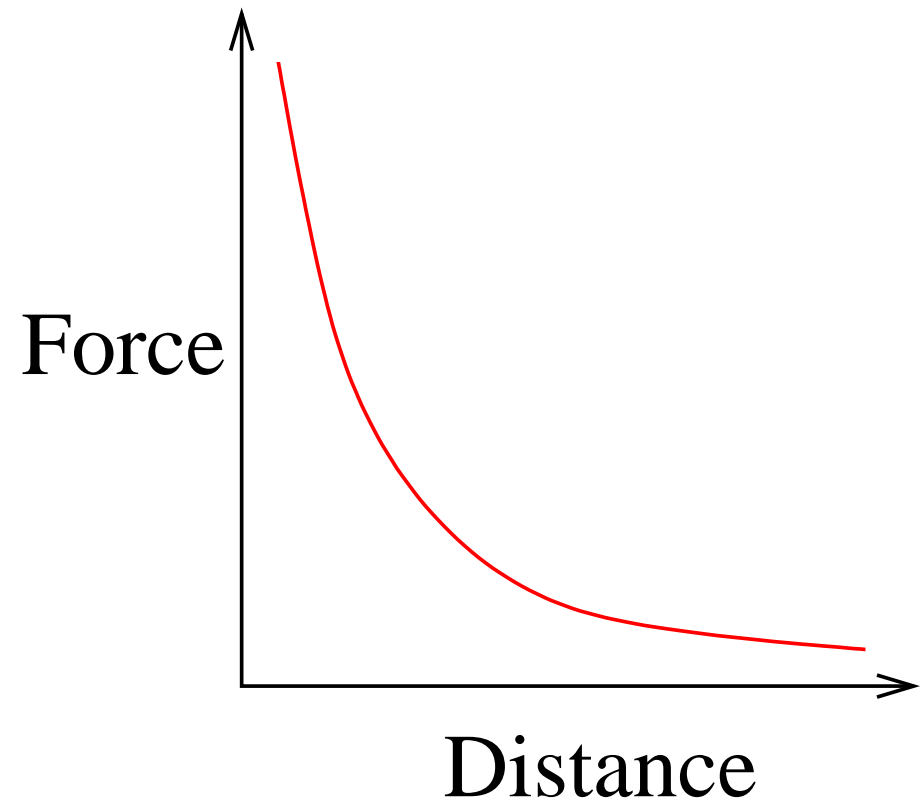
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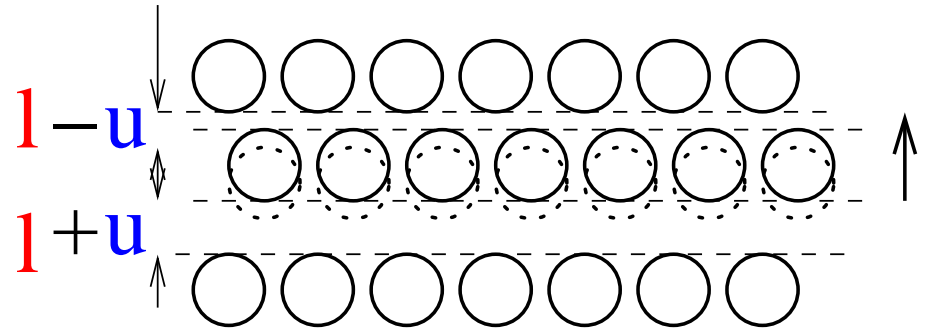
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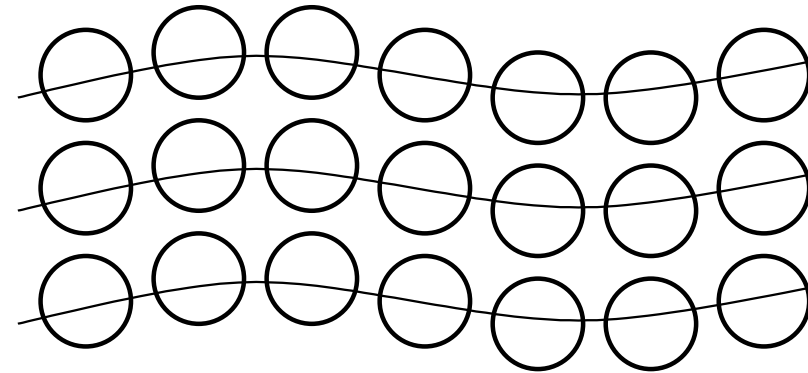
Layered fluid:

- Layer displacement u .
- Force from above
 $mT/(l - u)$
- Force from below
 $mT/(l + u)$.
- Net restoring force
 $mT((l - u)^{-1} - (l + u)^{-1})$
 $\sim (2mT u/l^2)$.
 $\sim 2mT \frac{d^2 u}{dz^2}$.



Layered fluid:

- Layer bending u .
- Zero tension: No restoring force proportional to u
- Change in lateral pressure due to expansion: $F \propto (\partial u / \partial x)^2$.



$$\frac{du}{dt} = B \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} + K \left(\frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^4} \right) + A \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^2$$

Linear stability analysis — always stable.

Sub-critical instability when perturbation amplitude exceeds

critical value.



Flow down inclined plane: Summary

Ordered	Disordered
$(d_b/d) < d_c$	$(d_b/d) > d_c$
Flow $\theta \geq 14^\circ$	Flow $\theta \geq 21^\circ$
Layering	No layering
In-layer order	No order
More dense	Less dense
Bagnold law valid	
Faster	Slower
Polydispersity	
Developing flow	
Plug	Homogeneous

- Distinct flow regimes with universal properties (no variation with layer height, base roughness) in each regime.
- Discontinuous transition at specific base roughness.
- Transient disordered flow well described by Bagnold law.
- Sub-critical instability for a layered fluid.
- Shearing layer & plug flow for smooth base seem to be due to flow development!

