

**Soft Matter June 2010**

**Special issue on *granular systems and jammed materials*  
edited by A.J. Liu and S.R. Nagel**

# Jamming transition of frictionless grains probed by shear flow

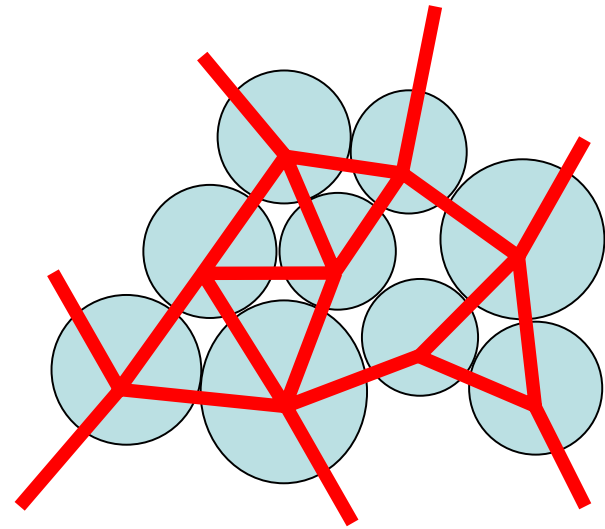
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(Univ. Lyon 1)*

*Ludovic Berthier  
(CNRS Montpellier)*



# Athermal particle systems

Grains (with or without friction, no gravity) ,  
Liquid foams



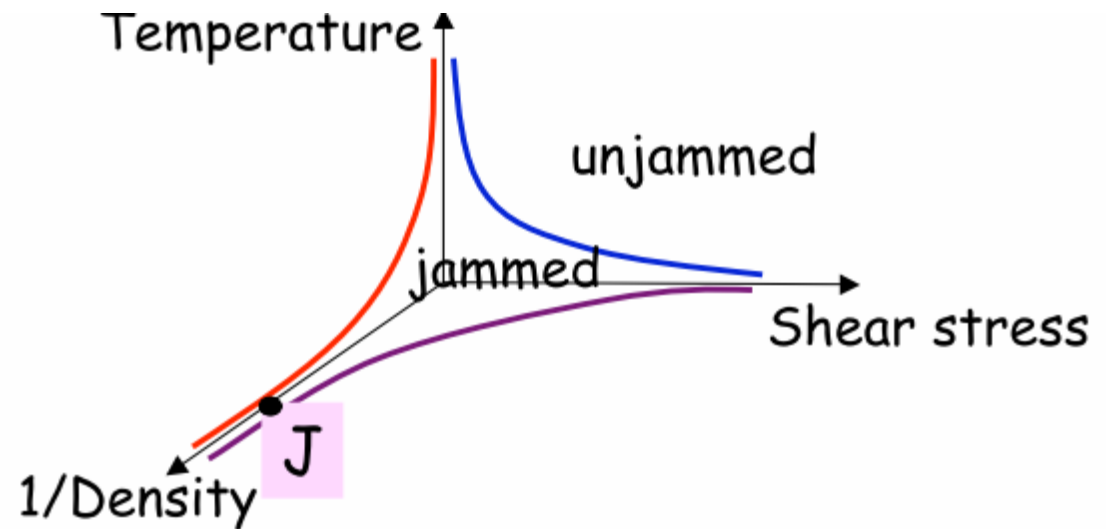
**Finite range (contact) interactions**  
**Structure can be described as a contact network**

- elastic network models
- rigidity theory (Maxwell)

**FLOW => Particles change their contacts**

# Jamming point (Liu, Nagel, O'Hern, Wyart, Witten)

- Well defined at  $T = 0$  ?
- Critical properties
- Correlation lengths



- **Jamming point marks the appearance of yield stress in typical configurations**
- **Use quasistatic flow probes the system at its yield stress**

# The J point corresponds to an isostatic solid

Minimum number of contacts needed for mechanical stability

Match unknowns (# interparticle normal forces) to equations

Frictionless spheres in D dimensions:

Number of unknowns per particle =  $Z/2$

Number of equations per frictionless sphere = D

$$\Rightarrow Z_c = 2D$$

.....

Maxwell criterion for rigidity: *global* condition.

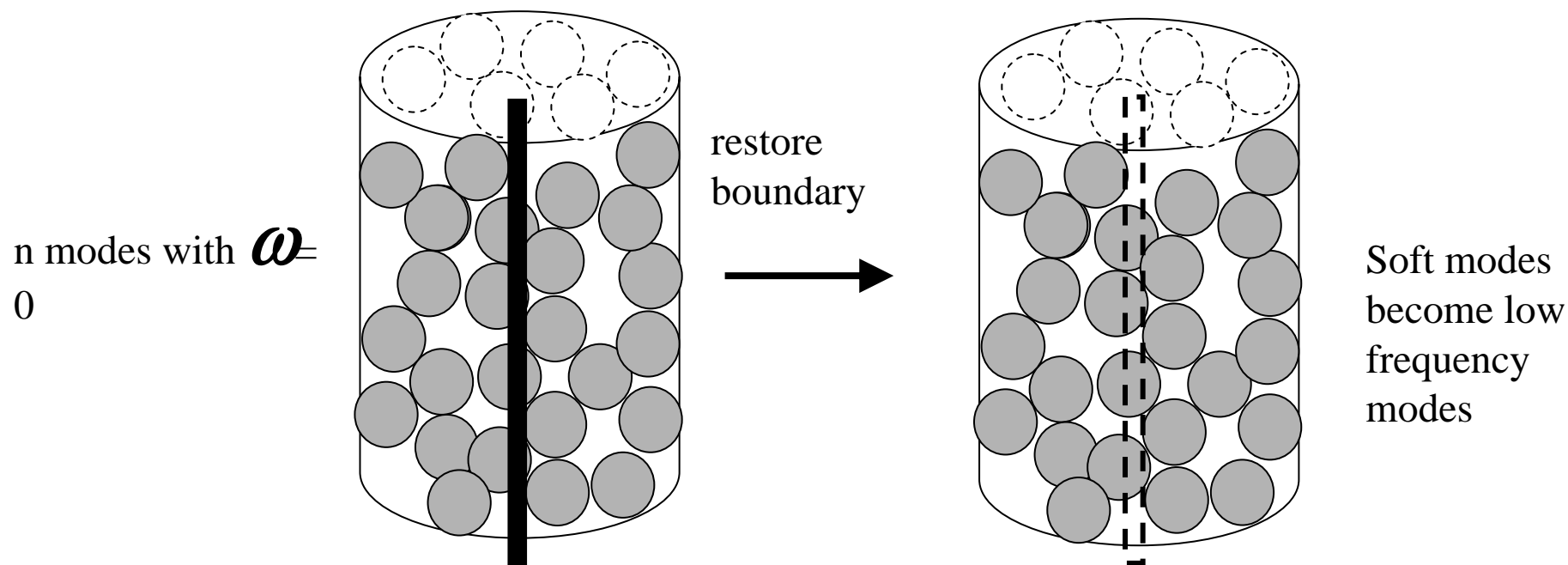
Friction changes  $Z_c$

Isostatic solids have an anomalous density of vibrational states at small frequencies

Normal solids: Debye,  $g(\omega) \sim \omega^{(d-1)}$

Isostatic packing: excess density of states,  $g(\omega) \sim \omega^0$

Construct low- $\omega$  modes from soft modes (Matthieu Wyart, Tom Witten, Sid Nagel)



$N(L) \sim L^{D-1}$  floppy modes (from cutting boundaries)

$\omega \sim 1/L$  (variational calculation, Matthieu Wyart)

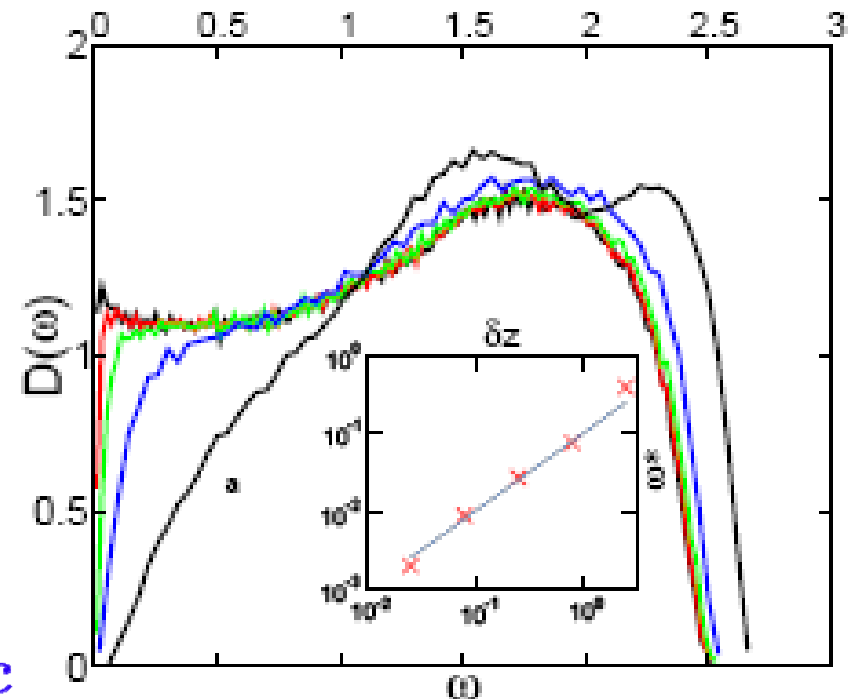
$N(L) \sim L^{d-1}$  floppy modes (from cutting boundaries)

These modes fall within a frequency range  $\omega \sim 1/L$  (Wyart)

$$g(\omega) \sim N / (\omega L^d) \sim L^0$$

(Liu Silbert, Nagel, O'Hern, Wyart, Witten)

See also recent experiments Mari, Bonn, Kurchan, Soft matter 2010



If  $z > z_c$  one has  $\delta z = z - z_c$   
excess contact per particle

The argument holds for systems smaller  
than the *isostatic length*  $\ell^* \sim 1/\delta z$

# Isostatic length

If  $z > z_c$  one has  $\delta z = z - z_c$  excess contact per particle

The argument holds for systems smaller than the *isostatic length*

$$\ell^* \sim 1/\delta z$$

Above jamming : a system smaller than  $\ell^*$  becomes unstable if contacts are removed at its boundaries

Below jamming :  $z < z_c$ , a system smaller than  $\ell^* = 1/|\delta z|$  becomes solid if its boundaries are blocked.



# Questions:

- *Relevance of point J to the glassy state*
- *Relevance of anomalous d.o.s. at point J to the Boson peak and anomalous vibrations in glasses*
- **Rheological behavior in the vicinity of point J?**

**Here: quasistatic simulations, probe system at yield stress  
; finite strain rate : Olson and Teitel, van Hecke and  
coworkers**

# System and methods

- Repulsive, elastic (harmonic) contact interactions.  $v(r_{ij}) = \frac{1}{2}k(\sigma - r_{ij})^2\theta(\sigma - r_{ij})$

- Bidisperse, 2d system (O'Hern 2003, Olson Teitel 2007)

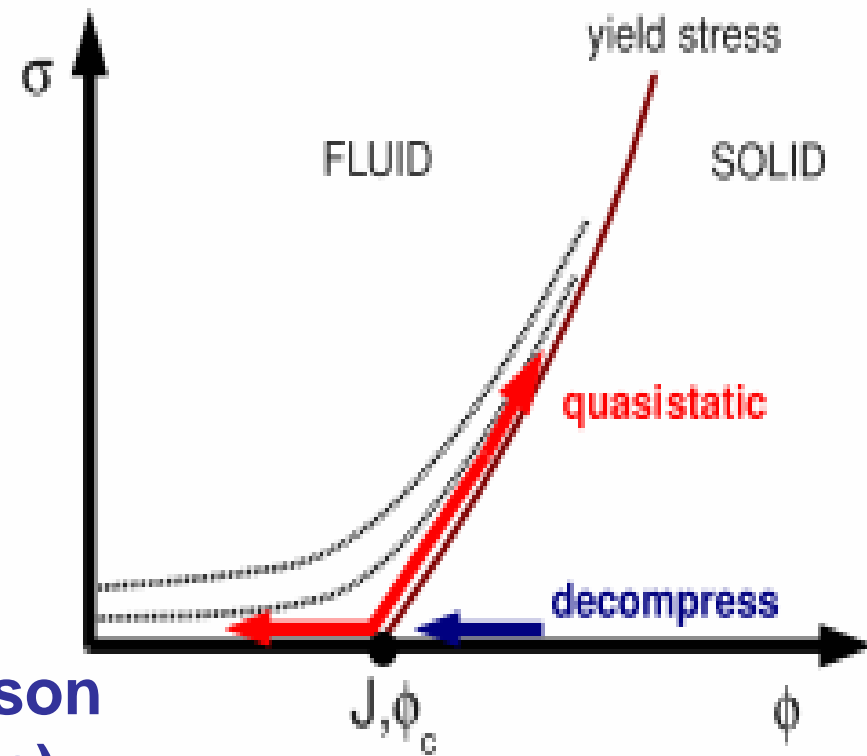
- Lees Edwards boundary conditions

- Quasistatic simulations: quench after every increment in the shear strain

step strain  $\delta\gamma = 5 \cdot 10^{-5}$

- Temperature  $T = 0$
- Strain-rate  $\rightarrow 0$

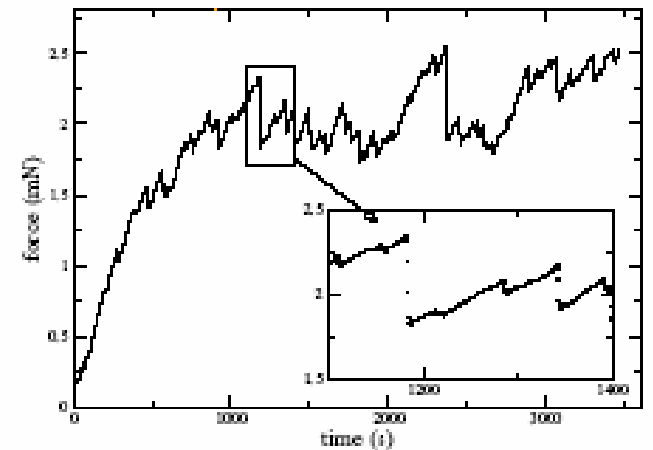
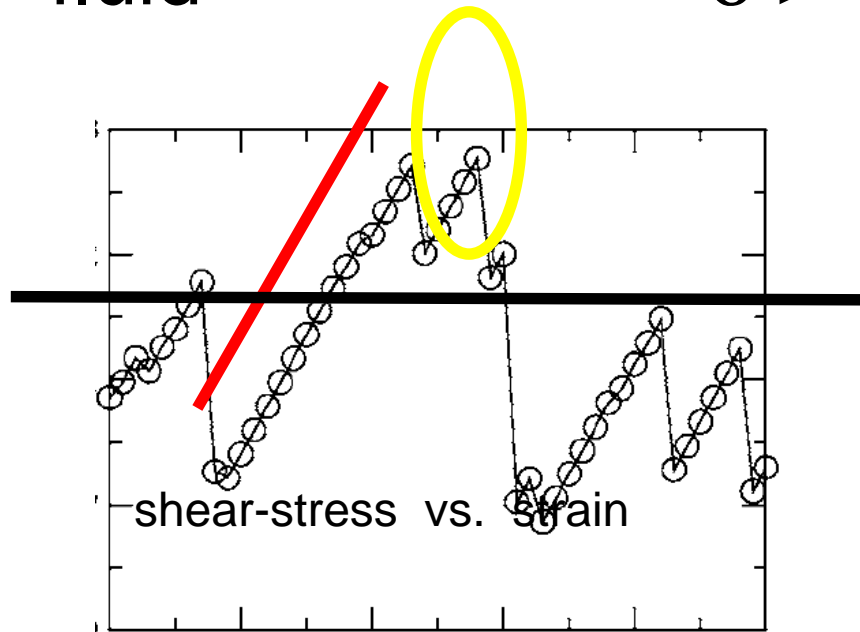
Also: overdamped MD-simulations (Olson Reichhardt, van Hecke, Caroli Lemaître)



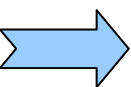
# Flow in a jammed system at low T

- “yield-stress fluid”

- solid: shear-stress  $\sigma < \sigma_{\text{yield}}$ ,
- fluid  $\sigma > \sigma_{\text{yield}}$ ,



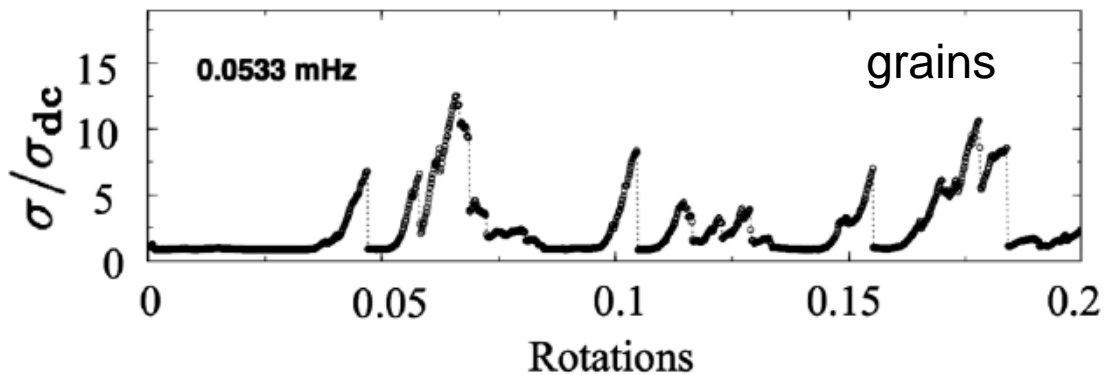
liquid foam (Cantat,  
Pitois, Phys. Of Fluids  
2007)



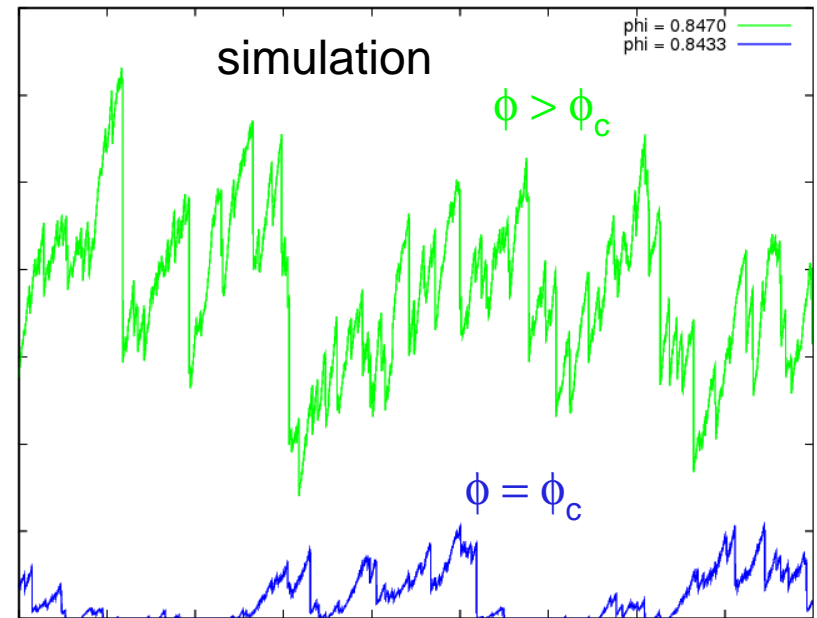
**Elastic solid with  
flow defects**

# Jamming point

Change of control parameter (here density) to tune yield stress. At the critical density yield stress vanishes, solid state breaks down



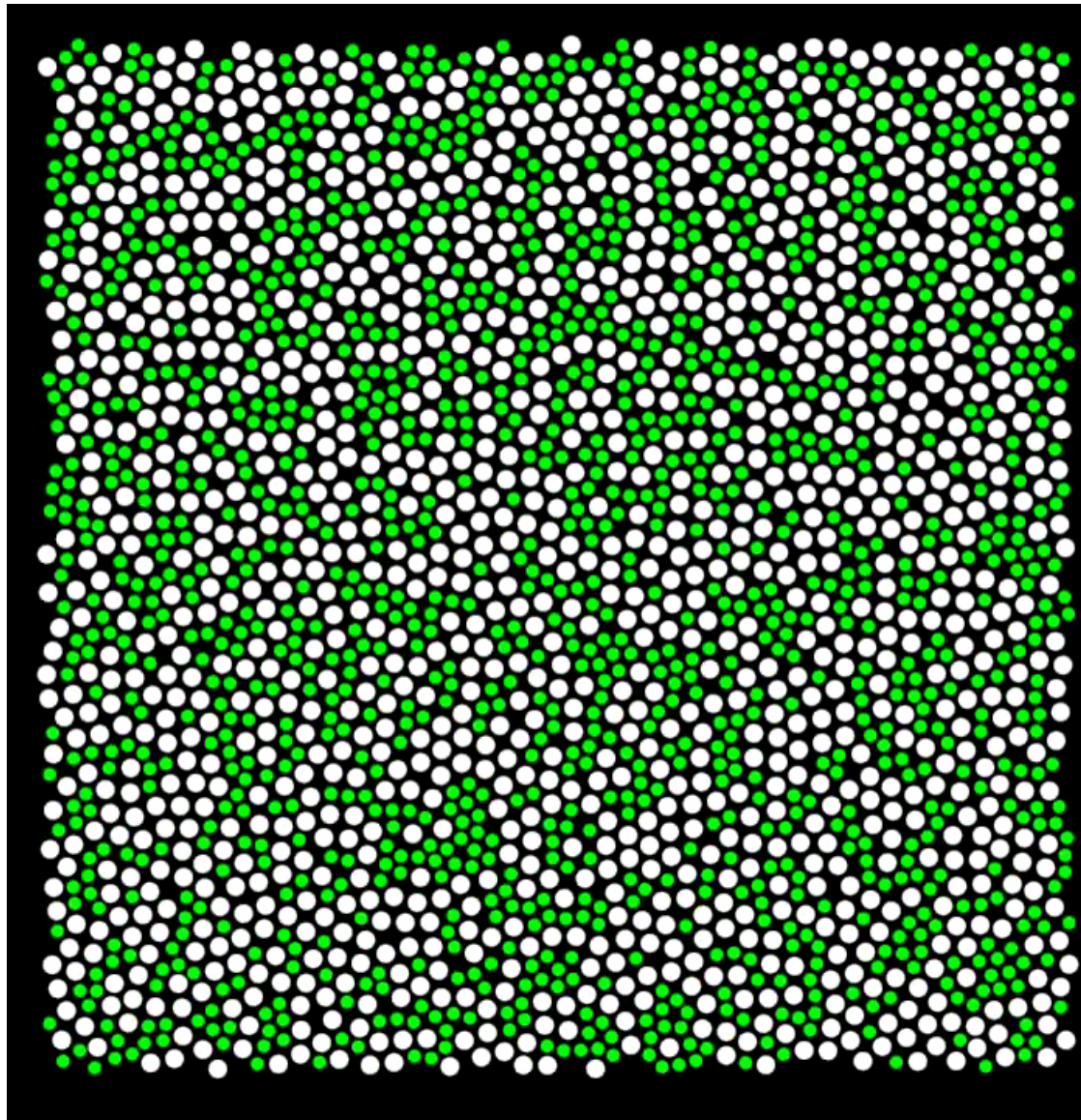
RP Behringer PRL (2008)



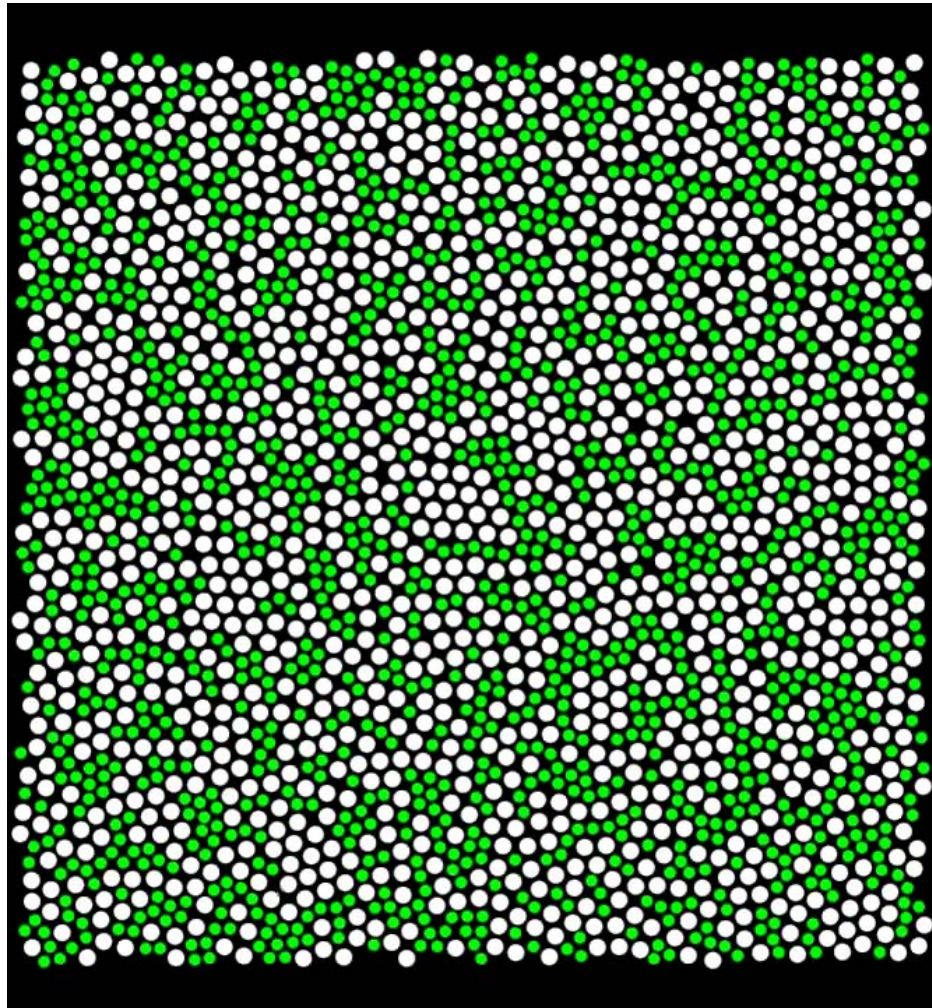
strain  
C Heussinger JLB PRL 2009

**“solid” clusters in the fluid state**

Low density  $\phi < \phi_c$



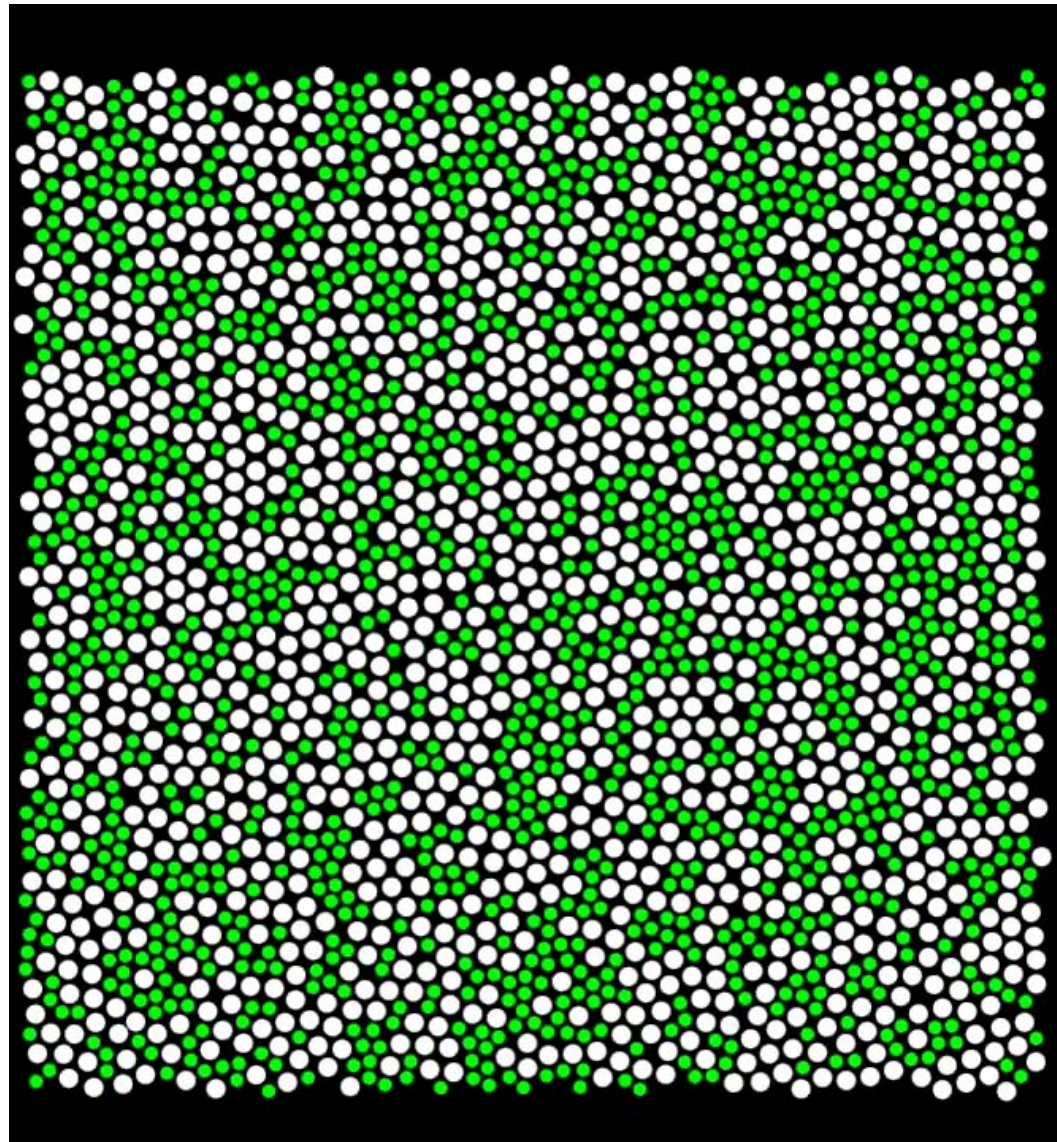
Jamming density  $\phi = \phi_c$



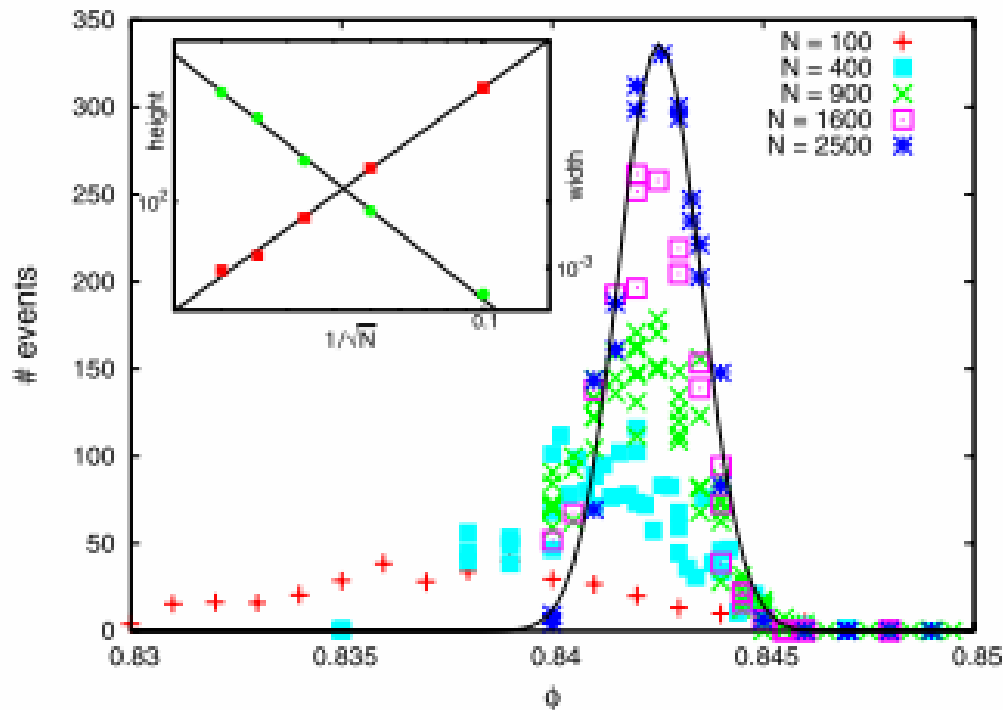
Clusters ---  
growing  
length-scale



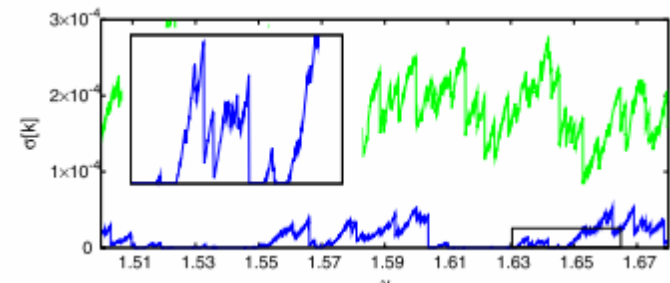
High density  $\phi > \phi_c$



# Identification of point J



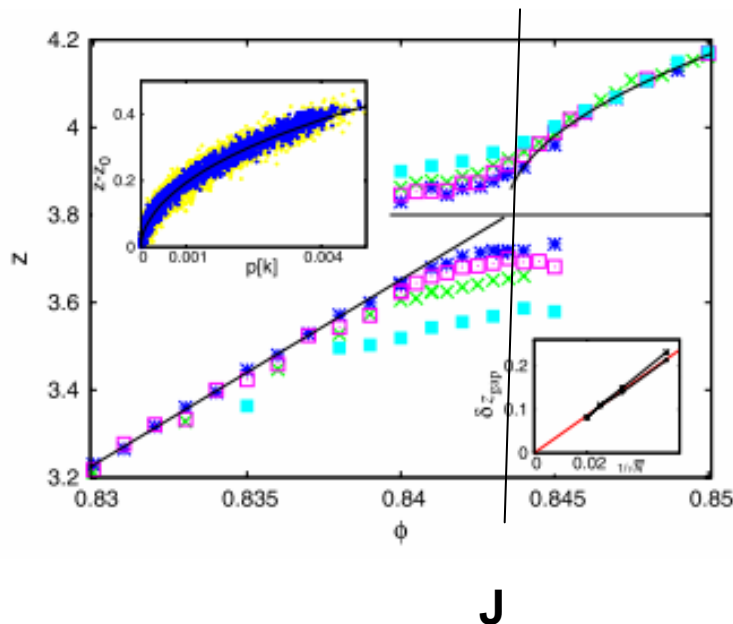
Number of jamming events  
(stress changes from zero to nonzero after strain step)  
as a function of density and system size





# Evolution in the number of contacts $z$

Number of contacts as a function of density for zero stress and nonzero stress states



In contrast to decompression simulation  $z$  is continuous

$J$  corresponds to an isostatic condition ; shear flow at point  $J$  samples isostatic configurations

**Above jamming**

(Wyart et al EPL 2005 Ellenbroek et al PRL 2006)  $\delta z = z - z_c \sim p^{1/2}$

**Below jamming: :**

$$\delta z = \phi_c - \phi$$

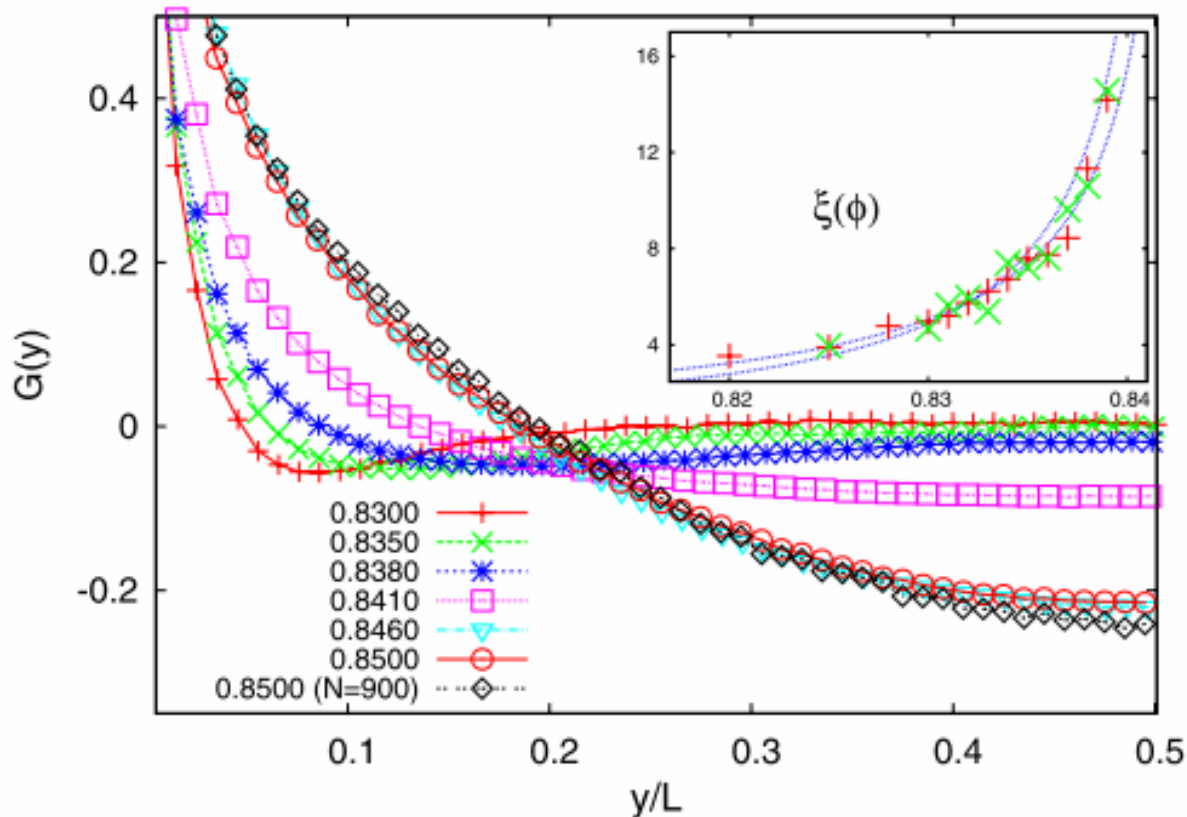
(numerical result)

**Isostatic length :**

$$l^* \sim |\delta z|^{-1}$$

# Correlation length during flow

Correlation function of nonaffine displacements (instantaneous « velocities »), similar to Olsson and Teitel PRL 2007



**Below jamming: Correlation length increases, independent of system size**

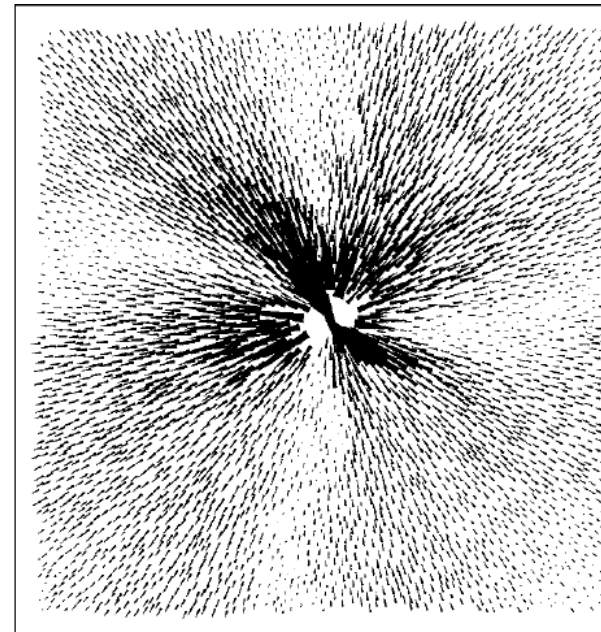
$$\xi(\phi) \sim l^*$$

**Above jamming: Correlations scale with system size (see C. Maloney, PRL 2007)**

# General picture

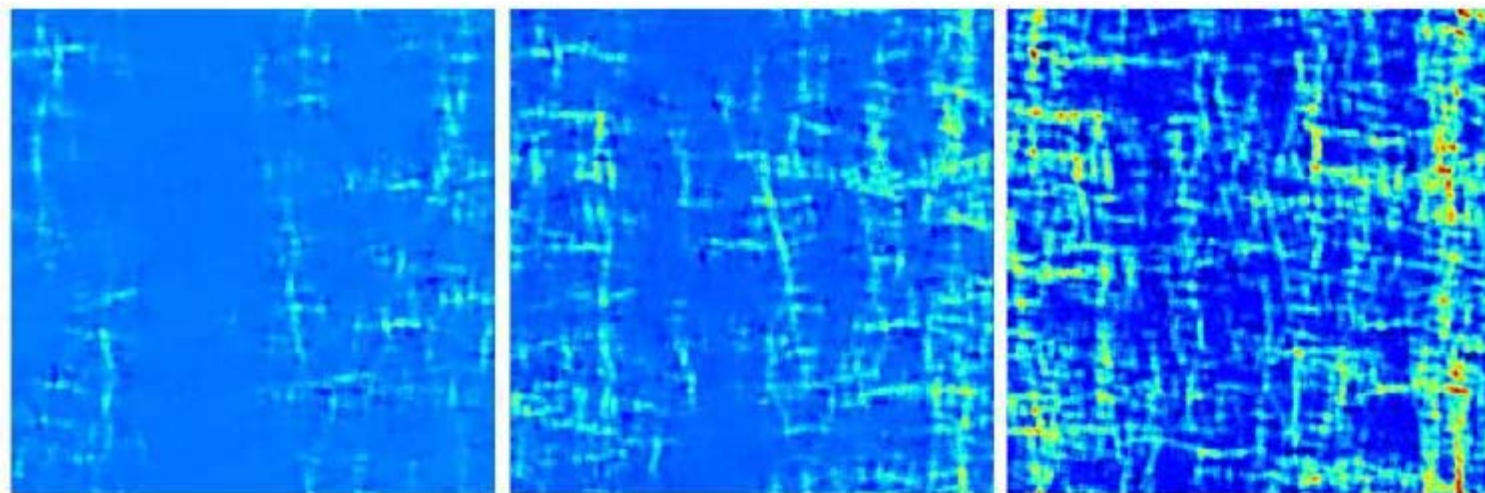
- Below jamming: correlated isostatic clusters, isostatic length is important
- Above jamming: zero temperature elastic solid with plastic flow events, the system size is the important length

**Elastic solid at low T (Lennard Jones, Silicon..): Flow events are shear transformations (Argon)**

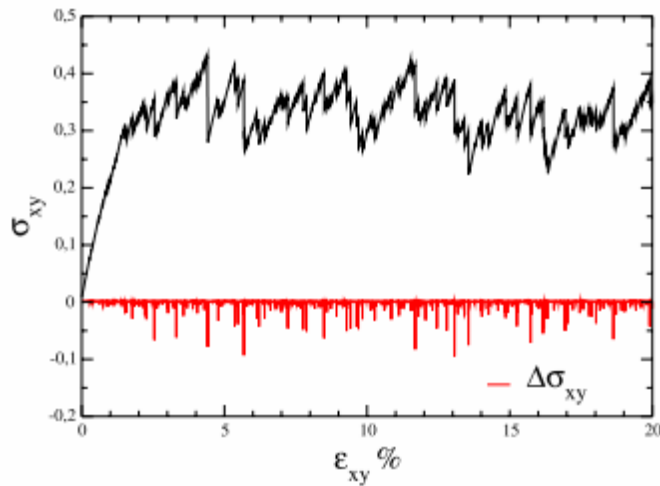


- **Localized “flips”**
- **Nucleation of avalanches**
- **Shear-bands**
- **Models: STZ, SGR, fluidity model (Bocquet PRL 2009)**

**Accumulated flow activity (Lemaître Caroli PRL 2009)**



**In this plastic flow regime stress/energy drops of broadly distributed (from simulations with continuous potentials: , Lemaître et al, Tsamados et al, Procaccia et al)**



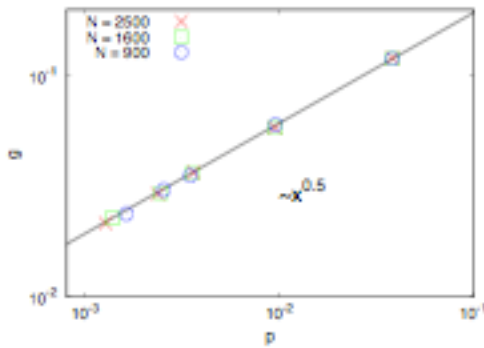
$$\Delta U \sim L^\alpha$$

$$\Delta \sigma \sim L^{-\beta}$$

$$\Delta U \sim \Delta \sigma L^d \Rightarrow \alpha + \beta = d$$

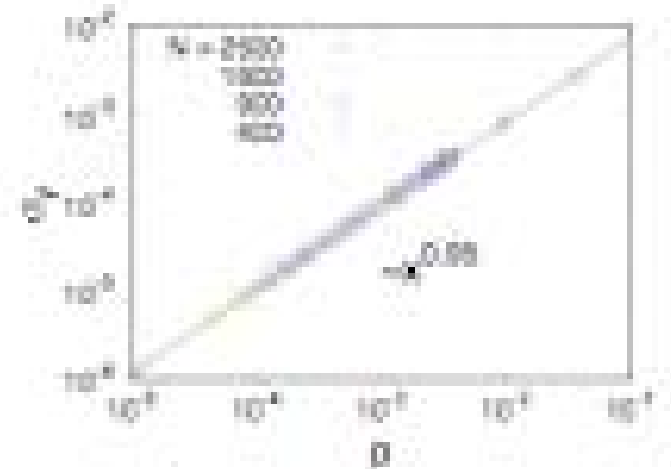
**$\alpha$  may be system dependent ; large events may be cut off by finite shear rate (Caroli, Lemaître) or thermal effects (Lemaitre Caroli, Procaccia)**

# In this particular system we find (above jamming):



$$G \sim P^{1/2}$$

(Consistent with J point scaling for static packings)



$$\sigma \sim 0.1P \sim (\phi - \phi_c)$$

(consistent with simulations of frictionless spheres by Peyneau, Roux, PRE 2008 ; different from Tighe et al who find 3/2 exponent)

$$\langle \Delta\sigma \rangle \sim N^{-1/2}$$

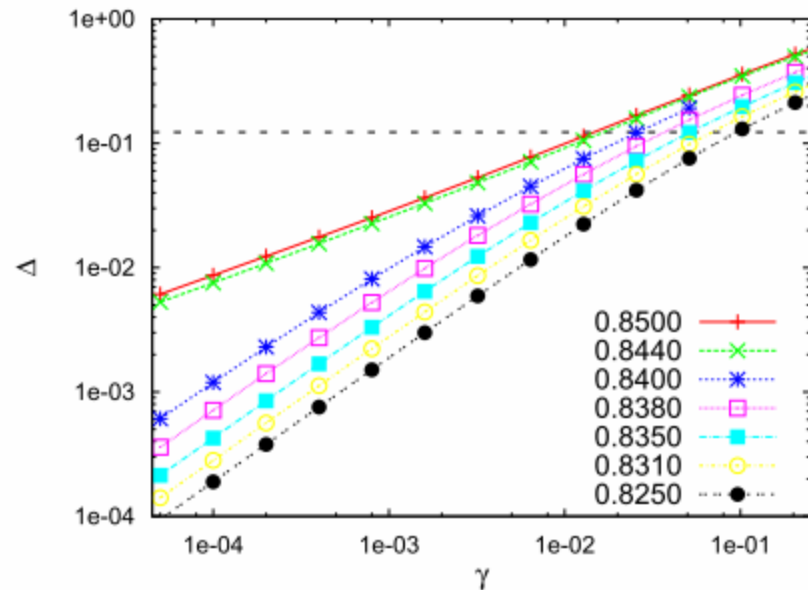
In the high  $P$  limit, consistent with studies by Maloney, Lemaître, Tanguy et al

# Correlations at point J: Single particle displacement

$$\Delta(\gamma, \phi)$$

**RMS displacement**  $\Delta(\gamma, \phi)$

- diffusive above jamming
- « ballistic » to diffusive crossover below jamming ; note that for fixed strain  $\gamma$ ,  $\Delta$  increases with volume fraction



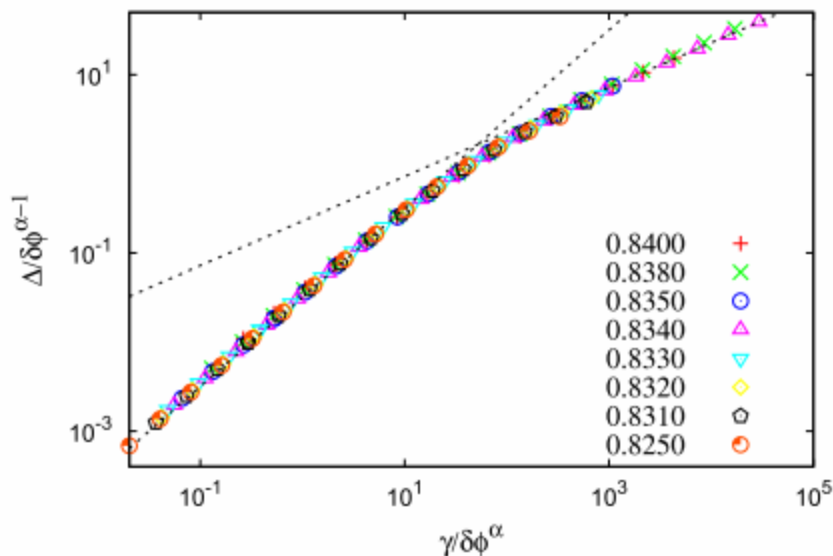
**Rescaling below jamming:**

$$\Delta(\gamma, \phi) = (\delta\phi)^{\alpha-1} \mathcal{F}(\gamma/\delta\phi^\alpha)$$

crossover strain:

$$\gamma_c \sim \delta\phi^\alpha, \quad \alpha \simeq 1.5$$

$$\gamma < \gamma_c \Rightarrow \Delta \sim \gamma/l^* \text{ with } l^* \sim \delta\phi^{-1}$$



# Correlations at point J: overlap function

$$Q_i(\gamma, a) = \exp \left[ -\frac{u_{ina}(\gamma)^2}{2a^2} \right]$$

$$Q(\gamma, a) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Q_i(\gamma, a)$$

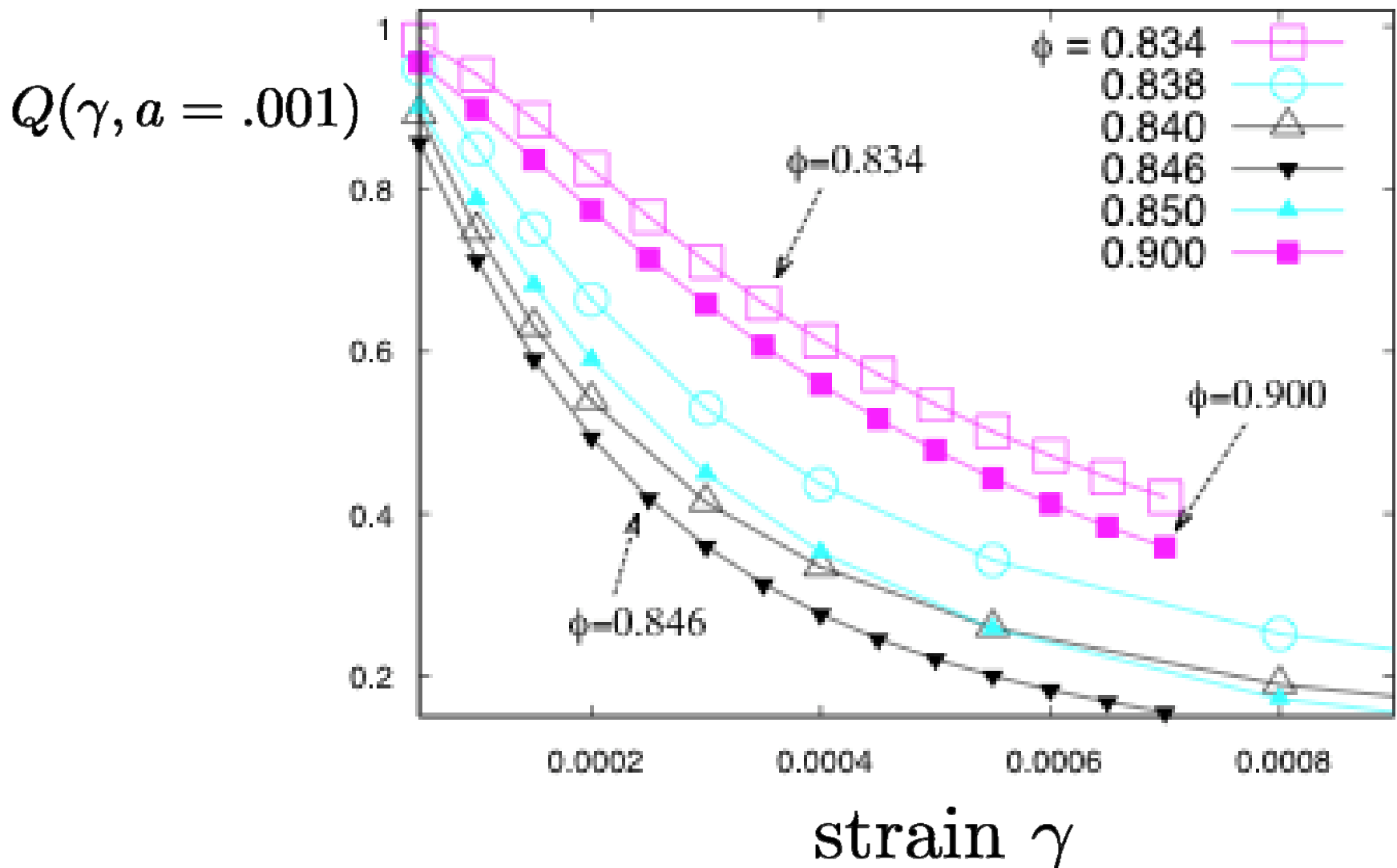
Probes displacements on the spatial scale  $a$  ( $1/a$  similar to wavevector  $k$  for *incoherent scattering*)

***Studied in horizontally oscillated granular systems by Lechenaut, Dauchot et al, Europhys Lett 2008***



Q decays « faster » as jamming is approached from below (system de-correlates *faster* under compression)

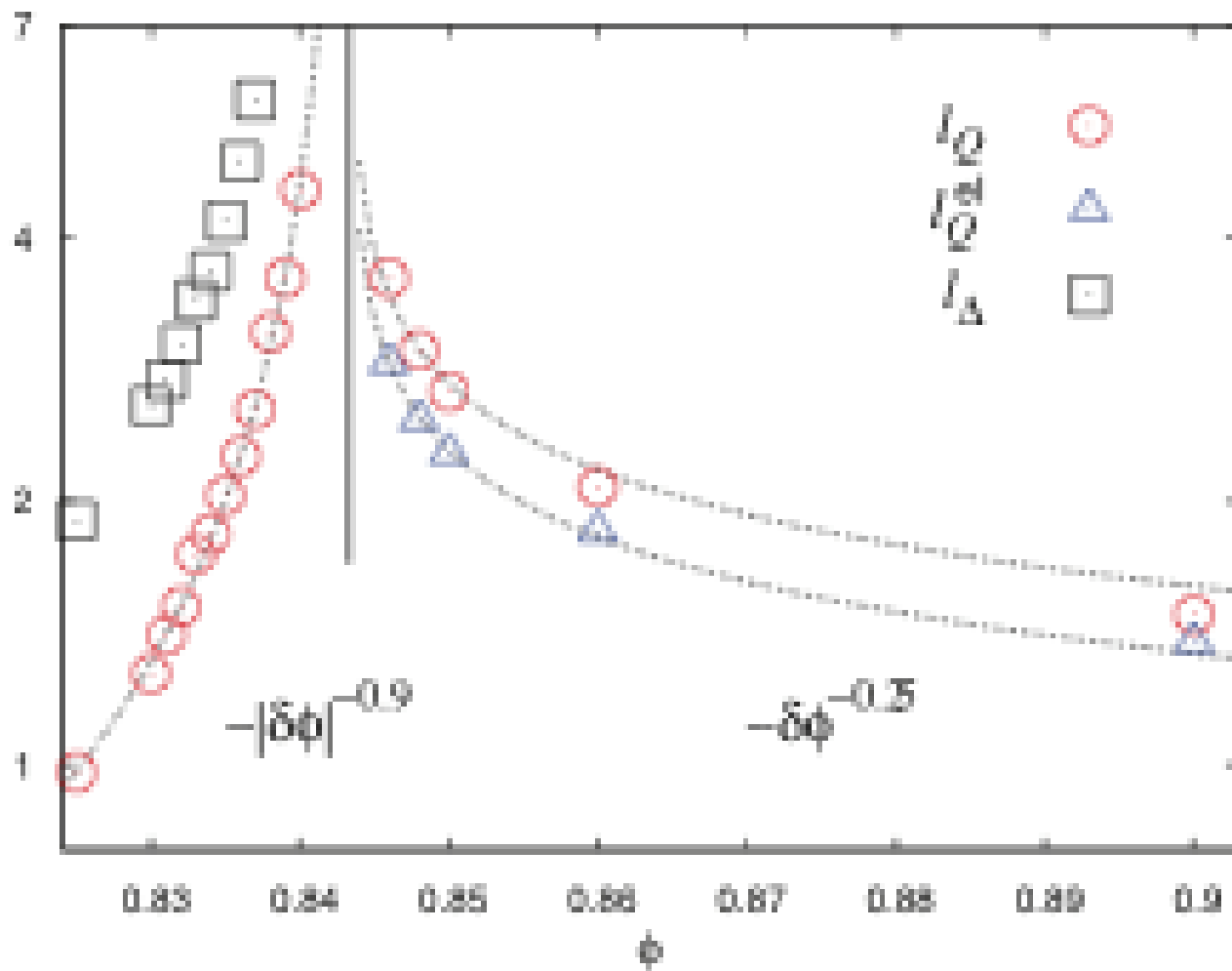
Above jamming system becomes « slower » under compression  
=> Identification of point J from the strain dependance of Q



Define  $l_Q(\phi)$  such that  $Q(\gamma, \gamma l_Q) = 0.5$

For small strains (ballistic regime)  $l_Q$  independent of  $\gamma$ .

And  $l_\Delta$  defined by  $l_\Delta = \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 0} \Delta(\gamma)/\gamma$



# Cooperativity: correlation length from four points correlations

$$Q(\gamma, a) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N Q_i(\gamma, a)$$

$$\chi_4(\gamma, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{N} \left( \langle \mathbf{Q}(\gamma, \mathbf{a})^2 \rangle - \langle \mathbf{Q}(\gamma, \mathbf{a}) \rangle^2 \right)$$

Probes cooperativity on the spatial scale  $a$  ( $1/a$  similar to wavevector  $k$ )

***Similar studies in vibrated granular systems by Lechenaut, Dauchot et al, Europhys Lett 2008***

# Heterogeneity of $Q_4$

Simulation  
(steady shear)

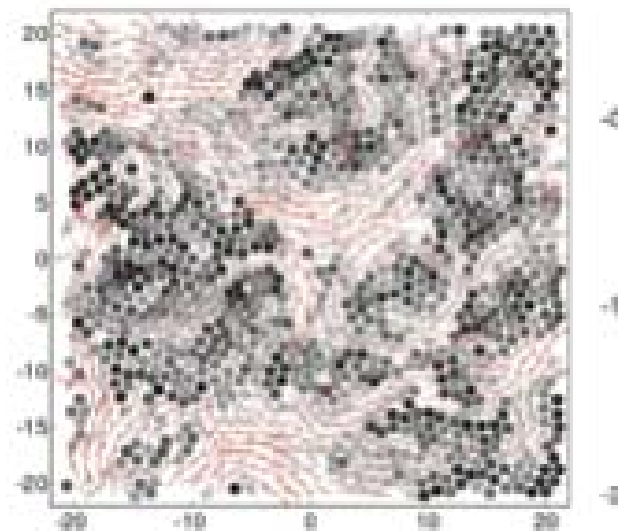
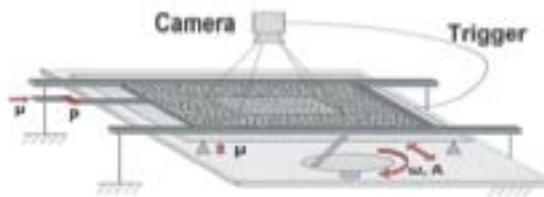


$$\phi < \phi_c$$

$$\phi \simeq \phi_c$$

$$\phi > \phi_c$$

Experiment (Lechenault, Dauchot, Biroli, Bouchaud EPL 2008) ;  
horizontally vibrated layer of grains.

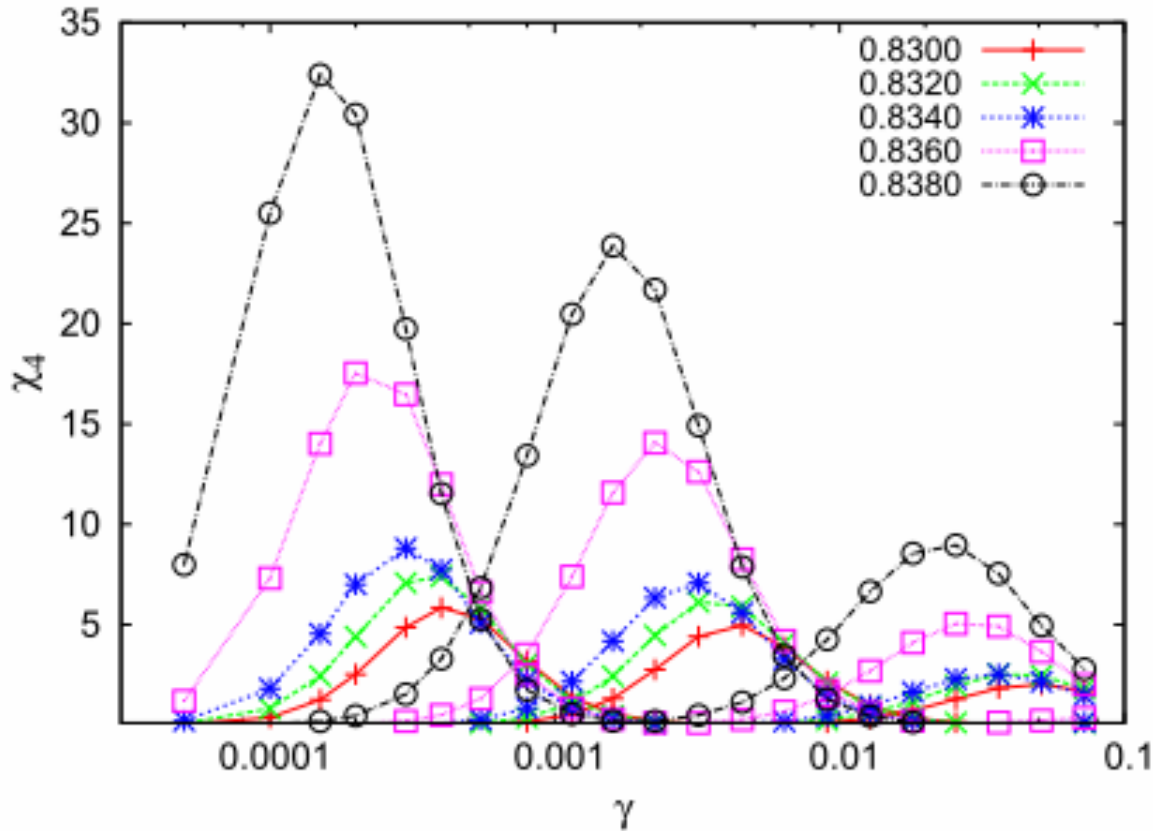


For  $\Delta(\gamma) < a$  all particles are "immobile"  
on scale  $a$ ,  $\chi_4(\gamma, a) \simeq 0$

For  $\Delta(\gamma) \gg a$  all particles are "mobile"  
on scale  $a$ ,  $\chi_4(\gamma, a) \simeq 0$

$\Rightarrow$  **maximum of  $\chi_4$  for a finite strain  $\gamma(a)$**

# Behaviour of the 4 points correlations



At fixed  $a$ , the peak of  $\chi_4$  increases as  $\phi \rightarrow \phi_c$  from below

At fixed  $a$ ,  $\chi_4(\gamma, a)$  is maximum for  $\gamma^*$  such that  $\Delta(\gamma^*) = a$

**No characteristic value for  $a$  (different from Lechenaut's experiment)**

The maximum can be used to identify  $N_{coop}$ , number of particles moving collectively, and length  $\xi$  (assuming  $N_{coop} \sim \xi^d$ )

Argument (Heuer and Doliwa, Phys. Rev E. **61**, 2000 )

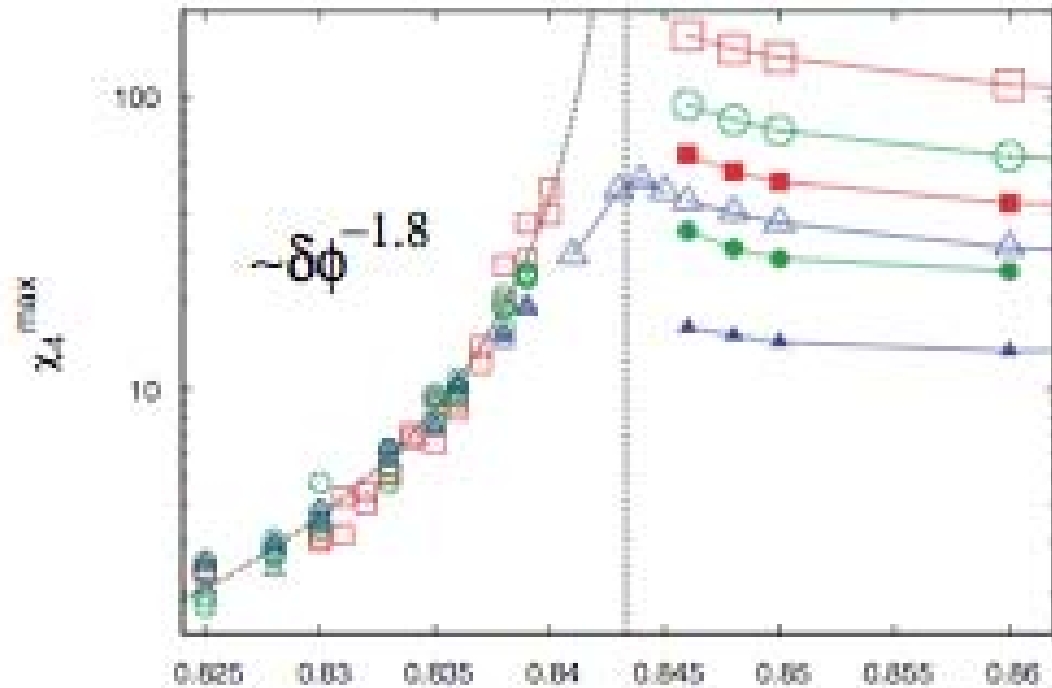
$K = N/N_{coop}$  blocks of  $N_{coop}$  particles, each moving collectively

$\chi_4/N$  is the variance of  $Q = 1/K \sum_{i=1}^K s_i$  with  $s_i = 0$  if block  $i$  has moved,  $s_i = 1$  else.

When  $\langle s_i \rangle = 1/2$ ,  $var(Q) = 1/K$ ,  $\chi_4 = N_{coop}$

$$\max \chi_4 \sim \xi^2$$

$$\xi \sim l^* \sim \delta\phi^{-1}$$

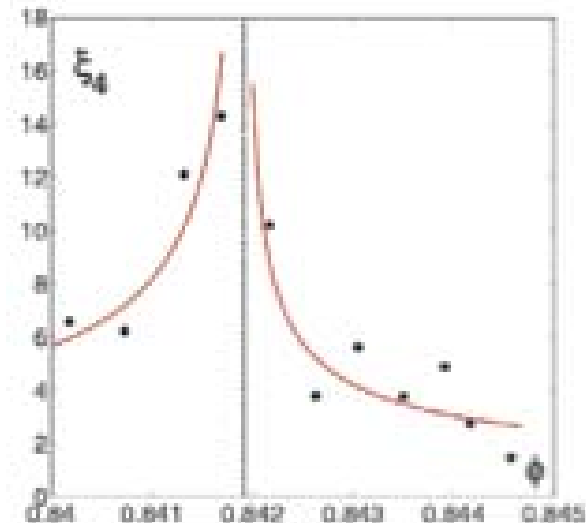


Divergent dynamical correlation length below jamming

System size dependence above jamming

Different from experimentally observed behaviour ?

(note different density intervals)





# Conclusion

- **Dynamical correlation length diverges at  $\phi_c$  (consistent with Lechenault's experiment) : seen in velocity autocorrelation, mean squared displacement, heterogeneities.**
- **Below  $\phi_c$  dynamical correlations are associated with isostatic clusters moving rigidly ; « ballistic » (superdiffusive) regime at small strains**

$$\xi \sim l^* \quad \Delta \sim \gamma l^*$$

- **Above jamming dynamical correlations dominated by plastic activity, similar to usual amorphous systems at low T ; dynamical correlation length scales with system size, with a finite strain rate cutoff.**

## References:

Jamming transition as probed by quasistatic shear flow

C. Heussinger, J-L. Barrat, Phys Rev Lett. 102, 218303 (2009)

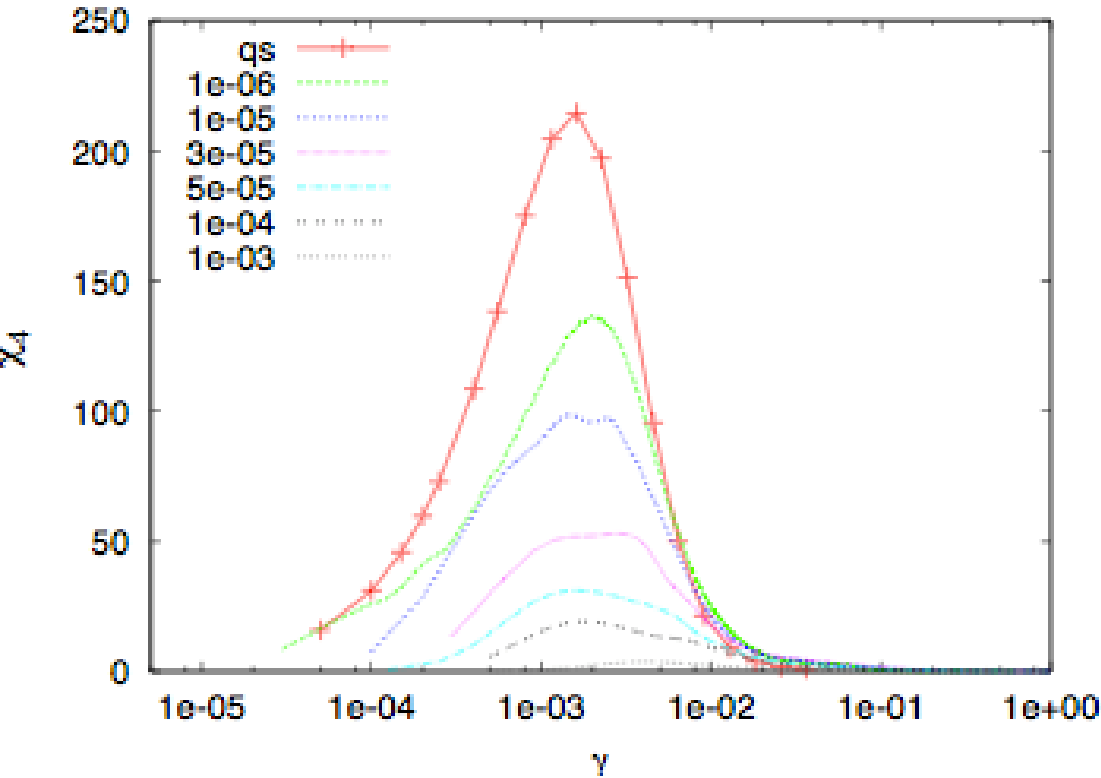
Superdiffusive, heterogeneous and collective particle motion near the fluid solid transition in athermal disordered materials

C. Heussinger, L. Berthier, J-L. Barrat, EPL 90, 20005 (2010)

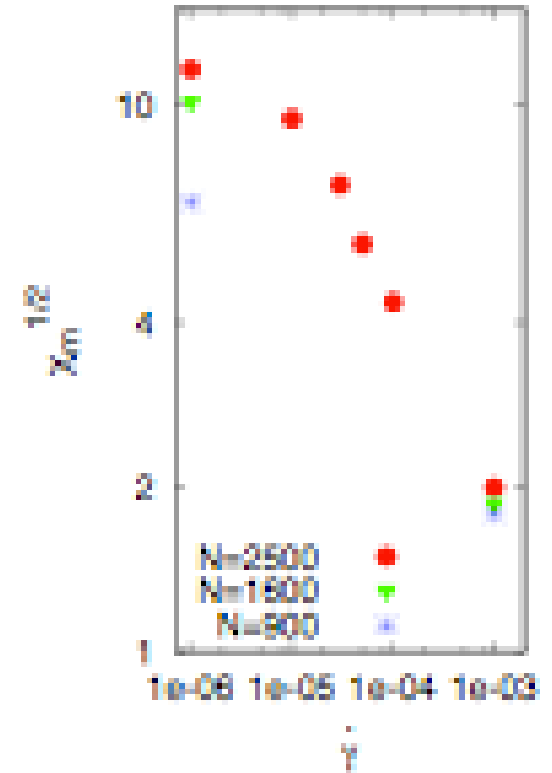
Fluctuations and correlations during the shear flow of elastic particles near the jamming transition

C. Heussinger, P. Chaudhuri, J-L. Barrat, Softmatter 6, 3050 (2010)

## NB: finite strain rate (with P. Chaudhuri)



$\chi_4$  for different strain rates  
approaching the quasistatic limit



Peak height  
for different  
sizes and  
strain rates