

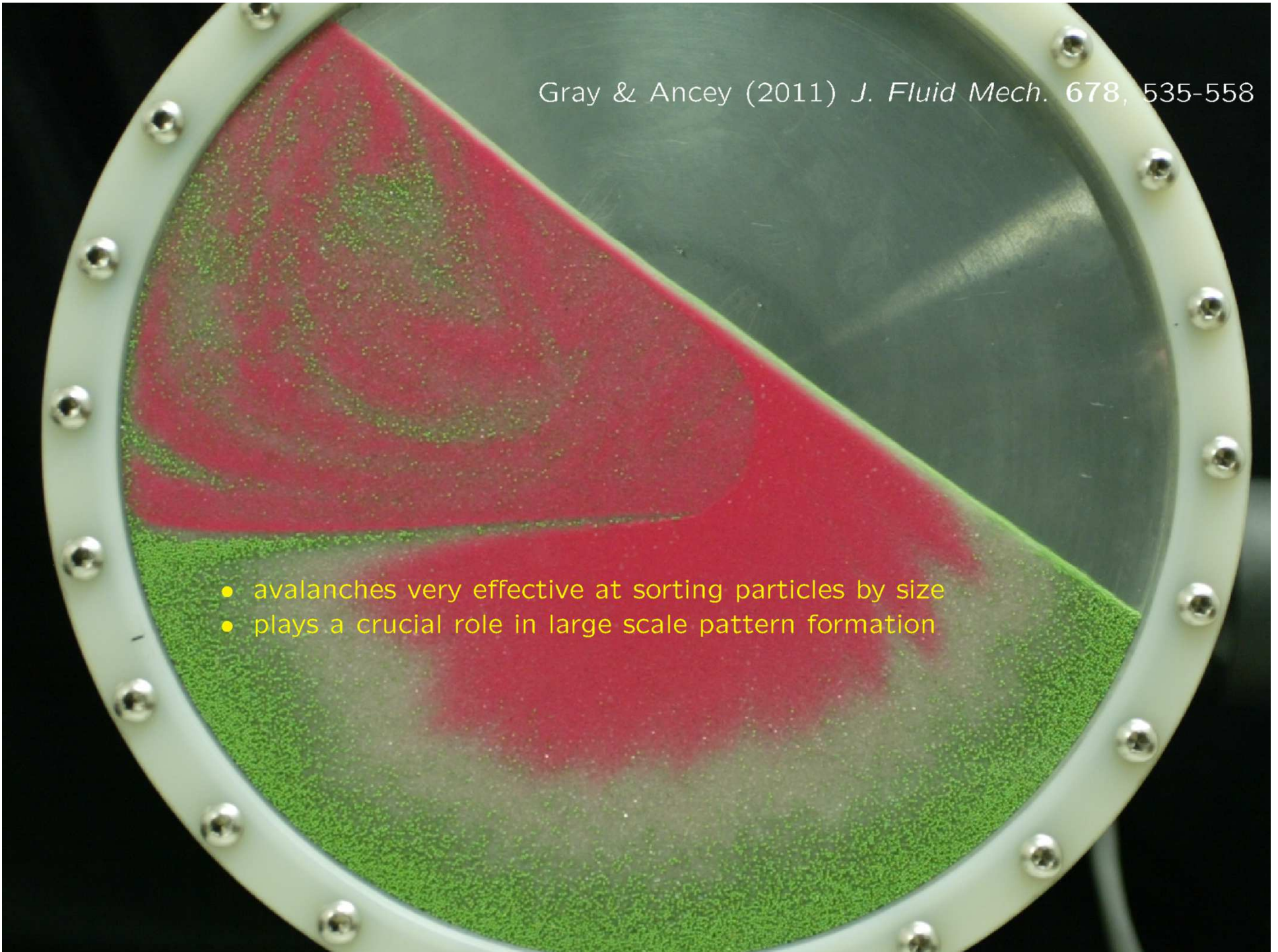
Particle size segregation in granular
free-surface flows, by Nico Gray



Gray & Hutter (1997) *Contin. Mech. Thermodyn.* 9(6), 341-345

Gray & Ancy (2011) *J. Fluid Mech.* 678, 535-558

- avalanches very effective at sorting particles by size
- plays a crucial role in large scale pattern formation



Reverse distribution grading

Large

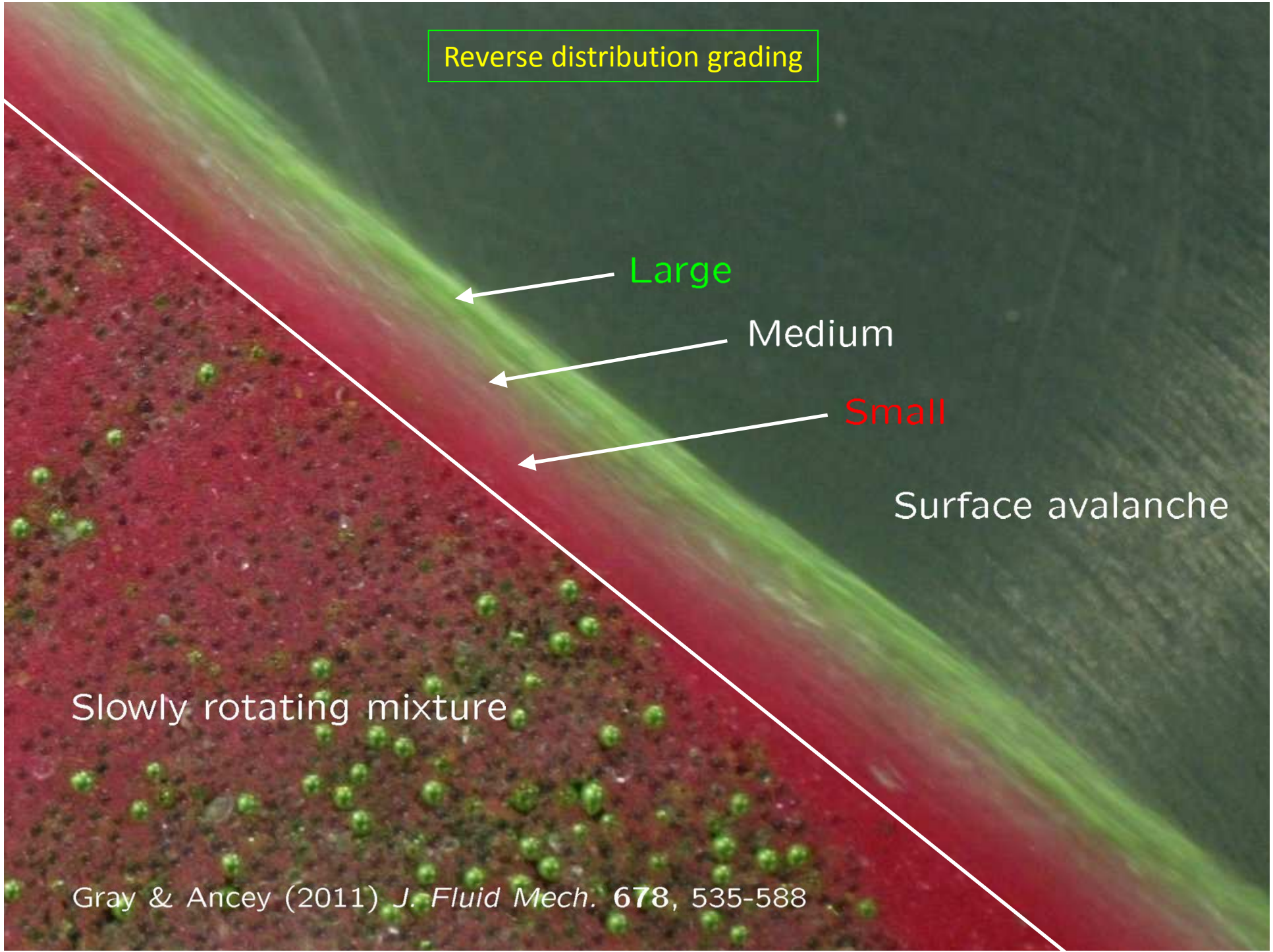
Medium

Small

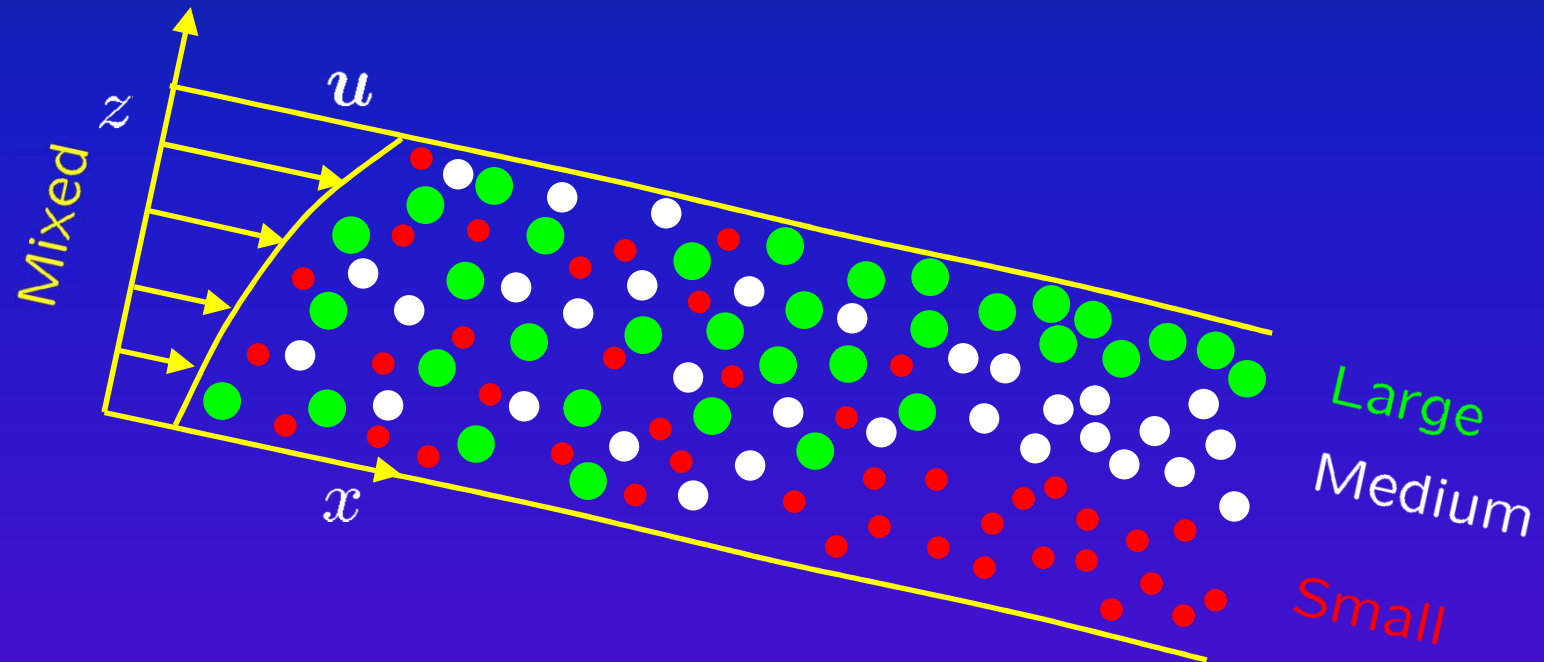
Surface avalanche

Slowly rotating mixture

Gray & Ancy (2011) *J. Fluid Mech.* 678, 535-588



Particle-size segregation and diffusive-remixing



- kinetic sieving is the key segregation mechanism
 - small particles more likely to fall down into gaps
 - and then force large particles up
 - to create inversely graded layers
- diffusive-remixing competes against this

Mixture framework

- the volume fraction ϕ^ν of constituent ν , per unit volume of mixture, lies in the range

$$0 \leq \phi^\nu \leq 1.$$

and their sum

$$\sum_{\forall \nu} \phi^\nu = 1.$$

- In standard mixture theory the partial and intrinsic density, stress, pressure and velocity fields satisfy

$$\rho^\nu = \phi^\nu \rho^{\nu*}, \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma}^\nu = \phi^\nu \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\nu*}, \quad p^\nu = \phi^\nu p^{\nu*}, \quad \mathbf{u}^\nu = \mathbf{u}^{\nu*}$$

- The bulk density and pressure are defined as

$$\rho = \sum_{\forall \nu} \rho^\nu, \quad p = \sum_{\forall \nu} p^\nu.$$

Mass and momentum balances for each constituent

- Each constituent satisfies individual mass

$$\frac{\partial \rho^\nu}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho^\nu \mathbf{u}^\nu) = 0,$$

and momentum balances

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\rho^\nu \mathbf{u}^\nu) + \nabla \cdot (\rho^\nu \mathbf{u}^\nu \otimes \mathbf{u}^\nu) = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}^\nu + \rho^\nu \mathbf{g} + \boldsymbol{\beta}^\nu,$$

where \otimes is the dyadic product and \mathbf{g} is the gravitational acceleration vector.

- The interaction force $\boldsymbol{\beta}^\nu$ is the force exerted on phase ν by all the other constituents. Their sum

$$\sum_{\forall \nu} \boldsymbol{\beta}^\nu = \mathbf{0}.$$

Bulk lithostatic pressure

- Particles have the same intrinsic density $\rho^{v*} = \rho_0$
- Acceleration terms are negligible in the z direction.
- The normal momentum balances sum to

$$\frac{\partial p}{\partial z} = -\rho g \cos \zeta,$$

where g is the gravitational acceleration.

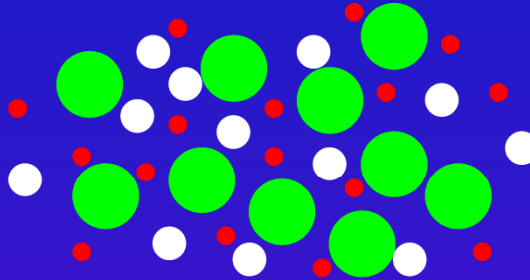
- Since ρ is constant and the free-surface $z = s(x, t)$ is traction free, this can be integrated to show that the pressure is lithostatic

$$p = \rho g (s - z) \cos \zeta.$$

- Compatible with existing avalanche models

Non-standard partial/intrinsic pressure relation

- As small particles percolate downwards, they support less of the overburden pressure \Rightarrow large grains support more of the load.



- suggests a partial/intrinsic pressure relation that differs from standard mixture theory

$$p^\nu = f^\nu p,$$

where $f^\nu \neq \phi^\nu$ determines the proportion of the pressure carried by each constituent. Their sum

$$\sum_{\forall \nu} f^\nu = 1.$$

Interaction drag

- Interaction drag consists of three terms

$$\beta^\nu = p\nabla f^\nu - \rho^\nu c(\mathbf{u}^\nu - \mathbf{u}) - \rho d\nabla\phi^\nu,$$

c is the coefficient of inter-particle drag,

d is the coefficient of diffusive remixing

- barycentric (bulk) velocity defined by

$$\rho\mathbf{u} = \sum_{\forall\nu} \rho^\nu \mathbf{u}^\nu.$$

- The constituent velocities are assumed equal to the bulk velocity in the down- and cross-slope directions

$$u^\nu = u, \quad v^\nu = v.$$

Momentum balance of each constituent in the normal direction

- Assuming normal accelerations are negligible

$$\phi^\nu w^\nu = \phi^\nu w + (f^\nu - \phi^\nu)(g/c) \cos \zeta - (d/c) \frac{\partial \phi^\nu}{\partial z},$$

$f^\nu - \phi^\nu > 0$ particles rise

$f^\nu - \phi^\nu = 0$ no relative motion

$f^\nu - \phi^\nu < 0$ particles percolate downwards

- When any class of particles are in a pure phase they must carry all of the load

$$f^\nu = 1, \quad \text{when} \quad \phi^\nu = 1,$$

- When there are no particles of that phase, they cannot carry any of the load

$$f^\nu = 0, \quad \text{when} \quad \phi^\nu = 0.$$

Additive decomposition of the perturbations

- If any two constituents are found in isolation, the form of f^ν must reduce to bidisperse case, e.g.

$$f^l = \phi^l + B_{ls}\phi^l\phi^s,$$

- This suggests an additive decomposition

$$f^\nu = \phi^\nu + \sum_{\forall\mu} B_{\nu\mu}\phi^\nu\phi^\mu,$$

- $B_{(\nu\nu)} = 0, \quad \forall\nu$, no perturbations exerted by any constituent on itself
- $B_{\nu\mu} = -B_{\mu\nu}, \quad \forall\nu \neq \mu$, ν equal and opposite to μ
- then $\sum f^\nu = 1$ is automatically satisfied.

The multi-component segregation remixing equation

- Non-dimensionalizing on typical thickness H , length L and velocity U implies that

$$w^\nu = w + \sum_{\forall \mu} S_{\nu\mu} \phi^\mu - D_r \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\ln \phi^\nu),$$

where

$$S_{\nu\mu} = \frac{Lg \cos \zeta}{HUc} B_{\nu\mu}, \quad D_r = \frac{DL}{H^2U}.$$

- The non-dimensional segregation remixing equation for phase ν is therefore

$$\frac{\partial \phi^\nu}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^\nu \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(\sum_{\forall \mu} S_{\nu\mu} \phi^\nu \phi^\mu \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^\nu}{\partial z} \right),$$

Bi-disperse mixtures

- The multi-component theory yields two equations for the large and small particles

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^l \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{ls} \phi^l \phi^s) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial z} \right), \\ \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^s \mathbf{u}) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{ls} \phi^s \phi^l) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial z} \right).\end{aligned}$$

- The summation condition $\sum \phi^\nu = 1$ implies

$$\phi^l + \phi^s = 1,$$

- Large particle concentration can be eliminated

$$\frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^s \mathbf{u}) - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{ls} \phi^s (1 - \phi^s)) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial z} \right).$$

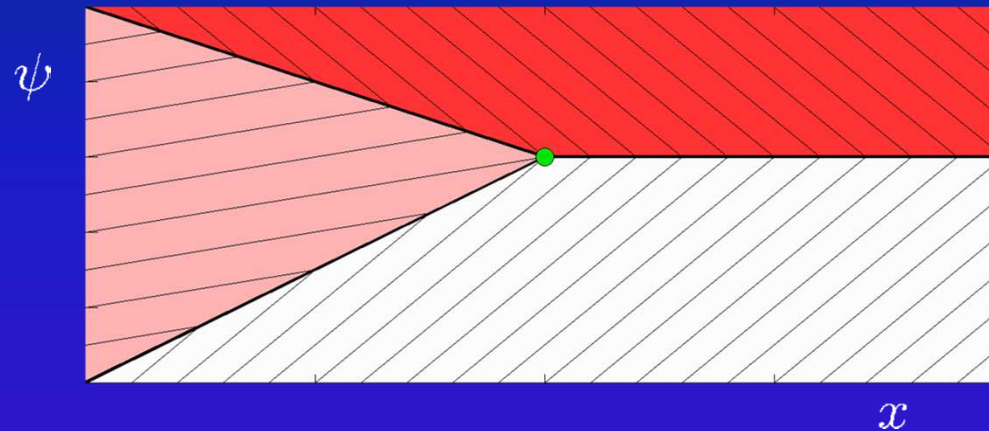
Gray & Thornton (2005) *Proc. Roy. Soc. A.* **461**, 1447-1473.

Gray & Chugunov (2006) *J. Fluid Mech.* **569**, 365-398.



Consistent with experiments of Savage & Lun (1988) and Vallance & Savage (2000)

Steady-state concentration shocks in absence of diffusive-remixing



- shock height $s(x)$ satisfies the jump condition

$$\left[\left[\phi u \frac{ds}{dx} + S_{ls} \phi (1 - \phi) \right] \right] = 0 \Rightarrow u \frac{ds}{dx} = S_{ls} (\phi^+ + \phi^- - 1)$$

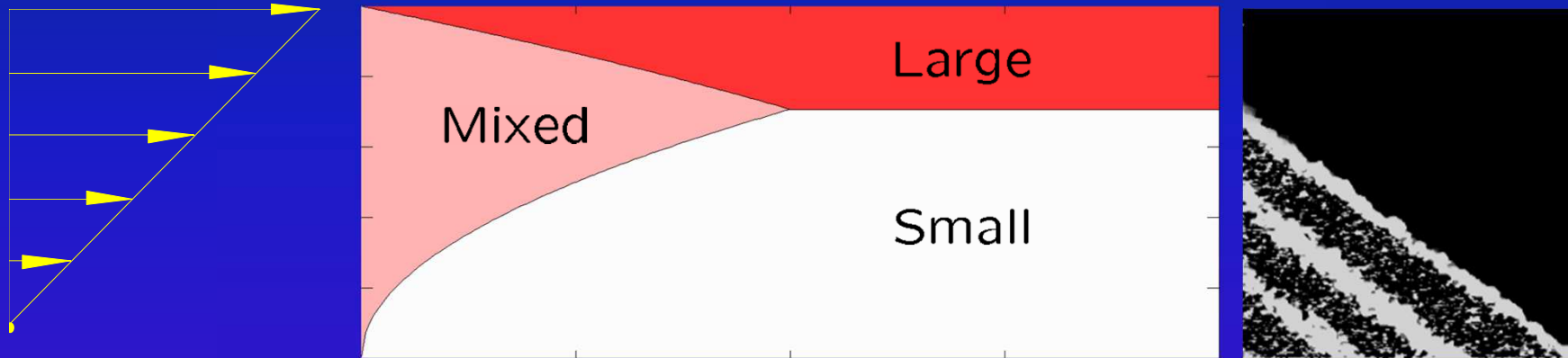
- Using depth-integrated velocity coordinates

$$\psi = \int_0^z u(z') dz'$$

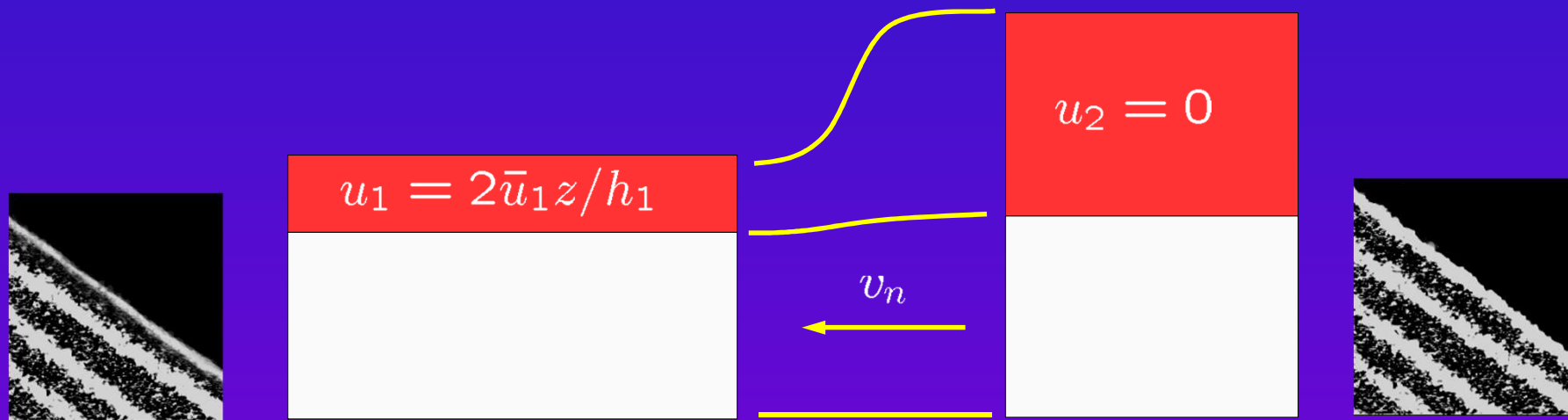
- this can be integrated to show there are three intersecting shocks for a homogeneous inflow with $\phi = \phi_0$

$$\psi_1 = S_{ls} \phi_0 x, \quad \psi_2 = 1 - S_{ls} (1 - \phi_0) x, \quad \psi_3 = \phi_0$$

- within the flowing avalanche the particles “inverse-grade”



- when they stop the upper layers expand more
- because there is a higher mass flux at the top



A ternary mixture of large medium and small particles

- Theory gives three equations

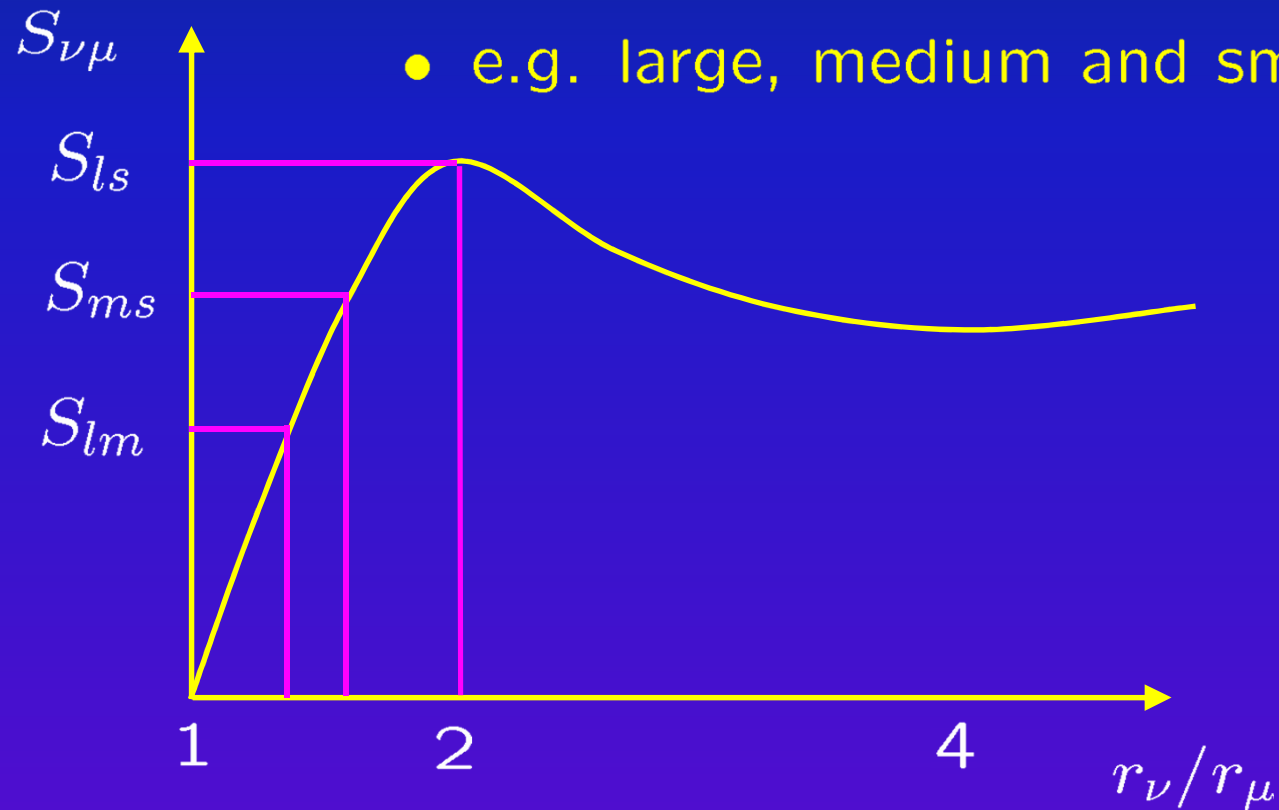
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^l \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{lm} \phi^l \phi^m + S_{ls} \phi^l \phi^s) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial z} \right) \\ \frac{\partial \phi^m}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^m \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (-S_{lm} \phi^m \phi^l + S_{ms} \phi^m \phi^s) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^m}{\partial z} \right) \\ \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^s \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (-S_{ls} \phi^s \phi^l - S_{ms} \phi^s \phi^m) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial z} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- Sum $\phi^l + \phi^m + \phi^s = 1$ allows ϕ^m to be eliminated

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^l \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{lm} \phi^l (1 - \phi^l - \phi^s) + S_{ls} \phi^l \phi^s) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial z} \right) \\ \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\phi^s \mathbf{u}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (-S_{ls} \phi^s \phi^l - S_{ms} \phi^s (1 - \phi^l - \phi^s)) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial z} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- We will see diffusion is important to maintain well-posedness

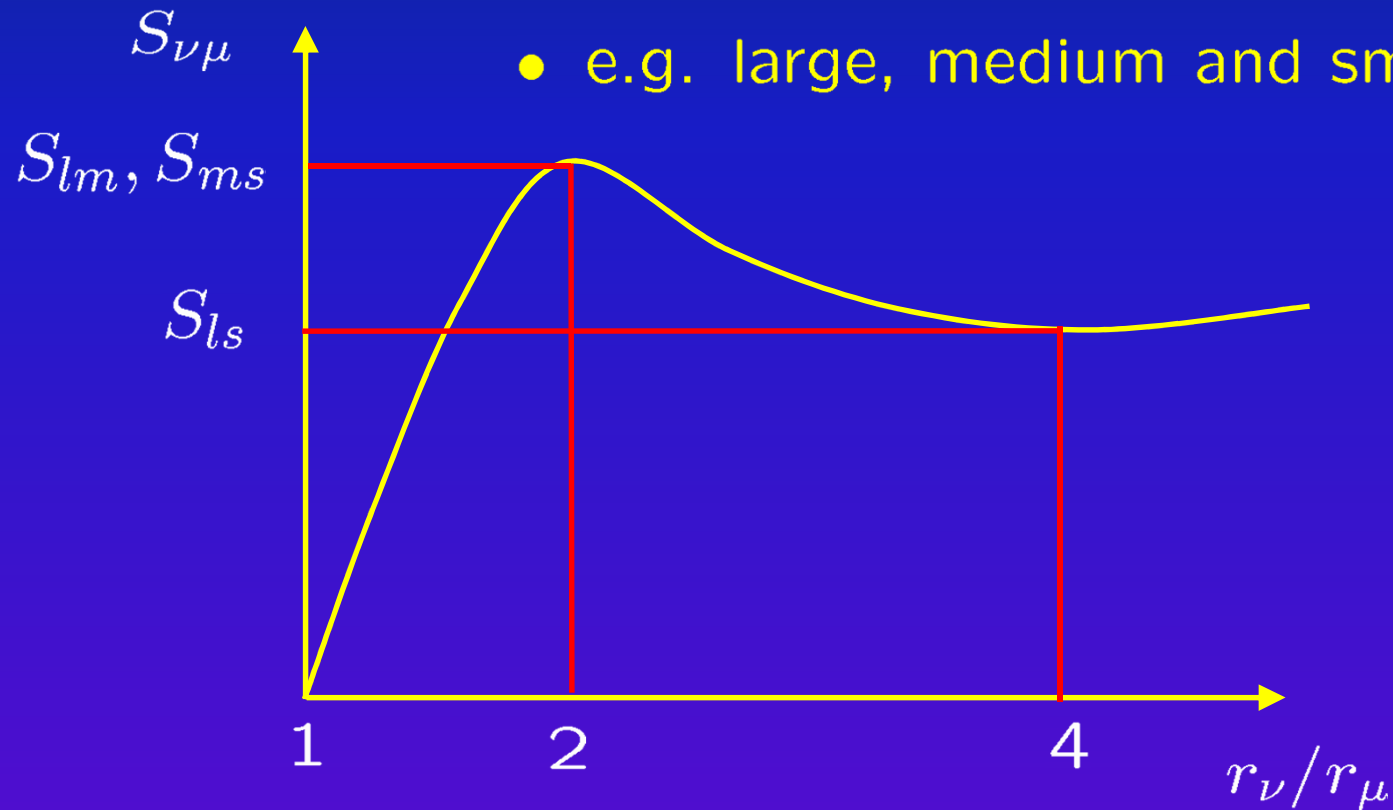
Use bi-disperse experiments to determine segregation rates



- e.g. large, medium and small particles

- Golick & Daniels (2009) suggest segregation rate may have maximum at a grain size ratio of two
- \Rightarrow segregation rates S_{ls}, S_{lm}, S_{ms} are not ordered

Use bi-disperse experiments to determine segregation rates



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Characteristic wave-speeds

- Defining $\phi = (\phi^l, \phi^m, \phi^s)^T$ system can be written as

$$\frac{D\phi}{Dt} + \mathbf{A} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} S_{lm}\phi^m + S_{ls}\phi^s & S_{lm}\phi^l & S_{ls}\phi^l \\ -S_{lm}\phi^m & -S_{lm}\phi^l + S_{ms}\phi^s & S_{ms}\phi^m \\ -S_{ls}\phi^s & -S_{ms}\phi^s & -S_{ls}\phi^l - S_{ms}\phi^m \end{pmatrix}.$$

- The characteristic wave speeds are given by

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = 0,$$

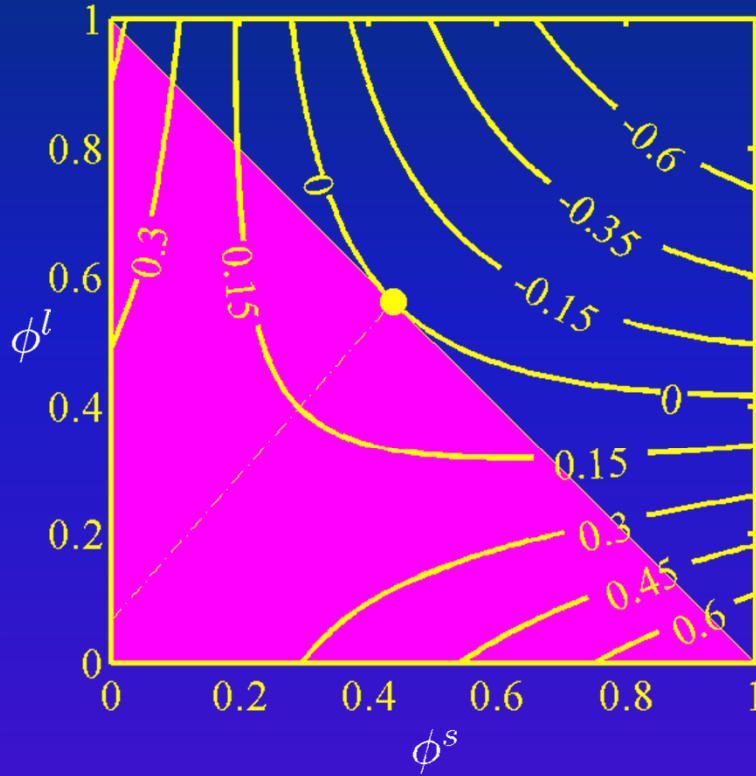
- The eigenvalue $\lambda = 0$ is easily spotted, which leaves

$$\lambda^2 + \gamma_1 \lambda + \gamma_2 = 0,$$

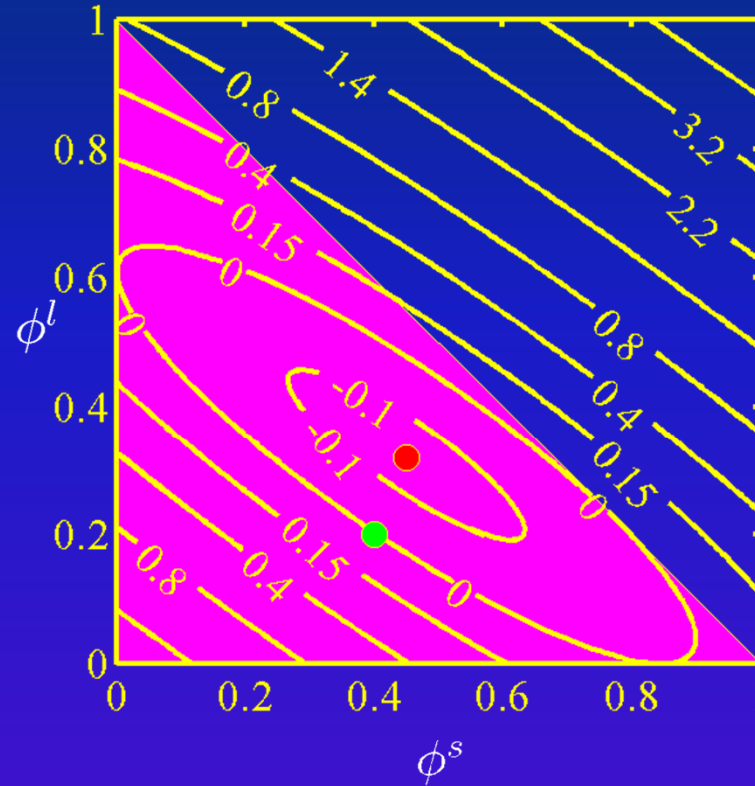
- The two characteristic wave speeds are therefore

$$\lambda_{1,2} = (-\gamma_1 \pm \sqrt{\Delta})/2.$$

Ω_3
 $S_{ls} = 1, S_{lm} = 0.3, S_{ms} = 0.1$



Ω_4
 $S_{ls} = 1/8, S_{lm} = 1, S_{ms} = 3/8$

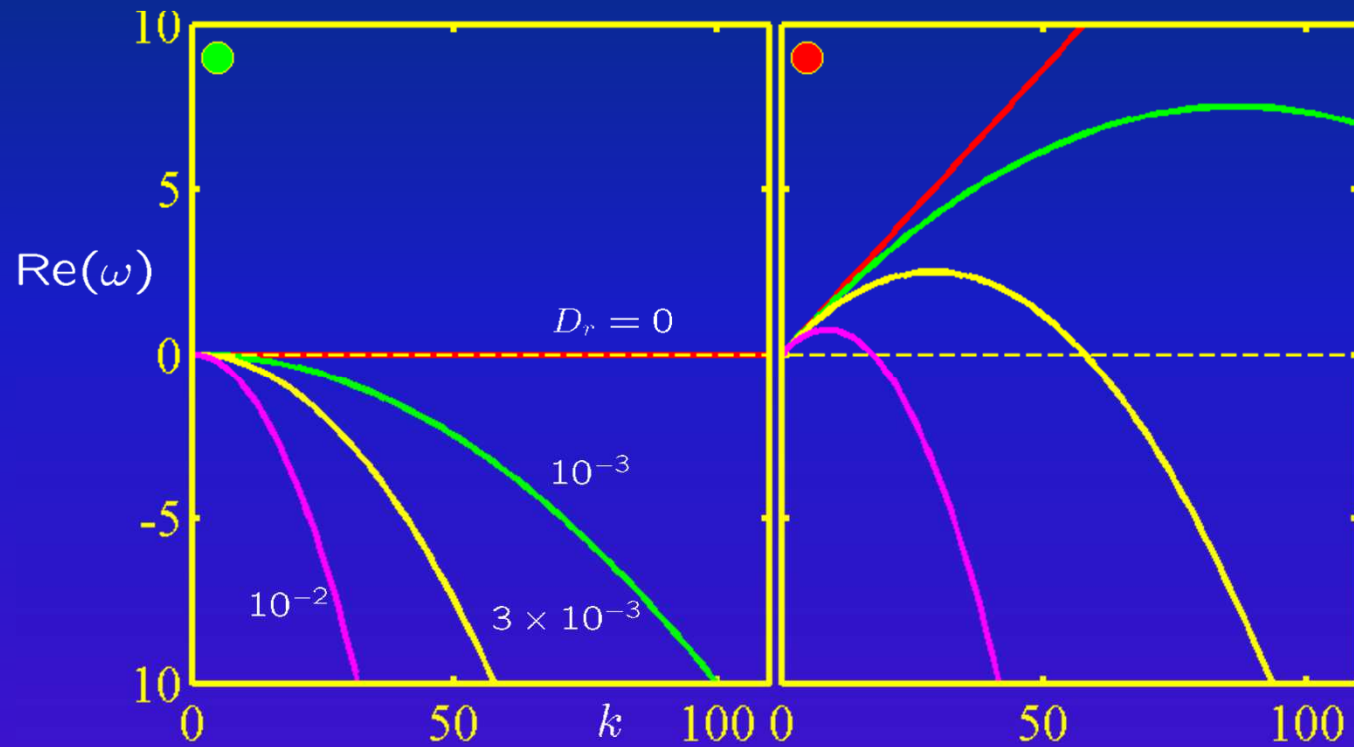


- The discriminant

$$\Delta = [(S_{ls} - 2S_{lm} - S_{ms})\phi^l + (S_{ls} - S_{lm} - 2S_{ms})\phi^s + S_{lm} + S_{ms}]^2 - 4(S_{ls} - S_{ms})(S_{ls} - S_{lm})\phi^l\phi^s.$$

- When this is positive there are two real distinct roots and system is strictly hyperbolic

$\Omega_1 :$	$S_{ms} \geq S_{ls} \geq S_{lm},$	hyperbolic
$\Omega_2 :$	$S_{lm} \geq S_{ls} \geq S_{ms},$	hyperbolic
$\Omega_3 :$	$S_{ls} > S_{lm}$ and $S_{ls} > S_{ms},$	hyperbolic
$\Omega_4 :$	$S_{ls} < S_{lm}$ and $S_{ls} < S_{ms},$	loses hyperbolicity



- Linear stability about a constant base state $\phi^\nu = \phi_0^\nu$

$$\phi^\nu = \phi_0^\nu + C_\nu \exp(ikz + \omega t)$$

- The largest real root

$$\text{Re}(\omega) = \begin{cases} -D_r k^2, & \Delta_0 \geq 0, \\ -D_r k^2 + \frac{k}{2} \sqrt{-\Delta_0}, & \Delta_0 < 0. \end{cases}$$

- If $D_r = 0 \Rightarrow$ Hadamard unstable and ill-posed in Ω_4

Time dependent diffuse solutions

- Homogeneous initial state with a small perturbation

$$\phi^l(z, 0) = \phi_0^l + 0.01 \sin(2\pi n z),$$

$$\phi^s(z, 0) = \phi_0^s - 0.01 \sin(2\pi n z),$$

- Solve using a standard Galerkin finite element method

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{lm} \phi^l (1 - \phi^l - \phi^s) + S_{ls} \phi^l \phi^s) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial z} \right) \\ \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (-S_{ls} \phi^s \phi^l - S_{ms} \phi^s (1 - \phi^l - \phi^s)) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial z} \right) \end{aligned}$$

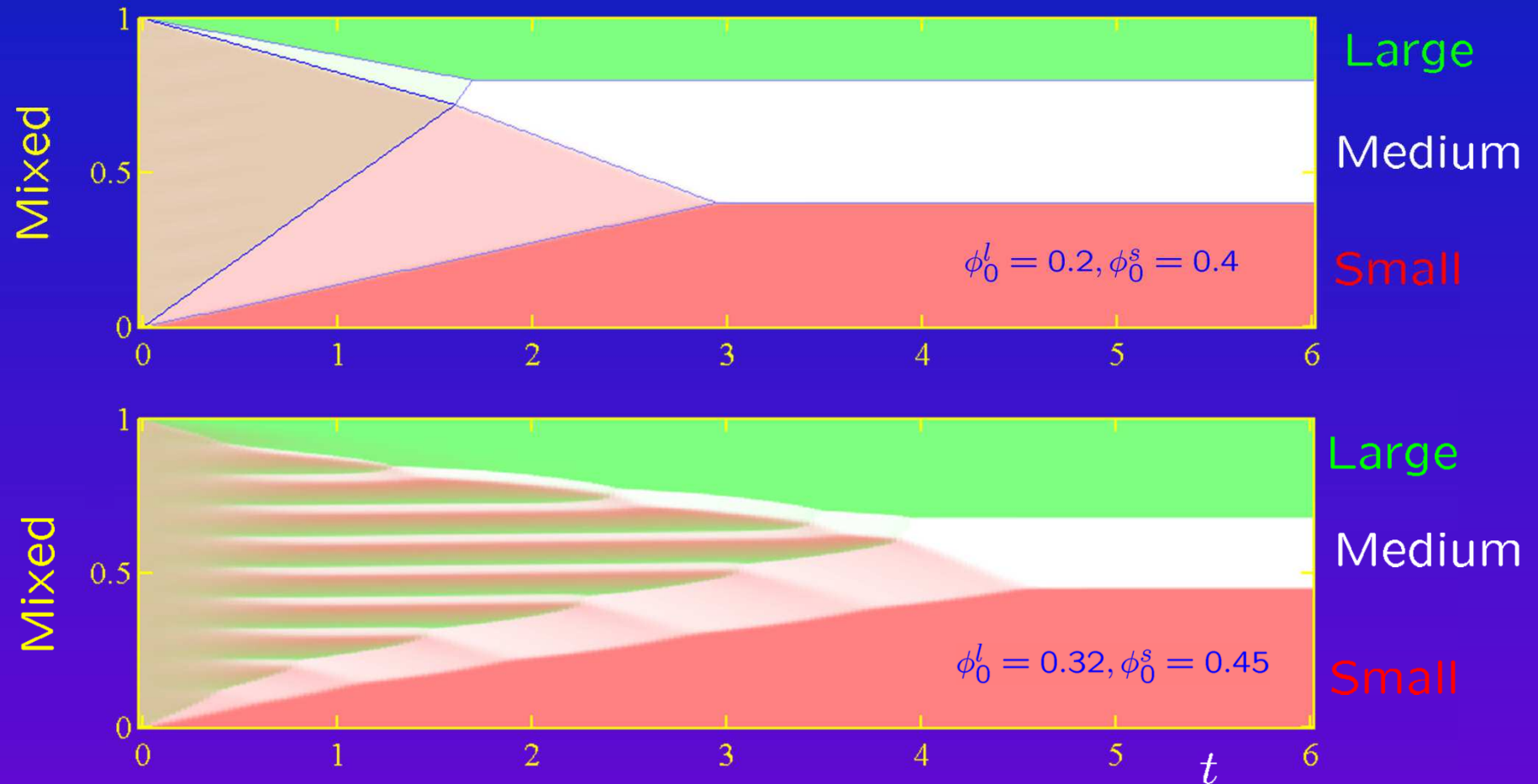
- subject to no-flux conditions

$$\mathcal{F}^\nu = - \sum_{\forall \mu} S_{\nu\mu} \phi^\nu \phi^\mu + D_r \frac{\partial \phi^\nu}{\partial z} = 0, \quad \text{on } z = 0, 1$$

- using Matlab inbuilt function pdepe

Diffusive remixing regularizes the theory

$$\Omega_4: S_{ls} = 1/8, S_{lm} = 1, S_{ms} = 3/8, D_r = 10^{-3}$$



- Instabilities still develop when $\Delta_0 < 0$
- BUT are annihilated after a finite distance

Two-dimensional steady-state solutions

- Homogeneous inflow at $x = 0$

$$\phi^v(0, z) = \phi_0^v$$

- with prescribed exponential downstream velocity field

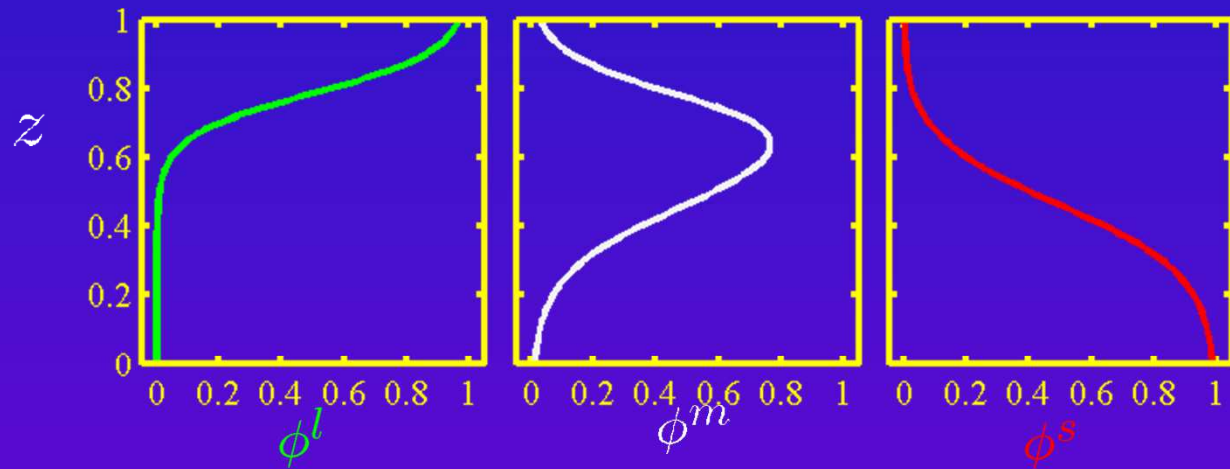
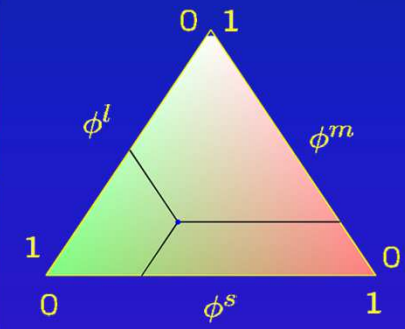
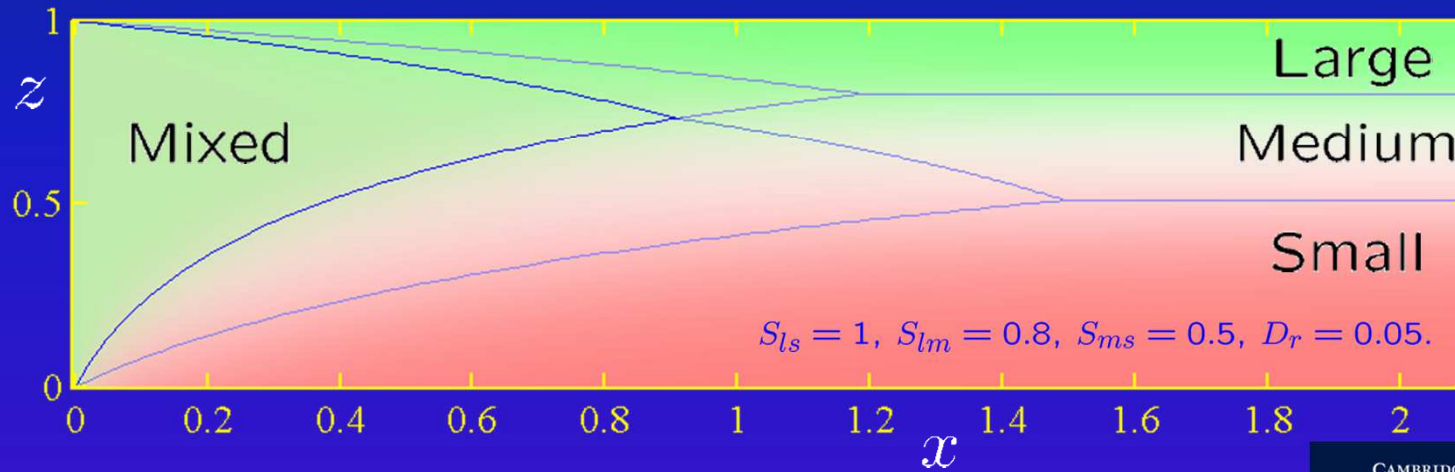
$$u(z) = \frac{\beta \exp(\beta z)}{\exp(\beta) - 1}, \quad \beta > 0.$$

- Solve the two-dimensional steady problem

$$\begin{aligned} u \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (S_{lm} \phi^l (1 - \phi^l - \phi^s) + S_{ls} \phi^l \phi^s) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^l}{\partial z} \right) \\ u \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (-S_{ls} \phi^s \phi^l - S_{ms} \phi^s (1 - \phi^l - \phi^s)) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi^s}{\partial z} \right) \end{aligned}$$

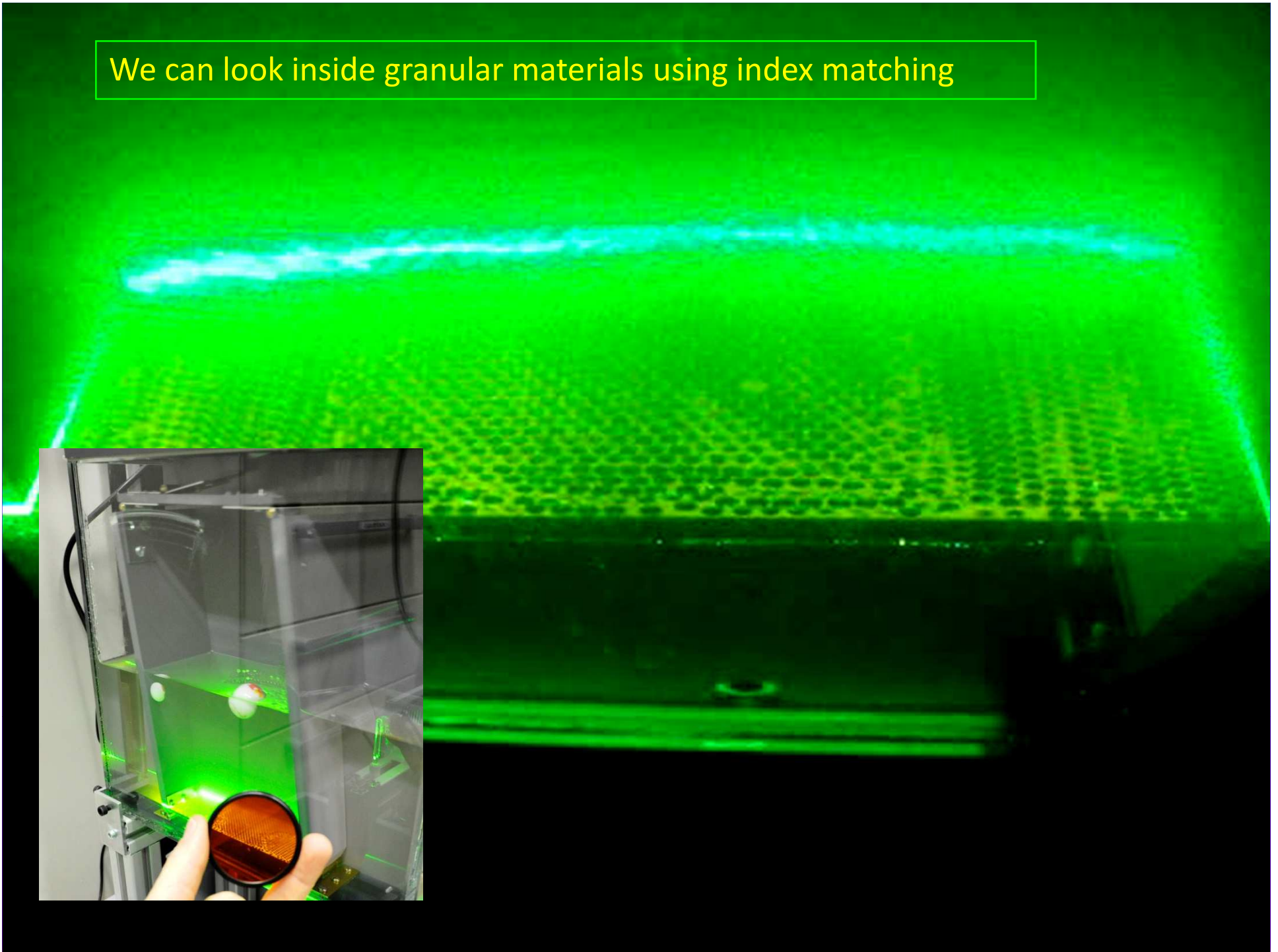
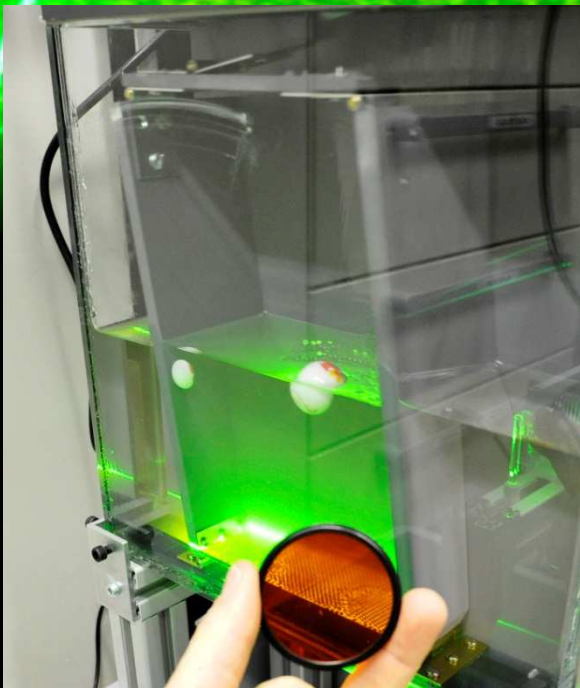
- subject to no-flux conditions at $z = 0, 1$
- using Matlab inbuilt function pdepe (Galerkin Method)

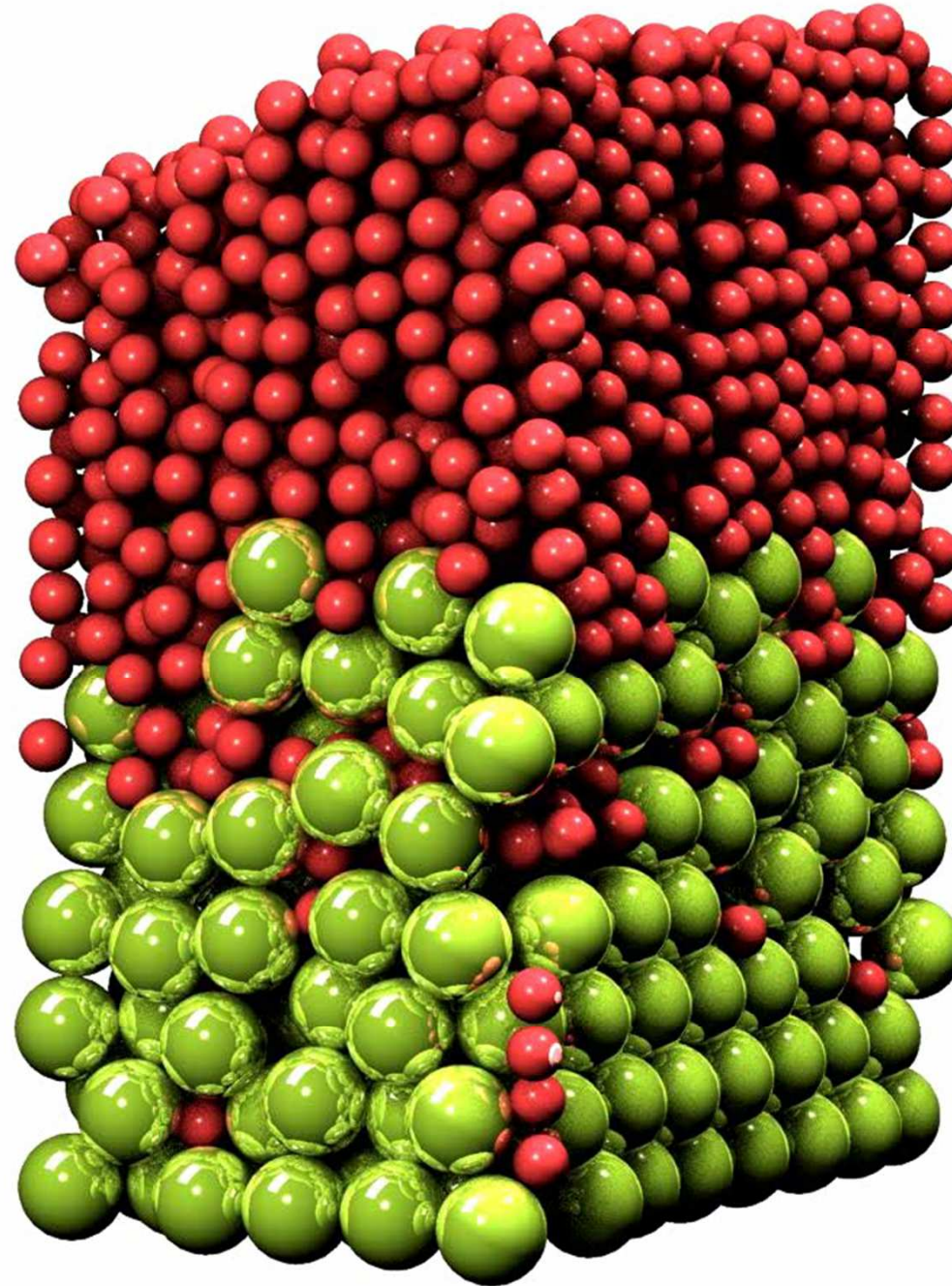
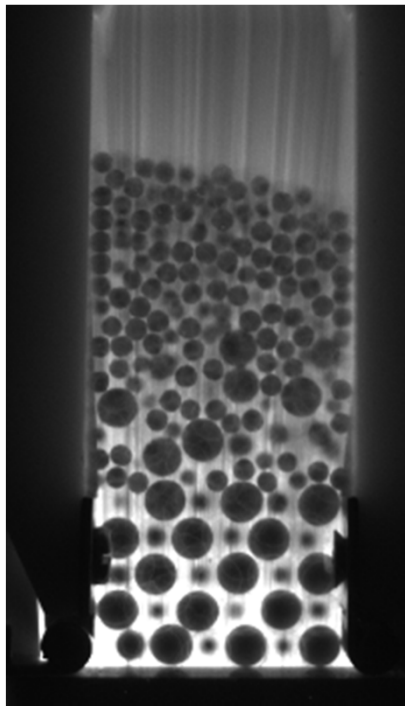
Reverse distribution grading



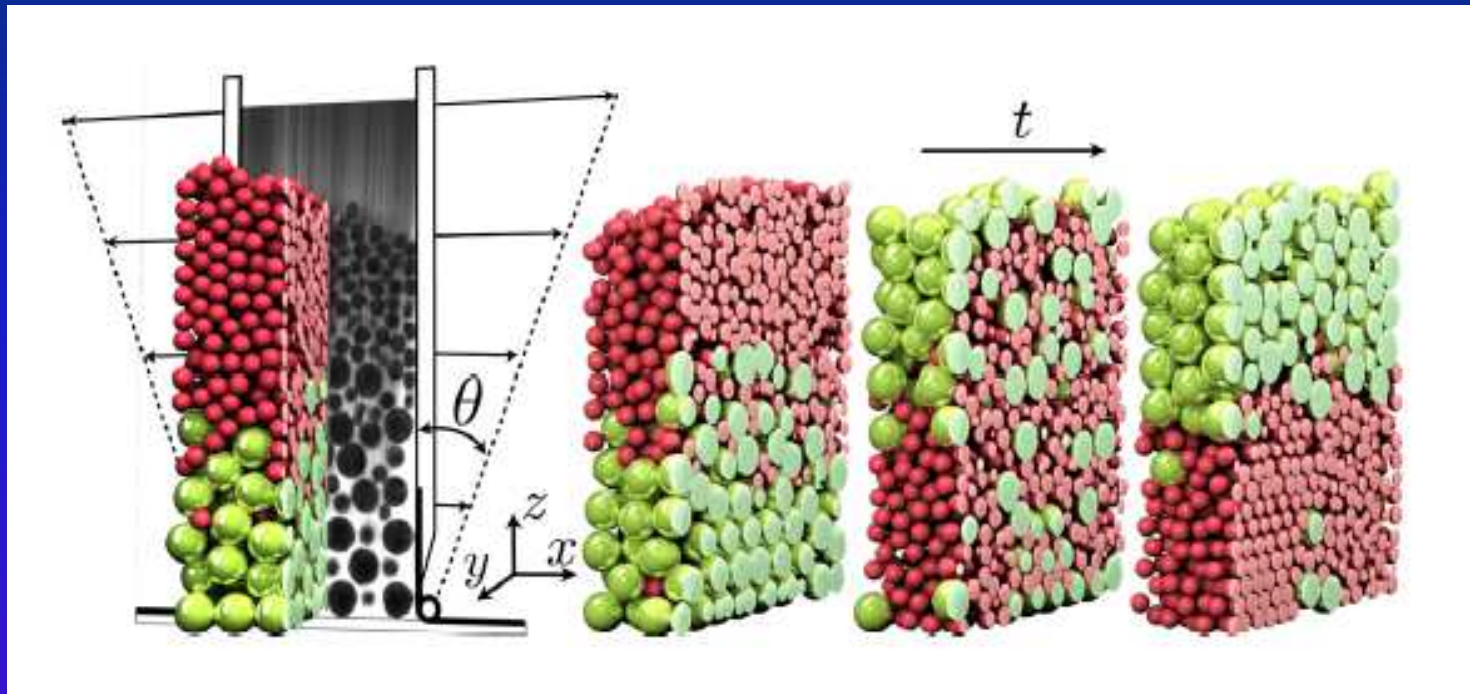
- comparable to experiments ...
 - Gray & Ancy (2011) *J. Fluid Mech.* **678**, 535-558
 - Wiederseiner et al. (2011) *Phys. Fluids* **23**, 013301
- and DEM simulations (Jim McElwaine ...)

We can look inside granular materials using index matching

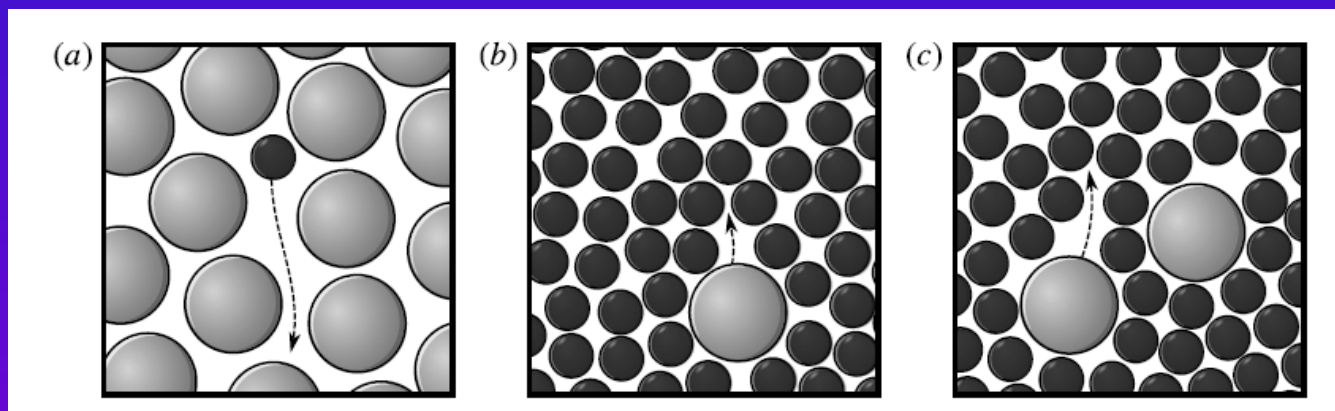




van der Vaart, Gajjar, Epely-Chauvin, Andreini, Gray & Ancy (2015) *Phys. Rev Lett.* **114**, 238001

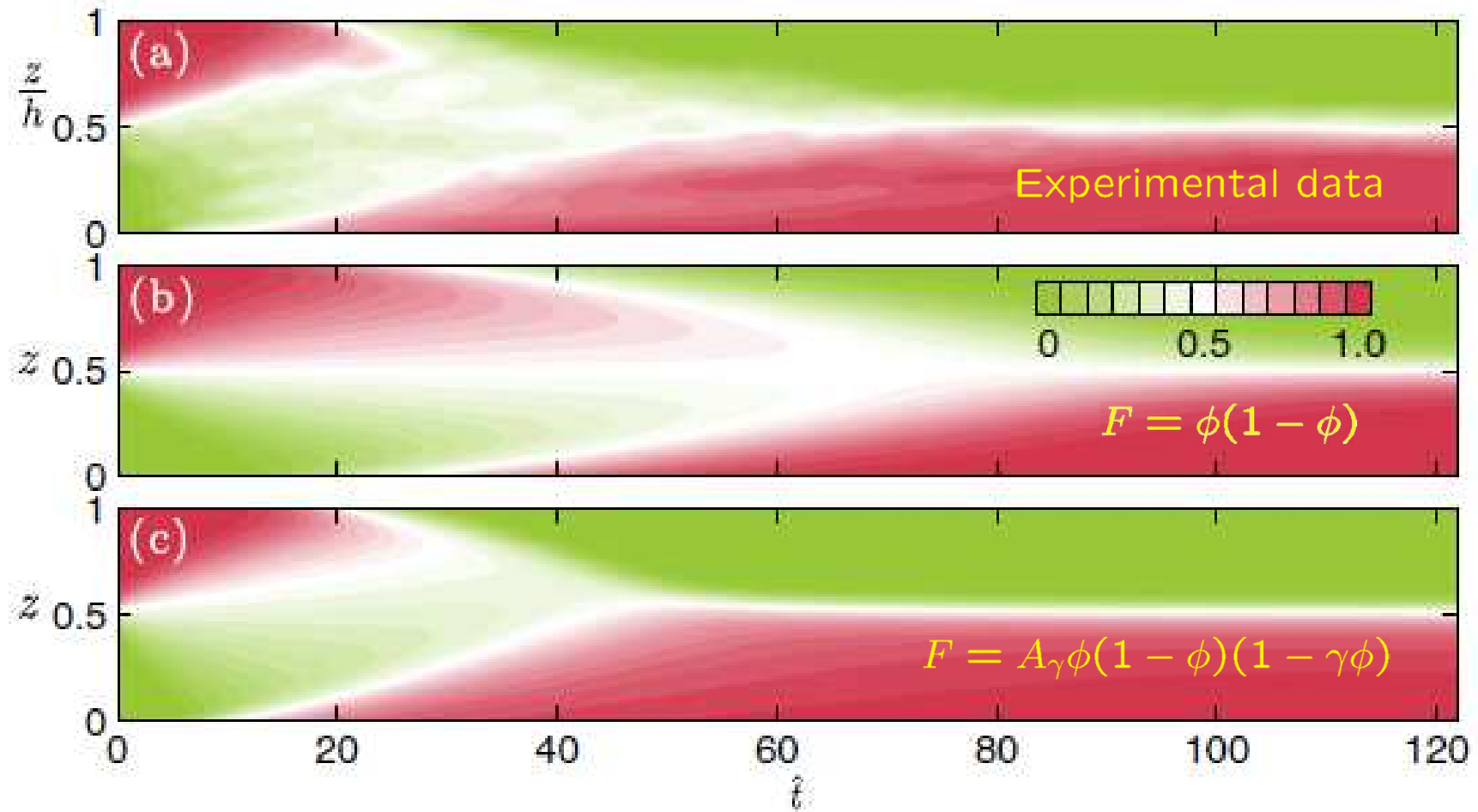


- a single large particle surrounded by fine rises slower than a single fine grain percolates through a matrix of large



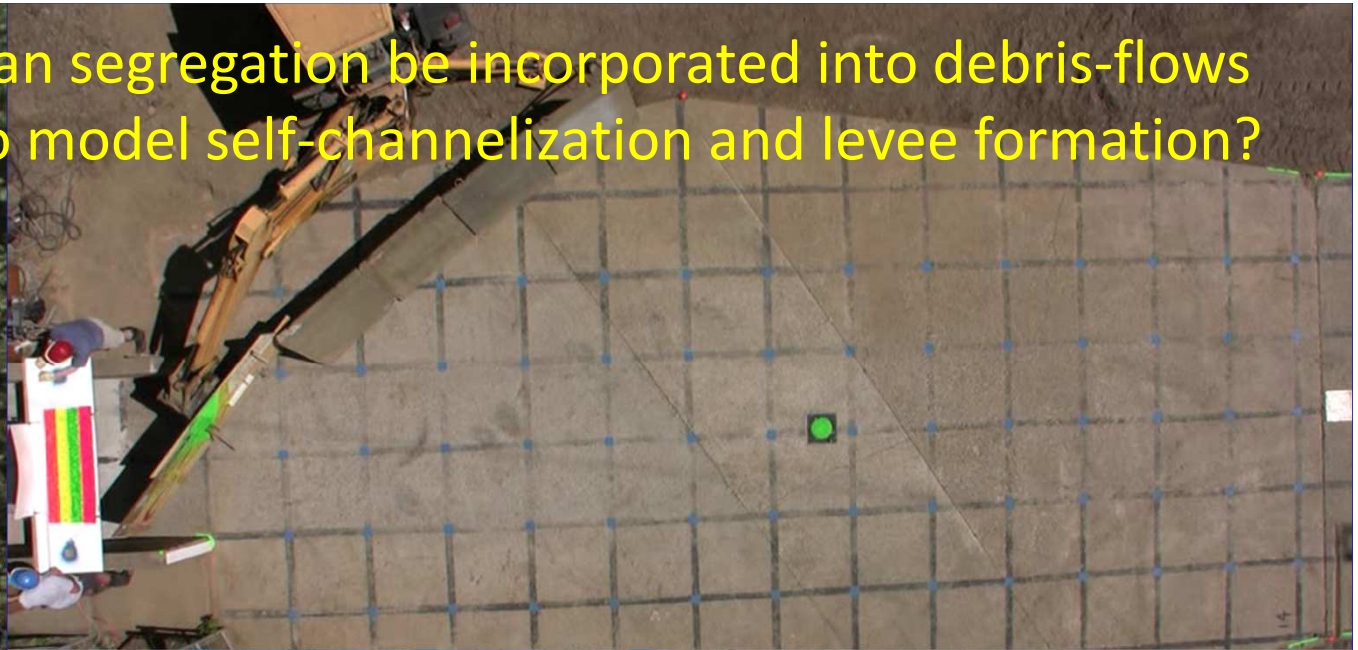
Gajjar & Gray (2014) *J. Fluid Mech.* 757 , 297-329.
 van der Vaart *et al.* (2015) *Phys. Rev Lett.* 114, 238001

This can be modelled using asymmetric segregation flux models



- which skew the maximum of the flux curves towards lower concentrations of fines

How can segregation be incorporated into debris-flows and to model self-channelization and levee formation?



Johnson *et al* (2012) *J. Geophys. Res.* **117**, F01032



... as well as capture segregation-induced fingering instabilities



Woodhouse *et al.* (2012), *J. Fluid Mech.* **709**, 543-580.

Mount St Helens, USA, 1980

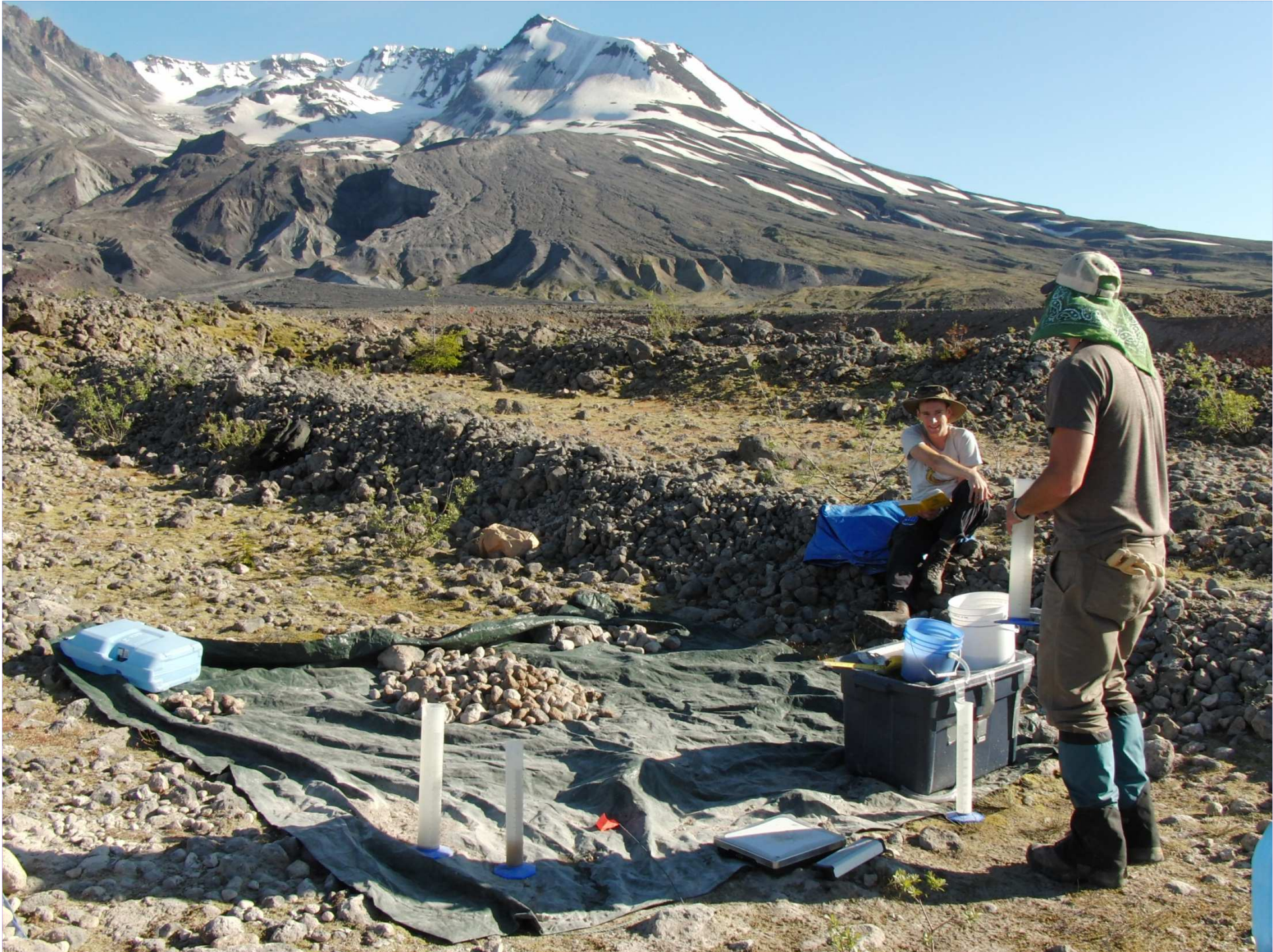
Finer grained interior

Coarse rich levee



- segregation occurs in many hazardous natural flows
 - debris-flows, pyroclastic flows & snow avalanches
- and leads to spontaneous flow organization and longer run-out

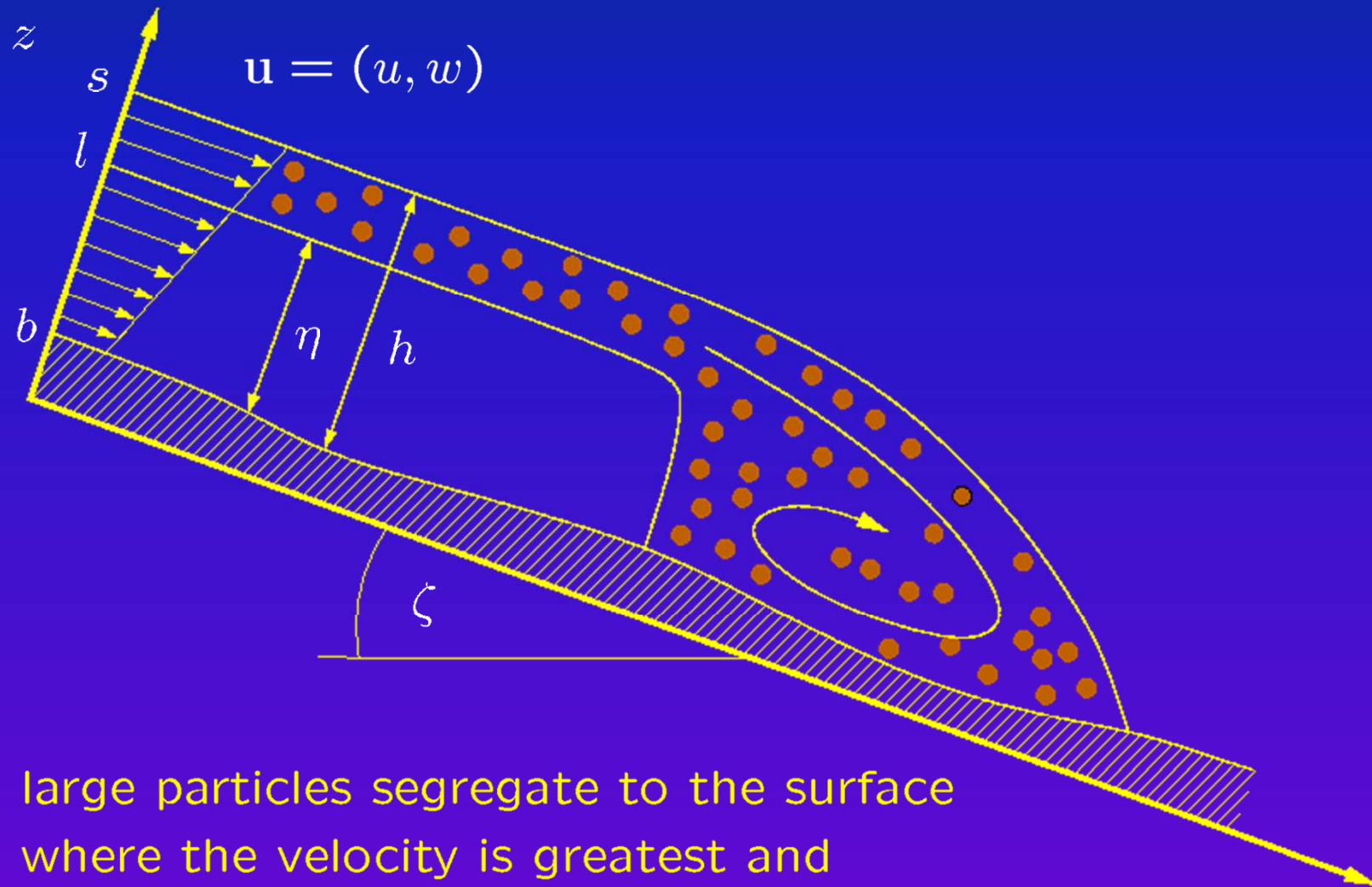
Mt St Helens July 22, 1980





Mt St Helens July 22, 1980

Transport and accumulation of large particles



- large particles segregate to the surface
- where the velocity is greatest and
- are transported to the flow front where they are
- over run and recirculated by particle size segregation

A depth averaged theory for particle size segregation

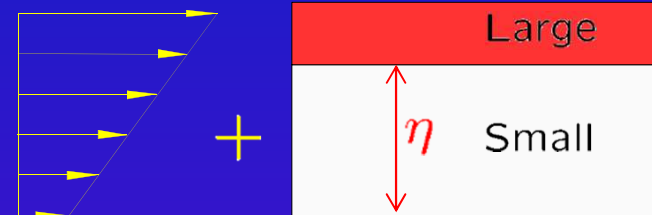
- Integrating the segregation-remixing equation w.r.t z
- subject to the no flux and kinematic boundary conditions gives

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(h\bar{\phi}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h\bar{\phi u}) = 0$$

- where the integrals evaluated assuming

$$h\bar{\phi} = \int_b^s \phi^s dz = \eta$$

$$h\bar{\phi u} = \int_b^s \phi^s u dz = \eta\bar{u} - (1 - \alpha)\bar{u}\eta \left(1 - \frac{\eta}{h}\right)$$



i.e. linear velocity with basal slip and sharp segregation

- This yields the large particle transport equation

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\eta\bar{u}) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left((1 - \alpha)\bar{u}\eta \left(1 - \frac{\eta}{h}\right) \right) = 0.$$

- for the evolution of the inversely graded shock interface η .

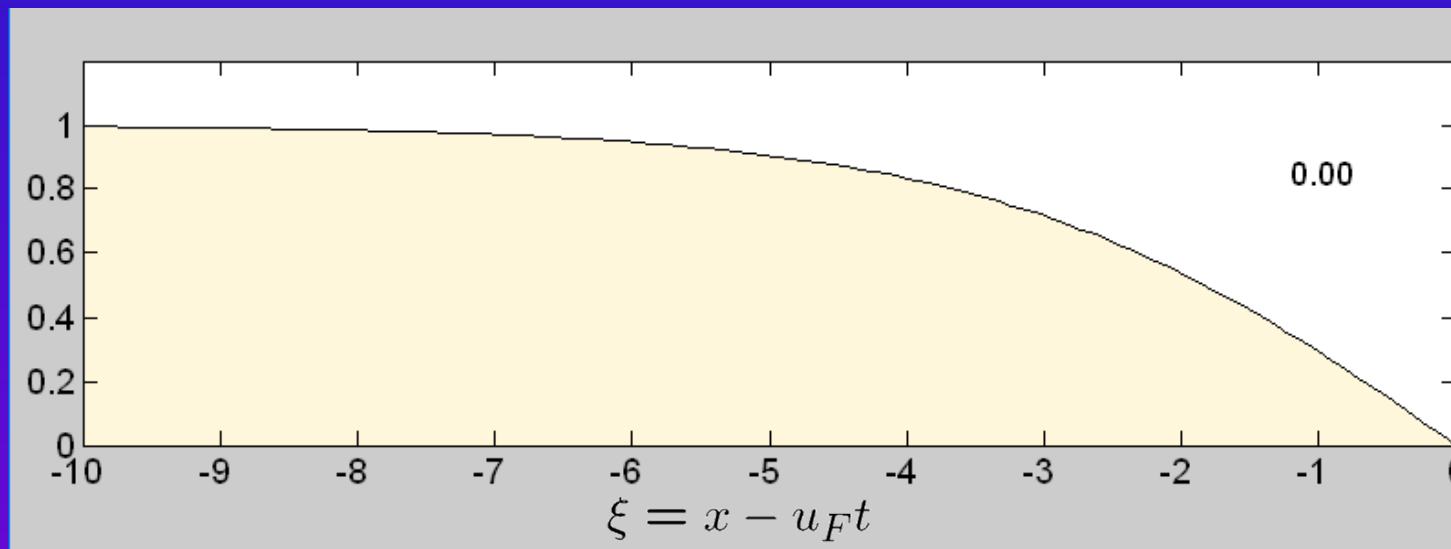
- Using $\eta = h\bar{\phi}$ this can also be rewritten as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(h\bar{\phi}) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(h\bar{\phi}\bar{u}) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}((1 - \alpha)h\bar{u}\bar{\phi}(1 - \bar{\phi})) = 0.$$

- Remarkably similar to the segregation equation ...

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\phi u) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\phi w) - S_{ls} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\phi(1 - \phi)) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(D_r \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} \right)$$

- Large grains transported forwards to form bouldery flow front



- more RESISTIVE larger particles \Rightarrow feedback on bulk flow

A two-dimensional fully coupled model

- For avalanche thickness h , small particle thickness η and depth-averaged velocity $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$ the 2D coupled model is

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \text{div}(h\bar{\mathbf{u}}) = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \text{div} \left(\eta\bar{\mathbf{u}} - (1 - \alpha)\eta \left(1 - \frac{\eta}{h} \right) \bar{\mathbf{u}} \right) = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(h\bar{\mathbf{u}}) + \text{div}(h\bar{\mathbf{u}} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{u}}) + \text{grad} \left(\frac{1}{2}gh^2 \cos \zeta \right) = hg\mathbf{S},$$

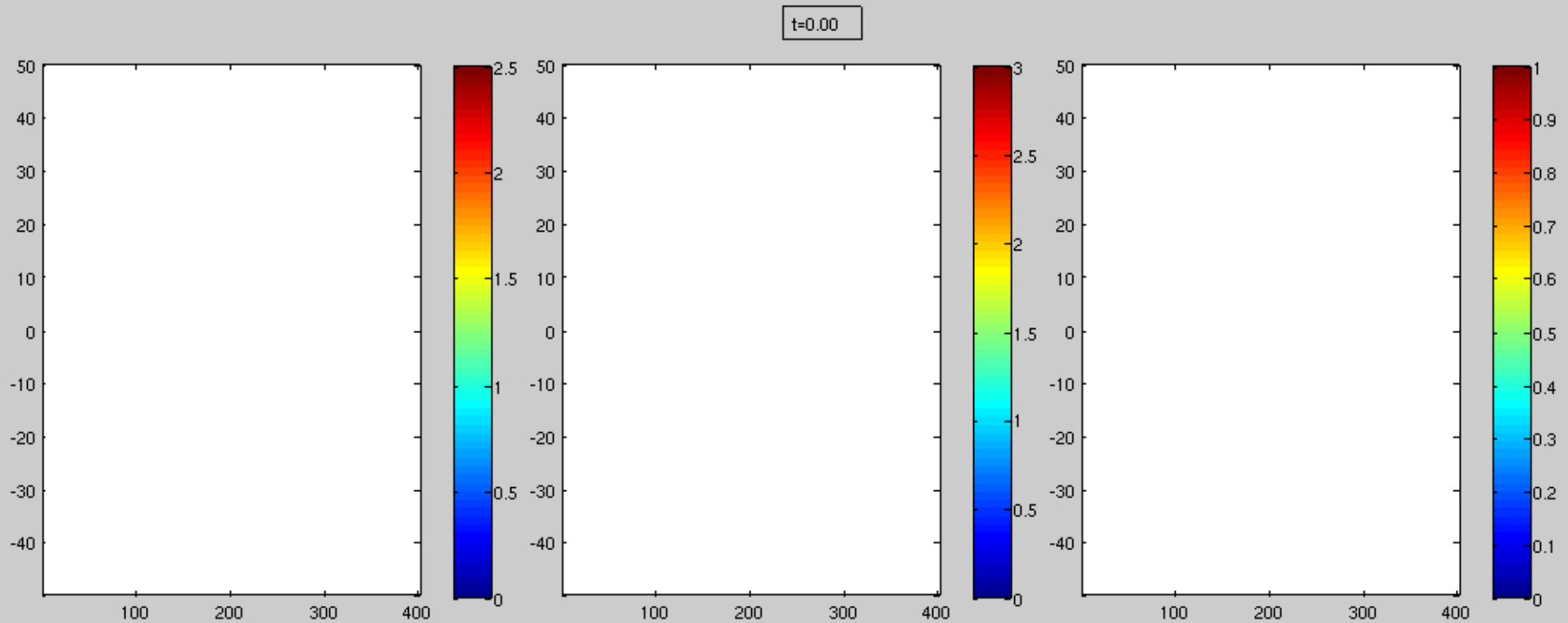
- source terms composed of gravity and basal friction

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{pmatrix} \sin \zeta - \mu(\bar{u}/|\bar{\mathbf{u}}|) \cos \zeta, \\ -\mu(\bar{v}/|\bar{\mathbf{u}}|) \cos \zeta, \end{pmatrix}$$

- coupling through $\bar{\phi} = \eta/h$ dependent friction coefficient

$$\mu = (1 - \bar{\phi}) \mu^L + \bar{\phi} \mu^S$$

- Depth averaged coupled simulations ...



h

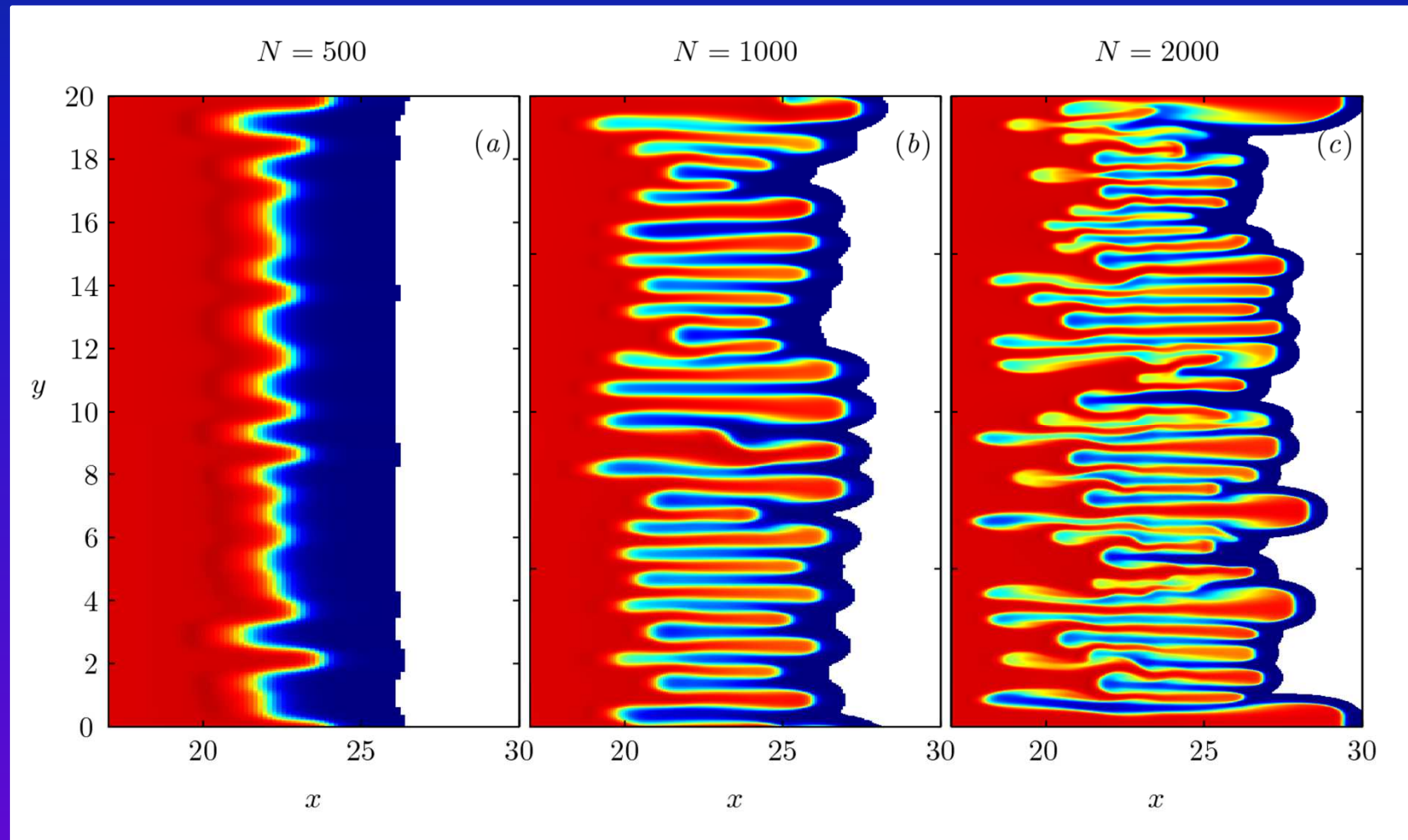
$|\bar{u}|$

$\bar{\phi}$

- captures the instability mechanism, BUT model is too simple

Woodhouse *et al.* (2012), J. Fluid Mech. **709**, 543-580.

Numerical solutions are grid dependent ...!



- Such ill-posed behaviour is an indication that some important physics is missing – in this case viscosity.

A two-dimensional fully coupled model including rheology

- When the depth-averaged $\mu(I)$ -rheology is generalized to 2D it suggests a system of conservation laws

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \text{div}(h\bar{\mathbf{u}}) = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \text{div} \left(\eta\bar{\mathbf{u}} - (1 - \alpha)\eta \left(1 - \frac{\eta}{h} \right) \bar{\mathbf{u}} \right) = 0,$$

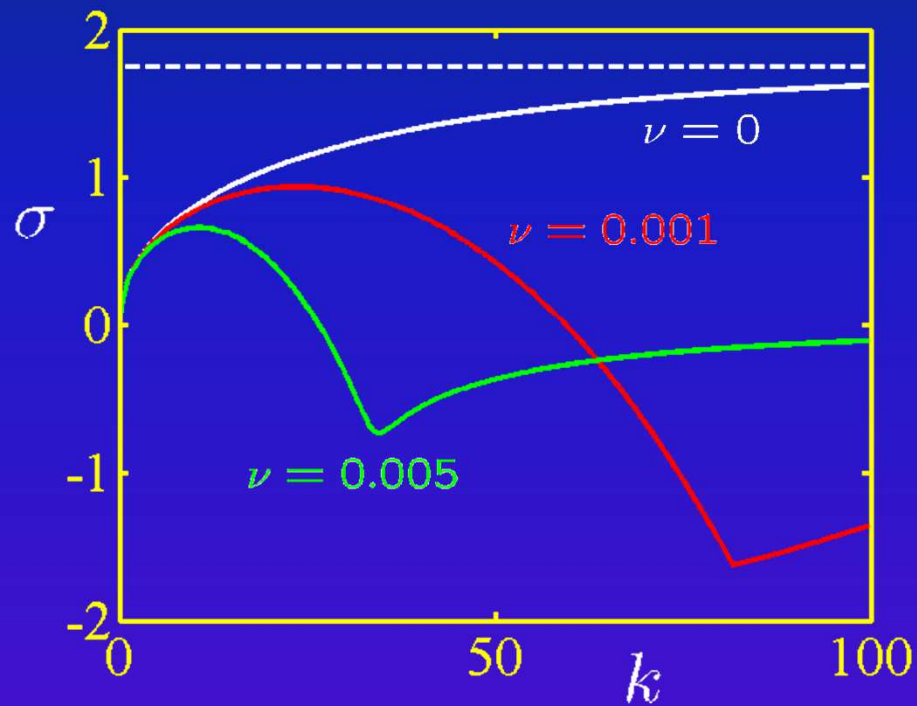
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(h\bar{\mathbf{u}}) + \text{div}(h\bar{\mathbf{u}} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{u}}) + \text{grad} \left(\frac{1}{2}gh^2 \cos \zeta \right) = hg\mathbf{S} + \text{div} \left(\nu h^{\frac{3}{2}} \mathbf{D} \right),$$

- where the two-dimensional strain-rate tensor is

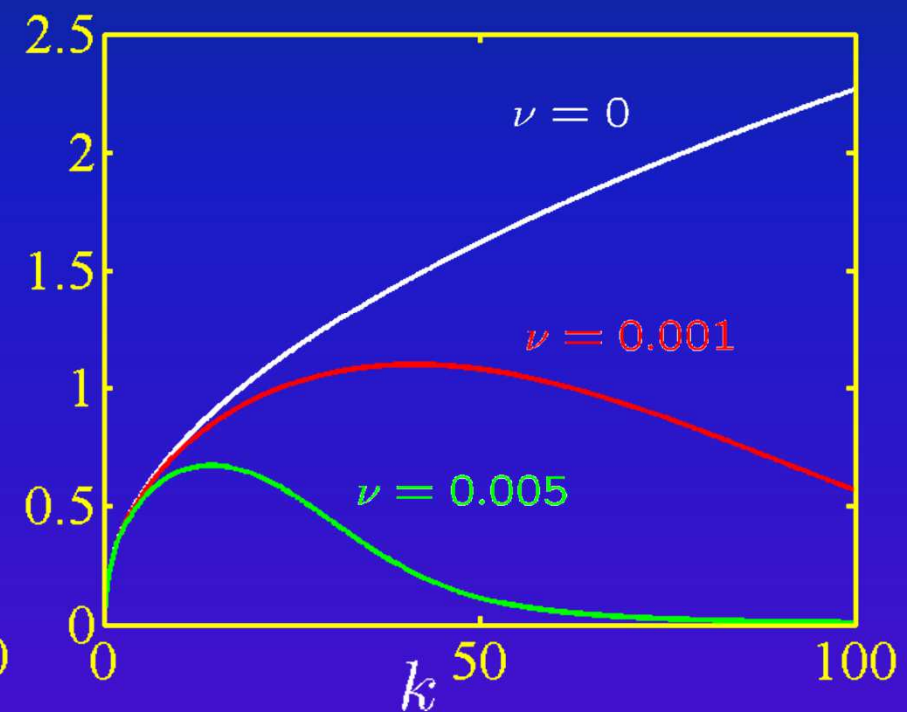
$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{L} + \mathbf{L}^T)$$

- and $\mathbf{L} = \text{grad}(\bar{\mathbf{u}})$ is the depth-averaged velocity gradient
- Numerics converges ... (Baker, Johnson & Gray in prep)

$Fr \neq Fr_c$



$Fr = Fr_c$



- characteristics coincide when

$$Fr = Fr_c = \frac{1}{(1 - \alpha)|2\eta_0 - 1|}$$

- produces unbounded growth in inviscid case $\nu = 0$.
- The depth-averaged $\mu(I)$ -rheology regularizes the equations

