

# Modelling particle-particle and particle-fluid interactions in DEM

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# Outline

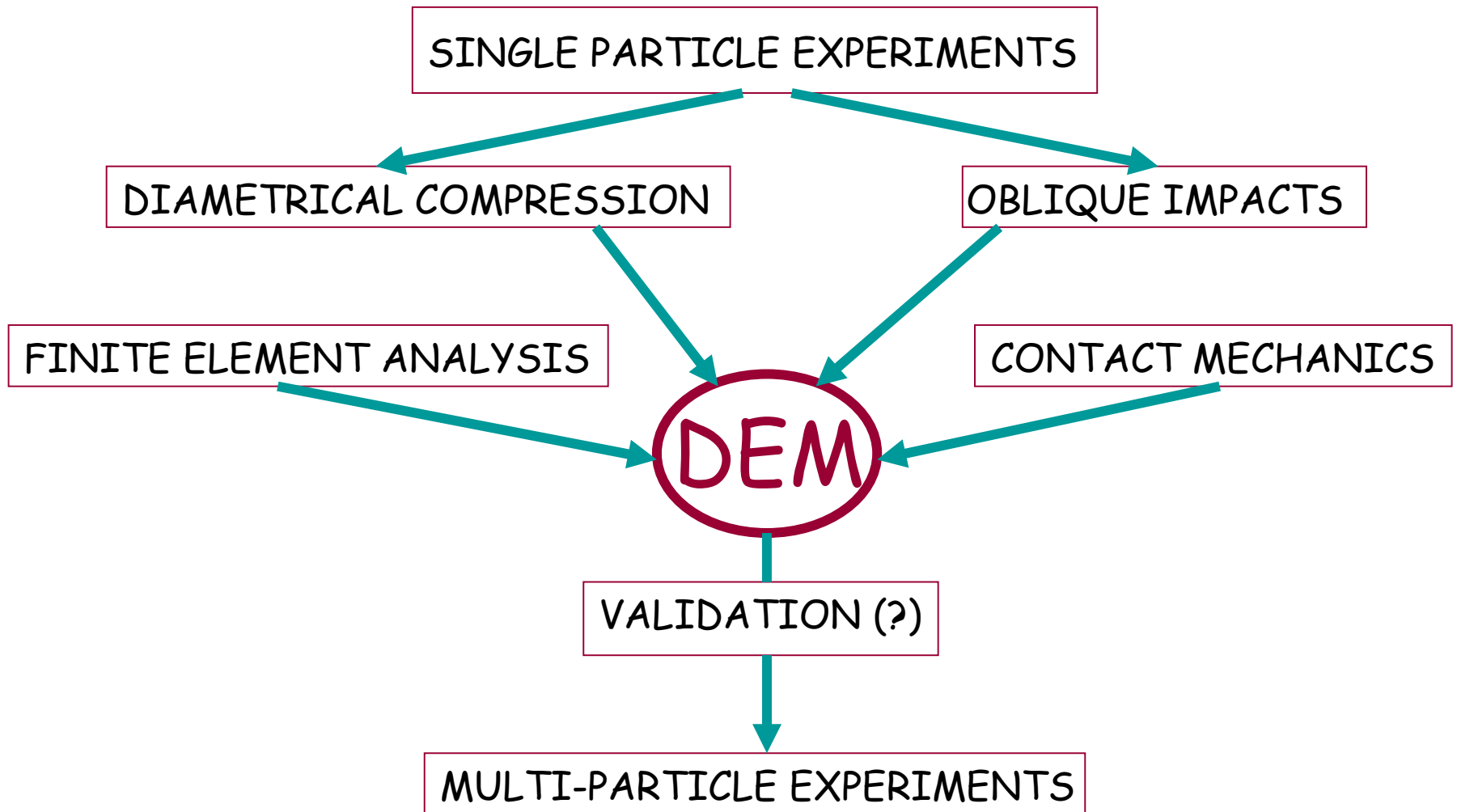
## 1. PARTICLE-PARTICLE INTERACTIONS

- (i) Elastic
- (ii) Elastic-perfectly plastic
- (iii) Autoadhesive
- (iv) Liquid bridges

## 2. PARTICLE-FLUID INTERACTIONS

All restricted to spherical particles !

# OVERVIEW



# ELASTIC CONTACT INTERACTIONS

Normal interaction (Hertz, 1896)

$$N = \frac{4}{3} E^* (R^* \alpha^3)^{1/2}$$

$$a = \left( \frac{3NR^*}{4E^*} \right)^{1/3}$$

$$a^2 = R^* \alpha$$

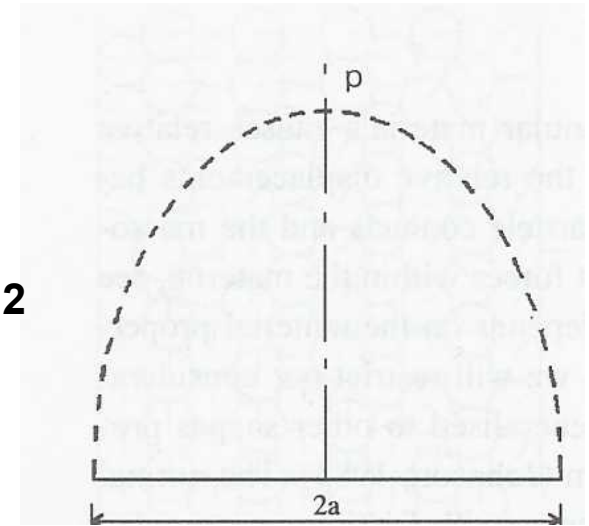
$$k_n = 2E^* a$$

$$\frac{1}{R^*} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$$

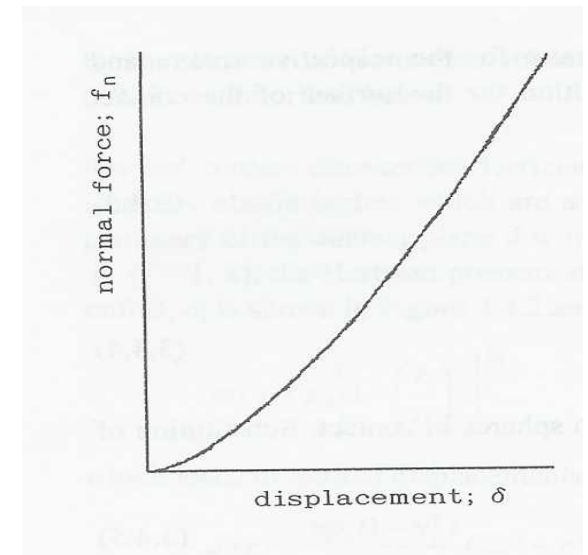
$$\frac{1}{E^*} = \frac{(1 - \nu_1^2)}{E_1} + \frac{(1 - \nu_2^2)}{E_2}$$

$$p(r) = p_0 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{r}{a} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2}$$

$$p_0 = \frac{3N}{2\pi a^2}$$



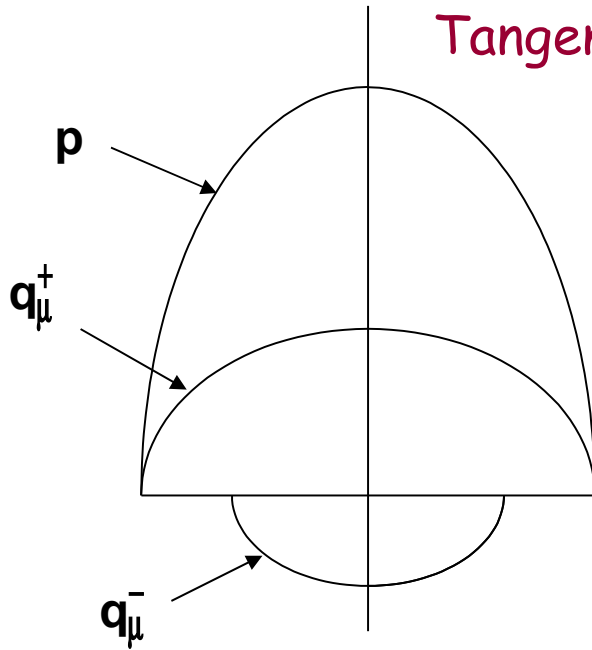
pressure distribution



force-displacement

# Tangential interaction (Mindlin & Deresewicz, 1953)

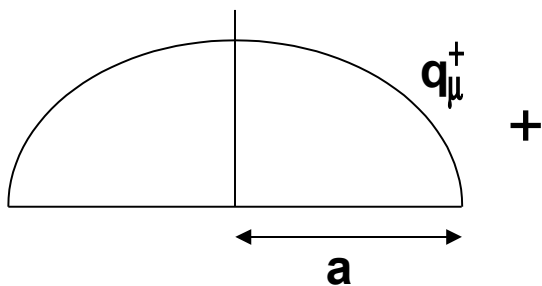
basic principles



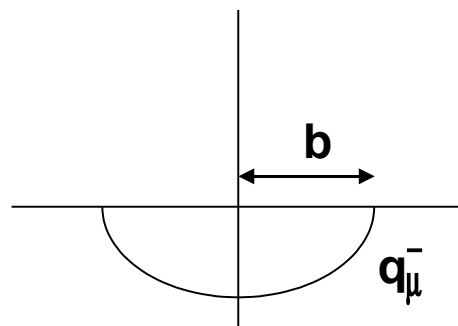
$$p = \left( \frac{3N}{2\pi a^2} \right) (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2}$$

$$q_{\mu}^{+} = \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\pi a^2} \right) (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2}$$

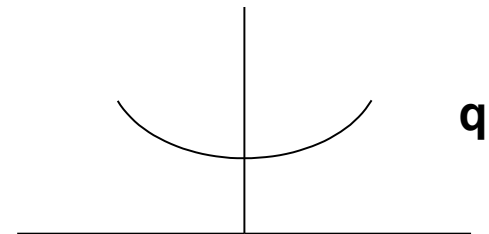
$$q_{\mu}^{-} = - \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\pi a^3} \right) (b^2 - r^2)^{1/2}$$



+

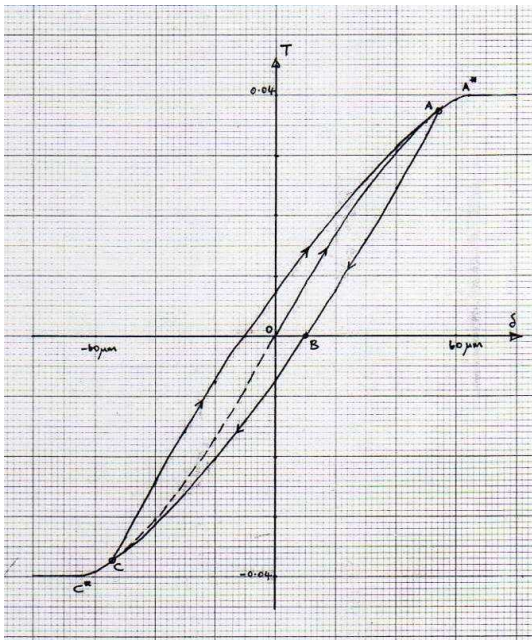


=



$$q = \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\pi a^3} \right) (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \quad \text{for } b \leq r \leq a$$

$$q = \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\pi a^3} \right) \left[ (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2} - (b^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \right] \quad \text{for } 0 \leq r \leq b$$



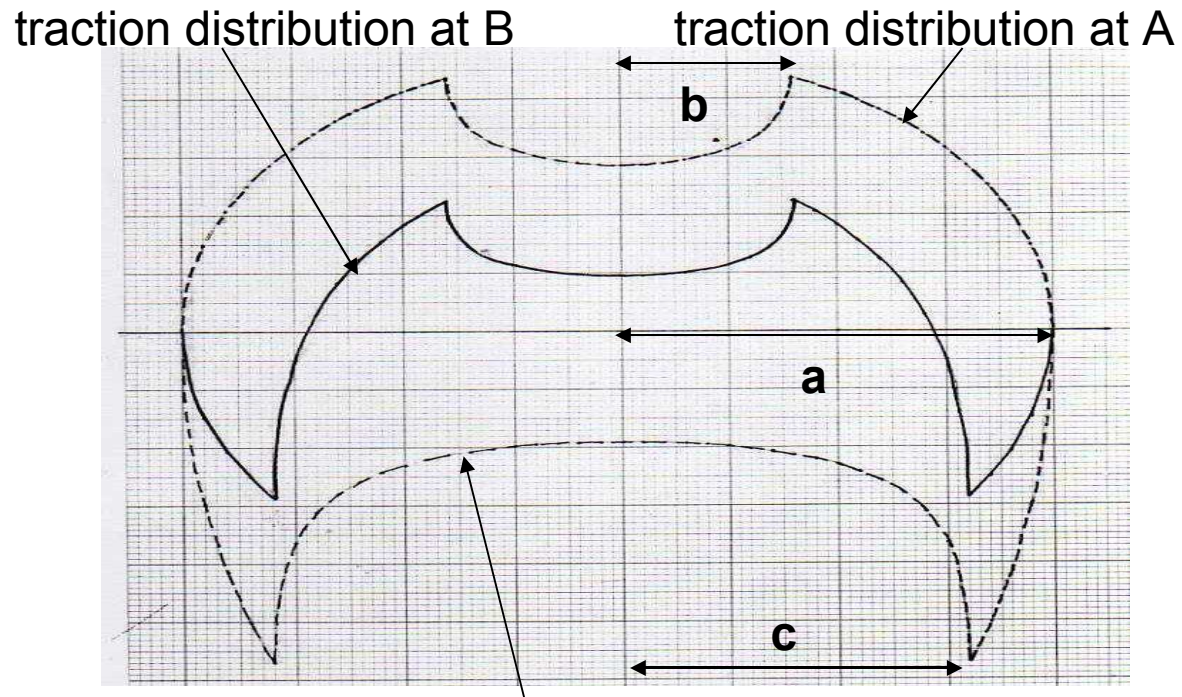
force-displacement

loading – O to A

unloading – A to C

reloading – C to A

inverse loading – C to C\*

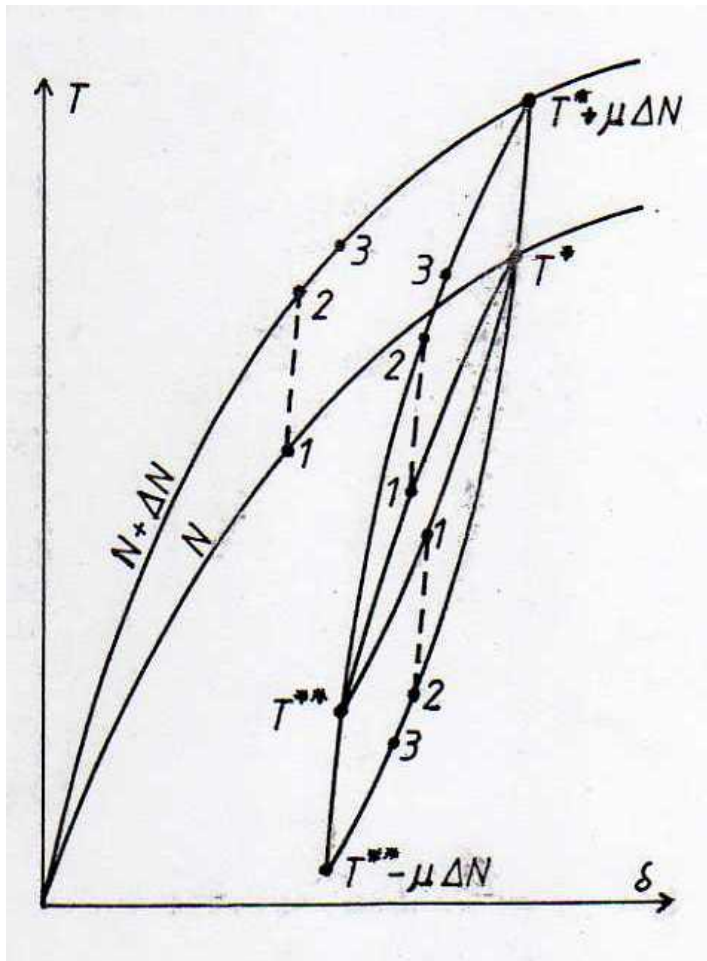


traction distribution due to unloading from A to B

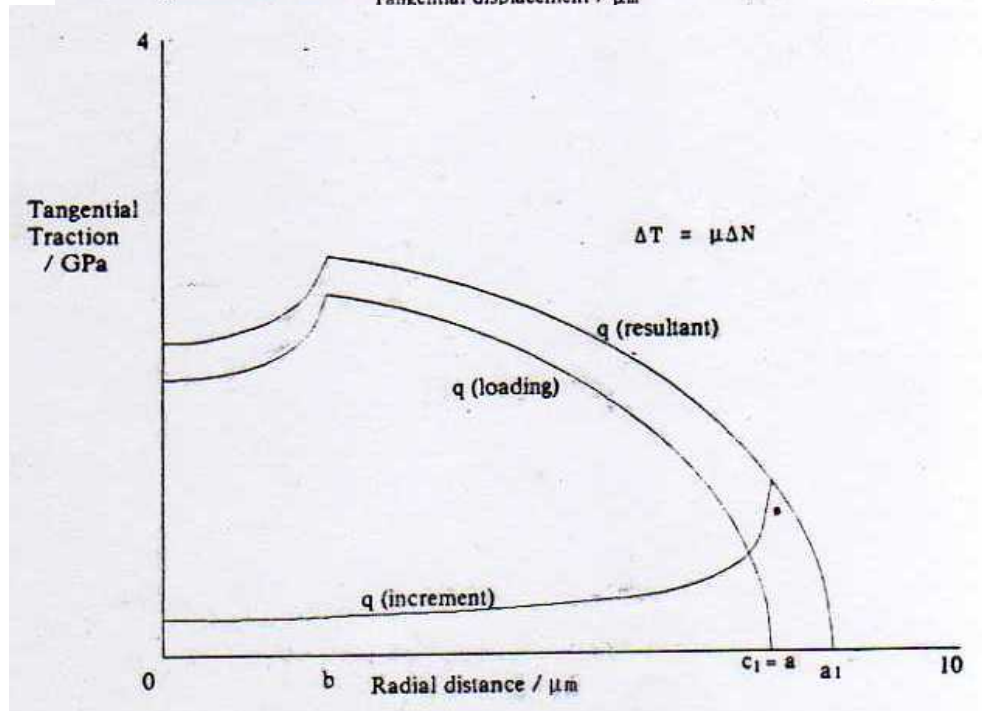
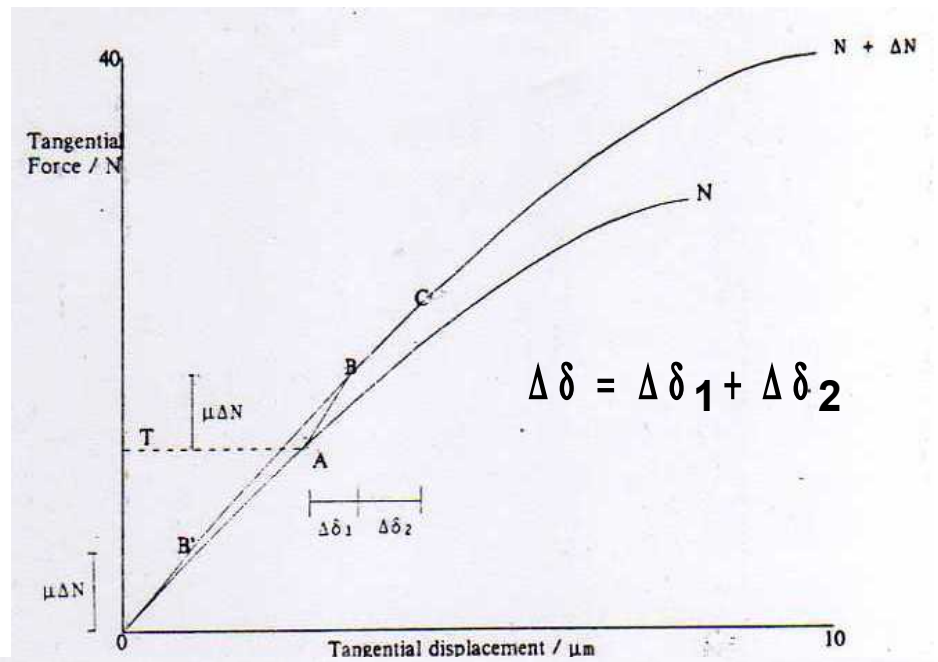
$$q = - \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\pi a^3} \right) (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \quad c \leq r \leq a$$

$$q = \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\mu a} \right) \left[ (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2} - 2(c^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \right] \quad b \leq r \leq c$$

$$q = \left( \frac{3\mu N}{2\pi a} \right) \left[ (a^2 - r^2)^{1/2} - (b^2 - r^2)^{1/2} - 2(c^2 - r^2)^{1/2} \right] \quad 0 \leq r \leq b$$



$$\Delta \delta = \frac{1}{8G^* a} \left[ \pm \mu \Delta N + \frac{\Delta T \mp \mu \Delta N}{\theta} \right]$$





# DEM implementation

Thornton & Randall (1988)

see also Thornton (1999) Mechanics of granular materials – an introduction.  
(Oda & Iwashita, eds.) Balkema, 207-217.

$$\mathbf{k}_t = \frac{\Delta \mathbf{T}}{\Delta \delta} = \mathbf{8G}^* \mathbf{a} \theta \pm \mu (1 - \theta) \frac{\Delta \mathbf{N}}{\Delta \delta}$$

negative sign only invoked during unloading

$$\theta^3 = 1 - \frac{(\mathbf{T} + \mu \Delta \mathbf{N})}{\mu \mathbf{N}} \quad \Delta \delta > \mathbf{0} \quad (\text{loading})$$

$$\theta^3 = 1 - \frac{(\mathbf{T}^* - \mathbf{T} + 2\mu \Delta \mathbf{N})}{2\mu \mathbf{N}} \quad \Delta \delta < \mathbf{0} \quad (\text{unloading})$$

$$\theta^3 = 1 - \frac{(\mathbf{T} - \mathbf{T}^* + 2\mu \Delta \mathbf{N})}{2\mu \mathbf{N}} \quad \Delta \delta > \mathbf{0} \quad (\text{reloading})$$

except when  $\Delta \mathbf{N} > \mathbf{0}$  and  $\Delta \delta < \frac{\mu \Delta \mathbf{N}}{\mathbf{8G}^* \mathbf{a}}$  i.e.  $\Delta \mathbf{T} < \mu \Delta \mathbf{N}$  in which case  $\theta = \mathbf{1}$

and  $\theta = \mathbf{1}$  until  $\sum \Delta \mathbf{T} \geq \mu \sum \Delta \mathbf{N}$



# FEM simulations

Wu (2001)

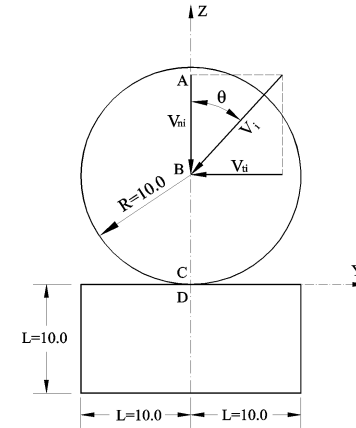
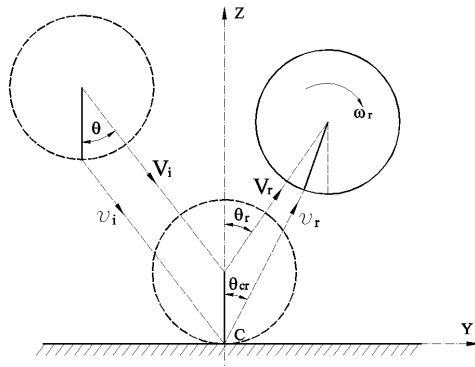
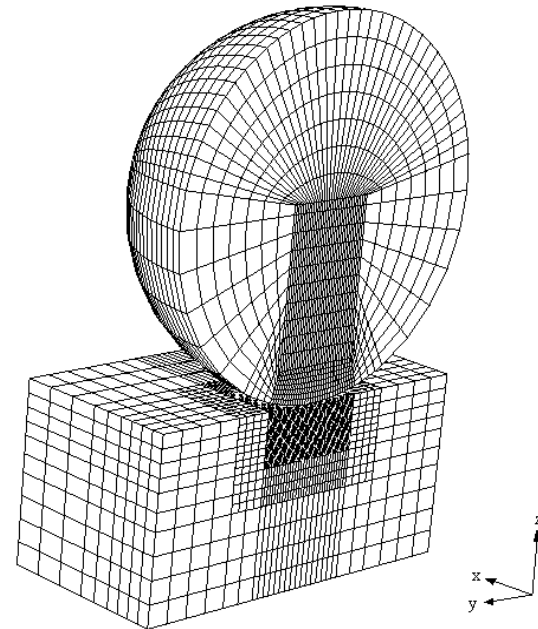
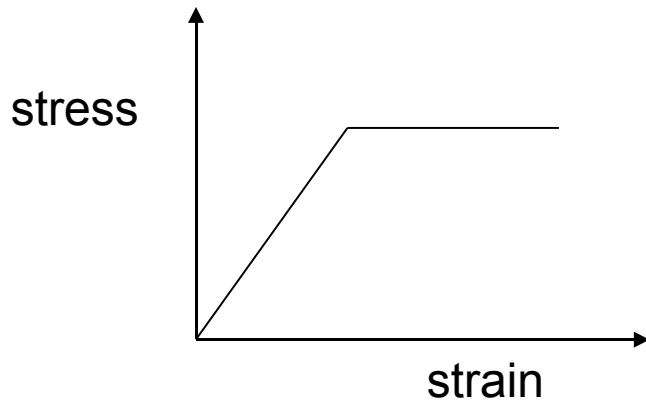
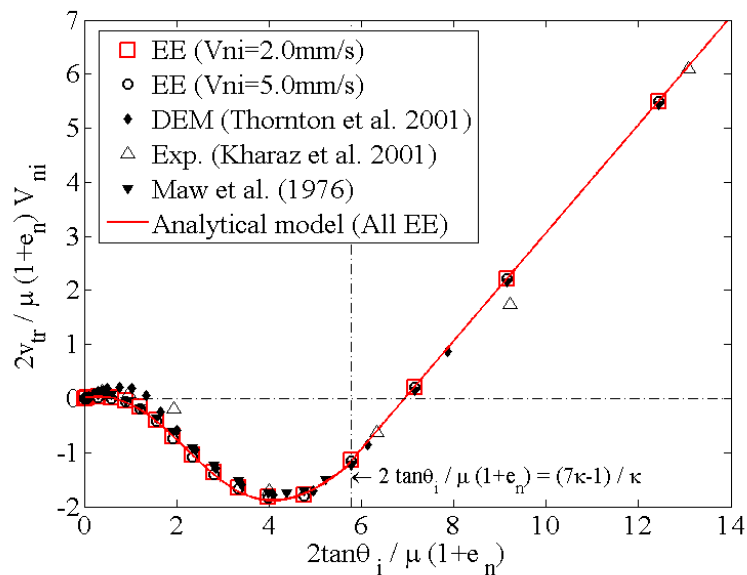
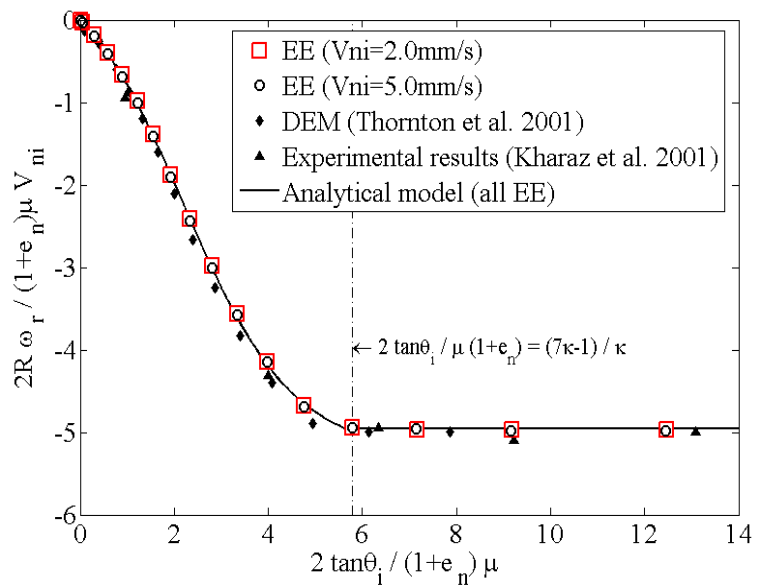
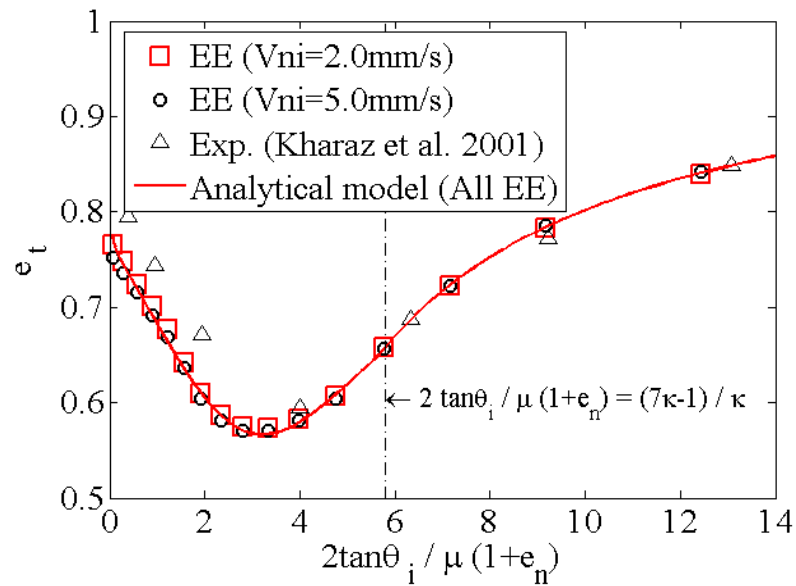
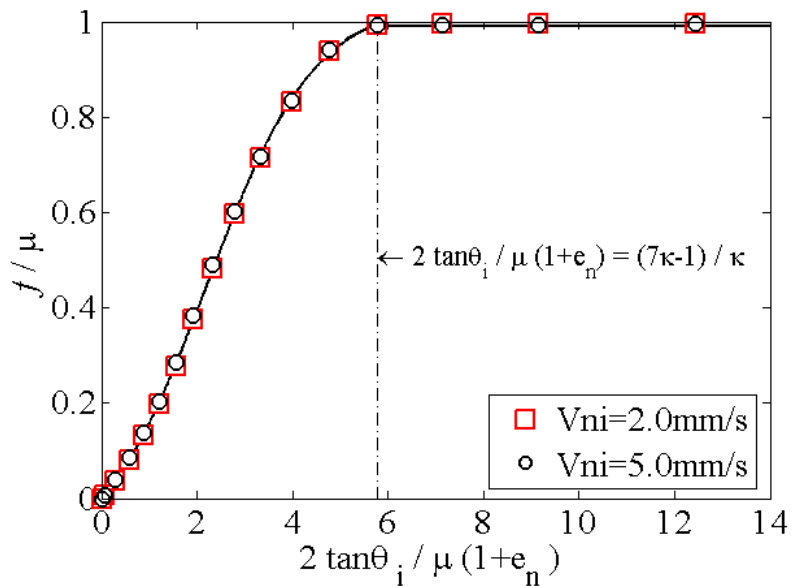


Diagram of the oblique impact of a sphere with a plane surface.



FE model for the oblique impact of a sphere with a half-space



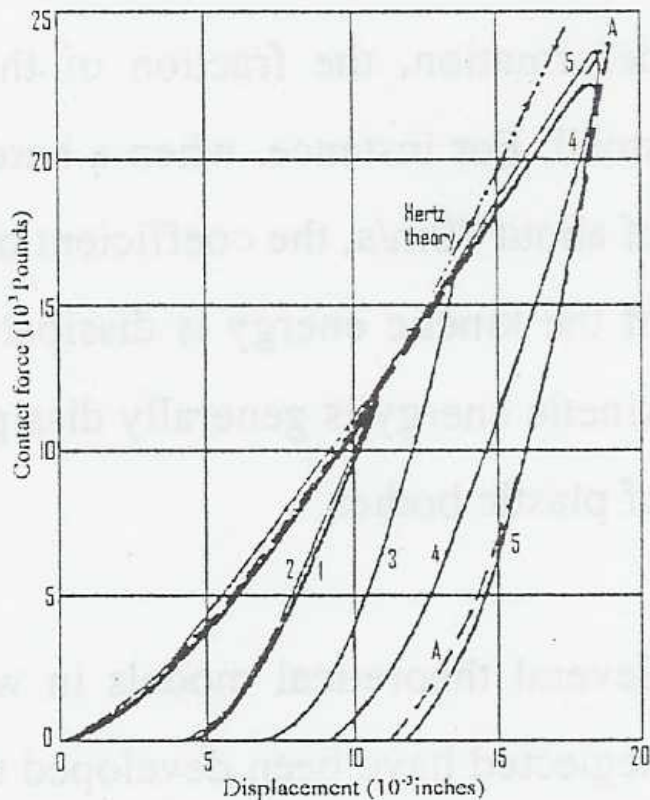
# ELASTIC-PERFECTLY PLASTIC CONTACT INTERACTIONS

## Normal interaction

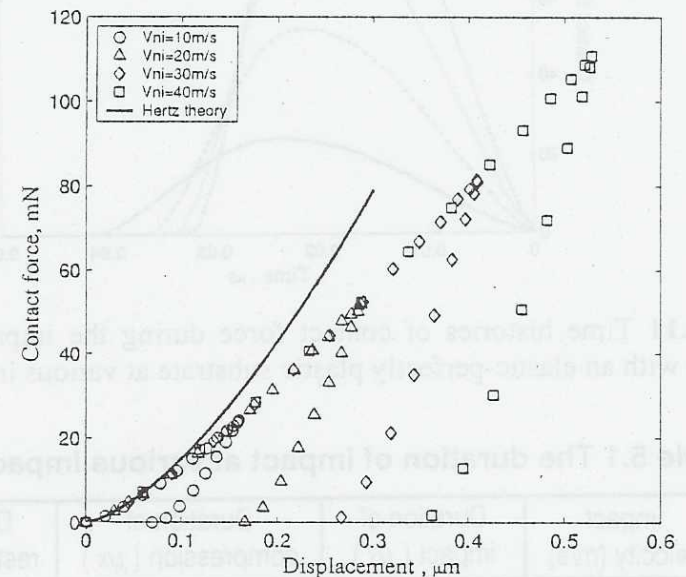
If plastic deformation occurs then the applied displacement is not fully recovered and the loading and unloading curves do not coincide.

Force-displacement curves for elastoplastic impact experiments

(Goldsmith & Lyman, 1960)



FEM results (Thornton et al, 2001)



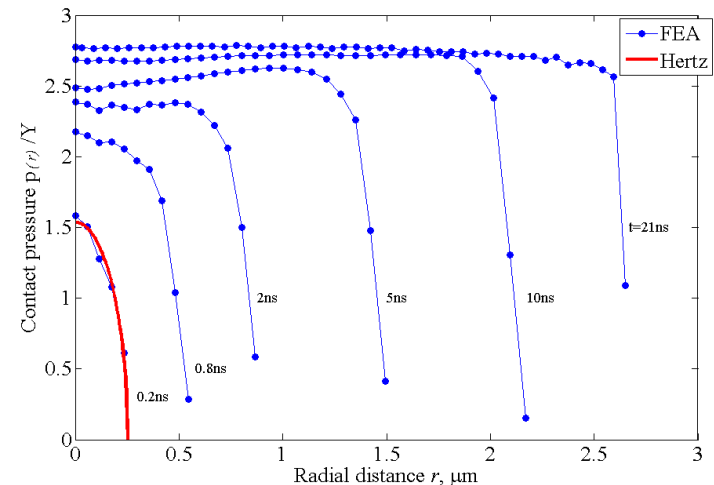
## Contact pressure distributions during loading

As shown in the figure, the Hertzian pressure distribution is valid until the pressure at the centre of the contact is equal to 1.6 times the yield stress of the material, at which point yield occurs below the centre of the contact area. Further compression results in a spreading of the plastic deformation zone below the surface and a slight modification of the shape of the contact pressure distribution as the maximum contact pressure increases further. When the pressure at the centre of the contact reaches about 2.4 times the yield stress the plastic deformation zone in the substrate reaches the contact surface at the perimeter of the contact area. Beyond this point, further compression results in a significant change in the form of the pressure distribution. Over an increasing central portion of the contact area the contact pressure becomes almost constant with only a small increase in the pressure at the centre of the contact.

Li, Wu & Thornton (2002) presented a theoretical model, which considered the variation of the maximum pressure with compression and the change in the contact curvature owing to irrecoverable plastic deformation during loading. They obtained theoretical force displacement predictions in very good agreement with the FEM data.

However, no tangible analytical solution is available.

FEM results (Wu, Li & Thornton, 2003)



## Contact pressure distributions during unloading

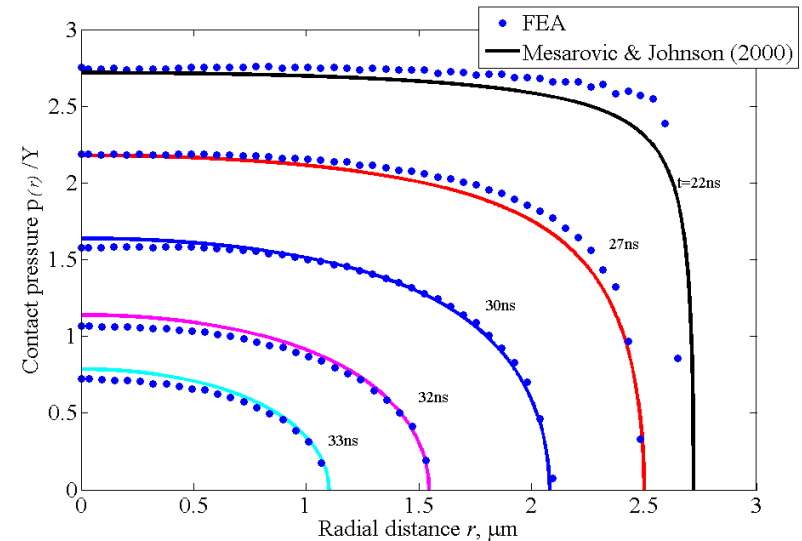
Although the unloading is elastic, as can be seen from the figure, the pressure distributions are not Hertzian.

The problem has been solved by Mesarovic and Johnson (2000) who derived the following expression for the pressure distribution

$$p = \frac{2p^*}{\pi} \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{a^{*2} - r^2}{a^{*2} - r^2} \right)^{1/2} \quad \text{where } p^* \text{ and } a^*$$

are the pressure and contact radius at the start of unloading.

Unfortunately the theory does not lead to an analytical solution for the contact force-displacement curve.



FEM results (Wu, Li & Thornton, 2003)

## A simplified analytical solution

A limiting contact pressure  $p_y$  is defined and it is assumed that for  $p_0 \leq p_y$  the response is elastic.

It is also assumed that further compression results in fully plastic deformation.

In order to model the plastic phase the normal contact pressure distribution is approximated by a Hertzian distribution with a cut-off defined by the limiting contact pressure, as shown in the figure.

The consequence of this is that the plastic loading curve is given by a straight line tangent to the Hertzian curve at  $(N_y, \alpha_y)$

The limiting contact pressure can be considered to be an approximation to the hardness, which is related to the yield stress  $\sigma_y$  by a constraint factor  $c$ .

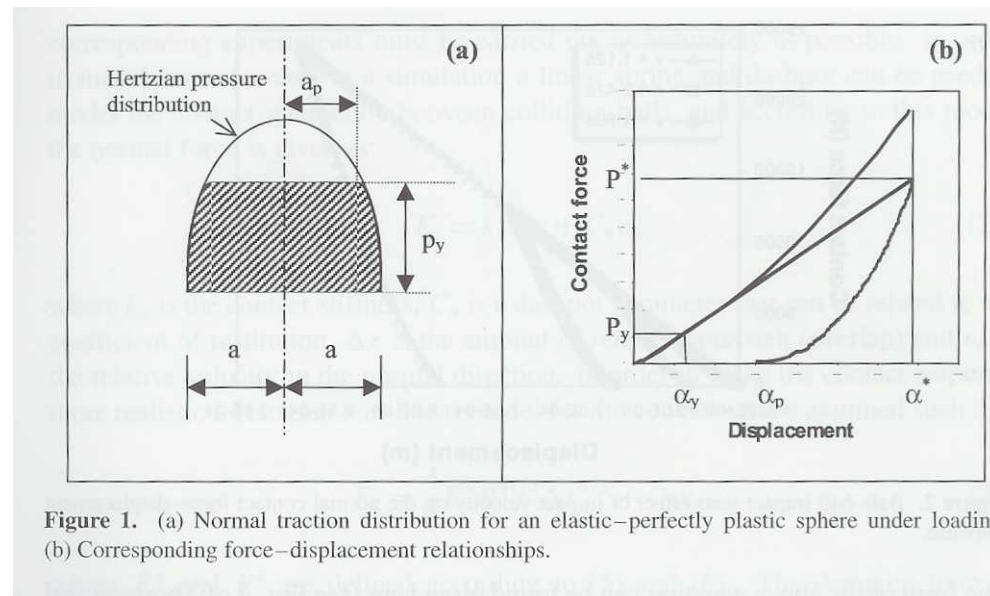


Figure 1. (a) Normal traction distribution for an elastic–perfectly plastic sphere under loading. (b) Corresponding force–displacement relationships.

Thornton (1997), Thornton & Ning (1998), Mishra & Thornton (2002)

$$N = N_y + \pi p_y R^* (\alpha - \alpha_y)$$

$$N_y = 2(N^* - k_p \alpha^*)$$

$$k_p = \pi R^* p_y$$

$$p_y = c \sigma_y \text{ with } 2.4 \leq c \leq 3.0$$

## Application

Samini (2003)

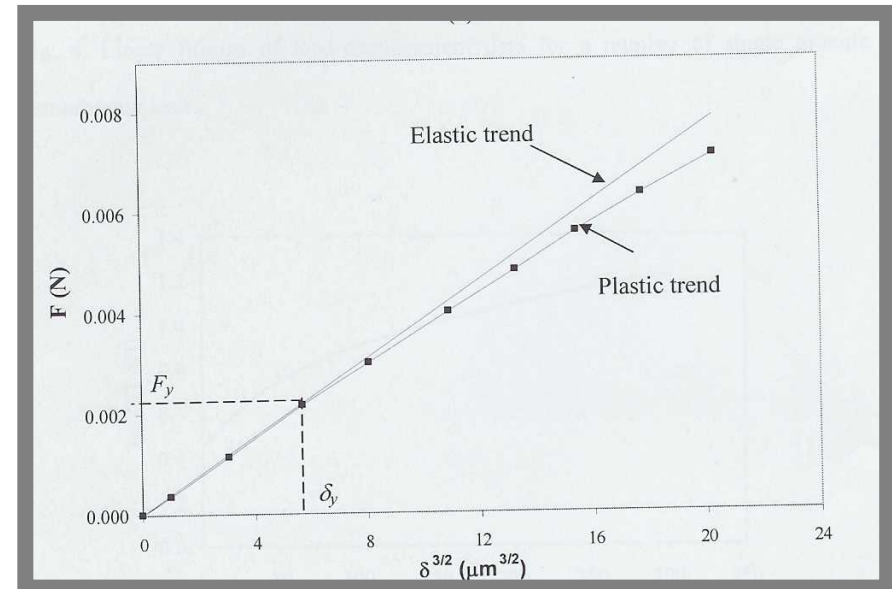
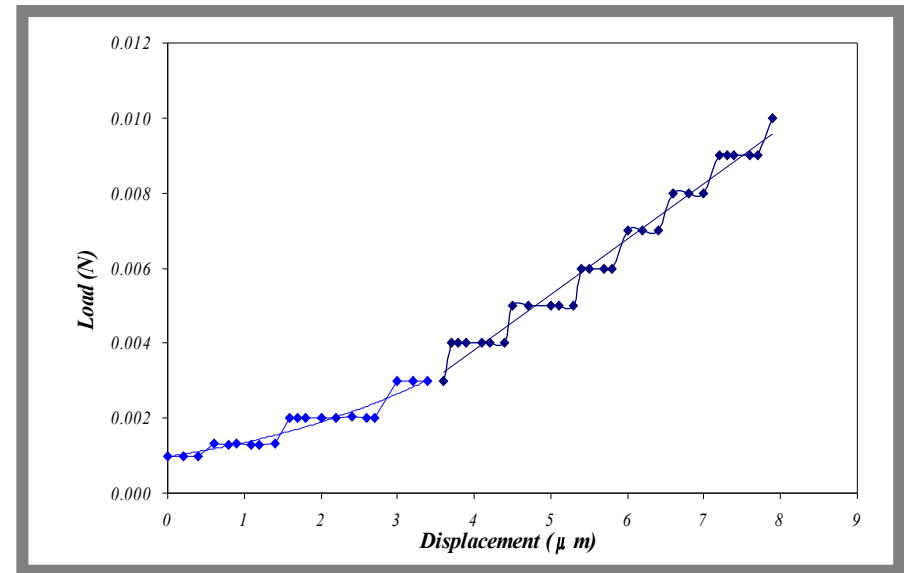
Diametrical compression tests  
(using an Instron testing machine  
with a 10 N load cell) on 'spherical'  
soft synthetic detergent granules.

Plot  $N$  against  $\alpha^{3/2}$

Fit straight line to data points

for  $N < N_y$  to obtain slope  $K$ .

$$E = \frac{3(1-\nu^2)K}{4\sqrt{R}}$$



Samini, Hassanpour & Ghadiri (2005)



On a plot of  $N$  against  $\alpha$

Fit straight line to data points

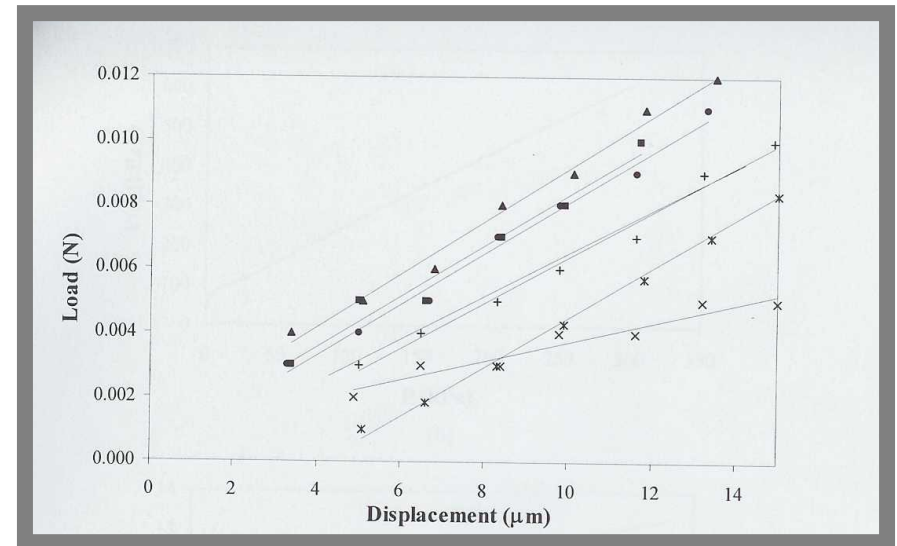
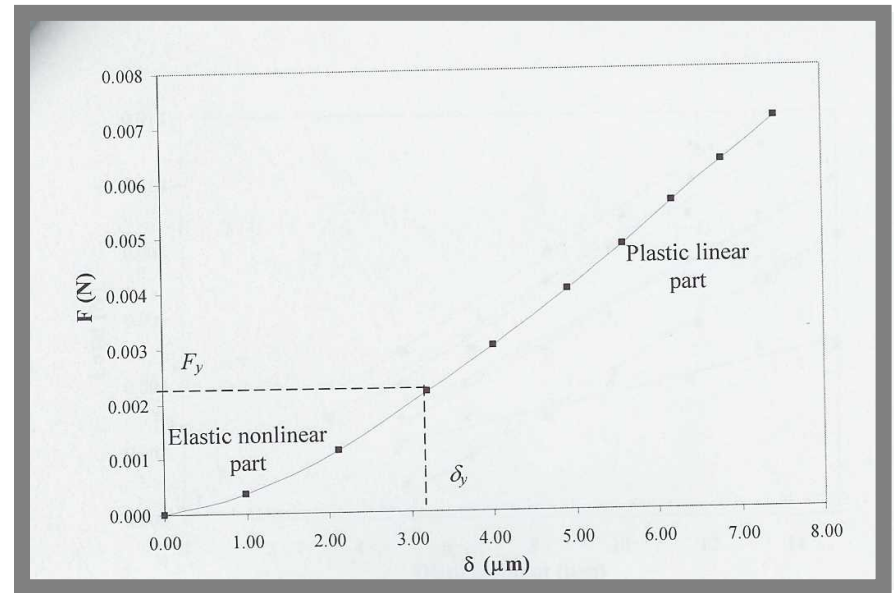
for  $N > N_y$  to obtain slope  $k_p$

Calculate limiting contact pressure and yield stress.

$$p_y = \frac{k_p}{\pi R^*} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_y = \frac{p_y}{c}$$

Size (mm)	$\sigma_y$ (kPa)	$E$ (MPa)
1.70-2.00	297 $\pm$ 108	7.5 $\pm$ 3
1.00-1.18	405 $\pm$ 151	10 $\pm$ 5

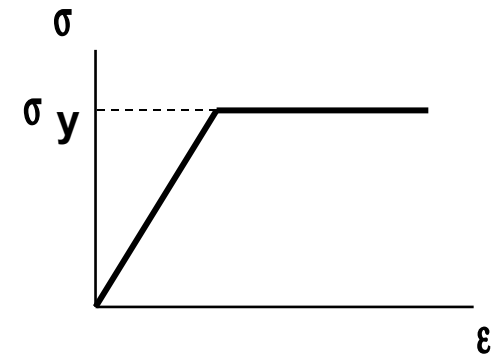
(assumes  $p_y = 3\sigma_y$ )



Samini, Hassanpour & Ghadiri (2005)

## comments

Both the FEM results of Wu et al (2003) and the Thornton (1997) approximation only strictly apply to linear elastic-perfectly plastic material, as illustrated by the stress-strain curve shown in the figure.

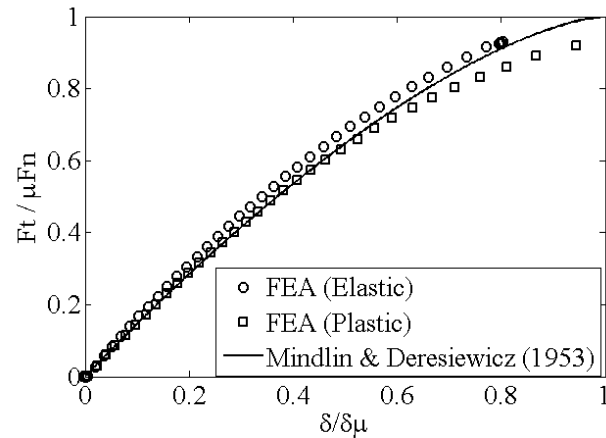
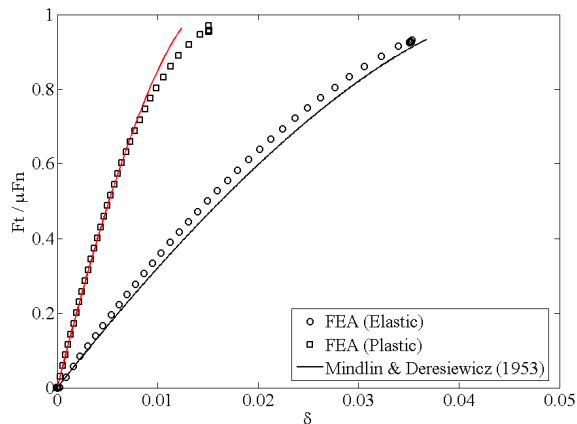


Many materials exhibit strain hardening and, for most materials, the measurement of the so-called yield stress is ambiguous. Therefore one should be somewhat circumspect with regard to values of yield stress provided by the manufacturer.

If one wishes to estimate the yield stress from the limiting contact pressure then one must select an appropriate constraint factor for the level of loading applied.

## Tangential interaction

FEM simulations have shown that the theory of Mindlin & Deresiewicz (1953) applies to both elastic and elastoplastic particles, Wu & Thornton (2007).



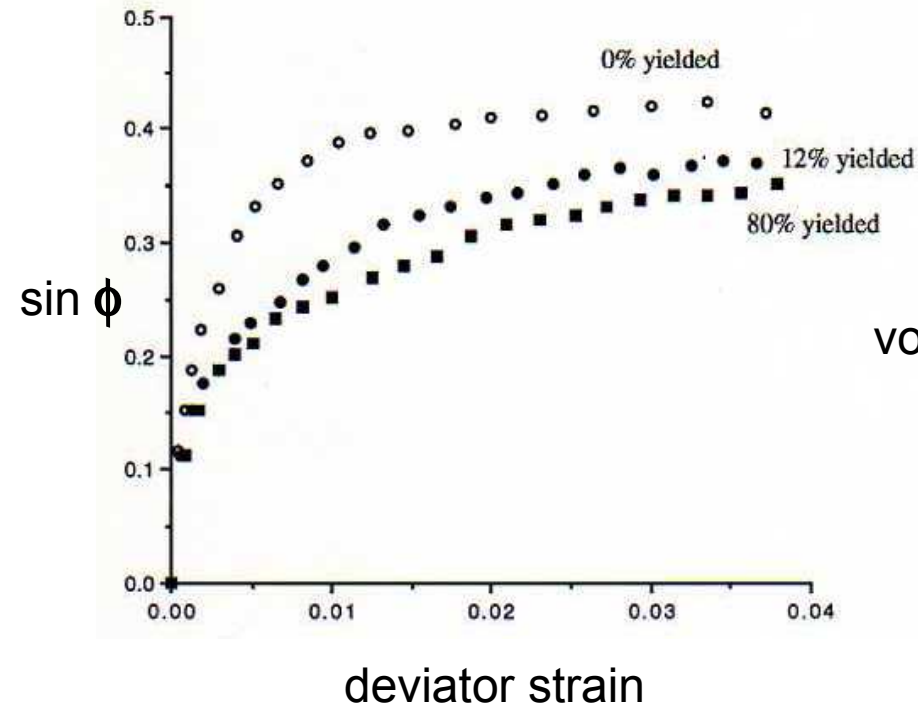
$$T = \mu N \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{\delta}{\delta_\mu} \right)^{3/2} \right] \quad \text{where} \quad \delta_\mu = \frac{3\mu N}{16G^* a}$$

$$\frac{1}{G^*} = \frac{(2 - \nu_1)}{G_1} + \frac{(2 - \nu_2)}{G_2}$$

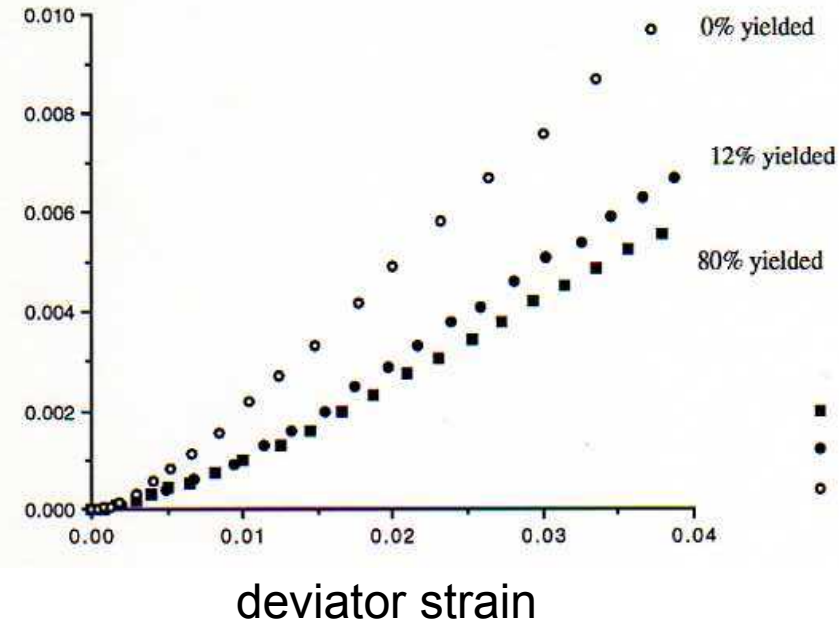
$$G_i = \frac{E_i}{2(1 + \nu_i)}$$

# Effect of contact plastic deformation on the quasi-static stress-strain - dilation response

axisymmetric compression in a periodic cell



vol. strain



Thornton (2000)

## AUTOADHESIVE CONTACT INTERACTIONS (ELASTIC)

In particle technology there is an increasing desire to have smaller and smaller particles. For particle sizes less than say 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , van der Waals forces become significant and particles tend to stick to each other.

Two theoretical models for the autoadhesion of spheres were developed over 30 years ago (a) the **JKR** model (Johnson, Kendall & Roberts, 1971) and (b) the **DMT** model (Derjaguin, Muller & Topolov, 1975).

The two models were initially thought to be competitive but subsequently shown to be limits to a range of solutions (Maugis, 1992) that are governed by the non-dimensional parameter

$$\mu = \left( \frac{R\Gamma^2}{E^* z_0^3} \right)^{1/3} \quad \text{where } z_0^3 \text{ is the equilibrium separation in the Lennard-Jones potential.}$$

For like bodies, the interface energy is twice the surface energy,  $\Gamma = 2\gamma$  .

It is now common practice to use the atomic force microscope (AFM) to measure the 'pull-off' force necessary to break an autoadhesive contact and deduce the surface energy. The interpretation depends on the model used.

DMT theory is appropriate for  $\mu \leq 0.1$  and the pull-off force  $N_c = 2\pi \Gamma R^*$

JKR theory is appropriate for  $\mu \geq 5$  and the pull-off force  $N_c = 1.5\pi \Gamma R^*$

For intermediate values of  $\mu$  see Maugis (1992) - very complicated.

Note that, in both the DMT and JKR models, the pull-off force is independent of the elasticity of the particles.

Assume the JKR model of adhesion  
Johnson, Kendall & Roberts (1971)

Johnson (1976) gives the normalised  
force-displacement equation as

$$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha_f} = \frac{3 \left( \frac{N}{N_c} \right) + 2 \pm 2 \left( 1 + \frac{N}{N_c} \right)^{1/2}}{3^{2/3} \left[ \frac{N}{N_c} + 2 \pm 2 \left( 1 + \frac{N}{N_c} \right)^{1/2} \right]^{1/3}}$$

where the pull-off force

$$N_c = \frac{3}{2} \pi \Gamma R^*$$

and

$$\alpha_f = \frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\pi^2 \Gamma^2 R^*}{E^{*2}} \right)^{1/3} = \left( \frac{3N_c^2}{16R^* E^{*2}} \right)^{1/3}$$

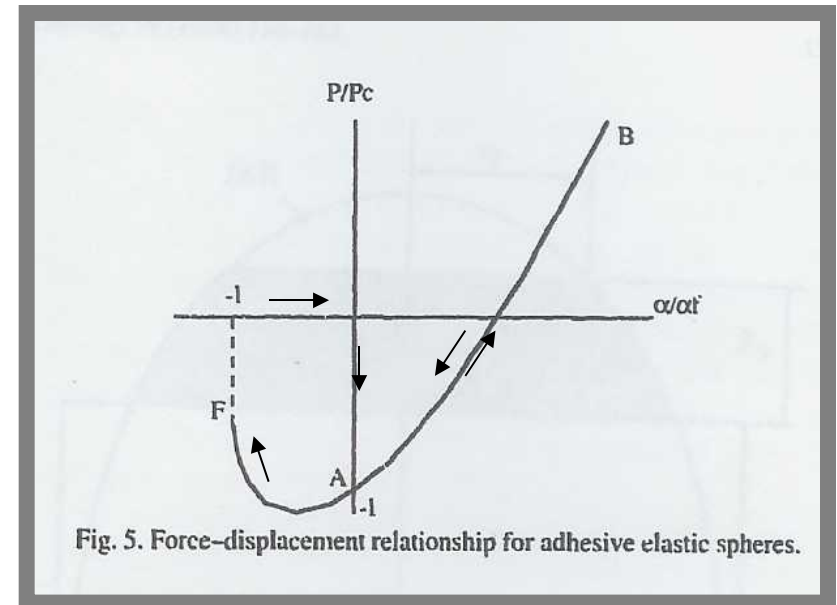


Fig. 5. Force-displacement relationship for adhesive elastic spheres.



Alternatively, from Johnson (1985)

$$N = \frac{4E^* a^3}{3R^*} - 4 \left( \frac{\pi \Gamma E^* a^3}{2} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{a^2}{R^*} - 2 \left( \frac{\Gamma \pi a}{2E^*} \right)$$

therefore

$$\frac{dN}{da} = \frac{4E^* a^2}{R^*} - 6 \left( \frac{\pi \Gamma E^* a}{2} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\frac{d\alpha}{da} = \frac{2a}{R^*} - \left( \frac{\pi \Gamma}{2E^* a} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\frac{dN}{d\alpha} = \frac{4E^{*2} a^3 - 6 \left( \frac{\pi \Gamma R^{*2} E^{*3} a^3}{2} \right)^{1/2}}{2E^* a^2 - \left( \frac{\pi \Gamma R^{*2} E^* a}{2} \right)^{1/2}}$$

or

$$k_n = 2E^* a \left[ \frac{3 - 3\sqrt{N_c/N'}}{3 - \sqrt{N_c/N'}} \right]$$

in which  $N'$  is the Hertzian force necessary to create the same contact area.

$$N' = N + N_c + \sqrt{4NN_c + 4N_c^2}$$

and

$$a = \left( \frac{3N'R^*}{4E^*} \right)^{1/3}$$

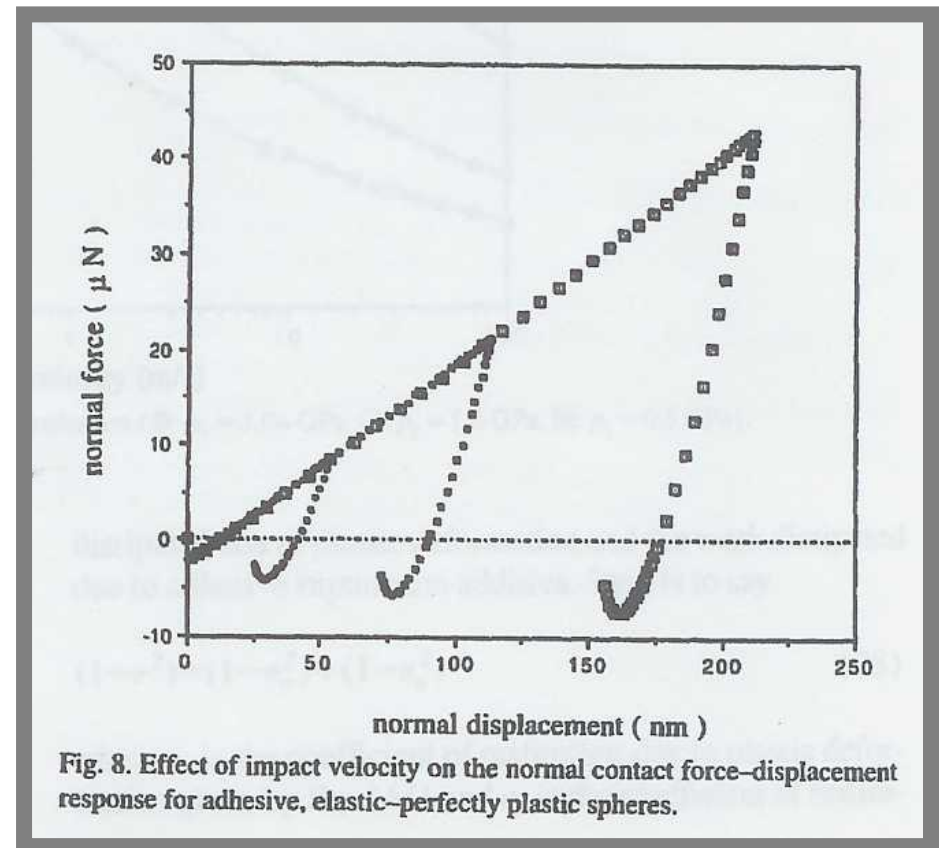
## AUTOADHESIVE ELASTOPLASTIC SPHERES

If the interaction is not elastic then the unloading curves and the pull-off force depend on the magnitude of the force from which unloading commenced, as illustrated in the figure.

The figure shows a numerical solution obtained using DEM.

There is no analytical solution.

It may be possible, using a DEM code with the appropriate contact mechanics algorithms, to match experimental data.



Thornton & Ning (1998)

# Tangential interactions for autoadhesive systems

Thornton (1991), Thornton & Yin (1991)

Savkooor & Briggs (1977) extended JKR theory to the initial application of a tangential force and showed that the contact radius is then defined by

$$a^3 = \frac{3R^*}{4E^*} \left[ N + 2N_c \pm \left( 4NN_c + 4N_c^2 - \frac{T^2 E^*}{4G^*} \right)^{1/2} \right]$$

until  $T_{\text{crit}} = 4 \left[ \frac{G^*}{E^*} (NN_c + N_c^2) \right]^{1/2}$

The above describes a peeling mechanism, during which  $k_t = 8G^* a$

Mindlin (1949)

If  $T > T_{\text{crit}}$  revert to Mindlin & Deresiewicz (1953).

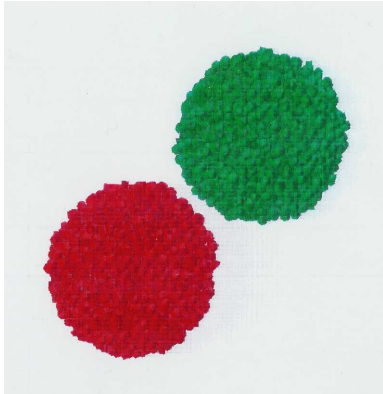
The problem is not yet resolved.

see Johnson (1997)

# AGGLOMERATE-AGGLOMERATE COLLISIONS

Kafui & Thornton (1996)

initial state

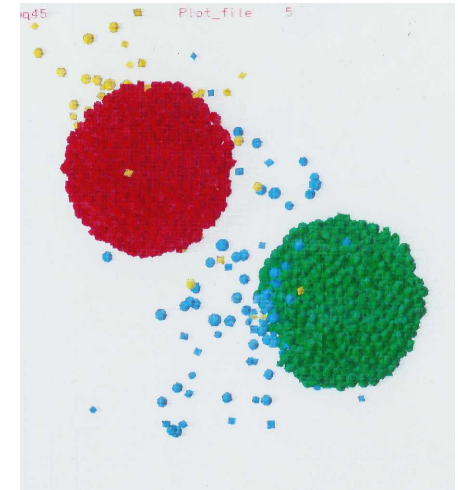


Each agglomerate has 2000 primary particles of average size 100 microns.

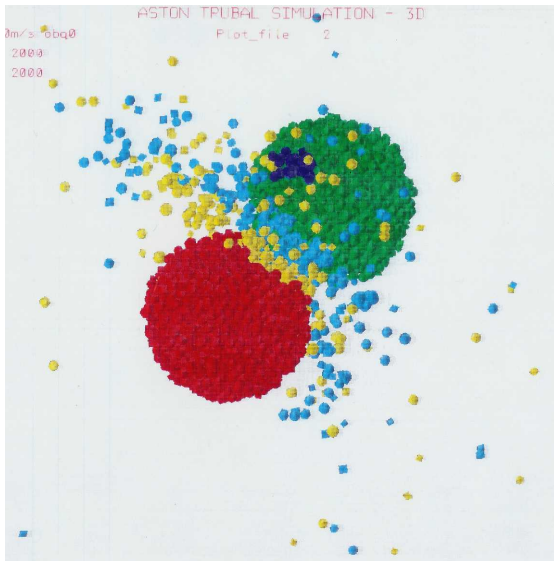
Relative impact speed is 1 m/s.

Surface energy is 1 J/m<sup>2</sup>.

different impact angles  $\theta$



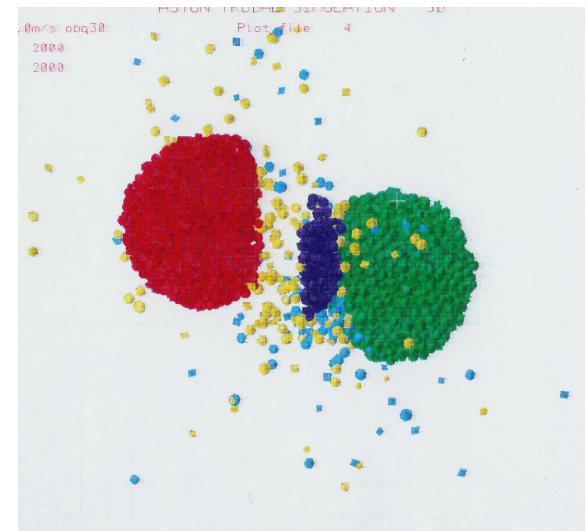
$\theta = 45^\circ$



$\theta = 0^\circ$

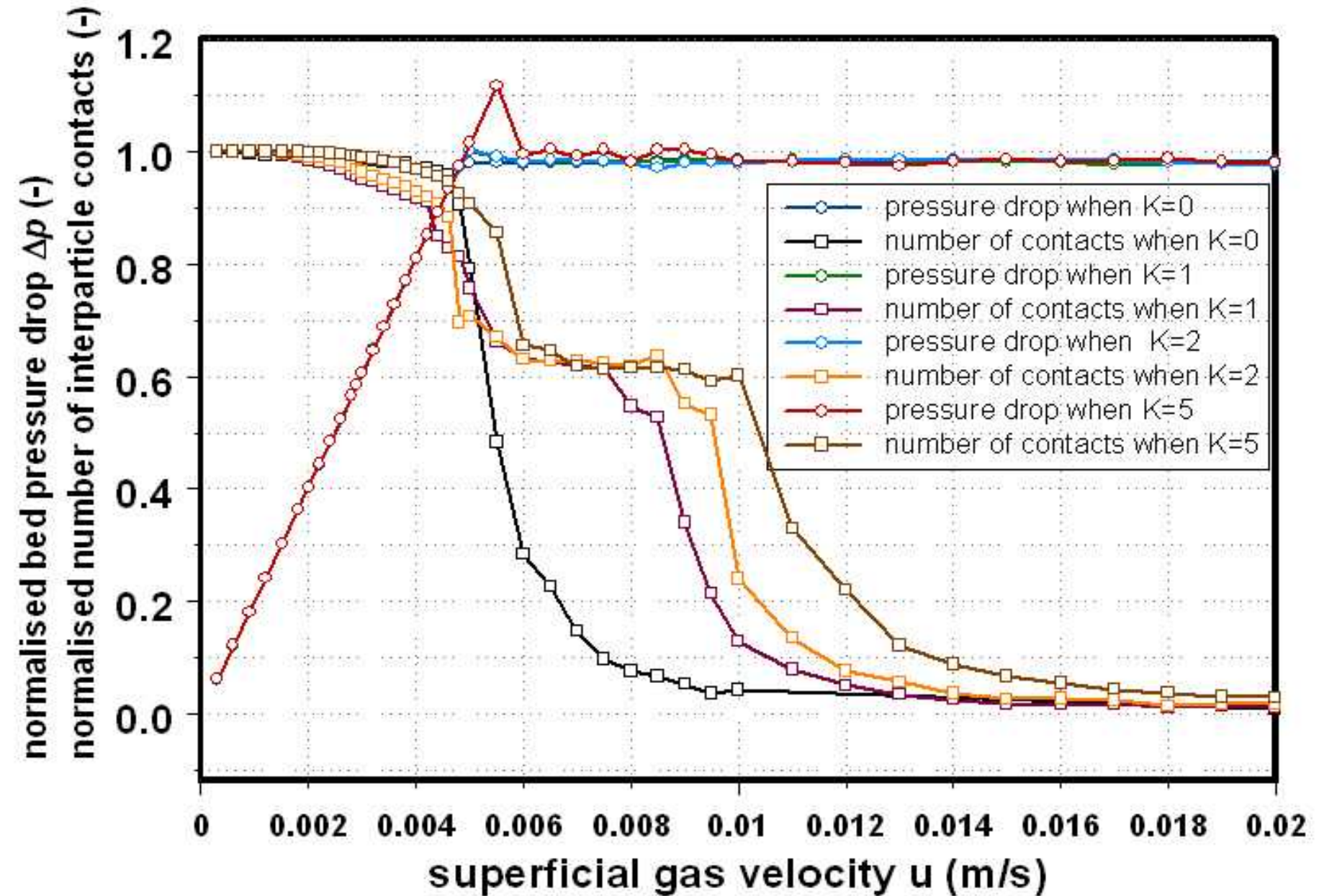


$\theta = 15^\circ$



$\theta = 30^\circ$

## The effect of surface energy on the transition from fixed bed to bubbling bed

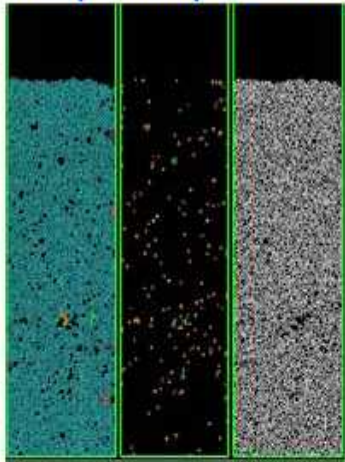




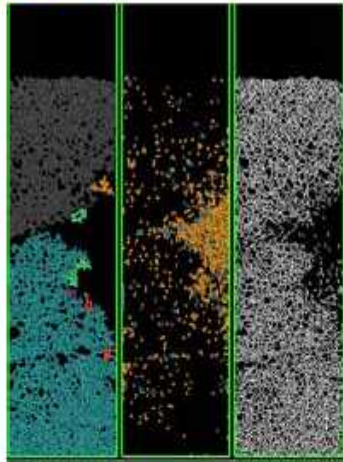
## SNAPSHOTS OF CLUSTER DEGRADATION WITH INCREASE OF SUPERFICIAL GAS VELOCITY

□ In each snapshot below, the three columns (from left to right) represent: the six largest clusters in the system, singlets, doublets and triplets and the connectivity network.

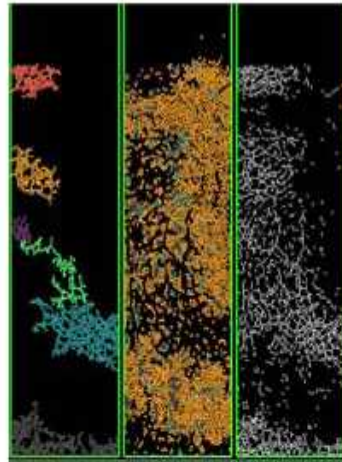
Interparticle pull-off force = 0



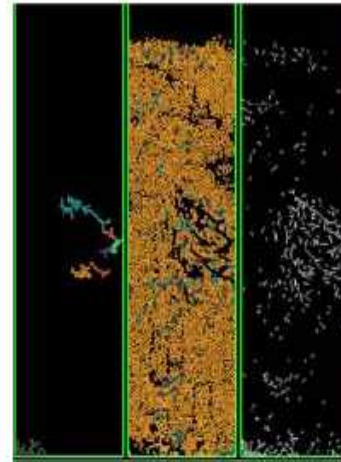
$U = 0.0048$  m/s



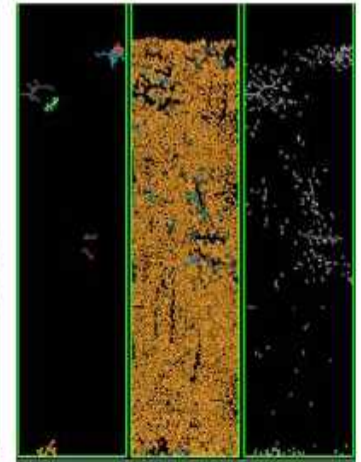
$U = 0.0050$  m/s



$U = 0.0060$  m/s

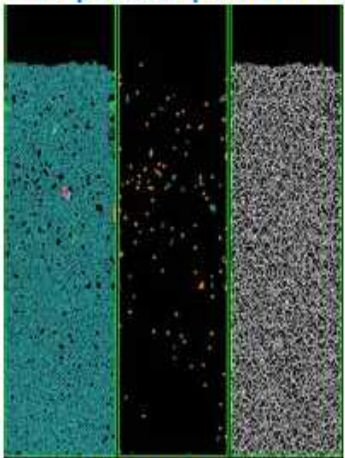


$U = 0.0080$  m/s

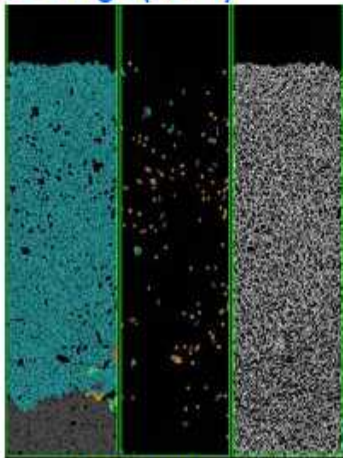


$U = 0.0085$  m/s

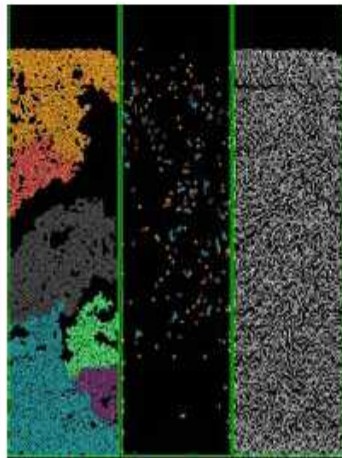
Interparticle pull-off force =  $\langle mg \rangle$  ( $K = 1$ )



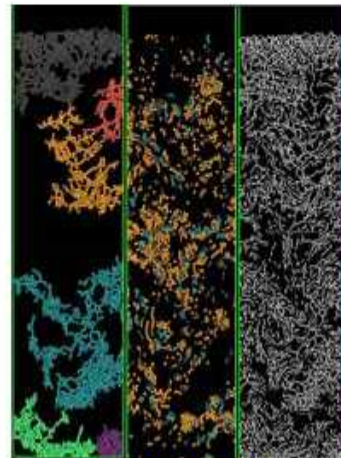
$U = 0.0048$  m/s



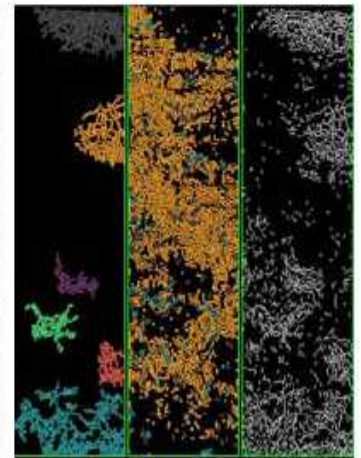
$U = 0.0050$  m/s



$U = 0.0060$  m/s



$U = 0.0080$  m/s

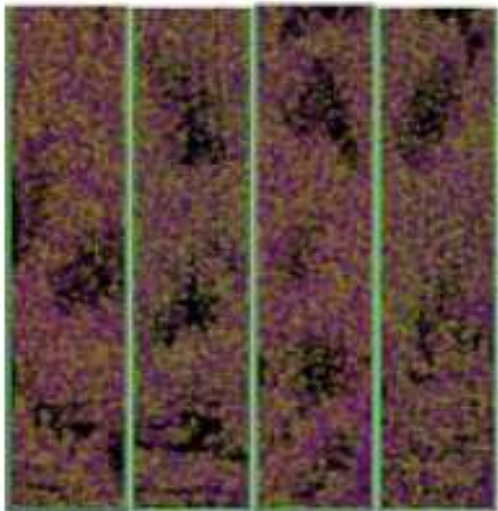


$U = 0.0095$  m/s

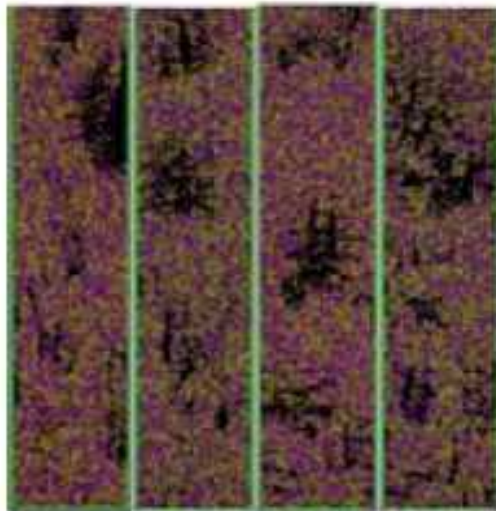


$U = 0.02 \text{ m/s}$

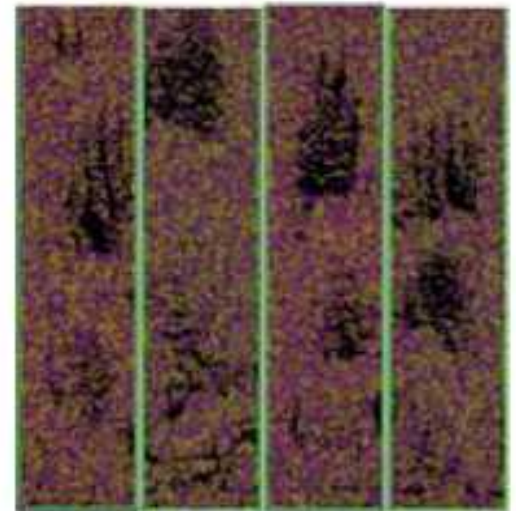
K=0 K=1 K=2 K=5



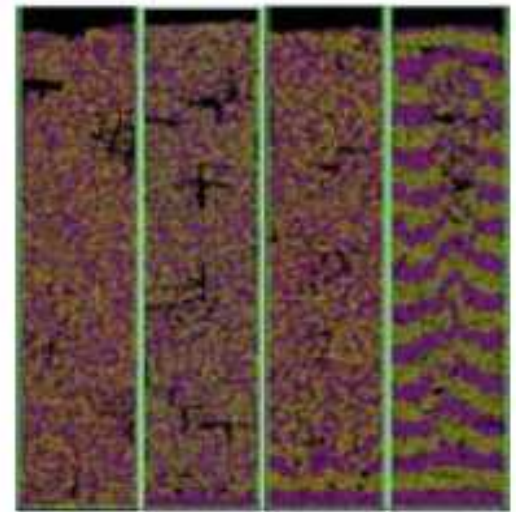
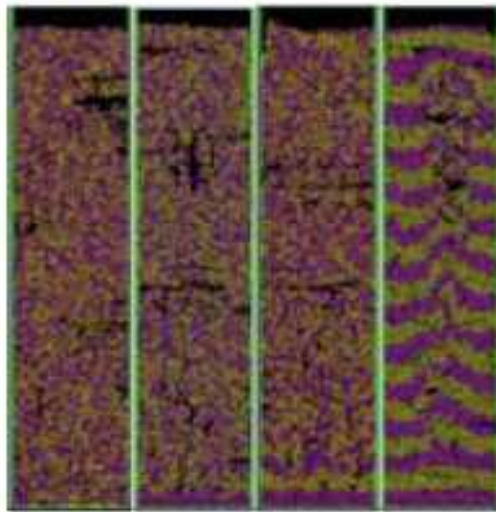
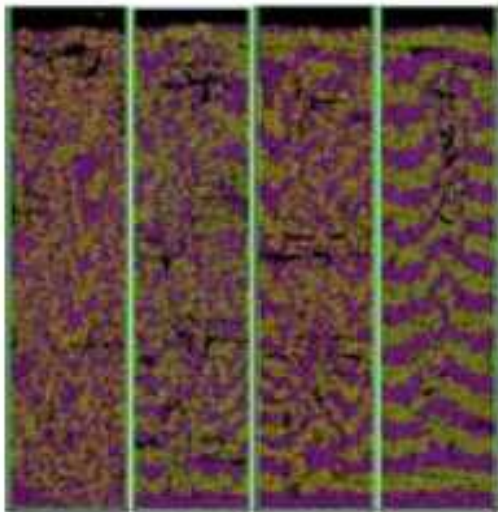
K=0 K=1 K=2 K=5



K=0 K=1 K=2 K=5



$U = 0.01 \text{ m/s}$



Time

Note that in the homogeneous expansion regime,  $U = 0.01 \text{ m/s}$ , channelling occurs when  $K = 5$

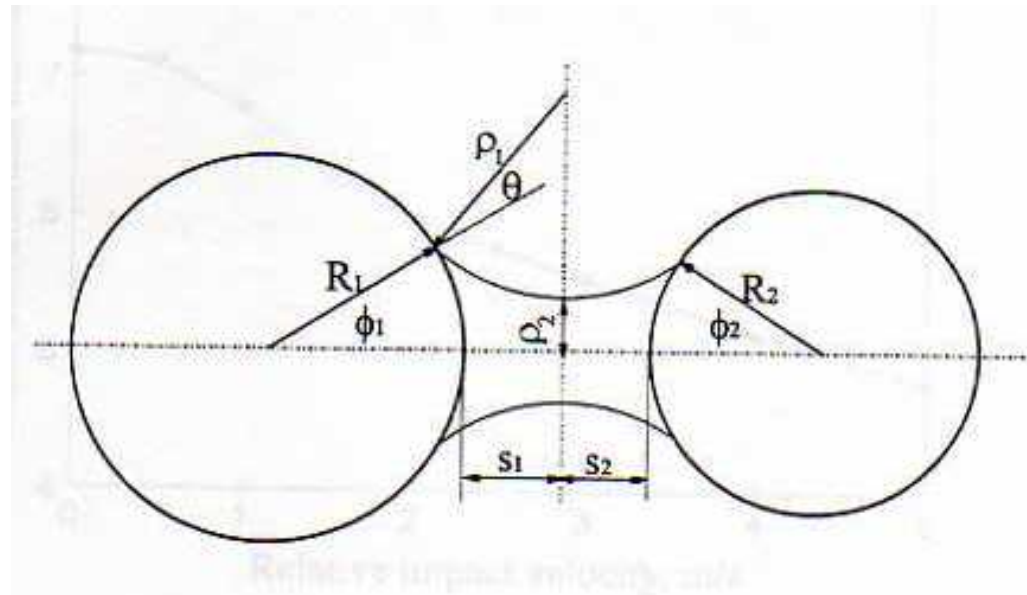


# Liquid bridges (pendular)

Lian, Thornton & Adams (1993)

Toroidal approximation

Fisher (1926)



$$\rho_1 = \frac{S_1 + R_1(1 - \cos \phi_1)}{\cos(\phi_1 + \theta)} = \frac{S_2 + R_2(1 - \cos \phi_2)}{\cos(\phi_2 + \theta)}$$

$$\rho_2 = R_1 \sin \phi_1 - \frac{[1 - \sin(\phi_1 + \theta)][S_1 + R_1(1 - \cos \phi_1)]}{\cos(\phi_1 + \theta)}$$

$$= R_2 \sin \phi_2 - \frac{[1 - \sin(\phi_2 + \theta)][S_2 + R_2(1 - \cos \phi_2)]}{\cos(\phi_2 + \theta)}$$

Hotta et al (1974)

Capillary force

$$F_c = \pi \gamma \rho_2 \frac{\rho_1 + \rho_2}{\rho_1}$$

Adams & Perchard (1985)

Viscous force

$$F_v = \frac{6\pi\eta(R^*)^2 V_n}{S}$$

Body-centred cubic array of 4062 primary spheres,  $d = 60 \mu\text{m}$

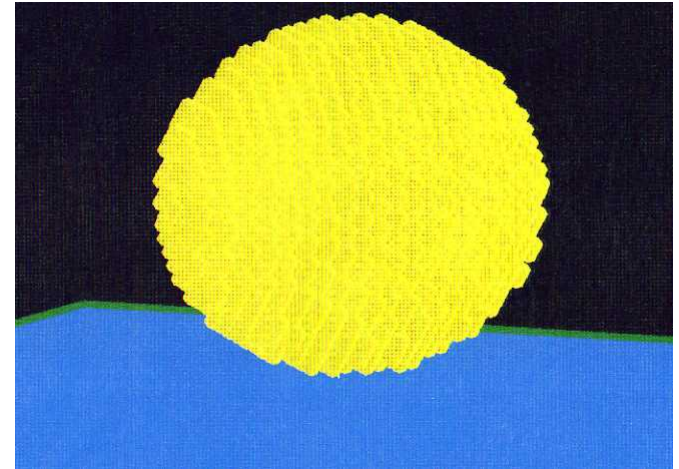
$\rho = 2.65 \text{ Mg/m}^3$   $E = 70 \text{ GPa}$   $\nu = 0.3$   $\mu = 0.3$

pendular liquid bridges

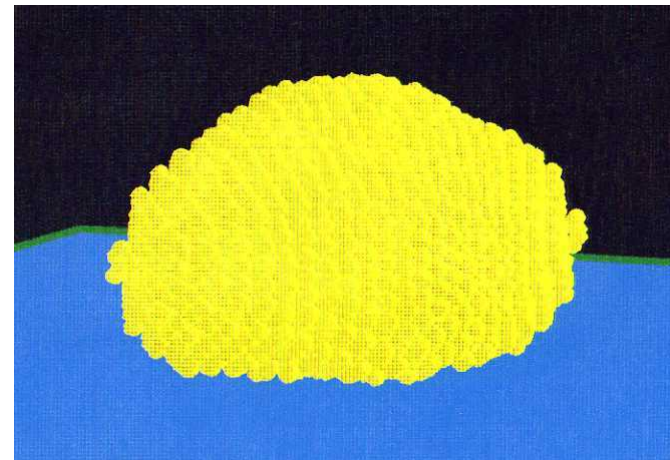
surface tension = 25 mn/m

bridge volume =  $1.13 \times 10^{-10} \text{ ml}$  ( $S = 0.71\%$ )

impact velocity = 2 m/s



viscosity = 0



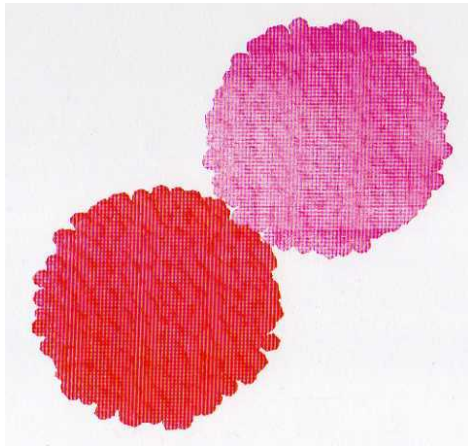
viscosity = 0.1 Pa.s

## WET AGGLOMERATE COLLISIONS

1000 particles in each agglomerate

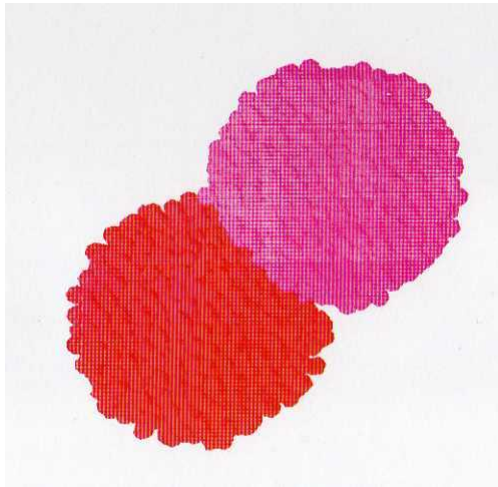
$$D = 0.38\text{mm} \quad \langle d \rangle = 60\mu\text{m}$$

$$\eta = 0.01\text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s} \quad \gamma = 0.025\text{ N/m}$$

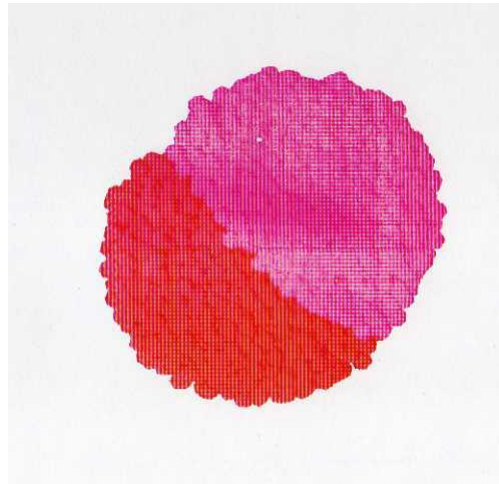


initial

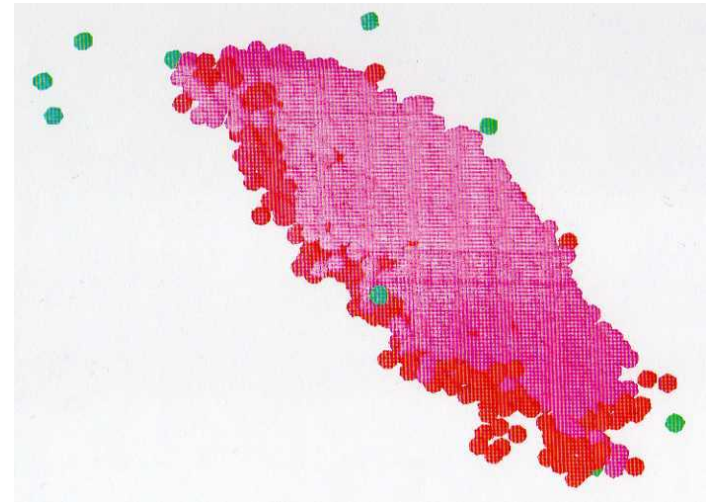
normal impacts  $\theta = 0^\circ$



$V = 1.0\text{ m/s}$



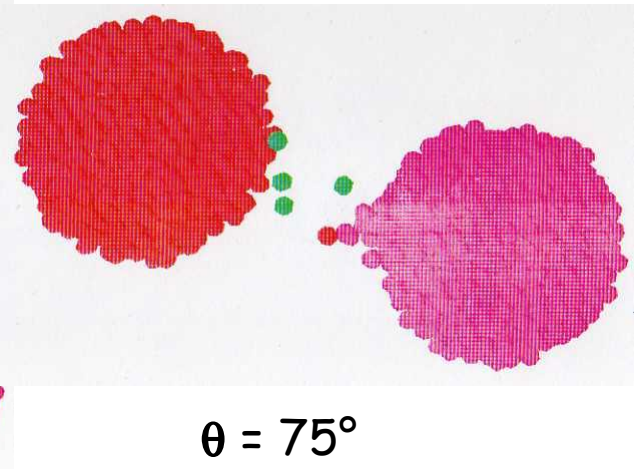
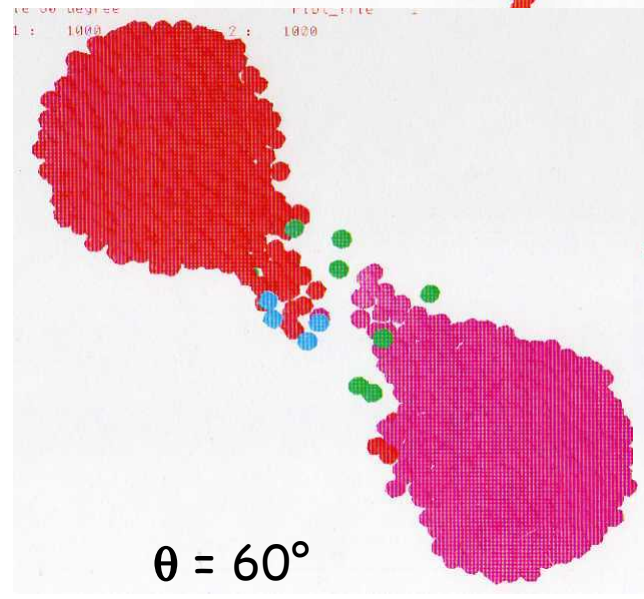
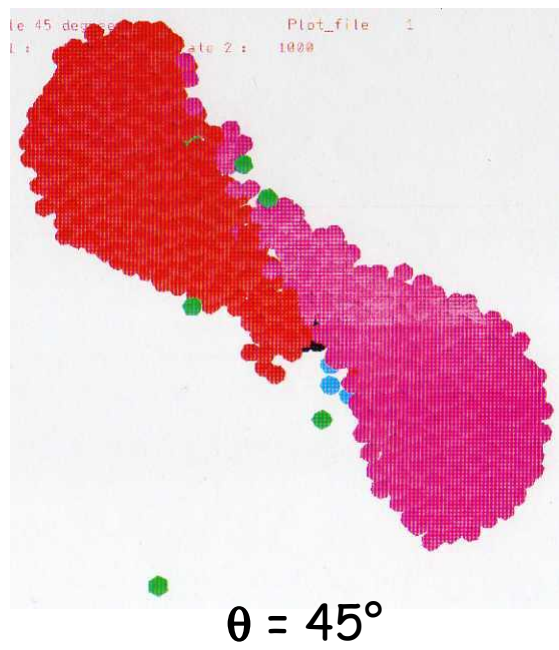
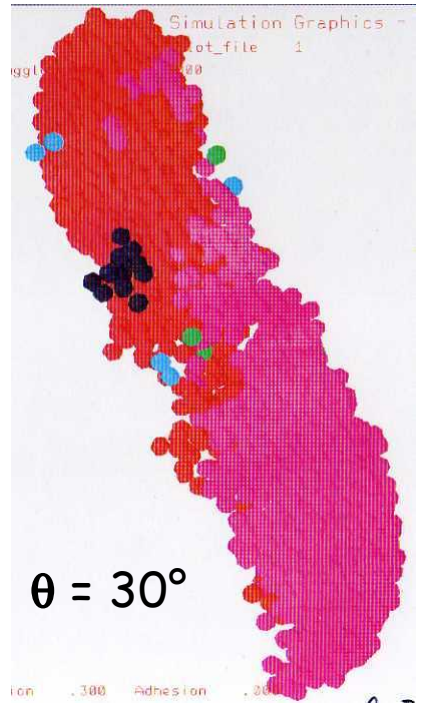
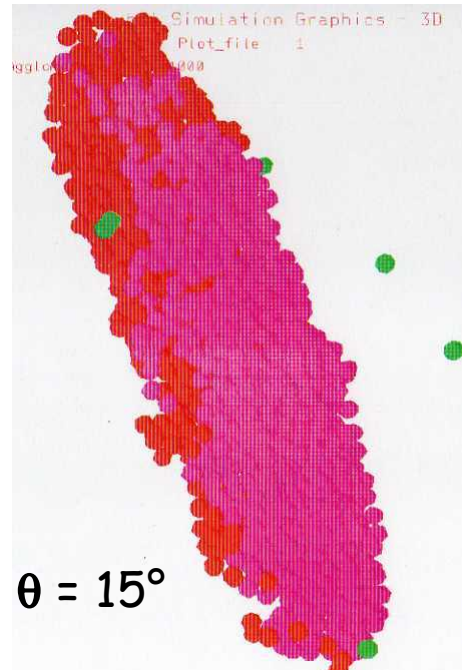
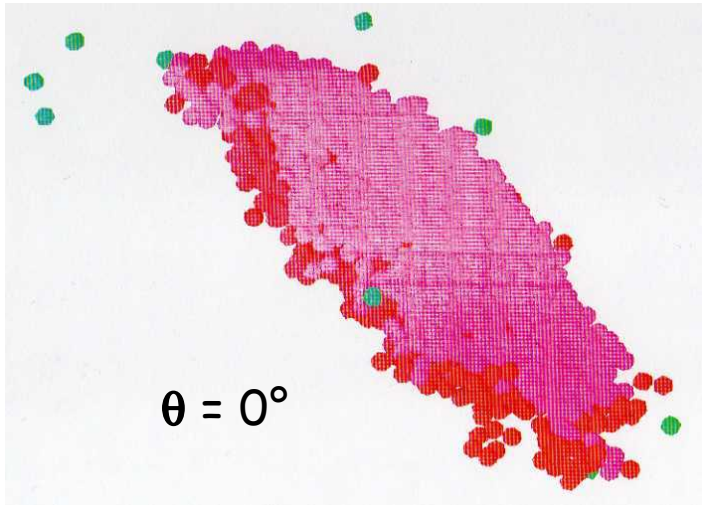
$V = 2.0\text{ m/s}$



$V = 5.0\text{ m/s}$



# OBLIQUE IMPACTS $V = 5.0 \text{ m/s}$



# PARTICLE-FLUID INTERACTIONS

Kafui, Thornton & Adams (2002)

## particle equations of motion

total force acting on particle  $i$   $\mathbf{f}_i = \mathbf{f}_{ci} + \mathbf{f}_{fpi} + m_i \mathbf{g} = m_i \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i$

torque applied to particle  $i$   $\mathbf{T}_i = I_i \ddot{\theta}_i$

fluid-particle interaction force

$$\mathbf{f}_{fpi} = -\mathbf{V}_{pi} \nabla p + \mathbf{V}_{pi} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_f + \varepsilon \mathbf{f}_{di}$$

## fluid continuity and momentum equations

$$\frac{\partial (\varepsilon \rho_f)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \rho_f \mathbf{u}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial (\varepsilon \rho_f \mathbf{u})}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\varepsilon \rho_f \mathbf{u} \mathbf{u}) = -\nabla p_f + \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_f - \mathbf{F}_{fp} + \varepsilon \rho_f \mathbf{g}$$

total fluid-particle interaction force per unit volume

$$\mathbf{F}_{fp} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_c} \mathbf{f}_{fpi}}{\Delta V_c}$$

volume of computational fluid cell



Di Felice (1994)

drag force 
$$\mathbf{f}_{di} = \frac{1}{2} C_{Di} \rho_f \frac{\pi d_{pi}^2}{4} \varepsilon_j^2 |\mathbf{u}_j - \mathbf{v}_i| (\mathbf{u}_j - \mathbf{v}_i) \varepsilon_j^{-(\chi+1)}$$

fluid drag coefficient for a single unhindered particle 
$$C_{Di} = \left[ 0.63 + \frac{4.8}{\text{Re}_{pi}^{0.5}} \right]^2$$

$\varepsilon_j^{-(\chi+1)}$  corrects for the presence of other particles

and the dependence on the flow 
$$\chi = 3.7 - 0.65 \exp \left[ - \frac{(1.5 - \log_{10} \text{Re}_{pi})^2}{2} \right]$$

particle Reynolds number 
$$\text{Re}_{pi} = \frac{\rho_f d_{pi} \varepsilon_j |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|}{\mu_s}$$

# 3D fluidised bed simulations

100,000 particles

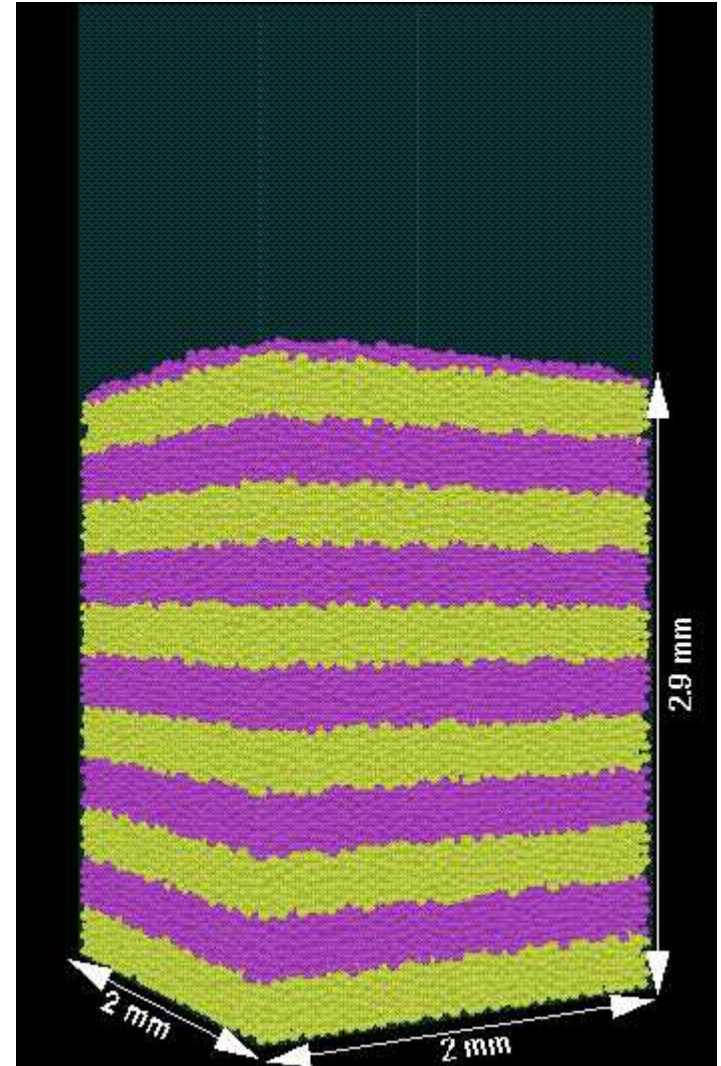
fixed bed size 2 mm sq. x 2.9 mm high  
( $40d_p$  sq x  $58 d_p$ )

bed void fraction 0.404

coordination number 4.71

total number of fluid cells 5000  
( $10 \times 10 \times 50$ )

fluid cell size  $4 d_p$  cube



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