



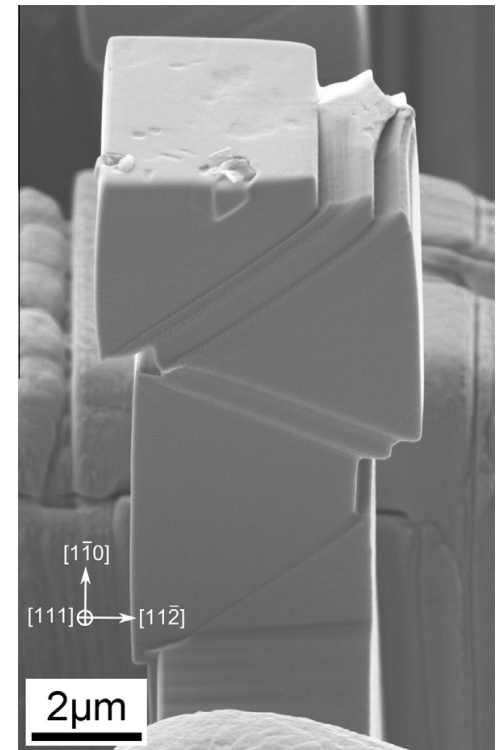
Dislocation avalanches: experiments and simulations

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Motivation

- Large stochastic fluctuations arise during the deformation of small (few μm) crystalline samples
 - Makes predictable deformation impossible
- Power-law distributions characterize intermittency
- The question of universality is still open
 - What physical processes affect the critical behaviour and how?



Outline

- Intermittency in experiments on crystalline plasticity
 - Acoustic emission
 - Micropillar experiments
 - Nanoindentation pop-in events
- Simulations
 - Discrete dislocation dynamics
 - Stochastic models
- Simple 2D dislocation model
 - Anomalous system size behaviour
 - Extended criticality

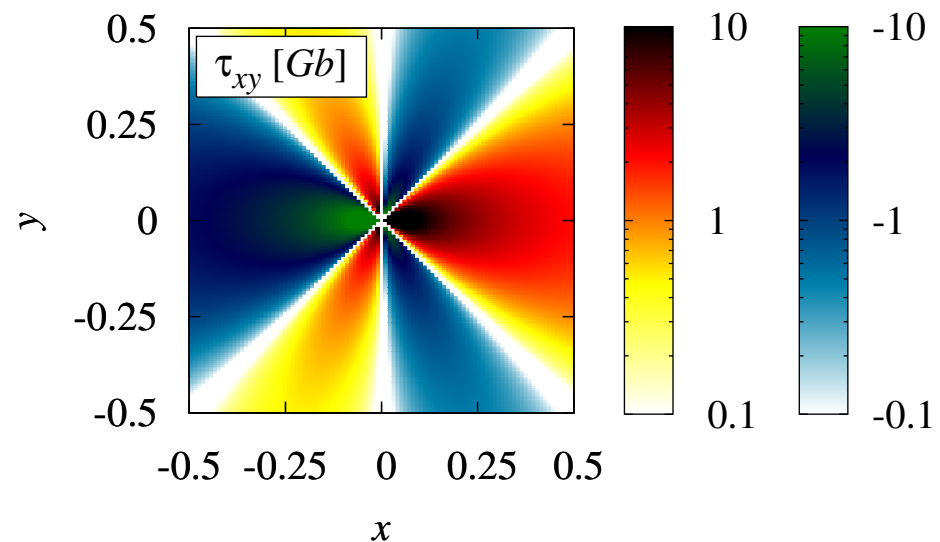
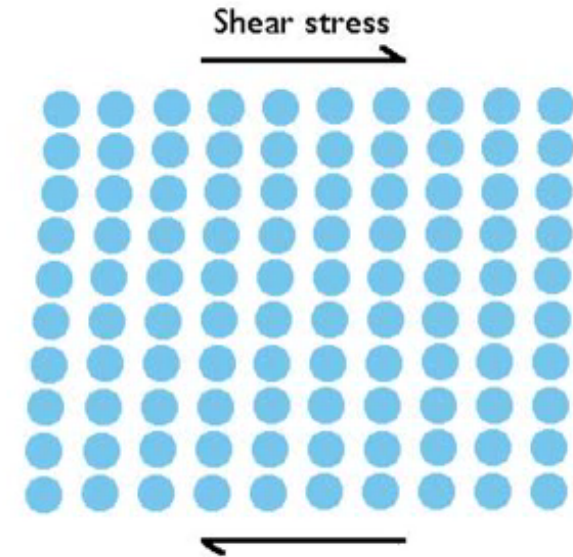
Crystal plasticity

Dislocations

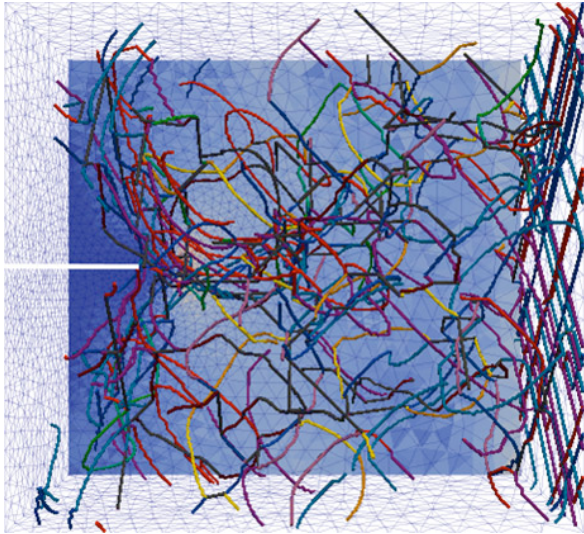
- Linear lattice defects
- Carriers of plasticity
- They move due to shear stress
- They generate long-range shear stress field:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{xy}(\mathbf{r}) &= Gb \frac{x(x^2 - y^2)}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \\ &= Gb \frac{\cos(\varphi) \cos(2\varphi)}{r}\end{aligned}$$

- Complex spatio-temporal dynamics



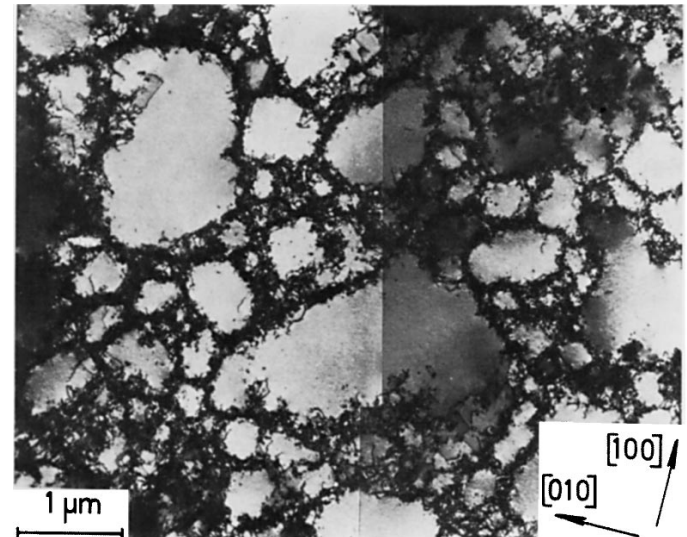
Dislocation patterns



- Multitude of observed dislocation patterns
 - Fractal, periodic, etc.
 - Crucial impact on plastic properties
 - May lead to strain localization and failure of the material

H Mughrabi, F Ackermann, K Herz, STP675, 1979

H Mughrabi, T Ungár, W Kienle, M Wilkens, Philos Mag, 1986



Relevant length scales

- Atomic scale
 - Dislocation reactions and mobility
- Dislocation pattern
 - Scale proportional with $Q^{-1/2}$: principle of similitude
- Quenched disorder
 - Precipitates, point defects (solute atoms, vacancies, etc.)
- Grain size
 - Dislocations typically cannot penetrate boundaries
- Specimen size

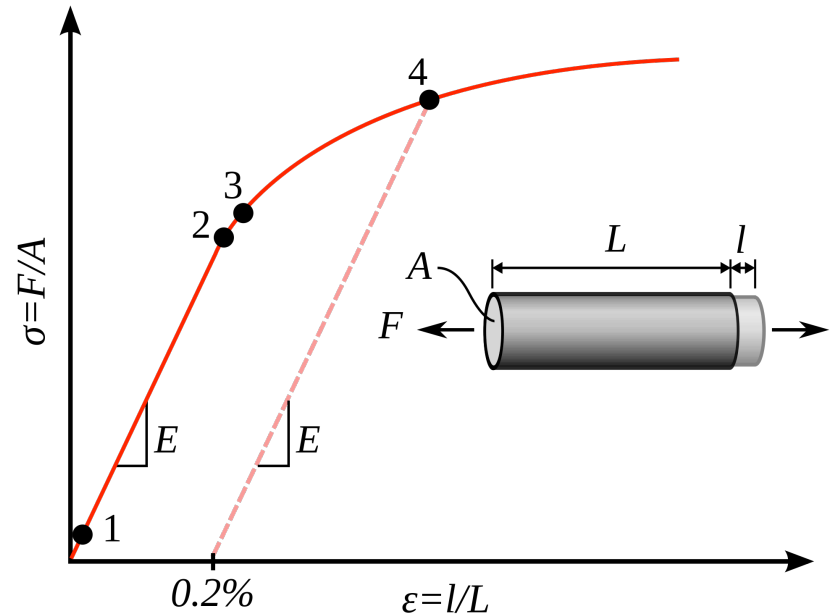
Small scales
typically
lead to
hardening of
the specimen

Comments

- Thermal activation is not relevant at low temperatures
- Dislocation motion is dissipative

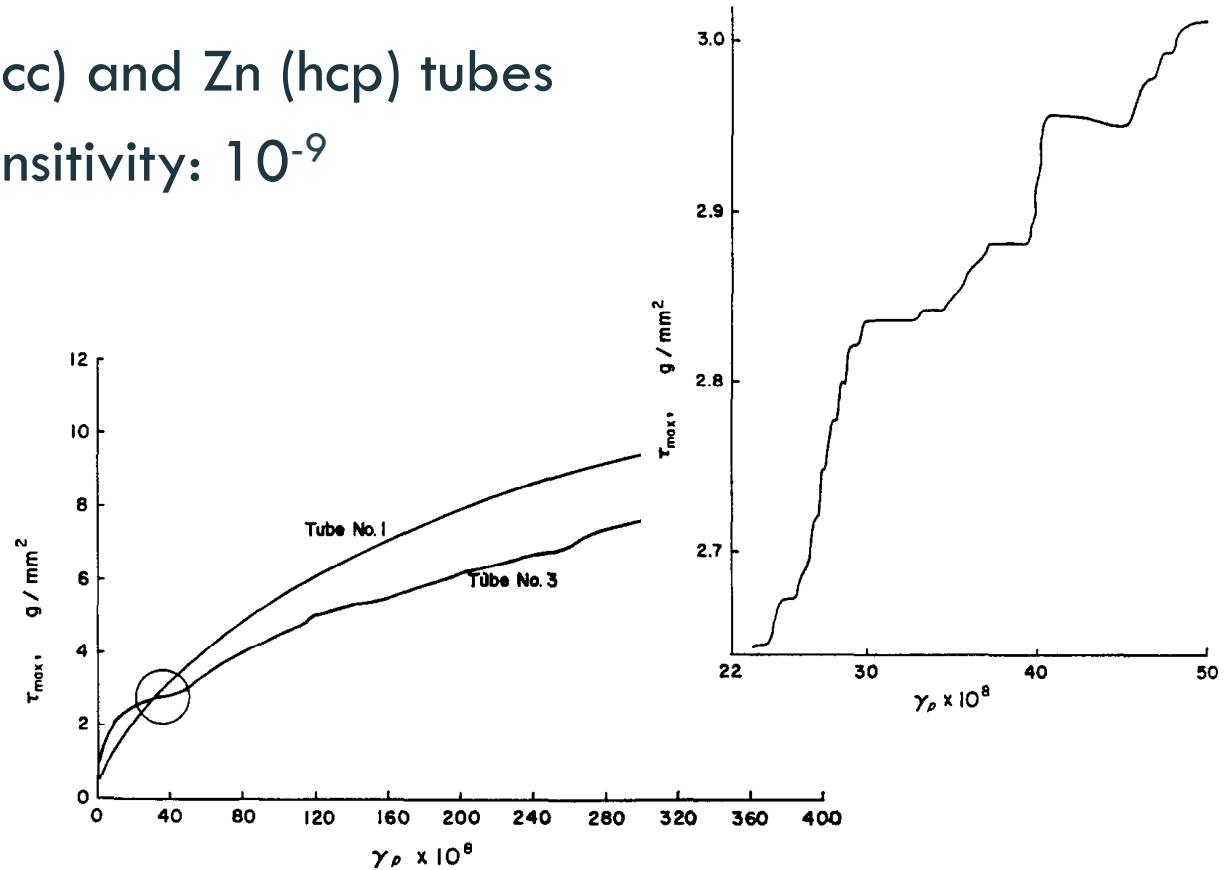
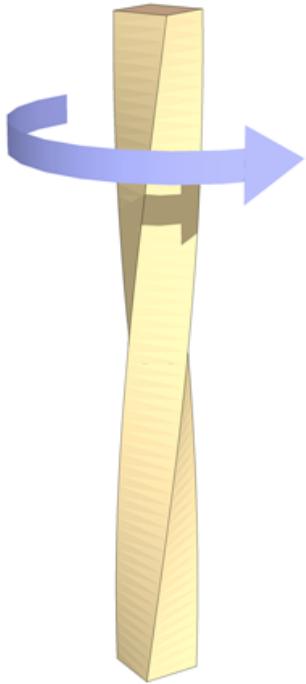
Stress-strain response

- Smooth curve for bulk samples
 - Large number of dislocations
- Microplasticity
 - Deformation before yield
- Work hardening
 - Dislocations may multiply, annihilate and react during deformation
 - Pattern formation



Microplasticity

- Torsion of Cu (fcc) and Zn (hcp) tubes
- Deformation sensitivity: 10^{-9}



R.F. Tinder, J. Washburn, Acta Metall. (1964)

R.F. Tinder, J.P. Trzil, Acta Metall. (1973)

Crackling during bulk plasticity

- Zn single crystal (hcp)
- 'the strain curve of zinc crystals is not smooth, but consists of individual more or less sharp cracks'

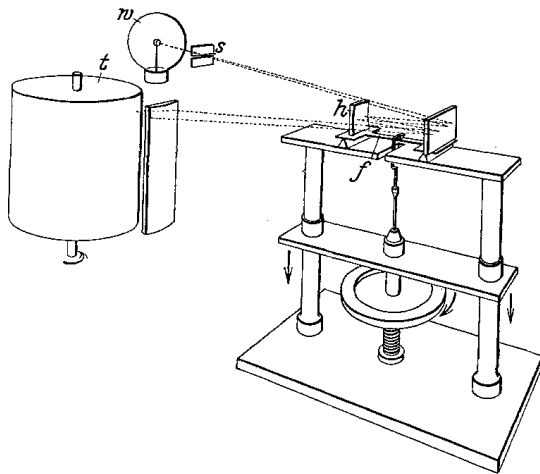


Fig. 1. Die Versuchsanordnung.

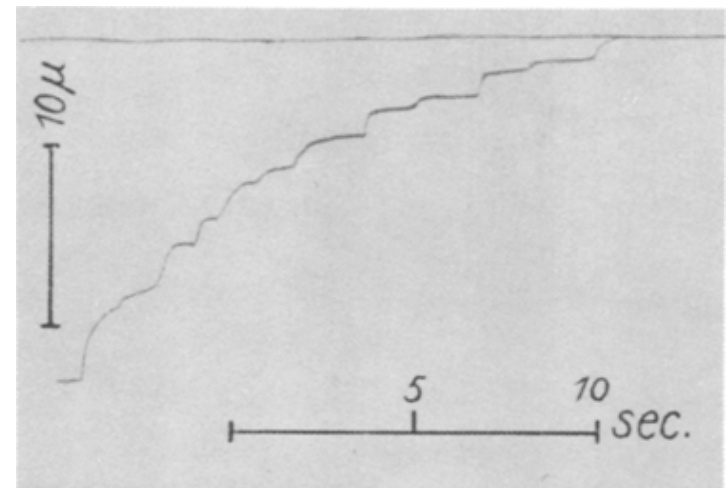
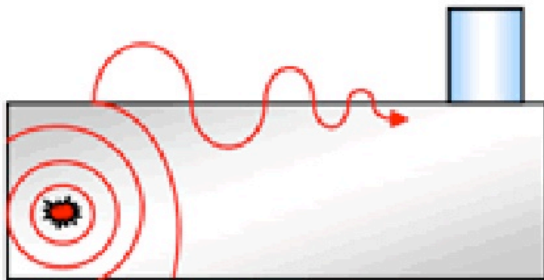


Fig. 2. Sprunghafte Dehnung eines Zinkkristalls bei 800° C.

[Becker, Orowan (1932)]

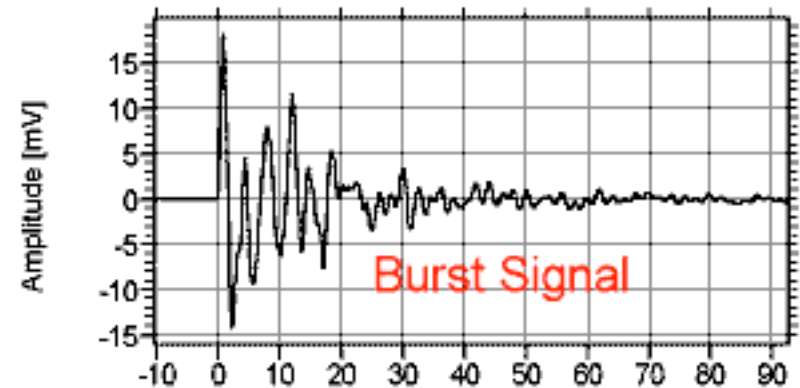
Acoustic emission

- Detection of acoustic waves on the surface using a piezoelectric detector
 - The detected signal is characteristic to the source as well as the detector
 - The distance of the source matters
 - Burst-like vs. continuous signal

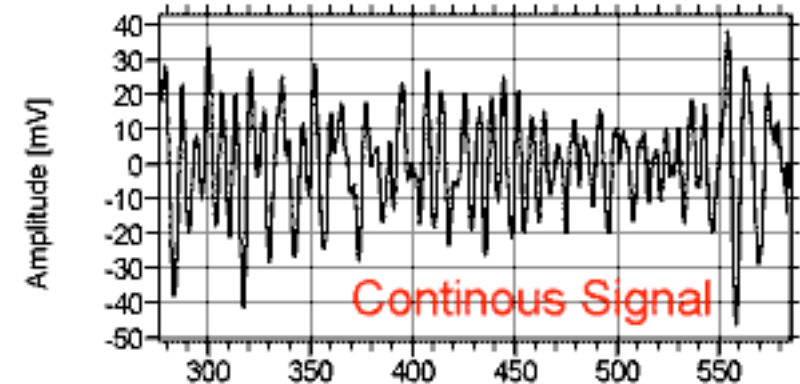


Acoustic Emission Signals

Chan: 1 Set: 53 Index: 53 14 11:43:52 556.4534 Time [μs]



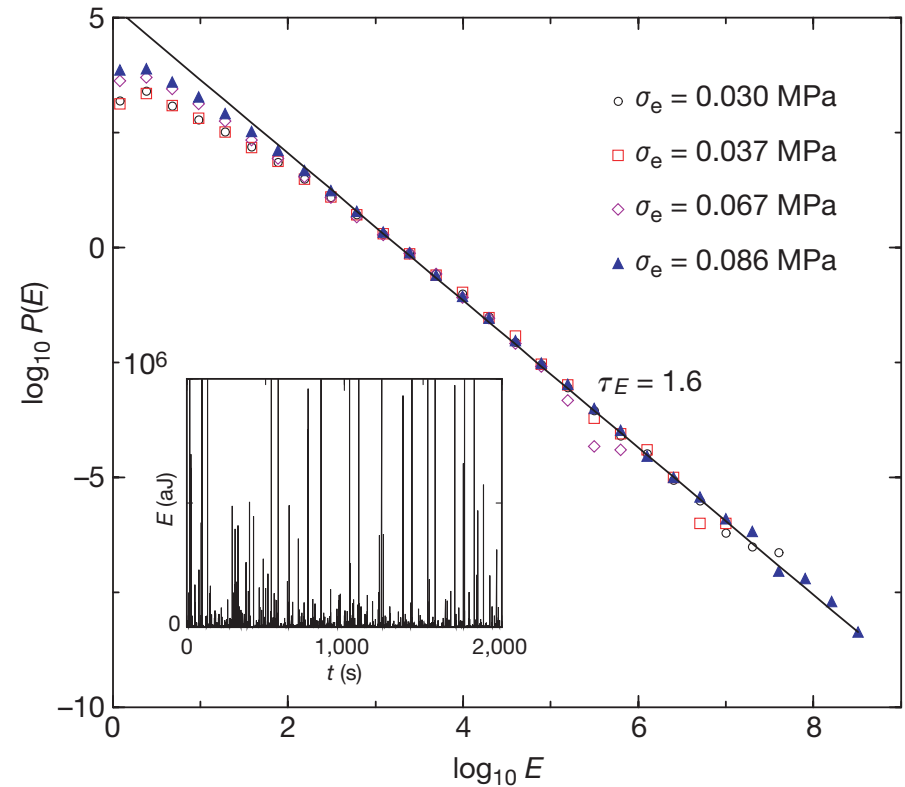
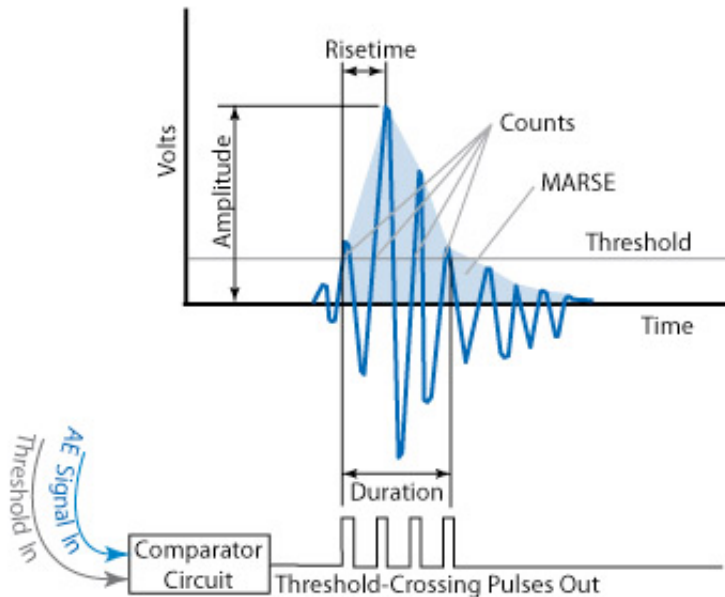
Chan: 4 Set: 2 Index: 21 8 14:27:41 700.6297 Time [μs]



AE of ice

- Creep of ice (less than 0.1 MPa)

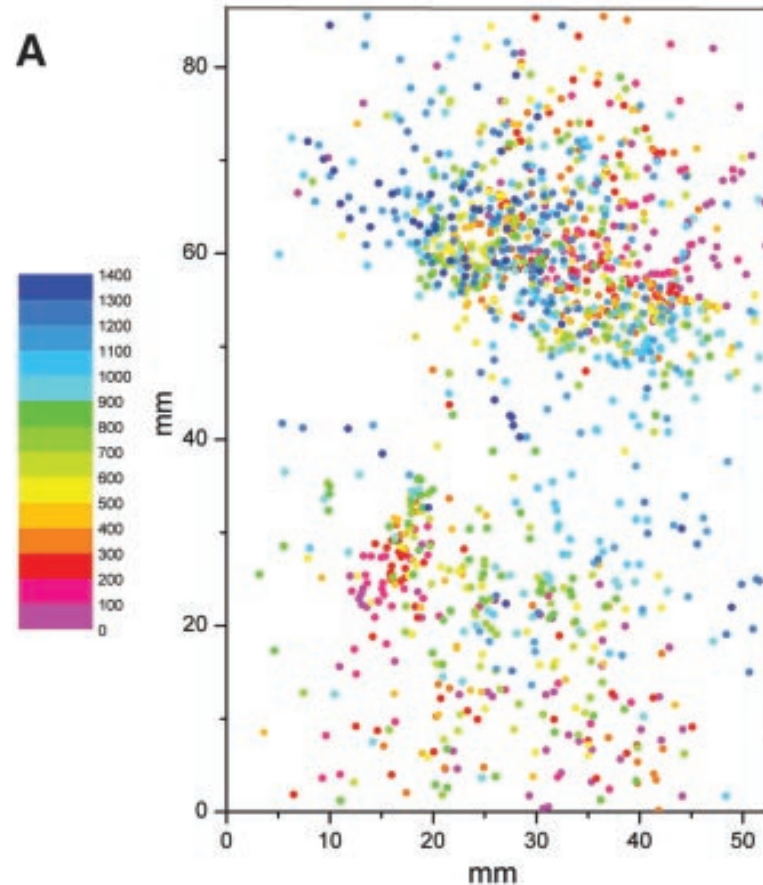
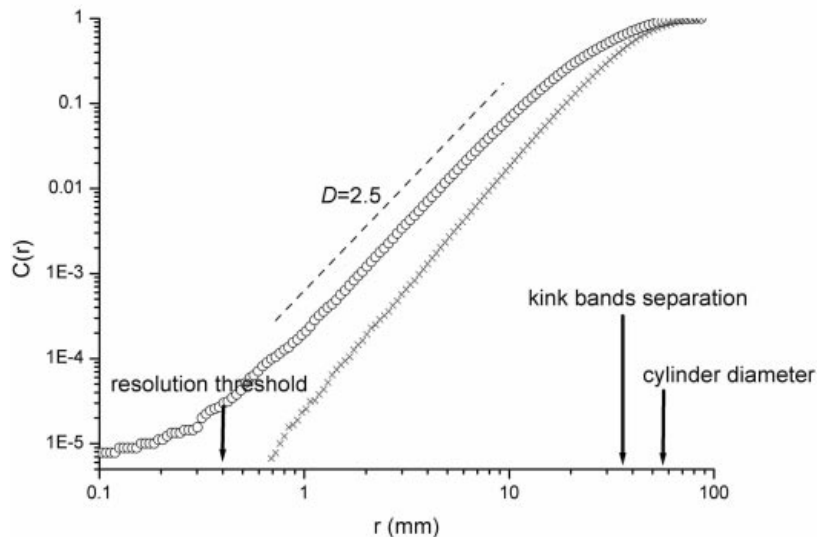
- $P(E) \propto E^{-\tau_E}$
- $\tau_E \approx 1.6$ (signal energy)
- $\tau_A \approx 2.0$ (signal amplitude)
- No cut-off



[Miguel *et al.*, Nature (2001)]

Spatial clustering of avalanches

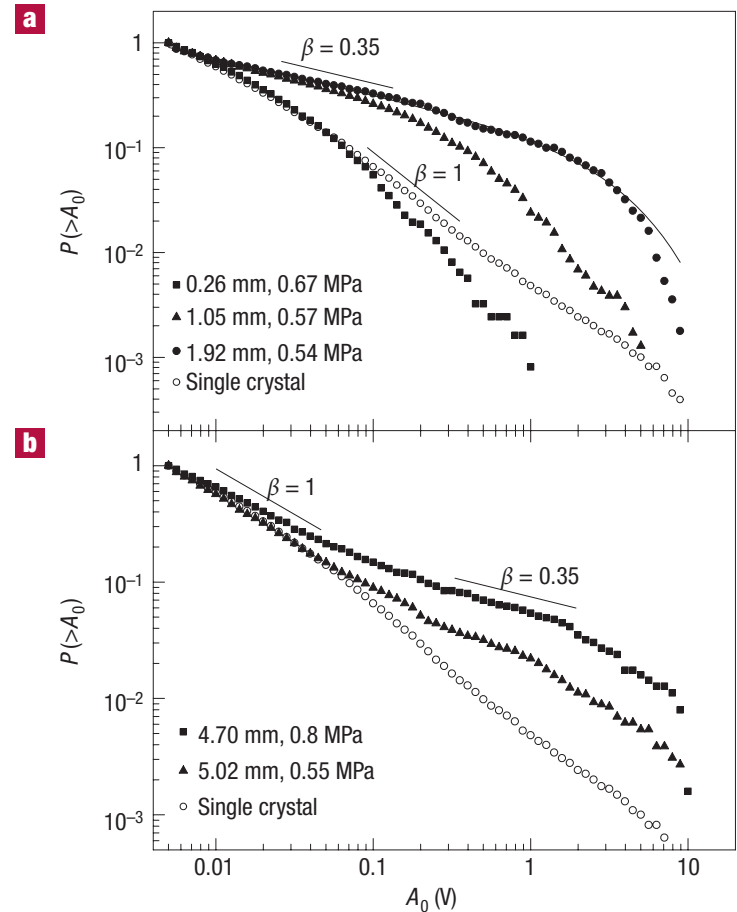
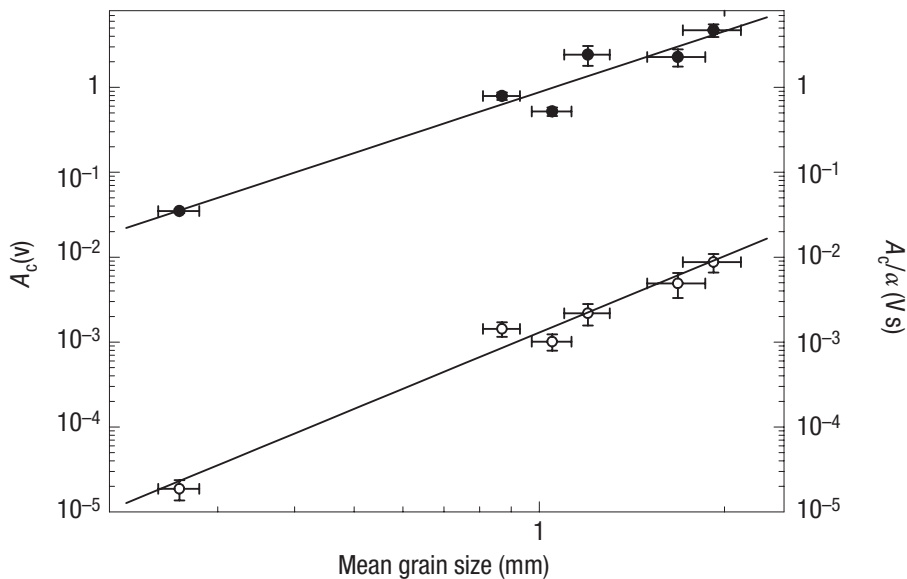
- With more (4) detectors the origin of the acoustic signal can be located
 - They originate from a fractal sub-domain: $D = 2.5$



[Weiss *et al.*, Science (2003)]

Effect of grain size

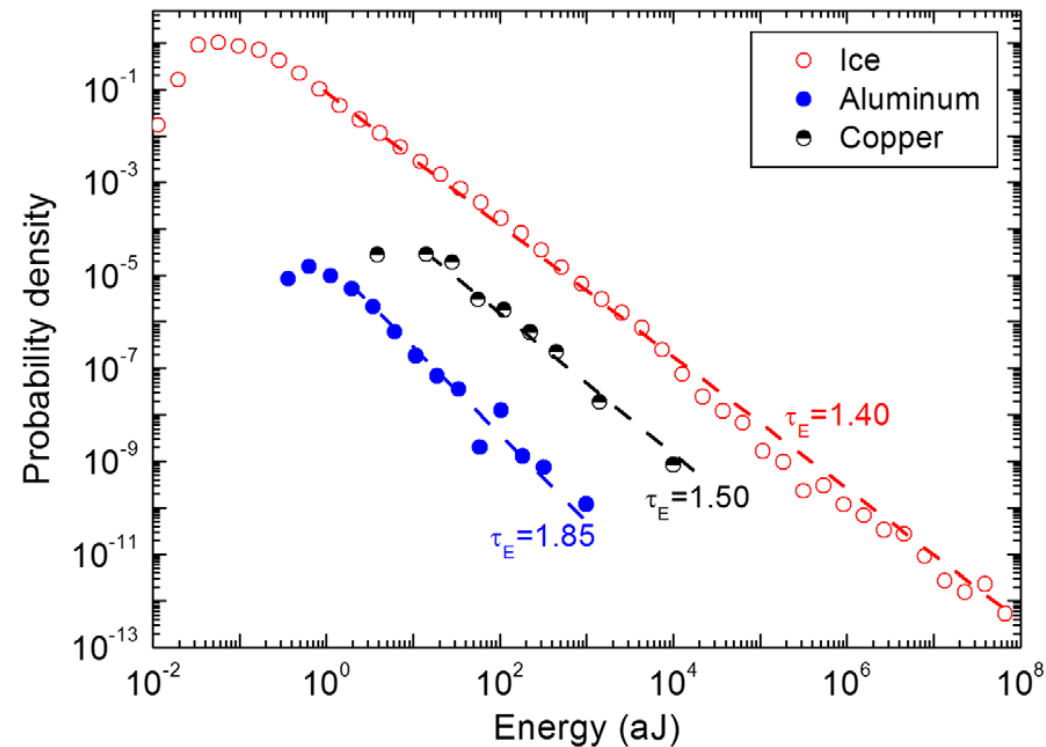
- Polycrystalline ice
 - Cutoff decreasing with grain size
 - Bimodal distribution due to secondary triggering across boundaries



[Richeton, Weiss, Louchet, Nat. Mater. (2005)]

HCP vs FCC materials

- Acoustic signal of fcc materials is mostly continuous interrupted with only few bursts
 - In fcc materials forest dislocations and junctions introduce a length scale: mild Gaussian fluctuations
 - In hcp no such scale exists: wild power-law fluctuations



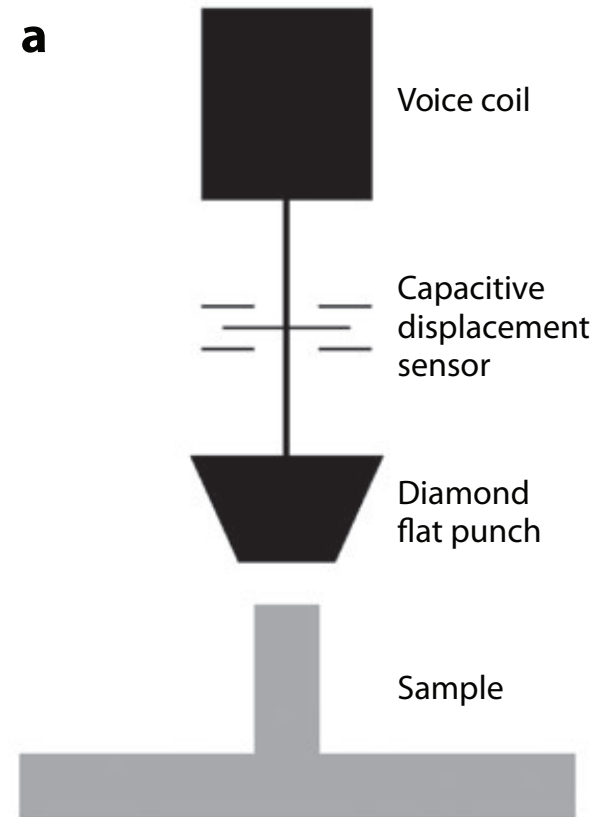
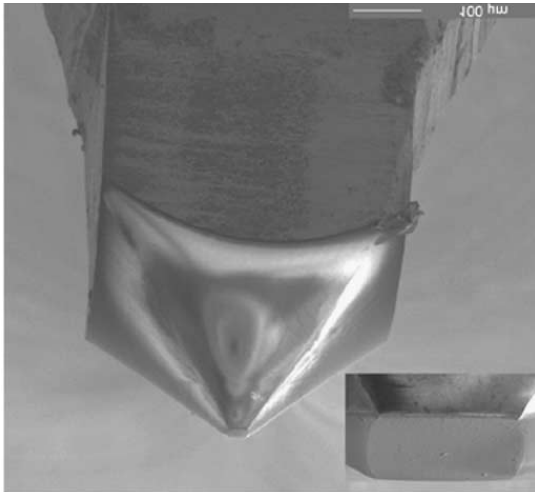
[Weiss *et al*, PRL (2015)]

Conclusions of AE

- Relation between measured quantities and parameters of strain bursts somewhat unclear
- Time resolution for large samples or large strain rates may be a problem.
- Clear sign of criticality for bulk samples
 - Exponents suggest non-universal behaviour for different materials
- Internal length scales
 - No cutoff is detected for single crystals - no information on length scale
 - System size dependence has not been studied – AE only detectable for large samples

Micropillar compression

- Compression using a nanoindenter device
- Flat punch diamond tip
- The device contains a spring for displacement measurement
 - Machine stiffness comparable to sample stiffness



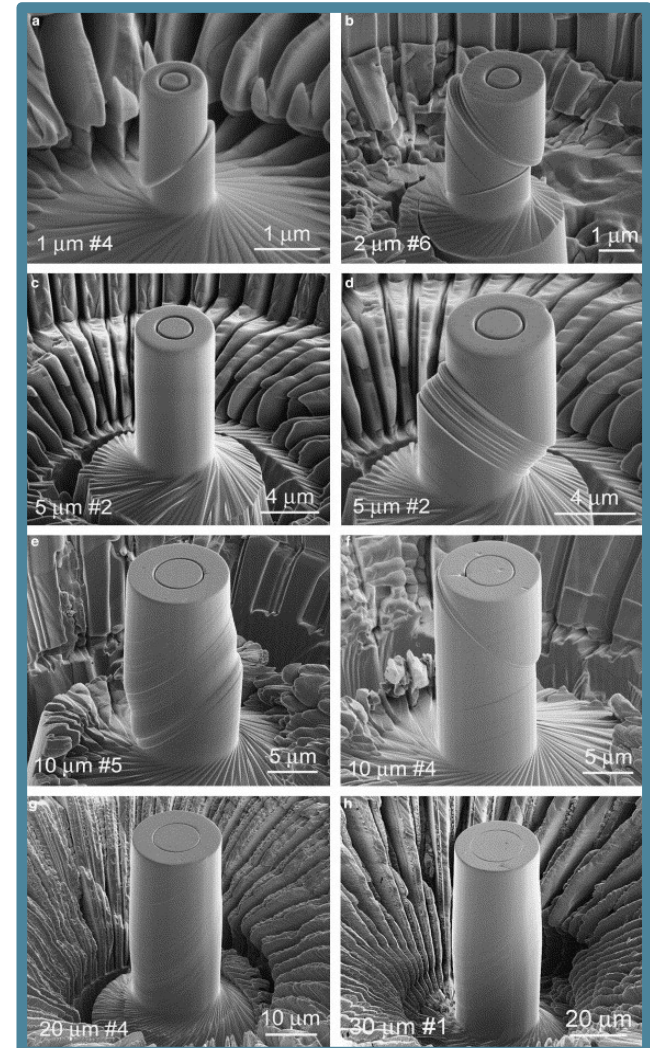
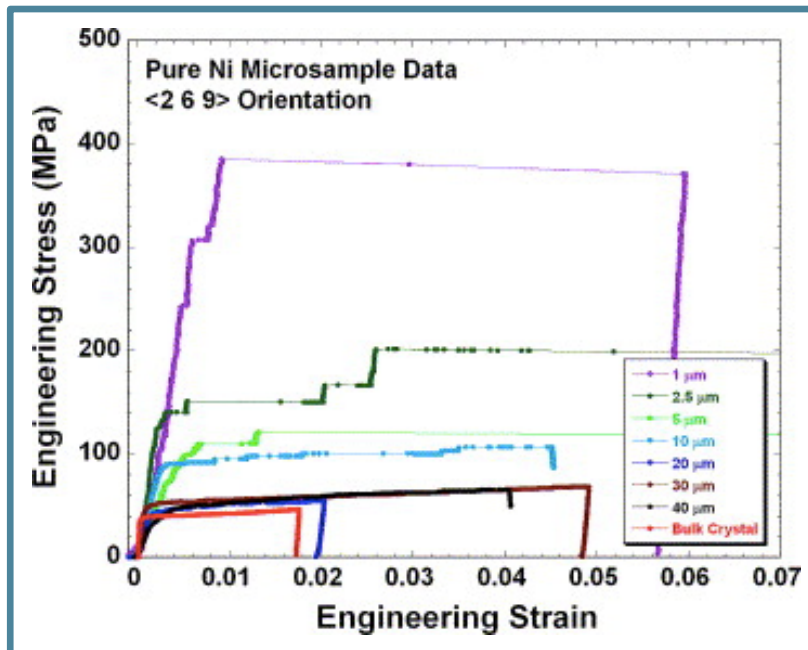
Micropillar compression

- Zn pillar oriented for single slip
- Diameter: 8 μm
- Height: 24 μm
- Displacement rate: 10 nm/sec
- Sudden activity on different slip planes (strain bursts, dislocation avalanches)
 - Unpredictable and localized both in time and space



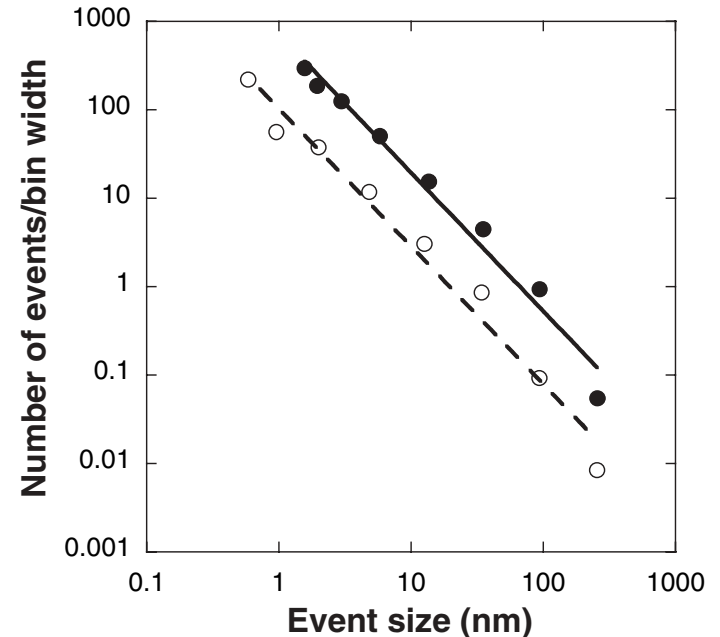
Micron-scale crystal plasticity

- Size effects: smaller pillars are harder
- Stochasticity: smaller pillars are more random



Strain burst statistics

- Previous investigations
 - Strain burst sizes are power-law distributed:
 - $P(s) \propto s^{-\tau} f(s/s_0)$
 - τ : avalanche exponent
 - s_0 : avalanche cut-off
 - f : cutoff function (e.g. $f(x) = \exp(-x)$)
 - Experimentally measured exponents:
 - $\tau \approx 1.5, 2.0, 1.3$



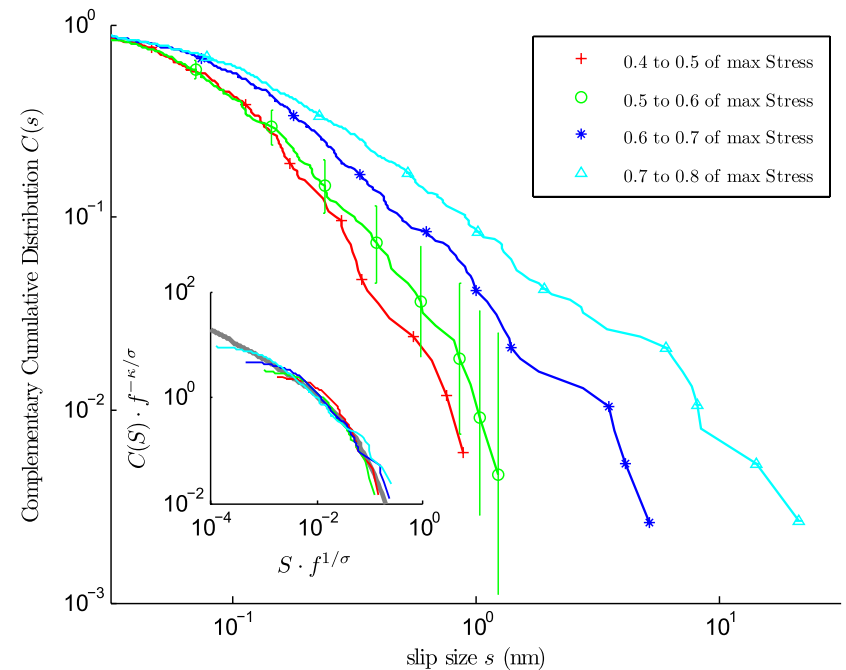
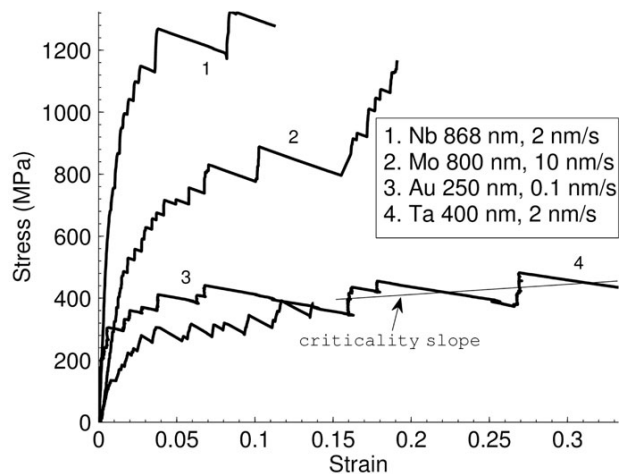
Dimuduk *et al.*, Science, 2006

Friedman *et al.*, PRL, 2012

Zhang *et al.*, EPL, 2012

Mean-field depinning

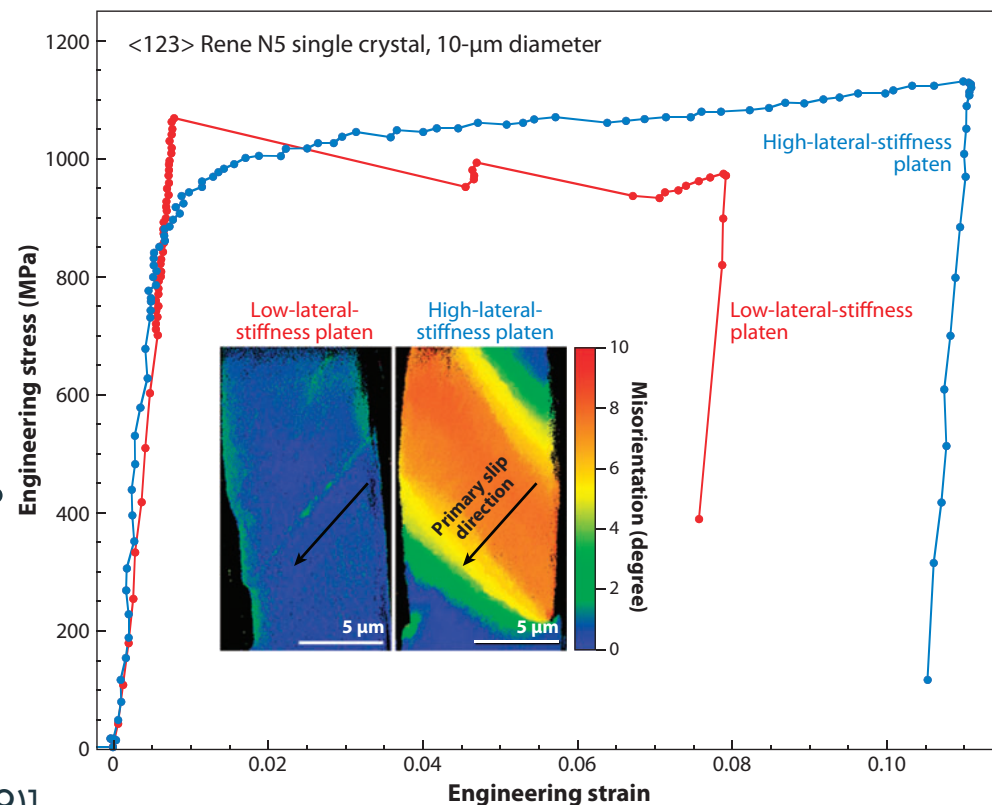
- Compression of 7 Mo pillars
 - Diameter: 800 nm
- Stress-binned statistics
- Scaling function:
 - $D(S, \tau) \sim S^{-\kappa} f_S(S(\tau_c - \tau)^{1/\sigma})$
 - Mean field exponents obtained



[Friedman *et al*, PRL (2012)]

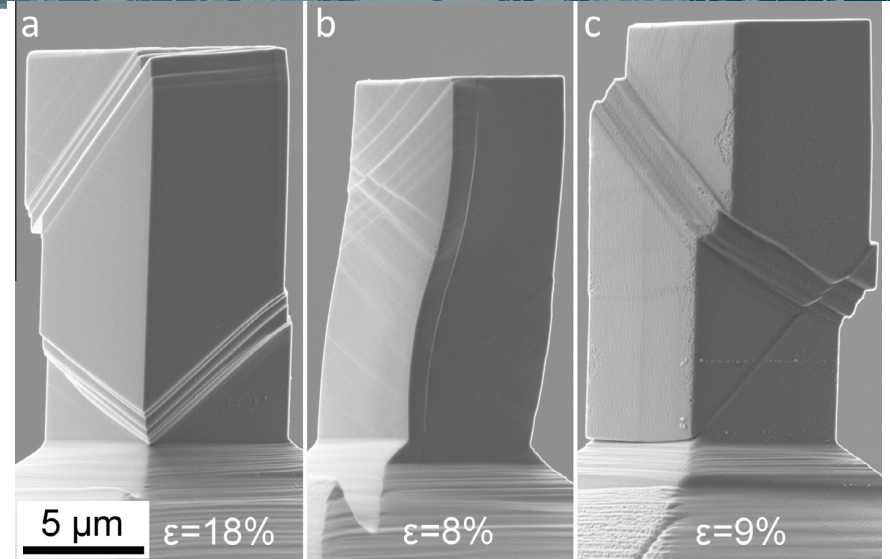
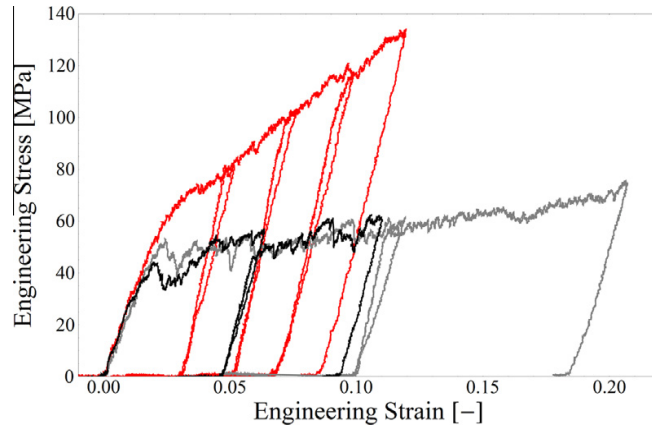
Issues with micropillar experiments

- Small number of events: large statistical errors
- Yield stress of individual pillars strongly fluctuates
- Very few avalanches in the elastic regime
- The results are very sensitive to experimental details
 - System size
 - For nanopillars new deformation mechanisms
 - Parallel tip and sample surface
 - Surface degradation due to FIB
 - Deformation and sampling rate
 - Non-uniform pillar shape
 - Machine stiffness

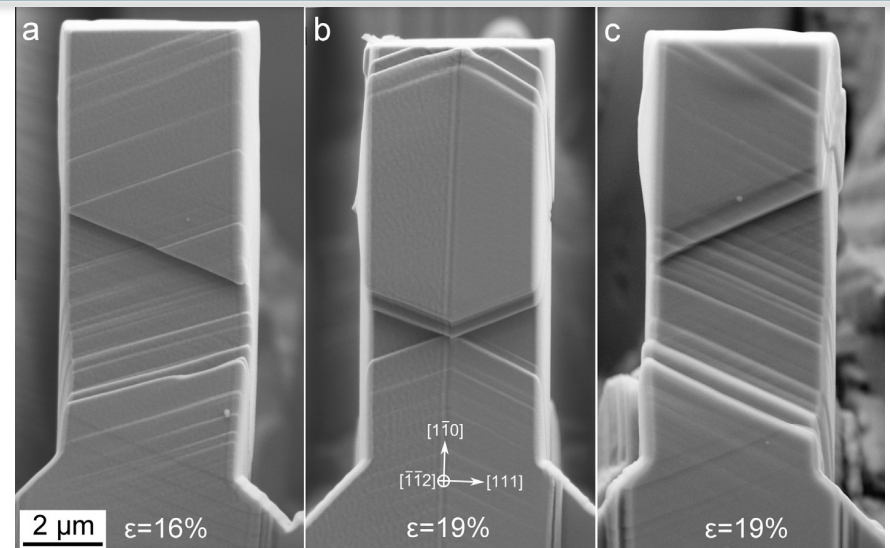
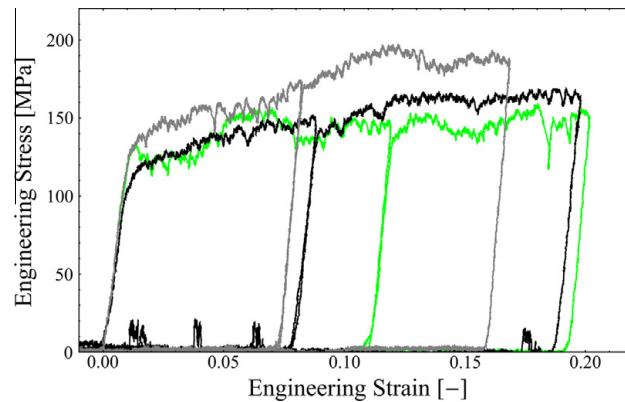


Role of grain boundaries

Low angle grain boundary

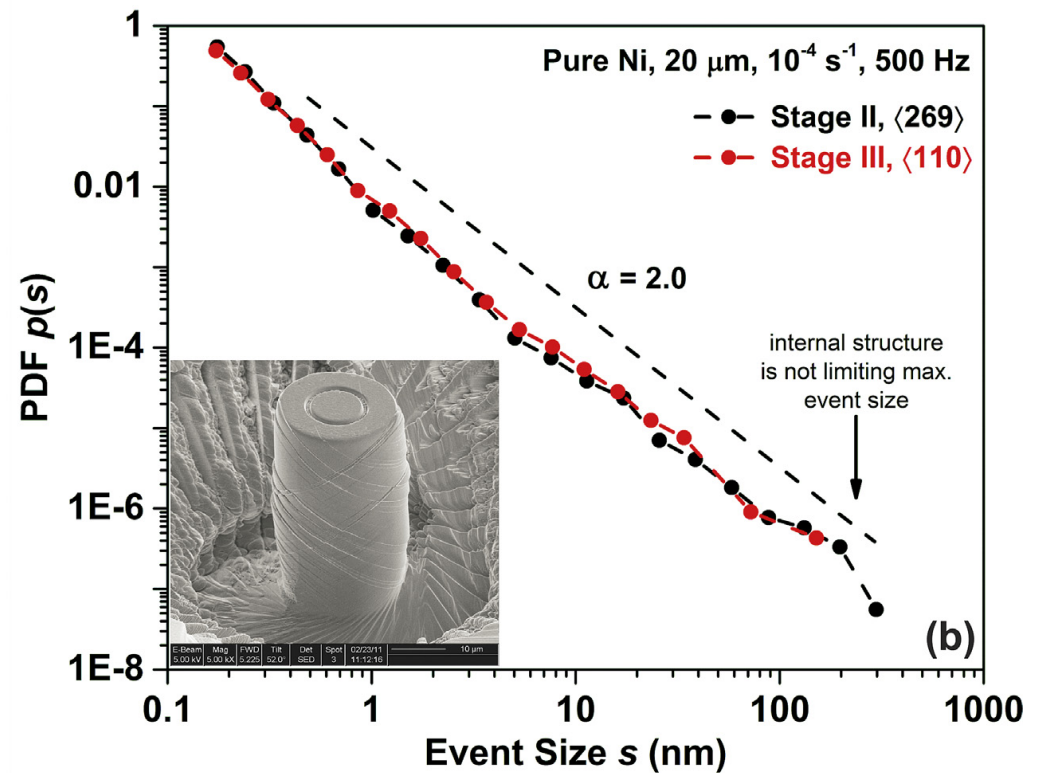
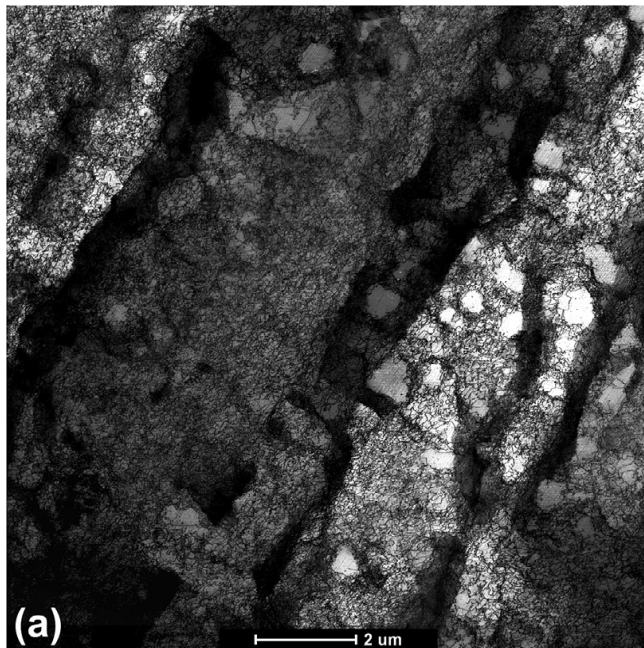


Coherent grain boundary



Effect of microstructure

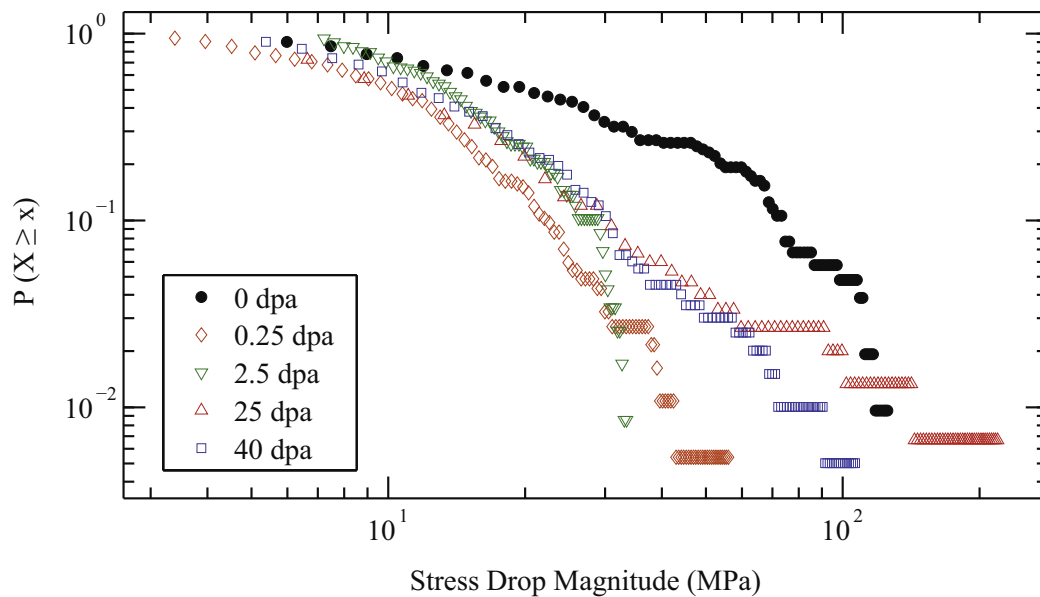
- Avalanche distribution unaffected by original dislocation structure
- Sampling rate affects the exponent



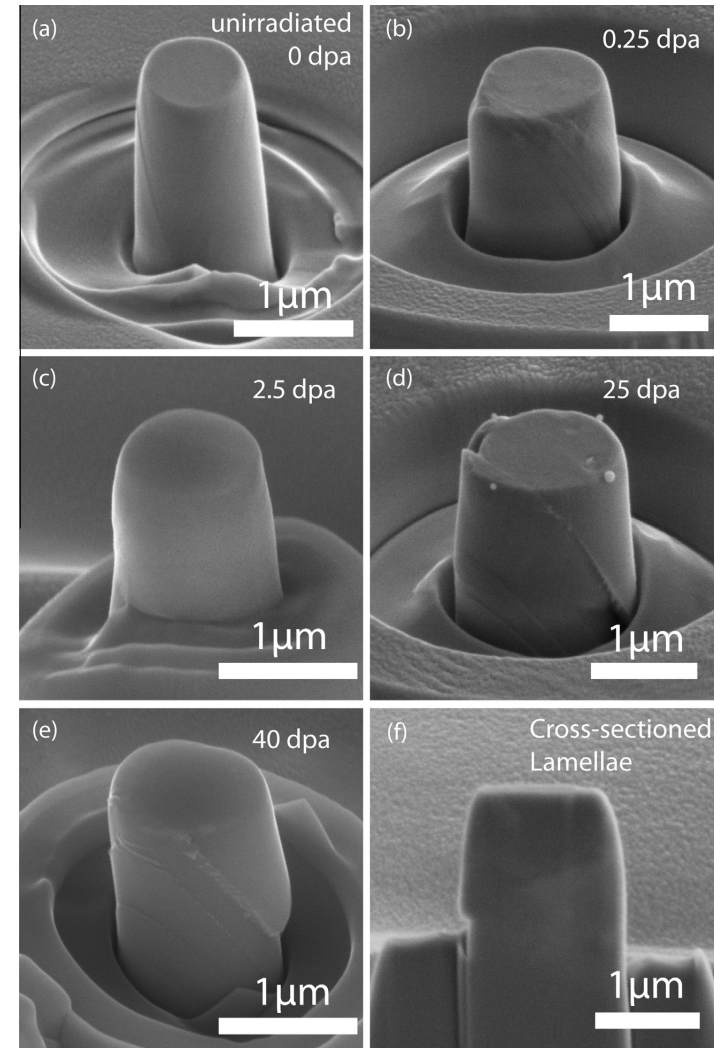
[Maass, Derlet, Acta Mater. (2018)]

Effect of irradiation

- Self-ion irradiated $\langle 111 \rangle$ Ni:
 - Smoother response for small doses
 - Large fluctuations for high doses

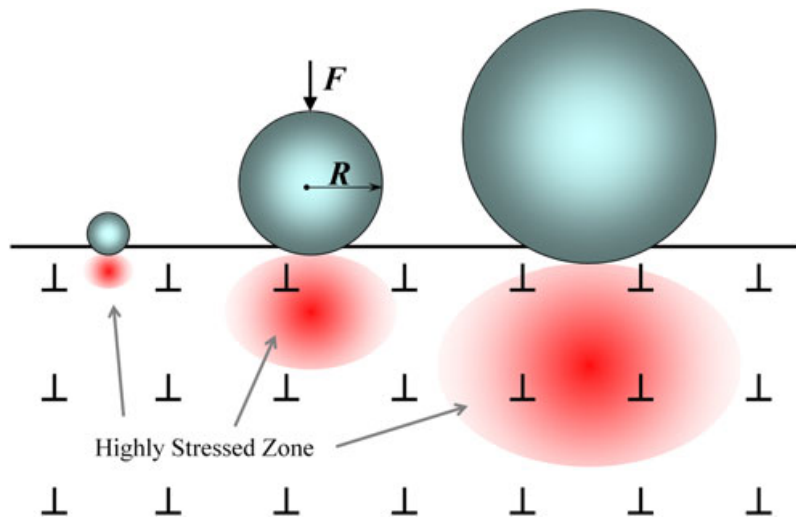


[Zhao *et al*, Acta Mater (2015)]

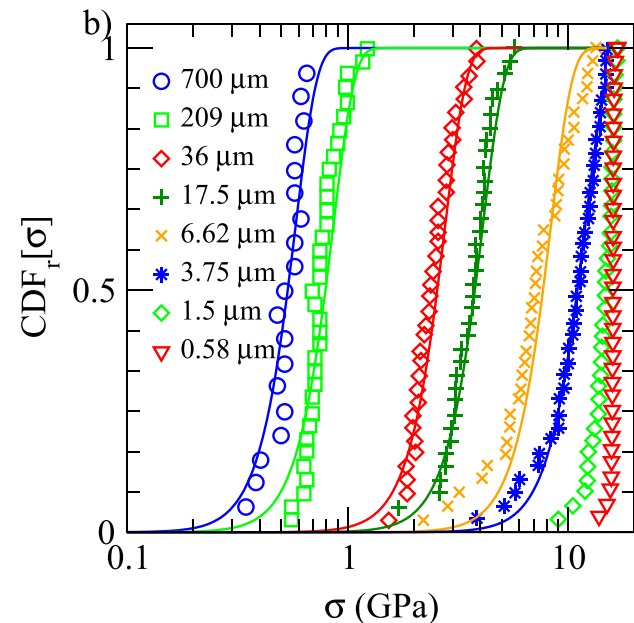
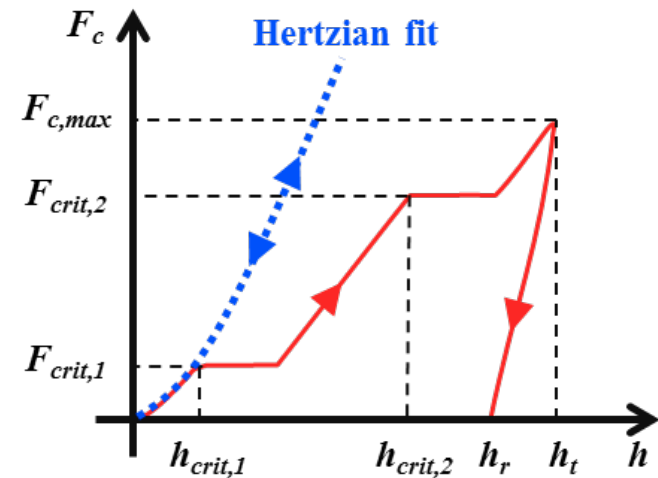


Nanoindentation: pop-in events

- First pop-in events in Mo
- Weibull distribution describes well the pop-in stresses



[Phani, Johanns, George, Pharr, J. Mater. Res. (2013);
Derlet, Maass, J. Appl. Phys. (2016)]



Conclusions of experiments

- Clear sign of critical behaviour
 - Power-law distributions
 - Technologically important to understand small-scale deformation
- Internal scales seem to affect the avalanche distribution
 - Grain boundaries, quenched pinning
- Measured data suffer from
 - Small datasets
 - Experimental difficulties
 - Too small samples
- One cannot conclude regarding universality

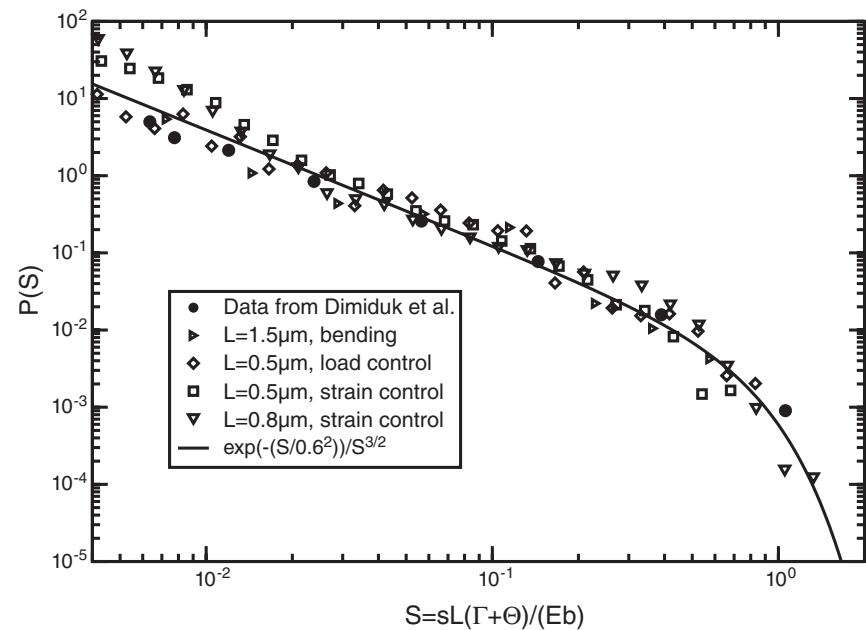
Discrete dislocation dynamics (DDD)

- 3D DDD simulations on Al
- Mean-field exponent
- Behaviour of the cut-off:

$$s_0 \propto \frac{bE}{L(\Theta + \Gamma)}$$

- b : Burgers vector
- E : Young modulus
- L : system size
- Θ : strain hardening
- Γ : effective stiffness of the machine-sample system

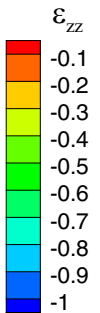
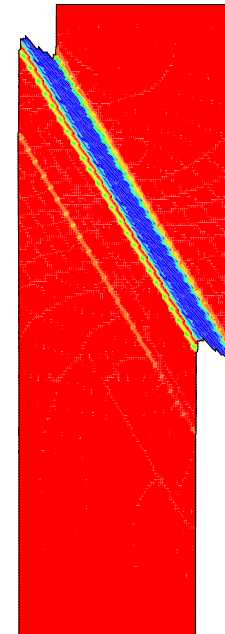
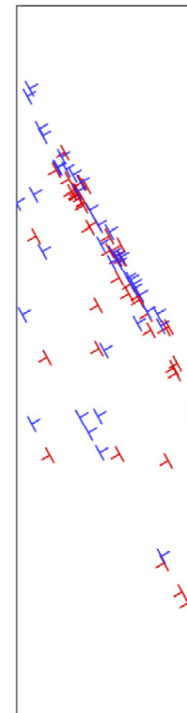
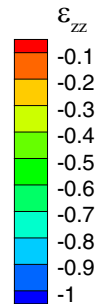
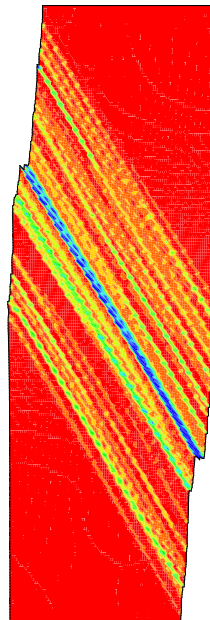
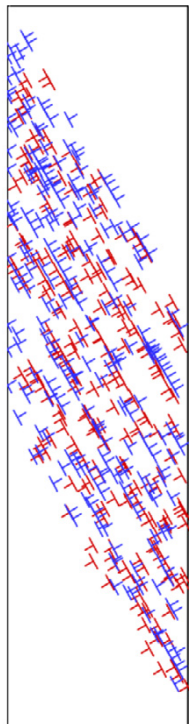
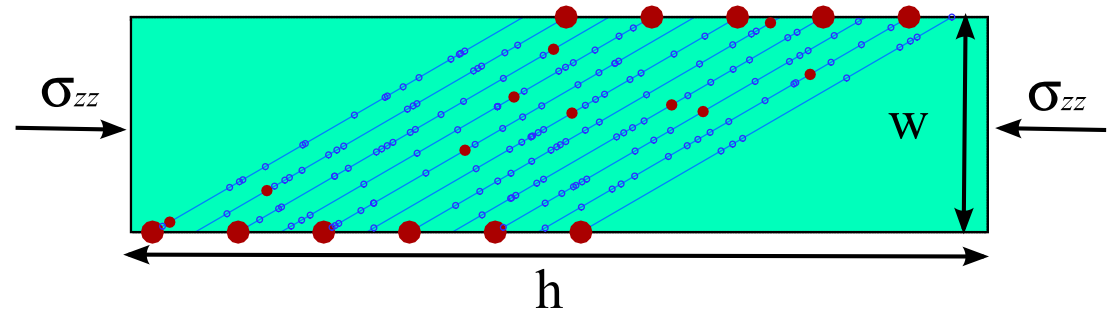
$$P(s) \propto s^{-\tau} f(s/s_0)$$



2D DDD

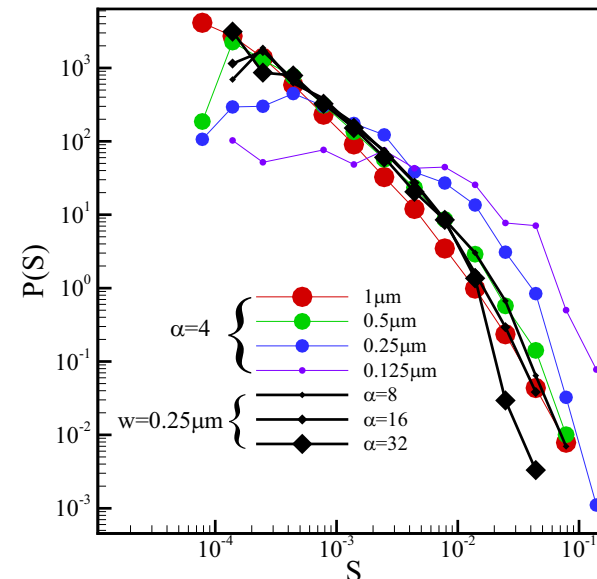
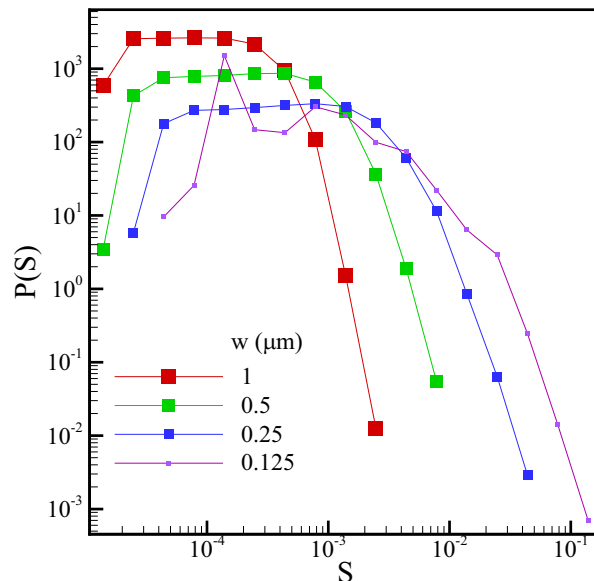
- Edge dislocations in single or multiple slip systems

- Sources and obstacles [Papanikolaou, Song, van der Giessen, J. Mech. Phys. Solids (2017)]



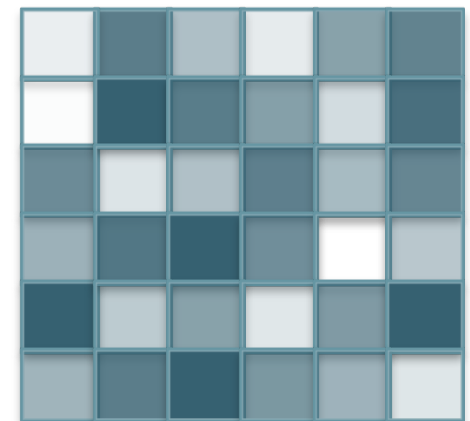
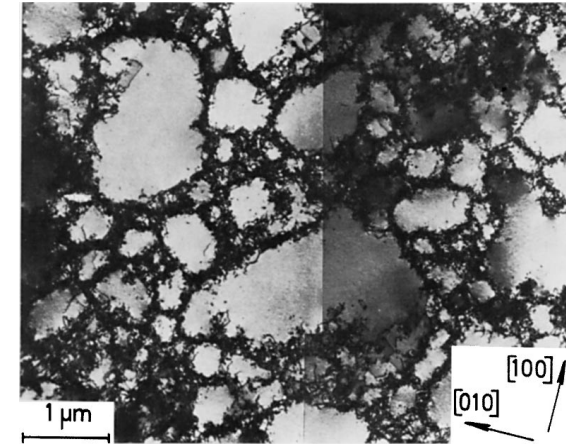
2D DDD

- Weak sources (left): cutoff dependent on sample size
 - Size effect; larger events for thin samples, $\tau = 1.5$
- Strong sources (right): constant cutoff
 - No size effect; event distribution independent of size; $\tau = 1.9$



Representation of inhomogeneities

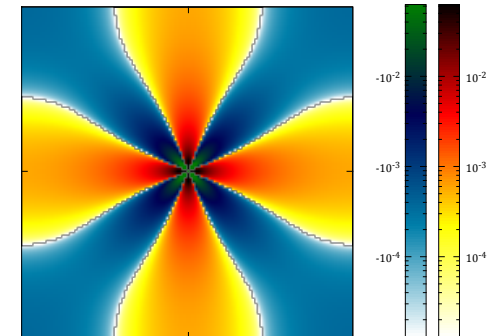
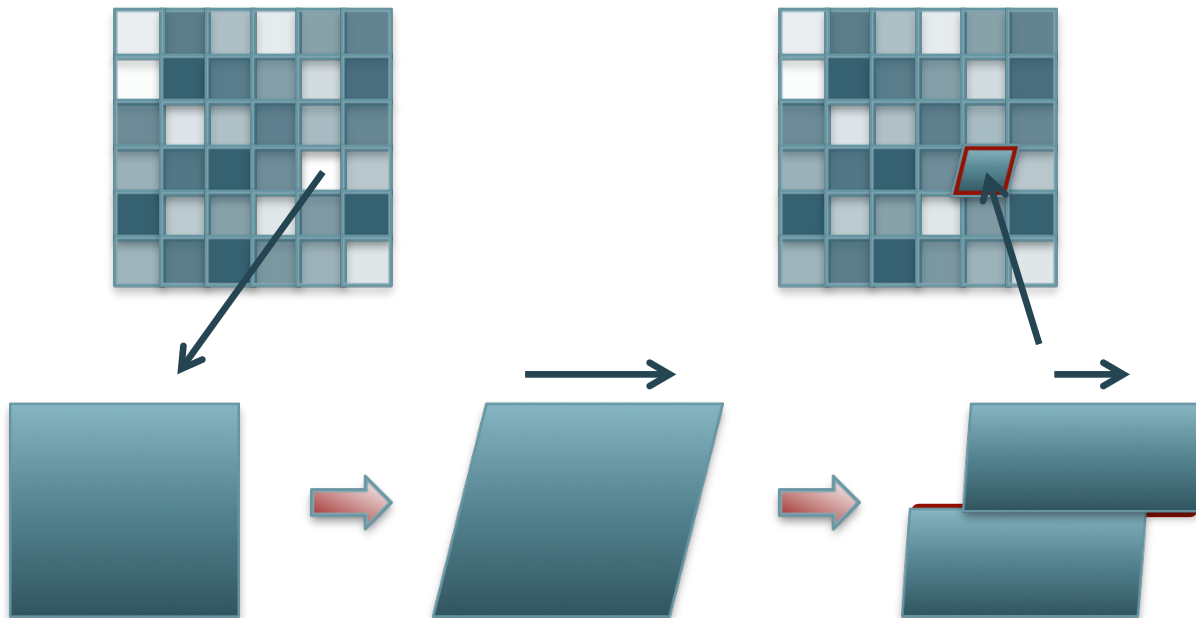
- The microstructure of the material is inhomogeneous
 - Dislocation patterns
 - Random impurities
 - Grain structure
 - The local strength (yield stress) is inhomogeneous in space
- Representing internal disorder
 - Via a local yield threshold
 - RVE size comparable to the scale of disorder
- Deformation will always occur at the ‘weakest’ site



Stochastic plasticity model

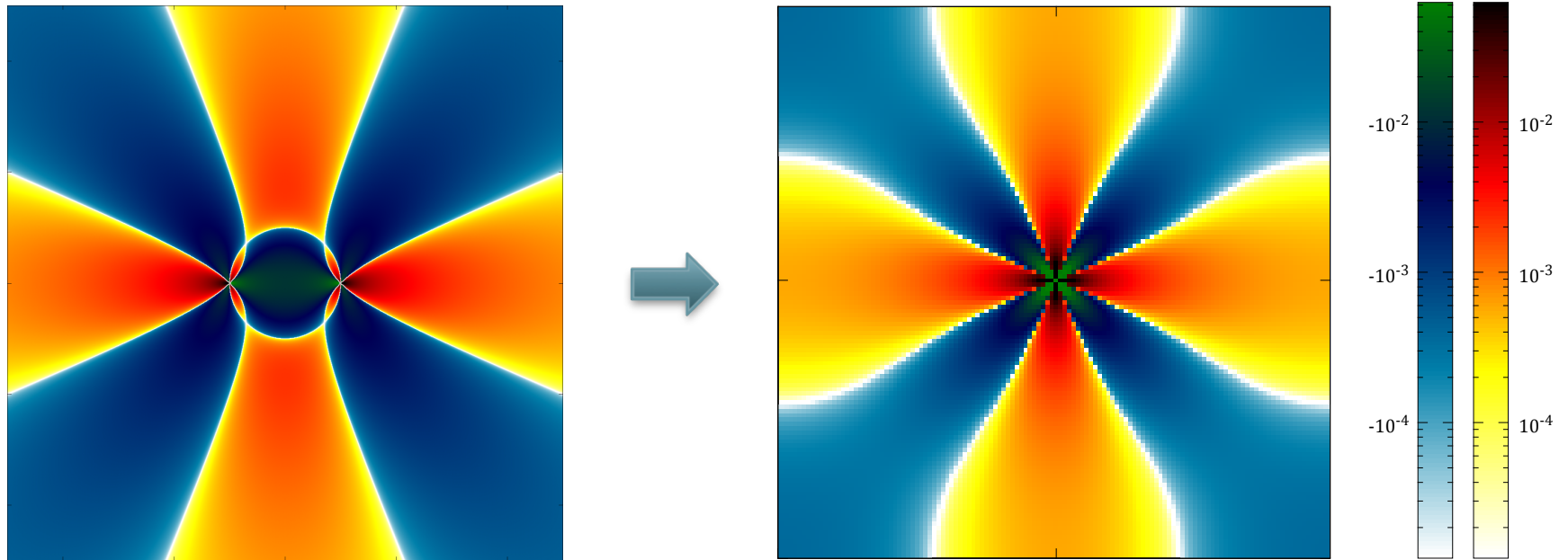
Simple local shear deformation:

- Shear stress increases above the local yield threshold
- Plastic deformation: Slip along a single plane
- The local yield threshold changes due to the changed microstructure
- The slipped cell generates $1/r^2$ type elastic stress (Eshelby inclusion problem)



$$\sigma_{xy}(x, y) = \frac{\cos(4\varphi)}{r^2}$$

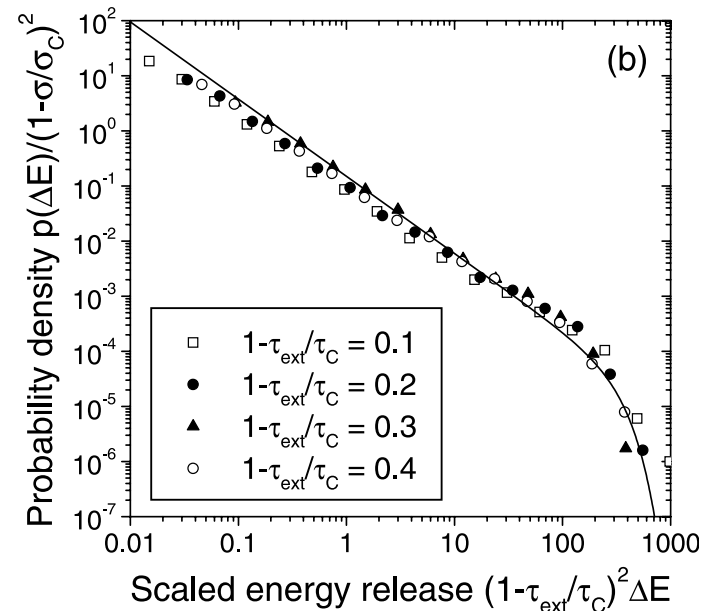
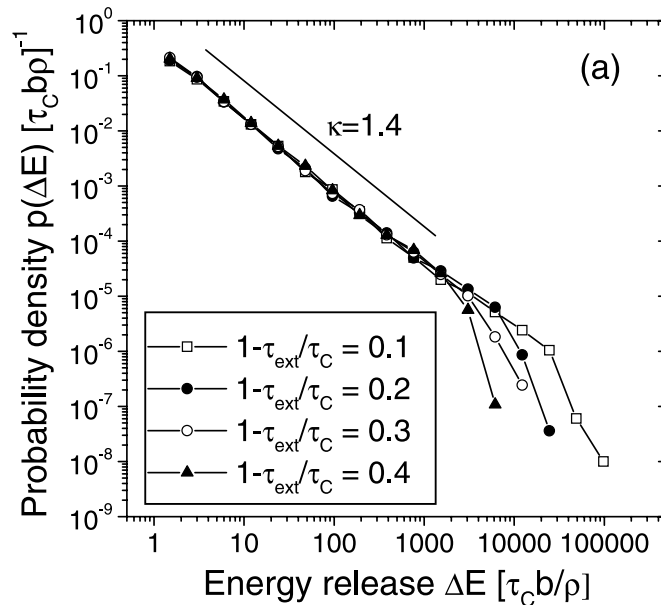
Stress field of a dislocation dipole



- Shear stress field for large distances: $\sigma_{xy}(x, y) = \frac{\cos(2\varphi)}{r^2}$

Depinning in the stochastic model

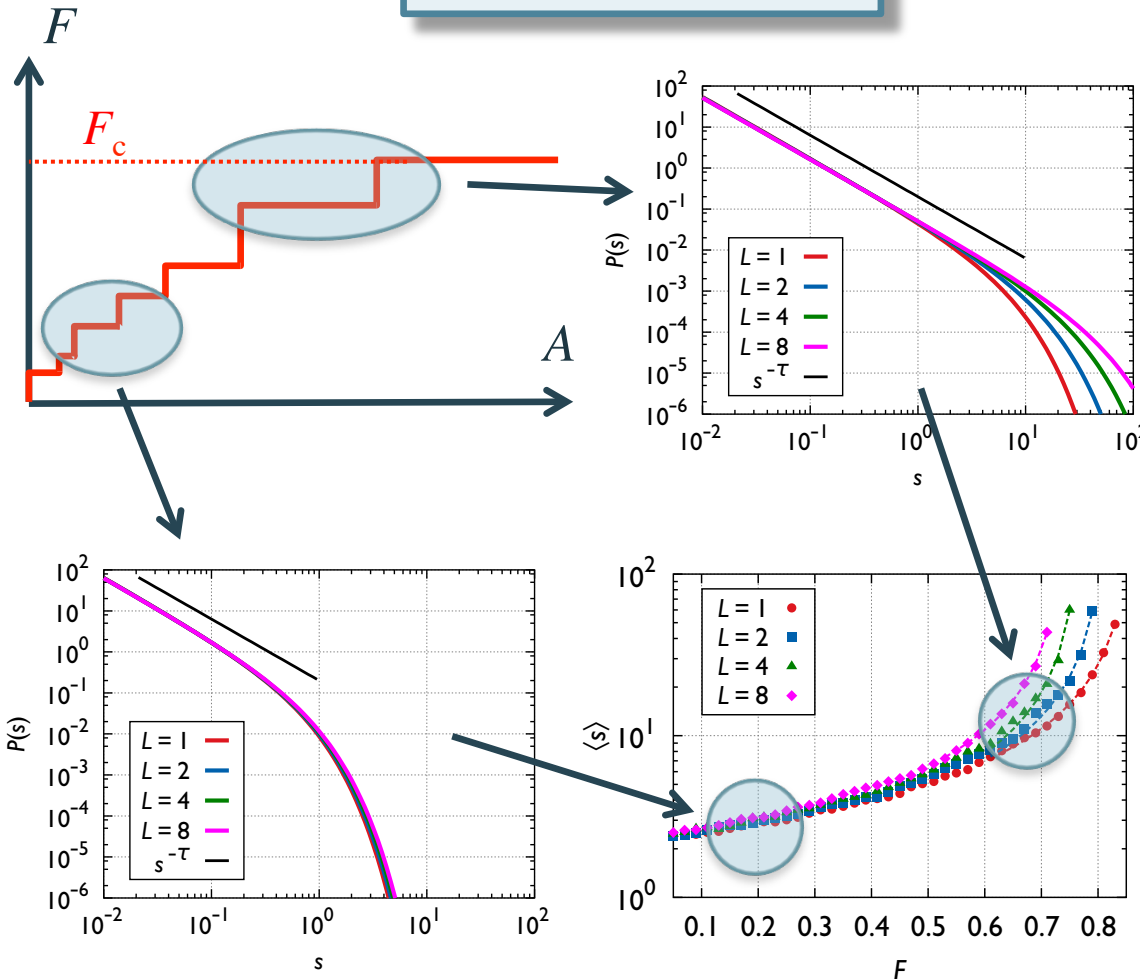
- Cutoff divergence as external stress (τ_{ext}) tends to the critical threshold (τ_c)



- Dislocation density is constant: no patterns
- Length of RVE? Is there an internal correlation length?

Avalanches during depinning

$$P(s) \propto s^{-\tau} f(s/s_0)$$



- Avalanche size s is the area swept
- The size distribution depends on the force (F) and system size (L)
- The cutoff s_0 diverges at force $F = F_c$:

$$s_0(F) \propto |F - F_c|^{-\alpha}$$

- The average avalanche size $\langle s \rangle$ diverges at F_c
- Finite size effects near F_c :

$$F_c(L) = F_c(\infty) + aL^{-1}$$

- Mean-field case:

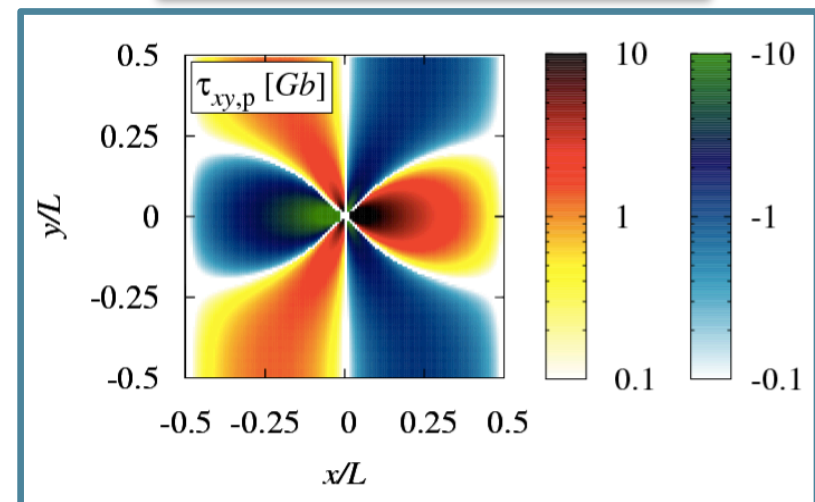
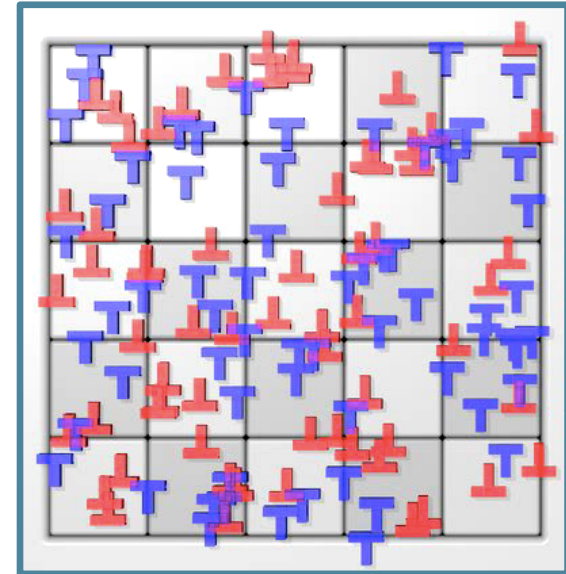
- $\tau = 1.5$

2D dislocation models

2D DDD

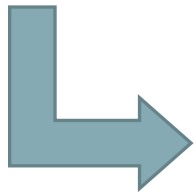
- Parallel edge dislocations in single slip
- Periodic boundary conditions
- Number of dislocations: N
- Sign of dislocations: $s_j = \pm 1$
- Stress-field of an individual dislocation: σ_{xy}
- Overdamped motion:

$$\dot{x}_i = s_i \left[\sigma_{\text{ext}} + \sum_{j=1}^N s_j \sigma_{xy}(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j) \right]$$

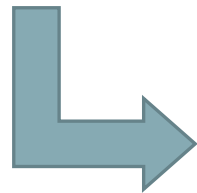


Problem formulation

- Energy of a straight edge dislocation: $E = Gb^2 \ln L/r_c$
 - $G = \mu/4\pi(1-\nu)$, L : crystal size, r_c : core radius, b : Burgers vector

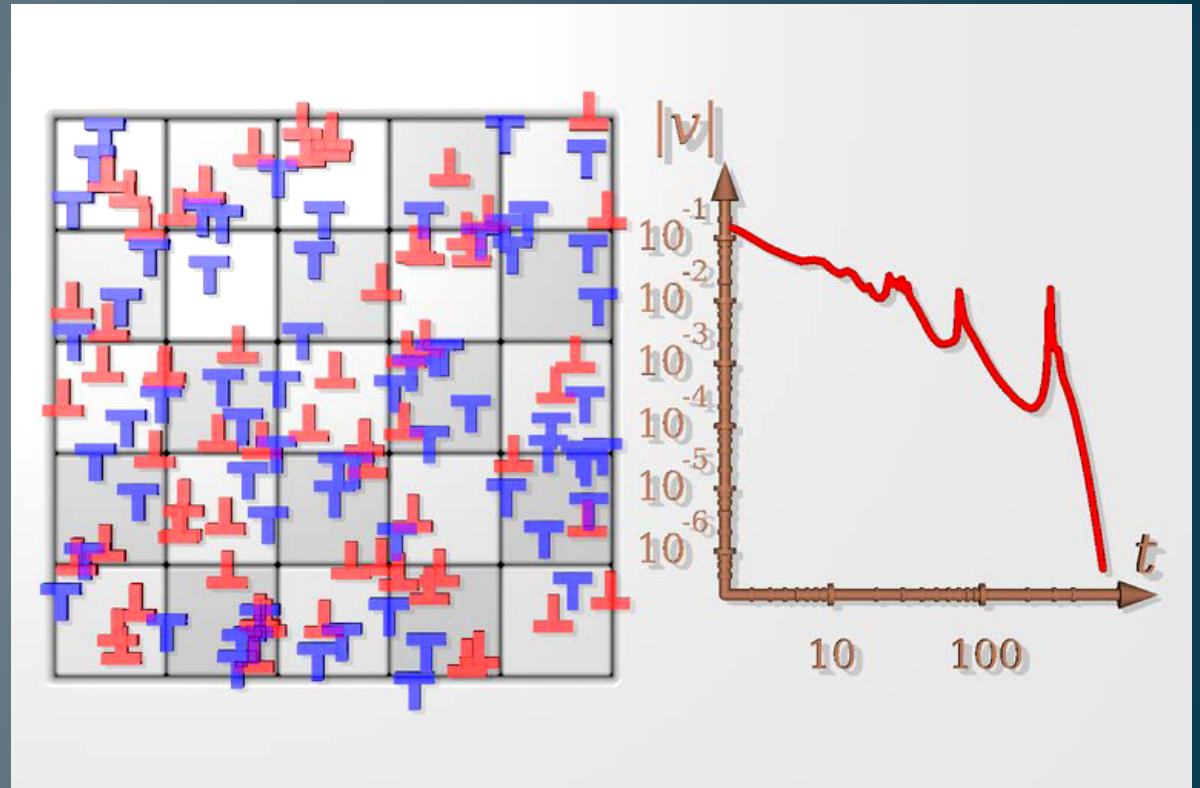


- Energy density of N randomly positioned straight edge dislocations:
 - The stored energy density is system size dependent
 - The width of the Bragg peaks is also proportional to $\ln(L)$



- Dislocation systems cannot be completely random: there must be spatial correlations

Relaxation from
a random initial
configuration



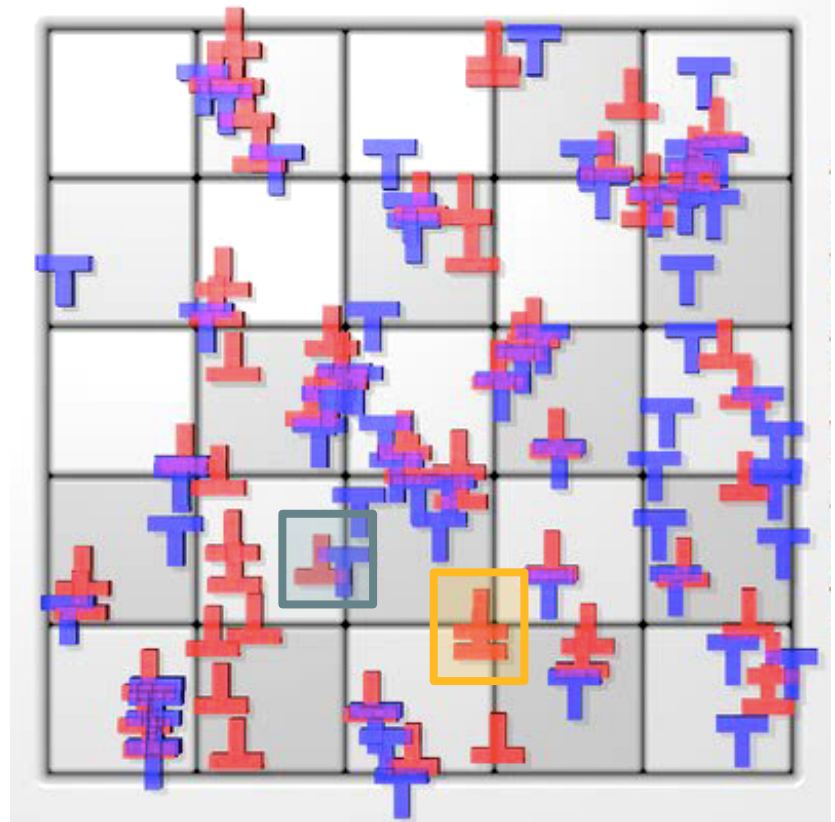
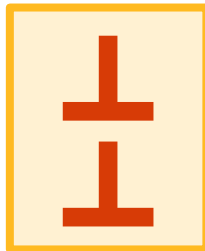
Small-scale configurations

- Equilibrium dislocation configurations are not random: they are characterized by short-range ordering
- Equilibrium positions of a dislocation pair:

- Opposite sign:
dislocation dipole

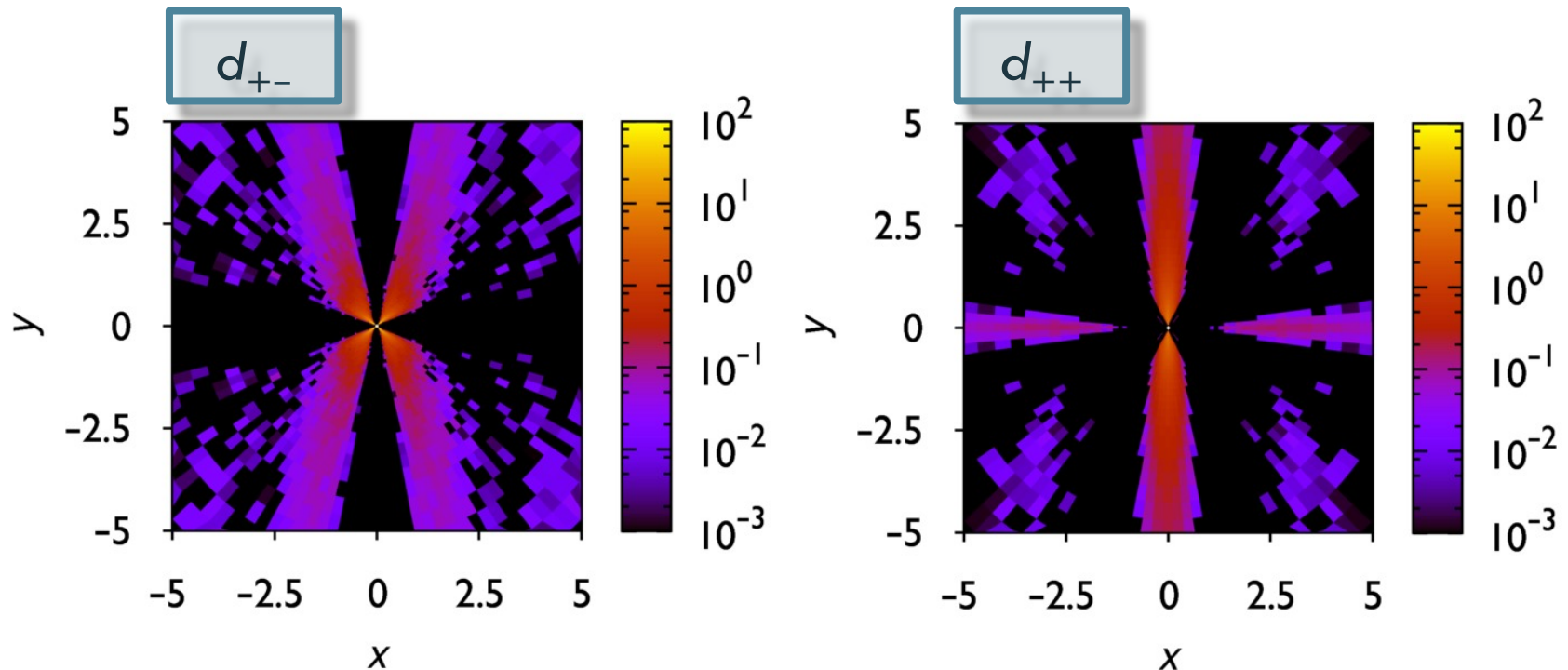


- Same sign:
dislocation wall



Spatial correlation functions

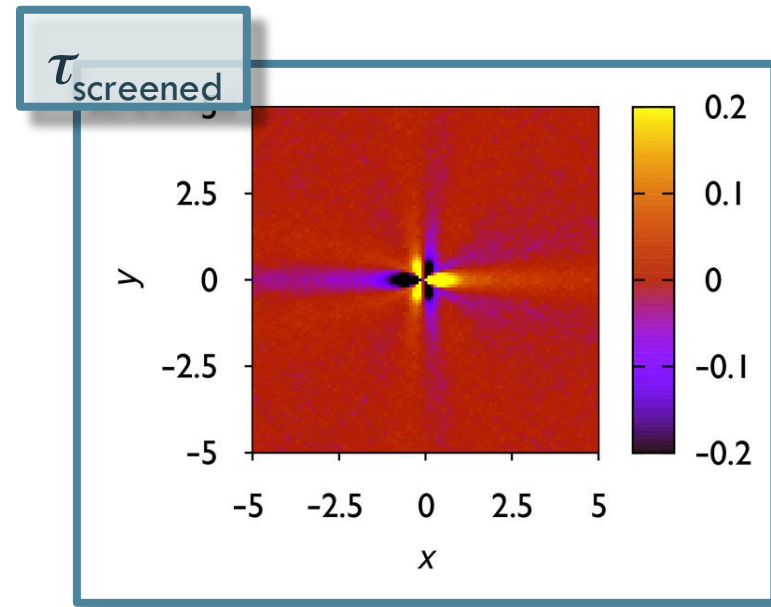
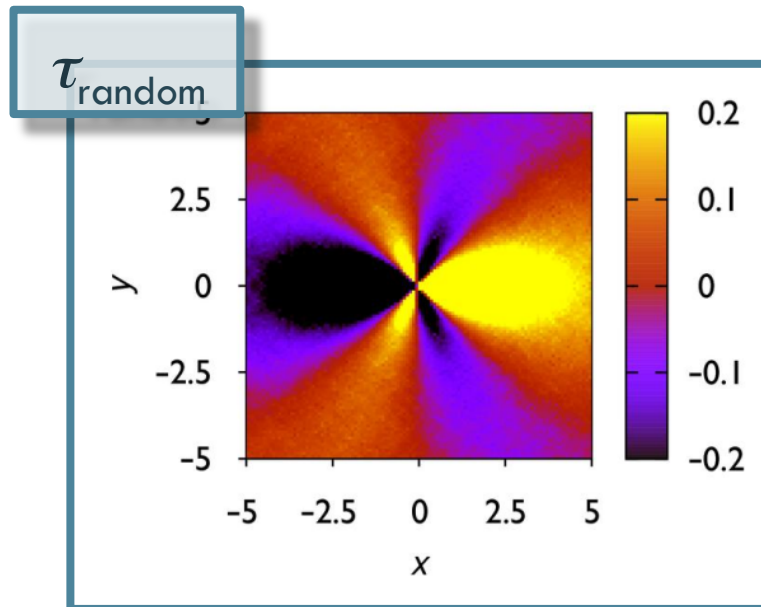
- Spatial correlation functions: dislocation density around a randomly chosen dislocation :
 - d_{+-} : relative of the opposite sign dislocations
 - d_{++} : relative of the same sign dislocations, $d_{++}(0,y) \propto |y|^{-1.5}$



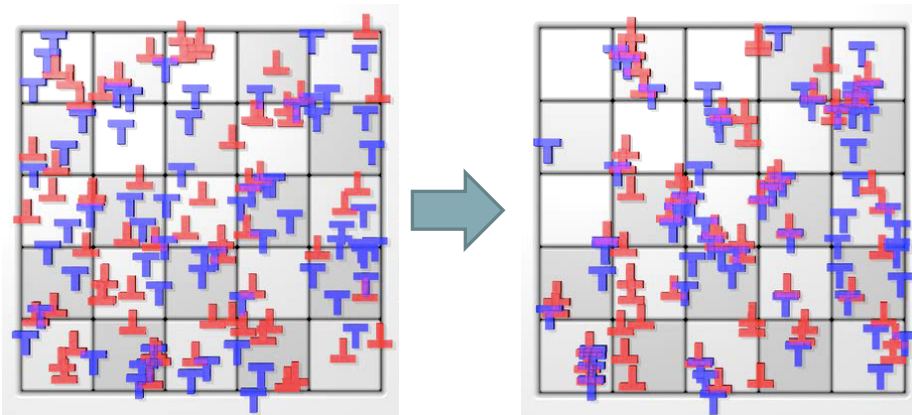
[M. Zaiser *et al.*, PRB, (2002)]

(Debye-)screened stress field

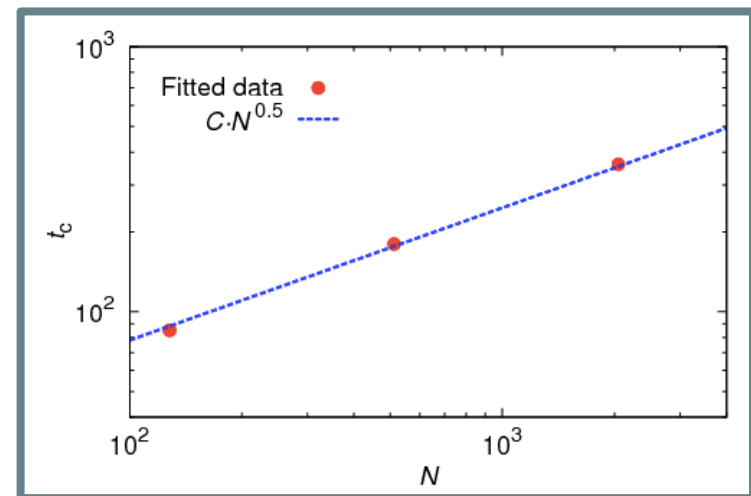
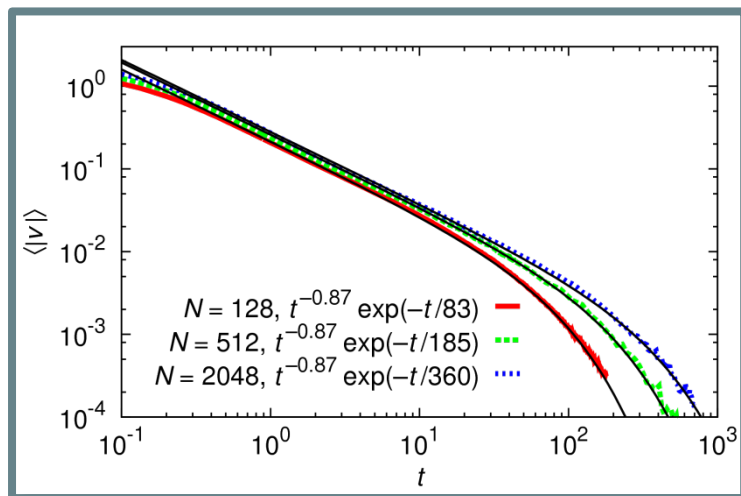
- Elastic energy density of a random dislocation arrangement is superextensive
- Local correlations screen the average stress around each dislocation



Relaxation from a random initial state

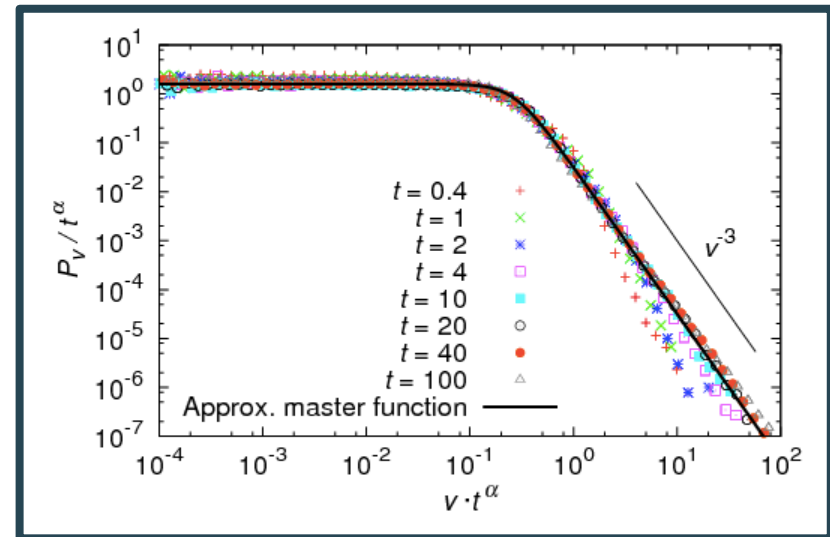
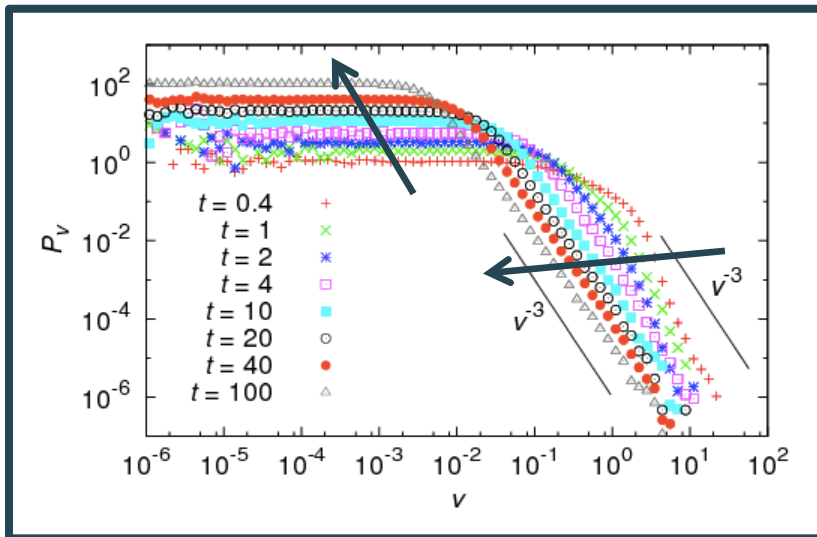


- Average absolute velocity:
 $\langle |v(t)| \rangle \propto t^{-\alpha}$, $\alpha \approx 0.87$
- The cut-off t_c diverges with system size



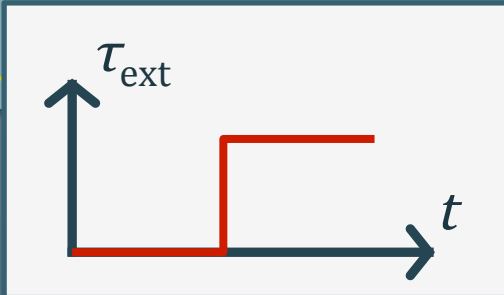
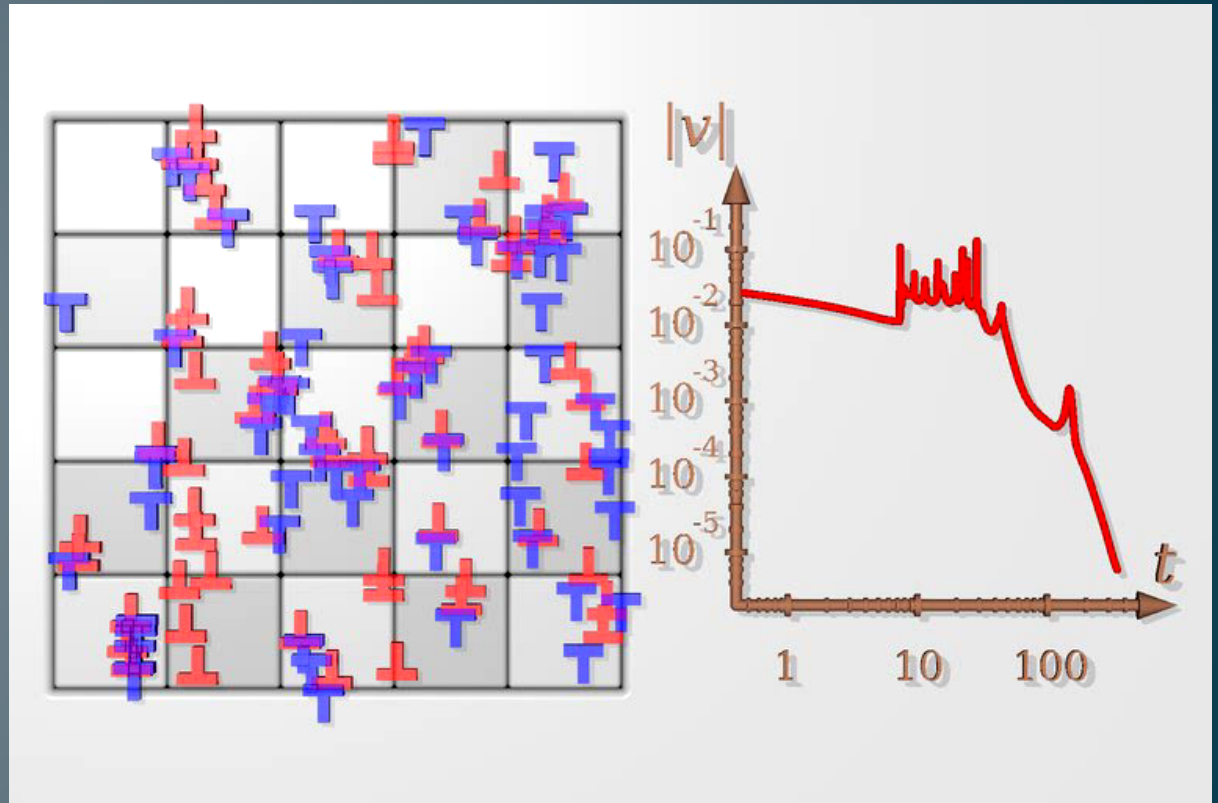
Velocity distribution & scaling

- $P(v,t)$: Distribution of dislocation velocities v at time t
 - Inverse cubic tail (from theory as well)
 - Tends to a δ -function as t
- Scaling property: $P(v,t) = t^\alpha f(t^\alpha v) \Rightarrow \langle |v(t)| \rangle \propto t^\alpha$



Relaxation due to a small applied stress

- $\tau_{\text{ext}} < \tau_c$
- $N = 128$



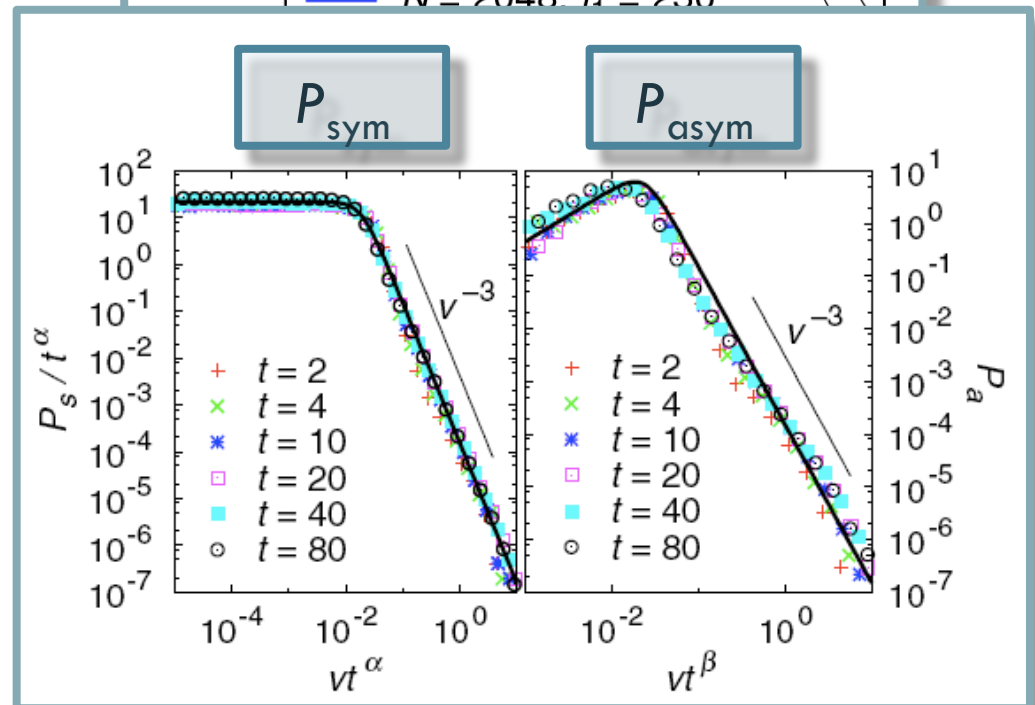
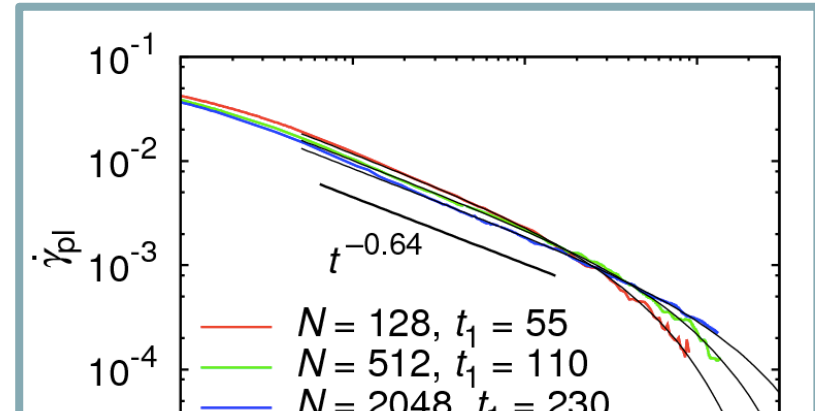
Strain rate evolution

Strain rate:

- $\dot{\gamma}_{pl} \propto t^{-\delta}$
(Andrade creep law)
- $\delta \approx 0.64$
- cut-off diverges with system size

Velocity distribution:

- Both the symmetric and asymmetric part follows scaling



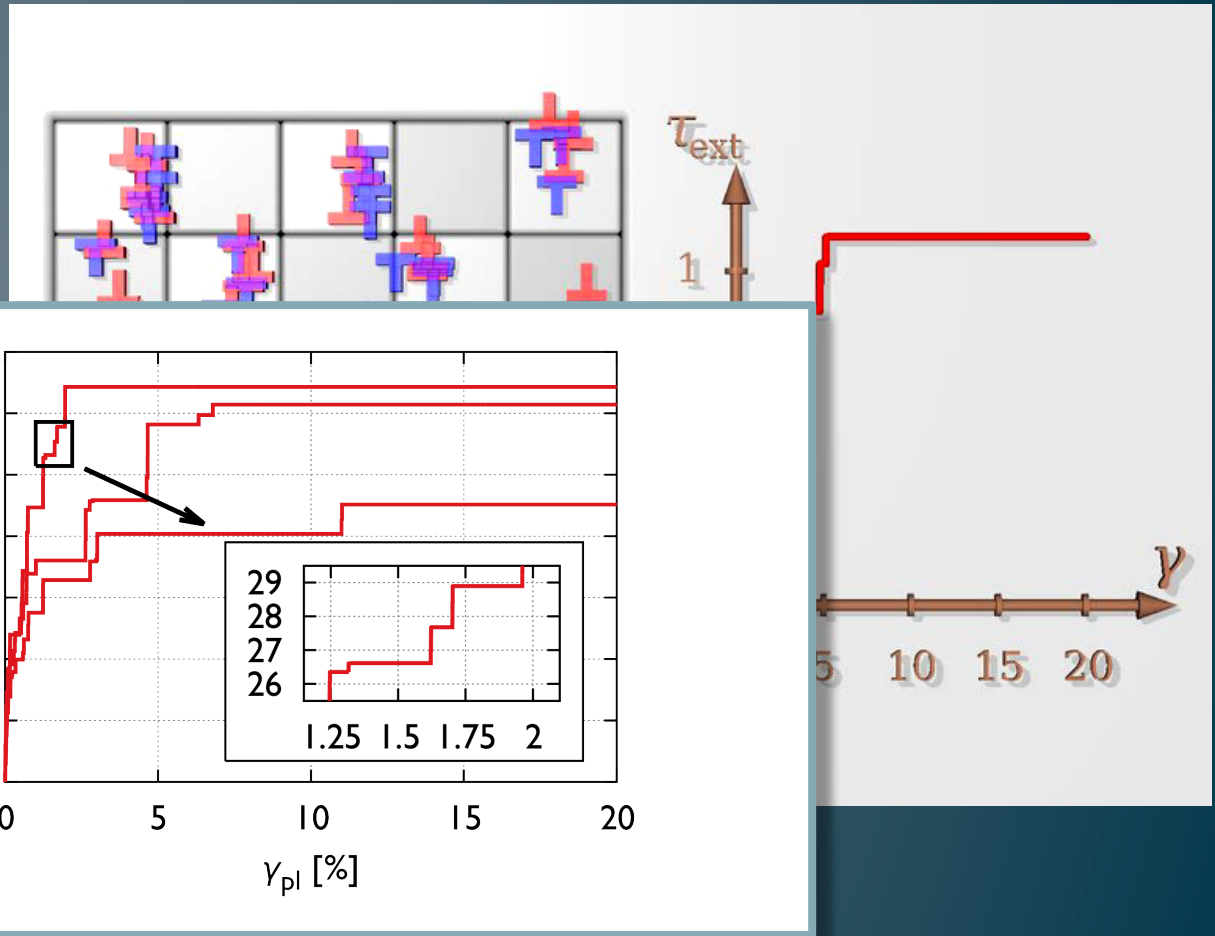
Summary

- Relaxation at different set-ups show slow, power-law relaxation everywhere below the yield stress
- The cut-off time diverges with the system size
- The velocity distributions obey simple scaling relations



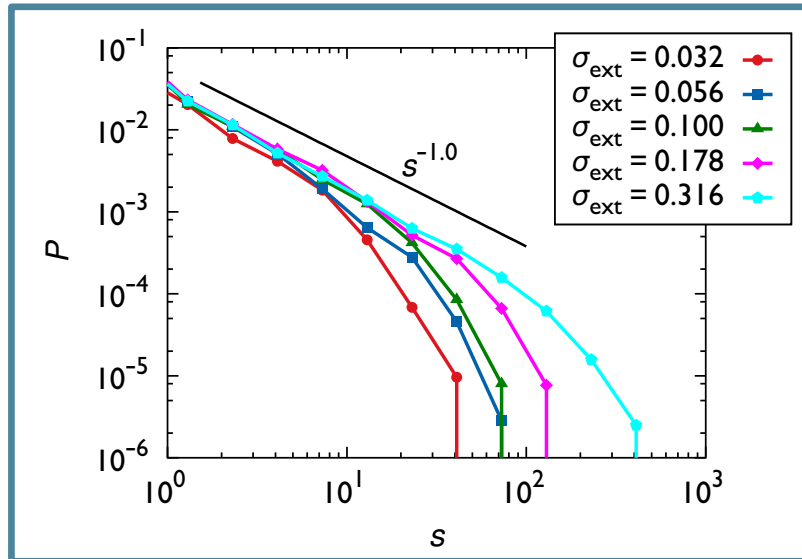
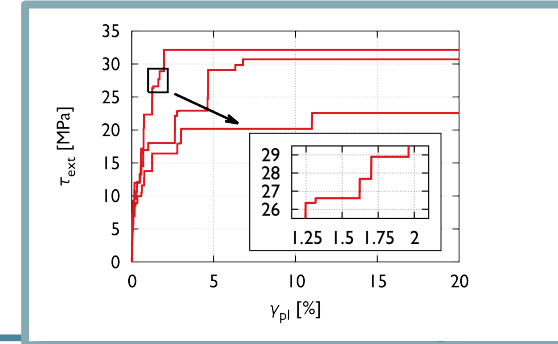
- There is no time scale in the system (except for the scale due to finite system size)
- The system behaves as if it was critical everywhere below the yield stress

Single slip plastic quasi-static shear in 2D

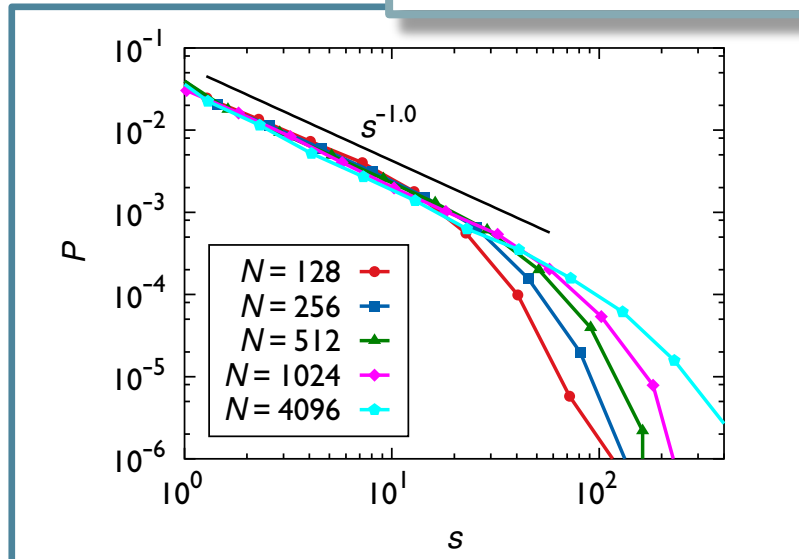


Strain burst distributions

- Avalanche size s is the total area swept
- System size: $L = \sqrt{N}$



Dependence on the applied stress ($N = 4096$)



Dependence on the system size ($\sigma_{\text{ext}} = 0.316$)

Cutoff scaling

Strain burst size distribution:

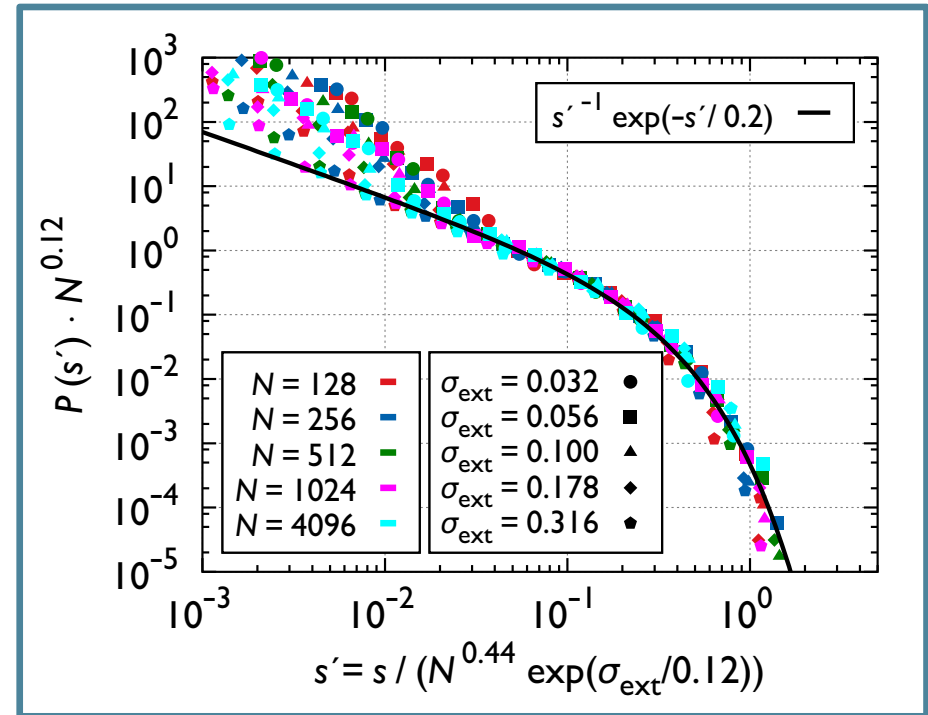
$$P(s) \propto s^{-\tau} \exp(-s/s_0)$$

Cutoff scaling:

$$s_0(\sigma_{\text{ext}}, N) \propto N^\beta \exp(\sigma_{\text{ext}}/\sigma_0)$$

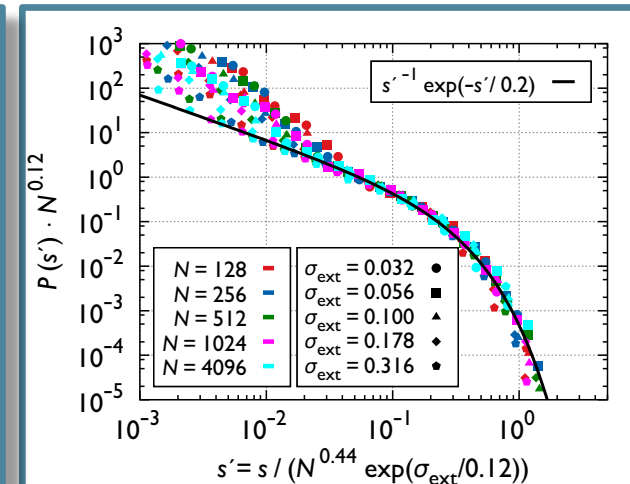
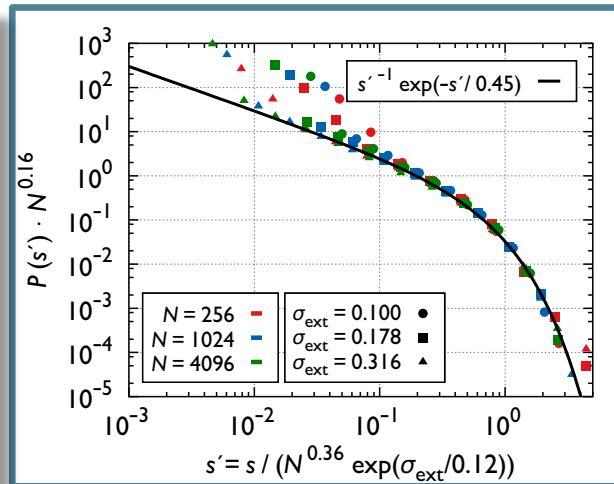
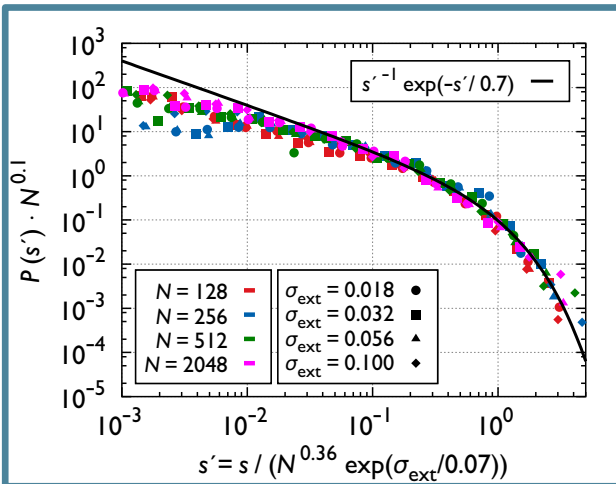
Parameters:

- Avalanche size exp.: $\tau \approx 0.97$
- System size exponent: $\beta \approx 0.36$
- Stress scale: σ_0



Comparison of models

Cutoff behaviour: $s_0(\sigma_{\text{ext}}, N) \propto N^\beta \exp(\sigma_{\text{ext}}/\sigma_0)$



Continuous model

CA model with ED

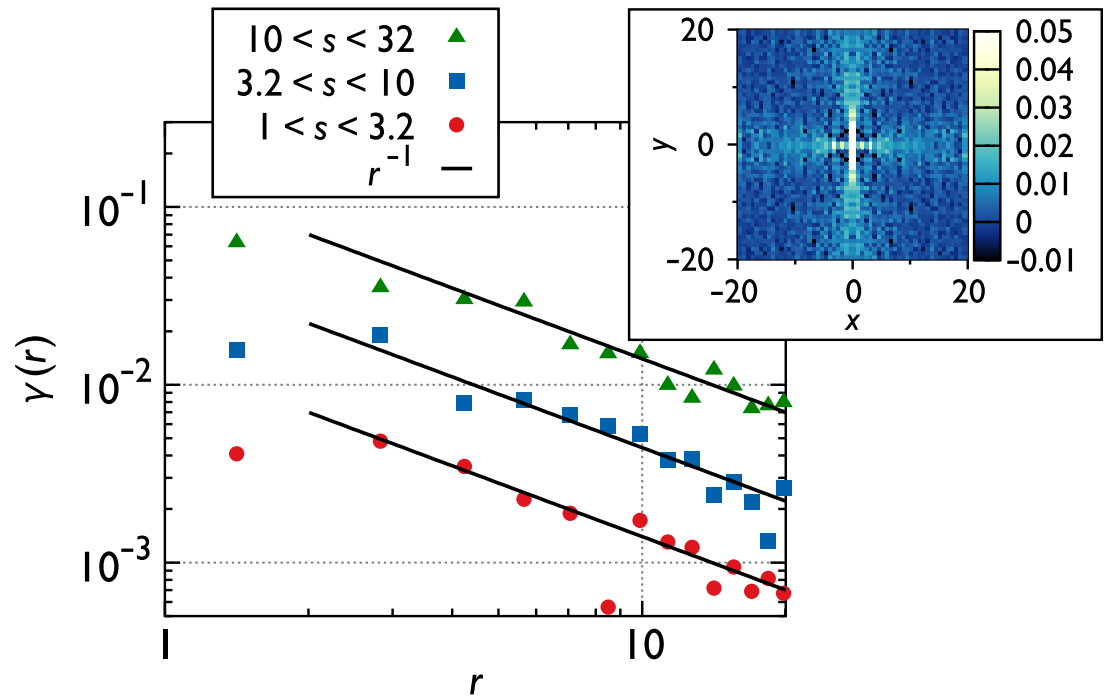
CA model with RD

Model	τ	β	σ_0
Continuous	0.97 ± 0.03	0.36 ± 0.04	0.07 ± 0.01
CA with ED	1.00 ± 0.03	0.36 ± 0.02	0.116 ± 0.004
CA with RD	1.02 ± 0.01	0.44 ± 0.01	0.122 ± 0.002

- $\tau \approx 1.0$
- $\beta \approx 0.4$

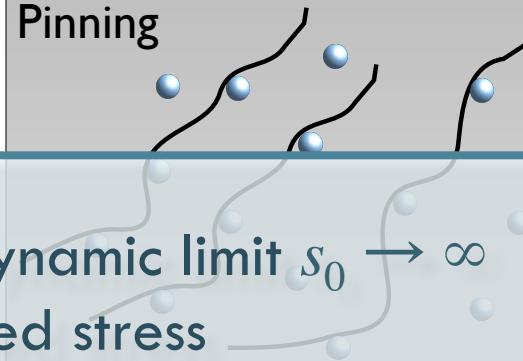
Average avalanche shape

- Avalanche shape following the Eshelby directions
- $1/r$ decay
- No cutoff in the avalanche shape

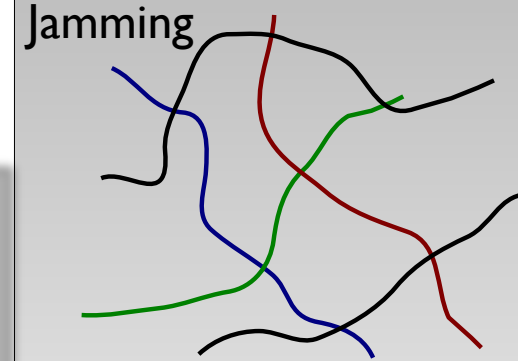


Non-depinning behaviour

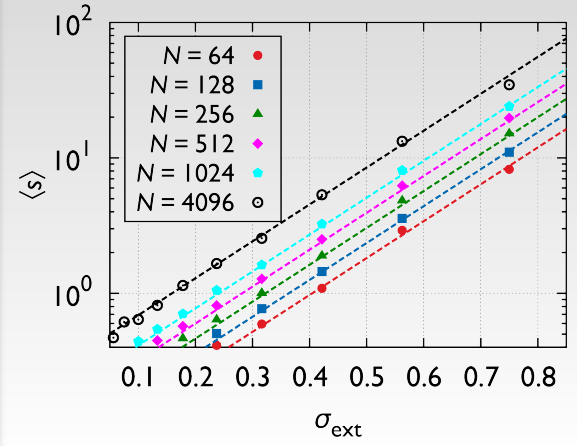
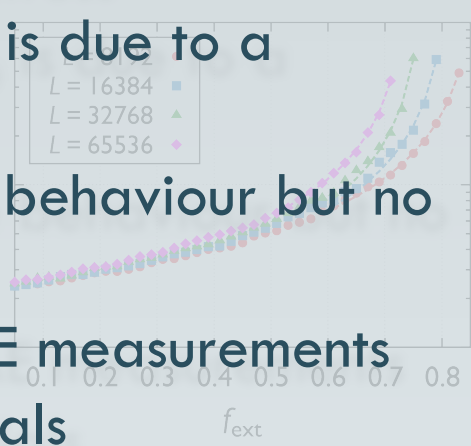
Pinning



Jamming



- Exponent ν is different
- In the thermodynamic limit $s_0 \rightarrow \infty$ at every applied stress
- The length scale $s_0^{10^2}$ is due to a system size effect
- There is scale-free behaviour but no critical point
- Compatible with AE measurements on pure hcp materials



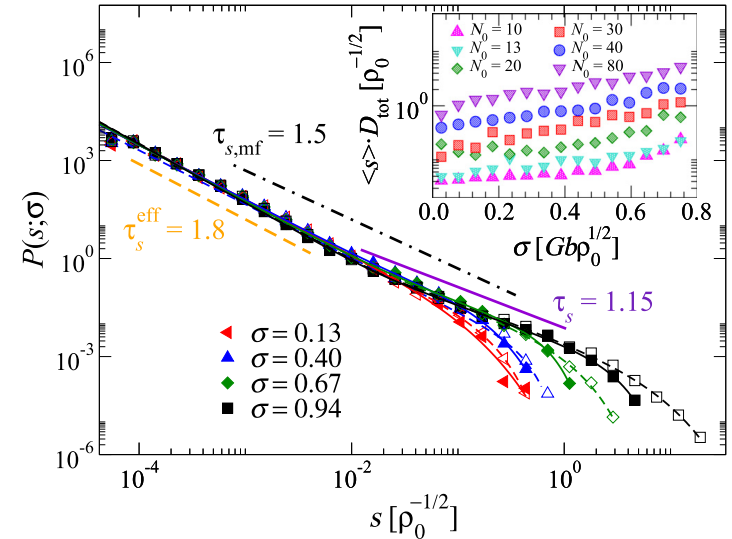
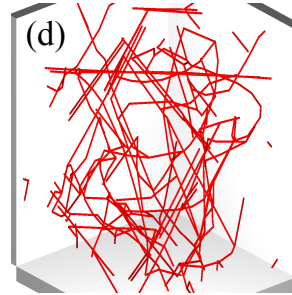
$$\langle s \rangle \propto (\sigma_c(L) - \sigma_{ext})^{-\nu}$$

$$\langle s \rangle \propto L^{2\beta} \exp(\sigma_{ext} / \sigma_0)$$

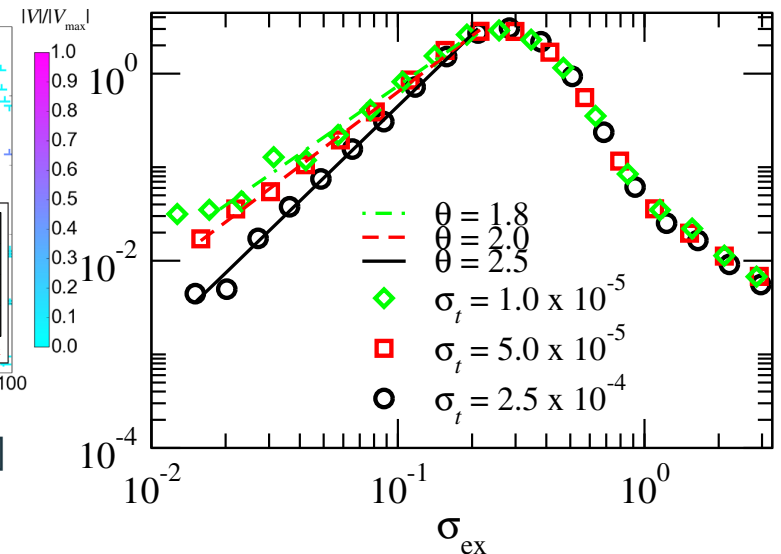
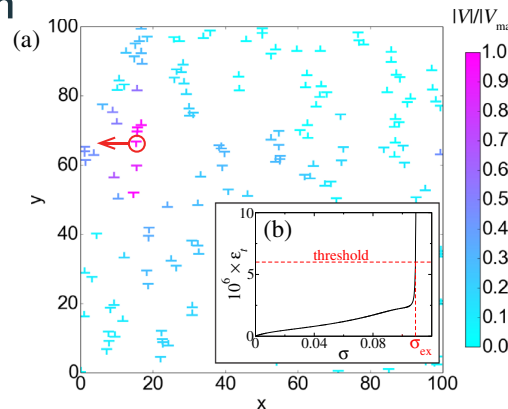
$$\langle \gamma \rangle = L^{2\beta-2} \exp(\sigma_{ext} / \sigma_0)$$

Further evidence

- Glassy avalanche distributions in 3D DDD simulations
- Power-law distributions for the local yield stress (in 2D and 3D)



- Only one dislocation or a local region is excited
- The exponent θ depends on loading rate

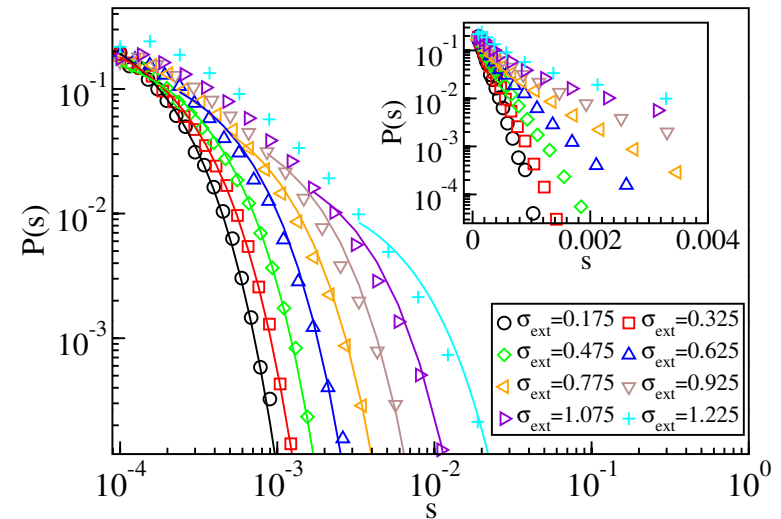
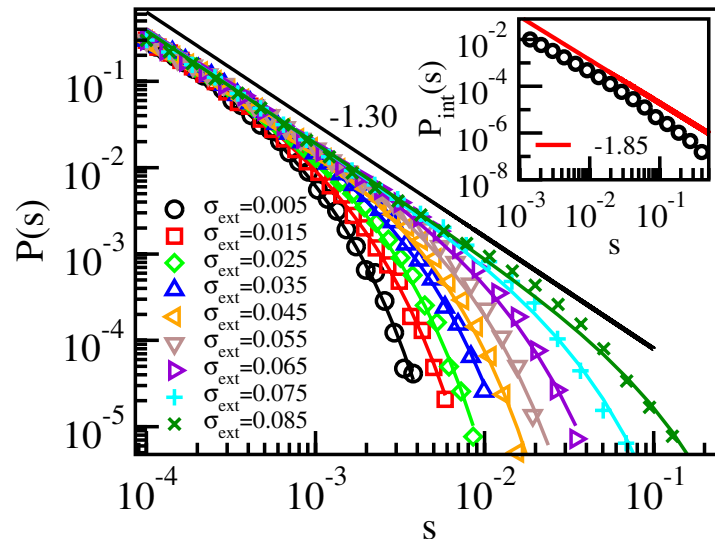
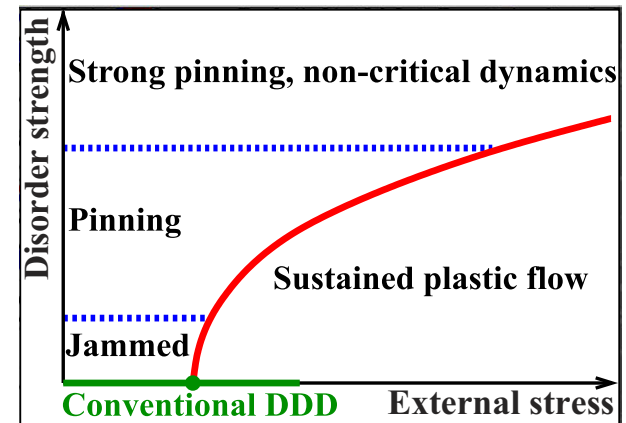


[Lehtinen, Costantini, Alava, Zapperi, Laurson, PRB (2016)]

[Ovaska, Lehtinen, Alava, Laurson, Zapperi, PRL (2017)]

Effect of quenched pinning

- A new length-scale leads to:
 - jamming \rightarrow pinning \rightarrow Gaussian dynamics
 - A gap in the local threshold distribution



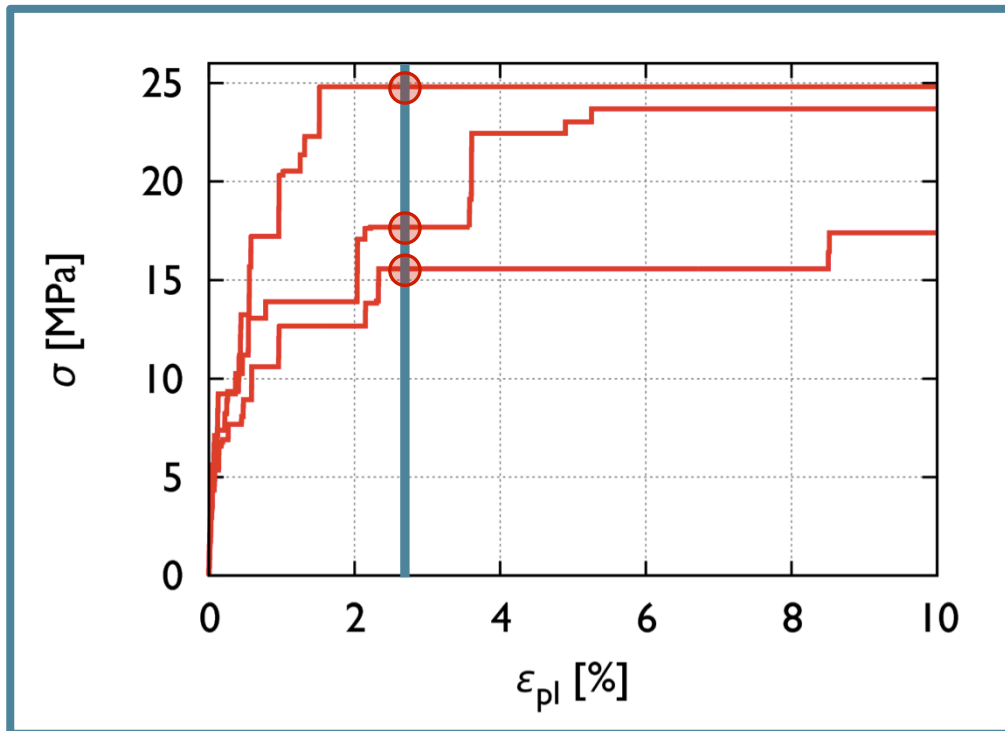
Summary

- Pure dislocation systems exhibit extended criticality
 - There is no correlation length associated with dislocation structure
 - Slow relaxation
 - The avalanche size diverges at every applied stress level
- Plastic yielding in general cannot be described in terms of a depinning transition
- Robust: recovered in 3D simulations as well
- This picture may be compatible with experiments on pure hcp or fcc materials
- Introduction of internal length scale changes the picture
 - Depinning or Gaussian fluctuations

Outlook

- Questions
 - How does the transition from jamming to depinning happen?
 - System size dependence
 - Is it possible to get into extended critical region by loading?
 - What influences the exponent?
 - How does strain hardening and other phenomena affect universality?
 - How to go to higher scales? What is the RVE?
- Work in progress
 - Implementing finite boundaries
 - New algorithms to allow for larger systems/less numerical noise
 - Get closer to experiments: multiple slip, Peierls stress
 - Local yield threshold distributions

Statistical analysis of stress-strain curves

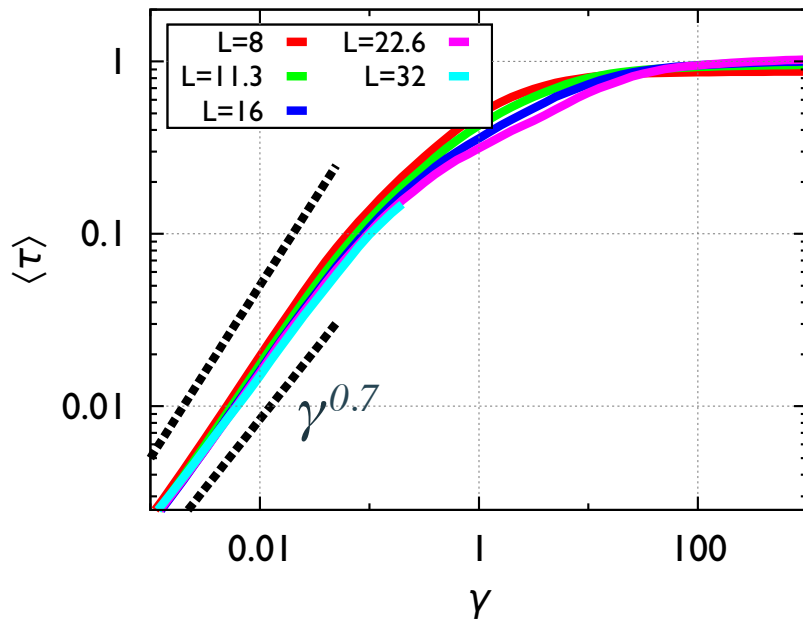


- Stress values for a given plastic strain level
- Distribution of these stress values

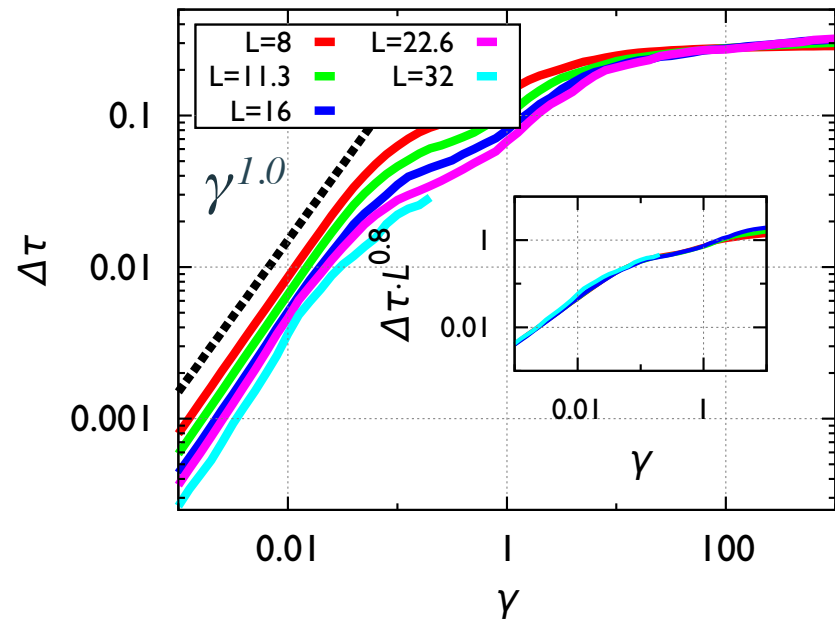
Average stress-strain curves

- Average and standard deviation of stress strain curves

$$\langle \tau \rangle \propto \gamma^{0.7}$$



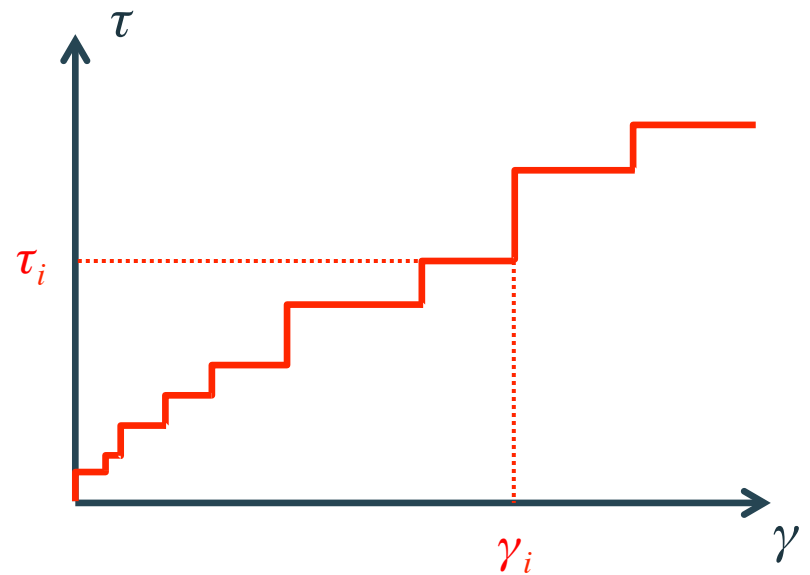
$$\Delta \tau \propto \gamma^{1.0} / L^{0.8}$$



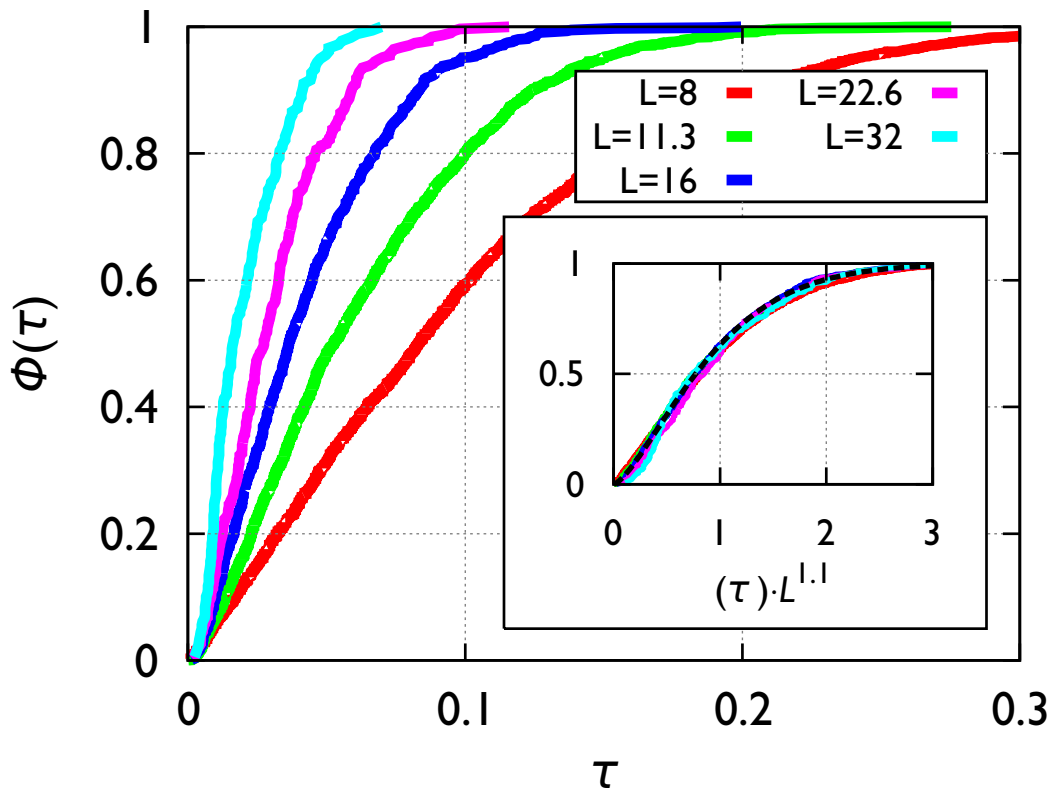
- There is only a negligible size effect!

Stress sequence statistics

- The stress-strain curve is a sequence of discrete stress and strain values:
 - τ_i : shear stress at the i th event
 - γ_i : shear strain at the i th event
- Distribution of strain increments $\Delta\gamma_i = \gamma_i - \gamma_{i-1}$ has been discussed
- What is the distribution of τ_i ?



Distribution of τ_1



- For larger systems stress values get smaller:

$$\langle \tau^{(1)} \rangle \propto 1/L$$

- Cumulative distribution is a Weibull:

$$\Phi^{(1)}(\tau_1) = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{\tau_1}{\lambda}\right)^\nu\right)$$

- Shape parameter: $\nu \approx 1.4$

Background of the Weibull distribution

- A chain consists of independent links
- If the asymptotic ($\tau \rightarrow 0$) failure distribution of **one link** is:

$$\Phi(\tau) = \left(\frac{\tau}{\tau_0}\right)^{\nu} \quad \longrightarrow \quad P(\tau) = \Phi'(\tau) = \frac{\nu}{\tau_0} \left(\frac{\tau}{\tau_0}\right)^{\nu-1}$$

- then the failure distribution of the **chain of M links** is

$$\Phi^{(1)}(\tau^{(1)}) = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{1}{M} \left(\frac{\tau^{(1)}}{\tau_0}\right)^{\nu}\right)$$

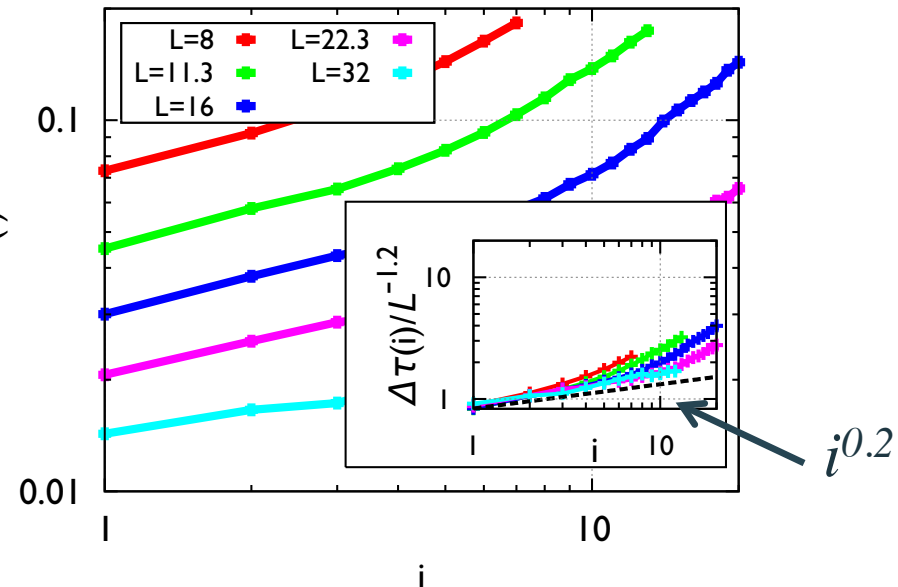
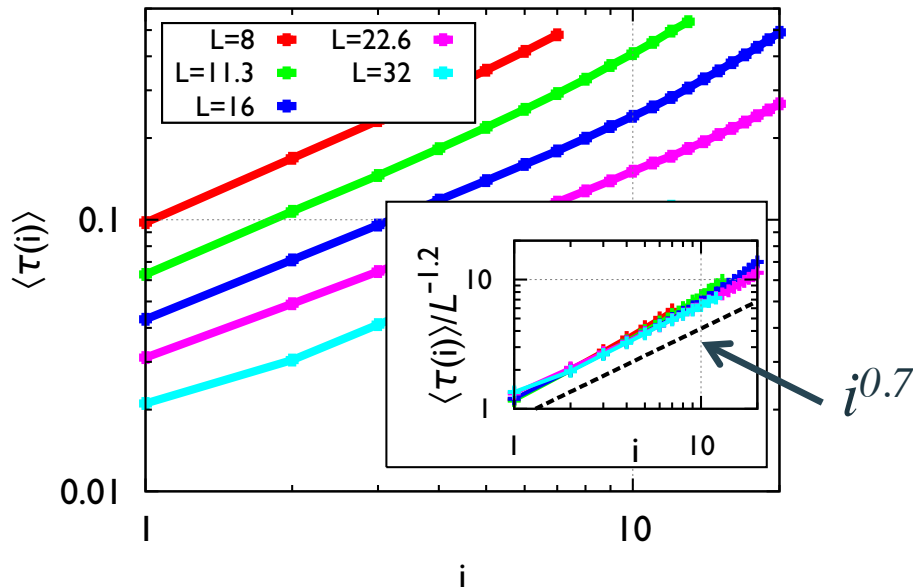


Stress sequence

- What about the statistics of τ_i ?

- Mean:
$$\langle \tau^{(i)} \rangle = \frac{\tau_0}{M^{1/\nu}} \frac{\Gamma(i+1/\nu)}{\Gamma(i)} \approx \tau_0 \left(\frac{i}{M} \right)^{1/\nu}, \text{ if } i \geq 5$$

- Standard deviation:
$$\Delta \tau^{(i)} \approx \frac{\tau_0}{i^{1/2}} \left(\frac{i}{M} \right)^{1/\nu}, \text{ if } i \geq 5$$

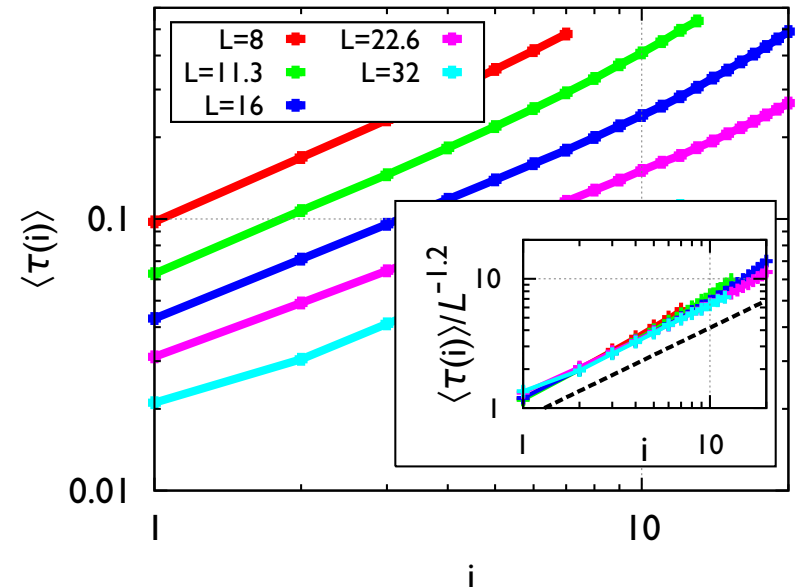


Size dependence

- How does the number of links M depend on the system size?
- Assumption: $M \propto L^\xi$
 - If links are homogeneously distributed, then $\xi = 2$.

$$\langle \tau^{(i)} \rangle \approx \tau_0 \left(\frac{i}{M} \right)^{1/\nu} = \frac{\tau_0}{L^{\xi/\nu}} i^{1/\nu}$$

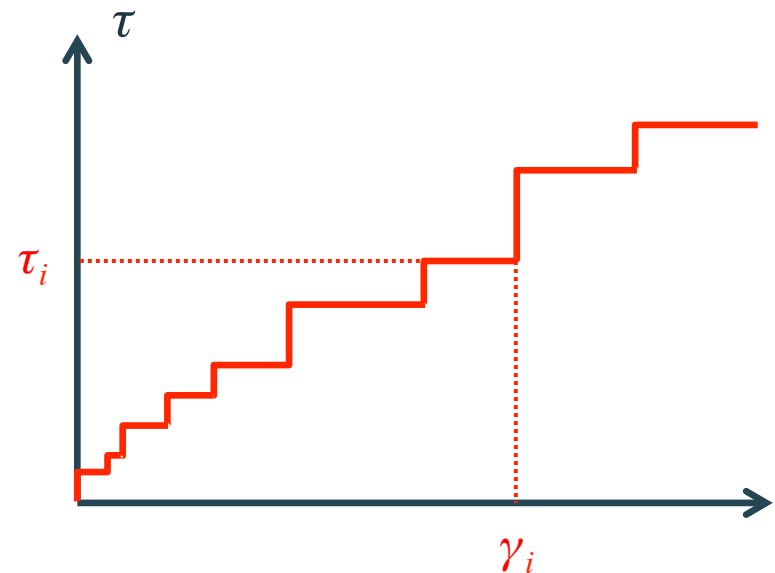
- From the fit $\xi / \nu \approx 1.2 \Rightarrow \xi = 1.2 \cdot \nu \approx 1.7$
- The number of links grows subextensively with the system size



Plasticity model

- Stresses τ_i are an independent random sequence drawn from a Weibull distribution with shape parameter ν .
- Strain increments are independent random variables with finite moments:

$$\langle \gamma^{(i)} \rangle = \frac{s_0}{L^\eta} i$$

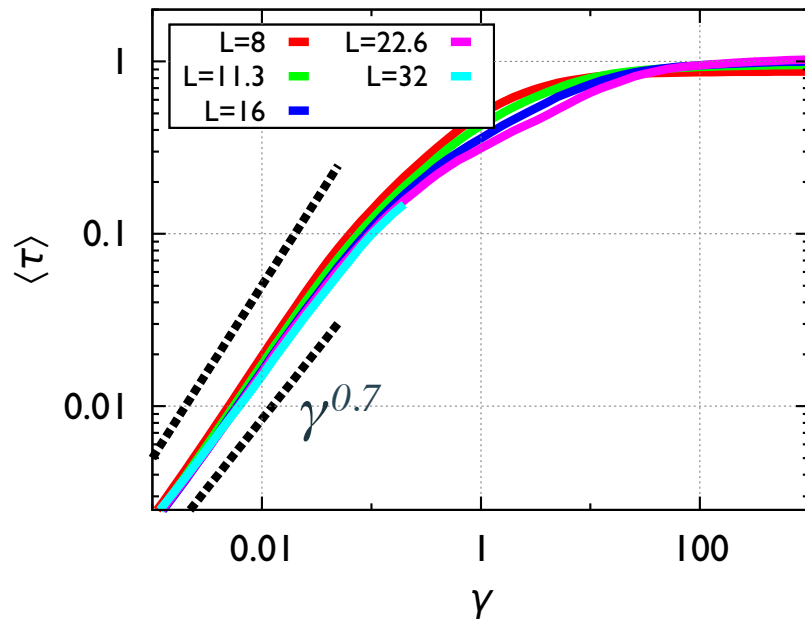


- Average stress-strain curve: $\langle \tau \rangle \propto \left(\frac{L^\eta}{L^\xi} \right) \langle \gamma \rangle$
- Standard deviation of stresses: $\Delta \tau \propto L^{-\xi/2} \langle \gamma \rangle$

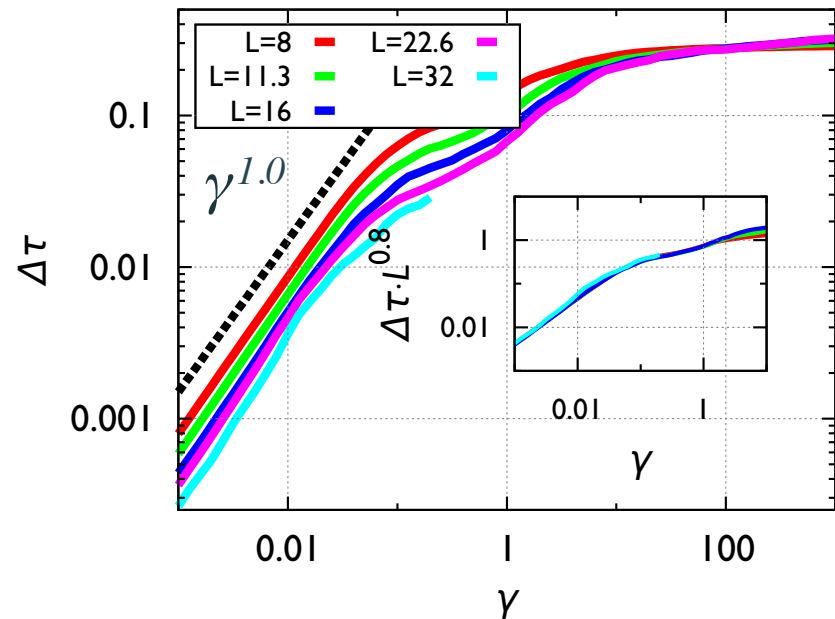
Average stress-strain curves

- Average and standard deviation of stress strain curves

$$\langle \tau \rangle \propto \gamma^{0.7}$$

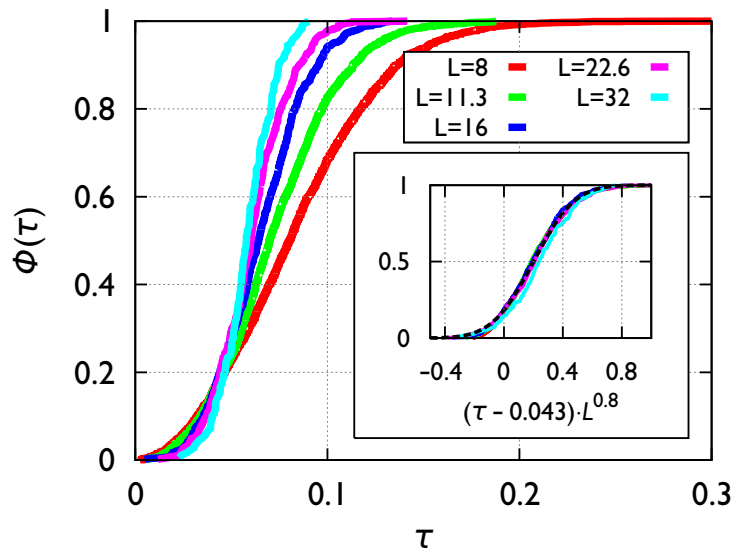


$$\Delta \tau \propto \gamma^{1.0} / L^{0.8}$$

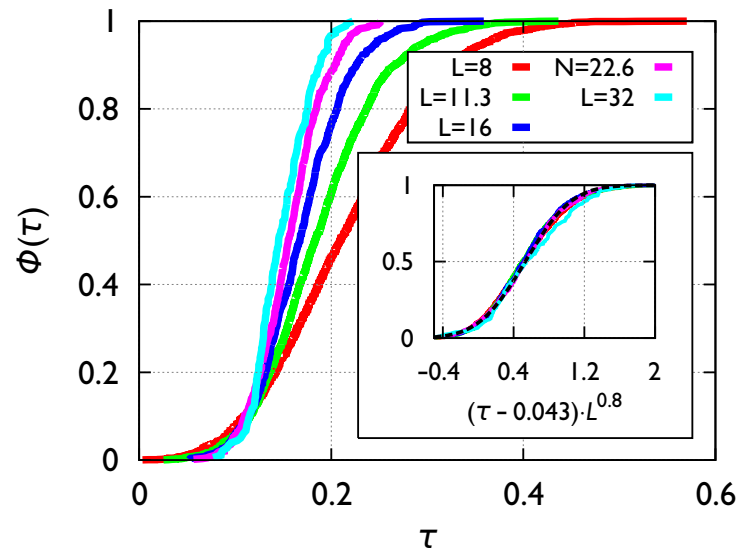


Distribution of stress values at a given strain

- Stresses at a given strain for different realizations are normally distributed
- The standard deviation decreases with increasing system size



$$\gamma = 0.05$$



$$\gamma = 0.2$$

Conclusions, outlook, acknowledgements

Conclusions

- The concepts of the stochastic model of Zaiser are in agreement with 2D DDD
- A simple plasticity model of independent avalanches gives a good description of the microplastic part of the stress-strain curves
- A method has been proposed to set the yield threshold distribution in the stochastic model (multiscale modelling)

Acknowledgements

- European Commission, Marie Curie CIG StochPlast 321842
- Hungarian Scientific and Research Fund OTKA PD-105256, OTKA K-105335