

# Yielding and Shear Banding in Amorphous Solids under Oscillatory Shear Deformation



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**Non-linear mechanics and rheology of dense suspensions: nanoscale structure to macroscopic behavior**

KITP  
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# Outline

## Introduction

- ✧ Mechanical response of amorphous solids
- ✧ Oscillatory shear deformation of a model glass
- ✧ Non-equilibrium transition under cyclic deformation
- ✧ The Yielding transition
- ✧ Avalanches
- ✧ Shear banding
- ✧ Summary



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**Davide Fiocco (EPFL/Google)**



*Fiocco, Foffi, Sastry, Phys Rev E 88, 020301(R) (2013)*  
*Phys Rev Lett 112 025702 (2014)*  
*JPCM 27, 194130 (2015)*

*Leishangthem, Parmar, Sastry "The yielding transition in amorphous solids under oscillatory shear deformation" Nature Comm. (2017) + Ongoing work*

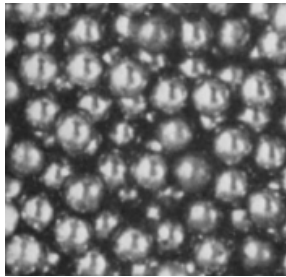
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# Jamming Phase Diagram

Liu, Nagel (1998)

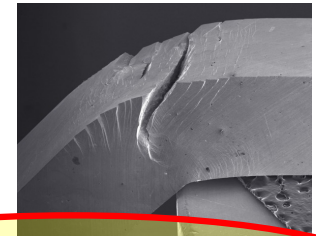
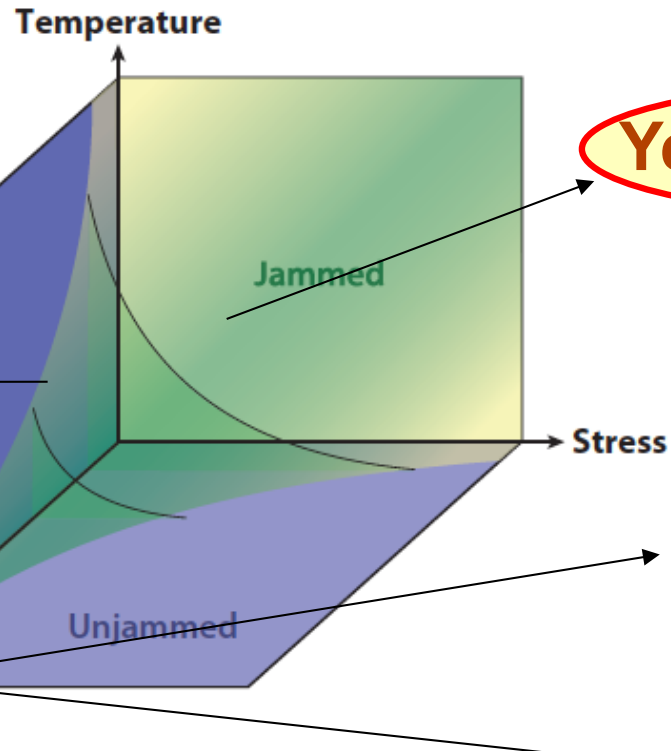


**Glass Transition**

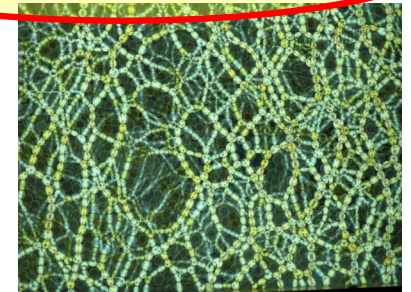


**Jamming Transition**

Jamming Phase Diagram: Different routes to undergo a transition between rigid and flowing states.



**Yeilding Transition**



**Shear Jamming**



**Shear Thickening**

**Emergence/loss of rigidity in disordered matter.**

Transitions out of equilibrium in character, in different ways.

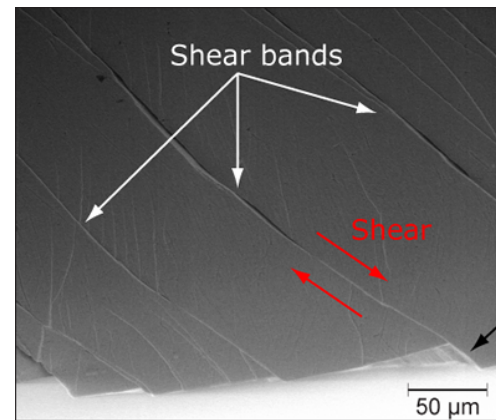
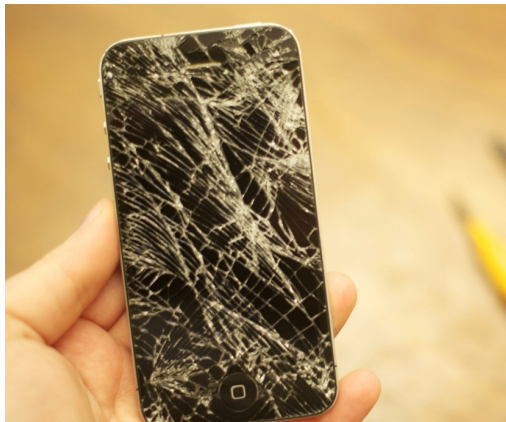
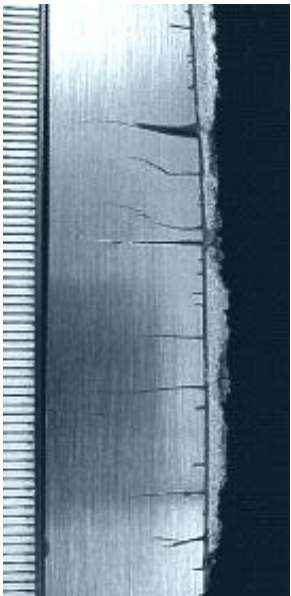
Yielding – Rigid to flowing state under external driving.

# Yielding and Mechanical Failure

External stresses can cause (amorphous) solids to fail when deformed beyond a point of “**mechanical failure**”.

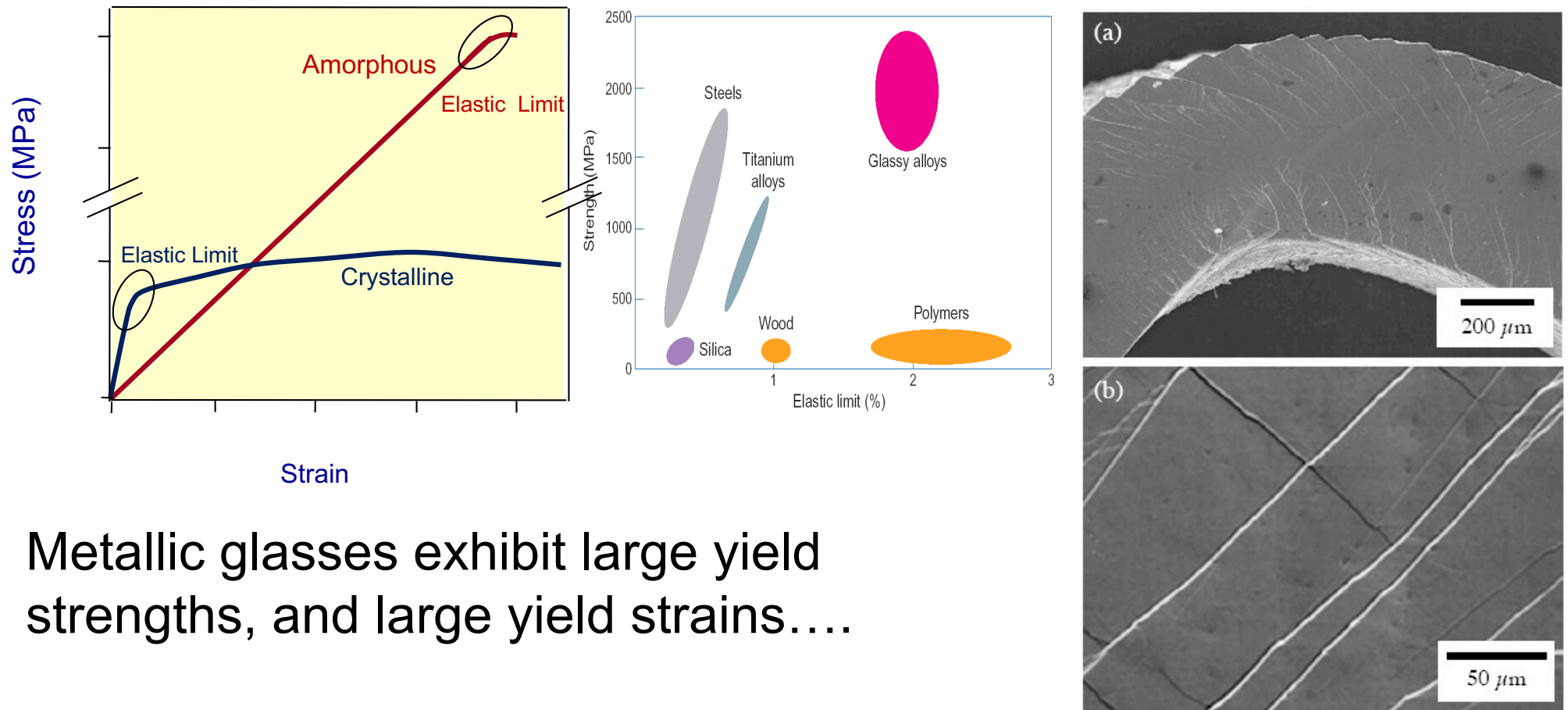
Important for materials performance, and characterization.

Gorilla glass, metallic glasses, some recent important examples.



**What is the microscopic description?**

# Example - Metallic Glasses



Metallic glasses exhibit large yield strengths, and large yield strains....

From: Schuh, Hafnagel, Ramamurty (2007)

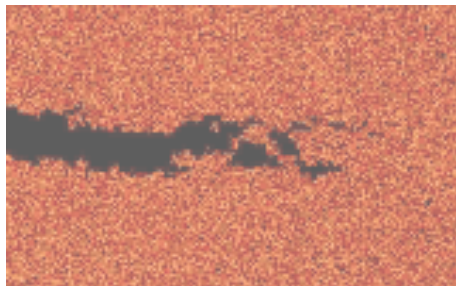
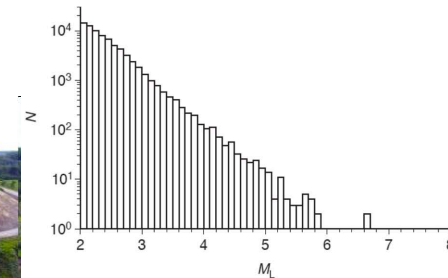
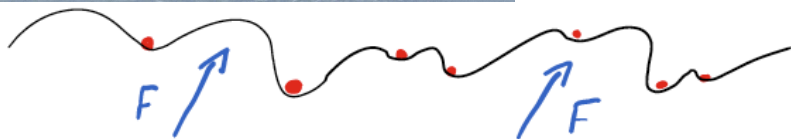
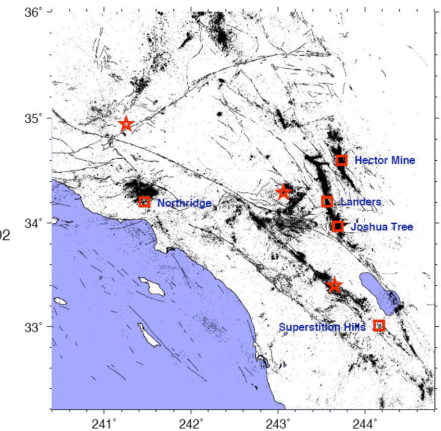
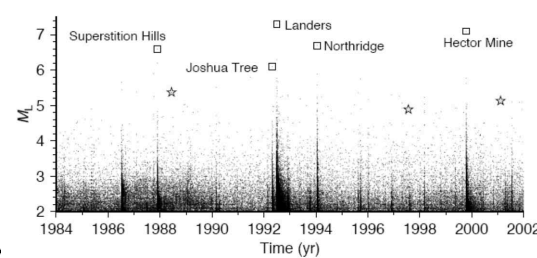
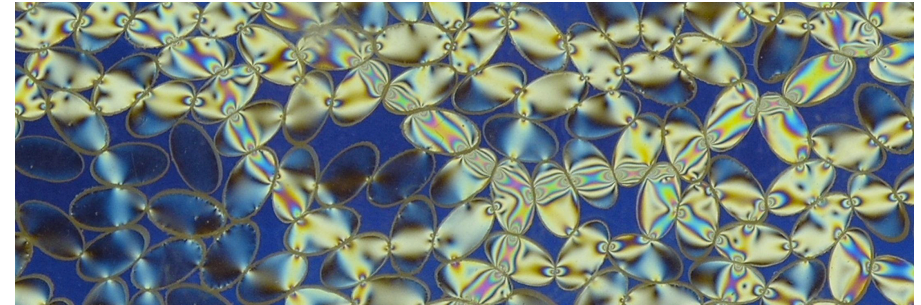
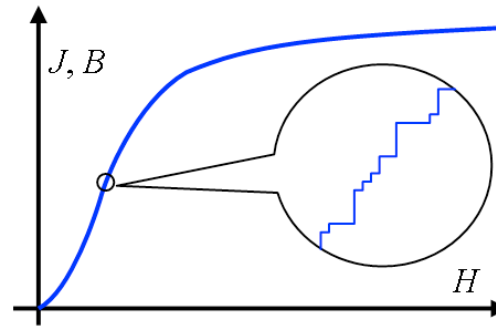
But exhibit brittle failure accompanied by shear localization (slip steps)..

Parameters governing failure, and potentially their control, is critical for their applications.

# Yielding and Failure in disordered matter: Other examples

Related physics of intermittent, plastic, response in many disordered systems:

- Barkhausen noise in magnets
- Front propagation in disordered media
- Granular matter
- Landslides and avalanches
- Earth quakes

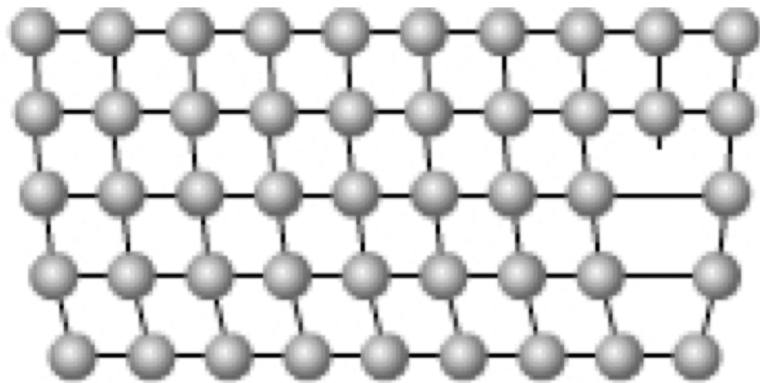


# Mechanical behavior of solids

Response to mechanical stress is a fundamental characteristic of a solid.

Elastic and plastic responses – Elastic moduli, yield stress, strength of materials..

The process by which a crystalline solid responds to stress is understood in terms of the movement of dislocations – defects that are well defined and observable.



Thanks: Surajit Sengupta



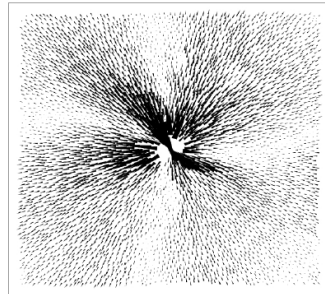
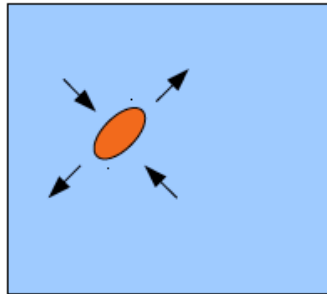
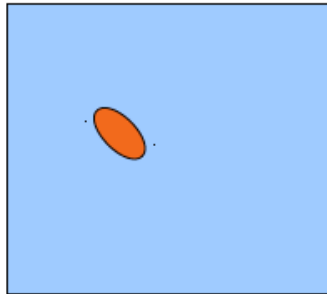
The movies have been provided for teaching purposes by Professor Hideharu Nakashima ([ageigz@mbox.nc.kyushu-u.ac.jp](mailto:ageigz@mbox.nc.kyushu-u.ac.jp)) of [Kyushu University](http://www.kyushu-u.ac.jp), Japan.

- **Amorphous solids** do not have regular translational order, and correspondingly no equivalent of dislocation defects.
- Deformation mechanisms involve localized rearrangements, and avalanches of correlated (or triggered) deformation events.

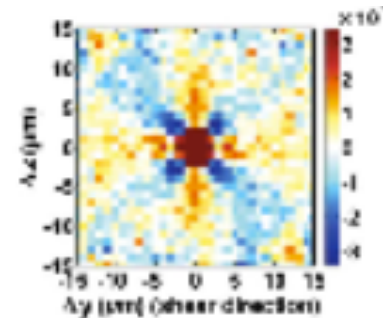


# Plastic rearrangements and interactions

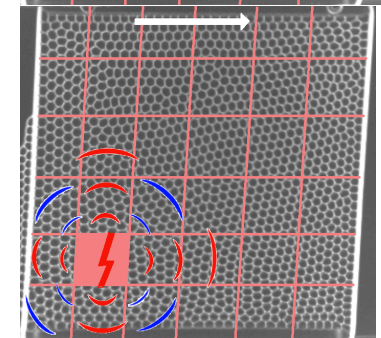
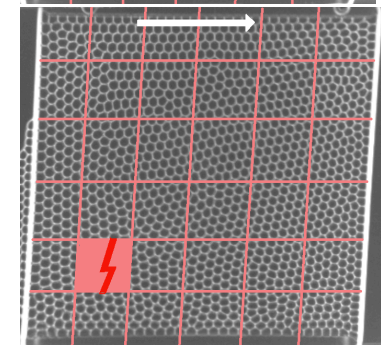
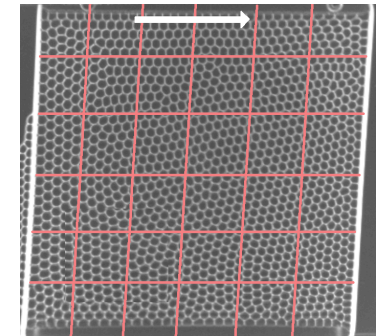
A local transformation embedded in an elastic medium leads to long range strain/stresses (Eshelby 1957), interactions:



PRE 74, 016118 (2006)



Jensen et al PRE 2014



$$G(r, r') \sim \frac{\cos(4\theta)}{|r - r'|^d}$$

Quadrupolar propagator for stress redistribution.

Observed in simulations and experiments.

Generation of stress field from a local plastic event.

Redistributed stresses trigger other events.

**Avalanches, yielding..?**

From Schuh et al 2007 [from Argon, Spaepen]  
[Lemaitre, Caroli 2009]

Barrat

# Questions/Issues

- The nature of **plastic deformation events** in sheared amorphous solids.
- The nature of interactions between localized events that lead to *avalanches* of correlated reorganization.
- The character of **avalanches before yielding and after yielding**.
- The nature of the **yielding transition**. Is it a sharply defined transition?
- Comparison to other transitions in **driven disordered systems**.
- Connection to the physics of the glass and jamming transitions?

**Computer simulations of deformation of model glasses in search of some answers**

# What we do: Approach and Questions

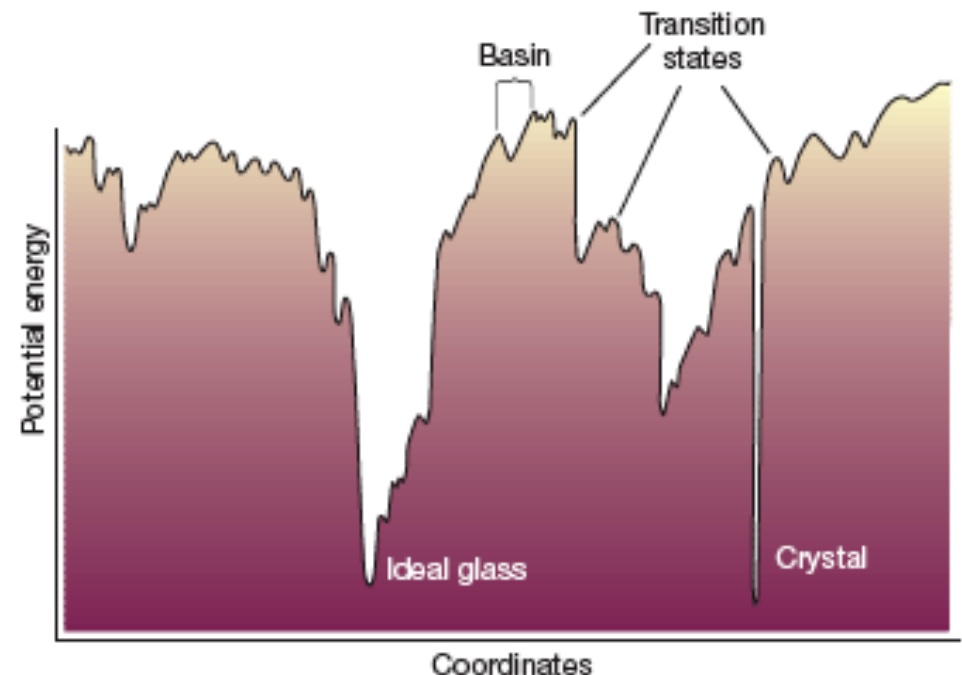
1. Energy landscape picture of configuration space.
  - Mechanical response to affine, shear deformations studied by analyzing the modification of the landscape, and transitions between minima, through the **AQS** (Athermal Quasi Static) protocol.
  - Limitation: No information on the interplay between relaxation processes and instabilities triggered by deformation. But useful insights obtained.
  - **Amplitude of shear deformation the only control parameter.**

## Focus for this talk:

Nonequilibrium transition to ergodic state triggered by the cyclic shear deformation.

The Yielding Transition.

Shear bands.



# Energy landscape picture: Schematic

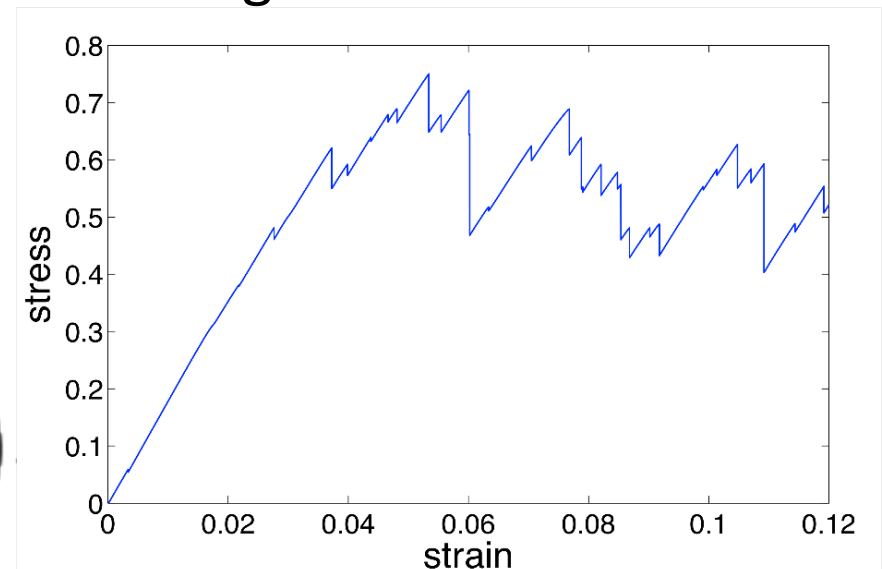
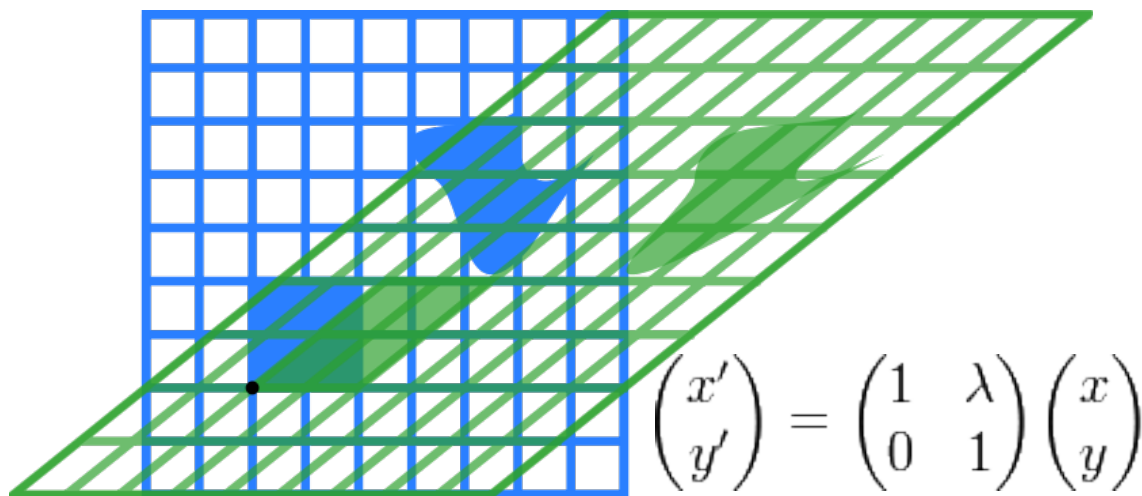
Shear deformation modifies the potential energy landscape and destabilizes the system, eventually leading to irreversible rearrangements.



How does such deformation modify the properties of the glasses?

# Athermal Quasi Static Deformation

1. Subject energy minimum structures to shear deformation.
2. Minimize the resulting deformed structure subject to suitable (Lees-Edwards) boundary conditions.
3. Deformation strain increased quasi-statically.
4. The procedure produces a sequence of configurations that are always energy minima.
5. Continuous change of energies interrupted by discontinuous change.
6. Discontinuous changes correspond to rearrangements.

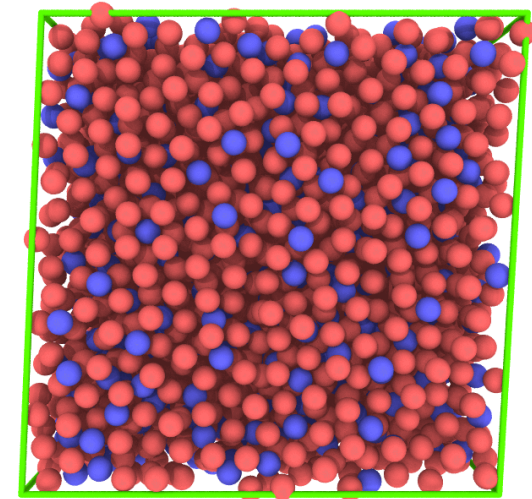
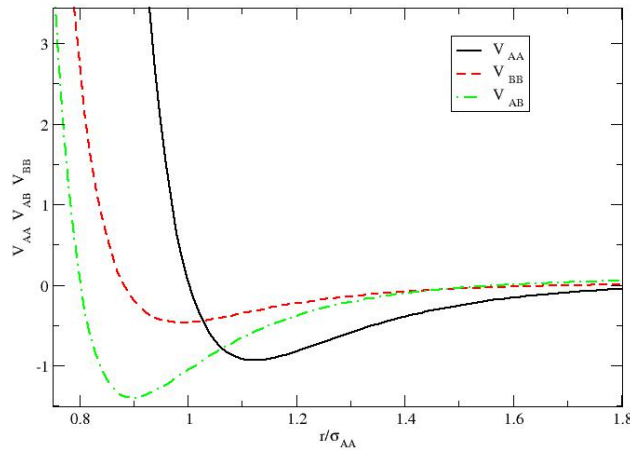


# Simulations of oscillatory strained binary Lennard-Jones (LJ) solids

Kob-Andersen binary glass forming model liquid.

(Constant Volume AQS)

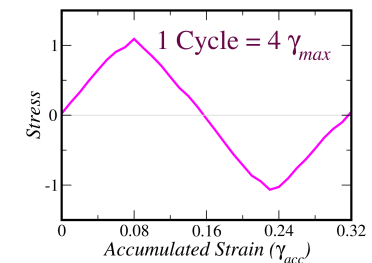
$$\phi_{ij}(r) = 4\epsilon_{ij} \left( \frac{\sigma_{ij}^{12}}{r^{12}} - \frac{\sigma_{ij}^6}{r^6} \right)$$



Different system sizes: 2000, 4000, 8000, 16000, 32000, 64000, 128000 and 256000.  $0 \rightarrow \gamma_{max} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow -\gamma_{max} \rightarrow 0$

Two starting temperatures: **1** (poorly) & **0.466** (well annealed glass)

Cyclic shear for range of  $\gamma_{max}$  values with strain step  $d\gamma = 2 \times 10^{-4}$ .



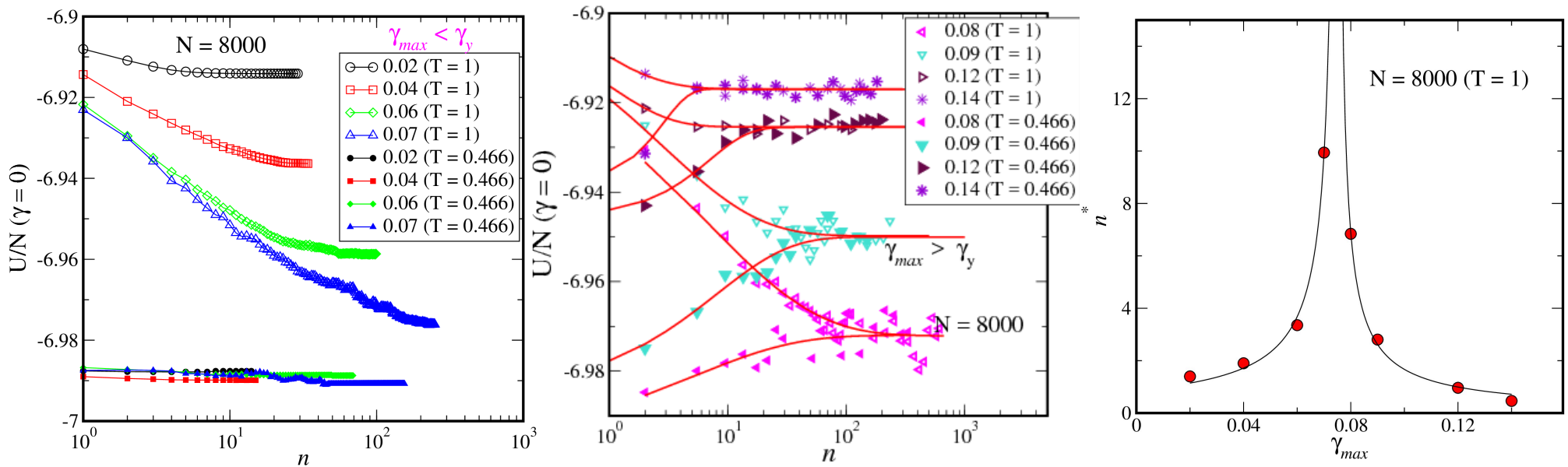
Each  $\gamma = 0$  configuration labeled with the *accumulated* strain  $\gamma_{acc} = \sum d\gamma$

These **stroboscopic** configurations were used to compute various quantities, i.e. energy, MSD etc ...

# Potential Energy vs. Cycle Number

The potential energy per particle reaches a plateau that

- (a) Depends on  $\gamma_{\max}$  **only** at large values of  $\gamma_{\max}$ .
- (b) Depends on  $\gamma_{\max}$  and initial state for small  $\gamma_{\max}$ .



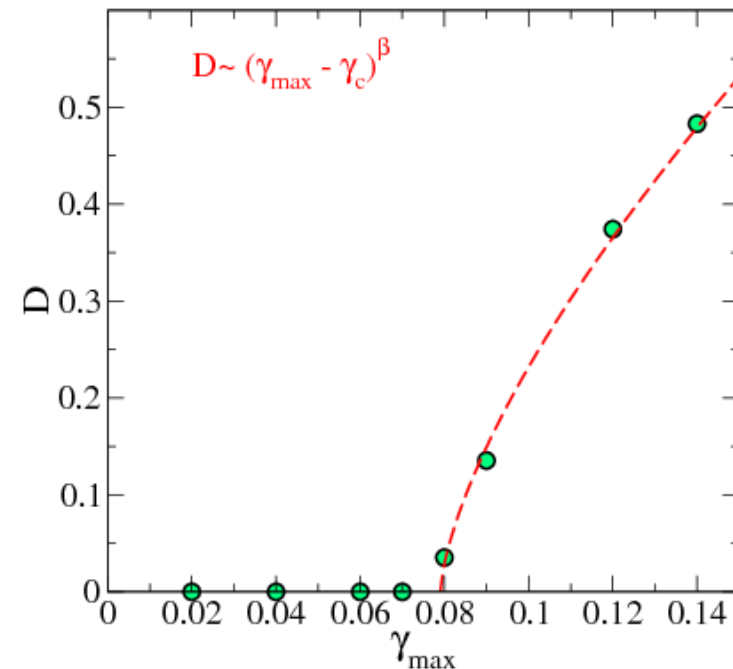
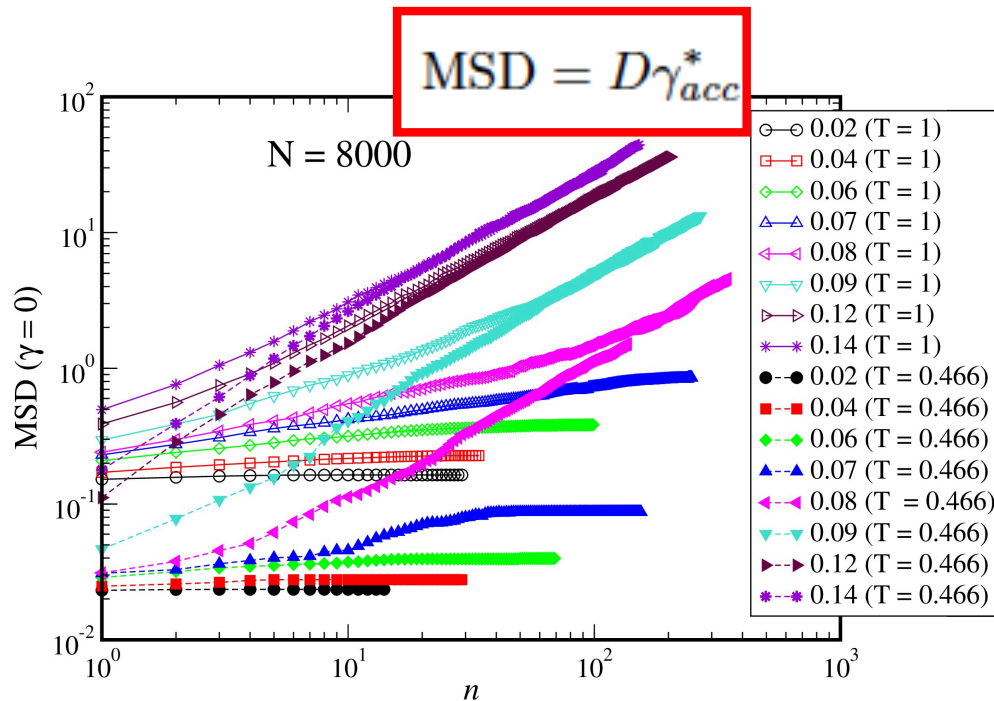
- Aging/rejuvenation depends on strain amplitude and initial annealing on the glasses.
- Relaxation to the steady state **becomes more sluggish as  $\gamma_y$  is approached.**

**Change in behavior across a critical strain amplitude  $\gamma_c$**

# Mean Squared Displacement vs. Cycle #: Diffusion Coefficient

Depending on  $\gamma_{\max}$  systems are either diffusive or non-diffusive.

In the diffusive regime, asymptotic slopes depend only on  $\gamma_{\max}$ .



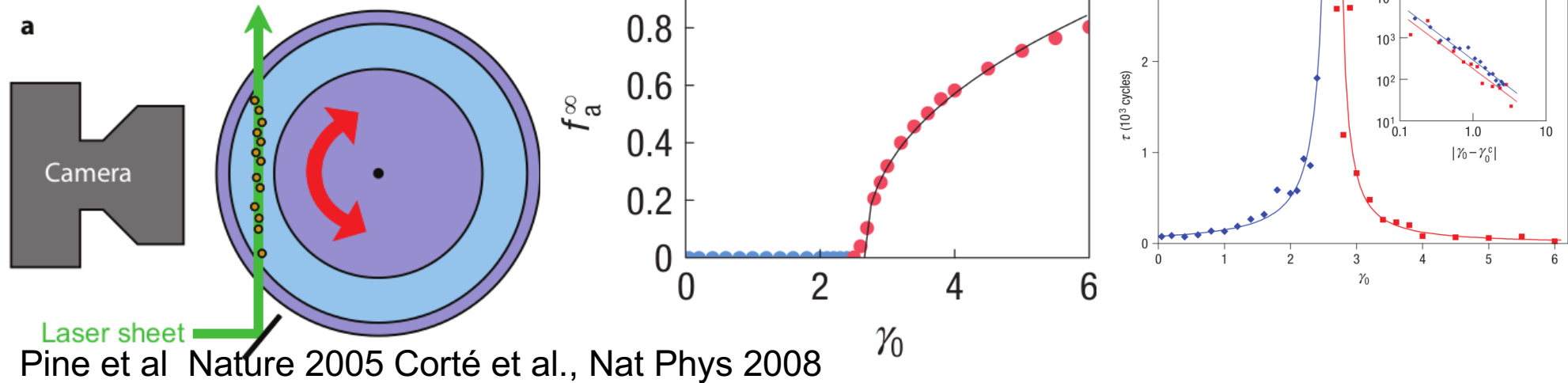
- The diffusion coefficient vanishes below a finite value of  $\gamma_{\max}$  [How?]
- Critical  $\gamma_{\max}$  a function of system size... but approach finite value asymptotically.

**Non-equilibrium transition from localized to diffusive regimes!**



# Non-equilibrium phase transitions

The behavior seen in our system is similar to that observed in experiments dealing with colloids immersed in a viscous fluid subject to oscillatory deformation.



After a full oscillation, colloids in the cylinder return to the starting point or move a little. Those that move are named “active”.

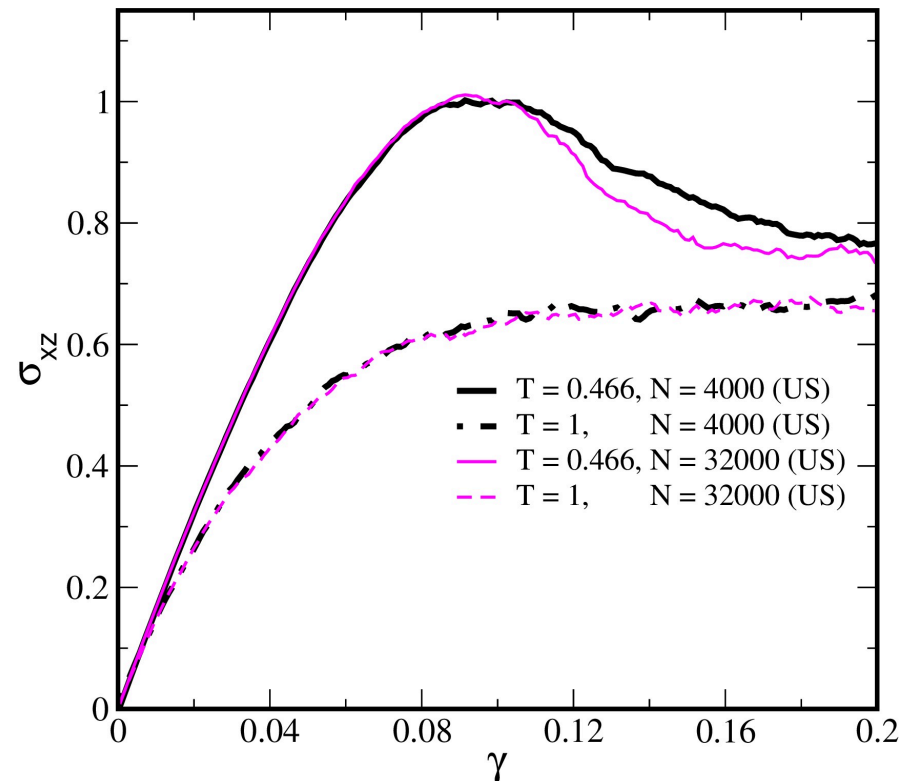
The fraction of active particles, and the time to reach steady states indicate a absorbing to ergodic state transition.

Interpreted as a non-equilibrium phase transition, possibly in the same universality class of directed percolation with a conserved order parameter (C-DP). [Menon and Ramaswamy 2009].

Are these different systems exhibiting the same behavior?

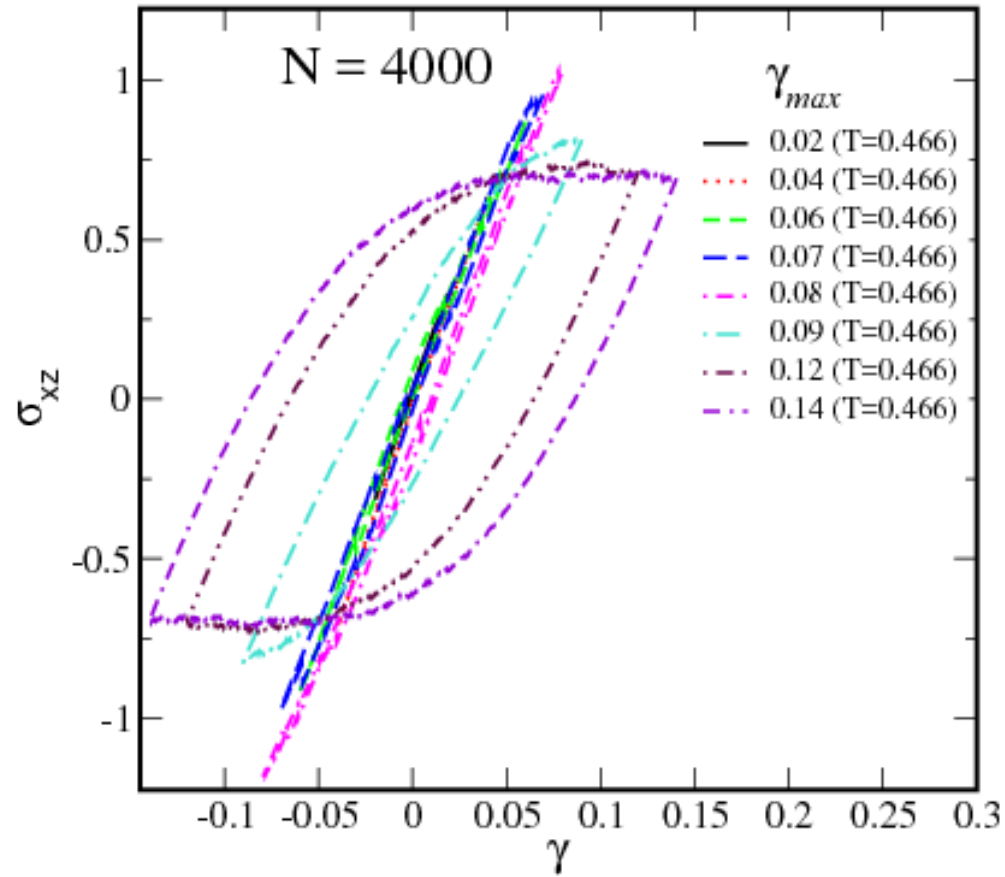
# Yielding Uniform Shear

Does the non-equilibrium transition correspond to yielding?



There is **no sharp point** to identify from uniform shearing.  
Significant **sample** (annealing) **dependence**.

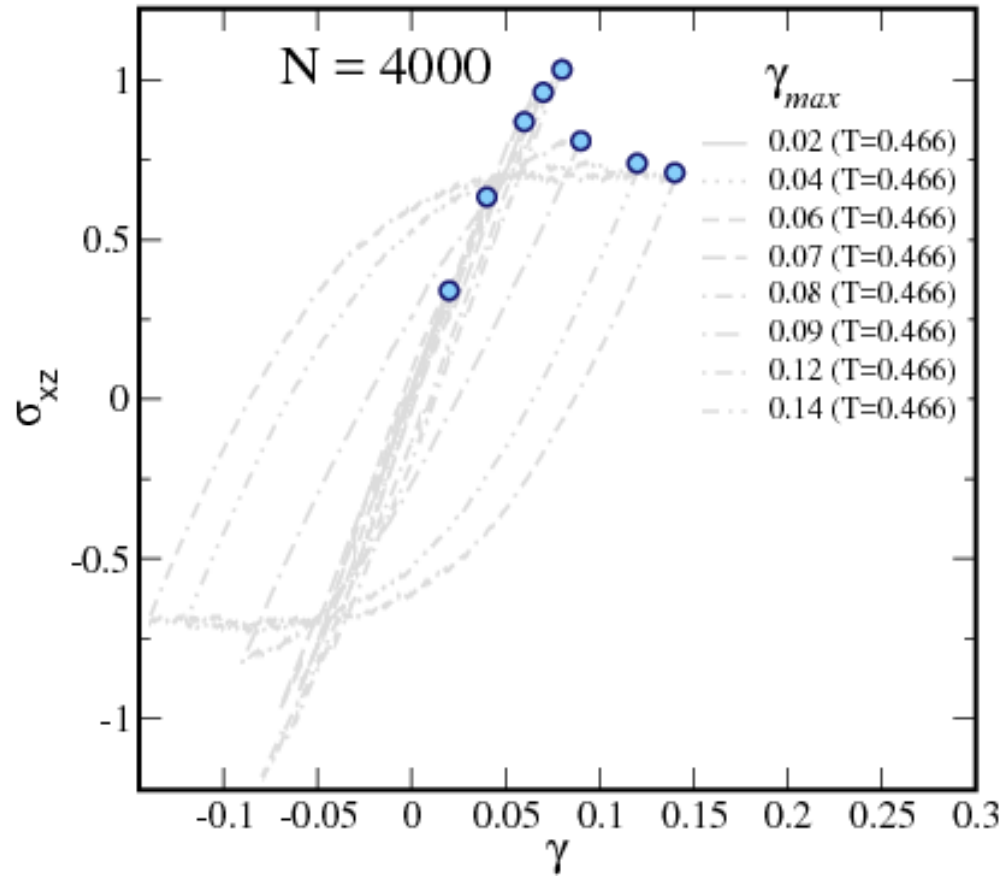
# Yielding: Oscillatory shear



Oscillatory shear provides a better characterization of the transition.

We focus on maximum stress during cyclic shear..

# Yielding: Oscillatory shear



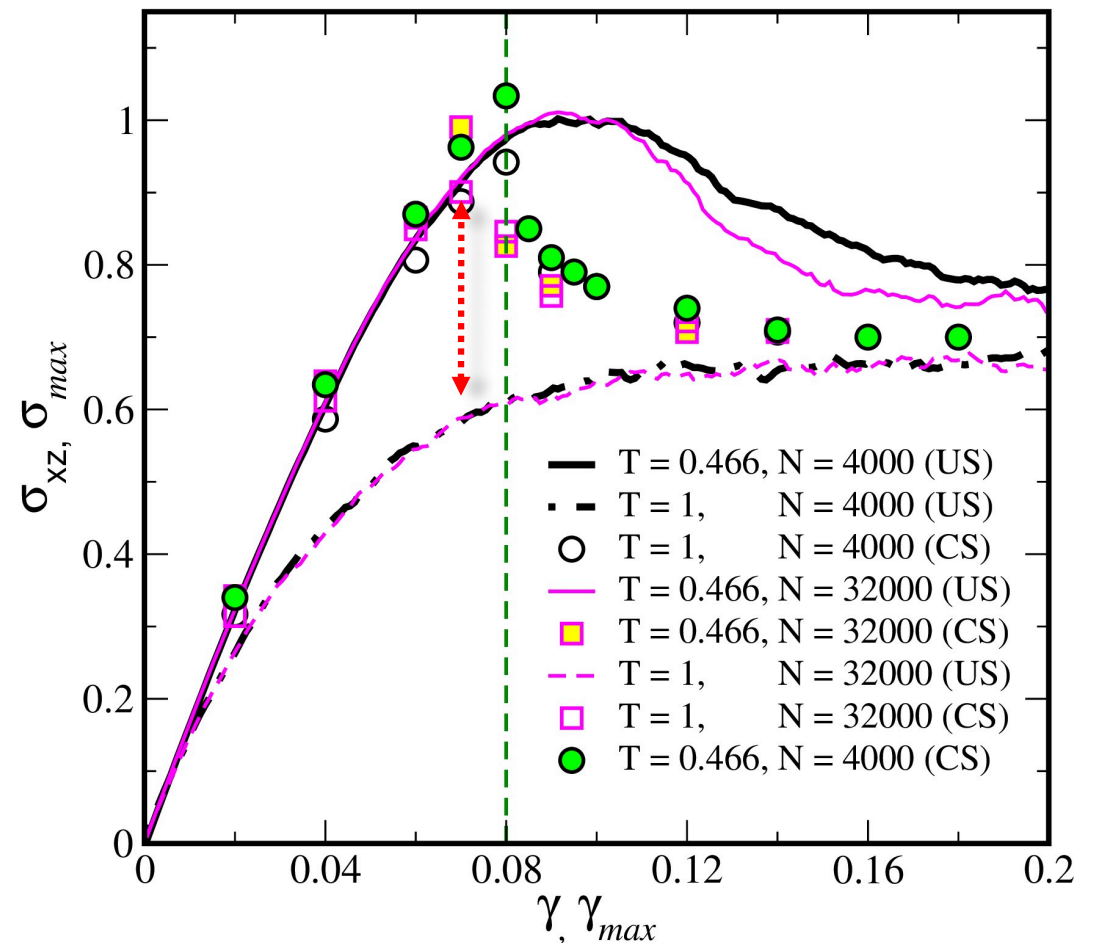
Oscillatory shear provides a better characterization of the transition.

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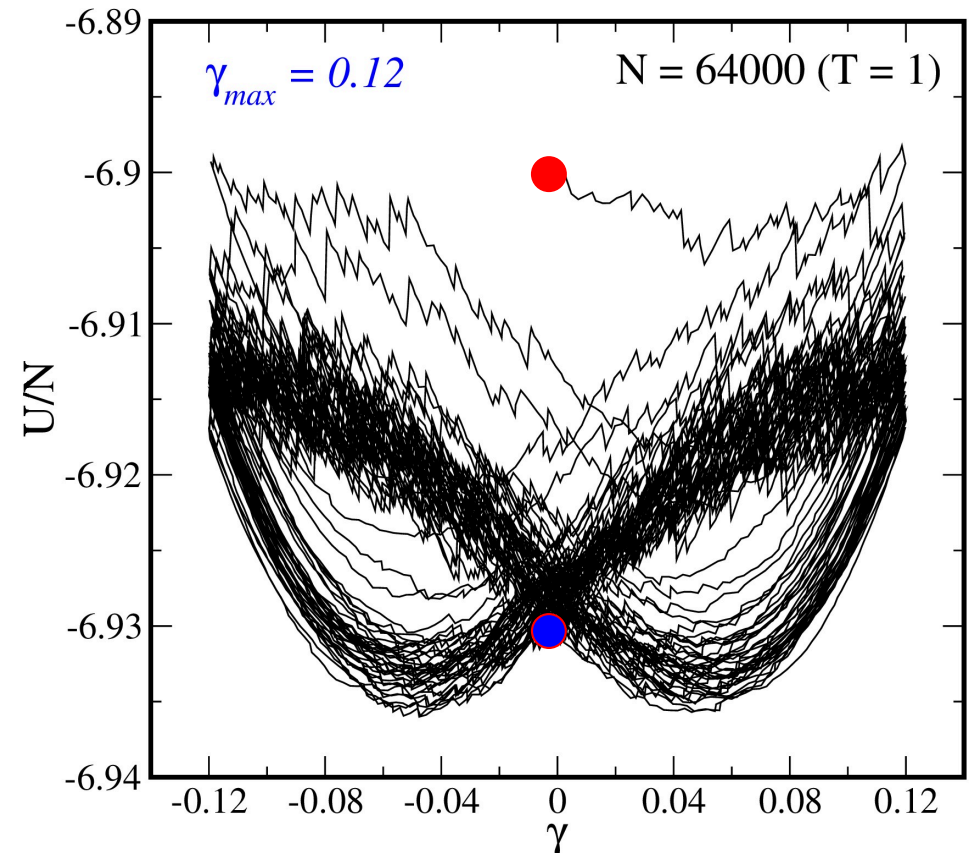
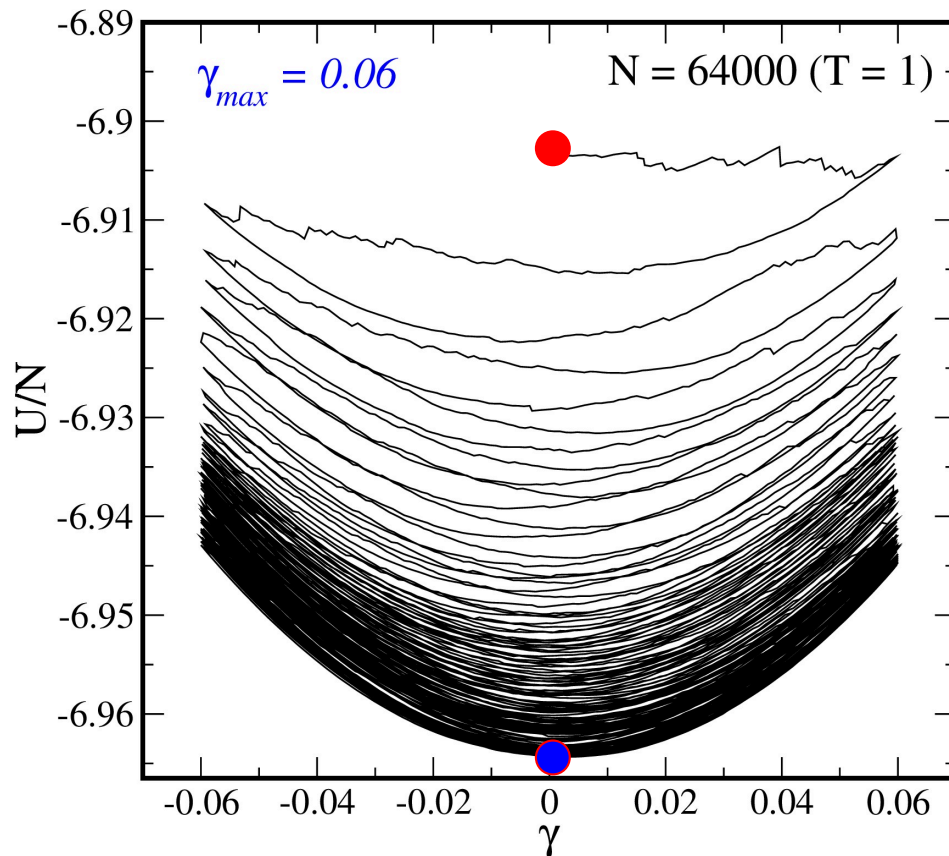
- In **uniform shearing** (US), there is a clear difference in the stress-strain curves depending on the annealing of the glasses.
- For **cyclic shear** (CS) they fall on the same curve (more or less) irrespective of the initial (sample) conditions.

**Oscillatory sheared states better for characterizing yield.**

**Pointers for thermo-mechanical processing of glasses?**



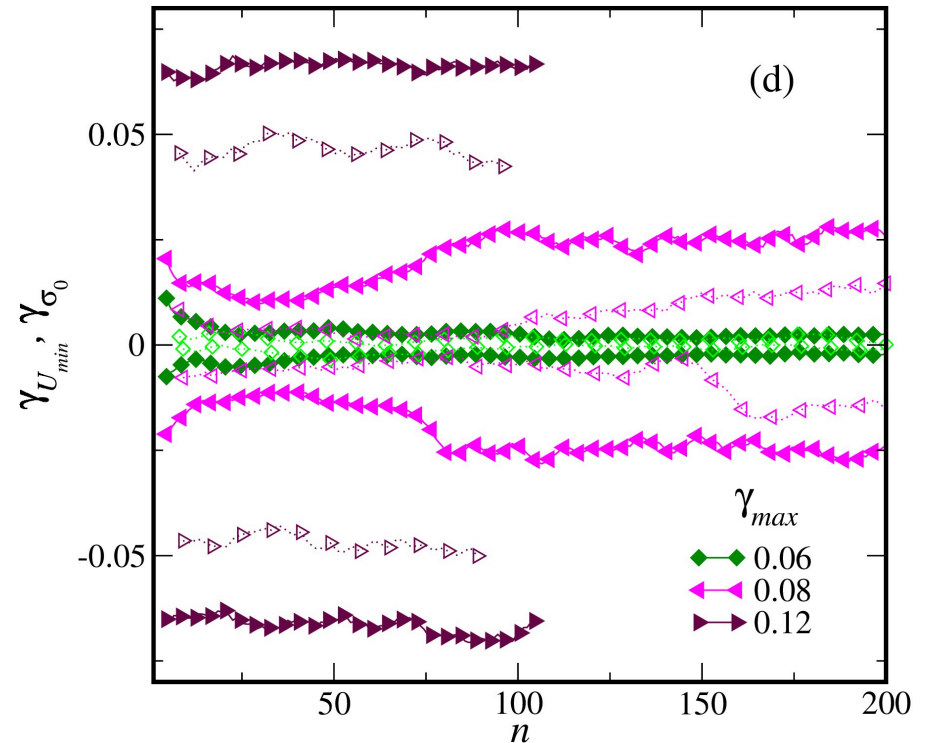
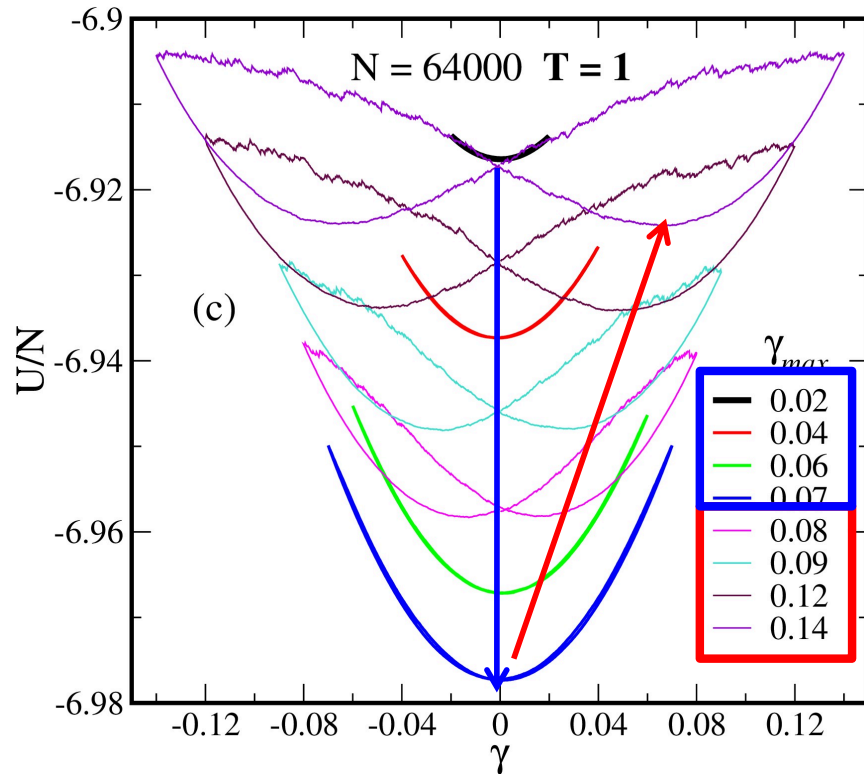
# Evolution of energy with cycles



- For  $\gamma_{max} = 0.06$  (i.e.  $\gamma_{max} < \gamma_y$ ) the energy approaches to a single minimum at  $\gamma = 0$ , but
- **Energy bifurcates** into two minima (for  $\gamma_{max} = 0.12$  (i.e.  $\gamma_{max} > \gamma_y$ )) at finite strain.

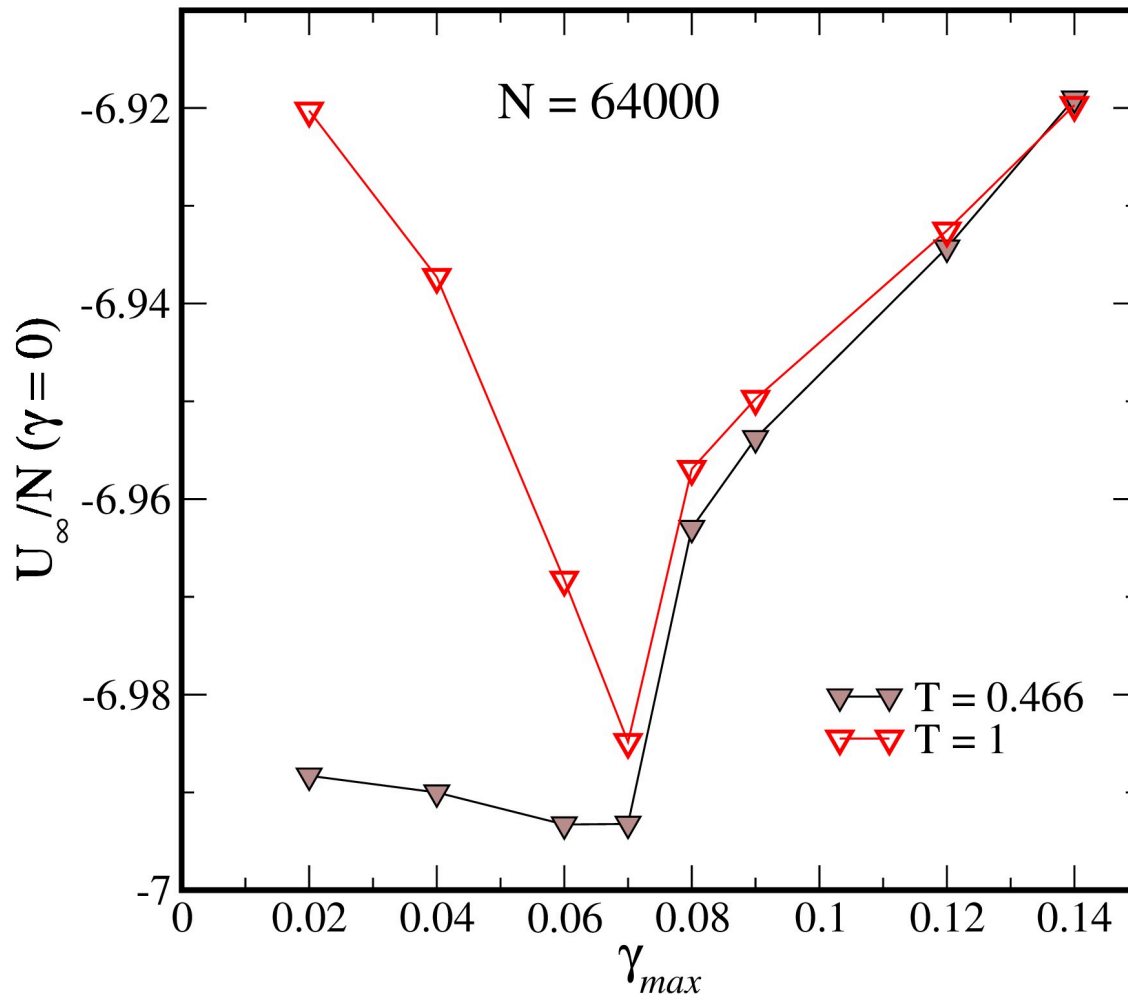
Indicates emergence of plasticity.  
A hallmark of the transition!

# Evolution of energy with cycles



- Energy vs. strain in the steady states, displaying a bifurcation in the strain corresponding to minima in energy at the yielding transition between  $\gamma_{max} = 0.07$  and  $0.08$ .
- Evolution of strain values for energy minimum and zero-stress states indicate transition.

# Asymptotic energy vs. strain amplitude



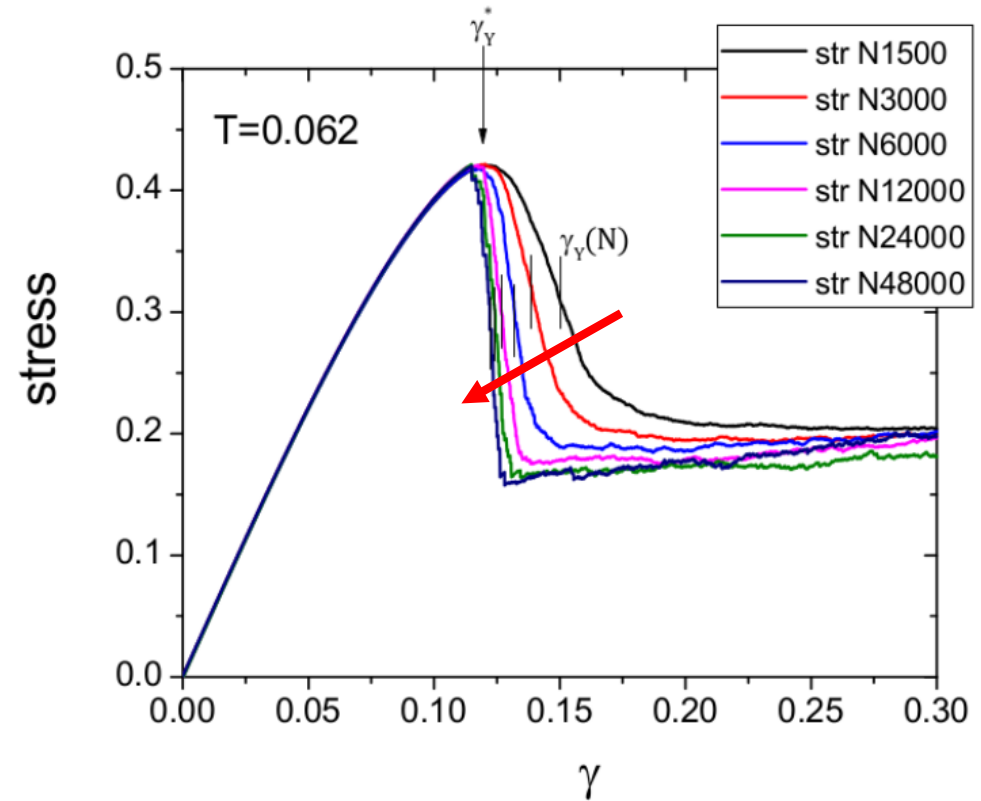
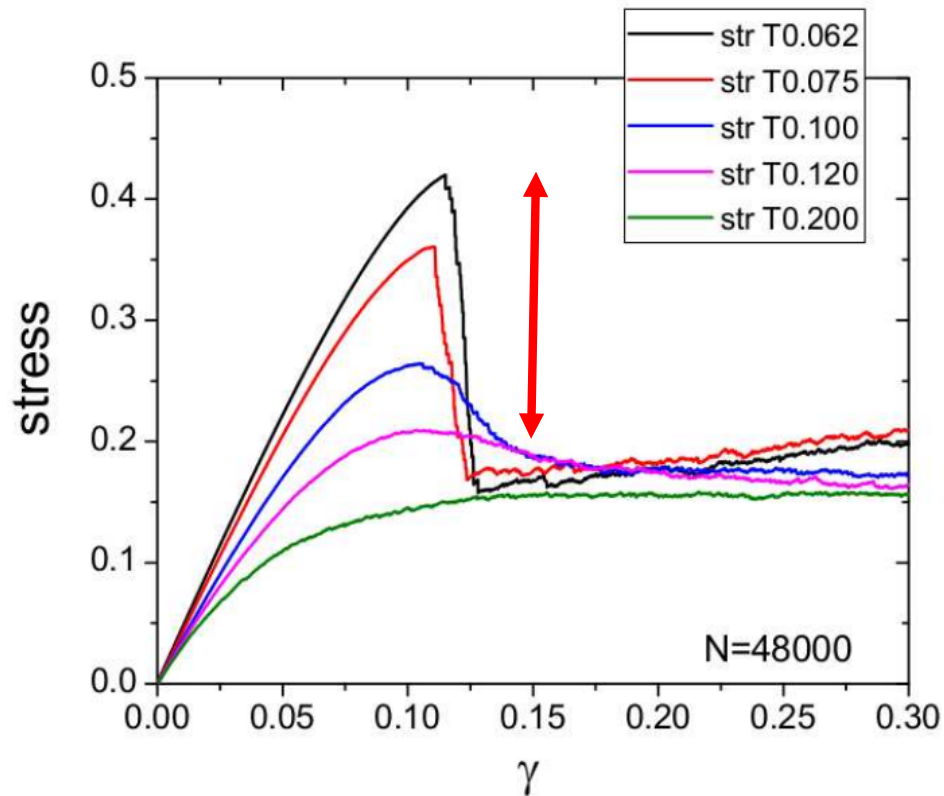
Better annealing close to the transition.

What is the nature of the energy increase beyond the yielding transition?

Energies of stroboscopic configurations decrease with  $\gamma_{max}$  till the yield strain is reached, after which they increase with  $\gamma_{max}$ .



# Uniform Shear: Ultrastable glasses



Ultra stable glasses shows sharp change in the yielding behavior.

Discontinuous change at yielding similar to cyclic shear, resulting in both cases from better annealing.

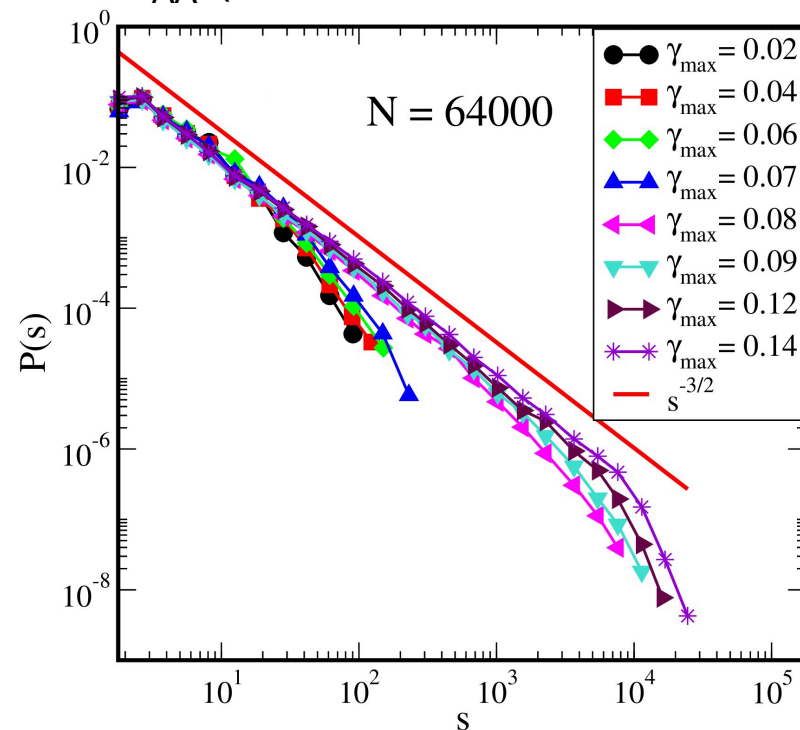
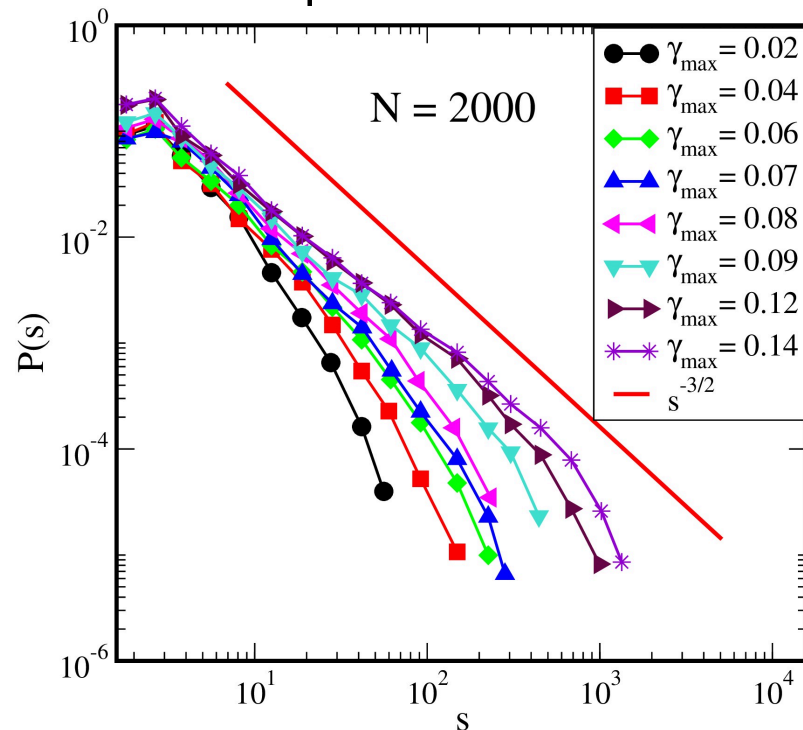
M. Ozawa and L. Berthier

# Distributions of Avalanche Sizes

Definitions:

**Active particles:** Particle is active if moved beyond  $0.1\sigma_{AA}$  cutoff in the event.

**Clusters:** Active particles with connectivity of  $1.4\sigma_{AA}$  (the first coordination shell)



- For  $N = 2000$  displaying a power law with a cutoff that grows with  $\gamma_{max}$  but **does not indicate sharp changes** at yielding.
- For  $N = 64000$  displaying a **sharp increase** in the cutoff size across the yielding transition. **Power law regime with power 3/2.**

**System size effects are important!!**

# Avalanche size vs. Strain Amplitude System Size Effects

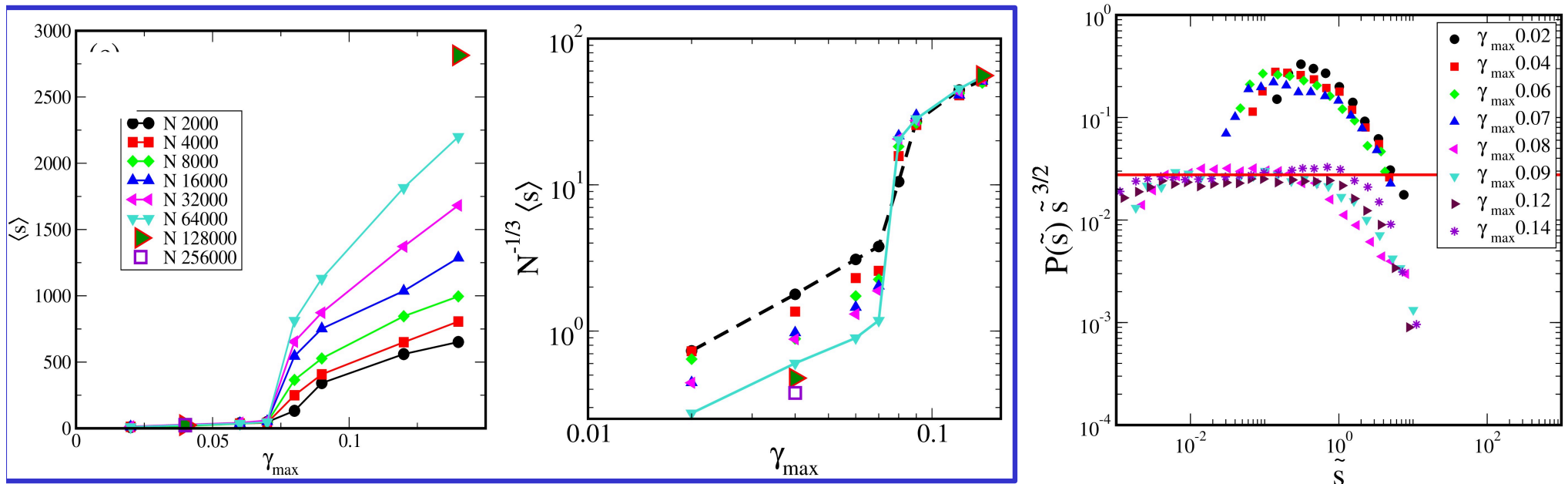
**Above the yield point** mean avalanche size shows clear size dependence  $\sim N^{1/3}$

Consistent with uniform shear results for the case of plastic flow states.

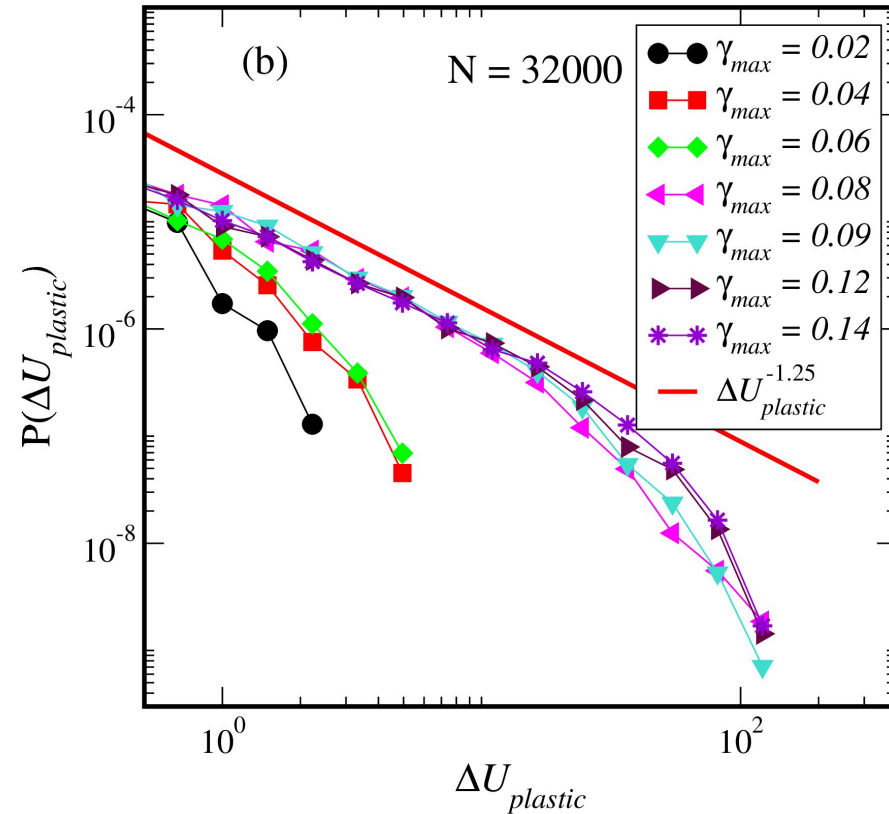
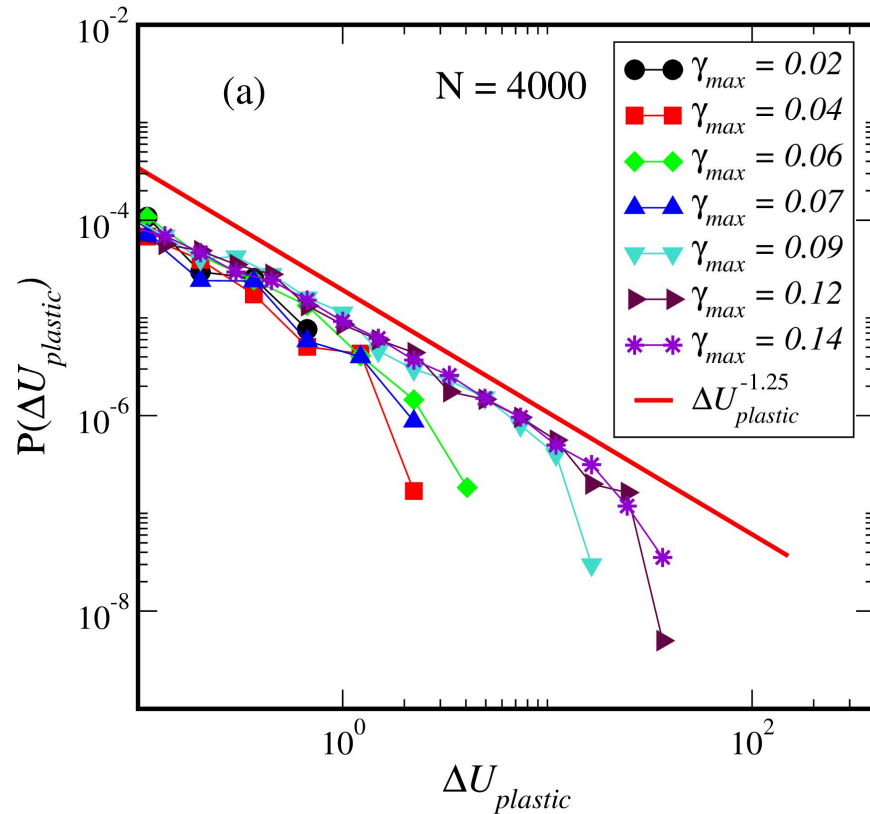
**Below the yield point**, avalanche sizes remain finite and do not show dependence on system size.

**Scaled cluster size** ( $= s/\langle s \rangle$ ) distributions for  $\gamma_{\max} < \gamma_y$  do not display a power law regime, whereas for  $\gamma_{\max} > \gamma_y$  they do.

**Qualitatively different avalanche distributions!**

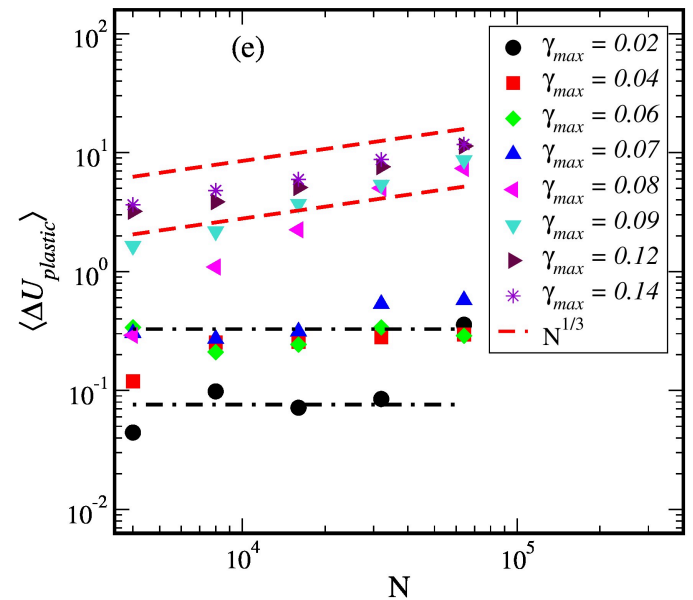
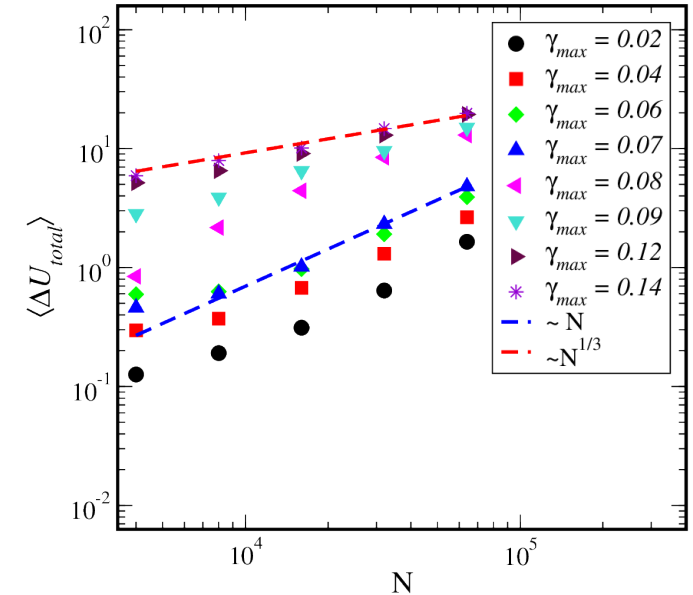
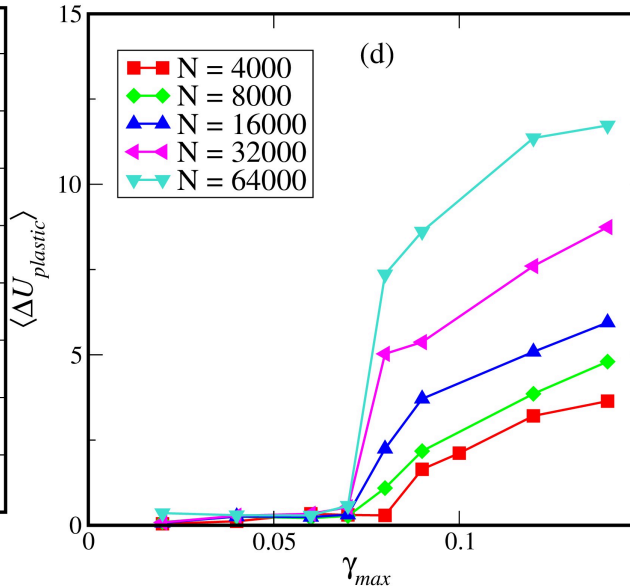
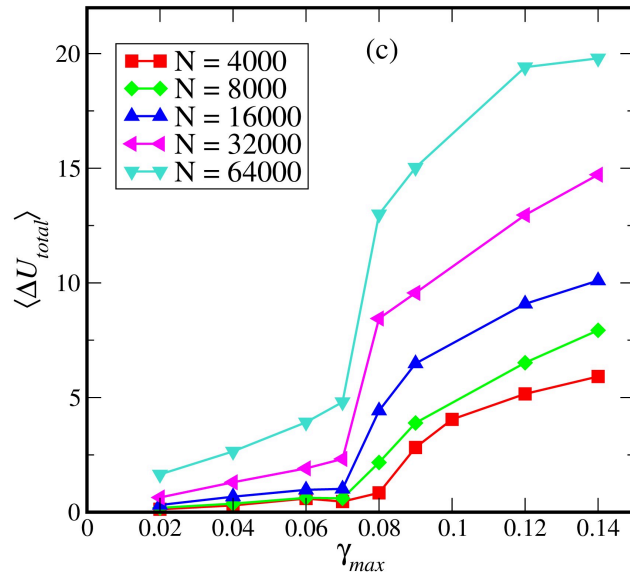


# Avalanche: Energy drops



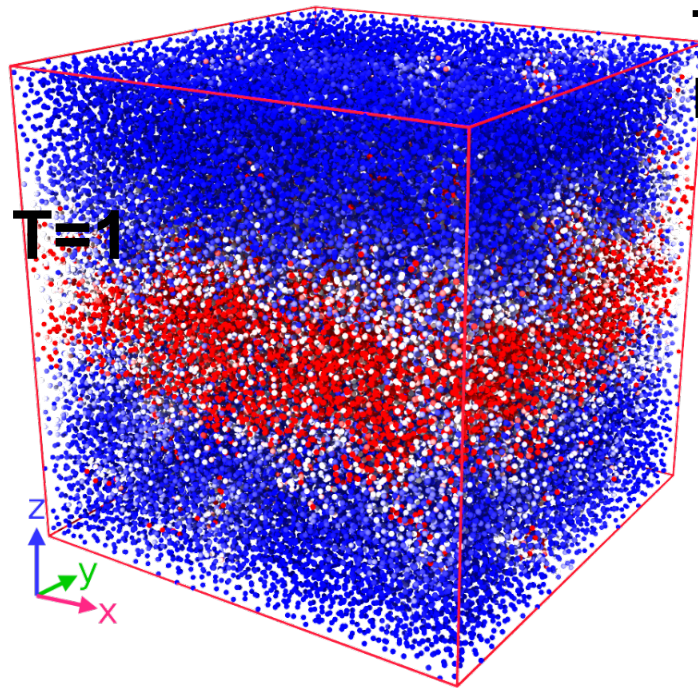
Energy drops distribution shows power law distribution with cutoff and the cutoff increases with  $\gamma_{max}$ .

# Avalanche: Energy drops

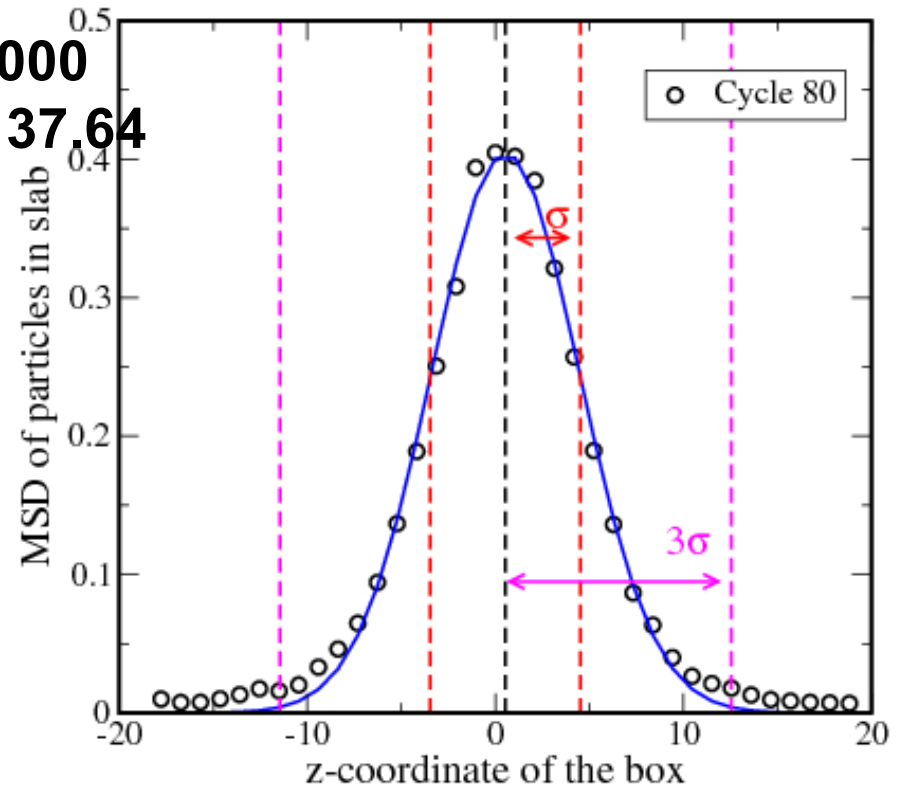


- Mean energy drops vs.  $\gamma_{max}$ , indicating a sharp change at  $\gamma_y$ .
- Mean energy drops considering only plastic regions show no system size dependence below  $\gamma_y$ .
- Mean energy drop (plastic component) vs. system size  $N$  shows no significant size dependence for  $\gamma_{max} > \gamma_y$  but a clear  $N^{1/3}$  dependence above.

# Shear Banding



$T=1$ ,  $N=64000$   
Box size = 37.64



- A configuration from the steady states for  $\gamma_{\max}=0.09$ .
- Color code: MSD values

- The slabwise MSD of particles as function of the height of the band.

Yielding is accompanied by the formation of shear bands.

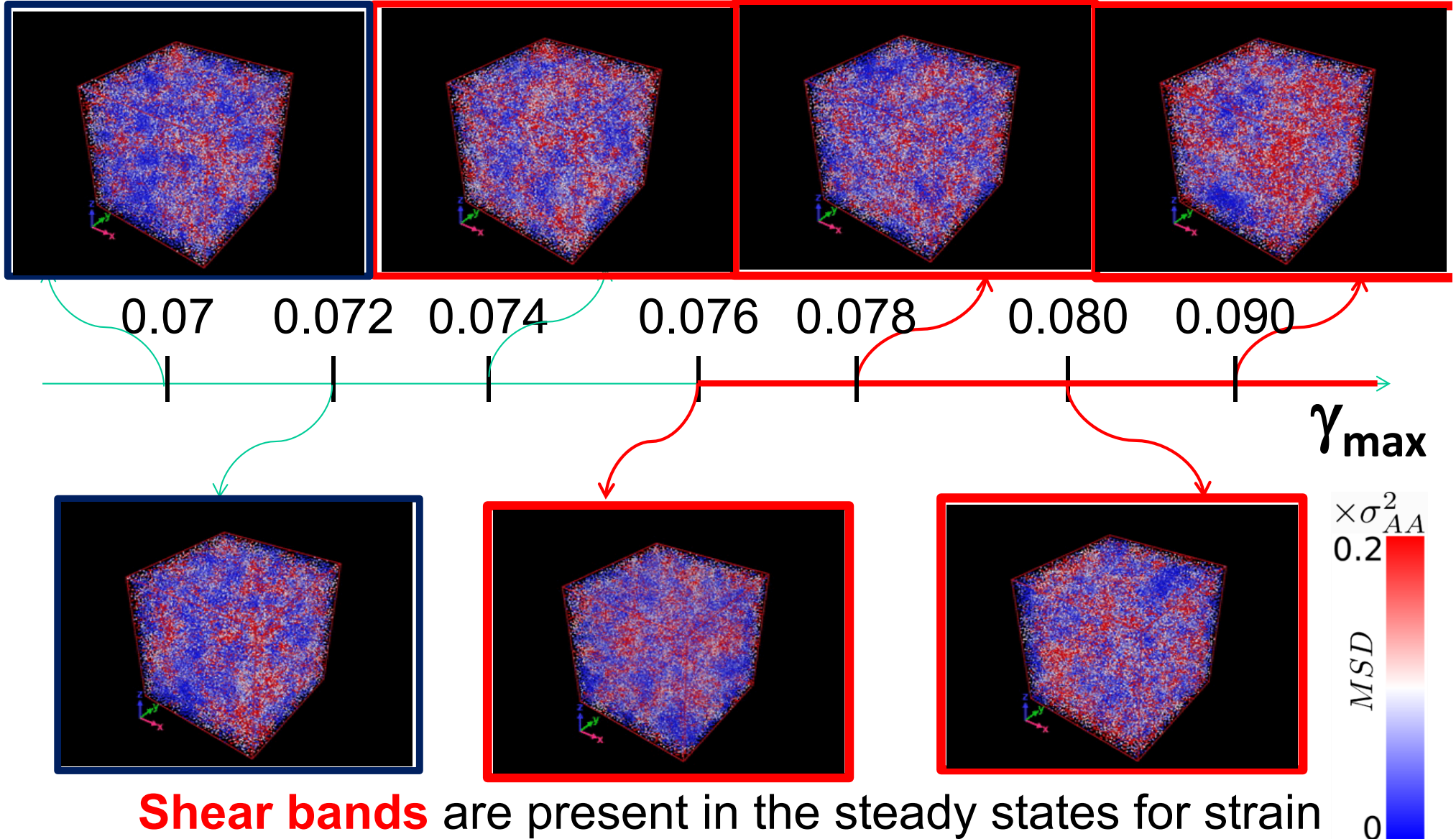
Displacements per cycle, energy etc indicate presence of shear bands  $\sim 20$  particle diameter!

Probed by different initializations (from liquid/poorly annealed glass, strain amplitude below (.07), above (.08) yield value).

# Across the yielding transition

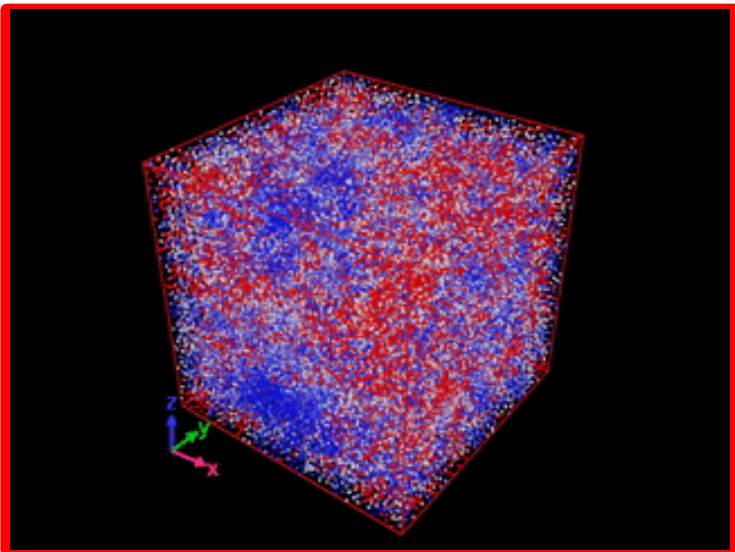
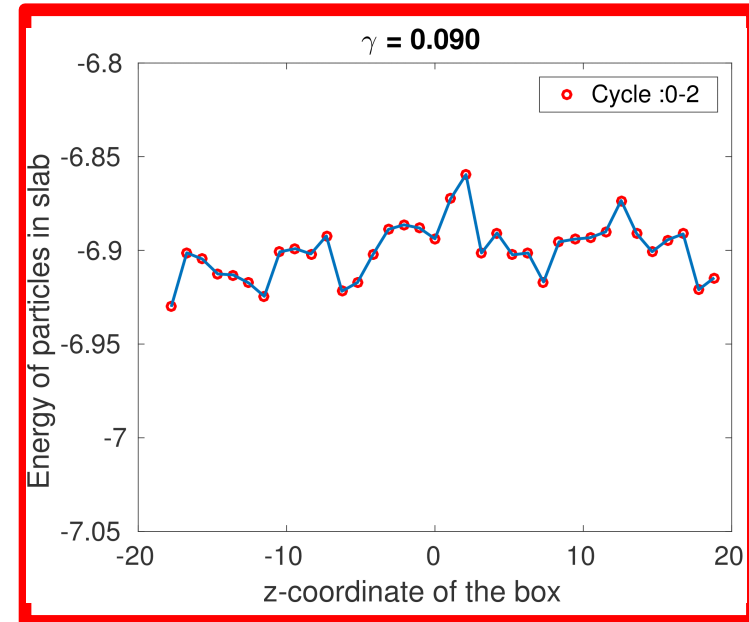
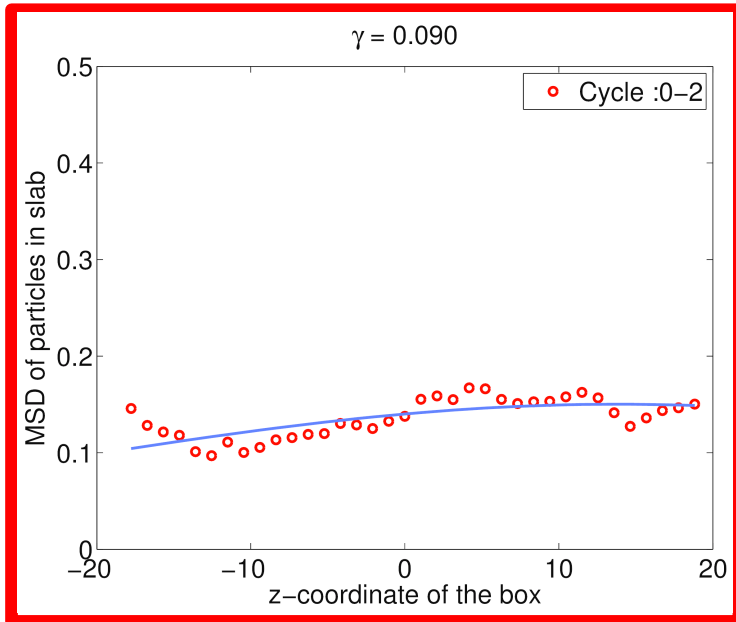
N=64000

From poorly annealed glass



**Shear bands** are present in the steady states for strain amplitudes above yielding value  $\sim 0.07$

# Evolution towards steady states

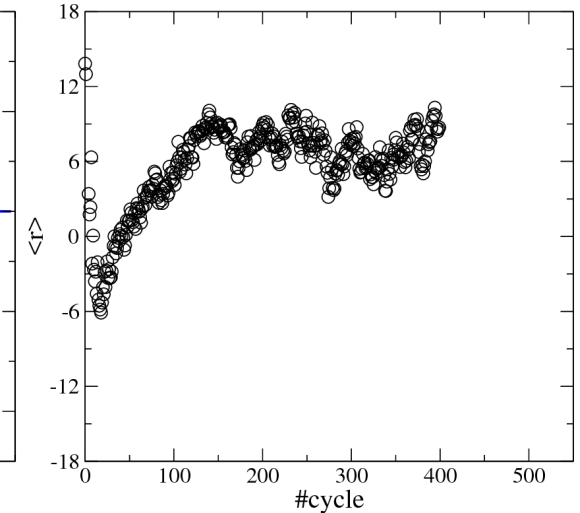
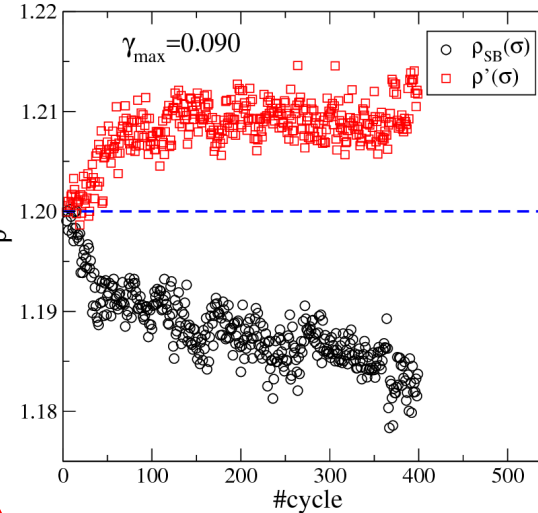
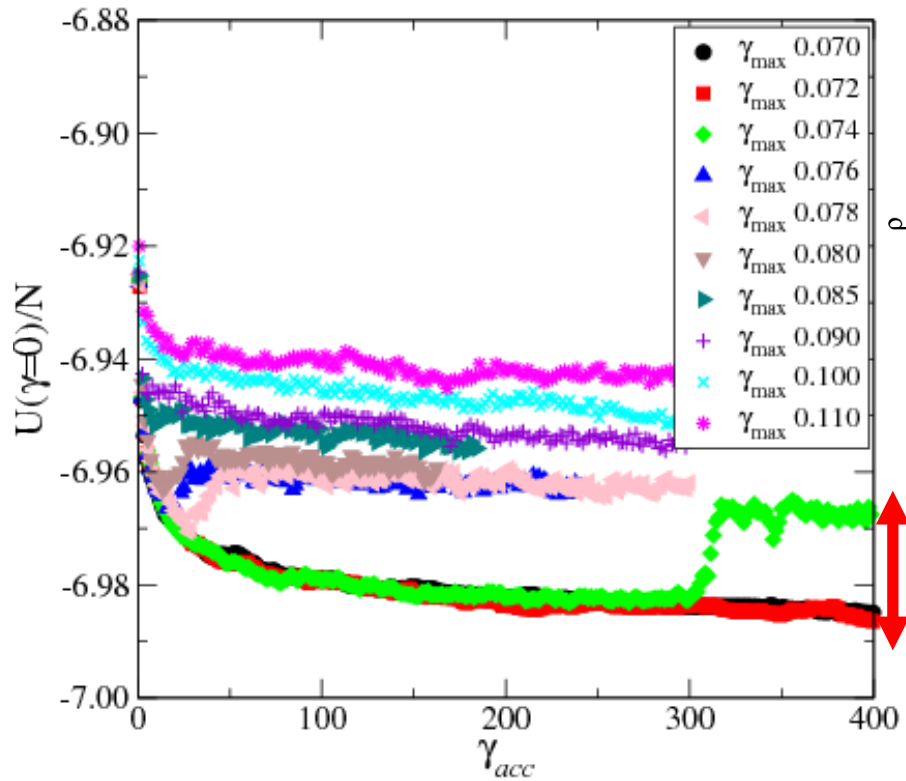


- Shear bands are present in the steady states.
- The energy and MSD profile changes in the presence of the shear band.

$$\gamma_{\max} = 0.09$$

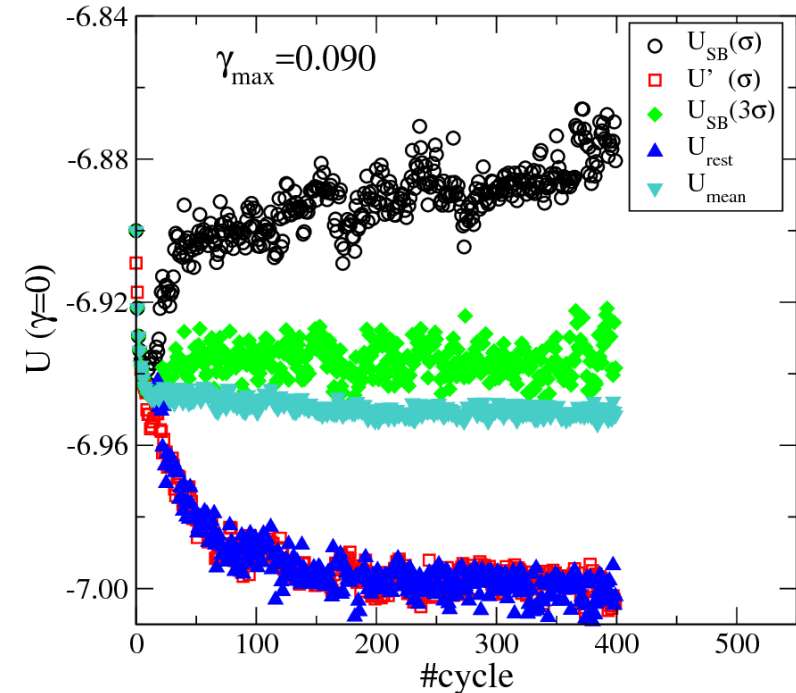


# Evolution towards steady states

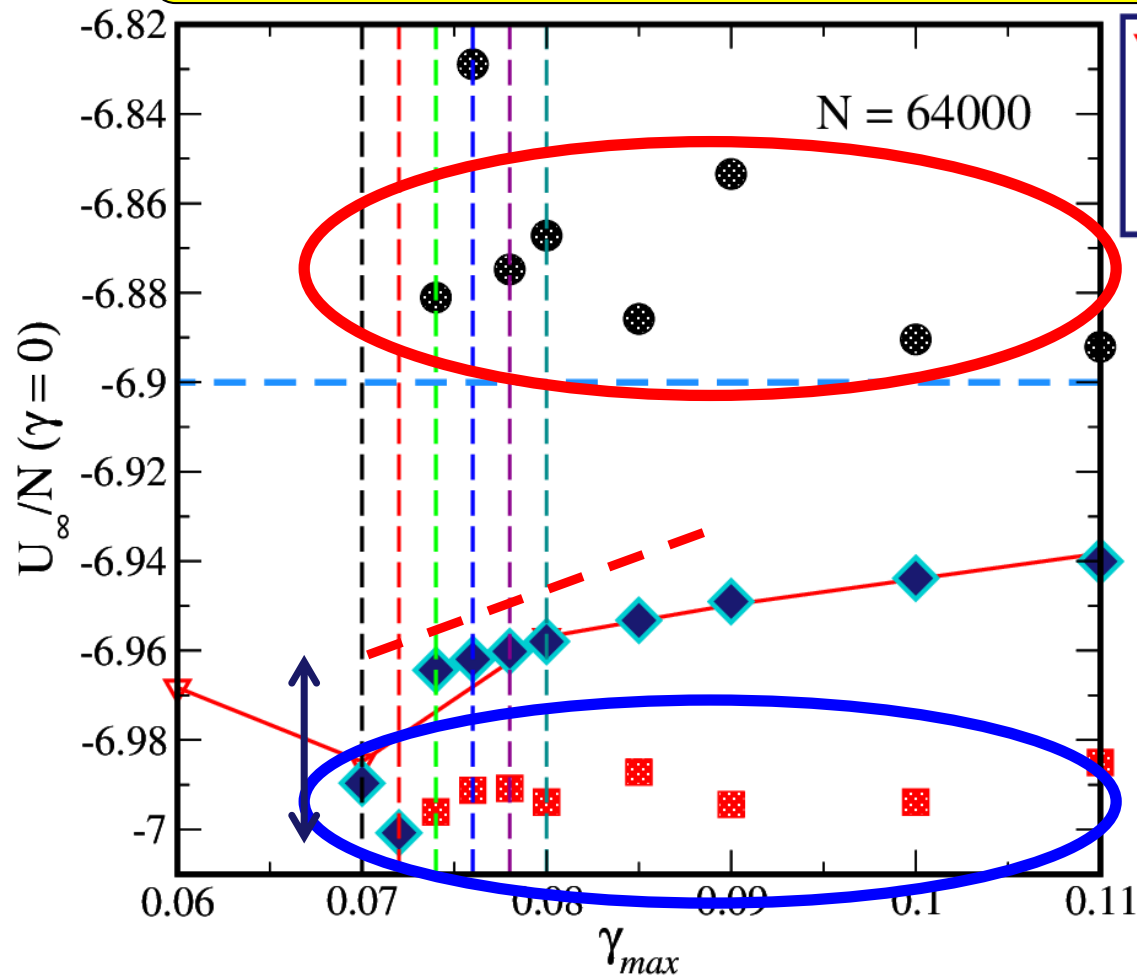


Shear band  $\gamma_{max} = 0.09$

- The energy and mobility of the particles in the shear band are higher than particles outside the shear band.
- The shear band is **fluid like**, and density of the band is less than the bulk of the system.



# Annealed regime above Yielding



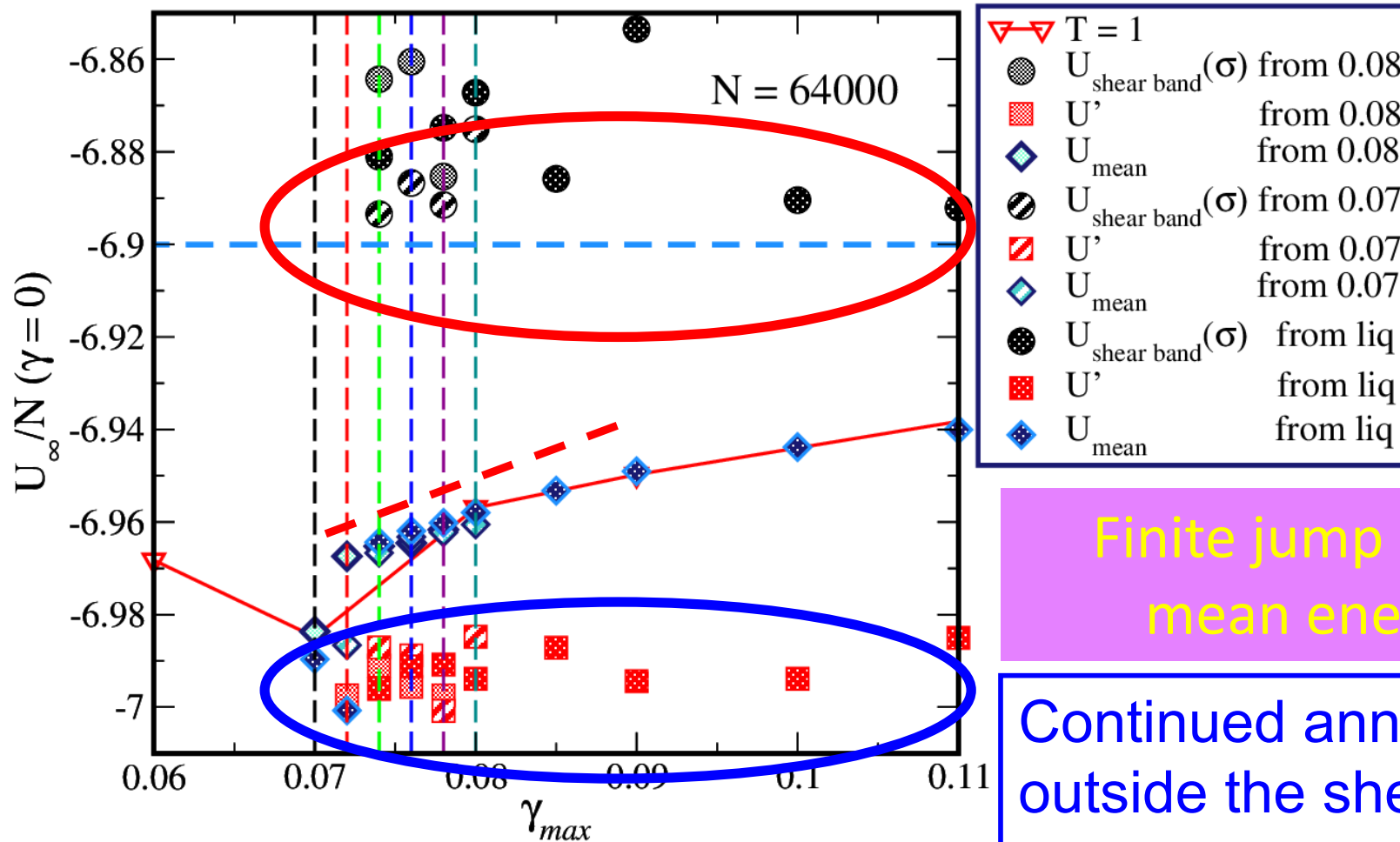
Energy in shear band  
~ highest temperature  
glasses.

Finite jump in the  
mean energy.

Continued annealing  
outside the shear band

- Particle in the shear band access energies at the “top of the landscape”
- The rest of the system continues to be annealed beyond yield point.
- Location of yielding point exhibits hysteresis/initial condition dependence.

# Annealed regime above Yielding- various cases



Energy in shear band  
~ highest temperature glasses.

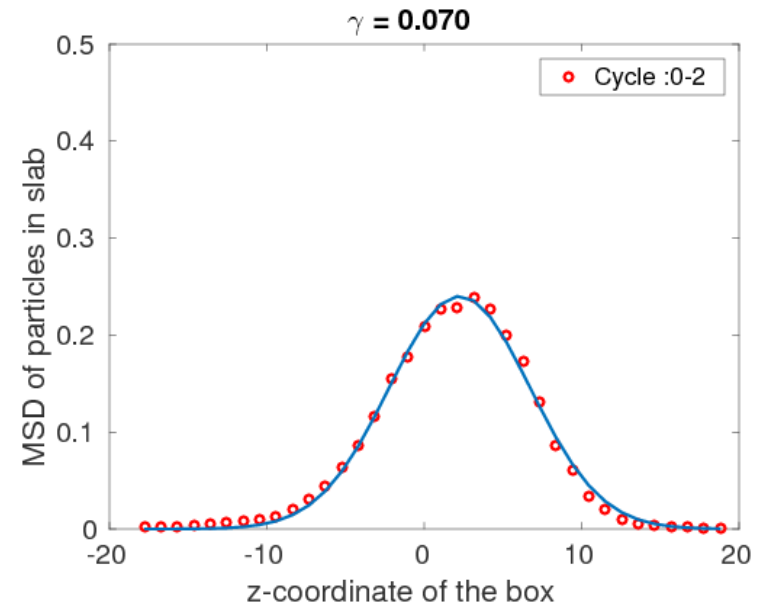
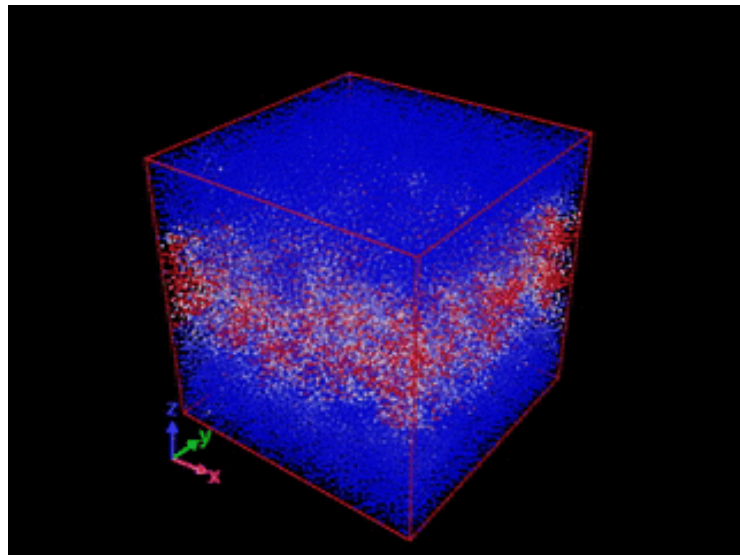
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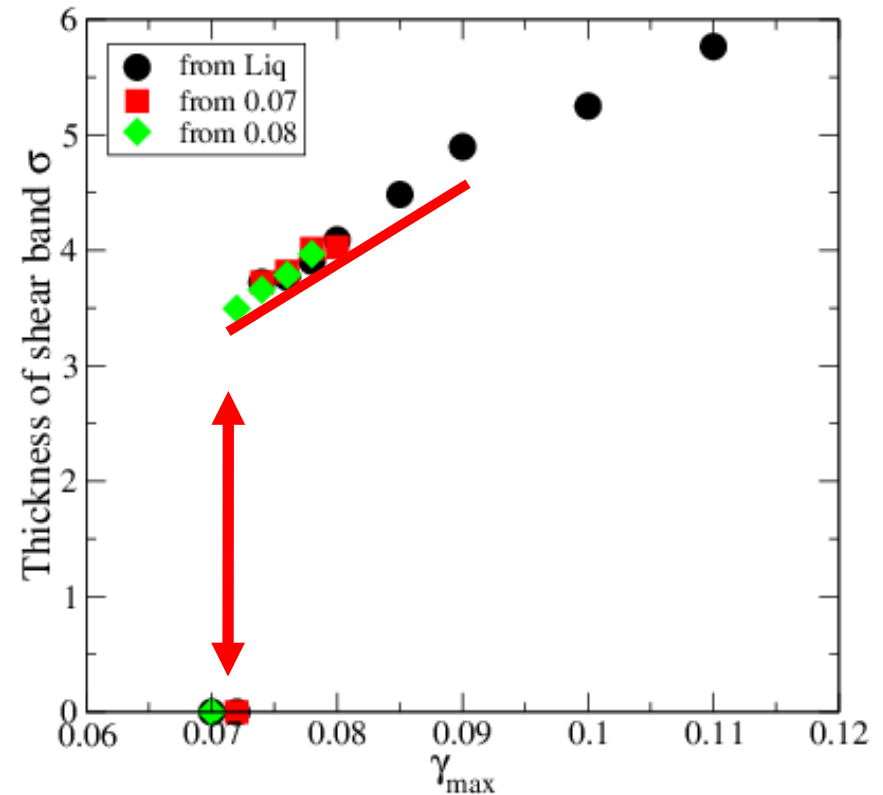
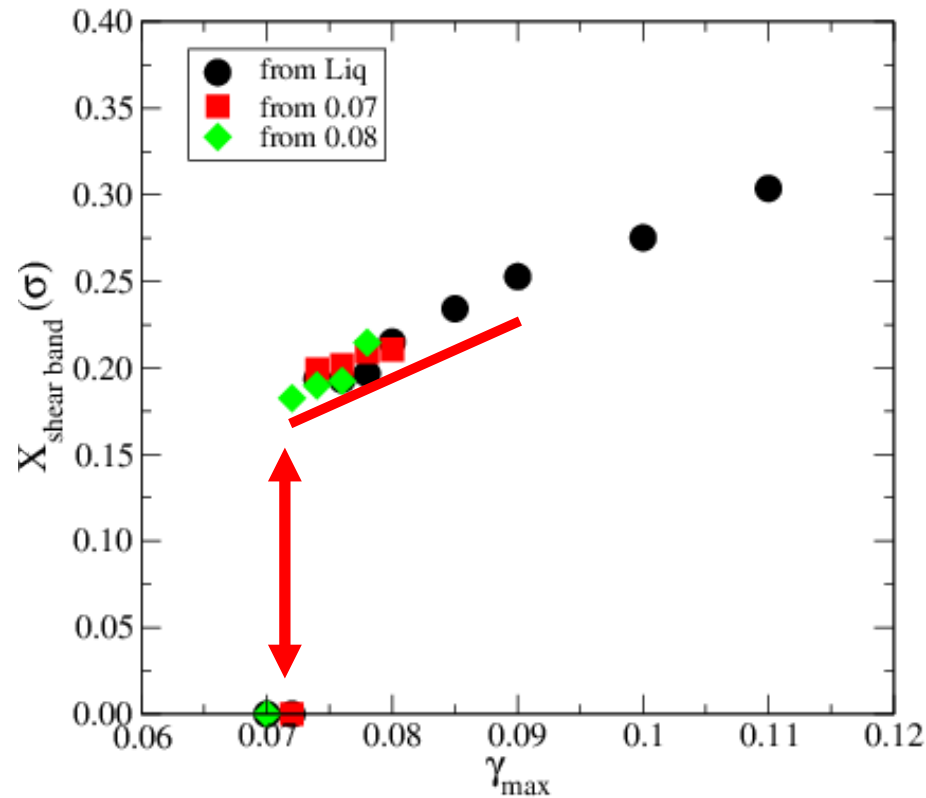
# Vanishing shear band

From  $\gamma_{\max} = 0.08$ , @  $\gamma_{\max} = 0.07$



The shear band vanishes after a large number of strain cycles at smaller amplitude.

# Characteristics of the shear band



The **fraction** of the particles, **width** of the shear band changes in **discontinuous manner** at the critical amplitude.

How does diffusivity change?

$\gamma_{\text{max}}^c$

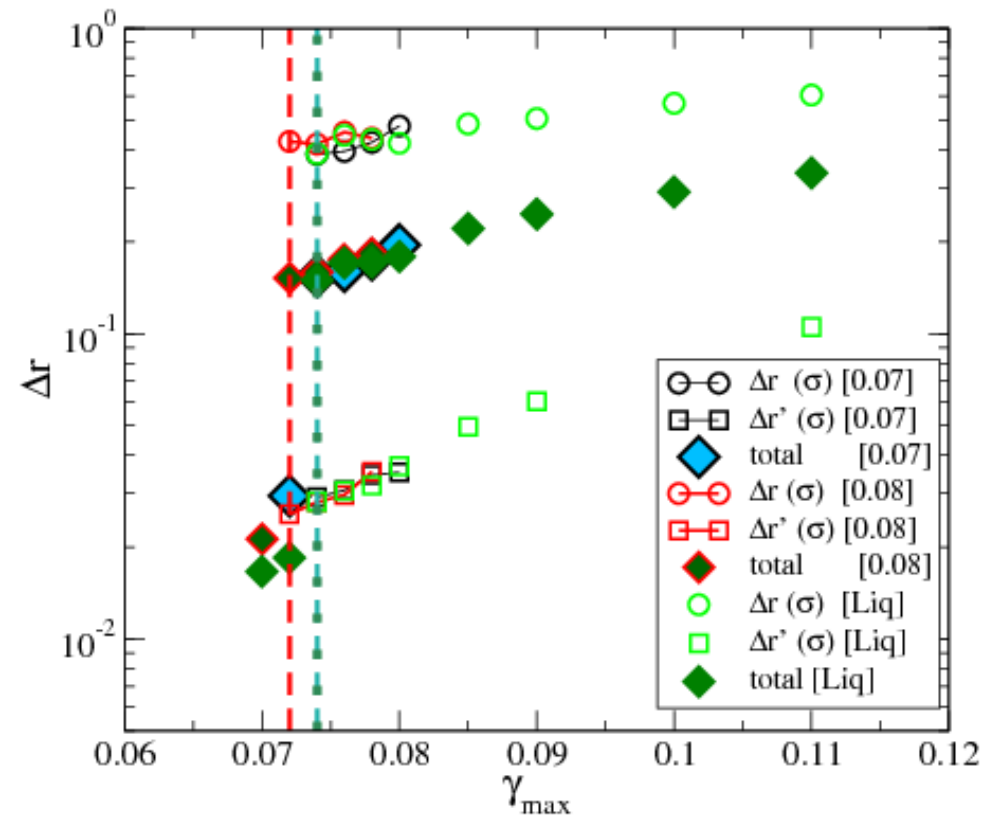
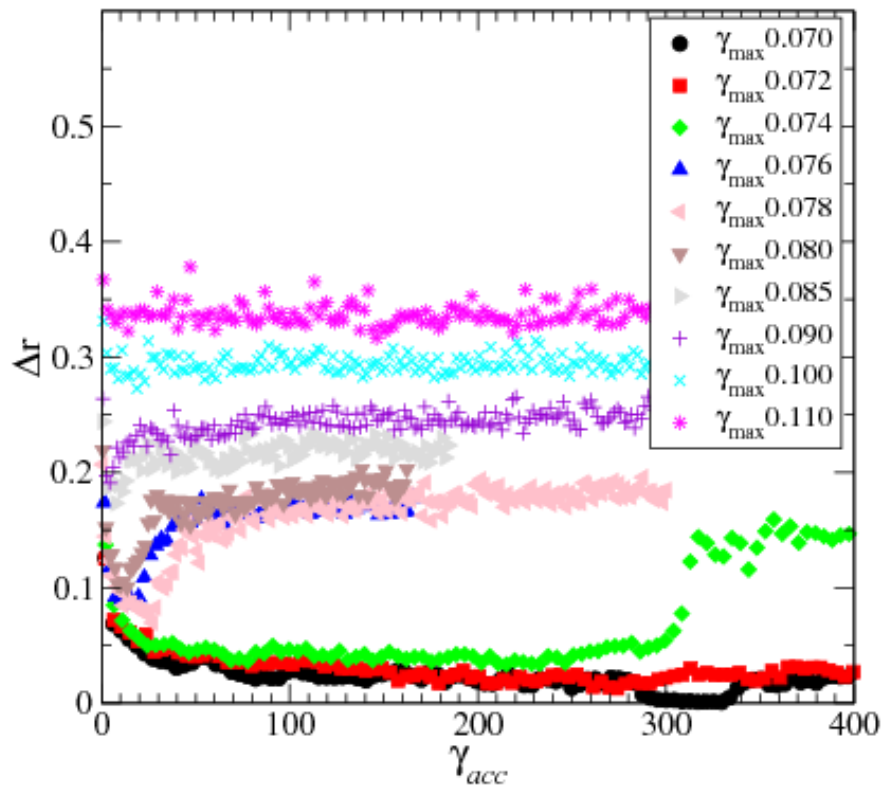
0.074

0.072

# Sharp transition in microscopic dynamics

The average particle displacement after one deformation cycle:  $j$  is the index of cycle.

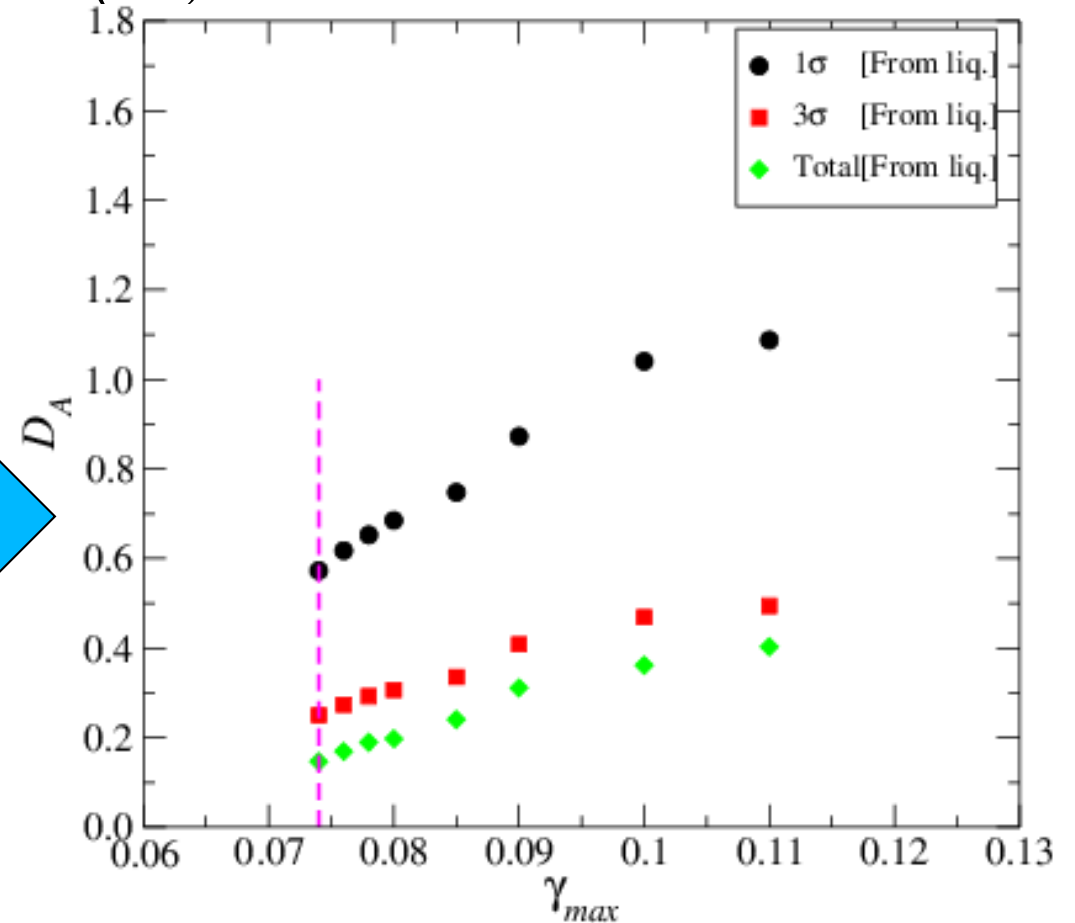
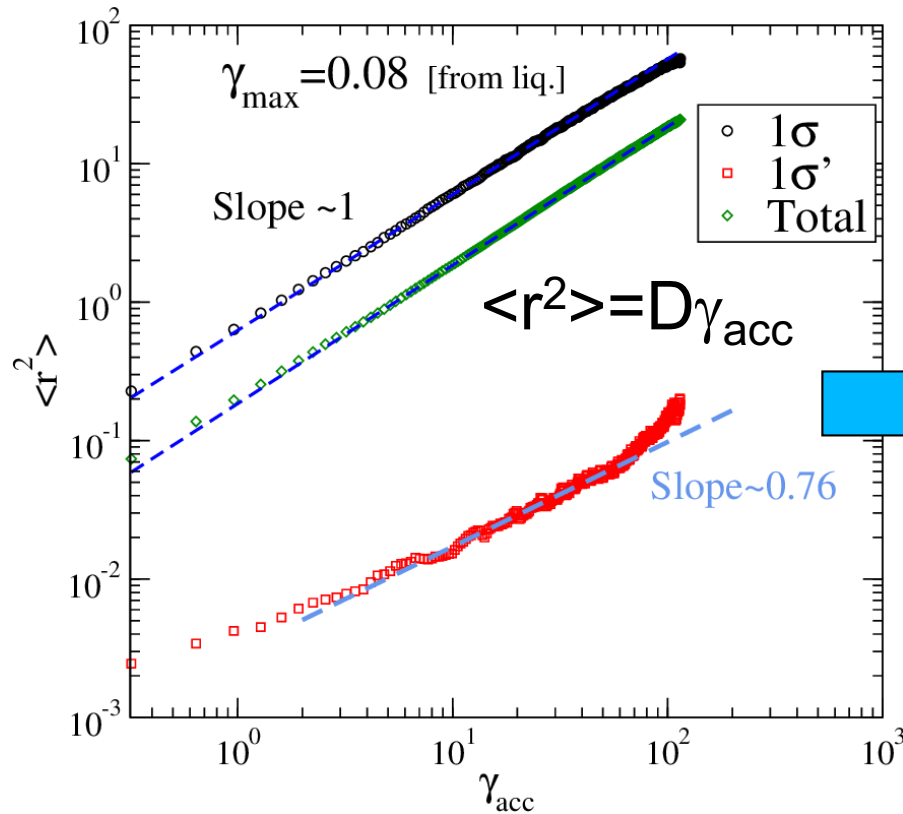
$$\Delta r = \frac{l}{N} \sum_i |\vec{r}(j+1) - \vec{r}(j)|$$



Across the yielding transition, the averaged particle displacement changes in a discontinuous manner.

# Characteristics of the shear band - Diffusivity

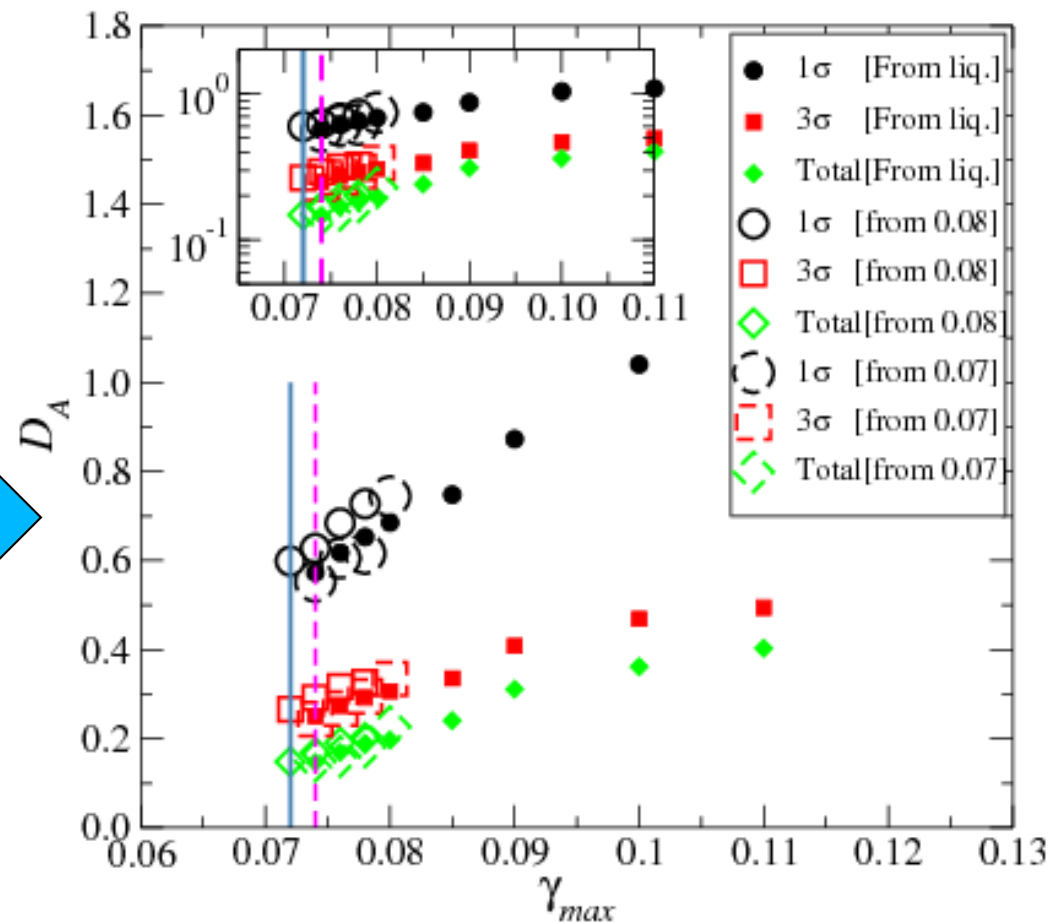
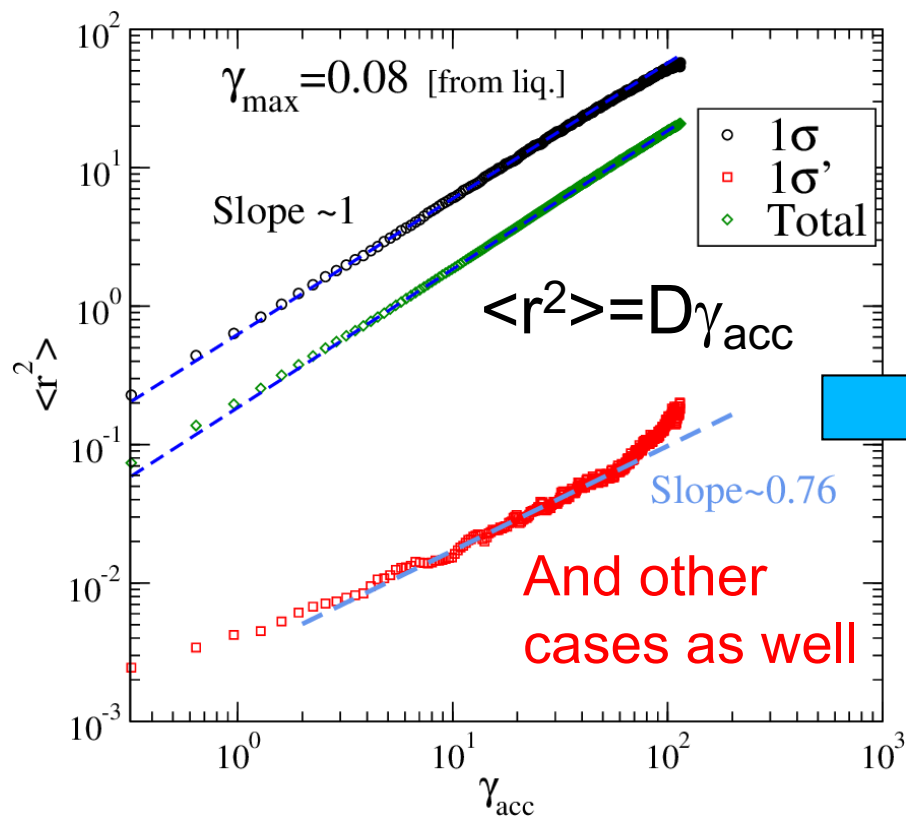
The diffusion of **total system**, **most mobile particles** ( $1\sigma$ ), the shear band ( $3\sigma$ ) and **least mobile particles** ( $3\sigma'$ ) estimated.



The **diffusion coefficient** changes in **discontinuous manner** at the yielding strain amplitude.

# Characteristics of the shear band - Diffusivity

The diffusion of **total system**, **most mobile particles** ( $1\sigma$ ), the shear band ( $3\sigma$ ) and least mobile particles ( $3\sigma'$ ) estimated.



The **diffusion coefficient** changes in **discontinuous manner** at the yielding strain amplitude.

$\gamma^c_{max}$

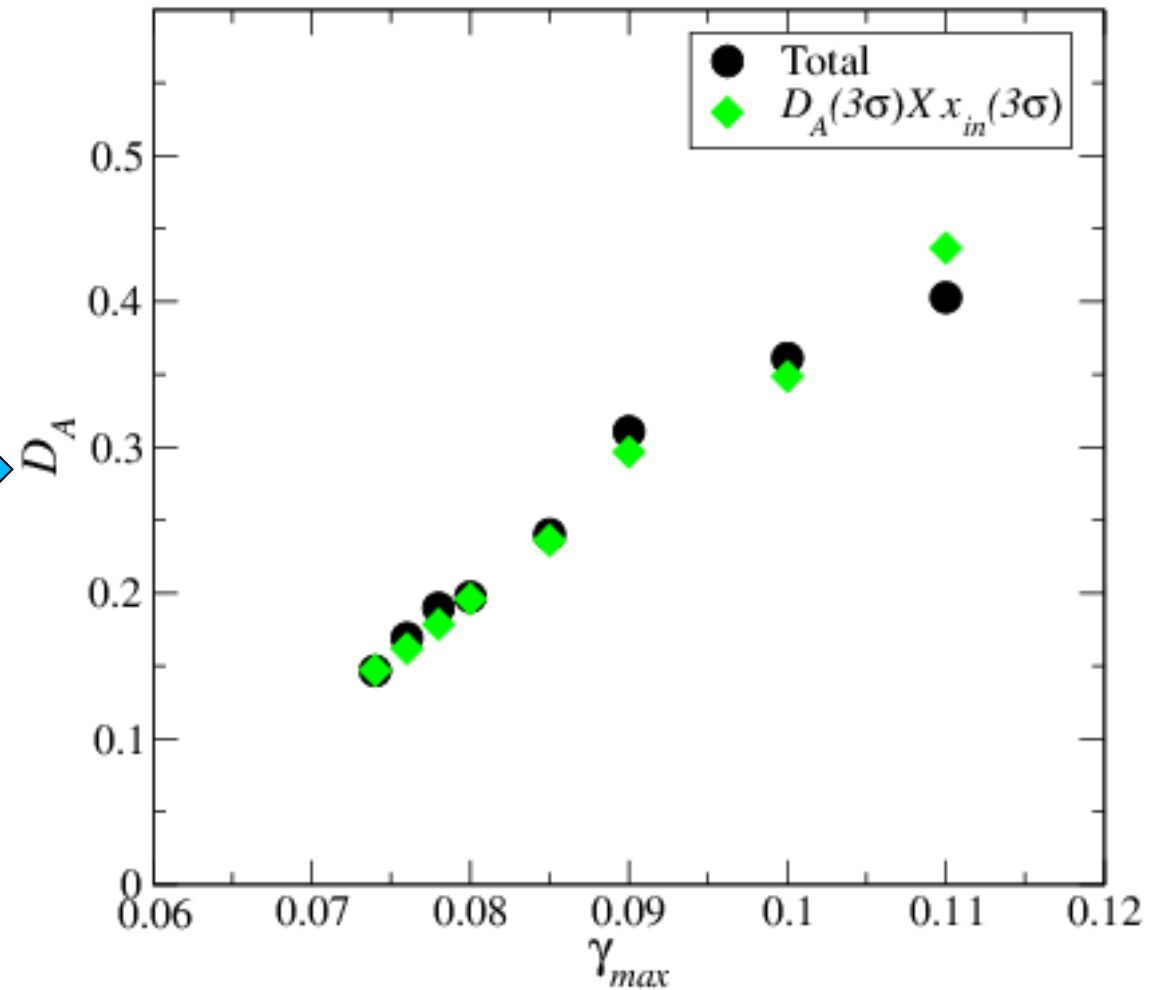
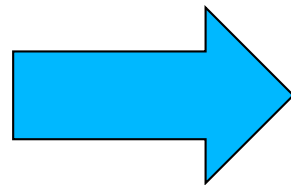
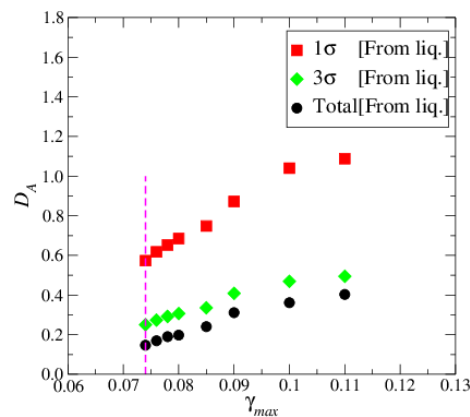
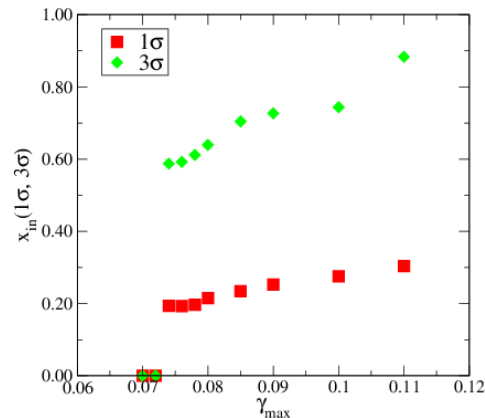
0.074

0.072



# Characteristics of the shear band - Diffusivity

Above the yielding transition, the finite diffusion is an outcome of the shear band.



The **diffusion coefficient** of the mobile particles changes in **discontinuous manner** at the critical amplitude.

# Entropic characterization of the yielding

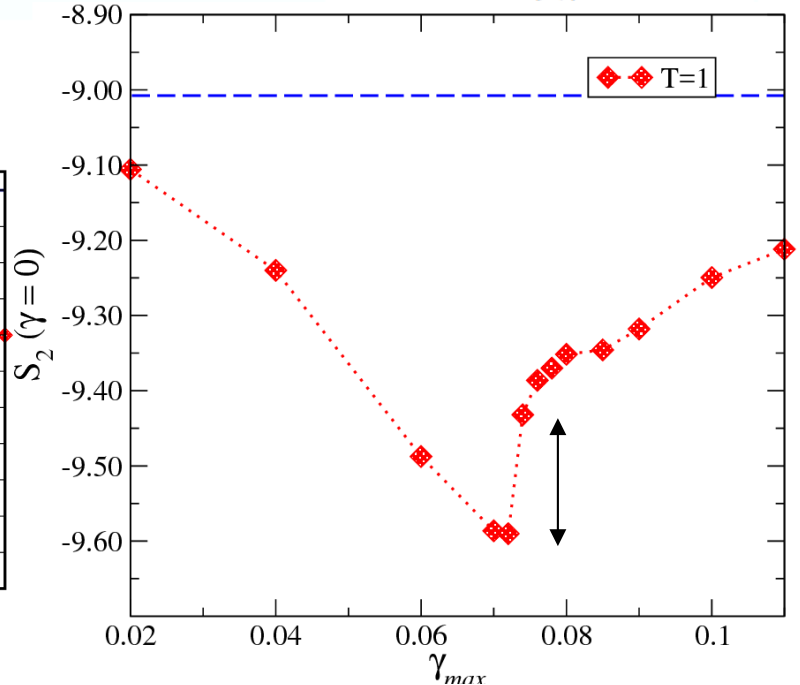
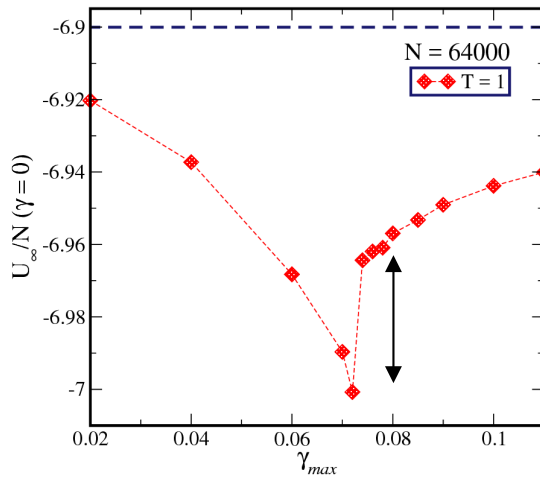
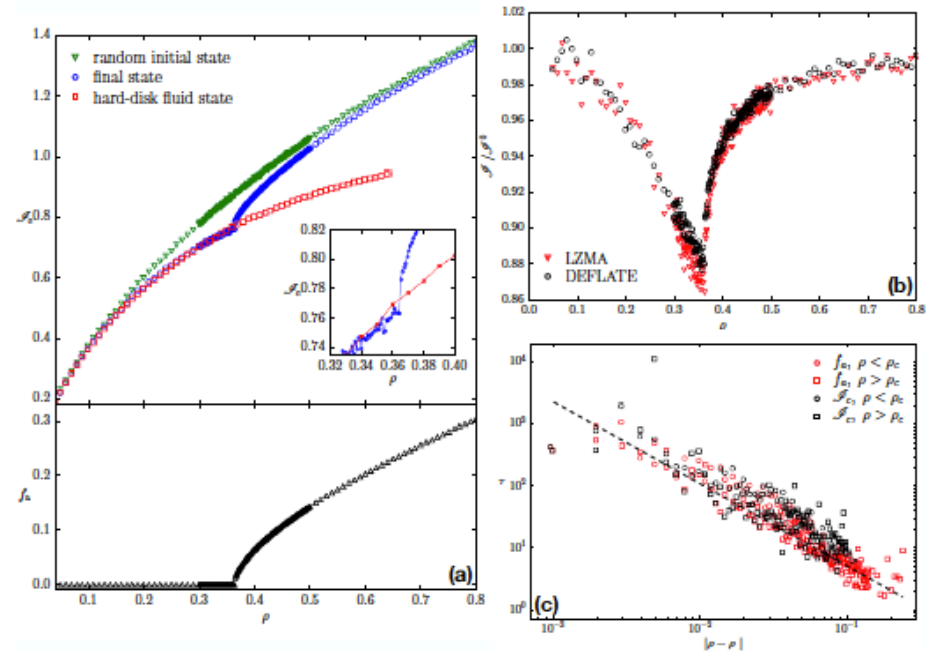
Recent interest in information measures  
In driven systems (CID Martiniani et al 2017)

How about conventional structure based entropy? Pair excess entropy ( $S_2$ ) for a binary system:

$$\frac{S_2}{k_B} = -2\pi\rho \sum_{\alpha,\beta} x_\alpha x_\beta \int_0^\infty \{g_{\alpha\beta}(r) \ln g_{\alpha\beta}(r) - [g_{\alpha\beta}(r) - 1]\} r^2 dr,$$

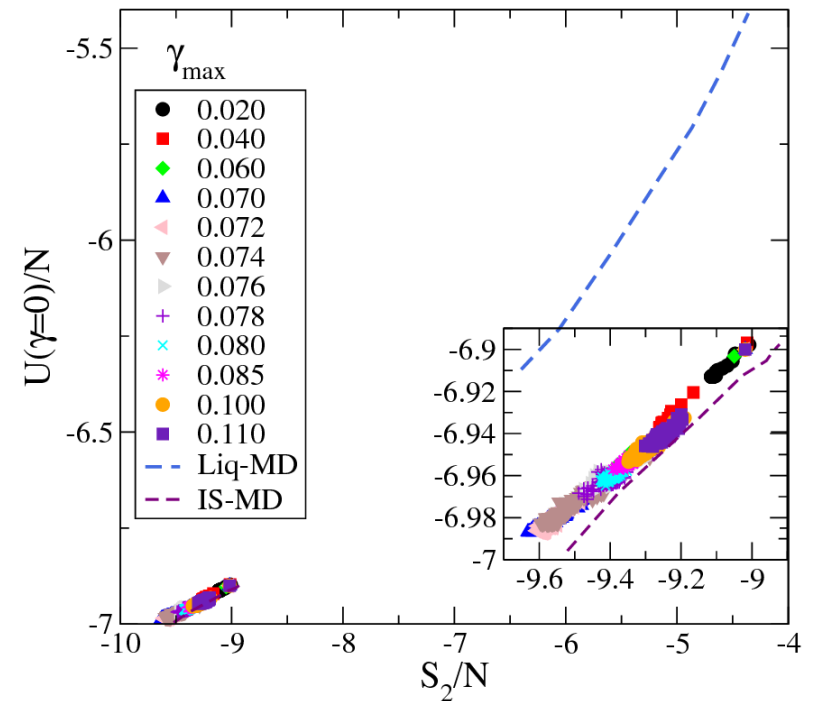
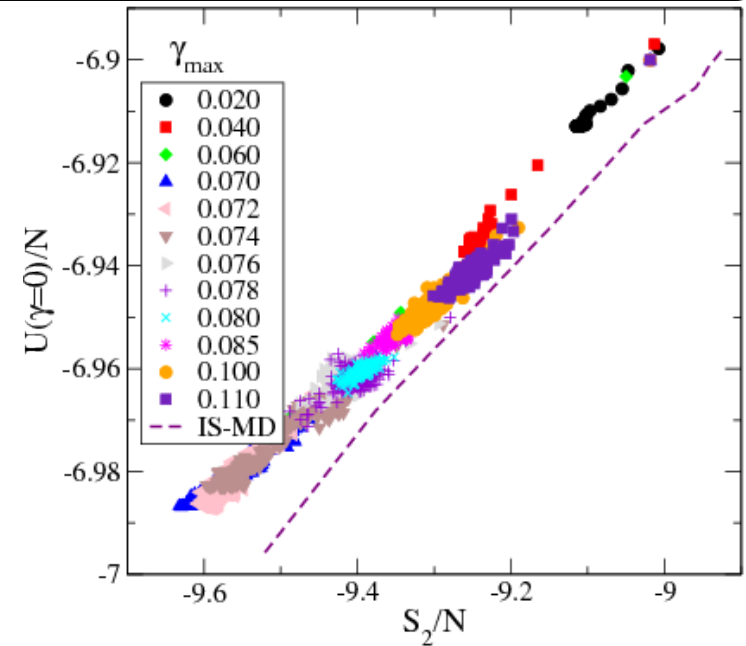
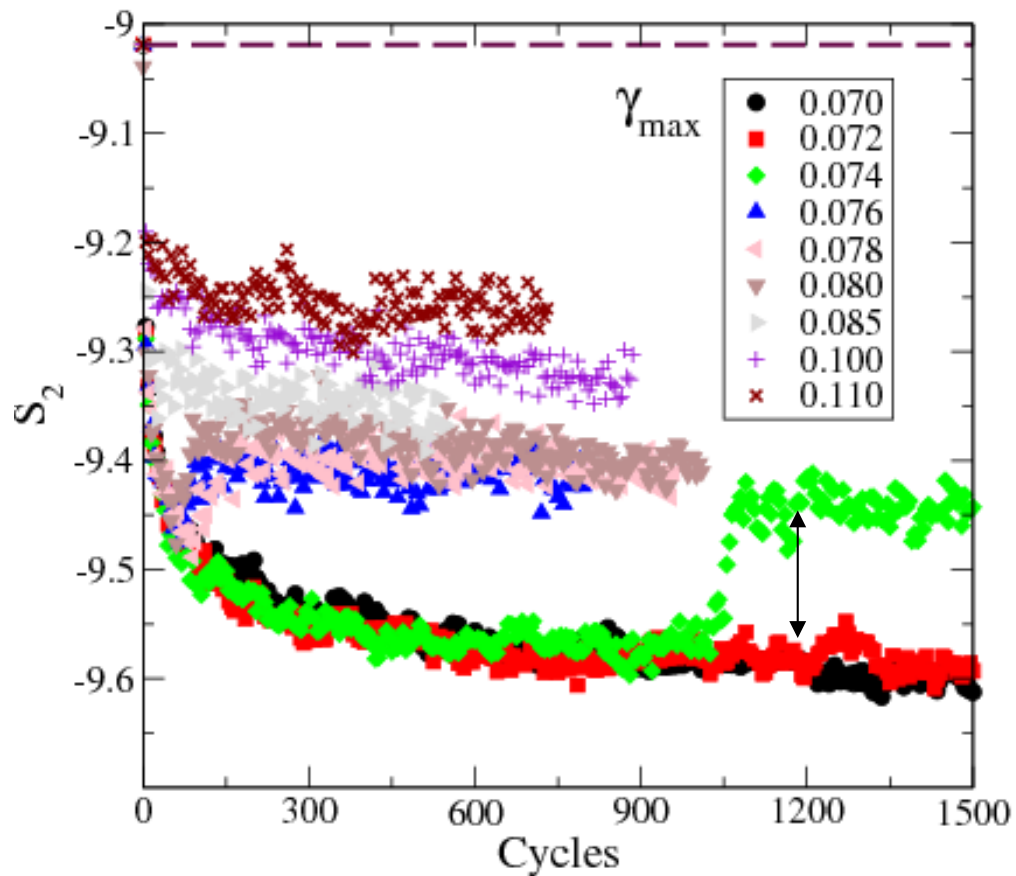
$g_{\alpha\beta}(r)$  is the pair correlation function for various components

The  $S_2$  and total energy jumps across the yielding amplitude.



# Entropic characterization of the yielding

- $S_2$  tracks the energy of the inherent structures.
- Close to relation found in T dependence for the liquid.



# Summary

A non-equilibrium transition from a localized to a diffusive state (in configuration space) that resembles the glass to liquid transition and other non-ergodic to ergodic transitions.

Steady state energies in the diffusive state do not depend on initial conditions, whereas in the localized state they do.

Slow down of dynamics near the transition.

Critical strain a good way to characterize yield. Cyclic shear offers useful approach to studying the yielding transition.

The yielding transition appears to be a sharp, discontinuous, transition associated with the divergence of sizes of avalanches.

Behavior below yield at variance with some theoretical expectations. No critical-like signatures of approach to yielding.

The nature of the instability that leads to yielding to be fully worked out but the behavior is first order/spinodal-like.

Despite similarities, distinct differences from shear colloidal suspensions.

Observation of shear banding above the yielding point.