# Micromechanical Aspects of Natural Formation Process of Geological Grains

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## Introduction

Geomaterials are natural materials formed by long-time geological process.

Their physical and mechanical properties differ in different places and change in time as well.



A big challenge in geomechanics is to develop a **simulation tool** for quantitatively evaluating such properties.

### **Erosion and Sedimentation**

Geological process simulation by depth-integrated particle method considering grain segregation (*Matsushima*, JGS annual meeting, 2014,2015)

The erosion/sedimentation model is based on the experimental observation, but evolution of GSD is not considered.↑



Formation of alluvial fan Formation of erosion valley



## Impact cratering



Tycho Crater (D=85km)



Ohtake et al.: Nature, 461,10,2009



Formation of central peak by SPH (*unpublished*) CE: Drucker-Prager EP model

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## Importance of grain scale processes

On solid planetary surfaces, geomaterials are composed of a lot of solid geological particles of various sizes and shapes.

Such particles were formed and evolved either by crushing, agglomeration or solidification process under a certain natural environment.

These processes greatly affect the bulk mechanical properties of the layers



grain segregation in geological layers

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"Micromechanics of compression, shear and solidification of geo-materials under high pressure"

Takashi Matsushima (PI) Takahiro Hatano (University of Tokyo) Keiko Watanabe (University of Ritsumeikan) Masuhiro Beppu (National Defense Academy) Hiroko Kitajima (Texas A&M University)





Various experiments with common geo-materials

## Materials used



Gifu sand mountain sand 90.2% SiO<sub>2</sub>  $D_{mean}$ =2.38mm angular



Kashima sand river sand 96.3% SiO<sub>2</sub>  $D_{mean}$ =2.08mm round

## Experimental program

	today's talk
[1] Single grain crushing test	Sato
[2] One-dimensional compression (ODC) test	Sato
[3] Rotary shear (RS) test	Kitajima, Sato
[4] High-speed projectile impact test	Watanabe
[5] Explosion test	Beppu

## [1] Single grain crushing test

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## [1] Single grain crushing test











Measure single grain crushing stress

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## [2] One-dimensional compression test

## [2] One-dimensional compression test

#### Sato et al. KKHTCNN, 2015



## [2] One-dimensional compression test



#### After 400(MPa) loading

## Void ratio – Pressure relation



## log (e) – log (p) relation



\* σ<sub>Y</sub> ratio (15MPa : 4.5MPa) ~ σ<sub>f</sub> ratio (50MPa : 18MPa)
\* The difference of the value itself must be due to heterogeneous stress transmission (force chain).
\*Both have the similar power in plastic compression regime

## log (e) – log (p) relation



Various loading level  $\rightarrow$  Evolution of grain size distribution

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## Evolution of grain size distribution



## Steady peaks appear during crushing process

## Grain size distribution (cumulative number)



Object	Reference	Fractal Dimension D
Projectile fragmentation of gabbro with lead	Lange et al. [1984]	1.44
Projectile fragmentation of gabbro with steel	Lange et al. [1984]	1.71
Meteorites (Prairie Network)	McCrosky [1968]	1.86
Artificially crushed quartz	Hartmann [1969]	1.89
Plane of weakness model	this paper	1.97
Disaggregated gneiss	Hartmann [1969]	2.13
Disaggregated granite	Hartmann [1969]	2.22
FLAT TOP I (chemical explosion, 0.2 kt)	Schoutens [1979]	2.42
Asteroids (theory)	Hellyer [1971]	2.48
PILEDRIVER (nuclear explosion, 61 kt)	Schoutens [1979]	2.50
Broken coal	Bennett [1936]	2.50
Interstellar grains	Mathis [1979]	2.50
Asteroids (theory)	Dohnanyi [1969]	2.51
Projectile fragmentation of basalt	Fujiwara [1977]	2.56
Sandy clays	Hartmann [1969]	2.61
Terrace sands and gravels	Hartmann [1969]	2.82
Pillar of strength model	Allègre et al. [1982]	2.84
Glacial till	Hartmann [1969]	2.88
Stony meteorites	Hawkins [1960]	3.00
Asteroids	Donnison and Sugden [1984]	3.05
Ash and pumice	Hartmann [1969]	3.54

#### TABLE 1. Fractal Dimensions for a Variety of Fragmented Objects

#### Fractal GSD (Turcotte 1986)

 $D_f = 1.4 \sim 3.5$ 

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## Apollonian sphere packing

The observed power D is close to that in Apollonian sphere packing  $(D_f=-2.47)$ (*Borkovec, M., De Paris, W., Peikert, R., Fractals, Vol. 2,No.4, 521–526, 1994.*)



Possible comminution mechanism under confinement  $\rightarrow$  The Largest particles fitting in the pore survives  $\rightarrow$  Second and third peaks appear

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## Grain size distribution (cumulative number)



## [3] Rotary shear test

## [3] Rotary shear test



Sato et al. KKHTCNN, 2015

The device can apply wide range of shear rate 0.75(rpm):( $\dot{\gamma}$ =0.21(1/s)) ~ 750(rpm): ( $\dot{\gamma}$ =210(1/s))

## Shear stress – shear strain relation



The ratio of peak shear stress is not consistent with the ratio of single grain crushing stress  $\rightarrow$ Effect of friction (shear without crushing) is included

## Void ratio evolution



Void ratio reach the residual value (0.1~0.2) after long shear (shear strain~500) →Constant fabric change provides constant opportunity of crushing (Force chain must play an important role)

## Grain size distribution (cumulative volume)



#### The second and third peaks were observed.

## Grain size distribution (cumulative number)



The power is similar to that in Apollonian sphere packing

# [4] GSD evolution model

## **GSD** evolution model

(1) Mono-disperse granular system (Radius=R)

$$e_0 = \frac{V_{void}}{V_{solid}}$$

(2) Fill the small grains (Radius=r) into the void with the same void ratio

$$e_0 = \frac{V_{void} - V_{solid}^S}{V_{solid}^S}$$

(3) Number ratio of small grains to large grains

$$\frac{N_{S}}{N_{L}} = \frac{V_{Solid}^{S}}{V_{Solid}^{L}} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^{3} = \frac{e_{0}}{1+e_{0}} \alpha^{-3} \qquad \qquad \alpha = \frac{r}{R}$$
size ratio

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## **GSD** evolution model

$$\frac{N_S}{N_L} = \frac{V_{Solid}^S}{V_{Solid}^L} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^3 = \frac{e_0}{1+e_0} \alpha^{-3}$$

$$\log N_s - \log N_L = \log \left(\frac{e_0}{e_0 + 1}\right) - 3(\log r - \log R)$$

(4) Fractal dimension

$$D_f \equiv \frac{\log N_s - \log N_L}{\log r - \log R} = \frac{1}{\log \alpha} \log \left(\frac{e_0}{e_0 + 1}\right) - 3$$



on the second and the third peaks

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## **GSD** evolution model

(5) Void ratio after adding the small grains

$$e_{1} = \frac{e_{0}}{\frac{e_{0}+1}{e_{0}}+1} \qquad \qquad 1 + \frac{1}{e_{k}} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{e_{0}}\right)^{k+1}$$
  
Recursive equation

(6) Breakage stress for the smallest grain determines the 1D compression stress (McDowell and Bolton 2008)

$$\sigma_0 = C \cdot r_{\min}^{-3/m}$$

*m*: Weibull modulus 5<*m*<10 in various materials

## MODELLING

# (7) Final relation between e and p $r_k = \alpha^k R \qquad \Rightarrow k = \frac{\log \frac{r_i}{R}}{\log \alpha}$ $\sigma_Y = C \cdot \left(\frac{r_k}{R}\right)^{-3/m} \implies -\frac{3}{m} \log\left(\frac{r_k}{R}\right) = \log C - \log \sigma_Y$ $\therefore \frac{\log(1+\frac{1}{e_k})}{\log(1+\frac{1}{e_0})} = k+1 = \frac{\log\frac{r_k}{R}}{\log\alpha} + 1 = \frac{-\frac{m}{3}(\log C - \log\sigma_Y)}{\log\alpha} + 1$

## Validation



The model can provide more or less linear relation in log(e)-log(p) curve. The power becomes consistent with the ODC test when m=3 (with  $\alpha=0.1$ )

## [5] Some observation in planetary science



The power  $D_f=-2.0 \sim -2.8$  close to ODC test

## Lunar soil GSD (Lunar Sourcebook)



Higher fractal dimension due to repeated comminution? or due to unconfined comminution?

## Conclusions

(1) Single grain crushing test
 (2) One dimensional compression test
 (3) Rotary shear test
 were performed with the common geomaterials.

We observe

- \* Linear log(e)-log(p) curve in plastic compression
- \* Steady peaks and fractal nature in grain size distribution

The proposed model reproduce the above observation.