

Submerged Granular Collapse: Different Cohesion Strength and Initial Packing Densities

Rui Zhu^{1,2}, Zhiguo He¹, Eckart Meiburg²

¹ Zhejiang University, China

² University of California at Santa Barbara, USA

April 2025

1 Introduction

2 Computational model

3 Results

4 Conclusions



Granular collapse means a **granular column** is **suddenly** put into motion.

It is a kind of **unsteady granular flow**.

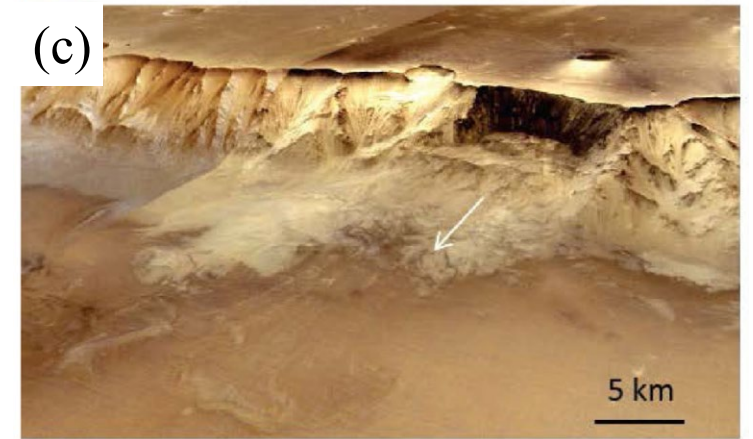


Pyroclastic flows



Landslides

(Delannay et al. 2017)



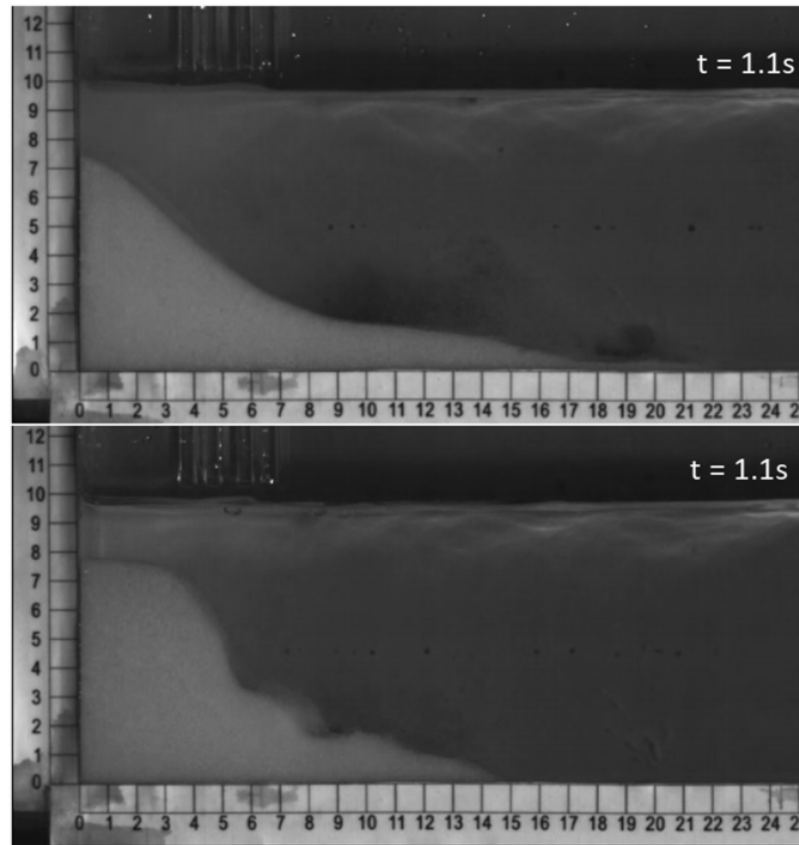
Submarine avalanches

Introduction——previous research

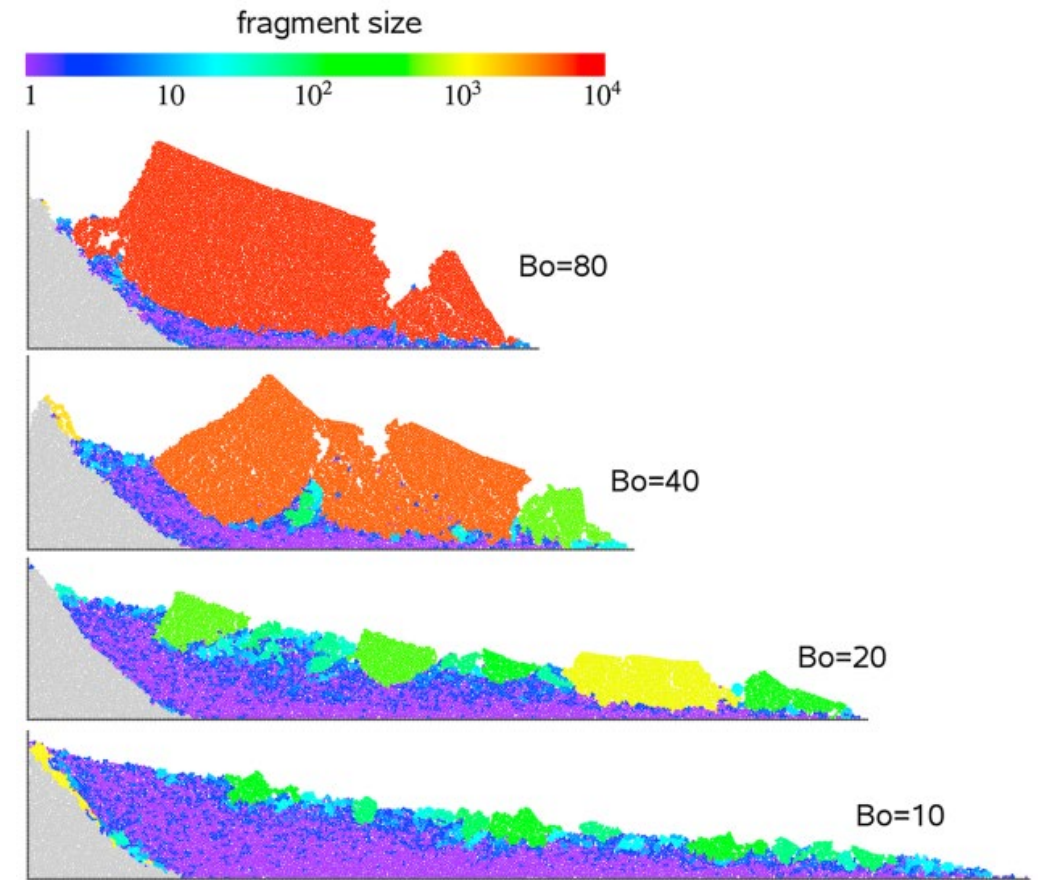
- Dry noncohesive granular collapse
- Submerged noncohesive granular collapse
- Dry cohesive granular collapse
- Submerged cohesive granular collapse ?



Balmforth & Kerswell 2005

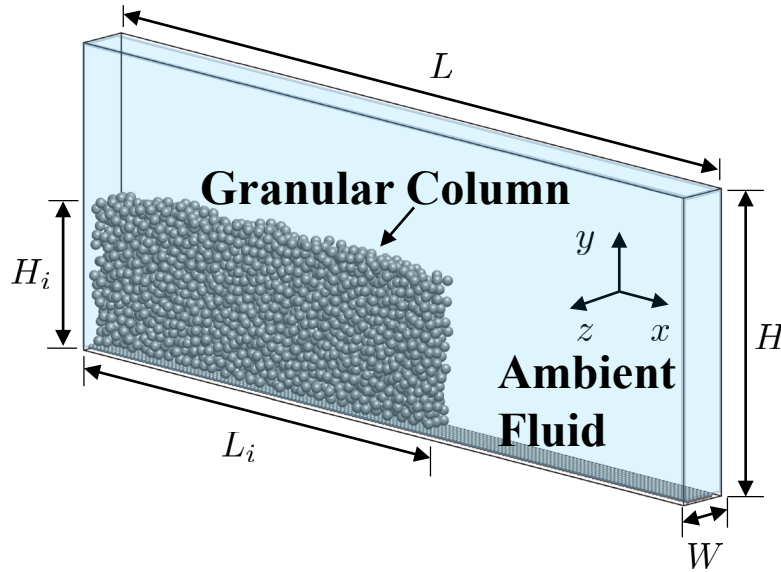


Wang et al. 2017



Langlois et al. 2015

Computational model——initial set-up



- ❑ The size of domain is $L = 100d_p$, $H = 30d_p$, and $W = 3d_p$.
- ❑ The size of the granular column is $L_i = 45d_p$ and $H_i = 15d_p$.
- ❑ **Periodic boundary** is set in z -direction.
- ❑ A layer of particles with diameter $0.5d_p$ are fixed at the bottom boundary.
- ❑ $St = 12.8$, and $r = 1.6$ ($St = \frac{\rho_p d_p^2}{18\eta_f} \sqrt{\frac{g'}{2d_p}}$ $r = \sqrt{\frac{\rho_p}{\rho_f}}$).

1. Packing density

(Volume fraction of the particles in initial columns):

$$\phi = \frac{V_p}{V_c} \quad (0.55-0.64)$$

2. Cohesive number:

$$Co = \frac{\max(||\mathbf{F}_{coh,50}||)}{m_{50}g'}$$

Computational model—governing equations

□ Fully coupled, grain-resolving direct numerical simulations.

□ Fluid:

The unsteady Navier-Stokes equations:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}) = -\frac{1}{\rho_f} \nabla p + \nu_f \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}_{IBM},$$

The continuity equation:

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

□ Particle:

Within the framework of the IBM, we calculate the motion of each individual spherical particle.

➤ **Translational velocity:**

$$m_p \frac{d\mathbf{u}_p}{dt} = \mathbf{F}_{h,p} + \mathbf{F}_{g,p} + \mathbf{F}_{c,p},$$

➤ **Angular velocity:**

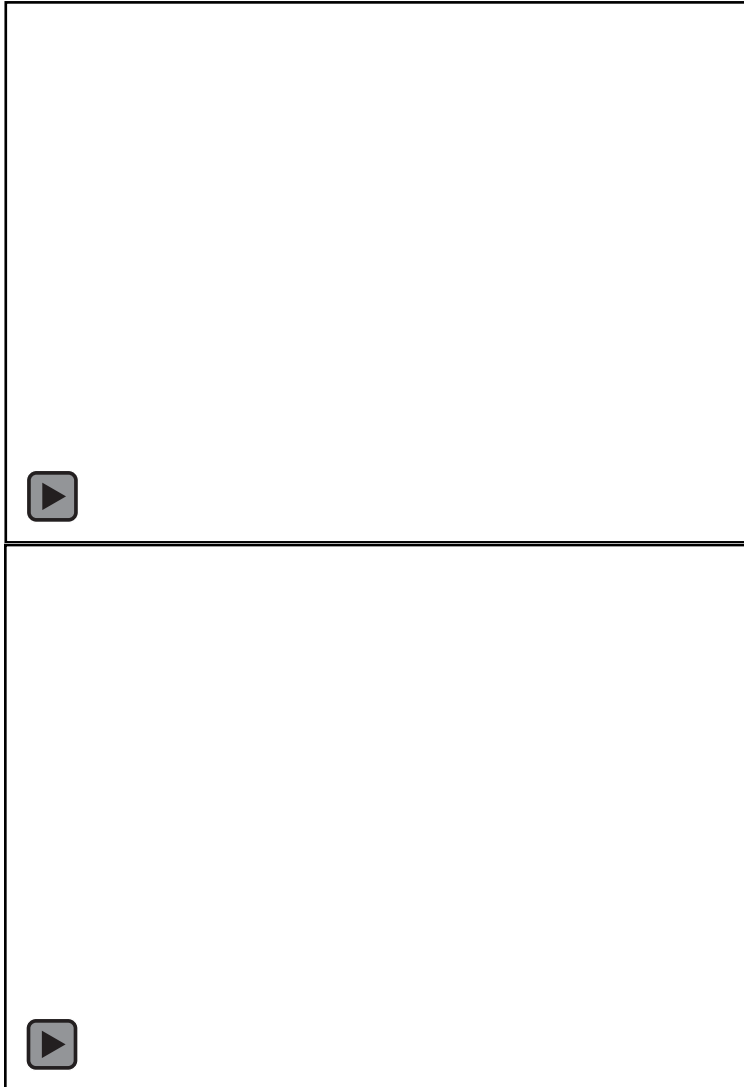
$$I_p \frac{d\boldsymbol{\omega}_p}{dt} = \mathbf{T}_{h,p} + \mathbf{T}_{c,p},$$

➤ **$\mathbf{F}_{c,p}$: the force due to particle collisions:**

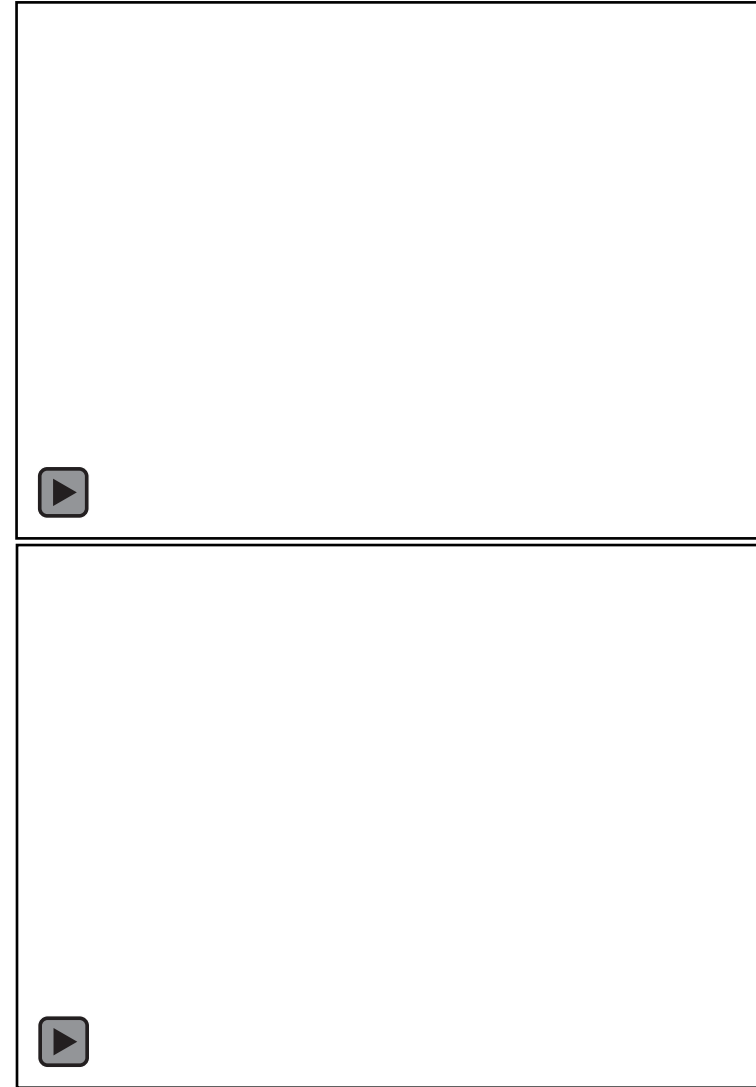
$$\mathbf{F}_{c,p} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_l & \text{Lubrication force} \\ \mathbf{F}_n & \text{Normal contact force} \\ \mathbf{F}_t & \text{Tangential contact force} \\ \mathbf{F}_{coh} & \text{Cohesive force} \end{cases}$$

Observations

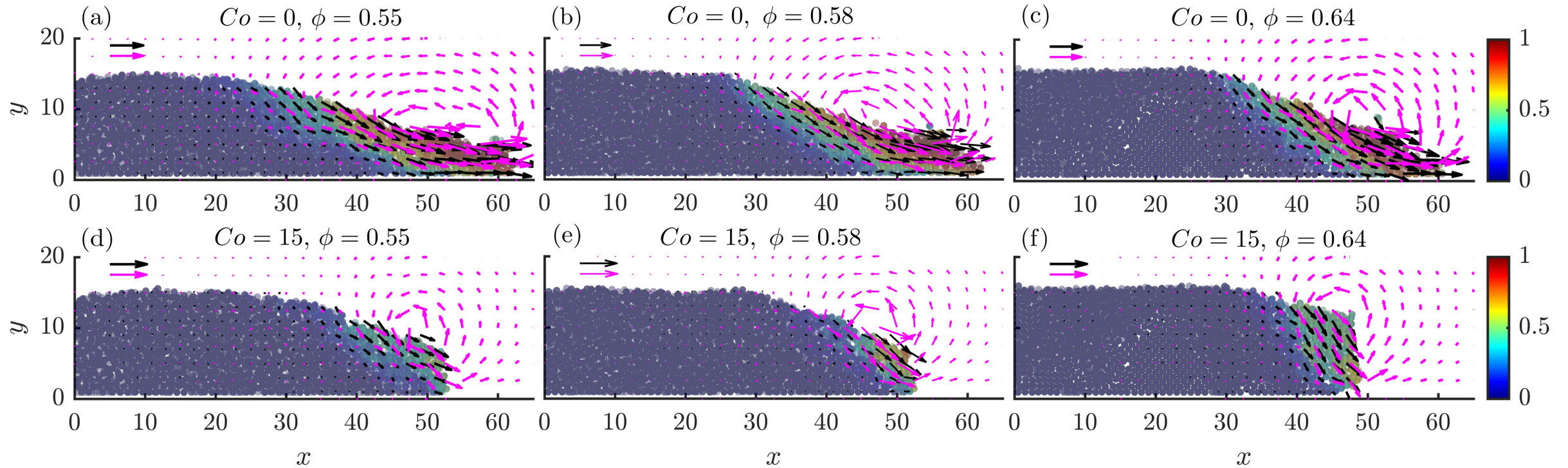
Loosely packed Columns



Densely packed Columns

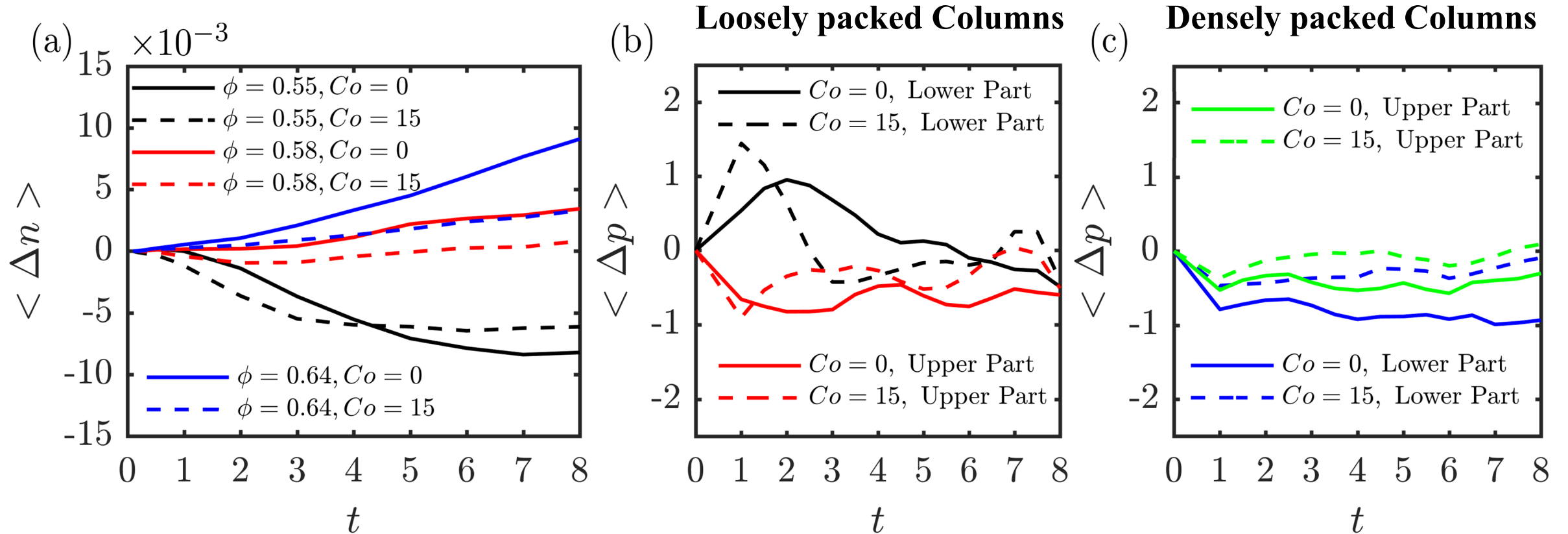


Velocity Field



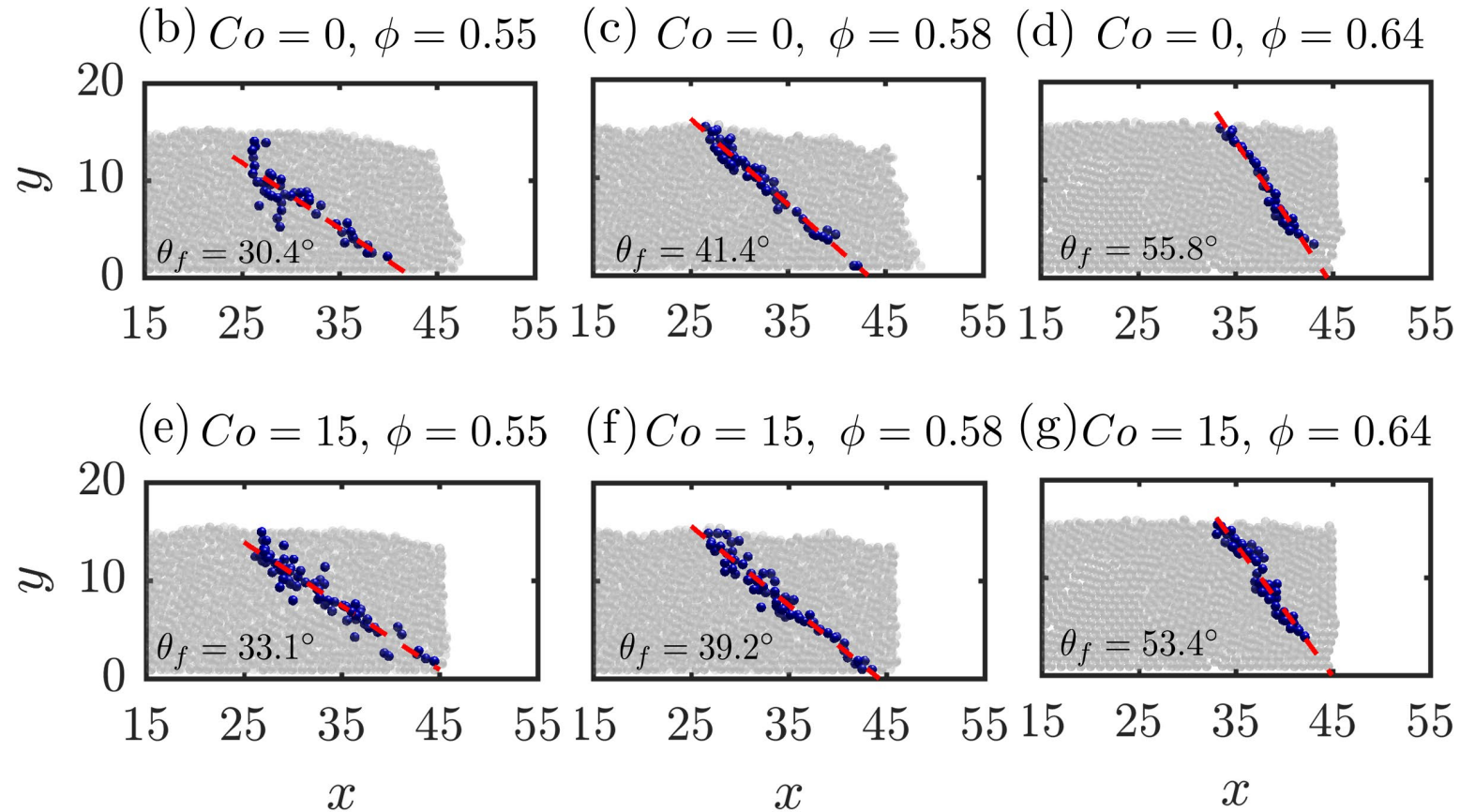
- The black and red arrows represent vectors of the **particle velocity** and the **fluid velocity**.
- With **increasing packing density**, fewer particles participate in the collapse process and they spread more slowly.
- **Cohesion** leads to a greater decrease in particle velocity for more densely packed columns.

Porosity and Pore Pressure



- The cohesion **accelerates the initial contraction** for loosely packed columns and **decelerates the dilation** for densely packed columns.
- The cohesion leads to a **larger** or **smaller** excess pore pressure.

Onset of the Failure



- The collapsing column exhibits **planar failure surfaces**
- The **failure angle increases** with the packing density

Cohesive Aggregates

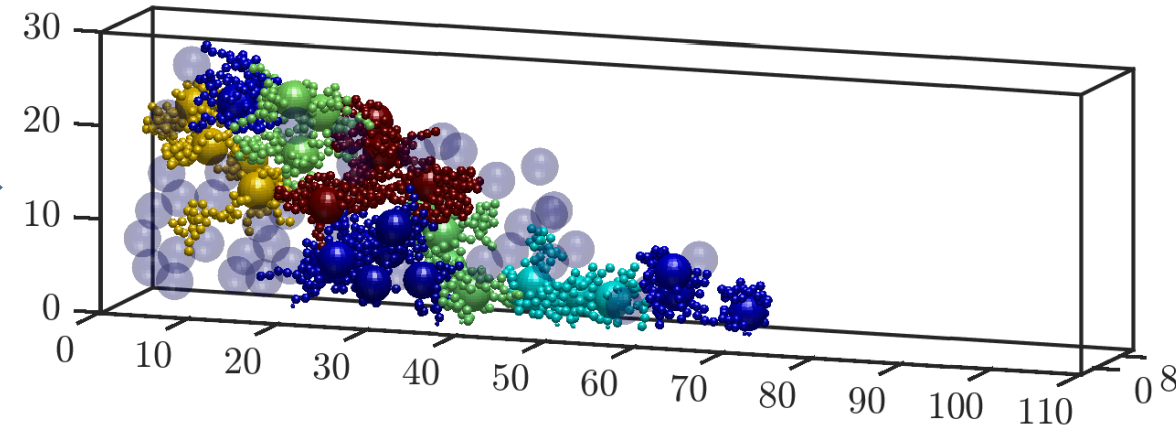
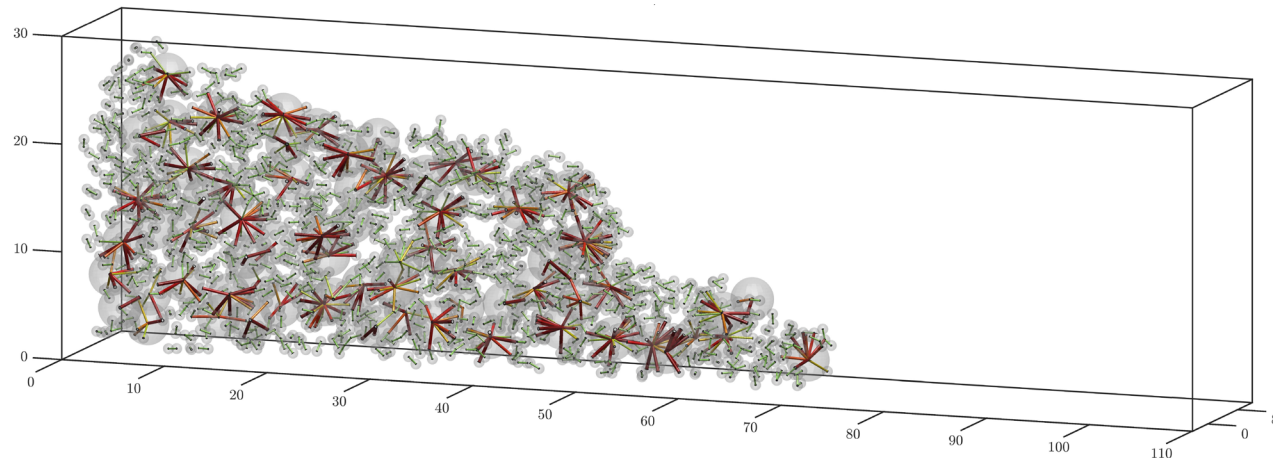
- Construct a force-weighted particle network \mathbf{W} in our granular columns

$$W_{pq} = \begin{cases} \|\mathbf{F}_{pq}\| / \|\mathbf{F}\| > b, & \text{Particle } p \text{ and } q \text{ have cohesive force} \\ 0. & \text{Particle } p \text{ and } q \text{ do not have cohesive force} \end{cases}$$

- To extract cohesive aggregates from \mathbf{W} , we use a community detection approach

$$Q = \sum_{p,q} [W_{pq} - \gamma P_{pq}] \delta(c_p, c_q) \quad \delta(c_p, c_q) = \begin{cases} 1 & c_p = c_q, \\ 0 & c_p \neq c_q. \end{cases} \quad P_{pq} = \begin{cases} 1 & W_{pq} \neq 0, \\ 0 & W_{pq} = 0. \end{cases}$$

- This approach calculate the maximum value of the quality function Q to identify sets of particles with strong cohesive force bond

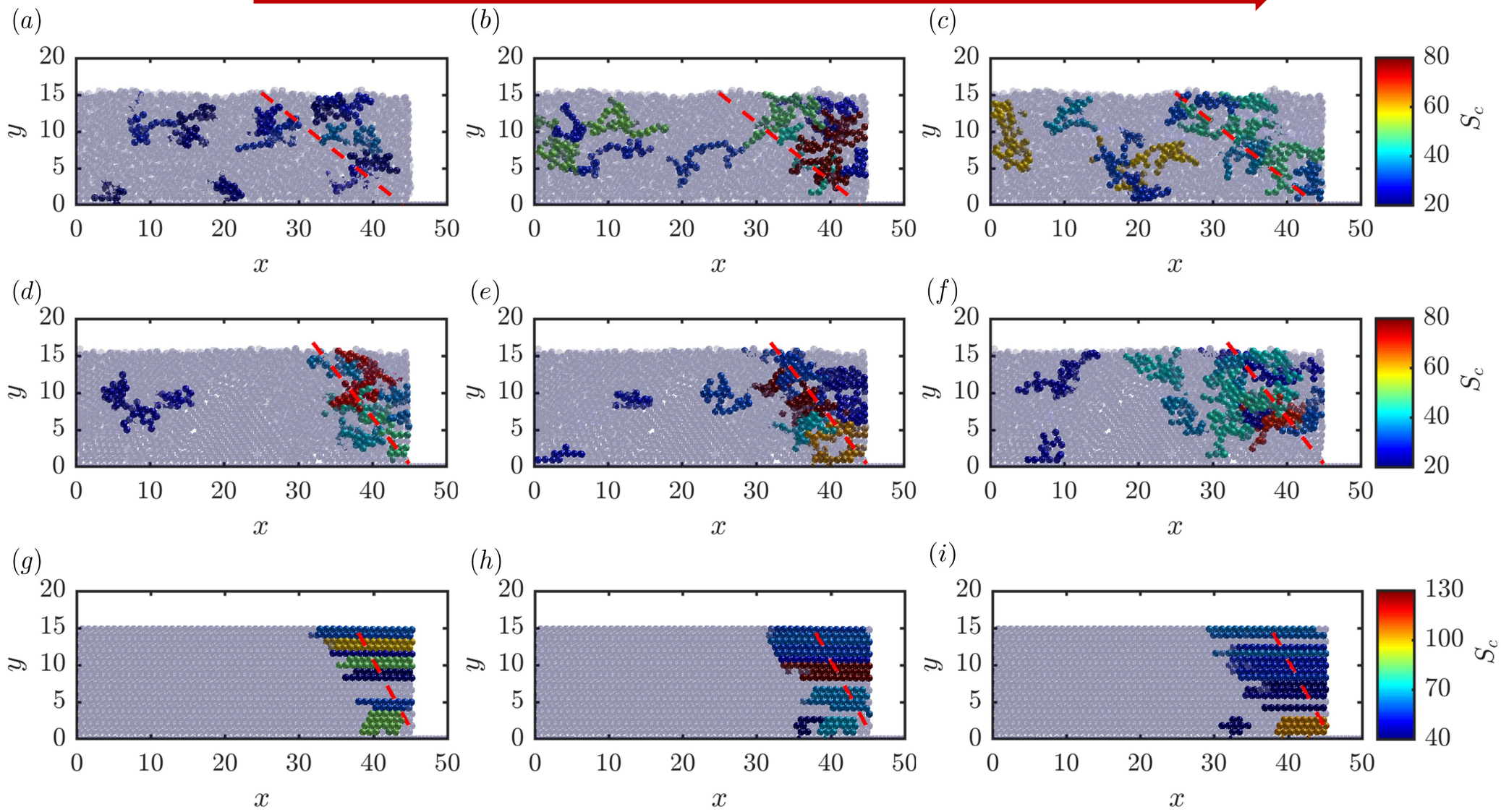


Cohesive Aggregates

Collapse Onset

Cohesion Increase

Packing Density Increases



Conclusions

1. The **cohesion accelerates** the initial contraction for loosely packed columns and **decelerates** the dilation for densely packed columns, leading to a **larger** or **smaller** excess pore pressure.
2. The collapsing column exhibits **planar failure surfaces** and failure angle **increases** with the packing density
3. **Force-chain network structures** form preferentially in the **failure region**. They tend to be larger for higher packing density, which induces a **larger macroscopic cohesive resistance**.

Thanks!