

# Granular Gases

Eli Ben-Naim

*Theoretical Division, Los Alamos National Lab*

Shiyi Chen (J Hopkins/LANL)

Xiaobo Nie (J Hopkins/LANL)

Gary Doolen (LANL)

Paul Krapivsky (Boston)

Sidney Redner (Boston)

# Plan

I **Granular gases**

II **Burgers shocks:**  
1D,2D freely cooling

III **Scaling, multiscaling, nontrivial exponents:**  
the inelastic Maxwell model

# “A gas of marbles”

- Granular materials: powders, grains
- Geophysics: sand dunes, volcanic flows
- Astrophysics: large scale formation

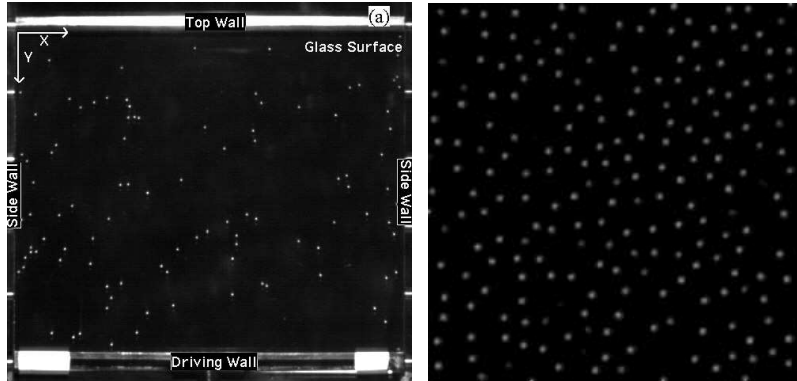
## Characteristics

- Hard sphere interactions
- Dissipative collisions

## Challenges

- Hydrodynamics: flow equations
- Kinetic Theory: velocity statistics
- Sharp validity criteria are missing

# Experiments



- Vibrated horizontal monolayers Urbach 97

$$P(v) \sim \begin{cases} \exp(-v), & g \cong 1; \\ \exp(-v^2), & g \cong 6. \end{cases}$$

- Vibrated vertical monolayers Menon 00
- Electrostatically vibrated layers Aronson 01

$$P(v) \sim \exp\left(-|v|^{3/2}\right)$$

- Kinetic theory (white noise forcing) Ernst 97

$$P(v) \sim \exp\left(-A(r)|v|^{3/2}\right)$$

**non-Maxwellian statistics**

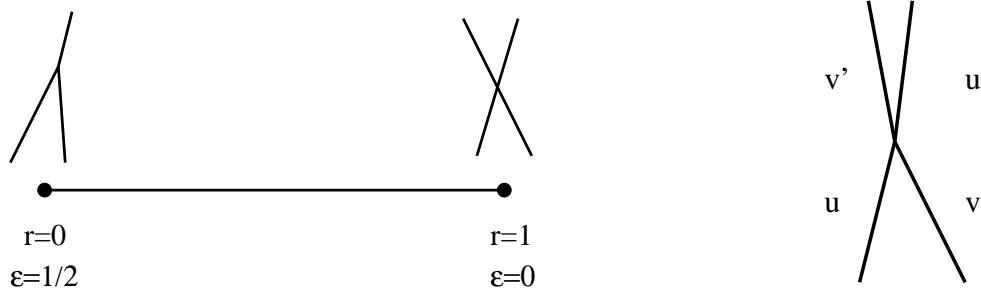
# Inelastic collisions

- Relative velocity reduced by  $r = 1 - 2\epsilon$

$$\Delta v' = -r\Delta v$$

$$v' = v - \epsilon\Delta v$$

- Energy dissipation  $\Delta E \propto -\epsilon(\Delta v)^2$



# Freely cooling gases

- $N$  point particles in 1D ring.  
Random velocity distribution.  
Typical velocity  $v_0$ . Typical distance  $x_0$ .
- Dimensionless variables**  $x \rightarrow x/x_0, t \rightarrow tv_0/x_0$ 
  - “Temperature”  $T(t) = \langle v^2(t) \rangle - \langle v(t) \rangle^2$
  - Characteristic time/length scales.

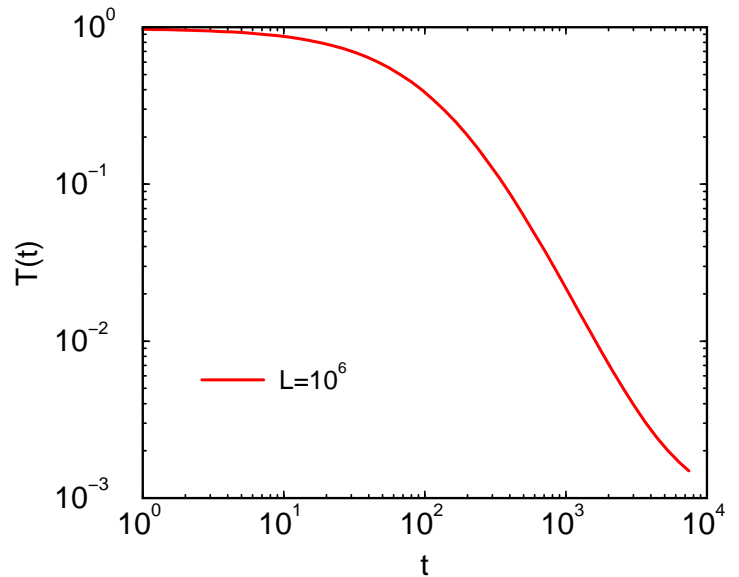
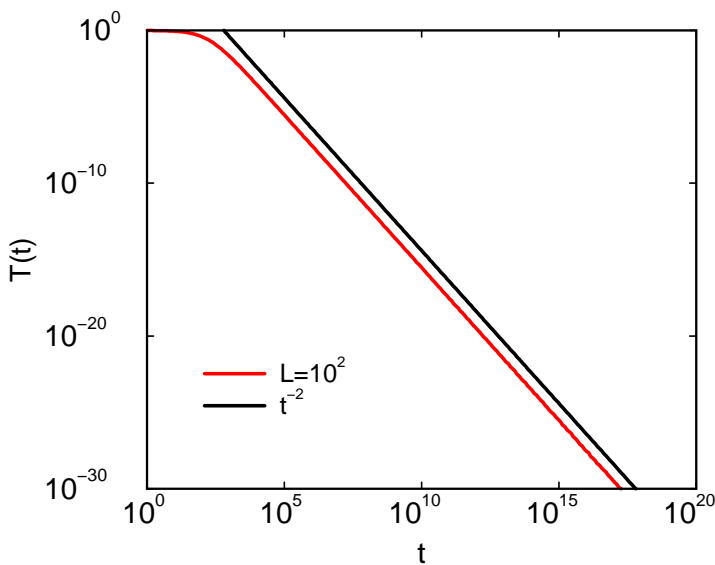
# Mean Field Theory

- Energy dissipation  $\Delta T \propto -\epsilon(\Delta v)^2$
- Collision frequency  $\Delta t \sim \ell/\Delta v \sim (\Delta v)^{-1}$
- Assuming uniform gas  $dT/dt \propto -\epsilon T^{3/2}$
- Cooling law

Haff 83

$$T(t) \simeq (1 + A\epsilon t)^{-2} \sim \begin{cases} 1 & t \ll \epsilon^{-1} \\ \epsilon^{-2} t^{-2} & t \gg \epsilon^{-1} \end{cases}$$

- Simulation



**Valid only in small systems/early time**

# The Inelastic Collapse: $N = 3$

1D: Bernu 91, Young 91, 2D: Kadanoff 95

- Deterministic collision sequence 12, 23, 12, ...
- Velocities given by linear combination

$$\begin{pmatrix} v'_1 \\ v'_2 \\ v'_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon & 1 - \epsilon & 0 \\ 1 - \epsilon & \epsilon & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

- After a pair of collisions (12,23)

$$\mathbf{v}' = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{M} = \mathbf{M}_{12}\mathbf{M}_{23}$$

- $r < 7 - 4\sqrt{3} \Rightarrow$

$$\Delta x, \Delta t \propto \lambda^n \quad \lambda < 1$$

- Infinite number of collisions in finite time

**Particles clump**

# The Sticky Gas ( $r = 0$ )

Carnavale, Pomeau, Young 90

- Multiparticle aggregate of typical mass  $m$

- **Momentum conservation**

$$P_m = \sum_{i=1}^m P_i \quad \Rightarrow \quad P \sim m^{1/2}, \quad v \sim m^{-1/2}$$

- **Mass conservation**

$$\rho = cm = \text{const} \quad \Rightarrow \quad c \sim m^{-1}$$

- **Dimensional analysis**  $[cv] = [t]^{-1}$

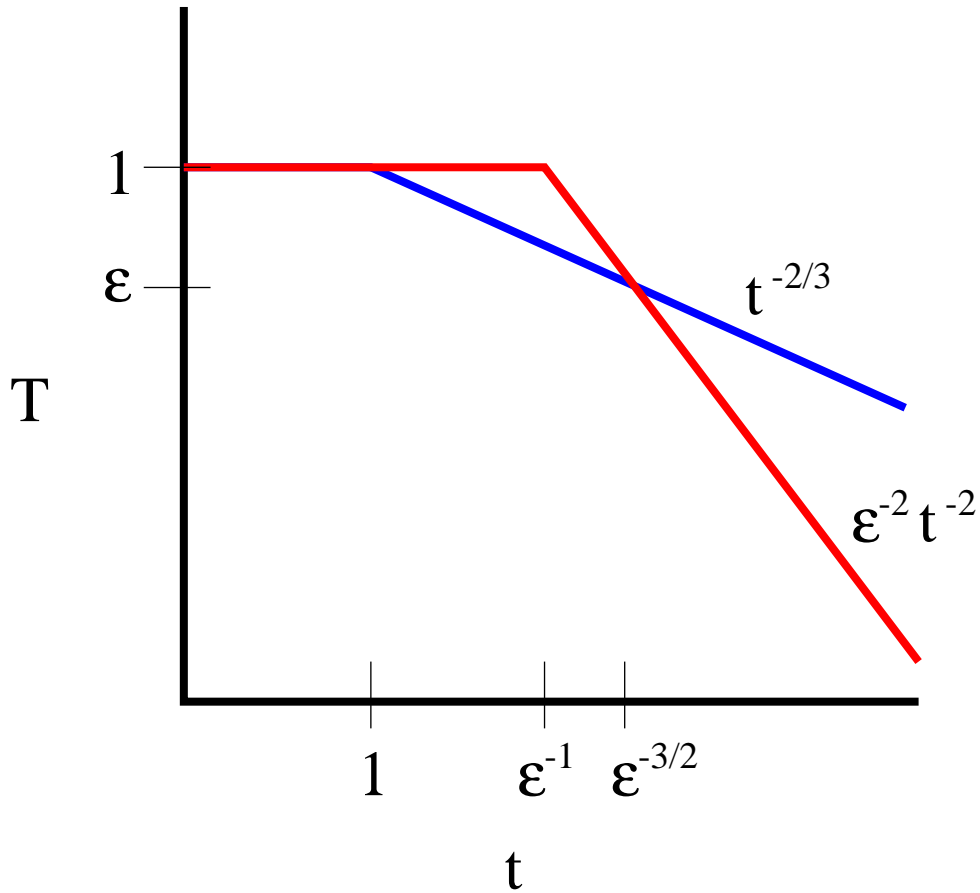
$$m \sim t^{2/3} \quad v \sim t^{-1/3} \quad T \sim t^{-2/3}$$

- **Final state 1** aggregate with  $m = N$

$$T(t) \sim \begin{cases} 1 & t \ll 1; \\ t^{-2/3} & 1 \ll t \ll N^{3/2}; \\ N^{-1} & N^{3/2} \ll t \end{cases}$$



# Monotonicity



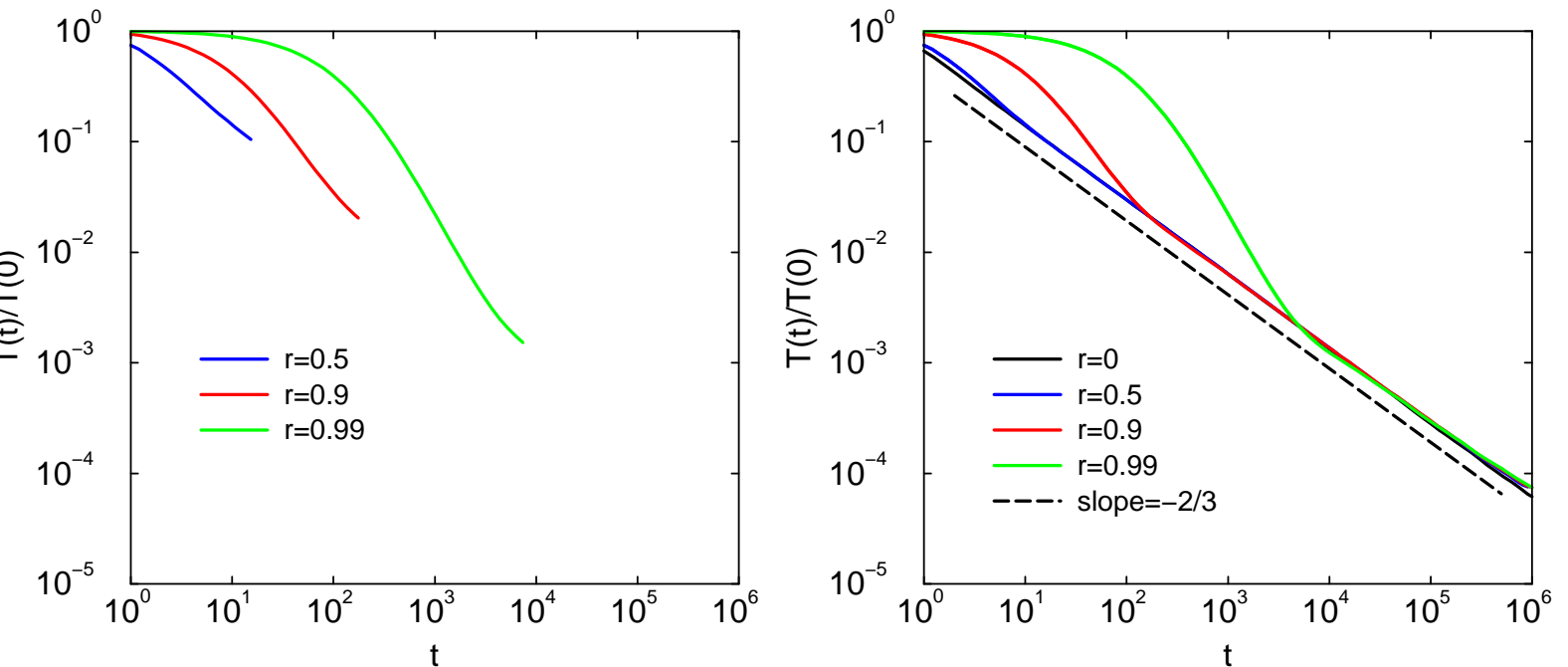
- $T(\epsilon, t)$  decreases monotonically with  $\epsilon, t$
- **Sticky gas ( $\epsilon = 1/2$ ) is a lower bound**
- Homogeneous when  $N \ll \epsilon^{-1}$  **or**  $t \ll \epsilon^{-3/2}$
- Clustering when  $N \gg \epsilon^{-1}$  **and**  $t \gg \epsilon^{-3/2}$

# The crossover picture

- Method: relax dissipation below cutoff (mimic granular particles)

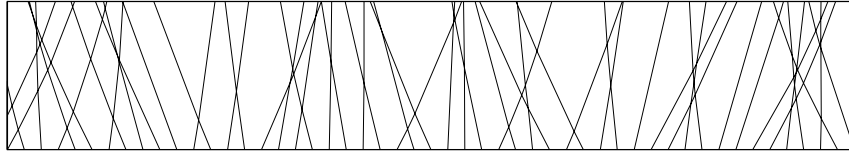
$$r(\Delta v) = \begin{cases} 1 & \Delta v < \delta \\ r & \Delta v > \delta \end{cases}$$

- Simulation results:  $N = 10^7$ ,  $\delta = 10^{-3}$
- Universal cooling law  $T(t) \sim t^{-2/3}$

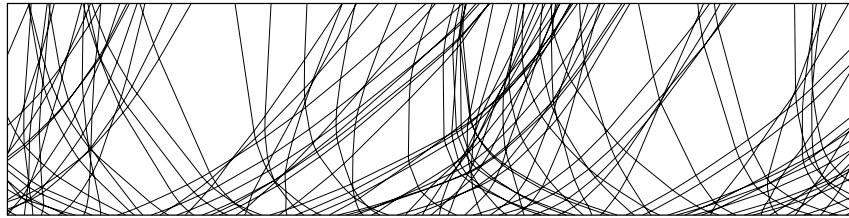


**Asymptotic behavior is independent of  $r$**

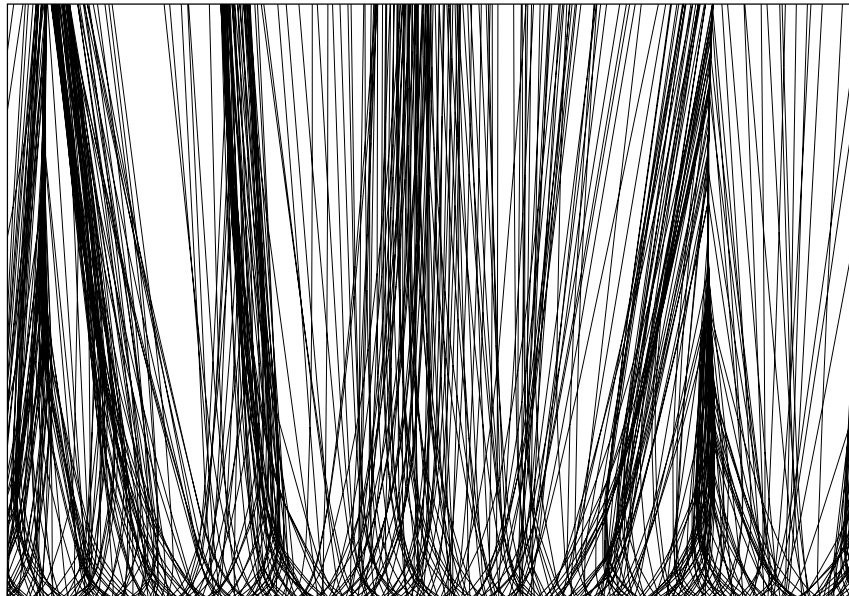
Early = Elastic gas ( $r = 1$ )



Intermediate = Inelastic gas ( $r = 0.9$ )



Late = Sticky gas ( $r = 0$ )



**$r = 0$  is fixed point**

# The Velocity Distribution

- Self similar distribution

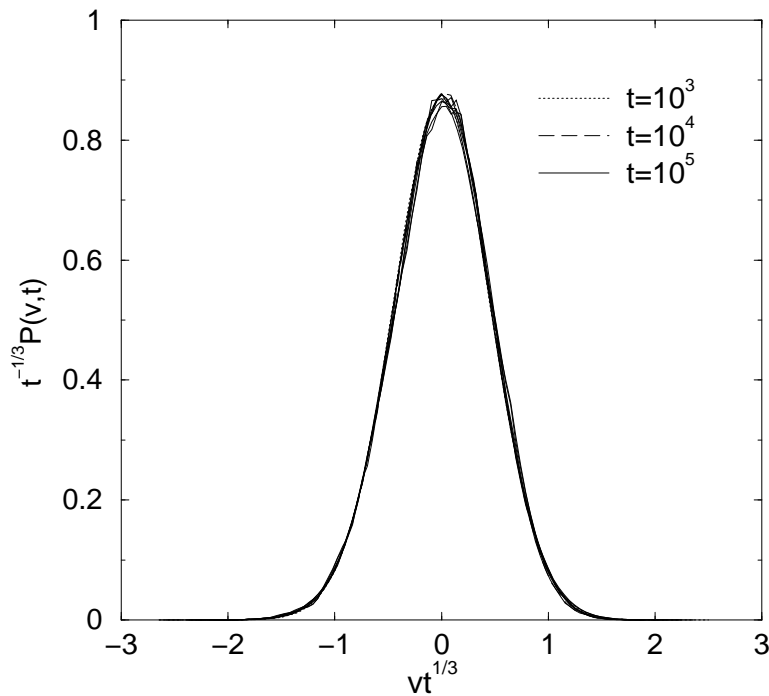
$$P(v, t) \sim t^{1/3} \Phi(vt^{1/3})$$

- Anomalous tail

Frachebourg 99

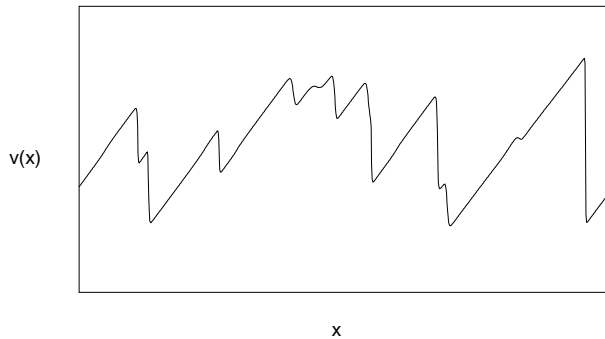
$$\Phi(z) \sim \exp(-\text{const.} \times z^3) \quad z \gg 1$$

- Simulation results  $r = 0, 0.5, 0.9$



**$P(r, v, t)$  is function of  $z = vt^{1/3}$  only**

# The Inviscid Burgers Equation



- Nonlinear diffusion equation

$$v_t + vv_x = \nu v_{xx} \quad \nu \rightarrow 0$$

- Transform to linear diffusion equation

$$u_t = \nu u_{xx} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad v = -2\nu(\ln u)_x$$

- Sawtooth (shock) velocity profile

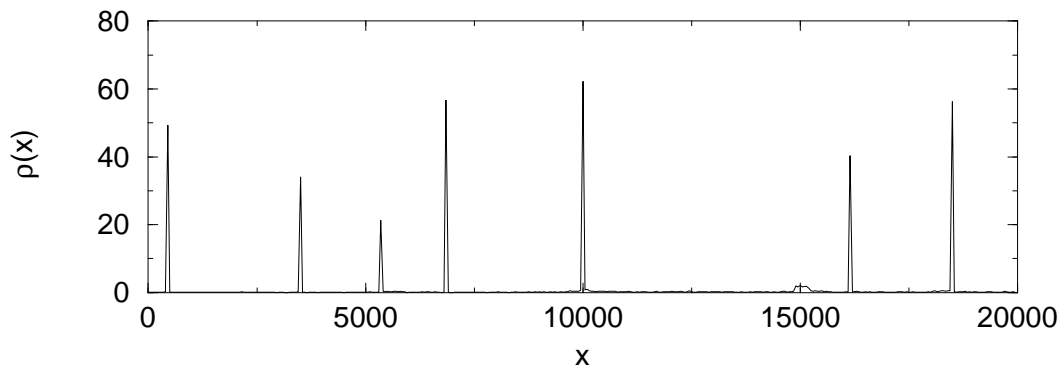
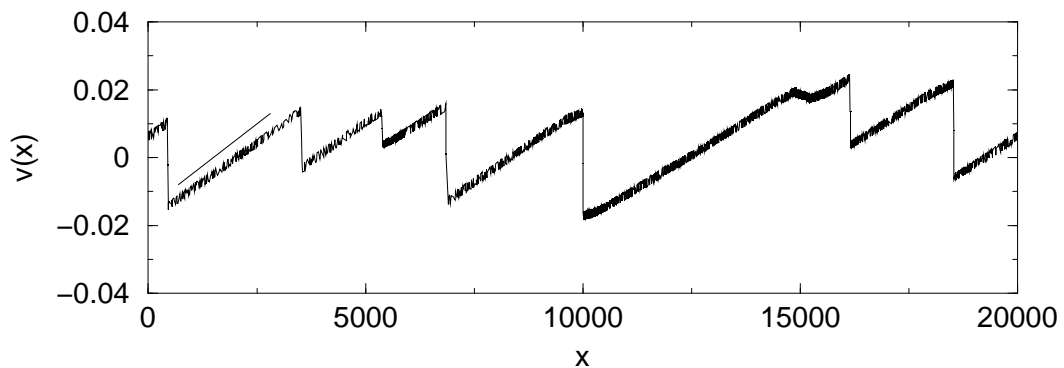
$$v(x, t) = \frac{x - q(x, t)}{t}$$

- Shock collisions conserve mass & momentum
- Describes “sticky gas”  $r = 0$  Zeldovich RMP 89

**Burgers equation  $\equiv$  sticky gas  $\equiv$  inelastic gas**

# Burgers' eqn Predictions verified in 1D

- Velocity statistics  $v \sim t^{-1/3}$
- Discontinuous (shock) velocity profile
- Slope =  $t^{-1}$  (simulation with  $r = 0.99$ )

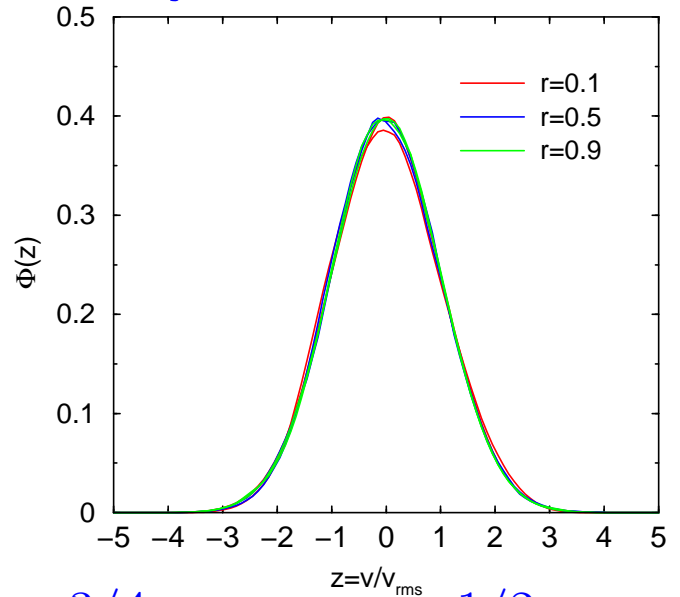
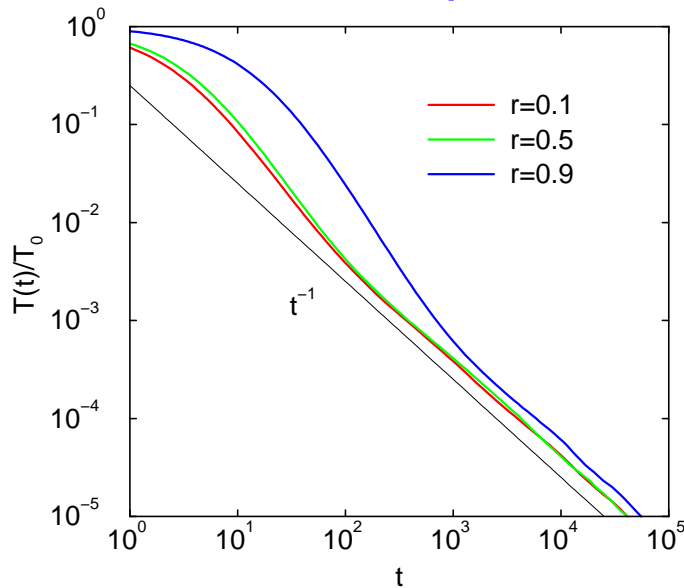


**Collapse  $\equiv$  shock formation**

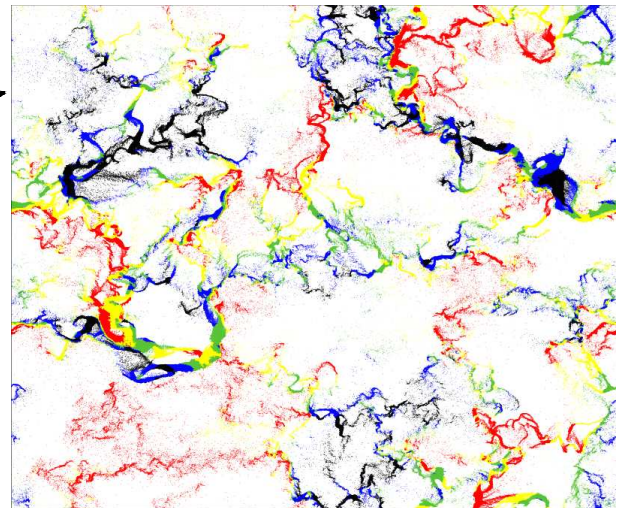
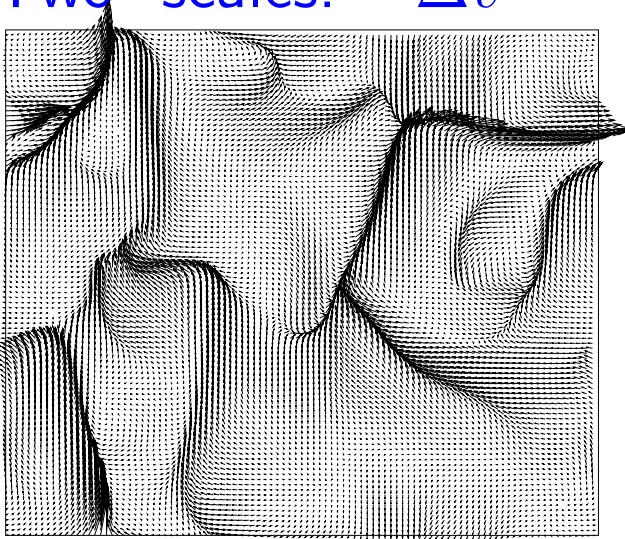
# Two Dimensions

Goldhirsch/Zannetti 93

- Simulations:  $N = 10^6$ ,  $\delta = 10^{-5}$
- Universal temperature, velocity distributions



- Two scales:  $\Delta v \sim t^{-3/4}$ ,  $v \sim t^{-1/2}$



Preliminary evidence:  $r = 0$  remains fixed point

# Conclusions I

## Asymptotic behavior:

- Governed by cluster-cluster coalescence
- Independent of restitution coefficient
- Described by inviscid Burgers equation

## Outlook

- Velocity & spatial correlations
- Higher dimensions

EB, Chen, Doolen, Redner, PRL 83, 4069 (1999)



# The Elastic Maxwell Model

J.C. Maxwell, Phil. Tran. Roy. Soc **157**, 49 (1867)

- Infinite particle system
- Binary collisions
- Random collision partners
- Random impact directions  $\mathbf{n}$
- Elastic collisions ( $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2$ )

$$\mathbf{v}_1 \rightarrow \mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}$$

- Mean-field collision process is solvable
- Purely Maxwellian velocity distributions

$$P(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi T)^{d/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{v^2}{2T}\right)$$

**What about inelastic, dissipative collisions?**

# The Inelastic Maxwell Model

- **Inelastic collisions**  $r = 1 - 2\epsilon$

$$\mathbf{v}_{1,2} = \mathbf{u}_{1,2} \mp (1 - \epsilon) (\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{n},$$

- **Boltzmann equation**  $\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{n} \rightarrow \langle g \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial P(\mathbf{v}, t)}{\partial t} &= \int d\mathbf{n} \int d\mathbf{u}_1 \int d\mathbf{u}_2 \langle g \rangle P(\mathbf{u}_1, t) P(\mathbf{u}_2, t) \\ &\quad \times \left\{ \delta(\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_1) - \delta(\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{u}_1) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- **Fourier transform**

$$F(\mathbf{k}, t) = \int d\mathbf{v} e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{v}} P(\mathbf{v}, t)$$

- **Closed equations**  $\mathbf{q} = (1 - \epsilon)\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F(\mathbf{k}, t) + F(\mathbf{k}, t) = \int d\mathbf{n} F[\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, t] F[\mathbf{q}, t],$$

**Theory is analytically tractable**

# One Dimension

- **Scaling of velocity distribution**

$$P(\mathbf{v}, t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{T^{d/2}} \Phi \left( \frac{v}{T^{1/2}} \right) \quad \text{or} \quad F(k, t) \rightarrow f(k^2 T)$$

- **Governing equation**

$$-2\epsilon(1 - \epsilon)f'(x) + f(x) = f(\epsilon^2 x) f((1 - \epsilon)^2 x)$$

- **Exact solution**

BKW

$$f(x) = (1 + \sqrt{x}) e^{-\sqrt{x}} \cong 1 - \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{3}x^{3/2} + \dots$$

- **Lorentzian<sup>2</sup> velocity distribution**

$$\Phi(w) = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{1}{(1 + w^2)^2}$$

- **Algebraic tail**

Baldassari 01

$$\Phi(w) \sim w^{-4} \quad w \gg 1$$

**Universal scaling function, exponent**

# Scaling, Nontrivial Exponents

- Freely cooling case

$$T = \langle v^2 \rangle \sim t^{-2}$$

- Scaling equation

$$-\lambda x \Phi'(x) + \Phi(x) = \int d\mathbf{n} \Phi(x\xi) \Phi(x\eta)$$

$$\lambda = 2\epsilon(1 - \epsilon)/d, \quad \xi = 1 - (1 - \epsilon^2) \cos^2 \theta, \quad \eta = (1 - \epsilon)^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

- Power-law tails

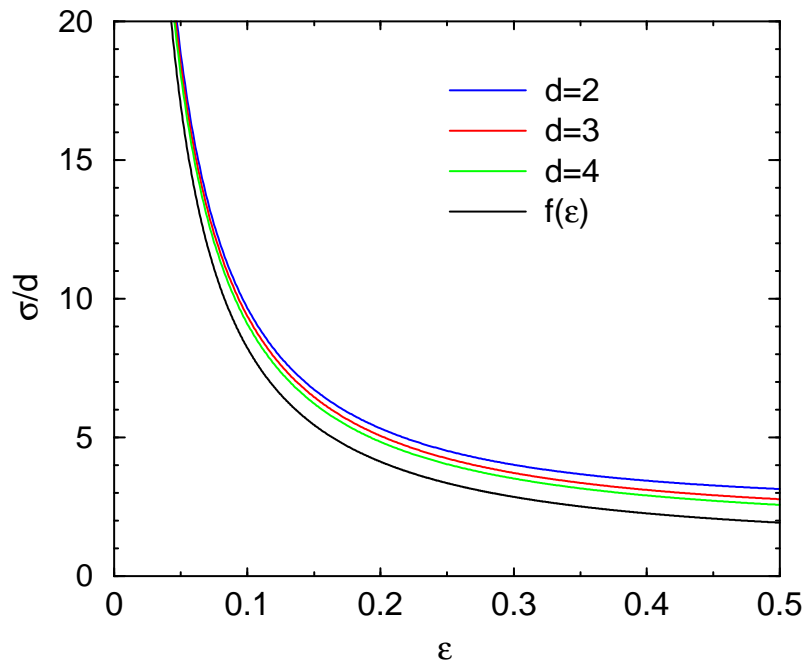
$$\Phi(w) \sim w^{-\sigma}, \quad w \rightarrow \infty.$$

- Exact solution for the exponent  $\sigma$

$$1 - \epsilon(1 - \epsilon) \frac{\sigma - d}{d} = {}_2F_1 \left[ \frac{d - \sigma}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; \frac{d}{2}; 1 - \epsilon^2 \right] + (1 - \epsilon)^{\sigma - d} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\sigma - d + 1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\sigma}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}$$

**Nonuniversal tails, exponents depend on  $\epsilon$ ,  $d$**

# The exponent $\sigma$



- Maxwellian distributions:  $d = \infty, \epsilon = 0$

- Diverges in high dimensions

$$\sigma \cong d f(\epsilon)$$

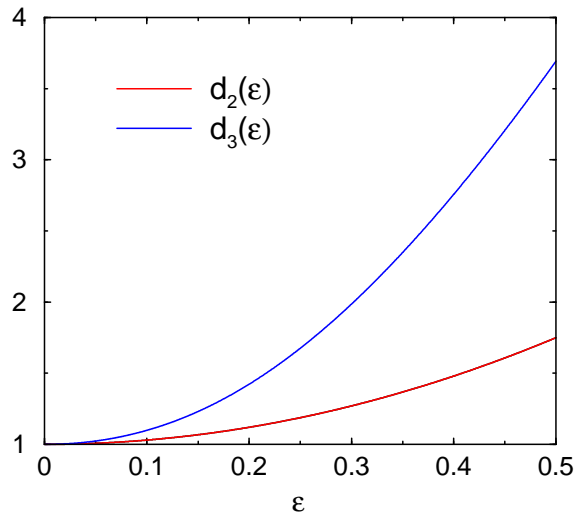
- Diverges for low dissipation

$$\sigma \cong d \epsilon^{-1}$$

- In practice, huge

$$\sigma(d = 3, r = 0.8) \cong 30!$$

# Dynamics



- Moments of the velocity distribution

$$M_{2n}(t) = \int d\mathbf{v} |\mathbf{v}|^{2n} P(\mathbf{v}, t)$$

- Multiscaling asymptotic behavior

$$M_{2n} \sim M_2^{\xi_n/2} \quad \xi_n = \begin{cases} n & d < d_n(\epsilon), \\ \alpha_n(\epsilon) & d > d_n(\epsilon). \end{cases}$$

- Crossover dimensions:  $d_2(\epsilon) = 1 + 3\epsilon^2$
- Nonlinear multiscaling spectrum (1D):

$$\alpha_n(\epsilon) = \frac{1 - \epsilon^{2n} - (1 - \epsilon)^{2n}}{1 - \epsilon^2 - (1 - \epsilon)^2}$$

**Sufficiently large moments exhibit multiscaling**

# Velocity Correlations

- Definition (correlation between  $v_x^2$  and  $v_y^2$ )

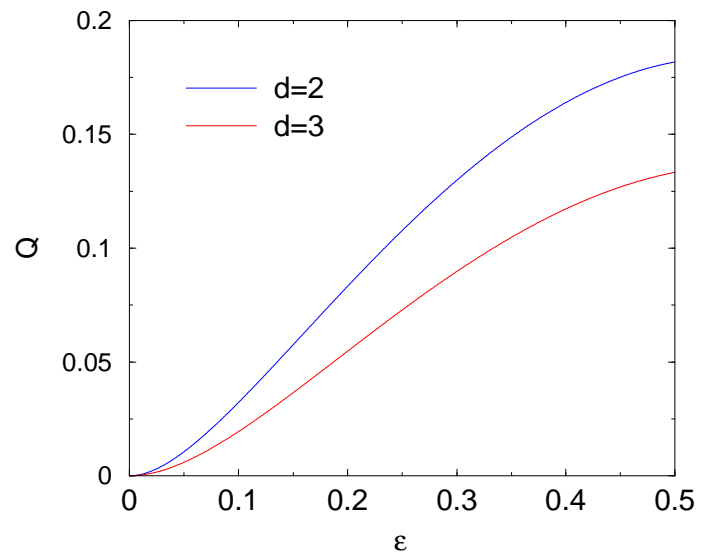
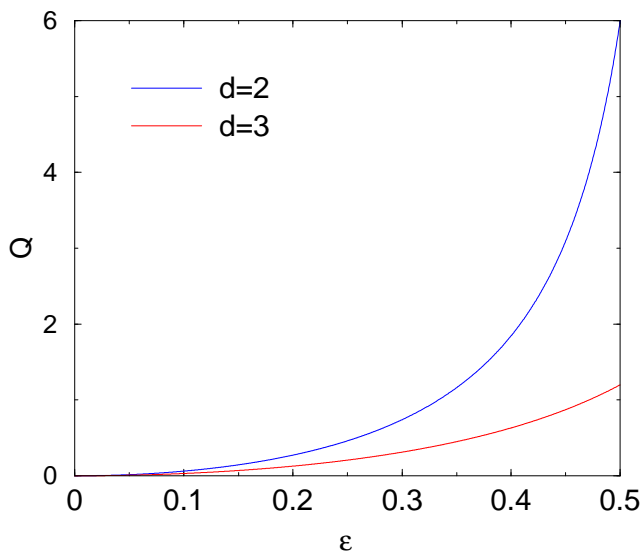
$$Q = \frac{\langle v_x^2 v_y^2 \rangle - \langle v_x^2 \rangle \langle v_y^2 \rangle}{\langle v_x^2 \rangle \langle v_y^2 \rangle}$$

- Unforced case (freely cooling):  $P(v) \sim v^{-\sigma}$

$$Q = \frac{6\epsilon^2}{d - (1 + 3\epsilon^2)}$$

- Forced case (white noise):  $P(v) \sim e^{-|v|}$

$$Q = \frac{6\epsilon^2(1 - \epsilon)}{(d + 2)(1 + \epsilon) - 3(1 - \epsilon)(1 + \epsilon^2)}$$



**Correlations diminish with energy input**

# The “brazil nut” problem

- Fluid background: mass 1, restitution  $\alpha$
- Impurity: mass  $m$ , restitution  $\beta$
- Theory: impurity enslaved to background
- Series of transition masses

$$1 < m_1 < m_2 < \dots < m_\infty$$

- Ratio of moments diverges asymptotically

$$\frac{\langle v_I^{2n} \rangle}{\langle v_F^{2n} \rangle} \sim \begin{cases} c_n & m < m_n; \\ \infty & m > m_n. \end{cases}$$

- Light impurity: moderate violation of equipartition, impurity mimics the fluid
- Heavy impurity: extreme violation of equipartition, impurity sees a static fluid

**series of phase transitions**



# Conclusions II

- Velocity distribution obeys scaling
  - Power-law high energy tails
  - Exponent depends on  $d$  and  $\epsilon$
  - Multiscaling of the moments, Temperature insufficient to characterize large moments
  - Velocity correlations develop
  - Algebraic autocorrelations, aging
  - **Inelasticity responsible for “fat” tails**
- 
- E. Ben-Naim and P. L. Krapivsky, *J. Phys. A* **35**, L147 (2002); *Phys. Rev. E* **66**, 011309 (2002); EPJE, in press.
  - M. H. Ernst and R. Britto, *Europhys. Lett.* **58**, 182 (2002). *Phys. Rev. E* **65**, 040301 (2002).
  - A. Baldassari, U. M. B Marconi, and A Puglisi, *Europhys. Lett.* **58**, 14 (2002); *Phys Rev. E* **65**, 011301 (2002).