

The Dynamics of Avalanches

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Plan of Talk

- Types of Avalanche
- Avalanche Initiation
- Avalanche Defences
- Avalanche Flow
 - Theory
 - Observations
 - Experiments
 - Simulations
- Avalanche Deposition



Manda III, 6529m



NW Face Manda III



Powder Avalanche on K2

Pierre Beghin, film



Head of Powder Snow Avalanche

Cemagref



Slab Avalanche Fracture Line, film



Skier in Slab Avalanche Debris

Cemagref



Patreksfjörður 1983, a Slush Flow Killed 3 People



Destroyed House at Saint Colomban Les Villars, film



Destroyed Buildings at La Morte

Cemagref

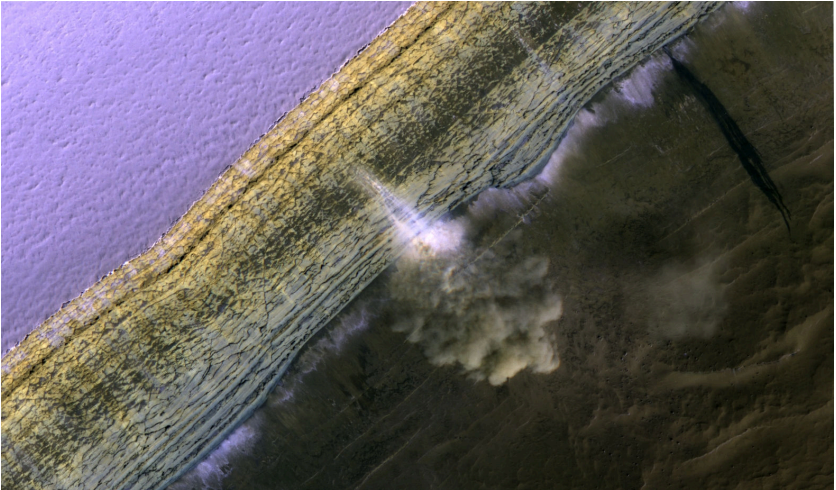


Damage by a flood wave at Súgandafjörður



CO₂ Avalanche on Mars

HiRISE



Current Avalanche Research

- Huge variety:
 - speeds 25–250 km/h
 - densities 5–500 kg/m³
 - masses 10²–10⁹ kg
- Three dimensional terrain and structure
- Snow properties are complicated and ill-defined
- Unpredictable, destructive, unreproducible
- Current theories are phenomenological
- Genesis of powder snow avalanches not understood

タイムス

平成10年(1998年)1月29日(木曜日)

雪崩に巻き込まれ女性死亡

1人軽症、2人無事

ニセコの立入禁止区域で

【長野】二十六日午後、長野県上田市のニセコ山で、雪崩が発生し、登山客の女性が死亡した。また、別の登山客が軽傷を負った。この事故は、ニセコ山の立入禁止区域で発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。事故は、午後三時三十分ごろに発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。事故は、午後三時三十分ごろに発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。

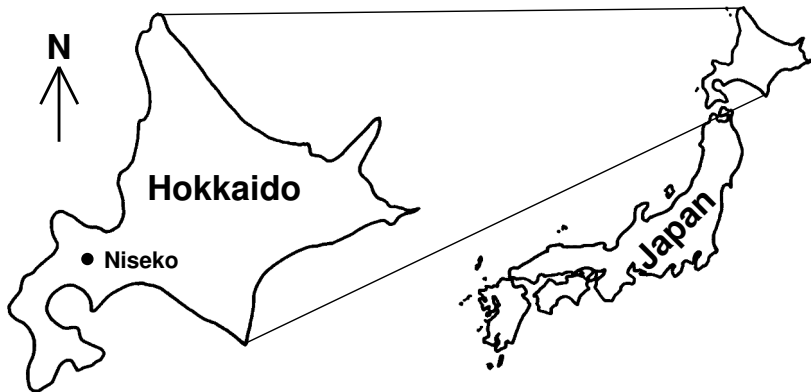
上田市の登山客が、ニセコ山で雪崩に巻き込まれ、一人が死亡した。また、別の登山客が軽傷を負った。この事故は、ニセコ山の立入禁止区域で発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。事故は、午後三時三十分ごろに発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。事故は、午後三時三十分ごろに発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。



雪崩現場から毛布などにくるまれて救急車に運び込まれる渡辺尚華さん(中央)＝28日午後3時38分、後志管内真知安町山田。ニセコ山無事むらよスキ一帯

【上田】二十六日午後、長野県上田市のニセコ山で、雪崩が発生し、登山客の女性が死亡した。また、別の登山客が軽傷を負った。この事故は、ニセコ山の立入禁止区域で発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。事故は、午後三時三十分ごろに発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。事故は、午後三時三十分ごろに発生した。登山客は、この区域に入らなければならない。

Location of Niseko in Japan (N 42' 52" E 140' 42")



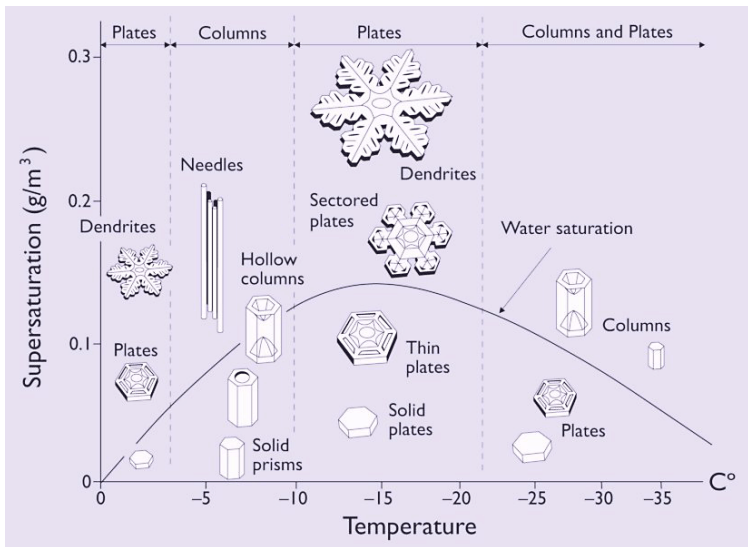
Haru no Taki



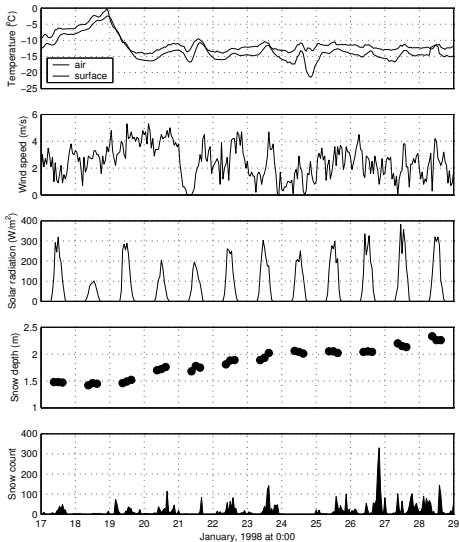
Accident Site



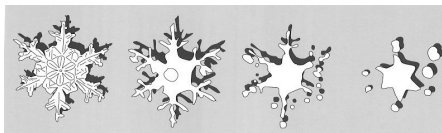
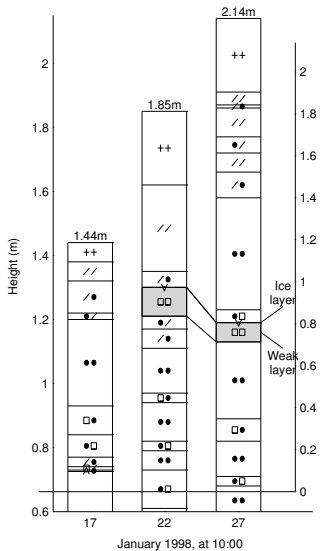
Snow Morphology



Meteorological Data 17th to 29th January, 1998

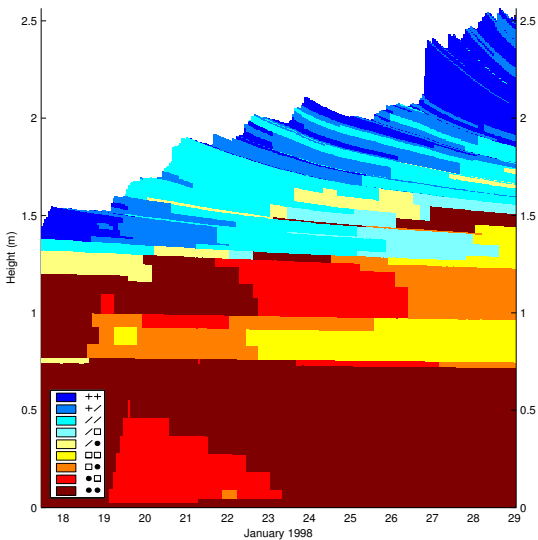


Snow Pit Profiles

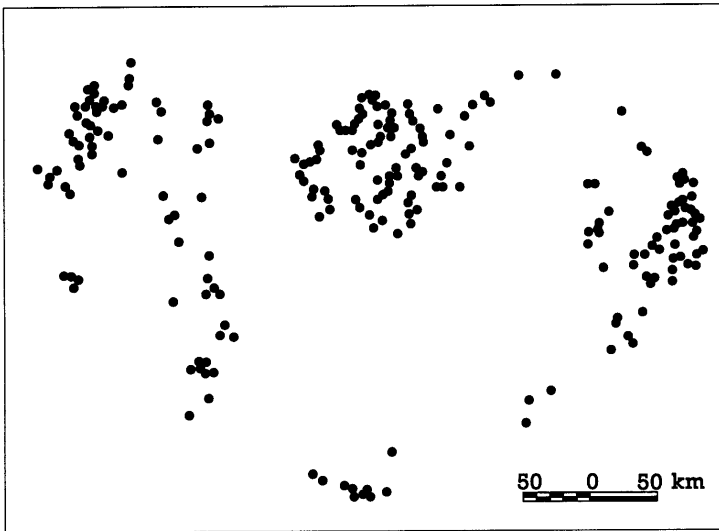


Photos: Dr. Libbrecht

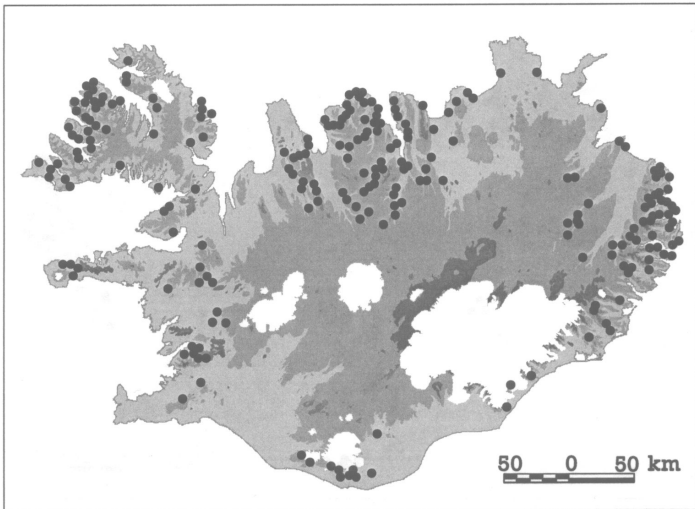
Simulated Profile



What is This ?



Avalanche Accidents in Iceland



Icelandic Coast



Flateyri in Summer



Flateyri Avalanche 1999



Large Scale Defence Structures



Defence Structures in the Starting Zone



Church in Davos

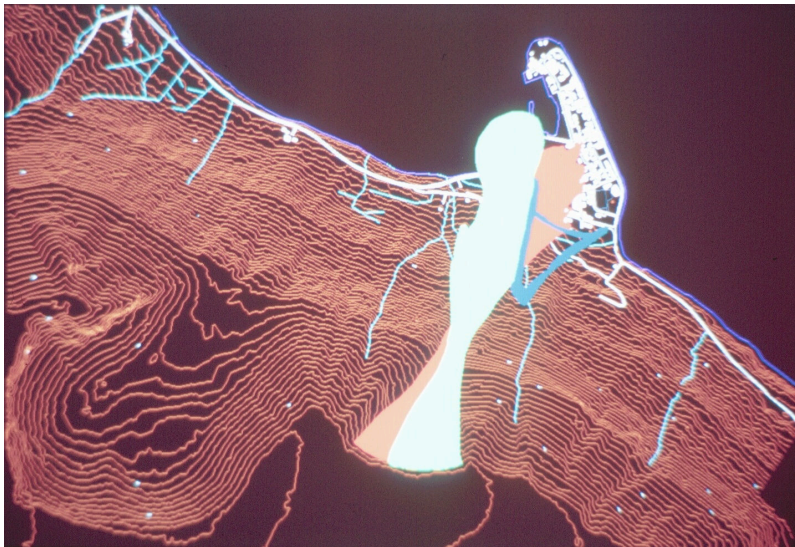


Flateyri Deflecting Dam, \$5.5m

©Mats Wibe Lund



Flateyri Simulations With and Without Deflecting Dam

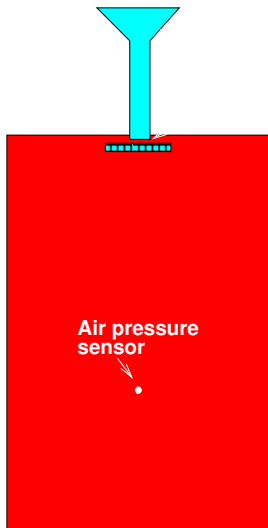


Test Chute in Davos

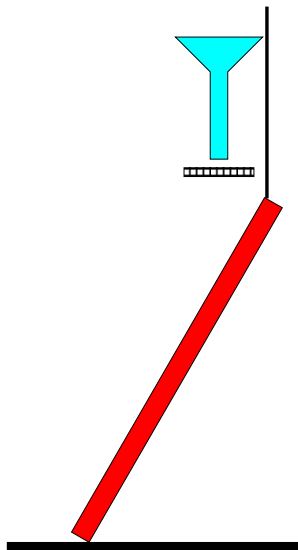
film



Laboratory Experiments

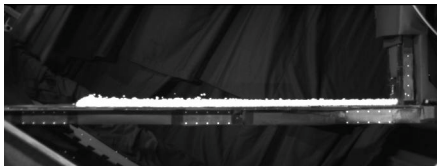


front view



side view

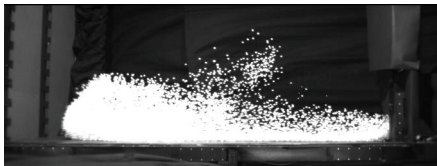
Side View 8 Litre Avalanches



31.5° slope



58.5° slope

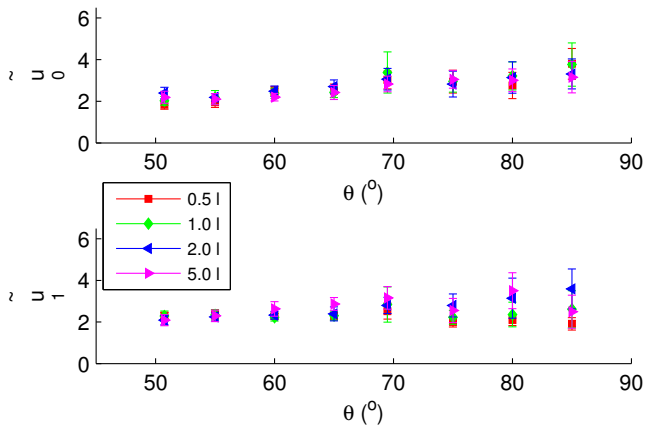


91.0° slope

100 ml side
8000 ml side

Non-Dimensional Velocity

$$\tilde{u} = \frac{u}{V \frac{1}{6} g \frac{1}{2}}$$



Direct Numerical Simulations

- 2d spectral with compact finite differences
Meiburg Code
- Simulation region 8×1
- Release area 2×0.5
- Slope angles $0-90^\circ$
- Boussinesq and non-Boussinesq

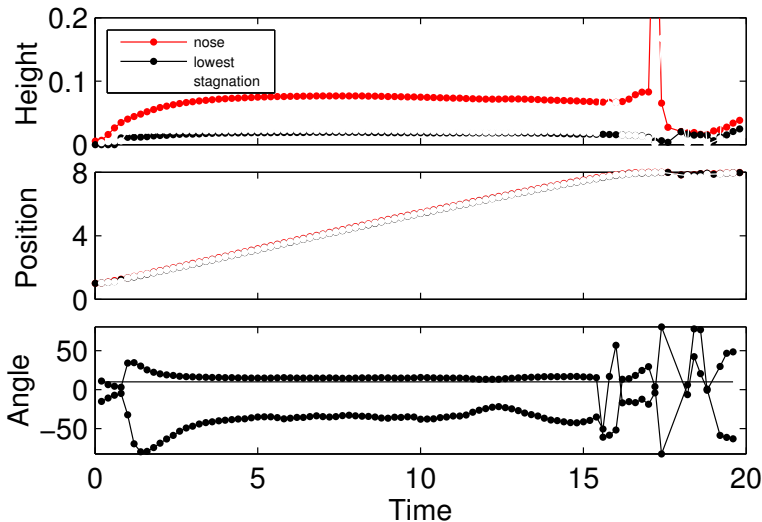
Test hypothesis:

stagnation point is lowest point as $Re \rightarrow \infty$

Time evolution, $Re=32,000$, $Slope=10^\circ$

3d

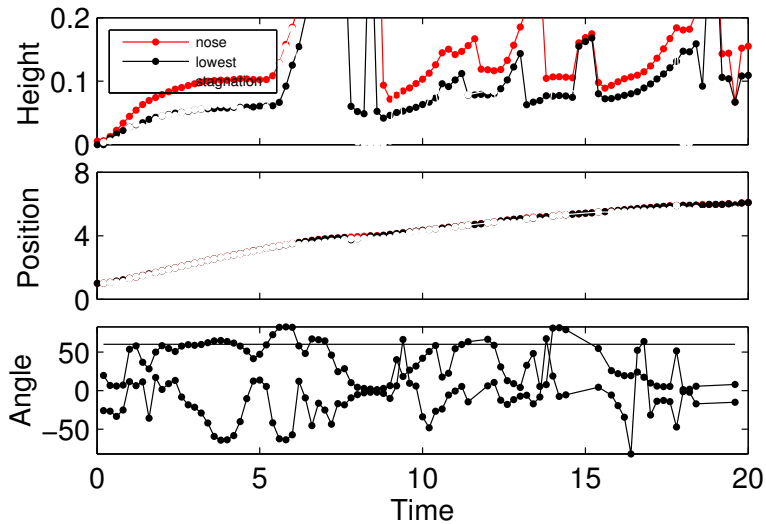
front



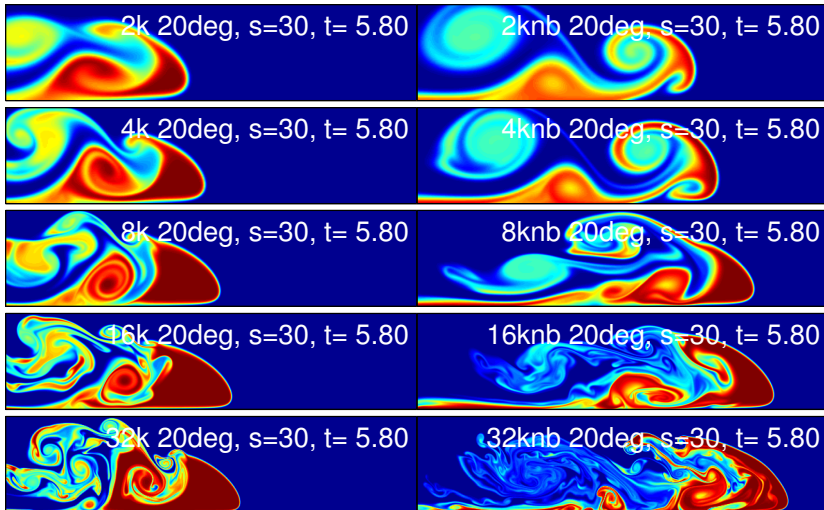
Time evolution, $Re=32,000$, $Slope=60^\circ$

film

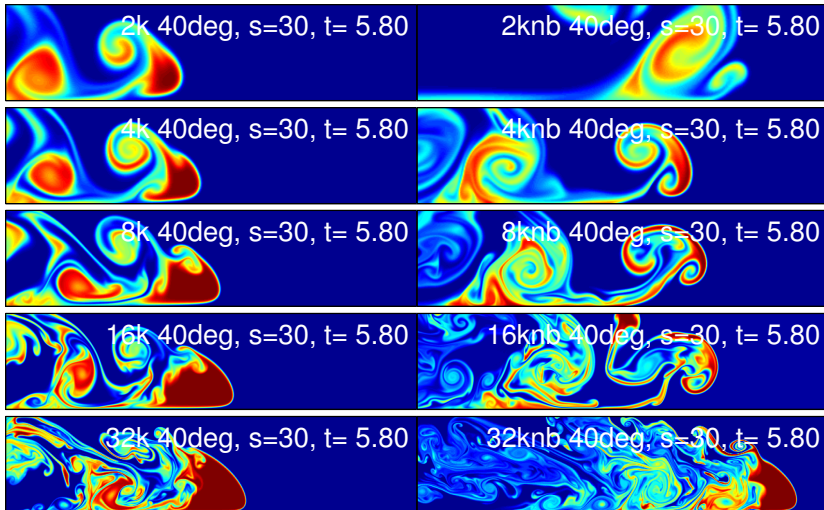
front



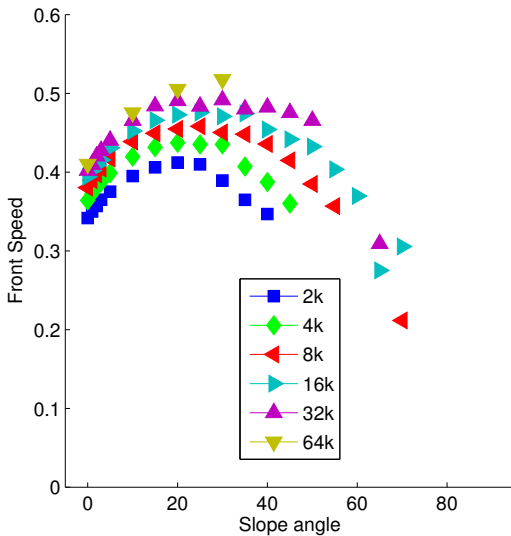
Re Comparison at slope 20°



Re Comparison at slope 40°



Front Speed

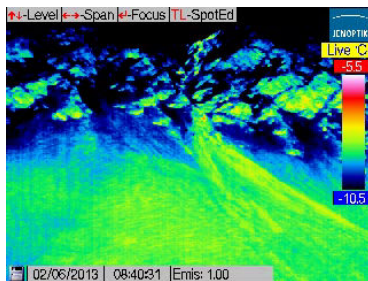
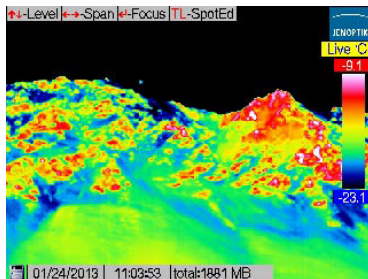


Vallée de la Sionne Test Site

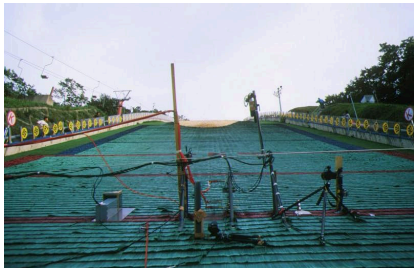
- Artificial and Natural Releases
- 1 000–1 000 000 kg
- 10–100 m s⁻¹
- Instrumentation
 - Video
 - Laser Scanning
 - Impact & air pressure
 - Doppler & FMCW Radar
 - Density
 - Velocity profiles



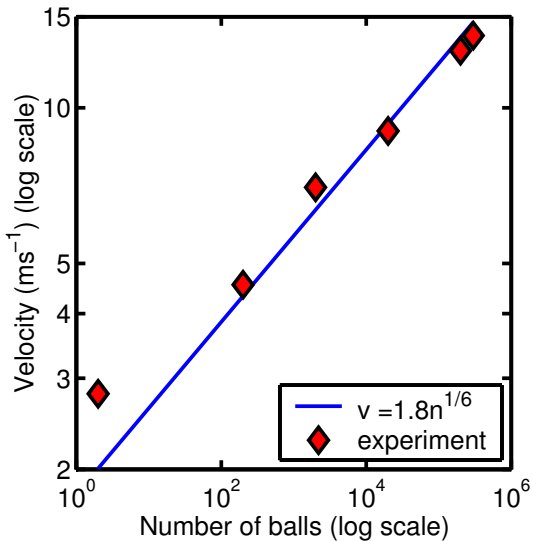
Mast and Thermal Imaging



Ping-Pong Ball Avalanches



Front Velocities at the K-Point



A One Equation Model

Constant length scale L

Conservation of linear momentum

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = g \sin \theta - g\mu \cos \theta + \mu\kappa v^2 - \frac{v^2}{L}$$

where m is mass

v - speed

s - distance

θ - slope angle

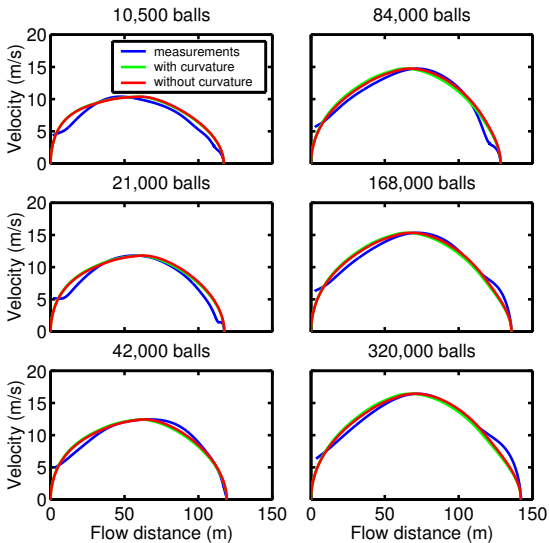
g - densimetric gravity

$\kappa = d\theta/ds$ - curvature

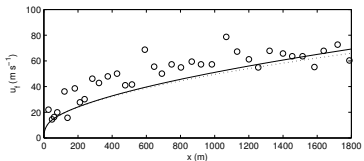
μ - friction

L - drag length

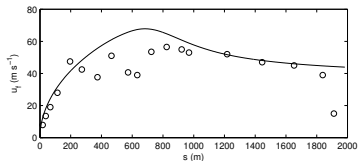
Comparison with Model



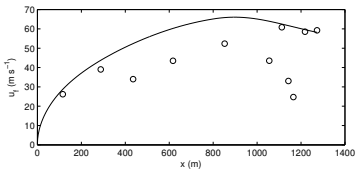
Comparison with Velocity Data From VdIS



Avalanche no. 200



Avalanche no. 509



Avalanche no. 628



Deposition

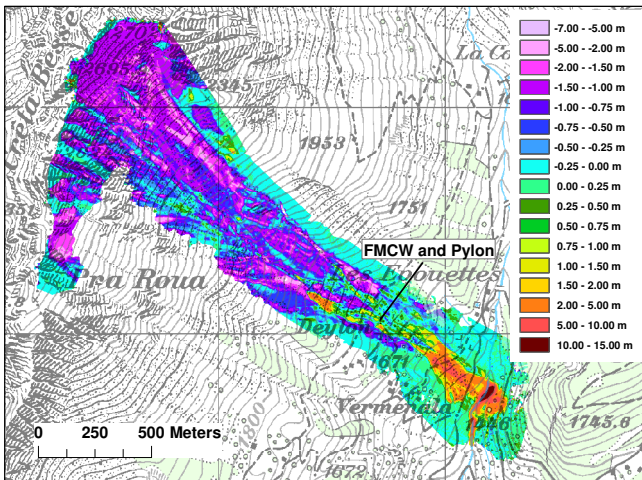


Riegl LMS-Q240i laser scanner

- time of flight principle
- 10 000 points per second
- horizontal resolution 500 mm
- vertical resolution 100 mm
- high density of points
- inertial measurement
- GPS

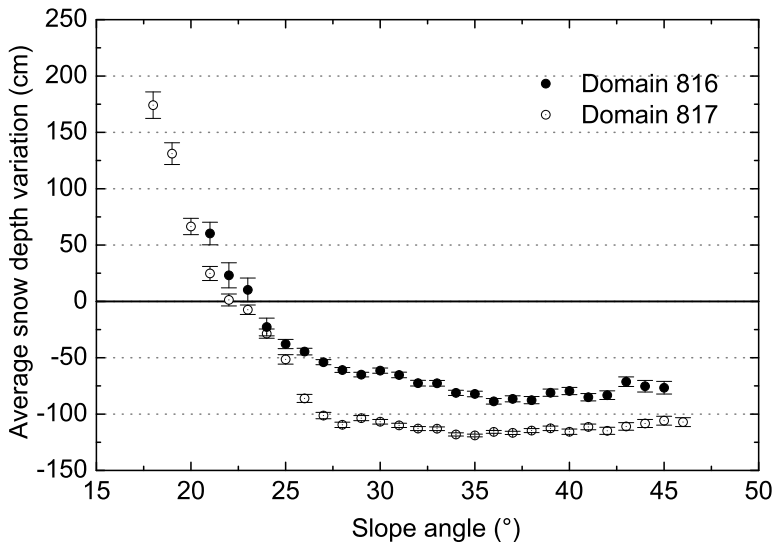


Snow depths variations h_δ

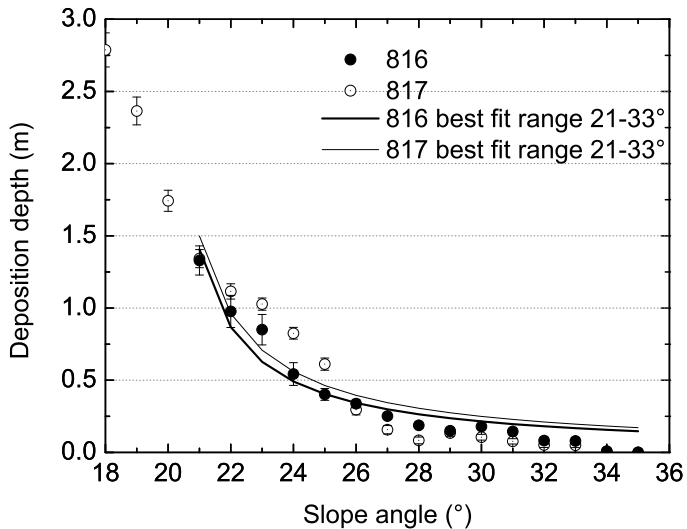


Bunker Rescue



Average snow depth variation \bar{h}_δ 

Deposit depth $\rho g d \sin \theta = c + \mu \rho g d \cos \theta$



Conclusions

- Simple theories can be very effective for flow and deposition
- Avalanche initiation is very complicated
- Synergy between Simulations, experiments and field observations
- Advances in instrumentation can really test models quantitatively

Acknowledgments



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Eckart Meiburg

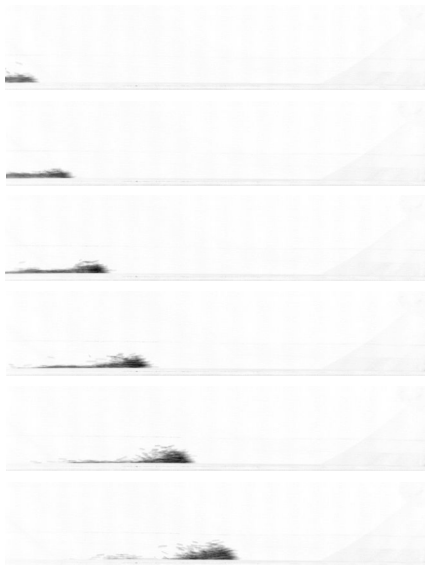
Shane Byrne

Nathalie Vriend

Thanks !



Chute Experiments



Eyes

