
 [JJ] Evening Poster | S (Solid Earth Sciences) | S-CG Complex & General

[S-CG63] Rheology, fracture and friction in Earth and planetary sciences

convener: Osamu Kuwano (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology), Ichiko Shimizu (Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo), Hidemi Ishibashi (静岡大学理学部地球科学専攻, 共同), Miki Tasaka (Shimane University)

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The aim of this session is to join people from various research area in the earth and planetary sciences and to stimulate discussion beyond the boundaries of each research area. Our goal is to deepen our understanding of dynamics in geosciences by looking over whole areas in the earth and planetary sciences from the viewpoint of PHYSICS OF DEFORMATION, FLOW, AND FRACTURE. We welcome any field (e.g., earthquake, volcano, earth surface, crust, mantle and the core, and other planets and satellites) and any approach (e.g., laboratory experiments, numerical simulations, field observations, and theories).

[SCG63-P07] How do we determine the statistically sufficient number of simulation runs in Discrete Element Method?

*Hidetaka Saomoto¹ (1. National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology)

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The Discrete Element Method (DEM), a numerical simulation technique for particulate systems, becomes a powerful tool to investigate the mechanical behavior of granular assembly including geo-materials such as sands, fault gouges, and sand-stones. Although the DEM can simulate strongly non-linear phenomena (e.g., debris flow, shear banding, and faulting), it is difficult to assess a single case-study result of the DEM simulation because the simulation result is largely sensitive to simulation setting: initial particle configuration; intensity of confining pressure; number of DEM particles; particle shape, etc. In addition, different initial particle configurations with the same physical properties of DEM particles often produce result in different mechanical behaviors.

These facts are directly linked to the reliability of the knowledge derived from the simulations so that we have to statistically verify the number of DEM simulation runs that is sufficient to obtain both the reliable and averaged

physical quantities from the DEM simulations.

This report provides a basic procedure to verify DEM simulation runs based on both the coefficient of variation and the well-known theorem in statistics, i.e., Central Limit Theorem (CLT). I conducted in total 16 cases of simple shear DEM simulations with 1000 runs for each case to determine the sufficient number of simulation runs for evaluating the averaged peak and residual strengths.

The outcomes from the series of DEM simulations are summarized as follows:

(1) At least 10 simulation runs are required for evaluating the average residual strength with 1000 DEM particles under the initial confining pressure of 500 kPa.

(2) The required number of runs depends on both the confining pressure and the number of DEM particles.

(3) An increase in the number of DEM particle is more effective to reduce the simulation runs than that in confining pressure.

(4) A certain number of simulation runs is required to define the shear elastic modulus at the beginning of shearing because the coefficient of variation is large at small strains close to zero.