

# Front propagation in granular chains

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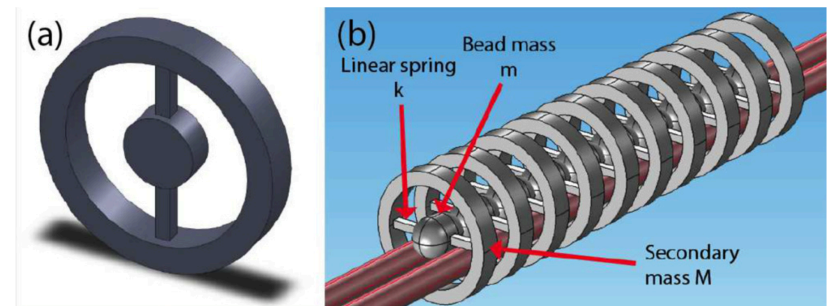
Grenoble INP, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS

GDR EX-MODELI, Lyon, October 2024



← granular chain

granular chain with ring resonators



Gantzounis et al, J. Appl. Phys. 114 (2013)

- Applications of granular chains and more general nonlinear mechanical metamaterials :

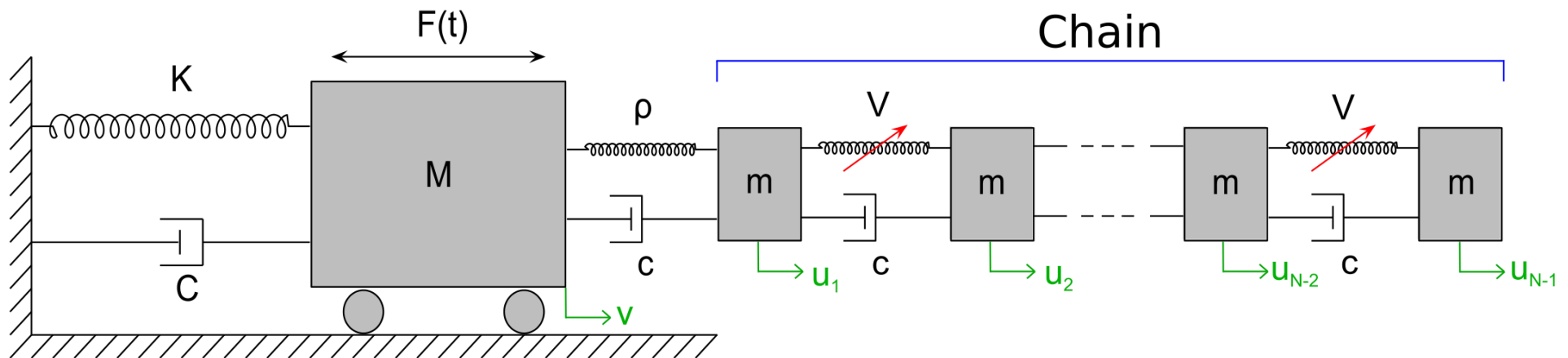
absorption of vibrations or shocks,  
shock redirection,  
energy focusing / trapping,  
acoustic diode,...

- Analytical study challenging :

nonlinear waves in spatially discrete media,  
strong or nonsmooth nonlinearities can make multiscale analysis more difficult

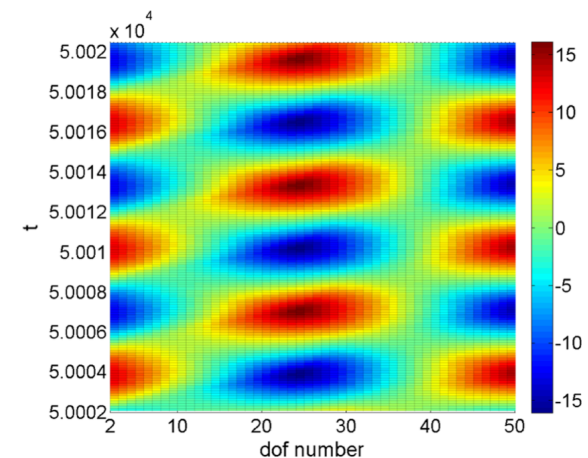
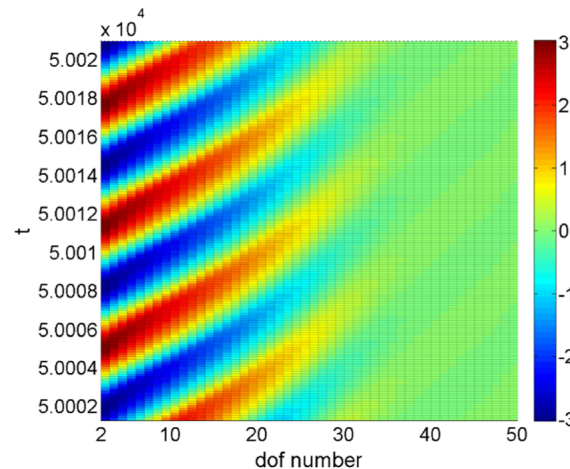
# Example 1 : vibratory control of a linear system by addition of a chain of nonlinear oscillators

S. Charlemagne, C.-H. Lamarque, A. Ture Savadkoohi, Acta Mech 228, 2017



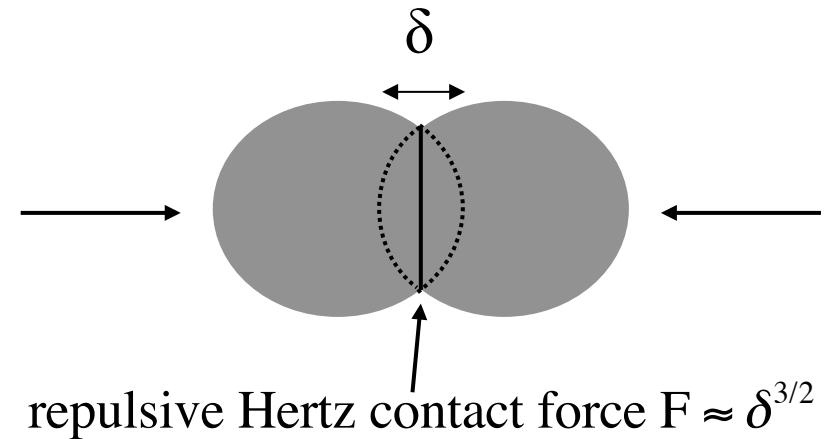
Amplitude of oscillations :

Different nonlinear oscillation patterns depending on parameters and initial conditions :



## Example 2 : impacts and solitary waves in granular chains

Chain of spherical beads :



Model for a nondissipative granular chain :

(Fermi-Pasta-Ulam lattice with Hertzian interactions)

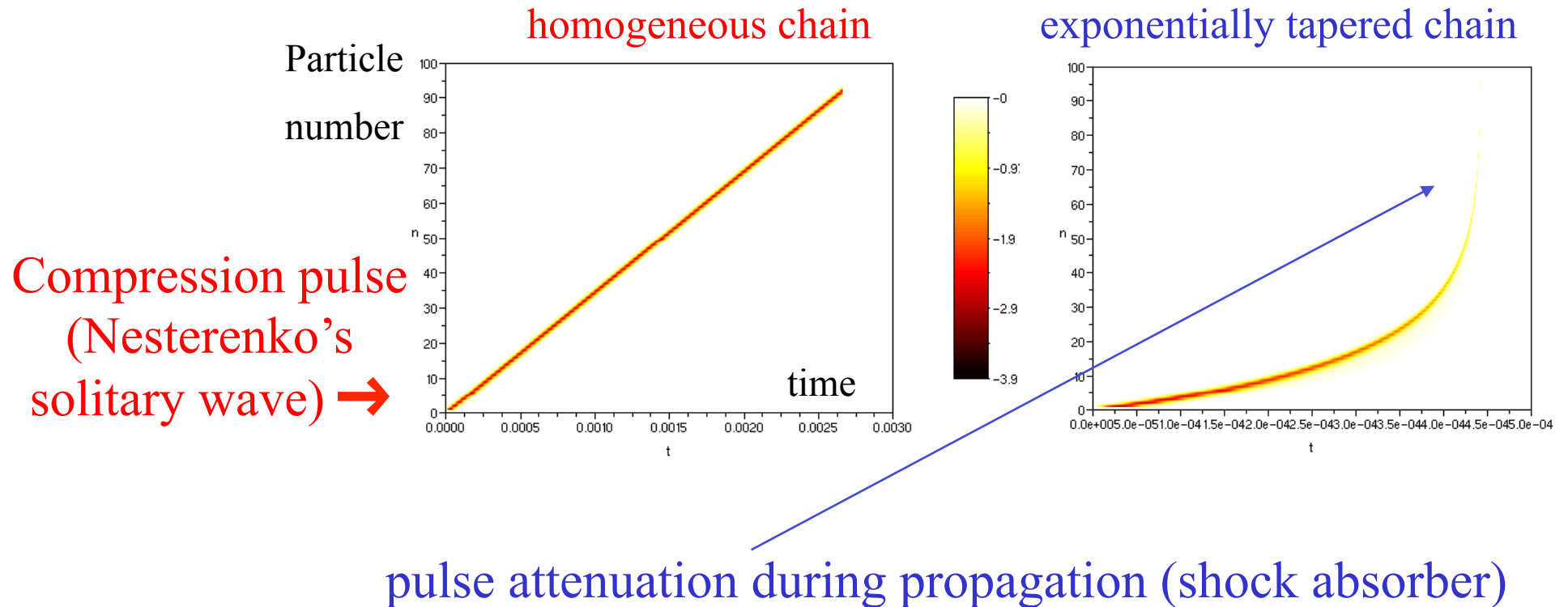
$$\ddot{x}_n = (x_{n-1} - x_n)_+^{3/2} - (x_n - x_{n+1})_+^{3/2}$$

$x_n$  = displacement of bead  $n$

$$(a)_+ = \max(a, 0)$$

## Example 2 : impacts and solitary waves in granular chains

Numerical computation of contact forces after an impact :

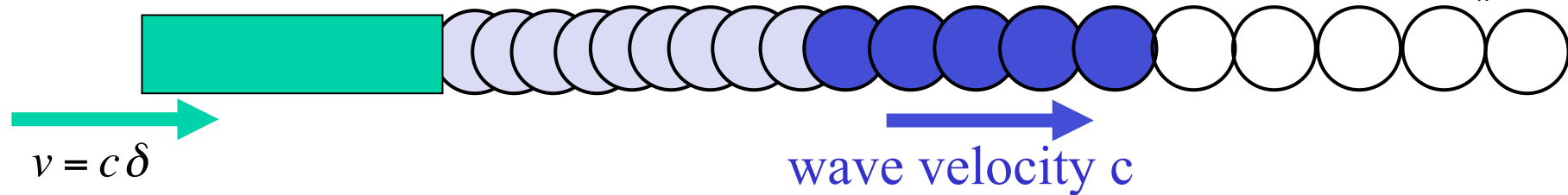


Melo et al, Phys Rev E 73, 041305 (2006)

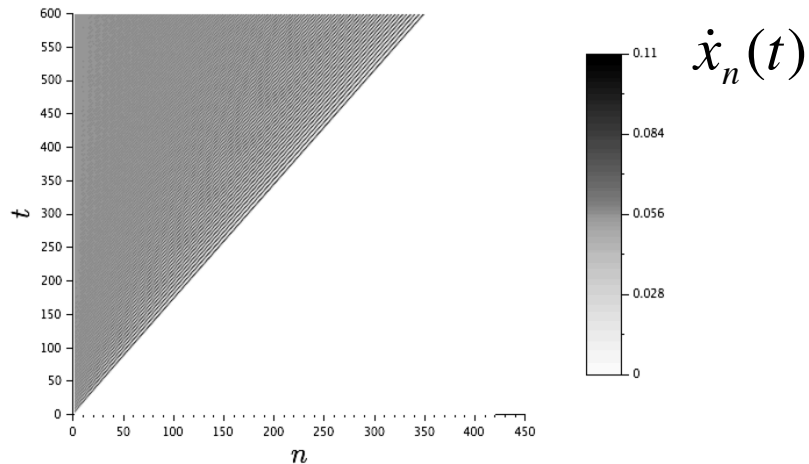
# Our focus in this talk : traveling compression fronts

downstream :  $x_n(t) - x_{n+1}(t) \sim \delta > 0$

upstream :  $x_n(t) \sim 0$



Numerical time-integration  
of Hertzian chain ( $\delta=0.1$ )  $\rightarrow$



-Experiments: Nesterenko and Lazaridi '87, Nesterenko '94, Molinari and Daraio '09

-Formal continuum limits:

Herbold and Nesterenko '07, Liang et al '19 (precompression), G.J. '21.

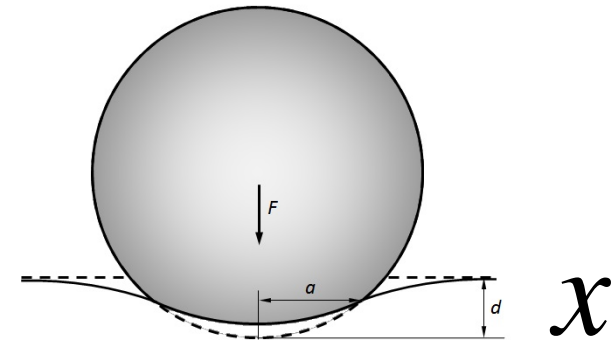
The front profile heavily depends on dissipation

# Dissipative contact force model of Kuwabara and Kono (KK)

$$F = -k \left( x^\alpha + \gamma \alpha x^{\alpha-1} \frac{dx}{dt} \right)$$

$k > 0$ ,  $\alpha > 1$  ( $\alpha = 3/2$  for Hertz contact)

$\gamma > 0$  dissipation constant (material parameter)



❖ Derived from continuum mechanics (viscoelastic solids) for  $\alpha=3/2$ :

Kuwabara, Kono '87, Brilliantov et al '15, Goldobin et al '15

❖ For  $\alpha < 2$ , not Lipschitz-continuous at  $x=0$  (onset of contact)

Other contact models :

-Simon-Hunt-Crossley ('67, '75)

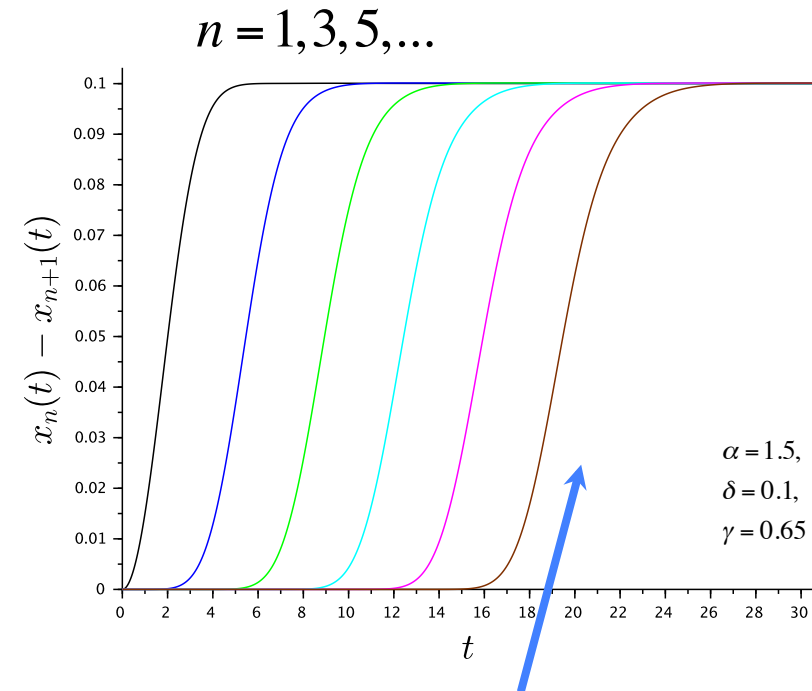
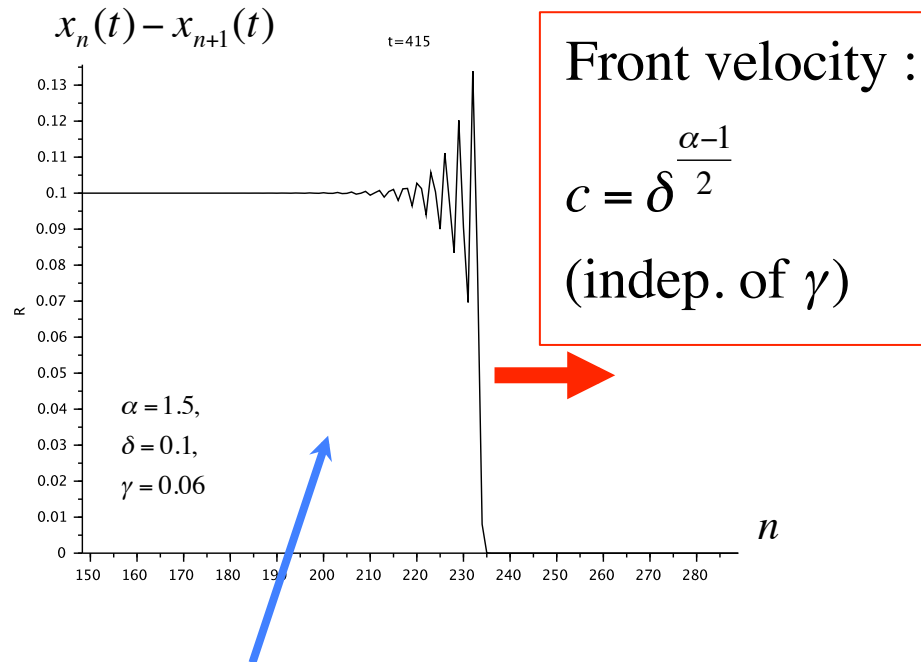
-Hertz with linear dashpot

application to compression fronts : Herbold and Nesterenko '07, Liang et al '19

# Dissipative fronts in the KK model

G.J. '21

$$\frac{d^2 x_n}{dt^2} = \left[1 + \gamma \frac{d}{dt}\right] \left( (x_{n-1} - x_n)_+^\alpha - (x_n - x_{n+1})_+^\alpha \right), \quad n \geq 1 \quad (\text{pressure at } n=1 : x_0 - x_1 = \delta > 0)$$



Fronts underdamped for  $\gamma < \gamma_c = \delta^{(1-\alpha)/2} \Gamma_c(\alpha) = v^{(1-\alpha)/(1+\alpha)} \Gamma_c(\alpha)$ , overdamped for  $\gamma \geq \gamma_c$ .  
 Critical rescaled damping  $\Gamma_c(\alpha)$  computed numerically.

→ For a given granular chain with KK contact law, underdamped regime occurs when impact velocity  $v$  is small enough (opposite situation for Hertz springs with linear dashpot).



## Analytical study of dissipative fronts :

- ◆ Granular chain with KK contact law:

$$\ddot{x} = -\delta^- \left[ \left( -\delta^+ x \right)_+^\alpha + \gamma \frac{d}{dt} \left( -\delta^+ x \right)_+^\alpha \right] \quad \alpha > 1, \quad \gamma > 0$$

$$x(t) = (x_n(t))_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}, \quad (\delta^+ x)(n) = x(n+1) - x(n), \quad (\delta^- x)(n) = x(n) - x(n-1)$$

- ◆ First order integro-differential equation for traveling waves :

Ansatz  $x_n(t) = X(\xi)$ ,  $\xi = n - ct \Rightarrow$  advance-delay differential equation :

$$c^2 X'' = -\delta^- \left[ \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha - \gamma c \frac{d}{d\xi} \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha \right]$$

Using  $(\delta^- f)(\xi) = \frac{d}{d\xi} \int_0^1 f(\xi - \varphi) d\varphi$  and integrating ( $\lambda = \text{constant}$ ):

$$c^2 X' = - \int_0^1 \left[ \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha \right] (\xi - \varphi) d\varphi + \gamma c \delta^- \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha + \lambda$$

◆ Application: front velocity

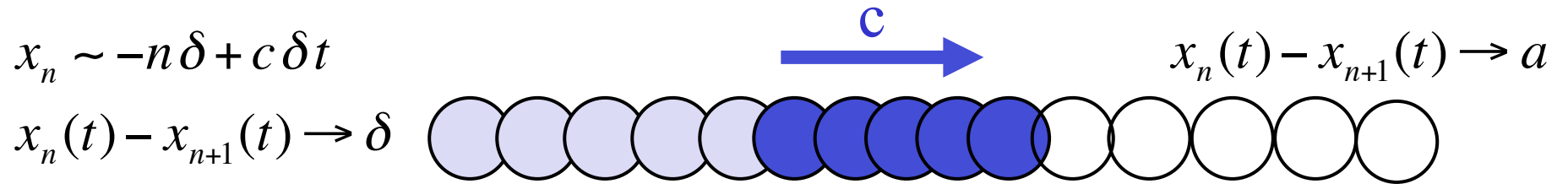
At  $-\infty$  :

$$x_n \sim -n\delta + c\delta t$$

$$x_n(t) - x_{n+1}(t) \rightarrow \delta$$

At  $+\infty$  :

$$x_n(t) - x_{n+1}(t) \rightarrow a$$



$$c^2 X' + \int_0^1 \left[ \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha \right] (\xi - \varphi) d\varphi - \gamma c \delta^- \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha = \text{constant}$$

Assuming  $X \sim -a\xi + b$  when  $\xi \rightarrow +\infty$  and  $X \sim -\delta\xi + \chi$  when  $\xi \rightarrow -\infty$   
with  $a, \delta \geq 0 \rightarrow$  jump condition (independent of damping constant):

$$c^2 (\delta - a) = \delta^\alpha - a^\alpha$$

For a chain at rest at  $+\infty$ , one has  $a = 0$  and

$$c = \delta^{\frac{\alpha-1}{2}}$$

Fronts broaden for  $\alpha$  close to 1  $\rightarrow$  continuum limit approximation using  $\alpha-1$  as a small parameter (asymptotics previously introduced for solitary waves by Chatterjee '99 )

$$x_n(t) - x_{n+1}(t) \approx \delta y_h^{1/\alpha}(s) \text{ with } s = 2\sqrt{3(1-\frac{1}{\alpha})}(n - \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2}t)$$

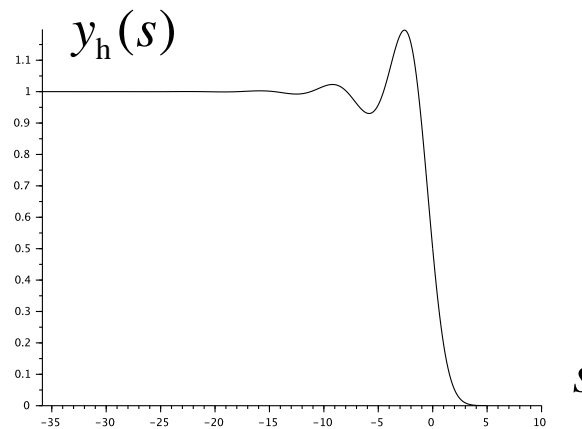
$y_h$  solves the nonlinear boundary value problem:

$$\frac{d^2 y_h}{ds^2} - 2\gamma \sqrt{\frac{3\alpha\delta^{\alpha-1}}{\alpha-1}} \frac{dy_h}{ds} + y_h \ln(y_h) = 0,$$

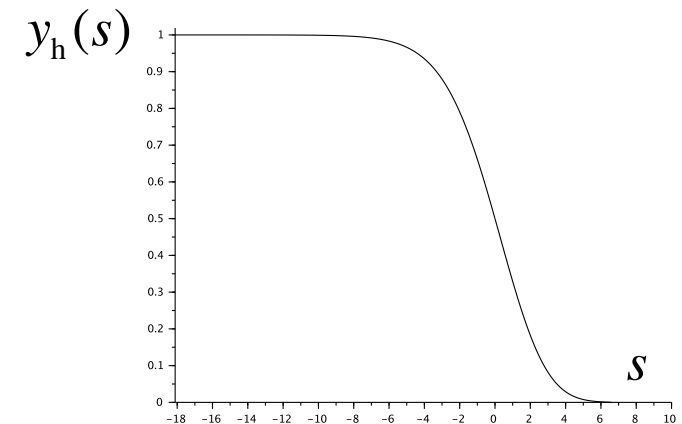
$$\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} y_h(s) = 0, \quad \lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} y_h(s) = 1$$

$y_h$  underdamped for

$$\gamma < \gamma_c = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha-1}{3\alpha\delta^{\alpha-1}}}$$



underdamped case



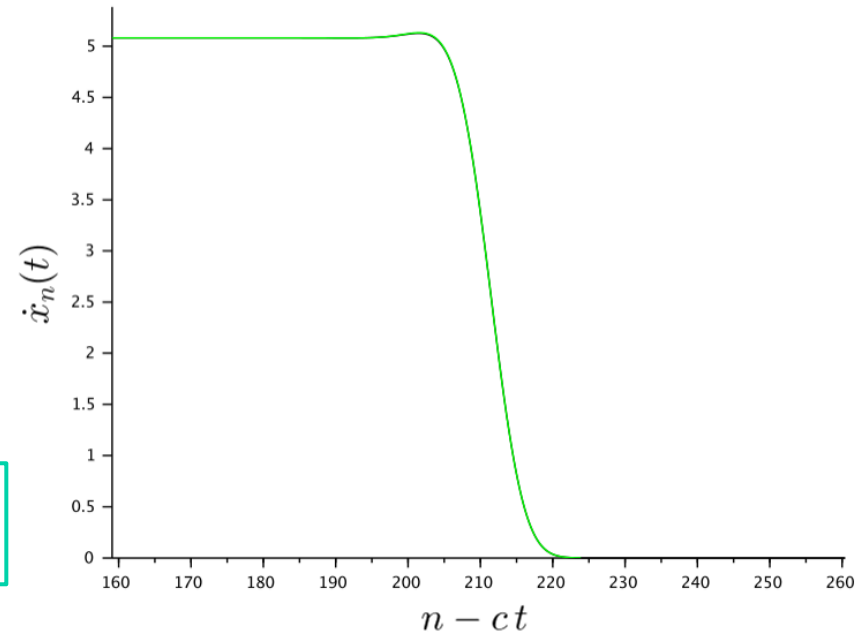
overdamped case

# Continuum approximation versus numerical front profiles :

Parameters:  $\alpha = 1.02$ ,  $\delta = 5$

Green curve: approximate front solution  
(continuum approximation) for  $\gamma = 0.06 \rightarrow$   
Black curve (almost superposed):  
front solution computed iteratively

Numerical  $\gamma_c \approx 0.078$ , cont. approx.  $\gamma_c \approx 0.08$

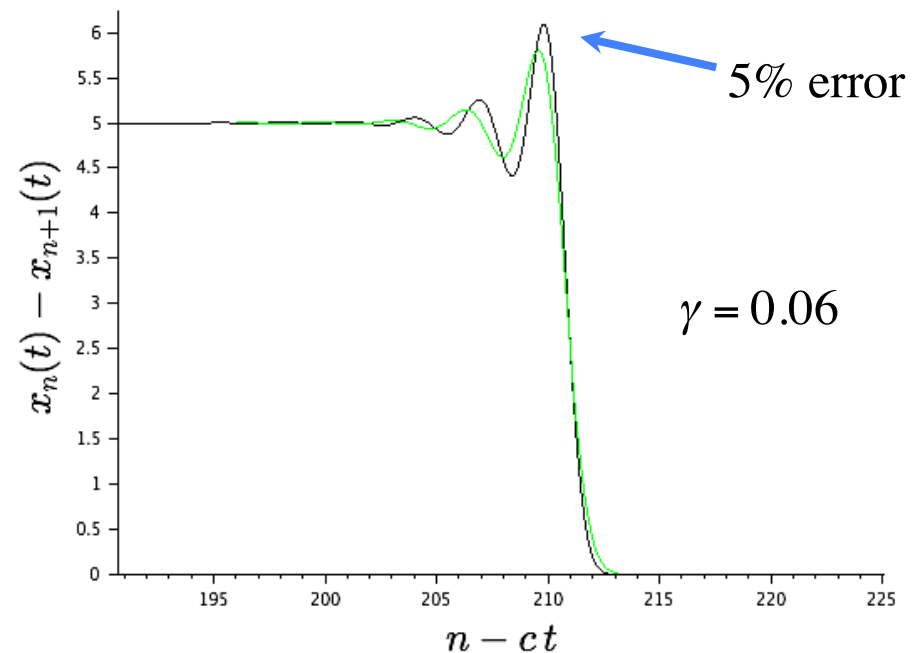


Parameters:  $\alpha = 1.5$ ,  $\delta = 5$

the continuum approximation  
remains meaningful  $\rightarrow$

Numerical  $\gamma_c \approx 0.17$

Continuum approx.  $\gamma_c \approx 0.22$



## Conclusion and remarks

- ❖ Impacts on granular chains generate nonlinear waves: solitary waves, fronts due to strongly nonlinear Hertzian interactions
- ❖ Front profiles broaden for nonlinearity exponent  $\alpha > 1$  close to unity  
→ continuum limit approximation
- ❖ Numerical validation of this continuum approximation :
  - convergence towards theoretical front profiles for  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$
  - qualitatively correct results for  $\alpha = 3/2$  (Hertz)
- ❖ The continuum limit  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$  can also be applied to solitary waves and breathers  
Chatterjee '99, G.J and Pelinovsky '14, G.J. and Starosvetsky '14, G.J. '18, Gzal et al '23

**Thank you for your attention !**

**Reference :**

G.J., Traveling fronts in dissipative granular chains and nonlinear lattices, *Nonlinearity* 34 (2021), 1758

## A strongly nonlinear continuum limit:

Traveling waves  $x_n(t) = X(n - ct)$  satisfy the advance-delay diff. equation

$$c^2 X'' = -\delta^- \left[ \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha - \gamma c \frac{d}{d\xi} \left( -\delta^+ X \right)_+^\alpha \right]$$

where  $(\delta^+ X)(\xi) = X(\xi + 1) - X(\xi)$ ,  $(\delta^- X)(\xi) = X(\xi) - X(\xi - 1)$

Setting  $c = \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2}$ ,  $u = -\delta^+ X$  and assuming  $u > 0$  (no gap between beads):

$$\delta^{\alpha-1} u'' = \Delta_d \left[ u^\alpha - \gamma \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2} \left( u^\alpha \right)' \right], \quad (\Delta_d u)(\xi) = u(\xi + 1) - 2u(\xi) + u(\xi - 1)$$

We look for long waves  $u(\xi) = \delta y^{1/\alpha}(s)$  with  $s = 2\sqrt{3} \varepsilon \xi$ ,  $\varepsilon \approx 0^+$ :

$$\left( y^{1/\alpha} \right)'' = \left[ \frac{d^2}{ds^2} + \varepsilon^2 \frac{d^4}{ds^4} + O(\varepsilon^4) \right] \left( y - 2\sqrt{3} \varepsilon \gamma \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2} (y)' \right)$$

$$(y^{1/\alpha})'' = \left[ \frac{d^2}{ds^2} + \varepsilon^2 \frac{d^4}{ds^4} + O(\varepsilon^4) \right] \left( y - 2\sqrt{3} \varepsilon \gamma \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2} (y)' \right)$$

We assume **small dissipation  $\gamma = O(\varepsilon)$** ,

set  $2\sqrt{3} \varepsilon \gamma \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2} = \mu \varepsilon^2 > 0$ , neglect  $O(\varepsilon^4)$ , integrate:

$$y'' - \mu y' + \frac{1 - y^{\frac{1}{\alpha}-1}}{\varepsilon^2} y = 0$$

Assuming  **$\alpha \approx 1$**  and setting  $\varepsilon^2 = 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha} = O(\alpha - 1)$  leads to a **log nonlinearity:**

$$y \frac{1 - y^{\frac{1}{\alpha}-1}}{\varepsilon^2} = y \frac{1 - \exp(-\varepsilon^2 \ln(y))}{\varepsilon^2} = y \ln(y) + O(\varepsilon^2)$$

(Chatterjee `99, G.J. and Pelinovsky `14, G.J. and Starosvetsky `14, G.J. `18, `20)

When  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$  we obtain the limit problem:

$$\frac{d^2 y}{ds^2} - \mu \frac{dy}{ds} + y \ln(y) = 0$$



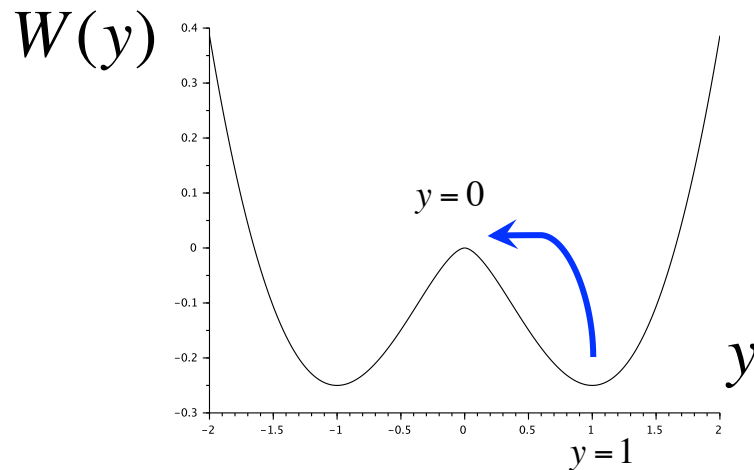
## Dissipative fronts in the continuum limit :

Setting  $\varepsilon = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{\alpha}}$  and  $\alpha \rightarrow 1$ , we have obtained:

$$\frac{d^2 y}{ds^2} - \mu \frac{dy}{ds} + y \ln(y) = 0$$

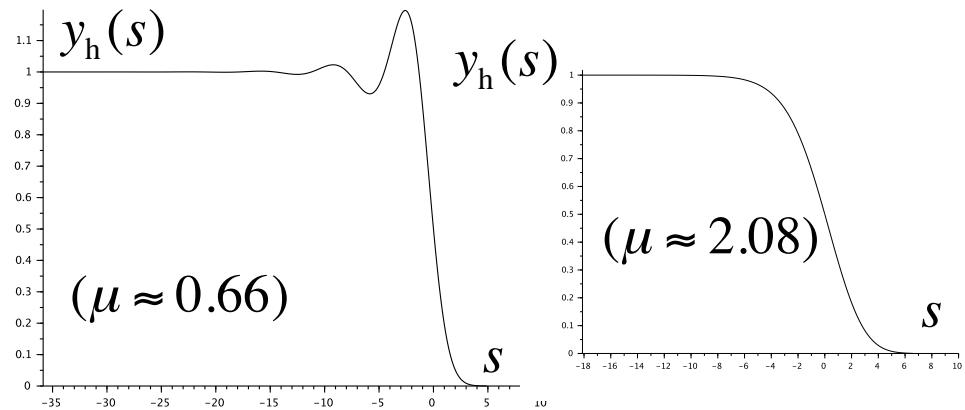
Positive solution  $\sim$  motion of a particle in potential  $W(y) = \frac{y^2}{2} \left( \ln|y| - \frac{1}{2} \right)$

with a negative damping ( $\mu > 0$ ):



$\Rightarrow$  Heteroclinic solution :

$$y_h(s) \rightarrow 1 \text{ for } s \rightarrow -\infty, \quad y_h(s) \rightarrow 0 \text{ for } s \rightarrow +\infty$$



$$x_n(t) - x_{n+1}(t) \approx \delta y_h^{1/\alpha} \left( 2 \sqrt{3 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\alpha} \right)} (n - \delta^{(\alpha-1)/2} t) \right) \text{ is overdamped for } \mu \geq 2, \text{ i.e. } \gamma \geq \sqrt{\frac{\alpha-1}{3\alpha\delta^{\alpha-1}}}$$