# Relaxation phenomena in bulk metallic glasses: from beta relaxations to nano shear bands

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# **Frequency dependence of dielectric loss**



P. Lunkenheimer et al., Contemp. Phys.(2000)

## **Mechanical Spectroscopy in Göttingen**



### LASW : 5 - 300 MHz



### AFAM: 1 - 2 MHz/ **3 GHz**



## **Slow beta-relaxation in metallic systems**



# **Potential Energy Landscape**

- "unhappy atoms"-T.Egami
- TL –systems R. Pohl
- Vibrations H. Schober
- Jumps
- Strings (β relaxation)
- Plastic events (STZ)
  ( α relaxation)- A. Argon

Potential Energy Φ



## **Generalized Coordinate**

Stillinger,Weber

## **Dynamical crossover in colloidal systems**



Figure 1 The steps of OFFs at  $T_{\mu}$  and  $T_{\mu}$ . The reference spectrum is appearance of the reconfiguring regions predicted by SP OF theory according to the lass-energy problem of the first spectrum predicted by SP OF theory according to the lass-energy problem of the first spectrum  $T_{\mu}^{cont}$ . The shapes needs (see lend) at  $T_{\mu}$  and the concover framilion temperature  $T_{\mu}^{cont}$ . The shapes needs (see lend) at  $T_{\mu}$  and the concover framilion temperature  $T_{\mu}^{cont}$ . The shapes needs to be first with the principal spectrum of the second spectrum predicted the principal spectrum of the concover framework of the spectrum  $T_{\mu}^{cont}$ .

## JACOB D. STEVENSON<sup>1</sup>\*, JÖRG SCHMALIAN<sup>®</sup> AND PETER G. WOLYNES<sup>1</sup>\* Nature Physics, 2006

#### STZ's and network forming in colloidal systems – P.Schall, D.Weitz and F.Spaepen



**Fig. 4.** Strain evolution during shear. Distribution of the cumulative shear strain after 20, 30, and 50 min of shear. For each frame, arrows indicate shear transformation zones that have been formed in the time interval before the frame shown. Shear transformation zones appear to form a connected network at t = 50 min. (A to C) *x-y* sections (5 µm thick) centered at z = 13.5 µm. (D to F) Perspective view of 16-µm-thick sections showing particles with shear strain values larger than 0.025 only.





FIG. 6. (Color online) Evolution of strain and strain correlations in the colloidal glass during a shear experiment. The time and macroscopic strain corresponding to columns (1)–(5) are indicated in Fig. 5(c). Row (a) shows the deformation profiles. Row (b) shows the top-view reconstructions showing only those particles with individual strain  $|\epsilon_{yz}| > 0.1$ , colored according to their strain. On strain reversal, some of the regions of particles that acquire a high positive strain (red) return to a low-strain configuration and disappear from the reconstruction; others experience an irreversible local deformation and remain in a high-strain state at the end of the experiment. These are compensated for by other regions that deform in the opposite direction (blue) so that at the end the average strain is zero at time (5). Row (c) shows the *y*-*z* plane cross sections of  $\epsilon_{yz}$  spatial autocorrelations, showing the evolution of the fourfold pattern that is the signature of Eshelby inclusions active in the material.

# AFAM: setup used by the Arnold group (IZFP Saarbrücken)



M. Kopycinska-Müller, A. Caron, S. Hirsekorn, U. Rabe, H. Natter, R. Hempelmann, R. Birringer and W. Arnold Z. Phys. Chem. **222** (2008) 471–498

# AFAM spectroscopy

Contact-resonance spectra of a SrTiO<sub>3</sub> sample and map of local elastic modulus



## Bulk metallic glasses Sample: PdCuSi, Reference samples: STO, SiO2

#### Map of local elastic modulus

Lokale Verteilung der Indentationsmoduln



H.Wagner et al. Nature Mat. 2011

# Local elastic map & plasticity (2-D-LJ system) M.Tsamados, J-L Barrat et al. PRE 80 (2009)



G in rigid (black) and soft (white) zones 2.5% strain (100x100 atoms)

Overlap of nonaffine displacement field (x 300) with elastic map for 2.55% strain

## Frequency distribution of local modulus with M= 105 GPa – amorphous PdCuSi (H. Wagner)



#### **Probability distribution of local modulus with M= 174.5 GPa** - at least partly crystalline PdCuSi (H. Wagner) Polycrystalline material with grain size Note: HWHH a factor 100 smaller orientation distribution compared to glass = Modulus distribution and soft parts are missing in Frequency of the modulus Gauss distribution **40** · (first to crystallize) 35 Gaussfit **FWHM: 0.22%** 30 $\Delta M/M$ Map of local elastic modulus [%] 25 1,2 0,90 20 0,60 15 0.30 200 nm 10 0 5

0

-0,4

-0,2

0,0

0,2

∆M/M [%]

0,4

0,6

-0.30

-0,60

-0.90

-1.2

200 nm

# Loss distribution of amorphous and x-talline PdCuSi



FWHM (a-PdCuSi) ~  $0.33 \times 10^{-2}$ 

FWHM (x-tal PdCuSi)~ 0.017 x 10<sup>-2</sup>

# Frequency distribution of local modulus and loss– amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub> -a strong glass forming system



H.Wagner et al. accepted by JAP 2014

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## **Generalized Coordinate**

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# Universal character of the slow betarelaxation in metallic systems





# Creep- recovery experiment for glassy PdCuSi below Tg to test the β - relaxation



M.Schwabe et al., EJPE,2011

# Loss landscape for the secondary - JG- β - relaxation versus temperature and stress



# Activation volume for the secondary- JG- β relaxation for glassy PdCuSi



String volume only 0.4 nm<sup>3</sup> ~ 20-30 atoms– factor 20 less than STZ size and <u>decreasing length scale</u> with increasing temperature

see also MW Chen, H.Schober, F. Faupel et al.

## Size of plastic events (STZ) – $\alpha$ - relaxation



## **β-excitation or string acts as an elastic quadrupol !!**



H. Schober1993 (from Miracle MRS Bull. 2007

# String with Eshelby stress field (not correct scale)



# Activation energy for beta relaxation and small atom diffusion



Hai Bin Yu et al. PRL 2012

# Activation energy for beta relaxation and small atom diffusion

Sliding event for diffusion (here shown only in 1D)



# MD simulation(2-D) for beta relaxation without and with pinning centers



Fig. 5: (Color online) Left panel: a graphic representation of the cooperative motion that is associated with the  $\beta$ -wing. Note the chains of particles that have moved coherently during a time span of four time units. The particles that move more than 40% of the typical inter-particle distance are marked in dark blue. Right panel: similar graphic representation of the suppression of the majority of the cooperative motion that is responsible for the  $\beta$ -wing by the addition of 2.5% pinned particles. In contrast to the previous figure, here one needs to look at cumulated motions for 15 time units to see the remnant correlated motion.

### Y.Cohen, I.Procaccia, K.S. et al. EPL 100 (2012) 36003

# Suppression of beta relaxation (wing) due to pinning centers (5%)



Y.Cohen, I.Procaccia, K.S. et al., EPL 100 (2012) 36003

## **Crackling or Barkhausen noise (minimal resolution 15 nm)**



# **MD-simulation: Stress-strain behavior**



#### M. Zink, K. Samwer, W. L. Johnson, S. G. Mayr , Phys. Rev. B 74 (2006) 012201

## MD-Simulation below critical yield strain- local STZ (M.Neudecker,S.G. Mayr, (Acta Mat. (2009))



# **Fixed stress boundary condition: Results for ε=0:**



# **Distribution of waiting time s for avalanches**



D(s)

#### Scaling of waiting time distribution with applied stress at fixed temperature



with universal scaling exponents  $\tau = 1.5$ ,  $\sigma = 0.5$  and scaling function  $g(x) \sim A \exp(-Bx)$ ,

# Binning analysis for different time length s : single events versus coordinated avalanches?



# **Nano-shear bands**

- ΔI~ 15nm slip length of a 50µm thick sample under 45 degree assuming a STZ size of 3.5nm (1000 atoms) and critical strain of 2 % (~ 0.07nm ):
- 20000 STZ x 0.07nm = 1.14 10<sup>3</sup> nm ~ 1µm offset of a macroscopic shear band
- 15nm offset about 1.5% ~ **300 STZ**
- Seen as offset in AFM and TEM work
- Upper limit –could be even smaller





Shear offset = 16 nm

Hai Bin Yu, unpublished





## **AFAM on shear bands**







- The region near shear bands seems with low resonance frequency.
- However, the hight is large.



#### A single shear band in a metallic glass: Local core and wide soft zone

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## MD Simulation of STZ's (elastic quadrupoles) line up to form a nano SB



#### I.Procaccia et al. Phys.Rev E 2013

FIG. 4: (Color Online). Left panel: The nonaffine displacement field associated with a plastic instability that results in a shear band. Right panel: the displacement field associated with 7 Eshelby inclusions on a line with equal orientation. Note that in the left panel the quadrupoles are not precisely on a line as a result of the finite boundary conditions and the randomness. In the right panel the series of 7 Eshelby inclusions, each given by Eq. 8 and separated by a distance of 13.158, using the best fit parameters of Fig. 2, have been superimposed to generate the displacement field shown.

# Summary

- beta relaxations are the fundamental excitations in a disordered system
- In BMG they form strings (0.4 nm<sup>3</sup> ~ 20-30 atoms: factor 20 less than STZ size)
- beta relaxations line up for diffusion of the small atoms far below the glass transition
- above 2.5% pinning center the beta relaxations are stopped
- Crackling noise analysis show powerlaw statistics common for small avalanches
- avalanches or nano shear bands form out of 300 STZ (1-D)

For a review on beta relaxations see: HB Yu, WH Wang and K.S. Materials Today 2013