

# On the relevance of shear transformations in the relaxation of supercooled liquids

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M. Lerbinger, A. Barbot, D. Vandembroucq and S. Patinet, Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 195501 (2022)

#### **Point of view**



### **1) Relaxations in supercooled liquids**

- Motivations and definitions
- Relaxation: nature, extension
- Inherent structure picture

### 2) Methods

- Dynamical observations
- Detection of relaxations
- Local yield stress method

### 3) Results

- Correlations
- Real space interpretation of relaxations
- Reversibility of relaxations



#### **Glass transition: phenomenology and questions**

#### **Motivation and definitions**

The glass transition



A. Cavagna, Phys. Rep. 476, 51 (2009)

**Divergence of the relaxation time** 



C. A. Angell, Nat. Tech. Inf. Serv., 1 (1985)

#### **Glass transition: phenomenology and questions**

#### **Dynamical heterogeneities**



L. Berthier and G. Biroli, Rev. Mod. Phys. 83 (2011)

# Structural observables can hardly distinguish phases at a qualitative level

W. Kob, in: Supercooled Liquids, the Glass Transition and Computer Simulations, in: EDP Sciences, 199 (2003)

#### **Hierarchical relaxations**







#### Attempts to relate structure and dynamics

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#### Locally favored structures

A. Malins et al., J. Chem. Phys., 138 12A535 (2013)

#### **Multi-body order parameters**

H. Tong and H. Tanaka, Phys. Rev. X, 8, 011041 (2018)
H. Tong and H. Tanaka, Nat. Commun, 10, 5596 (2019)
H. Tong and H. Tanaka, Phys. Rev. Lett., 124, 225501 (2020)

#### **Machine learning methods**





E. Boattini et al., Nat. Comm., **11**, 5479 (2020)

 $q_2$ 

- V. Bapst et al., Nat. Phys, 16, 448 (2020)
- S. S. Schoenholz et al., Nat. Phys, 12, 469 (2016)



### Necessity to employ coarse-grained description

#### Influence of structure on dynamics stronger on long length scales than on short ones

L. Berthier and R. L. Jack, Phys. Rev. E, 76, 041509 (2007)

#### **Multi-body order parameters**



H. Tong and H. Tanaka, Nat. Commun, 10, 5596 (2019)

#### Machine learning: Averaging local descriptors

E. Boattini et al., Phys. Rev. Lett., 127, 088007 (2021)

#### Machine learning: shell #

V. Bapst et al., Nat. Phys, 16, 448 (2020)



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#### Nature and spatial extension of the relaxations

#### Single atomic jump

K. Vollmayr-Lee, J. Chem. Phys., **121**, 4781 (2004)

#### **String-like motion**

C. Donati et al., Phys. Rev. E, **60**, 3107 (1999)

M. Vogel et al., J. Chem. Phys., **120**, 4404 (2004)



#### Local shear

A. Widmer-Cooper and P. Harrowell, Phys. Rev. E, 80, 061501 (2009)

#### Relaxations tend to localize with the decrease in T



W. Ji, T. W. J. de Geus, E. Agoritsas, and M. Wyart, PRE, 102, 062110 (2020)



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### Liquids as flowing solids: role of the inherent states

# Vibrations around potential energy minima, before quick jumps to other minima

M. Goldstein, J. Chem. Phys., 51, 3728 (1969)





This all the more approaching the glass transition

P. G. Debenedetti and F. H. Stillinger, Nat., 410, 259 (2001)

# Describe the dynamics by a succession of Inherent States

Schrøder T. B. et al., J. Chem. Phys. 112 9834 (2000)

B. Doliwa and A. Heuer, Phys. Rev. Lett., **91**, 235501 (2003)

A. Heuer, J. Phys. Condens. Matter, 20, 373101 (2008)



#### **Evidences from the energy potential landscape perspective**

#### "Elastic" models (e.g. shoving)

J. C. Dyre, Rev. Mod. Phys., 78, 953 (2006)





#### Soft vibrational modes linked to rearrangements

A. Widmer-Cooper et al., Nat. Phys, 4, 711 (2008)

# Non-Arrhenian characteristic energy scale evidenced in fragile liquids

G. Kapteijns et al., J. Chem. Phys., 155, 074502 (2021)





Local events (+ mechanical balance and material isotropy) imply long-ranged correlated stresses

A. Lemaître, Phys. Rev. Lett., 113, 245702 (2014)

### Summing up

#### Time scale and nature of relaxations in supercooled liquids?

- Correlation (to some extent) between local structure and dynamics
- Need of coarse-grained quantities & relaxations localize as T is lowered
- Contrasting results about the nature of thermally activated excitations
- Mechanics of inherent structures (elasticity + shear) plays a crucial role



<u>Proposal</u> : look at the local shear response of inherent structures



### Plan

Potential energy

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#### System and simulation methods

#### System:

- Two-dimensional binary glass
- 10<sup>4</sup> atoms,  $\rho$ =1,024, PBC
- Lennard-Jones potentials (+smoothing function)

M. L. Falk, et al. *PRE* **57**, 7192 (1998) *A. Barbot, et al. PRE* **97**, 033001 (2018)

• 20 samples, 100 replicas

### Simulation methods:

- NVT molecular dynamics
- Inherent structures from instantaneous quench
- Local loading: Athermal Quasi-Static shear

### Codes:

• Atomistic simulation: LAMMPS S. Plimpton, J. Comp. Phys., 117, 1 (1995).



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$$U(r_{ij}) = \begin{cases} 4\epsilon \left[ \left( \frac{\sigma}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left( \frac{\sigma}{r_{ij}} \right)^{6} \right] + A, & \text{for } r_{ij} < R_{\text{in}} \\ \sum_{k=0}^{4} C_k (r_{ij} - R_{\text{in}})^k, & \text{for } R_{\text{in}} < r_{ij} < R_{\text{cut}} \\ 0, & \text{for } r_{ij} > R_{\text{cut}}, \end{cases}$$

#### Methods: MD and inherent state generation



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#### 2 maps: Dynamical variables and local properties



### Methods: computation of propensity

**100 replicas: Same initial structure + randomized velocities** 



#### Method to probe the local yield stresses

**Idea:** Local loading with constrained boundary conditions



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Idea: Local loading with constrained boundary conditions



P. Sollich, CECAM Workshop ACAM, Dublin (2011) Puosi et al., Soft Matter (2015) S. Patinet, D. Vandembroucq and M. Falk, Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 045501 (2016) A. Barbot, M. Lerbinger, A. Hernandez, R. García, M. Falk, D. Vandembroucq and S. Patinet, PRE **97**, 033001 (2018)

Local yield stress fields



=> Method of **order** ~ N (can handle large system sizes) that measures of a slip threshold field with controlled **spatial sampling** and **orientation**, which is **non-perturbative** and shows excellent **correlation** with plastic rearrangement locations (symbols numbered by order of appearance during remote loading).

#### Local yield stress statistics



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# Correlation between propensity and $\Delta \tau^c_{_{min}}$



#### Local yield stress along the softest direction



#### **Pearson correlation**



Correlation decreases with parent temperature

# Correlation between propensity and $\Delta \tau^c_{\phantom{c}min}$

#### **Pearson correlation**



Correlation decreases with parent temperature

# Correlation between propensity and $\Delta \tau^{c}_{_{min}}$

#### **Pearson correlation**



- Correlation decreases with parent temperature
  - Correlation maximum is comparable with state of the art ML

#### A real space view of core relaxations

#### **Thermal rearrangement**







#### A real space view of core relaxations



Correlation peaks in the vicinity of the softest shear direction

#### A real space view of core relaxations





Correlation peaks in the vicinity of the softest shear direction

Rearrangements are more probable along this weak direction



#### Rearranged **Elastically stressed**

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Linear response:

 $\dot{I}_{lin} = H_{t_0} \overrightarrow{u}_{th}(t, t_0)$ 

A. Lemaître, Phys. Rev. Lett., 113, 245702 (2014)



A. Lemaître, Phys. Rev. Lett., 113, 245702 (2014)



#### **Scaling of energy barriers**



#### **Scaling of energy barriers**

### Assuming a simple Arrhenius behavior: $t=t0.e^{\Delta U/kT}$ with $\Delta U = Cst.(\Delta \tau^{c}_{min})^{\delta}$



#### **First passage time statistics**



R. Candelier et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **105** (2010)

A. Heuer, J. Phys. Condens. Matter, 20, 373101 (2008)

#### **First passage time statistics**

#### Probability to be in the initial state



#### Back and forth motions modelled as a continuous 3-states Markov chain

Reversible events relative rates which increase as the temperature is lowered

#### Conclusions

### 1) Correlations between dynamics and structure

- Correlation between propensity and  $\Delta \tau^{c}_{_{min}}$
- Maximum in the vicinity of  $\tau_{\!_{\!\!\!\!\alpha}}$
- Correlation comparable with ML



### 2) Real space picture of relaxations

- Maximum correlation in the softest direction  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{_{min}}$
- Rearrangements more probable in the vicinity of  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{_{min}}$
- Effective  $\Delta U$  scaling compatible with catastrophe theory but closer to NQE

### **3)** First passage time statistics

- Anomalous long tail due to reversible rearrangements
- Reversibility increase as the temperature is lowered





