

# DETECTION OF MULTI-DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURES IN GRANULAR MATERIALS

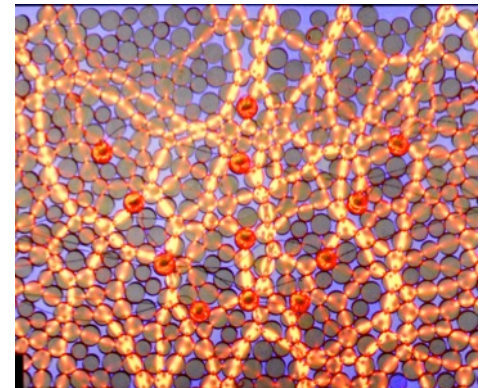
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# Acknowledgements

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Eli T. Owens (Presbyterian)

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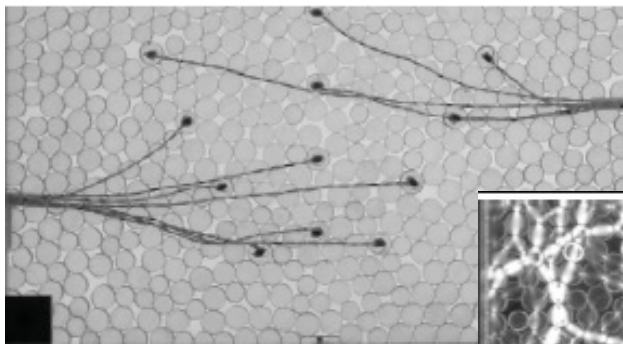
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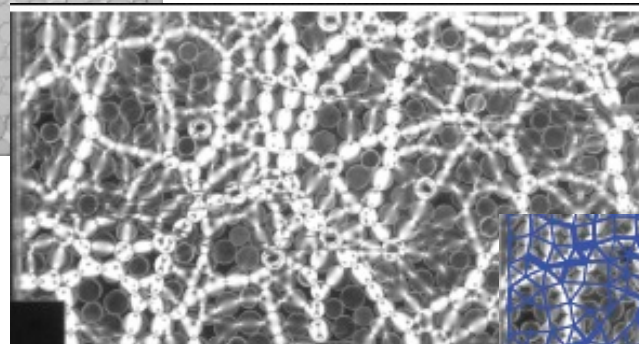


# Force Chains in Granular Media

Collection of particles putting pressure on one another through an interaction of gravity and geometry



Photoelastic response shows internal forces



Define:

$A_{ij}$  Contact network

$W_{ij}$  Force network

$\omega$  Mean Force

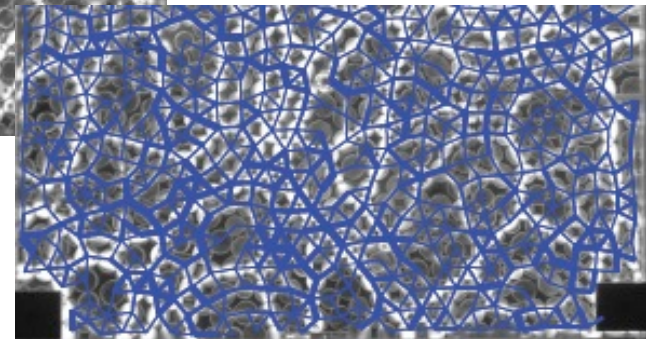
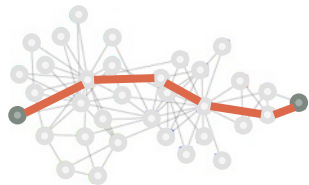
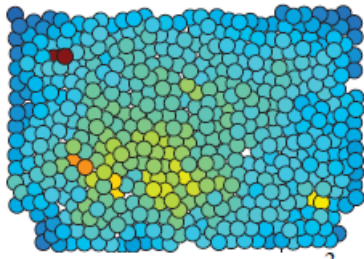


Image processing to obtain network

# Probing Multi-Dimensional Structures

## System

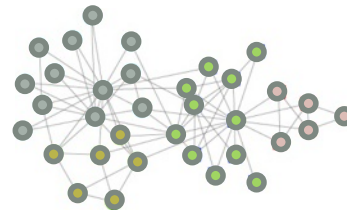
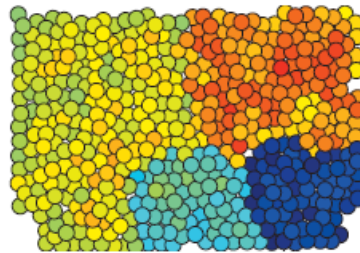


## Global Efficiency

$$E(\mathbf{G}) = \frac{1}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i \neq j \in \mathbf{G}} \frac{1}{d_{ij}}$$

- Efficiency of global signal transmission

## 2D Domain

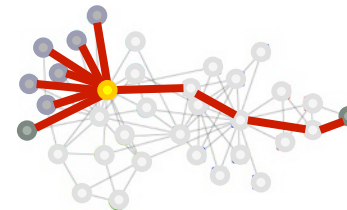
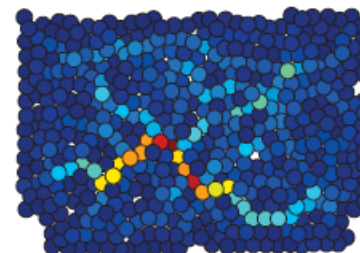


## Modularity

$$Q = \sum_{ij} [A_{ij} - P_{ij}] \delta(g_i, g_j)$$

- Local geographic domains

## 1D Curves

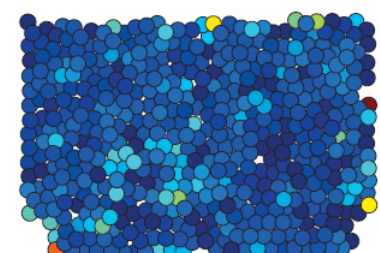


## Geodesic Node Betweenness

$$B_i = \sum_{j,m,i \in \mathcal{G}} \frac{\psi_{j,m}(i)}{\psi_{j,m}}$$

- Bottlenecks or centrality

## 0D Particles

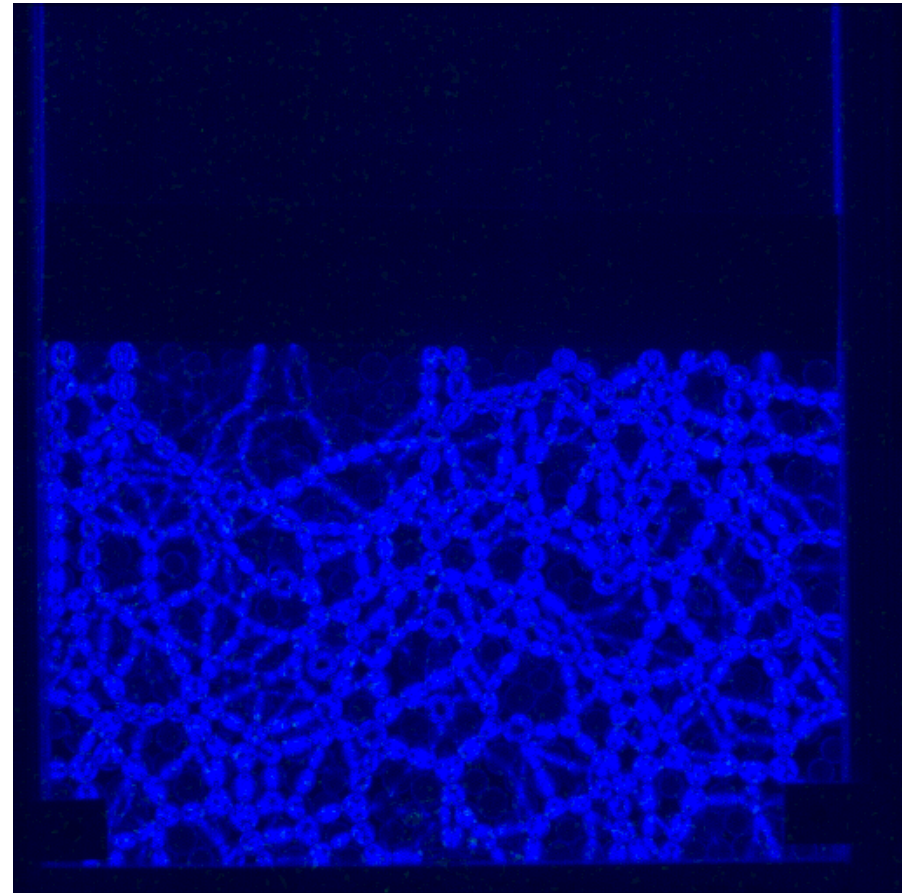
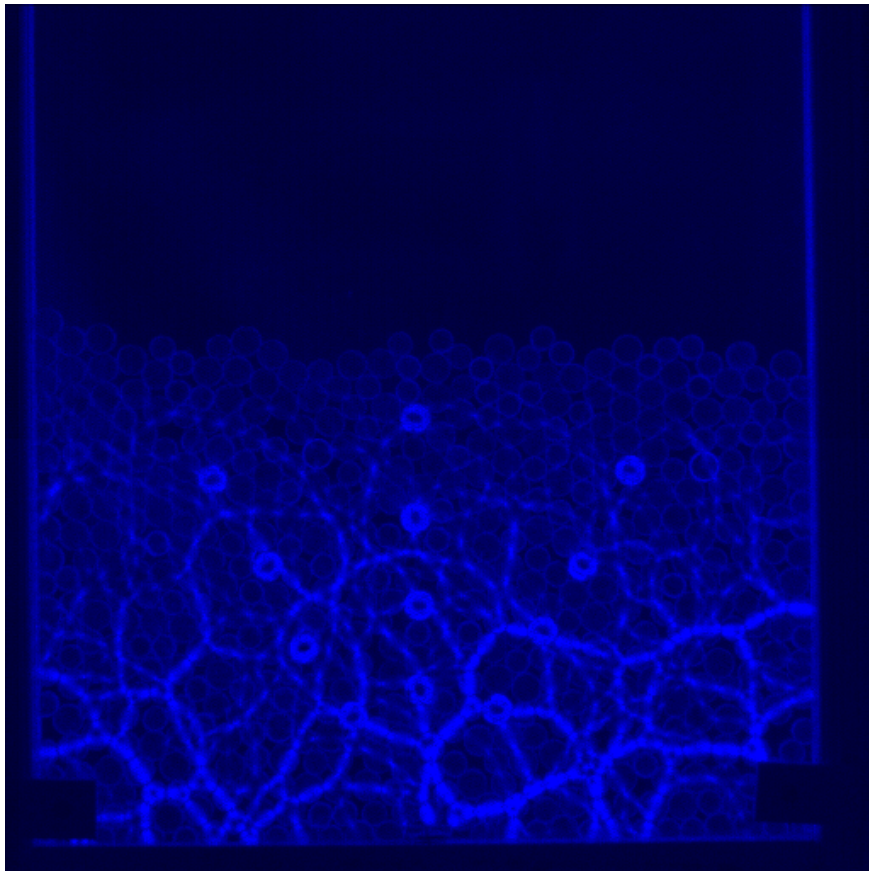


## Clustering Coefficient

$$C_i = \frac{\sum_{mj} A_{mj} A_{im} A_{ij}}{k_i(k_i - 1)}$$

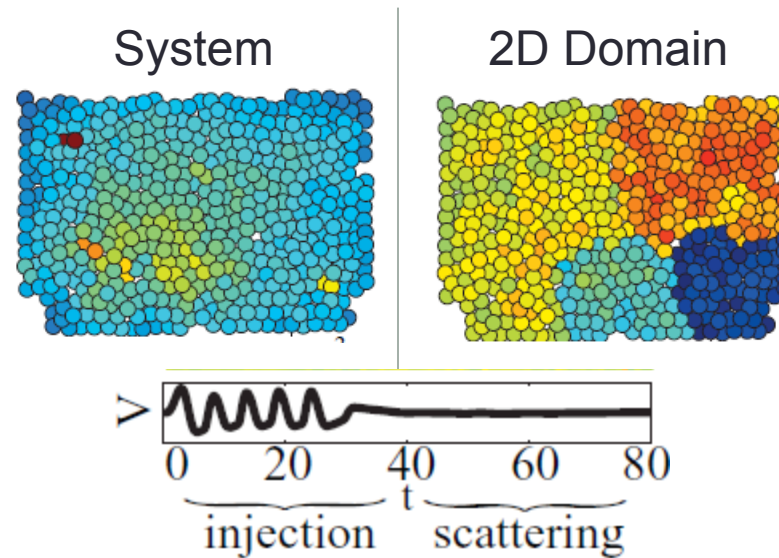
- Local loop structures

# Network Markers of Acoustic Transmission?

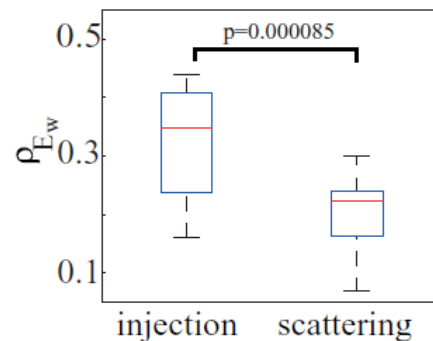




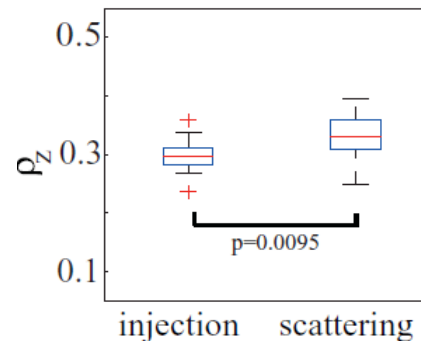
# Spatial Structures Differentially Constrains Sound



Correlation between  
**nodal efficiency**  
and acoustic  
signal intensity

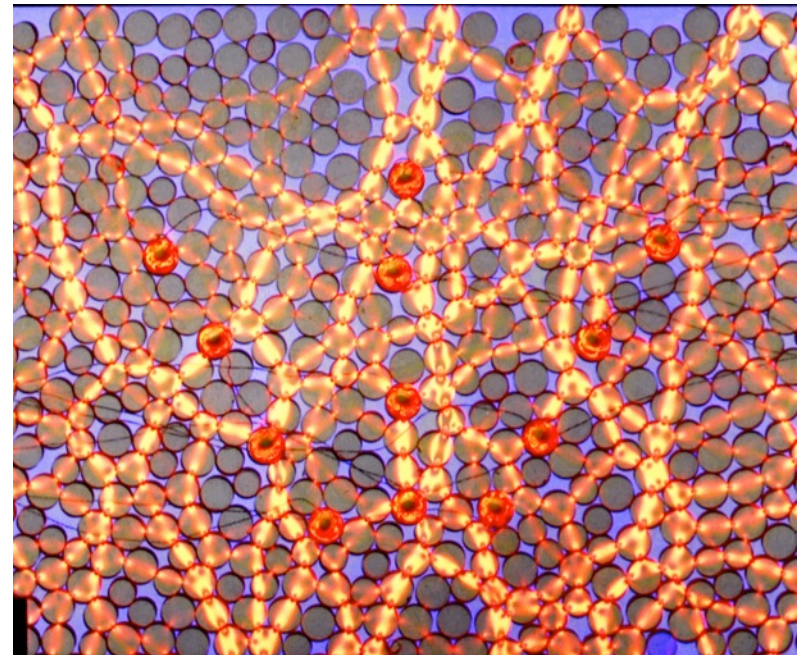


Correlation between  
**intra-module strength**  
and acoustic signal  
intensity



# Summary

- Granular materials can be represented as weighted networks.
- Traditional graph-based statistics can be computed to probe multidimensional structures at the:
  - System
  - 2D domains
  - 1D cures
  - 0D particles
- These multi-dimensional structures differentially constrain bulk properties of the material, such as acoustic transmission.



# Problem: Nonphysical Assumptions of Traditional Graph Statistics

Traditional Community Detection Techniques uncover 2D domains.

$A_{ij}$	Contact network
$W_{ij}$	Force network
$\omega$	Mean Force

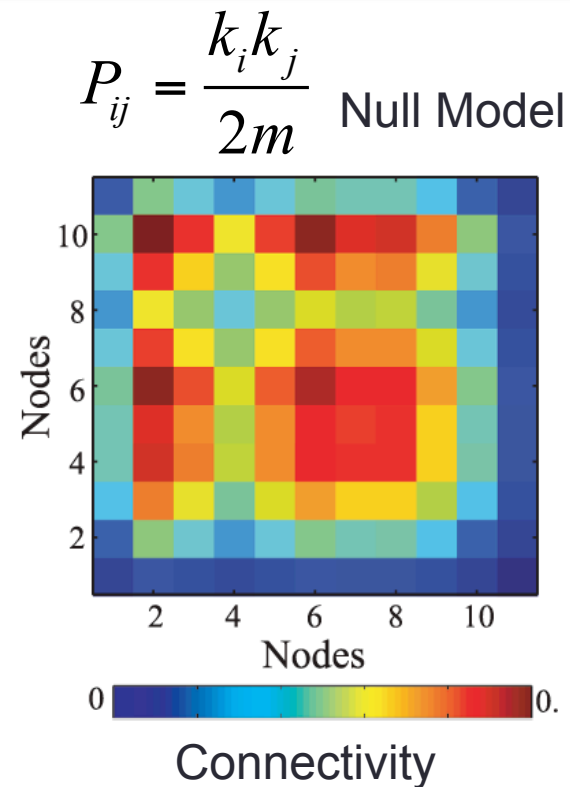
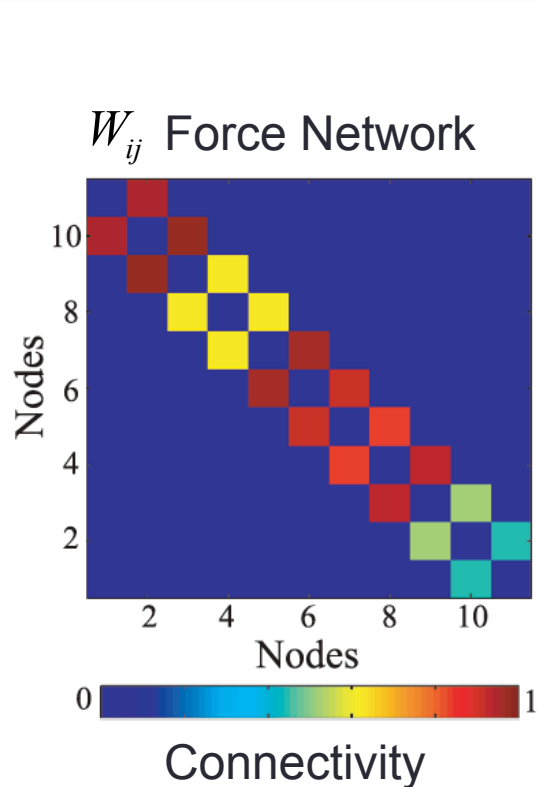
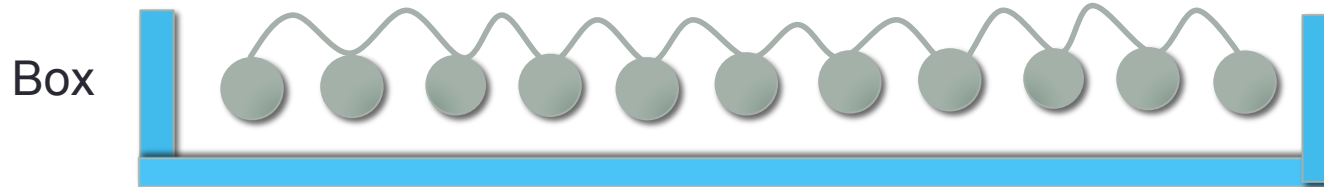
$$Q = \sum_{i \neq j \in G} [W_{ij} - P_{ij}] \delta(g_i, g_j) \quad \text{Modularity Quality Function}$$

$$P_{ij} = \frac{k_i k_j}{2m}$$

Null Model

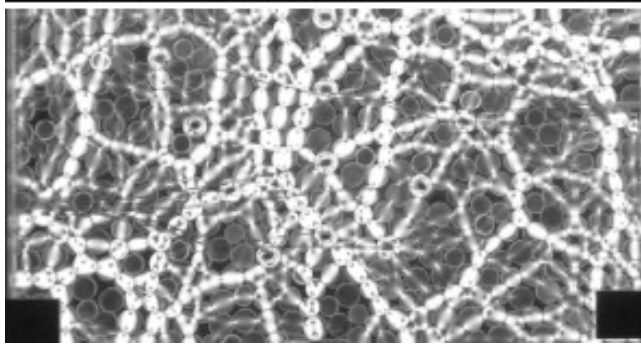


# Example: Ring Lattice Network

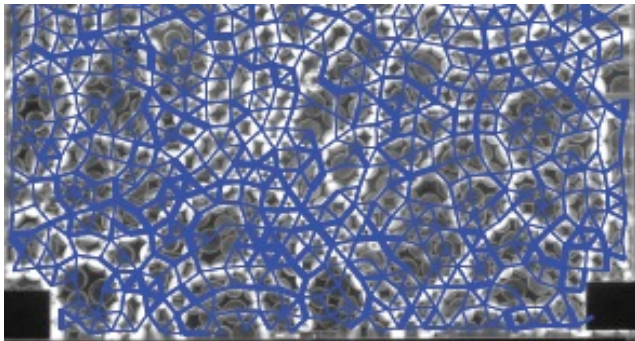


# Example: 2-Dimensional Packing

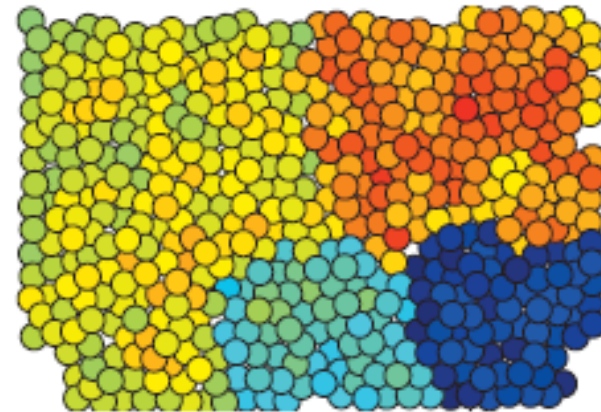
Force Data



Force Weighted Network



2D Domains

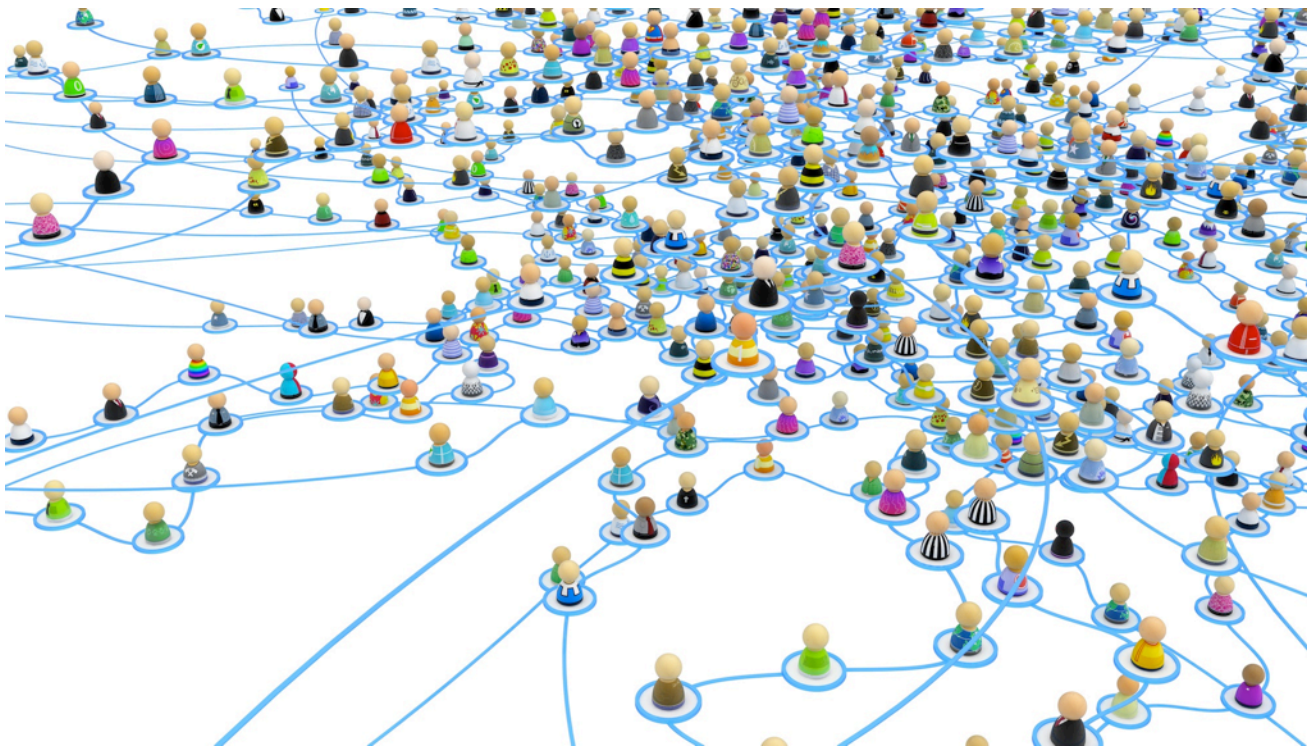


**BUT:** We have assumed that any particle can contact any other particle.

**:: New Physics Alert::**

# Illustration of a Bigger Problem

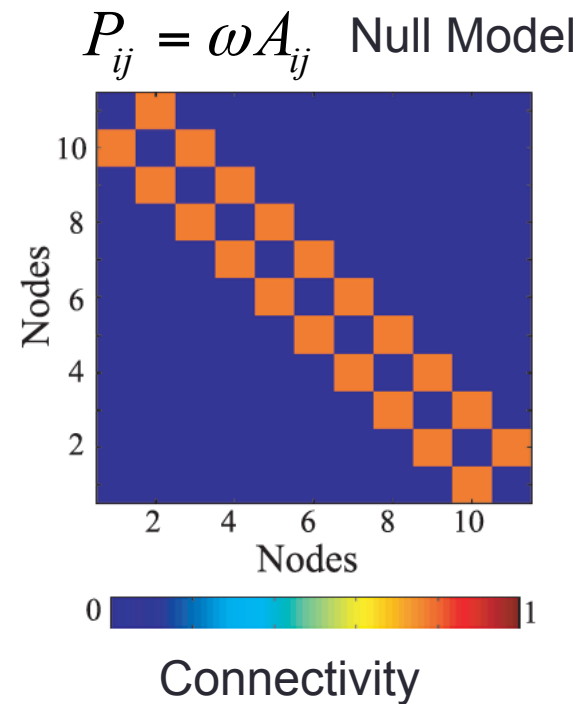
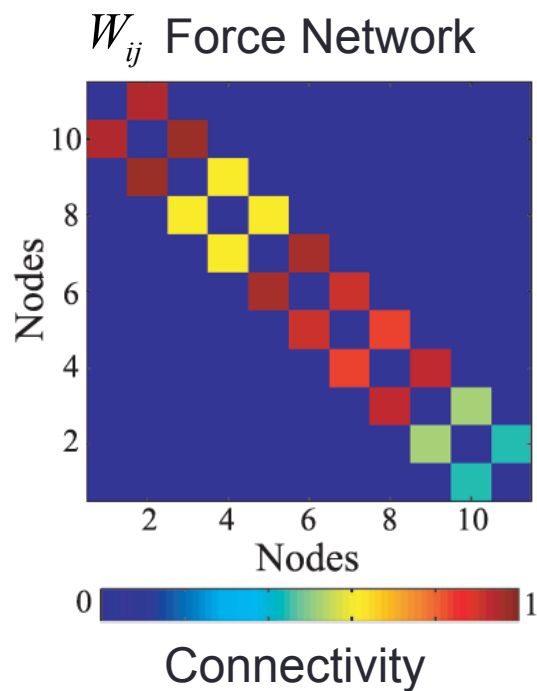
The field of network science is built on traditionally non-physical nodes and edges.



- Radically revamp our toolbox to address physical questions?

## How do we fix this?

Let's use a custom spatially constrained null model that fixes topology (contacts) while scrambling geometry (forces).



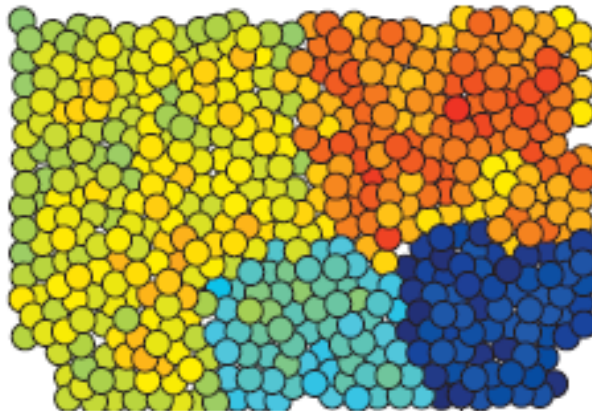
# Result

Using the Newman-Girvan null model, we uncover 2D domains;  
Using the geographic null model, we uncover structures reminiscent of force chains.

$$P_{ij} = \frac{k_i k_j}{2m}$$



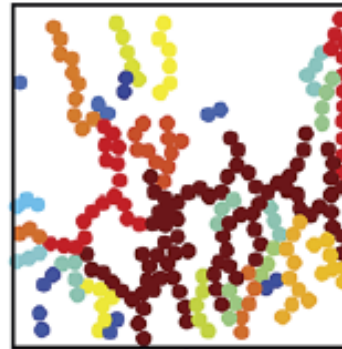
2D Domains



$$P_{ij} = \omega A_{ij}$$



Chain-Like Structures

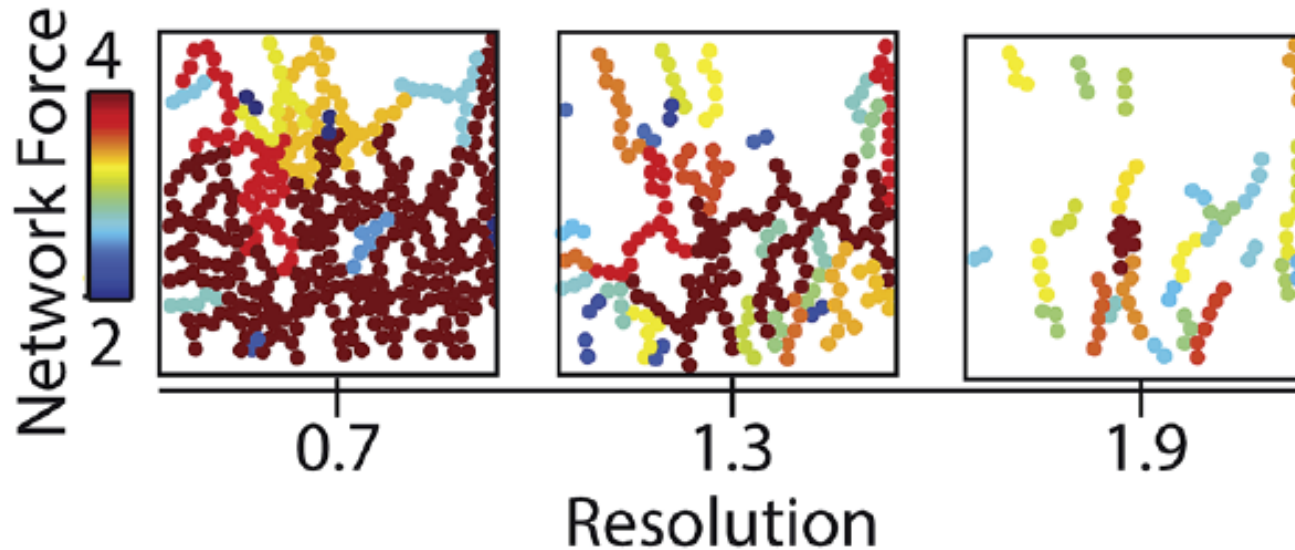




# The Effect of the Resolution Parameter

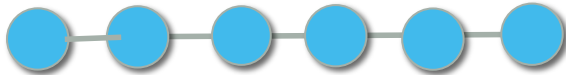
$\gamma$  = structural resolution parameter

$$Q = \sum_{i \neq j \in G} [W_{ij} - P_{ij}] \delta(g_i, g_j)$$



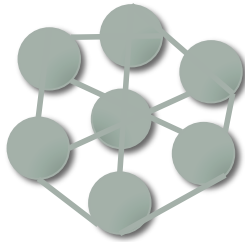
# What features do force chains have?

## Not Interesting:



Line

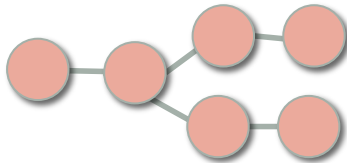
Hop Distance = Physical Distance



Blob

Hop Distance = Physical Distance

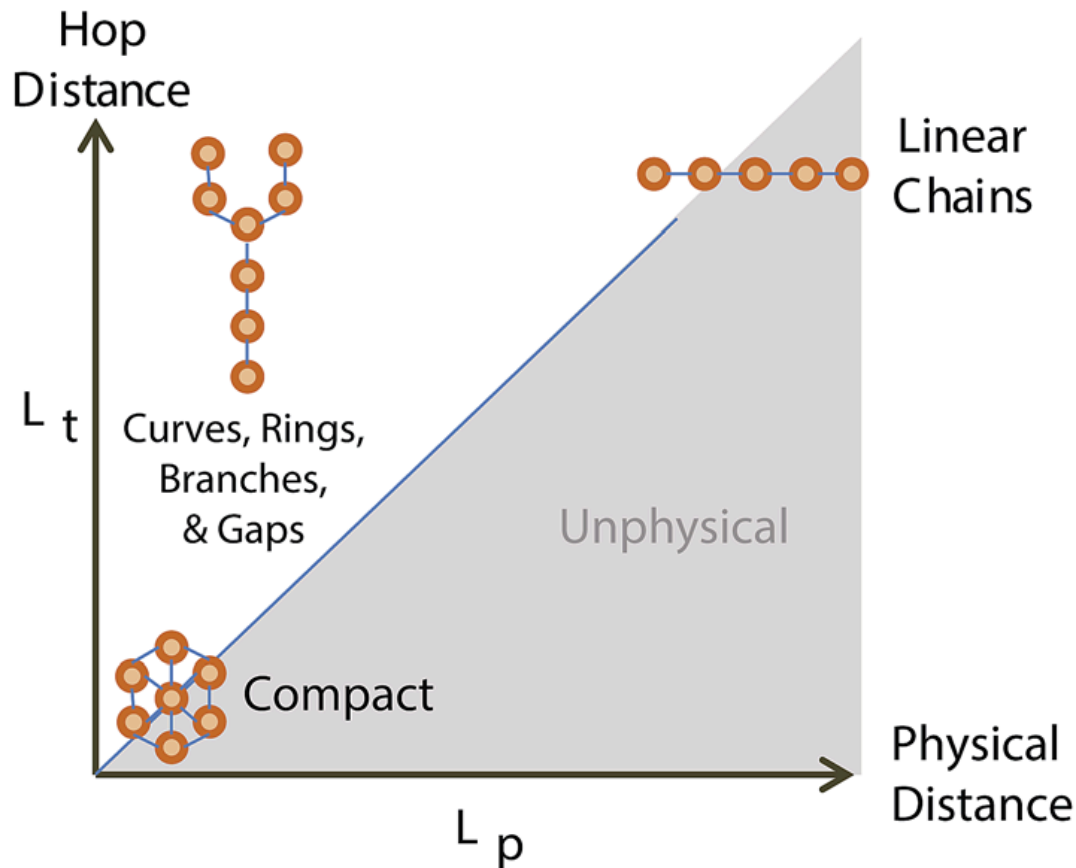
## Interesting:



Branch

Hop Distance > Physical Distance

# A Statistic for Force Chain Shape: the Gap Factor



We define the weighted gap factor as:

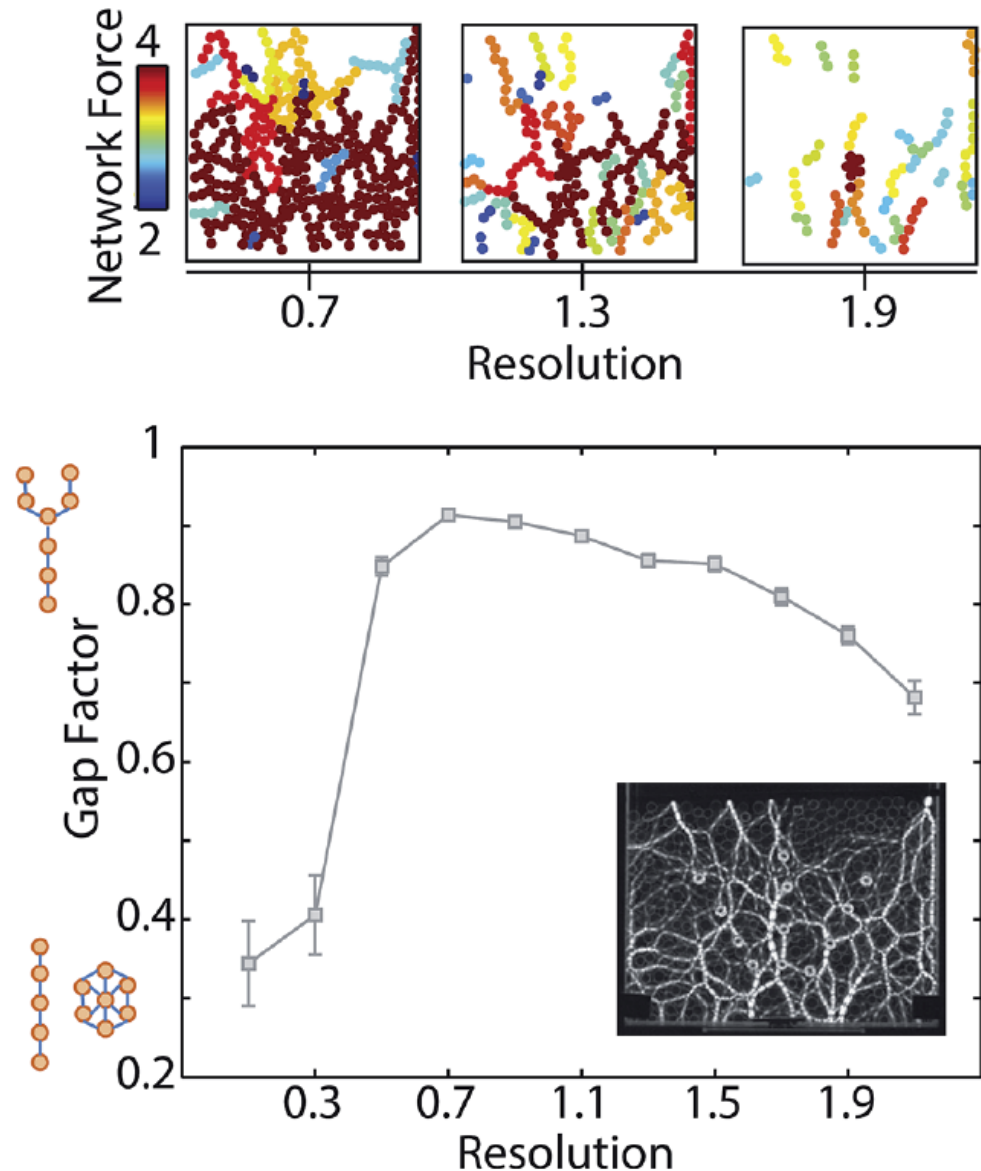
$$g_c = 1 - \frac{r_c s_c}{s_{\max}}$$

Where  $r_c$  is the Pearson correlation coefficient between  $L_t$  and  $L_p$  within community  $c$ ,  $s_c$  is the size of community  $c$ , and  $s_{\max}$  is the size of the largest community in the packing.

# Data-Driven Extraction of Force Chains

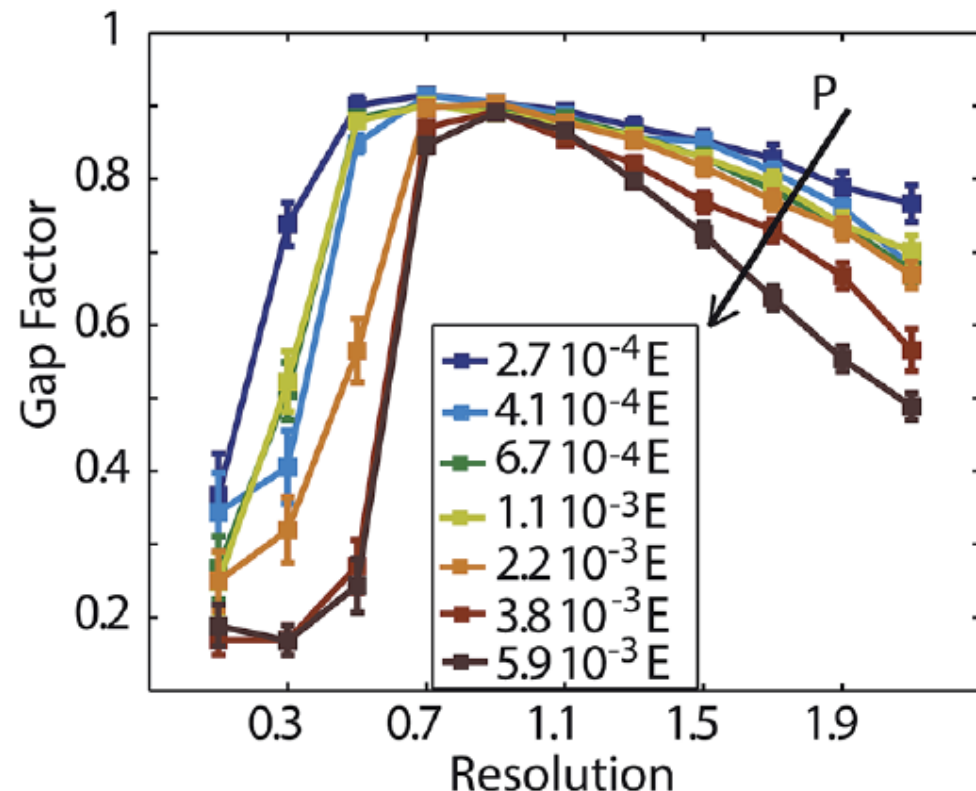
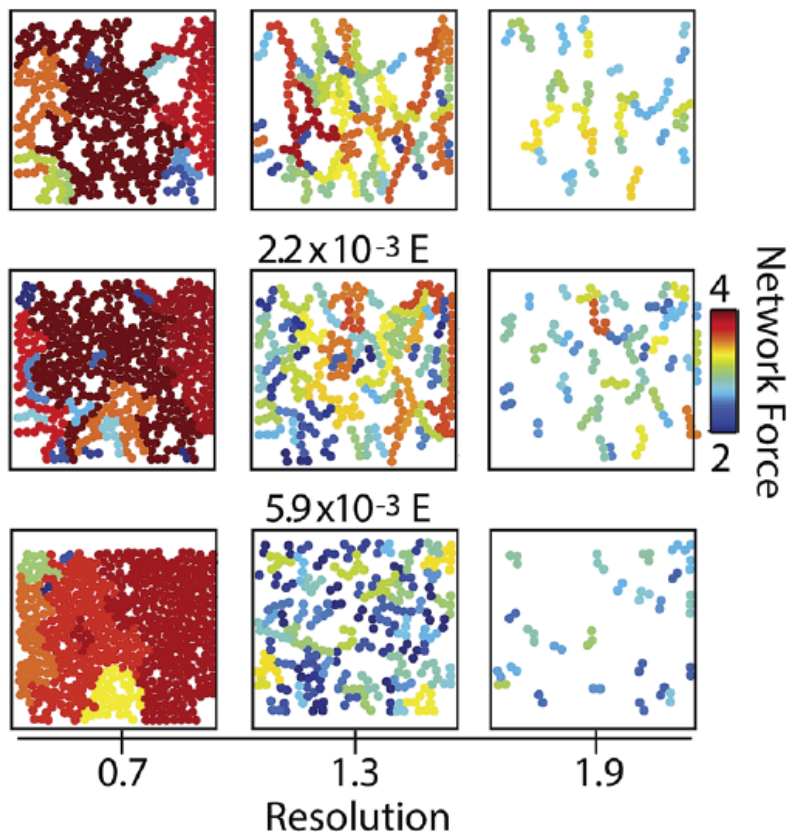
The gap factor is maximized near the resolution at which the most branch-like communities appear.

We therefore use the point of max gap factor to determine  $\gamma$ .



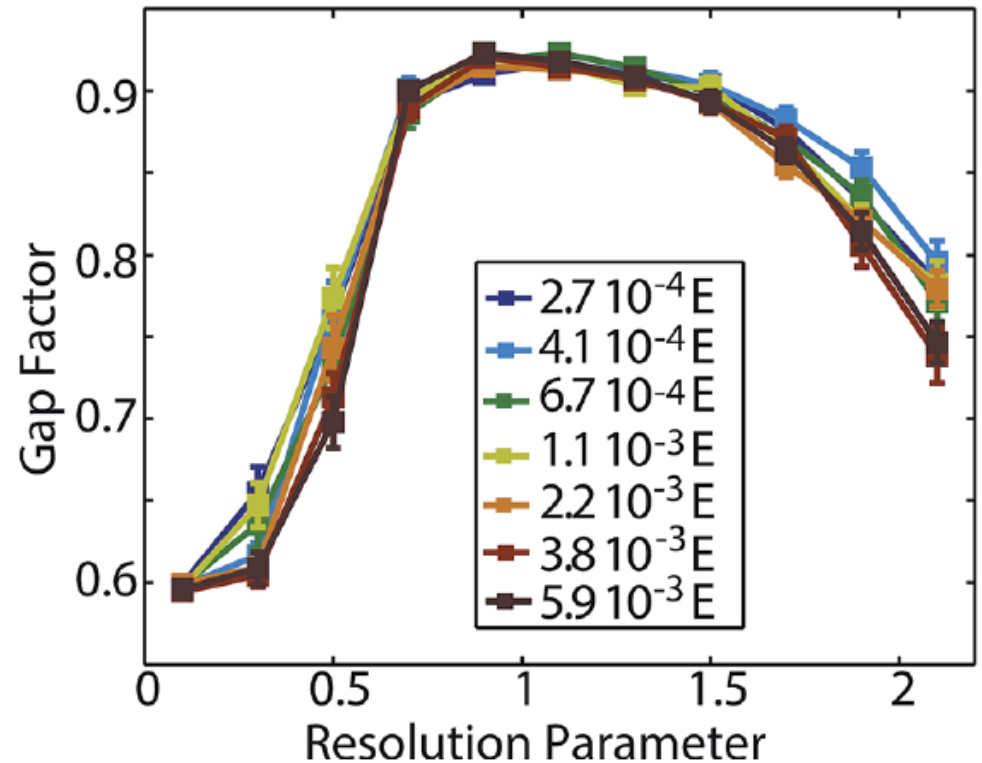
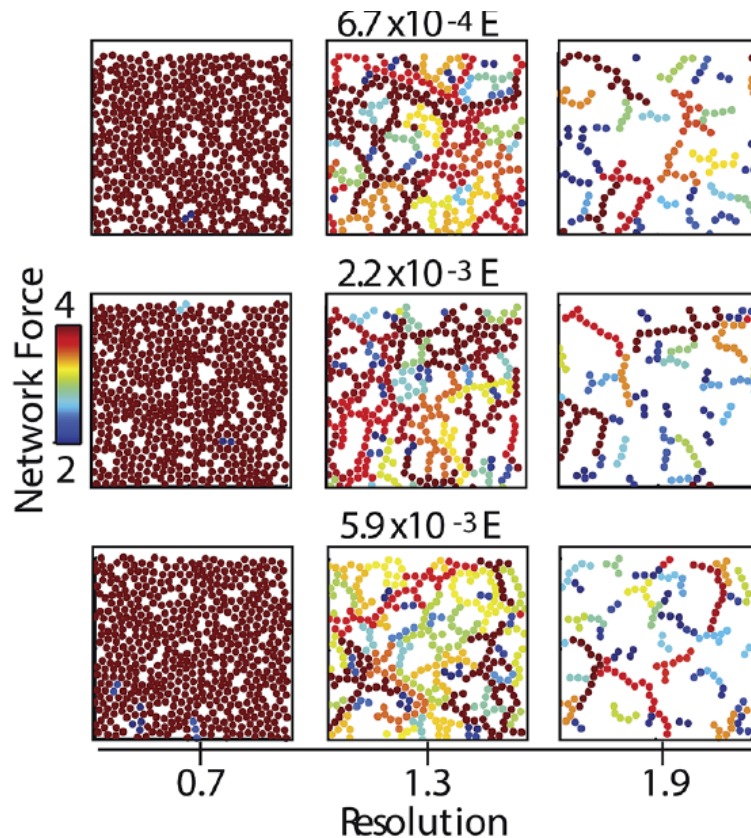
# Gap Factor Tracks Shape Changes with Pressure

As pressure increases, force chains become more blob like (at low  $\gamma$ ) or more line-like (at high  $\gamma$ ), decreasing the gap factor.





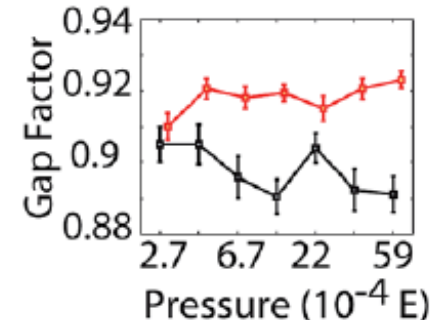
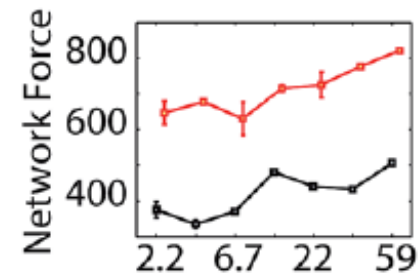
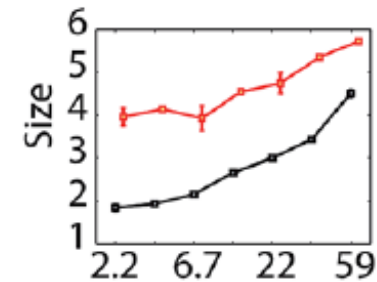
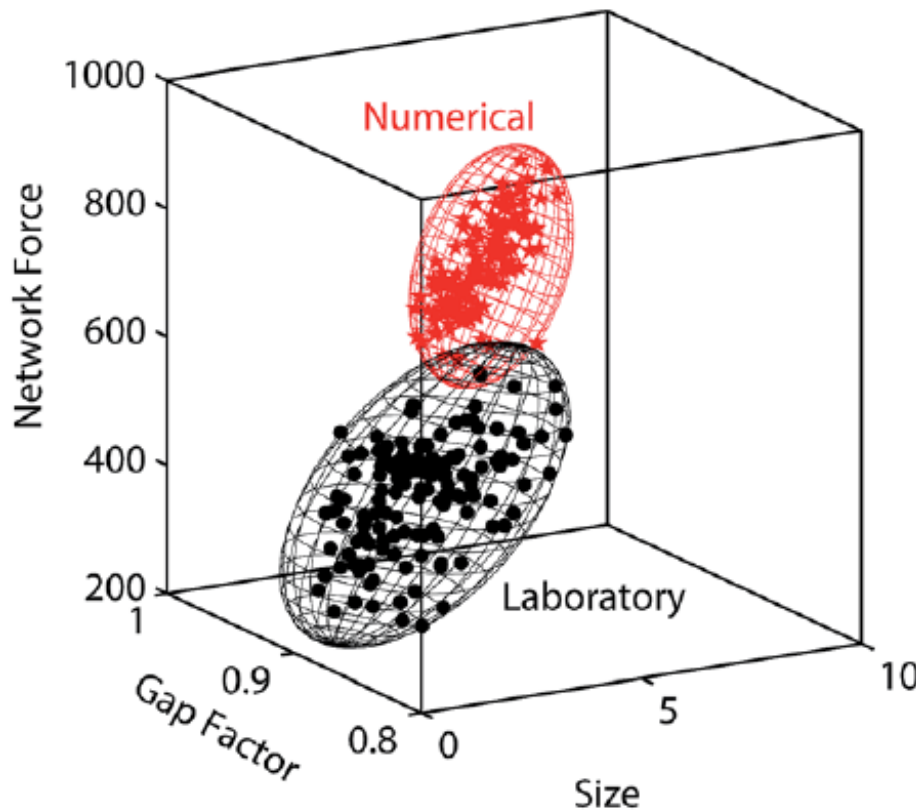
# Effects of Pressure Weaker in Simulated Frictionless Packings



- Suggests that these tools are useful in distinguishing different types of packings.

# Differentiating Packing Types

The size, force, and gap factor of packings distinguishes laboratory experiments from numerical simulations.



# Practical Utility

**Framework** for understanding which features of force chains are universal versus which are governed by particle-particle or particle-environment interactions.

**Tool** to predict differences in macroscopic behavior based on subtle changes in force chain diagnostics.

**Methodology** that provides new information:

- which particles are strongly connected within communities
- Spatial distribution of force chains

➤ Are boundaries of force chains mechanically unstable?  
Are large strong force chains mechanically stable?