



Dynamics of propagating anticracks in snow slab avalanches

Johan Gaume (1,2), Ted Gast (3,4), Joseph Teran (3,4), Alec van Herwijnen (2), Chenfanfu Jiang (4,5)

(1) EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, (2) WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research SLF, Davos, Switzerland, (3) UCLA, Los Angeles, USA, (4) Jixie Effects, Los Angeles, USA, (5) University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

Continuum numerical modeling of dynamic crack propagation has been a great challenge over the past decade. This is particularly the case for anticracks in porous materials, as reported in sedimentary rocks, deep earthquakes, landslides and snow avalanches, as material inter-penetration further complicates the problem. On the basis of a new elastoplasticity model for porous cohesive materials and a large strain hybrid Eulerian-Lagrangian numerical method, we accurately reproduce the onset and propagation dynamics of anticracks observed in Propagation Saw Test experiments. The key ingredient consists of a modified strain-softening plastic flow rule which captures the complexity of porous materials under mixed-mode loading accounting for the interplay between volumetric collapse and cohesion loss. We performed 3D large-scale simulations allowing to investigate the complex propagation patterns in the weak layer and their interplay with slab fracture and frictional sliding.