Modeling Earth-Surface Flow Hazards with D-Claw

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David L. George Debris-Flow Modeling

• Computational Mathematics and software developement

- Randall LeVeque, UW
- Marsha Berger, NYU
- Donna Calhoun, Boise State
- Kyle Mandli, Columbia
- Physical models for landlsides and debris flows
 - Richard Iverson, USGS
 - Debris-flow flume crews

Software

- Clawpack: (www.clawpack.org)
 - open-source package for general hyperbolic systems
 - shock-capturing wave-propagation algorithms
 - block-structured AMR
- GeoClaw: subset/extension of Clawpack
 - tsunamis, storm surges, overland flooding etc.
 - AMR schemes tailored to free-surface flows
 - specialized Riemann solvers
 - dynamic conservative integration of multiple arbitrary DEMs
- D-Claw: extension/generalization of GeoClaw
 - two-phase modeling for landslides and debris flows
 - reduces to geoclaw as solids volume $\rightarrow 0$
 - hybrid problems with interacting granular material and water

Modeling landslides and debris flows

In the 1980's growing interest in debris flows was spurred by

- Mount St. Helens lahars of May 18, 1980
- San Francisco Bay Area storm debris flows of January 5, 1982
- Armero, Colombia lahar of November 13, 1985



R.J. Janda photo

Landslides and debris flows

Debris flows, landslides etc.: granular-fluid mixtures.



Indonesian Lahar Movie Ritigraben Switzerland Debris Flow Movie

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Modeling landslides and debris flows

- Debris flows: variably mobile flows of saturated granular-fluid mixtures
- Landslide-generated debris flows begin when an unstable force balance is perturbed in a single source area
- Can then behave like a deforming solid, a rapidly accelerating fluid, creeping or slumping behavior, decceleration/deposition
- Predicting transitions between these regimes is difficult (sensititve to initial and material conditions)
- This range of behaviors cannot generally be reproduced with single rheological rules (eg. visco-plastic fluid)
- The apparent rheology evolves

Model incorporates principles from fluid dynamics, granular-fluid mixture theory and quasi-static soil mechanics.

Iverson & George and George & Iverson. A depth-averaged debris-flow model that includes the effects of evolving dilatancy. I & II. *Proc R Soc A* 2014 (470)

Properties:

- Depth-averaged shallow-flow model
- Two-phase model with pore-pressure evolution
- Strictly hyperbolic system of five PDEs
 - *h*: depth
 - *u*, *v*: depth-averaged mixture velocities
 - m: solid-volume fraction
 - p_b : basal pore-fluid pressure

Motivation:

- simulation from initiation to deposition
- initialization from realistic force balances (not a "hot-start")
- capture the transition from stability to mobility
- model the evolving apparent rheology
- slope stability \leftrightarrow flow fate

Basis:

- coevolution of pore-fluid pressure and solid-volume fraction
- pore-fluid pressure/effective stress \rightarrow mobility/shear resistance

Mobility and dilatancy

Coupling m and p_b



- dilation/contraction of solid phase affects pore-pressure
- pore-pressure mediates Coulomb stress

USGS experimental debris-flow flume



Play Movie

USGS experimental debris-flow flume

Simulating gate release dynamics

Investigating mobility and porosity



Play Movie

Model validation: investigating mobility and porosity

"loose soil:" $m_0 - m_{crit} = -0.08$



Model validation: investigating mobility and porosity



Model validation: investigating mobility and porosity

"loose soil:" $m_0 - m_{crit} = -0.08$



"dense soil:" $\overline{m_0 - m_{crit}} = +0.03$



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- D-Claw: two-phase model with evolving volume fractions
- Equations reduce to shallow water equations as solids vanish.
- We have extended the model to problems that involve interations of landslides and bodies of water
- This allows seamless computation of hybrid events without complicated model coupling

Earth-surface flow hazards often involve dynamically coupled chains of events. (Granular materials interacting with water).

- Tsunami inundation entraining debris
- Landslide-generated tsunamis
- · Formation and failure of natural dams from landslides
- Flash-floods that entrain debris
- Glacial-lake outburst floods

- Landslide-generated tsunamis are a well-recognized hazard.
- Waves and inundation can be larger than coseismic tsunamis.
 - eg., 1958 Lituya Bay, AK, megatsunami ≈ 500 m runup!
 - eg., 2015 Tyndall Glacier, AK (large non-volcanic landslide).
- Can be generated by submarine and subaerial landslides.
- Generation mechanisms differ (uplift vs. impulse waves).
- We use a seamless D-Claw simulation for all phases.





Taan Fjord Landslide

Taan Fjord Tsunami













CARVER LAKE: A moraine-dammed lake

USFS photo

Carver Lake holds nearly 900,000 cubic meters of water (about 750 acre feet). If the dam fails it will send all this water rushing down Whychus Creek towards Sisters about 20 miles away. The resulting flood would arrive in Sisters in approximately 30 minutes.







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Debris-Flow Modeling

Modeling Potential Mt. Rainier Lahars



Modeling Potential Mt. Rainier Lahars

Mount Rainier Holocene lahar paths delineated by D.R. Crandell, 1971 (USGS Prof. Pap. 677)



Modeling Potential Mt. Rainier Lahars



D-Claw simulation of 260 million m³ debris avalanche in Sunset Amphitheater, Mount Rainier



Hypothetical Mt. Rainier Lahar (Sunset Amphitheater)

Hypothetical Mt. Rainier Lahar (Sunset Amphitheater)

Hypothetical Mt. Rainier Lahar (Sunset Amphitheater)

Puyallup valley movie

Potential Mt. Rainier Lahar (least stable source region)



Potential Mt. Rainier Lahar (least stable source region)

Potential Mt. Rainier Lahar (least stable source region)



Future directions:

- Improved physical models for entrainment.
- Inclusion of sediment transport/deposition models.
- Rainfall infiltration models/other models for distributed-source post-wildfire debris flows.
- Multi-layered, multi-phase models with mass exchange and realistic momentum exchange

Thank you!

Post-wildfire debris flows



- Debris flows can result from overland flow (rainfall) that entrains debris
- This initialization process is very different from an isolated landslide-generated debris flow
- Can D-Claw be applied to these?

Modeling hypothetical Eagle Creek debris flows



Modeling hypothetical Eagle Creek debris flows