Summary of lecture 1

- In supercooled liquids and granular systems, the approach to jamming is signaled by a dramatic increase of timescales
- The best description is in terms of the Vogel-Fulcher-Tamann law which implies activated scaling
- Activated scaling implies a logarithmic dependence of length scales on time scales
- Measurements indicate a growing dynamical length scale
- * Glassy systems (easy to supercool) are ``frustrated" and have complicated energy surfaces
- * There has to be some connection between this property and the anomalous behavior of length and timescales

Blocked states and inherent structures: A promising approach to a unified framework

Stillinger's construction of inherent structures[13]

Edwards' idea of blocked states [14]

Simulations

- Properties of inherent structures (LJ systems)[15]
- Properties of inherent structures of purely repulsive systems[16]

Statistical description in terms of Ensemble of Blocked states (inherent structures)

Basics of statistical mechanics; fundamental postulates and the ensembles of equilibrium statistical mechanics

Write configurational partition function of a liquid in terms of inherent structures, explore consequences

Observations in simulations of Lennard-Jones systems

Introduce a toy model where we can work things out explicitly

Partition function and inherent structures

$$Z_{conf} = \int \Pi_i d\vec{r_i} e^{-\beta V(\{r_i\})}$$

Divide the 3N dimensional configuration space in to basins $Z_{conf} = \int dv e^{-\beta N v} \sum \delta(v - v_{\alpha}) \sum' e^{-\beta \Delta V_{\alpha}(\{r_i\})}$ $Z_{conf} = \int dv e^{-\beta N v} e^{Ns(v)} < \sum' e^{-\beta \Delta V_{\alpha}(\{r_i\})} >$ $Z_{conf} = \int dv e^{-\beta N v} e^{Ns(v)} e^{-\beta N f(\beta, v)}$

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Partition function and inherent structures

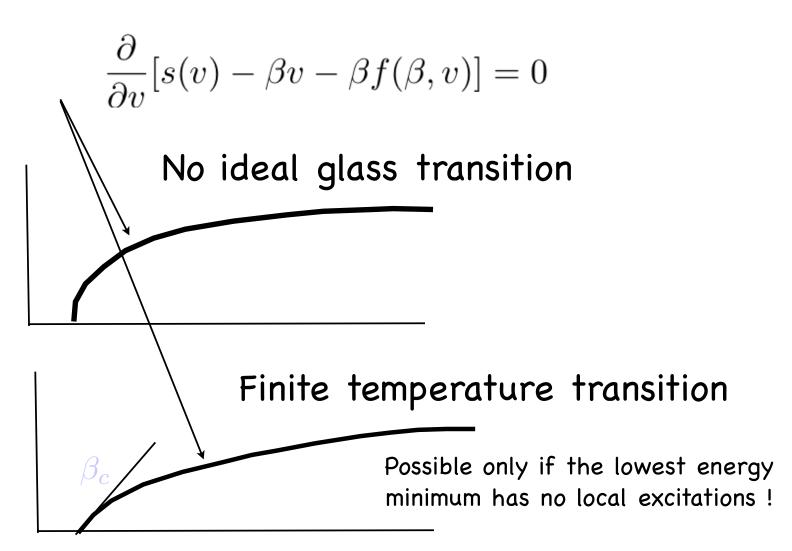
$$Z_{conf} = \int dv e^{-\beta N v} e^{N s(v)} e^{-\beta N f(\beta, v)}$$
$$Z_{conf} = e^{-\beta N F(v_m)}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial v}[s(v) - \beta v - \beta f(\beta, v)] = 0$$

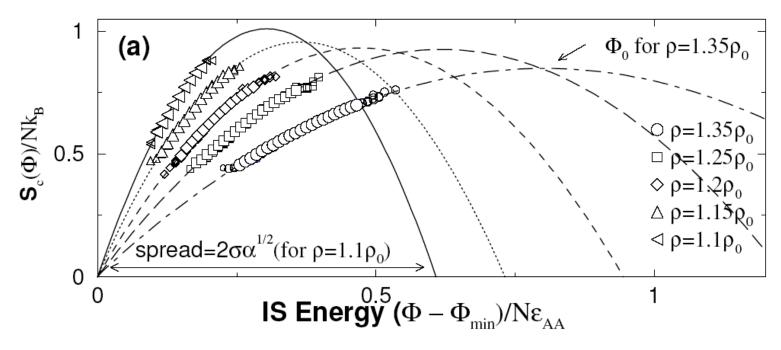
exp(s(v)) is a measure of the # of non-crystalline minima with energy between v and v + dv

Shape of s(v) is crucial: Does it go to zero with a finite or an infinite slope?

Partition function and inherent structures

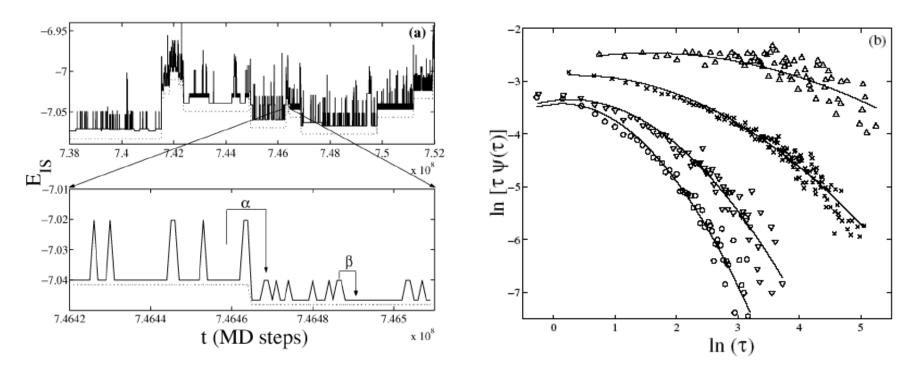


Observations in binary Lennard-Jones mixtures



Slope decreases as density increases

Critical density at which infinite slope gives away to finite slope? Are there models where entropy goes to zero with finite slope? If so, what are dynamics near such critical points? Projected Dynamics in inherent structure space



Distribution of hopping times

Review articles: Bouchaud, Les Houches lectures, cond-mat/0211196 v2 (Granular)

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Glasses

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