

Shell Crystallization in Granular Hopper Flow

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Authorship

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15

16

Abstract

17

An interesting phenomenon that a layer of crystallized shell formed at the container wall during
18 hopper flow is observed experimentally and is investigated in DEM simulation. Different from shear
19 or vibration driven granular crystallization, our simulation shows during the hopper flow the shell
20 layer is formed spontaneously from the stagnant zone at the base and grows at a constant rate to the
21 top with no external drive. The growth rate of the shell is found linearly proportional to the rate of
22 the hopper flow. This shell is static and served as a new wall, which changes the flow profiles and
23 its stress properties, and in turn guarantees a constant flow rate.

24

Introduction

25

26

Self-organized ordering widely appears in nature, from ripples in sand, waves of the sea, to the
27 spirals on the shell of snails and the bacterial snowflakes [1-4]. Ordering phenomena are also widely
28 studied in driven disordered system [5-8]. As a non-equilibrium model system, agitated granular
29 matter has often been used in the lab to study the mechanisms behind these ordering phenomena.
30 Particle alignment, related to ordering, rheology and entropy in disordered systems, has frequently
31 been induced and investigated in shearing, twisting, shaking or inclined-flow granular media [7, 9-
32 11]. Different from these external agitations induced granular ordering, we report in this work

33 observation of a layer of shell crystallized spontaneously at the container wall during hopper
34 flow without external agitation.

35
36 Hopper flow of granular material is featured by its constant flow rate. The flow rate can be described
37 by Beverloo's scaling law quantitatively: $W = C \rho \sqrt{g} (D_0 - kd_0)^{2.5}$, where D_0 denotes the
38 outlet size, ρ is the apparent density of the granular material and g is the gravitational
39 acceleration. C and k are empirical constants which depend on the grain and container properties,
40 such as friction coefficients, particle shape or hopper angle [12-14]. The constancy of the flow rate
41 may be related to either the dynamical Janssen effect or the existence of a 'free fall arch' region [15]
42 over the outlet. Continuum modeling of hopper-flow by Staron et al. successfully reproduced the
43 constant flow rate and pressure cavity by implementing a plastic rheology in the Navier-Stokes
44 solver [16]. These findings imply that when discharging from a hopper, granular material resembles
45 other visco-plastic fluids with a shear stress changing from shear rate γ -independent in the elastic
46 limit to $\sim\gamma^2$ in rapid shear flow [17] as described by Bagnold already in 1954 [18]. Several recent
47 studies focused on the frictional properties of the particles and the silo wall which are crucial in
48 setting the flow profile and the flow rate. Experimental observations by X-ray tomography [19] or
49 electrical capacitance tomography [20] showed, that increasing wall roughness leads to increasing
50 thickness of the shear zone near the wall for sand. Similarly, DEM simulations by Gonzalez show
51 that increasing wall roughness leads to a mass flow-funnel flow transition [21]. The discharge rate
52 of a silo was reported to systematically decrease with increasing the surface roughness of the
53 particles [22] or with increasing internal angle of friction of the granular material [23]. In the DEM
54 simulations by Vidyapati the discharge rate decreased with increasing interparticle friction, but was
55 insensitive to the wall friction [24].

56
57 In this work we report a peculiar phenomenon observed in experiment and investigated in simulation,
58 that during the drainage a crystallized granular shell develops next to the wall. The development of
59 the shell gradually changes the flow profile inside the silo as it leads to a change in the friction at
60 the boundary without changing the interparticle friction in the bulk. We explore the process leading
61 to the formation of the shell and analyze whether it influences the flow rate of the silo. The
62 development of crystalline ordering was reported in other (sheared or shaken) granular systems
63 before [6, 10, 25-28], where the volume fraction and particle-particle friction played an important
64 role. The initial crystallized 'nucleus' appeared not only at the boundary but also in the central region
65 [10, 29]. Other examples, such as for inclined flow under gravity, the ordering arises upon ordered
66 base or driven by the side wall friction [11, 30]. Our observation of the remaining crystallized
67 granular shell also reminds for comparison with the slow motion of retention of viscous fluid on a
68 vertical plate as investigated by Jeffreys in 1930 [31] and by Gutfinger and Tallmadge [32] in non-
69 Newtonian fluids. Compared to fluids, there are two major differences in the granular case: 1) the
70 formation of a crystallized shell is a dynamical process grown upwards from bottom; 2) the
71 crystallized shell in our case grows during the drainage and is still mechanically stable after drainage.

73 Results and Discussions

74 Formation of the shell

75



76

77

78 Figure 1 The simulation system with a cylindrical coordinates system. The origin is set at the center
79 of the bottom.

80

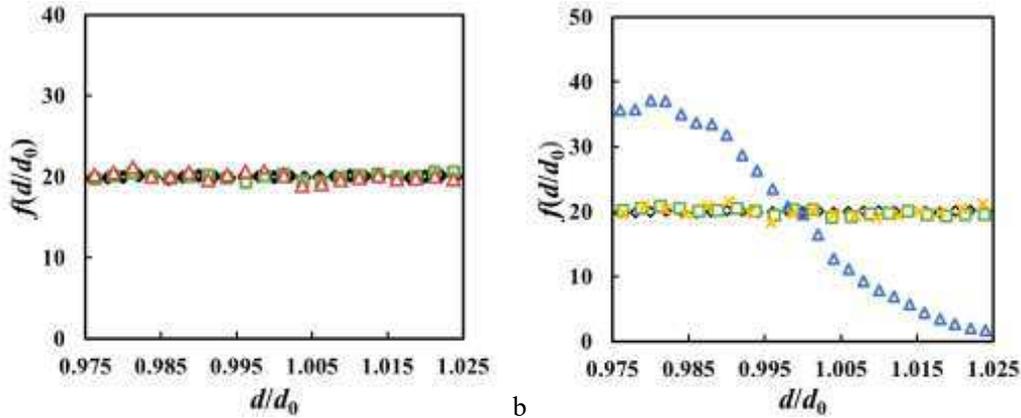
81 Crystallized shells of particles next to the wall during hopper drainages are both observed in our
82 experiments and simulations (shown in Video 1, Video 2 and Video 3). Numerical simulation
83 investigates the dynamics of the shell formation and its influencing factors in a cylindrical hopper
84 with a flat bottom (see Figure 1). In order to describe the growth of crystallized shells, three types
85 of particles are defined here as one gets closer to the wall: **boundary particle**, if its radial coordinate
86 is greater than $D/2-d_0$; **wall particle**, if the particle touches the sidewall (i.e., radial coordinate is
87 equal to or greater than $D/2-r_0$), and **shell particle**, which is a wall particle touching six neighboring
88 wall particles to form a nearly static crystallized shell. To define the top surface of the shell, the
89 boundary layer (all the particles with an r -coordinate larger than $D/2-d_0$) is divided into several
90 vertical columns. In each column the shell particles are recognized from bottom to top. The last
91 shell particle in this column is defined as the shell particle k when there is no other shell particle
92 located in the range (z_k, z_k+20d_0) , where z_k is the z coordinate of particle k .

93

94 After starting the flow, local configuration of packing close to the sidewall will self-organize into
95 ordered state. The participating particles come from the boundary particles of the initial packing
96 (see in Figure 2a, Figure S3). Each particle in ordered state touches six neighboring wall particles
97 to form a crystallized shell. This stable crystallized configuration initially appears at the bottom and
98 then grows upwards. It takes several seconds for the crystallized shell to spread and reach the

99 descending level. Usually, the shell is not a perfect hexagonal cell. It is divided into some “mono-
 100 crystalline” cells with boundaries between them [10], which are shown in Figure 2c (also shown in
 101 Video 1).

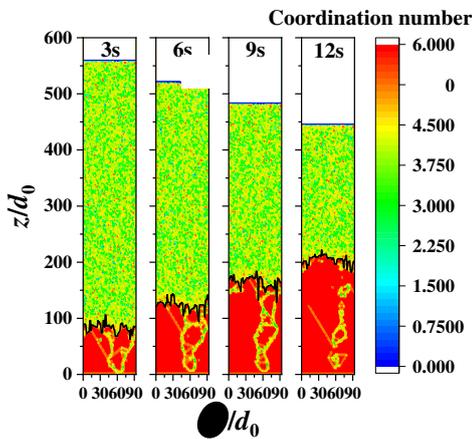
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103

a

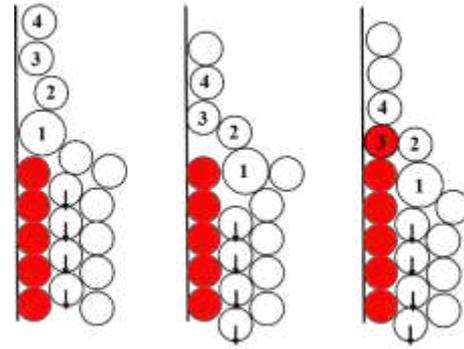
b



104

c

d



105 Figure 2 a) Frequency distribution of the initial radial coordination of shell particles. Size
 106 distribution of different particle groups with a) $\mu_{pp}=0.5$; b) $\mu_{pp}=0.05$. Diamond(black): all particles
 107 in the hopper. Square(green): particles at the boundary when the flow starts. Upper triangle(blue):
 108 the shell particles when the drainage is over. x(yellow): the boundary particles above the upper
 109 surface during the drainage. Upper triangle(red): the boundary particles when flow is stable. c) Side
 110 area of the cylindrical hopper at different time (3, 6, 9, 12s after the flow starts), showing the growth
 111 of the crystallized shell. The color denotes the coordination number of wall particles. The red
 112 particles are shell particles. Black lines denote the local surface of the shell. d) Illustration of the
 113 shell growth. The red particles denote the shell particles. The proper size particle (particle 3) is
 114 selected by settling down process while particles 1 and 2 flow aside.

115

116 Smaller μ_{pp} helps to generate more wall particles to enforce the growth of the crystallized shell.
 117 Besides friction, as mentioned above, dispersity is known as another important factor for shear-
 118 induced ordering [8, 33]. Our simulations also show that the distribution of particle size does
 119 influence the formation of the crystallized shell. The shell does not form when the global dispersity
 120 λ is large (0.1 for instance). A small λ guarantees the mechanical stabilization of the shell after the
 121 drainage. Figure 2b shows the size distribution in the crystallized shell. The dispersity in the shell
 122 is less than the global dispersity, which reveals segregation taking place during the drainage.

123

124 The shell growth is schematically illustrated in Figure 2d. The already existing shell particles can
 125 be considered as the substrate during a crystal growth process. The wall particles flow downwards
 126 with a motion involving sliding and rotation [34] in contact with the wall, . This process depends
 127 on the local configurations of the flowing region just above the top of the shell. The height of this
 128 region is about $2-3d_0$ as the motions of wall particles will be affected by inner particles. The main
 129 ingredient of this selection process is that the shell ‘prefers’ to choose the particle that has about the
 130 same size (see in Figure 2b), which leads to the narrower dispersity in the shell particles. This
 131 follows from the fact, that a narrower size dispersity helps to mechanically stabilize the shell.
 132

133 Growth rate

134

135 Table 1 Growth rate of the shell v_s . Here $\lambda=0$.

μ_{pw}	0.0	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.1			
μ_{pp}	0.05					0.0	0.01	0.05	0.1
Grow rate v_s (d0/s)	26.3	26.2	25.9	24.5	22.9	76.0	58.8	25.9	12.6

136

137 The local surface height of shell $\bar{h}(t)$ is averaged for every snapshot and every column (see Figure
 138 3a). We see, that the growth of the averaged surface height is nearly linear except at initial stage
 139 when the base of the shell is forming. During that stage there is no selection and only rearrangement
 140 is permitted, since the particles near the bottom of the hopper are stagnant. The slope of the linear
 141 region is defined as growth rate of the shell v_s . The growth rate v_s with varying μ_{pp} and μ_{pw} are shown
 142 in Table 1. It drops from $v_s=76.0$ d0/s when $\mu_{pp}=0$ to 12.6 as μ_{pp} grows to 0.1. The crystallized shell
 143 is no longer observed if μ_{pp} exceeds 0.1. It is also found that the friction between particles and
 144 sidewall μ_{pw} has a minor effect to the formation of the shell.

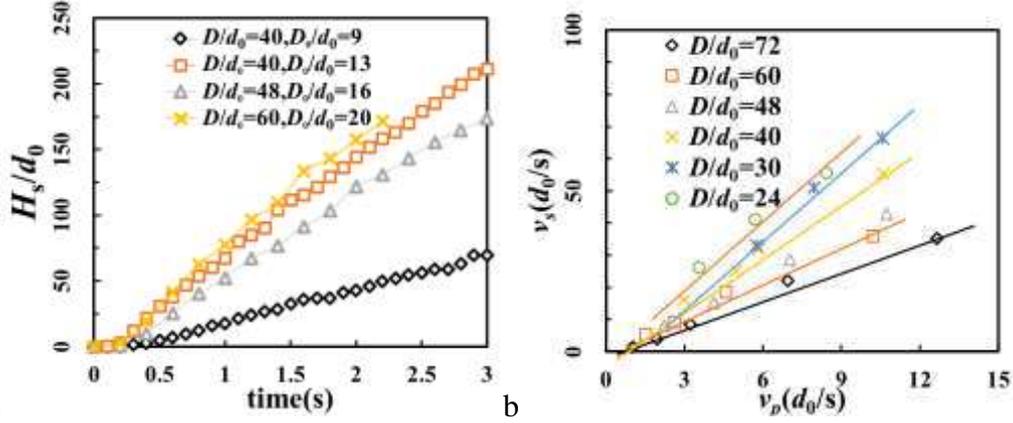
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146 In analogy to the model of crystal growth [35], it is natural to associate the particle velocity to the
 147 growth rate. Since the flowing particles above the surface of the shell have nearly the same velocity,

148 the velocity of potential shell particles can be calculated as: $v_p \approx \frac{\varphi}{\rho_b A}$, where φ flow rate, ρ_b bulk

149 density of hopper flow and $A = \pi D^2/4$ is the cross area of the hopper. We found that for each
 150 hopper size, there is a linear relationship between v_s and v_p (Figure 3b). With small hopper size D ,
 151 the slope of this dependence seems to have a limit value of 7. When $D \geq 30d_0$, the slope $\sim D^{-1}$
 152 (Figure 3c). It is not checked here if the slope will drop to zero when D further increases.

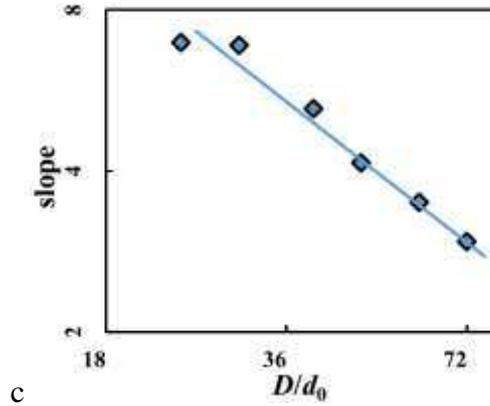
153



154

a

b



155

c

156 Figure 3 a) The development of averaged shell surface height (H_s) with different D and D_0 . b) The
 157 relation between v_p and v_s . c) Log-log plot of the slope of the linear relationship presented in Figure
 158 4b. Here $\lambda=0$.

159

160 Shear layers

161

162 Our simulations show that the growth of the crystallized shell is dominated by two parameters, the
 163 sliding friction coefficient μ_{pp} and the global dispersity of particles λ . In this section, three cases
 164 with different μ_{pp} and λ are presented for comparison while μ_{pw} is fixed to be 0.1 (see Table 2): case
 165 A: $\mu_{pp}=0.05$ and $\lambda=0$; case B: $\mu_{pp}=0.5$ and $\lambda=0$, and case C: $\mu_{pp}=0.05$ and $\lambda=0.1$. We see crystallized
 166 shell only in case A, but not in cases B and C.

167

168 Table 2 Parameters in 6 cases.

Cases	A	B	C	A*	B*	C*
μ_{pp}	0.05	0.5	0.05	0.05	0.5	0.05
μ_{pw}	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0	0
λ	0	0	0.1	0	0	0.1

169

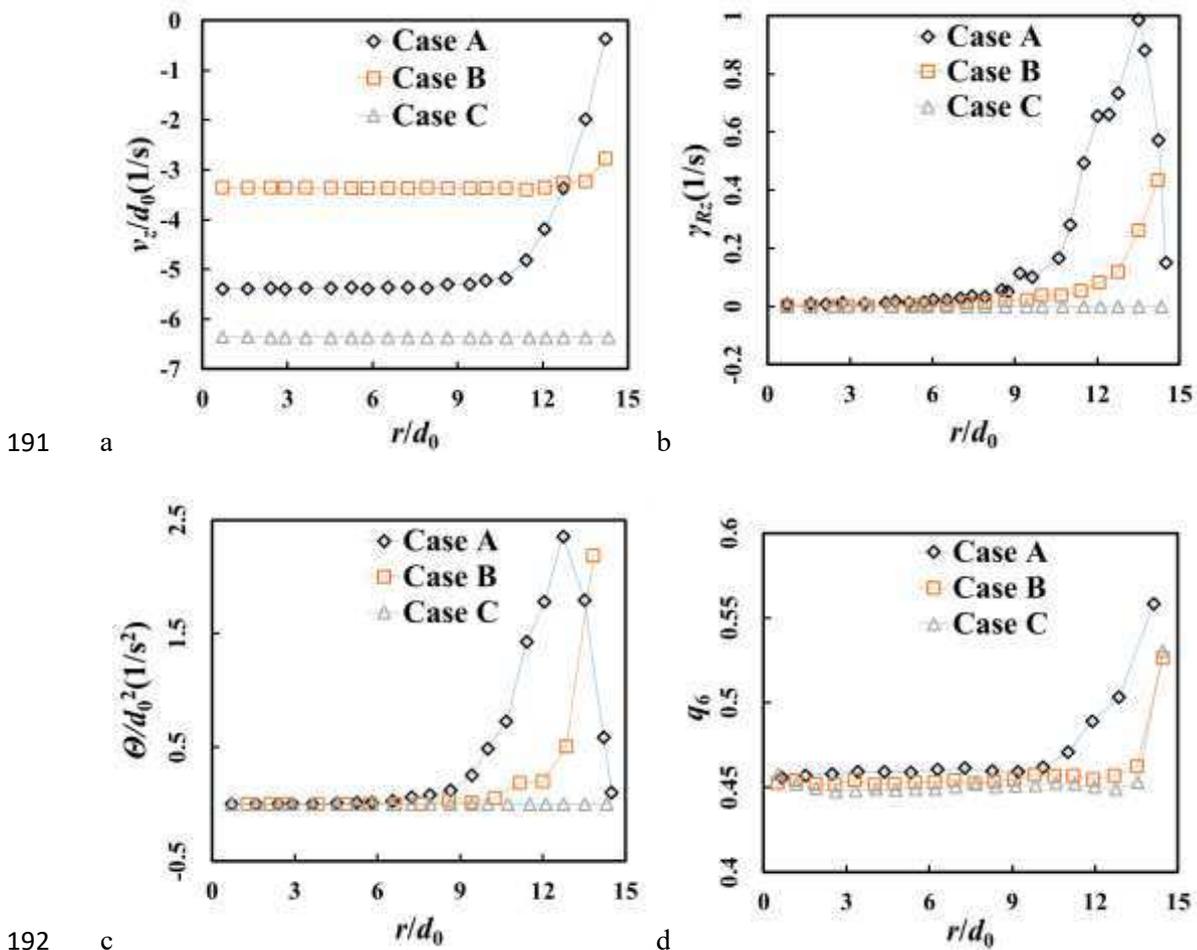
170 In case A, the wall particles are rearranged into hexagonal ordered state after flow begins. The value
 171 of local orientational order q_6 is above 0.55, which is higher than that in the central region (0.45 is

172 a typical value for disordered packing [36]) (see Figure 4). Compared to the cases without
 173 crystallized shell (case B and case C), the shear rate in the shear layers is obviously higher in case
 174 A. Due to the shear, the granular temperature for particles in the shear layers is higher than in the
 175 central region, which is also the case seen in inclined flow [37]. The volume fraction close to the
 176 sidewall is slightly smaller in case B, which is consistent with the local high temperature [38]. When
 177 λ is 0.1 (case C), a plug-like flow occurs and v_z is much larger than in cases A and B. Both the shear
 178 rate and the granular temperature are then close to zero.

179

180 It is interesting that during the growth of the crystallized shell, there are two coexisting phases of
 181 the flow (see Figure 5). In the area where the crystallized shell has formed, the ordered wall particles
 182 are nearly static, and shear is concentrated near the shell. Above this area where the crystallized
 183 shell is not developed yet, v_z of all particles is still nearly uniform and no obvious shear layer is
 184 observed. Thus, the occurrence of shear layers is due to this crystallization. The shear flow region
 185 expands upwards until the growing crystallized shell encounters the top surface of the descending
 186 level. In our simulation, funnel flow is not observed even if μ_{pp} reaches 0.5, perhaps because the
 187 wall friction is not enough here [39]. The crystallized shell remains static after the drainage, which
 188 is found in our experiment (see Figure S2 and Video 2). Moreover, the growth rate is measured and
 189 the value is $7.42 \pm 0.53 d_0/s$, which is less than that in simulations.

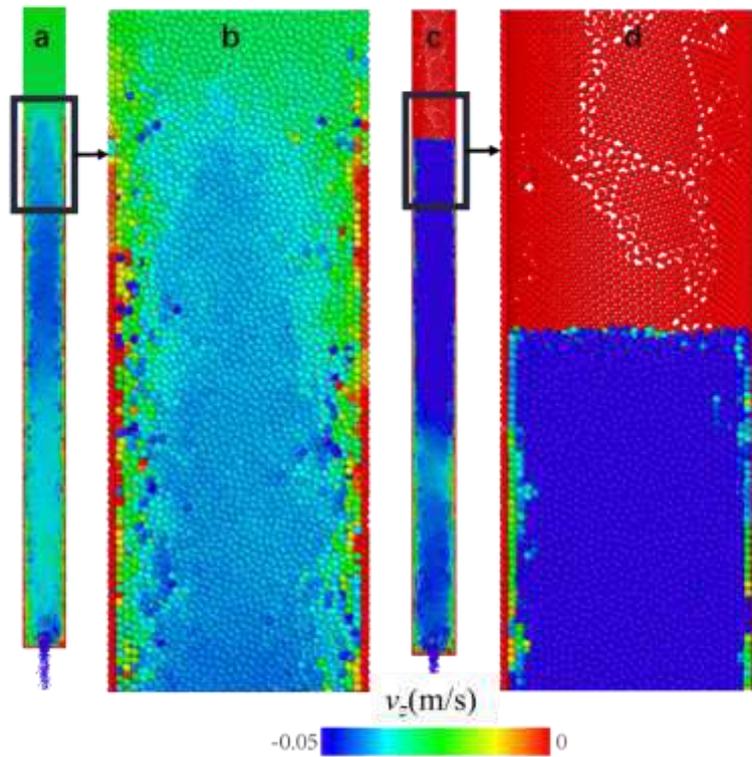
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193 Figure 4 Radial profiles of a) vertical velocity v_z , b) shear rate, c) granular temperature, d)

194 orientational order q_6 at $z=100 d_0$.

195



196

197 Figure 5 a) A cross section of the flow at a stage when the crystallized shell does not reach the
198 descending top surface. b) Enlarged picture of the part around the growing shell surface in a). c)
199 The cross section of the flow when the top surface level is below the shell surface. d) Enlarged
200 picture of the part around the top surface in c), with the developed shell reaching well above the
201 surface. The results in this figure is visualized by [40].

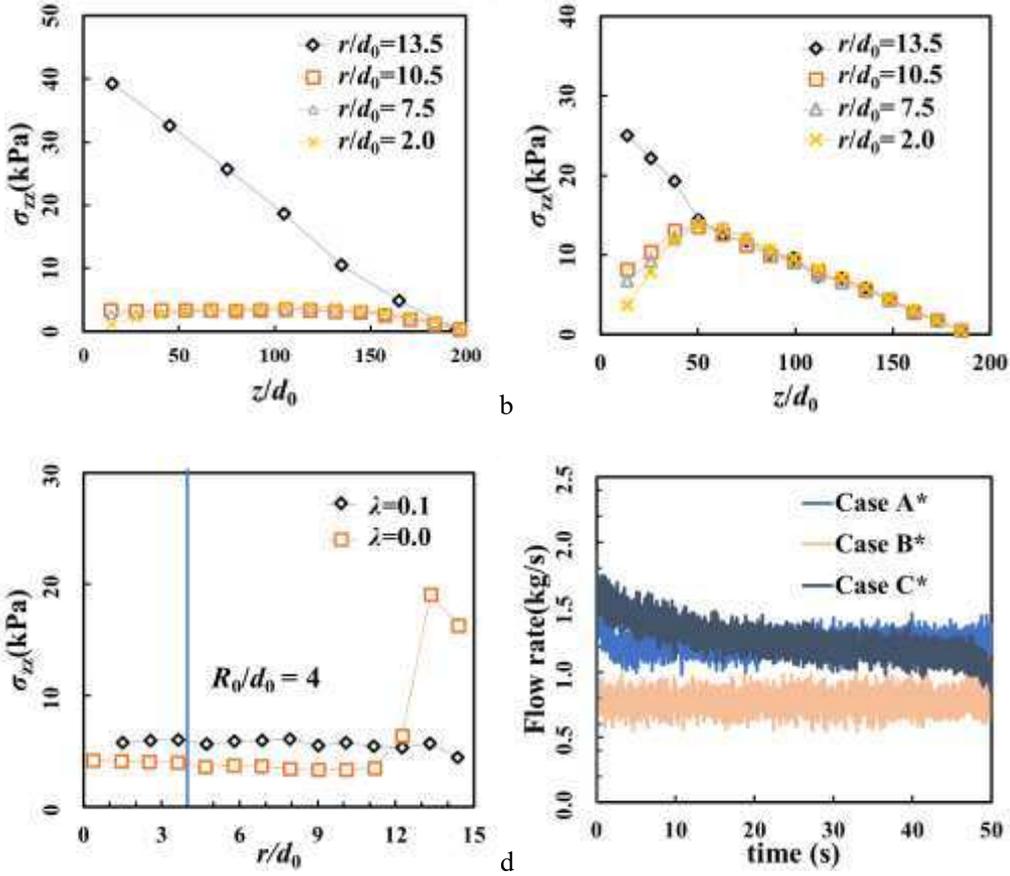
202

203 Compared with the reported crystallizations mentioned above [7, 9, 10], the phenomenon found in
204 our case is however different. First of all, the hopper wall in our case is vertical and smooth. The
205 mechanical stability of the crystallized shell is supported by the bottom and where the shell is formed,
206 it is like a frictional wall, leading to strong shear in the neighboring layers. Therefore as shown in
207 Figure 6a, a Janssen-like stress profile still exists in a frictionless hopper, similar to the one observed
208 in the normal frictional hoppers [41, 42]. As the weight of particles is supported by the shell, there
209 is a strong peak of vertical stress at the boundary (see in Figure 6c). For comparison, when $\lambda=0.1$,
210 σ_{zz} behaves like hydrostatic pressure, which is linear with height except near the bottom (Figure 6b).

211

212 The variations of instantaneous flow rates with time are shown in Figure 6d. In previous DEM
213 simulations, the flow rate will decrease with time by inducing a small wall friction [41, 43].
214 Interestingly, the results show that the flow rate is constant with the growing crystallized shell (Case
215 A*) and decreases in the situation without the shell (Case C*), which questions the relationship
216 between the flow rate and the roughness (or friction) of sidewalls. The flow rate in Case B* is
217 smaller than that in both of Cases A* and C*, which verifies the influence of particle-particle friction
218 reported in previous studies [22, 23].

219



220

a

b

221

c

d

222 Figure 6 Vertical stress σ_{zz} along z axis in a) Case A* ($\lambda=0$) and b) in Case C* ($\lambda=0.1$) (see Table 2).
 223 c) σ_{zz} in the radial direction at $z/d_0=100$. The vertical line marks the radius of outlet. d) Temporal
 224 profile of instantaneous mass flow rate in Cases A*, B* and C*.

225

226

227

Conclusion

228 We have investigated numerically of the experimental observation that a layer of crystallized shell
 229 formed at the container wall during the hopper flow. Our simulation shows the degree of the particle
 230 polydispersity and particle-particle friction are two main factors to prevent the shell formation.
 231 Those particles being pushed to the wall by the flowing particles, tend to pile up from the base and
 232 grow to the top during the flow. The faster the flow rate is, the faster the growth rate of the shell
 233 layer piles. The ratio of the rates depends on the container diameter. The smaller the container the
 234 larger the ratio is. Once it is formed, the shell remains there, even when the flow ends. This formed
 235 shell serves as a new wall, which guarantees the flow rate constant no matter what wall material is.
 236 This phenomenon is interesting not only for its formation of crystallized shell with no need of
 237 external drive, but also for its altering the flow properties and stabilizing the flow rate.

238 Methods

239 Simulation method

240 To model the dynamical behavior of particles, our simulations are carried out on multiple GPUs
 241 using the DEM code (Discrete Element Method) developed by us [44]. DEM is a widely used
 242 simulation tool in granular mechanics, in which particle positions, velocities and interactions are
 243 tracked by equations of motion, simple contact models being then provided. In our simulation, the
 244 soft-particle contact model is used where the interactions consisting of elastic and viscous
 245 components in normal and tangential directions are calculated from the overlap and its time rate of
 246 change. By the Hertz-Mindlin contact model [45, 46], the normal and tangential contact forces
 247 between two contacting particles are:

248

$$249 \begin{cases} \mathbf{F}_{ijn} = \frac{4}{3} Y_{\text{eff}} \sqrt{R_{\text{eff}} \delta_{ijn}} \boldsymbol{\delta}_{ijn} - 2 \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}} \beta \sqrt{2 Y_{\text{eff}} \sqrt{R_{\text{eff}} \delta_{ijn}} m_{\text{eff}} \mathbf{v}_{ijn}} \\ \mathbf{F}_{ijt} = 8 G_{\text{eff}} \sqrt{R_{\text{eff}} \delta_{ijt}} \boldsymbol{\delta}_{ijt} - 2 \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}} \beta \sqrt{8 G_{\text{eff}} \sqrt{R_{\text{eff}} \delta_{ijt}} m_{\text{eff}} \mathbf{v}_{ijt}} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

250

$$251 \beta = \frac{\ln e}{\sqrt{\ln^2 e + \pi^2}} \quad (2)$$

$$252 Y_{\text{eff}} = 1 / ((1 - \nu_i^2) / Y_i + (1 - \nu_j^2) / Y_j) \quad (3)$$

$$253 G_{\text{eff}} = 1 / (2(2 + \nu_i)(1 - \nu_i) / Y_i + 2(2 + \nu_j)(1 - \nu_j) / Y_j) \quad (4)$$

$$254 r_{\text{eff}} = r_i r_j / (r_i + r_j) \quad (5)$$

$$255 m_{\text{eff}} = m_i m_j / (m_i + m_j) \quad (6)$$

256 where G is the shear modulus, Y is the Young's Modulus, r is the radius of the particles, m is the
 257 mass of particles and e is the coefficient of restitution between particles. $\boldsymbol{\delta}_{ijn}$ and $\boldsymbol{\delta}_{ijt}$ are normal and
 258 tangential displacement vectors, and δ_{ijn} and δ_{ijt} are their modules, respectively. \mathbf{v}_{ijn} and \mathbf{v}_{ijt} are
 259 normal and tangential relative velocities between the particles i and j . $\boldsymbol{\delta}_{ijn} \equiv (R_i + R_j - r_{ij}) \mathbf{r}_{ij} / r_{ij}$ and δ_{ijt}
 260 is determined by integrating \mathbf{v}_{ijt} . Considering sliding friction, the Coulomb yield criterion $F_{ijt} \leq \mu_s F_{ijn}$
 261 is satisfied by truncating tangential overlap $\mathbf{u}'_{ij} = \mu_s F_{ijn} \mathbf{u}_{ij} / F_{ijt}$ [46]. μ_s is the sliding friction coefficient
 262 between particles. \mathbf{u}'_{ij} and \mathbf{u}_{ij} are truncated and original tangential overlap respectively. Further more,
 263 rolling and torsion friction should be introduced for irregular shaped particles. These influences are
 264 given by rolling and torsion torques:

$$265 \begin{cases} \mathbf{M}_r = -\mu_r F_{ijn} \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_{ij} \\ \mathbf{M}_t = -\mu_t F_{ijn} \hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_{ij} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

266 μ_r and μ_t are rolling and torsion frictions respectively, $\hat{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_{ij}$ is the relative angular velocity between
 267 two contacting particles.

268 Under gravity field, the equations of motion of the particles are:

$$269 \begin{cases} m_i \mathbf{a}_i = \sum_j (\mathbf{F}_{ijn} + \mathbf{F}_{ijt}) + m_i \mathbf{g} \\ I_i \dot{\boldsymbol{\omega}}_i = \sum_j \left[-\frac{r_i}{r_{ij}} \mathbf{r}_{ij} \times (\mathbf{F}_{ijn} + \mathbf{F}_{ijt}) \right] \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

270

271 These equations are solved by integration using the Velocity-Verlet scheme [47]. The model
 272 parameters used in our simulations are listed in Table 3.

273

274 Table 3 Case parameters in simulations

275

Physical Quantity	Symbol	Value
Averaged particle diameter	d_0	6.0 mm
Global dispersity	λ	0.0, 0.05, 0.1
Particle density	ρ	2850 kg/m ³
Elastic modulus	Y	72 GPa
Poisson's ratio	ν	0.25
Particle-particle friction coefficient	μ_{pp}	0, 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5
particle-wall friction coefficient	μ_{pw}	0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5
Particle-particle and particle-wall coefficient of restitution	e	0.6
Particle-particle and particle-wall rolling friction coefficient	μ_r	1 mm
Particle-particle and particle-wall torsion friction coefficient	μ_t	0.4 mm
Outlet diameter	D_0	8 d_0
Hopper diameter	D	30 d_0

276

277 Definitions of quantities

278

279 The size distribution of particles in the simulation is uniform in the range $((1-1/2\lambda)d_0, (1+1/2\lambda)d_0)$,
 280 where λ is named to be the global dispersity of particles. The local orientational factor q_6 [48, 49]
 281 and the granular temperature [50] are calculated in our system. The q_6 of the i -th particle is given
 282 by:

$$283 \quad q_6 = \left[\frac{4\pi}{13} \sum_{m=-6}^6 |\bar{Q}_{6m,i}|^2 \right]^{1/2}, \quad (9)$$

284 where $\bar{Q}_{6m,i} = \frac{1}{N_i} \sum_j^i Q_{6m}(\vec{r}_{ij})$, and \vec{r}_{ij} is the midpoint between particle i and j , Q_{6m} is spherical
 285 harmonics Y_{lm} when $l=6$. In our simulation, granular temperature in z direction is given by:

$$286 \quad \theta = \langle v_z^2 \rangle - \langle v_z \rangle^2 \quad (10)$$

287 The bracket denotes an average value of particle velocities within a volume Ω . $\langle v_z \rangle$ is the
 288 corresponding local average vertical velocity. The stress is calculated by virial stress[51]:

$$289 \quad \sigma_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_i \text{in } \Omega \left(-m^i (v_\alpha^i - \bar{v}_\alpha) (v_\beta^i - \bar{v}_\beta) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_j (x_\alpha^j - x_\alpha^i) f_\beta^{ij} \right) \quad (11)$$

290 where m^i is the mass of the i -th particle in a volume Ω , x_α^j its position with Cartesian
 291 components, v_α^i its velocity, \bar{v}_α the local average velocity, and f_α^{ij} is the force on molecule
 292 exerted by another particle.

293 The shear rate is given by:

294
$$\Gamma_{\alpha\beta} = \Delta\langle v_{\alpha} \rangle / \Delta L_{\beta} \quad (12)$$

295 $\langle v_{\alpha} \rangle$ is the average velocity of particles in a cell along α direction, and ΔL_{β} is the cell size along
296 the β direction.

297 **Experiment setup**

298 In the experiment (shown in Figure S1), spherical glass particles and steel particles are used with
299 the diameter of 6 ± 0.02 mm. The cylindrical hoppers with flat bottom are made of two materials:
300 transparent plexiglass and steel. Both diameters of the hoppers are 100mm and the openings at the
301 bottom center have a diameter of 32mm. The experimental facility is fixed on a damping platform.
302 The environment temperature is 21°C with a relative humidity is 35%.

303

304 Before the experiments, the hopper is set upright vertically with blocked opening, and particles are
305 filled up to the height of 1500mm. A high-speed camera is fixed on a tripod to shoot videos of the
306 particles close to the wall at a frame rate of 100fps.

307 **Acknowledgement**

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311 Blumenfeld for inspiring discussions on the issue.

312

313 **Author contributions**

314 SZ, MH and LY suggested the study. SZ designed the numerical experiment and PL ran the code.
315 PL, SZ and MW did the numerical analysis. MW, JFW and YP did the experiments. SZ and PL
316 wrote the manuscript. MH and LY contributed to the writing.

317

318 **Competing interests**

319 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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Figures

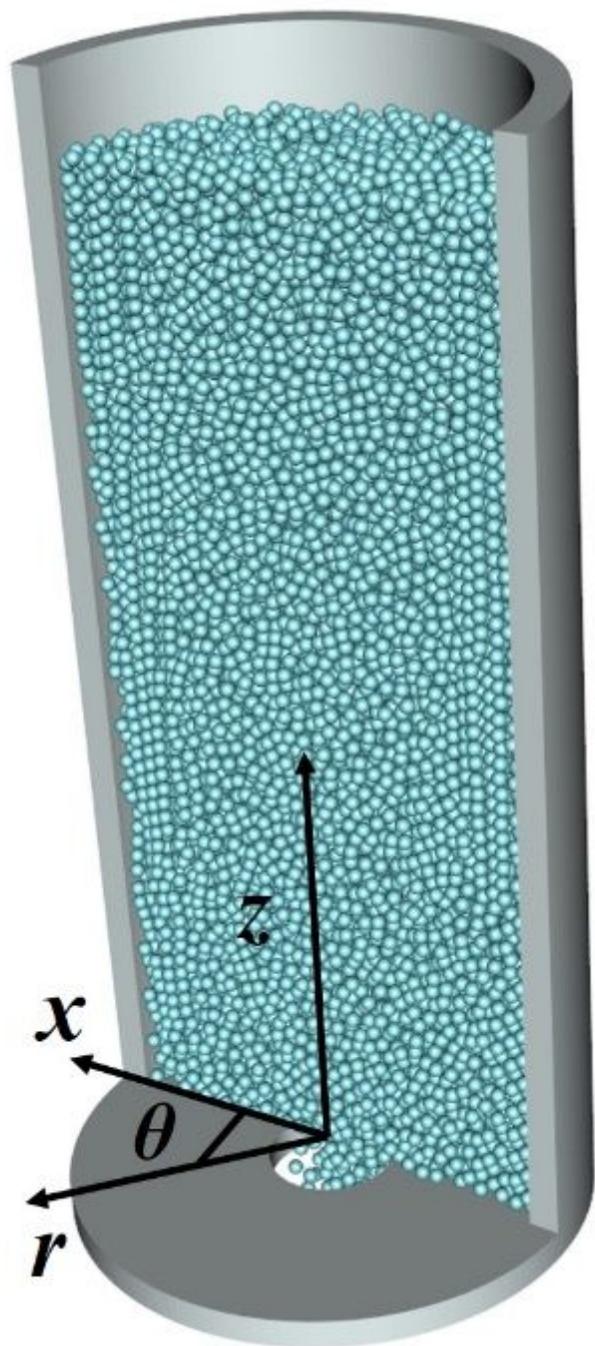


Figure 1

The simulation system with a cylindrical coordinates system. The origin is set at the center of the bottom.

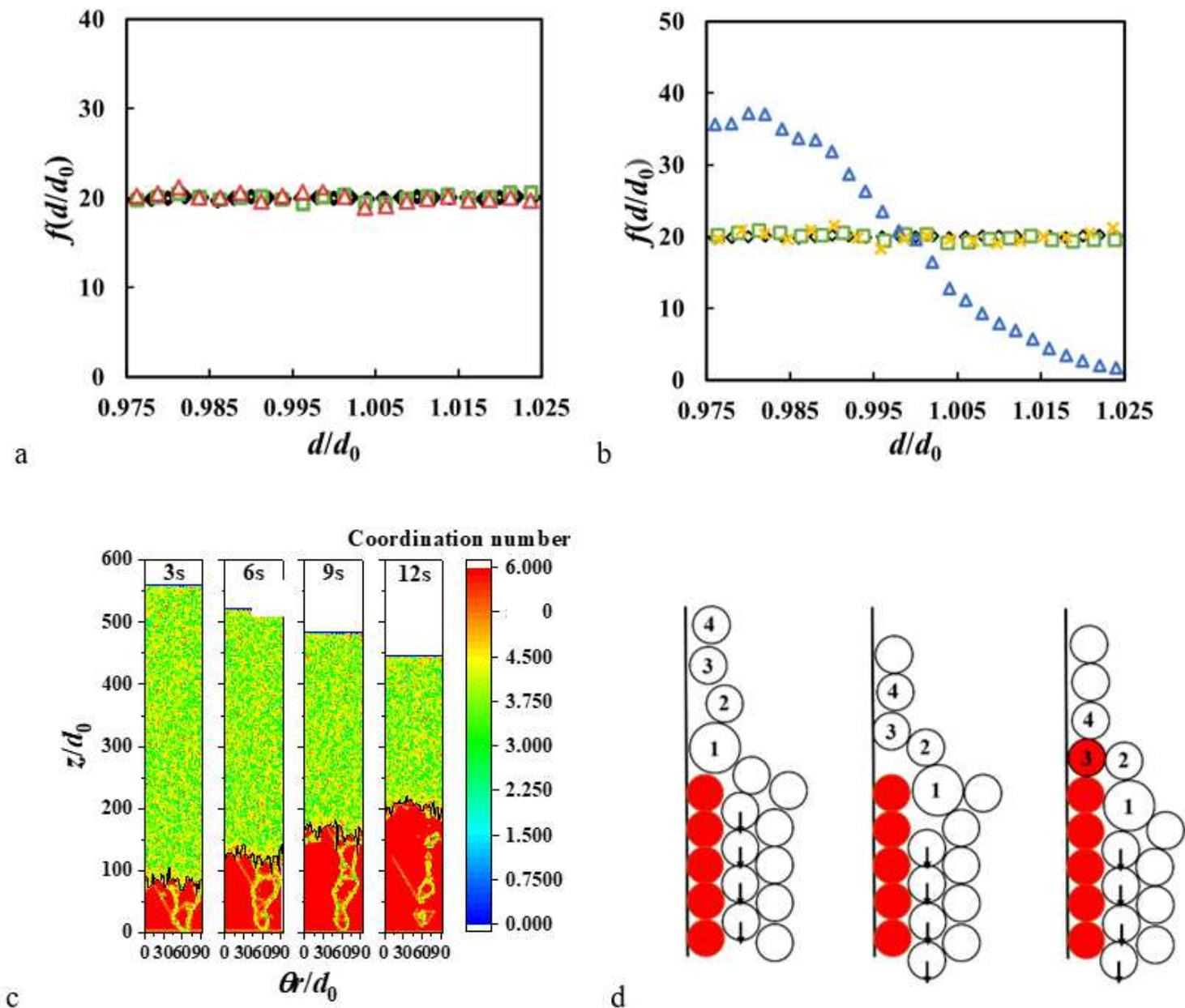


Figure 2

a) Frequency distribution of the initial radial coordination of shell particles. Size distribution of different particle groups with a) $\mu_{pp}=0.5$; b) $\mu_{pp}=0.05$. Diamond(black): all particles in the hopper. Square(green): particles at the boundary when the flow starts. Upper triangle(blue): the shell particles when the drainage is over. x(yellow): the boundary particles above the upper surface during the drainage. Upper triangle(red): the boundary particles when flow is stable. c) Side area of the cylindrical hopper at different time (3, 6, 9, 12s after the flow starts), showing the growth of the crystallized shell. The color denotes the coordination number of wall particles. The red particles are shell particles. Black lines denote the local surface of the shell. d) Illustration of the shell growth. The red particles denote the shell particles. The proper size particle (particle 3) is selected by settling down process while particles 1 and 2 flow aside.

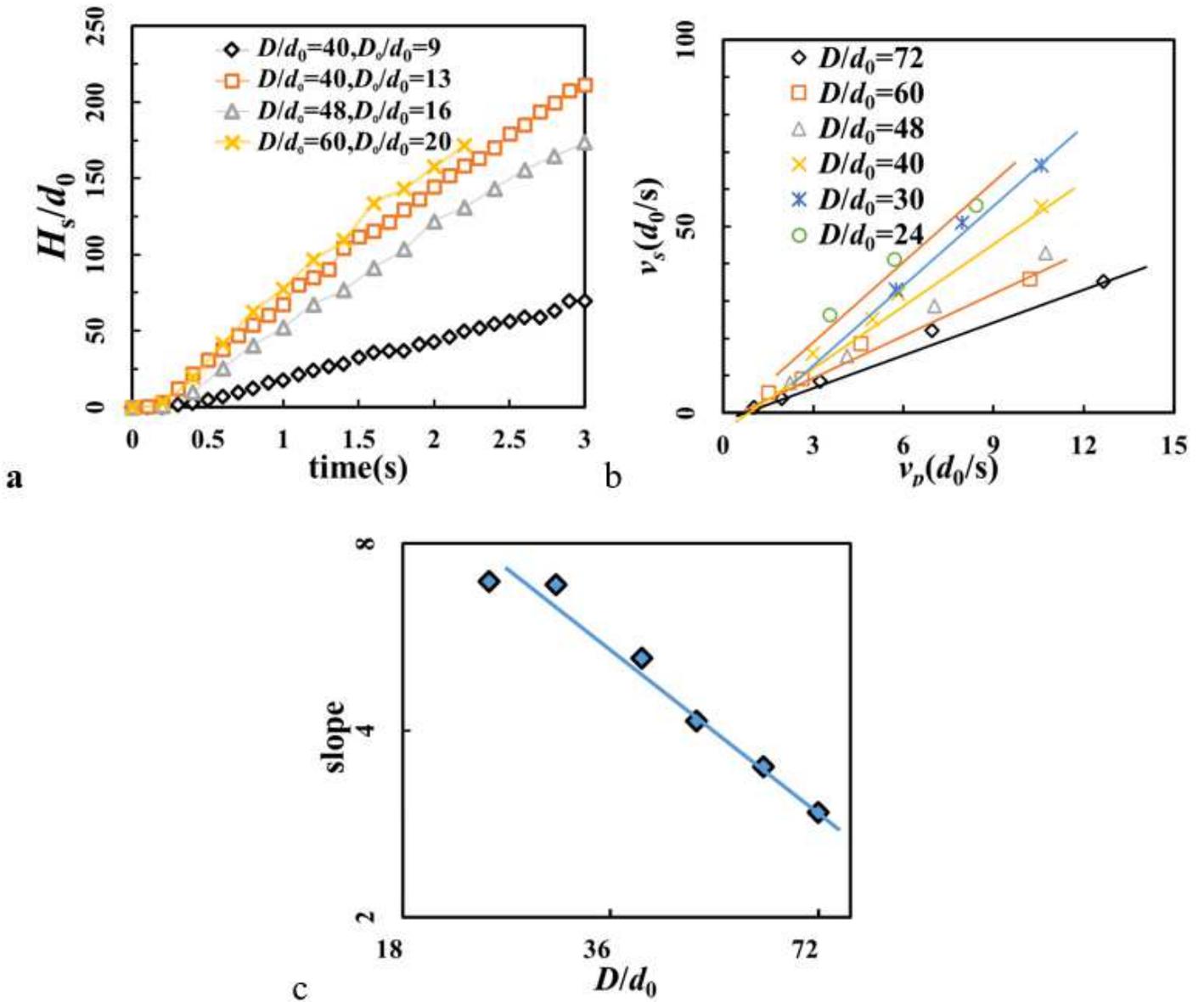


Figure 3

a) The development of averaged shell surface height (H_s) with different D and D_0 . b) The relation between v_p and v_s . c) Log-log plot of the slope of the linear relationship presented in Figure 4b. Here $\lambda=0$.

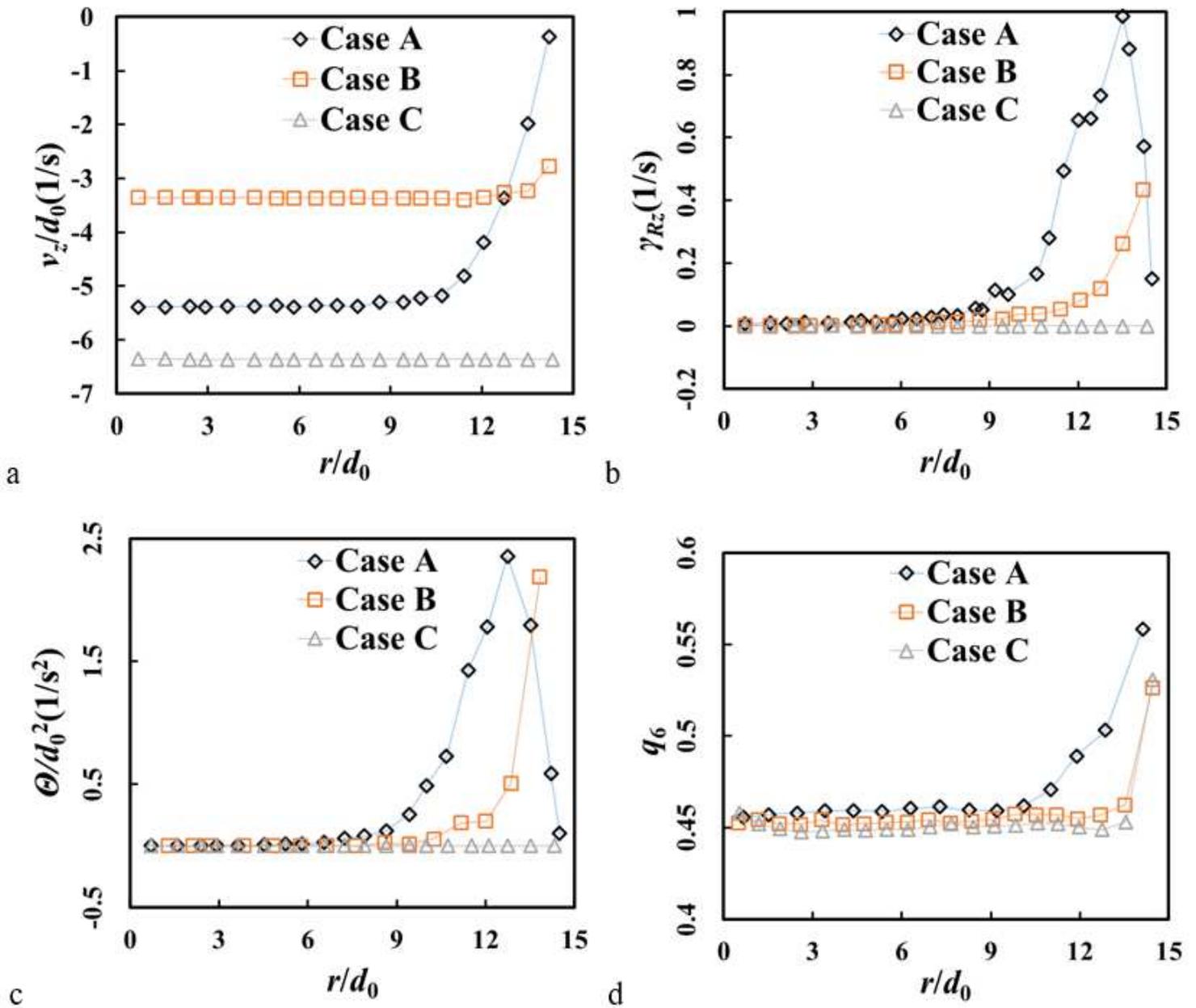


Figure 4

Radial profiles of a) vertical velocity v_z , b) shear rate, c) granular temperature, d) orientational order q_6 at $z=100 d_0$.

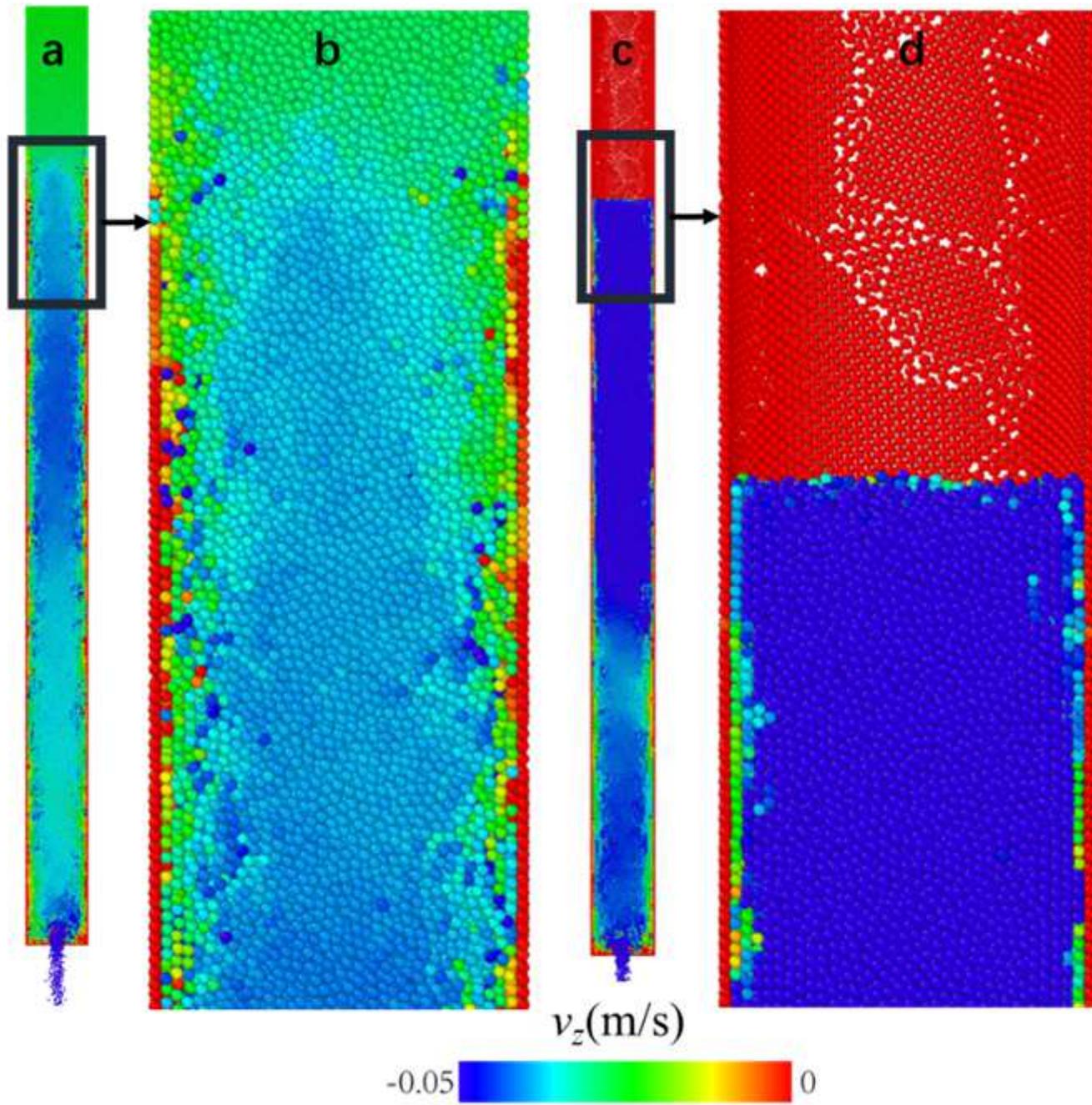


Figure 5

a) A cross section of the flow at a stage when the crystallized shell does not reach the descending top surface. b) Enlarged picture of the part around the growing shell surface in a). c) The cross section of the flow when the top surface level is below the shell surface. d) Enlarged picture of the part around the top surface in c), with the developed shell reaching well above the surface. The results in this figure is visualized by [40].

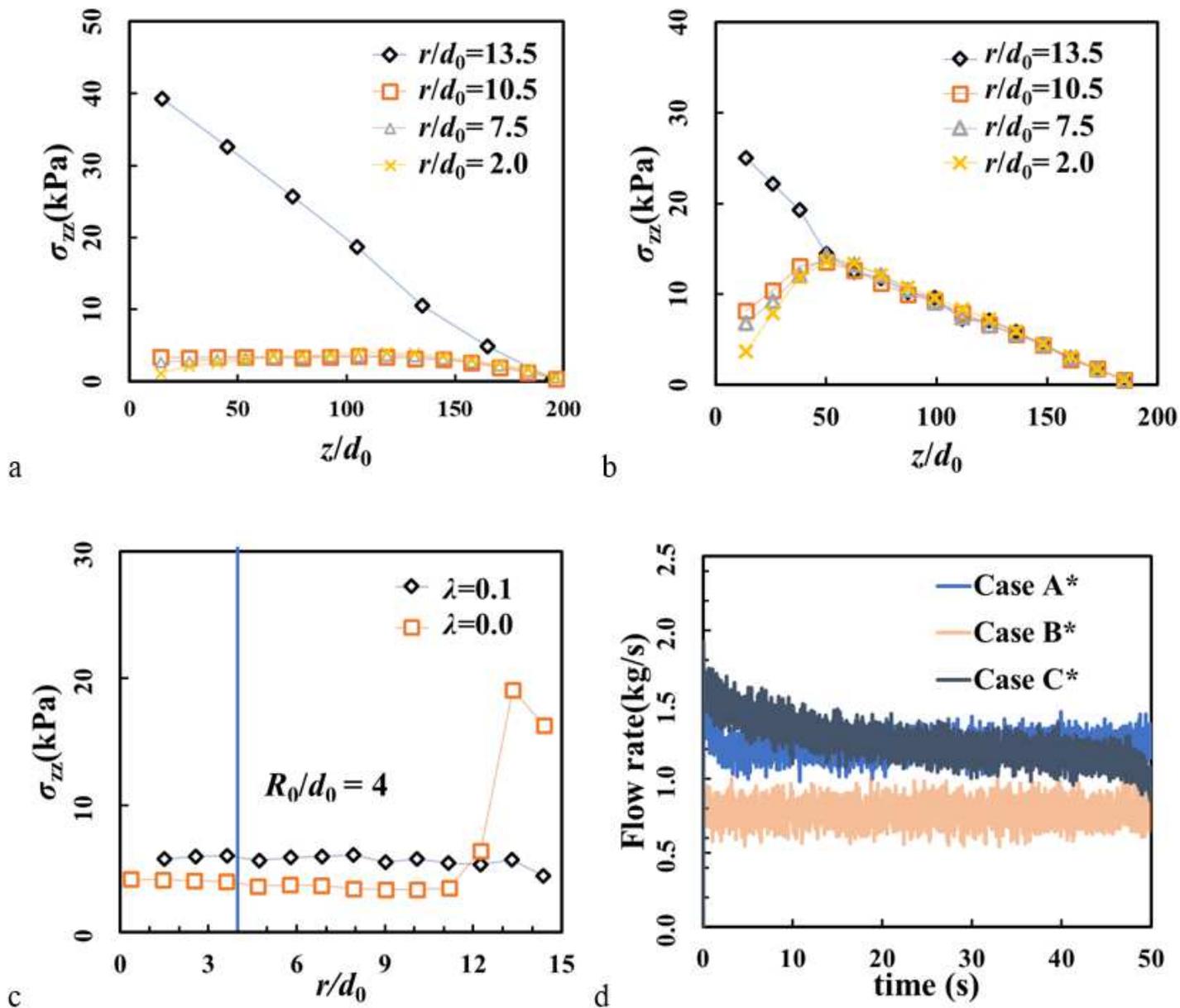


Figure 6

Vertical stress σ_{zz} along z axis in a) Case A* ($\lambda=0$) and b) in Case C* ($\lambda=0.1$) (see Table 2). c) σ_{zz} in the radial direction at $z/d_0 = 100$. The vertical line marks the radius of outlet. d) Temporal profile of instantaneous mass flow rate in Cases A*, B* and C*.

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