

Table of Contents

Part I Introduction, Conception and the Importance of Avalanche Research

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 3 |
| 1.1 | Motivation | 3 |
| 1.2 | Goals, Methods and Structure | 8 |
| 1.2.1 | Goals | 8 |
| 1.2.2 | Methodology | 9 |
| 1.2.3 | Structure | 10 |
| 1.3 | Necessities for Avalanche Studies | 14 |
| 1.3.1 | Snow Avalanche Hazards and Fatalities | 15 |
| 1.3.2 | Debris and Mud Flows, Pyroclastic Flows and Lahars | 17 |
| 1.3.3 | International Scientific Activities | 24 |
| 1.4 | A History of Avalanche Research | 26 |
| 1.4.1 | Early History | 27 |
| 1.4.2 | Modern History | 27 |
| 2 | Granular Avalanches: Definition, Related Concepts and a Review | 47 |
| 2.1 | The Complexity of Granular Materials | 47 |
| 2.2 | Applications of Granular Flows | 48 |
| 2.2.1 | Chemical Process Engineering | 48 |
| 2.2.2 | Geophysical Flows | 49 |
| 2.3 | Distinctive Properties of Granular Materials | 49 |
| 2.3.1 | Single-phase and Multi-phase Flows | 50 |
| 2.3.2 | Dilatancy | 51 |
| 2.3.3 | Cohesion | 53 |
| 2.3.4 | Lubrication | 54 |
| 2.3.5 | Fluidisation | 55 |
| 2.3.6 | Unlubricated Sliding | 57 |
| 2.3.7 | Segregation, Inverse Grading and the Brazil Nut Effect | 60 |
| 2.4 | Granular Avalanches | 62 |
| 2.4.1 | Definition | 62 |
| 2.4.2 | Pattern Formation by Granular Avalanches | 65 |

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| 2.5 | Snow Avalanche Regions, Formation and Dynamics | 72 |
| 2.5.1 | The Home of Natural Snow Avalanches | 72 |
| 2.5.2 | Topographic Conditions | 73 |
| 2.5.3 | Snowpack and Weather Conditions | 74 |
| 2.5.4 | Size and Speed of Snow Avalanches | 76 |
| 2.5.5 | Avalanche Dynamics | 77 |
| 2.6 | Types of Granular Avalanches | 79 |
| 2.6.1 | Flow Avalanches | 79 |
| 2.6.2 | Powder Avalanches | 80 |
| 2.6.3 | Landslides and Avalanches on other Planets | 85 |
| 2.7 | Fundamentals of Granular Avalanches | 88 |
| 2.7.1 | Some Characteristics of Flow Avalanches | 88 |
| 2.7.2 | Stress Generating Mechanisms | 90 |
| 2.7.3 | Density Variations | 91 |
| 2.7.4 | Constitutive Relations | 92 |
| 2.7.5 | The Size Effect | 94 |
| 2.8 | Survey on Avalanche Modelling | 96 |
| 2.8.1 | A View on Some Classical Avalanche Models | 97 |
| 2.8.2 | VOELLMY's Pioneering Work | 102 |
| 2.8.3 | Experimental Data | 104 |
| 2.8.4 | Necessity for a New Model | 110 |

Part II A Continuum Mechanical Theory for Dense Avalanches Sliding Down Non-Trivial Topographies

| | | |
|----------|---|------------|
| 3 | A Continuum Mechanical Theory for Granular Avalanches | 115 |
| 3.1 | General Introduction | 115 |
| 3.2 | The SH-Model, Reduced to its Essentials | 117 |
| 3.3 | Generalisations of the Original Theory | 123 |
| 3.3.1 | Generalisation with Respect to the Coordinate System | 123 |
| 3.3.2 | Generalisation with Respect to the Basal Topography . | 125 |
| 3.4 | A Three-Dimensional Granular Avalanche Model | 130 |
| 3.4.1 | Field Equations | 131 |
| 3.4.2 | Curvilinear Coordinate System in a Vertical Plane . . . | 133 |
| 3.4.3 | The Model Equations | 135 |
| 3.4.4 | Differences Between Geophysical Mass Flows and Shallow Water Equations | 140 |
| 3.4.5 | Features and Limitations of the Extended Model | 141 |
| 3.5 | Avalanches with COULOMB-Type and Viscous-Type Frictional Resistance | 145 |
| 3.5.1 | Model Equations Including VOELLMY Drag | 145 |
| 3.5.2 | Equations for the Motion of the Centre of Mass | 147 |
| 3.5.3 | Equations for the Deformation and Motion of Mass . . . | 150 |

| | | |
|----------|---|------------|
| 3.6 | Avalanches with Erosion and Deposition | 152 |
| 3.6.1 | Coordinate System | 153 |
| 3.6.2 | Accumulation and Deposition | 154 |
| 3.6.3 | The Model Equations | 156 |
| 3.7 | Granular Flows in Rotating Drums | 158 |
| 3.7.1 | Solid-Like and Fluid-Like Regions | 158 |
| 3.7.2 | Coordinate System | 159 |
| 3.7.3 | Governing Equations in a Solid Rotating Body | 160 |
| 3.7.4 | Interfacial Conditions and Scalings | 161 |
| 3.7.5 | Governing Equations in the Avalanche Region | 163 |
| 3.8 | Summary | 165 |
| 4 | Avalanches in Arbitrarily Curved and Twisted Channels .. | 167 |
| 4.1 | Motivation | 167 |
| 4.2 | The Essence of the New Theory | 170 |
| 4.3 | General Orthogonal Coordinate System | 171 |
| 4.4 | Non-Dimensional Equations | 177 |
| 4.4.1 | Components of the Gravitational Acceleration | 179 |
| 4.4.2 | Balance Equations | 181 |
| 4.4.3 | Kinematic Surface Conditions | 183 |
| 4.4.4 | Traction-Free Condition at the Free Surface | 183 |
| 4.4.5 | The COULOMB Sliding Law at the Base | 184 |
| 4.5 | Depth Integration | 185 |
| 4.6 | Ordering | 188 |
| 4.7 | Closure | 191 |
| 4.8 | Flow Profile | 196 |
| 4.9 | The Model Equations in Conservative Form | 198 |
| 4.9.1 | Avalanche Motions Down Curved and Twisted Channels | 198 |
| 4.9.2 | The Importance of the New Theory | 199 |
| 4.9.3 | The Standard Form of the Differential Equations | 202 |
| 4.9.4 | Characteristic Speeds and Critical Flow | 203 |
| 4.10 | Erosion and Deposition for the Full Set of Equations | 204 |
| 4.10.1 | Inclusion of Erosion and Deposition | 204 |
| 4.10.2 | Functional Relation for Erosion and Deposition | 205 |
| 4.11 | Discussion | 207 |
| 4.11.1 | Summary and Embedding of Earlier Models | 207 |
| 4.11.2 | The Orthogonal Complex vs. the Orthogonal General System | 209 |
| 4.12 | Concluding Remarks and Future Outlook | 210 |

| | | |
|----------|---|------------|
| 5 | Exact and Semi-Exact Solutions of the Model Equations .. | 213 |
| 5.1 | Solutions of the Model Equations | 213 |
| 5.1.1 | A Complete Analytical Solution | 213 |
| 5.1.2 | Particular Solutions | 214 |
| 5.1.3 | Numerical Solutions | 214 |
| 5.2 | One-Dimensional Similarity Solutions | 215 |
| 5.2.1 | One-Dimensional Flow Down Inclined Planes | 215 |
| 5.2.2 | Flow Over an Arbitrarily Curved and Twisted Channel | 224 |
| 5.2.3 | Moderately Curved Beds | 226 |
| 5.2.4 | Variable Bed Friction | 230 |
| 5.2.5 | Variable Bed Friction, Curved Bed and VOELLMY Drag | 249 |
| 5.3 | Two-Dimensional Similarity Solutions | 253 |
| 6 | Exact Solutions for Flow Avalanches in Rotating Drums .. | 265 |
| 6.1 | A Simple Exact Solution for Steady Flow in a Rotating Drum Without Erosion and Deposition | 266 |
| 6.1.1 | Coordinate System, Geometry of the Drum and the Moving Mass | 266 |
| 6.1.2 | Avalanche Depth Determined Without Wall Friction .. | 267 |
| 6.1.3 | Avalanche Depth Determined by Including Wall Friction | 270 |
| 6.2 | An Exact Solution for Steady Flow in a Slowly Rotating Drum with Erosion and Deposition | 272 |
| 6.2.1 | A Steady Flow Avalanche | 272 |
| 6.2.2 | An Exact Solution | 273 |
| 6.3 | Mixing in a Rotating Drum | 275 |
| 6.3.1 | Particle Paths | 275 |
| 6.3.2 | Circuit Time | 280 |
| 6.4 | An Alternative Model Describing the Transverse Flow and Mixing of Granular Material in a Rotating Cylinder | 282 |
| 6.4.1 | Model | 282 |
| 6.4.2 | Experiments | 287 |
| 6.4.3 | Results and Discussion | 289 |
| 6.5 | Concluding Remarks | 293 |

**Part III Shock Capturing Numerical Methods
and Simulations of Free Surface Flows of Shallow
Avalanches Sliding Over Curved and Twisted Channels**

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 7 | Classical and High Resolution Shock-Capturing Numerical Methods | 297 |
| 7.1 | Classical EULERian and LAGRANGEan Approaches | 298 |
| 7.1.1 | EULERian Approach | 300 |
| 7.1.2 | LAGRANGEan Approach | 303 |

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| 7.2 | Some Traditional Numerical Methods | 307 |
| 7.2.1 | First-Order Schemes | 307 |
| 7.2.2 | Second-Order Schemes | 309 |
| 7.3 | Appropriate Numerical Modelling | 310 |
| 7.4 | Modern Numerical Methods | 312 |
| 7.4.1 | Total Variation Diminishing Method | 312 |
| 7.4.2 | Second-Order TVD Schemes | 313 |
| 7.4.3 | Cell Reconstruction with Slope Limiters | 318 |
| 7.4.4 | Non-Linear Conservation Law and TVD Methods | 320 |
| 7.4.5 | TVD LAX–FRIEDRICHS Method | 321 |
| 7.4.6 | Modified TVDLF Scheme | 322 |
| 7.5 | NOC Schemes | 323 |
| 7.6 | Alternative Numerical Schemes | 326 |
| 7.7 | Summary | 328 |
| 8 | Two-Dimensional Shock-Capturing Schemes for Avalanching Flow | 329 |
| 8.1 | The Two-Dimensional LAGRANGEan Techniques | 329 |
| 8.2 | The Two-Dimensional NOC Schemes | 331 |
| 8.2.1 | Description | 331 |
| 8.2.2 | Predictor Step | 336 |
| 8.2.3 | Corrector Step | 337 |
| 8.3 | Two-Dimensional Shock-Capturing Methods Applied to the Extended Avalanche Equations | 338 |
| 8.4 | Summary | 341 |
| 9 | Avalanche Simulations over Curved and Twisted Channels | 343 |
| 9.1 | Performance of Various Numerical Schemes | 343 |
| 9.1.1 | Numerical Performances | 344 |
| 9.2 | Effects of Topographic Variations | 350 |
| 9.2.1 | Constant Cross-Slope Curvature | 350 |
| 9.2.2 | Variable Cross-Slope Curvature | 356 |
| 9.3 | Superimposed Basal Topography | 360 |
| 9.4 | Avalanches Sliding Down Curved and Twisted Channels | 363 |
| 9.4.1 | Flows Through Uniformly Curved and Twisted Channels | 364 |
| 9.4.2 | Avalanching Flows Through Non-Uniformly Curved and Twisted Channels | 365 |
| 9.5 | Sensitivity to Phenomenological Parameters | 372 |
| 9.6 | Pressure Dependence of the Friction Angles | 375 |
| 9.6.1 | Mass-Dependent Bed Friction Angle | 378 |
| 9.6.2 | Scale Effects Due to the Pressure Dependence of δ | 379 |
| 9.7 | Formation of Shocks | 381 |
| 9.8 | Summary | 385 |

**Part IV Experimental Validation of the Theoretical Prediction
with Different Measurement Techniques**

| | |
|---|-----|
| 10 Experimental Findings and a Comparison with the Theory | 389 |
| 10.1 Why Are Laboratory Experiments Performed? What Can be Inferred from Them? | 389 |
| 10.2 Chute Flow Experiments | 392 |
| 10.2.1 Experimental Set-Up | 392 |
| 10.2.2 Experimental Procedure | 395 |
| 10.2.3 Measurement of Phenomenological Coefficients | 399 |
| 10.2.4 Results | 403 |
| 10.2.5 Variable Bed Friction Angle (Position-Dependent) | 409 |
| 10.2.6 Chutes with a Convex Curved Bump | 411 |
| 10.2.7 Limitation of the Model | 416 |
| 10.3 Avalanche Flow Without Side Confinement | 417 |
| 10.3.1 Experimental Set-Up | 417 |
| 10.3.2 Rolled Surfaces | 420 |
| 10.4 Channelised Avalanche Flows | 425 |
| 10.5 Avalanches Across Irregular Three-Dimensional Terrain | 436 |
| 10.5.1 The Table-Top Experiments | 439 |
| 10.5.2 Further Verification of the Model Equations | 446 |
| 11 Particle Image Velocimetry for Free Surface Flow Avalanches | 461 |
| 11.1 Introduction | 461 |
| 11.2 Particle Image Velocimetry Technique | 462 |
| 11.2.1 Image Intensity Field | 463 |
| 11.2.2 Cross-Correlation Function | 464 |
| 11.2.3 Spatial Resolution | 466 |
| 11.2.4 Summary of the PIV System | 466 |
| 11.3 Experimental Set-Up for Granular Avalanches | 466 |
| 11.3.1 Transparent Fluids and the Usual PIV Set-Up | 467 |
| 11.3.2 Set-Up for Granular Avalanches | 467 |
| 11.3.3 Technical Details | 468 |
| 11.4 Experimental Peculiarities Arising for Granular Materials | 468 |
| 11.4.1 General Errors | 469 |
| 11.4.2 Particular Errors for Granular Flows | 469 |
| 11.5 Post-Processing and Evaluation | 474 |
| 11.6 PIV with Multi-Cameras | 475 |
| 11.7 Particle Tracking Velocimetry (PTV) Measuring Technique | 475 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| 12 | Avalanche Experiments Using the PIV Measurement Technique | 479 |
| 12.1 | Experimental Details | 480 |
| 12.2 | Measurement of Avalanche Depth Profiles | 483 |
| 12.3 | Validation of the Theory | 484 |
| 12.3.1 | Experiments Using Small-Cap and Quartz Particles | 484 |
| 12.3.2 | The PIV Measurement and Validation of the Theory | 486 |
| 12.3.3 | Evolution of the Avalanche Geometry | 490 |
| 12.3.4 | Multi-CCD Cameras and Velocity Shearing | 490 |
| 12.4 | Is There a Terminal Velocity on Inclined Planes? | 493 |
| 12.4.1 | Background | 493 |
| 12.4.2 | Remarks on Experimental Procedures | 495 |
| 12.4.3 | Results | 495 |
| 12.4.4 | Summary | 502 |
| 12.5 | Concluding Remarks | 503 |

Part V Avalanche Protection and Defence Structures

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| 13 | Protection Against Snow Avalanche Hazards | 507 |
| 13.1 | Types of Avalanche Protection | 508 |
| 13.1.1 | Avalanche Initiation and Protective Measures | 508 |
| 13.1.2 | Early Efforts | 510 |
| 13.1.3 | Modern Methods of Avalanche Defence and Protection | 510 |
| 13.2 | Avalanche Protection in Different Countries | 514 |
| 13.2.1 | Avalanche Protection in Switzerland | 514 |
| 13.2.2 | Avalanche Protection in France | 515 |
| 13.2.3 | Avalanche Protection in Iceland | 516 |
| 13.2.4 | Snow Avalanche Protection in Austria | 518 |
| 13.2.5 | Snow Avalanche Barriers in North America | 518 |
| 13.3 | Laboratory Experiments: A Means to Design Defence Structures | 519 |
| 13.3.1 | Laboratory Models and Experiments | 520 |
| 13.3.2 | Simulation of Avalanche Protection | 523 |
| 13.3.3 | A Structural Protection Technique by Deflection | 525 |
| 13.4 | Conclusion | 526 |
| 14 | Summary and Outlook | 529 |
| 14.1 | Knowledge at Present | 530 |
| 14.1.1 | Theory | 530 |
| 14.1.2 | Numerics | 531 |
| 14.1.3 | Experiments | 532 |
| 14.2 | Attempts in Future | 534 |
| 14.2.1 | Application in Nature | 534 |
| 14.2.2 | Application in the Laboratory | 535 |

14.2.3 Advancing the Numerics 536

14.2.4 More Advanced Measurement Techniques
and Experiments 536

References 539

Name Index 565

Index 571