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On inequalities of shear modulus contributions in disordered elastic bodies

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We investigate generic inequalities of various contributions to the shear modulus μ in ensembles of amorphous elastic bodies. We focus first on a simple elastic network model with connectivity matrices (CMs) which are either annealed or quenched, at or out of equilibrium. The stress-fluctuation formalism relation for μ is rewritten as $\mu = \mu_1 + \mu_a$ with $\mu_1 \ge 0$ characterizing the variance of the quenched shear stresses and μ_a being a simple average over all states and CMs. For equilibrium CMdistributions μ_a becomes equivalent to the shear modulus of annealed systems, i.e. $\mu_a \ge 0$, while more generally μ_a may become strongly negative as shown by considering a temperature quench and a scalar active two-temperature model. Consistent relations are also found for glass-forming colloids where $\mu - \mu_1 = \mu_a = 0$ for equilibrium ensembles, i.e. μ is set by the quenched shear stresses, while μ_a becomes again negative otherwise.

I. INTRODUCTION

General context and goal. Broken symmetries [1– 3] may become *permanently* frozen in time (" $t_{\star} = \infty$ ") but they may also be only *transient* being annealed after some finite characteristic relaxation time t_{\star} . Permanent or transiently broken symmetries do not only play a role for crystalline solids [1, 4] but are also crucial for complex matter systems without "broken continuous symmetries" but frozen local heterogeneities [5– 15]. As sketched in Fig. 1, we investigate in the present study amorphous solids formed by ideal spring networks with randomly frozen "connectivity matrices" (CMs) describing the interactions between the connected particles ("vertices") [16] and, more briefly, standard colloidal glasses created by a temperature quench from equilibrated high-temperature configurations [5, 17, 18]. Due to the quenched disorder one naturally needs to be more precise concerning the averaging procedure of fluctuations [19] being crucial for the determination of second derivatives of the free energy [2]. Specifically, we shall focus on the shear modulus μ of amorphous solids computed by means of the stress-fluctuation formalism [17, 19–30]. We thus analyze various "moments" of the instantaneous shear stress $\hat{\tau}(c,k)$ with k denoting the thermodynamic state of a CM c. For instance, we denote by $\tau_q(c) \equiv \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_k$ the k-averaged quenched shear stress for a given c. Consistently with the more specific cases discussed elsewhere [12, 13, 28, 30–35], the rescaled variance μ_1 of these quenched shear stresses is quite generally shown to yield an important contribution to the shear modulus $\mu = \mu_1 + \dots$ This is especially relevant for quenched liquid-type glass-formers under equilibrium conditions (as properly defined in Sec. VI) for which we shall demonstrate that

$$0 = \mu - \mu_1 \text{ with } \mu_1 = \beta V \left[\langle \tau_q(c)^2 \rangle_c - \langle \tau_q(c) \rangle_c^2 \right]$$
(1)



FIG. 1: Elastic ideal spring network with annealed reference lengths R_s of the springs imposing $0.1 \le R_s \le 2$ and $\langle R_s \rangle_s = 1$ for a temperature T = 0.1: (a) Snapshot of a small subvolume comprising about 500 vertices. Red lines indicate compressed springs ($r < R_s$), blue lines extended springs. (b) Normalized distribution $p(R_s)$.

corroborating a recently made suggestion [28]. ($\beta = 1/T$ stands for the inverse of the temperature T, V for the d-dimensional volume.)

Outline. We begin in Sec. II by reminding the stressfluctuation relations for the shear modulus and state then general inequalities assuming permanent CMs $(t_{\star} = \infty)$ taken from an equilibrium distribution. The simple elastic network model shown in Fig. 1 is described in Sec. III. The static relations of Sec. II are generalized into the time domain [36] by allowing the reorganization of the CMs of the networks, i.e. $t_{\star}(\omega)$ becomes finite with the imposed network reorganization frequency ω being a convenient tuning parameter. Computational results obtained for this model are presented in Sec. IV for CMs at equilibrium and in Sec. V for out-of-equilibrium CMs. We consider especially an initially out-of-equilibrium CMdistribution caused by a temperature jump and "scalar active" networks [37, 38] with different temperatures for the network vertices and the annealed CMs. In Sec. VI we turn finally to quenched colloidal glasses and confirm that Eq. (1) must in general hold for quenched ensembles kept at equilibrium. We conclude in Sec. VII with an outlook on a similar relation for the microscopic shear modulus being relevant, e.g., for reversible physical gels [12, 13, 28] or polymer melts [39].

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II. THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Stress-fluctuation formalism. Having first been used by Rowlinson for the compression modulus of liquids [20] and later generalized by Squire *et al.* [21] for solid bodies, the stress-fluctuation formalism provides a convenient route to calculating the (isothermic) elastic constants in computer simulations [40]. It has thus been widely used in the past both for macroscopic elastic moduli [17, 19, 21–30] as for local mechanical properties [6– 11, 14, 15, 22. We note that the relations given in the literature depend somewhat on whether the elastic moduli are *defined* with respect to an unstressed reference state [21, 40] or with respect to an in general prestressed reference [20]. The difference between both definitions is described by so-called "Birch coefficients" as discussed elsewhere [27, 41, 42]. We take here the latter more physical definition where for gases and liquids the shear modulus strictly vanishes and the compression modulus is consistent with Rowlinson's formula [17, 20, 43].

Shear modulus of amorphous solids. We summarize here the salient relations for the macroscopic shear modulus μ relevant for ensembles of quenched amorphous bodies. Let E(c, k) denote the energy for a state k of a CM c at a given volume V and shear strain γ . Following Refs. [19, 28, 29] we expand E(c, k) assuming a canonical transformation [19] of the positions and momenta of the particles of the system under an infinitessimal affine simple shear strain γ in, say, the xy-plane of the system. The instantaneous shear stress $\hat{\tau}(c, k)$ and the instantaneous affine shear modulus $\hat{\mu}_A(c, k)$ are then defined by

$$\hat{\tau}(c,k) \equiv \frac{\delta E(c,k)/V}{\delta \gamma} \text{ and } \hat{\mu}_{A}(c,k) \equiv \frac{\delta^2 E(c,k)/V}{\delta \gamma^2}$$
 (2)

as the first and the second functional derivatives with respect to this canonical transformation taken at $\gamma =$ 0 for constant V [28]. While the frozen shear stresses $\tau_{\rm q}(c) \equiv \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_k$ are in general finite, the *c*-ensemble has by symmetry an average shear stress

$$\langle \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_k \rangle_c = \langle \tau_q(c) \rangle_c = 0.$$
 (3)

We analyze below the behavior of the (rescaled) moments

$$\mu_1 \equiv \langle \mu_1(c) \rangle_c \text{ with } \mu_1(c) \equiv \beta V \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_k^2, \qquad (4)$$

$$\mu_2 \equiv \langle \mu_2(c) \rangle_c \text{ with } \mu_2(c) \equiv \beta V \left\langle \hat{\tau}(c,k)^2 \right\rangle_k, \quad (5)$$

$$\mu_{\rm F} \equiv \langle \mu_{\rm F}(c) \rangle_c \text{ with } \mu_{\rm F}(c) \equiv \mu_2(c) - \mu_1(c), \qquad (6)$$

$$\mu_{\rm A} \equiv \langle \mu_{\rm A}(c) \rangle_c$$
 with $\mu_{\rm A}(c) \equiv \langle \hat{\mu}_{\rm A}(c,k) \rangle_k$ and (7)

$$\mu \equiv \langle \mu(c) \rangle_c \quad \text{with } \mu(c) \equiv \mu_{\rm A}(c) - \mu_{\rm F}(c)$$
 (8)

being all ≥ 0 . As shown elsewhere [17, 29], the indicated shear modulus $\mu(c)$ for each c is consistent with the thermodynamic definition

$$\mu(c) = \frac{\partial^2 F(T, V, \gamma, c)/V}{\partial \gamma^2},\tag{9}$$

i.e. the second derivative of the free energy $F(T, V, \gamma, c)$ taken at $\gamma = 0$ at constant T, V and $c. \mu_{\rm F}$ characterizes

$$\langle \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_k^2 \rangle_c \neq \langle \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_c^2 \rangle_k = \langle \langle \hat{\tau}(c,k) \rangle_k \rangle_c^2 = 0.$$
(10)

Inequalities. Being a thermodynamic susceptibility $\mu(c) \ge 0$ must hold for each CM c and, hence, also $\mu \ge 0$ for its c-average. Let us rewrite the c-average as

$$\mu = \mu_1 + \mu_a \text{ with } \mu_a \equiv \mu_A - \mu_2.$$
 (11)

Since $\mu_{\rm F} \ge 0$ and $\mu_1 \ge 0$ we always have

$$\mu_{\rm A} \ge \mu \ge \mu_{\rm a}.\tag{12}$$

What is the meaning of μ_a ? Let us denote by l all combined states lumping together all (c, k). Reminding also Eq. (3), the "simple average" [19, 43]

$$\mu_{\rm a} = \left\langle \hat{\mu}_{\rm A}(l) - \beta V \hat{\tau}^2(l) \right\rangle_l \tag{13}$$

would correspond to the stress-fluctuation formula for the shear modulus *if* the symmetry breaking between different CMs could be ignored, i.e., to be a thermodynamically meaningful modulus not only the states kof the given CMs c must be at thermal equilibrium but also the CMs. To see why $\mu_a \ge 0$ for equilibrium CMdistributions let us assume that the broken symmetry becomes lifted by reversible reorganizations of the CMs for $t \gg t_{\star}$ assuming (temporarily) a finite t_{\star} . Using Eq. (3) implies that $\mu_{a} = \mu - \mu_{1} = \mu$ is the shear modulus of the annealed CMs and, hence, $\mu_a \geq 0$. Interestingly, being a simple average, the expectation value of $\mu_{\rm a}$ does not change if evaluated for permanently quenched CMs of the same CM-distribution. However, for quenched CMs with $\mu_1 > 0$ it then differs from the shear modulus μ_q due to the inequality $\mu_{q} = \mu_{a} + \mu_{1} > \mu_{a}$. (Instead of μ we often use below μ_{q} for quenched CMs with $t_{\star} = \infty$.) Interestingly, the above argument implies

$$\mu_{\rm a} \ge 0 \Leftrightarrow \mu_{\rm A} \ge \mu_2 \Leftrightarrow \mu_{\rm q} \ge \mu_1 \tag{14}$$

if the (quenched) CMs are taken from an equilibrium distribution. This is the most central point we want to highlight in this work. The special limit where the above inequalities reduce to Eq. (1) will be further investigated in Sec. VI. Moreover, while Eq. (14) holds for equilibrium CM-distributions it may be violated for more general distributions as shown in Sec. V. We emphasize finally that in the above argument leading to Eq. (14) the specific Hamiltonian was irrelevant and there was no need to specify $\hat{\tau}$ and $\hat{\mu}_A$ defined by Eq. (2). See Refs. [17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 35] for specific cases.

III. SIMPLE ELASTIC NETWORK MODEL

Springs and topology. We use for illustration purposes a simple two-dimensional model elastic network where n vertices of mass m are connected by ideal springs s of energy $\frac{K}{2}(r-R_s)^2$ with identical spring constants K but a specific reference length ${\cal R}_s$ for each spring. We assume m = 1, K = 10 and $\langle R_s \rangle_s = 1$ for the first moment of the R_s -distribution for each CM c. The network topology is set up using a regular hexagonal lattice of springs where each vertex is connected by identical springs of $R_s = 1$ to its six next neighbors. At variance to the transient spring networks considered in Ref. [28], the springs remain permanently connected to the same vertices, i.e. in this respect all CMs are quenched and identical. We use below $n = 10^4$ vertices contained in periodic rectangular simulation boxes. The networks are sampled by means of molecular dynamics (MD) using a Langevin thermostat [43]. For crystalline networks without disorder $\tau_{q}(c) = 0$ by symmetry for all c and T and, hence, $\mu_1 = 0$ and $\mu = \mu_a$.

Annealed and quenched disorder. Annealed and quenched disorder enters since the reference lengths may fluctuate under the additional constraint that $0.1 \leq R_s \leq$ 2. This is done by means of a Monte Carlo (MC) procedure where the reference lengths of two (randomly chosen) neighboring springs are slightly changed subject to a standard Metropolis criterion [43] and that both new lengths are within the indicated bounds and their sum remains constant. (This may be seen as a simple model for branched wormlike micelles with imposed number of branching points and total branch length [44].) The algorithm thus mixes MD moves for the vertices at a given CM with MC steps altering the Hamiltonian and thus the CM [16]. Time is measured by the MD procedure where we set $\delta t = 10^{-3}$ for the Verlet time increment [43]. After each δt we attempt for a small fraction of pairs of springs an MC hopping move to change their reference lengths. The reorganization frequency ω indicated below is proportional to this small fraction: $\omega = 1$ means that a spring is attempted on average once per time unit.

Configurations and data sampling. Results obtained for $\omega = 0.01$ and running the systems over $t = 10^5$ are shown in Fig. 1. As can be seen in panel (a), the network becomes very disordered and appears macroscopically homogeneous and isotropic. (This visual impression can be corroborated using standard pair correlation functions.) Panel (b) shows the corresponding probability distribution for R_s . We thus obtain a large ensemble of $N_{\rm c}=500$ independent configurations c with an equilibrium CM-distribution. Assuming ergodicity for each CM k-averages are replaced by time-averages [43]. For instance, we estimate the k-average $\tau_{q}(c)$ by computing the time-average $\tau_{q}(c,t)$ of the instantaneous shear stresses $\hat{\tau}$ over a "sampling time" t. The above-introduced moments thus become apriori t-dependent as emphasized by an additional argument t [36]. We remind that for stationary systems the dynamical shear modulus $\mu(t)$ is



FIG. 2: $\mu_{\rm A}(t)$, $\mu_2(t)$, $\mu(t) \equiv \mu_{\rm A}(t) - \mu_{\rm F}(t)$, $\mu_1(t)$, $\mu_{\rm F}(t) \equiv \mu_2(t) - \mu_1(t)$ and $\mu_{\rm a}(t) \equiv \mu_{\rm A}(t) - \mu_2(t)$ for equilibrated and finally quenched CMs ($\omega = 0$). Eq. (14) is nicely confirmed.

a smoothing function [19, 45] of the shear stress relaxation modulus G(t) [39]. Data are sampled either for strictly permanent networks ($\omega = 0$) or by gradually reorganizing the CMs at small finite ω as in our work on transient self-assembled spring networks [19, 28]. The behavior of permanent CMs is then obtained from the small- ω asymptotic limit.

IV. ELASTIC NETWORKS AT EQUILIBRIUM

Quenched CM-distributions. Let us first characterize the moments for switched-off reorganization MC moves ($\omega = 0, t_{\star} = \infty$). Using a half-logarithmic representation this is shown in Fig. 2 with the sampling time t being the horizontal axis. As expected, all moments become rapidly t-independent ($t \gg 1$) as emphasized by horizontal lines. The static asymptotic limits are

$$\mu_{\rm A} \approx 6.2 > \mu_{\rm q} \approx 4.6 > \mu_1 \approx 3.9 \gg \mu_{\rm a} \approx 0.7 > 0.$$
 (15)

The inequalities Eq. (12) and Eq. (14) thus hold as expected. Please note that μ_a is very small albeit finite.

Finite reorganization rates. The thermodynamic static values for permanent CMs are also of relevance if the reorganization MC moves are not completely switched off. This is demonstrated for a large range of ω in Fig. 3 for $\mu(t)$. As can be seen, $\mu(t) \to \mu_A$ for all $\omega > 0$ for very small times (thin horizontal line) [36]. This is expected since $\mu_{\rm F}(t)$ must vanish in this limit. For small ω and not too large t, $\mu(t)$ approaches the static shear modulus μ_{q} of quenched networks (bold horizontal line). μ_{q} becomes an intermediate upper shoulder (plateau) upon further increasing ω or t. Importantly, for sufficiently large t and ω the dynamical shear modulus $\mu(t)$ always approaches $\mu_{\rm a}$ (dashed horizontal line), i.e. the static shear modulus of completely annealed networks. Naturally, this is best seen for our largest reorganization frequencies ($\omega \gg 0.01$). We note finally that the relaxation



FIG. 3: $\mu(t) \equiv \mu_1(t) + \mu_a(t)$ for different ω as indicated in the legend. The horizontal lines indicate (top to bottom) the large-t asymptotes $\mu_A \approx 6.2$, $\mu_q \approx 4.6$ and $\mu_a \approx 0.7$ for $\omega = 0$.



FIG. 4: Time-dependence of various moments after quenching at t = 0 from T = 10 to T = 0.1 and allowing the CMs to reorganize with a small frequency $\omega = 0.01$. Eq. (14) gets violated for $t \ll t_{\star} \approx 30000$ (vertical line) where $\mu_1(t)$, $\mu_2(t)$ and $-\mu_a(t)$ are found to decay logarithmically.

time t_{\star} , operationally defined by $\mu(t = t_{\star})/\mu_{\rm a} - 1 = 5\%$, is inversely proportional to ω and that it is possible (not shown) to collapse the data for large t by tracing $\mu(t)$ as a function of $t/t_{\star}(\omega)$.

V. OUT-OF-EQUILIBRIUM NETWORKS

Having confirmed Eq. (14) for equilibrium CMs we show now using two examples with non-equilibrium CMs that these inequalities do not hold in general.

Temperature jump. Starting with annealed liquids at high temperatures amorphous solids are commonly created by a rapid quench below the glass transition temperature $T_{\rm g}$ [5]. This has not only the effect that the relaxation dynamics is strongly reduced but, moreover, that glasses are generally not at thermal equilibrium at $T < T_{\rm g}$, i.e. Eq. (14) may not hold. This issue will be addressed in Sec. VI. Here we consider first a similar sit-



FIG. 5: Scalar active two-temperature model with T = 0.1 for the network vertices and $T_{\rm CM}$ for the CMs. A half-logarithmic representation of the observables as a function of the reduced temperature $x = T_{\rm CM}/T$ is used. The final production runs are performed at switched-off MC moves ($\omega = 0$) sampling over a sampling time $t = 10^4$. Equation (14) is violated for $x \gg 1$ but holds for $x \ll 1$.

uation where networks are first equilibrated with finite ω at T = 10 and then suddenly at t = 0 quenched to our standard temperature T = 0.1, i.e. the CM-distribution is initially not at equilibrium. As shown in Fig. 4, it is then allowed to relax with $\omega = 0.01$. The data points have been obtained using an iteration of subsequent tempering and measuring intervals of both $\Delta t = 1000$. The indicated time for the horizontal axis is $t = \Delta t(2i - 0.5)$ for each iteration step *i*. While Eq. (12) always holds it is seen that Eq. (14) is strongly violated for short times $t \ll t_{\star}$ with $t_{\star} \approx 30000$. In the large-*t* limit the equilibrium CM-distribution for T = 0.1 is restored, cf. Eq. (15).

Active two-temperature model. As a second example we present in Fig. 5 data for two-temperature networks where the MD dynamics of the vertices is coupled to a Langevin thermostat with T = 0.1 while a broad range of temperatures $T_{\rm CM}$ is imposed for the MC steps of the network reorganization. This model is motivated by recent work on scalar active matter with different temperatures for each particle class [37, 38]. Half-logarithmic coordinates are used with $x = T_{\rm CM}/T$ being the dimensionless horizontal axis. For each x we anneal the CM-ensemble using a finite ω over sufficiently long times until all properties become stationary. The reorganization MC steps are then switched off for the production runs presented in Fig. 5 ($\omega = 0, t_{\star} = \infty, t = 10^4$). As expected, the data points for $x \approx 1$ are consistent with Fig. 2 and $\mu_{\rm A}(x)$, $\mu_{\rm F}(x)$ and $\mu_{\rm q}(x)$ are seen to only depend very weakly on x. Importantly, we observe for $x \gg 1$ that the inequalities Eq. (14) are strikingly violated, just as for the short-time limit in Fig. 4. This makes sense since in both cases the CMs are distributed using a too large temperature which generates stronger quenched stresses. Moreover, Eq. (14) does not only hold for $x \approx 1$ but also for $x \ll 1$. We also note that in the small-x limit the moments $\mu_1(x)$ and $\mu_2(x)$, measuring the quenched shear stresses, slightly decrease albeit remaining finite. Hence, $-\mu_a(x) = \mu_2(x) - \mu_A(x)$ also decreases with $-\mu_a(x) \to -3$ for $x \to 0^+$.

VI. LIQUID-TYPE ELASTIC SOLIDS

General considerations. We have considered above elastic networks which by construction must have a *finite* shear modulus even for annealed reference lengths R_s where $\mu = \mu_a > 0$. We turn now to liquid-type systems such as reversible physical gels [12, 13, 28] or polymer melts [39] where

$$\mu \simeq \mu_{\rm a} \simeq \mu_1 \simeq 0 \text{ for } t \gg t_\star \tag{16}$$

with t_{\star} being the finite terminal relaxation time of the system. Obviously, in many real experiments and computer simulations t_{\star} becomes rapidly extremely large, especially upon cooling, and in practice $t \ll t_{\star}$ for all realistic sampling times t. One thus expects elastic solid behavior with a finite shear modulus $\mu(t) \approx \mu_{q} > 0$ for a finite t-window similar to the low- ω data presented in Fig. 3 for elastic networks. Occasionally, such effectively quenched liquid-type systems may still be at thermal equilibrium [28]. (For reversible physical gels this may be achieved, e.g., by temporarily adding some catalytic compounds facilitating the network reorganization or in computational work by means of additional efficient albeit artificial MC moves as shown below for one example.) Assuming thus an equilibrium distribution of dynamically quenched configurations, the inequalities Eq. (14) are expected to become *equalities*, i.e.

$$0 = \mu_{\rm a} \equiv \mu_{\rm A} - \mu_2 = \mu_{\rm q} - \mu_1. \tag{17}$$

In agreement with related recent studies [19, 28, 30] we have thus finally confirmed Eq. (1). Note that failure of Eq. (17) implies that the quenched configuration ensemble is inconsistent with an equilibrium distribution.

Colloidal glass-former. The above statements are illustrated in Fig. 6 using systems of polydisperse Lennard-Jones (pLJ) particles which have been extensively investigated in the past [17, 19, 24, 30]. We average over $N_{\rm c} = 100$ independent configurations which are kept at an average normal pressure P = 2 by means of a standard barostat [43]. All production runs are performed using straight-forward MD (with switched off barostat) just as for the spring networks investigated above. We only present data for $t = 10^5$. Two different cases of ensemble preparation are compared. The open symbols in Fig. 6 refer to configurations created starting from equilibrated start configurations at T = 0.5 using a standard quench protocol decreasing the imposed temperature with a constant quench rate $0.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$ (in LJ units) and a final tempering over $t = 10^5$ for each T sampled. In addition, we thoroughly equilibrated each configuration using a mix of local and swap MC moves over 10⁶ MC cycles [18, 19] and sample this second ensemble again using



FIG. 6: *T*-dependence of contributions to the shear modulus for n = 10000 pLJ particles at an imposed average normal pressure P = 2 [17, 19]. All data points are obtained using MD-production runs over $t = 10^5$ and averaged over $N_c = 100$ independent configurations. Open symbols refer to configurations obtained by means of a constant-rate *T*-quench while the stars show $-\mu_a$ for configurations being first thoroughly equilibrated using a mix of local and swap MC moves [18, 19]. While Eq. (17) is violated in the first case below $T_g \approx 0.26$ (vertical dashed line) it holds in the second case even for $T \ll T_g$ (horizontal dashed line).

MD. For clarity, we only show for this second case data for $-\mu_a$ (stars). This shows that for well-equilibrated systems Eq. (17) holds in principle for all temperatures. (As revealed by closer inspection, $\mu_a = 0$ is slightly violated for our lowest temperatures suggesting that additional equilibration with swap MC moves is warranted.) This is different for the first data set (open symbols) obtained using the standard MD-quench for which Eq. (17) is clearly violated below the glass-transition temperature $T_g \approx 0.26$ [17, 30]. Especially, it is seen that $\mu_1 \gg \mu$ and $-\mu_a = \mu_2 - \mu_A \gg 0$. We thus found similar behavior as for the networks in Fig. 4.

VII. CONCLUSION

Summary. We have investigated in this work general inequality relations for the different contributions to the shear modulus of amorphous bodies with annealed or quenched configurations. We compared ensembles of quenched configurations at thermal equilibrium with more general distributions with a different dispersion of quenched shear stresses. To illustrate our key points we have first focused on simple elastic spring networks for which the disordered CMs can be simply defined and operationally changed in terms of the reference lengths R_s of the ideal springs, cf. Fig. 1. The stress-fluctuation formalism relation for the shear modulus was rewritten as $\mu = \mu_1 + \mu_a$ with $\mu_1 \ge 0$ being the (rescaled) variance of the quenched shear stresses and μ_a a simple average over all states and CMs, cf. Eq. (13). For annealed networks $\mu_{\rm a}$ is equivalent to the shear modulus μ as shown in Fig. 3. Interestingly, μ_a may be strongly negative for out-of-equilibrium distributions as shown by considering a temperature quench (cf. Fig. 4) and a scalar active two-temperature model (cf. Fig. 5). While the shear modulus can still be computed in these cases using the stress-fluctuation relation Eq. (11), the more special inequalities Eq. (14) do not hold in general and μ_1 may thus differ strongly from the shear modulus. Turning in Sec. VI to glass-forming pLJ particles we have confirmed that similar behavior can be expected for other types of amorphous elastic solids. While Eq. (17) was seen to hold for pLJ glasses equilibrated by means of the swap MC algorithm, systematic and strong deviations arise for standard out-of-equilibrium ensembles prepared using a conventional quench protocol (cf. Fig. 6). The measurement of deviations from Eq. (17) for liquid-type systems provides thus quite generally a convenient diagnosis tool of the equilibration status of configuration ensembles.

Outlook. Further work will focus on the systematic analysis of effects related to the finite sampling time t used for our pLJ systems and the characterization of the equilibration of the configuration ensemble by tempering with different frequencies of swap MC moves. Relaxation

behavior similar to Fig. 4 is expected. It may also be of interest to consider scalar active self-assembled networks of colloids bridged by ideal springs [28] and polydisperse particles with different temperatures as in Refs. [37, 38]. We expect Eq. (17) to be violated just as for the twotemperature active network presented in Fig. 5. The above work has focused on macroscopic observables. We note finally that similar relations should hold for the *microscopic* shear modulus and its contributions at finite wavevectors q [14, 15]. For melts of long reptating polymer chains at equilibrium it is, e.g., expected that Eq. (1)remains valid in reciprocal space for sampling times below the reptation time [39]. It then follows from general considerations of isotropic tensor fields [14] that the spatial correlations of the (transiently) quenched shear stresses must be long ranged decaying as $1/r^3$ with the distance r and the prefactor being set by the intermediate plateau $G(t) \approx \mu$ of the shear stress relaxation function. Work in this direction is currently underway.

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Data availability statement. Data sets are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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