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Direct numerical simulation of sliding rough contact

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We have performed a direct numerical simulation of the vibration induced by the sliding friction in rough surfaces. The configuration is the following. A small rigid cube is set down on a horizontal large plate. The bottom face of the cube and the top face of the plate have random Gaussian surfaces of roughness $17 \mu\text{m}$ and correlation length $80 \mu\text{m}$. The cube slides at a constant speed V in the range $3 - 500 \text{ mm/s}$. The gravity maintains the contact. During the sliding, mechanical contacts between surface asperities induce a vibration of the thin elastic plate.

In Figure 1 is shown the evolution of the vibrational level L_v versus sliding speed V . We found that below $V_T = 120 \text{ mm/s}$, the RMS vibrational speed v in the plate evolves as $v \propto V^\beta$ with $\beta = 0.75$. Beyond this transitional sliding speed, v follows the same power law but with the exponent $\beta = 0.1$.

The analysis of the total contact force between the cube and the plate reveals the existence of two regimes. Below V_T , the contact is always maintained (creeping regime) and the mean contact force is equal to the cube weight. But beyond V_T , the contact force may reach zero and losses of contact appear and (flying regime). The first losses of contact appear at a sliding speed well predicted by a unit value of Froude's number $Fr = V_T^2/Rg$ where $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$ and $R = 30 \mu\text{m}$ is the radius of curvature of the mass centre of the cube (estimated in quasi-static condition).

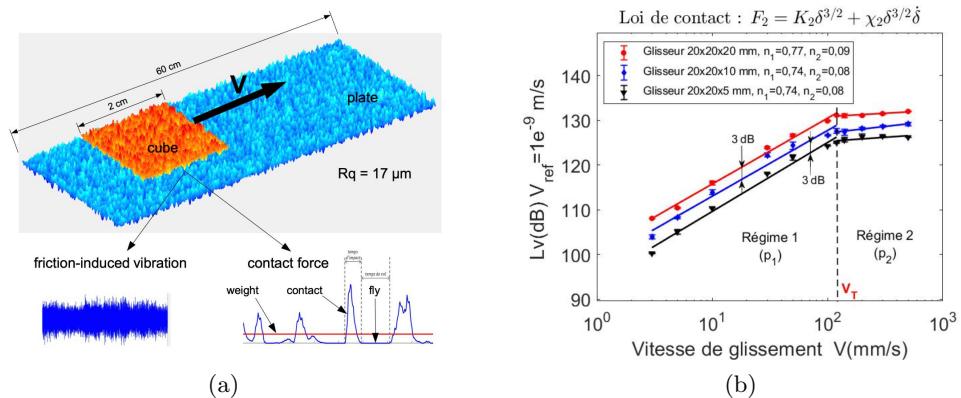


Figure 1: Friction-induced vibration by rough surfaces in sliding contact: (a) finite element mesh in the undeformed configuration, (b) evolution of vibrational level versus sliding speed for three thicknesses of the cube.

References

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