# **Model of heap formation in vibrated gravitational suspensions**

Hiroyuki Ebata\* and Masaki Sano†

*Department of Physics, Graduate School of Sciences, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812-8581, Japan* (Received 8 July 2015; revised manuscript received 19 October 2015; published 23 November 2015)

In vertically vibrated dense suspensions, several localized structures have been discovered, such as heaps, stable holes, expanding holes, and replicating holes. Because an inclined free fluid surface is difficult to maintain because of gravitational pressure, the mechanism of those structures is not understood intuitively. In this paper, as a candidate for the driving mechanism, we focus on the boundary condition on a solid wall: the slipnonslip switching boundary condition in synchronization with vertical vibration. By applying the lubrication approximation, we derived the time evolution equation of the fluid thickness from the Oldroyd-B fluid model. In our model we show that the initially flat fluid layer becomes unstable in a subcritical manner, and heaps and convectional flow appear. The obtained results are consistent with those observed experimentally. We also find that heaps climb a slope when the bottom is slightly inclined. We show that viscoelasticity enhances heap formation and climbing of a heap on the slope.

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Instability and pattern formation on the free surface of a fluid have long attracted the interest of physicists. The capillary force drives the Plateau-Rayleigh instability, in which a falling stream of fluid breaks up into smaller packets [\[1\]](#page-13-0). When a droplet is suspended in the air by an external force, a capillary wave is excited and gives the droplet a polygonal shape [\[2–4\]](#page-13-0). A denser fluid on a lighter fluid shows Rayleigh-Taylor instabilities [\[5\]](#page-13-0). Impulsive acceleration produces the Richtmyer-Meshkov instability [\[6,7\]](#page-13-0). Faraday found the Faraday wave, which is a resonance of the free surface wave to an external vibration [\[8\]](#page-13-0). Flow and surface instabilities induced by vibration are also studied with the objective of microfluidics and industrial applications [\[9–13\]](#page-13-0). Due to surface acoustic waves on solid boundaries, thin liquid film is drawn from a sessile droplet, and fingering instability and a solitonlike wave appear on that film [\[11\]](#page-13-0).

Even if we focus on a Newtonian fluid, pattern formation on the free surface includes highly nonlinear and complex problems, and many researchers are working on them. When we use complex fluids that contain structures made from microscopic components, deformation and relaxation of the structure yield additional effects, and various new instabilities are reported [\[14\]](#page-13-0).

In vertically vibrated dense suspensions, instabilities with an inclined free surface are found, such as heaps, stable holes, expanding holes, and replicating holes [\[15](#page-13-0)[–22\]](#page-14-0). When we study the mechanism of these instabilities, we easily find that an intuitive understanding of the mechanism is inadequate. An inclined free fluid surface is generally difficult to maintain because surface deformation is suppressed by gravity. Thus, heaps and holes must resist gravitational pressure to maintain stable structures. Some nontrivial mechanism should convert the energy input by vertical vibration into a horizontal driving force. Similar surface instability and localized structures

are also found in vibrated viscoplastic fluids and emulsions [\[23–25\]](#page-14-0). Because we cannot observe these phenomena in Newtonian fluids, it is important to identify the rheological features that are crucial for such surface instabilities.

In this study, we propose a model of heaps in a vibrated non-density-matched suspension (gravitational suspension) [\[26\]](#page-14-0). Heaps are investigated in both vibrated dry granular materials [\[27–33\]](#page-14-0) and vibrated wet granules [\[34,35\]](#page-14-0). In both cases, the granules are completely immersed in the fluid. Thus, the free surface is not taken into account. In the presence of less interstitial liquid, called the capillary state [\[15\]](#page-13-0), many granules stay at the liquid-air interface, and we have to consider the effect of the free surface. In this case, as we mentioned before, the most crucial problem is how to maintain steady deformation of the free surface under gravity. As a candidate for the driving mechanism, we propose a slip boundary condition at a solid wall [\[26\]](#page-14-0). In addition to the bulk rheological characteristics, such as the yield stress, shear thinning, and shear thickening, dense suspensions also have a specific boundary condition at a solid wall [\[36–38\]](#page-14-0). If the shear stress at the wall  $\tau_w$  is sufficiently small, dense suspensions stick to the solid boundary. When  $\tau_w$  exceeds a critical value, dense suspensions slip on the wall. In our model, we assume that  $\tau_w$  is a function of gravity, and a boundary condition shows slip-nonslip switching in synchronization with vertical vibration. By applying the lubrication approximation, the time evolution equation of the fluid thickness is derived.

Under the slip-nonslip switching boundary condition, we show that the initially flat fluid layer becomes unstable, and heaps and convectional flow appear. This surface instability was shown to be analogous to Rayleigh-Taylor instability [\[39–42\]](#page-14-0). From a weak nonlinear analysis, we show that subcritical pitchfork bifurcation always occurs for a viscous fluid. These features are consistent with results reported experimentally [\[15\]](#page-13-0). In this paper, viscoelasticity is introduced to the model proposed in our previous work [\[26\]](#page-14-0). In a viscoelastic fluid, if the relaxation time of the shear stress is small, almost all the features resemble those of a viscous fluid. When the relaxation time exceeds a critical value, the dynamics of the heaps changes crucially. In addition, we found that heaps can climb a slope, and viscoelasticity enhances the climbing.

<sup>\*</sup>ebata@phys.kyushu-u.ac.jp

<sup>†</sup> Also at Department of Physics, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan; sano@phys.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp

<span id="page-1-0"></span>

FIG. 1. (Color online) (a) Schematic illustration of the system. (b, c) Schematic illustration of the boundary condition. (b) When  $g(t) > 0$ , granules slip on the bottom. (c) When  $g(t) < 0$ , granules stick on the bottom.

The validity of the model is examined with the experiment on the drift motion of a heap.

## **II. MODEL EQUATIONS**

First, we introduce the governing equations of the model [\[26\]](#page-14-0). We consider a fluid layer with thickness  $h(x,t)$  on a solid bottom plate [Fig.  $1(a)$ ]. A mixture of granules and interstitial fluid is treated as a single fluid, with velocity  $v_i$ , pressure  $p$ , and a deviatoric stress  $\tau_{ij}$ . Vertical vibration is represented by oscillating gravity as  $g(t) = -g[1 - \Gamma \sin(\omega t)]$ , where  $\Gamma$  and *ω* are the normalized vibration acceleration and vibration frequency, respectively. The conservation of linear momentum is

$$
\rho \frac{D v_i}{D t} = -\frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial \tau_{ij}}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_i},\tag{1}
$$

$$
\phi = \rho g [1 - \Gamma \sin(\omega t)] z,\tag{2}
$$

where  $\phi$  is the gravity potential. Compared to the compressibility of dry granular media, that of a suspension is reduced by the drag force of the interstitial liquid and a capillary force. Thus, we assume incompressibility and uniformity of the packing fraction in our model,  $\partial_{x_i} v_i = 0$ .

When the gravitational suspension is vertically vibrated, even very weak vibration causes the loss of yield stress, and a viscosity plateau appears at a low shear rate [\[43\]](#page-14-0). Thus, we do not consider the yield stress. Recently, a rheological model of vibrated granular suspension was proposed [\[44,45\]](#page-14-0). They also tested the model through experiments. That proposed equation in Ref. [\[45\]](#page-14-0) consists of a Maxwell-Jeffreys model with two nonlinear terms. Since only single shear rate is considered, this model is an equation of scalar variable. When we extend this model to tensor form, it appears to be a special case of Oldroyd 8 constant fluid. For simplicity, we neglect the nonlinear elasticity and use an Oldroyd B constitutive equation in this paper,

$$
\tau_{ij} + \lambda_1 \bar{\tau}_{ij} = 2\eta (D_{ij} + \lambda_2 \bar{D}_{ij}), \qquad (3)
$$

$$
D_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_i} \right),\tag{4}
$$

where  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  are the relaxation time and retardation time, respectively. The overhead symbol  $\overline{y}$  represents the upper convected time derivative. For example, the upper convected time derivative of a variable *X* is

$$
\bar{X}_{ij} = \partial_t X_{ij} + v_k \frac{\partial X_{ij}}{\partial x_k} - \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_k} X_{kj} - \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial x_k} X_{ik}.
$$
 (5)

If  $\lambda_2 = 0$ , Eq. (3) corresponds to the Maxwell model.

The kinematic boundary condition and force balance condition at the free surface (at  $z = h$ ) are

$$
\partial_t h + v_x \partial_x h + v_y \partial_y h = v_z, \tag{6}
$$

$$
(-p\delta_{ij} + \tau_{ij})n_j = -\kappa \sigma n_i, \qquad (7)
$$

where  $n_i$  is the unit outward vector normal to the surface,  $\kappa$ is the curvature of the surface, and  $\sigma$  is the surface tension [Fig. 1(a)]. In the two-dimensional (2D) case,  $\mathbf{n} = (n_x, n_z)$  and *κ* has the form

$$
\mathbf{n} = \frac{(-\partial_x h, 1)}{(1 + (\partial_x h)^2)^{1/2}}, \quad \kappa = \frac{\partial_x^2 h}{(1 + (\partial_x h)^2)^{3/2}}.
$$
 (8)

In this paper, we consider the case that the granules are surrounded by the interstitial fluid as in the experiment of Ref. [\[15\]](#page-13-0). When the packing fraction of the granules is  $45\% - 60\%$ , the granular layer is completely covered with a free surface of interstitial fluid. Thus, we used the surface tension of the interstitial fluid as that of the suspension.

When we consider the steady shear of an ordinary Newtonian fluid such as water or oil, we generally adopt a nonslip condition at a solid boundary. However, dense suspensions reportedly can slip along a solid boundary depending on the shear stress [\[36–38\]](#page-14-0). Dense suspensions stick to a solid boundary if the shear stress is sufficiently small but can slip if the shear stress exceeds a critical value. If we use a step function  $\theta(x)$ , the slip boundary conditions at  $z = 0$  are

$$
v_z = 0,\t\t(9)
$$

$$
v_i - \frac{\beta_0}{\eta_w} \tau_{iz} \left( 1 - \frac{\tau_c}{\tau} \right) \theta(\tau - \tau_c) = 0, \tag{10}
$$

where  $\tau = \sqrt{\tau_{xz}^2 + \tau_{yz}^2}$ ,  $i \in (x, y)$ , and

$$
\theta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x \geqslant 0) \\ 0 & (x < 0) \end{cases} \tag{11}
$$

In Eq. (10), we set the second term to zero at  $\tau = 0$ .  $\eta_w$  and  $\tau_c$ are the viscosity of the interstitial fluid and the critical shear stress above which slip occurs, respectively  $[37]$ .  $\beta_0$  is called the slip length, which has a length dimension.

In heaping experiments, granules are generally chosen to be heavier than the surrounding fluid. In a non-density-matched suspension, when gravity  $g(t)$  acts downward, granules are pushed to the bottom. On the other hand, when gravity  $g(t)$ acts upward, granules are released from the bottom. Here, we introduce an important assumption [\[26\]](#page-14-0). If the granules are pushed to the bottom,  $\tau_c$  becomes large, and if the granules are released from the bottom,  $\tau_c$  becomes small. We assume that  $\tau_c$  is an increasing function of  $g(t)$ . For convenience, we introduce a modified slip length *β*:

$$
\beta = \beta_0 \left( 1 - \frac{\tau_c[g(t)]}{\tau} \right) \theta(\tau - \tau_c[g(t)]). \tag{12}
$$

To make the analysis easier, we use the condition that  $\tau_c$ becomes sufficiently large compared to shear stress when  $g(t) < 0$ , and  $\tau_c$  is 0 when  $g(t) > 0$  [Figs. 1(b) and 1(c)]. <span id="page-2-0"></span>The boundary condition, Eq. [\(10\)](#page-1-0), can be simplified as

$$
v_i - \frac{\beta}{\eta_w} \tau_{iz} = 0, \tag{13}
$$

$$
\beta = \beta_0 \theta[g(t)].\tag{14}
$$

This boundary condition is crucial for our model, which switches between slip and nonslip conditions in synchronization with vertical vibration. In Eq.  $(14)$ , we assume that the granular layer touches the bottom plate when gravity acts downward. However, at high vibration frequency, the motion of the granular layer could have a phase delay. The necessary condition for Eq.  $(14)$  is estimated in Appendix [A.](#page-11-0)

## **III. LUBRICATION APPROXIMATION**

To avoid solving the full three-dimensional fluid equations, we apply a lubrication approximation. In the experiment, the typical size of heaps near the critical acceleration corresponds to the size of the container. The depth of the fluid layer is ∼1*.*0 cm and the size of the container is ∼10 cm. Thus, the aspect ratio is ∼0*.*1. In the model, the validity of the lubrication approximation is ensured if the wavelength of the instability is much larger than the depth of the fluid.

By applying a lubrication approximation, we seek to construct an equation for the evolution of the fluid layer thickness  $h(x,t)$ . Here, we introduce two length scales [\[42\]](#page-14-0). One is the mean thickness of the fluid  $h_0$ , and the other is the length scale in the horizontal direction determined by the wavelength  $\lambda$ , which should be larger than  $h_0$ . We define a small parameter  $\epsilon$  as

$$
\epsilon = \frac{2\pi h_0}{\lambda}.\tag{15}
$$

It is natural to scale *z* to  $h_0$  and *x* to  $h_0/\epsilon$ , which is equivalent to *λ*. The normalized coordinates are

$$
Z = \frac{z}{h_0}, \qquad X = \frac{\epsilon x}{h_0}.
$$
 (16)

We choose a typical velocity  $U_0$  in the *x* direction as a characteristic velocity of the system. Because the dominant driving force is gravity in our model, we set  $U_0 = \epsilon \rho g h_0^2 / \eta$ , which is the typical velocity of a spreading and dewetting fluid film. If we require continuity for a dimensionless fluid equation, the normalized velocity should have the form

$$
U = \frac{u}{U_0}, \qquad W = \frac{w}{\epsilon U_0}.
$$
 (17)

There are two time scales in this case. The slower time scale is  $\lambda/U_0 \sim h_0/(\epsilon U_0)$ . This corresponds to the time scale of formation and relaxation of a heap (typically, several seconds). On the other hand, the faster time scale is the cycle of vibration  $2\pi/\omega \sim 0.01$  s. This is much faster than the time scale of heap formation. Because we seek to know how the surface becomes unstable with vibration, we choose the faster time scale as that of the model. We define the scaled time and the corresponding time derivative as

$$
T = \omega t, \quad \partial_T = \frac{1}{\omega} \partial_t.
$$
 (18)

We assume that the gradients of the shear stress and pressure are the dominant terms of the motion equation in the horizontal direction. This can be expressed as  $-\partial_x p \sim \partial_z \tau_{xz}$ . Thus, the normalized pressure and stress are defined as

$$
P = \frac{\epsilon h_0}{\eta U_0} p, \qquad \Sigma_{ij} = \frac{h_0}{\eta U_0} \tau_{ij}.
$$
 (19)

The normalized gravity and surface tension have the forms

$$
G = \frac{\epsilon \rho h_0^2}{\eta U_0} g, \qquad C^{-1} = \frac{\epsilon^3 \sigma}{U_0 \eta}.
$$
 (20)

Further, *h* and *β* are scaled as

$$
H = \frac{h(x_i, t)}{h_0}, \qquad \bar{\beta} = \frac{\beta}{h_0}.
$$
 (21)

The system has the following nondimensional numbers:

$$
\text{Re} = \frac{h_0 U_0}{\epsilon \nu}, \quad \text{St} = \frac{\omega h_0}{\epsilon U_0}, \tag{22}
$$

$$
De_1 = \omega \lambda_1, \quad De_2 = \omega \lambda_2,
$$
 (23)

We = 
$$
\lambda_1 \frac{U_0}{h_0}
$$
, We<sub>2</sub> =  $\lambda_2 \frac{U_0}{h_0}$ , (24)

where Re and St are the Reynolds number and Strouhal number, respectively,  $De<sub>1</sub>$  and  $De<sub>2</sub>$  are the Deborah numbers, and  $We<sub>1</sub>$  and  $We<sub>2</sub>$  are the Weissenberg numbers. The scaled motion equation is obtained as follows:

$$
\epsilon^{2} \text{ReSt} \partial_{T} U + \epsilon^{2} \text{Re}(U \partial_{X} U + W \partial_{Z} U)
$$
  
=  $-\partial_{X} P + \epsilon \partial_{X} \Sigma_{xx} + \partial_{Z} \Sigma_{xz},$  (25)

$$
\epsilon^3 \text{ReSt} \partial_T W + \epsilon^3 \text{Re} (U \partial_X W + W \partial_Z W)
$$
  
=  $-\partial_Z P + \epsilon^2 \partial_X \Sigma_{xz} + \epsilon \partial_Z \Sigma_{zz} + G(T),$  (26)

where  $G(T) = -G[1 - \Gamma \sin(T)]$ , and  $\nu = \eta/\rho$ . Because a dense suspension has a high viscosity, the system should be strongly dissipative. Thus, we introduce Stokes' approxima-tion here [\[46\]](#page-14-0). We assume  $\epsilon^2$ ReSt =  $\omega h_0^2/v \ll 1$ . Then we ignore the inertia term in Eqs.  $(25)$  and  $(26)$ :

$$
0 = -\partial_X P + \epsilon \partial_X \Sigma_{xx} + \partial_Z \Sigma_{xz}, \tag{27}
$$

$$
0 = -\partial_Z P + \epsilon^2 \partial_X \Sigma_{xz} + \epsilon \partial_Z \Sigma_{zz} + G(T). \tag{28}
$$

The normalized continuity equation is

$$
\partial_X U + \partial_Z W = 0. \tag{29}
$$

The normalized constitutive equations are

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{xx} - 2 \mathrm{We}_1 \Sigma_{xz} \partial_Z U = -2 \mathrm{We}_2 (\partial_Z U)^2 + O(\epsilon), \quad (30)
$$

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{zz} = O(\epsilon),\tag{31}
$$

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{xz} - \mathbf{W} \mathbf{e}_1 \Sigma_{zz} \partial_Z U = \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2 \partial_Z U + O(\epsilon), \tag{32}
$$

where we introduce the following operator:

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 = 1 + \mathrm{De}_1 \partial_T, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2 = 1 + \mathrm{De}_2 \partial_T. \tag{33}
$$

The exact forms of the normalized constitutive equations are shown in Appendix [B.](#page-11-0) The boundary conditions are scaled as <span id="page-3-0"></span>follows. At  $Z = H$ ,

$$
-P - \epsilon^2 \Sigma_{xz} \partial_X H + \epsilon \Sigma_{zz} = \frac{C^{-1} \partial_X^2 H}{[1 + \epsilon^2 (\partial_X H)^2]^{3/2}},
$$
 (34)

$$
[1 - \epsilon^2 (\partial_X H)^2] \Sigma_{xz} + \epsilon \partial_X H (\Sigma_{zz} - \Sigma_{xx}) = 0, \qquad (35)
$$

$$
\partial_T H + \frac{1}{\text{St}} \partial_X \int_0^H U dZ = 0,\tag{36}
$$

where we use a continuity equation to obtain Eq.  $(36)$ . At  $Z=0$ ,

$$
W = 0, \quad U - \bar{\beta} \frac{\Sigma_{xz}}{\eta_{w0}} = 0, \tag{37}
$$

where  $\eta_{w0} = \eta_w/\eta$  is the normalized viscosity of the interstitial fluid. By using the definition  $U_0 = \epsilon \rho g h_0^2 / \eta$ ,

$$
G = 1, \quad C^{-1} = \frac{\epsilon^2 \sigma}{\rho g h_0^2}, \quad \text{St} = \frac{\omega v}{\epsilon^2 g h_0}.
$$
 (38)

The driving forces of this system are gravity and surface tension, so we let  $C = O(1)$  as  $\epsilon \to 0$ . The term 1/St has the order  $O(\epsilon^2)$ . However, because we aim to obtain the time evolution equation of *H*, we do not neglect 1*/*St in Eq. (36). At the leading order of  $\epsilon$ , the following equations are obtained from Eqs.  $(27)$ – $(37)$ . The scaled motion equation is

$$
0 = -\partial_X P + \partial_Z \Sigma_{xz}, \tag{39}
$$

$$
0 = -\partial_Z P + G(T). \tag{40}
$$

The scaled constitutive equations are

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{xx} - 2 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{e}_1 \Sigma_{xz} \partial_Z U = -2 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{e}_2 (\partial_Z U)^2, \qquad (41)
$$

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{zz} = 0, \tag{42}
$$

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{xz} - \mathbf{W} \mathbf{e}_1 \Sigma_{zz} \partial_Z U = \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2 \partial_Z U. \tag{43}
$$

Further, at  $Z = H$ ,

$$
-P = C^{-1}\partial_X^2 H,\t\t(44)
$$

$$
\Sigma_{xz} = 0,\tag{45}
$$

$$
\partial_T H + \frac{1}{\text{St}} \partial_X \int_0^H U dZ = 0. \tag{46}
$$

And, at  $Z = 0$ ,

$$
W = 0,
$$
  $U - \bar{\beta} \frac{\Sigma_{xz}}{\eta_{w0}} = 0.$  (47)

To simplify the equations, we introduce a reduced pressure:

$$
\bar{P} = -[G(T) + C^{-1}\partial_{X}^{2}]H.
$$
 (48)

By using  $\bar{P}$ , the pressure and shear stress are obtained from Eqs. (39) and (40):

$$
P = G(T)Z + \bar{P},\tag{49}
$$

$$
\Sigma_{xz} = \partial_X \bar{P}(Z - H). \tag{50}
$$

From Eq. (42),  $\Sigma_{zz}$  is solved as  $\Sigma_{zz} = \Sigma_{zz}(0) \exp(-t/\text{De}).$ This solution of  $\Sigma_{zz}$  indicates that only the initial perturbation relaxes to zero. Thus, we assume  $\Sigma_{zz} = 0$ . Then Eq. (43) gives

$$
U = \int_0^Z dZ' \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \Sigma_{xz},
$$
 (51)

where  $\mathbf{\tilde{L}}_2^{-1}$  is the inverse operator of  $\mathbf{\tilde{L}}_2$ ,

$$
\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1} f(t) = \frac{e^{t/\text{De}_2}}{\text{De}_2} \int_0^t dt' f(t') e^{-t'/\text{De}_2},\tag{52}
$$

where  $f(t)$  is a given function. Because the shear stress  $\Sigma_{xz}$ is solved in Eq.  $(50)$ , the velocity  $U$  can be calculated from Eq. (51). *W* can also be obtained by solving the continuity equation, Eq. [\(29\)](#page-2-0):

$$
U = \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1}\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1(\partial_X \bar{P})Z^2 - \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1}\tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1(H\partial_X \bar{P})Z - \frac{\bar{\beta}}{\eta_{w0}}H\partial_X \bar{P},
$$
\n(53)

$$
W = -\partial_X \left\{ \frac{1}{6} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 (\partial_X \bar{P}) Z^3 - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 (H \partial_X \bar{P}) Z^2 - \frac{\bar{\beta}}{\eta_{w0}} H \partial_X \bar{P} Z \right\}.
$$
 (54)

By substituting  $U$  in Eq.  $(46)$ , we obtain the evolution equation of *H*:

$$
\partial_T H + \frac{1}{St} \partial_X \left\{ \frac{1}{6} H^3 \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 \partial_X \bar{P} - \frac{1}{2} H^2 \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_2^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{L}}_1 (H \partial_X \bar{P}) - \frac{\bar{\beta}}{\eta_{w0}} H^2 \partial_X \bar{P} \right\} = 0. \quad (55)
$$

The dimensional form of the time evolution equation is

$$
\eta \partial_t h + \partial x \left\{ \frac{1}{6} h^3 \mathbf{L}_2^{-1} \mathbf{L}_1 \partial_x \bar{p} - \frac{1}{2} h^2 \mathbf{L}_2^{-1} \mathbf{L}_1 (h \partial_x \bar{p}) - \frac{\beta \eta}{\eta_w} h^2 \partial_x \bar{p} \right\} = 0, \qquad (56)
$$

where  $\mathbf{L}_j = 1 + \lambda_j \partial_t$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . By using Eq. (52) and the partial integral, the following relation is obtained:

$$
\mathbf{L}_2^{-1}\mathbf{L}_1 f(t) = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} f(t) + \left(1 - \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2}\right) \mathbf{L}_2^{-1} f(t) + \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} e^{-t/\lambda_2} f(0),\tag{57}
$$

where  $f(t)$  is a given function. Then Eq. (56) can be transformed as follows:

$$
\eta \partial_t h = \partial x \left\{ \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} \right) \left( -\frac{1}{6} h^3 \mathbf{L}_2^{-1} \partial_x \bar{p} + \frac{1}{2} h^2 \mathbf{L}_2^{-1} (h \partial_x \bar{p}) \right) + \left( \frac{\lambda_1}{3\lambda_2} h + \frac{\beta \eta}{\eta_w} \right) h^2 \partial_x \bar{p} + \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} e^{-t/\lambda_2} X_0 \right\}, \tag{58}
$$

$$
X_0 = \frac{1}{6}h^3[\partial_x \bar{p}]_{t=0} - \frac{1}{2}h^2[h\partial_x \bar{p}]_{t=0}.
$$
 (59)

The above equation does not have a time derivative term on the right-hand side. Thus, in the numerical simulation, we use Eq. (58).

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

FIG. 2. (Color online) (a) Heap in steady state (blue line) and time-averaged velocity field (red arrows). (b, c) Spatiotemporal plot of heaps. Horizontal and vertical axes are time and position, respectively. Gray scale represents the height of  $h(x, y)$ . A brighter region indicates greater height (see color bar). (b)  $\Gamma = 2.2$ . (c)  $\Gamma = 2.41$ . (a–c)  $\eta =$ 100 St,  $\sigma = 72 \text{ dyne/cm}, f = 10 \text{ Hz}, h_0 = \beta_0 \eta / \eta_w = 0.5 \text{ cm}.$  We use a disjoining pressure. See Appendix [C.](#page-12-0) (a)  $B = 10000$  Pa,  $h_p =$ 0.005 cm. (b, c)  $B = 10$  Pa,  $h_p = 0.005$  cm. (a–c) Initial condition is  $h(x, y) = h_0 + \xi_0 \sum_{n=1}^{n=m} \sin(2\pi nx/L + \phi_n)$ . *L* is the system size.  $\phi_n$  is a random number uniformly distributed from 0 to  $2\pi$ . (a)  $\xi_0 =$ 0*.*01 cm, *L* = 10 cm, *m* = 5. (b, c) *ξ*<sup>0</sup> = 0*.*05 cm, *L* = 100 cm,  $m = 10$ .

#### **A. Newtonian fluid**

For a 2D Newtonian fluid, the time evolution equation is derived by setting  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$  in Eq. [\(56\)](#page-3-0) [\[26\]](#page-14-0):

$$
\eta \partial_t h = \partial_x \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{3} h + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta_0 \theta[g(t)] \right) h^2 \partial_x \bar{p} \right\}, \qquad (60)
$$

$$
\bar{p} = -[\rho g(t) + \sigma \partial_x^2] h. \qquad (61)
$$

We simulate Eq. (60) with a periodic boundary condition. When the acceleration  $\Gamma$  is sufficiently large, the flat surface becomes unstable and a steady deformation grows to form heaps [Figs.  $2(a)-2(c)$ ]. When the acceleration exceeds a critical value, the valley of the heaps reaches the bottom plate and the fluid layer shows a rupture. Therefore, ultimately, heaps are separated by a dry region. Near the critical acceleration, the size of a heap is comparable to that of the system [Figs.  $2(a)$  and  $2(b)$ ]. The shape of the heap is slightly modulated by vibration, but the positions of the peak and the bottom of the surface do not change during one vibration cycle. As the acceleration increases, higher wave numbers become unstable and the size of the heap decreases [Fig.  $2(c)$ ]. The time-averaged behavior of heaps shows convectionlike flow [Fig.  $2(a)$ ]. The flow moves upward at the peak of the deformation and then downward from the peak. We also found that the onset acceleration is independent of the vibration frequency and shows hysteresis. These results are consistent with experimental observations of heaping [\[15\]](#page-13-0).

We check the bifurcation type of a viscous fluid by a weak nonlinear analysis. Here, we use a model equation for a viscous fluid proposed in Ref. [\[26\]](#page-14-0):

$$
\partial_t h = -\partial_x \left\{ \int_0^h dz \int_0^z dz' \frac{\tau_{xz}(z')}{\eta[\tau_{xz}(z')] } + \beta \frac{\tau_{xz}(0)}{\eta_w} h \right\},
$$
  
\n
$$
\tau_{xz} = (h - z) [\rho g(t) + \sigma \partial_x^2] \partial_x h,
$$
\n(62)

where  $\eta(\tau_{xz})$  could be a function of the shear stress  $\tau_{xz}$ , and we set  $\eta(\tau_{xz} = 0) = \eta_0$ . We assume the periodic boundary condition in the *x* direction.

First, we calculate the linear stability of the evolution equation. We linearize Eq. (62) at  $h = h_0$  and calculate the timeaveraged growth rate  $\Lambda_k$  defined by  $h_k(T) = \exp(\Lambda_k T)h_k(0)$ :

$$
\Lambda_{k} = \frac{1}{T} \int_{0}^{T} dt \frac{k^{2}}{\eta_{0}} \left( \frac{1}{3} h_{0}^{3} + \frac{\eta_{0}}{\eta_{w}} \beta h_{0}^{2} \right) [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^{2}]
$$
  

$$
= \frac{\beta_{0} h_{0}^{2} \rho g k^{2}}{2\pi \eta_{w}} \left\{ -\left[ \frac{2\pi h_{0} \eta_{w}}{3\beta_{0} \eta_{0}} + \pi - 2 \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{\Gamma} \right) \right] \right\}
$$
  

$$
\times \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma}{\rho g} k^{2} \right) + 2\sqrt{\Gamma^{2} - 1} \left\},
$$
(63)

where *k* is the wave number, and *T* is a cycle of the vibration.  $\Lambda_k$  has the same functional form as Rayleigh-Taylor instability in a thin film [\[39–42\]](#page-14-0). In an infinitely large system, the onset acceleration  $\Gamma_{c0}$  satisfies

$$
-\pi + 2\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{\Gamma_{c0}}\right) + 2\sqrt{\Gamma_{c0}^2 - 1} = \frac{2\pi h_0 \eta_w}{3\beta_0 \eta_0}.\tag{64}
$$

This onset acceleration is independent of the vibration frequency and depends only on *η*0*β*0*/*(*h*0*ηw*). This condition of onset acceleration has the same form as that in Ref. [\[15\]](#page-13-0).

Next, we consider the case in which the acceleration differs slightly from the onset acceleration:

$$
\Gamma = \Gamma_c + \epsilon_2^2 \chi \Gamma_c, \quad \epsilon_2 = \sqrt{\frac{|\Gamma - \Gamma_c|}{\Gamma_c}}, \tag{65}
$$

where  $\chi$  is the sign of  $\Gamma - \Gamma_c$ , and  $\epsilon_2$  is a small parameter. We assume that only one wave number,  $k_m$ , which corresponds to the system size, has neutral stability and the other wave numbers are sufficiently stable. When  $k_m$  is too small, huge numbers of harmonics  $nk_m$  are very close to neutral stability. In this case we cannot neglect higher harmonics [\[47\]](#page-14-0). To ignore the higher harmonics of  $k_m$ ,  $\epsilon_2$  should be smaller than  $k_m h_0$ . Therefore, we do not treat too-small values of  $k_m$ , and we assume that  $k_m h_0$  is around 0.1. Then we expand h in a perturbation series in powers of  $\epsilon_2$ :

$$
h = h_0 + \epsilon_2 h_1 + \epsilon_2^2 h_2 + \cdots \tag{66}
$$

Next, we expand the viscosity  $\eta^{-1}(\tau_{xz})$  in powers of  $\epsilon_2$ . Owing to the spatial symmetry, the viscosity  $\eta(\tau_{xz})$  is an even function of  $\tau_{xz}$ . Therefore, the inverse of the viscosity is expanded as

$$
\eta^{-1}(\tau_{xz}) = \eta_0^{-1} - \epsilon_2^2 \eta_0^{-2} \frac{\partial^2 \eta(0)}{\partial \tau_{xz}^2} (\tau_{xz1})^2 \dots,
$$
 (67)

$$
\tau_{xz1} = (h_0 - z) \big[ \rho g_c(t) + \sigma \partial_x^2 \big] \partial_x h_1,\tag{68}
$$

$$
g_c(t) = g[-1 + \Gamma_c \sin(\omega t)], \qquad (69)
$$

where  $\tau_{xz1}$  is the shear stress of  $O(\epsilon_2)$ . To simplify the equations, we replace  $\eta_0 \beta / \eta_w$  with  $\beta$ . First, we introduce the <span id="page-5-0"></span>following operator:

$$
\mathbf{L}_0 = \partial_t + \eta_0^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{3} h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2 \right) \left[ \rho g_c(t) + \sigma \partial_x^2 \right] \partial_x^2. \tag{70}
$$

Then the equation in  $O(\epsilon_2)$  is

$$
\mathbf{L}_0 h_1 = 0. \tag{71}
$$

From the assumption, the neutral stable solution can be written as

$$
h_1 = A\hat{h}_1(t) \exp(ik_m x) + \text{c.c.},
$$
 (72)

where *A* has a complex value, and we set  $\hat{h}_1(0) = 1$ . Because the acceleration differs slightly from the onset acceleration, the amplitude *A* evolves very slowly. The time scale *τ* of *A* is  $O(\epsilon_2^2)$ , and we introduce the slow time scale  $\tau = \epsilon_2^2 t$ . Thus, the time derivative should be transformed as

$$
\partial_t \to \partial_t + \epsilon_2^2 \partial_\tau. \tag{73}
$$

The equation in  $O(\epsilon_2^2)$  becomes

$$
\mathbf{L}_0 h_2 = -\eta_0^{-1} \partial_x \{ (h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0) h_1 (\rho g_c(t) + \sigma \partial_x^2) \partial_x h_1 \}. \tag{74}
$$

The specific solution of  $h_2$  can be written as

$$
h_2 = A^2 \hat{h}_2(t) \exp(2ik_m x) + \text{c.c.}
$$
 (75)

Finally, the equation in  $O(\epsilon_2^3)$  becomes

$$
\mathbf{L}_0 h_3 = M. \tag{76}
$$

The explicit forms of  $h_1, h_2$ , and *M* are derived in Appendix [D.](#page-12-0) The solvability condition requires that *M* is orthogonal to  $\hat{h}_1$ ,

$$
\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \hat{h}_1^{-1} M = 0.
$$
 (77)

Then we obtain the evolution equation of *A*,

$$
\partial_{\tau} A = \alpha A + \gamma A |A|^2, \tag{78}
$$

where the explicit forms of  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are shown in Appendix [D.](#page-12-0) Henceforth, we calculate  $\gamma$  at the leading order in  $k_m$ . Here, we use the following relation:

$$
\Gamma_c = \Gamma_{c0} + O(k_m^2),\tag{79}
$$

where  $\Gamma_{c0}$  is the onset acceleration at  $k_m = 0$  [see Eq. [\(64\)](#page-4-0)]. Further,  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are constant at the leading order in  $k_m$ ,

$$
\hat{h}_1 = 1 + O(k_m^2),\tag{80}
$$

$$
\hat{h}_2 = \frac{\rho g}{6\sigma h_0} \frac{F_2}{F_1} k_m^{-2} + O(1),\tag{81}
$$

where  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  are defined as follows:

$$
F_1 = \frac{2\beta_0}{\pi h_0} \sqrt{\Gamma_{c0}^2 - 1}, \qquad F_2 = -\frac{2\pi}{3}.
$$
 (82)

By substituting Eqs. (80) and (81) into Eq. [\(D15\)](#page-13-0),  $\gamma$  can be written as

$$
\gamma = \frac{\rho^2 g^2 h_0}{12\pi \eta_0 \sigma} \frac{F_2^2}{F_1} + O(k_m^2). \tag{83}
$$

Because  $F_1$  is positive,  $\gamma$  is always non-negative. Therefore, subcritical pitchfork bifurcation always occurs. Notice that *γ*



FIG. 3. (Color online) (a) Dependence of *γ* on *k* calculated from Eq. [\(D15\)](#page-13-0). Dashed black line is calculated from Eq. (83). Blue circles:  $\eta = 100$  St, and  $\sigma = 21$  dyne/cm. Green triangles:  $\eta = 50$  St, and  $\sigma =$ 72 dyne/cm. Red squares:  $\eta = 100$  St, and  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm. (b) Blue circles indicate unstable branch of Eq.  $(60)$  with periodic boundary condition in two dimensions.  $\xi_0$  is the initial deformation,  $h = h_0 +$ *ξ*<sup>0</sup> sin(*kmx*). Above the symbol, the fluid layer ends in rupture. Below the symbol, the fluid layer relaxes to become flat. Red solid line is unstable branch calculated from Eq. (78).  $\eta = 50$  St, and  $\sigma = 72$ dyne/cm. (a, b) Parameter values are  $k_m = 2\pi/5$  cm<sup>-1</sup>,  $f = 10$  Hz,  $h_0 = \beta_0 \eta / \eta_w = 0.5$  cm, and  $\rho = 1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

does not depend on the non-Newtonian viscosity [Fig.  $3(a)$ ]. The unstable branch calculated from Eq. (78) collapses to that computed in the simulation [Fig.  $3(b)$ ]. Thus, without elasticity, the linear and weakly nonlinear regimes are completely determined by the slip-nonslip switching boundary condition.

#### **B. Viscoelastic fluid**

Here, we simulate the evolution equation of a viscoelastic fluid [Eq. [\(58\)](#page-3-0)]. We assume  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$  and change  $\lambda_1$  to examine the effects of the elasticity. For small  $\lambda_1$ , the numerical result becomes similar to that for the Newtonian fluid. Above the critical acceleration, long wavelengths become unstable and heaps are formed. Once the heaps appear, the valleys of the heaps reach the bottom plate and a dried region appears. We also found hysteresis in heap formation. Compared to the

<span id="page-6-0"></span>

FIG. 4. (Color online) Bistable states of heaps in viscoelastic fluid. Blue curve indicates time-averaged surface, and red arrows indicate time-averaged velocity field. Relaxation time  $\lambda_1$  is set to exceed a critical value  $\lambda_c$ . (a) Small initial surface deformation. Initial condition is  $h(x,y) = h_0 - 0.05 \cos(4\pi n x/L)$ .  $L = 10$  cm is the system size. (b) Large initial surface deformation. Initial condition is  $h(x,y)$  $h_0 - 0.3 \cos(2\pi n x/L)$ . Parameter values are  $\lambda_1 = 0.15$  s,  $\Gamma = 2.37$ ,  $\eta = 100$  St,  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm,  $h_0 = \beta \eta / \eta_w = 0.5$  cm,  $\rho = 1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and  $\lambda_2 = 0.01$  s. We use a disjoining pressure. See Appendix [C.](#page-12-0)  $B = 10$  Pa,  $h_p = 0.005$  cm.

Newtonian fluid, the amplitude of the oscillation of the shape becomes large because of the shear thinning viscosity.

When  $\lambda_1$  exceeds a critical relaxation time  $\lambda_c$ , heap formation changes crucially. Above  $\lambda_c$ , the most unstable wave number  $k_c$  has a finite value at the onset acceleration [Fig.  $4(a)$ ]. At the onset acceleration of the heap, wave number *km*, which corresponds to the system size, is also very close to neutral stability. Thus, we cannot neglect the growth of wave number  $k_m$ . We found that the bifurcation type depends on the wave number. As we measured, the heap of wave number *kc* undergoes supercritical pitchfork bifurcation. On the other hand, the heap of wave number  $k_m$  undergoes subcritical pitchfork bifurcation. Thus, around the onset acceleration, the system shows a bistable state. If the initial deformation of the surface is sufficiently small, the amplitude of wave number  $k_c$  dominantly grows and the heaps with  $k_c$  reach the steady state [Fig.  $4(a)$ ]. In this case, the valleys of the heaps are shallow and a fluid layer always covers the bottom plate. If a large deformation with long wavelength is initially made, the amplitude of wave number  $k_m$  dominantly grows and the heaps with  $k_m$  reach the steady state [Fig.  $4(b)$ ]. In this case, the valleys of the heaps are deep and a dried region appears.

Next, we calculate the linear stability of a viscoelastic fluid. Equation [\(58\)](#page-3-0) is linearized at  $h = h_0$ , and a Fourier transformation gives

$$
\eta \mathbf{L}_2 \partial_t \xi_k = \frac{k^2}{3} h_0^3 \mathbf{L}_1 \{ [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^2] \xi_k \} + k^2 \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \mathbf{L}_2 \{ \beta h_0^2 [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^2] \xi_k \}, \quad (84)
$$

where  $\xi_k$  is a small deformation with wave number *k*. Using Floquet's theorem, we numerically calculate the time-averaged growth rates from Eq.  $(84)$ . Equation  $(84)$  has two growth rates, and one of them always has a negative value. Here, we set the larger growth rate as  $\Lambda_k$ . The dependence of  $\Lambda_k$  on *k* at the onset acceleration is shown in Fig. 5(a). As  $\lambda_1$  increases,  $\Lambda_k$ becomes flat at around  $k = 0$ . There exists a critical relaxation time  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_c$  above which the critical wave number  $k_c$  has a finite value. Figures  $5(b)$  and  $5(c)$  show the onset acceleration and critical wave number, respectively, of a sufficiently large system (system size is  $10<sup>4</sup>$  cm). For a very large system, below the critical relaxation time  $\lambda_c$  the onset acceleration and critical wave number are identical to those of a Newtonian fluid. Above *λ<sub>c</sub>*, the critical wave number increases as  $k_c$  ∼ ( $λ_1 − λ_c$ )<sup>1/2</sup> and the onset acceleration decreases.

Next, we estimate the critical relaxation time  $\lambda_c$ . For simplicity we consider only the case  $\lambda_2 = 0$ . Then the time-averaged growth rate  $\Lambda_k$  has the form

$$
\Lambda_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \frac{k^2 \left(\frac{1}{3} h_0^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h_0^2\right) [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^2]}{\eta - \lambda_1 \frac{k^2}{3} h_0^3 [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^2]}.
$$
 (85)

The analytical expression of  $\Lambda_k$  is rather complicated. Thus, we do not show it here. However, we note that the onset acceleration and critical wave number are independent of the frequency  $f$ . Henceforth, we consider an infinitely large system and assume that the critical wave number is sufficiently small around  $\lambda_c$ . Then only small *k* is considered, and we expand  $\Lambda_k$  in the series of *k*. Equation (85) contains only  $k^2$ terms. Thus,  $\Lambda_k$  is a function of  $k^2$ ,

$$
\Lambda_k = \alpha_{k2} k^2 + \alpha_{k4} k^4 + \alpha_{k6} k^6 + \cdots \tag{86}
$$

We then calculate  $\alpha_{k2}, \alpha_{k4}$ , and  $\alpha_{k6}, \alpha_{k2}$  is identical to that of a viscous fluid,

$$
\alpha_{k2} = \lim_{k^2 \to 0} \left( \frac{\Lambda_k}{k^2} \right) = \frac{\rho g}{\eta} (-B + A), \tag{87}
$$



FIG. 5. (Color online) (a) Dependence of  $\Lambda_k$  on *k* at the critical acceleration  $\Gamma_c$ .  $\lambda_2 = 0.01$  s. Red solid line: viscous fluid. Green dashed line:  $\lambda_1 = 1.135 \times 10^{-1}$  s. Blue squares:  $\lambda_1 = 1.150 \times 10^{-1}$  s. Magenta circles:  $\lambda_1 = 1.155 \times 10^{-1}$  s. (b) Dependence of  $\Gamma_c$  on  $\lambda_1$ . Red circles:  $λ_2 = 0.001$  s. Green triangles:  $λ_2 = 0.01$  s. Blue squares:  $λ_2 = 0.02$  s. (c) Dependence of  $k_c$  on  $λ_1$ . Red circles:  $λ_2 = 0.001$  s. Green triangles:  $\lambda_2 = 0.01$  s. Blue squares:  $\lambda_2 = 0.02$  s. (a–c) Parameter values are  $\eta = 100$  St,  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm,  $h_0 = \beta \eta / \eta_w = 0.5$  cm, and  $\rho = 1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

<span id="page-7-0"></span>where *A* and *B* are defined as follows:

$$
A = \frac{\beta_0 h_0^2 \eta}{\pi \eta_w} \sqrt{\Gamma^2 - 1},\tag{88}
$$

$$
B = \frac{1}{3}h_0^3 + \frac{\beta_0 h_0^2 \eta}{\eta_w} \left[ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{\Gamma} \right) \right],\tag{89}
$$

and  $\alpha_{k4}$  is calculated as follows:

$$
\alpha_{k4} = \lim_{k^2 \to 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial k^2} \left( \frac{\Lambda_k}{k^2} \right) = -B \frac{\sigma}{\eta}
$$
  
 
$$
+ \frac{\lambda_1 h_0^3}{3} \left( \frac{\rho g}{\eta} \right)^2 \left\{ \left( 1 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{2} \right) B - \frac{3}{2} A \right\}.
$$
 (90)

Similarly,  $\alpha_{k6}$  is calculated as follows:

$$
\alpha_{k6} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{k^2 \to 0} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial k^2 \partial k^2} \left(\frac{\Lambda_k}{k^2}\right)
$$
  
=  $-\frac{2}{3} (A - B) \frac{\lambda_1 \rho g \sigma}{\eta^2} + \frac{1}{9} \left\{ \left(\frac{11}{6} + \frac{2}{3} \Gamma^2\right) A - \left(1 + \frac{3}{2} \Gamma^2\right) B \right\} \lambda_1^2 h_0^6 \left(\frac{\rho g}{\eta}\right)^3$ , (91)

where  $\alpha_{k2}$  is independent of  $\lambda_1$ , so  $\lambda_1$  affects only  $\alpha_{k4}$  and  $\alpha_{k6}$ . For a viscous fluid,  $\alpha_{k4}$  is always negative. Thus, for an infinitely large system, the condition  $\alpha_{k2} = 0$  gives the onset acceleration. If  $\alpha_{k4}$  becomes positive at  $\alpha_{k2} = 0$ , the onset acceleration should change and the critical wave number has a finite value. The condition  $\alpha_{k4} > 0$  with  $\alpha_{k2} = 0$  gives the critical relaxation time  $λ<sub>c</sub>$ :

$$
\lambda_1 > \lambda_c = \frac{6\sigma\eta}{\rho^2 g^2 h_0^3 (\Gamma_{c0}^2 - 1)},
$$
\n(92)

where  $\Gamma_{c0}$  is the onset acceleration of a Newtonian fluid [Eq. [\(64\)](#page-4-0)]. As shown in Fig.  $6(a)$ ,  $\lambda_c$  calculated from Eq. (92) is in good agreement with  $\lambda_c$  directly computed from Eq. [\(85\)](#page-6-0). If  $\lambda_1 - \lambda_c$  is small and positive, the critical wave number  $k_c$ is given by  $k_c^2 = \alpha_{k4}/(2\alpha_{k6})$ . When we ignore the deviation of  $\Gamma_c$  from  $\Gamma_{c0}$ ,  $k_c$  is written as

$$
k_c^2 = \frac{9}{10} \frac{\eta}{\rho g \lambda_c^2 h_0^3} (\lambda_1 - \lambda_c) = \frac{1}{40} \frac{\rho^3 g^3 h_0^3}{\sigma^2 \eta} \left(\Gamma_{c0}^2 - 1\right)^2 (\lambda_1 - \lambda_c).
$$
\n(93)

We confirm this relation by numerical simulation [Fig.  $6(b)$ ]. For  $\lambda_2 \neq 0$ ,  $\lambda_c$  is an increasing function of f and  $\lambda_2$  [Fig. 6(c)]. If  $k_c h_0 \ll 1$  is satisfied, the lubrication approximation is valid. From Eqs. (92) and (93), a large viscosity and small thickness of the fluid yield a large  $\lambda_c$  and small  $k_c$ . Therefore, for a highly viscous thin film, the lubrication approximation can be applied to a viscoelastic fluid having a large relaxation time.

#### **IV. CLIMBING OF A HEAP**

In this section, we focus on the dynamics of an isolated heap. First, we do not consider the elasticity, the effect of which is discussed later. We apply our model to the case in which the bottom plate is slightly inclined from the horizontal axis. In the model, the inclination of the bottom can be expressed by adding horizontal gravity  $G_h(T)$  to Eq. [\(39\)](#page-3-0). Therefore, we need only to modify the reduced pressure [Eq. [\(61\)](#page-4-0)],

$$
\bar{p} = -\left[\rho g(t) + \sigma \left(\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2\right)\right]h - \rho g_h(t)x + \psi, \quad (94)
$$

where we introduce the disjoining pressure  $\psi$  to treat the contact line (see Appendix  $\mathbb{C}$ ). The gravities are  $g(t) = \cos \theta_b g[-1 + \Gamma \sin(\omega t)]$  and  $g_h(t) = \sin \theta_b g[-1 + \Gamma \sin(\omega t)]$  $\Gamma \sin(\omega t)$ ], where  $\theta_b$  is the angle of inclination from the *x* axis. In the simulation, we apply a periodic boundary condition and place a heap as an initial condition. As shown in Figs.  $7(a)$ – $7(c)$ , the heap starts to climb the slope as the acceleration increases. When  $g(t)$  and  $g_h(t)$  are both negative, the boundary condition on the bottom is nonslip. On the other hand, when both gravities are positive, the boundary condition on the bottom is slip. Therefore, it is easy for the heap to flow when the gravities are positive. Thus, a heap starts to climb the slope when the acceleration becomes sufficiently large. Climbing of a heap reminds us of vibration-induced climbing of a droplet  $[48]$ , where it indicates the importance of a nonlinear friction law between the droplet and a bottom plate.

A time series of the velocity of the centroid  $V_g$  is shown in Fig.  $7(d)$ . For all the cases,  $V_g$  oscillates around a mean value. The oscillation comes from the contact line dynamics. The time average of  $V_g$  is shown in Fig. [7\(e\).](#page-8-0) As the acceleration increases,  $V_g$  monotonically increases. When the angle of the slope  $\theta_b$  is small, the heap sometimes adheres to the bottom plate because of the force from the contact line. For  $\theta_b = 0.5^\circ$ ,



FIG. 6. (Color online) (a) Dependence of  $\lambda_c$  on parameter values. Horizontal and vertical axes are  $\lambda_c$  calculated from Eq. (92) and  $\lambda_c$ directly computed from Eq. [\(85\)](#page-6-0), respectively. Blue circles:  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm,  $\eta = 100$  St.  $h_0$  is varied from 0.1 to 1 cm. Green squares:  $σ = 72$  dyne/cm,  $h_0 = 0.5$  cm. *η* is varied from 10 St to 100 St. Red crosses:  $η = 100$  St,  $h_0 = 0.5$  cm. *σ* is varied from 10 dyne/cm to 100 dyne/cm. (b) Dependence of critical wave number  $k_c$  on  $λ_1$  around  $λ_c$ . Black dashed line is calculated from Eq. (93). Blue squares:  $h_0 = 1$ cm,  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm. Green triangles:  $h_0 = 0.5$  cm,  $\sigma = 21$  dyne/cm. Red circles:  $h_0 = 0.5$  cm,  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm.  $\eta$  is fixed at 100 St. (c) Dependence of  $\lambda_c$  on frequency and  $\lambda_2$ . Red squares:  $\lambda_2 = 0.0001$  s. Green crosses:  $\lambda_2 = 0.001$  s. Blue circles:  $\lambda_2 = 0.01$  s. Parameter values are  $h_0 = 0.5$  cm,  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm,  $\eta = 100$  St. (a, b, c) We set  $\beta_0 \eta / \eta_w = h_0$ .

<span id="page-8-0"></span>

FIG. 7. (Color online) Climbing of a heap. (a–c) The bottom wall is inclined at an angle  $\theta_b$  from the *x* axis. The heap (blue line) shows directional motion. The dashed line is the initial condition.  $\theta_b = -2^\circ$ . (a)  $\Gamma = 2.6$ . (b)  $\Gamma = 3.05$ . (c)  $\Gamma = 3.2$ . (d) Time series of  $V_g$ . (e) Velocity of the centroid of a heap. The bottom plate is slightly inclined. A positive velocity indicates that a heap climbs a slope. (f) Dependence of  $C_0$ / sin  $\theta_b$  on  $\Gamma$ . (g) Dependence of *S*<sub>0</sub> on  $\Gamma$ . (h) Dependence of  $V_g$ / sin  $\theta_b$  on  $\Gamma$ . (e–h) Purple crosses:  $\theta_b = 0.5^\circ$ . Blue squares:  $\theta_b = 1.0^\circ$ . Green triangles:  $\theta_b = 1.5^\circ$ . Red circles:  $\theta_b = 2.0^\circ$ . (a-h)  $f = 10$  Hz,  $\rho = 1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $\eta = 100$  St,  $\sigma = 72$  dyne/cm,  $h_0 = \beta \eta / \eta_w = 0.5$  cm,  $B = 10$ Pa,  $h_p = 0.005$  cm.

 $V_g$  becomes 0 between  $\Gamma = 3.0$  and  $\Gamma = 3.15$ . If we increase the disjoining pressure, the heap adheres to the bottom plate for a wider range of  $\Gamma$  and  $\theta_b$ . Except at small  $\theta_b$ , the acceleration at which the heap starts to climb does not depend on  $\theta_b$ .

Next, we analytically calculate  $V_g$  from the time evolution equation of *h*. We assume a large system and an isolated heap. The system size 2*L* is large compared to the size of a heap. We assume that at a distance from the heap, a flat precursor fluid film covers the bottom plate,

$$
h(|x| \gg 1) = h_p \ll 1, \qquad \partial_x h(|x| \gg 1) = 0, \qquad (95)
$$

where  $h_p$  is defined in Appendix [C.](#page-12-0) By using the governing equation [Eq.  $(60)$ ], the velocity of the centroid  $x<sub>g</sub>$  is written as

$$
\partial_t x_g = \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{-L}^{L} x h(x, t) dx
$$
  
=  $\frac{1}{\eta V} \int_{-L}^{L} x \partial_x \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{3} h^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h^2 \right) \partial_x \bar{p} \right\} dx$   
=  $\frac{-1}{\eta V} \int_{-L}^{L} \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{3} h^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h^2 \right) \partial_x \bar{p} \right\} dx$ , (96)

where  $V = \int_{-L}^{L} h(x,t)dx$  is the total volume of the fluid. By using the relation  $\int_{-L}^{L} h^n \partial_x h dx = 0$ , the above equation is reduced to

$$
\partial_t x_g = \frac{1}{\eta V} \int_{-L}^{L} \left( \frac{1}{3} h^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h^2 \right) \left[ \sigma \partial_x^3 h + \rho g_h(t) \right] dx. (97)
$$

If the bottom plate is inclined, the time-averaged velocity has the form

$$
V_g = \frac{1}{T_L} \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + T_L} \partial_{t'} x_g dt' = \frac{\sigma}{\eta} C_0 + \frac{\rho g}{\eta} \sin \theta_b S_0, \quad (98)
$$

where  $T_L$  is large compared to the vibration cycle  $T$ .  $C_0$  and *S*<sup>0</sup> are defined as

$$
C_0 = \left\langle \frac{1}{V} \int_{-L}^{L} dx \left( \frac{1}{3} h^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h^2 \right) \partial_x^3 h \right\rangle_t, \qquad (99)
$$

$$
S_0 = \left\langle \frac{1}{V} \int_{-L}^{L} dx \left( \frac{1}{3} h^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h^2 \right) \times [-1 + \Gamma \sin(\omega t)] \right\rangle_t, \qquad (100)
$$

where  $\langle ... \rangle_t$  is the time average over  $T_L$ . Thus, if the motion of the heap reaches a steady state,  $C_0$  and  $S_0$  have constant values and  $\langle V_g \rangle_t$  becomes constant. The first term in Eq. (98) comes from the capillary force, and the second term comes from the horizontal gravity. If the horizontal gravity is 0, the steady shape of the heap,  $h_s$ , should be symmetric with respect to the peak position of the heap. In this case,  $C_0 = 0$ is satisfied. When the horizontal gravity is applied, the shape of the heap deviates from a symmetric shape,  $h = h_s + \delta h$ . If the inclination angle  $\theta_b$  is small, so that  $g_h \ll 1$ ,  $\delta h$  should be proportional to  $g_h \propto \sin \theta_b$ . Because only the integration of the asymmetric part  $\delta h$  has a finite value in Eq. (99),  $C_0$  is expected to be proportional to  $\sin \theta_b$ . As shown in Fig. 7(f),  $C_0$ is proportional to  $\sin \theta_b$ , except when the heap adheres to the bottom plate. Because the asymmetric part *δh* is averaged out in Eq. (100),  $S_0$  is independent of sin  $\theta_b$  [Fig. 7(g)]. Eventually,

<span id="page-9-0"></span>

FIG. 8. (Color online) Effect of elasticity on climbing. (a) Velocity of the centroid of a heap. A positive velocity indicates that a heap climbs a slope. Blue squares: velocity of a heap with elasticity.  $\lambda_1 = 0.1$  s,  $\lambda_2 = 0.01$  s. Red circles: velocity of a heap without elasticity (Newtonian fluid). (b) Steady shape of the heap in faster branch. (c) Steady shape of the heap in slower branch. (d) Blue circles indicate onset acceleration at which heap starts to climb.  $\lambda_2 = 0.01$  s. Red square indicates data point of Newtonian fluid. (a–d)  $f = 10$  Hz,  $\rho = 1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $\eta = 100$  St,  $\sigma = 72 \text{ dyne/cm}, h_0 = \beta \eta / \eta_w = 0.5 \text{ cm}, B = 10 \text{ Pa}, h_p = 0.005 \text{ cm}, \theta_b = 2^\circ.$ 

 $V_g$  is proportional to sin  $\theta_b$ , and  $V_g$  / sin  $\theta_b$  converges on a single curve [Fig.  $7(h)$ ]. This is why the acceleration at which the heap starts to climb does not depend on the angle of the slope  $\theta_b$ .

Next, we measure the effect of the elasticity on the climbing speed. We calculate Eq.  $(58)$  using Eq.  $(94)$ . As the relaxation time  $\lambda_1$  increases, the onset acceleration  $\Gamma_{\text{clm}}$  at which the heap starts to climb decreases [Figs.  $8(a)$  and  $8(d)$ ]. When the acceleration becomes high, the steady shape of the heap changes discontinuously. At lower acceleration, the heap has one peak [Fig.  $8(b)$ ]. At high acceleration, the number of peaks becomes 2, and the climbing velocity suddenly decreases [Fig.  $8(c)$ ]. We found that the hysteresis of these two branches is narrow [Fig.  $8(a)$ ].

## **V. DRIFT DUE TO HORIZONTAL VIBRATION**

In this section, we consider the case that horizontal vibration is applied onto an isolated heap. We use the same model equation, boundary condition, and initial condition as those in the previous section. Only the gravity and horizontal gravity in Eq. [\(94\)](#page-7-0) are modified as  $g(t) = g[-1 + \Gamma \sin(\omega t)]$ and  $g_h(t) = g \Gamma_h \sin(\omega t - \varphi_h)$ , where  $\Gamma_h$  and  $\varphi_h$  are the normalized acceleration and phase shift of the horizontal vibration, respectively. Here, we consider only the case that the frequency of horizontal vibration is identical to that of the vertical vibration. The elasticity is not considered. As shown in Fig.  $9(a)$ , a heap starts to drift when the horizontal vibration is sufficiently large. The time series of the velocity of the centroid resembles that of a climbing heap [Fig.  $7(d)$ ]. The velocity of the centroid is nearly constant but slightly oscillates around a mean value. When the phase shift  $\varphi_h$  is around 0 and  $2\pi$ , a heap drifts toward a positive direction. On the other hand, around  $\varphi_h = \pi$ , the heap drifts toward a negative direction. When  $\Gamma_h$  is small or  $\varphi_h$  is around  $\pi/2$  and  $3\pi/2$ , the heap does not drift because of the force from the contact line. For large  $\Gamma_h$ , the front contact line moves faster than the rear [Fig. 9(b)], and the flat liquid layer remains after the droplet.

Next, we briefly checked the drift of a heap in an experiment. For suspensions, we used mixtures of titanium beads and water. The diameter of titanium beads is around 200  $\mu$ m. We used a narrow acrylic box (10 cm length  $\times$ 1 cm width  $\times$  10 cm height) for quasi-2D systems. An initial small heap was subjected to vertical sinusoidal vibration [vertical position  $z(t) = A \sin 2\pi ft$ ] using an electromagnetic vibration system. The motion of the heap was recorded by a high-speed camera. The description of the experimental apparatus is found in Ref. [\[18\]](#page-14-0). We simultaneously measured the vibration acceleration along the *x*, *y*, and *z* axis by a time-resolved three-axis acceleration meter. We found that the vibrator had horizontal vibration of *x* and *y* directions in addition to the *z* direction. They can be well fitted by  $g\Gamma_i \sin(2\pi f t - \varphi_i)$ ,  $i = x, y$ .  $\Gamma_i$  and  $\varphi_i$  depended on the vertical acceleration  $\Gamma$  and vibration frequency  $f$ . Because the heap moved only along the long axis of the container, we defined the horizontal vibration along the long axis of the container as  $g_h(t) = g \Gamma_h \sin(\omega t - \varphi_h)$ . Then, by rotating the acrylic box around the *z* axis, we varied the horizontal vibration along the long axis of the container,  $\Gamma_h$ . The observed motions of the heap are shown in Figs.  $10(a)$ – $10(c)$ . When  $\Gamma_h$ 



FIG. 9. (Color online) (a) Drift velocity of a heap driven by horizontal vibration. Blue squares:  $\Gamma_h = 0.035$ . Green triangles:  $\Gamma_h = 0.07$ . Red circles:  $\Gamma_h = 0.14$ . (b) Shape of a heap under large horizontal acceleration.  $\Gamma_h = 1.00$ ,  $\varphi_h = 0$ . Blue solid line: shape of a heap at  $t = 32$  s. Red dashed line: initial shape of a heap. Black dashed arrow indicates a position of rear contact line at *t*=32 s. (a, b)  $f=10$  Hz,  $\rho=1$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $\eta=100$  St,  $\sigma=72$  dyne/cm,  $h_0 = \beta \eta / \eta_w = 0.5$  cm,  $B = 100$  Pa,  $h_p = 0.005$  cm.

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

FIG. 10. Drift of a heap in quasi-2D container. Dashed line indicates the position of the contact line. (a)  $\Gamma_h = 1.04$ ,  $\varphi_h = 3.62$  rad,  $f = 70$  Hz. (b)  $\Gamma_h = 0.21$ ,  $\varphi_h = 0.78$  rad,  $f = 70$  Hz. (c)  $\Gamma_h = 1.26$ ,  $\varphi_h = 5.13$  rad,  $f = 80$  Hz. (a–c)  $\Gamma = 10.1$ . The total volume of the suspension is 1.66 cm<sup>3</sup>. The packing fraction of the titanium beads is 58%.

was sufficiently large, a heap drifted with a constant speed, and the front contact line moved faster than the rear [Figs. 10(a) and 10(c)]. Around  $\varphi_h = 0$  and  $2\pi$ , the heap drifted toward a positive direction [Fig. 10(c)]. Around  $\varphi_h = \pi$ , the heap drifted toward a negative direction [Fig.  $10(a)$ ]. If  $\Gamma_h$ was sufficiently small, the heap stuck to the walls and did not move [Fig. 10(b)]. We confirmed that around  $\varphi_h = \pi/2$ , the heap was almost stationary even for large  $\Gamma_h$  > 1.5. We varied the frequency from 60 to 100 Hz. Then we obtained the same tendency. This experimental result is in good agreement with our simulation results [Figs.  $9(a)$  and  $9(b)$ ]. Compared to the previous work  $[15]$  and our simulation (Fig. [9\)](#page-9-0), the accelerations  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma_h$  in this experiment are rather large. This is because the heap formation and horizontal drift are strongly suppressed by the narrow geometry. If we used a large container such as a cylindrical container with 10 cm diameter, the horizontal drift was observed with much smaller  $\Gamma$  and  $\Gamma_h$ in our preliminary experiment. Drift due to horizontal vibration is also found for a Newtonian droplet [\[49\]](#page-14-0). For the Newtonian droplet, contact line dynamics is crucial for the drift motion. The contact angle of the droplet changes more than 90 deg during one vibration cycle. In our case, a heap drifted even when the change of contact angle was less than 5 deg. Thus, the dynamics of the contact line is expected to have a minor effect. Similar to the drift motion of a dry granular bed on a vibratory conveyor  $[50-52]$ , we consider that dependence of the slippage on vertical vibration is crucial, as we modeled in Eq. [\(14\)](#page-2-0).

### **VI. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

We have proposed a model to explain how the surface of a vibrated dense suspension becomes unstable under a slip-nonslip switching boundary condition [\[26\]](#page-14-0). As shown in Figs.  $11(a)$  and  $11(b)$ , when gravity acts downward, it generates a flow that relaxes the surface deformation so that the surface becomes flat. On the other hand, when gravity acts upward, it generates a flow that enhances the deformation of the surface, similar to Rayleigh-Taylor instability. Because the time-averaged gravity acts downward, the surface deformation

relaxes and the surface becomes flat under an ordinary boundary condition. However, if the boundary condition switches between nonslip and slip, in synchronization with gravity, downward gravity may cause slower flow than upward gravity, depending on the magnitude of the acceleration. The flat surface would then become unstable, similar to Rayleigh-Taylor instability, and steady flow would appear at the boundary. As we show in a weak nonlinear analysis, for a viscous fluid, the rheological characteristics of the bulk fluid are less important, and the boundary condition determines most of the dynamics, especially near the critical point.

We showed that our model can be applied to a viscoelastic fluid if we consider the relaxation and retardation of stress. As we mentioned, synchronization between switching of the boundary condition and gravity is crucial to the surface instability. Thus, the relaxation and retardation of gravitational pressure might prevent the surface instability. However, a small relaxation time does not affect the onset of heap formation. Furthermore, a large relaxation time decreases the onset acceleration of heaping. Thus, a large relaxation time enhances the surface instability. The reason for this decrease in the



FIG. 11. (Color online) Instantaneous flow field under downward and upward gravity. Blue curve and red arrows indicate surface of the fluid and flow field, respectively. (a) When  $g(t) < 0$ , velocity is 0 on the bottom. (b) When  $g(t) > 0$ , velocity is nonzero on the bottom.

<span id="page-11-0"></span>onset acceleration can be understood by comparing the timeaveraged growth rate of a viscous fluid and that of a viscoelastic fluid. By comparing Eqs.  $(63)$  and  $(85)$ , the time-averaged growth rate of a Maxwell fluid can be expressed as

$$
\Lambda_k = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \frac{k^2}{\eta_{\text{eff}}} \left( \frac{1}{3} h_0^3 + \frac{\eta}{\eta_w} \beta h_0^2 \right) [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^2], \ (101)
$$

where  $\eta_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective viscosity of the Maxwell fluid:

$$
\eta_{\text{eff}} = \eta - \frac{\lambda_1 k^2 h_0^3}{3} [\rho g(t) - \sigma k^2]. \tag{102}
$$

The effective viscosity  $\eta_{\text{eff}}$  is a decreasing function of the gravity  $g(t)$ . When gravity acts upward, the flow enforces the deformation of the surface. Simultaneously, the viscosity of the Maxwell fluid decreases, so the fluid forms heaps easily. Thus, a large relaxation time decreases the onset acceleration. This effective viscosity is based on linear stability analysis. However, if this shear thinning behavior holds in the nonlinear regime, it also enhances the climbing of the heap. When gravity acts upward, the viscosity decreases so the heap climbs the slope easily.

In this paper, we assume the slip-nonslip switching boundary condition. Ideally, this should be determined by the local dynamics of the granules near the bottom plate. Both in singleand multiparticle systems, bouncing problems on a vibrating surface have been investigated [\[53–55\]](#page-14-0). In order to presume a boundary condition in a more realistic manner, we need to understand the detailed behavior of particles in slurry on a vibrating plate. Another important issue is to experimentally confirm the change of the slippage due to the vibration. The slip length is expected to be a function of gap between assembly of granules and a bottom plate. To validate our model, it is required to measure gap size and slip velocity of granules during one vibration cycle.

Our model proposes a mechanism of migration of an isolated domain in addition to surface deformation. For dry granular beds, a combination of vertical and horizontal vibrations causes migration of granules [\[50,51\]](#page-14-0). This system is called a vibratory conveyor. The dynamics of granules on a vibratory conveyor is modeled based on the bouncer model [\[50\]](#page-14-0). In the model, maximum static frictional force is assumed to be proportional to the gravity  $g(t)$ , and then slippage depends on the gravity. The model is validated in experiments by measuring the stability and drift speed of a granular bed on the vibratory conveyor [\[50,52\]](#page-14-0). Thus, our model could be also tested through the precise measurement of a heap with horizontal vibration.

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#### **APPENDIX A: BOUNCING GRANULAR LAYER**

In Eq. [\(14\)](#page-2-0), we assume that the granular layer touches the bottom plate when gravity acts downward. However, at high vibration frequency, the motion of the granular layer could have a phase delay. In this Appendix, we estimate the necessary condition for Eq. [\(14\)](#page-2-0) based on the simple model of a

bouncing granular layer. We only consider the vertical motion of a granular layer in massless fluid. Similar to previous works, we consider the granular layer as an elastic plug of porosity [\[35\]](#page-14-0). In Ref. [35], the motion equation of the granular layer is modeled as the bouncer model with viscous drag force. Here, we introduce the elastic force which comes from the elastic property of a granular layer and free surface. Because the granular layer is surrounded by a viscous fluid, we assume that the collision between the granular layer and the bottom plate is completely inelastic. Then the granular layer stays on the bottom after the collision. When the gravity becomes positive ( $\Gamma \sin \omega t > 1$ ), the granular layer detaches from the bottom plate. Thus, the detaching time  $t_0$  satisfies

$$
t_0 = \frac{1}{\omega} \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{\Gamma} \right). \tag{A1}
$$

Then the model equations are

$$
m\ddot{z} + \gamma_b \dot{z} + k_b z = mg(-1 + \Gamma \sin \omega t), \quad (t_0 \leq t \leq t_1), \text{ (A2)}
$$

$$
z = 0, \qquad \text{otherwise}, \qquad (A3)
$$

where  $m, \gamma_b$ , and  $k_b$  are constant parameters, *z* is the vertical position of the granular layer measured from bottom plate, and  $z = 0$  means that the granular layer is touching on the bottom plate. The granular layer detaches from the bottom plate at  $t = t_0$  and touches the bottom plate at  $t = t_1$ . The terms of the left-hand side in Eq.  $(A2)$  are the inertia term, viscous drag force, and elastic force, respectively. The term of the right-hand side is gravity, including the inertial force due to vibration. Here, we consider the strongly dissipative case and neglect the inertia term  $m\ddot{z}$ . Then the motion equation is

$$
\frac{dz}{dT} + \frac{k_b}{\gamma_b \omega} z = \frac{mg}{\gamma_b \omega} (-1 + \Gamma \sin T), \quad (T_0 \le T \le T_1), \quad (A4)
$$

where  $T = \omega t$ . Equation (A4) gives

$$
z(T) = \frac{mg}{\gamma_b \omega} e^{-\alpha T} [F(T) - F(T_0)], \tag{A5}
$$

$$
F(T) = e^{\alpha T} \left\{ -\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\alpha^2 + 1} (\alpha \sin T - \cos T) \right\}, \quad (A6)
$$

where  $\alpha = k_b/(\gamma_b \omega)$ . The touching time  $T_1$  is given by  $z(T_1) =$ 0, and then  $F(T_1) = F(T_0)$ .  $T_1$  is numerically calculated as shown in Fig. [12.](#page-12-0) As  $\alpha$  becomes large,  $T_1$  approaches  $\pi - T_0$ . Note that gravity *g*(*t*) changes its sign at  $t = (\pi - T_0)/\omega$ ,  $g[(\pi - T_0)/\omega] = 0$ . Thus, Eq. [\(14\)](#page-2-0) is valid when  $\alpha \gg 1$ . The vibration frequency *f* must satisfy  $f \ll k_b/(2\pi \gamma_b)$ . When  $\alpha$ is sufficiently small, the grain motion has a phase delay with respect to vibration. This delay has to be taken into account.

### **APPENDIX B: SCALED CONSTITUTIVE EQUATION**

Here we define the scaled deformation rate tensor  $\bar{D}_{ij}$  as

$$
\bar{D}_{xx} = \epsilon \partial_X U, \tag{B1}
$$

$$
\bar{D}_{xz} = (\partial_Z U + \epsilon^2 \partial_X W)/2, \tag{B2}
$$

$$
\bar{D}_{zz} = \epsilon \partial_Z W. \tag{B3}
$$

<span id="page-12-0"></span>

FIG. 12. (Color online) Touching time  $T_1$  as a function of  $\alpha =$  $k_b/(\gamma_b \omega)$ . Black dashed line indicates  $\pi - T_0$ . Red circles:  $\Gamma = 1.5$ . Green triangles:  $\Gamma = 3.0$ . Blue squares:  $\Gamma = 9.0$ .

The upper convective derivatives of the shear stress and deformation rate are normalized as

$$
\lambda_i \mathbf{X}_{xx} = \mathbf{D} \mathbf{e}_i \partial_T \mathbf{X}_{xx} - 2 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{e}_i \partial_Z \mathbf{U} \mathbf{X}_{xz} \n+ \epsilon \mathbf{W} \mathbf{e}_i (\mathbf{U} \partial_X \mathbf{X}_{xx} + \mathbf{W} \partial_Z \mathbf{X}_{xx} - 2 \partial_X \mathbf{U} \mathbf{X}_{xx}), \quad (B4)
$$

$$
\lambda_i \overline{X}_{xz} = De_i \partial_T X_{xz} - We_i \partial_Z U X_{zz} + \epsilon We_i (U \partial_X X_{xz} + W \partial_Z X_{xz} - \partial_X U X_{xz} - \epsilon \partial_X W X_{xx} - \partial_Z W X_{xz}),
$$
\n(B5)

$$
\lambda_i \bar{X}_{zz} = De_i \partial_T X_{zz} + \epsilon W e_i (U \partial_X X_{zz} + W \partial_Z X_{zz} -2 \epsilon \partial_X W X_{xz} - 2 \partial_Z W X_{zz}),
$$
 (B6)

where  $\lambda_i$  (*i* = 1,2) are the relaxation times, and  $X_{lm}$  is the scaled shear stress  $\Sigma_{lm}$  and scaled deformation rate  $\bar{D}_{lm}$ . We<sub>i</sub> and De<sub>i</sub>  $(i = 1, 2)$  are the Weissenberg numbers and Deborah numbers, respectively. Then the scaled constitutive equation is

$$
\Sigma_{ij} + \lambda_1 \overline{\Sigma}_{ij} = 2(\overline{D}_{ij} + \lambda_2 \overline{\widetilde{D}}_{ij}),
$$
 (B7)

where  $i, j = x, z$ .

#### **APPENDIX C: CONTACT LINE**

If a completely dry region  $h = 0$  appears, we have to consider the contact line. Here we use the disjoining pressure *ψ* to avoid complete dewetting and treat the contact line without a singularity [\[42,56\]](#page-14-0),

$$
\psi = B \left[ \left( \frac{h_p}{h} \right)^3 - \left( \frac{h_p}{h} \right)^4 \right], \tag{C1}
$$

where  $h_p$  is the thickness of the precursor layer. The disjoining pressure contains intermolecular attractive and repulsive forces. The local disjoining energy has a minimum at  $h_p$ . In this model, we assume that a very thin precursor fluid layer spreads out around the contact line, and the bottom plate is always covered by the fluid. The thickness of the precursor layer  $h_p$  is set to be larger than that in the experimental result because of a computational limitation [\[57\]](#page-14-0). The equilibrium contact angle  $\theta_e$  is given by the following relation [\[56\]](#page-14-0):

$$
B = \frac{6\sigma}{h_p} (1 - \cos \theta_e). \tag{C2}
$$

When we introduce the disjoining pressure, the reduced pressure [Eq. [\(48\)](#page-3-0)] is modified as

$$
\bar{p} = -\left[\rho g(t) + \sigma \left(\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2\right)\right]h + \psi. \tag{C3}
$$

### **APPENDIX D: WEAK NONLINEAR ANALYSIS**

 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

In this Appendix, we derive *h*<sub>1</sub>, *h*<sub>2</sub>, *M*, *α*, and *γ*. From Eqs. [\(71\)](#page-5-0) and [\(72\)](#page-5-0),  $h$ <sub>1</sub> satisfies

$$
\partial_t \hat{h}_1 - \left(\frac{1}{3}h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2\right) \Pi(k_m)\hat{h}_1 = 0, \tag{D1}
$$

$$
\Pi(k) = \frac{k^2}{\eta_0} [\rho g_c(t) - \sigma k^2].
$$
 (D2)

As a result,  $\hat{h}_1$  is solved as

$$
\hat{h}_1 = \exp\left\{ \int_0^t dt \left( \frac{1}{3} h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2 \right) \Pi(k_m) \right\}.
$$
 (D3)

From Eqs. [\(74\)](#page-5-0) and [\(75\)](#page-5-0), the equation for  $\hat{h}_2$  is obtained as

$$
\partial_t \hat{h}_2 - \left(\frac{1}{3}h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2\right) \Pi(2k_m)\hat{h}_2 = 2\left(h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0\right) \Pi(k_m)\hat{h}_1^2.
$$
\n(D4)

To make the calculation clear, we introduce following variables:

$$
S(t) = \left(\frac{1}{3}h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2\right)\Pi(2k_m),\tag{D5}
$$

$$
R(t) = 2(h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0) \Pi(k_m) \hat{h}_1^2.
$$
 (D6)

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<span id="page-13-0"></span> $h_2$  has a time-periodic part (particular solution) and a relaxing part (general solution). The relaxing part is less important, and we ignore it. The time-periodic part is calculated if we apply the condition  $\hat{h}_2(nT) = \hat{h}_2[(n-1)T]$ . Then,  $\hat{h}_2$  is

$$
\hat{h}_2(t) = \exp\left(\int_0^t dt S(t)\right) \left\{ I_t + \int_0^t dt' R(t') \exp\left(-\int_0^{t'} dt'' S(t'')\right) \right\}.
$$
 (D7)

 $I_t$  is defined as follows:

$$
I_t = \frac{\exp\left(\zeta T\right)}{1 - \exp\left(\zeta T\right)} \int_0^T dt' R(t') \exp\left(-\int_0^{t'} dt'' S(t'')\right),\tag{D8}
$$

$$
\zeta = -\frac{6k_m^4 h_0^3 \sigma}{\pi \eta_0} \int_0^{2\pi} dx \bigg( \frac{1}{3} + \frac{\beta(x)}{h_0} \bigg). \tag{D9}
$$

The equation of  $O(\epsilon_2^3)$  becomes

$$
\mathbf{L}_0 h_3 = M,\tag{D10}
$$

where *M* is defined as

$$
M = -\partial_{\tau}A\hat{h}_1 + \eta_0^{-1}k_m^2 \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial \Gamma} h_0^2 \chi \Gamma_c \Pi(k_m)\hat{h}_1 A + \eta_0^{-1}k_m^2 \left(\frac{1}{3}h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2\right) \rho g \chi \Gamma_c \sin(\omega t) \hat{h}_1 A + \frac{1}{2}\left(h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0\right) \Pi(2k_m)\hat{h}_2 \hat{h}_1 A |A|^2
$$

$$
-\left(h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0\right) \Pi(k_m)\hat{h}_2 \hat{h}_1 A |A|^2 + (h_0 + \beta) \Pi(k_m)\hat{h}_1^3 A |A|^2 - \frac{3\eta_0 h_0^5}{5k_m^2} \frac{\partial^2 \eta(0)}{\partial \tau_{xz}^2} [\Pi(k_m)\hat{h}_1]^3 A |A|^2. \tag{D11}
$$

The solvability condition requires that *M* is orthogonal to  $\hat{h}_1$ ,

$$
\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \hat{h}_1^{-1} M = 0.
$$
 (D12)

Then we obtain the evolution equation of *A*,

$$
\partial_{\tau} A = \alpha A + \gamma A |A|^2, \tag{D13}
$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are

$$
\alpha = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \ \chi \Gamma_c \left\{ \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial \Gamma} h_0^2 \Pi(k_m) + \left( \frac{1}{3} h_0^3 + \beta h_0^2 \right) k_m^2 \frac{\rho g}{\eta_0} \sin(\omega t) \right\},\tag{D14}
$$

$$
\gamma = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T dt \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0) \Pi(2k_m) \hat{h}_2 - (h_0^2 + 2\beta h_0) \Pi(k_m) \hat{h}_2 + (h_0 + \beta) \Pi(k_m) \hat{h}_1^2 - \frac{3\eta_0 h_0^5}{5k_m^2} \frac{\partial^2 \eta(0)}{\partial \tau_{xz}^2} [\Pi(k_m)]^3 \hat{h}_1^2 \right\}.
$$
 (D15)

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