

**Giamarchi and Le Doussal Reply:** The Comment [1] reexamines some of the physics of the moving glass introduced in [2]. In [2] we demonstrated that a periodic structure driven along  $x$  on a disordered substrate experiences a transverse static pinning force  $F_y^{\text{stat}}$  along  $y$ . A key point [formula (2) of [2]] is that this force, missed in previous studies, originates *only* from the periodicity along  $y$  and the uniform density modes along  $x$ , i.e., the *smecticlike* modes. It leads to novel glassy effects, the main predictions being the existence of a transverse critical force  $F_c^y$  and of static pinned channels of motion, subsequently observed in numerical simulations [3].

Reference [1] claims the following: (i) In addition to  $F_y^{\text{stat}}$  there is also a  $u$ -independent random force  $f_d(r)$  generated in the direction of motion. (ii) Due to  $f_d(r)$  the elastic theory has to be reconsidered and correlation functions have to be recalculated. (iii) dislocation unbinding will occur for  $d \leq 3$ . Let us answer specifically to each point.

We do not disagree with (i) that there is an effective random force along  $x$ , though this rather subtle question cannot be settled by naive perturbation theory alone. In particular, the argument of time translational invariance of [1] leaves the possibility of  $u_y$  dependence and does *not* prove that the random force is  $u$  independent. The existence of such a random force needs therefore to be proven carefully through, e.g., an RG calculation [4]. Such a calculation also yields  $F_c^y$  and other important physical effects. In particular, we find [4] that a random force is generated along  $y$ , a point unnoticed in [1].

Concerning the consequences of such a random force  $f_d(r)$  along  $x$  within the elastic theory, we disagree with (ii). As mentioned above, the properties of the moving glass rely only on the periodicity along  $y$  and are thus, to a large extent, independent of the details of the structure along  $x$ , i.e., the behavior of  $u_x$ . This is illustrated by the fact that the authors of [1] find “surprisingly” that  $f_d(r)$  does not change the transverse correlator  $B_y(r)$  obtained in [2] (note that our result is incorrectly quoted since we find a logarithm only in  $d = 3$ ). This is a simple consequence of the related fact that the compression modes are responsible for the moving glass [2]. In fact, setting *formally*  $u_x = 0$  leads to the useful equation (3) of [2] describing the transverse physics of the moving glass.

Concerning point (iii), as in the statics [5] the elastic description is only a starting point, and the issue of whether dislocations are generated is a well-known difficult problem. Only a controlled calculation including dislocations could settle this point, but it has not yet been performed. However, qualitative arguments [4] indicate that complete topological order exists at weak disorder or large velocity in  $d = 3$  [2] (at variance with [1]), while it disappears in  $d = 2$ .

More importantly, our picture of pinned channels should remain valid even with dislocations, as long as

periodicity along  $y$  is maintained, i.e., for a smecticlike structure. Before the channel picture was identified in [2] it was unclear how dislocations affect the moving structure. The existence of channels then *naturally suggests a scenario* [4] by which dislocations will appear: When the periodicity along  $x$  is retained, e.g., presumably in  $d = 3$  at weak disorder, the channels are coupled along  $x$ . Upon increasing disorder or decreasing velocity in  $d = 3$ , or in  $d = 2$ , decoupling between channels can occur, reminiscent of static decoupling in a layered geometry [6]. Dislocations are then inserted between the layers, naturally leading to a “flowing smectic” glassy state, recently observed in numerical simulations in  $d = 2$  [3]. Indeed, the transverse smectic order is likely to be more stable than topological order along  $x$ , because of particle conservation [4]. Decoupling due to the random force advocated in [1] may be one realization of this general scenario. In fact, [2] naturally suggests that transitions from elastic to plastic flow may be studied as ordering transitions in the structure of channels.

In conclusion, since only periodicity in the *transverse* direction is needed and contrarily to the claim of [1], [2] describes correctly the main (transverse) physics of the moving glass and provides the correct starting point to study [1,4] interesting physical extensions such as behavior of  $u_x$ , random forces, additional linear and nonlinear terms coming from anharmonicity, channel decoupling, and dislocations.

T. Giamarchi  
Laboratoire de Physique des Solides  
Université Paris-Sud  
Bât. 510, 91405 Orsay, France

Pierre Le Doussal  
CNRS–Laboratoire de Physique Théorique de l’Ecole  
Normale Supérieure  
24 Rue Lhomond  
F-75231 Paris Cedex 05, France

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