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Transient crater growth in granular targets: An experimental study of low velocity impacts into glass sphere targets

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Abstract

We experimentally studied the formation and collapse processes of transient craters. Polycarbonate projectiles with mass of 0.49 g were impacted into the soda–lime glass sphere target (mean diameters of glass spheres are $\sim 36, 72,$ and $220\mu\text{m}$, respectively) using a single–stage light–gas gun. Impact velocity ranged from 11 to 329 m s^{-1} . We found that the transient crater collapses even at laboratory scales. The shape (diameter and depth) of the transient crater differs from that of the final crater. The depth–rim diameter ratios of the final and transient craters are 0.11–0.14 and 0.26–0.27, respectively. The rim diameter of both the transient and final crater depends on target material properties; however, the ratio of final to transient crater diameter does not. This suggests that target material properties affect the formation process of transient craters even in the gravity regime, and must be taken into account when scaling experimental results to planetary scales. By observing impacts into glass sphere targets, we show that although the early stage of the excavation flow does not depend on the target material properties, the radial expansion of the cavity after the end of vertical expansion does. This suggests that the effect of target material properties is specifically important in the later part of the crater excavation and collapse.

Key words: (1) CRATERING (2) IMPACT PROCESSES (3) COLLISIONAL PHYSICS

1 Introduction

The growth of impact craters larger than a certain size, or formed in a target with negligible cohesive strength, is controlled by gravity. This is the case for impact craters on the Earth, and impacts into regolith layers on planets and satellites. Such craters are said to form in the gravity regime. The impact excavates a bowl–shaped cavity, termed the transient crater (see Fig. 1), which is subsequently modified by collapse of the transient crater rim and, in very large impact events, uplift of the crater floor. The results of rim collapse are evident at 1–4 km–diameter terrestrial impact craters (e.g., Brent, Barringer)(see e.g., Grieve et al., 1977; Melosh, 1989; Melosh and Ivanov, 1999), where lenses of rock debris, presumably from the transient crater walls, have pooled at the base of the transient crater. In this case, the rim diameter of the final crater (we call this the final rim diameter, D_{fi} , hereafter) may be given by the sum of the rim diameter of the transient crater (we call this the transient rim diameter, D_{tr} , hereafter) and the change in diameter ΔD_c due to collapse (that is, $D_{\text{fi}} = D_{\text{tr}} + \Delta D_c$).

Many impact experiments into granular targets have been conducted to study transient cavity growth (and collapse) in the gravity regime, and how crater size scales with various impact parameters, for example velocity, impactor size, or gravity (e.g., Stöffler et al., 1975; Gault and Wedekind, 1977; Schmidt, 1980; Schmidt and Holsapple, 1982; Schmidt and Housen, 1987; Mizutani et al., 1983; Hartmann, 1985; Cintala et al., 1999; Walsh et al., 2003; Cintala et al., 2003). However, based on these previous experiments it is unclear whether or not transient crater collapse occurs at laboratory scales and, consequently, whether or not the crater radii reported in these studies are D_{tr} or D_{fi} . There are two possibilities on this issue: First, collapse may have occurred in these previous experiments, but the degrees of collapse were not large enough to be noticed (for example, in the quarter–space experiment by Schmidt and Housen (1987), the shape of the transient crater was shown to change owing to the collapse, but the change in crater diameter due to the collapse was negligible). Second, the cohesion among target particles in granular targets may be large enough to prevent collapse at laboratory scales. Therefore, the first goal of this study is to assess whether or not any collapse occurs and how extensive the collapse is.

Another goal of our study is to investigate whether or not target material properties affect the size of the transient and/or final crater. Pi–group scaling has been used as a scaling relation for impact crater sizes (e.g., Holsapple, 1993). In this analysis, two dimensionless parameters are used: $\Pi_{\text{R}}[(\rho/m)^{1/3}D_{\text{fi}}/2]$ (called the scaled–crater radius) and $\Pi_2(= 3.22ga/v_i^2)$ (called the gravity–scaled size), where ρ is the bulk density of target, m is the projectile’s mass, g is the gravitational acceleration, a is the projectile’s radius, and v_i is the impact velocity. Physically, Π_{R} is roughly equal to the ratio of crater to projectile radius and Π_2 is essentially the inverse of the Froude number. In Fig. 2 experimental data on the final crater diameter D_{fi} are plotted on a $\Pi_{\text{R}}\text{--}\Pi_2$ diagram. As shown in Fig. 2, the experimental data do not constitute a single line but constitute several discrete linear arrays (see also Fig. 7.3 in Melosh, 1989). This suggests that D_{fi} values depend on target material properties. Although internal friction and porosity in target materials

have been proposed to affect the crater formation (e.g., Schmidt, 1980; Melosh, 1989; Housen and Holsapple, 2003), how the target material properties affect crater formation is unknown. In other words, whether D_{tr} , ΔD_c or both are affected by target material properties. In order to study the physical plausibility of these possibilities, we observe the formation and collapse processes of transient craters for various target material properties.

2 Observation of excavation and collapse stages of transient crater

A schematic view of our experimental setup is shown in Fig. 3. We used a polycarbonate cylinder with a hemispherical front as a projectile (10 mm diameter \times 8 mm length, mass of 0.49 g, and density of 1.2 g cm^{-3}). The projectile was accelerated by a single-stage light-gas gun. The impact velocities v_i ranged from 11 to 329 m s^{-1} . The impact angle was vertical to the target surface. We used soda-lime glass spheres as targets (mean diameters s_{av} are 36, 72, and $220 \mu\text{m}$, respectively; these are referred as TA, TB, and TC targets hereafter). Figs. 4a–c show images of the glass spheres taken using a transmission microscope and Fig. 4d shows the number-fractions of glass spheres with diameters smaller than s . The bulk density, the porosity, the angle of repose, and the bulk sound speed for these targets depend on s_{av} (see Table 1). The glass spheres, which filled a stainless container (28 cm diameter and 11 cm depth), were placed in the experimental chamber. (In order to investigate the effect of the container boundary on the crater growth, we did impact experiments with a larger stainless container (40 cm diameter and 15 cm depth). There was no significant difference between the crater diameters in the two containers for $v_i < 329 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.) All the experiments were conducted at pressures lower than 50 Pa. In order to prevent the propellant gas (Helium) from perturbing the cratering process, a deflector plate (with a hole 18 mm in diameter for the passage of projectiles) was set at a projectile inlet of the experimental chamber as shown in Fig. 3. The experimental condition and results are summarized in Tables 2, 3, and 4.

The formation and collapse processes of transient craters were observed by a camcorder set at a view port of the experimental chamber (Fig. 3). We took images at a time interval of $1/30 \text{ s}$ ($= 0.033 \text{ s}$). Due to the difficulty of recording the exact moment ($t = 0$) when the projectile touches the target surface, we defined the first image of the excavation process as $t = 0.033 \text{ s}$. Figs. 5a–d show example images of the excavation processes taken by the camcorder [$v_i = 290 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and TC target ($s_{\text{av}} = 220 \mu\text{m}$)]. Fig. 5a shows the early stage of the excavation process at $t = 0.067 \text{ s}$. The excavation cavity (darker part) and the ejecta curtain (brighter part) are visible in this image. In addition, the projectile can be seen at the center of the crater, indicated by the letter ‘P’ (no projectile was broken in our experiments; intact projectiles were able to retrieve after the experiments). In this experiment the transient crater was formed by $t = 0.133 \text{ s}$ (Fig. 5b). At this time, we see that the crater rim forms (indicated by the label ‘Rim’) and the ejecta curtain (brighter part) moves outward. The crater then starts collapsing (Fig. 5c); the material of the rim and the inner wall slid onto the crater floor, covering the projectile at the center of the crater. After the final crater formation (Fig. 5d), we were not able to see the projectile at the crater floor.

Fig. 5e shows the temporal change in rim diameter of transient crater with t (for the same experiment as Figs. 5a–d). The transient crater forms within 0.1 s after impact (we can not measure the rim diameters for $t < 0.1 \text{ s}$), and D_{tr} is about 178 mm in this case. The crater then starts collapsing, and D_{tr} increases from 178 mm to about 191 mm. Collapse finally stops at $t = 0.33 \text{ s}$ after impact, and the final crater is formed (the crater shape does not change further). D_{fi} is about 191 mm in this case. It is therefore concluded that the transient crater collapses even at the laboratory scale and D_{tr} increases owing to the collapse of crater wall.

In Fig. 6 the ratio $D_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ is plotted against D_{tr} for TA, TB, and TC targets. As shown in this figure, $D_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ values are nearly constant: $D_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ does not depend on D_{tr} . The average values of $D_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ for TA, TB, and TC targets are estimated to be 1.07 ± 0.02 , 1.05 ± 0.01 , and 1.05 ± 0.01 , respectively. In Fig. 6 we can see no clear difference in $D_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ between TA, TB, and TC targets. This may suggest that $D_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ value does not depend on target material properties. However, this does not mean that the collapse process is unaffected by target material properties; the collapse process could be controlled by internal friction. As will be shown later (Fig. 8a), D_{tr} values as well as D_{fi} values depend on target material properties. Thus, the dependences in D_{fi} and D_{tr} on

target material properties may cancel out each other. This may suggest that both excavation and collapse processes depend on target material properties in the same way, implying that the physics of the late stages of excavation is similar to that involved during collapse.

For a comparison, we also did additional experiments with dry sand (with grain diameter ranging from 200 to 500 μm , the angle of repose of $\sim 32^\circ$, and the bulk density of 1.44 g cm^{-3}). However, we did not see clear evidence of collapse (e.g., sliding of the material of crater rim and inner wall) for the dry sand. This may suggest that the collapse is very dependent on the type of target, and may explain why the effects of collapse were not clear in the previous experiments.

3 Relation between depth and diameter of crater

Next we studied the relation between the crater depth and rim diameter (depth–rim diameter ratio) for the transient and final craters. It is difficult to measure the depths of the transient craters from the images. Therefore, we estimate the depth h_{tr} of the transient crater as follows: As shown in Figs. 5a and 5b, the projectile can be observed at the base of the transient crater. Thus, in this study we defined the distance between the backside of the projectile and the original target surface as h_{tr} .

In Fig. 7 h_{tr} is plotted against D_{tr} for TA, TB, and TC targets, in which shows that h_{tr} values for TA, TB, and TC targets are nearly proportional to D_{tr} . Calculating the slopes of the best fit lines gives approximate depth–rim diameter ratios r_{tr} ($= h_{\text{tr}}/D_{\text{tr}}$) for transient craters formed in TA, TB, and TC targets. They are 0.27, 0.26, and 0.26, respectively, which are all slightly larger than those for the previous experiments: 0.14–0.25 for the quartz sand (Gault and Wedekind, 1977; Mizutani et al., 1983) and ~ 0.23 for the coarse–grained sand (Cintala et al., 1999). However, this does not mean necessarily that the transient craters in this work are deeper than those in the previous experiments, because the data of the previous works are for the final craters (in the quarter–space experiments by Schmidt and Housen (1987) and Schultz (2003), the shapes of the transient craters were deeper than those of the final craters).

For comparison, h_{fi} is also plotted against the final rim diameter D_{fi} for TA, TB, and TC targets in Fig. 7, where h_{fi} is the depth of the final crater measured from the original target surface. From this we see that h_{fi} values for TA, TB, and TC targets are nearly proportional to D_{fi} values, and the final crater depth–rim diameter ratios ($r_{\text{fi}} = h_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{fi}}$) for TA, TB, and TC targets are 0.14, 0.11, and 0.11, respectively. These r_{fi} values are smaller than those of the previous studies: 0.14–0.25 for the quartz sand (Gault and Wedekind, 1977; Mizutani et al., 1983) and ~ 0.23 for the coarse–grained sand (Cintala et al., 1999). This means that the shapes of final craters in the glass sphere targets are shallower than those in the quartz sand and coarse–grained sand. The reason for this is hard to explain, but is probably not due to differences in the angles of response, because the angles of repose for the glass spheres used in our experiments, which ranged from 25–33°, are not substantially different from that of coarse–grained sand used by previous workers (e.g., 32°; Cintala et al., 1999). The sphericity of the grains may be important; the shape of the glass sphere (Fig. 4) is obviously smoother than angular sand, so that the glass spheres might have lower dynamical coefficient of friction.

4 Effect of material properties on formation of transient craters

4.1 Observation

In Fig. 8a D_{tr} is plotted against v_i . As shown clearly in this figure, D_{tr} increases with increasing v_i . The data for TA, TB and TC targets suggest the power–law relations (broken lines in Fig. 8a): $D_{\text{tr}} = (21.8 \pm 0.7)v_i^{0.344 \pm 0.007}$, $D_{\text{tr}} = (23.8 \pm 0.6)v_i^{0.354 \pm 0.006}$, and $D_{\text{tr}} = (25.2 \pm 1.1)v_i^{0.356 \pm 0.009}$, respectively. The power–law exponent increases slightly from TA to TC. It is also evident from this figure that D_{tr} increases from TA to TC. As shown in Table 1, the target material properties such as the porosity or the angle of repose are different between TA, TB, and TC targets. It is thus suggested that the formation of the transient crater depends on the target material properties.

In Fig. 8b scaled-crater radius Π_R for D_{tr} is plotted against the gravity-scaled size Π_2 . We see that Π_R increases from TA to TC. Assuming the power-law relation between Π_R and Π_2 , we can determine the power-law exponents ϵ (dashed-lines in Fig. 8b) for TA, TB, and TC targets. They are $\epsilon = -0.172 \pm 0.003$, -0.177 ± 0.003 , and -0.178 ± 0.005 , respectively. The power-law exponent ϵ for the Π_R - Π_2 relation decreases from TA to TC. The value of ϵ is related to the coupling parameter that links the early and late stages in impact cratering (Holsapple, 1993). It is therefore proposed that this coupling parameter also depends on target material properties.

For comparison, Π_R values for D_{fi} measured by Mizutani et al. (1983) for the quartz sand target and Hartmann (1985) for the basalt and pumice powder targets are also plotted in Fig. 8b. It is clear that Π_R for Mizutani et al. (1983) and Hartmann (1985) are smaller than those for our results. If we take into account the difference between D_{fi} and D_{tr} (that is, $D_{fi} > D_{tr}$), this difference may increase. Therefore, even in the gravity regime the formation of transient craters may be affected by target material properties.

One may consider that the differences in Π_R between this work and the previous studies are due to the low impact velocities ($v_i = 11$ to 329 m s $^{-1}$) in this work. However, v_i for the quartz sand and the basalt and pumice powder targets are also low: $v_i = 158$ m s $^{-1}$ for basalt and pumice powder targets plotted in Fig. 8b (Hartmann, 1985) and $v_i = 35$ to 830 m s $^{-1}$ for Mizutani et al. (1983). Thus, it is unlikely that the differences in Π_R between this work and the previous studies are due to the difference in v_i .

4.2 Interpretation

The above results suggested that even in the gravity regime the formation of transient craters may be affected by target material properties. In this section we consider which material properties might affect the transient crater growth and explain the differences in the Π_R - Π_2 relation among various targets. We study the relation between Π_R and the following four parameters: mean grain size, porosity, internal friction, and target-projectile density ratio.

Our experimental results suggest that grain size may affect the transient crater growth. Π_R values for TA, TB, and TC targets were shown to increase with increasing the mean grain size (s_{av}) (Fig. 8b). However, grain size alone can not explain the differences in Π_R in Fig. 8b, because Π_R values for the quartz sand are smaller than those for the TC target, although s_{av} ($\sim 200 \mu\text{m}$) and the size range (~ 100 to $250 \mu\text{m}$) for the quartz sand (Mizutani et al., 1983) are similar to those for TC target (Fig. 4). Moreover, the internal friction and porosity of the target materials used in our experiment both depend upon the grain size.

The porosity of target material has been proposed to have the most significant effect on crater growth in granular targets (e.g., Melosh, 1989; Housen and Holsapple, 2003): larger craters are formed in targets with lower porosity. We can see in Fig. 8b that Π_R values for TA, TB, and TC targets increase with decreasing the porosity (the porosities are 40, 38, and 36%, respectively). Thus the experimental results for TA, TB, and TC targets are consistent with this trend. However, we can also observe the exception against this trend; the data for the Ottawa sand (solid line in Fig. 8b) is smaller than those for the glass sphere targets, although the porosity for the Ottawa sand (~ 31 - 36% ; Schmidt and Housen, 1987) is not higher than those for the glass sphere targets. (They showed only the bulk density for the Ottawa sand. Assuming the grain density of 2.6 - 2.8 g cm $^{-3}$, we estimated the porosity.) Therefore, porosity alone can not explain the difference in Π_R amongst target materials.

The internal friction (which is related to the angle of repose) has been also thought to be important for the crater formation (e.g., Schmidt, 1980): larger craters are formed in targets with lower internal friction. The experimental results for TA, TB, and TC targets are consistent with this trend: we see in Fig. 8b that Π_R values for TA, TB, and TC targets increase with decreasing the angle of repose (the angles of repose are 33 , 27 , and 25° , respectively). Since the angles of repose were not shown in the previous experiments (Mizutani et al., 1983, Hartmann, 1985, Schmidt and Housen, 1987), we cannot conclude whether or not the angle of repose can explain the differences in Π_R amongst target materials. In order to investigate this, we did additional experiments with dry sand with an angle of repose of $\sim 32^\circ$. The results for the dry sand are also plotted in Fig. 8b (open squares). It is clearly shown in this figure that Π_R values for the dry sand are smaller than those for the glass sphere targets, although the angle of repose for the dry sand (32°) is similar to that for TA target. Thus, the angle of repose alone can not explain the difference.

The target–projectile density ratio may play important role in the Π_R - Π_2 relation (e.g., Holsapple, 1993; Housen and Holsapple, 2003): Π_R depends on $(\rho/\delta)^\gamma$ as well as Π_2 , where ρ/δ is the ratio of target to projectile density and $\gamma = (2 + \mu - 6\nu)/(6 + 3\mu)$, where μ and ν are constants relating to the coupling parameters. The density ratio for this work ($\rho/\delta \sim 1.3$) is larger than those for the previous experiments: $\rho/\delta \sim 0.65$ (Schmidt and Housen, 1987), 0.49 (Mizutani et al., 1983), and 0.31 to 0.74 (Hartmann, 1985). However, ν is typically 1/3 and μ is about ~ 0.4 (Holsapple, 1993), that is, the exponent is $\gamma \sim 0.056$. In this case, the differences in $(\rho/\delta)^\gamma$ between this work and the previous experiments are $\sim 4\%$ (Schmidt and Housen, 1987), $\sim 6\%$ (Mizutani et al., 1983), and 3–8% (Hartmann, 1985). These values are too small to explain the divergence amongst various target materials in Fig. 8b.

The above facts suggest that the differences in Π_R amongst target materials can not be explained by the effect of a single parameter. The combination of these parameters may be able to explain the differences. More detailed study of the effect of target material properties on the transient crater formation is required.

5 Observation of the excavation process

In order to directly observe the excavation process, we conducted further impact experiments by using the quarter–space technique (e.g., Schmidt and Piekutowski, 1983; Schmidt and Housen, 1987; Schultz, 2003) in which the glass sphere target was set in a sample box with a transparent window, and projectiles impacted the target vertically along the transparent window. Figs. 9a–c show images of the excavation process taken at $t = 0.033$, 0.067, and 0.100 s, respectively (the first image of the excavation process was recorded at $t = 0.033$ s), for impact into TB target with $v_i = 154 \text{ m s}^{-1}$. The x -axis in the figure corresponds to the original target surface (bright region below the x -axis represents the crater cavity, and the projectile impacts the target along the y -axis). Based on these images, we can trace the change in shape of the cavity below the x -axis (Fig. 9d). It is clear from Fig. 9d that the vertical expansion of the cavity halts by $t = 0.067$ s but its radial expansion along the x -axis continues after vertical expansion stops. We conclude that the transient crater is formed by $t = 0.100$ s, because the rim forms (represented by the arrows in Fig. 9c) by this time step, and the crater shape does not change again until the beginning of collapse of the wall.

We also studied the temporal change in the diameter of the cavity (cavity diameter d_c) for different targets. Fig. 10 shows the temporal change in d_c for TA, TB, and TC targets ($v_i = 136 \pm 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$). We can see that d_c value at $t=0.033$ s ranges from 6 to 7 cm and increases to about 9 cm at $t=0.067$ s. This feature does not differ greatly amongst TA, TB, and TC targets. However, a large difference in d_c amongst the targets appears after $t = 0.067$ s: d_c values for TB and TC targets rapidly increase after this time step, while d_c value for TA target does not. We again consider that the transient crater is formed by $t = 0.100$ s, because the rim was formed by $t = 0.100$ s (Fig. 9c). Then, d_c increases slightly after 0.133 s (the arrow in Fig. 10). We consider that the changes in d_c after $t = 0.133$ s are due to collapse; d_c values for TA and TB targets increase about 10% due to the collapse, while the change in d_c for TC target is much smaller than this. As shown in Fig. 6, the change in rim diameter for TC target due to collapse was similar to those for TA and TB targets. However, the change for TA target in this quarter–space experiment is smaller than those for TB and TC targets. The reason for the difference is uncertain.

These observations suggest that the radial expansion process depends on the target material properties. This might be interpreted as follows: During the early stages of excavation ($t < \sim 0.067$ s), the dynamic pressure of the excavation flow is high enough to dominate over the effects of target material properties. Therefore, the growth of the cavity does not depend on target material properties. On the other hand, the dynamic pressure of the flow decreases at the stage after 0.067 s where the radial expansion process dominates. Thus, the excavation flow would be perturbed by material properties such as internal friction. This could be the reason why the transient rim diameters depend on the target material properties even in the gravity regime.

6 Conclusions

We observed the formation and collapse of transient craters formed in glass–sphere targets with different target material properties. We found that the transient crater collapses even at laboratory scales, and that the shape of the final crater was broader and shallower than the transient crater. The depth–rim diameter ratios of the final and transient craters were 0.11–0.14 and 0.26–0.27, respectively. The increases in crater diameter due to the collapse were about 3 to 12 %, but did not show any dependency on the target material properties. On the other hand, both the transient and final rim diameters depend on the target material properties. This means that the formation of transient craters is affected by target material properties in the gravity regime. Clearly there is a need to take into account the effect of target material properties on the scaling laws for transient craters in the gravity regime. Observations of the excavation flow in impact experiments using the quarter–space technique, suggest that the early stage of crater growth does not depend on the target material properties, whereas the later radial expansion does.

The feature of the collapse processes observed in this study may be analogous to the formation of breccia lenses observed at the base of craters (such as Brent and Barringer) (e.g., Grieve et al., 1977; Melosh, 1989; Melosh and Ivanov, 1999); the breccia lenses are mainly due to debris sliding of the rim and wall of transient craters. The slumping of the crater rim in the case of simple craters was also shown in numerical calculations (e.g., Ivanov, 1999; Wünnemann and Ivanov, 2003; Wada et al., 2006). Therefore, combining our data (such as the diameter ratio of final to transient crater or the depth–rim diameter ratio) with numerical calculations and field studies will provide more information about the understanding of the formation of simple craters with breccia lenses.

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8 Figure Captions

- Fig. 1: Schematic diagram of the collapse of a transient crater. (a) The wall and rim of the transient crater collapse inward owing to gravity, and (b) the collapsed material fills the crater floor (the dashed-line represents the original transient crater shape). In this figure we do not consider the uplift of a crater floor owing to rebound.
- Fig. 2: The scaled-crater radius $\Pi_R [= (\rho/m)^{1/3}D_{\text{fi}}/2]$ is plotted against the gravity-scaled size $\Pi_2 (= 3.22ga/v_i^2)$ for granular target experiments, where D_{fi} is the rim diameter of final crater, ρ is the bulk density of target, m is the projectile's mass, g is the gravitational acceleration, a is the projectile's radius, and v_i is the impact velocity. The broken line represents a power-law relation between Π_R and Π_2 for the data measured by Schmidt and Housen (1987). Schmidt (1980) and Schmidt and Housen (1987) measured the apparent diameters of final craters (d_{fi}), but they did not show the data on D_{fi} . In this plot, we assumed $D_{\text{fi}} = 1.25d_{\text{fi}}$ (Gault and Wedekind, 1977) (the original power-law relation between Π_R and Π_2 for d_{fi} is also plotted as the dotted-line). The data on D_{fi} for soda-lime glass spheres are the results of this work for $s_{\text{av}} = 220, 72, \text{ and } 36\mu\text{m}$, where s_{av} is the mean diameter of glass spheres.
- Fig. 3: Schematic diagram (side view) of our experimental setup. We can observe the formation and collapse processes of transient craters by a camcorder set at a view port of the experimental chamber.
- Fig. 4: Example images of the glass spheres for (a) TA, (b) TB, and (c) TC targets (see text for description of targets). The scale bars are $500\mu\text{m}$ long. (d) Number-fractions of the glass spheres with diameter smaller than s for TA, TB, and TC targets, respectively.
- Fig. 5: Example images of the formation and collapse processes of the transient crater at (a) $t = 0.067$ s, (b) 0.133 s, (c) 0.200 s, and (d) 1.000 s after impact. We can see the projectile at the center of the crater (indicated by the letter 'P'). Light sources illuminate the target surface from the top and the right of this picture. This is the case for impact into TC target (impact velocity of 290 m s^{-1}). (e) The crater rim diameter is plotted against the time t after impact.
- Fig. 6: The ratio of final rim diameter (D_{fi}) to transient rim diameter (D_{tr}) is plotted against D_{tr} .
- Fig. 7: The relation between the crater depth ($h_{\text{tr}}, h_{\text{fi}}$) and the rim diameter ($D_{\text{tr}}, D_{\text{fi}}$) for the transient and final craters for TA, TB, and TC targets. The broken lines are the best fit ones for TA, TB, and TC targets (the number indicates the depth-rim diameter ratio: $h_{\text{tr}}/D_{\text{tr}}$ for the transient craters and $h_{\text{fi}}/D_{\text{fi}}$ for the final craters).
- Fig. 8: (a) The transient rim diameter D_{tr} is plotted against the impact velocity v_i . The broken lines represent the least-squares fit to the data for TA, TB and TC targets, respectively. (b) Π_R - Π_2 plot for D_{tr} observed for TA, TB, and TC targets. The dashed lines represent the least-squares fit to the data for TA, TB, and TC targets, respectively. In order to see the difference between D_{tr} and D_{fi} in this diagram, Π_R values for D_{fi} in this work are also plotted (upper error bar for each data). For comparison, Π_R values for D_{fi} by Mizutani et al. (1983) (quartz sand) and Hartmann (1985) (basalt and pumice powders) are also plotted. The solid line represents a power-law relation between Π_R and Π_2 for the data on D_{fi} by Schmidt and Housen (1987) (they measured the apparent diameters of final craters (d_{fi}), but did not show the data on D_{fi} . In this plot, we assume $D_{\text{fi}} = 1.25d_{\text{fi}}$). For a comparison, the data on D_{fi} for dry sand (with grain diameter ranging from 200 to $500\mu\text{m}$, the angle of repose of $\sim 32^\circ$, and the bulk density of 1.44 g cm^{-3}) measured in this work are also plotted (open squares).
- Fig. 9: Images of growth stages of cavities due to excavation flows at (a) $t = 0.033$ s, (b) 0.067 s, and (c) 0.100 s after impact. The x -axis corresponds to the original target surface. The projectile impacts the target (TB) along the y -axis (impact velocity of 154 m s^{-1}). (d) Contours of the cavities below the x -axis for three images (a)-(c).
- Fig. 10: Temporal change in the diameter (along the x -axis in Fig. 9) of the cavity for TA, TB, and TC targets. The impact velocities are $136 \pm 3 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.

Table 1: Material properties of the glass sphere targets

Target	Mean diameter s_{av} [μm]	Bulk density [g cm^{-3}]	Porosity [%]	^a Angle of repose [$^{\circ}$]	^b Sound speed [m s^{-1}]
TA	36	1.50	40	33	93±13
TB	72	1.54	38	27	134±11
TC	220	1.59	36	25	171±18

^aThe base angle of the cone–shape of the glass spheres above a flat and level plate. ^bThese values are from Teramoto and Yano (2005).

9 Table

Table 2: The experimental condition and the result for TA target.

Shot No.	Impact velocity [m s^{-1}]	Transient crater		Final crater	
		rim diameter [mm]	depth [mm]	rim diameter [mm]	depth [mm]
411081	129	113	31	127	14
411082	86	103	26	111	13
411083	52	86	20	90	12
411084	69	94	24	100	13
411085	52	85	23	89	12
411091	147	121	33	128	18
411092	28	69	18	72	10
411093	174	130	34	138	20
411094	219	143	37	149	21
411096	250	144	39	156	22
411097	298	150	43	158	25
411098	321	158	46	164	26
411099	13	51	13	55	7
4110910	85	105	26	113	14
4110911	109	108	28	118	14

Table 3: The experimental condition and the result for TB target.

Shot No.	Impact velocity [m s ⁻¹]	Transient crater		Final crater	
		rim diameter [mm]	depth [mm]	rim diameter [mm]	depth [mm]
411051	219	159	44	170	18
411052	96	122	29	128	15
411053	52	96	23	100	12
411054	51	98	24	101	12
411055	80	110	30	119	14
411056	39	86	22	92	10
411061	63	101	22	106	12
411062	179	149	40	158	17
411063	140	142	37	147	16
411064	329	181	49	188	23
411065	298	174	46	184	22
411066	266	174	44	180	21
411067	118	128	31	135	16
411068	110	128	31	136	14
411069	11	55	12	58	7

Table 4: The experimental condition and the result for TC target.

Shot No.	Impact velocity [m s ⁻¹]	Transient crater		Final crater	
		rim diameter [mm]	depth [mm]	rim diameter [mm]	depth [mm]
411021	260	183	49	195	19
411022	139	148	41	155	16
411023	20	71	14	75	8
411024	152	153	42	160	16
411025	313	191	49	204	21
411031	88	123	28	130	13
411032	99	134	32	139	14
411033	101	132	36	140	13
411034	174	161	39	169	17
411035	202	162	47	169	23
411036	66	116	26	121	13
411041	44	96	24	99	10
411044	38	90	19	95	11
411046	114	139	38	145	15
411047	231	179	45	189	19
510295	290	178	42	191	24

Figure 1 (Yamamoto et al.)

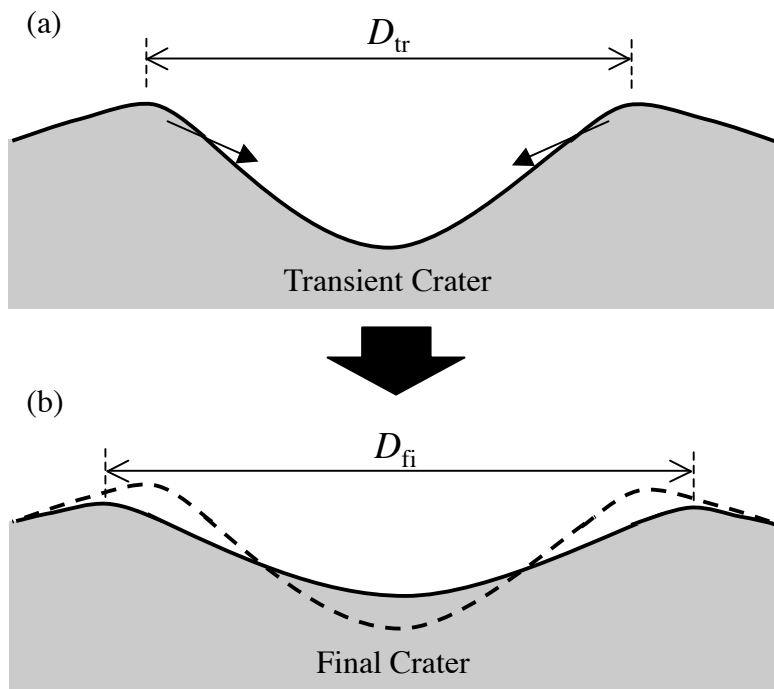


Figure 2 (Yamamoto et al.)

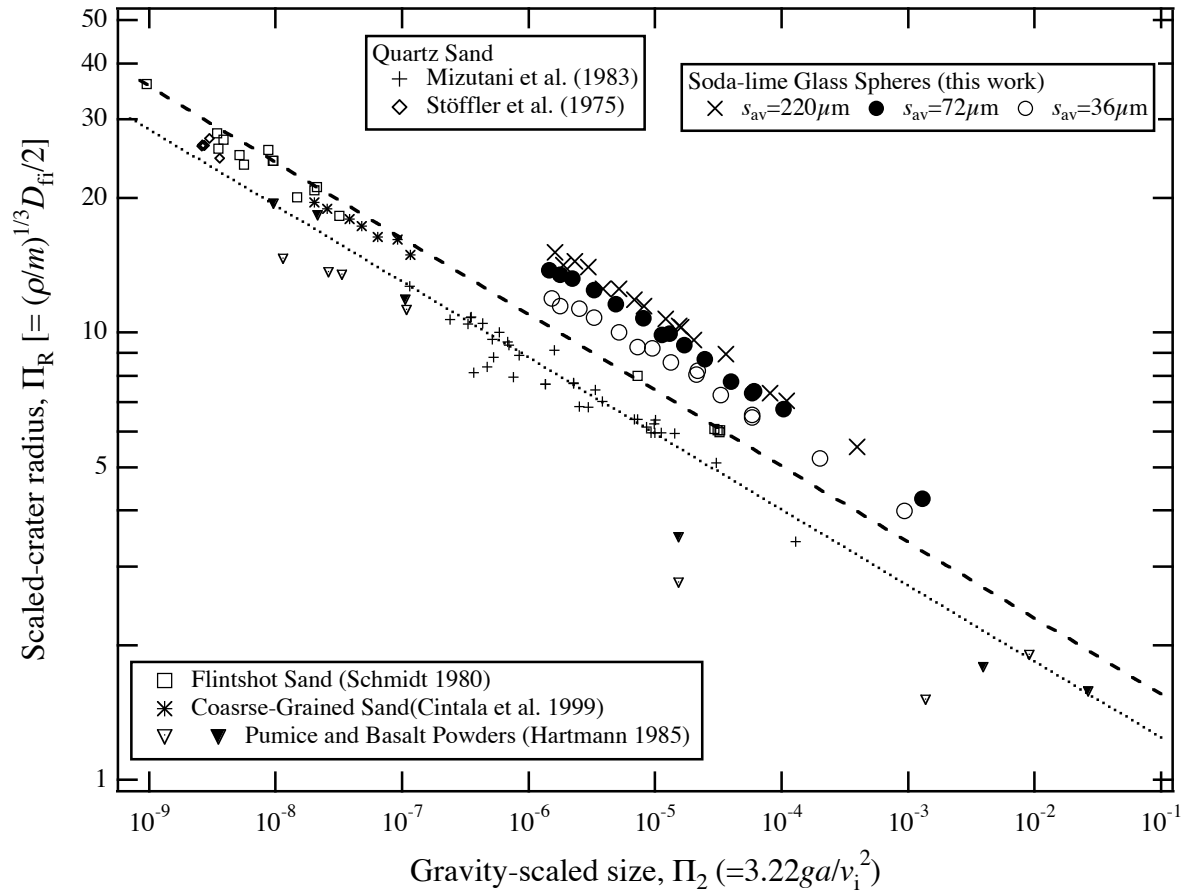


Figure 3 (Yamamoto et al.)

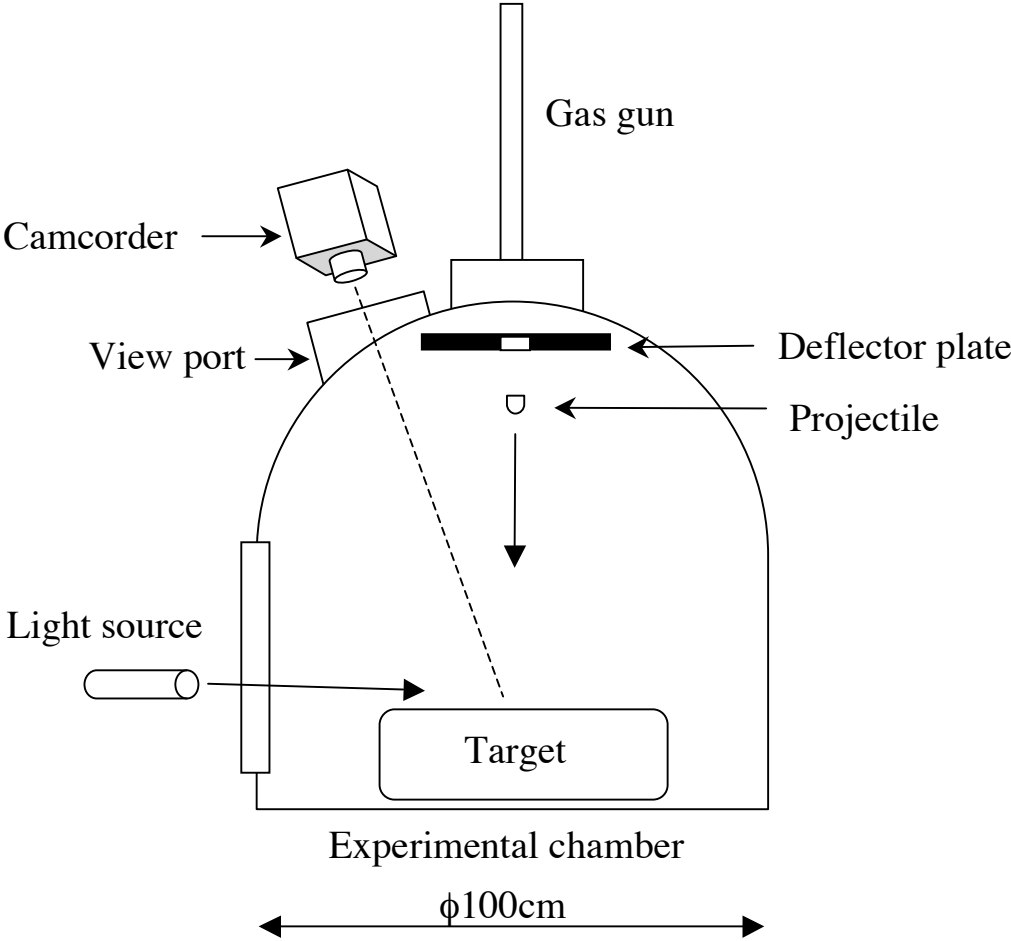


Figure 4 (Yamamoto et al.)

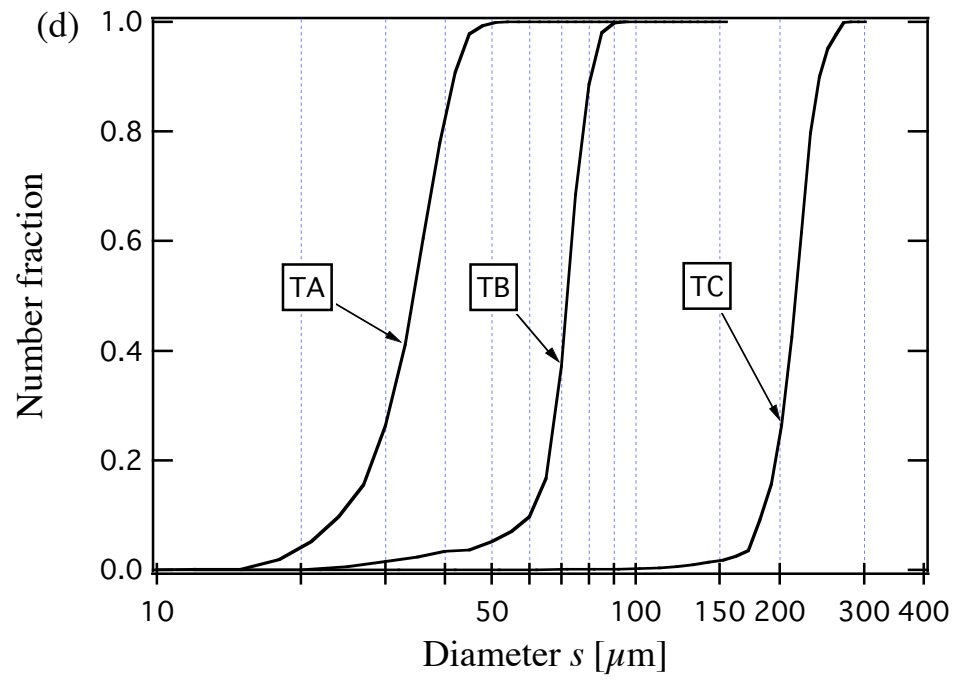
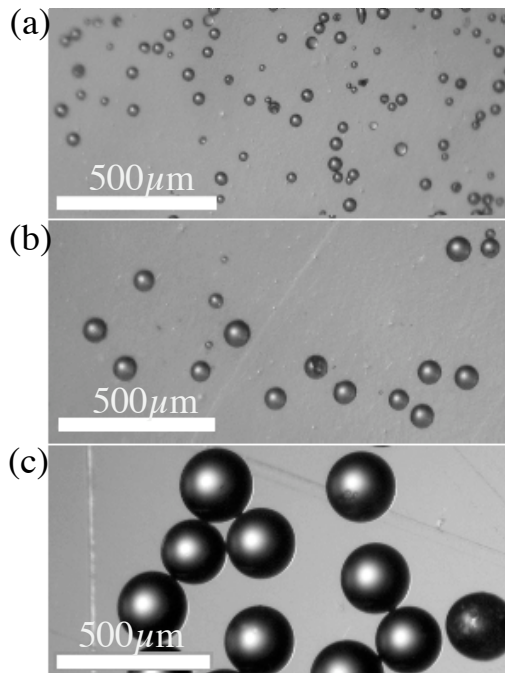


Figure 5 (Yamamoto et al.)

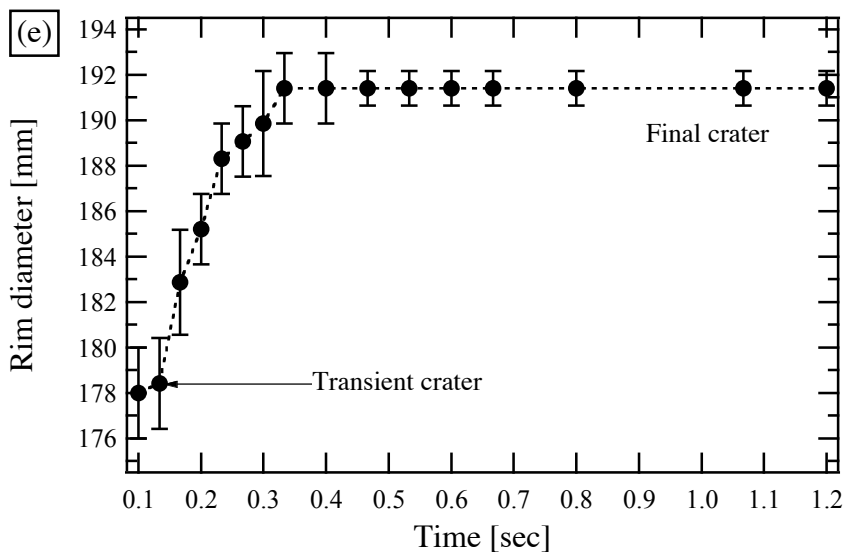
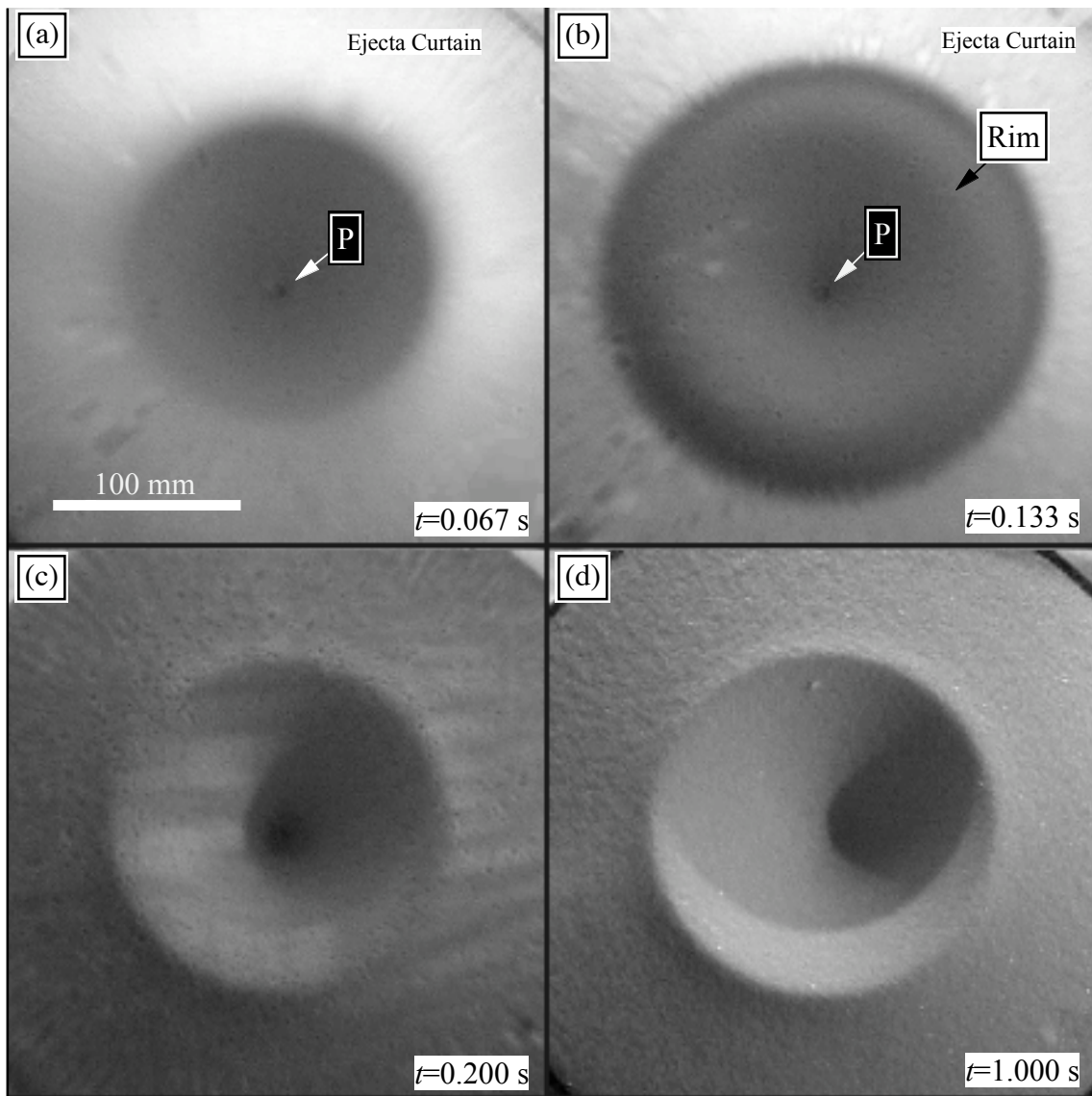


Figure 6 (Yamamoto et al.)

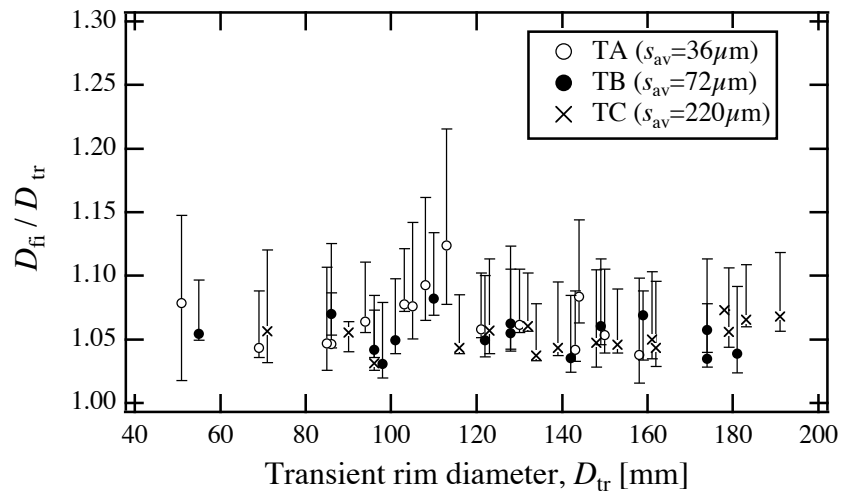


Figure 7 (Yamamoto et al.)

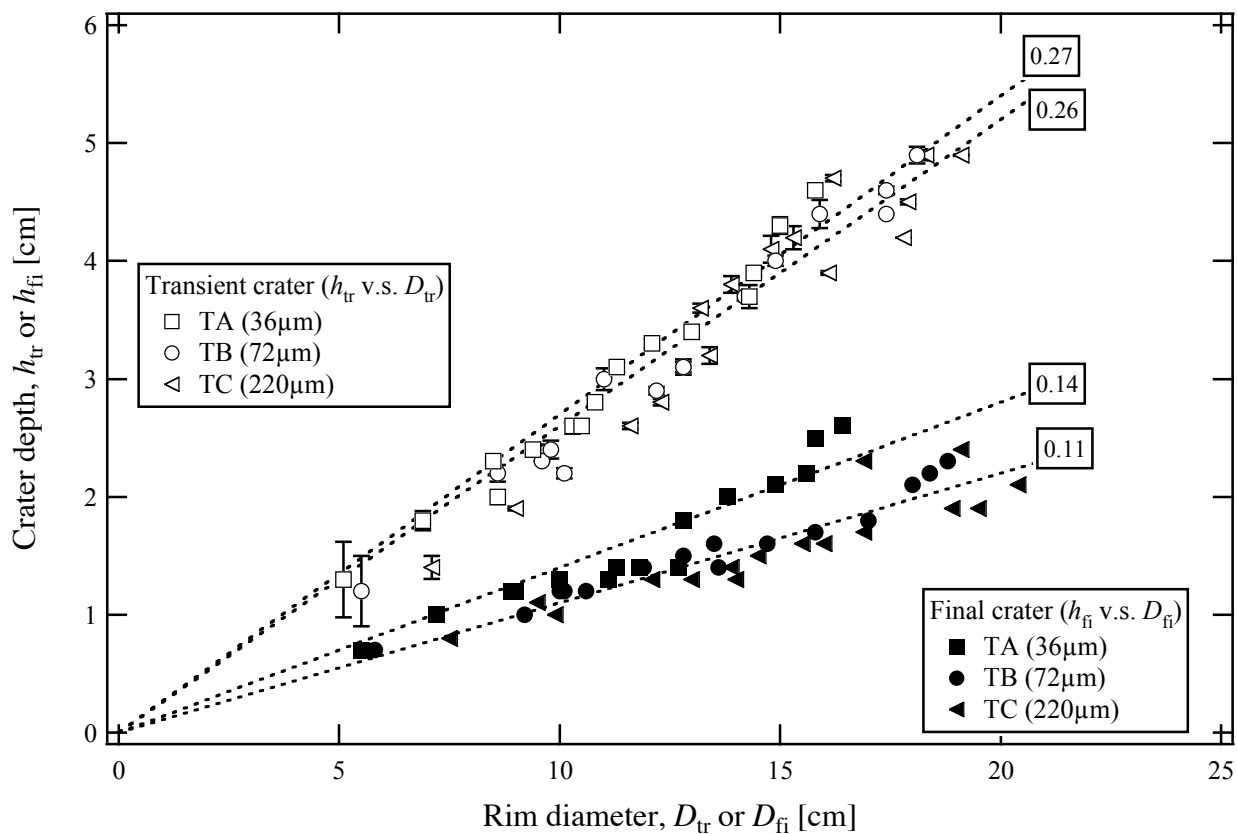


Figure 8 (Yamamoto et al.)

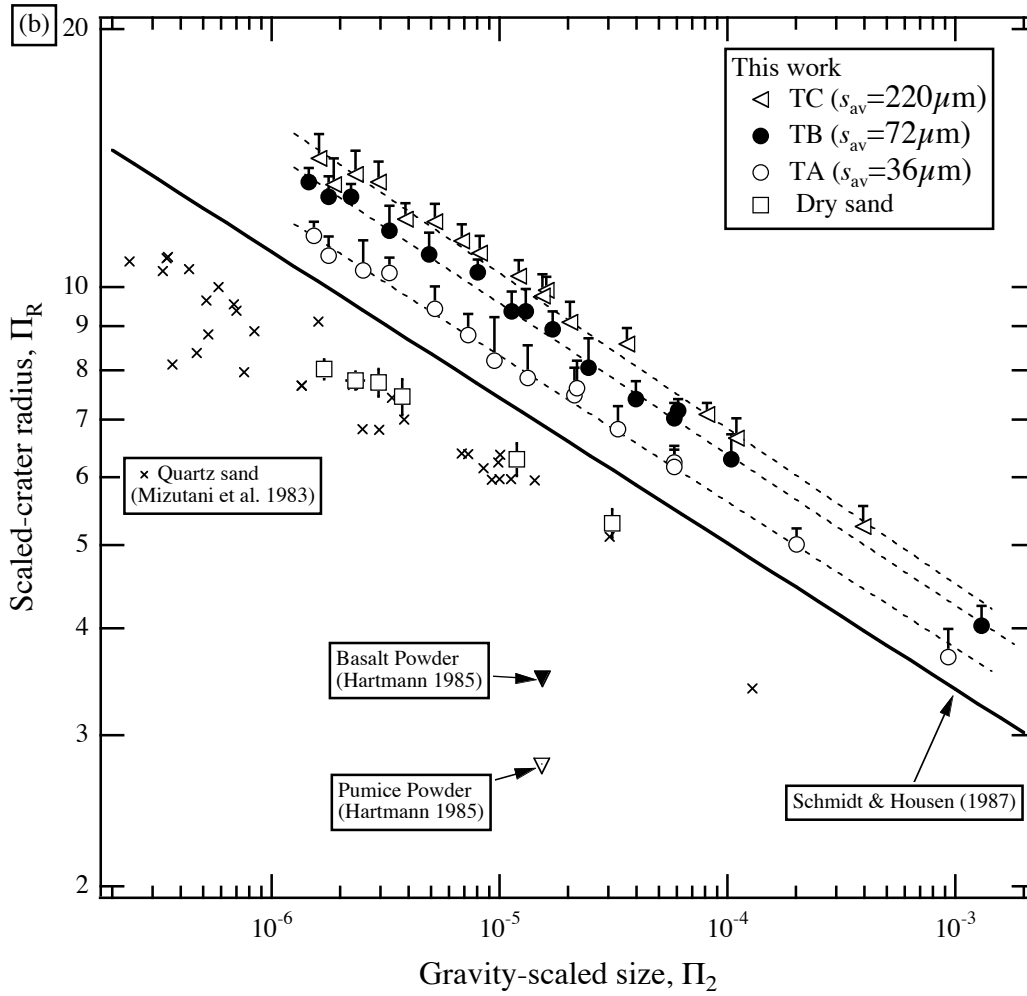
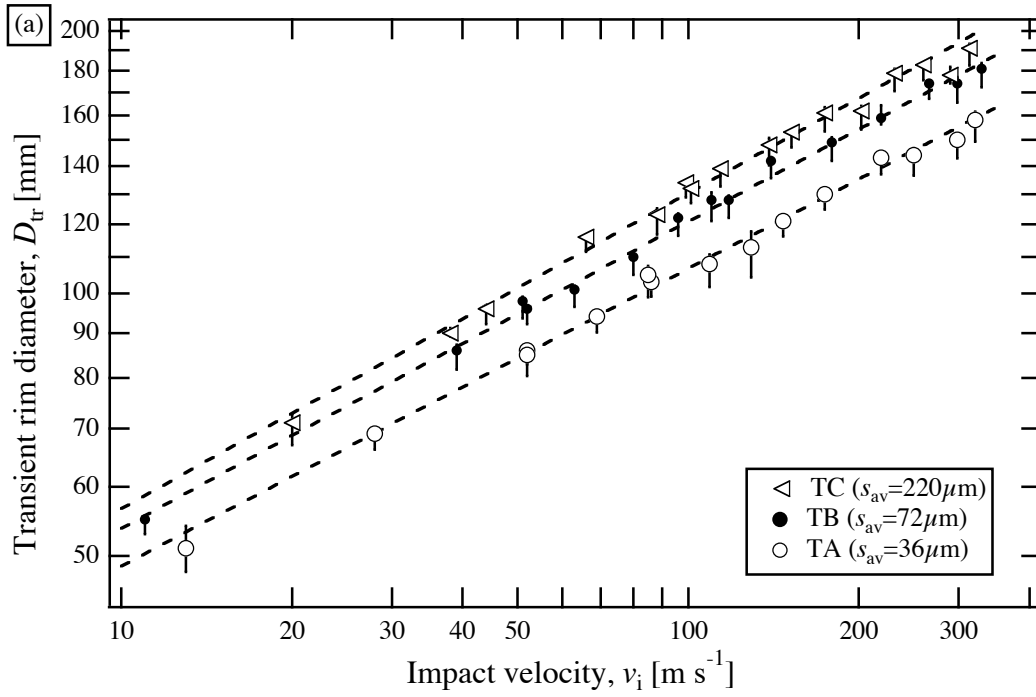


Figure 9 (Yamamoto et al.)

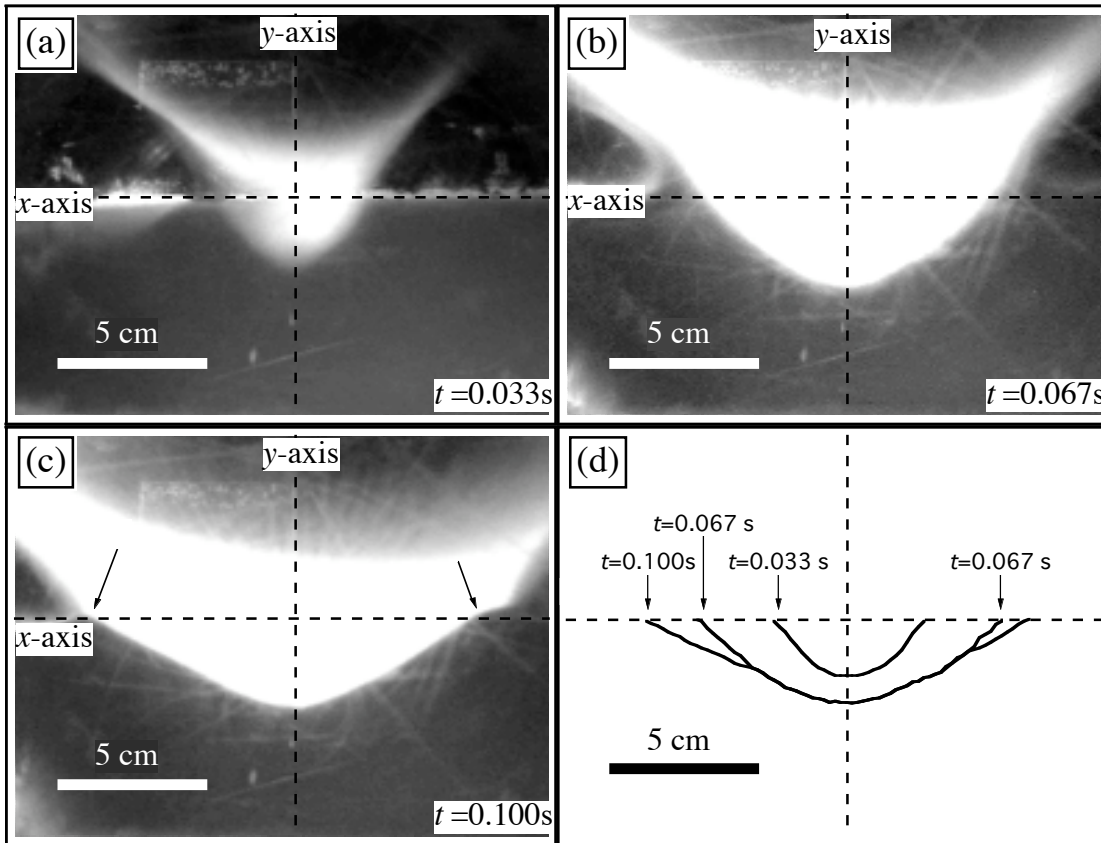


Figure 10 (Yamamoto et al.)

