

Supported by NSF, AFOSR, European Commission











Many Mysteries Remain About Friction's Origins Friction determined by processes on wide range of scales •Friction comes from interactions between atoms in repulsive contact < nm → sensitive to exact chemistry, atomic geometry, ... that is often unknown •Surfaces rough on nm to mm scales Area and geometry of contacting regions determined by roughness and long-range elastic and plastic deformation. •Adhesion typically ignored in determining contact & friction No general theory for behavior far from equilibrium Equilibrium ⇒ stable state minimizes free energy Far from equilibrium ⇒ must solve dynamical equations Computer simulations allow controlled "experiments" Explore trends, discover unanticipated mechanisms











































































## **Conclusions**

- Have analytic understanding of relation between contact area and load: p<sub>rep</sub>=N/A=E'/κ<sub>rep</sub>h' *⊂please measure*
- Parameter-free theory for onset of adhesion Adhesion rare, typical w/E'=l<sub>a</sub> << atomic spacing</li>
- Parameter-free theory for sphere on flat contact
- Proportionality between area and load is not enough to explain Amontons' laws even in nonadhesive case
  → Is h' a material parameter?
  - $\rightarrow$  Clean surfaces friction exponentially weak
  - $\rightarrow$  Plowing, wear, ... geometry changes  $\tau$
  - $\rightarrow$  Welding may give constant  $\tau$  for polymers?
- Third bodies give  $\tau_s = \tau_0 + \alpha p$ , material property of body  $\alpha \Longrightarrow \mu$  independent of uncontrolled exp. parameters gives rate state behavior with right energy scale