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Power-Law in Depth-Dependence of Signal Speed in Vertical Granular Chain

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Abstract: The signal generated by an initial perturbation dispersively propagates in the vertical granular chain under gravity. For the power-law-type contact force, the signal speed follows power-law with the depth. When the perturbation is very weak, the exponent is 1/2(1-1/p). When the perturbation is very strong, the exponent approaches zero. The transition of the exponent from oscillatory regime with weak nonlinearity to quasi-solitary regime with strong nonlinearity is smooth.

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