### Rheology – Materials subject to deformation



Miller et al 2005

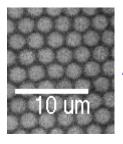
# Rheology of colloidal dispersions

Outline:	
Introduction	colloids
	uses of colloids
	effect of interactions
Instrumentation	rheometers
	simple shear flow
Flow curves	Newtonian fluids
	non-Newtonian effects
Mechanisms	Brownian motion & Péclet number

Concentration dependence of the low-shear viscosity High-concentration rheology glass transition yield stress

More complex systems

# **Colloidal dispersions**

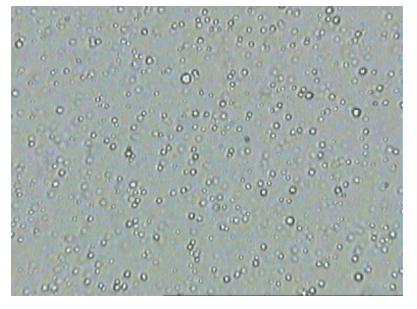


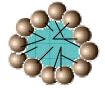
### $\sim$ 1 nm – 10 $\mu m$ 'particles' dispersed in a medium, typically a liquid





### Brownian motion







0.5-3  $\mu m$  fat globules in milk

They flow – but not like simple liquids They are weak – small number concentration Rich behavior – interplay between Brownian motion, hydrodynamic interactions & direct, e.g., electrostatic and van der Waals, forces

# Uses of colloids







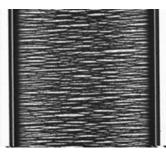
Paints Coatings Polish Cosmetics Foods Carpet backing Inks Adhesives Films



### Phase behavior, dynamics and transport

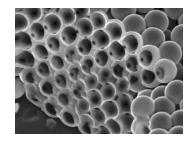


#### Thermo-, pH-, electro-, magneto-responsive



#### A. P. Gast

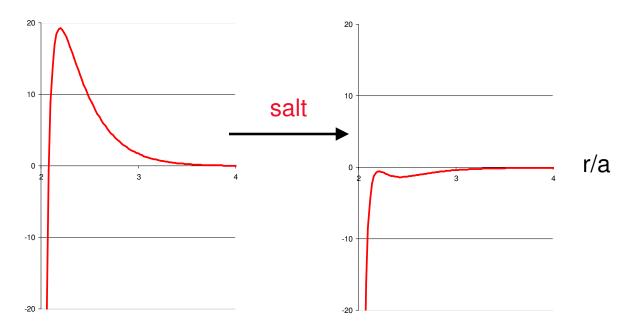
#### Building blocks of novel structures



A. van Blaaderen

# **Colloidal interactions**

u(r)/kT



Interactions among particles strongly affect macroscopic properties, like the rheology

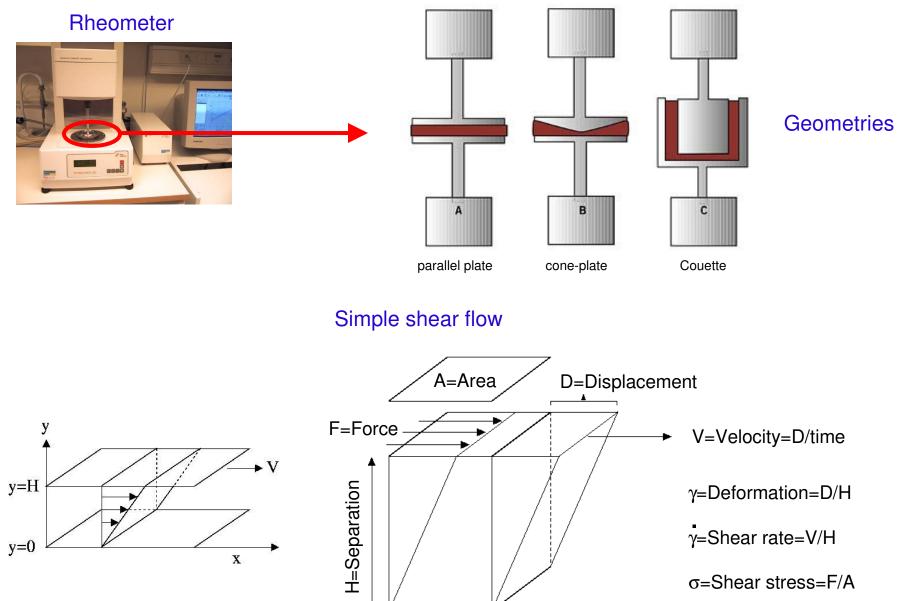
Can be used to tune the flow properties in a rational way!



Courtesy of Leif Karlsson, Akzo-Nobel

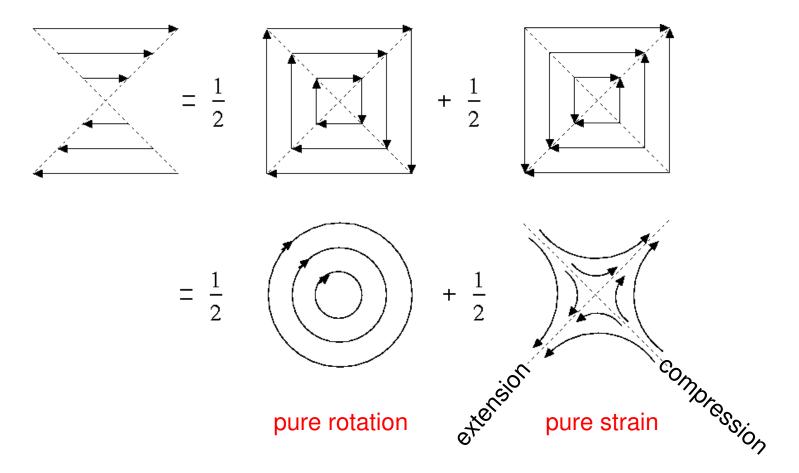


# Instrumentation

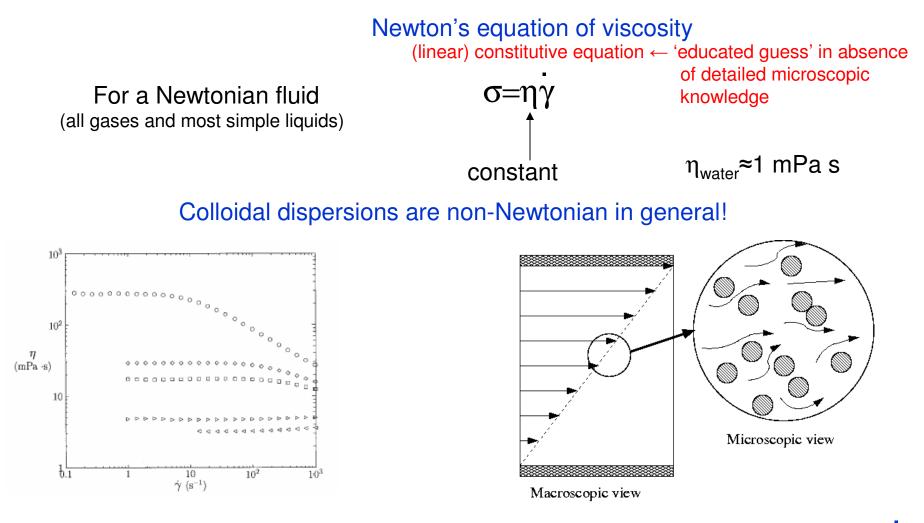


## More on 'simple' shear flow

not so simple after all



### Flow curves

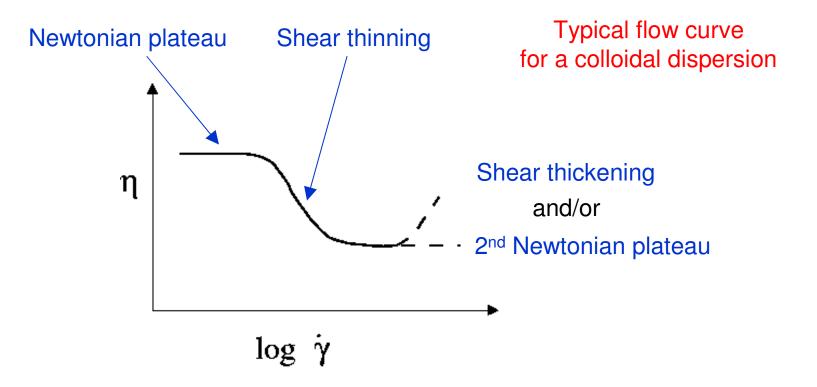


We use Newton's equation of viscosity but then the viscosity is a function of  $\sigma$  or  $\gamma$ 

σ=n

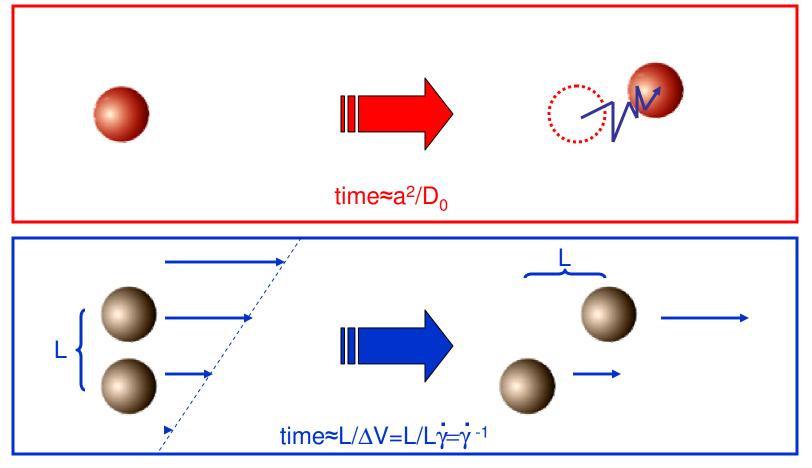


### Flow curves



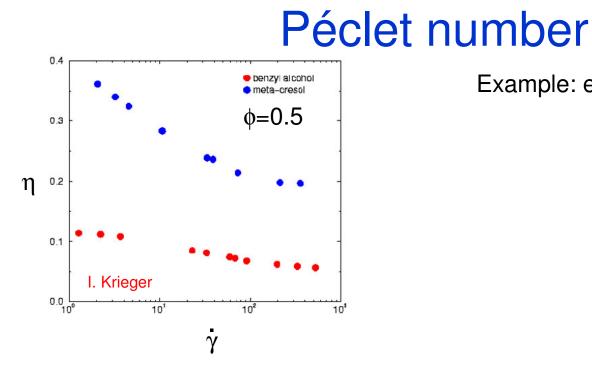
## Péclet number

Two important mechanisms: displacement owing to Brownian motion and shear flow



Péclet number = Pe = $(a^2/D_0)/(\gamma^{-1}) = 6\pi\eta_0\gamma a^3/kT$ 

Pe is a dimensionless shear rate that gauges the importance of Brownian motion relative to shear forces

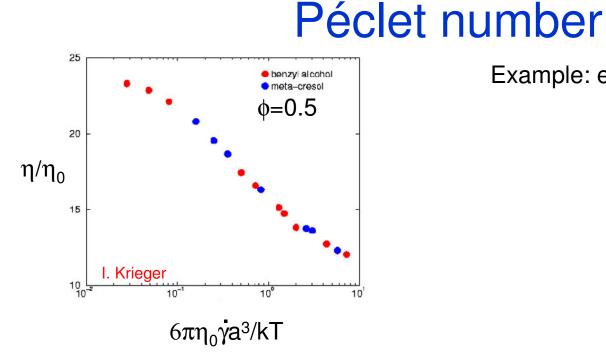


Example: effect of different solvents

Pe takes care of the main effects of particle size, solvent viscosity, and temperature But, size, solvent, and temperature can produce additional effects through the interaction

### In general ...

- Pe«1 Brownian motion dominates, close to equilibrium
- Pe»1 Flow forces dominate, far from equilibrium



Example: effect of different solvents

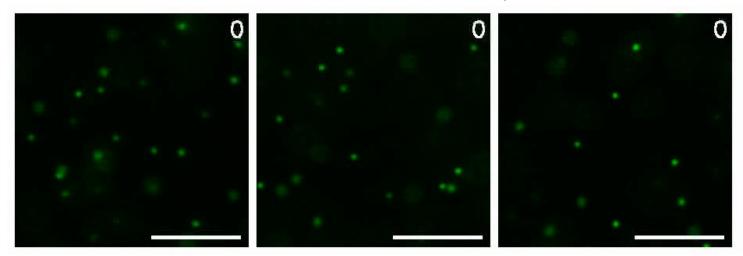
Pe takes care of the main effects of particle size, solvent viscosity, and temperature But, size, solvent, and temperature can produce additional effects through the interaction

### In general ...

- Pe«1 Brownian motion dominates, close to equilibrium
- Pe»1 Flow forces dominate, far from equilibrium

## Péclet number

### Example: effect of different solvents



Pe takes care of the main effects of particle size, solvent viscosity, and temperature But, size, solvent, and temperature can produce additional effects through the interaction

### In general ...

- Pe«1 Brownian motion dominates, close to equilibrium
- Pe»1 Flow forces dominate, far from equilibrium

## Shear thinning

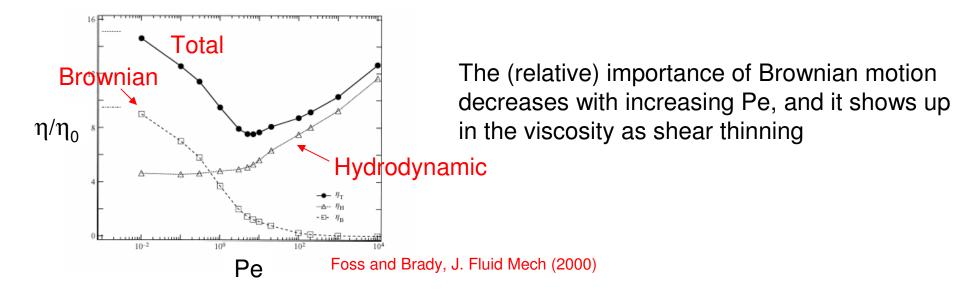
Hard spheres Foss and Brady, J. Fluid Mech (2000) Pe=0.1, 10, 1000

### No hydro

### With hydro

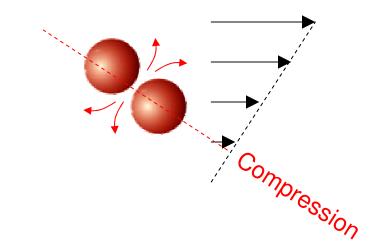
The arrangement of particles depends on Pe! It is very different at large Pe! Hydrodynamic interactions are important!

Shear thinning is caused by particles adopting a more flow-oriented arrangement, very different from the equilibrium arrangement

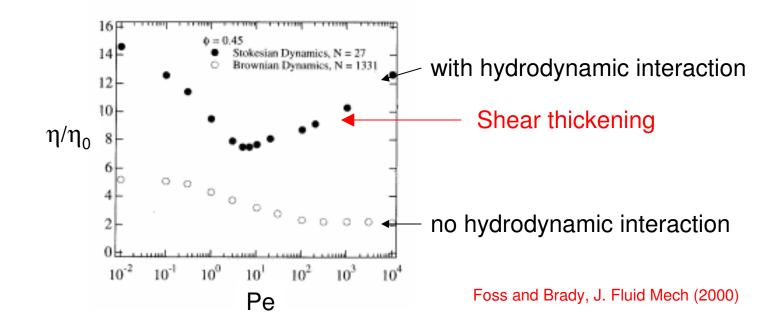


## Shear thickening

Squeezing of thin solvent film, Force~1/(r-2a)

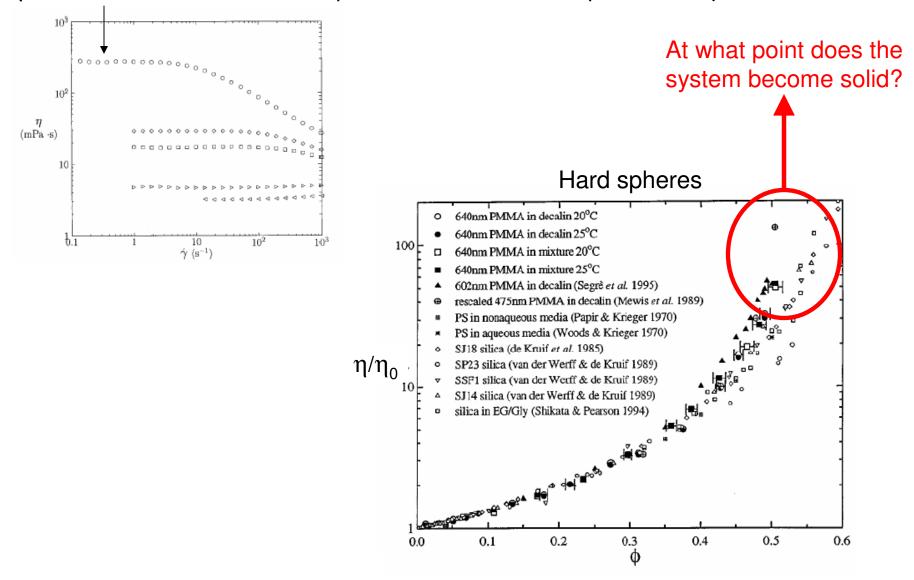


To delay onset of shear thickening try keeping particles separated, e.g., by polymer grafting



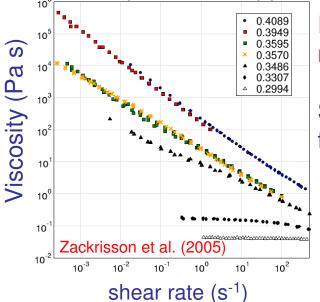
### Zero-shear viscosity

 $\eta$  measured at first Newtonian plateau, where it is independent of  $\dot{\gamma}$ 



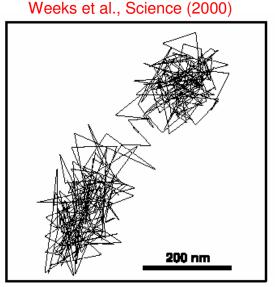
## Low-shear viscosity

Newtonian plateau disappears!

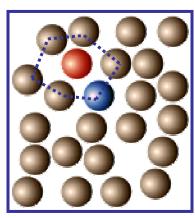


Estimate for time scale of relaxation by Brownian motion, time $\approx a^2/D_0$ , is terribly poor at high concentration!

Should be, time  $\approx a^2/D_{cage}$ , but  $D_{cage} \rightarrow 0$  at the glass transition!

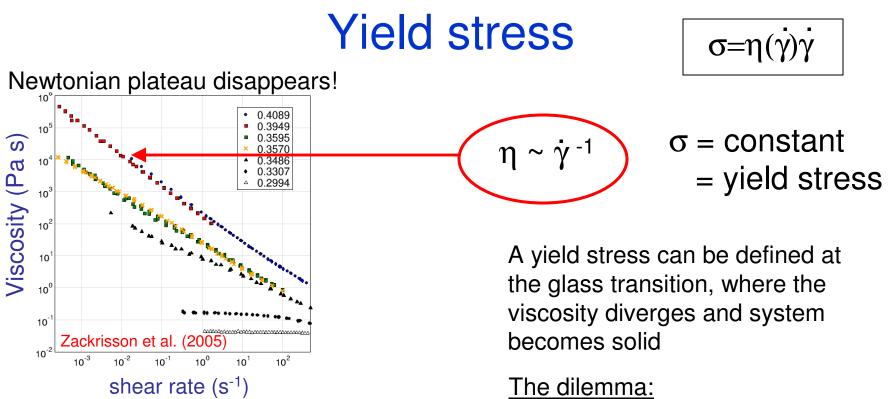


**Fig. 2.** A typical trajectory for 100 min for  $\phi = 0.56$ . Particles spent most of their time confined in cages formed by their neighbors and moved significant distances only during quick, rare cage rearrangements. The particle shown took  $\sim$  500 s to shift position. The particle was tracked in 3D; the 2D projection is shown.

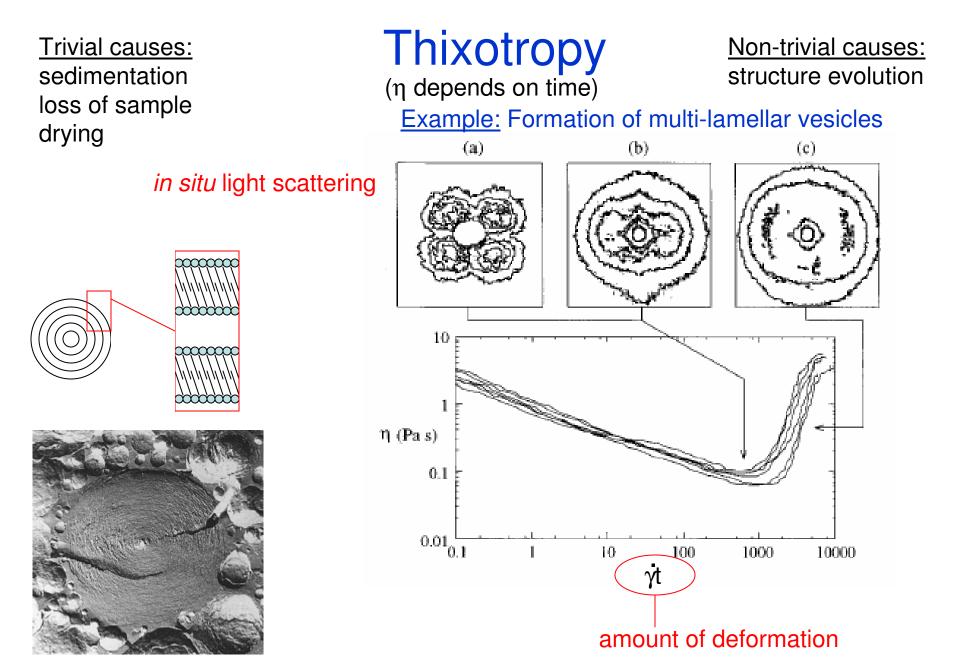


Cage effect

If we redefine Pe as,  $(a^2/D_{cage})/\gamma^{-1}$ , then Pe remains very large even if  $\gamma$  is small



But what if we could measure at even lower shear rates? Would we find a Newtonian plateau?



Gulik-Krzywicki et al. (1996)

Bergenholtz & Wagner (1996)