

# Suspensions and suspension mechanics







# Suspensions may be distinguished by the shape and size of the discrete phase



Size is important: indicates the relevance of various forces



# Strong function of volume fraction



Fig. 11. Dependence of relative viscosity or modulus on solids concentrations. © John Wiley and Sons, Inc. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Common license. For more information, see https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/.



## Strong function of volume fraction



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# Strong function of volume fraction, distribution of sizes



Chong, Christiansen, & Baer J. App. Polymer Sci. 1971 (adapted)



# The Farris effect



### Contours: volume fraction 5:1 ratio in particle size

What are the paths  $P \rightarrow S$  and  $P \rightarrow Q$ ?

Arrangement	Maximum packing fraction
Simple cubic	0.52
Minimum thermodynamically stable configuration	0.548
Hexagonally packed sheets just touching	0.605
Random close packing	0.637
Body-centred cubic packing	0.68
Eace-centred cubic / hexagonal close packed	0.74

#### Fraction of large particles

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## Particle shape is also important





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# Elongated particles have greater hydrodynamic interactions





#### From Barnes, et al. "An Introduction to Rheology"

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# A sample-spanning structure occurs at low volume fractions



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# Despite this scaling, we still see a shear rate dependence at large Pe#



#### The characterization of the total stress of concentrated suspensions of noncolloidal spheres in Newtonian fluids



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Zarraga, Hill, and Leighton J. Rheol. 2000 (44)



### Turn on Brownian motion, dependence on Pe



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Laun, H. M. Angew. Makro. Chem. 1984, 124:335-359

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## Turn on Brownian motion, dependence on Pe

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Laun, H. M. Angew. Makro. Chem. 1984, 124:335-359

## Turn on Brownian motion, dependence on Pe





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## Limiting trajectories for particleparticle interactions





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Morris, J. F. "A review of microstructure in concentrated suspensions and its implications for rheology and bulk flow" (2009) 48:909-923



Microstructure is the source of non-Newtonian properties



Microstructure in suspensions: position and orientation of particles



What is the local density around one particle?

Count neighboring particles as a function of distance

Find 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.. nearest neighbors



### In general, particle distribution is a function of g( an **angle** and **distance**





### Investigate hydrodynamics to understand ordering by hydrodynamic forces



### Experiments: Parsi & Gadala-Maria High Pe # spheres





FIGURE 2. Pair-distribution function g in the plane of shear for a suspension of polystyrene spheres in silicone oil at particle volume fraction  $\phi = 0.4$  in simple shear at  $Pe = 3.0 \times 10^3$  and  $Re = 3.2 \times 10^{-7}$ . The shear rate is opposite in the two plots. Note the fore-aft asymmetry of the pair distribution and the reversal of the asymmetry for reversal of the shear rate. From Parsi & Gadala-Maria (1987).

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# Simulations: Péclet number determines symmetry of distribution

Pe = 0,  $\phi$  = .45



$$Pe = 25, \phi = .3$$



Color indicates density of particle centers

- At low Pe, randomized
- At higher Pe, induced structure from flow

Increased particle density along shoulders of particles, attempting to align in rows

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### g(r) depends on the volume fraction Sierou and Brady JFM (2002)



**FIG. 10.** The dependence of the angularly averaged pair-distribution function,  $\langle g(r) \rangle_{\theta}$ , on the volume fraction. The pair-distribution function is averaged over all orientations and results for 2 < r < 7 are shown. Simulation results are for N = 512,  $\tau = 1000$ , and  $\dot{\gamma}^* = 1000$ .

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#### Foss and Brady JFM (2000) Brownian hard spheres



FIGURE 2. Peclet number dependence of the different contributions to the relative viscosity of hard-sphere suspensions at  $\phi = 0.45$  and N = 27 determined by Stokesian Dynamics. The horizontal lines on the far left represent the  $Pe \rightarrow 0$  limits independently determined by an equilibrium Green-Kubo analysis.

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### Foss and Brady JFM (2000) Brownian hard spheres





### **Concentrated** suspensions



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#### Laun, H. M. Angew. Makro. Chem. 1984, 124:335-359

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# Mechanisms for non-Newtonian suspension behavior





#### Shear rate or stress

#### Newtonian plateau

Structure not perturbed by flow: ordering effects washed out by Brownian motion

Shear thinning Structure is perturbed aligning particles to flow with decreased interactions

Shear thickening

Structure strongly perturbed by flow, strong rise in viscosity observed



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## Experimental agreement?



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#### Dispersed and stabilized latex particles, 295nm radius

Lee, M., Alcoutlabi, M., Magda, J. J. et al. "The effect of the shear-thickening transition of model colloidal spheres on the sign of N1 and on the radial pressure profile in torsional shear flows" JoR (2006) 50:293-311

### Experiments, Brownian

26



## Experimental agreement?



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Gamonpilas, C., Morris, J. F., Denn, M. M. "Shear and normal stress measurements in non-Brownian monodisperse and bidisperse suspensions" JoR 60 (2016)







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### A migration model – Couette flow inside and MRI, ca. 1992





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# Good agreement in steady and transient Couette flows





FIG. 7. Volume fraction  $\phi(\hat{r})$  for three suspensions of 675  $\mu$ m particles. Experimental results are for  $\bar{\phi} = 0.45$  ( $\Diamond$ ),  $\bar{\phi} = 0.50$  ( $\Box$ ), and  $\bar{\phi} = 0.55$  (O) (same as in Fig. 1). Solid curves are model predictions with  $K_c/K_{\eta} = 0.66$ .

FIG. 8. Transient profiles of the particle volume fraction are shown for a suspension of 675  $\mu$ m particles at  $\bar{\phi} = 0.55$ . Results are shown for the initial profile (O) and after 50 ( $\times$ ), 100 ( $\Box$ ), 200 ( $\Diamond$ ), 800 ( $\triangle$ ), and 12 000 ( $\bullet$ ) revolutions of the inner cylinder. Solid curves are the model predictions with  $K_c = 0.43$  and  $K_{\eta} = 0.65$ .

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