

# Welcome to ~~Leuven~~ Brussels

IFPRI Annual Meeting 2022

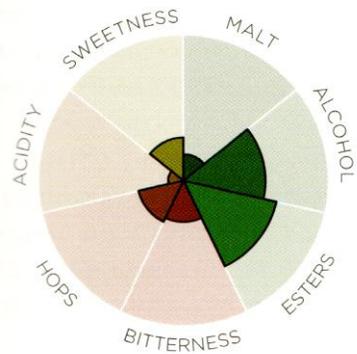
Erin Koos

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Department of Chemical Engineering  
Section Soft Matter, Rheology and Technology

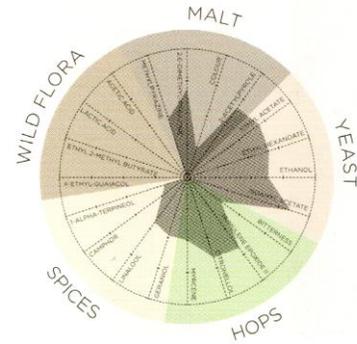
**Filip Francqui**  
GranuTools

# Highlights

SENSORY PROFILE



ANALYTICAL PROFILE



# Capillary suspensions and their applications

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Department of Chemical Engineering

Section Soft Matter, Rheology and Technology

# Acknowledgements

- Doctoral students

- Jens Allard
- Sebastian Bindgen
- Souhaila Nider
- Lingyue Liu
- Moritz Weiss
- Frank Bossler

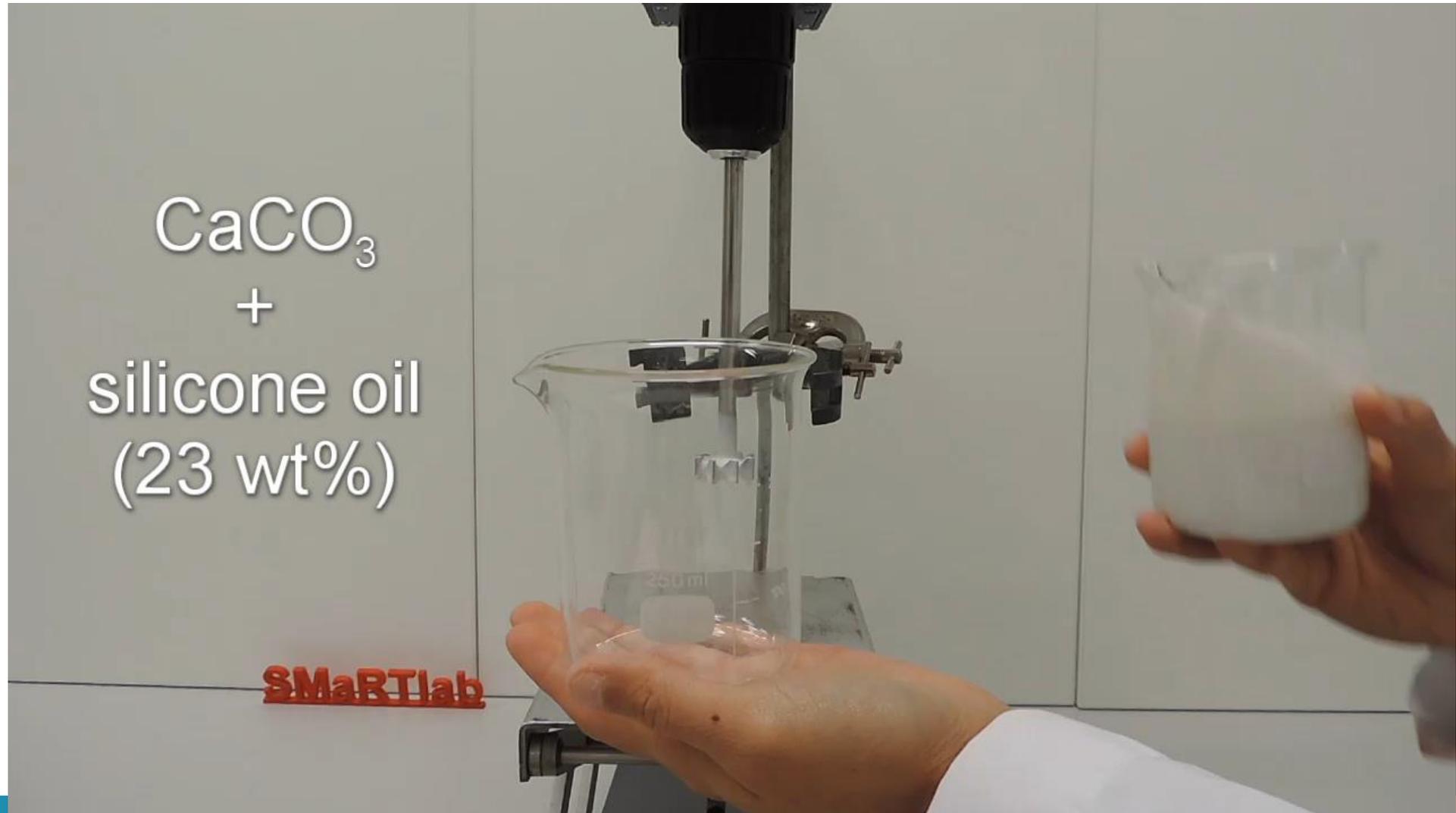
- Collaborators

- Randy Ewoldt (U. Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)
- Christian Holm (U. Stuttgart)
- Joost de Graaf (Utrecht University)
- Norbert Willenbacher (KIT)

- Funding:



# Capillary suspensions



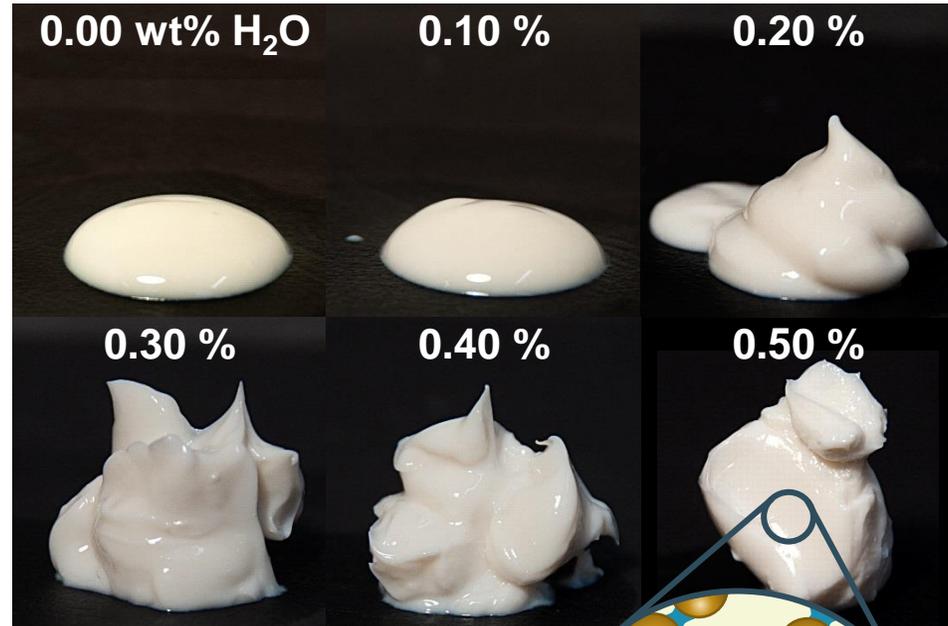
# The capillary suspension phenomenon



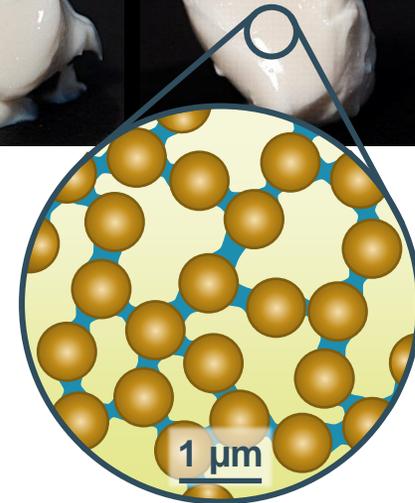
Micro- or nanoparticles



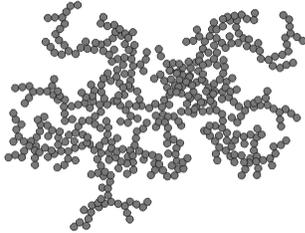
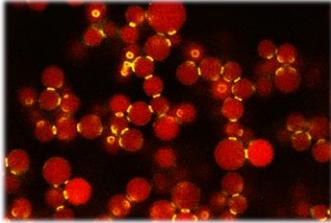
Two immiscible liquids



Capillary suspension



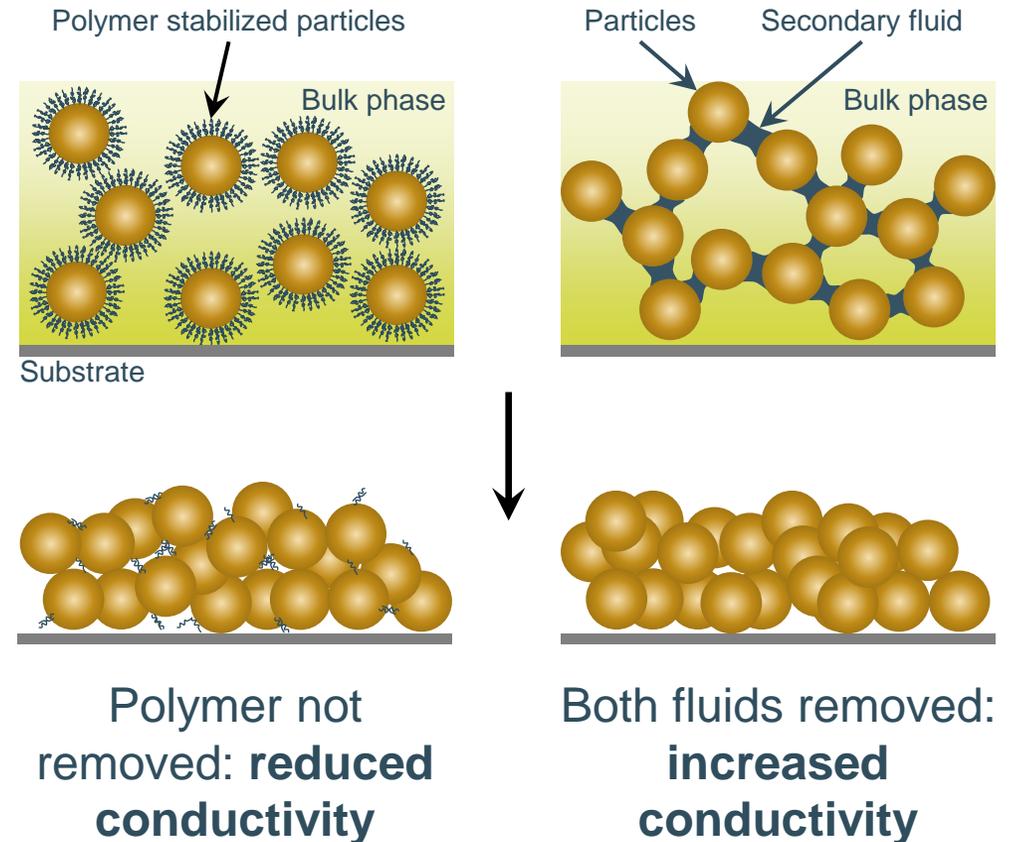
# Interesting new material

	Colloidal network 	Capillary suspension 	Wet granular matter 
<b>Composition</b>	Solid-liquid	<b>Solid-liquid-liquid</b>	Solid-gas-liquid
<b>Bulk transmits force</b>	Yes	<b>Yes</b>	No
<b>Particle size</b>	Small	<b>Small</b>	Large
<b>Attractive force</b>	van der Waals	<b>Capillary</b>	Capillary
<b>Interaction range</b>	Short ( $\ll R$ )	<b>Longer (<math>\sim R</math>)</b>	Longer ( $\sim R$ )
<b>Relative strength</b>	Weak ( $\sim$ diffusion)	<b>Strong</b>	Weak ( $\sim$ gravity)
<b>Solid loading</b>	Low	<b>Intermediate</b>	High

# Application 1: Printed electronics

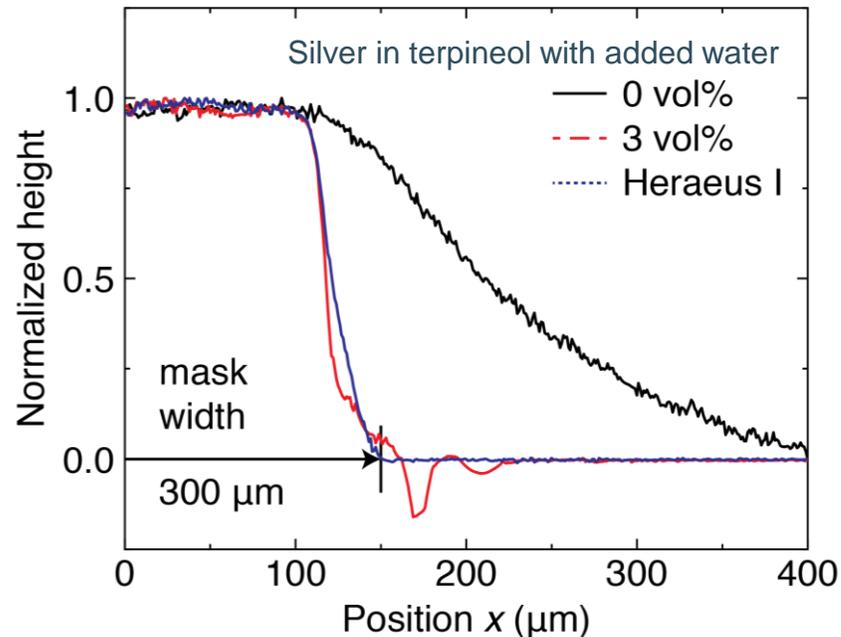
- No surfactants or polymeric additives for stabilization or thickening
  - Liquid phases evaporates completely during drying process
  - No polymeric residues in the manufactured film
- Viscosity of ink adjustable to specific printing processes

Method	Viscosity
Inkjet Printing	0.001 – 0.04 Pas
Screen Printing	0.05 – 50 Pas



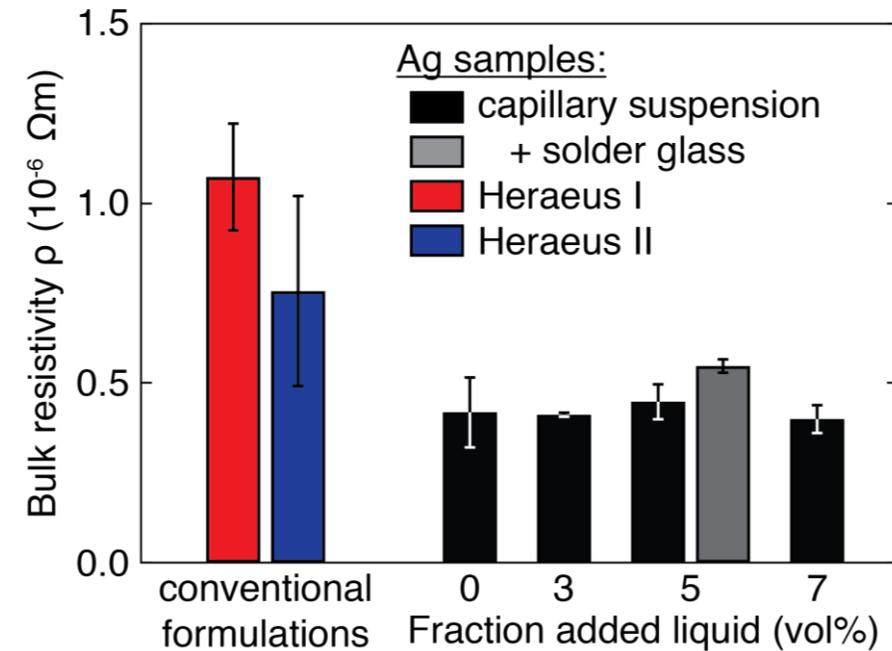
# Particle network leads to better properties

## Improved shape accuracy



→ Increased feature density without short circuits

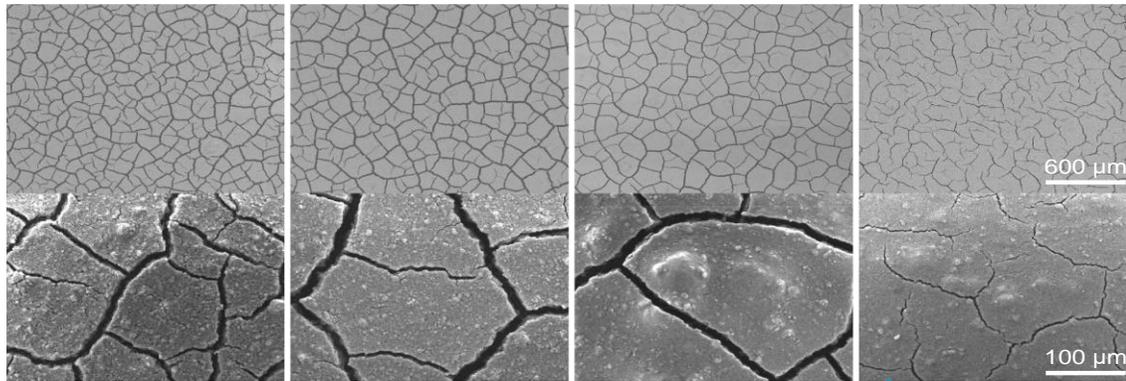
## High conductivity



→ Lower resistivity than conventional formulations

# Further advantages: reduced cracking

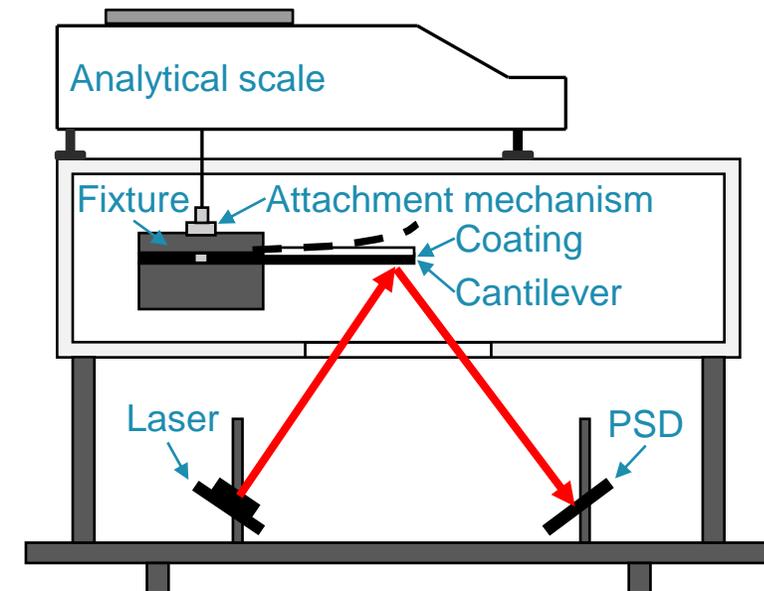
## Capillary suspensions



Added secondary fluid

- Particle network opposes particle motion
- Lower drying stresses and reduced cracking

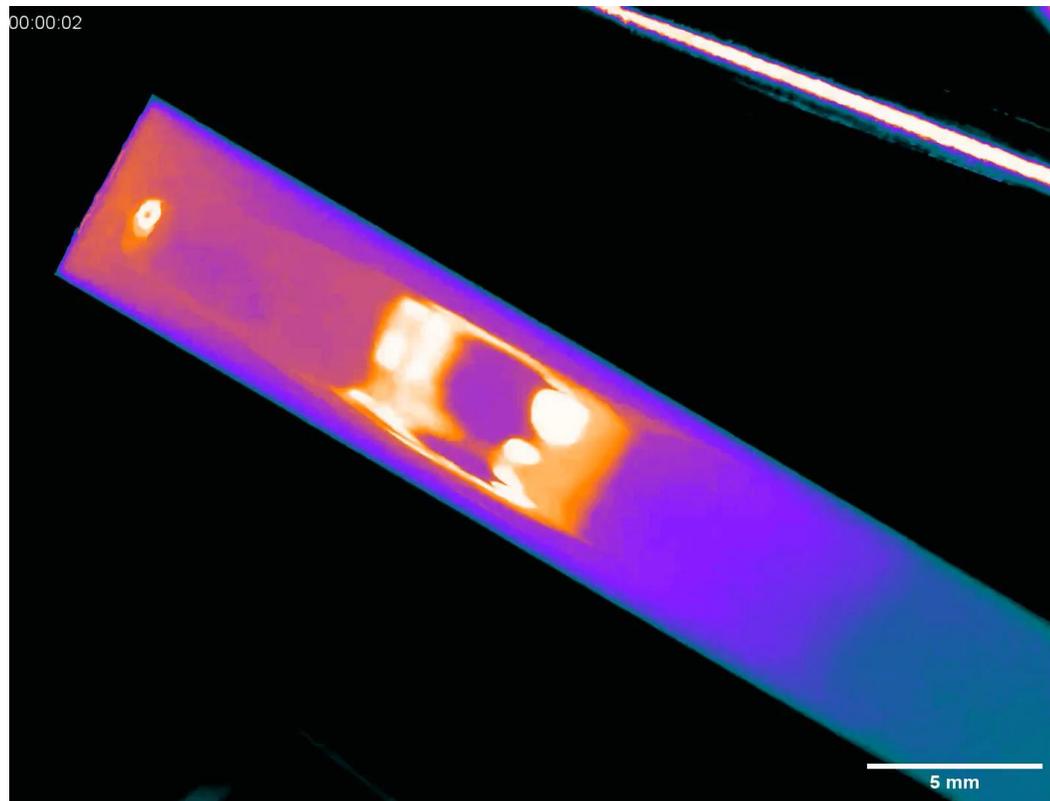
## Simultaneous stress and weight loss measurement



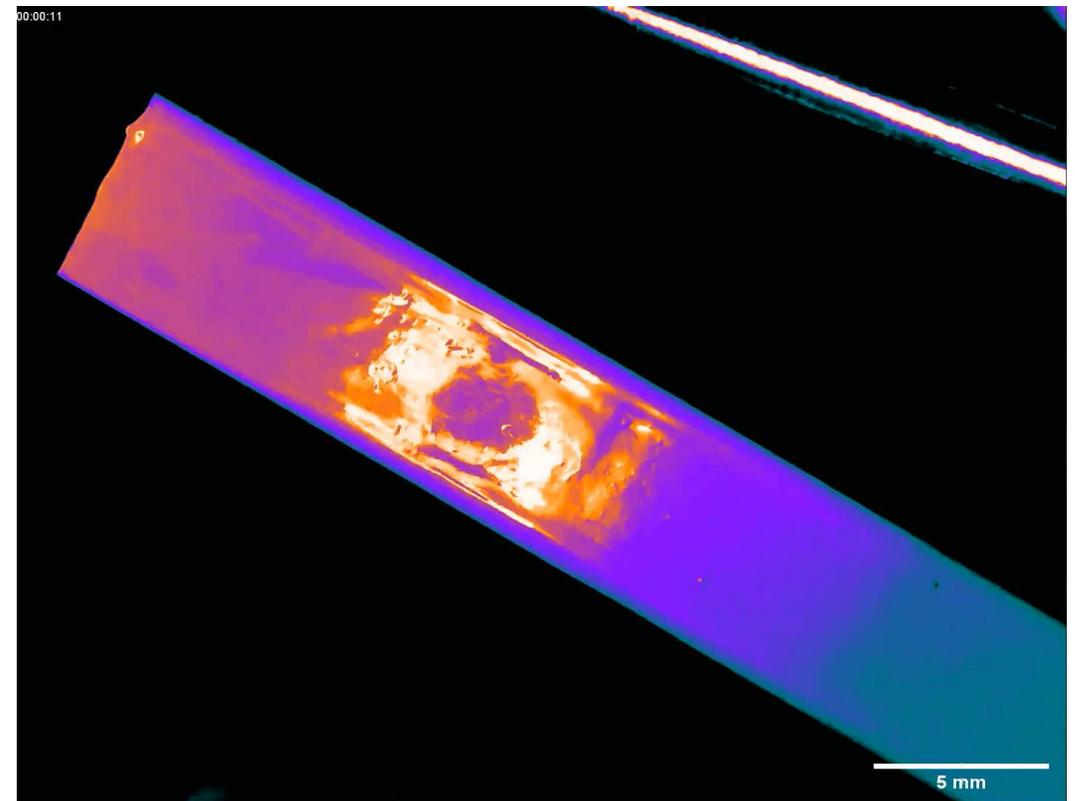
- Control temperature and humidity
- Camera or laser observation of film

# Drying of coated cantilevers

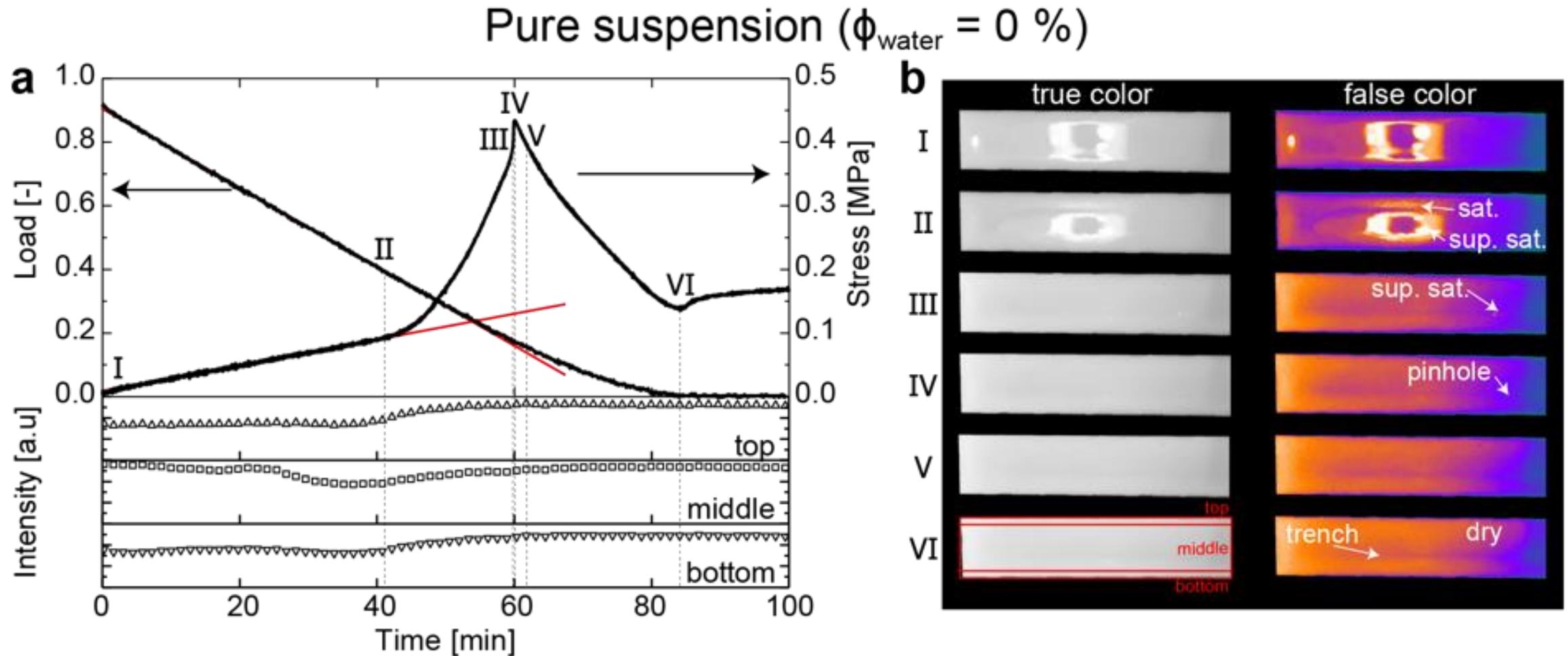
Pure suspension ( $\phi_{H_2O} = 0$ )



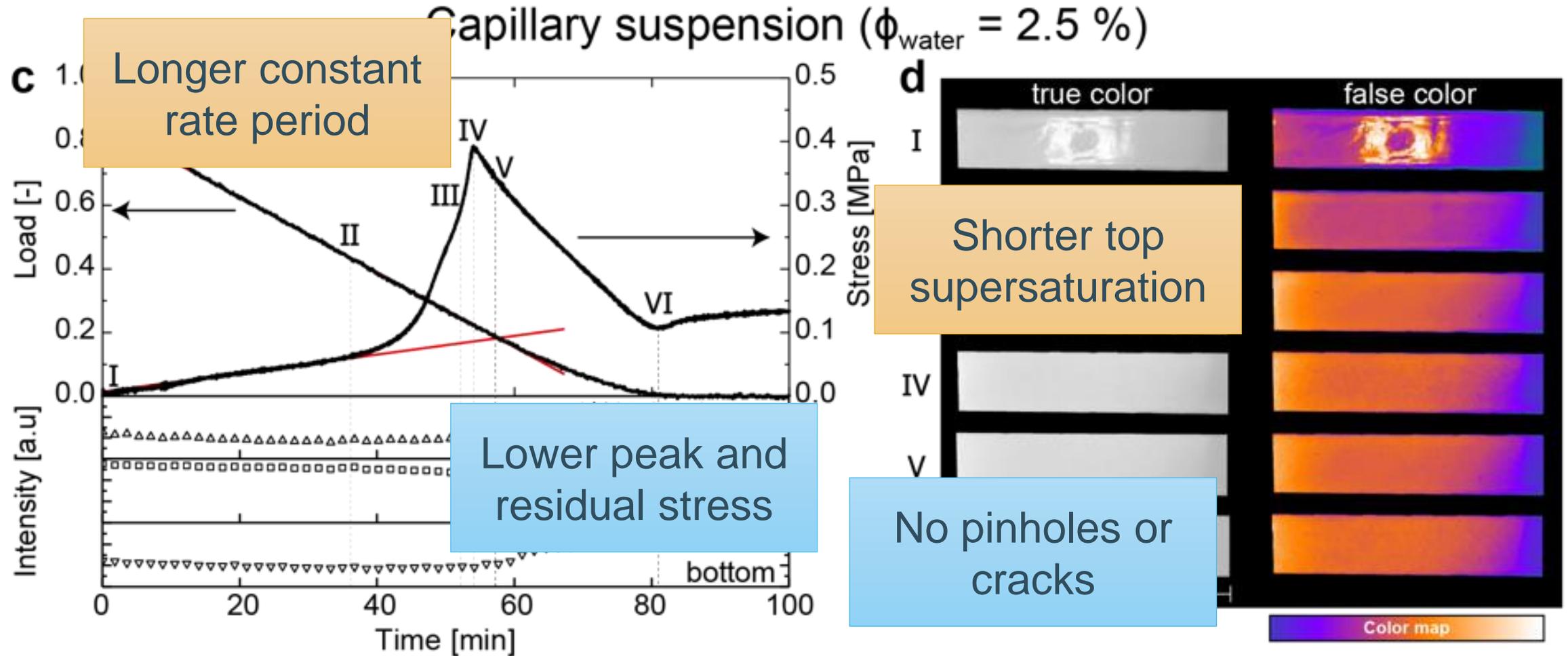
Capillary suspension ( $\phi_{H_2O} = 0.025$ )



# Example simultaneous measurements

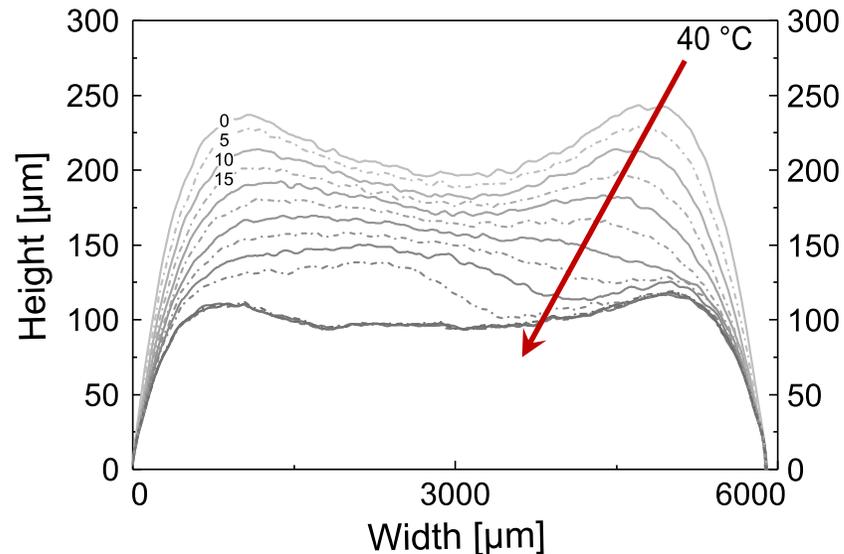


# Example simultaneous measurements



# Shrinkage and fluid/particle mobility

## Pure suspension ( $\phi_{H_2O} = 0$ )

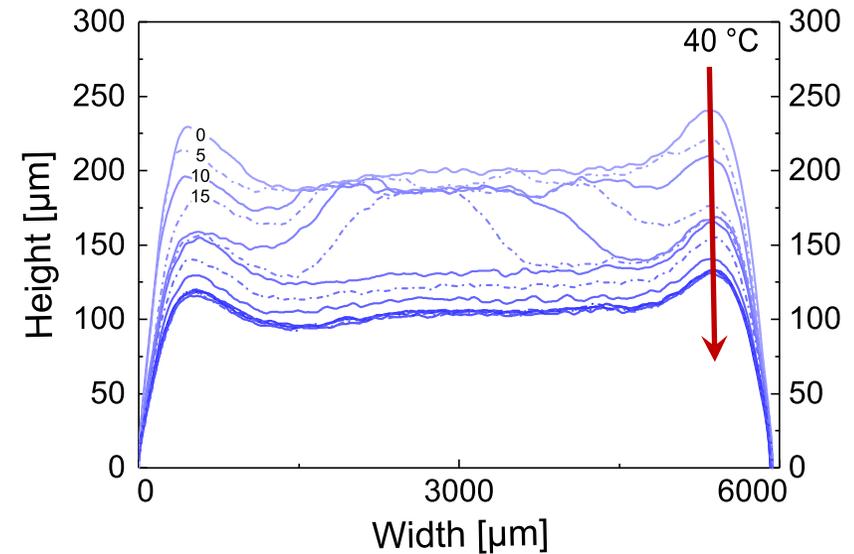


- Lateral drying



- Continuous cross-sectional shrinkage

## Capillary suspension ( $\phi_{H_2O} = 0.025$ )



- Initial lateral drying (reduced)



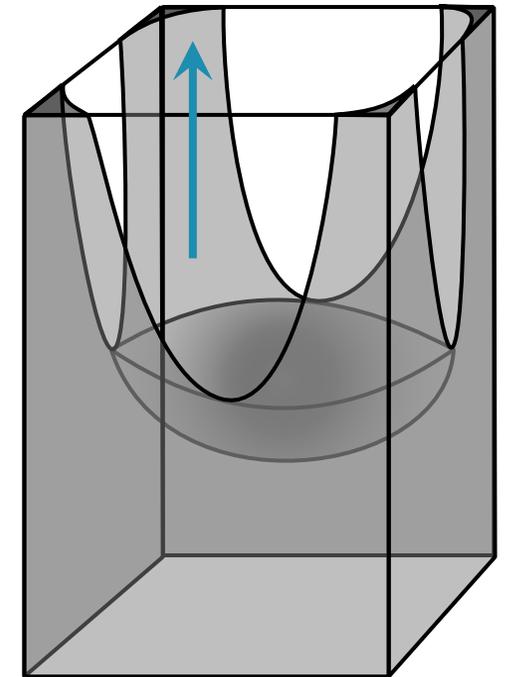
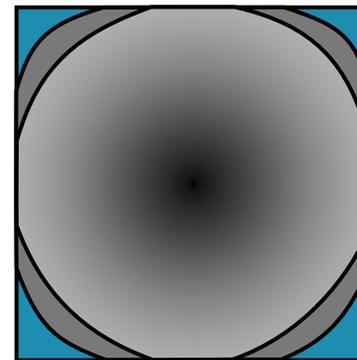
- Homogeneous shrinkage in height

# Longer constant rate period

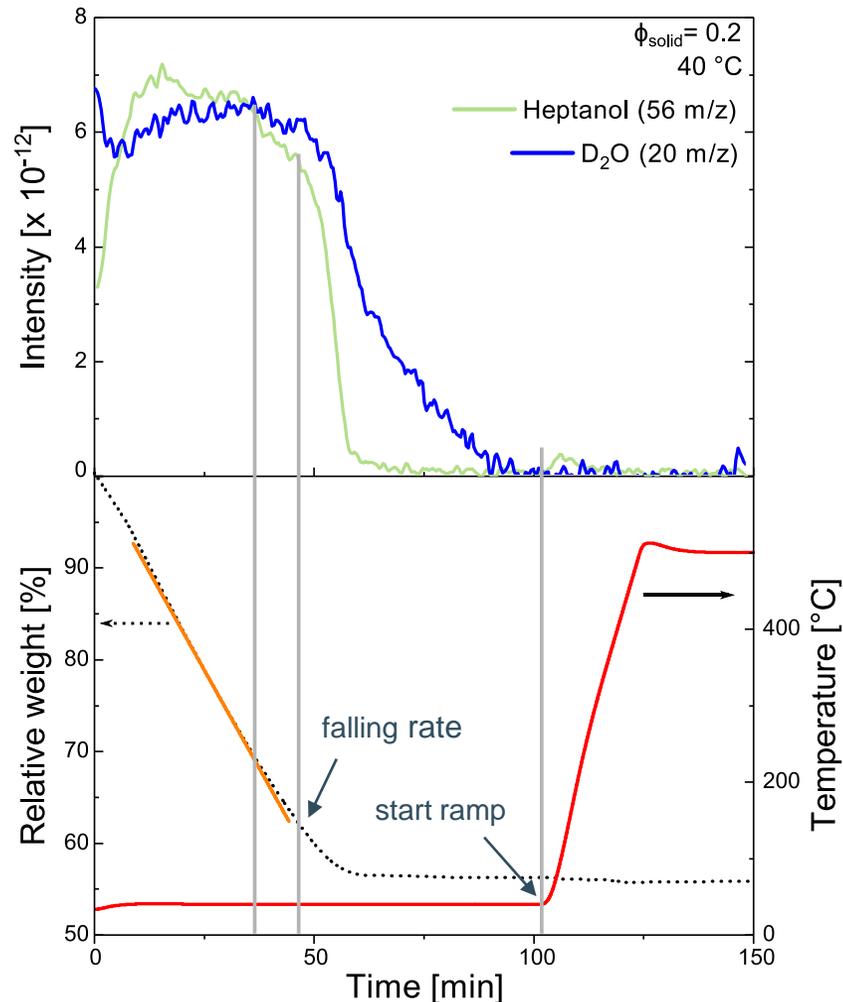
- Bulk fluid moves away from substrate faster [1]
  - Transport of fluid from bottom up
- Shorter top supersaturation
  - Consolidated upper layer
- End of constant rate period corresponds to the peak stress (full compaction)
  - Particle network fully established

→ Capillary corner flow [2]

- Bulk oil covers the water bridges, that are sandwiched between the invading air
- Transport of liquid to surface



# Delayed evaporation of capillary bridges

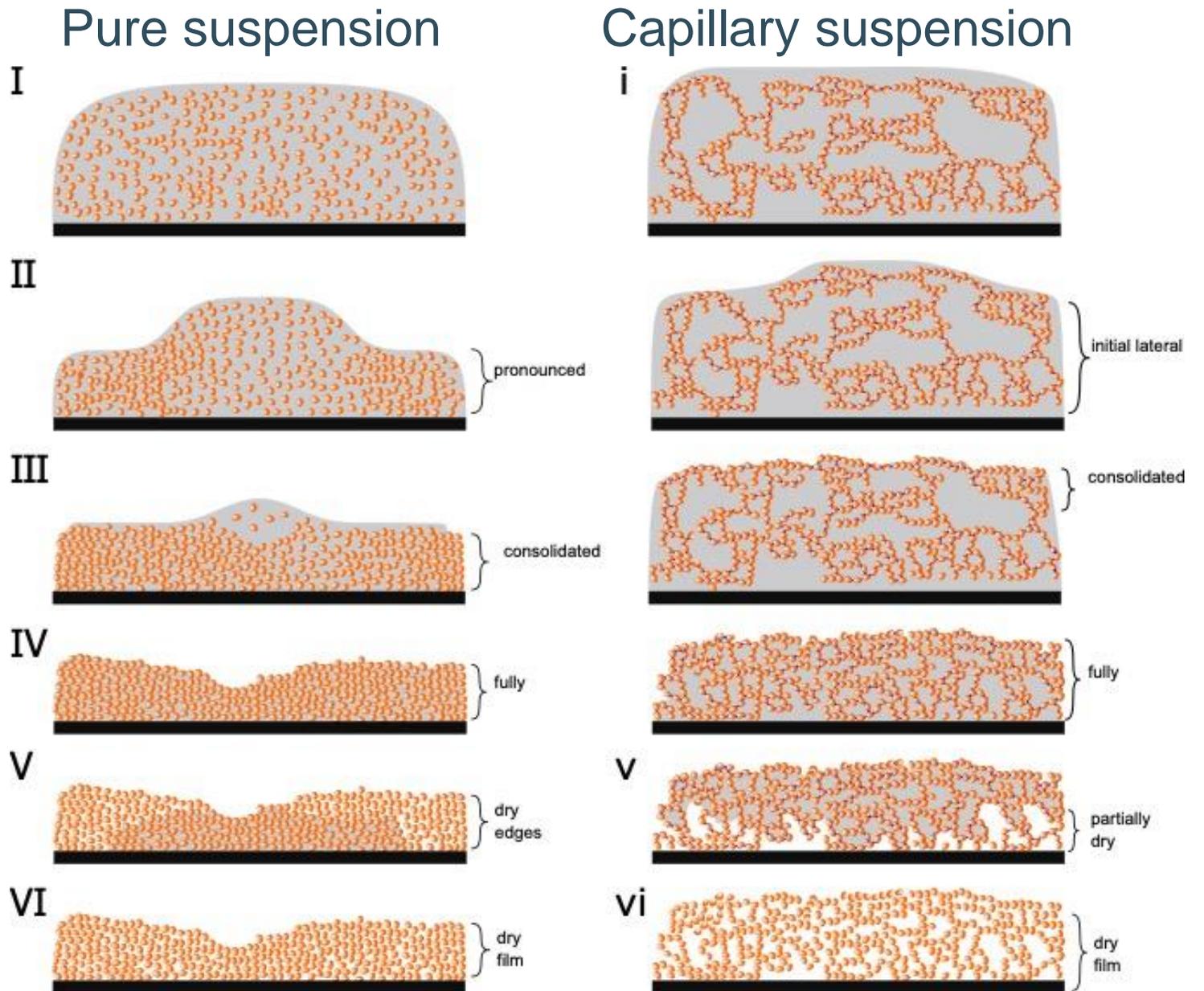


- Drying occurs at a constant temperature of 40 °C, then ramp to 500 °C
  - TGA + headspace mass spectrometry
- Heptanol concentration drops when transitioning to the falling rate period
- Residual heptanol evaporates upon temperature increase

Extended evaporation of D<sub>2</sub>O

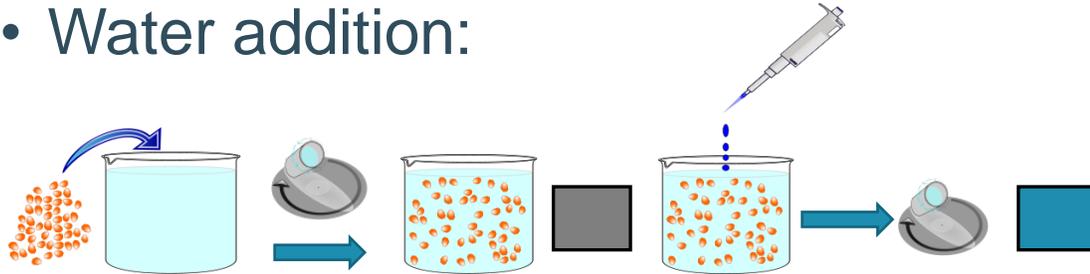
# Hypothesis

- Reduced lateral drying
  - Less drying from edges
  - Less particle movement
- Yielding
  - Caused by particle network
  - Dissipates stress
- Bridges are long lasting
  - Still present when film is almost dry

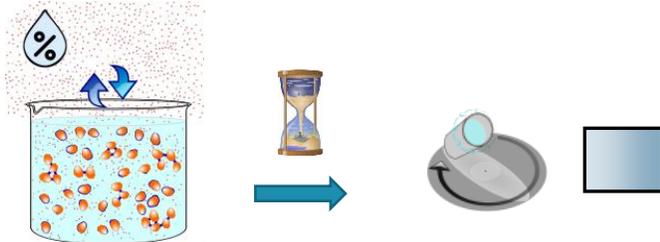


# Formulation routes

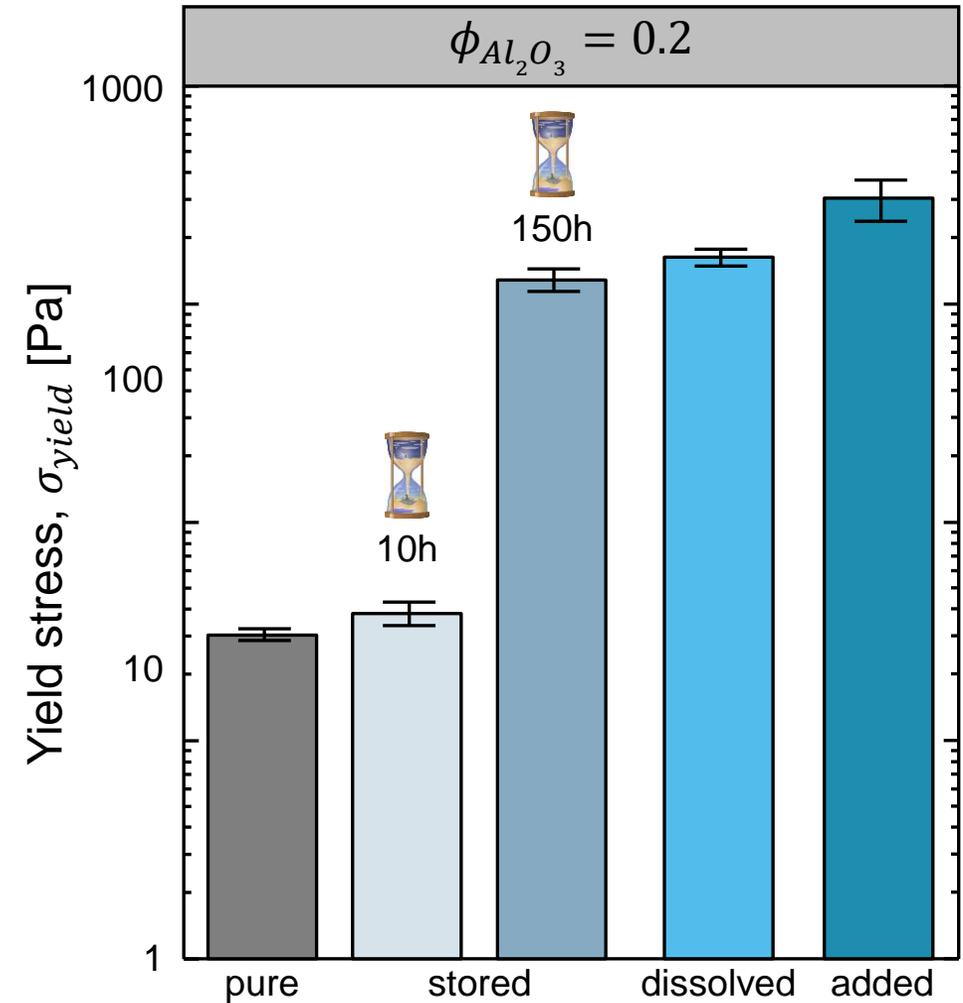
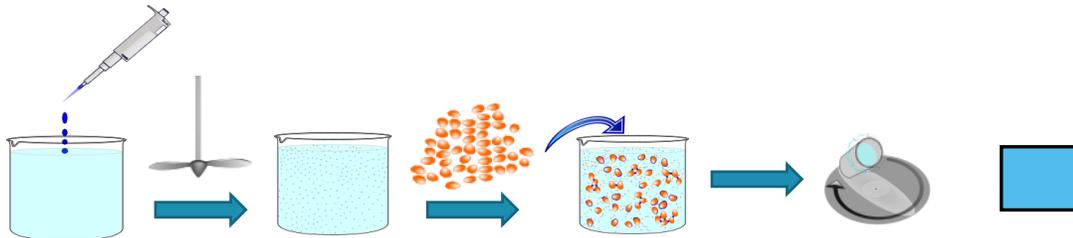
- Water addition:



- High humidity storage:

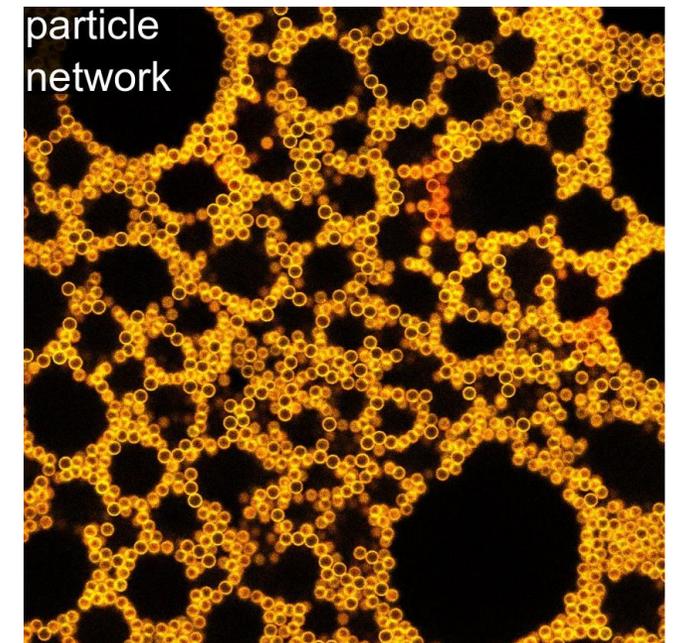
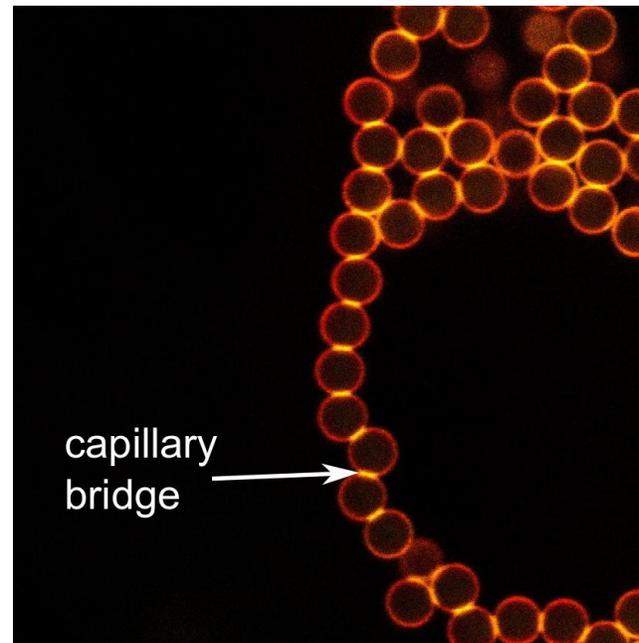


- Water dissolution:



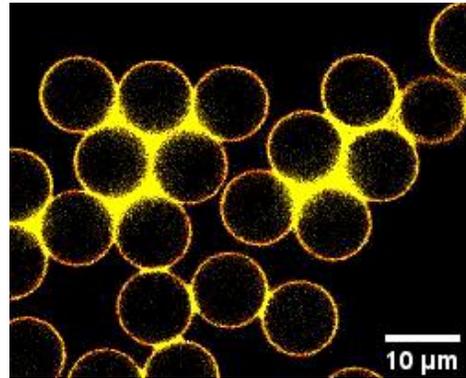
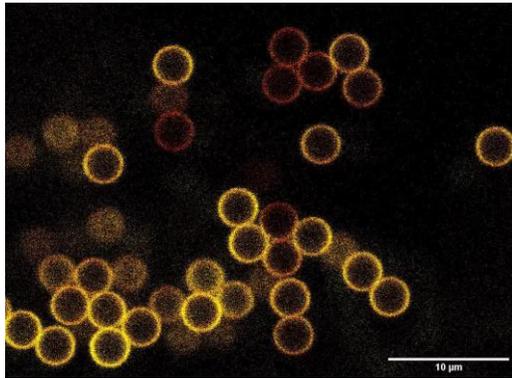
# Confocal image of a capillary suspension from solution

- Glass particles ( $\phi_{glass} = 0.05$ ) suspended in EtOH/dodecane
  - EtOH/dodecane are completely miscible at  $T > 14$  °C
  - Imaging carried out at 20 °C
- Separation occurs quickly after addition of particles
- Arrangement into bridged structures



# Partially miscible system

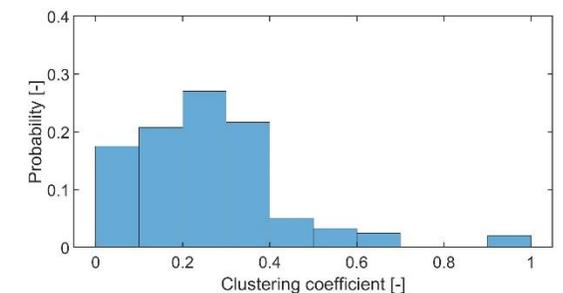
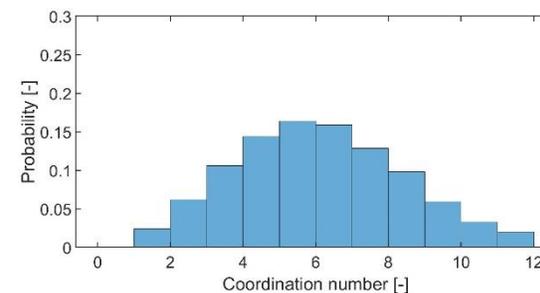
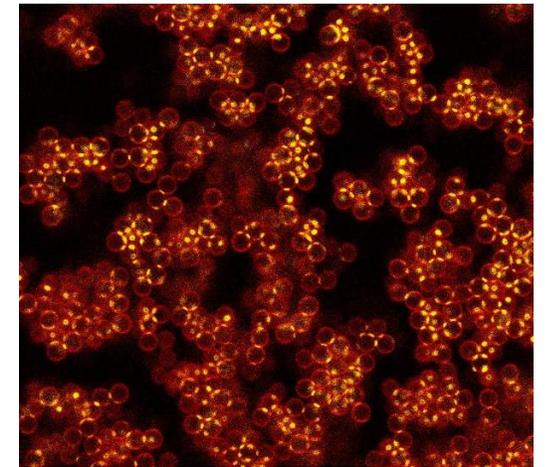
- Appearance/disappearance of the bridges



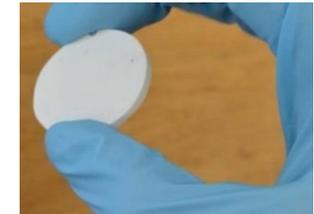
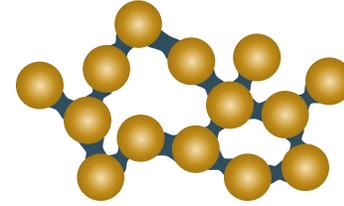
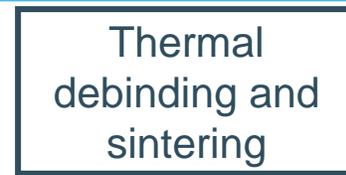
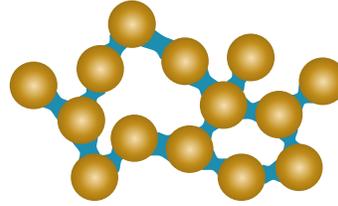
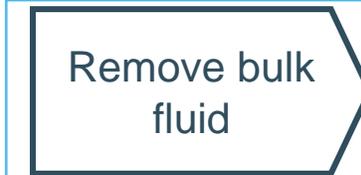
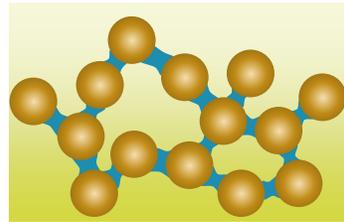
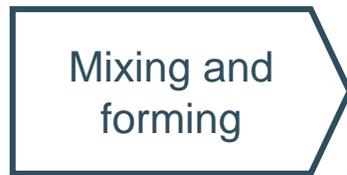
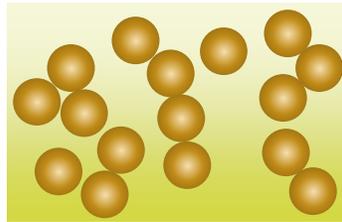
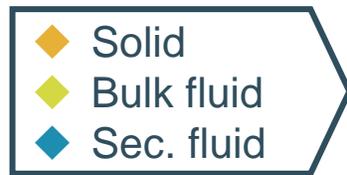
- Depends on environment
- Depends on local particle positions

- Structure can be more granular (sedimentation and then appearance of bridges)

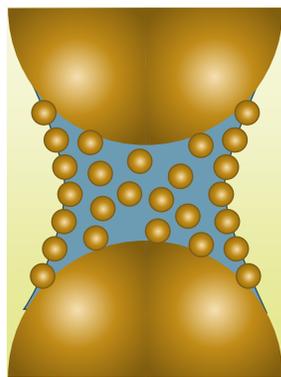
- Dodecane/ethanol (85/15)
- $z = 5.5 \pm 0.5$
- $c = 0.25 \pm 0.01$



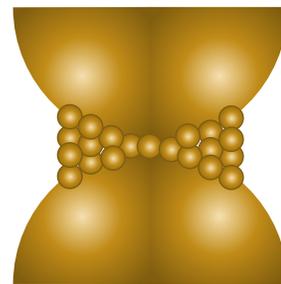
# Application 2: Porous materials



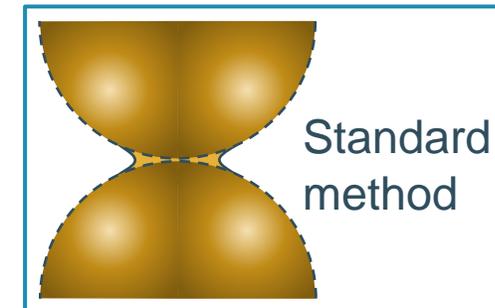
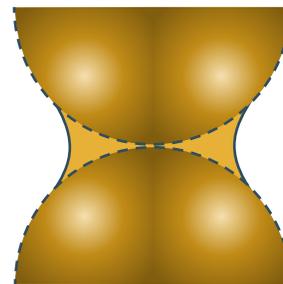
- Incorporate nanoparticles into bridging fluid



Dry

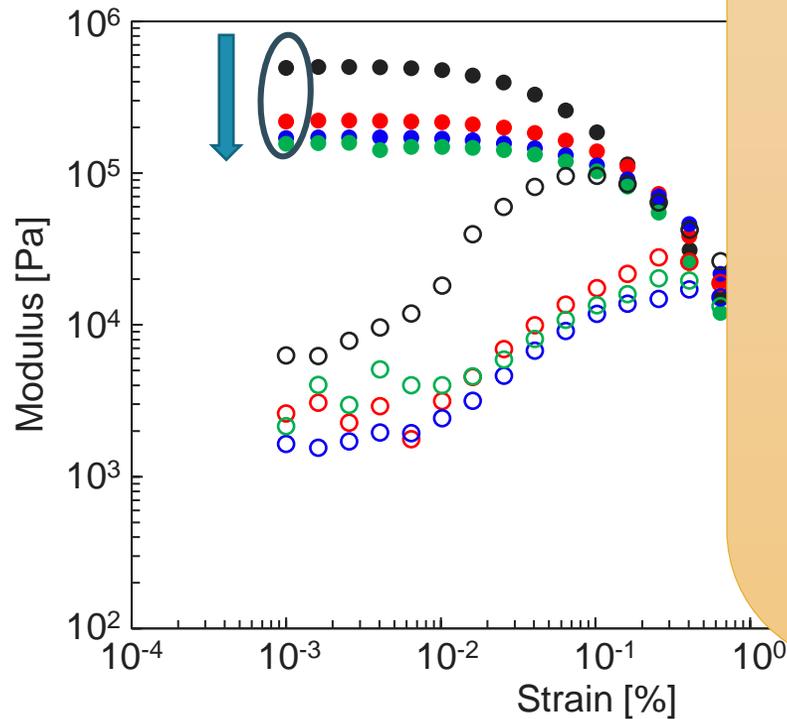


Sinter



# Nanoparticles incorporated into the bridges

- Lower  $G'$ , longer LVE with  $\phi_{NP}$  in bridges ( $\phi_{sec} = 1$ )



See poster of

Lingyue Liu



in contact angle

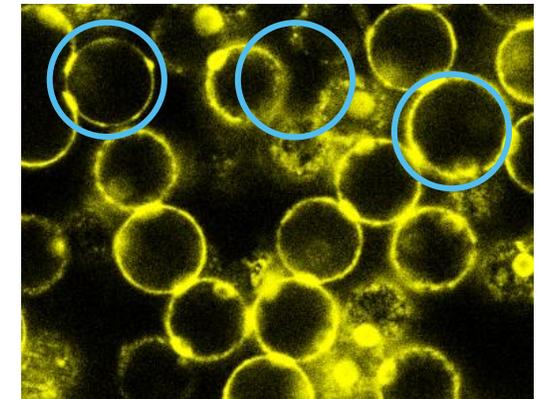
$\phi_{NP} = 15 \text{ vol\%}$



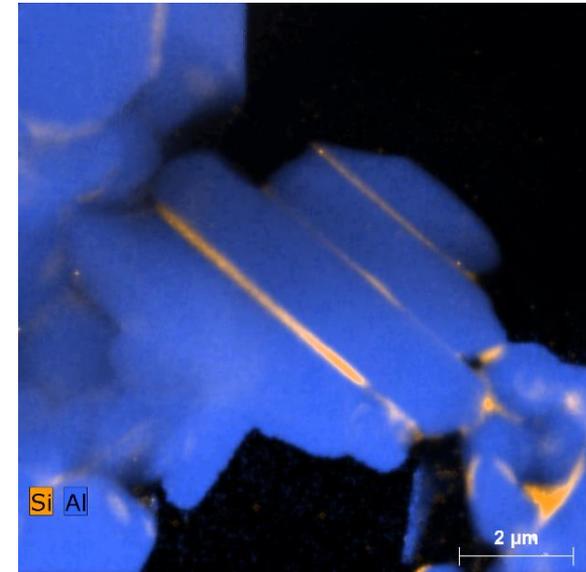
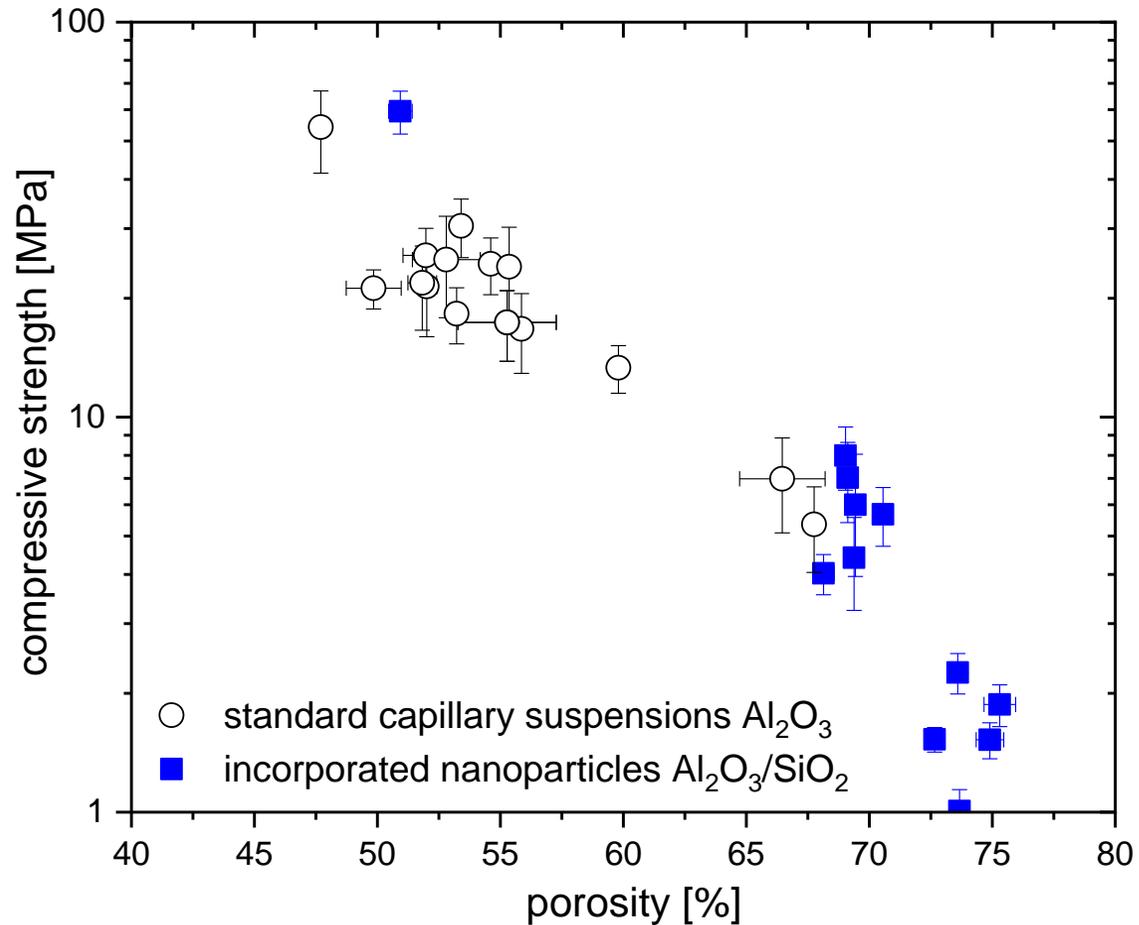
Bulk

wetting

$\phi_{NP} = 10 \text{ vol\%}$

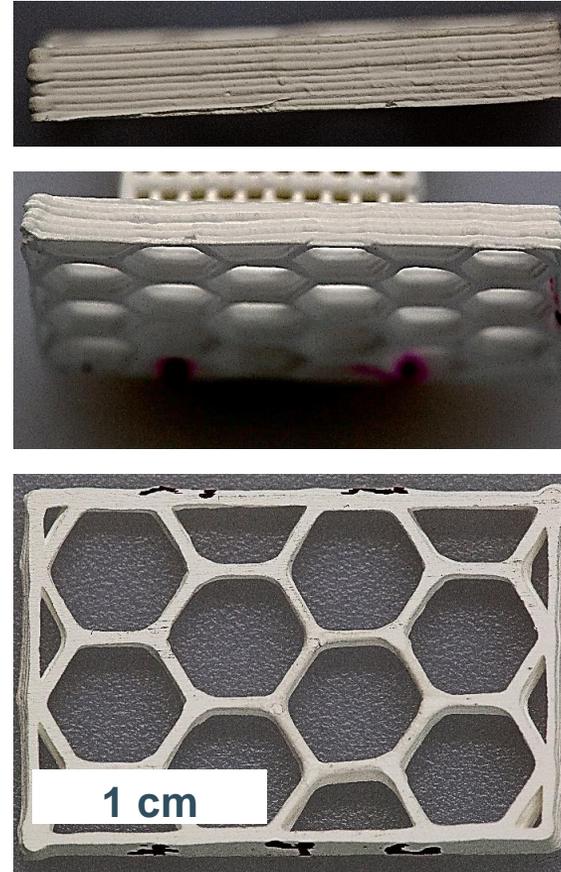
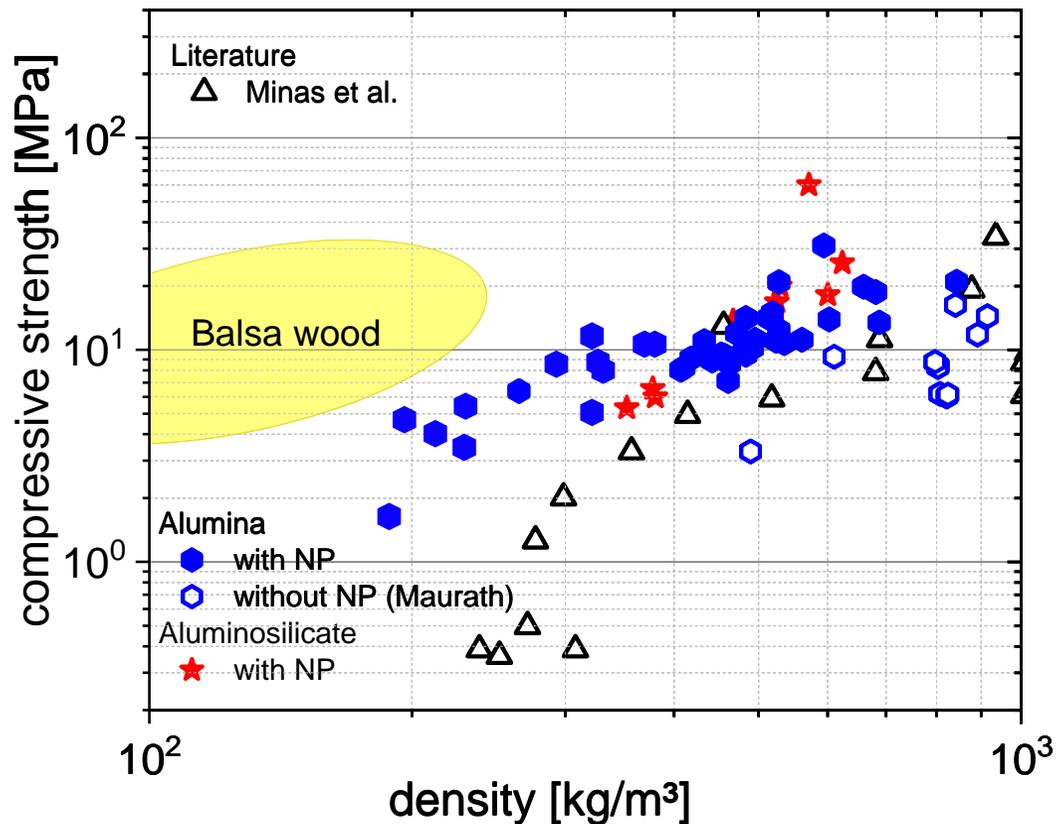


# Mechanical properties



- Nanoparticles concentrated in bridges
- Higher compressive strength
- Higher porosity range

# Pathway to lightweight materials



- Highest strength to weight ratio for macroporous ceramics
- Even works for aluminosilicate  $\rightarrow$  Strength determined by bridging

# Bone fractures



## Porous bone implants

- Bone healing more efficient
- Decrease morbidity and issues
- Reduced waiting time
- Scaffold will disappear with time

## Solid loading

- Tricalcium phosphate  
**Bioactive,  $(\text{Ca})^{2+}$ ,  $(\text{PO}_4)^{3-}$**
- OR
- Alumina  
**Biocompatible**

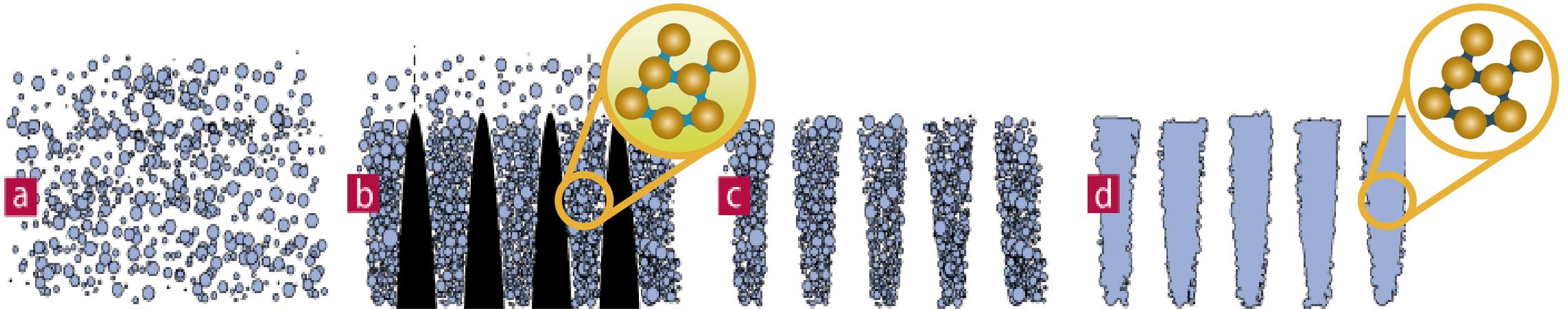
## Secondary fluid

- Sucrose solution  
**Strong network**
- OR
- Silica nano-suspension  
**Strong sintering necks**

## Bulk fluid

Camphene  
Melting  $T \approx 48 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$   
**→ perfect for freeze-casting**

# Hierarchical pore size



## Capillary suspension

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  + Secondary fluid + Bulk fluid

## Freeze-casting

Bulk fluid = camphene forms dendrites while solidifying

## Freeze drying

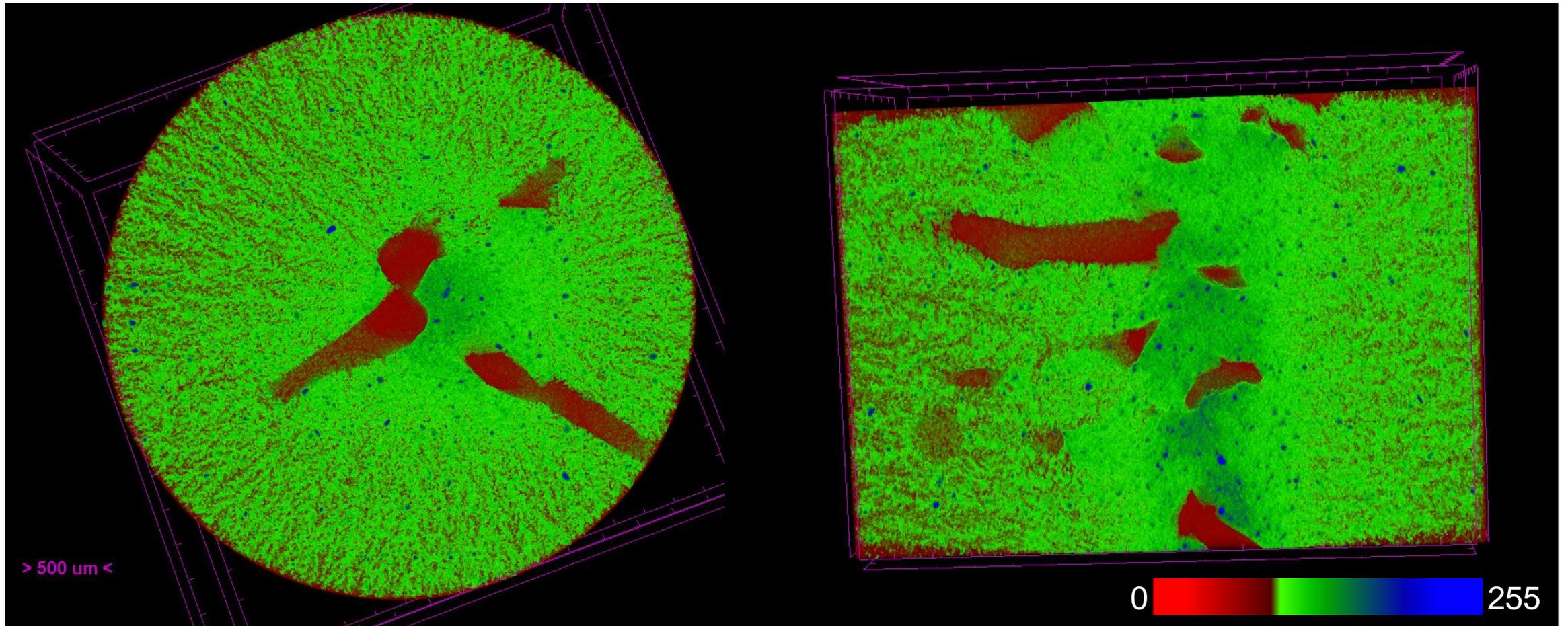
Removing of camphene

## Sintering

Dendrites → macroporosity

Expectation: porous body with interconnected pores of two sizes

# Resulting structures



# Computational modeling

## Connection between structure and rheology is hard to control in lab

- Influence of mixing conditions (distribution of bridge sizes)
- Feedback between external shear and network structure
  - Breaking of bridges and yielding of networks
  - Aging behavior
- Particle wetting and pinned contacts

→ Computational model

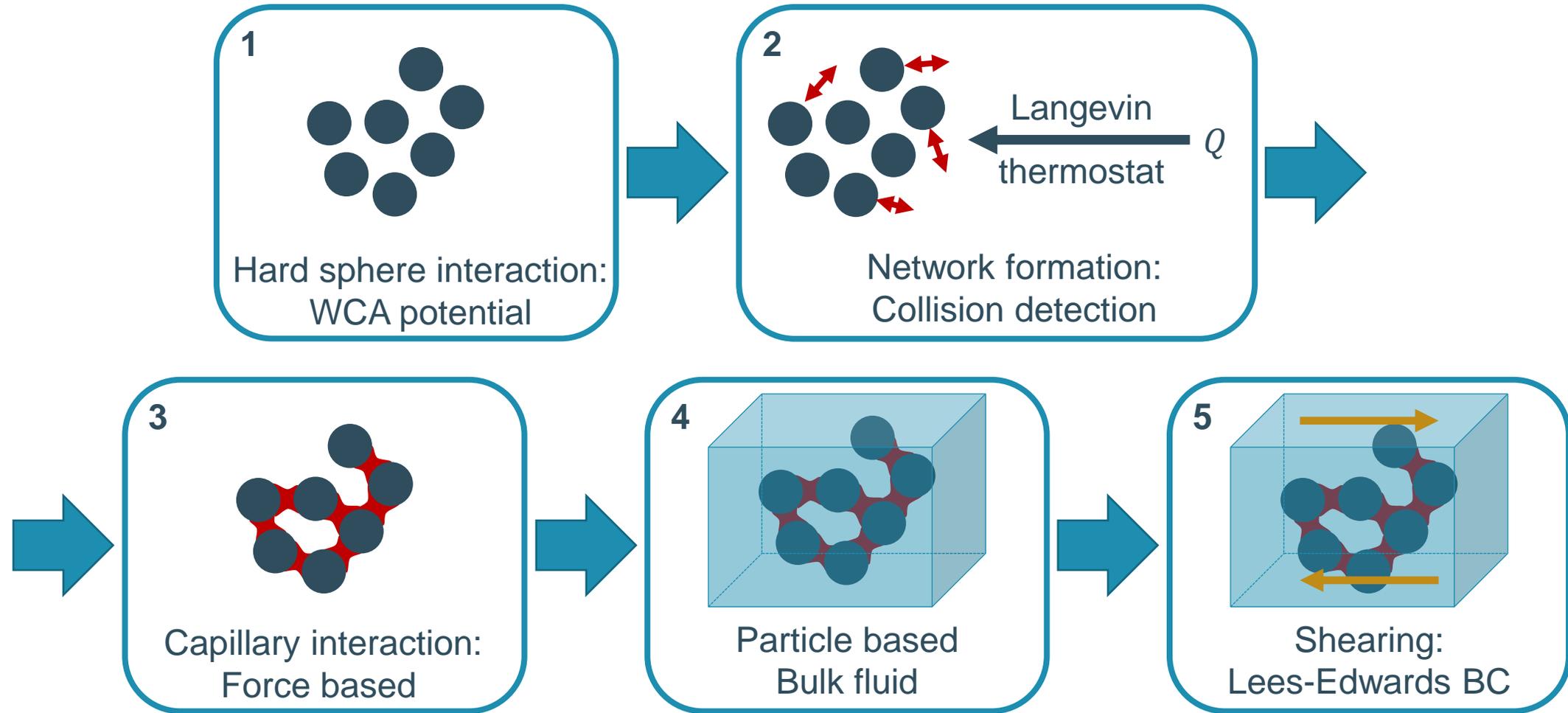


ESPResSo

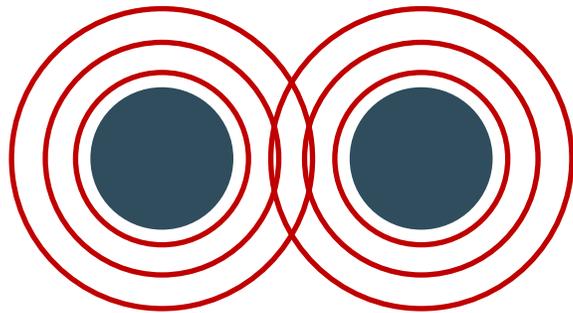
Extensible Simulation  
Package for Research of  
Soft matter

Arnold et al., *Lecture Notes in Computational Science and Engineering*, 89, 1 (2013); [espressomd.org](http://espressomd.org)

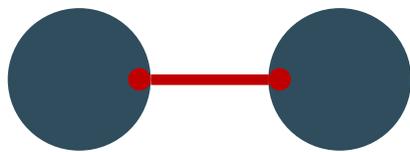
# Computational modeling strategy



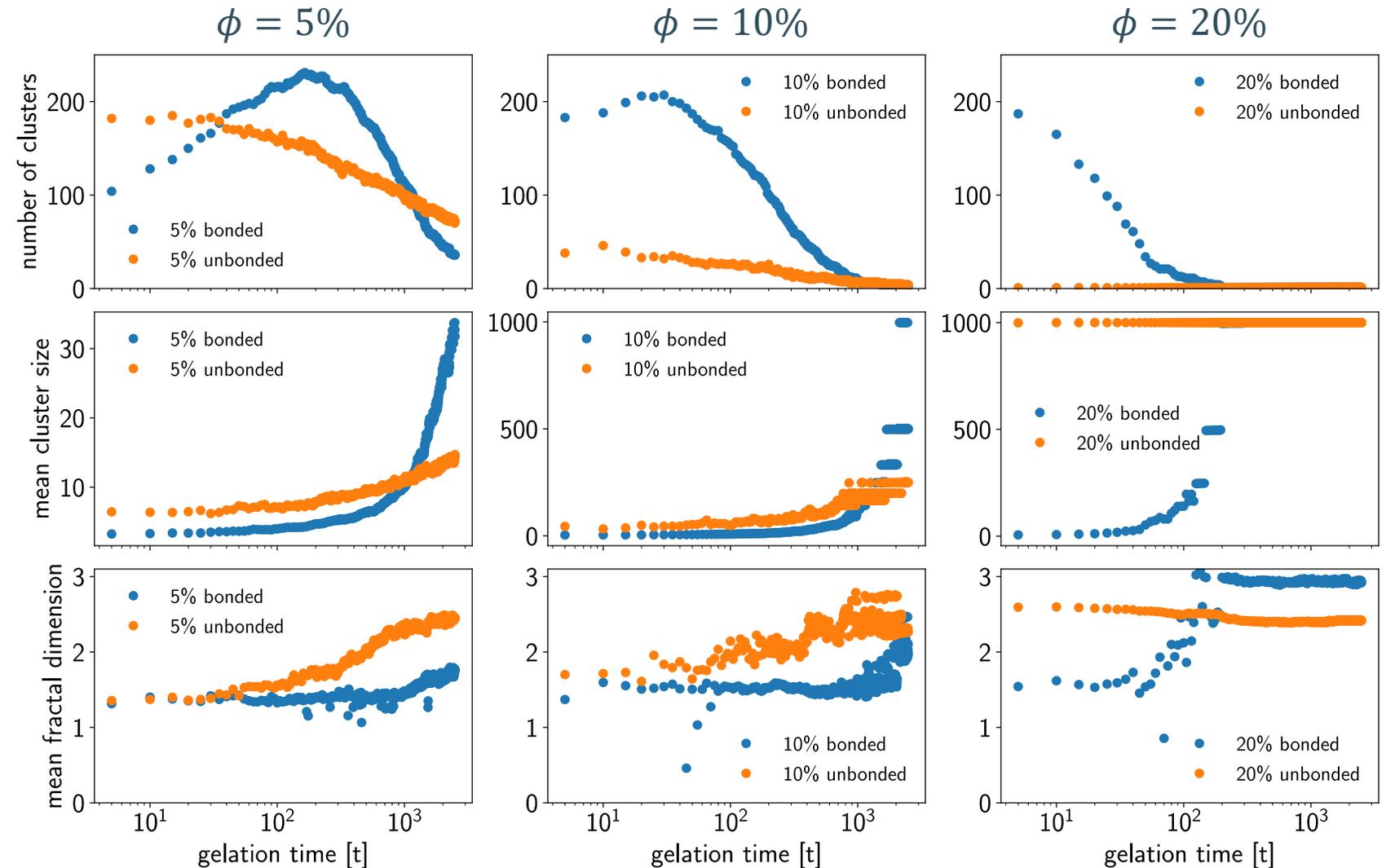
# Network formation



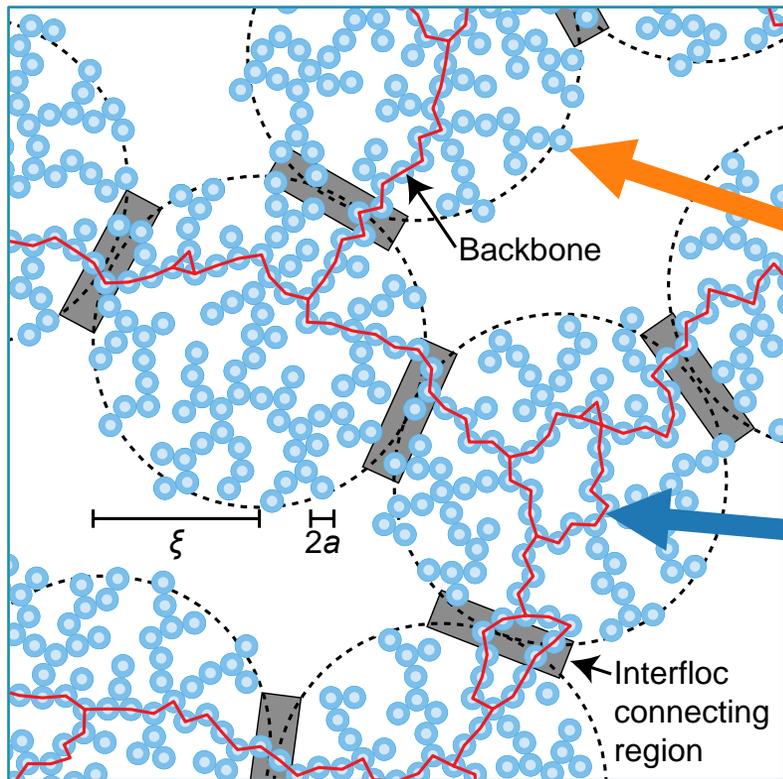
Conservative force field  
without explicit bonds  
→ Unbonded



Explicitly bonded  
→ Bonded

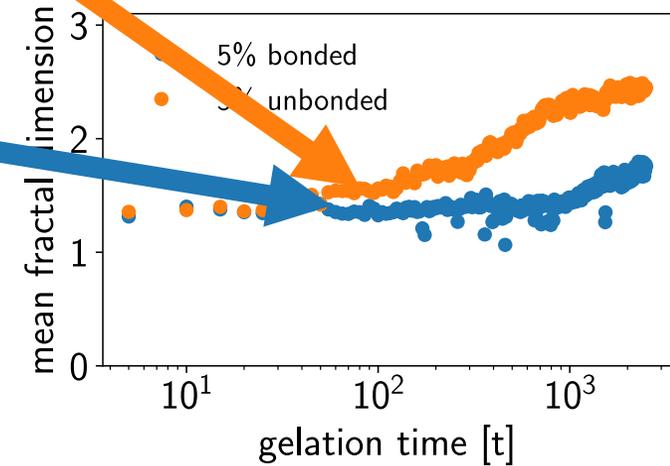
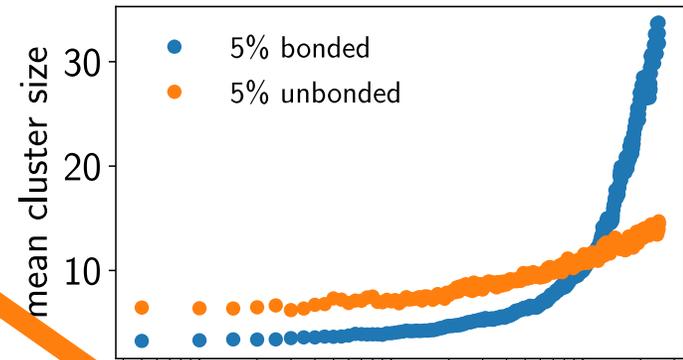
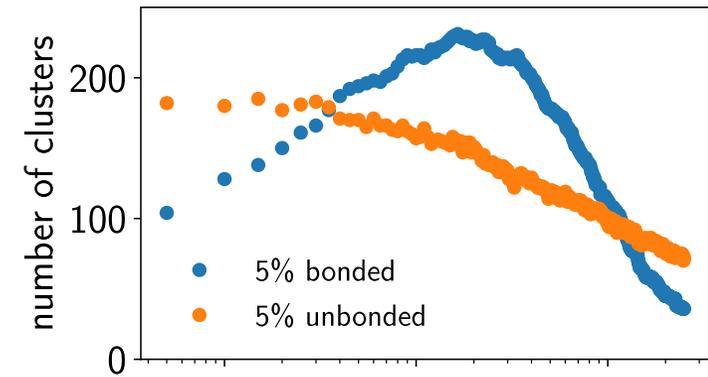


# Comparison with in-silico networks



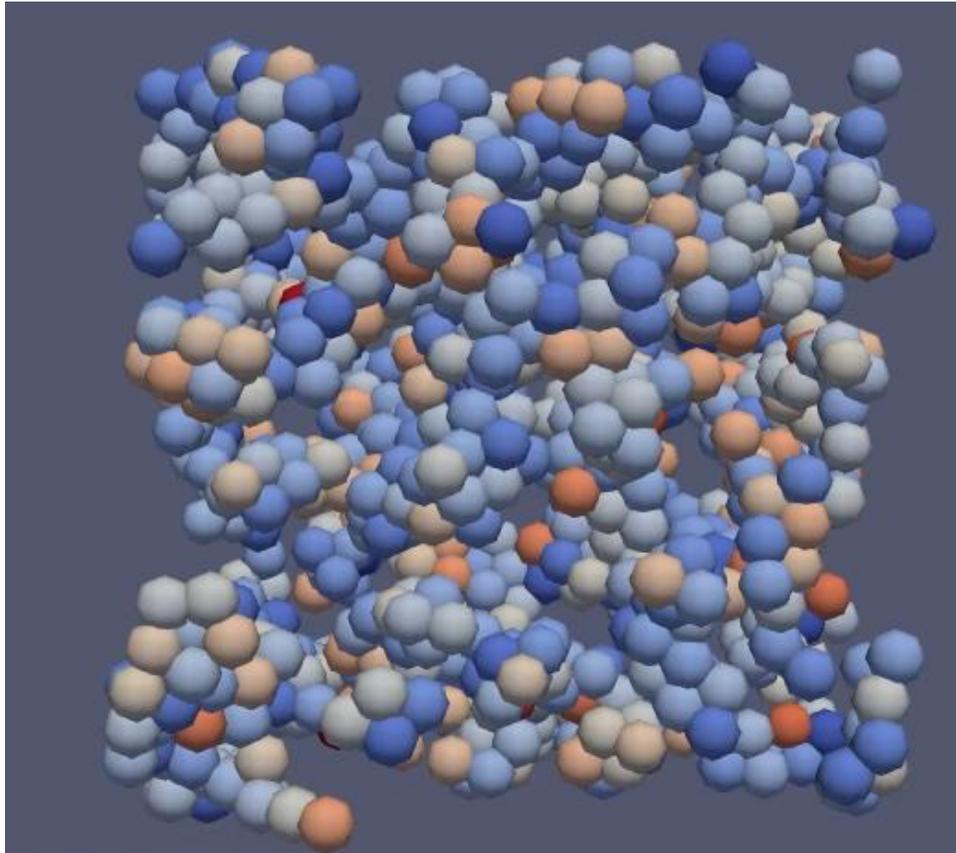
Fractal dimension of **flocs**

Fractal dimension of **backbone**



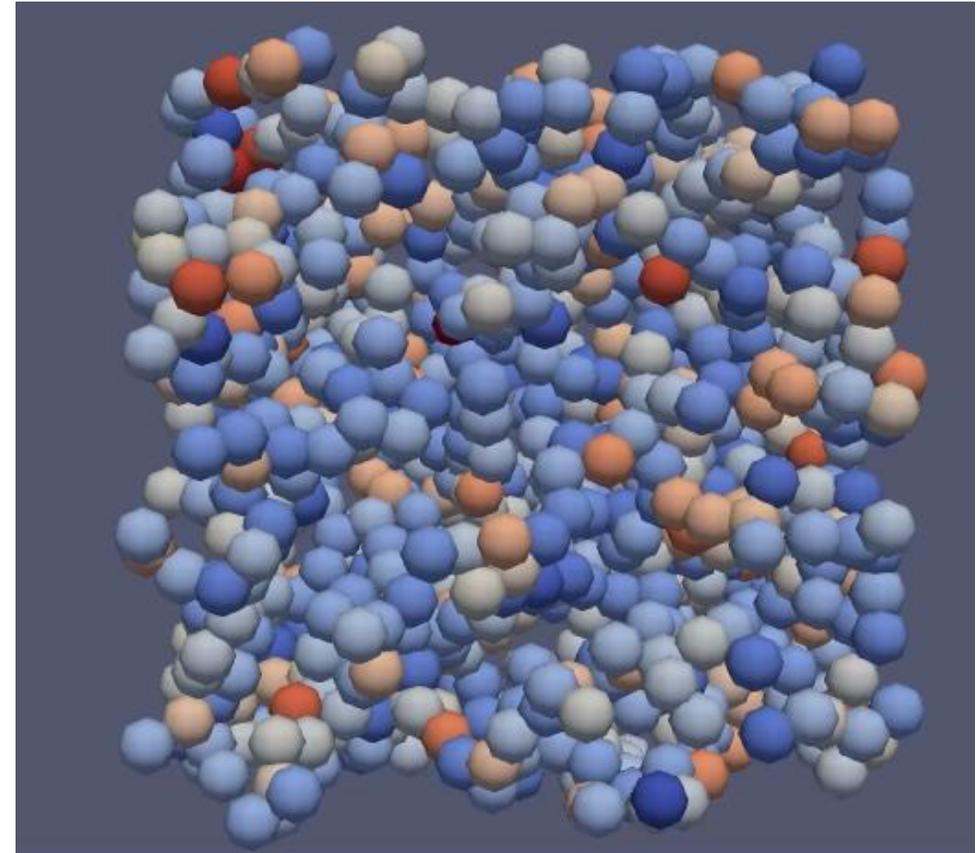
# Network structures

Conservative force field, unbonded



Dense, clustered structure  
Isolated clusters

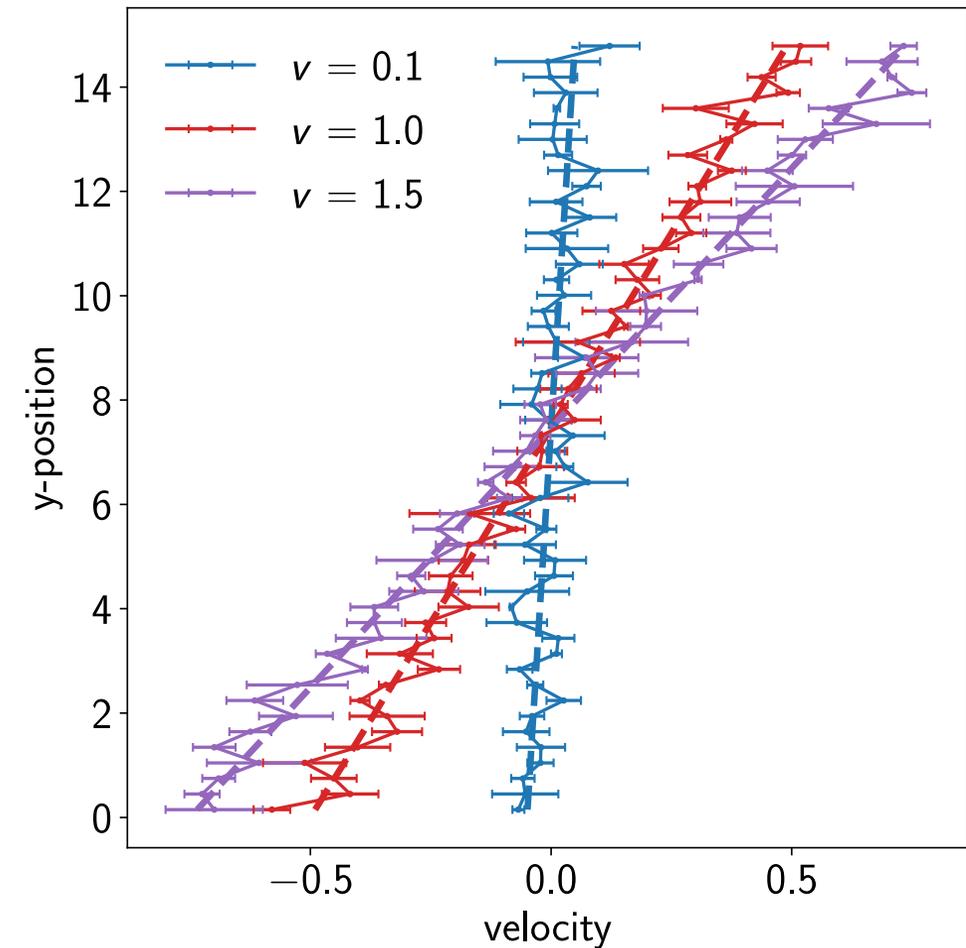
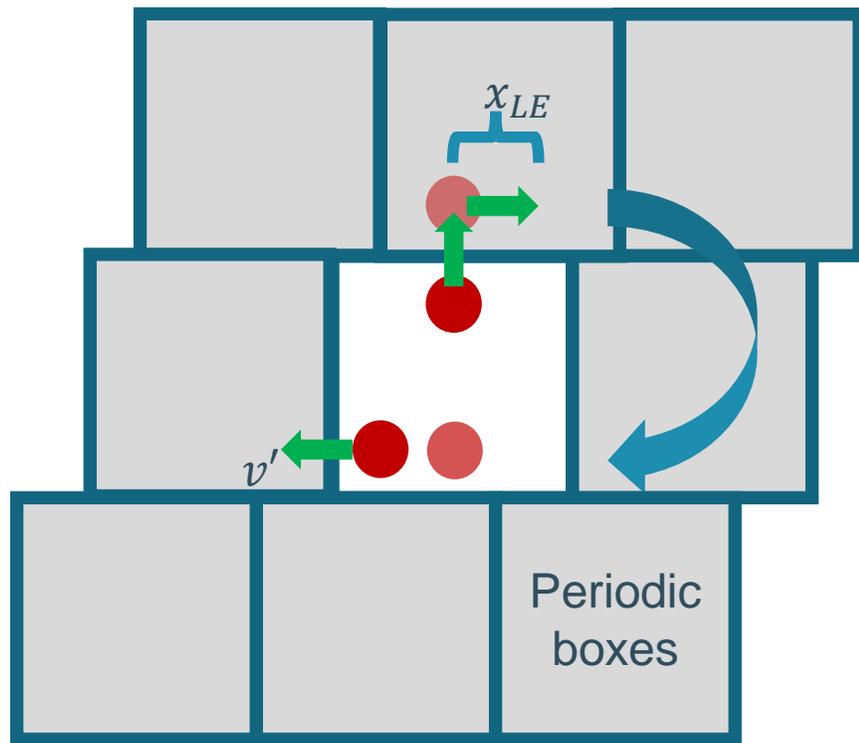
Rigid body dynamics, explicit bonds



lighter, sparser network  
Fully interconnected

# Introducing movement - Lees Edwards boundaries

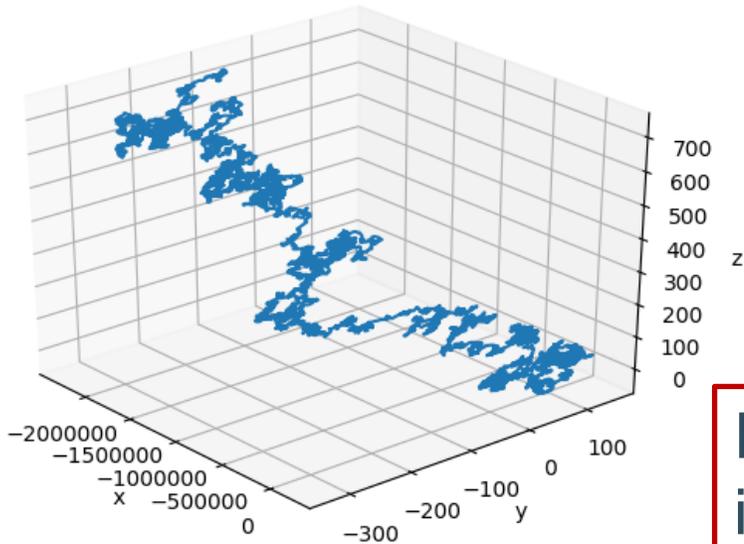
$$x_{LE} = v * t$$
$$v' = v_x + v_{LE}$$



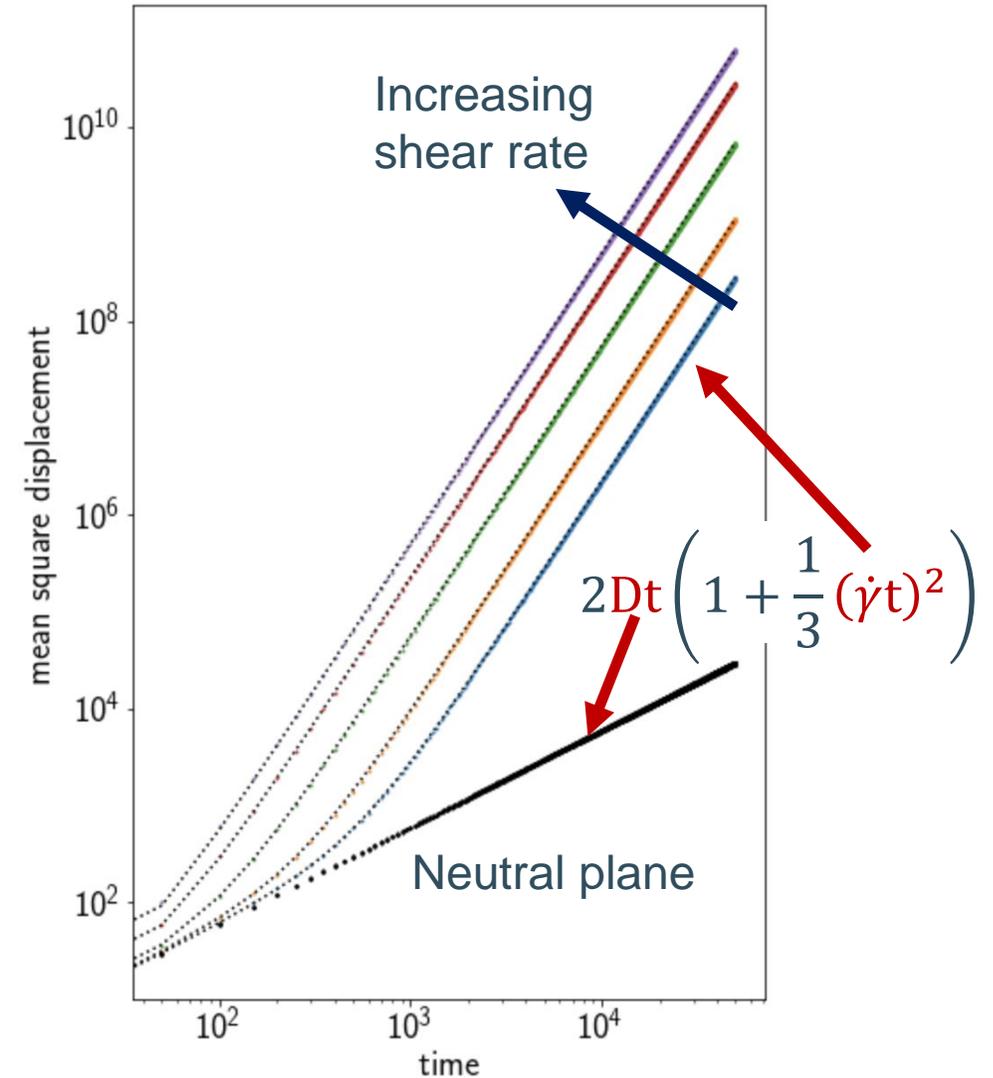
# The anomalous diffusion contribution to steady shear experiments

- Extra contribution due to shear gradient
 
$$\langle \Delta x(t)^2 \rangle = \langle (x(t) - x(0) - \dot{\gamma}y(0)t)^2 \rangle$$

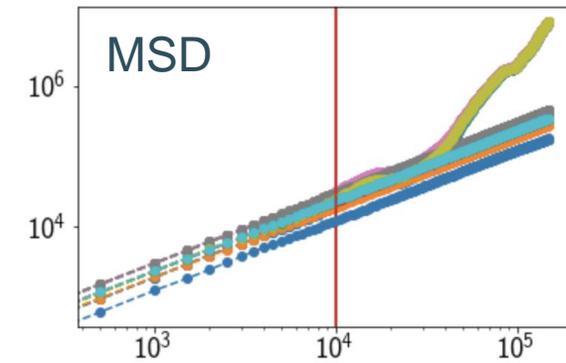
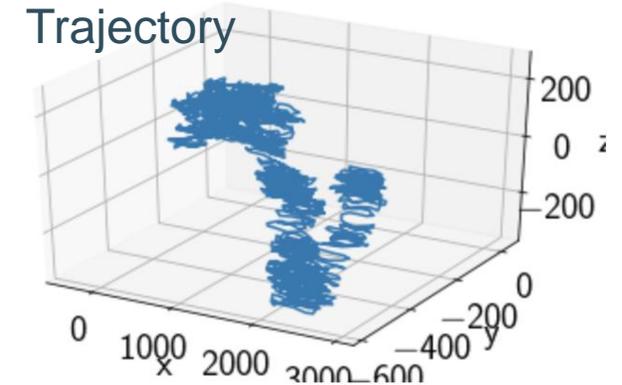
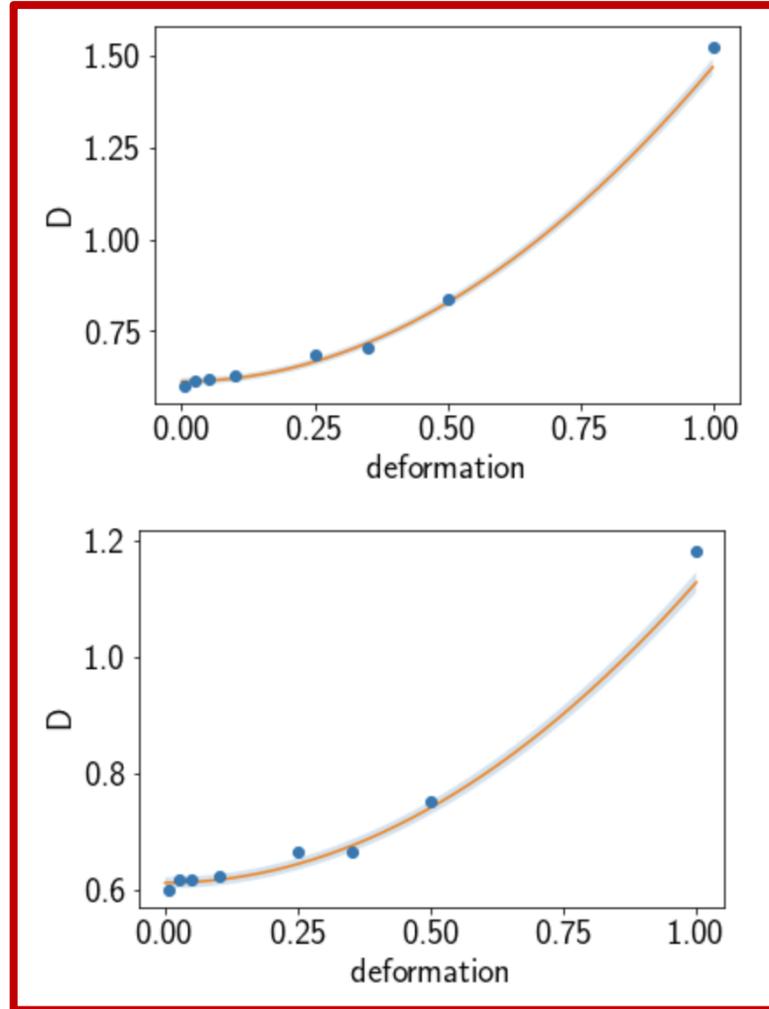
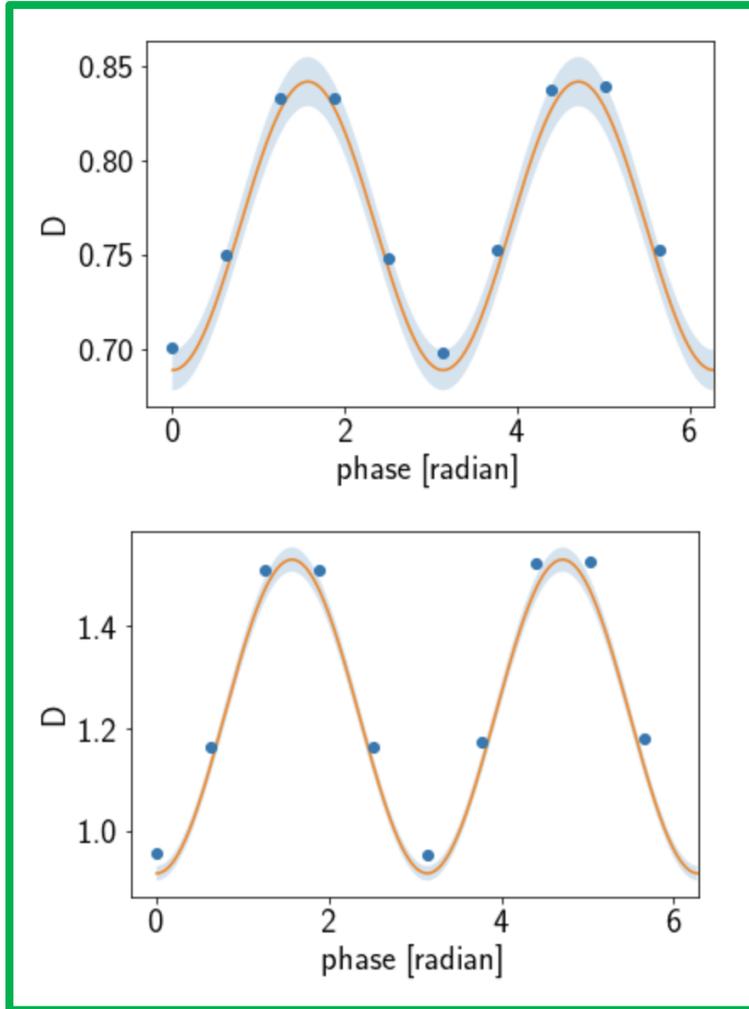
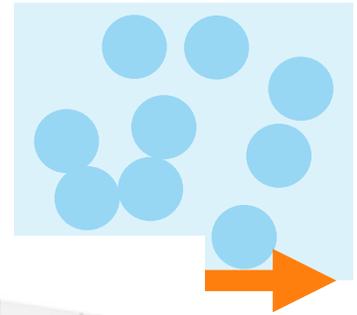
$$= 2Dt \left( 1 + \frac{1}{3} (\dot{\gamma}t)^2 \right)$$



Particle trajectory in infinite system



# Oscillatory shear $\gamma_0 = 100\%$ , $200\%$



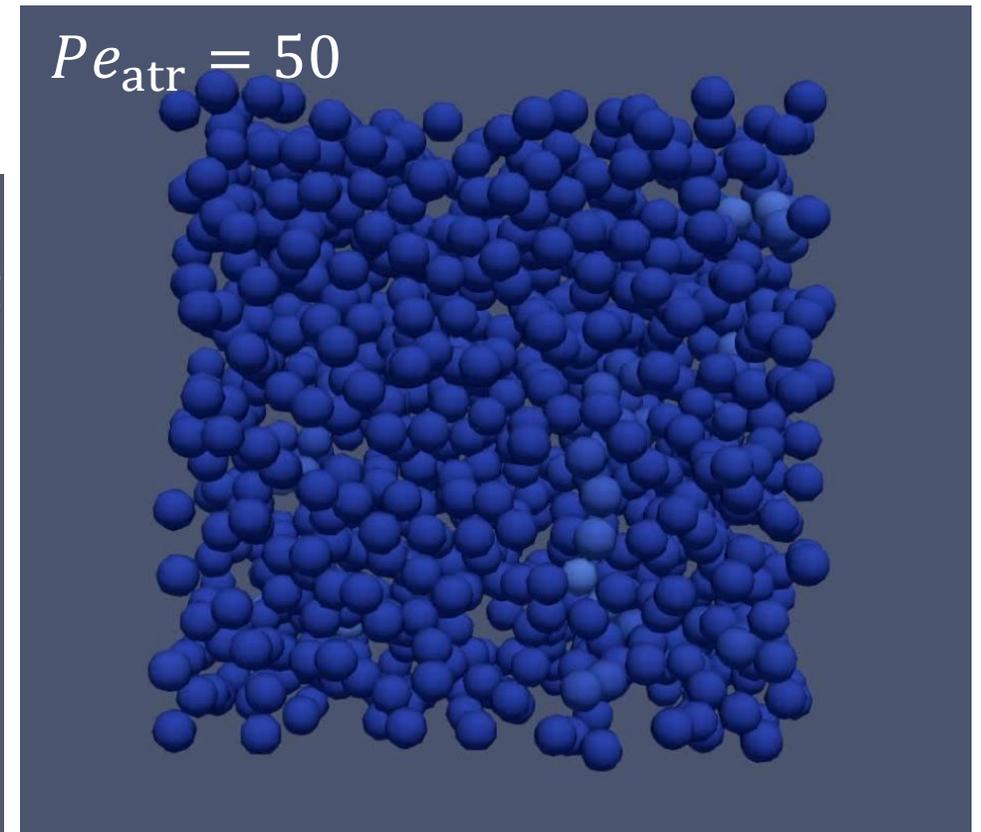
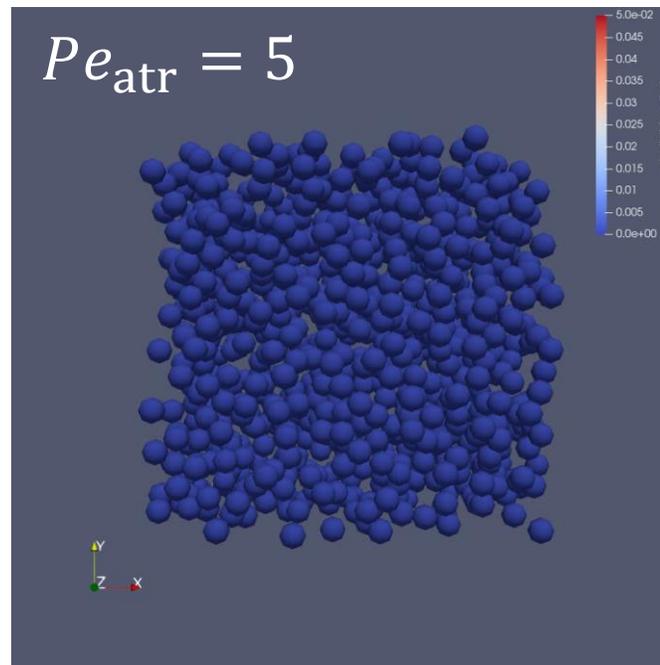
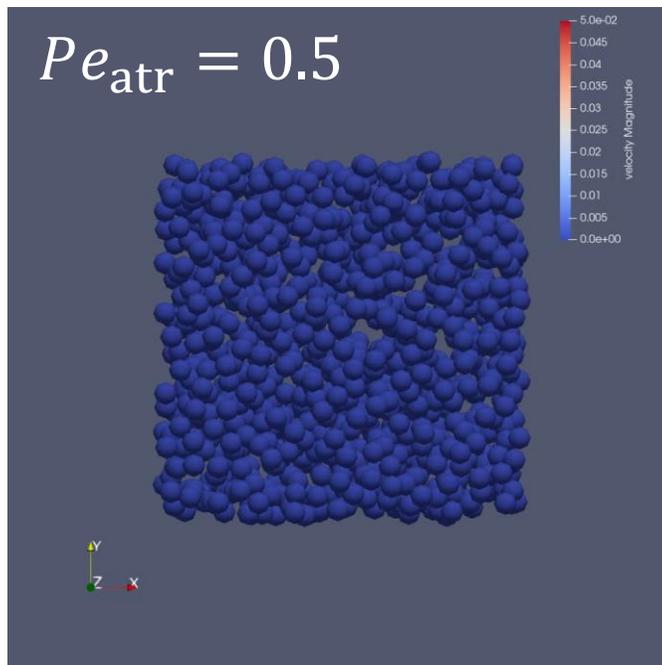
$$D \left[ 1 + \frac{\gamma_0^2}{2} (2 \sin^2 \Phi + 1) \right]$$

# Sheared network

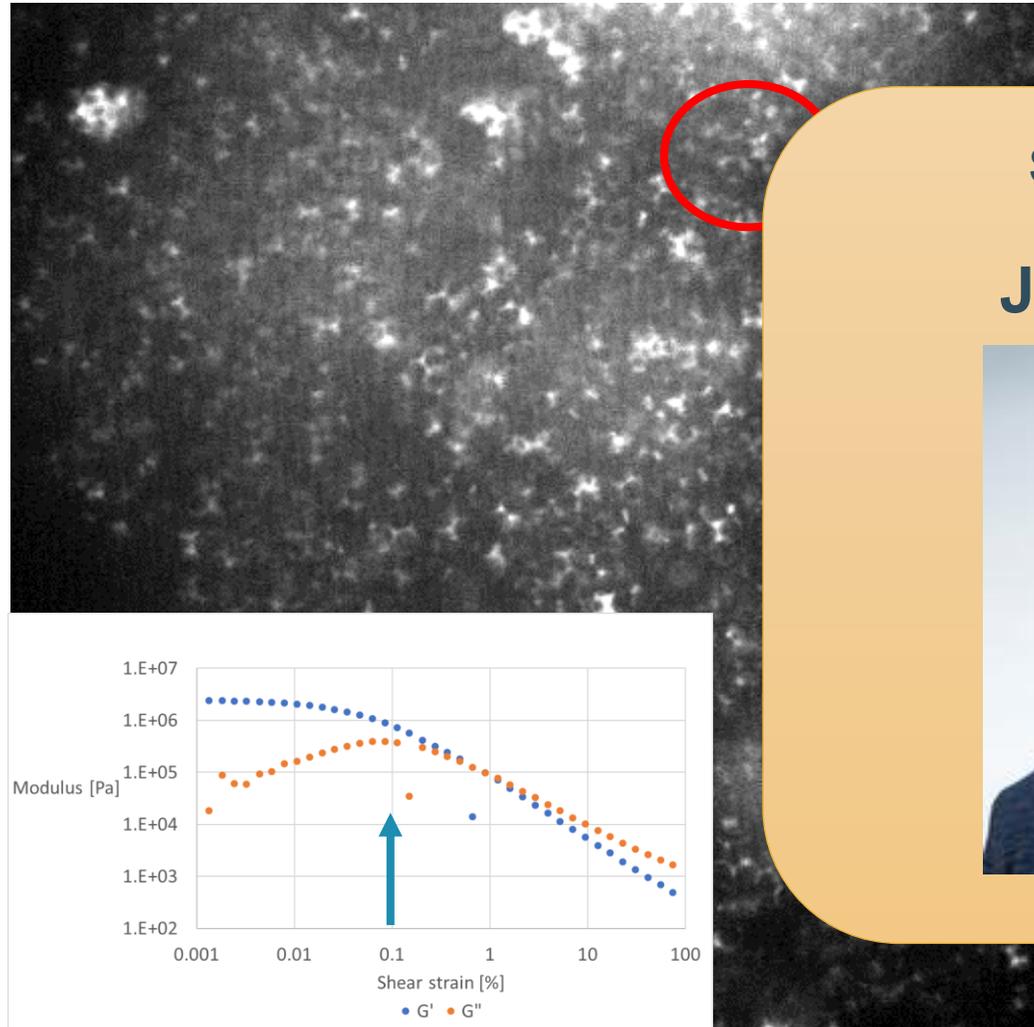
$$Pe_{\text{atr}} = \frac{12 \pi \zeta R^3 \dot{\gamma}}{U_{\text{atr}}(2R)}$$

Attraction range

Depth of potential  
at contact



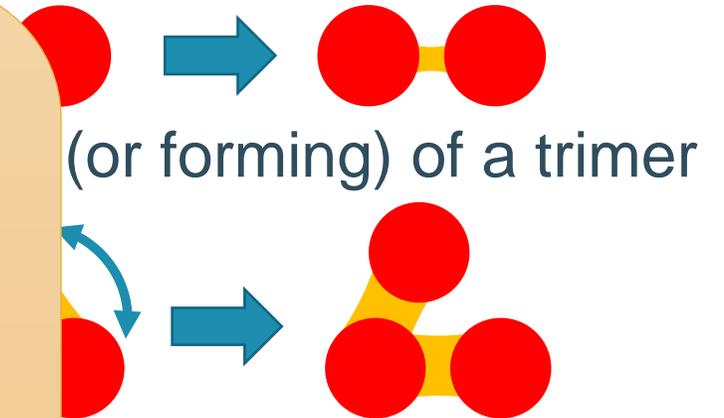
# Yielding mechanism



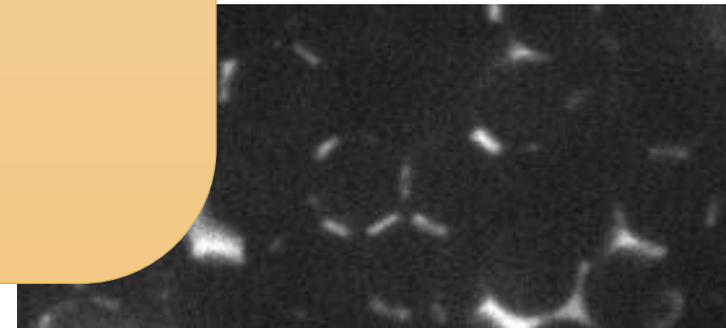
## 1. Bridge thinning and rupture

See poster of

**Jens Allard**



placement is not uniform!



# Conclusions

- Secondary liquid creates a capillary-driven attraction between particles
  - Dramatic change in material strength
  - Similarities and differences with colloidal networks and wet granular media
  - Promising area for computational modeling
- Strong sample-spanning network is useful for material design
  - Printed electronics with high conductivity and less cracking
  - Porous materials with high open porosity

# Thank you for your attention!