



Technische  
Universität  
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Leichtweiß-Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources

Illgraben, Switzerland (Source: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com))



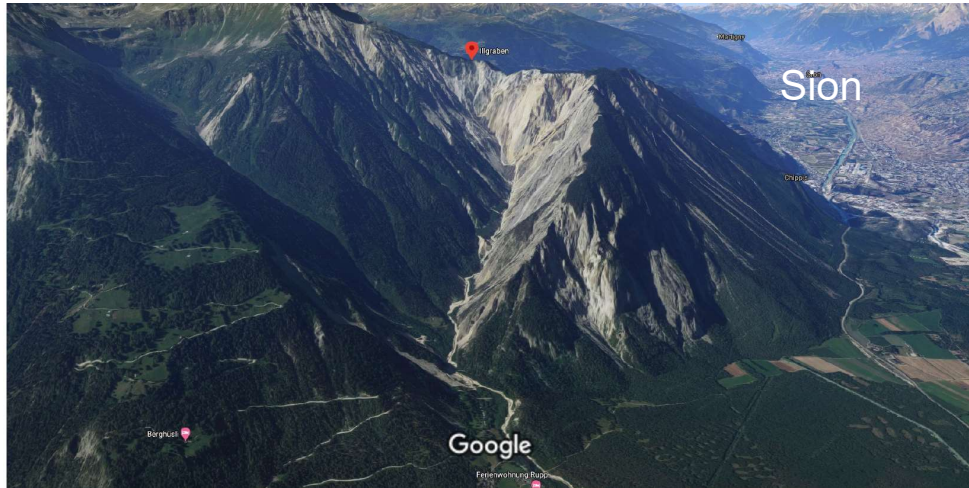
KITP Conference:

Atmospheres, Oceans, Earths -- Unifying perspectives on geophysical and environmental multiphase flows

## Rheology of sheared sediment beds: particle resolved simulations

02. November 2022 | Santa Barbara, USA | B. Vowinckel

# Example: Mudslides and debris flows



Illgraben, Switzerland



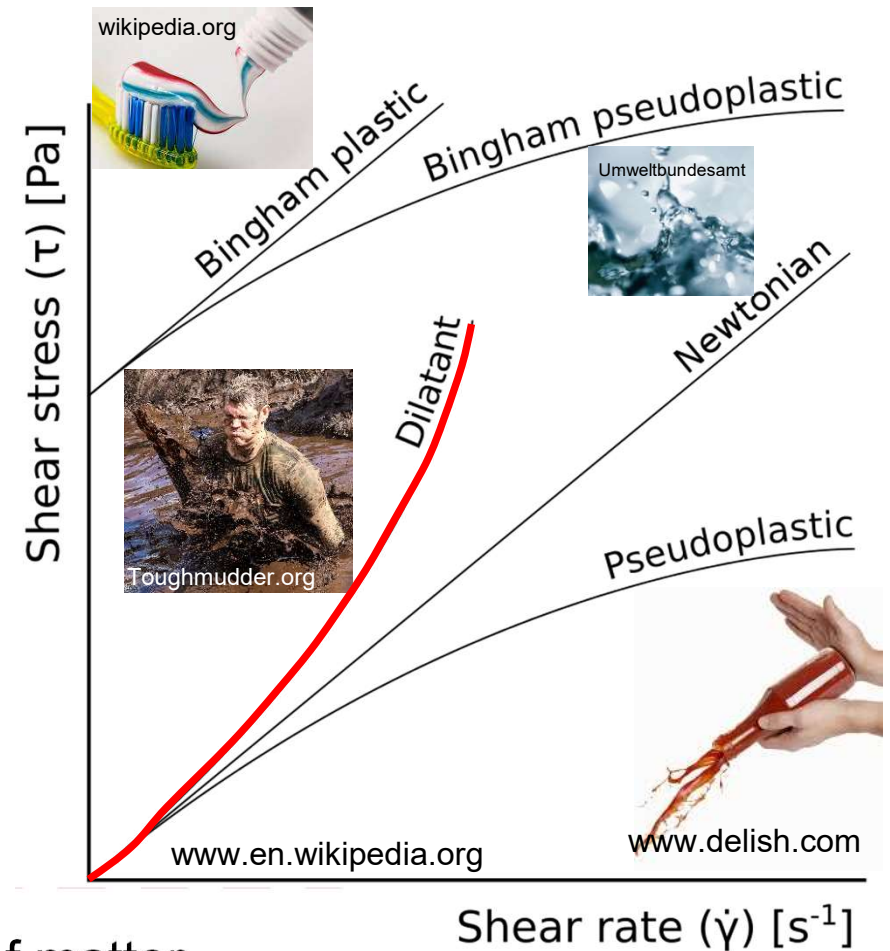
1. Triggered by high-intensity rainfall events
2. Mobilisation of large amounts of sediments
3. Risk will increase due to climate change

(cf. flooding in the Ahr valley, Germany, 2021)

# Shear thickening behavior



www.youtube.com  
River of flowing rocks at *Terrible Gully* (Canterbury, New Zealand) in 2018



→ Rheology: study of the flow and deformation of matter

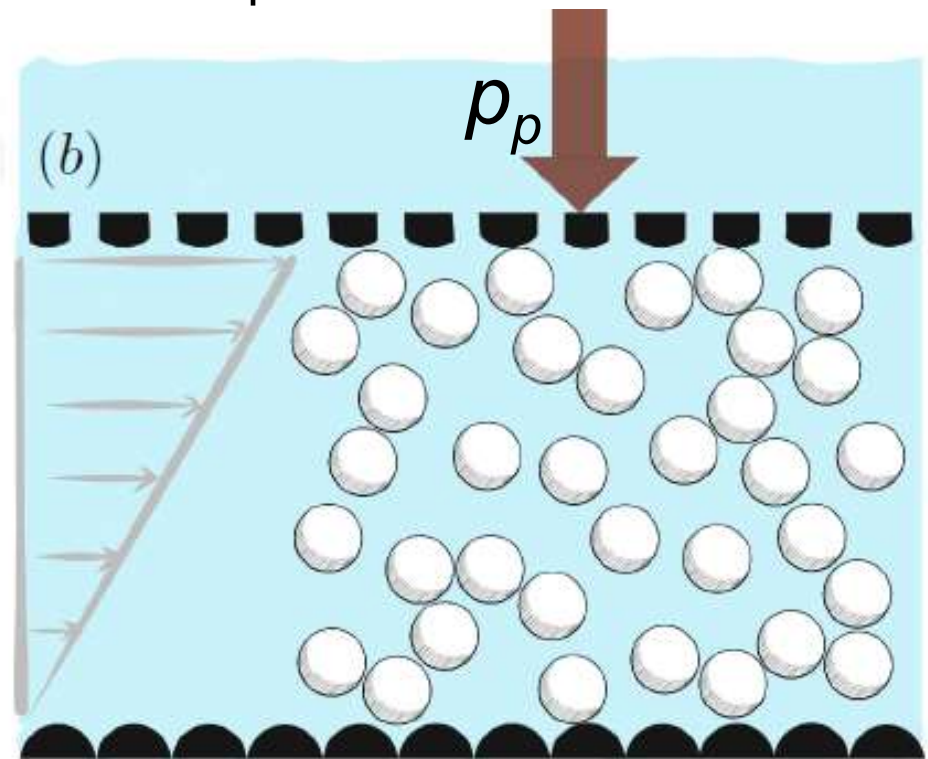
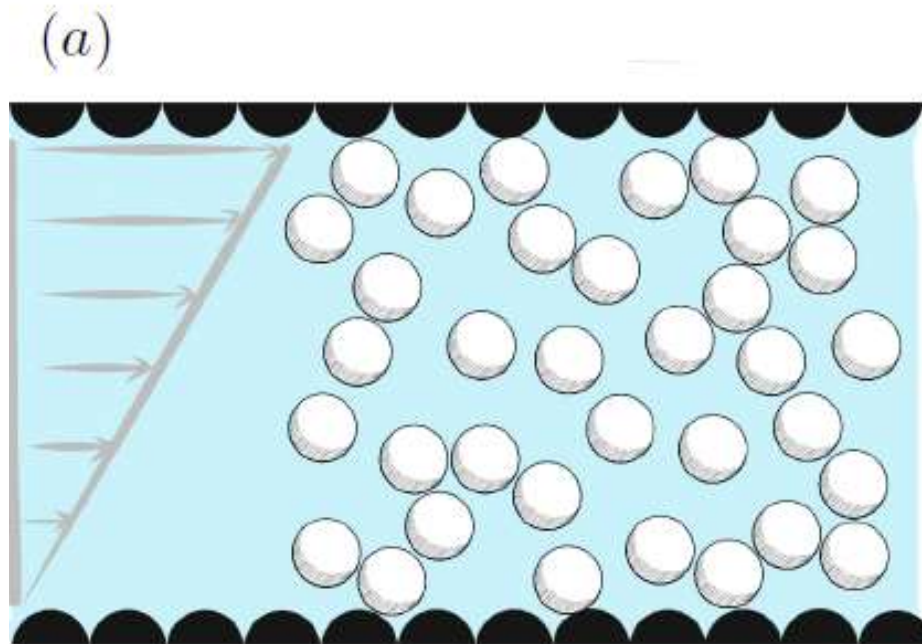
→ How does the sediment load alter the flow behavior of a river?

# Classical rheometry studies

Two constitutive model frameworks exist for neutrally buoyant particles:

Volume-imposed

Pressure-imposed



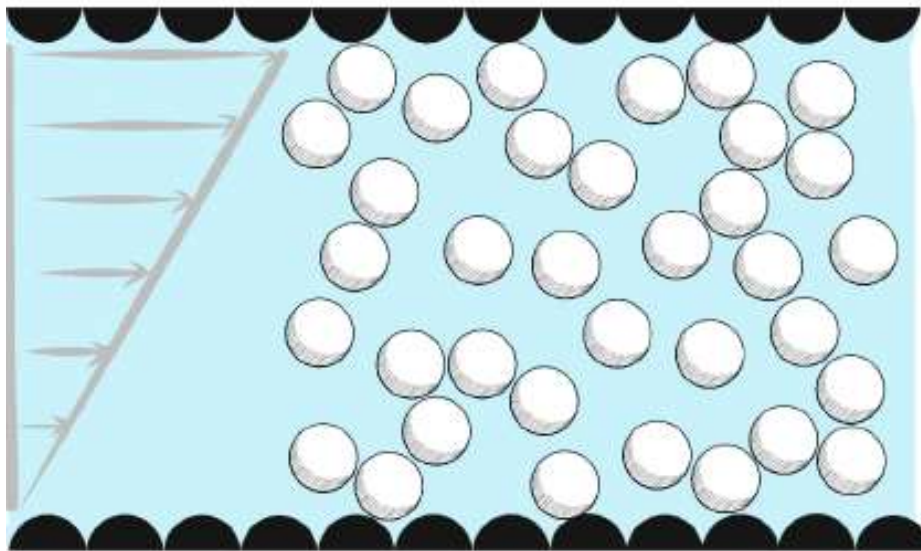
[Guazzelli & Pouliquen, JFM, 2018]

# Classical rheometry studies

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Volume-imposed

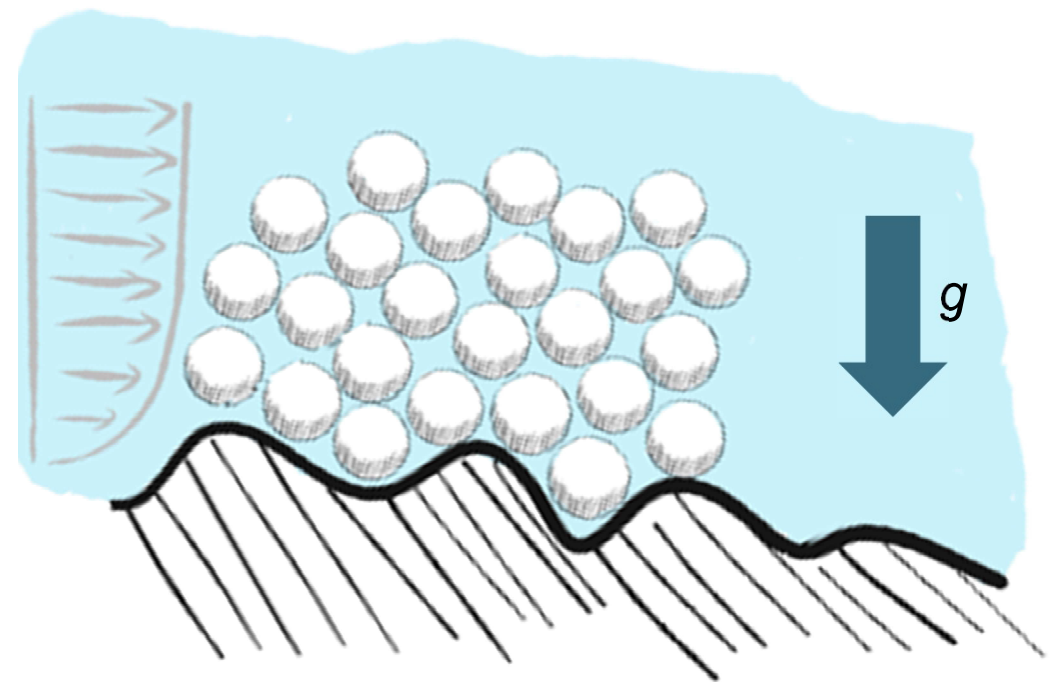
(a)



[Guazzelli & Pouliquen, JFM, 2018]

Pressure-imposed with sediment transport

$p_p$ ...submerged granular weight



# Rheology of a fluid/particle mixture

Two constitutive model frameworks exist:

Volume-imposed

Effective viscosity [Stickel and Powell, 2005]

$$\tau = \eta_s(\phi)\eta_f \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$
$$p_p = \eta_n(\phi)\eta_f \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

If we can directly measure:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}, \phi, \tau, p_p$$

Then we can use the above relations to calculate

$$\eta_s, \eta_n, J, \mu$$

Pressure-imposed

Macroscopic friction coefficient [Boyer et al. 2011]

$$\tau = \mu(J)p_p$$

$$\phi = \phi(J)$$

Where

$$J = \frac{\eta_f \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}}{p_p}$$

→ Non-dimensional flow curve

$\tau$ ...	total shear stress
$p_p$ ...	granular pressure (weight)
$\eta_s$ ...	shear viscosity
$\eta_n$ ...	normal viscosity
$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$ ...	fluid shear rate
$\phi$ ...	particle volume fraction
$J$ ...	non-dimensional shear-rate
$\mu$ ...	macroscopic friction

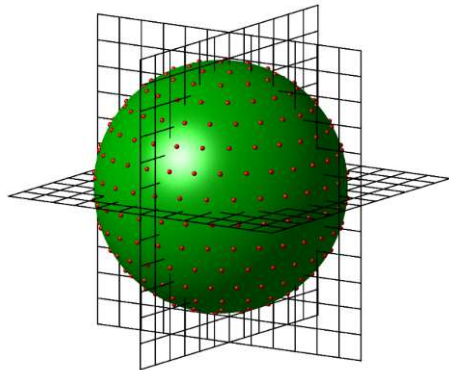
# Euler-Lagrange particle flows

## Basic Fluid Solver

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}) + \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p = \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{f}_{drag}$$

Fully-resolved [Uhlmann, 2005]

→ Particle larger than grid cell size



Lagrangian mesh (red markers) and  
Eulerian mesh (black lines)

## Immersed Boundary Method (IBM)

$$m_p \frac{d\mathbf{u}_p}{dt} = \underbrace{\mathbf{F}_h}_{\text{Hydrodynamic forces}} + \underbrace{(\rho_p - \rho_f)V_p \mathbf{g}}_{\text{buoyancy}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{F}_c}_{\text{Collision/contact}}$$

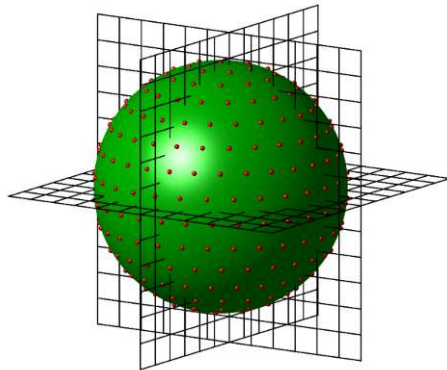
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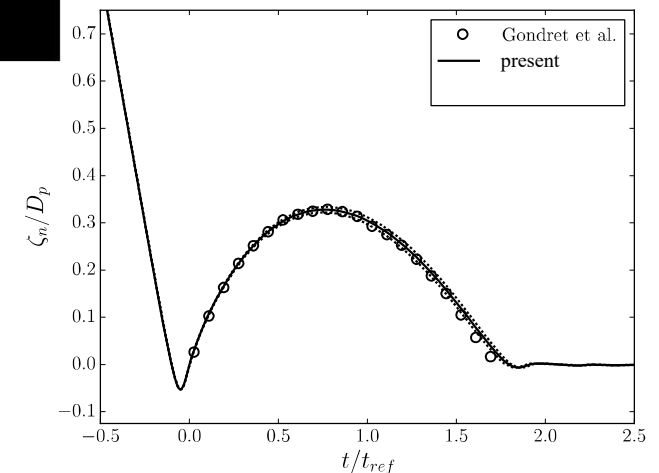
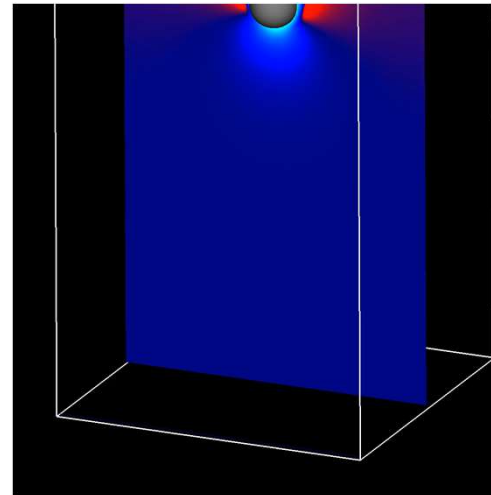
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## Collision model for non-cohesive sediment

[Biegert, Vowinckel & Meiburg, JCP, 2017]

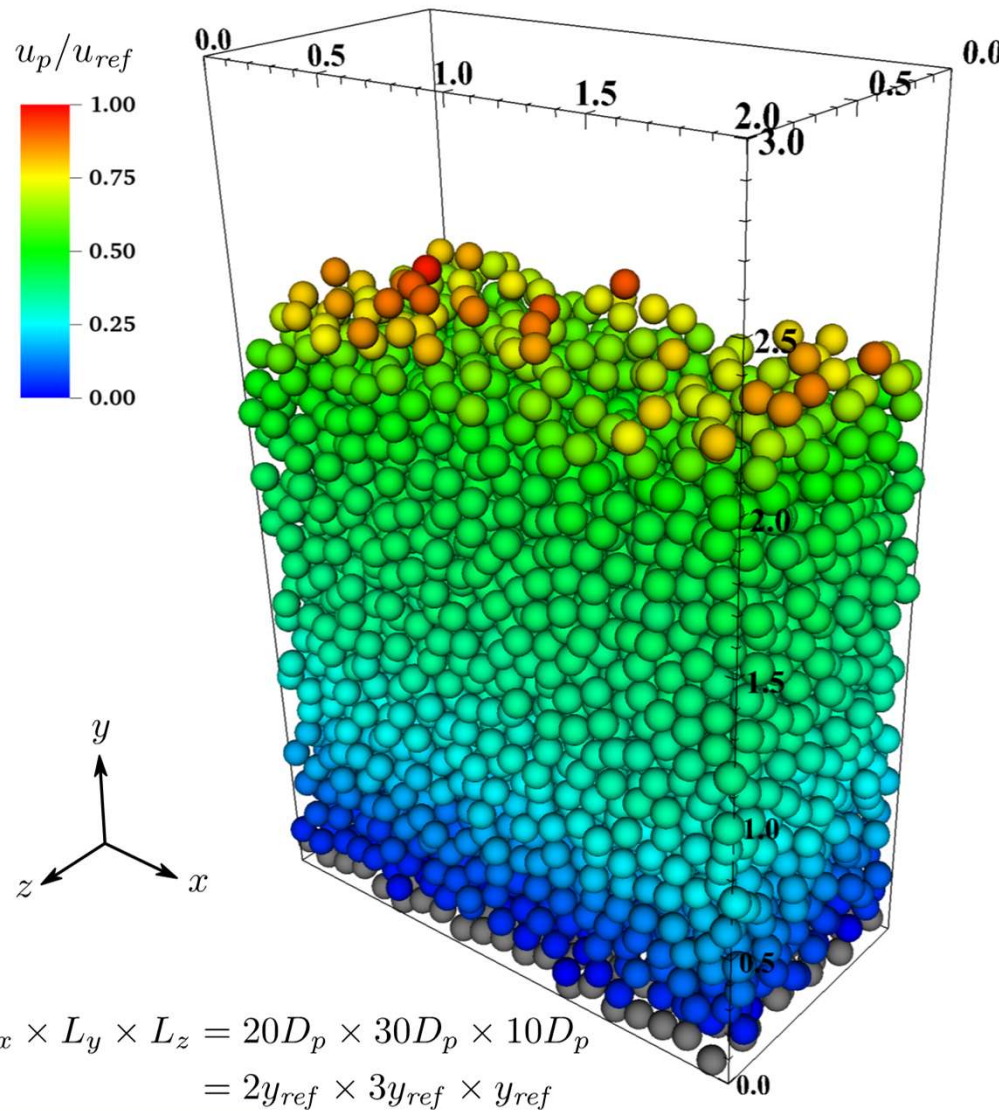
→ Excellent agreement with experiments





# Simulation setup

[Vowinckel et al., JFM, 2022]



Number of particles: 4339

Galileo number  $Ga = v_f^{-1} \sqrt{\rho' g D_p^3}$ : 0.85

$\rho_p / \rho_f$ : 2.1

$D_p / \Delta x$ : 25.6

Initial  $h_f / D_p$ : 10

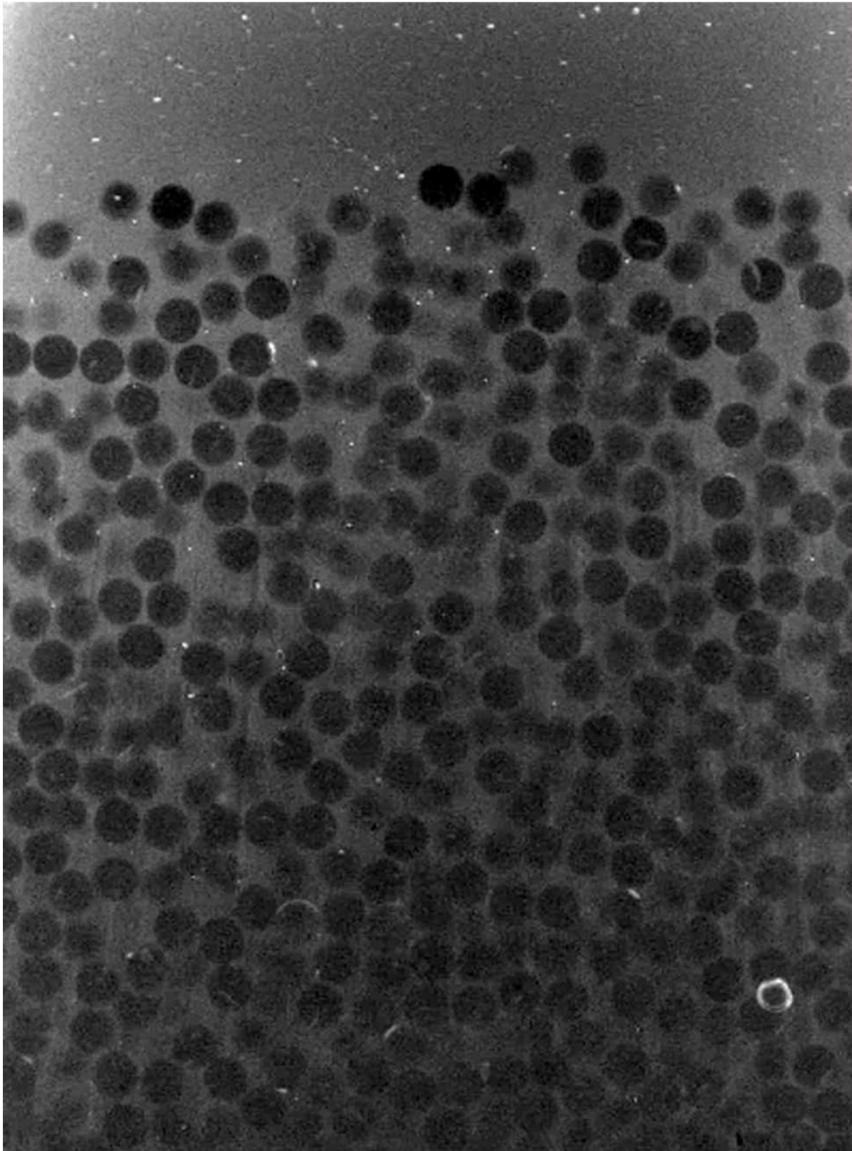
Boundary conditions:

→ periodic (x); no-slip (y); periodic (z)

Similar to experimental setup of

Aussillous et al. [*JFM* 2013]

# Experiments by Aussillous et al. (JFM, 2013)



Brinkman equation:

$$\frac{\partial p^f}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial \tau^f}{\partial z} + \frac{\eta}{K}(U - u^p) = 0$$

Momentum equation for the mixture

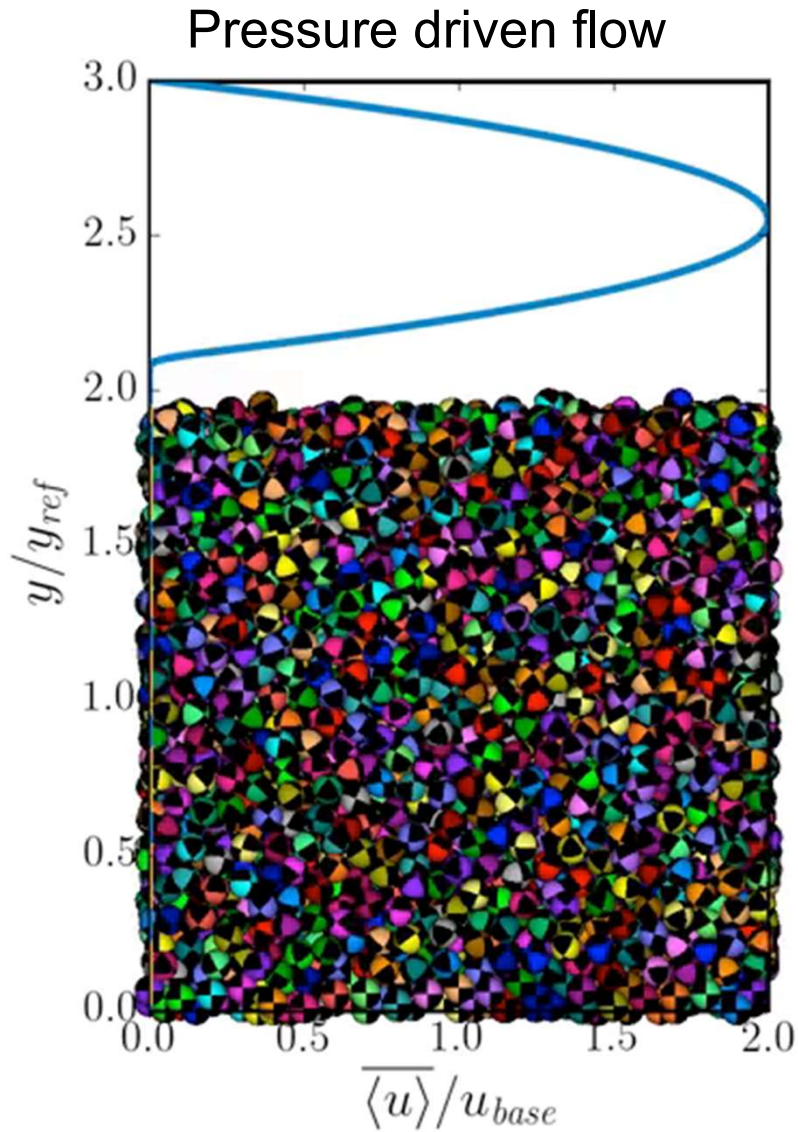
$$\tau^p(z) + \tau^f(z) = \tau^f(h_p) - \frac{\partial p^f}{\partial x}(h_p - z)$$

where

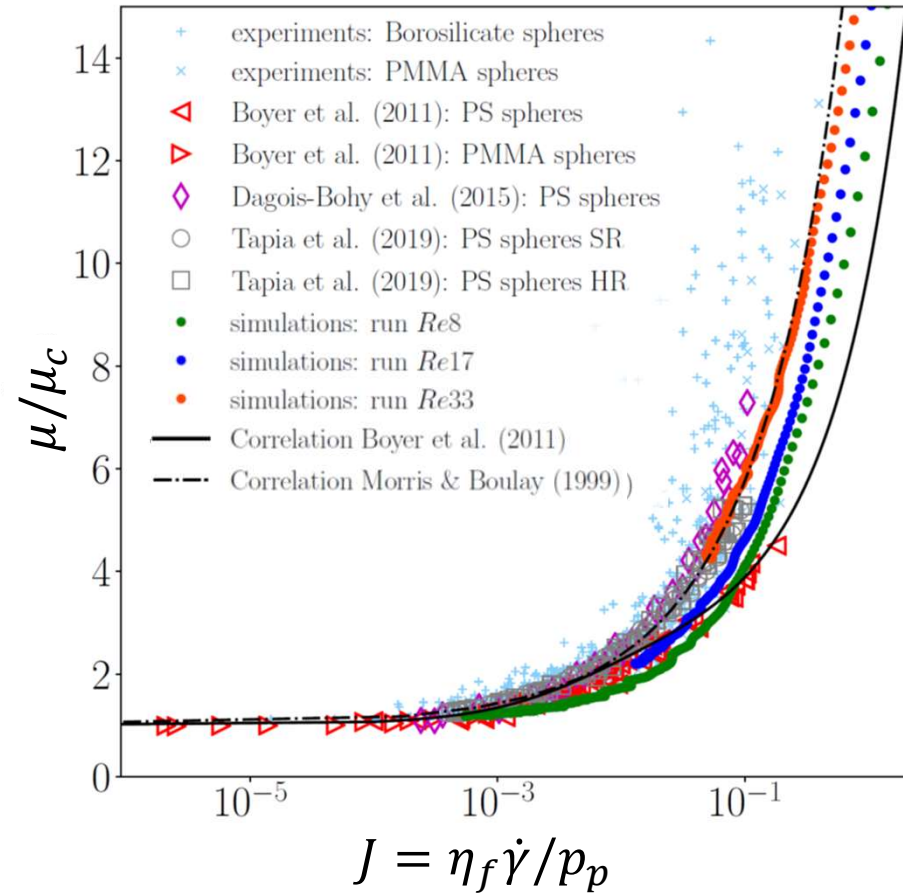
$$\tau^f = \eta_e \left( \frac{dU}{dz} \right)$$

$$\tau^p = \mu p^p$$

# Rheology of mobile sediment beds

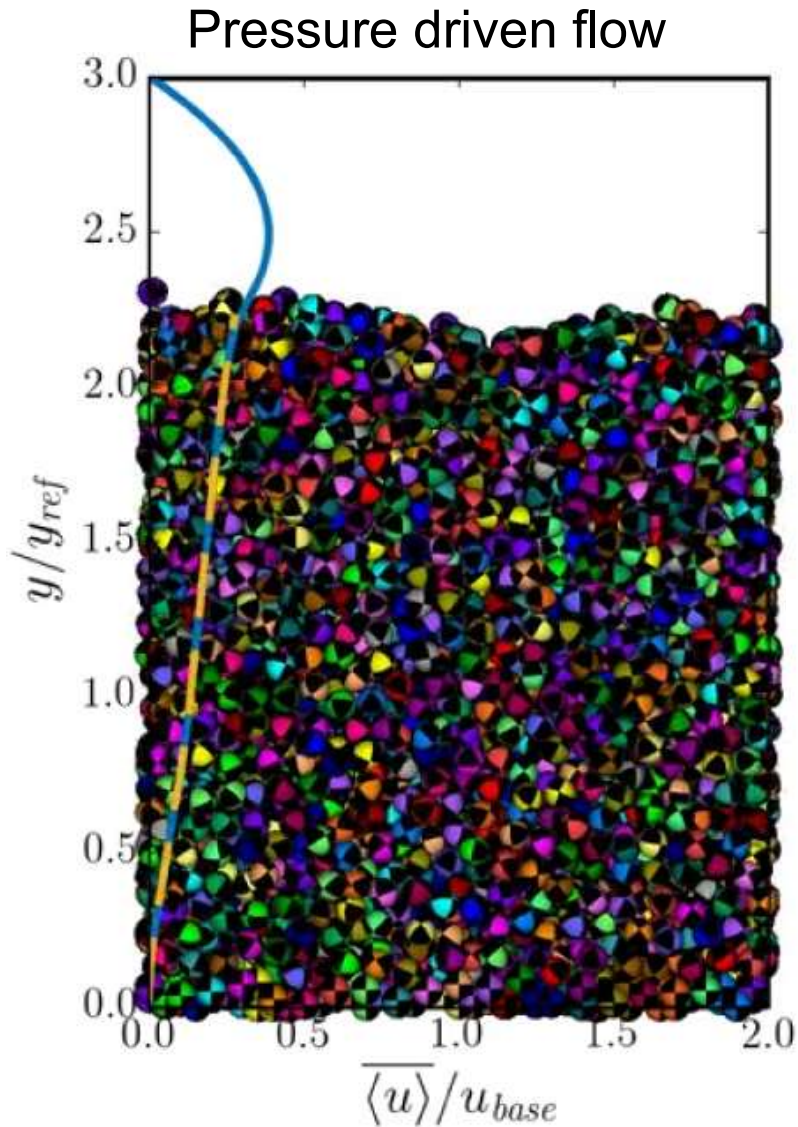


$\mu(J)$ -rheology: macroscopic friction  $\mu = \tau/p_p$

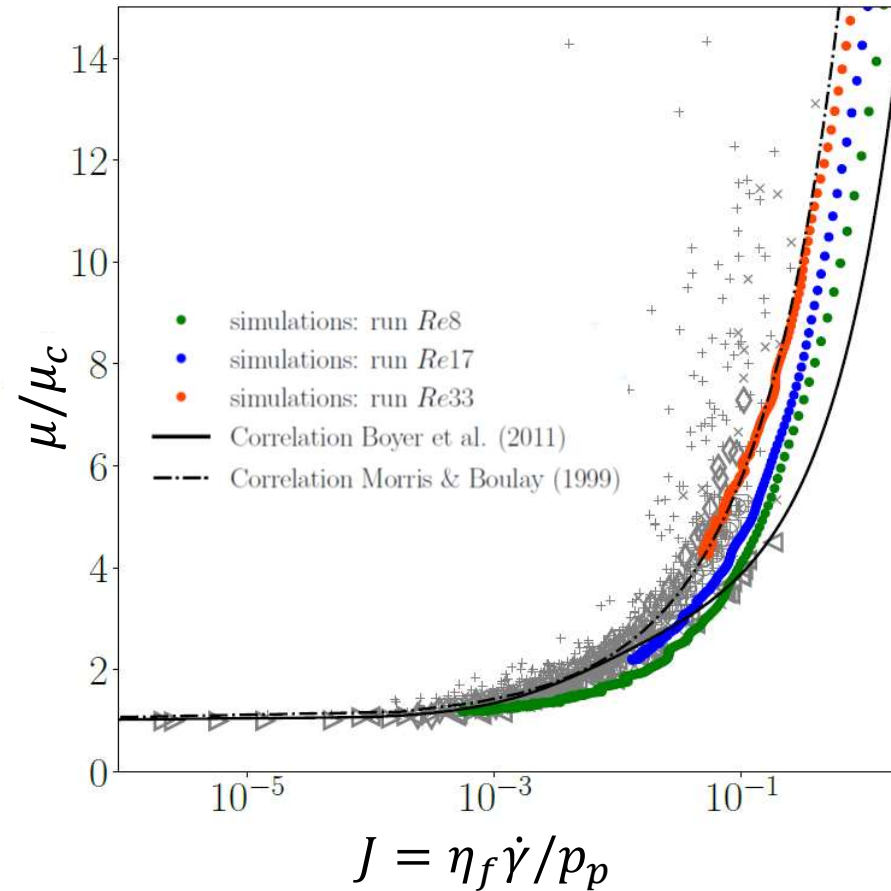


- Shear-thickening of the suspension
- Good agreement with experimental results

# Rheology of mobile sediment beds

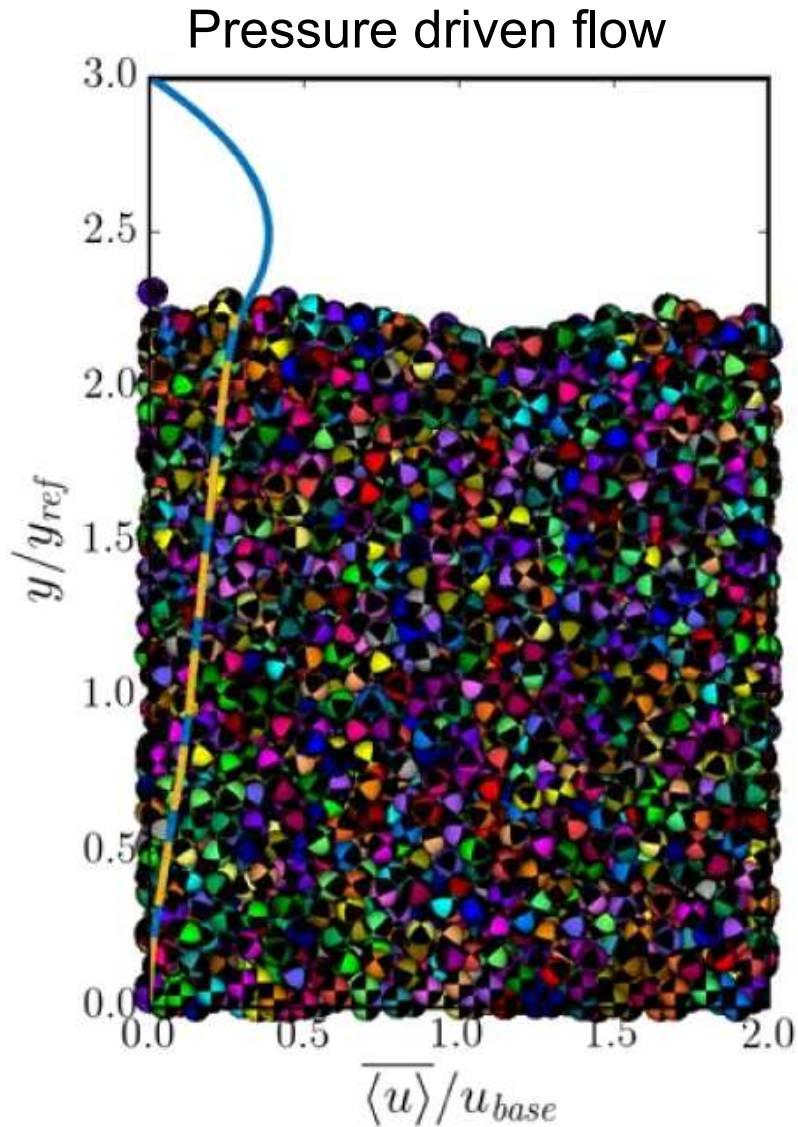


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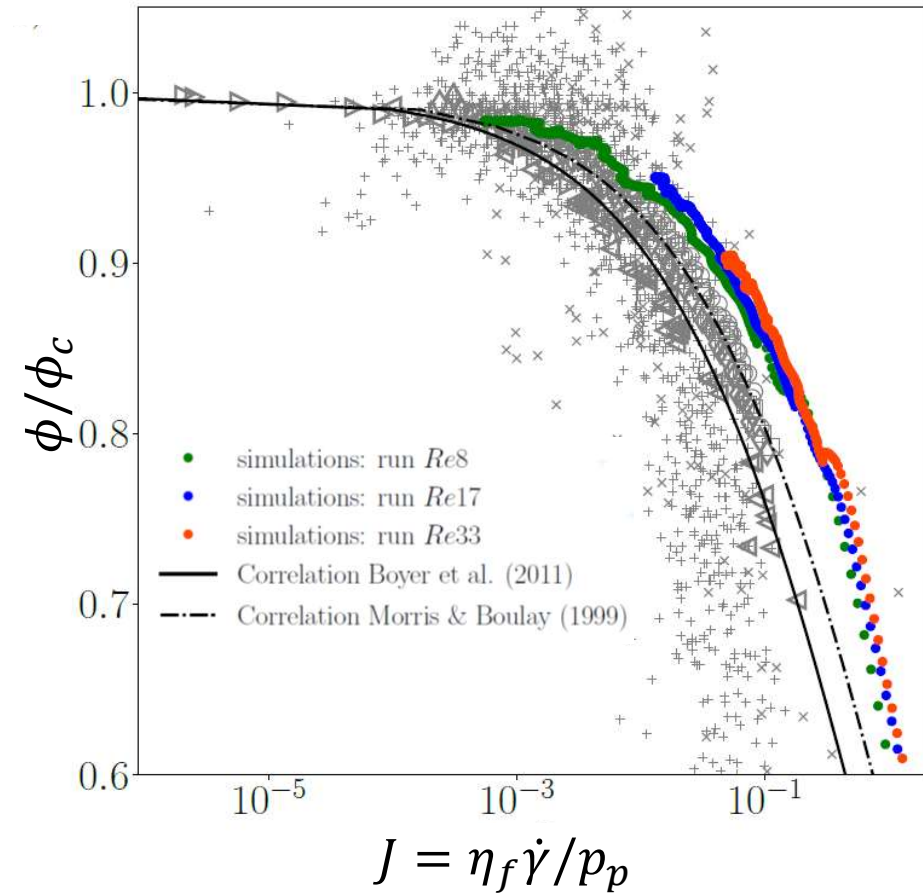


- Shear-thickening of the suspension
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# Rheology of mobile sediment beds

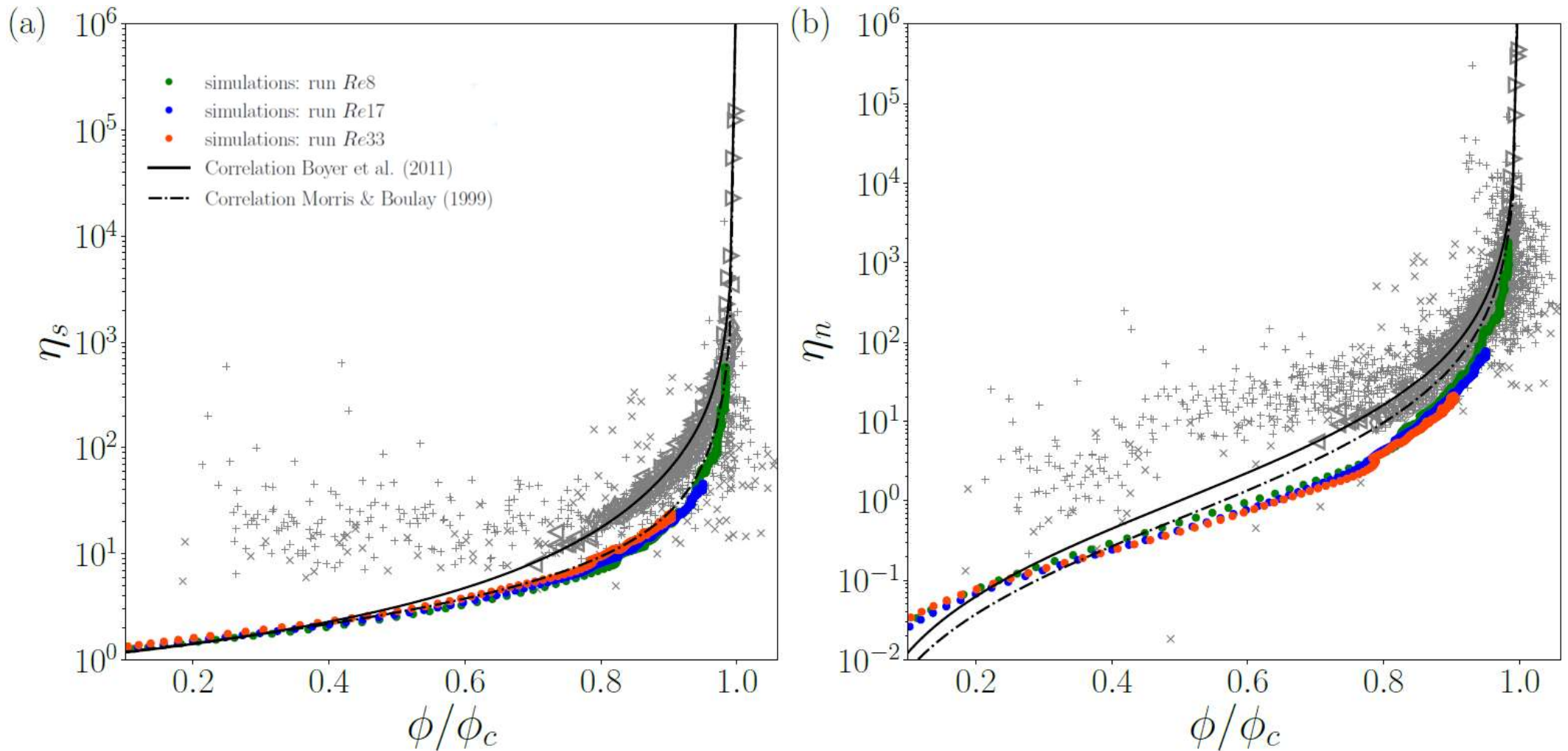


$\mu(J)$ -rheology: particle volume fraction



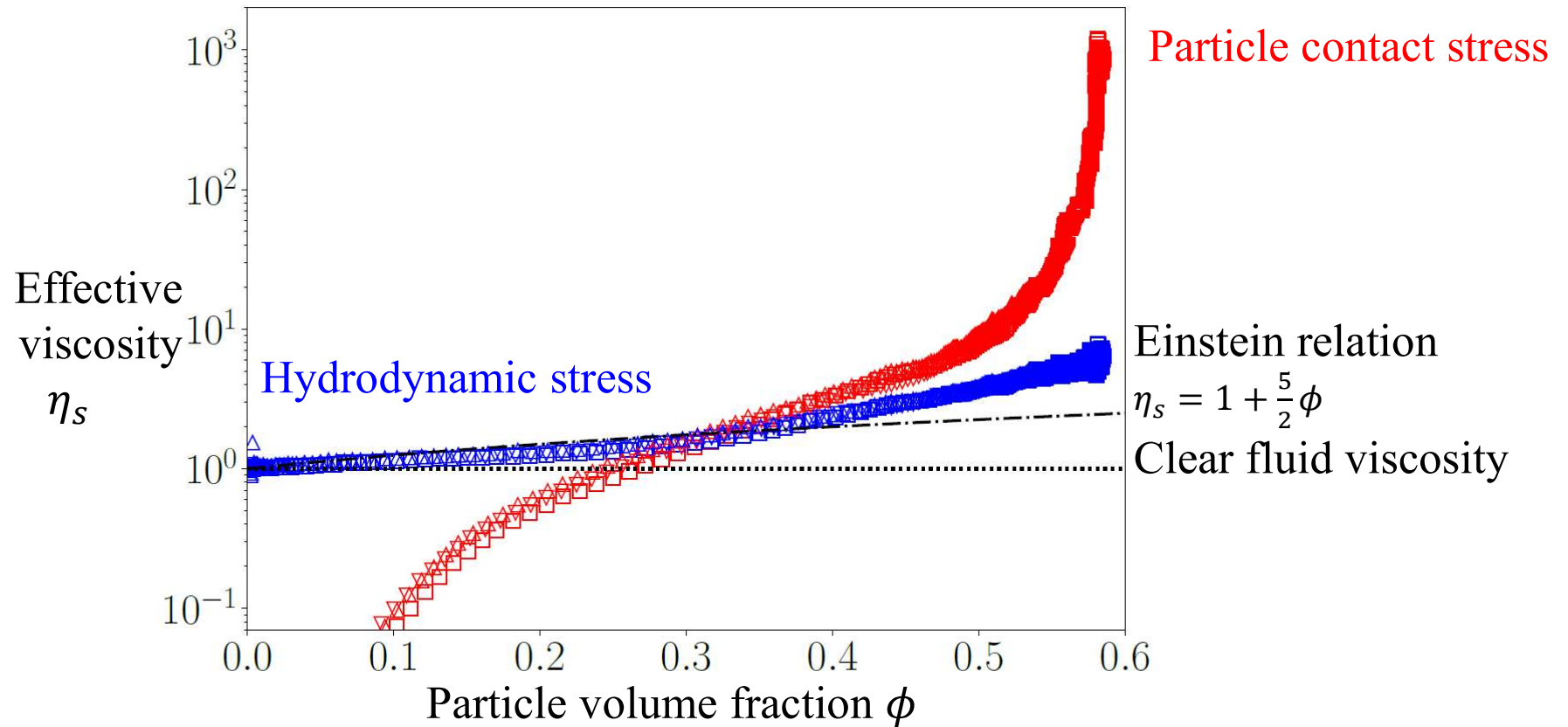
- Shear-thickening of the suspension
- Good agreement with experimental results

# Effective viscosities



- Difficulty to extrapolate to sediment transport layer (large  $J$  and low  $\phi$ )

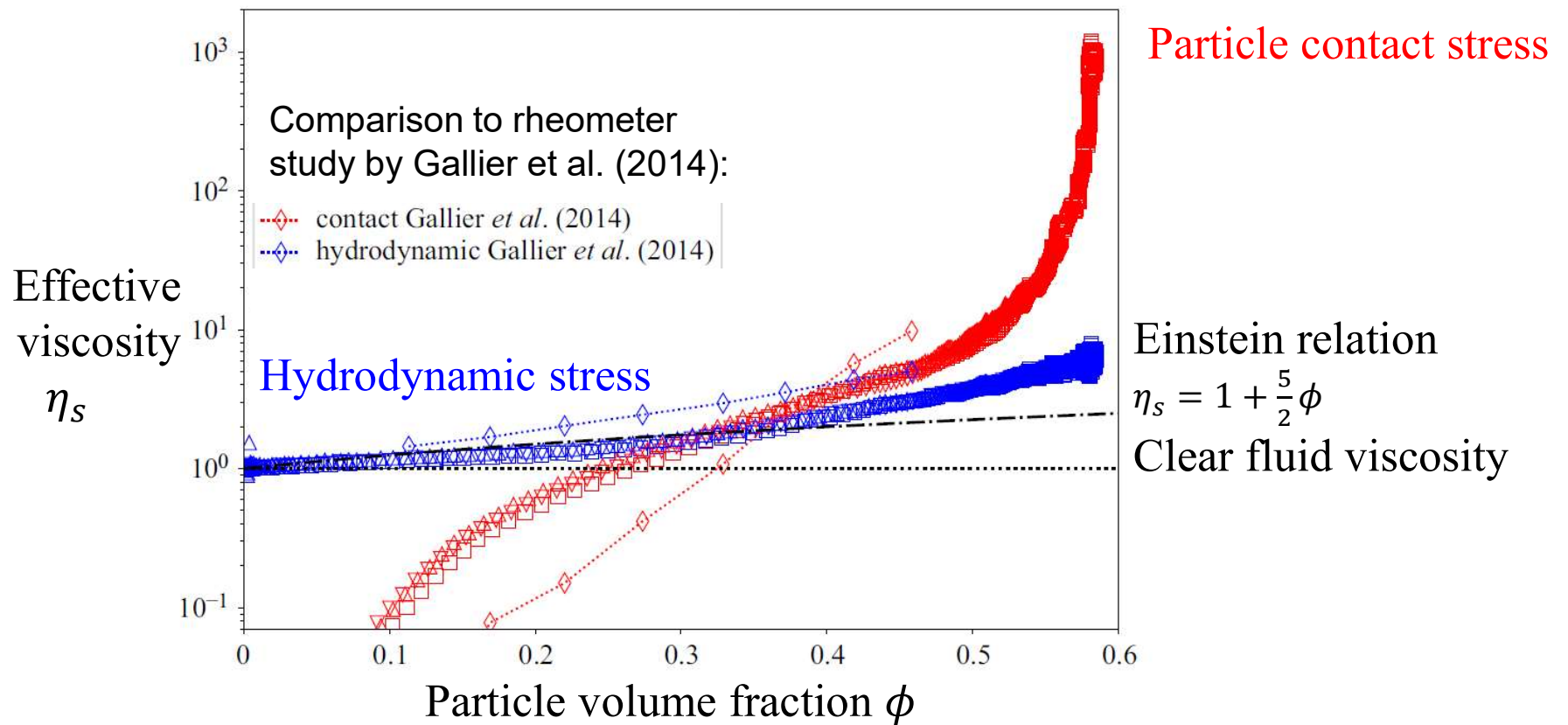
# Relative stress contributions



Two different regimes

- dense regime (contact) versus dilute (hydrodynamics)  
→ transition at  $\phi=0.3$
- dense regime → classical empirical correlations for rheometry hold

# Relative stress contributions

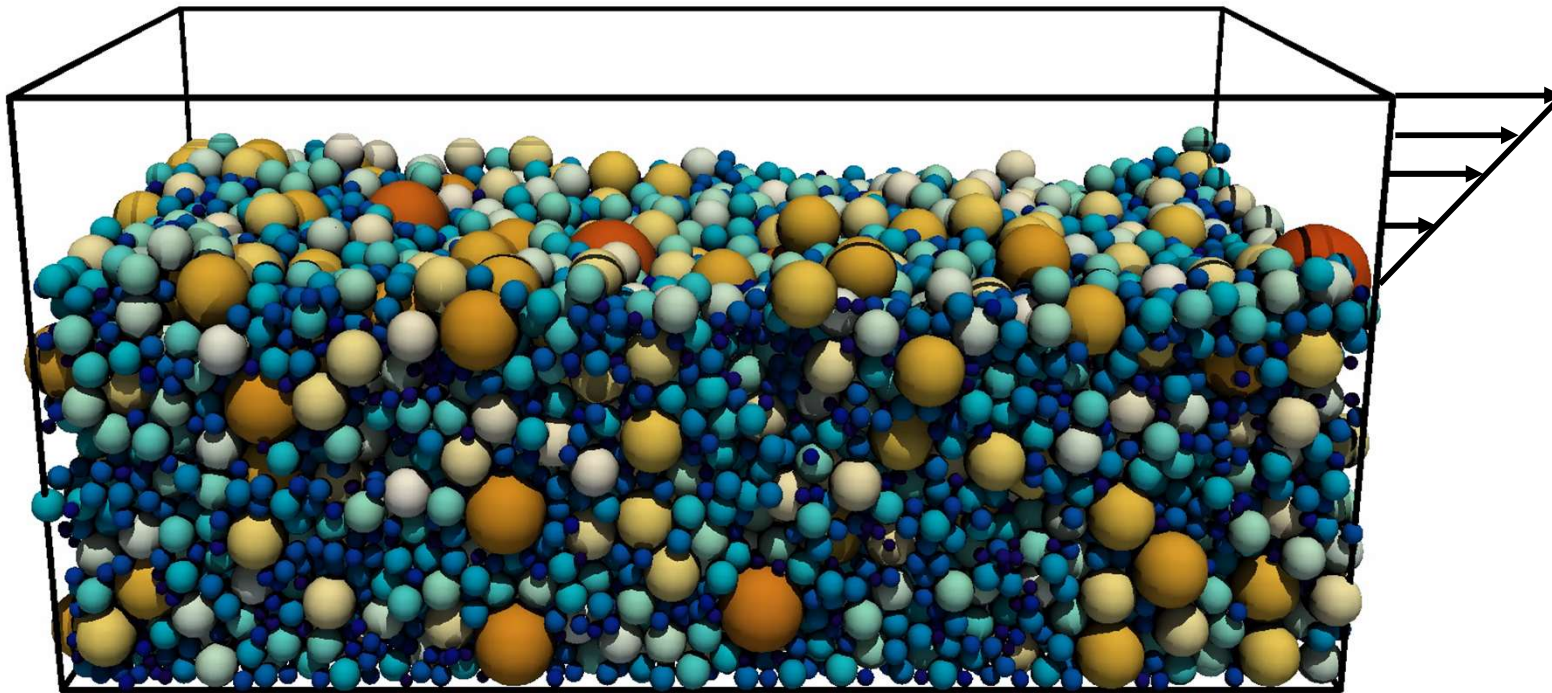


Dilute regime:

- hydrodynamic interactions are screened by the porous medium
- scaling with the Einstein relation



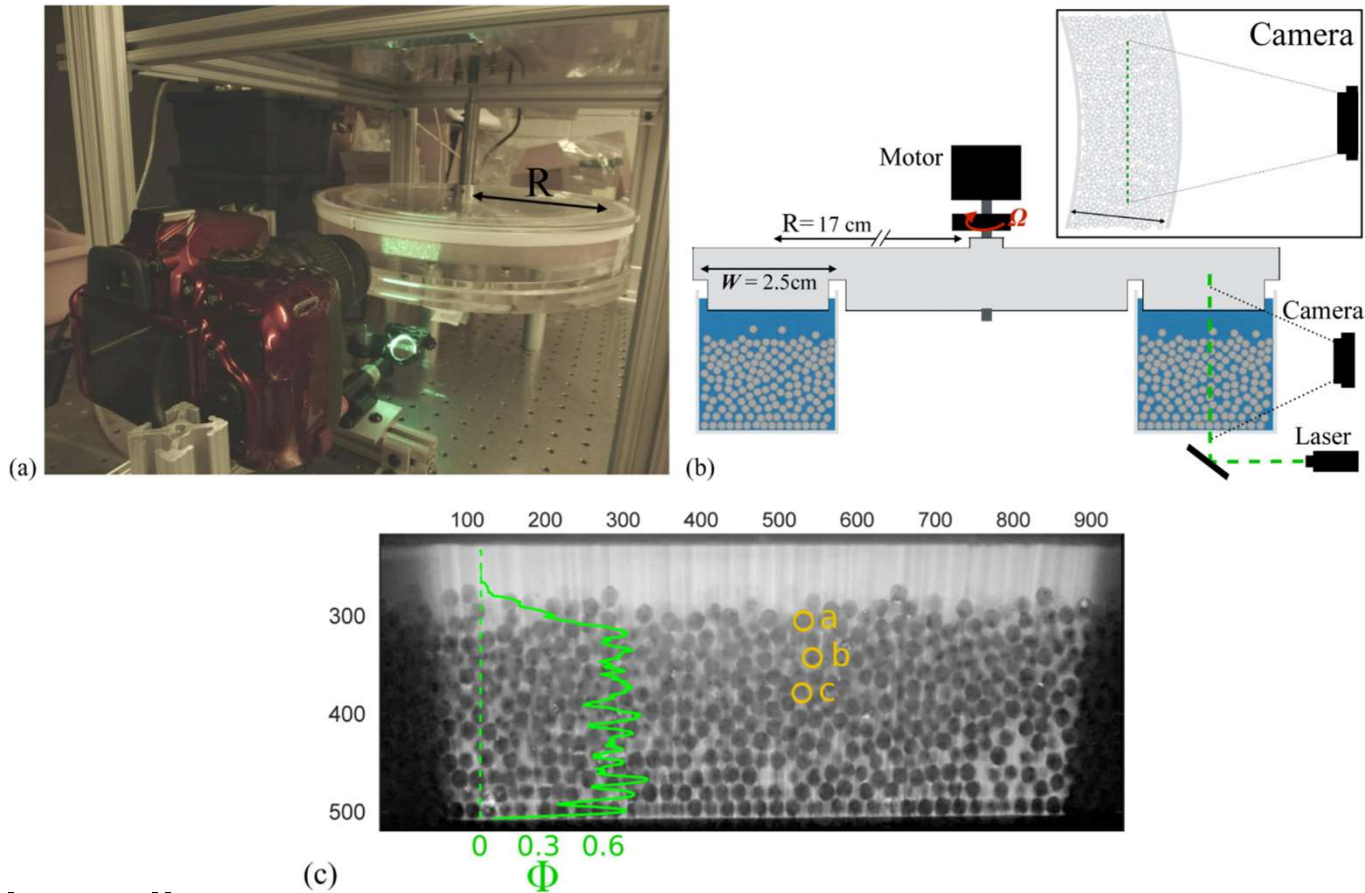
# Rheology of sediment beds



- Coupled Lattice-Boltzmann (LB)-Discrete-Element-Method (DEM)
  - What is the role of polydispersity?
  - What happens at very low shear rates?
- Analogy to sediment beds in rivers and soils on a hillslope

[Rettinger,...,Vowinckel, JFM, 2022]

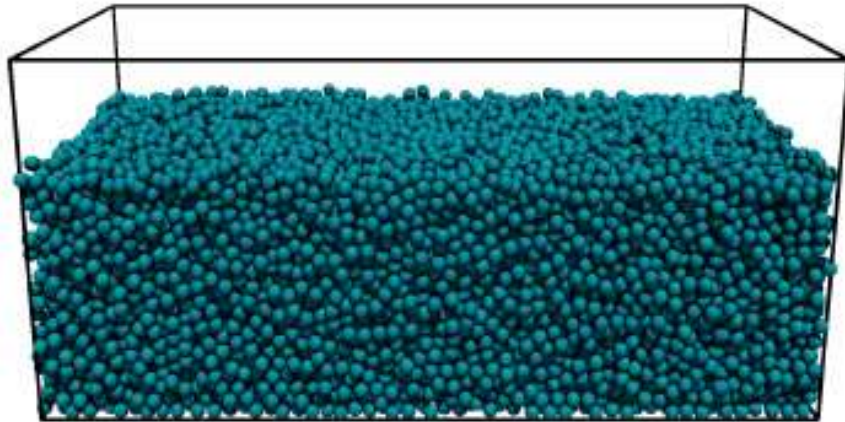
# Experiments of Houssais et al. (PRE, 2016)



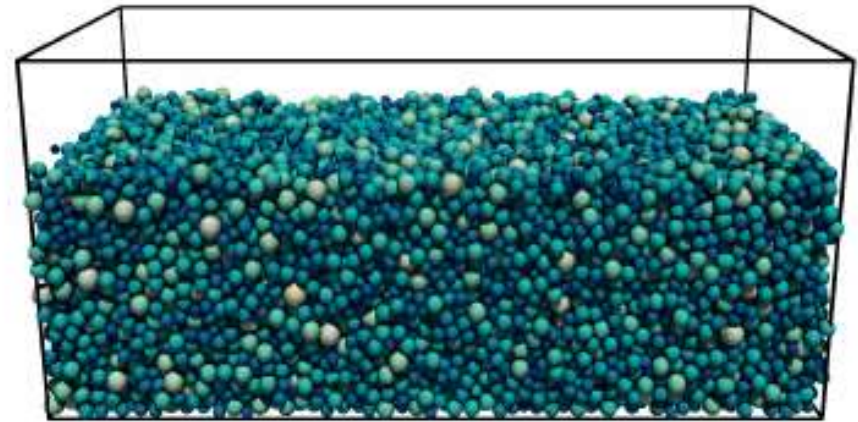
- Annular cell
- Couette flow
- Monodisperse sediment  $\rightarrow$  pressure imposed rheometry

# Focus on polydispersity

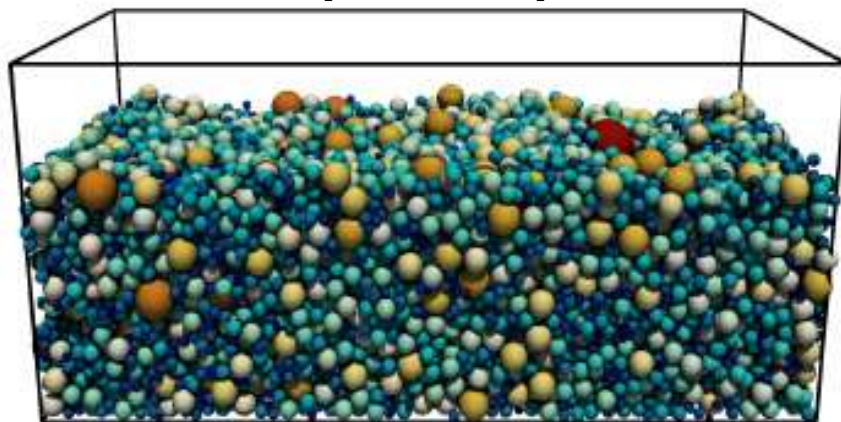
Mono:  $D_{p,max} / D_{p,min} = 1.15$



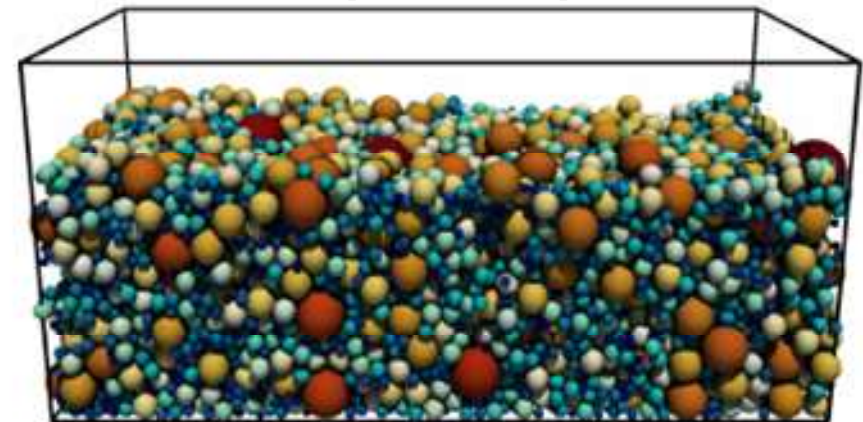
Poly-10:  $D_{p,max} / D_{p,min} = 3.43$



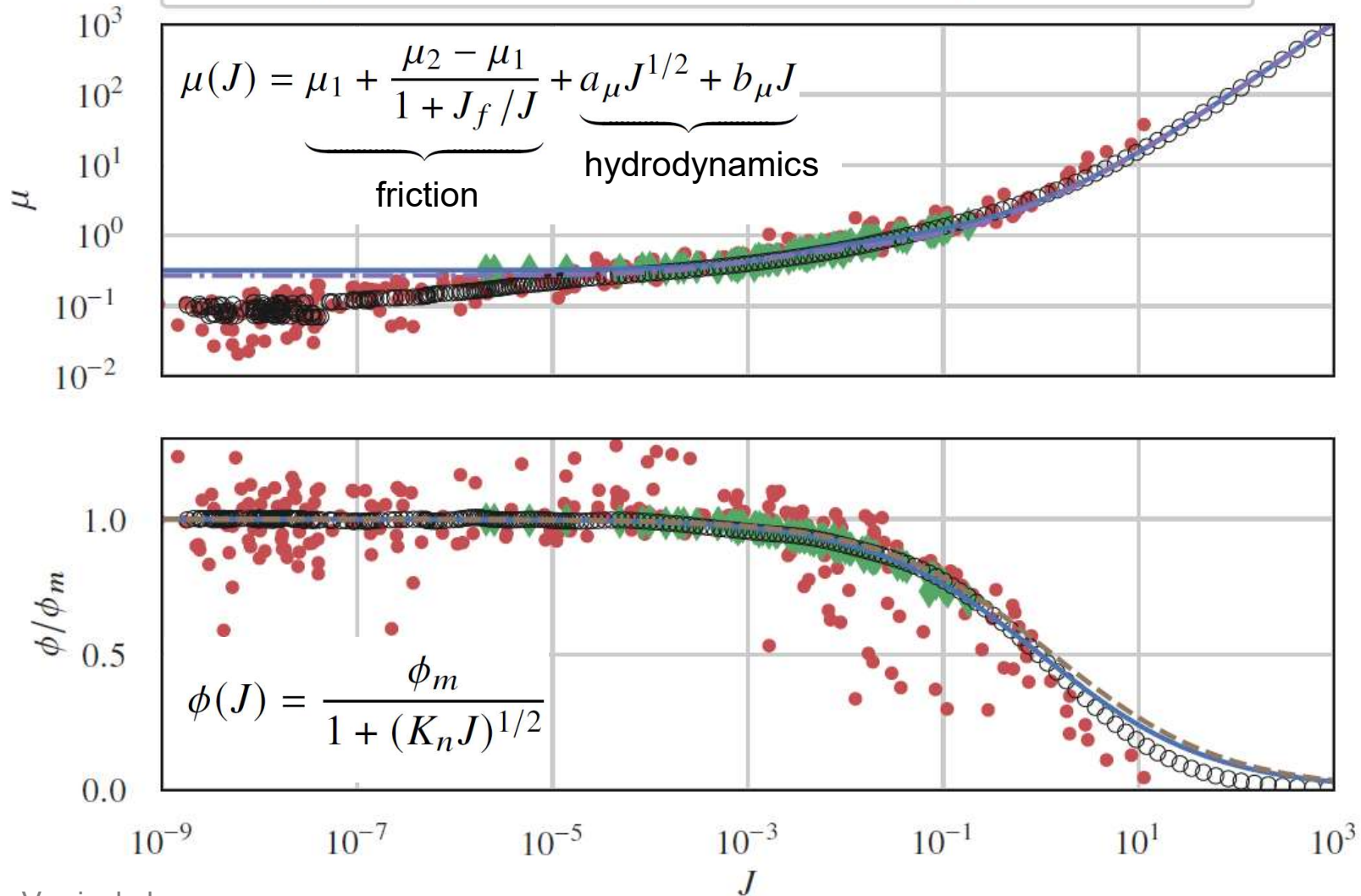
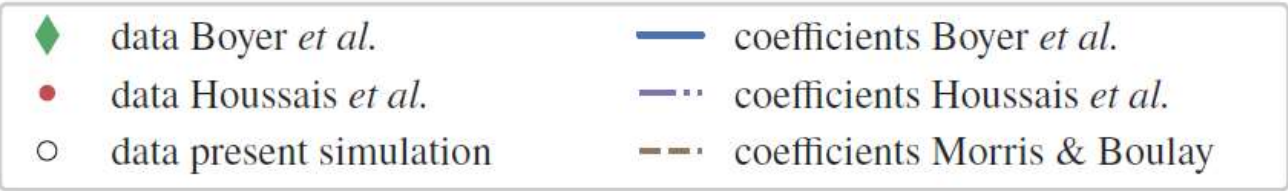
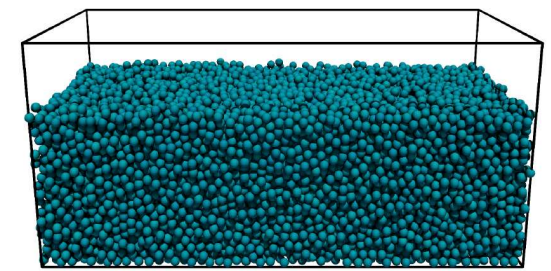
Poly-50:  $D_{p,max} / D_{p,min} = 7.87$



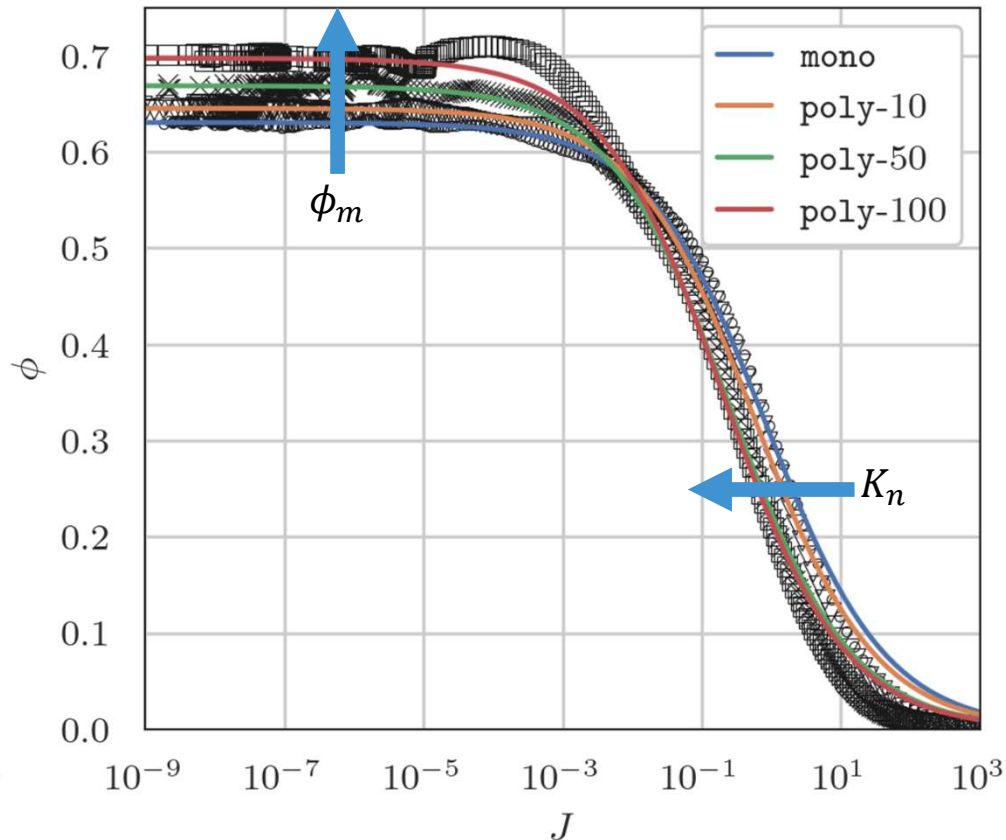
Poly-100:  $D_{p,max} / D_{p,min} = 9.74$



# Comparison case Mono



# Effects of polydispersity: particle volume fraction



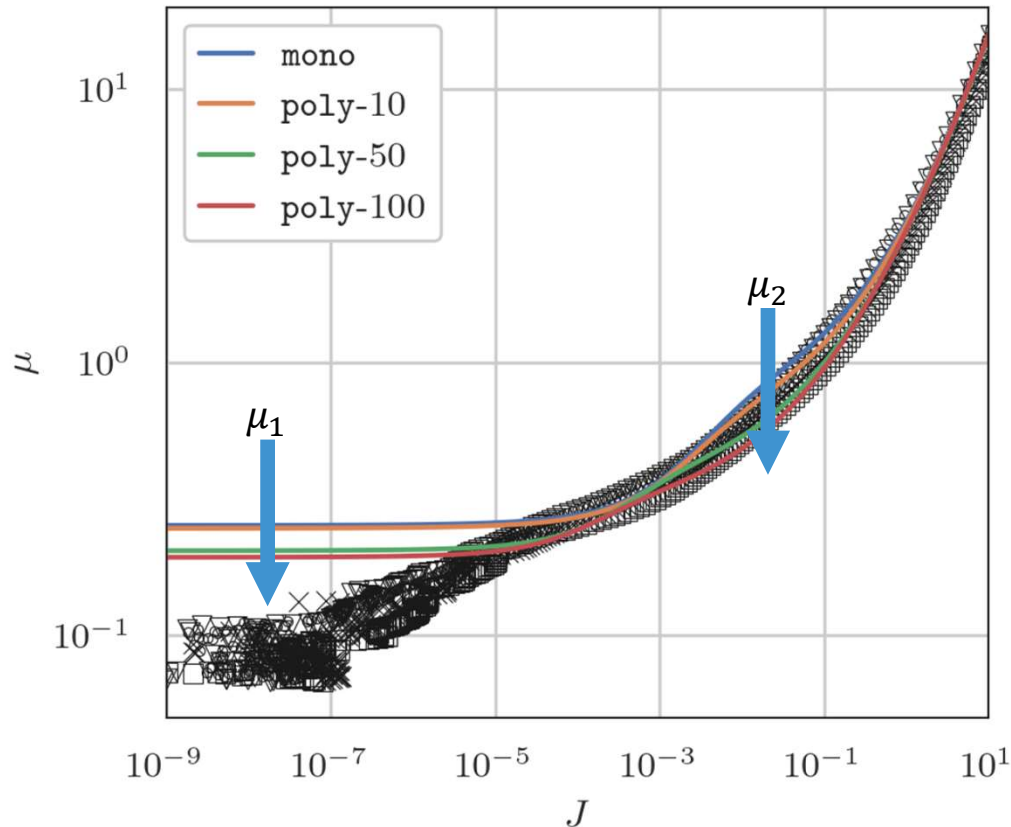
$$\phi(J) = \frac{\phi_m}{1 + \sqrt{K_n J}}$$

Idea:

- Infer  $\phi_m$  from the data
- Fit Boyer model to rheology data to determine parameter  $K_n$
- Express  $K_n$  as a function of  $\phi_m$

→  $\phi_m$  increases with polydispersity  
→ Very good agreement of the calibrated models

# Effects of polydispersity: macroscopic friction



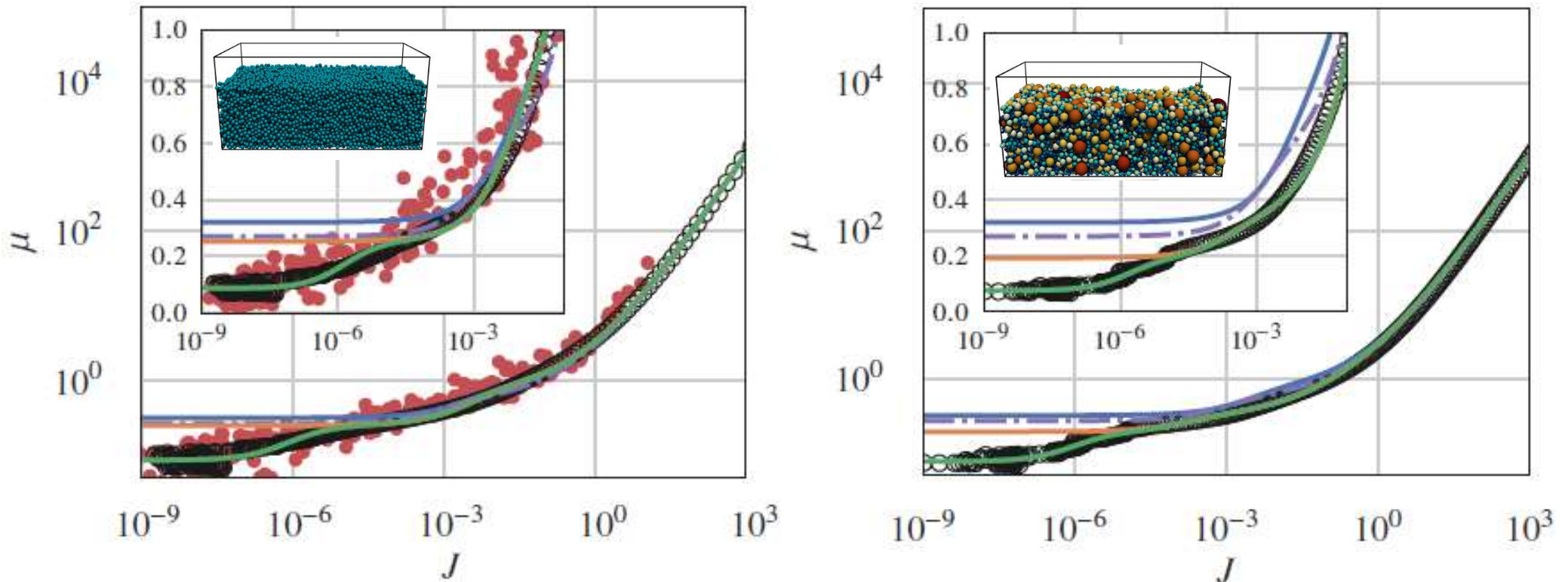
$$\mu(J) = \underbrace{\mu_1 + \frac{\mu_2 - \mu_1}{1 + J_f/J}}_{\text{friction}} + \underbrace{a_\mu J^{1/2} + b_\mu J}_{\text{hydrodynamics}}$$

Idea:

- Fit Boyer model to rheology data to determine parameters  $\mu_1, \mu_2, J_f$
- Express  $\mu_1, \mu_2$  as a function of  $\phi_m$
- $J_f$  constant

→ Very good agreement for  $J > 10^{-5}$

# Extension to creep

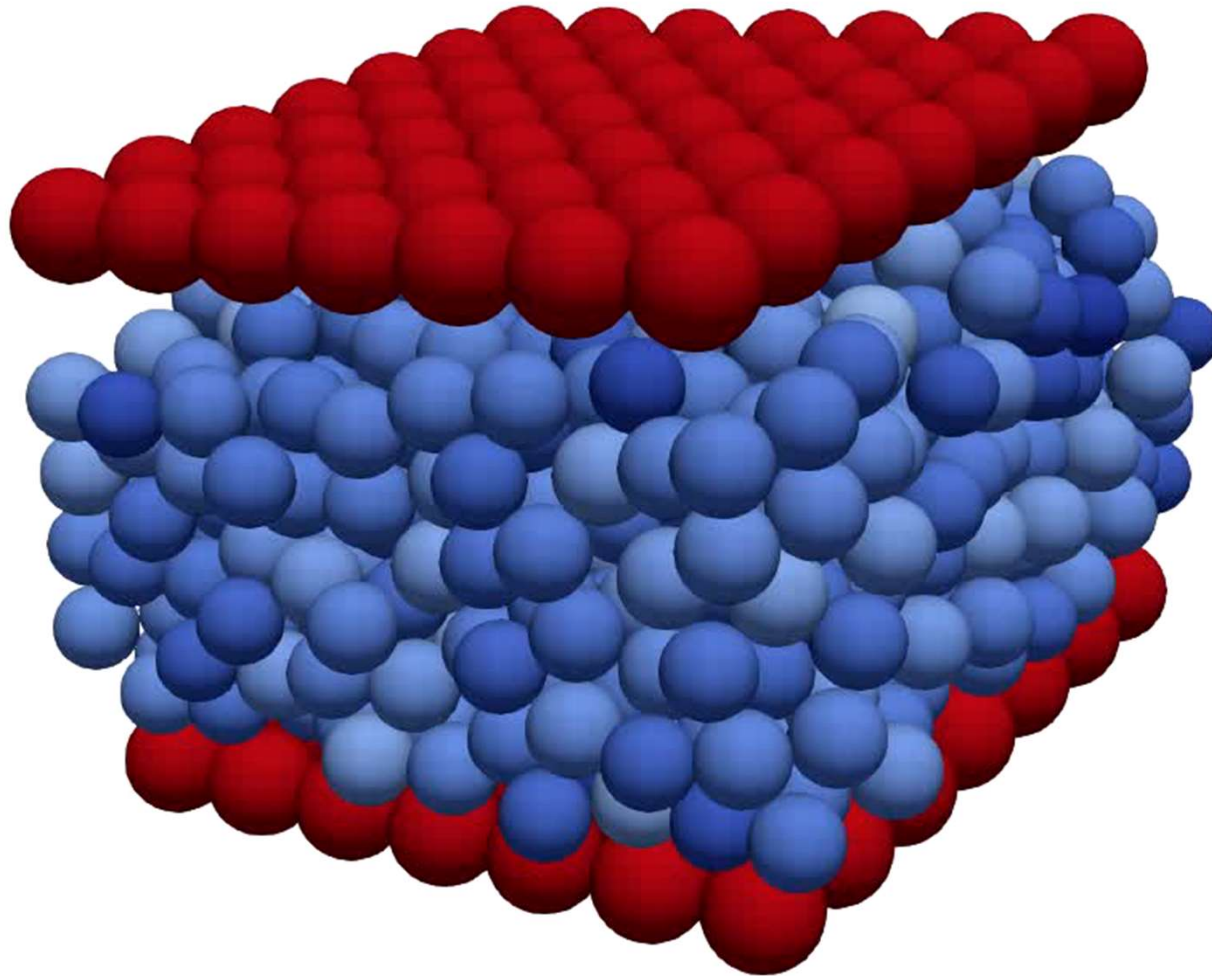


- data Houssais *et al.*
- data present simulation
- coefficients Boyer *et al.*
- - - coefficients Houssais *et al.*
- Best fit (original)
- Best fit (with creep)

$$\mu(J) = \underbrace{\mu_0 + \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_0}{1 + J_c/J}}_{\text{creep}} + \underbrace{\frac{\mu_2 - \mu_1}{1 + J_f/J}}_{\text{friction/contact}} + \underbrace{\frac{5}{2} \phi_m J^{1/2} + J}_{\text{hydro-dynamics}}$$

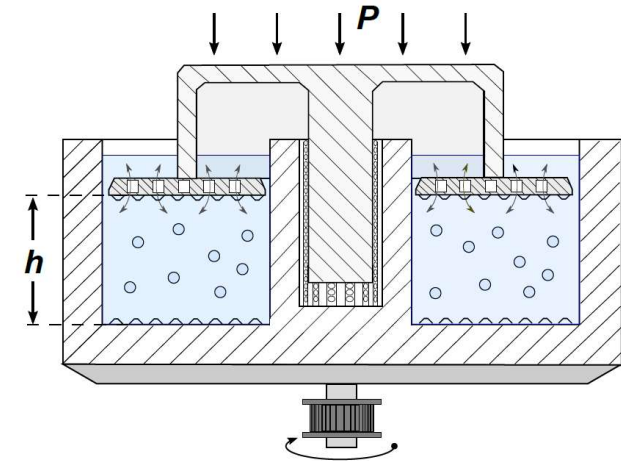
Extended  
Creep  
Rheology  
Model  
(ECRM)

# Work in progress: rheometer simulations



[Konidena, Khodabakhshi, & Vowinckel, 2022]

- Setup according to Tapia et al. (2022)



- Particle volume fraction  $\phi = 0.52$
- Stokes number

$$St = \frac{\rho_p D^2 \dot{\gamma}}{\mu_f} = 0.9$$



# Summary and conclusions

## Shear thickening behavior

- $\phi > 0.3$ : Dense regime  $\rightarrow$  contact stresses dominate  $\rightarrow$  empirical correlation
- $\phi < 0.3$ : Dilute regime  $\rightarrow$  hydrodynamic stresses dominate  $\rightarrow$  Einstein relation
- Dilute regime differs from rheometry  $\rightarrow$  screening of porous medium

## Effects of creep and polydispersity

- Coefficients of empirical correlations scale with  $\phi_m \rightarrow$  measure for polydispersity
- Creeping deformation at low shear rates  $\rightarrow$  decrease of macroscopic friction
- Creeping deformation unaffected by polydispersity

# Thank you

## Acknowledgements

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