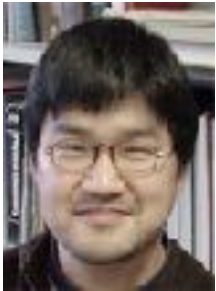


An aerial photograph of the Dubai skyline, featuring the Burj Khalifa as the central focus. The skyscraper is a slender, tapering tower with a distinctive spire, standing prominently against a clear blue sky. To its right, another tall building with a similar design is visible. The surrounding cityscape includes various other high-rise buildings, residential areas, and a large body of water in the foreground. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

When Tribology Meets Rheology— Friction, Lubrication, Polymer Brushes and the Burj Khalifa

Nicholas D. Spencer
ETH Zürich



Seunghwan Lee



Markus Müller



Robert Bielecki



Nicolas Fernandez



Juliette Cayer-Barrioz



Roman Mani



Hans Herrmann



Lucio Isa

Funding: AFOSR, EOARD, ETH, ESF, KTI, SNSF,



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Outline

- Modes of lubrication
- Polymer brushes
- Polymer brushes and friction
- Polymer brushes and granular flow

Outline

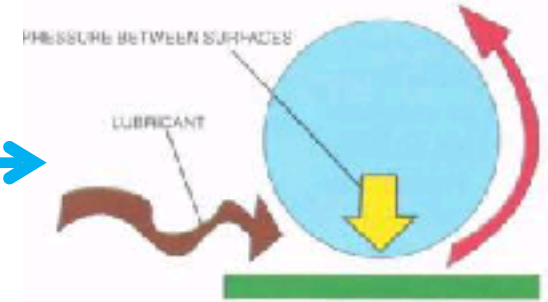
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Lubrication

Types of lubrication

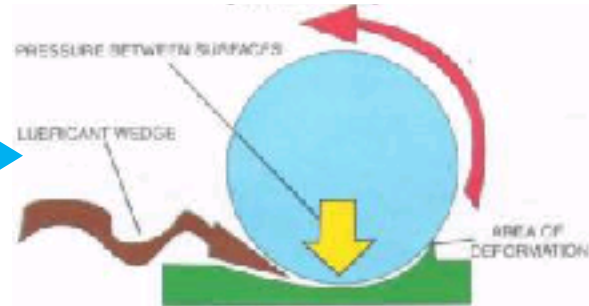
Lubricants are normally employed to reduce frictional forces. Lubricants form a layer of lower shear strength than the sliding surfaces

Hydrodynamic lubrication: the sliding surfaces are separated by a thick lubricant film (thickness $>$ height of the asperities)



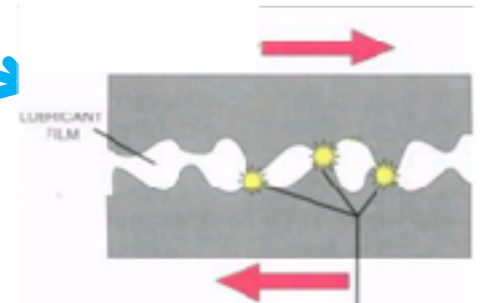
Hydrostatic lubrication: oil is pumped under pressure between the sliding surfaces

Elastohydrodynamic lubrication (EHL): the local pressures are so high that significant elastic deformation of the sliding surfaces occurs



Boundary lubrication: the surfaces are separated by monomolecular (or nearly monomolecular) films

Solid lubrication: based on a solid interfacial layer of low shear strength

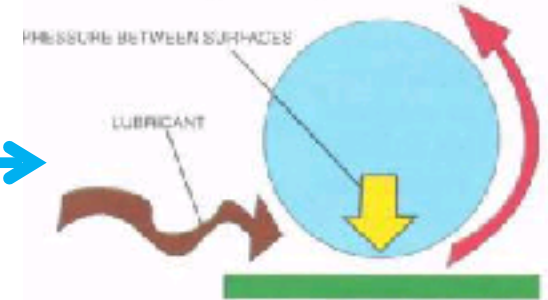


Lubrication

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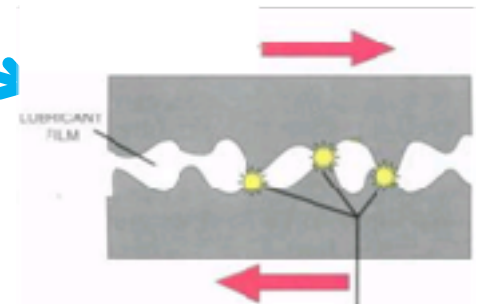
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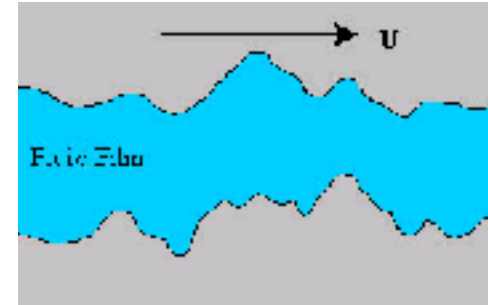
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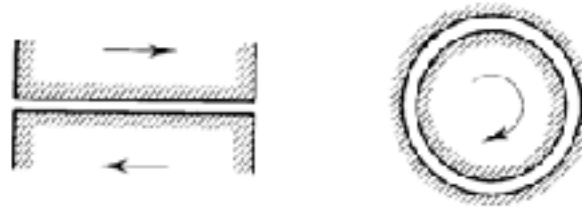
Lubrication

Hydrodynamic lubrication (full fluid film)

- The asperities on the sliding partners never come into contact with each other
- Surfaces are kept apart by hydrodynamic forces

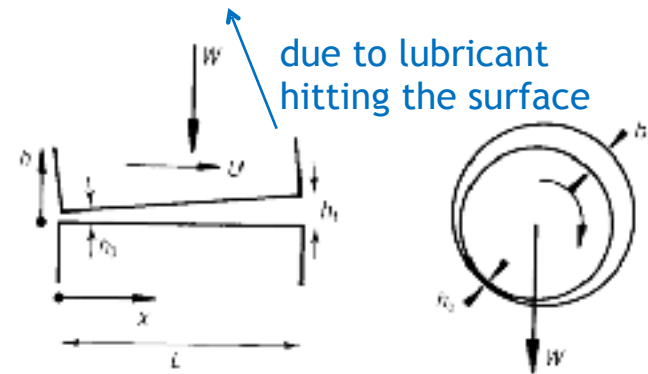


- Sliding surfaces have to be conformal



<http://images.google.ch>

- But not parallel, so upwards momentum supports the load



The pressure that counteracts the normal load originates from the viscous forces in the liquid

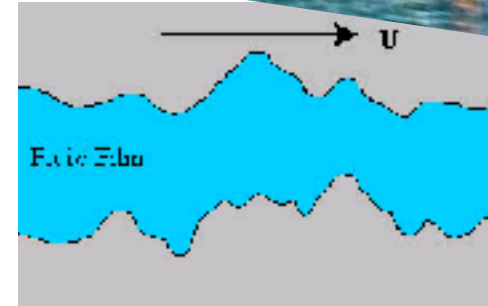
The gap between the surfaces becomes narrower in the direction of motion

Lubrication



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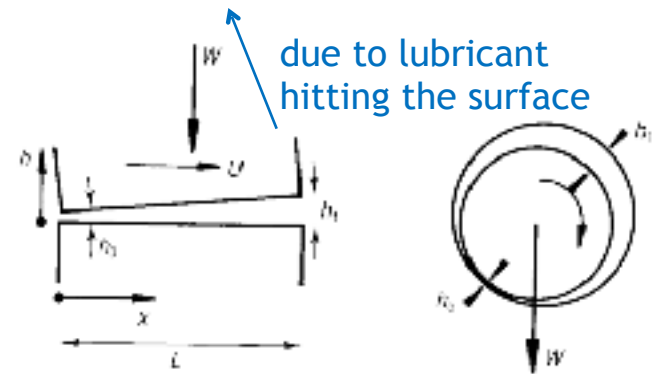


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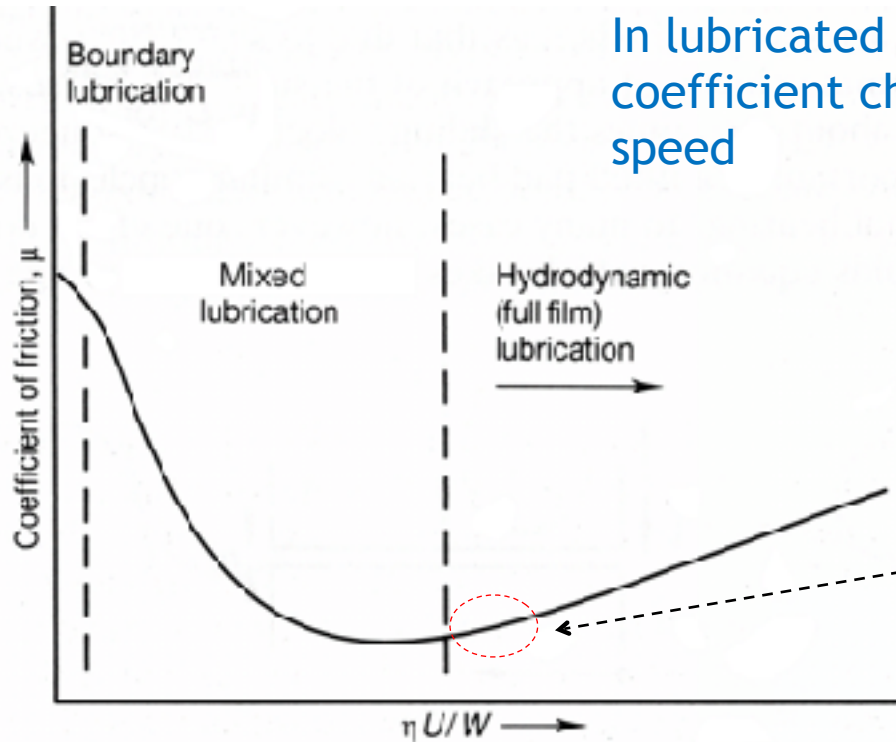
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The gap between the surfaces becomes narrower in the direction of motion

Lubrication

The Stribeck curve

Friction coefficient is displayed as a function of the viscosity multiplied by the tangential velocity, and divided by the normal load ($\eta \cdot U/W$)



In lubricated systems, the friction coefficient changes as a function of speed

A bearing wants to be operated here!

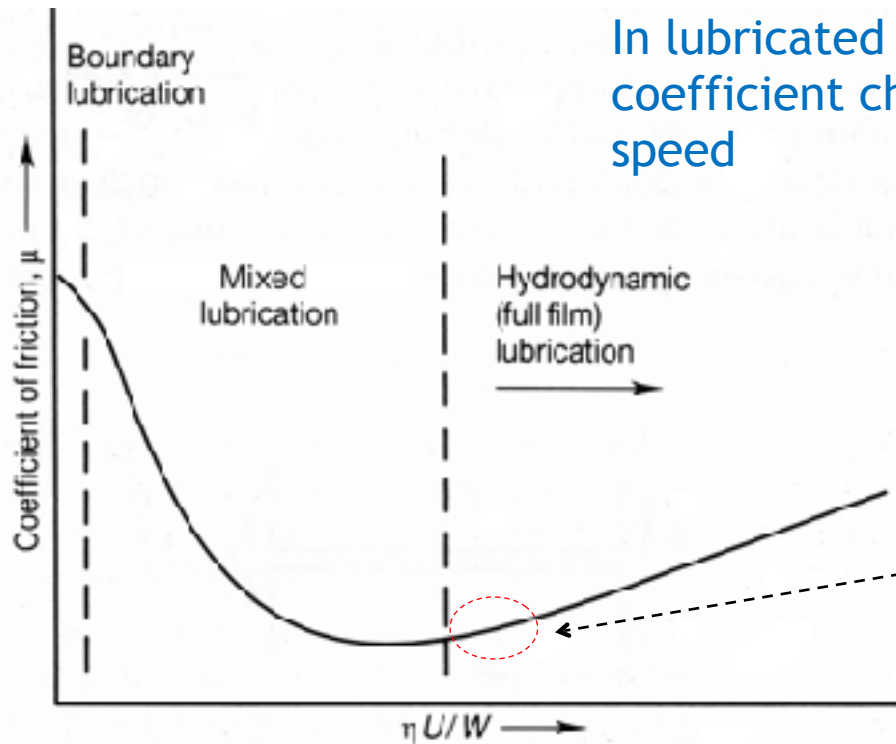


Close to the minimum but on the right side, so that with slight changes of the parameters, the system is drawn towards the minimum

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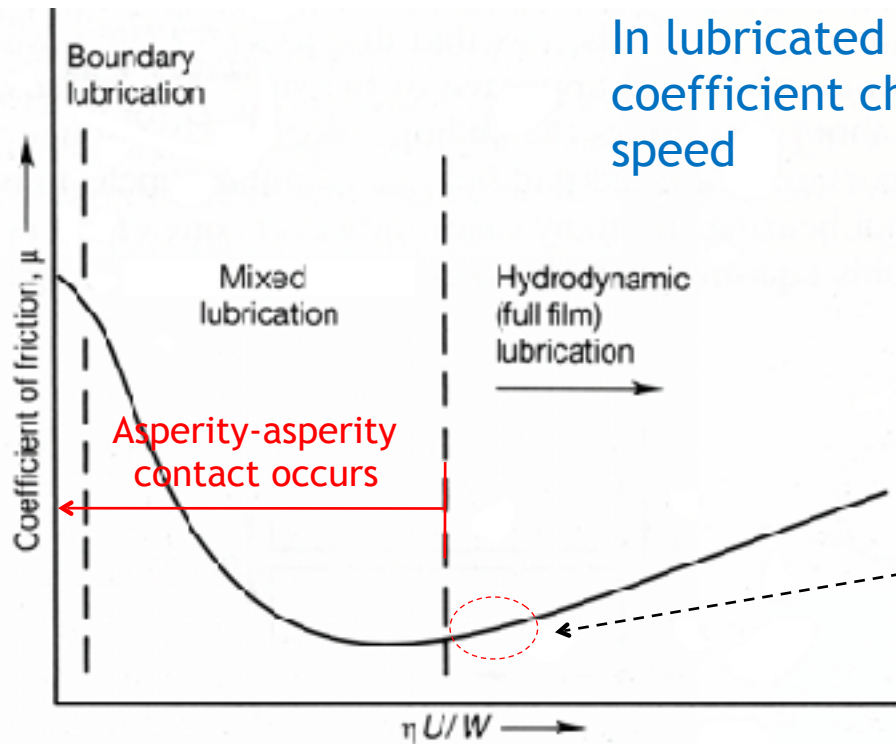
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Film thickness decreases

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Close to the minimum but on the right side, so that with slight changes of the parameters, the system is drawn towards the minimum

Film thickness decreases

Lubrication

Boundary lubrication

Occurs at high loads or low speeds



Hydrodynamic forces can no longer maintain a lubricant film between the sliding surfaces

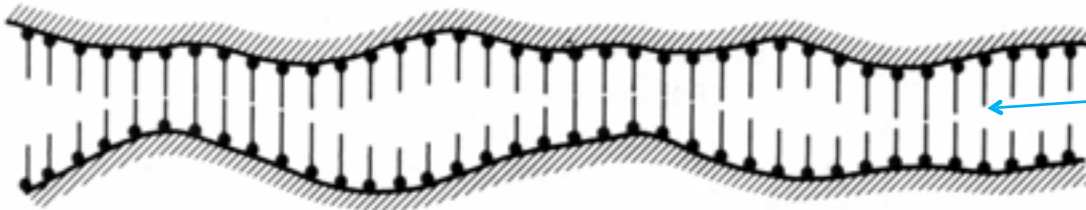


Direct contact between the asperities starts to become dominant



Boundary lubricant is essential under these conditions, in order to avoid excessive friction and wear

Boundary lubricants form adsorbed molecular films on the surfaces
(oversimplification)



Repulsive forces between the films carry a significant part of the load

Outline

- Modes of lubrication
- Polymer brushes
- Polymer brushes and friction
- Polymer brushes and granular flow

Polymer brushes

Pancake
(poor solvent or dry)



Non-interacting
mushrooms



L



Brush



good
solvent



The Brushettes: World Première, Cargèse, 2010



The Brushettes: Faraday Meeting on Tribology, 2012



Polymer Brush Demo

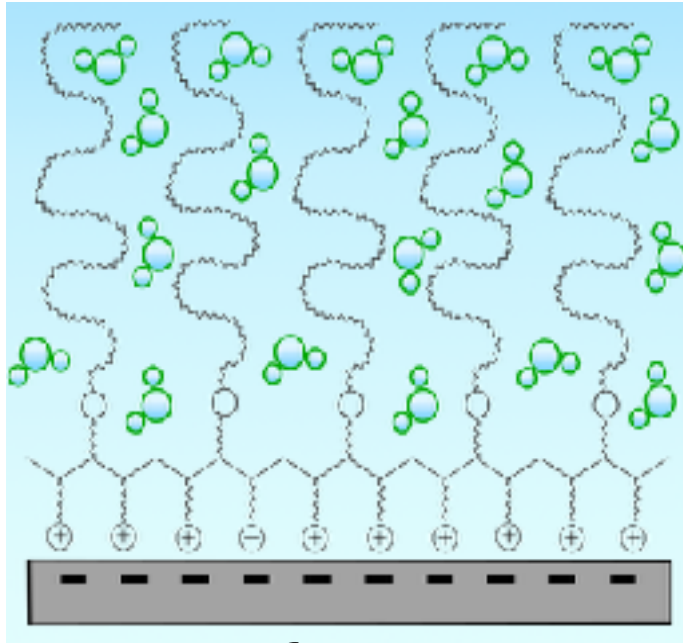
Madrid, 2012



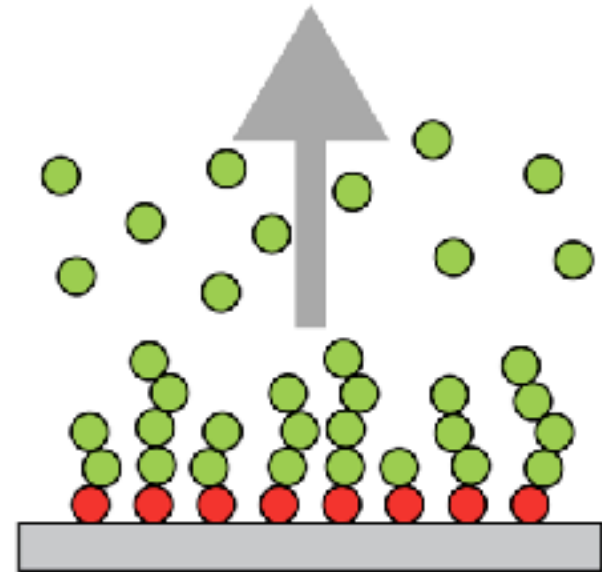
Polymer Brush Demo Tokyo, 2013



Polymer brushes



grafting to
oxides, polymers

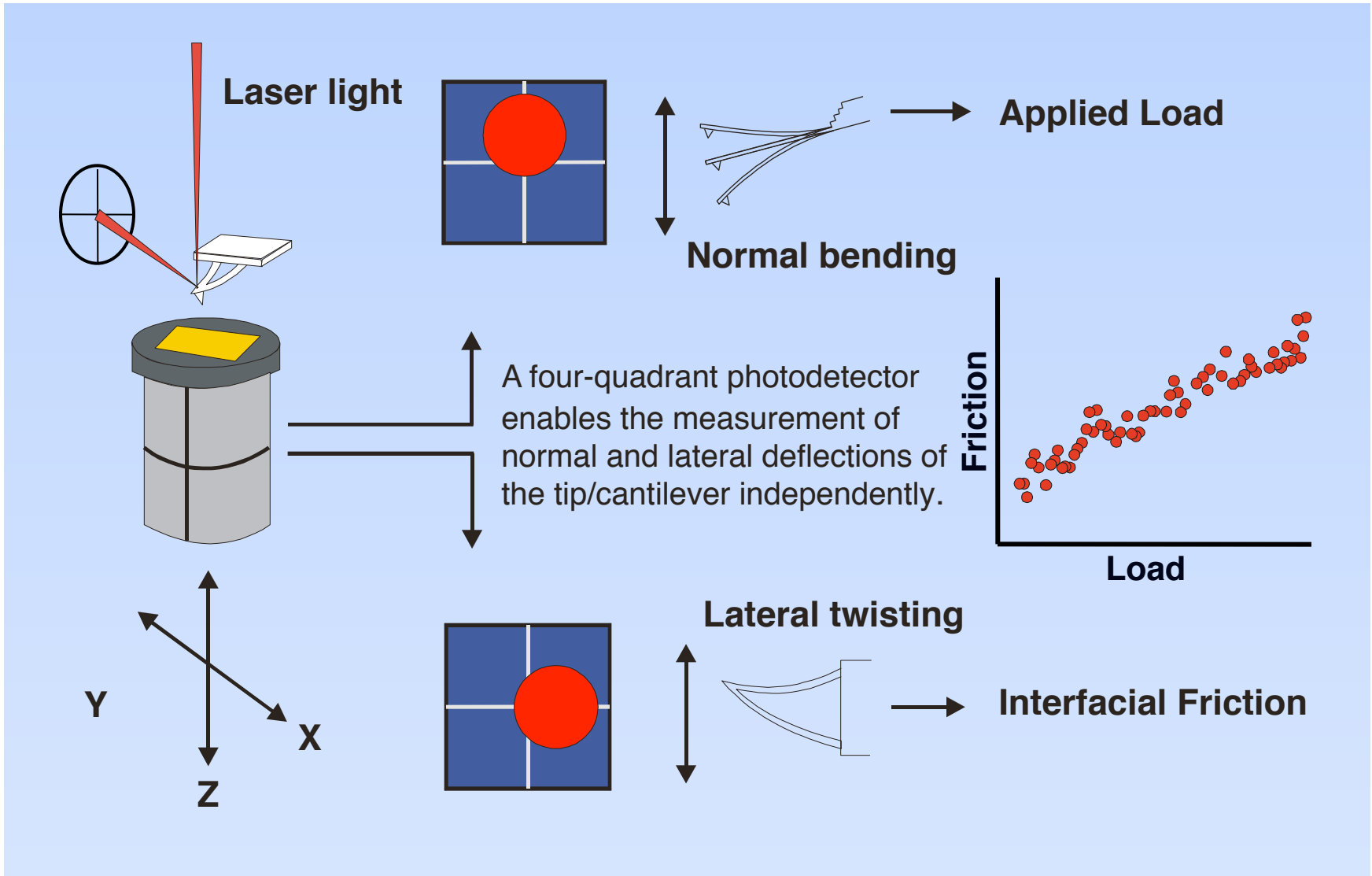


grafting from
almost anything...

Outline

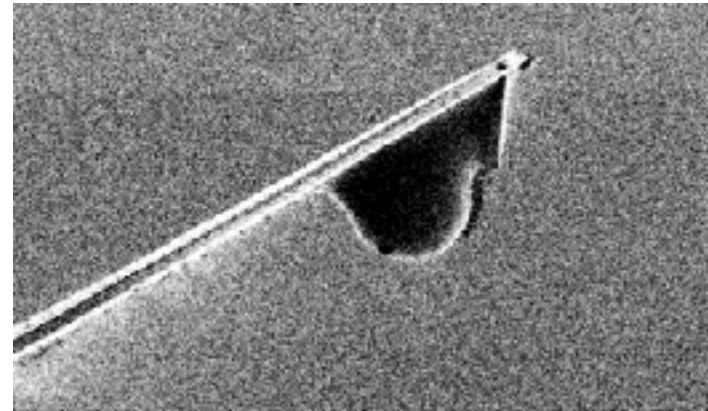
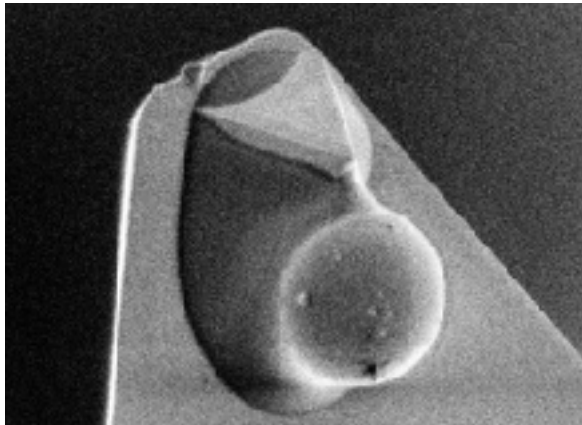
- Modes of lubrication
- Polymer brushes
- **Polymer brushes and friction**
- Polymer brushes and granular flow
- Brushes in oil lubrication

Friction Measurements with Beam Deflection AFM



Sodium Borosilicate Microsphere

Cantilever: Si_3N_4
Sphere radius: $2.5\ \mu\text{m}$
Image: SEM
Beam energy: 1 kV



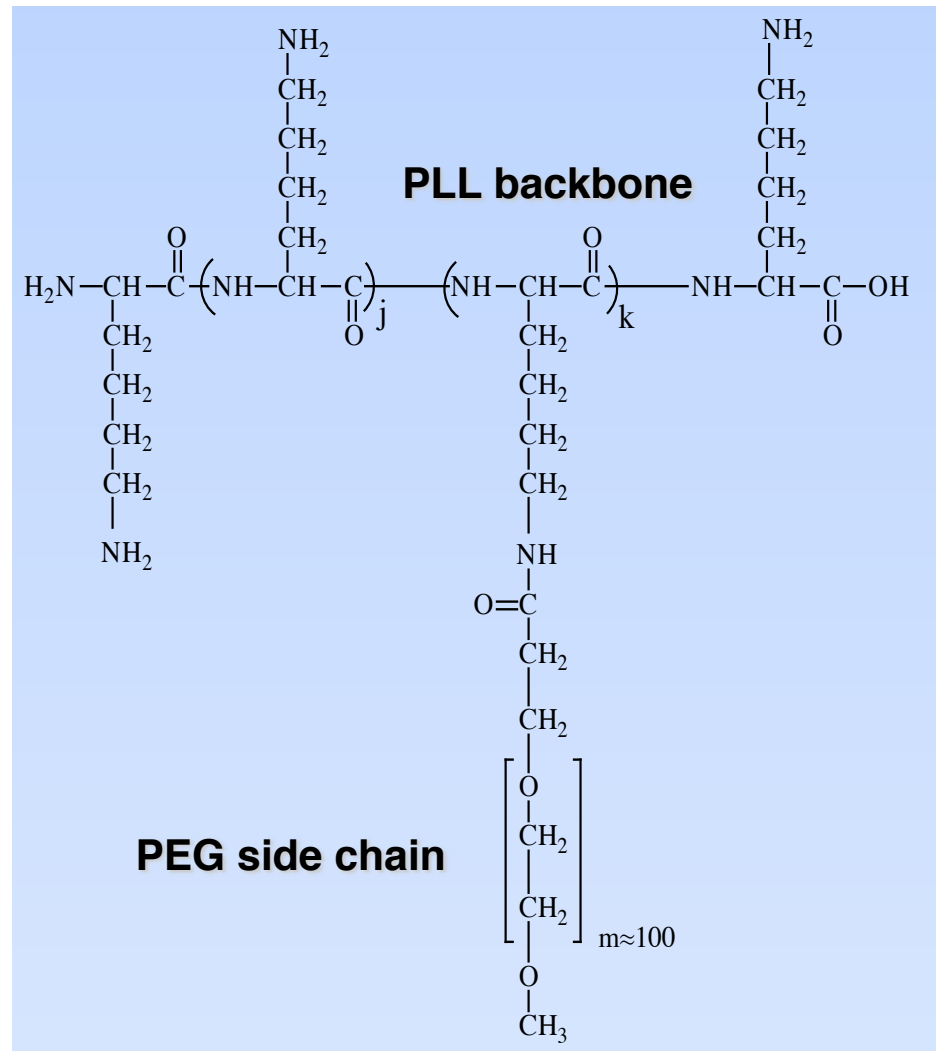
Poly-L-lysine (PLL)-g-polyethylene glycol (PEG)

PLL backbone

- MW: 20,000 to 350,000
- Positively charged at pH<10 (R= -NH₃⁺)
- Approximate length of backbone: 90 to 1000 nm

PEG side chain

- MW: 2000 to 5000
- Adsorbs water and has properties similar to water
- Protein resistant
- Approximate length of side chain: 20 nm



J. Hubbell, D. Elbert, Chem Biol 5: (3) 177-183 (1998)

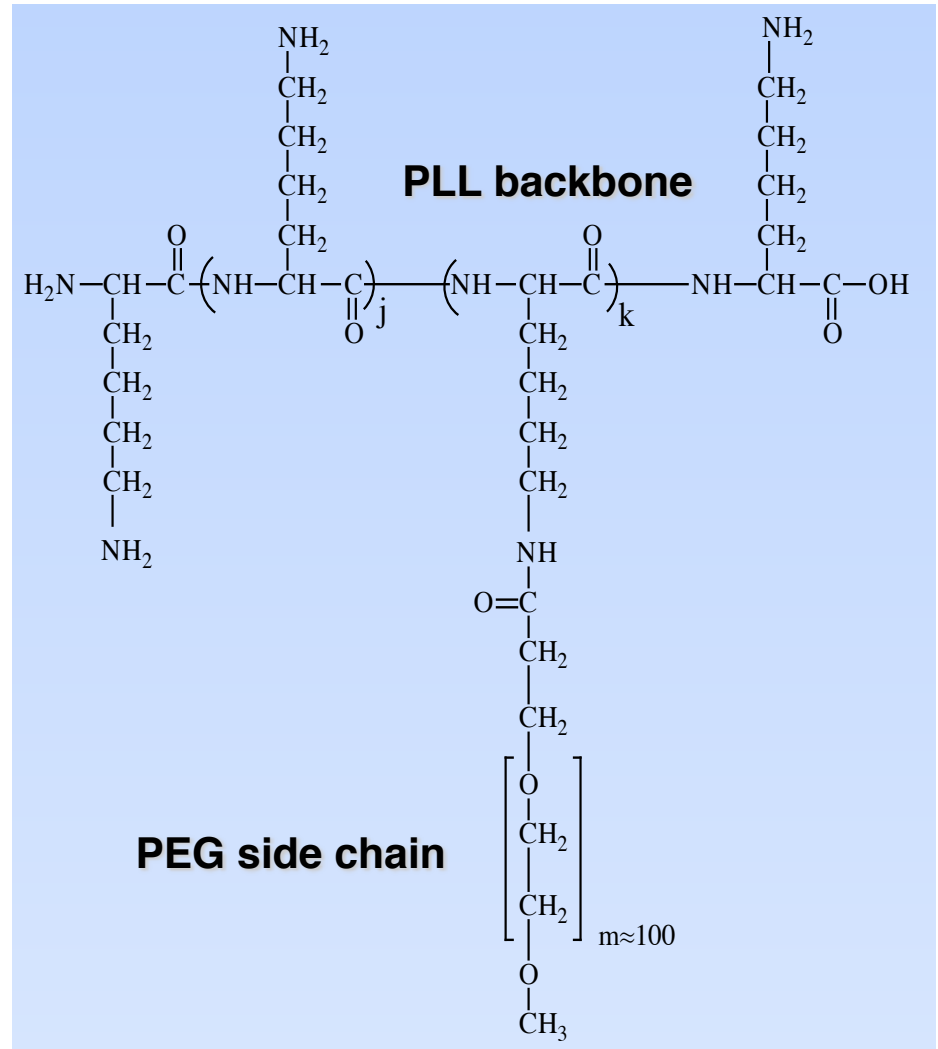
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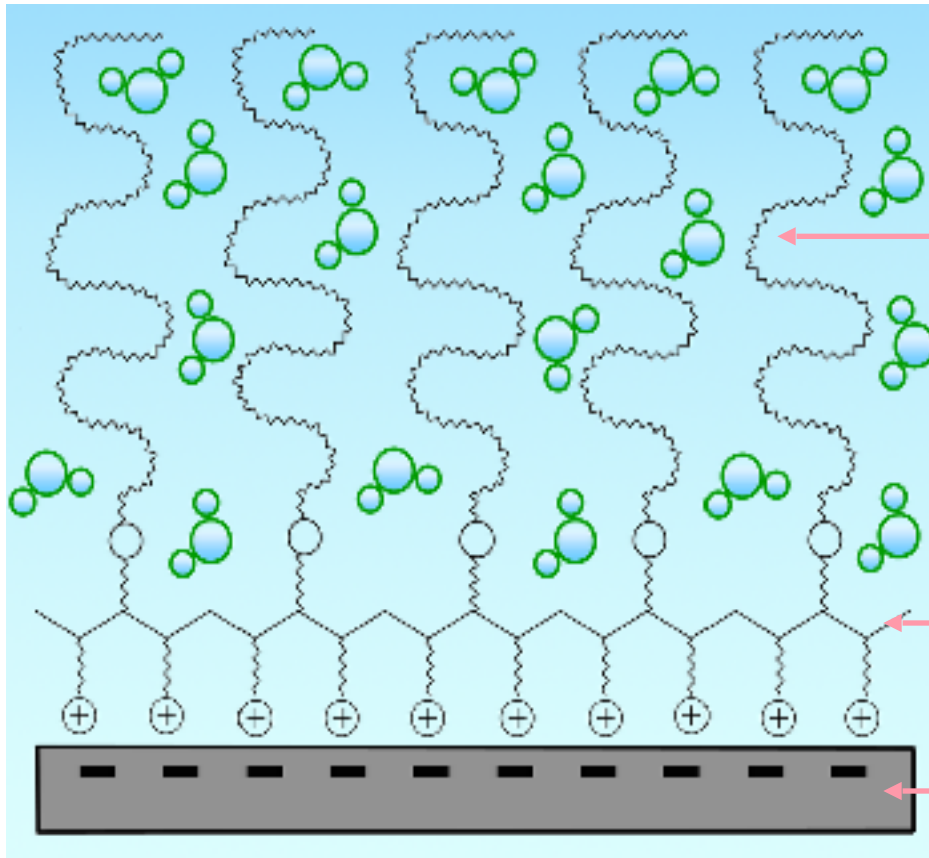
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"Grafting to" of PEG, using a backbone



**PEG
side
chains**

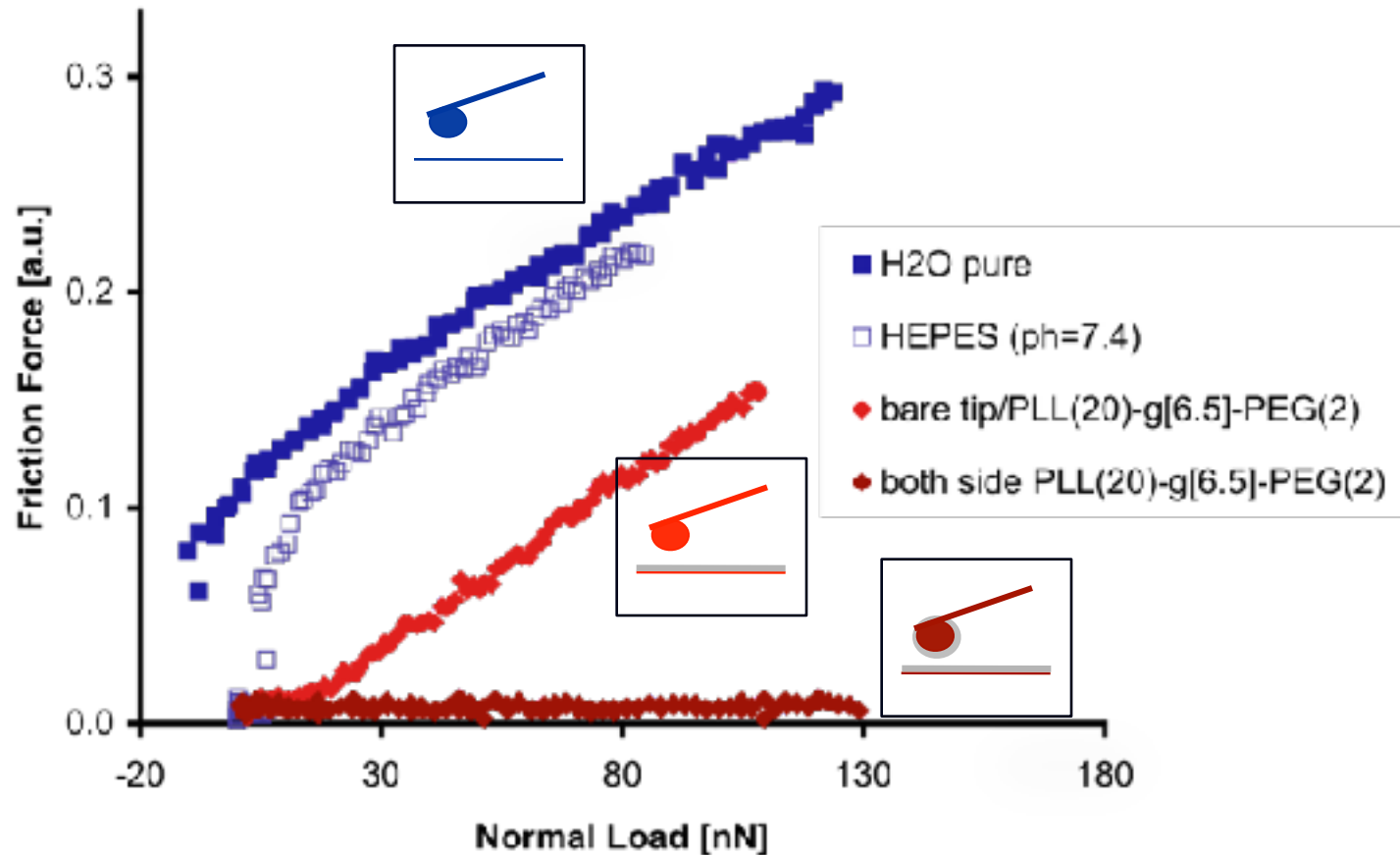
**PLL
back-
bone**

**Oxide
surface**

Hydrophilic
Uncharged
Flexible chains
High water content
Protein resistant
Biocompatible

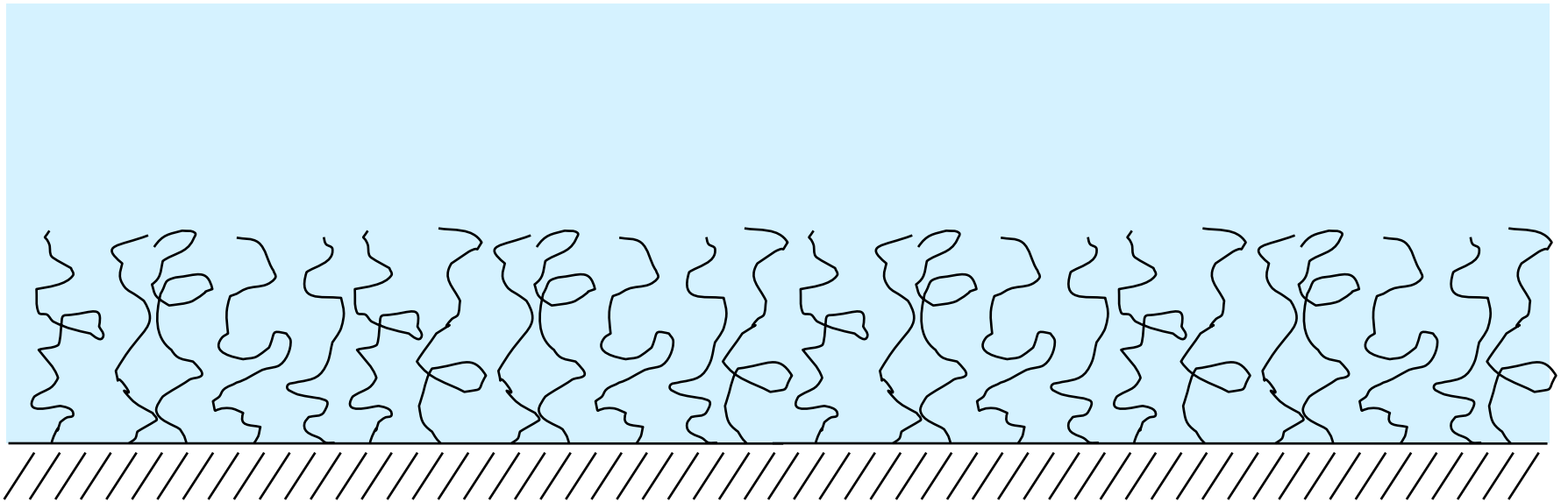
Positive charge
High coverage
Kinetic inertness
pH dependence

Polymer adsorption dramatically reduces nanofriction

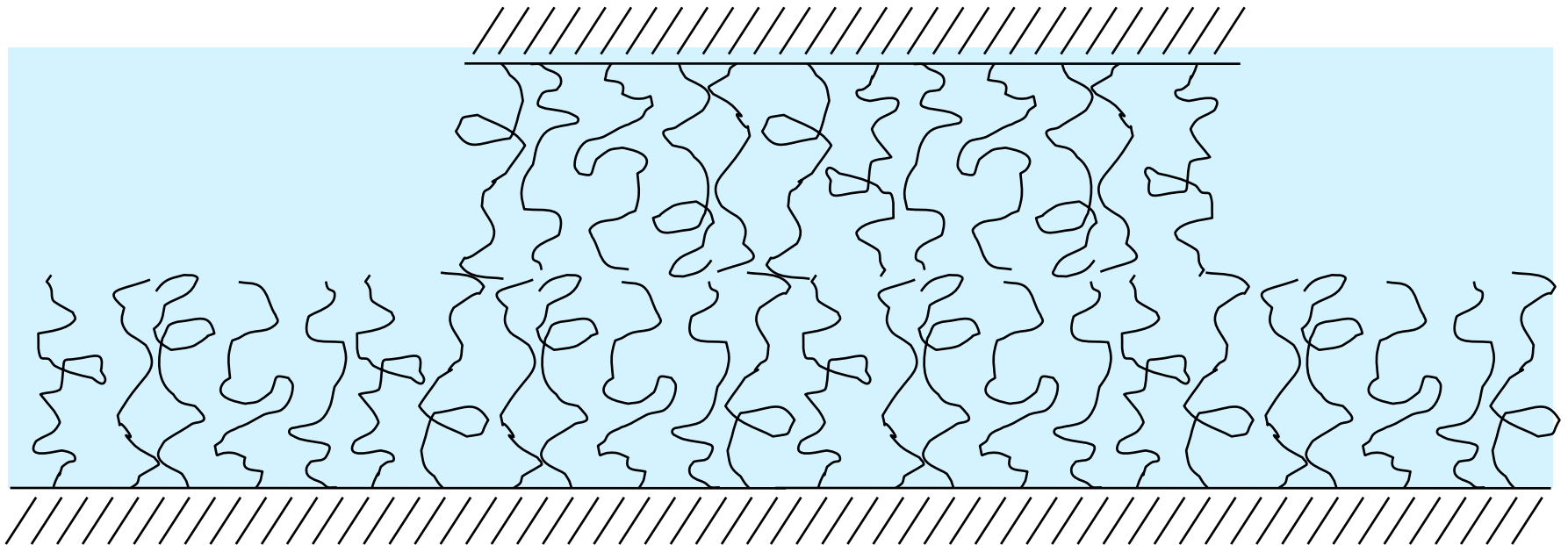


X. Yan, S.S. Perry, N.D. Spencer, S. Pasche, S.M. De Paul, M. Textor, M.S. Lim, *Langmuir* 2004, 20, 423-428

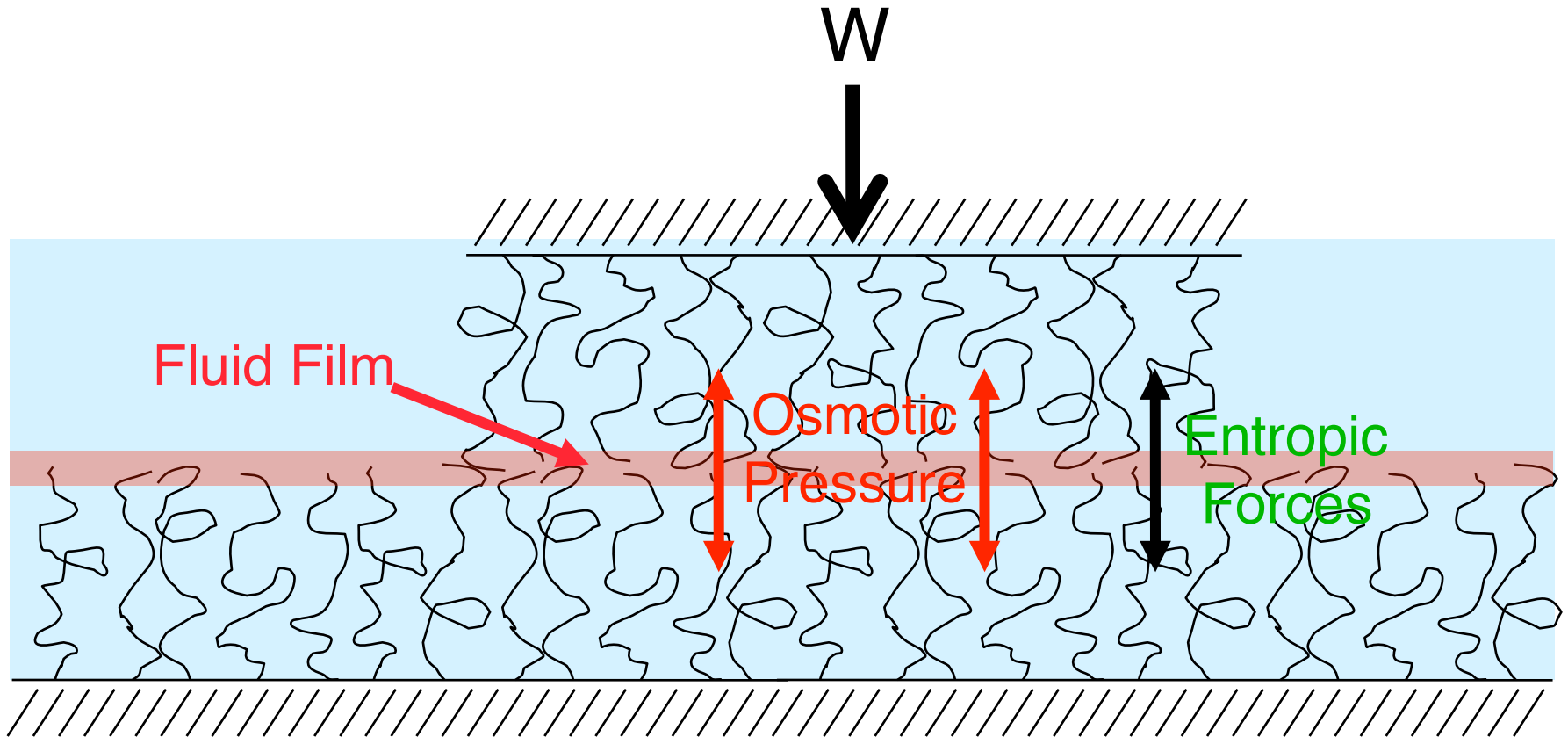
“Enforced” Fluid-Film Lubrication by Polymer Brushes



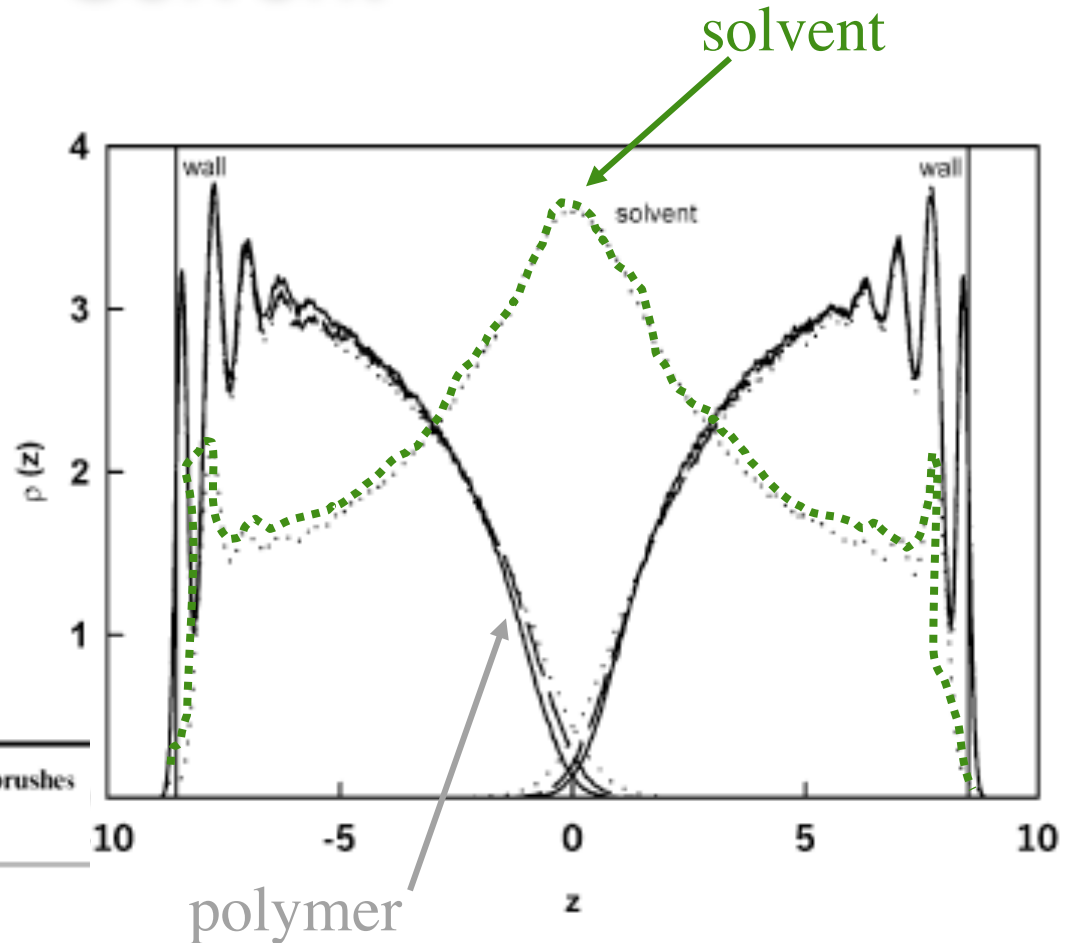
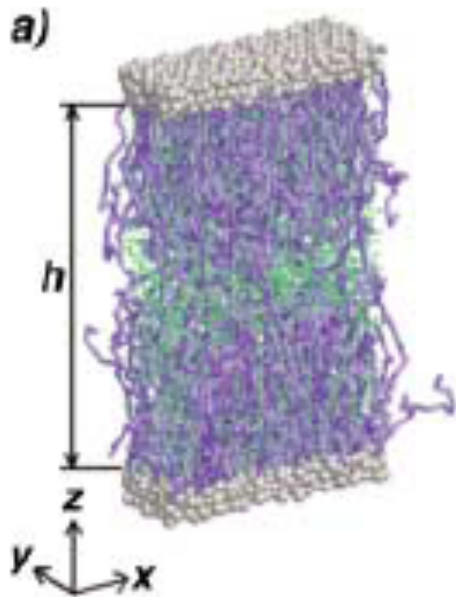
“Enforced” Fluid-Film Lubrication by Polymer Brushes



“Enforced” Fluid-Film Lubrication by Polymer Brushes



Density Distribution of Polymer and Solvent



Dissipative particle dynamics simulation of grafted polymer brushes under shear

Daniel Irfachyad,^a Dominic Tildesley^a and Patrice Malfreyt^b

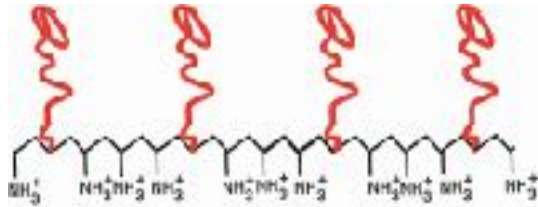
^a Unilever Research Port Sunlight, Bebington, Wirral, UK CH63 3JW

^b Laboratoire de Thermodynamique des Solutions et des Polymères, UMR CNRS 6003, 24 avenue de Landais, Université Blaise-Pascal, 63177, Aubière Cedex, France

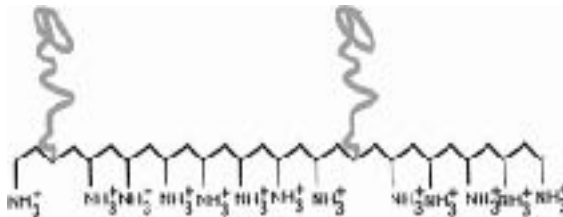
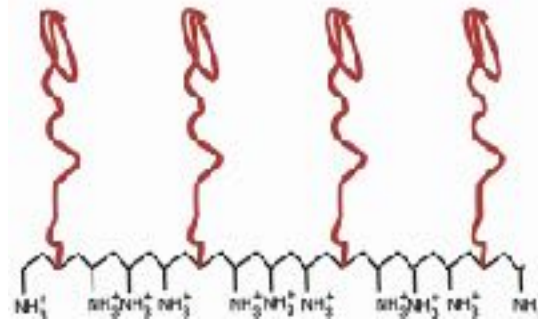
Received 22nd November 2001, Accepted 22nd April 2002

First published as an Advance Article on the web 27th May 2002

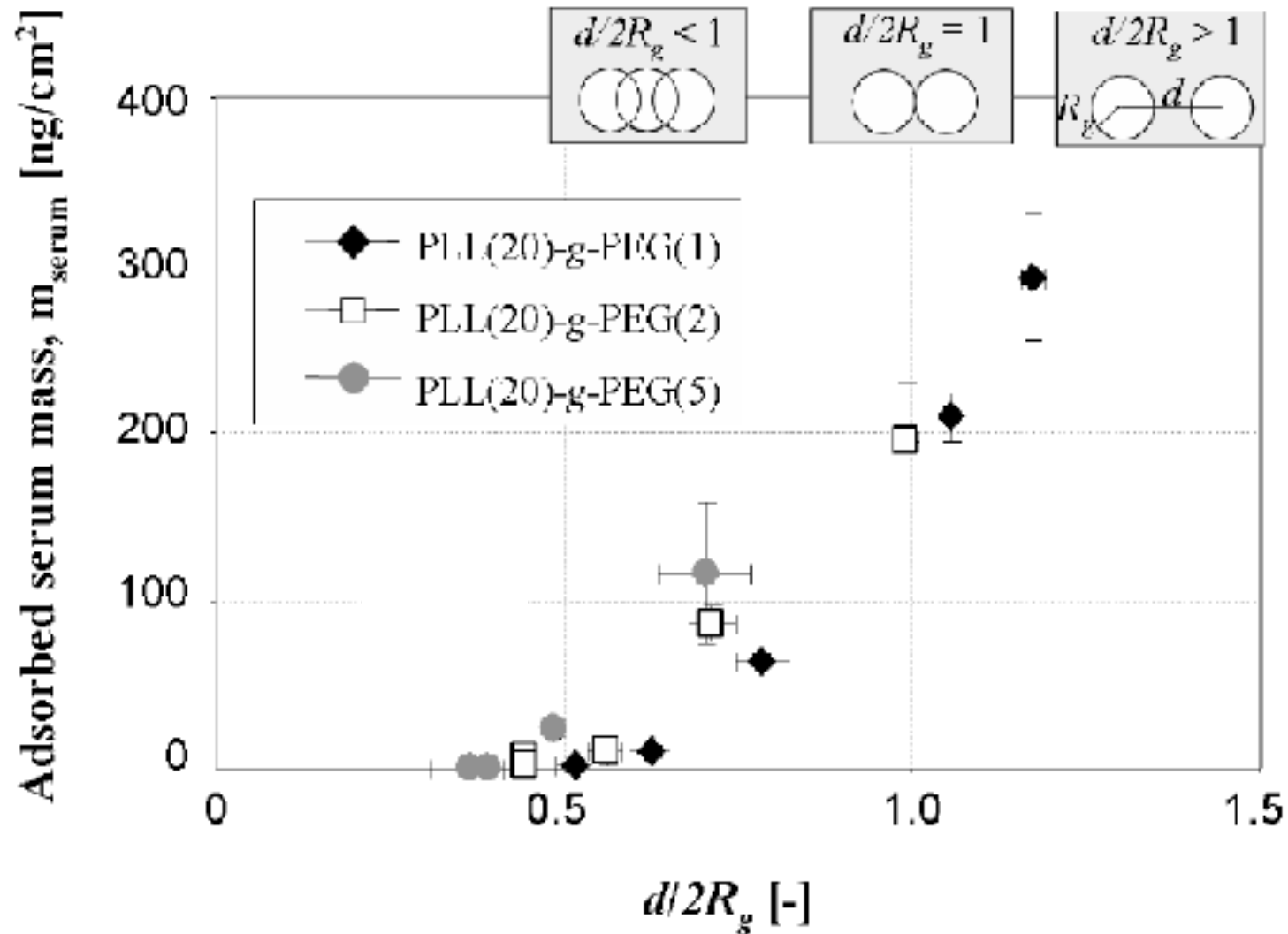
Tailoring PLL-g-PEG Architecture



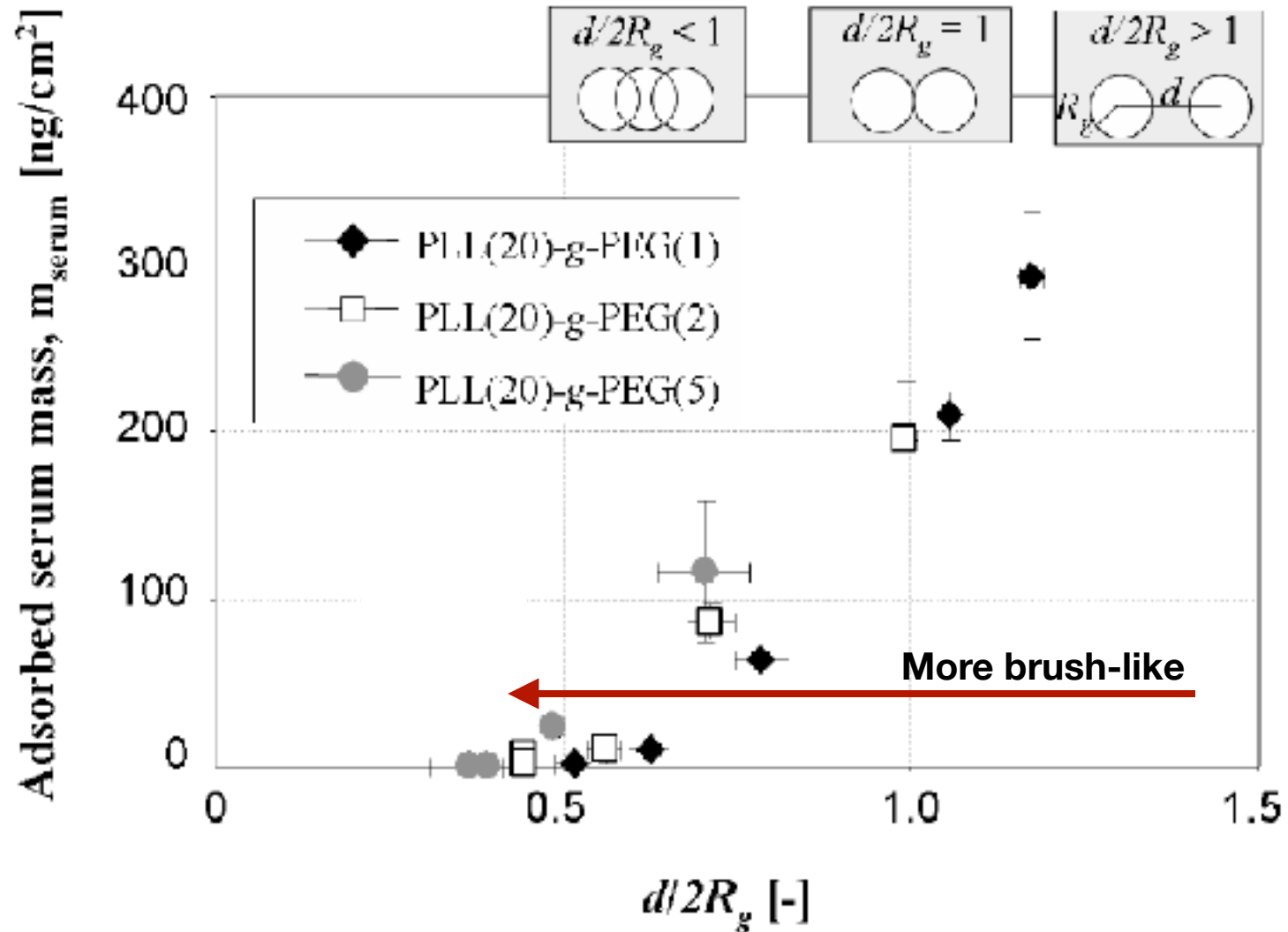
$$g = \frac{PLL}{PEG - chain} = 3.4$$



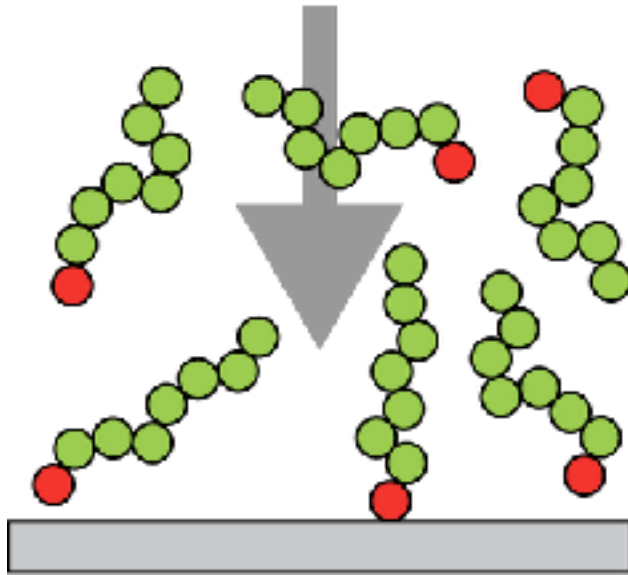
Effect of Chain Spacing on Protein Adsorption



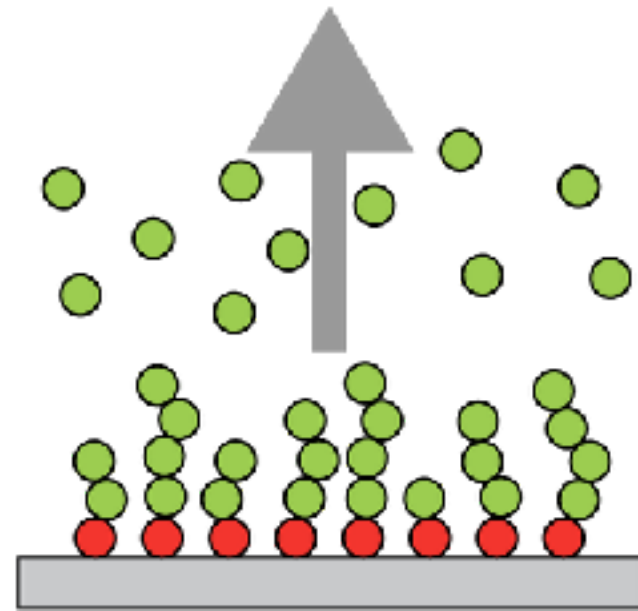
Effect of Chain Spacing on Protein Adsorption



Changing the approach: "grafting from" vs. "grafting to"



"grafting to"
easy, but relatively low density
e.g. PLL-*g*-PEG, PLL-*g*-dex

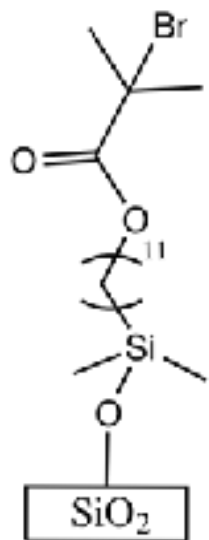
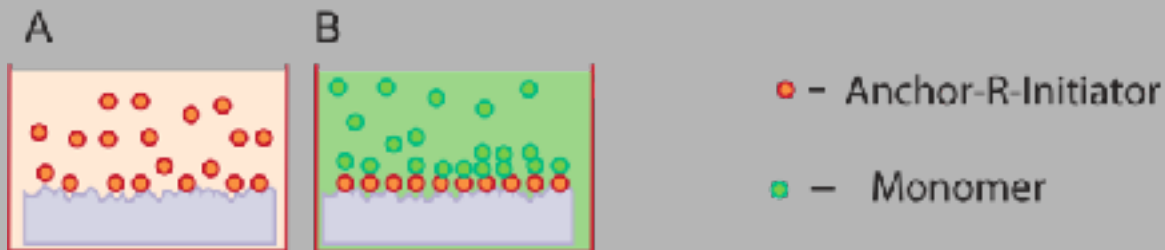


"grafting from"
more effort, but high density

Hydrocarbon-rich brushes by ATRP

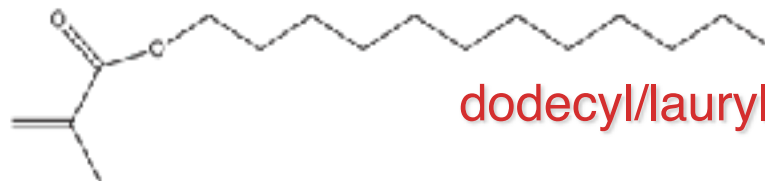
Polymer dry thickness up to above 250 nm (8 MDa) in 3 hours

2 steps:

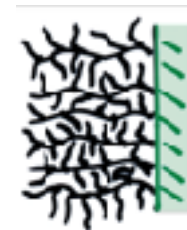


initiator

C12



methacrylate monomer

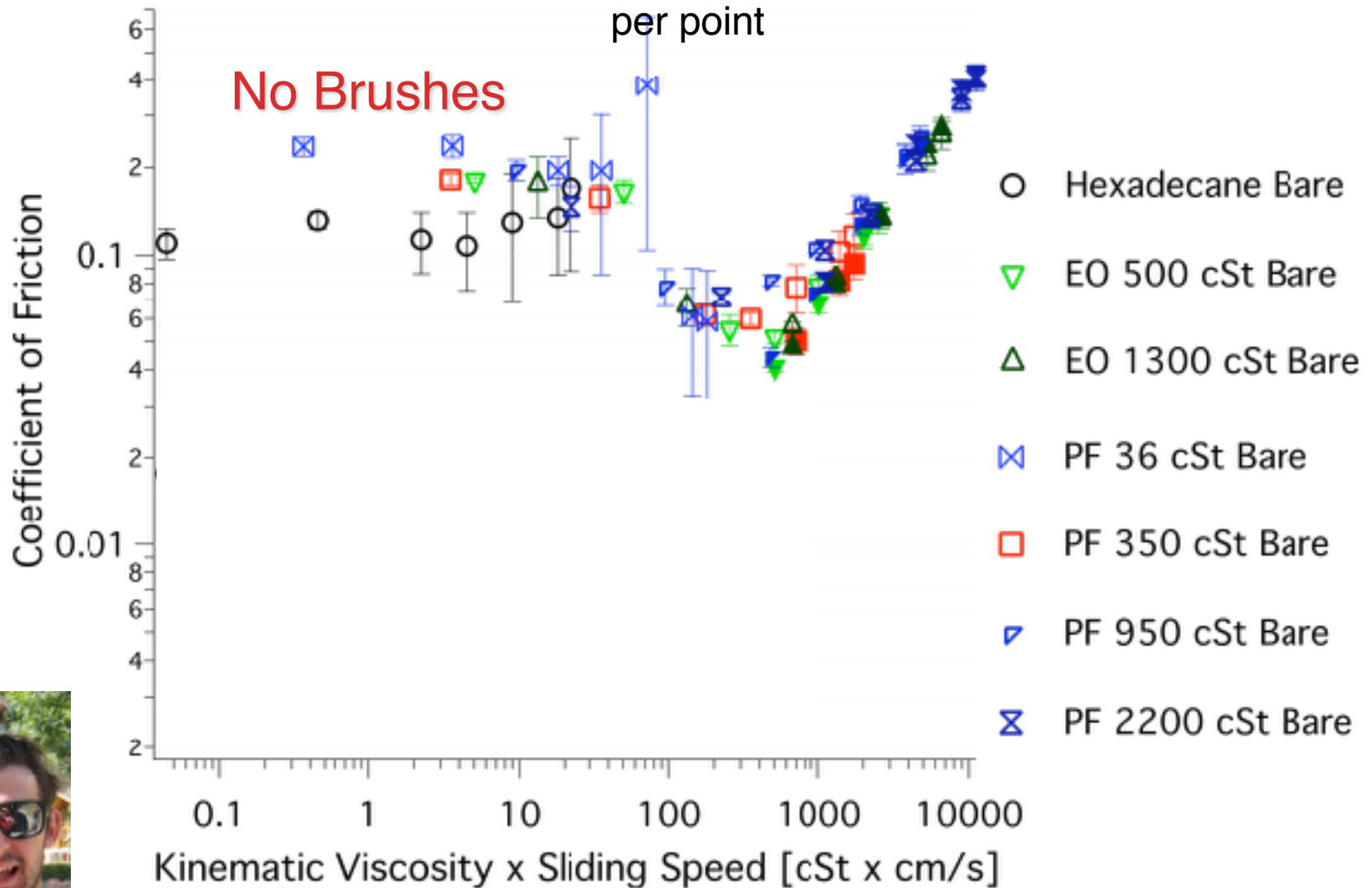


polymers

Stribeck Curve in Microtribometer:

7 Oils, Bare Borosilicate Against Brush or Si Wafer

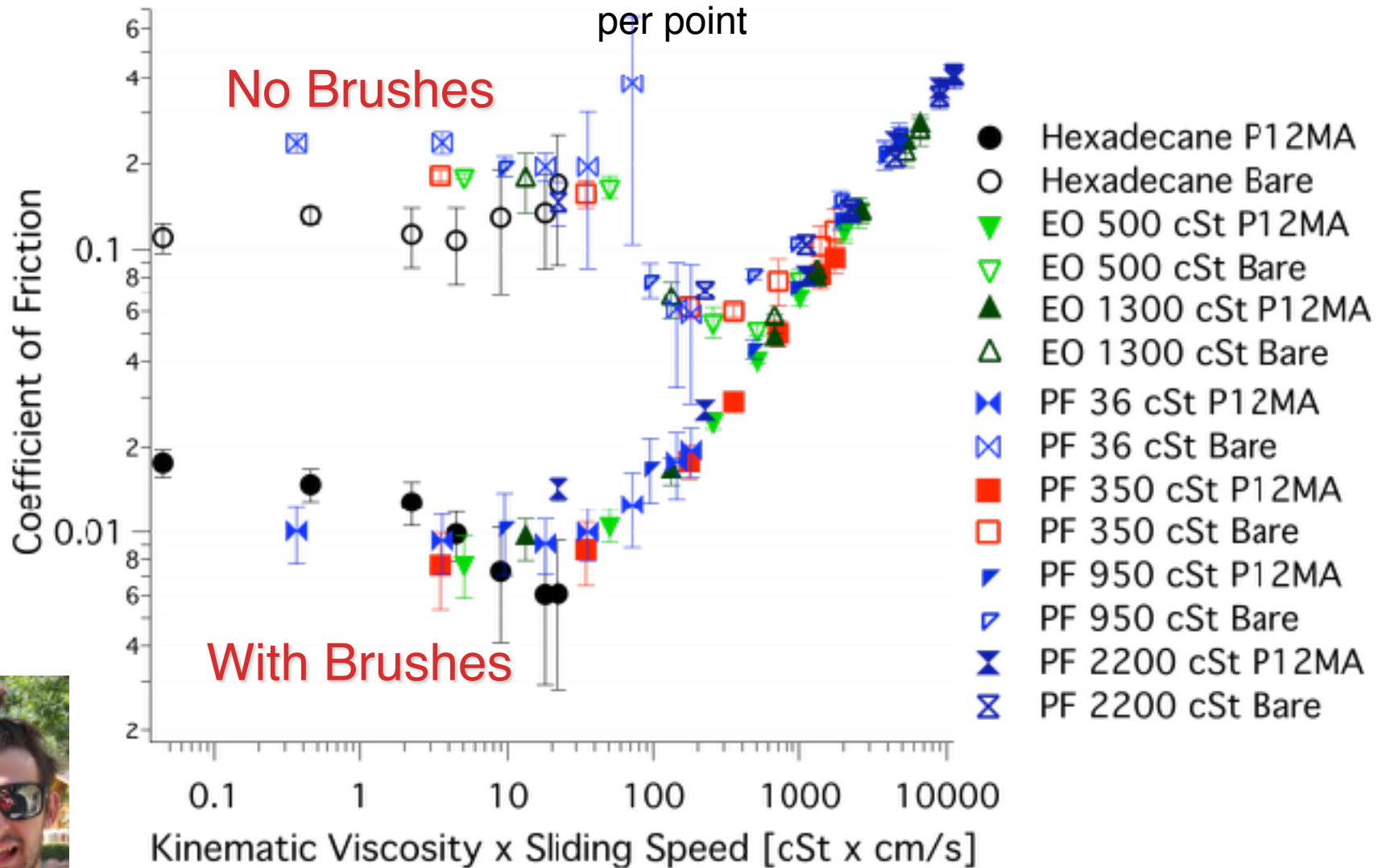
250nm (dry) Poly(dodecyl methacrylate), 20 mN, rotating, reciprocating, 20 cycles



Stribeck Curve in Microtribometer:

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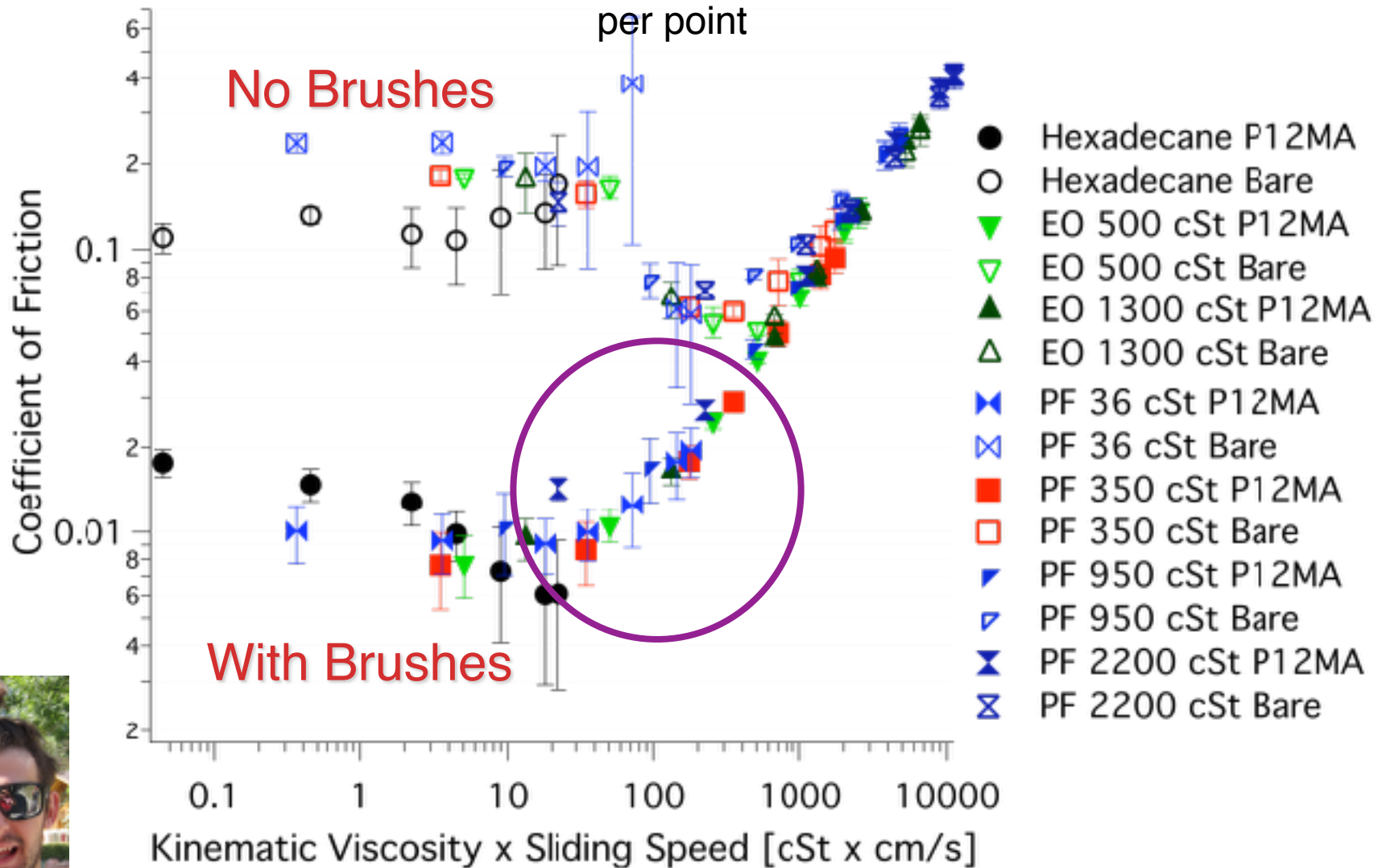
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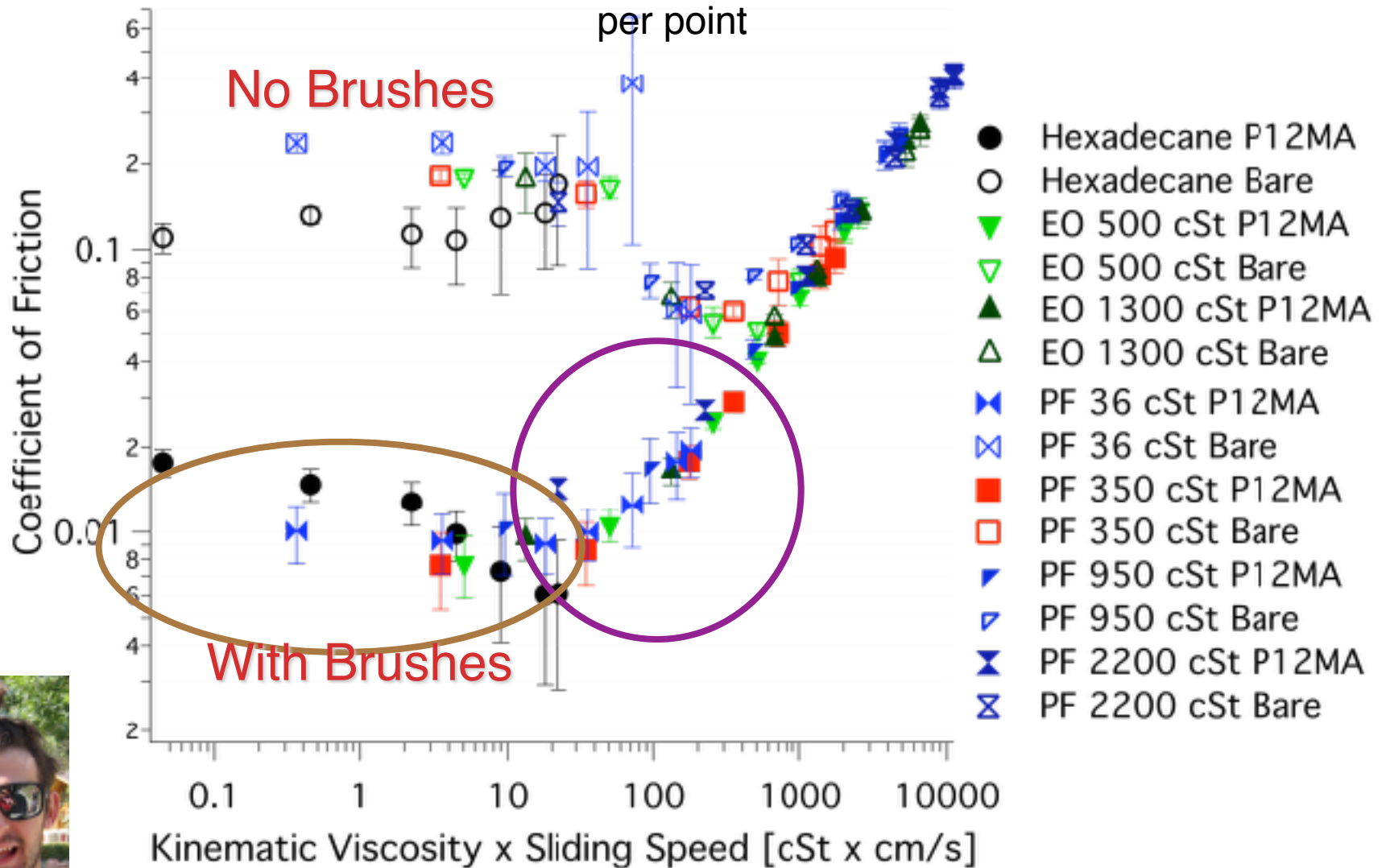
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Outline

- Modes of lubrication
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- Polymer brushes and friction
- Polymer brushes and granular flow

Burj al Khalifa



Burj al Khalifa

Pumping cement slurries!



Environmental issues around concrete

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- Cement production is growing by 2.5% annually, and is expected to rise from 2.55 billion tons in 2006 to 3.7-4.4 billion tons by 2050.

Environmental issues around concrete

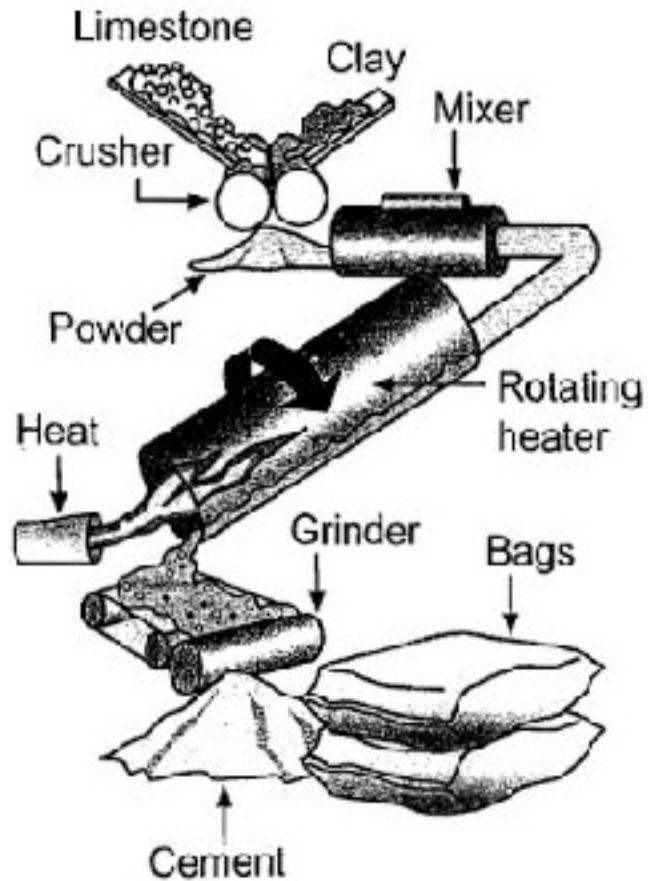
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- Producing a ton of cement generates a ton of CO₂ (reaction product, heat and electricity required)

Environmental issues around concrete

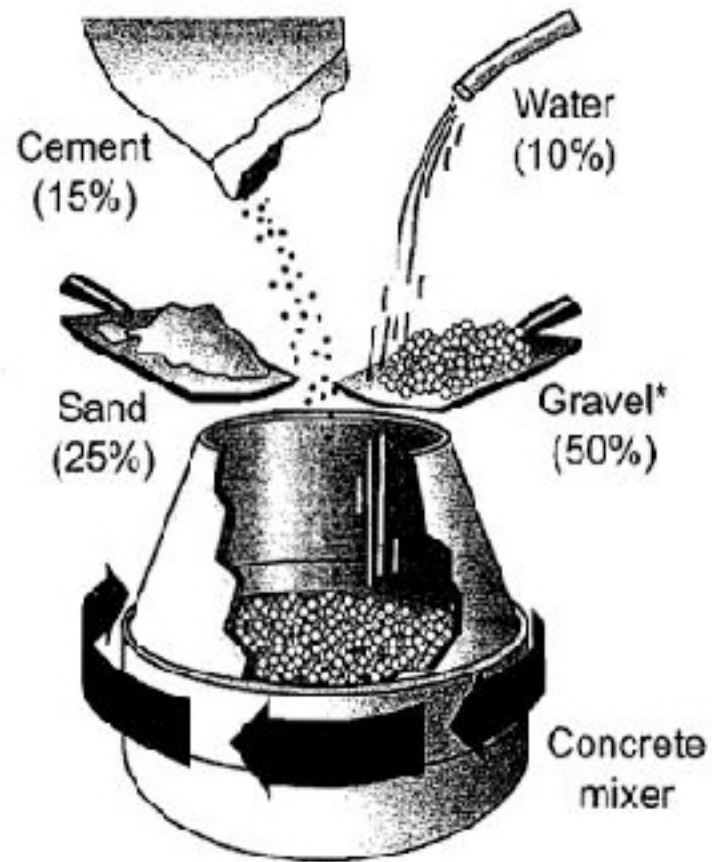
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- Producing a ton of cement generates a ton of CO₂ (reaction product, heat and electricity required)
- 5% of world CO₂ emissions are due to cement production

Cement and Concrete Production

Cement Production



Concrete Production



*Gravel = small stones

One Approach to Improving the C-footprint of Cement

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- Making concrete with fillers (e.g. ash) mixed in with cement improves C-footprint of system

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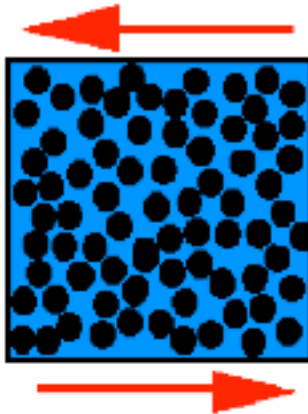
One Approach to Improving the C-footprint of Cement

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- but...reaction of water with cement is stoichiometric, and excess water lowers concrete performance.
- So slurry of cement + filler is more viscous than slurry of cement alone
- New rheological situation brings challenges...

Dense Flows (“slurries”):

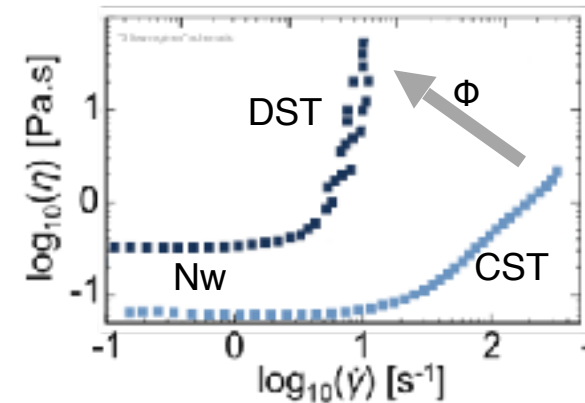
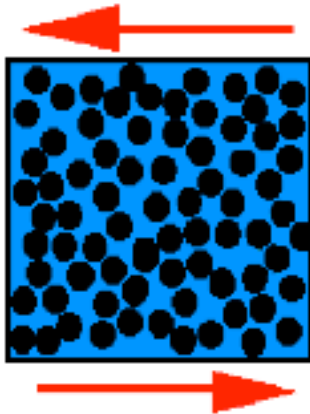
Shear Thickening of non-Brownian suspensions

- Newtonian Fluid
- Non-Brownian, Rigid, Hard Spheres
- High Volume Fraction (>50%)
- High Shear



Shear Thickening of non-Brownian suspensions

- Newtonian Fluid
- Non-Brownian, Rigid, Hard Spheres
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- 3 Flow Regimes:
 - Newtonian Plateau
 - Continuous Shear Thickening
 - Discontinuous Shear Thickening

Barnes, J. Rheol, 1989

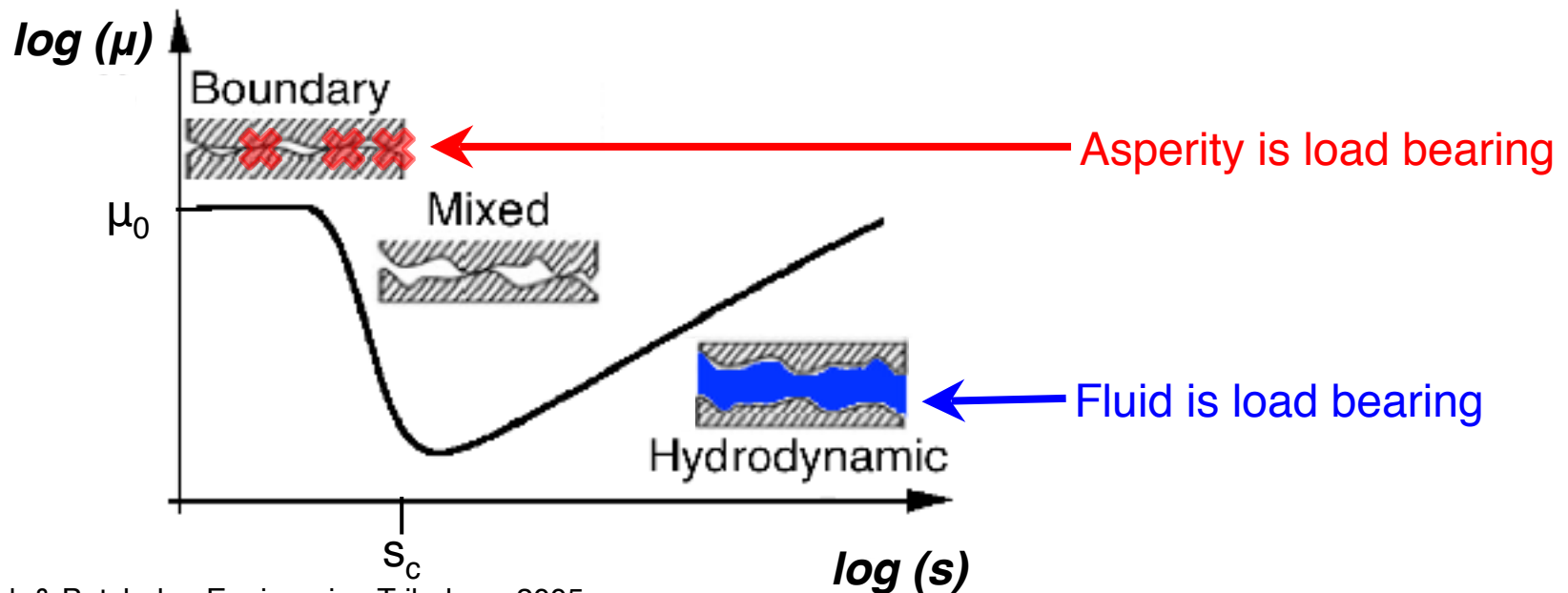
Theoretical Framework

Particle-contact model

- Lubrication regimes:

- Sommerfeld number: $s =$

$$\frac{\eta_f R_p v_{sliding}}{F_N}$$



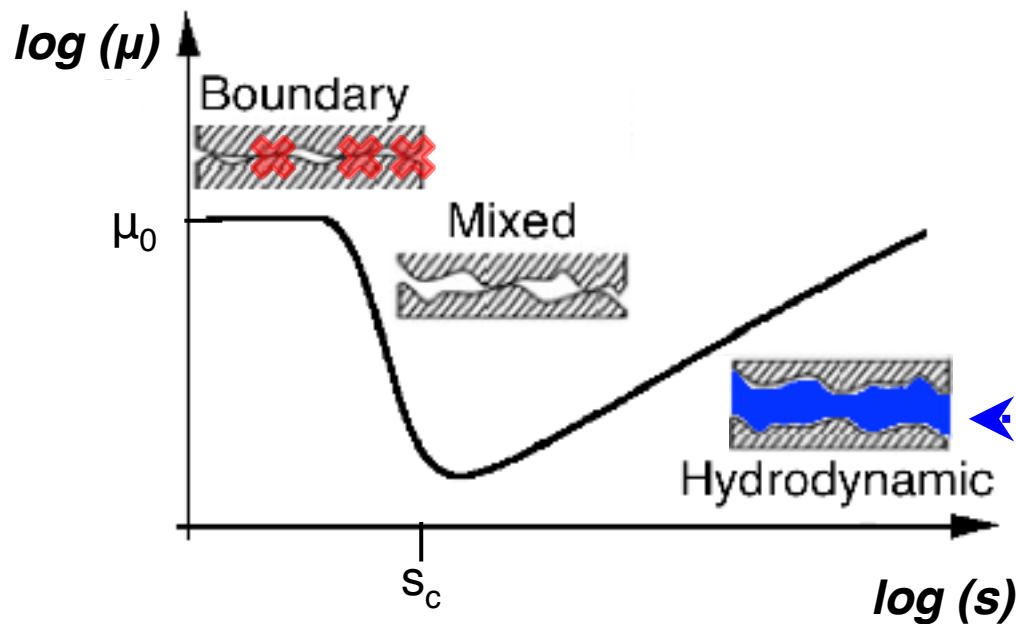
Stachowiak & Batchelor, Engineering Tribology, 2005

Theoretical Framework

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Corresponding Flow Regimes

Viscous flow
(Newtonian Plateau)

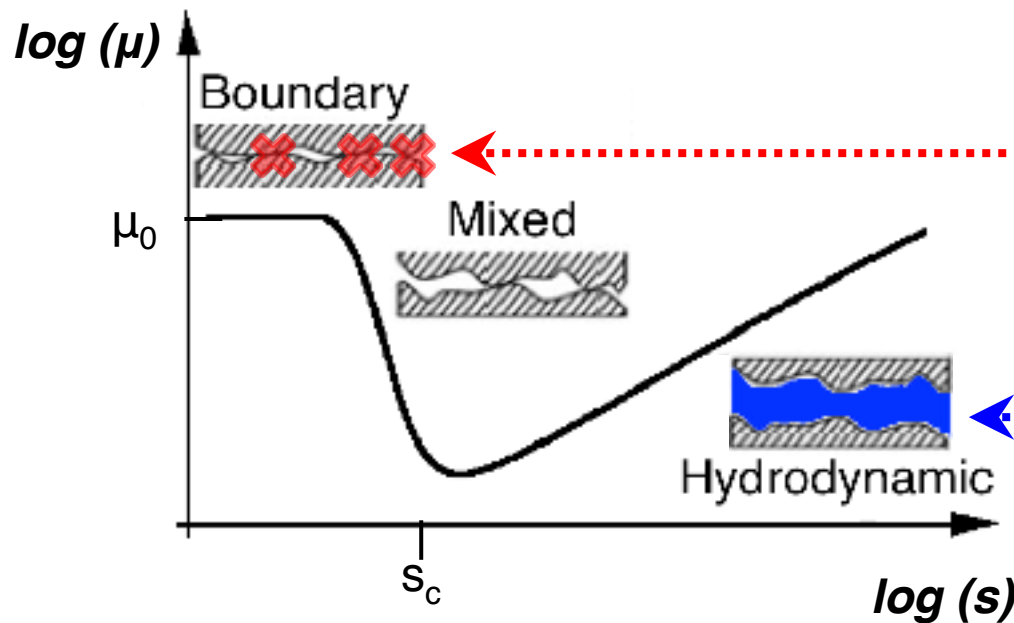
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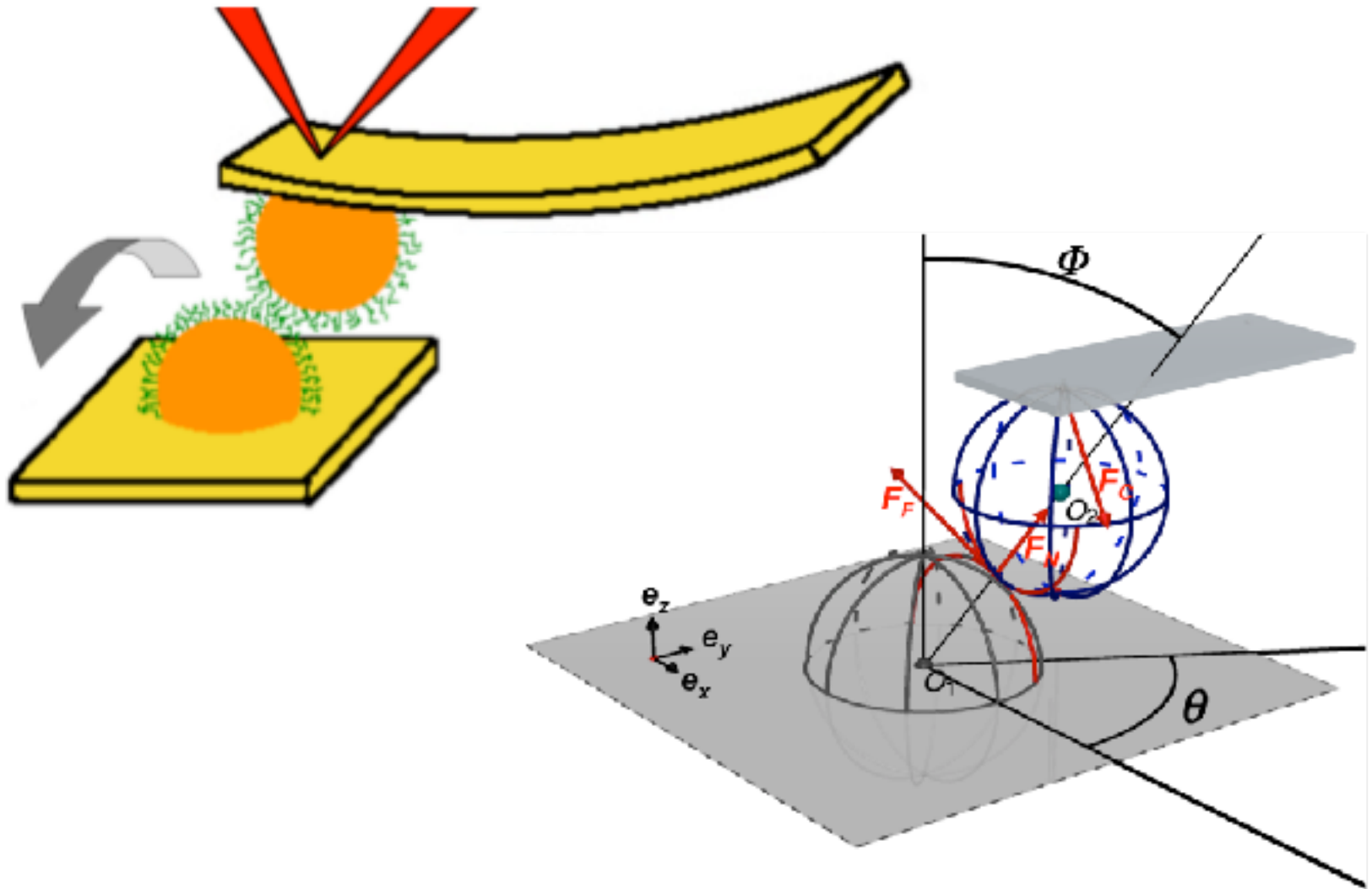


Corresponding Flow Regimes in Slurry

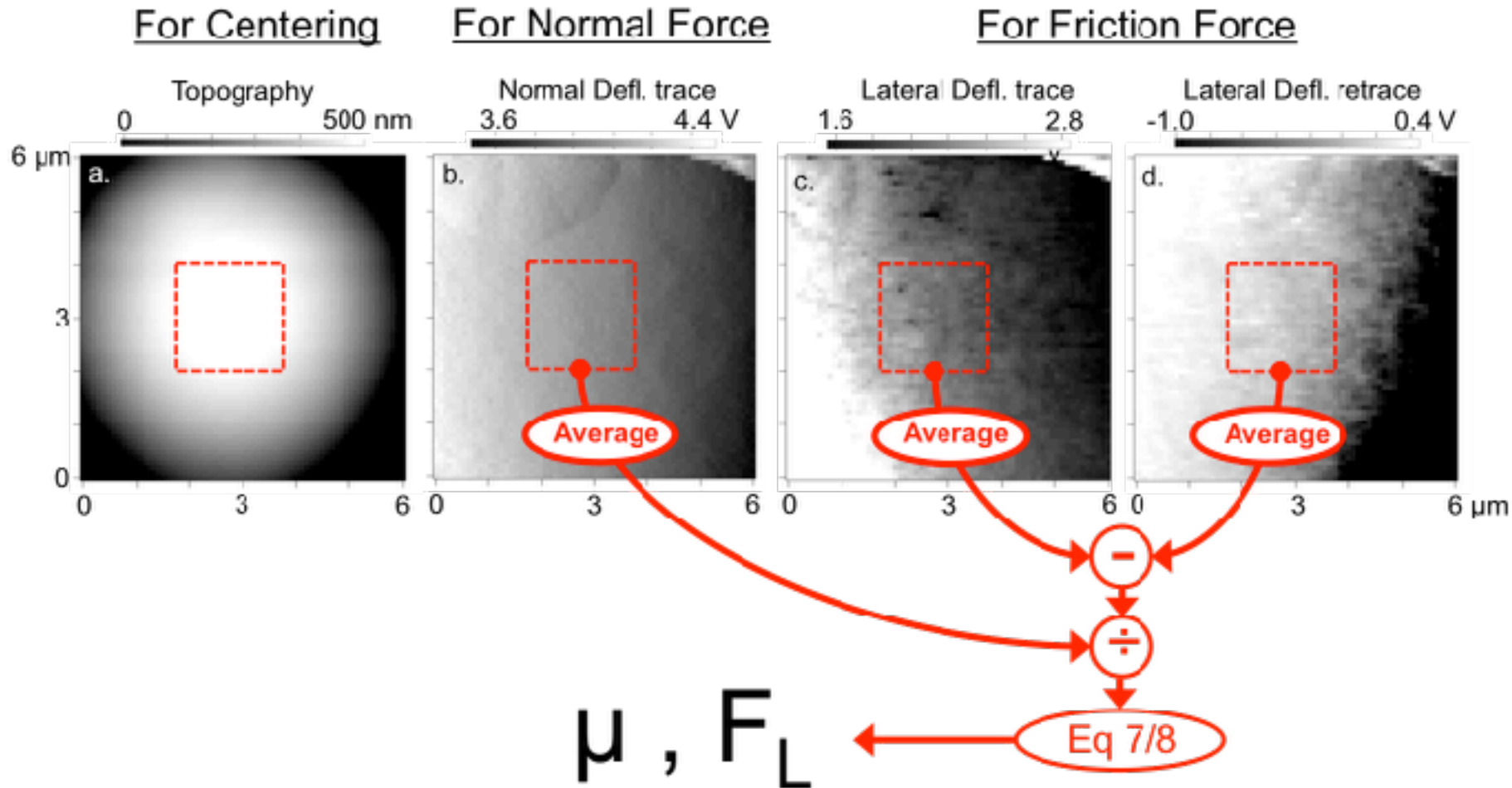
Granular Flow
(Shear-Thickening)

Viscous flow
(Newtonian Plateau)

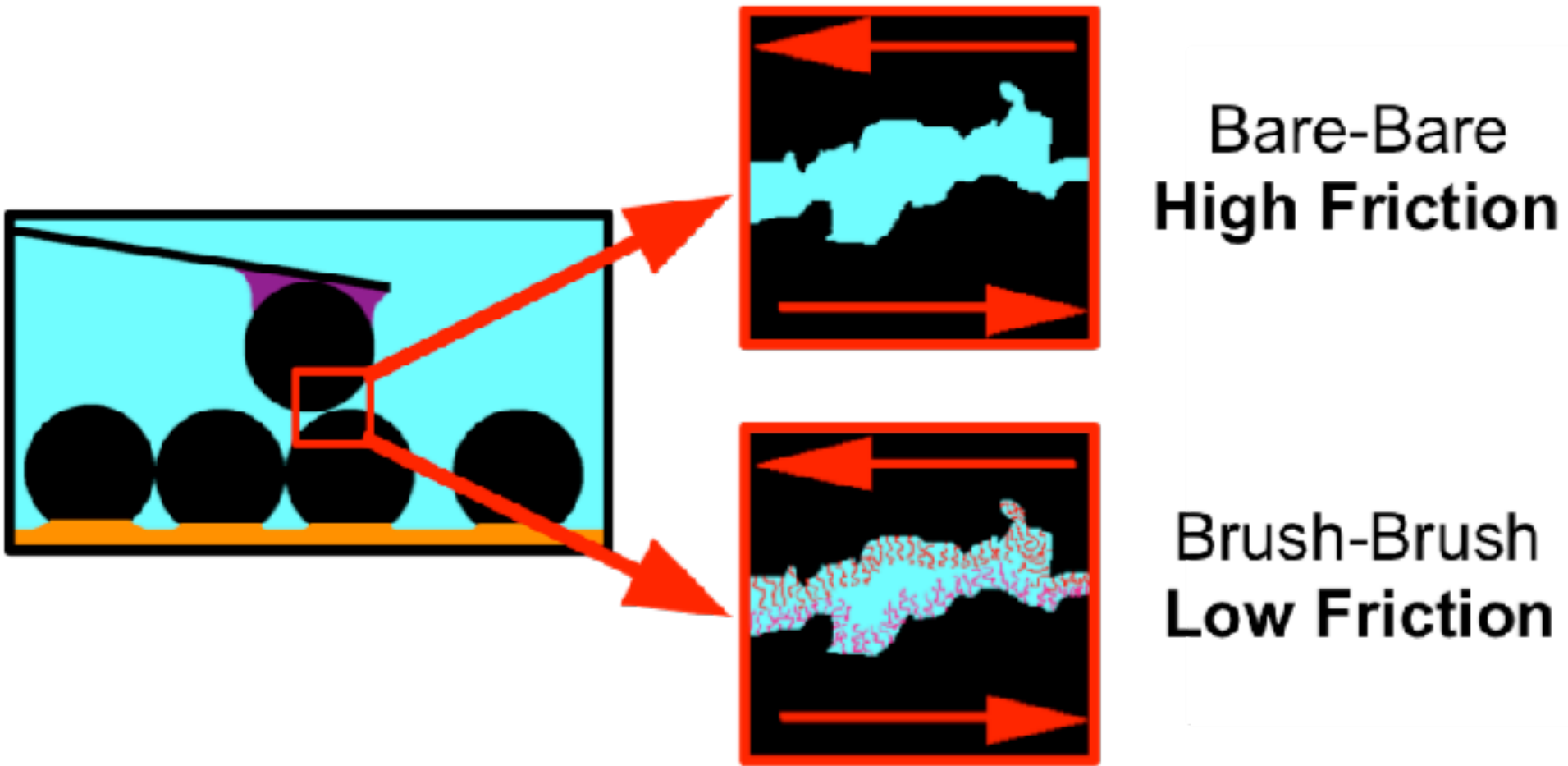
Measuring Friction Between Spheres



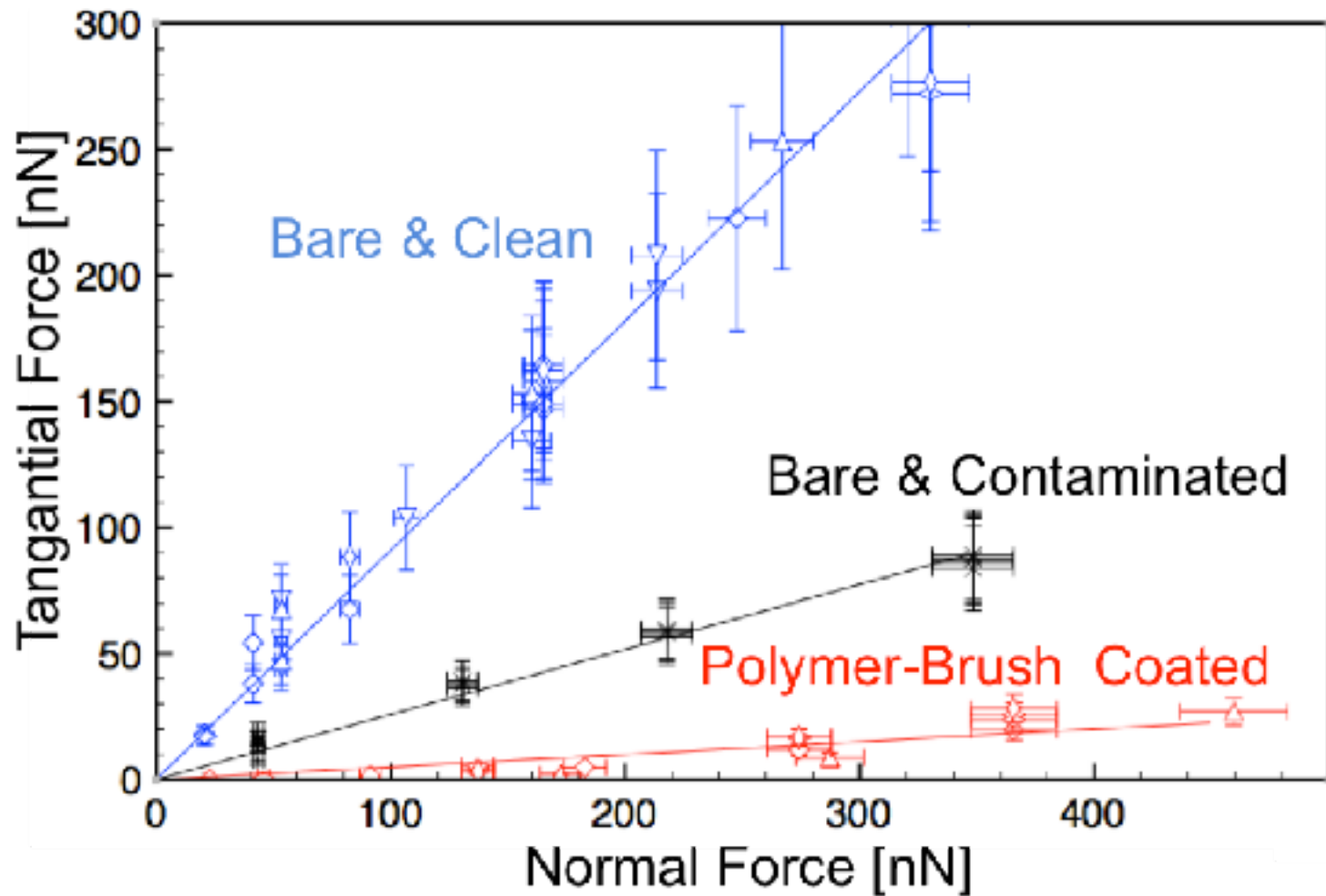
Measuring Friction Between Spheres



Measuring Friction Between Spheres



Measuring Friction Between Silica Spheres

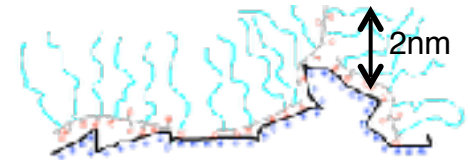


Experimental Validation

Tribology - Rheology comparison



- μ_0 – tunable system:
 - Quartz Powder ($12\mu\text{m}$) + PMAA-g-PEG (+ $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$)
 - Tunable BL friction coefficient ($\mu_0 = 0.6 \rightarrow 1.1$)



Lee & Spencer, Science, 2008

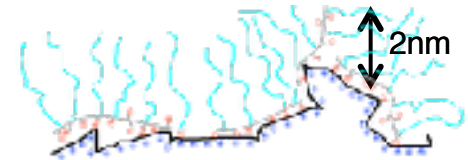
N Fernandez et al., Physical Review Letters, 111, 108301, 2013

Experimental Validation

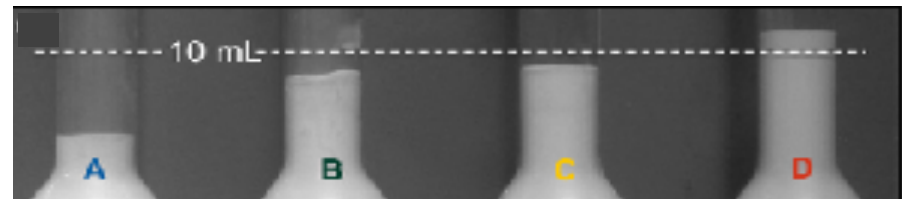
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- $\Phi_{\text{max}}^{\text{BL}}$ measurement:
 - Compressive rheology
(Centrifugation up to 2000g)



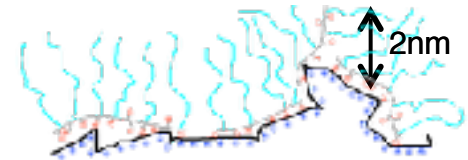
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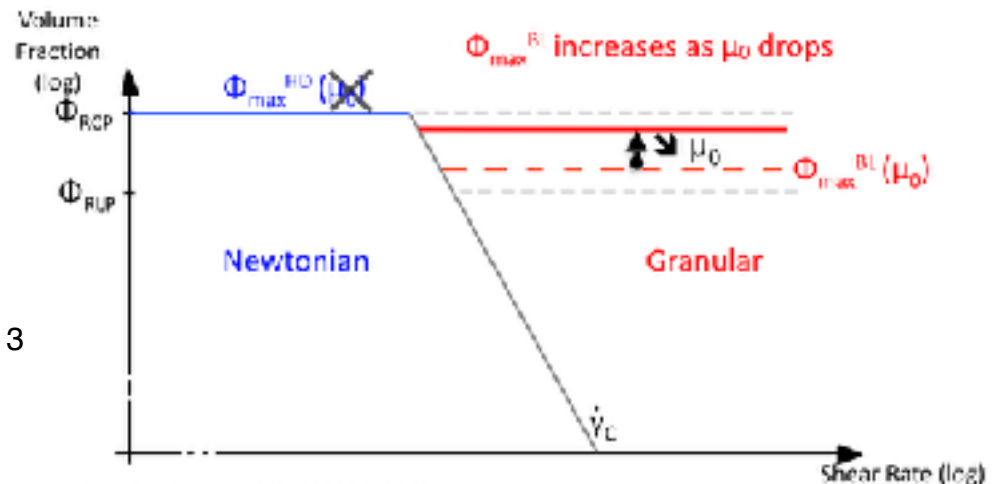
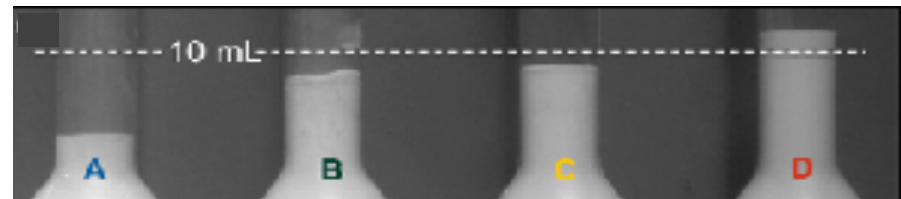
Tribology - Rheology comparison



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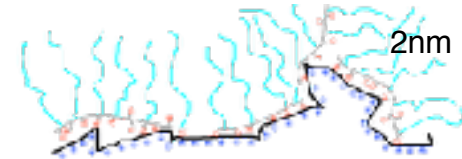
N Fernandez et al., Physical Review Letters, 111, 108301, 2013

Experimental Validation

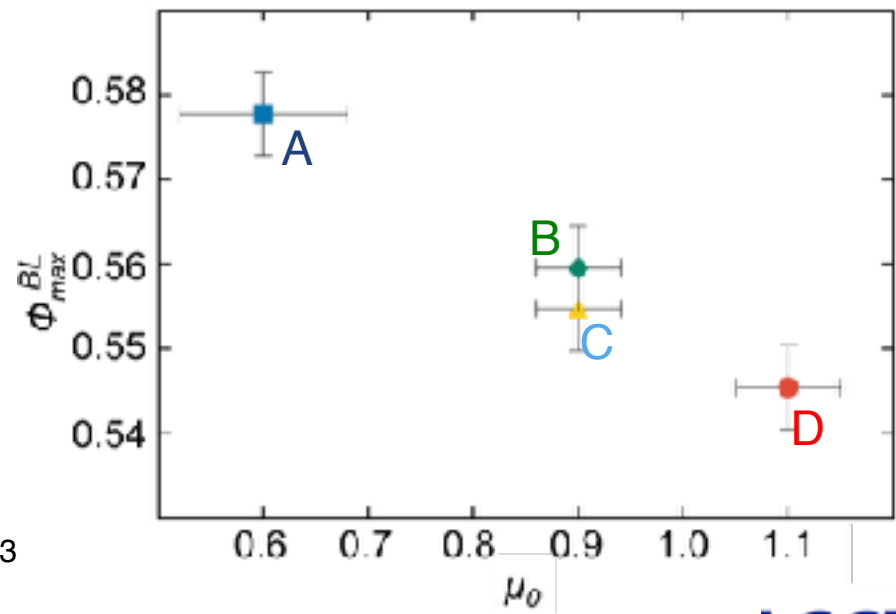
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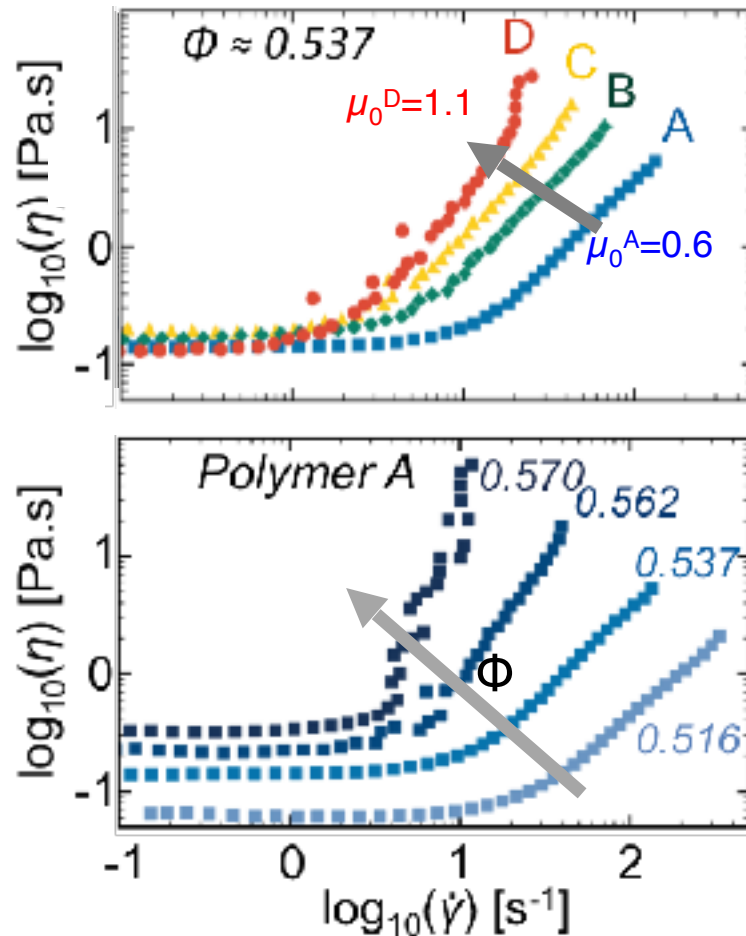


Silbert, Soft Matter, 2010

N Fernandez et al., Physical Review Letters, 111, 108301, 2013

Experimental Validation

Tribology - Rheology comparison



Nw/ST Transition
with $\dot{\gamma}$

CST/DST Transition
with μ_0

CST/DST Transition
with Φ

Conclusions: Dense flows—Friction and Shear Thickening

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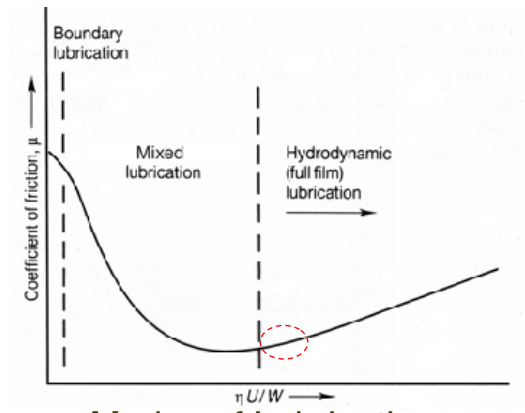
- Direct connection between the transitions in flow regimes and those in lubrication regimes

Conclusions: Dense flows—Friction and Shear Thickening

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- Direct connection between the transitions in flow regimes and those in lubrication regimes
- Friction determines the maximum volume fraction in boundary-lubricated flows
- Onset and nature of the shear-thickening transition can be controlled by controlling the lubrication between particles
- **can optimised polymer-brush lubricant additive to achieve better flow properties!**

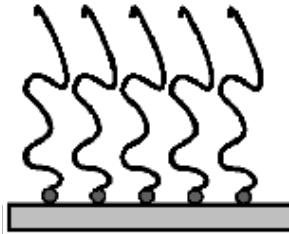


Modes of Lubrication

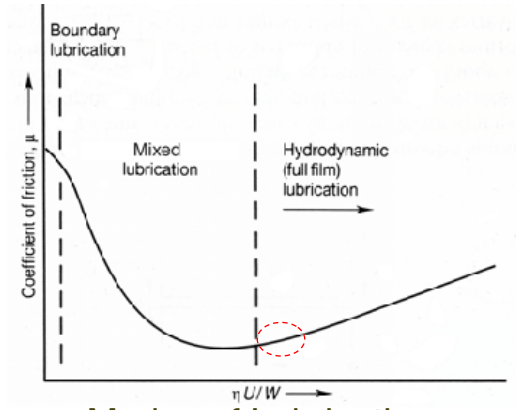
Non-interacting mushrooms



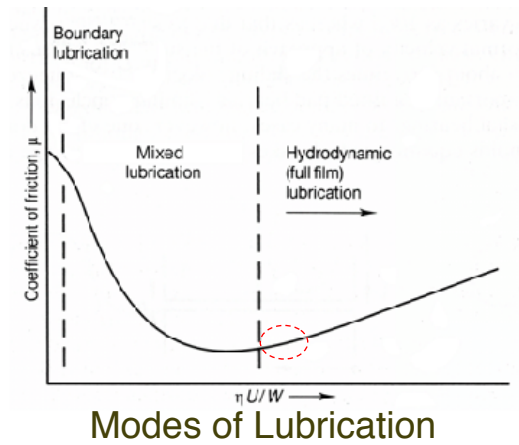
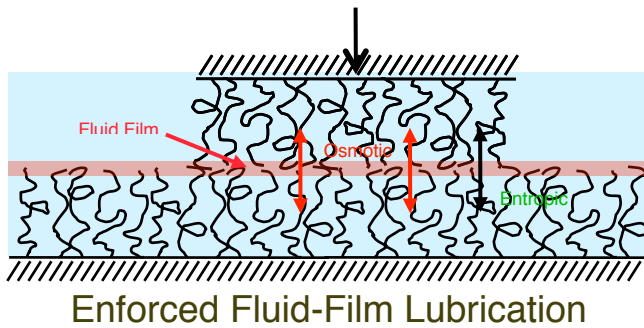
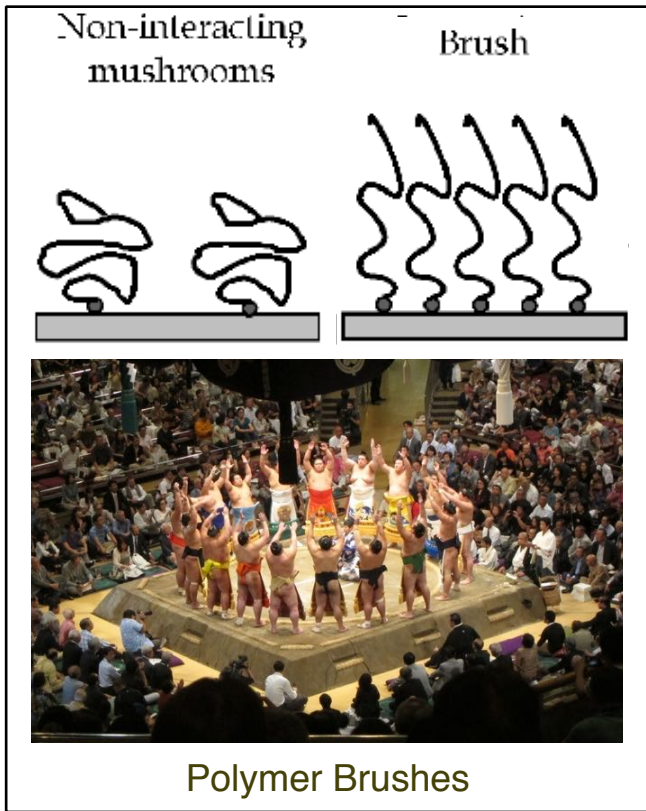
Brush

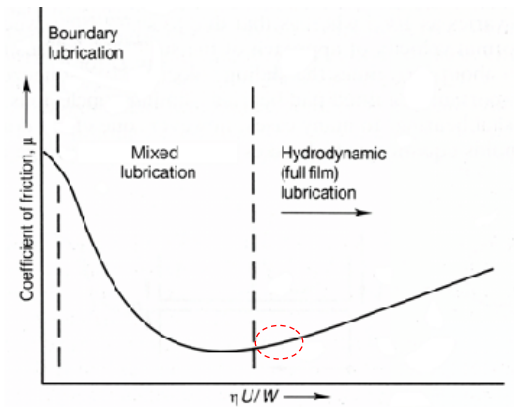
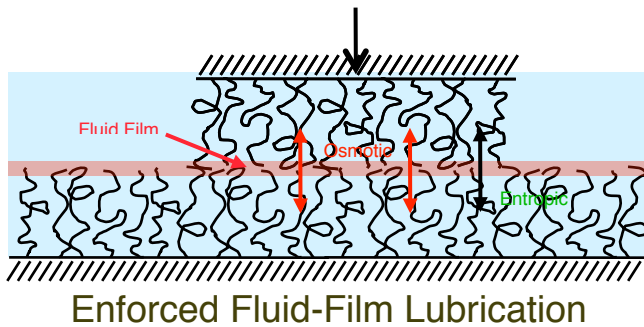
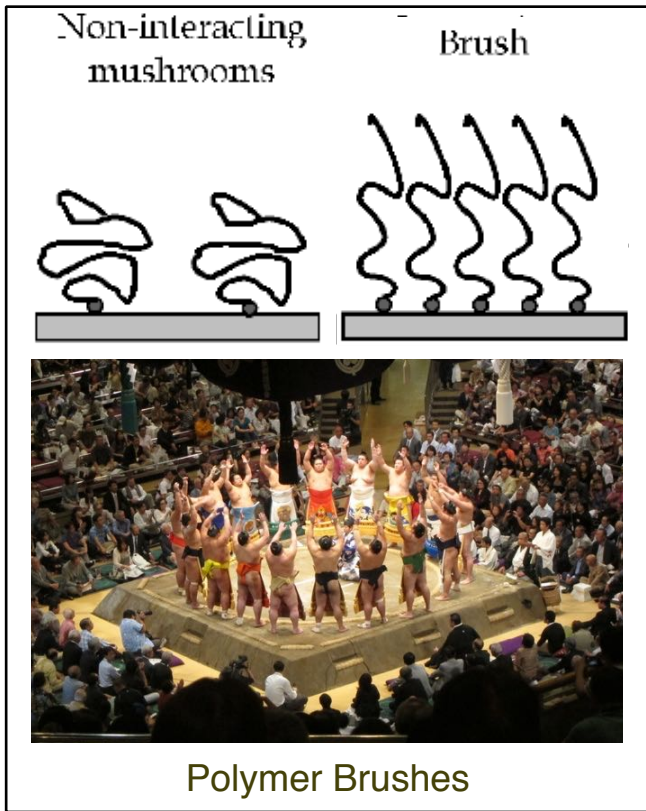


Polymer Brushes

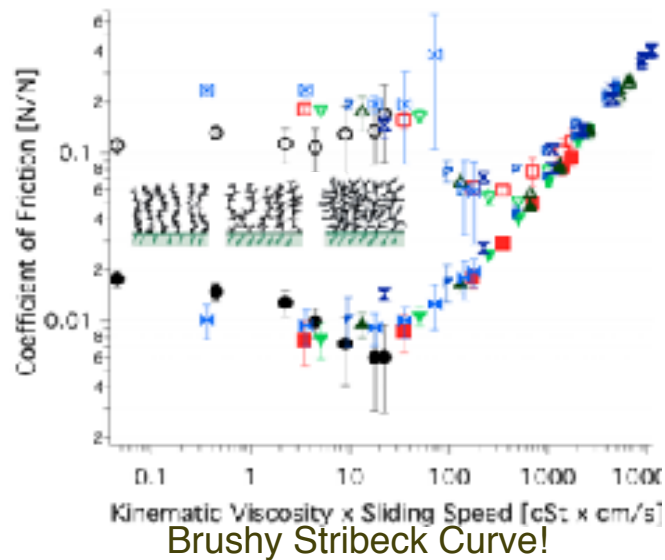


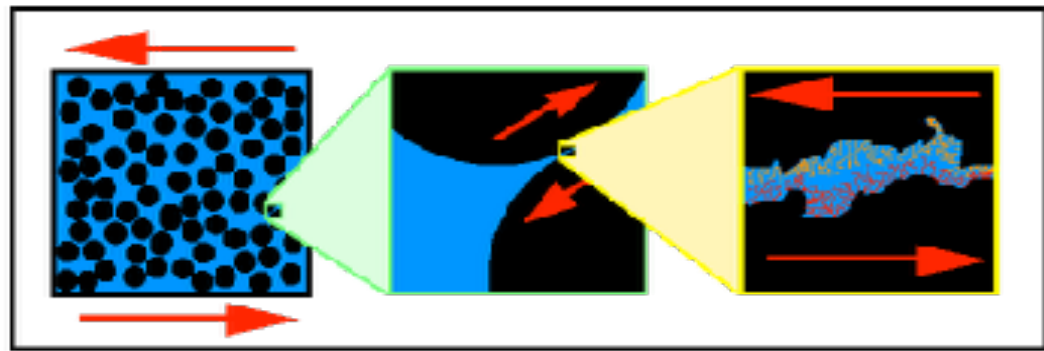
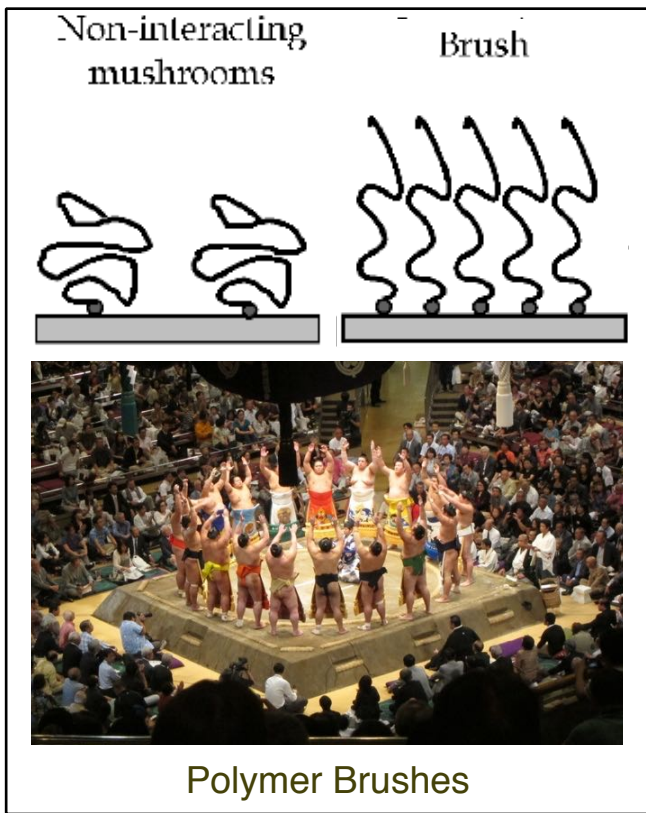
Modes of Lubrication



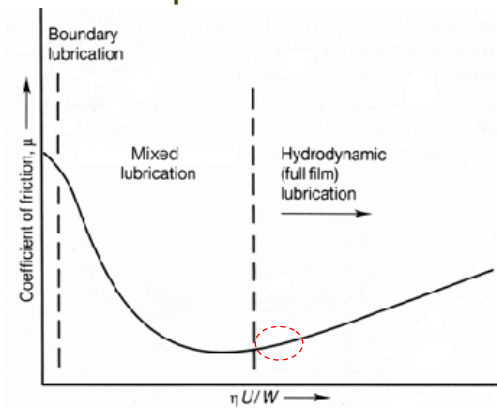


Modes of Lubrication

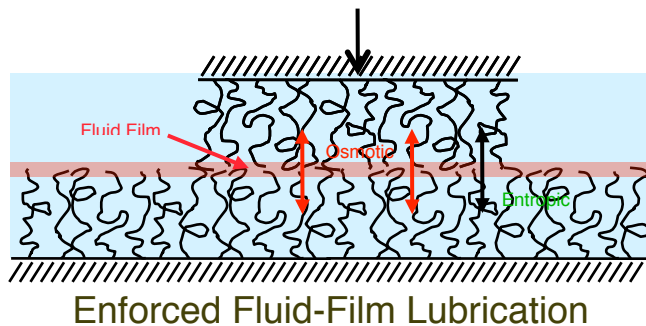




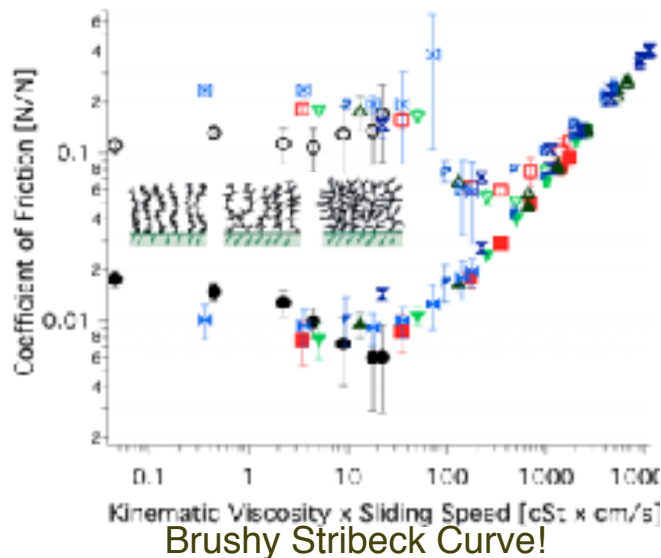
Brushes and Granular Suspensions



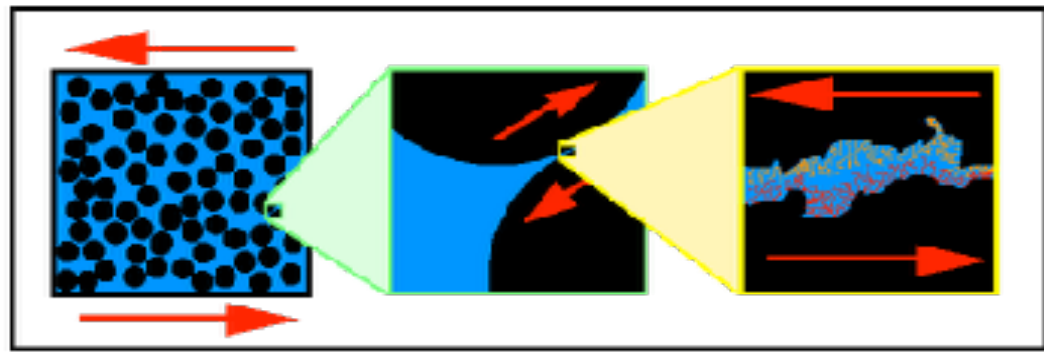
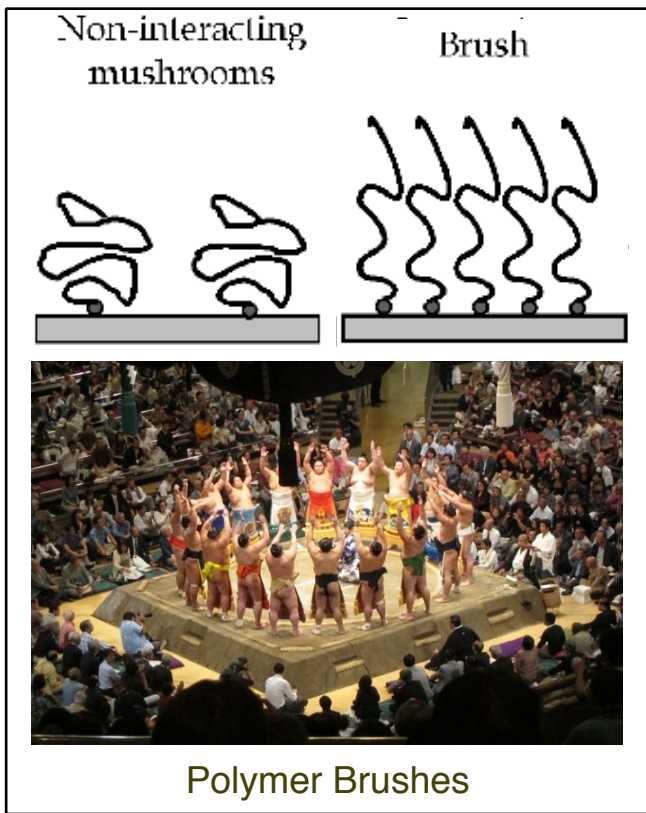
Modes of Lubrication



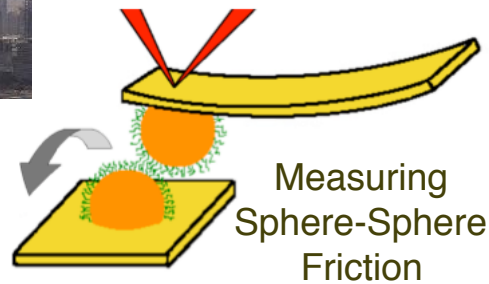
Enforced Fluid-Film Lubrication



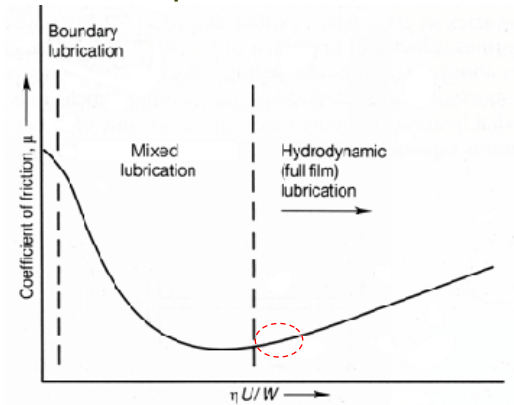
Brushy Stribeck Curve!



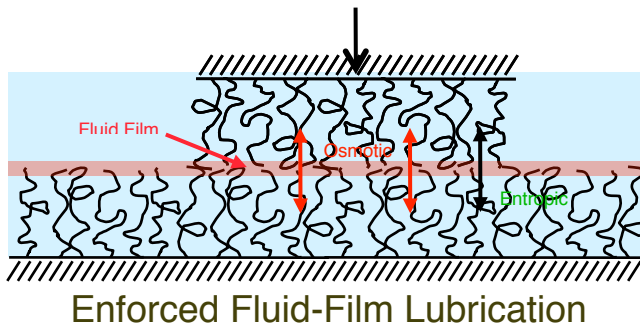
Brushes and Granular Suspensions



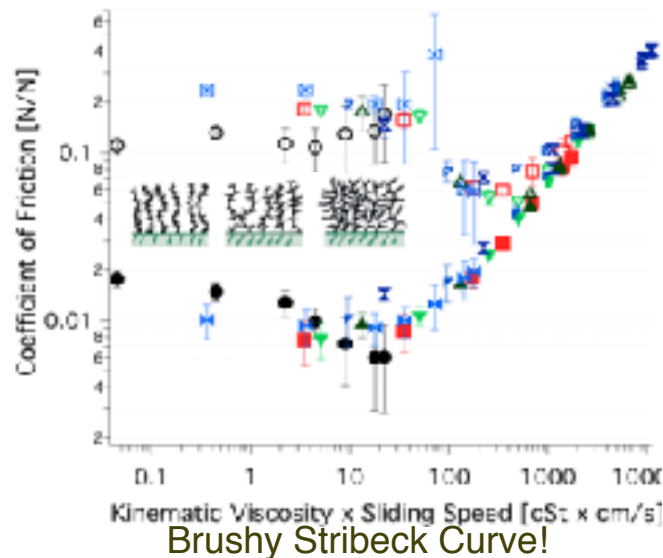
Measuring Sphere-Sphere Friction



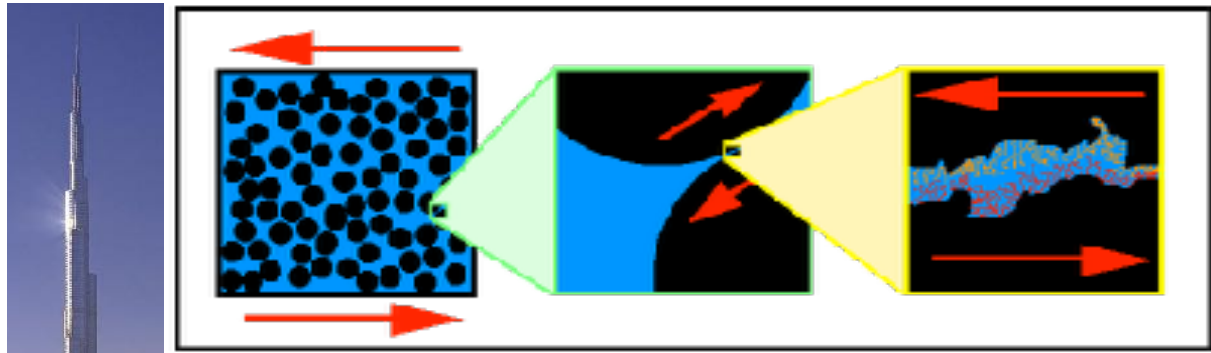
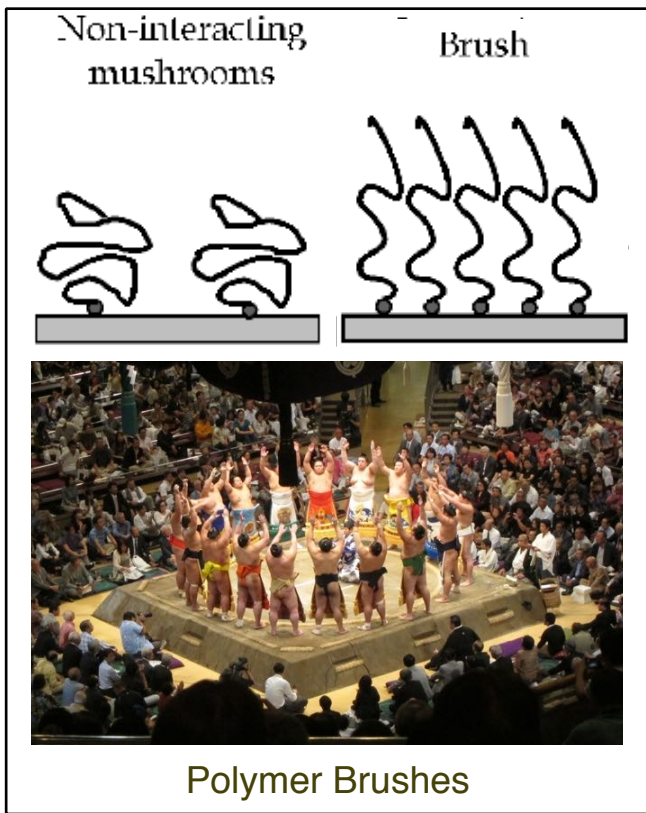
Modes of Lubrication



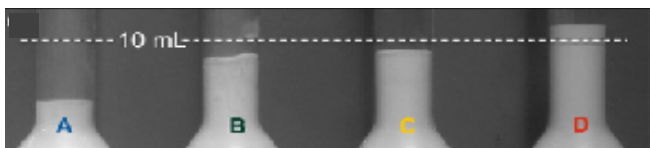
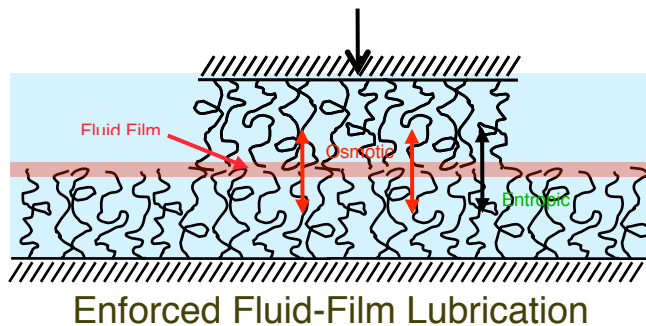
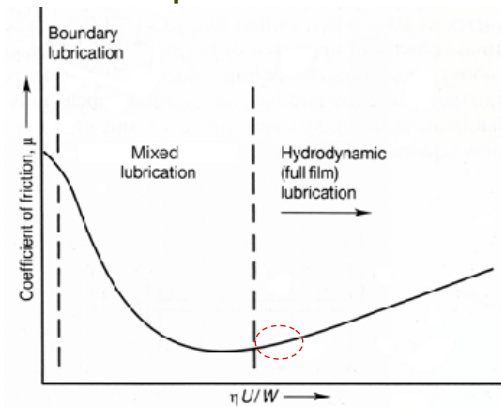
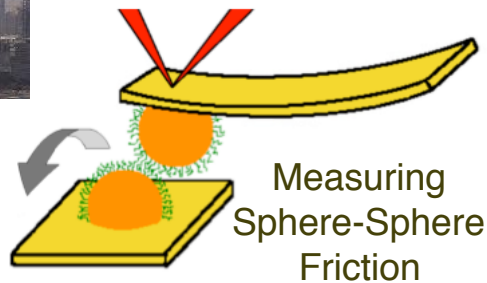
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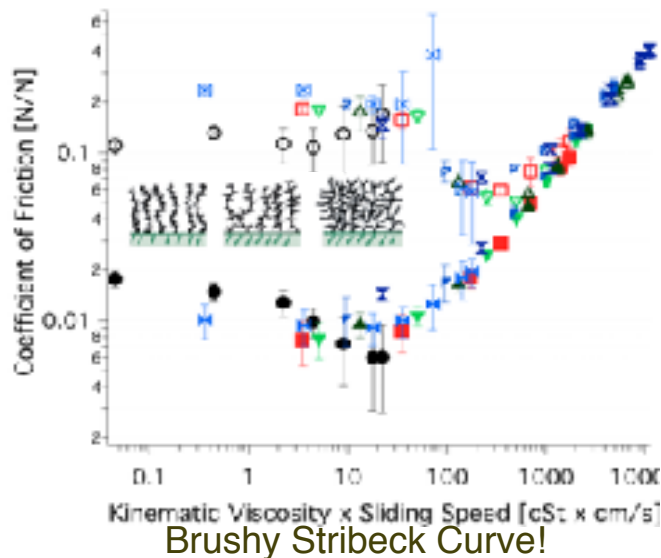
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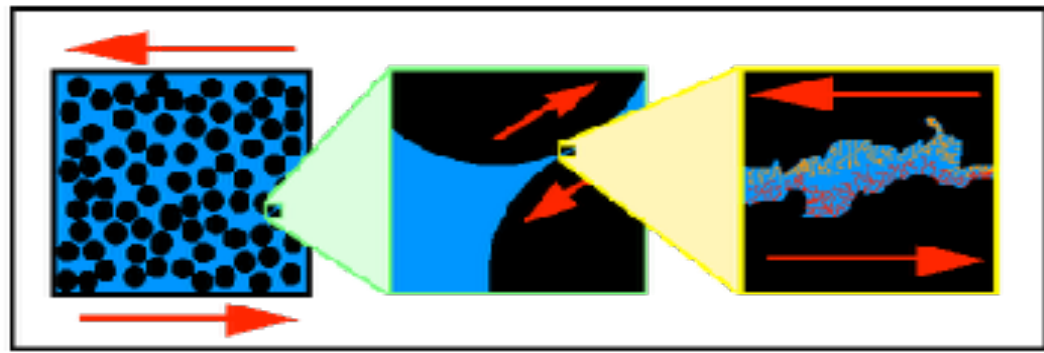
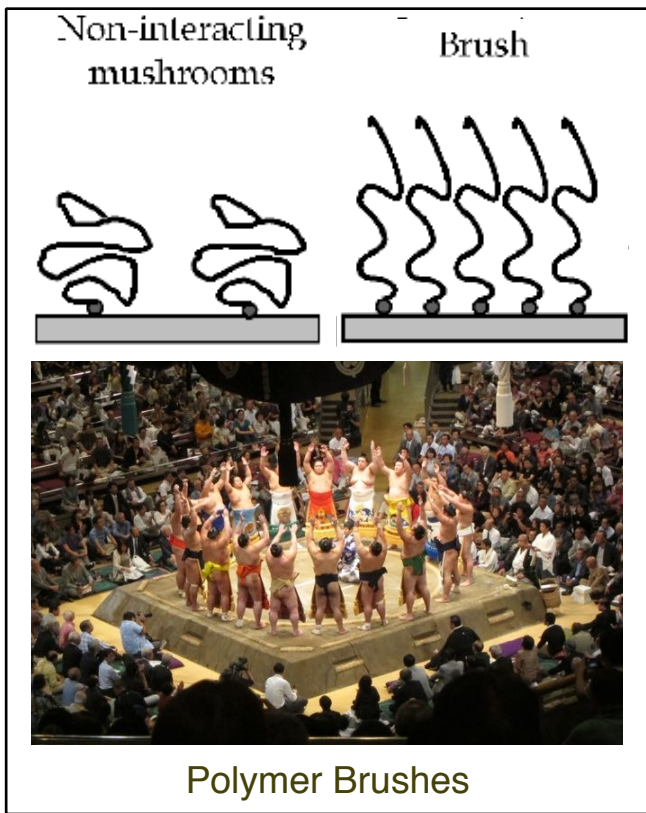


Brushes and Granular Suspensions

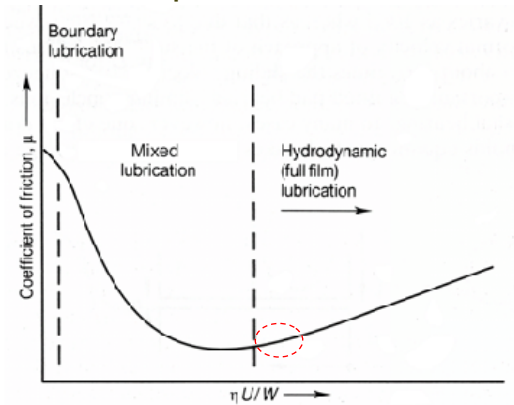
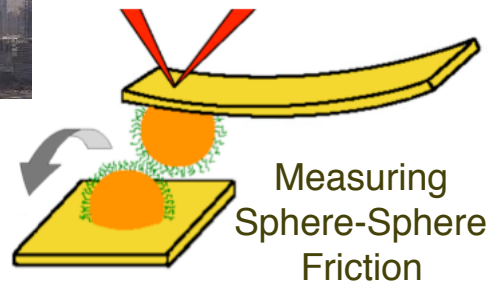


Centrifuge Measurements of Φ_{max}^{BL}

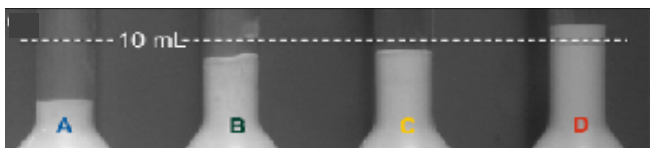
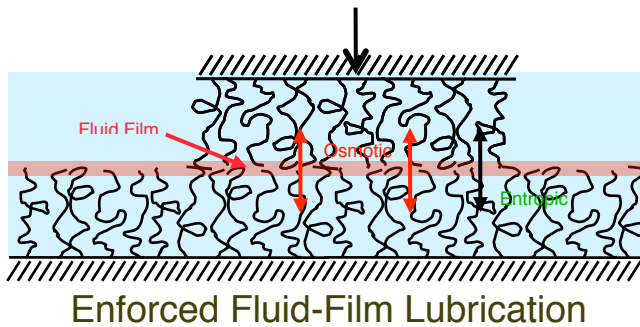




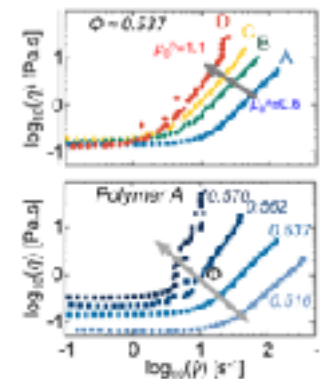
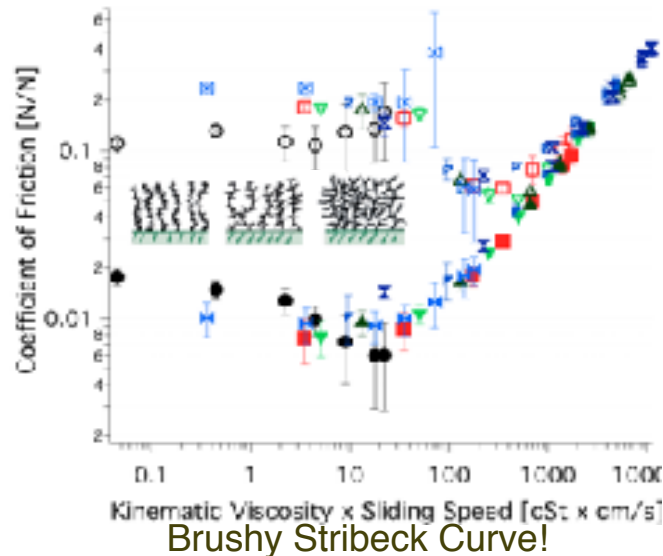
Brushes and Granular Suspensions



Modes of Lubrication



Centrifuge Measurements of Φ_{max}^{BL}



Tribology Influences Rheology



LSST and ISA, Figueres, Spain, August, 2017