# Sheared colloids and emulsions studied with confocal microscopy

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# Overview

- Study dense amorphous ("jammed") samples
- How do they deform microscopically under

shear?

Colloidal particles: hard, monodisperse (Dandan Chen's work)



Emulsion droplets: soft, polydisperse (Joaquim Clara Rahola's work)

# Basic problem: particles collide, must find way to rearrange



Like the "David Pine" effect. For dense amorphous samples, even small strains cause collisions. Unlike David's talk, our particles are influence by Brownian motion.

"shear-induced cage breaking" – Akira Furukawa





2D Lennard-Jones simulations of Falk & Langer

#### One possibility: shear transformation zones (ML Falk and JS Langer, Phys. Rev. E 57, 7192 (1998)]



3D colloidal experiments: 1.5  $\mu$ m dia monodisperse particles Blue = negative strain, red = position (direction of shear) Total strain  $\gamma = 0.01$ [P Schall, DA Weitz, & F Spaepen, Science (2007)]

# Can also have "avalanches" of rearranging particles



H Shiba & A Onuki PRE 2010

Sheared glassy 2D binary mixture, black X's mark rearranging particles,  $\Delta \gamma = 0.005$ 

See poster: Hayato Shiba

### Controlled strain, parallel plate shear cell



#### stick colloids and/or Scotchgard to plates to diminish slip

#### Confocal microscopy for 3D pictures

Scan many 2D slices, reconstruct 3D image







2D and 3D images of 2.3  $\mu m$  diameter PMMA particles

#### Microscopy and Tracking

software: http://www.physics.emory.edu/~weeks/idl/ Dinsmore, Weeks, Prasad, Levitt, & Weitz, Appl. Optics '01

Microscopy:

- 30 images/s (512×480 pixels, 2D)
- one 3D "chunk" per 2 20 s
- $67 \times 63 \times 20 \ \mu m^3$
- 100× oil / 1.4 N.A. objective
- Identify particles within 0.03  $\mu$ m (*xy*), 0.05  $\mu$ m (*z*)

Particle tracking:

- Follow 3000-5000 particles, in 3D
- 200-1000 time steps = hours to days
- ≈ 4 GB of images per experiment

# Part 1: Shear of dense colloidal suspensions

D Chen *et al.*, Phys Rev E **81**, 011403 (2010)

# Colloidal System

- 2.3 mm diameter PMMA colloids
- density matched solvent (cyclohexylbromide + decalin)
- slightly charged hard spheres
- provided by A Schofield & WCK Poon, Univ. of Edinburgh





one of Andrew Schofield's cabinets

# Colloidal glass transition

- Control parameter is volume fraction  $\phi$
- Glass exists when  $\phi > \phi_g \approx 0.58$ (agrees with simulations with slight polydispersity)
- Diffusion constant  $\rightarrow 0$
- See aging behavior

(Courtland & Weeks '03; Cianci, Courtland, Weeks '06; Lynch, Cianci, & Weeks '08)

Our experiments:  $\phi \approx 0.51 - 0.57$ 



## How fast do we shear?

Use triangle wave driving, strain rate  $\dot{\gamma}$ , period 150-450 s

Compare with time scale to diffuse radius *a* in <u>unsheared</u> sample,  $\tau_D = \frac{a^2}{2D_{\infty}} \approx 3000 \text{ s}$ Define Peclet number  $Pe = \frac{\dot{\gamma}a^2}{2D_{\infty}} = 7 - 21$ 

Shear-induced motion is more significant than thermal motion!

(same idea as  $\dot{\gamma}\tau > 1$ )

#### Aside: we have shear bands



•  $\dot{\gamma}_{meso}$  is control parameter

# Movie and tracking



Relative rearrangements between neighbors makes structure change.

#### Examine nonaffine motion: $\Delta \tilde{x}$







1. Initial unstrained sample

2. Strained sample

3. Remove affine motion of strain field

4. Motion in *y*, *z* left unchanged

#### Examine nonaffine motion: $\Delta \tilde{x}$

2. Strained sample

3. Remove affine motion of strain field



 $\phi = 0.51, \gamma_{\text{meso}} = 0.43, \text{Pe} \approx 20$ 





# question:

Are shear-induced rearrangements spatially isotropic?





#### Nonaffine motion: $\Delta \tilde{x}$



#### Nonaffine displacements have isotropic distribution



 $\phi = 0.51, \gamma_{\text{meso}} = 0.43, \text{Pe} \approx 20$ 

#### Nonaffine displacements have isotropic distribution





Yamamoto & Onuki simulations PRE 1998 (also, Miyazaki *et al* PRE 2004)

$$\phi = 0.51, \gamma_{\text{meso}} = 0.43, \text{Pe} \approx 20$$

#### Nonaffine rearrangement is spatially heterogeneous



Mobile particles cluster together Do they spread in a particular direction?

#### Examine extent of largest highly mobile region



A non-affine mobile cluster: a network of neighboring particles with large non-affine mobility (  $\Delta \tilde{r} > 1 \ \mu m$ ).

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#### Mobile clusters have no preferential orientation



Note 1: Plausible that more subtle analysis would show anisotropy [4p correlations: A Furukawa, K Kim, S Saito, and H Tanaka, PRL (2009)]

Note 2: We checked other measures of deformation: similar results

# Summary part 1 of talk:

- Examined shear of dense monodisperse colloidal suspensions
- Shear results in deformations which are isotropic in several senses
- Length scales of ~ 2 particle diameters

*For more details*: D Chen *et al.*, Phys Rev E **81**, 011403 (2010)





# Part 2: Shear of polydisperse emulsions

\*Joaquim Clara Rahola, K Feitosa, JC Crocker, ER Weeks

Compared to first part of the talk:

- Highly polydisperse
- Droplets are soft
- High volume fractions (jammed samples)
- Smaller strains
- Elastic deformations rather than plastic rearrangements
- Sinusoidal driving rather than triangle wave
- Mostly 2D analysis of 3D samples



#### Decane in water/glycerol emulsions (with SDS)

rheology results in collaboration with Rut Besseling & Wilson Poon microscopy data to be shown in talk all taken at f = 1 Hz,  $\omega = 6.3$  s<sup>-1</sup>



## Droplet size distribution

(image analysis: K Feitosa, algorithm similar to R Penfold et al., Langmuir 2006)



 $\phi = 0.80$ 

# look at movie...

- 2D movie in real-time
- $\phi = 0.65$
- Driving frequency f = 1 Hz
- depth = 12  $\mu$ m,  $\gamma \approx 0.12$

movie "2Vpp-A.tif", show with ImageJ, \ to start animation

#### Use Hough transform to identify droplets



*Caveat:* true radius of droplet might be larger than we observe

#### Droplet trajectories are sinusoidal



 $\phi = 0.65, \gamma = 0.07$ 



 $\langle a_x \rangle = 2.4 \ \mu m$ 

 $\phi = 0.65, \gamma = 0.07, z = 24 \ \mu m$ 

# What we think is happening:



Large droplet in otherwise homogeneous strain field

droplet velocity = mean flow velocity
## What we think is happening:

Small droplet constrained by large droplet, moves slower than "normal"



Small droplet pushed by large droplet, moves faster than "normal"

Summary: Smaller droplets pushed around by larger droplets; their "anomalous" motion results in "correct" <u>average</u> flow field around largest droplets



Summary: Smaller droplets pushed around by larger droplets; their "anomalous" motion results in "correct" <u>average</u> flow field around largest droplets

## Small droplets are outliers: $a_x$



## Small droplets are outliers: $a_v$



## Small droplets are outliers



 $\phi = 0.65, \gamma = 0.07, z = 24 \ \mu m$ 

## Phase angle distributions

 $x(t) = a_x \sin(\omega t + \theta_x)$ 



## Do neighbors move in similar ways?

answer will be yes...



## Calculate correlation function

 $C(\Delta r) = \frac{1}{N(\Delta r)} \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \frac{(a_{x_i} - \langle a_x \rangle)(a_{x_j} - \langle a_x \rangle)}{\sigma_{a_{x_i}} \sigma_{a_{x_j}}}$ 



 $\Delta r$  surface-to-surface: YES!

### Correlations have exponential decay





$$\phi = 0.65, z = 24 \ \mu m$$

#### Decay length increases with increasing strain



## **Summary**

Shear of jammed soft materials:

- Monodisperse see locally deforming regions, isotropic, results depend primarily on total accumulated strain
- Polydisperse see extremely non-affine response of smaller droplets, correlation length that grows with shear rate

colloids: Chen et al., PRE 81, 011403 (2010)
emulsions: Clara Rahola et al., hopefully on arXiv soon
Movies, reprints, & free particle tracking software: www.physics.emory.edu/~weeks/lab/





## Extra

# slides

#### Find length scale for rearrangements: correlation functions

based on Doliwa & Heuer, PRE (2000); ER Weeks, JC Crocker, DA Weitz, JP:CM (2007)

Vector correlation function:

$$S_{\vec{u}}(\Delta r, \Delta t) \approx \left\langle \vec{u}_1 \cdot \vec{u}_2 \right\rangle$$



Scalar correlation function:  

$$S_{\delta u}(\Delta r, \Delta t) \approx \langle |u_1| \cdot |u_2| \rangle - \langle |u|^2 \rangle$$
• use nonaffine displacements  
• use  $\Delta t_{\text{max}}$ 
 $\vec{u}_2(\Delta t)$ 

#### Correlations decay exponentially in space



Results shown are typical; no clear dependence on  $\phi$ or  $\dot{\gamma}$  seen

 $\phi = 0.51, \gamma_{\text{meso}} = 0.43, \text{Pe} \approx 20$ 

## Droplet size distribution

(image analysis: K Feitosa, algorithm similar to R Penfold et al., Langmuir 2006)



 $\phi = 0.80$ 

## **Confocal Microscopy**

