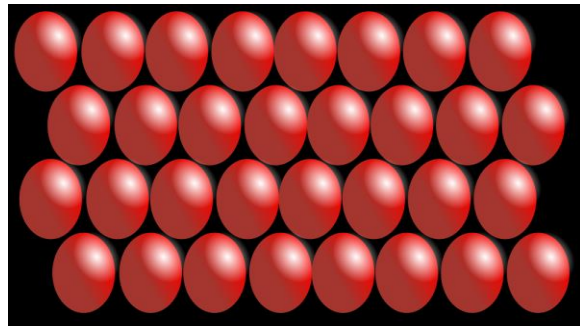


# Origin of two distinct stress relaxation regimes in shear jammed dense suspensions



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*Soft Condensed Matter Group*  
*Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru*

# Introduction



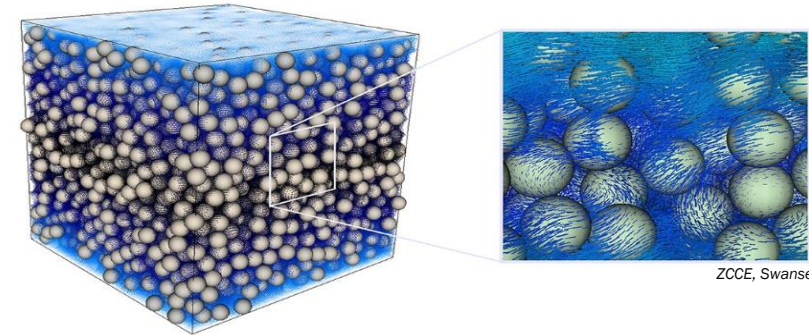
*Solid Particle*

+



*Liquid*

=



*Dense Suspension*  
(High volume fraction)

ZCCE, Swansea University

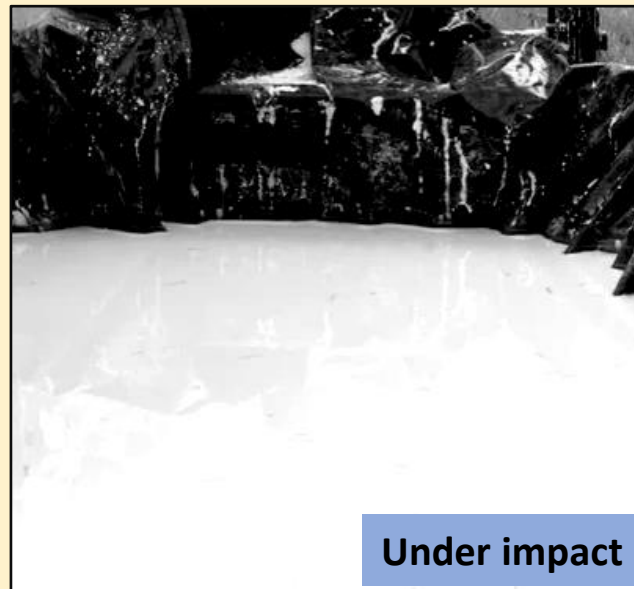
Can't be understood from the properties of liquid and solid

## Reversible liquid-solid transition



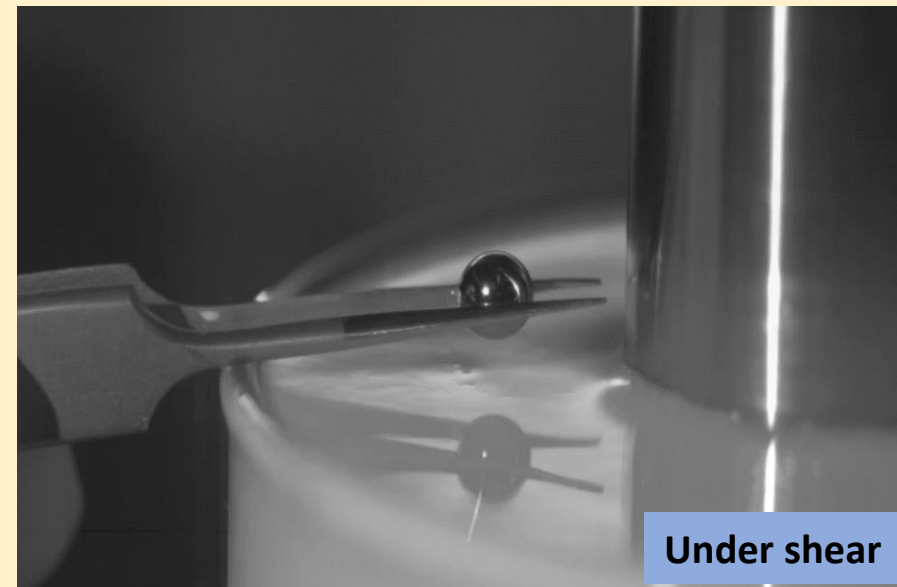
Fun facts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJfppydyGHw&t=52s>



Under impact

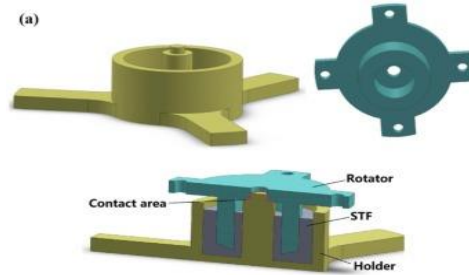
Ben Allen, Yale University



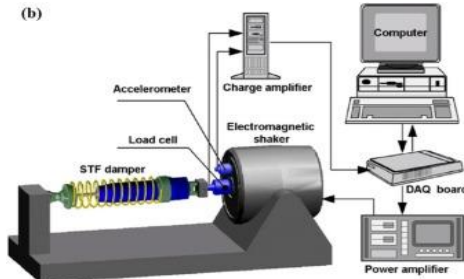
Under shear

Peters, Majumdar and Jaeger, Nature (2016)

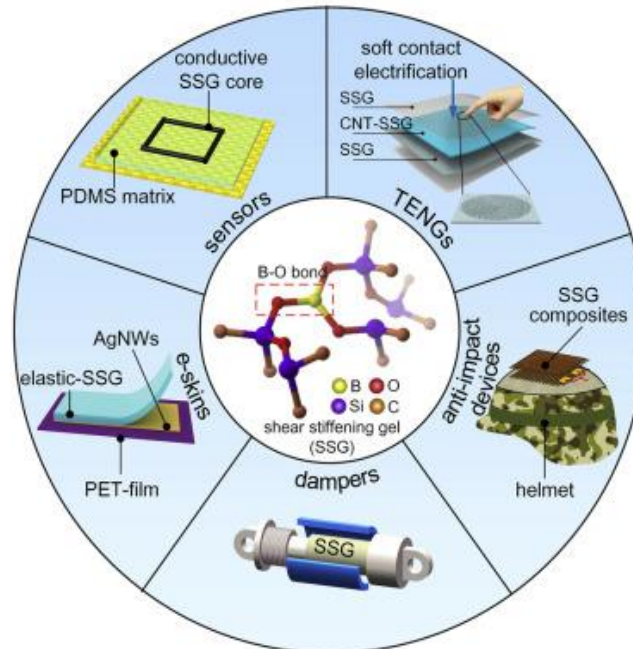
# Relaxation of shear jammed fluid: Why care ?



Tongfei Tian et al.; 2017 Smart Mater. Struct



X Z Zhang; Smart Mater. Struct. 17 (2008)



Chunyu Zhao et al.; Cell Reports Physical Science 1, 2020



<https://newatlas.com/new-shear-thickening-fluid-stf-enables-flexible-comfortable-armor/5995/>

Adaptive Material Development

Liquid Body Armor

**Microscopic mechanism:** hydrodynamics, contact interaction, additional constraints...

❖ **Transient relaxation is equally important for potential applications.**

# Transient stress relaxation in dense suspensions poorly understood

## Experiments

Dense suspension of...

Relaxation behavior...

Cornstarch



Deviates from a generalized Newtonian model  
[ Maharajan and Brown; PRF (2017) ]

PSt-EA nano particles



Captured by multi-element viscoelastic model  
[ Cao et al.; Smart Mater. Struct. (2018) ]

PMMA nano particle



Shows two distinct relaxation behavior  
[ D'haene et al.; J. Colloid and interface sci. (1993) ]

## Numerical modelling

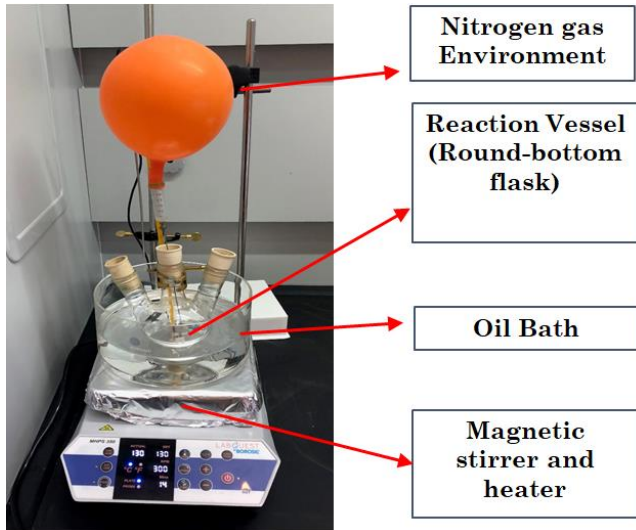
- Relaxation and plasticity of force chain structure  
[ Baumgarten and Kamrin; PNAS (2019); JOR (2020) ]
- Transient relaxation in over-damped athermal dense suspensions of frictionless spheres close to jamming  
[ Hatano; PRE (2009); Ikada et al.; PRL (2020) ]

Strongly non-exponential/multi mode relaxation behavior close to jamming

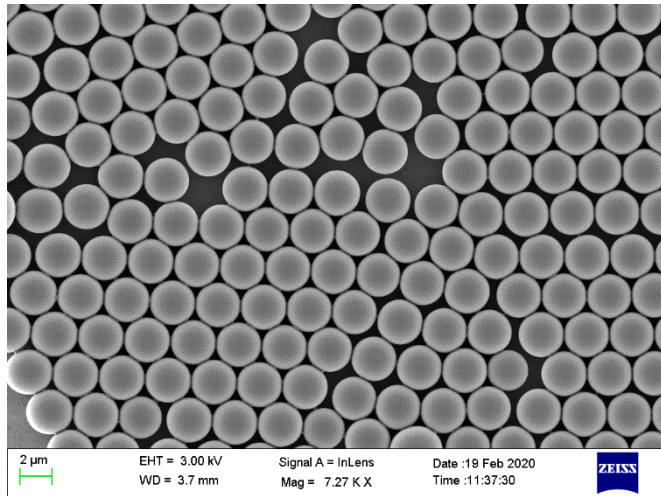
Particle-scale dynamics controlling the transient relaxation not explored

# System Studied

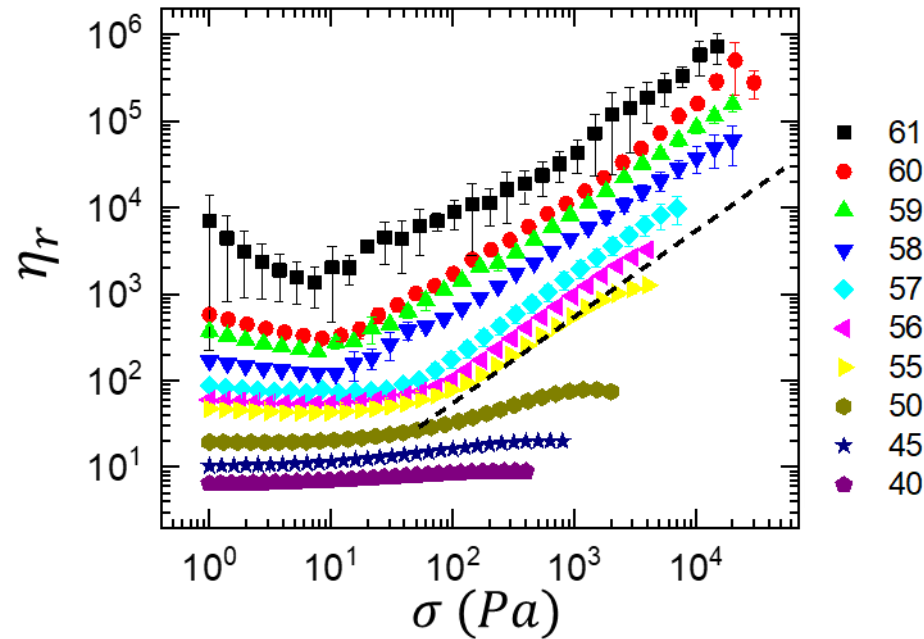
Dense suspension of Polystyrene Particles in Polyethylene Glycol (PEG 400).



Setup for polystyrene microsphere synthesis



Polystyrene Particles

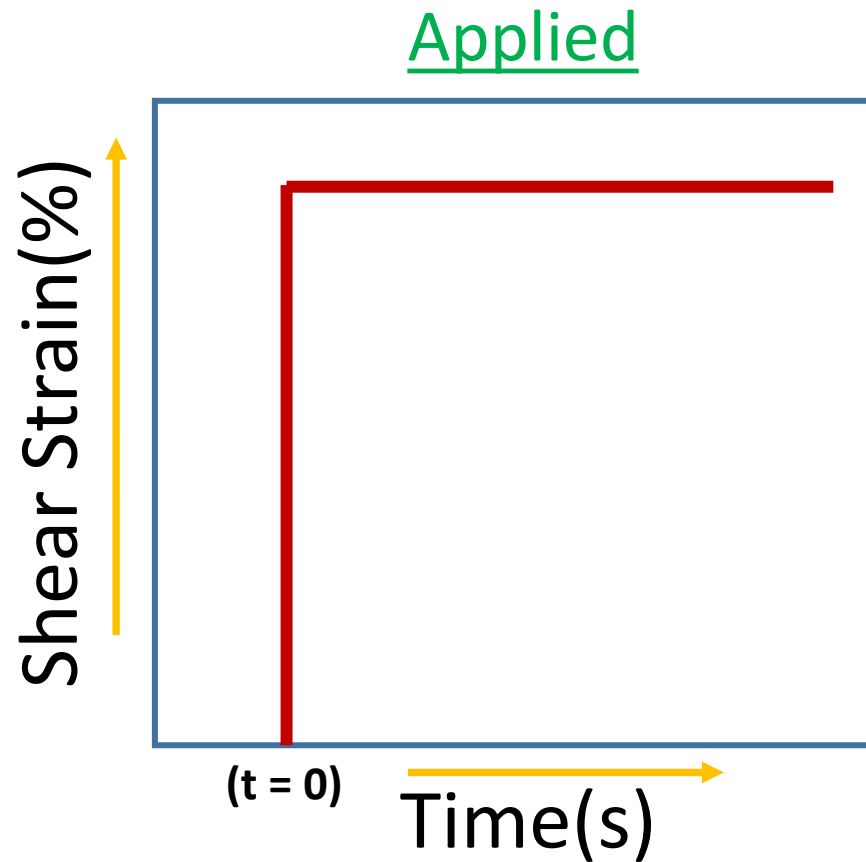


Relative Viscosity

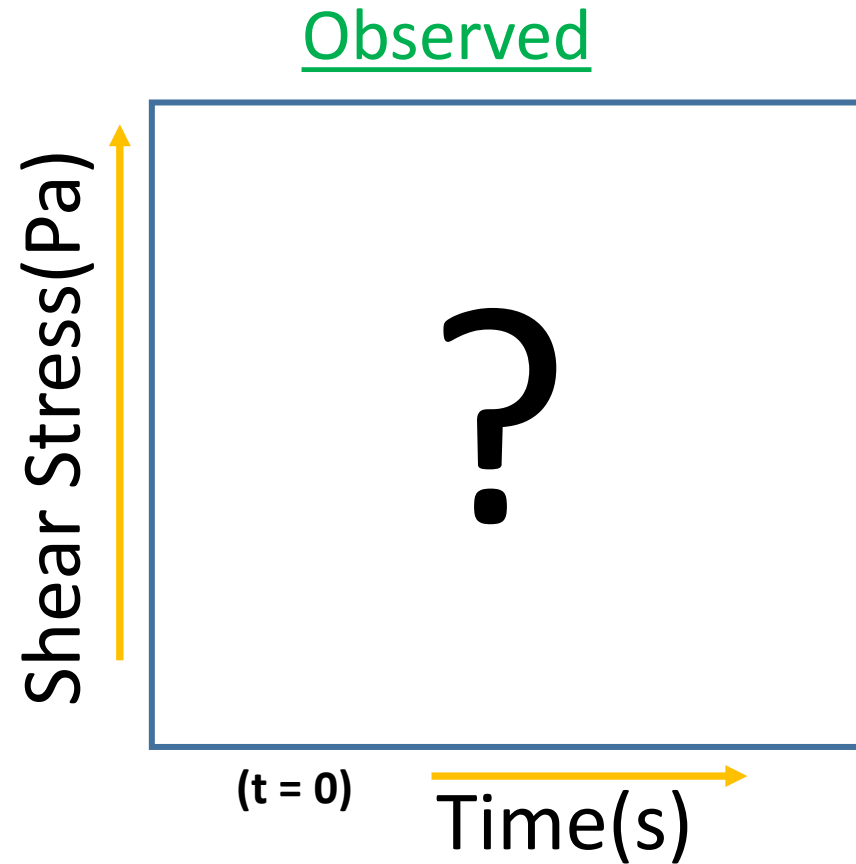
$$\eta_r = \frac{\eta}{\eta_l}$$

At higher volume fractions and higher stresses system shows shear-thickening/ jamming

# Experimental Protocol

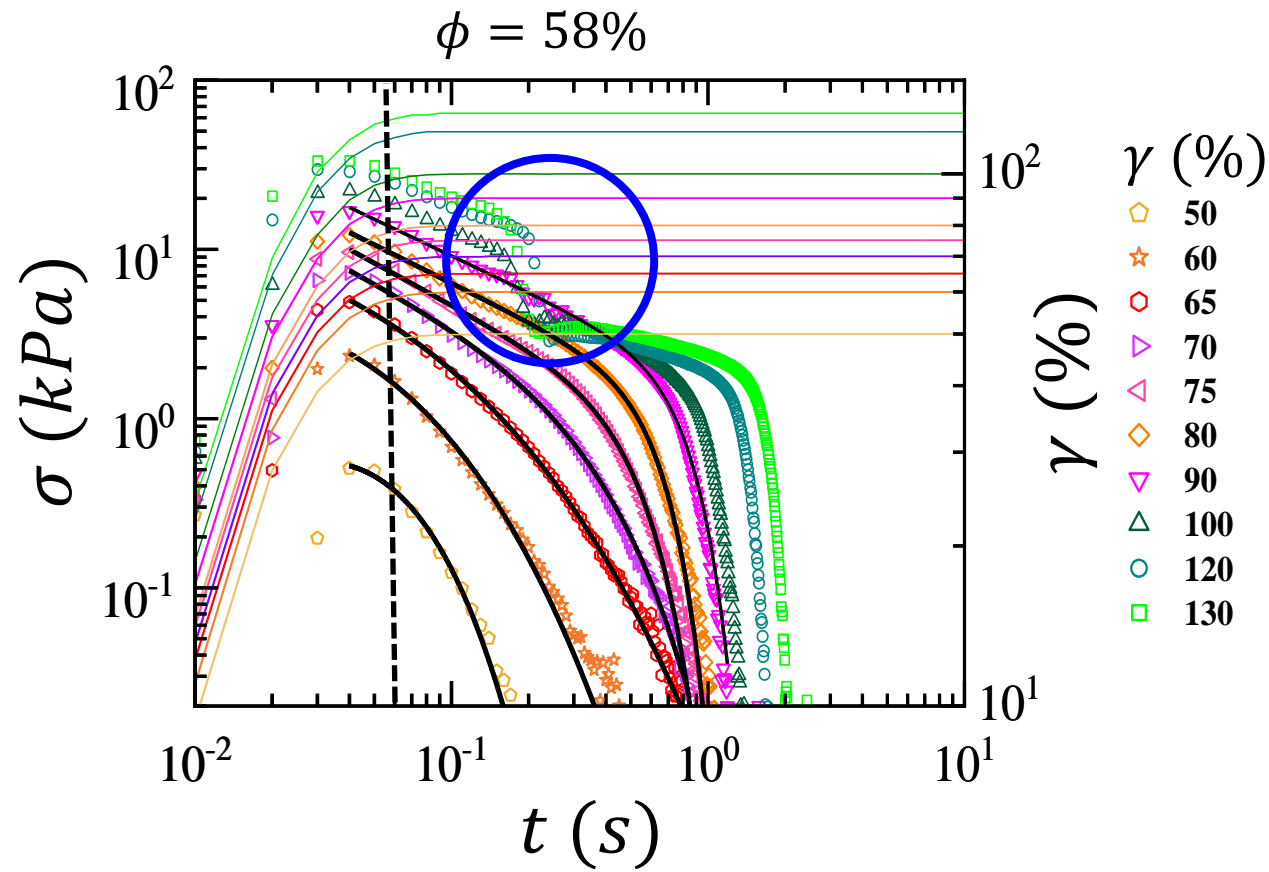


Constant Strain is applied for certain period of time



Stress relaxation is observed for that period of time

# Transient stress relaxation under a step- strain perturbation



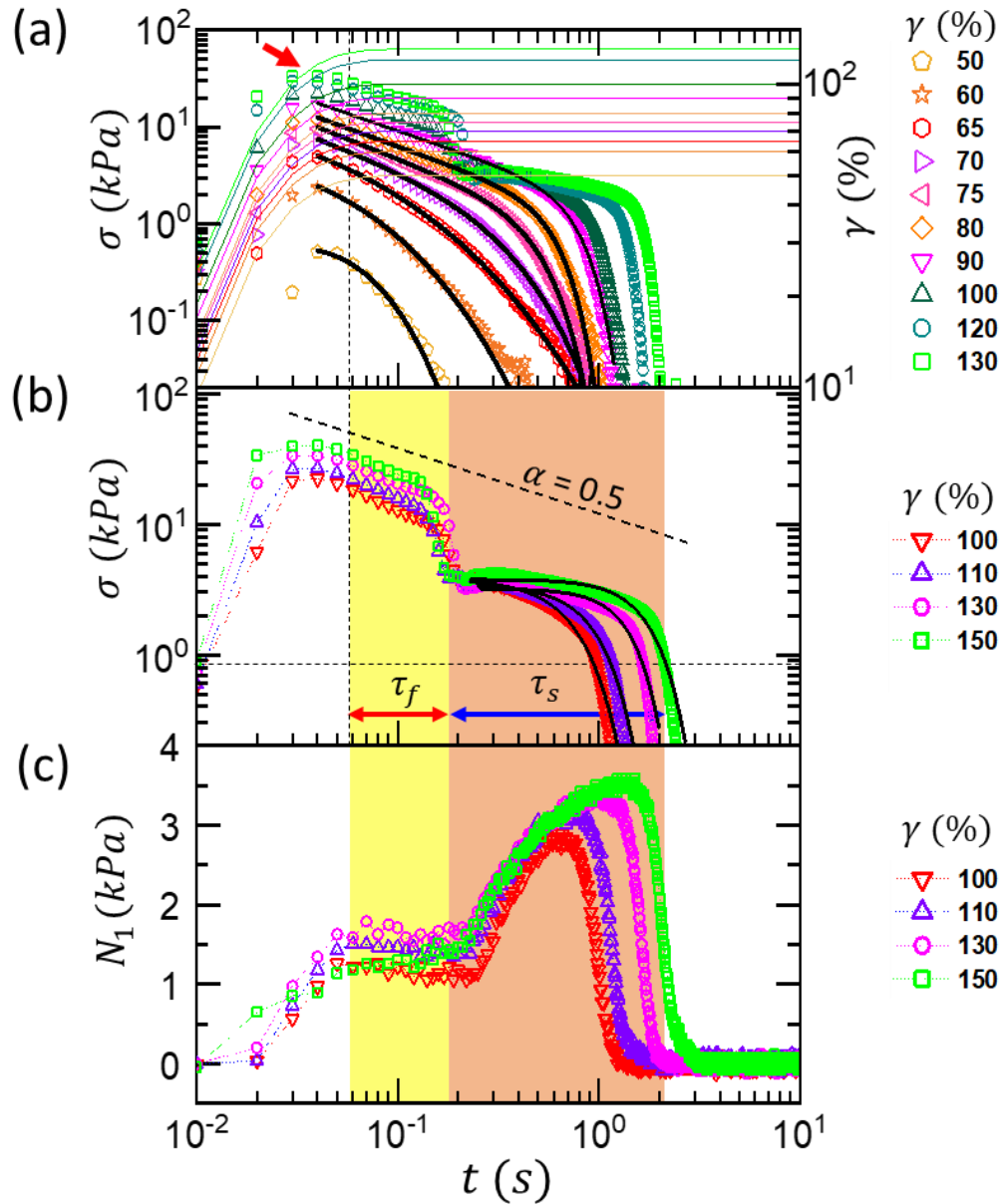
**Low peak-stress value:** *Continuous relaxation*  
**High peak-stress value:** *Discontinuous stress drop*

**Fitting function :**  
$$\sigma(t) \sim t^{-\alpha} e^{-(t/\tau)^\beta}$$
  
(Power-law cut-off by a stretched exponential)

Similar functional form is observed in simulation for relaxation of dense frictionless suspension close to jamming  
*[Hatano; PRE(2009), Ikada et al.; PRL(2020)]*

Large scale stress drop and discontinuity

# Normal stress response during transient stress relaxation



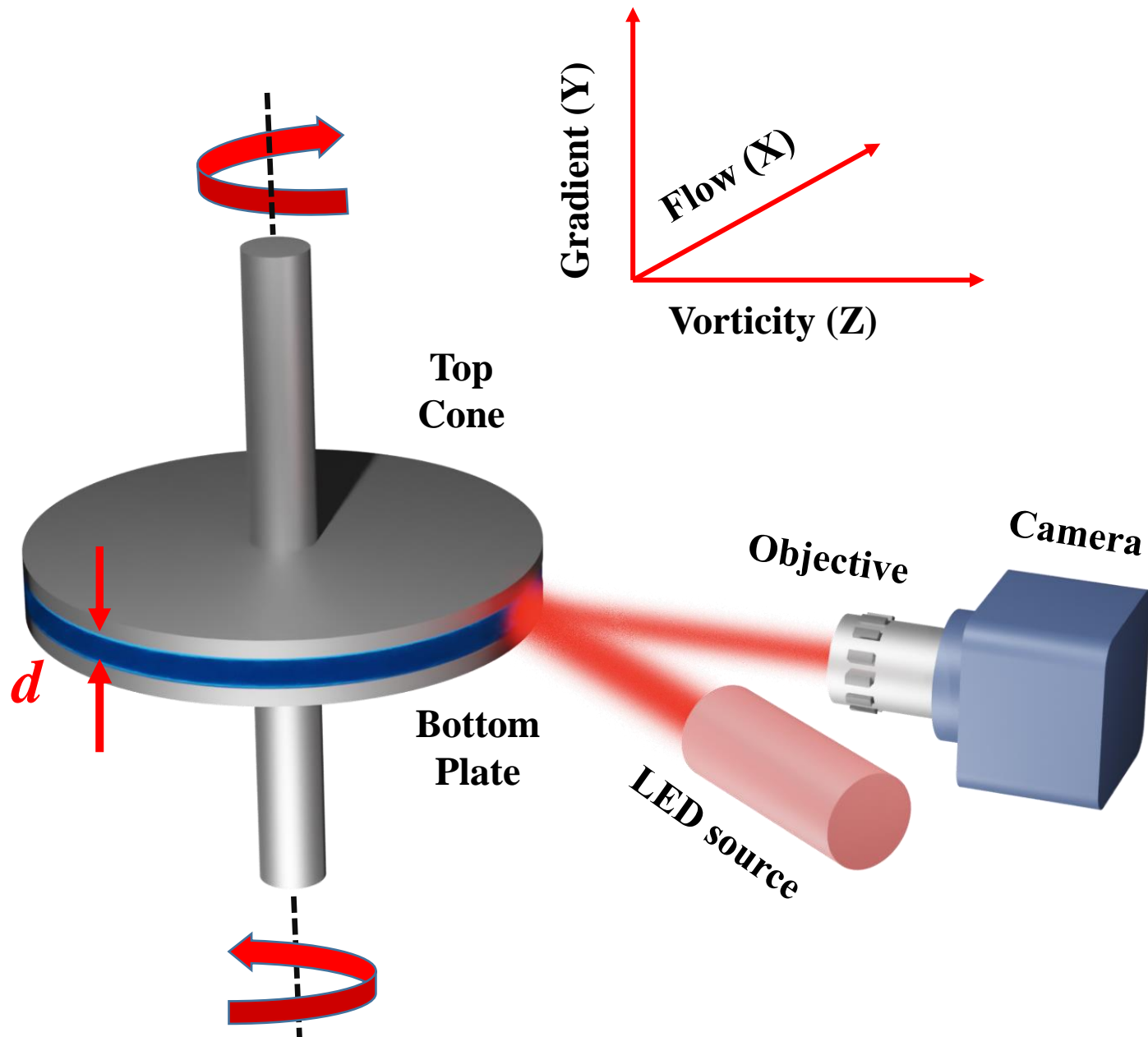
$$N_1 = \frac{2F_N}{\pi r^2} \longrightarrow 1^{\text{st}} \text{ Normal stress difference}$$

$F_N$ : Normal force on cone/plate  
 $r$ : Radius of cone/plate

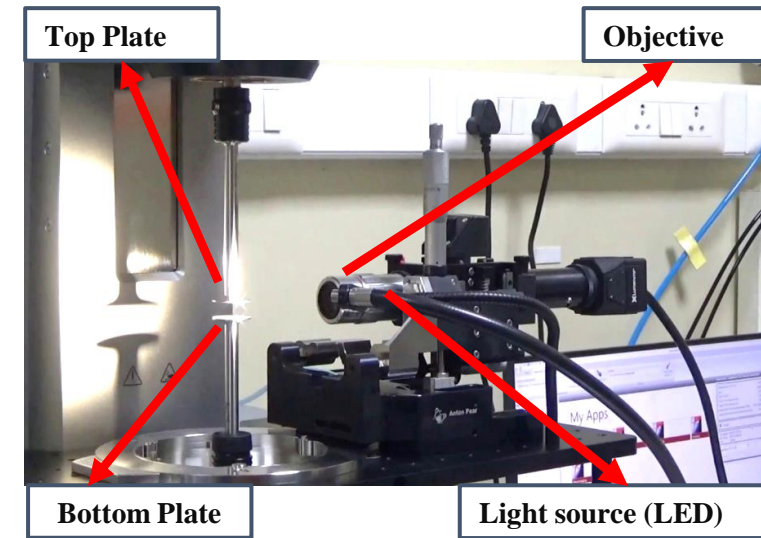
- For high peak stress value, two distinct relaxation regimes
- Stronger normal force response during the slower relaxation process



# Rheology and in-situ boundary imaging



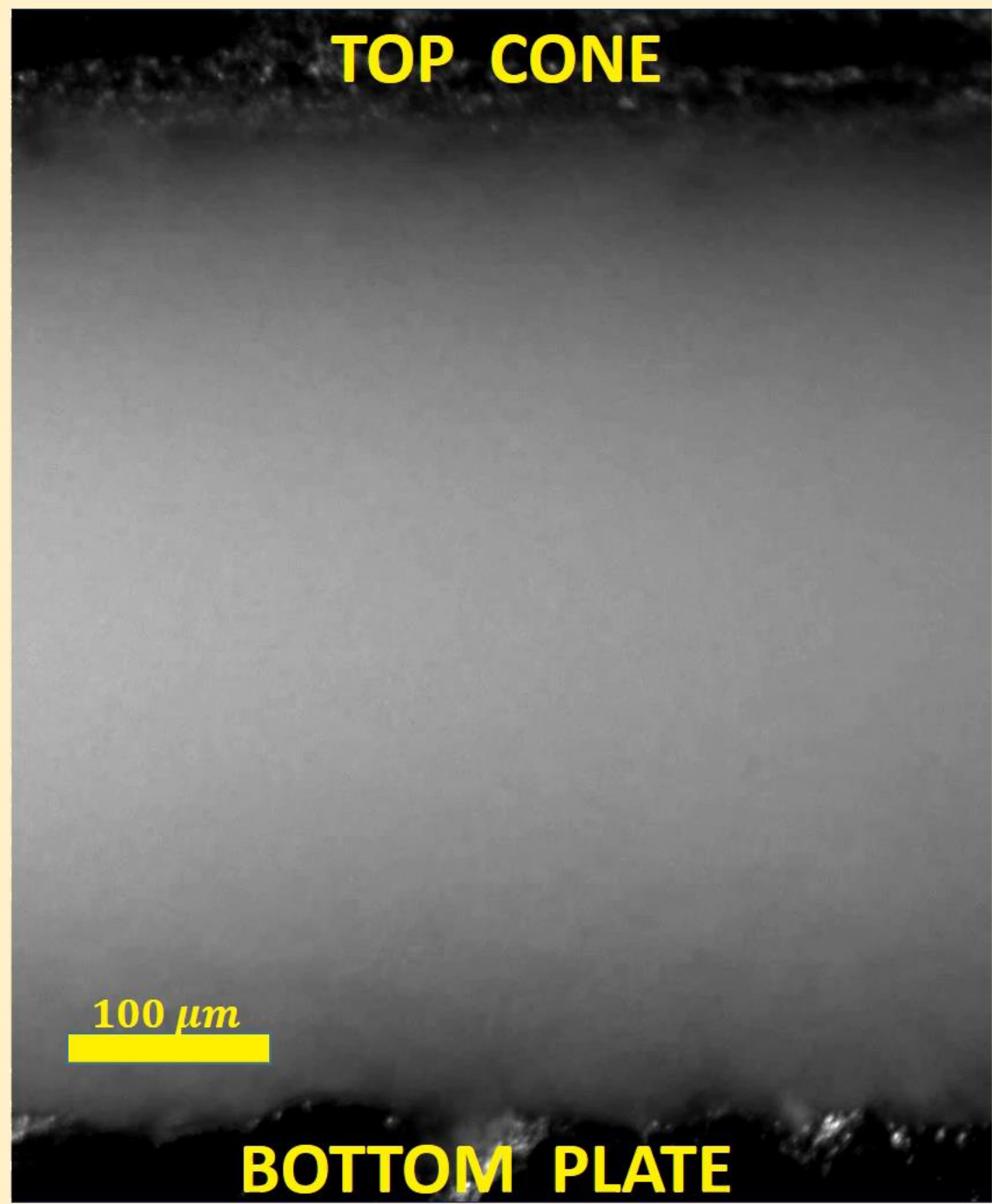
Sebanti Chattopadhyay et al.; arXiv preprint arXiv:2202



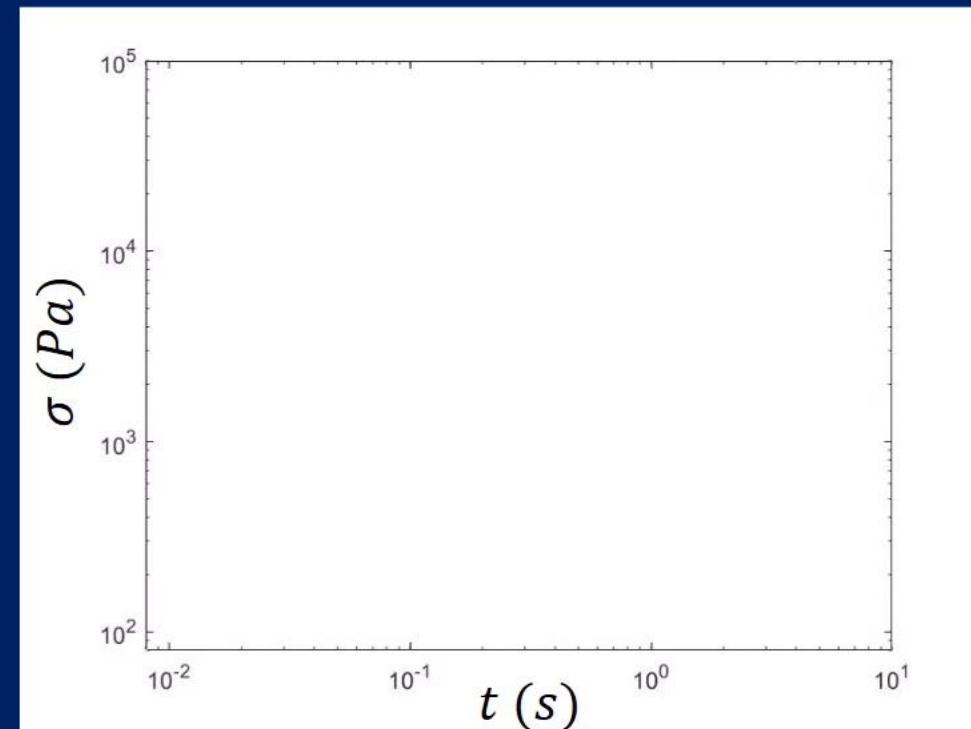
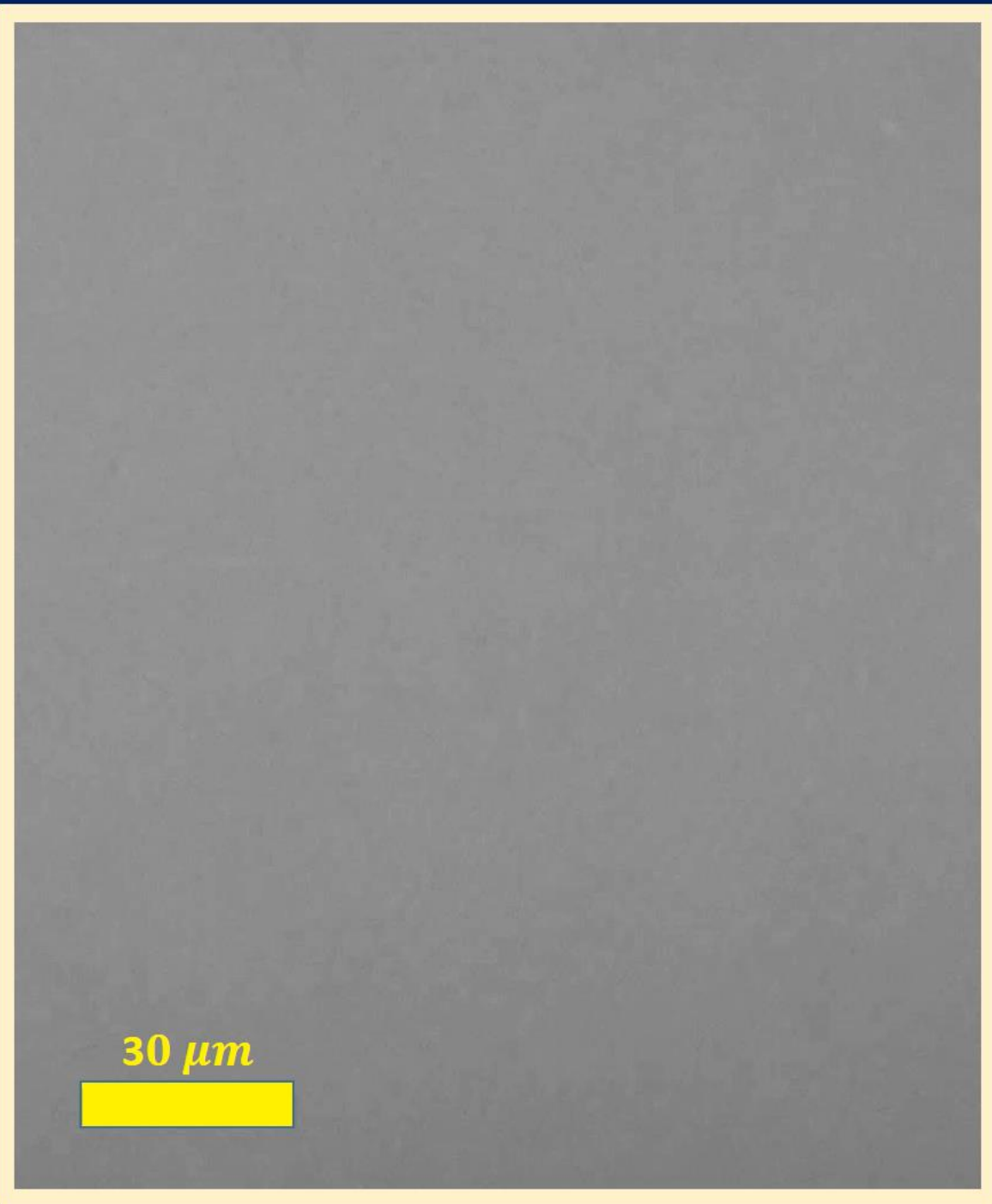
**Dilation in STF due to shear**

Eric Brown and Heinrich M Jaeger 2014 Rep. Prog. Phys. 77 046602

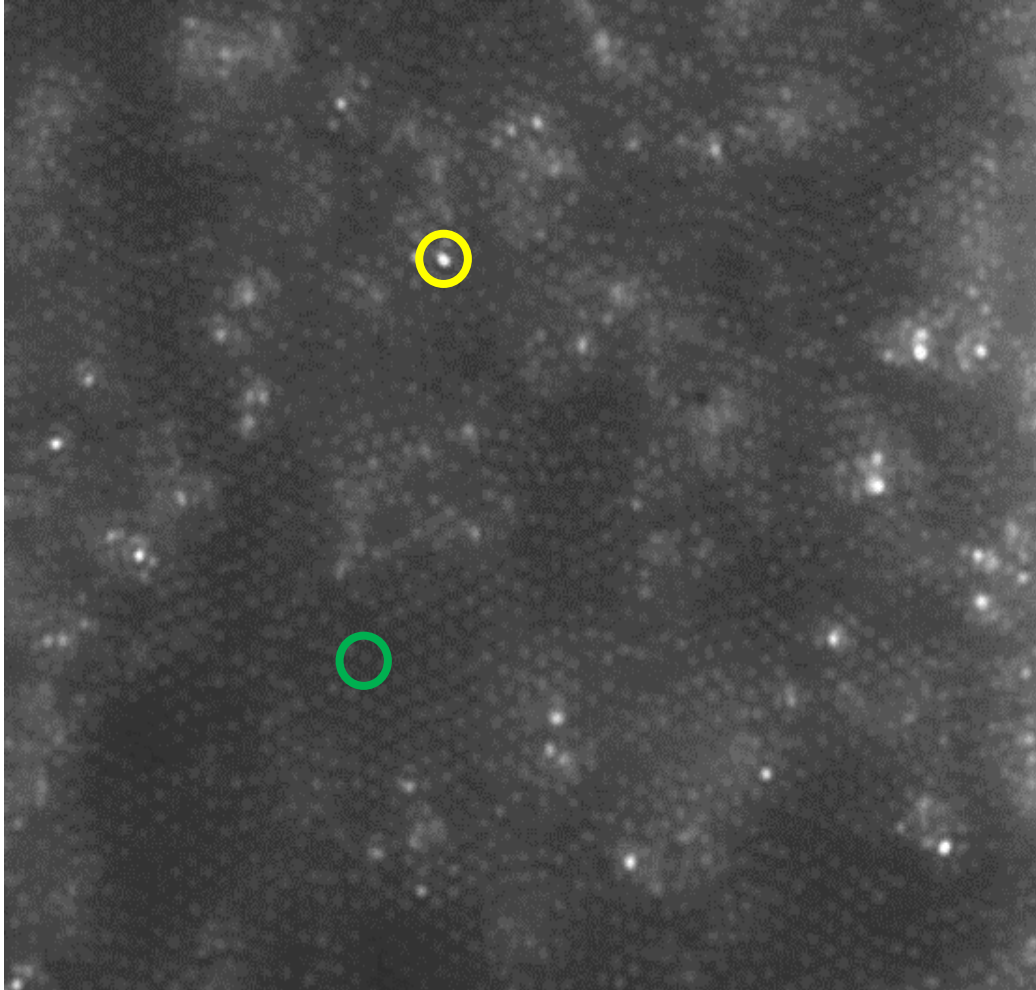
Strain :  
OFF



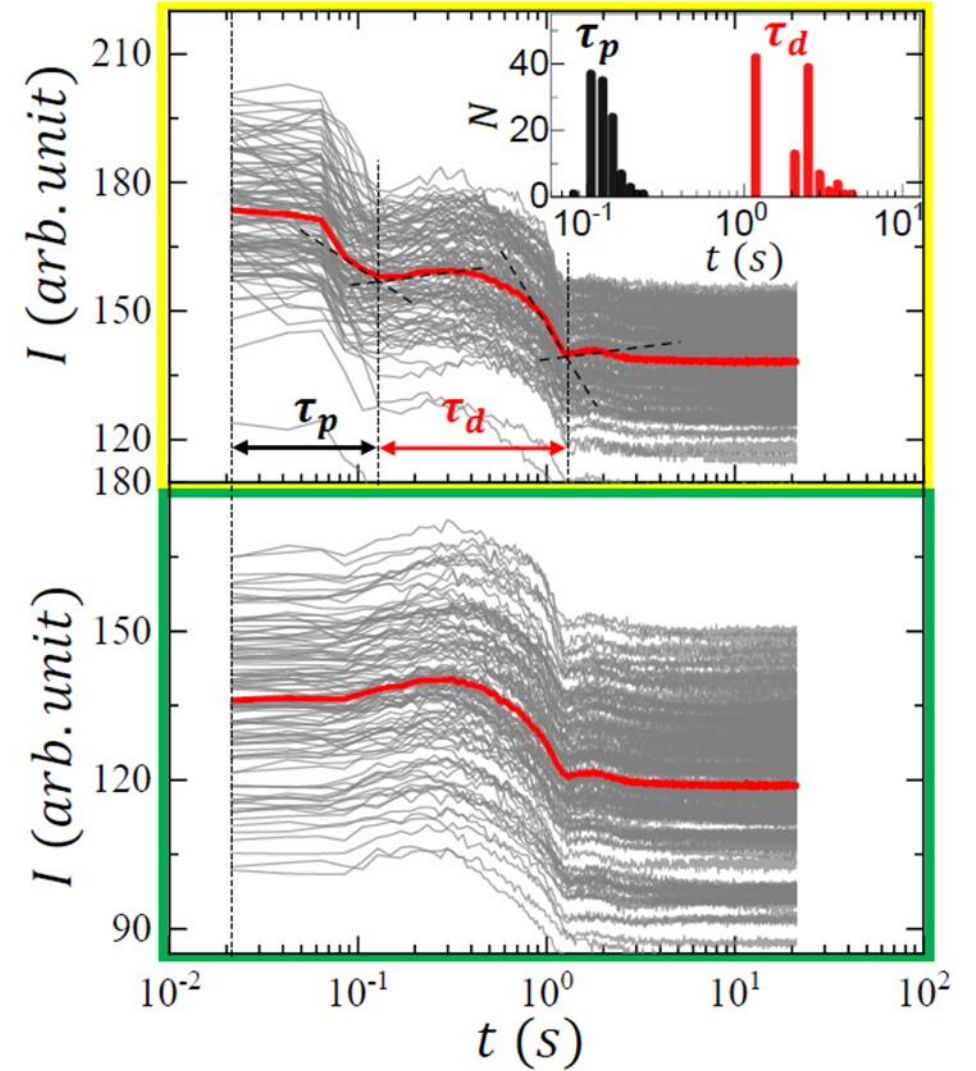
Strain :  
OFF



# Plastic center and dilation relaxation

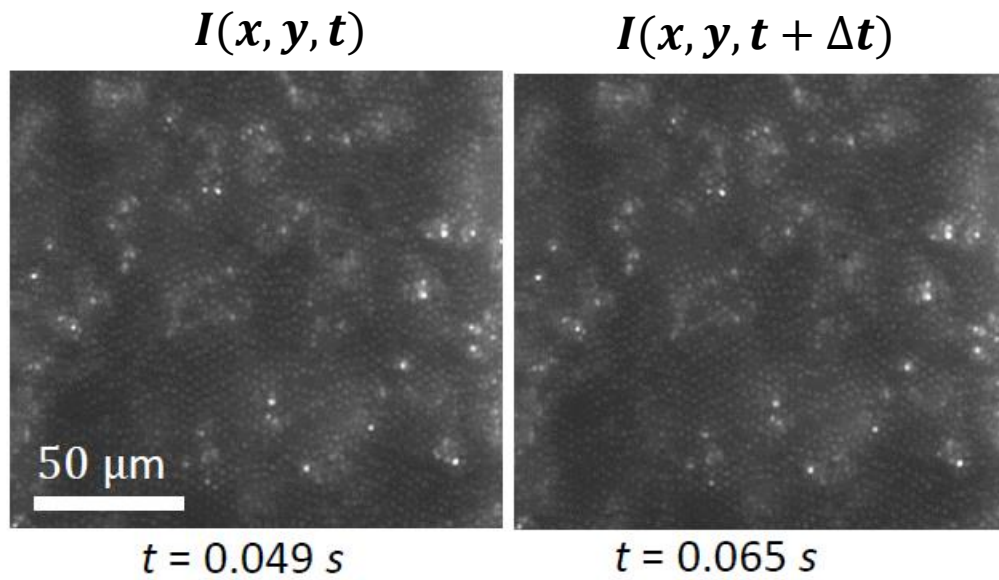


Bright spots are localized plasticity

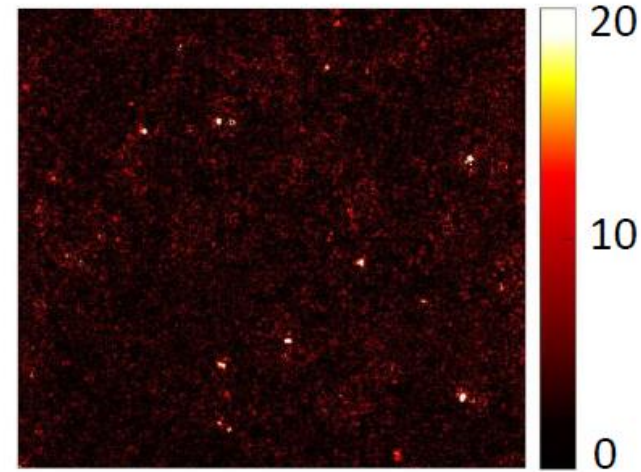


# Localized vs system spanning particle rearrangements

Plastic center relaxation

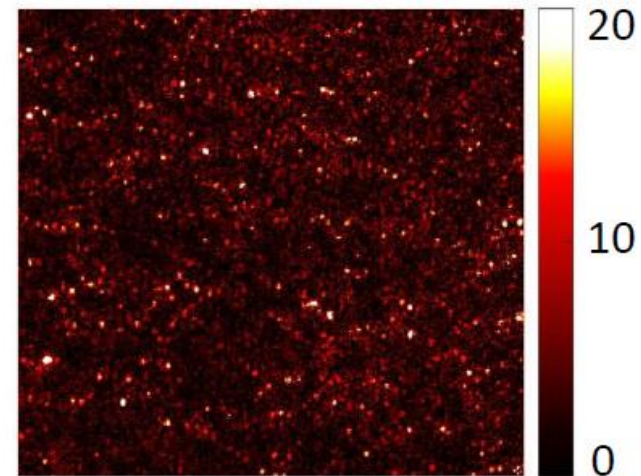
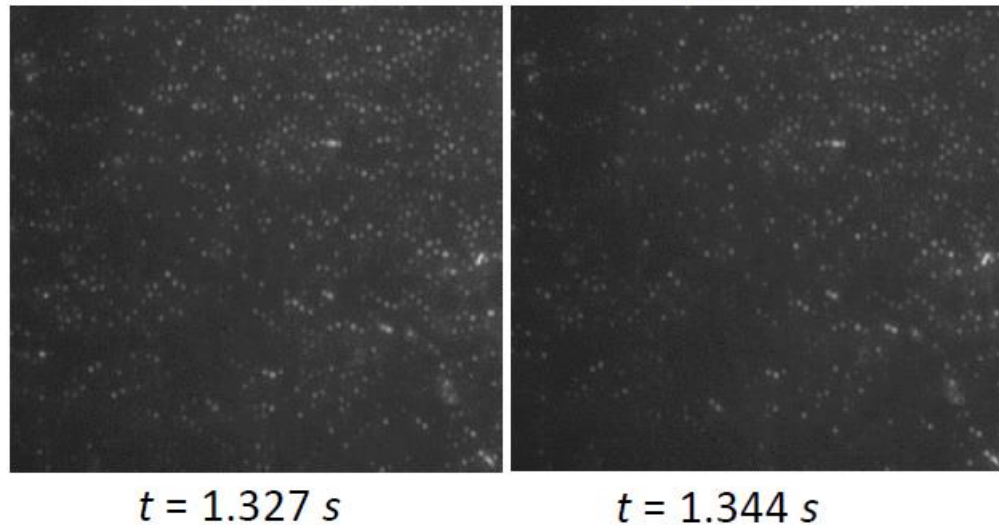


$$\Delta I = |I(x, y, t) - I(x, y, t + \Delta t)|$$



Localized particle rearrangements

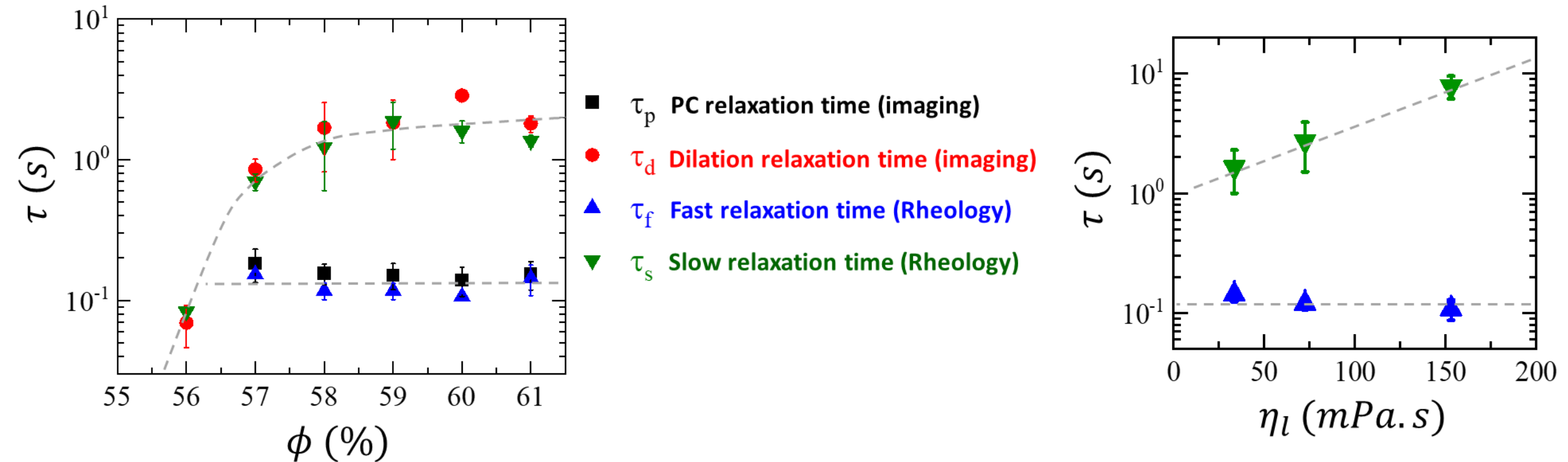
Dilation relaxation



System-spanning particle reorganizations

# Origin of fast and slow relaxation times

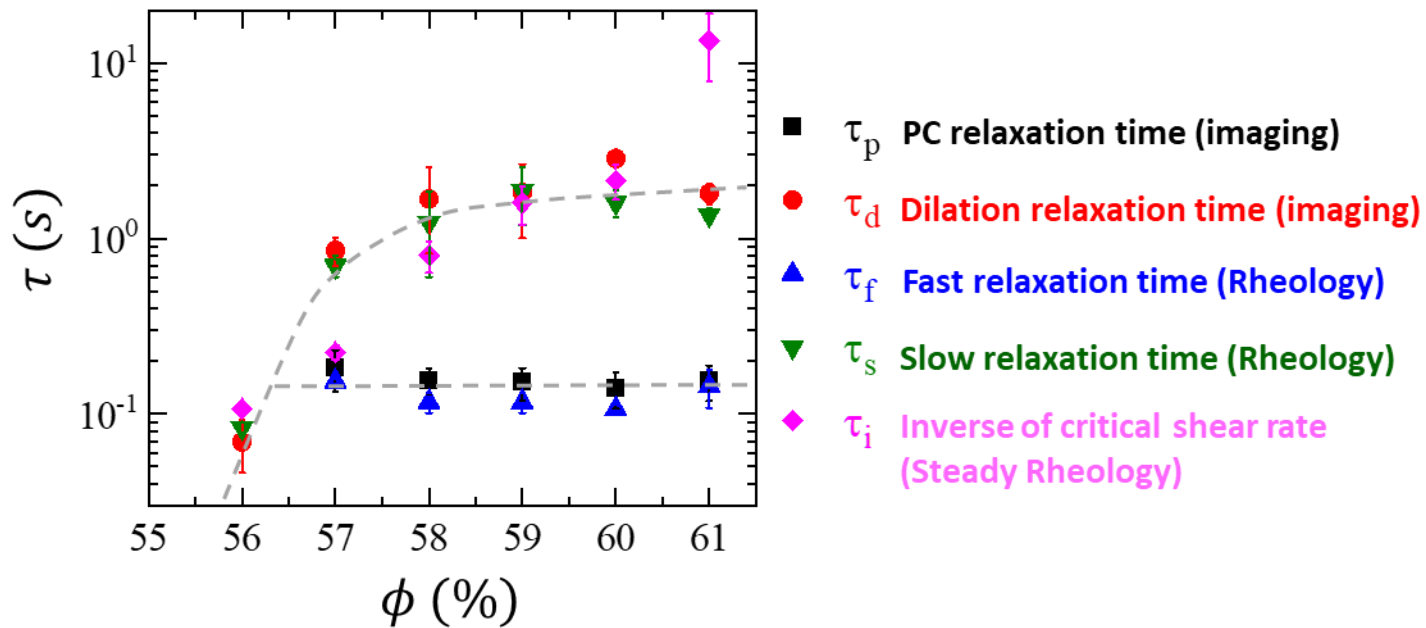
Excellent agreement between the time scales obtained from rheology and boundary imaging



Slow relaxation time sensitive to the solvent viscosity and particle volume fraction

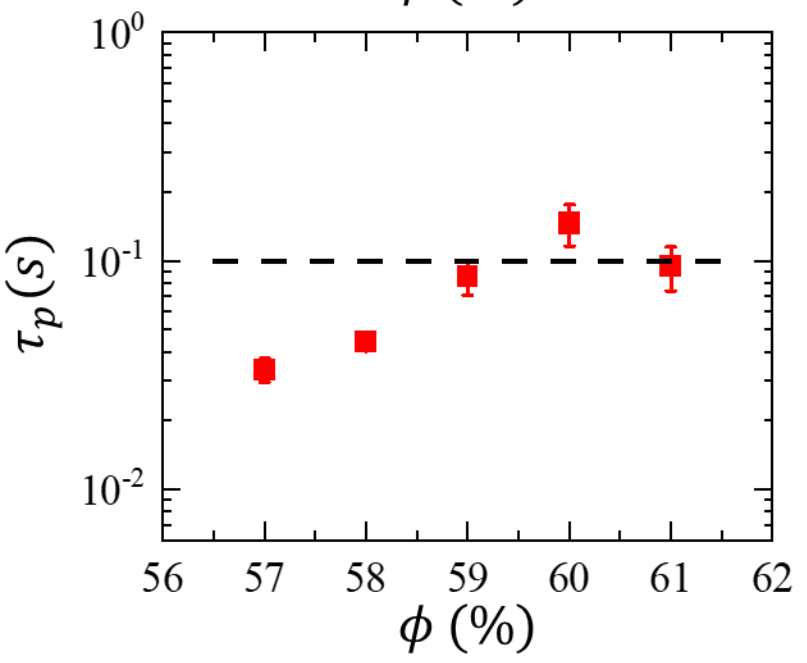
Fast relaxation time remains unaffected, since it is governed by particle-scale plasticity.

# Quantitative estimation of time scales



$$\tau_i = \frac{1}{\dot{\gamma}_c}$$

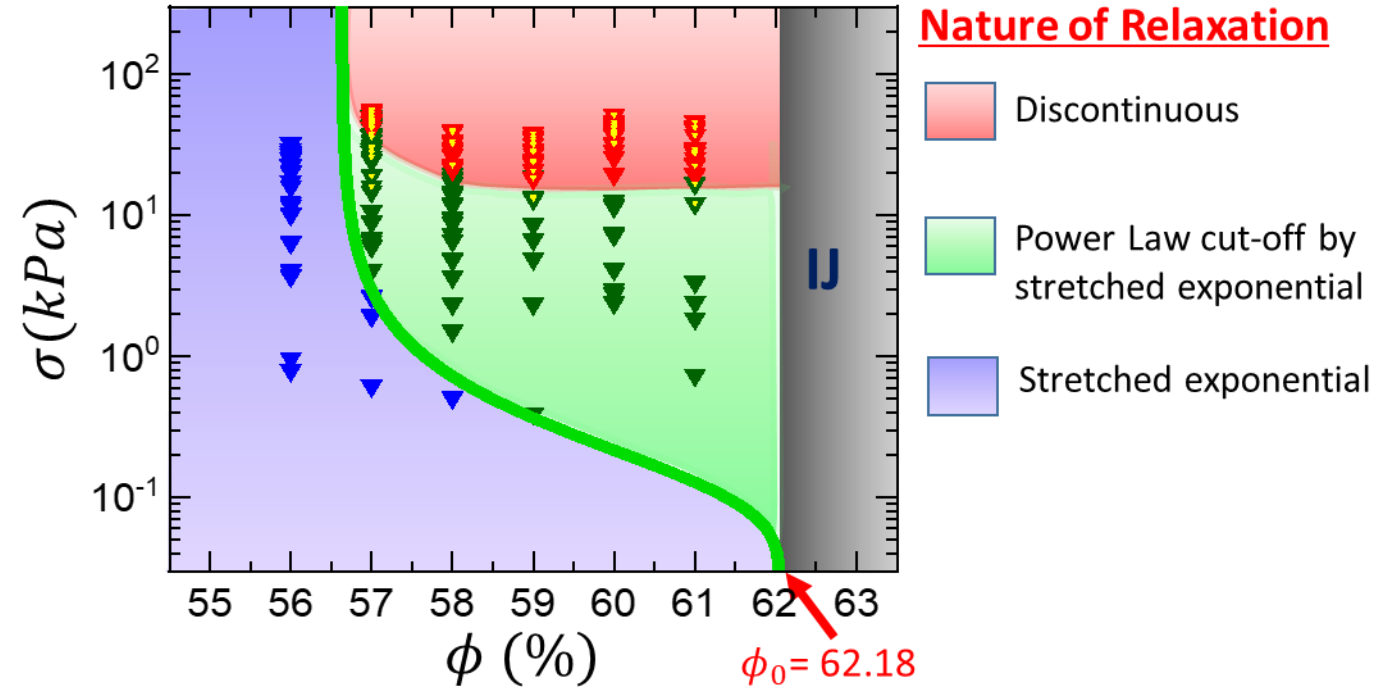
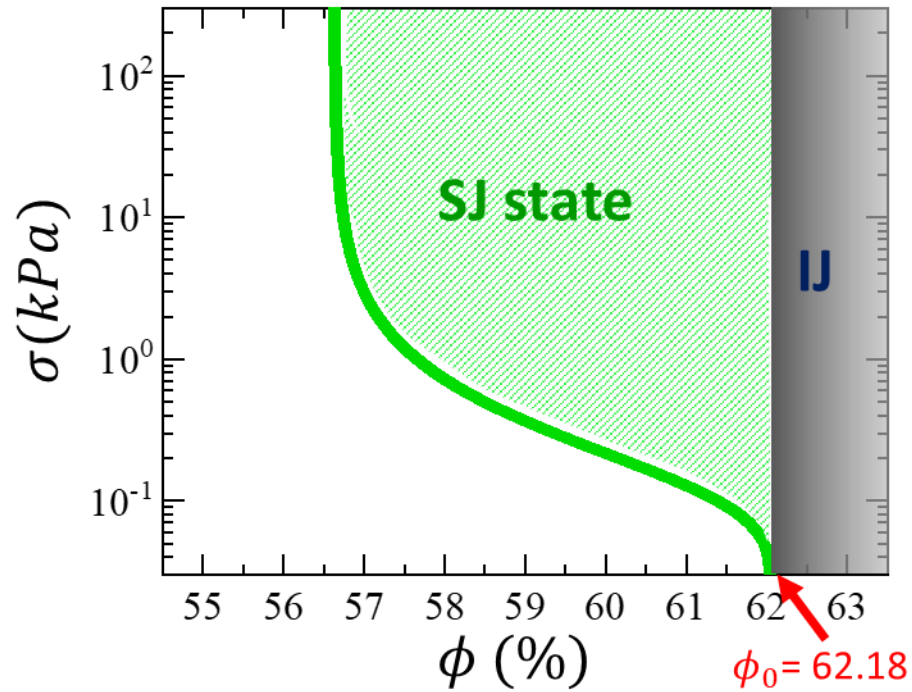
$\dot{\gamma}_c$  = Shear rate onset for steady state shear thickening



$$t \sim \frac{\eta_t a}{\Gamma}$$

$\eta_t = \frac{\text{peak stress } (\sigma_p)}{\text{maximum shear rate } (\dot{\gamma}_p)} = \text{Transient local viscosity}$   
 $\Gamma = \text{Solvent-air surface tension}$   
 $a = \text{Particle diameter}$

# Connection of transient relaxation with steady state SJ phase diagram



$$\sigma = \frac{\sigma^*}{\ln\left(\frac{\phi_0 - \phi_m}{\phi_0 - \phi}\right)}$$

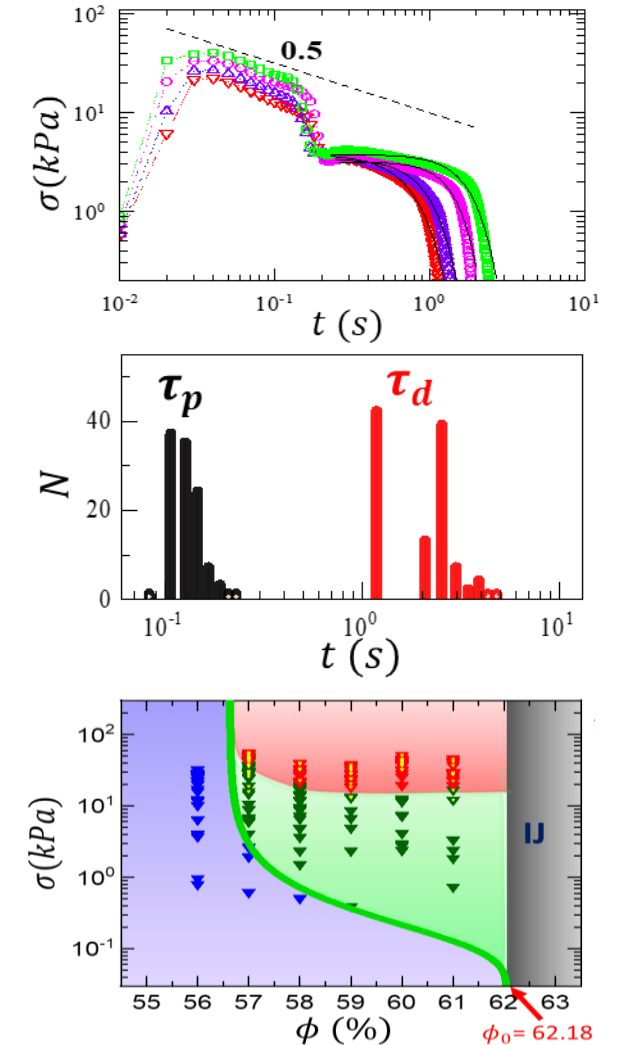
→ Shear-Jamming boundary

**Parameters :**  $\phi_0$ ,  $\phi_m$  and  $\sigma^*$  are estimated from steady state flow curve using Wyart Cates Model



# Conclusions and outlook

1. We identify two distinct transient stress relaxation regimes in shear jamming dense suspensions.
2. We correlate these time scales with localized plastic events and system spanning dilation. Changing particle volume fraction and solvent viscosity such mechanism is further confirmed.
3. Intriguing correlation between nature of transient relaxation and steady state phase diagram obtained from Wyart Cates model.



**Microscopic nature and dynamics of such plasticity together with its connection to a more general frame work of soft glassy rheology is still an open challenge.**

# Acknowledgement

**I acknowledge Dr. Sayantan Majumdar, all my lab members for their active supports and K M Yatheendran for SEM.**



**Dr. Sayantan Majumdar**



## Lab members

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**Sebanti Chattopadhyay**

**Abhishek Ghadai**

**Akhil Mohanan**

**Shibil Adam**

# THANK YOU