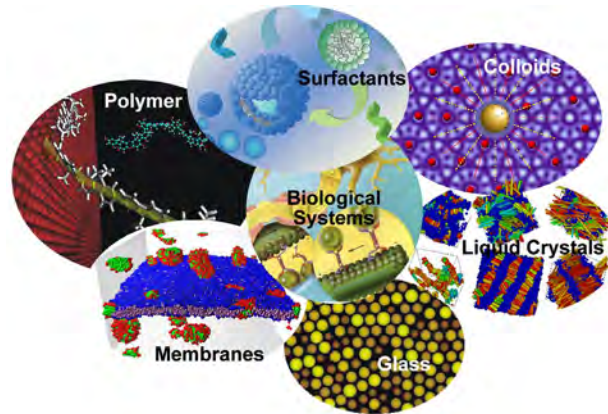


# Simulating SoftFlowMat



ISTITUTO ITALIANO  
DI TECNOLOGIA



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

**S. Succi,**  
**IIT Rome&Harvard Phys**

***Nanofluidics at the crossroads***

***You are here***



COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
— 1530 —

***CdF Paris, May 25 2023***

# ***Plan***

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***1. Soft Flowing Matter***

***2. Computational Methods***

***3. Droplet-based soft materials***

***4. From passive to active droplets***

***5. Meso coupling to quantum-nano fluidics***

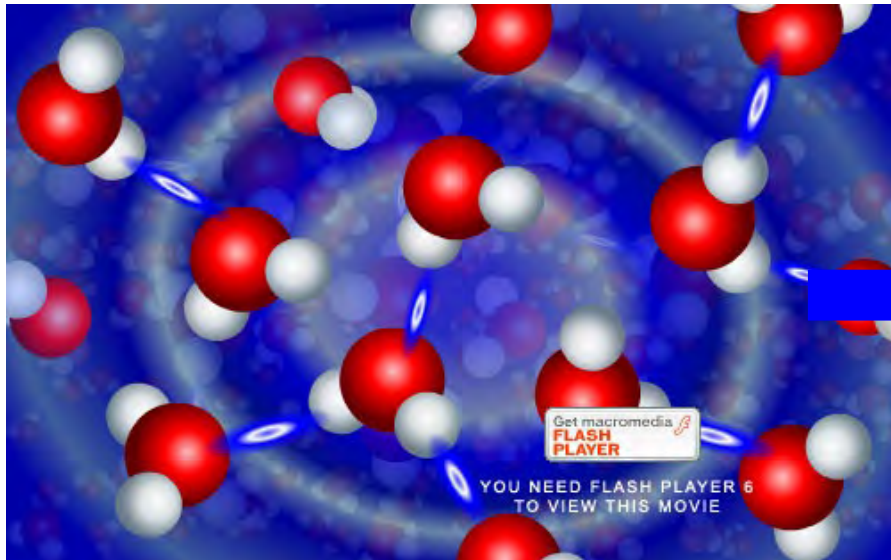
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## *From Condmat to DropMat*

*What if molecules would be replaced by droplets?  
What kind of droplet-based materials can we envisage?  
How do we simulate, design and realize them in the lab?*

*Molecules (~ nm)*

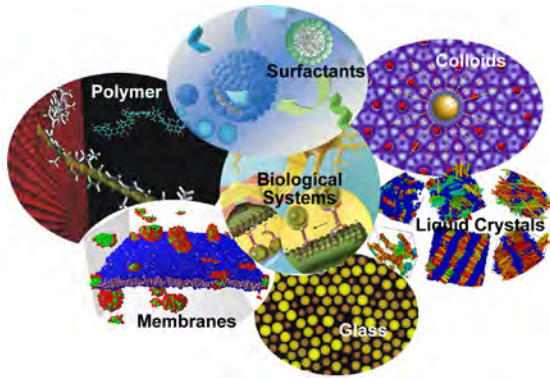


*Meso-molecules (10-100 microns)*

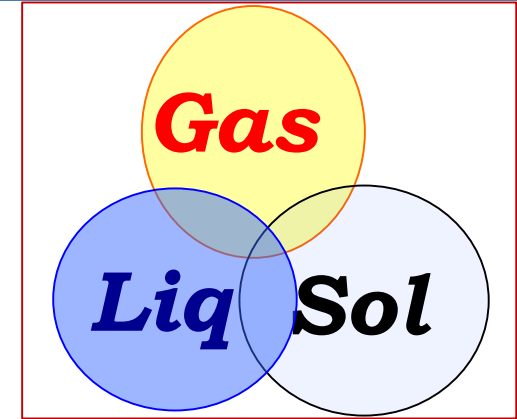


*Explore the non-equil pattern formation properties  
of multi-droplet configurations **under strongly confined flow.***  
*(No chemical specificity, sorry ...)*

# Soft Flowing Matter



**Entangled  
“ $kT$  physics”**



**Phys:** Non-equil pattern formation *under flow*

**Num:** Multiscale/physics problem

**Mat:** Novel mesoscale porous materials

**Eng:** New microfluidic experiments

**App:** Biomed devices, catalysis, cell motion

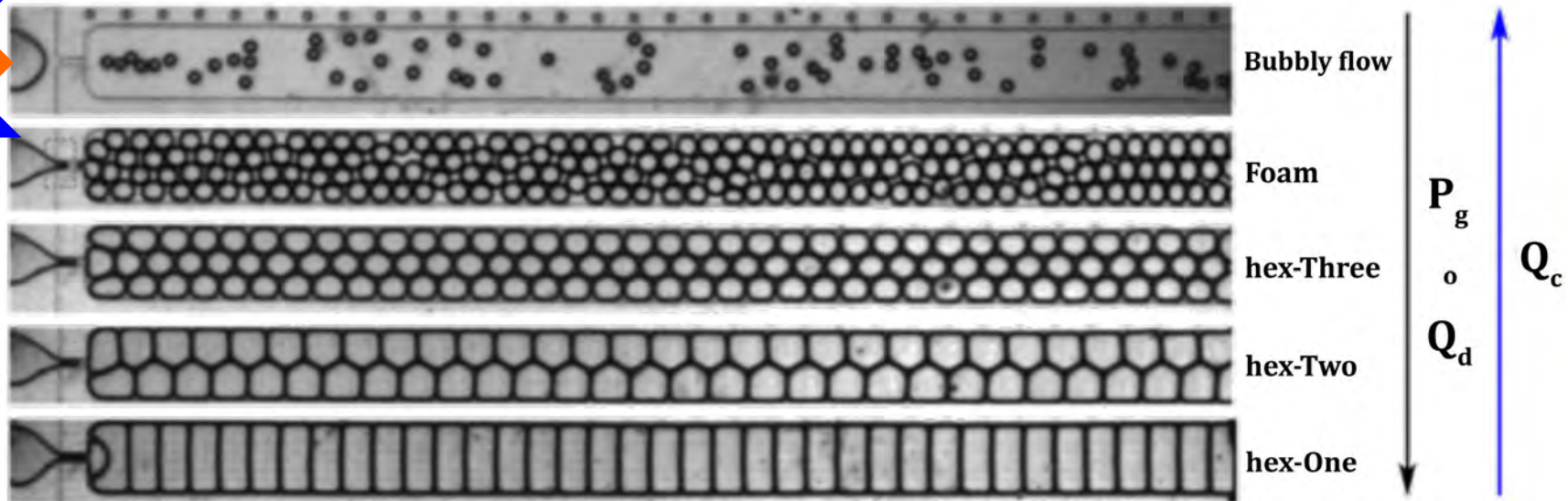
**SFM:** nonlin «entanglement» of G+L+S with genuinely new properties NOT shared by any of G,L,S!

**Configurational DOF:** nonlin&nonloc multi-body effects

# Microfluidics

## Droplet-based nonequilibrium states of matter

(6 decades  
10nm to cm)



(Raven and Marmottant, PRL 2009)

By regulating the flow rate of the dispersed phase  $Q_d$  (or gas pressure  $P_g$  in the case of foams) and of the continuous phase  $Q_c$ , different pore sizes (different configurations/arrangements can be obtained).

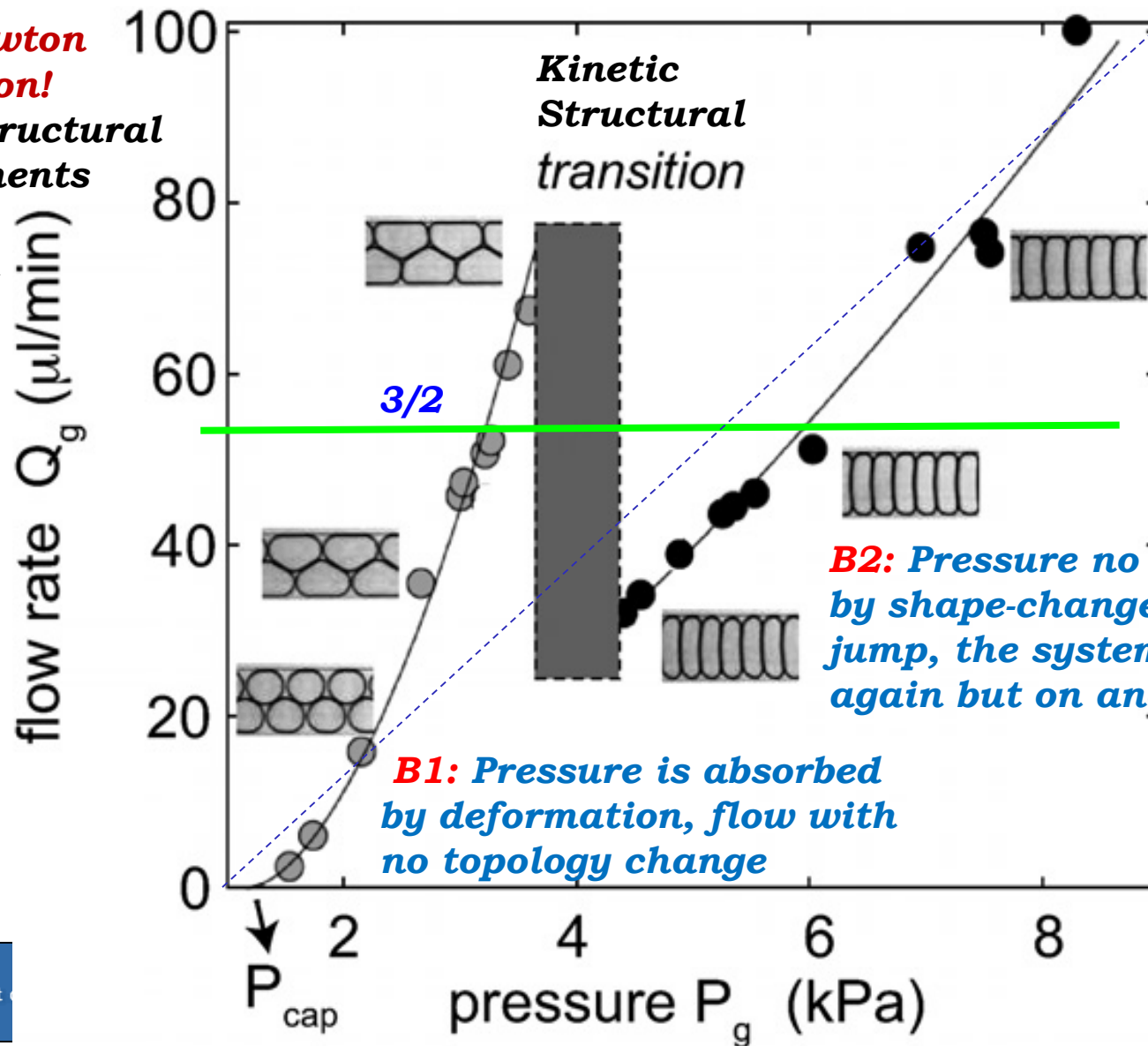
**EASY AND ACCURATE CONTROL**

**Goal: rheological properties**

# Nonlinear rheology

Marmottant-Raven experiment, PRL 2009

**Newton+Newton  
= Non-Newton!**  
Dynamic structural  
rearrangements  
Internal  
Dissipation



**B1:** Pressure is absorbed by deformation, flow with no topology change

**B2:** Pressure no longer curbed by shape-change, symmetry jump, the system can flow again but on another topology

# Microfluidic interactions

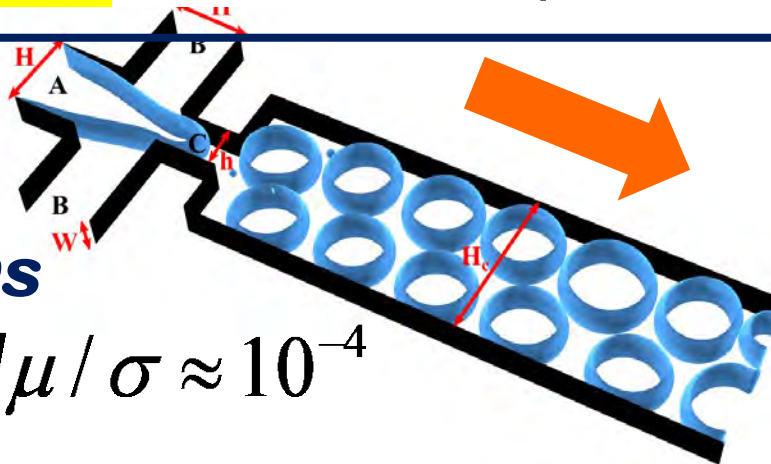
$$g = \nabla p / \rho$$

$$F_{vis} = \mu U / D^2$$

$$F_{ine} = \rho U^2 / D$$

$$F_{nc} = A kT / h^4$$

$$F_{cap} = \sigma / D^2$$



**Very slow flows**

$$Ca \equiv F_{vis} / F_{cap} = U \mu / \sigma \approx 10^{-4}$$

$$U \approx 10^{-3} \text{ m/s}$$

$$D \approx 10^{-4} \text{ m}$$

$$Re \equiv F_{ine} / F_{vis} = U w / \nu \approx 10^{-3}$$

$$D / H \approx 0.2 - 1$$

$$Mo \equiv g \nu / V_{cap}^3 = g \mu^4 / \rho \sigma^3 \ll 1 \quad \text{Soft particles}$$

**NON LOCAL EFFECTS: confinement is key!**

**(L. Bocquet et al, fluidity models)**

# ***Open questions***

---

***Continuum methods are very hard (high S/V)  
Atomistic methods are short in space and time)***

***Can we meso-simulate SFM rheology?***

***Multiscale physics: 6 spatial decades  
(like airliner turbulence)***

***No Exascale can take it, it's  $10^{18}$  DOF***

***Keys: Dense, Confined, Deformable***

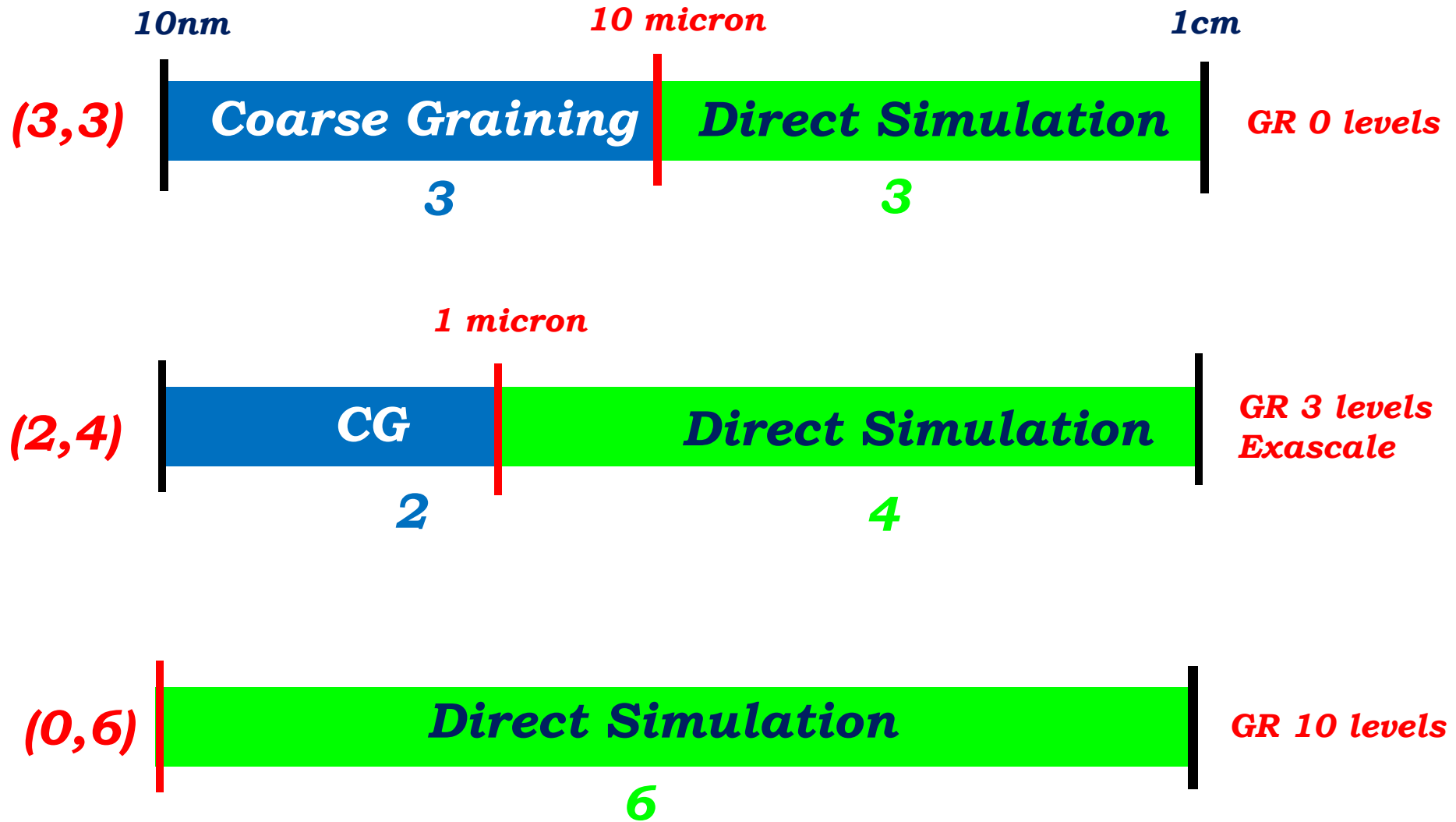
***Rheo is very rich and largely uncharted***

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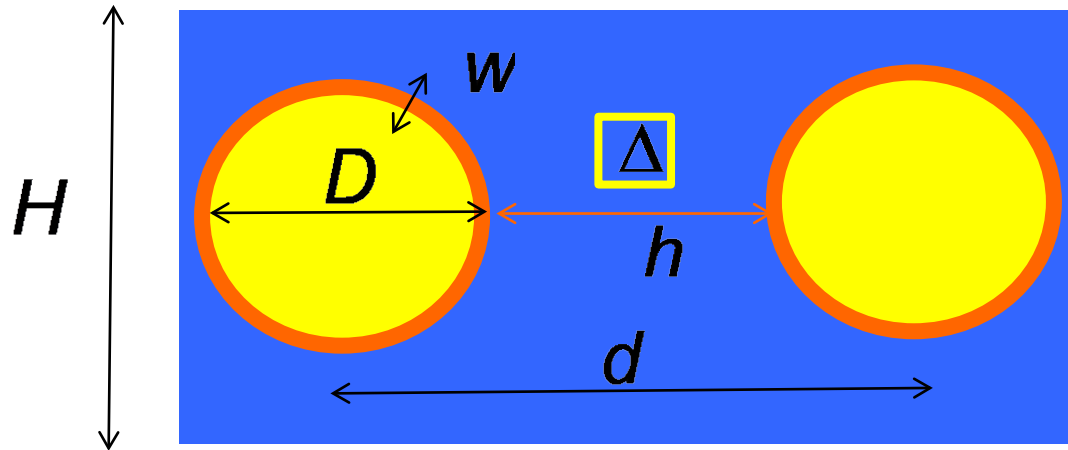
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# Multiscale CG-DS strategies



# Micro-Meso-Macro connection (6 decades)



$$H = 1 \text{ mm}$$

$$D = 10 - 100 \mu$$

$$h = d - D$$

$$\Delta = D / 100; 1 \mu$$

$$w = 1 \text{ nm}$$

*Dilute regime:*

$$\varphi_d \sim \frac{V_d}{V_d + V_c} \ll 1$$

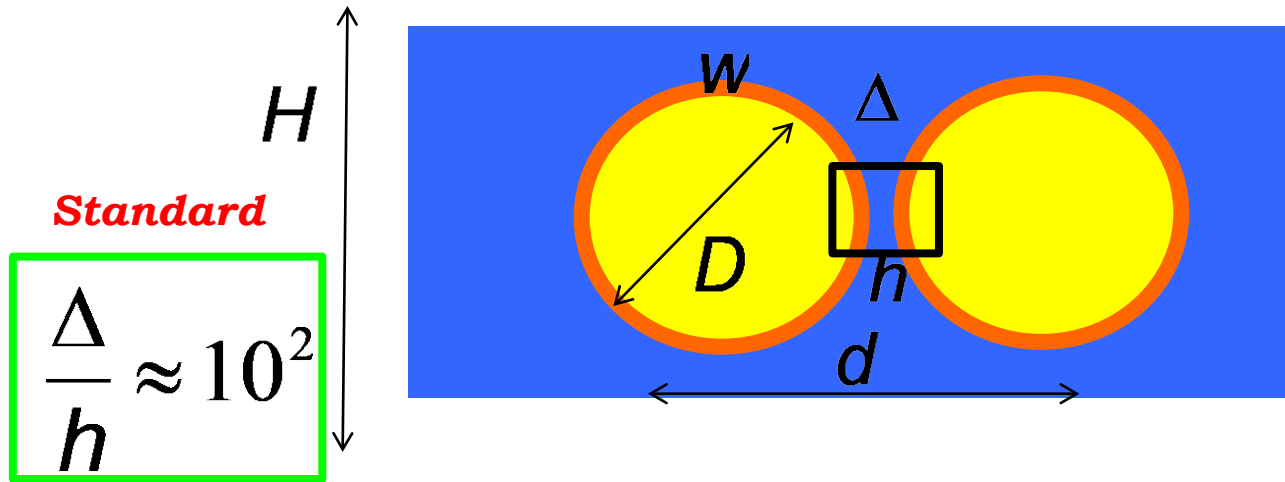
$$h > D$$

**NCI's are silent**

$$w \ll \Delta < h \sim D < H$$

*Numerics is ok*

# Length-scales



$$H = 1 \text{ mm}$$

$$D = 10 - 100 \mu$$

$$\longleftarrow \Delta$$

$$h = 10 \text{ nm}$$

$$\Delta = 1 \text{ nm}$$

$$w = 1 \text{ nm}$$

**Dense regime: NCI's take stage!**

$$F(h) = A / h^n \dots$$

$$A < 0$$

**Coalescence**

$$A > 0$$

**Long-lived states**

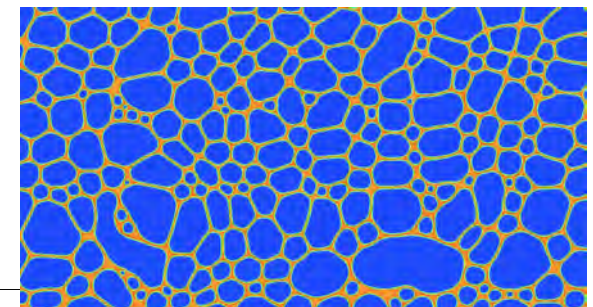
**Low density regime, OK**

$$w \ll \Delta < h \ll D$$

**High density regime:**

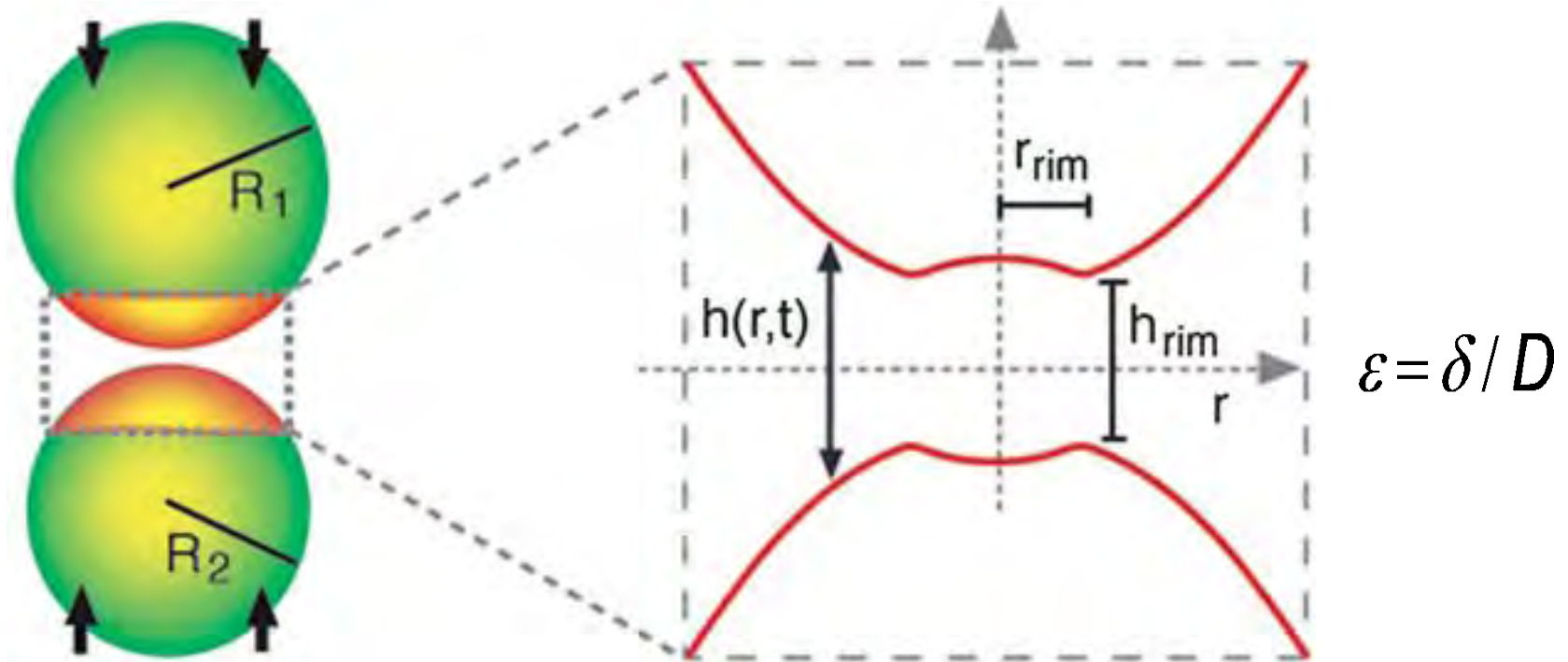
$$w < h < \Delta \ll D \quad \text{Subgrid LB, tough}$$

$$\Delta < w \approx h \ll D \quad \text{Molecular, resolve interface}$$



# Soft droplets

*Dimples, Wimples, Pimples: interface waves*  
*Do they affect the large-scale structure of the flow?*



$$\partial_t h + \frac{\tau}{\mu} h \partial_x h = \frac{\sigma}{\mu} \partial_x (h^3 \partial_x^3 h);$$

$$h > 0$$

$$h = 0$$

$$h < 0$$

**Thin film theory: Non linear waves**

**New many-body metastable states (Theory?)**

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# ***Methods***

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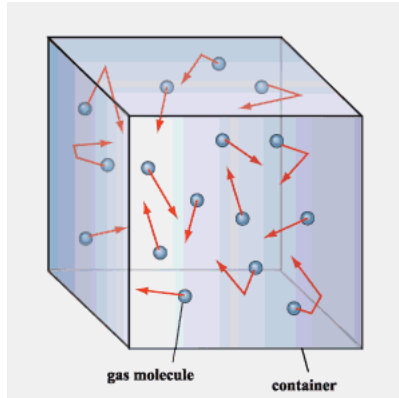
# Lattice Boltzmann: crystal hydrodynamics

$$f(\vec{x}, \vec{v}; t) = \sum_{i=0}^b f_i(\vec{x}, t) \delta(\vec{v} - \vec{c}_i) \quad i = 0, b$$

*Triple infinity to just 18!*

*Quasiparticles: magic speeds!*

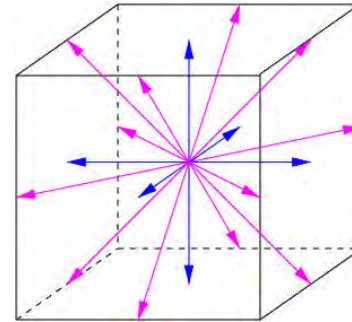
**Exact sampling of frequent events**



**Universality**



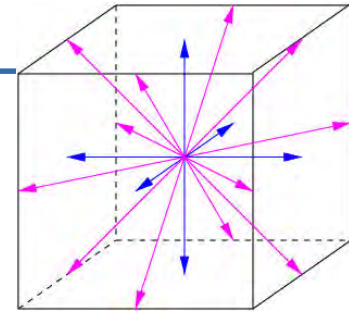
**Individuality**



$$\rho(\vec{x}; t) \bar{a}(\vec{x}; t) = \int a(\vec{v}) f(\vec{x}, \vec{v}; t) d\vec{v} = \sum_{i=0}^b a_i f_i(\vec{x}; t)$$

**Gauss-like quadrature: low order moments are EXACT**

# LBE: Stream&Collide



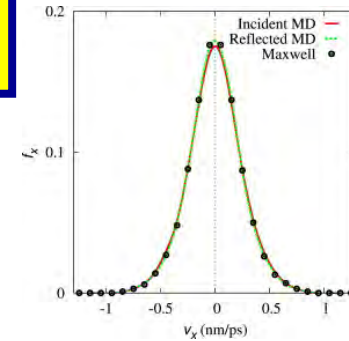
**Math paradigm for complex flowing systems:**

**Free-streaming**

**Collisions**

**Sources**

$$f_i(\vec{r} + \vec{c}_i, t + 1) - f_i(\vec{r}, t) = -\Omega_{ij} (f_j - f_j^{eq}) + S_i$$



$$f_i^{eq} = \rho w_i \left\{ 1 + \beta \vec{u} \cdot \vec{c}_i + \frac{1}{2} [(\beta \vec{u} \cdot \vec{c}_i)^2 - \beta u^2] \right\} + \dots \quad \beta = 1/kT$$

**(EoS)**

$$\{\rho, \rho \vec{u}, \vec{P}, \dots\} = \sum_{i=0}^b \{1, \vec{c}_i, \vec{c}_i \vec{c}_i, \dots\} f_i$$

**Conservative (zero modes)**

**Mass-Mom-MomFlux**

$$\Omega_{ij} = \Omega(\vec{c}_i \cdot \vec{c}_j)$$

**Transport/Dissipation**

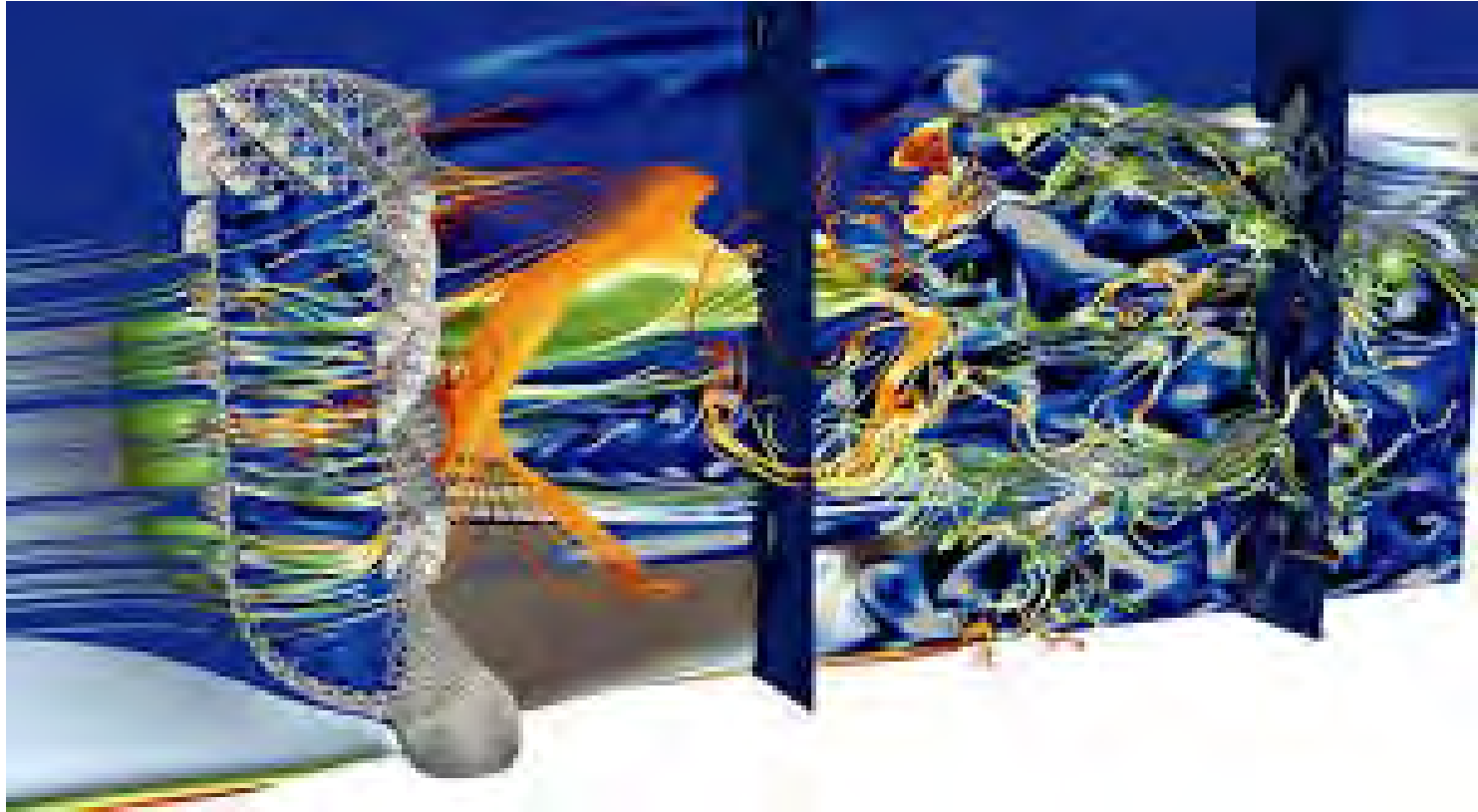
**S**

**External/Internal drives = Soft Collisions**

**NOT LIMITED TO DILUTE GAS !**

# ***Petascale LB***

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***50 Billions sites, 5Pflops on Marconi 100 (Top 9)***

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***G. Falcucci, G. Amati, M. Porfiri, P. Fanelli, Polverino,  
V. Krastev & SS, Nature, July 2021***

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# ***Droplet-based microfluidics***

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# Density Functional Kinetic Theory

## 1. Free-Energy Functional:

$$\mathcal{F}[\varrho] = \int [\varphi(\varrho) + \chi(\nabla\rho)^2] dx$$

## 2. Non-ideal Pressor (Korteweg):

$$K_{ab} = \frac{\delta^2 \mathcal{F}}{\delta \nabla_a \rho \delta \nabla_b \rho}$$

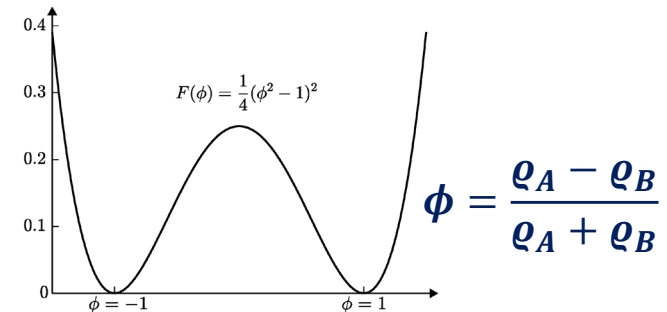
## 3. Non-ideal capillary force:

$$F_a = -\partial_b K_{ab}$$

## 4. Streaming in velocity space = Soft Collisions:

$$S = F_a \partial_{v_a} f$$

## Cahn-Hilliard potential



**Non Ideal EoS**

**Surface Tension**

**Disjoining pressure**

**The force is non-local  
(third order in space)**

**Rothman-Keller (1988) Shan-Chen (1993), Orlandini et al (1996),**

**Color Gradient LB+NCI: Montessori et al, JFM 2019**

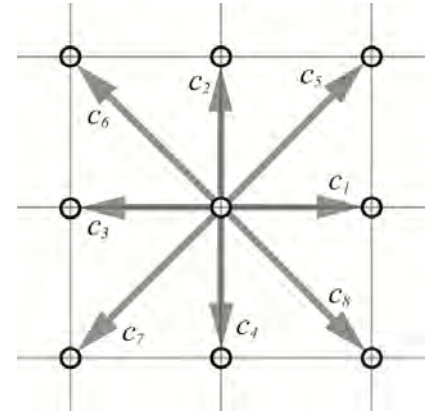
# Lattice pseudo-potentials

**Continuum  
Kinetic  
Theory**

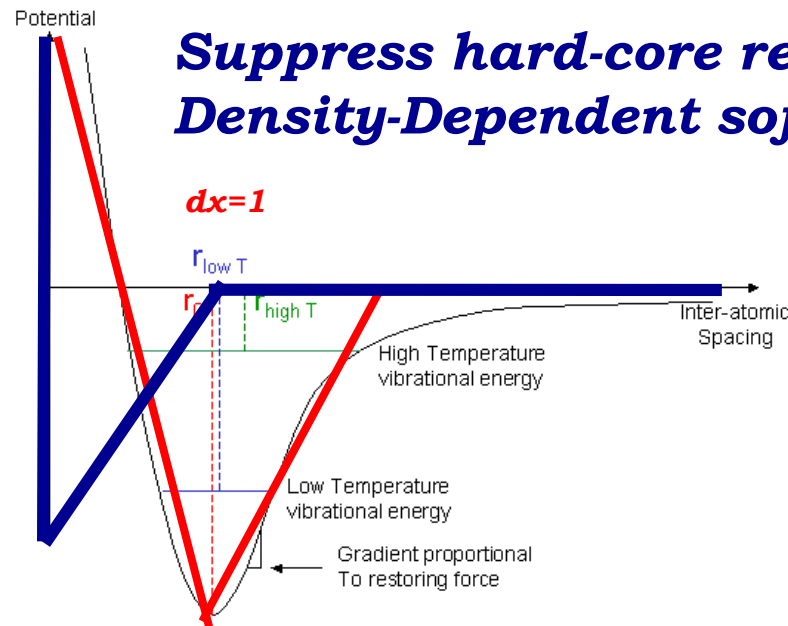
$$\frac{df}{dt} \equiv \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{r}} + \frac{\vec{F}(\vec{x}, t)}{m} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \vec{v}}$$

**Lattice  
Pseudo  
Force**

$$-G\psi(\mathbf{x}) \sum_i w_i \psi(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}_i) \mathbf{c}_i,$$



**Handy, but  
high surfpens:  
coalescence**

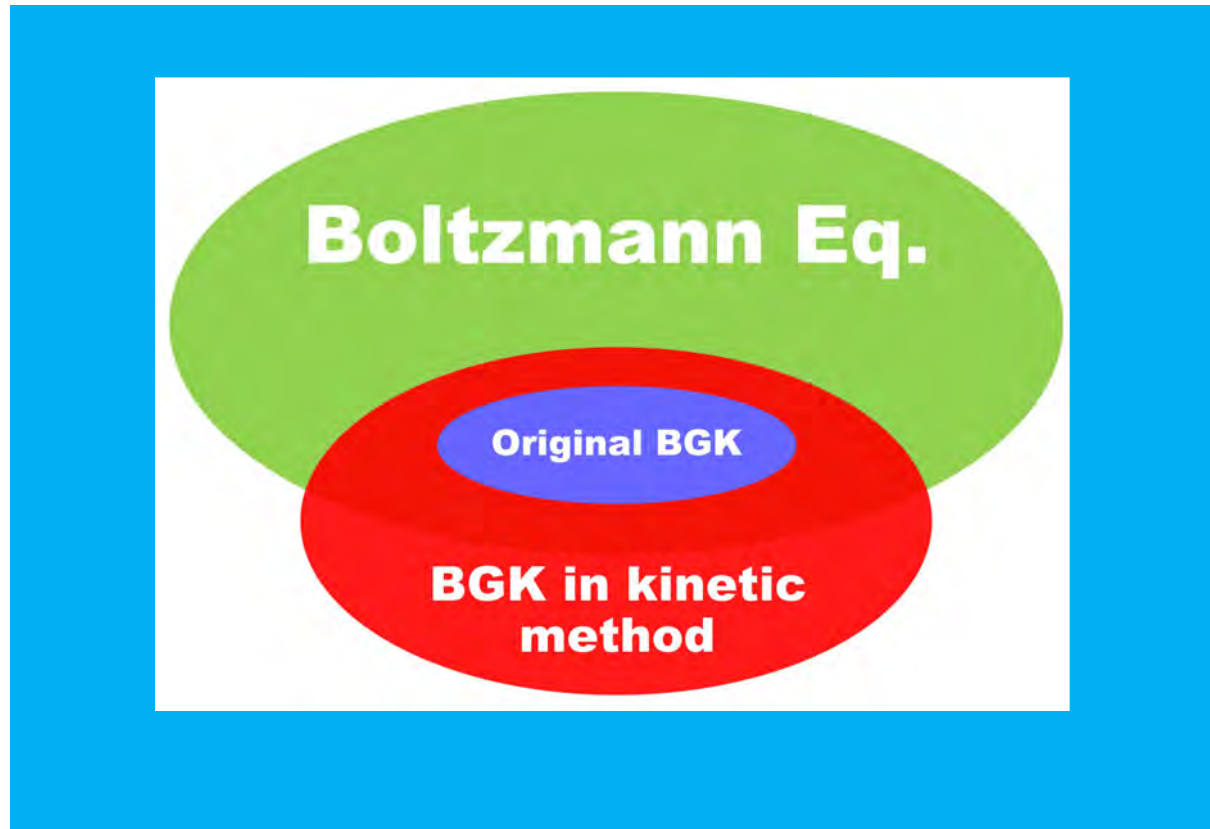


**Shan-Chen  
PRE 1993**

# Density Functional Kinetic Theory

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*By using generalized equilibria and relaxation operators the BGK approximation delivers «analytic continuations» of Boltzmann's kinetic theory, and extend it to **dense&confined non-equilibrium** fluids without losing lattice realizability*

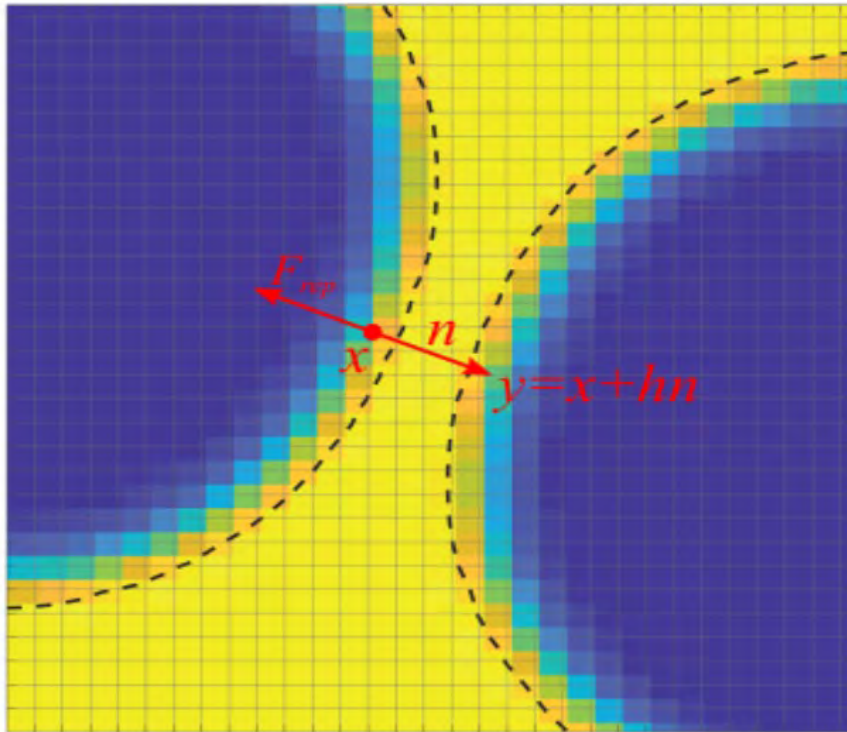


# Near-Contact Interactions

$$F_{nc} = A kT / h^4$$

$$N = A \left( \frac{kT}{\sigma h^2} \right) \left( \frac{D^2}{h^2} \right) \quad A = \left( \frac{\epsilon}{kT} \right)$$

*Soft potential*  $\ll 1$   
 $D/h \sim 10^4$



## *LB-NCI scheme*

1. Move along the interface normal, up to 4 lattice units
2. If another interface is met, apply FNC.
3. Else: No action

## *Hand-shaking to Nano!*

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# ***Sample App's***

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# «Exotic» soft «materials»

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**Computer  
Experiments**

**Soft flowing crystals**

**Dense confined emulsions**

**Multicore emulsions**

**Pickering emulsions, Bijels**

**Soft Granular Media**

**Silica Sponges**

**Electrospun fibers**

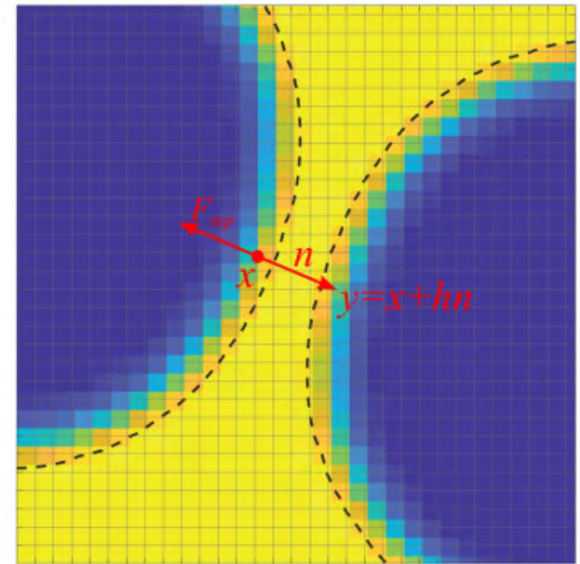
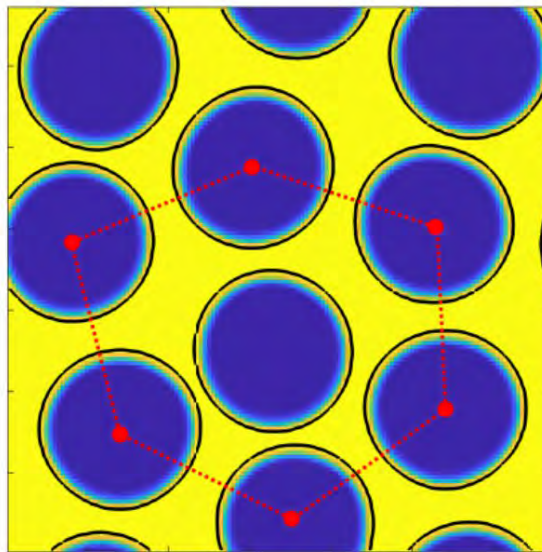
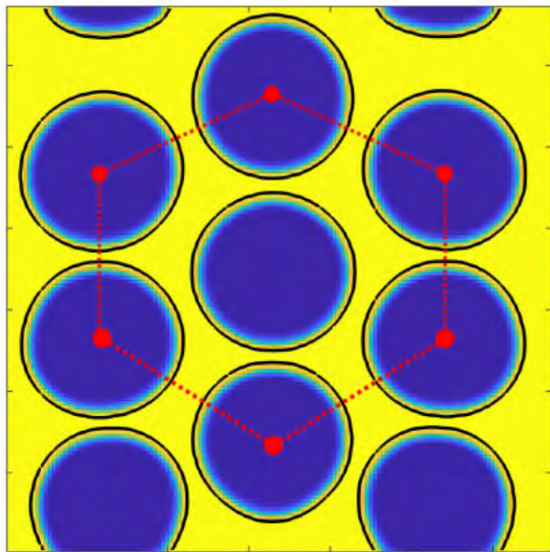
**Functional amyloids**

# Stability of the SFC phase

$$N = A \left( \frac{kT}{\sigma h^2} \right) \left( \frac{D^2}{h^2} \right)$$

- $N \rightarrow 0$       **Coalescence**
- $N \sim 0.1$     **Soft flowing crystal**
- $N > 1$       **Disordered emulsion**

- ✓ Bi-disperse dense emulsion
- ✓ in a microfluidic channel
- ✓ under an external constant body force.
  
- ✓ Substantial near-contact
- interactions perturb the hexagonal crystal-like configuration.



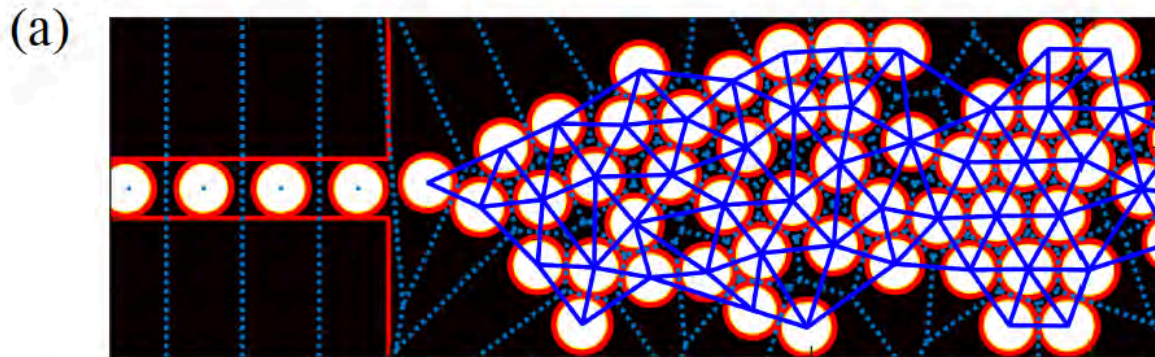
**Soft Flowing Crystal**

Montessori et al, JFM 2019



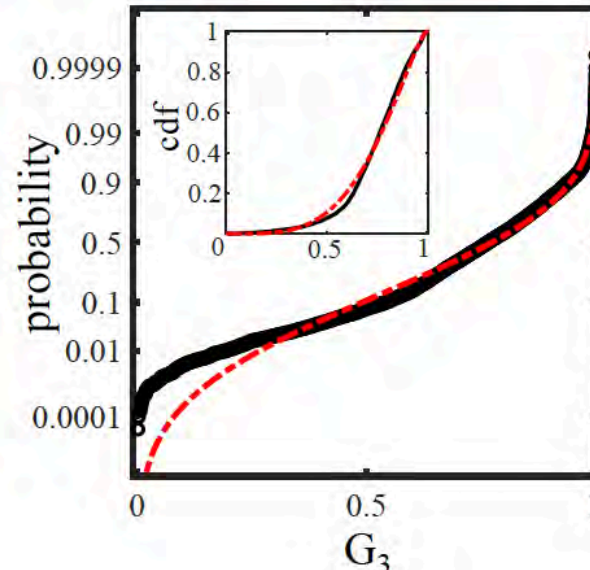
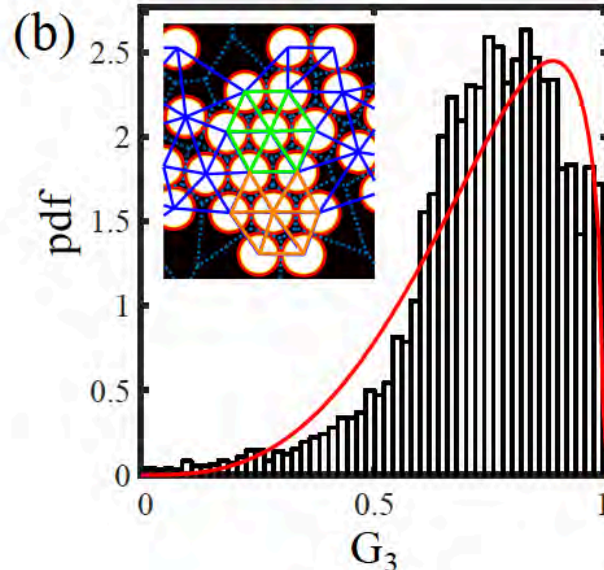
# Dense emulsions

*Functional gradient materials,  
Select connectivity by tuning the  
flow rate and the aperture angle*



«Melting» the 1d SFC

$$G_3(n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \cos(3\theta_j)$$



*Orientational Order Parameters (SF Quasi-Crystals)*

# Dense Confined Emulsions

*Slow: new type of collective order (soft spacetime crystals)*

*Fast: «solid» to «liquid» transition:*

*2d bulk slow SFC ,1d peripheral SFC «fast lane»*

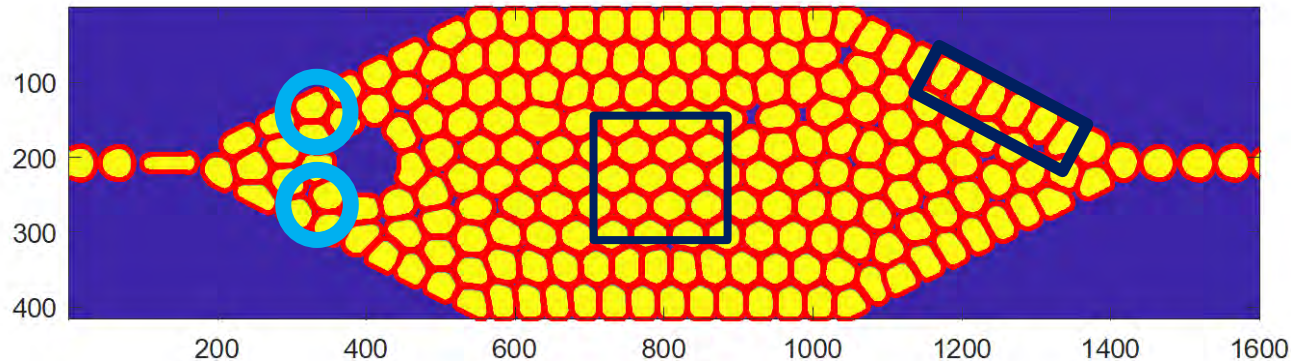
*Long range dissipative effects*

*Plastic rearrangements (defects) propagate like non-linear waves across the elastic granular «solid»*

*Fluidity is a non-local field, frictionless dissipation!*

*«Altruistic droplets»: stuck to facilitate other droplets motion*

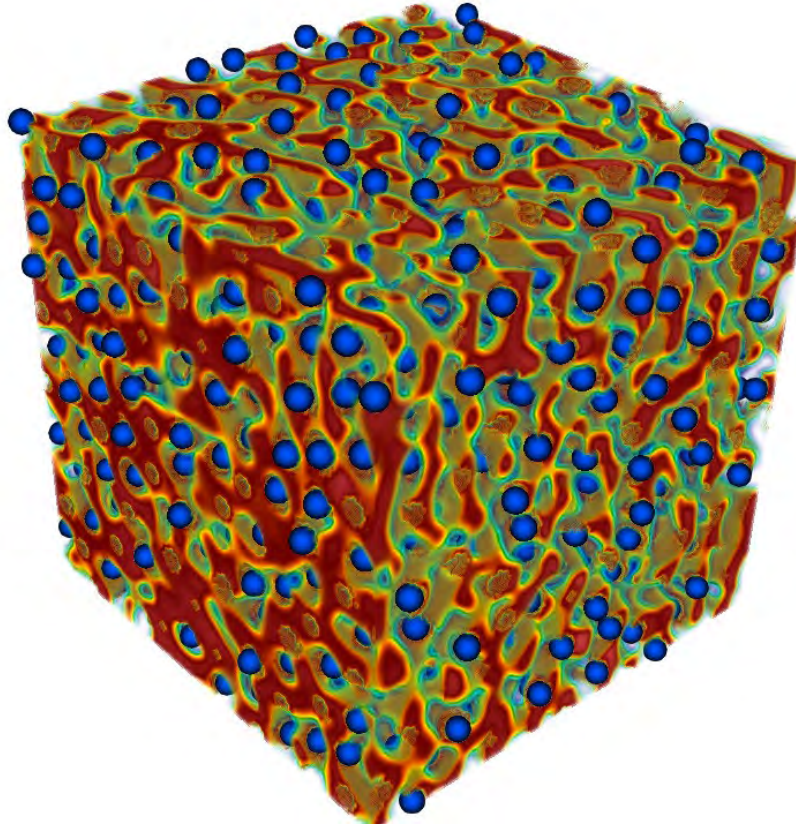
$$f = \dot{\gamma} / \sigma \quad (\text{L. Bocquet et al})$$



*(Y. Gai, A.Montessori, S. Succi, S. Tang, PoF 2022)*

# Colloidal Bijels

---



*Two fluids with dispersed colloids*

*Colloids slow down and arrest the coarsening*

*New porous materials with tunable mechanical and rheological properties*

*First found in-silico  
(Stratford et al, Science 2005)*

*LBCUDA: >100 GLUPS: 200 updates/s 1 billion sites*

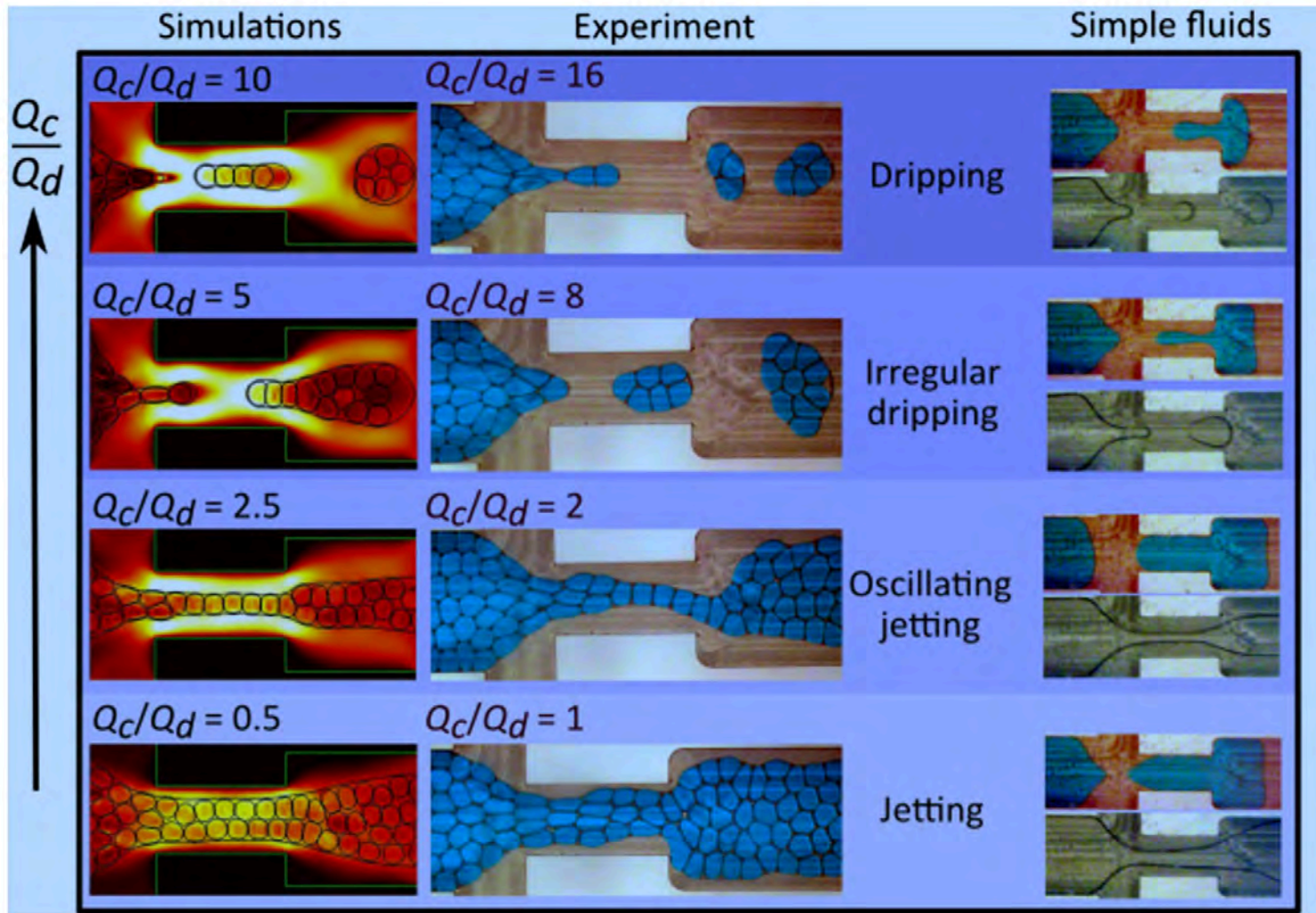
*Cell screen-covers, food processing, oil recovery...-----→ Smart Materials?*

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*F. Bonaccorso and COPMAT team, CPC, 2022*

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# Soft granular materials

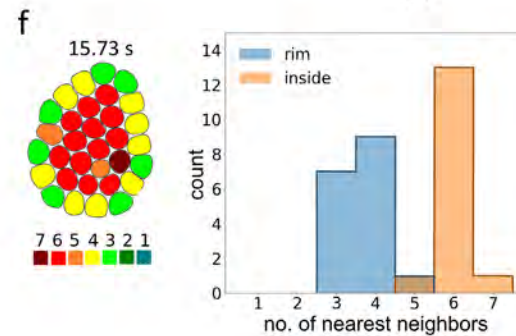
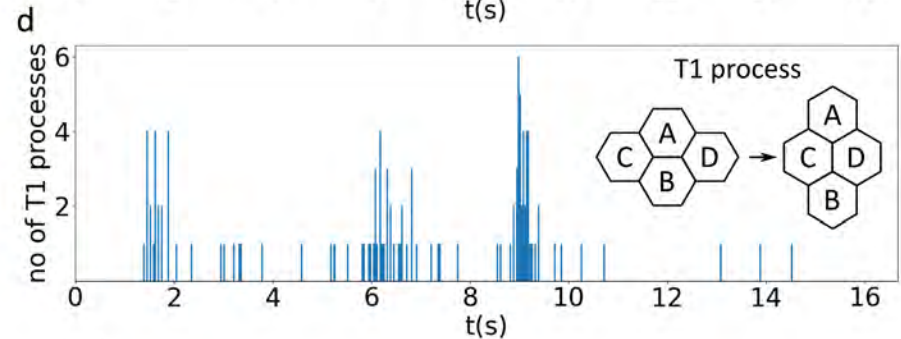
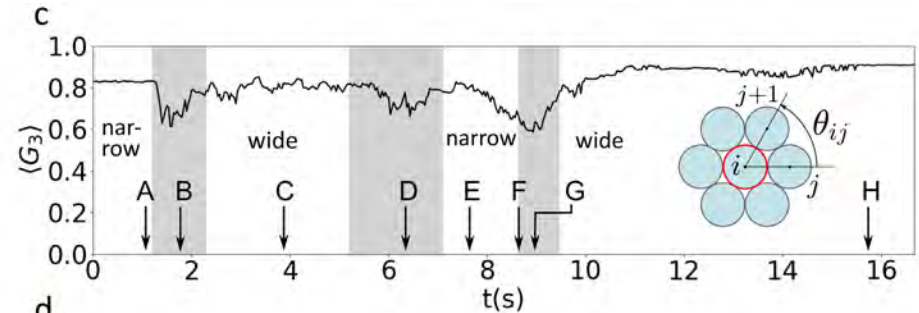
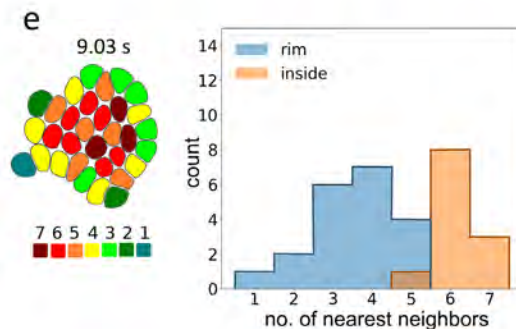
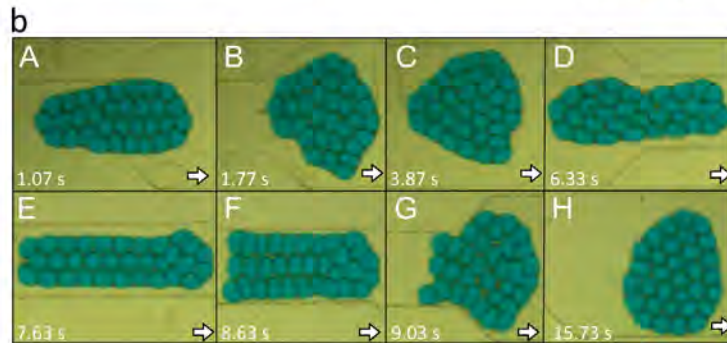
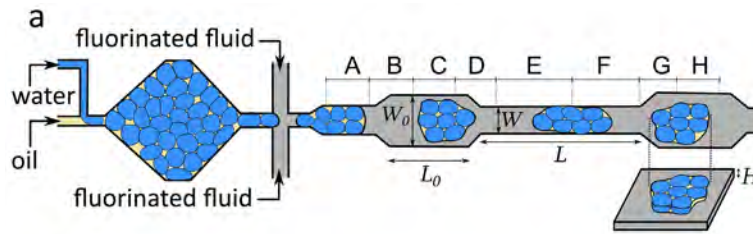


*Interplay  
of  
Individual  
and  
Collective  
dynamics*

*(M. Bogdan, J. Guzowski and COPMAT, PRL 2022)*

# Cluster dynamics in microchannels

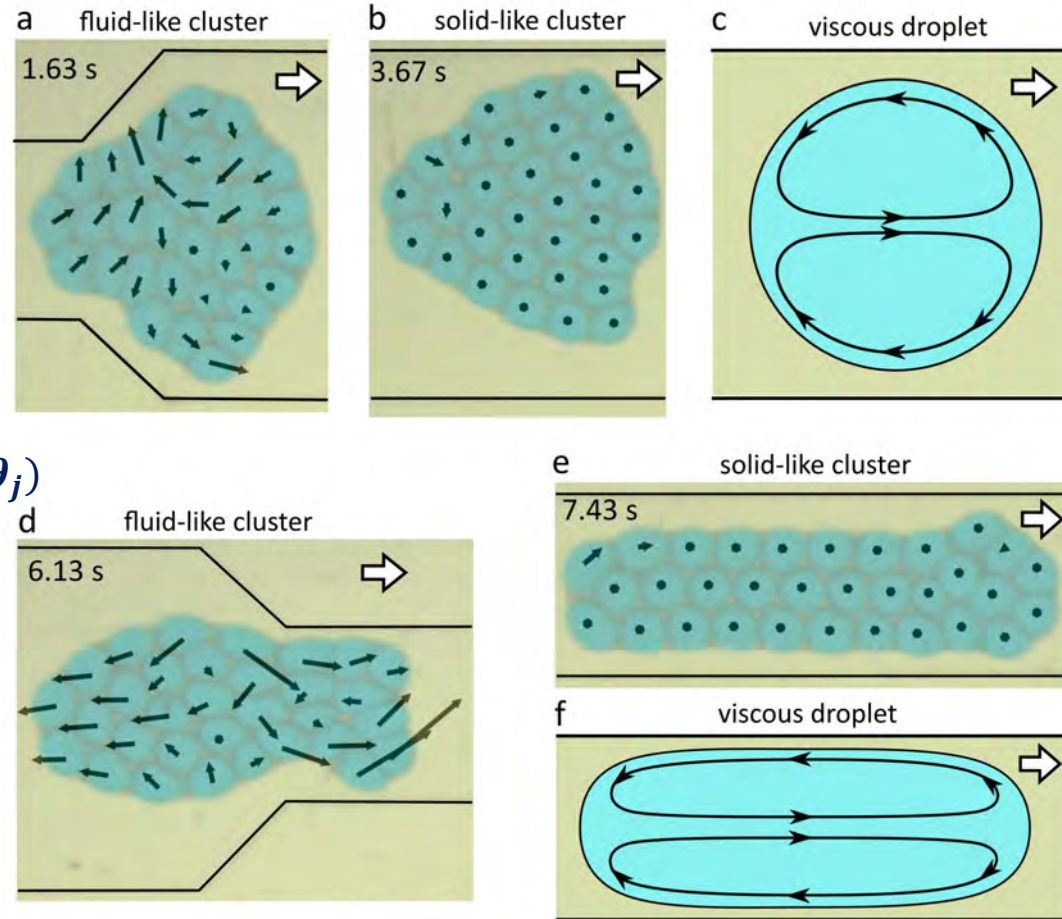
## Topological microfluidics



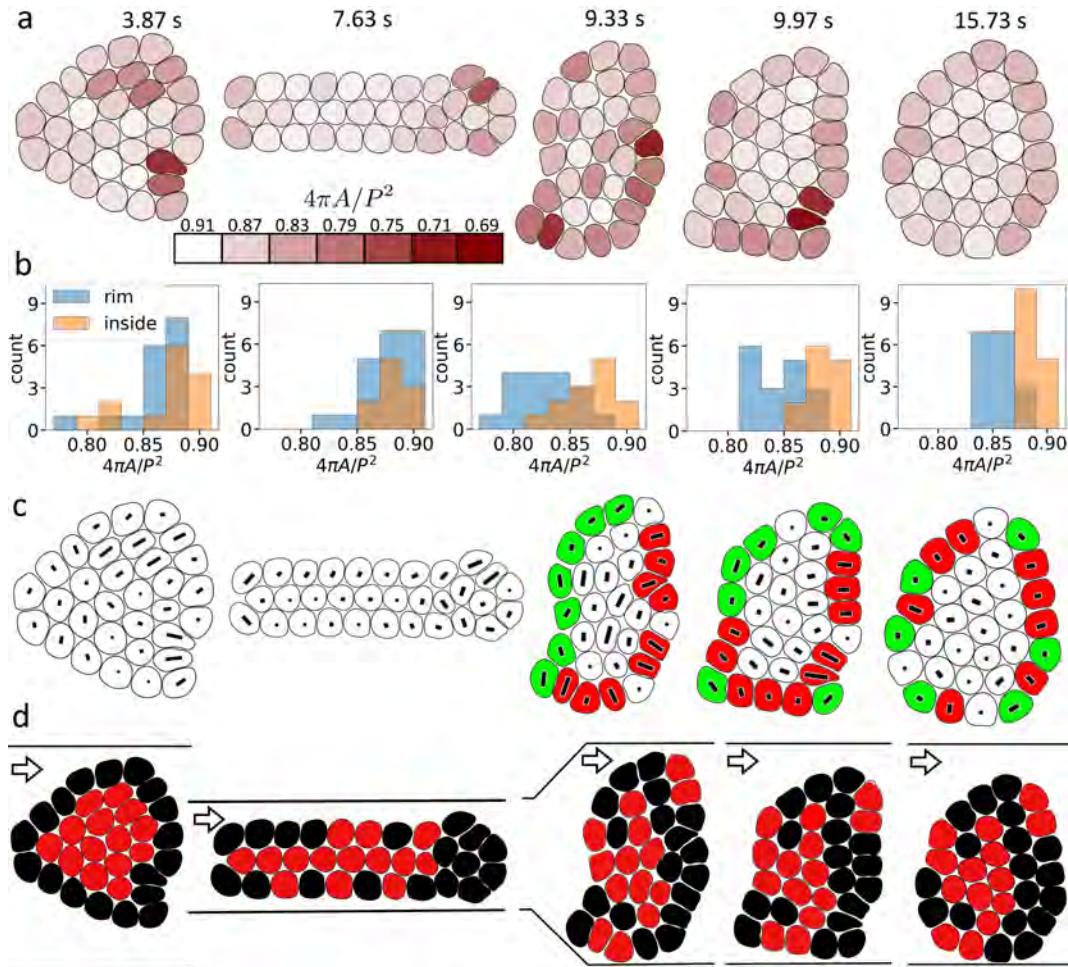
# «Solidification/Melting»

**Quasi-crystal  
Order Parameter**

$$G_3(n, R) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n R_j \cos(3\theta_j)$$



# Topologically induced dynamic heterogeneities



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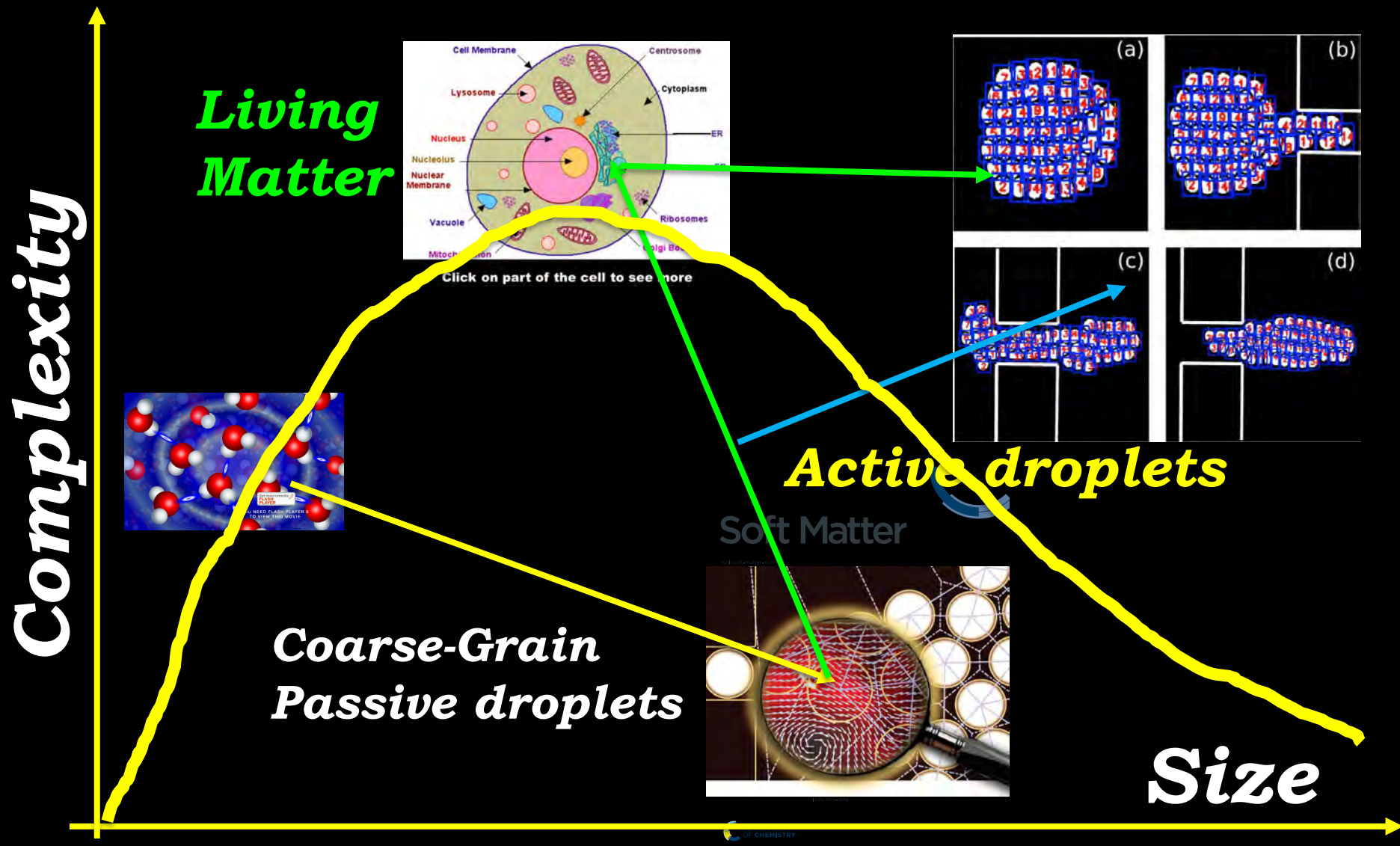
# ***Active Matter***

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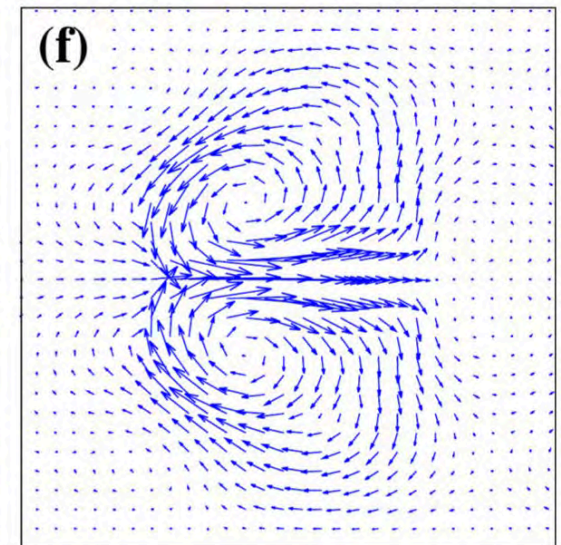
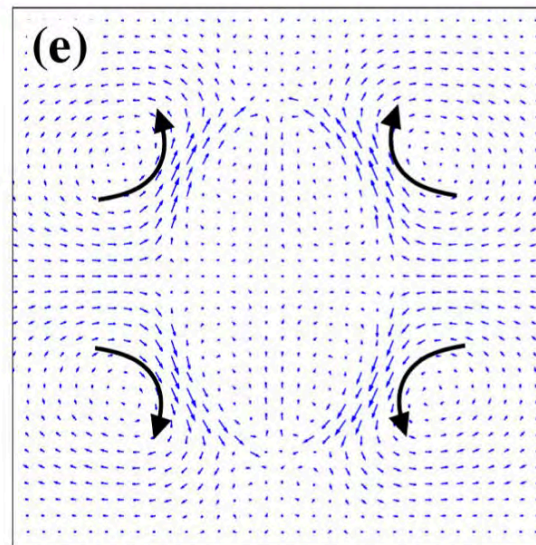
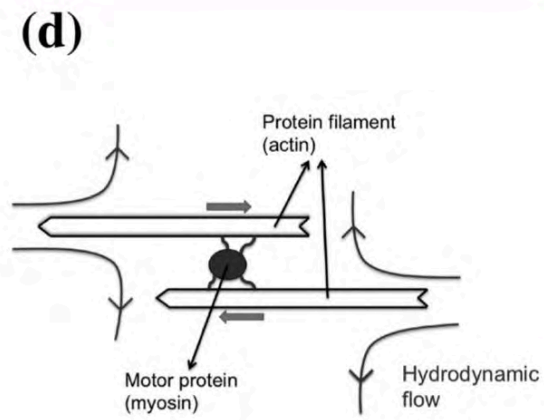
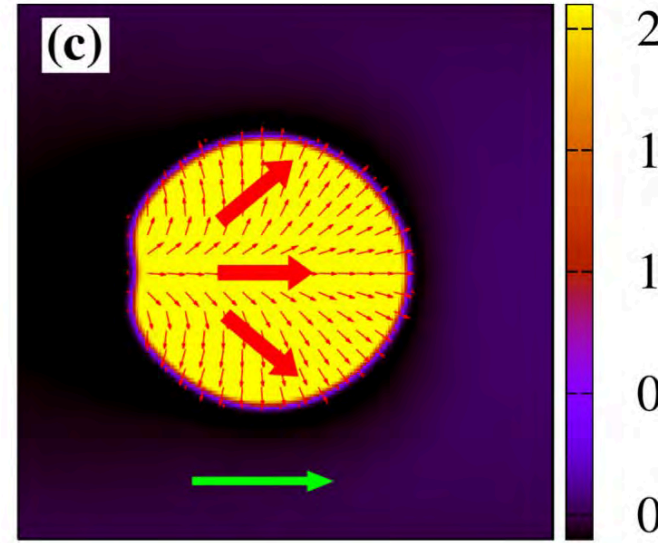
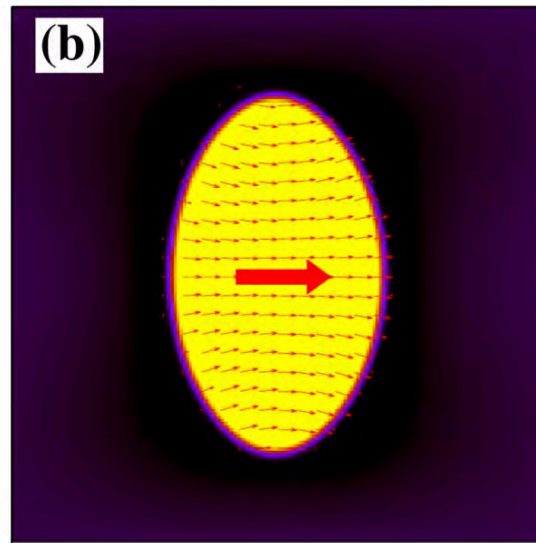
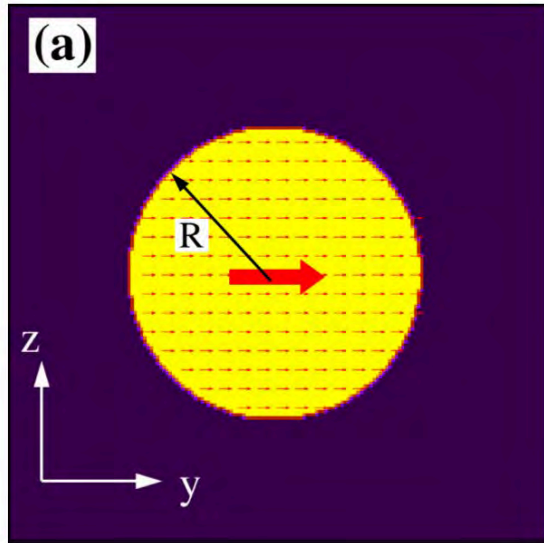
# From drops to cells: micro-physiology



**Inject specificity: synergy with biologists**

# Active Droplets

Parity breaking term:  $\sigma_{ab} = -\zeta\varphi P_a P_b$



(Tjhung, Marenduzzo, Cates, PNAS 2012)

# The role of adhesion

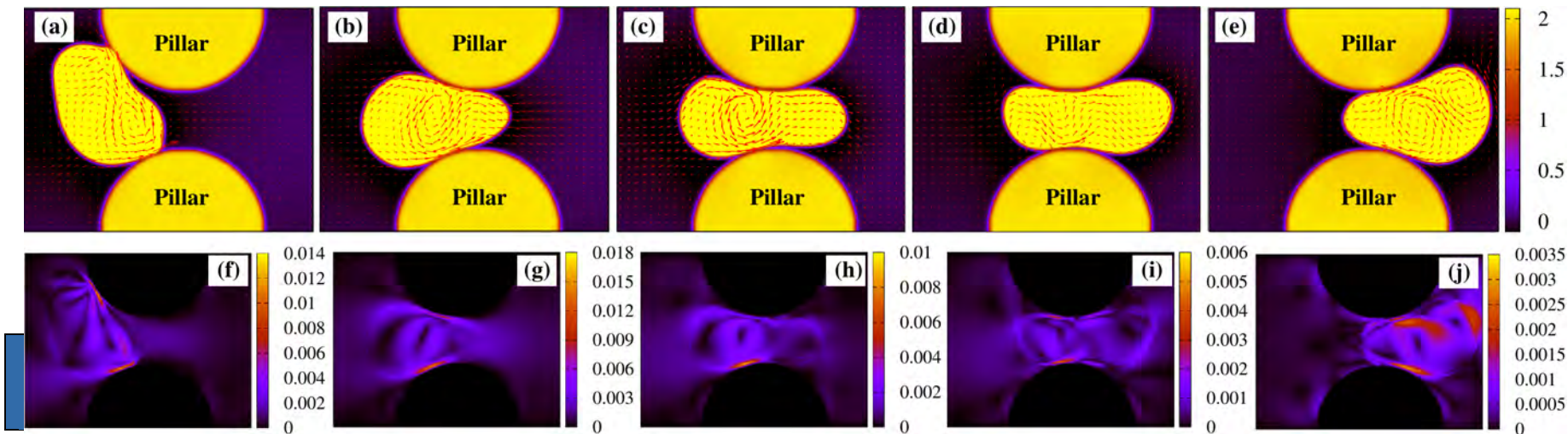
The camel thru the needle-eye:  
 $D > h$  transmigration: Mission Impossible for rigid spheres!

**Rigid body:**  
 $h/D < 1$ : clogging  
 $h/D > 1$ : unidirectional motion



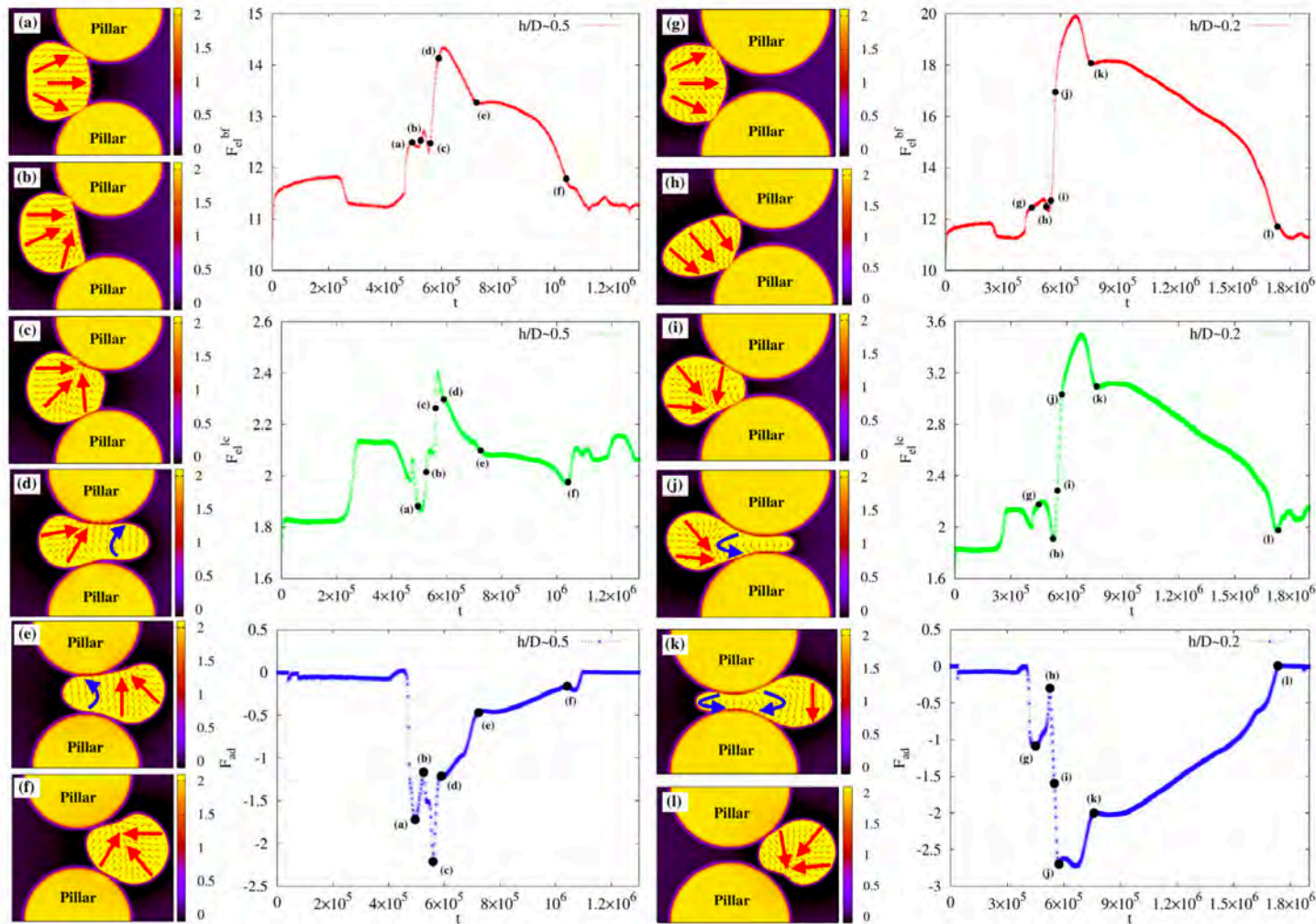
$$\mathcal{F}[\varphi] = \int [f(\varphi) + \dots \chi \partial_a(\varphi) \partial_b(\varphi) + \dots] dr$$

*Unsymmetric adhesion is key*



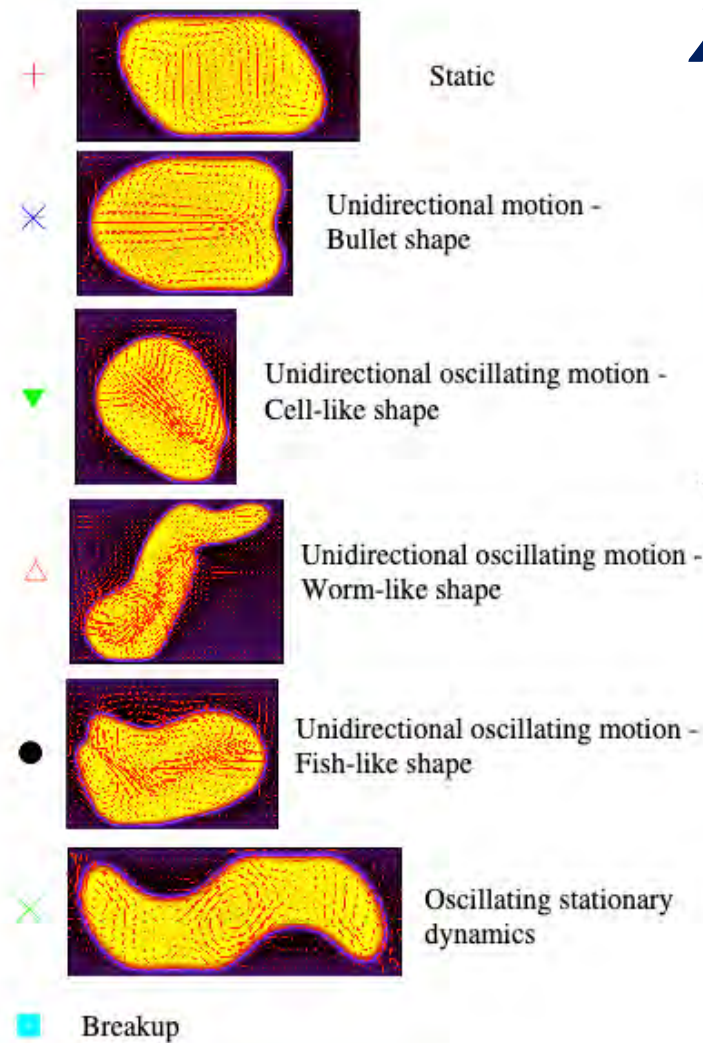
# Translocation Energetics

9

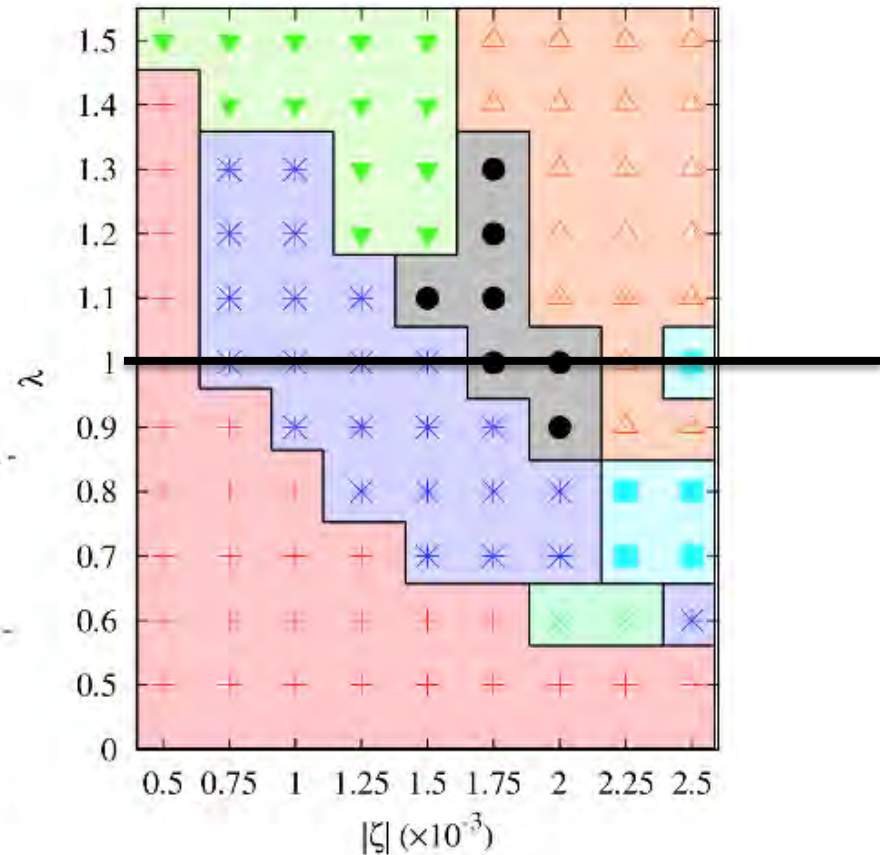


Tiribocchi and COPMAT team, *Nature Comm.*, 2023

# Motility Phase Diagram



$$\lambda = h/D$$



*Each morphology has its own rheology: multi-rheological behaviour*

# Soft Active Layers

*Polarization waves in the active layer drive the passive particle*<sup>10</sup>

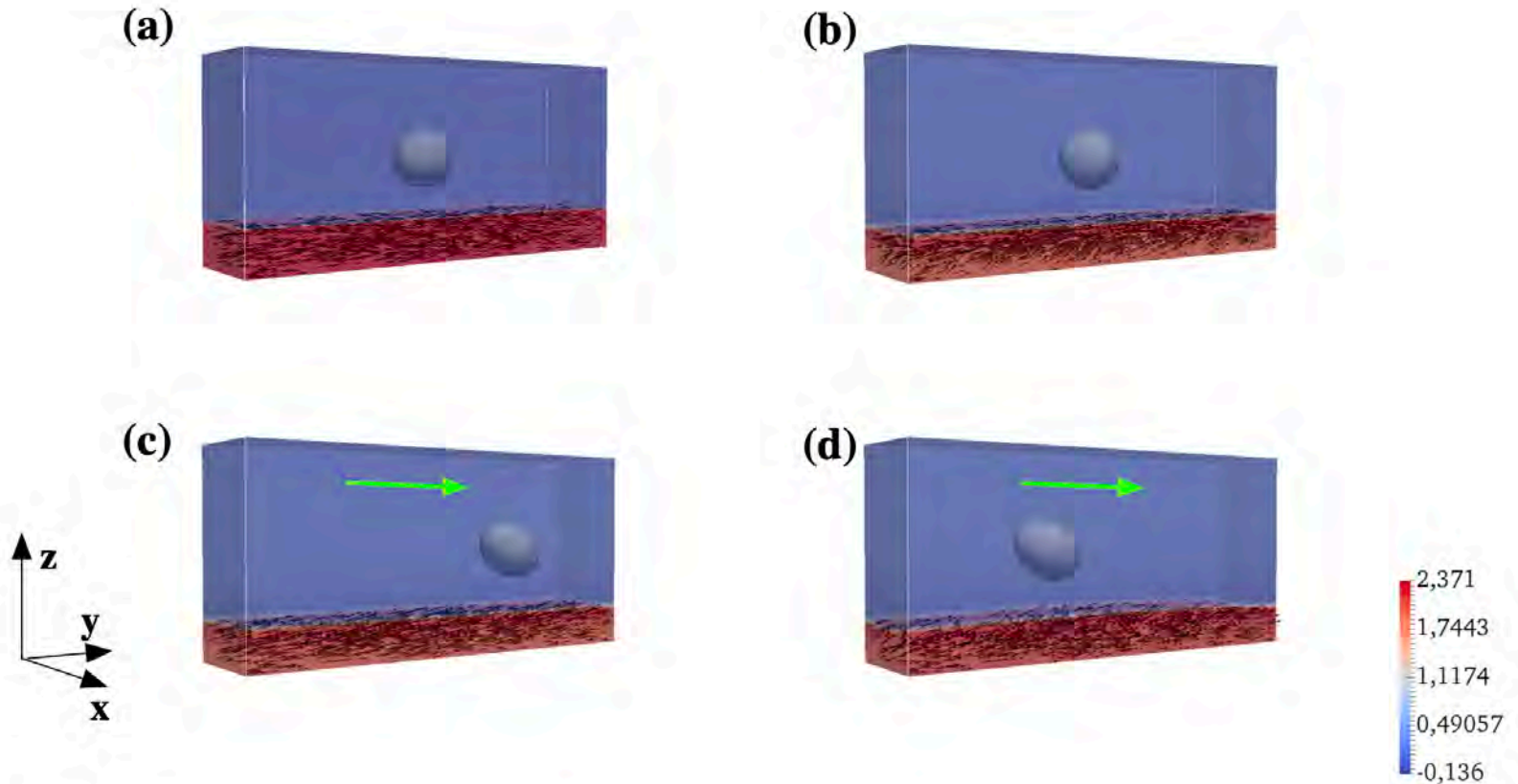


Figure 10. Three dimensional simulation of a passive fluid droplet moving within an active microchannel for  $\zeta = 4 \times 10^{-3}$ . (a) The droplet is initially surrounded by a passive fluid (blue) in the middle of the channel and a liquid crystal layer (red) covers the bottom wall. (b) Once the activity is turned on, a spontaneous flow triggers the motion of the passive droplet. (c)-(d) At the steady state, the droplet acquires a permanent ellipsoidal shape moving along a rectilinear trajectory.

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# ***Meso coupling to QN***

***«The emerging interface between hydrodynamics, electro- dynamics, condensed matter physics, and quantum mechanics is an uncharted territory that begs for further exploration».***

***(Coquinot,Bocquet,Kavokine, PRX 2023)***

***How can we contribute?***

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# Quantum Friction

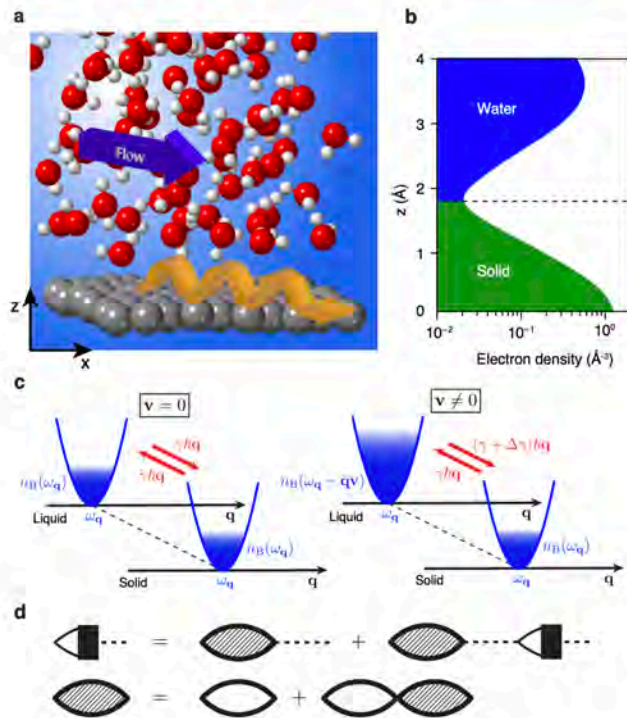
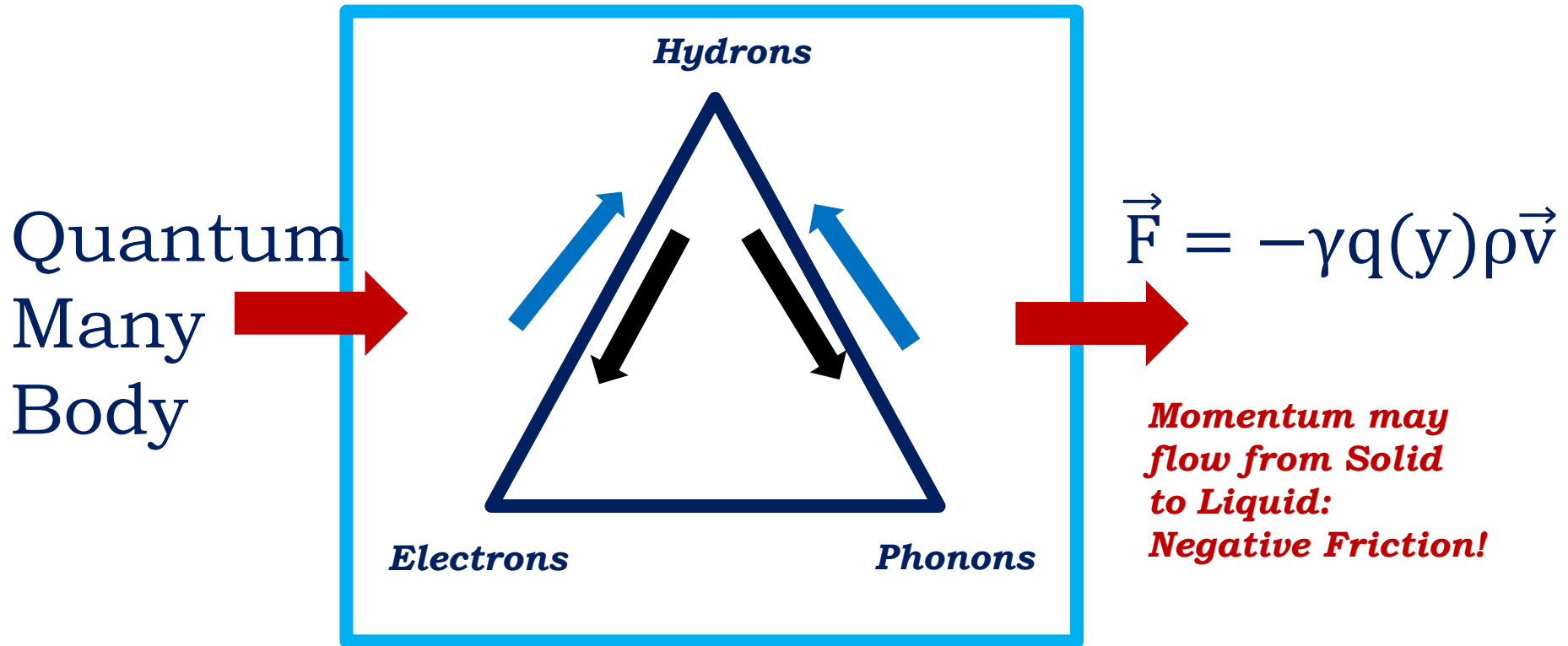


FIG. 1. **Quantum friction at the solid-liquid interface.** **a.** Artist's view of the quantum friction phenomenon: water charge fluctuations couple to electronic excitations within the solid surface, represented by the orange arrow. **b.** Average electronic density, as obtained from density functional calculations (SI, section 7), at the water-graphene interface. **c.** Schematic of the quantum friction mechanism, showing quasiparticle tunnelling between two surface modes at wavevector  $\mathbf{q}$  and frequency  $\omega_{\mathbf{q}}$ . The filling of the blue parabolas represents the occupation of each mode, according to the Bose-Einstein distribution  $n_B$ . The back and forth tunnelling rates  $\gamma$  are different in the presence of flow, resulting in net momentum transfer from the liquid to the solid. Further details are given in the SI, section 2.8. **d.** Feynman diagram representation of the Dyson equation for the electron-water density correlation function. Full lines are electron propagators, and dashed lines are water propagators. The equation expresses that electron-water correlations are mediated by all possible coupled fluctuations of the water and electron densities.



# *The HEP fluid and qfriction*

Keldysh HEP box



*Momentum may  
flow from Solid  
to Liquid:  
Negative Friction!*

# Meso-forces

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$$f_i(\vec{r} + \vec{c}_i, t + 1) - f_i(\vec{r}, t) = -\Omega_{ij} (f_j - f_j^{eq}) + S_i$$

$$S_i \sim \vec{F} \cdot \vec{c}_i + \text{h.o.t.}$$

*The «magic touch»  
EMERGENT COMPLEXITY  
in O(10) lines of code*

$$\vec{F} = \rho \vec{g}$$

$$\vec{F} = -\text{div} \overleftrightarrow{P}(\rho, \nabla \rho, \Delta \rho)$$

*Korteweg tensor  
(surftens, disjoining pressure)*

$$\vec{F} = -\gamma(y) \rho \vec{v}$$

*«Molecular» friction»*

*The mesoforces import micro(nano) physics and scale it up to the device dimensions (cm), including heterogeneities. Success heavily hinges on **EXTENDED UNIVERSALITY***

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# Graphene-Oxide Layers

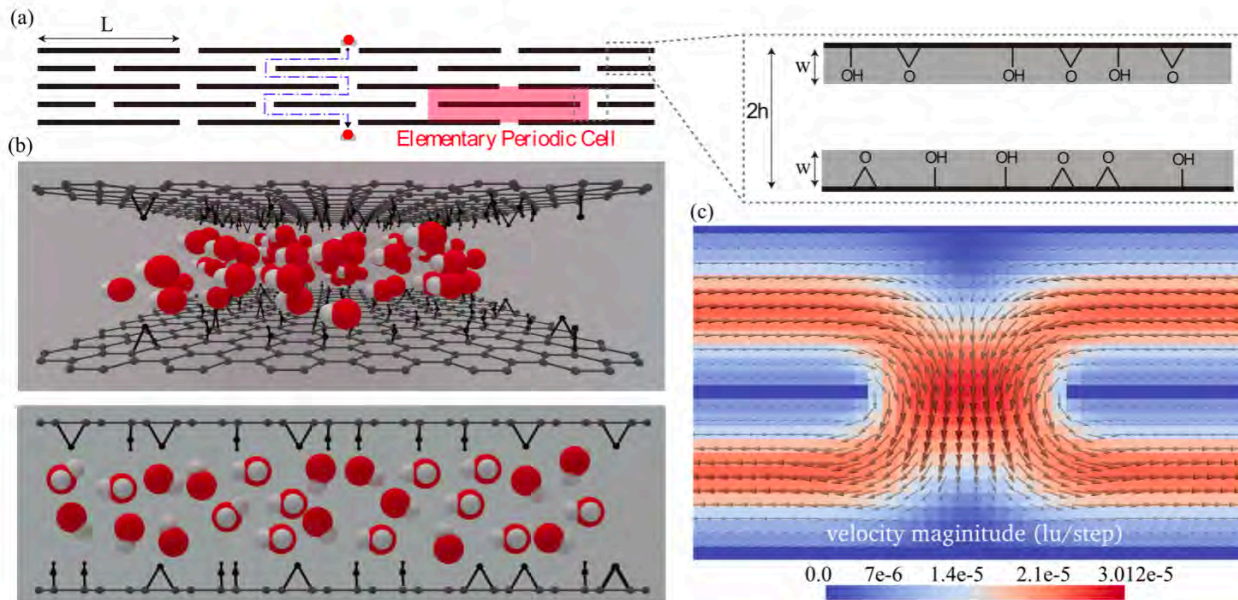


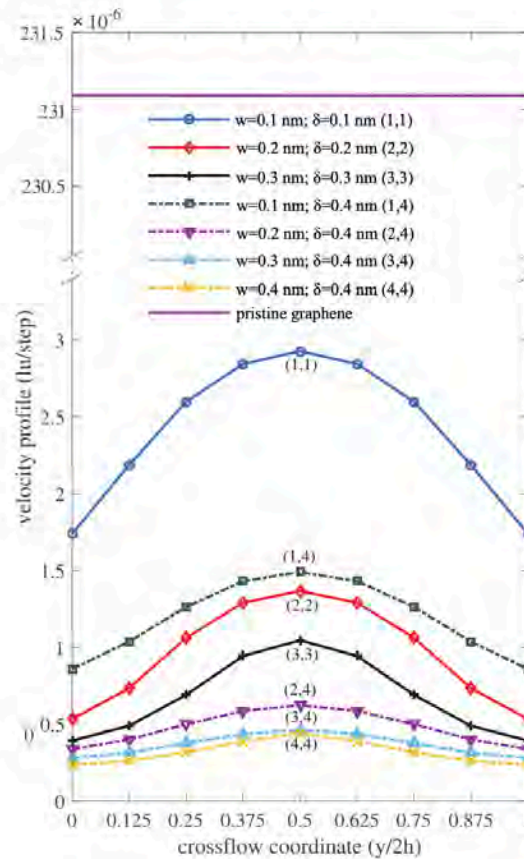
FIG. 1. Sketch of the GOL structure with a zoom of the GO nanochannel decorated with oxygen functionalities (panel (a)). In the sketch,  $L$  is the GO flake's length,  $2h$  is the spacing between two GO layers and  $w$  is the spatial extent of the Langevin-like frictional force. The red area in the GOL structure identifies the elementary periodic cell used in the simulation. As shown in panel (b), hydroxide and epoxide groups interact with the water molecules slowing down their motion inside the GO nanochannels. In panel (c), the water molecules flow from the inlet port (top) to the outlet port (bottom), under the effect of applied pressure. The vertical motion is hindered by a series of horizontal staggered plates (GO flakes), which force the water molecules to follow a tortuous path from inlet to outlet ports.

# LB versus NEMD

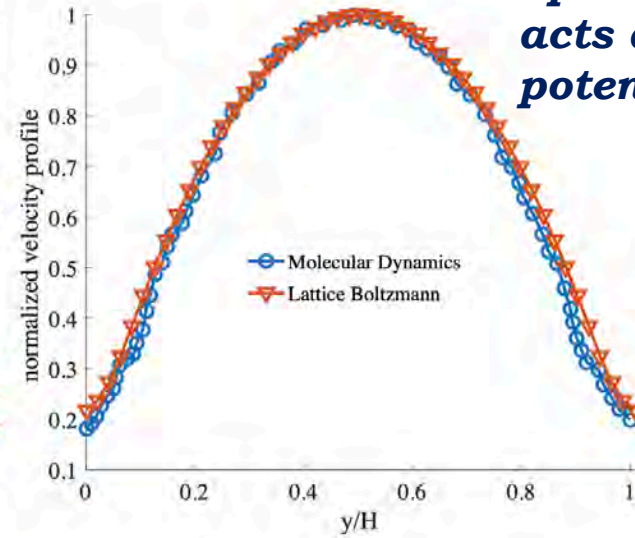
*Exponential decay gamma(y) out of the wall (y=0) may generate inverted curvature*

$$u''(y) + \gamma(y)u(y) = g$$

*Space-dep friction acts as a sort of potential*



(a)

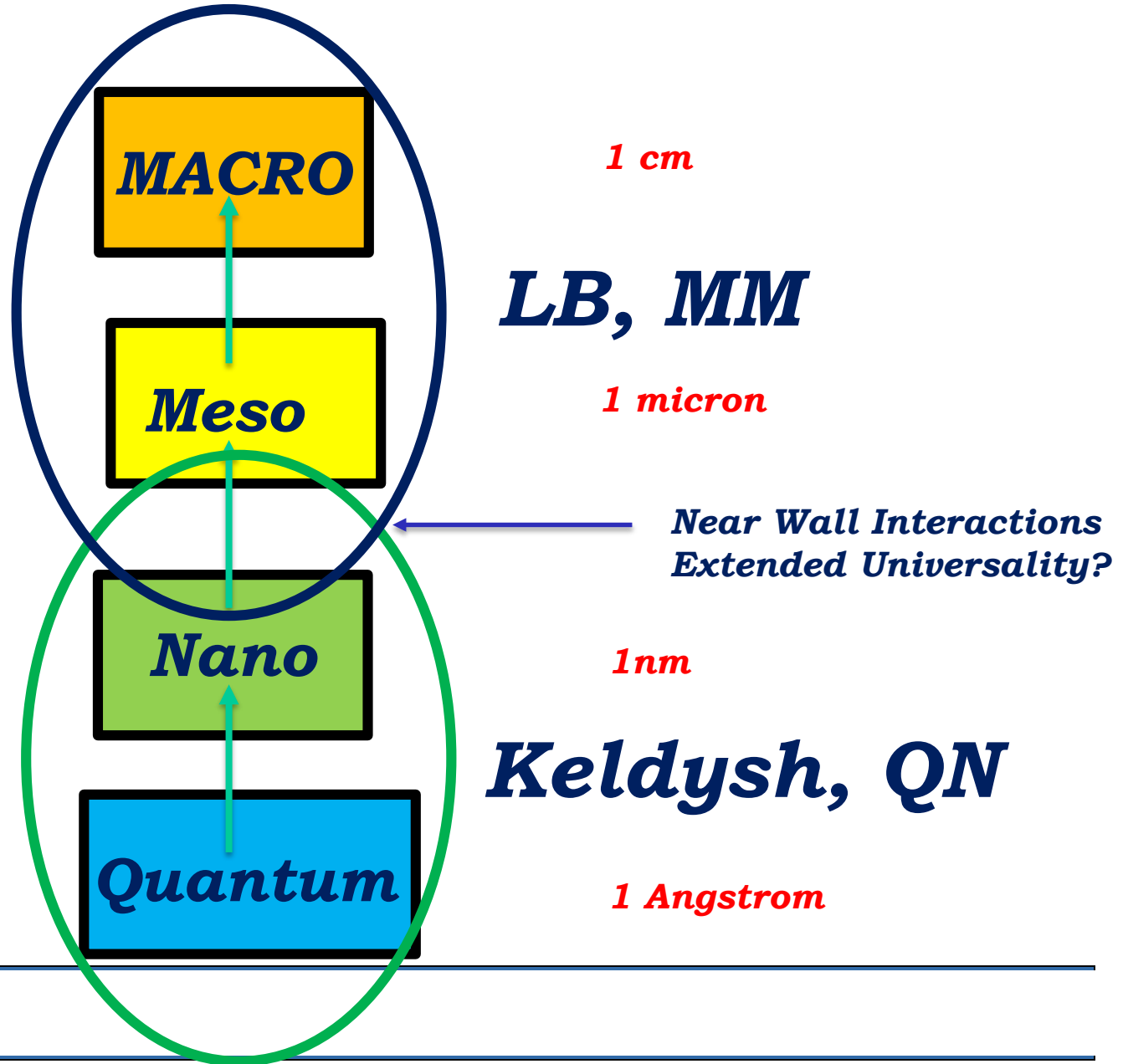


(b)

FIG. 4. (a) Flow profiles  $u_x(y)$  for different values of the friction length  $w$  and cutoff length  $\delta$ ,  $(w, \delta)$ . The horizontal line refers to the free-slip flow in the absence of Langevin friction. The two numbers within parenthesis denote the values of  $w$  and  $\delta$ . Friction and cutoff lengths are made dimensionless by dividing them by half of the channel spacing  $h = 0.4 \text{ nm}$ . In panel (b) we report the velocity profile obtained by the Langevin-LB on a  $3 \text{ nm}$  wide channel flow using 50 lattice point compared to the MD profile taken from [13]. On the  $x$ -axis the non-dimensional channel width ( $y/2h$ ) is reported. The profiles are rescaled by the peak value of the velocity.

# ***QN/MM coupling***

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# ***Future Directions***

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***New LBs for soft flowing matter***

***Link to experiments for new materials***

***Nano-Meso-Macro Multiscale***

***Topological microfluidics***

***Cluster materials, microphysiology***

***From passive to active droplets***

***Meso/Macro effects of QN fluidics***

***Incorporate the quantum effects into effective boundary friction/forces. Rheological effects of heterogeneity, obstacles, coatings...***

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# THANKS!



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

***F. Bonaccorso, IIT***  
***M. Durve, IIT***  
***M. Lauricella, CNR***  
***A. Montessori, CNR***  
***A. Tiribocchi, IIT***

***G. Amati, CINECA***  
***M. Bernaschi, CNR***  
***G. Falcucci, ToV***  
***S. Melchionna, CNR***  
***G. Pontrelli, CNR***  
***F. Pelusi, ToV***  
***M. Sbragaglia, ToV***  
***A. Scagliarini, CNR***

***D. Pisignano, UniPisa***  
***K. Luo, UCL***  
***PV Coveney, UCL***  
***M. Porfiri, NYU***  
***D. Weitz, Harvard***  
***J. Guzowski, Krakow***  
***M. Bogdan, Krakow***



# THANKS!



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25 mai 2023

Lydéric Bocquet

CHAIRE INNOVATION  
TECHNOLOGIQUE  
LILIANE BETTENCOURT



La nanofluidique  
*à la croisée des chemins*

*CdF Paris, May 25 2023*

