

# Stability of aggregates under 2D time-periodic flow

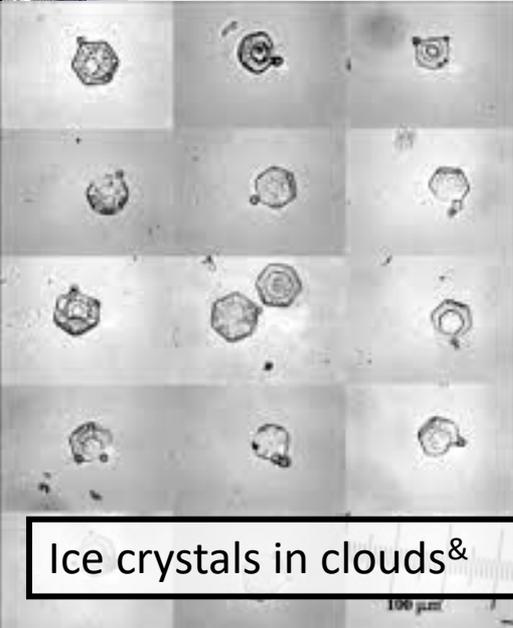
**Cacey Bester, Swarthmore College**

with

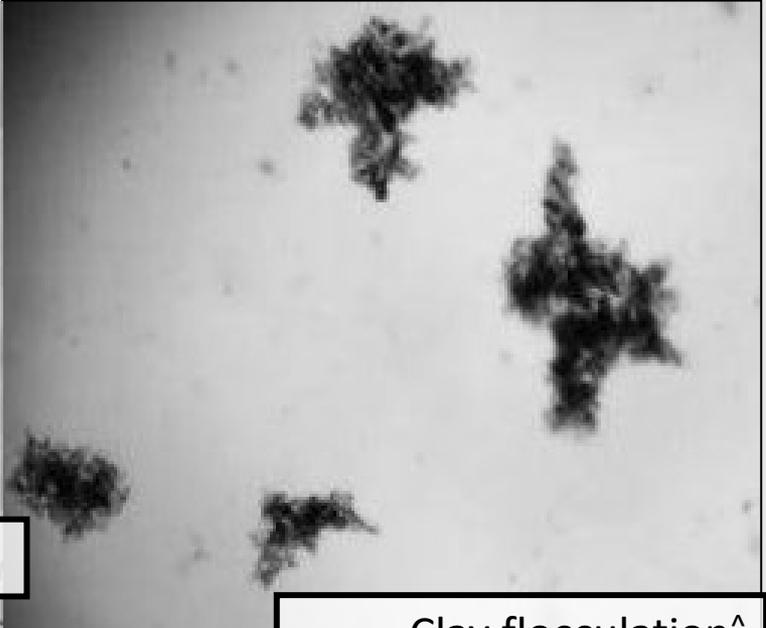
**Paulo Arratia and Douglas Jerolmack**



Ice mélange<sup>+</sup>



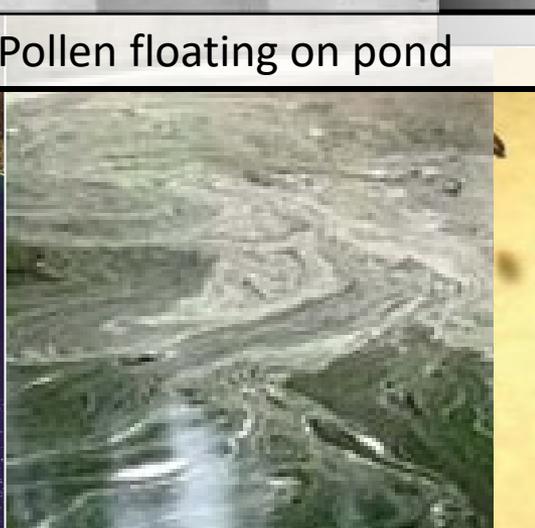
Ice crystals in clouds<sup>&</sup>



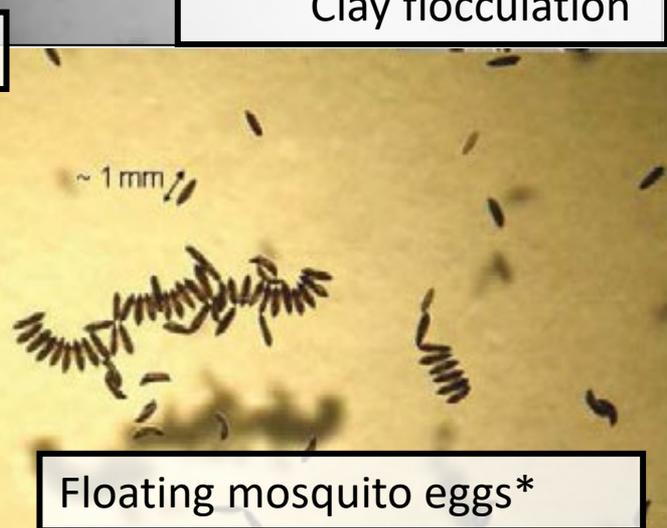
Clay flocculation<sup>^</sup>



Sediment along river delta<sup>#</sup>



Pollen floating on pond



Floating mosquito eggs<sup>\*</sup>

# *Aggregation and flow at fluid interface*

<sup>#</sup>From NASA Terra Satellite (2001)

<sup>+</sup> J. Burton et. al. (2018)

<sup>\*</sup> Loudet & Pouligny (2011)

<sup>^</sup> K Strom (2018)

<sup>&</sup> Pruppacher & Klett (1997)

# Coherent structures in environmental fluid flows



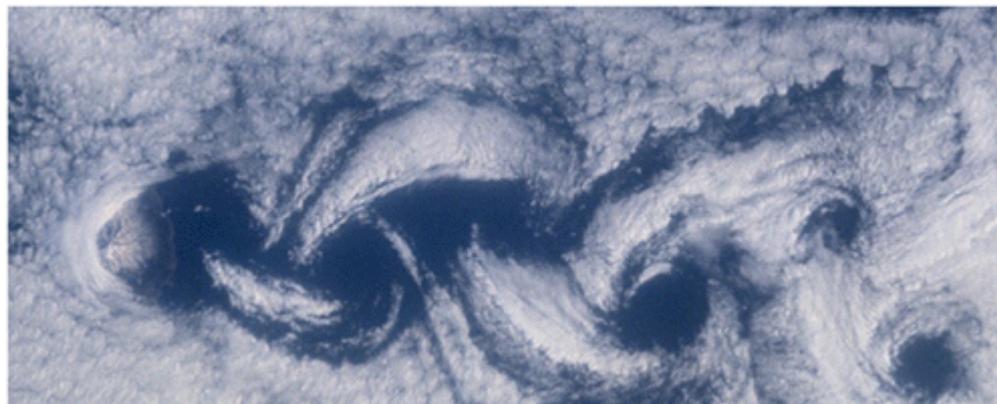
Volcanic eruption (NASA)



Ocean gyre

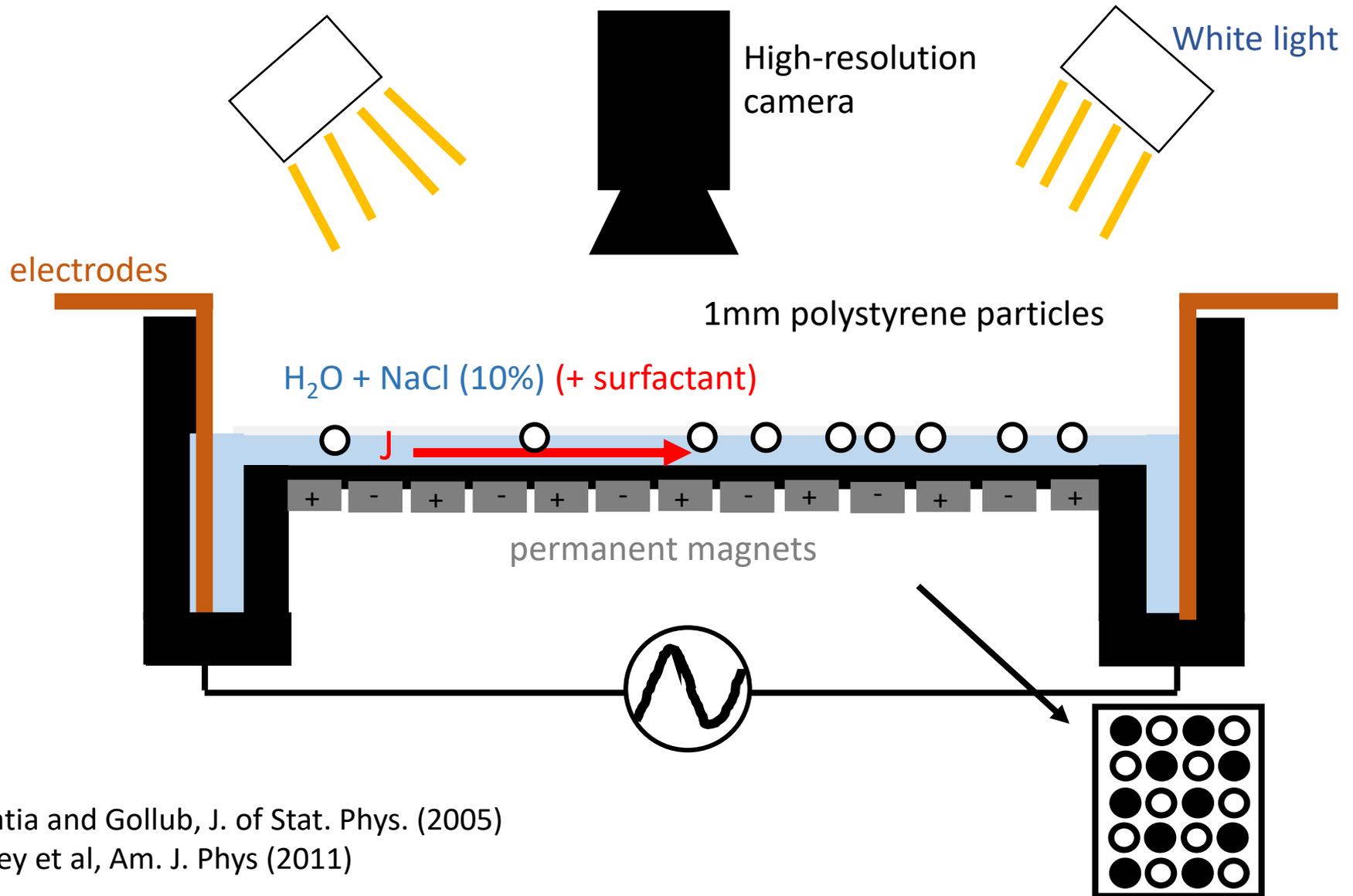


River plume

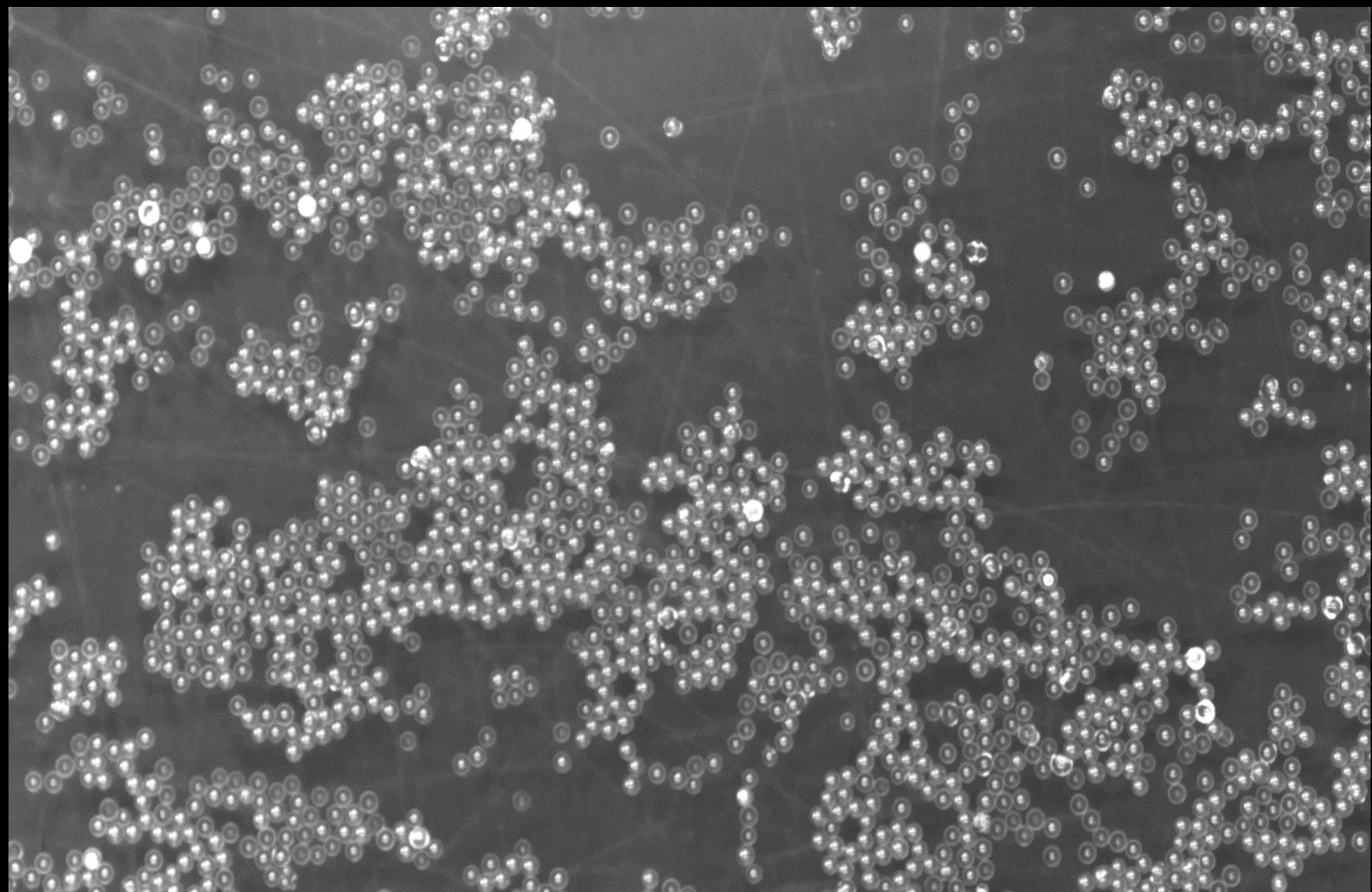


Clouds

# 2D fluid flow driven by Lorentz forcing

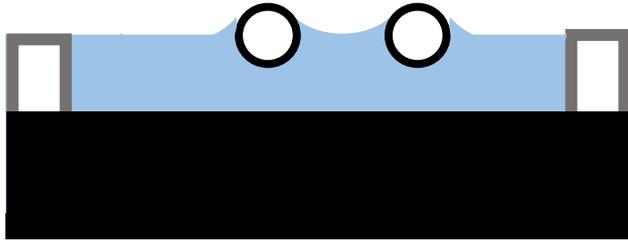


Arratia and Gollub, J. of Stat. Phys. (2005)  
Kelley et al, Am. J. Phys (2011)

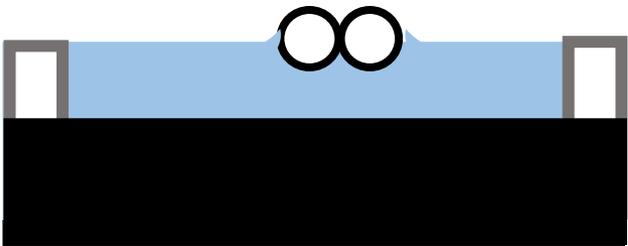


*Recorded at 60 fps*

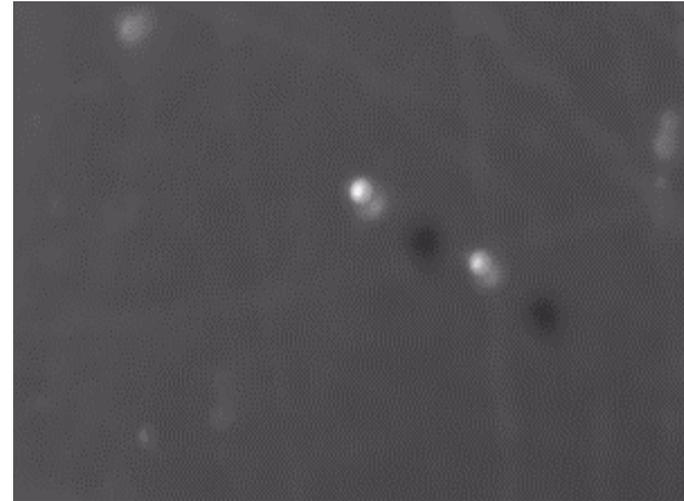
# Particle attraction: The “Cheerios” Effect



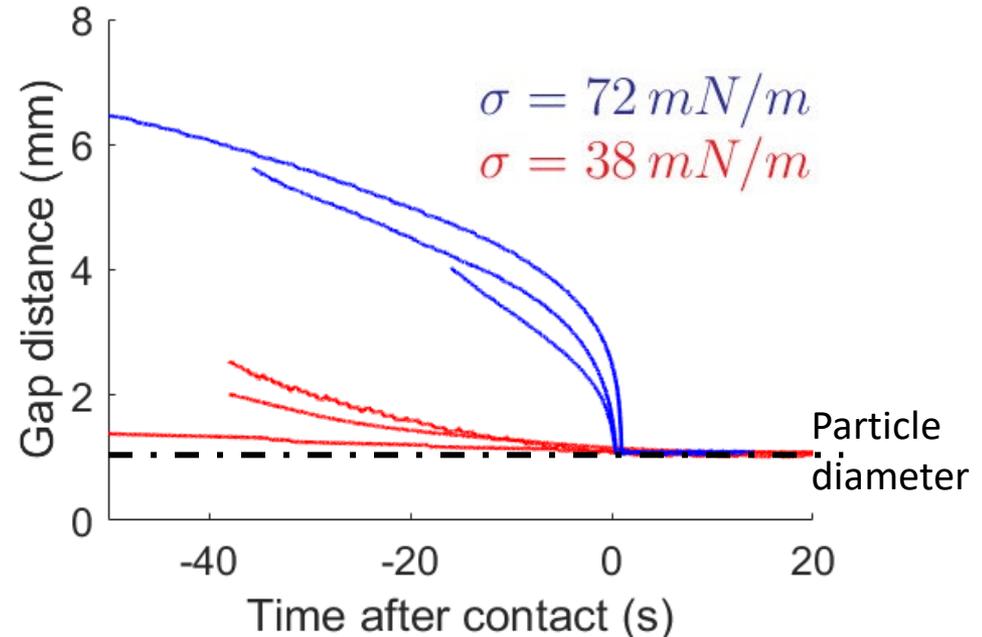
Particles cause interfacial deformation



When deformations overlap, attraction results

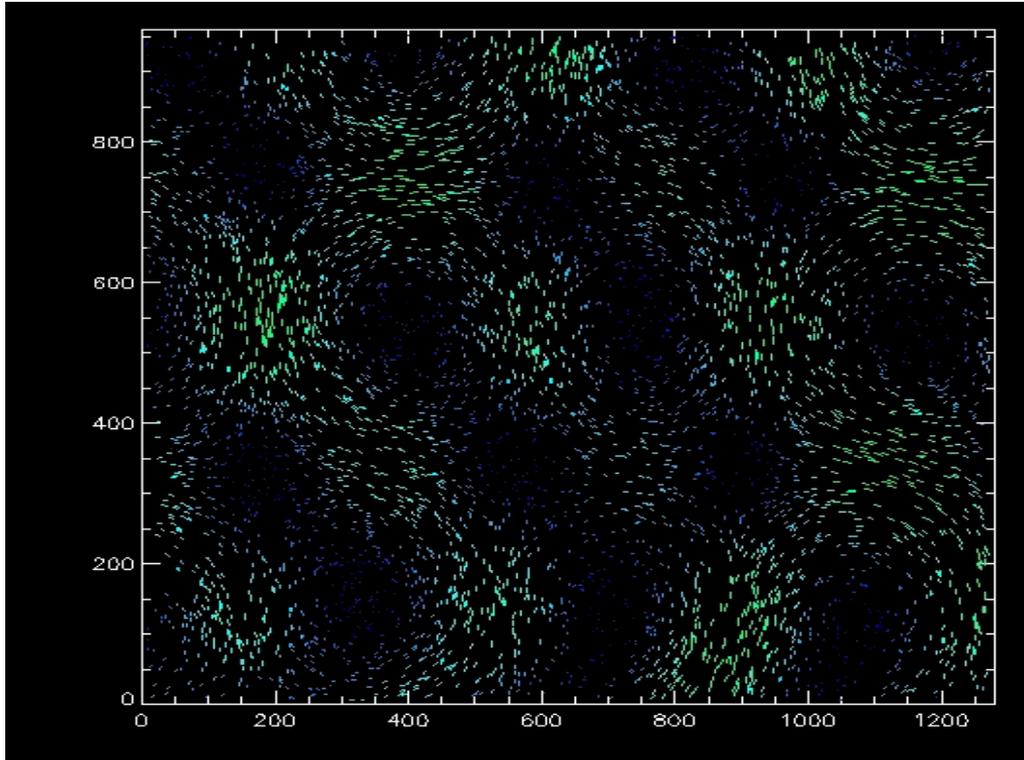


*video of approach of two particles*



- D. Vella and L. Mahadevan, Am. J. Phys (2005)
- Berhanu and Kudrolli PRL (2010)
- M.J. Dalbe et. al., PRE (2011)
- N. Rahman et. al., JMES (2017)
- Ho et. al., PRL (2019)

# Velocity field shows flow pattern in experimental cell



$$Re = 25 \quad p = 0.6$$

Fluid tracers in flow

Flow described by:

**Reynolds number  $Re$**

$$Re = \frac{\text{Inertia}}{\text{viscosity}}$$

**Path length  $p$**

$$p = U/Lf$$

mean displacement of fluid element in one period

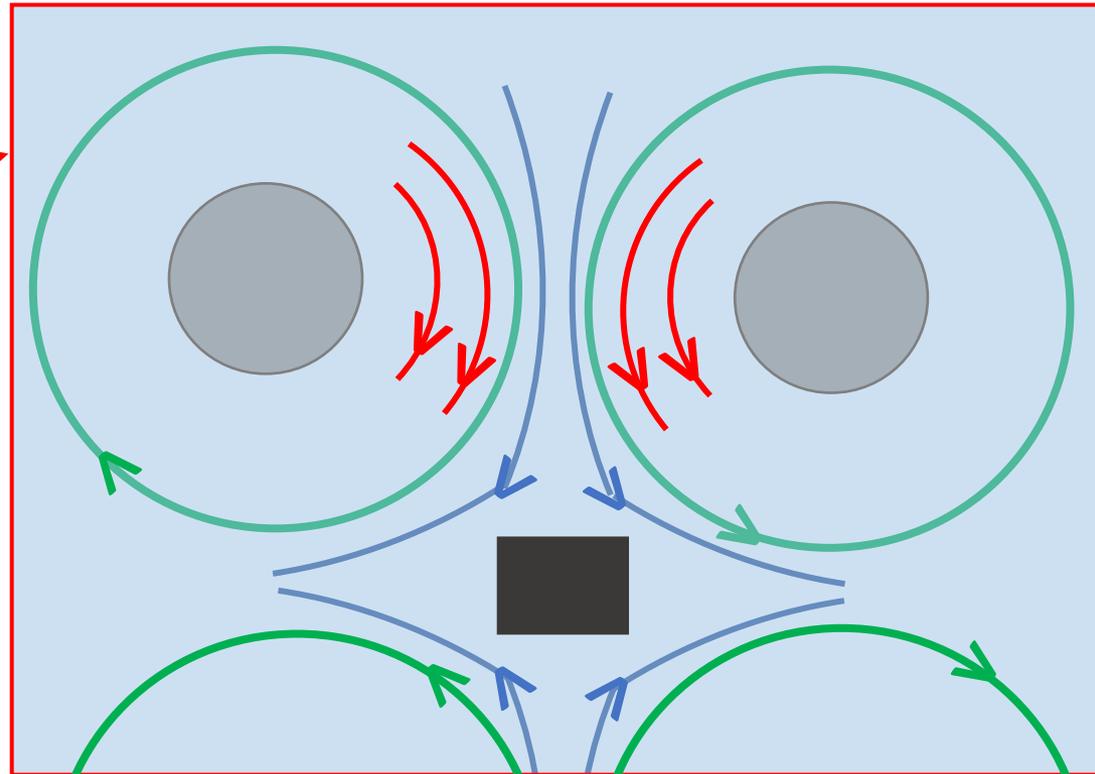
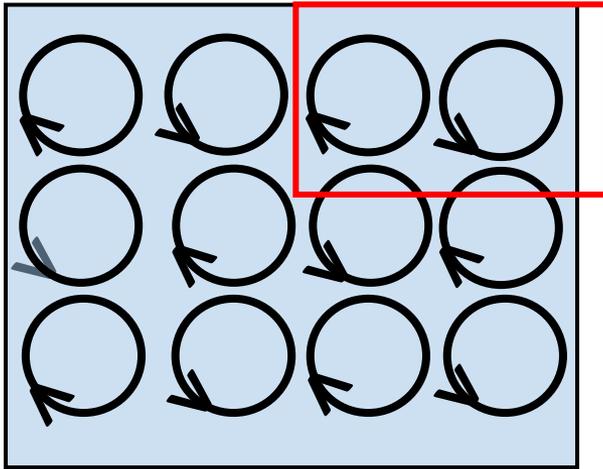
Faber, Fluid dynamics for physicists (1995)

Arratia and Gollub, J. of Stat. Phys. (2005)

Ouellette et al, PRL (2008)

# Features of structured flow

spatial symmetry



Shear layer in river

rotation

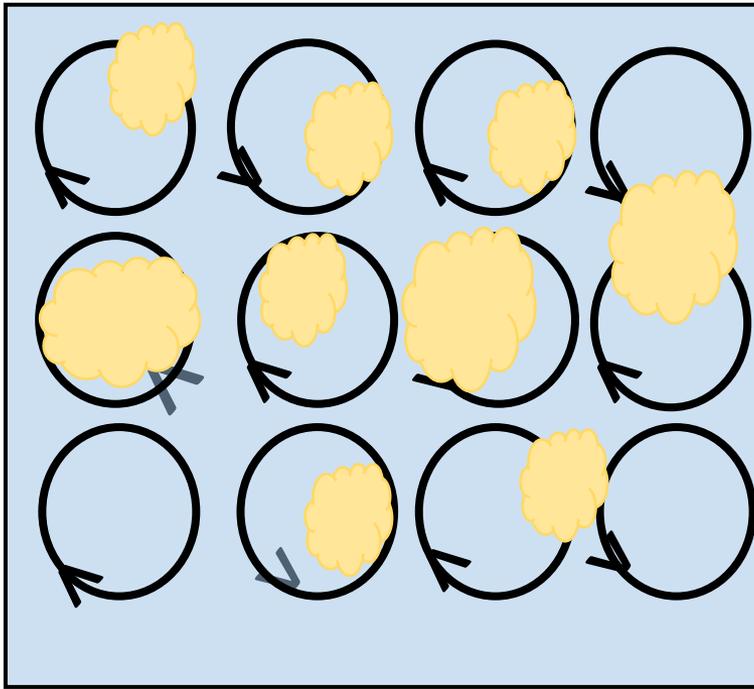
shear

compression

extension

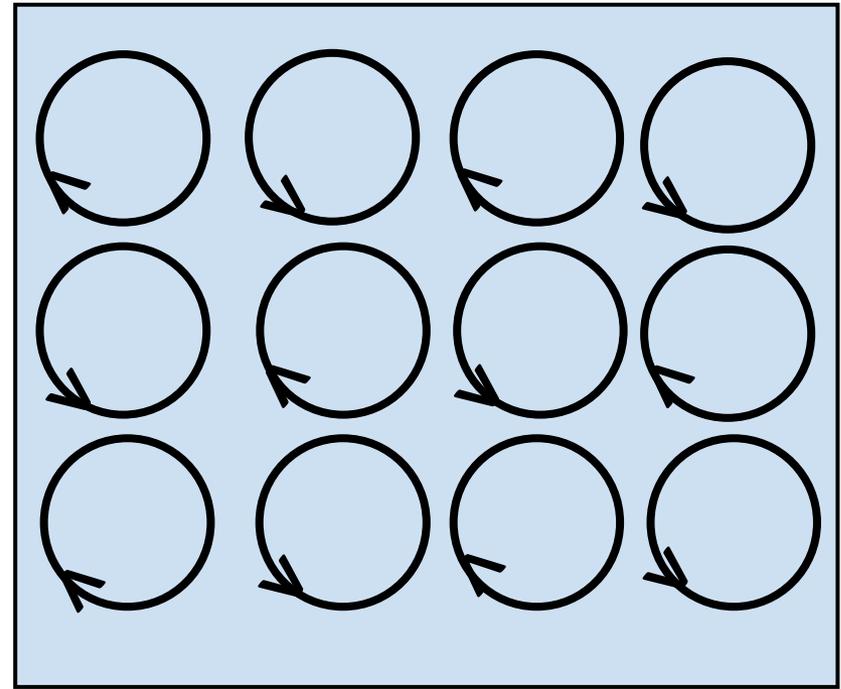
stagnant zones

## Particles



Particle attraction,  
concentration,  
polydispersity, shape

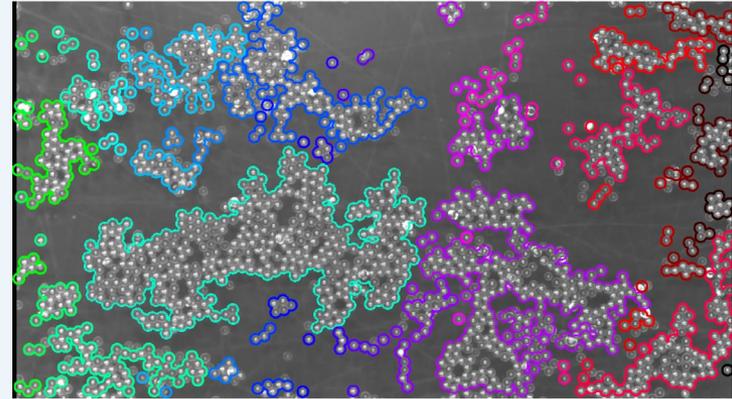
## Flow



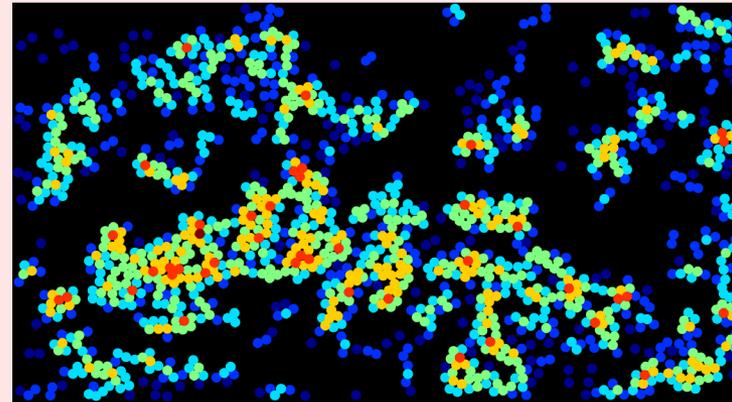
Spatial structure, flow speed,  
drag, ordered or  
nonperiodic flow, alternating  
or constant

***Stability of aggregates depends on shear  
flow and particle interactions***

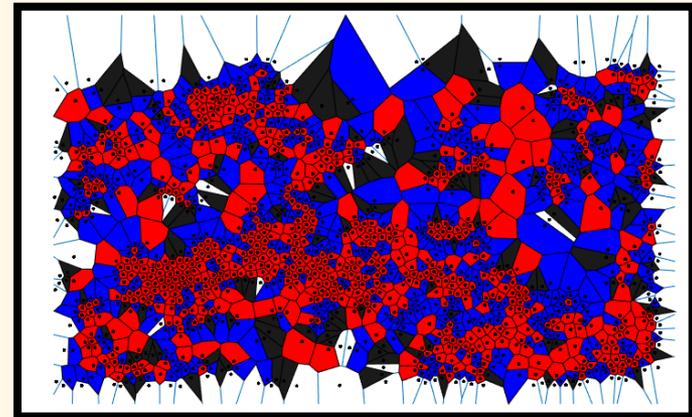
# 1. Aggregates



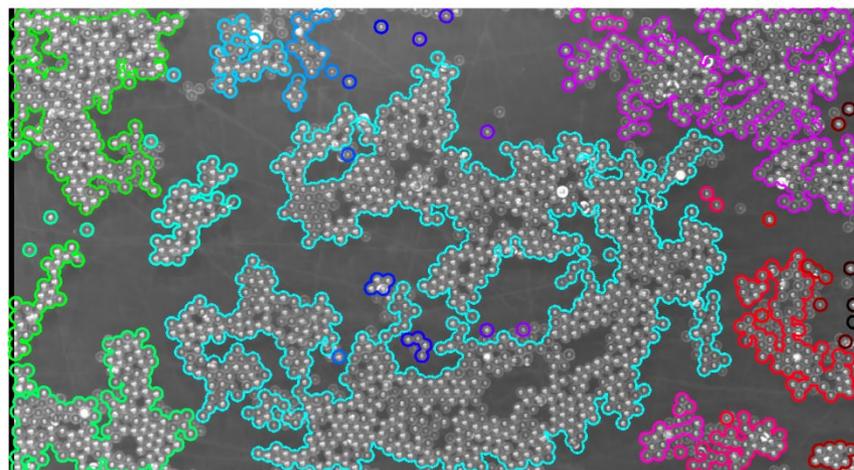
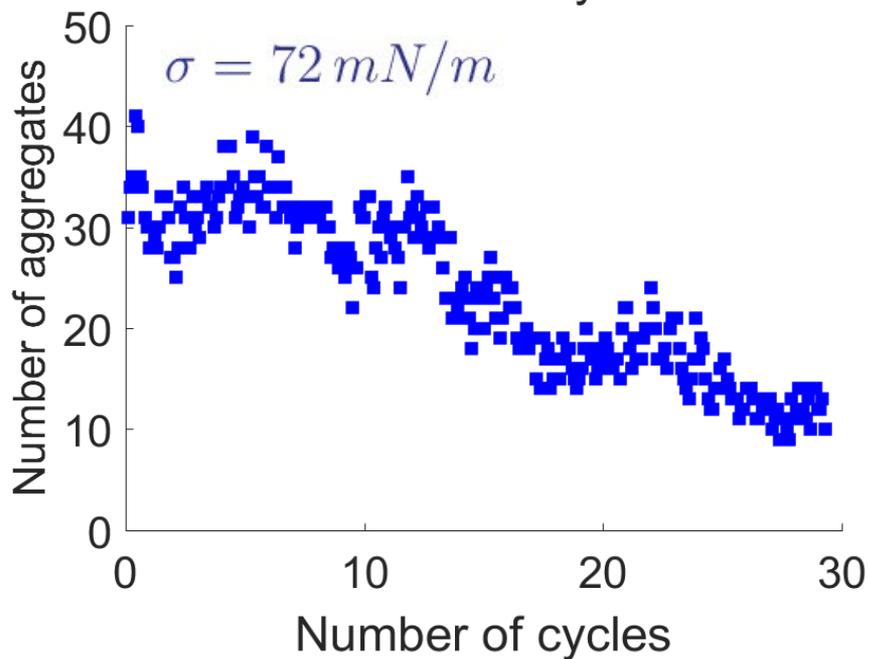
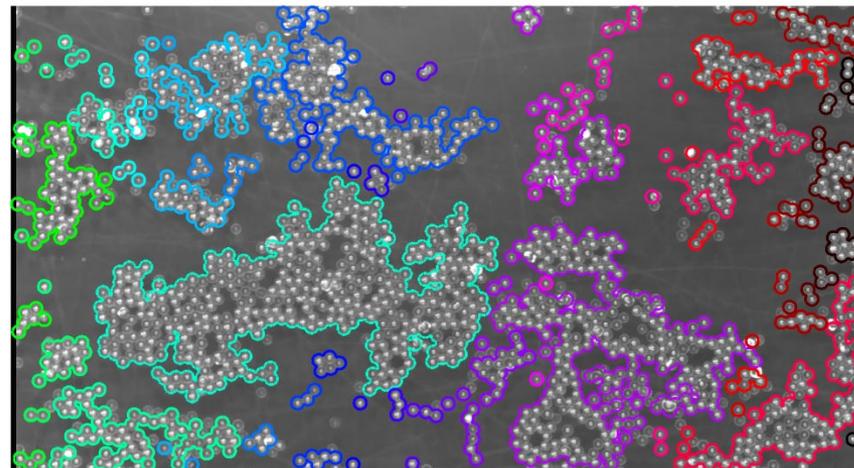
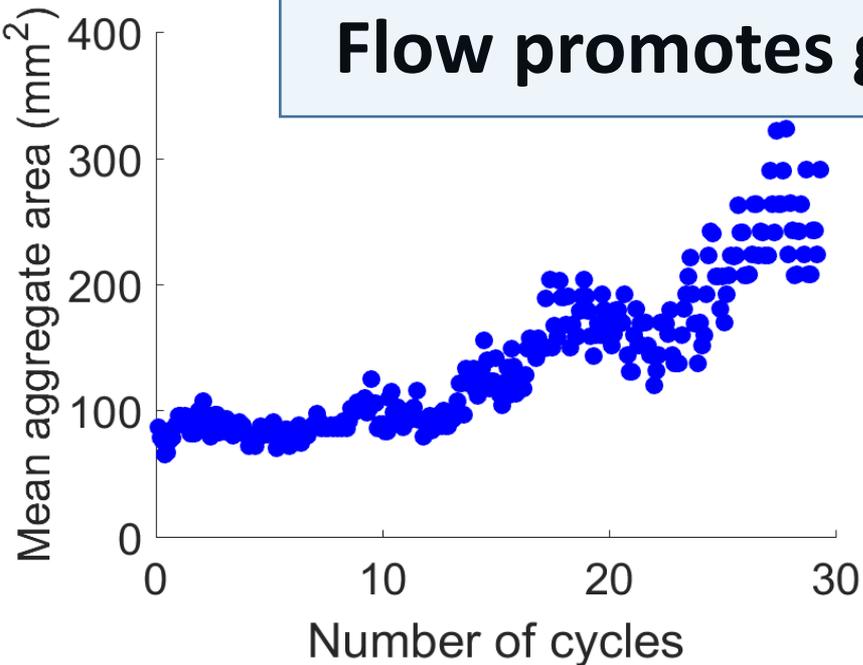
# 2. Particle contact distribution and mobility



# 3. Granular phases



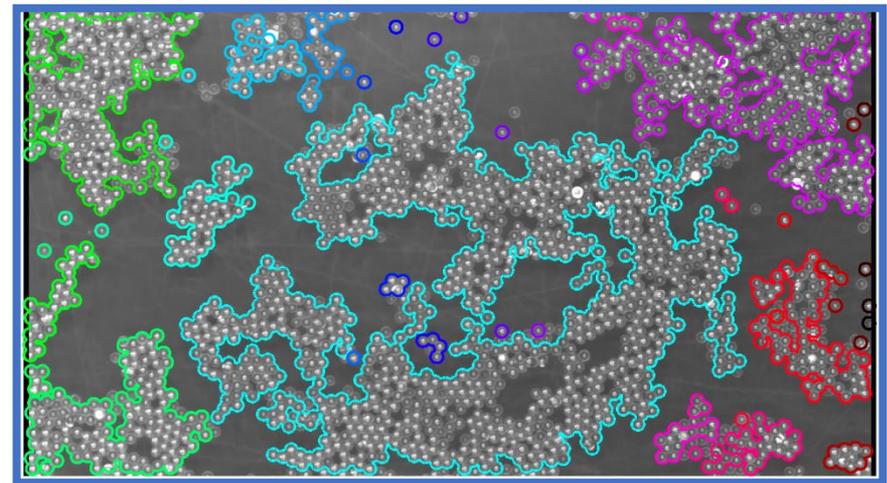
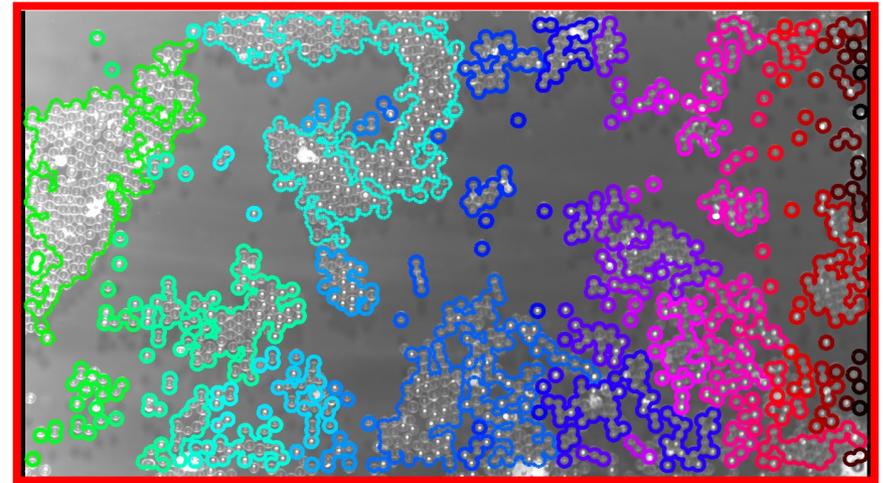
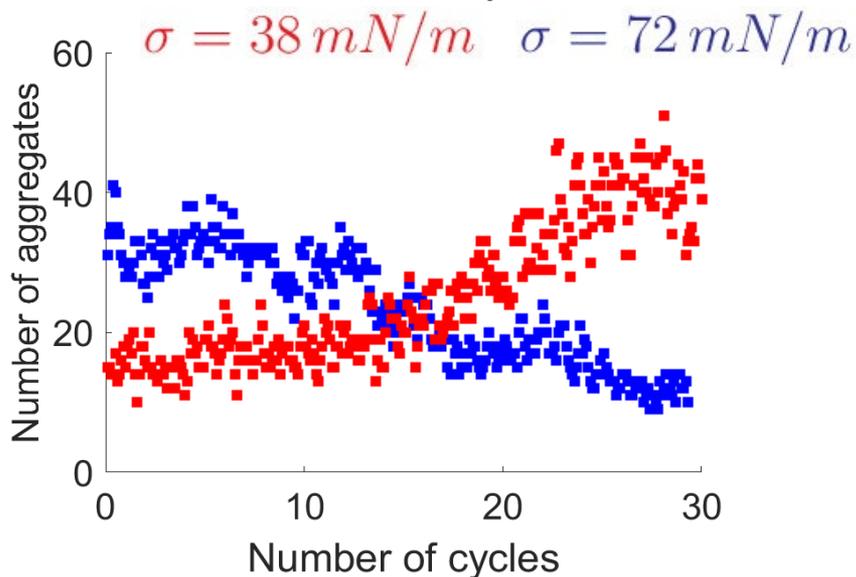
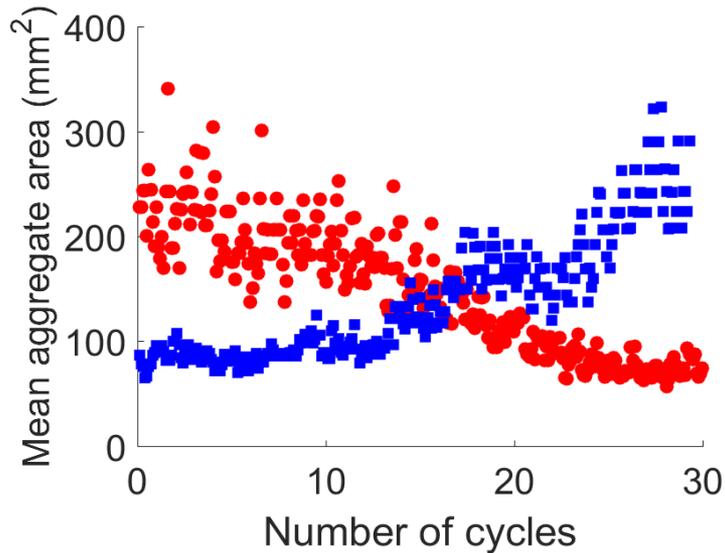
# Flow promotes growth of aggregates



Aggregates

# Breakup of aggregates

For weaker capillary attraction aggregates break due to shear flow

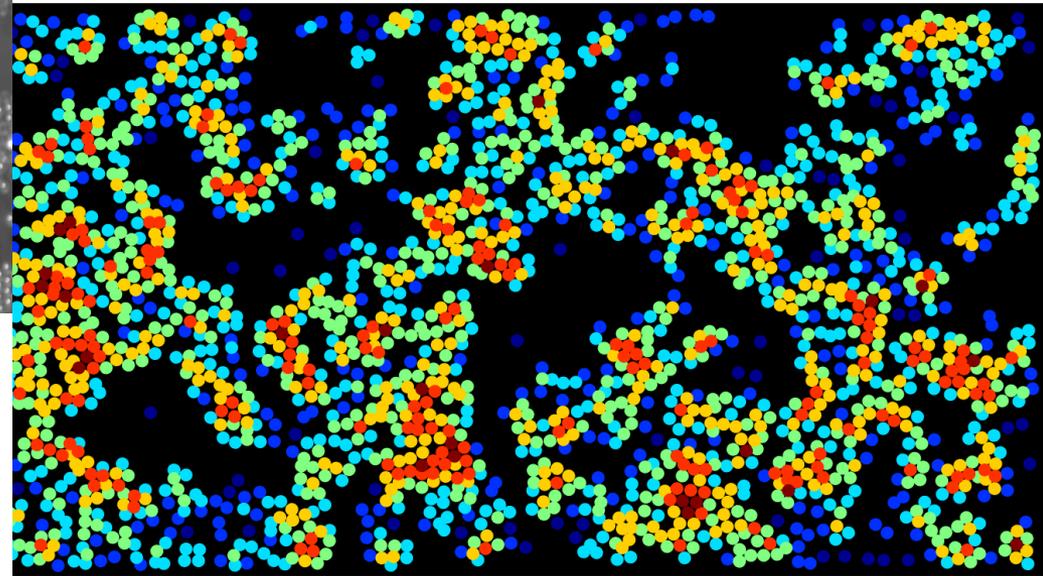
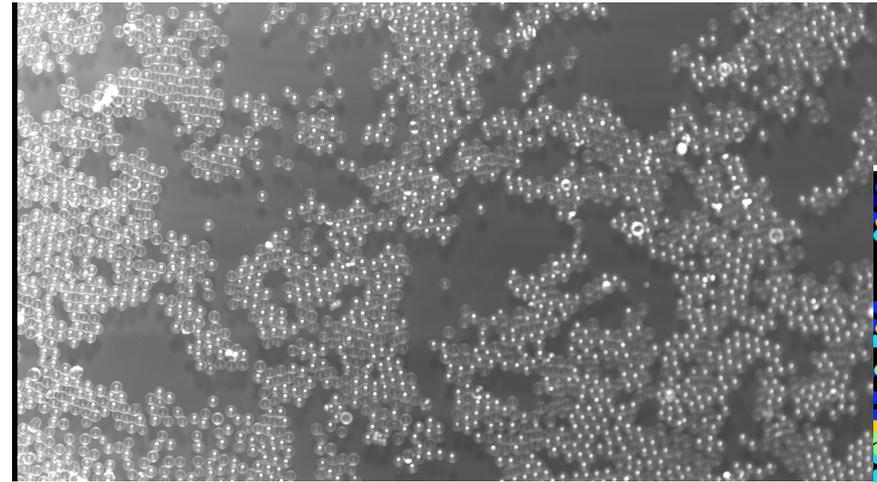


After 35 cycles

Aggregates

# Tracking particle-level information

Particle contact defined by threshold distance of  $1.2d$



Number of contacts

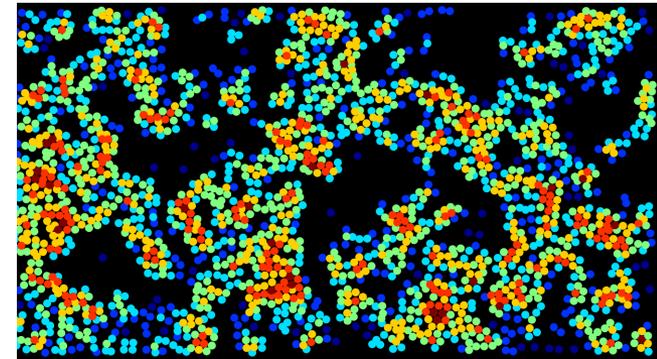
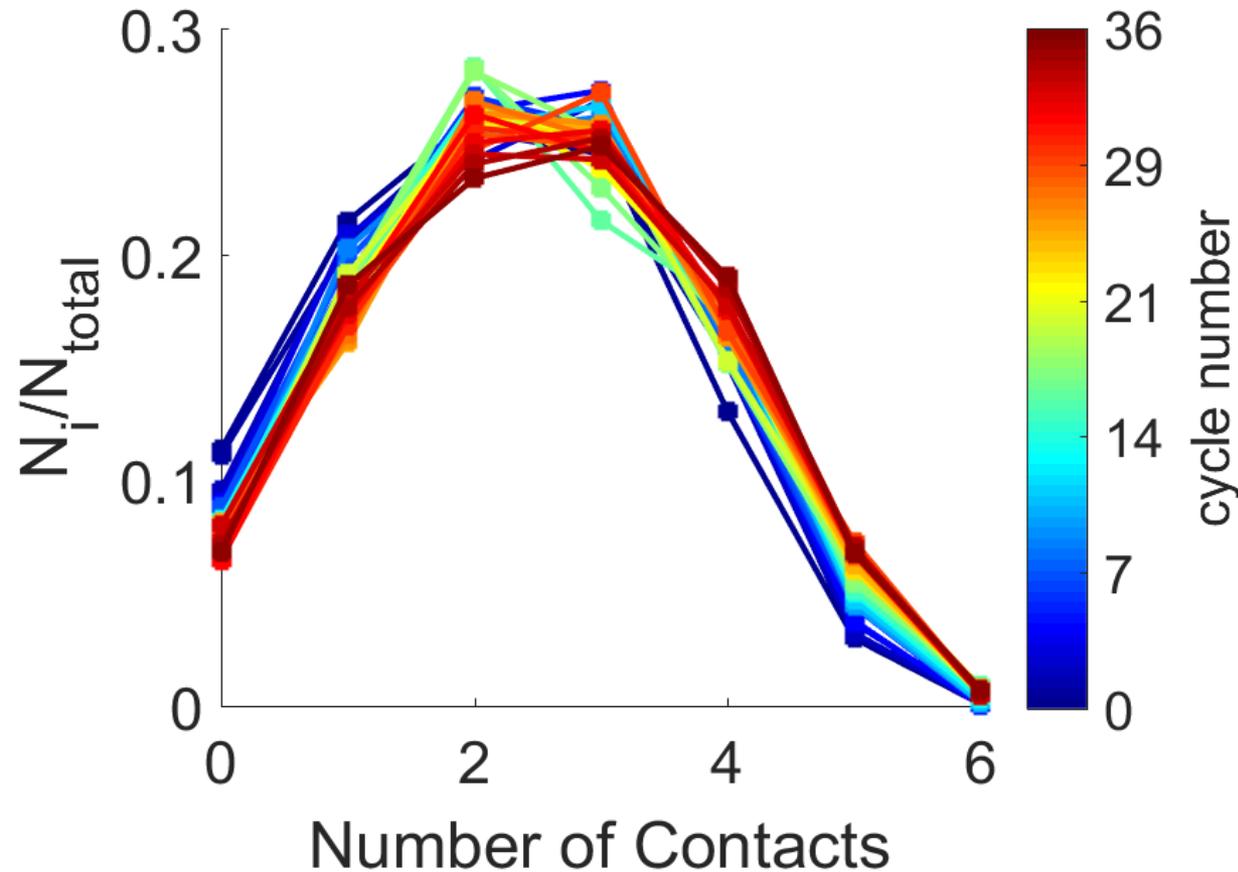


0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Particles

# Aggregate connectivity $Z_i$

Particle contact defined by threshold distance of  $1.2d$

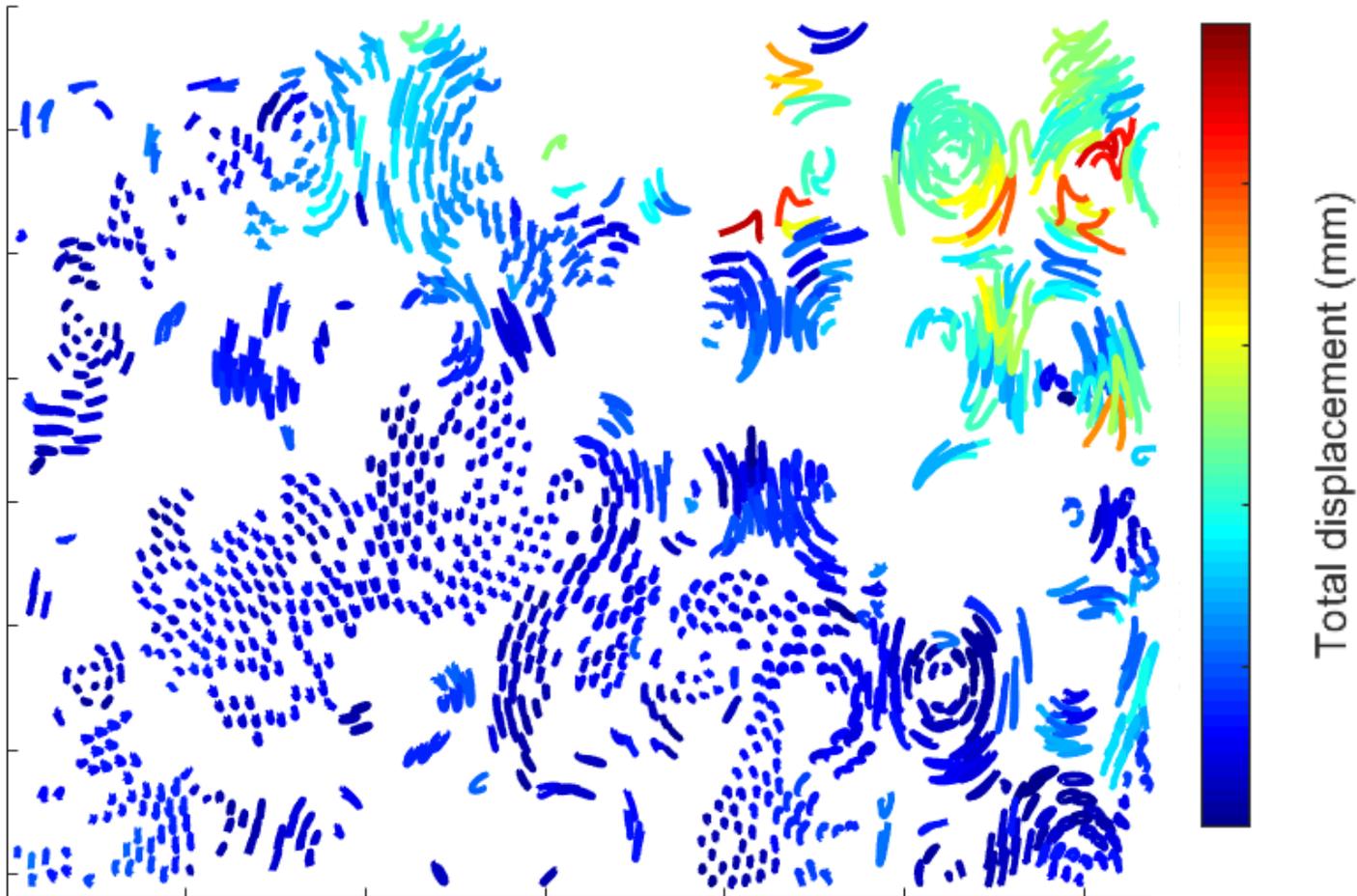


Particles shaded for  $Z_i$

As flow continues, more particles gradually have higher  $Z_i$

# Particle mobility

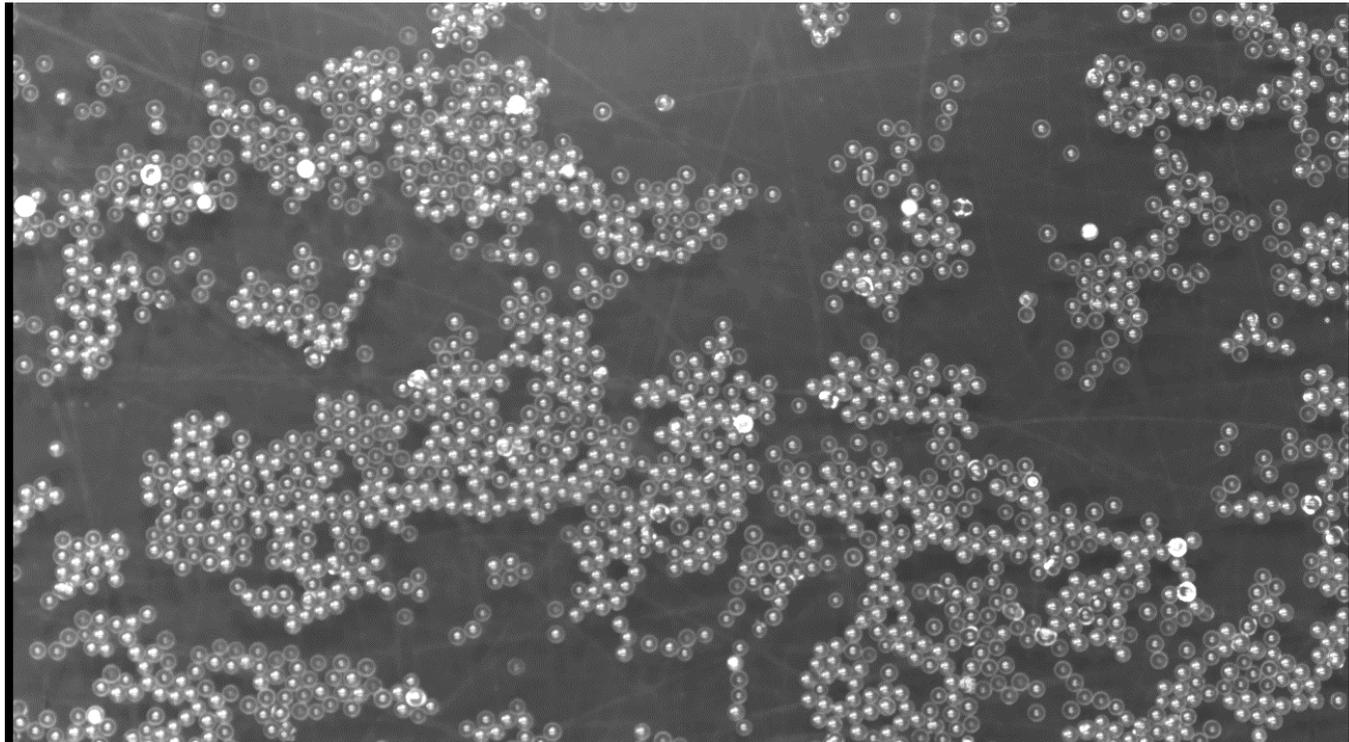
- Particle motion to find evolution of collective dynamics
- Observe granular fluid regions



*Particle trajectories during first cycle*

Particles

# Fluid and solid granular phases appear simultaneously



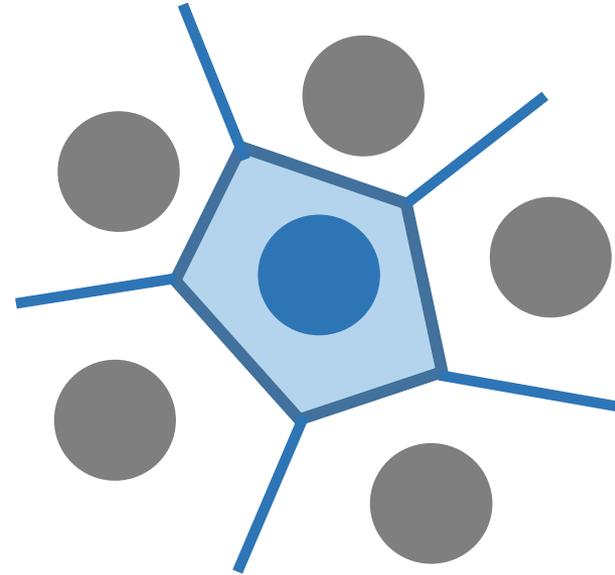
Mixture of fluid regions with high deformation and  
solid regions with static structure

Particle exchanges among phases

# Voronoi cells –circularity

Voronoi tessellation to study packing configuration

Characterize voronoi cells using circularity  $\xi$



$$\xi = \frac{P^2}{4\pi A}$$

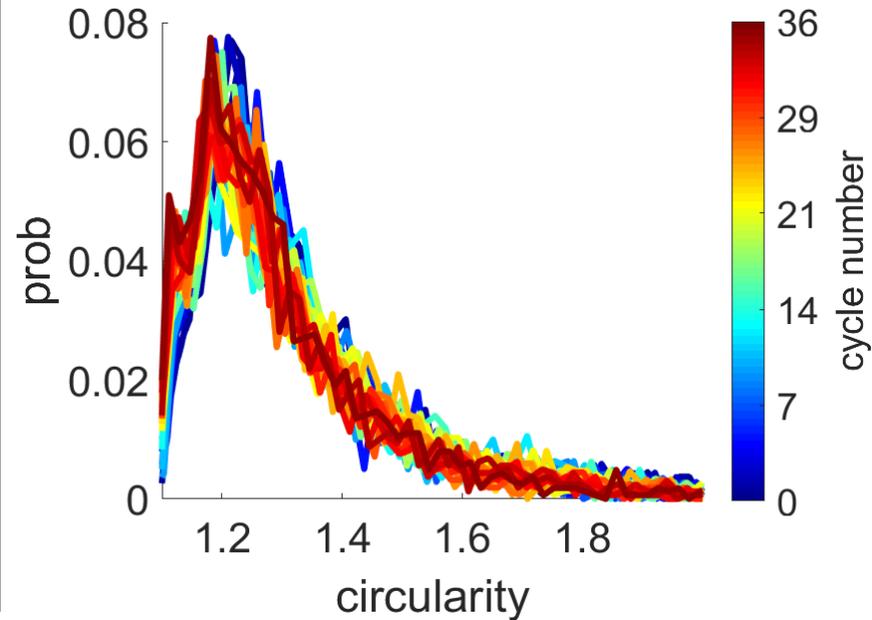
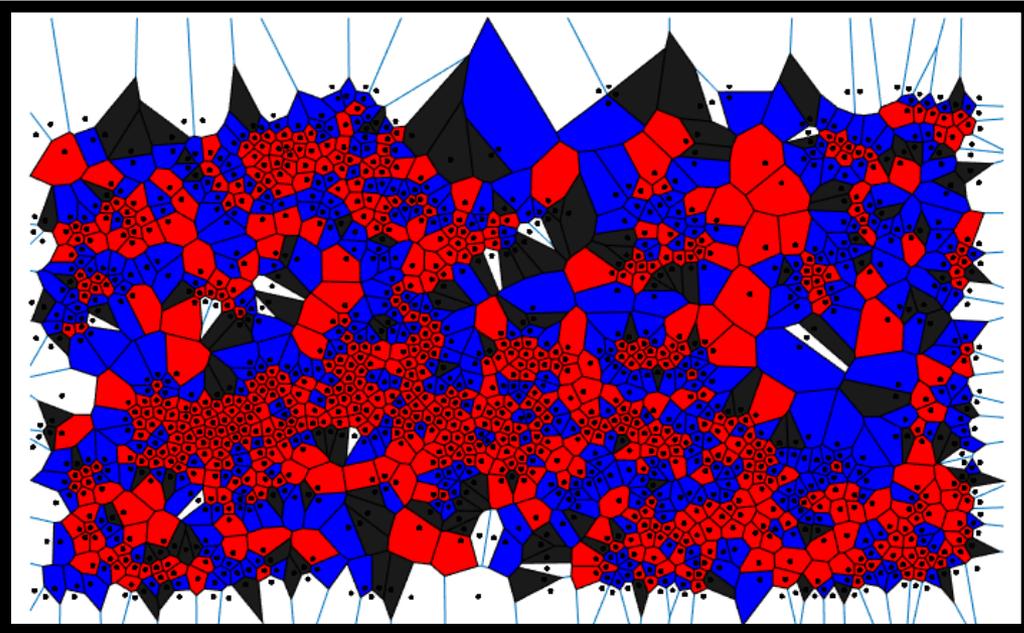
For a **circle**  $\xi = 1$   
for a regular **hexagon**  $\xi = 1.1$   
 $\xi$  is higher for irregular shapes

Moucka et al PRL (2005)

Abate and Durian PRE (2006)

Berhanu and Kudrolli PRL (2010)

# Voronoi diagram –circularity



$$\xi = \frac{P^2}{4\pi A}$$

Cells colored by *circularity* to visualize variation in particle arrangement

$\xi < 1.25$

$1.25 > \xi < 1.5$

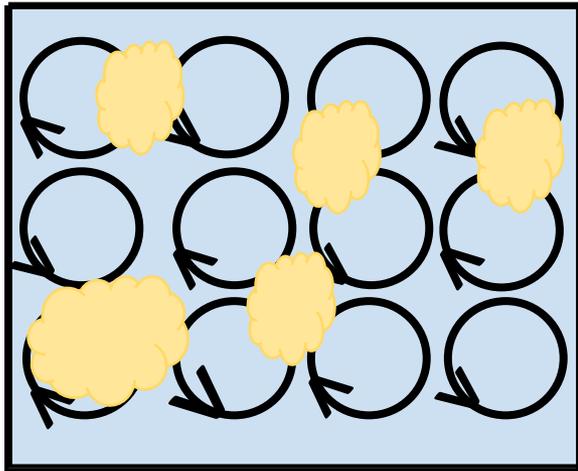
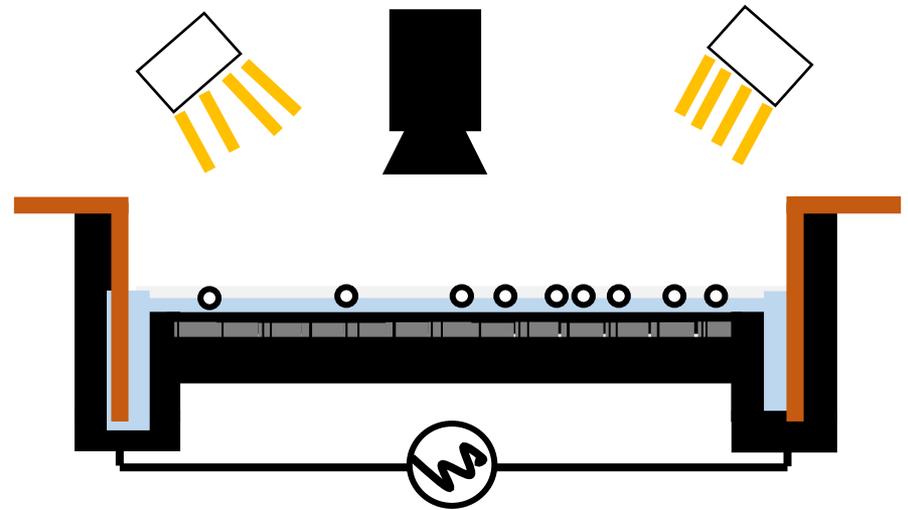
$\xi > 1.5$

Phases

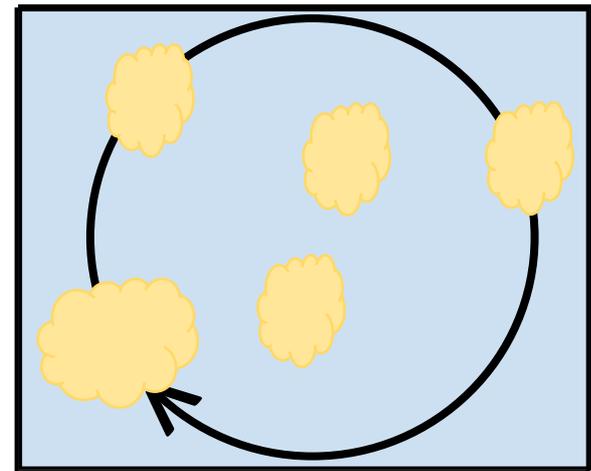
# Conclusion – aggregation in structured flows

Novel experiment to explore aggregation in quasi-2D flows

- Flow structure and capillary attraction influence aggregate formation



or



Can create flows with same average shear but different spatial symmetry

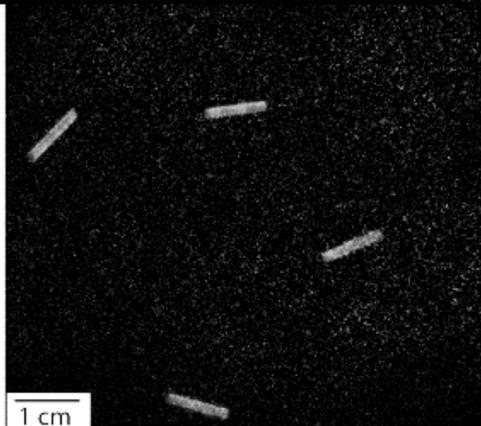
# Discussion: Possible applications and connections

1. Connections of experimental approach to open questions in your research?
2. Simplifications (or added complexities) needed for connection to experiment?

## ***Collisions of particles in structured flow***

KITP: Multiphase flows of the environment

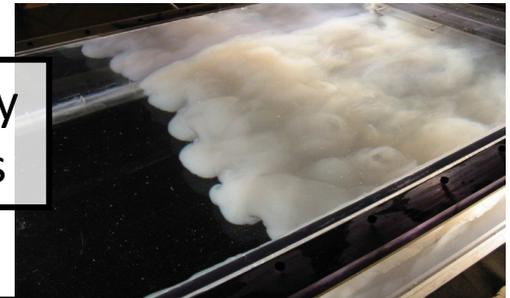
Inertial particles in complex flows



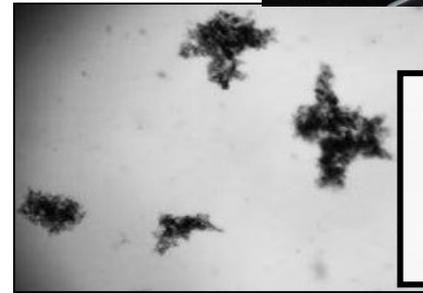
Turbulent clouds  
R. Shaw, Ann. Rev. Fluid.  
Mech (2003)



Turbidity  
currents



Clay flocculation  
K. Strom  
B. Sutherland



# Discussion: Possible applications and connections

1. Connections to open questions?
2. Simplifications (or added complexities) needed?
3. Relevant quantities to measure?  
*Aggregate distribution, contacts....*
4. Parameters to vary?  
*Packing fraction, Stokes number, Reynolds number, vorticity, ...*

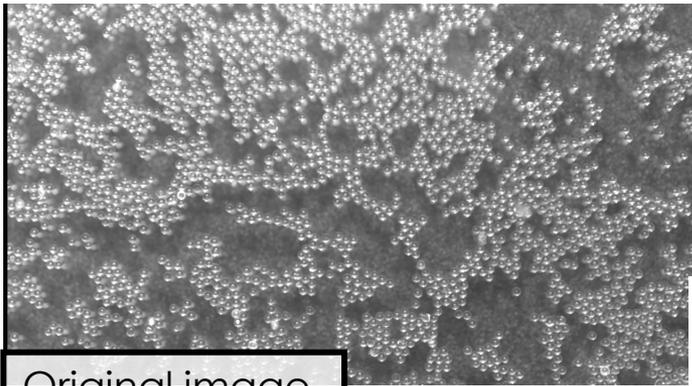
## ***Collisions of particles in structured flow***

*KITP: Multiphase flows of the environment*

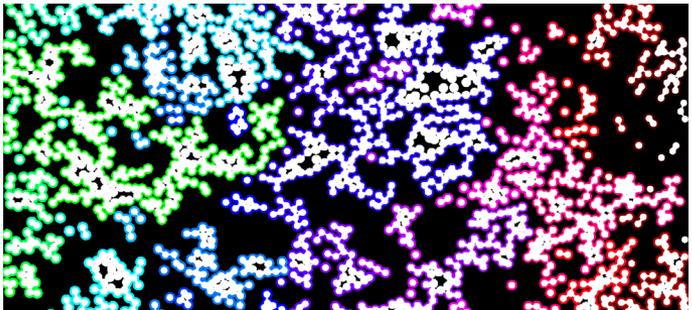


BACKUP SLIDES

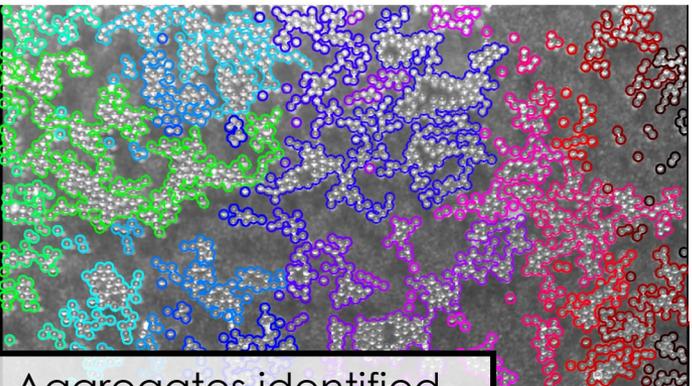
# Stable aggregates when no flow



Original image

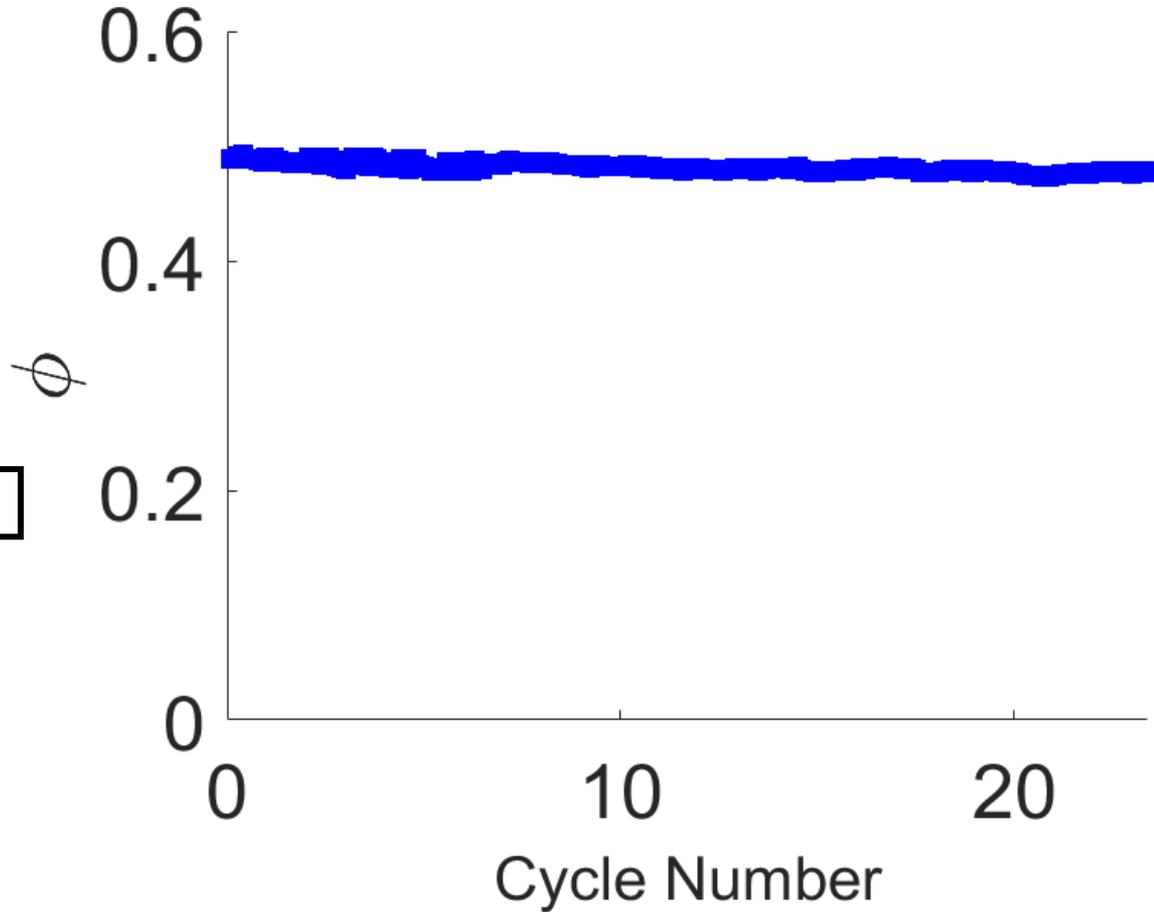


Binarized, connected components



Aggregates identified

Resolution: 1 pixel ~ 70  $\mu\text{m}$



Aggregates