

# Contact forces and particle interactions in shear thickening suspensions

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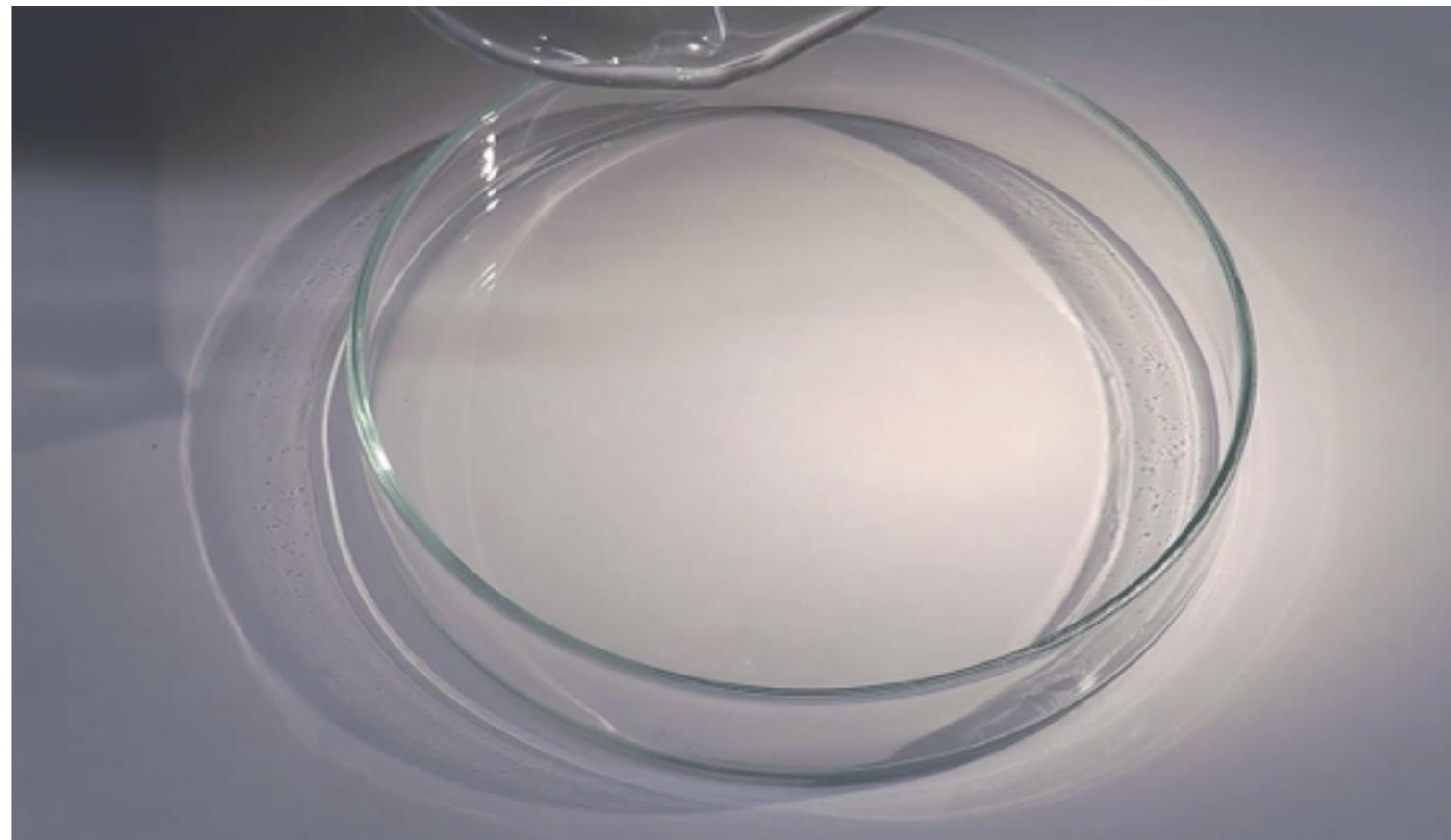
Wilson Poon



# Shear thickening



+

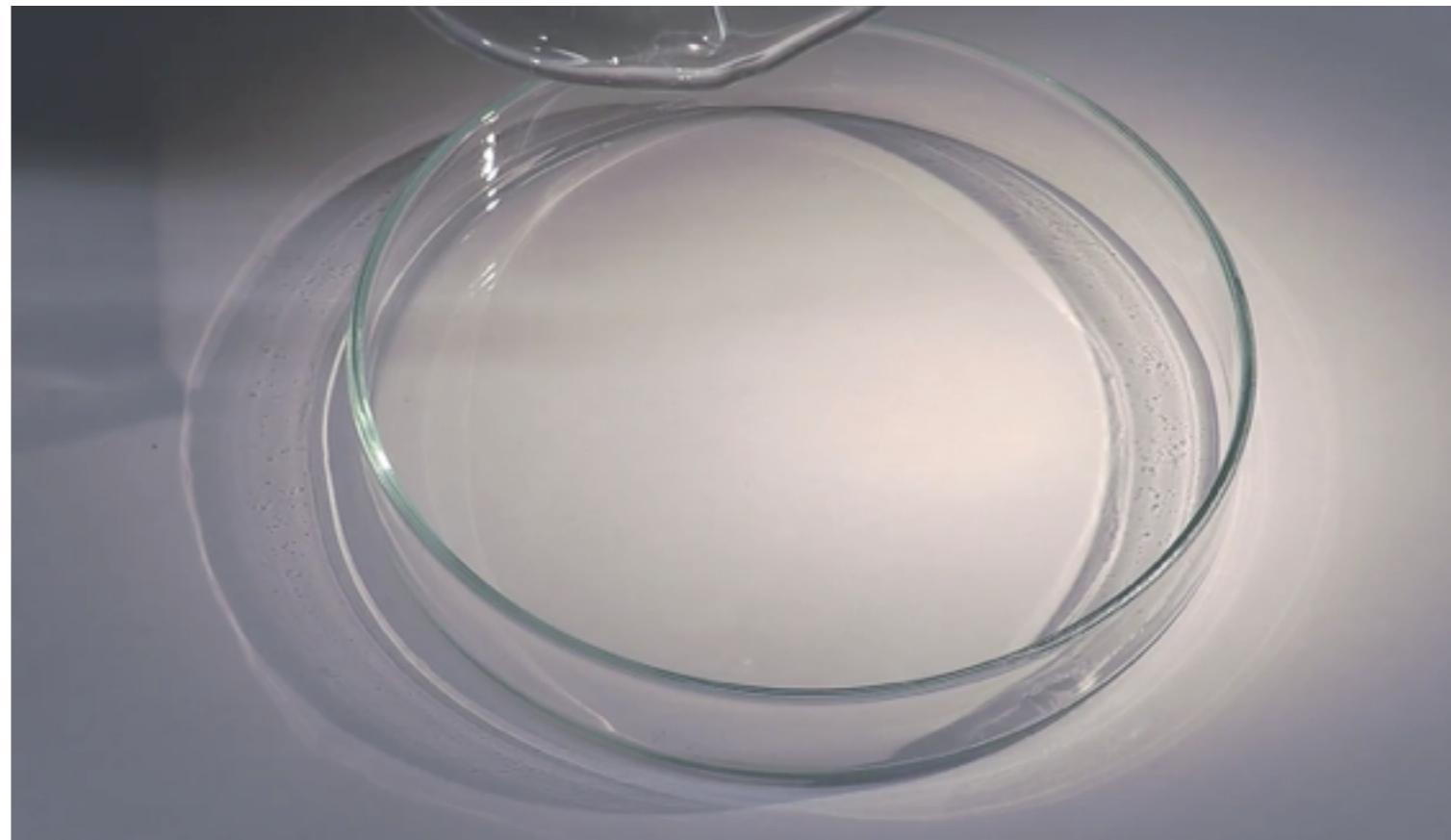


Video from ETH Zurich Soft Materials youtube channel

# Shear thickening

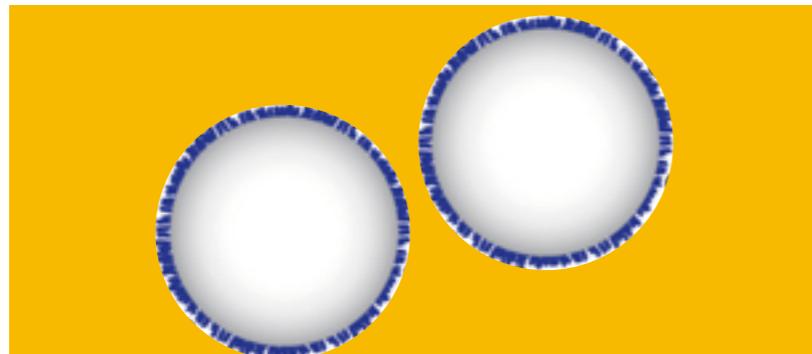


+

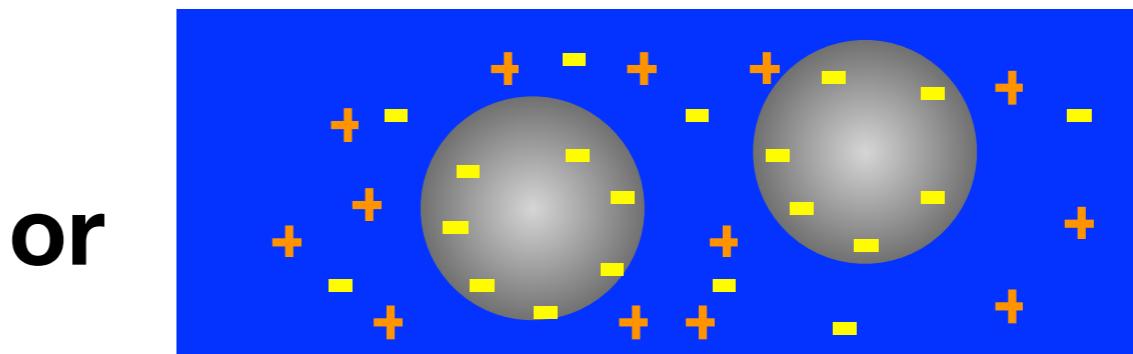


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# Continuous Shear Thickening

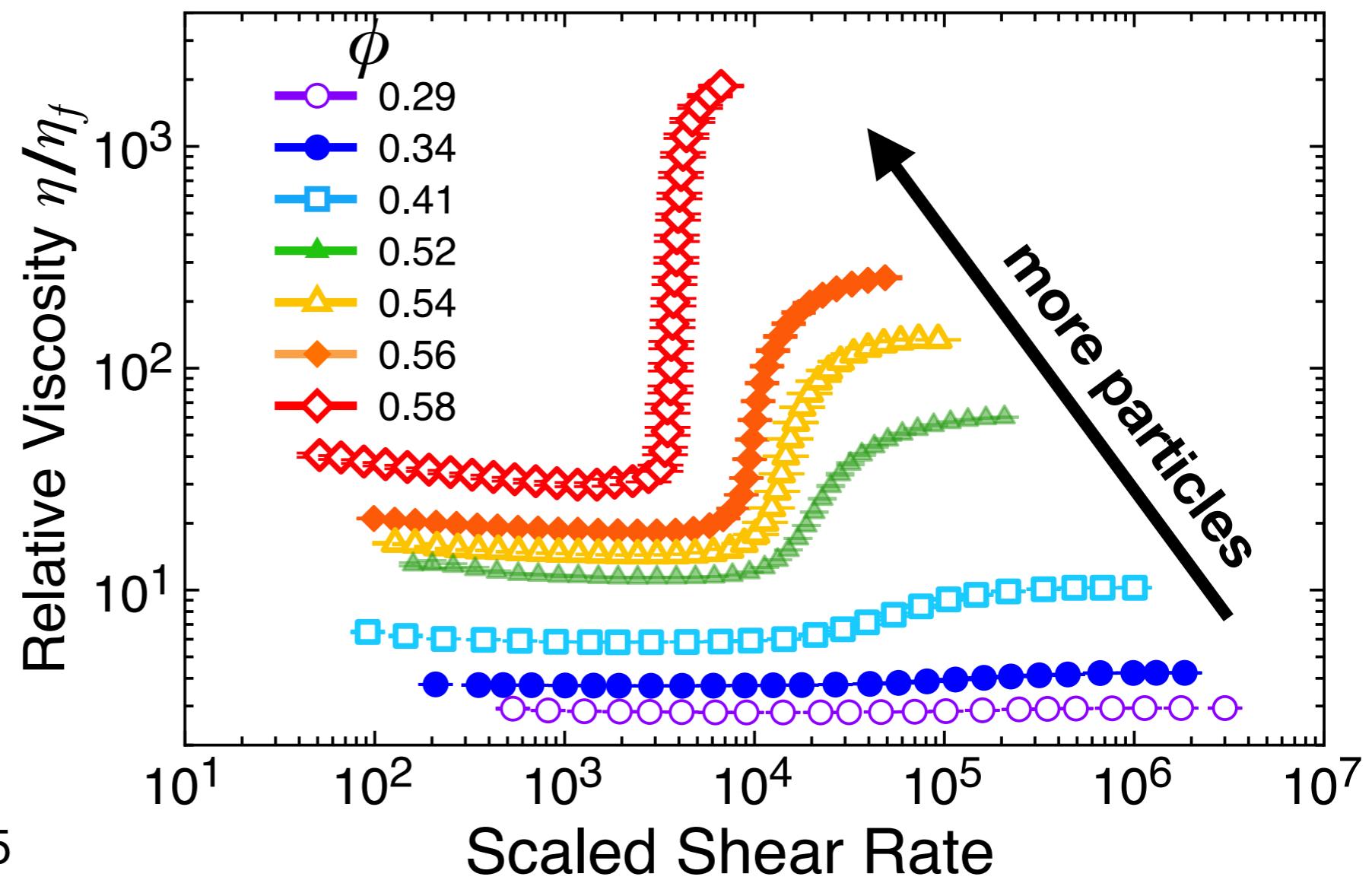


sterically stabilised particles

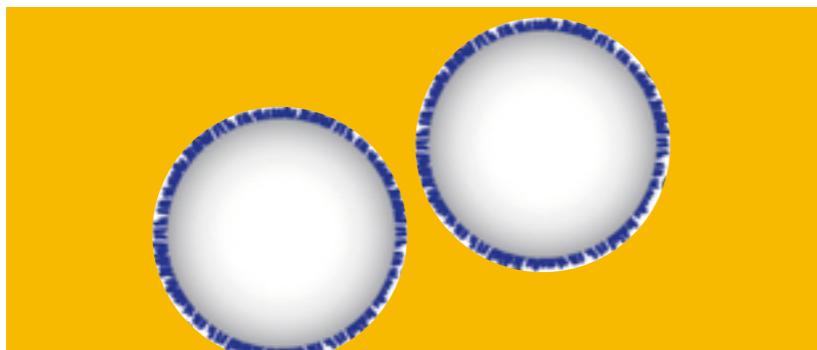


or

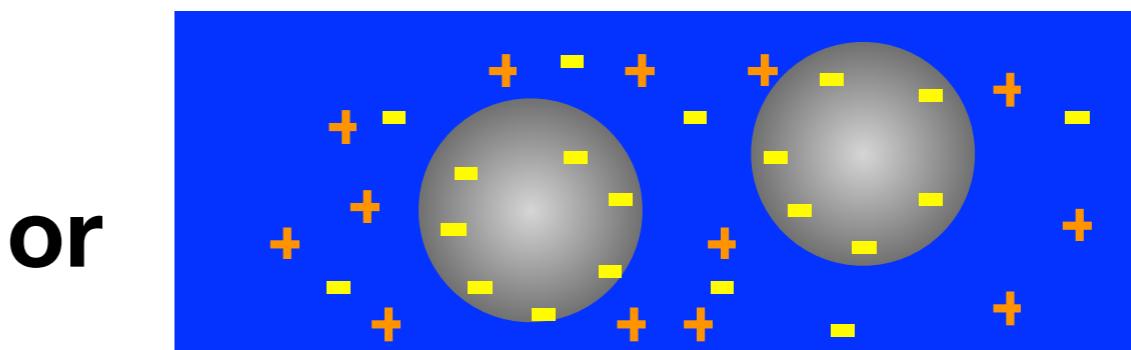
charge stabilised particles



# Continuous Shear Thickening



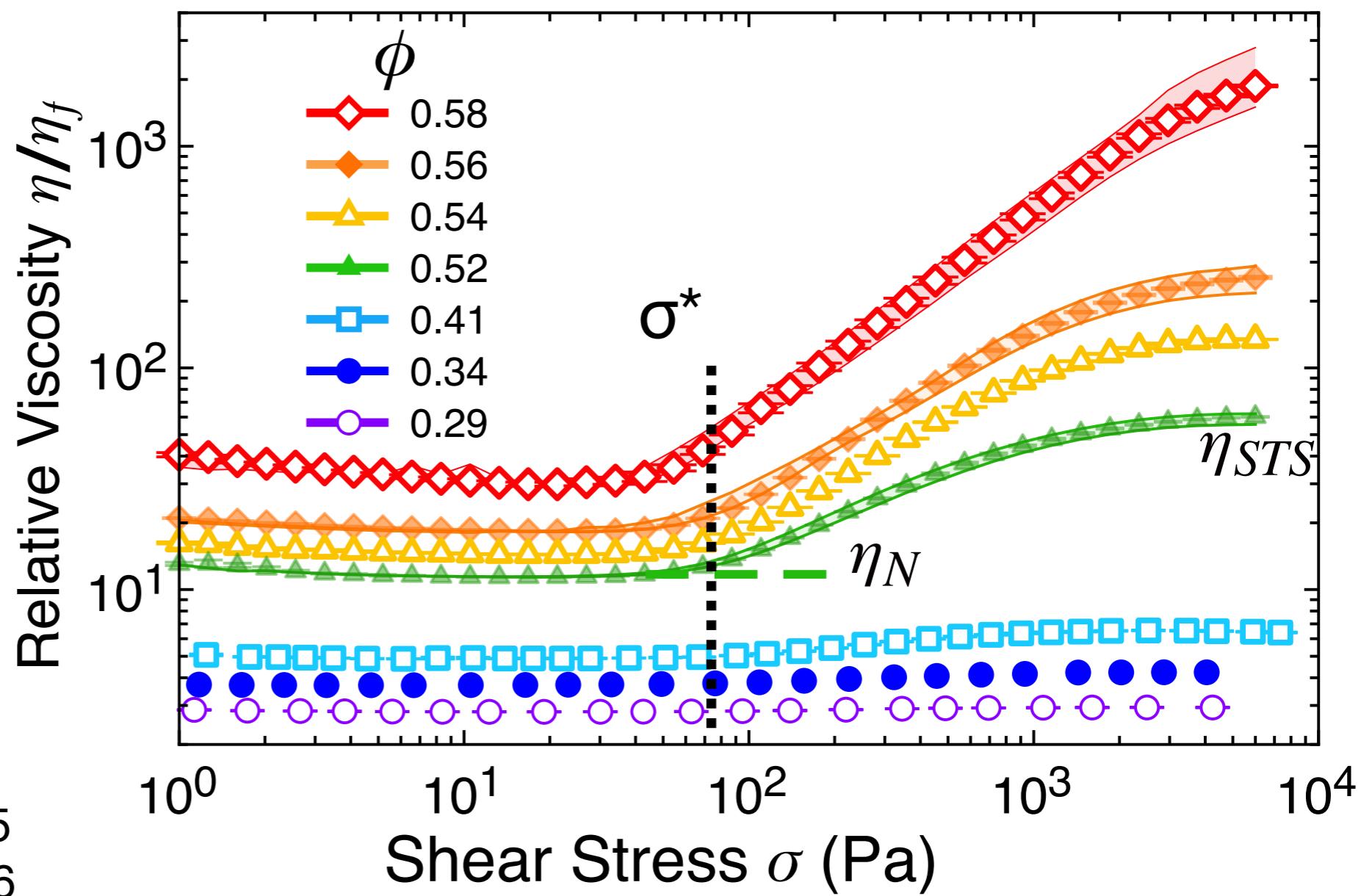
sterically stabilised particles



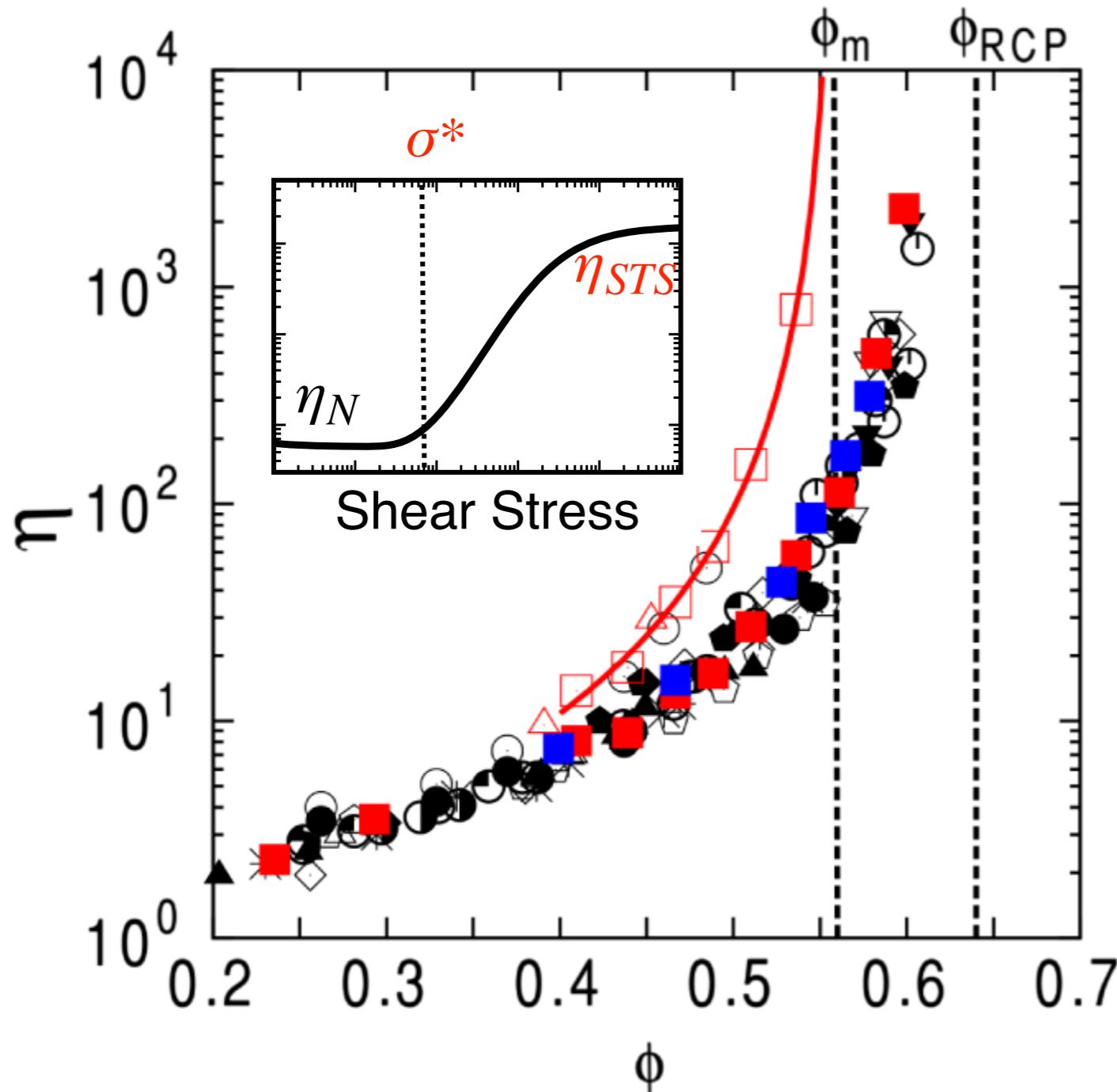
charge stabilised particles

Characteristic stress  $\sigma^*$   
independent of solids  
concentration.

$$\phi = \frac{V_{part}}{V_{total}}$$



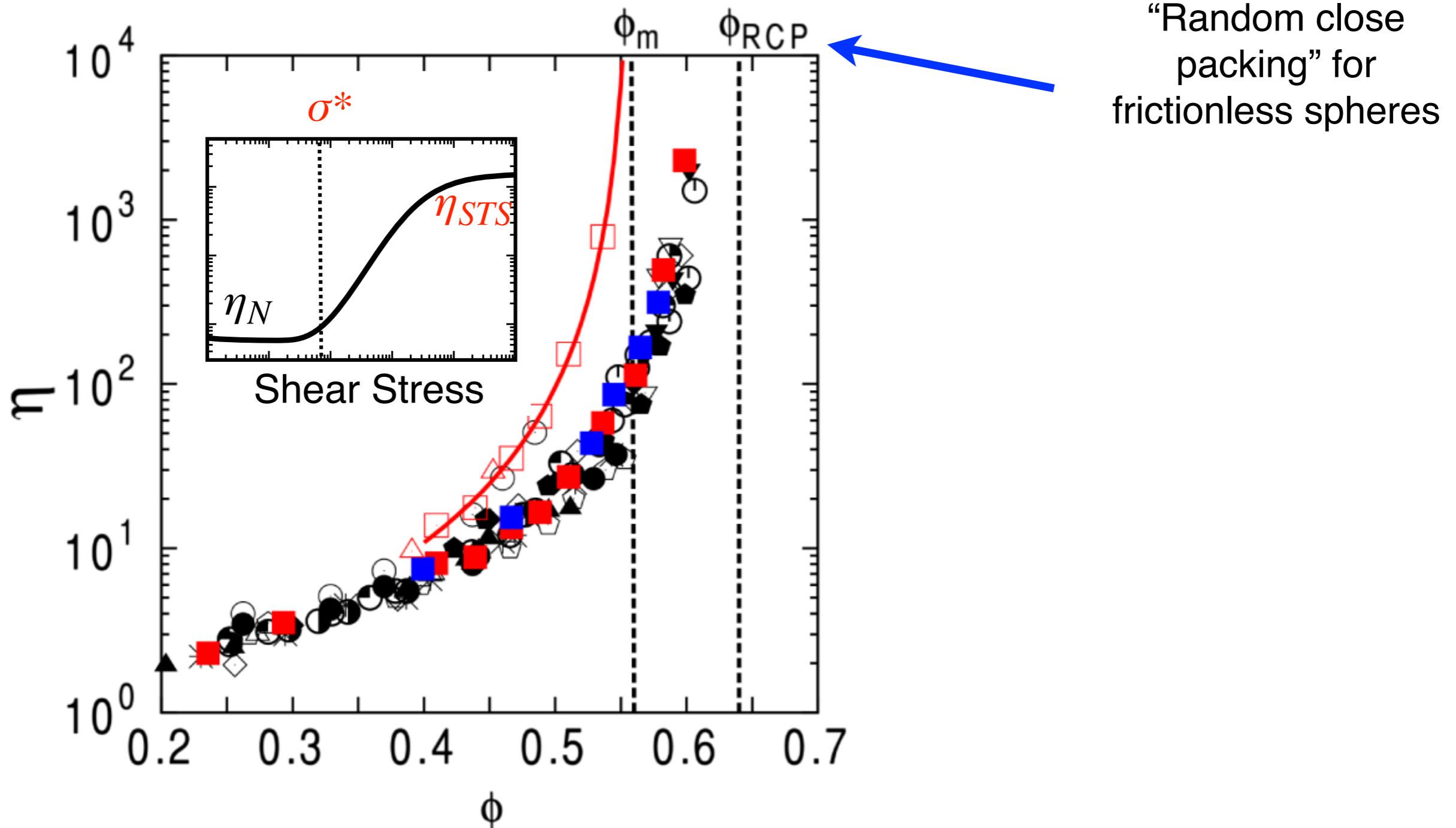
# Shear Thickening - Jamming below RCP



Guy, Hermes & Poon, PRL 2015

Wyart and Cates, PRL 2014

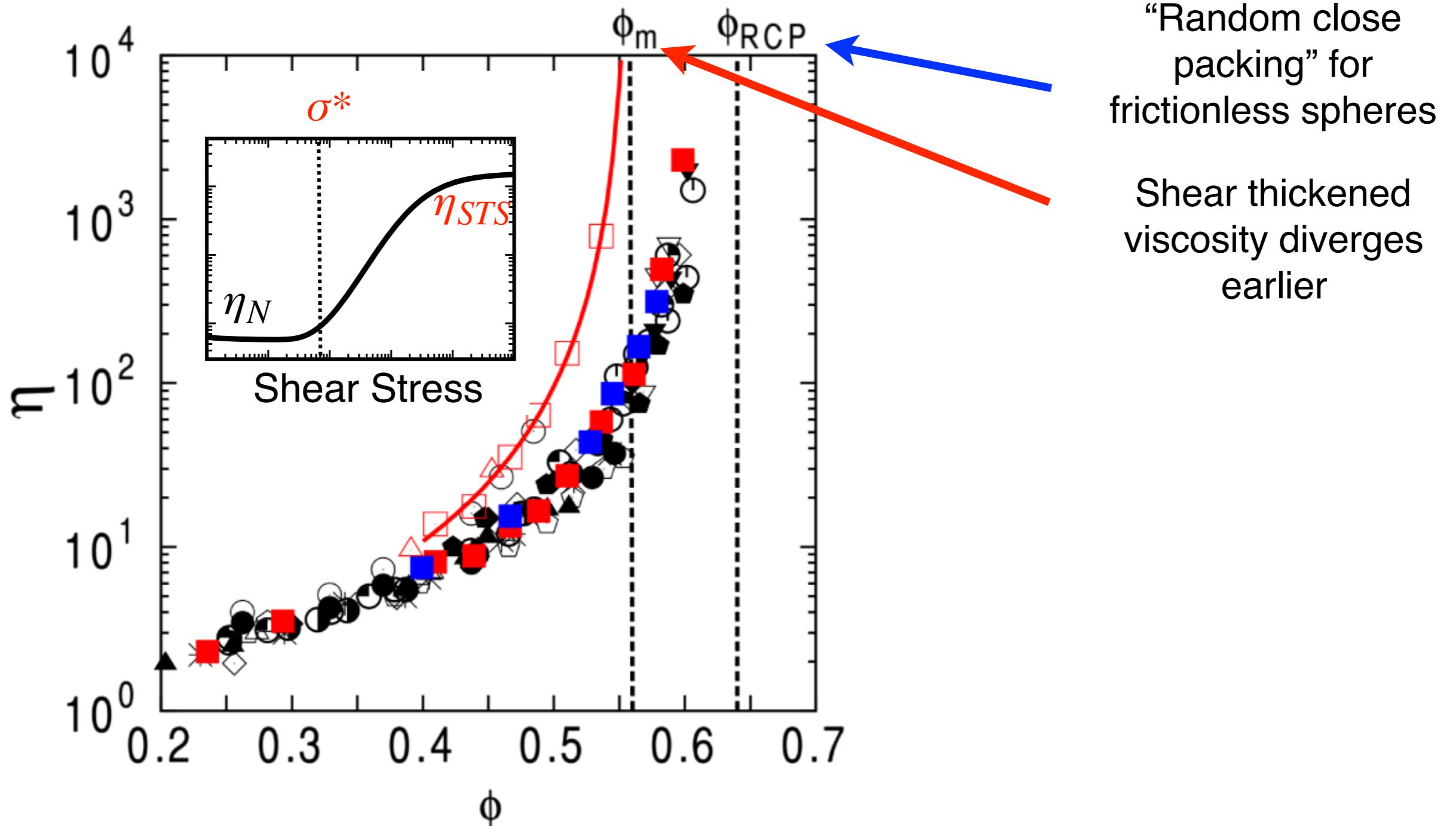
# Shear Thickening - Jamming below RCP



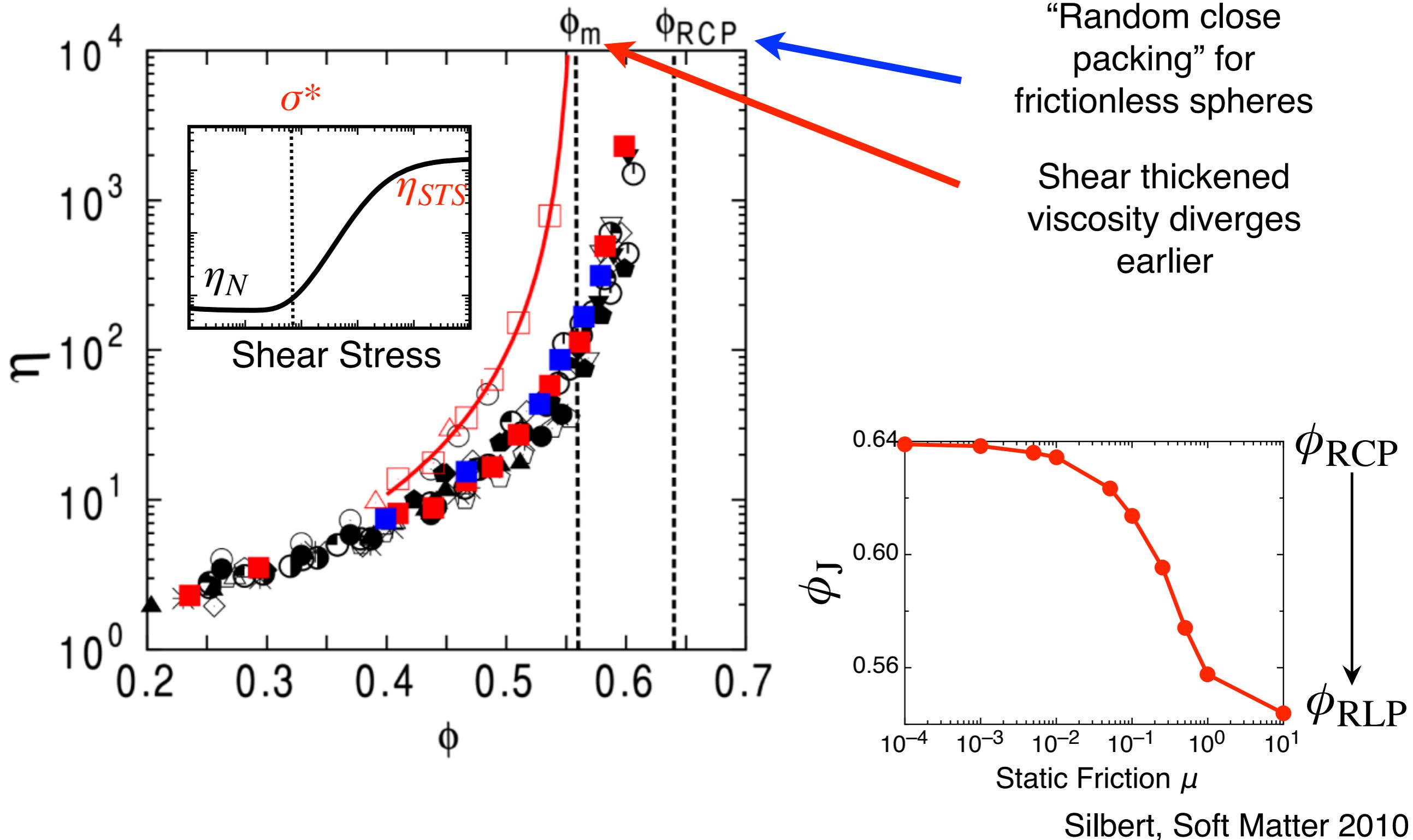
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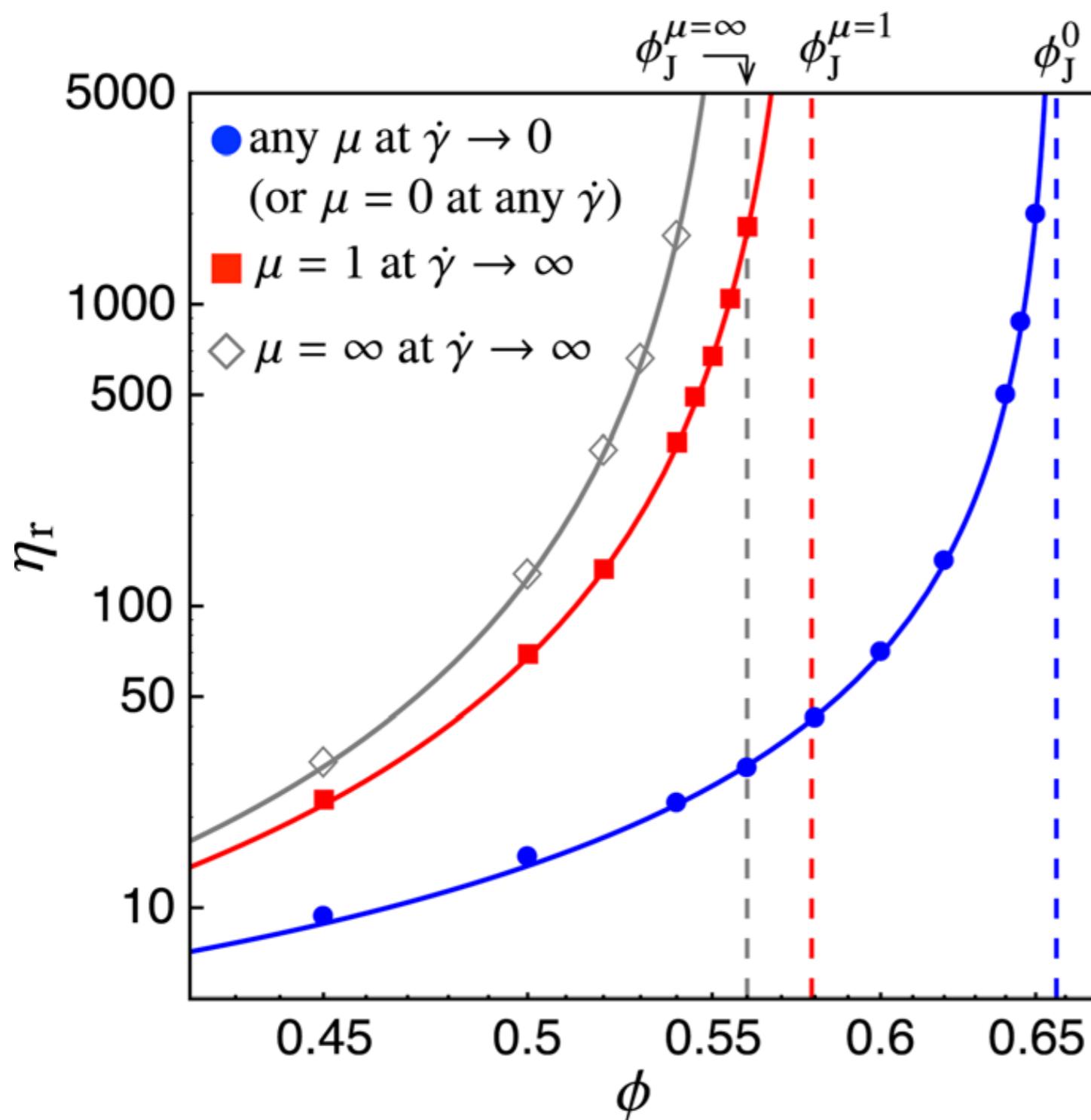
# Shear Thickening - Jamming below RCP



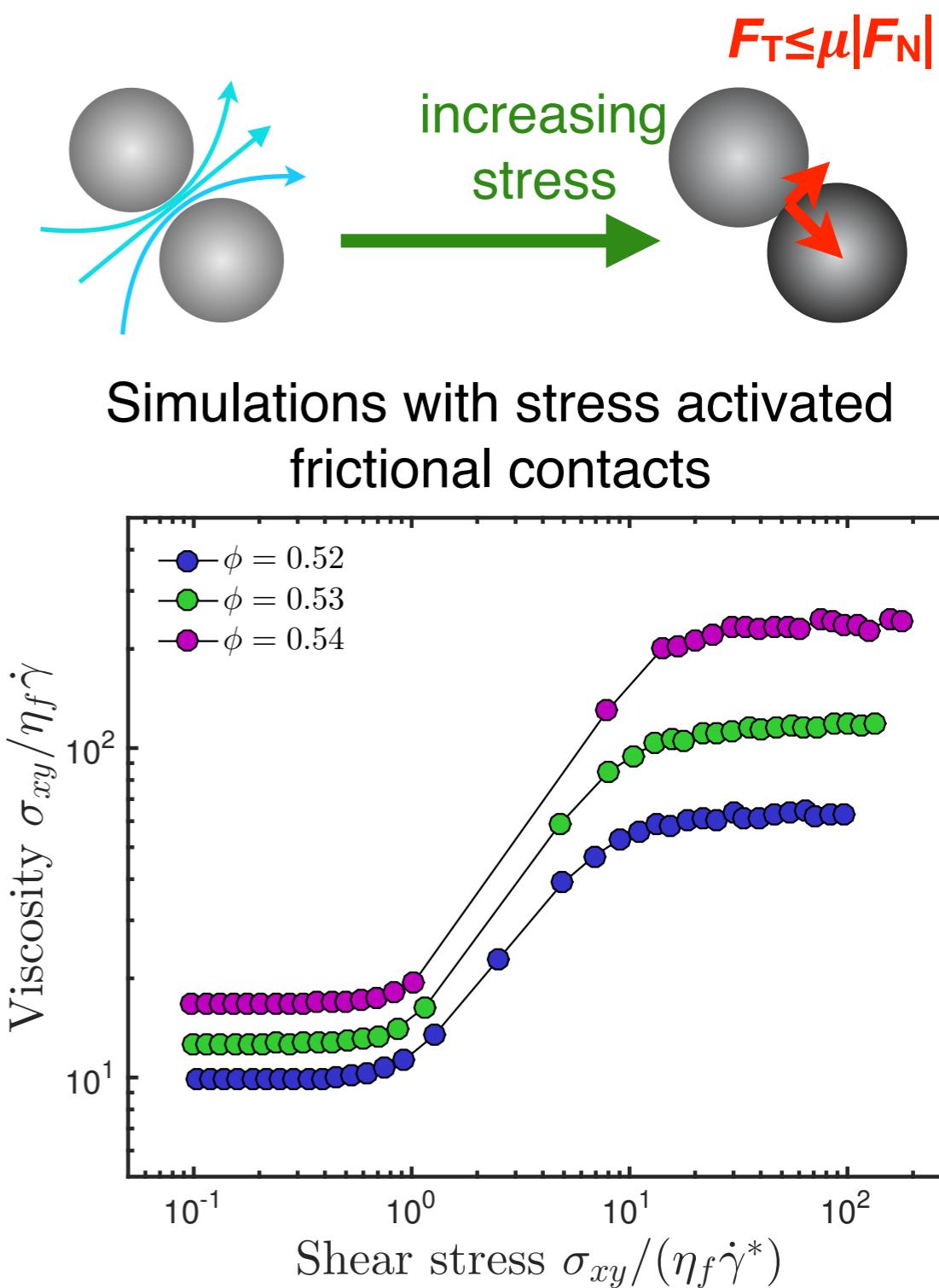
# Shear Thickening - Jamming below RCP



# Shear Thickening and Friction

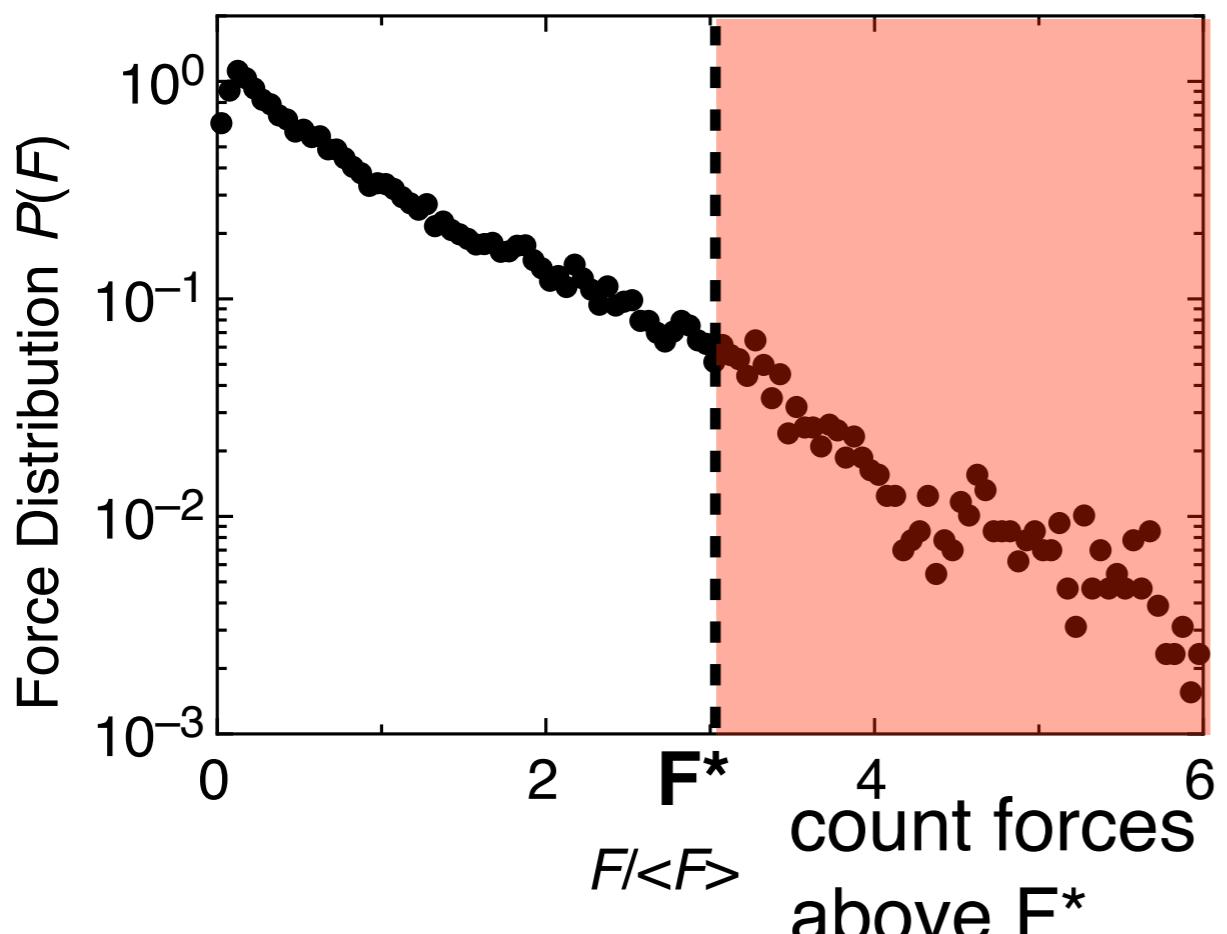


Mari, Seto, Morris, JoR 2014



Ness and Sun, Soft Matter 2016

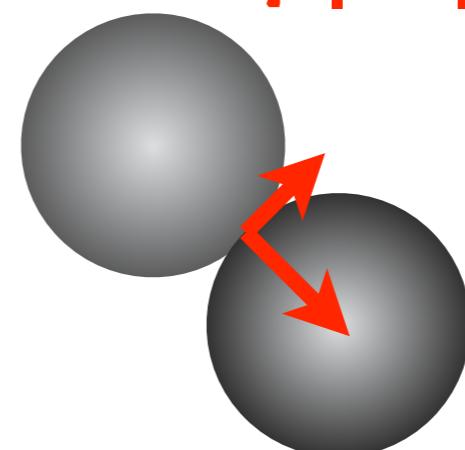
# Stress activated friction



$$P(F) \sim e^{-F/\langle F \rangle}$$



$$F_T \leq \mu |F_N| \text{ if } F_N > F^*$$

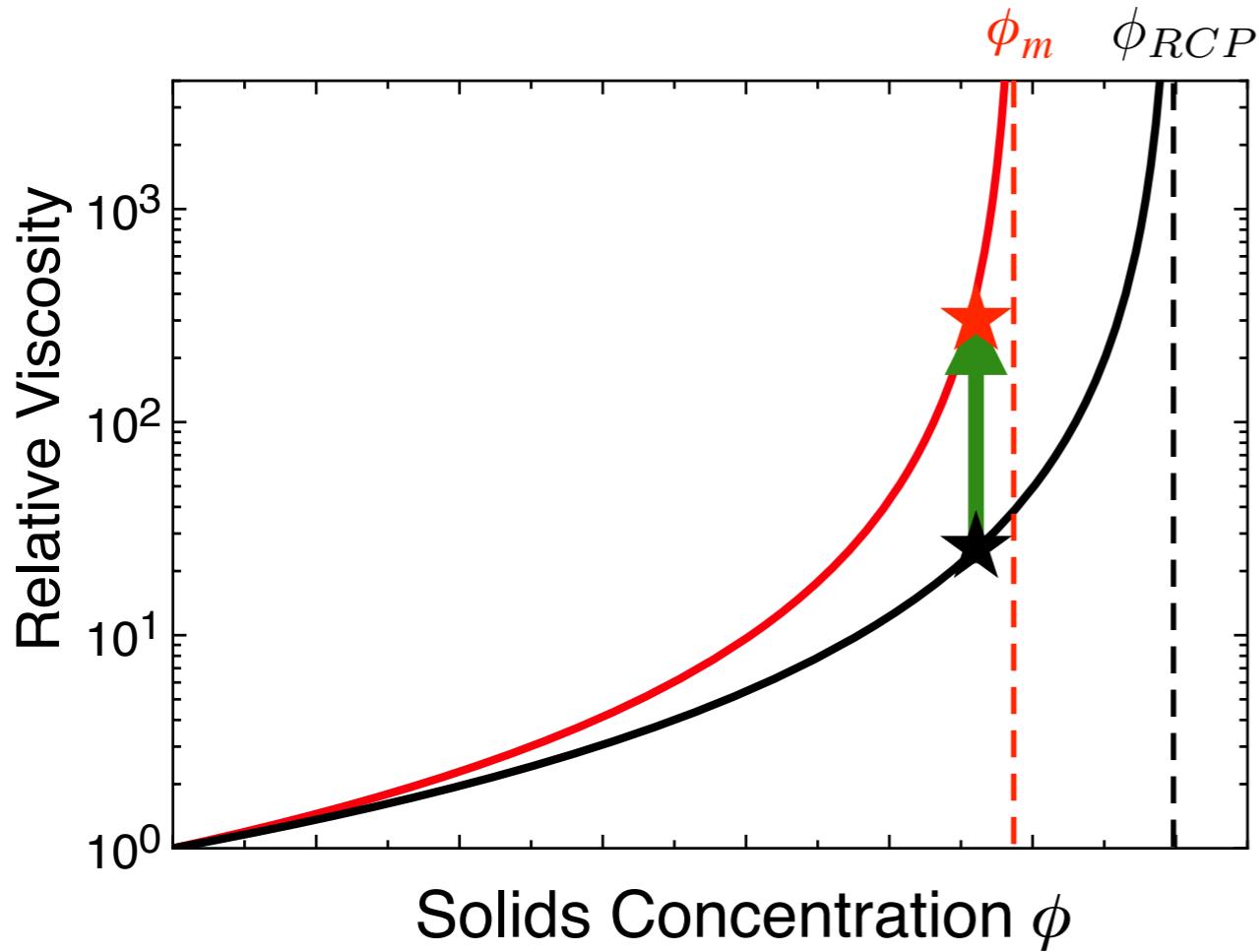


$f(\sigma)$  = ‘fraction of frictional contacts’

$$f(\sigma) \sim e^{-\sigma^*/\sigma}$$

$$\sigma^* \sim F^*/d^2$$

# Analytic model for shear thickening rheology



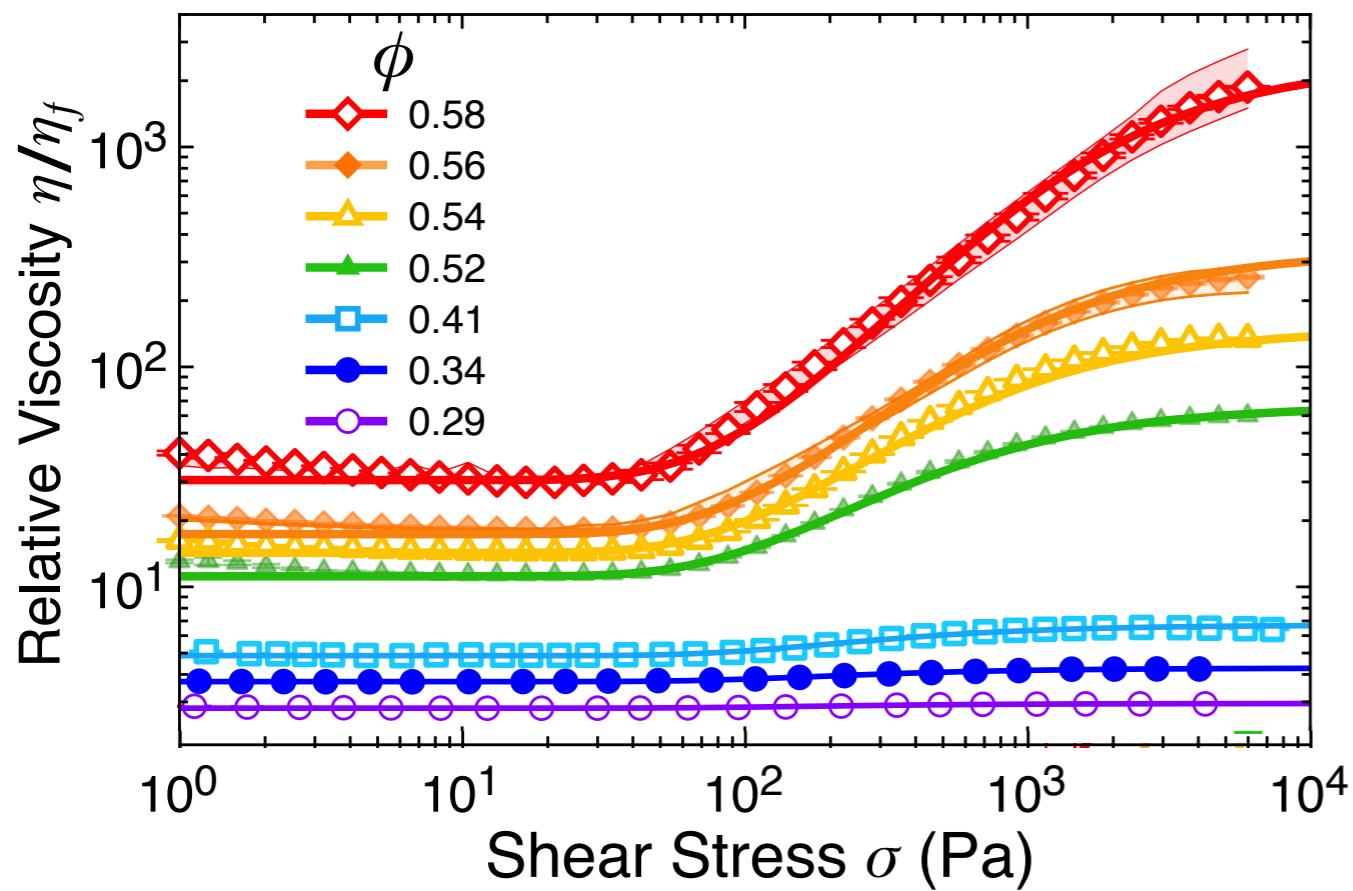
$$\eta_r = \left( 1 - \frac{\phi}{\phi_J(\sigma)} \right)^{-2}$$

$$\phi_J(\sigma) = \phi_m f(\sigma) + (1 - f(\sigma))\phi_0$$

$$f(\sigma) \sim e^{-\sigma^*/\sigma}$$

$$\sigma^* \sim F^*/d^2$$

# Analytic model for shear thickening rheology



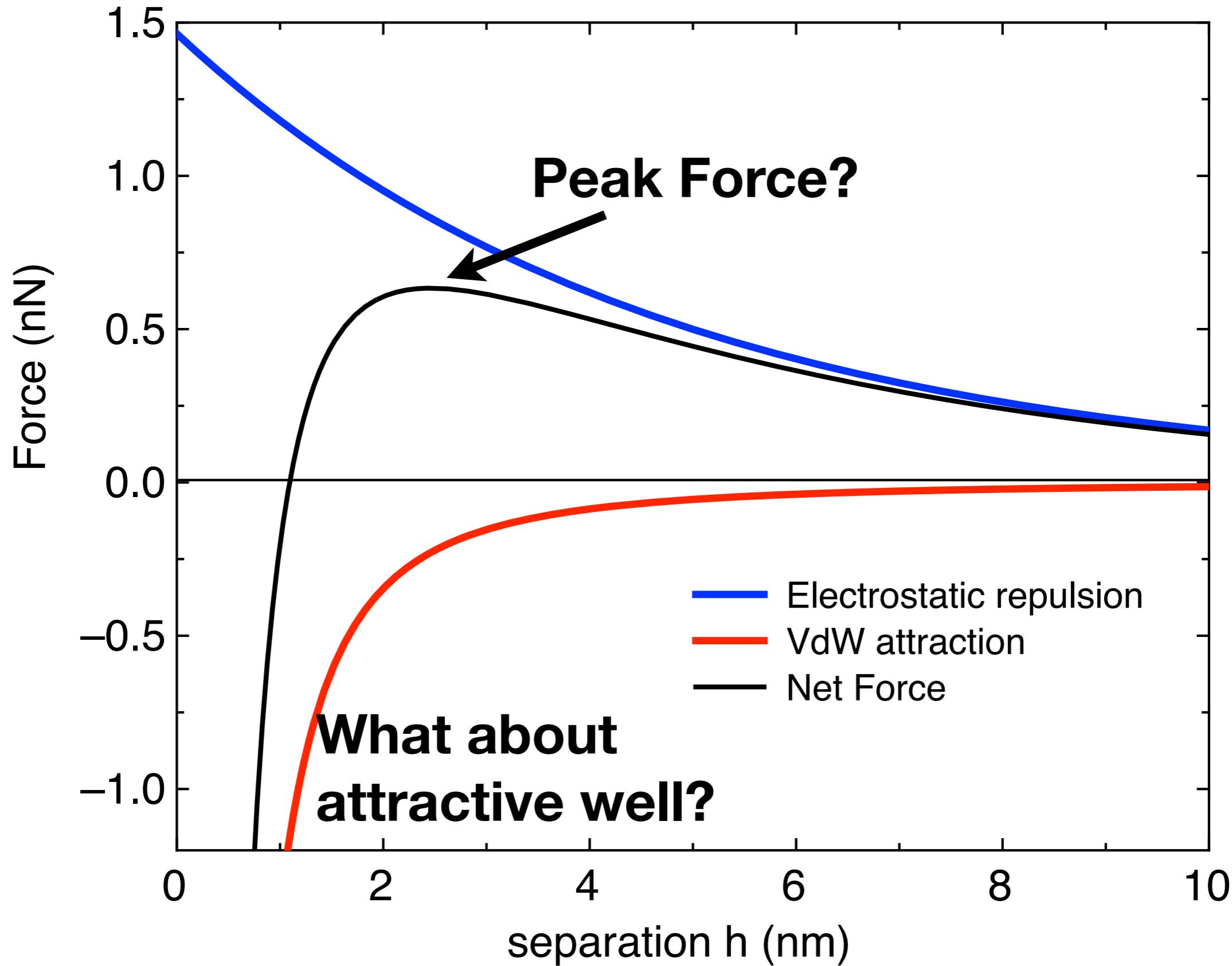
$$\eta_r = \left( 1 - \frac{\phi}{\phi_J(\sigma)} \right)^{-2}$$

$$J(\sigma) = \phi_m f(\sigma) + (1 - f(\sigma))\phi_0$$

$$f(\sigma) \sim e^{-\sigma^*/\sigma}$$

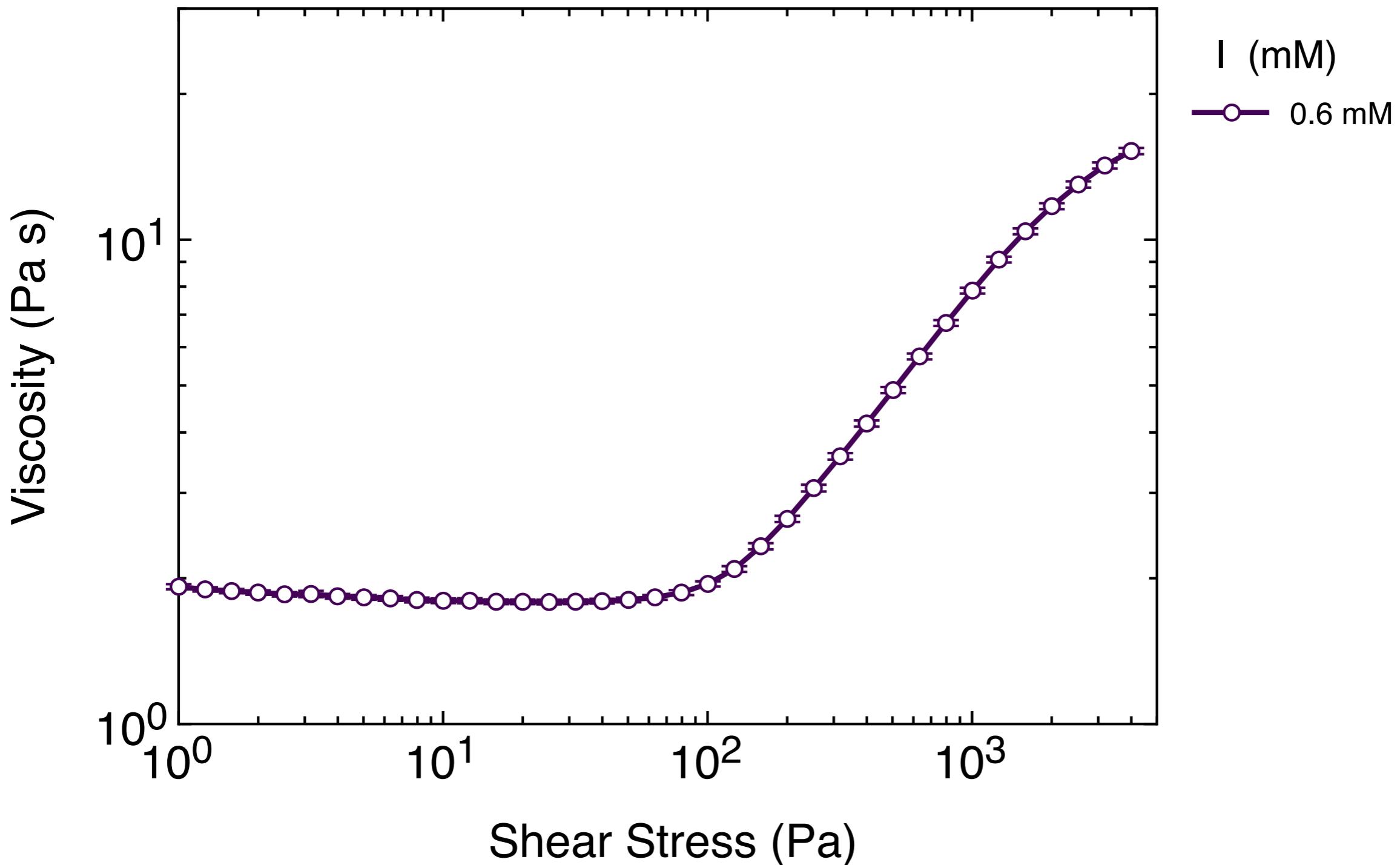
$$\sigma^* \sim F^*/d^2$$

# What sets the onset stress?



# Charge stabilised spheres

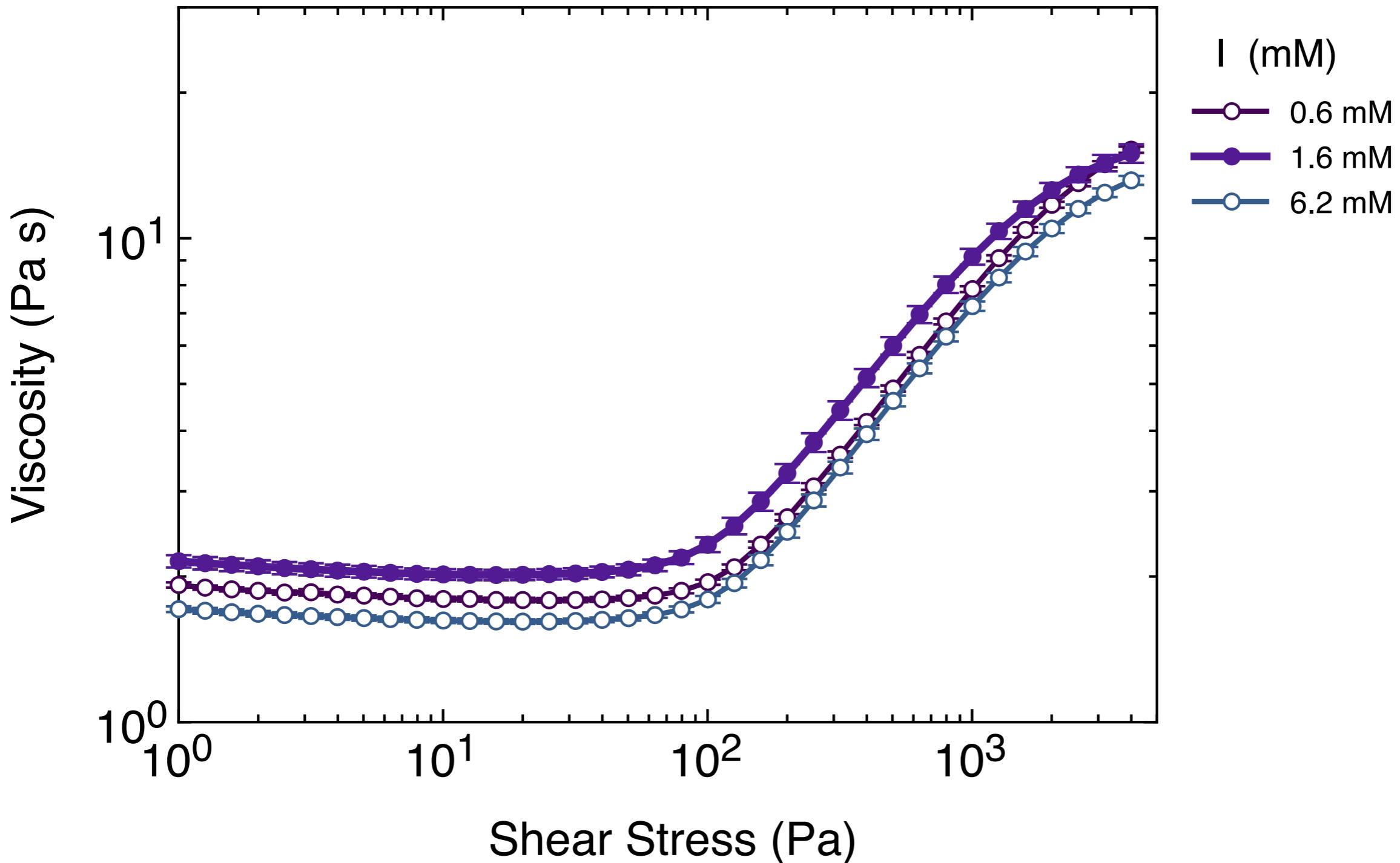
$\phi = 0.53$



$d=1.5 \mu\text{m}$  Silica spheres in 85% w/w glycerol/water

# Charge stabilised spheres

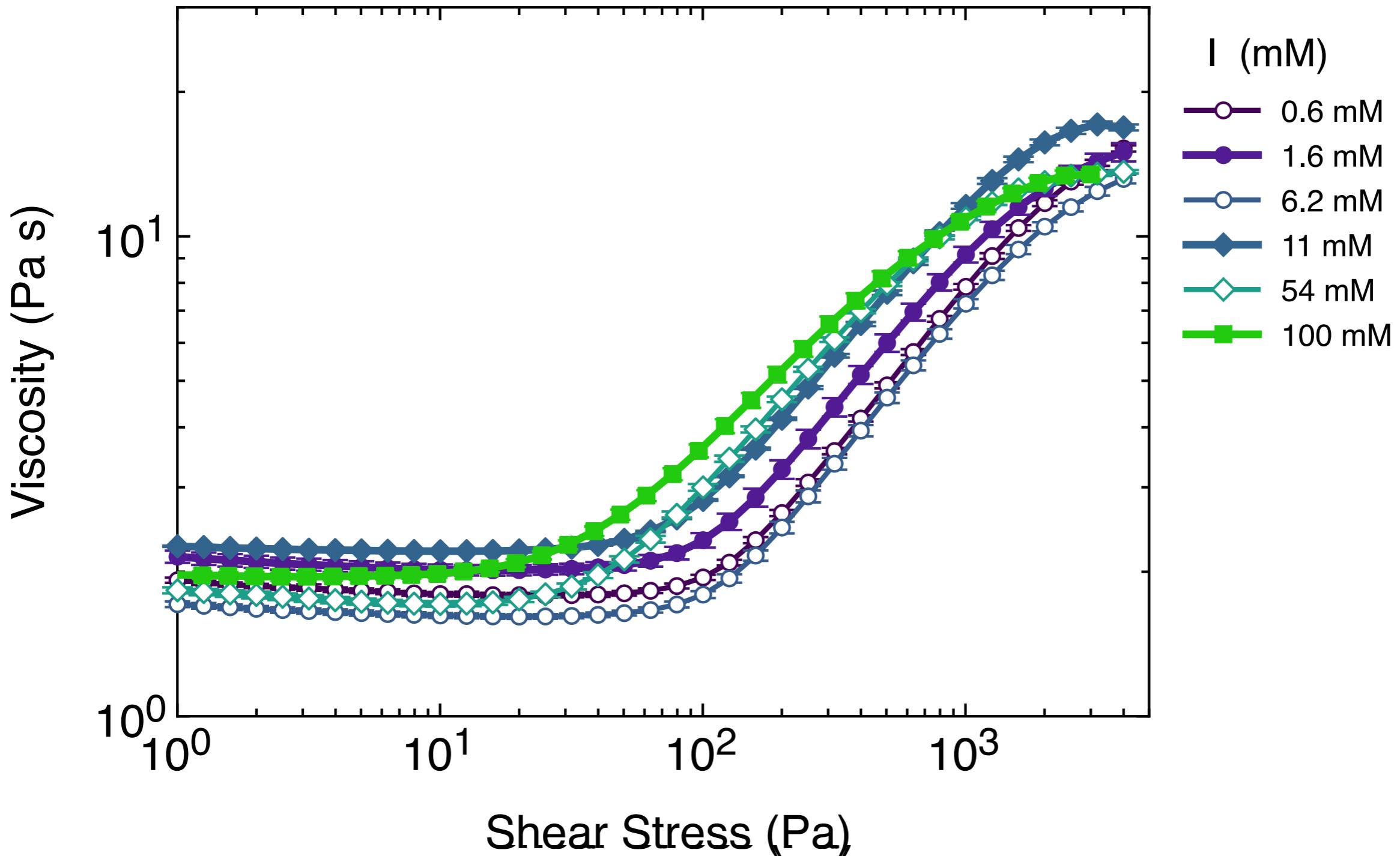
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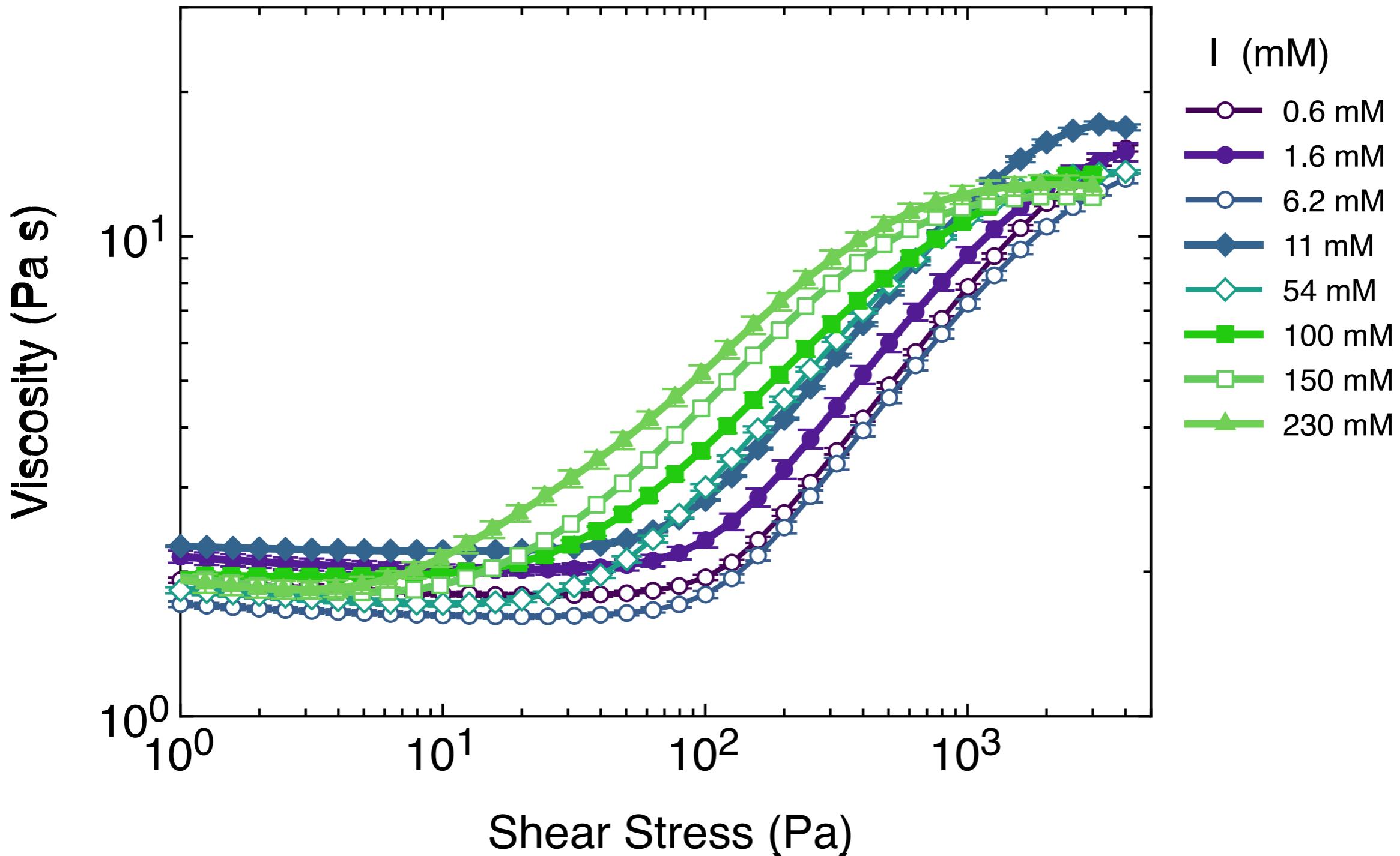
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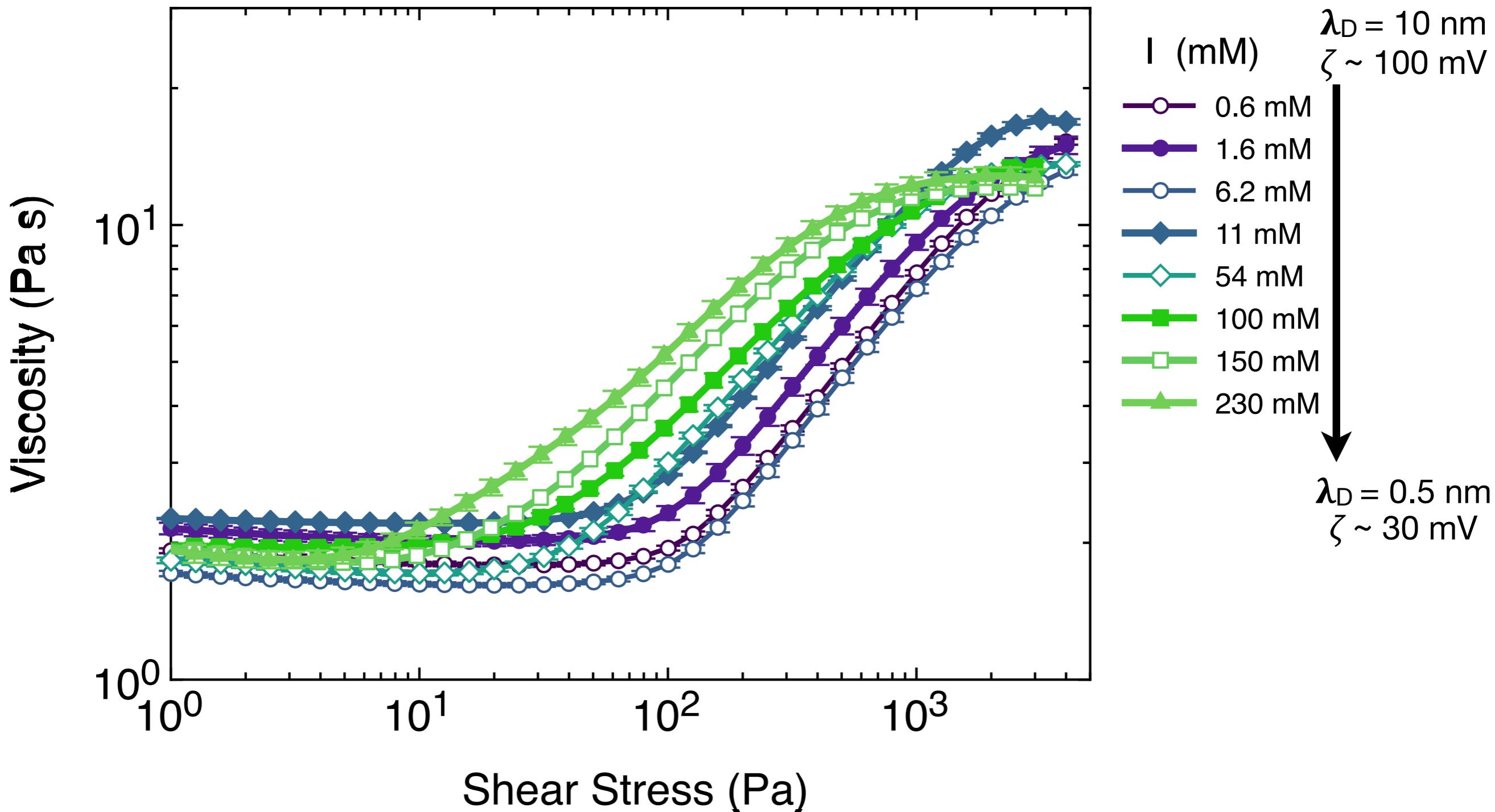
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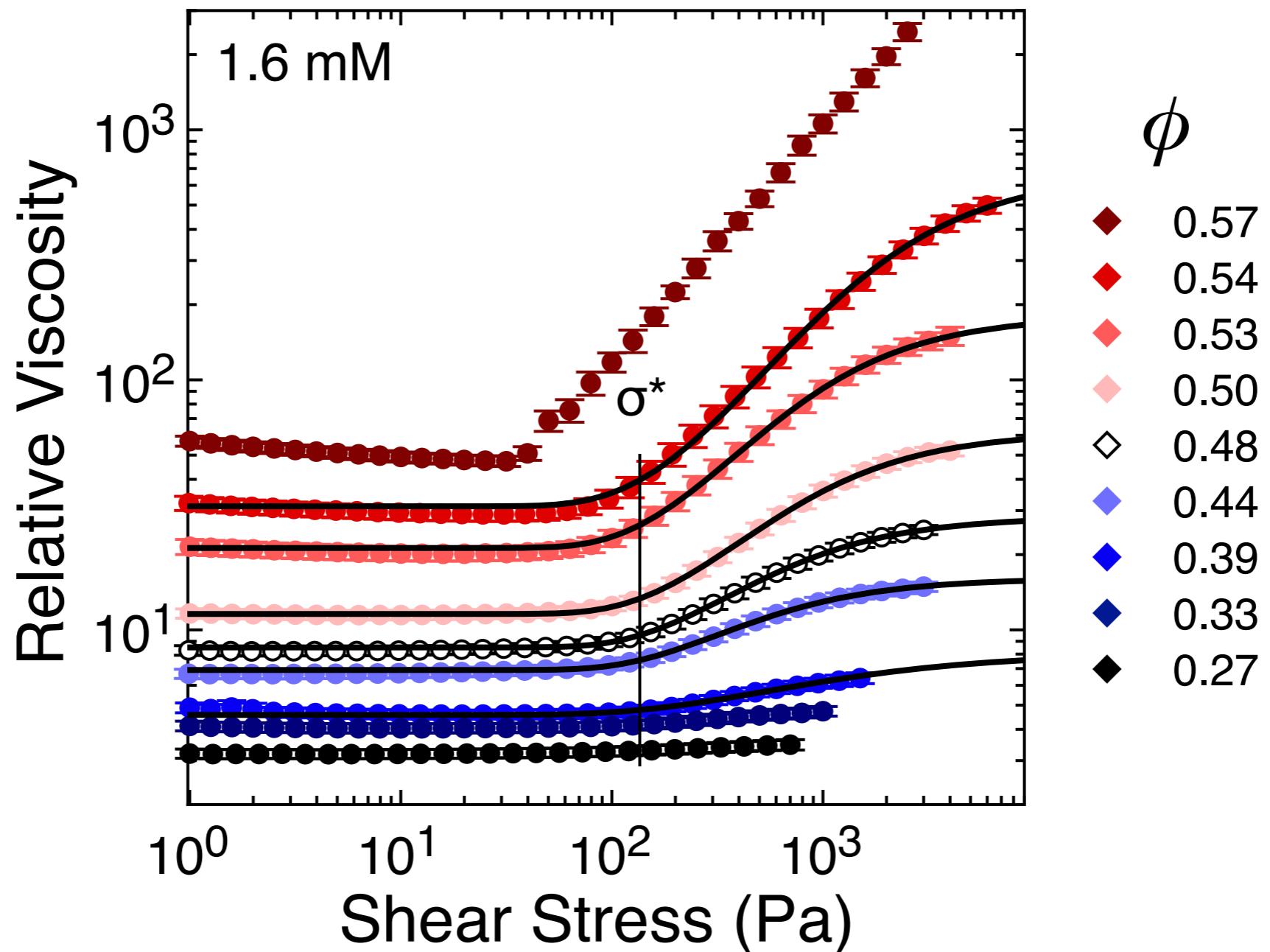
# Charge stabilised spheres

$\phi = 0.53$



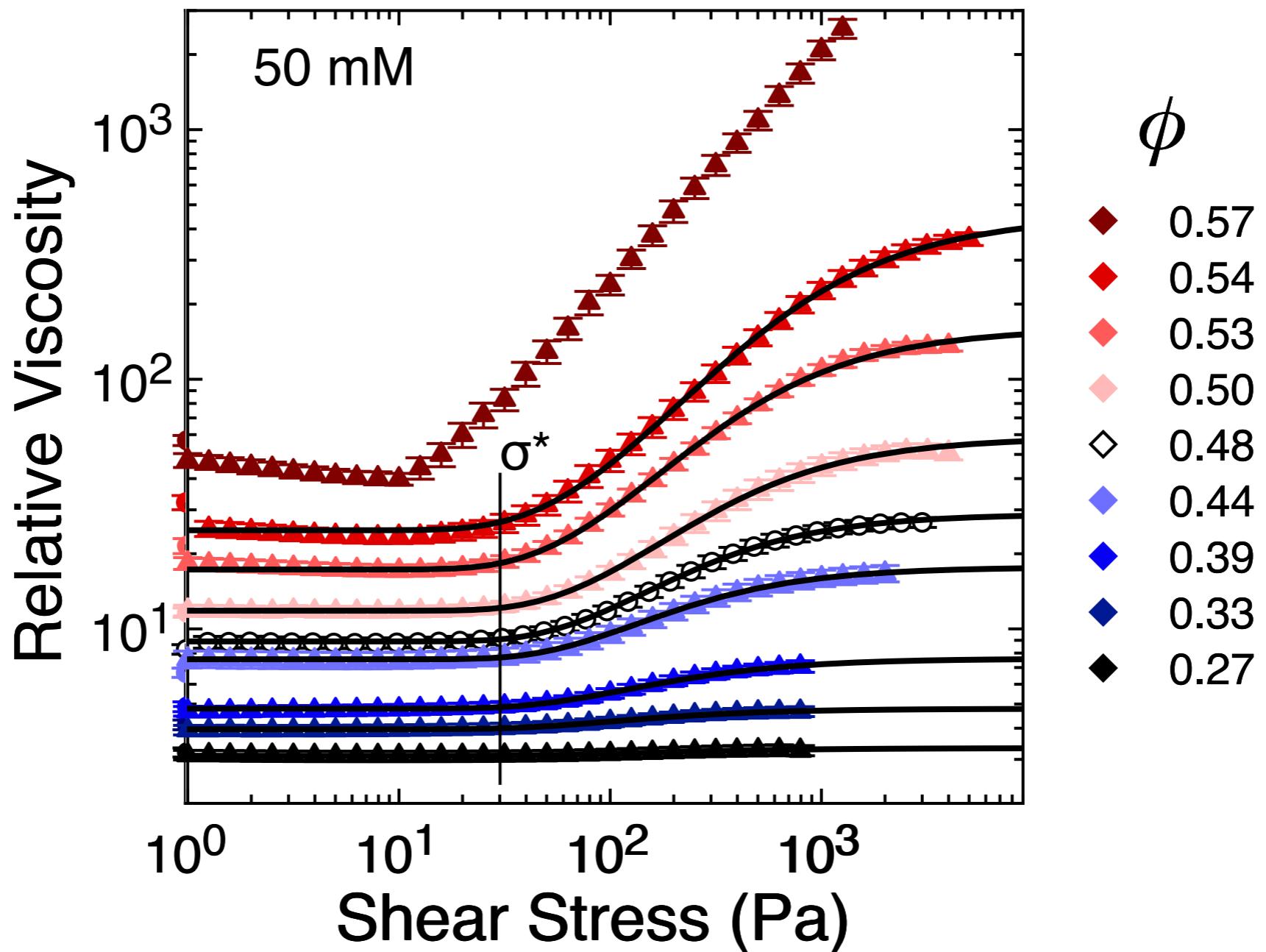
$d=1.5 \mu\text{m}$  Silica spheres in 85% w/w glycerol/water

# Shear thickening charge stabilised suspensions



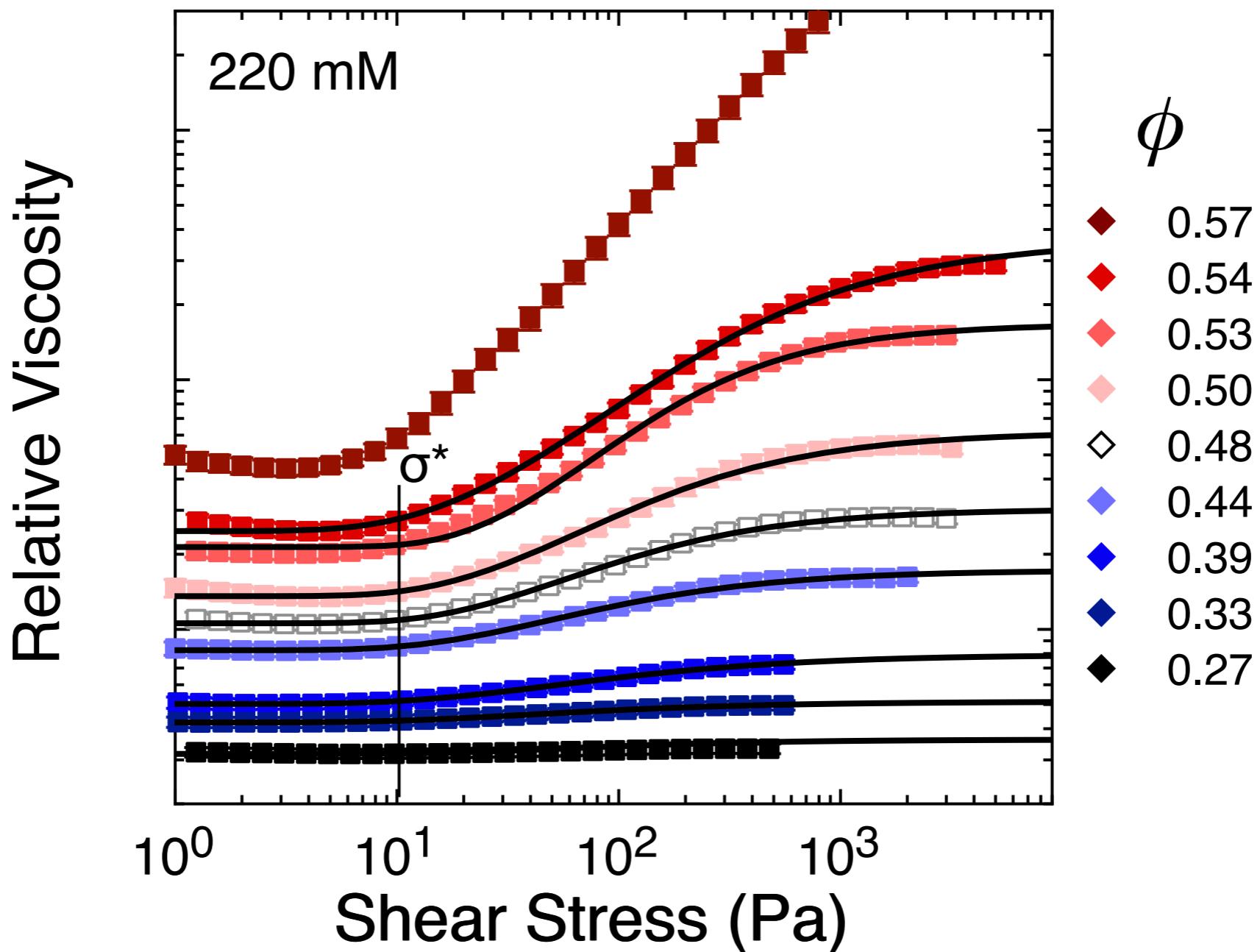
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# Shear thickening charge stabilised suspensions



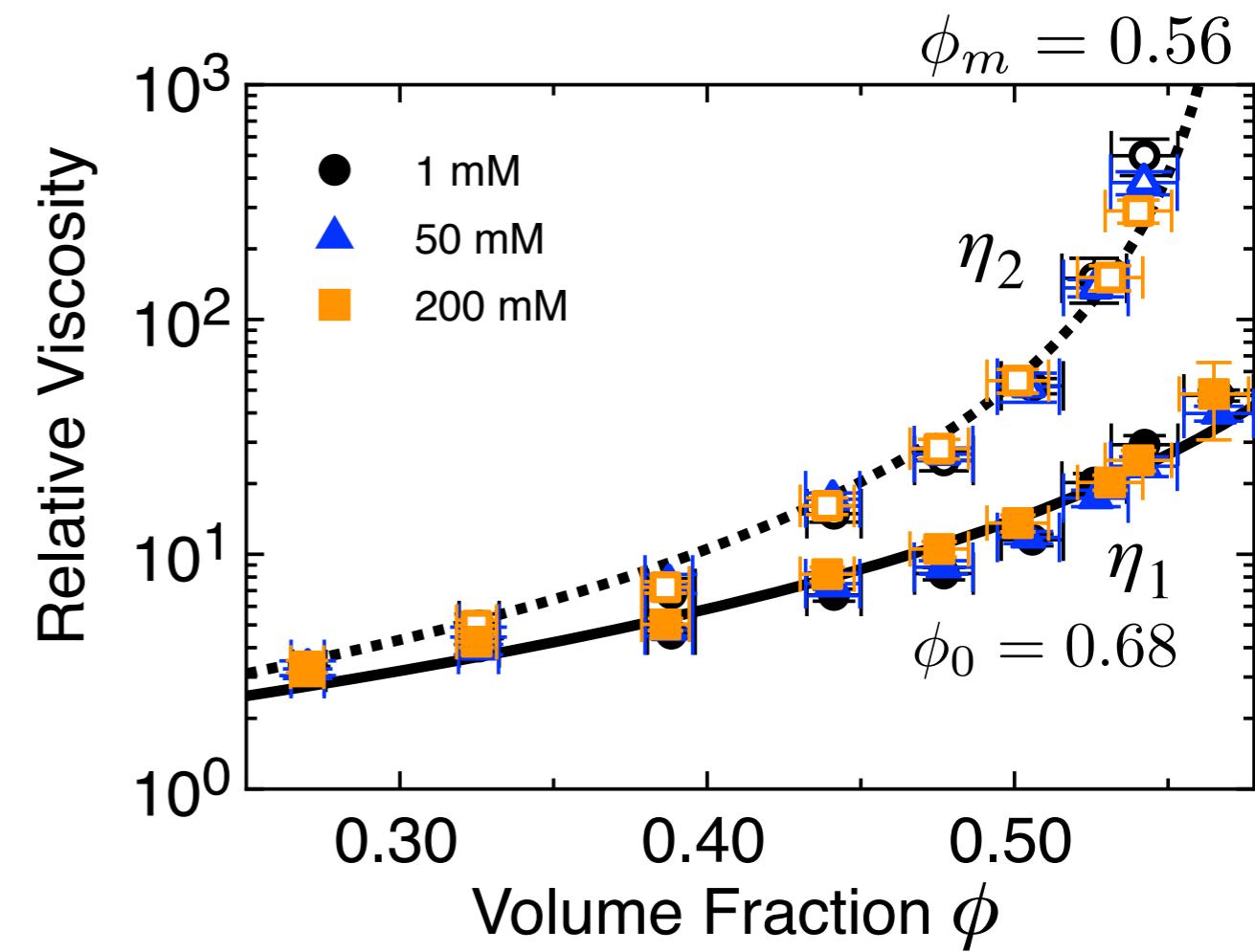
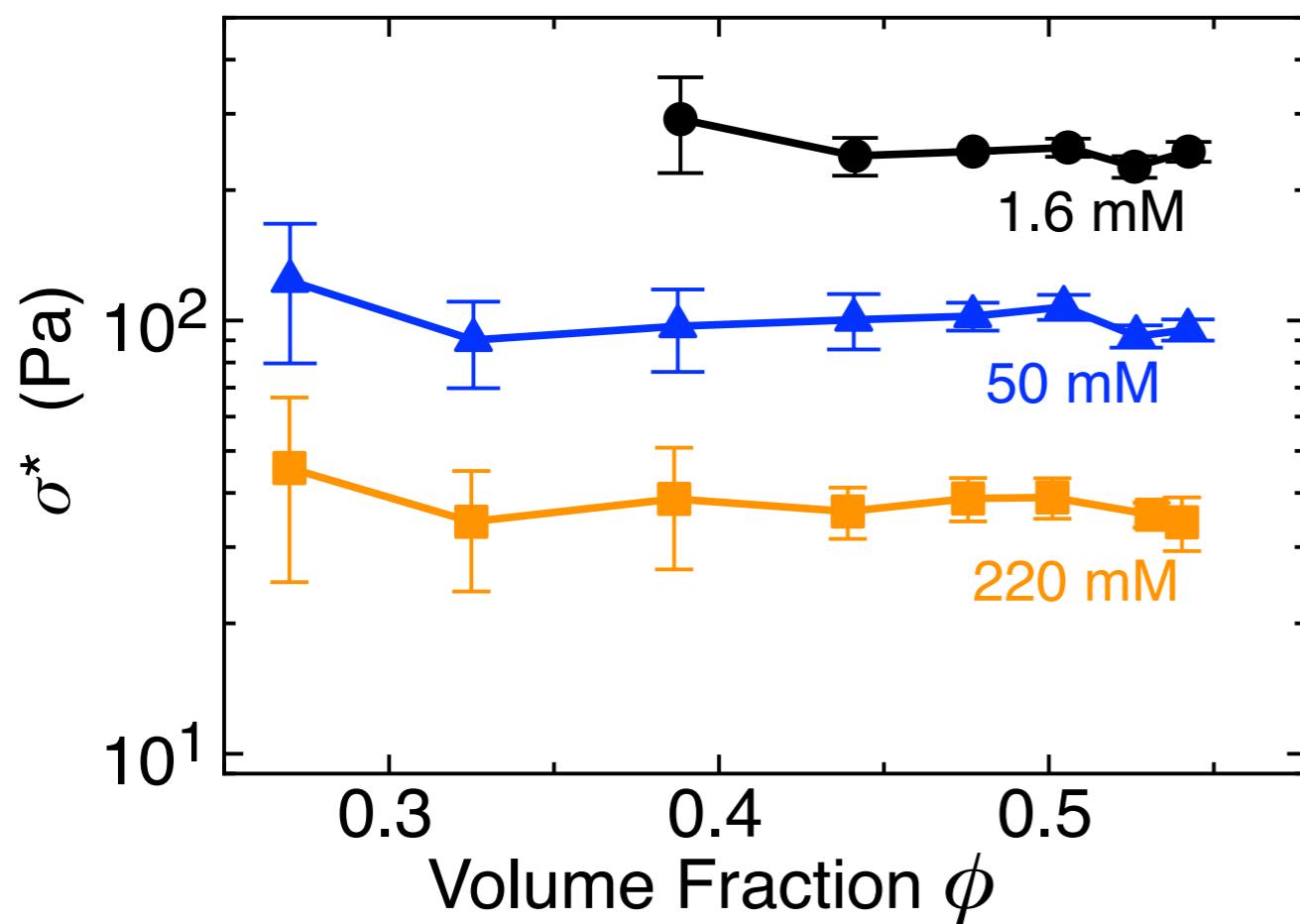
d=1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  Silica spheres in 85% w/w glycerol/water

# Shear thickening charge stabilised suspensions



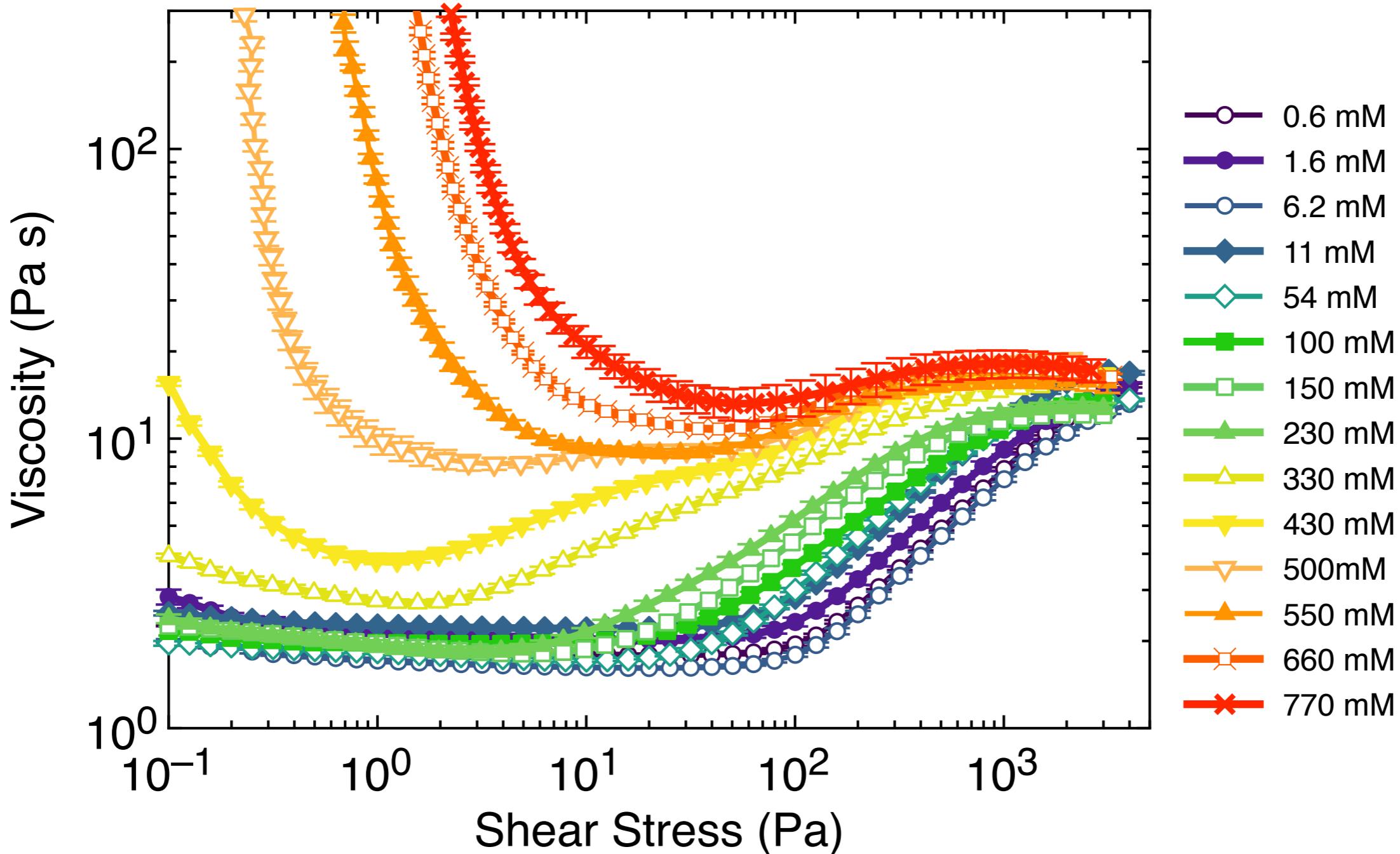
$d=1.5 \mu\text{m}$  Silica spheres in 85% w/w glycerol/water

# Shift in thickening onset, $\phi_m$ unchanged



# Further increasing salt concentration: thickening to yielding

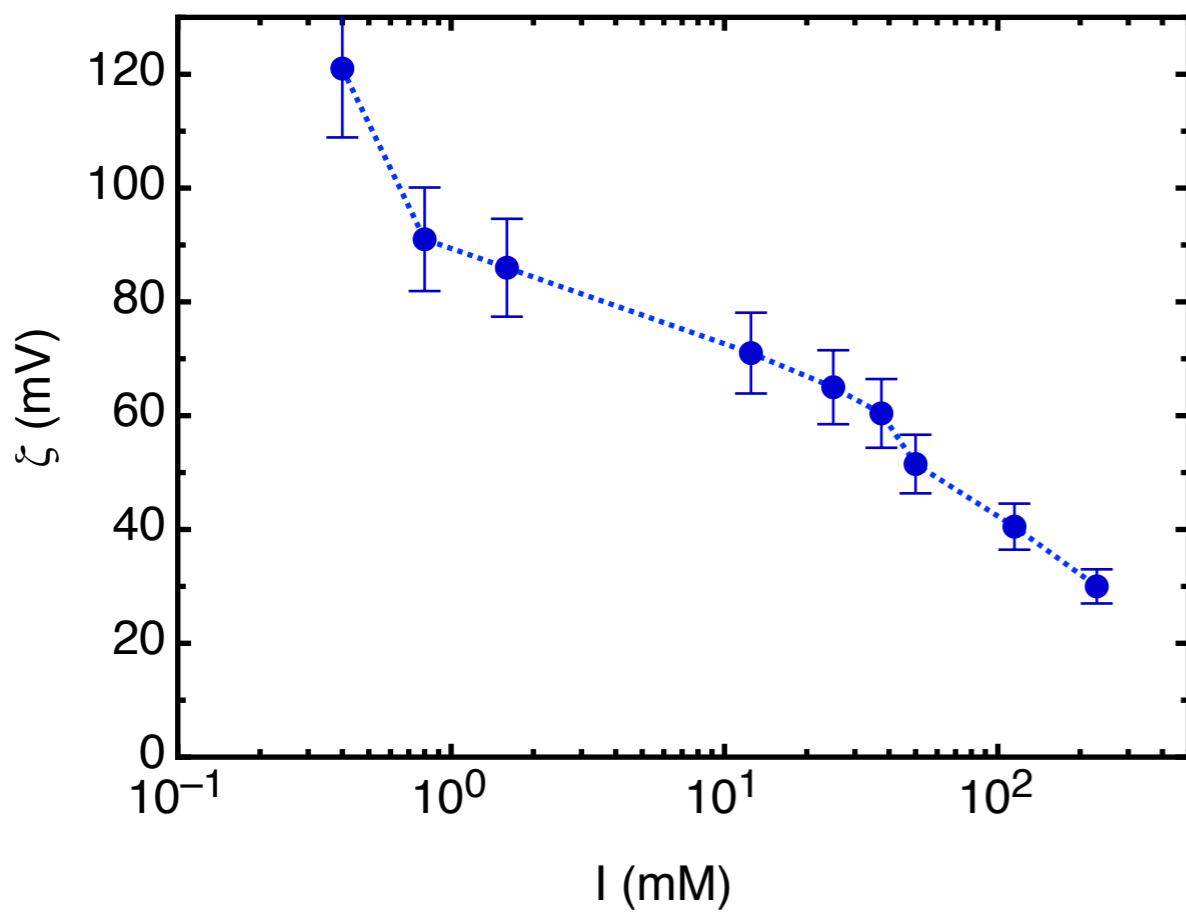
$\phi = 0.53$



# Simple picture of particle interactions

$$F_{DLVO} = \pi\epsilon\epsilon_0\psi^2(d/\lambda_D)e^{-h/\lambda_D} - \frac{A_H d}{6h^2}$$

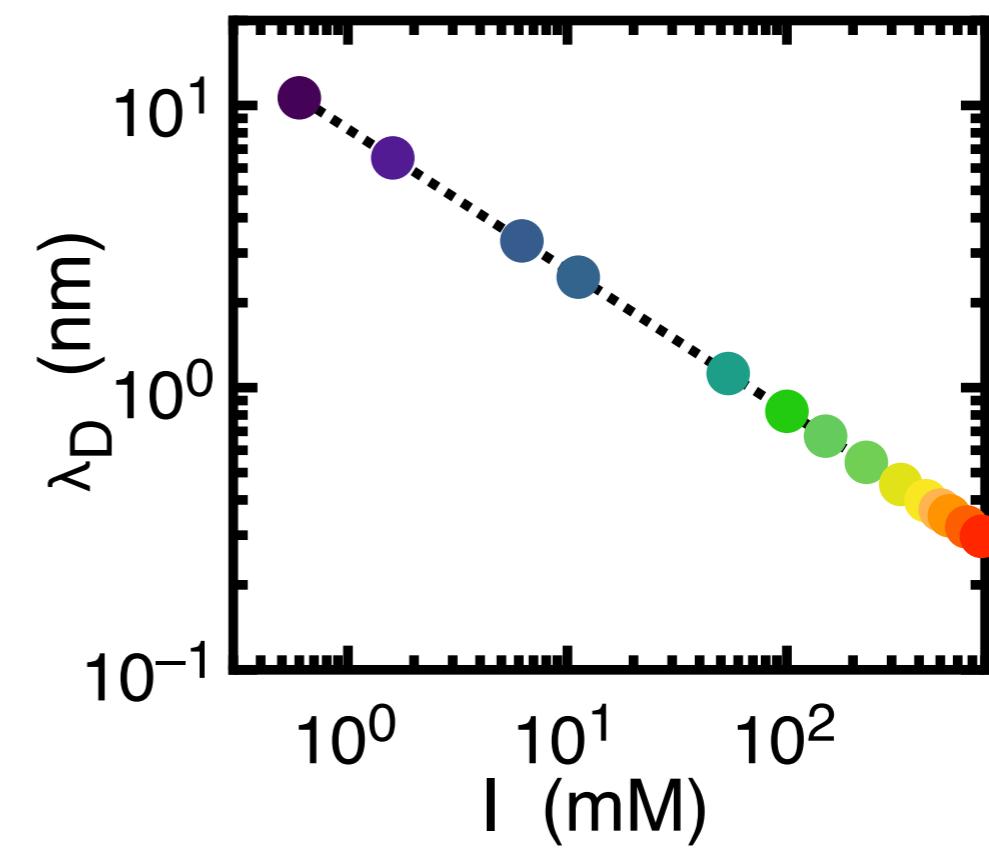
**measure zeta potential**



**calculate  $A_H$  from Lifshitz theory**

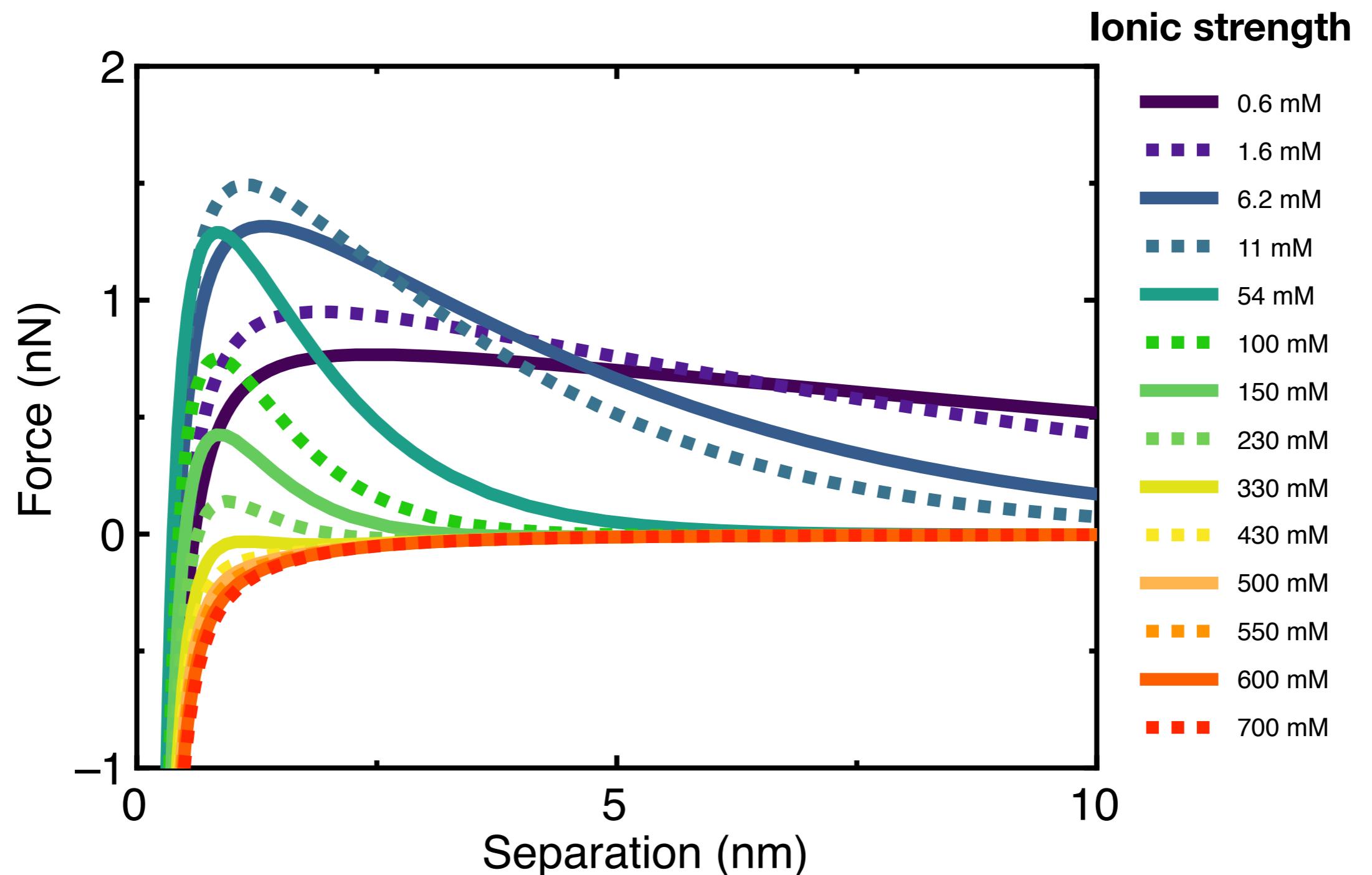
$$A_H \simeq 0.6k_B T$$

**calculate screening length  $\lambda_D$**

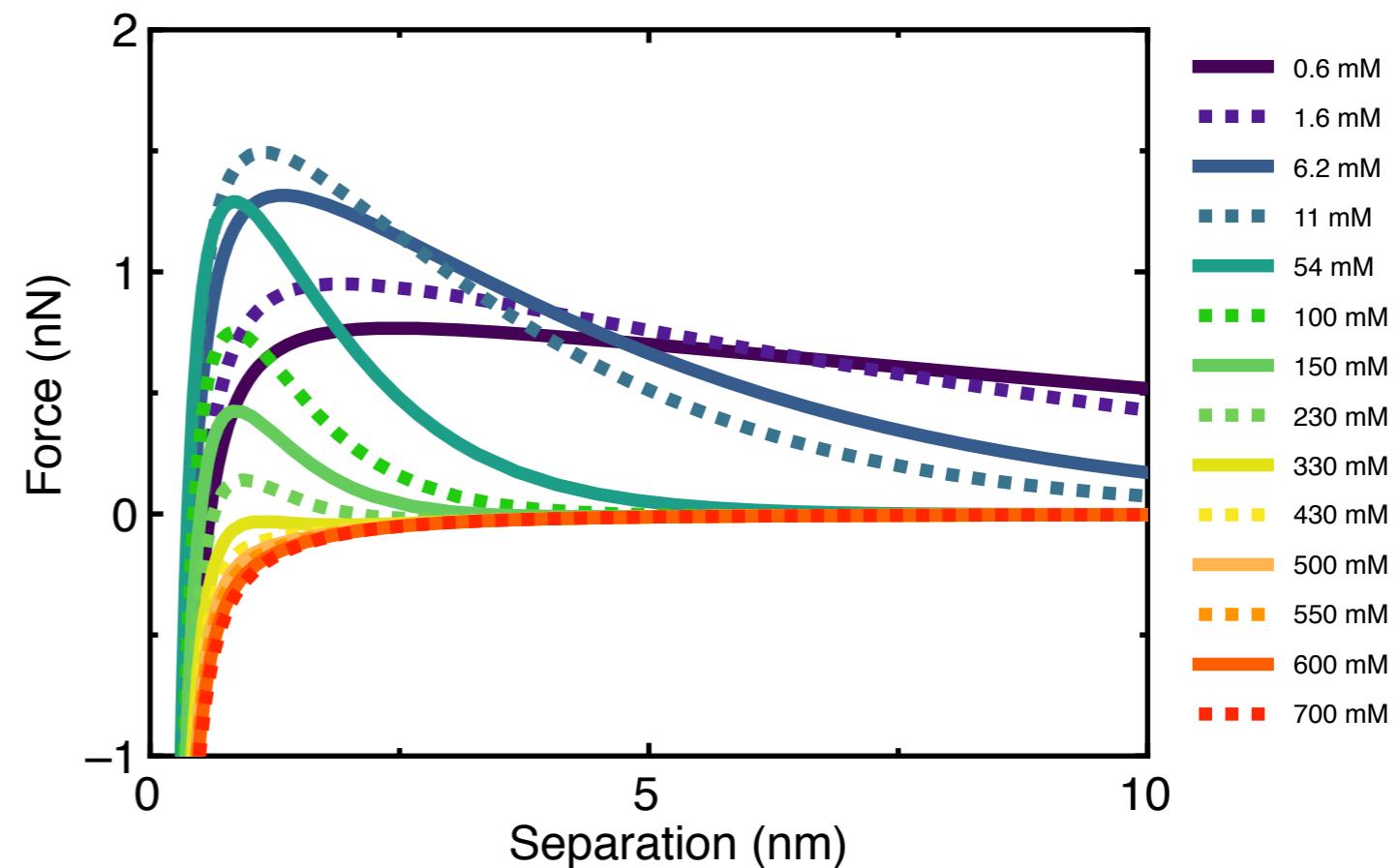
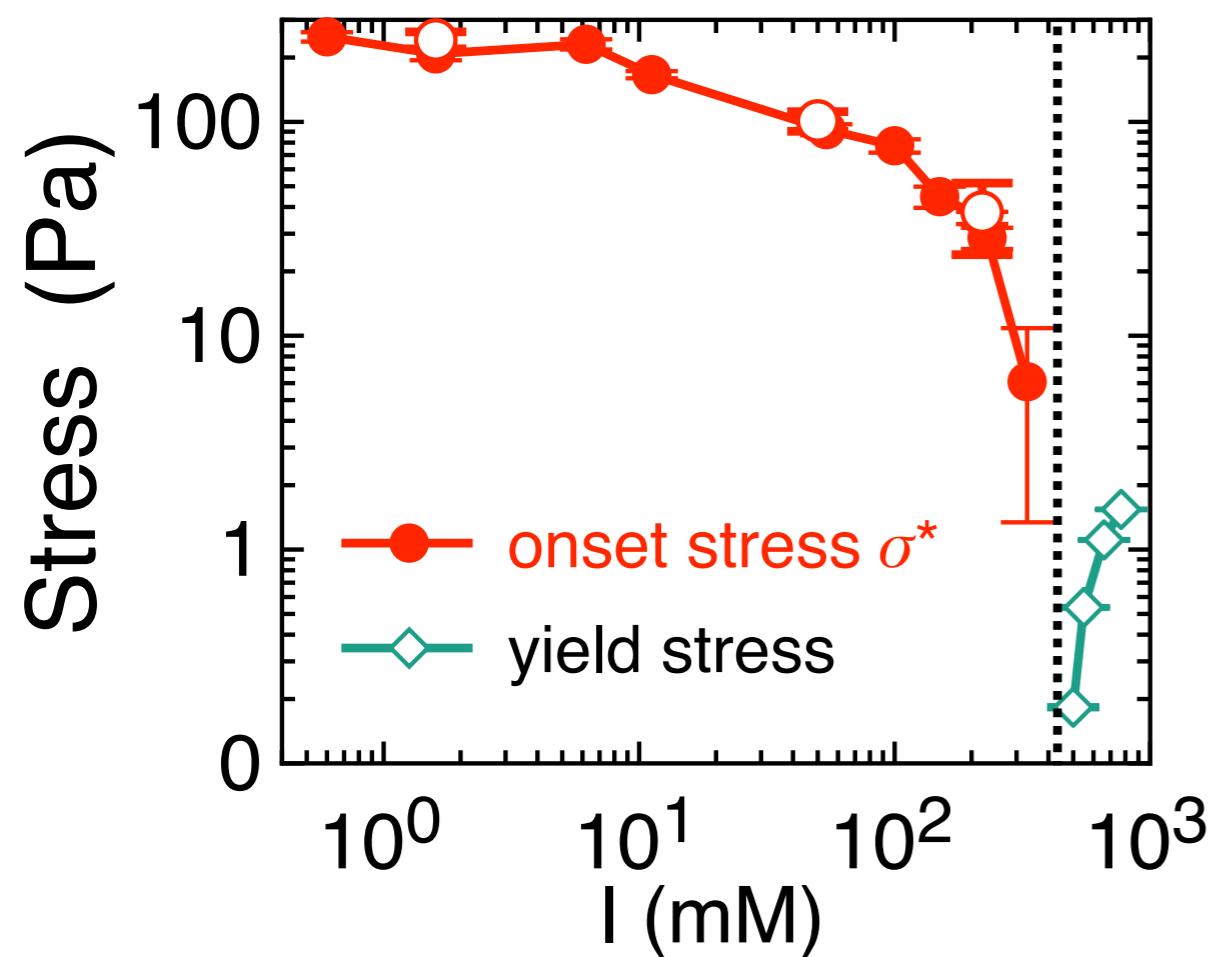


# Simple picture of particle interactions

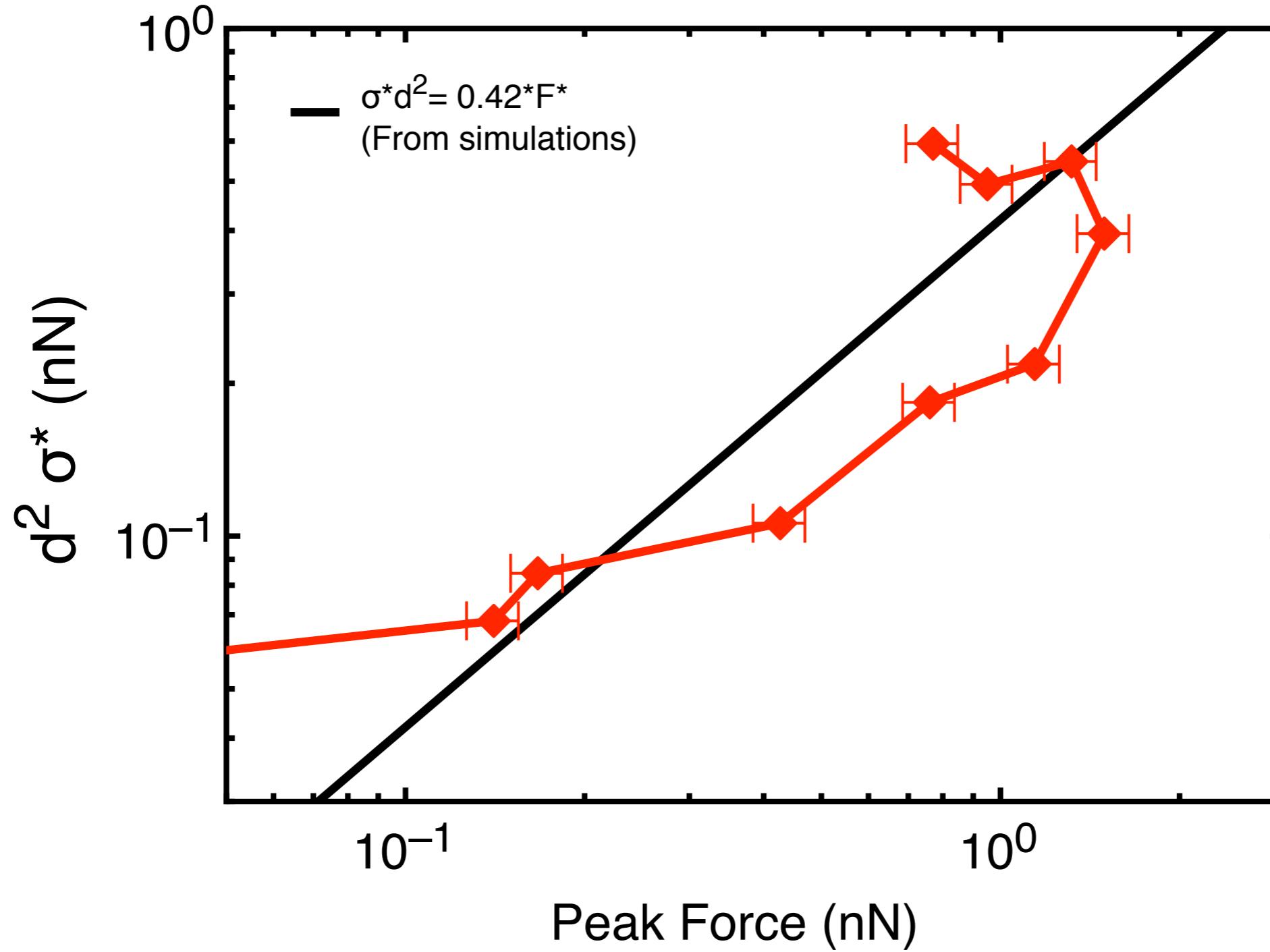
$$F_{DLVO} = \pi \epsilon \epsilon_0 \psi^2 (d/\lambda_D) e^{-h/\lambda_D} - \frac{A_H d}{6h^2}$$



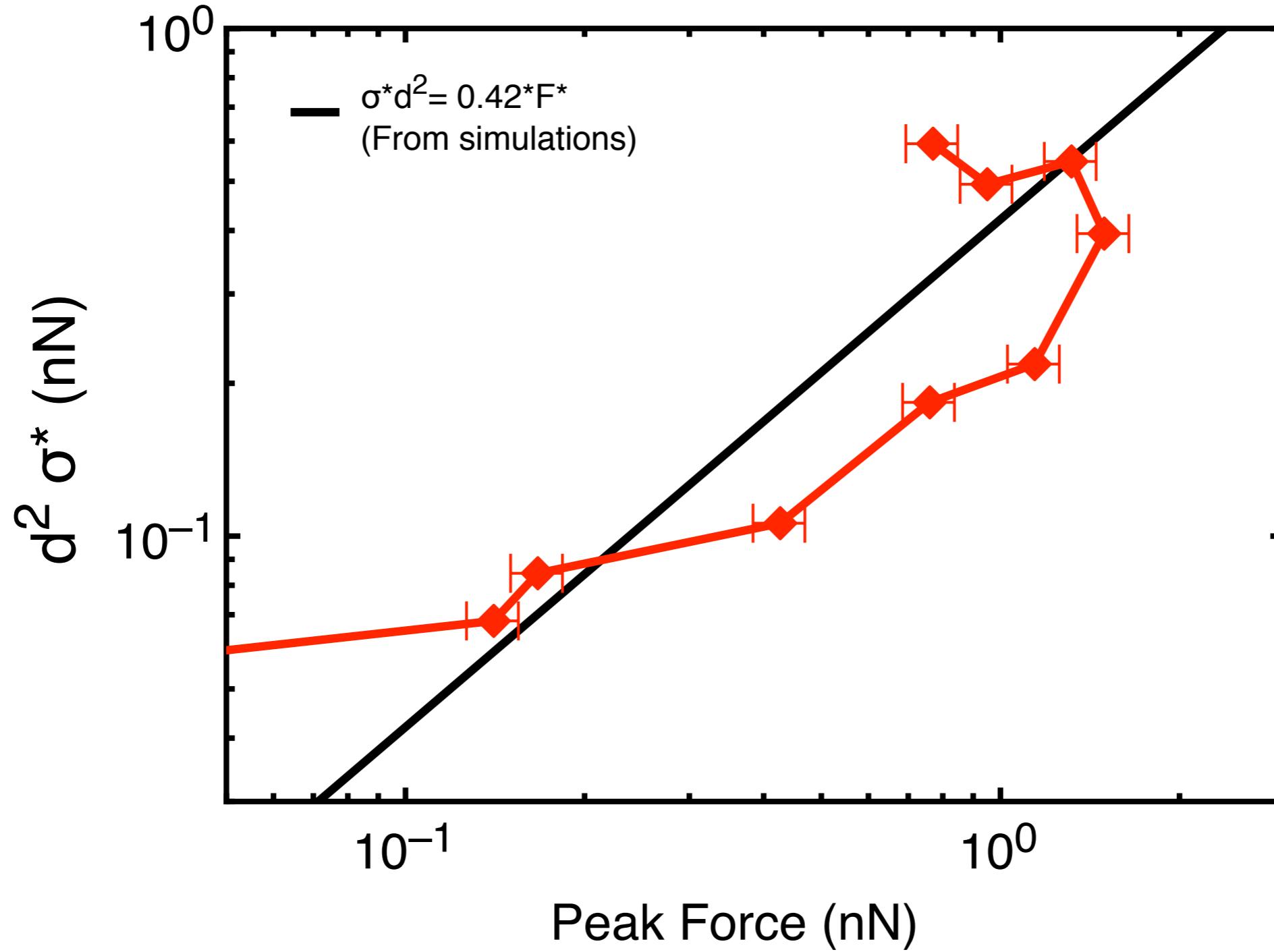
# Connect rheology to interactions?



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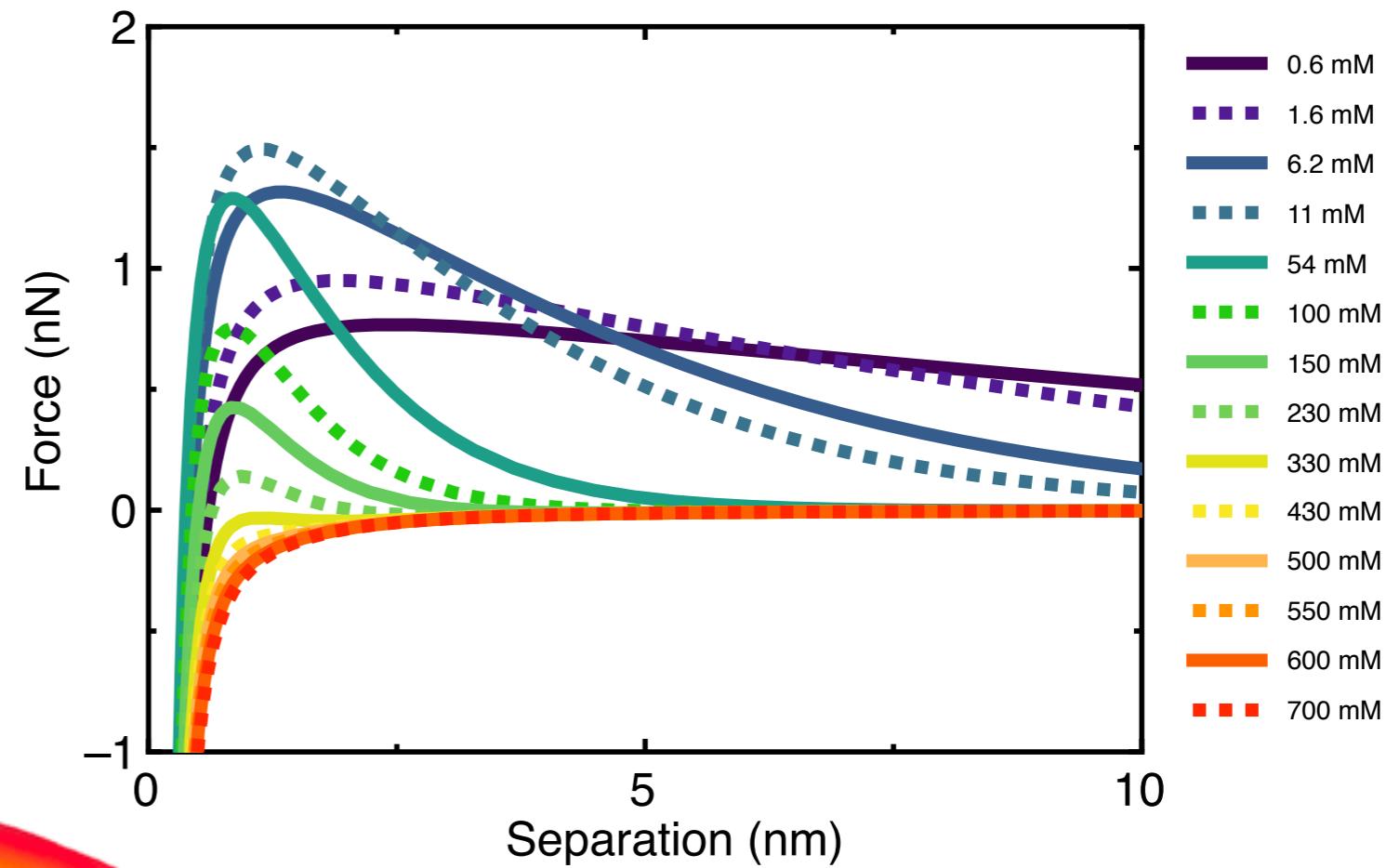
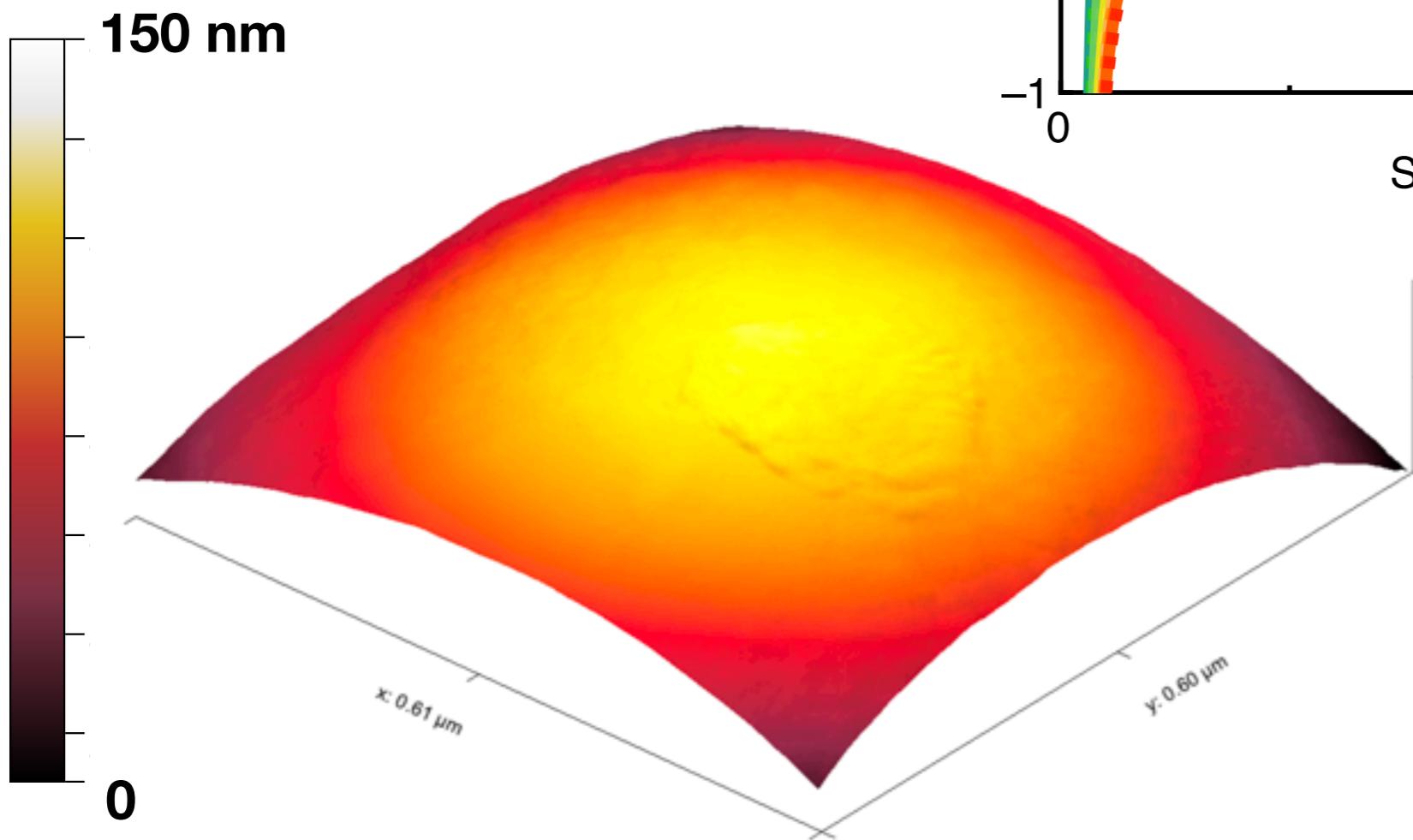


# Connect rheology to interactions?



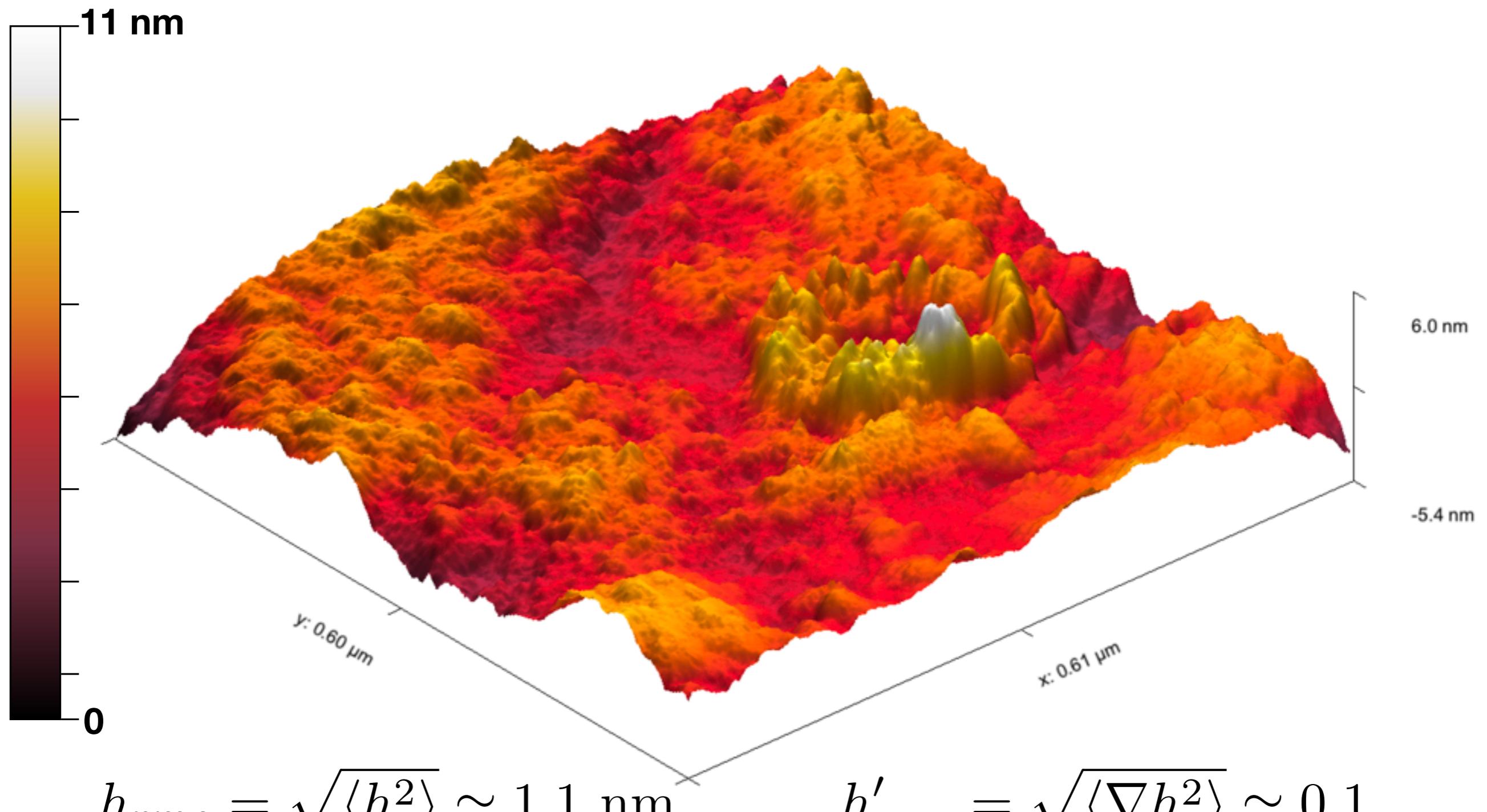
Ok agreement ... what about VdW minimum?

# DLVO: interactions for smooth spheres

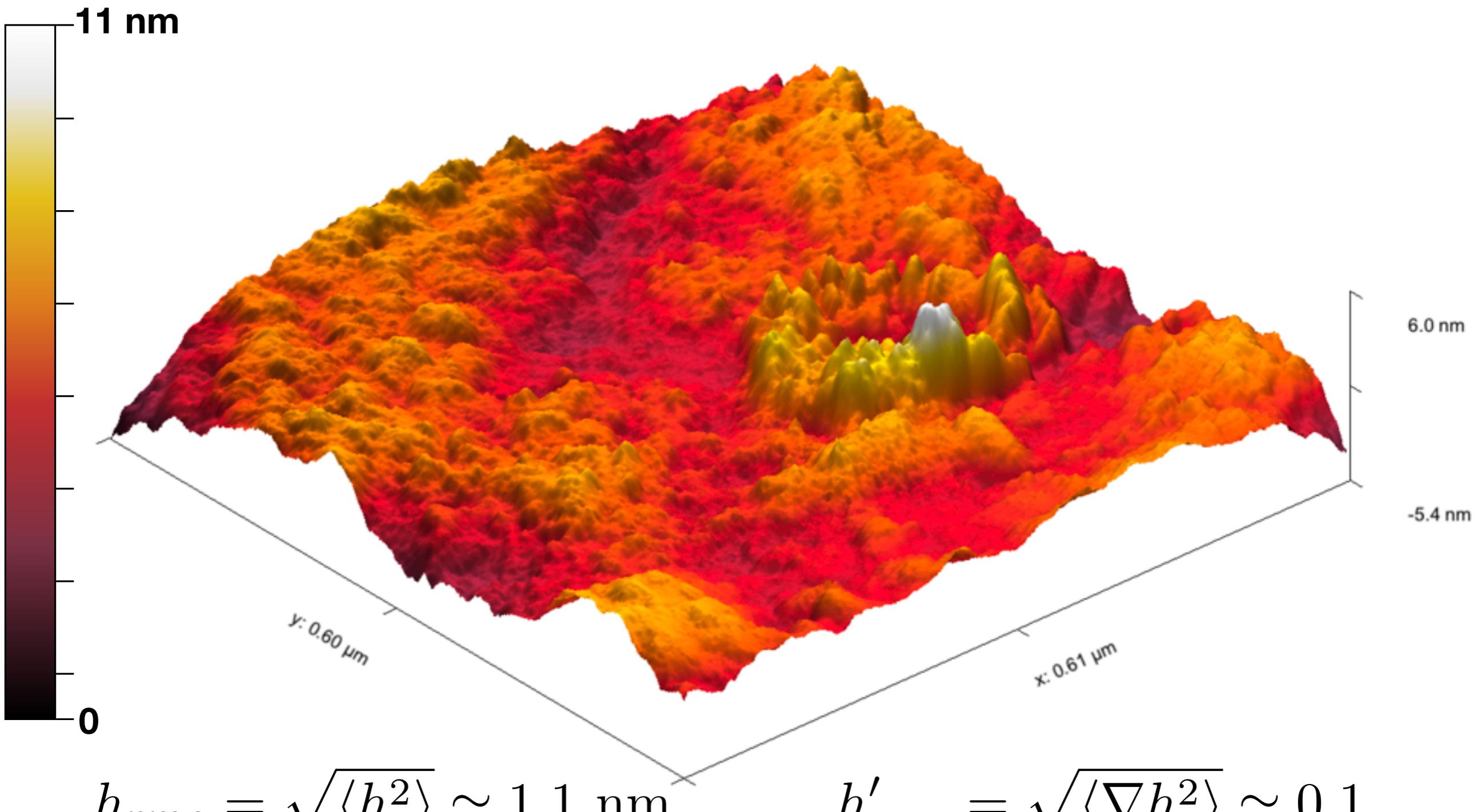


screening length  $\lambda_D$ , peak location: ~nm or below

# Our particles aren't smooth

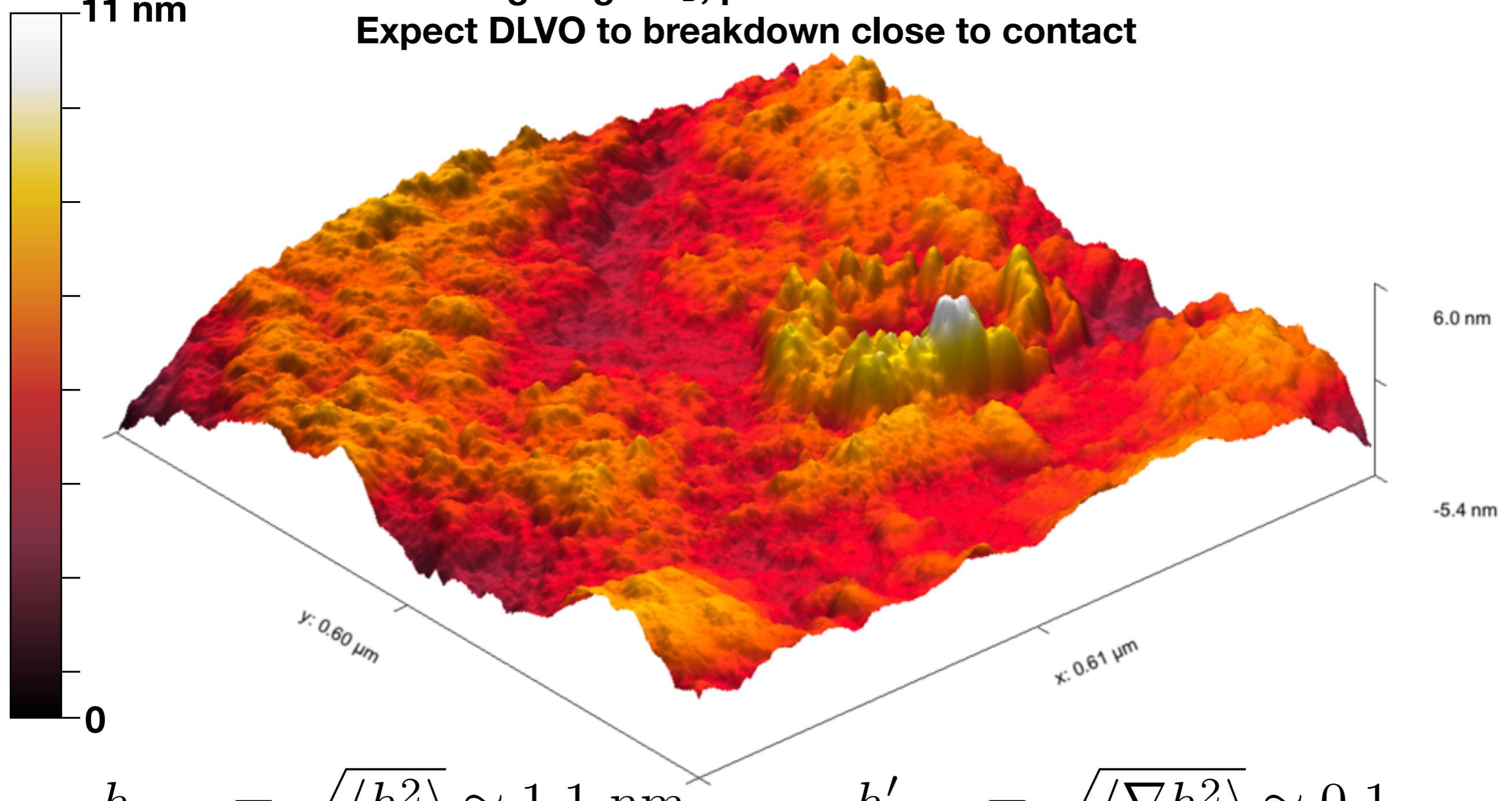


# Our particles aren't smooth (if you look close enough)

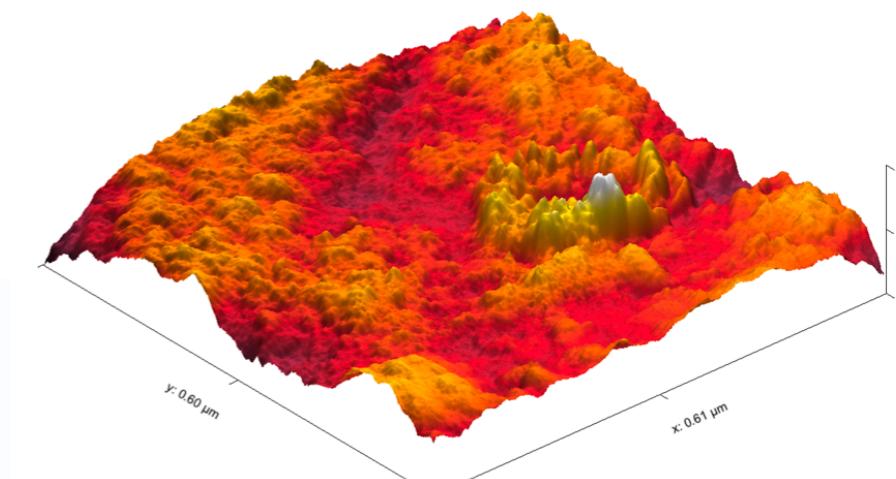
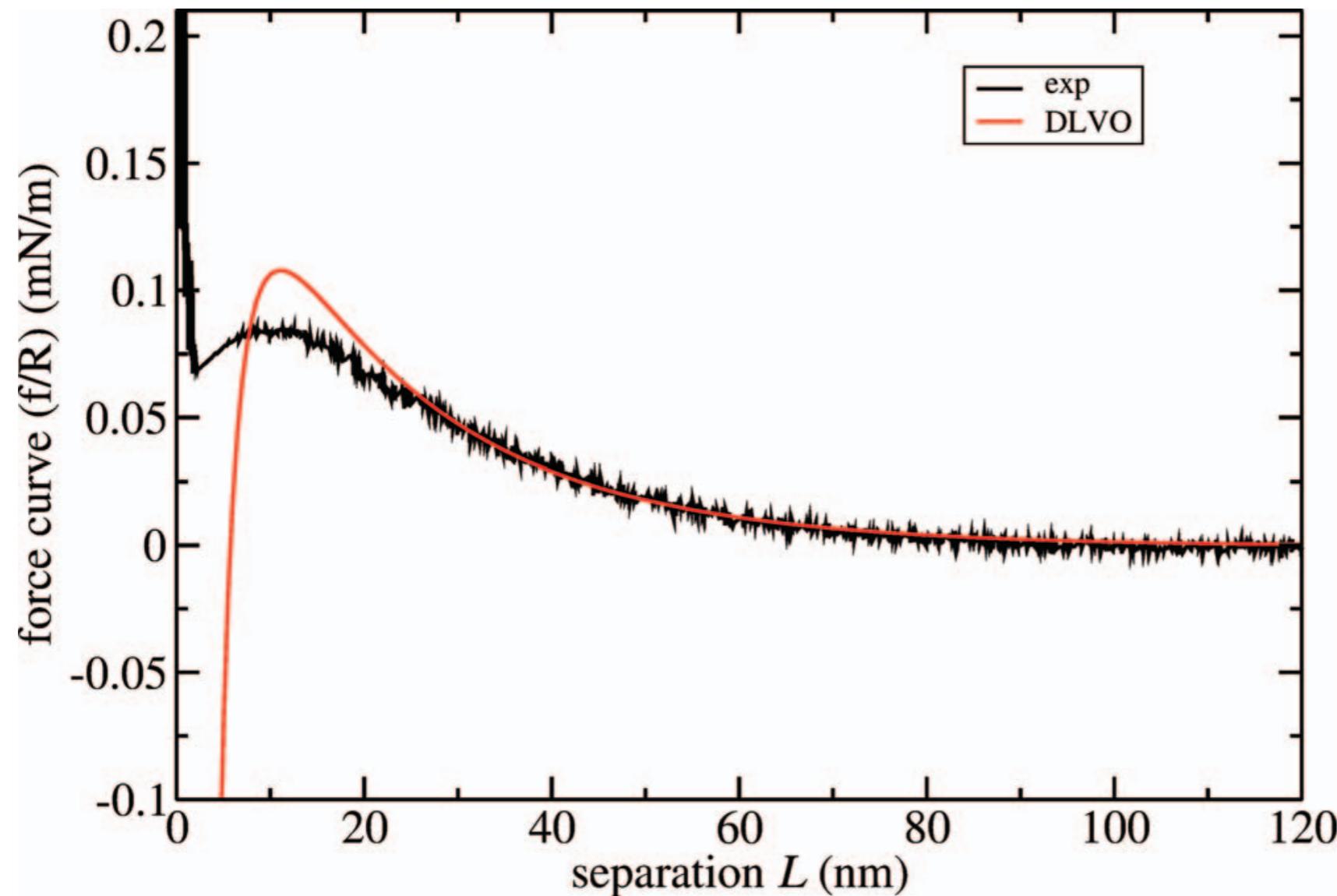


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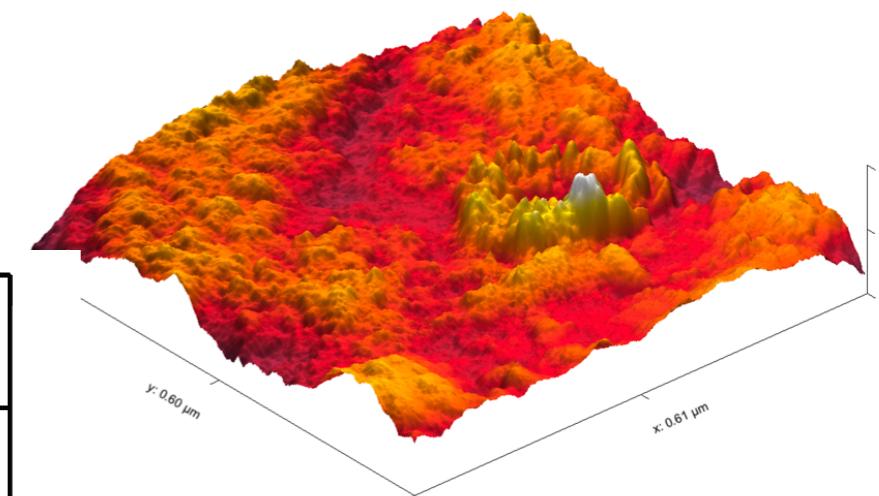
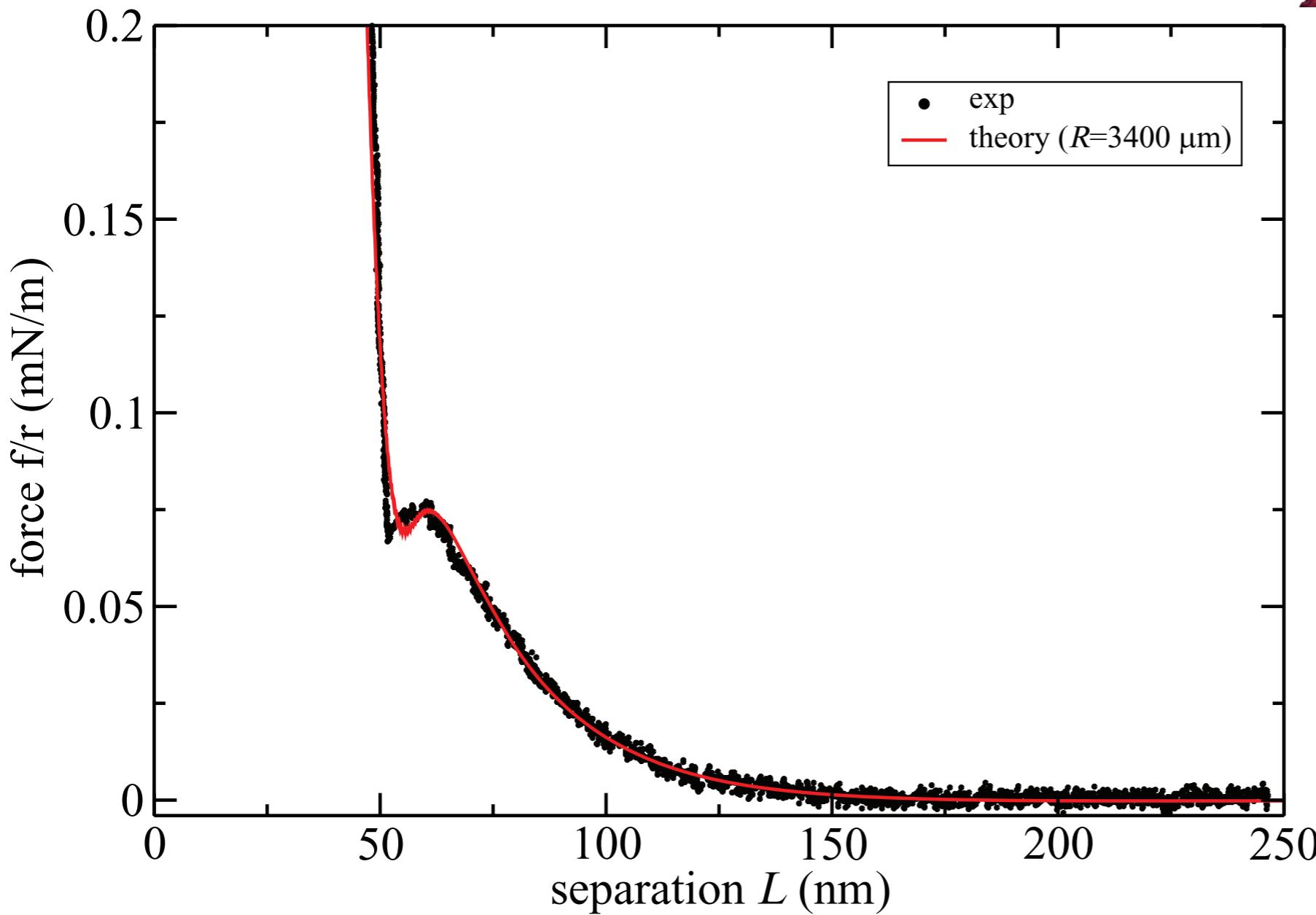
screening length  $\lambda_D$ , peak location: ~nm or below  
Expect DLVO to breakdown close to contact



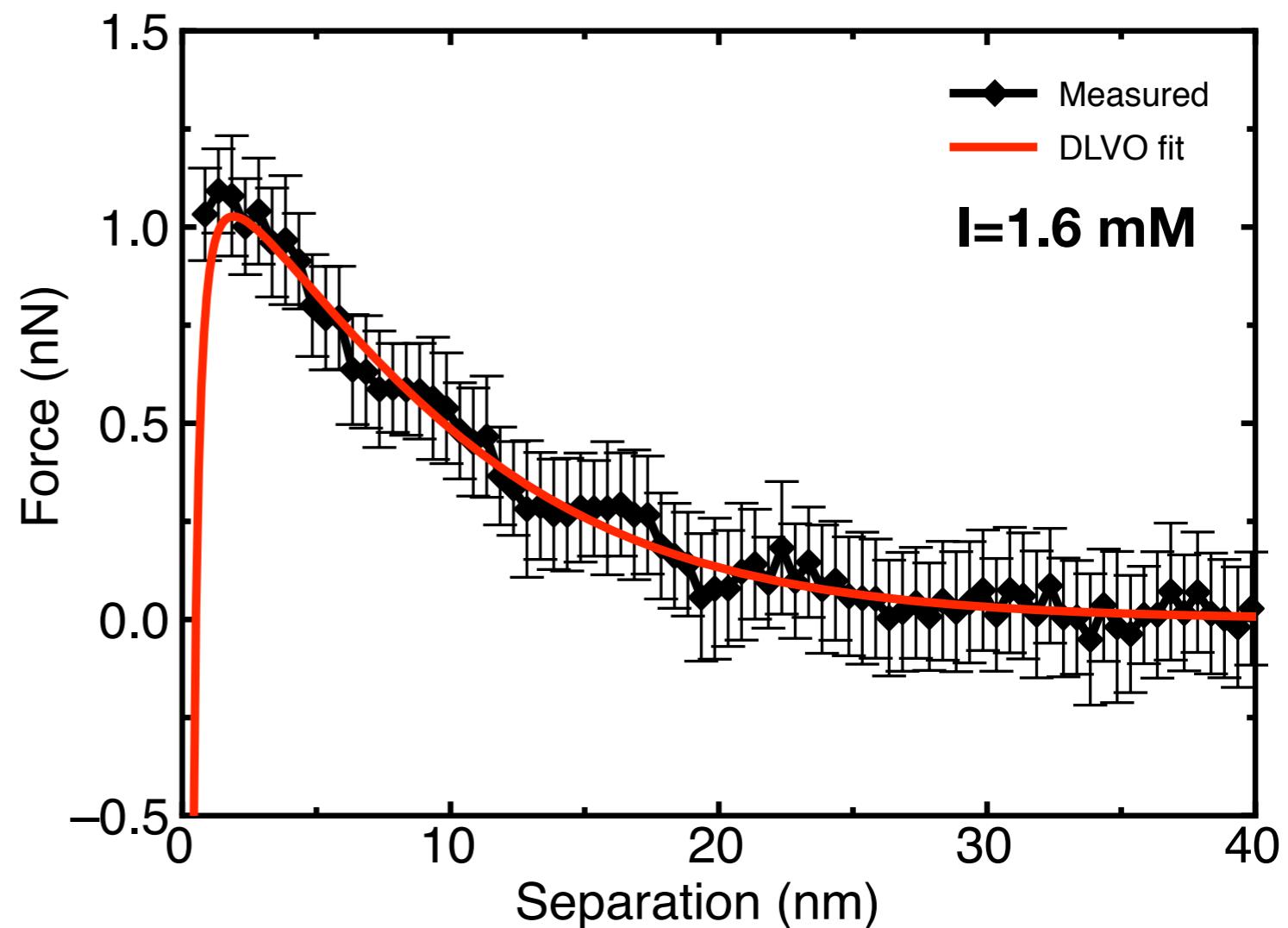
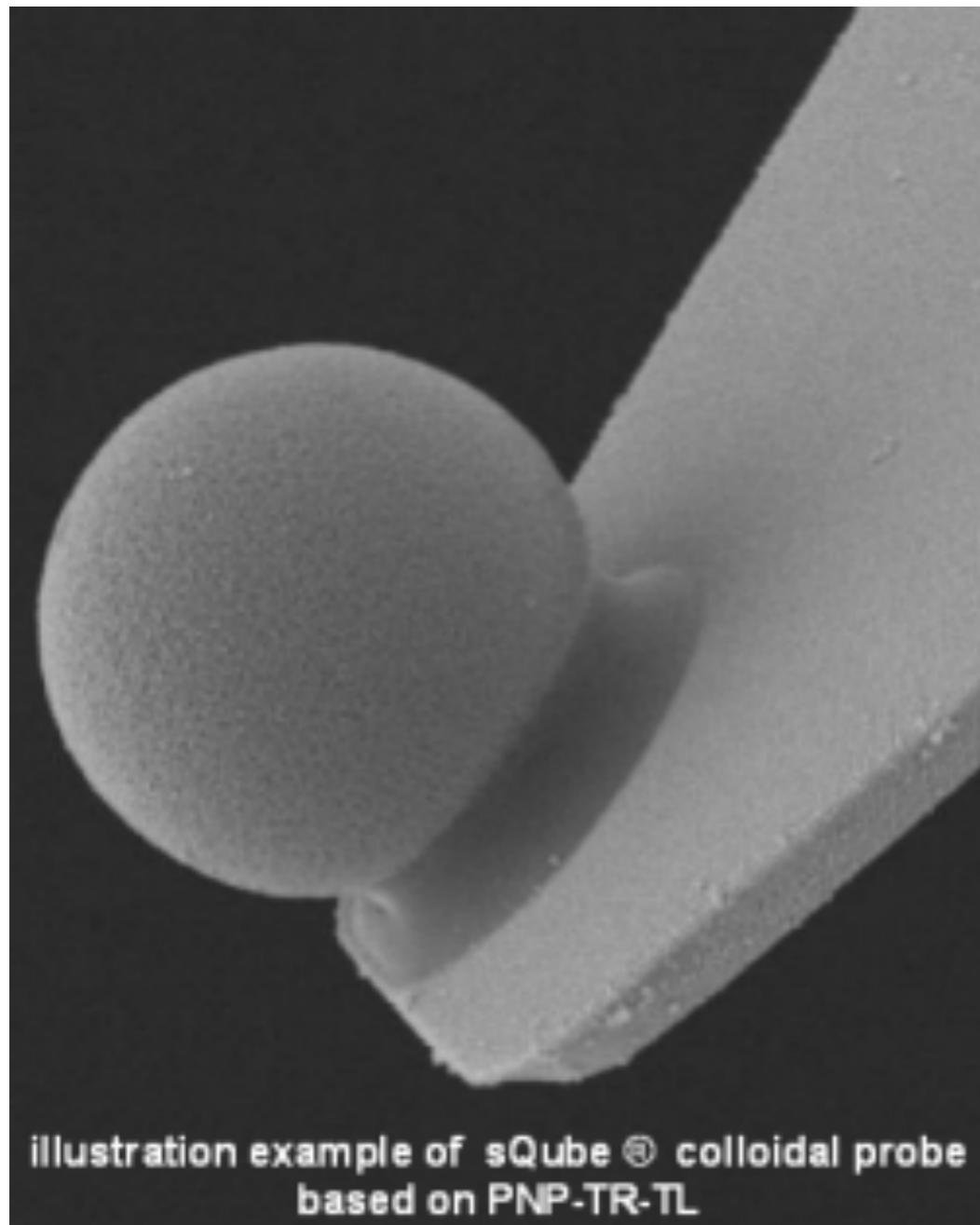
# Interaction model with roughness?



# Interaction model with roughness?



# Direct Force Measurements



# Conclusions

- Shear thickening onset controlled by repulsive particle interactions
- smooth particle interactions capture trend
- Shear thickening persists even as repulsive length scales approach surface roughness
- $\phi_m$ , and hence  $\mu$ , unchanged by interaction details
- Need for particle contact model incorporating roughness

