

# Optimizing rheology for paint and coating applications



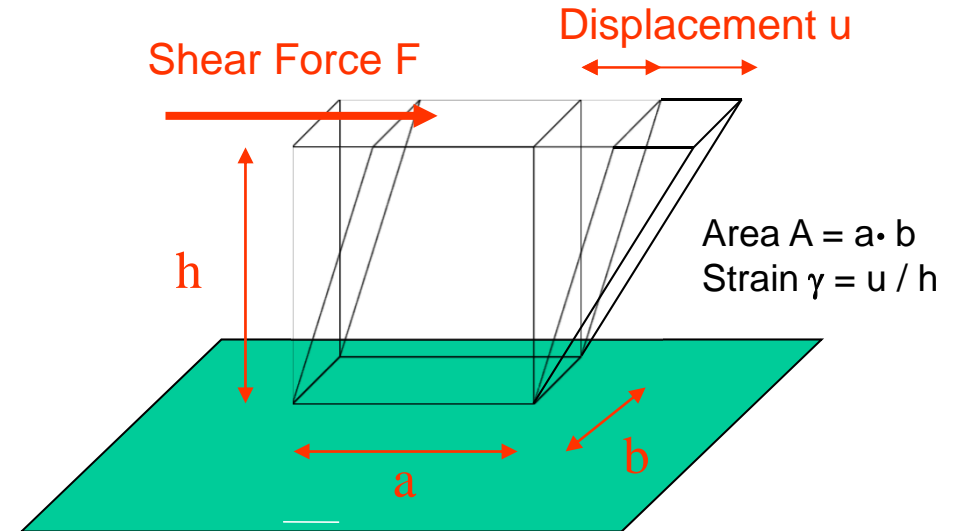
Torsten Remmler, Malvern Instruments GmbH

# Outline

- › Typical Process Conditions for Paints and Coatings
- › How to measure the Viscosity?
- › Impact of Particle Properties: Size, Volume, Polydispersity
- › Storage Stability
- › Summary

# Shear Flow Properties: Overview of Basic Terms

- › Temperature
- › Pressure
- › Shear Rate (Speed)
- › Shear Stress (Force)
- › Time



Dynamic Shear Viscosity\*:

$$\eta (T, p, t, \dot{\gamma}) = \frac{\sigma}{\dot{\gamma}}$$

Unit:  $[\eta] = 1 \text{ Pas}$

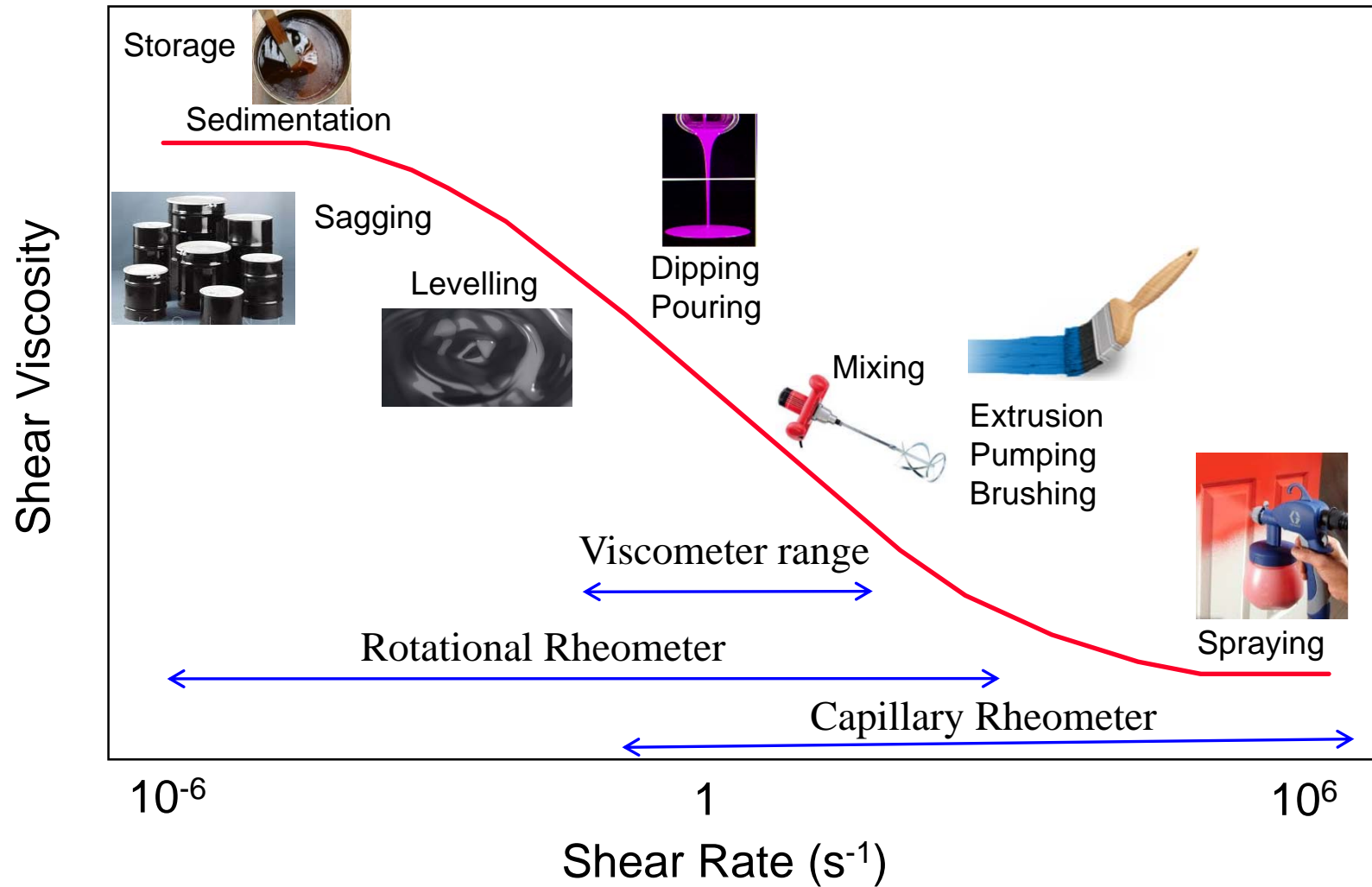
$$\dot{\gamma} = \frac{d\gamma}{dt}$$

Shear rate [1/s]

$$\sigma = \frac{F_{\text{tan}}}{A}$$

Shear stress [Pa=N/m<sup>2</sup>]

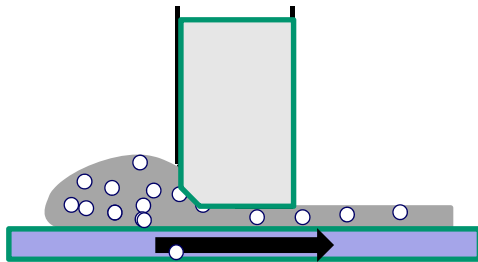
# Typical Shear Rate Ranges for Paints and Coatings



# How to calculate the Shear Rates?

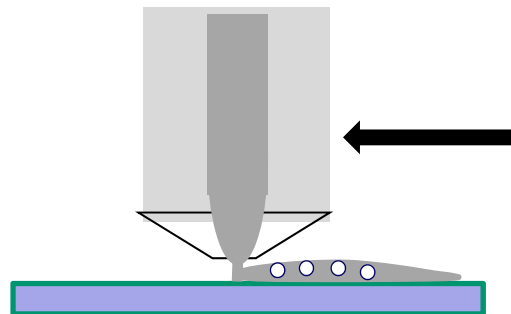


Blade Coating,  
Brushing



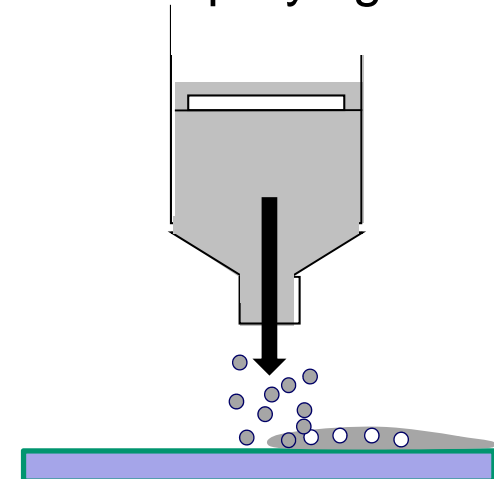
$$\dot{\gamma} = \frac{v}{h}$$

Slot Die Coating



$$\dot{\gamma}_{\text{app}} = \frac{6 \cdot Q}{b h^2}$$

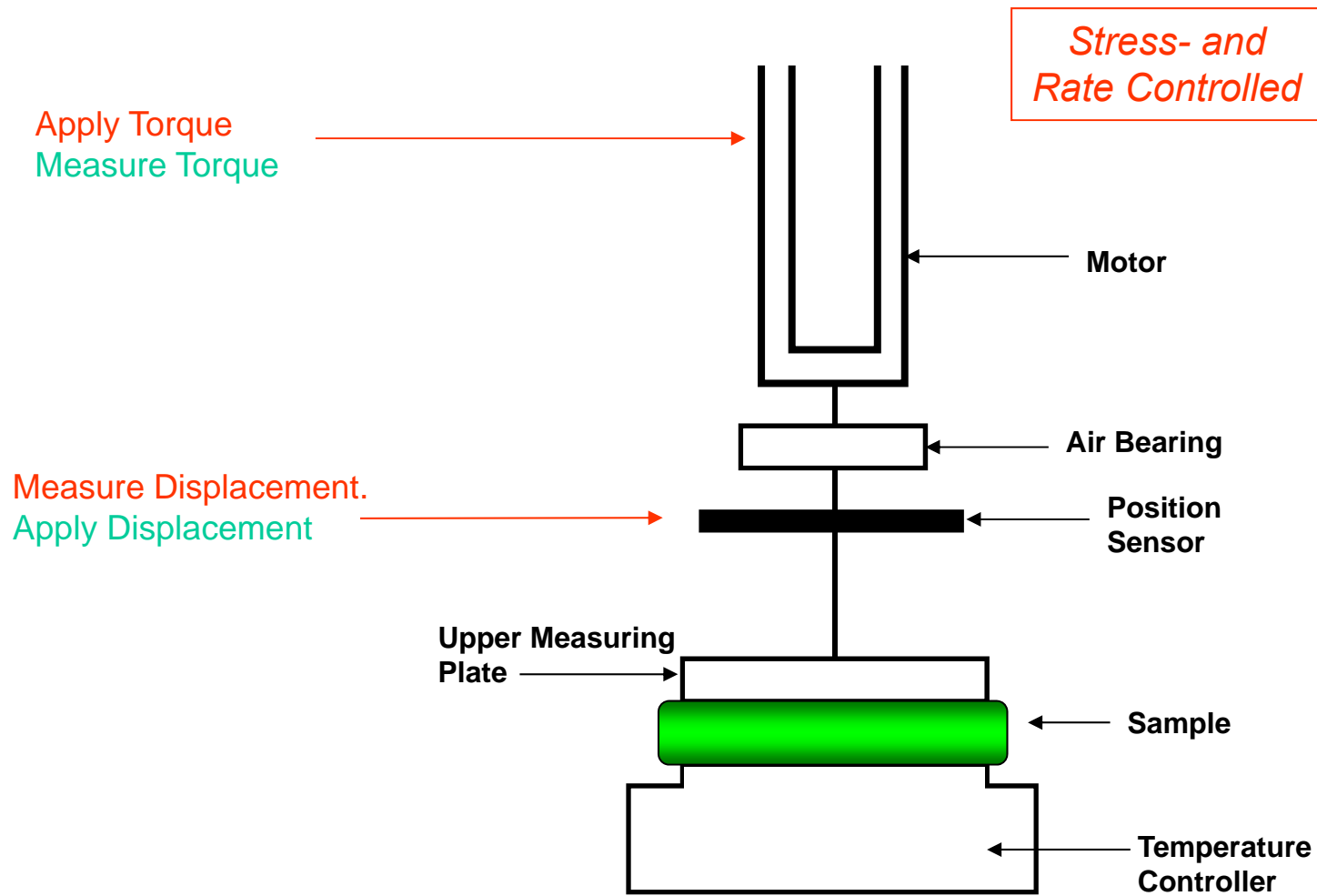
Spraying



$$\dot{\gamma}_{\text{app}} = \frac{4 \cdot Q}{\pi R^3}$$

$Q$  = Volume Flux,  $R$  = Die Radius,  $L$  = Die Length,  $b$  = Slot Width  
 $h$  = Slot Height,  $v$  = Velocity,  $h$  = Wet Layer Thickness

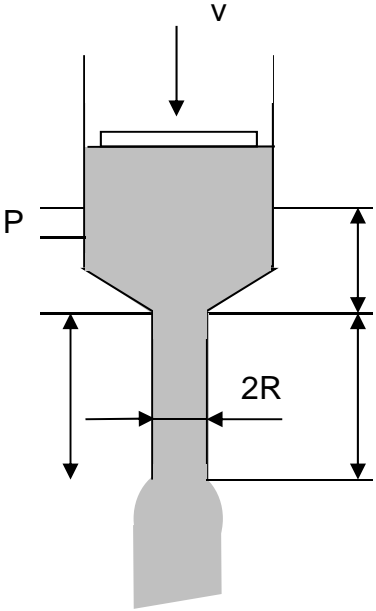
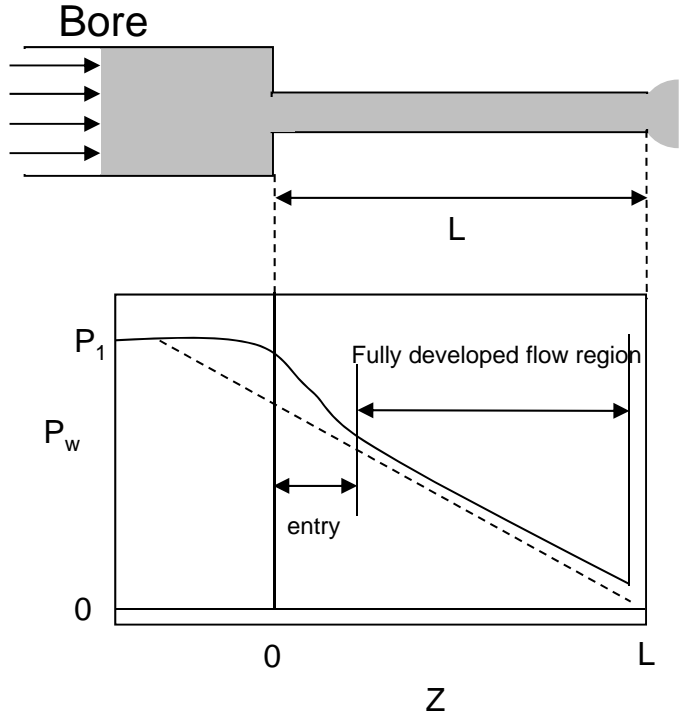
# Principle of Operation: Rotational Rheometer



kinexus

# Principle of Operation: Capillary Rheometer

Given quantity: piston speed  $\Rightarrow$  wall shear rate  
 Measured quantity: pressure drop  $\Rightarrow$  wall shear stress



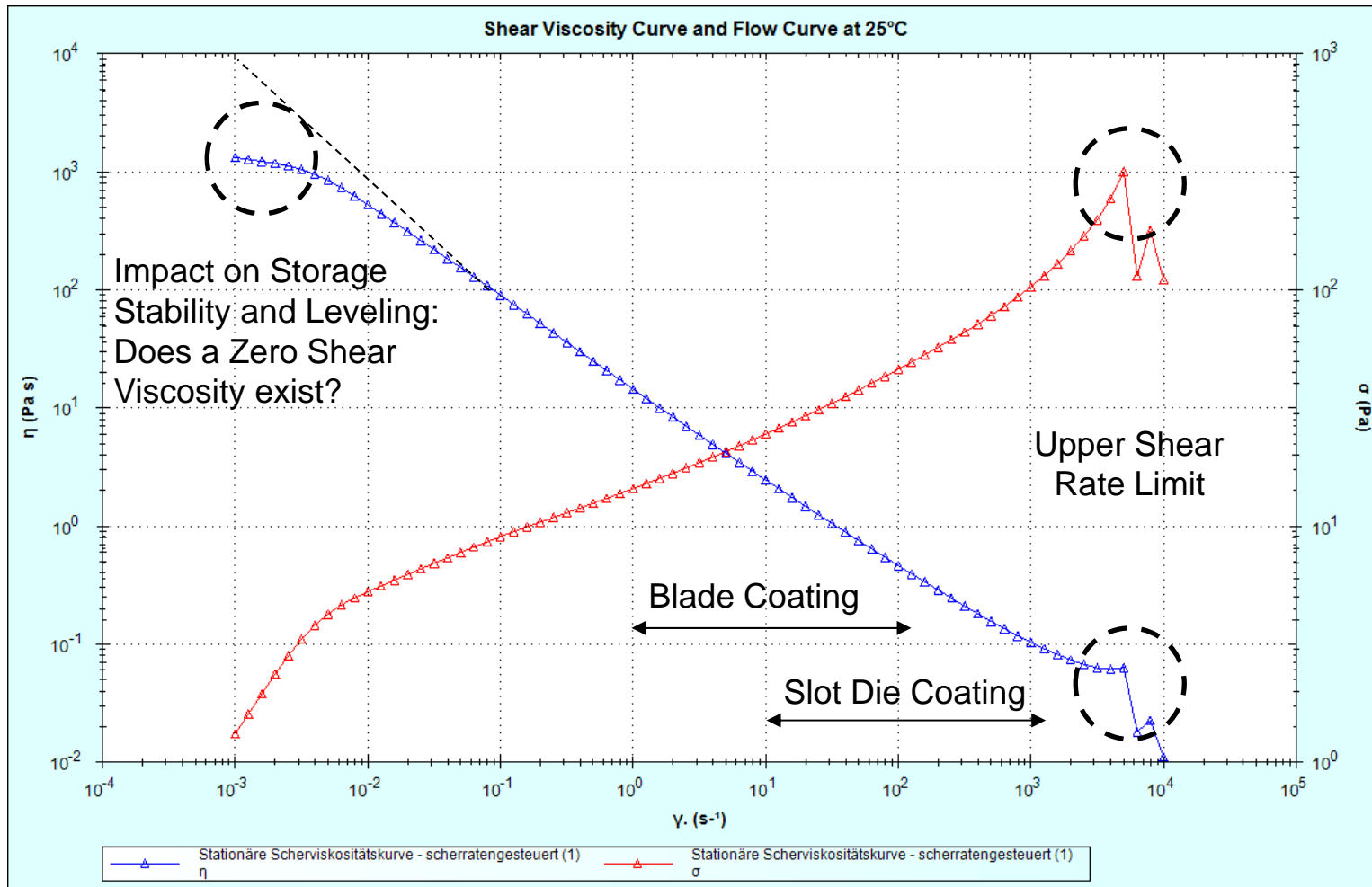
Full pressure drop  
 =  
 Entrance pressure drop  
 +  
 Shear pressure drop



Malvern RH2000

[www.malvern.com](http://www.malvern.com)

# Interpretation of Shear Viscosity Curves of Coatings



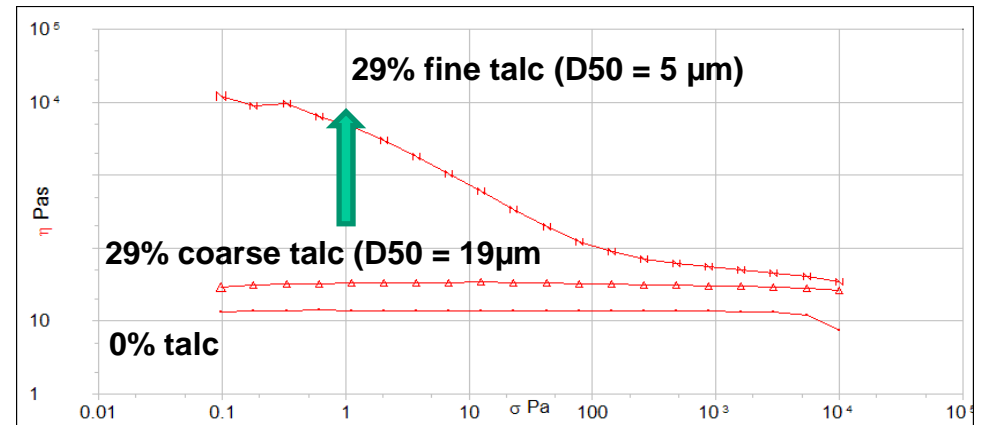
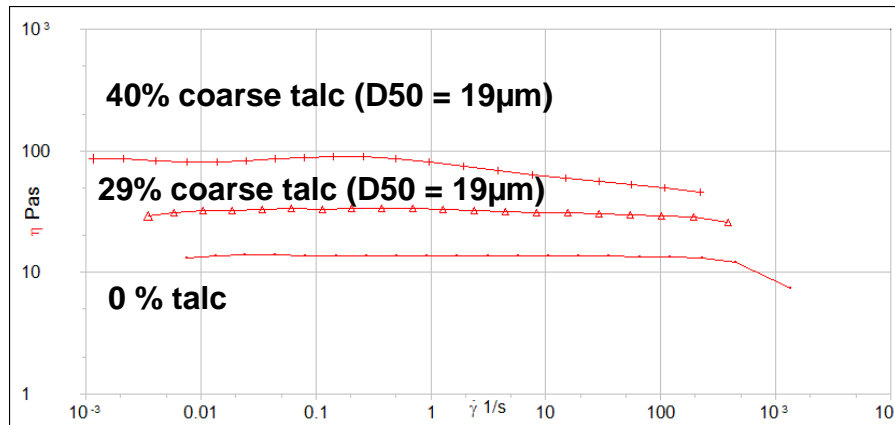
⇒ Low Shear Data needed for Stability Analysis

⇒ High Shear Limit: Stress must not drop with increasing Shear Rate



# Optimizing Rheology of Coatings:

## 1. Impact of Adding Coarse or Fine Particles

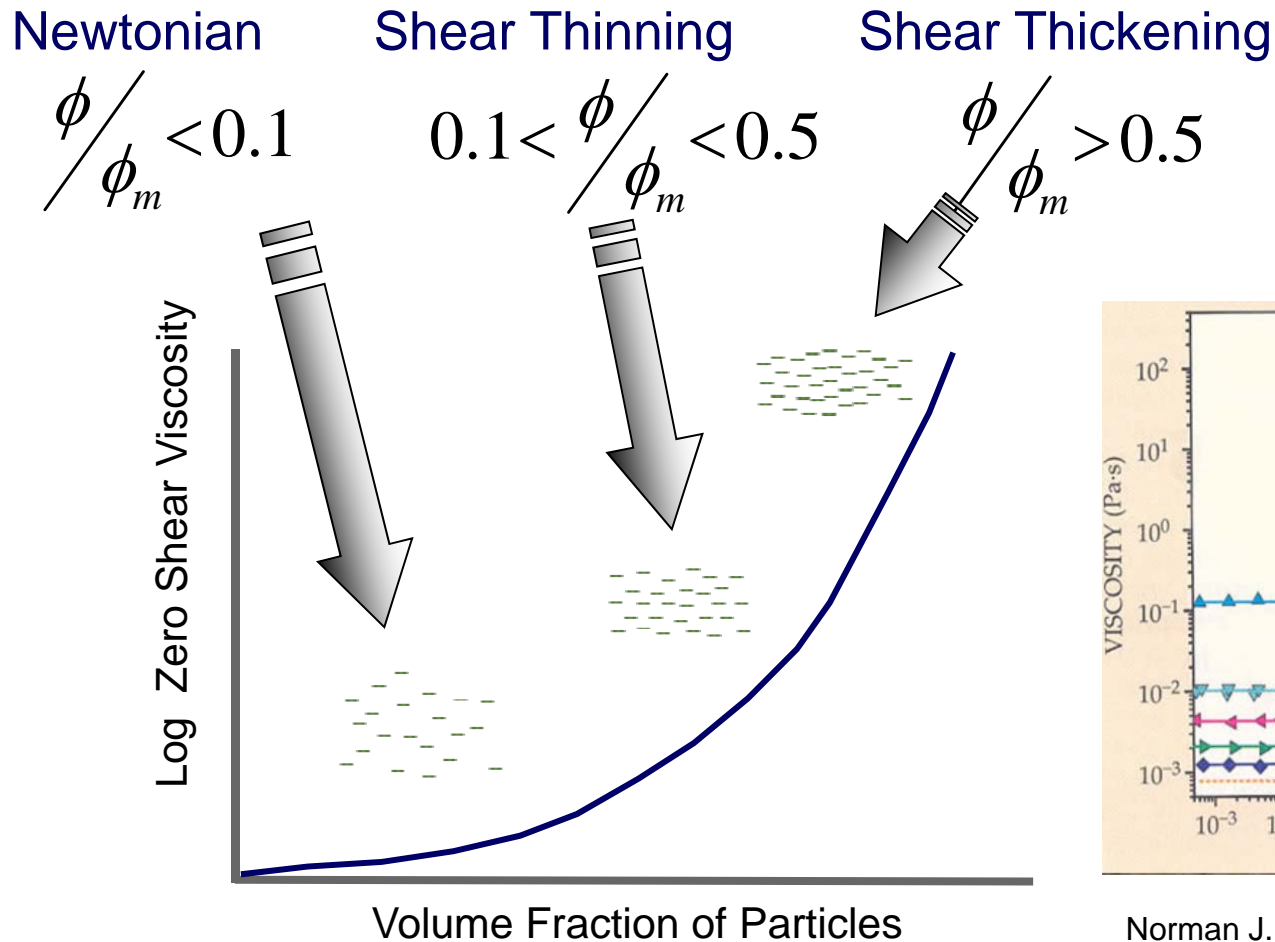


- Small particles increase the low shear viscosity, as they have more surface area which gives more electrostatic and inter-particle forces.
- Note that the viscosity is almost independent of particle size at higher shear rates, as here hydrodynamic forces dominate

# Optimizing Rheology for Coatings:

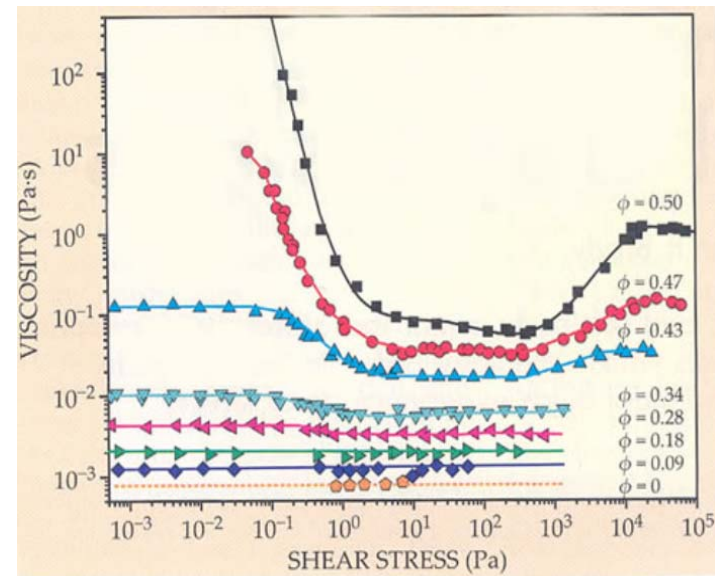
## 2. Impact of Particle Loading

› Changing the volume fraction of the particles....



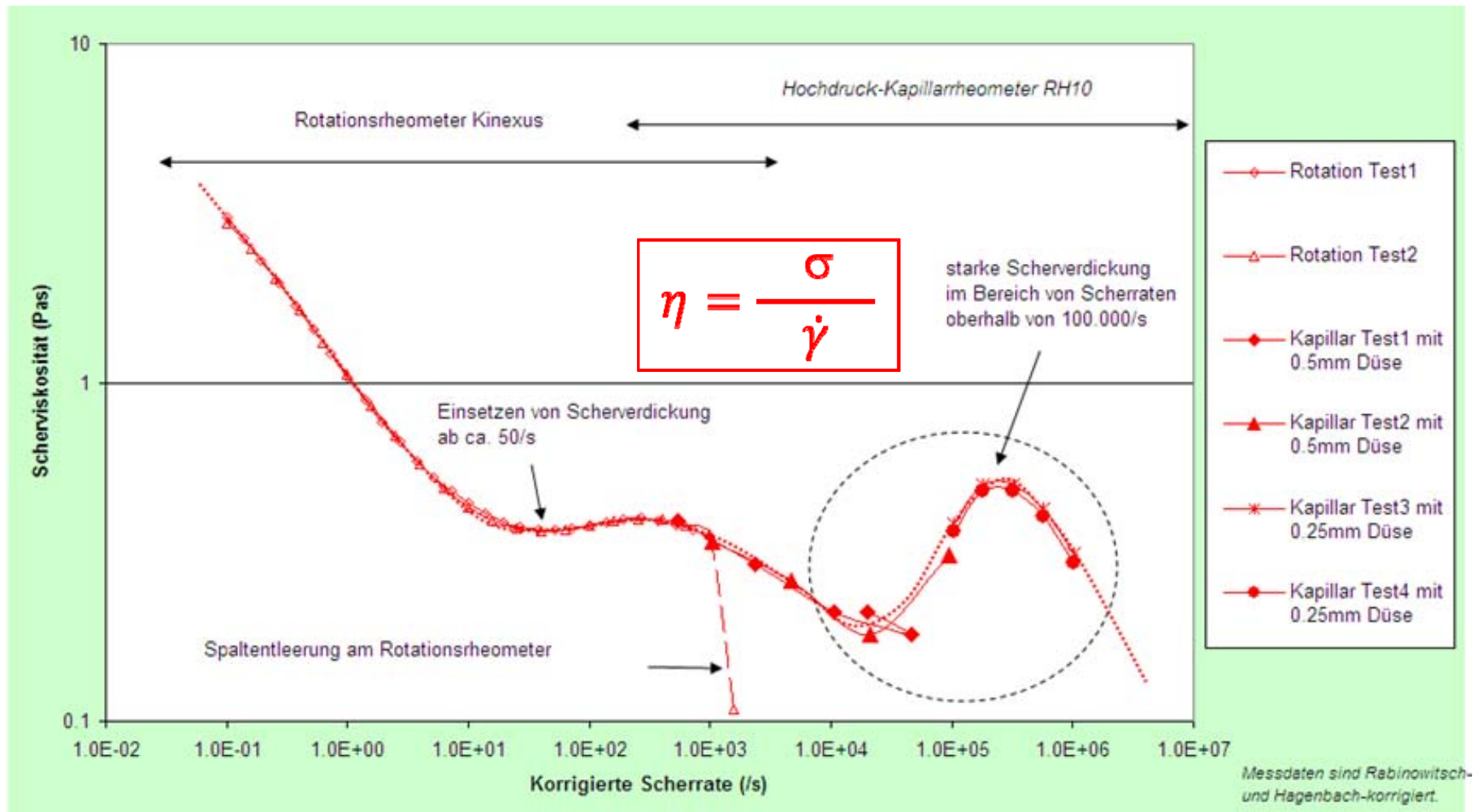
Krieger-Dougherty:

$$\frac{\eta}{\eta_{medium}} = \left(1 - \frac{\phi}{\phi_m}\right)^{-[\eta]\phi_m}$$



Norman J. Wagner, J. B. (2009). Shear thickening in colloidal dispersions. *Physics Today*, 27-32.

# Example: Shear Thickening of a Spray Coating



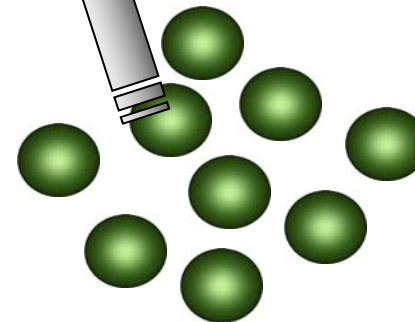
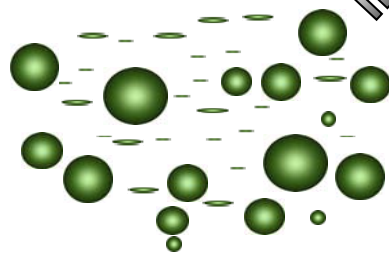
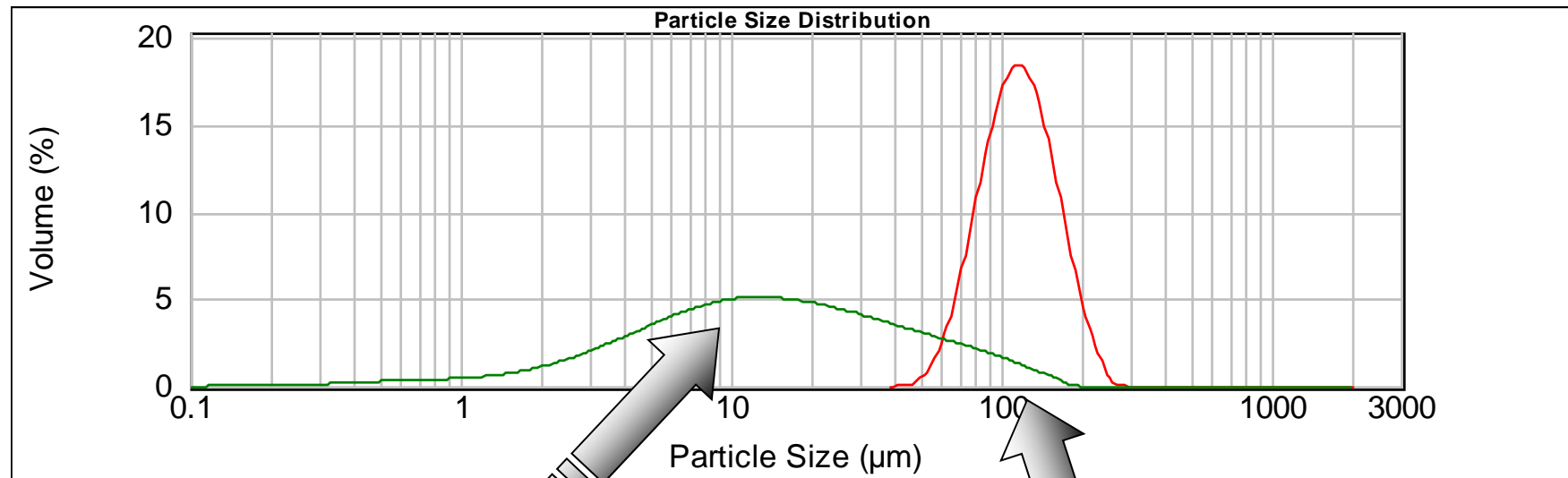
⇒ Shear Thickening at High Shear Rates: Critical for Spray Process

⇒ Strong Shear Thinning at Low Shear Rates: Defines the Structure Build-Up after Spraying

# Optimizing Rheology for Coatings:

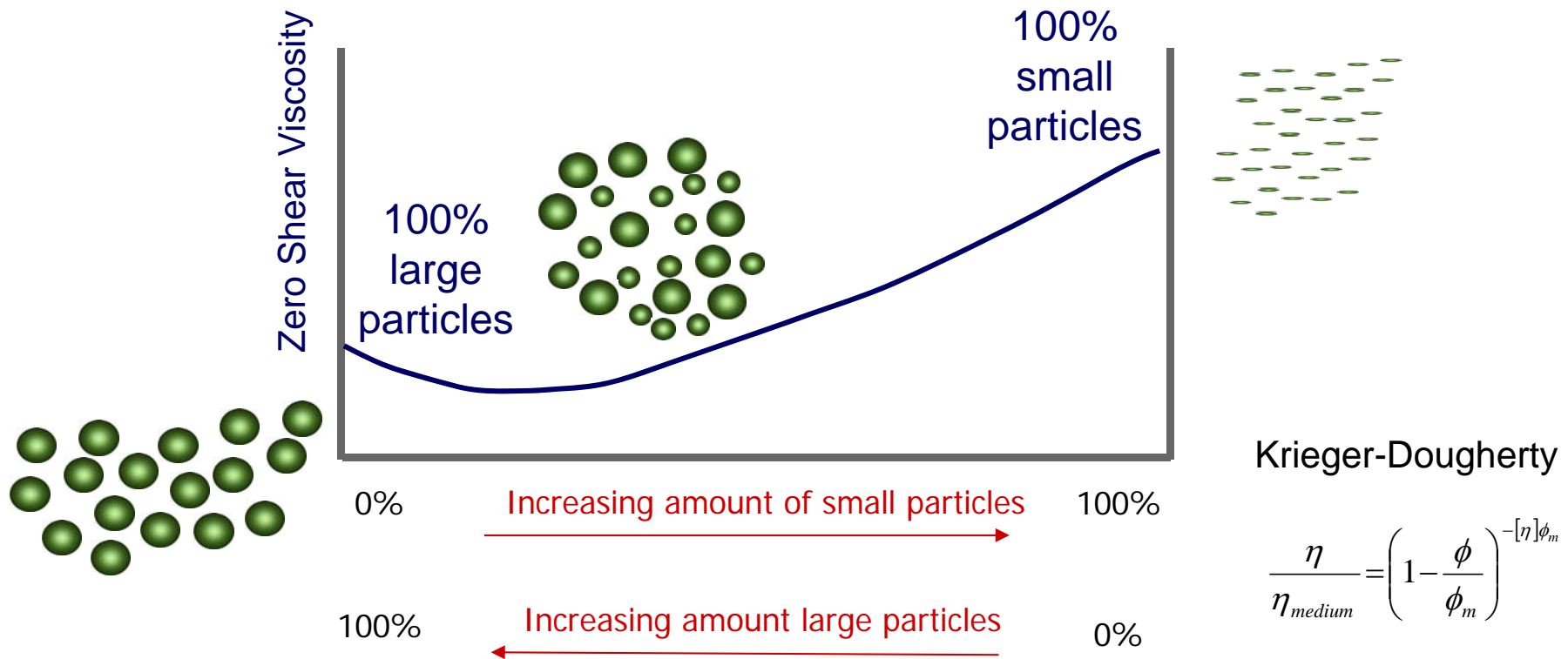
## 3. Impact of Polydispersity

- ▶ We keep the volume fraction ( $\phi$ ) constant
- ▶ But changing polydispersity...



- ▶ What happens to the viscosity?

# Impact of Polydispersity on Flow Behaviour



- ▶ If you want to increase the solid content of the sample but keep the viscosity the same, increase the particle size distribution (polydispersity) as well.
- ▶ Conversely, narrow the particle size distribution to increase the viscosity.

# Further Factors affecting Coating Rheology

Laser Diffraction



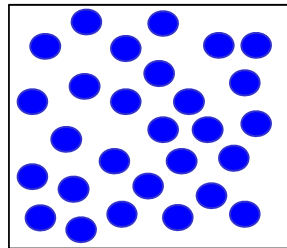
Spray Particle Analyzer



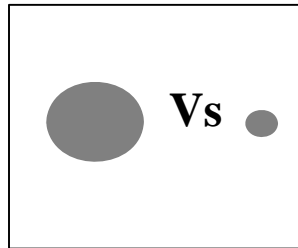
Light Scattering  
Size and Zeta



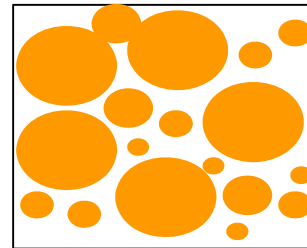
Volume fraction  $\phi$



Particle size



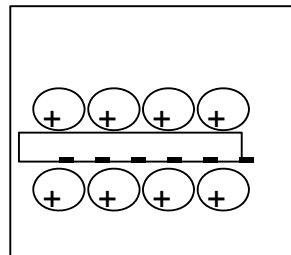
Particle size distribution



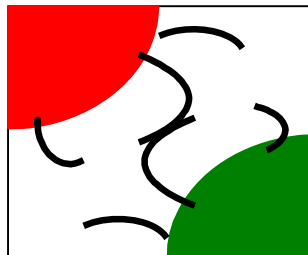
Digital Microscopy



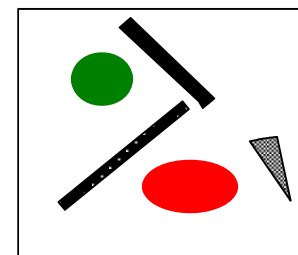
Electrostatic interactions



Steric Hindrance



Particle shape



Dry



Wet

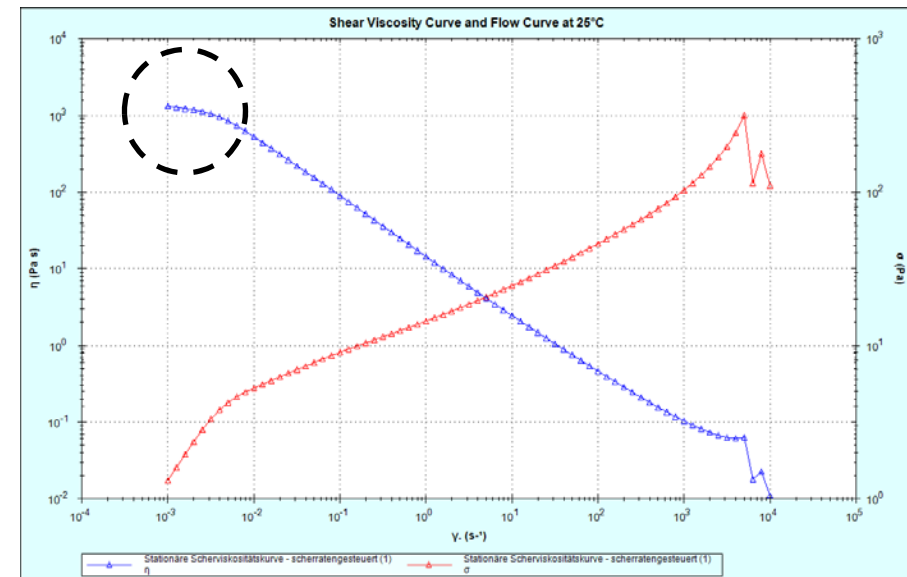
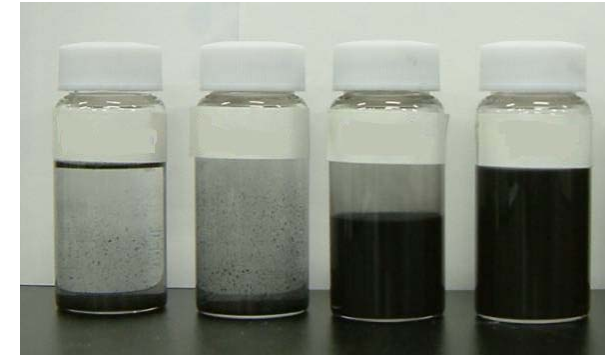
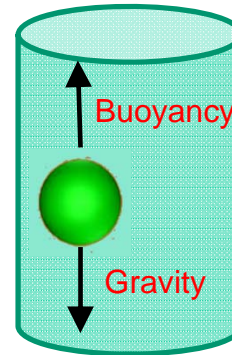
# Storage Stability: Importance of Zero Shear Viscosity

## Shear Stress by Gravity:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \frac{F}{A} = \frac{m \cdot g}{A} = \frac{(\rho_1 - \rho_2) \cdot V \cdot g}{A} \\ &= \frac{(\rho_1 - \rho_2) \cdot \frac{4}{3} \cdot \pi \cdot r^3 \cdot g}{4 \cdot \pi \cdot r^2} \\ &= \frac{(\rho_1 - \rho_2) \cdot r \cdot g}{3}\end{aligned}$$

## Settling Speed:

$$v = \frac{2}{9} \cdot \frac{(\rho_1 - \rho_2) \cdot r^2 \cdot g}{\eta}$$



$v$  = settling speed,  $r$  = particle radius,  $\rho_1$  = density of the particle  
 $\rho_2$  = density of the fluid,  $g$  = gravitational acceleration  
 $\eta$  = dynamic shear viscosity

# Summary

- Rotational and Capillary Rheometry cover the typical Processing Conditions for Paints and Coatings
- Shear Viscosity Function related to Particle Properties (Size, Polydispersity, Volume)
- Storage Stability: Importance of Zero Shear Viscosity

Any Questions?