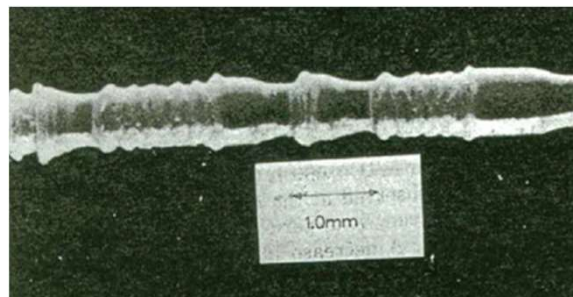


# Capillary Rheometry – A Method to Predict Flow Properties under Processing Conditions

*Torsten Remmler, Malvern Panalytical GmbH*

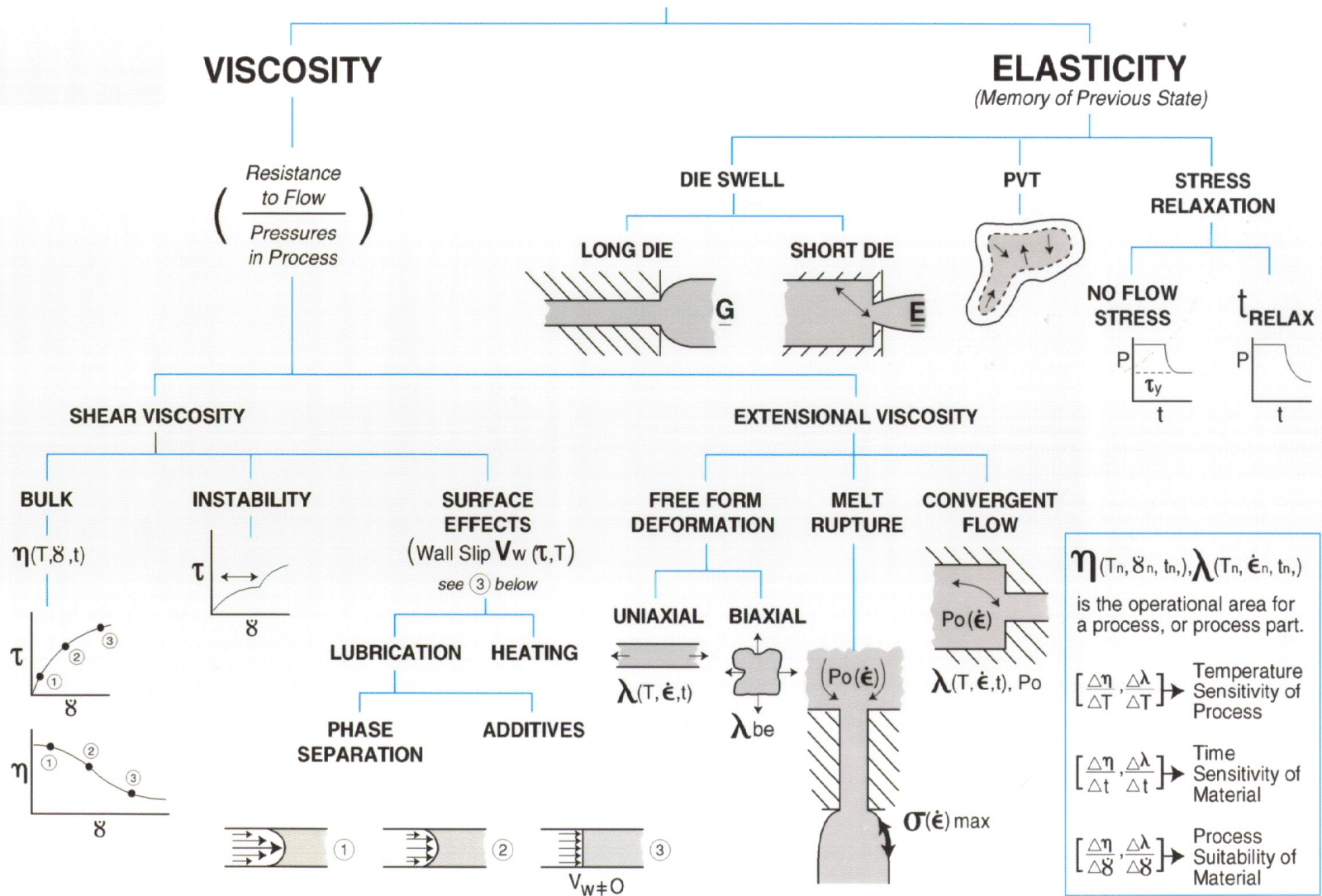


# Overview

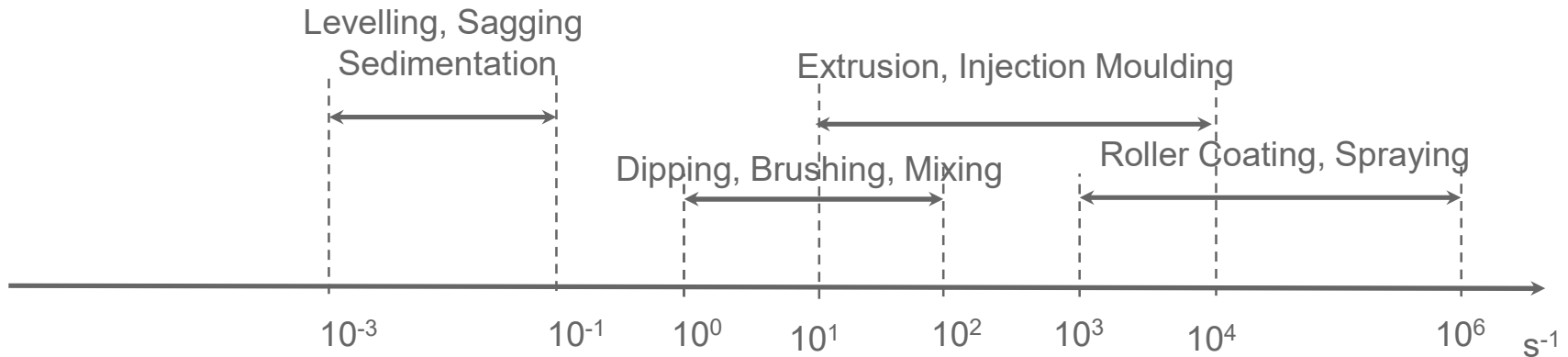


- Range of Applications for Capillary Rheometry
- Introduction into capillary rheometry: Principle of Operation and theoretical background
- Test results on LDPE: Complete Capillary Characterisation
- Detection of Flow Instabilities
- Advanced Test Types

# Capillary Rheometry: Main Applications



# Typical Shear Rates



## Rotational-Rheometer

Sample: Water up to solids

Results: Shear-Viscosity, Yield Stesses, Visco-Elasticity, Relaxation...

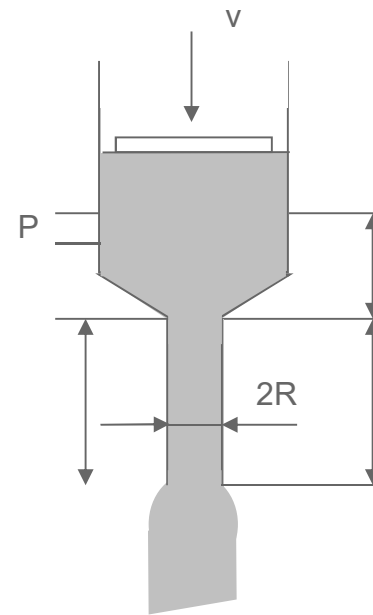
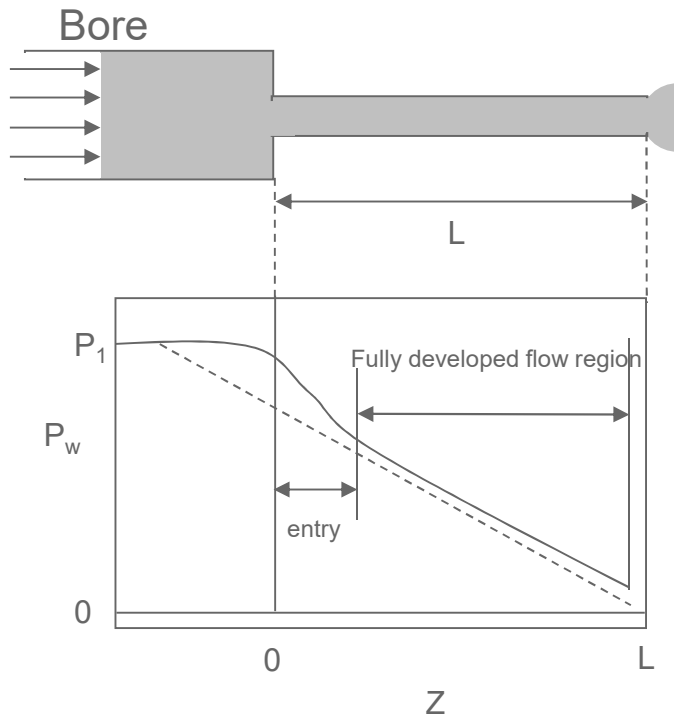
## High Pressure Capillary-Rheometer

Sample: Water up to high viscous

Results: Shear-Viscosity, Elongational-Viscosity, Wall Slip...

# Principle of Operation

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



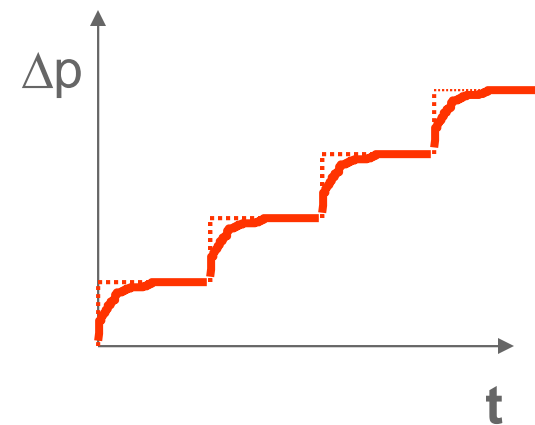
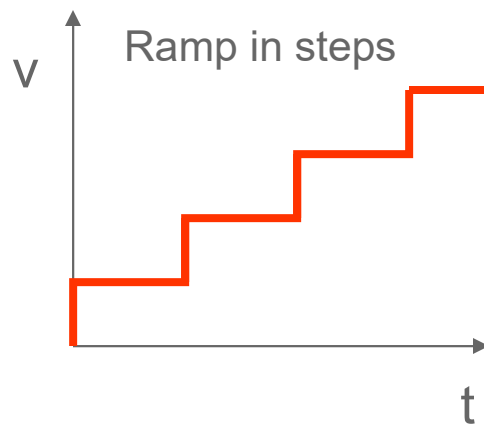
Full pressure drop  
 =  
 Entrance pressure drop  
 +  
 Shear pressure drop

$\Rightarrow$  small ram extruder

# What are we doing to get flow curves?



measurement :



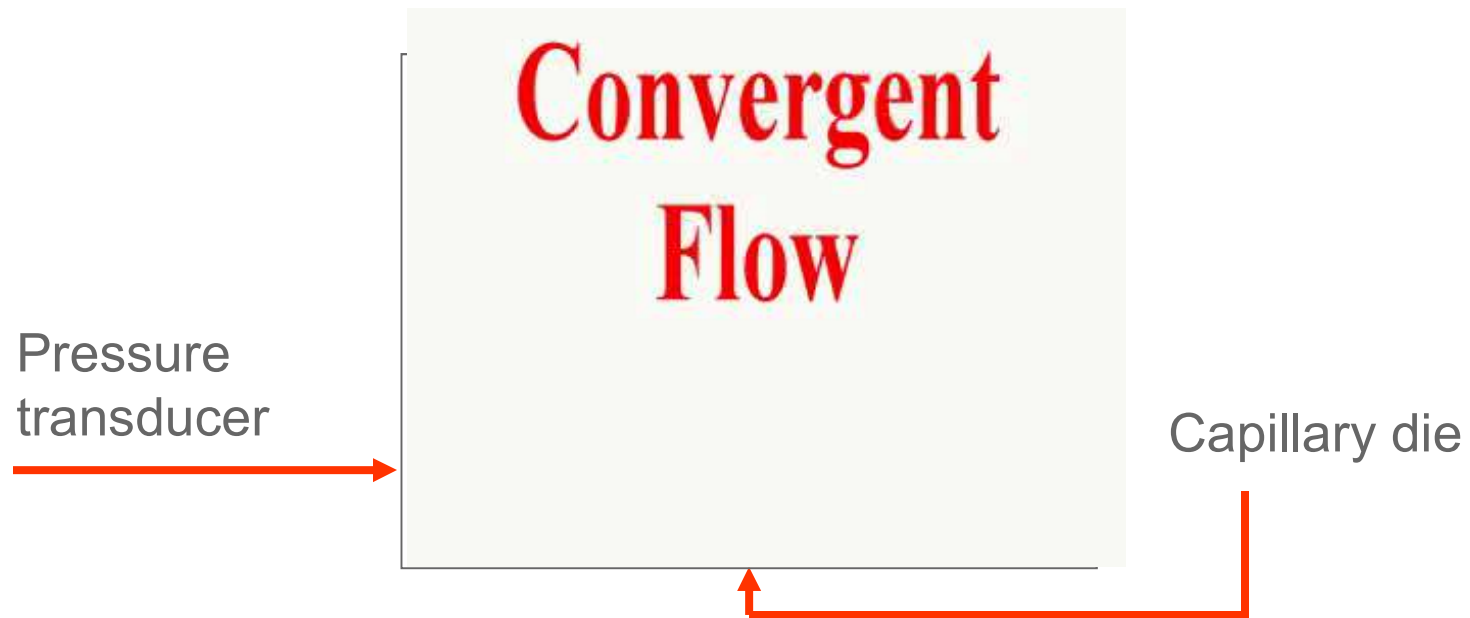
$$\dot{\gamma}_{\text{app}} = \frac{4 \cdot Q}{\pi R^3}$$

corrections

$$\eta = \frac{\sigma_{\text{true}}}{\dot{\gamma}_{\text{true}}}$$

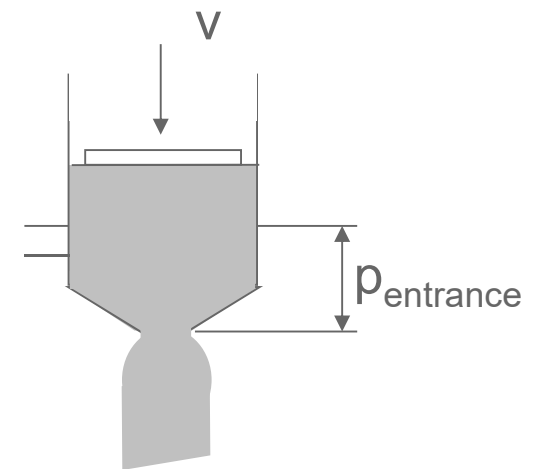
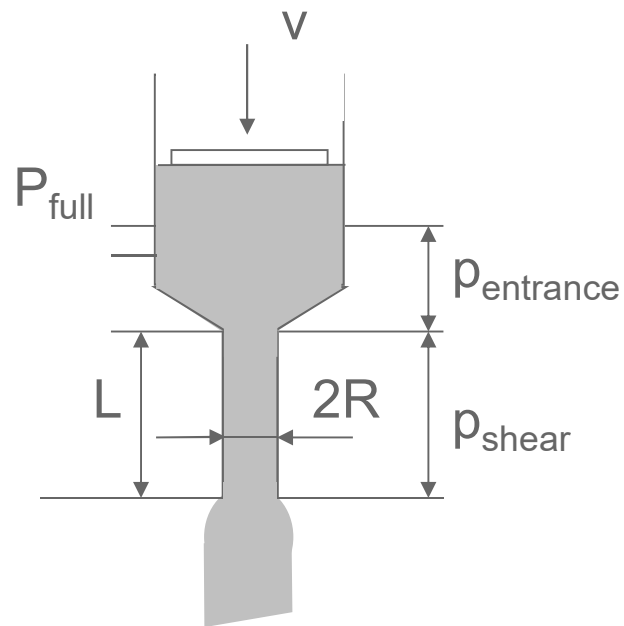
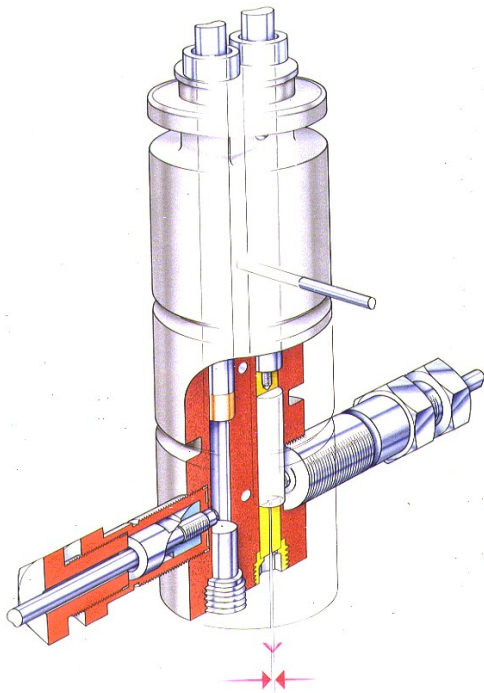
$$\sigma_{\text{app}} = \frac{R \cdot \Delta P}{2 \cdot L}$$

# Correction: Entrance zone of a capillary die



Aim of the test: to separate entrance pressure and shear pressure drop!

# Rosand Twin Bore Principle



$$P_{full} = P_{shear} + P_{entrance}$$

left: capillary

right: orifice



# How do we get the Extensional Viscosity?



Cogswell's Convergent Flow Model  $\Rightarrow$  Extensional Viscosity

$$P_{\text{full}} = P_{\text{shear}} + P_{\text{entrance}} \longrightarrow \lambda = \frac{9 (n+1)^2 (P_e)^2}{32 \eta \dot{\gamma}^2}$$

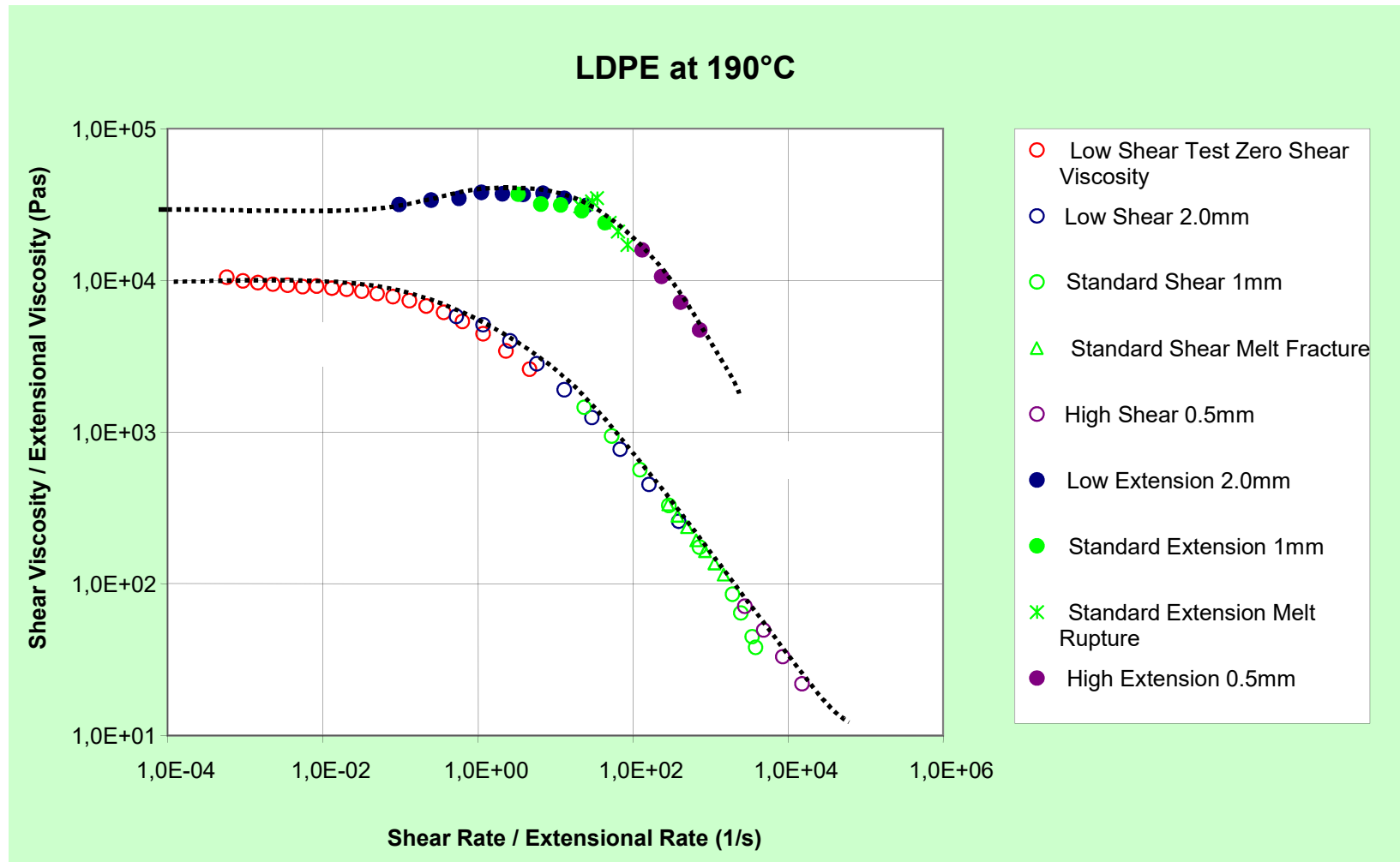
- **Special Orifice Die according to Uni Zlin Model enables characterisation of very small extensional rates too.**

$$n = \frac{d(\log \sigma)}{d(\log \dot{\gamma})} \quad \text{Non-Newtonian Index (Ostwald-de Waele)}$$

$$\dot{\epsilon} \approx 10^{-1} - 10^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

F. Cogswell, "Polymer Melt Rheology", Woodhead Publishing Limited (1981)  
Zatloukal, Vlcek, Tzoganakis, Saha *J. Non-Newtonian Fluid Mech.* **107** (2002) 13–37

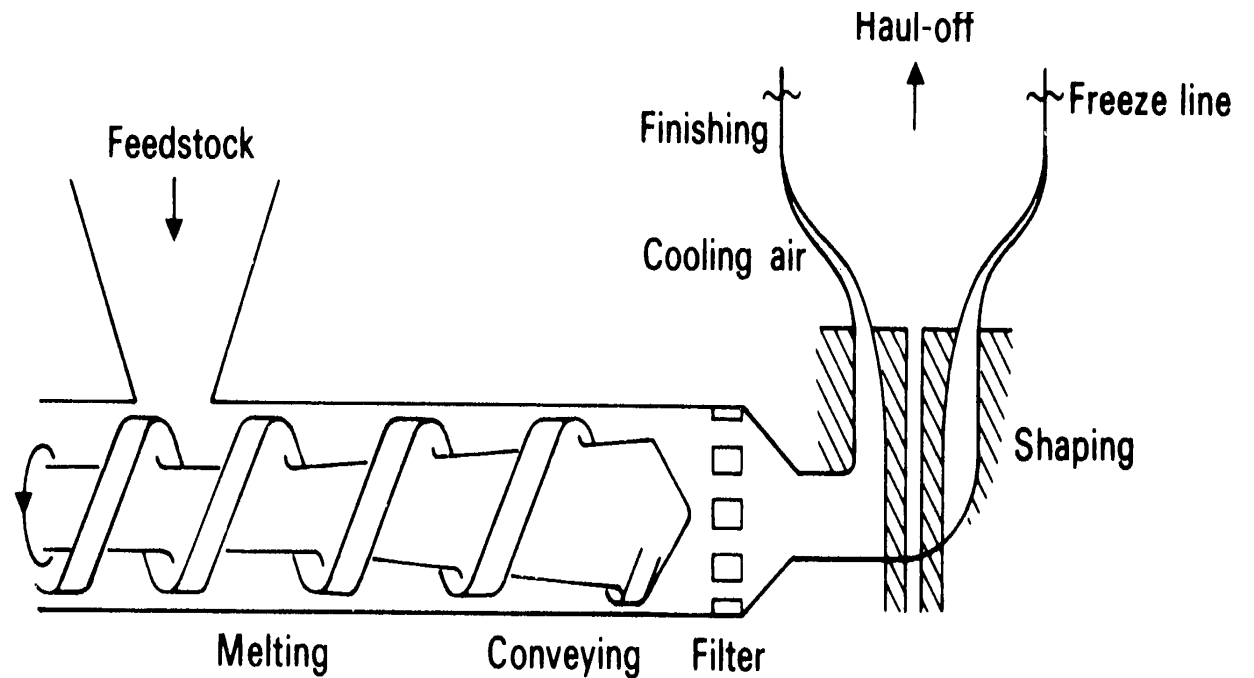
# Example LDPE



# Extensional Rheology of LDPE



## Blow Moulding

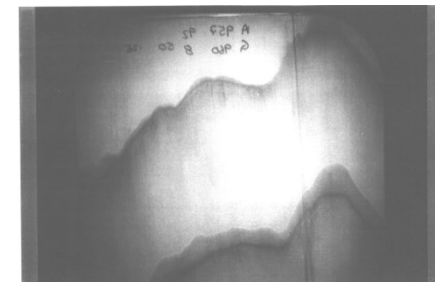
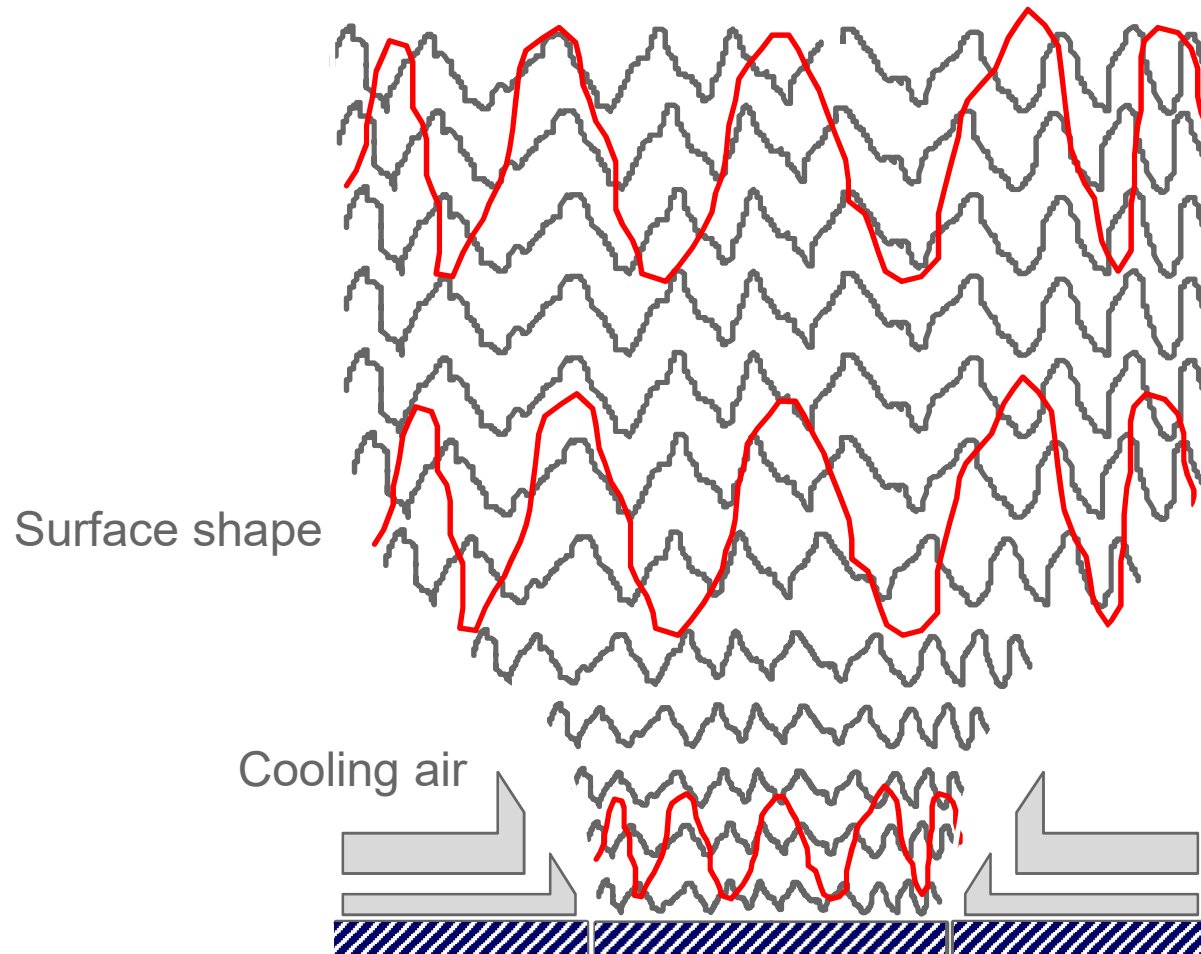


⇒ Blow Moulding is mainly influenced by Extension!

# Surface Instabilities LDPE

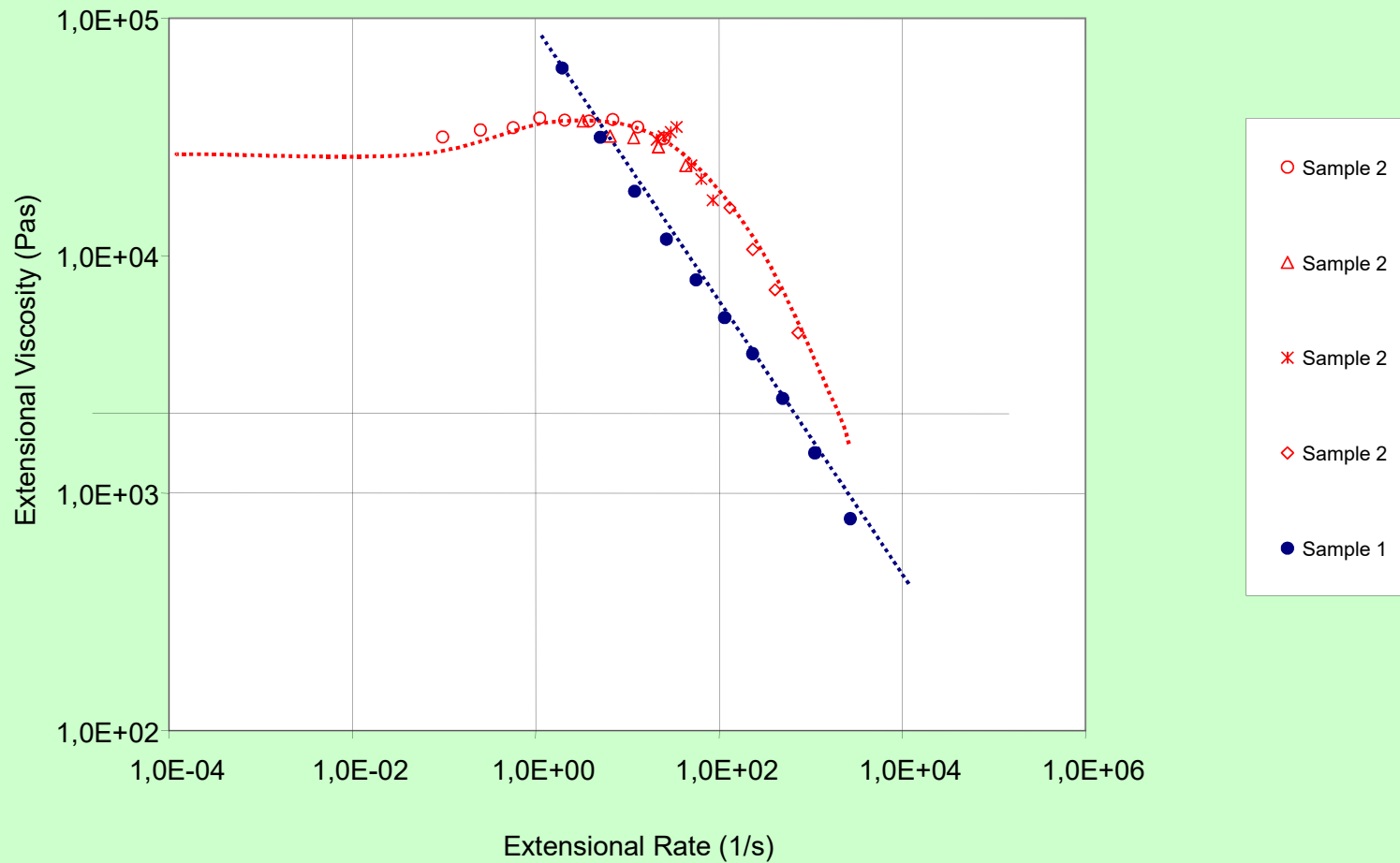


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# How can the process be improved?

Dehnviskosität - Vergleichskurven zwischen Homopolymer PE und Polymerblend PE-PP



# LDPE in Co-Extrusion Die

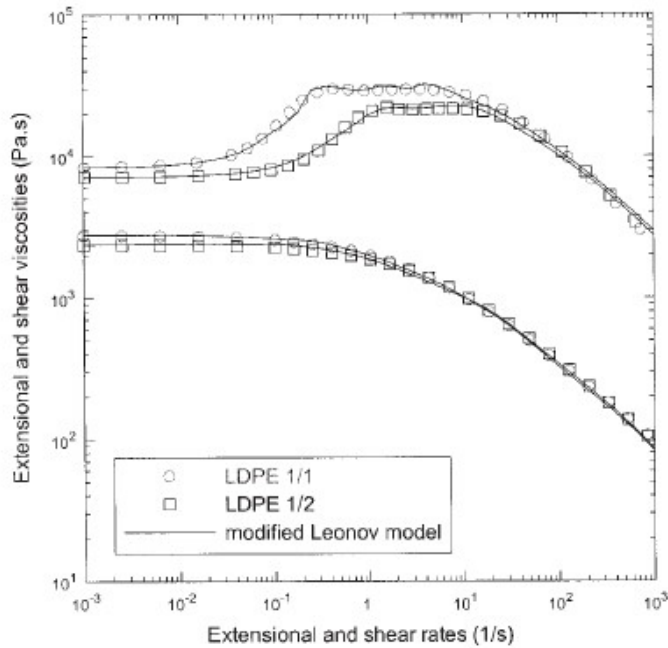


Figure 4 Extensional and shear viscosities for two different lots of LDPE 1, 210°C.

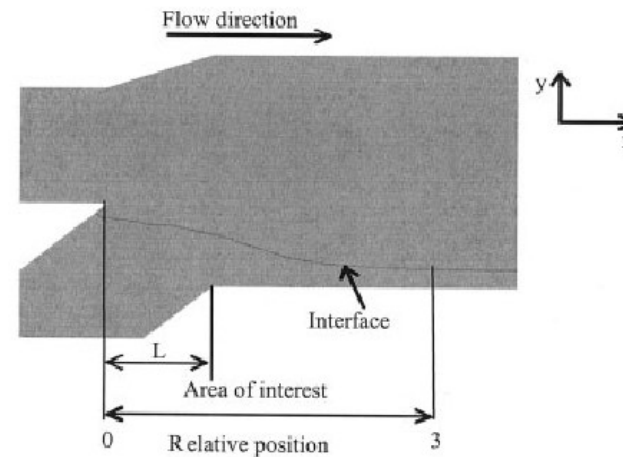
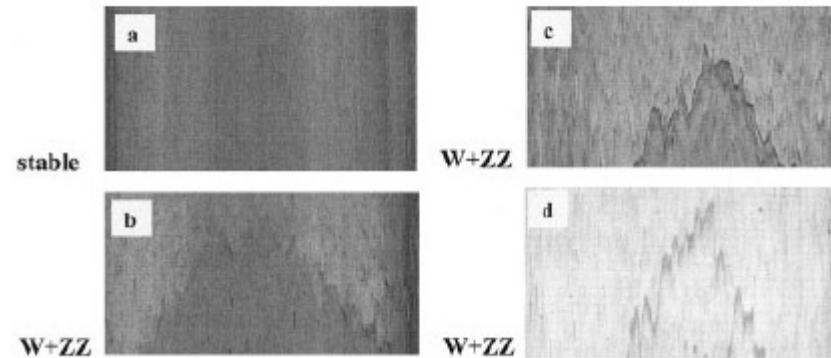
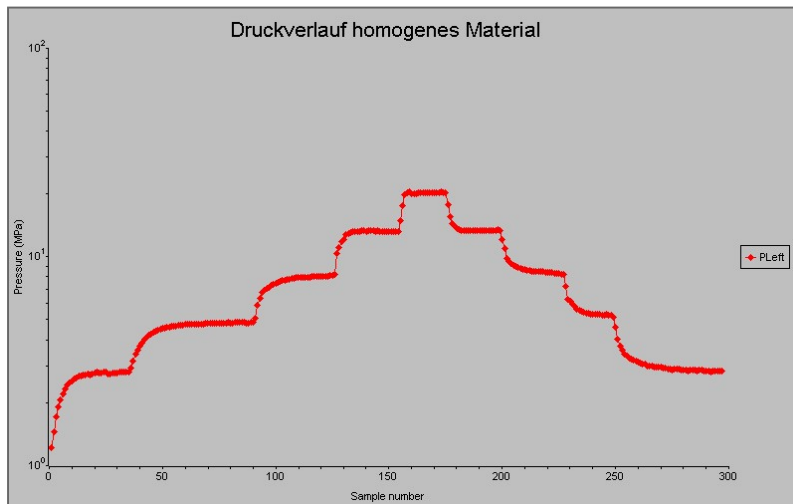


Figure 5 Merging area of the flat coextrusion die.

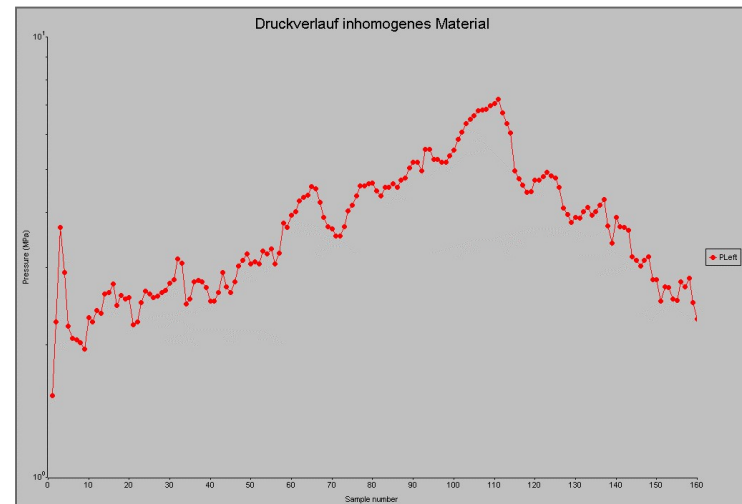
## Instabilities caused by Extensional Flow Behaviour of LDPE

# Equilibrium Pressure: Homogeneity

Pressure drop is important



homogeneous



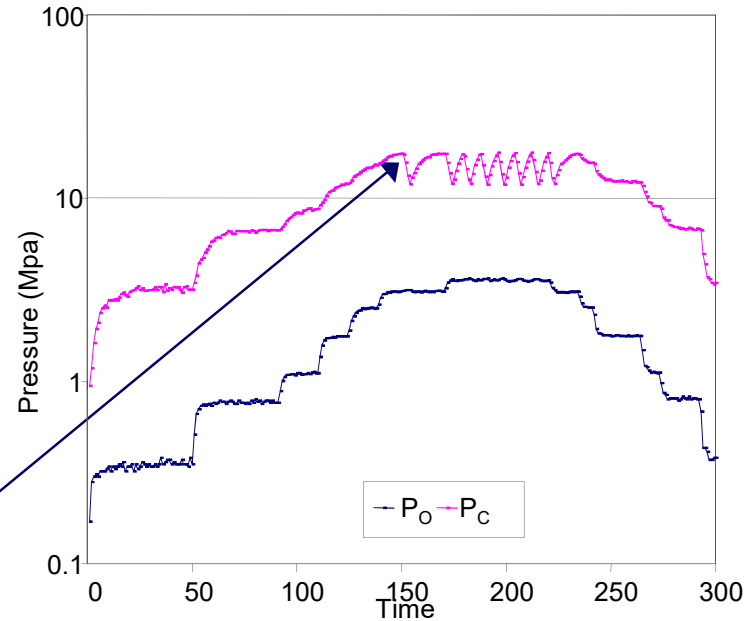
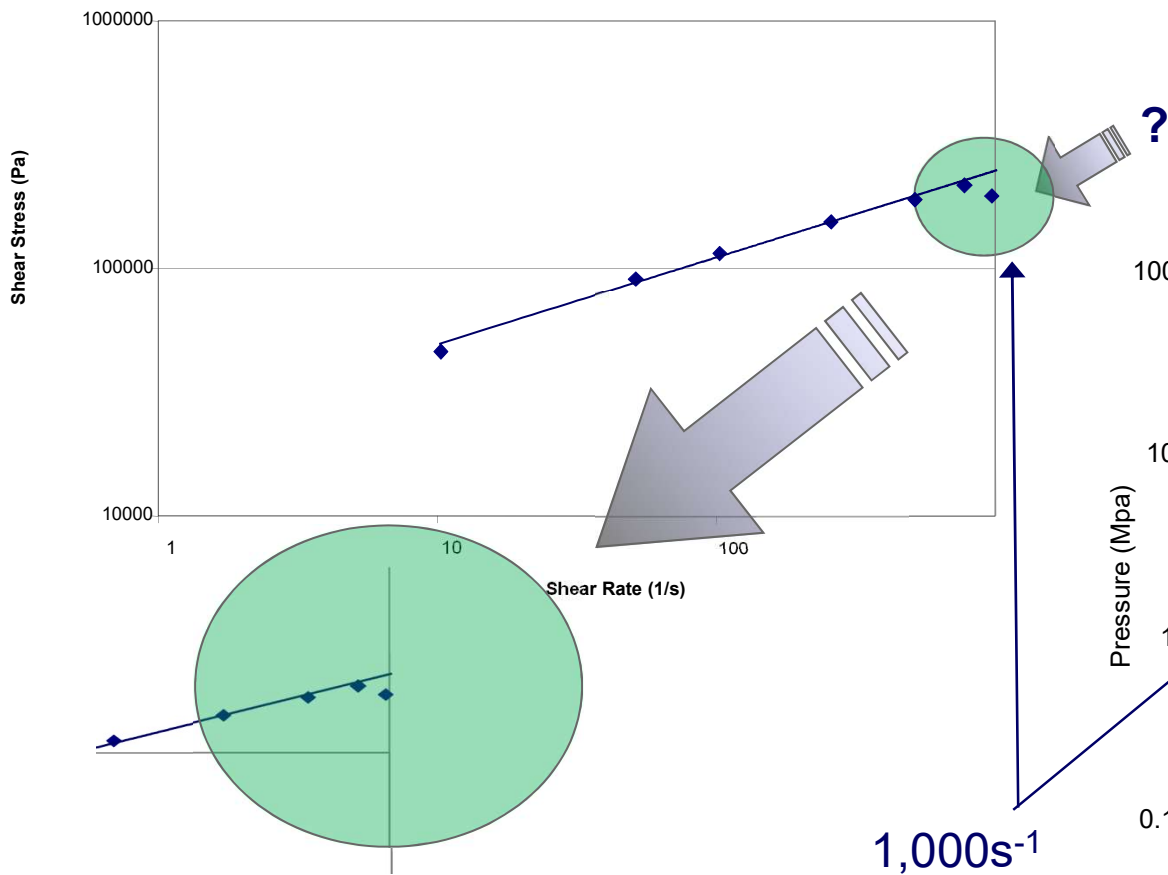
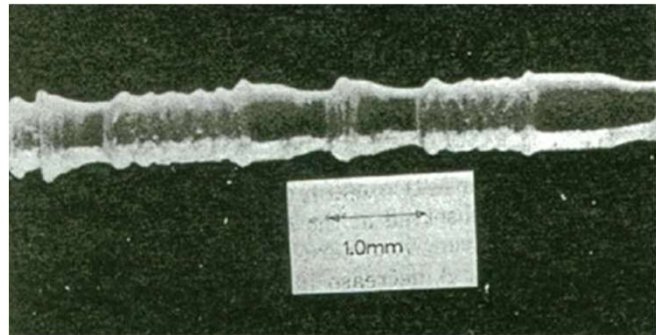
inhomogeneous

⇒ For polymer blends, filled polymers, suspensions, emulsions, composites etc.

# Melt Fracture



► Unstable flow, poor product quality.





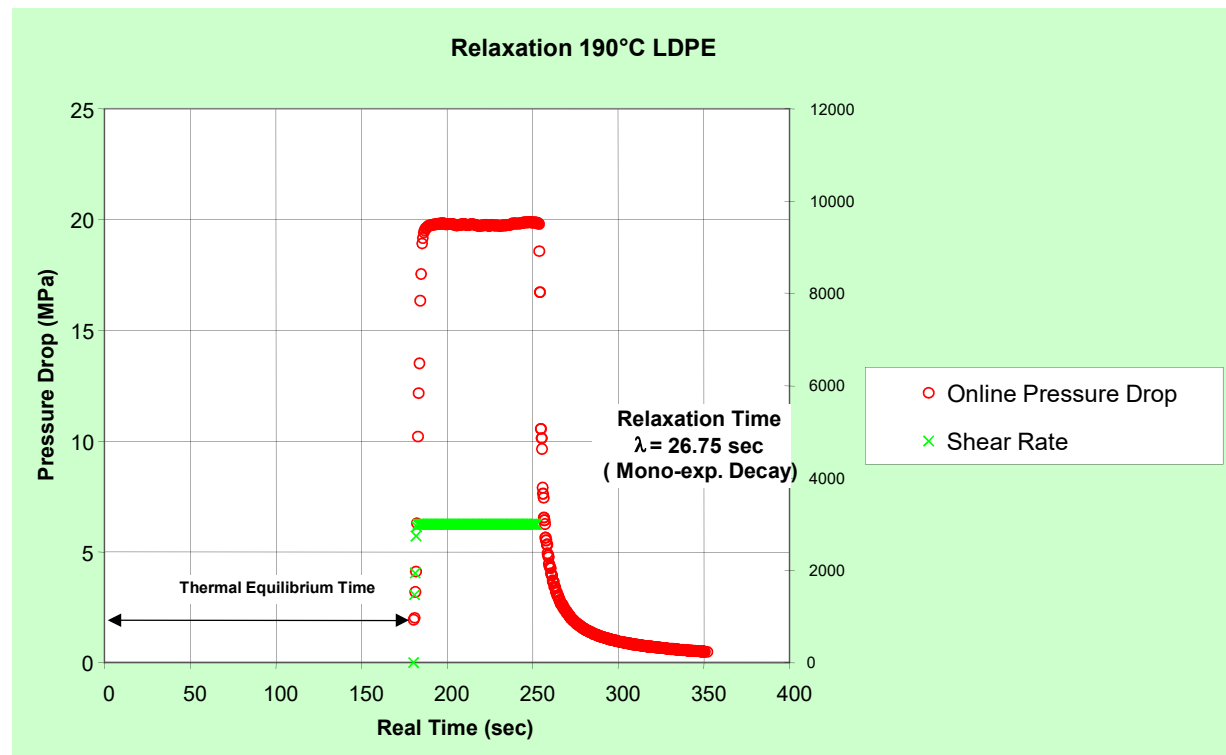
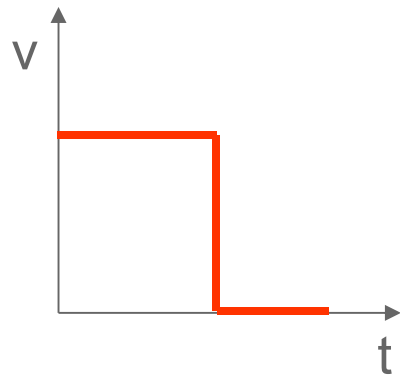
# Relaxation LDPE



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What happens after processing

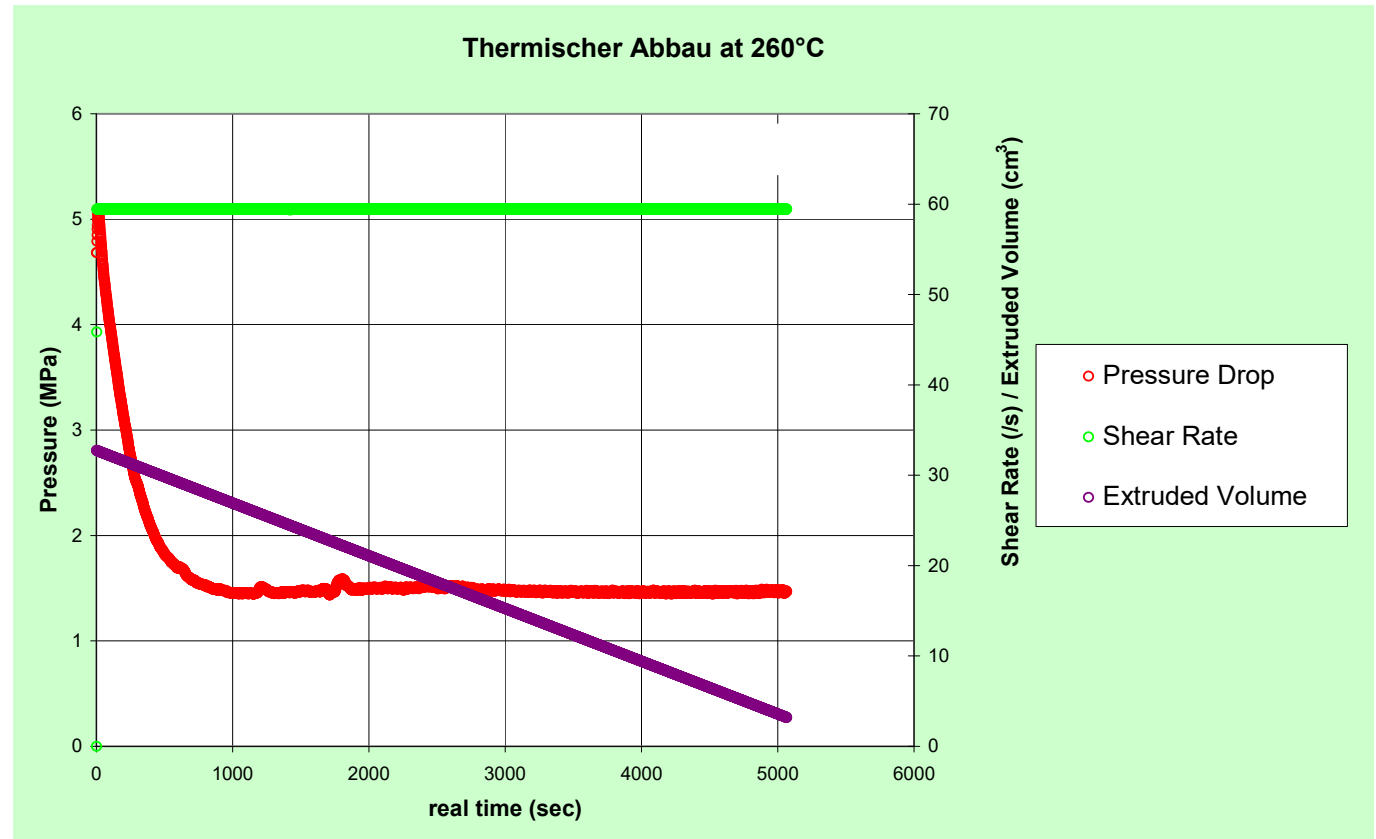
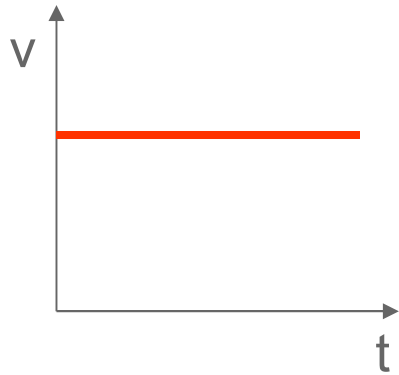
Prinzip:



⇒ inner stresses can lead to surface crack (automotive industry)

# Thermal degradation / Curing

Prinzip:



⇒ Gives maximum process times under high temperatures

# Rheometer Types



Benchtop RH2000 and Floor Standing RH7/10



# Summary



- Capillary Rheometry gives correlation with processing flow properties
- Calculation of extensional viscosity according Cogswell method
- Flow curves up to very high shear end extensional rates
- Prediction of flow instabilities
- Correlation with structural changes during processing

Thank you for your attention.

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