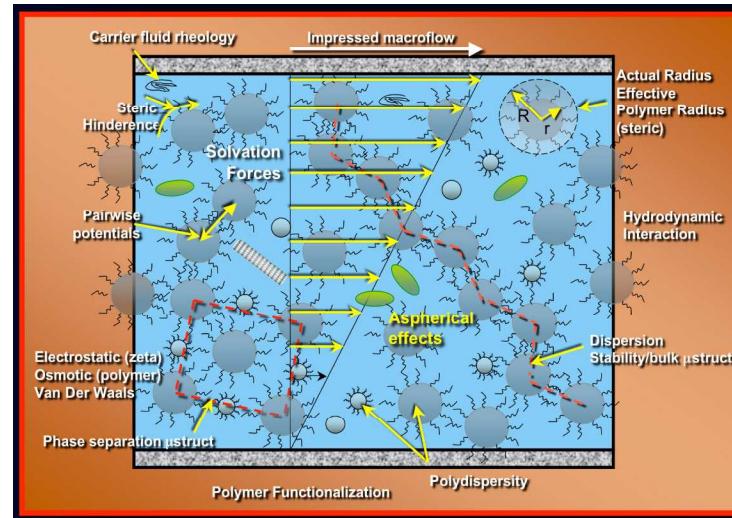


# Flow of concentrated, nanoparticle suspensions: Multiscale modeling for Manufacturing Process Design



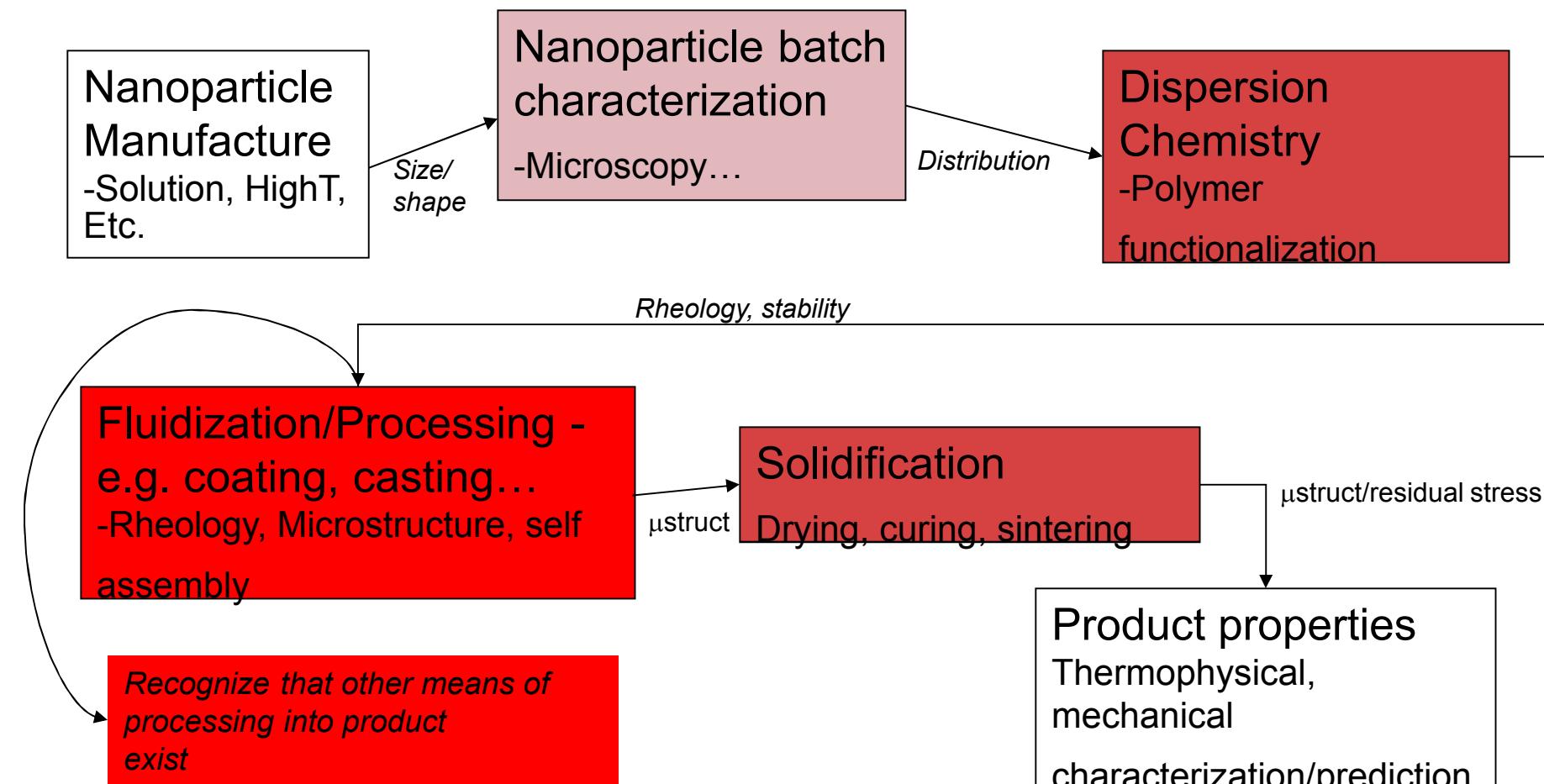
**P. R. Schunk and J. B. Lechman**  
Reactive and Nanoscale Processes Department

# Outline

- Motivation/Technology horizon
- Physics and chemistry underpinning flow of ‘concentrated’ nanoparticle dispersions
- Multiscale methods, numerical approaches
- Sample results
- Retrospective and outlook

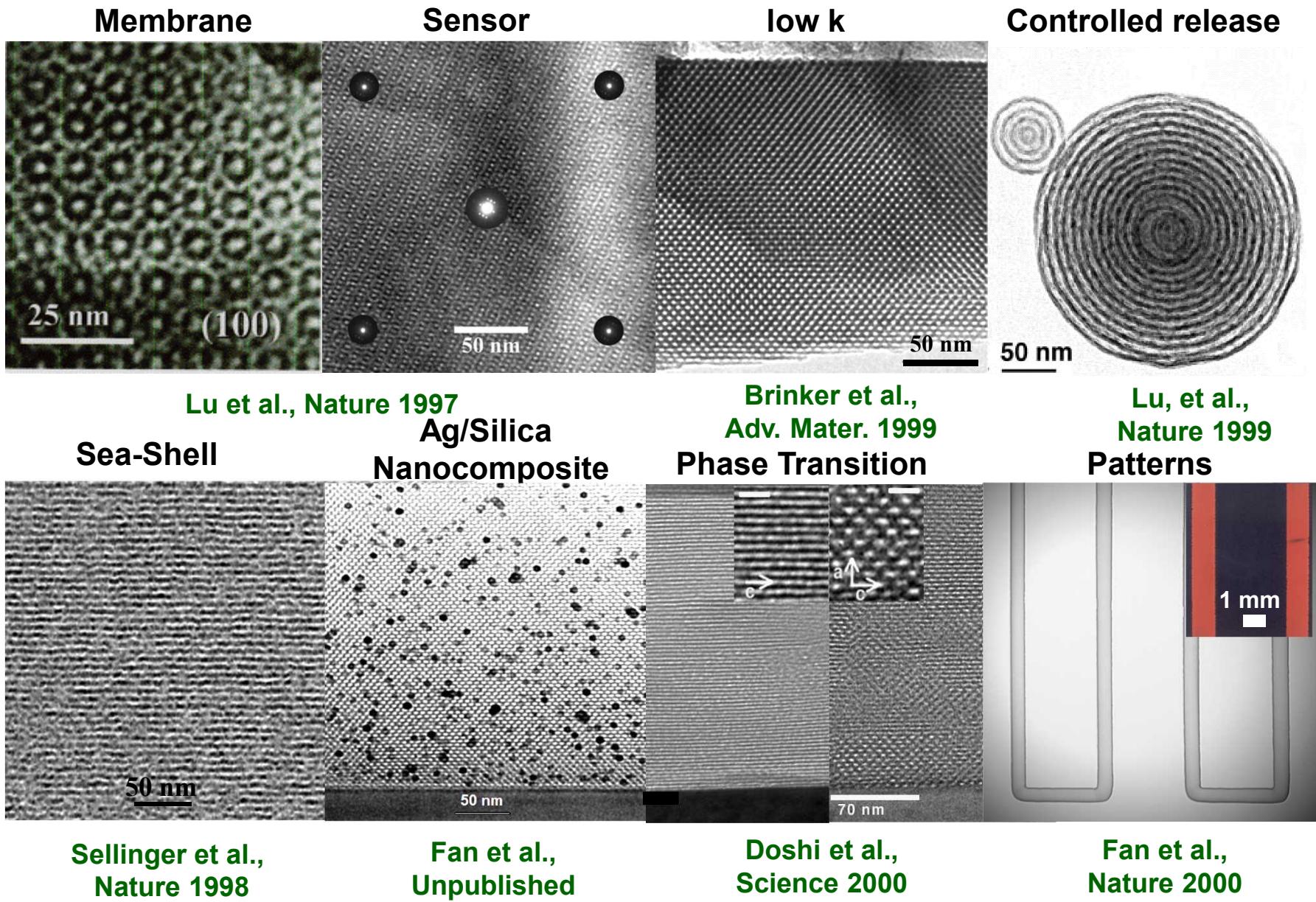
*Rheology, dispersion stability, self organization of ‘dense’ nanoparticle suspensions -- **Work in progress!***

# Imbedding Nanoparticles in functional materials

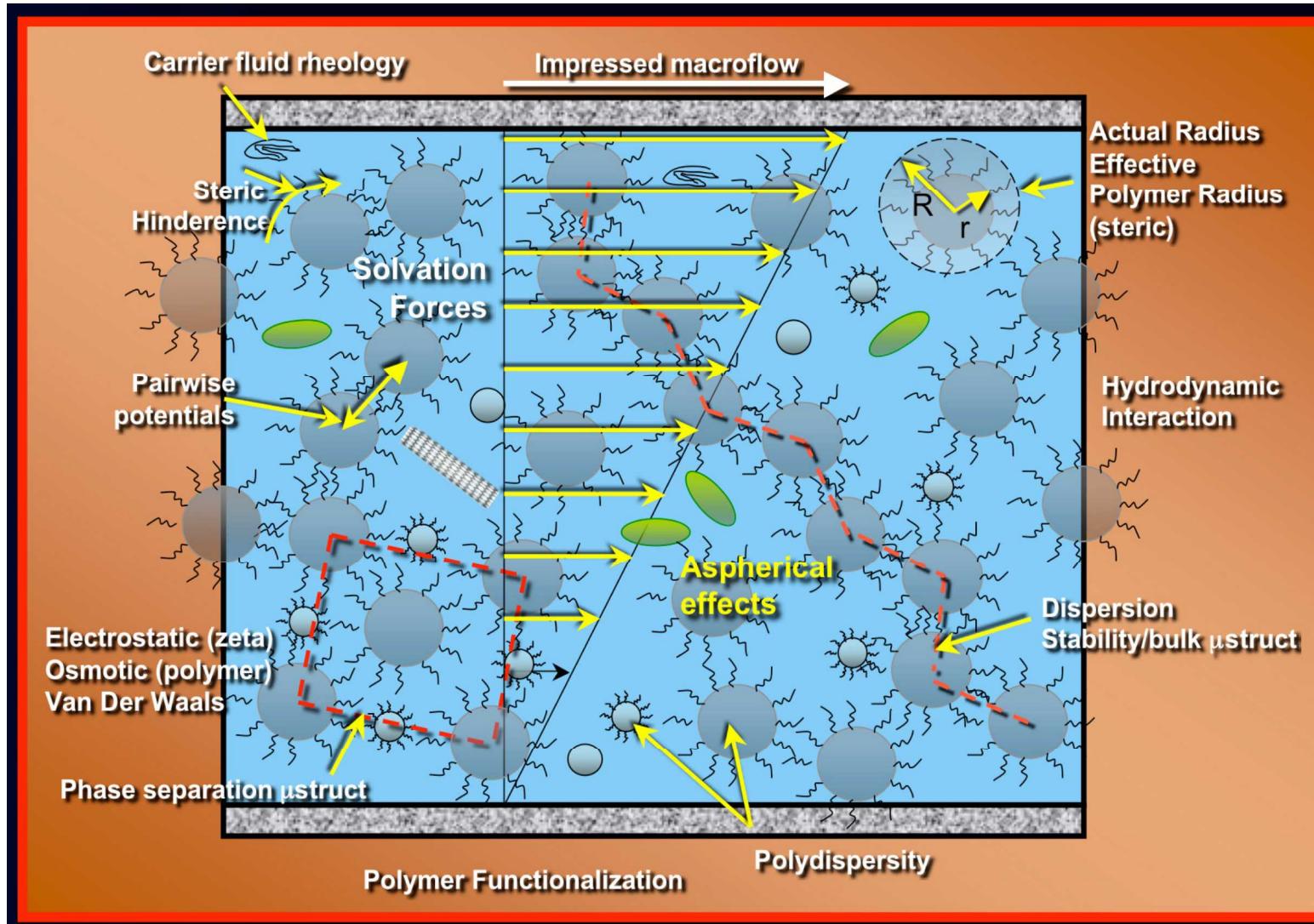


*Focus is on Processing Rheology and Microstructure in Bulk and at Surfaces!*

# Medley of Nanostructures prepared with BES support



# Technical Challenges: rich physical phenomena

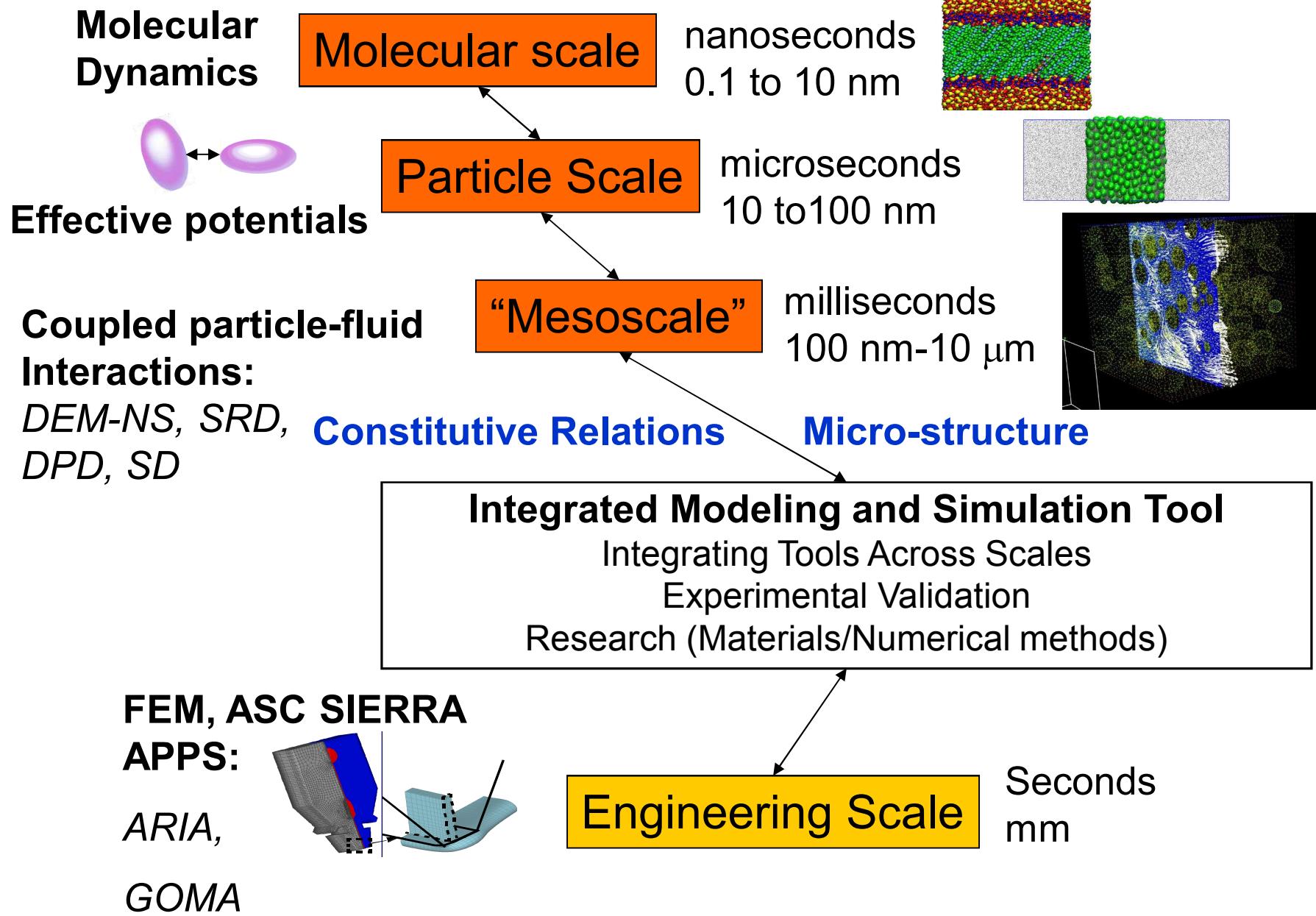


# What effects Computational Requirements?

- Predictive capability aimed at
  - Particles (10 nm-1 $\mu$ m) in water at moderate to high concentrations. Polydisperse but  $\downarrow$  *mainly spherical or near spherical shape*
  - Solvent/suspending fluid is **Newtonian (continuum)**
  - Physics includes interparticle forces (Static: Van Der Waals, Steric/physical, osmotic, electrostatic, **solvation**. Dynamic: hydro, Brownian)
  - Phenomenology: Micro/meso mechanics discovery, macro-rheology and viscometric fluid mechanics, **stability, surface self assembly/organization**
  - Other phenomenology of potential interest: nanoparticle effects on wetting/spreading, product performance.

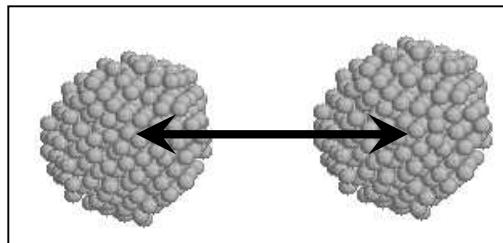
*All at intermediate to “high” concentrations, which sets this effort apart....*

# Technical Approach: Integrated Capability

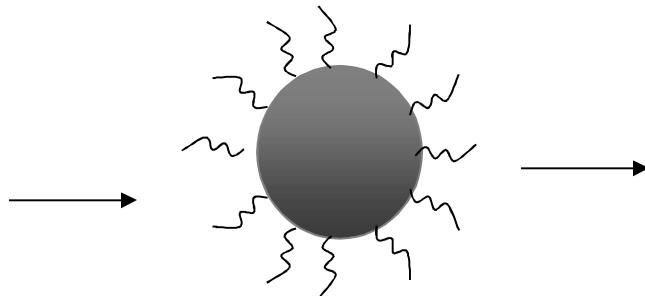


# About Coarse Graining - What is needed?

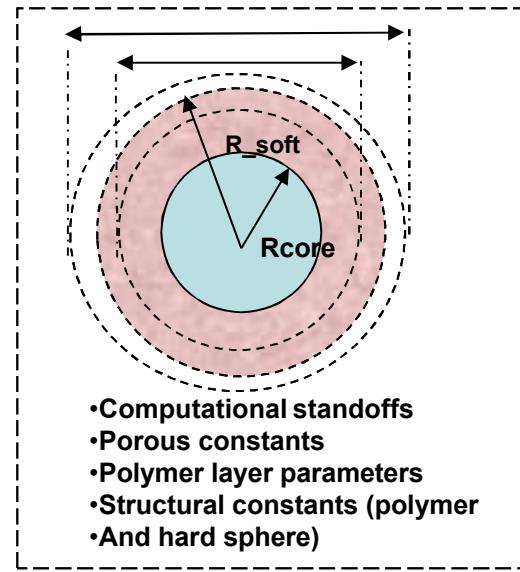
## Particle



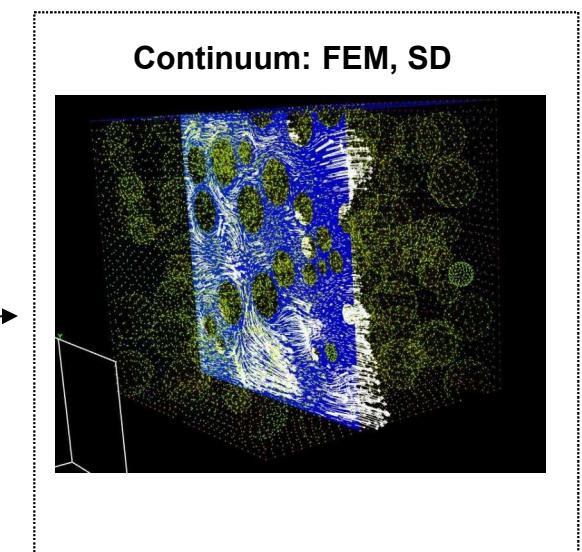
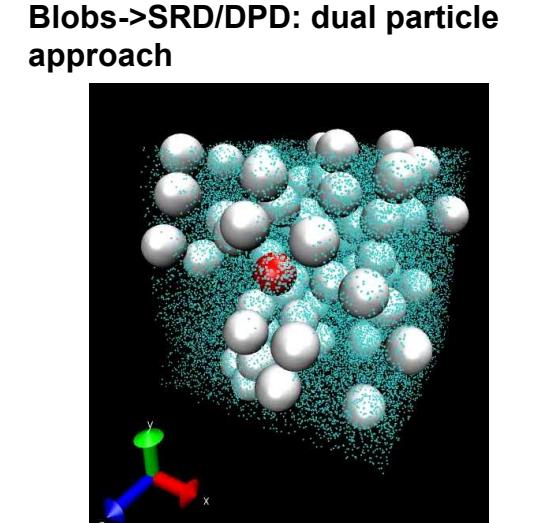
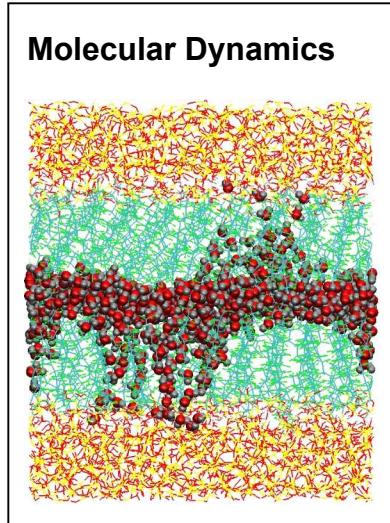
Integration to Hamaker's Equation and equivalent



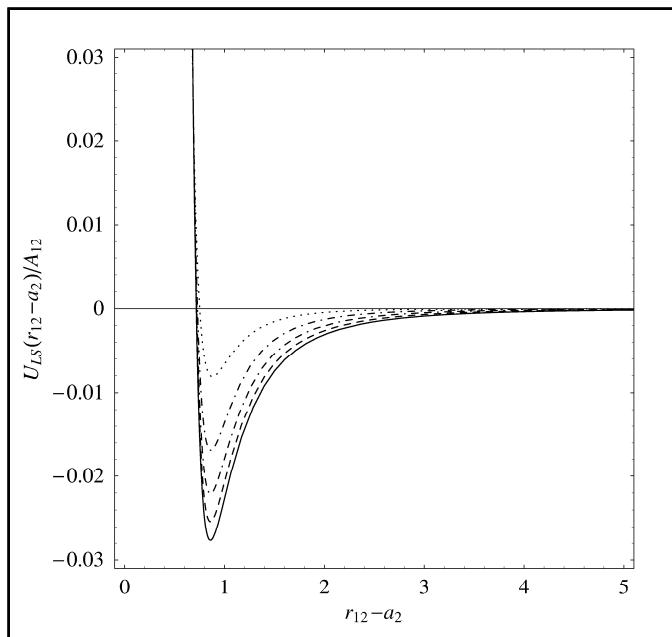
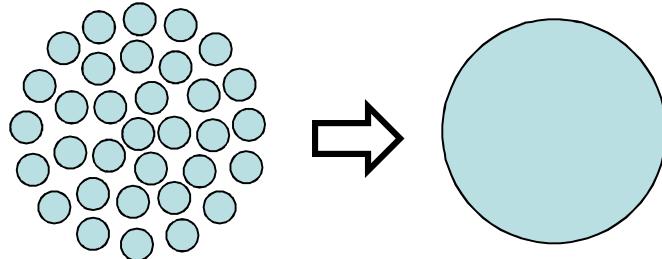
Osmotic and steric/structural representation



## Solvent



# Colloidal Model: First Approach

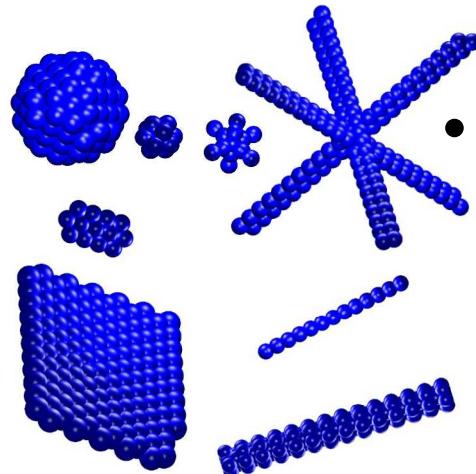


- Integrated Lennard-Jones potential represents colloidal particle<sup>1</sup>
  - Hard spheres are poor model since they phase separate for disparate sizes
- Compared to Lennard-Jones - harder at short range but softer at long range
- Guarantees long-range interaction between colloidal particles through long-range attractive contribution
- Addition of colloid-solvent and solvent-solvent interactions
- Hamaker constant  $A_{ij}$  represents pairwise interaction strength

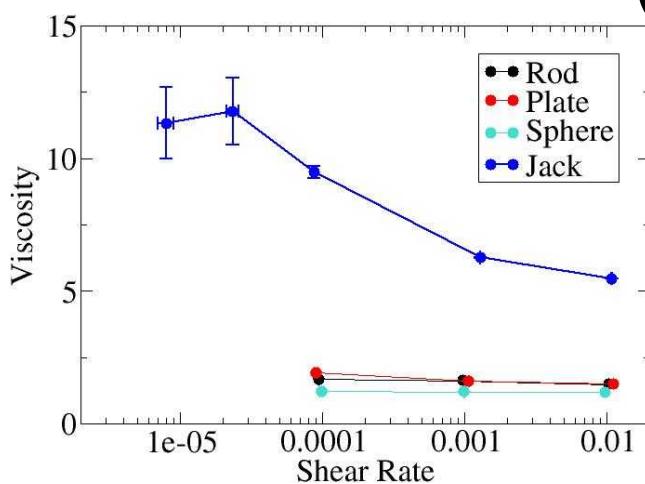
<sup>1</sup>R. Everaers and M.R. Ejtehadi, Phys. Rev. E **67**, 41710 (2003)

# Aspherical Effects

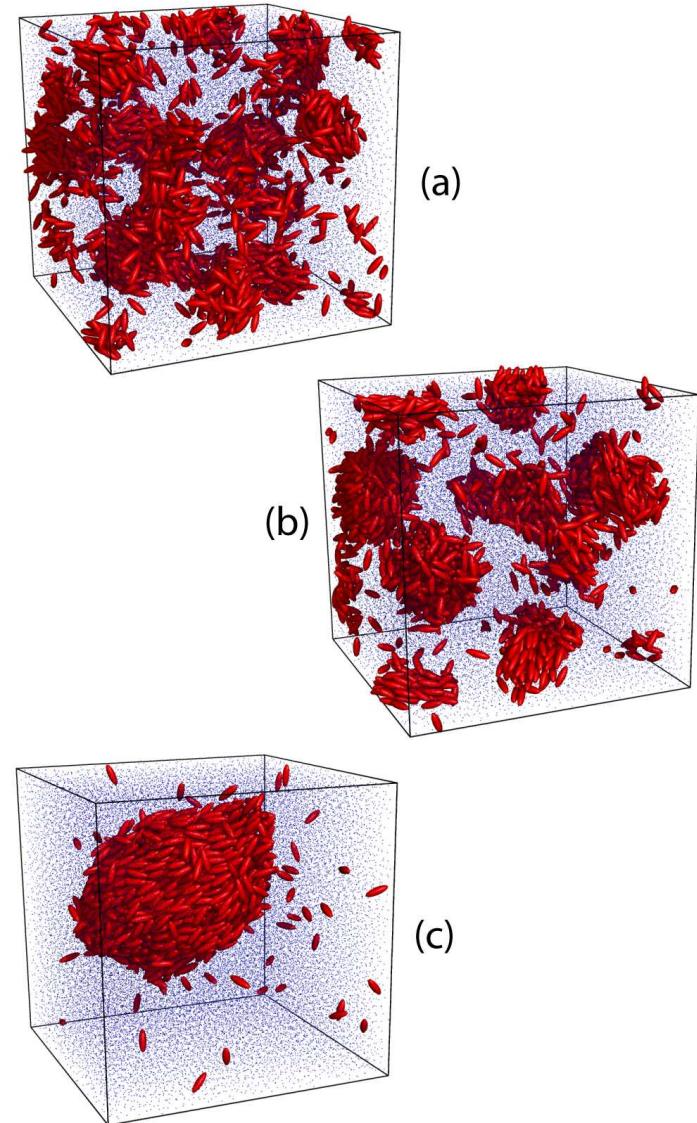
- Composites



135 Composite, 7.6%

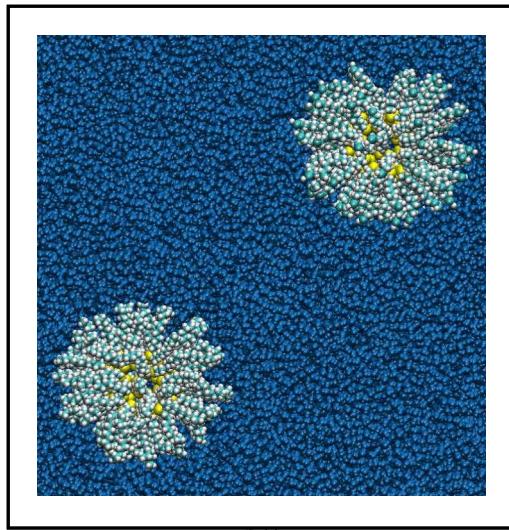


- Analytical shapes
  - R. Everaers and M.R. Ejtehadi, PRE **67**, 41710 (2003)

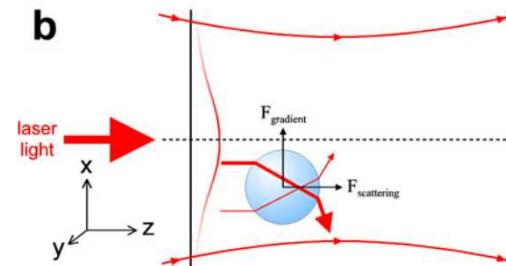
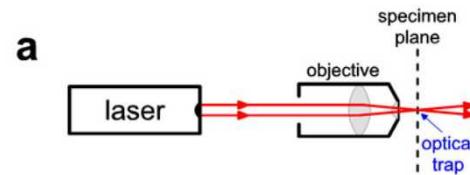


# Effective Potential Development

- Molecular dynamics. How small can we go with continuum mechanics principles? Determining interparticle potentials for mesoscale?
- Direct force measurement (IFM, Optical Trapping)



MD of actual Silica/PEO/Water System  
(Dynamic and Equilibrium)



Optical Tweezers Measurements

*Accurate effective pair potentials required for simulations  
of nanoparticles in suspension*

# Hydrodynamics and Coupling

- Platforms for development

*LAMMPS, SIERRA, Home-grown*

- Suitable flow solvers

*FEM, BEM, DPD, SRD*

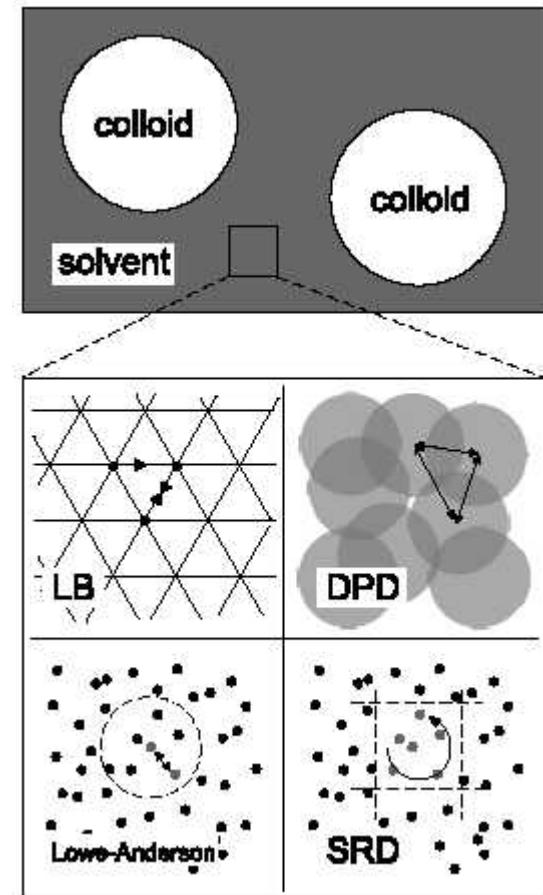
- Suitable n-body Newton solvers

*Effective potentials, contact, aspherical*

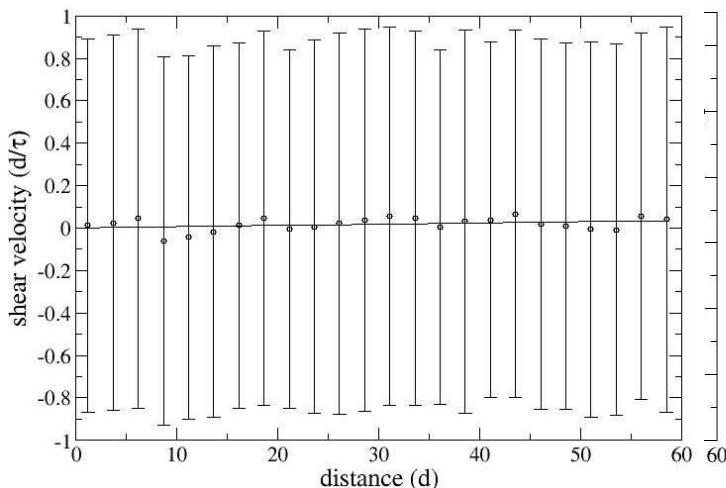
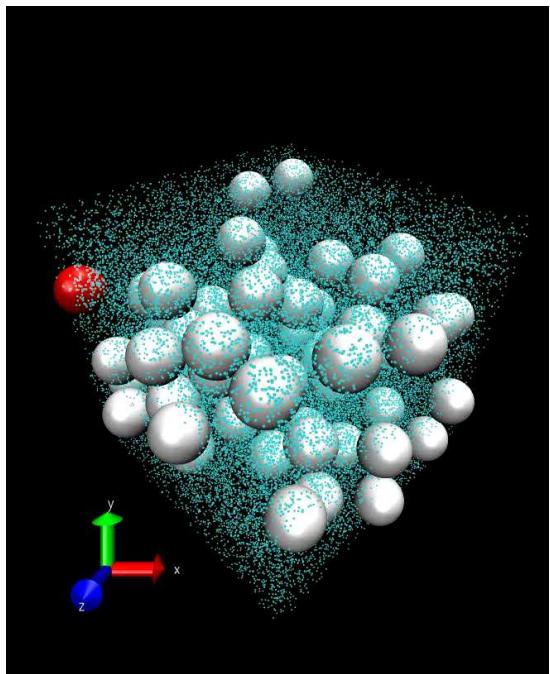
*Note that all this has been accomplished for dilute systems, small collections of particles, and with a wider number of candidate specialty techniques*

# Simulating the Solvent

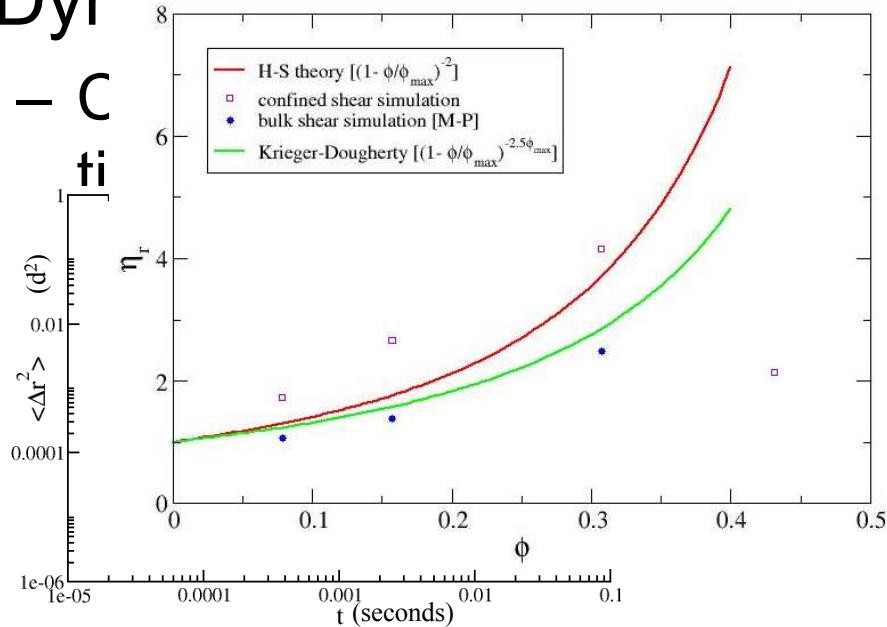
- Computational cost
  - **Explicit atomistic solvent** requires calculation of all pair-wise solvent-solvent/colloid interactions
    - typically *many* orders of magnitude more solvent atoms than solute particles
    - light, relatively fast dynamics => short timesteps
  - **Coarse-grain: Average over fast degrees of freedom**
    - all => Generalized Langevin dynamics of colloids
    - some => coarse-grained solvent with reduced # of solvent particles, larger mass, longer timesteps (e.g., softer potentials)
- Multiple “coarse-grained” methods to capture hydrodynamics
  - **MD-like, coarse-grained, “explicit” solvent**
    - DPD solvent
    - **SRD solvent treated as massive, ideal fluid, point particles**
  - **NS-based (“continuum”) “implicit” solvent**
    - BD (approximate hydrodynamics –  $F_H \sim 6\pi\mu a$ )
    - SD/BEM (creeping Stokes equations)
    - LB
    - Solve full continuum Navier-Stokes equations numerically (e.g., **FEM**)



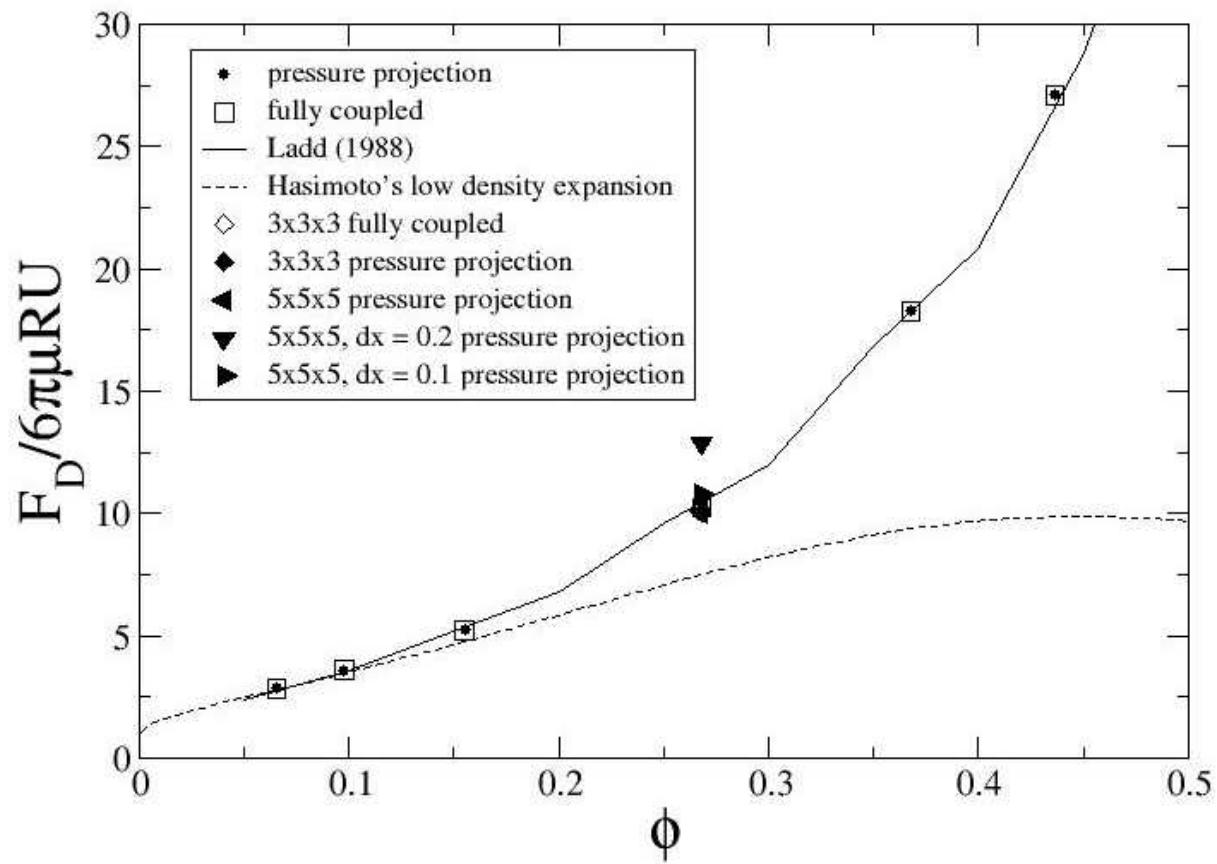
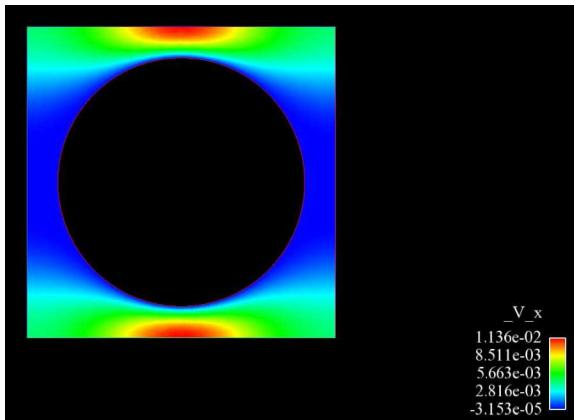
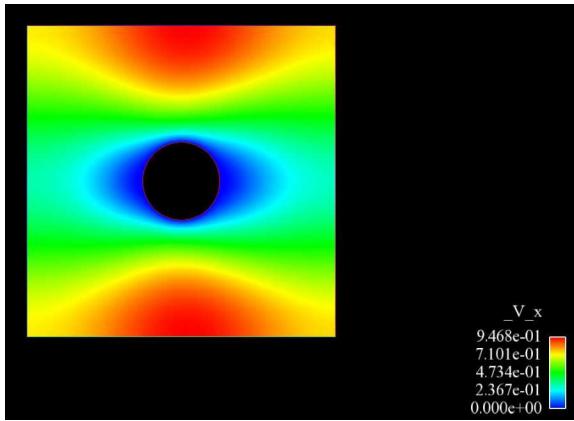
# SRD-Colloid Coupling Verification



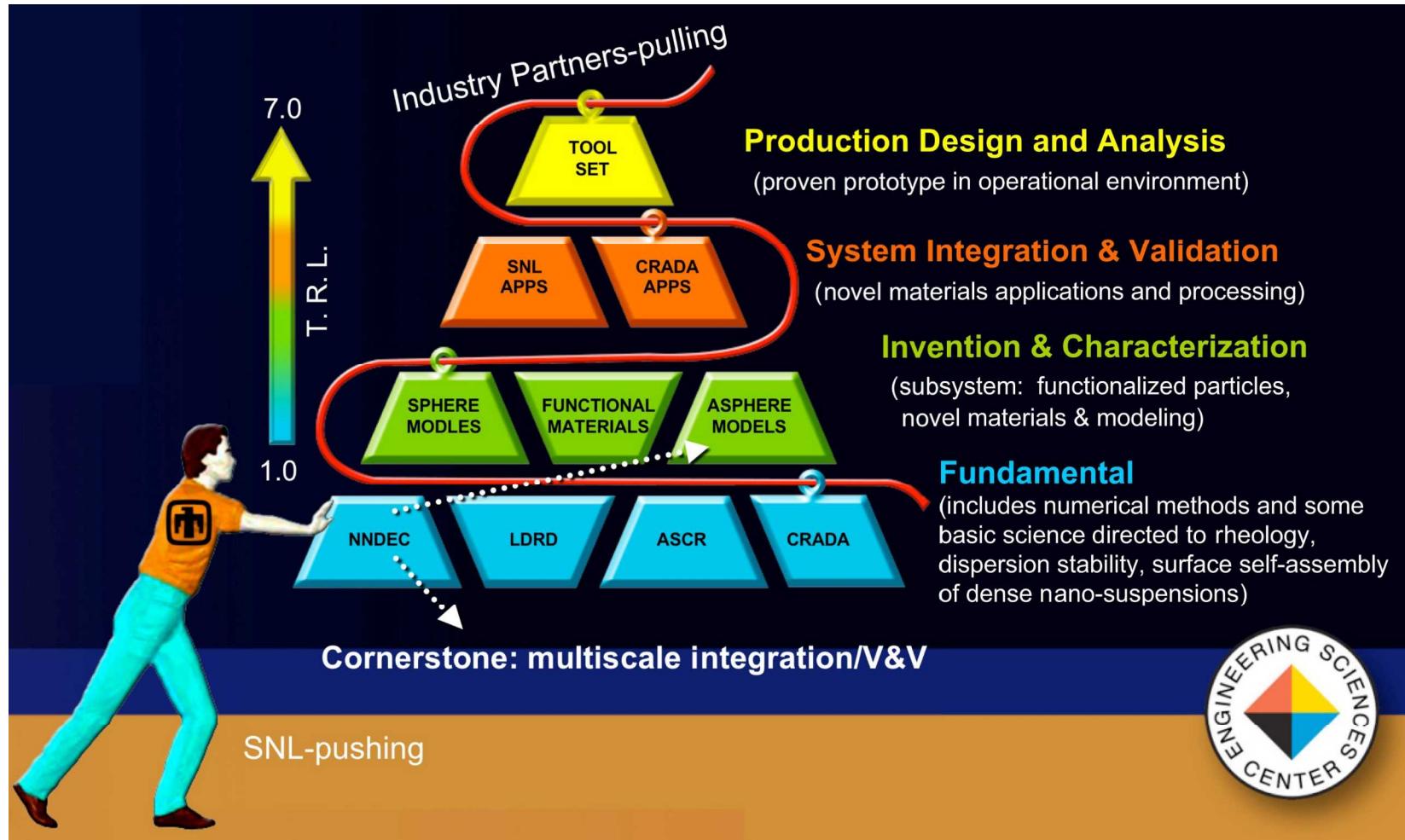
- Computationally inexpensive but
  - Newtonian
  - Pseudo-compressible,  $Ma_{\text{srdf}} > Ma_{\text{actual}}$
  - $Re_{\text{srdf}} > Re_{\text{actual}}$ , etc.
- Dynamic Simulations



# Continuum FEM Accuracy: Translational Friction Coefficient in Stokes Flow



# Nanoparticle Suspension Rheology: Predictive Manufacturing Capability





# Retrospective and Outlook

- **Nanostructured Materials achieved through suspension based processing of nanoparticles requires understanding of**
  - *-bulk rheology*
  - *-dispersion stability*
  - *-induced assembly and structure from volume reduction*
- **We are advancing a mod/sim platform to meet these needs which targets a scale that bridges between the molecular regime and the engineering regime**
- **Our vision is a computational platform to shorten the experimental/test cycle time for designing nanocomposite materials.**

# Acknowledgements

- Gary Grest
- Matt Lane
- Matt Petersen
- Ahmed Ismail
- Steve Plimpton
- Mike Brown