### PHYSICS AND FLOW OF LIQUID FOAMS

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[Cantat et al., *Les mousses, structure et dynamique*, Belin (2010); *Foams, Structure and Dynamics*, Oxford University Press (2013)]

# Liquid foam in industry: friend or foe

#### FRIEND



Ore separation (copper extraction by flotation)



Fire fighting, shock wave attenuation



Food industry, cosmetics, detergents



European Alder Spittle Bug larva: foam nest to remain moist and protected

# Liquid foam in industry: friend or foe

#### FOE



Polluted water: undesirable foam



#### Catastrophic in lubricants



Oil extraction: oily foam reduces output in well heads and may lead to disruption

# OUTLINE

#### • structure

- drainage
- coarsening
- rheology
  - rheometric data
  - micromechanical models
  - flow profiles
- acoustics



#### Foams: definition

Foams : dispersions of gas in a liquid assembly of gas bubbles, deformable, more or less packed...

A COMPLEX SYSTEM ...





#### ...MULTISCALED and DISORDERED

— to stabilise a foam: surfactants in solution

Zooming in: hierarchy of scales



→ A hierarchical material, organised at mesoscopic scales
 → Couplings between properties at each scales

#### Characteristic size and liquid distribution

The films which separate bubbles always meet three-fold, At junction between films, at an angle =  $120^{\circ}$ a channel (Plateau border) thickness h 120° liquid channels of P<sub>1</sub> length L vertex  $\mathbf{P}_2 > \mathbf{P}_1$  $P_1$ 109,5° 2γ \_2γ h << r << L ~ bubble size

#### The liquid within a foam: contained in channels, linked by vertices

#### Liquid volume fraction



The liquid fraction dictates the degree of packing of the bubbles within the foam



Foam = metastable system

Once formed, it ages irreversibly



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Effect due to gravity: gas and liquid demix

What does control the speed / the macroscopic characteristics of drainage?



Liquid fraction profile:

#### Drainage: theory

resembles gravity-induced flow in porous media, but:

- pores are Plateau borders which section (or radius *r*) adapt to the liquid content;
- capillary contribution  $\gamma/r$  to the pressure, in addition to hydrostatic pressure;
- boundaries are not solid walls.



Flow profile (hence *K*) depends on Bq =  $\eta_s/\eta r$ 

#### Drainage: theory

Assumptions: constant bubble size, dry foam (viscous resistance in the Plateau borders only)



variables rescaled by:  $z^* = (\gamma/\rho g)^{1/2}$ ,  $t^* = 8.3\eta/KR(\rho g \gamma)^{1/2}$ ,  $\varepsilon^* = 0.083\gamma/\rho g R$ 

Asymptotics: see [Koehler, Hilgenfeldt & Stone, Langmuir (2000)]

#### Drainage: theory



z





Final state after drainage:

A slab of foam remains wet close to the interface with the drained out solution

capillary hold-up over a height ~  $\gamma/\rho gR$ 

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time

#### Increase of the average bubble size, decrease of the total number of bubbles

Laplace pressure: higher pressure at the convex side of a curved interface



Gas thus tends to permeate from convex bubbles to concave ones





time

Increase of the average bubble size, decrease of the total number of bubbles

Relation number of faces F/curvature/pressure difference (illustrated in 2D):



#### <u>Coarsening: theory</u>

bubble *i* pressure  $P_i$ , volume  $V_i$ 



#### <u>Coarsening: time scales</u>

Increase of the average diameter D: a diffusive-like process  $D \sim \sqrt{1 + t/\tau}$ 



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[Cohen-Addad, Höhler & Pitois, *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.* (2013); Dollet & Raufaste, *C. R. Physique* (2014)]

acoustics



# RHEOLOGY

A 2D example:



Elasticity: bubbles deform  $\rightarrow$  surface energy  $\uparrow \rightarrow$  shear modulus ~  $\gamma/a$ 





~ 10-10<sup>3</sup> Pa >> bulk modulus ~ 1/*P* ~ 10<sup>5</sup> Pa

; Dollet, *J. Rheol.* (2010)]

## RHEOLOGY

A 2D example:



Plasticity: bubbles rearrange (T1s)  $\rightarrow$  saturation of elastic stress  $\rightarrow$  yield stress  $\sim \gamma/a$  $\rightarrow$  plastic energy dissipation per T1  $\sim \gamma a^2$ 



## RHEOLOGY

A 2D example:



Dissipation: viscous flows in the films/Plateau borders depends on surfactant dynamics via boundary conditions very difficult! many pending issues

[Denkov et al., *Soft Matter* (2009); Cohen-Addad, Höhler & Pitois, *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.* (2013); Seiwert el al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2013)]

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#### **Rheometry:** methods



+ creep + relaxation + ...

#### Mechanics of foams: specificities

Foam mechanics GAS + LIQUID = SOLID!



A visco-elasto-plastic, ageing material:

the worst case ... (?)

Experimentally, care should be taken of:

wall slip

measurement time

transients

nonlinearities

memory effects

shear localisation

#### <u>Rheometry: measurements</u>



[Saint-Jalmes & Durian, *J. Rheol.* (1999); Gopal & Durian, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2003); Höhler & Cohen-Addad, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* (2005); Marze, Guillermic & Saint-Jalmes, *Soft Matter* (2009)]

#### <u>Rheometry: measurements</u>

Strain sweep: usual response of soft, disordered media



 $D \sim 100 \mu m$ ;  $\epsilon = 0.15$ 

[Marze, Guillermic & Saint-Jalmes, *Soft Matter* (2009)]

#### **Rheometry:** measurements



- yield stress, decreasing function of the fluid fraction  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$
- stress increasing with shear rate: Herschel-Bulkley fit  $\sigma = \sigma_Y + (\gamma \tau_P)^n, n \approx 1/2$

[Marze, Langevin & Saint-Jalmes, J. Rheol. (2008)]

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## **RHEOLOGY: elastoplastic micromechanics**

- prediction of the shear modulus and yield stress vs. bubble size and liquid fraction
- monodisperse hexagonal foam under shear [Princen, J. Colloid Interface Sci. (1983)]

• unit cell:



strain =  $2\Delta x/3a$ 

- horizontal force exerted on the top boundary  $F = 2\gamma \cos(\psi)$
- $\psi$  computed from strained geometry + Plateau's 120° rule
- shear stress  $\tau = F/(a\sqrt{3})$
- shear modulus =  $\tau/\Delta x$  as  $\Delta x \to 0$

# **RHEOLOGY: elastoplastic micromechanics**

#### • yield strain and T1:



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• elastic energy is dissipated (rate-independent, plastic dissipation)

• effect of liquid fraction:



- shear modulus is unaffected
- but yield stress  $\downarrow$  as liquid fraction  $\uparrow$
- vanishes for  $\phi_1 = 1 \pi/2\sqrt{3} = 9.3\%$

# **RHEOLOGY: origins of dissipation**

- tough, and open question!
- depends on surfactant dynamics [Langevin, Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech. (2014)]
- two extreme cases: free shear vs. no slip boundary condition
- what happens to an extending film? (a key question, but not the only one, in sheared foams) [Seiwert et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2013); Seiwert, Dollet & Cantat, *J. Fluid Mech.* (2014)]

# **RHEOLOGY: origins of dissipation**



- transition zone: dictated by surface tension and viscosity viscous stress ηΔv ≈ Laplace pressure gradient dp<sub>L</sub>/dx with p<sub>L</sub> ≈ γh/l<sup>2</sup> → ηU/h<sup>2</sup> ≈ γh/l<sup>3</sup>
- scalings:  $h \approx R_{\rm PB} Ca^{2/3}$  (Frankel law),  $I \approx R_{\rm PB} Ca^{1/3}$  with Ca = nU/v the capillary number  $\sigma_v(\dot{\gamma}) \approx (\gamma/a)^{1/3} (\eta \dot{\gamma})^{2/3}$
- leads to a prediction for the viscous stress.

### Film extension



# **RHEOLOGY: origins of dissipation**

• what happens on a single film in extension [Seiwert et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2013); Seiwert, Dollet & Cantat, *J. Fluid Mech.* (2014)]:



• but there are MANY other complications and sources of dissipation in a sheared foam, still a lot of pending issues...

## OUTLINE

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drainage	$\rightarrow \rightarrow $
coarsening	
<ul> <li>rheology</li> <li>rheometric data</li> <li>micromechanical models</li> </ul>	
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<ul> <li>flow profiles</li> </ul>	
•	
<ul> <li>acoustics</li> </ul>	

Limitations of macroscopic rheometry: is the shear rate uniform? Is the shear stress vs. shear rate law representative of the mechanical response?

Problematics of shear localisation [Schall & van Hecke, *Annu. Rev. Fluid Mech.* (2010)], confinement/nonlocality [Goyon et al., *Nature* (2008)]...

Necessary to measure local information: advantage of 2D foams

• shear localisation [Debrégeas, Tabuteau & di Meglio, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2001)]



- velocity profile decays exponentially close to the inner rotating cylinder
- stress in non-homogeneous  $\rightarrow$  go to plane Couette geometry

 $\vec{u} = u(y)\vec{e_x}$ : shear stress constant across the Couette cell (if no wall friction)

• shear localisation depends on foam/wall friction [Wang, Krishan & Dennin, *Phys. Rev. E* (2006)]



without top/bottom walls (bubble raft): no shear localisation

with top/bottom walls: shear localisation, rate dependence [Katgert, Möbius & van Hecke, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* (2008)]

• so unconfined foams seem well-behaved. But...

• breakdown of the relationship  $\sigma(\dot{\gamma})$  in a Poiseuille channel flow of an emulsion [Goyon et al., *Nature* (2008); *Soft Matter* (2010)]



• for foams: ask Andrea [Dollet, Scagliarini & Sbragaglia, J. Fluid Mech. (2015)]

## **LOCAL ANALYSIS: principle**

Image analysis: threshold and skeletonisation



- individual tracking of bubbles: velocity and T1 fields
- tracking of bubble edges: elastic stress field

### **LOCAL ANALYSIS: velocity**



image *n* 

displacement of each bubble centre image n+1

averaged in time and per box:

velocity field

+ neighbour swapping: plastic event, T1

### LOCAL ANALYSIS: elastic stress

2D elastic stress tensor



elliptical representation of the elastic stress tensor



[Dollet & Graner, J. Fluid Mech. 2007]

### LOCAL ANALYSIS: maps of the flow



### **LOCAL ANALYSIS:** maps of the flow

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### **LOCAL ANALYSIS: comparison with models**

• need for a tensorial viscoelastoplastic model:

$$\sigma_{\text{tot}} = -pI + 2\eta_1 \dot{\varepsilon} + 2\mu \varepsilon^e,$$
  

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = \dot{\varepsilon}^e + \dot{\varepsilon}^p,$$
  

$$\dot{\varepsilon}^p = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{|\varepsilon^e| - \varepsilon_Y}{|\varepsilon^e|} \varepsilon^e, & \text{when } |\varepsilon^e| > \varepsilon_Y, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



$$\rho \dot{\mathbf{v}} = \operatorname{div} \sigma_{\text{tot}} + \mathbf{f}_{\text{ext}},$$
$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{v} = 0.$$

### **LOCAL ANALYSIS: comparison with models**

• comparison experiments/model:



[Cheddadi et al., Eur. Phys. J. E (2011)]

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[Pierre, Dollet & Leroy, Phys. Rev. Lett. (2014)]

### Acoustics of liquid foams: motivations

- liquid foams: known as good acoustical insulators
- use in practice: blast mitigation [Britan et al., *Shock Waves* (2013); Del Prete et al., *Shock Waves* (2013)]
- but it is not much known why [Goldfarb et al., *Shock Waves* (1997); Mujica & Fauve, *Phys. Rev. E* (2002)]
- controversy: some results report small speed of sound, some much larger [Moxon, Torrance & Richardson, *Appl. Acoust.* (1988)]



- our aim: more experimental measurements of transmission of sound in liquid foams  $\rightarrow$  shaving foams, and home-made foams

### **EXPERIMENTS: results 40 kHz**

• controlled foams: SDS solution (10 g/L),  $C_2F_6$  gas, liquid fraction = 10%



• materials & methods [Pierre, Elias & Leroy, *Ultrasonics* (2013); Pierre et al., submitted to *Phys. Rev. E*]

### **EXPERIMENTS:** results 60-600 kHz

• controlled foams: SDS solution (10 g/L) + xanthane, air saturated in  $C_6F_{14}$ ,  $\phi_1 = 11\%$ 

 $\operatorname{Re}(k) = \omega/c$ 



Qualitative trends:

- low frequency, small bubbles: low speed of sound (30-40 m/s)
- high frequency, large bubbles: high speed of sound (220-250 m/s)
- in between: resonant behaviour, maximum of attenuation

#### **EXPERIMENTS:** results 60-600 kHz

• rescaling of the data:



### **EFFECTIVE MEDIUM THEORY: WOOD'S MODEL**

- simplest model:  $\lambda >> a$ , foam = effective medium
  - effective density  $\rho_f = \phi_\ell \rho_\ell + (1 \phi_\ell) \rho_g \simeq \phi_\ell \rho_\ell$
  - effective compressibility  $\chi_f = \phi_\ell \chi_\ell + (1 \phi_\ell) \chi_g \simeq (1 \phi_\ell) \chi_g$
  - speed of sound  $c_{\text{Wood}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\rho_f \chi_f}} \simeq \frac{1}{\sqrt{\phi_\ell (1 \phi_\ell) \rho_\ell \chi_g}}$



works only for low frequencies and/or small bubbles

### **TOY MODEL**

• assumption of Wood's model: the acoustic-induced motion of all water material elements is the same everywhere

- but foam = thin films (~ 100 nm) + large Plateau borders (~ 10 μm)
  - very different inertia: do they vibrate similarly?



### **TOY MODEL**

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### **TOY MODEL**

• small frequency/size: if  $qa \ll 1$ ,  $z_r(r) \rightarrow b^2 \Delta P/a^2 \rho e \omega^2$  independent of r

The Plateau border and the film move in phase, with a comparable amplitude  $\rightarrow$  justifies Wood's model

• large frequency/size: only the film moves  $\rightarrow$  compatible with Kann's model [Kann, *Colloids Surf. A* (2005)]





### **FULL MODEL**

• prediction of the wavevector: assume the following foam structure



with an effective compressibility = relative variation of volume per unit pressure

 $\chi_{\text{eff}} = (1 - \phi_{\text{I}})\chi_{\text{I}} + \phi_{\text{I}}\chi_{\text{g}}$  like in Wood's model

and an effective density = inverse of acceleration of the unit cell per unit volumetric force

### **FULL MODEL**

• effective density:  $d \ll \lambda \rightarrow$  uniform displacement amplitude  $z_a$  in the unit cell



- hence  $\omega^2 \rho_{\text{eff}} z_a = (P_3 P_1)/d$
- air displacement: continuity with film + Plateau border displacement

 $z_a = x \langle z \rangle + (1 - x)z_c$  with  $x = a^2/b^2$  (decreasing function of  $\phi_i$ ) + Euler equation for the air:  $-m_a\omega^2 z_a = (P_2 - P_3)\pi b^2$ 

### **FULL MODEL**

• prediction of the wavevector:  $k^2 = \omega^2 \chi_{eff} \rho_{eff}$ 

with  $\chi_{\text{eff}} = (1 - \phi_l)\chi_l + \phi_l\chi_q$ and an effective density:  $ho_{
m eff} = (1-\Phi)
ho_a + \Phi'
ho$ with an effective liquid fraction:  $\Phi' = \frac{\Phi_c + \Phi_f (1 - \mathrm{i}\omega\tau)\mathcal{H}(qa)}{1 + \left(x^2 \frac{\Phi_f + \Phi_c}{\Phi_f} - 2x\right) [1 - \mathcal{H}(qa)] - \mathrm{i}\omega\tau x \mathcal{H}(qa)}$ where  $\phi_l = \phi_c + \phi_f$ liquid fraction in the films only liquid fraction in the Plateau borders only

$$1/\Phi' = (1-x)^2/\Phi_p + x^2/\Phi_f$$
 and  $\mathcal{H}(qa)$  = 2J\_0(qa)/[qaJ\_1(qa)]

 $a a < c 1 \cdot a(a) \rightarrow 1 \quad a' \rightarrow a \quad Mood model recovered$ 

### **COMPARISON TO EXPERIMENTS**

• dissipation time  $\tau = 10^{-5}$  s and thickness e = 70 nm fitting parameters



• intermediate regime: acoustic forcing and acceleration of film out of phase •  $k^2 \sim \rho_{eff}$ : evanescent waves, barrier to acoustic propagation