# Stokes' law in complex liquids and inside cell cytoplasm

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Stokes' law and friction coefficient

Drag force on a spherical particle moving slowly in a liquid (Stokes 1851):



Friction coefficient

Stokes law in <u>simple liquids</u>:

$$\zeta\left(a\right) = 6\pi\eta_0 a$$

# **Complex liquid**

Liquid consisted of small molecules with macromolecules (>1nm) such as proteins, colloidal spheres, polymers,...

Examples: colloidal suspensions, polymer liquids, cell cytoplasm, ...







Goal: Stokes' law in complex liquids

Drag force on a spherical particle moving slowly in complex liquid:





Friction coefficient

## **Experiments in complex liquids** Stokes law – simple liquid $10^{5}$ with macroscopic viscosity $10^{4}$ $10^{3}$ $\frac{\zeta\left(a\right)}{6\pi\eta_{0}a}$ $R_{ m h}$ $10^{2}$ $10^{1}$ $10^{0}$ $\xi = 0.51 \text{ nm}$ $R_{ m h} = 42 \ { m nm}$ $10^{2}$ $10^{3}$ $10^{0}$ $10^{-2}$ $10^{-1}$ $10^{1}$ $10^{4}$

Diffusion inside Escherichia Coli cell cytoplasm. Literature data in [Kalwarczyk et al., Nano Lett. 2011, 11, 2157–2163] Size of a probe particle is crucial in order to determine the friction

# Average velocity field around the probe particle

Smoluchowski dynamics [Szymczak and Cichocki (2008)]

$$\langle \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \int d^3 r' \, \mathbf{G}_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}) \mathbf{t}^{\text{irr}}(\mathbf{r}') \mathbf{F}$$

Effective Green function, does not depend on the probe particle:

$$\hat{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1}{\eta\left(k\right)k^2} \left(\mathbf{1} - \hat{\mathbf{k}}\hat{\mathbf{k}}\right)$$

### Theory:

supercooled fluids: Furukawa, Tanaka (2009) Suspensions: Beenakker (1984) No experiments found.

We introduce phenomenological approximation:

Forces induced in complex liquid by the probe particle. Contains all 'interactions' between complex liquid and the probe particle.

b.c.

 $\mathbf{v}\left(a\hat{\mathbf{r}}\right) = \mathbf{U}$ 

Newton's third law:

$$\int d^3 r \, \mathbf{t}^{\mathrm{irr}} \left( \mathbf{r} \right) = \mathbf{1}$$

 $\mathbf{t}^{\mathrm{irr}}\left(\mathbf{r}
ight)pprox\delta\left(\mathbf{r}
ight)\mathbf{1}$ 

**Results: Stokes law in complex liquids** 

- from friction coefficient to scale dependent viscosity

Stokes law: from scale dependent viscosity to friction coefficient

$$\zeta(a) = \frac{3\pi^2}{\left(\int_0^\infty dk \, j_0\left(ka\right)/\eta\left(k\right)\right)}$$
$$j_0(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{x}$$
Hankel transform



$$\eta\left(k\right) = \frac{1}{6\pi k^2} \left[ \int_0^\infty da \, a^2 \frac{j_0\left(ak\right)}{\zeta\left(a\right)} \right]^{-1}$$

Experimental procedure to determine wave-vector dependent viscosity

Application of the Stokes' law in complex liquids - from friction coefficient to scale dependent viscosity



Friction coefficient of different particles inside HeLa cell cytoplasm

Results: Stokes law in complex liquids for rotation, universal formula

$$\mathbf{T} = \zeta_{rot}(a) \mathbf{\Omega}$$
 torque angular velocity



$$\zeta_{\text{rot}}(a) = -4\pi^2 a \left[\frac{d}{da} \int_0^\infty dk \frac{j_0(ak)}{\eta(k)}\right]^{-1}$$

With the Stokes' law for translation we get

$$\frac{1}{\zeta_{rot}\left(a\right)} = -\frac{3}{4a}\frac{d}{da}\frac{1}{\zeta\left(a\right)}$$

universality

## Verification of our phenomenological Stokes' law

$$\frac{1}{\zeta_{rot}\left(a\right)} = -\frac{3}{4a}\frac{d}{da}\frac{1}{\zeta\left(a\right)}$$

Experiments: our work: ongoing, literature: we didn't find Numerical simulations – similar situation, but...

#### Sean R. McGuffee, Adrian H. Elcock (2010):





## Outlook

Simplified description of life processes in cells...



 $\eta(k)$ 

Inertial microfluidics: in complex liquids 'Re' can be large for small particles but small for big particles

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