

# Particle Migration in Inkjet Printed Droplets

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# Why Drops?

Drying drops useful in many situations

- Graphics printing
- Printed electronics
- Crop spraying
- Coatings
- Biosensors
- 3D printing



Inkjet  
Printing

Not just desktop printers!

- High resolution
- Localised
- Low-waste
- Contact-free

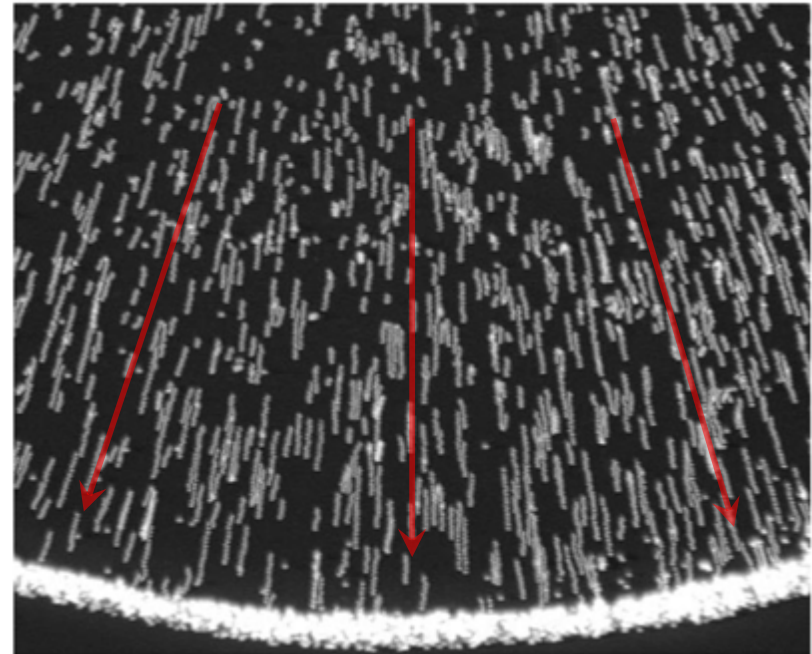
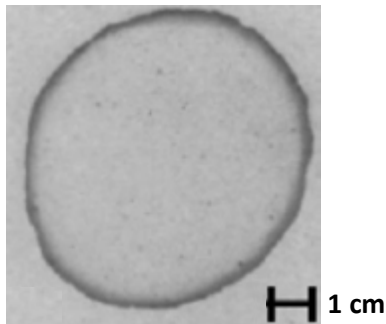
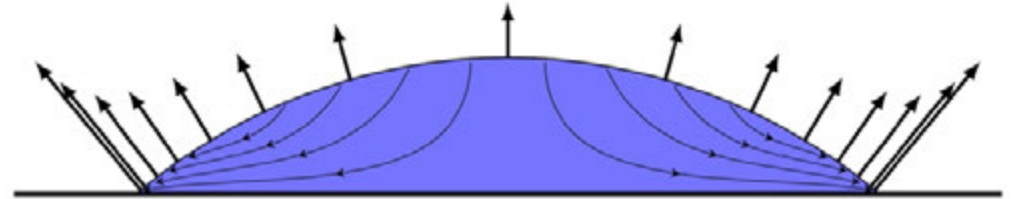
# The Coffee Ring Effect

Simple requirements:

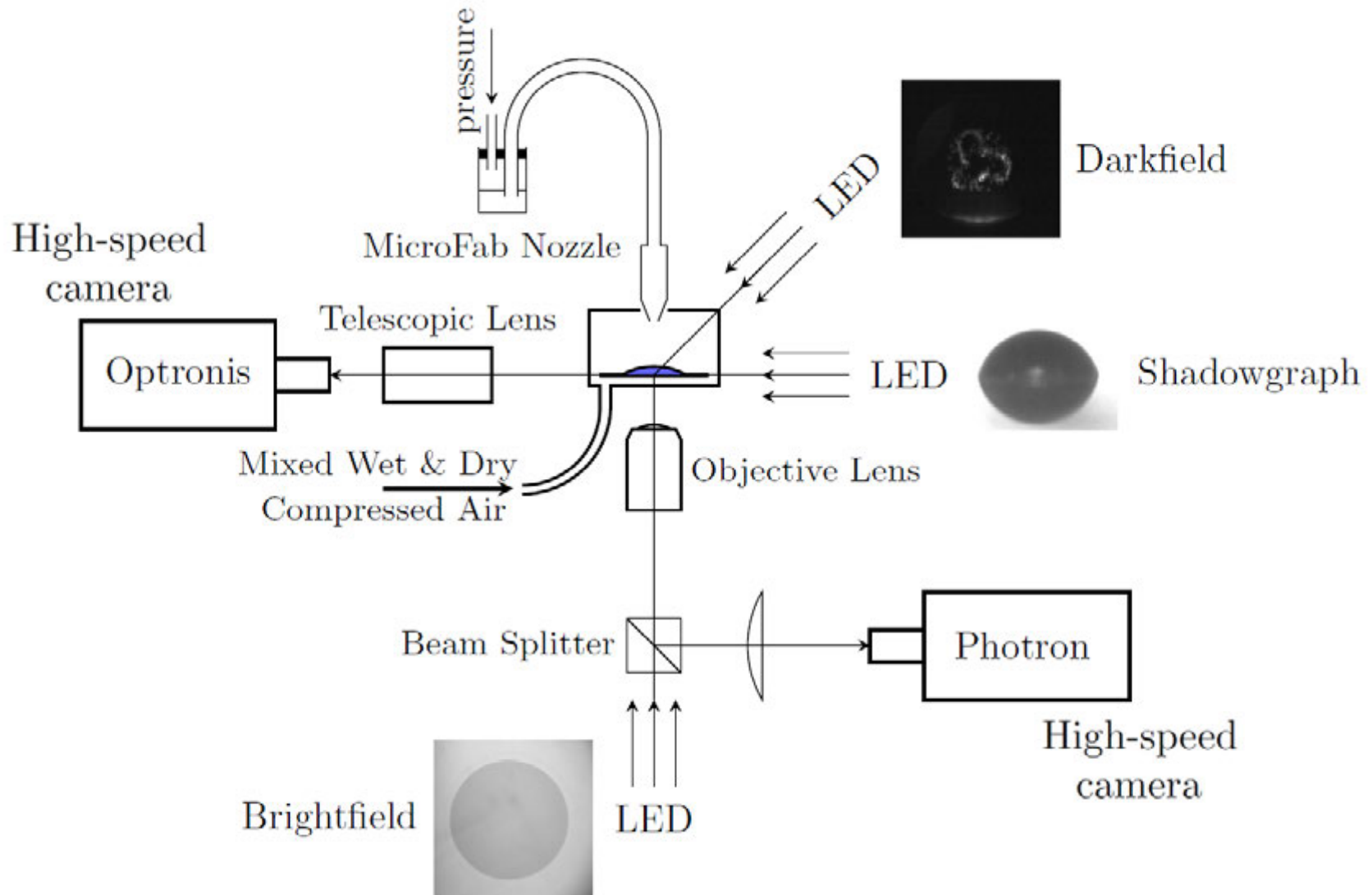
- Volatile fluid (evaporation!)
- Pinned contact line (uneven evaporative flux)

⇒ Convective flow

⇒ **Ring stain**



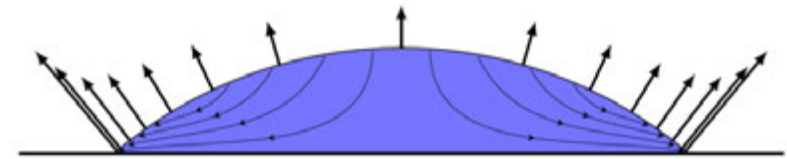
# Experimental Setup



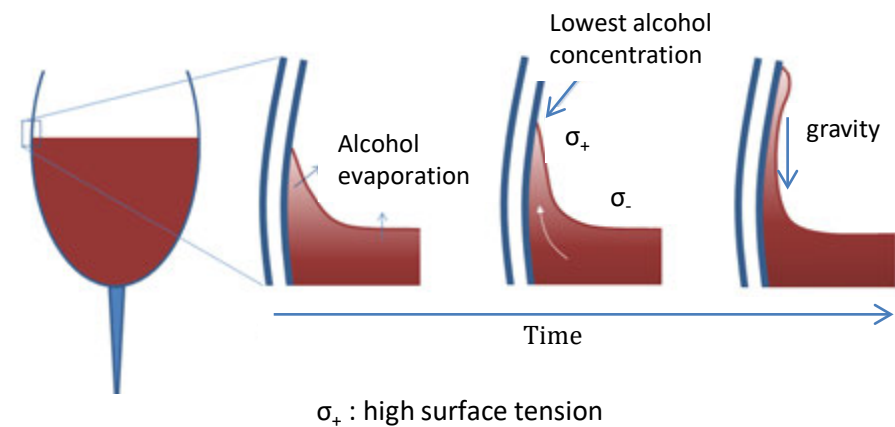
# Binary Solvent Mixtures

Different solvents have different vapour pressures and surface tensions.

⇒ Concentration gradients



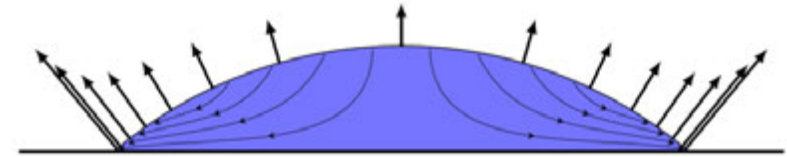
⇒ Surface tension gradients ⇒ Marangoni stresses



# Binary Solvent Mixtures

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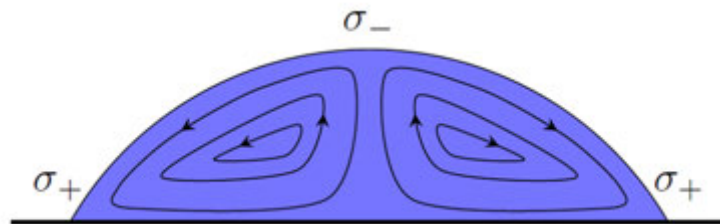
⇒ Concentration gradients



⇒ Surface tension gradients ⇒ Marangoni stresses

⇒ **Internal Flows**

More volatile solvent has *lower* surface tension

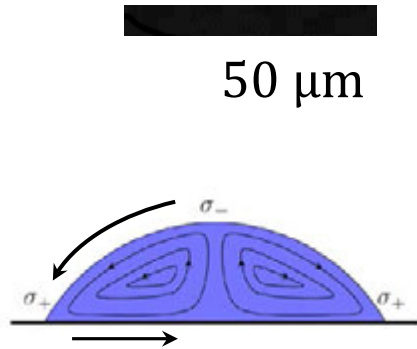


Ethanol – Water Mixture

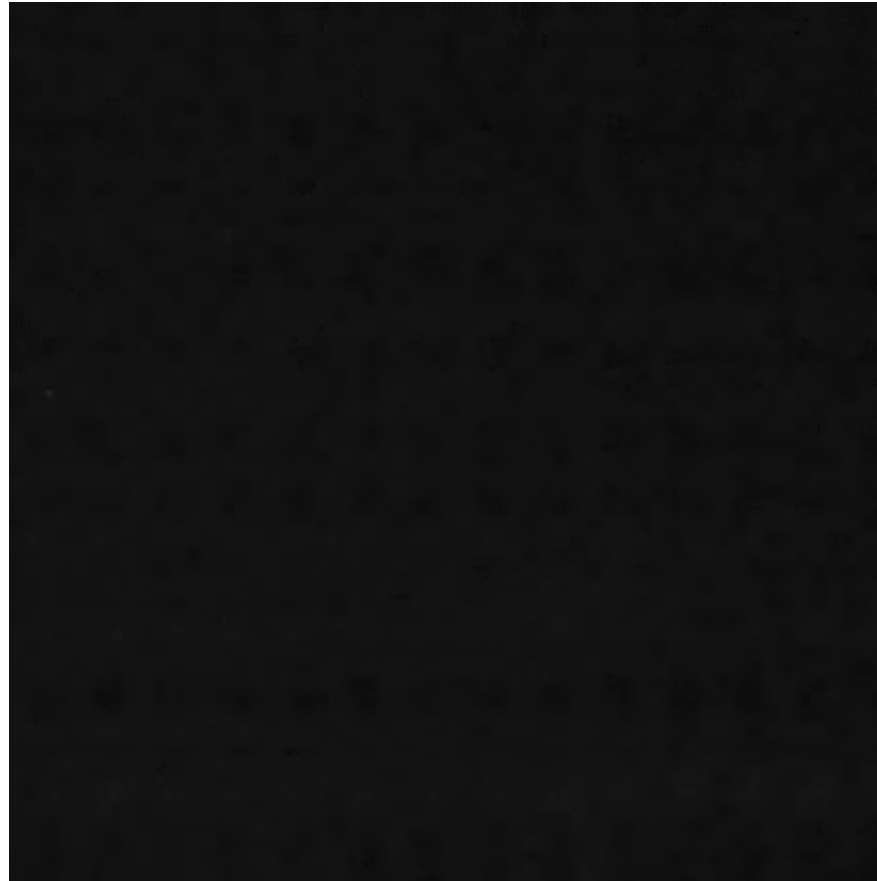
More volatile solvent has *higher* surface tension

Ethylene Glycol – Water Mixture

# Ethanol-Water Droplet



50  $\mu\text{m}$



$$V = 180 \text{ pL}$$

$$\theta = 34^\circ$$

$$R = 70 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

50%v Ethanol  
50%v Water

0.015%v 1  $\mu\text{m}$   
Sterically  
stabilised  
polystyrene  
particles

Playback slowed down  $\sim 44 \times$   
First 35% of drying shown.

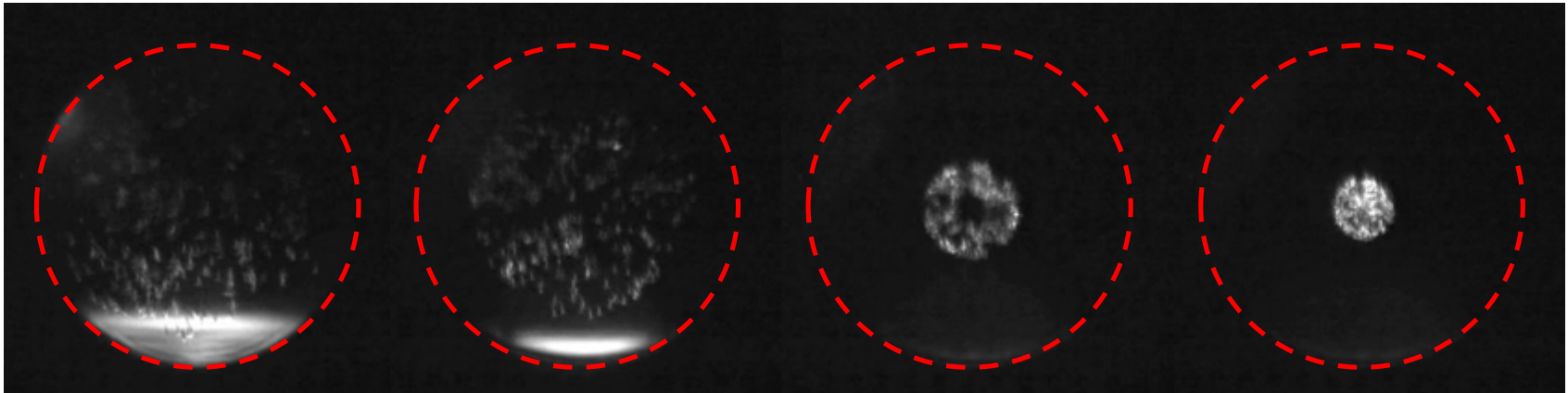
# Particle Migration


$0.03 t_{\text{dry}}$

$0.17 t_{\text{dry}}$

$0.29 t_{\text{dry}}$

$0.31 t_{\text{dry}}$



  
50  $\mu\text{m}$

$R_{\text{Collected Group}} \sim R/10$

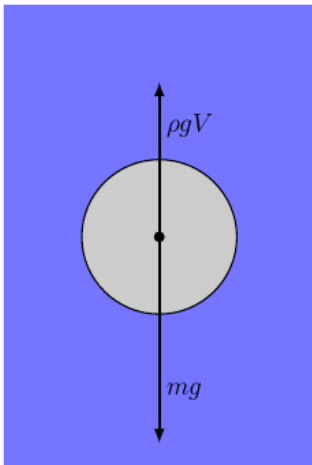
## Possible Mechanisms?

Particles have low Reynolds Numbers so would be expected to follow streamlines rather than migrate.



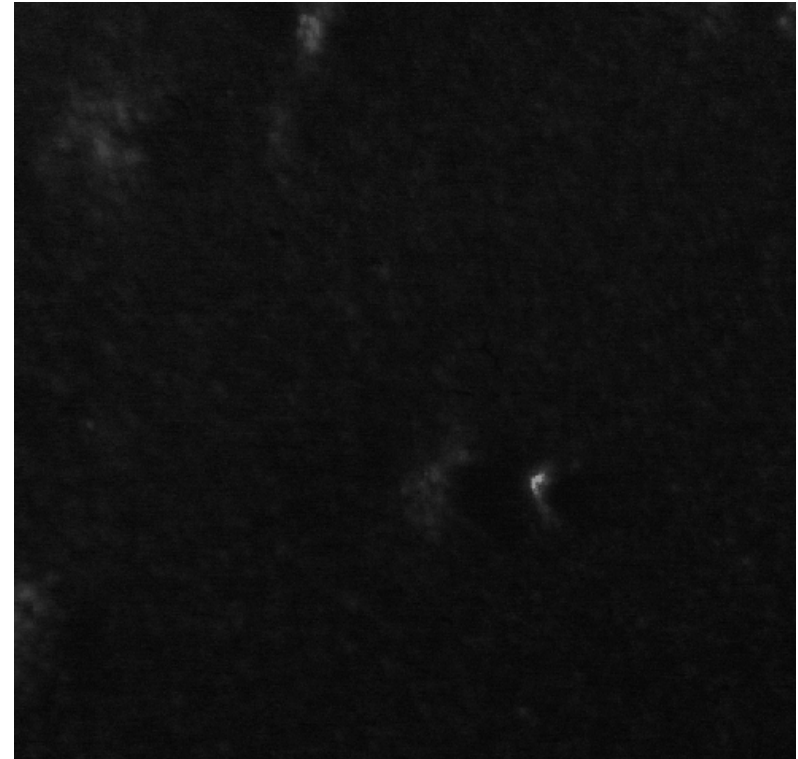
# Possible Mechanisms?

- Hydrodynamic
  - Buoyancy
  - Shear Induced



50%v Ethanol  
50%v Water

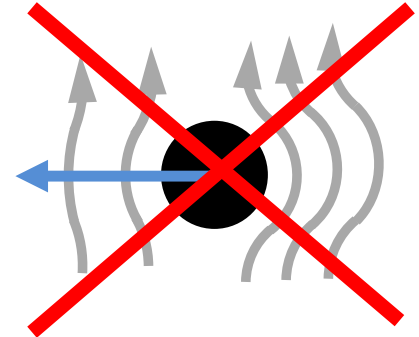
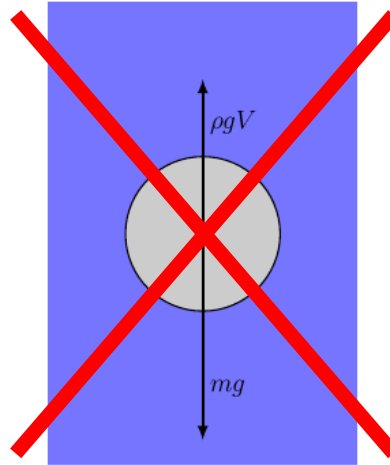
0.5%v	3 μm
0.01%v	1 μm
0.05%v	600 nm
0.5%v	200 nm
PS spheres	



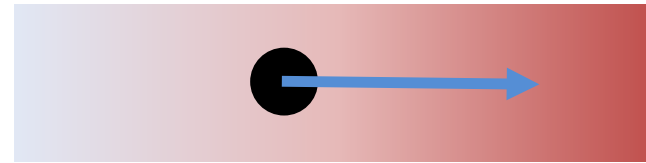
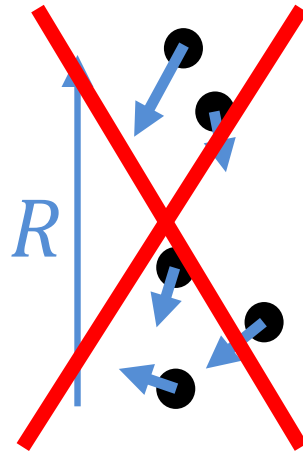
Collected Group Radius  
Scales as  $a^{0.25}$

# Possible Mechanisms?

- Hydrodynamic
  - Buoyancy
  - Shear Induced



- Collisions



- Diffusiophoresis



Reverse the  
concentration  
gradient!

# Ethanol Vapour



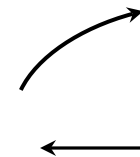
Water + 0.02%v 1  $\mu\text{m}$  PS  
Playback slowed down  $\sim 17\times$   
 $V = 200$  pL



50  $\mu\text{m}$



50%v Ethanol  
50%v Water + 0.02%v 1  $\mu\text{m}$  PS  
Playback slowed down  $\sim 13\times$   
 $V = 155$  pL



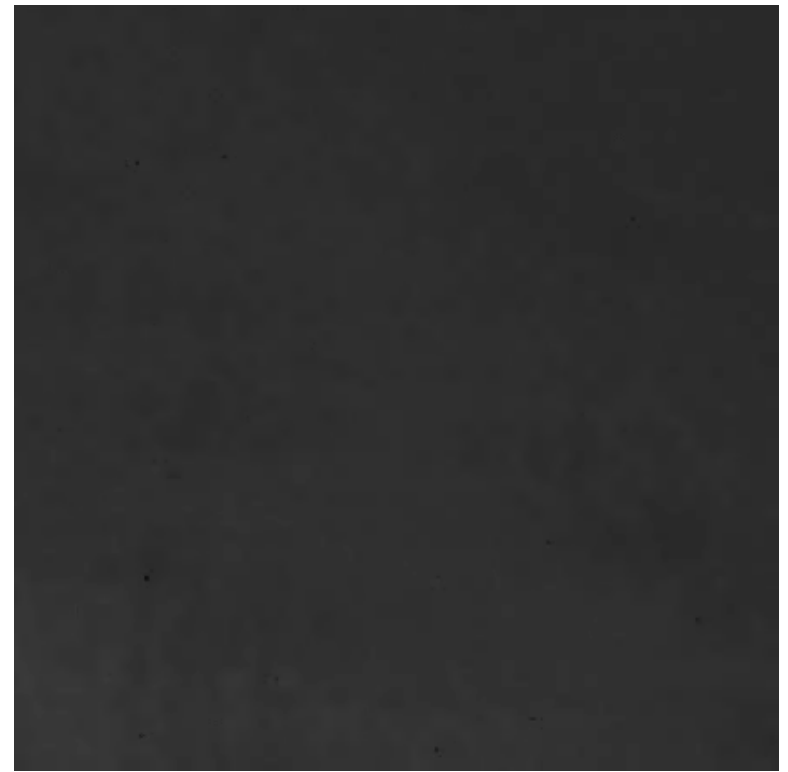
# Ethanol Vapour



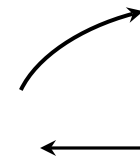
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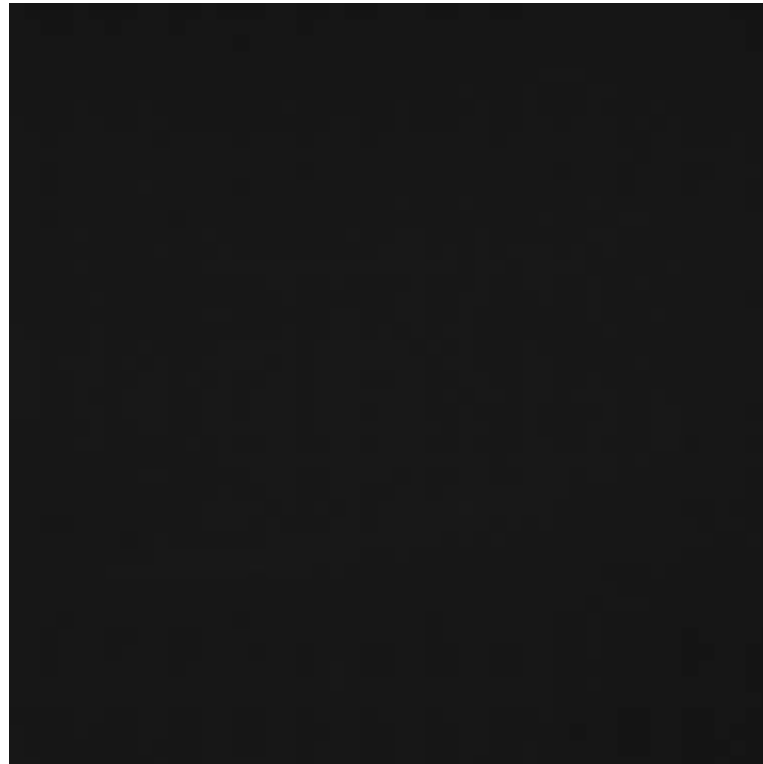
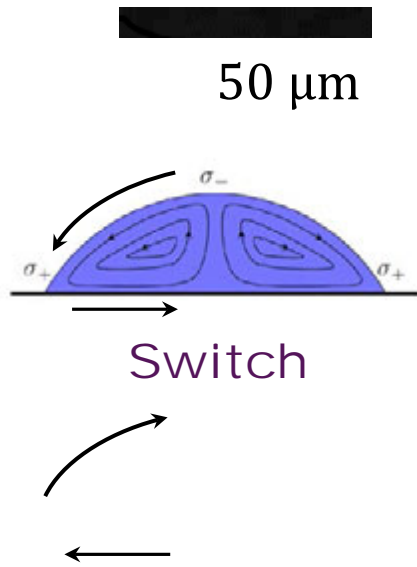
50  $\mu\text{m}$



50%v Ethanol  
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Playback slowed down  $\sim 13\times$   
 $V = 155$  pL



# Tertiary Mixtures



$$V = 200 \text{ pL}$$

$$\theta = 37^\circ$$

$$R = 71 \mu\text{m}$$

32%v Ethylene Glycol

34%v Ethanol

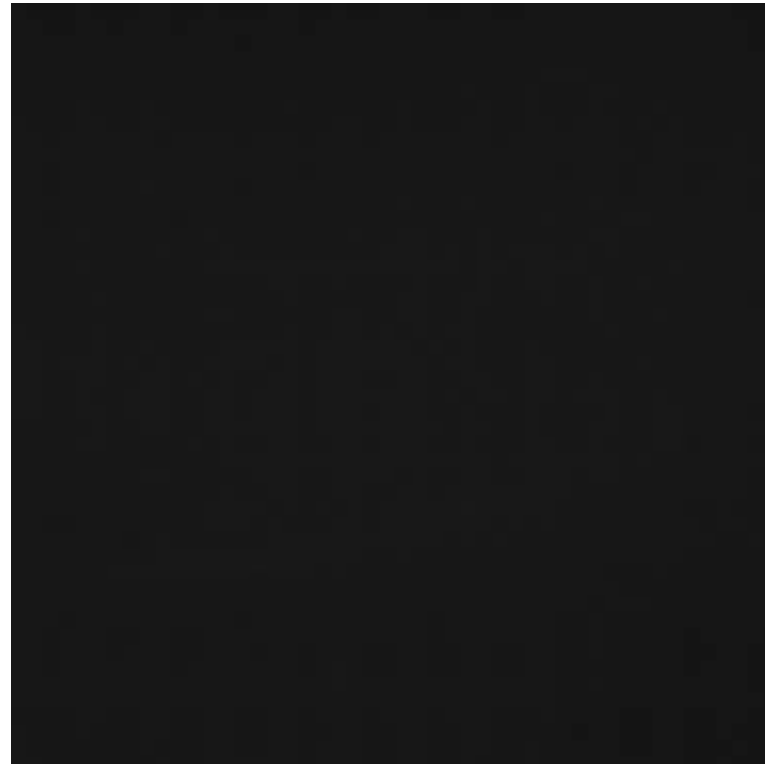
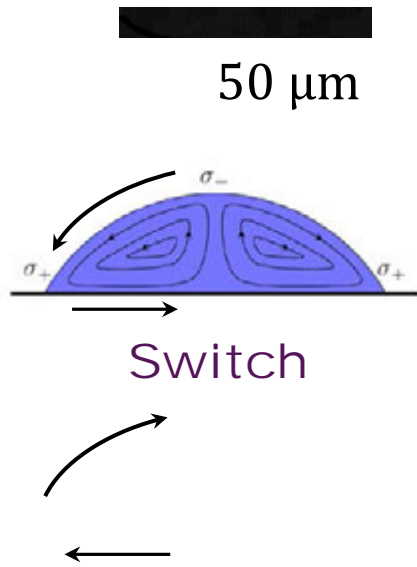
34%v Water

0.036%v 1  $\mu\text{m}$

Sterically stabilised  
polystyrene particles

Playback slowed down  $\sim 11 \times$   
First 1.4% of drying shown.

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34%v Ethanol

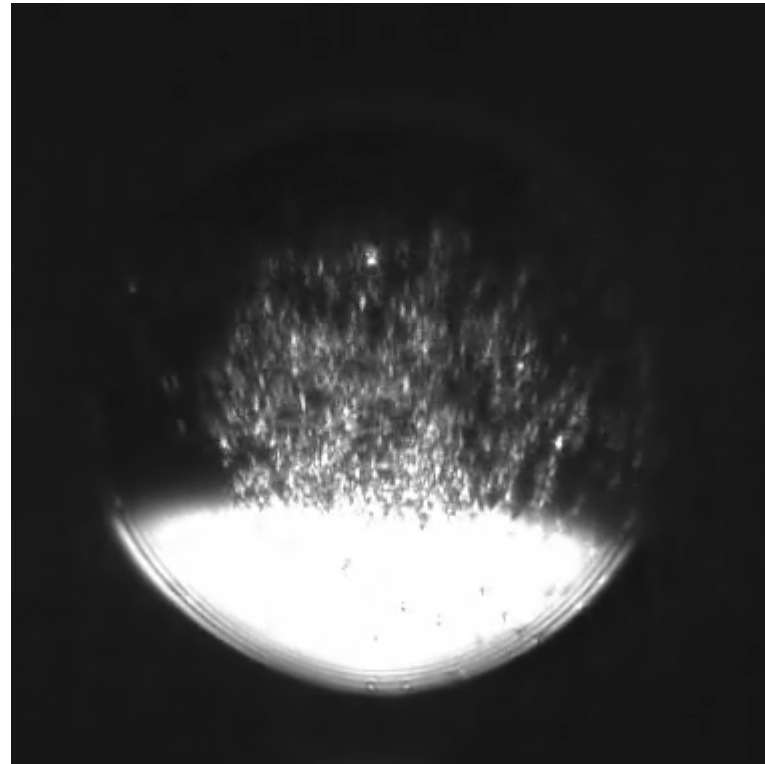
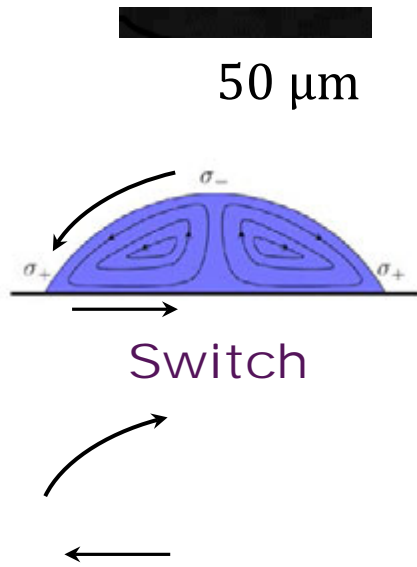
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# Solutes

The concentration gradient doesn't need to be of a solvent.

Simple salts like sodium chloride ( $\text{NaCl}$ ) or nitrate ( $\text{NaNO}_3$ ) exhibit migration, as does

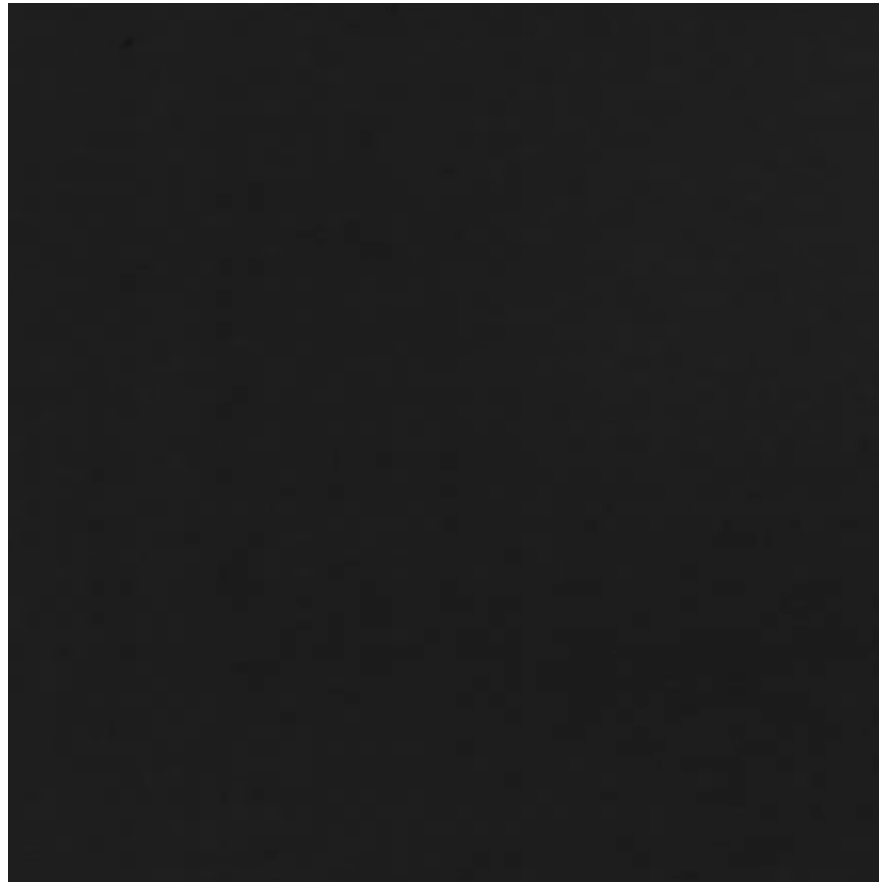
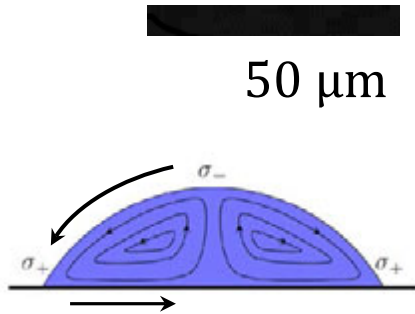
## Sucrose

- *Highly* viscous at high concentrations
- Humectant.





# Sucrose



$$V = 330 \text{ pL}$$

$$\theta = 40^\circ$$

$$R = 80 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

Water

16 wt% Sucrose

0.015%v 1  $\mu\text{m}$

Sterically

stabilised

polystyrene

particles

Playback slowed down  $\sim 6\times$

# Conclusions

- Particle migration in solvent mixtures
- Particle migration in solutions
- Weak particle size dependence
- Not linked to Marangoni flows.

# DROPLETS

2019 - Durham, UK

[www.droplets2019.co.uk](http://www.droplets2019.co.uk)



16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September

Liquid droplets are important in many natural phenomena as well as for a broad variety of industrial processes. The aim of the 3-day international conference Droplets 2019 is to bring together physicists, chemists, mathematicians and engineers working on droplets in the broad sense: from pure to complex fluids; from impact to evaporation; in aerosols, emulsions or on surfaces; covering experimental, theoretical, and industrial perspectives.

The workshop builds upon the successful Droplets workshops held in 2013, 2015 and 2017, and will consist of plenary lectures, keynote lectures, oral presentations and poster sessions. The programme will be shaped to stimulate group discussions and informal exchanges.

## SESSION TOPICS :

- Impact
- Wetting
- Coalescence and break-up
- Aerosols
- Liquid crystals and complex fluids
- Modelling across time and length scales
- Emulsions/Multiphase flow
- Microfluidics and Acoustofluidics
- Evaporation
- Textured, patterned, smart surfaces
- Inkjet printing

## PLENARY SPEAKERS:

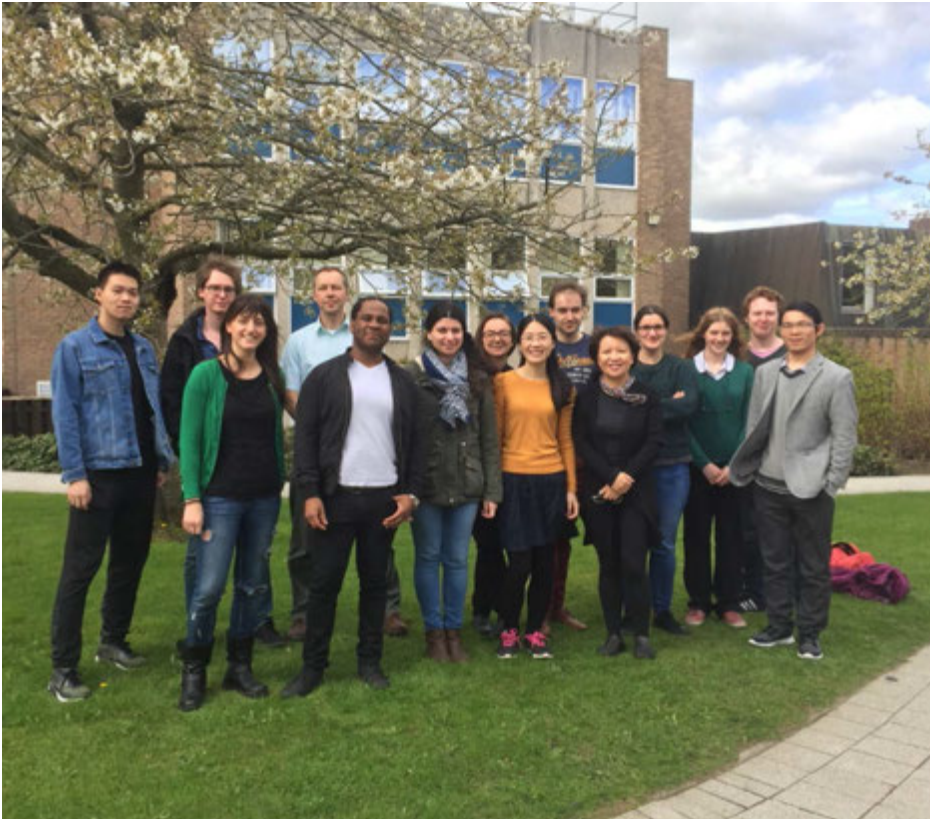
- **Pr. Vicki Grassian** (*University of California, San Diego*)
- **Pr. Detlef Lohse** (*University of Twente*)
- **Pr. Omar Matar** (*Imperial College*)
- **Pr. Sigurdur Thoroddsen** (*King Abdullah University*)

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- Abstract submission: **by 17 March 2019**
- Early bird registration: **by 30 June 2019**



# Acknowledgements



Baingroup

Evaporative Drying of Droplets and  
the Formation of Micro-structured  
and Functional Particles and Films

EP/N025245/1



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