Assembly behavior of Janus particles and the role of hydrodynamic interactions

> ACS Meeting Washington D.C., August 20, 2009

> > Erik Luijten Northwestern University



Hydrodynamics of Janus Particles

- We employ computer simulations to explore the combined effects of hydrodynamics and particle aggregation on sedimentation of Janus particles
- Hydrophilic and hydrophobic surface areas result in non-uniform boundary conditions on the particle surface and lead to orientation-dependent inter-particle forces.



 "Stickier" hydrophilic boundaries are more affected by tangential motion of the fluid, resulting in torque from unbalanced drag.

Summary

- Hydrodynamics of Janus particles can be studied via multiparticle collision dynamics (MPC), including an arbitrary variation of the boundary conditions (ranging from stick to slip conditions)
- Individual sedimenting Janus particles exhibit strong preferential orientation, but in aggregates this tendency depends on symmetry breaking
- Outlook:
 - Can one create colloidal crystals with oriented Janus particles?
 - How do larger aggregates orient under flow?
 - Are these phenomena directly observable in experiments?

Acknowledgements

- Hydrodynamic interactions: Jonathan K. Whitmer
- Funding: NSF-DMR

