



Oral processing in relation to perception of liquid and semi solid food systems

Science and Technology of Food Emulsions, June 2012



Jennifer Aniston (W Magazine photo shoot)

George van Aken
george.vanaken@nizo.nl

Together to the next level



Introducing NIZO food research

- Independent, private contract research company for the food industry
- 200 professionals
- State-of-the-art facilities & food-grade processing centre
- HQ in “Food Valley” in The Netherlands
 - Offices in France, UK, USA, Japan
- ISO 9001:2000 certified

*Processing centre
Application centre*



Research centre

Key question

How can we translate between

Food materials knowledge

(rheological properties, molecular properties, structural dimensions)

and

Sensory perception of structures

(limiting to texture: hard, firm, tough, sticky, slimy, juicy, creamy, gritty, astringent)



Product developers approach



Product development to
composition, structure

- reduced fat
- thickeners
- particles
- aroma's
- sugar replacers

**Correlations
are often
poor**

Product characteristics:
properties

not so creamy, thin, slimy, gritty
off tastes, off flavours, unbalanced
flavours

measurements:

- viscosity, gel strength, fracture behavior
- friction measurement
- droplet and particle size
- aroma and flavour release



Contents

- Discussion of the main hurdles in relating structural and sensory properties
- Elucidating textural perception by the tongue
- Acoustic tribology

Main hurdles

RELATING STRUCTURAL AND SENSORY PROPERTIES

1. Sensory response is multimodal

Senses:

Vision

Touch

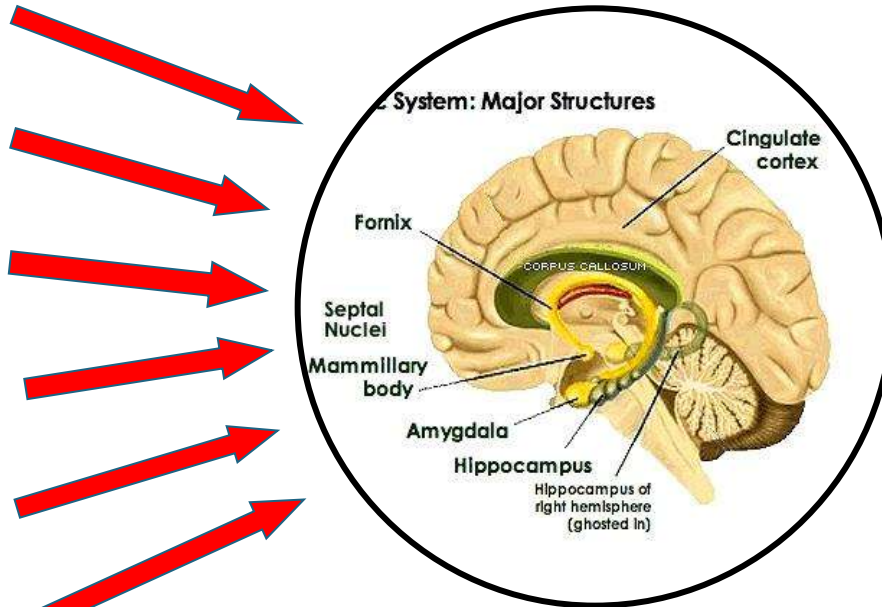
Sound

Mouthfeel

Taste

Smell

Nutritional
status



CCK, PYY,
Gastrin,
vagus nerve

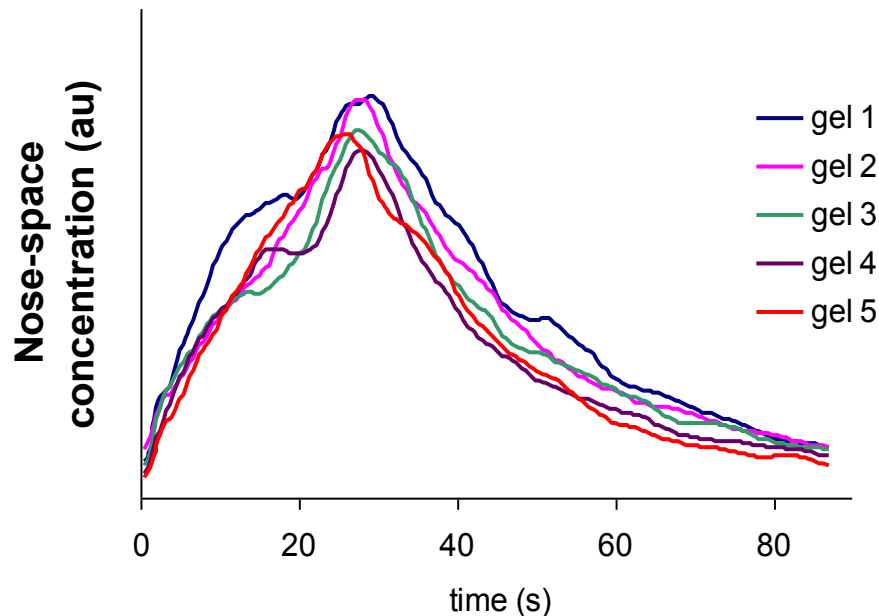
Perception



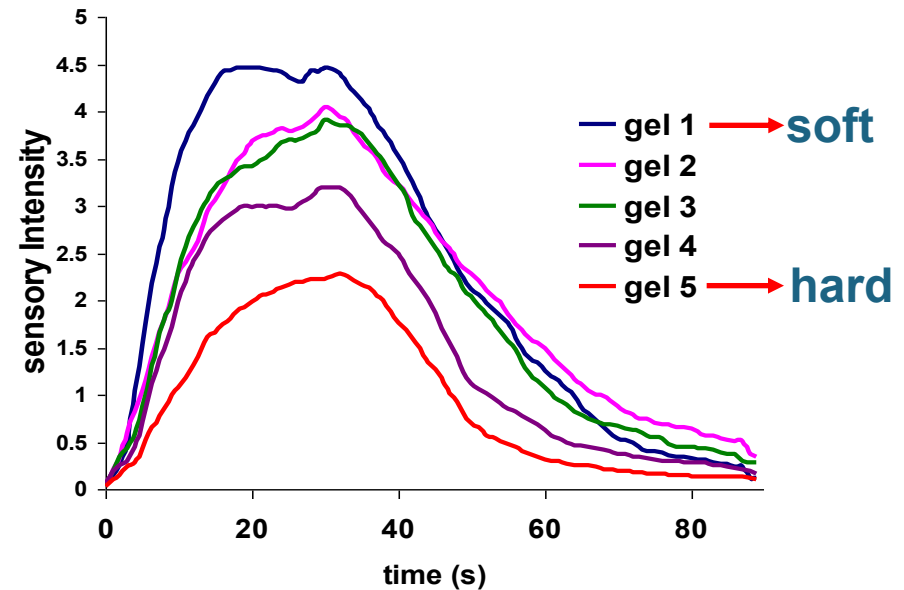
**Hedonic consumer
response**

Cross modal interactions: texture affecting flavour intensity perception

Nose space



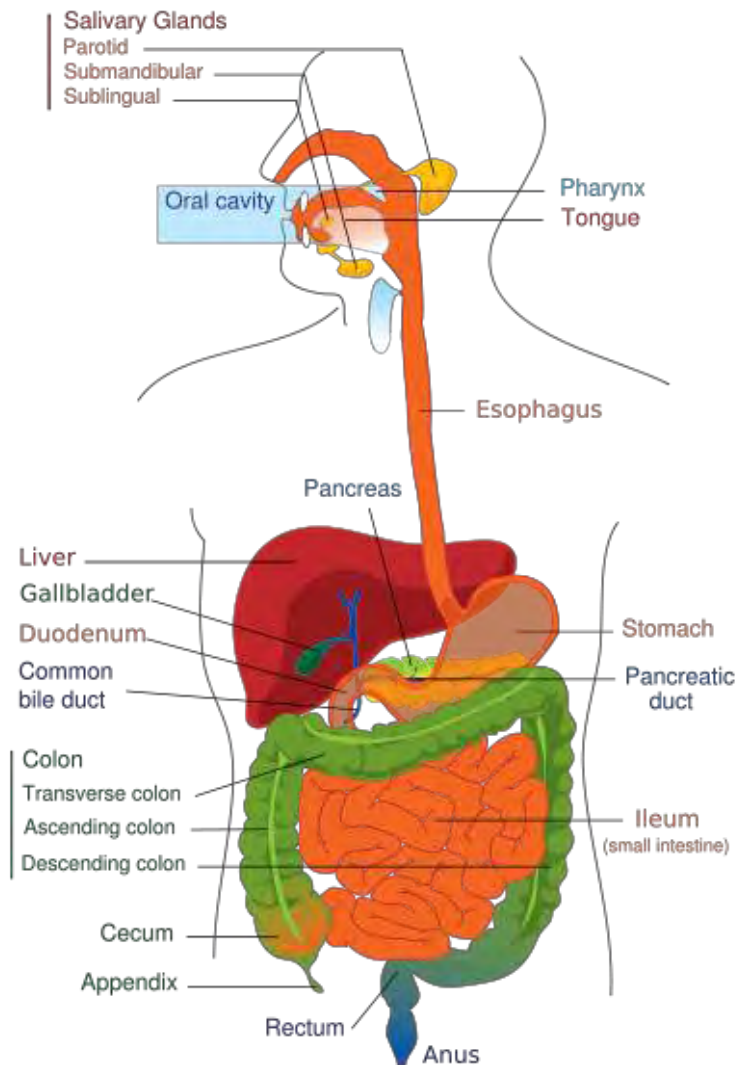
Sensory intensity



Texture-flavour interaction at perception level!

(K. Weel, A. Boelrijk et al., published 2002)

2. Food is processed in the mouth



Mouth function as the first part of the gastrointestinal tract

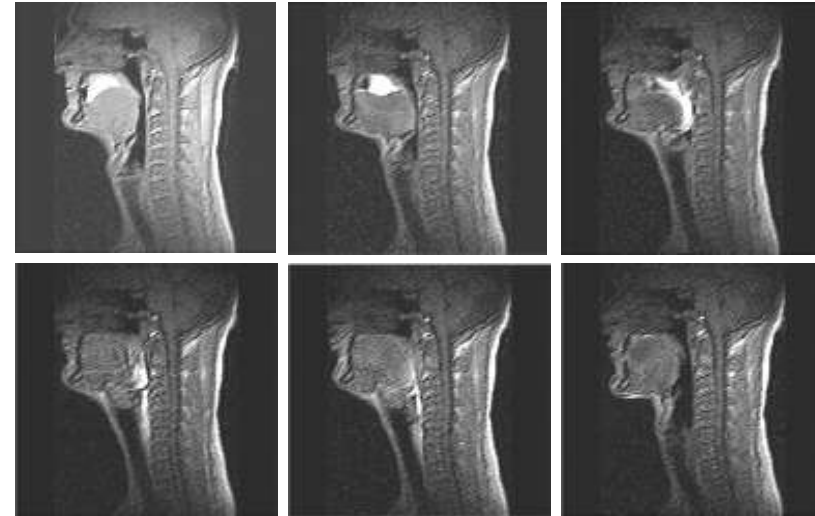
- Food preparation: mastication and addition of saliva to form a cohesive slippery bolus that is safe to swallow
- Explore food content:
 - Nutritious?
 - Safe or toxic, flavor and aroma?
 - Sharp objects? Fishbones? Undigestible grains?

Criterion for swallowing: **LOW RISK OF CHOKING**

Risk of choking specific for humans, related to low position of the larynx, allowing a larger vocal range required for speech.

Quick and clean passage through the pharynx into the esophagus, avoiding food spilling into the windpipe:

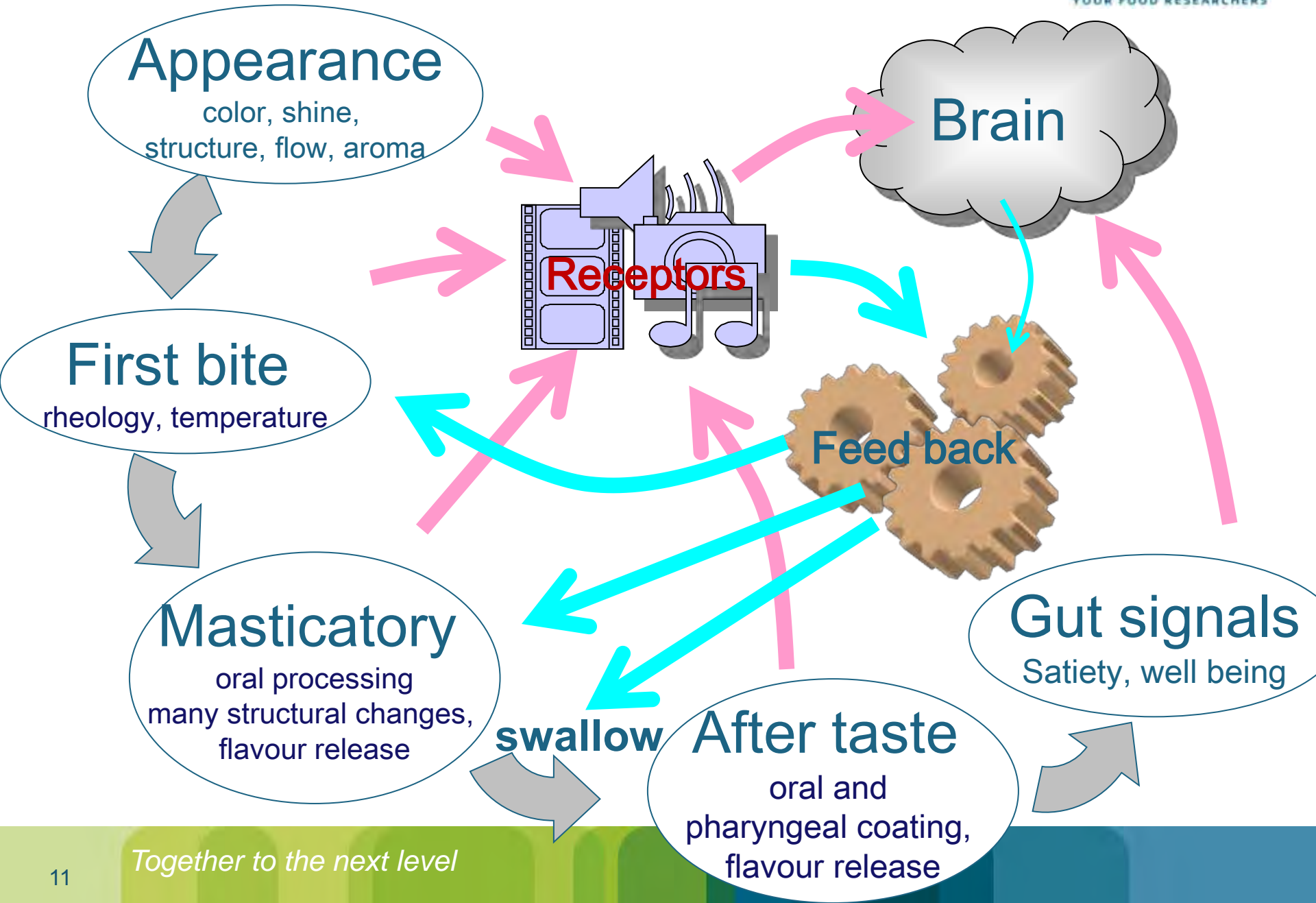
A “clean” bolus should be formed



The food bolus should be:

- cohesive, not disintegrating into loose particles
- soft and deformable enough to enter the (rather narrow) esophagus
- slippery and not sticking to the mucosa, allowing fast passage

Sensory perception of food



Sensory attributes along the oral processing pathway

First bite

hardness

temperature

thick

elastic

slimy

creamy viscosity

Masticatory

crunchy

cooling

cohesive

sticky

slippery

grainy, gritty

rough, astringent

taste, aroma

After taste

coating

tacky

fatty

creamy coating

time

swallow

Needed

- Better understanding of how foods behave in the mouth
- Better understanding of how food is sensed
- Combine this knowledge with material science for product development

Background research at TIFN

Saliva, tongue surface, palating, chewing

STUDIES ON FOOD EMULSION BEHAVIOUR IN THE MOUTH

Examples of oral processing in relation to perception

- Emulsions
- Emulsion-filled gels

Examples of oral processing in relation to perception

- **Emulsions**
- Emulsion filled gels

Sensory analysis

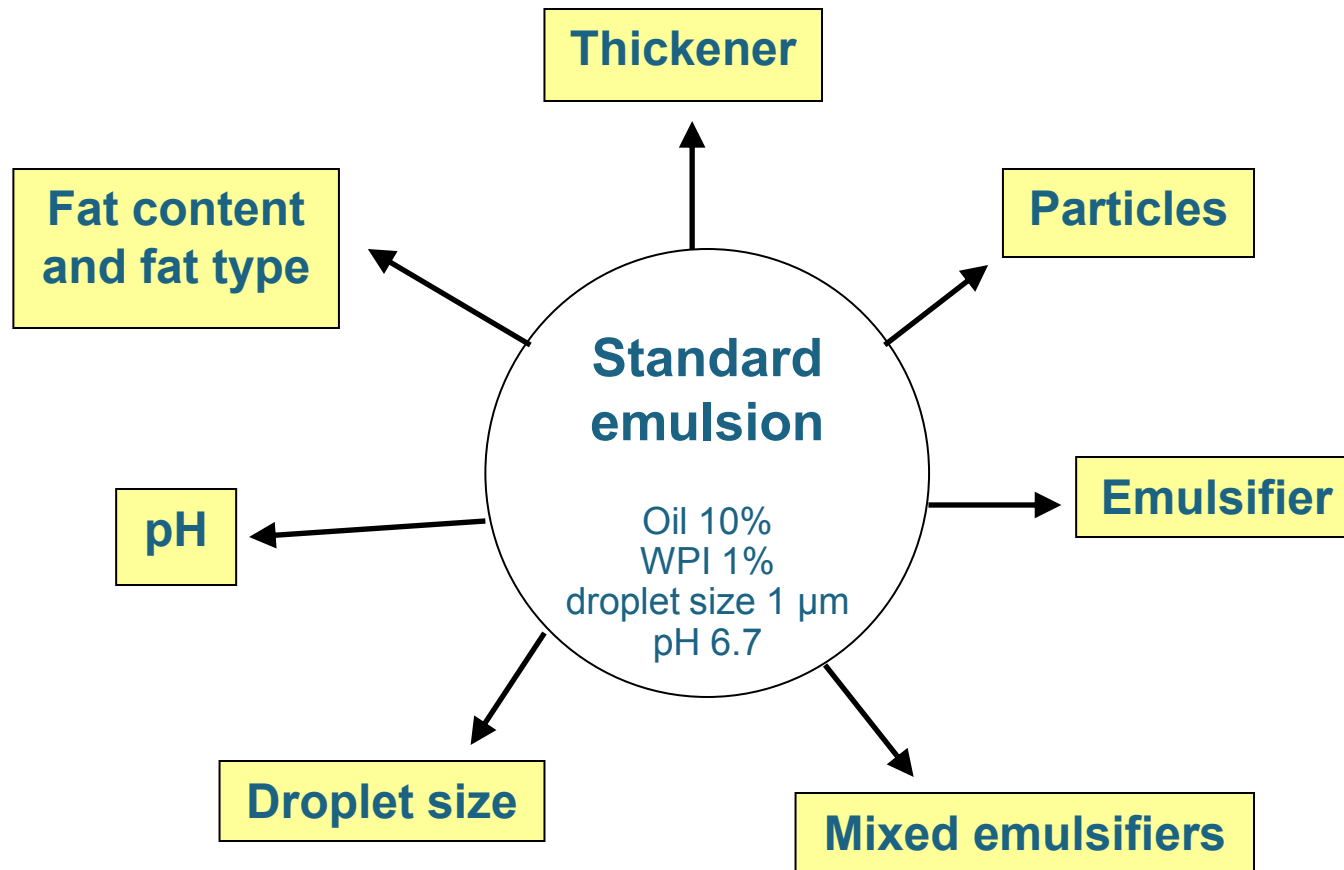
Quantitative Descriptive Analysis

- In total 20 studies focussed on the effect of composition and oral processing of model food emulsions
- **A lot of work!** Each study:
 - 8-9 Female panellists (mean age 45-50 years)
 - General training to describe sensory attributes.
 - 2-4 training sessions on samples
 - 2-4 panelling sessions
 - 35 attributes
 - 3 odor (O)
 - 8 taste (T)
 - 9 mouthfeel (MF)
 - 4 aftertaste (AT)
 - 11 afterfeel (AF)



Approach

the first 7 QDA profilings

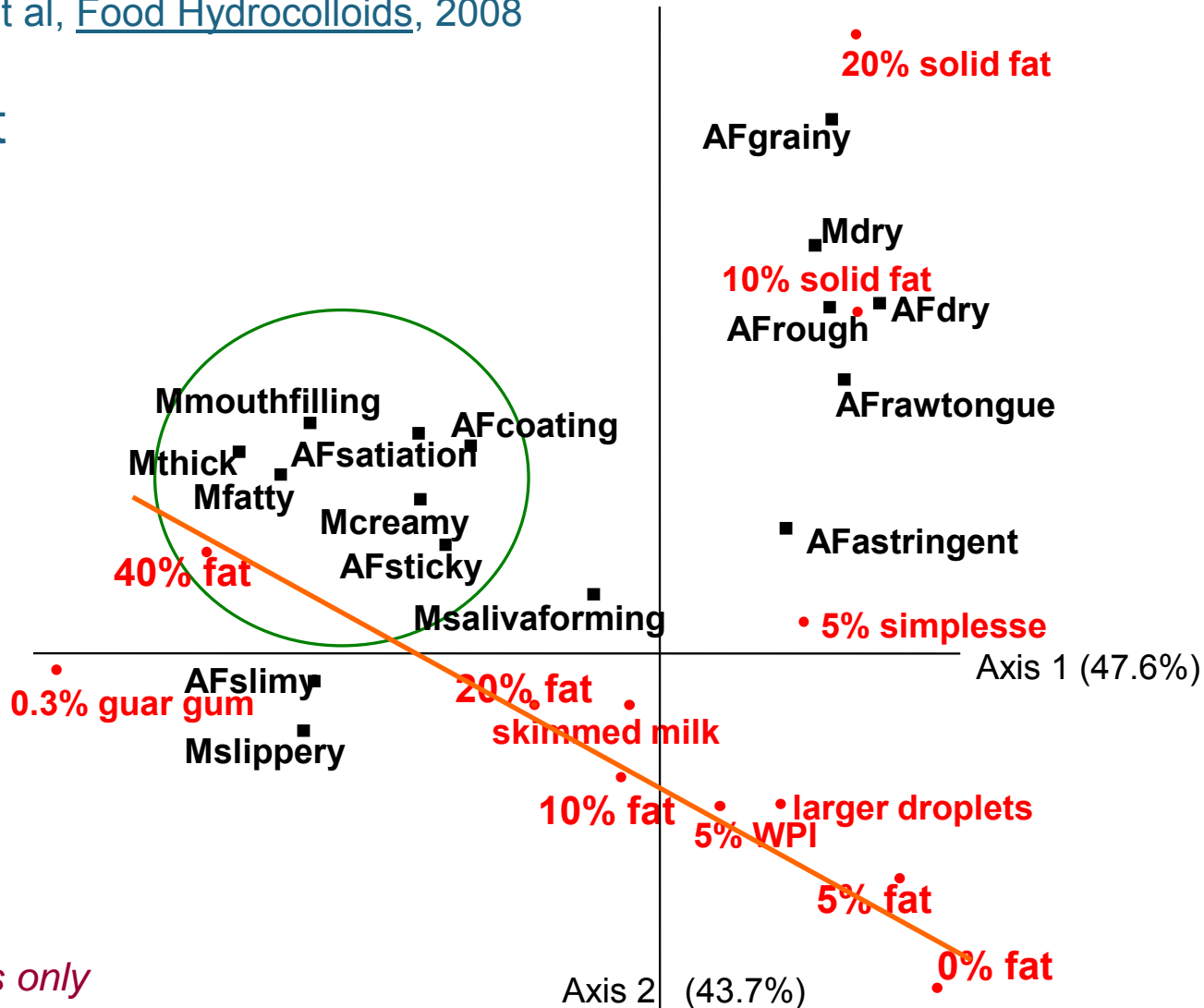


1st QDA profiling:

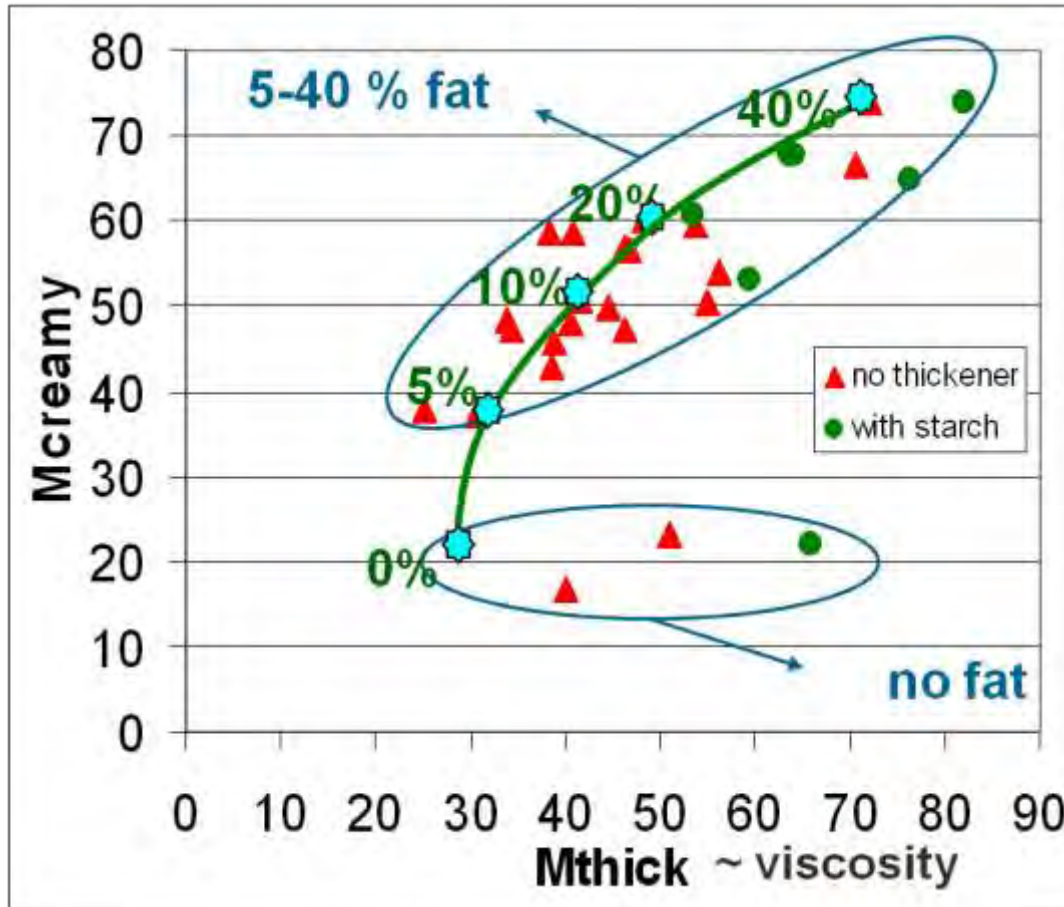
variation of fat content, thickeners, particles, solid fat

Vingerhoeds et al, Food Hydrocolloids, 2008

PCA plot



In low-viscosity systems: fat improves creaminess separate from thickness



WHY?

Oral behavior of emulsions:

Large structural changes, even for thin liquid emulsions:

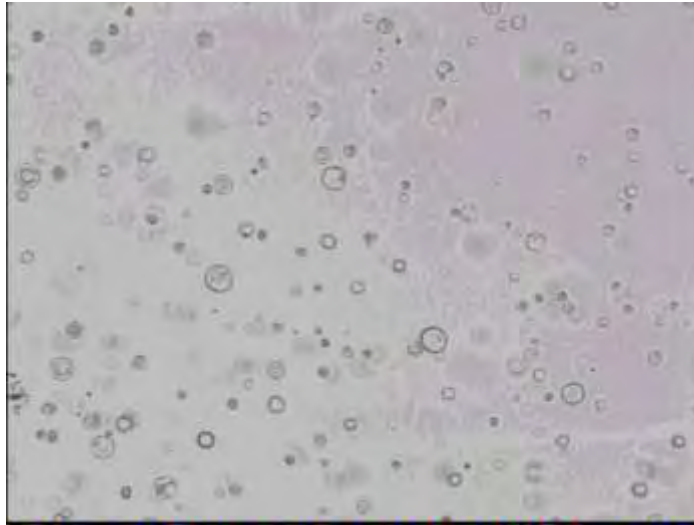
THIS is what you taste!



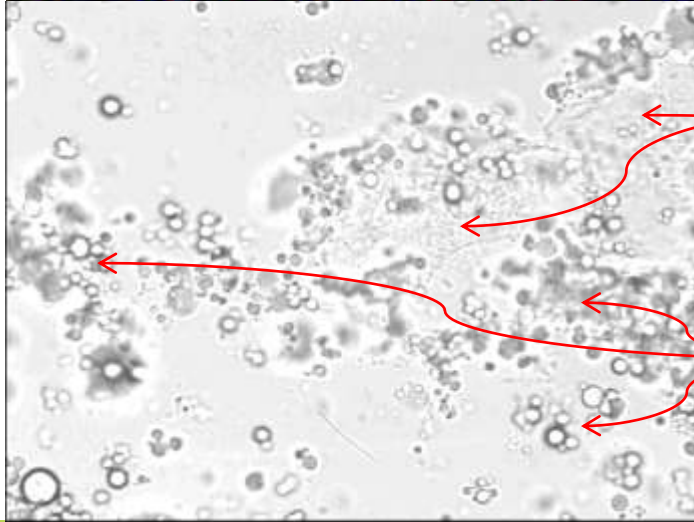
40 % dairy emulsion (cream)

100x dilution with bidest

cream



after 1 min
in mouth



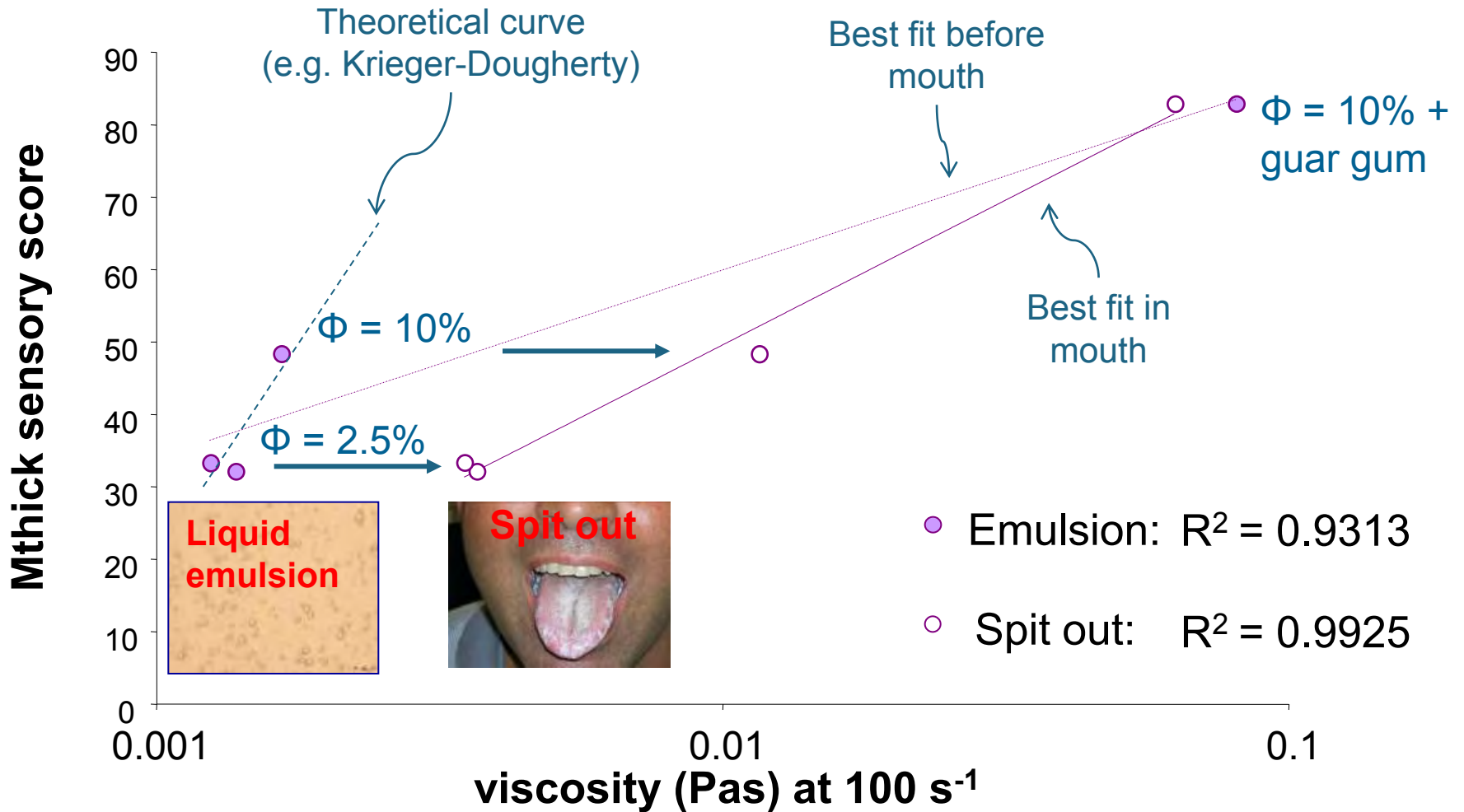
Epithelial cells

Droplets and cells bound
together by a ropy mucous mass
from saliva and tongue surface

Emulsion viscosity & perceived thickness

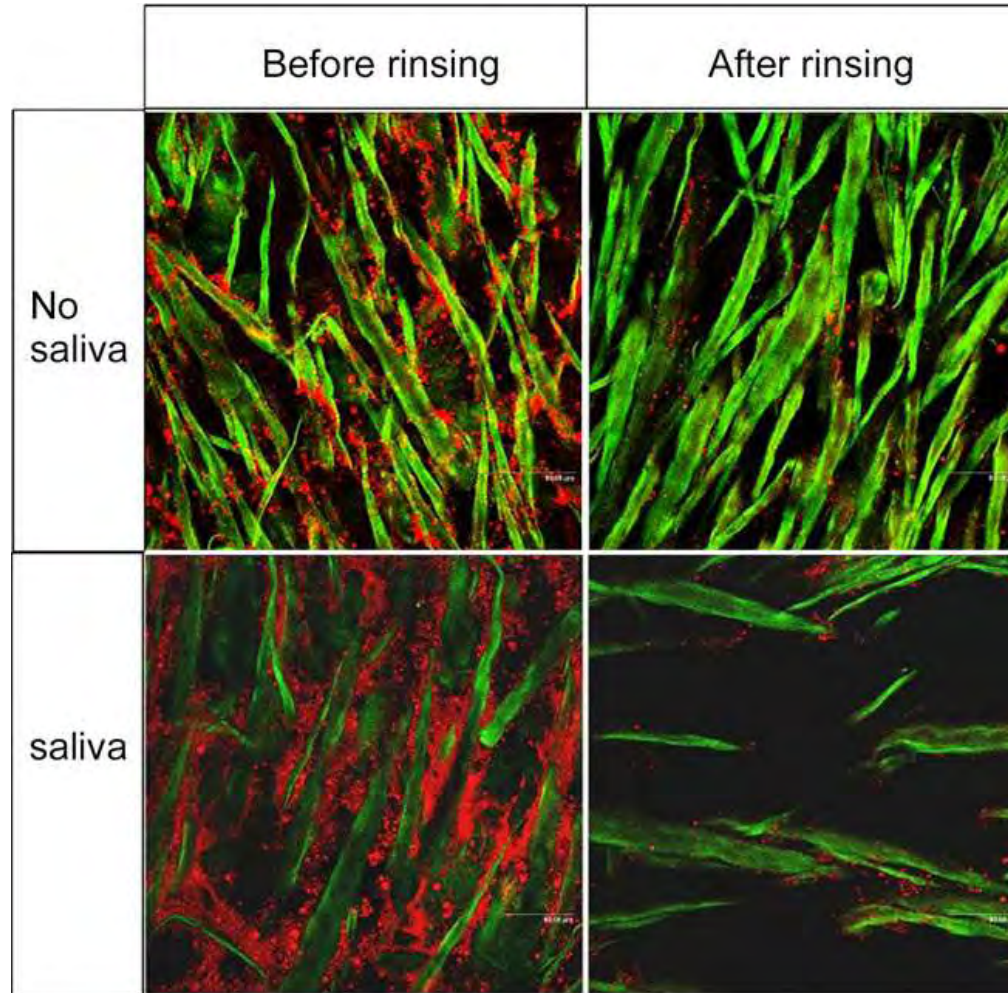
WPI-stabilized emulsions (ξ =potential < 0)

(Vingerhoeds et al. Food Hydrocolloids, 23(3) (2009), 773-785.)



Interaction with the tongue

PhD study of Diane Dresselhuis

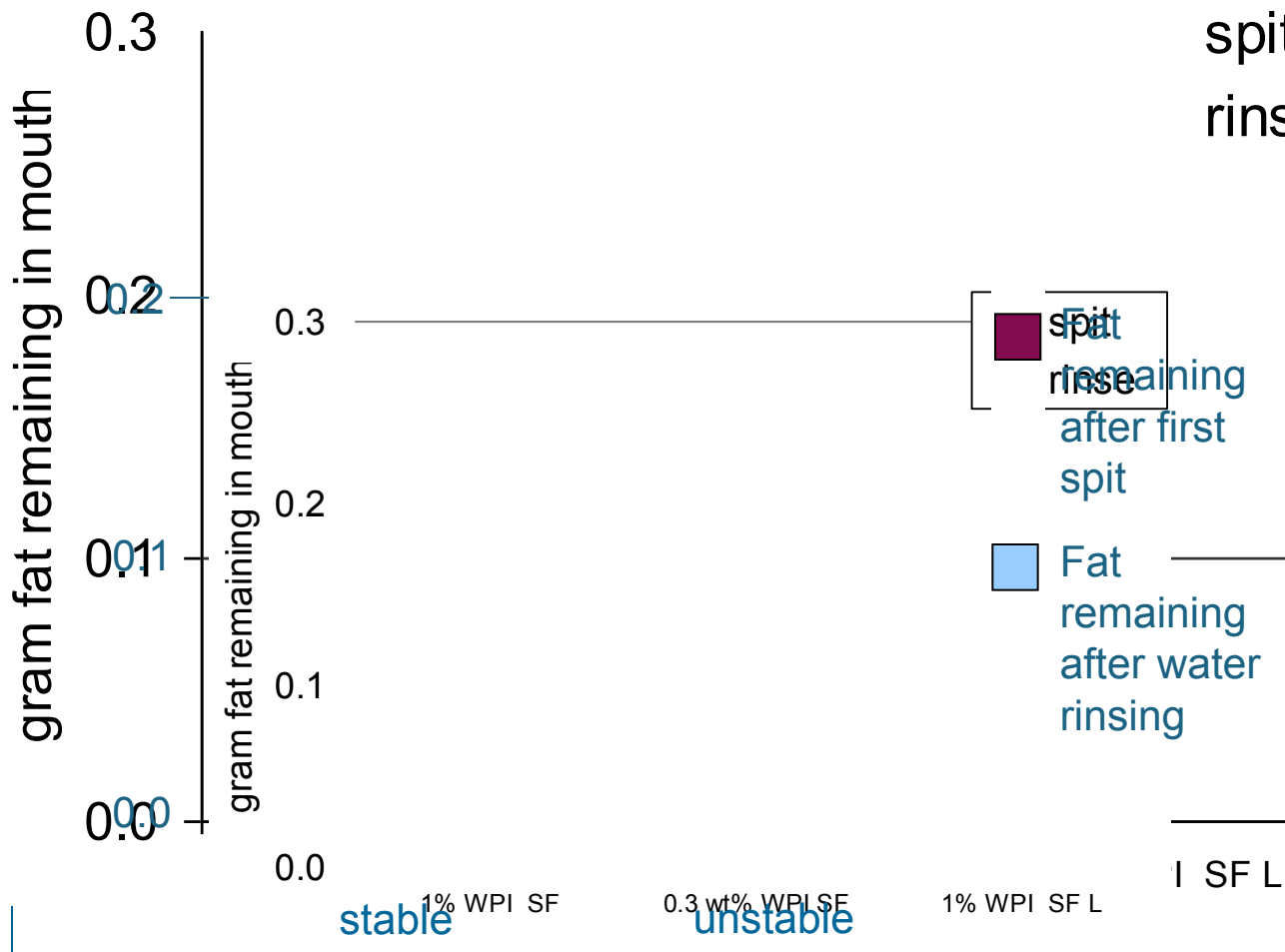


Visualization of fat retention on piglet tongue

CSLM image (Nile blue staining)
500×500 μm
10 wt% SF oil; 1 wt% WPI
red: oil; green: tongue papillae



Dresselhuis et al., Journal of Colloid and Interface Science (2008)



spit
rinse



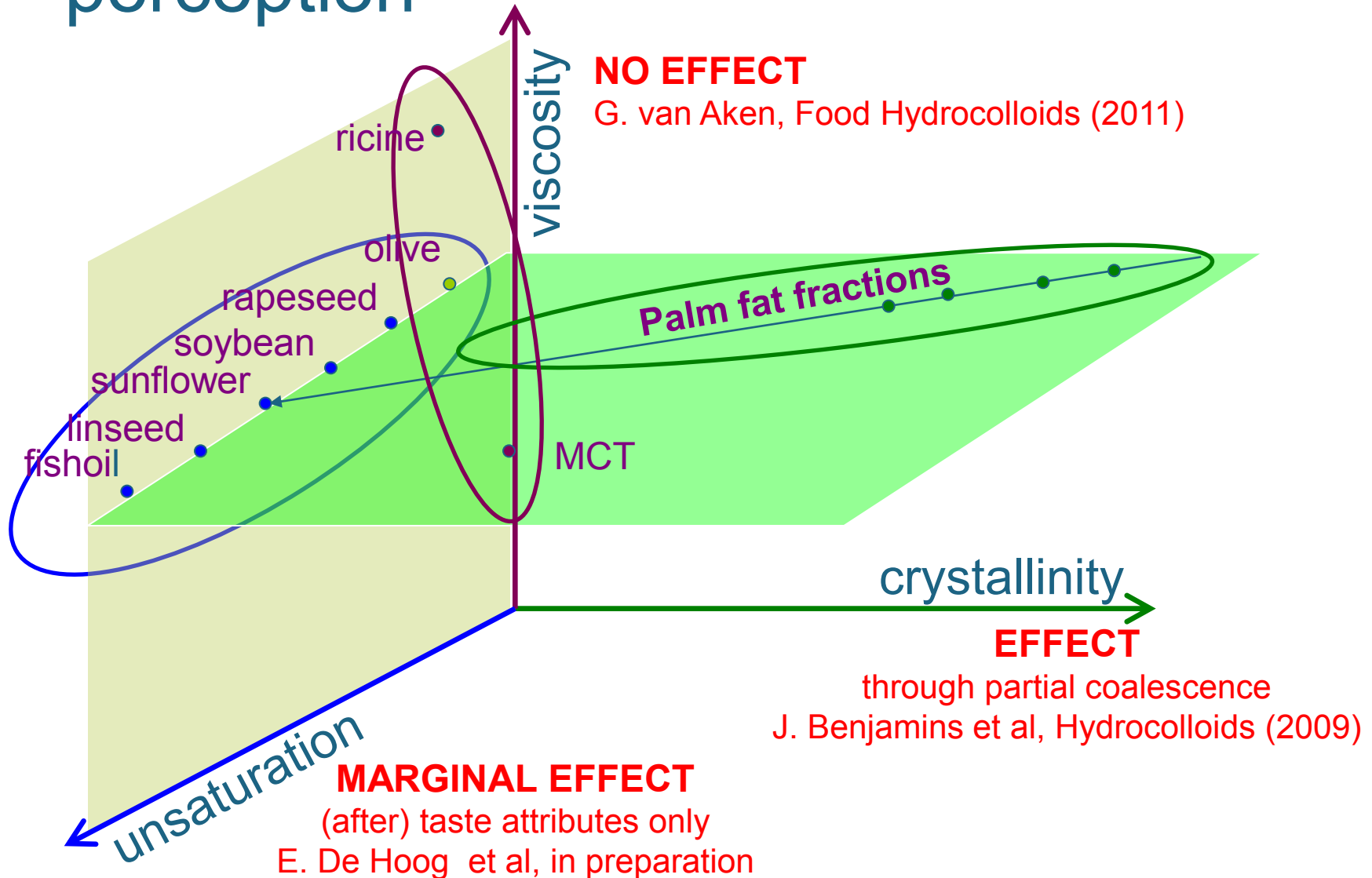
o/w emulsion
7% SF (sunflower oil)
bilized with protein WPI

	stable	unstable
PI	1	0.3
[3,2] m]	0.92	1.15
(0.51 s ⁻¹) [Pa s]	1.6	1.4

Fat adhesion and retention larger for more unstable emulsions
→ increased creaminess

Dresselhuis et al., Journal of Colloid and Interface Science (2008)

Effect of fat type on tactile oral perception

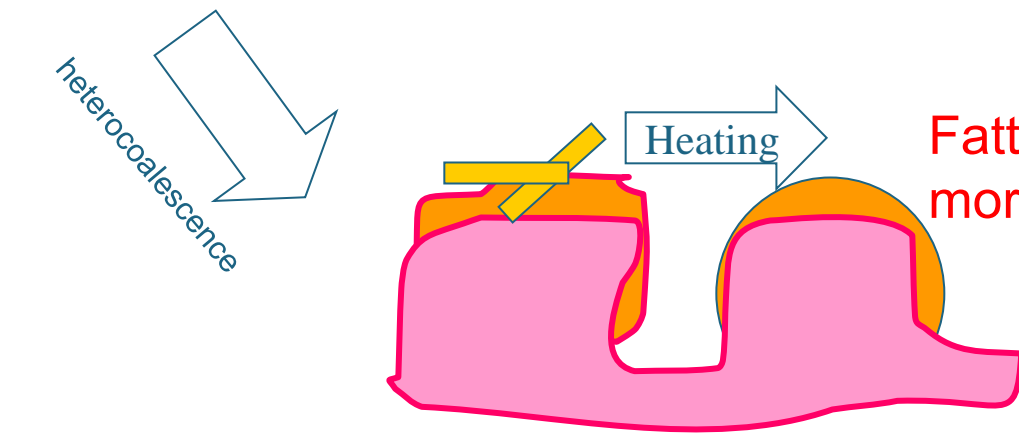
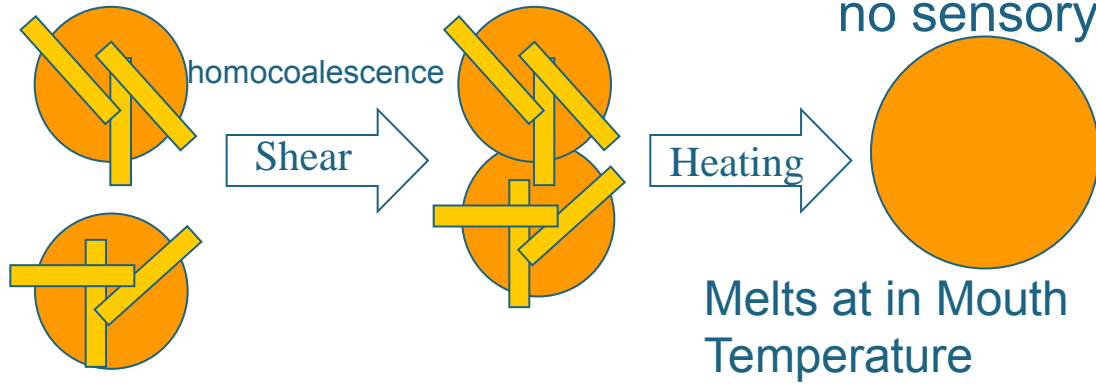


Partial coalescence by fat crystals



Viscous:
more creamy

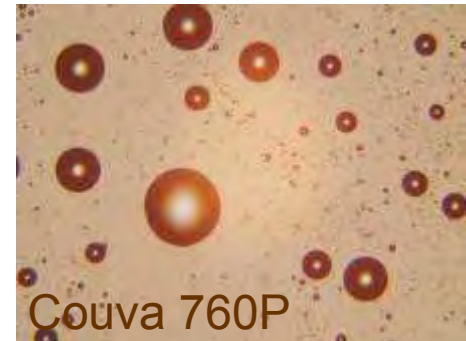
Larger droplets:
no sensory effect



Spit-outs:



Sunflower oil



Couva 760P

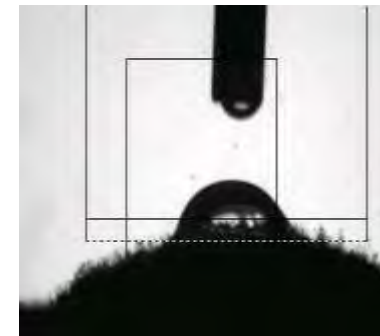
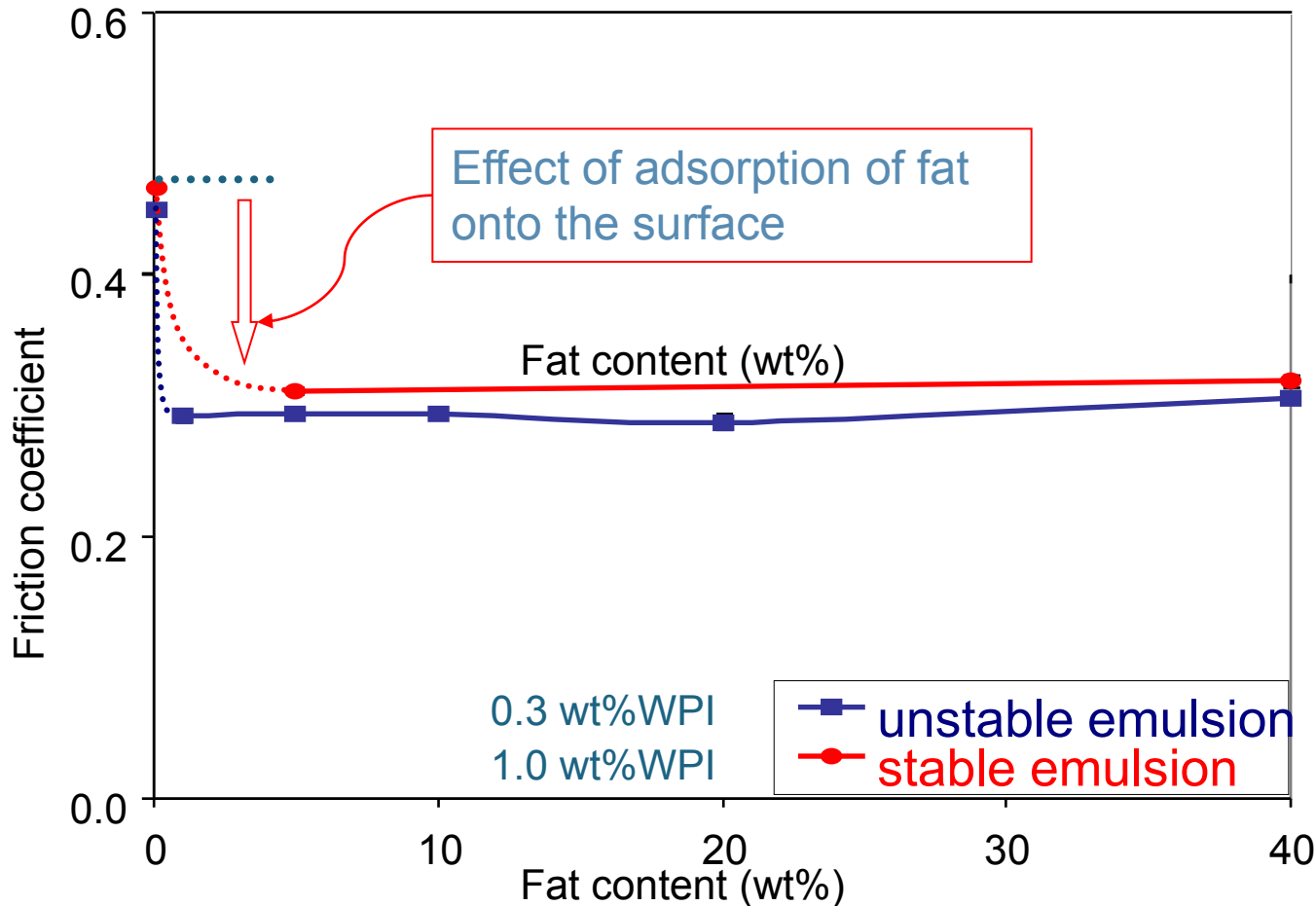
field of view: 3 x 4 mm

Jan Benjamins

Effect of the deposition of a fatty layer on the tongue

Friction between PDMS (hydrophobic) and glass (boundary friction regime)

Dresselhuis et al. Food Biophysics (2007)

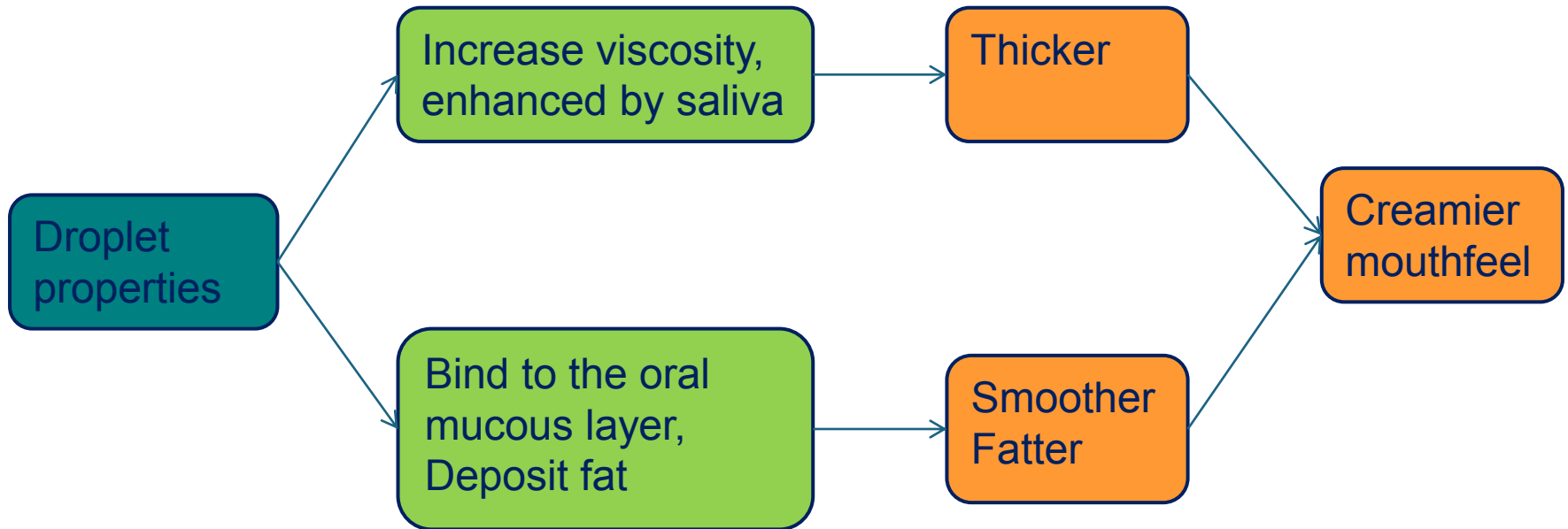


Dewetting of saliva from the oral surfaces

Fat reduces the friction, but an increase in fat content has no further effect

Liquid emulsions

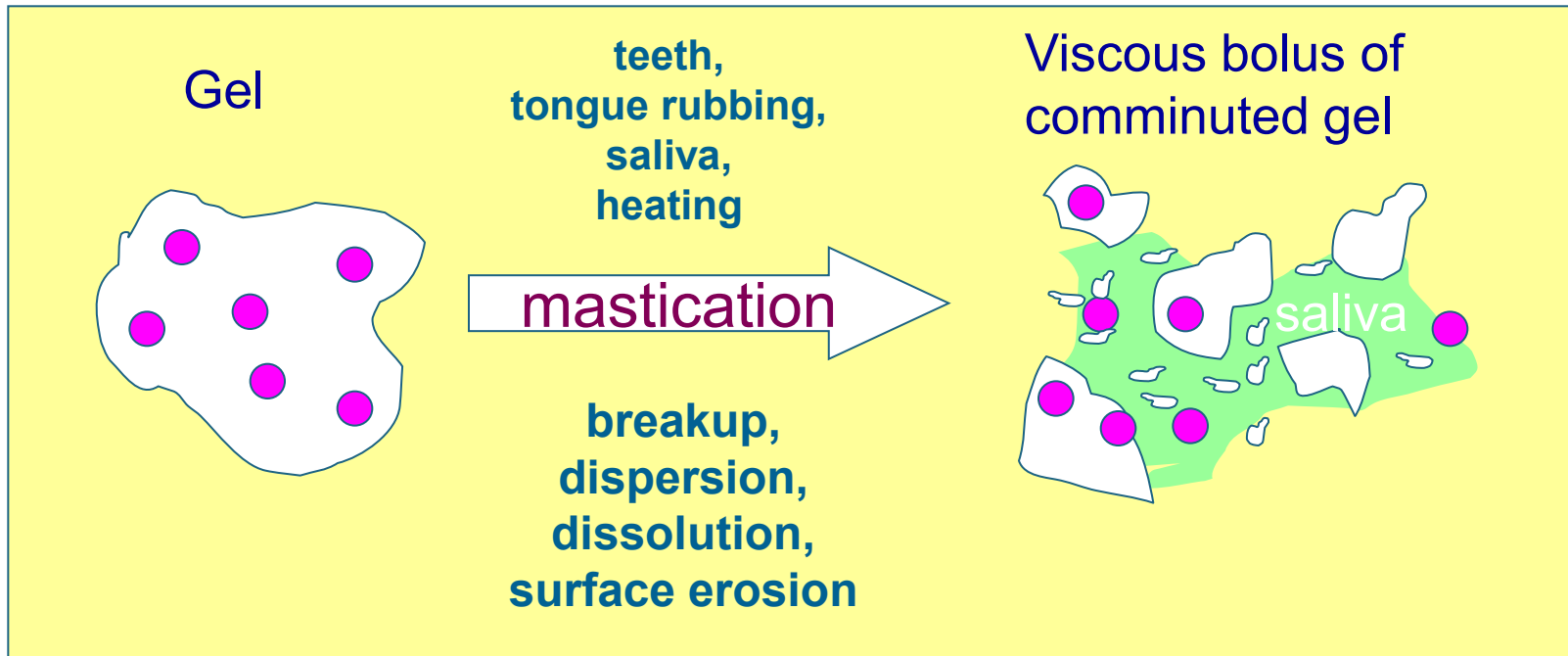
sensory properties related to oral behavior



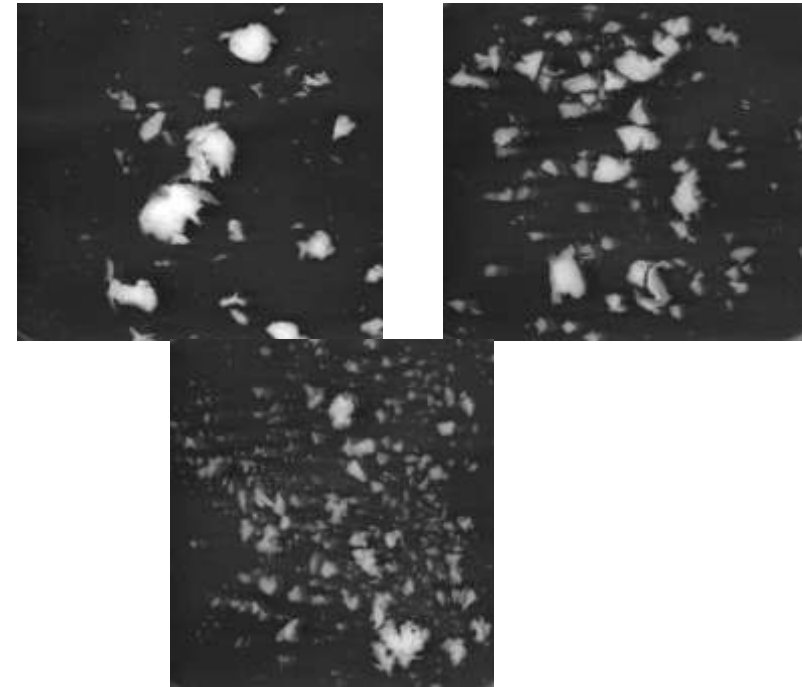
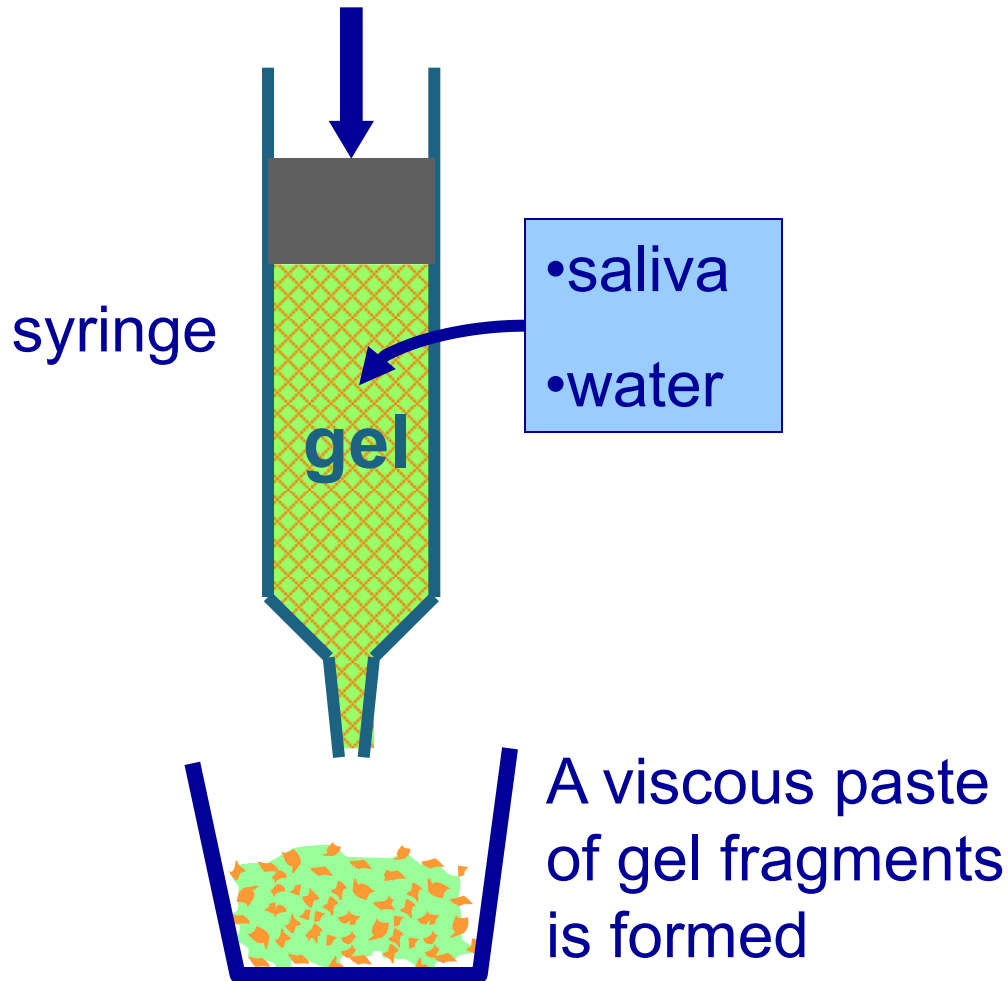
Examples of oral processing in relation to perception

- Emulsions
- **Emulsion filled gels**

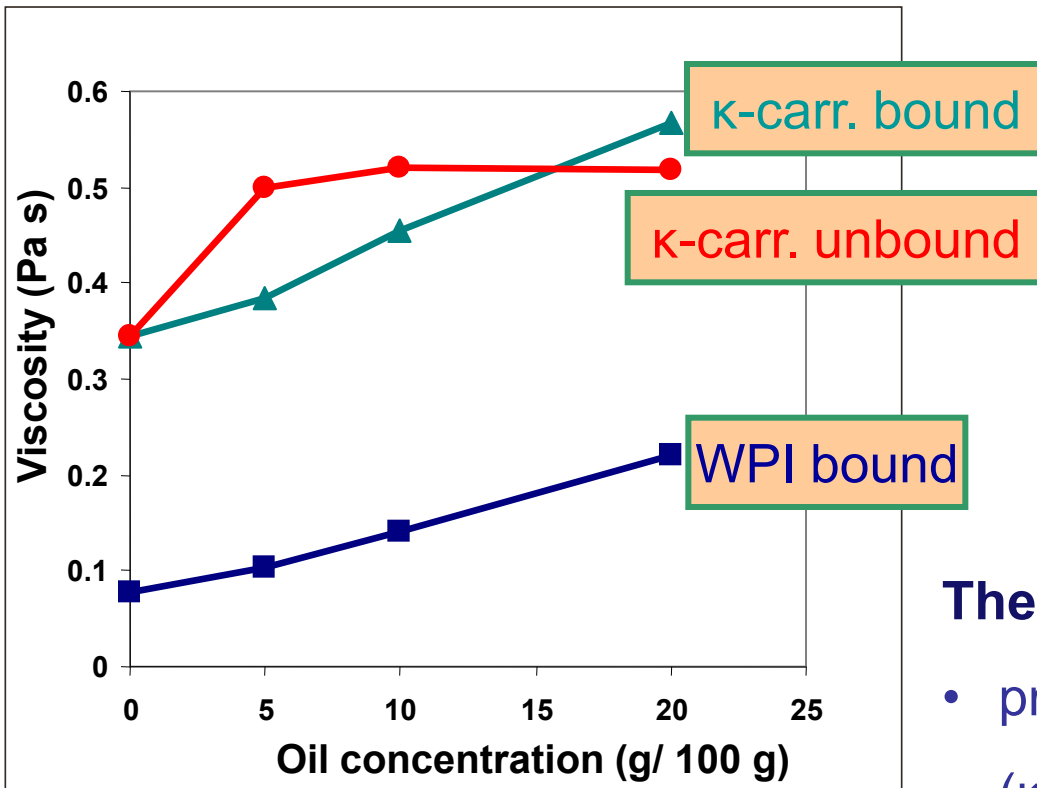
Oral processing of emulsion-filled gels



The comminuted gel: in vitro and in expectorate

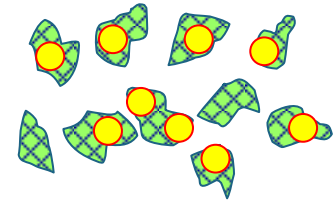


Viscosity of comminuted gel increases with oil content

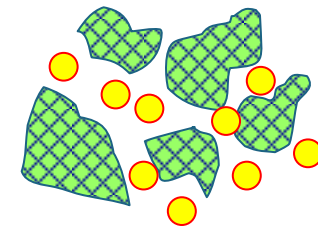


Shear rate = 100 s^{-1}

Bound droplets:



Unbound droplets:



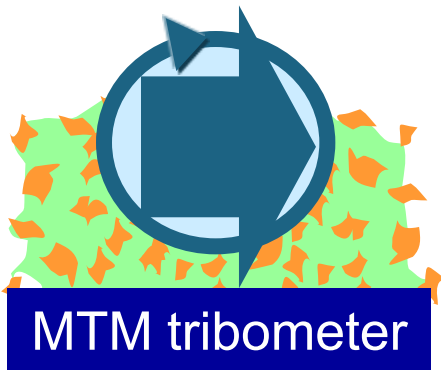
The viscosity of the comminuted gel:

- primarily depends on the matrix (κ -carrageenan > WPI)
- increases with the oil content
- depends on droplet-matrix interaction

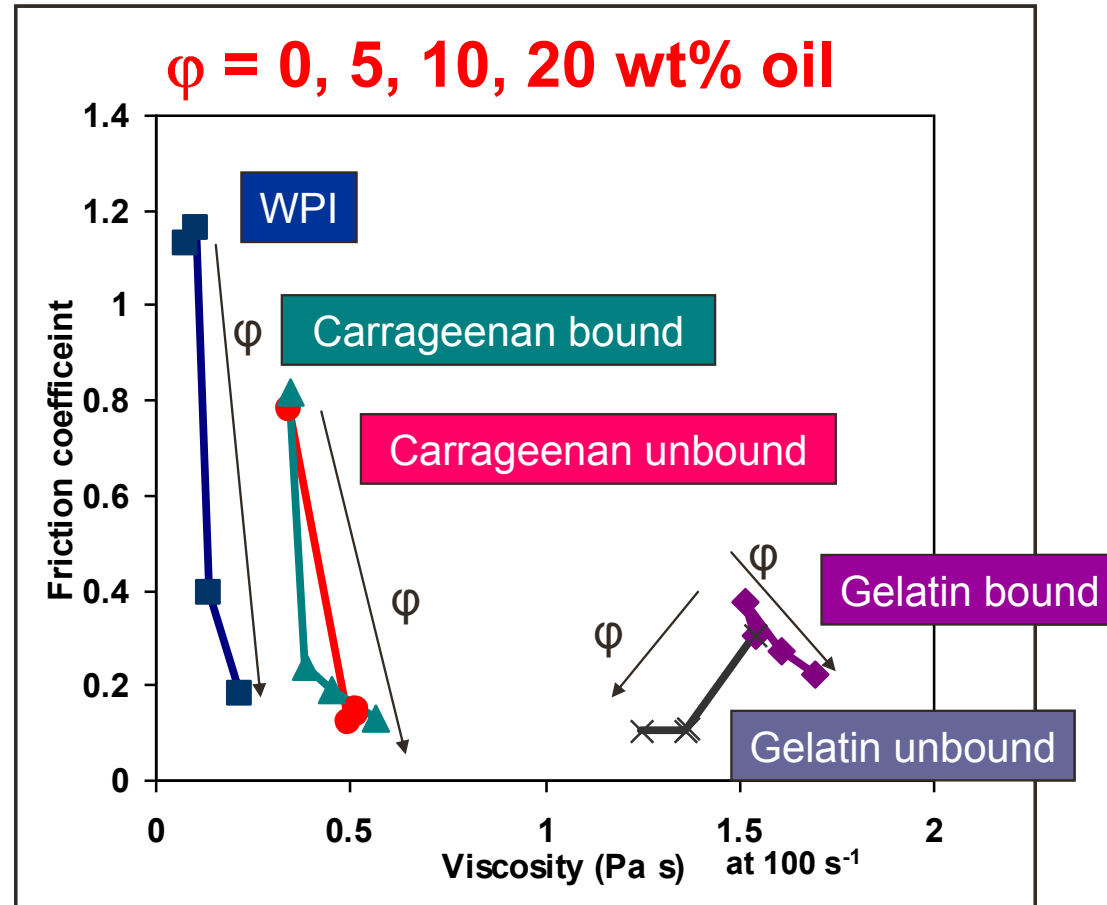
In vitro masticated gels: effects of gel type and fat content

Emulsified oil:

- Increases the viscosity of the masticated bolus
(for gelatin unbound opposite)
- decreases the friction of the masticated bolus
(large effect)



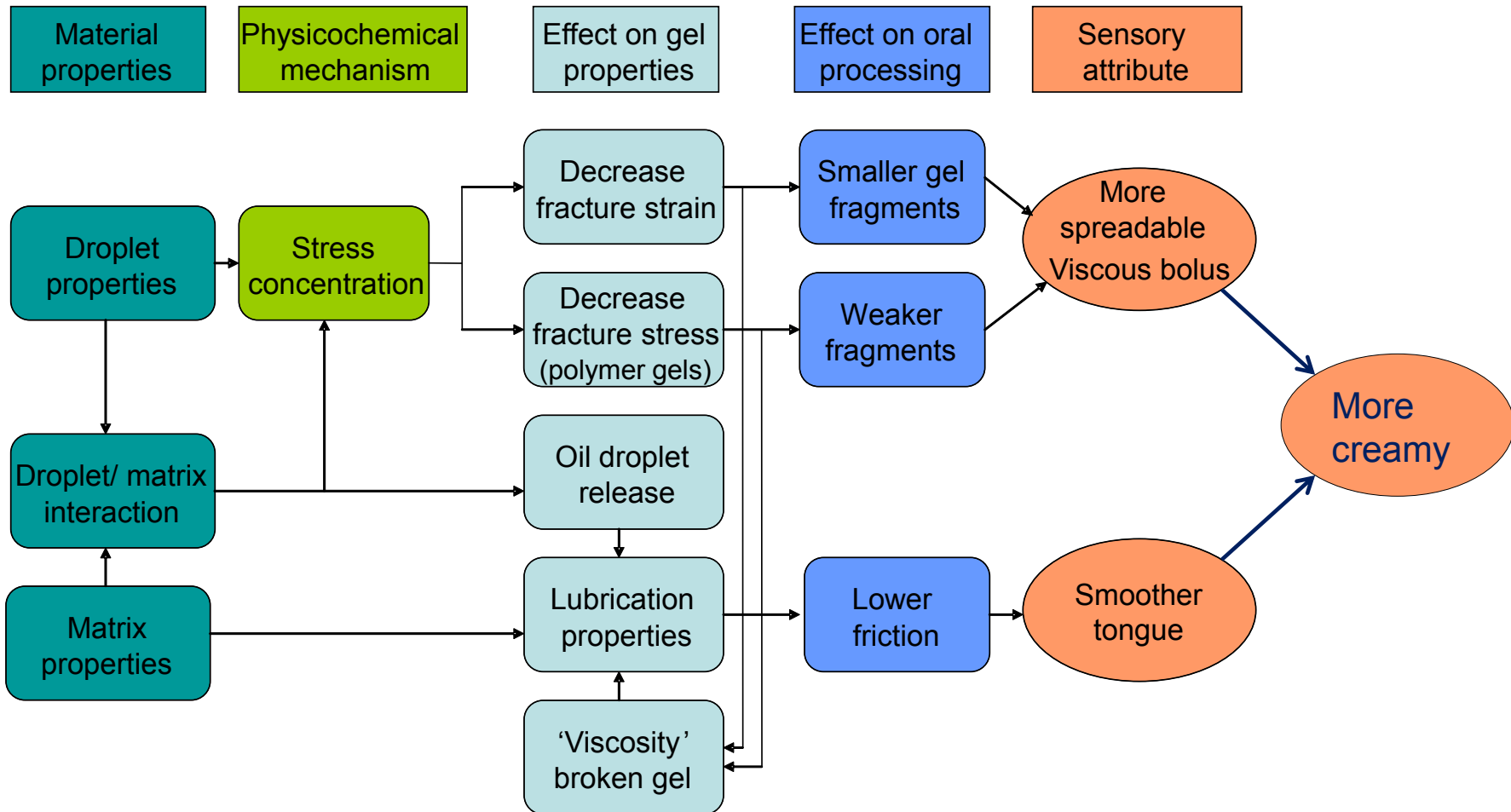
(rubber versus stainless steel)



Chojnicka et al., Food Hydrocolloids (2009), 23, 1038-1046

Emulsion filled gels

sensory properties related to oral behavior
(after Guido Sala)

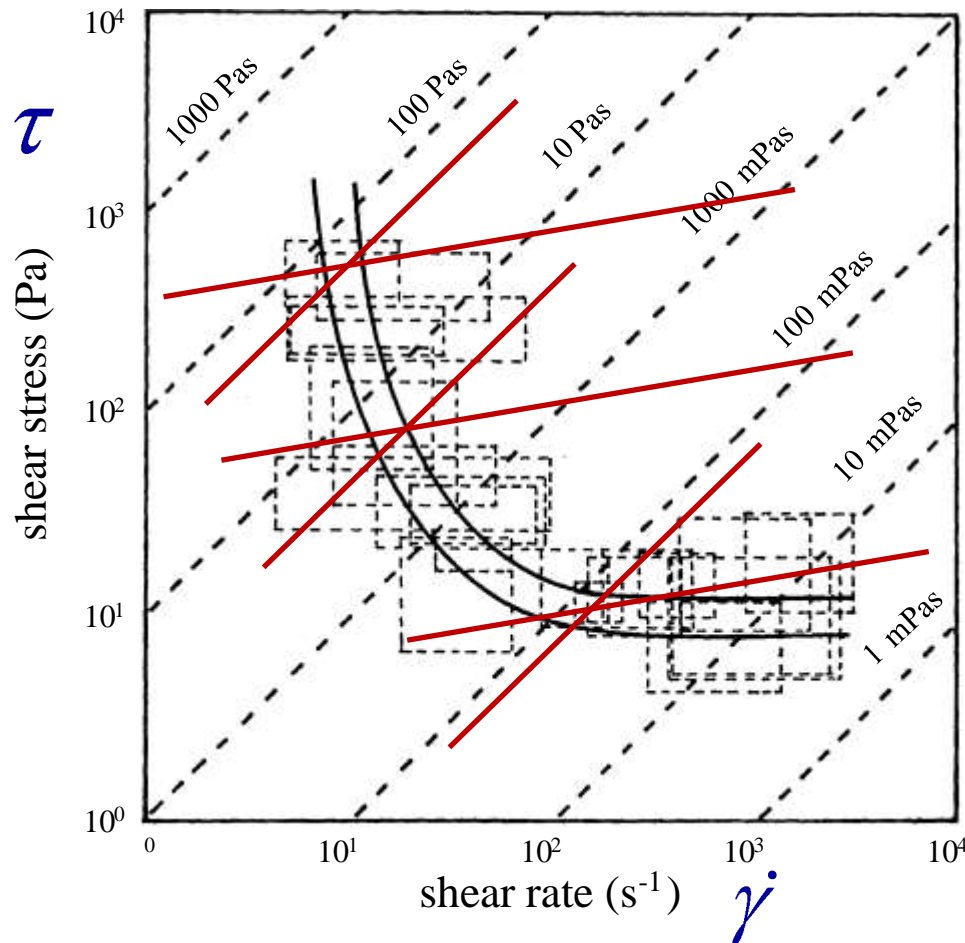


Toward understanding

TACTILE PERCEPTION BY THE TONGUE

Main regimes thickness perception

Curve from: Shama, F. and P. Sherman (1973). *J. Texture Studies* 4: 111-118.

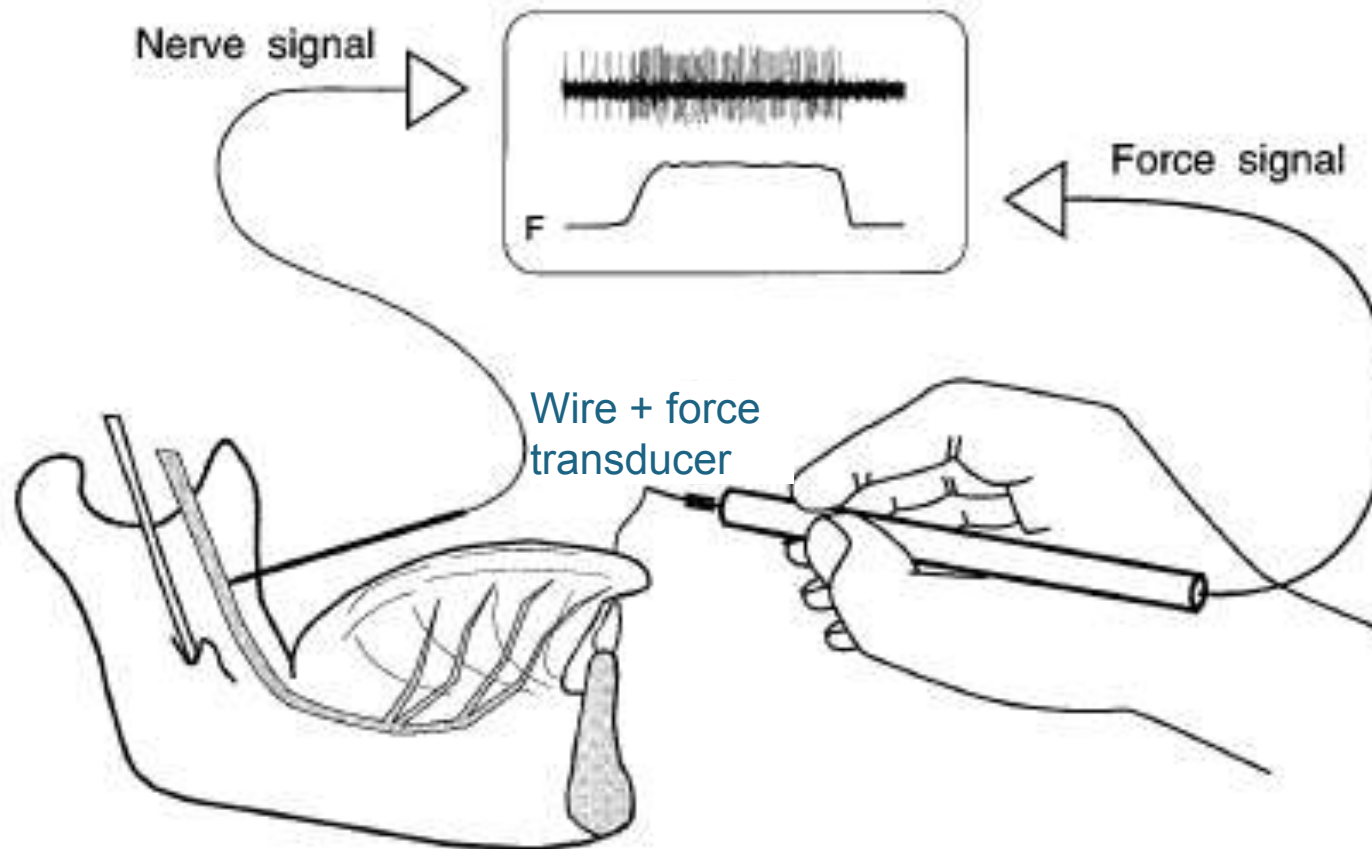


Plot shear-stress versus shear-rate curves for food materials with very different shear thinning behaviour

Identify windows of food materials with similar perceived thickness

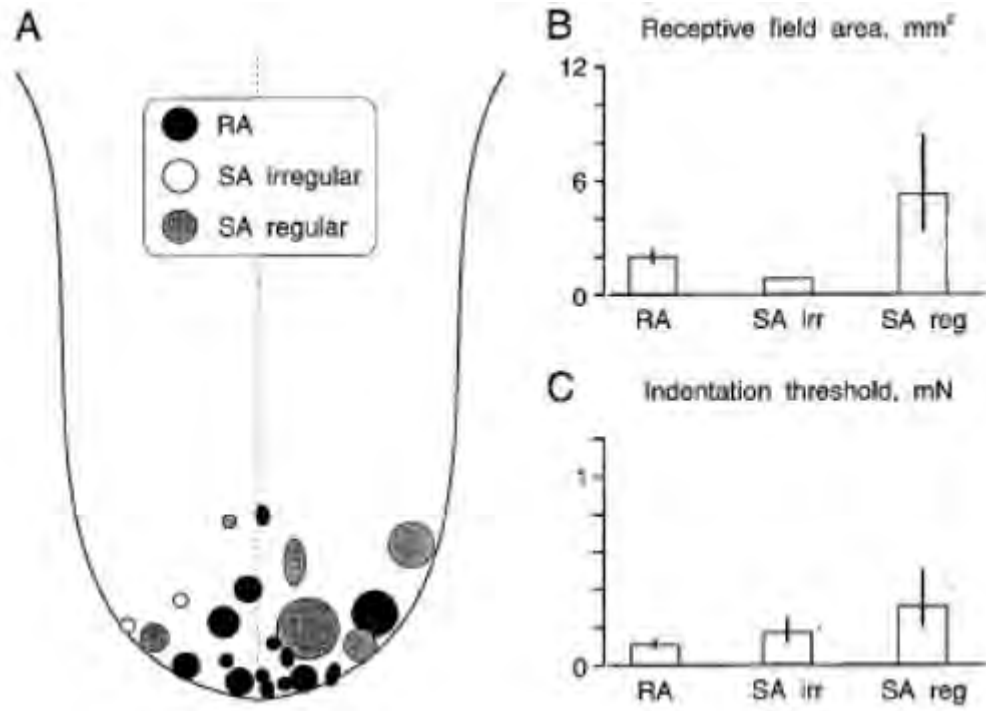
How can we explain the shape of this curve?

Sensitivity of the mechanoreceptors in the tongue



M. Trulsson, G.K. Essick, J. Neurophys. 1997(77), 737-748

Receptor types and sensitivities



Slowly Adapting receptors:
sensitive to constant forces

Rapidly Adapting receptors:
sensitive to force variations

Assuming that forces on each
RA receptor are additive:

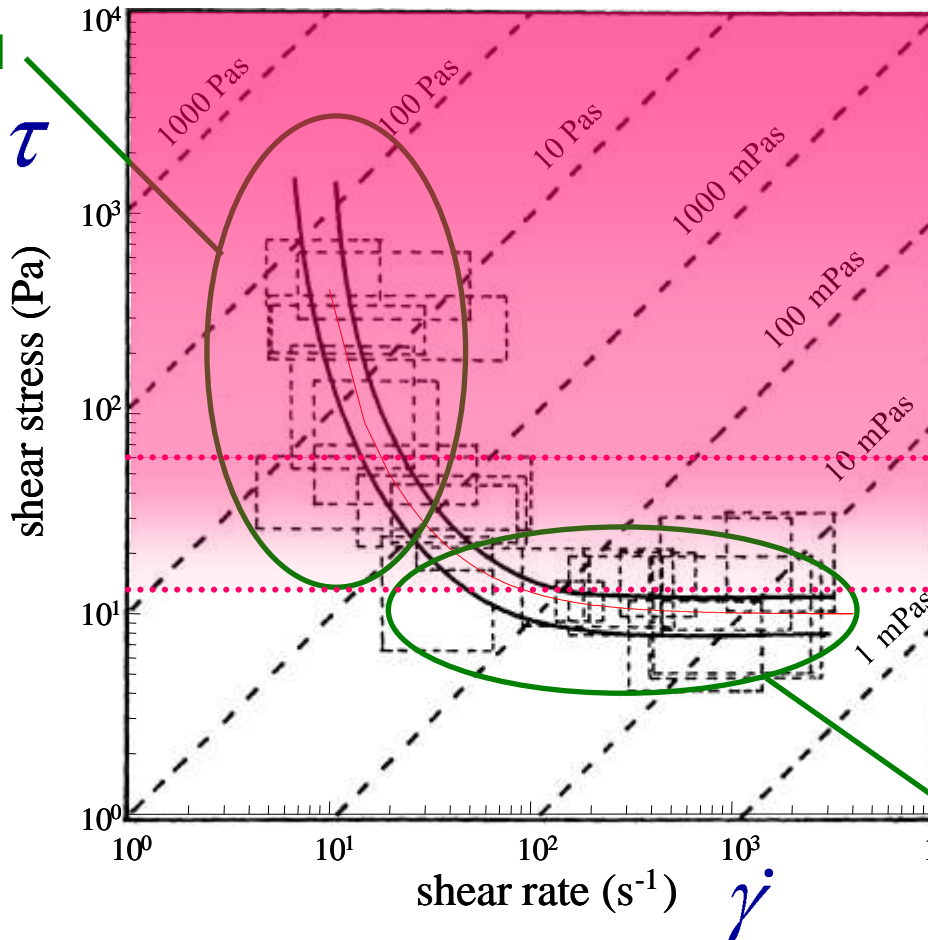
- Lower stress threshold of about 12 Pa
- Average stress threshold of about 60 Pa

M. Trulsson, G.K. Essick, J. Neurophys. 1997(77), 737-748

Main regimes thickness perception

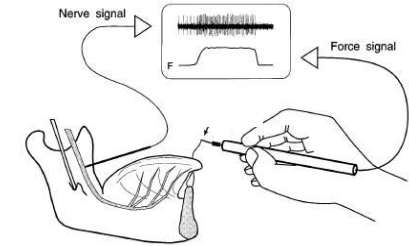
Curve from: Shama, F. and P. Sherman (1973). *J. Texture Studies* 4: 111-118.

Viscous forces perceived



Sensitivity RA receptors

Trullson, Essick, *J. Neurophys.* 1997(77), 737-748



Average stress threshold

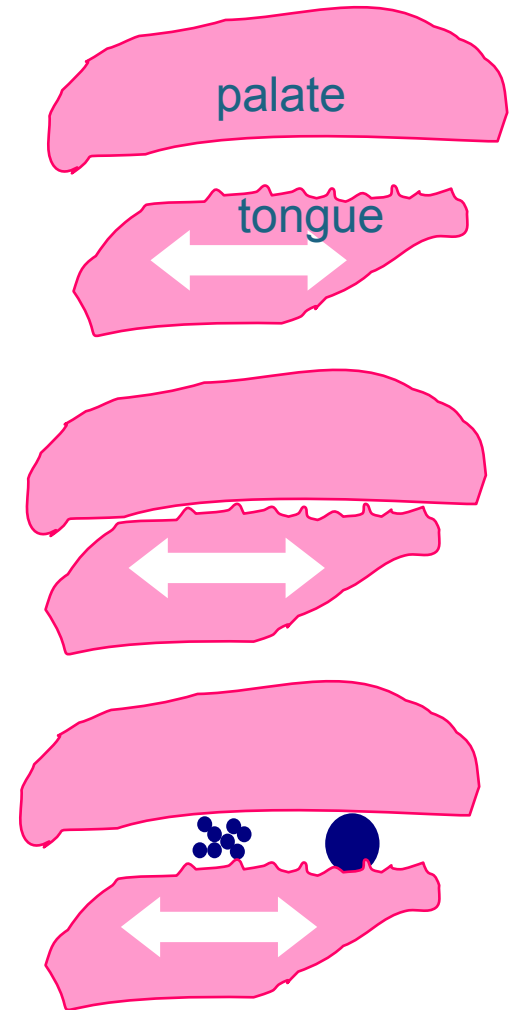
Lower stress threshold

Thickness not necessarily related to perceived viscous forces

Van Aken, G.A., Modelling texture perception by soft epithelial surfaces, *Soft Matter*, 2010, 6, 826-834

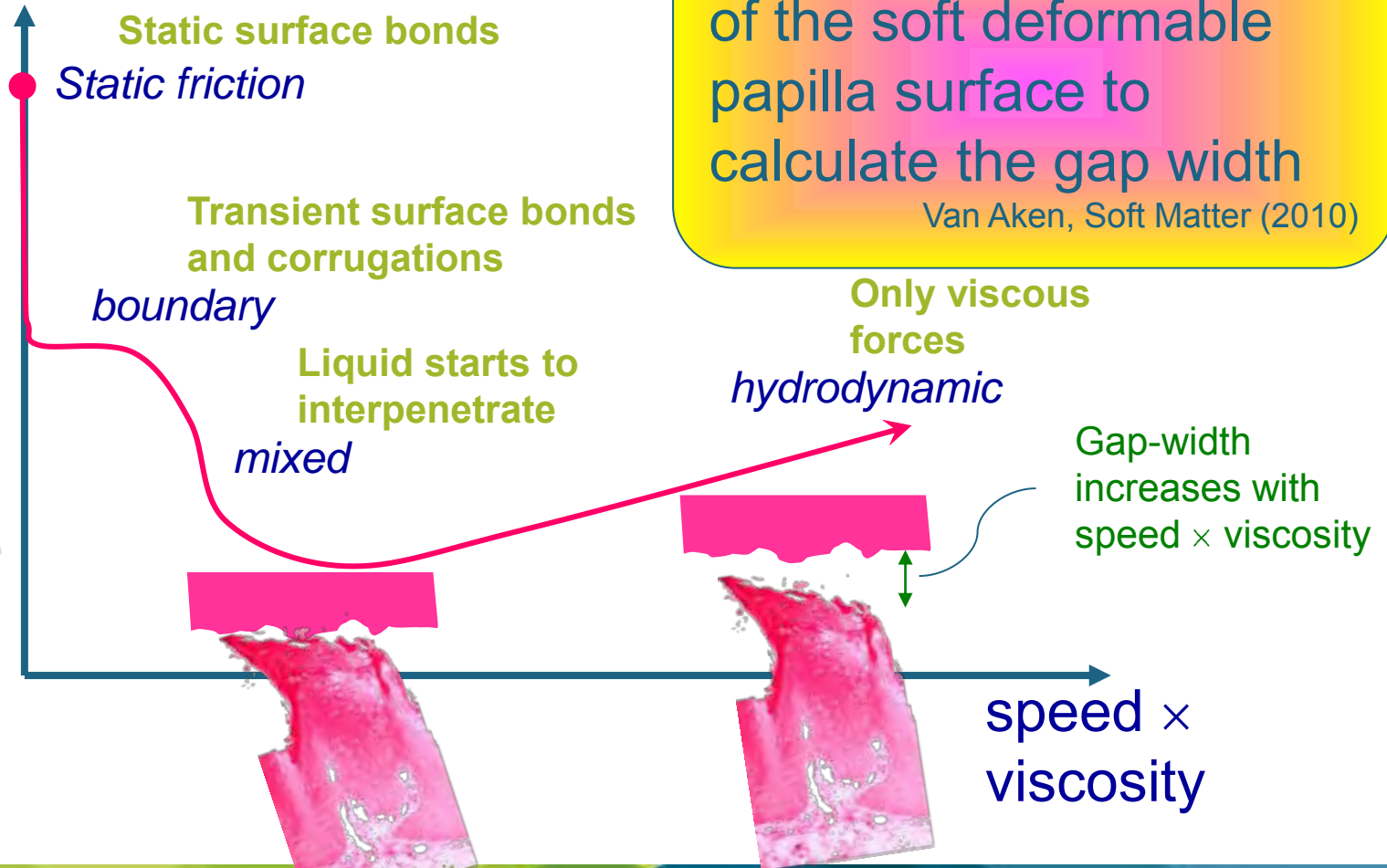
What produces the forces sensed by the tongue?

- Viscous forces of the fluid in motion relative to the tongue surface
- Friction of tongue and palate in contact
- Particles grinding between tongue and palate



Tribological regimes (Stribeck curve)

Friction force

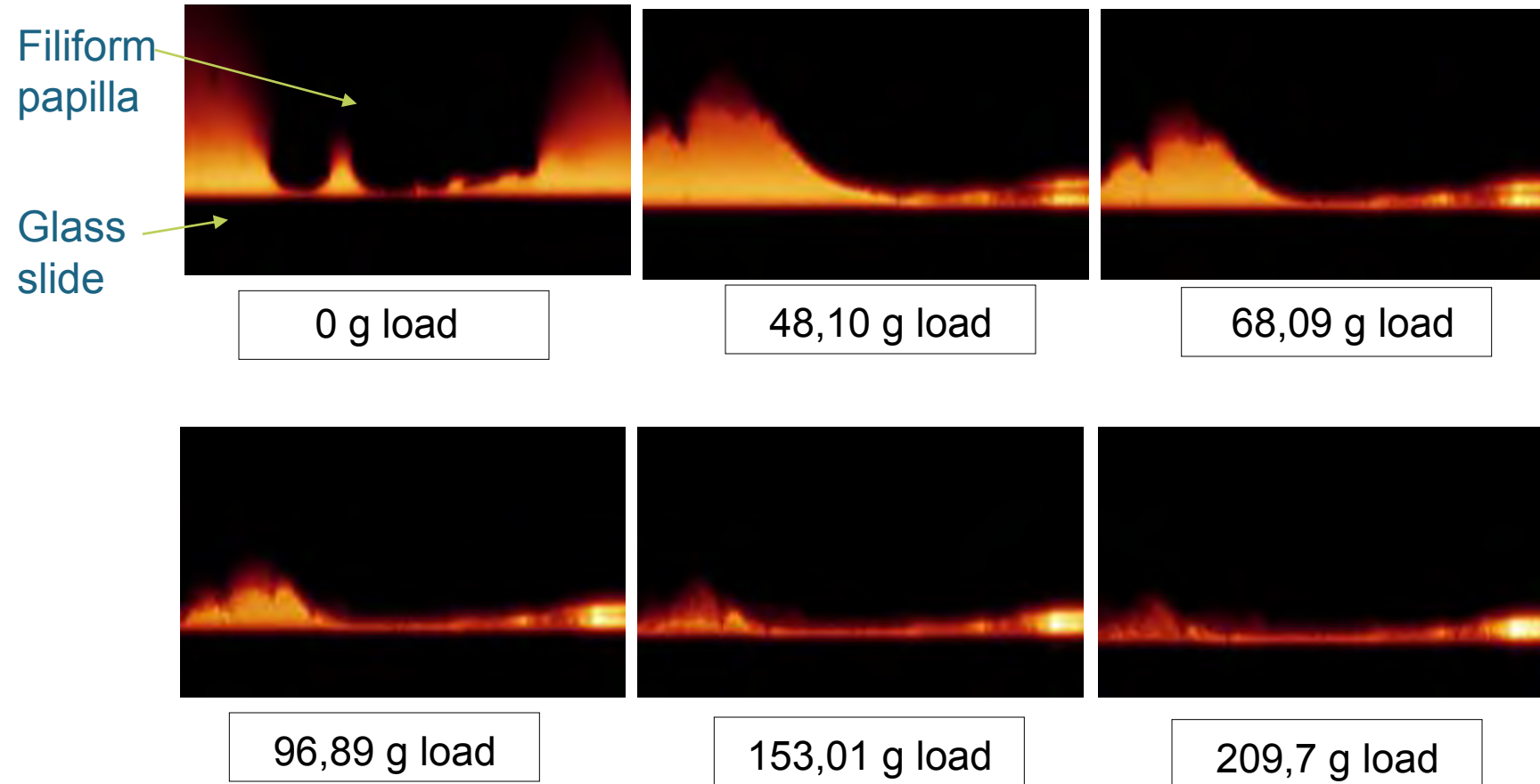


Load dependence of contact area (OTC)

Frame size:
75 μm * 125 μm

Papilla surface
roughness $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$

40 kPa





Free flowing;
Boundary
friction sensed

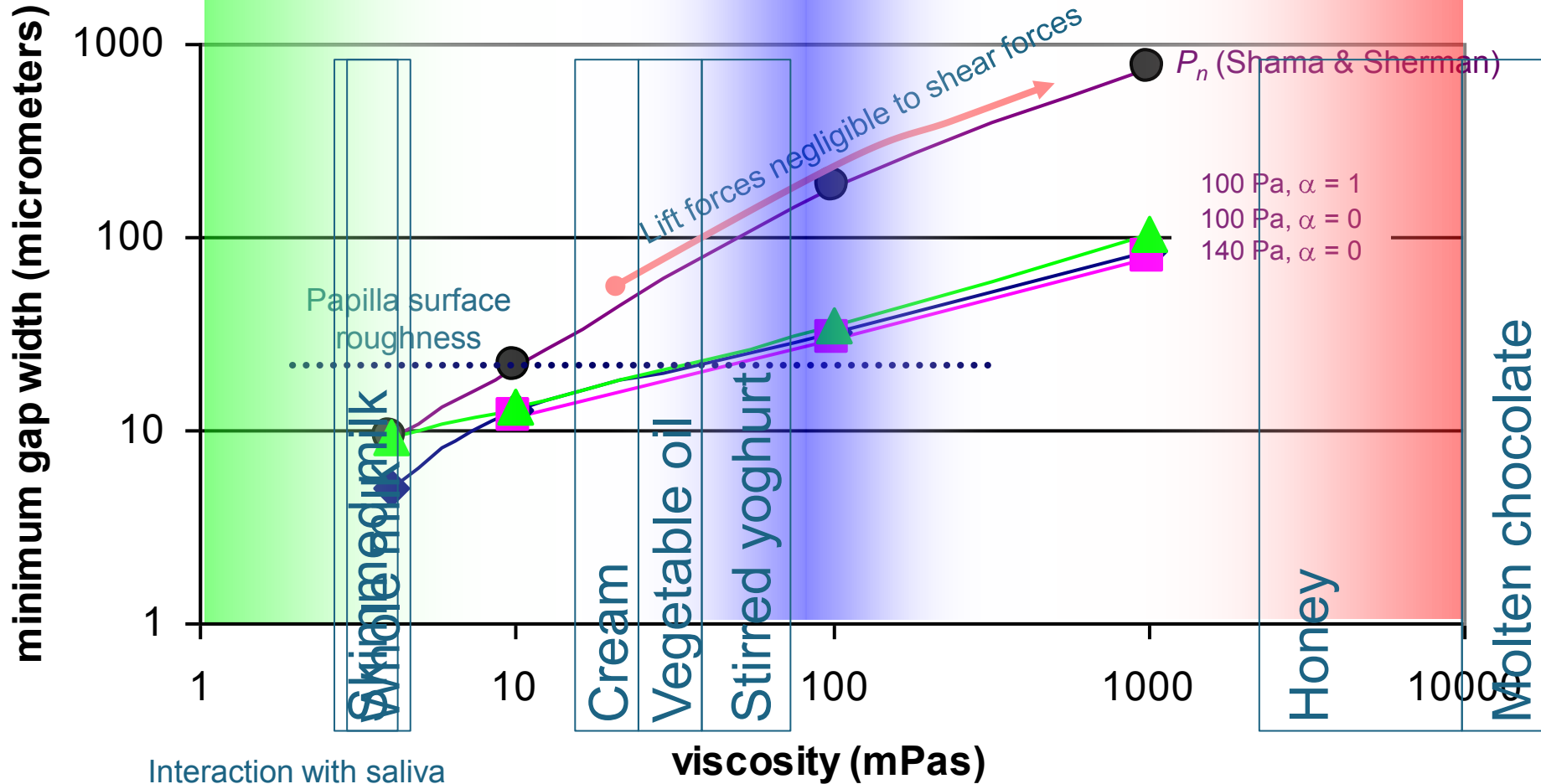
“RAW TONGUE”

Slowed free flow;
Viscous shear friction
too small; Boundary
friction only if tongue
is pressed

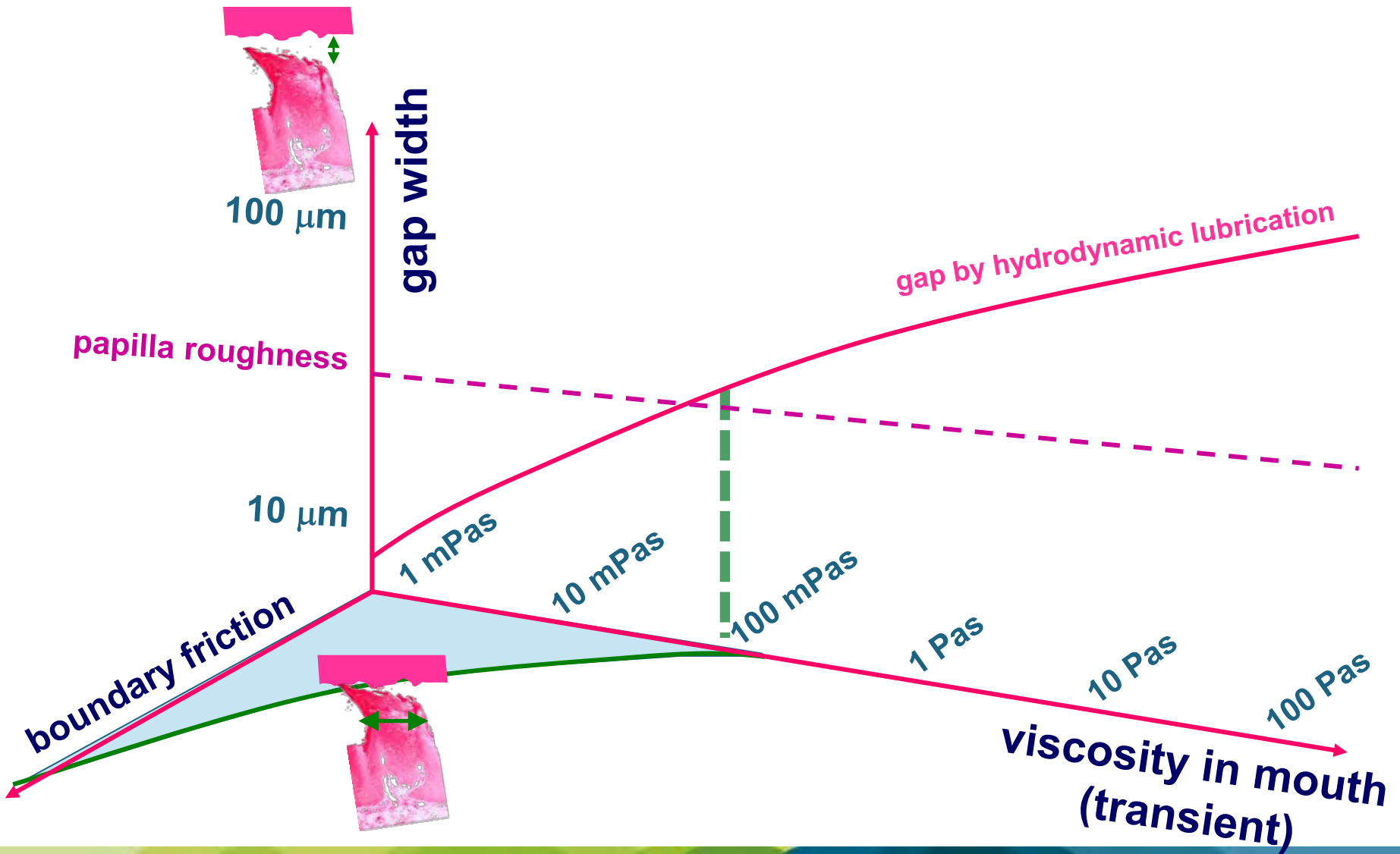
“CREAMY LIQUID”

Forced flow;
Thinning time
sensed; Viscous
shear friction
sensed

“THICK”



Fluidic food bolus: relevant forces and dimensions



Tactile perception of a fluidic food bolus

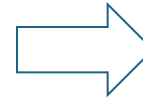


Solids: breakdown path of fracturing and dissolution important

Normal hard cheese

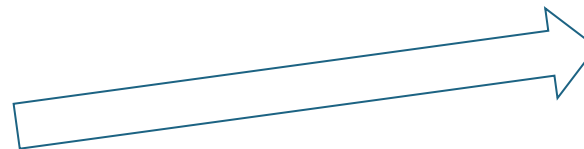


Forgeable particles,
quickly hydrating

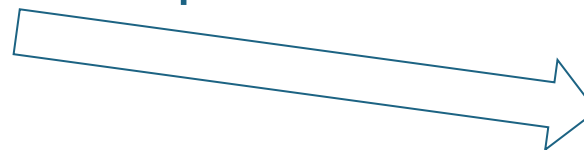


Viscous
emulsion of
coalesced
droplets

Low-fat hard cheese separation



Slowly
hydrating
dense cheese
particles



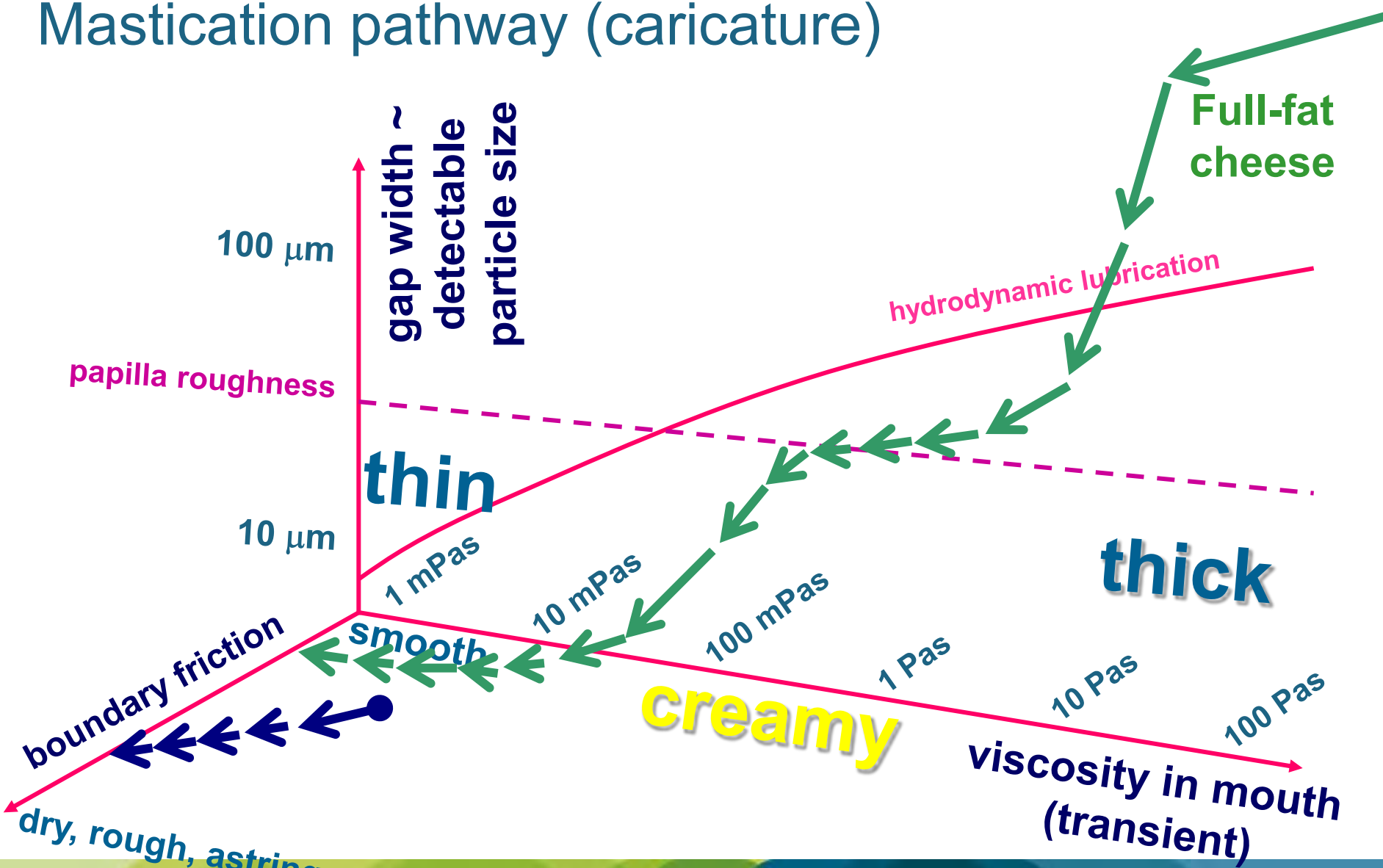
Thin dilute
emulsion of
small droplets

Solids: hard cheese as example

Mastication pathway (caricature)

Low-fat cheese

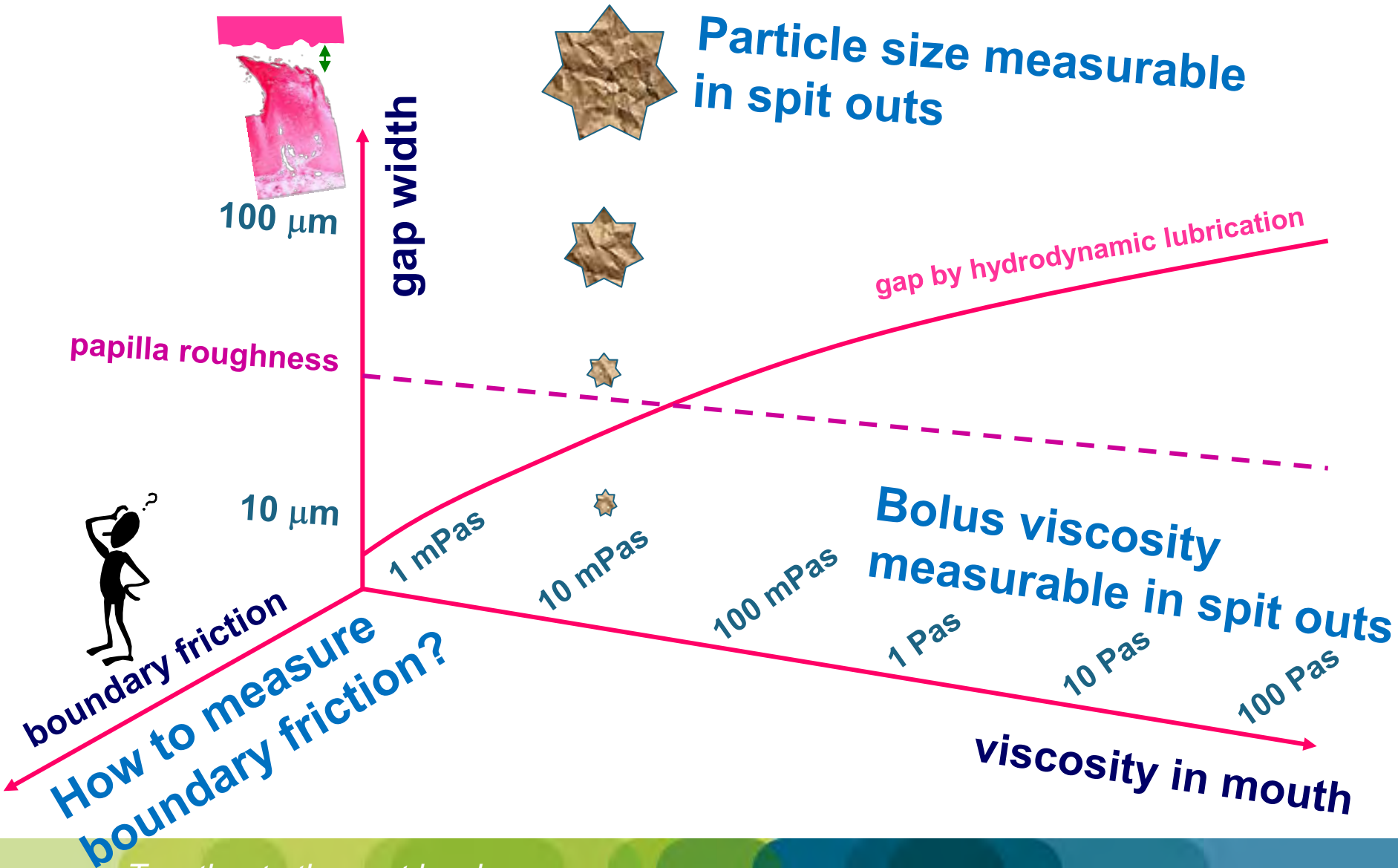
Full-fat cheese



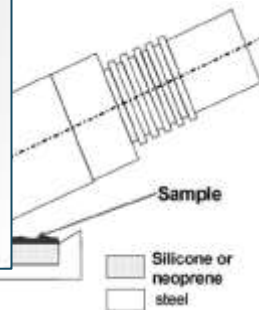
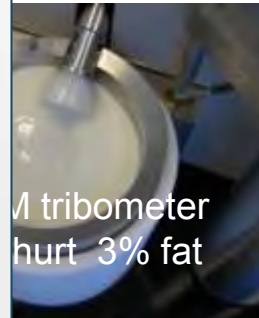
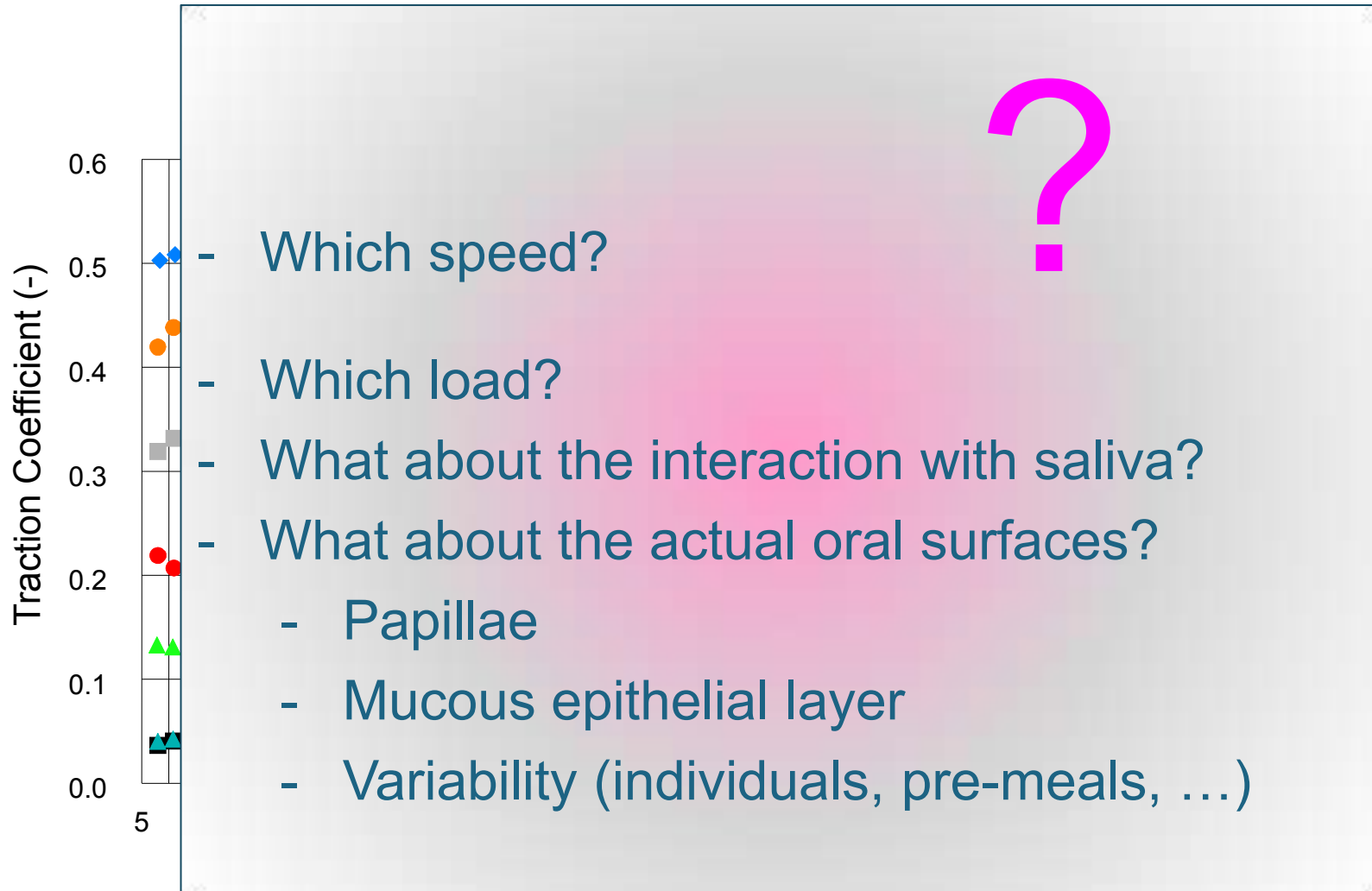
Thickness
Grittiness
Astringent

PHYSICAL MEASUREMENT

Tactile perception of a fluidic food bolus

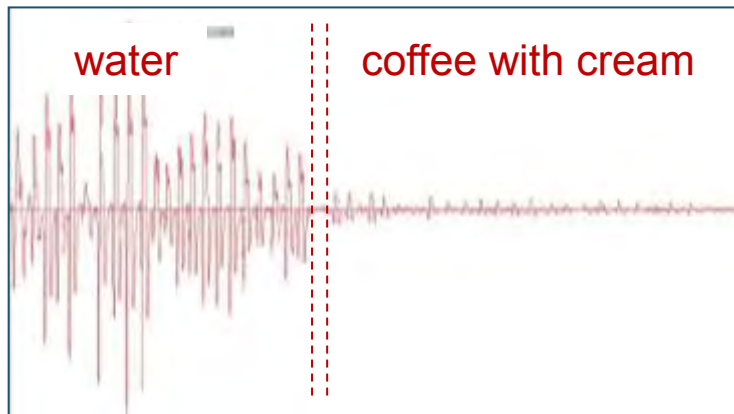


Liquid and soft semi solids: tribological studies

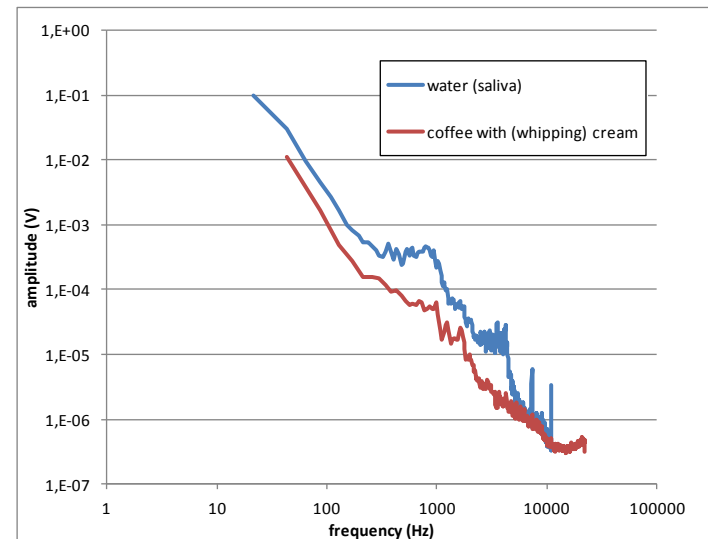


(NEW)

Acoustic emission measurement of the *in vivo* scraping sound of the tongue



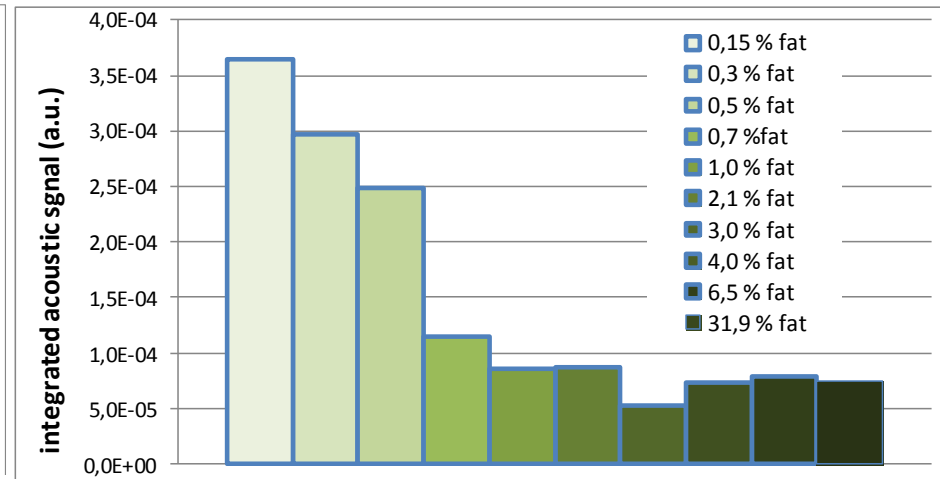
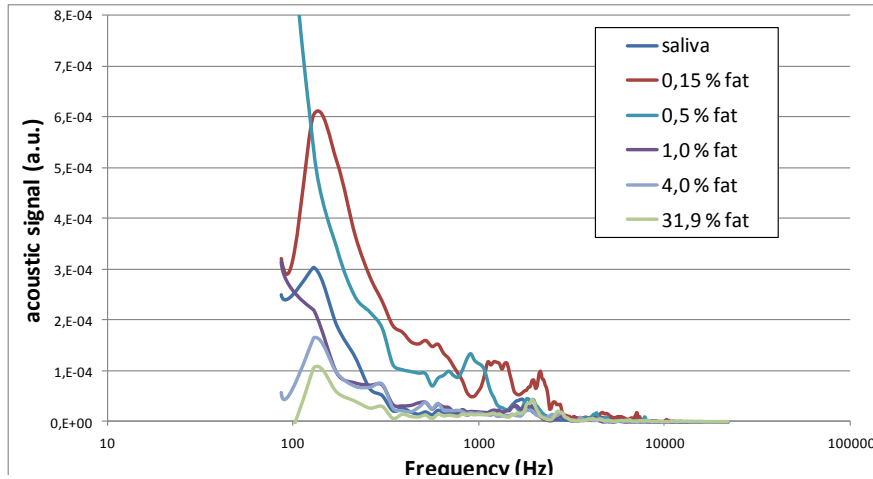
Line voltage as a function of time



Corresponding frequency spectrum of
the cleaned signal

Example: Water - coffee with (whipping) cream

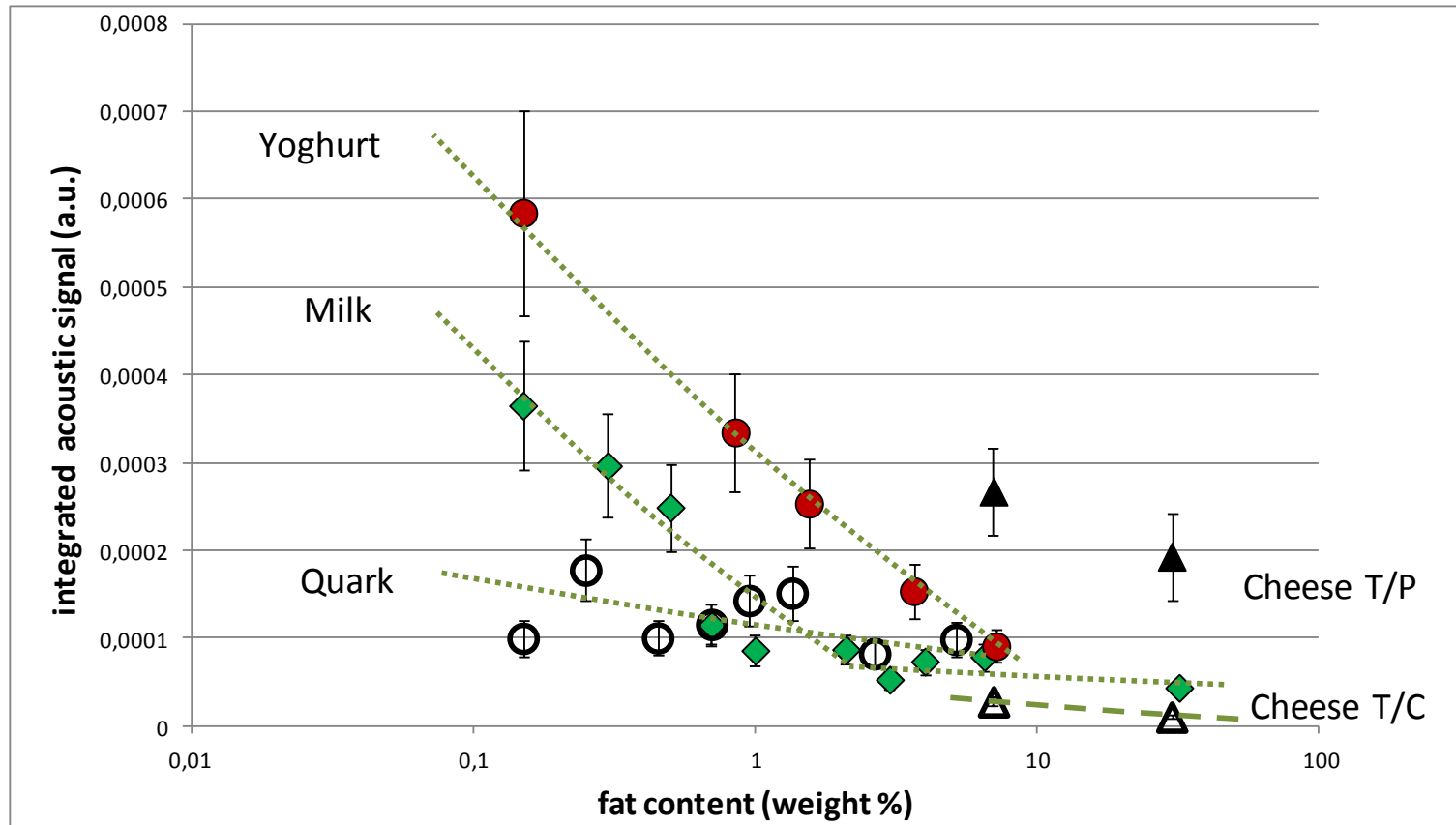
Fat content of milk



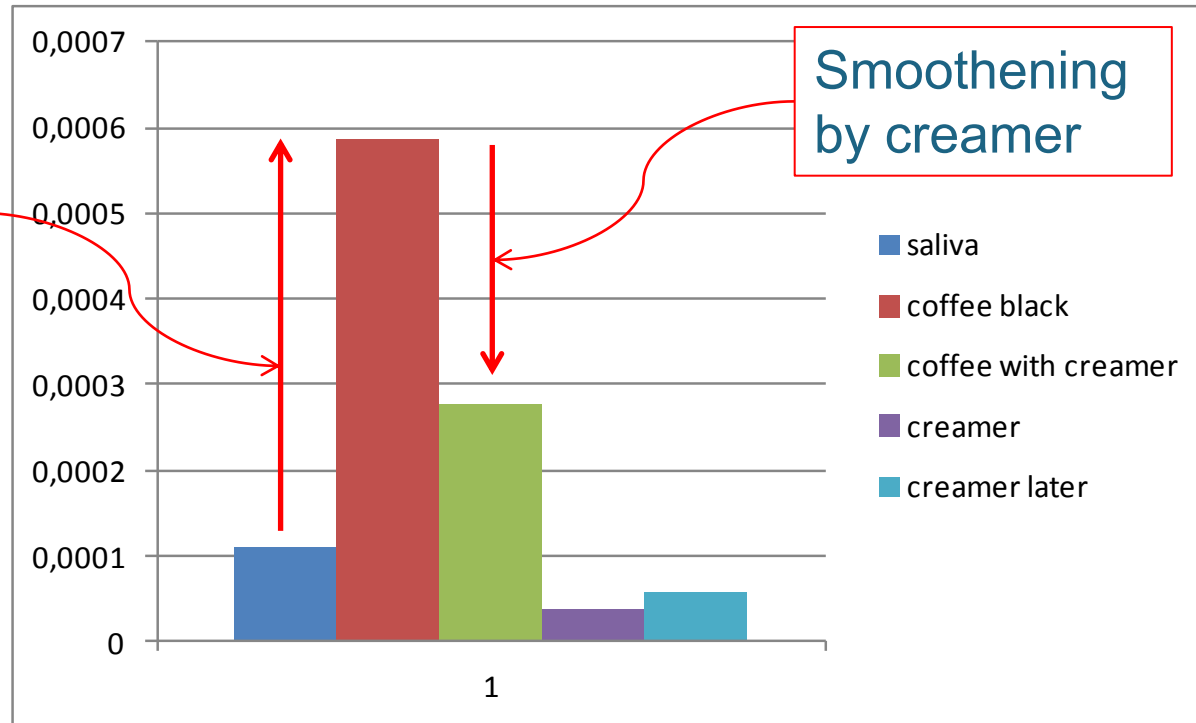
Interpretation:

- tongue friction increased by milk protein (not observed by conventional tribology), but is reduced in the presence of emulsified fat
- translates to: skimmed milk more rough/dry/astringent than saliva, but milk fat emulsion makes it smoother by improving lubrication

Comparison between dairy products



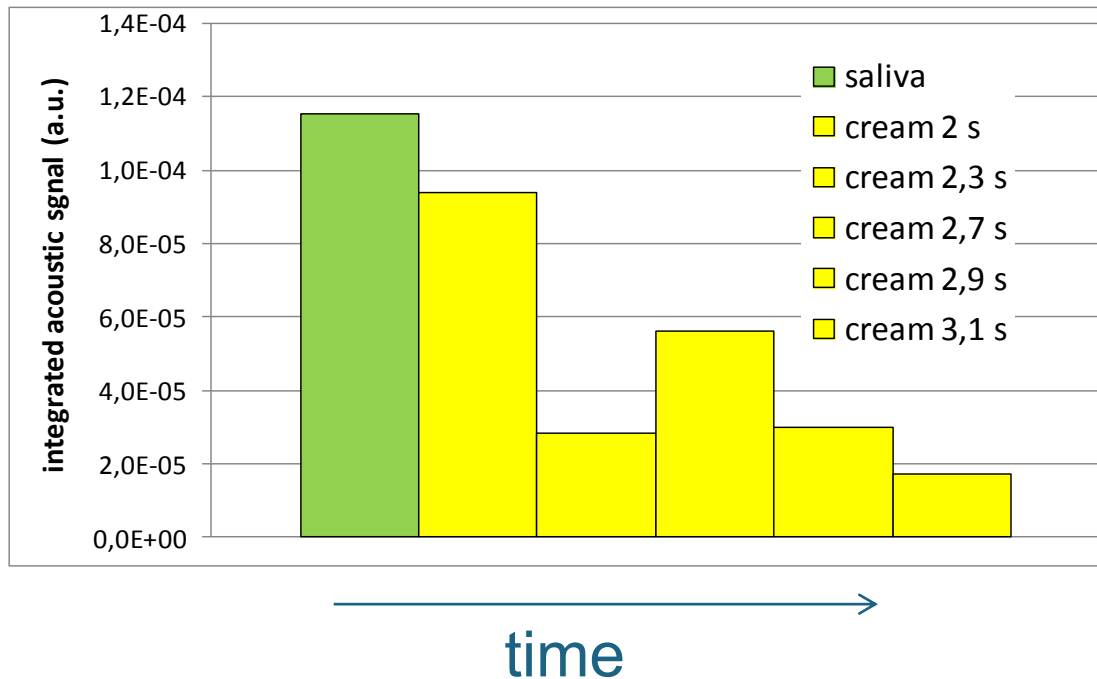
Effect of half-fat creamer on coffee



Astringency of coffee: acidity and phenolic compound bind the lubricating salivary mucins,

Kinetics

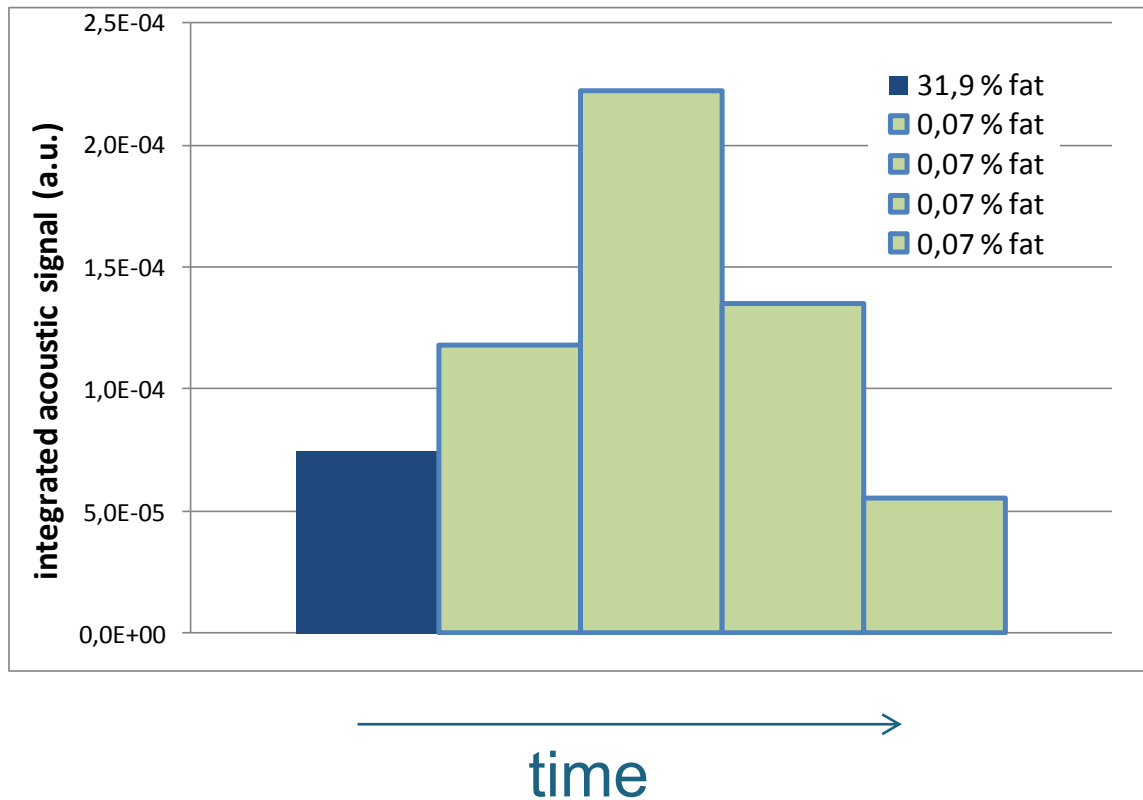
system: cream after saliva



Observed are the effects of inhomogeneous mixing and finally a replacement of native mucosal layer by a lubricating fat layer

Kinetics

system: skimmed milk after cream



Observed are the effects of replacing the lubricating fatty coating with milk protein, followed by wear of the asperities on the papilla surface

Applications acoustic tribology

- Measurement tool for rough/astringent mouthfeel
 - Low fat products
 - Astringent products
 - High protein products
- Measurement tool for surface textures
 - Fabrics, wood, etc.
 - Good-grip surfaces
 - Non sweaty, non sticky

Publication in preparation

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

- Sensory food properties are often not directly related to food properties “on the shelf”
- Sensory food properties can be much better related to the food properties in the mouth, which change during mastication.
- A toolbox is available for accessing the effects of mastication and sensory correlation.



Creating the future together

Together to the next level