

# THE NONLINEAR HISTORY OF FIBRE FLOW RESEARCH.

## PART 2: CONTINUATION, REFLECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

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### ABSTRACT:

Technical fibre flows are normally flocky but have theoretically mainly been treated as individual fibre flows. The reason for this can only be understood through the subject's historic development. In Part 1 of this investigation the origin of fibre flow research was traced to the beginning of the 19th century, and was followed through its formative years at the first half of the 20th century up to about WWII. This second and final part takes us up to about the 1960s when the present main theoretical research tradition had been firmly established. An example of an alternative approach is given. Finally, some suggestions for future work are advanced. In Appendix methods of characterising the inner geometry of technical fibre suspensions are discussed

### ZUSAMMENFASSUNG:

Technische Faserströmungen sind normalerweise flockig, wurden allerdings theoretisch üblicherweise als Strömung von individuellen Fasern behandelt. Die Ursache dafür kann nur in der historischen Entwicklung dieses Bereiches gesehen werden. Im ersten Teil 1 dieser historischen Untersuchung zur Forschung an Faserströmung wurden die ersten Untersuchungen am Anfang des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts und die prägenden Entwicklungen im zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts bis zum Beginn des Zweiten Weltkrieges betrachtet. Dieser zweite und abschließende Teil erstreckt sich bis ungefähr 1960, dem Zeitpunkt wo sich die heute übliche Tradition fest etabliert hat. Im zweiten Teil wird auch eine alternative Behandlung technische Faserströmung vorgestellt. In Appendix werden zudem Methoden erläutert, die die innere Geometrie technische Fasersuspensionen diskutieren.

### RÉSUMÉ:

Le courant des suspensions techniques fibreuses est normalement fouteuse, mais à été surtout modelé comme courant de fibres individuelles. La raison de cela ne peut être comprise que par le développement historique de ce sujet. La première partie de cette investigation historique traitait de l'origine de la recherche sur le courant des suspensions techniques fibreuses, dont le point de départ peut être placé au début du dix-neuvième siècle, et a été poursuivie dans les années formatives du début du vingtième siècle jusqu'à la seconde guerre mondiale. La présente seconde partie nous mène au environ de 1960 quand l'actuelle recherche théorique est définitivement établie. Un exemple d'une vue alternative est présenté. Finalement, quelques suggestions de travaux futurs sont présentées. En Appendice, quelques méthodes de mesure de géométrie intérieure des suspensions techniques fibreuses sont discutées.

**KEY WORDS:** fibre flow, fibre suspension, research history

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The first part of this review [77] established that the theoretical development of fibre flow research was founded rather on mid-19th century microhydrodynamics and early 20th century physical and colloid sciences than on fibre flow experiments carried out in the fibre-based process industry.

Before continuing this scientific/cultural sweep is helpful to define some terms. A *floc* here means a gathering of objects, *flocky* something consisting of flocs or giving the impression of being that. *Flockiness* is the degree of agglomeration or the character that gives the

flocky appearance. *Flocculation* is the classical process (e.g. colloidal) of forming flocs by bringing objects together through directed motion (orthokinetic) or undirected (perikinetic), the latter often being what remains when the first has ceased, e.g. Brownian motion. It should, however, be pointed out that this classification is not all-embracing. For example, it does not contain the technical fibre systems considered in this work. Flocs may namely form through the break-up of a fibre network (*splitulation*) that has formed by other means than flocculation, e.g. through growth in a tree.

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Finally, to optimize product properties (e.g. of paper sheet) technical fibre suspensions normally a mixture of different fibres and/or filler of other types are used. The question is how far it is then meaningful to carry on modelling with the ambition of depicting what is actually going on. An alternative approach is to treat such practical problems more empirically. The author is inclined to believe that the really rational way of dealing with such problems is empirically and in close connection with the production where also natural variations in the raw material can be coped with directly. The problem is to not overwork the modelling but keep it on a reasonable level with respect to what can be measured and utilised.

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