

**JOINED FOCUS SESSION “RHEOLOGY”  
OF THE GERMAN RHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (DRG)  
TOGETHER WITH THE GERMAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY (DPG)**

BERLIN, GERMANY  
29 – 30 MARCH 2012



**Conference  
Report**

The Focus session was organized by the Chemical and Polymer Division of the German Physical Society (DPG) and the German Rheological Society (DRG) within the framework of the spring meeting of the condensed matter section of the DPG. The focus session was thematically open and contributions from all fields of rheology were welcome, but a certain emphasis was given on new trends as microrheology in biological cells or active matter. In particular, young rheologists were encouraged to present their results. It was the aim of the focus session to bring scientists from different fields together and allow the exchange of modern rheological methods that have been developed in different areas but could be used on a variety of systems.

The first session on Thursday had a focus on biological materials and colloids and the second session on Friday on polymers. The first day started with an invited talk about “Motion of microswimmers governed by light in a fluid flow” by P. Peyla, University of Grenoble. Prof. Peyla presented experimental and theoretical work on the rheology of suspensions of the alga *Chlamydomonas*

*renardii* swimming. The talk was followed by 12 contributed talks on active swimmers, colloidal suspensions, thermal convection in ferrofluids, the general classification of soft glasses and gels, microrheology in films of liquid crystals and the elongational viscosity of polymer solutions and blood plasma. At the evening, a poster session with beer and Pretzel was organized.

The next day started with an invited talk about “The Rheology of Biological Cells” by M. Sander. He presented a study on cell rheological properties using a home built, single-cell rheometer. The nine contributed talks that followed were on biopolymers and polymer melts. The focus session was attended by more than 70 people and it was appreciated by all attendees as a great success and many were surprised about the variety and broadness of the subject. It became obvious that physicist can contribute a lot to but also learn a lot from the rheological community and vice versa.

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