Shear Induced Structural Relaxation in a Supercooled Colloidal Liquid DANDAN CHEN, DENIS SEMWOGERERE, ERIC R. WEEKS, Physics Dept., Emory University — Amorphous materials include many common products we use everyday, such as window glass, moisturizer, shaving cream and peanut butter. These materials have liquid-like disordered structure, but keep their shapes like a solid. The rheology of dense amorphous materials under large shear strain is not fully understood, partly due to the difficulty of directly viewing the microscopic details of such materials. We use a colloidal suspension to simulate amorphous materials, and study the shear-induced structural relaxation with fast confocal microscopy. We quantify the plastic rearrangements of the particles using standard analysis techniques based on the motion of the particles.

Dandan Chen
Physics Dept., Emory University

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