Short-range attractive colloids: one simple liquid with two glasses?

SCIORTINO Francesco

Dipartimento di Fisica and INFM Udr and Center for Statistical Mechanics and Complexity, Universita' di Roma La Sapienza, Piazzale Aldo Moro 2, I-00185, Roma, Italy

Email: francesco.sciortino@phys.uniroma1.it

Short-ranged attractive colloidal systems have recently become the focus of many experimental [1] and theoretical [2] studies. The interest in these systems stems from their peculiar dynamics [3], for showing structural arrest phenomena both of gelation and vitrification type, and last but not least, for being amenable of analytic treatments. Previous studies have convincingly shown that unusual dynamical phenomena emerge from the competition between two characteristic localization length scales; the hard-core and the short-range attraction localization lengths.

In the talk I will review recent numerical and theoretical work from our group [4], in models for short-range attractive colloids, discussing in details:

- (i) the anomalous dynamical features
- (ii) the possibility of two distinct glasses
- (iii) the differences in the dynamics between the two glasses

References

- [1] K.N. Pham et al, Multiple glassy states in a simple model system, Science, **296**, 104, (2002). T. Eckert and E. Barsh, Reentrant glass transition in a colloid-polymer mixture with depletion attractions, Phys. Rev. Lett., **89**, 125701-1 (2002).
- [2] L. Fabbian et al, Ideal glass-glass transitions and logarithmic decay of correlations in a simple system, Phys. Rev. E, (RC) **59**, R1347 (1999).
- J. Bergenholtz and M. Fuchs, Non ergodicity transitions in colloidal suspensions with attractive interactions, Phys. Rev. E, **59**, 5706 (1999).
- K. Dawson et al, Higher order glass-transition singularities in colloidal systems with attractive interactions, Phys. Rev. E, **63**, 01141 (2001);
- [3] F. Sciortino, One Liquid, Two Glasses, Nature Materials, News and Views, 1, 14146, (2002).
- [4] G. Foffi et al, Evidence for an unusual dynamical-arrest scenario in short-ranged colloidal systems, Phys. Rev. E, **65** (RC), 050802 (2002).
- E. Zaccarelli et al, Confirmation of anomalous dynamical arrest in attractive colloids: A molecular dynamics study, Phys. Rev. E, **66**, 041402 (2002)