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# Shear induced detachment of microorganisms attached to a plane wall

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LABORATOIRE D'INGÉNIERIE  
DES SYSTÈMES BIOLOGIQUES  
ET DES PROCÉDÉS



PNRA InterSpore



## Introduction

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- **Contamination of food industry equipment surfaces to prevent foodborne illnesses**

- **Bacteria/material interaction dynamics**

- **Coupling experiments / CFD**

- AFM
- Parallel-plate flow chamber assays
- **Numerical simulation**

➔ *Quantify interaction forces considering bacterial properties*

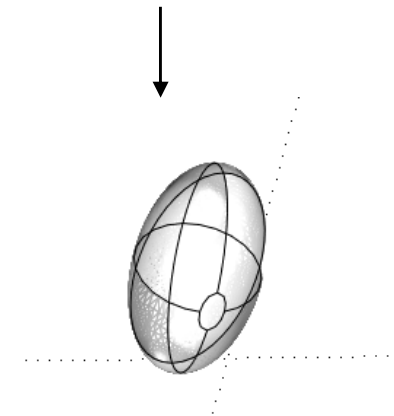
## Methods

### Microorganism modelling :

- Rigid obstacle embedded into the substrate
- Approach a realistic shape for several strains
- **Isolated** microorganism
- Heterogeneity



authors : Faille/Lequette - institute : INRA



## Methods

### Flow modelling :

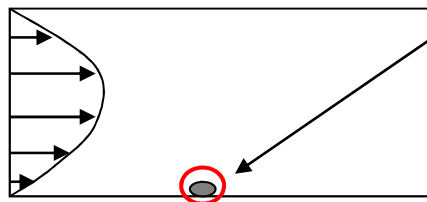
- Stokes flow
- Laminar sublayer

### Particulate Reynolds number

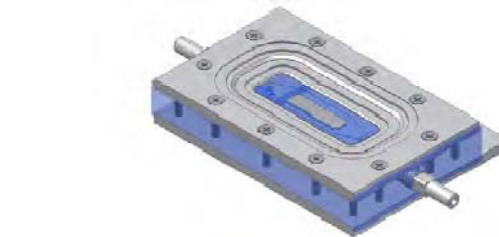
$$\text{Re}_p = \frac{u(r_p)r_p}{\nu} = \frac{r_p^2 \tau_w}{\nu \mu} \in [10^{-5}, 10^{-3}]$$

### Wall shear stress

$$\tau_w = \frac{3\mu Q}{4h^2l}$$



Vicinity of the cell



Experiments in parallel plate flow chamber

*Flow chamber dimensions :*

*h : 200 μm*

*b: 1200 μm*

*Cell dimension*

*r<sub>p</sub> ~ 1 μm*

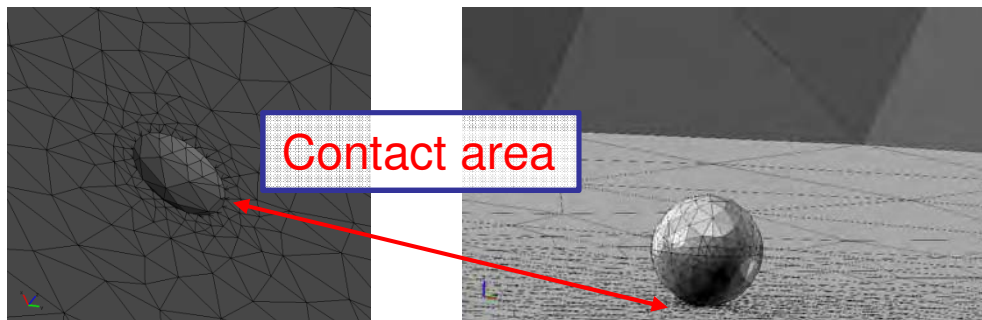
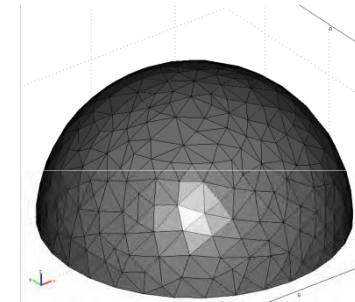
*ρ = 1000 kg.m<sup>-3</sup> , η = 10<sup>-3</sup> Pa.s*

**Domain reduction**

## CFD model – Domain parameters

- 3D Laminar Navier-Stokes application mode
- Semi-circular domain (orientation)
  - $r_{\text{domain}} = 30 r_p$  (Brooks and Tozeren, 1996)

- Embedded cell shape



➔ One mesh for each geometry



## Boundary conditions

Inlet and outlet : shear flow

$$\mathbf{u}(\gamma, \alpha) = \gamma z (\cos(\alpha) \mathbf{x}_{\text{cell}} + \sin(\alpha) \mathbf{y}_{\text{cell}})$$

Cell boundaries and  
bottom plate

*No-slip walls*

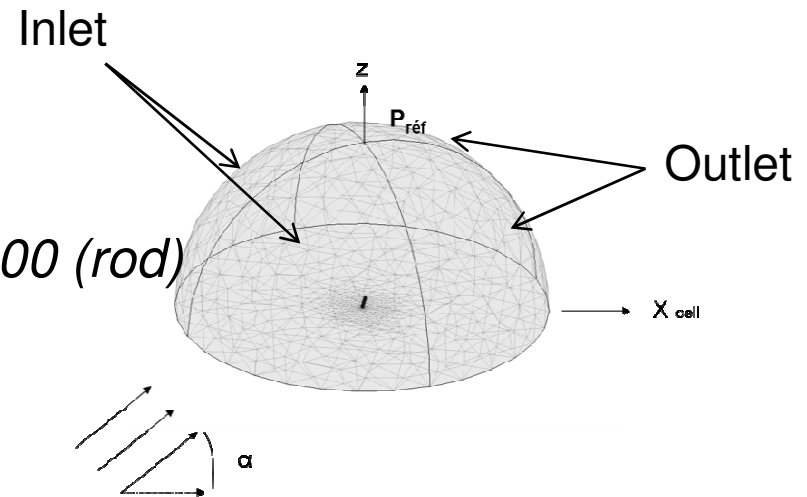
Triangular mesh

*12000 DOFs (sphere) – 118000 (rod)*

Parameters

$\gamma$  : *shear rate*

$\alpha$  : *main flow incidence*



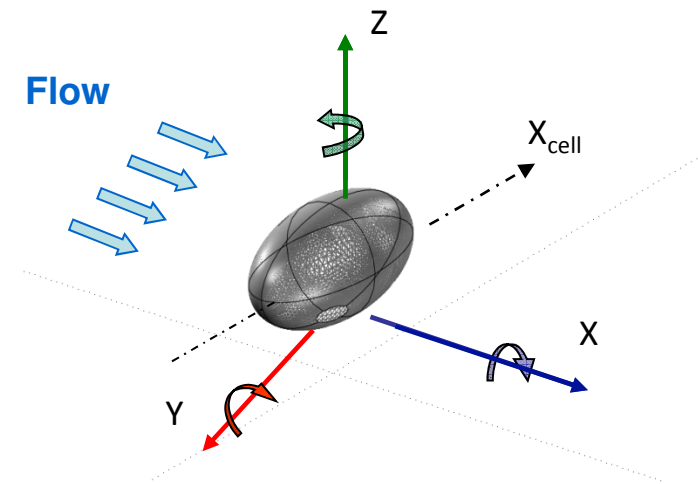
## Output

Integration of the stresses on the cell boundaries

Calculations are made in the frame of reference of the cell ( $X_{\text{cell}}$ ,  $Y_{\text{cell}}$ ,  $Z$ )

Results are shown in the frame of reference of the flow ( $X, Y, Z$ )

➔ Cell motion  
(sliding, rolling,  
reorientation)  
regarding the flow



## Validation – Spherical model

Drag – Torque (O'Neill, 1968)

$$\mathbf{D} = [32.0r_p^2\tau_w + \mathcal{O}(\text{Re}_p)] \mathbf{i}$$

$$\Gamma_0 = [11.9r_p^3\tau_w + \mathcal{O}(\text{Re}_p)] \mathbf{j}$$

Lift (Krishnan and Leighton, 1995)

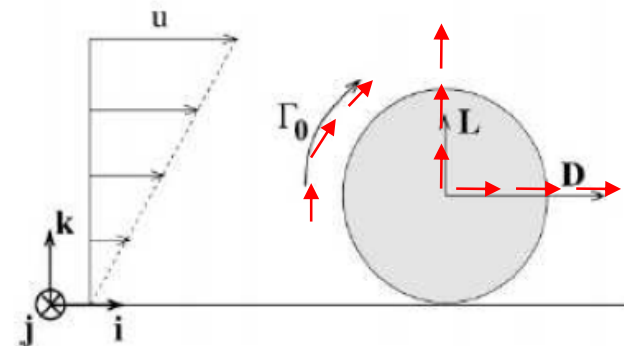
$$\mathbf{L} = 9.257r_p^2\tau_w \text{Re}_p \mathbf{k}$$

Fixed

Radius  $r_p = 1\mu\text{m}$

1 parameter

shear rate :  $\gamma \in [0, 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}]$

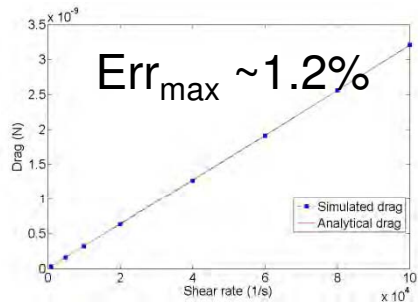




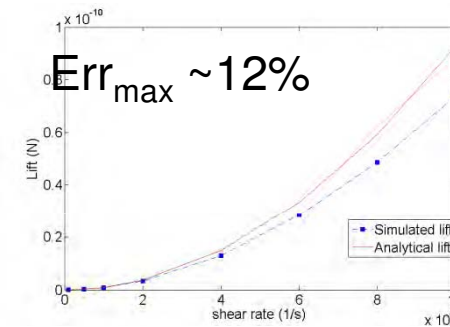
## Validation – Spherical model

Results as a function of the shear rate

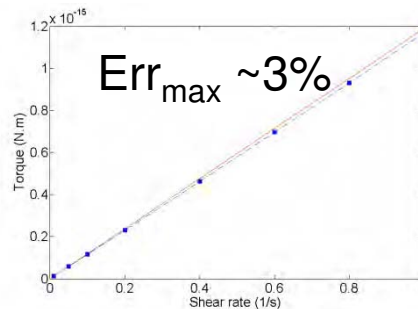
Drag



Lift



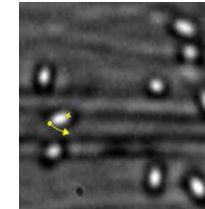
Torque



**Good agreement with the theory**  
**Drag prevails**  
**Lift neglected**

## Spheroidal model

Shape : e.g. *Bacillus cereus* spore



Asymmetrical shape  $\Rightarrow$  orientation effect

Fixed

shear rate  $\dot{\gamma} = 10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$

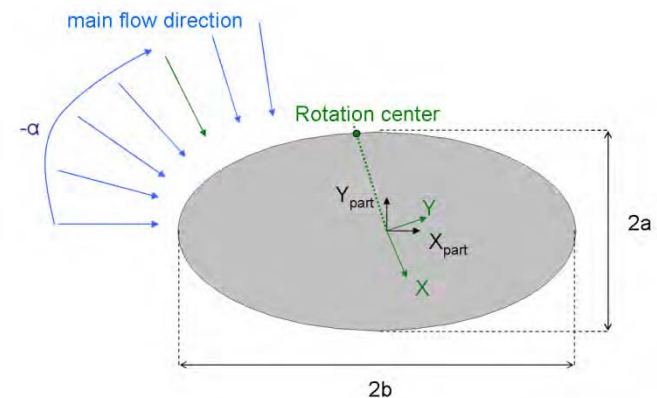
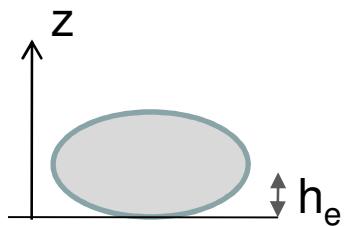
$a = 1 \mu\text{m}$

3 parameters

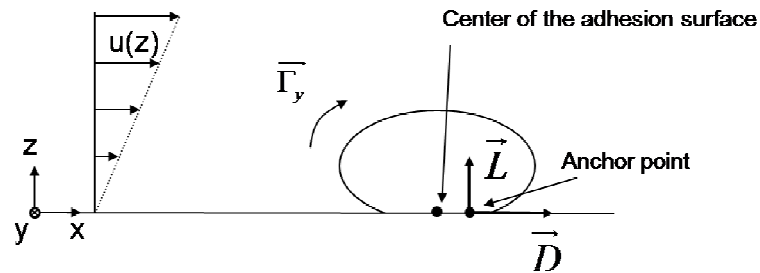
flow incidence :  $\alpha \in [0, \pi]$

axes ratio :  $b/a \in [1, 2]$

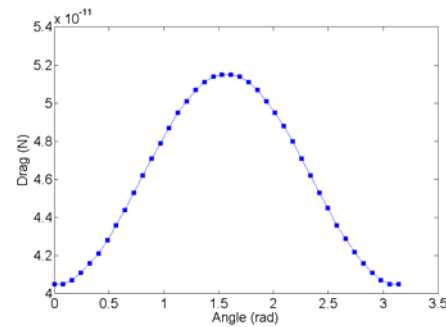
Embedment height :  $h_e \in [0.1, 0.9 \mu\text{m}]$  (cell spreading, protrusions)



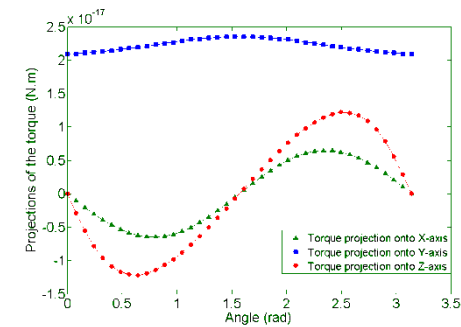
## Spheroid model



Drag

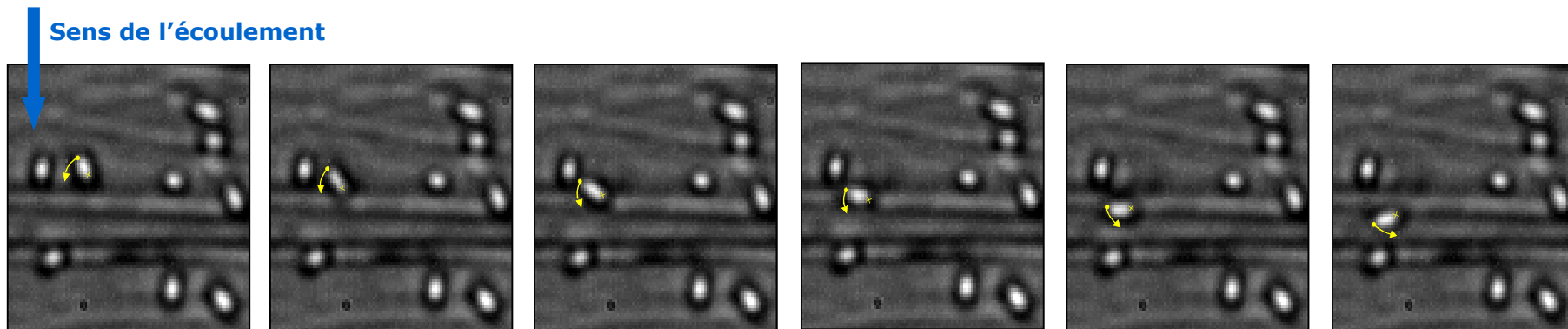


Torque components



The components of the torque have same order of magnitude  
 $\Gamma_y$  prevails

## Reorientation



**Bc 98/4 strain-  $t_w = 7$  Pa (2000 images/s)**

Occurs for asymmetrical cells

Reduction of the stresses exerted by the shear flow

May happen while sliding – rotation around an anchor point

## Rod model

Shape : e.g. Escherischia coli

Fixed

shear rate :  $\gamma=10^4 s^{-1}$

$a= 1\mu m$

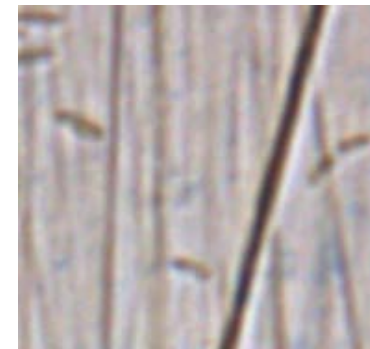
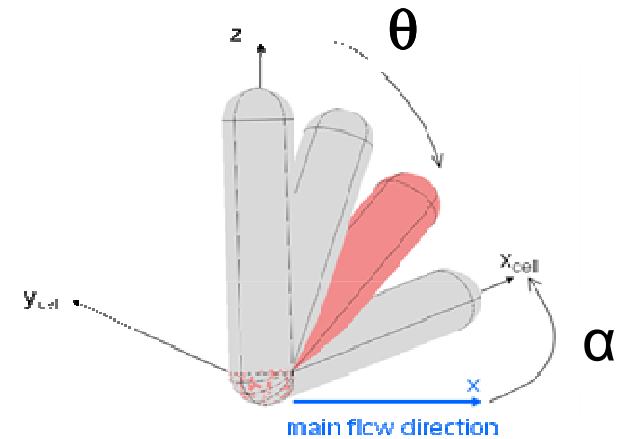
Rod length:  $1.5\mu m$

Radius :  $0.25\mu m$

2 parameters

flow incidence :  $\alpha \in [0, \pi]$

cell inclination :  $\theta \in [0, \pi]$

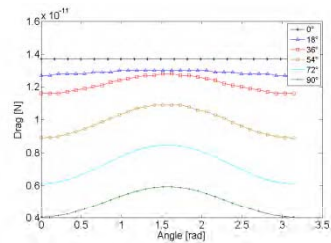




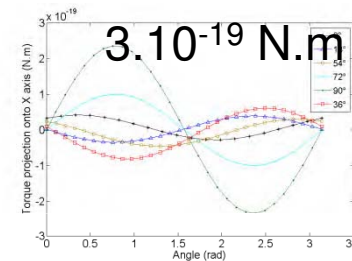
## Rod model

Results as a function of the incidence  $\alpha$  for several inclinations  $\theta$

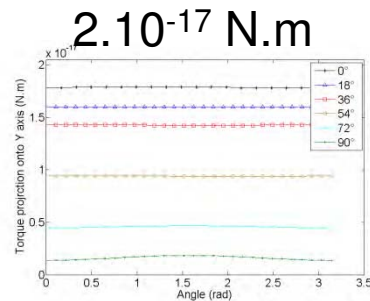
Drag



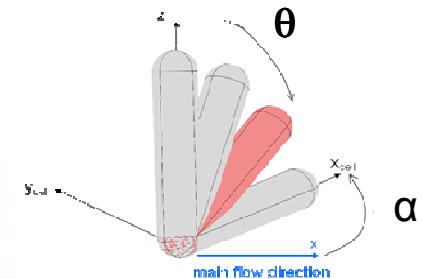
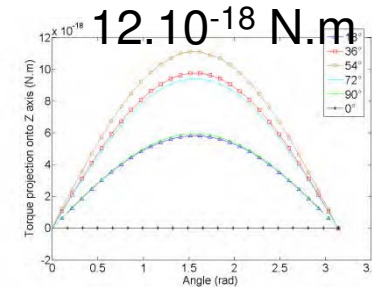
Torque projection onto X-axis



Torque projection onto Y-axis



Torque projection onto Z-axis



Strong variations with the inclination

Remaining cells are those lying on the substrate and oriented in the main flow direction

## Reorientation

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**E. coli strain-  $t_w = 22 - 24 - 26$  Pa**

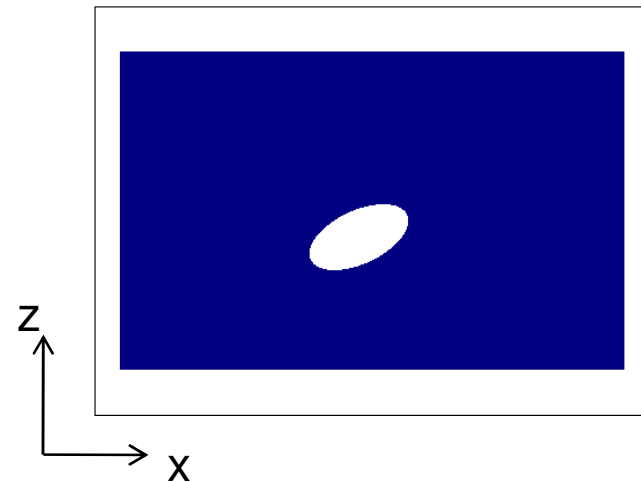
## Conclusion

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- First approach to the simulation of the detachment of various shaped microorganisms (*Boulbene et al., submitted*)
- Competition between sliding, rolling and reorientation

## Prospects

- Transient simulation
  - Fluid-structure interaction with deforming mesh
  - Population model
- Parameterized geometries





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**THANK YOU!**