

Viscoelastic fluid modeling for biological tissues under large deformations

M. Renard¹ P. Saramito¹ H. Delanoë-Ayari² I. Cheddadi³ F. Graner⁴



- ¹ LJK - Univ. Grenoble Alpes
- ² iLM - Univ. Lyon 1
- ³ TIMC - Univ. Grenoble Alpes
- ⁴ MSC - Univ. Paris Cité



November 24th, 2025



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Experiments
- 3 Mathematical model
- 4 Comparisons
- 5 Conclusion

Embryonic tissues

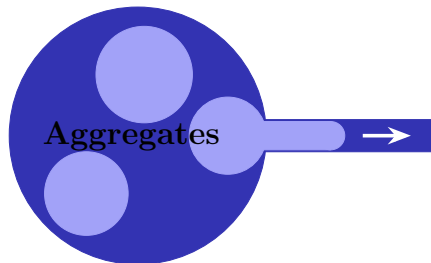
- Role: wound healing, morphogenesis, ...
- Active processes: division, growth, migration ...
- Passive processes: stress, deformation → **rheology**

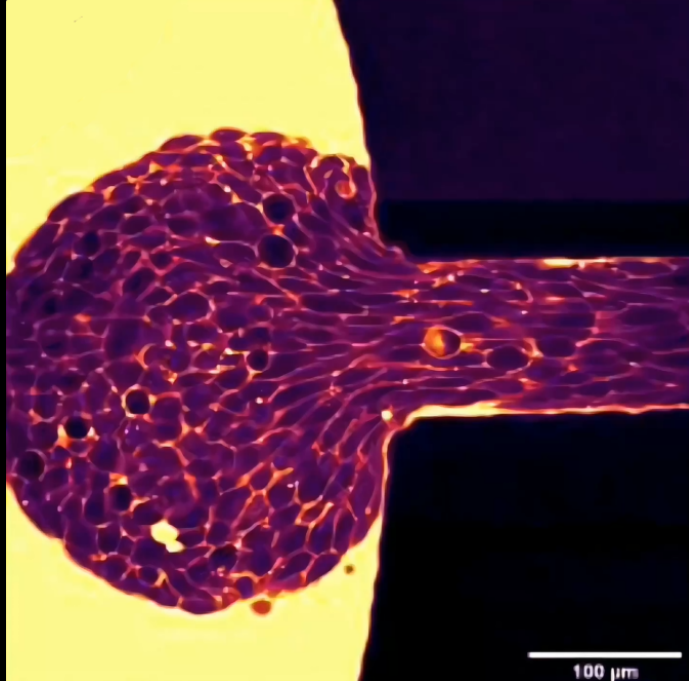
Embryonic tissues

- Role: wound healing, morphogenesis, ...
- Active processes: division, growth, migration ...
- Passive processes: stress, deformation → **rheology**

Experiments [Tlili et al. 2022]

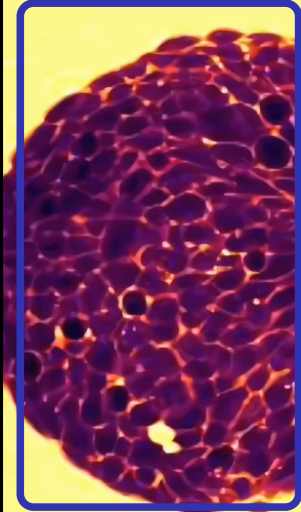
- Abrupt contraction
- Heterogeneous flow
- Large deformations





100 μm

Rest & circular

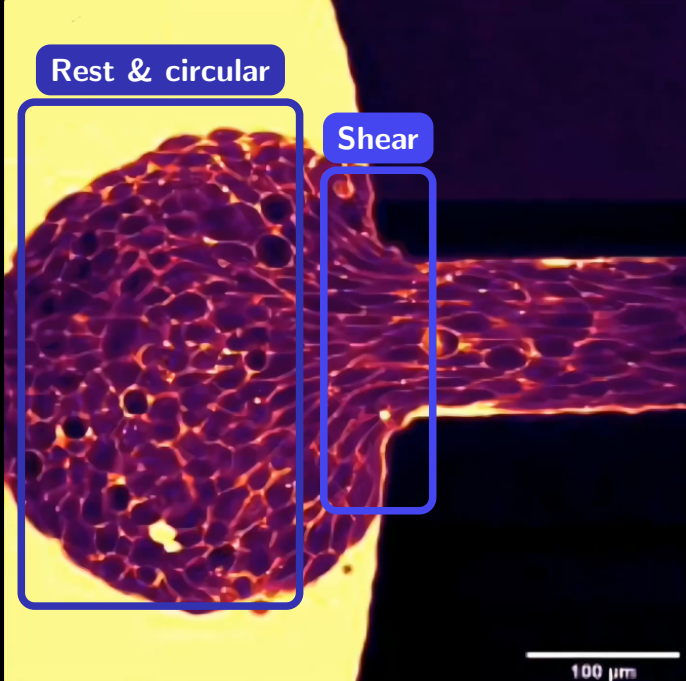


100 μm

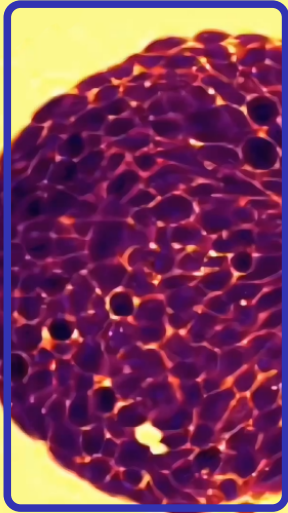
Rest & circular

Shear

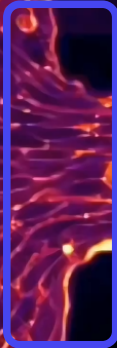
100 μm



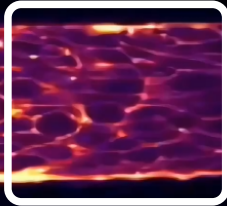
Rest & circular



Shear



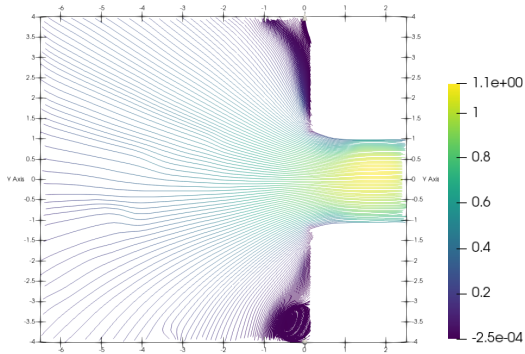
No relaxation



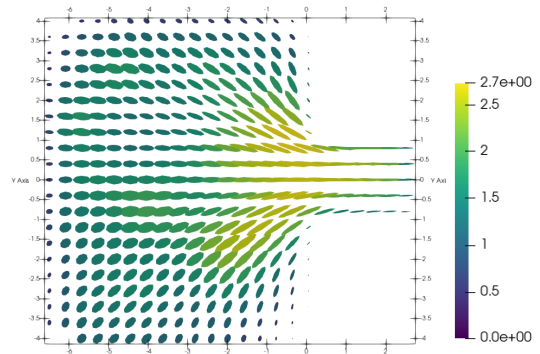
100 μm

Experimental data fields

Processed from [Tlili et al. 2022]



Velocity streamlines



Conformation field

Identify: Cell shape \longleftrightarrow Ellipse
Navier-Stokes is not enough !

Unknowns

Pressure	p	}	Non-Newtonian
Velocity	\mathbf{u}		
Conformation	\mathbf{c}		

Unknowns

Pressure	p	}	Non-Newtonian
Velocity	\mathbf{u}		
Conformation	\mathbf{c}		

Parameters

Viscosity ratio	$\alpha \in [0, 1]$
Weissenberg	$We \in \mathbb{R}_+$
Reynolds	$Re \in \mathbb{R}_+$

Unknowns

Pressure	p	} Non-Newtonian
Velocity	\mathbf{u}	
Conformation	\mathbf{c}	

Assumptions

1. Isotropic rest state
2. $Re \ll 1$ (small velocity)
3. Depth invariance \rightarrow 2D

Parameters

Viscosity ratio	$\alpha \in [0, 1]$
Weissenberg	$We \in \mathbb{R}_+$
Reynolds	$Re \in \mathbb{R}_+$

Unknowns

Pressure	p	} Non-Newtonian
Velocity	\mathbf{u}	
Conformation	\mathbf{c}	

Assumptions

1. Isotropic rest state
2. $Re \ll 1$ (small velocity)
3. Depth invariance \rightarrow 2D

Parameters

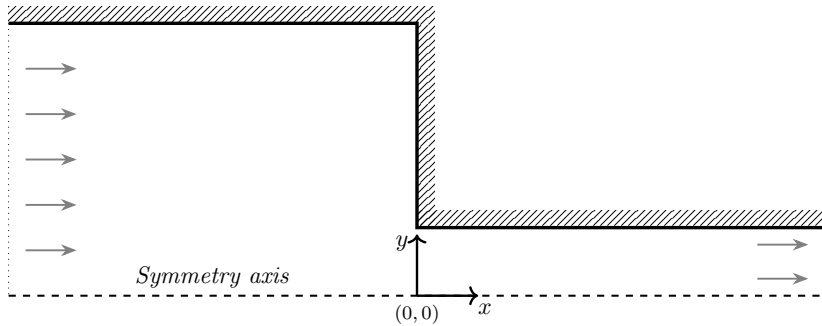
Viscosity ratio	$\alpha \in [0, 1]$
Weissenberg	$We \in \mathbb{R}_+$
Reynolds	$Re \in \mathbb{R}_+$

Features

1. Stationary solutions
2. Slip boundaries
3. Abrupt geometry

Geometry

Slip boundary conditions



Oldroyd-B model

Adapted from [Oldroyd 1950]

Find \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{u} and p defined in Ω such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} \overset{\nabla}{\mathbf{c}} & = & -\frac{1}{We} (\mathbf{c} - \mathbb{I}) \\ -\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) & = & 0 \\ \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}) & = & 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & = & \frac{\alpha}{We} (\mathbf{c} - \mathbb{I}) + 2(1 - \alpha)D(\mathbf{u}) - p \cdot \mathbb{I} \end{array} \right.$$

Oldroyd-B model

Adapted from [Oldroyd 1950]

Find \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{u} and p defined in Ω such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} \overset{\nabla}{\mathbf{c}} & = & -\frac{1}{We} (\mathbf{c} - \mathbb{I}) \\ -\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) & = & 0 \\ \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}) & = & 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & = & \frac{\alpha}{We} (\mathbf{c} - \mathbb{I}) + 2(1 - \alpha)D(\mathbf{u}) - p \cdot \mathbb{I} \end{array} \right.$$

Assets

- Rest state: $\mathbf{c} = \mathbb{I}$
- Linear, large deformations

Limits

- No global existence of solutions
- Unbounded extension with $\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{c})$

FENE-P model

Adapted from [Bird et al. 1980]

Find \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{u} and p defined in Ω such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{c} & = & -\frac{1}{We} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}}{1 - \beta \text{Tr } \mathbf{c}} - \frac{\mathbb{I}}{1 - \beta d} \right) \\ -\text{div}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) & = & 0 \\ \text{div}(\mathbf{u}) & = & 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & = & \frac{\alpha}{We} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}}{1 - \beta \text{Tr } \mathbf{c}} - \frac{\mathbb{I}}{1 - \beta d} \right) + 2(1 - \alpha)D(\mathbf{u}) - p \cdot \mathbb{I} \end{array} \right.$$

FENE-P model

Adapted from [Bird et al. 1980]

Find \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{u} and p defined in Ω such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{c} & = & -\frac{1}{We} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}}{1 - \beta \operatorname{Tr} \mathbf{c}} - \frac{\mathbb{I}}{1 - \beta d} \right) \\ -\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) & = & 0 \\ \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}) & = & 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & = & \frac{\alpha}{We} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}}{1 - \beta \operatorname{Tr} \mathbf{c}} - \frac{\mathbb{I}}{1 - \beta d} \right) + 2(1 - \alpha)D(\mathbf{u}) - p \cdot \mathbb{I} \end{array} \right.$$

Extension bound

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{c}) < \frac{1}{\beta}$$

FENE-P model

Adapted from [Bird et al. 1980]

Find \mathbf{c} , \mathbf{u} and p defined in Ω such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{c} & = & -\frac{1}{We} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}}{1 - \beta \operatorname{Tr} \mathbf{c}} - \frac{\mathbb{I}}{1 - \beta d} \right) \\ -\operatorname{div}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) & = & 0 \\ \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{u}) & = & 0 \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & = & \frac{\alpha}{We} \left(\frac{\mathbf{c}}{1 - \beta \operatorname{Tr} \mathbf{c}} - \frac{\mathbb{I}}{1 - \beta d} \right) + 2(1 - \alpha)D(\mathbf{u}) - p \cdot \mathbb{I} \end{array} \right.$$

Extension bound

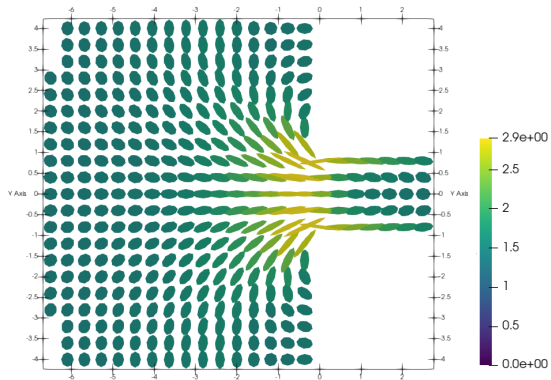
$$\operatorname{Tr}(\mathbf{c}) < \frac{1}{\beta}$$

Assets

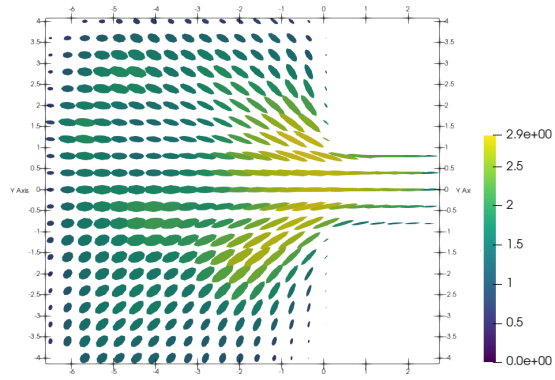
- Bounded extension
- Large deformations
- Global (weak) existence [Masmoudi 2011]
- Contains Oldroyd-B ($\beta = 0$)

FENE-P vs. Experiments

Conformation maps



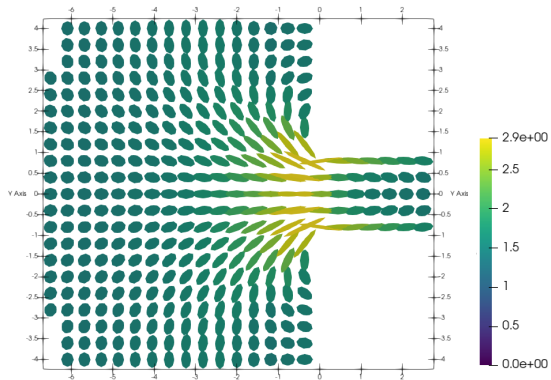
FENE-P



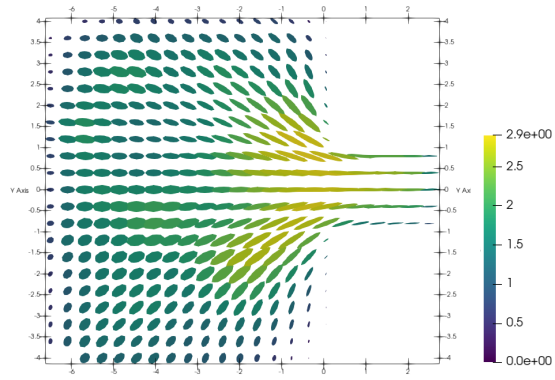
[Tlili et al. 2022]

FENE-P vs. Experiments

Conformation maps



FENE-P

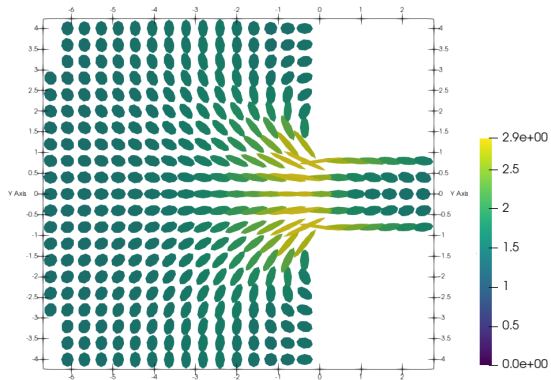


[Tlili et al. 2022]

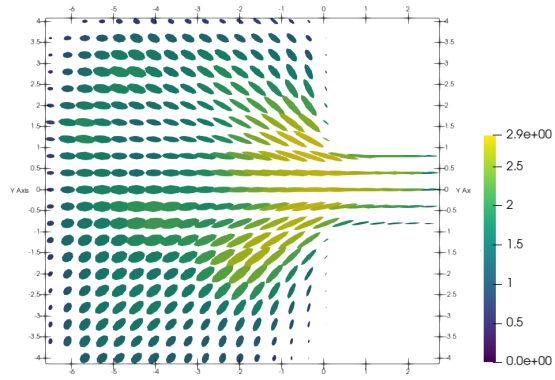
Upstream & Entrance ✓

FENE-P vs. Experiments

Conformation maps



FENE-P

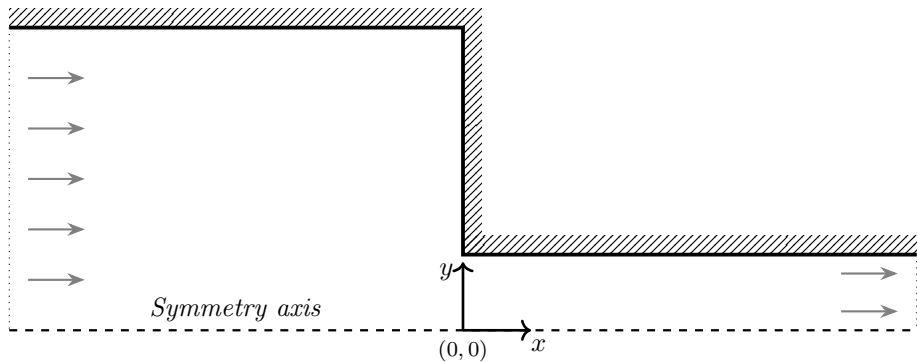


[Tlili et al. 2022]

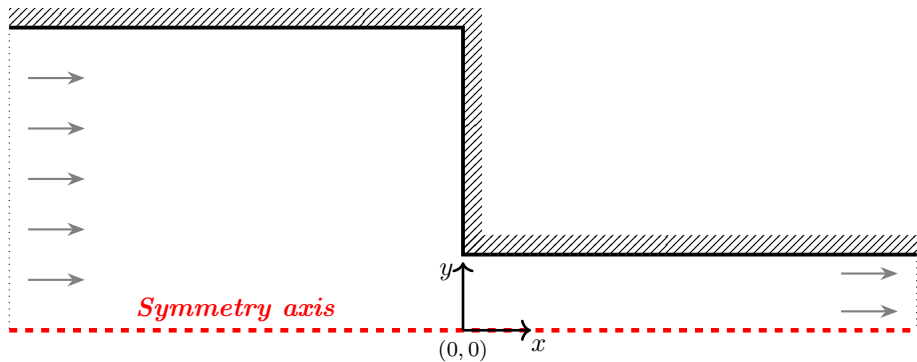
Upstream & Entrance ✓

Downstream relaxation not matching !

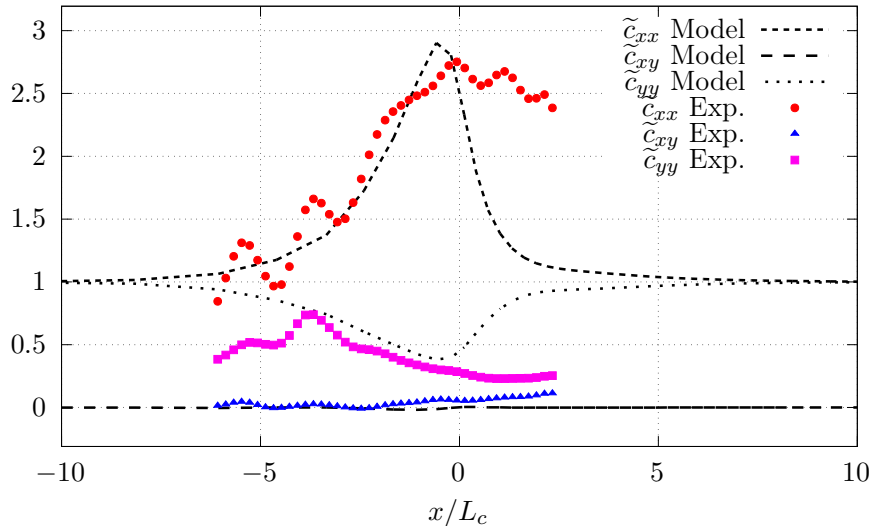
Symmetry axis



Symmetry axis

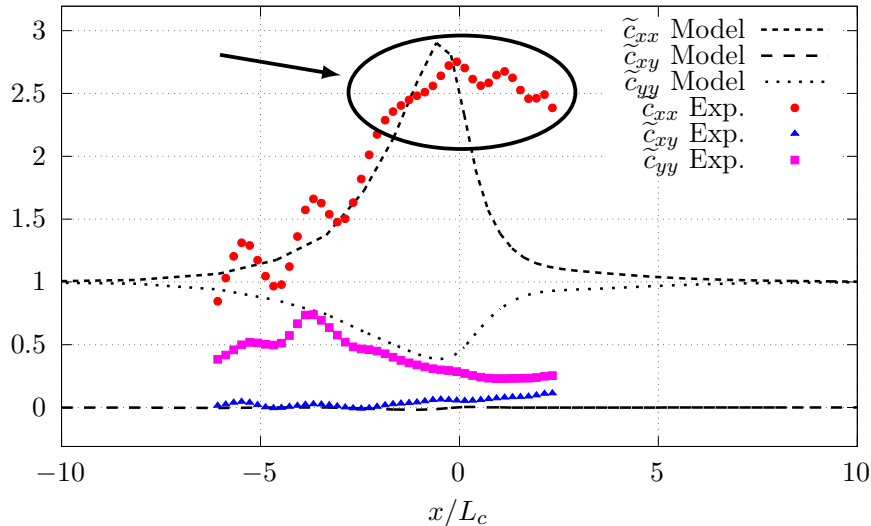


Conformation cut



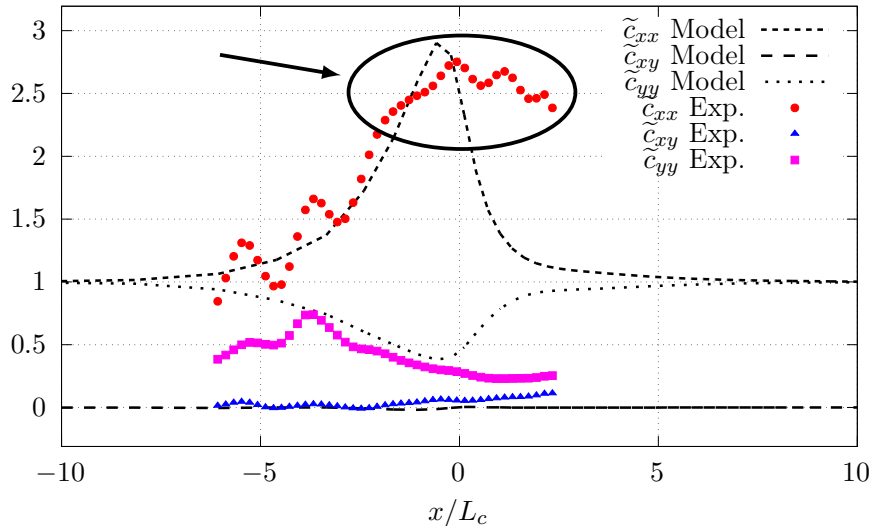
1. Good upstream

Conformation cut



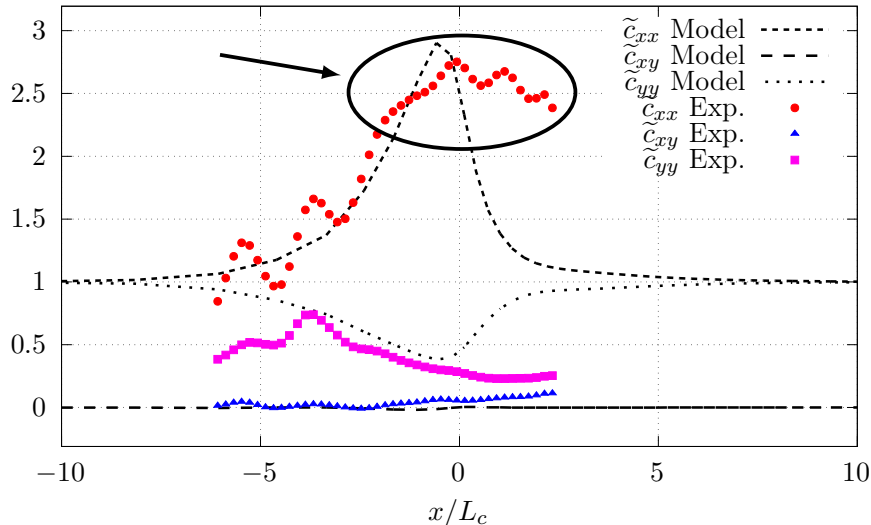
1. Good upstream
2. Downstream plug

Conformation cut



1. Good upstream
2. Downstream plug
3. Unfeasible larger We number

Conformation cut



1. Good upstream
2. Downstream plug
3. Unfeasible larger We number

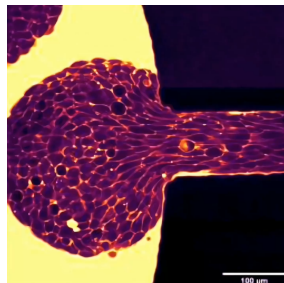
Yield stress needed !

Advances

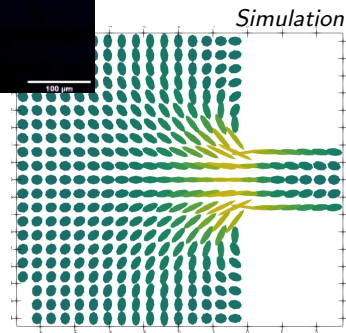
- Embryonic tissues: viscoelastic behavior
- Oldroyd-B: unbounded extension
- FENE-P: upstream and entrance ✓
- **Agreement for large deformation viscoelasticity**

Perspectives

- **New model** with elasticity & yield stress
- Downstream **channel study**
- **Mutants** assessment



Experiment
[Tlili et al. 2022]



Thank you for listening !

`maxime.renard@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr`