

Numerical Methods in Biomechanics

Alexandre Terrier, PhD

EPFL - Laboratory of Biomechanical Orthopedics

Content - schedule

W01: Organization, introduction and examples

W02: External lecturers

W03: Partial Differential Equations

W04: Solid mechanics in numerical biomechanics

W05: Fluid mechanics in numerical biomechanics

W06: Midterm project presentations

W07: The Finite Element Method (FEM), and its extensions

W08: Midterm evaluation

W09: Multiphysics, coupling, Comsol

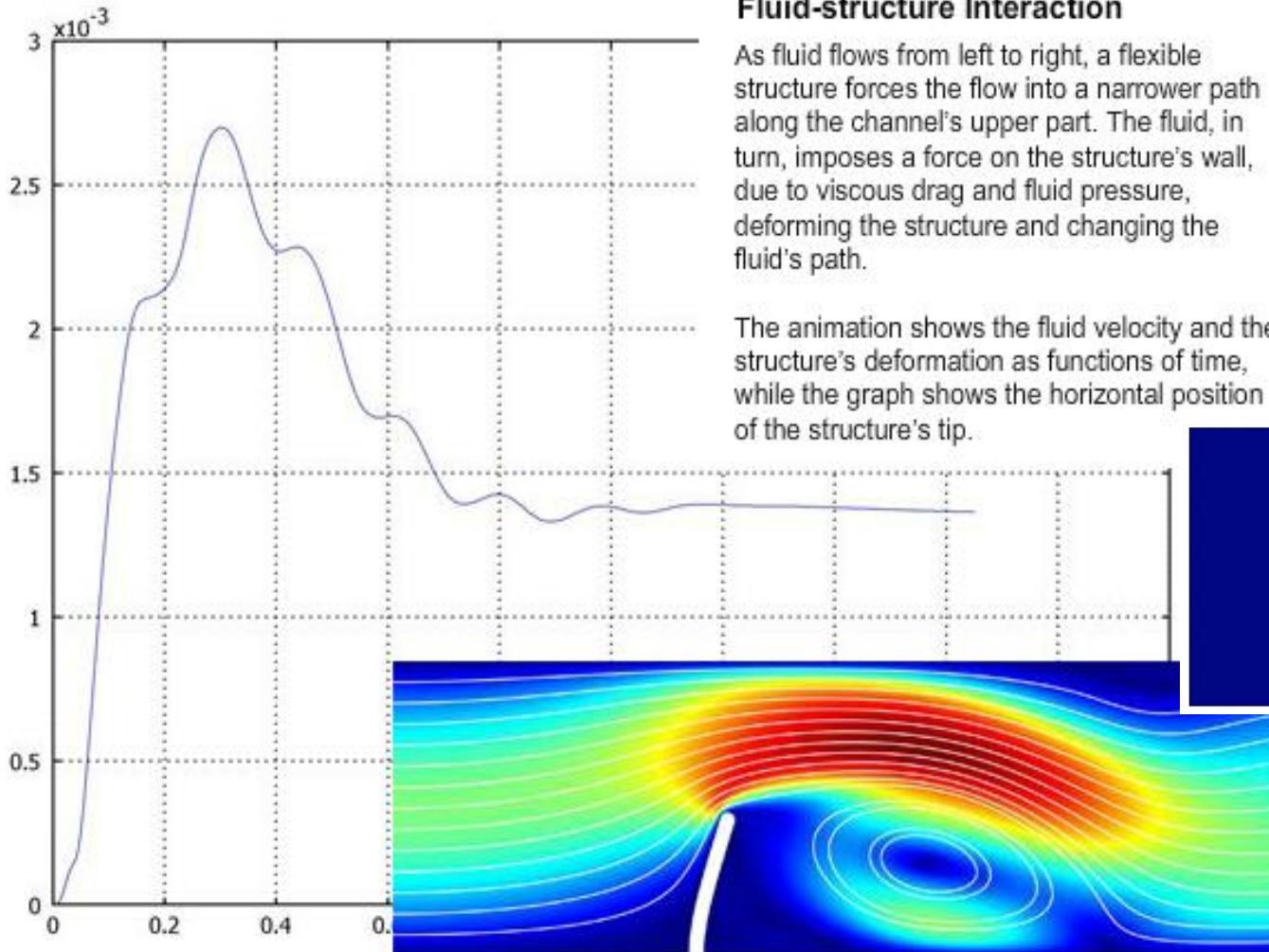
W10: Multiphysics example 1

W11: Multiphysics example 2

W12: Multiphysics example 3

W13: Final project presentation

Fluid-structure example



Physics

- Solid mechanics
- Fluids mechanics (Navier-Stokes)
- Heat: conduction, convection, radiation
- Transport: advection, diffusion, reaction
- Electrodynamics (Maxwell)
- Adaptation law of living tissues

Physics coupling

In some situations (experiments),
physical (and chemical) phenomena
are strongly interdependent and
Physics (PDE) must be coupled to get
a reasonable solution



multiphysics modeling

Coupling in biomechanics

- Cardiovascular (fluid-solid)
- Orthopedics (solid-solid contacts)
- Tissue engineering (poroelasticity)
- Cell mechanics (advection-diffusion-reaction)
- Medical devices (EM, heat, piezo)
- Adaptive process (bone, muscle, arteries)

Where appears the coupling?

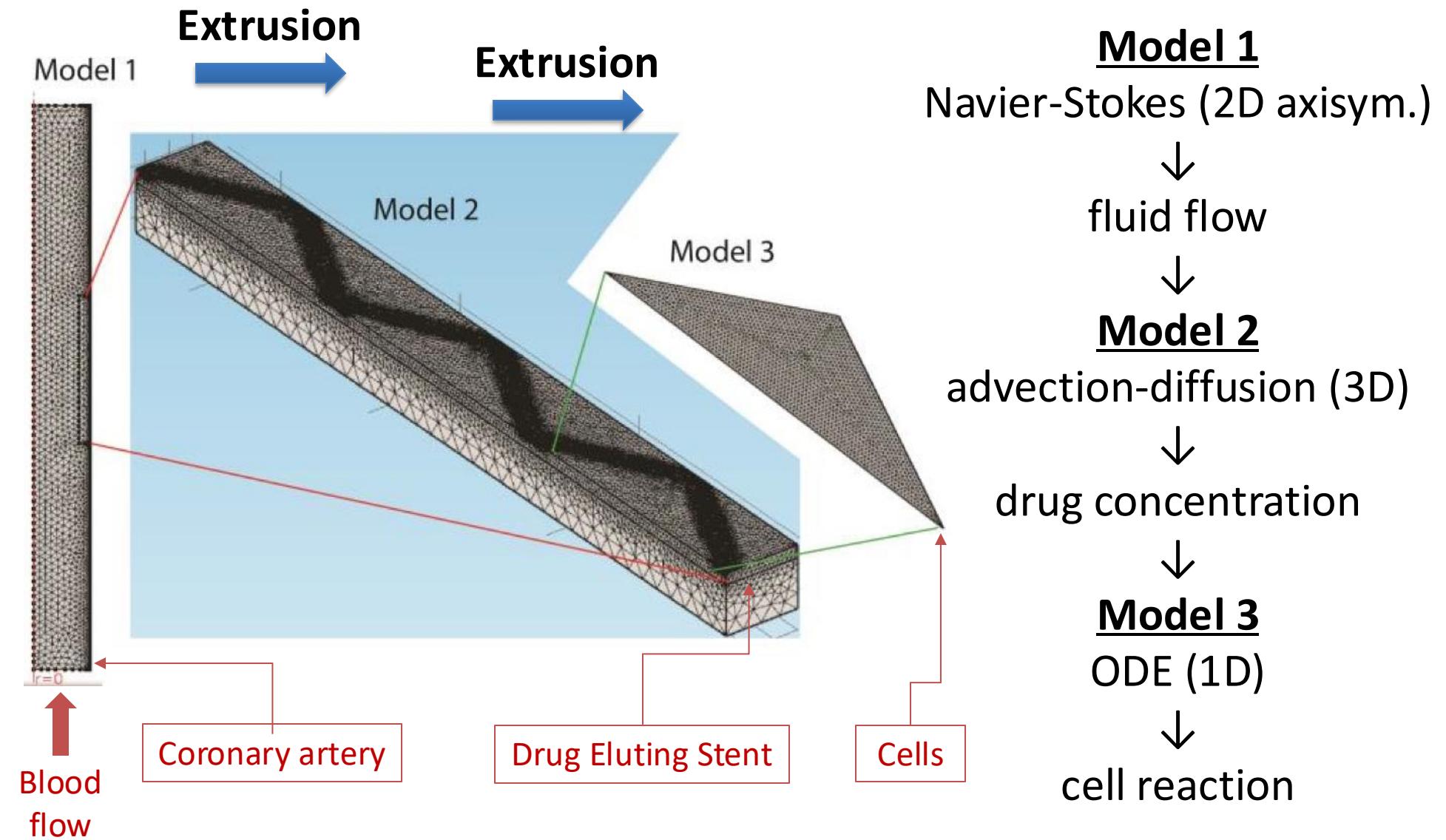
Coupling between variables of different physics in:

- PDE (convection, poroelasticity)
- Constitutive laws (non-isothermal flow)
- Boundary conditions (fluid-solid interaction)
- Contacts between solids
- Other (medical devices control, MEMS)

Types of coupling

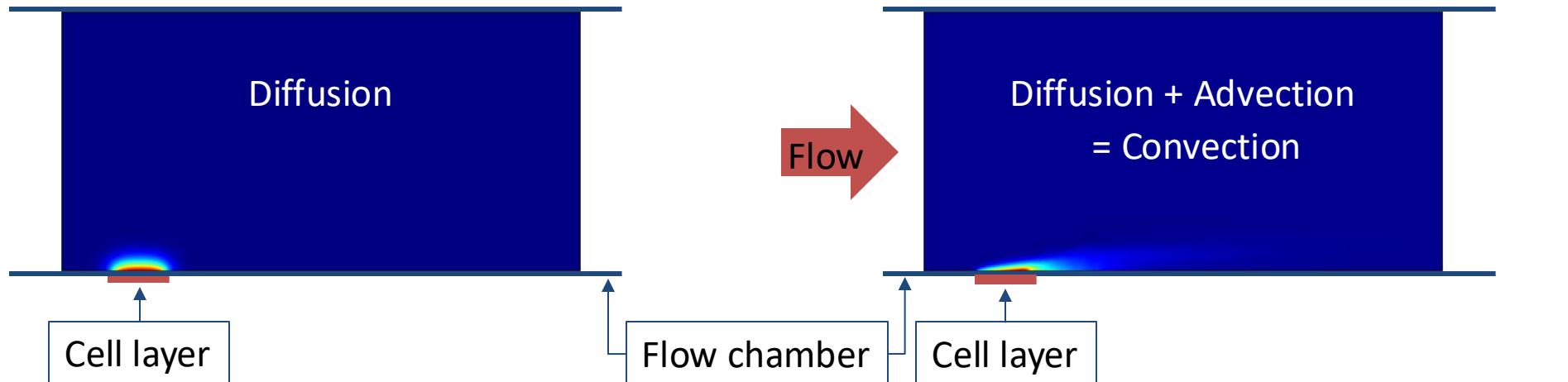
- Coupling between physics (field)
- Coupling within materials (constitutive laws)
- Coupling at interfaces
- Coupling operators (modeling, not physical)
(modeling simplification between source and destination sub-models)
 - Extrusion (2D → 3D)
 - Projection (3D → 2D)
 - Integration (2D/3D → 1D)

Extrusion operator



Protein release in flow chamber

- Flow chamber 2D (500x250 μm)
- Cell layer (50 μm , 50 μm from inlet)
- Diffusion: $D = 100 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{s}$
- Protein release = $10^{-6} \text{ mol}/(\text{m}^2\text{s})$
- Laminar flow ($u_{\text{avg}} = 1 \text{ mm/s}$)



Coupling modeling

- 1-way coupling
 - One physics influence the other one, but it is not reciprocal
- 2-way coupling
 - Both physics influence each other
- Weak coupling: slight coupling effect
- Strong coupling: important coupling effect

Coupling modeling

- 1-way coupling
 - Thermal expansion: $T \rightarrow \varepsilon$
 - Viscosity: friction $\rightarrow T$
- 2-way coupling
 - Joule heating: $j \leftrightarrow T$ (through conductivity)
- 1 or 2-way coupling
 - Fluid-structure interaction (FSI): $v \rightarrow \varepsilon, \varepsilon \rightarrow v, v \leftrightarrow \varepsilon$

Numerical techniques in coupling

Multi-physics solvers

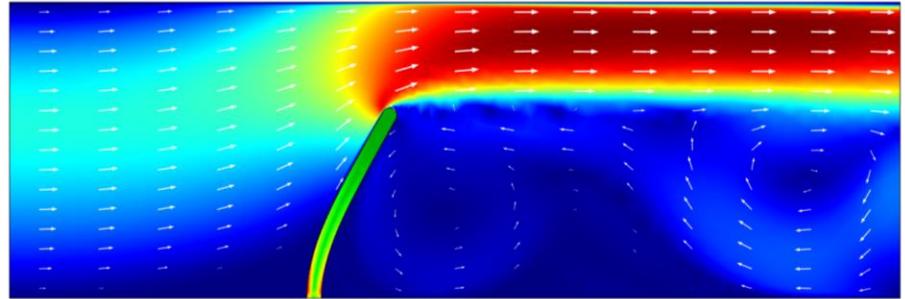
- One unique solver for several physics
 - No additional approximation
 - Same mesh, same time increment
 - Physics can't be optimized separately (Fluid-Solid)
 - Thermo-mechanics (one more degree of freedom: T)
- Several mono-physics solvers talking to each others
 - Fully coupled solver
 - Segregated solver

Fully coupled vs. segregated solver

- Fully coupled solver
 - Solves “exactly” (fixed accuracy) **simultaneously**
 - Iterative methods
- Segregated solver
 - Solves “approximately” (substeps solving) **sequentially**
 - Efficient for weak coupling
 - Use less memory
 - Slow or no convergence if strong nonlinearity

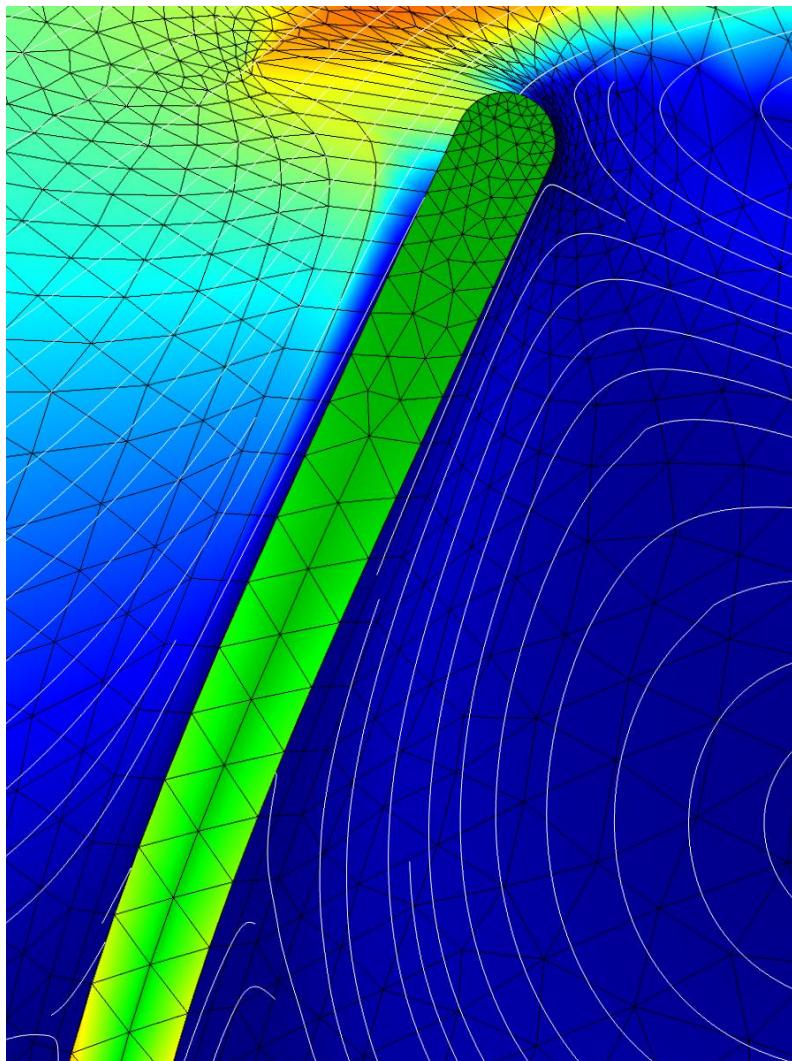
Fluid-Structure Interaction

- Geometry:
 - 2D
 - canal 30×10 mm
 - obstacle 0.5×7 mm (0.25 mm fillet), 10 mm from inlet
- Material:
 - Water: $\rho = 1e3$ [kg/m³], $\mu = 1e-3$ [Pa s]
 - Medical silicone: $E = 10$ MPa, $\nu = 0.4$, $\rho = 1e3$ kg/m³
- Flow: Inlet 500 mm/s (average laminar), outlet $P = 0$

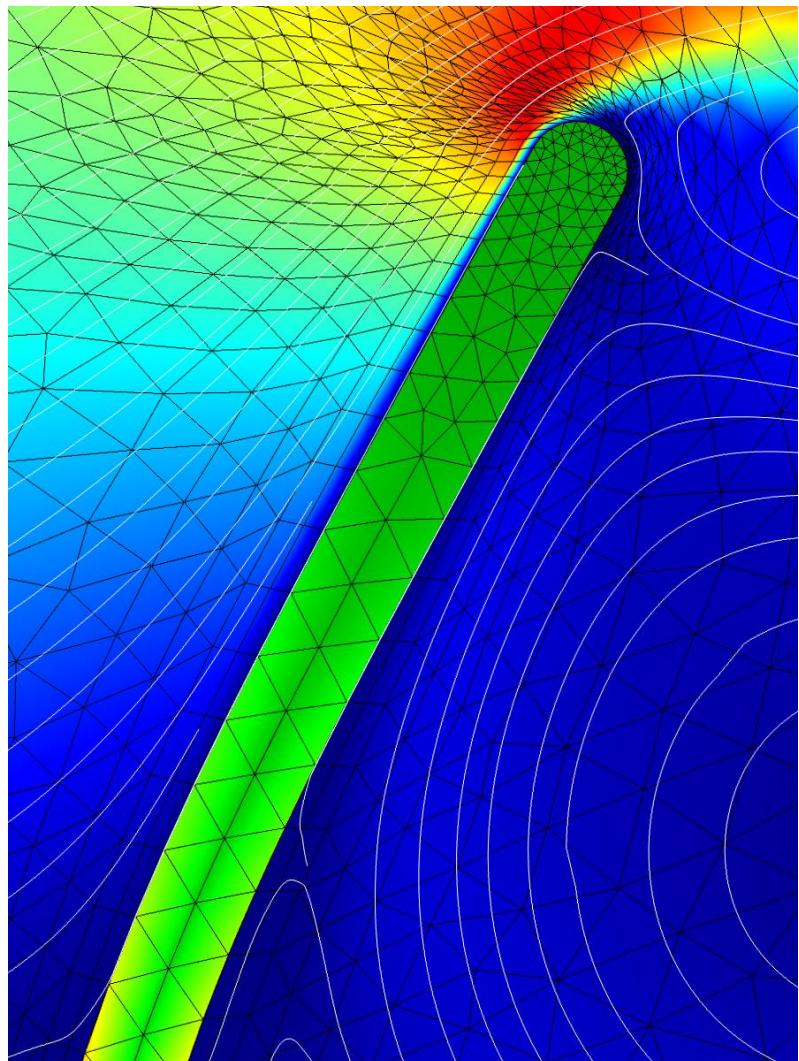


Mesh deformation type

Winslow (t=6.7 s)

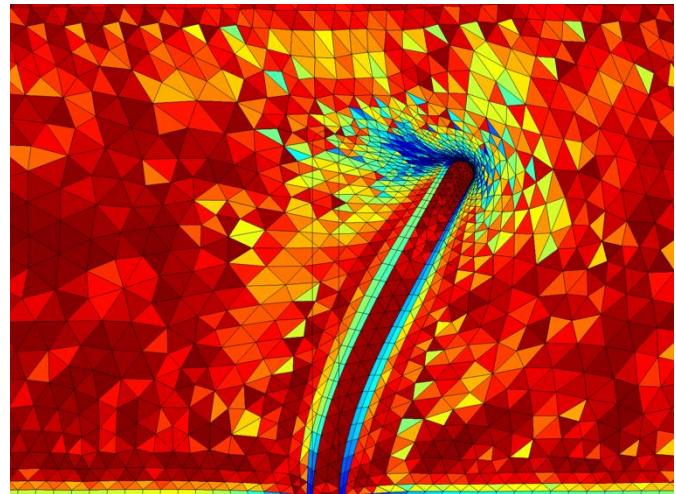
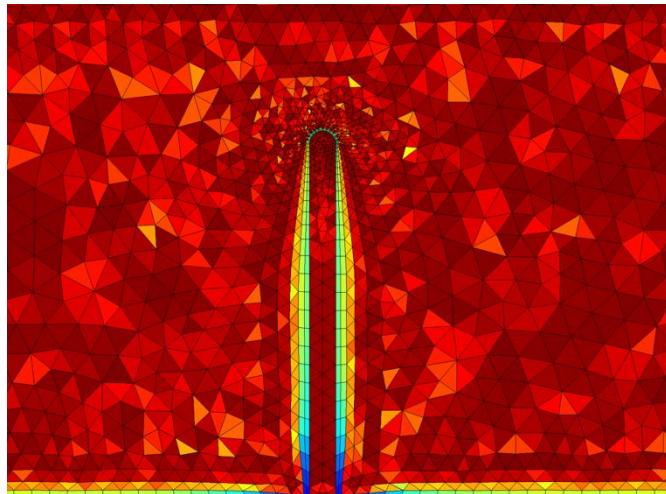


Hyperelastic (t=10 s)



Fluid-Structure Interaction

- Arbitrary Lagrangian-Eulerian (ALE) method
 - Solid \rightarrow Lagrangian description (material frame)
 - Fluid \rightarrow Eulerian description (spatial frame)
- Mesh degradation: stop, mesh deformed, map last results on new mesh, continue



Optimization of Dielectrophoretic Cell Trapping in a Microfluidic Channel

Claire AMADIO¹; Alexandre KEHREN¹; Hadrien MERIAH²

1. Bioengineering; 2. Mechanical.

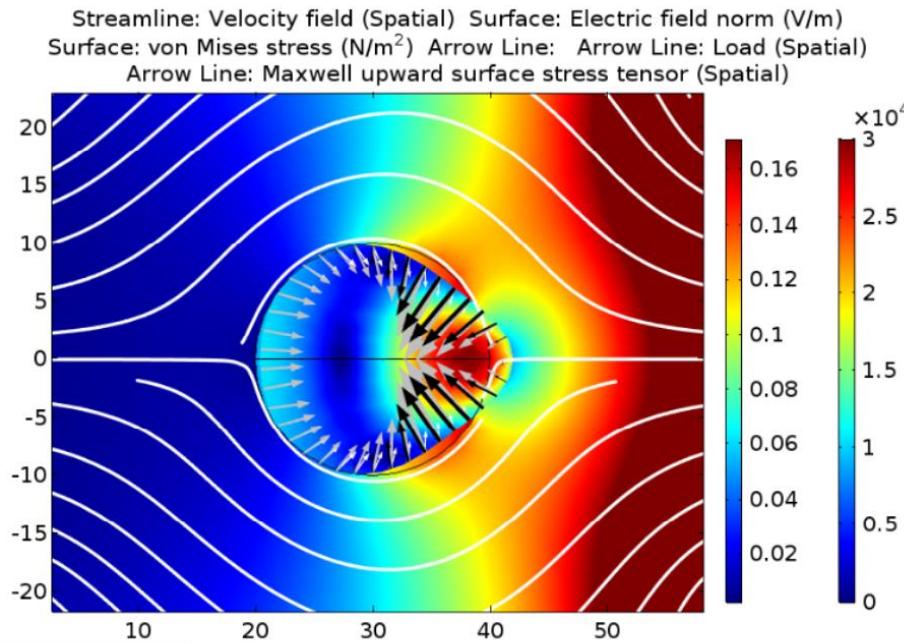


Figure 3.10: Visualization of the cell deformation under a DC electrical field. The arrows represent the different surface loads : fluid (white), DEP from the electrical field (black) and total (grey). The white lines represent flow field, and the rainbow coloring the electrical field.