Passive separation of blood components in microfluidic devices — a simulation view

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## Malaria









#### Deterministic lateral displacement







#### Volume exclusion

- Sensitive to particle size
- Irreversible trajectories, even at Re = 0



- Row shift *d*
- Gap size G
- Pillar radius *R*

Huang et al. (Science, 2004)

## RBC membrane (1)

#### Strain energy density

$$w_{\mathcal{S}} = \frac{\kappa_{\mathcal{S}}}{12} \left( l_1^2 + 2l_1 - 2l_2 \right) + \frac{\kappa_{\alpha}}{12} l_2^2$$

 $κ_S:$  shear modulus  $κ_α:$  extensional modulus  $l_1, l_2:$  strain invariants

Skalak et al. (Biophys. J., 1973)

#### Bending energy density

$$w_B = \frac{\kappa_B}{2}(C - C_0)^2$$

 $\kappa_B$ : bending modulus C: curvature

Helfrich (Z. Naturforsch. C, 1973)

#### Moduli from experiments:

- $\kappa_S = 5 \,\mu \text{N/m}$
- $\kappa_{\alpha} = 0.5 \,\mathrm{N/m}$
- $\kappa_B = 2 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ N m}$



Dao et al. (J. Mech. Phys. Solids, 2003) Evans (Biophys. J., 1983)

# RBC membrane (2)



## Method overview







- Fluid solver: LBM (Eulerian)
- Membrane solver: FEM (Lagrangian)
- Fluid-membrane coupling: IBM

## **RBC** trajectories



Particle deformability quantified by capillary number

$$Ca = \frac{\sigma r}{\kappa_S}$$

 $\sigma$ : stress on RBC surface (due to applied pressure drop)

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Main observation

Separation by deformability possible



#### "Phase space" for RBC separation



- Critical separation line:  $d_{cr}(Ca) \Leftrightarrow Ca_{cr}(d)$
- Can choose d to separate particle species with given  $Ca_1$  and  $Ca_2$

## Effective RBC size



increasing Ca



- Define effective RBC diameter  $D_{\perp}$
- Take largest extension during passage

Key mechanism for separation

Apparent lateral RBC extension during passage

TK, Holmes, Coveney. Biomicrofluidics 8 (2014)

## What happens at higher volume fractions?



#### Trajectories for denser suspensions (1)



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#### Trajectories for denser suspensions (1)



#### Trajectories for denser suspensions (2)



#### Trajectories for denser suspensions (2)



#### Trajectories for denser suspensions (2)



## Displacement failures



## Summary

- Ultimate goal: smart geometries for passive separation ⇒ disease detection
- Here: deformability-based separation of RBCs
- Current problem: can it work at high volume fraction? avoid dilution



## Conference announcement



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Invited speakers &

Fees & registration

programme

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