Multi-scale modeling for prediction of distributed cellular properties in response to substrate spatial gradients in a continuously run microreactor

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Multi-scale modelling for prediction of distributed cellular properties

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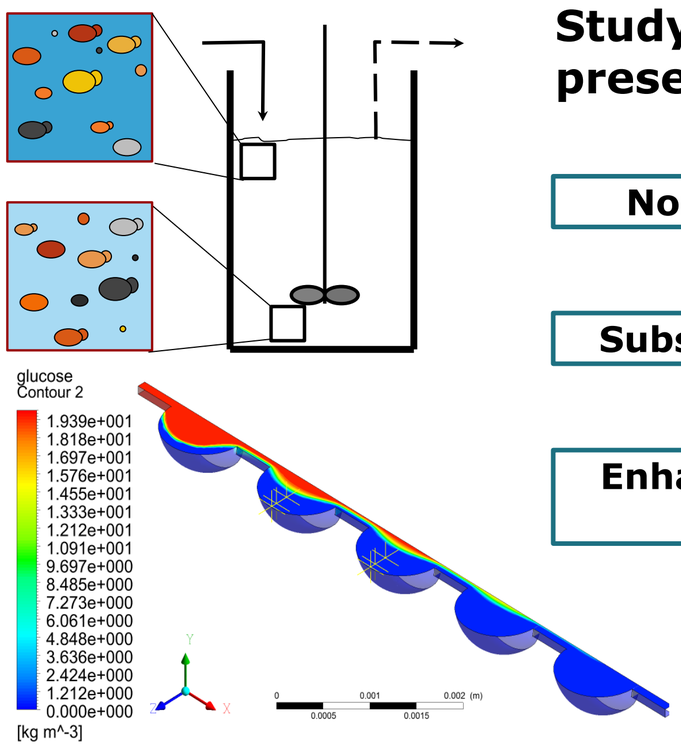


Studying the development of cell property distributions in the presence of spatial substrate gradients

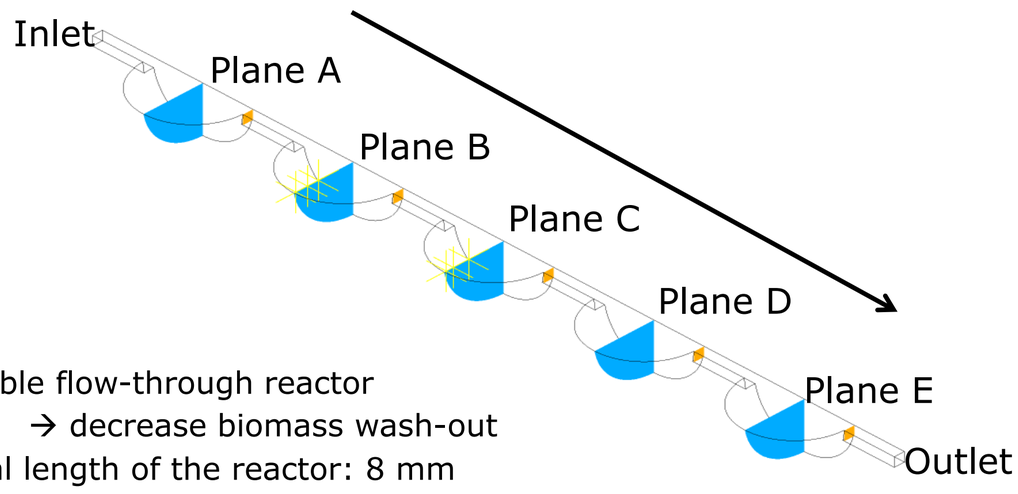
Non-ideal mixing → **Substrate gradients** → **Enhance cell-to-cell variability**

Reactor Hydrodynamics ↔ **Bulk composition** ↔ **Distributions of Cell Properties**

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) ↔ **Unstructured Model (UM)** ↔ **Population Balance Model (PBM)**

Flow velocities Streamlines ↔ **Local concentrations of Glucose, Ethanol and Total Biomass** ↔ **Local distributions of cell size and cell cycle position**

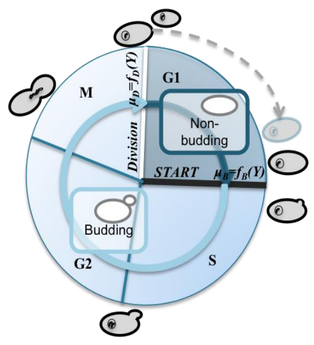
Case study: Microbioreactor



- Bubble flow-through reactor
  → decrease biomass wash-out
- Total length of the reactor: 8 mm
- Anaerobic growth of budding yeast
- Slow feed of glucose: 1 nl/s vs. 0.1 nL/s
- Laminar flow
- Incompressible fluids
- Diffusion is *not* taken into account

- Implemented in CFX 12.1 and the biological model was implemented using CEL language
- Hexaedral mesh with 32159 elements and 36535 nodes
- PBM discritized in 2x 20 pivots using the fixed-pivot method

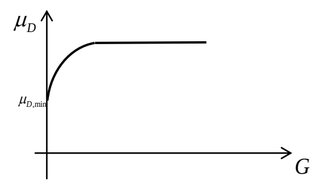
2-stage cell size structured PBM...



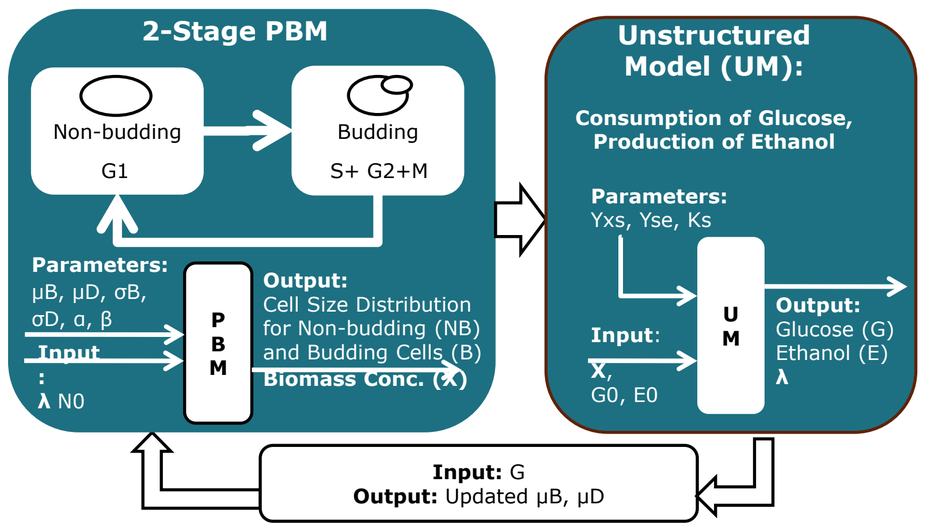
Critical Budding and Division Sizes as functions of the substrate concentration

$$\mu_B = k_B \frac{G}{G + K_{BG}} + \mu_{B,\min}$$

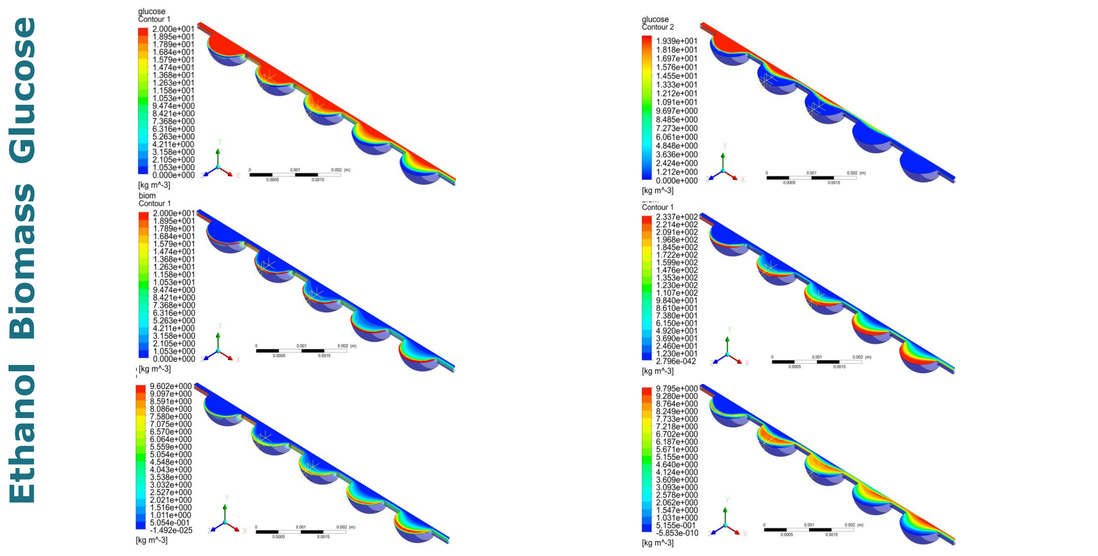
$$\mu_D = k_D \frac{G}{G + K_{DG}} + \mu_{D,\min}$$



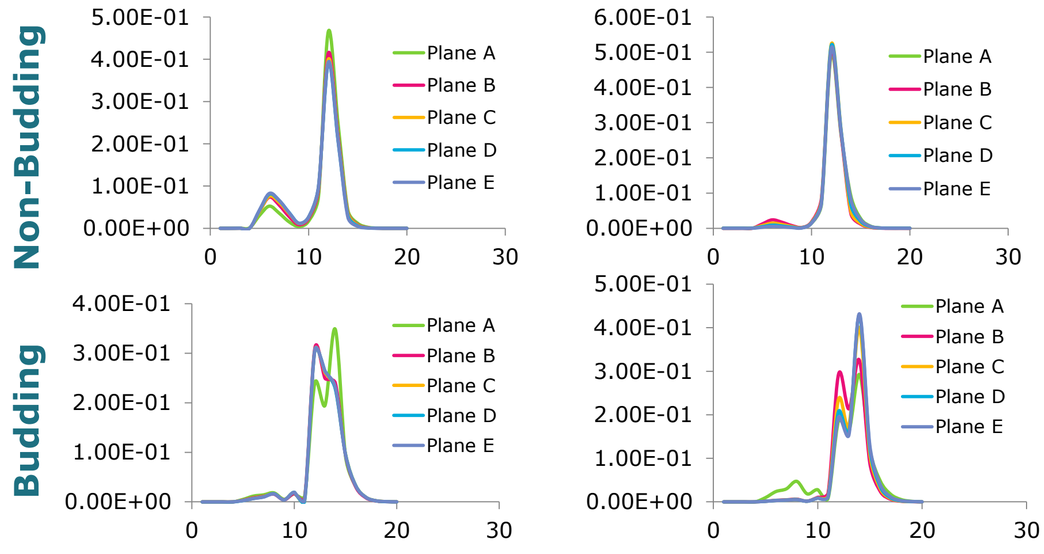
... coupled to an unstructured model



Concentration profiles



Local Concentrations and distributions



Conclusion & Outlook

- Challenge in understanding the local distributions as they result from the interplay of flow and the population dynamics
- Proof-of-concept of integration of a CFD and PBM for multi-scale biological applications.
- *In silico* simulation of various scenarios: different flow conditions, cellular kinetics, etc.
- Experimental Validation: overall distribution of biomass, bulk concentrations and cell distributions at the outlet

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