

# Supplementary Material S1 to Mass Transfer Enhancement in Moving Biofilm Structures

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## Model equations, dimensionless numbers and notations

The dimensionless model equations result by scaling each dimensional quantity with some characteristic value:

- space can be scaled with a characteristic length  $L_0$  (for example, the biofilm head diameter  $d$  or an equivalent hydraulic diameter  $4A_B/P_B$ ) and time with a conveniently chosen characteristic time  $t_0$  (for example, the inverse of a streamer characteristic vibration frequency)

$$x^* = \frac{x}{L_0} \quad y^* = \frac{y}{L_0} \quad t^* = \frac{t}{t_0}$$

- velocities, displacement, stresses and concentrations are scaled with the inlet flow velocity, characteristic length, Young modulus and inlet solute concentration, respectively. The pressure is made dimensionless on the viscous scale:

$$\mathbf{u}^* = \frac{\mathbf{u}}{u_0} \quad p^* = \frac{L_0 p}{\mu_F u_0} \quad \mathbf{d}^* = \frac{\mathbf{d}}{L_0} \quad \mathbf{S}^* = \frac{\mathbf{S}}{E} \quad c_F^* = \frac{c_F}{c_0} \quad c_B^* = \frac{c_B}{c_0}$$

In tables [S1.1](#), [S1.2](#), [S1.3](#) and [S1.4](#) the complete formulation of fluid-structure interaction and substrate transport and uptake in biofilm streamers are introduced in both dimensional and also non-dimensional forms. As a result of scaling the model equations, a few dimensionless numbers appear which are listed in Table [S1.5](#).

Table S1.1: Dimensional and non-dimensional forms of fluid dynamics equations solved on the moving mesh frame with spatial coordinates  $\chi$ .

Scope	Dimensional equations	Dimensionless equations
$\Omega_F$	Incompressible unsteady laminar flow. $\rho_F \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_G) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right) = -\nabla p + \mu_F \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0$ Initial condition: the steady-state solution $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}_{st}$	$St Re \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}^*}{\partial t^*} + Re (\mathbf{u}^* - \mathbf{u}_G^*) \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}^* = -\nabla p^* + \nabla^2 \mathbf{u}^*$ $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^* = 0$ $\mathbf{u}^* = \mathbf{u}_{st}^*$
$\Gamma_I$	Uniform inlet velocity $u_x = u_0, \quad u_y = 0$	$u_x^* = 1, \quad u_y^* = 0$
$\Gamma_U, \Gamma_L$	Slip condition $\partial u_x / \partial y = 0, \quad u_y = 0$	$\partial u_x^* / \partial y^* = 0, \quad u_y^* = 0$
$\Gamma_O$	No viscous forces and fixed zero pressure $\partial u_x / \partial y + \partial u_y / \partial x = 0, \quad p = 0$	$\partial u_x^* / \partial y^* + \partial u_y^* / \partial x^* = 0, \quad p^* = 0$
$\Gamma_H$	Non-slip condition $\mathbf{u} = 0$	$\mathbf{u}^* = 0$
$\Gamma_{FSI}$	Fluid velocity equals the biofilm deformation rate $\mathbf{u} = \frac{d\mathbf{d}}{dt}$	$\mathbf{u}^* = St \frac{d\mathbf{d}^*}{dt^*}$

Table S1.2: Dimensional and non-dimensional forms of biofilm elastodynamics equations solved on the Lagrangian coordinate system  $\mathbf{X}$  associated with the material points.

Scope	Dimensional equations	Dimensionless equations
$\Omega_B$	Geometrically nonlinear isotropically elastic material $\rho_B \frac{d^2 \mathbf{d}}{dt^2} = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{F})$ $\mathbf{S} = \frac{E\nu}{(1+\nu_B)(1-2\nu_B)} \text{tr} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{I} + \frac{E}{(1+\nu_B)} \mathbf{E}$ $\mathbf{E} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F} - \mathbf{I}), \quad \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{d}$ <p>Initial condition: static system with no displacement and zero displacement rate</p> $\mathbf{d} = 0, \quad \frac{d\mathbf{d}}{dt} = 0$	$St^2 Re Q \left( \frac{\rho_F}{\rho_B} \right) \frac{d^2 \mathbf{d}^*}{dt^{*2}} = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{S}^* \cdot \mathbf{F})$ $\mathbf{S}^* = \frac{\nu_B}{(1+\nu_B)(1-2\nu_B)} \text{tr} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{I} + \frac{1}{(1+\nu_B)} \mathbf{E}$ $\mathbf{d}^* = 0, \quad \frac{d\mathbf{d}^*}{dt^*} = 0$
$\Omega_H, \Gamma_H$	No displacement $\mathbf{d} = 0$	$\mathbf{d}^* = 0$
$\Gamma_{FSI}$	Dynamic continuity of stresses in biofilm and fluid $\mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} = \mathbf{n} \cdot [p \mathbf{I} + \mu_F \nabla \mathbf{u} + \mu_F (\nabla \mathbf{u})^T] \frac{dv}{dV}$	$\mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}^* = \mathbf{n} \cdot \left\{ Q [p^* \mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{u}^* + (\nabla \mathbf{u}^*)^T] \right\} \frac{dv^*}{dV^*}$

Table S1.3: Dimensional and non-dimensional forms of solute transport in fluid equations solved on the moving mesh frame with spatial coordinates  $\boldsymbol{\chi}$ .

Scope	Dimensional equations	Dimensionless equations
$\Omega_F$	Unsteady convection and diffusion of a dilute solute $\frac{\partial c_F}{\partial t} = -(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}_G) \cdot \nabla c_F + \nabla \cdot (D \nabla c_F)$ <p>Initial condition: the steady-state solution</p> $c_F = c_{F,st}$	$St Pe \frac{\partial c_F^*}{\partial t^*} + Pe (\mathbf{u}^* - \mathbf{u}_G^*) \cdot \nabla c_F^* = \nabla^2 c_F^*$ $c_F^* = c_{F,st}^*$
$\Gamma_I$	Constant concentration $c_F = c_0$	$c_F^* = 1$
$\Gamma_U, \Gamma_L$	Insulation $\partial c_F / \partial y = 0$	$\partial c_F^* / \partial y^* = 0$
$\Gamma_O$	No diffusion $\partial c_F / \partial x = 0$	$\partial c_F^* / \partial x^* = 0$
$\Gamma_H, \Gamma_{FSI}$	Flux continuity $\partial c_F / \partial n = \partial c_B / \partial n$	$\partial c_F^* / \partial n^* = \partial c_B^* / \partial n^*$

Table S1.4: Dimensional and non-dimensional forms of solute transport and reaction in biofilm equations solved on the Lagrangian coordinate system  $\mathbf{X}$  associated with the material points.

Scope	Dimensional equations	Dimensionless equations
$\Omega_B$	Unsteady diffusion and nonlinear (Monod) reaction for a dilute solute $\frac{\partial c_B}{\partial t} = D\nabla^2 c_B + k \frac{c_B}{K + c_B}$ Initial condition: the steady-state solution $c_B = c_{B,st}$	$St Pe \frac{\partial c_B^*}{\partial t^*} = \nabla^2 c_B^* + \Phi^2 \frac{c_B^*}{M + c_B^*}$ $c_B^* = c_{B,st}^*$
$\Gamma_H, \Gamma_{FSI}$	Continuity of solute concentration $c_B = c_F$	$c_B^* = c_F^*$

Table S1.5: Summary of dimensionless numbers

Dimensionless form	Name
<i>1. Fluid dynamics</i>	
$Re = \frac{L_0 u_0 \rho_F}{\mu_F}$	Reynolds number
$St = \frac{L_0}{t_0 u_0}$	Strouhal number
<i>2. Biofilm Elastodynamics</i>	
$Q = \frac{u_0 \mu_F}{E_B L_0}$	FSI number
$\tau_E^2 = \frac{\rho_B L_0^2}{E_B t_0^2} = \frac{t_{0,E}^2}{t_0^2} = St^2 Re \left( \frac{\rho_F}{\rho_B} \right) Q$	FSI time scale (squared)
<i>3. Solute mass transport in fluid and biofilm</i>	
$Pe = \frac{u_0 L_0}{D}$	Péclet number
$\Phi^2 = \frac{k L_0^2}{D c_0}$	Thiele number (squared)
$M = \frac{K}{c_0}$	Dimensionless Monod number
$\tau_D = \frac{L_0^2 / D}{t_0} = \frac{t_{0,D}}{t_0} = St Pe$	Mass transport time scale
In addition, when considering the mass transfer in the liquid boundary layer adjacent to the biofilm, from $k_m(c - c_0) = D \partial c / \partial n _{\Gamma}$ a Sherwood number can be defined as:	Sherwood number
$Sh = \frac{k_m L_0}{D} = \frac{L_0 \frac{\partial c}{\partial n} _{\Gamma}}{c - c_0}$	
Usually, $Sh$ is correlated with $Re$ and $Sc$ (Schmidt) numbers, where	Schmidt number
$Sc = \frac{\mu_F}{\rho_F D}$	

## Nomenclature

Symbol	Description	Units
<i>Subdomains and boundaries</i>		
$\Omega_F$	Fluid subdomain	
$\Omega_B$	Biofilm subdomain	
$\Gamma_I$	Inlet boundary	
$\Gamma_O$	Outlet boundary	
$\Gamma_U$	Upper wall boundary	
$\Gamma_L$	Lower wall boundary	
$\Gamma_H$	Biofilm head boundary	
$\Gamma_{FSI}$	Biofilm tail boundary (Fluid-Structure Interaction boundary)	
<i>Model variables and constants</i>		
$c_0$	Solute concentration in inlet	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$c_B$	Solute concentration in biofilm	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$c_F$	Solute concentration in fluid	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$\mathbf{d}$	Biofilm displacement	m
$D$	Solute diffusion coefficient	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
$E_B$	Biofilm Young's modulus	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
$\mathbf{E}$	Green-Lagrangian strains	-
$\mathbf{F}$	Deformation gradient	-
$\mathbf{I}$	Identity matrix	-
$k$	Reaction rate constant	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-3} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$k_m$	Mass transfer coefficient	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$K$	Monod saturation coefficient	$\text{mol} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$L_0$	Characteristic length	m
$n$	Direction normal to boundary	m
$\mathbf{n}$	Vector normal to boundary	m
$p$	Fluid pressure	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
$\mathbf{S}$	Second Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
$t$	Time	s

Symbol	Description	Units
$t_0$	Characteristic time	s
$t_{0,D}$	Characteristic time for diffusion	s
$u_x, u_y$	Fluid velocity components	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$\mathbf{u}$	Fluid velocity	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$\mathbf{u}_G$	Mesh velocity	$\text{m} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$v$	Volume in spatial frame	$\text{m}^3$
$V$	Volume in material frame	$\text{m}^3$
$x, y$	Spatial coordinates	m
$\mathbf{X}$	Material coordinates (Lagrangian frame, reference configuration)	m
$\mu_F$	Fluid dynamic viscosity	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
$\nu_B$	Poisson's ratio biofilm material	-
$\rho_F$	Fluid density	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$\rho_B$	Biofilm density	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}$
$\sigma$	Cauchy stress in the biofilm	$\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$
$\boldsymbol{\chi}$	Spatial coordinates (moving mesh frame)	m

*Characteristic dimensionless numbers*

$M$	Dimensionless Monod number	-
$Pe$	Péclet number	-
$Q$	FSI number	-
$Re$	Reynolds number	-
$Sh$	Sherwood number	-
$St$	Strouhal number	-
$\Phi^2$	Thiele number	-
$\tau_E$	FSI time scale	-
$\tau_D$	Solute diffusion time scale	-