

*Euromech Colloquium 513 on*

*Dynamics of Non-Spherical Particles in Fluid Turbulence*

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*Orientation, Distribution and Deposition  
of Inertial Fibers  
in Turbulent Channel Flow*

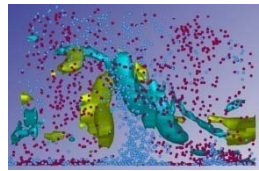
**C. Marchioli**, M. Fantoni and A. Soldati

Dipartimento di Energetica e Macchine &

Centro Interdipartimentale di Fluidodinamica e Idraulica, Università di Udine

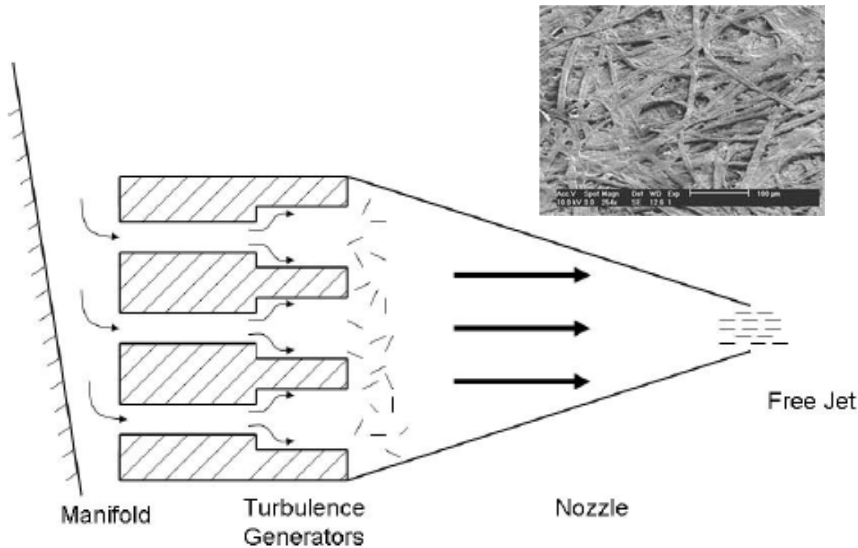
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Udine, April 6-8, 2011



# Motivation of this Study:

## Examples of Practical Applications with Fibers



Schematic of industrial headbox for papermaking  
(From: Krochak, Olson & Martinez, IJMF, 2009)

### 1. Pulp and paper making

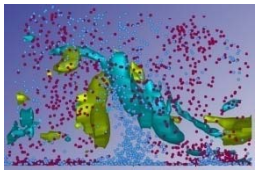
Controlling the rheological behavior and the orientation distribution of fibers is crucial to optimize production operations

### 2. Fluid transport systems

Pressure drops can be reduced by adding small fibers to the conveyed fluid (due to fiber-induced drag reduction!)







# *Aim of this Study*



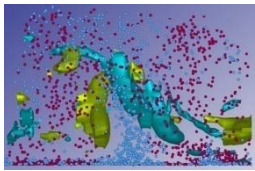
In all of these applications, fibers are dispersed in a **turbulent flow** field within confined geometries.

A thorough **physical understanding** of fiber dispersion in internal flows is **still missing** (few studies available, lack of systematic investigations).

Our study aims at providing **quantitative results** on fiber distribution, orientation, translation and rotation to fill up the physical picture of the problem.

The focus is on the **influence of wall turbulence** on the processes which govern fiber dispersion.

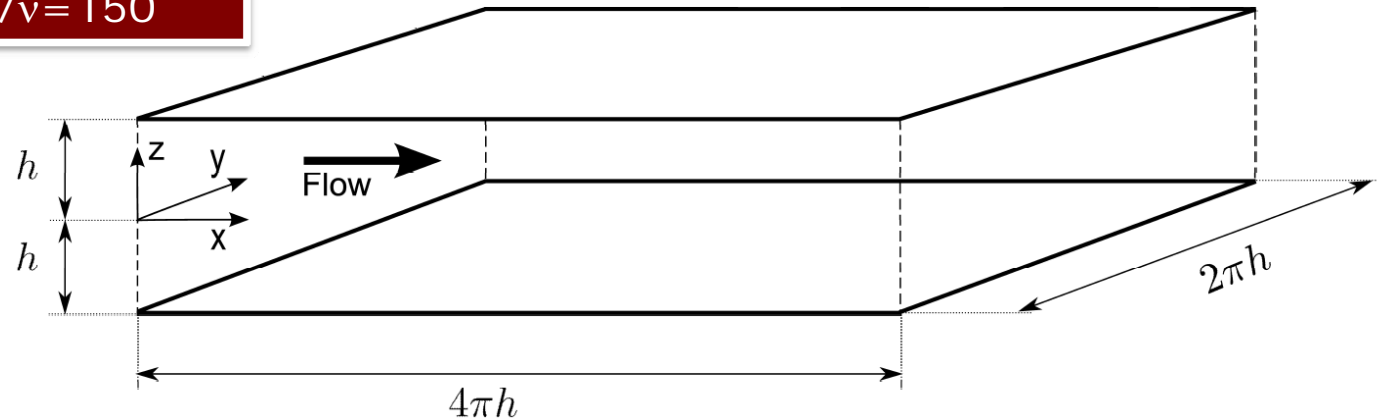
This influence is investigated for fibers with different **elongation** and **inertia** dispersed in channel flow.



# Methodology - Carrier Fluid



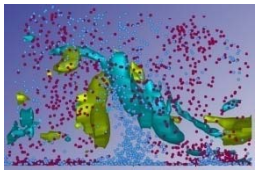
DNS of turbulent  
channel flow @  
 $Re_\tau = u_\tau h/\nu = 150$



$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_j} = 0 \\ \rho \left[ \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial (u_i)}{\partial x_j} \right] = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i} + \mu \frac{\partial^2 u_i}{\partial x_j \partial x_j} \end{cases}$$

Pseudo-Spectral method: 128x128 Fourier modes in  $x$  and  $y$ ,  
129 Chebyshev modes in  $z$ .

- Examples: flow of air at 1.8 m/s in a 4 cm high channel  
flow of water at 3.8 m/s in a 0.5 cm high channel



# Methodology - Fibers



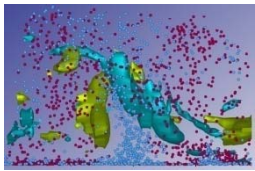
Fibers are modelled as **prolate ellipsoidal particles**.

**Lagrangian** particle tracking.

Simplifying assumptions: dilute flow, **one-way coupling**, Stokes flow ( $Re_p < 1$ ), pointwise particles (particle size is smaller than the smallest flow scale).

Periodicity in  $x$  and  $y$ , elastic rebound at the wall and **conservation of angular momentum**.

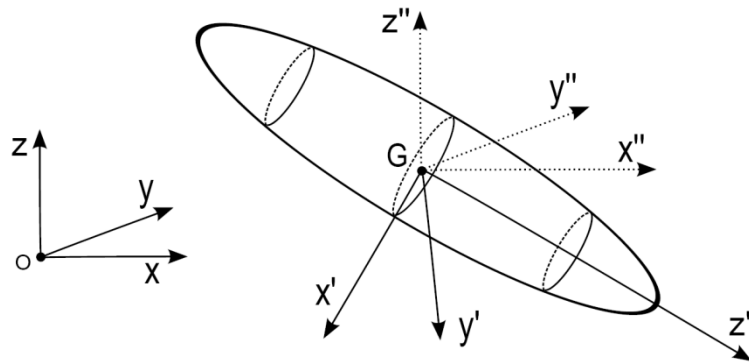
**200,000 fibers** tracked, *random* initial position and orientation, linear and angular velocities equal to those of the fluid at fiber's location.



# Methodology – Fiber Kinematics



**Kinematics:** described by (1) position of the fiber center of mass and (2) fiber orientation.



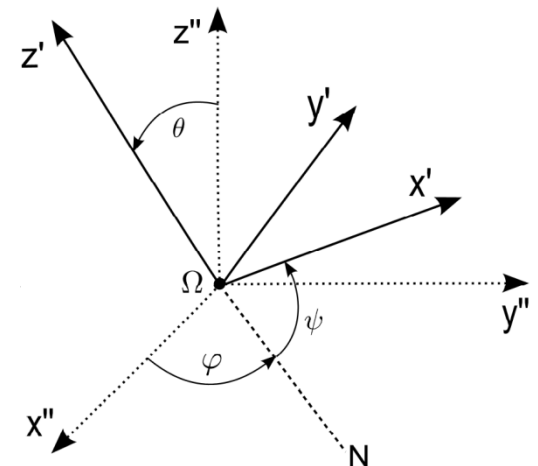
- $x_G, y_G, z_G$
- 3 frames of reference (to define orientation)
- Euler angles:  $\varphi, \psi, \theta$  (singularity problems)

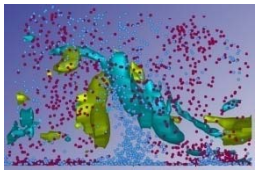
- Euler parameters:  $e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3$

$$e_0 = \cos \left[ \frac{1}{2}(\psi + \varphi) \right] \cos \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right), \dots$$

- Rotation matrix:  $\mathbf{x}' = R_{Eul} \mathbf{x}''$

$$R_{eul} = \begin{bmatrix} e_0^2 + e_1^2 - e_2^2 - e_3^2 & 2(e_1e_2 + e_0e_3) & 2(e_1e_3 - e_0e_2) \\ 2(e_1e_2 - e_0e_3) & e_0^2 - e_1^2 + e_2^2 - e_3^2 & 2(e_2e_3 + e_0e_1) \\ 2(e_1e_3 + e_0e_2) & 2(e_2e_3 - e_0e_1) & e_0^2 - e_1^2 - e_2^2 + e_3^2 \end{bmatrix}$$





# Methodology – Fiber Dynamics



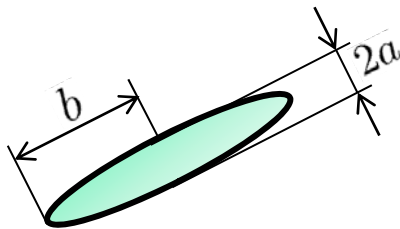
**Rotational dynamics:** Euler equations with Jeffery moments.

- **Euler Equations:**  
(2nd cardinal law)

$$\begin{cases} I_{x'x'}\dot{\omega}_{x'} + \omega_{y'}\omega_{z'}(I_{z'z'} - I_{y'y'}) = M_{x'}^{est} \\ I_{y'y'}\dot{\omega}_{y'} + \omega_{x'}\omega_{z'}(I_{z'z'} - I_{x'x'}) = M_{y'}^{est} \\ I_{z'z'}\dot{\omega}_{z'} + \omega_{x'}\omega_{y'}(I_{y'y'} - I_{x'x'}) = M_{z'}^{est} \end{cases} \quad \text{(in the particle frame)}$$

- **Jeffery moments:**  
(Jeffery, 1922)

$$M_{x'}^{Jeff} = \frac{16\pi\mu a^3\lambda}{3(\beta_0 + \lambda^2\gamma_0)} [(1 - \lambda^2)f' + (1 + \lambda^2)(\xi' - \omega_{x'})]$$



**Aspect Ratio**

$$\lambda = \frac{b}{a}$$

- Hence:

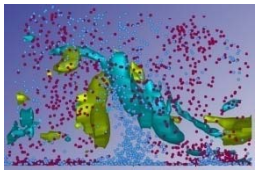
Euler equations with Jeffery couples

$$\int \int (\dots) dt dt$$

$\mathbf{e}_0, \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{e}_3$   
(Euler parameters)

$$R_{eul} = R_{eul}(e_0, e_1, e_2, e_3)$$





# Methodology – Fiber Dynamics

**Translational Dynamics:** hydrodynamic resistance (Brenner, 1963).

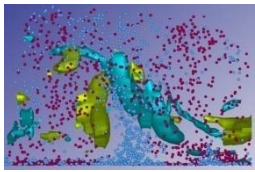
- First cardinal law:  $m_P \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \sum_i \mathbf{F}_i = \mathbf{F}_{drag}$  (inertia and drag only!!)
- Brenner's law: (form drag and skin drag)  $\mathbf{F}'_{drag} = \mu\pi a \bar{\bar{\mathbf{K}}}' (\mathbf{u}' - \mathbf{v}')$  (in the fiber frame)
- In the inertial (Eulerian) frame:

Resistance Tensor

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{u}' = R_{eul} \mathbf{u} \\ \bar{\bar{\mathbf{K}}}_{(\varphi, \theta, \psi)} = R_{eul}^T \bar{\bar{\mathbf{K}}}' R_{eul} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \mathbf{F}_{drag} = \mu\pi a \bar{\bar{\mathbf{K}}}_{(\varphi, \theta, \psi)} (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m_P \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \mu\pi a \bar{\bar{\mathbf{K}}}_{(\varphi, \theta, \psi)} (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) \\ \frac{d\mathbf{x}_{(G)}}{dt} = \mathbf{v} \end{array} \right. \Rightarrow \mathbf{v}(t) \quad \mathbf{x}_G(t) \quad \text{(via numerical integration)}$$

Once fiber orientation is known, fiber translational motion can be computed!



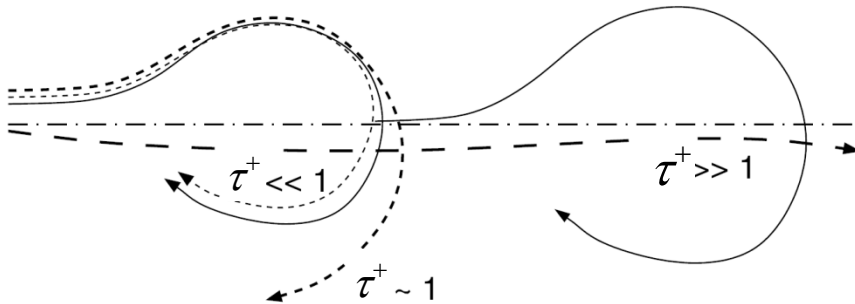
# Relevant Parameters and Summary of the Simulations



The physics of turbulent fiber dispersion is determined by a small set of parameters

○ **Aspect ratio:**  $\lambda = \frac{b}{a}$  (chosen values:  $\lambda = 1.001, 3, 10, 50$ )

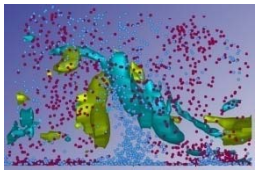
○ **Stokes number:**  $\tau^+ = \frac{\tau_P}{\tau_F}$  (chosen values:  $\tau^+ = 1, 5, 30, 100$ )



- $\tau^+ \gg 1$ : large inertia ("stones")
- $\tau^+ \ll 1$ : small inertia (tracers)
- $\tau^+ \sim 1$ : preferential (selective) response to flow structures

○ **Specific density:**  $S = \frac{\rho_P}{\rho_F}$

Input parameters:  $S, \tau, \lambda$



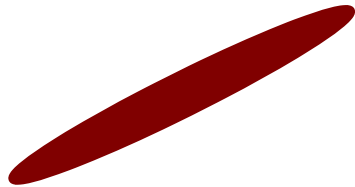
# *“Cartoon” of fiber’s elongation*



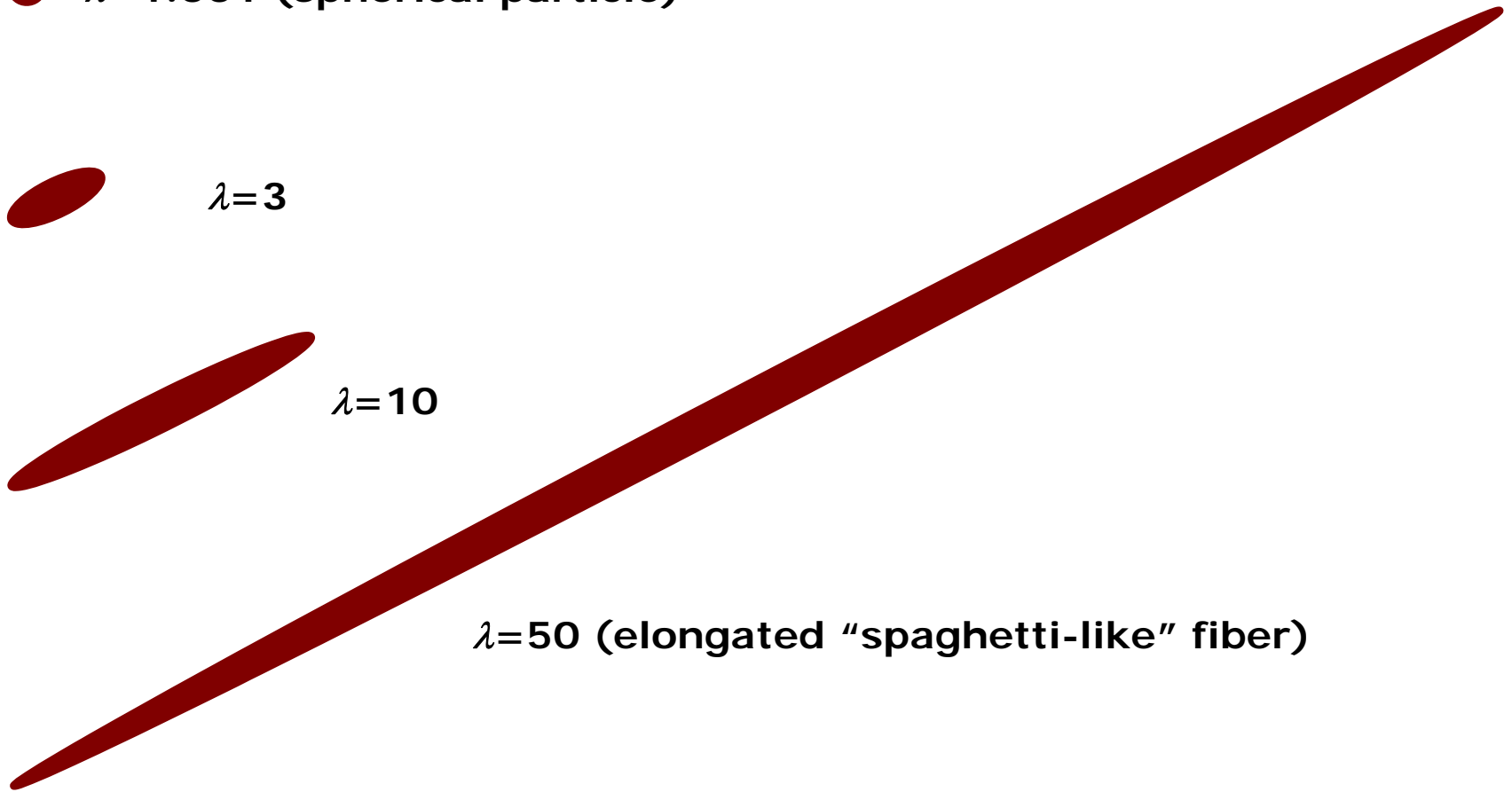
●  $\lambda = 1.001$  (spherical particle)



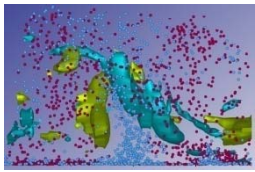
$\lambda = 3$



$\lambda = 10$



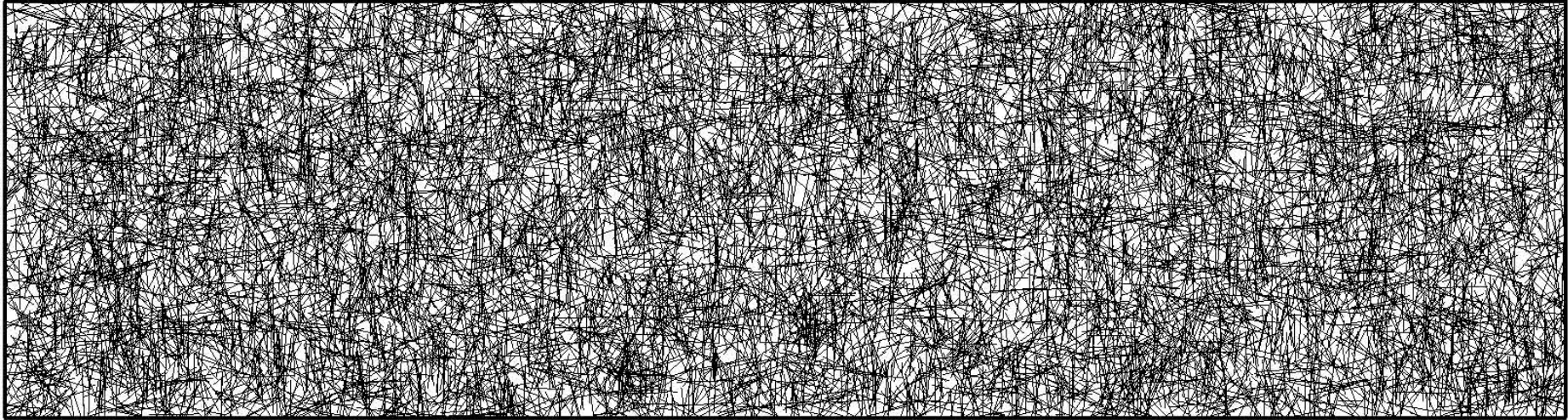
$\lambda = 50$  (elongated “spaghetti-like” fiber)



# Results - Non-Homogeneity of Fiber Preferential Distribution

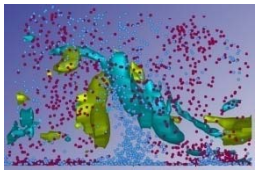


Front view: fibers accumulate in the near-wall region due to *turbophoresis*



Sample animation for  $\tau^+ = 30$ ,  $\lambda = 50$  fibers (cross-section)



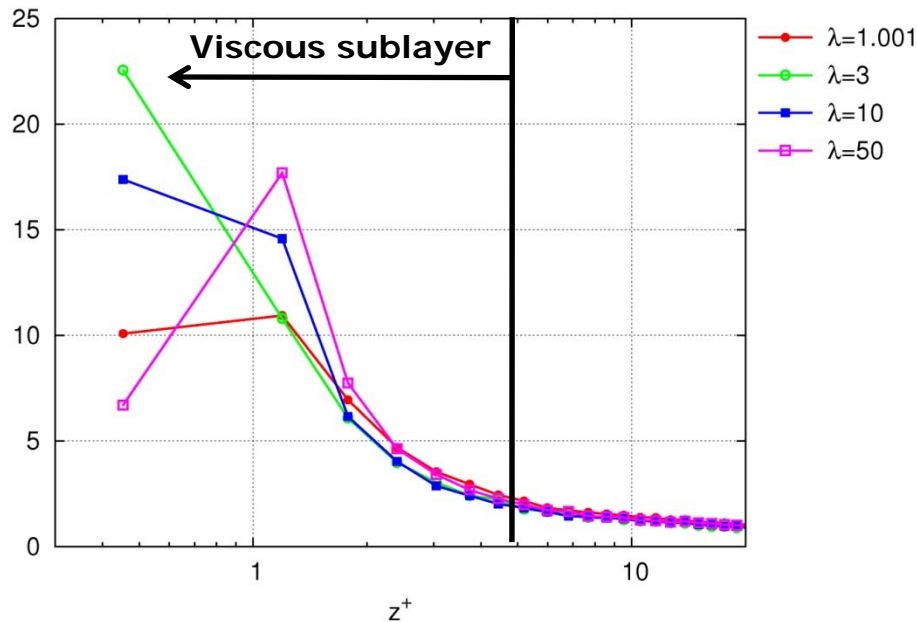


# Results - Fiber Accumulation in the Near-Wall Region

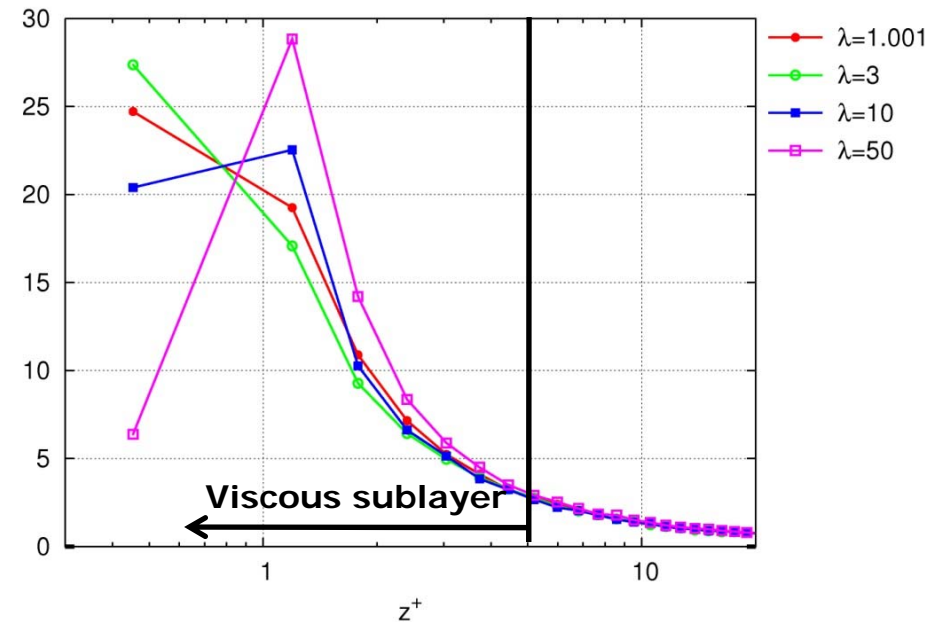


## Instantaneous wall-normal fiber number density distribution

$\tau^+ = 5, t^+ = 1056$



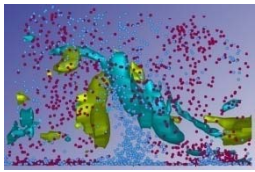
$\tau^+ = 30, t^+ = 1056$



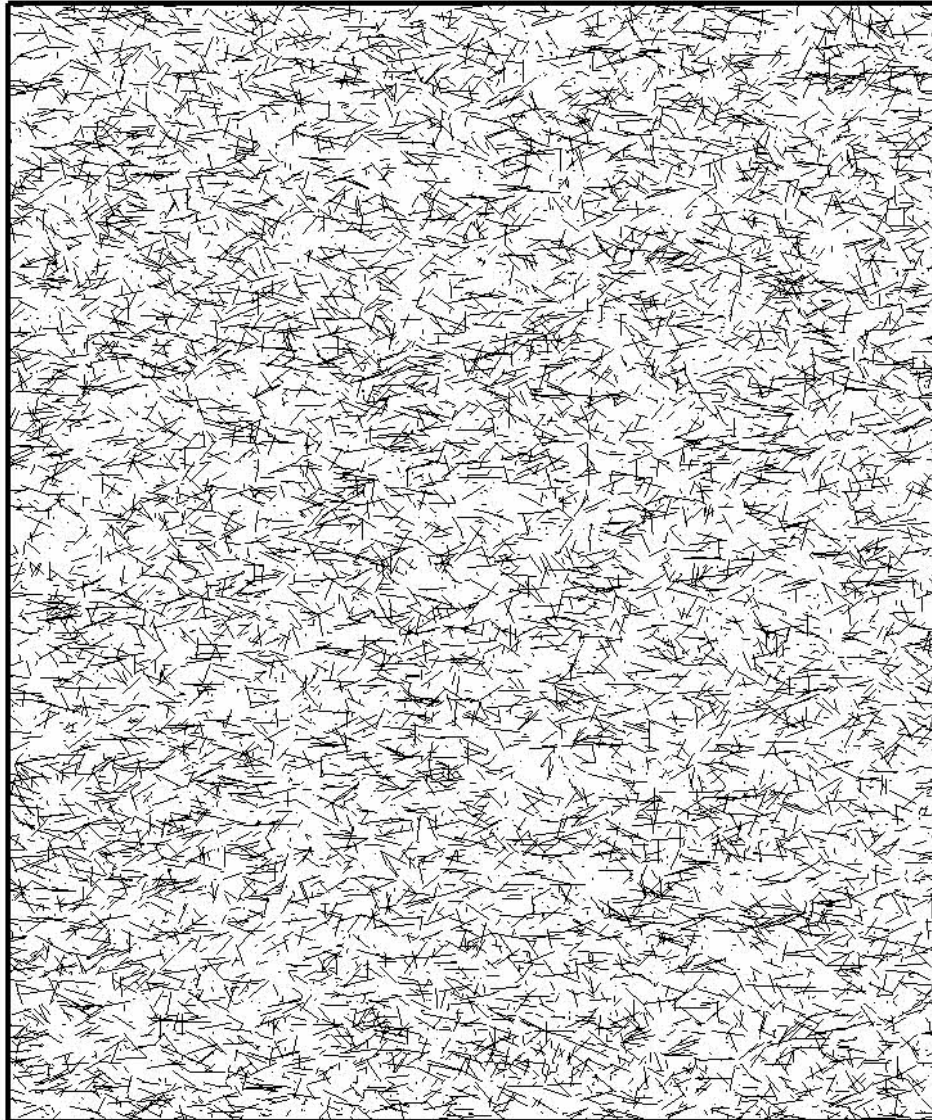
The near-wall behavior of particle concentration is **strongly influenced by  $\lambda$** .

The influence of  $\lambda$  is not monotonic and depends on the Stokes number.

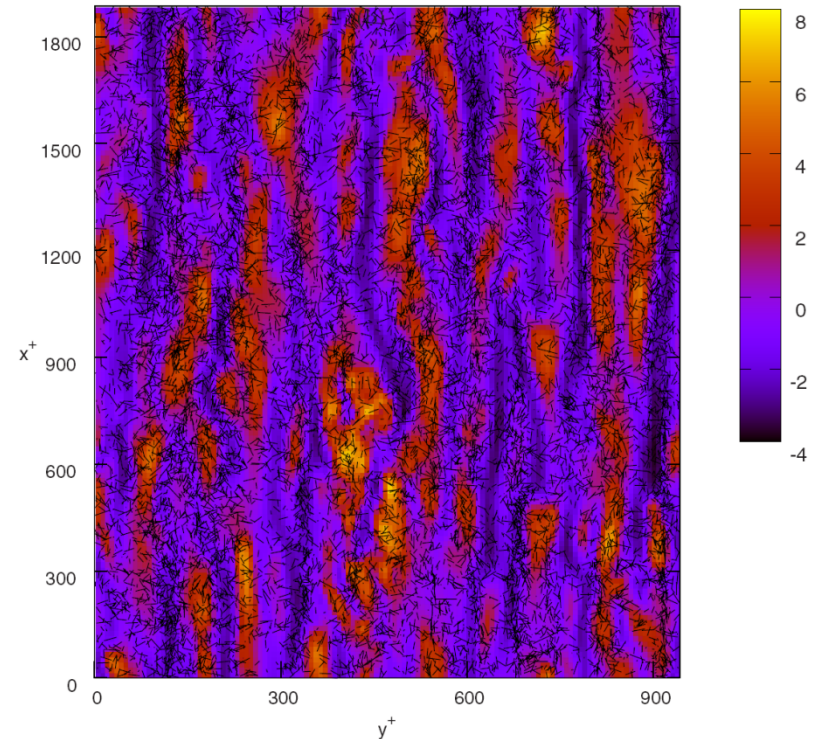


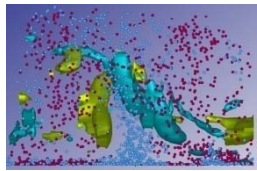


# Results - Non-Homogeneity of Fiber Preferential Distribution

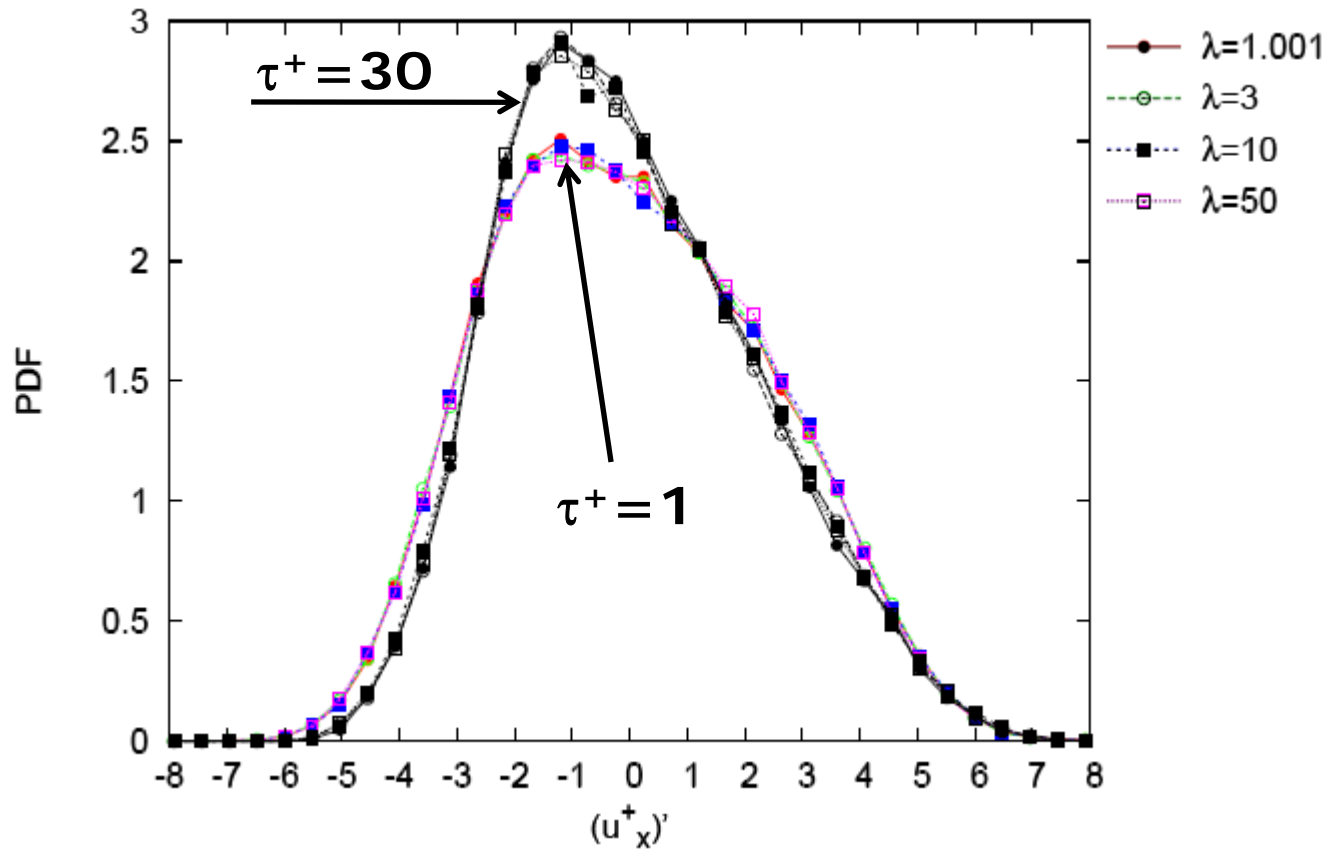


Top view: fibers segregate in streaks which superpose to fluid low-speed streaks

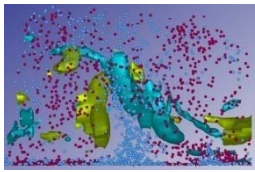




# Results - Once in the Near-Wall Region...



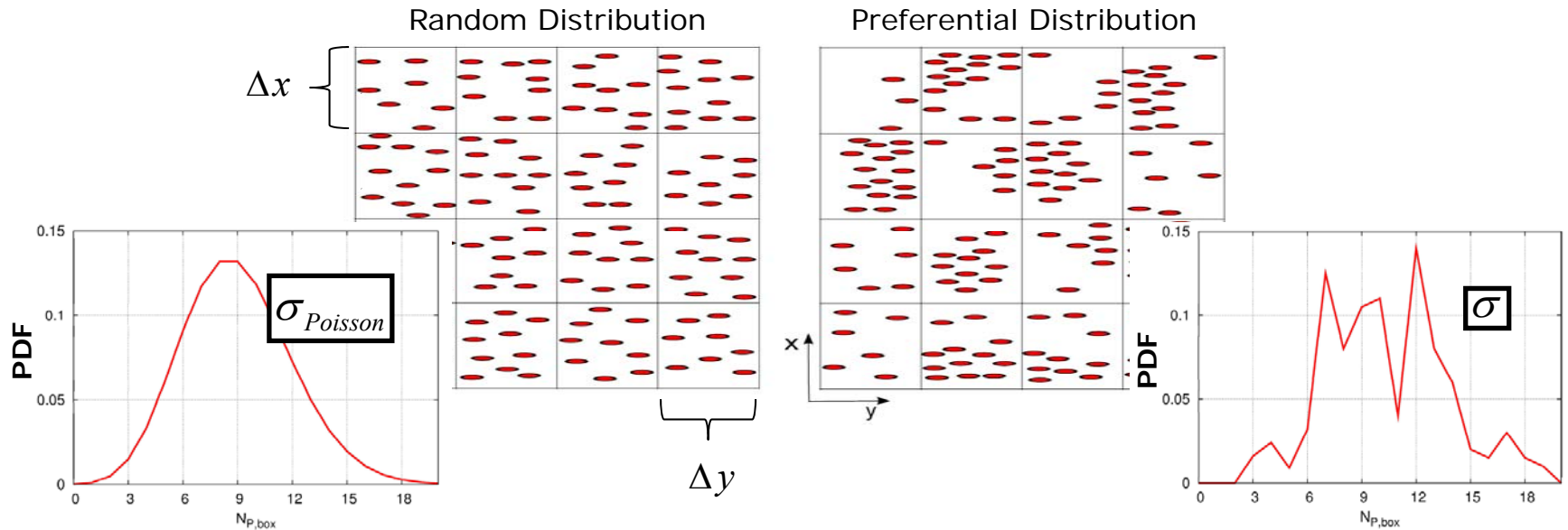
- Fibers segregate into streaks which superpose to the fluid low-speed velocity streaks
- The degree of segregation does not depend on  $\lambda$



# Results - Quantification of Local Fiber Segregation



- Turbulence segregates fibers
- Higher-inertia fibers appear more segregated
- How to quantify segregation? As deviation from a random distribution \*

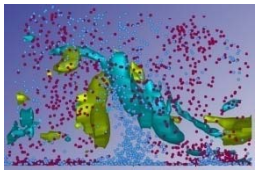


$\sigma$ : standard deviation  
 $m$ : mean number of particles per cell

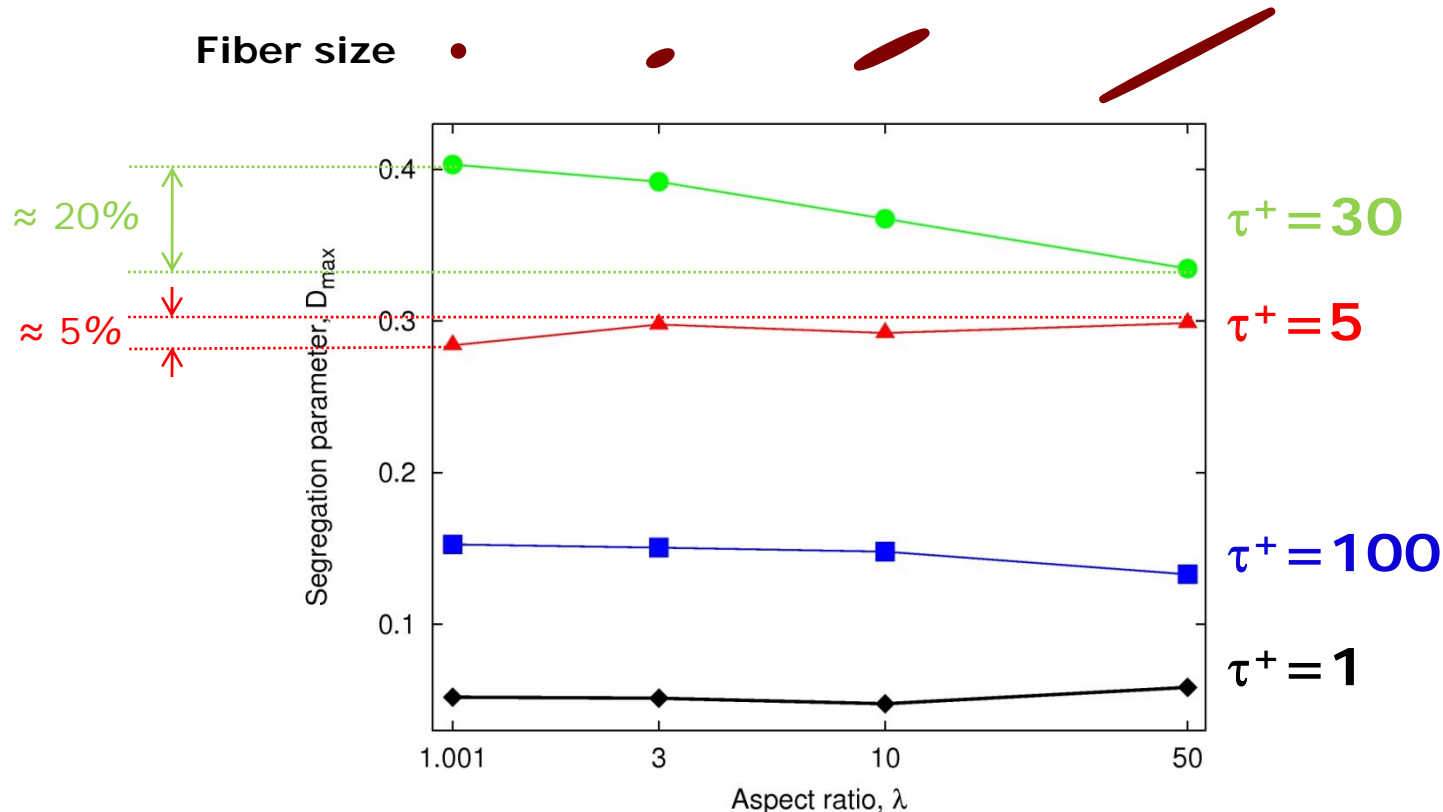
$$\Rightarrow D = \frac{\sigma - \sigma_{Poisson}}{m} = D_{(\Delta x, \Delta y)} \Rightarrow D_{max}$$

\* Ref. Fessler, Phys. Fluids (1994)



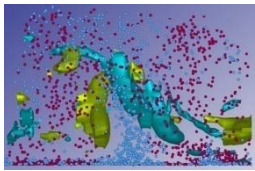


# Results – Quantification of Local Fiber Segregation



The degree of segregation in the near-wall region depends also on  $\lambda$  (not only on  $\tau^+$ )

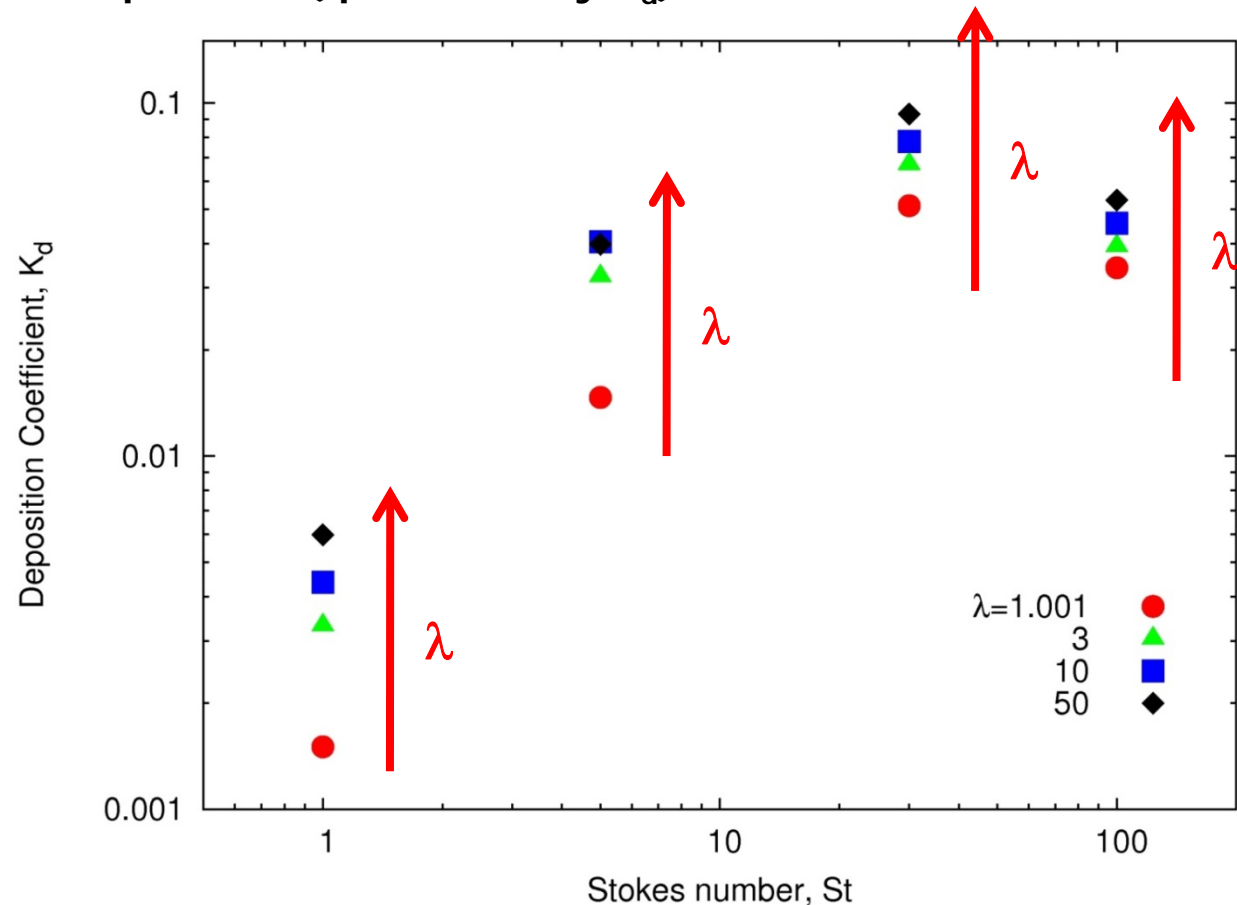
The influence of  $\lambda$  on segregation changes sensibly for different  $\tau^+$  (different inertia)



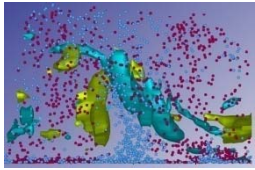
# Results - Fiber Deposition Rate

- Longer fibers tend to segregate less (not always true, though...)
- From Eulerian-Lagrangian studies of spherical particle dispersion in TBL, we know that segregation controls deposition
- Let's look at fiber deposition (quantified by  $K_d$ )

$$K_d = \frac{J \text{ [kg/m}^2\text{s]}}{C \text{ [kg/m}^3\text{]}}$$





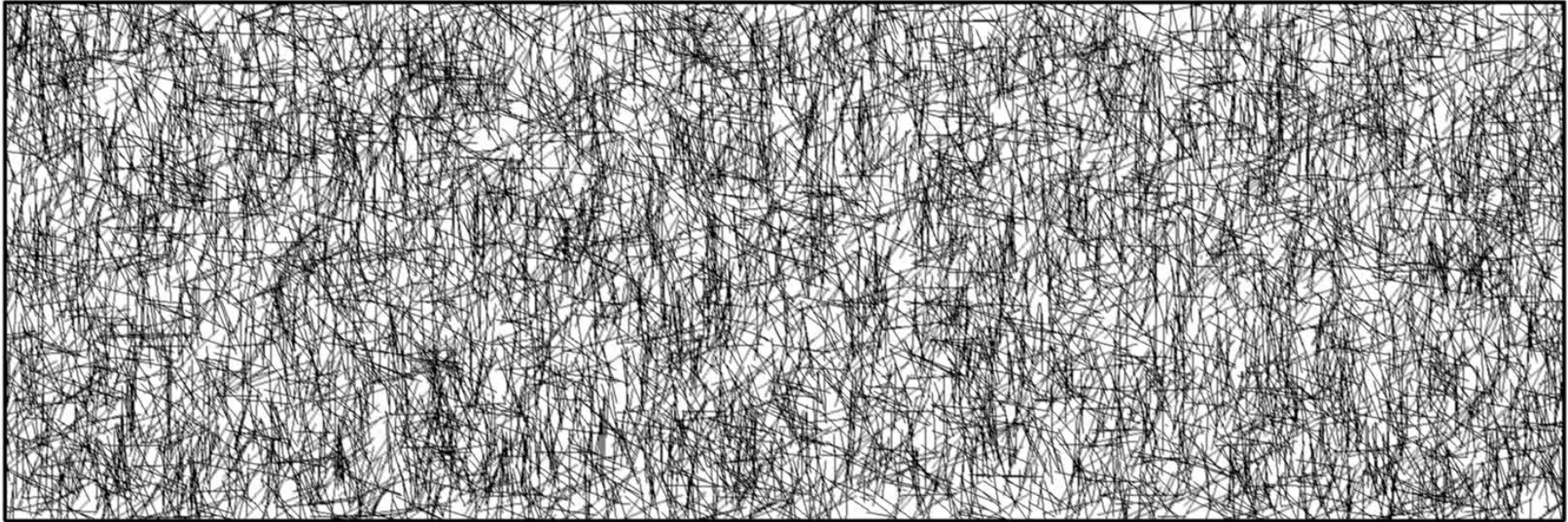


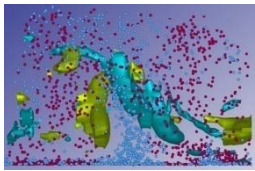
# *Results - Fiber Orientation*

## *Look at fibers near the wall...*



Side view: fibers in the near-wall region rotate preferentially in the longitudinal plane

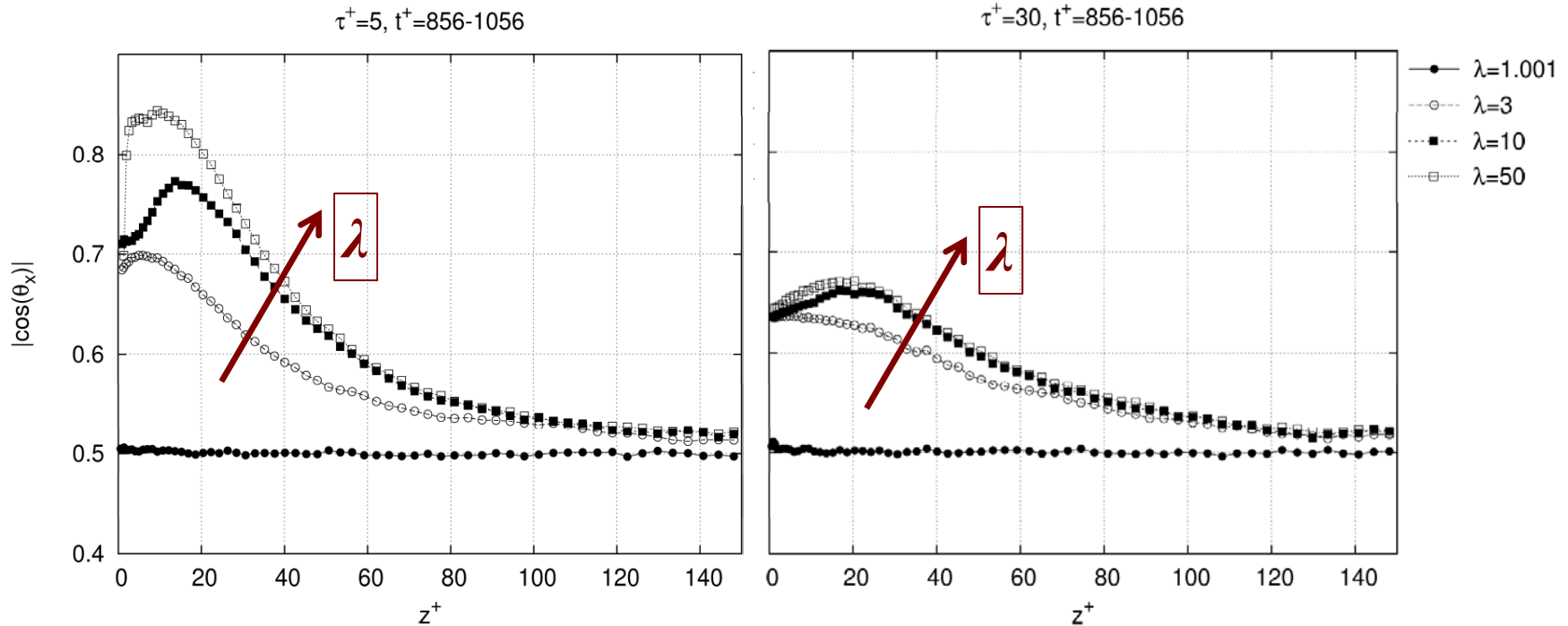




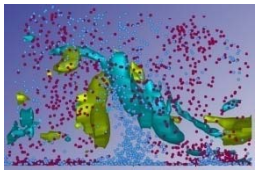
# Results – Fiber Orientation



- Fiber orientation with respect to the co-moving frame (given by the mean value of the direction cosines).



- Orientation strongly depends on  $\lambda$  and on the Stokes number as well.
- Fibers preferentially align in the streamwise (mean flow) direction.
- Fiber orientation becomes isotropic in the center of the channel.
- Results in agreement with Literature (e.g. *Mortensen, Phys. Fluids, 2008*).



# Results – Fiber Orientation Alignment Frequency

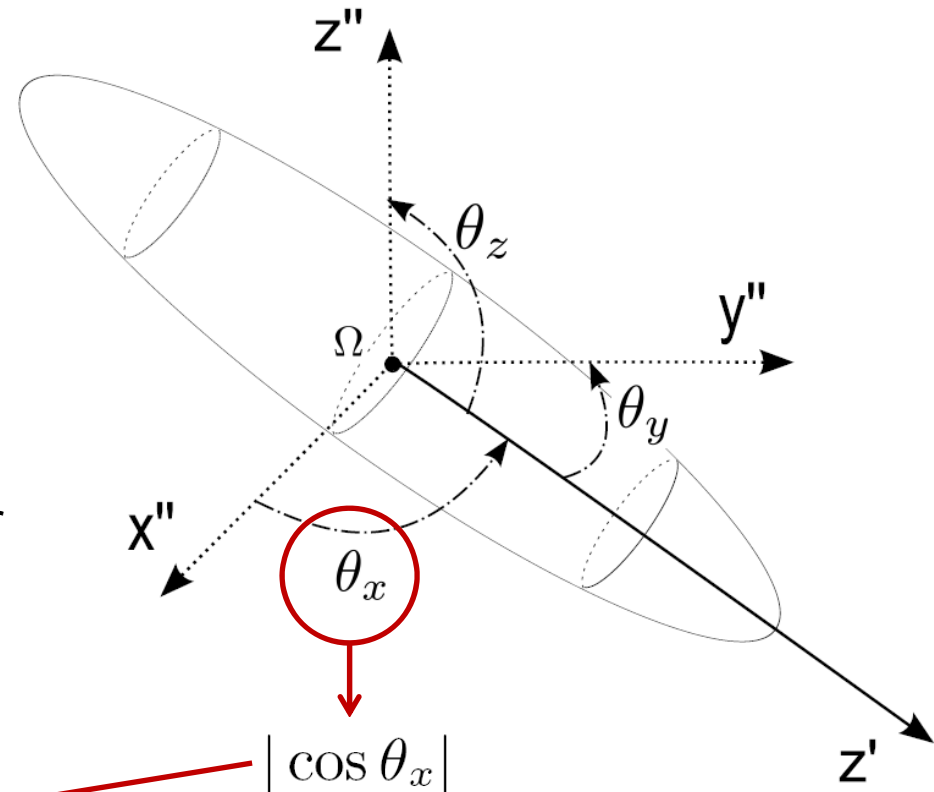
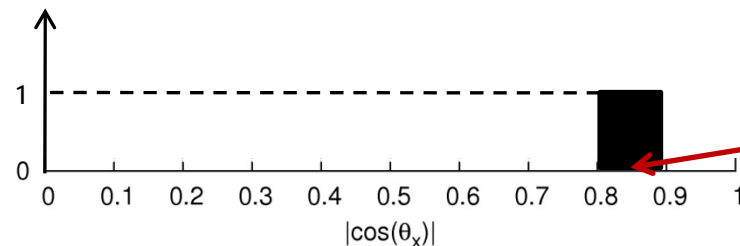


How long do fibers in the near-wall region remain aligned with the mean flow?

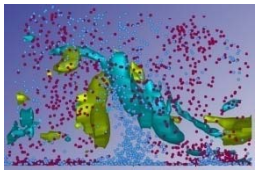
Is this alignment a “stable condition”?

Calculate Alignment Frequency:

- Divide the interval  $[0,1]$  into 10 orientation classes
- At each time step:
  - Compute  $|\cos(\theta_i)|$  for each fiber
  - Identify the orientation class sampled
  - Increment the time step counter for that class
- Compute percent values





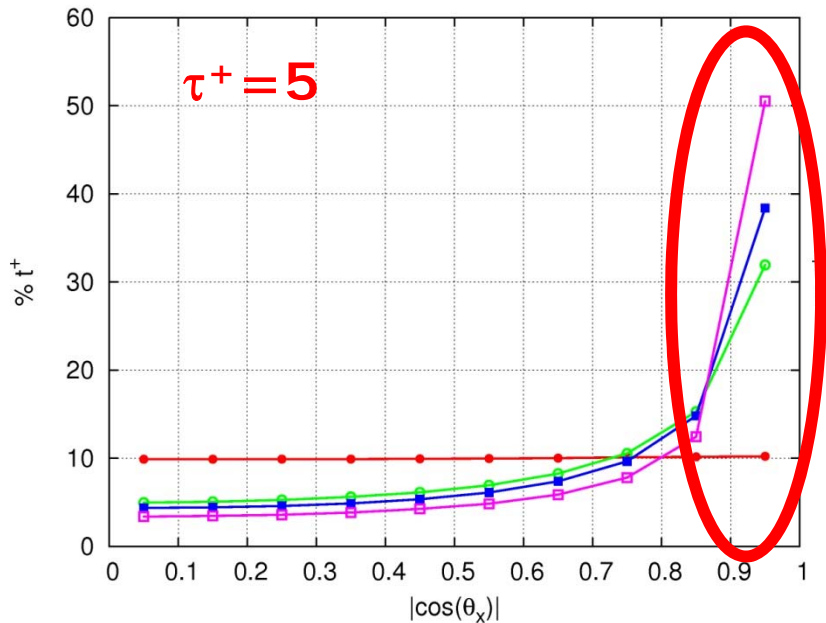


# Results – Fiber Orientation Alignment Frequency

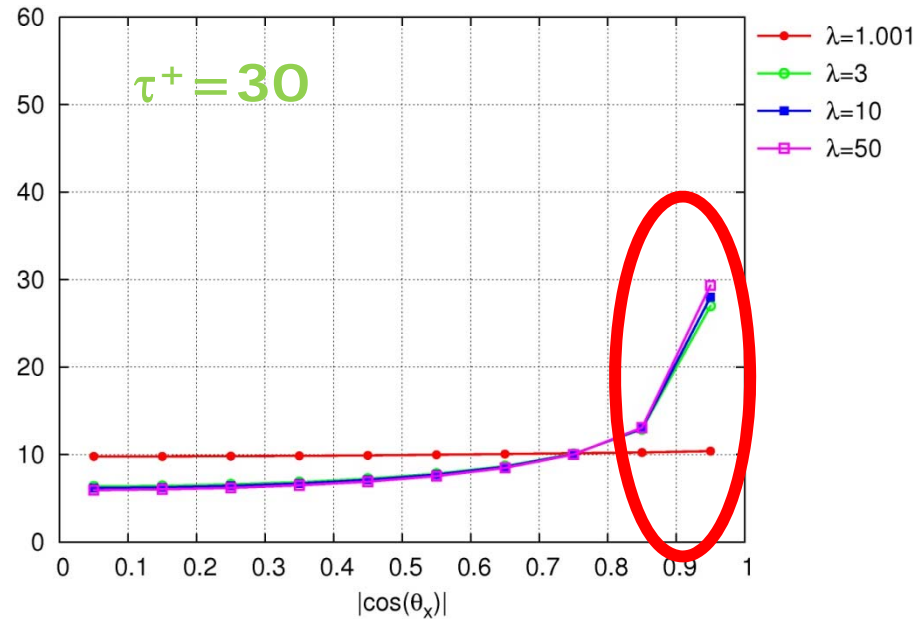


$\tau^+ = 5, t^+ = 856-1056, z^+ < 10$

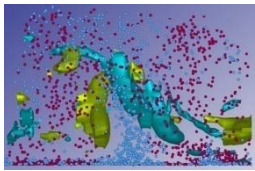
Alignment frequency  
%  $t^+$



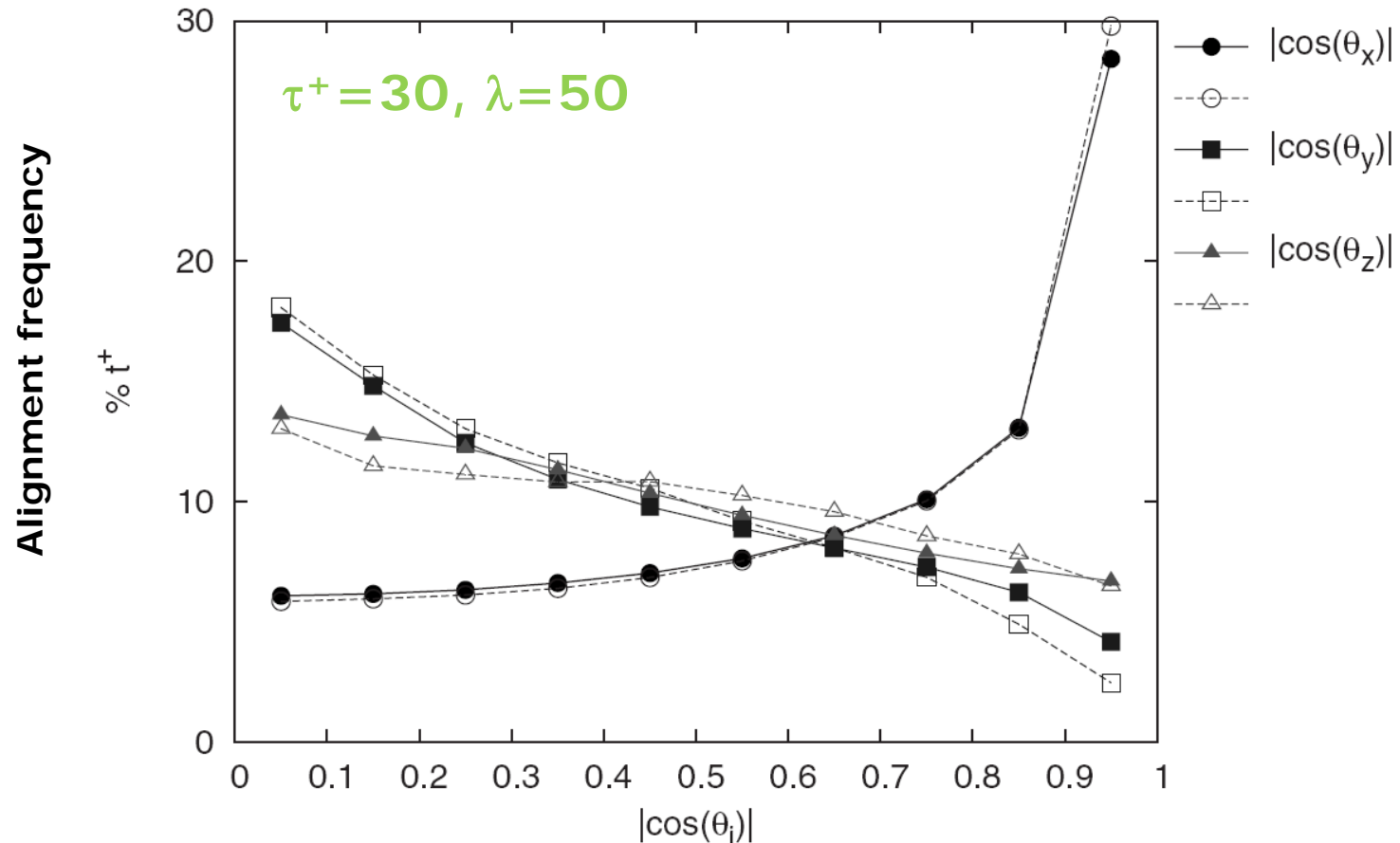
$\tau^+ = 30, t^+ = 856-1056, z^+ < 10$



Fibers are aligned with the mean flow for just 50% of the time in the most favourable case ( $\tau^+ = 5, \lambda = 50$ ). Much less in the other cases.

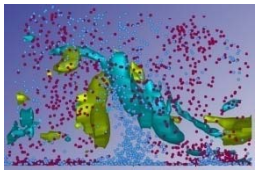


# Results – Fiber Orientation Alignment Frequency



Alignment frequency statistics do not change if computed accounting only for fibers segregated into near-wall streaks





# Conclusions ...

## ...and Future Developments



The coupling between rotation and translation is non negligible: it affects accumulation rates at the wall, concentration and segregation.

This influence quantitatively depends on both fiber inertia and elongation.

Fiber alignment with the mean flow is highly unstable.

REF: C. Marchioli, M. Fantoni & A. Soldati *Phys. Fluids*, Vol. 22, 033301 (2010)

Include more values of  $St$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $Re$  in the DNS+LPT database.

Collision models for particle-particle interactions (non-dilute flows).

**Two-way coupling**: parametric study to analyse fiber feedback on the fluid. Possible improvement in the physical understanding of *drag-reduction*.