



Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Grain Shape Effects on Munition Mobility

MR21-1291

Sylvia Rodríguez-Abudo

University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez

In-Progress Review Meeting

May 20th, 2025

Project Leads



Sylvia Rodríguez-Abudo
University of Puerto Rico
- Mayaguez



Stefano Leonardi



John Michael Tubije

University of Texas – Dallas

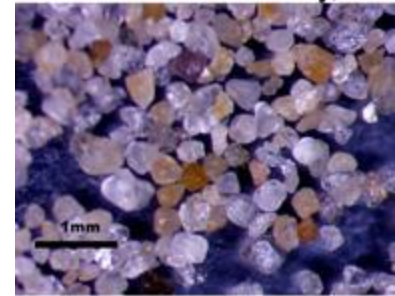
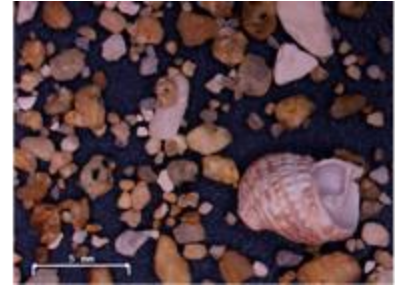
Bottom Line Up Front

- **Experiments and simulations of grain shape effects on munition mobility.**
- **Experiments finalized, numerical code developed and validated.**
- **Experimental program and coding took longer** than anticipated. Funds spent but **invoicing delayed.**
- **UPRM** catching up on **invoicing.** Remaining funds being used for **graduate student** to finalize analysis and publish results.

Technical Objective

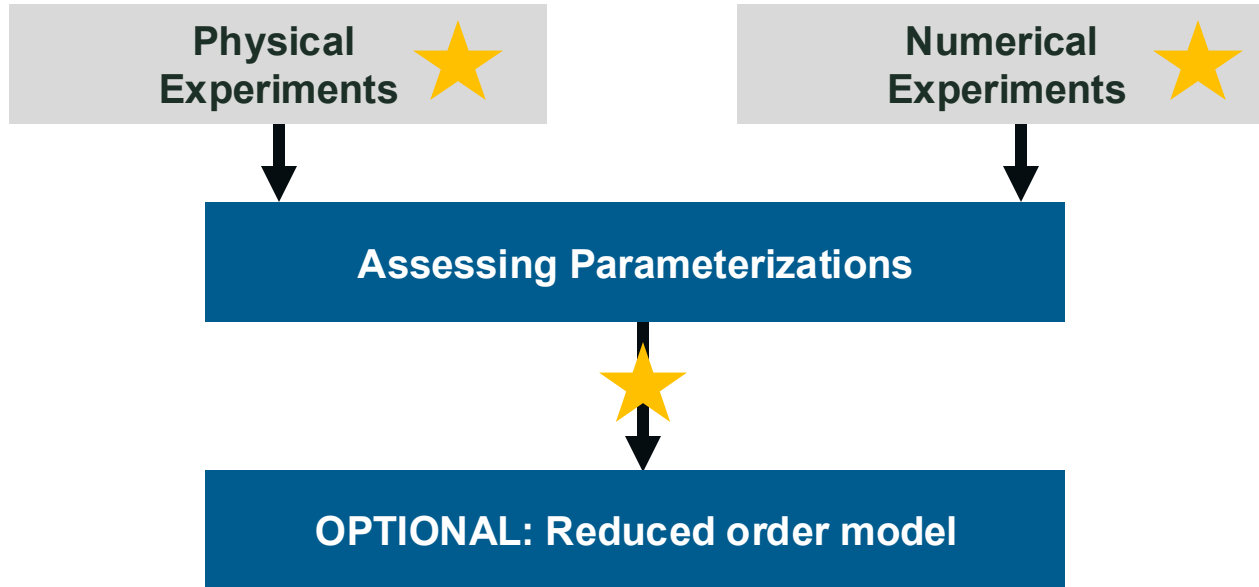
- This project focuses on **munition mobility** for **irregularly shaped** sand grains.
- Research Objectives:
 - **Quantify** the **role** of **grain shape** and **angularity** on **munition mobility**.
 - **Assess** the validity and/or **propose** modifications to current **predictive models** addressing **munition mobility** for irregularly shaped grains.
 - **Resolve** the physics of **flow entrainment** at the **grain-scale** and characterize its **fundamental differences** for **spherical** vs **irregularly shaped** substrates.

Calcareous sand



Silica sand

Technical Approach



RESULTS TO DATE

Physical Experiments

Results to Date: Physical Experiments

20mm round



81mm finless



Calcareous
sand

Silica
sand

Punta Arenas, Vieques

Field Research Facility, NC

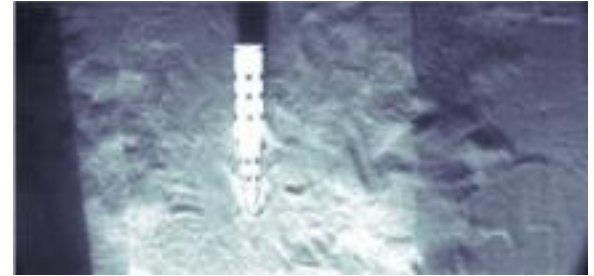
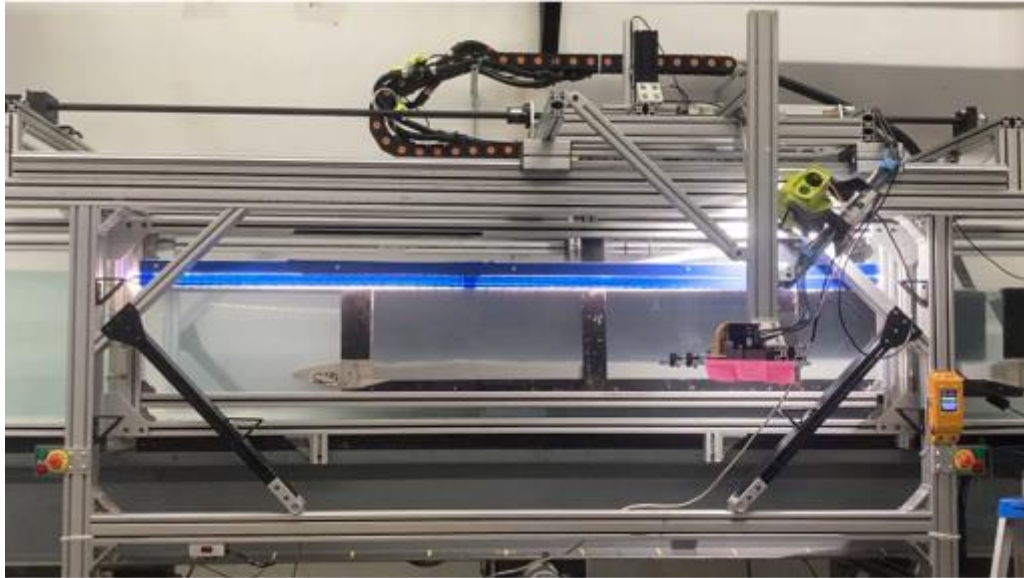
Specific gravity	2.63 ± 0.01	2.58 ± 0.01
D_{50} (mm)	1.13	0.29
Porosity	37%	38%
Shape factor (2D)	0.85 ± 0.002	0.91 ± 0.001
Angularity index (2D)	0.07 ± 0.001	0.06 ± 0.001
Irregularity (2D)	0.14 ± 0.002	0.11 ± 0.002



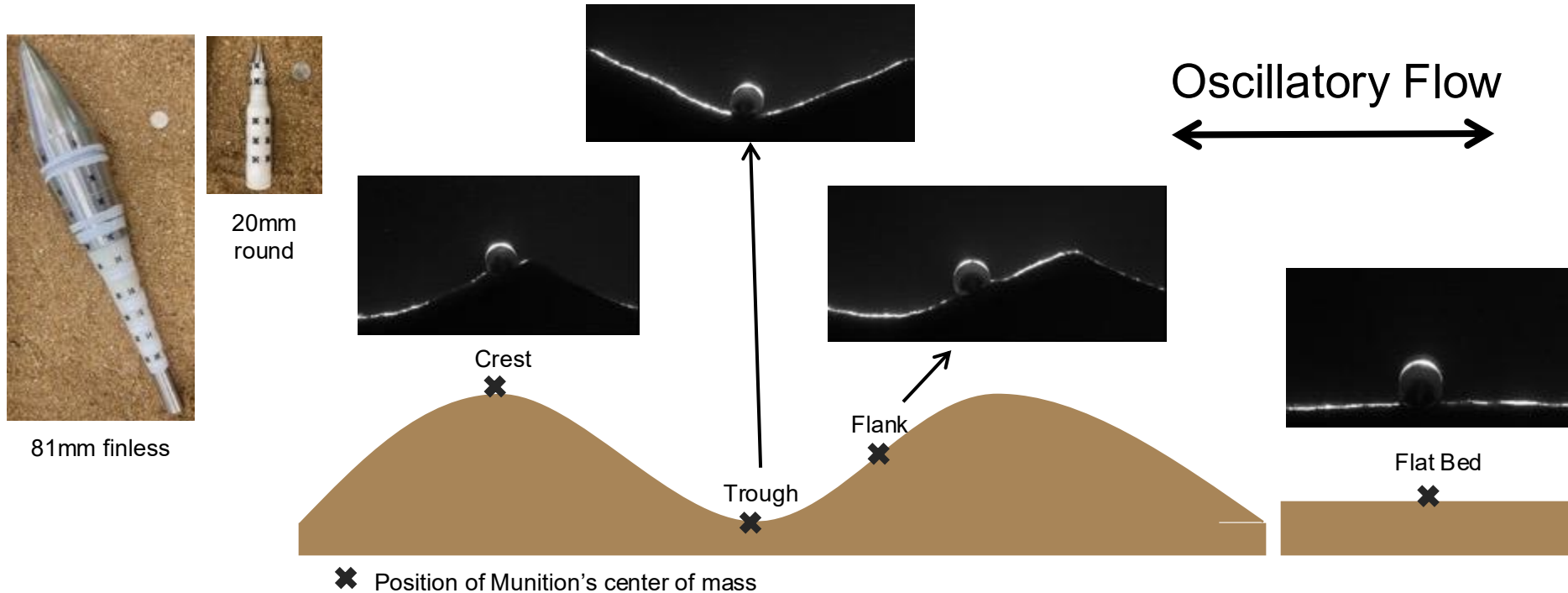
$$\theta_{2.5} = \frac{f_{2.5} U_0^2}{2(s-1)g D_{50}}$$

$$\theta_m = \frac{U_0^2}{(s_m-1)g D_m}$$

Results to Date: Physical Experiments



Results to Date: Physical Experiments



Results to Date: Physical Experiments

GRAIN	SURROGATE	RIPPLE LOCATION	ORIENTATION (°)	η (cm)	λ (cm)	U_0 (m/s)	θ_m	$\theta_{2.5}$	s_m/s
SILICA SAND $s = 2.58$, $d_{50} = 0.29$ mm (rounded and uniform shapes)	15mm	trough	90	4.4	24.7	0.302	0.38	0.11	1.0
		trough	0	4.1	24.7	0.295	0.36	0.11	1.0
		flank	90	4.1	24.7	0.263	0.28	0.09	1.0
		flank	180	4.3	24.8	0.284	0.33	0.10	1.0
		flank	0	4.1	27.8	0.279	0.32	0.10	1.0
		crest	90	3.9	24.6	0.278	0.33	0.08	1.0
		crest	0	4.1	24.7	0.282	0.33	0.10	1.0
		Rippled Bed Baseline (No Munition)		4.1	24.7	0.284	--	0.10	--
		flat bed	90	flat bed	flat bed	0.272	0.31	0.09	1.0
		flat bed	0	flat bed	flat bed	0.276	0.32	0.10	1.0
CALCAREOUS SAND $s = 2.63$, $d_{50} = 1.13$ mm (irregular and heterogeneous shapes)	20mm	trough	90	6.2	30.6	0.459	0.46	0.11	1.0
		trough	0	4.7	35.3	0.456	0.45	0.10	1.0
		flank	90	5.2	30.9	0.468	0.48	0.11	1.0
		flank	180	4.8	27.3	0.44	0.42	0.10	1.0
		flank	0	5.4	33.6	0.427	0.40	0.09	1.0
		crest	90	5.4	34.1	0.439	0.42	0.10	1.0
		crest	0	5.1	32.3	0.429	0.40	0.09	1.0
		Rippled Bed Baseline (No Munition)		4.7	36.6	0.423	--	0.09	--
		flat bed	90	flat bed	flat bed	0.392	0.33	0.08	1.0
		flat bed	0	flat bed	flat bed	0.397	0.34	0.08	1.0
SILICA SAND $s = 2.58$, $d_{50} = 0.29$ mm (rounded and uniform shapes)	20mm	trough	90	3.5	29.1	0.446	0.43	0.26	1.0
		trough	0	2.9	32.2	0.414	0.37	0.22	1.0
		flank	90	4.1	29.9	0.404	0.35	0.21	1.0
		flank	180	4	30.9	0.433	0.41	0.24	1.0
		flank	0	4	29.9	0.441	0.42	0.25	1.0
		crest	90	5.1	37.8	0.439	0.42	0.25	1.0
		crest	0	5.2	33.2	0.445	0.43	0.25	1.0
		Rippled Bed Baseline (No Munition)		4.2	28.6	0.442	--	0.25	--



20mm
round

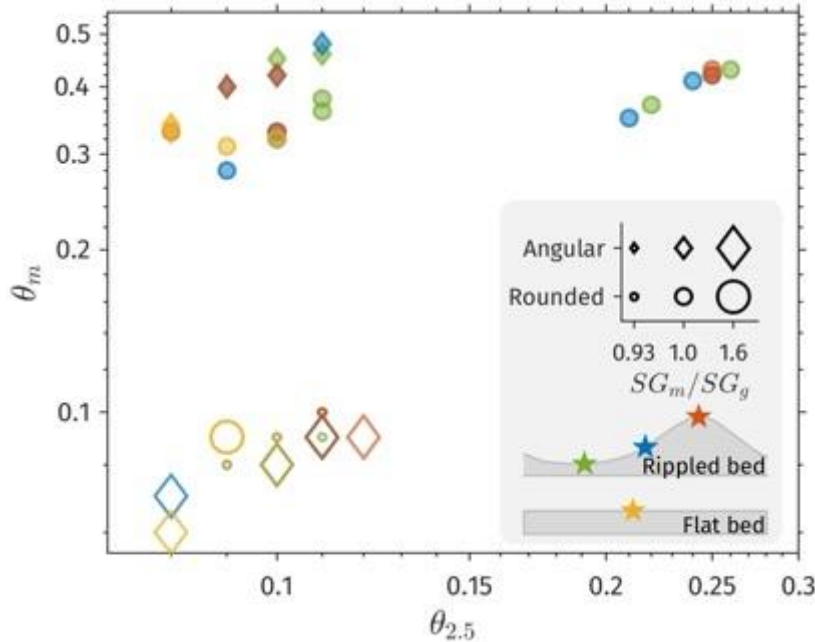
Results to Date: Physical Experiments

GRAIN	SURROGATE	RIPPLE LOCATION	ORIENTATION (°)	η (cm)	λ (cm)	U_0 (m/s)	θ_m	$\theta_{2.5}$	s_m/s
SILICA SAND $s = 2.58$, $d_{50} = 0.29$ mm (rounded and uniform shapes)	32mm	flat bed	90	flat bed	flat bed	0.292	0.09	0.09	1.6
		flat bed	0	flat bed	flat bed	0.291	0.09	0.09	1.6
	64mm	trough	90	3.5	21.3	0.294	0.1	0.11	0.93
		trough	0	3.4	20.5	0.288	0.09	0.11	0.93
		flank	90	3.2	20.6	0.299	0.1	0.11	0.93
		flank	180	3.4	20.5	0.269	0.08	0.09	0.93
		flank	0	3.4	20.6	0.284	0.09	0.10	0.93
		crest	90	3.55	21	0.293	0.1	0.11	0.93
		crest	0	3.4	20.7	0.296	0.1	0.11	0.93
		Rippled Bed Baseline (No Munition)		3.7	20.9	0.288	--	0.11	--
		flat bed	90	flat bed	flat bed	0.285	0.09	0.1	0.93
		flat bed	0	flat bed	flat bed	0.269	0.08	0.09	0.93
CALCAREOUS SAND $s = 2.63$, $d_{50} = 1.13$ mm (irregular and heterogeneous shapes)	81mm	trough	90	3.8	32.5	0.468	0.09	0.11	1.6
		trough	0	4.2	30.5	0.456	0.08	0.10	1.6
		flank	90	3.6	32.3	0.409	0.07	0.08	1.6
		flank	180	4.35	32.25	0.482	0.09	0.11	1.6
		flank	0	4.05	33	0.444	0.08	0.10	1.6
		crest	90	3.35	32.5	0.484	0.09	0.12	1.6
		crest	0	4.55	31.5	0.472	0.09	0.11	1.6
		Rippled Bed Baseline (No Munition)		3.7	20.9	0.288	--	0.11	--
		flat bed	90	flat bed	flat bed	0.446	0.08	0.10	1.6
		flat bed	0	flat bed	flat bed	0.405	0.06	0.08	1.6



81mm finless

Results to Date: Parameter Space



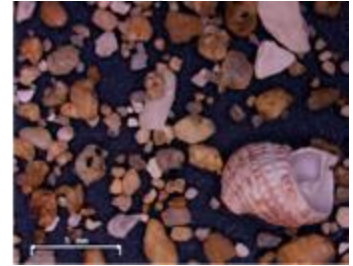
$$\theta_{2.5} = \frac{f_{2.5} U_0^2}{2(s-1)g d_{50}}$$

$$\theta_m = \frac{U_0^2}{(s_m-1)g d_m}$$

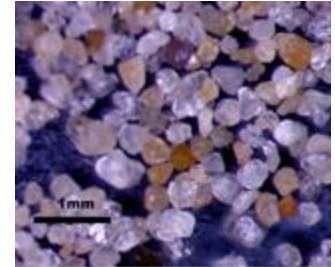
\star 20mm round

\star 81mm finless

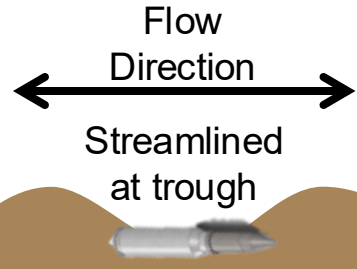
Angular



Rounded



Results to Date: Sediment Mobility



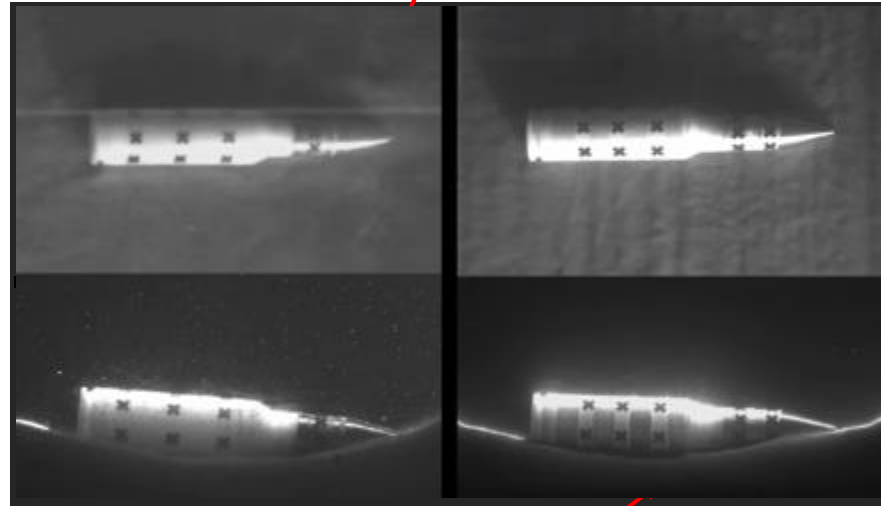
Sediment accumulation

$$\theta_{2.5} = 0.11$$

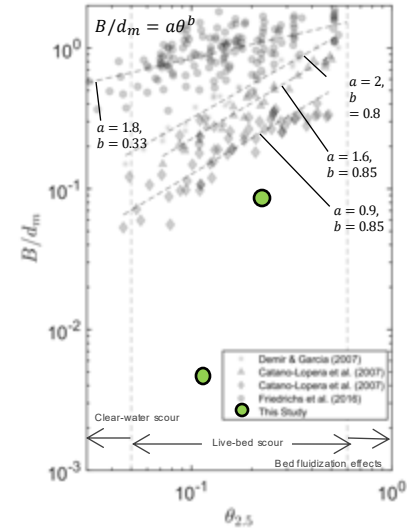
$$\theta_{2.5} = 0.22$$

Top View

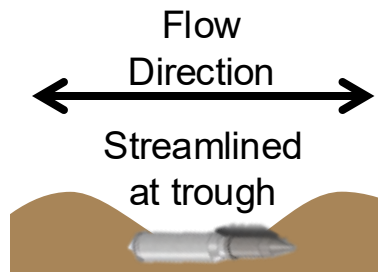
Front View



Greater near-bed sediment suspension



Results: Sediment Mobility and Grain Angularity

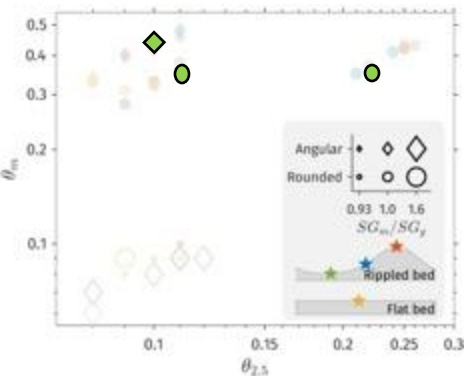
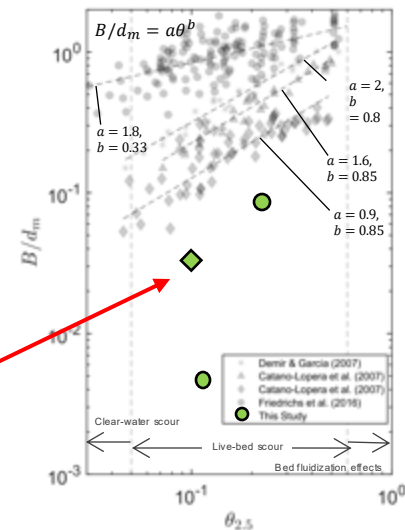
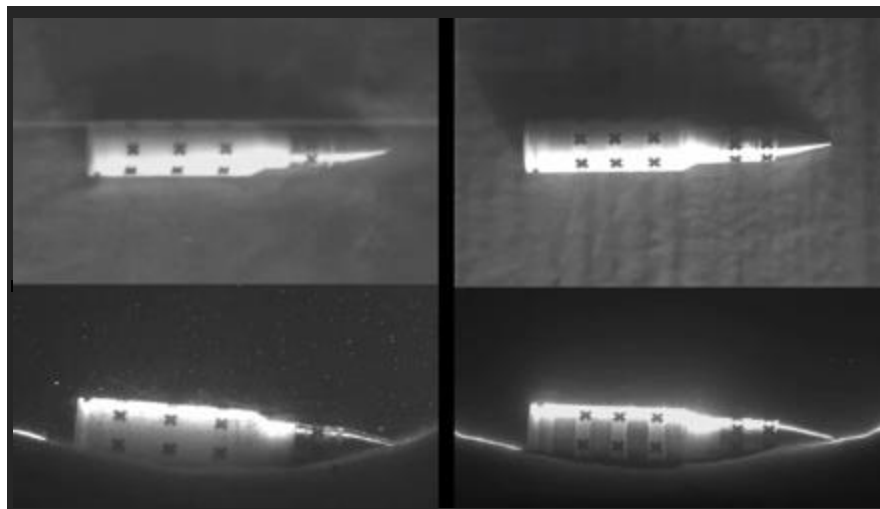


$$\theta_{2.5} = 0.11$$

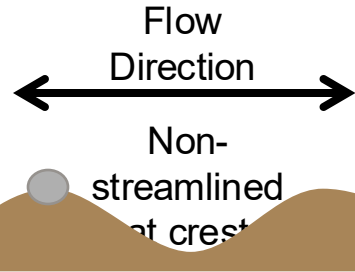
$$\theta_{2.5} = 0.22$$

Top View

Front View



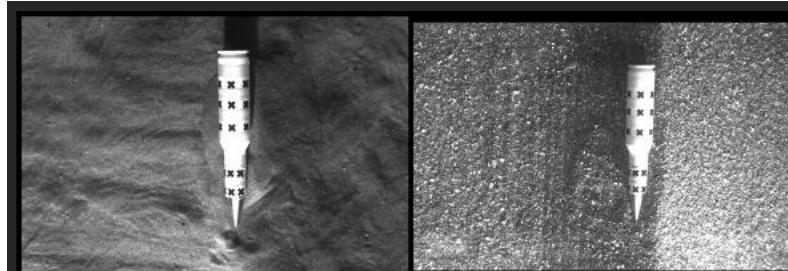
Results: Sediment Mobility and Grain Angularity



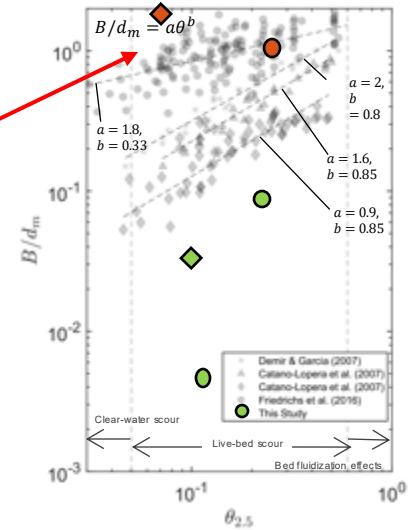
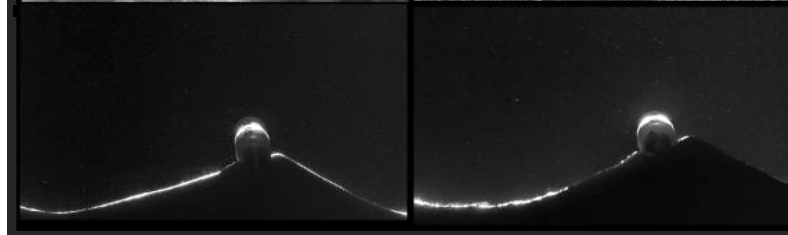
Rounded
 $\theta_{2.5} = 0.25$

Angular
 $\theta_{2.5} = 0.10$

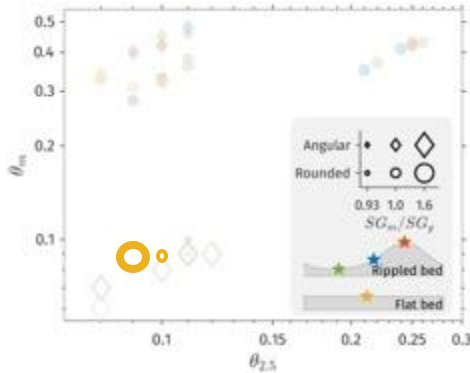
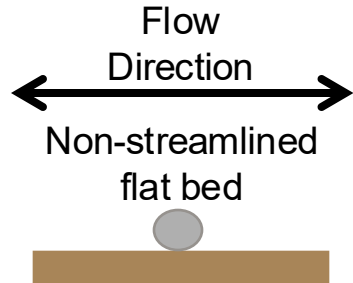
Top View



Front View



Results to Date: Relative Density

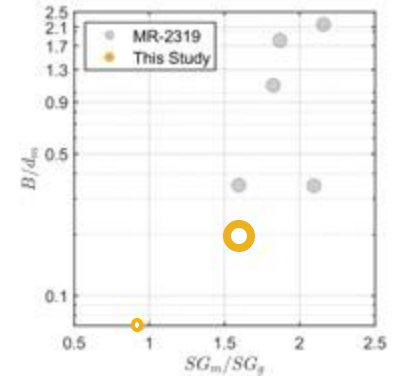
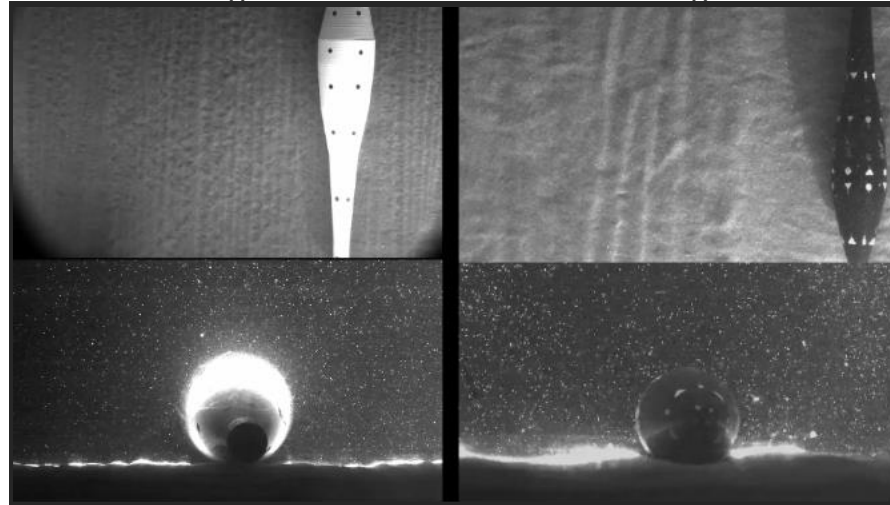


Top View

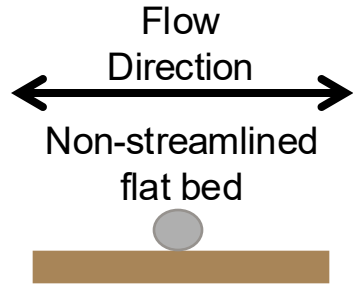
Front View

$$SG_m/SG_g = 0.93$$

$$SG_m/SG_g = 1.6$$



Results: Relative Density and Grain Angularity

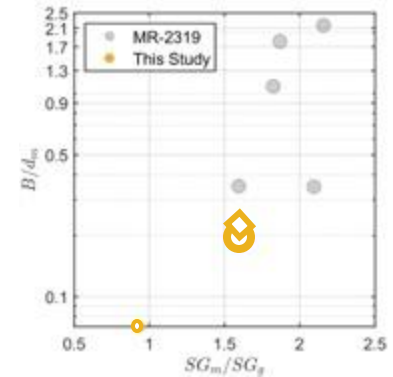
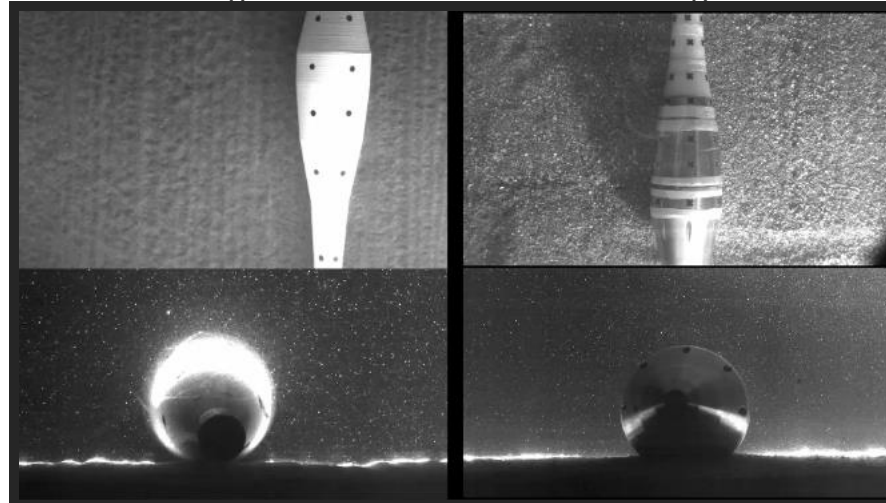


Rounded
 $SG_m/SG_g = 0.93$

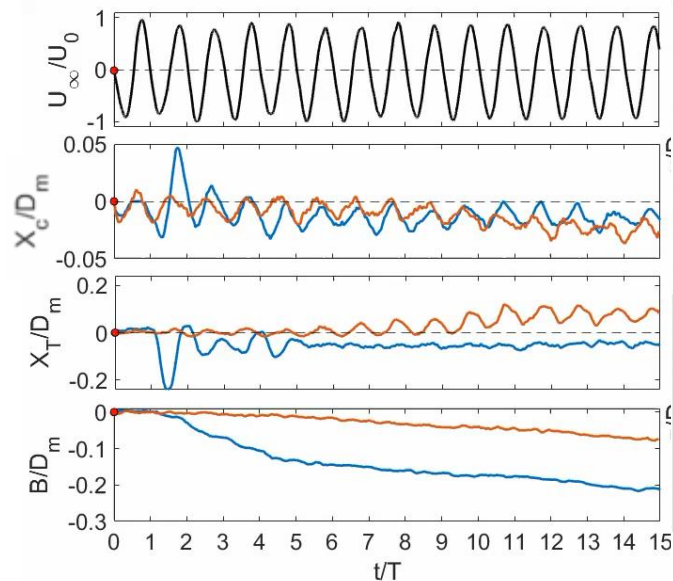
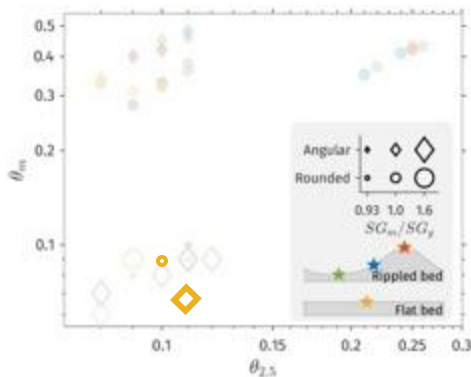
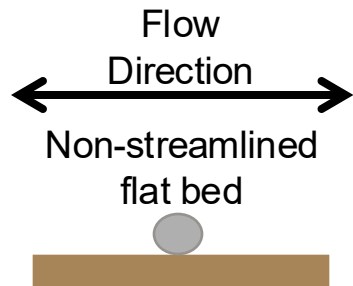
Angular
 $SG_m/SG_g = 1.6$

Top View

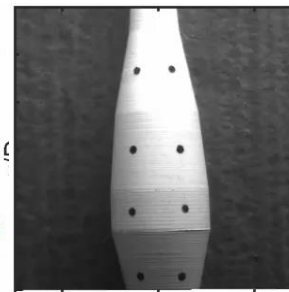
Front View



Results: Relative Density and Grain Angularity



Rounded



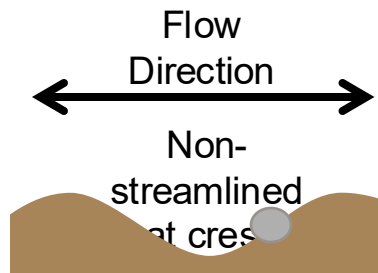
-1 0 1
 x/D_m

Angular



-1 0 1
 x/D_m

Results: Munition Mobility and Grain Angularity

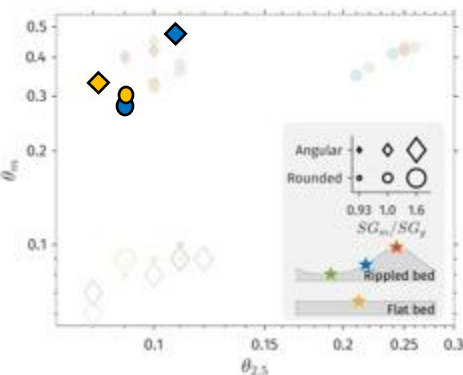
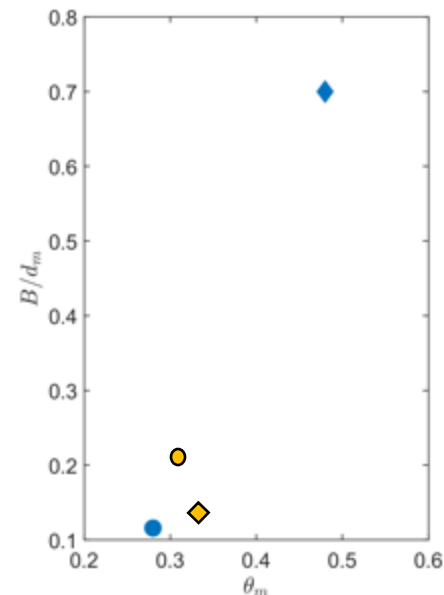
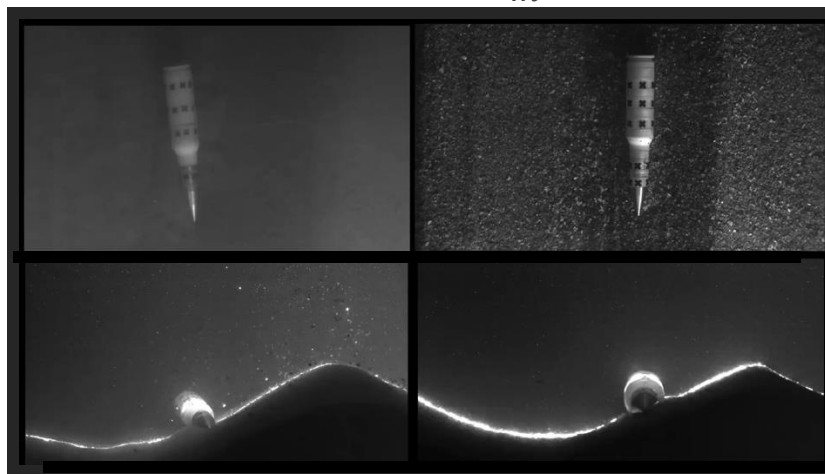


Rounded
 $\theta_m = 0.28$

Angular
 $\theta_m = 0.48$

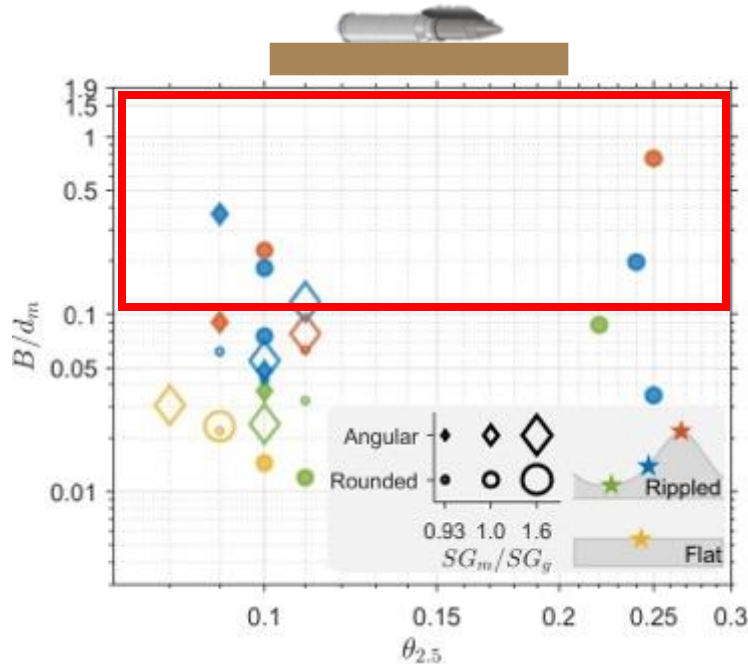
Top View

Front View

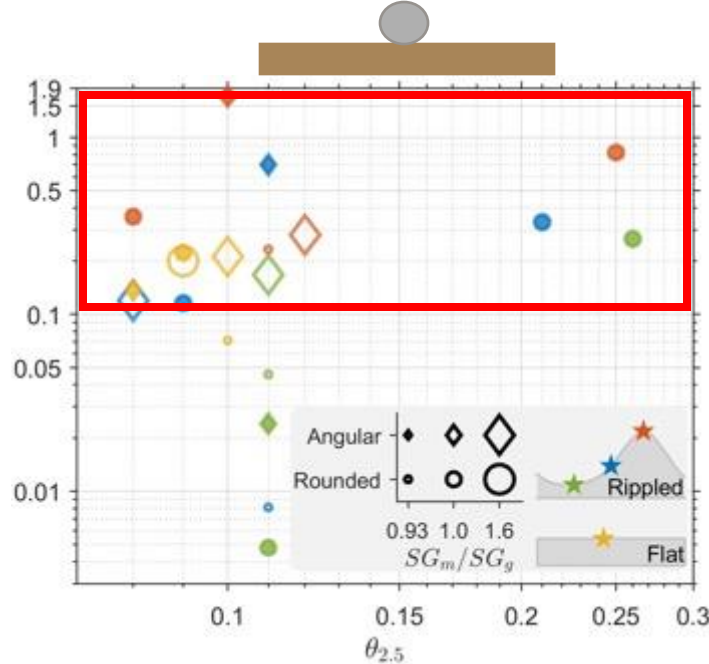


Results to Date: Summary

Streamlined



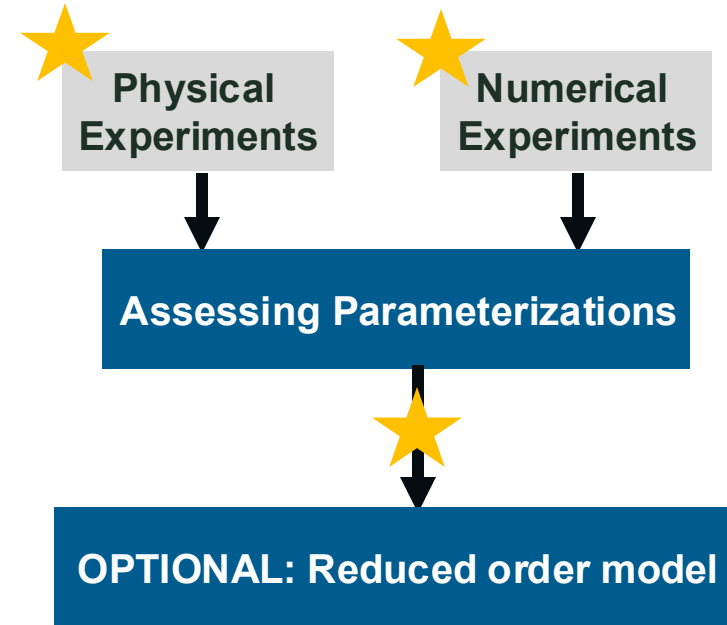
Non-streamlined



- Grain angularity generally dominates over $\theta_{2.5}$
- θ_m and S_m/S_g dominate over grain angularity

Next Steps

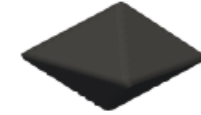
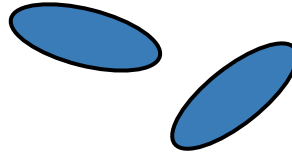
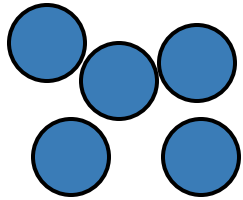
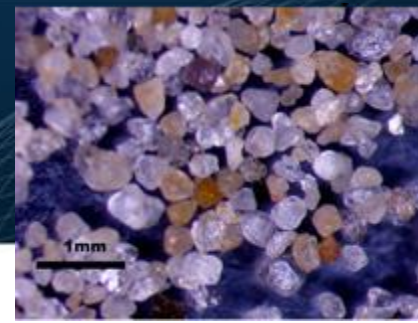
- Finalize analysis and submit reports.
- Utilize results from experimental program to **assess parameterizations** of munition mobility for irregularly shaped grains.
- Gather knowledge gained through the experimental and numerical programs to **publish results**.



RESULTS TO DATE

Numerical Experiments

Particle shapes



Simple spherical

Spheroidal particle

Angular particle

	Sphere	Cube	Octahedron
Corey Shape Factor	1	1	0.71
Sphericity	1	0.81	0.82

- Decrease in sphericity and increase in angularity leads to lower settling velocity
- Flow separation is more likely to occur for non-spherical

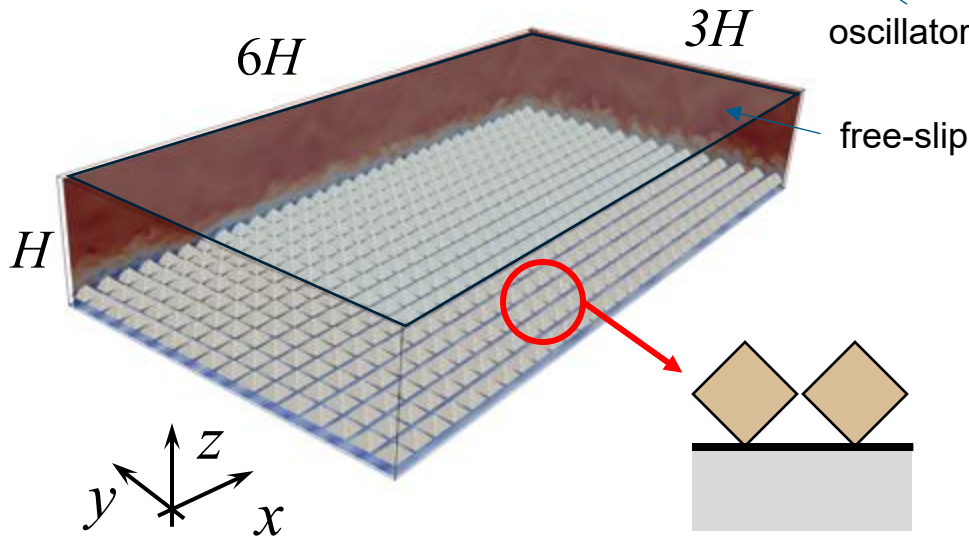
Effect of bed with octahedrons

$$\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial U_i U_j}{\partial x_j} = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i} + \frac{1}{Re_\delta} \frac{\partial^2 U_i}{\partial x_j^2} + \Pi(t) \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x_i} = 0$$

$$Re_\delta = \frac{U_0 \delta}{\nu} \quad \text{Stokes layer depth} \quad \delta = \sqrt{\frac{2\nu}{\omega}}$$

$$Re_\delta = 90, 190, 765, 1200 \quad \frac{\delta}{H} = 0.17$$

Laminar **Turbulent**

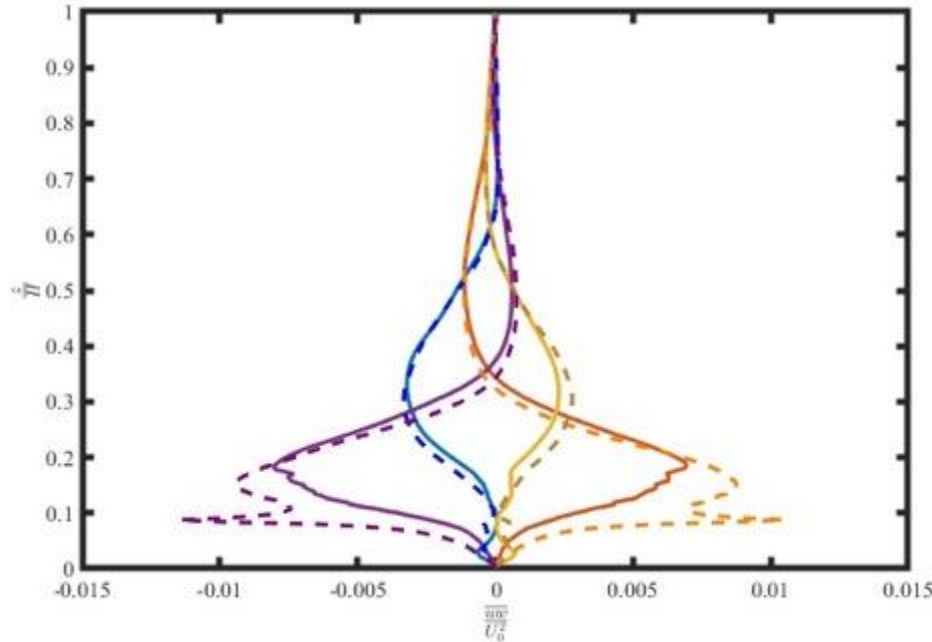


Second-order centered finite-difference scheme with staggered Cartesian grid. Third-order Runge-Kutta method with fractional-step (Orlandi, 2000)

Bed particles with Immersed Boundary method & applied B.C. (Orlandi & Leonardi, 2006)

Reynolds Stresses

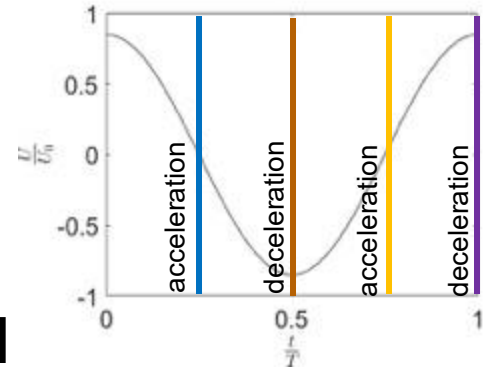
$$Re_{\delta} = 1800$$



$$\frac{\delta}{H} = 0.17$$

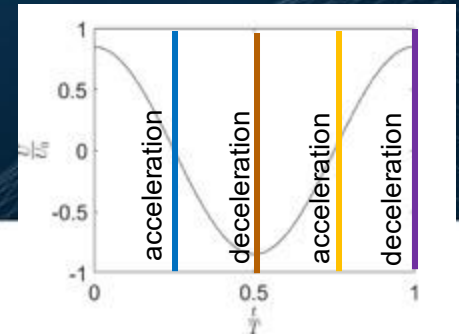
Legend

- Spherical particles
- - - Octahedral particles



Reynolds Stresses

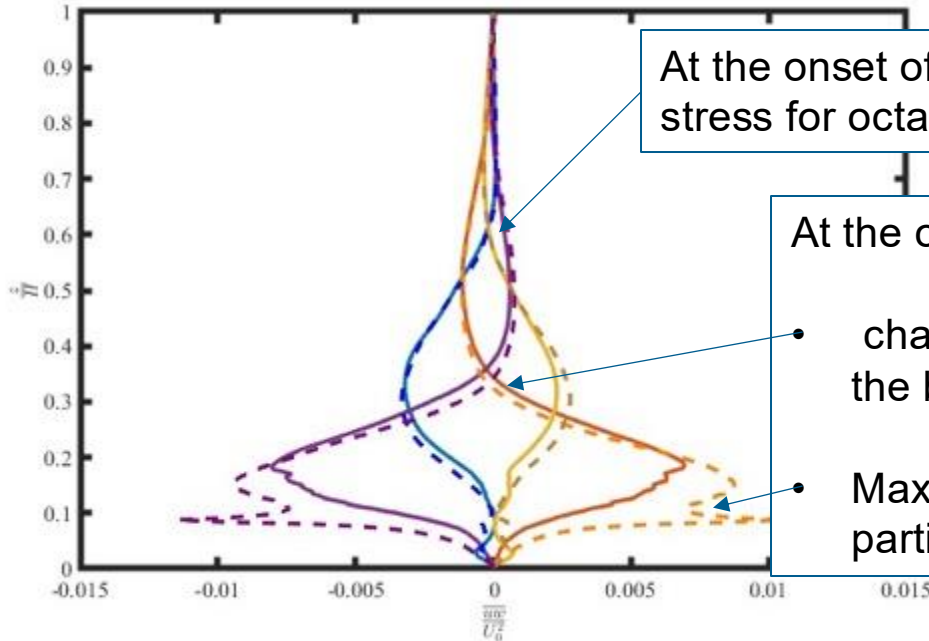
$$Re_{\delta} = 1800$$



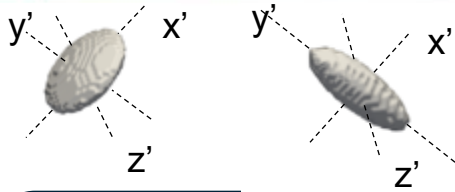
At the onset of acceleration, changing sign of Reynolds stress for octahedral and spherical collapse at same height.

At the onset of deceleration:

- changing sign of Reynolds stress occurs closer to the bed for octahedral particles than for spherical.
- Maximum Reynolds stress is higher for octahedral particles due to angularity.



Non-spherical particle dynamics



Ensure correct
particle orientation

Particle – fluid
coupling

Particle angular
kinematics

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_0 &= \cos\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) \\ \beta_1 &= \sin\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) \\ \beta_2 &= \cos\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) \\ \beta_3 &= \cos\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right) - \sin\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\psi}{2}\right)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}M_f + \int_{CS} \mathbf{r} \times (\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{ij}) \cdot d\mathbf{A} \\ = \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{CV} \mathbf{r} \times \vec{V} \rho dV + \int_{CS} \rho \mathbf{r} \times \vec{V} (\vec{V}_n \cdot d\mathbf{A})\end{aligned}$$

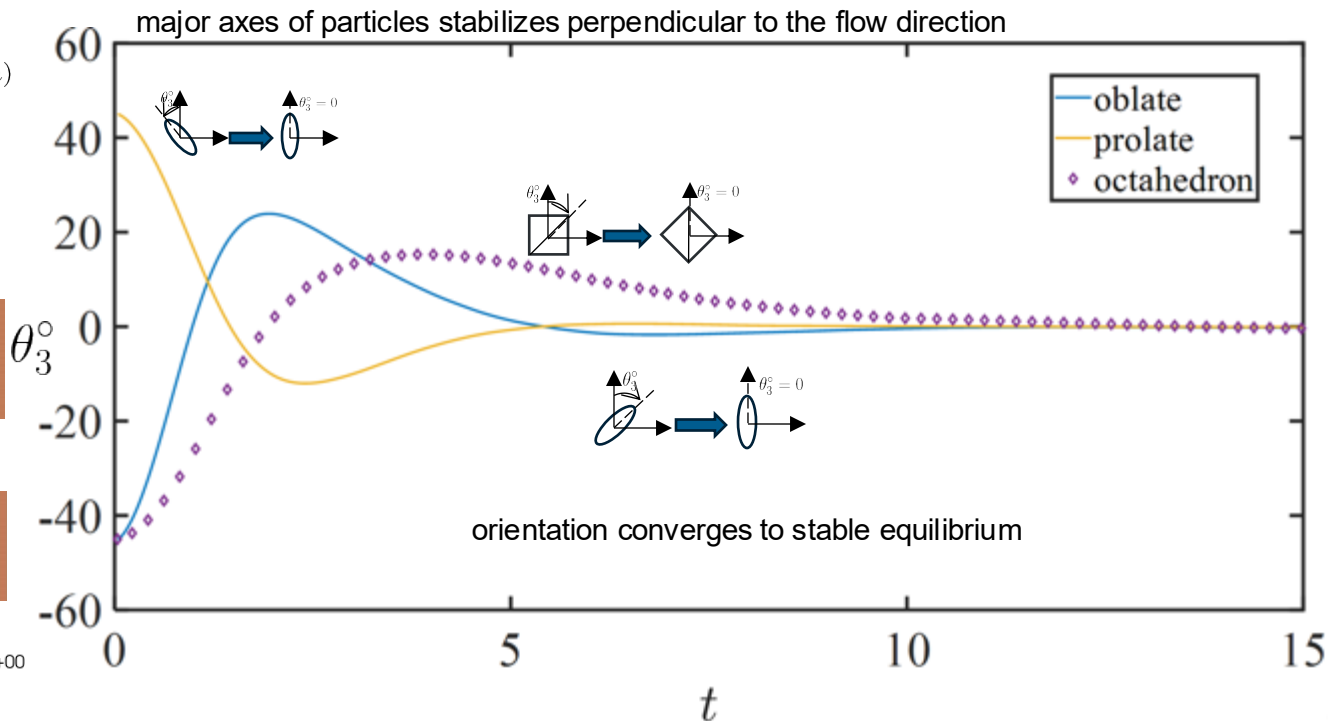
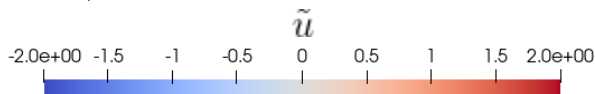
$$\begin{aligned}I'_{x_1 x_1} \frac{d\omega'_{x_1}}{dt} - \omega'_{x_2} \omega'_{x_3} (I'_{x_2 x_2} - I'_{x_3 x_3}) &= N'_{x_1}, \\ I'_{x_2 x_2} \frac{d\omega'_{x_2}}{dt} - \omega'_{x_3} \omega'_{x_1} (I'_{x_3 x_3} - I'_{x_1 x_1}) &= N'_{x_2}, \\ I'_{x_3 x_3} \frac{d\omega'_{x_3}}{dt} - \omega'_{x_1} \omega'_{x_2} (I'_{x_1 x_1} - I'_{x_2 x_2}) &= N'_{x_3},\end{aligned} \quad I_i = \rho \int r^2 dV$$

$$m_p \frac{dv_p}{dt} = \int_S \mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS$$

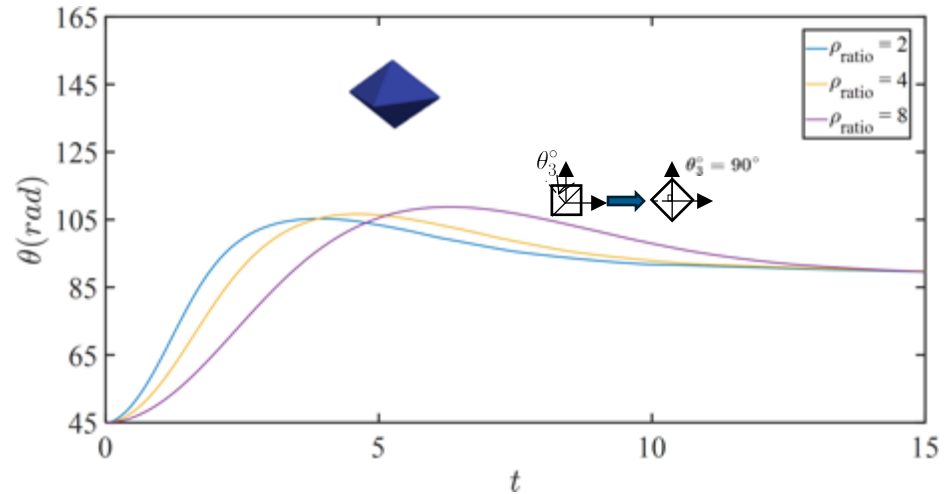
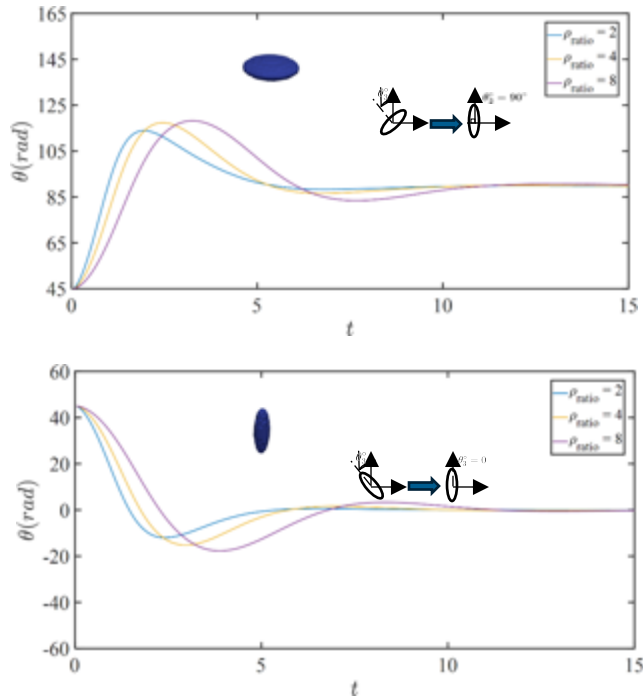
Particle rotation (translation constrained)

Uniform inflow, $Re = 100$

$$I_{z(\text{prolate})} < I_{z(\text{oblate})} < I_{z(\text{octahedron})}$$



Density ratios

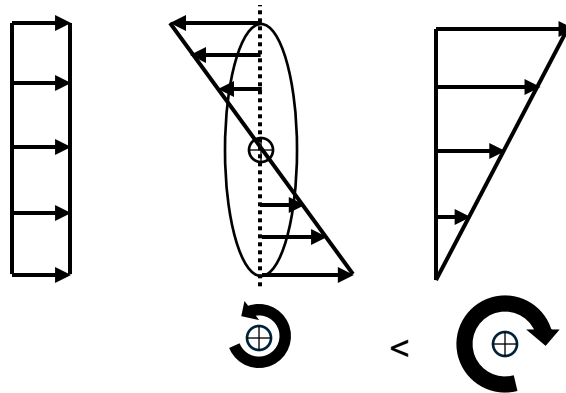


With increasing density ratio, amplitude increases

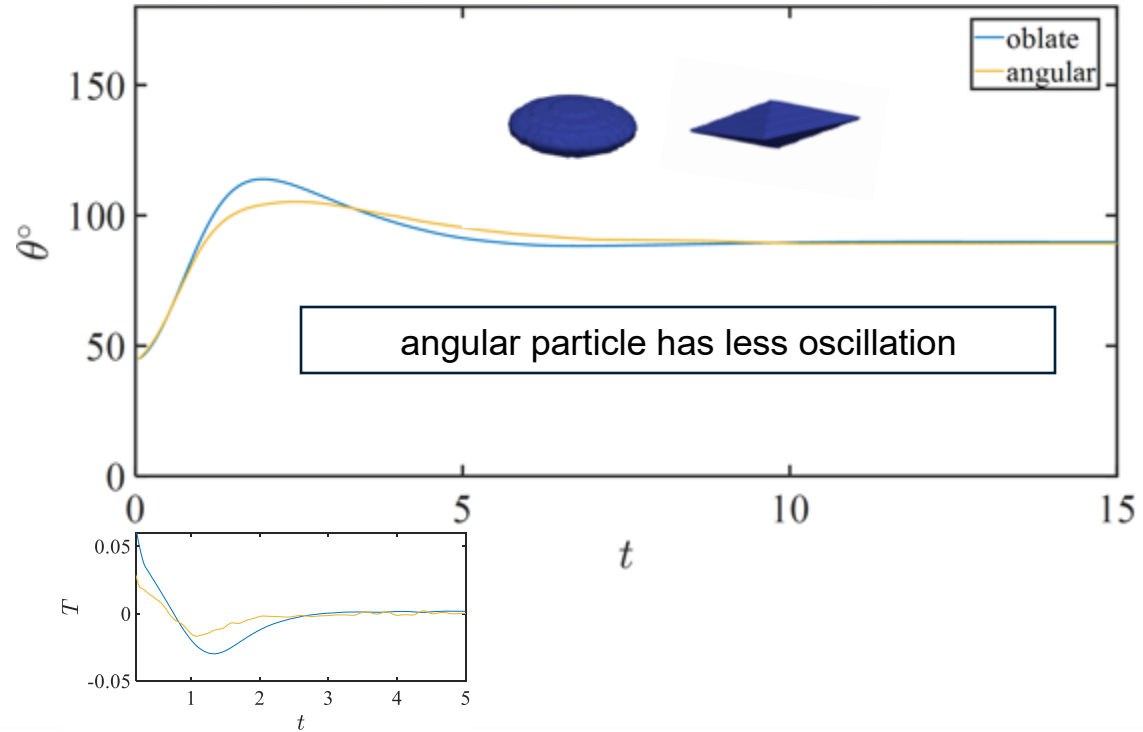
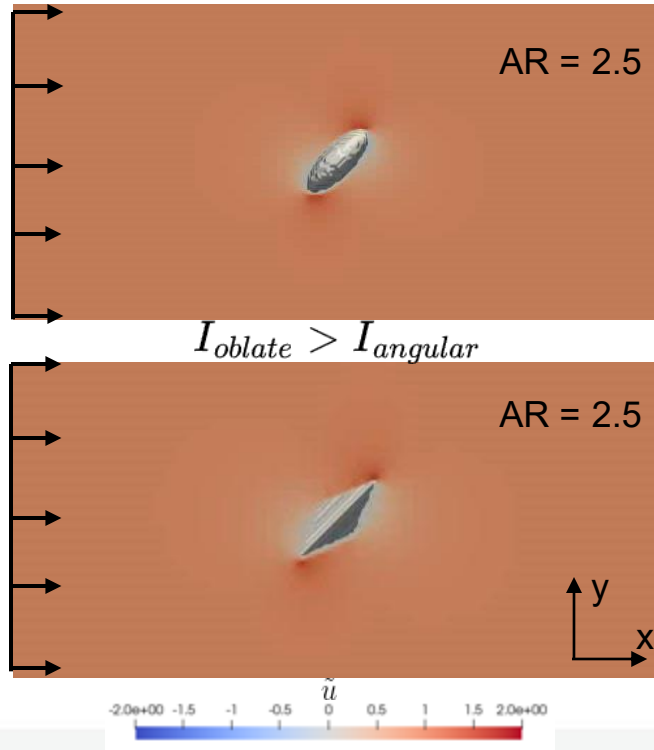
$$\rho_{ratio} = \frac{\rho_{particle}}{\rho_{fluid}}$$

Stability

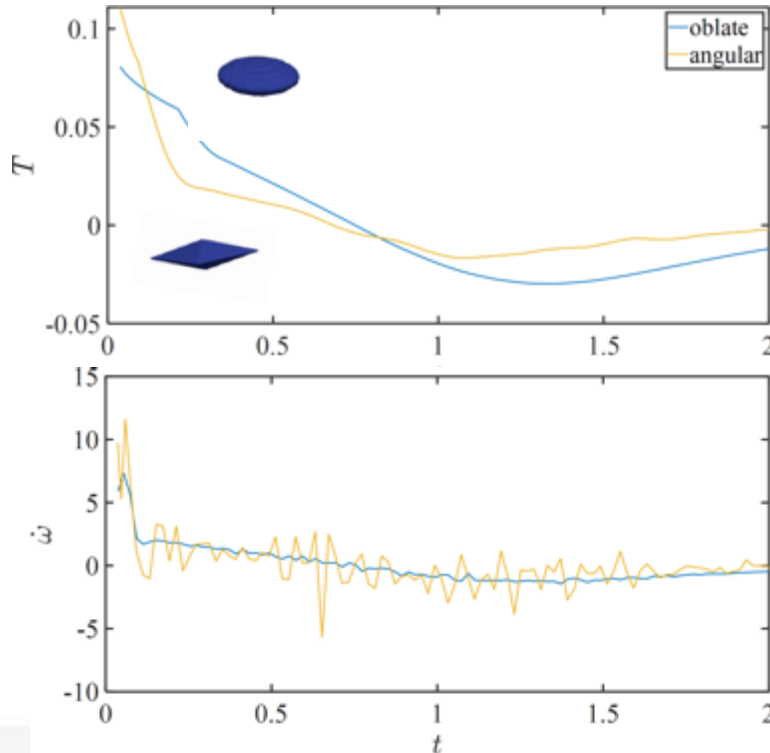
flow - particle = relative



Angular particle with aspect ratio



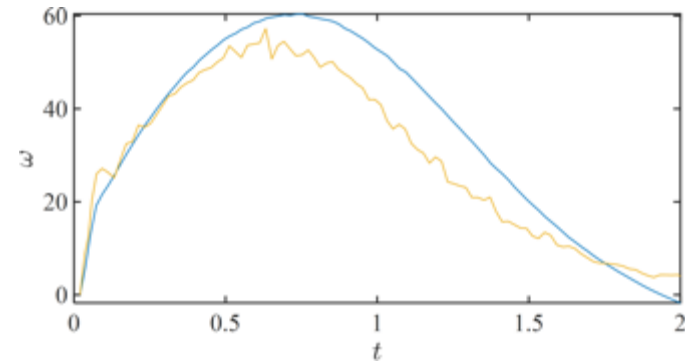
Angular particle with aspect ratio



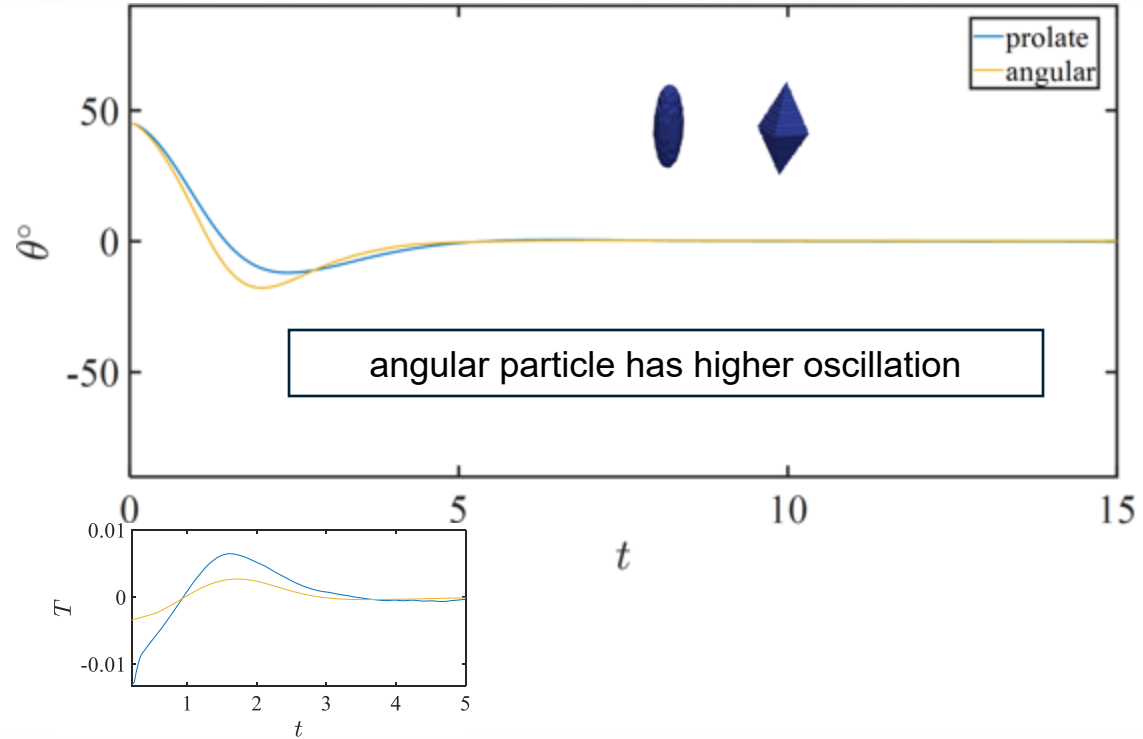
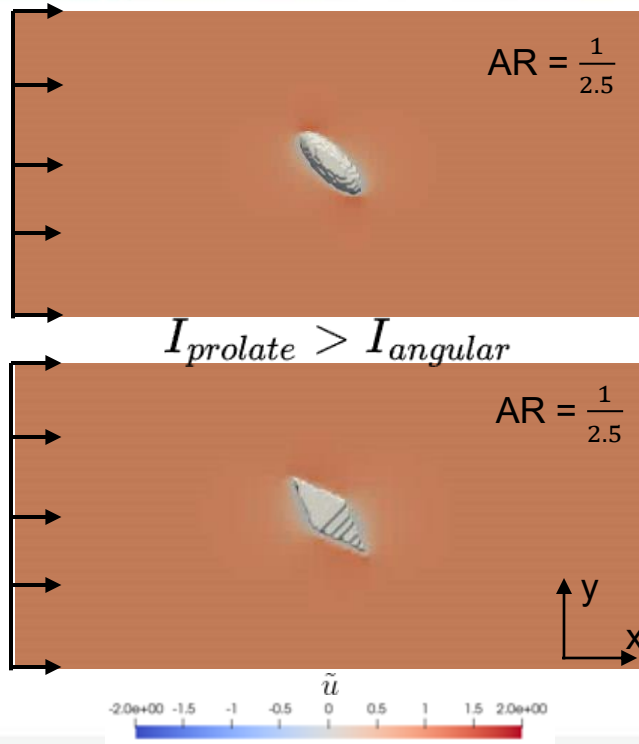
The angular oblate has lower torque and angular acceleration.

$$\frac{I_{smooth}}{I_{angular}} \approx 1.8$$

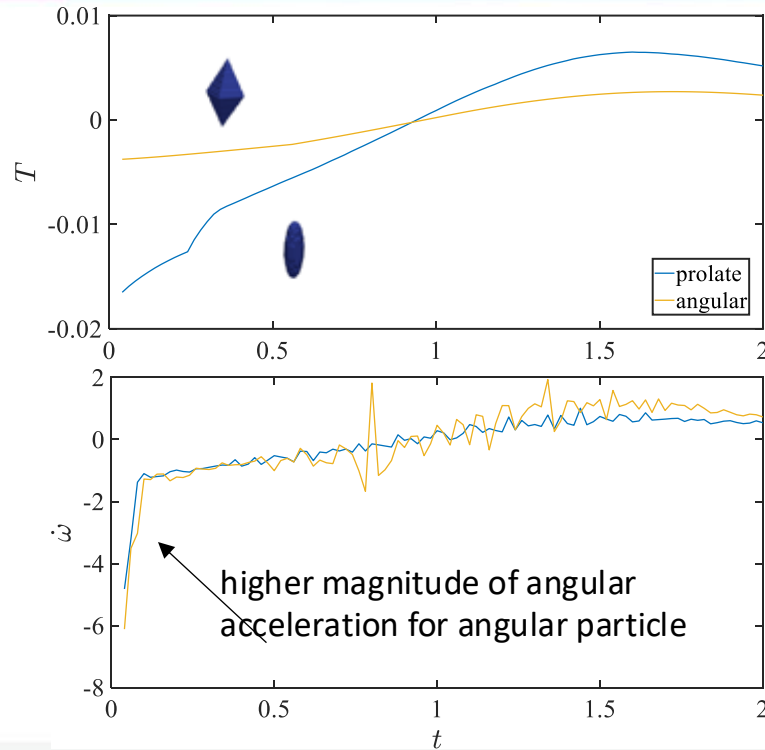
This results to lower magnitude of angular velocity and lower oscillation amplitude.



Angular particle with aspect ratio



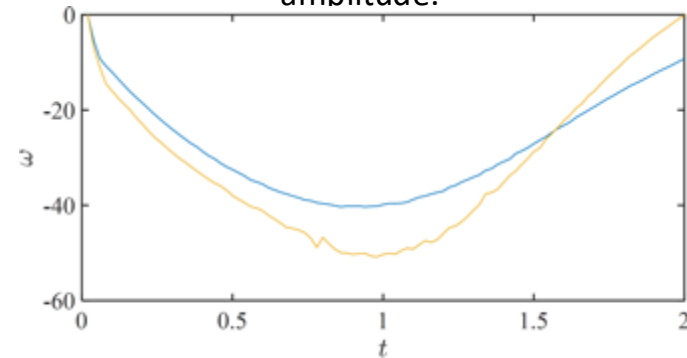
Angular particle with aspect ratio



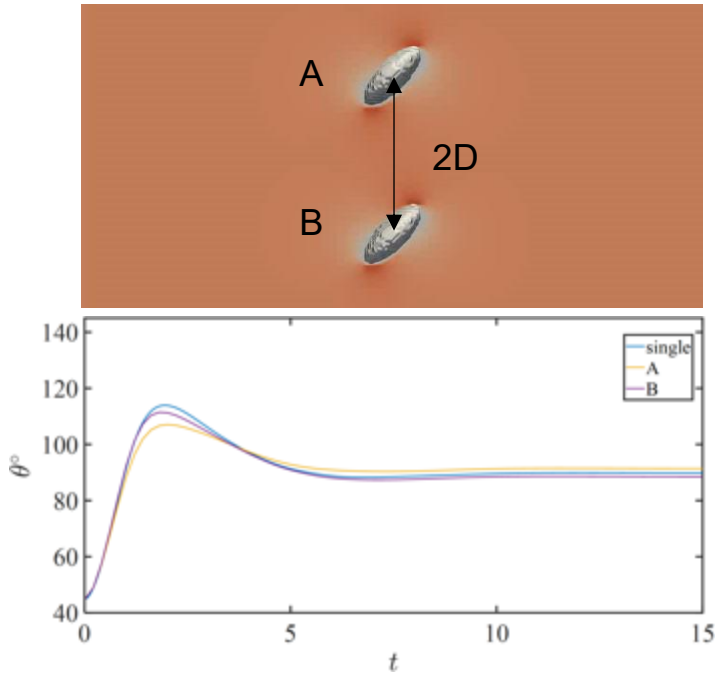
Torque is higher in magnitude for smooth prolate but the **resulting acceleration** of the angular prolate is higher due to differences in moment of inertia. $\frac{I_{smooth}}{I_{angular}} \approx 2.7$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{T}{I_z}$$

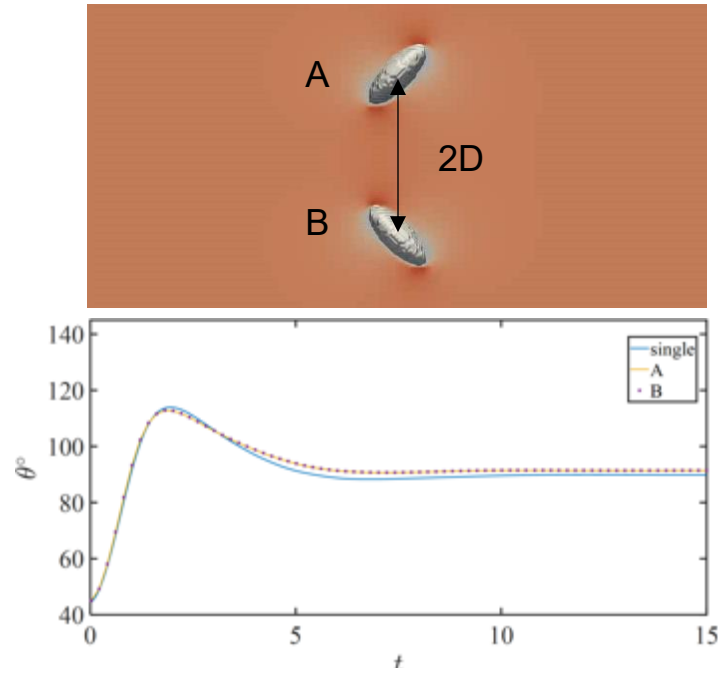
This results to higher magnitude of angular velocity and higher oscillation amplitude.



Particles in tandem

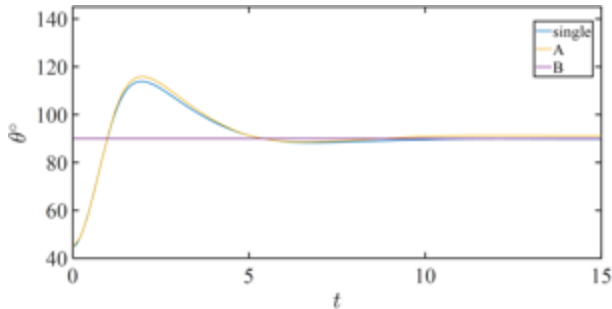
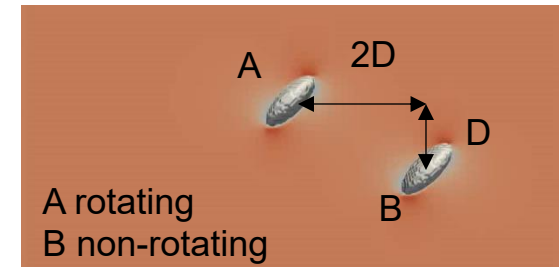
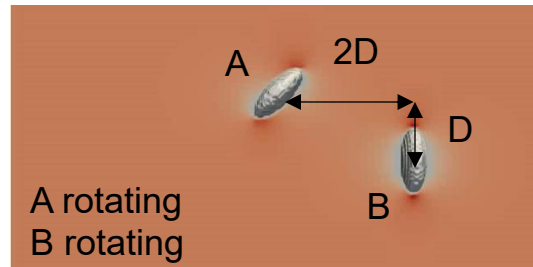
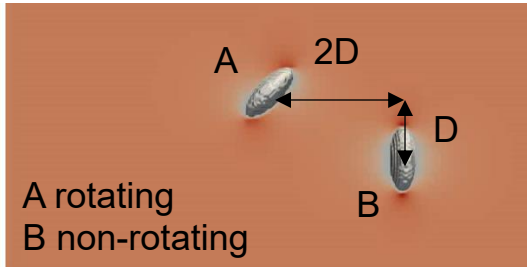


Both particles experience damping.
A is damped more than B

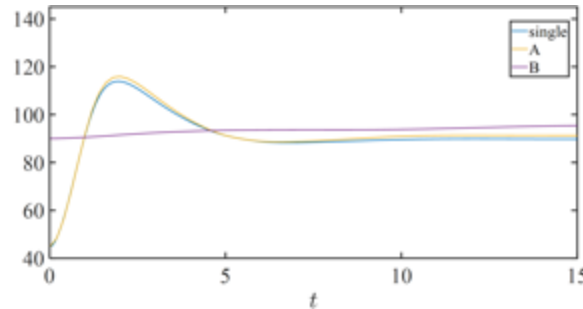


Similar damping due to symmetry. (B
is multiplied by -1 for visualization)

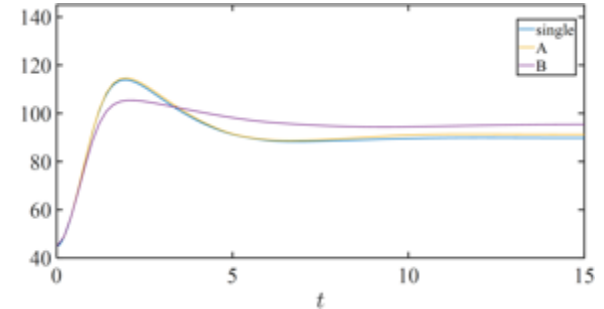
Particles in tandem



Oscillations amplified due to presence of B.



Similar effect when B is rotating.



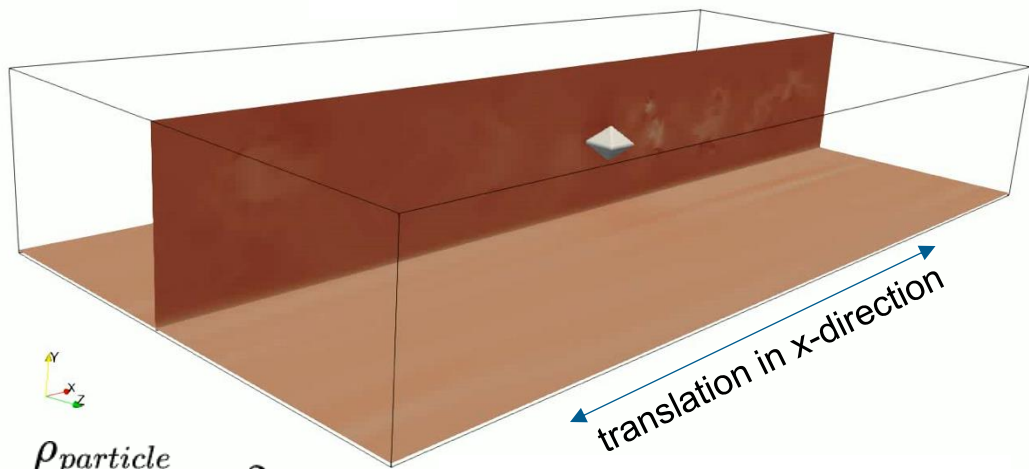
Minimal effect on A when B is initially 45° . Initial orientation of the B matters.

Particle rotation with translation in oscillatory flow

Octahedron



$$Re_\delta = 1800$$

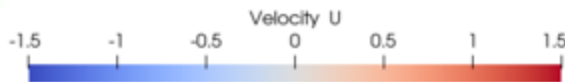


translation in x-direction

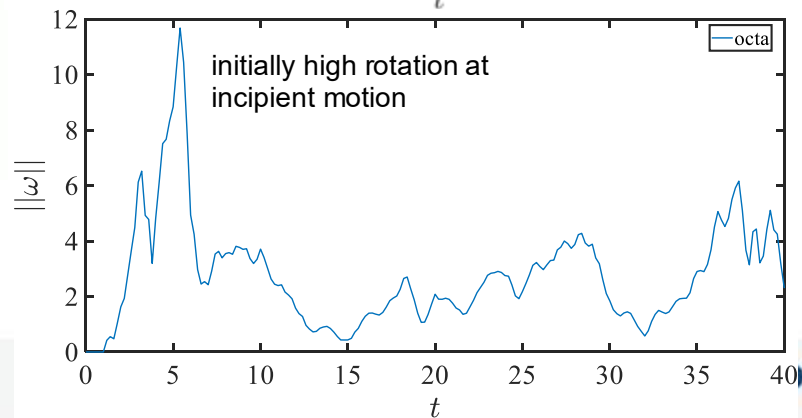
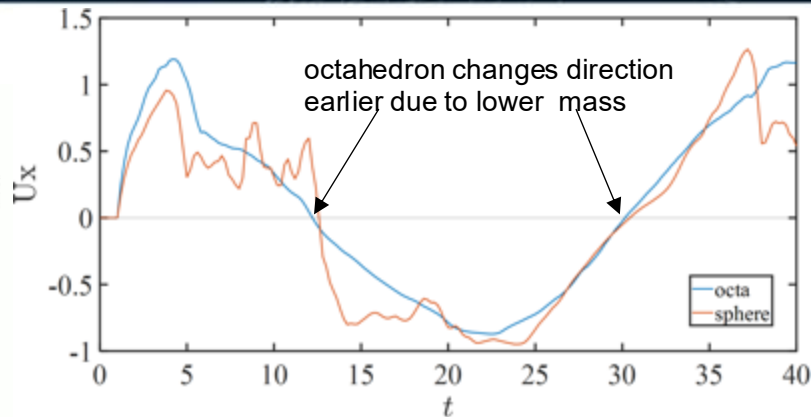


$$\frac{\rho_{particle}}{\rho_{fluid}} = 2$$

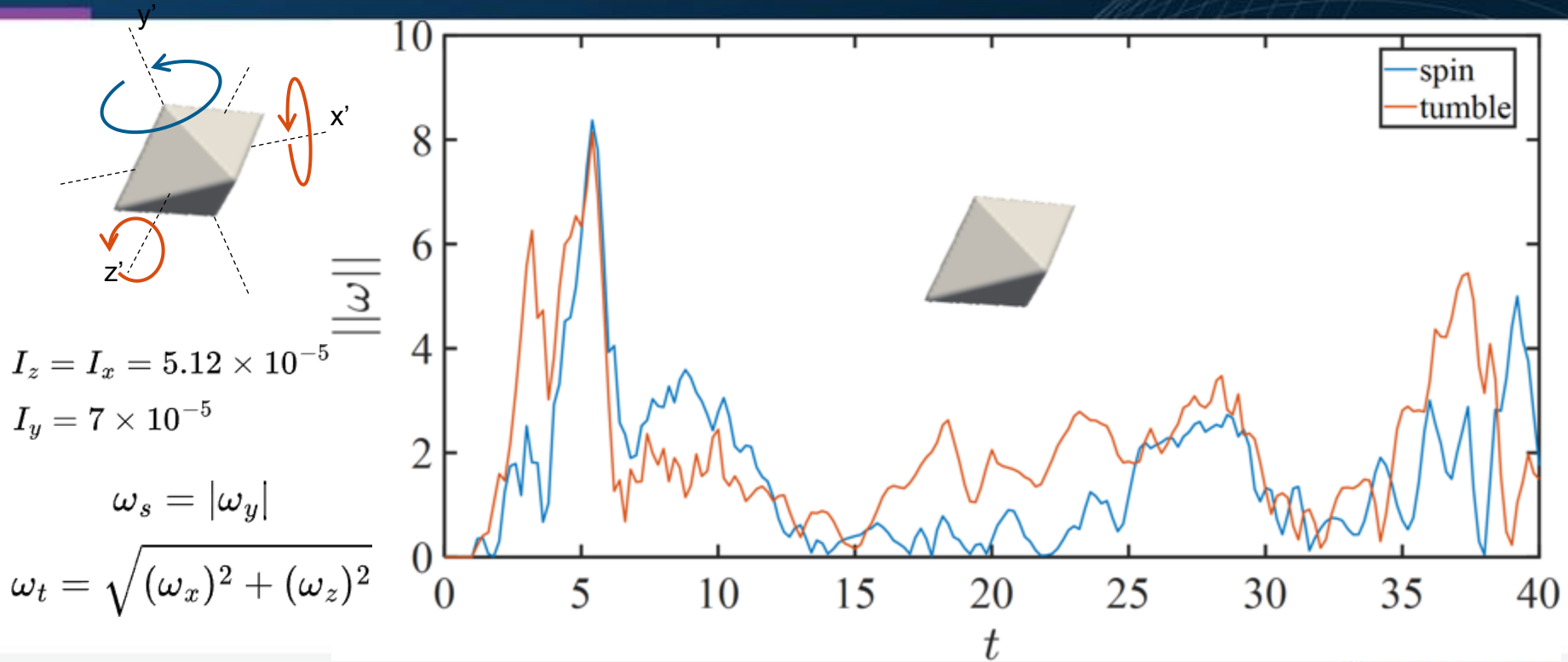
$$\frac{\delta}{H} = 0.17$$



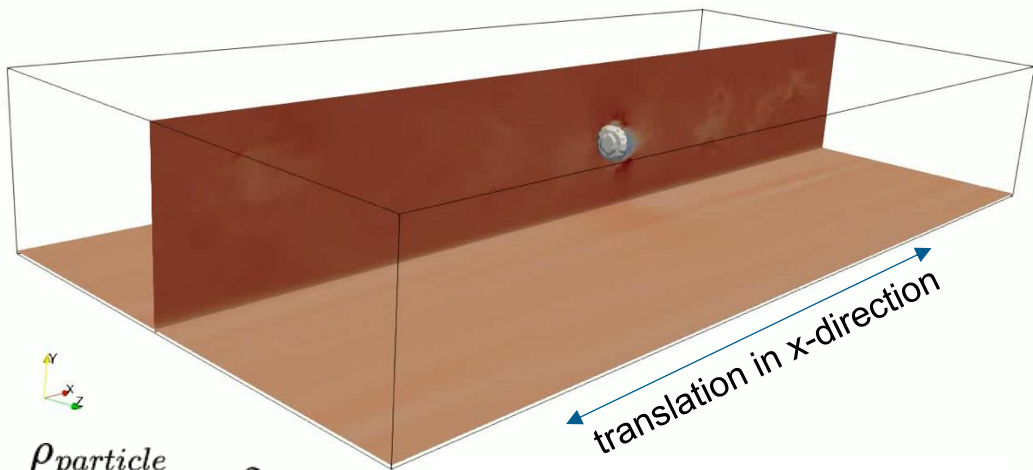
* ω in radians/ time unit



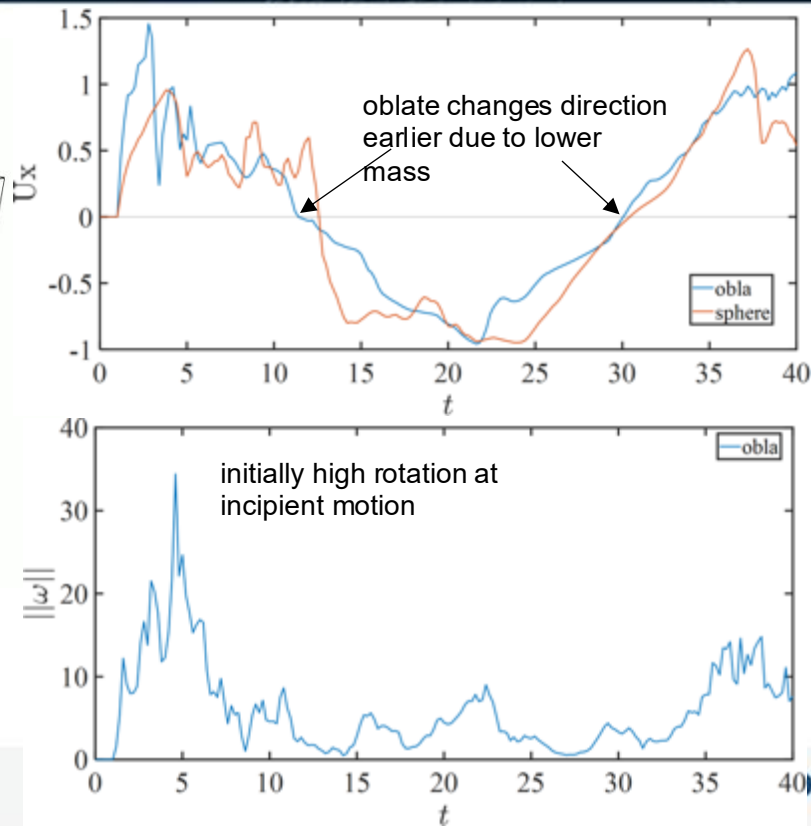
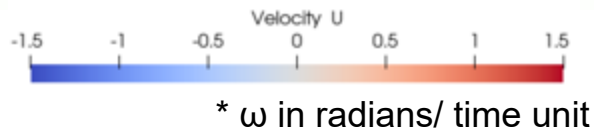
Tumbling and spinning



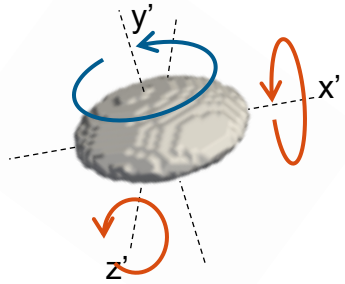
Oblate



$$\frac{\rho_{particle}}{\rho_{fluid}} = 2$$



Tumbling and spinning



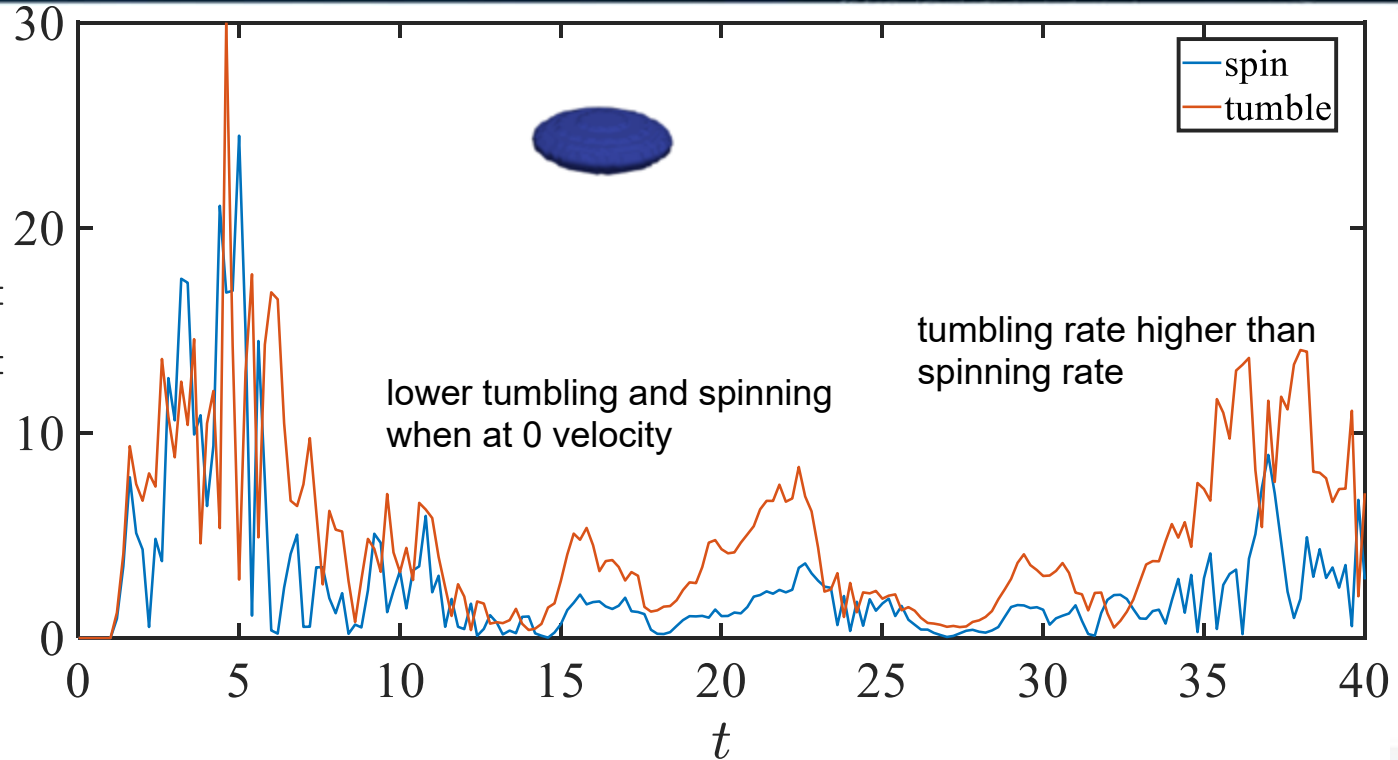
3

$$I_z = I_x = 2.45 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$I_y = 4.19 \times 10^{-5}$$

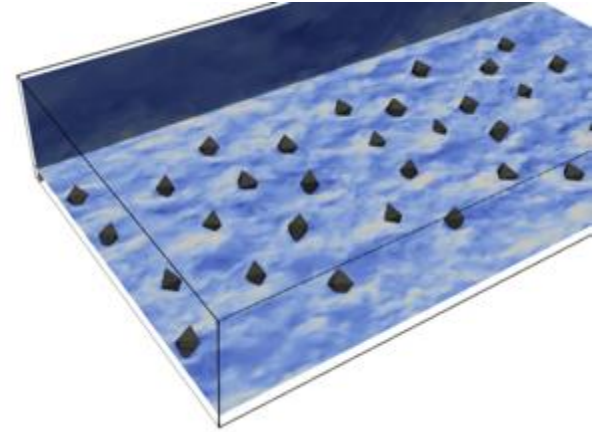
$$\omega_s = |\omega_y|$$

$$\omega_t = \sqrt{(\omega_x)^2 + (\omega_z)^2}$$



Summary

- Angular particles contribute to higher roughness in the bed leading to higher Reynolds stresses.
- Position and initial orientation of the particles has significant effect on the rotation kinematics.
- Implementing angularity on particles with different aspect ratios have different effects on the kinematics.
- Oblate particles experience higher tumbling than spinning. (combined effects of wake and ratio of moment of inertia of the axes)
- Particle rotation is minimum when particle is changing directions in oscillatory flow.



Next Steps

- Simulate particles with geometry obtained from experimental campaign in Vieques
- Carry out sensitivity analysis to the shape and position of the particles to deduce reduced order models
- Compare simulation results with particles vary with regular and irregular shape

Technology Transfer (FY24)

- Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and S. Leonardi, 2024, *Comparison between shear-driven and pressure-driven oscillatory flows over ripples*, **J. of Fluid Mech.** doi:10.1017/jfm.2024.931.
- Tubije, J. M. B., Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S., & Leonardi, S., 2024, *Numerical investigation of angular particle dynamics*. **TACCSTER Meeting**, Austin, TX.
- Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and T. Santiago, 2024, *Fluid-Sediment-Object Interaction Under Oscillatory Flow*, 77th Annual **APS-DFD Meeting**, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and S. Leonardi, 2024, *Numerical simulations of oscillatory flow over rough beds with different shapes and angularity*, 77th Annual **APS-DFD Meeting**, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Tubije, J. M. B., Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S., & Leonardi, S., 2024, *Numerical investigation of angular particle dynamics*. 77th Annual **APS-DFD Meeting**, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and S. Leonardi, 2024, *Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Grain Shape Effects on Munition Mobility*, **SERDP Symposium**, Washington DC.

Technology Transfer: Transition Plan

- The knowledge gathered through this study seeks to inform the way current efforts, such as the Underwater Munitions Expert System (Rennie, 2017), predict mobility, burial and re-exposure of underwater munitions in tropical settings. We will share the data with the relevant experts and pursue enhancements as appropriate.
- All PIV data and PIV-derived quantities will be accessible to the program office, colleagues, and relevant repositories.

Issues

- **Experimental program and coding took longer** than anticipated.
 - Instrumentation and personnel issues.
- Funds on track to be fully spent by Jan. 2026 but **UPRM invoicing delayed**.

BACKUP MATERIAL

MR-1291: Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Grain Shape Effects on Munition Mobility

Performers:

Sylvia Rodríguez-Abudo, University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez
Stefano Leonardi, University of Texas – Dallas

Technology Focus:

Munition mobility for irregularly shaped sand grains.

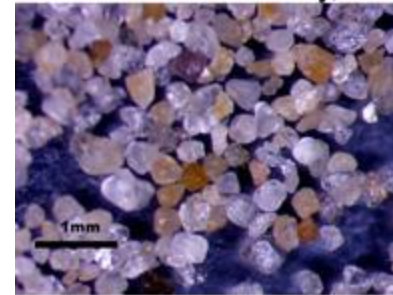
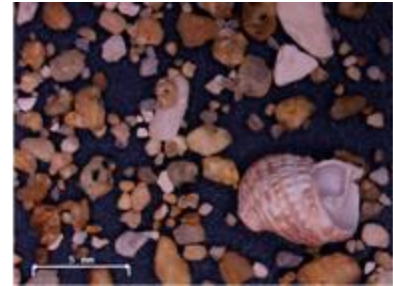
Research Objectives:

- **Quantify** the **role** of **grain shape** and **angularity** on munition **mobility**.
- **Assess** the validity and/or **propose** modifications to current **predictive models** addressing **munition mobility** for irregularly shaped grains.
- **Resolve** the physics of **flow entrainment** at the **grain-scale** and characterize its **fundamental differences** for **spherical** vs **irregularly shaped** substrates.

Project Progress and Results

Full-scale experiments completed. Analysis underway. Numerical code for non-spherical particles developed and validated.

Calcareous sand



Silica sand

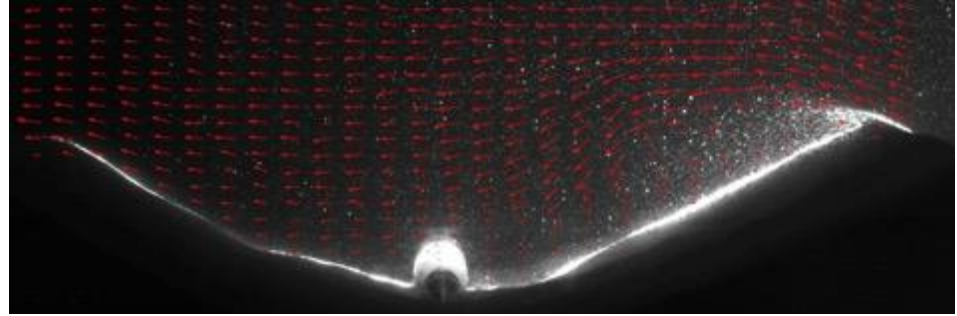
Plain Language Summary

- This project focuses on munition mobility for irregularly shaped sand grains.
- We have undertaken full-scale laboratory observations of munition mobility on silica (regular shape) and calcareous (irregular shape) sands. Numerical code has been developed to assess the physics of flow around irregularly shaped particles.
- The knowledge gathered through this study seeks to inform the way current efforts, such as UNMES, predict mobility, burial and re-exposure of underwater munitions in tropical settings.

Impact to DoD Mission

A numerical approach to study flow around irregularly-shaped particles and their interaction has been developed and validated. The experimental campaign suggests significantly more burial for irregular grains, typical of calcareous sand in the tropics.

The code can be used for several applications involving flow-particle interactions. Results of the experimental work will help better inform tracking and predictions of munition mobility.



Action Items

- The team is behind on various QPR and interim reports. Will work on those ASAP to close the project appropriately.

Publications (FY24)

- Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and S. Leonardi, 2024, *Comparison between shear-driven and pressure-driven oscillatory flows over ripples*, **J. of Fluid Mech.** doi:10.1017/jfm.2024.931.
- Tubije, J. M. B., Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S., & Leonardi, S., 2024, *Numerical investigation of angular particle dynamics*. **TACCSTER Meeting**, Austin, TX.
- Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and T. Santiago, 2024, *Fluid-Sediment-Object Interaction Under Oscillatory Flow*, 77th Annual **APS-DFD Meeting**, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and S. Leonardi, 2024, *Numerical simulations of oscillatory flow over rough beds with different shapes and angularity*, 77th Annual **APS-DFD Meeting**, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Tubije, J. M. B., Ciri, U., Rodriguez-Abudo, S., & Leonardi, S., 2024, *Numerical investigation of angular particle dynamics*. 77th Annual **APS-DFD Meeting**, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Rodriguez-Abudo, S. and S. Leonardi, 2024, *Experimental and Numerical Investigation of Grain Shape Effects on Munition Mobility*, **SERDP Symposium**, Washington DC.

Literature Cited

- Orlandi P. & Leonardi S. (2006). DNS of turbulent channel flows with two- and three-dimensional roughness. Journal of Turbulence 7, 1-22.
- Orlandi & Leonardi (2008) DNS of 3D turbulent rough channels: parametrization and flow physics. J. Fluid Mech., vol. 606, 399-415, (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022112008001985>).