# **Biophysical Interactions of Plankton with Environments: From Individual Locomotion to Population Dynamics**



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Molaei & Sheng, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett, 2014

#### **Objective: Mechanistic Understanding of Plankton-Environment Interaction**



Ganor, Sheng, et al., Smart Material & Structure 2013

#### Methods: Engineering Complex Environment for Mechanistic Studies



# Methods: Digital Holography Capturing 3D Planktonic Motion

Numerical Reconstruction:  

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial^{b}}{\partial r}(x, y, z) &= \iint_{\lambda_{y,y_{y}}} \frac{\partial^{b}}{\partial p}(\xi, \eta, z = 0) \left[ -\frac{\partial G}{\partial n}(x - \xi, y - \eta, z) \right] d\xi d\eta \\
\text{Rayleigh-Sommerfeld Near Field Diffraction} \\
-\frac{\partial G}{\partial n}(x, y; z) &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{\exp\left(-jk\sqrt{x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2}}\right)}{\sqrt{x^{2}+y^{2}+z^{2}}} \cos \theta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial^{b}}{\partial n}(x, y; z) &= \frac{\exp\left(jkz\right)}{j\lambda z} \exp\left\{j\frac{k}{2z}\left[\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right)\right]\right\} \\
&= \frac{\partial G}{\partial n}\left(x, y; z\right) = \frac{\exp\left(jkz\right)}{j\lambda z} \exp\left\{j\frac{k}{2z}\left[\left(x^{2}+y^{2}\right)\right]\right\} \\
\end{aligned}$$

No difference in accuracy!!!

# A Sample Reconstruction using DHM



## Study I: A Mixotrophic Dinoflagellate Stuns Prey Prior to Ingestion – Key Predator Prey Mechanism for Harmful Algal Bloom



#### **Karlotoxins**



#### Effects of Purified Karlotoxins on Prey



Sheng et al. PNAS, 2010

Bachvaroff et al., J. of Phycology, 2009

#### Karlotoxin as Allelochemicals or ... ? – What is Ecological Function



# **Predator-Prey Interactions using 3D DHM**



Culture	Concentration (cells/ml)	Toxicity	Predation Level	prey/predator ratio	No. of cells examined	Length (µm)	Width (µm)
<b>1974</b> (alone)	120,000	KmTx-1	High	0	981	8-10	6-8
<b>1974</b> + S. major (h0)	350,000	High		1:1	1164		
BM1 (alone)	70,000	KmTx-2	Medium	0	939	6-8	4-5
<b>BM1</b> + S. major (h0)	120,000	Medium		1:1	2328		
<i>BM1</i> + <i>S. major</i> (h5)	110,000			1:1	968		
<b>2064</b> (alone)	70,000	KmTx-2	Low	0	828	12-15	8-10
<b>2064</b> + S. major (h0)	210,000	Low		1:1	991		
<i>2064</i> + <i>S. major</i> (h5)	190,000			1:1	968		
MD5 (alone)	170,000	None	None	0	1040	8-10	6-8
<i>MD5</i> + <i>S. major</i> (h0)	275,000			1:1	2234		
<i>MD5</i> + <i>S. major</i> (h5)	100,000			1:1	1804		
S. Major	75,000	None			1502	6-8	
S. Major + Methanol (h5)	75,000				1611		
S. Major + KmTx-1 (h5)	75,000		2.5ng mL <sup>-1</sup>		2253		
S. Major + KmTx-2 (h5)	75,000		2.8ng mL <sup>-1</sup>		1301		

# **Experimental Conditions**

- Examine swimming behavior of toxic and nontoxic K. veneficum strains prior and after mixing with prey
- Examine swimming behavior of Storeatula major prior and after mixing with predator
- Measure swimming characteristics of S. major in the presence of exogenous toxins

# Effects on Swimming Trajectories by Predation (Toxic Strains only)



Superposition of reconstructed in-focus holographic images (only one of every five exposures is shown for clarity): Gray trajectories - tracks of prey, *S. major*. (only), after introduction to a *K. veneficum*, BM1 suspension; Green - highlighted samples of *S. major* trajectories; Red - few sample *K. veneficum* BM1 (predator) trajectories (rest of the BM1 tracks are not shown). (a) Shortly after mixing; (b) 5 hours later; (c and d) Captured *S. major* cells (smaller ones) being ingested by a BM1 cell: (c) a reconstructed hologram, and (d) SEM. (e and f) Pair of *K. veneficum*, BM1 cells interacting (possibly cell division) : (e) reconstructed hologram, (f) SEM. Vertical linear tracks belong to immotile prey; convection by the background flow causes their linear motion, which is subtracted while calculating velocity. Scales: 100 mm in a & b, and 5 mm in c & e. The complex motions of motile cells, and increasing fraction of immotile ones with time are evident

# Substantial Difference in Swimming Characteristics among Strains



Substantial variations in swimming characteristics among strains



### Variability in 3-D Trajectories

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

Colored coded by velocity magnitude.

# **Predation Mediated Changes in Swimming Characteristics**

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

- All toxic (predatory) strains slow down in the presence of prey
- o 1974 becomes bi-modal. 23% of the population slows down engaging in the process of ingesting prey.

# **Karlotoxins Immobilize Prey !**

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_2.jpeg)

Karlotoxins immobilize prey

#### Swimming Induced Dispersion while intoxication

![](_page_16_Figure_5.jpeg)

#### Karlotoxins slow down prey

	K. veneficum (motile)				S. major (motile)					
Steen in	$V \pm \sigma_v$	$R \pm \sigma_{R}$	$\omega \pm \sigma_{\omega}$	D <sub>zz</sub> /v	Dzz/Dii	$V \pm \sigma_v$	$R \pm \sigma_{R}$	$\omega \pm \sigma_{\omega}$	$D_{zz}/v$	Dzz/ Dii
Strain	(µm/s)	(μm)	(rad/s)		(i=x,y)	(µm/s)	(µm)	(rad/s)		(i=x,y)
S. major						86.4±47.0	5.8±6.1	7.3±4.0	0.45	1.8
control MD5	81.3±44.9	4.57±4.9	6.98±3.7	2.67	9.1					
<i>MD5 + S. major</i> (h0*)	84.5±48.6	4.6±5.3	6.9±2.2	2.51	8.9	85.2±46.1	5.1±5.9	7.2±3.8	0.45	1.9
<i>MD5 + S. major</i> (h5+)	82.3±50.1	4.7±5.1	6.8±3.0	2.57	9.0	86.8±40.1	6.1±4.8	7.8±2.5	0.45	1.7
KmTx-1 1974	102.3±56.4	9.2±8.6	5.67±2.9	1.01	2.0					
1974+ S. major (h0)	160.4±59.6	16.2±5.7	8.7±6.1	0.85	1.6	42.7±37.7	2.9±4.3	8.1±4.1	0.28	1.5
KmTx-2 BM1	111.2±55.15	9.3±8.8	6.7±3.1	2.05	2.6					
BM1+ S. major (h0)	81.8±55.5	6.5±7.4	6.4±3.0	1.15	2.0	65.1±41.9	4.1±4.8	6.9±3.2	0.45	6.3
<i>BM1+ S. major</i> (h5)	92.7±43.6	8.7±7.5	5.6±2.7	1.28	2.5	69.8±44.6	5.1±6.0	6.7±3.3	0.5	1.7
2064	80.9±38.9	6.5±6.8	5.0±2.7	0.78	3.2					
2064 + S. major (h0)	37.8±40.1	3.76±5.0	6.8±3.8	0.64	3.1	81.7±44.4	4.7±5.2	6.9±3.5	0.72	4
2064+ S. major (h5)	59.4±35.1	4.7±5.1	5.5±3.0	0.61	3.1	63.2±41.4	4.2±5.6	6.4±3.0	0.25	1.4

### Summary of Motilities of motile K. veneficum & S. major

![](_page_17_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Conclusion

# Karlotoxins serve as a prey capturing instrument predation promotes mixotrophic growth

# Future Questions

- How are toxins delivered direct contact or close proximity?
- What are the effects of environmental factors; turbulence, shear, etc?
- Is the observed function universal in mixotroph?

Study II: Flow Shear Induced Crossstream Migration by a Green Algae – Potential Mechanism for Thin Layer Formation and Harvest

![](_page_19_Picture_1.jpeg)

# Flow Environment: Shear Flows in µFluidics

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **Overlapped In-focus Cell Images over Entire Depth (No shear)**

![](_page_21_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Rheotaxis Behavior Observed at Higher Flow Shear (>30 1/s)**

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

All dimensions are in microns

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

All dimensions are in microns

#### Prevalent Rheotaxis of Microbes in a Shear Flow: microalgae surfs along flow vortices

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Histogram of Swimming Velocities of Dunaliella

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

Produced with VideoMach www.videomach.com

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

Passive Spheroids immersed in a viscous shear flow undergo periodic motion

2.27 s

![](_page_27_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Microalgae under Shear Does Not Reorient and Disperse as Passive Particles

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Further Evidence Rheotaxis**

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Dispersion

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1011 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

![](_page_30_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Dispersion

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1011 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

![](_page_31_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Effects of Rheotaxis on Dispersion

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Study III: Escape Kinematics of a Nauplius at Various Temperature

Temperature changes viscosity that affect effectiveness of swimming

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### **Experimental Setup**

Gemmell B., Sheng. J, et al. PNAS 2013

# **Escape Characteristics & Compensatory Mechanism**

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

1.0

0.5

30°C 30°C+MC 10°C

30°C+MC

10°C

30°C

6

4

2 ·

0

- Strokes show clear overlap in high temperature but low viscosity, but reduced the overlap in low temperature but high viscosity.
- Viscosity change alone does not trigger the change in escape kinematics

### **Resistance Force Modeling**

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

 $d\theta \downarrow 1 / dt = -\omega \downarrow an G(t-t)$ 

Mean statistics are averaged over ~30 samples per experimental condition and accompanied by SDs.

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Appendage Kinematics: Simulations vs Experiments**