

# Supplementary Material

## 1 MULTIPLE SCALES ANALYSIS

The solution of the leading order Eq. (29) is derived by making the following product ansatz

$$P^0(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}, \boldsymbol{\eta}, T, t) = w(\mathbf{r}, \boldsymbol{\eta}) \rho^0(\mathbf{R}, T, t). \quad (\text{S1})$$

Integrating by parts over the microscale variables  $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ , and using the solvability condition, the solution of Eq. (29)  $P^0$  is constant over the period:  $P^0(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{R}, \boldsymbol{\eta}, T, t) = P^0(\mathbf{R}, \boldsymbol{\eta}, T, t)$ . The leading order Eq. (29) becomes

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} \cdot [\boldsymbol{\eta} w] + \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}^2 w = 0. \quad (\text{S2})$$

Using the known result for a multi-dimensional Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process Ref. 138, the solution for  $w$  is given by

$$w(\eta_1, \eta_2, \eta_3) = \prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\eta_i^2}{2}}. \quad (\text{S3})$$

The solvability condition for  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$  equation is

$$\int d\mathbf{r} d\boldsymbol{\eta} \left( w \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \rho^0 + w \frac{\partial}{\partial R_3} [v \rho^0] + w P_a v_a \boldsymbol{\eta} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \rho^0 \right) = 0, \quad (\text{S4})$$

which depends on the leading order result,  $P^0$ , from which we find

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial T} \rho^0 = -\frac{\partial}{\partial R_3} [v \rho^0], \quad (\text{S5})$$

and the  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$  equation becomes

$$\mathcal{L} P^1 = w P_a v_a \boldsymbol{\eta} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \rho^0. \quad (\text{S6})$$

We assume that

$$P^1 = w P_a v_a \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \rho^0, \quad (\text{S7})$$

after which we find that

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{P_A} \boldsymbol{\eta}. \quad (\text{S8})$$

Substitution of  $P^1$  into the  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$  equation and using the solvability condition, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho^0 = \frac{P_a^2 v_a^2}{2 P_A} \nabla_{\mathbf{R}}^2 \rho^0 - \beta_D \frac{c_h}{D_c} \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} \cdot [\rho^0 \nabla_{\mathbf{R}} c^0] + \nabla_{\mathbf{R}}^2 [D \rho^0], \quad (\text{S9})$$

and in dimensional form, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \rho = -\beta_D \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}} \cdot [\rho \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}} \tilde{c}] - \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{z}} [\tilde{v} \rho] + \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}}^2 [(\tilde{D}_a + \tilde{D}) \rho]. \quad (\text{S10})$$

## 2 SOLUTION OF THE FOKKER-PLANCK EQUATION IN THE LARGE PÉCLET LIMIT

The analytic solution of Eq. (32) in the large Péclet number limit follows by expanding the probability density function,  $\rho$  perturbatively Ref. 139, as

$$\rho = \rho_0 + \rho_1, \quad (\text{S11})$$

with  $\rho_1 = \mathcal{O}(\tilde{c})\rho_0$ . The associated system of equations is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \rho_0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{z}} [\tilde{v} \rho_0] - \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}}^2 [(\tilde{D}_a + \tilde{D}) \rho_0] = 0, \quad (\text{S12})$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \rho_1 + \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{z}} [\tilde{v} \rho_1] - \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}}^2 [(\tilde{D}_a + \tilde{D}) \rho_1] = -\beta_D \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}} \cdot [\rho_0 \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}} \tilde{c}]. \quad (\text{S13})$$

To derive the solutions for  $\rho_0$  and  $\rho_1$ , we use the Green's function  $G(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t} | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_0, \tilde{t}_0)$  Ref. 140 which satisfies

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} G + \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{z}} [\tilde{v} G] - \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}}^2 [(\tilde{D}_a + \tilde{D}) G] = 0. \quad (\text{S14})$$

The solution of Eq.(32) was derived in the large Péclet number limit in Ref. 89, and is

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_0 = G(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t} | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_0, \tilde{t}_0) &= \frac{\tilde{z}^3}{(\tilde{z}')^{3/4}} \exp \left( -\frac{[(\tilde{z}')^{1/4} - \tilde{z}_0]^2}{20 + 4\tilde{D}_a(\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)} \right) \exp \left[ -\frac{((\tilde{x} - \tilde{x}_0)^2 + (\tilde{y} - \tilde{y}_0)^2)}{\left(1 + 4\frac{\tilde{D}(\tilde{z})}{\tilde{v}(\tilde{z})} [(\tilde{z}')^{1/4} - \tilde{z}] + 4\tilde{D}_a(\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)\right)} \right] \\ &\times \frac{1}{2\sqrt{5\pi} \left(1 + 4\frac{\tilde{D}(\tilde{z})}{\tilde{v}(\tilde{z})} [(\tilde{z}')^{1/4} - \tilde{z}] + 4\tilde{D}_a(\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)\right)}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S15})$$

Given the Green's function the formal solution of Eq. (32) is

$$\rho(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t}) = G(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t} | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_0, \tilde{t}_0) - \beta_D \int_{\tilde{t}_0}^{\tilde{t}} d\tau \int d\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_1 G(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t} | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_1, \tau) [\nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_1} (G(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_1, \tau | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_0, \tilde{t}_0) \nabla_{\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_1} \tilde{c}(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}_1, \tau | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_0, \tilde{t}_0))] , \quad (\text{S16})$$

with

$$\tilde{c}(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t} | \tilde{\mathbf{r}}_0, \tilde{t}_0) = \frac{1}{\left(4\pi\tilde{D}_{ch}(\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \exp \left[ -\frac{((\tilde{x} - \tilde{x}_0)^2 + (\tilde{y} - \tilde{y}_0)^2 + (\tilde{z} - \tilde{z}_0)^2)}{4\tilde{D}_{ch}(\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)} \right]. \quad (\text{S17})$$

At  $\tilde{t}_0 = 0$  and  $\tilde{x}_0 = \tilde{y}_0 = 0$ , the initial distribution is, to leading order  $\rho_0$ , given by

$$\rho_0(\tilde{\mathbf{r}}, \tilde{t} = 0) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{5\pi}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(\tilde{z} - \tilde{z}_0)^2}{20} - (\tilde{x}^2 + \tilde{y}^2) \right]. \quad (\text{S18})$$

Equations (S16) and (S17) give the analytic solution to Eqs. (32)-(33), with initial distribution given by Eq. (S18). When the nutrients are neglected we recover our previous result Ref. 89.