

Mathematical modelling of uniaxial extension of a heterogeneous gas cell wall in bread dough: Stress fields and stress concentration analysis relating to the proving and baking steps

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- 1 Mathematical modelling of uniaxial extension of a heterogeneous
- 2 gas cell wall in bread dough: stress fields and stress concentration

3 analysis relating to the proving and baking steps

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15

16 Abstract

A mathematical model was developed to increase the understanding of stress concentrations 17 within a gas cell wall (GCW) in bread dough during baking. The GCW was composed of a 18 single A-type wheat starch granule surrounded by various proportions of gluten typical of 19 GCWs when about to rupture. Finite element simulations were carried out in 2D using linear 20 21 viscoelasticity and visco-hyperelasticity. Strain orders of magnitude and rates relevant to dough during baking were applied as boundary conditions for two plausible sets of 22 mechanical properties before and after protein coagulation and starch gelatinization (T < 50-23 60° C and T > 70-80°C). The average stress within the GCW was found to be strongly 24 25 dependent on the starch fraction. Gluten-starch interactions influenced average stress values 26 considerably when the starch fraction was greater than 11% v/v. The locations within the 27 GCW where rupture was most likely to be initiated were identified by mapping maximal 28 stress points using stress field and triaxiality analysis and the findings were discussed.

29 <u>Keywords</u>: viscoelasticity, visco-hyperelasticity, rupture

30 1 Introduction

Bread dough can be viewed as a dispersion of gas cells in a continuous hydrated gluten-starch 31 32 matrix (Gan et al., 1990). The crumb structure of baked breads (specific volume, gas fraction 33 and texture) mostly depends on dough preparation before baking i.e. mixing and proving (Dobraszczyk, 2017; Eliasson and Larsson, 1993) but also, to a great extent, on the way the 34 walls that separate the gas cells (GCWs) rupture during baking (Dobraszczyk, 2017; Hayman 35 et al., 1998). When early GCW rupture occurs i.e. below both gelatinization and protein 36 37 coagulation temperatures, the crumb collapses and large cells form within it. When the opposite occurs, and only a few or none of the GCWs rupture during baking, there is 38 39 shrinkage at the cooling stage that follows due to the decrease in pressure in the cells that have remained closed (Kusunose et al., 1999). At the end of fermentation and during baking, 40 41 some of the thinnest GCWs are reduced to approximately the size of starch granules 42 (Bloksma, 1990; Sandstedt, 1954). These are the GCWs most likely to rupture. When such a 43 size is reached, gluten and starch granules must be considered as interacting phases to account for their structural heterogeneities. The individual mechanical properties of phases and the 44 45 interactions between them are crucial to any proper description of stress concentrations and of 46 the areas where rupture is most likely to be initiated within GCWs.

The mechanical properties of composite materials such as GCWs in bread dough result from 47 48 the collective mechanical properties of the separate constituents present in dough and from the 49 interactions between them. In bread dough the chief constituents are starch, gluten and water. 50 Numerous studies have been devoted to the characterization of the individual mechanical 51 properties of gluten (Dreese et al., 1988; Faubion et al., 1985; Janssen et al., 1996; Kokelaar et al., 1996; Ng, 2007; Wesołowska-Trojanowska et al., 2014) and of starch granules 52 53 (Chiotelli and Le Meste, 2002; Herrera et al., 2017). Studies have been performed at temperatures higher than 25°C on dough or gluten but these are generally carried out using 54 dynamic tests (Dreese et al., 1988). The applied strain and strain rates (> 10^{-2} s⁻¹) in these 55 56 studies were greater than those that occur during GCW extension in the course of baking, where strain rates are of the order of 10^{-3} s⁻¹ (Lucas et al., 2020). The conditions for most 57 58 methods are such that the link between rheology and baking performance is not a 59 straightforward one (Dobraszczyk, 2017). During baking, half of the initial extensibility of the gluten is lost at about 65°C and a proportion of the other half by the end of baking (90°C) 60 (Attenburrow et al., 1990; Grenier et al., 2021). In the case of starch alone, studies at 61 62 temperatures above 25°C have been carried out in excess water (Carrington et al., 1998;

Desse et al., 2010; Fisher et al., 1997). At 25°C starch granules are non-deformable at 63 pressures of the order of magnitude found in bread baking. When heated at 65°C in excess 64 water, starch granules soften and become easily deformable (strain > 1.4) under shearing and 65 compression. The behaviour of starch is strongly dependent on water content and the 66 67 mechanical properties identified in excess water have little or no application to starch at water 68 contents relevant to bread dough during baking. To the best of our knowledge, no work exists 69 that addresses the mechanical properties of starch and gluten separately in controlled hydrothermal conditions relevant to those affecting GCWs during bread dough baking. For 70 71 this reason, it is hard to obtain the mechanical parameters relevant to the full temperature 72 range encountered during bread dough baking (25-140°C). Only the orders of magnitude of 73 these mechanical properties can be captured. Mohammed et al. (2013) identified values for 74 starch and gluten using Young's moduli of 90 kPa and 10 kPa respectively (with relaxation 75 times of 100 s for starch and 10 s for gluten) for bread dough at room temperature and 76 demonstrated that there was close agreement between numerical simulations and the 77 experimental data. This makes it possible to rely on the orders of magnitude of the moduli selected for the present study. 78

79 Various constitutive models have been used to describe the mechanical behaviour of dough constituents and compute the stress involved. One mechanical model suited to both gluten and 80 starch during bread dough baking is the "gel" model proposed by Gabriele et al. (2001) and 81 82 applied by Ng et al. (2006), although others have considered starch to be visco-plastic (Mohammed et al., 2013). A "gel" turns from liquid to solid and makes it possible to mimic 83 84 phase transitions such as the starch gelatinization and protein denaturation that occur during dough baking. This "gel" material can be modelled using time-dependent models such as the 85 86 Lodge or Maxwell models using either infinitesimal or finite strain.

87 Views differ on the interactions between starch and gluten. Gluten and starch are known to be chemically incompatible materials and should therefore have limited interactions and should 88 slide along each other (Eliasson and Larsson, 1993). Nevertheless, some authors have 89 90 reported a number of interactions at the gluten-starch interface in dough (He and Hoseney, 91 1992; Mohammed et al., 2013; Petrofsky and Hoseney, 1995; Van Vliet et al., 1992), in bread 92 crumb and starch-based biopolymer composites (Guessasma et al., 2015). There is hence no definitive view on the nature of the interactions between gluten and starch in bread dough 93 during baking. To enable the simulation of all possible interactions, Mohammed et al. (2013) 94 95 used a thin elastic layer that made it possible to simulate either non-cohesive or cohesive 96 interactions at the gluten-starch interface. Such a tool will be likewise be used and further97 described in this study.

98 There are few works on the numerical modelling of GCW extension at the scale of dough constituents. Mohammed et al. (2013) examined the average stress values in a large number 99 of rheological tests using finite elements and periodic conditions at this scale. It is interesting 100 101 to note that, unlike the literature and associated modelling for dough rheology, these authors 102 considered dough to be a heterogeneous material composed of gluten, starch and the interface 103 between the two. Unfortunately, stress concentrations and possible locations for rupture 104 initiation in GCWs at strain rates relevant to bread during baking were beyond the scope of 105 their study.

106 Following on from the work carried out by Mohammed et al. (2013), the overall objective in 107 the current study was to extend the microscale approach adopted in dough rheology in terms 108 of the types of law applicable to the mechanical behaviour of dough constituents and the 109 starch fractions, strain-rate range, and variations in the mechanical properties of dough 110 constituents associated with the baking process. Two modelling approaches for the 111 mechanical behaviour of bread dough were compared: linear viscoelasticity (infinitesimal 112 strain) and visco-hyperelasticity (finite strain). This work will subsequently be completed by 113 an analysis of the sensitivity of the computed stress to some of the model's input parameters. 114 In the current study, the process of experimental verification has begun and has been taken as 115 far as possible given the extreme scarcity of input data to feed the model. For this purpose, the 116 average computed stress was compared with the very small amount of experimental data 117 available from the literature for measurements taken at low strain rates on bread dough at 118 ambient temperature. The simulations of the GCW extension were run in two configurations 119 where the starch is stiffer than the gluten and two where the opposite is the case, being 120 representative of the beginning and end of baking, before and after the starch gelatinizes and 121 the proteins denature. The most likely locations for rupture to be initiated within the GCW for 122 these temporally defined configurations, with and without gluten-starch interactions, were 123 analysed through reference to stress fields using the stress triaxiality concept.

124 **2** Materials and methods

125 **2.1 Geometries**

126 2.1.1 Estimation of starch fraction in the GCW at the beginning of baking

127 At the end of proving, the average GCW thickness in wheat dough is 240 µm (Besbes et al., 128 2013; Turbin-Orger et al., 2012) with an average starch fraction of around 46% v.v 129 (Mohammed et al., 2013). However, the present work focuses on the small proportion of 130 GCWs with a thickness of around 10-15 µm (the average thickness of the largest starch 131 granules) as these are the most likely to rupture (Grenier et al., 2021). To the best of our 132 knowledge very few reports of very thin GCWs in dough are available in the literature, and 133 the present study has processed the microscopic images provided by Sandstedt (1954) that 134 were taken at the end of baking (Fig. 1). The starch fraction was identified by measuring the 135 areas occupied by starch and gluten in the images (Image J, National Institutes of Health, USA). The starch fraction, expressed in m^2 of starch per m^2 of GCW, was found to be 33% 136 137 for image c in Fig. 1 and may slightly decrease as the GCW becomes thinner, attaining lower values locally where the starch granules are beginning to move apart (see, for example, those 138 139 shown inside the green box in Fig. 2.a). Very low starch fractions (such as the 8% reference 140 value selected for the present work) are extreme occurrences and are encountered only within 141 strings or strands in bread crumb adjacent to locations where rupture occurs (Stokes and 142 Donald, 2000). The choice of such a low starch fraction for the reference simulation was also 143 intended to facilitate computation at the practical stages of the work and to allow a high strain 144 level to be reached without impeding the location of stress concentrations in the final stages of 145 the work. The fraction was then increased to 11%, 16% and 28% in order to take into account 146 the range of thinner GCWs ready to rupture and to arrive at a closer approximation of the 147 starch fraction reported in the literature in thin GCWs at the end of proving. In the geometries, 148 the starch fraction was increased by adjusting the gluten dimensions (length and width).

149 2.1.2 Reference simulation

For the reference simulation, the starch fraction was set to 8% v/v because this is the fraction found at the thinnest locations within thin GCWs likely to rupture (Fig. 2.a). Where a GCW is so greatly extended the longest dimension of the starch granule is already aligned within the gluten strip (Bloksma, 1990). The single large and lenticular (A-type) starch granule in cross section measured 10 μ m (long half-diameter) by 5 μ m (short half-diameter). It was contained within a continuous gluten strip of 100 μ m in length (L) and 20 μ m wide (l) (Fig. 2.b).

156 2.1.3 Comparison with published experimental results

A second 2D geometry was used to compare the computed average stress values with published data at the scale of a continuous dough (section 3.1.3). The geometry was that of a cylinder of dough of 3.75 mm in height and 7.5 mm in diameter and corresponded to that used in Ng et al. (2006) (Fig. 2.c). Axisymmetry was also considered (Fig. 2.d).

161 A third and last 3D geometry (not shown) containing an A-type starch granule (a = 5 μ m, b =

- 162 $c = 10 \ \mu m$) within a gluten strip of 100 μm length, 40 μm width and 20 μm thickness was used
- 163 only once to check whether the results in 2D were relevant to those in 3D (see section 3.1.1.).
- 164 2.2 Governing equations

165 2.2.1 Linear viscoelasticity

166 The momentum balance for the quasi-static mechanical equilibrium is given by Eq. 1.

$$\mathbf{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{0} \tag{1}$$

168 The total stress tensor S is broken down into a purely elastic part and a viscoelastic part as169 follows (Eq. 2).

$$170 \quad \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{\sigma} + \mathbf{\tau} \tag{2}$$

171 where σ is the tensor (Eq. 3) which describes the time-independent elastic behaviour and τ the 172 viscoelastic stress tensor which depends on the strain history of the material.

173
$$\sigma = \mathbf{C}: \mathbf{\epsilon}$$
 (3)

174 where **C** is the fourth-order tensor of elasticity and $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ is the linear strain tensor (Eq. 4).

175
$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^{\mathrm{T}} \right)$$
(4)

where **u** is the displacement. The viscoelastic stress tensor τ is derived from the constitutive equation of the 1-element generalized Maxwell equation (Eq. 5).

$$\mathbf{\tau} + \lambda_r \dot{\mathbf{\tau}} = \lambda_r \mathbf{G} \dot{\mathbf{\gamma}}$$
(5)

179 where λ_r is the relaxation time (gluten or starch), $\dot{\gamma}$ is the infinitesimal shear strain rate tensor 180 and G the shear elastic modulus (gluten or starch). 182 The momentum balance equation in the case of hyperelasticity is written as Eq. 6.

$$183 \quad \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{FS})^{\mathrm{T}} = 0 \tag{6}$$

184

where $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{I} + \nabla \mathbf{u}$ is the deformation gradient where **I** is the second-order unit tensor and **u** is the displacement. **S** is the second Piola-Kirchoff stress tensor (Eq. 7). It is derived from the strain energy density function (W).

188
$$\mathbf{S} = 2 \frac{\partial W}{\partial \mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{c}}} = \mathbf{S}_{el}^{\infty} + \mathbf{Q}$$
 (7)

189 where $C_c = F^T F$ is the right Cauchy-Green deformation tensor (Eq. 8). The elastic stress 190 tensor is given by Eq. 8.

191
$$\mathbf{S}_{el}^{\infty} = \mathbf{S}_{vol}^{\infty} + \mathbf{S}_{iso}^{\infty} = \det(\mathbf{F})^{-1} \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{C}; \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) \mathbf{F}^{\mathrm{T}}$$
 (8)

192 where $\mathbf{S}_{vol}^{\infty}$ and $\mathbf{S}_{iso}^{\infty}$ are the volumetric and isochoric part, respectively (Holzapfel et al., 193 2000). The non-linear strain $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ is given by Eq. 9.

194
$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \left((\nabla \mathbf{u})^{\mathrm{T}} + \nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^{\mathrm{T}} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u} \right)$$
(9)

195 The stress in the 1-element viscoelastic generalised Maxwell model is obtained from Eq. 10.

196
$$\mathbf{Q} + \lambda_r \dot{\mathbf{Q}} = \lambda_r \beta \mathbf{S}_{1so}^{\dot{\infty}}$$
(10)

197 The dimensionless coefficient $\beta > 0$ denotes the strain energy factor and is written as Eq. 11.

$$198 \quad \beta = \mathcal{E}_{\text{visco}} / \mathcal{E}_{el} \tag{11}$$

where E_{visco} and E_{el} denote the Young modulus in the viscous branch (time-dependent elasticty) and purely elastic branch (time-independent elasticity) respectively in the 2-branch Maxwell model.

202 In this study, the Neo-Hookean model is used for the strain energy density function (Eq. 12).

203
$$W = \frac{1}{2}\mu(I_1 - 3)$$
 (12)

where μ is the Lamé coefficient (shear modulus) and $I_1 = tr(C)$ is the first invariant of the left Cauchy–Green tensor.

206 **2.3** Initial conditions and boundary conditions

It was assumed that there was initially no stress within either the gluten or the starch.
Conclusions on how the stress is concentrated will not be affected, even if that assumption
does not stand, provided that discussion is limited to stress increases and to the identification
of locations where these are greatest. The comparison to given yield stress cannot, however,
be guaranteed.

212 2.3.1 Reference simulation

Strain rates of the order of 10^1 to 10^2 s⁻¹ (Weegels et al., 2003) have been estimated within gas 213 cell membranes during failure in bread dough during proving at 34°C. These strain rates are 214 relevant to the study of crack propagation and increase in size of a hole within the GCW once 215 216 a crack has been initiated. In the present study, we only focused on stress concentration before 217 rupture. The extension of the still un-cracked GCW is hence driven by the growth of the gas cells between which it is sandwiched. At the end of proving and during baking, GCWs, before 218 rupture, typically undergo strain rates ranging from 10^{-4} to $5 \times 10^{-3} s^{-1}$ and Hencky strain 219 above 1 (Dobraszczyk, 2017; Eliasson and Larsson, 1993; Turbin-Orger et al., 2015). The 220 221 strain rate depends on the GCW location within the loaf and decreases during baking. For the reference simulation, a typical decrease in strain rate at the core of the dough (Lucas et al., 222 2020) from 3×10^{-3} s⁻¹ to 1.15×10^{-3} s⁻¹ was used. The displacement $u\left(x, \pm \frac{L}{2}\right)$ was 223 applied accordingly at the upper and lower boundaries (Eq. 13). 224

225
$$u\left(x,\pm\frac{L}{2}\right) = \frac{L}{2}\dot{\epsilon}(t=0)t$$
 (13)

where $\dot{\epsilon}(t = 0)$ is the initial strain rate (3 × 10⁻³ s⁻¹) and t is the current time. The left and right-hand sides of the GCW are free to move (Fig. 2.b).

228 2.3.2 Comparison with published experimental results

In order to compare the simulations with published experimental results for the cylindrical geometry (Ng et al., 2006), a constant strain rate was applied. Upper and lower boundary displacements were accordingly applied to match the conditions used in the experiment (Eq. 14). The right-hand side of the cylinder was free to move and there was no displacement on the axis of symmetry (Fig. 2.d).

234
$$u\left(x,\pm\frac{L}{2}\right) = \frac{L}{2}(e^{\dot{\varepsilon}(t=0)t}-1)$$
 (14)

235 2.3.3 The gluten-starch interface: the Thin Elastic Layer (TEL)

Gluten-starch interaction at the gluten-starch interface was modelled using a Thin Elastic Layer (TEL) boundary condition. The thickness of a very thin layer can easily be defined without taking specific areas into account, the thickness e of the water phase at the glutenstarch interface being of the order of hundreds of nanometers at most. The TEL decouples the displacements on the two sides of the boundary. The interface is characterized by the two elastic constants k_n and k_t , in normal (Eq. 15) and tangential (Eq. 16) directions respectively.

242
$$k_n = \frac{E_{int}(1-v_{int})}{e(1+v_{int})(1-2v_{int})}$$
 (15)

$$k_t = \frac{G_{int}}{e}$$
(16)

where v_{int} is Poisson's ratio, E_{int} is Young's modulus and G_{int} is the shear modulus of the material at the interface. The interaction between gluten and starch was cohesive when E_{int} was set to 10⁶ Pa and non-cohesive when it was set to 10⁻⁶ Pa.

247 2.4 Material properties

248 2.4.1 Reference properties

249 Both gluten and starch were considered to be viscoelastic. As neither gluten nor starch was 250 assumed to exhibit much time-independent elasticity, the time-independent Young's modulus 251 was set to 10 Pa. Little information on this time-independent elasticity is to be found in the 252 literature, where discussion of the residual stress shown in the experimental data is limited. In 253 the present work, the mechanical behaviours of both gluten and starch were mostly controlled by their time-dependent elasticity as it relaxed. At the beginning of baking, gluten is highly 254 255 deformable while starch granules are non-deformable at the gas pressure values relevant to baking. As the temperature increases above the range 70-80°C, gluten denaturation and 256 257 subsequent cross-linking are accompanied by an increase in gluten Young's modulus (Grenier 258 et al., 2021) (Fig. 3). By contrast, the uptake of water by starch granules and the associated 259 phase transitions of starch upon heating are accompanied by a decrease in the rigidity of the starch granules. In excess water, starch granules lose their integrity even under gentle 260 261 shearing, the temperature at which this transition occurs varying with the starch type. Mechanical testing of individual starch granules immediately after heating in excess water has 262 263 shown that potato starch granules can become highly deformable at pressures of the order of 264 hundreds of Pa (Carrington et al., 1998; Desse et al., 2010; Fisher et al., 1997). At the levels

of hydration relevant to bread dough, the extent of granule softening remains uncertain. 265 Microscopic observations of GCWs revealed that the granules appeared to have flattened 266 significantly in wheat bread crumb (Sandstedt, 1954) and to an extreme extent in bread 267 268 prepared with low-amylose starch which is reputed to soften/disrupt wheat starch at an earlier 269 point than usual during heating (Kusunose et al., 1999). Where baking occurs at atmospheric 270 pressure, the release of carbon dioxide in gas cells becomes limited in the range of 271 temperatures (above 60-70°C) at which granule softening is likely to occur. This makes it highly improbable that GCWs will reach any great degree of extension in these conditions and 272 273 there is therefore no sense in studying high levels of extension for such cases. It is relevant to 274 do so, though, for innovative baking processes such as partial vacuum baking (Grenier et al., 275 2019; Lucas et al., 2016; Rondeau-Mouro et al., 2019; Şimşek, 2020) where extension is 276 forced at mid-baking by the decrease in pressure in the oven's atmosphere. This decrease in 277 pressure is accompanied by water ebullition and gas extension and, consequently, GCW 278 extension is enhanced in these conditions.

279 Two sets of Young's moduli were therefore considered for the computations. The first relates 280 to early baking (before 50-60°C is reached) when the starch (100 kPa) is more rigid than the 281 gluten (10 kPa) (Attenburrow et al., 1990; Dreese et al., 1988; Khatkar and Schofield, 2002; 282 Mohammed et al., 2013), and the second reflects the conditions of advanced baking (beyond 283 70°C) when gluten has low deformability (100 kPa) (Attenburrow et al., 1990) and starch deformability is high (10 kPa) (Fisher et al., 1997) (Fig. 3). The orders of magnitude for the 284 285 first set derive from the work of Mohammed et al. (2013) and are simply inverted to form the 286 second set because no data for wheat starch at moderate levels of hydration and high 287 temperatures is available in the literature. For the reference simulation, the same relaxation 288 time (10 s) was used for both gluten and starch. These parameters are assumed to remain 289 constant throughout the extension (Fig. 3). All parameters are gathered in Table 1.

290 2.4.2 Comparison with published experimental results

Since the dough was treated as uniform in the experiment used for validation, the mechanical properties were also considered to be uniform throughout the dough cylinder for that specific case. The average Young's modulus of the dough (100 kPa) was chosen. Two relaxation times (10 and 100 s) were also used in order to evaluate the sensitivity of the average stress to strain rate.

296 **2.5 Digital modelling**

Finite element computations were carried out using the COMSOL Multiphysics®
v. 5.4 (COMSOL AB, Stockholm, Sweden) MUMPS solver . A mesh convergence test was
run to find the best balance between simulation time/use of computer resources and the
stability of the model. The average run time varied from 10 minutes to 1 day on an Xeon (R)
W-2155 CPU Intel processor at 3.31 GHz, with 256 Go RAM.

302 **2.6** Analysis of stress fields and the triaxiality factor

For stress analysis, the von Mises criterion was applied (Eq. 17). This equivalent tensile stress (known as von Mises stress, σ_{vm}) is that most commonly used for the analysis of yielding in materials science.

306
$$\sigma_{vm} = \sqrt{\frac{(\sigma_{11} - \sigma_{22})^2 + (\sigma_{22} + \sigma_{33})^2 + (\sigma_{33} + \sigma_{11})^2 + 6(\sigma_{12}^2 + \sigma_{23}^2 + \sigma_{31}^2)^2}{2}}$$
(17)

The triaxiality factor (T. F., Eq. 18) was also used to identify the regions of uniaxial extension and shear. When the triaxiality factor is around 0.33 the material is mostly uniaxially extended and when it is equal to zero the material is mostly sheared. In the stress, the numbers refer to the direction of the space. The first number is the direction normal to the surface upon which the stress is applied and the second is the direction of the component of the stress.

312
$$T.F. = \frac{\sigma_{eq}}{\sigma_{vm}}$$
 (18)

313 where $\sigma_{eq} = \frac{1}{3} (\overline{\sigma}) = \frac{1}{3} (\sigma_{11} + \sigma_{22} + \sigma_{33})$

314 3 Results and discussion

315 **3.1** Model analysis and experimental validation

Average stress values computed using linear-viscoelasticity in 2D and 3D were compared in order to check that the agreement between them was sufficient for the entire study to be conducted using 2D geometries (section 3.1.1). Viscoelasticity and visco-hyperelasticity approaches were then compared to assess where visco-hyperelasticity was more suited to the task than linear viscoelasticity (section 3.1.2). Last, the average stress values computed using hyperelasticity were compared to previously published experimental data (Ng et al., 2006) (section 3.1.3).

323 3.1.1 Comparison between 2D and 3D geometries

Fig. 4 shows the average values for von Mises stress vs Hencky strain in 2D and 3D 324 325 geometries using the reference simulation for the two selected cases (starch granule more 326 rigid than gluten/gluten more rigid than starch granule) (Fig. 4). Where the starch granule was 327 more rigid than the gluten and up to a Hencky strain of 0.67, the difference when using linear 328 visco-elasticity in 2D and 3D did not exceed 2%. Where the gluten was more rigid than the 329 starch granule, this difference reached the order of 20% at most. These discrepancies are in line with those reported by Mohammed et al. (2013). 2D rather than 3D geometry was 330 331 therefore used to reduce computation times without too greatly distorting the results.

332 **3.1.2** Comparison between linear viscoelasticity and visco-hyperelasticity

The average values for von Mises stress vs Hencky strain up to 0.67 are shown in Fig. 5 for both linear viscoelasticity and visco-hyperelasticity. There was good agreement between simulations up to a strain of 0.08. Thereafter, the average stress values diverged. It is notable in Fig. 5 that, when $E_{starch}/E_{gluten}=0.1$, the viscoelasticity model barely registers the strain softening observed experimentally by Ng et al. (2006) at low strain rates. For this reason, we selected the visco-hyperelasticity model for the next steps of the study.

339 3.1.3 Comparison with published experimental results

340 The average von Mises stress values computed using the axisymmetric geometry were 341 compared to published experimental results obtained at ambient temperature from dough (Ng 342 et al., 2006). The objective here was solely to validate the structure of the model. It is 343 impossible to achieve greater quantitative validation because the mechanical properties used 344 in the model are unlikely to have been exactly those of the dough used in the experiment. Fig. 345 6 shows both simulated and experimental average values for stress vs Hencky strain at different strain rates (0.3 s⁻¹ and 0.003 s⁻¹). At the high strain rate (0.3 s⁻¹), no good 346 347 quantitative agreement could be found between the simulations in the present study and the 348 experiments reported in the literature (Fig. 6.a). This is probably due to an overestimate of the 349 Young's modulus. There is unfortunately no guarantee that the elasticity of the dough used by 350 Ng et al. (2006) in their experiment was not lower than that used in the simulation. However, 351 similarities in strain-hardening were observed between the simulation and the experiment 352 performed by Ng et al. (2006) and the stress exhibited almost no sensitivity to relaxation time 353 (Fig. 6.a). Elasticity was the main driver for the stress in this high strain rate configuration. At the low strain rate (0.003 s⁻¹), when the model was less sensitive to elasticity and far more so 354

to viscosity, a quite good quantitative and qualitative agreement was found between the 355 356 simulations and the experiments (Fig. 6.b). As expected, the average von Mises stress values within the GCW were strongly dependent on the relaxation time at this low strain rate (Fig. 357 6.b). This indicates that the estimation of the relaxation time for dough (or dough 358 359 constituents) has to be quite accurate when addressing GCW extension during proving or 360 bread baking, since it is the viscous aspect of the dough that mostly drives the stress under 361 such low strain rate conditions. Note that this statement is only true if the assumption of very low time-independent elasticity was true. At low strain rates, precisely the opposite 362 363 conclusions would be drawn if there were a degree of time-independent elasticity in the 364 dough. In such a case, only time-independent elasticity would be relevant because all possible 365 time-dependent elasticity relaxation would have already occurred.

366 3.2 Average stress values

367 3.2.1 Reference starch fraction

Fig. 7 plots the average values of von Mises stress as a function of the Hencky strain for starch to gluten moduli ratios of 0.1 and 10. The starch-gluten moduli ratios were found to have significant impact on the average von Mises stress. Average stress values where starch was less rigid than gluten were tenfold higher than those where starch was more rigid than gluten. This was largely due to the high proportion of gluten, which accounted for 92% of the total volume.

374 The nature of the interactions between gluten and starch was found to have no effect on the 375 average von Mises stress within the GCW for the reference starch fraction (8%). This does 376 not fit with the reported results of Mohammed et al. (2013), who found that the cohesive/non-377 cohesive nature of the gluten-starch interface affected average stress values in every case 378 tested in their study. The difference is explained by their choice of starch fraction, which 379 averaged around 46 % in bulk dough without gas cells (Mohammed et al., 2013; Tanner et al., 380 2011). The following section will address the different starch fractions and will extend the 381 comparison with the data reported by Mohammed et al. (2013).

382 **3.2.2** Effect of starch fraction

Fig. 8 shows the average von Mises stress as a function of Hencky strain for the reference (blue color) starch fractions of 11, 16 and 28% and compares the cohesive and non-cohesive hypotheses concerning the interface between starch and gluten; only the case where the starch

is more rigid than the gluten is considered here. The nature of the interaction increasingly 386 387 affected average von Mises stress values as the starch fraction increased (Fig. 8). From this, it can be concluded that the nature of the gluten-starch interaction affected the average stress 388 389 within the GCW as soon as the starch fraction exceeded a threshold located between 8% and 390 11%. As expected, the decrease in average stress values that accompanied the increase in 391 starch fraction was greater when the interface was non-cohesive. Slightly greater average 392 stress values were found when a cohesive interface was involved. Indeed, within the area of gluten closest to the starch granule, the increase in starch fraction was accompanied by a 393 394 greater increase in stress values because the gluten in this area was under greater strain than it was when the interface was non-cohesive. 395

396 **3.3** Stress fields and triaxiality: stress concentrations in early and late baking

397 The objective in this section is to refine the foregoing analysis by considering local stresses 398 rather than average values. The intention is to learn more about the most likely locations for 399 GCW rupture in the different configurations. From this point on, we will adopt the working 400 assumption that the locations with the highest concentrations of stress are where the rupture of 401 the material (the GCW in this instance) is most likely to be initiated. In other words, we 402 assume that rupture occurs when the yield stress value is exceeded. In a further step, this 403 analysis will make use of these findings to predict the phenomena most likely to be present in 404 microscopic observations of the GCW in baked bread crumb. It should be remembered that 405 the range of moduli ratios that have been tested in the course of the present work are also of 406 significance to the baking process and to gradual changes in molecular conformation upon 407 heating, as detailed in section 2.4.1.

Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 show von Mises stress fields for starch fractions of 8% (reference fraction) and 28% at 0.67 and 0.4 Hencky strains respectively, for different starch-gluten modulus ratios (0.1 and 10) and for cohesive/non-cohesive interactions. We next provide the refined analysis referred to above for the reference fraction. The locations of stress concentrations in the 28% starch fraction were found to be identical to those in the reference fraction. Only the magnitude of stress and strain (0.41) before modelled failure differed.

414

415 **3.3.1** Early baking, $E_{starch} > E_{gluten}$

416 Fig. 9 a depicts results when the starch granule is more rigid than the gluten for the two417 gluten-starch interface types: cohesive (left) and non-cohesive (right).

418 Where it was assumed that the interaction at the gluten-starch interface is <u>cohesive</u>, the starch 419 granule reinforced the gluten film and the stress spread through the entirety of the gluten and 420 starch by means of the cohesive interaction (Fig. 9.a, on the left-hand side). The rupture was 421 most probably initiated at two points of extreme stress within the gluten film; one lying a few 422 micrometres away from the starch granule in the direction of the extension within the gluten 423 and another immediately adjacent to the rim of the granule (see arrows in Fig. 9.a, left). The maximum stresses were 1.8×10^3 Pa and 2.08×10^4 Pa for the cohesive and non-cohesive 424 425 gluten-starch interfaces respectively and were thus separated by an order of magnitude. It is worth remembering that yield stress magnitudes in dough for low strain rates (0.1 s^{-1}) ranged 426 from 0.5 to 1.1×10^3 Pa depending on the quality of the gluten network (Attenburrow et al., 427 428 1992; Chin and Campbell, 2005; Dunnewind et al., 2003). Such a thin GCW containing a 429 still-rigid starch particle is likely to have ruptured at a lower Hencky strain than 0.67. This 430 would be all the more probable if a certain amount of stress had been previously stored in the 431 GCW at the beginning of the extension process, as can be expected to occur in proven dough 432 at the beginning of baking.

433 Fig. 9 also shows the triaxiality factor fields that provide information on those areas where 434 unidirectional extension (Fig. 9.c) and shear (Fig. 9.e) occur (cohesive hypothesis shown on 435 left). In those cases where the gluten-starch interface was cohesive, the uniaxial extension 436 within the gluten was strongest close to the rims of the starch granules and spread along the 437 sides of the granules (Fig. 9.c, left). Shear was also found within the gluten in the upper and lower regions close to the gluten-starch interface. This shearing probably increases the 438 439 likelihood that the interface will rupture at these locations. If the cohesive assumption is valid, 440 these simulations tell us that microscopic observations should reveal gluten in close contact 441 with the starch at the mid-point of the granule's length and gluten shreds near the edges of the 442 granule.

By contrast, <u>non-cohesive</u> interactions at the gluten-starch interface caused a concentration of stress that was largely confined to the gluten lying in the direction of the extension close to the very edge of the starch granule (Fig. 9.a, right). This was where the greatest uniaxial extension of the gluten film occurred (Fig. 9.c, right). It was also the point at which the GCW 447 was most likely to rupture. The starch granule did not reinforce the gluten as it had done in the previous case and stress within the granule was much lower (see Fig. 9.b vs 9.a). In this 448 hypothesis, once initiated, rupture will spread within the gluten and is then expected to slide 449 450 around the starch granule since there is no interaction at the gluten-starch interface. Stress 451 values were also high in the gluten film that was close to the lateral edge of the starch granule 452 (Fig 9.a, right) and this constitutes a second highly plausible location for rupture to occur (see 453 arrow in Fig. 9). If the non-cohesive hypothesis is valid, these simulations tell us that, taking 454 into account the uncertainty as to the degree of slippage, the starch granules located closest to 455 the point of rupture might be partially covered with gluten but, unlike those in the cohesive 456 model, they should be totally free of gluten shreds at their edges.

457 **3.3.2** Late baking, $E_{starch} < E_{gluten}$

458 Fig. 9.b shows von Mises stress fields at 0.67 Hencky strain when the starch granule was less 459 rigid than the gluten for cohesive (left) and non-cohesive (right) gluten-starch interfaces. 460 When it was sufficiently soft, the starch granule became elongated in the direction of the 461 extension and the stress became concentrated along the lateral surfaces of the starch granule 462 because of the extreme extension of the gluten along both sides of the granule (Fig. 9.b and d, 463 green arrows). The rupture of the gluten was most likely to occur along the surface of the 464 granule where both strain and stress were at their greatest. Here again, with a non-cohesive 465 gluten-starch interface, the surface of the starch granule should be free of gluten following 466 rupture. With a cohesive gluten-starch interface, some gluten should remain on the lateral 467 surfaces of the starch granule. In the direction of extension, the stress decreased with distance 468 from the starch granules. It is possible that he gluten that had previously been strained in these 469 areas when it had been less rigid than the starch (replicating the early stage of baking, see 470 section 3.3.1) had now been attenuated by the elongation of the starch granule and the stress 471 redistributed between the gluten and the starch. Such a change is likely to increase the 472 extensive capacity of the GCW but only if starch granule softening occurs before the gluten 473 has become too stiff. We should note that these two events are not well documented in the 474 literature. Note also that if granule softening were to occur very early in the baking process it 475 is possible that the GCWs might rupture far less frequently, leading to an incomplete opening 476 of the porous structure of the bread's crumb. This would cause the baked dough to shrink 477 during the cooling step. Again, this transition cannot be analyzed further without information 478 on the evolution of the starch modulus during the heating process.

This analysis has also revealed that the main difference found between cohesive and non-479 480 cohesive interactions at the gluten-starch interface was an element of shear on the side of the granule where cohesive interactions were involved but none where interactions were non-481 482 cohesive (Fig. 9.f, left vs right). This explains why the stress spread throughout the starch and 483 gluten and why the maximum stress remained lower than when the gluten-starch interactions 484 were non-cohesive. In this case, the triaxiality factor showed that uniaxial extension and shear 485 mostly decreased with distance from the granule, following the direction of the decrease in stress (Fig. 9.d and f). 486

487 **3.3.3** About the incompressibility of the starch granule

The conclusions drawn up to this point rely on the hypothesis of incompressibility of the 488 489 starch granule. Unfortunately we found no literature dealing with Poisson's ratio of starch 490 granule to sustain the hypothesis of incompressibily. In order to identify how far the non 491 validity of the assumption of starch incompressibility could affect the results, simulations 492 were run using Poisson's ratio of 0.3, which is an extreme value for polymers (see 493 supplementary material 1). On the one hand, previous conclusions on the location where the 494 stress concentrates the most were unchanged. On the other hand, the effect of cohesion/non-495 cohesion between gluten and starch on the mean von Mises stress decreased with decreasing 496 Poisson's ratio. This effect was almost totally cancelled (remaining difference of 2.5%) in the 497 late baking configuration and was quite reduced (-20%) in the early baking configuration, 498 where the starch granule was more rigid than gluten.

499 **Conclusion and future research**

500 Both linear viscoelastic and visco-hyperelastic models were assessed to determine their 501 suitability for the computation of average stress and of stress fields during uniaxial extension 502 within gas cell walls (GCWs) in bread dough during baking. Comuptation of visco-503 hyperelasticity involving finite strain was found to be more suited to the task of replicating 504 GCW extension under strain and strain rates close to those encountered during baking. The visco-hyperelasticity model made it possible to describe strain-hardening in sufficient 505 506 accordance with experimental results (Dobraszczyk; Ng et al., 2006; Van Vliet et al., 1992) for a high strain rate ($\dot{\epsilon} = 3.10^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$). Strain softening was computed at low Hencky strain for 507 a low strain rate ($\dot{\epsilon} = 3.10^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$) in line with the work of Ng et al. (2006). The simulations 508 509 also demonstrated that proper identification of relaxation times is important for the analysis of 510 low strain rates such as those encountered during baking provided that not too much time-511 independent elasticity is involved.

512 It was found that the nature of gluten-starch interactions had no significant effect on the 513 average stress for the low starch fraction used as a reference (8%). Whether the gluten-starch 514 interaction was cohesive or non-cohesive did, however, become significant when the starch 515 fraction was increased. For a starch granule fraction of 28%, which was the closest to that 516 reported in the literature for thin GCWs and which was estimated in the present study, the 517 mechanical interaction between starch and gluten was found to have an impact on average 518 stress values, as already evidenced for bulk dough in the literature. The nature of the 519 interactions between starch and gluten during baking is still a matter of debate in the cereal 520 science community. Our simulations confirmed that information on the nature of the 521 interaction at the gluten-starch interface such as that proposed by Jekle et al. (2016) is 522 important for the appropriate modelling of the stress fields within GCWs. The rupture 523 location will depend on the nature of this gluten-starch interaction which can be determined 524 by the presence or absence of a number of gluten shreds along the surfaces of the starch 525 granules located closest to the hole produced by the rupture. This evidence may provide a 526 useful indicator for the future microscopic analysis of holes in the GCWs of bread crumb. 527 This result also confirms that the interaction between starch granules and gluten may affect 528 dough performance and that gluten and starch should be considered in interaction (Gao et al., 2020) rather than separately, as is commonly practiced in the literature. The experimental 529 530 verification of the model remains insufficient, requiring further experimental work to identify 531 the mechanical properties of dough within the relevant temperature range for baking carried 532 out at low strain rates and in a controlled gaseous environment to reflect real-life conditions 533 for bread dough during baking. Work should first be carried out to estimate the time-534 independent elasticity of the protein matrix and liquid lamella at the dough-gas interface as 535 this might strongly affect strain-hardening at low strain rates. It is almost impossible to record 536 the low strain rates relevant to dough proving and baking using conventional rheometers. A 537 dedicated experimental device for bubble inflation that is capable of reproducing both low and 538 high strain rates in an atmosphere closely resembling that encountered in gas cells during the 539 baking of real dough must therefore be developed. Such a device would enable the 540 elimination of doubt concerning the mechanical properties of dough at high temperatures and 541 provide data to support the conclusions drawn in the present study. The development of this 542 device will form the next step in our investigation. Second, the possible evolution of the

interactions at the gluten-starch interface between the beginning and end of baking and the
changes that are even more likely to occur between the end of baking and the end of cooling
require analysis. This work is necessary for the appropriate modelling of the stress fields in
GCWs during the last stages of bread making to be carried out.

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Fig. 1. Microscopic views of GCW cross-sections at the end of fermentation from Sandstedt (1954): a. thick GCW; b., c. and d. thin GCWs.



Fig. 2. Geometries and boundary conditions: a. cross-section of a gas cell wall (GCW) about to rupture at the end of proving (Sandstedt, 1954); b. 2D reference geometry for simulations; c. cylindrical geometry of filament stretching experiments in Ng et al. (2006); d. 2D axisymmetric model-validation geometry based on the filament stretching experiment shown in c.



Fig. 3. Mechanical properties for T < 50-60°C, $E_{starch}/E_{gluten}=10$ (early in baking) and T > 70-80°C, $E_{starch}/E_{gluten}=0.1$ (later in baking). The GCW spatial organisation and morphology shown in the upper part of the figure has been adapted from Grenier et al. (2021).



Fig. 4. Average values for von Mises stress vs Hencky strain in the case of **cohesive** interaction at the gluten-starch interface.



Fig. 5. Plotted average values for von Mises stress vs Hencky strain, comparing linear viscoelasticity with visco-hyperelasticity where there is cohesive interaction at the gluten-starch interface.



Fig. 6. Average values for von Mises stress vs. Hencky strain, comparing the proposed model with experimental data obtained at two different strain rates (0.3 s⁻¹ and 0.003 s⁻¹) (Ng et al., 2006).



Fig. 7. Reference starch fraction – average values for von Mises stress vs Hencky strain computed with the proposed model for both the cohesive and non-cohesive gluten-starch interface hypotheses and for two different starch-gluten modulus ratios $E_{starch}/E_{gluten} = 0.1$ and $E_{starch}/E_{gluten} = 10$.



Fig. 8. Starch fractions – average values for von Mises stress vs Hencky strain computed with the proposed model, for different starch fractions (11%, 16% and 28%), the last being of relevance to GCWs in bread dough at the end of fermentation. All calculations were performed for the case $E_{starch}/E_{gluten} = 10$.



Fig. 9. von Mises stress fields within the GCW at the end of extension (0.67 Hencky Strain) for the two references $E_{starch}/E_{gluten}=10$ (a, c, e) and $E_{starch}/E_{gluten}=0.1$ (b, d, f). Triaxiality factor: uniaxial extension (TF = 0.33, c and d) and shear (TF = 0, e and f). Cohesive (left-hand image) and non-cohesive (right-hand image) gluten-starch interfaces are shown for each subplot a, b, c, d, e and f.



Fig. 10. von Mises stress fields within the GCW at the end of extension (0.41 Hencky Strain) for a 28% starch fraction where $E_{starch} > E_{gluten}$ (a) and $E_{starch} < E_{gluten}$ (b). Cohesive (left-hand image) and non-cohesive (right-hand image) gluten-starch interfaces are shown for each subplot.

		Unit	Value	Ref
Letters			10 106	10
а	Half of the smallest dimension of the starch granule (A-type)	m	10×10^{-6}	[6]
b, c	Half of the largest dimension of the starch granule (A-type)	m	5×10^{-6}	
С	Fourth-order tensor of elasticity			
Cc	Right Cauchy-Green deformation tensor			
e	Thickness of the material at the gluten-starch interface	m	1×10^{-6}	
E	Time-independent elasticity	Pa	10	
Egluten	Young's modulus of gluten	kPa	T < 50-60°C : 10	
8			T > 70-80°C: 100	[21]
Estarch	Young's modulus of starch		T < 50-60°C: 100	
Starten	-		T > 70-80°C: 10	
Eint	Young's modulus at the gluten-starch interface	kPa	Cohesion:106	
inc	6 6		Non-cohesion : 10^{-6}	
F	Deformation gradient			
G.	Shear elastic modulus of material i	Pa	E.	
ui	Shear clastic modulus of matchai i	1 a	$\frac{2}{2(1 \pm y_1)}$	
т	Second order unit tensor		$2(1 + v_i)$	
1	Einst inversiont of the left Country Croon tensor			
1 ₁	First invariant of the left Cauchy–Green tensor	N/ 3		
K	Elasticity constant of the material at the interface	N/m ³	20 10 6	
I	Smallest dimension of the gluten strip	m	20×10^{-0}	
L	Largest dimension of the gluten strip or height of the cylinder	m	100×10^{-0}	
Q	Stress in the 1-element viscoelastic generalised Maxwell			
r	Horizontal direction axisymmetric			
S	Total stress tensor			
t	Time	S		
u	Displacement vector which components are u in the directions x	m		
	or r and v in direction y or z			
W	Strain energy density function			
х	Horizontal direction			
у	Vertical direction			
z	Vertical direction axisymmetric			
Grook lottors				
Balance	Strain energy factor of gluten		T < 50-60°C: 100	
r gluten			$T > 70-80^{\circ}C \cdot 1000$	
Between	Strain energy factor of starch		T < 50-60°C· 1000	
Pstarch	Stall chorgy ratio of staten		$T > 70-80^{\circ}C \cdot 100^{\circ}$	
F	Linear or Cauchy strain tensor		1 / /0 00 01 100	
s.	Hencky strain		$s_{-} = \ln(1 \pm s)$	
č _H	Stroip roto	a-1	$c_{\rm H} = m(1 \pm c)$	
٤	Lamé acofficient (shear medulue)	8		
μ	Daine coefficient (snear modulus)		G 1 · 0 4000	
v_{int}	Poisson's ratio		Cohesion: 0.4999	
			Non-cohesion :	
			0.4999999999	
ν_i	Poisson's ratio of material i		~ 0.4999	
σ	Time-independent stress tensor	Pa		
σ	Stress	Pa		
τ	Viscoelastic stress tensor	Pa		
γ	Infinitesimal shear strain tensor			
Ý	Shear strain rate	s ⁻¹		
λ_r	Relaxation time	s		
1				
uper and sub	-script			
el	Elastic			
eq	Equivalent			
int	Interface			
Iso	Isochoric			
n	Normal direction			
t	Tangential direction			
Т	Transpose			
vm	Von Mises			
vol	Volumetric			
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Infinity symbol			
~	Infinity Symbol			

## Table 1. Nomenclature and input parameters