Things to check:

* Does the azimuth angle turn by 90° when changing the birefringence from positive to negative?
* Orientation of the spicule in object space so that its simulated light field corresponds in orientation to the experimental light field. With object space, I am thinking of the volume defined in the HDF5 file (.h5) that is loaded into the forward model code.
* Where is the nominal focus plane in the simulation?   
  I assume it’s in the middle of the object volume
* Which direction does the light propagate in object space?  
  I assume light propagates from low Z-coordinates to high ones.