1	Intr	roduction	1
2	Intr	roduction française	3
3	Brownian Motion		6
	3.1	The Brownian motion discovery	6
	3.2	Einstein's Brownian theory	7
	3.3	The Langevin Equation	11
	3.4	Numerical simulation of bulk Brownian motion	16
	3.5	Conclusion	22
4	Particle Characterization and Tracking Using Optical Interferences 23		23
	4.1	Introduction	23
	4.2	Reflection Interference Contrast Microscopy	23
	4.3	Lorenz-Mie theory	26
	4.4	Rayleigh-Sommerfeld back propagation	38
	4.5	The experimental setup	40
	4.6	Optical forces	41
	4.7	The experimental procedure	45
5	Stochastic Inference of Surface-Induced Effects Using Brownian Motion 53		
	5.1	Confined Brownian motion theory	53
	5.2	Experimental study	83
	5.3	Conclusion	02
6	Other applications of the method 103		
	6.1	Elastohydrodynamic lift near a soft wall	03
	6.2	Close wall stuck motion	08
	6.3	Long-time 4th cumulent	12
	6.4	Sample ageing	15
7	Con	aclusion 1	17
8	Con	nclusion en français 1	19
$\mathbf{A}$	Appendix 121		21
	A.1	Simulation of the full Langevin equation	22
	A.2	Tracking procedure using pylorenzmie	32
	A.3	Stochastic inference of surface-induced effects using Brownian motion 1	45
	A.4	Data Analysis procedure	
$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{c}}$	efere	nces 1	82