

Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on
Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Oil & Gas,
Metallurgical and Process Industries

Progress in Applied CFD – CFD2017



SINTEF Proceedings

Editors:

Jan Erik Olsen and Stein Tore Johansen

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PREFACE

This book contains all manuscripts approved by the reviewers and the organizing committee of the 12th International Conference on Computational Fluid Dynamics in the Oil & Gas, Metallurgical and Process Industries. The conference was hosted by SINTEF in Trondheim in May/June 2017 and is also known as CFD2017 for short. The conference series was initiated by CSIRO and Phil Schwarz in 1997. So far the conference has been alternating between CSIRO in Melbourne and SINTEF in Trondheim. The conferences focuses on the application of CFD in the oil and gas industries, metal production, mineral processing, power generation, chemicals and other process industries. In addition pragmatic modelling concepts and bio-mechanical applications have become an important part of the conference. The papers in this book demonstrate the current progress in applied CFD.

The conference papers undergo a review process involving two experts. Only papers accepted by the reviewers are included in the proceedings. 108 contributions were presented at the conference together with six keynote presentations. A majority of these contributions are presented by their manuscript in this collection (a few were granted to present without an accompanying manuscript).

The organizing committee would like to thank everyone who has helped with review of manuscripts, all those who helped to promote the conference and all authors who have submitted scientific contributions. We are also grateful for the support from the conference sponsors: ANSYS, SFI Metal Production and NanoSim.

Stein Tore Johansen & Jan Erik Olsen



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CONTENTS

PRAGMATIC MODELLING	9
On pragmatism in industrial modeling. Part III: Application to operational drilling	11
CFD modeling of dynamic emulsion stability	23
Modelling of interaction between turbines and terrain wakes using pragmatic approach	29
FLUIDIZED BED	37
Simulation of chemical looping combustion process in a double looping fluidized bed reactor with cu-based oxygen carriers.....	39
Extremely fast simulations of heat transfer in fluidized beds.....	47
Mass transfer phenomena in fluidized beds with horizontally immersed membranes	53
A Two-Fluid model study of hydrogen production via water gas shift in fluidized bed membrane reactors	63
Effect of lift force on dense gas-fluidized beds of non-spherical particles	71
Experimental and numerical investigation of a bubbling dense gas-solid fluidized bed	81
Direct numerical simulation of the effective drag in gas-liquid-solid systems	89
A Lagrangian-Eulerian hybrid model for the simulation of direct reduction of iron ore in fluidized beds.....	97
High temperature fluidization - influence of inter-particle forces on fluidization behavior	107
Verification of filtered two fluid models for reactive gas-solid flows	115
BIOMECHANICS.....	123
A computational framework involving CFD and data mining tools for analyzing disease in carotid artery	125
Investigating the numerical parameter space for a stenosed patient-specific internal carotid artery model.....	133
Velocity profiles in a 2D model of the left ventricular outflow tract, pathological case study using PIV and CFD modeling.....	139
Oscillatory flow and mass transport in a coronary artery.....	147
Patient specific numerical simulation of flow in the human upper airways for assessing the effect of nasal surgery.....	153
CFD simulations of turbulent flow in the human upper airways	163
OIL & GAS APPLICATIONS	169
Estimation of flow rates and parameters in two-phase stratified and slug flow by an ensemble Kalman filter	171
Direct numerical simulation of proppant transport in a narrow channel for hydraulic fracturing application	179
Multiphase direct numerical simulations (DNS) of oil-water flows through homogeneous porous rocks	185
CFD erosion modelling of blind tees	191
Shape factors inclusion in a one-dimensional, transient two-fluid model for stratified and slug flow simulations in pipes	201
Gas-liquid two-phase flow behavior in terrain-inclined pipelines for wet natural gas transportation	207

NUMERICS, METHODS & CODE DEVELOPMENT	213
Innovative computing for industrially-relevant multiphase flows	215
Development of GPU parallel multiphase flow solver for turbulent slurry flows in cyclone.....	223
Immersed boundary method for the compressible Navier–Stokes equations using high order summation-by-parts difference operators	233
Direct numerical simulation of coupled heat and mass transfer in fluid-solid systems	243
A simulation concept for generic simulation of multi-material flow, using staggered Cartesian grids.....	253
A cartesian cut-cell method, based on formal volume averaging of mass, momentum equations.....	265
SOFT: a framework for semantic interoperability of scientific software	273
POPULATION BALANCE	279
Combined multifluid-population balance method for polydisperse multiphase flows	281
A multifluid-PBE model for a slurry bubble column with bubble size dependent velocity, weight fractions and temperature.....	285
CFD simulation of the droplet size distribution of liquid-liquid emulsions in stirred tank reactors	295
Towards a CFD model for boiling flows: validation of QMOM predictions with TOPFLOW experiments	301
Numerical simulations of turbulent liquid-liquid dispersions with quadrature-based moment methods.....	309
Simulation of dispersion of immiscible fluids in a turbulent couette flow	317
Simulation of gas-liquid flows in separators - a Lagrangian approach.....	325
CFD modelling to predict mass transfer in pulsed sieve plate extraction columns	335
BREAKUP & COALESCENCE	343
Experimental and numerical study on single droplet breakage in turbulent flow	345
Improved collision modelling for liquid metal droplets in a copper slag cleaning process	355
Modelling of bubble dynamics in slag during its hot stage engineering.....	365
Controlled coalescence with local front reconstruction method	373
BUBBLY FLOWS	381
Modelling of fluid dynamics, mass transfer and chemical reaction in bubbly flows	383
Stochastic DSMC model for large scale dense bubbly flows.....	391
On the surfacing mechanism of bubble plumes from subsea gas release.....	399
Bubble generated turbulence in two fluid simulation of bubbly flow	405
HEAT TRANSFER	413
CFD-simulation of boiling in a heated pipe including flow pattern transitions using a multi-field concept	415
The pear-shaped fate of an ice melting front	423
Flow dynamics studies for flexible operation of continuous casters (flow flex cc).....	431
An Euler-Euler model for gas-liquid flows in a coil wound heat exchanger.....	441
NON-NEWTONIAN FLOWS.....	449
Viscoelastic flow simulations in disordered porous media	451
Tire rubber extrudate swell simulation and verification with experiments	459
Front-tracking simulations of bubbles rising in non-Newtonian fluids.....	469
A 2D sediment bed morphodynamics model for turbulent, non-Newtonian, particle-loaded flows.....	479

METALLURGICAL APPLICATIONS.....	491
Experimental modelling of metallurgical processes	493
State of the art: macroscopic modelling approaches for the description of multiphysics phenomena within the electroslag remelting process	499
LES-VOF simulation of turbulent interfacial flow in the continuous casting mold	507
CFD-DEM modelling of blast furnace tapping	515
Multiphase flow modelling of furnace tapholes	521
Numerical predictions of the shape and size of the raceway zone in a blast furnace.....	531
Modelling and measurements in the aluminium industry - Where are the obstacles?	541
Modelling of chemical reactions in metallurgical processes.....	549
Using CFD analysis to optimise top submerged lance furnace geometries	555
Numerical analysis of the temperature distribution in a martensic stainless steel strip during hardening.....	565
Validation of a rapid slag viscosity measurement by CFD.....	575
Solidification modeling with user defined function in ANSYS Fluent.....	583
Cleaning of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) obtained from ferroalloys plant.....	587
Granular flow described by fictitious fluids: a suitable methodology for process simulations	593
A multiscale numerical approach of the dripping slag in the coke bed zone of a pilot scale Si-Mn furnace.....	599
INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS	605
Use of CFD as a design tool for a phosphoric acid plant cooling pond	607
Numerical evaluation of co-firing solid recovered fuel with petroleum coke in a cement rotary kiln: Influence of fuel moisture	613
Experimental and CFD investigation of fractal distributor on a novel plate and frame ion-exchanger	621
COMBUSTION	631
CFD modeling of a commercial-size circle-draft biomass gasifier.....	633
Numerical study of coal particle gasification up to Reynolds numbers of 1000.....	641
Modelling combustion of pulverized coal and alternative carbon materials in the blast furnace raceway	647
Combustion chamber scaling for energy recovery from furnace process gas: waste to value	657
PACKED BED.....	665
Comparison of particle-resolved direct numerical simulation and 1D modelling of catalytic reactions in a packed bed	667
Numerical investigation of particle types influence on packed bed adsorber behaviour	675
CFD based study of dense medium drum separation processes	683
A multi-domain 1D particle-reactor model for packed bed reactor applications.....	689
SPECIES TRANSPORT & INTERFACES	699
Modelling and numerical simulation of surface active species transport - reaction in welding processes	701
Multiscale approach to fully resolved boundary layers using adaptive grids.....	709
Implementation, demonstration and validation of a user-defined wall function for direct precipitation fouling in Ansys Fluent.....	717

FREE SURFACE FLOW & WAVES	727
Unresolved CFD-DEM in environmental engineering: submarine slope stability and other applications.....	729
Influence of the upstream cylinder and wave breaking point on the breaking wave forces on the downstream cylinder	735
Recent developments for the computation of the necessary submergence of pump intakes with free surfaces	743
Parallel multiphase flow software for solving the Navier-Stokes equations	752
 PARTICLE METHODS	 759
A numerical approach to model aggregate restructuring in shear flow using DEM in Lattice-Boltzmann simulations	761
Adaptive coarse-graining for large-scale DEM simulations.....	773
Novel efficient hybrid-DEM collision integration scheme.....	779
Implementing the kinetic theory of granular flows into the Lagrangian dense discrete phase model.....	785
Importance of the different fluid forces on particle dispersion in fluid phase resonance mixers	791
Large scale modelling of bubble formation and growth in a supersaturated liquid.....	798
 FUNDAMENTAL FLUID DYNAMICS	 807
Flow past a yawed cylinder of finite length using a fictitious domain method	809
A numerical evaluation of the effect of the electro-magnetic force on bubble flow in aluminium smelting process.....	819
A DNS study of droplet spreading and penetration on a porous medium.....	825
From linear to nonlinear: Transient growth in confined magnetohydrodynamic flows.....	831

COMBINED MULTIFLUID-POPULATION BALANCE METHOD FOR POLYDISPERSE MULTIPHASE FLOWS

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ABSTRACT

In the present work we analyse applicability of the adaptive multiple size-group (A-MuSiG) population balance method to modelling of multiphase flows. The dispersed phase is split into M size-groups, each one having its own mass- and momentum balance. An additional equation for the number density makes the method adaptive, that is, the groups sizes are not prescribed a priori, but calculated. A special attention is paid to the effect of the turbulent diffusion on size distribution. The method is implemented in the multiphase CFD code STAR-CCM+ of Siemens PLM Software.

Keywords: CFD, population balance, two-phase flows .

NOMENCLATURE

<i>Greek Symbols</i>		m_{ij}	Group-to-group mass flux, $[kg/m^3s]$.
α	Volume fraction.	n	Number density, $[m^{-3}]$.
ρ	Mass density, $[kg/m^3]$.	\mathbf{u}	Velocity, $[m/s]$.
τ	Reynolds stress, $[Pa]$.	P	Pressure, $[kg/ms^2]$.
<i>Latin Symbols</i>		S	Number density source, $[m^{-3}s^{-1}]$.
D_T	Coefficient of turbulent diffusion, $[m^2/s]$.	v	Volume of a particle, $[m^3]$.
L	Particle size, $[m]$.	<i>Sub/superscripts</i>	
M	Number of size groups.	p	Particle.

INTRODUCTION

Population balance equations (PBE) are the general mathematical framework describing different physical, chemical, biological, and technological processes (Ramkrishna, 2000). They deal with bubbles, droplets, bacteria, molecules, etc. Hereafter we call them “particles”. Main object of a population balance equation is number density n , e.g., the number of particles having size, density, velocity and temperature in the intervals $[L, L + dL]$, $[\rho, \rho + d\rho]$, $[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u} + d\mathbf{u}]$, $[T, T + dT]$, respectively, is

$$n(L, \rho, \mathbf{u}, T) \times dL \times d\rho \times du_x \times du_y \times du_z \times dT. \quad (1)$$

In the most general form the PBE reads:

$$\frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = B(n) - D(n), \quad (2)$$

where B and D are “birth” and “death” rates due to transport, coalescence, breakup, mass transfer, etc. If a particle is characterised by a single parameter, e.g., size, Eq. (2) for $n(L)$ is called *univariate* PBE, otherwise it is *multivariate* PBE.

Eq. (1) provides a very detailed description of the system, e.g., momentum is given by the integral

$$\int (\rho \mathbf{u} n) dL d\rho d\mathbf{u} dT. \quad (3)$$

Therefore, by solving the PBE one gains more information than from solution of a Navier-Stokes (NS) equation. It is clear, that being a “theory of everything”, the PBE in form of Eq. (2) is prohibitively time-consuming and has very little practical value; it is why more restricted, more tractable formulations are sought.

As an example imagine an isothermal bubbly flow. Inertia of the bubbles is low and one can assume with high confidence that the gas-liquid slip velocity depends on the local flow conditions and the bubble size only; the multivariate number density (1) can be represented as

$$n(L, \mathbf{u}) \approx n(L) \delta(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{U}(L)), \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{U}(L) = \langle \mathbf{u} | L \rangle$ is the conditional mean velocity. Method of classes (Kumar and Ramkrishna, 1996; Bhole *et al.*, 2008), also known as multisize-group (MuSiG) method (Lo, 1996) splits the dispersed (gas) phase into M size-groups, that is

$$n(L, \mathbf{u}) \approx \sum_{i=1}^M n(L_i) \delta(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{U}(L_i)). \quad (5)$$

From the modelling point of view each group is a separate phase in every aspect but the name; the groups move with their own velocities and exchange mass, momentum and energy with other groups and with the continuous phase (Lo, 1996). Note that the method of classes in form (5) occupies an intermediate position between the univariate and full multivariate PBEs, to be precise, it is a *multivariate method with a first-order univariate conditional moment closure* (Klimenko and Bilger, 1999).

Recently, an adaptive discretisation has been proposed for the method of classes (Vikhansky, 2013; Vikhansky and Splawski, 2015), that is, the size-groups are not prescribed a priori, but follow the evolution of the size distribution. The first (simplified) version of the new adaptive multiple size-group method (A-MuSiG) has been implemented in a development version of the STAR-CCM+ simulation software of

Siemens PLM Software. The final version, described in the present paper, deals with the full set of the transport equations including turbulent dispersion and correct treatment of spurious dissipation.

MULTIFLUID MODEL

Reynolds-averaged (RA) mass conservation equation for the i^{th} group reads:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_p \bar{\alpha}_i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_p \bar{\alpha}_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i) = m_{ij} - m_{ji}, \quad (6)$$

where ρ_p is density of the dispersed phase, $\bar{\alpha}_i$ is RA volume fraction of the i^{th} group and m_{ij} , m_{ji} are (averaged) mass fluxes from the j^{th} group to the i^{th} group and from the i^{th} group to the j^{th} group, respectively; $\langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i$ is phase-averaged velocity of the group (Fox, 2014):

$$\langle \mathbf{u}_k \rangle_l = \frac{\langle \alpha_l \mathbf{u}_k \rangle}{\bar{\alpha}_l}, \quad (7)$$

where α_l , \mathbf{u}_k are instantaneous values of volume fraction and velocity; angular brackets mean Reynolds averaging.

Reynolds-averaged momentum conservation equation for the i^{th} group reads:

$$\frac{\partial \rho_p \bar{\alpha}_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho_p \bar{\alpha}_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i) = -\bar{\alpha}_i \nabla P - \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}_i + \langle \mathbf{F}_i \rangle + m_{ij} \langle \mathbf{u}_j \rangle_j - m_{ji} \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i, \quad (8)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\tau}_i$ is Reynolds stress and \mathbf{F}_i is interaction force between the continuous phase and the i^{th} group. The Reynolds stress $\boldsymbol{\tau}_i$ is modelled by a RANS model, which can be found elsewhere (Pope, 2000).

In order to calculate the phase interaction forces the size of the particles in the i^{th} group has to be specified. Prescribing a constant size for the group one obtains the MuSiG method (Lo, 1996). If the particles size distribution varies significantly across the system, the fixed discretisation in the size space is not efficient from the numerical point of view. In order to track the size distribution adaptively, Eqs. (6), (8) have to be augmented by an equation for the number density of the i^{th} group:

$$\frac{\partial \bar{n}_i}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \langle n_i \mathbf{u}_i \rangle = \langle S_i \rangle, \quad (9)$$

where S_i is the source term due to the breakage and coalescence of the particles, the RA number density flux is given below by Eq. (14). Knowing the number density one calculates the equivalent diameter of a particle as

$$d_i = \sqrt[3]{\frac{6\bar{\alpha}_i}{\pi\bar{n}_i}}. \quad (10)$$

In order to close the model described by Eqs. (6), (8), (9) one has to specify m_{ij} and $\langle S_i \rangle$; it is done by a population balance algorithm. Note that the population balance algorithm is local, that is, below we ignore the spatial variations of the parameters of interest and concentrate on a single cell of a finite volume method. Details of the A-MuSiG method are given in (Vikhansky, 2013; Vikhansky and Splawski, 2015). In a nutshell the method works as shown in Fig. 1; size of the circle on the diagram corresponds to the volume fraction of the size-group.

I Initially, all size-groups have the same volume fraction.

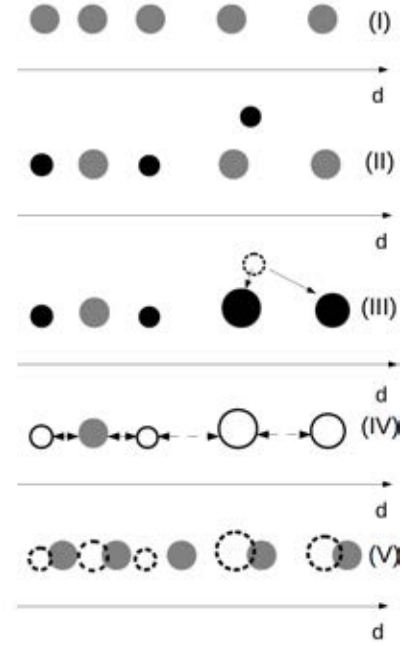


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the A-MuSiG method.

- II When two size-groups undergo coalescence, a new particle is created, while the volume fraction and number densities of the parent size-groups reduces.
- III Volume fraction and number density of the newly created particle is redistributed among two nearest size-groups using a version of the DQMoM method (Marchisio and Fox, 2005). At that step we locally conserve the first three moments of the distribution, namely, number density, mean volume (i.e., volume fraction), and mean square of the particles volume.
- IV One can see that coalescence leads to depletion of the size-groups with small diameters and accumulation of the mass of the entire ensemble in the size-groups with higher diameters. In order to restore the equal distribution of the volume fractions, we redistribute the number density and volume fraction between each pair of neighbour groups. In each pair-wise redistribution event the first three moments of size distribution are conserved locally.
- V By the end, each size-group has the same volume fraction, the size-groups have new diameters.

NUMBER DENSITY TRANSPORT

Note that it follows from Eq. (7) $\langle n_i \mathbf{u}_i \rangle \neq \bar{n}_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i$; in order to model the RA number density flux one can represent n_i as

$$n_i = \frac{\alpha_i}{v_i}. \quad (11)$$

Then

$$\langle n_i \mathbf{u}_i \rangle = \left\langle \alpha_i \mathbf{u}_i \frac{1}{v_i} \right\rangle = \bar{\alpha}_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i \frac{1}{\bar{v}_i} + \left\langle \alpha_i \mathbf{u}_i \left(\frac{1}{v_i} - \frac{1}{\bar{v}_i} \right) \right\rangle, \quad (12)$$

where the phase-averaged volume of a single particle is

$$\bar{v}_i = \frac{\bar{\alpha}_i}{\bar{n}_i}. \quad (13)$$

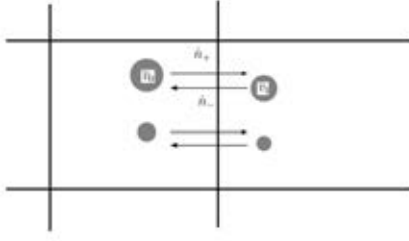


Figure 2: Schematic view of the diffusive flux.

Eq. (12) can be modelled using the gradient hypothesis:

$$\langle n_i \mathbf{u}_i \rangle = \bar{n}_i \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i - \bar{\alpha}_i D_T \nabla \frac{1}{\bar{v}_i} = \bar{n}_i (\langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle_i + D_T \nabla \ln \bar{v}_i), \quad (14)$$

where D_T is coefficient of turbulent diffusion. There is no particular physical justification for (14) except that we use the same hypothesis for other scalars transported by turbulent flow field, e.g., kinetic energy of turbulence, temperature, etc. Note that if the group's volume \bar{v}_i is constant, the diffusive flux in Eq. (14) vanishes.

The turbulence disperse the particles not just in the physical space, but also in the phase space. In order to illustrate this effect let us consider transport of the particles without breakup and coagulation. Since $\alpha_i = v_i n_i$ multiplication of the number density transport equation by v_i and subtraction from mass conservation after some algebra yields the equation for transport of the group's volume:

$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \nabla v_i = 0. \quad (15)$$

It can be multiplied by v_i to result in

$$\frac{\partial v_i^2}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \nabla v_i^2 = 0. \quad (16)$$

Eqs. (15)-(16) are averaged using the gradient closure:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial \langle v_i \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle \cdot \nabla \langle v_i \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \nabla v_i' \rangle \\ &= \frac{\partial \langle v_i \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle \cdot \nabla \langle v_i \rangle - \nabla \cdot (D_T \nabla \langle v_i \rangle) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial \langle v_i^2 \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle \cdot \nabla \langle v_i^2 \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \cdot \nabla (v_i^2)' \rangle \\ &= \frac{\partial \langle v_i^2 \rangle}{\partial t} + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle \cdot \nabla \langle v_i^2 \rangle - \nabla \cdot (D_T \nabla \langle v_i^2 \rangle) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

In order to obtain equation for the second central moment of the group's volume $\sigma_{v_i}^2 = \langle v_i^2 - \langle v_i \rangle^2 \rangle$ Eq. (17) is multiplied by $\langle v_i \rangle$ and subtracted from Eq. (18); after some algebra one obtains:

$$\frac{\partial \sigma_{v_i}^2}{\partial t} + \langle \mathbf{u}_i \rangle \cdot \nabla \sigma_{v_i}^2 - \nabla \cdot (D_T \nabla \sigma_{v_i}^2) = 2D_T |\nabla \langle v_i \rangle|^2. \quad (19)$$

Ignoring of the RHS in Eq. (19) leads to the spurious dissipation (underestimation of the standard deviation of the size distribution) obtained in (Marchisio and Fox, 2005; Fox, 2003).

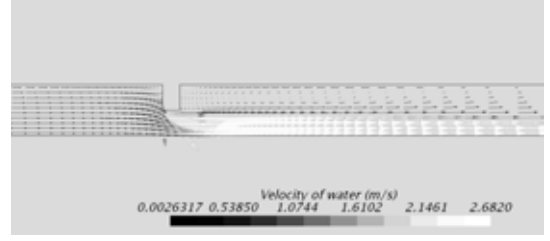


Figure 3: Water flow field.

Since the spurious dissipation is a result of the turbulent diffusion, proper discretisation of the diffusive flux might solve the problem (Vikas *et al.*, 2013). The root cause of the spurious dissipation can be illustrated by Fig. 2; the particles belonging to the same size-group at different neighbour cells have different diameters. It is not enough to calculate the total number density flux; one has to know the number \dot{n}_+ of the particles of size \bar{v}_0 moving from left to right, and number \dot{n}_- of the particles of size \bar{v}_1 moving from right to left. Hereafter we use two conditions. Firstly, the difference between \dot{n}_+ and \dot{n}_- is equal to the diffusive flux across the cell face:

$$\dot{n}_+ - \dot{n}_- = \bar{n}_f D_T \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \ln \bar{v}, \quad (20)$$

where \mathbf{v} is normal to the cell face and \bar{n}_f is number density at the face. Secondly, the total mass flux by diffusion is zero, that is

$$\bar{v}_0 \dot{n}_+ = \bar{v}_1 \dot{n}_-. \quad (21)$$

Solution of Eqs. (20)-(21) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{n}_+ &= \bar{n}_f \frac{\bar{v}_1}{\bar{v}_1 - \bar{v}_0} D_T \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \ln \bar{v}, \\ \dot{n}_- &= \bar{n}_f \frac{\bar{v}_0}{\bar{v}_1 - \bar{v}_0} D_T \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \ln \bar{v}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Once the fluxes \dot{n}_+ , \dot{n}_- are calculated, corresponding numbers of particles with size \bar{v}_0 , \bar{v}_1 are added to the right (left) cell according to the algorithm described in Fig. 1, (Vikhan-sky, 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Performance of the A-MuSiG method can be illustrated on a liquid-liquid pipe flow downstream of a restriction (Percy and Sleicher, 1983; Galinat *et al.*, 2005). The continuum phase is water, the dispersed phase is *n*-heptane. There is a recirculation zone behind the obstacle as shown in Fig. 3; the shear at the edge of the jet produces high dissipation rate, which causes intensive breakup of the droplets.

The adaptive nature of the method is demonstrated in Fig. 4; we perform the calculations with 5 size-groups and plot group diameters at the axis of the pipe. Initially, size of the biggest group increases because of coalescence, as the flow passes the orifice (at $x = 0$) a strong breakup happens. Fig. 4 can be interpreted in the following way: since there are 5 groups, one can say that approximately 10% of the droplets volume is below the first group diameter, 30% is below the second group diameter, etc., 90% is below the fifth group diameter. Since the A-MuSiG method is adaptive, only 5 size-groups suffice for quite detailed description of the size distribution.

For an M -independent characterisation of the droplets size distribution we use different definitions of mean diameters:

$$d_{pq} = \sqrt[p-q]{\frac{\sum n_i d_i^p}{\sum n_i d_i^q}}, \quad (23)$$

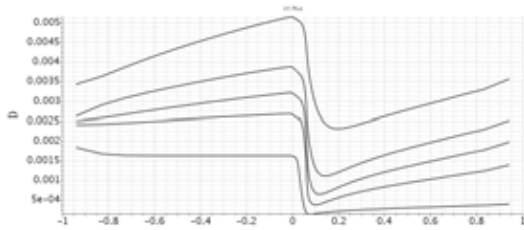


Figure 4: Group diameters at the pipe axis.

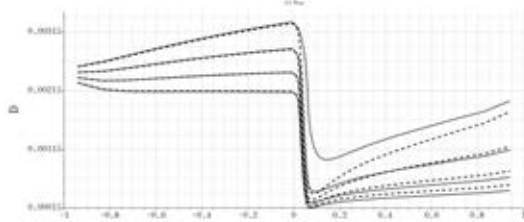


Figure 5: Mean diameters at the pipe axis with (dashed lines) and without (solid lines) spurious dissipation.

where the most important for applications are d_{43} (volume-mean diameter), d_{32} (Sauter mean diameter), d_{30} (volume-based diameter), and d_{10} (arithmetic mean diameter); $d_{43} \geq d_{32} \geq d_{30} \geq d_{10}$. For a mono-disperse system all diameters are equal; a high difference between, e.g., d_{43} and d_{10} implies a high standard deviation of the size distribution.

In order to examine the effect of the often-neglected spurious dissipation we plot all four mean diameters mentioned above in Fig. 5. As one could expect, the biggest error is just behind the obstacle where the size distribution undergoes the fastest change, and therefore the RHS in Eq. (19) is biggest. Calculations without a proper treatment of the spurious dissipation term significantly narrower size distribution than that using Eq. (22).

The M -dependence of the results is illustrated in Fig. 6. Apart from the fact that smaller M implies a narrower predicted distribution, one can see that $M = 3, 5, 9$ give quite close prediction of d_{43} , d_{32} , d_{30} , while calculation of d_{10} is less precise. It follows from the current formulation of the A-MuSiG method; since each size-group represents the same portion of volume fraction, more small particles are lumped together in the same (smallest) size-group. Even $M = 3$ resolves the distribution quite well up to $x \leq 0.2$, that is, breakup is less sensitive to the number of size-groups. For many applications the Sauter mean diameter d_{32} is the single most important particles size characteristics; our numerical experiments suggest that reliable engineering estimates can

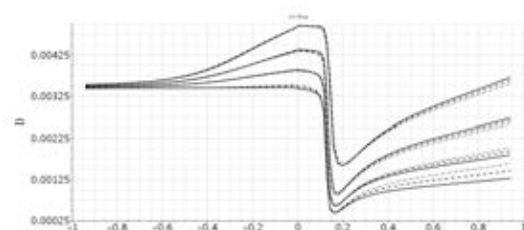


Figure 6: Mean diameters at the axis of the pipe calculated with 3 groups (dash-dotted), 5 groups (dotted), 9 groups (solid).

be done with a small ($M = 3 - 5$) number of the size-groups.

CONCLUSIONS

The paper presents an adaptive method for combined modelling of multiphase flows and breakup/coalescence processes; few size groups suffice for reliable prediction of mean characteristics of the polydisperse ensemble. The method solves for mass, momentum balance of each size-group, what extends it beyond a simple univariate population balance method. The effect of turbulent diffusion on size distribution is analysed and a special treatment is proposed to neutralize the spurious dissipation.

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