Axial Segregation of a Settling Suspension in a Rotating Cylinder
(Dynamic and pattern formation in a rotating suspension)

Anthony John LADD
University of Florida, Dept. Chemical Engineering
FL-32611-6005 Gainesville, U.S.A.
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Jonghoon Lee*
Tony Ladd
University of Florida
Gainesville

*Chemical Engineering Department
University of California-Santa Barbara

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Rotating suspensions and granular solids show a variety of non-equilibrium patterns

1) Granular segregation. Mixtures of particles of different size or mass in a partially filled tube segregate into bands of each component.

2) Suspensions of neutrally buoyant particles in a partially filled cylinder segregate into bands of densely packed particles and pure fluid. Interfacial segregation.

3) Suspensions of non-neutrally buoyant particles in a filled cylinder form weak axial bands of high and low concentration, as shown below. At higher frequencies stronger bands develop, possibly due to inertial effects.
Dynamics of a single non-buoyant particle

Forces: Viscous drag, gravity, centrifugal
Fixed point where 3 forces balances
Heavy particles spiral outwards from the fixed point
Light particles spiral towards the fixed point

\[ u_r = u_0 \left( \frac{r}{D_1 R} - \sin \theta \right) \]
\[ D_1 = \frac{g}{\Omega^2 R} \]

\[ u_\theta = u_0 \left( \frac{r}{D_2 R} - \cos \theta \right) \]
\[ D_2 = \frac{u_0}{\Omega R} \]
Centrifugal force is small under conditions of most experiments (low $\Omega$).

At low $\Omega$, particles rotate in nearly circular off-center orbits (red). Particles are continually falling from the fluid streamlines (blue).

Dynamics characterized by $D_2 = u_0 / \Omega R$
Dynamics of a dilute rotating suspension

Experiments (Matsen et al): Filled cylinder, radius $R \sim 1 \text{ cm}$

$\phi \sim 2\%$  \hspace{1cm} **Dilute**
$a = 100\ \mu\text{m}$  \hspace{1cm} **Non-Brownian**
$\rho = 2.40$  \hspace{1cm} **Heavy**
$\mu = 5 - 75\ \text{cp}$  \hspace{1cm} **Viscous**

$\Omega \sim 1\ \text{Hz};$  \hspace{1cm} **Stokes flow:**  $Re_a << 1$,  $Re_R \sim 1-10$

$\Omega^2R \sim 10^{-3}g$

Questions:
1. Dimensionless groups?
2. Steady state?
3. Axial bands?
Pattern formation in a rotating suspension  
Order parameter separated dense and dilute phases

Low rotational velocities:  
Particles lifted by tube rotation  
Particles slip down  
Backflow lifts particles off bottom

High rotational velocities:  
Particles are dispersed  
Near solid-body rotation

Mean rotational velocity about the cylinder axis, $Q = \langle \dot{\theta} \rangle / \Omega$  
is an order parameter

Colors indicate particle direction
$L = 0.4R$  
(suppress axial fluctuations)
**Characteristic length:**
\[ MIS = n^{-1/3} \]

\[ \Omega^* = \frac{\Omega d}{u_0}, \text{ where } d = n^{-1/3} \]

- \( R = R_0 \)
  - \( n = n_0 / 8 \)
- \( R = R_0 \)
  - \( n = n_0 \)
- \( R = R_0 / 2 \)
  - \( n = n_0 \)
- \( R = R_0 / 2 \)
  - \( n = 4n_0 \)
Possible dynamical phase transition between segregated ($Q=0$) and dispersed phase ($Q=1$)

\[ \Omega^* = 0.8 \]

\[ \Omega^* = 1.0 \]
Hydrodynamic interactions (HI). Long-range fluid mediated forces, driven by fluid motion

For dilute suspensions in Stokes flow (time independent):

\[ \dot{r}_i = v_i = \frac{f}{6\pi \mu a} + \sum_{j \neq i} G(r_i, r_j) \cdot f; \]  

(force balance)

The tensor \( G \) is the Green’s function for the geometry.

\[ G(r_i, r_j) = T(r_i - r_j) + \text{wall corrections} \]

\[ T(r) = \frac{1}{8\pi \mu r} \left( I + \frac{rr}{r^2} \right) \]  

(Oseen tensor)

Calculated \( G \) from a Fourier-Bessel sum (Liron and Shahar) and also a sum of residues.
Order N algorithm for source field: \[ v_i = \sum_{j \neq i} G_{ij} F_j \]

\[ G_{ij} \sim \sum_{k, \lambda} \cos(k \theta_i - k \theta_j) \cos(\lambda z_i - \lambda z_j) f(k, \lambda, r_i, r_j) \]

Absence of translational invariance in radial direction

\[ f(k, \lambda, r_i, r_j) \sim I_k(\lambda r_i)K_k(\lambda r_j) \]

Expand \( G_{ij} \): \[ G_{ij} \sim \sum_{k, \lambda} g(k, \lambda, r_i)g'(k, \lambda, r_j) \]

\[ g(k, \lambda, r_i) \sim I_k(\lambda r_i)\cos(k \theta_i)\cos(\lambda z_i) \]

\[ g'(k, \lambda, r_j) \sim K_k(\lambda r_j)\cos(k \theta_j)\cos(\lambda z_j) \]

Plus many more terms …
Complications

1) FB expansion requires $r_i < r_j$
   Sort particles by radial position
   Two series sums: ascending and descending
2) Large $r$ divergence: Define new “Bessel” functions with powers of $r$ taken out
   Keep explicit track of powers and cancel products
3) Large $k$ divergence:
   Use hyperbolic Bessel functions. Cancel exponential terms
4) Use ascending and descending recursion series for Bessel functions to maintain stability
5) Explicitly subtract logarithmic divergences from $K_0$
**Order N algorithm for cancelling field**

Cancelling field: Solution of Stokes flow, \( w(R, r^N) = -v(R, r^N) \)

\[
\sum_{k, \lambda} \cos(k \theta_i - k \theta_j) \cos(\lambda z_i - \lambda z_j) I_k(\lambda r_i) \psi(\lambda)
\]

Solve linear system for 3 coefficients \( \psi(\lambda), \pi(\lambda), \omega(\lambda) \)

Cancel source field from all particles at once, mode by mode for order \( N \)

But only order \( N \) for fixed number of Fourier modes.

\( N^{5/3} \) for fixed resolution

Spatial grid more complicated and error prone in cylindrical coordinates
Convergence slow with FB series

$k_{\text{max}}, l_{\text{max}}$: 8 squares 16 circles 32 triangles 64 inverted triangles 128 diamonds

Simulations used $k_{\text{max}}, l_{\text{max}} = 32$

Code checked by comparison with residue sums
Hydrodynamic interactions play a key role in pattern formation

With HI:
Particles remain dispersed indefinitely

Without HI:
Particles spiral out to a single limiting trajectory constrained by cylinder wall
Mass balance apparently sets the observed length scale \( d = n^{-1/3} \)

In segregated phase HI dominates

Sedimentation velocity determined by MIS \( \sim d \)

\[
  u_{sed} \sim u_0 a d^{-1}
\]

Up-current of particles carried by wall as a monolayer:

\[
  \dot{M}_{up} \sim \Omega Ra Lnm
\]

Settling flux is distributed over a length proportional to \( R \).

\[
  \dot{M}_{dn} \sim u_{sed} RLnm
\]

Mass balance controlled by single dimensionless parameter

\[
  \Omega^* = \frac{\Omega a}{u_{sed}} = \frac{\Omega d}{u_0}
\]

Characteristic length is \( d \) in agreement with simulation.
Different mass balance in dispersed phase
Change in scale of flow

In dispersed phase:
\[ u_{sed} \sim u_0 \]

Up-current carried by wall as a thick layer proportional to \( R \):
\[ \dot{M}_{up} \sim \Omega R^2 Lnm \]

Settling flux is distributed over a length proportional to \( R \):
\[ \dot{M}_{dn} \sim u_0 RLnm \]

Characteristic frequency:
\[ \Omega^* = \frac{\Omega R}{u_0} \]

Change in scale from \( d \) to \( R \) (in agreement with simulation)
At higher rotation frequencies particles are very uniformly dispersed-rotating bioreactors

Three different motions:

1) Primary circles:
   \[ l = R, \quad \tau = \frac{2\pi}{\Omega} \]

2) Secondary circles (counter):
   \[ d = u_0 \tau, \quad \tau = \frac{\pi}{\Omega} \]

3) Diffusive:
   \[ \frac{D}{u_0 R} \sim 0.1(\Omega^*)^{-2} \]

But only in a narrow frequency range:
\[ 1 < \Omega^* < 4 \]
Dispersed state maintained by hydrodynamic diffusion against centrifuging

Mean particle density is quantitatively predicted by flux balance

\[
\frac{1}{r} \partial_r (r J_r) = 0; \quad J_r = -\frac{m_b \Omega^2 r n}{6\pi\mu a} + D_{\text{max}} \partial_r n
\]
Radial particle distribution varies with axial position in band phase: $\Omega^* = 1$, $L = 2R$

At onset of banding, transient aggregates are falling much faster than Stokes velocity.

Initiates secondary flows in axial direction.

Dilute region:
- More dispersed
- Slower settling

Denser region:
- Less dispersed
- Faster settling
**In longer cylinders bands of fixed wavelength (~ 2R) develop**

Suspension organizes into bands of high (blue/red) and low (red/blue) concentration.

High density regions (Top) generate secondary flows as the particles fall (Front).

From the front the bands appear diagonal because of the axial flow.

30% variations in $\langle n \rangle$

\[ \Omega^* = 1 \]

\[ L \sim 6R \]
A suspension in an oscillating gravitational field also segregates

Free-settling suspension is unstable (Crowley)
Similar to Rayleigh-Taylor instability
Fluid flows around cluster and denser regions fall faster.

A dispersion is stabilized by backflow-denser regions fall more slowly
Cylinder radius screens HI and sets bandwidth
Summary

Hydrodynamic interactions qualitatively important, even in dilute suspensions, because of large density fluctuations

Characteristic length scale underlying pattern formation $d = n^{-1/3}$

Dynamics characterized by single dimensionless frequency $\Omega_d/u_0$

Transition from segregated to dispersed phases has an order parameter $\langle \dot{\theta} \rangle$

Stable dispersed phase around $\Omega^* \sim 1$ due to HI

Band formation generated by concentration instabilities with hydrodynamic screening

Secondary flows generated by instability to axial density variations