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INTRODUCTION TO MICROFLUIDICS

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Fluid Mechanics Theory

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ICTP Microfluidics 2005

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Wereley Lectures Overview (first couple)

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Fluid mechanics theory
 - a. Small but continuous flows
 - b. Sub-continuum flows
- 3. Surface tension
- 4. Electrokinetics
- 5. Microdomain practicalities
- 6. Characterization of microflows

1. Introductions

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- Steve Wereley
 - Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University
 - 7 years' experience in micro/nano flows
 - Co-author of Fundamentals and Applications of Microfluidics (with N.T. Nguyen)
 - Patented and licensed microfluidic measurement technique *micro-PIV*
 - Active in many different areas of micro/nano fluid dynamics
 - Rarefied gas dynamics
 - Micro flows
 - Subcontinuum (i.e. nano) flows
 - BioMEMS

A bit of a commercial...



- Microfluidics textbook
- Published 2002
- Available from artechhouse.com or amazon.com
- Micro/nano flow phenomena explored using practical examples
- Source for any unattributed material in this presentation

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Some representation for the competition...



- Recent title from Springer (2001)
- Second edition due out soon
- Very good book if your interest is simulations
 - DSMC
 - Boltzmann





Fundamental Macro Assumptions

- Fluid behaves as a continuum
- Fluid 'sticks' to surfaces (no-slip condition)
- Fairly high Reynolds number (Re) Re=inertial forces/viscous forces implies inertia relatively important

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2. Fluid Mechanics at Microscopic Length Scales

- 1. Behavioral Changes at Small Length Scales
- 2. Length Scales at Which Behavioral Changes Become Important
- 3. Fluid modeling
 - 1. Continuum model
 - 2. Molecular-based models
- 4. Boundary conditions



Reasons for Fluid Behavioral Changes

- Cube-Square Law
 - quantities $\propto L^3$
 - inertia, buoyancy, etc.
 - quantities ∞L^2
 - drag, surface charge, etc.
 - quantities $\propto L^1$
 - surface tension
- Non-continuum effects
 - gases: Kn= λ/L , no slip, continuum approximation
 - liquids: complex behaviors as continuum assumption breaks down









Navier Stokes Equation (dimensional form)

$$\rho \frac{D\vec{V}}{Dt} = \rho \frac{\partial \vec{V}}{\partial t} + \rho \left(\vec{V} \Box \nabla \right) \vec{V} = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \vec{V}$$

where u is characteristic velocity such as mean velocity, centerline velocity, etc., L is characteristic size of system such as pipe diameter, local BL thickness

From these quantities construct scales for time and pressure

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Navier-Stokes Equation (Dimensionless)

$$\operatorname{Re}\frac{D\vec{V}}{Dt} = \operatorname{Re}\left(\frac{\partial\vec{V}}{\partial t} + \left(\vec{V}\Box\nabla\right)\vec{V}\right) = -\nabla p + \nabla^{2}\vec{V}$$

where $\operatorname{Re} = \frac{\rho u L}{\mu}$

 $\vec{V} = u\vec{V}'$

 $\vec{x} = L\vec{x}'$

 $p = \frac{\mu u}{L} p'$

 $t = \frac{L}{-t'}$

- Re=Reynolds number, ratio of inertial forces to viscous forces
- All variables normalized so that they are order unity

Stokes Flows

- Assume we're considering a water flow
 - μ =10⁻³ kg/(s m), ρ =10³ kg/m³
- Length scale: 10 μm=10-5 m
- Velocity scale: 10 mm/s=10⁻² m/s
- Then: Re=10⁻¹, so N-S eqn

$$0 = -\nabla p + \nabla^2 \vec{V}$$

 becomes Poisson Eqn (Stokes Flow), simple, linear equation

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Boundary Conditions

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Generalized slip flow model for *liquid or gas*:

$$\Delta u \Big|_{wall} = u_{fluid} - u_{wall} = L_s \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \Big|_{wall}$$

Slip flow model strictly for ideal gases:

$$u_{gas} - u_{wall} = \lambda \frac{2 - \sigma_v}{\sigma_v} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \bigg|_{wall} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\mu}{\rho T_{gas}} \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \bigg|_{wall}$$

Dimensionless Slip flow model for ideal gas:

$$u_{gas}^{*} - u_{wall}^{*} = Kn \frac{2 - \sigma_{v}}{\sigma_{v}} \frac{\partial u^{*}}{\partial y^{*}} \bigg|_{wall} + \frac{3}{2\pi} \frac{\gamma - 1}{\gamma} \frac{Kn^{2} \operatorname{Re}}{Ec} \frac{\partial T^{*}}{\partial x^{*}} \bigg|_{wall}$$

Gas Accommodation Coefficients



Shapes NOT represented in table

- Two additional useful shapes:
 - Trapezoid
 - Rectangle with two rounded corners
 - I have not found any references that provide these solutions—should be easy paper in microfluidics
- For shapes in which we don't have analytical solution
 - Approximate approach
 - Hydraulic diameter (4*Area/Perimeter)
 - Plug into circle expression for Q versus ΔP

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Molecular Models





Lennard Jones Constants

Fluid	ε/K (K)	σ (nm)
Air	97	0.362
N_2	91.5	0.368
CO_2	190	0.400
O_2	113	0.343
Ar	124	0.342

Phases	Intermolecular Forces	Ratio of Thermal Vibration Amplitude Compared to σ	Approach Needed
Solid	Strong	« 1	Quantum
Liquid	Moderate	~ 1	Quantum/classical
Gas	Weak	» 1	Classical

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Molecular Dynamics Governing Equations

$$m\frac{d^{2}\mathbf{r}_{i}}{dt^{2}} = \sum_{j\neq i} \frac{\partial V_{ij}}{\partial \mathbf{r}_{i}} - \frac{m}{\tau} \frac{d\mathbf{r}_{i}}{dt} + \eta_{i} \qquad \tau = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^{2}m}{\varepsilon}}$$

• where \mathbf{r}_{i} is the position vector, V_{ij} is the potential energy between any two molecules, τ is characteristic time scale, m is atomic mass

- Last two terms on RHS couple the particle dynamics with thermodynamics
 - Velocity term governs heat exchange with reservoir
 - $-~\eta_i$ term is a Gaussian stochastic force with variance $2mk_b/\tau$
- For liquid argon, τ =2.2⁻¹² sec
- Evolve the position of every molecule forward in time using Newton's 2nd Law



Lennard-Jones Potential

- Works reasonably well for electrically neutral, polarizable, spherical molecules
- Dynamics for immiscible liquids (d₁₂=d₂₁)
 - d₁₂=0 implies pure short-range repulsion
 - d₁₂=1 implies symmetric interaction
 - d_{12} > implies enhanced attraction
- Dynamics of wall boundaries can be simulated with same L-J approach but different constants
- Complicated molecules require complicated potentials, e.g. polymer chains can have a potential between all monomers plus a strongly attractive potential when all monomers in neighboring molecules line up



- Equations of motions can be integrated forward in time by typical predictor-corrector scheme
 - typical time step size Δt =0.005 τ
 - for liquid Ar, Δt =1.1e-14 sec
- Another commonly used discretization called Verlet integration rule is

$$\boldsymbol{r}^{n+1} = 2\boldsymbol{r}^n - \boldsymbol{r}^{n-1} + \Delta t^2 \boldsymbol{a}(t) + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^4)$$

Imposing External Forces

- Most flows driven by some external force

 e.g. vibrating wall, pressure gradient, body force
- · Need some way to couple in those forces
- Eulerian velocity computed as time average of N_i molecules according to

$$oldsymbol{v}(oldsymbol{x}) = rac{1}{N_i} < \sum_j rac{doldsymbol{x}_j}{dt} >$$

Stress tensor computed by

$$au(m{x}) = rac{1}{V_i} < \sum_j \left[rac{dm{x}_j}{dt} - m{v}(m{x})
ight] \left[rac{dm{x}_j}{dt} - m{v}(m{x})
ight] + \sum_{j < i} m{r}_{ij}m{f}_{ij} >$$

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Computational Complexity

- Have to sum over all pairs of molecules so order N²
- Cut-off distance reduces computational complexity somewhat
- Pairs of interacting molecules stored in Verlet list
 - For each molecule a=1,2,...N create a list of neighbors that are within a distance r_c+r_s where r_c is the cut-off distance and r_s is called a *skin thickness*
 - r_s is chosen such that in a time interval of S~20 Δt , no molecules from outside the skin enter the interaction range of molecule a
- Computational intensity reduced somewhat to (order N) + S⁻¹ (order N²)

MD/Continuum Approach

 Occasionally desirable to combine MD and Continuum approach (e.g. N-S)

- For example external flow over a body



Slip lengths of 14-63 nm \rightarrow No-slip violated

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Water Ordering in CNTs



18 AUGUST 2000 VOL 289 SCIENCE www.sciencemag.org

170 nm

sient) stage ($t \le 1$ ns), achieving steady-state flow conditions (v = 200 m/s)

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sawtooth-shaped discontinuity corresponds to a pinch-off of a drop. At $t \ge 1$ ns, steady state is achieved with the mean breakup length of the jet, $L_{\rm B}$ see

Direct Simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC)

- Developed by G. Bird, circa 1965
- Under standard conditions in a gas there are 10^{10} molecules in a cube measuring 10 μm on a side

- Not possible to simulate volume this size with MD

- DSMC uses hundreds of thousands or millions of 'simulated' molecules that each represent the behavior of thousands of molecules
 - These are typically called 'particles'
- More approximate technique but achieves results where MD fails

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DSMC Overview

- Time is split into steps smaller than the mean collision time
- Space is split into cells proportional to the mean free path
 - In order to adequately resolve spatial velocity gradients, cell size typically taken to be $\Delta x_c \sim \lambda/3$
- Temporally and spatially averaged molecular quantities presented as macroscopic values at cell centers

Four main steps in DSMC

- · Simulate the motion of particles
 - Each particle has an initial motion
 - Evolve positions forward in time Δt
 - Apply boundary conditions
- Index and cross-reference particles
 - Keep track of which cell each particle is in
 - Keep track of particles that have entirely left computational domain
- Simulate collisions within cells
 - Since motion and collision separated, must use probabilistic approach
 - Calculate new particle velocities
- Sample macroscopic properties of flow





Limitations of DSMC

- For cell sizes larger than one mean free path, transport quantities (viscosity, thermal conductivity) will deviate from accepted values
- Time step size must be smaller than local collision time $t_{\rm c}$
 - Larger times result in particles traveling through many cells without experiencing a collision
- Ratio of simulated molecules to real molecules
 - When this ratio becomes too high, statistical scatter becomes significant
- Boundary conditions may cause problems
 - For example when △P is specified for a channel flow, DSMC may predict a different pressure at outlet

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Boltzmann Equation

- Can be derived rigorously from Newton's laws and gas dynamics relations for low density gases
- Generally used for the entire Kn regime (0≤Kn<∞)
- Describes evolution of a *velocity distribution function* by molecular transport and *binary* intermolecular collisions
- Consider a monatomic gas with velocity distribution given by f(t,x,v)
 - **x** represents the position vector
 - **v** represents the velocity vector
- This distribution obeys the Boltzmann eq'n

Boltzmann Equation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \boldsymbol{x}} + \mathbf{F} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \boldsymbol{v}} = Q(f, f_*)$$

where **F** represents an imposed body force and Q(f,f_{*}) represents the effect of intermolecular collisions given by:

$$Q(f, f_*) = \int_{R^3} \int_{S^+} |\mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{n}| [f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}'_*) f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}') - f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}_*) f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v})] d\mathbf{n} d\mathbf{v}_*$$

Q(f,f*) represents the collision of two molecules with postcollision velocities v and v* and pre-collision velocities v' and v'* subject to the following definitions

$$\mathbf{V} = \boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{v}_*; \quad \boldsymbol{v}' = \boldsymbol{v} - \boldsymbol{n}(\boldsymbol{n} \cdot \mathbf{V}); \quad \boldsymbol{v}'_* = \boldsymbol{v}_* + \boldsymbol{n}(\boldsymbol{n} \cdot \mathbf{V})$$

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Boltzmann Equation Terms

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{v} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \boldsymbol{x}} + \mathbf{F} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \boldsymbol{v}} = Q(f, f_*)$$

$$\mathbf{A} \qquad \mathbf{B} \qquad \mathbf{C} \qquad \mathbf{D}$$

- Typical Reynolds Transport Theorem form
- A represents the change in the number of molecules in a region of space
- B represents the molecules convected in or out of a region of space
- C represents the convection of molecules due to the body force, and
- D represents the collision of molecules

Boltzmann Equation

- This equation is solved subject to some constraints
- If we construct quadratic function $\phi(v)$ so that

$$\phi(\boldsymbol{v}) \equiv a + \mathbf{b} \cdot \boldsymbol{v} + c|\boldsymbol{v}|^2$$

 then conservation of mass, momentum, and energy are given by

$$\int_{R^3} \phi(\boldsymbol{v}) Q(f,f_*) d\boldsymbol{v} = 0$$

 $(\log f) Q(f, f_*) \le 0.$

Boltzmann inequality \rightarrow

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Boltzmann Equation

• Macroscopic quantities are calculated according to

$$egin{aligned} &
ho(oldsymbol{x},t) = m \int f(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{v},t) doldsymbol{v} \ &
ho \mathbf{u}(oldsymbol{x},t) = m \int oldsymbol{v} f(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{v},t) doldsymbol{v} \ &T(oldsymbol{x},t) = rac{m}{3nk_B} \int c^2 f(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{v},t) doldsymbol{v} \end{aligned}$$

c=v-u and is called the *peculiar velocity*, m is molecular mass





Boltzmann Equation

- · Solutions are exceedingly difficult
- Require different approaches for various limits
 - Hydrodynamic limit, Kn→0
 - Free-molecular limit, Kn $\rightarrow \infty$
 - Transition region (most difficult)

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Free molecular gas flow

- For Kn > 1, must resort to computations for real problems although analytical solutions exist for very simple geometries
- Beskok (2002) computed many flows in microdomains and determined a generalized relationship for flow in a pipe:

$$\dot{m}_{fm} = \frac{4d^3 \Delta P}{3L} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{RT}} \quad \text{where} \quad R = \frac{\overline{R}}{M} \text{ where } \overline{R} = 8.3145 \frac{\text{kJ}}{\text{kmol K}}$$
$$\frac{\dot{m}}{\dot{m}_{fm}} = \frac{3\pi}{64Kn_{avg}} \left(1 + \alpha Kn_{avg}\right) \left(1 + \frac{4Kn_{avg}}{1 - bKn_{avg}}\right)$$

for a tube, $\alpha = 1.358$, b = -1 consult Karniadakis (2002) for more

Surface Tension

Surface tension (γ) is the increase in energy as the surface area increases.



Electro-Wetting

 Based on changing surface tension by applying a potential to an interface

$$\gamma_{\rm SL} = \gamma_{\rm SL}^{\rm max} - \frac{\varepsilon_{\rm r} \varepsilon_0}{2\delta} \left({\rm V} - {\rm V}_{\rm pzc} \right)^2$$

 Change in voltage across an interface produces a change in surface tension



Other Electrowetting Examples (CJ Kim, UCLA)





Classifications of Electrokinetic Flows

Name	Type of Movement	Electrokinetic Coupling	
Electrophoresis	Charged surface moves relative to a stationary liquid	Use an applied electric field to induce movement	
Electroosmosis	Liquid moves relative to a stationary charged surface		
Streaming Potential	Liquid moves relative to a stationary charged surface	Use movement to create and electric field	
Sedimentation Potential	Charged surface moves relative to a stationary liquid		

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Electroosmosis

- Backflow in the presence of pressure gradient ٠
- Zero mean flow in closed channel





- Entrance length different
- Let's look at a few examples...









Experimental Characterization of Microflows

- 1. Transmission Electron Microscopy
- 2. X-Ray Microimaging
- 3. Molecular Tagging Velocimetry
- 4. Particle Image Velocimetry
 - 1. Measurement of Surface Location
 - 2. Measurement of Temperature



Water in Carbon Nanotubes





X-ray Microimaging

Lanzillotto, et al., Proc. ASME, 1996, AD52, 789-795.

Positives

Can image inside normally opaque devices

Negatives

 low resolution ~20-40µm
 depth averaged (2-D)
 requires slurry to scatter x-rays
 requires collimated x-rays



Phosphor screen





X-Ray Microimaging Solution Procedure

- Jacobi relaxation scheme
- Solution continually varied until constraint minimized
- Solved on grid that is progressively refined from low spatial resolution to high
- Does not assume fluid model
- Choice of parameter λ determines how much variation is allowed between grid points
 - Improper choice can artificially suppress spatial gradients or turbulent structures in flow



X-Ray Microimaging Results





Liquid MTV

• Original mark in fluid looks like

$$C(t = 0, r, z) = \exp(-(z/\sigma)^2)$$

• Evolves in time according to convection diffusion equation

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla C = D \nabla^2 C$$

For the case of negligible diffusion, time evolution of mark looks like

$$C(t,r,z) = \exp(-(z - u(r)t)^2/\sigma^2)$$

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Liquid MTV

- Methods of recovering the velocity field:
 - Connect the dots
 - Use approximate version of convection diffusion eq'n

$$u(r) \simeq (C(t_0 + \delta t) - C(t_0)) / \nabla C(t_0)$$

- These techniques work for flows with much symmetry
- For more complicated flows, must add in incompressible conservation of mass equation as additional constraint

Liquid MTV Results













Calculating correlation function

- Correlation function can be calculated by direct multiplication and summation
- Or, it can be calculated using a numerical shortcut of working in frequency space, namely

$$\Phi_k(m,n) = fft^{-1} \left\{ fft(f_k(i,j)) \times conj(fft(g_k(i,j))) \right\}$$

- Greatly increases speed of computation
- Assumes periodicity of f_k and g_k
 - Implies that most of the large correlation peak must lie with the center quarter of the interrogation function or it will be 'folded' over by the Nyquist criterion

Finding peak of correlation function

- · Several competing methods
- Simplest maximum function
 - Limitation: resolution limited to one pixel
- Centroid
 - Benefit: No presumed peak shape
 - Limitation: Tends to have significant peak locking
- Gaussian
 - Particle images are well modeled by Gaussian function
 - Been shown to be most accurate
 - Typically 3 points used in the x and y direction to determine peak location
 - Accuracies as high as 0.01 pixels





Streamwise Profile (x-z plane)

C.D. Meinhart, S.T. Wereley, and J.G. Santiago, "PIV Measurements of a Microchannel Flow," Exp. Fluids, Vol. 27, No. 5, 414-419, (1999).





- without flow
- with flow



Relating Temperature to Peak Area Change

Olsen and Adrian 2000

$$\Delta s_0 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\beta} \sqrt{d_e^2 + 8M^2 \beta^2 D \Delta t}$$

where $\beta^2 = 3.67$ is fit parameter for matching Gaussian to Airy function

$$\Delta A = \frac{\pi}{4} \left(\Delta s_{0,c}^2 - \Delta s_{0,a}^2 \right) = 2\pi M^2 \beta^2 D \Delta t$$

$$\frac{T}{\mu(T)} = \Delta A \frac{3d_p}{2M^2 k \Delta t} = C_0 \frac{\Delta A}{\Delta t}$$

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Simulations and Experiments

Simulations:

- •Matched number density and intensity of experimental images
- •No background noise, Gaussian particles
- •Effectively laser sheet illumination

Experiments

- •Stagnant particle pool heat with patch heater
- •Temperature monitored with thermocouple
- •700 nm PSL particles in DI water
- •Volume illuminated microscopic PIV image







Uncertainty













Measuring Surface Topology with µPIV



Measuring Surface Topology with μ PIV

- Another way: Information about surface features contained in velocity profile
- Accurate velocity measurements should allow measurement of surface features
- Solve the inverse problem; i.e.when given the velocity field, find the locations of the boundaries



Experiments

- Use flow in rectangular cross section glass capillary to demonstrate concept
- Profilometer used to find glass surface roughness of 2.5 nm
 - essentially smooth wall
- Glass-fluid boundary *calculated* using velocity profile
 - calculated roughness 57 nm





y=7μm from bottom of channel





Experimental Wall Measurements



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