Documentation

This package contains several python codes to run simulations of rigid bodies made out of rigidly connected *blobs* (aka rigid multiblobs), confined above a single wall (floor). These codes can compute the mobility of complex shape objects, solve mobility or resistance problems for suspensions of many bodies or run deterministic or stochastic dynamic simulations.

We explain in the next sections how to use the package. For the theory consult the references:

- Brownian Dynamics of Confined Rigid Bodies, S. Delong, F. Balboa Usabiaga and A. Donev. The Journal of Chemical Physics, 143, 144107 (2015). DOI arXiv
- 2. Hydrodynamics of suspensions of passive and active rigid particles: a rigid multiblob approach F. Balboa Usabiaga, B. Kallemov, B. Delmotte, A. Pal Singh Bhalla, B. E. Griffith, and A. Donev, Communications in Applied Mathematics and Computational Science, 11, 217 (2016). DOI arXiv
- 3. Brownian dynamics of condined suspensions of active microrollers, F. Balboa Usabiaga, B. Delmotte and A. Donev, The Journal of Chemical Physics, 146, 134104 (2017). DOI arXiv
- 4. Large Scale Brownian Dynamics of Confined Suspensions of Rigid Particles, B. Sprinkle, F. Balboa Usabiaga, N. Patankar and A. Donev. *In preparation*, 2017.

Note: The key blob-blob translational mobility in the presence of a wall is computed using the Rotne-Prager-Blake tensor in the appendices B and C of: Simulation of hydrodynamically interacting particles near a no-slip boundary, James Swan and John Brady, Phys. Fluids 19, 113306 (2007)DOI. We modify the mobility to allow overlaps between blobs and between blobs and the wall, see Ref. [3].

1. Prepare the package

The codes are implemented in python (version 2.x) and it is not necessary to compile the package to use it.

However, we provide alternative implementations in C++ (through the Boost Python library) and pycuda for some of the most computationally expensive functions. You can skip to section 2 but come back if you want to take fully advantage of this package.

1.1 Prepare the mobility functions

The codes use functions to compute the blob mobility matrix \mathbf{M} and the matrix vector product \mathbf{Mf} . For some functions we provide a C++ implementation which can be around five times faster than the python version. We also provide pycuda implementations which, for large systems, can be orders of magnitude faster. To use the C++ implementation move to the directory mobility/ and compile mobility_ext.cc to a .so file using the Makefile provided (which you will need to modify slightly to reflect your Python version, etc.).

To use the *pycuda* implementation all you need is *pycuda* and a GPU compatible with CUDA; you don't need to compile any additional file in this package.

1.2 Blob-blob forces

In dynamical simulations it is possible to include blob-blob interactions to, for example, simulate a colloid suspension with a given steric repulsion. Again, we provide versions in python, C++ and pycuda. To use the C++ version move to the directory multi_bodies/ and compile forces_ext.cc to a .so file using the Makefile provided (which you will need to modify slightly to reflect your Python version, etc.).

To use the *pycuda* implementation all you need is *pycuda* and a GPU compatible with CUDA; you don't need to compile any additional file in this package.

2. Rigid bodies configuration

We use a vector (3 numbers) and a quaternion (4 numbers) to represent the location and orientation of each body, see Ref. 1 for details. This information is saved by the code in the *.clones files, with format:

```
number_of_rigid_bodies
vector_location_body_0 quaternion_body_0
vector_location_body_1 quaternion_body_1
.
```

For example, the file multi_bodies/Structures/boomerang_N_15.clones represents the configuration of a single body with location (0, 0, 10) and orientation given by the quaternion (0.5, 0.5, 0.5, 0.5).

The coordinates of the blobs forming a rigid body in the default configuration (location (0, 0, 0) and quaternion (1, 0, 0, 0)) are given to the codes through *.vertex files. The format of these files is:

```
number_of_blobs_in_rigid_body
vector_location_blob_0
vector_location_blob_1
.
```

For example, the file multi_bodies/Structures/boomerang_N_15.vertex gives the structure of a boomerang-like particle formed by 15 blobs.

3. Active slip

The blobs can have an active slip as described in the Ref. 2, therefore, we can simulate the dynamics of active bodies like bacteria or self-propelled colloids.

For each structure the user can include the name of a slip file in the input file (in the line structure see below). In this case the code reads the slip at the beginning of the simulation. This active slip is assumed to be time independent and fixed in the reference body frame and will be converted to the lab frame as the body moves. You can see an example in multi_bodies/examples/squirmer/. If the slip file is not given the slip is set to zero.

Note that in practice the slip probably depends on the position of the particles relative to the boundary and each other, and the user can provide a function to compute the slip (this time in the lab frame) at runtime, see Section 5.3 for details.

4. Run static simulations

We start explaining how to compute the mobility of a rigid body close to a wall. First, move to the directory multi_bodies/ and inspect the input file inputfile_body_mobility.dat:

```
# Select problem to solve
scheme body_mobility

# Select implementation to compute the blobs mobility
mobility_blobs_implementation python

# Set fluid viscosity (eta) and blob radius
eta 1.0
blob_radius 0.25
```

```
# Set output name
output_name
```

data/run.body_mobility

Now, to run the code, use

python multi_bodies_utilities.py --input-file inputfile_body_mobility.dat

The code writes the results in files with the prefix data/run.body_mobility. You can inspect the file *.body_mobility.dat to see the 6x6 rigid body mobility.

List of input file options:

- scheme: (string) Options: mobility, resistance and body_mobility. Select the problem to solve. mobility computes the velocities of a suspension of rigid bodies subject to external forces and torques (see below). resistance computes the forces and torques on rigid bodies moving with given velocities (see below). body_mobility computes the mobility matrix of one rigid body as in the above example.
- mobility_blobs_implementation: Options: python, C++, python_no_wall and C++_no_wall. It selects which implementation is used to compute the blob mobility matrix M. See section 1 to use the C++ versions. The options ended with _no_wall use the Rotne-Prager tensor, the others include wall corrections (Rotner-Prager-Blake tensor) as explained in the introduction.
- mobility_vector_prod_implementation: Options: python, C++, pycuda, python_no_wall, C++_no_wall and pycuda_no_wall. It selects the implementation to compute the matrix vector product Mf. See section 1 to use the C++ or pycuda implementations. The options ended with _no_wall use the Rotne-Prager tensor, the others include wall corrections (Rotner-Prager-Blake tensor) as explained in the introduction.
- eta: (float) the fluid viscosity.
- blob_radius: (float) the hydrodynamic radius of the blobs.
- solver_tolerance: (float) the tolerance for the iterative mobility solver.
- output name: (string) the prefix used to save the output files.

- velocity_file: (string) name of a file with the velocities of the rigid bodies used in the resistance problem. The format of the file is one line per body and six floats per line corresponding to linear (first three) and angular velocities (last three).
- force_file: (string) name of a file with the forces and torques used in the mobility problem. The format of the file is one line per body and six floats per line corresponding to force (first three) and torque (last three). If no file is given the code compute the forces on the bodies as explained in the section 5.2.
- structure: (two or three strings) name of the vertex, clones and optionally slip files with the rigid bodies configuration and the active slip, see sections 2 and 3. To simulate bodies with different shapes add to the input file one structure option per each kind of body and give their vertex and clones files, see multibodies/inputfile.dat for an example. If the slip file is not given the active slip is set to zero for that structure (i.e. it will be a passive particle).
- plot_velocity_field: (x_0 x_1 N_x y_0 y_1 N_y z_0 z_1 N_z) if the code is run with this options and the schemes mobility or resistance the code plots the velocity field of the fluid to a vtk file. The velocity field is plotted in a rectangular box with the lower corner located at (x_0, y_0, z_0), the upper corner located at (x_1, y_1, z_1) and using a grid of dimensions (N_x, N_y, N_z). The vtk file can be postprocessed with external software like VisIt from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory or ParaView from Sandia National Laboratories to generate an image of the velocity field. See figure 1 as an example.
- tracer_radius: (float (default 0)) effective radius of the nodes where the fluid velocity field is computed with the option plot_velocity_field. The default value, zero, computes the pointwise fluid velocity, a larger value average the fluid velocity over a region of radius tracer_radius.

The output files are:

- .inputfile: It is a copy of the input file to better keep track of input options.
- .body_mobility.dat: the 6x6 rigid body mobility computed with the option scheme body_mobility. When this mobility is apply to the vector (force, torque) generates the vector (velocity, angular velocity).
- .force.dat: forces and torques on the bodies computed with the option scheme resistance. The format of the file is one line per body and six floats per line corresponding to force (first three) and torque (last three).

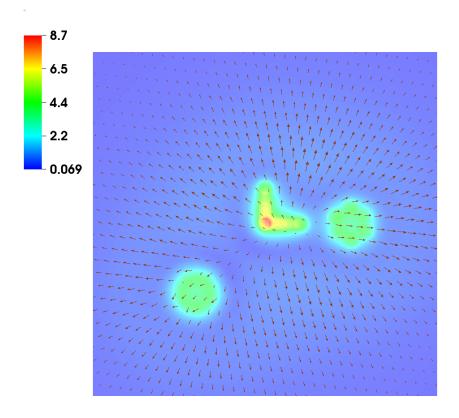


Figure 1: Velocity field around two spheres and a boomerang shaped colloid falling towards a bottom wall. Velocity field computed with the option plot_velocity_field and image generated with the software VisIt.

• .velocities.dat: velocities of the rigid bodies computed with the option scheme mobility. The format of the file is one line per body and six floats per line corresponding to linear (first three) and angular velocities (last three).

5. Run dynamic simulations

5.1 Rigid multiblob simulations

We have two python codes to run dynamic simulations. The first, in the directory boomerang/, allows to run stochastic Brownian simulations for a single body. See the instruction in boomerang/README.md. Here, we explain how to use the other code which allows to run deterministic and stochastic simulations for many bodies.

First, move to the directory multi_bodies/ and inspect the input file inputfile_dynamic.dat:

```
# Select integrator
                                          deterministic_adams_bashforth
scheme
\mbox{\tt\#} Select implementation to compute M and M*f
mobility blobs implementation
                                          python
mobility_vector_prod_implementation
                                          python
# Select implementation to compute the blob-blob interactions
blob_blob_force_implementation
                                          python
# Set time step, number of steps and save frequency
dt
n_steps
                                           10
n_save
                                           1
# Set fluid viscosity (eta), gravity (g) and blob radius
                                           1.0
eta
                                           1.0
                                          0.25
blob_radius
# Set parameters for the blob-blob interation
repulsion strength
                                          1.0
debye_length
                                          1.0
# Set interaction with the wall
```

```
repulsion_strength_wall 1.0

debye_length_wall 1.0

# Set output name
output_name data/run

# Load rigid bodies configuration, provide

# *.vertex and *.clones files
structure Structures/boomerang_N_15.vertex Structures/boomerang_N_15.clones
structure Structures/shell_N_12_Rg_1.vertex Structures/shell_N_12_Rg_1.clones
```

With this input we can run a simulation with three rigid bodies, one with a boomerang shape and two with a spherical shape; see structures given to the options structure. To run the simulation use

 $\verb"python multi_bodies.py --input-file inputfile_dynamic.dat"$

Now, you can inspect the output, ls data/run.*. The output files are:

- .bodies_info: it contains the number of bodies and blobs in the simulation. Also how many types of bodies (i.e. different shapes) and how many bodies of each type.
- .clones: For each time step saved and each structure type the code saves a file with the location and orientation of the rigid bodies. The name format is (output_name + structure_name + time_step + .clones) The format of the files is the same that in the input .clones files.
- .info: It records the number of invalid configurations generated during the simulation (number of times a blob cross the wall), and the total number of iterations to solve the mobility problems (GMRES iterations) and to generate the Brownian noise (Lanczos iterations).
- .inputfile: a copy of the input file.
- .random_state: it saves the state of the random generator at the start of the simulation. It can be used to run a simulation with the same random numbers.
- .time: the wall-clock time elapsed during the simulation (in seconds).

List of options for the input file:

• scheme (string). There are several schemes implemented to run deterministic and stochastic simulations. See reference [4] for a discussion. The input file should select one of the following ones

Name	Solver type	Notes
deterministic_forward_euler	Iterative	first order accuracy
deterministic_forward_euler_ dense_algebra	Direct solve	<pre>cost O(number_of_blobs**3)</pre>
${\tt deterministic_adams_bash forth}$	Iterative	second order accuracy
$stochastic_first_order_RFD$	Iterative	it uses three mobility solves and one Lanczos call per step
$stochastic_adams_bashforth$	Iterative	primarily used for microrollers
stochastic_first_order_RFD_ dense_algebra	Direct solve	<pre>cost O(number_of_blobs**3) but faster for small systems</pre>
$stochastic_traction_EM$	Iterative	first order. two mobility solves and one Lanczos call per step.
Fixman	Direct solve	<pre>cost O(number_of_blobs**3)</pre>
stochastic_Slip_Trapz	Iterative	second order accurate deterministically and weakly first order accurate stochastically. It uses three mobility solves and one Lanczos call per step
$stochastic_traction_AB$	Iterative	(Not tested) Cost and accuracy like stochastic_traction_AB
stochastic_Slip_Mid	Iterative	(Not tested) Accuracy like in stochastic_traction_AB. It uses three mobility solves and two Lanczos calls per step
stochastic_Slip_Mid_DLA	Direct solve	cost O(number_of_blobs**3) (dense LA version of Slip_Mid)

We recommend deterministic_adams_bashforth for deterministic simulations since it costs no more than forward Euler but is more accurate.

For Brownian simulation with many rigid multiblobs we recommend the trapezoidal slip scheme stochastic_Slip_Trapz [4]. If time step is restricted by stability rather than accuracy you can try the traction Euler-Maruyuama scheme stochastic_traction_EM (cheaper but less accurate) [4]. For minimally-resolved BD as with micro-rollers (see [3]), we recommend stochastic_adams_bashforth, which adds Brownian motion to deterministic_adams_bashforth using Lanczos+RFD [3] (and is more expensive). For small systems using dense linear algebra may be faster and then the Fixman scheme can be used.

With schemes that use iterative methods you can print the residual of GMRES and the Lanczos algorithm to the standard output using the flag --print-residual.

- mobility_blobs_implementation: Options: python, C++, python_no_wall and C++_no_wall. This option indicates which implementation is used to compute the blob mobility matrix M. See section 1 to use the C++ version. The options ended with _no_wall use the Rotne-Prager tensor, the others include wall corrections (Rotner-Prager-Blake tensor) as explained in the introduction.
- mobility_vector_prod_implementation: Options: python, C++, pycuda, python_no_wall, C++_no_wall and pycuda_no_wall. This option select the implementation to compute the matrix vector product Mf. See section 1 to use the C++ or pycuda implementation. The options ended with _no_wall use the Rotne-Prager tensor, the others include wall corrections (Rotner-Prager-Blake tensor) as explained in the introduction.
- blob_blob_force_implementation: Options: None, python, C++ and pycuda. Select the implementation to compute the blob-blob interactions between all pairs of blobs. If None is selected the code does not compute blob-blob interactions. The cost of this function scales like (number_of_blobs)**2, just like the product Mf. The default soft repulsion is described under repulsion_strength below. See Section 5.3 for details on how to change this.
- body_body_force_torque_implementation: Options: None and python. Select the implementation to compute the body-body interactions between all pairs of bodies. This function provides and alternative way to compute force between bodies without iterating over all the blobs in the system. Note that this force will be added to the forces coming from other terms like blob-blob interactions. If None is selected the code does not compute body-body interactions directly but it can compute blob-blob interactions which lead to effective body-body interactions. The cost of this function scales like (number_of_bodies)**2. The default soft repulsion is described under repulsion_strength below. See Section 5.3 for more details on how to implement your own force law in python.

- eta: (float) the fluid viscosity.
- blob_radius: (float) the hydrodynamic radius of the blobs.
- solver_tolerance: (float) the relative tolerance for the iterative mobility solver.
- output_name: (string) the prefix used to save the output files.
- dt: (float) time step length to advance the simulation.
- n_steps: (int) number of time steps.
- initial_step: (int (default 0)) Use this option to restart a simulation. If initial_step > 0 the code will run from time step initial_step to n_steps. Also, the code will try to load .clones files with the name (output_name + structure_name + initial_step + .clones).
- n_save: (int) save the bodies configuration every n_save steps.
- repulsion_strength: (float) the blobs interact through a soft potential of the form (U = eps + eps * (d-r)/b if r < d and U = eps * exp(-(r-d)/b) if r >=d) where r is the distance between blobs, b is the characteristic length, eps is the strength and d=2*a is twice the blob radius. This is the strength of the potential, eps in the above expression (see section 5.3 to modify blobs interactions).
- debye_length: (float) the characteristic length of the blob-blob soft potential, b in the expression given above under repulsion_strength. (see section 5.3 to modify blobs interactions).
- repulsion_strength_wall: (float) the blobs interact with the wall with a soft potential. The potential is (U = eps + eps * (d-r)/b if r < d and U = eps * exp(-(r-d)/b) if r >=d) where h is the distance between the wall and the particle, d=a is the blob radius, b is the characteristic potential length and eps is the strength. This is the strength of the Yukawa potential, eps in the above formula (see section 5.3 to modify blobs interactions).
- debye_length_wall: (float) the characteristic length of the Yukawa blob-wall potential, b in the expression given above under repulsion_strength_wall (see section 5.3 to modify blobs interactions).
- random_state: (string) name of a file with the state of the random generator from a previous simulation. It can be used to generate the same random numbers in different simulations.
- seed: (unsigned int) seed for the random number generator. It is not used if a random_state is defined in the input file. If neither seed nor random_state are defined the code will automatically initialized to a pseudorandom state (see documentation for numpy.random.RandomState).

- structure: (two or three strings) name of the vertex, clones and optionally slip files with the rigid bodies configuration and the active slip, see sections 2 and 3. To simulate bodies with different shapes add to the input file one structure option per each kind of body and give their vertex and clones files, see multibodies/inputfile.dat for an example. If the slip file is not given the active slip is set to zero for that structure (i.e. it will be a passive particle).
- save_clones: (string (default one_file_per_step)) options onefile_per_step_ and onefile_. With the option onefile_per_step_ the clones configuration are saved in one file per kind of structure and per time step as explained above. With the option onefile_ the code saves one file per kind of structure with the configurations of all the time steps; configurations of different time steps are separated by a line with the number of rigid bodies.
- periodic_length: (three floats (default 0 0 0)) length of the unit cell along the x, y and z directions. If the length of the unit cell along the x or y directions is larger than zero the code uses Pseudo Periodic Boundary Conditions (PPBC) along that axis, otherwise the system is considered infinite in that direction. With PPBC, particles forces are computed using the minimum image convention as with standard periodic boundary conditions. Hydrodynamic interactions are computed between particles in the unit cell and the first neighbor cells along the pseudo-periodic axis. PPBC along the z axis are not supported.

5.2 Rollers simulations

We can also use the code multi_bodies.py to run simulations of bodies discretized with a single blob interacting hydrodynamically with a grand-mobility matrix that includes couplings between the linear and angular velocities, see Ref. [3] for a detailed description. To run a simulation use:

python multi_bodies_utilities.py --input-file inputfile_body_mobility.dat

The input file options are the same than for a rigid multiblob simulation (see section 5.1 and the file <code>inputfile_body_mobility.dat</code>) except for the following differences:

• scheme: (string) Options: deterministic_forward_euler_rollers, stochastic_first_order_rollers, deterministic_adams_bashforth_rollers, stochastic_adams_bashforth_rollers, stochastic_mid_point_rollers, stochastic_trapezoidal_rollers. We provide several schemes for deterministic and stochastic simulations, but we recommend using 'stochastic adams bashforth rollers'.

- structure: (two strings) name of the vertex and clones files with the rigid bodies configuration, see section 2. However, this code only accepts bodies discretized with a single blob so the vertex file is trivial, see file multi_bodies/Structures/blob.vertex.
- free_kinematics: (string (default True)) if free_kinematics is True the angular velocity of the blobs is not fixed and each blob is subject to a torque T=8*pi*eta*a^3*omega_one_roller (see below). If free_kinematics is False all the blobs rotate with a prescribed angular velocity given with the option omega_one_roller but they are free to translate. The torque acting on the blobs is a Lagrangian multiplier that enforces the prescribed angular velocity.
- omega_one_roller (three floats (default 0 0 0)) prescribed angular velocity of the blobs if the option free_kinematics is set to False. If free_kinematics is set to True the blobs are subject to a constant torque T=8*pi*eta*a^3*omega_one_roller.

5.3 Modify the codes

We provide default implementations to calculate the slip on the rigid bodies and the interactions between blobs and between bodies as explained above. However, the user can override the default implementation with their own functions. We explain here how to do it. First, we provide two alternatives to compute the interactions between bodies. A direct method that uses the locations and orientations of the bodies and a indirect form that compute the forces between all the blobs forming the rigid bodies and then it uses those forces to compute the forces and torques on the bodies as explaned in the Refs 1 and 2. The second approach can be more expensive, since in general number_of_blobs >> number_of_bodies but it can be used with bodies with arbitrary shapes, while the first method it is hard to generalize to non-spherical bodies. Note that the code can use both methods at the same time. You can override the following functions:

• blob-blob interactions: to override the *python* implementation create your own function blob_blob_force in the file user_defined_functions.py as we show in the example in multi_bodies/examples/boomerang_suspension/. To override the *pycuda* version create your own function blob_blob_force in forces_pycuda_user_defined.py as we show also in multi_bodies/examples/boomerang_suspension/blob_blob_force in the file multi_bodies/forces_pycuda.py However, to modify the C++ implementation you need to edit the function blobBlobForce in the file multi_bodies/forces_ext.cc and recompile the C++ code, note that this not override the default implementation but it modifies it.

- blob-wall interaction: to override the *python* implementation create your own function blob_external_force in the file user_defined_functions.py as we show in the example in multi_bodies/examples/boomerang_suspension/. There are not *C++* or *pycuda* versions of this function since it is not an expensive operation.
- body-body interactions: to override the *python* implementation create your own function body_body_force_torque as we show in the example in multi_bodies/examples/boomerang_suspension/.
- body external forces: to override the one-body forces, for example gravity or interactions with the wall, create your own function bodies_external_force_torque in the file user_defined_functions.py.
- active slip: The code assigns a constant slip to each body if a slip file is passed in the inputfile (see section 3). However, you can use more general slips like functions that depend on time, distance to the wall etc. To override the default python implementation create your own function set_slip_by_ID in the file user_defined_functions.py. For a simple example see multi_bodies/examples/pair_active_rods/.

6. Run Monte Carlo simulations

We have a Markov Chain Monte Carlo code to generate equilibrium configurations. To use this code move to the directory many_bodyMCMC and inspect the input file inputMCMC.dat. The options are similar to the ones to run dynamic simulations, however, some options like the time step size are not necessary. We have only implemented the subroutines to compute the body-body interactions in pycuda, therefore, it is necessary to have a GPU with CUDA capabilities to use this code. To run a simulation use

python many_body_MCMC.py inputMCMC.dat

The output files are similar to the ones generated with dynamic simulations.

The user can override the default interactions by creating its own functions in the file potential_pycuda_user_defined.py. In the folder many_bodyMCMC/examples/boomerang_suspension/ we show how to override the potentials to simulate a boomerang suspension as in Ref. [4].

7. Software organization

- doc/: documentation.
- body/: it contains a class to handle a single rigid body.
- boomerang/: older stochastic example from [1], see documentation doc/boomerang.txt.

- sphere/: the folder contains an example to simulate a sphere whose center of mass is displaced from the geometric center (i.e., gravity generates a torque), sedimented near a no-slip wall in the presence of gravity, as described in Section IV.C in [1]. Unlike the boomerang example this code does not use a rigid multiblob model of the sphere but rather uses the best known (semi)analytical approximations to the sphere mobility. See documentation doc/boomerang.txt.
- many_bodyMCMC/: Markov Chain Monte Carlo code for rigid bodies.
- mobility/: it has functions to compute the blob mobility matrix M and the product Mf using CPUs or GPUs, see [2].
- multi_bodies/: codes to run many-body simulations, based on [3] (minimally-resolved active rollers) and primarily on [4] (general many-particle case).
- quaternion_integrator/: it has a small class to handle quaternions and the schemes to integrate the equations of motion, see [1] and [4].
- stochastic_forcing/: it contains functions to compute the product $\mathbf{M}^{1/2}\mathbf{z}$ necessary to perform Brownian simulations, see [3] and [4].
- utils.py: this file has some general functions that would be useful for general rigid bodies (mostly for analyzing and reading trajectory data and for logging).