

Numerical investigation of two-fluid flows by FreeFem++

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Background and objective

Viscous two-phase flows covers a lot of interesting phenomena in fluid dynamics.

For example

- Rising bubble
- Droplet impact
- Dam breaking phenomena, etc....

These phenomena are formulated by free boundary value problem of the Navier-Stokes equations. In particular, we are interested in **deformation of the interface** between two fluids.

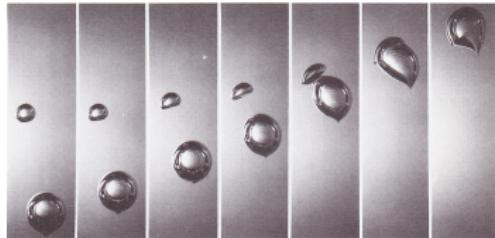


Fig. Interaction of two rising bubbles from “*A Gallery of Fluid Motion*” (2003).

Objective

- Numerical simulation of viscous incompressible two-phase flows by FreeFEM++
- We mainly consider **rising bubble** problem in 2D, because there are a lot of related results. In particular, **Hysing et al. (2009)** proposed a **quantitative benchmark problem**.
(But, we do not rely on any specialties of 2D).

Governing equations (1)

The Navier-Stokes equations

- $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$: bounded domain with boundary $\partial\Omega$.
- $\Omega = \Omega_1(t) \cup \Gamma(t) \cup \Omega_2(t)$.
 - Fluid j occupies $\Omega_j(t)$ ($j = 1, 2$). Density and viscosity of fluid j are $\rho_j > 0$ and $\nu_j > 0$ (const.). In this talk, $\rho_1 > \rho_2$ is assumed.
 - $\Gamma(t) = \partial\Omega_1(t) \cap \partial\Omega_2(t)$ is the interface between two fluids.
 - $\Omega_1(t) \cap \Omega_2(t) = \emptyset$ (immiscible flow).

The Navier-Stokes equations

$$\rho(\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) = \operatorname{div}(2\nu \mathbb{D}(\mathbf{u}) - p \mathbb{I}) + \mathbf{F}, \quad t > 0, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \quad (1a)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad t > 0, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega. \quad (1b)$$

$\mathbf{u} = (u_1(t, \mathbf{x}), u_2(t, \mathbf{x}))$: velocity, $p = p(t, \mathbf{x})$: pressure (unknown variables).

$\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{f}_{\text{gravity}} = (0, -\rho g)$, $g > 0$ is gravitational acceleration (const.).

\mathbb{I} : 2×2 unit matrix.

$$\mathbb{D}(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2}(\nabla \mathbf{u} + (\nabla \mathbf{u})^\top) = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_j u_i + \partial_i u_j)_{i,j=1,2}, \quad (\rho, \nu) = \begin{cases} (\rho_1, \nu_1), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_1(t), \\ (\rho_2, \nu_2), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_2(t). \end{cases} \quad (1c)$$

Governing equations (2)

Conditions on the interface $\Gamma(t)$

On the interface $\Gamma(t)$, the **surface tension** is taken into account.

Conditions on the interface $\Gamma(t)$

$$[\mathbf{u}]|_{\Gamma(t)} = \mathbf{0}, \quad [2\nu\mathbb{D}(\mathbf{u}) - p\mathbb{I}]|_{\Gamma(t)} \cdot \mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)} = \sigma\kappa\mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)} \quad (1d)$$

- $\sigma > 0$: surface tension constant
- $\kappa = \kappa(t, \mathbf{x})$: curvature of the interface
- $\mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)}$: unit normal at the interface $\Gamma(t)$ pointing into $\Omega_1(t)$.
- $[\bullet]_\Gamma = \bullet|_{\Omega_1(t) \cap \Gamma(t)} - \bullet|_{\Omega_2(t) \cap \Gamma(t)}$: jump of quantity “ \bullet ”.

(1d) implies

- Velocity continuously across the interface $\Gamma(t)$
- Surface tension balances the jump of the normal stress.

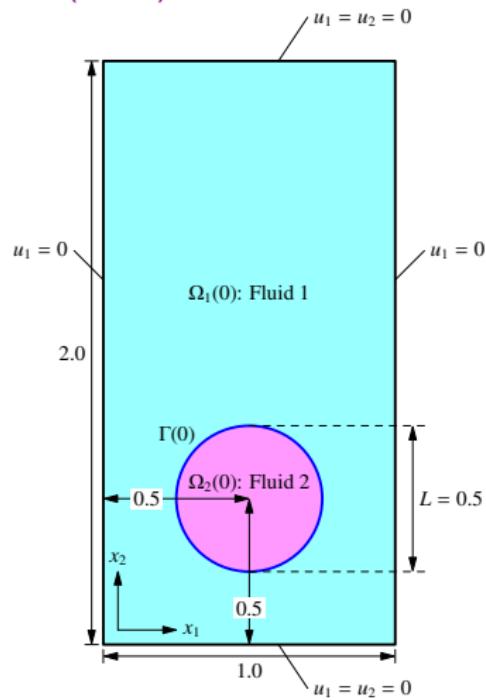
In addition to (1a)–(1d), boundary condition for \mathbf{u} on $\partial\Omega$ and initial conditions: $\mathbf{u}|_{t=0}$ and $\Gamma(0)$ are required.

Rising bubble problem (1)

Domain/Parameters/Initial Conditions

As a typical example of interfacial flows, we consider rising bubble problem. We use the same settings of Test Case 2 in Hysing et al. (2009).

- $\Omega = (0, 1) \times (0, 2)$
- On Top/Bottom wall: $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ (non-slip B.C.)
- On Left/Right wall: $u_1 = 0$ (free-slip B.C.)
- Initial velocity: $\mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{0}$
buoyancy generates the motion of fluid
- $\Gamma(0) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \mid (x_1 - 0.5)^2 + (x_2 - 0.5)^2 = 0.25^2\}$
- $\sigma = 1.96$
- $(\rho_1, \nu_1) = (1000.0, 10.0)$,
 $(\rho_2, \nu_2) = (1.0, 0.1)$, $g = 0.98$
- Reynolds number $\mathcal{R} = \frac{\rho_1 U_g L}{\nu_1} = 35.0$
- Eötvös number $\mathcal{E} = \frac{\rho_1 U_g^2 L}{\sigma} = 125.0$
- $r_0 = 0.25$, $L = 2r_0$, $U_g = \sqrt{2gr_0}$



Rising bubble problem (2)

Related Results

There are a lot of related results. For example...

- **Sussman, Smereka & Osher (1994)**: Finite difference & level set method. Reinitialization of level set function with hyperbolic PDE was proposed.
- **Tabata (2007)**: FEM based energy stable approximation.
- **Hysing et al. (2009)**: Quantitative benchmark problem for rising bubble was proposed. Results by three different groups were presented.
FEM+Levelset/FEM+ALE
- **Doyeux et al. (2013)**: The same benchmark problem by French group **FEM+Levelset (Feel++)**.
- **Gross & Reusken (2010)**: Text book of numerical methods for two-phase incompressible flows

Level set method (1)

Level set function

To capture the interface $\Gamma(t)$, we are due to **level set method** introduced by Osher & Sethian (1988).

Level set function

Let ϕ be signed distance function:

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma(t)), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_1(t), \\ 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \Gamma(t), \\ -\text{dist}(\mathbf{x}, \Gamma(t)), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega_2(t). \end{cases}$$

ϕ is called **level set function**.

ϕ must satisfy $|\nabla \phi| = 1$ a.e. $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$.

By using ϕ , the interface $\Gamma(t)$ is represented as

$$\Gamma(t) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \mid \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = 0\}, \quad t \geq 0. \quad (2)$$

In our case,

$$\phi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{(x_1 - 0.5)^2 + (x_2 - 0.5)^2} - 0.25.$$

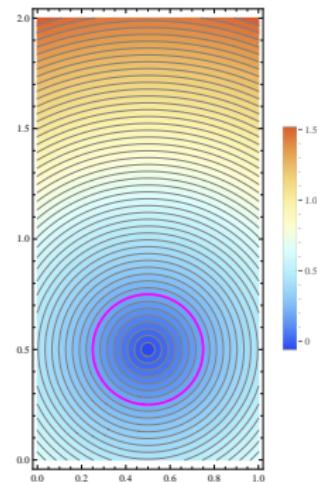


Fig. Density plot of $\phi(0, \mathbf{x})$ and its zero level set

Level set method (2)

Level set formulations (1)

Ω and (ρ, v)

$$\Omega = \begin{cases} \Omega_1(t), & \phi > 0, \\ \Gamma(t), & \phi = 0, \\ \Omega_2(t), & \phi < 0, \end{cases} \quad (\rho, v) = \begin{cases} (\rho_1, v_1), & \phi > 0, \\ (\rho_2, v_2), & \phi < 0. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Let $H(\phi)$ be the Heaviside function so that

$$H(\phi) = \begin{cases} 1, & \phi \geq 0, \\ 0, & \phi < 0. \end{cases}$$

Then ρ and v are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\phi) &= \rho_1 H(\phi) + \rho_2 (1 - H(\phi)), \\ v(\phi) &= v_1 H(\phi) + v_2 (1 - H(\phi)). \end{aligned}$$

Level set method (3)

Level set formulation (2)

Surface tension

By using level set function ϕ , surface tension force is converted into **volume force** of the form

$$\mathbf{f}_{\text{ST}} = \sigma \kappa \mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)} \delta(\phi) \quad (4)$$

Here $\delta(\phi)$ is Dirac's delta whose support is the zero level set of ϕ .

Normal vector on $\Gamma(t)$ and the curvature κ are given by

$$\mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)} = \frac{\nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|} \Big|_{\phi=0}, \quad \kappa(t) = -\operatorname{div} \mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)} = -\operatorname{div} \frac{\nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|} \Big|_{\phi=0} \quad (5)$$

Deformation of interface

In level set method, the deformation of interface is described by motion of zero level set of $\phi(t, \mathbf{x})$. $\phi(t, \mathbf{x})$ is driven by the transport equation.

$$\partial_t \phi + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \phi = 0$$

Level set method (4)

Resulting problem

The resulting problem is coupled system of the Navier-Stokes equations and transport equation.

Resulting problem

$$\rho(\phi)(\partial_t \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{u}) = \operatorname{div}(2\nu(\phi)\mathbb{D}(\mathbf{u}) - p\mathbb{I}) + \mathbf{f}_{\text{ST}} + \mathbf{f}_{\text{gravity}}, \quad (6a)$$

$$\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u} = 0, \quad (6b)$$

$$\partial_t \phi + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \phi = 0 \quad (6c)$$

$$\mathbf{u}(0, \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{u}_0(\mathbf{x}) \equiv (0, 0), \quad (6d)$$

$$\phi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_0(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{(x_1 - 0.5)^2 + (x_2 - 0.5)^2 - 0.25^2} \quad (6e)$$

$$\oplus \text{ boundary condition for } \mathbf{u} \text{ on } \partial\Omega. \quad (6f)$$

Here

$$\mathbf{f}_{\text{ST}} = \sigma \kappa \mathbf{n}|_{\Gamma(t)} \delta(\phi), \quad (6g)$$

$$\mathbf{f}_{\text{gravity}} = (0, -\rho(\phi)g) \quad (6h)$$

Numerical approximation (1)

Approximation of $\delta(\phi)$ and $H(\phi)$

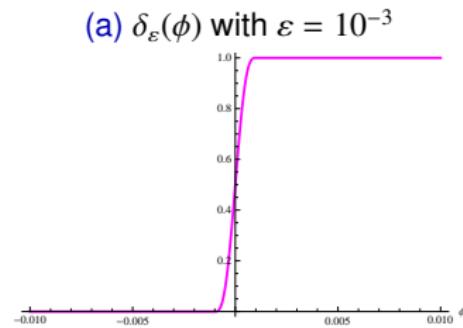
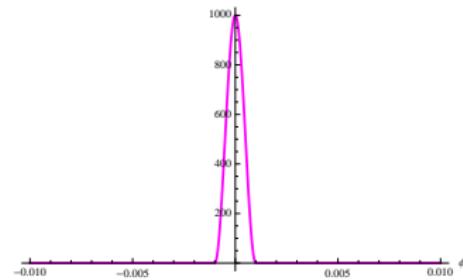
In numerical computation, we need approximations of $\delta(\phi)$ and $H(\phi)$ as continuous functions.

$$\delta(\phi) \approx \delta_\varepsilon(\phi) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \left(1 + \cos\left(\frac{\pi\phi}{\varepsilon}\right)\right), & |\phi| < \varepsilon, \\ 0, & |\phi| \geq \varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

$$H(\phi) \approx H_\varepsilon(\phi) = \begin{cases} 1, & \phi \geq \varepsilon, \\ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\phi}{\varepsilon} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi\phi}{\varepsilon}\right)\right), & |\phi| < \varepsilon, \\ 0, & \phi \leq -\varepsilon. \end{cases}$$

Remark

- $\delta_\varepsilon(\phi)$ and $H_\varepsilon(\phi)$ are continuous function of ϕ
- ε is determined by mesh sizes near $\Gamma(t)$
- In FreeFem++, we can use numerical levelset.
 - `int1d(Th,levelset=phi){...}`



Numerical approximation (2)

Weak form and Full-discretized problem

Finite element spaces

- $\mathbf{V}_h \subset H^1(\Omega)^2, \Pi_h \subset L_0^2(\Omega) = \left\{ p \in L^2(\Omega) \mid \int_{\Omega} p \, d\mathbf{x} = 0 \right\}, X_h \subset L^2(\Omega)$
- Find solution $(\mathbf{u}_h, p_h, \phi_h) \in \mathbf{V}_h \times \Pi_h \times X_h$
 - $\mathbf{V}_h \times \Pi_h$: Hood-Taylor (P2/P1-elements)
 - X_h : P1-element

Weak formulation of full discretized problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\tau} \left(\rho_{\varepsilon}(\phi_h^n) \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1}, \mathbf{v}_h \right) + (2\nu_{\varepsilon}(\phi_h^n) \mathbb{D}(\mathbf{u}_h^{n+1}), \mathbb{D}(\mathbf{v}_h)) \\ & - (\mathbf{p}_h^{n+1}, \operatorname{div} \mathbf{v}_h) = \frac{1}{\tau} (\mathbf{u}_h^n \circ \mathbf{X}^n) + (\mathbf{F}(\phi_h^n), \mathbf{v}_h) + \text{b.d.t.}, \quad \forall \mathbf{v}_h \in \mathbf{V}_h, \end{aligned} \quad (7a)$$

$$(\operatorname{div} \mathbf{u}_h^{n+1} + \alpha p_h^{n+1}, q_h) = 0, \quad \forall q_h \in \Pi_h, \quad (7b)$$

$$\phi_h^{n+1} = \tau \phi_h^n \circ \mathbf{X}^n \quad (7c)$$

Reinitialization (1)

What is reinitialization ?

- The level set function ϕ is required to keep $|\nabla\phi(t, \mathbf{x})| = 1$ a.e. $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$ for any $t \geq 0$, because ϕ is **signed distance function**.
- However, in numerical computation with level set method, $|\nabla\phi_h^n|$ loses such a property as time goes by.
- Since $\partial_t \phi + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla \phi = 0$ is nonlinear hyperbolic PDE, we require some stabilized technique to solve the transport equation. e.g., Characteristic method, SUPG, etc...

We need to recover $|\nabla\phi_h| = 1$. The procedure to recover such a property of ϕ_h is called **Reinitialization**.

In this talk, we use PDE based reinitializations.

- R.I. by hyperbolic PDE ([Sussmann et al. \(1994\)](#))
- R.I. by elliptic PDE ([Basting & Kuzmin \(2013\)](#)).

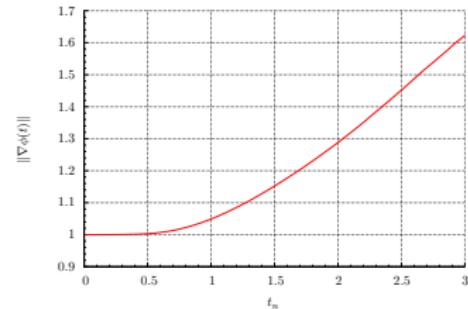


Fig. Time sequence of $\|\nabla\phi_h^n\|$ of a numerical computation without any reinitialization for ϕ

Reinitialization (2)

R.I. with nonlinear elliptic PDE

Recently [Basing & Kuzmin \(2013\)](#) introduced R.I. with nonlinear elliptic PDE as follows.

R.I. with nonlinear elliptic PDE, Basting & Kuzmin (2013)

Let $\phi(t, x)$ be a function which is required to recover $|\nabla \phi| = 1$ and $\psi = \psi(x; t)$ be solution to the following variational problem.

$$((1 - 1/|\nabla \psi|) \nabla \psi, \nabla \phi)_\Omega + \beta \langle \psi, \varphi \rangle_{\{\phi=0\}} = 0, \quad \forall \varphi \in C^\infty(\Omega), \quad (\text{ERI})$$

where $\beta \gg 1$ is parameter of penalization. Then $\psi(x; t)$ may have the same zero level set of ϕ and may become signed distance function.

Remark

- Find fixed point by successive approximation. Rate of convergence is better than hyperbolic PDE based R.I..
- It is very easy to implement in finite element method.
- Mathematical justification is not verified (but it works well).

Benchmark Values (1)

Centroid / Center of mass

In order to estimate our numerical results with Hysing *et al.* (2009), we introduce some benchmark values.

Centroid vector / Center of mass

$$X_c(t) = (X_{c,1}(t), X_{c,2}(t)), \quad X_{c,j}(t) = \frac{1}{|\Omega_2(t)|} \int_{\Omega_2(t)} x_j d\mathbf{x}$$

- $X_{c,1}$: axi-symmetry of bubble
- $X_{c,2}$: vertical location of center of mass

Since $\Omega_2(t) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega \mid \phi(t, \mathbf{x}) < 0\}$, the centroid vector is reformulated as follow.

$$X_{c,j}(t) = \frac{\int_{\Omega} x_j \mathbb{1}_{\{\phi < 0\}}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}}{\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{\phi < 0\}}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}}.$$

$\mathbb{1}_D$ is the indicator function on D .

Benchmark Values (2)

Circularity

Circularity

The degree of circularity $\chi = \chi(t)$ is defined as

$$\chi(t) = \frac{P_a(t)}{P_b(t)} = \frac{\text{perimeter of area-equivalent circle}}{\text{Perimeter of bubble}}$$

Here P_a is the perimeter of a circle with diameter d_a , i.e., $P_a = \pi d_a$, such a circle has area equal to that of bubble with perimeter P_b .

Remark

- Volume of bubble is preserved $\implies P_a \equiv \pi r_0^2$ (constant, in our case $r_0 = 0.25$).
- By the level set function ϕ and approximation of Dirac's delta $\delta_\varepsilon(\phi)$, P_b is given and approximated by

$$P_b = \oint_{\{\phi=0\}} d\sigma \approx \int_{\Omega} \delta_\varepsilon(\phi) dx$$

Benchmark Values (3)

Mean velocity in Bubble / Rise velocity

Mean Velocity in Bubble

$$\mathbf{U}_c(t) = (U_{c,1}(t), U_{c,2}(t)), \quad U_{c,j}(t) = \frac{1}{|\Omega_2(t)|} \int_{\Omega_2(t)} u_j(t, \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

- $U_{c,1}$ denotes axi-symmetry of motion in bubble
- $U_{c,2}$ is so called **rise velocity**

Similar manner as in centroid vector,

$$U_{c,j}(t) = \frac{\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) < 0\}} u_j(t, \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}}{\int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) < 0\}} d\mathbf{x}}$$

Benchmark Values (4)

$\|\nabla\phi(t)\|$ and $|\Omega_2(t)|$

In [Hysing et al. \(2009\)](#), $X_c(t), \chi(t), U_c(t)$ are used for their benchmark problem (in particular, $X_{c,2}(t), \chi(t), U_{c,2}(t)$ are used.)

In addition to these benchmark values, we also observe $\|\nabla\phi\|$ and $|\Omega_2(t)|$ for checking $|\nabla\phi_h^n| = 1$ and mass-preservation of fluid 2 in our computation.

$\|\nabla\phi(t)\|$

In order to check the level set function satisfies $|\nabla\phi| = 1$ for a.e. $x \in \Omega$ in our numerical computation, we observe L^1 mean value of $|\nabla\phi|$.

$$\|\nabla\phi(t)\| := \frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla\phi(t, x)| dx$$

If $|\nabla\phi| \equiv 1$ for any $x \in \Omega$, $\|\nabla\phi(t)\| \equiv 1$ for all t .

Volume of fluid 2

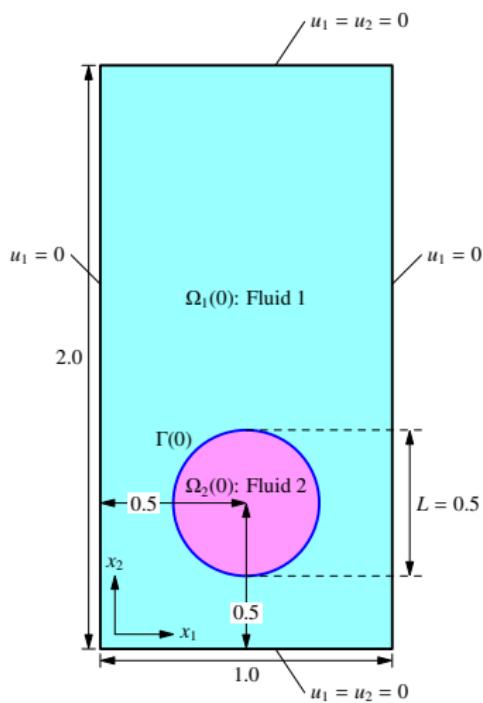
$$|\Omega_2(t)| = \int_{\Omega_2(t)} dx = \int_{\Omega} \mathbb{1}_{\{\phi < 0\}} dx.$$

This value is used in benchmark values of [Hysing et al. \(2009\)](#).

Numerical experiments (1)

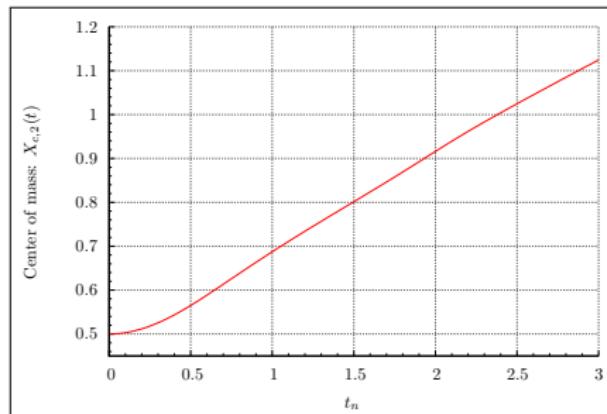
Parameters/Settings of Benchmark problem

- $\Omega = (0, 1) \times (0, 2)$
- On Top/Bottom wall: $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ (non-slip B.C.)
- On Left/Right wall: $u_1 = 0$ (free-slip B.C.)
- Initial velocity: $\mathbf{u}|_{t=0} = \mathbf{0}$
- $\phi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{(x_1 - 0.5)^2 + (x_2 - 0.5)^2} - 0.25$.
- $(\rho_1, v_1) = (1000.0, 10.0)$,
 $(\rho_2, v_2) = (1.0, 0.1)$, $g = 0.98$, $\sigma = 1.96$
- Temporal step size: $\tau = 10^{-3}$
- Computational mesh at each time step is refined by adaptive mesh.
In particular, a lot of mesh points are taken near the interface.

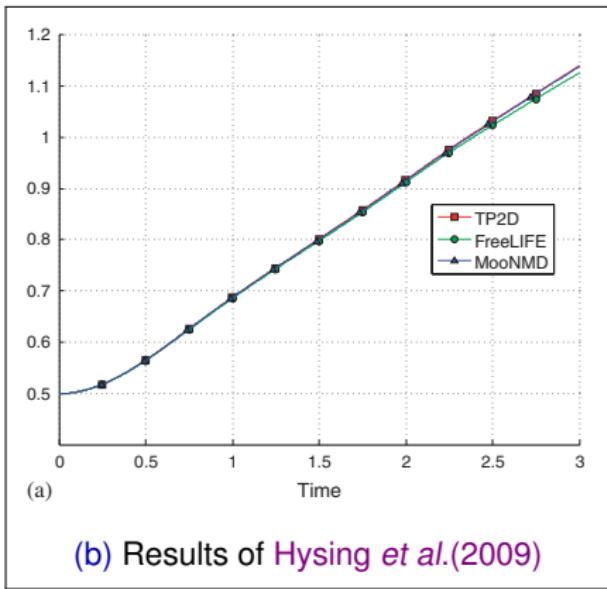


Numerical experiments (2)

Quantitative benchmark: Centroid $X_{c,2}(t)$



(a) Our numerical computation



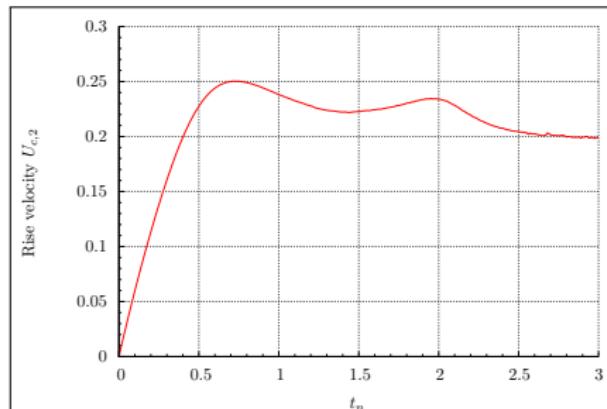
(b) Results of Hysing et al.(2009)

Fig. Time sequence of $X_{c,2}(t_n)$

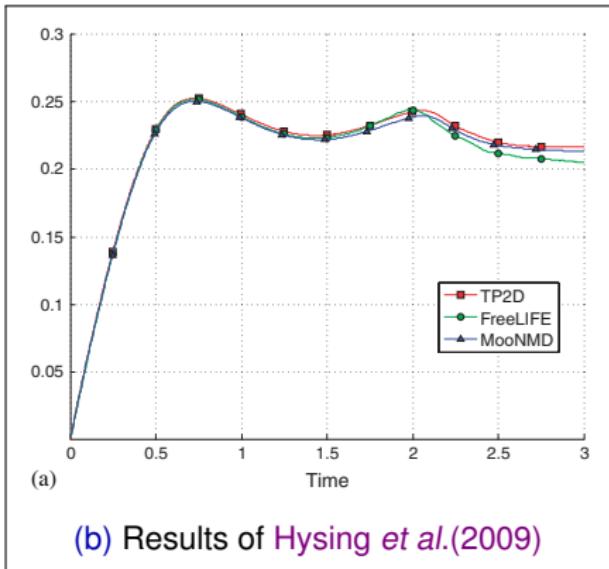
TP2D: TU Dortmund / FreeLIFE: EPFL Lausanne / MooNMD: Univ. Magdeburg

Numerical experiments (3)

Quantitative benchmark: Rise-velocity



(a) Our numerical computation

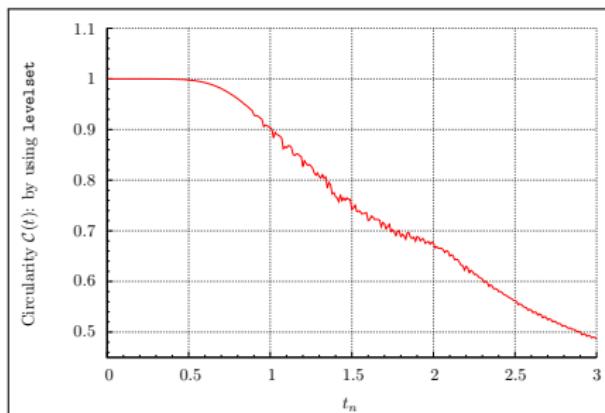


(b) Results of Hysing et al.(2009)

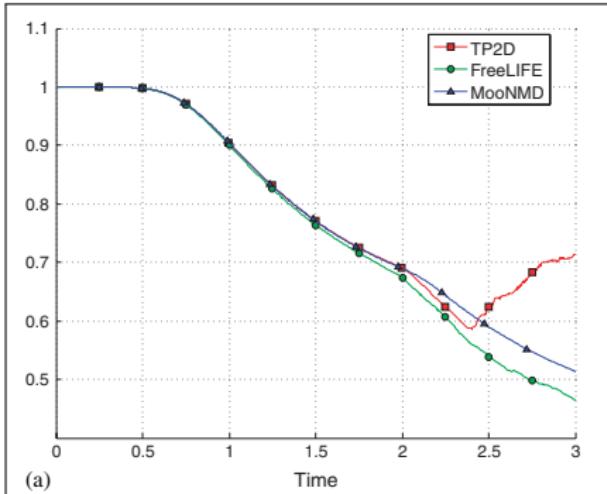
Fig. Time sequence of rise velocity $U_{c,2}(t_n)$

Numerical experiments (4)

Quantitative benchmark: Circularity



(a) Our numerical computation



(b) Results of Hysing et al. (2009)

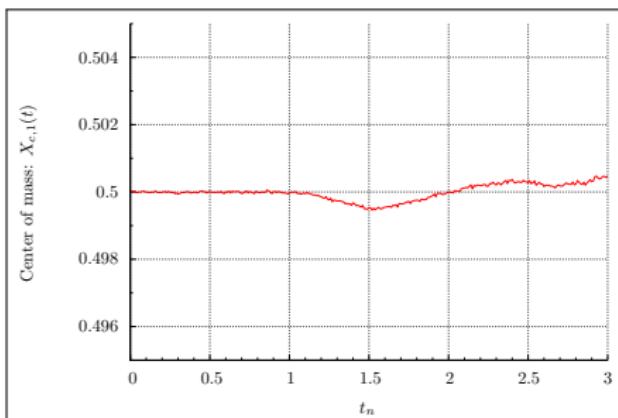
Fig. Time sequence of circularity

- By the above three benchmark values, our result is similar to that of FreeLIFE (EPFL Lausanne).

Numerical experiments (5)

Quantitative benchmark: Symmetricity

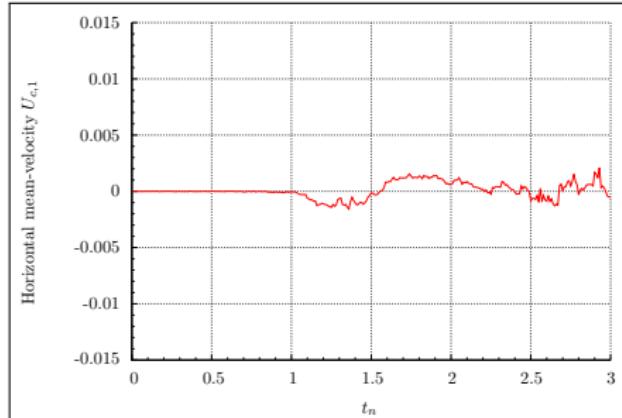
Using $X_{c,1}(t)$ and $U_{c,1}(t)$, we observe symmetricity of the motion of bubble.



(a) Time sequence of $X_{c,1}(t_n)$ which is the first component of centroid vector $\mathbf{X}_c(t_n)$.

Time-Average: $\overline{X_{c,1}} = 0.499992787$.

$$X_{c,1}(0) - \overline{X_{c,1}} = 7.21 \times 10^{-6} > 0$$



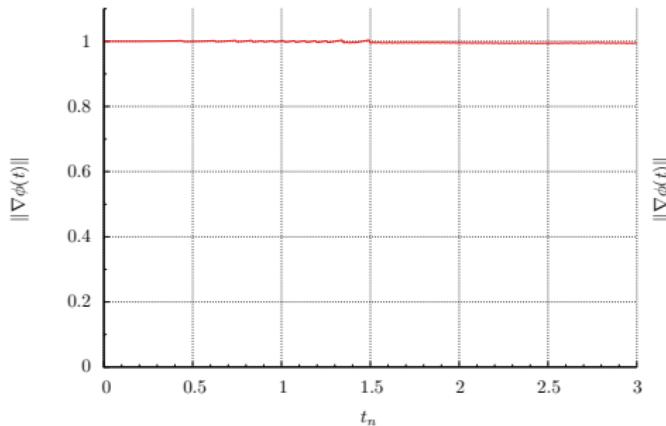
(b) Time sequence of $U_{c,1}(t_n)$ which is the first component of mean velocity $\mathbf{U}_c(t_n)$.

Time-Average: $\overline{U_{c,1}} = 8.75 \times 10^{-5} > 0$

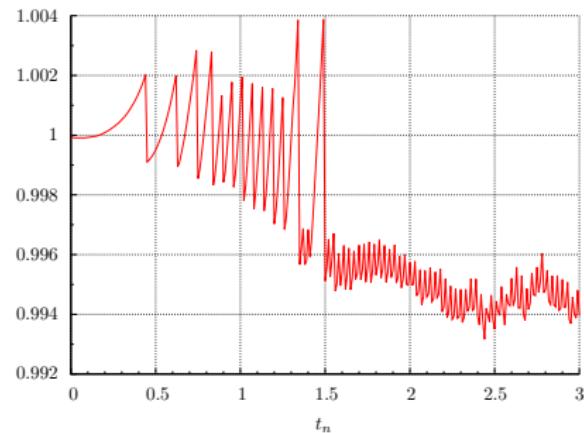
Fig. Time sequence of $X_{c,1}(t_n)$ and $U_{c,1}(t_n)$

Numerical experiments (6)

Quantitative benchmark: $\|\nabla \phi_h^n\|$



(a) Time sequence of $\|\nabla \phi_h^n\|$ (macroview)



(b) Time sequence of $\|\nabla \phi_h^n\|$ (microview)

Fig. Time sequence of $\|\nabla \phi_h^n\|$.

- **Time-average:** $\overline{\|\nabla \phi_h\|} = 0.997385$, $1 - \overline{\|\nabla \phi_h\|} = 0.002615$
- $\|\nabla \phi_h(3.0)\| = 0.993951$, $1 - \|\nabla \phi_h(3.0)\| = 0.006049$

Numerical experiments (7)

Quantitative benchmark: Volume of bubble

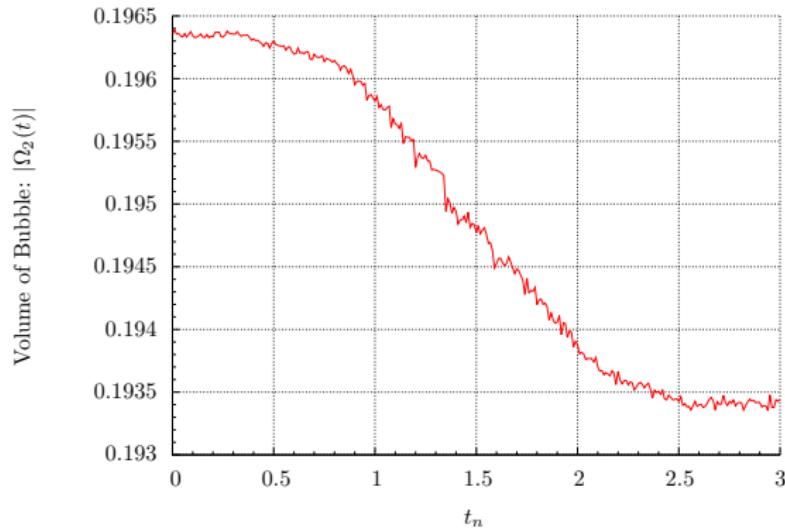


Fig. Time sequence of $|\Omega_2(t_n)|$ (macroview)

- $|\Omega_2(0.0)| = \pi r_0^2 \approx 0.19635$ (initial value)
- $|\Omega_2(3.0)| = 0.193442$
- In our computation, 1.5% of fluid 2 was lost.

Thank you for your attention.