3D Simulation of Sedimentation in Suspensions of Rod-Like Particles

Bella My Phuong Quynh Duong, Christiane Helzel

Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf

September 23, 2025



Table of Contents

Recap

Wave Propagation Algorithm

Overview

Recap

Wave Propagation Algorithm

Mathematical Model for the Sedimentation of Rod-Like Particles

Coupling of a kinetic Smoluchowski equation with Navier-Stokes equation

$$\begin{split} \partial_t f + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot (\mathbf{u}f) + \nabla_{\mathbf{n}} \cdot (P_{\mathbf{n}^{\perp}} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{u} \mathbf{n} f) - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot ((I + \mathbf{n} \otimes \mathbf{n}) \mathbf{e}_3 f) \\ &= D_r \Delta_n f, \\ \operatorname{Re} \left(\partial_t \mathbf{u} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}) \mathbf{u} \right) = \Delta_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{u} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \rho - \delta \left(\int_{S^{d-1}} f d\mathbf{n} \right) \mathbf{e}_3, \\ \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \cdot \mathbf{u} &= 0. \end{split}$$

where $f = f(\mathbf{x}, t, \mathbf{n})$ represents the particle distribution of rod-like particles as a function of time t, space $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and orientation $\mathbf{n} \in S^2$. D_r, δ and Re are non-dimensional parameters.

Helzel & Tzavaras, 2017

2D: Coupled System for Rectilinear Flow

We consider
$$\mathbf{u} = (0, 0, w(x, y, t))^T$$
, $f(x, y, t, \phi, \theta)$. We get
$$\sin \theta \partial_t f(x, y, t, \phi, \theta) + \partial_x (\cos \phi \sin \theta \cos \theta f) + \partial_y (\sin \phi \sin \theta \cos \theta f) + \partial_\theta ((w_x \sin^3 \theta \cos \phi + w_y \sin \phi \sin^3 \theta) f) = D_r \left(\partial_\phi \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\phi f \right) + \partial_\theta (\sin \theta \partial_\theta f) \right)$$

$$Re \partial_t w(x, y, t) = \partial_{xx} w + \partial_{yy} w + \delta \left(\bar{\rho} - \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \right).$$
(1)

2D: Coupled System for Rectilinear Flow

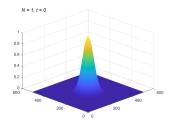
We consider $\mathbf{u} = (0, 0, w(x, y, t))^T$, $f(x, y, t, \phi, \theta)$. We get

$$\sin\theta\partial_{t}f(x,y,t,\phi,\theta) + \partial_{x}(\cos\phi\sin\theta\cos\theta f) + \partial_{y}(\sin\phi\sin\theta\cos\theta f)
+ \partial_{\theta}\left((w_{x}\sin^{3}\theta\cos\phi + w_{y}\sin\phi\sin^{3}\theta)f\right) = D_{r}\left(\partial_{\phi}\left(\frac{1}{\sin\theta}\partial_{\phi}f\right) + \partial_{\theta}(\sin\theta\partial_{\theta}f)\right)
Re\partial_{t}w(x,y,t) = \partial_{xx}w + \partial_{yy}w + \delta\left(\bar{\rho} - \int_{0}^{2\pi}\int_{0}^{\pi}f\sin\theta d\theta d\phi\right).$$
(1)

The system of hierarchy of moment equations is given as

$$\partial_t Q + A \partial_x Q + B \partial_y Q = D(w_x, w_y) Q + D_r E Q, \tag{2}$$

where $Q = (c_0^0(x,t), c_2^{-2}(x,t), \dots, c_{2N}^{2N}(x,t))^T$ represents the vector of the moments and $A, B, D, E \in \mathbb{R}^{(N+1)(2N+1)x(N+1)(2N+1)}$.



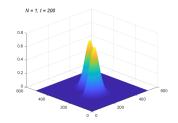
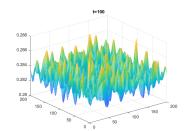


Figure 1: Numerical results for c_0^0 at different times using $D_r=1$ and $w_x=w_y=1$ for x<50 and $w_x=w_y=-1$ otherwise. A cluster with higher particle density splits into two, each moving in opposite directions.



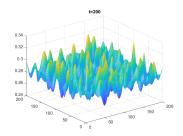


Figure 2: Solution structure of c_0^0 with N = 7.

Status of Project

So far...

- Derive and approximate hierarchies of moment equations for the coupled kinetic-fluid model with f on S^2
 - 1D Shear Flow
 - 2D Rectilinear Flow

Now

Status of Project

So far...

- Derive and approximate hierarchies of moment equations for the coupled kinetic-fluid model with f on S²
 - 1D Shear Flow
 - 2D Rectilinear Flow

Now

ullet Extension to the 3D case: moment equations for the coupled kinetic–fluid model with f on S^2

Overview

Recap

Wave Propagation Algorithm

Approximation of Coupled Shear Flow Problem

Consider

$$\partial_t Q(x,t) + A \partial_x Q(x,t) = D(w_x) Q(x,t) + D_r E Q(x,t)
\partial_t w = \partial_{xx} w + \delta(\bar{\rho} - 2\sqrt{\pi}c_0^0(x,t)).$$
(3)

1.	$rac{1}{2}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t Q(x,t) = (D(w_x(x,t_n)) + D_r E)Q(x,t)$
2.	$rac{1}{4}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t w(x,t) = \delta(ar ho - 2\sqrt{\pi}c_0^0(x,t))$
3.	$rac{1}{2}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t w(x,t) = \partial_{xx} w(x,t)$
4.	$rac{1}{4}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t w(x,t) = \delta(ar ho - 2\sqrt{\pi}c_0^0(x,t))$
5.	Δt step on $\partial_t Q(x,t) + A \partial_x Q(x,t) = 0$
6.	$rac{1}{4}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t w(x,t) = \delta(ar ho - 2\sqrt{\pi}c_0^0(x,t))$
7.	$rac{1}{2}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t w(x,t) = \partial_{xx} w(x,t)$
8.	$rac{1}{4}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t w(x,t) = \delta(ar ho - 2\sqrt{\pi}c_0^0(x,t))$
9.	$\frac{1}{2}\Delta t$ step on $\partial_t Q(x,t) = (D(w_x(x,t_{n+1})) + D_r E)Q(x,t)$

Table 1: Splitting algorithm for solving the coupled shear flow problem (Dahm et al.)

We use an ODE solver for 1. + 9., LeVeque's high resolution wave propagation algorithm for 5. and finite difference methods for the evolution of w.

1D Wave Propagation Algorithm (LeVeque et al.)

We consider the hyperbolic system

$$q_t + f(q)_x = 0, \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

- Discretize the domain into cells $[x_{i-1/2}, x_{i+1/2}]$.
- At each interface $x_{i+1/2}$, solve the Riemann problem:

$$q(x,0) = \begin{cases} q_i, & x < x_{i+1/2}, \\ q_{i+1}, & x > x_{i+1/2}. \end{cases}$$

• Decompose the jump into waves along eigenvectors of A = f'(q):

$$q_{i+1} - q_i = \sum_{p=1}^m \alpha^p r^p$$
, $W^p = \alpha^p r^p$, travelling with s^p .

Define fluctuations:

$$\mathcal{A}^+ \Delta q_{i-1/2} = \sum_{\rho: s^\rho > 0} s^\rho W^\rho, \quad \mathcal{A}^- \Delta q_{i+1/2} = \sum_{\rho: s^\rho < 0} s^\rho W^\rho$$

Update cell averages:

$$Q_i^{n+1} = Q_i^n - rac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \Big(\mathcal{A}^+ \Delta q_{i-1/2} + \mathcal{A}^- \Delta q_{i+1/2} \Big)$$

Multidimensional Wave Propagation (2D and 3D)

General system:

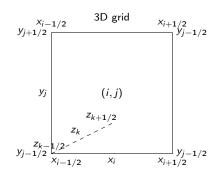
$$q_t + f(q)_x + g(q)_y + h(q)_z = 0$$

Key ideas:

- 1D Riemann problems at cell interfaces: Solve along the normal direction of each cell interface.
- Wave decomposition: Decompose jumps into waves W^p with speeds s^p.
- Fluctuations:

$$\mathcal{A}^{\pm}\Delta q$$
, $\mathcal{B}^{\pm}\Delta q$, $\mathcal{C}^{\pm}\Delta q$

- Transverse propagation:
 - 2D: Waves in x-direction generate waves in y, and vice versa.
 - 3D: Each wave generates transverse waves along in the other two directions.



3D Transverse and Double Transverse Propagation

In 3D: every wave generates transverse and double–transverse contributions in the other directions

Examples of Transverse Interactions

- $x \rightarrow y$ (transverse)
- $x \rightarrow z$ (transverse)
- $x \rightarrow y \rightarrow z$ (double transverse)
- $y \rightarrow x \rightarrow z$, etc.

Update Scheme

$$\begin{split} Q_{i,j,k}^{n+1} &= Q_{i,j,k}^n - \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta x} \Big(\mathcal{A}^+ \Delta q_{i-1/2,j,k} + \mathcal{A}^- \Delta q_{i+1/2,j,k} \Big) \\ &- \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta y} \Big(\mathcal{B}^+ \Delta q_{i,j-1/2,k} + \mathcal{B}^- \Delta q_{i,j+1/2,k} \Big) \\ &- \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta z} \Big(\mathcal{C}^+ \Delta q_{i,j,k-1/2} + \mathcal{C}^- \Delta q_{i,j,k+1/2} \Big). \end{split}$$

Overview

Recap

Wave Propagation Algorithm

Coupled System for a Three-Dimensional Flow

We consider
$$\mathbf{u} = (0, 0, w(x, y, z, t))^T$$
, $f(x, y, t, \phi, \theta)$. We get
$$\sin \theta \partial_t f(x, y, t, \phi, \theta) + \partial_x (\cos \phi \sin \theta \cos \theta f) + \partial_y (\sin \phi \sin \theta \cos \theta f) - \partial_z ((1 + \cos^2 \theta) f)$$
$$= -\partial_\theta \left((w_x \sin^3 \theta \cos \phi + w_y \sin \phi \sin^3 \theta - w_z \cos \theta \sin^2 \theta) f \right) D_r \left(\partial_\phi \left(\frac{1}{\sin \theta} \partial_\phi f \right) + \partial_\theta (\sin \theta \partial_\theta f) \right)$$
$$Re \partial_t w(x, y, t) = \partial_{xx} w + \partial_{yy} w + \partial_{yy} z + \delta \left(\bar{\rho} - \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f \sin \theta d\theta d\phi \right). \tag{4}$$

Coupled System for a Three-Dimensional Flow

We consider $\mathbf{u} = (0, 0, w(x, y, z, t))^T$, $f(x, y, t, \phi, \theta)$. We get

$$\begin{aligned} & \sin\theta\partial_t f(x,y,t,\phi,\theta) + \partial_x (\cos\phi\sin\theta\cos\theta f) + \partial_y (\sin\phi\sin\theta\cos\theta f) - \partial_z ((1+\cos^2\theta)f) \\ & = -\partial_\theta \left((w_x \sin^3\theta\cos\phi + w_y \sin\phi\sin^3\theta - w_z \cos\theta\sin^2\theta)f \right) D_r \left(\partial_\phi \left(\frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\phi f \right) + \partial_\theta (\sin\theta\partial_\theta f) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$Re\partial_{t}w(x,y,t) = \partial_{xx}w + \partial_{yy}w + \partial_{yy}z + \delta\left(\bar{\rho} - \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} f \sin\theta d\theta d\phi\right). \tag{4}$$

The system of hierarchy of moment equations is given as

$$\partial_t Q + A \partial_x Q + B \partial_y Q + C \partial_z Q = D(w_x, w_y, w_z) Q + D_r E Q, \tag{5}$$

where $Q=(c_0^0(x,t),c_2^{-2}(x,t),\ldots,c_{2N}^{2N}(x,t))^T$ represents the vector of the moments and $A,B,C,D,E\in\mathbb{R}^{(N+1)(2N+1)\times(N+1)(2N+1)}$.

Wave Propagation and Error Analysis

Wave propagation parameters (LeVeque et al.): The scheme can be characterized by three integers (m_1, m_2, m_3) :

- m_1 : Correction wave (1 = not included, 2 = included)
- m_2 : Transverse propagation (0 = none, 1 = increment only, 2 = increment + correction)
- m₃: Double-transverse propagation (0 = none, 1 = increment only, 2 = increment + correction)

Error computation: On a coarse grid, define

$$E(h) = U(h) - U(h/2), \quad E(h/2) = U(h/2) - U(h/4)$$

Accuracy Analysis

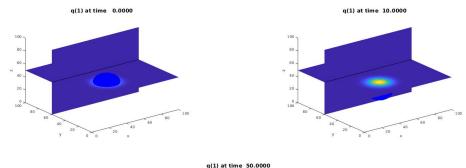
Let

$$r = \sqrt{(x-40)^2 + (y-30)^2 + (z-50)^2}, \quad c_0^0(x, y, k, 0) = \exp(-0.01 \, r^2)$$

be the initial value.

Method	Grid	N=1		N=2		N=7	
		L ₁ Error	EOC	L ₁ Error	EOC	L ₁ Error	EOC
(1,1,1)	32	$5.57 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-	$5.47 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-	$5.01 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-
	64	$3.54 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.65	$3.40 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.68	$2.93 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.77
	128	$1.79 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.98	$1.80 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.91	-	-
(2,2,2)	32	$1.79 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-	$2.00 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-	$1.83 \cdot 10^{-4}$	-
	64	$4.66 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.94	$5.45 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.86	$4.82 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.92
	128	$1.17 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.99	$1.38 \cdot 10^{-5}$	1.98	-	-

Table: Accuracy analysis for the component c_0^0 of the coupled 3D flow problem $(D_r=1)$. The time step was limited by the CFL condition, with $cfl \leq 0.45$ for method (1,1,1) and $cfl \leq 0.9$ for method (2,2,2).



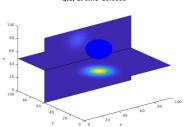


Figure 3: Numerical results for c_0^0 at different times using $D_r = 1$, $w_x = w_y = 1$ and $w_z = 0$.

Conclusion

- TODO
- 0