

# ME C201 / MSE C286 PROJECT 7 - MODELING AND SIMULATION OF THE INFECTION ZONE FROM A COUGH (100 POINTS)

*Due: Friday, May 7th, 2021, 11:59 pm.*

---

## Guidelines:

- Submit an electronic copy of your typed project on Gradescope before the due date.
  - This project should follow the [project instructions](#) for this course. To receive full credit, your report must be neat and specific but does not need to be longer than a few pages.
- 

## Overview

The pandemic of 2020 has led to a huge interest of modeling and simulation of infectious diseases. One of the central questions is the potential infection zone produced by a cough. In this assignment, you will develop mathematical models to simulate the progressive time-evolution of the distribution of particles in space produced by a cough. From your simulations, we ask that you recommend safe distancing guidelines based on the range, distribution and settling time of the particles under the influence of gravity and drag from the surrounding air. You will apply the knowledge you have gained throughout this course to approach this problem, heavily drawing from concepts from Project 1.

### DROPLET DISPERSION FROM A COUGH

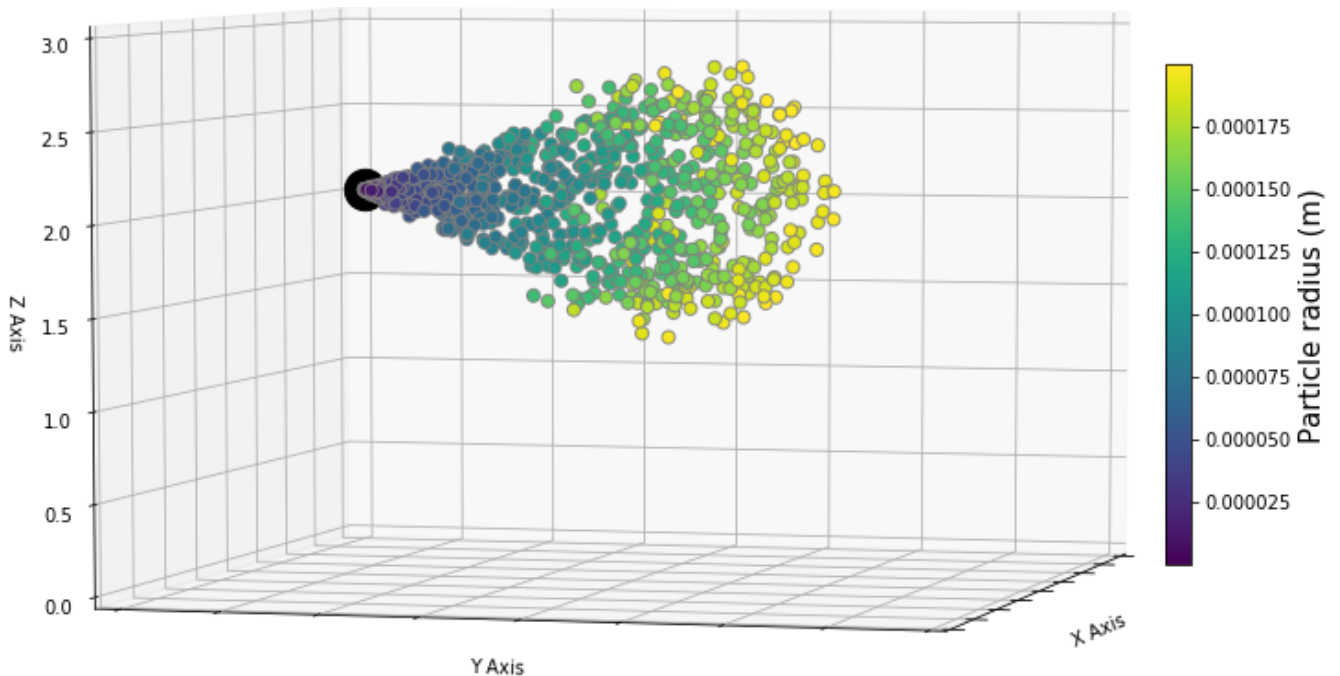


Figure 1: Droplet dispersion after 0.1 seconds.

## Model Formulation

### Particle Dynamics

In its most basic form, a cough can be considered as a high-velocity release of a random distribution of particles of various sizes, into an ambient atmosphere. For our particular simulation, assume the same initial velocity magnitude

for all particles under consideration, with a random distribution of outward directions away from the source of the cough. This implies that a particle non-interaction approximation is appropriate. Thus, the inter-particle collisions are negligible. We also assume that the particles are spherical with a random distribution of radii  $R_i, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, N = \text{particles}$ . The masses are given by  $m_i = \rho_i \frac{4}{3} \pi R_i^3$ , where  $\rho_i$  is the density of the particles and is assumed to be constant for all droplets. We assume that the cough particles are quite small and that the amount of rotation, if any, contributes negligibly to the overall trajectory of the particles. The equation of motion for the  $i$ th particle in the system is

$$m_i \ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i = \Psi_i^{grav} + \Psi_i^{drag} \quad (1)$$

where  $m_i$  is the mass of each droplet,  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i$  is the droplet's acceleration, and the two  $\Psi$  are gravitational and drag forces respectively.

Let the  $z$  axis be the vertical axis so we note that the gravitation force be defined as

$$\Psi_i^{grav} = m_i(g_x, g_y, g_z) = (0, 0, -m_i g) \quad (2)$$

where  $g$  is the gravitational constant. The drag force depends on the geometry of the droplet and the properties of the surrounding medium:

$$\Psi_i^{drag} = \frac{1}{2} \rho_a C_D \|\mathbf{v}^f - \mathbf{v}_i\| (\mathbf{v}^f - \mathbf{v}_i) A_i \quad (3)$$

where  $C_D$  is the drag coefficient,  $A_i$  is the reference area, which for a sphere is  $A_i = \pi R_i^2$ ,  $\rho_a$  is the density of the ambient fluid environment and  $\mathbf{v}^f$  is the velocity of the surrounding medium, which in this case is air. As in Project 1, to determine the drag coefficient, we first determine the Reynolds number of the droplet  $Re$ :

$$Re = \frac{2R\rho_a \|\mathbf{v}^f - \mathbf{v}_i\|}{\mu_f} \quad (4)$$

Where  $\mu_f$  is the viscosity of the surrounding medium. Then, the drag coefficient is a piecewise function of  $Re$ :

$$C_{Di} = \begin{cases} \frac{24}{Re}, & 0 < Re \leq 1 \\ \frac{24}{Re^{0.646}}, & 1 < Re \leq 400 \\ 0.5, & 400 < Re \leq 3 \times 10^5 \\ 0.000366 Re^{0.4275}, & 3 \times 10^5 < Re \leq 2 \times 10^6 \\ 0.18, & Re > 2 \times 10^6 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

## Numerical Integration

Thus we have the governing equation for the motion of the droplets, which we will numerically integrate using the Forward Euler method. We employ equation 1 and solve for  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i$ . We use a Forward Euler scheme to integrate and find the position and velocity of some  $i$ -th droplet:

$$\mathbf{r}_i(t + \Delta t) = \mathbf{r}_i(t) + \Delta t \mathbf{v}_i(t) \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_i(t + \Delta t) = \mathbf{v}_i(t) + \Delta t \ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i(t) \quad (7)$$

## Simulation Parameters

### Particle Generation

Let us assume the total mass of all of the droplets in a cough is  $M^{total} = 0.00005 \text{ kg}$ , with a mean particle radius of  $\bar{R} = 0.0001 \text{ m}$  with variations according to

$$R_i = \bar{R} \times (1 + A \times \xi_i) \quad (8)$$

where  $A = 0.9975$  and a random variable  $-1 \leq \xi_i \leq 1$ . The algorithm used for particle generation should be:

- Initialize total mass:  $M = 0$
- Start loop:  $i = 1, P_n$
- Compute a random deviation from the mean radius  $\bar{R}$ :  $R_i = \bar{R} \times (1 + A \times \xi_i)$

- Compute the mass of the new particle and add to the total mass computed:  $M = M + m_i = M + \rho_i \frac{4}{3} \pi R_i^3$
- Check if the threshold for total mass has been reached: If  $M \geq M^{total}$  then stop (**determines**  $P_n =$  **particles**)
- End loop.

As with previous assignments, please refer the Variable Glossary for a complete description of the values for each constant.

## Initial Trajectories

The initial trajectories we determined from the following algorithm

- Specify the relative direction of the cough:  $\mathbf{N}^c = (N_x^c, N_y^c, N_z^c)$ ,
- For each particle,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, P_n$ , construct a (perturbed) trajectory vector:

$$\mathbf{N}_i = (N_x^c + A_x^c \times \eta_{ix}, N_y^c + A_y^c \times \eta_{iy}, N_z^c + A_z^c \times \eta_{iz}), \quad (9)$$

where the random cone parameters are bounded:  $-1 \leq \eta_{ix} \leq 1$ ,  $0 \leq \eta_{iy} \leq 1$ ,  $-1 \leq \eta_{iz} \leq 1$ .

- For each particle, normalize the trajectory vector:

$$\mathbf{n}_i = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{N}_i\|_2} (N_{ix}, N_{iy}, N_{iz}). \quad (10)$$

- For each particle, the velocity vector is constructed by a projection onto the normal vector:

$$\mathbf{v}_i = V^c \mathbf{n}_i \quad (11)$$

## Implementation Tips

- As with assignment 1, consider only computing the forces on the droplets that are still airborne, while droplets with position  $r_y \leq 0$  are immobilized and reset to 0.
- Rather than plotting all of the droplets, randomly choose 1000 droplets to display in your plots.

## Deliverables

1. Plot the trajectory of the droplets in 3D at time  $t = [0.10s, 0.25s, 0.50s, 1.0s, 2.0s, 4.0s]$  using **colorbar()** to indicate the range of droplets' radii. Be sure to include properly labeled axes to indicate how far the droplets are displaced from the source.
2. Report droplet size range and the maximum distance traveled from the source and give a recommendation for practicing safe social distancing.
3. Comment on how the particle size affects the physical range and settling time of the particle. Specifically, describe how the drag affects different particles as a function of radius, and consider what implications this has on the spread of a virus.

### To submit your project:

1. Upload your report PDF to Gradescope under the assignment name: *Spring 2021, Assignment 7 Report*
2. Upload the complete Matlab or Python scripts (or your preferred language) to Gradescope under the assignment name: *Spring 2021, Assignment 7 Code*

## VARIABLE GLOSSARY

Symbol	Type	Units	Value	Description
$r_0$	Vector	m	[0, 0, 2]	Standing height
$t_{tot}$	Scalar	s	4	Total simulation time
$dt$	Scalar	s	1e-4	Time step
$V_{t=0}^c$	Scalar	m/s	35	Cough velocity
$V^f$	Vector	m/s	[0, 0, 0]	Velocity of surrounding medium
$\rho_i$	Scalar	$kg/m^3$	1000	Density of droplets
$\rho_a$	Scalar	$kg/m^3$	1.225	Density of air
$M^{total}$	Scalar	kg	0.00005	Total mass $\sum_{i=1}^{P_n} m_i$
$\bar{R}$	Scalar	m	0.0001	Mean particle radius
$A$	Scalar	none	0.9975	Deviatoric constant
$\mathbf{N}^c$	vector	none	[0, 1, 0]	Trajectory cone
$\mathbf{A}^c$	vector	none	[1, 0.5, 1]	Deviatoric constant for trajectory
$\mu_f$	scalar	$Pa \cdot s$	1.8e-5	Viscosity coefficient for air
$g$	vector	$m/s^2$	[0, 0, -9.81]	Gravitational constant

## References

- [1] T. Zohdi, "Modeling and Simulation of Infection Zone from a Cough", Computational Mechanics, 2018