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Research Interests

- Direct simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC) stochastic particle method
- Kinetic theory of gases, Rarefied gas dynamics, Transport Phenomena
- Hypersonic thermochemical non-equilibrium flow modeling and simulation
- Fluid mechanics, Micro/nano-scale flow/heat transfer
- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), Scientific Computing

Education

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

Ph.D. Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics August 2013

- Dissertation: Consistent Modeling of Hypersonic Nonequilibrium Flows using Direct Simulation Monte Carlo
- Advisor: Dr. Thomas E. Schwartzentruber

M.S. Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics May 2010

- Thesis: Adaptive Mesh Refinement and Cut-cell Algorithms for DSMC Simulation of Hypersonic Flows
- Advisor: Dr. Thomas E. Schwartzentruber

Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing, China

B.E. Engineering Mechanics School of Aeronautical Science and Engineering July 2007

- Thesis: Numerical Simulation of Fish Locomotion
- Advisor: Dr. Shilong Lan, Dr. Mao Sun

Research Experience

• Research Fellow

Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan March 2015–

- (1) Developing physical collision/rate models for soot/nano particle formation and growth in combustion.

• Postdoctoral Research Associate

Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, University of Minnesota September 2013–February 2015

- (1) State-to-state type collision model in the DSMC method based on computational chemistry results, to model hypersonic nonequilibrium phenomena; reduced order thermochemical models informed from state-to-state model, for DSMC and CFD simulation of chemically reacting flows.
- (2) Phenomenological DSMC model to capture the rovibrational coupling effect occurring at high temperature.

• Graduate Research Assistant

Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, University of Minnesota January 2009–August 2013

- (1) Proposed a new phenomenological nonequilibrium-direction-dependent rotational energy exchange model for rotational nonequilibrium modeling in the DSMC method, based on molecular dynamics simulation results of nitrogen.
- (2) Proposed a new state-to-state collision model framework for the DSMC method, and its consistent implementations; based on the model framework, developed a vibrational state-to-state DSMC collision model using quantum chemistry results.
- (3) Developed an adaptive mesh refinement algorithms and other functions for a Cartesian grid DSMC code (MGDS code), and performed extensive code tests and validations.
- (4) Proposed a set of cut-cell algorithms and develop the corresponding Fortran 90 program to handle the automatic mesh generation for DSMC simulation with very complex geometries (the developed cut-cell code has been adapted in the NASA DAC code).

- (5) Conducted Nano-scale low speed flow simulations of aerosol particles and aggregates with complex geometries, using the developed DSMC code and cut-cell algorithms for aerosol aggregates drag prediction.
- (6) Modular implementation of the existing DSMC rotational, vibrational and dissociation models for hypersonic chemically reacting flow simulations; conducted consistent evaluation and comparison of the existing DSMC models in simulating the hypersonic nonequilibrium flows.
- (7) Proposed a modified inelastic collision selection procedure in DSMC method, to accurately simulate the internal energy exchange processes of gas mixtures using the phenomenological models.

• **Undergraduate Course Design and Senior Design**

School of Aeronautical Science and Engineering, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics September 2006–July 2007

- (1) Studied the unsteady flow field around cylinder at low Reynolds numbers, by solving the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations using the pseudo-compressibility method.
- (2) Investigated the overlap grid and moving grid techniques, and its application to the numerical simulation of the drag and energy consumption of fish locomotion, using the incompressible Navier-Stokes equations.

Publications

Journal Articles

1. **C. Zhang**, P. Valentini, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Nonequilibrium-Direction-Dependent Rotational Energy Model for use in Continuum and Stochastic Molecular Simulation, *AIAA Journal*, 25(3), 604-617, 2014.
2. P. Valentini, P. Norman, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Rovibrational coupling in molecular nitrogen at high temperature: An atomic-level study, *Physics of Fluids*, 26(5), 2014
3. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Inelastic Collision Selection Procedures for Direct Simulation Monte Carlo Calculations of Gas Mixtures, *Physics of Fluids*, 25(10), 106105, 2013.
4. P. Valentini, P. A. Tump, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Shock Waves in Mixtures of Noble Gases, *Journal of Thermophysics and Heat Transfer*, 27(2), 226–234, 2013.
5. **C. Zhang**, T. Thajudeen, C. Larriba, T. E. Schwartzentruber, and C. J. Hogan Jr., Determination of the Scalar Friction Factor for Non-spherical Particles and Aggregates Across the Entire Knudsen Number Range by Direct Simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC), *Aerosol Science and Technology*, 46(10), 1065–1078, 2012.
6. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Robust Cut-cell Algorithms for DSMC Implementations Employing Multi-level Cartesian Grids, *Computers & Fluids*, 69, 122–135, 2012.
7. P. Valentini, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Rotational Relaxation in Nitrogen: Implications for Rotational Collision Number Models, *Physics of Fluids*, 24, 106101, 2012.
8. D. Gao, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Particle Simulations of Planetary Probe Flows Employing Automated Mesh Refinement, *Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets*, 48(3), 397–405, May-June 2011.

Journal Articles under Review / in Preparation

1. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, State-to-state Collision Models in Direct Simulation Monte Carlo: Consistent Implementations and Implications for Existing Phenomenological Models, *to be submitted to Journal of Computational Physics*.

Archived Conference Proceedings and Presentations (full paper)

1. **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Consistent Implementation of State-to-state Collision Models for Direct Simulation Monte Carlo, AIAA Paper 2014-0866, *presented at the 52nd AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting*, National Harbor, MD, Jan. 2014.
2. P. Valentini, P. E. Norman, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Analysis of Rovibrational Relaxation in Nitrogen via Direct Atomic Simulation, AIAA Paper 2014-1079, *presented at the 52nd AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting*, National Harbor, MD, Jan. 2014.
3. **C. Zhang**, P. Valentini, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, A Nonequilibrium-Direction-Dependent Rotational Energy Model for Use in Continuum and Stochastic Molecular Simulation, AIAA Paper 2013-1202, *presented at the 51st AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting*, Grapevine, TX, Jan. 2013.

4. P. Valentini, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, A Directional Rotational Relaxation Model for Nitrogen using Molecular Dynamics Simulation, AIP Conf. Proc. 1501, pp. 519–526, *28th International Symposium on Rarefied Gas Dynamics*, July 2012.
5. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Numerical Assessment of Vibration and Dissociation Models in DSMC for Hypersonic Stagnation Line Flows, AIAA Paper 2012-2992, *presented at the 43rd AIAA Thermophysics Conference*, New Orleans, LA, June 2012.
6. P. Valentini, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Investigation of Rotational Relaxation in Nitrogen via Molecular Dynamics Simulation, AIAA Paper 2012-2995, *presented at the 43rd AIAA Thermophysics Conference*, New Orleans, LA, June 2012.
7. P. Valentini, P. A. Tump, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Normal Shock Waves in Dilute Gas Mixtures, AIAA Paper 2012-0225, *presented at the 50th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting*, Nashville, TN, Jan. 2012.
8. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Robust Cut-cell Algorithms for DSMC Implementation Employing Multi-level Cartesian Grids, AIAA Paper 2011-3314, *presented at the 42nd AIAA Thermophysics Conference*, Honolulu, HI, June 2011.
9. D. Gao, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, A Three-Level Cartesian Geometry-Based Implementation of the DSMC Method, AIAA Paper 2010-0450, *presented at the 48th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting*, Orlando, FL, Jan. 2010.

Conference Abstracts, Posters and Presentations

1. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Consistent Implementation of State-to-state Collision Models for DSMC, *Direct Simulation Monte Carlo: Theory, Methods & Applications*, Santa Fe, NM, Oct. 2013. (Abstract & Presentation)
2. S. Poovathingal, **C. Zhang**, P. Norman, P. Valentini, I. Nompelis, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Molecular Simulation of Hypersonic Flows, *10th International Planetary Probe Workshop*, San Jose, CA, June 2013. (Poster)
3. **C. Zhang** and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Molecular Fluid Dynamics for Non-continuum Engineering Problems, *2013 Doctoral Research Showcase*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, April 9th, 2013. (Poster)
4. **C. Zhang**, T. Thajudeen, C. Larriba, T. E. Schwartzentruber, and C. J. Hogan Jr., Direct Simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC) Calculation of the Low Reynolds Number Drag on Aerosol Aggregates, *presented at the AAAR 31st Annual Conference*, Minneapolis, MN, Oct. 2012. (Abstract & Presentation)
5. C. J. Hogan, T. Thajudeen, **C. Zhang**, C. Larriba, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, The Friction Factor and Collision Kernel for Aggregates in the Mass and Momentum Transition Regimes, *2012 European Aerosol Conference*, Granada, Spain, September 2nd-7th, 2012. (Abstract)
6. D. Gao, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Molecular Gas Dynamics Simulation of Hypersonic Flow, *Minnesota Supercomputing Institute 25th Anniversary Research Exhibition*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, April 2010. (Poster)
7. **C. Zhang**, D. Gao, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Data Structures and Adaptive Mesh Refinement for a 3-Level Embedded Cartesian Mesh DSMC Implementation, Bulletin of the American Physical Society, Volume 54, Number 19, *presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid dynamics*, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 2009. (Abstract & Presentation)
8. D. Gao, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, Parallel Performance Optimization of the Direct Simulation Monte Carlo Method. Bulletin of the American Physical Society, Volume 54, Number 19, *presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid dynamics*, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 2009. (Abstract)
9. D. Gao, **C. Zhang**, and T. E. Schwartzentruber, A Three-level Cartesian Mesh Implementation of the DSMC Method with Adaptive Mesh Refinement, *Direct Simulation Monte Carlo: Theory, Methods & Applications*, Santa Fe, NM, Sept. 2009. (Abstract)

Honors and Awards

- Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Minnesota (in recognition of outstanding research work) 2012
- John & Jane Dunning Copper Fellowship, Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, University of Minnesota (for excellent performance in the Ph.D. Written Preliminary Exam) 2009
- “Renmin” Scholarship for Excellence in Academic Performance, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing, China 2004, 2005, 2006

- Freshmen Scholarship, Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Beijing, China

2003

Coursework (all graduate-level courses)

Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics Department:

- Fluid Mechanics I, II, III
- Molecular Gas Dynamics
- Computational Fluid Mechanics
- Computational Methods in Fluid Mechanics
- Finite Volume Methods in Computational Fluid Dynamics
- Continuum Mechanics
- Fracture Mechanics
- Multiscale Methods for Bridging Length and Time Scales

Chemistry Department:

- Quantum Mechanics
- Thermodynamics, Statistical Mechanics, and Reaction Dynamics I, II

Mathematics Department:

- Numerical Analysis and Scientific Computing
- Numerical Analysis of Differential Equations I, II

Skills

- Programming: Fortran, C, C++, Java, Python
- Software: Tecplot, Gridgen, AutoCAD, CATIA, SolidWorks, Mathematica, Matlab
- Operating Systems: GNU/Linux, Mac OS X, Windows