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Direct numerical simulations of solid particle interactions in suspensions using Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics

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Suspensions and their applications can be found in many fields of mechanical, civil and environmental engineering. The rheological behavior of suspensions strongly depends on the concentration of suspended particles. To consider the flow behavior as well as fluid-solid interactions in dilute suspensions, we present 3D Direct Numerical Simulations (DNS) of a single-phase fluid with discrete embedded solid particles. We therefore present an implementation using the general-purpose particle simulation toolkit HOOMD-blue [1, 3] extended for the usage of Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH) [2, 5]. Since both the fluid and the solid phase is discretized by particles, SPH as a Lagrangian particle method presents a good choice to model this particular non-linear problem. The advantages of DNS with SPH compared to often used coupled SPH-DEM approaches are the fully resolved solid-fluid interfaces and the here acting hydrodynamical forces.

Solid-solid contact and resulting interaction forces are included into the model by using a simplified Hertz-Mindlin contact model [4]. The model is applied on all solid particles representing the solid phase in the suspension. Thus, in case of contact, an additional particle force is added to the prescribed forces in the local momentum conservation equation.

We are aiming for a discussion about the validity of the implementation. Thus numerical investigations include simulations with fully elastic collisions with and without a surrounding solvent as well as free falling of a solid grain with and without a surrounding fluid.

To review the results of the approach, we finally discuss an example with multiple spherical solid grains in a single-phase fluid in different configurations as for example gravity or parallel flow. Resulting local particle properties as velocity and shear stresses are considered and compared to known analytical solutions. We focus on particle scale effects as for example the mobilization forces acting on a bed of solid grains and the resulting transport of single particles as well as the transformation of flow behavior, for example the evolution of shear flow, dependent on the number of suspended particles.

References

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