MFiX - Multiphase Flow with Interphase Exchanges

Software tools and expertise to address multiphase flow challenges in research, design, and optimization



Jeff Dietiker Research Scientist Multiphase Flow Science Group





This project was funded by the United States Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, in part, through a site support contract. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, nor the support contractor, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.





Jeff Dietiker^{1,2}

¹National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940, USA*

²NETL Support Contractor, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940, USA*



Project Description and Objectives

- **NETIONAL** ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

CARD: <u>C</u>FD for <u>A</u>dvanced <u>R</u>eactor <u>D</u>esign

- Develop, enhance, and apply NETL's suite of MFiX software tools that are used for design and analysis of novel reactors and devices for fossil energy (FE) applications, including decarbonization of the energy sector.
- Task 2: Develop, validate, apply, publicly distribute, and support MFiX
 - Large-scale, reactor systems
 - Complex chemical reactions
 - Realistic geometry
- Task 3: Collaborate with industry partners
 - Apply computational tools and FE/NETL supercomputing resources
 - Understand and optimize circulating fluidized bed (CFB) performance
- Task 4: Accelerate time to solution (see Dr. Dirk Van Essendelft's update)
 - Google's TensorFlow[™], will be linked to NETL's MFiX and the solvers will be written in TensorFlow to achieve significant code acceleration on the latest hardware



Project Update

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Task 2: MFiX Development, Validation, and Enhancements

- Graphical user interface (GUI)
 - Increase usability of the code
 - Minimize error in setup, execution, and post processing.
- Additional Models/ physics required for challenging FE applications:
 - Particle in Cell
 - Coarse Grain Discrete Element Method
 - Non-spherical particles
 - Polydispersity
 - Acceleration of the flow solver
- Quality Assurance (QA) Program
 - Verification
 - Validation
 - Improved documentation, user guides, and validation experiments.
- Outreach capabilities through the MFiX web portal to better serve FE and NETL stakeholders.



Graphical User Interface (GUI)

- Open-source (https://mfix.netl.doe.gov)
- Motivation: Better serve MFiX community
 - Improve usability of MFiX
 - Support Linux, macOS and Windows OS
 - Decrease time to setup, reduce error
- Solution: Graphical User Interface
 - Released in 2017
 - Between one and four releases per year



User support through online forum









MFiX Suite of Multiphase CFD Software

Managing the tradeoff between accuracy and time to solution





NATIONAL ENERGY

TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Eulerian-Lagrangian modeling



Use MP-PIC for computational speed and averaged accuracy REDUCED Particle Flow in Cyclone ACCURACY CGPM CGHS Parcel REPRESENTATION MP-PIC can Coarse Grained Coarse Grained Particle Method significantly Hard Sphere **MFIX** PIC Masaaki et al. 2000 Lu et al., 2017 reduce Sakai and **MP-PIC** computation Koshizuka,2009 al effort, and Multi Phase Particle In Cell in the right ED/TD HS Andrews and Event Driven/Time type of **CFD-DEM** SOLIDS article Driven Hard **O'Rourke**, 1996 application, **Computation Fluid** Sphere Dynamic-Discrete maintain Hoomans et al., Element Method accuracy. 1996 XZ Tsuji et al 1993 Ouyang and Li, 1999 INCREASED Solid Stress Momentum Collision COMPUTATION Gradient Conservation Resolved AL SPEED

GENERALIZED IDEA FOR PARTICLE INTERACTIONS



Multiphase Particle In Cell (MP-PIC)

ΔΤΙΟΝΔΙ

Time: 1.00 Recent PIC developments: • CFL time step control Collision damping model • Ongoing effort: 1.0e+00 5.00 0.9 • Polydispersity Velocity Magnitude - 0.8 **Void Fraction** - 0.7 - 0.6 - 2 - 0.5 • PIC parameter - 0.4 sensitivity analysis 2.4e-01 0.00 • PIC parameter calibration Z 💰



• V&V

Coarse Grain DEM

- Particles are lumped together to create a CG particle
- CG particles collide with each other

Same Velocity

- Heat transfer, chemical reactions
- MFiX-CGDEM formal release: December 2021

particles $N_{CGP} = N_p/W$

Original system with N_p particles (color stands for different species fraction and temperature, vector stands for velocity)

I.S. DEPARTMENT OF





Same species fraction





Same Temperature

Lumped into a sphere







Coarse Grain DEM



CG-DEM Simulation of 2-inch Fluidized Bed Pyrolysis Reactor





Moving Geometry

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Time: 0.00 sec

Several Options to Represent Moving Geometry

Moving STL walls through tangential velocity

- Add Collection of UDFs and tutorials
- Rotating drum
- Conveyor belts







Moving Geometry

Several Options to Represent Moving Geometry

Freeze or set particle velocity





Move STL geometry (Granular DEM)





Polydispersity (DEM)

- Available in 20.3 Release (September 2020)
- Merge and complement ASU implementation

Cubic lattice

- Initial and Boundary (mass inflow) conditions
- DEM Particle size distribution
 - Normal
 - Log-normal
 - Custom (user-defined)
- Improvement in IC seeding
 - Robust
 - Lattice
 - Spacing
 - Flexibility in input
 - Volume fraction
 - Solid inventory
 - Particle count





Polydispersity (DEM)

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

To address the polydispersity nature of feedstock



DEM Particle size distribution
 Normal
 Log-normal
 Custom (user-defined)



Initial + Boundary Conditions

Particle coating



Non-spherical Particles (SuperDEM)

• Superquadrics are a family of geometric shapes defined as

$\left[\left(\frac{x}{a_1}\right)^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon_2}} + \left(\frac{y}{a_2}\right)^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon_2}}\right]^{\frac{\varepsilon_2}{\varepsilon_1}} + \left(\frac{z}{a_3}\right)^{\frac{2}{\varepsilon_1}} = 1$

• Can represent ~ 80% of all shapes by varying five parameters





a1=2

a2=2

a3=4





Validation Experiment





Particle properties including the volume equivalent diameter d_c -dass, the particle dimensions, the sphericity ϕ , the particle density ρ_p , the bed height L and the averaged porosity ε for the initial, unfluidized setup.



Experiment: Vollmari K, Jasevičius R, Kruggel-Emden H. Experimental and numerical study of fluidization and pressure drop of spherical and non-spherical particles in a model scale fluidized bed. Powder Technology. 2016;291:506-521.



Single-particle Pyrolysis

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\rho_s c_{p,s} T_s \right) = \frac{1}{r^b} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(k_{s,eff} r^b \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial r} \right) + \sum \left(-\Delta H_i R_i \right)$$

Boundary conditions:

$$k_{s,eff} \left. \frac{\partial T_s}{\partial r} \right|_{r=r_0} = f_c h_{conv} (T_f - T_s) + \sum Q_{i,j,cond} / A_p + Q_{i,wall} / A_p$$



Isothermal model overpredicted the reaction rate!

(a) 900

800

700 ×

600

500

400

300

0

100

150

50

Temperature,

Experiment reference: Andrés Anca-Couce, Peter Sommersacher, Robert Scharler, Journal of Analytical and Applied Pyrolysis, 127, 2017, 411-425



JATIONAL RG

ΓΕϹ

~200K difference

200

Exp. T Center

Exp. T Surface Sim. T Center

Sim. T Surface

250

300

HNOLOGY

Hydrogen Production by Co-firing of Biomass & Plastics

Challenge to address: Fluidization and mixing of feedstock



ERG

Woody biomass Dp = 6mmLength=12mm $\rho = 1158 \text{ kg/m3}$ N=100

LDPE particles

 $\rho = 930 \text{ kg/m}3$

N=5788



Bed diameter: 2.5inch Initial bed height: 3.0 inch Ug=3.0Umf Umf=74.42cm/s

NATIONAL

Time: 0.00 s

FECHNOLOGY

Extension of SuperDEM for polydisperse particulate flows and validation with experimental data obtained in fluidization of HDPE and cylindrical biomass particles.



Massively Parallel SuperDEM Simulation





- The solver was parallelized using MPI.
- Simulation on NETL supercomputer Joule 2 (80K cores), World Top 60, 2020
- Non-spherical particles fluidization simulation, 100 million (6800 cores)



Glued-Sphere Approach

To account for Irregular Shape of Particles

- Composite spheres
- Intra-particle temperature distribution









Glued-Sphere Approach

To account for Irregular Shape of Particles

Experiment

Case 1

G17-HDF G17-GAN









Hundredfold Speedup of MFiX-DEM using GPU

- DEM solver was ported to GPU (prototype)
- 170-fold speedup with double precision, 243-fold with single precision
- Re-use CFD, interphase coupling, and chemical reaction modules in MFiX





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF



Collision Pair Parallel (CPP) ---- CPP/PP

Particle Parallel (PP)



NATIONAL

DEM Rolling Friction



- Implementation of rolling friction in DEM
- Beta release in 21.2
- Ongoing V&V



Pressure drops at different locations of fluidized bed with sand and biomass mixtures measured in experiment and simulations



Drag Model for Non-Spherical Particles



 Drag, lift, and torque correlations for a family of prolate spheroids from Stokes flow regime to high Reynolds number (Re=2000).



The variation of drag coefficient for Stokes flow (Re=0.1) for different aspect ratios at angle of attack 0 and 90 degrees respectively.



Drag Model for Non-Spherical Particle Assemblies



• Drag of a nonspherical, multiparticle system





Fluid Solver Acceleration

- New convergence criteria for Steady State: ~ 4x speedup
- "march=native –O3": 3 to 14% faster
- Optimized Thomas algorithm: 3 to 11% faster
- Lowering ppg_den from 10 to 1: up to 25% faster (helps when ppg is dominant residual)
- Turning off the PC: ~ 2x speedup (fluid solver)
 - May fail to converge if DT=cst with bad initial conditions (need to set adaptive DT)
- Best combination: No PC, "march=native –O3" flag, ppg_den=1







MFiX Quality Assurance

Building Confidence in Simulation Results

- PIC parameter sensitivity and calibration
 - How sensitive are PIC simulations to PIC model parameters?
 - Recommend parameter values for a given type of application

Cases selected to cover a broad range of flow conditions

- Particle Settling: $U/U_{mf} < 1.0 (P_0 \sim 1)$ (Analytical solution)
- Bubbling Fluidized bed: $U/U_{mf} \sim 1 (P_0 \sim 10)$
- Circulating Fluidized bed: $U/U_{mf} >> 1.0 (P_0 \sim 100)$

Summary of model parameters used:

	t1 Pressure linear scale factor	t2 Volume fraction exponential scale factor	t3 Statistical weight	t4 Volume fraction at maximum packing	t5 Solid slip velocity factor
C1: Particle Settling	[1,20]	[2,5]	[3,20]	[0.35,0.5]	[0.5,1.0]
C2: Fluidization	[1,100]	[2,5]	[10,100]	[0.4,0.5]	[0.85,0.98]
C3: Circulating Fluidized Bed	[1,250]	[2,5]	[4]	[0.4,0.5]	[0.85,0.98]

*Parameters selected based on prior sensitivity study







C1: Particle settling

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Sensitivity analysis and Deterministic calibration



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

NERGY

deterministic calibration						
Parameter	Default	Range	Calibrated			
t1 Pressure linear scale factor	100	[1,20]	14.309			
t2 Vol. fraction exponential scale factor	3.0	[2,5]	2.165			
t3 Statistical weight	5.0	[3,20]	12.241			
t4 Vol. fraction at maximum packing	0.42	[0.35,0.5]	0.399			
t5 Solid slip velocity factor	1.0	[0.5,1.0]	0.828			

Parameters obtained through



29



Bench-scale experimental facility designed, built, and operated at CanmetENERGY, Natural Resources Canada¹ (NRCan)



Operating Conditions					
Inert material Olivine sand, 273 µm, 3	3063 kg/m ³				
Biomass Torrefied hardwood, 375 μ m, 520 kg/m ³					
Initial mass of inert	9.0 kg				
m of fluidizing gas (air)	15.6 kg/h				
\dot{m} of fuel feed gas (air)	3.06 kg/h				
m of biomass	2.65 kg/h				
Sidewall temperature	850°C				
Fluidizing gas inlet temperature	120°C				
Fuel feed gas inlet temperature	20°C				

¹ Hughes, R.W. et al., 2015. Oxy-fluidized bed combustion using under bed fines fuel injection. In 22nd International Conference on Fluidized Bed Conversion. Turku, Finland, 2015.





Hydrodynamics Benchmarking – Effect of Drag Model



Fluidization is impeded by applying the filtered drag model, so more particles are retained in the lower riser

Circulation rate is reduced, reflected in the average mass of recirculated particles in the side inlet

Pressure drop distribution and overall pressure drop using the filtered drag model show better agreement with the experimental results ($P_p = 10, \gamma = 3$)

S. DEPARTMENT OF





Time: 0.10s

Full Loop Simulation with Valve Partially Closed







Simplified Chemical Reaction Scheme Results

NETL Multiphase Flow Science







Simplified Chemical Reaction Scheme Results



The outlet compositions of CO_2 and O_2 show excellent match with experimental results (dashed lines)



Particle fluidization is reduced compared to cold flow simulations, leading to reduced circulation and higher particle holdup in riser, and hence higher pressure drops

- Air flow of 15.6 kg/h corresponds to an inlet air velocity of 0.67 m/s, lower than the 3.09 m/s used in the cold flow simulations
- Further investigation of hot flow hydrodynamics is required

50kWth CFB Summary

- Hydrodynamics of the 50kW_{th} riser at CanmetENERGY, Natural Resources Canada are
 validated against experiment via inert simulations using olivine sand
- Filter size dependent corrections to the homogeneous drag laws are incorporated to take into account the mesoscale effects such as bubbles and clusters to ensure accuracy
- In the full loop simulation, once the lower bed pressure drop matches the experiment, the upper riser pressure drop can be tuned independently of the lower bed by modeling pseudo-packing in the return leg by adjusting the ram valve stroke
- The validated cold flow model is extended to model reacting flow with torrefied hardwood as the feedstock and validate a simplified global one-step mechanism for combustion
- Species concentrations at the riser outlet are compared against the experiment and show excellent agreement
- The simulations demonstrate the ability of MFiX-PIC to accurately capture the physics and chemistry of a circulating fluidized bed combustor at bench scales, which can be further extended to pilot- and industrial-scale systems

Outreach: All-time MFiX Stats (CY2020)

Stakeholders and Technology Transfer

• All-time MFiX registrations = 6,643

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION

- 3 Universities using MFiX for course project:
- Arizona State University
- Ohio State University
- Universidad de la Serena, Chile

Publications

- Clarke, M.A. and Musser, J.M.H., "Particle in Cell Method (MFIX-PIC) Theory Guide," DOE/NETL-2020/2115, April 2020.
- A. Vaidheeswaran, A. Gel, M.A. Clarke, W.A. Rogers, "Sensitivity Analysis of Particle-in-Cell Modeling Parameters in MFIX-PIC", ASME Verification and Validation Symposium, Baltimore, MD, May 20-22, 2020.
- Vaidheeswaran, A.; Pandey, R.; Clarke, M. A.; Ashfaq, H.; Rogers, W. A. Fluidization of Group A Glass Particles: Experiments and Preliminary Validation; DOE/NETL-2020/2135; NETL Technical Report Series; U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory: Morgantown, WV, 2020; p 32. DOI: 10.2172/1632859.
- Gao, X., Yu, J., Lu, L., Li, C., Rogers, W. SuperDEM-CFD: Open Source Parallel Solver for Non-Spherical Particle-Fluid Fluidization Systems. AIChE 2020 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Nov 2020.
- Vaidheeswaran, A.; Li, C.; Ashfaq, H.; Wu, X.; Rowan, S.; Rogers, W. Geometric Scale-up Experiments on Fluidization of Geldart B Glass Beads; DOE.NETL-2020.2146; NETL Technical Report Series; U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory: Morgantown, WV, 2020; pp. 40. DOI: 10.2172/1647458.
- Aytekin Gel, Justin Weber, Charles Tong, "Nodeworks: An Open-source Visual Workflow Toolset for Uncertainty Quantification, Optimization, Machine Learning", Workflow Workshop and Hackathon summer seminar series (<u>https://wowoha.org</u>), August 2020.
- Gao, X., Yu, J., Lu, L., Rogers, W. Coupling particle scale model, and SuperDEM CFD for multiscale simulation of biomass pyrolysis in a packed bed pyrolyzer. AIChE Journal, In press, 2020.
- Gel, A. Vaidheeswaran, M.A. Clarke, "Deterministic Calibration of MFiX-PIC, Part 1: Settling Bed, NETL Technical Report Series, US Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Morgantown WV.
- Liqiang Lu, Xi Gao, Aytekin Gel, Gavin M. Wiggins, Meagan Crowley, Brennan Pecha, Mehrdad Shahnam, William A. Rogers, James Parks, Peter N. Ciesielski, Investigating biomass composition and size effects on fast pyrolysis using global sensitivity analysis and CFD simulations, Chemical Engineering Journal, 2020, 127789, ISSN 1385-8947, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2020.127789.
- Vaidheeswaran, Avinash, and Steven Rowan. "Chaos and recurrence analyses of pressure signals from bubbling fluidized beds." Chaos, Solitons & Fractals (2020): 110354.
- Aytekin Gel, Avinash Vaidheeswaran, MaryAnn Clarke; "Deterministic Calibration of MFiX-PIC, Part 1: Settling Bed," DOE/NETL-2021/2646; NETL Technical Report Series; U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory: Morgantown, WV, 2021; p. 72. DOI: 10.2172/1764832.
- Avinash Vaidheeswaran, Aytekin Gel, MaryAnn Clarke, William Rogers; "Sensitivity Analysis of Particle-In-Cell Modeling Parameters in Settling Bed, Bubbling Fluidized Bed and Circulating Fluidized Bed," DOE/NETL-2021/2642, NETL Technical Report Series; U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory: Morgantown, WV, 2021; p. 40. DOI: 10.2172/1756845.
- Liqiang Lu, Xi Gao, Mehrdad Shahnam, William A. Rogers. 2021 Simulations of Biomass Pyrolysis using Glued-Sphere CFD-DEM with 3-D Intra-particle Models. Chem. Eng. Journal, Accepted.

Task 2&3: Summary

NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

- MFiX releases
 - 20.1: New meshing workflow
 - 20.2: Moving geometry (STL), PIC CFL
 - 20.3: DEM Polydispersity
 - 20.4: Coarse Grain DEM, PIC collision damping
 - 21.1: New drag laws, New Nusselt number, fluid solver acceleration
- MFiX development
 - GUI continuous development
 - Polydispersity
 - Coarse grain DEM
 - Non-spherical DEM particles
 - DEM GPU porting
 - DEM Rolling friction
 - PIC parameter sensitivity/calibration
- 50kW_{th} CFB simulation
 - Validated cold flow model
 - Validated a simplified global one-step mechanism for combustion
 - Ability of MFiX-PIC to accurately capture the physics and chemistry of a circulating fluidized bed combustor at bench scales, which can be further extended to pilotand industrial-scale systems

NETL Resources

VISIT US AT: www.NETL.DOE.gov

@NationalEnergyTechnologyLaboratory

