

# Lecture 2: (complex) fluid mechanics for physicists

S-RSI Physics Lectures: Soft Condensed Matter Physics

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Note: I have added links addressing questions and topics from lectures at:

http://conradlab.chee.uh.edu/srsi\_links.html Email me questions/comments/suggestions!

## Soft condensed matter physics

- Lecture 1: statistical mechanics and phase transitions via colloids
- Lecture 2: (complex) fluid mechanics for physicists

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- Lecture 3: physics of bacteria motility
- Lecture 4: viscoelasticity and cell mechanics
- Lecture 5: Dr. Conrad's work





## Forces and pressures

A <u>force</u> causes an object to change <u>velocity</u> (either in magnitude or direction) or to <u>deform</u> (i.e. bend, stretch).

Newton's second law:  $\sum_{\substack{n \in I \\ n \in I}} \vec{F} = m\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} \qquad \vec{p} = m\vec{v}$ change in linear momentum over time acceleration  $\vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$ A pressure is a force/unit area applied perpendicular to an object.

Example: wind blowing on your hand.

direction of pressure force  $\vec{n}$  : unit vector normal to the surface

#### Stress

A <u>stress</u> is a <u>force per unit area</u> that is measured on an infinitely small area. Because forces have three directions and surfaces have three orientations, there are nine components of stress.







## Shear-thickening and -thinning

Definition: in a <u>shear-thickening</u> fluid, the viscosity is not a constant but instead increases with increasing strain rate (or with increasing stress).



## Example: shear-thickening fluid

Definition: in a shear-thickening fluid, the stress increases as the strain rate is increased. Recent application: pothole repair.





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Wagner group (Delaware)







### Question for physicists: microscopics?

Hypothesis: shear-thickening results from the formation of <u>hydroclusters</u>: clusters of particles that form when the fluid between them is expelled at high shear rates.





### Shear thickening is general to suspensions

Shear thickening can be shown to exist in colloids and granular media (large particles of size >10  $\mu$ m) and is suppressed when the particles are made <u>sticky</u>:







#### Basic mechanics: Newton's second law

The <u>net force</u> felt by an object is proportional to its mass and is proportional to and parallel to its acceleration:

$$\sum \vec{F} = m\vec{a} = m\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$$
$$\vec{F} \longrightarrow \vec{a} = \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} \approx \frac{\Delta \vec{v}}{\Delta t}$$

This equation applies to a <u>single</u> particle or to a single extended body.

#### Issue with applying Newton's law to fluids

Newton's law was developed for single particles and can be extended to small numbers of particles.

However: a flowing volume of fluid contains ≈10<sup>23</sup> (Avogadro's number) of individual particles. No techniques exist for computing forces over this number of particles.

Solution: move from looking at a fixed system (number of particles) to a fixed volume (of space) through which particles move.



Two ways to have a physical property (e.g. mass, momentum) change inside the control volume:

- change inside the control volume over time
- change by flow through the control surface



control volume

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#### The Navier-Stokes equations

The <u>Navier-Stokes</u> equations are a local form of Newton's law (conservation of momentum) expressed in control-volume form.



### Scaling and dimensional analysis

The Navier-Stokes equations are <u>coupled nonlinear partial</u> <u>differential equations</u> and few analytic solutions exist. Identifying the most important term for a particular problem allows the equations to be dramatically simplified.

We first identify typical <u>length</u> and <u>velocity</u> scales (that give the order of magnitude of characteristic lengths and velocities in a problem) and create new variables that are <u>dimensionless</u>:

Dimensionless position:  $\vec{r'} = \frac{\vec{r}}{L}$ Dimensionless velocity:  $\vec{v'} = \frac{\vec{v}}{V}$ Dimensionless pressure (from unit analysis):  $p' = \frac{p}{\rho V^2}$ 

## The Reynolds number

After all of the variables in the Navier-Stokes equations are made dimensionless, one parameter appears:

$$\rho \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + \rho \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \mathbf{v} = -\nabla p + \frac{1}{\mathrm{Re}} \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{f}$$

 $\operatorname{Re} = \frac{\rho V L}{\mu} \qquad \begin{array}{l} \rho = \text{density of the fluid} \\ V = \text{typical order-of-magnitude of velocity} \\ L = \text{typical order-of-magnitude of length} \\ \mu = \text{viscosity of the fluid} \end{array}$ 

The Reynolds number can be represented as the ratio of two forces, the <u>inertial</u> force ( $\mathbf{F} = \mathbf{ma}$ ) and the <u>viscous</u> force (stress area):

Reynolds number Re =  $\frac{\text{inertial force}}{\text{viscous force}} = \frac{\rho V^2 L^2}{\mu V L} = \frac{\rho V L}{\mu}$ 









#### Example: how fluid physics changes

In macroscale flows, turbulence helps to mix two fluids. Think of making an <u>emulsion</u> of oil and water by rapidly shaking the two fluids.

Question to consider: how to efficiently <u>mix</u> fluids in devices with micron-sized channels?

At low Re, fluid interfaces remain laminar and mixing occurs by <u>diffusion</u>:

 $D_0 = \frac{k_B T}{6\pi\mu a}$ 

where the units of  $D_0$  are [length<sup>2</sup>/time].

- D<sub>0</sub> for 1  $\mu$ m particle: 2 × 10<sup>-13</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/s
- Examples:
- Time to diffuse L = 100  $\mu m: 5 \times 10^6 \mbox{ s}$
- D<sub>0</sub> for 1 *n*m particle: 2 × 10<sup>-10</sup> m<sup>2</sup>/s
  - Time to diffuse L = 100  $\mu$ m: 5 × 10<sup>3</sup> s

#### Mixing via designed turbulence

Strategy: fabricate <u>micromixers</u> within a microfluidic device that stretch and fold the fluid and enhance mixing, similar to how turbulence mixes a fluid:





## Summary and open questions

- Turbulence is still an unsolved problem, but shares features with <u>non-equilibrium phase transitions.</u>
- Flows in microfluidic devices are at <u>low Reynolds number</u>, and flows are typically laminar (not turbulent).
- Mixing therefore requires special structures to irreversibly deform the fluid on long times.

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- What engineered structures create fastest mixing?