Coupled Molecular Dynamics and Continuum Modelling of Super-Spreading Surfactants ICIAM 2015

By

Edward Smith,

In collaboration with Panagiotis Theodorakis, Erich Muller, Richard Craster and Omar Matar

Overview

- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)
 - Model description and results
 - Contact line dynamics essential to superspreading
 - Difficult to model using a continuum
- Molecular Dynamics (MD)
 - Model description and results
 - Advantages for modelling of droplets and surfactants
 - Limited to nanoscales
- Coupling MD and CFD
 - Types of coupling, techniques and computational framework
 - Coupled droplet spreading
 - Future work

Motivation

- Control of wetting processes is of great importance to many industries
 - Coating and spraying
 - Pesticide spreading on waxy leaves
 - Biomedical applications e.g.
 Surfactant replacement therapy



- Surfactants reduce surface tension and change wetting
- Certain substances show super-spreading
 - The mechanism is poorly understood and therefore difficult to model accurately
 - Empirical models typically employed
 - Would be of great benefit to many industries to improve the modelling methodology

Section 1 COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

1) G. Karapetsas, R. Craster & O. Matar, JFM, 2011

• Starting from thin film equation based model of Karapetsas, Craster and Matar (2011)



 Includes a mechanism for deposition of surfactant at contact line



Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

z, w, H

x, u, L

• Incompressible Navier Stokes with the thin-film approximation.

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2}$$
 $\frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = 0$ $\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$

• With boundary conditions

$$P = -\left(\frac{H}{L}\right)^{2} \frac{\partial^{2}h}{\partial x^{2}} \left(\sigma_{l} + \frac{1}{\Sigma_{l}}\right) \qquad \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + u\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = w \qquad \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial\sigma_{l}}{\partial x} \qquad z = h$$
$$u = \beta \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \qquad \qquad w = 0 \qquad \qquad z = 0$$

- Surfactant modelled by advection-diffusion equations with empirical sorption processes - coupled to the dynamics through surface tension
- Contact line evolution is modelled by an empirical law

$$\frac{dx_c}{dt} = k(\theta - \theta_a)^n$$

• The angle coupled to surfactant absorption at the contact line is essential¹⁾

CFD Results

1) G. Karapetsas, R. Craster & O. Matar, JFM, 2011

• Coupled equations are solved using the finite elements method¹⁾



- Droplet behaviour changed by adjusting the surface tension
- Surfactant deposition at the contact line behaviour is key Can we improve the contact line model?

Section 2 **MOLECULAR DYNAMICS**

Molecular Dynamics

Discrete molecules in continuous space

- Molecular position evolves continuously in time
- Position and velocity from acceleration

$$egin{aligned} \dot{m{r}}_i &
ightarrow \dot{m{r}}_i \ \dot{m{r}}_i &
ightarrow m{r}_i(t) \end{aligned}$$

Acceleration obtained from forces

- Governed by Newton's law for an N-body system
- Point particles with pairwise interactions only

$$m_i \ddot{\boldsymbol{r}}_i = \mathbf{F}_i = \sum_{i \neq j}^N \boldsymbol{f}_{ij} \qquad \Phi(r_{ij}) = 4\epsilon \left[\left(\frac{\ell}{r_{ij}} \right)^{12} - \left(\frac{\ell}{r_{ij}} \right)^6 \right]$$

1)

• SAFT¹) using the γ -Mie²) potential $\Phi(r_{ij}) = 4C\epsilon_{ij} \left| \left(\frac{\ell_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{\lambda_r} - \left(\frac{\ell_{ij}}{r_{ij}} \right)^{\lambda_a} \right|$

Statistical Associated Field Theory

2) Müller & Jackson (2014)

Molecular Dynamics



MD Simulation of Droplets

Low Wettability



• Intermediate Wettability



• High Wettability



1) Theodorakis PE, Mueller EA, Craster RV, Matar O, 2015, <u>Superspreading:</u> <u>Mechanisms and Molecular</u> <u>Design</u>,*Langmuir*, Vol: 31, Pages: 2304

Surfactant mechanism

- Molecular Dynamics (SAFT) with Surfactants by Panos Theodorakis et al ¹)
- Shows superspreading occurs due to deposition of surfactant at the contact line pulling the interface forward
 - But... took months of simulation time on clusters of GPUs

Section 3
COUPLING

Coupling Overview

1) Ren (2007), E et al (2003), Borg et al (2013)

2) O'Connell and Thompson (1995), Flekkøy at al (2000), Nie et al (2004), Hadjiconstantinou et al (1999), Delgado-Buscalioni and Coveney, (2003)







Table Lookup or Coefficients

MD parameter study stored in table and CFD uses data

Embedded Models

MD – embedded in a CFD simulation

Used for Non-Newtonian effects 1)

Domain Decomposition

MD –CFD linked along an interface

Local features e.g. contact line 2)

Coupling Overview

1) Ren (2007), E et al (2003), Borg et al (2013)

2) O'Connell and Thompson (1995), Flekkøy at al (2000), Nie et al (2004), Hadjiconstantinou et al (1999), Delgado-Buscalioni and Coveney, (2003)







Table Lookup or Coefficients

MD parameter study stored in table and CFD uses data

Embedded Models

MD – embedded in a CFD simulation

Used for Non-Newtonian effects ¹⁾

Domain Decomposition

MD –CFD linked along an interface

Local features e.g. contact line 2)



CFD and MD

- Connect the two descriptions of matter
 - Continuum only region majority of the spatial domain
 - Overlap of arbitrary size for purely numerical reasons
 - Molecular only region required where molecular effects are important



Coupling Overview

Review 1-3): Mohammed & Mohammed (2009). 1) Delgado-Buscalioni & Coveney (2003): USHER. 2) Smith, Dini, Heyes, Zaki PRE (2012). 3) Constraints of O'connell et al (1995), Nie et al (2004), Flekkoy et al (2000) unified in Smith, Dini, Heyes, Zaki JCP (2014).



Control Volume Functional

• The Control volume function is the integral of the Dirac delta function in 3 dimensions



 $\vartheta \equiv \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if molecule is inside volume} \\ 0 & \text{if molecule is outside volume} \end{cases}$

Derivatives yields the Surface Fluxes

Taking the Derivative of the CV function •

$$dS_{ix} \equiv -\frac{\partial \vartheta_i}{\partial x_i} = \left[\delta(x^+ - x_i) - \delta(x^- - x_i)\right] \\ \times \left[H(y^+ - y_i) - H(y^- - y_i)\right] \\ \times \left[H(z^+ - z_i) - H(z^- - z_i)\right]$$

Vector form defines six surfaces

$$d\mathbf{S}_i = \mathbf{i}dS_{xi} + \mathbf{j}dS_{yi} + \mathbf{k}dS_{zi}$$

Or in words

 $d\mathbf{S}_i \equiv \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if molecule on surface} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$



Control Volume (CV) Formulation

- Extends the control volume concept to molecular dynamics
 - Same mathematically weak descriptions for continuum and discrete
 - Well defined functional can be mathematically manipulated



- Any arbitrary volume can be specified
 - A cuboid is best suited to couple to CFD (3D boxcar function)*
 - Recently applied to a spherical control volume *t*

* E.R. Smith, D.M. Heyes, D. Dini, T.A. Zaki, Phys. Rev. E 85. 056705 (2012)

† D.M. Heyes, E.R. Smith, D. Dini, T.A. Zaki, J. Chem. Phys 140, 054506 (2014)

1) Irving and Kirkwood (1950) J Chem. Phys. 15,6

Applying the Control Volume Function

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho dV, t = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle m_{i} \vartheta_{i} \eta \right\rangle r_{i}; f \right\rangle \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho dV = -\oint_{S} \rho u \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

• Process of Irving and Kirkwood (1950) ¹⁾

1) Smith, Dini, Heyes, Zaki PRE (2012).

2) Smith, Dini, Heyes, Zaki JCP (2014).

Coupling Theoretical Development



Coupling Computational Framework – cpl-library



Open source (<u>www.cpl-library.org</u>)

mpiexec -n 32./md.exe : -n 16 ./cfd.exe



1) Case originally by Nie et al (2004) used in Smith, Dini, Heyes, Zaki (Under Review JCP)

Coupling Results – Couette Flow





Coupling Results – Wall textures

- Molecular scale surface texture
 - Explicitly modelled using molecular posts
 - Impacts flow in CFD simulation





Coupling Results – Polymer Brushes



Droplet Modelling

• Thin film equations assumes a large length to height ratio



- Especially when only the contact line dynamics are of interest
 - Stretched grid and moving interface are complex to model

The Thin Film Equations Coupled in Domain Decomposition

- Domain decomposition links both systems directly
 - Molecular dynamics

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho \boldsymbol{u} dV = -\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S} + \oint_{S} \boldsymbol{\Pi} \cdot d\boldsymbol{S}$$

$$\oint_{S} \mathbf{\Pi} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle \frac{\boldsymbol{p}_{i} \boldsymbol{p}_{i}}{m_{i}} \cdot d\mathbf{S}_{i} \right\rangle}_{\text{Kinetic}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j \neq i}^{N} \left\langle \boldsymbol{f}_{ij} \mathbf{n} \cdot d\mathbf{S}_{ij} \right\rangle}_{\text{Configurational}}$$

• CFD using thin-film assumptions

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \qquad \qquad \frac{\partial P}{\partial z} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} = 0$$



Coupling Overview

1) Ren (2007), E et al (2003), Borg et al (2013)

2) O'Connell and Thompson (1995), Flekkøy at al (2000), Nie et al (2004), Hadjiconstantinou et al (1999), Delgado-Buscalioni and Coveney, (2003)



Table Lookup or Coefficients

MD parameter study stored in table and CFD uses data





Embedded Models

MD – embedded in a CFD simulation

Used for Non-Newtonian effects ¹⁾

Domain Decomposition

MD –CFD linked along an interface

Local features e.g. contact line ²⁾

Coupled Droplet Spreading



1) Thompson and Robbins (1989)

Coupled Droplet Spreading



A Better way of Getting the Contact Angle



Two phase version closer to experimental reality

- Two fluid phases and sliding molecular walls
- Simple test case to explore wall velocity vs contact line angle



 $\mathcal{L}agrangian$

Cluster analysis and surface fitting to give theta



Time Evolution of Contact Angle

• Plot evolution of various contact angles as a function of time



Building this into the Continuum Model



 Speed of contact line can be chosen from the molecular PDF with the appropriate speed in a simple fluid model

$$\frac{dx_c}{dt} = k(\theta - \theta_a)^n$$

• The more complex surfactant case requires simulations to be run dynamically for current surfactant concentration

Surfactant Spreading More Complex

- Surfactant concentration impacts contact angle
 - Includes mechanism for deposition at contact line



Conclusions and Future Aims

- Thin film equations with surfactant deposition at the contact line reproduce superspreading
- Molecular dynamics models surfactant deposition at the contact line, multiple phases and wall-fluid interactions
- We want to combine both in a single model
 - For simple cases, probability density functions of molecular detail
 - For surfactant simulations the references solutions are run on the fly based on surfactant concentration
 - Longer term domain decomposition using a CV based grid and a more detailed continuum model
- Choice of methodology depends on phenomenon of interest
 - molecular modelling represents an improvement on empirical models.

Summary

- Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)
 - Model description and results
 - Contact line dynamics essential to superspreading
 - Difficult to model using a continuum
- Molecular Dynamics (MD)
 - Model description and results
 - Advantages for modelling of droplets and surfactants
 - Limited to nanoscales
- Coupling MD and CFD
 - Types of coupling, techniques and computational framework
 - Coupled droplet spreading
 - Future work

Acknowledgements

- Current work funded by EPSRC Grant number EP/J010502/1
- Working with Erich Muller, Richard Craster and Omar Matar
- Coupling theory work with David Heyes, Daniele Dini and Tamer Zaki
- Open source cpl-library developed with David Trevelyan and Lucian Anton
- Funding by an EPSRC DTA in Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College and one year funded by an EPSRC postdoctoral prize fellowship

Control Volume Function (revisited)

. The Control volume function is the integral of the Dirac delta function in 3 dimensions

 \boldsymbol{r}_i

$$\vartheta_i \equiv \int_V \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i) \, dV$$

= $\left[H(x^+ - x_i) - H(x^- - x_i) \right]$
× $\left[H(y^+ - y_i) - H(y^- - y_i) \right]$
× $\left[H(z^+ - z_i) - H(z^- - z_i) \right]$

. Replace molecular position with for a line

$$r_i
ightarrow r_i - sr_{ij}$$



Control Volume Function (revisited)

• The Control volume function is the integral of the Dirac delta function in 3 dimensions

$$\vartheta_s \equiv \int_V \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_i + s\mathbf{r}_{ij}) dV = \begin{bmatrix} H(x^+ - x_i + sx_{ij}) - H(x^- - x_i + sx_{ij}) \end{bmatrix} \\ \times \begin{bmatrix} H(y^+ - y_i + sy_{ij}) - H(y^- - y_i + sy_{ij}) \end{bmatrix} \\ \times \begin{bmatrix} H(z^+ - z_i + sz_{ij}) - H(z^- - z_i + sz_{ij}) \end{bmatrix}$$

. Length of interaction inside the CV

$$\ell_{ij} = \int_{0}^{1} \vartheta_s ds$$



Derivatives Yield the Surface Forces

. Taking the Derivative of the CV function

$$\frac{\partial \vartheta_s}{\partial x} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \delta(x^+ - x_i + sx_{ij}) - \delta(x^- - x_i + sx_{ij}) \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} H(y^+ - y_i + sy_{ij}) - H(y^- - y_i + sy_{ij}) \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} H(z^+ - z_i + sz_{ij}) - H(z^- - z_i + sz_{ij}) \end{bmatrix}$$

• Surface fluxes over the top and surface

$$dS_{xij} \equiv \int_{0}^{1} \frac{\partial \vartheta_{s}}{\partial x} ds = dS_{xij}^{+} - dS_{xij}^{-}$$
$$dS_{xij}^{+} = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\left[sgn(x^{+} - x_{i}) - sgn(x^{+} - x_{j}) \right]}_{MOP} S_{xij}$$



Gaussian Kernel vs Heavisides



Applying the Control Volume Function

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho d V, t = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle m_{i} \vartheta_{i} \eta \right\rangle r_{i}; f \right\rangle \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} V = -\nabla \oint_{S} \rho u \cdot dS$$

 ΛT

 Simple mathematical operations using the control volume function

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left\langle \alpha; f \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle \frac{\boldsymbol{p}_{i}}{m_{i}} \cdot \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial \boldsymbol{r}_{i}} - \boldsymbol{F}_{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial \boldsymbol{p}_{i}}; f \right\rangle \qquad \alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_{i} \vartheta_{i}$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle m_{i} \vartheta_{i}; f \right\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle \frac{\boldsymbol{p}_{i}}{m_{i}} \cdot \frac{\partial m_{i} \vartheta_{i}}{\partial \boldsymbol{r}_{i}} - \boldsymbol{F}_{i} \cdot \frac{\partial m_{i} \vartheta_{i}}{\partial \boldsymbol{p}_{i}}; f \right\rangle$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\langle \boldsymbol{p}_{i} \cdot \frac{\partial \vartheta_{i}}{\partial \boldsymbol{r}_{i}}; f \right\rangle \qquad 3 \times \left[\begin{array}{c} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_{i} \vartheta_{i} \\ \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_{i} \vartheta_{i} \\ = \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_{i}$$

Reynolds' Transport Theorem

Mass Conservation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\sum_{i=1}^{N}m_{i}\vartheta_{i} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N}m_{i}\mathbf{v}_{i} \cdot d\boldsymbol{S}_{i}$$

. Momentum Balance

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot d\mathbf{S}_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j}^{N} f_{ij} \vartheta_{ij}$$

Energy Conservation

$$\begin{split} \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=1}^{N} e_{i}\vartheta_{i} = & -\sum_{i=1}^{N} e_{i}\mathbf{v}_{i} \cdot d\mathbf{S}_{i} \\ & + \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\sum_{i\neq j}^{N} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{i}}{m_{i}} \cdot \boldsymbol{f}_{ij}\vartheta_{ij} \end{split}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho dV = -\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho \boldsymbol{u} dV = -\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

$$+\mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{surface}}$$

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho \mathcal{E} dV &= -\oint_{S} \rho \mathcal{E} \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \\ &-\oint_{S} \boldsymbol{\Pi} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S} + \mathbf{q} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \end{split}$$

Mass Conservation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot d\mathbf{S}_i$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot d\mathbf{S}_i$$
$$+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j}^{N} \boldsymbol{f}_{ij} \vartheta_{ij}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho dV = -\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho \boldsymbol{u} dV = -\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$



• The difference between two control $\frac{d\mathbf{v} \overset{N}{\underset{i=1}{\overset{N}{dt}} \overset{N}{\underset{i=1}{\overset{N}{dt$

 $d\mathbf{S}$









- What flows into a volume, minus what flows out
 - Mass conservation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot d\mathbf{S}_i$$



- What flows into a volume, minus what flows out
 - Mass conservation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot d\mathbf{S}_i$$

• Momentum Balance
$$\frac{d}{dt} \sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \mathbf{v}_i \mathbf{v}_i \cdot d\mathbf{S}_i$$

1) Irving and Kirkwood (1950) J Chem. Phys. 15,6

The Molecular Equations in CV Form



- What flows into a volume, minus what flows out + Forces
 - Mass conservation



More on the Pressure Tensor

- . Extensive literature on the form of the molecular stress tensor
 - No unique solution Schofield, Henderson (1988)
 - Two key forms in common use Volume Average (Lutsko, 1988) and Method of Planes (Todd et al 1995)
- . Link provided between these descriptions
 - Through formal manipulation of the functions
 - Exposes the relationship between the molecular stresses and the evolution of momentum
- In the limit the Dirac delta form of Irving and Kirkwood (1950) is obtained
 - This suggests the same limit is not possible in the molecular system
 - Arbitrary stress based on the volume of interest



Moving reference frame

- Why the continuum form of Reynolds' transport theorem has a partial derivative but the discrete is a full derivative
 - Eulerian mass conservation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\sum_{i=1}^{N}m_{i}\vartheta_{i} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N}m_{i}\mathbf{v}_{i} \cdot d\boldsymbol{S}_{i}$$

$$\vartheta_i = \vartheta_i(\boldsymbol{r}_i(t), \boldsymbol{r})$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{V} \rho dV = -\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$$

• Lagrangian mass conservation

$$\vartheta_i = \vartheta_i(\boldsymbol{r}_i(t), \boldsymbol{r}(t))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \vartheta_i = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} m_i \left(\mathbf{v}_i + \overline{\boldsymbol{u}}\right) \cdot d\boldsymbol{S}_i$$

$$\overline{\boldsymbol{u}} \cdot d\boldsymbol{S}_i = \frac{d\boldsymbol{r}}{dt} \cdot \frac{d\vartheta_i}{d\boldsymbol{r}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{V} \rho dV = \oint_{S} \rho \left(\boldsymbol{u} - \overline{\boldsymbol{u}} \right) \cdot d\boldsymbol{S}$$

$$\oint_{S} \rho \boldsymbol{u} \cdot d\boldsymbol{S} - \oint_{S} \rho \overline{\boldsymbol{u}} \cdot d\boldsymbol{S} = 0$$