

# A Molecular Simulation of the Turbulent Minimal Channel Flow

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#### Summary



• Introduction

• Molecular Dynamics (MD)

• The Minimal Channel



# Section 0



#### **Computational Fluid Dynamics**

- Fields assumed to be continuous at every point in space
  - Mass Conservation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \rho \boldsymbol{u}$$

Momentum Balance (Newton's Law)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho \boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot\rho \boldsymbol{u}\boldsymbol{u} = \boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot\boldsymbol{\Pi}$$

• Energy Conservation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho \mathcal{E}dV = -\boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot \left[\rho \mathcal{E}\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{\Pi}\cdot\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{q}\right]$$



Direct Numerical Simulation of Turbulent Couette Flow



### **Computational Fluid Dynamics**

• The Incompressible Navier-Stokes Equation  $\partial$ 

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}
ho \boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot
ho \boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{u} = -\boldsymbol{\nabla}P + \mu\nabla^2 \boldsymbol{u}$$
  $\boldsymbol{\nabla}\cdot\boldsymbol{u} = 0$ 

• Non dimensional form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{u} = -\boldsymbol{\nabla} P + \frac{1}{Re} \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{u} \qquad \qquad Re = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu}$$

- Reynolds number
  - Ratio of convection to diffusion
  - Scaling argument applied to any scale -- is there a minimum?





## **Computational Fluid Dynamics**

• The Incompressible Navier-Stokes Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\rho \boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \rho \boldsymbol{u} \boldsymbol{u} = -\boldsymbol{\nabla} P + \mu \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{u} \qquad \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{u} = 0$$

• Non dimensional form

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{u} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} \boldsymbol{u} = -\boldsymbol{\nabla} P + \frac{1}{Re} \nabla^2 \boldsymbol{u} \qquad \qquad Re = \frac{\rho U L}{\mu}$$

- Reynolds number
  - Scaling argument applied to any scale
- Is there a minimum?
  - Travis et al (1997) single phase valid down to nanometers
  - Local thermodynamic equilibrium vs. hydrodynamic scales
  - Knudsen Number fairly useless for dense fluids



#### **The Continuum**





#### Molecular Dynamics – Beyond The Continuum

Big whirls have little whirls that feed on their velocity, and little whirls have lesser whirls and so on to <del>viscosity</del> MD





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# Section 1 **MOLECULAR DYNAMICS**



#### **Molecular Dynamics**

- Solving just Newton's law
  - Energy is automatically conserved  $\rightarrow$  total = kinetic + potential



- Pressure, viscosity, heat flux and surface tension do not need to be specified and, are in fact, all outputs of the simulation
- Phase change (evaporation, condensation) occur with no additional models needed
- Solid-liquid surface constructed with molecular roughness
- Can model complex molecules, water, polymers, biomolecules



#### **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

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



#### **Molecular Dynamics**





#### **MD Computing**

- Force Calculation
  - All pairs simulation uses local cell and neighbour lists to reduce the N<sup>2</sup> calculation to order N



• Move particles (leapfrog in time)

$$m_i \frac{dv_i}{dt} \approx m_i \frac{v_i(t + \Delta t/2) - v_i(t - \Delta t/2)}{\Delta t} = F_i$$
$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} \approx \frac{r_i(t + \Delta t) - r_i(t)}{\Delta t}$$

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## **MD Computing – Parallel optimisations**



Localisations lends itself to parallel computing using MPI

- Spatial decomposition employed as in CFD
- Halo cells (ghost molecules) are used to link adjacent regions



Halo exchange of variable amounts of data

- MPI\_Send
- MPI\_Probe and MPI\_Recv



- Non Equilibrium Molecular Dynamics (NEMD) is the study of cases beyond thermodynamic equilibrium, with:
  - Temperature gradients
  - Flow of fluid (e.g. Couette or Poiseuille flow)
- We induce temperature gradients and flows
  - Thermostats (e.g. Nosé Hoover)  $m_i \ddot{r}_i = F_i + F_i^{teth} \psi m_i c_i$ 
    - Remove heat from system
  - Tethered molecules
    - (An)harmonic spring to tether site
  - With sliding
    - Slide site and (optionally) molecules

$$oldsymbol{v}_i = \dot{oldsymbol{r}}_i - oldsymbol{u}$$





- Non Equilibrium Molecular Dynamics (NEMD) is the study of cases beyond thermodynamic equilibrium, with:
  - An MD system is completely described by position  $m{r}_i$  and velocity  $m{v}_i$  of all N molecules in the system
  - Theoretical underpinning in the form of the Liouville equation a continuity equation in 6N degrees  $f = f(r_i, v_i)$  which gives,

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[ \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{r}_i}{\partial t} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \boldsymbol{r}_i} + \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{v}_i}{\partial t} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \boldsymbol{v}_i} \right]$$

- Just awarded a special interest group (SIG) in NEMD
  - Please let me know if you're interested in joining
  - Potential applications in a wide range of problems in fluid dynamics so need help identifying interesting challenges
  - The microscopic underpinnings of fluid dynamics



## Molecular Dynamics – Complex Walls and Fluids

Liquid structure causes viscosity

Stick-slip near walls







Molecules of arbitrary complexity



*Oil, water and textured surface* 17



## **Molecular Dynamics – Shocks and Multi-Phase**





#### **Molecular Dynamics - Averaging**

Refine

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• Density in a cell

$$\rho = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \langle m_i \rangle$$

Momentum in a cell

•

$$\rho \boldsymbol{u} = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \langle m_i \boldsymbol{v}_i \rangle$$

Temperature in a cell

$$T = rac{1}{3N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \langle \boldsymbol{v}_i^2 
angle$$
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### **Pressure (stress) in an MD Simulation**

- Pressure definition in a dense molecular system
  - Kinetic part due to fluctuations
  - Configurational part due to liquid structure





#### Viscosity

Good agreement with experiments



Work with Billy Todd and Peter Daivis



### Fourier's law of heat conduction

Good agreement with experiments





#### **Multiphase Flows**



Work with Carlos Braga and Serafim Kalliadasis

#### Brunel University London

#### **Intrinsic surface**

Intrinsic Surface by minimising a penalty function



Chacon & Tarazona (2003) PRL 91, 166103

Work with Carlos Braga and Serafim Kalliadasis



#### **Results for Density**





#### **Results for Pressure**





#### **Results for Surface Tension**

Good agreement with experiments



Work with Omar Matar - recently funded EMBOSS EPSRC grant



Brunel

University London





Work with Omar Matar - recently funded EMBOSS EPSRC grant

#### **Isosurface of Density**







## **Coupling – Using MD with CFD**







Table Lookup or Coefficients

MD parameter study stored in table and CFD uses data

#### **Embedded Models (HMM)**

MD – embedded in a CFD simulation <sup>1)</sup>

#### **Domain Decomposition**

MD –CFD linked along an interface <sup>2)</sup>

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 & Coveney, (2003), Mohamed & Mohamad, (2009)



### **Coupled Simulation Software**





Brunel

ondor

University

#### **Coupled CFD-MD Simulation**



O'Connell Thompson (1995), Hadjiconstantinou (1998), Flekkoy (2000), Nie et al (2004).



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#### **Coupling Results – Couette Flow**





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#### **Coupling Results – Couette Flow**





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#### **Coupling Results – Couette Flow**







### **Coupling Results – Polymer Brushes**




# **Coupled Simulation of Boiling**

- Bubble nucleation occurs naturally in MD
- Density, velocity and temperature passed as boundary conditions





# Section 2 THE MINIMAL CHANNEL



- Turbulent flow
  - Fluid flow which is spatially and temporally varying

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- Inertial effects dominate viscous
- No clear order and not simply chaotic motions
- Some standard characteristics
  - Statistics are reproducible
  - The law of the wall
  - Range of scales
- Minimal Channel flow
  - Insight into fundamental mechanisms
  - For molecular dynamics this is all we can do with current computers





# Literature On the Minimum Flow Unit

- From Hamilton et al (1995)
  - Turbulent structures observed
  - The u (stream-wise) velocity at the y centreline
  - One regeneration cycle (100 flow through times)
- The minimal unit of turbulent flow
  - Turbulent streak like structures become wavy
  - Break down into smaller turbulent structures
  - Reform into straight streaks
- Insight into the fundamental mechanism of near-wall turbulence



FIGURE 2. Iso-contours of *u*-velocity in the (x, z)-plane centred between the walls; solid contours positive, dashed contours negative. Contour interval 0.032. (a) t = 757.5, (b) t = 764.8, (c) t = 772.0, (d) t = 777.8, (e) t = 783.0, (f) t = 794.1, (g) t = 808.2, (h) t = 830.2.



The minimum domain size required to sustain turbulent flow

#### Poiseuille flow, Re $\approx$ 2000

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J. Fluid Mech. (1991), vol. 225, pp. 213-240 Printed in Great Britain

The minimal flow unit in near-wall turbulence

By JAVIER JIMÉNEZ† AND PARVIZ MOIN Center for Turbulence Research, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA and NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035, USA

(Received 25 February 1990)

Direct numerical simulations of unsteady channel flow were performed at low to moderate Reynolds numbers on computational boxes chosen small enough so that the flow consists of a doubly periodic (in x and z) array of identical structures. The goal is to isolate the basic flow unit, to study its morphology and dynamics, and to evaluate its contribution to turbulence in fully developed channels. For boxes wider than approximately 100 wall units in the spanwise direction, the flow is turbulent and the low-order turbulence statistics are in good agreement with experiments in the near-wall region. For a narrow range of widths below that threshold, the flow near only one wall remains turbulent, but its statistics are still in fairly good agreement with experimental data when scaled with the local wall stress. For narrower boxes only laminar solutions are found. In all cases, the elementary box contains a single low-velocity streak, consisting of a longitudinal strip on which a thin layer of spanwise vorticity is lifted away from the wall. A fundamental period of intermittency for the regeneration of turbulence is identified, and that process is observed to consist of the wrapping of the wall-layer vorticity around a single

inclined longitudinal vortex.

The structure of near-wall turbulence has been extensively investigated over the past thirty years. In the vicinity of the wall, the flow has been found to be highly 1. Introduction pass three years. In the vicinity of the wan, the now has been fulled to be nighty organized, consisting of regions of high- and low-speed fluid alternating in the

J. Fluid Mech. (1995), vol. 287, pp. 317-348 Copyright © 1995 Cambridge University Press

> Regeneration mechanisms of near-wall turbulence structures

Couette Flow Re  $\approx 400$ 

By JAMES M. HAMILTONT, JOHN KIMT, AND FABIAN WALEFFE Center for Turbulence Research, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

and NASA-Ames Research Center, MS 202A-1, Moffett Field, CA 94035, USA (Received 18 February 1994 and in revised form 27 October 1994)

Direct numerical simulations of a highly constrained plane Couette flow are employed to study the dynamics of the structures found in the near-wall region of project to study the dynamics of the structures round in the near-wait region of turbulent flows. Starting from a fully developed turbulent flow, the dimensions of the computational domain are reduced to near the minimum values which will sustain turbulence. A remarkably well-defined, quasi-cyclic and spatially organized process of regeneration of near-wall structures is observed. This process is composed of three distinct phases: formation of streaks by streamwise vortices, breakdown of the streaks, and regeneration of the streamwise vortices. Each phase sets the stage for the next, and these processes are analysed in detail. The most novel results concern vortex regeneration, which is found to be a direct result of the breakdown of streaks that were originally formed by the vortices, and particular emphasis is placed on this process. The spanwise width of the computational domain corresponds closely to process. The spanwise with of the computational domain corresponds closely to the typically observed spanwise spacing of near-wall streaks. When the width of the domain is further reduced, turbulence is no longer sustained. It is suggested that the observed spacing arises because the time scales of streak formation, breakdown and vortex regeneration become mismatched when the streak spacing is too small, and

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# The Smallest Domain For This Reynolds Number 🎙

• Obtain viscosity from a range of 660 simulations for the  $\rho/\mu$ WCA potential 0.8

 $Re = \frac{\rho u L}{\mu}$ Re > 400

• The target value

target valu $u = \pm 1$  $ho/\mu > 1.4$ 

L = 560





#### **Domain Overview**

- Simulation Setup
  - All Molecular Dynamics
  - Sliding top and bottom walls at y=0 and y=L with  $u_x = \pm 1$
  - Periodic in x and z directions
  - Walls are tethered, sliding molecules with Nosé Hoover thermostat at T=0.4



 Domain in reduced units: x = 1560.4, y = 566.7, z = 1069.9 at density=0.3, ~300 million molecules on 256+ processors 43



# Three plots of decreasing Reynolds Number

• From Jimenez and Moin (1991):

At these Reynolds numbers, [...] any sustained turbulence is subcritical. Under these circumstances the question of initial conditions may become important [...] The very first run was initiated as an essentially random finite amplitude perturbation [...] at a fairly large Reynolds number and subsequent runs were started incrementally from the results of that simulation.





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 $Reynolds\ Number$ 

 $Re \approx 400$ 

with 300 million molecules





Reynolds Number

 $Re \approx 400$ 

with 300 million molecules









Isosurfaces of turbulent kinetic energy coloured by velocity

molecules



#### **Molecular Turbulent Couette Flow**











## **Statistical Results**

Averaged velocity profile

 No longer Laminar profile across domain

- Good agreement with literature
  - Numerical continuum studies (points)
  - Experimental results from turbulent simulations (bottom graph)



By KNUT H. BECH<sup>1</sup>, NILS TILLMARK<sup>2</sup>, P. HENRIK ALFREDS SON<sup>2</sup> and HELGE I. ANDERSSON<sup>1</sup>



#### **Statistical Results**

- Observed RMS velocity profiles match literature
  - Numerical results match well (coloured crosses are Channelflow and symbols are CFD literature)
  - General profile is consistent with experimental data (right)



#### **Turbulent Stresses or Molecular Stresses**



- Observed stress/pressure profiles match literature
  - Continuum averaged properties agree (symbols)





#### **Turbulent Stresses or Molecular Stresses**







### **Pressure Tensor in an MD Simulation**

- Pressure definition in a dense molecular system
  - Kinetic part due to fluctuations
  - Configurational part due to liquid structure





# **Turbulent Stresses or Molecular Stresses**



#### **Reynolds Decomposition**

• Inspired by kinetic theory, Osborne Reynolds split fluid motion into average and fluctuating part

- Time average to get the Reynold Averaged Navier-Stokes equations
  - Reynolds stress tensor doesn't disappear
  - Approximated by eddy viscosity

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\overline{u} + \overline{u} \cdot \nabla \overline{u} = -\nabla \overline{P} + \frac{1}{Re} \nabla^2 \overline{u} + \overline{u'u'} \qquad \Longrightarrow \quad \overline{u'u'} \approx \mu_\tau \nabla u$$









# Same Concept, Different Scales





 Kinetic part of the pressure tensor and Reynolds stress same mathematical quantity averaged over different length/time scales

 $\langle \dots \rangle$ 

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \overline{\langle \dot{m{r}}_{m{i}} \dot{m{r}}_{m{i}} 
angle} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \overline{\langle m{v}_{m{i}} m{v}_{m{i}} 
angle} + \overline{m{u}' m{u'}} + \overline{m{u}}$$

Molecular average time

Continuum average time



Big whirls have little whirls that feed on their velocity, and little whirls have lesser whirls and so on to <del>viscosity</del> MD



E(k)



#### **Is Reynolds Stress just Kinetic Pressure?**







#### **Molecular Dynamics**



Case	$\tau_{_{MD}}$	Grid resolution					
a)	0.005	$672 \times 198 \times 400$					
b)	0.005	$84 \times 198 \times 50$					
c)	8	$84 \times 198 \times 50$					
d)	32	$84 \times 66 \times 50$					

 $oldsymbol{u} = rac{1}{N_{cell}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{cell}} \langle oldsymbol{v}_i 
angle$ 

#### **Spectra**





Dotted lines - laminar initial condition at same Re 63

#### **Probability density functions (PDF)**





- PDF of average velocity shows sweeps and ejections
  - Seen in near wall turbulence
  - Isolates signal from the noise
- PDF of molecular velocities show Gaussian behaviour
  - Much wider range of velocities
  - Symmetrical in x and y
  - No observable flow
- Side view of PDFs
  - Projection of x

#### **Molecular Structure**





# **Energy Input and Dissipation**



5.0 Dissipation (D) 4.5 $D = \frac{1}{V} \int_{V} \left( |\boldsymbol{\nabla} u|^2 + |\boldsymbol{\nabla} v|^2 + |\boldsymbol{\nabla} w|^2 \right) dV$ 4.0 3.5Energy Input (I) 3.0  $I = \frac{1}{A} \int_{A} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \bigg|_{y=-h} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \bigg|_{y=h} \right) dA.$ 2.52.0Dotted line for I=D MD is red 1.5CFD is blue 1.0Crosses show 2.53.0 3.5 5.0 1.52.04.54.01.0laminar solutions 1

# **MD Conserves Energy**



- Run over ~5 cycles or 500 flow through times
  - Temperature and Velocity are interconnected over a regeneration cycle



#### **MD Conserves Energy**





# **Normalised by Total Energy**







#### Law of the wall





### **Coupling Results – Turbulent Couette**





#### Summary

- Minimal Channel Molecular Dynamics look promising
  - Reproduces the key features of turbulence
  - Fewer modelling assumptions in MD, more fundamental than DNS
- Matches CFD and provides a range of additional insights
  - Regeneration cycle, statistics, law of the wall
  - Insights from PDFs, spectra and sub-grid Lagrangian statistics
- MD Reproduces More Physics and Full Range of Scales
  - Energy conserved, changing between thermal, fluid and structural
  - Reynolds stress tensor *is* the kinetic pressure tensor suggesting that the minimal eddy size could be molecular rotations


# **Thank you and Questions**





### **Wall Units**





### **Turbulent Production and Temperature**

• Initial run over ~200 flowthrough times - Temperature increased over time



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## **Time Evolving Results**

- Structures observed at the centreline
  - Same in continuum and molecular system
  - Breakdown and regeneration
  - Two solutions diverge over sufficient time
- Turbulent kinetic energy
  - Defined by fluctuation in time average quantities:

 $k = \sqrt{u'^2 + v'^2 + w'^2}$ 

 Identical to concept of peculiar momentum and temperature



# MD vs CFD



• Dissipation (D)

$$D = \frac{1}{V} \int_{V} \left( |\boldsymbol{\nabla} u|^{2} + |\boldsymbol{\nabla} v|^{2} + |\boldsymbol{\nabla} w|^{2} \right) dV$$

Energy Input (I)

$$I = \frac{1}{A} \int_{A} \left( \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \bigg|_{y=-h} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \bigg|_{y=h} \right) dA.$$

- Dotted line for I=D
- MD is red
- CFD is blue
- Crosses show laminar solutions



## **The Minimum Scale of Turbulence**

F



- Kolmogorov scaling arguments suggest a minimum scale
  - Based on dimensional analysis  $\eta \sim R e^{-3/4}$
- Used to determine the minimum scale required in a CFD simulation and the number of grid cells
  - Direct Numerical Simulation (DNS) solves the full range
  - Large Eddy Simulation (LES) models part of the spectrum
  - Reynolds Averaged Navier-Stokes (RANS) simulates time average



### Three plots of decreasing Reynolds Number 🏁







#### **Velocity Spectra**





### **Velocity Spectra**

